

Archaeological Investigation
at Piper's Cottage
Piper's Hill
Great Gaddesden
Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3BY

(NGR TL 02728 11075)

(Planning Application 4/01919/13/FHA)



September 2014

Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

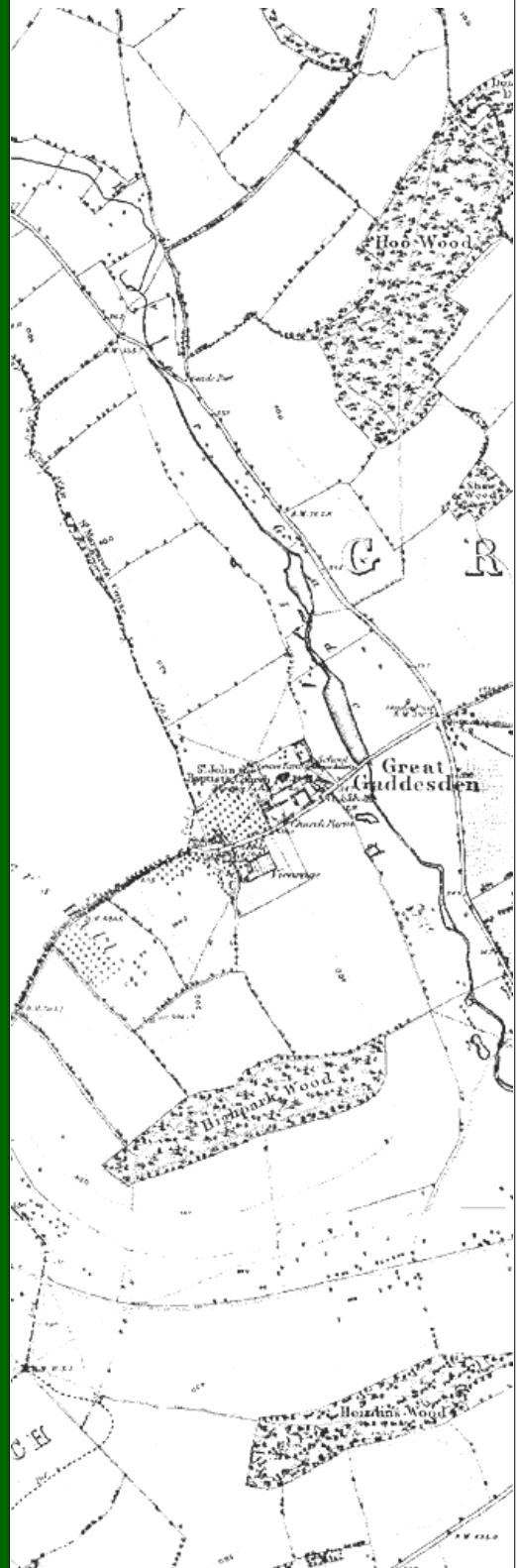
for

Mr K. Halls Esq.



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Souterrain Project SOU14-331

September 2014

for

Mr Ken Halls Esq.
Abbots Langley
Hertfordshire WD5 0AA

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

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Summary

In July 2014, Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited undertook an archaeological investigation during ground preparation for a new two storey rear annexe to Piper's Cottage, a grade II listed local vernacular building at Piper's Hill, Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire.

The building was thought to date from the late 16th century. However, earlier in 2014 an historic building survey concluded that the existing building shows no signs of having been constructed before the late 18th or early 19th century; although earlier materials are used in its fabric.

Historic documents of 17th and 18th century date highlighted the potential for previous buildings at the site, one of which lay to the immediate southeast of Piper's Cottage, within the proposed development footprint.

Investigation during ground works revealed evidence of a post-medieval house; this was in the form of a floor, the position of former walls, a brick-built chimney / hearth and a cellar. Pottery from the floor points to occupancy of the dwelling in the 17th to 18th centuries. The demolition of the building is likely to have taken place in the late 18th or early 19th century.

The post-medieval building was situated upon a domestic midden of 12th / 13th century date, which strongly suggests that the plot had been the site of a medieval tenement. Notably, a series of small enclosures surviving as earthworks, adjoin the plot to the southwest, further suggesting that a row of medieval tenements or crofts stood along the roadside at Piper's Hill. To date, the discoveries represent the most significant body of archaeological evidence for medieval settlement at Great Gaddesden.

Other discoveries comprised a well, understood to have been contemporary with the existing house, and a nearby low structure built of brick and tile, post-medieval in date though of uncertain function.

1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report documents the results of an archaeological investigation carried out during the ground preparation for an extension to Piper's Cottage, an historic Grade II listed building at Piper's Hill, Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3BY. The investigation was carried out in compliance with Condition 4 of Dacorum Borough Council's Planning Permission 4/01919/13/FHA. The archaeological fieldwork, carried out by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain), took place over four days between the 8th and 17th of July 2014.
- 1.2 The report has been prepared by Souterrain on behalf of the planning applicant's agent, Mr Ken Halls of 1 Dibley Cottage, High Street, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire WD5 0AA.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (4/01919/13/FHA) was granted by Dacorum Borough Council on the 14th of January 2014 for: amendments to a previously approved, two storey rear annexe with glazed link, the repair of an attached side garage, widening of access and minor internal alterations. The schedule of alterations is contained in the Design and Access Statement¹ and the area of the proposed development is defined on drawings (latest revisions) submitted with the planning application².
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, Planning Condition 4 required the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. This was in accordance with paragraph 141 of National Planning Policy (NPPF)³ which requires the developer to record, and to advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets that are to be lost due to development.
- 2.3 The archaeological investigation was carried out in three stages:
- Stage 1: an historic building record of the existing upstanding structure prior to its restoration and redevelopment;
- Stage 2: a record of any features of architectural and historic significance within the existing building made during internal works;
- Stage 3: investigation and recording during groundwork for the new annexe.
- 2.4 Stage 1 was completed by Souterrain in March 2014, as was the majority of Stage 2. The historic building report⁴ provides an illustrative and descriptive appraisal of the house, together with a review of available documentary sources. The record was made to Level 2 as defined by English Heritage and includes photographs and scale elevations and plans. Stage 3, and the remainder of Stage 2 were carried concurrently and the results are integrated in the present report.

¹ Piper'sCotD&A, 280713, House Holder and Listed Building Planning Application October 2013, Piper's Cottage Design and Access Statement Proposal Summary

² Piper's Cottage, Piper's Hill, Gt. Gaddesden, Herts, HP13BY, Drwg No.10/13/06, Dec 2103; Drwg No. 10/13/05, Dec 2013; Drwg No. 10/13/07, Dec 2013

³ National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 27.03.2012

⁴ Wilson, M D, 2014 *Historic Building Record: Pipers Cottage, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3BY, (NGR TL 02728 11075), (App. Ref. 4/01919/13/FHA)*, Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd, 2014 Souterrain Project SOU14-331, March 2014

- 2.5 The programme of archaeological work was implemented by Souterrain in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation⁵ approved prior to the commencement of work by the Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council.

3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT

- 3.1 The parish of Great Gaddesden is to the northwest of Hemel Hempstead on a southeast spur of the Chiltern Hills. The valley of the River Gade runs northwest to southeast through the parish. The village of Great Gaddesden stands on the west side of the river, from which it takes its name (*post.* 5.2).
- 3.2 Piper's Cottage is located on Piper's Hill on the western edge of the village and on the south side of the road from Great Gaddesden to Nettleden. It is centred at NGR TL 02728 11075 (Figs. 1 and 2) at approximately 130.24m AOD. The property is located within the Great Gaddesden Conservation Area⁶. It is bordered to the west and south by open pasture and to the east by a public footpath, beyond which is a private residence and garden. Across the road to the north and northeast it is faced by private residences and gardens. The underlying geology consists predominantly of chalk.
- 3.3 Within the Application Site boundary, the actual area of development measures approximately 430sq.m (Fig. 3).

4. THE HISTORIC BUILDING

- 4.1 Piper's Cottage is a grade II listed building⁷. It is a two-storey timber framed house with red brick in-fill and a red clay tiled roof. The east end and rear wall are cased in brick. There is a brick built lean-to storage shed at the west end with slated roof. In 1840 the cottage was illustrated by J.C. Buckler in a general view of the village facing southwest⁸. The general appearance of the building is as it is today. The chimney is noticeably on the front side of the roof only. The timber frame is extant only on the west wall, although this may be simply 'artistic licence'.
- 4.2 The listed building text assumes the Piper's Cottage to be a late 16th century house which was renovated in the 19th century. However, the recent historic building survey (i.e. Stage 1) deduced that it is more likely to be an early 19th century building utilising elements of an earlier structure⁹. There are no structural elements that are unambiguously attributable to an *in situ* structure of earlier date.

Historic Maps

- 4.3 The earliest available historic maps of the property, dated c.1699 and 1780, show two buildings fronting the roadside at the site of Piper's Cottage (Figs. 2 and 3). The map of c.1699 is a sketch map made by John Halsey. It accompanies a bundle of deeds and conveyances for the village, entitled '*Map of the lands lying at the Church and Piper's Hill in Great Gaddesden Parish thereof were given by John Halsey to the Minister of the said Parish*'¹⁰. The map shows that the two buildings were separate. Figure 2 is a re-drawn extract of the map. Although the ink of the original map has been smudged it shows a reasonably clear representation of the layout of

⁵ Souterrain Archaeological Services Limited. 2014. *Scheme for an Historic Building Record: Piper's Cottage, Piper's Hill, Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3BY, NGR TL 02728 11075, (APP. REF. 4/01919/13/FHA) Souterrain Project SOU14-331, 7th February 2014*

⁶ Great Gaddesden Conservation Area, Character Appraisal and Management Proposals, Dacorum Borough Council 2010.

⁷ English Heritage building ID 157898

⁸ HROD/E Bg/1 'View in Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire', *Views of Hertfordshire*, p119; For an extract of the illustration see Wilson, M D, 2014, Fig. 13

⁹ *Ibid.* Wilson, M D, 2014

¹⁰ HRO 13091

buildings. There were two structures fronting the road and a third to the rear. Of the two on the roadside, the building to the west has what appears to be a representation of a chimney, and is thus likely to be a dwelling house.

- 4.4 On the map of 1780 Piper's Cottage is shown as two adjoining structures on the roadside. Notably, the building on the east side extends further to the east than it does today, reaching the edge of the land parcel boundary. It is not known whether the easternmost structure was part of the dwelling house. Figure 3 is a re-drawn extract of the map¹¹. The property boundary around Piper's Cottage is shown in light red. The map was probably chain surveyed and is thus considered to be reasonably accurate.
- 4.5 A map of presumed early 19th century date (not illustrated) shows only land boundaries at Piper's Hill¹². The plot of land where Piper's Cottage stands is annotated with the name 'Jennings', who could be either owner or occupant. Marriage records for Great Gaddesden have a Mary Jennings, widow of the same parish marrying widower John Snelling on the 8th August 1830.
- 4.6 The next map of reasonable accuracy with regard to field and property boundaries was produced for the commutation of tithes of Great Gaddesden in 1839¹³. An extract showing Piper's Cottage is redrawn at Figure 4. The plan of the building, however, appears to be a generalised representation. The tithe schedule¹⁴ gives the Countess of Bridgewater as the owner of the property (Piper's Cottage is not named) and Adam Chennels as the 'occupier'. The summary of land holdings shows Chennels as one of the wealthier tenant farmers of the parish, holding over 155 acres and paying an annual rent charge to the vicar of £44:10s:2d.
- 4.7 The Ordnance Survey first edition (1884)¹⁵ shows the footprint of Piper's Cottage very much as it is today, except for the back porch. The map was used as the base map for the land valuation of 1910¹⁶. The valuation award gives the cottage and garden as 23 perches. It was occupied by Albert Rance who paid rent to Lt. Col. W.F. Wheatley on behalf of Earl Brownslow. The site of a well is shown to southeast of the dwelling.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In the course of the present project, a search was carried out of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 500m radius of the Application Site. The HER numbers in the footnotes refer to the specific record for each heritage asset (i.e. historic structure, archaeological site or find spot) or archaeological event.

Settlement Origins

- 5.2 The origin of Great Gaddesden village¹⁷ is rooted at some juncture within the Anglo-Saxon period, but documentary references to the medieval settlement are sparse. At the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 the manor of Great Gaddesden (*Gadesdene*) was a sizable settlement, with twenty-seven heads of households recorded: 15 villeins and 2 small holders or bordars, 8 slaves, a cottager and a priest. The population may have been in the region of 130. There was arable land

¹¹ HRO 56472

¹² HRO 13095

¹³ HRO DSA 14/40/1

¹⁴ HRO DSA 14/40/1

¹⁵ OS Sheet XXVI14

¹⁶ Map HRO IRI314-315; Award: HRO IR2, 29/1

¹⁷ HER 2641

sufficient for 12 ploughs worked by six men's plough teams and four demesne plough teams¹⁸. In addition there was a mill, 1½ ploughlands worth of meadow, and woodland to support 500 pigs. Prior to the Norman Conquest the manor was held by Wulfwynn of Creslow from the abbey of St. Albans. It had been one of the abbey's possessions since the 940s when it was donated by Ethelgifu, a noblewoman. In 1086 the lordship was held by Edward of Salisbury¹⁹.

- 5.3 The oldest upstanding structure in the village is the Church St. John the Baptist²⁰, with elements of its chancel believed to date to the early 12th century. The modern village Great Gaddesden is generally presumed to be located on the same plan as the medieval settlement. Today, there are six vernacular buildings of historic interest within the village Conservation Area²¹, all of which are designated listed buildings. It is possible that some of these occupy the sites of former medieval tenements or closes. The oldest buildings date from the 15th century. Facing Piper's Cottage on the opposite side of the road (c. 30m NE) stands Glebe House²², which was once the vicarage. This was originally a 15th century open hall of the 'Inverted Wealden' type, which was extended in the 17th century and cased in brick in the 19th century. Another open hall of 15th / 16th century date is Church Farmhouse, located about 130m NE of Piper's Cottage. This too was renovated with brick casing in the 18th century²³. A third open hall, of 16th century date (c.270m E), is known as Church Cottages²⁴. This building, with a steep red tile half-hipped roof, consists of four houses, having been sub-divided in the 18th century. Its timber frame is partly in-filled with brick. Directly opposite Piper's Cottage (25m N) is a brick fronted timber-framed house²⁵ which originated as two cottages in the 17th century. The brick facade was added in the 19th century. The two other structures of historic interest are barns at Church Farm. One of these has a cruck-frame believed to date from the 15th century²⁶, with 17th and 18th century additions. The other dates to the early 17th century²⁷.

Archaeological Knowledge

- 5.4 Until the investigation at Piper's Cottage there have been no archaeological discoveries in the village to confirm the location of early settlement, but this is likely to be a reflection of the few archaeological investigations that have taken place rather than a genuine absence of archaeology.
- 5.5 There have been two previous archaeological watching brief investigations in the village, both initiated by small scale development. The first of these took place in 1999 at Gade Mead, Piper's Hill²⁸ (about 230m ENE of Piper's Cottage) and the second at Glebe House in 2004²⁹. Nothing of archaeological or historical interest was observed on either occasion.
- 5.6 On Pipers Hill to the immediate south west of Pipers Cottage, and bordering the Application Area, there is a series of earthwork enclosures of unknown date (Fig.20)³⁰. These are located between 140m and 150m AOD. The main earthwork comprises a substantial rectilinear enclosure with

¹⁸ Open Domesday, <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/>

¹⁹ Page, W, (ed). 1908. Parishes: Great Gaddesden', *A History of the County of Hertford: volume 2*, 201-207. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43270> Date accessed: 05 August 2014

²⁰ HER 2285, Listed building entry No.1101262, Grade I, NGR 502868, 211263

²¹ And within the 500m Study Area.

²² Glebe House, List entry No. 1173673, Grade II*, E502738.06, N 211126.46584

²³ Church Farmhouse and Stables, List entry No. 1173686, Grade II, NGR 502826, 211182

²⁴ Church Cottages, Listing entry No. 1348056, Grade II, E 502946, N211259

²⁵ Nos. 2/3, PIPER'S HILL, Listing entry No. 1101229, Grade II, E502718, N211124

²⁶ Eastern Barn at Church Farm, List entry 1296091, Grade II*, E502915, N211218

²⁷ Central Barn at Church Farm, Listing entry No. 1101231, Grade II, E502890, N211215

²⁸ HER Event No. EHT4755, TL 02952 11154, Hunn, J 1999. *Gade Mead, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden, Herts: an archaeological monitoring and recording programme.*

²⁹ HER Event No. EHT4700, TL 02742 11126, Hunn, J. 2004. *Watching brief: Glebe House, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden.*

³⁰ HER No. 30458, TL 02636 10953

double bank and ditch, enclosing an area of approximately 1.2 hectares. There is an entrance in the centre of its southwest side.

- 5.7 Adjoined to the northwest side of the enclosure, and fronting the south side of the road, are four small closes, the north-easternmost one of which adjoins the Piper's Cottage property. These have the appearance of medieval crofts or tenements.
- 5.8 An area of ridge and furrow crop-marks³¹ about 480m south west of Piper's Cottage are a relict of Great Gaddesden's medieval open field system.

6. OBJECTIVES

6.1 The objectives of the investigation were:

- to build upon existing knowledge and to gain an understanding of the structure (i.e. Piper's Cottage) and its development phases;
- to ensure that features of archaeological interest encountered during groundwork were properly examined and recorded;
- to produce a reliable and informed publicly-accessible record, to mitigate the impact of the development upon of the heritage asset.

7. FIELD PROCEDURE

7.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Rev.2013). Ground reduction and trenching was monitored throughout by an archaeologist, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate. All recording was carried out in accordance with the written scheme. Archaeological features were surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum by RTK GPS.

8. INVESTIGATION RESULTS

8.1 In the descriptions which follow, context numbers in square brackets denote 'cuts' (i.e. dug features), whilst those in round brackets denote layers, deposits, fills or structures.

Extent of Ground Reduction

8.2 The ground level was reduced on the west side of the site for the creation of new access and car parking areas (Fig.5). The topsoil (001) was generally around 0.30m in depth and contained 20th century litter. It lay directly above geological stratum comprised of chalk with flint nodules. There was nothing of archaeological significance present. The ground in this area appears to have been previously truncated.

8.3 On the east side of the site, ground level was reduced from the slope over the southern half of the proposed building footprint (Fig.5). Here the topsoil (001) was generally 0.35m-0.40m in thickness. It lay directly above geological stratum of chalk. There were no artefacts or archaeological features present.

³¹ HER No. 17309, TL 02496 10657

Wells

- 8.4 Towards the north end of the proposed building footprint a well [032] was found (Figs. 6 and 8). It had been concealed by a slab of concrete which had latterly been used as the base for a garden shed. The well had a diameter of c.1.2m and was cut into the chalk to a depth of more than 50m. Crudely cut foot and hand-holds were visible in its sides. The rim of the well was built of roughly-hewn blocks of pudding stone and red bricks. The bricks are the same form as those used to in-fill the front wall frame of Piper's Cottage, and probably date to the 16th or 17th century (*post.9.7*). The presence of mortar on various faces indicated that they had been salvaged from an earlier structure, suggesting that the well was dug in the early 19th century to serve the newly built dwelling (i.e. Piper's Cottage). A second well exists close to the northeast boundary of the site (Fig.6, [013]) sealed by a concrete cap. Examination by flashlight via a drain, revealed a depth of just 5m. It is probably the earlier of the two wells, having been in-filled with the up-cast from well [032]; the material subsequently settling to its present depth.

Post-medieval Building Foundations

- 8.5 The excavation of three drainage trenches to the east of Piper's Cottage revealed evidence of an earlier building (Fig.6), which correlates with the site of a building shown on maps drawn in 1699 and 1780 (*ante. 4.3 and 4.4*). Archaeological visibility was albeit fragmentary due to the narrowness and shallowness of the drainage trenches which meant that the full extent and layout of the building was indeterminable. However two distinct components of the building could be determined: a probable dwelling space and a cellar. There was also sufficient information to deduce that the building was rectangular and on the same alignment as Piper's Cottage.
- 8.6 The exposed remains of the earlier building consisted largely of floor material (006) / (012), the site of two walls (008) and (007), and a brick-built chimney / hearth (010). Rectangular in plan, the floor covered was c.2m wide by at least 3m long. The surface of the floor material was reached about 0.72m below the existing ground level at approximately 129.54m OD. It comprised a very thin veneer of compact dirty brown clay with charcoal flecks, beneath which the body of the make-up (006) was yellowy brown clay with flint nodules (Fig.13), c. 0.12 in thickness. Pottery sherds of 17th to 18th century date were found impressed in the surface of the floor (012) (*post. 9.4-9.5, Table 3*), which most likely relate to the domestic occupancy of the building during that period. The floor make-up itself contained a few residual sherds of medieval pottery (*post. 9.2, Table 1*). In the north-eastern drainage trench a band of dirty mortar (007) defined the northern limit of the floor (Figs.6 and 11). This was c.0.45m wide and aligned northeast/southwest. Similarly, a band of dirty mortar (008) in the north-western drainage trench marked the western extent of the room. This was c.0.45m wide and aligned northwest/southeast.
- 8.7 In the southeast corner of the room there was a small rectangular brick structure (010) interpreted as the base of a chimney and a hearth (Fig. 6 and Figs. 9 to 12). The wall of the structure was the width of a single brick (c.0.11m) and survived up to four courses (0.33m). The bricks were of a post-medieval form, probably of 16th or 17th century date (*post.9.7*). The structure was evidently in-filled at the time of the building's demolition, containing a quantity of smashed red clay roof tiles, ashy soil and broken pottery, of late 18th century - early 19th century date (*post. 9.4-9.5, Table 3*). A few residual medieval sherds were also present (*post. 9.2, Table 1*).
- 8.8 Removal of the demolition fill (011) revealed that the chimney base/ hearth had been built upon a layer of flint cobbles set in a clayey matrix (005), with a general thickness of 0.14m. Below the cobbles was a deposit of ashy soil (004) at approximately 129.42m OD, which continued beneath the floor make-up (006) / (012) of the building. Sherds of medieval pottery were visible in the surface of the ashy soil layer (*post. 9.2, Table 1*).

- 8.9 On the west side of the hearth structure (010) there was a small remnant of loosely mortared brick floor (002) seated set in a thin layer of mortar (003). The bricks, some just halves, were again of a post-medieval form (*post.9.7*).
- 8.10 To the northwest of the room, a cellar (030) / (031) was partly exposed during the excavation of a foundation trench for the new building (Figs 6 and 16). The cellar was cut into the chalk to a depth of at least 2m, though was un-bottomed. Only its southeast side of the cellar was revealed; about 5 sq.m. The eastern extent of the cellar was partly defined in the north-western drainage trench. The side of cellar had been cut into differential geological deposits (chalk and calcareous clay) and had been retained by a wall composed of irregular pieces of limestone bonded with mortar (031). The fill of cellar (033) consisted of dark brown soil and fragments of post-medieval bricks (*post.9.7*). Pottery indicated that the cellar was back-filled in the early 19th century (*post. 9.4-9.5*, Table 3).

12th / 13th Century Deposits

- 8.11 In the NE drainage trench, the floor make-up (006) was cut back c.0.3m by hand-excavation in order to ascertain its thickness and to confirm the nature and date of the ash deposit (004) buried below it (Figs. 12 and 13). The floor make-up proved to be c. 0.11m in thickness. Layer (004) comprised a homogeneous deposit of grey ashy soil with abundant sherds of 12th / 13th century Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware pottery (*post. 9.1 – 9.3*). The vessel types are unglazed cooking pots, some of which are sooted from the fire. It is a typical domestic assemblage of the period. Pottery forms are illustrated at Figure 17 and 18. Although the depth and full extent of deposit (004) could not be determined it is most likely that the deposit represents a domestic midden, undoubtedly from a nearby tenement.

Post-medieval Structure

- 8.12 Excavation of the northernmost foundation trench for the new building revealed part of a substantial brick wall (017) aligned northwest/southeast and visible in the trench for a short distance of c. 0.25m (Figs. 6 and 15, section 2). The wall measured c.0.48m in thickness, being composed of four rows of mortared bricks and surviving to a height off four courses (c. 0.38m). The bricks were similar in form to those observed in the foundations of the post-medieval building (*ante. 8.7; post.9.7*).
- 8.13 Flanking the wall on either side were three rows of broken red roof tiles (021) and (022) set vertically and bonded together with mortar (Fig.15, section 2; *post. 9.6*), probably to form a surface or pathway. The whole structure – wall and tile surfaces – was evidently constructed at the same time, having been set in a construction trench [026] which was at least 1.5m wide and between 0.24m and 0.36m deep. The trench [026] was cut partly through the geological stratum and partly through a pit [025]. The function and date of the brick and tile feature is uncertain. A thin layer of cinders (027) to the east may have been a contemporary deposit. The structure was buried beneath demolition layers (018), (019) and (023). There was no evidence of a continuation of the structure in the drainage trench c. 1.8m to the northwest.

Undated Pit

- 8.14 The aforementioned pit [025] had near-vertical sides falling to a flat bottom at a depth of c.0.88m (Fig.15, section2). It contained a homogeneous fill of dark brown clay with flint nodules (024). A single small piece of non-diagnostic fired clay tile was found at about 0.08m from the base of the pit. Albeit of uncertain date (though possibly medieval or post-medieval) the tile fragment was sufficient to confirm that the feature was anthropogenic in origin.

Observations Inside Piper's Cottage

8.15 Observations were made inside Piper's Cottage during excavation of the living room floor. The removal of wooden floor boards revealed made-up ground comprised of chalky soil and early 19th century bricks (*post.* 9.8) to a depth of c.0.18m, below which was geological stratum of chalk. There were no archaeological features or finds present.

9. THE FINDS

Medieval Pottery by Martin Wilson and Jackie Wells BA MA

9.1 A total of 31 sherds (1037 grams) were recovered during the investigations from stratified contexts. These are arranged by order of context in the catalogue (Table 1). The assemblage dates broadly to the 12th / 13th century. All sherds are variants of Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware, a coarse sandy ware, notably of a type found at Chalgrave in Bedfordshire³². The diagnostic forms are cooking pots, many of which are sooted. There is an overall minimum vessel count (MNV) of 21 (Table 2). The fabric comparison was done by Jackie Wells.

9.2 Table 1. Medieval Pottery: Types and Chronology

(Note: To enable close future comparison the fabric codes used in descriptions refer to those of the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series).

Illustration. (see Fig.17)	Context No.	Feature Type	Description	Period	Approx. context date
1 to 3	004	Ash deposit	4 rim sherds, 13 body and base sherds. Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware. Fabric C60	C 12 th / C 13 th	C 12 th / C 13 th
			9 body sherds. Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware. Fabric C59a	C 12 th / C 13 th	C 12 th / C 13 th
	006	Floor make-up	3 body sherds. Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware. Fabric C60.	C 12 th / C 13 th	C 12 th / C 13 th
4	011	Demolition deposit	1 rim sherd. Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware. Fabric C60	C 12 th / C 13 th	C 19 th
			1 rim sherd. Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware. Fabric C67a	C 12 th / C 13 th	C 19 th

9.3 Table 2. Medieval Pottery Quantification (MNV= minimum number of vessels)

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (grams)	MNV
004	26	717	17
006	3	98	2
011	2	222	2
Totals	31	1037	21

³² Pinder, A. & Davison, B. 1988. 'The Excavation of a Motte and Bailey Castle at Chalgrave, Bedfordshire, 1970', Bedfordshire Archaeology, vol. 18

Post-medieval Pottery by Martin Wilson

9.4 Broken pottery was found with demolition rubble filling the void of the chimney/hearth structure (010). Two types of wares were present, both of which were in popular domestic usage in the early 19th century. The first is a printed underglaze earthenware plate with Chinese central motif, a Staffordshire product with a peak of production between the 1780s and 1814³³. The other is either a bowl or a cup with a cobalt sponge decorated floral motif, a type which was common between the 1820s and the 1860s³⁴. Other sherds found in the demolition deposits comprised a residual piece of 17th / 18th century lead glazed earthenware from layer (023) and a sherd of yellow ware which was popular in the late 18th and early 19th century. Further sherds of 17th / 18th century lead glazed earthenware were recovered from the floor (012) of the demolished building; these probably relate to the occupancy of the building.

9.5 **Table 3. Post-medieval Pottery: Types and Chronology**

Context No.	Feature	Description	Period	Approx. context date
011	In-filled hearth	1 body sherd. Sponge Decorated Ware, earthenware, floral motif, cobalt. Common: 1820s – 1860s	Early C 19 th	Early C 19 th
		4 sherds adjoining, plate, 'second'. Printed Underglaze Earthenware, Chinese Central Motif, cobalt. Produced Staffordshire 1780s-1814	Late C 18 th Early C 19 th	c.1800-1830
012	Floor surface	3 body sherds, greenish brown lead glazed earthenware.	c. C 17 th / C 18 th	C 17 th / C 18 th
		2 body sherds, brown lead glazed earthenware.	c.18 th / C 19 th	C 18 th / C 19 th
023	Demolition layer	1 body sherd, greenish brown lead glazed earthenware.	c. C 17 th / C 18 th	Early C 19 th
033	In-filled cellar	1 body sherd, yellow ware	Late C 18 th / C19 th	Early C 19 th

Note on the Roof Tiles

9.6 Fragments of red fired clay roof tiles were present in fill (011) of the chimney/ hearth structure (010) and possible pathway features (021) and (022). The tiles are understood to have been derived from the post-medieval building which was demolished on the site in the early 19th century. The approximate dimensions of each tile are 6" (150mm) wide x 10" long (254mm) x c. ½" (13mm) thick. Each tile has two round peg holes ½" (12.5mm) diameter set apart 1½"(38mm). A single fragment of orange-red fired clay tile (probably roof tile) was found in pit [025]. This was 5/8" (16mm) in thickness. Its date is uncertain though possibly either medieval or post-medieval.

Note on the Brick Types

9.7 Two distinctive forms of hand-made brick were used in the construction of Piper's Cottage. These are shown at Figure 14. The earliest form is found in the in-fill of the north and west timber walls frames (the west wall is concealed by the lean-to). Bricks are shallow in gauge (height) and have

³³ c.f. Samford, P & Miller, G.L, 2002, Bull's Head Tavern (18BC139), F.9, c. 1800 – 1830; Samford, P 1997. 'Response to a Market: Dating English Underglaze Transfer-Printed Wares'. *Historical Archaeology*, 31(2):1-30

³⁴ c.f. Samford, P & Miller, G.L, 2002, Schiefferstadt House (18FR134), Privy (F 4), ca. 1810 – 1870

rounded arisses. Dimensions are variable, three main sizes being as follows: $7\frac{7}{8}$ " x $3\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " (200 x 95 x 44mm); $8\frac{5}{8}$ " x $4\frac{1}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{8}$ " (219 x 105 x 54mm) and $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x $4\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{3}{4}$ " (224 x 104 x 95mm). This type of brick was present in the excavation area in five contexts: chimney / hearth structure (010); floor remnant (002); wall structure (017), rubble in-fill of the cellar (033), and the rim structure of well [032]. In the latter structure, the presence of mortar showed that they were derived from the demolished house. It is therefore most probable that the material used for Piper's Cottage was also salvaged from the earlier building.

- 9.8 The second form of brick was used for the construction of the rear and east walls of Piper's Cottage and the lean-to. It was also used for a back yard at the rear of the lean to and was found within the make-up of the living room floor of the existing house. Its dimensions are generally uniform: $8\frac{3}{4}$ " (220mm) x $4\frac{1}{4}$ " (110mm) x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (65mm) and it has a characteristic rectangular 'frog' on its underside. It is presumed to date from the early 19th century.

10. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 10.1 The investigation revealed that the development plot contains the remains of a post-medieval building which is at least 17th century in date. Below this are archaeological deposits of 12th/ 13th century date.
- 10.2 The archaeological evidence for a post-medieval building is in-keeping with 17th and 18th century maps which depict a building at this location, immediately east of the standing building now known as Piper's Cottage. Two components of the earlier building could be identified: a probable dwelling room and a cellar (030), although it would be imprudent to presume that they were of contemporary build, particularly as the map evidence is at variance. The map of c.1699 shows two separate buildings, while that of 1780 shows two adjoining structures (*ante*. 4.3). It may be surmised from material found in both in the cellar and a chimney/ hearth structure (010), that at last a part of the earlier building was timber-framed with brick-infill and roofed in red clay tiles (Figs. 6, 10, 11; *ante* 9.5, Fig. 19). An analysis of the Piper's Cottage in 2014 concluded that the overall impression is that of an early 19th century building utilising elements of an earlier structure and that there is nothing that is unambiguously attributable to an *in situ* structure of earlier date³⁵. If constructed around an earlier standing timber-framed building, then it has undergone considerable alteration. The below-ground archaeology to the east of the building now suggests that an earlier building was entirely demolished in the early 19th century, whereby suitable materials – timber, brick and roof tiles - were salvaged for the construction of a new house on the site.
- 10.3 The post-medieval building was constructed upon a domestic midden deposit dated to the 12th / 13th century, which strongly suggests that the plot was the site of a medieval tenement. Notably, fronting the roadside to the immediate southwest of the Piper's Cottage are four small closes (Fig.20), the north-easternmost one of which adjoins the Piper's Cottage plot. Although of uncertain date the closes have the appearance of medieval crofts or tenements and, albeit circumstantial, such evidence would be in-keeping with the assumed scale of the medieval settlement, which in the late 11th century was known to comprise 27 homesteads. To date, the discovery represents the most significant body of archaeological evidence for 12th/ 13th century settlement at Great Gaddesden.

³⁵ Wilson, M D, 2014, 6.1

- 10.4 With exception of the foundation trench which cut through the fill of the post-medieval cellar, and the small portion of floor (006) which was hand-investigated in the drainage trench, all archaeological deposits and features to the north of the new annexe remain undisturbed.
- 10.5 There is no potential for further assessment and analysis of finds.

11. ARCHIVE

- 11.1 A museum accession number has been applied for on the 11th August 2014 from Dacorum Heritage Trust. The paper archive comprises recording sheets, field drawings, monochrome and digital photographs. All artefacts will remain the property of the landowner.
- 11.2 The English Heritage OASIS Data Collection Form ID for this project is souterra1-190012.

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- 12.1 In accordance with the requirements of WSI, this report is intended as a public-accessible record. A copy is to be available for consultation in the Historic Environment Record. It is also to be made available on appropriate websites (e.g. www.oasis.ac.uk ; www.academia.edu) and an illustrated summary of the results is to be submitted to *Hertfordshire Archaeology*.

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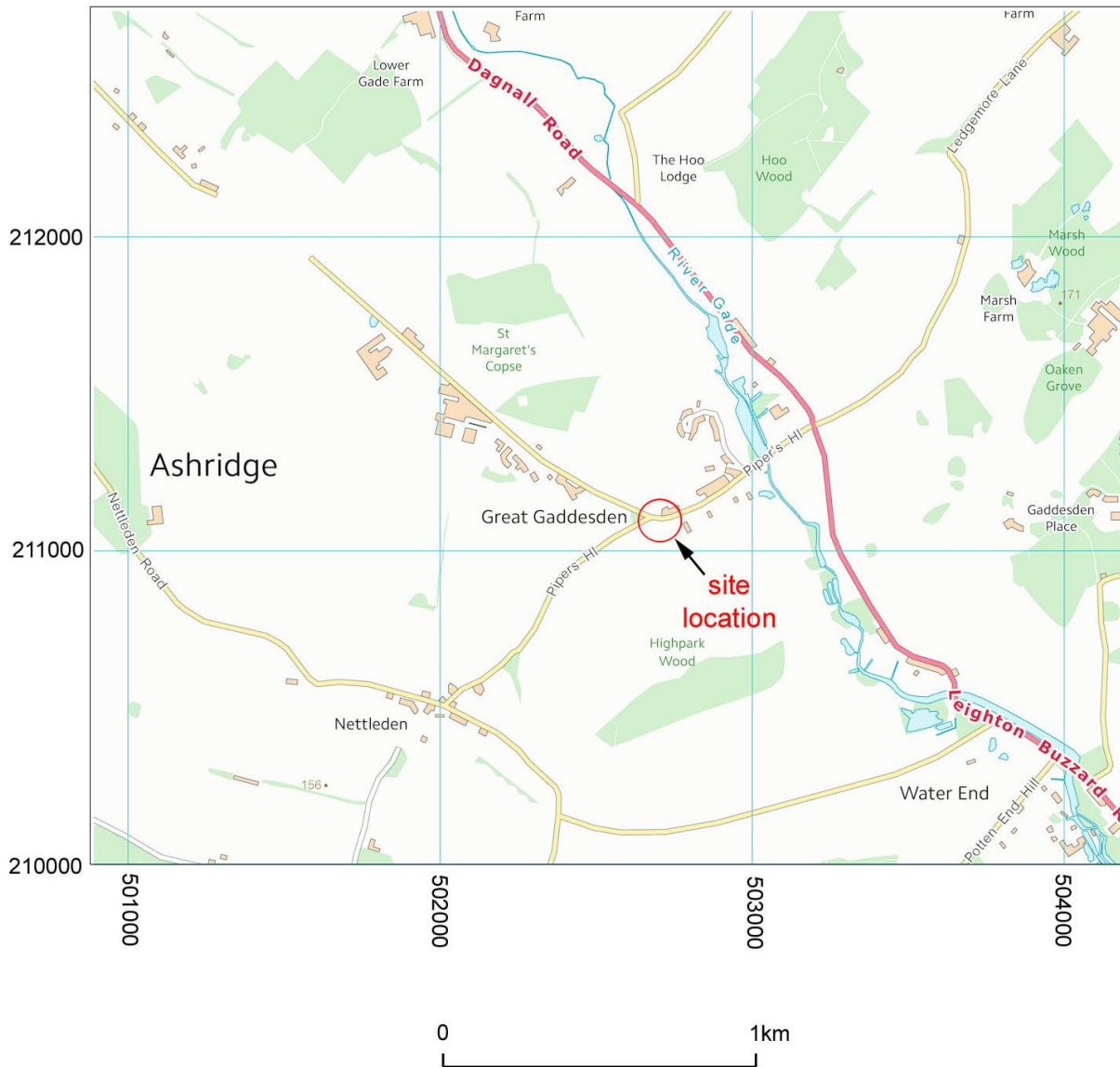


Figure 1. Location of Site

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Figure 2.
Extract of the c.1699
Sketch Map of Great
Gaddesden by John
Halsey, showing the land
and properties between
the church and Pipers Hill.
The property of Pipers
Cottage is encircled.
(c.f. HRO 56472)

Redrawn by
M D Wilson

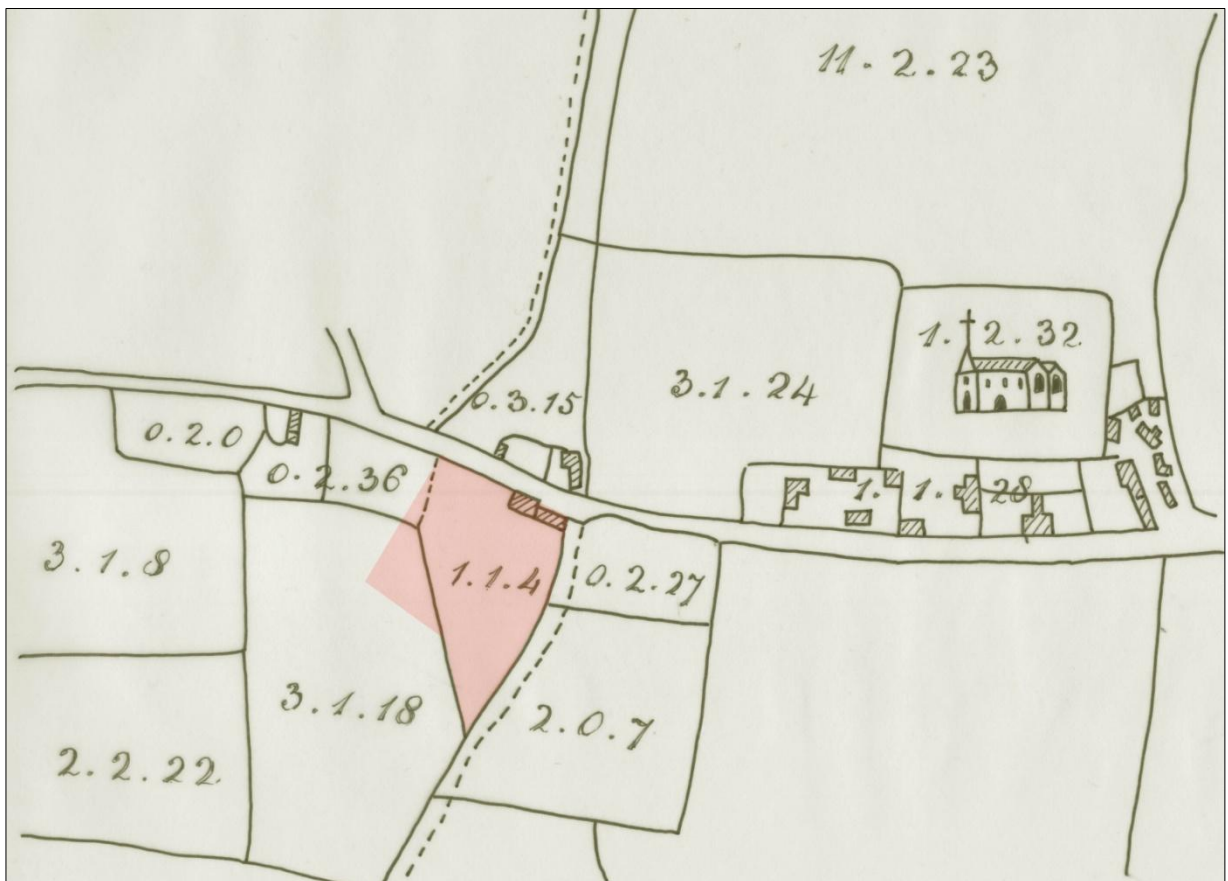
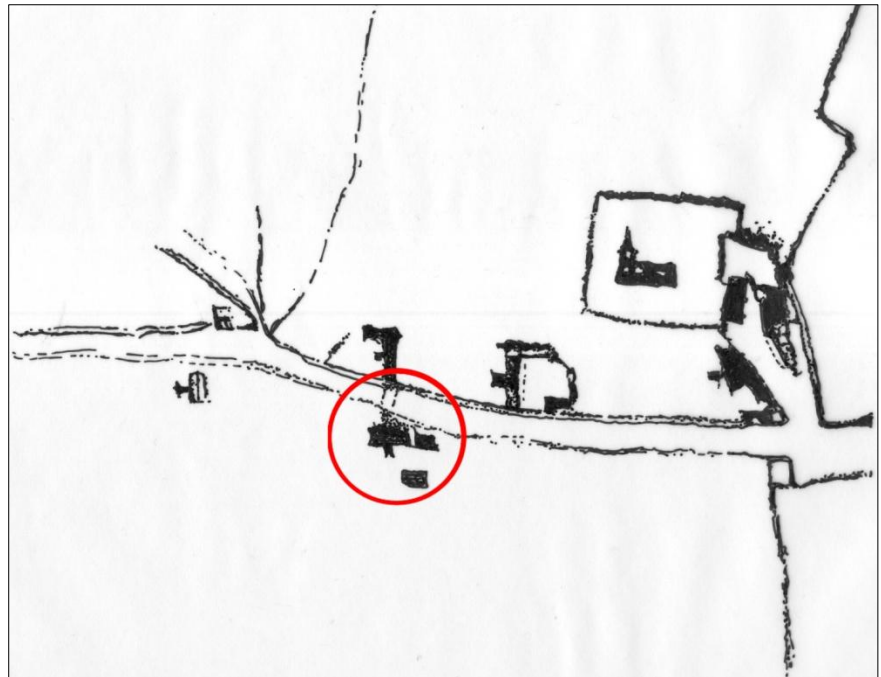


Figure 3. Extract of the 1780 Map of the parish of Great Gaddesden in the County of Hertford.
The property of Pipers Cottage is shown in light red. (c.f. HRO 56472) Redrawn by M D Wilson

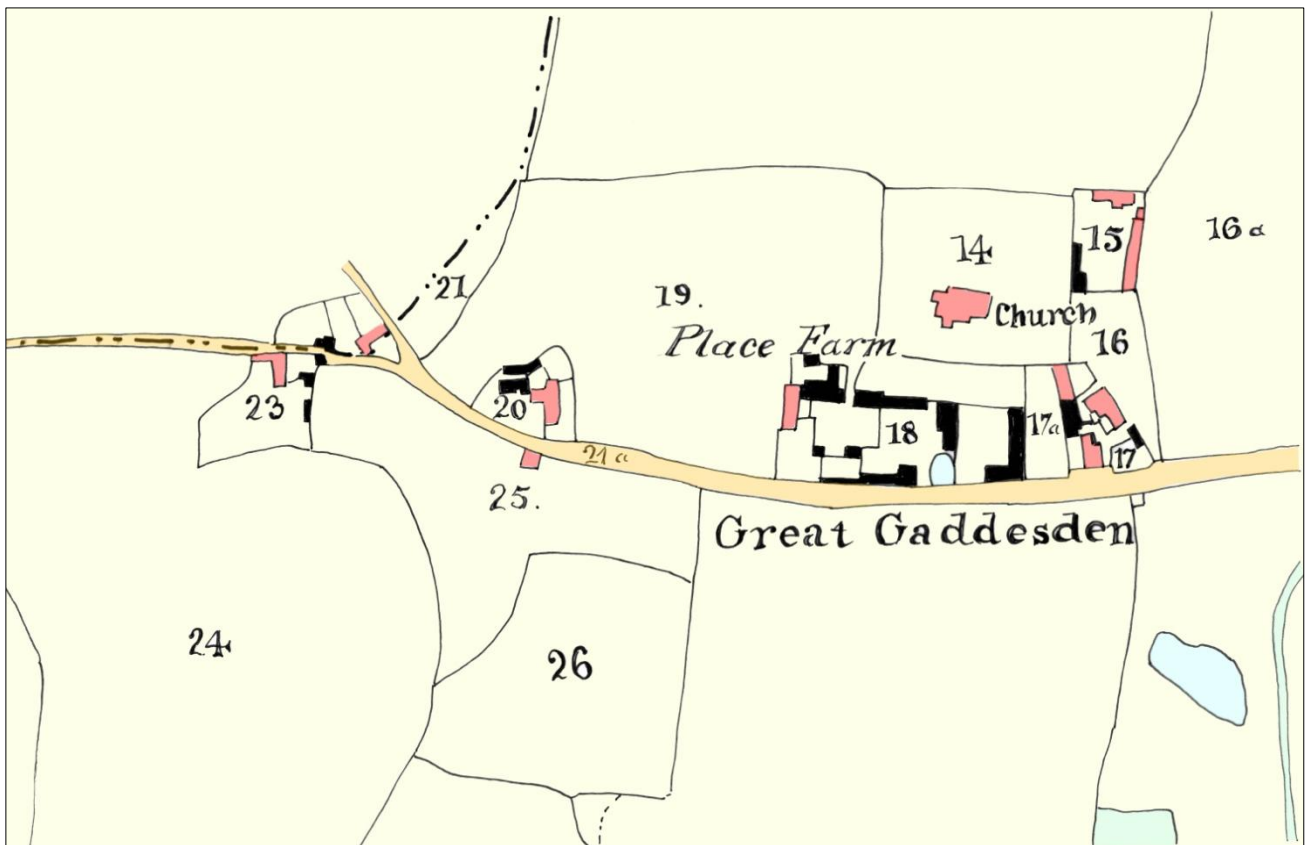


Figure 4. Extract of the 1839 tithe map of Great Gaddesden, Hertfordshire. Pipers Cottage is shown in light red within land parcel No.25 (c.f. HRO DSA 14/40/1). Redrawn by M D Wilson

Figure 5.
Areas of archaeological investigation (in green)

(Grid: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved.
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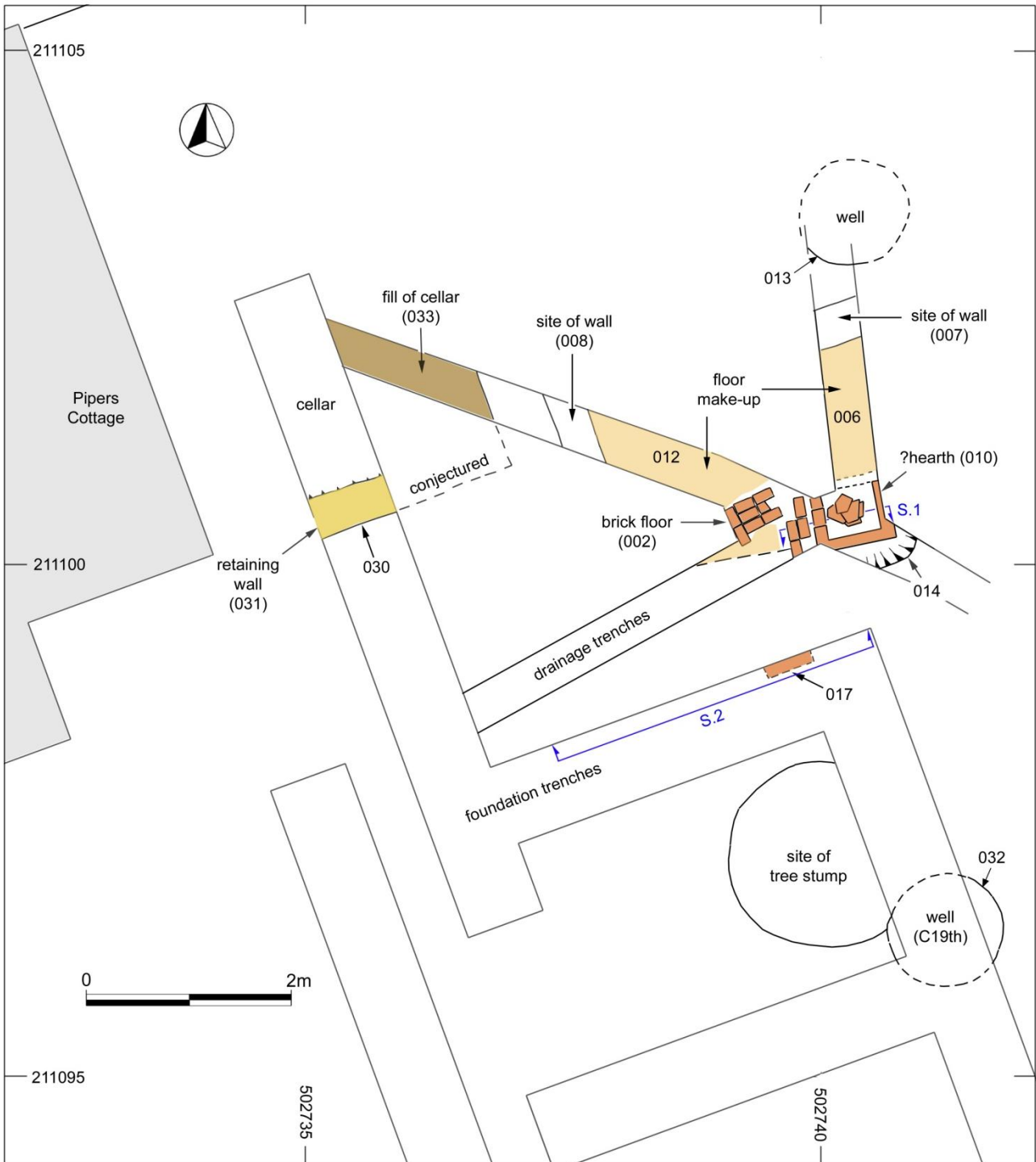


Figure 6. Archaeological features exposed in trenches showing section locations

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Figure 7. Overview of development plot prior to ground reduction and trenching. Facing NW

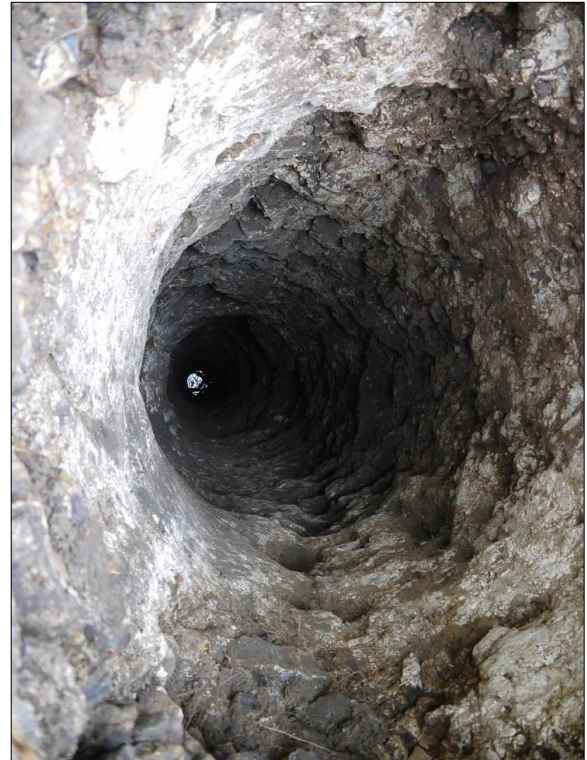


Figure 8. Piper's Cottage well (032) (early 19th century)

Figure 9.
Section 1. Stratigraphic relationship of chimney structure / hearth (010) and floor (002, 012)

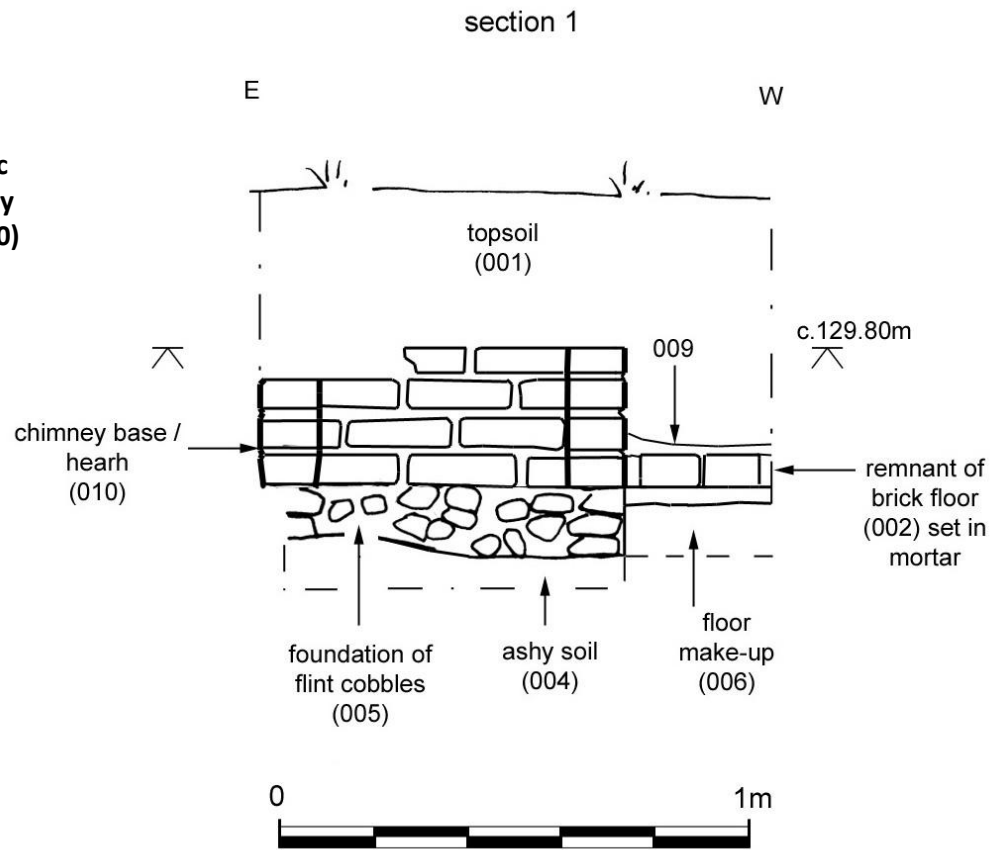


Figure 10. Post-medieval building foundations in NW drainage trench. Facing SE

Figure 11.
Post-medieval
building
foundations in NE
drainage trench.
Facing N



Figure 12. NE drainage trench, after removal of demolition deposit (011) and a portion of floor (006). Facing N



Figure 13. Detail of section through floor-make-up in NE drainage trench. Facing N



Figure 14. Brick types

Above: early 19th century form. Right: Post-medieval (c. C 16th / C 17th) form.

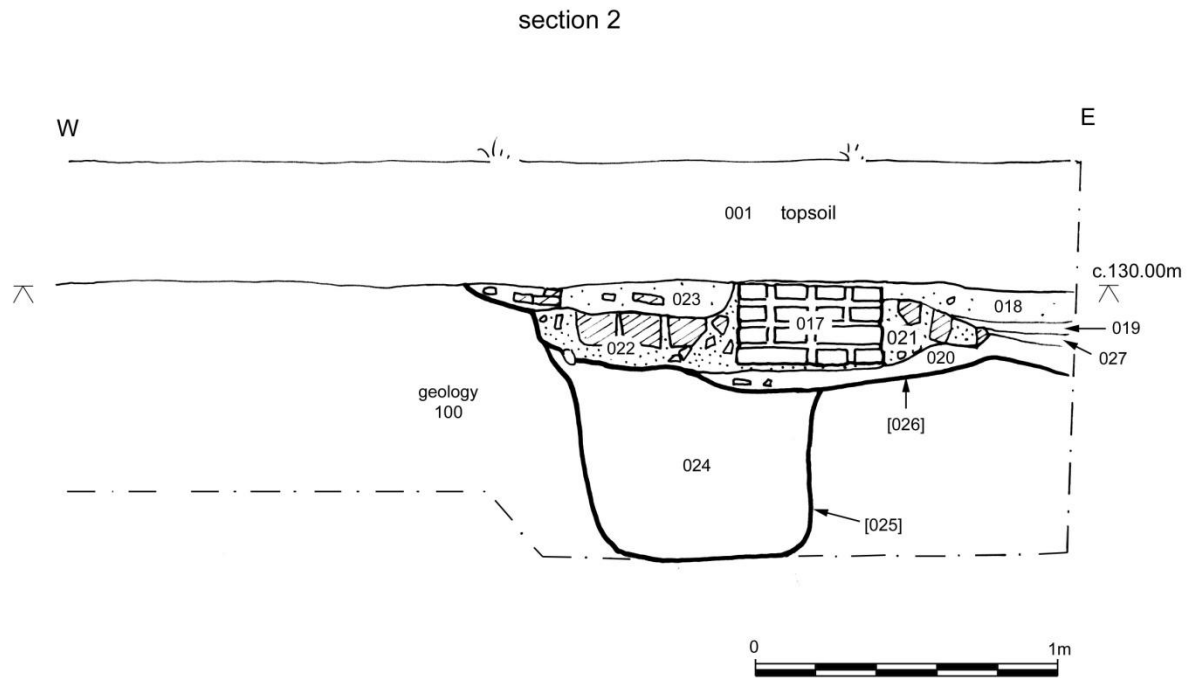


Figure 15. Section 2. Post-medieval brick structure in northernmost foundation trench. Facing NW

Figure 16.
Post-medieval cellar
exposed in foundation
trench on the east side
of Piper's Cottage.
Facing NW



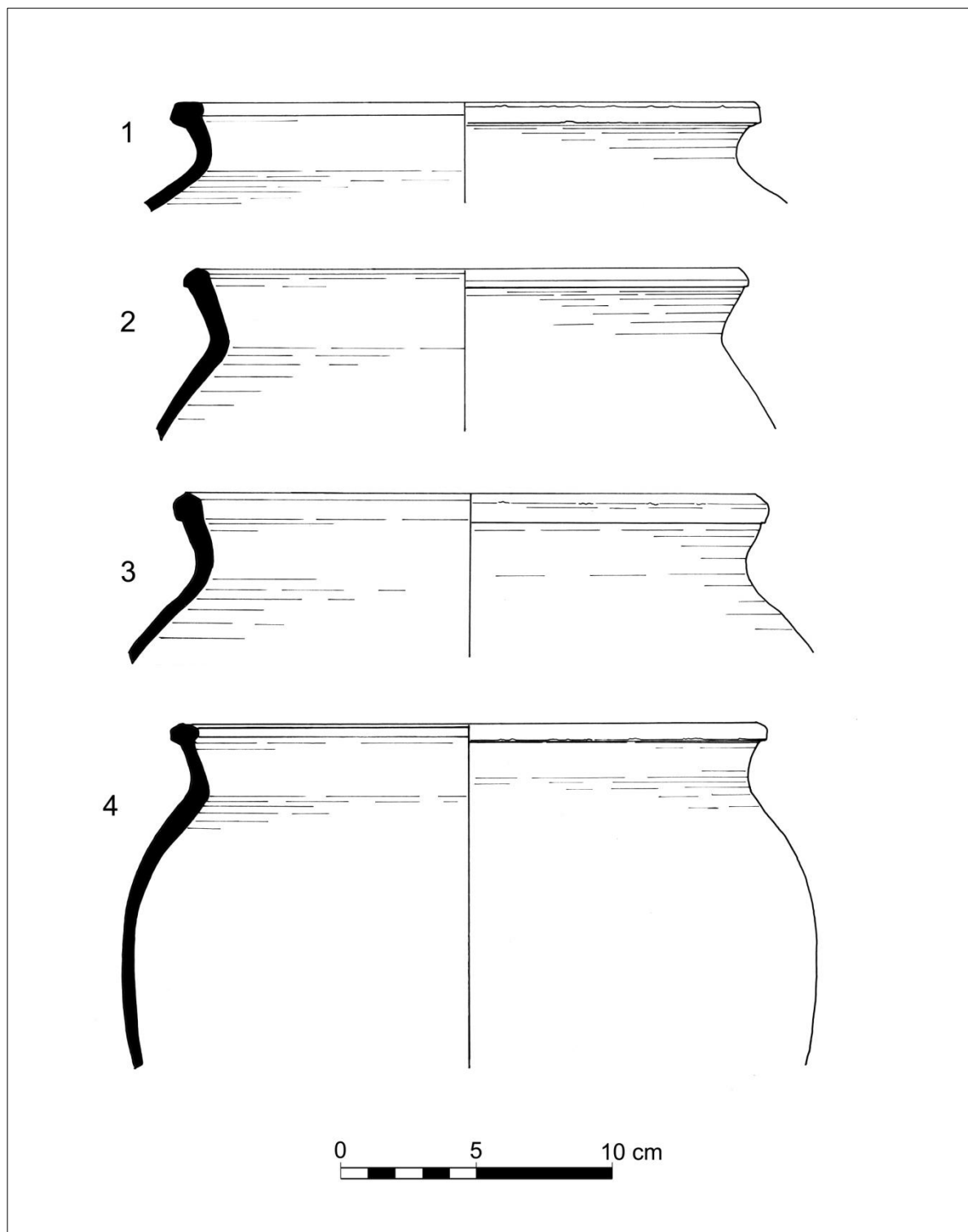


Figure 17. Medieval cooking pots: 1 to 3, context 004; 4, context 011



Figure 18. 12th/ 13th century pottery: Hertfordshire Type Grey Ware

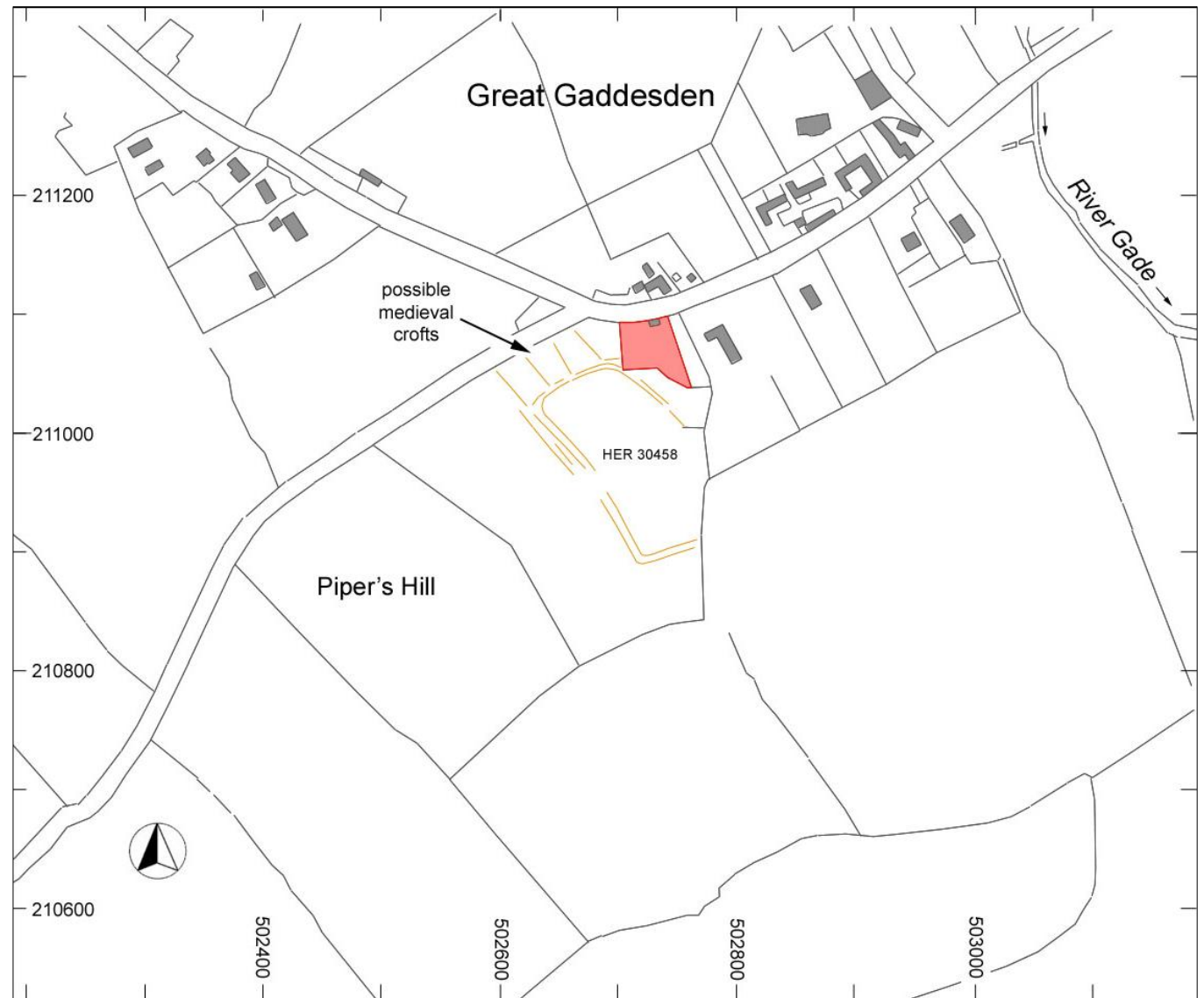


Figure 19 . Post-medieval roof tiles from context (011)

Figure 20.
Indicative location of
earthworks (HER30458) at
Piper's Hill showing possible
site of medieval crofts along
the roadside.

**The Application Site of Piper's
Cottage is shown in light red.**

(based on Ordnance Survey mapping
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APPENDIX 1 List of Contexts

KEY: Relationships: **a.** above; **abt.** abuts; **b.** below; **c.** cuts; **cub.** cut by; **co.** contains; **wi** within
 Dimensions: **le.** length; **wid.** width; **de.** depth; **th.** thickness

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
001	layer	Topsoil, rooty. Shallower on the upward (S) side of the site	a.(002), (006), (010), (013, (014), (015), geology	De. 0.25- 0.4m	S1; S2	Mid - C19 th to C21 st	17.7.2014
002	Structure	A patch of loosely mortared bricks, some broken, sealed by a thin band of mortar and small fragments of brick and tile (009). Bricks are seated on a thin band of mortar (003). Bricks hand-made, dimensions: see (010). Observed in drainage trench.	b.(009); a.(003)	Th.c.0.06; Area. c.1.5 x c.1.2m	S1; S2; P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
003	layer	Thin layer of mortar – foundation for brick floor. Observed in drainage trench.	b.(002); a.(012)	Th.c.0.01m; Area. Area. c.1.5 x c.1.2m	S1; S2	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
004	layer	Ash deposit below floor of building. Contains abundance of medieval pottery. Possibly the remains of a midden. Observed in drainage trench. Extent indeterminable	b.(005), (006), (012)	de. Not determined	S1; S2; P1	C12 th - C13 th	17.7.2014
005		Foundation on which brick hearth-like structure. Consists of flint cobbles/nodules set in a clayey matrix. Observed in drainage trench.	b.(010) a.(004)	Th. c. 0.1-0.13m	S1; S2	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
006	layer	Floor make-up and its surface. Surface comprised of compact dirty brown clay with charcoal flecks. Floor make-up consists of yellowy brown clay and flint nodules. Contains occasional medieval pottery which appears to be contamination/residual from ash midden below. Located north of possible hearth structure (010). This probably butted up to (010). Observed in drainage trench.	a.(004); possibly same as (012); b. (001), (002)	Wid. (int) c.2m; Le.. >3m De.c.0.12m	S1; S2:P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
007	layer	Band of mortar. In the base of NE drainage trench. Possible site of a wall or robber trench. Surface hand cleaned though not excavated as beyond area of impact. Similar to (008).	b.(001)	Wid. c. 0.45m	S1; S2	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
008	layer	Band/scatter of mortar In the base of NW drainage	b.(001)	Wid. c. 0.45m	S1; S2	Post-	17.7.2014

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
		trench. Possible site of a wall or robber trench. Surface hand-cleaned though not excavated as beyond area of impact. (similar to (007)				medieval	
009	layer	Thin band of mortar and small fragments of brick and tile - demolition debris covering remains of a brick floor (002). Observed in drainage trench.	a.(002); b.(001)	c.0.02-0.05m	S1; S2	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
010	structure	Possible hearth structure. Brick. Single course thick. Surviving up to 4 courses high. Quadrangular in plan. Brick dimensions: 7/8 x 3 3/4 x 1 1/4 (200 x 95 x 44mm); 8/8 x 4 1/8 x 2 1/8 (219 x 105 x 54mm) and 8/8 x 4 1/8 x 1 1/4 (224 x 104 x 95mm). Infilled with broken red clay roof tiles, ashy soil and occasional pottery (C 18 th and early-mid C 19 th).	b.(001)	Wall wid.c.0.11m; Ht. 0.33m; c. 0.8 x 0.8m	S1; S2; P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
011	fill	A dump of broken red clay roof tiles, ashy soil and occasional pottery (C 18 th and early C 19 th). The lower part of this deposit (i.e. the ash) was indistinguishable from the ash layer (004) below, there being no distinct base to the structure.	Wi (010); b.(001); a.(004)	De.c.0.33m	S1; S2	Early C19 th	17.7.2014
012	layer	Floor make-up on the northwest side of hearth structure (010). Similar to (006), probably the same layer. C 17 th pottery recovered from the surface. Surface cleaned though not excavated as in the base of trench and not to be impacted by development.	b.(003), (001)	th.c.0.1 - 0.12m	S1; S2:P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
013	cut	Construction cut of a well on the NE side of the site. The aperture of the well itself has been sealed by concrete. The present depth is c.5m (visible though a drain). It was probably in-filled with spoil from the digging of the second well. Observed in drainage trench.	b.(001) c. geology	indeterminable	S1; S2: P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
014	cut	Construction trench for brick hearth structure. Cut into geology. Observed in drainage trench.	C. Geology; Co.(015)	Wid.c.0.2m	S1; S2: P1	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
015	fill	Fill of [014]. Ashy clay, probably derived from layer (004). Observed in drainage trench.	Wi.[014]	indeterminable	S1; S2	Post-medieval	17.7.2014
016	impression	Impression within (006) and (004) - where bricks have been removed from the north side of hearth structure (010).		-			17.7.2014
017	structure	Wall composed of red bricks (hand-made), dimensions: see (010). Survives up to four courses and covered by topsoil. Visible only in the northernmost foundation	b.(021); (022); a. (020)	Wid. C.0.48m; ht. 0.38m; le.>0.25m	S.2; P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
		trench for the new building. The function of the wall is uncertain. On either side (west and east) red tiles had been set vertically and tightly packed and mortared together ((021) and (022)) set in a compacted mortar with rubble fragments. Presumably the tiles represented a surface feature /path on either side of the wall. Tree roots had disturbed the southern extent of this feature.					
018	layer	Re-deposited chalky clay and chalk and rubble. Possibly a demolition layer- lies against the east side of wall (017). Probably the same event as (023).	b.(001); a.(019), (017), (019)	c.0.05 – 0.11m	S.2; P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
019	layer	Thin layer of dark brown dirty clay. Probably either a trample deposit during demolition or an occupation surface.	b.(018); a.(020)	c.0.03-0.04m	S.2; P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
020	Layer	Layer of re-deposited chalky clay. This was laid down as a foundation for wall (017)	Wi.[026]; b.(017), (022), (021)	c.0.06 -0.09m	S.2; P1	Post-medieval	17.07.2014
021	structure	On the east side of wall (017), red roof tiles set vertically and mortared together. Similar to (021). These are set in a compacted mortar with rubble fragments within a foundation trench [026]. It is presumed that the tiles was a surface feature (e.g. path) on either side of the wall. probably contemporary with a thin layer of cinders (027) on its east side.	Wi.[026]; a.(017); b.(018)	Ht.0.08-0.2m; wid. 0.32m; le. >0.25m	S.2; P1	Post-medieval	17.07.2014
022	structure	On the west side of wall (017), red roof tiles set vertically and mortared together. Similar to (021). These are set in a compacted mortar with rubble fragments within a foundation trench [026]. It is presumed that the tiles was a surface feature (e.g. path) on either side of the wall.	Wi.[026]; a.(017); b.(023)	c.0.05 – 0.11m	S.2; P1	Post-medieval	17.07.2014
023	layer	Re-deposited chalky clay and chalk and rubble. Possibly a demolition layer- lies against the west side of wall (017). Probably the same event as (018).	a.(022), (017); b.(001)	c.0.05 – 0.11m	S.2; P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
024	fill	Fill of pit. Dark reddish brown clay with flint nodules. Homogeneous deposit. Single fragment of roof tile recovered from mid fill.	Wi.[025]	Th..c.0.52- c.0.88m	S.2; P1	unknown	17.07.2014
025	cut	Pit with near-vertical sides. Function uncertain.	Co.(025)	De.c.0.88m	S.2; P1	unknown	17.07.2014
026	cut	Foundation trench for wall (017) and flanking tiled probable path feature (021) and (022).	c.(100) geology, [025]		S.2; P1	Post-medieval	17.07.2014
027	layer	Thin layer of cinders. Possibly laid down at the same time as tile feature (022).	a.(020); b.(019)	c.0.03-0.04m	S.2; P1	Post-medieval	17.07.2014

Context No.	Type	Description and Interpretation	Relationships	Dimensions	Drawing	Suggested Period	Date of investigation
028	unused						
029	fill	Dark brown earth with brick fragments. Upper fill of cellar	Wi.(030); b.(001); a.(033); b.(100)	Th.c.2.1m	P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
030	cut	Cut for cellar. Exposed in foundation trench and drainage trench	c.(100)	De.2.1m. Wid. >2.5m Le..>0.2m	P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
031	structure	Retaining wall of cellar, mortared limestone fragments	a.(100); b. (033)	Th.c. 0.3m; ht. 2.1m	-	Post-medieval	17.07.2014
032	structure	Well. Cut into chalk, upper part of the well built of pudding stone rocks and hand-made bricks of a type (with frog) used in the upstanding early C19 th house.	b. C20th concrete base; c. (100)	De. >50m; Dia. c.1.2m.	P1	Early C19th	09/10.07.2014
033	fill	Fill of cellar – largely brick rubble. General dimensions of bricks same as those used in the possible hearth structure (010).	b.(029), a. (031)	Th.2.1m	P1	Early C19th	17.07.2014
100	geology	Chalk and calcareous clay.	-	-	S1; S2; P1	-	-