

Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation: 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire

Client: Buzz Estates Ltd

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client: Buzz Estates Ltd

National Grid Reference: NGR 535508 240735

Address: 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire

Parish: Royston

Council: North Hertfordshire District Council

OASIS ref.: headland4-250236

Archive will be deposited with: Dacorum Heritage Trust

Project Manager: Antony Walsh

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Schedule:

Fieldwork: 14th – 15th March 2016

Report: April 2016

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd Building 68c Wrest Park Silsoe Bedfordshire MK45 4HS

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9-13 BALDOCK STREET, ROYSTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation, comprising two trial trenches, of land at 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire between the 14th and 15th of March 2016. The remains of a post-medieval cellar was revealed in one trench. No archaeological remains were revealed in the other trench.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Buzz Estates Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with the redevelopment of the site at 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston.

Planning permission for the residential development of the site was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (App.no. 15/00527/1) subject to a number of conditions, including one relating to archaeological works (Condition 9).

Consultation with the Hertfordshire District Council Historic Environment Team (HET) determined the required nature of the archaeological works: a level 3 building recording of the existing buildings, watching brief during selective demolition of the buildings, and trial trenching evaluation. Headland Archaeology then prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (2015a) on behalf of Buzz Estates Ltd, outlining the evaluation methodology. This was submitted to and approved by the HET before the fieldwork commenced.

This report details the results of the trial trenching. The results of the historic building recording and watching brief during demolition will be discussed in a separate report (Headland Archaeology forthcoming).

1.2 Site Description

The site is located west of the centre of Royston (NGR: 535508 240735; Illus 1). It is occupied by a Grade II listed building, 9 Baldock Street, with a range of buildings to the west and north comprising 11-13 Baldock Street. It is bounded by Baldock Street to the south and other buildings to the north, east, and west.

The site lies at around 60m OD, and is relatively flat. The solid geology of the site is formed of deposits of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation – this sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 89 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas. They often consist of a calcareous ooze of the microscopic remains of plankton, especially the disc shaped calcite plates or coccoliths that make up the spherical coccolithophores. No superficial deposits were recorded within the site (British Geological Survey; http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.3 Archaeological Background

Headland Archaeology undertook a cultural heritage assessment of this site (Headland Archaeology 2015b). A summary of the relevant information gathered for this is provided here.

The site is situated adjacent to the Icknield Way (now Baldock Street), which was a prehistoric trackway. There is evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site, including Mesolithic flint artefacts and a round barrow.

The Roman road Ermine Street crossed the Icknield Way at Royston, and the area is likely to have been settled. Evidence for occupation and metalworking has been found to the south of the town.

It is probable that there was a settlement at Royston in the Anglo-Saxon period, and a small Saxon hoard has been found in the town. An Augustinian Priory was founded in 1184 within Royston, and two other religious foundations were founded within Royston in the medieval period. The layout of the northern side of Baldock Street reflects the medieval burgage plots running back from the main street, indicating that medieval properties were positioned here.

The location of the town, approximately 1 days travel from London via stagecoach, meant that many inns were established from the medieval period onwards. James I also developed accommodation in the town to support his frequent hunting visits to the area. Maltings were also established on Baldock Street in the 17th and 18th centuries and continued until at least 1832.

Previous investigations within the vicinity of the site have uncovered evidence of the post-medieval to modern development of the town, including a post-medieval stable and well discovered during an evaluation at 1-5 Baldock Street/3-5 Lower King Street.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General

Generally, the archaeological investigations were undertaken in order to:

- Assess the extent, structure and date of any archaeological features and deposits of archaeological interest;
- Place, where possible, the archaeological features within their local and regional context;
- Establish any constraints to further fieldwork (e.g. services) and factors concerning the survival of archaeological remains (e.g. natural and human disturbance);
- Place the findings of the investigation within the context of previous work undertaken within the vicinity of the site.

2.2 Specific

More specifically, the Research Framework for the *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) includes the following research questions and topics that were incorporated into the WSI:

Source	Research goal	Page number and paragraph number	Potential of project to further research goals
Medlycott 2011	"post-1840s building stockrequires recording"	Page 78, Paragraph 10	Medium
Medlycott 2011	"The High Street should be a priority for buildings research, including the identification and recording ofcommercial premises"	Page 78, Paragraph 10	Medium

Table 1 Summary of the research goals to which this site may contribute

The resulting archive will be organised and deposited in the Dacorum Heritage Trust Store (Accession Number applied for) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit (ClfA 2014a; Headland Archaeology 2015a). An online OASIS form has been completed and is copied into the end of this report.

3. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching was carried out on the 14th and 15th March 2016. 2 trenches were excavated, each approximately 7.5m long and 2.5m wide.

The trenches were set out according to the agreed trench layout plan, although Trench 1 had to be moved slightly to the west to avoid the water main.

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden under direct archaeological supervision. Potential archaeological features were then cleaned by hand.

Investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken through hand excavation. A representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified archaeological or potentially archaeological remains were investigated and recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.

3.1 Recording

All recording followed the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and was in line with the approved WSI (Headland Archaeology 2015a). All trenches and contexts were given a unique number. All recording was undertaken on pro forma recording sheets which conform to archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

A plan of the trenches and features across the entire site was recorded digitally using a GNSS device or by hand drawn plans at an appropriate scale.

A full photographic record was taken using digital photography. A metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions, including dimensions, depths and orientations, are presented in the Appendices I and 2. Contexts are identified numerically by trench (i.e. Trench 01: (0101), Trench 02: (0201)) with cuts indicated by square brackets and deposits by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below in order to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating we have completed and presented in this report. This structure reflects our adherence to the ClfA guidance on report production, which states that "descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements" (ClfA 2014b, 14, Section 5). Drawing upon the same document, we feel it is imperative to create a narrative which uses the evidence we gather to assign significance to heritage assets (remains) we encounter:

"If archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate" (CIfA 2014b, 14, Section 5).

We always utilise multiple data-sources when phasing and interpreting remains. This includes feature morphology (recognisable and datable feature types), datable artefactual material, stratigraphic position of feature (in heavily ploughed areas the presence of an intact subsoil sealing remains is given particular emphasis), the relative stratigraphic position of features (cutting or cut by). A range of other considerations also come into play. The limitation of datable artefactual material is recognised and we reflect on the possibility of intrusive material and the presence of residual material. We also recognise that most archaeological features are 'filled' by disuse fills and disused artefacts.

4.2 Trench Results

4.2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features. The overburden comprised layers of made ground consisting of (101), a mid red brown silt with brick and concrete rubble; over (102), a mid grey brown silt with chalk fragments; over (103), a mid orange brown clayey silt with large amounts of weathered chalk (the redeposited natural geological deposit). This overlay the natural geology (104) made up of chalk and clayey silts, which was observed at 0.95m beneath the present ground-surface (Illus 2). There has therefore been a build-up of land in the northern part of the site, in an area which has been an external yard since at least the 1887 First Edition OS Map, presumably to level the ground.

4.2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 contained the remains of a cellar (Illus 3-5). The exposed parts of this cellar measured at least 7.5m north-south (continuing beyond the limit of excavation at both ends of the trench), by 2.5m+ wide at the northern end of the trench, stepping in to c.1.5m in width at the southern end of the trench. The fill of the cellar continued to 2.35m beneath the present ground-surface. This cellar corresponds to a building in the north-eastern part of the site shown on maps from at least the 1887 First Edition OS Map, up to the 1971 OS Map (demolished by the 1982 OS Map). This is supported by the brick samples

taken from the walls of the cellar which were broadly dated to the post-medieval / modern period, with one more closely dated to the late 19th century onwards.

The exposed stratigraphy backfilling the cellar comprised a concrete surface (201) 0.15m deep; over a red brown sandy silt made ground and rubble deposit (202) 0.2m deep; over an orange brown sandy silt rubble (204) 1.2m deep; over a dark brown grey sandy silt and rubble deposit (211) 0.8m deep (Illus 3).

Wall [203], in the western section of the trench, formed a vaulted entrance to the cellar (Illus 5). The wall was at least 2.15m high, and was made up of evenly coursed red and yellow bricks approximately 225mm long, 105mm wide, and 64mm deep, bonded by mortar. A brick sample from this was dated to the late 19th century onwards. The entrance to the cellar was 1.1m wide, and at least 1.9m deep and had an arched supporting lintel which led into the cellar. The concrete surface (201) and made-ground deposit (202) overlay this wall.

Wall [208] was aligned north-south through the centre of the trench, stepping to the east towards the southern end of the trench. A gap in this wall was observed towards the centre of the trench, suggesting that wall [208] formed an internal dividing wall within the cellar. This wall was 0.6m wide, at least 1.55m high, and made up of evenly coursed mortared red bricks approximately 225mm long, 105mm wide, and 64mm deep. Brick samples taken from this wall were considered to be of post-medieval - modern date. This wall was widened at some time with a layer of yellow bricks, approximately 228mm long, 110mm wide, and 70mm deep, probably to provide greater structural support to the building.

At the northern end of the trench, a concrete slab (211) lay against the wall, covering a void. There was also a manhole £2091, 1m long and 0.85m wide and made up of evenly coursed red bricks, and 2 concrete footings (206) and (210), 0.45m wide and 0.5m wide respectively. Given their position, the manhole and concrete footings may have been associated with a modern service to the buildings.

The natural geological chalk deposit was observed in the south-western part of the trench (outside the area of the cellar), at 0.35m beneath the present ground-level. The natural geological deposit therefore slopes upwards towards the southern part of the site (0.6m higher in the south than in the north), which makes sense with the road to the south being positioned on higher ground.

4.3 Finds, by Julie Franklin

Three complete bricks were taken from the cellar walls – one, a yellow perforated brick of late 19th century or later date, from wall [203]. This is a Beart of Godmanchester patent design; those with 21 holes were produced at the Arlesey brickworks in the 1870's (BCC 1979, p45 fig 29). The other two bricks, from wall [208] were typical red stock-moulded bricks. They are not closely datable but are likely to be 18th or 19th century.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Quality of preservation

The post-medieval cellar in Trench 2 was cut into the natural geological deposit (by 2m), removing any earlier archaeological remains that may have existed there. Any earlier archaeological remains within the footprint of the previous post-medieval buildings and current buildings are therefore likely to have been removed through the construction of these buildings.

Outside of the cellar, the natural geological deposit was observed between 0.35m (Trench 2) and 0.95m (Trench 1) beneath the present ground-surface. Above this were layers of modern rubble, which would have built up the ground to make it level. This build-up of land, particularly in the southern part of the site, would suggest that any existing archaeological remains could have survived outside the building footprints.

5.2 Efficacy of other investigative methods used at the site

The historic mapping shows that the site was occupied by buildings from at least the 18th century. The results from the trial trenching evaluation supports the historic mapping, showing the existence of previous buildings in the north-eastern part of the site, within areas currently within a yard.

5.3 Summary of remains by Phase

Post-medieval activity

The walls in Trench 2 formed the remains of the cellar of a building shown on the historic mapping from 1887, but demolished sometime between 1971 and 1982.

Modern Activity

The man hole and related concrete footings, the concrete surface, and the rubble made-ground deposits, are likely to relate to work undertaken at the site in the 1970s when the building along the north-eastern side of the site was demolished, although may equally relate to more recent activity. These are considered to be of no archaeological interest.

5.4 Description of heritage assets and impact assessment

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench	Feature	Significance of Heritage Asset and of local, regional, national, international interest		
HA1: Post-medieval cellar	2	ເ2031, ເ2081	Low significance of local interest		

Table 2 Summary of the Heritage Assets (HA)

Heritage Asset 1 comprises the remains of the post medieval cellar. This is considered to have low significance of local interest.

6. CONCLUSION

One Heritage Asset has been identified within the site – the remains of a post-medieval cellar (likely $18^{th} - 19^{th}$ century), which was positioned along the north-eastern side of the site and associated with the building which is shown on historic maps. Elsewhere, the land has been built up through modern made-ground deposits. No earlier archaeological remains were revealed.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ClfA 2014a Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and curation of archaeological archives. http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa accessed 19/04/2016.

ClfA 2014b Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation. http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa accessed 19/04/16.

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd, 2015a Historic building recording, watching brief, and evaluation at 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. 2015b 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston: Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Medlycott, M 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England.

Appendix I – Trench and Context Summary

Trench Number		7.5	Width			2.5m		
		m	Marinam Barth to Carlorial 205					
Minimum to G	n Depth eological	0.6 m	Maximum Depth to Geological Deposit/level of archaeological			0.95m		
Deposit/		'''	significance		givai			
archaeol	ogical							
significa		(1	Out 5'''	Dimanatara		! - ! . `		
Contex t No	Descripti	ion (La	yer, Cut, Fill)					
110	Made Gr	ound M	lid red brown	Diameter	Leng		width	Depth
			ge amount of					
(101)	concrete	and brid	k rubble.					0-0.19m
			d grey brown					
		quent chalk						
(102) fragments.							0.19-0.4m	
Weathered chalk layer. If orange brown clayey silt w								
			of weathered					
chalk. Possible mad (103) layer.								
			<u>-</u>					0.4-0.95m
(104)	Natural. and weat		ey brown silt					0.05m
(104)	and weat	nerea c	ııaık.					0.95m+

Trench N	lumber	2						
Length		7.5m	Width			2.1m	to 3.28m	
Minimum Geologic Deposit/l archaeol significa	level of ogical nce	0.45m	Deposit/leve significance		logical	1.5m		
Context	Descripti	on (Laye	r, Cut, Fill)	Dimensions (
No	0	() (Diameter	Leng	th	Width	Depth
(201)	Made gro sandy silt concrete a	Concrete floor surface. Made ground. Mid red brown sandy silt with large amount of concrete and brick rubble. Cellar Wall. Evenly coursed			5m+			0-0.15m 0.15- 0.35m
ເ203ງ	brick and to cellar.	mortar v	vall. Opening					0.2- 2.35m+
(204)	orange b brick rubb	rown saı le.	ar/void. Mid ndy silt with		5m+		3.28m+	0.35- 1.55m
(205)	Natural. M weathered		rown silt and					0.35m+
(206)	Concrete				1.5m-	1.5m+ 0.4m		0.35m+
(207)	Backfill of Course bu	footing outling sai			1.5m-	1.5m+ 0.75m+		0.35m+
ເ208ງ	mortar, m bricks.	nixed red	ed brick and and yellow		7.5m-	+	0.6m	0.2- 1.55m+
ເ209ງ		Manhole. Evenly coursed brick and mortar.			1m		0.85m	0.35m+
(210)			ed concrete.		1.2m-	<u> </u>	0.45m	0.35m+
(211)	Concrete		od dorioroto.		1.5m-		0.45III	1.55m+
(212)	Lower fill	of cellar. dy silt wit	Dark brown h rubble and			-		1.55- 2.35m

Appendix II - Photographic Register

Photo Number	Digital	Direction	Description
1001	0883	NNE	Section of sump removal pit
1002	0884	NNE	Section of sump removal pit
1003	0885	S	N facing section of trench 1
1004	0886	S	N facing section of trench 1
1005	0887	SE	Trench 1
1006	0888	NW	Trench 1
1007	0889	NW	General shot - trench 1 in foreground
1008	0890	SE	General shot - trench 1 in middle distance
1009	0891	SE	General shot - trench 1 in middle distance
1010	0892	SE	General shot - trench 1 in foreground
1011	0893	SE	General shot - trench 1 in foreground
1012	0894	N	Shot from Baldock Street Entrance
1013	0895	NNW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1014	0896	NNW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1015	0897	N	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1016	0898	SW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1017	0899	SW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1018	0900	W	Mechanical part from trench 2
1019	0901	S	Mechanical part from trench 2
1020	0902	SW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1021	0903	SW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1022	0904	W	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1023	0905	S	N facing section of trench 2
1024	0906	SSE	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1025	0907	NNW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1026	0908	NNW	Working shot - excavation of trench 2
1027	0909	S	N facing section of trench 1
1028	0910	S	N facing section of trench 1
1029	0911	S	N facing section of trench 1
1030	0912	S	N facing section of wall (208)
1031	0913	S	N facing section of wall (208)
1032	0914	NNW	Walls in trench 2
1033	0915	N	S facing section of wall (208)
1034	0916	W	E facing section of wall (203)
1035	0917	NW	E facing section of wall (203)
1036	0918	NNW	View into cellar
1037	0919	W	View into cellar
1038	0920	W	View into cellar
1039	0921	NW	General shot of trench 2
1040	0922	SW	General shot of trench 2
1041	0923	SW	General shot of trench 2

1042	0924	SW	General shot of trench 2
1043	0925	SW	Backfilling trench 1
1044	0926	S	General shot of trench 2
1045	0927	NW	Trench 1 - backfilled
1046	0928	NNW	Excavation to test depth of trench 2
1047	0929	NNW	Excavation to test depth of trench 2
1048	0930	NW	Excavation to test depth of trench 2
1049	0931	NNE	Rubble from lower fill (212) of cellar
1050	0932	SSE	Backfilling trench 2
1051	0933	SSE	Backfilling trench 2
1052	0934	SSW	Backfilling trench 2

Appendix III – Finds Catalogue

Context	Feature	Quantity	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
	wall fabr cos cellar 1 CBM Brick com		complete, perforated brick, yellow fabric, 228 x 110 x 70	L19th-present		
			_	complete stock-moulded brick, 225 x 105 x 55mm	PM/Mod	
	cellar wall	1	СВМ		near complete stock-moulded brick, 225 x 106 x 64mm	PM/Mod

Appendix IV - Copy of OASIS Form

7.1 OASIS ID: headland4-250236

Project details

Project name 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston

Short description of the project

An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was undertaken at 9-13 Baldock Street, Royston, in response to a condition placed on planning consent for the residential development of the site. The evaluation uncovered the remains of a post-medieval cellar, which was backfilled in

the 1970s.

Project dates Start: 14-03-2016 End: 15-03-2016

Previous/future work

Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes

RTHB15 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type CELLAR Post Medieval

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development type Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration

Development type Residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE ROYSTON 9-13 Baldock

Street

Study area 1000 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 35508 40735 52.047980698296 -0.023719336043 52 02 52 N 000 01

25 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Headland Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator

Headland Archaeology Ltd

Project

director/manager

Antony Walsh

Project supervisor Tom Hodgson

Type of sponsor/funding body

Developer

Name of

sponsor/funding body

Buzz Estates Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Dacorum Heritage Trust

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient

Dacorum Heritage Trust

Digital Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Dacorum Heritage Trust

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media

"Context

available

sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey

","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Hertfordshire

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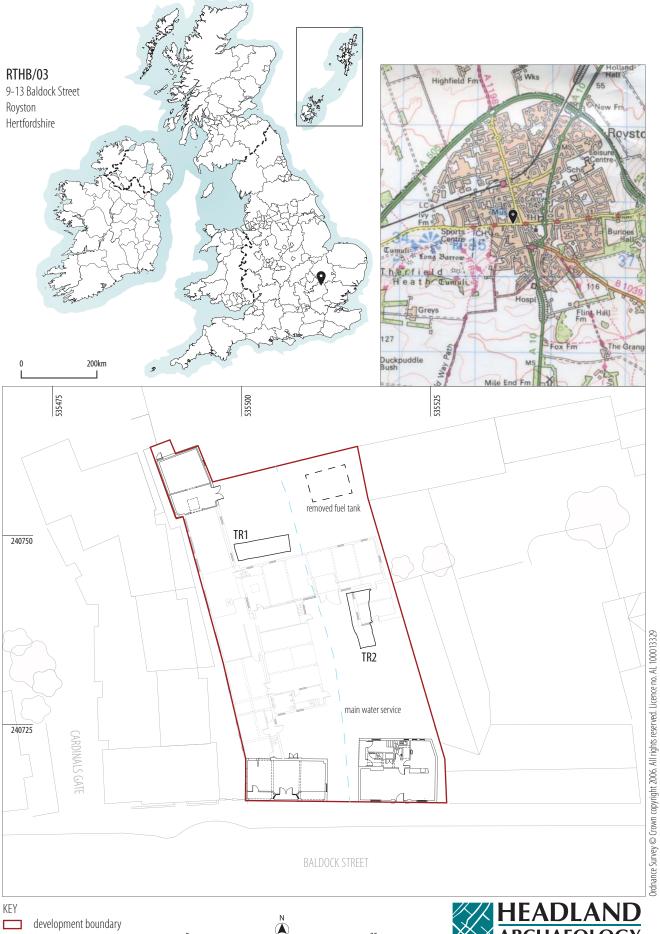
Building 68C, Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, MK45 4HS

Description Short report detailing the results of the trail trenching evaluation. Includes

plans, photos, and sections.

Entered by Emma Jeffery (emma.jeffery@headlandarchaeology.com)

Entered on 29 April 2016









SOUTH & EAST

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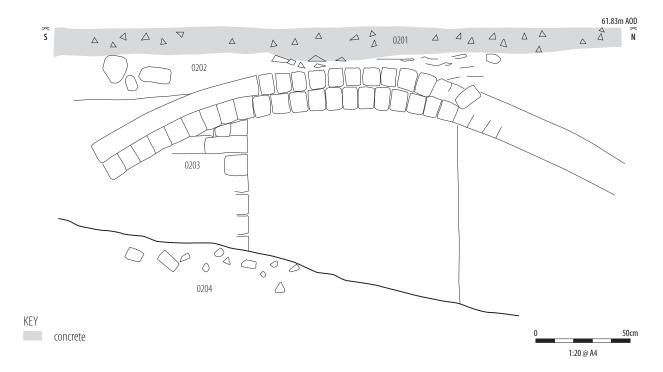




ILLUS 3 NE facing view of Trench 2



ILLUS 4 Plan of Trench 2



ILLUS 5 E facing section of wall showing entrance to cellar