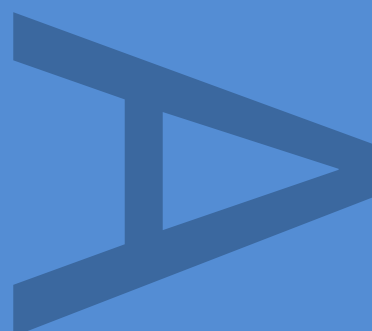


**WALL HALL, GREEN LANE, WALL,
STAFFORDSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**



**September 2014
REPORT NO. 11839**

Wall Hall, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire WS14 0AS:

An Archaeological Watching Brief

Local Planning Authority: Lichfield District Council

Central National Grid Reference: SK 09964 06645

Planning Reference: 14/01271/FULL

Written and researched by: Shannon Hogan

Project Manager: Kevin Trott

Commissioning Client: Graham Mosedale

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Midlands Office
17-19 Kettering Road
Little Bowden
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 8AN

Tel: 01858 468333

E-mail: ktrott@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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September 2014

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ABSTRACT

This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief on land at Wall Hall, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Graham Mosedale to address a condition placed on a planning application for the construction of an orangery adjoining the existing building. The work was completed on 14th and 15th July 2014.

To the south of the area monitored a posthole of probable Roman date was partially visible within the foundation trench and was sealed by a layer of silty clay which contained charcoal and a fragment of Roman pot dating to the 3rd - 4th century and a fragment of fired clay. The original stone footings of the hall were exposed during the groundworks and a number of fragments of pottery dating to the 18th century were also retrieved. To the northwest of the area, a post-medieval brick soakaway was revealed which appeared to be associated with a water management feature.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Graham Mosedale to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of a new orangery at Wall Hall, Green Lane, Staffordshire (National Grid Reference SK 09964 06645) (Figure 1). A condition was placed on the planning application 14/01271/FULL due to the historical significance of Wall Hall.
- 1.2 Wall Hall is located within the central portion of the village of Wall. The east and south of the development area are bordered by formal gardens associated with the property. Immediately north of the site are a set of terraced domestic dwellings.
- 1.3 Following discussions with the Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Services, the monitoring of groundworks at Wall Hall was formally requested by Debbie Taylor (Landscape Archaeologist). A written scheme of investigation (PCA 2014) for the works was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork in accordance with the Institute for Field Archaeology Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Bromsgrove Sandstone formed during the Triassic periods. No superficial deposits are recorded in the area, although glacial till is recorded to the northeast of Wall overlying the Bromsgrove Sandstone (British geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The subject site is located on the east side of Green Lane, c.23.2m southeast of its junction with Market Lane. The site is broadly flat within a gently westerly sloping landscape. The area to be monitored is currently a stone flagged patio area to the rear of Wall Hall. A spot height taken at the entrance to Wall Hall is recorded at c.120m AOD

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) show that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest.
- 3.2 Wall Hall is located within the historic settlement of Wall. Within 150m west of the development site are the preserved ruins of a Roman bath and guest house (Ellis 2004). The earliest known record relates to the 3rd Century AD list of roads and staging posts in the Roman Empire, the *Antonine Itinerary*. Wall was located within the Roman area of *Lectocetum*, believed to be a Romanisation of the Iron Age name meaning 'Grey Wood' (Rivet & Smith, 1981, 387). No evidence for an earlier Iron Age settlement has so far been found at Wall.
- 3.4 *Lectocetum* lay beside Watling Street, one of Roman Britain's main roads and consequently developed into an important staging-post along the road. Initially a succession of 1st - 2nd Century forts were established at Wall, as the Roman Army moved west to conquer Wales. Soon after, within the early part of the 2nd Century, a settlement starts to develop providing a place to rest and bath for those who travelled on Watling Street (Ellis, 2004). By the 3rd Century *Lectocetum* was a booming Roman Town.
- 3.5 Partial conserved remains of the Roman town are still visible today, along with some earthworks. Within 150m of the development site to the west are the preserved ruins of a Roman bath and guest house (Ellis 2004). The development site lies above the 1st Century Fort within its northeast portion (Burnham & Wachter, 1990, 274-278). There have been two previous archaeological interventions at Wall Hall (both watching briefs), the first in 1998 undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit the second in 2002 undertaken by Bob Meeson, Historic Buildings Consultant. Neither investigation identified any archaeological structures or features; although Roman pottery was recovered from substrata layers during the 2002 investigation.
- 3.6 Within 100m north of the site at 3 Church Cottage Green Lane, a possible Roman linear feature was encountered along with a later Edwardian rubbish pit. Various Archaeological investigations carried out over the last 100 years at the Trooper Inn c.94m to the south of the identified; a Roman well (excavated in the 1920's), a 1st Century hearth, quantities of Roman pottery and a c.1851 smithy.
- 3.7 Wall Hall is among several listed building within Wall. Wall Hall is an early 19th Century brick built Grade II listed building (HER 13700), with slate roof and rendered or roughcast walls. Other grade II listed building along Green Land included The Church of St John built in 1839 (HER 1164), Wall Farmhouse a mid-18th century red brick farm house with large central ridge stack and Wall House dated to 1761. There is also a grade II listed 19th Century hand pump outside a 19th century barn c.158m north of Wall Hall.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The watching brief involved the monitoring of a foundation trench for the construction of the new orangery (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The aim of the watching brief fieldwork was to demine the location, extent, date, character, condition, and significance of any surviving archaeological remains. The watching brief also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of archaeological deposits of whatever period.
- 4.3 All excavation was undertaken by a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator and monitored under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological events recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.5 Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50; representative sections at a scale of 1:20. The locations of the trenches and the heights of deposits compared to Ordnance Survey benchmarks were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit and Total Station Theodolite (TST).
- 4.6 A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Topsoil (4) consisted of dark-mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional brick fragments, charcoal 0.4m deep. This was sealed by modern block pave driveway (11) 0.18m deep and associated bedding layers of sand (11) and concrete (12). The natural geology (5) consisted of a mixed soft reddish brown/light brown silty sand and was visible in the south east corner of the exposed area.

5.2 Roman Activity

5.2.1 To the south of the area a small posthole [15] was partially exposed at the base of the trench. The fill comprised a soft mid reddish silt clay (3) and the feature measured 0.2m in diameter and c.0.11m deep. No artefactual material was recovered from the excavated fill. The pit was sealed by a layer of silty clay (1), c.34m deep, which contained a fragment from a 3rd-4th century Severn Vally greyware wide mouthed jar and a fragment of fired clay. The underlying pit is therefore likely to be of Roman or possibly Iron Age in date.

5.3 Post Medieval Activity

5.4.1 Sherds of pottery dating to the 18th century were retrieved from the topsoil (4) and modern made ground (6). Wall Hall itself was constructed in the 19th century and this material is therefore likely to have derived as refuse associated with previous occupation of the area. Two courses of roughly faced sandstone, representing the footings of the hall were partially exposed (17) within the new foundation trench.

5.4 Modern Features

5.4.1 A modern brick soakaway (16) was also exposed in the northwest area of the foundation trench (Plate 4). This was a 3m x 2m wide rectangular structure and measured 2.2m deep. Three modern drain pipes were exposed within the foundation trench, all of which cut through the existing topsoil.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief identified a series of modern drains and a brick soakaway associated with stages of groundworks which have taken place at Wall Hall during the 20th century. A small pit at the southern area of the foundation trench could infer some limited Roman activity, although an earlier Iron Age for this isolated feature cannot be wholly ruled out.
- 6.2 The limited evidence for probable Roman activity is not surprising given the known Roman sites and finds throughout Wall and the surrounding landscape. The pit does infer that future works in the area could reveal further evidence for Roman activity.

7 ARCHIVE DESTINATION

- 7.1 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990)*, *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Warwickshire Museums, Arts and Records Service* (LMARS 2001) and *“Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation”* (Brown 2007). On completion of the project PCA will arrange for the archive to be deposited in accordance with the provisional arrangements made with a suitable museum or repository at the onset of fieldwork. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist and the Local Planning Authority.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the Graham Mosedale for commissioning the work. Thanks are also extended to Debbie Taylor of the SCC HES. Thanks to Steve Jones of PCA for his on-site fieldwork and Jennifer Simonson of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures.

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APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Stone wall footings (17) and post-hole [15] looking west.



Plate 3: General shot of the east arm of the foundation trench looking south



Plate 4: Brick Soak-away (16). Facing west.



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Description	Detail
1	Layer	Subsoil	Mixed soft reddish brown/light brown silty sand. Occasional charcoal flecks. Occasional pebbles. Disturbed interface layer just above natural?
2	Layer	Subsoil	Yellow brown sand, soft. Common Pebbles. Unclear if a layer or a linear feature. 0.42m deep visible and 1.18m wide in section.
3	Fill	Posthole	Soft mid reddish silt clay fill of post hole [15]
4	Fill	Topsoil	Dark-mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional brick fragments, charcoal 0.4m deep
5	Layer	Natural geology	Mixed soft reddish brown/light brown silty sand,
6	Layer	Modern made ground	Dark-mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional medium pebbles, brick fragments, and charcoal 1m deep not bottomed.
9	Layer	Modern made ground	0.2m thick beneath driveway
10	Layer	Sand	Bedding layer for modern black paving 0.08m deep, pink sand.
11	Layer	Block paving driveway	Modern block pave driveway 0.18m deep.
12	Layer	Concrete	Concrete layer
15	Cut	Posthole	Circular post hole partially exposed in section 0.11m deep.
16	Other	Structure	Modern soakaway (19 th -20 th Century)
17	Other	Structure	Footing of Wall Hall

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY by S Ratkai & J Evans

Context	Type	Qty	Wt (g)	Comment	Date
1	greyware (so-called 'reduced Severn Valley ware')	1	27	rim from wide-mouthed jar, heavily abraded	Roman (probably 3rd-4th c)
1	fired clay/burnt daub?	7	16	small fragments, no obvious surfaces, some organics	?
4	Post-medieval coarseware	1	31	rim from wide-mouthed bowl/pancheon	18th c
4	Post-medieval coarseware	1	41	rim from wide-mouthed bowl/pancheon	18th c
4	Post-medieval coarseware	1	41	rim from wide-mouthed bowl/pancheon	18th c
4	Post-medieval coarseware	1	10	body sherd	18th c
6	Brown salt-glazed stoneware (possibly Nottingham)	1	7	rim from large mug?	18th c

APPENDIX 4: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-188531

Project details

Project name	Wall Hall, Wall, Staffordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief on land at Wall Hall, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Graham Mosedale to address a condition placed on a planning application for the construction of an orangery adjoining the existing building. The work was completed on 14th and 15th July 2014. To the south of the area monitored a posthole of probable Roman date was partially visible within the foundation trench and was sealed by a layer of silty clay which contained charcoal and a fragment of Roman pot dating to the 3rd - 4th century and a fragment of fired clay. The original stone footings of the hall were exposed during the groundworks and a number of fragments of pottery dating to the 18th century were also retrieved. To the northwest of the area, a post-medieval brick soakaway was revealed which appeared to be associated with a water management feature.
Project dates	Start: 14-07-2014 End: 15-07-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE LICHFIELD WALL Wall Hall, Green Lane
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 09964 06645 52.6570894787 -1.85267837769 52 39 25 N 001 51 09 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones
Type of	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	County Council Archaeological Store
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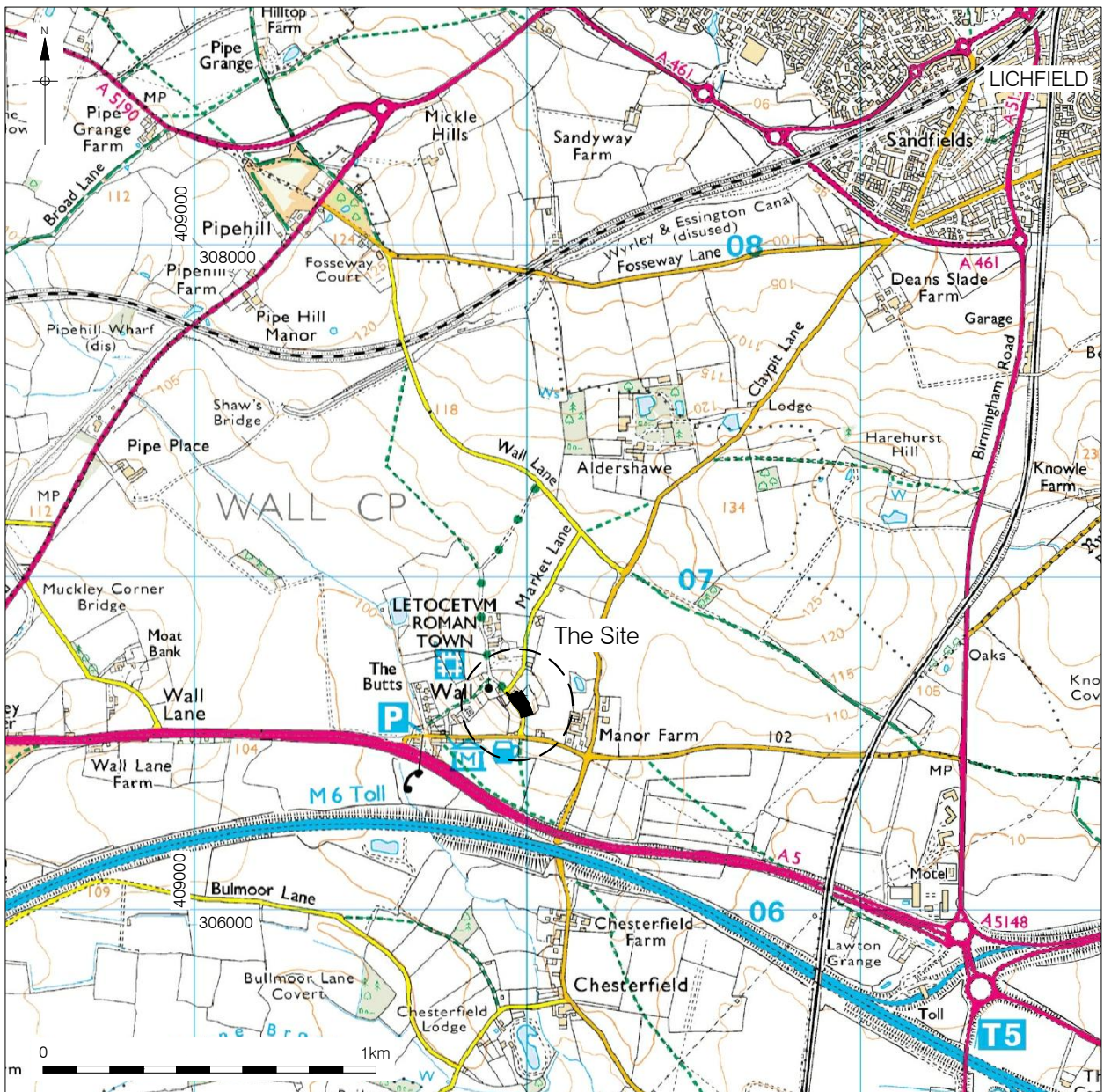
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Digital Archive recipient	County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Contents	"none"
Paper Archive recipient	County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Projectbibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Wall Hall, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hogan, S
Other bibliographic details	R11839
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	PCA
Place of issue or publication	Market Harborough
Description	Unpublished WB report, 3 colour plates, 4 figures.

URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>

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Entered on	28 August 2014

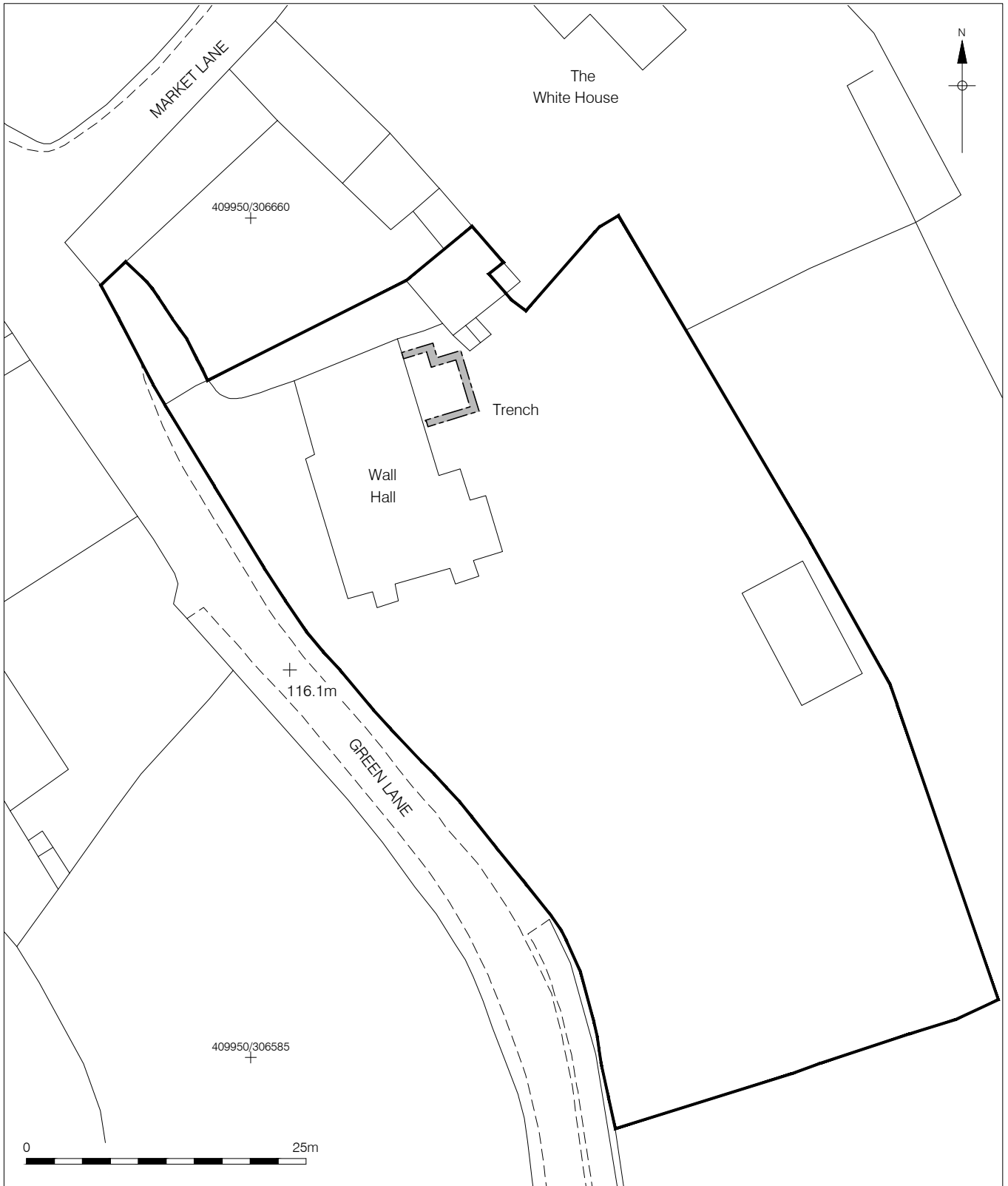


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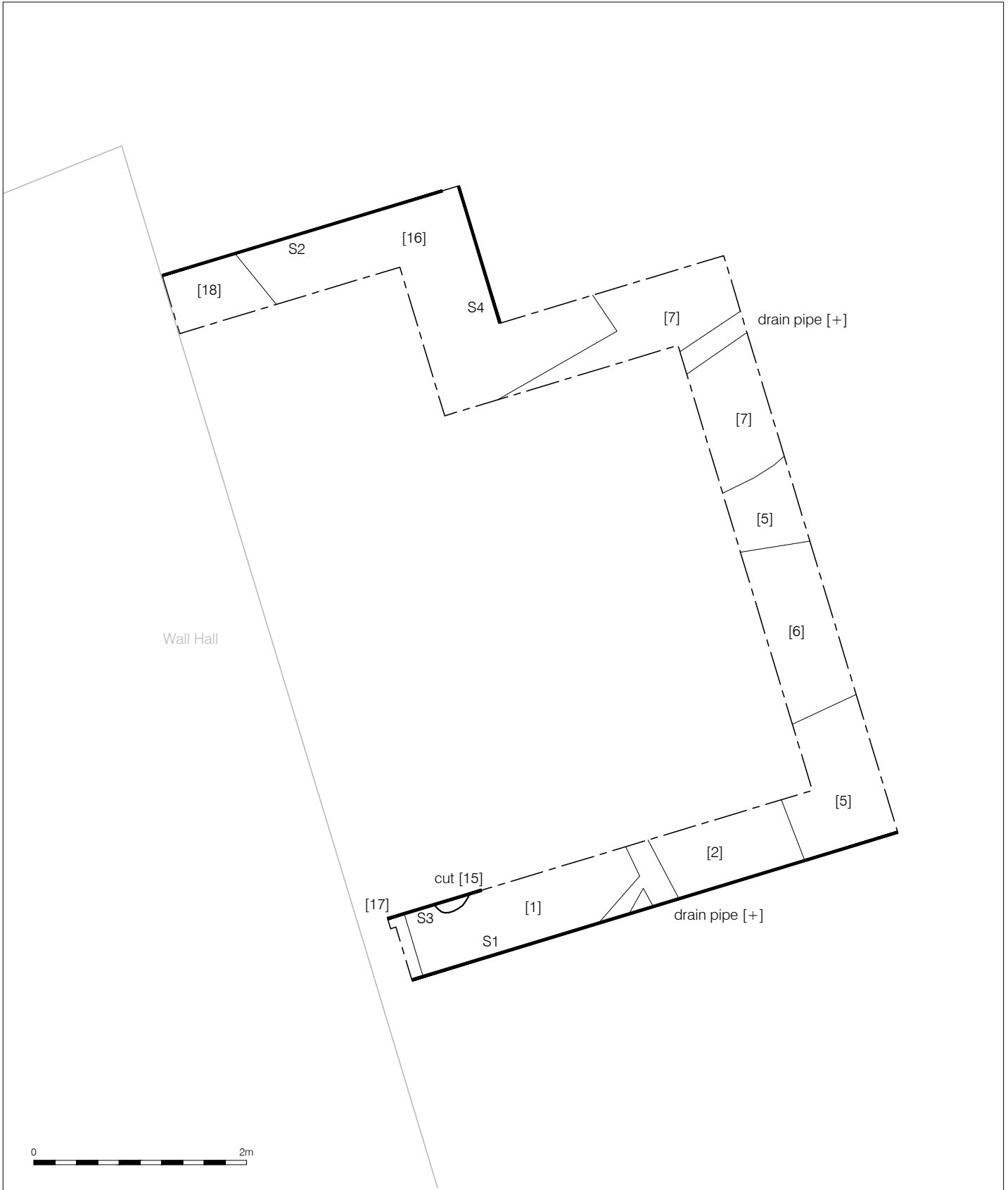
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 20,000 at A4



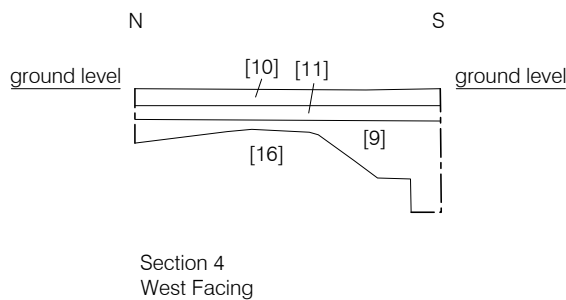
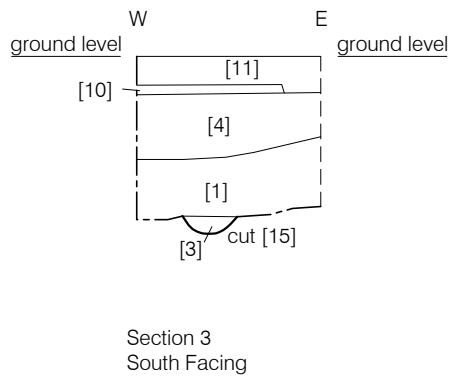
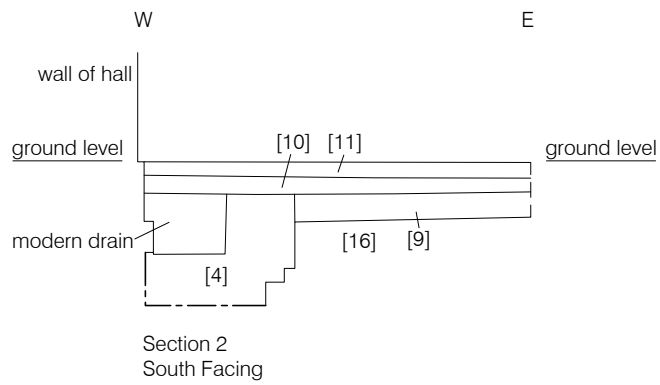
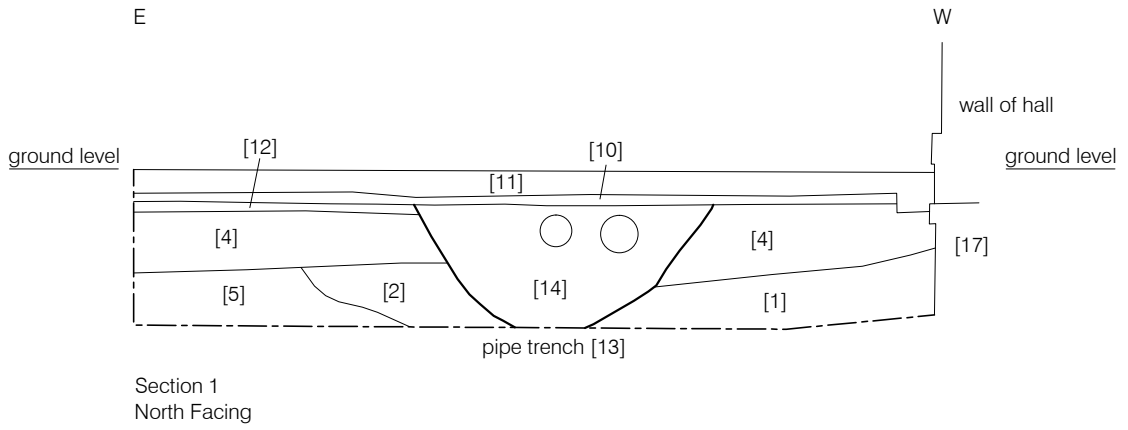
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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4



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Figure 3
 Trench Plan
 1:50 at A4



PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

