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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND TO THE REAR OF
23-27, HIGH STREET,
PEWSEY, WILTSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: SU 1652 6014
Planning Reference: E/2012/1110/FUL

PREPARED FOR MR. ANDY TEAL OF BOURNE VALLEY HOMES LTD.

By

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with a contribution by
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Summary

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of three new residential dwellings with associated groundworks on land to the rear of 23-27, High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 11th, 16th, 23rd-24th and the 31st of March and on the 1st, 8th-9th, 13th-14th and on the 21st-22nd of April 2015.

The groundworks pertaining to this development, which comprised an initial phase of ground reduction to facilitate the construction of a new access driveway at the frontal area of the site, further ground reduction and the excavation of foundations within House Plot 1, the excavation of the foundations for the eastern site boundary wall along with further ground reduction and the excavation of the foundations for House Plots 2 and 3 were all undertaken under archaeological supervision.

Overall, within the area of this development site, this watching brief identified a deposit sequence which comprised a topsoil/garden soil horizon (which was deeper and more substantial within part of the former rear garden of No. 25 High Street), an undated buried soil/ploughsoil horizon and a natural horizon. This deposit sequence was recorded within a total of thirteen sections including six representative sections. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery of late 18th-mid 19th century date and one fragment of clay pipe stem of late 18th-mid 19th century date were recovered from the topsoil horizon. A made ground deposit was also identified in the area of the frontal site ground reduction.

This watching brief also identified a number of archaeological features which can be stratigraphically assigned to two periods, though these are not definitive or could be attributed to any particular period due to the lack of datable finds from these features. The earliest phase of features on this site were cut from a lower level and were sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon with the later phase being cut from a higher level and sealed by the topsoil horizon respectively.

Within the area of House Plot 1, the line of an undated ditch was identified. This was probably a boundary feature as it was possible to trace the line of this ditch along the western side of this plot. The cut of a second archaeological feature comprising the line of a possible undated east-west orientated gully was located at the eastern side of this house plot. Although this feature was not identified within the foundations of the eastern site boundary to the east or within the remaining foundations trenches of this house plot to the west. Both of these archaeological features may be attributed to the earlier phase of activity on this site as both were sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon.

Within the area of House Plots 2 and 3 to the west, further archaeological features were identified by this watching brief. The majority of these were located within the area of House Plot 2. This comprised an undated pit at the northern end of this area; the cut of a second undated pit at the north-western corner of this area; the cut of a third undated pit within the central area of this house plot along with a fourth undated pit at the southern end of this house plot. The cut of a further undated small pit or posthole was also identified within the area of House Plot 3. The archaeological features identified within the area of House Plot 2 may be attributed to the later phase of activity being sealed by the topsoil horizon. The small pit or posthole located in House Plot 3 may be attributed to the earlier phase of archaeological activity here as it was sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon.

The line of a brick boundary wall and those of a former outbuilding were also identified within the area of House Plot 2. These are both featured on the early Edition O.S. maps of this area.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. Andy Teal of Bourne Valley Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks pertaining to the construction of three new residential dwellings on land to the rear of 23-27, High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, centred at National Grid Reference SU 1652 6014. The archaeological watching brief was carried out at the development site on the 11th, 16th, 23rd-24th and the 31st of March and on the 1st, 8th-9th, 13th-14th and on the 21st-22nd of April 2015.
- 1.2 The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by Wiltshire County Council, the Local Planning Authority, and acting on the advice of Ms. Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire, in her capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the Local Planning Authority. This is in accordance with the principles established in established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), and *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms. Rachel Foster the Planning Department of Wiltshire County Council, the Wiltshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site is situated on land off the northern frontage of the High Street with access to same and on land to the rear of Nos. 23-27. The development site is situated within the built up urban area of the village of Pewsey, at National Grid Reference SU 1652 6014 and at a height of approximately 110mAOD. The settlement of Pewsey is situated within the modern civil parish of the same name and in the administrative district of Wiltshire County, a unitary authority [Figures 1-2].
- 2.2 The development site is situated within an undulating upland area of the Wiltshire Chalk Downs and on shallow well drained calcareous silty soils of the Andover 1 Series, which have developed on a solid geology of Chalk of the Upper Cretaceous [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 1959].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application (Reference: E/2012/1110/FUL) for the proposed erection of three new residential dwellings with associated groundworks (to include the demolition of walls) and alterations to access on land to the rear of Nos. 23-27, High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, has been submitted to and granted consent by Wiltshire County Council, the Local Planning Authority [Figure 3]. However, as the proposed development is situated within an archaeologically sensitive area and in an area of high archaeological potential, an archaeological condition was attached to this consent requiring an archaeological programme of works at the development site.
- 3.2 It was understood that an archaeological watching brief would constitute such a programme of archaeological works and was deemed to be the most appropriate method of recording any archaeological remains that may be affected by this proposed development.
- 3.3 A specification or a written scheme of works for an archaeological watching brief was subsequently submitted to and approved by Ms. Rachel Foster, Assistant County

Archaeologist of Wiltshire County Council (on behalf of the LPA) prior to the commencement of the on-site archaeological works.

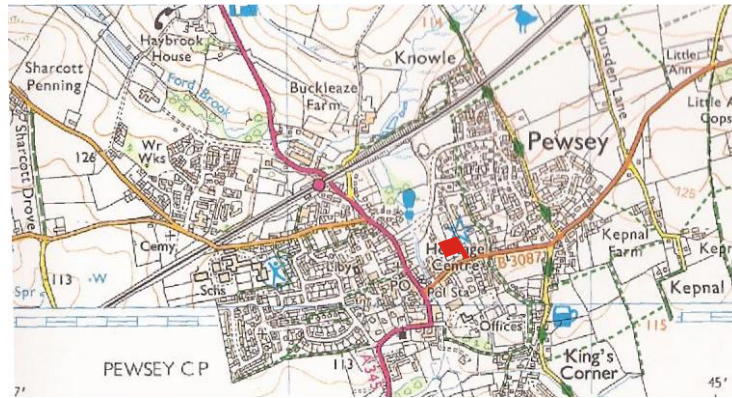


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

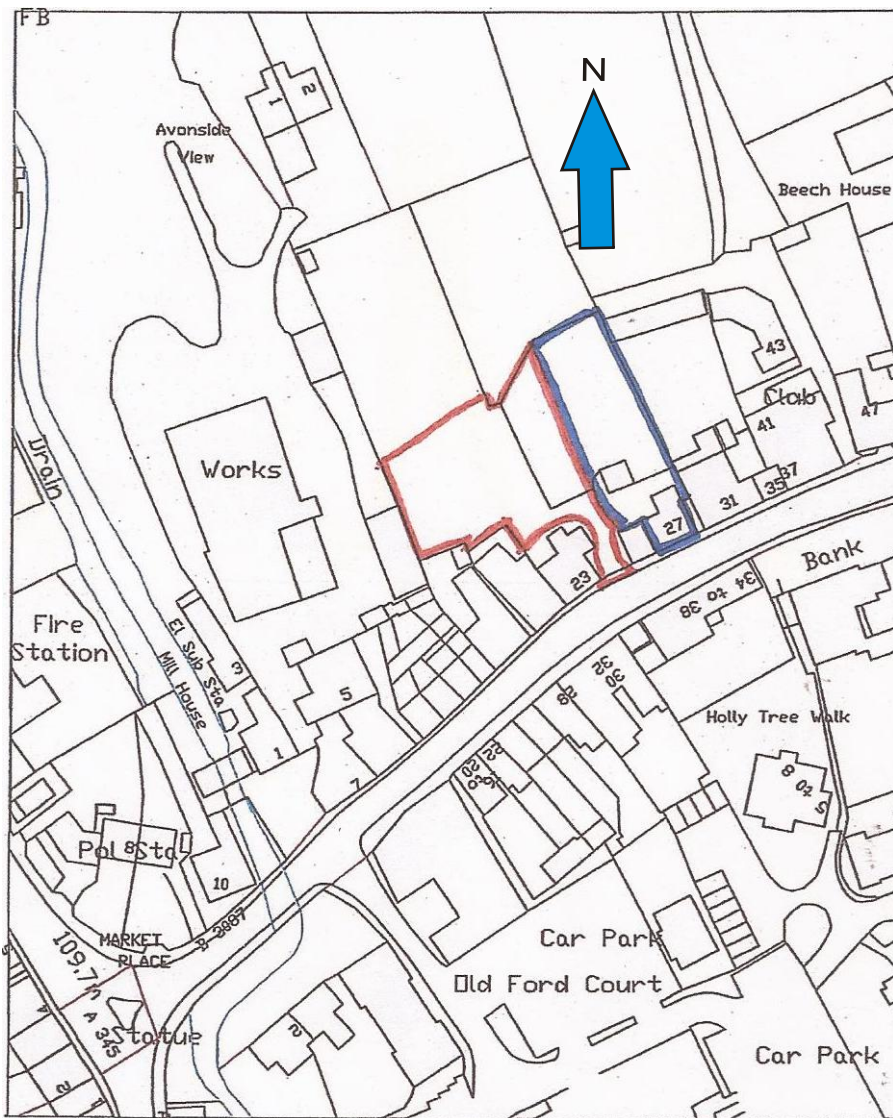


Figure 2: Site location at a scale of 1:1,250, (extract from Architects plan). The site is shown outlined in red.

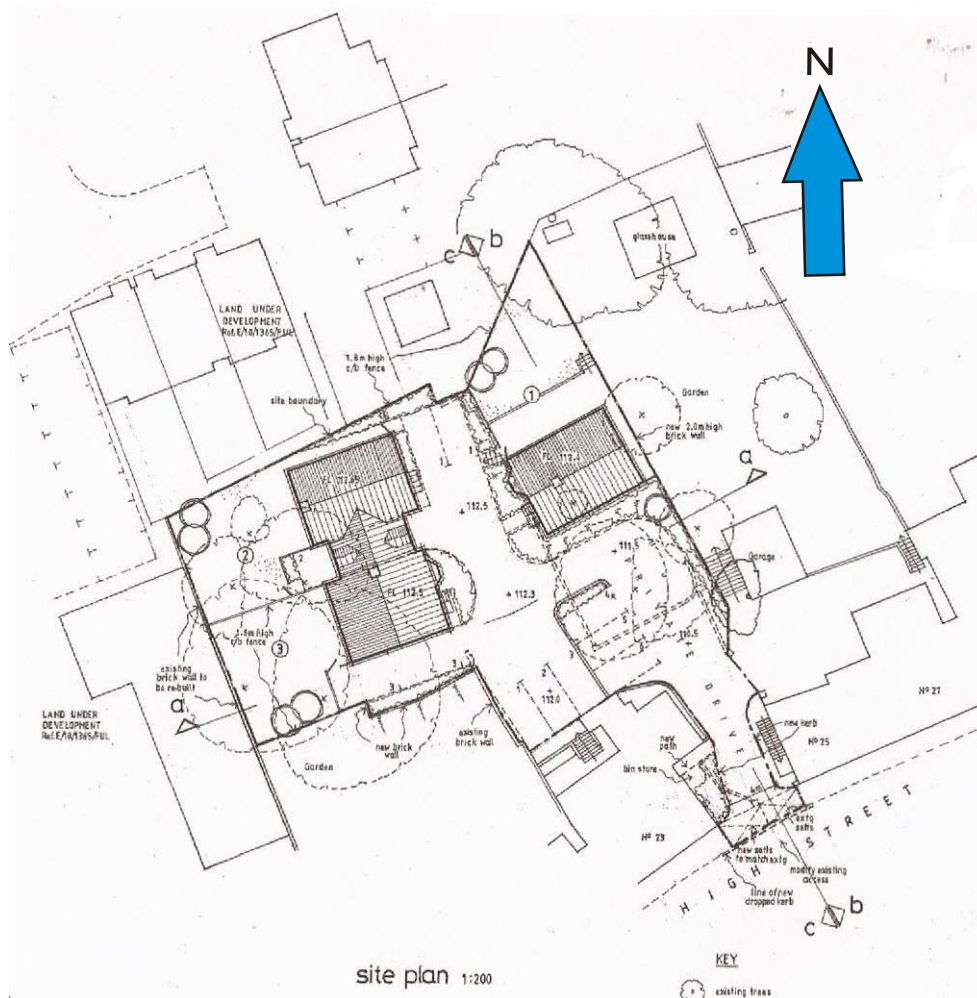


Figure 3: Layout of the proposed development site at an original scale of 1:200, (not to scale), (extract from Architects plan).

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Monitoring

4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of the site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised initial phases of ground reduction followed by the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the three new residential dwellings.

4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

4.3 The development site is situated within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Pewsey. Previous archaeological investigations particularly to the south have identified evidence for these settlements. It was considered highly likely that similar such archaeological potential would be identified on this development site. The specific objectives of this archaeological watching brief were therefore to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with these medieval and post-medieval settlements.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. A search of the Wiltshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted within the vicinity of the development site. The National Heritage List of English Heritage was also consulted.
- 5.2 A Palaeolithic flint implement was found at the railway station at Pewsey (HER SU16SE001).
- 5.3 Neolithic worked flints were found during the course of an archaeological evaluation at Broomcroft Road in 2003 (HER SU16SE106). The assemblage consisted of undiagnostic flakes and blades.
- 5.4 The earliest documentary reference to the place name of Pewsey as *Pefsigge* dates from AD880 confirming the late Anglo-Saxon origins of this settlement. It is also referred to in the late Anglo-Saxon period as *Pevesige* (AD940) (HER SU15NE401). The place name itself is derived from an Old English personal name of *Pefe* and denotes 'Pefe's well watered land'. This Anglo-Saxon settlement was founded around a contemporary church in a loop of the River Avon on higher ground, the foundations of which are situated to the west of the present Norman church [Gover, Mawer & Stenton, 1963; Currie, 1999].
- 5.5 By his will of AD888, King Alfred gave the manor of Pewsey to his son - Edward, who succeeded him as King. In AD899, the crown and the manor passed to Edward's sons - Athelstan and Edmund. In AD940, Edmund granted the manor of Pewsey to St Peter's Abbey at Winchester, who held it until the Abbey was dissolved in 1538 [Currie, 1999].
- 5.6 An early Anglo-Saxon gold pendant of 7th century AD date was found at Brunkard's Yard in 1978 (HER SU16SE401).
- 5.7 At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in Pewsey or *Pevesie* and *Pevesei* were variously held by the King, by the Abbey of St Peter of Winchester, by Arubulf of Hesdin and by Edric, a thane of the King. The Domesday entry for Pewsey documents 46 villagers and 24 cottagers indicating a fairly large settlement at this time. There is also reference for seven watermills. Later medieval documentary sources refer to the contemporary settlement as *Pevesia* (AD1156-77); *Pevesi* (AD1254); *Presye* (AD1378) and as *Pewse* (AD1524). The development site is situated within the historic core of the late medieval settlement (HER SU16SE464). This late medieval settlement was an extension of the Anglo-Saxon settlement [Gover, Mawer & Stenton, 1963; Morris, 1979].
- 5.8 The medieval settlement of Pewsey was situated within the Hundred of Kinwardstone. In the medieval period, tenants of the manor held many small farmsteads in the streets which were later called High, River and North Streets. In 1773, there were buildings on both sides of the High Street. The High Street grew eastwards from a mill standing in the 13th century and close by the River Avon, The High Street was first so called in 1797 when a three arched bridge was constructed over the River Avon. In the 19th century, the wide triangle junction of High Street, River Street and North Street became the site of a market and was given the name of Market Place [Currie, 1999].
- 5.9 The Grade I listed parish church, which is dedicated to St John the Baptist was standing in AD1086 when it was held by Rainheld the priest. Then it was referred to as standing in the King's estate may suggest that it was built prior to AD940. The church consists of a chancel with a north vestry, a south chapel, an aisled nave with a north porch and a west tower. The church is Norman in date with a 12th century nave. The north and south aisles were added later probably in the late 13th to early 14th centuries. The chancel was rebuilt in the late 13th century. The west tower was

originally Perpendicular, but was rebuilt in the 16th century. The church was restored in 1853 and the chancel was rebuilt in 1861 with the south chapel being added. In 1889-90, the north aisle was demolished and replaced by the present one [Pevsner & Cherry, 2002].

- 5.10 A medieval brass ring was found in the vicinity of Ball Corner (HER SU16SE463).
- 5.11 An area of post-medieval water meadows situated to the east of East Sharcott was plotted by the RCHME in 1995 from aerial photographic sources (HER SU15NE527).
- 5.12 The Grade II listed No. 27, High Street is an early 19th century house and shop [The National Heritage List of England].
- 5.13 There are a number of other Grade II listed buildings in the vicinity of the development site. These comprise: Nos. 46-50 High Street, two early 19th century houses with a shared shop; the Moonrakers Inn, No. 57, High Street, a 17th century inn which was refaced in the early 19th century; No. 20 High Street, an early-mid 19th century shop, workshop and dwelling; No. 44, High Street, an early 19th century house; Norbury House, No. 85, High Street, an early 19th century detached house; No. 55, High Street, an early 19th century house; a mid 19th century garden facade entrance to the rear garden of Nos. 45 and 47, High Street; The Chantry, No. 49, High Street, a house dated to c.1870; Mayfield, No. 47, High Street, a late 18th century house; No. 19, High Street, an early 19th century house; No. 38, High Street, two houses in a row, now one shop dated to c1840-50; Bridge Cottage and Nos. 2 and 4, High Street, two 17th century cottages in a row [*ibid*].
- 5.14 The site of a partially extant farmstead of 19th century date is situated to the east of the development site at 89, High Street (HER MWI71522). The farmstead is set around a loose courtyard plan. One side of this courtyard is formed by working agricultural buildings with additional detached elements. The farmhouse is attached to the agricultural range. The site is situated within the village and has undergone partial loss of original buildings.
- 5.15 The site of a demolished 19th century outfarm is situated to the north of the development site. This was set around a regular courtyard plan. The farm buildings were dispersed across multiple yards with additional detached elements to the main plan. The site was situated within the village with all of the farm buildings having been lost (HER MWI69734).
- 5.16 The site of a partially extant farmstead of 19th century date is situated to the south of the development site. The farmstead is set around a 'L'-shaped plan regular courtyard. Four sides of the loose courtyard are formed by working agricultural buildings with additional detached elements. The farmhouse is set away from the yard. The site is located within a village. There has been a significant loss of traditional buildings on the site (HER MWI 69733).
- 5.17 The Berkshire and Hampshire Extension Railway was opened across the parish of Pewsey in 1862. Pewsey Railway station was built to the immediate north-west of the village. The railway line led from Reading to Devizes and from 1906 formed part of the main line between London and Exeter [Currie, 1999].
- 5.18 The cropmark of an undated linear ditch and probable plough headlands of associated ridge and furrow situated to the east of Pewsey were plotted by the RCHME in 1995 from aerial photographic sources (HER SU15NE647).
- 5.19 There have been several previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the development site. In 1993, an archaeological evaluation took place on the former Pewsey Motors garage site to the south of the development site. The results of this evaluation indicated extensive modern disturbance on the site from former garage buildings including pipe trenches, petrol tank pits and building foundations. However,

isolated areas of potential archaeological significance did survive including undated structural remains were identified adjacent to the east bank of the River Avon. Alluvial deposits from this source were found to seal intermittent horizons of possible medieval occupation material which contained profuse quantities of animal bone. A shallow ditch of post-medieval date was recorded as cutting these alluvial deposits. The higher ground to the east of the river valley revealed four shallow pits, two of which were medieval in origin and the remaining two undated. These pits were in turn sealed by substantial deposits of modern material, but the shallow nature of these pits suggested that they were all truncated (HER SU16SE401) [Wessex Archaeology, 1993].

- 5.20 This was followed by a second archaeological evaluation in 1995 at the former Pewsey Motors garage site. This second evaluation identified a north-south orientated post-medieval brick wall foundation within a trench cut with a pair of sub-circular shaped postholes recorded to the west of the projected line of this brick wall and two further postholes found to the east of this wall, plus a pit (HER SU16SE526).
- 5.21 This was followed by an archaeological excavation in 1996 at the former Pewsey Motors garage site, which was based on the results of the earlier archaeological evaluations of this site. The 1996 archaeological excavation revealed a small number of archaeological features predominantly comprising pits and postholes along with two linear features, a ditch, a slot and a possible trackway. The dating evidence from this excavation identified three of the pits, both of the linear features and the trackway as being of 12th-13th century date with post-medieval or modern material recovered from a further pit and four postholes. The remaining three pits were undated. Although possible structural features were identified, (the postholes and the slot), insufficient evidence was recorded to determine the nature of any structural remains. The identified medieval remains were indicative of backland activity associated with contemporary burgage plots that fronted onto the High Street to the north with the linear features possible representing flanking burgage plot boundary ditches (HER SU16SE624) [Wessex Archaeology, 1996].
- 5.22 An archaeological evaluation took place to the south of the Broomcroft Road and to the north of the development site in 2003. This site was adjacent to the River Avon and was situated within the historic core of the Anglo-Saxon settlement. Despite this, the three trenches here revealed nothing of archaeological interest and recorded only varied dumps of modern make-up material. This modern activity had probably already truncated any earlier archaeological activity on this site [Wessex Archaeology, 2003].
- 5.23 In 2011, an archaeological watching brief took place on the groundworks for a new library at the Old Rectory, River Street and to the south of the development site. The watching brief revealed a large build up of alluvial deposits which overlay a single gully. This curvilinear gully terminated within the groundworks area and yielded a single sherd of 12th-13th century pottery. This gully was likely to be associated with the medieval settlement of Pewsey and was contemporaneous with other similar findings made at the nearby former Pewsey Motors garage site [Wessex Archaeology, 2011].
- 5.24 In 2011, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 57, High Street to the east of the development site. Despite the potentially significant location of this evaluation to the rear of the medieval High Street, it did not reveal anything of archaeological interest. Previous activity on the site and in particular the construction of a public house and the subsequent terracing of the area had not truncated the site [Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 2011].
- 5.25 In 2010, an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the groundworks for a new residential dwelling on land to the rear of 49, High Street to the east of this development site. This watching brief did not identify any archaeological features, deposits or finds. The only findings comprised modern make up and made ground deposits [Foundations Archaeology, 2010].

- 5.26 In 2012, an archaeological evaluation took place at 9. Easterton Lane to the south-east of the development site. This evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological features, deposits or finds. The only findings consisted of two modern archaeological features and modern made ground deposits [Platt, 2012].
- 5.27 In 2008, an archaeological evaluation took place on Dewey's Yard, River Street to the south of the development site. No archaeological features or finds were recorded within the southern part of the site. In the northern portion of this site, the findings comprised a probable post-medieval revetment wall which retained made ground deposits which were in turn above an old river channel (HER MWI64025) [Mandin, 2008].
- 5.28 Copies of published Ordnance Survey maps of the area of the development site were obtained from the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. An extract from the Second Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1900 shows the area of the development site as lying within the central portions of three narrow burgage plots which fronted onto the northern side of the High Street. Two north-south orientated boundaries bisect the three land plots. A small outbuilding is situated on the western side of the westernmost boundary. The entrance to the development site is occupied by No. 21, High Street, a building which also occupies the same frontage.
- 5.29 An extract from the Third Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map of 1924 shows the building at the street frontage now having been slightly reduced in size. Otherwise there is no change to the layout of this site.
- 5.30 An extract from the 1936 Edition 25 inch to one mile scale O.S. map shows a new building at the street frontage, which is now designated as a 'bank'. The small outbuilding to the rear has gone, but the three narrow burgage plots to the rear remain in place.
- 5.31 An extract from the 1:2,500 scale O.S. map of 1991 shows some degree of change to the layout of the development site. The bank at No. 21, High Street has expanded to the rear. The westernmost plot boundary has gone by this time. However, the easternmost land plot boundary remains in place. A small outbuilding is situated to the rear of the bank, otherwise the rear of the site remains unoccupied.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA at the development site on the 11th, 16th, 23rd-24th and the 31st of March and on the 1st, 8th-9th, 13th-14th and on the 21st-22nd of April 2015. This comprised the archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks which comprised an initial phase of mechanical ground reduction of an area for the proposed new access driveway, the mechanical excavation of a foundation for the new eastern site boundary wall; the mechanical ground reduction creating a terraced area for House Plot 1 followed by the mechanical excavation of the trenches for this house plot; further mechanical ground reduction within the area of House Plots 2 and 3 followed by the mechanical excavation of the foundations for these two house plots. These mechanical excavations were carried out under archaeological supervision by an 8-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 1.20m wide toothless bucket and a 3-ton 360° mechanical excavator that was fitted with a 0.70m wide toothed bucket.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the archaeological features and deposit sequences observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. Plans at a scale of 1:100 were compiled on the of the various areas of monitored ground reduction, the eastern site boundary wall foundation excavations and of the foundation excavations of the three house plots. These are reproduced at this same scale on **Figures 4 and 6**. A total of seven

sections of the identified archaeological features [designated as **Sections 5-6, 8-9 and 11-13**] were compiled on site at a scale of 1:20 along with an additional six representative sections of the observed deposit sequences [designated as **Representative Sections 1-4, 7 and 10**] at the same scale. These are reproduced at the scale of 1:20 on **Figures 5 and 7**. A digital photographic record was compiled during the course of the archaeological watching brief and is reproduced in this report as **Plates 1-87, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figures 4-7; Appendix 1; Plates 1-87]

7.1 Initial Ground Reduction

- 7.1.1 The first stage of the monitored groundworks programme consisted of mechanical ground reduction at the frontal area of the site, of an area to the immediate north of the site entrance, and which encompassed part of the former rear garden of No. 25 High Street, and in an area in which there was a sharp rise in ground levels northwards. This excavation was undertaken in order to create a level build platform to facilitate the construction of a new access driveway here. These ground reduction excavations revealed variations to a deposit sequence. To the north, and within the former garden of No. 25 High Street, this deposit sequence consisted of a topsoil horizon (**001**) and a ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (**003**). The deposit sequence here was recorded within **Representative Section 1 [Plate 5]**. To the south and outside of this rear garden, a made ground deposit (**002**) overlay the ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (**003**) and a natural horizon of greensands (**004**). In places and at the very southern portion of this reduced area, the made ground deposit (**002**) directly overlay the natural horizon of greensands (**004**).
- 7.1.2 The area of ground reduction measured 13.15m in length (from north-south), between 3.20m-7.05m in width (from east-west) and extended to final depths of between 0.90m-1.50m below ground levels, which increased in depth to the north (taking into account the aforementioned sharp natural rise in ground levels to the north). All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were scanned for any surface finds of which there were none [**Plates 1-4 and 6-13**].
- 7.1.3 A small section of the north-south orientated former brick boundary wall to the rear garden of No. 25 High Street was also removed as a part of this initial groundworks programme and the ground below reduced to a depth of 0.50m, which was entirely within the topsoil horizon (**001**).
- 7.1.4 The made ground deposit (**002**) may have originally been laid down in order to level out the ground levels in the rear garden area to reduce in turn this pronounced rise in ground levels to the north. The sharp rise in ground levels to the rear of No. 25 High Street was readily noticeable. The current houses along the northern frontage of the High Street and to the south of this site appear to have been constructed within an excavated terrace with their rear gardens similarly rising sharply in ground levels to the north.

7.2 Further Ground Reduction

- 7.2.1 A second stage of monitored mechanical ground reduction took place to the north of the first such area and entirely within the former rear garden of No. 25, High Street. This second area of ground reduction measured 10.10m in length (from east-west), 9.80m in width (from north-south) and extended to depths of between 0.70m-1.30m below ground levels [**Plates 14-23 and 25**]. This second area of ground reduction also took place within the new build area of **House Plot 1**.

7.2.2 This second phase of ground reduction identified the same deposit sequence as that previously recorded within the northern portion of the first area of ground reduction. This sequence comprised a deep and substantial topsoil horizon (001) and the ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (003), which extended to the base of this reduction. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 2 [Plate 24]**. All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were scanned for any surface finds of which there were none. The topsoil horizon (001) was observed to decrease in depth to the west, which reflected a corresponding lowering of ground levels on the site to the west. This reduction also corresponded in turn to a gradual decrease in the depth of this second area of ground reduction to the west.

7.3 The Boundary Wall

7.3.1 This was followed by the monitored mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new eastern site boundary wall. This foundation trench was excavated under archaeological supervision to a length of 31.70m, to a width of 0.75m and to depths of between 0.85m-2.05m below ground levels. The depth of the excavations increased to the south which reflected the lower site ground levels to the south. The foundation trench excavations were also stepped at various points [**Plates 26-27 and 29**].

7.3.2 This new eastern site boundary wall excavation extended through the topsoil horizon (001), the ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (003) and into the natural horizon of greensands (004), which extended to the base of this excavation. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 3 [Plate 28]**.

7.4 House Plot 1

7.4.1 **House Plot 1** was situated on the eastern side of the development site and to the immediate west of the aforementioned new eastern site boundary wall. Mechanical ground reduction had already take place to create a level building platform or a terrace for this house plot; the foundations, for which had already been set out prior to arrival [**Plates 30-33**]. The prior ground reduction had already removed much of the topsoil horizon (001) and had extended into the upper levels of the underlying ploughsoil or buried soil horizon (003).

7.4.2 The mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches for **House Plot 1** were carried out under archaeological supervision to varying lengths, to a width of 0.60m and to depths of between 0.60m-1.0m below the already reduced ground levels [**Plates 34, 36, 38, 40-44 and 46-54**]. These mechanical excavations extended through the topsoil horizon (001), the deposit (003) and into the natural horizon (004), which extended to the base of these excavations. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Sections 4 and 7 [Plates 35 and 45]**.

7.4.3 Several internal wall foundation trenches were also excavated under archaeological supervision to varying lengths and to a uniform width of 0.55m and to depths of 0.70m below the already reduced levels. It was noted that the same deposit sequence comprising the topsoil horizon (001), the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon (003) and the underlying natural horizon (004) were also identified within these trenches with the deposit (004) extending to the base of each excavation.

7.4.4 At the western end of the first foundation trench which was excavated, the cut of an undated large pit or ditch [005] with fills (006) and (007) were identified. There were no finds from either fills (006) or (007). The profile of this feature was recorded within the north facing **Section 5 [Plate 37]**. It was possible to trace the line of this feature within a second foundation trench to the immediate north and somewhat tenuously within the cuts of two further foundation trenches further to the north. So it was possible to conclude that it was more likely that this feature may have been a ditch. This ditch was sealed by the ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) and was cut into the underlying natural horizon (004). A slight deviation in the line of this ditch to the north-west was also noted.

7.4.5 A second archaeological feature was identified during the mechanical excavation of the outside foundation trench which was parallel to the eastern site boundary. This comprised the cut of an east-west orientated undated linear gully [008] with fill (009). The profile of this gully was recorded within the west facing **Section 6 [Plate 39]**. The fill (009) did not yield any finds. This gully was sealed by the undated buried soil/ploughsoil horizon (003) and was cut into the natural horizon (004).

7.5 Ground Reduction in House Plots 2 and 3

7.5.1 This further phase of ground reduction took place within the area of the new build footprints of House Plots 2 and 3. The objective of this ground reduction was to create a level build platform from which to facilitate this construction. This area of ground reduction was thus slightly larger in extent than the area of the new build footprints of House Plots 2 and 3 of some 16.0m in length by 8.50m in width. The area designated for this ground reduction had already been set out prior to arrival [**Plates 55-56**].

7.5.2 This ground reduction began at the northern end of this area and extended to depths of 0.80m below ground levels. These excavations extended through the topsoil horizon (001) and into the upper levels of the ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) in places. Towards the south, this ground reduction shallowed out to 0.50m depth and at the southern end of this area to 0.25m below ground levels. These latter excavations were confined to within the topsoil horizon (001) [**Plates 57-68**]. All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were scanned for any surface finds. Sherds of 20th century pottery were noted within the topsoil horizon (001), but were not retained.

7.5.3 The foundations of a north-south orientated brick boundary wall which extended along the eastern fringes of this area along with the brick foundations of a former outbuilding to the south of this were removed during the course of this ground reduction. These wall foundations are featured on Early Edition O.S. maps of this site.

7.6 House Plot 2 and 3

7.6.1 The foundations for **House Plots 2 and 3** had been laid out prior to arrival. These foundation trenches were excavated to varying lengths, to a width of 0.70m and to depths of between 0.80m-1.0m below the already reduced levels [**Plates, 69, 71, 73-74, 76-78, 80, 82-83 and 85-87**]. These monitored mechanical excavations identified a simple deposit sequence which comprised the topsoil horizon (001), the undated ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) and the underlying natural horizon (004), which was found to extend to the base of these excavations. This deposit sequence was recorded within **Representative Section 10 [Plate 75]**.

7.6.2 The excavation of the west-east orientated foundation trench that ran parallel to the northern site boundary within **House Plot 2** revealed the cut of an undated pit [010] with fill (011). The profile of this ditch was recorded within **Section 8 [Plate 70]**. The fill (011) did not yield any finds. The pit fill (011) was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001) and the pit [010] was cut into the ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) and the underlying natural horizon (004). As the pit was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001), it appeared to be cut from a relatively high level and so was possibly post-medieval in origin. The pit did not extend as far as the opposing north facing side of the foundation trench.

7.6.3 At the north-western corner of **House Plot 2**, the mechanical excavation of the foundation trench here identified the cut of a second archaeological feature. This comprised an undated pit [012] with fills (013) and (014). The profile of this ditch was recorded within **Section 9 [Plate 72]**. Neither fill (013) nor (014) produced any finds. This feature was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001) and as such was also cut from a relatively high level, giving this feature a possible post-medieval origin. This feature was also cut into the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon (003) and the natural horizon (004).

- 7.6.4 Within the central area of **House Plot 2**, a third archaeological feature was identified during the mechanical excavation of a foundation trench here. This comprised the cut of a further pit [015] with fill (016). The profile of this pit was recorded within **Section 11 [Plate 79]**. The fill (016) did not produce any finds. The pit cut [015] was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001) and as such was also cut from a relatively high level, giving a possible post-medieval date to this feature, which was in turn cut into the ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) and the natural horizon (004).
- 7.6.5 The cut of a fourth archaeological feature was encountered during the mechanical excavation of a further foundation trench along the southern fringes of **House Plot 2**. This comprised the cut of a further undated pit [017] with fill (018). The profile of this pit was recorded within **Section 12 [Plate 81]**. The fill (018) did not yield any finds. The pit cut [017] was sealed by the topsoil horizon (001) and as such was also cut from a relatively high level, giving a possible post-medieval date to this feature, which was in turn cut into the ploughsoil/buried soil horizon (003) and the natural horizon (004).
- 7.6.6 One further archaeological feature was identified during the mechanical excavation of the foundations at the north-eastern corner of **House Plot 3**. This was the cut of an undated small pit or posthole [019] with fill (020). The profile of this feature was recorded within **Section 13 [Plate 84]**. The fill (020) did not produce any finds. This was probably an earlier archaeological feature as it was sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon (003) and was cut into the natural horizon (004).

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 The groundworks pertaining to this development, which comprised an initial phase of ground reduction to facilitate the construction of a new access driveway at the frontal area of the site, further ground reduction and the excavation of foundations within House Plot 1, the excavation of the foundations for the eastern site boundary wall along with further ground reduction and the excavation of the foundations for House Plots 2 and 3 were all undertaken under archaeological supervision.
- 8.2 Overall, within the area of this development site, this watching brief identified a deposit sequence which comprised a topsoil/garden soil horizon (which was deeper and more substantial within part of the former rear garden of No. 25 High Street), an undated buried soil/ploughsoil horizon and a natural horizon. This deposit sequence was recorded within a total of thirteen sections including six representative sections. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery of late 18th-mid 19th century origin and one fragment of clay pipe stem of late 18th-mid 19th century date were recovered from the topsoil horizon. A made ground deposit was also identified in the area of the frontal site ground reduction.
- 8.3 This watching brief also identified a number of archaeological features which can be stratigraphically assigned to two periods, though these are not definitive or could be attributed to any particular period due to the lack of datable finds from these features. The earliest phase of features on this site were cut from a lower level and were sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon with the later phase being cut from a higher level and sealed by the topsoil horizon respectively.
- 8.4 Within the area of House Plot 1, the line of an undated ditch was identified. This was probably a boundary feature as it was possible to trace the line of this ditch along the western side of this plot. The cut of a second archaeological feature comprising the line of a possible undated east-west orientated gully was located at the eastern side of this house plot. Although this feature was not identified within the foundations of the eastern site boundary to the east or within the remaining foundation trenches of this house plot to the west. Both of these archaeological features may be attributed to

the earlier phase of activity on this site as both were sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon.

- 8.5 Within the area of House Plots 2 and 3 to the west, further archaeological features were identified by this watching brief. The majority of these were located within the area of House Plot 2. This comprised an undated pit at the northern end of this area; the cut of a second undated pit at the north-western corner of this area; the cut of a third undated pit within the central area of this house plot along with a fourth undated pit at the southern end of this house plot. The cut of a further undated small pit or posthole was also identified within the area of House Plot 3. The archaeological features identified within the area of House Plot 2 may be attributed to the later phase of activity being sealed by the topsoil horizon,. The small pit or posthole located in House Plot 3 may be attributed to the earlier phase of archaeological activity here as it was sealed by the buried soil/ploughsoil horizon.
- 8.6 The line of a brick boundary wall and those of a former outbuilding were also identified within the area of House Plot 2. These are both featured on the early Edition O.S. maps of this area.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the nature of the archaeological activity and finds and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of the development site; while providing sufficient time to record the archaeological activity and observed deposit sequences present. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm both the nature of the archaeological activity and finds and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of this development site with a high degree of confidence.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Andy Teal of Bourne Valley Homes Ltd. for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire and to the staff of the Wiltshire County Heritage Environment Record and the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre for their kind assistance.

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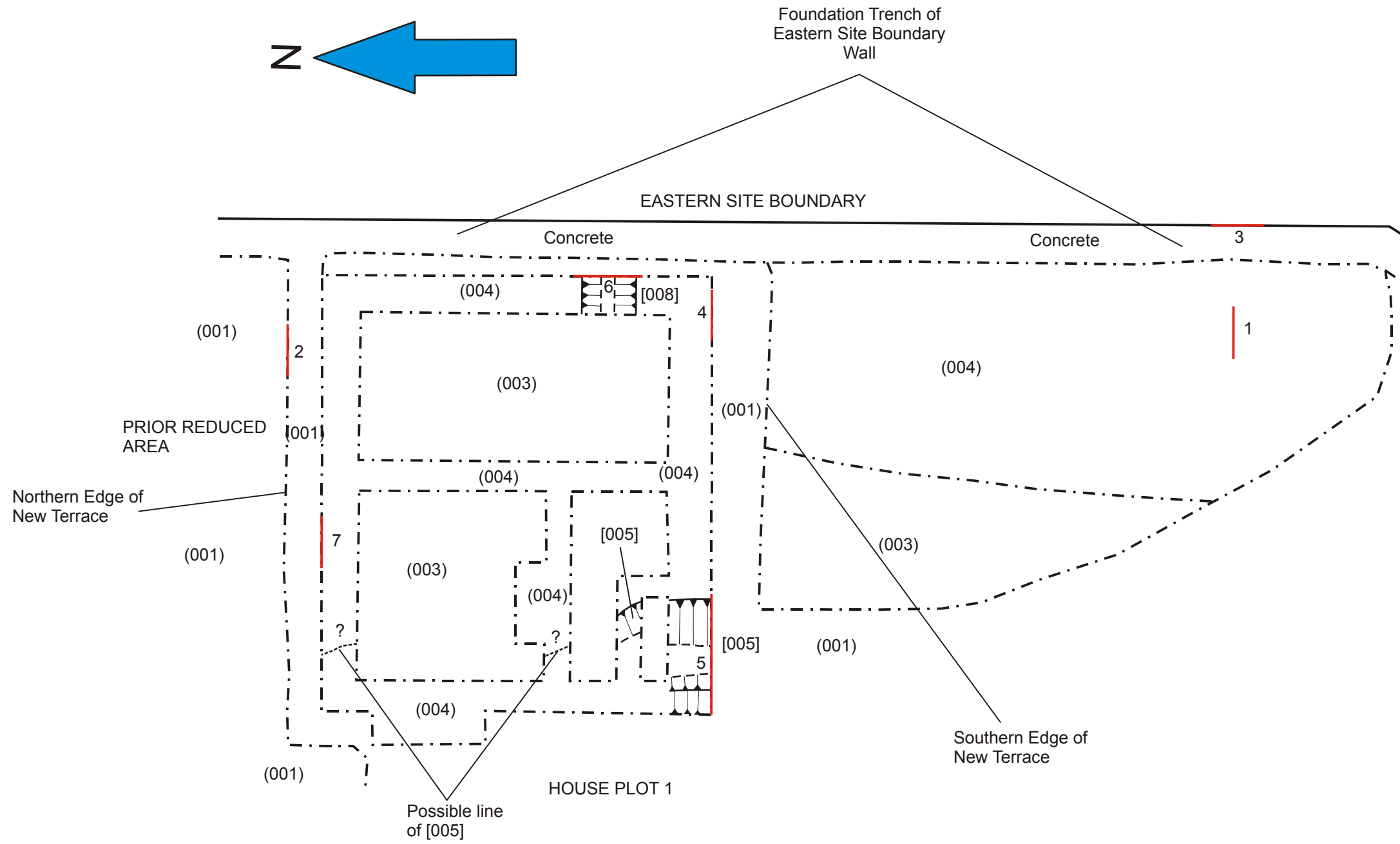
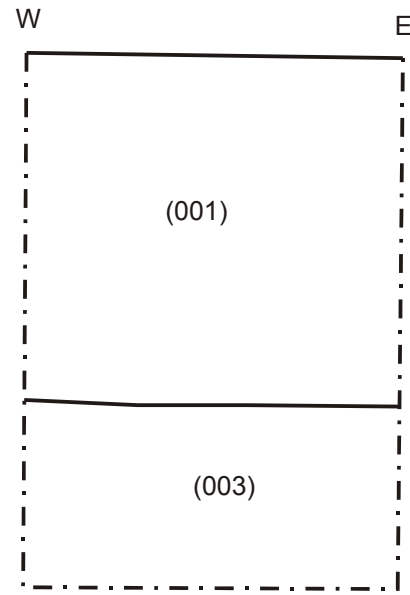
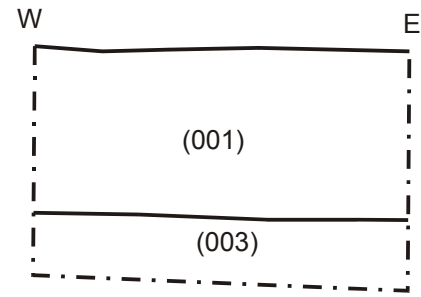


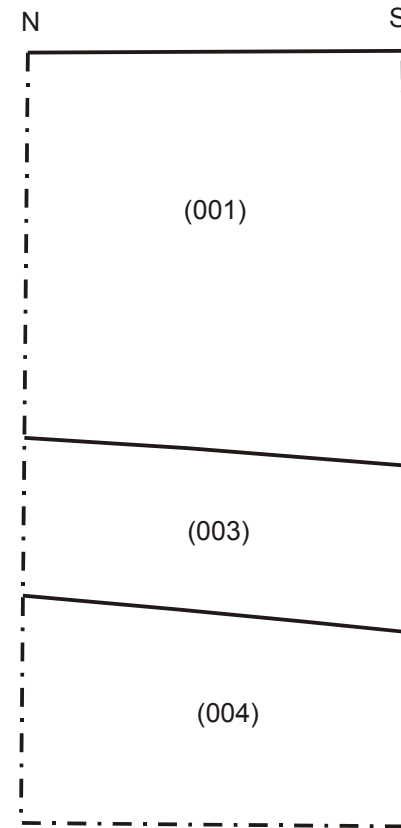
Figure 4: Plan showing the groundworks pertaining to House Plot 1, the eastern site boundary wall, the frontal area of the site & the location of Sections 1-7 at a scale of 1:100



Representative Section 1, South Facing Section, scale 1:20



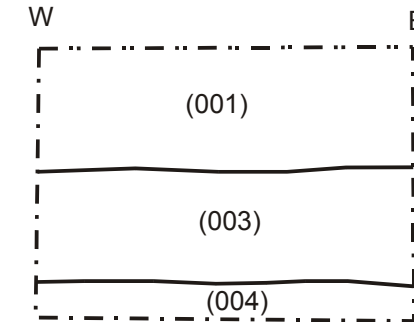
Representative Section 2, South Facing Section, scale 1:20



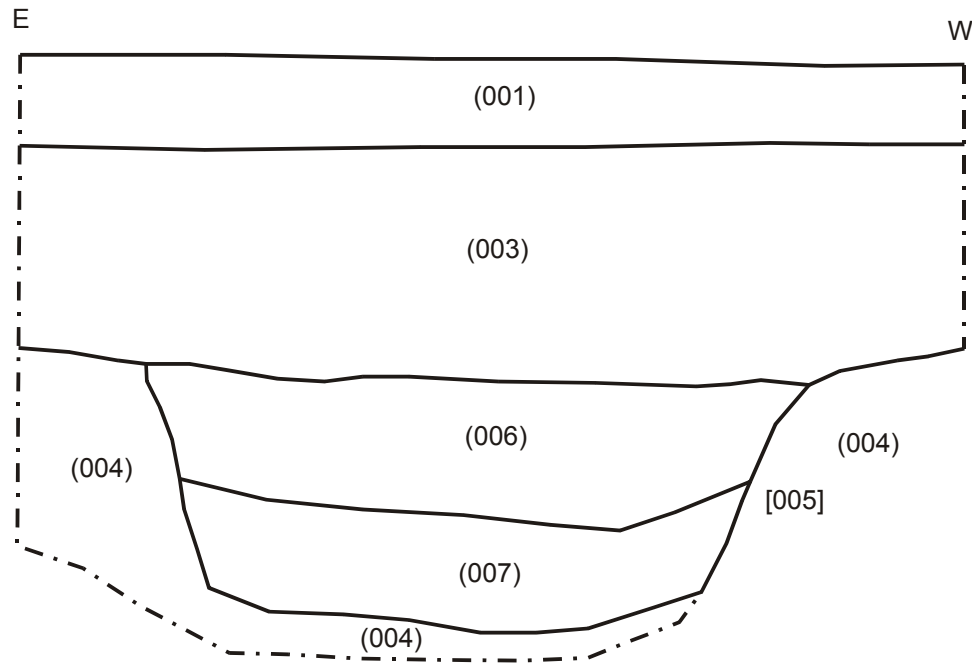
Representative Section 3, Eastern Boundary Wall Section, West Facing, scale 1:20



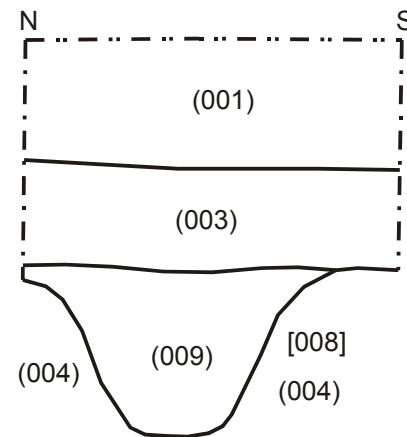
Representative Section 4, North Facing Section, scale 1:20



Representative Section 7, South Facing Section, scale 1:20



Section 5 of the Ditch Cut [005] with Fills (006) & (007), North Facing Section, scale 1:20



Section 6 of the Gully Cut [008] with Fill (009), West Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 5: Sections 1-7 at a scale of 1:20

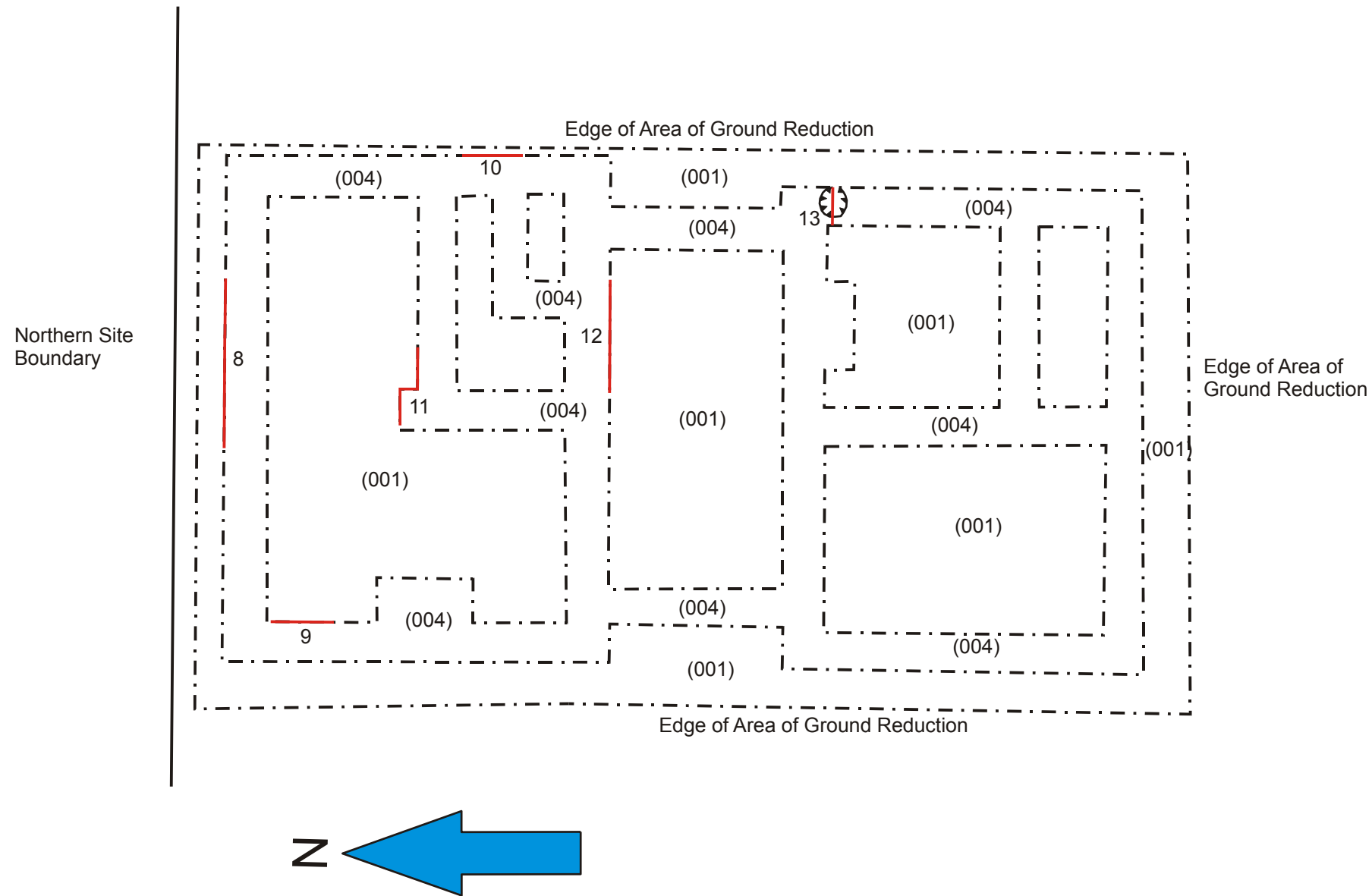
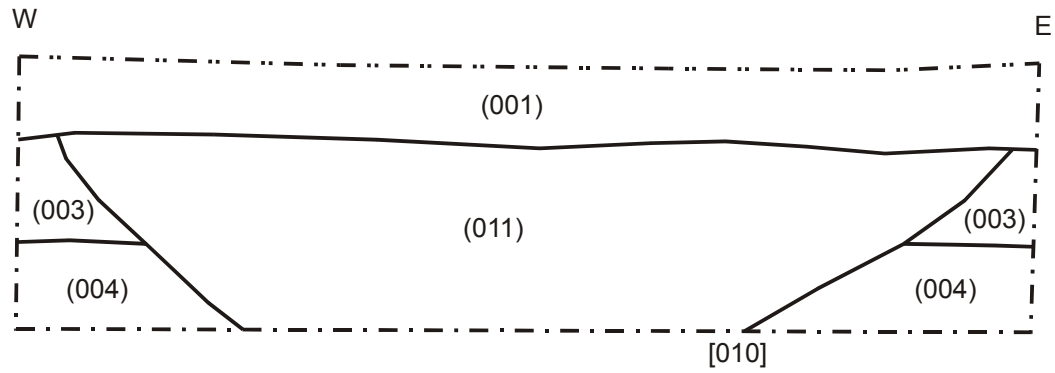
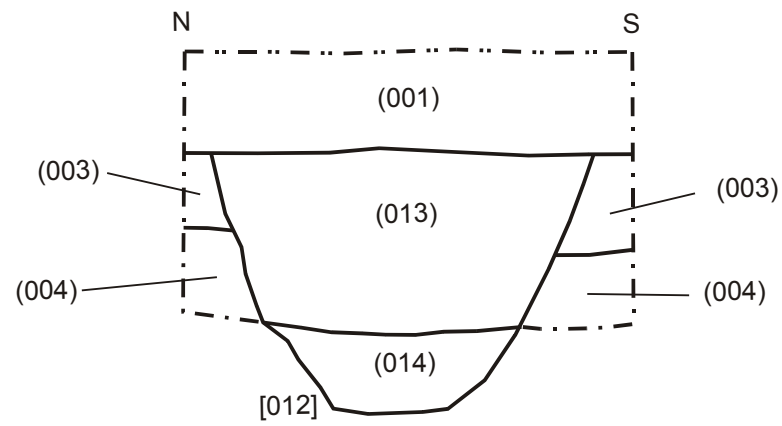


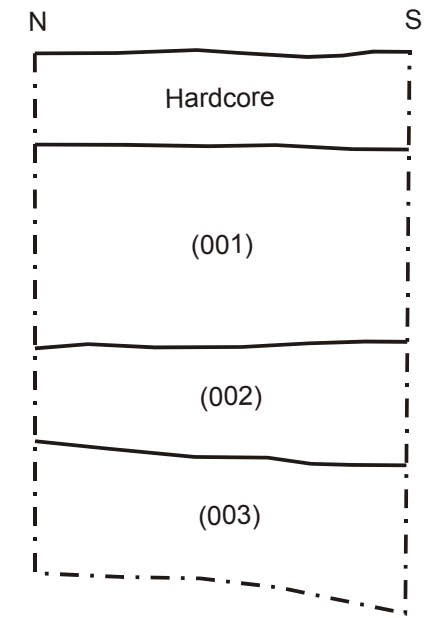
Figure 6: Plan showing the groundworks pertaining to House Plots 2 & 3 & showing the location of Sections 8-13 at a scale of 1:100



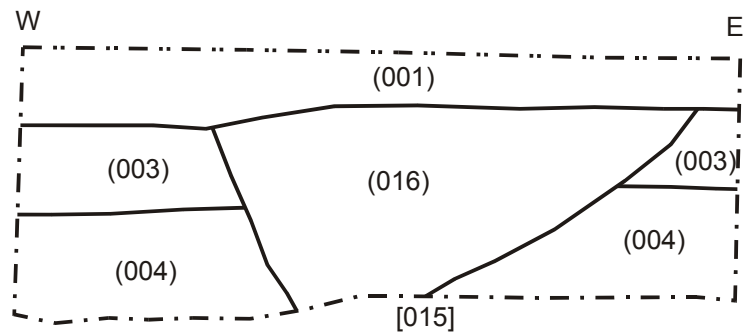
Section 8 of Pit Cut [010] with Fill (011), South Facing Section, scale 1:20



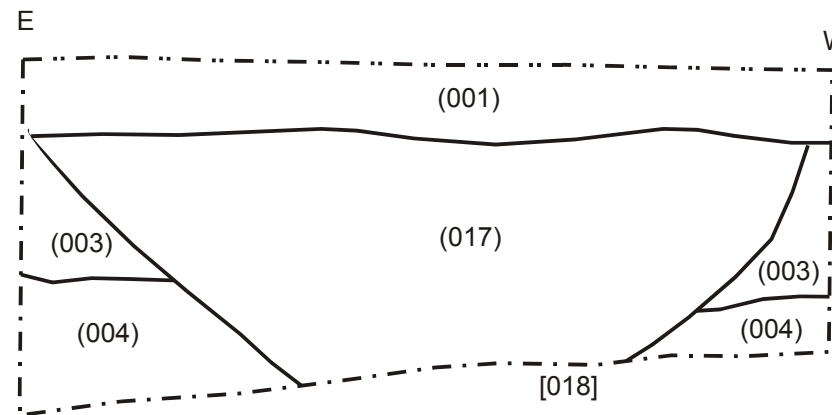
Section 9 of the Pit Cut [012] with Fills (013) & (014), West Facing Section, scale 1:20



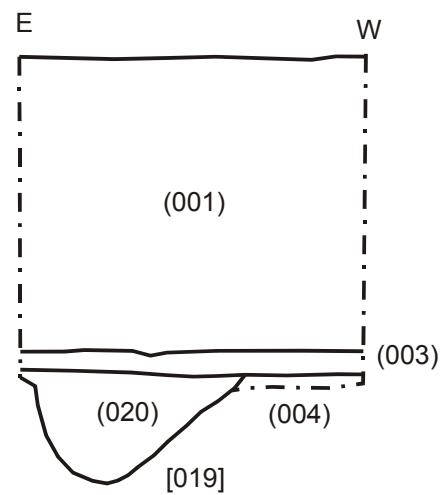
Representative Section 10, West Facing Section, scale 1:20



Section 11 of Pit Cut [015] with Fill (016), South Facing Section, scale 1:20



Section 12 of Pit Cut [017] with Fill (018), North Facing Section, scale 1:20



Section 13 of Cut [019] with Fill (020), South Facing Section, scale 1:20

Figure 7: Sections 8-13 at a scale of 1:20

Appendix 1: Plates

Initial Ground Reduction



Plate 1: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 2: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 3: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 4: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 5: Representative Section 1, from the south



Plate 6: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 7: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 10: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 8: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 11: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 9: Ground reduction, from the south-west



Plate 12: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 13: Ground reduction, from the north-west



Plate 16: Ground reduction, from the south-west

Further Ground Reduction



Plate 14: Ground reduction, from the south-west



Plate 17: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 15: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 18: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 19: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 22: Ground reduction, from the west



Plate 20: Ground reduction, from the north



Plate 23: Ground reduction, from the west



Plate 21: Ground reduction, from the west



Plate 24: Representative Section 2, from the south



Plate 25: Ground reduction, from the south

The Boundary Wall



Plate 26: Northern end of the boundary wall foundation trench, from the south



Plate 27: The boundary wall foundation trench, from the south



Plate 28: Representative Section 3, from the west



Plate 29: The boundary wall foundation trench, from the south-west

House Plot 1



Plate 30: House Plot 1, set out, boundary wall & reduced areas, from the south-west



Plate 31: House Plot 1, set out, boundary wall & reduced areas, from the south



Plate 34: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 32: House Plot 1, set out, from the south-west



Plate 35: Representative Section 4, from the north



Plate 33: House Plot 1, set out, from the west



Plate 36: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 37: Section 5 of pit/ditch cut [005] with fills (006) and (007), from the north



Plate 40: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 38: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 41: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 39: Section 6 of the gully cut [008] with fill (009), from the west



Plate 42: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 43: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 46: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 44: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 47: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 45: Representative Section 7, from the south



Plate 48: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 49: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 52: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 50: Excavation of the foundations, from the south-west



Plate 53: Completed foundation excavations, from the south-west



Plate 51: Excavation of the foundations, from the east



Plate 54: Completed foundation excavations, from the north-west

Ground Reduction in Plots 2 and 3



Plate 55: Ground reduction, from the east



Plate 56: Ground reduction, from the south-east



Plate 57: Ground reduction, from the east



Plate 58: Ground reduction, from the north-east



Plate 59: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 60: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 61: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 64: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 62: Ground reduction, from the west



Plate 65: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 63: Ground reduction, from the west



Plate 66: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 67: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 70: Section 8 of pit cut [010] with fill (011), from the south



Plate 68: Ground reduction, from the south



Plate 71: Excavation of the foundations, from the east

House Plots 2 and 3



Plate 69: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 72: Section 9, from the west



Plate 73: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 76: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 74: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 77: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 75: Representative Section 10, from the west



Plate 78: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 79: Section 11 of pit cut [015] with fill (016), from the south



Plate 82: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 80: Excavation of the foundations, from the south



Plate 83: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 81: Section 12 of the pit cut [017] with fill (018), from the north



Plate 84: Section 13 of the cut [019] with fill (020), from the south



Plate 85: Excavation of the foundations, from the north



Plate 87: Excavation of the foundations, from the north-east



Plate 86: Excavation of the foundations, from the east

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Friable, dark grey black sandy silt. Above **(002)** & **(003)**. Two sherds of late 18th-mid 19th century pottery and one clay pipe stem fragment of late 18th-mid 19th century date were recovered from this deposit. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-7**. Depth - 0.90m.
- 002** Undated made ground deposit. Soft, mid grey brown clayey silt matrix with small chalk fragments 10% & small-large angular stones & flint fragments 5%. Below **(001)** & above **(003)** & **(004)**. Depth - 0.40m.
- 003** Undated ploughsoil or buried soil horizon. Friable, light olive brown sandy silt with small angular stones & small flint fragments 10%, small chalk fragments & flecking 5% & moderate small-medium brick/tile fragments. Below **(002)** & **(003)** & above **(004)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-7**. Depth - 0.44m.
- 004** Natural horizon of greensands. Soft, light olive brown sandy clayey with spreads of light olive brown sand & small-medium greensand fragments 40%. Below **(002)** & **(003)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 3-7**. Depth - >0.76m.
- 005** Line of an undated linear ditch cut that was identified during the mechanical excavation of the foundations for **House Plot 1**. Cut into **(004)**. Roughly north-south orientated. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping sides, rounded break of slope at base with flattish, slightly rounded base. Recorded within **Section 5**. Length - >8.15m, width - 1.76m, depth - 0.64m.
- 006** Upper fill of the linear ditch cut **[005]**. Soft, mid orange brown sandy clayey silt with small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 10%. Below **(003)** & above **(007)**. Recorded within **Section 5**. Depth - 0.35m.
- 007** Lower fill of the linear ditch cut **[005]**. Soft, dark orange brown sandy silt with moderate small-medium angular stones & flint fragments. Below **(006)** & above **(004)**. Recorded within **Section 5**. Depth - 0.27m.
- 008** Cut of an undated east-west orientated linear gully that was identified during the mechanical excavation of the foundations for **House Plot 1**. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping convex sides with rounded break of slope at base & flattish base. Cut into **(004)**. Recorded within **Section 6**. Length >0.70m, width - 0.84m, depth - 0.35m.
- 009** Fill of the linear gully cut **[009]**. Soft, mid orange brown sandy clayey silt with frequent small-medium chalk fragments & flecking & small-medium angular stones & flint fragments. Below **(003)**. Recorded within **Section 6**. Depth - 0.35m.
- 010** Cut of an undated pit that was identified during the mechanical excavation of the foundations for **House Plot 2**. Sharp break of slope at top and moderately sloping convex sides. Break of slope at base and base not reached as was below the level of the base of the foundation trench. Cut into **(003)** & **(004)**. Recorded in profile in **Section 8**. Width - 2.50m, depth - >0.50m.
- 011** Fill of the pit cut **[010]**. Soft, dark grey brown clayey silt with small chalk fragments 2%, small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 2% & occasional small fragments of charcoal & flecking. Below **(001)**. Recorded within **Section 8**. Depth - >0.50m.
- 012** Cut of an undated pit that was identified during the mechanical excavation of the foundations for **House Plot 2**. Sharp break of slope at top, steeply sloping slightly rounded sides, rounded break of slope at base, though the base was not reached as this was below the level of the foundation trench. Cut into **(003)** & **(004)**. Recorded in profile in **Section 9**. Width - 0.99m, depth - 0.68m.

- 013** Upper fill of the pit cut [012]. Soft, dark grey brown clayey silt with spreads of redeposited natural, small fragments of chalk & flecking 2% & small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 2%. Below (001) & above (014). Recorded within **Section 9**. Depth - 0.47m.
- 014** Lower fill of the pit cut [012]. Soft, mid grey brown clayey silt with small-medium angular stones & small flint fragments 10% & small chalk fragments & flecking 2%. Below (013). Recorded within **Section 9**. Depth - 0.19.
- 015** Cut of an undated pit. Moderate to sharp break of slope at top and moderately-steeply sloping sides. Break of slope at base & the base were not reached as these were below the level of the foundation trench. Cut into (003) & (004). Recorded in profile in **Section 11**. Width - 1.25m, depth - >0.50m.
- 016** Fill of the pit cut [015]. Soft & friable, mid grey brown sandy clayey silt with small chalk fragments & flecking 1%, frequent small angular stones & flint fragments, occasional small brick/tile fragments & occasional small fragments of charcoal & flecking. Below (001). Recorded within **Section 11**. Depth - >0.50m.
- 017** Cut of an undated pit. Moderate break of slope at top and moderately sloping & rounded sides. Break of slope at base & the base were not reached as these were below the level of the foundation trench. Cut into (003) & (004). Recorded in profile in **Section 12**. Width - 2.03, depth - >0.64m.
- 018** Fill of the pit cut [017]. Soft, mid grey brown sandy clayey silt with small chalk fragments & flecking 1% & small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 1%. Below (001). Recorded within **Section 12**. Depth - >0.64m.
- 019** Cut of a small undated pit or posthole. Moderate-sharp break of slope at top, moderate-steeply sloping sides, rounded break of slope at base with rounded base. Sealed by (003) and cut into (004). Recorded in profile in **Section 13**. Width - 0.58m, depth - 0.28m.
- 020** Fill of the cut [019]. Soft, mid grey brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small fragments of chalk & flecking & occasional small angular stones & flint fragments. Below (003). Recorded in **Section 13**. Depth - 0.28m.

Appendix 3: The Finds by Luke Barber

Wiltshire Pewsey High Street

The Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological monitoring recovered two sherds of pottery from overburden context [001]. These consist of a 57g fragment from a glazed red earthenware bowl with rounded club rim and a rouletted bodysherd (118g) from a Nottingham stoneware jar. Both sherds are notably large, with only minor signs of abrasion. A late 18th- to mid 19th- century date is considered most likely.

The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

A 3g stem fragment with initialled spur was recovered from context [001]. The piece is relatively fresh suggesting it has not been subjected to significant reworking. Although the maker's initial (probably F/R) is not listed (Oswald 1975) the type is best placed in a later 18th to mid 19th century date range.

Reference

Oswald, A. 1975. Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist, British Archaeological Reports 14. Oxford.

Appendix 4: OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Rear of 23-27 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire - Neville Hall MIFA

OASIS ID - nevilleh1-219919

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall	nevillehallmifa@gmail.com	7 August 2015

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	Yes	Grey literature report filename/s	Sent by other means
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename	
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?	

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