

An Archaeological Watching at The Jacobean Barn, Hall Place, Bourne Road, London Borough of Bexley.

Site Code: BXL 09

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 5022 7431

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, September 2010

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Jacobean Barn, Bexley during the excavation of two pits for the examination of the footings of the existent building and the installation of structural supports. The watching brief, commissioned by Mitchells and Butler Plc, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 16th and 20th of August 2010.
- 1.2 The investigations found evidence of early to mid post-medieval soils, metalled and chalk surfaces, and made ground, followed by layers of later post medieval made ground, plus also the construction cut for the existent barn building, late post-medieval structural features, and modern service trenches and associated backfills. No archaeological features or natural deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed, nor were any natural deposits.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd during the excavation of pits to examine building footings and install structural supports at The Jacobean Barn, Hall Place, Bourne Road, London Borough of Bexley.
- 2.2 The watching brief was undertaken from 16th to 20th of August 2010. The investigation encompassed two pits located on either side of the entrance on the southeast side of the barn building (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Mitchells and Butlers Plc. The evaluation was supervised by Sarah Barrowman and managed by Charlotte Matthews for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. This work follows on from a prior archaeological excavation, archaeological watching brief, and programme of historic building recording undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2009 (Bower 2009; Seddon & Payne 2009).
- 2.3 The National Grid Reference of the site centre is TQ 5022 7431.
- 2.4 The site was allocated the Site Code BXL 09 during the prior work, and this code continued to be used for this phase of works.



Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

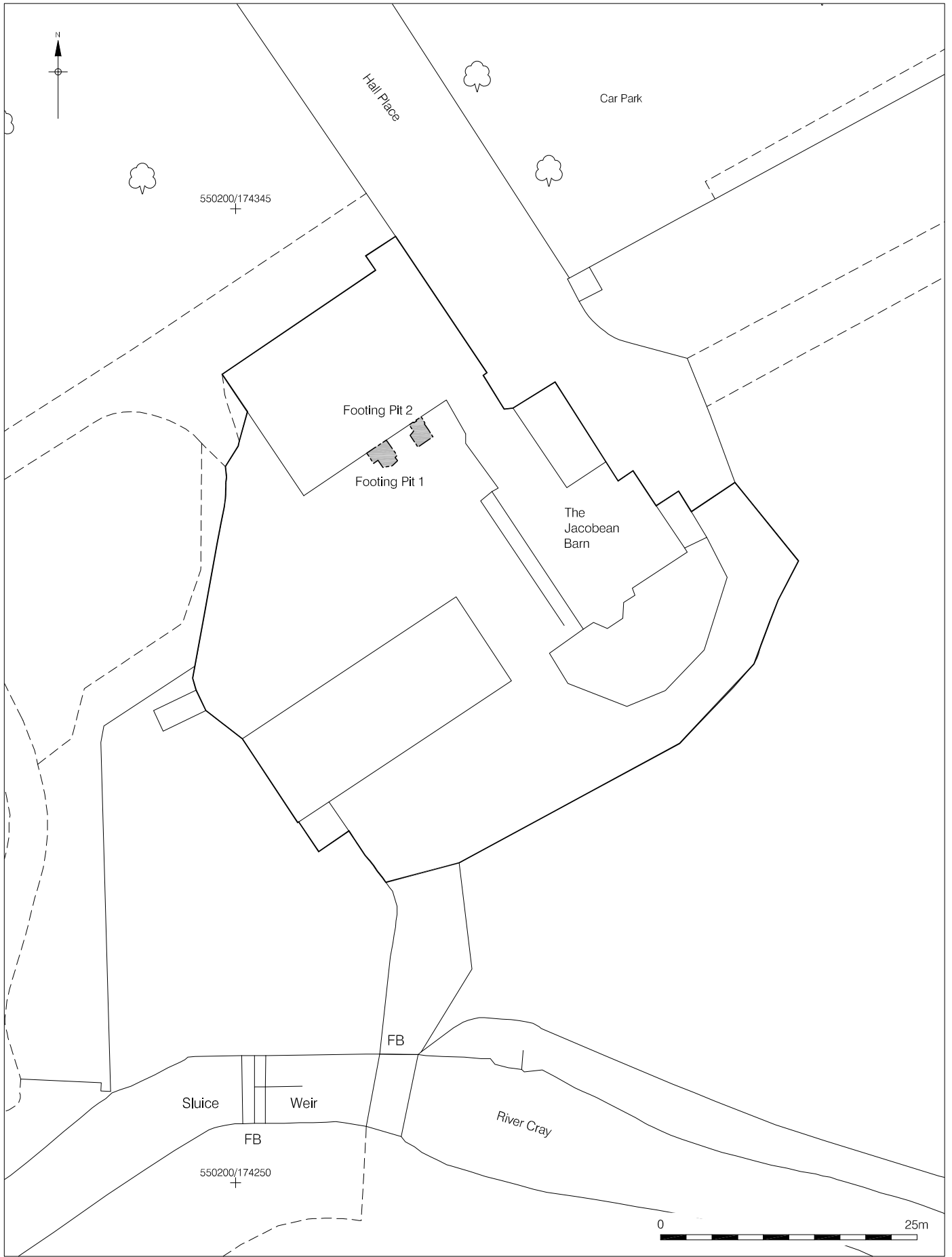


Figure 2
Trench Location
1:500 at A4

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Archaeology in Bexley and the UDP
- 3.2 The London Borough of Bexley recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Bexley Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in July 1996 with alterations adopted in April 2004. The Plan contains the following policy, which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features objectives of the London Borough of Bexley.

Policy ENV54

In Areas of Archaeological Search and other areas where finds are likely to occur, and in certain historic standing buildings, where development proposals may affect archaeological remains or historic evidence, the Council will expect applicants to have properly assessed and planned for the archaeological implications. The Council may require a preliminary archaeological site evaluation before proposals are considered.

- 3.3 The proposed development is located in an Area of Archaeological Search as defined by the Borough's UDP.
- 3.4 An archaeological condition was attached to the site:
'Condition 5
No development shall take place within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
Reason: to ensure that adequate archaeological records can be made in respect of the site and in the interests of the heritage of the area.'
- 3.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced for the previous archaeological work on the site by PCA and approved by the London Borough of Bexley prior to the start of work. The previous work comprised archaeological excavation, watching brief and historic building recording.
- 3.6 This piece of work was carried out as a minor amendment to the grant of planning permission subject to the attendance of an archaeologist to monitor the foundation pits for the steel frame.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50000 Series (Sheet 271 Dartford) indicates that the site lies upon conglomerate of the Harwich Formation of the Thames Group, laid down in the late Palaeocene Period. The drift geology comprises alluvium.
- 4.2 The site lies on flat ground and is bounded to the north and east by The Jacobean Barn, to the south by the River Cray and to the west by Hall Place. The site is located at a height of around 11m OD.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The full archaeological and historical background to the site is given in the historic building report (Bower 2009) and the archaeological excavation reports (Seddon & Payne 2009).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Two pits were excavated to examine the foundations of the existent barn structure and to allow for the installation of new structural supports for timber entrance doors. The pits were aligned northwest to southeast, on either side of the entrance on the southeastern side of the building. Pit 1 measured approximately 2.30m by 2.40m, to a depth of 1.18m below the currently ground level. Pit 2 was 1.25m in depth, and measured 2.28m by 1.90m.
- 6.2 The trench was excavated by hand by members of the ground crew undertaking the works under archaeological supervision.
- 6.3 Levels and co-ordinates for the site work were calculated from the ground level established during the prior archaeological excavation on the site.
- 6.4 Site records were compiled in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. All written data was entered on *pro-forma* sheets following standard recording methods, and a photographic record using digital format, colour slide and monochrome 35mm film was made as appropriate.
- 6.5 As prior work had been undertaken in at the site under the Site Code BXL 09 context and section registers followed on from this.
- 6.6 The work was undertaken following English Heritage (GLAAS) guidelines.¹

¹ English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service 2008

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Footing Pit 1 (Figures 3 and 4)

Phase 1

7.1.1 No natural deposits were observed during the watching brief as they lay below the required formation levels.

Phase 2

7.1.2 The earliest deposit encountered was a soil horizon composed of soft mid greyish-brown silty-sandy-clay [55] that contained small round gravels and flecks of CBM. This was encountered from 9.90m OD.

7.1.3 Overlying this was a moderately compacted layer of mid orange-brown clayey-gravelly-sand [70]. This formed the bedding layer for a metallised gravel surface [59] that was composed of small to medium sized rounded gravels with chalk flecks and sand and encountered from 10.10m OD.

7.1.4 Overlying surface [59] was a layer of made ground composed of moderately compacted mid brownish-orange clayey-gravelly-sand [69], observed from 10.15m OD. This was sealed by a loose to moderately compacted layer of light brownish-grey gravelly-sand [68], which acted as a bedding layer for a firmly compacted chalk surface [67]. These layers were encountered from 10.20m OD and 10.22m OD respectively.

7.1.5 The chalk surface was sealed by a layer of made ground [54] composed of loose mid greyish-brown gravelly-sandy-silt with occasional chalk flecks that was observed from 10.49m OD.

Phase 3

7.1.6 The remains of a brick surface [58] was observed to have been laid upon layer [54] in part of the area exposed. The surface was composed of shallow frogged yellow stock bricks, with occasional red bricks, measuring 225mm by 107mm by 65mm, that were bound by a sandy light brownish-yellow mortar. Only a single course was evident, and it may represent the remains of either a yard surface or perhaps a base or plinth of some form.

7.1.7 Also observed to be cutting through layer [54] was the linear construction cut [53] for the existent structure of the Jacobean Barn [42], which was backfilled by a loose mid-brownish-grey clayey-sandy-gravels [52]. This was observed from 10.16m OD.

7.1.8 Both the construction cut fill [52] and the brick surface [58] were sealed by made ground composed of a loose mid-light brownish-grey layer of clayey-sandy-silt [66] that contained inclusions of chalk, gravels and CBM flecks, and was encountered from

10.52m OD. This was overlain by a further layer of made ground [65] of loose dark brownish-grey silty-sand with frequent gravel and charcoal inclusions, which was seen from 10.63m OD.

Phase 4

7.1.9 The made ground [65] was truncated by a construction cut [56], for a modern wooden post [44] and associated concrete settling [45]. This was observed from 10.50m OD.

7.1.10 The made ground was also truncated by a series of service trenches, one of which contained a southwest-northeast aligned modern brick wall [43] at 10.80m OD.

7.1.11 The area was sealed by the existing brick yard surface [39] and associated bedding layer [46], at an approximate height of 10.90m OD.

7.2 Footing Pit 2 (Figures 3 and 4)

Phase 1

7.2.1 No natural deposits were observed due to such horizons lying below the required formation levels.

Phase 2

7.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered in this area was a layer of soft mid greyish-brown silty-sandy-clay [50] that was encountered from 9.56m OD. Situated above this, from 10.00m OD, was a layer of moderately compacted mid orangish-brown clayey-gravelly-sand [63]. This formed the bedding layer for a metallised gravel surface [62], composed of hard mid greyish-brown small to medium rounded gravels with chalk flecks and sand, and occasional CBM that was encountered from 10.05m OD.

7.2.3 This metallised surface was covered by a layer of made ground composed of moderate-firm mid brownish-orange clayey-gravelly-sand [64]. This was overlain by a loose to moderately compacted light brownish-grey layer of gravelly-sand [61] from 10.17m OD. This formed the bedding layer for the chalk surface [57] that was encountered from 10.22m OD.

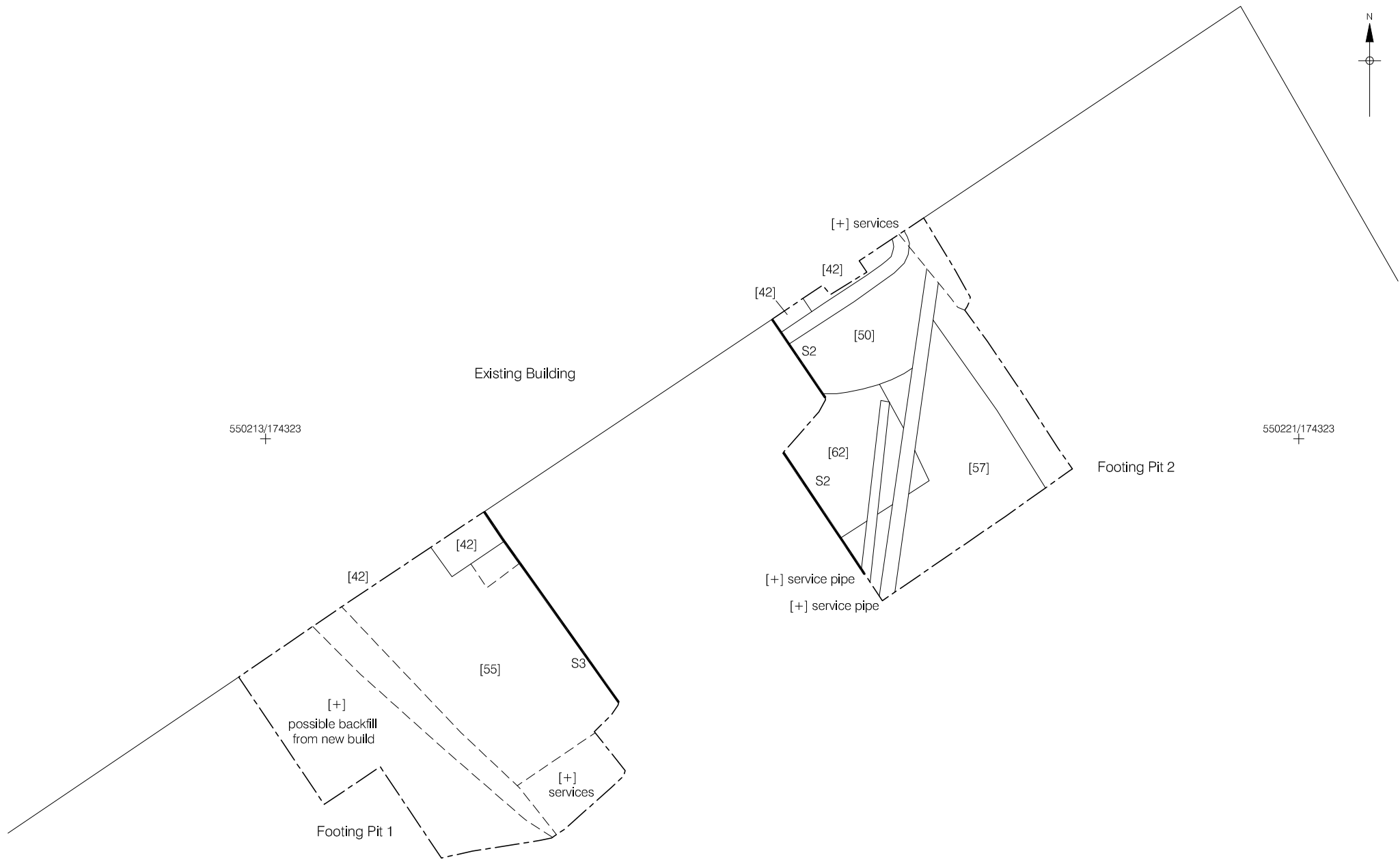
Phase 3

7.2.4 The made ground layer of [61] was also truncated by construction cut [49] that was associated with the existing barn structure [42] and backfilled with loose mid brownish-grey clayey-sandy-gravel [48]. This sequence was encountered from 10.12m OD.

7.2.5 Construction cut fill [48] and chalk surface [57] were both sealed by a layer of made ground composed of loose mid greyish-brown clayey-gravelly-sand [60] that contained occasional pot, glass, and a bone handle, and was encountered from 10.26m OD. This was overlain by a further layer of made ground, composed of loose mid brownish-orange clayey-gravelly-sand [47] with CBM flecks, seen from 10.40m OD.

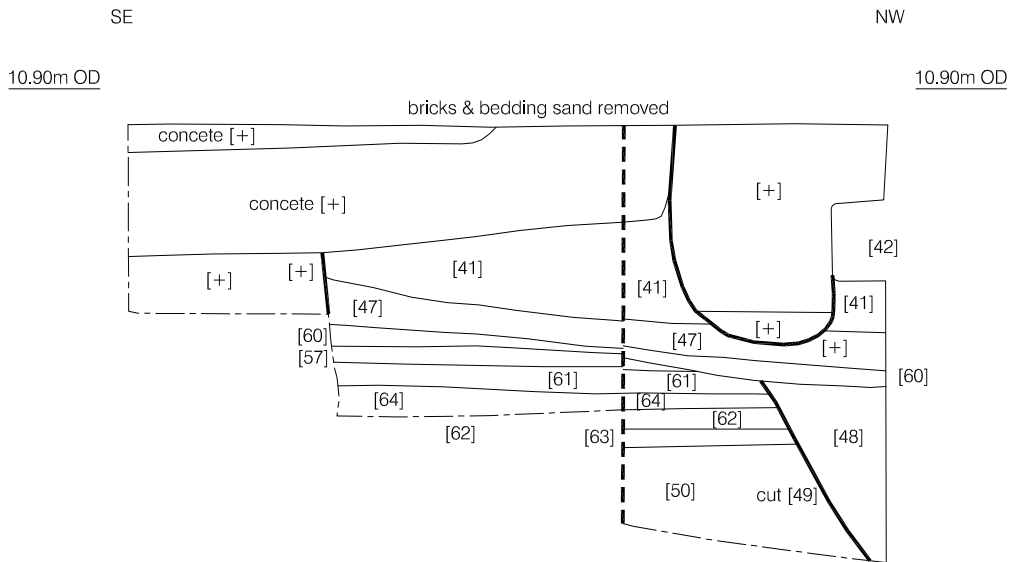
Phase 4

- 7.2.6 A layer of late post-medieval made ground [41] overlay [47] from 10.54m OD. This was composed of loose mid greyish-brown silty-gravelly-sand, with concrete and CBM pieces. Several service trenches truncated the made ground [41], and the area was sealed by the existent brick yard surface [39] and the associated levelling layer [40].

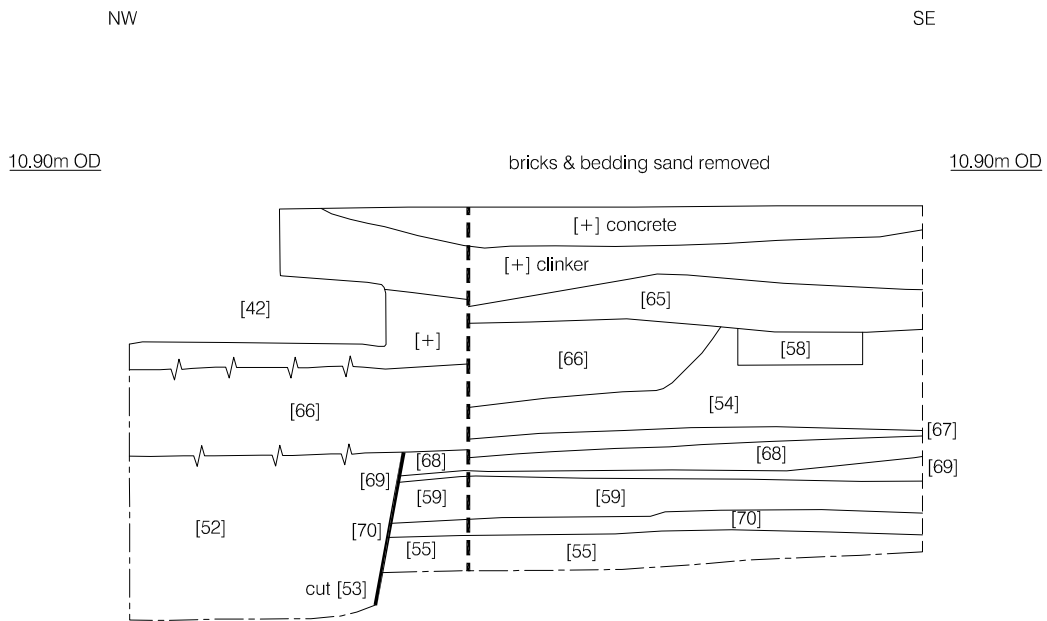


0 2m
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2010

Figure 3
 Footing Pits 1 & 2
 1:40 at A4



Section 2
 Footing Pit 2
 Northeast Facing



Section 3
 Footing Pit 1
 Southwest Facing



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Figure 4
 Sections 2 & 3
 1:20 at A4

8 INTERPRETATION & CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Both of the pits excavated contained a comparable sequence of deposits. A soil horizon was the earliest deposit in both of the areas, which was overlain by a bedding layer and associated metalled gravel surface. This in turn was overlain by a thin layer of made ground, followed by another bedding layer for a chalk surface. This chalk surface is likely to correspond to that which was observed during the excavation that was undertaken in 2009, which was interpreted as being part of the bedding layer for the courtyard seen on either the 1768 or 1839 map (Seddon & Payne 2009).
- 8.2 The sequence of surfaces was overlain by a series of deposits of made ground, through which the construction cut for the existent barn structure was cut.
- 8.3 The brick layer observed in Pit 1 between layers of made ground may represent the remains of a surface, or a possible plinth/base for an unknown earlier structural element. The wooden post set in concrete also observed in Pit 1 is likely to also relate to a now removed structural element.
- 8.4 The made ground was observed to be truncated by a number of modern service trenches that crossed the area. The area was sealed by the deposits and surface associated with the existent yard surface.
- 8.5 No natural deposits were observed during the watching brief.
- 8.6 No archaeological finds or features pre-dating the late post-medieval period were identified during the investigation.
- 8.7 As no further impacts are associated with the works associated with this phase of work are anticipated, no additional work is recommended or required.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mitchells and Butler Plc for commissioning the work.
- 9.2 The author would like to thank Charlotte Matthews for her project management, and Jennifer Simonson for the illustrations. Additional thanks are given to Guy Seddon for his assistance on site.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bower, K. 2009. *Historic Building Recording of the Jacobean Barn, Hall Place, Bourne Road, London Borough of Bexley*. London: Pre-Construct Archaeology, unpublished report.

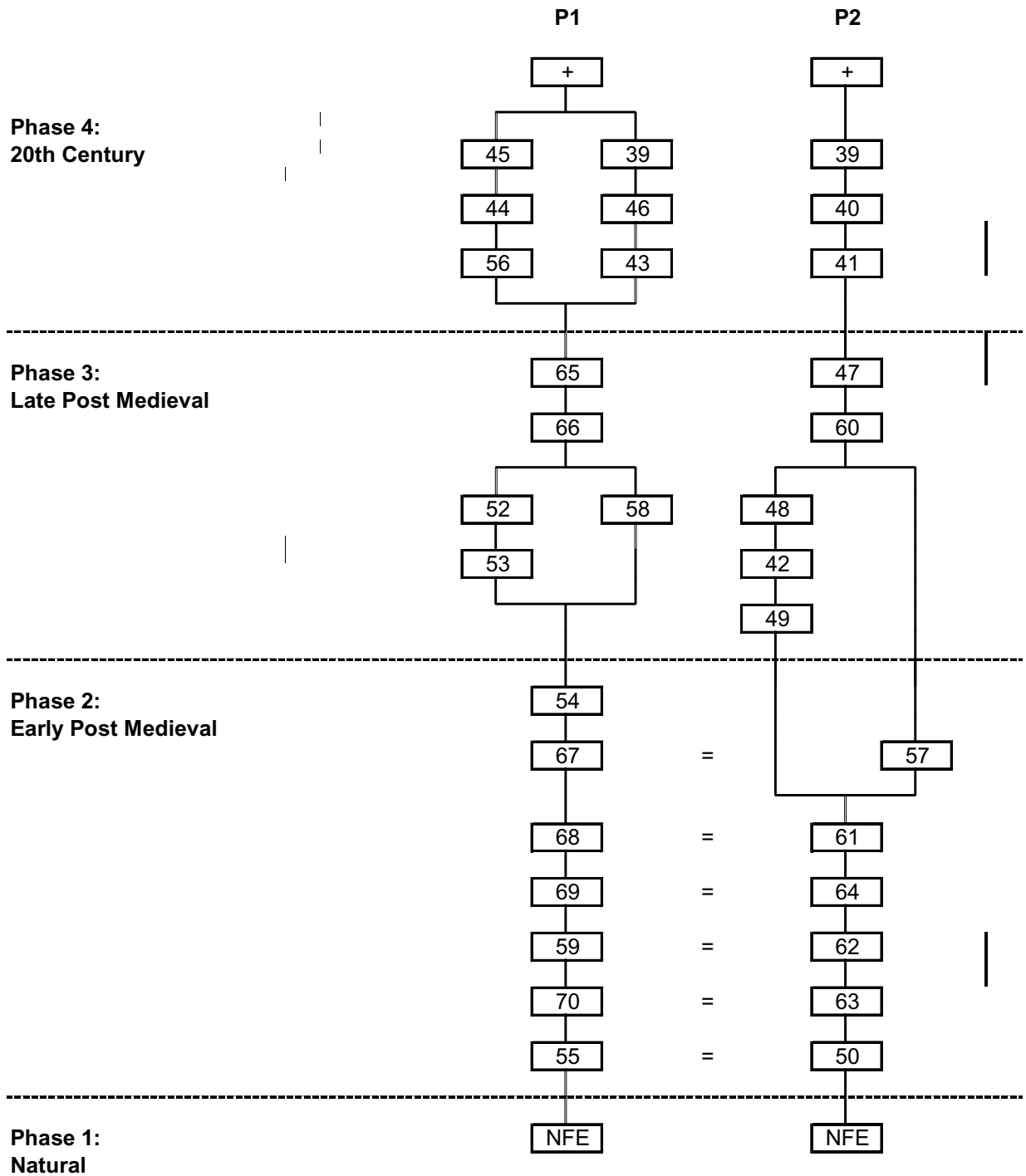
Hawkins H 2009 THE JACOBAN BARN, HALL PLACE, BOURNE ROAD LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION/EXCAVATION

Seddon, G. & J. Payne. 2009. *An Archaeological Excavation at The Jacobean Barn, Hall Place, Bourne Rd, London Borough of Bexley*. London: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, unpublished report.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Type	Description	Date
39	Masonry	Paving	20th Century
40	Layer	Leveling Layer for [39]	20th Century
41	Layer	Made Ground	20th Century
42	Masonry	Barn Structure	Post-Medieval
43	Masonry	Brick Wall	20th Century
44	Timber	Square Post	20th Century
45	Masonry	Concrete Setting for [44]	20th Century
46	Layer	Leveling Layer for [39]	20th Century
47	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
48	Fill	Fill of [49]	Post-Medieval
49	Cut	Construction Cut for [42]	Post-Medieval
50	Layer	Soil Horizon	Post-Medieval
51	VOID		
52	Fill	Fill of [53]	Post-Medieval
53	Cut	Construction Cut for [42]	Post-Medieval
54	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
55	Layer	Soil Horizon	Post-Medieval
56	Cut	Construction Cut for [45]	20th Century
57	Surface	Chalk Surface	Post-Medieval
58	Masonry	Brick Surface/Base	Post-Medieval
59	Surface	Metalled Gravel Surface	Post-Medieval
60	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
61	Layer	Bedding for Chalk Surface [57]	Post-Medieval
62	Surface	Metalled Gravel Surface	Post-Medieval
63	Layer	Bedding for [62]	Post-Medieval
64	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
65	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
66	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
67	Surface	Chalk Surface	Post-Medieval
68	Layer	Bedding for [67]	Post-Medieval
69	Layer	Made Ground	Post-Medieval
70	Layer	Bedding for [57]	Post-Medieval

APPENDIX 2: MATRIX



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: *preconst1-82957*

Project details

Project name	The Jacobean Barn, Bexley
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Jacobean Barn, Bexley during the excavation of two pits for the examination of the footings of the existent building and the installation of structural supports. The watching brief, commissioned by Mitchells and Butler Plc, was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 16th and 20th of August 2010. The investigations found evidence of early to mid post-medieval soils, metalled and chalk surfaces, and made ground, followed by layers of later post medieval made ground, plus also the construction cut for the existent barn building, late post-medieval structural features, and modern service trenches and associated backfills. No archaeological features or natural deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were observed, nor were any natural deposits.
Project dates	Start: 16-08-2010 End: 20-08-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BXL09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country England
Site location GREATER LONDON BEXLEY BEXLEY The Jacobean Barn,
Bexley
Postcode DA5 1PQ
Study area 10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 5022 7431 51.4473098656 0.161987947615 51 26 50 N 000 09
43 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator GLAAS
Project design originator Charlotte Matthews
Project director/manager Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor Sarah Barrowman
Type of sponsor/funding body Retail group
Name of sponsor/funding body Mitchells and Butlers plc

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive ID BXL09

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Database','Text'

Paper Archive recipient LAARC

Paper Archive ID BXL09

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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