

# Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Survey at 35-39, Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

## February 2008

**CAM ARC Report Number 989**

# **Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Survey at 35-39, Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire**

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## **Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Survey**

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Site Code: XHT HFR 07

Date of works: 19th – 21st November 2007

Grid Ref: SP 9965 0755

Status	Approved		
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**CAM ARC OASIS Report Form**  
**cambridg1-36655**

**OASIS Number:**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Historical Building Recording and Archaeological Survey at 35-39 Highfield Rd, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire			
Short description	A historical building survey was carried out in order to establish the date and character of number 39 Highfield Road prior to redevelopment. An archaeological survey was also required on land between numbers 35 and 39 Highfield Road to help understand its previous use. This area investigated lies between two mid-late Victorian properties and the absence of a "number 37" warranted investigation.			
Project dates	Start	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2007	End	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2007
Previous work	none		Future work	no
Associated project reference codes	XHTHFR07, planning application no.APP/A1910/A062023825			
Type of project	Building Recording and Archaeological Survey			
Site status	none			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Residential			
Planned development	Development of existing property and erection of two flats with associated services.			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Residential – General Residential, Post Medieval – 1540-1901			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	none			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Hertfordshire	Parish	Berkhamsted	
HER for region	Hertfordshire			
Site address (including postcode)	35-39 Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 2DD			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	Approx. 125.9m <sup>2</sup>			
National grid reference	SP 9965 0755			
Height OD	Min OD	106.00m	Max OD	106.00m
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kate Batt, Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Office			
Project design originator	Toby Gane, CAM ARC			
Director/supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher			
Project manager	Toby Gane			
Sponsor or funding body	Bluetree Developments (Private Developer)			
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location and accession number</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)</b>		
Physical	none	none		
Paper	Dacorum Heritage Trust The Museum Store, Clarence Road, Berkhamsted	Site notes, historical background, site photographs, annotated site plans and elevations.		
Digital	As above	Digital Photographs.		
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
Full title	Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Survey at 35-39 Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.			
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## **Summary**

Between 19th and 22nd November 2007, CAM ARC (formally the Archaeological Field Unit) of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted a historical building survey and archaeological monitoring at 35-39, Highfield Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

The proposed development includes the redevelopment of an existing standing building and the erection of an additional dwelling consisting of housing and associated services. The existing buildings are to undergo renovation as part of the development process.

The work was carried out as alterations were taking place within number 39 and prior to redevelopment of land between number 35 and 39.

This work was carried out in response to a verbal brief issued by K Batt from Hertfordshire County Councils Historical Environment Unit. The brief required that a historical building survey was carried out on elements of the existing building which was to be redeveloped at number 39 followed by archaeological monitoring in the area between the buildings.

The historic building survey, together with consultation of cartographic sources dated the earliest phase of the building sometime between 1843 and 1878.

Two test pits were excavated on land between numbers 35 and 39 to look for any evidence of an earlier building on the site or any other archaeological remains. Both test pits revealed layers of garden soil and made up ground, but no archaeological remains were recorded.

Whilst monitoring the removal of the late 20th century extension at the rear of number 39, a well and foundations were recorded. These features were 19th century in date, and may be associated with the earliest phase of construction.



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## 1 Introduction

The work was designed to assess the historical context number 39 Highfield Road, (undergoing internal alterations) and to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found and future historic building work within the area.

This archaeological investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued verbally by Kate Batt of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (Planning Reference 4/02699/07), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC. The Brief required that in addition to the recording of the building at EH Level 2, an archaeological “strip and map” was to be carried out on the land between numbers 35 and 39 Highfield Road due to be developed.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate Hertfordshire store in due course.

## 2 Geology and Topography (from *The Extensive Urban Survey*, by Isobel Thompson and Stewart Bryant, revised edition, 2005)

The town of Berkhamsted lies within the district of Dacorum in the west of Hertfordshire (Figure 1). The town is linear in shape, following the Bulbourne river valley, a major north-west to south-east route through the Chilterns. Through the town, in parallel with the river and the High Street, run both the Grand Union Canal and the West Coast main railway line. North-west of the town itself the High Street becomes that of Northchurch, a village subsumed by post-medieval Berkhamsted. The linear topography has had a powerful influence on the history of settlement in the valley. The main road skirts the edge of the hill; south of the High Street the side streets run straight up the hillside, while on the north side the ground slopes away more gently to the river.

## 3 Historical Background

Notable sites nearby include the presumed route of Akeman Street, the probable Iron Age or Saxon linear earthwork at Grim's Dyke and the Norman defensive works at Berkhamsted Castle. A number of known Roman villa sites scatter the area.

Highfield Road lies outside the medieval core, but only 350m from the medieval core of Berkhamsted. Highfield Road is on one of the side streets which runs off the High Street, straight up the hillside.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential just outside of the medieval core of Berkhamsted itself. The town developed along Akeman Street, and the high street is a mix of buildings from the 16th century onwards, dominated by the 20th century.

The introduction of the railway brought a new prosperity to the town and its population increased dramatically in the 1830s (Thompson and Bryant, 2005). At the time of the 1851 census the southern slopes were almost completely undeveloped, except for Chesham Road, Kings Road and 44 houses in Highfield Road. Highfield Road itself was newly built with artisans houses (Thompson and Bryant, 2005). The Extensive Urban Survey (Thompson and Bryant 2005) lists all historic buildings in the town and mentions one particular building of significance within Highfield Road. The Wesleyan Prospect Place Chapel was opened in 1854 at the lower end of Highfield Road (close to the study area). Railway workers brought Wesleyan Methodism to the town in the mid 19th century. The chapel was taken over by Baptists just two years after opening and had been converted into two cottages by 1874, now numbers 29 and 31 Highfield Road.

## **4 Building Recording Survey**

### **4.1 Methodology**

A site visit was made on 19th November 2007 to carry out historical building analysis of 39 Highfield Road. A full detailed description of all external elevations and all internal dimensions, fixtures and fittings. Photographs were taken using a digital and SLR cameras (black and white and slide film).

To fully understand the context of number 39 and its historical setting, it was also necessary to carry out a brief external inspection of the other properties on Highfield Road taking photographs where necessary.

All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IFA (1999) and was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Scaled architects drawings, supplied by the client were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary.

## **4.2 Building Description**

Number 39 Highfield Road was a two-storey building of brick construction under a gently pitched concrete tiled roof (plate 1). The exterior of the property had been completely covered with a creamy-beige, coarse sand render. The property was adjoining number 41 on one side and had a vehicular access/driveway on the other. At the time of the building recording taking place, the modern extension at the rear was being demolished. Within the rest of the property, all plaster had been removed from the walls, leaving the brickwork exposed and the first floor ceiling had been removed, exposing the roof space. The staircase had been re-sited and the ground floor floorboards had been replaced.

Due to the render covering the external elevation of the building, very few original features can be seen, however, internal inspection provides more clues regarding the history, date and development of the house.

### **4.2.1 External Description**

#### ***Front Elevation***

This north-west facing elevation of the building fronted onto Highfield Road. Due to complete rendering, the brickwork was not visible.

Two three-pane, double glazed UPVC windows were recorded, one on each floor. The windows were both 1.80m wide by 1.02m in height. The area immediately above the window on the ground floor was slightly splayed.

Two courses of brick were visible at the street level of the building, showing the slope of the street that the house was constructed on.

The wooden front door was relatively recent; painted red with brass fittings (letterbox with knocker, central knob and two keyholes).

There was a white plastic gutter beneath a white plastic (?) pediment, with plastic downpipe to the side of the house.

#### ***Side Elevation***

This north-east facing elevation was also completely rendered, and no original features were visible (plate 2). This elevation comprised the side of the original brick-built house and the breeze-block construction extension (being removed at time of visit).

From this side, the pitch of the roof could be fully viewed. The roof pitch was relatively gentle, with a slope of approximately 25-30°.

One two-pane double glazed UPVC window was recorded within this elevation, located within the original build. It measured 1.22m in width by 0.88m in height.

Exploratory groundworks by the developers revealed that the house was constructed on flint foundations. (plate 3)

### ***Rear Elevation***

As the breeze-block extension was removed, some of the original fabric of the rear ground floor of the house was revealed (plate 4). The first floor was completely rendered and the ground floor was best viewed and recorded from the inside.

## **4.2.2 Internal Description**

### ***Ground Floor***

Although much of the ground floor had been stripped and gutted, it was possible to record information regarding details of original construction of the house.

From the inside of the house, to the left of the front door, it was possible to record the construction of the property in relation to number 41, the adjoining house. There was no suggestion that number 39 was contemporary to number 41 as the brickwork shows no evidence that they were keyed into each other (plate 5). The evidence suggests that number 39 was added onto number 41 at a later date. By looking at the internal wall of 39, it could be suggested that this was originally the external wall of number 41 (plate 6). The brick bond was irregular, but mostly Flemish bond with average brick dimensions of 23 x 6.5 x 11.5cm.

Beneath the window at the front of the house, there is evidence of an opening for an earlier window. It appears that modern grey breezeblocks and brick have been used to infill the void and repair the area from which the original window was removed, presumably when the current double glazed window was inserted. The breezeblock and brick repair is evident up to approximately 0.55m below the level of the modern replacement and 0.93cm in width.

There is evidence from the inside of the building that the door is not contemporary with the original construction. The concrete lintel over the doorway is lower than the original wooden ones, which are still in place.

From the inside, it is possible to see the construction of the end wall (that which does not join another property), now that all of the plaster etc has been removed. The unusual construction of this wall (plate 7) comprises brick stringcourses with infill of flint nodules. Although the render conceals the external wall, this wall is presumably faced with brick.

Within this wall a chimneybreast and fireplace was recorded (plate 8). This was of brick construction in a mostly stretcher bond with two courses of headers at the top. The brick arch over the opening has been in-filled at some stage, making the opening smaller. Sooting on the inside suggests it has been in use since this alteration occurred. There was no fire surround or grate. The opening measured 0.92m (width) by 0.50m (depth) by 0.60m (height).

As part of the recent development, the top of the chimneybreast has been cut through by the replacement of the first floor (plate 9).

Beneath the modern window in the end wall (visible from the outside side elevation) is evidence of another fireplace. Although the fireplace and chimneybreast have been completely removed, the curved recess, which would have formed the back of the fireplace was still visible. This fireplace seemed to be smaller in size than the first one recorded, and may represent a small stove for cooking.

The downstairs rear wall of the property has undergone substantial alterations during its lifetime. Within this wall two openings were recorded (plate 10). One opening (on the left as viewed from inside) does not appear to be original and was probably created to give access to the bathroom and lobby in the modern extension. The opening on the right however does appear to be original. The brickwork on one side of the opening appears to have been finished to respect an opening. It does appear however, that the opening was widened to the wall to allow access to the modern extension kitchen area and the long lintel was likely to have been inserted at this point.

### ***First Floor***

The first floor had been completely gutted and stripped of any partitioning walls fixtures and fittings. It was however possible to record evidence of the location of the original chimney breasts which had been noted on the floor below (plate 11 and Plate 12). Both chimneybreasts had been in-filled with grey breezeblock and reused brick. Sooting on the wall suggests that there was a fireplace on this floor, above the existing one recorded downstairs. The rear one however, shows no evidence of having an upstairs opening.



As on the ground floor, it was possible to see that this house was not keyed into the adjoining number 41, and was likely to have been built against it.

Similarly to the ground floor, beneath the window at the front of the house, there is evidence of an opening for an earlier window. (Plate 13) It appears that modern grey breezeblocks and brick have been used to infill the void and repair the area from which the original window was removed; presumably when the current double-glazed window was inserted. The breezeblock and brick repair is evident up to approximately 0.53m below the level of the modern replacement and 0.93cm in width.

The rear wall on this floor has been completely replaced and no evidence of the original wall exists. Some early bricks appear to have been reused in the construction of the wall in places (plate 14).

## **5 Archaeological Investigations**

The objective of this element of the investigation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. In particular, these investigations hoped to establish whether there had ever been a building between numbers 35 and 39.

The Brief required that the land between number 35 and 39 was stripped of all overburden and any archaeology planned. Due to the significant slope of the hill on which Highfield Road is built, it was considered unsafe to remove significant amounts of soil which could potentially make existing structures unsafe. Following consultation with Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Unit, it was agreed that two test pits would be sufficient and should archaeology or building foundations be encountered, further consultation would follow.

### **5.1 Methodology**

Following the removal of the concrete, two test pits were excavated using a mini digger mechanical excavator with a toothed ditching bucket to remove 0.50m of overburden, the test pits were then hand-excavated down to natural. The test pits were located using triangulation from existing buildings.

Following the demolition of the modern extension at the rear of the building and subsequent removal of the floor layers, it was possible to see brick-built foundations at that level. Although this was not part of

the brief, with the developers approval and willing assistance, the area was stripped of overburden and the features recorded.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARCs *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Supplementary digital photographs were also taken using an Olympus digital camera.

## **5.2 Results**

Both test pits were located on the land between numbers 35 and 39 as requested in the brief. The additional area of excavation was located directly to the rear of the original property, beneath the modern extension (Figure 2).

### **5.2.1 Test Pit 1**

Test Pit 1 was located approximately 4m away from Highfield Road. It measured 1.0m by 0.60m. The test pit measured 0.74m down to the natural orange clay and five layers were recorded, described below.

Layer 01 was a mix of gravel, sand and crushed building material, with a maximum thickness of 0.24m. This layer represents a built-up, compacted surface layer.

Layer 02 was very dark, brown-black, rich soil with no obvious inclusions. This layer was a clayey silt with a maximum thickness of 0.14m.

Layer 03 was a narrow band of compacted chalk with no other inclusions. Maximum thickness was 0.10m.

Layer 04 was a compacted greyish-brown clay. There were occasional small stone inclusions. Maximum thickness was 0.17m

Layer 05 was a mid orangey-brown clay with occasional gravel stones inclusions. Maximum thickness was 0.09m.

### **5.2.2 Test Pit 2**

Test Pit 2 was located approximately 1.5m away from Highfield Road. It measured 1.0m by 0.60m. The test pit measured 0.59m down to the natural orange clay and four layers were recorded, described below.

Layer 06 was a mix of gravel, sand and crushed building material, with a maximum thickness of 0.22m. This layer represents a build-up, compacted surface layer.

Layer 07 was a mixed dark, brown-black, rich soil with occasional crushed brick inclusions. This layer had a maximum thickness of 0.12m.

Layer 08 was a compacted greyish-brown clay. There were occasional small stone inclusions. Maximum thickness was 0.15m

Layer 09 was a mid orangey-brown clay with occasional gravel stones inclusions. Maximum thickness was 0.10m.

### **5.2.3 Excavation at Rear of Number 39**

Following the removal of the modern extension, it was possible to identify a number of brick-built features in the ground below (Figure 3 and Plate 15).

#### **Well**

A brick lined well was recorded, located close to the garden wall dividing numbers 39 and 41 (plate 16). This well measured approximately 0.90m in diameter and was lined with a creamy yellow mortar which had been stained black due to the dark deposits within the well. The well was excavated using a mechanical excavator to a depth of over 2.6m, however the base was not found. All material removed from the well was visually scanned; however much of the material which came out was grey roof slate.

#### **Wall Foundations**

Two alignments of brick wall foundations were recorded, likely to be contemporary and were at right angles to each other (plate 17). The foundations were at least two courses and the brick used was a bright orange, frogged brick, measuring approximately 22cm x 10.5cm x 6.5cm. The bricks were bonded using a white, creamy sandy mortar with small crushed flint and gravel inclusions. The alignments of the walls respected the alignments of the existing building and may represent a part, which has been demolished.

#### **Mortar Floor**

There was evidence of a possible floor surface within the area enclosed by the brick walls (plate 17). A light pink and white mortar was recorded within part of the enclosed area and may have extended further had excavation been possible. This layer is likely to represent a mortar to support a floor surface, possibly made of tile. A number of broken red quarry floor tiles were observed during machining, but not retained and may have come from an earlier tiled floor of this outbuilding.

## 6 Discussion

Despite extensive alterations and interior remodelling, number 39 Highfield Road still retains a few original features and indicators of its original fabric and lay out.

From the available evidence, it appears that the original building may have comprised two rooms downstairs. The presence of two fireplaces suggests two separate rooms needed to be heated, or, if that at the rear was a stove or cooking range, then two rooms with different functions could be suggested. There was also evidence of the possible location of a partitioning wall recorded. With many houses of the period, the front room may have provided space for living and eating and the rear room for laundry and food storage and preparation.

Despite the complete replacement of the roof and original timbers, it is likely that the original property had a slate roof. Most of the houses within Highfield Road still retain the original grey slate roofs and this would have been a commonly used material for properties of the mid-late 19th century (plate 18). Excavation of the well at the rear of the house produced a significant quantity of grey slate and it could be suggested that when the roof was replaced, much of the original material was discarded into the well.

The same layout may have applied upstairs. Again there is evidence of a partitioning wall, however, only the front room may have been heated if there was no opening in the rear chimneybreast.

There was evidence within the building that the current stairs are not in their original location. Currently the stairs are accessed from just within the front door, however there are indications by marks on the wall that the stairs, although in this location within the house, were facing the other way and access was gained from closer to the rear of the house (in what would have been the rear room). The current stairs appear to be relatively recent in date and may have been put into this location when the modern extension was added to the rear to allow more space and access.

The excavations at the rear of the property revealed evidence of a previous structure, likely to be associated with the original house. The alignments of the walls respect those of the original house and appear to create a rectangular structure, such as an outside toilet or coal store. The pink-creamy mortar, which was recorded within the floor of the structure, may have supported a tiled floor. A deep well was also recorded next to the outbuilding. This does not appear on the ordnance survey maps consulted and given that the top of it was at the level of the building footings, 28cm below the current floor level, and not higher (as would be expected if for access) it could be suggested that this was

in fact a soak-away or associated with the outside building, and not intended to be seen or regularly accessed from above-ground level.

Cartographic sources can provide valuable information regarding the development and earlier structures associated with the development area as well as the development of Highfield Road itself. With the absence of many datable original features such as doors, fireplaces and windows, maps are one of the most reliable sources for projects of this nature.

The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) clearly shows that number 39 (as it is known today) was present in 1878. This map also shows the presence of a number of outbuildings at the very rear of the plot. There was one large building which appears to be larger in size than number 39 itself and seems to house a well (denoted by a “W” on the map). There was another building which appears to be sub-divided into four. It is also clear that there was an extension to the rear of the house, the layout of which would correspond to the brick foundations recorded in the excavation.

By 1898 (Figure 5), there does not appear to have been any changes made to the main building and the large outbuilding remains, however, three of the four small buildings have been removed.

The 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1925 (figure 6) shows no change and by the 4th edition, 1938 (figure 7), all of the outbuildings at the rear have gone and the development area appears much as it does today.

The historic maps available suggest that there was never a “number 37” Highfield Road and the plot between the present number 35 and 39 has always been undeveloped and belonged to number 39. We can only speculate as to why number 35 had a larger parcel of land compared to the other terraced properties which continue up the hill, which, although slightly earlier in date, appear moderately contemporary. It is possible that number 39 had another function, other than for domestic dwelling and as such required more land, possibly with access from the road. The presence of the outbuildings at the rear visible on the early Ordnance Survey maps, may suggest that the building had a small scale industrial use such as a blacksmiths or a bake-house. A search of the Kelly’s Directories was made using online resources, but no relevant information was found. The census data for 1871 was also studied, however it does not list house numbers on Highfield Road, making it impossible to identify any trade or activity, which may be going on at number 39. Several trades were mentioned however, which could have been associated with the outbuildings such as a carpenter, a hoop maker and a boat builder. Further documentary research may be necessary to fully establish the property’s earliest use.

The earliest available map showing Highfield Road is the Tithe Map of 1843 (figure 8). Tithe maps were the first systematic mapping survey of most of the land in England and Wales, as compared to estate maps which were for limited private use. They were made before the Ordnance Survey produced the large scale 25 inch to the mile series of maps. The colour pink on tithe maps is used to indicate an inhabited building and outbuildings are coloured grey. Due to the lack of scale on tithe maps, it is difficult to exactly locate the position of the current development area, however, it is approximately within an area, which seems to be undeveloped at the time.

By comparing the tithe map and the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map, it is possible to see the scale of development in Highfield Road and surrounding streets. It is almost impossible to recognise any of the buildings on the tithe map still present by 1878, with the exception of those, which join the High Street. Highfield Road appears to have developed over a relatively short period of time, with development expanding up the hill, away from the High Street, presumably as land for development became more in demand. Historical research has already stated that Berkhamsted saw a boom in development following the introduction of the Railways in the mid 19th century, and therefore the need for workers/artisans houses grew and so developments like those in Highfield Road began to appear around this time.

The architectural styles of properties in Highfield Road vary greatly, most appear to date to the early-mid 19th century and post second world war. The Wesleyan Chapel (plate 19) (see historical background) dates to 1854 and may be one of the earliest surviving buildings on the road. Numbers 33 and 35 (plate 20) also appear to be earlier in date than most of the other terraced properties on the road. The double-hung sash windows at number 33 are original and are found in many houses built during the 19th and early 20th century. The row of terraces to the right of the study area appears to be contemporary in date (plate 21 and 22). They are all built using the same brick type and all in a Flemish bond. The detail recorded within number 39 suggests that it is later than the others on the row, however, probably only by a few years.

## **7 Conclusions**

Despite the restricted size of the test pits excavated, they do provide an important piece of evidence; that it is unlikely that there was an earlier building on the site, in particular number 37; the cartographic evidence from the early editions of the Ordnance Survey supports this. It can only be assumed that when the house numbers were allocated there was perhaps an intention to construct an additional property, or



that a number was allocated to the plot in anticipation of future development.

The additional excavations at the rear have provided evidence of part of the building, which can be matched to that shown on early maps, and were likely to be part of the original build, possibly an outside toilet.

Number 39 has been stripped of most of its original features, however, some evidence remains regarding its character and development. With the aid of maps and considered within its setting, number 39 can be dated between 1843 and 1878. The property has always had a large plot of land to the side and rear and originally had a number of outbuildings, possibly for a trade or small industrial use. The fact that number 39 has a possible outside toilet attached, whereas the other properties on the terrace to the right have lavatory blocks at the rear of a shared outside yard, provides further evidence that this house is later.

The house itself was a simple “two up, two down” with a living room at the front on the ground floor, heated by an open fire and a room at the rear for cooking, washing etc, with a simple small stove. There was also a door at the rear to the outside where there was access to the lavatory and to the outbuildings at the very rear of the plot. Upstairs were two bedrooms. A phase of major redevelopment was undertaken, possibly in the 1990s, when all original windows were replaced and a new one put in at the side. The chimneybreasts were removed on the first floor and the small fireplace in the rear room of the ground floor was removed. The location of the stairs was also changed and the downstairs partitioning wall was removed. The breezeblock extension was built at this time and the entire back wall was radically altered (and entirely re-built upstairs) to allow for a new kitchen and bathroom. The evidence of grey breezeblock throughout suggests that all the alteration work took place at the same time. The property was then covered in render to conceal the alteration and repair.

In conclusion, this building recording and archaeological investigation has provided interesting results. Documentary and cartographic research has provided evidence, although not conclusive, that number 39 may originally have had more than a simple residential use and possibly served as a business in the late 1870's. By the late 19th century, only the well remains and the outbuildings have gone, suggesting that there was no longer a business here.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit.



## Acknowledgements

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The brief for works was verbally issued by Kate Batt.

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1898 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile – 2nd edition	Sheet XXXIII.5
1925 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile – 3rd edition	Sheet XXXIII.5
1938 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile – 4th edition	Sheet XXXIII.5

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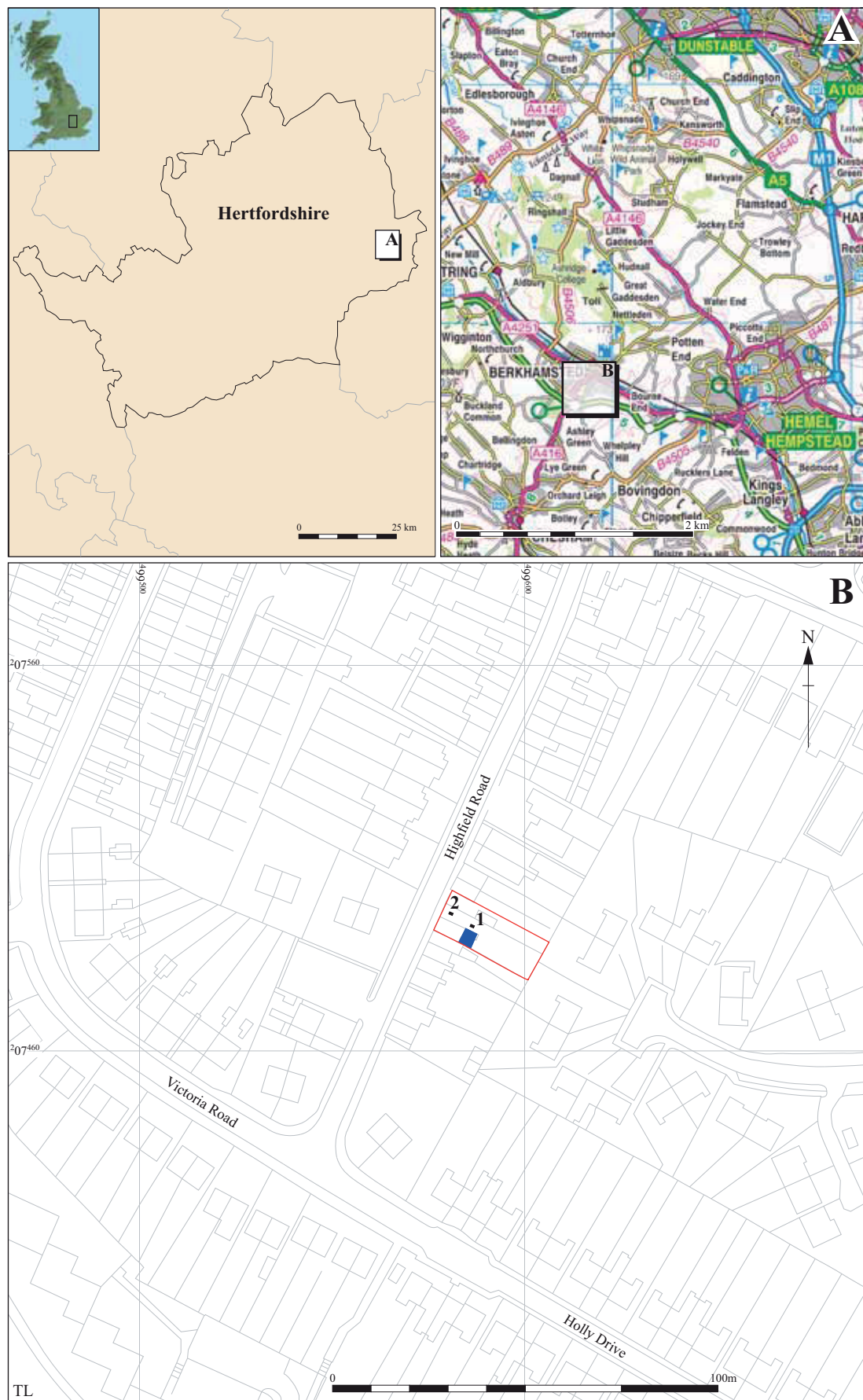
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**Figure 1: Location of trench (blue) with test pits 1 and 2 (black) and development area outlined (red)**



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*Figure 2: Development area ,showing archaeological excavation and test pits*

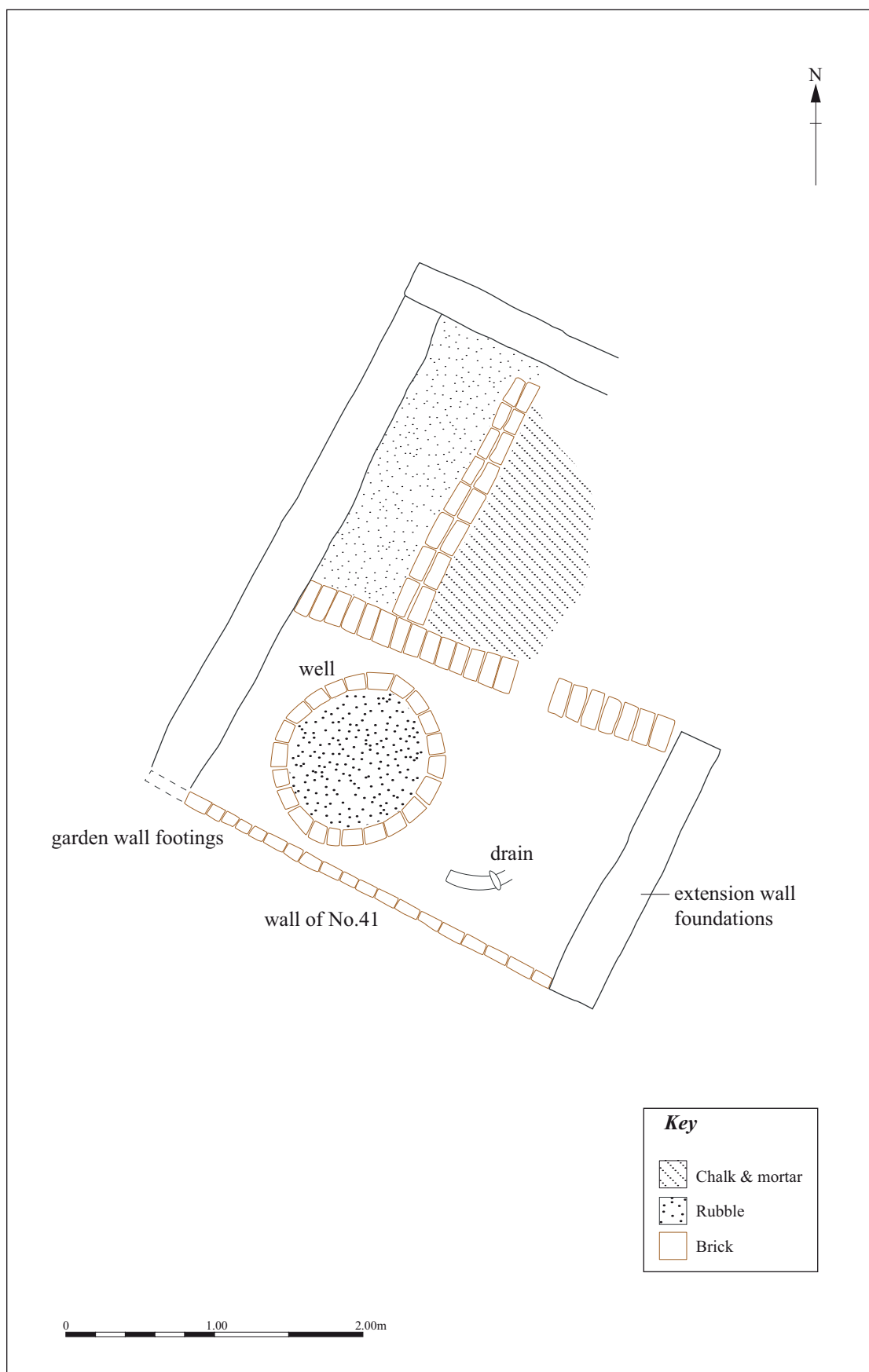
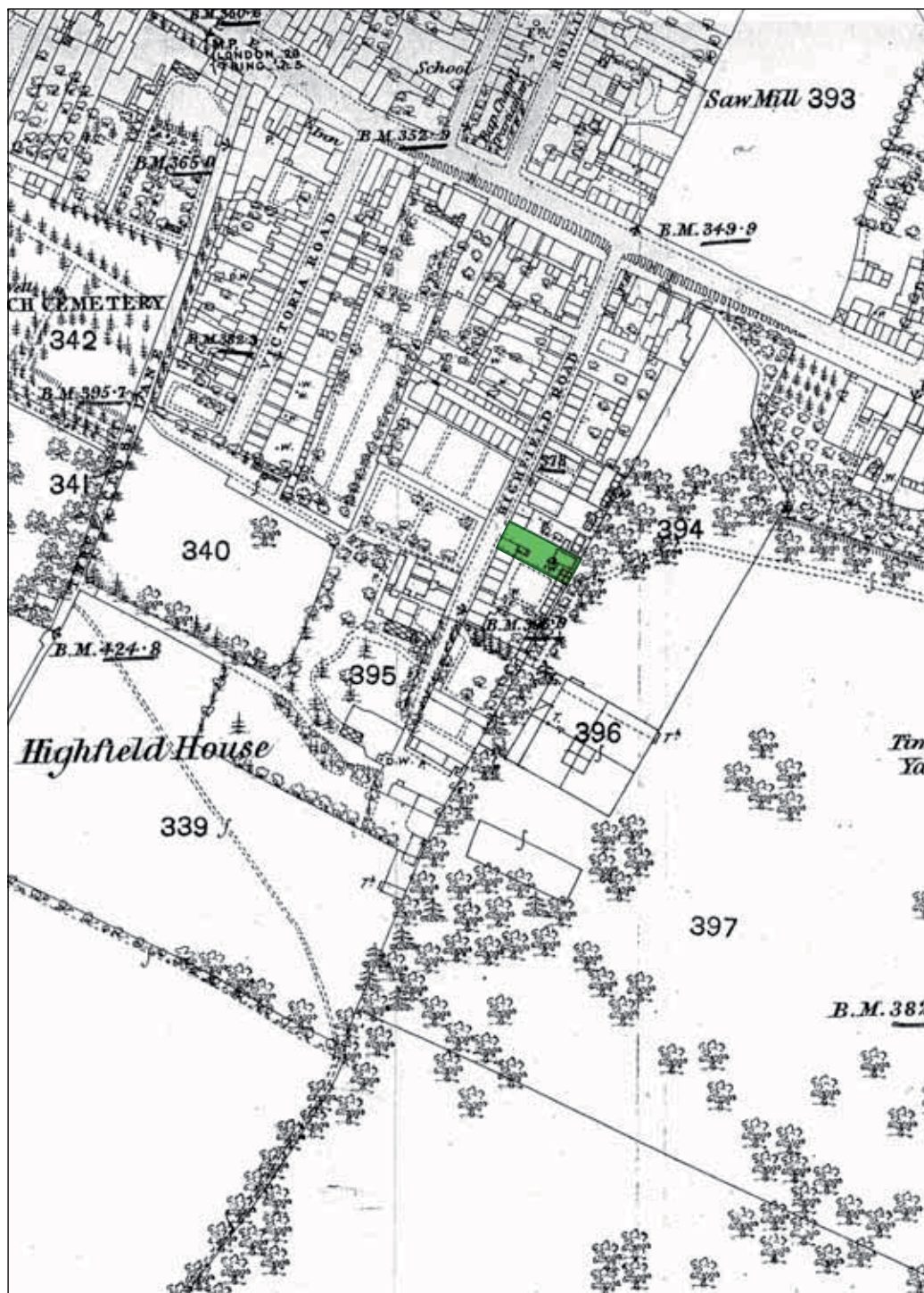


Figure 3: Excavation area

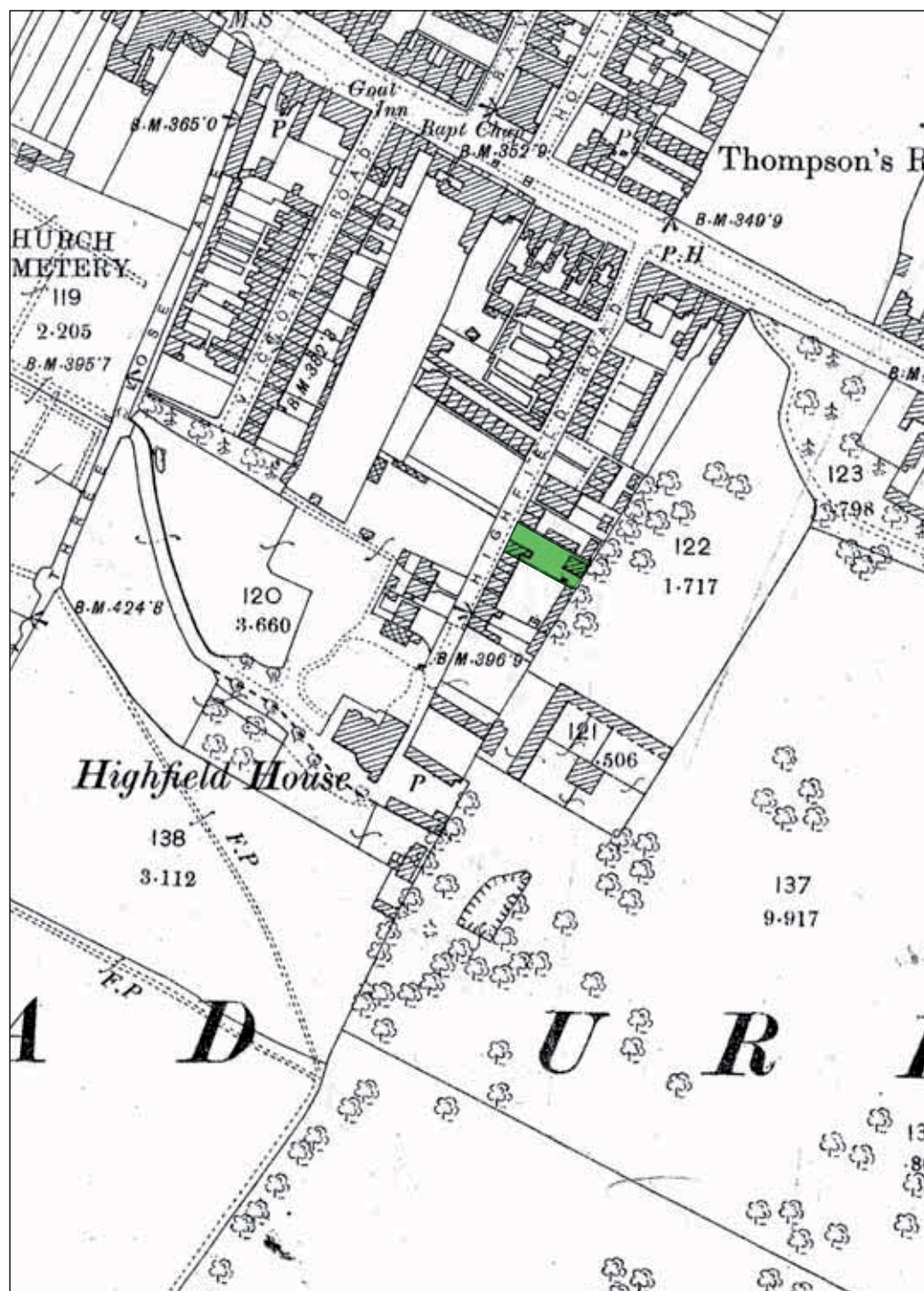




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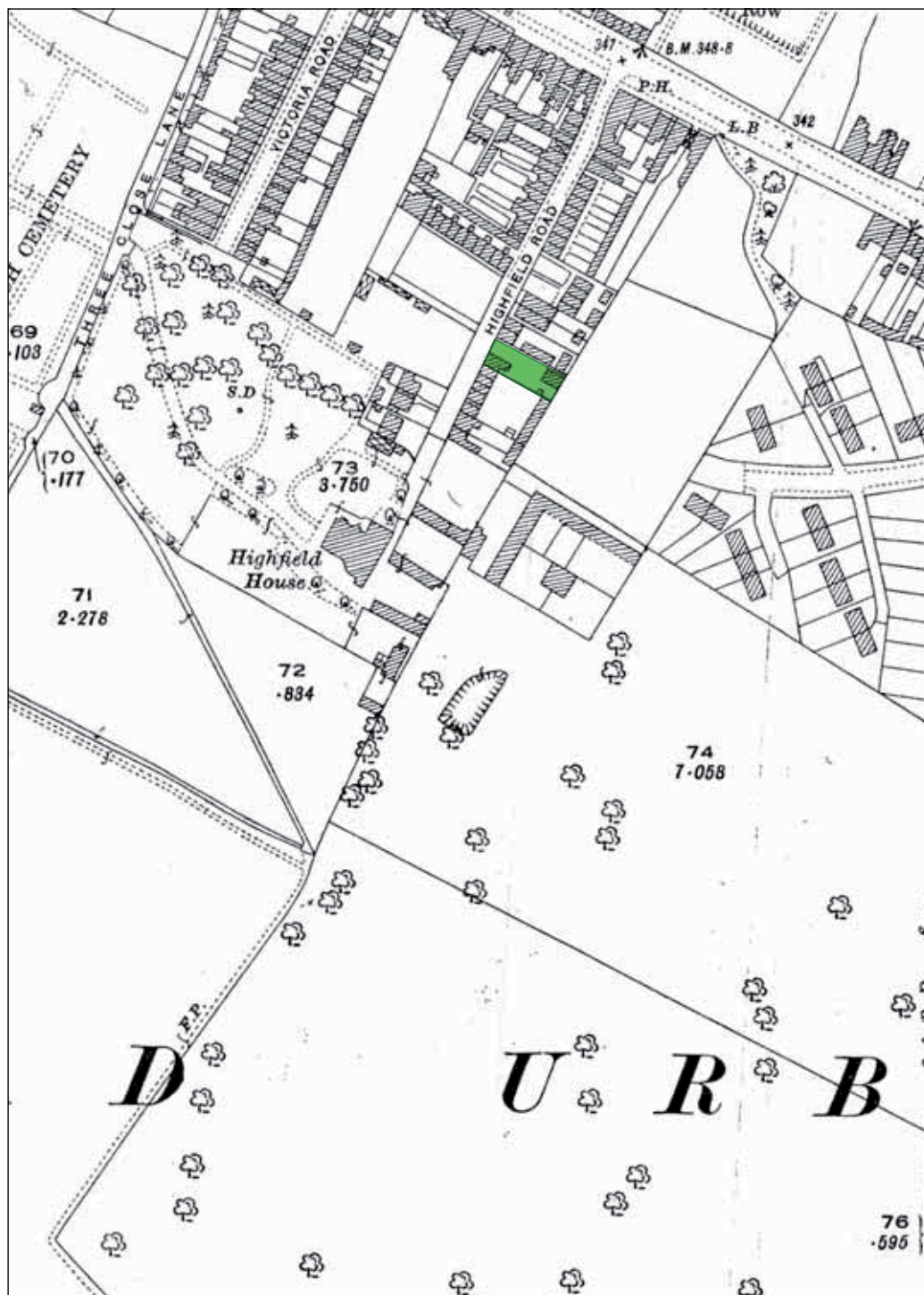
Figure 4: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1878





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Figure 5: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898



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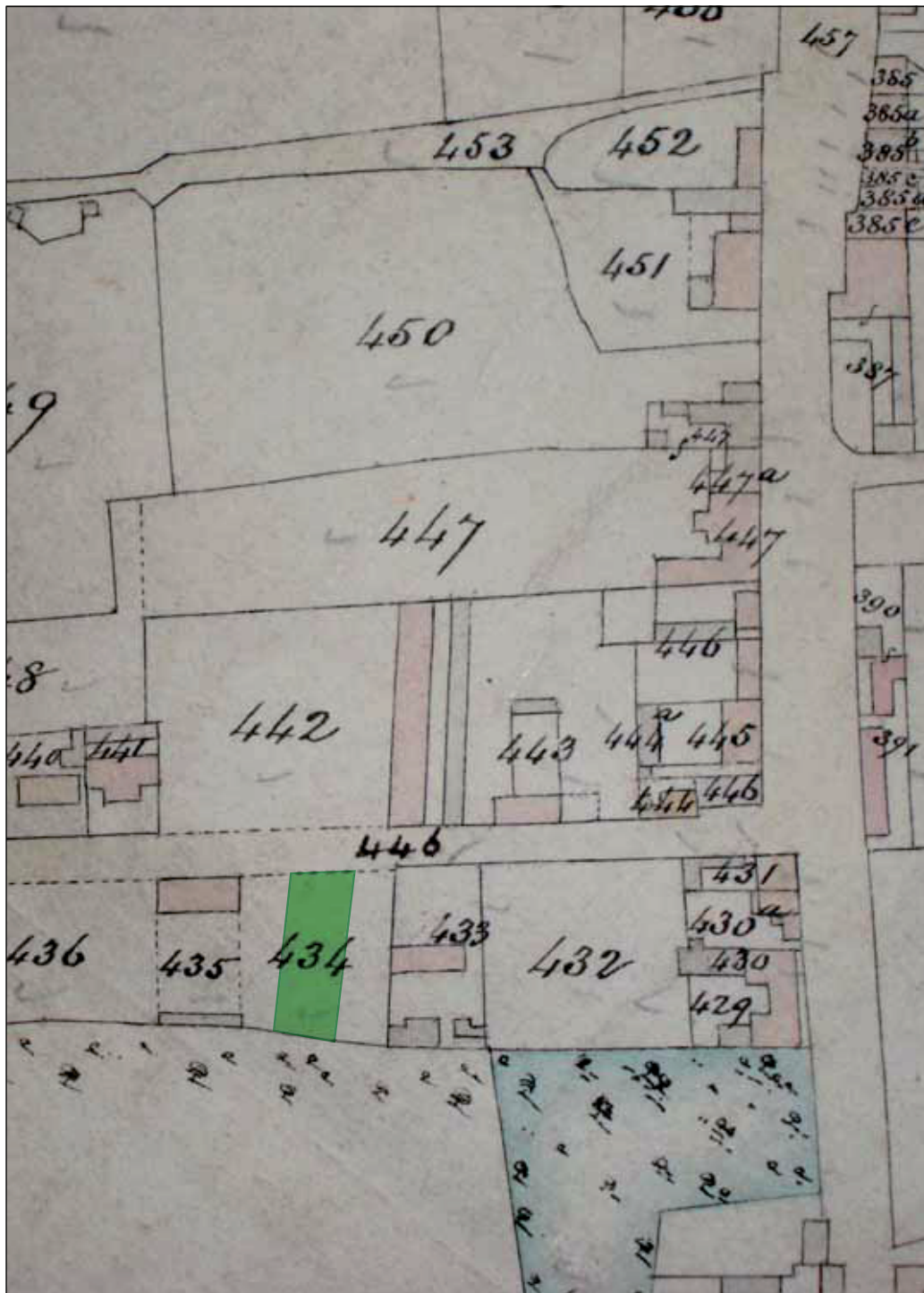
Figure 6: 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1925





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Figure 7: 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1938



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Figure 8: Tithe Map c.1843





Plate 2: Side elevation



Plate 1: Number 39, Highfield Road



*Plate 3: Flint foundations*



*Plate 4: Rear elevation*





*Plate 6: External wall of number 41*



*Plate 5: Internal brickwork between numbers 39 and 41*





*Plate 7: Internal wall detail*



*Plate 8: Fireplace*



*Plate 9: First floor cutting through chimneybreast*



*Plate 10: Rear wall (from inside)*





*Plate 11: First floor front fireplace and chimneybreast (removed)*



*Plate 12: First floor rear chimneybreast*



*Plate 13: First floor window, showing location of earlier window below*



*Plate 14: First floor rear wall from inside*





Plate 16: Well



Plate 15: Excavation area





*Plate 17: Brick foundations and mortar*



*Plate 18: Highfield Road, looking downhill*



*Plate 19: Former Wesleyan Chapel*



*Plate 20: Numbers 33 and 35 Highfield Road*

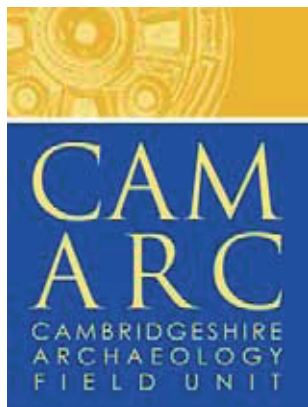




*Plate 21: Highfield Road*



*Plate 22: Highfield Road*



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