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# **PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLSHAM, NORFOLK**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**





## **PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLSHAM, NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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<b>Approved By</b>		<b>Date</b>	December 2015



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## **Abstract**

*From the 4th to the 7th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on the location of a proposed house, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk (TG 1938 2704). A generic design brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Hamilton, K. September 2012) required one trial trench measuring 6.00 x 1.80m to be excavated.*

*Background research for the project indicated that evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity was most likely to be encountered.*

*The evaluation revealed a four possible phases of activity dating from the medieval to modern periods. The most recent phase related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition of post-medieval structures in the 1960's and redevelopment for use as an ad hoc carpark.*

*The second phase related to floor surface 1004 and wall 1006 which were surviving remnants of post-medieval cottages that stood on the land. The bricks recovered from floor surface 1004 date the construction of these cottages to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The third phase comprised subsoil 1002, an urban accumulation layer spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods. Finds recovered include two body sherds of MCW dated from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century and a third sherd is a small cup fragment of blue/white transfer printed ware (TPE), dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The fourth and final phase was represented by a sill beam foundation trench (1015) cut into the natural sand, and two postholes (1017 and 1019) contained within. These features are indicative of mid to late medieval or early post-medieval timber framed buildings. The stratigraphic position of these features below the accumulation subsoil 1002 suggests an earlier date than the post-medieval building associated with floor surface 1004 and no direct relationship between these structures could be identified.*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

From the 4th to the 7th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on the location of a proposed house, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk (TG 1938 2704). A generic design brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) (Hamilton, K. September 2012) required one trial trench measuring 6.00 x 1.80m to be excavated.

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**

The site is located south of White Hart Street near the centre of the historic market town of Aylsham, Norfolk (Fig. 1). The bedrock geology is described as Wroxham Crag Formation – Sand and Gravel, sedimentary Bedrock formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS, 2015).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as Brickearth – Clay, Silt and Sand. These formed in the Quaternary Period as wind-blown sand and silt deposits. (BGS, 2015).

## **3.0 PLANNING POLICIES**

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of Norfolk County Council, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local planning policy is the Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council *Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk (Adopted March 2011)*.

## **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2 & 3)**

The following archaeological background utilises the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape



([www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS) (Fig. 2 & 3).

The site is located in the town of Aylsham, Norfolk, which is located approximately 15km north of the city of Norwich.

The NHER search returned eight entries within a 1 kilometre radius of the current site dating to the wider prehistoric period. A broken polished flint axehead of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (MNF 7395) was found in allotments 500m north of the site, while another polished Neolithic axe (MNF 7405) was discovered 800m south of the site. A solitary flint scraper (MNF 24380) was recovered from dredged gravels 600m north-east of the site area, while a late prehistoric flint flake (MNF 63437) was recovered 600m to the east of the site, and slightly further to the west of that, assemblage of flint was recovered during metal detecting events (MNF 58799, MNF 56262). Further flakes and prehistoric pot sherds were uncovered by an excavation (MNF 41615) in the centre of Aylsham 100m south of the current site area. A hoard (MNF 7396) discovered 350m to the east of the site area was dated to the late Bronze Age by the various objects found, including a copper alloy spear, rapier, sword, hammer, socketed axehead and ingot.

Within the wider historic landscape, there is evidence of prehistoric activity to the south-east and east of Aylsham, with burning pits of indeterminate prehistoric date (MNF 19708) discovered 1.1 km from the site area in close proximity to record MNF 15076, where struck flint including a laurel leaf-shaped point were found during fieldwalking before the construction of a bypass. On the course of the same bypass are record MNF15074 which recovered prehistoric finds and uncovered a Bronze Age pit, and records MNF15075 and MNF15078 where fieldwalking produced struck flint.

Seven records within the search area date to the Roman period. The most notable Roman record (MNF 24510) relating to the site is a raven figurine discovered 800m south-east of the site. Six other roman records within a 1km radius of the site relate to the discovery of roman coins (MNF 7398, MNF 58314 and MNF 61682) or sherds of roman pottery (MNF 38738, MNF 61683 and MNF 63438), these records being largely concentrated to the east and south-east of the site. The closest Roman record to the proposed house is 200m to the north-north-west, where a single copper alloy Claudius II coin was found.





The wider historic landscape has some evidence of Roman activity with records referring to similarly small quantities of Roman pottery and coins. Pottery production areas and a 'ladder' field system have been discovered in fields more than a kilometre away from the site. In a wider context, a larger settlement and industrial centre existed less than 4km away at.

3 records relevant to the site are Anglo-Saxon in date. MNF 7114 refers to a record 0.5km to the north-east and relates to an area identified as a possible late Anglo Saxon watermill, on the site of an extant later post-medieval mill. Nearly 1km to the east of the site, metal detecting over more than a decade (MNF 38738) turned up an early Saxon long brooch and a late Saxon disc brooch, while excavations 1km to the west of the site produced limited material evidence of Saxon activity (MNF 45104).

Medieval activity is represented by 14 monument records returned by the NCC HES search. The medieval monument of most significance is the 14<sup>th</sup> Century St Michael's and All Angels' Church (MNF 7402), which had rebuilding work carried out on it in the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Centuries and was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This lies 100m to the west of the site in central Aylsham. Record MNF 41999 refers to a timber-framed structure of potential late medieval date 100m south-west of the site and MNF 33650 refers to what is believed to be a timber-framed medieval building extended in post-medieval times across the street from the proposed development. A final record (based on conjectural evidence) of a medieval timber-framed building on the site of a subsequent post-medieval manor (MNF 30282) is located 200m to the south of the site area. Documentary evidence also puts the location of a grand manor house (MNF 12217) in the grounds of a later post-medieval manor building. The record MNF 45104 refers to evidence of probable medieval trackways and ditches unearthed during excavations at St Michael's Hospital 1km west of the site area.

Various records relate to medieval finds and coins discovered mainly in and around Aylsham, some of the nearest to the site being a hooked tag (MNF 62658) found 400m to the north-east, a harness pendant (MNF 59070) found 500m to the east of the site and medieval coins (MNF 66825) found 500m to the north of the site. The medieval records returned from the HER search show a level of activity consistent with an expanding settlement and it would be expected that the potential for medieval finds and features would be moderate to high given the site's location in the heart of Aylsham.





The post-medieval period returned 172 monument records from the HER search within the 1km radius of the search. Many of these records refer to still-standing post-medieval structures and houses. The closest record to the site area is MNF 51095, an extant 18<sup>th</sup> century colourwashed brick house. Other surrounding monument records within 50m of the proposed house on White Hart Street are MNF 44440 and MNF 44441 50m to the east of site, both 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick and pantile houses. MNF 48319, 3 White Hart Street, is an 18<sup>th</sup> century façade on a potentially 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed dwelling, while MNF 48320 and MNF 48321, 5 and 7 White Hart Street, are 17<sup>th</sup> Century brick cottages. Similar buildings to the south-west such as MNF 47557, an 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick house with a 19<sup>th</sup> century shop front stand next to more recent buildings such as MNF 51035, a 19<sup>th</sup> century red brick house built in 1829.

In the wider area, significant post-medieval monuments include Old Hall (MNF 7413), a red-brick hall built in 1629 that is suggested to be a dower house for the nearby Blickling Hall. Two mills (MNF 7414 and MNF 61704, Dunkirk Mill) were located 600m and 800m respectively to the north-east of site on the Bure Navigation Canal (MNF 29856) (1775-1928). A particularly rare record relates to St Michael's and All Angels' Church (MNF 7402) where a mort safe, a structure constructed over a grave to prevent exhumation, is located north-east of the chancel. In summary, given the post-medieval nature of the centre of Aylsham, finds relating to domestic activity in the plot of land that constitutes the site area are likely to be encountered.

Given the above records the site had a specific potential for **medieval** and **post-medieval** features and finds, relating to backyard activity associated the medieval core of the town.

## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The Norfolk County Council brief states that the evaluation is required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site, and determine the states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated. (Hamilton, K. Brief, Section 4).

All aspects of the evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014*.



## 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Specific objectives outlined in the brief state that a particular importance be placed on:

- the amount of truncation to buried deposits,
- the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon,
- the preservation of deposits within negative features,
- site formation processes.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located;
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts.

## 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The Norfolk brief required the excavation of a suitable amount of trial trenching in advance of the construction of a house on a plot of land in White Hart Street, Aylsham. The trenching was required to be sufficient to achieve the project aims (Hamilton, K., Brief, Section 4) (Fig. 4). Due to the small size of the area of land, a 6.00m x 1.80m trench was deemed sufficient for this, with consultation with NCC HES determining that the best location for the trench was in the middle of the plot on an alignment as close to north-south as possible (Fig. 4).



A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, or where structures or interest were encountered, down to these. Thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand.

## **8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figures 4 to 7)**

The single trench was located in the middle of the small parcel of land that constituted the area of the proposed development (Figs. 4 & 7), on a north-south alignment. The trench measured 6.00 x 1.80m.

### **8.1 Trench 1**

Trench 1 was orientated north-south and was excavated to the first archaeological horizon and to a maximum depth of 0.68m in the northern end of the trench. The southern end of the trench contained an *in-situ* brick and tile floor surface (1004); the trench was not excavated beyond the level of this surface by machine and all further excavation was undertaken by hand.

Topsoil layer 1000 was present to a depth of 0.18m. This overlay demolition layer 1023 in much of the exposed trench which was a maximum of 0.16m thick to a depth of 0.34m. This demolition layer overlay subsoil 1002, which was present to a depth of 0.64m at a maximum thickness of 0.32m. A fragment of brick weighing 283g and three sherds of pottery (one post-med/early modern, two medieval) weighing 15g were recovered from the subsoil, while a larger fragment of brick weighing 1039g was recovered from demolition layer 1023.

Six features were present in the northern part half of the trench, which was reduced to the level of the natural geology (1003). Modern soakaway 1008 was located at the north end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sloping sides, and was cut into the topsoil. The full depth of the feature was not excavated below the level of the natural 1003, due to the obviously modern nature of the feature; the fill contained plastic fertilizer sacks and a drink carton from the late 1990s or 2000s alongside builders' waste. Soakaway 1008 truncated pit 1021.



Pit 1021 was shallow and sub-circular containing one fill, 2022. No finds were recovered from the pit. Pit 1021 was also truncated by sill beam foundation trench 1015.

Sill beam foundation trench 1015 was sub-rectangular, on a roughly east-west alignment and contained a single fill, 2016. One sherd of medieval pottery weighing 6g was recovered from this feature.

In the base of sill beam foundation trench 1015 were two postholes, 1017 and 1019, both circular and single-fill features, containing no finds.

Possible ditch 1011 was aligned east to west and contained three fills; upper fill 1014, middle fill 1013 and basal fill 1012. There is the possibility of the feature being a large pit, but the full extent of the feature is not revealed in order to preserve floor surface 1004. No finds were recovered from Possible Ditch 1011 and the feature appears to be later than those beside it, being visible in section being cut into subsoil 1002.

The trench was initially excavated to the level of natural 1003, but as more of the trench was revealed, the base of a wall, masonry context 1006, was encountered *in-situ*, and the excavation of the trench continued at the level of the wall until another *in-situ* structure, a floor surface 1004, was encountered on the same level.

Building foundation 1006 ran on a north to south alignment and was a rough mortar and CBM rubble foundation for a structure, containing irregularly laid bricks and fragments of bricks. A very shallow construction cut for the wall was cut just 0.06m into the subsoil. Building Foundation 1006 was surrounded by sand bedding layer 1005 for floor surface 1004. This layer continued to where floor surface 1004 was still extant. Floor surface 1004 consisted of a single course of bricks and floor tiles, laid inconsistently in part stretcher, part basket-weave lay. Floor surface 1004 was overlain in one corner of the trench by concrete surface 1010.

## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 6)

The deposit model was only present in full in the southern part of the trench.



The top of the stratigraphic sequence was Topsoil layer 1000, comprising dark grey brown, loose silty sand to a maximum thickness of 0.18m in Sample Section 1. Topsoil 1000 contained frequent small pebble inclusions, according to passers-by, remnants of a gravel car park surface on the area of land in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Beneath topsoil 1000 was demolition layer 1023, comprising dark-grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent CBM fragments and other demolition debris. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.34m in sample section 1.

Beneath demolition layer 1023 was subsoil layer 1002, a mid-grey brown, loose silty sand accumulation layer containing occasional CBM debris, charcoal flecks and other urban waste.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in both trenches, was natural geology 1003, comprising light yellow-brown, loose sand.

## 10 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a specific potential for medieval and post-medieval features and finds relating to urban activity in the growing medieval and post-medieval core of the town. The archaeological evidence encountered supported this, with medieval and post-medieval materials and features seen in a high density in the relatively short trench.

The evaluation revealed a four possible phases of activity. The most recent phase of activity on site related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and comprised demolition of post-medieval structures in the 1960's (local inhabitants, pers comms) and redevelopment for use as an *ad hoc* carpark. The rainwater soakaway (connected to the adjacent building) was probably the most recent activity.

The second phase of activity relates to floor surface 1004 and wall 1006, remnants of the cottages that stood on the land. The bricks recovered from floor surface 1004 date the construction of these cottages to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, A. 2015; This Report).



Concrete Layer 1010, possibly laid up to a gas range or similar kitchen furniture judging by the ash marks on the floor and the remnant of gas pipe adjacent to Layer 1010, is a potentially later addition to the floor of the dwelling. It is also possible that 1011, a feature cut into the subsoil (1002) which is most likely a ditch, but which could be a large pit, is from post-medieval urban activity prior to the construction of the cottages.

The third phase is represented by Subsoil 1002 which was likely to have been an urban accumulation layer spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods. Finds recovered comprised two body sherds of MCW dated from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The fabrics are both reduced, sandy and contain abundant ill-sorted quartz, alongside sparse grog; one displays common silver mica and has a fumed surface, whilst the other rare calcite. A third sherd within this context is a small cup fragment of blue/white transfer printed ware (TPE), dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century (Fawcett, A. 2015).

The fourth and final phase of activity identified during the evaluation was represented by a sill beam foundation trench (1015) cut into the natural sand, and two postholes (1017 and 1019) contained within. These features are indicative of mid to late medieval or early post-medieval timber framed buildings.

Sill beam foundation trench 1015 contained one sherd of pottery identified as MCW dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. The fabric is similar to that already discussed from subsoil layer 1002. It has a fumed surface and represents the remains of the base section of a cooking pot (Fawcett, A. 2015).

The stratigraphic position of these features below the accumulation subsoil 1002 suggests an earlier date than the post-medieval building associated with floor surface 1004 and no direct relationship between these structures could be identified. No post-pipe voids were present in the postholes, which could be explained by the timbers' degradation in the sand, or their removal on demolition, followed by a single backfilling event. It is difficult to say whether Pit 1021, truncated as it is by Sill Beam Foundation Trench 1015 belongs to an additional earlier phase of activity, as there is no dating evidence with which to conclude anything about it.



## **11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Peter Marshal for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Dr James Albone at Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service for his advice and assistance throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Matt Adams and Adam Leigh of Britannia Archaeology Ltd and the finds were assessed by Andy Fawcett.





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English Heritage PastScape [www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

English Heritage National List for England

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england)

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



## APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES AND FEATURE DESCRIPTIONS

### Deposit Tables

#### TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	N - S	30.45m	Sample Section 1
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	SW Side NW End	NE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.18m	Topsoil: Dark grey-brown, loose, silty sand with frequent angular and sub-angular pebbles.	
1023	0.18-0.34m	Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, loose, silty sand with frequent CBM debris.	
1002	0.34-0.68m	Subsoil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand.	
1002	0.68m +	Natural: Light yellow-brown, loose, sand.	

### Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Other
-	-	1000	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, loose silty sand with freq. small pebbles	Mod	-
1001	Void	-	-	-	-
-	-	1002	Subsoil – Mid grey brown. Loose silty sand with occ. CBM & charcoal	Med to PM	-
-	-	1003	Natural – Light yellow brown, firm silty sand	-	-
1004	Floor Surface - single course of irregular bricks and floor tiles, laid inconsistently in part stretcher, part basket-weave	-	-	PM	-
-	-	1005	Sand bedding layer – Light orange brown, loose sand	PM	For surface 1004
1007	Construction cut –wall foundation – Linear, steep sides, flat base	1006	Wall Foundation – mixed CBM fragments and mortar	PM	-
1008	Soakaway – Sub-circular, steep sides, unknown base	1009	Fill of soakaway – mid grey brown, loose silty sand with freq. modern CBM and plastic.	Mod	For adjacent building rainwater
		1010	Concrete floor surface – mid grey, v. hard concrete	Mod	Overlies surface 1004



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1011	Ditch – Linear, irregular moderate sides, concave base	1014	Upper fill – Mid grey brown, loose silty sand	PM	-
		1013	Middle fill – light yellow brown, loose silty sand	PM	
		1012	Basal fill – mid grey brown, loose silty sand	PM	
1015	Sill beam foundation trench	1016	Fill – Mid grey brown, firm silty sand	Med – PM	Cuts pit 1021, Cut by PHs 1017 & 1019
1017	Posthole – Circular, vertical sides, concave base	1018	Fill – Mid grey brown, firm silty sand	Med – PM	Cuts 1015
1019	Posthole – Circular, vertical sides, concave base	1020	Fill – Mid grey brown, firm silty sand	Med – PM	Cuts 1015
1021	Pit – Sub-circular, moderate sides, flat base	1022	Fill. Mid grey brown, firm silty sand	Med – PM	Cut by 1015
-	-	1023	Demolition Layer: Dark grey-brown, loose, silty sand with frequent CBM debris.	Mod	-



## **APPENDIX 2 – SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The pottery and ceramic building materials (CBM) from Proposed House, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk; An assessment report (16/12/15)**

*Andy Fawcett*

#### **Introduction**

A small assemblage of pottery (4 sherds @ 14g) and CBM (4 pieces @ 9166g) was recorded from the archaeological evaluation at White Hart Street, Aylsham.

This assessment report contains a methodology of work, a commentary on both the pottery and CBM groups, followed by a general overview of these assemblages and thereafter recommendations for further work.

#### **Methodology**

The pottery and CBM has been recorded by fragment count and weight. The principle fabrics in each context have been rapidly scanned at x20 vision. Fabric codes have been assigned using simple letter combinations based upon codes developed by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and used within East Anglia as a whole. Where present, pottery form types have been allocated plain form descriptions such as jar, cooking pot and so on, and simple letter codes have been employed for CBM forms. A full breakdown of reference codes can be seen in Appendix \*1, and the entire recorded pottery and CBM assemblages can be viewed in Appendices \*2 and \*3.

#### **Pottery**

Two contexts contained pottery, Subsoil layer 1002 (3 sherds @ 9g) and Sill beam trench 1016 (1 sherd @ 5g). Although the sherds are fragmentary, their condition in terms of abrasion, may be described as being slight.

Subsoil layer 1002 contained two body sherds of MCW dated from the late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century. The fabrics are both reduced, sandy and contain abundant ill-sorted quartz, alongside sparse grog; one displays common silver mica and has a fumed surface, whilst the other rare calcite.

The remaining sherd within this context is a small cup fragment of blue/white transfer printed ware (TPE), dated from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.



Sill beam 1016 contained one sherd of MCW dated from the mid/late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. The fabric is similar to that already discussed from Subsoil layer 1002. It has a fumed surface and represents the remains of the base section of a cooking pot.

### **CBM**

Three contexts contained CBM, Subsoil layer 1002 (1 piece @ 238g), Demolition layer 1023 (1 piece @ 903g) and Brick floor surface 1004 (2 pieces @ 8025g). The CBM assemblage may be described as being in a good state of preservation in terms of abrasion, with two whole floor bricks making up part of the group.

Subsoil layer 1002 and Demolition layer 1023 contained a fragment each of floor tile (FT) and floor brick (FB) in similar fabrics (WSG). This fabric has a hard and sandy feel and is coloured white to pink. It contains abundant dense and very ill sorted red and cream grog which is constantly streaked throughout the fabric and is clearly visible on all of the surfaces; quartz sand is also present within the fabric.

The FT fragment in Layer 1002 had a depth measurement of 24mm and the FB fragment in 1023 had a depth of 37mm and width of 111mm. Neither of the fragments displayed attached mortar or was glazed/decorated.

This fabric has a long life and is similar for instance, to Drury's late brick fabric (LB2) and as yet the source of this distinctive fabric is unknown (1993, 165). These fragments are likely to be dated from the early/mid 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly slightly later.

Two whole floor bricks were recovered in situ from brick floor surface 1004. The first of these is in a hard red sandy fabric with common clay pellets (MSCP) and is square in shape. It has a depth of 47mm and width/length of 225mm.

The second brick is in a white fired sandy fabric which also contains common ferrous inclusions (WSF). The measurements of this brick are depth 47mm, length 218mm and width 106mm.

The first floor brick is not closely datable within the post-medieval period, however the white fired type was commonly used for flooring in East Anglia during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and its dimensions are broadly comparable for instance, to those recorded at the Angel Hotel, Bury St Edmunds (Anderson 2005, 5).



## **Conclusion**

Only a very small quantity of fragmented medieval pottery was recovered from the site. Although these pieces cannot be considered as well dated evidence, due to the amount, distribution and long-lived nature of the sherds, they nevertheless (as their lack of abrasion indicates), represent activity of some description on, or in close vicinity to the current site around the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century. Given that the location of the current site is near the historic centre of the market town, their presence is not a surprise and medieval small finds (listed within the HER) have previously been recorded within a 500m radius of the evaluation.

Evidence for 18<sup>th</sup> century housing in close proximity to the current site (50m) can be seen within the current HER record. The in situ floor bricks fit well with this date. It is likely that the two further fragments, recovered from the subsoil and demolition layers, are of a similar date and are related in some way to part of the same structure that has been recorded during this evaluation.

## **Recommendations**

### **Pottery**

The pottery has been fully identified and no further examination of the material will be required. However, it is recommended that if further sherds of medieval pottery are found at the next stage of archaeological investigation, any future detailed analysis of potential assemblages should also take these sherds into consideration.

### **CBM**

It is recommended that if further structural remains are recorded during a subsequent stage of archaeological excavation, that these current floor tile/bricks are examined in more detail alongside what other evidence might be recovered. This would perhaps allow a better understanding of the date of the grog-tempered fabrics and to ascertain if they are indeed contemporary with the main structure. It would also be interesting to examine whether this tile/brick fabric had a particular use within the main structure or any of its subsidiary elements. This potential future analysis should be undertaken by a medieval/post-medieval CBM specialist.

## **Bibliography**





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Drury, P., 1993, 'Ceramic building materials' in Margeson, S., *Norwich Households*, EAA 58, Norwich Survey, 163-168

McCarthy, M. R and Brooks, C. M., 1988, *Medieval pottery in Britain AD900-1600*, Leicester University Press

## **Appendix 1; Fabric and form codes**

### **Pottery**

MCW                                      Unsourced medieval coarseware

TPE                                      Transfer printed ware

### **CBM**

MSCP                                    Medium sandy with clay pellets (oxidised)

WSF                                      Medium sandy fabric with ferrous inclusions (white)

WSG                                      Grogged fabric with some sand (white/oxidised)

FT = floor tile, FB = floor brick



Proposed House, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Project Number 1130

### APPENDIX 3 - CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

FEATURE CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	LAYER/FILL DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE	POTTERY /g(sherds)	CBM /g(number)	SLAG /g(number)
		1002	Subsoil	Med-PM	15 (3)	283 (1)	
		1004	Brick Floor Surface	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century		2229 (1) 5000+ (1)	
1015	Sill Beam Foundation Trench	1016	Fill	Med-PM	6 (1)		
1019	Posthole	1020	Fill	Med-PM			863 (2)
		1023	Demolition Layer	Mod		1039 (1)	

## APPENDIX 4 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS FORM - Print view

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: britanni1-231152

### Project details

Project name	Proposed House, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk
Short description of the project	From the 4th to the 7th December 2015, Britannia Archaeology undertook an archaeological investigation by means of a trial trench evaluation on the location of a proposed house, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk. A generic design brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service required one trial trench measuring 6.00 x 1.80m to be excavated. Four phases of activity were encountered: The most recent phase related to the 20th century demolition of post-medieval structures in the 1960's and redevelopment for use as an ad hoc carpark. The second phase related to a floor surface and wall which were surviving remnants of post-medieval cottages that stood on the land. The bricks recovered from the floor surface date the construction of these cottages to the 18th or 19th century. The third phase comprised of an urban accumulation layer spanning the medieval and post-medieval periods. The fourth and final phase was represented by a sill beam foundation trench cut into the natural sand, and two postholes contained within. These features are indicative of mid to late medieval or early post-medieval timber framed buildings.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2015 End: 07-12-2015
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ENF139388 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DWELLING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHERD Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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OASIS FORM - Print view

**Project location**

Country England  
Site location NORFOLK BROADLAND AYLSHAM Proposed House, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk  
Postcode NR11 6HG  
Study area 0 Square metres  
Site coordinates TG 1938 2704 52.79577144578 1.254407292484 52 47 44 N 001 15 15 E Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 29.77m Max: 29.77m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Martin Brook  
Project director/manager Matthew Adams  
Project supervisor Adam Leigh  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Peter Marshall

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service  
Physical Archive ID ENF139388  
Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service  
Digital Archive ID ENF139388  
Digital Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service  
Paper Archive ID ENF139388  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Proposed House, White Hart Street, Aylsham, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leigh, A.; Adams, M.
Other bibliographic details	R1123
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4 Bound Report with A3 pull-out figures
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Entered by	Adam Leigh (a.leigh@brit-arch.com)
Entered on	31 May 2016

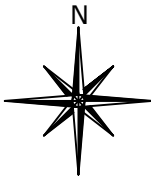
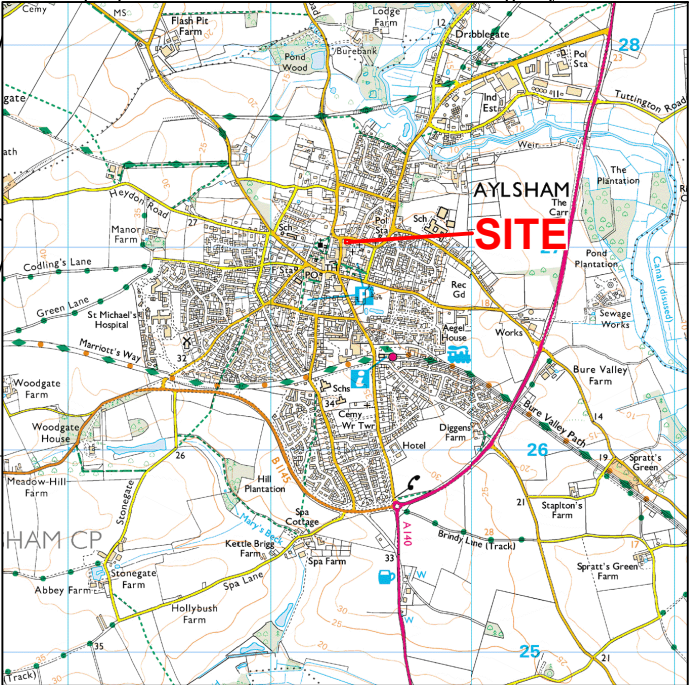
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NGR: 619384 327043 REFERENCE: P1130

PROJECT:  
PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLESHAM, NORFOLK

CLIENT:  
PETER MARSHALL

DESCRIPTION:  
GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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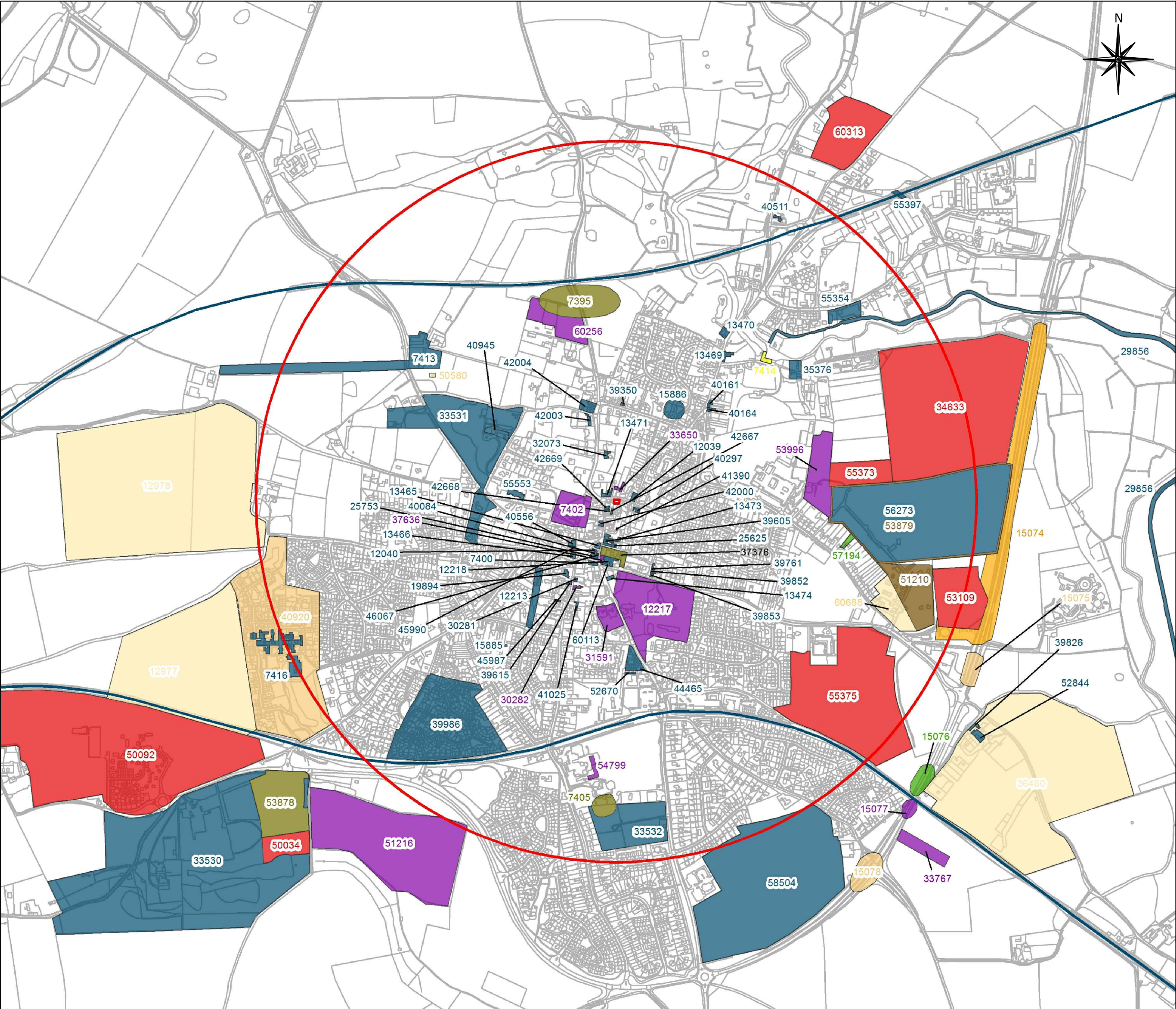
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DATE: NOV 2015 AUTHOR: MCA FIGURE: 01









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	Multi-period Record
	Modern Record
	Post-medieval Record
	Medieval Record
	Anglo-Saxon Record
	Roman Record
	Late Prehistoric Record
	Bronze Age Record
	Neolithic Record
	Palaeolithic Record
	Site Boundary

NGR:	619384 327043	REFERENCE:	P1130
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PROJECT:	PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLESHAM, NORFOLK
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CLIENT:	PETER MARSHALL
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DESCRIPTION:	NHER DATA - MONUMENT REGION PLAN
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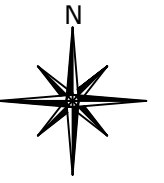
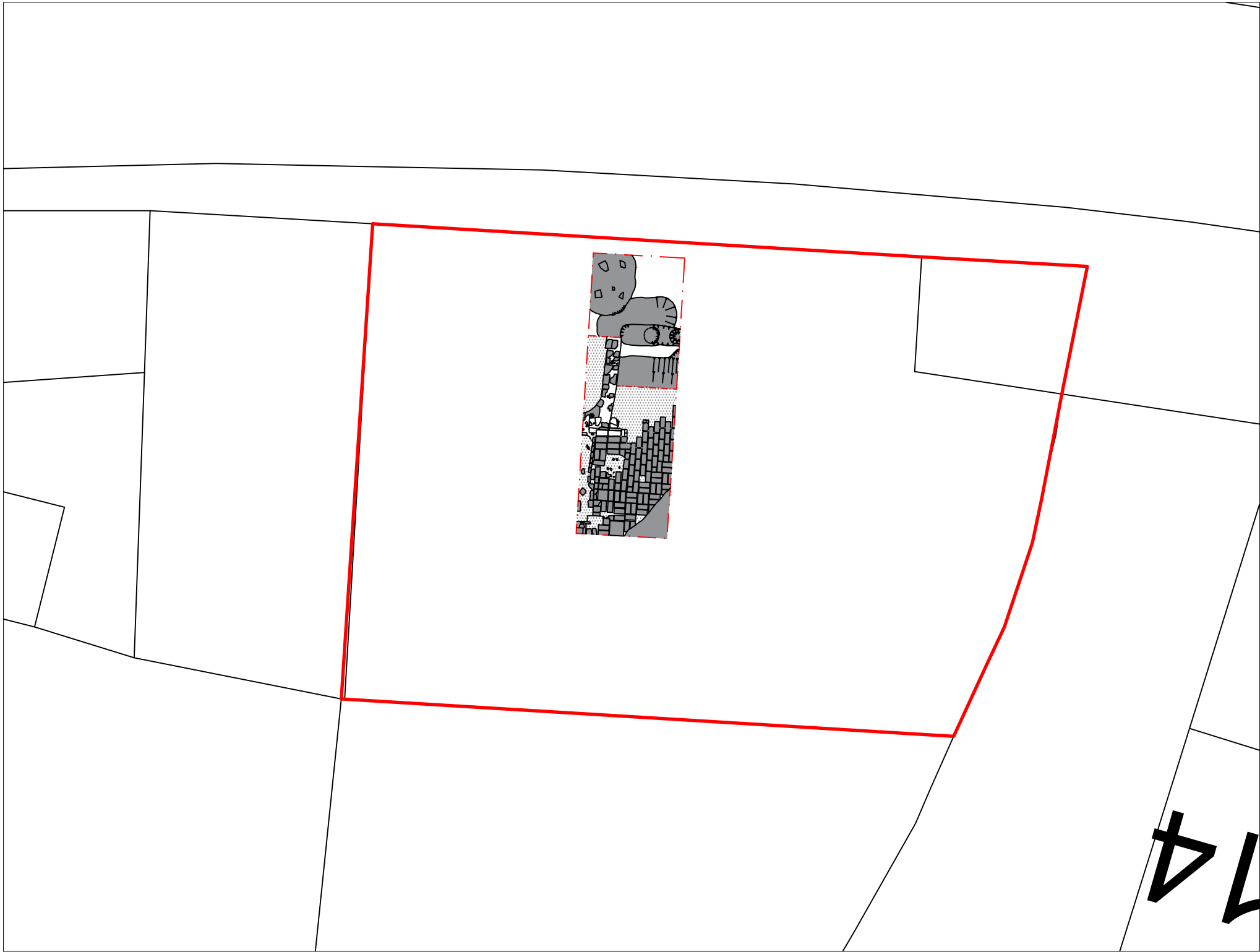

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A3	MB	01
DATE:	AUTHOR:	FIGURE:
NOV 2015	MCA	03





	Archaeological Feature
	Trench Location
	Site Boundary

NGR: 619384 327043	REFERENCE: P1130
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CLIENT: PETER MARSHALL
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DESCRIPTION: FEATURE LOCATION PLAN
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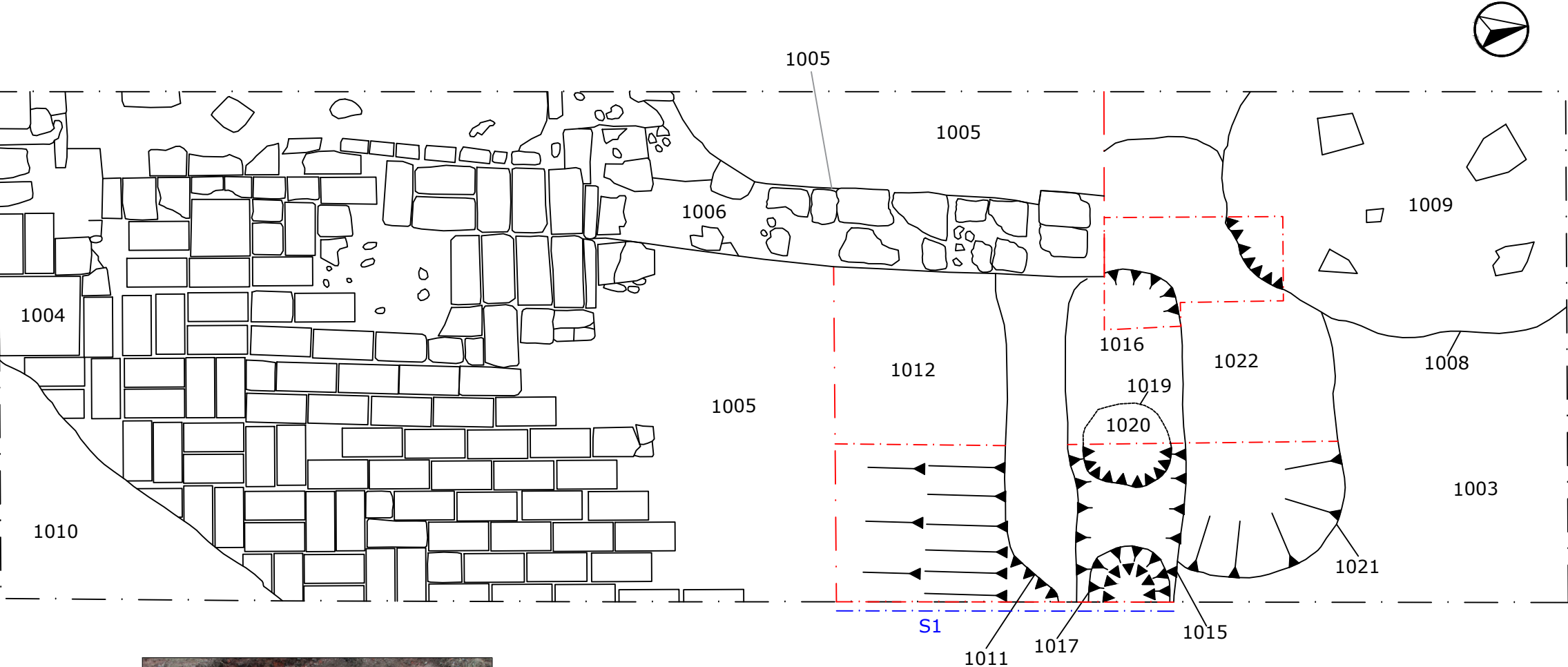
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PLOT: A3	APPROVED: MB	VERSION: 02
DATE: DEC 2015	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 04

TRENCH 1 - PLAN



DP1- Trench Post Exc - View S



DP2- Floor Surface 1004 - View N

	Bricks
	Sample Section
	Section Line
	Excavated Feature
	Trench

NGR: 619384 327043	REFERENCE: P1130
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PROJECT: PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLESHAM, NORFOLK
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CLIENT: PETER MARSHALL
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DESCRIPTION: TRENCH PLAN
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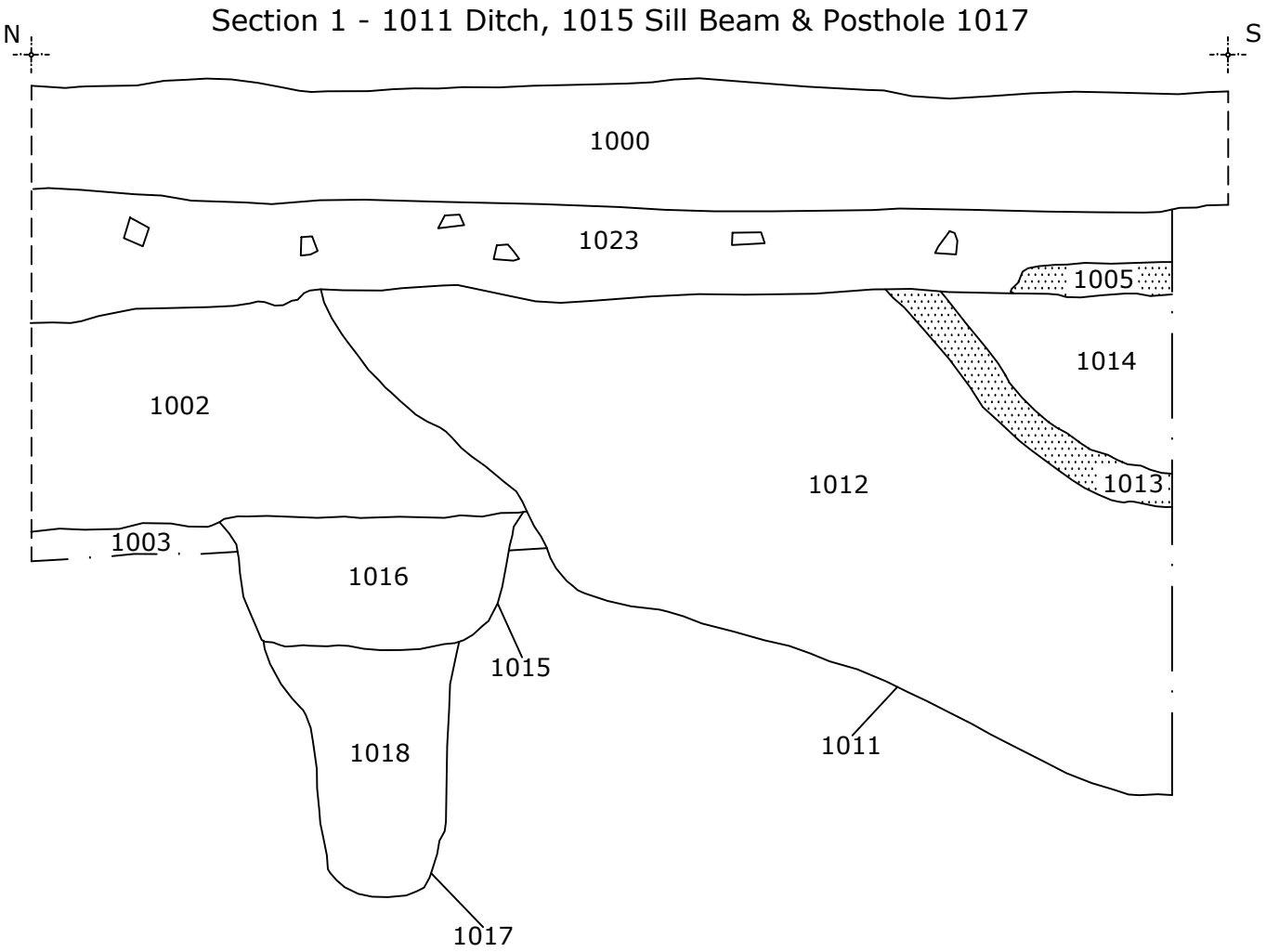
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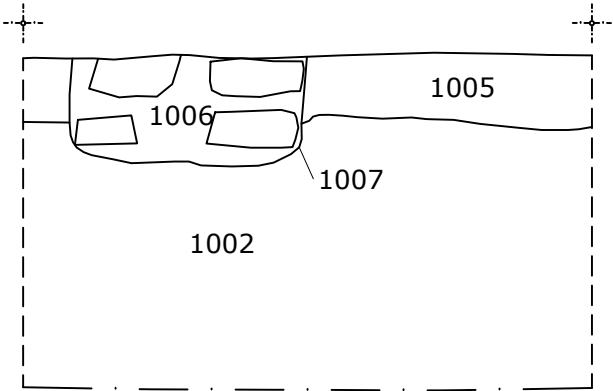
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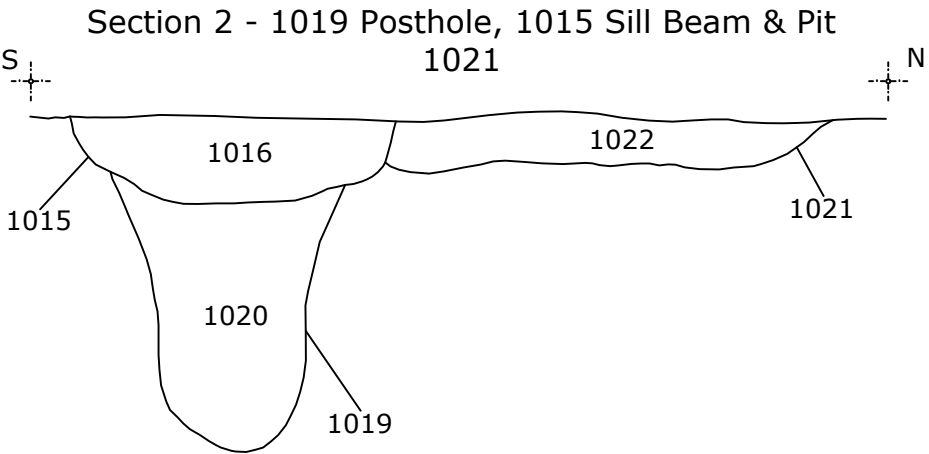
TRENCH 1 - SECTIONS



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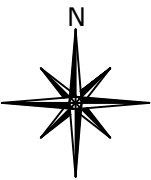
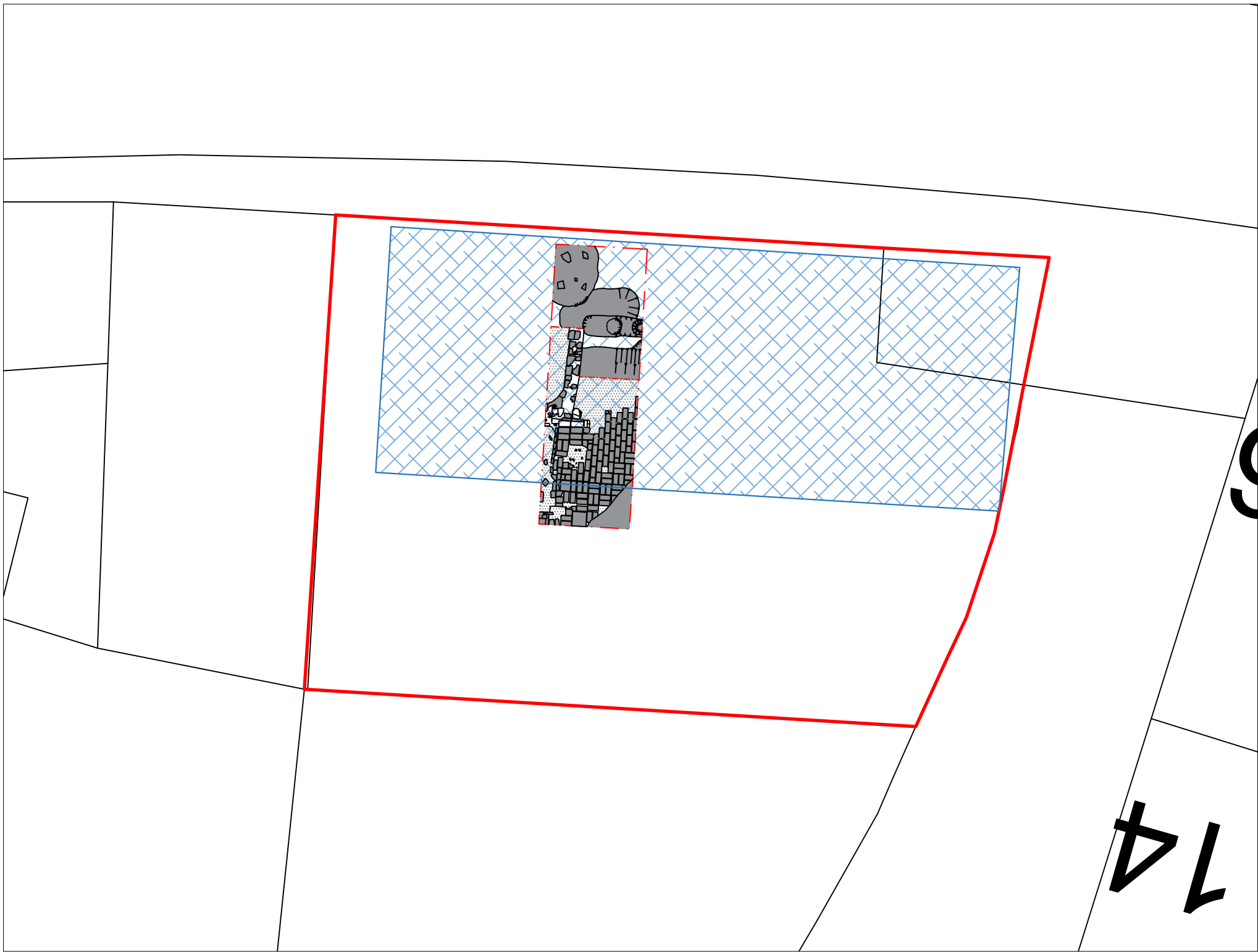






DP3- Section 2 - View W



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DESCRIPTION: TRENCH - SECTIONS	
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DATE: DEC 2015	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 06



	Proposed Building
	Archaeological Feature
	Trench Location
	Site Boundary

NGR: 619384 327043	REFERENCE: P1130
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PROJECT: PROPOSED HOUSE, WHITE HART STREET, AYLESHAM, NORFOLK
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CLIENT: PETER MARSHALL
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DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED BUILDING LOCATION & IMPACT PLAN
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DATE: DEC 2015	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 07