

**60 THE STREET,  
LATTON,  
WILTSHIRE.**

**NGR: 409277 195344**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**



May 2020  
Report No. 1364



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES**

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Section 001, ditch [1004]

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**Quality Assurance**

This document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (ISO 9001: 2015)

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## **CONTENTS**

Summary

Glossary of Archaeological Terms and Abbreviations

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND
- 3 AIMS
- 4 METHODOLOGY
- 5 RESULTS
- 6 DISCUSSION
- 7 CONCLUSION
- 8 BIBLIOGRAPHY
- 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **FIGURE LIST**

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Site Plan
- Figure 3: Plan and Sections

## SUMMARY

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 60 The Street, Latton, Wiltshire (NGR: 409277 195344). The project was commissioned by Steve Slattery of Highworth Homes Ltd.

The project comprised the archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a residential dwelling.

The archaeological works revealed part of a poorly dated possible ditch, which was located to the northeast of *Ermin Way* Roman road and shared a similar alignment. It was uncertain if a nearby substantial pit-like feature was of archaeological or natural origin.

## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

### Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

### Natural

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

### NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### OS

Ordnance Survey.

### Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

### Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

### Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 60 The Street, Latton, Wiltshire (NGR: 409277 195344). The works were undertaken by Foundations Archaeology on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. The project was commissioned by Steve Slattery of Highworth Homes Ltd.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2018) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 1.3 The CifA code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission (**Application Number: 18/02897/FUL**) was granted for the erection of a single residential dwelling at 60 The Street, Latton.
- 2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council required a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the development.
- 2.3 The site is located at the southeast edge of Latton, immediately northeast of The Street. It is bounded to the southeast by a residential dwelling, to the northeast by an agricultural field and to the northwest by an access track, which leads to Lake Louise Park. The River Churn is situated approximately 140m to the southwest. The topography is generally flat and the underlying geology is recorded as *Oxford Clay Formation* – mudstone, with overlying deposits of *Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member* - sand and gravel (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.4 Latton is located approximately two miles north of Cricklade and six miles southeast of Cirencester. The *Street/Ermin Way*, which was a Roman road connecting *Glevum* (Gloucester) to *Calleva* (Silchester), is located immediately southwest of the site. One of the earliest references for Latton is in AD 1066 when Latton and Eysey became the property of Earl Harold, but after the Battle of Hastings they both became the property of William I.
- 2.5 The site itself is located next to Scheduled Monument 1004690, which is known as ‘Settlement SE of Latton’. This site has been identified through aerial photography and pottery finds and is thought to be Roman in date and may possibly be a villa. Early settlement evidence has also been identified in Latton during gravel extraction, where between 50 and 200 mammoth bones, along with handaxes, were identified.

- 2.6 The site therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominately dating to the Prehistoric, Roman and possibly later periods. As the site is close to the Roman road there was also a potential for roadside burials. This did not prejudice the works against evidence relating to other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary.

- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

i) to record, prior to their destruction, archaeological deposits within the monitored areas, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present within the monitored areas;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence, which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;

iv) to define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 Groundworks which had the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits were carried out under the constant observation of an archaeologist. Plant was suitable for the task and was equipped with a toothless grading/ditching bucket, as appropriate. The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of house foundation trenches, the location and extent of which are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

- 4.2 Where archaeological features were present, these were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation and recording. All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and CIfA guidelines.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A description of all contexts and finds identified and recorded during the monitoring is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is presented below.
- 5.2 The natural substrates, which consisted of orange to yellow gravel and sand, were present at an average depth of 0.60m (82.01m AOD) below the Modern ground. At the eastern part of the site, the natural was sealed by two subsoil layers (1003) and (1002) respectively, which were subsequently overlaid by Modern topsoil (1001). A single fragment of animal bone was present within subsoil (1003). At the west of the site, the natural was sealed by subsoil (1008), which was similar to subsoil (1002). This was, in turn, overlaid by the Modern topsoil. A total of two possible archaeological features were present beneath the subsoil layers, cut into the top of the natural deposits.
- 5.3 Feature [1004] was situated on a northwest – southeast alignment and was possibly the remains of a former ditch, although, it was not visible in the foundation trenches to the northwest of Section 001. The fill (1005) of the feature contained four fragments of animal bone.
- 5.4 Feature [1006] consisted of a large pit with a rounded profile. A single animal tooth was present within its fill (1007).
- 5.5 No other archaeological features or finds were present within the monitored area.

## 6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The occurrence of natural substrates, which were sealed beneath subsoil layers, indicated that preservation conditions within the monitored area were generally good. Feature [1004] may have been the remains of a ditch, which was situated on a northwest – southeast alignment, similar to that of the nearby Roman road. This shared alignment may indicate that the ditch was dug at, or after, the construction of the road; however, due to a lack of datable finds, it was not possible to offer a more precise date for the feature. It should also be noted that the interpretation of the feature as a ditch was highly tentative, as it was not visible within the house foundation trenches, to the northwest of Section 001.
- 6.2 Feature [1006] may have represented part of a substantial pit of uncertain date, although, it may also have been the remains of a tree-throw pit or other natural feature. The occurrence of an animal tooth in its fill may suggest the former interpretation is more likely, although not certain.
- 6.3 There was a general lack of artefactual material within the monitored area, which suggested that the site was unlikely to have been situated near to the



focus of the nearby Roman settlement, although, the limited nature of the investigation should be noted in this regard.

## **7 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The archaeological works revealed part of a poorly dated possible ditch, which was located to the northeast of the Roman road and shared a similar alignment. It was uncertain if a nearby substantial pit-like feature was of archaeological or natural origin.
- 7.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology but will be deposited in due course with Swindon Museum. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be published in the relevant local archaeological journal.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading.

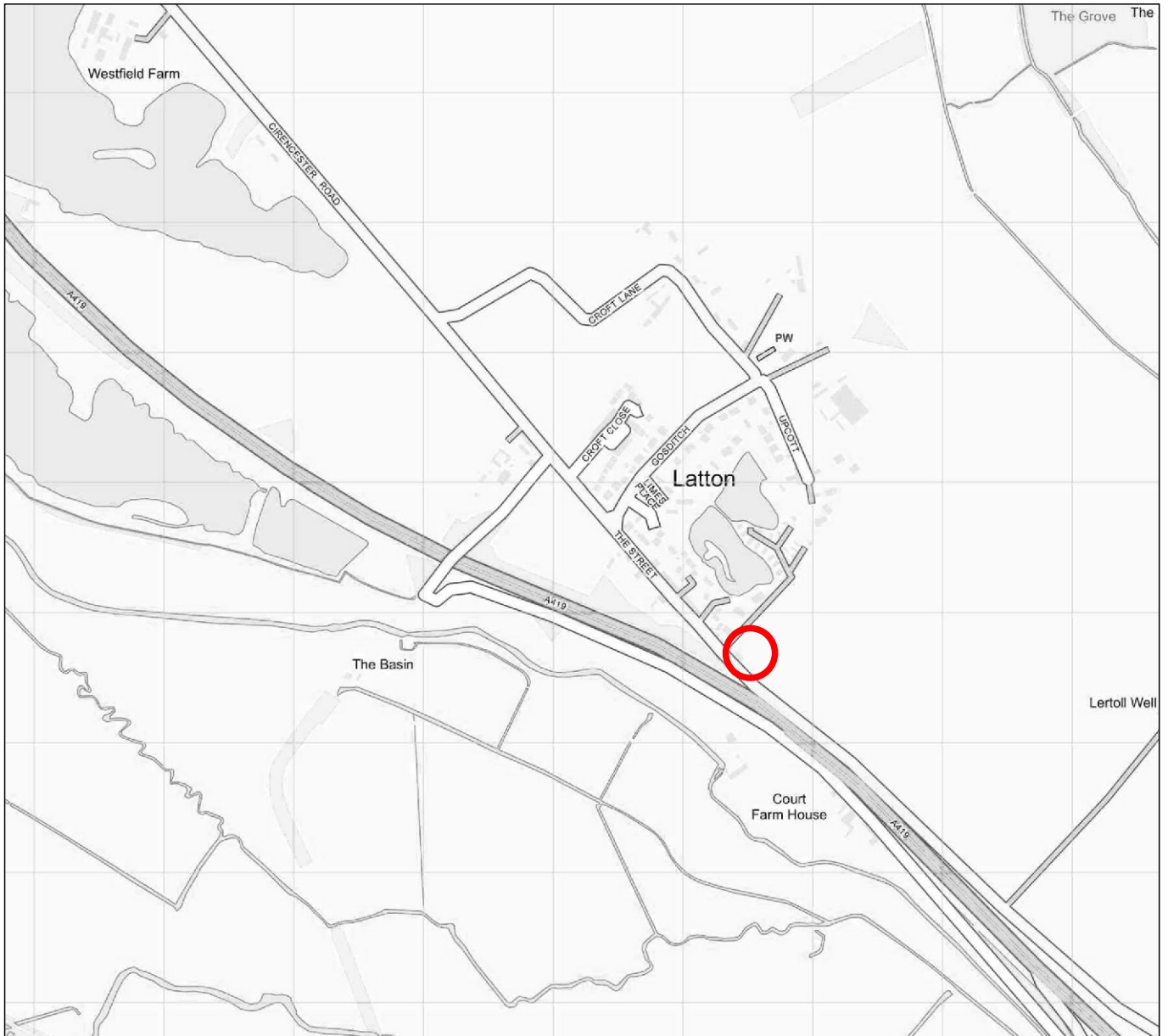
Foundations Archaeology. 2018. *60 The Street, Latton, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. Unpublished.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire Council and Steve Slattery of Highworth Homes Ltd. for their help during the course of the project.

**APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data**

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>House Foundation Trench:</b> average 0.60m wide and average 0.95m deep. <b>Natural</b> = orange gravel with occasional patches of yellow orange sand. Present at average 82.01m AOD.		
1001	9.0	9.0	0.20	Topsoil: dark brown sand silt, which contained occasional Modern detritus. Present across entire investigation area.	1002, 1008	n/a
1002	?	1.64	0.25	Layer of grey brown sand silt, which was present in the area around Section 001, at the east of the site.	1003	1001
1003	?	1.63	0.20	Layer of orange brown sand silt, which was present in the area around Section 001, at the east of the site. Contained a single fragment of animal bone (47 g).	1005	1002
<b>[1004]</b>	1.36m	1.40?	0.67	Northwest – southeast aligned linear feature, possibly a ditch, with a sloping profile. Contained fill 1005. Only visible in the area around Section 001.	natural	1005
1005	1.36	1.40?	0.67	Fill of [1004]: dark brown sand silt, which contained four fragments of animal bone (198 g).	[1004]	1003
<b>[1006]</b>	3.30	0.80	0.80	Possible large pit-like feature, with a wide, rounded profile. Contained fill 1007.	natural	1007
1007	3.30	0.80	0.80	Fill of [1006]: orange to dark orange brown sand silt, which contained rare charcoal flecks and a single animal tooth (13 g).	[1006]	1008
1008	?	3.32	0.50	Layer of grey brown sand silt, which was present in the area around Section 002, at the west of the site. Possibly equivalent to 1002.	1007	1001

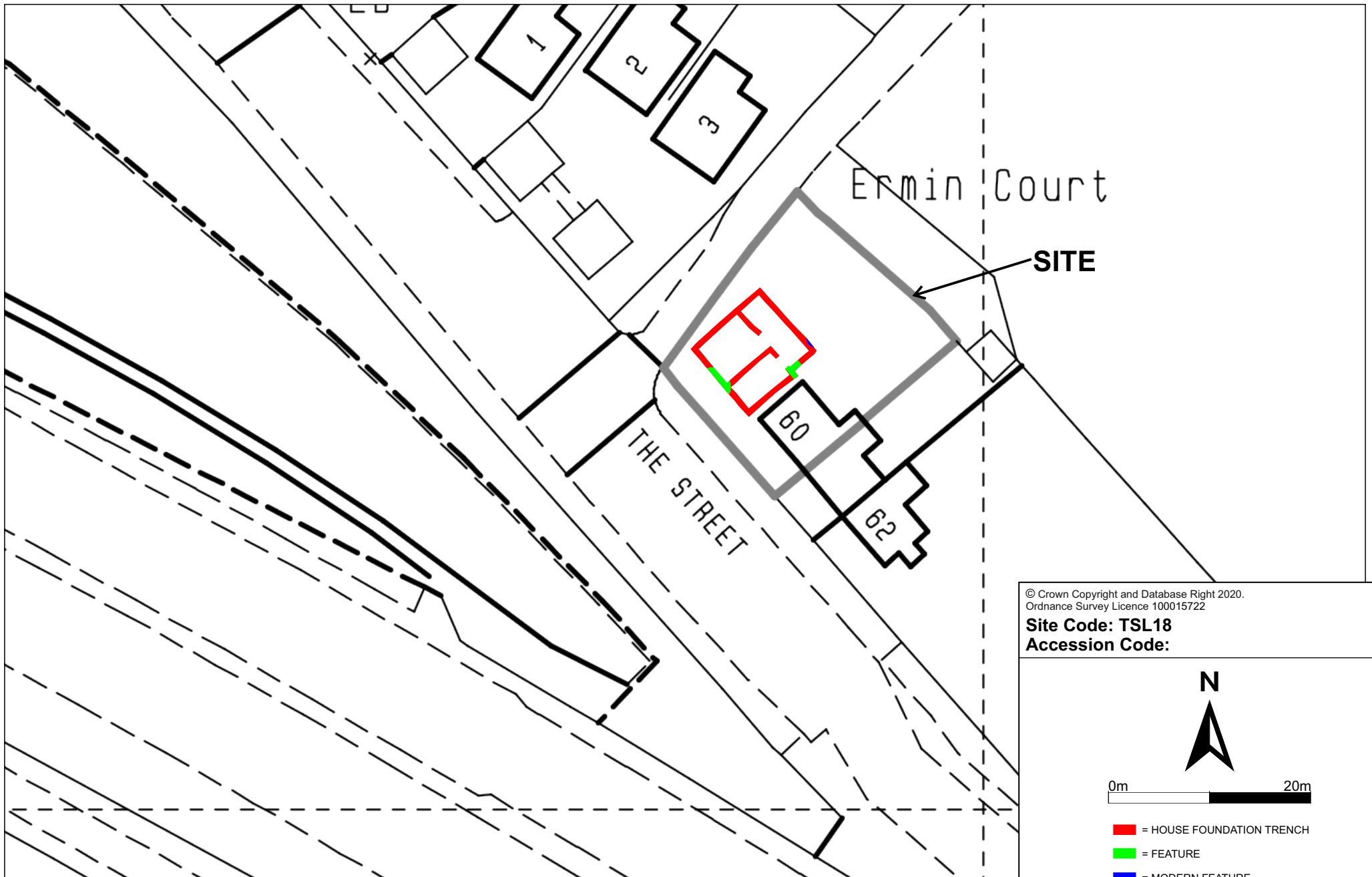


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Ordnance Survey Licence 100015722  
**Site Code: TSL18**  
**Accession Code:**

N

0m 200m

**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



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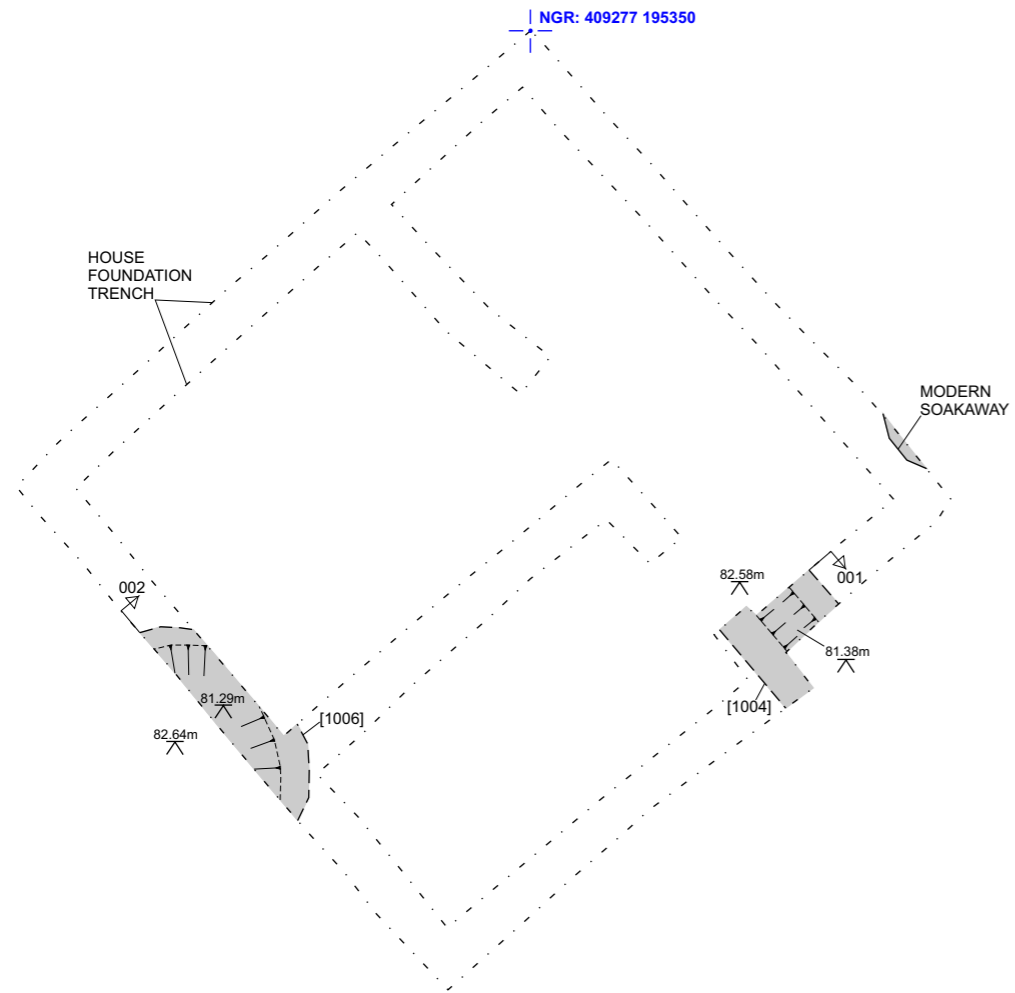
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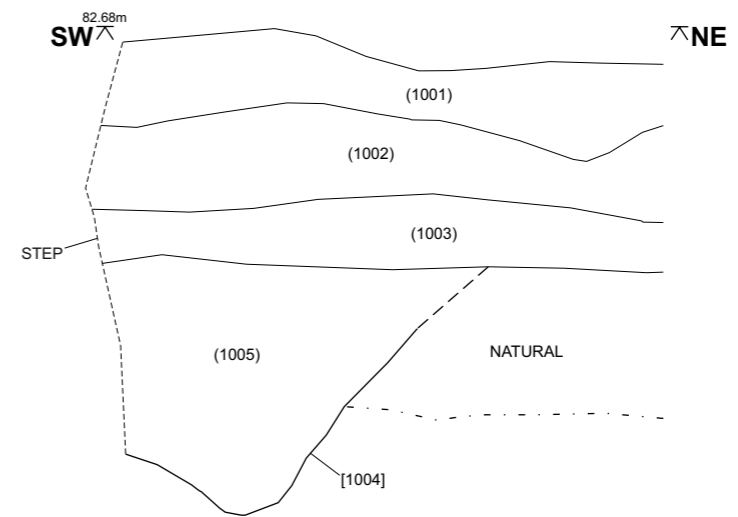
0m 20m

■ = HOUSE FOUNDATION TRENCH  
■ = FEATURE  
■ = MODERN FEATURE

**FIGURE 2: Site Plan**



**SEC 001: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [1004]**



**SEC 002: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [1006]**

