

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT



WALWICK FARMHOUSE NEAR CHOLLERFORD NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Compiled for George and Harriet Benson by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 14/08b

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Contents:

SUMMARY	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 THE SITE	4
2.1 Location	4
2.2 Archaeological background	4
3.0 METHODOLOGY	5
3.1 Monitoring during excavation	5
3.2 General standards	5
4.0 RESULTS	6
4.1 Monitoring during excavation	6
5.0 CONCLUSIONS	7
REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX I WSI	9

Figure 1 Location

Figure 2 Existing structures and the proposed new build

Plate 1: Machine excavation of the orangery foundation, facing east

Plate 2: Orangery construction trench, facing north east

Plate 3: Southern boot room excavation trench, facing south west

SUMMARY

This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mr and Mrs George and Harriet Benson. The document sets out the results of a process of archaeological monitoring, undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new orangery and boot room at Walwick Farmhouse, near Chollerford, Northumberland. The work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in September 2014. The planning application reference number is: 14/02053/FUL and the NCCCT reference is: T29/2; 20381 and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-208167.

The monitoring was undertaken on Wednesday 11th and Monday 16th March 2015. Initially the foundation trench for the orangery on the south side of the farm building was excavated. The depth of the excavation varied between 0.5m, in the north-west corner of the north-west to south-east trench, up to 0.9m at the north-east extent of the south-west to north-east trench. The foundations for the boot room extension were excavated on the 16th and depth of excavation varied between 0.3m and 0.5m on the southern of the two south-west to north-east oriented trenches. The northern of the two varied between 0.5m and 0.6m below ground level. A dark grey-brown, very stony topsoil merged with a yellow-brown rubble and silt layer, which was not bottomed, was present throughout the excavation area. The sandstone rubble layer contained stone varied in size from very small fragments, up to 0.5m by 0.4m by 0.6m. No indications of any archaeological remains of interest were uncovered during the course of this work and even pottery and animal bone were absent.

No indication of structural features or pits was seen and the absence of occupational material, such as animal bone and pottery sherds would, taken together with the high rubble content, suggest that the foundation excavation did not exceed a late post medieval layer of layer of made-up ground.

**WALWICK FARMHOUSE
NEAR CHOLLERFORD
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mr and Mrs George and Harriet Benson. The document sets out the results of a process of archaeological monitoring, undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction a new boot room and orangery extension to Walwick Farmhouse, near Chollerford, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 11th and 16th March 2015, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in September 2014. The planning application reference number is: 14/02053/FUL and the NCCCT reference is: T29/2; 20381 and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-208167.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Walwick Farm, which lies immediately to the south of the B6318, 1.6km to the west of Chollerford roundabout and some 7.6km north-west of the town of Hexham, Northumberland (NGR NY 9028 7048) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 Although no prehistoric activity is known from the immediate vicinity of Walwick Farm, it lies within a wider landscape, settled from at least Mesolithic times.
- 2.2.2 The site lies on the line of Hadrian's Wall, constructed in the years following AD 122, though the settlement itself lies outwith the scheduled area. The line of Hadrian's Wall is projected to run approximately 60-70m to the north, and the line of the Vallum, some 30-40m to the south. Milecastle 28 is demarked lying 60m to the north-east of the proposed development on the Ordnance Survey map (HER 9274), but more recent re-evaluation of the scheduling, in 1997, indicates that the platform previously identified may be too small and it is more likely that the Milecastle really lies a little further north, on the line of the Military Road (B6318). Remains of the Roman Military Way was identified by an archaeological evaluation, undertaken by The Archaeological Practice, close to Walwick Hall, some 175m to the north-west of the site, in 2008. The line of this Roman road was seen to lie a little to the north of that projected by the OS map (HER 23795). This projection of the line of the Military Way would see it pass some metres to the north of the site and the evaluation could be seen as indicating that it will pass

further to the north still. However with few points of reference, such predictions cannot be made with any certainty.

- 2.2.3 The medieval manor of Walwick was part of the Barony of Tynedale. In existence before the 13th century, the estate was described in AD 1330 as comprising 200 acres of arable land, 14 bondages and four cottages (HER 9318). It seems unlikely that the settlement was ever extensive during the medieval period.
- 2.2.4 Walwick is depicted as a simple place name on Speed's Map of 1610 and Armstrong's map of 1769. Fryer's Map of 1820 and Greenwood's Map of 1828 both depict stylised buildings on either side of the road at Walwick. The core of the farm buildings, are depicted in courtyard form, in the general arrangement seen today, from the 1st Ordnance Survey map of c. 1870.
- 2.2.5 Although listed buildings are present to the north of the site at Little Walwick (HER 240036) and west at Walwick Hall (HER 240038), the farm buildings themselves are not listed. A number of watching briefs have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. Monitoring of a water pipe along the track to the west of the farm provided some indication of the infilling of the Vallum in post medieval times (HER 404). Coring, involving some 162 samples, undertaken along some 57 km of the line of the B6318, was monitored between 2006 and 2007. Deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in 39 of the cores, indicating the rubble core of the levelled Hadrian's Wall, broadly confirming its line to the north of the present site (HER 13946).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 3.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2013) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs (IfA 2008). This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.
- 3.1.2 A contingency of up to 30 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

3.2 General standards

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

50% of all discrete features.

25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill.

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.

- 3.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 3.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 3.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IfA Guidelines for The Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials 2008). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 3.2.5 In the event of human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record will be compiled using black and white print, and digital, recording both as jpeg and raw format.
 2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
 3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report. A copy of the digital photos will be submitted to the ADS. Should no archaeological features be encountered a basic record would only be compiled with digital photography and only the report will be submitted to the archive.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 The monitoring was undertaken on Wednesday 11th and Monday 16th March 2015. Initially the foundation trench for the orangery on the south side of the farm building was excavated. The depth of the excavation varied between 0.5m, in the north-west

corner of the north-west to south-east trench, up to 0.9m at the north-east extent of the south-west to north-east trench. The foundations for the boot room extension were excavated on the 16th and depth of excavation varied between 0.3m and 0.5m in the southern of the two south-west to north-east oriented trenches. The northern of the two varied between 0.5m and 0.6m below ground level. A dark grey-brown, very stony topsoil merged with a yellow-brown rubble and silt layer, which was not bottomed, was present throughout the excavated area. The sandstone rubble layer contained stone that varied in size from very small fragments, up to 0.5m by 0.4m by 0.6m. No indications of any archaeological remains of interest were uncovered during the course of this work and even pottery and animal bone were absent.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 No indication of structural features or pits was seen and the absence of occupational material, such as animal bone and pottery sherds would, taken together with the high rubble content, suggest that the foundation excavation did not exceed a late post medieval layer of made-up ground.

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- BRP Finds Manual, 2000
BRP Health and Safety Document
English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, 1991.
English Heritage *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory, 1995.
IfA 2013 Code of Conduct 2013
IfA 2008 Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs 2008
IfA 2008 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials 2008

APPENDIX I

WALWICK FARMHOUSE NEAR CHOLLERFORD NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Projects Section for Mrs Harriet Benson. The document sets out the project design for the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a new boot room and orangery extension to Walwick Farmhouse, near Chollerford, Northumberland. The planning application reference number is: 14/02053/FUL and the NCCCT reference is: T29/2; 20381.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

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2.3 Impact of the development

- 4.1.1 The development, comprises the demolition of a storeroom and sun room in order to allow their replacement with a new boot room and orangery. The new boot room will measure 5.7m south-west to north-east by 4m north-west to south-east and the new orangery will measure 5.5m south-west to north-east by 5m north-west to south-east (Figure 2). The foundations for the cavity walls is to be 600 x 250mm concrete strip foundations at a minimum depth of 900mm below ground level. It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area, that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 In the light of the potential for the construction works to impact upon preserved archaeological remains it is proposed that a continuous watching brief be conducted during the intrusive ground work. Provision will be made for the archaeological consultant to suspend works to allow for the rapid investigation and recording of objects or features encountered. Should archaeological material be encountered the consultant will keep the Assistant County Archaeologist informed.

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5.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 5.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

- 6.1 On completion of the monitoring an assessment of the site records and any finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines and the IfA Standard and Guidance Watching Briefs (IfA 2008). This will include:
1. collation of all site records
 2. compilation of a report
 3. production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
 4. analysis of any the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
 5. environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 6.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:
1. summary of the project background
 2. site location
 3. methodology
 4. results of the watching brief
 5. site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
 6. interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
 7. post-excavation assessment of the site archive
 8. catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
 9. catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
 10. catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
 11. appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context
- 6.3 A bound copy copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and both a bound copy and digital copy submitted to the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 6.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.
- 6.5 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

7.0 PERSONNEL

7.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 26 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

7.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

8.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material

Medieval pottery
Post-medieval pottery
Prehistoric pottery
Roman Pottery
Animal bone
Palaeoenvironmental
Conservation

Specialist

Jenny Vaughan
Jenny Vaughan
Blaise Vyner
Blaise Vyner
Durham University Archaeological Services
Durham University Archaeological Services
Durham University Archaeological Services

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

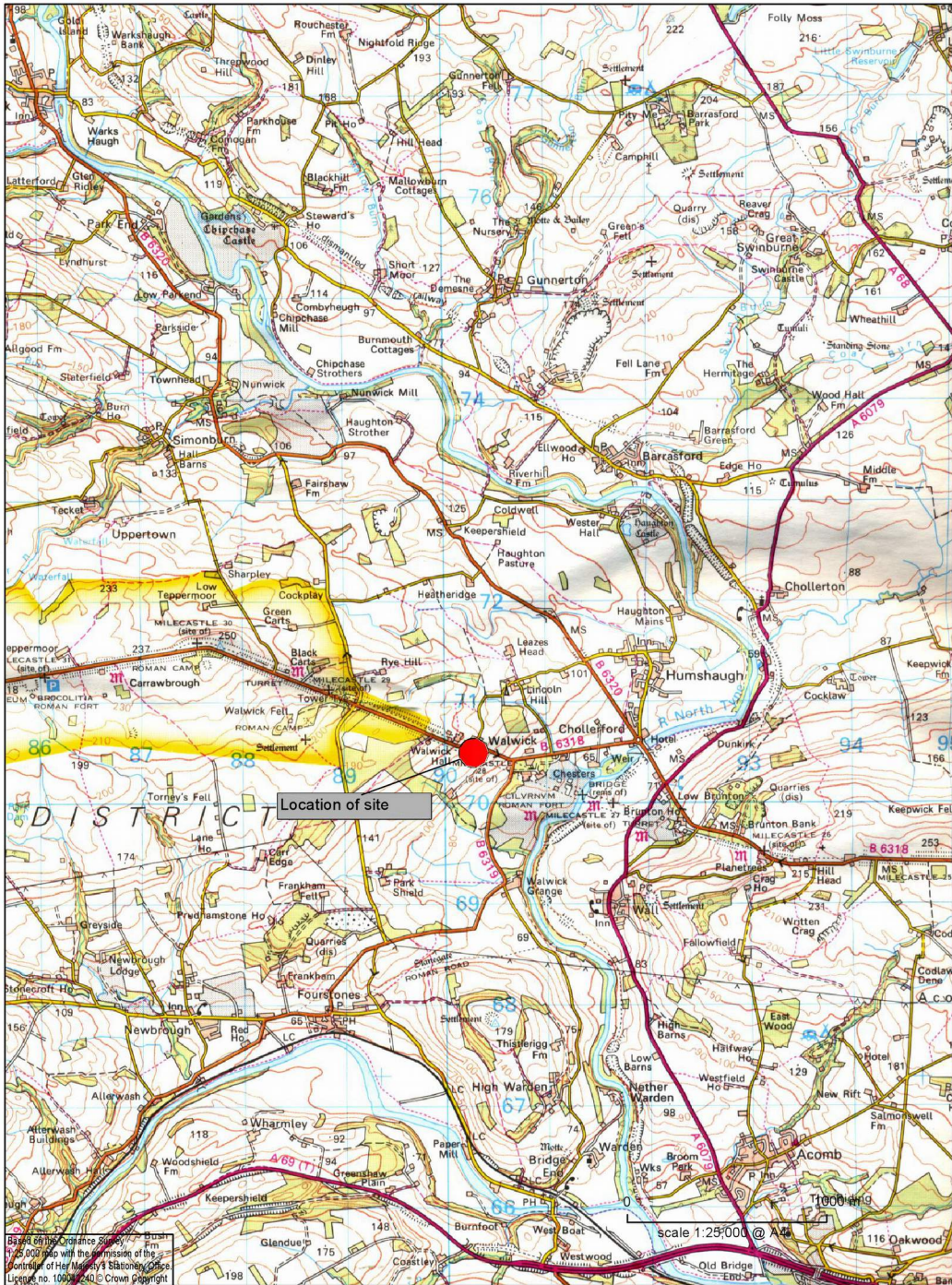
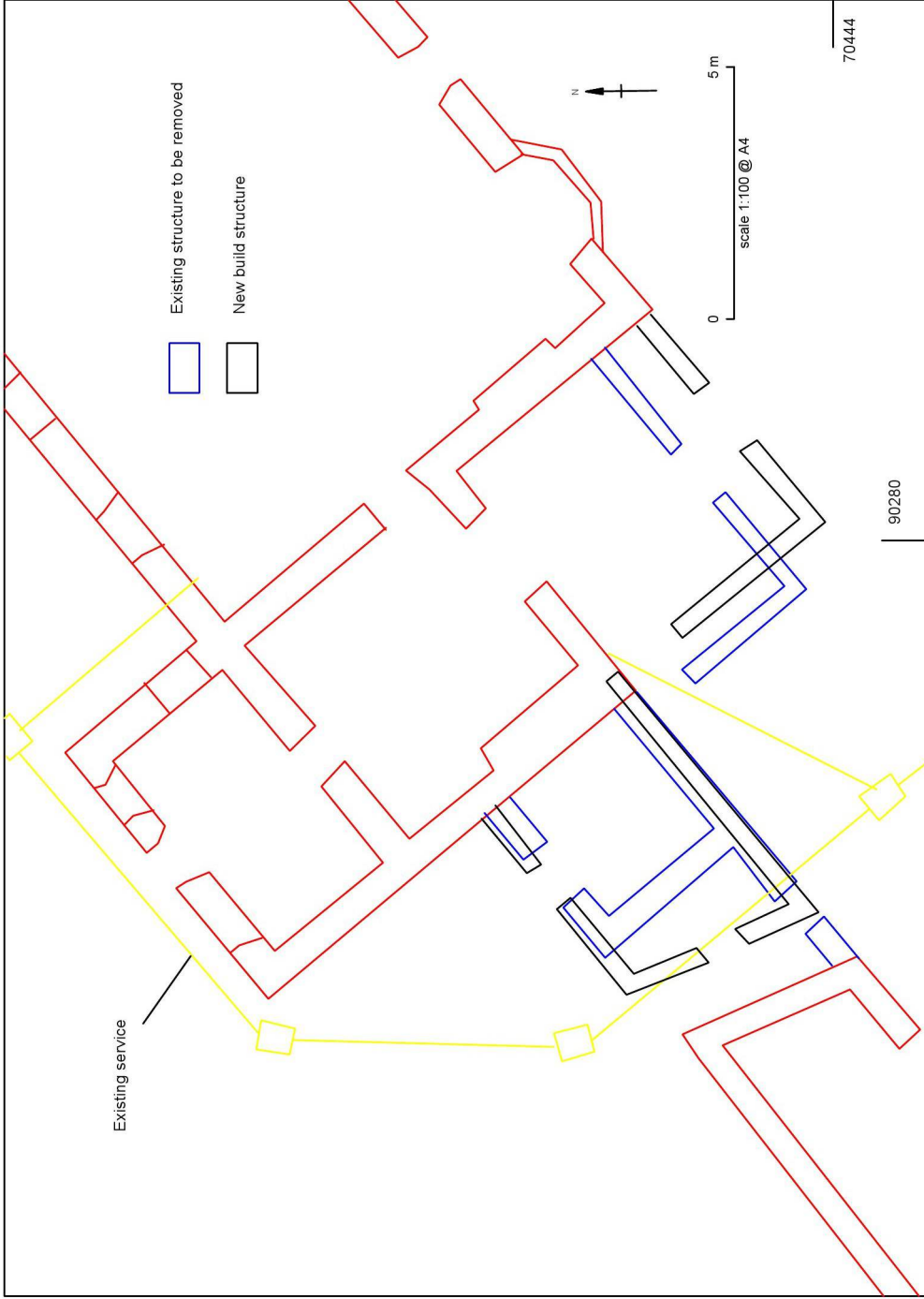


Figure 1 Location plan



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Figure 2 Existing structures and the proposed new build



Frame 1: Machine excavation of the orangery foundation, facing east



Plate 2: Orangery construction trench, facing north east



Frame 3: Southern boot room excavation trench, facing south west