GREAT TOMKYNS TOMKYNS LANE UPMINSTER LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING





FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT November 2009

GREAT TOMKYNS TOMKYNS LANE UPMINSTER LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

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GREAT TOMKYNS

TOMKYNS LANE

UPMINSTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Client: Mr Cliff Fox

NGR: TQ 56673, 89528

Site Code: GTK 05

Planning Ref: P1708.06.

ECC FAU Project No.: 1737 Oasis No.: essexcou1- 23229

Date of Fieldwork: 8th, 9th and 11th September 2009, 28th and 29th October 2009 and 3rd

November 2009.

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster during groundworks for a new kitchen extension on the north-west side of the house and a new gymnasium and garage c. 50m to the south-west. Great Tomkyns itself is a 15th century timber-framed hall-house situated in a rectangular moated enclosure. The aims and objectives of the project were to establish the nature, extent and character of archaeological remains in relation to the medieval and later use of the site.

The earliest activity identified dates to the Tudor period or the 17th century and is evidenced by pit 3 in the kitchen extension which contained one brick of this date. A clay pipe bowl from ditch 12, in the gymnasium and garage extension, also attests to 17th century activity. The remaining features comprised late post-medieval pits, a possible path and a short length of a drainage system. Several modern features, including a surface and postholes, were also present.

No evidence relating to the medieval construction of the hall or the moat was encountered. It is likely that any medieval activity was focussed closer to the house and barn.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out at Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster, London Borough of Havering during groundworks for a new kitchen extension on the north-west side of the house and a new gymnasium and garage, 50m to the south-west. The evaluation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of the landowner, Mr Cliff Fox.

As the site was located within an area of archaeological and historical significance, an archaeological condition was placed on planning consent (planning application ref: P1708.06), following advice given by English Heritage's Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS). The investigation was carried out in accordance with this condition and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2007) and approved by EH GLAAS.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client (with a copy for the local planning authority), the London Borough of Havering Local Studies Library and EH GLAAS. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited with the London Archaeological Archives Resource Centre (LAARC).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and geology (Fig. 1)

Great Tomkyns is located in a rural location some 2.5km to the north of the centre of Upminster, in the London Borough of Havering. The area in the immediate vicinity of the house is flat and comprises garden borders, pathways and lawn. To the west of the house is a swimming pool surrounded by decking and to the immediate north of the house, the location of the new kitchen extension, a paved patio. The new gymnasium and garage extension is located in the south-west corner of the property, currently part of the lawn, which sloped down to the south-west with a fall of roughly 4m.

The underlying geology comprises clay, silt and sand of the Claygate member, part of the London Clay formation.

2.2 Archaeology and history (Fig. 1)

Great Tomkyns is a listed timber-framed hall-house of two storeys constructed in a half H-shaped plan and built in the 15th century with later additions. South of the house is a 17th-century timber-framed barn with a thatched roof (RCHME 1923). The house was originally enclosed within a rectangular moated enclosure of probable medieval date, part of which survives to the north and east of the house.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site of a new fishpond in the grounds of Great Tomkyns in 2005 (GLSMR ELO6700). No archaeological features or deposits were identified, although the presence of two 13th/14th-century pottery sherds did attest to medieval activity in the vicinity.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks.

3.2 Objectives

If significant remains had been identified, research objectives for the project would reflect those set out in *A research framework for London archaeology 2002* (Nixon, T. *et al.* 2002).

 The specific objective was to characterise the setting of the medieval moated site.

4 METHOD

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken in two stages coinciding with two stages of development. The first phase of monitoring was conducted on the foundation trench for the kitchen extension and associated groundworks. Monitoring visits were co-ordinated to coincide with episodes of foundation cutting. The entire foundation trench was observed and an additional trench excavated for the redirection of an existing drain pipe.

Archaeological monitoring was subsequently undertaken on the ground level reduction in the north-eastern end of the new gymnasium and garage extension, and the cutting of the northern and western footings. The south-eastern footings were not monitored due to the presence of several drains in the north-eastern area of the site.

Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 1997; 2001) and complied with Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in London (EH GLAAS 1999).

5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 Kitchen extension (Fig.s 1 and 2)

The foundation trench for the new kitchen extension extended 2.5m north of the house and for 7.8m east/west. The trench was approximately 1.25m deep and mainly 0.5m wide apart from the western arm which was 0.4m wide. The overburden consisted of up to 0.3m of concrete above a further 0.3m to 0.4m of heavily disturbed and mixed dark grey and brown silty clay containing frequent small to medium pebbles, fragments of modern brick and mortar flecks. Within this deposit were a series of north/south aligned modern ceramic drain pipes of which two were encased in concrete. A further drain pipe was noted running east/west along the length of the trench. Natural light orange clay-silt streaked with light grey was exposed directly below the mixed clay and pipes.

One feature (3, Plate 1) cutting the natural was identified at the west end of the trench. This was over 2m wide and 0.7m deep and continued below the base of the trench. As the feature was not present in the drain pipe redirection cut to the north of the trench it was most probably a pit. It had two silty-clay fills (1 and 2) and contained a few small fragments of post-medieval peg-tile and a fragment of post-medieval brick. Beneath the concrete in the north-east of the trench was a localised deposit of speckled brown and yellow clay (4) that contained occasional small fragments of roof tile and a broken fragment of animal bone (not retained) that had a modern appearance. Deposit 4 overlay a distinctive dark red to

reddish brown silty clay (5, Plate 2) containing crushed/decomposed fragments of roof tile. The deposit was just over 1m wide and appeared to fill a slight hollow. Traces of this deposit

were observed extending along the side of the eastern arm of the trench indicating that it may have been part of a linear feature, such as a path. Underlying deposit 5 in the northern section of the trench (not illustrated) and overlying natural was a pebbly band of dark brown silty clay (6).

The pipe redirection trench was 5.8m long by 0.3m wide by 0.55m deep and was located just to the north of the new kitchen foundations. Bright orange clay silt natural was exposed in the base of the trench and no features were observed. Limited ground reduction also took place within the footprint of the new kitchen extension but did not disturb the archaeological horizon.

5.2 Gymnasium and garage extension (Fig. 4)

The area of ground level reduction comprised $10m \times 14.5m$ (max.) in the north-eastern end of the building footprint. Up to 0.4m of topsoil was removed followed by up to 0.35m of the natural clay. The footings were then excavated across the building footprint.

A late post-medieval ditch (12, Plate 3), gully (18) and pit (16) were revealed during the ground reduction process. Pit 16 was located in the north-western end of the site and extended beyond the western baulk. It yielded two fragments of post-medieval peg-tile and its southern edge was truncated by a root channel.

Gully 18 extended south-westwards from the north-eastern limit of the area and contained two fragments of tile. Ditch 12 was situated to the south of gully 18 and was cut at its south-eastern edge by a gravel drain. A large patch of root disturbance impacted upon its north-western edge. The south-western end of the ditch was not identifiable and may therefore have terminated close to the excavated segment, however a slight discolouration in the natural indicated that the feature extended further and petered out. Gully 18 and ditch 12 were aligned north-east to south-west and may have originally intercut, however the removal of a small tree destroyed any evidence of their relationship. Finds retrieved from its only fill (deposit 13) included pottery, animal bone and brick/tile. A residual fragment of a clay pipe bowl dated from 1660 to 1760.

A modern posthole was situated to the west of ditch 12 and contained the remains of its post and a 1/3 pint United Dairies milk bottle.

An area of modern activity was identified in the north-eastern area of the site, but was not excavated. The earliest feature comprised a surface (feature 20, deposit 21) aligned north-

east to south-west made of crushed brick, tile and chalk, possibly similar to deposit 5 in the kitchen extension. It was cut along its south-eastern edge by linear feature 22. Both features contained modern finds, including modern bricks, garden tool parts and plastic (not retained). Two large square postholes (24 and 26), both containing charcoal and asphalt fills, were cut through surface 20 and linear 22.

The south-eastern area of the site contained several large drains and a modern pipe, all of which were aligned north-east to south-west (these do not show on figure 4 as they were reburied immediately after discovery by the building contractor). One possible post-medieval pit (28, Plate 4) was identified at the south-eastern corner of the north-east to south-west aligned gymnasium footing. The cutting of the footing damaged its north-western extent but it did not appear to extend beyond the footing. A small fragment of clay pipe stem was retrieved.

6 FINDS

Finds were recovered from two stages of work and the results from both are presented by stage below.

6.1 Kitchen extension

Small groups of finds, solely comprising post-medieval brick and tile fragments, were recovered from two contexts. The material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

Brick and tile

A total of eight fragments, weighing 937g, was recorded, with bricks forming the largest part. A small piece of post-medieval roof tile was retrieved from the topsoil and a similar

piece came from the fill 2 of pit 3. Pit 3 also produced five brick fragments, the largest of which is misshapen and was submitted to the brick specialist for comment, as follows;

6

Brick fragment from fill 2, pit 3 by Pat Ryan

Part-brick, red, misshapen, with irregular rounded arrises, creased faces, the rough base is vegetation-marked, one upper corner depressed and grass-marked. The fragment appears

to have been dropped on a corner when it was being tipped out of the mould on to a surface for drying-out. The piece is likely to be either Tudor or 17th century in date.

6.2 Gymnasium and garage extension

Finds were recovered from five contexts; the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described briefly by category below.

Pottery by Helen Walker

Five sherds of modern pottery, weighing 26g, were recovered from a single context, the fill 13 of ditch 12, and comprise a hooked rim sherd from a flowerpot and sherds of transfer-printed white earthenware.

Brick and tile

Small pieces of post-medieval roof tile, total weight 116g, were found in three contexts and a section of brick came from the fill of ditch 12. The regular sides and the depth of the brick indicate a 19th or 20th century date, contemporary with the pottery.

Glass

Two contexts produced single pieces of glass. A small, green, later post-medieval bottle body sherd came from the fill of ditch 12. The second item, from the fill of post-hole 14, is a near-complete, colourless, ½ pint-size milk bottle, embossed with 'United Dairies'. This type of bottle was commonly used in recent times (until the 1970s) for the provision of milk to school children.

Clay pipes

Post-medieval clay tobacco pipes were recovered from two contexts. A bowl fragment, heel missing, was found in the fill of ditch 12. The shape of the heel scar indicates a date between 1660 and 1760. A small piece of pipe stem came from the fill of pit or ditch 28.

Animal bone

Ditch 12 produced seven fragments of animal bone, weighing 158g. Most of the fragments belong to a single cattle metatarsus in relatively poor surface condition.

6.3 Comments on the assemblage

Small groups of post-medieval and modern finds were recorded. The earliest find is the squashed brick in pit 3. Pat Ryan notes that, although the brick was damaged during manufacture, it would have been used as a filler behind, or within, a decently-constructed outer wall.

No further work is required on any of the material and none of the finds needs to be retained beyond the archiving stage. The glass and the smaller brick and tile fragments have already been discarded following recording, although the milk bottle can be retrieved if the landowner wishes the finds to be returned.

7 DISCUSSION

Two post-medieval features, pit 3 and path 5, were identified in the area of the kitchen extension. The pit may have been the earlier of the two as it contained part of an unusual-shaped brick of Tudor or 17th-century date. The path represented by the crushed/decomposed tile in deposit 5 appears to lead from the rear of the house. The path does not now align with any existing doorways but the rear of the house has been extensively altered in modern times.

The majority of features were revealed in the gymnasium and garage extension in the south-western area of the site. Two pits, a ditch and a gully were late post-medieval in date and represent the earliest activity in this area of the site. The remaining features related to the late 20th century use of the grounds.

8 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The earliest archaeological features encountered dated to the post-medieval period and comprised a possible path, three pits, a gully and ditch. The possible path and one pit were located in the area of the kitchen extension, with the remaining four located in the area of the new gymnasium and garage. Pit 3 is probably the earliest feature as it contained a Tudor or

17th century brick. A residual clay pipe bowl within ditch 12, to the south-east of pit 3, dated to between 1660 and 1760 and may have been contemporary.

The majority of features encountered during the groundworks for the gymnasium and garage extension were located in the north-eastern area of the development, significantly at the top of the steeply sloping garden. The topsoil located along the slope had thinned due to soil erosion, thereby indicating that any archaeological remains may have been truncated and destroyed over time. Ditch 12 and gully 18 were aligned north-east to south-west, as were the majority of modern drains. They both sloped down the hill and were probably used for site drainage.

No features dating to the medieval period were identified and therefore the setting of the medieval moated site could not be characterised in detail. The current investigation confirmed that the likely focus of medieval and post-medieval activity was in the area to the front of the hall-house and the barn. The area of the kitchen extension was peripheral to the main area of medieval and post-medieval activity, being located to the rear of the hall-house. This is further supported by the lack of medieval features within the gymnasium and garage extension, c. 50m to the south-east of the hall-house. The relatively steeply sloping land in the south-western area of the property is likely to have confined the majority of activity within the northern area of Great Tomkyns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) would like to thank Mr Cliff Fox for commissioning the work. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Phillippa Sparrow of the ECC FAU. Finds were analysed by Joyce Compton, Helen Walker and Pat Ryan. The report was prepared by Trevor Ennis and Phillippa Sparrow with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Patrick Allen and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by David Divers of EH GLAAS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE	1990	Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning. HMSO
ECC FAU	2009	Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief on the New Garage/Gymnasium and Kitchen

		Extension at Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster. Essex CC FAU project design
EH GLAAS	1999	Guidance Paper 3. Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in London
Gurney D.	2003	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14
IfA	1997	Code of Conduct. Institute of Field Archaeologists
IfA	2001	Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (revised). Institute of Field Archaeologists
Nixon, T., McAdam, E., Tomber, R. and Swain, H.	2002	A research framework for London archaeology 2002. Museum of London Archaeology Service
RCHME	1923	An inventory of the historical monuments in Essex. Vol. 4 [south-east]

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

New Kitchen Extension

Context	Туре	Description	Period
1	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.6m thick	Post-medieval
2	Fill	Mid brown to mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.7m thick	Post-medieval
3	Pit	0.5m+ x 2m x 0.7m+ deep	Post-medieval
4	Layer	Speckled brown and yellow clay, 0.06m thick	Modern
5	Layer	Dark red to reddish brown silty clay, 0.06m thick	Post-medieval?
6	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, 0.17m thick	Post-medieval?

New Gymnasium and Garage

Context	Туре	Description	Period
11	Layer	Dark brown slightly clayey silty, 0.39m thick (max)	Modern
12	Ditch	5m+ x 0.74m+ x 0.26m	Post-medieval
13	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay, 0.26m thick	Post-medieval
14	Posthole	0.50m x 0.35m x unexcavated	Modern
15	Fill	Dark brown silt and decomposed wooden post.	Modern
16	Pit	1m+ x 0.65m+ x 0.26m	Post-medieval
17	Fill	Mid brown grey silty clay, 0.26m thick	Post-medieval
18	Gully	2.75m+ x 0.25m x 0.10m	Post-medieval
19	Fill	Light orange grey silty clay, 0.10m thick.	Post-medieval
20	Cut	Cut for surface, 7.5m x 1.35m+ x 0.12m	Modern
21	Fill	Red crushed brick and tile with chalk.	Modern
22	Linear	6.5m+ x 0.6m+ x unexcavated.	Modern
23	Fill	Grey clay.	Modern
24	Posthole	1.5m x 1m+ x 0.33m	Modern
25	Fill	Black charcoal and possibly tarmac?	Modern
26	Posthole	1.5m x 1m+ x 0.33m	Modern
27	Fill	Black charcoal and possibly tarmac?	Modern
28	Pit/Ditch	0.6m+ x 1.42m x 0.35m	Post-medieval
29	Fill	Mid brown grey silty clay.	Post-medieval

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Finds data (Kitchen extension)

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	3	1	745	Brick fragment; width 110mm, depth 55mm; appears to be chamfered (but may be just squashed) along the upper long edge; the 'chamfer' is heavily scored with straw impressions; grass impressions also on lower surface	Tudor or early 17th C
		4	120	Brick fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	38	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
4	Topsoil	1	34	Roof tile fragment, with peg hole (Discarded)	Post med.

Finds data (Gymnasium/garage extension)

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
13	12	7	158	Animal bone; cattle metatarsus, joining fragments, incomplete; fragments, inc foot bone	-
		1	2	Glass; green bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Modern
		1	6	Clay pipe bowl fragment, heel missing	Post med.
		1	42	Roof tile fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	326	Brick fragment, depth 60mm	Post med.
		5	26	Pottery; flowerpot rim sherd; modern white earthenware, transfer-printed with non-oriental designs, inc part of a saucer with a scalloped edge, and a sherd with a grey transfer-print	1830s to 20th C
15	14	1	192	Glass; colourless milk bottle, ½ pint size, near-complete, embossed 'United Dairies' (Discarded)	Modern
17	16	2	44	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
19	18	1	30	Roof tile fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
29	28	1	2	Clay pipe stem	Post med.

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster, London Borough of Havering:

Archaeological Monitoring

Site Code: GTK05

Index to Archive:

- 1. Introduction
- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation
- 2. Research Archive
- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports
- 2.3 Finds archive data
- 3. Site Archive
- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 29 excluding 7-10)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 Photographic Registers
- 3.6 Site Photographic Record ((1 Set of colour print-outs + digital images on disk)
- 3.7 Miscellaneous notes/plans
- 3.8 A4 plans and sections (4 sheets)

Not in File

No large items

Finds

No finds were retained.

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

This is the main page of the OASIS form, the form is split into sections as listed below.

You can fill as much or as little of each section in at any one time. Once you have filled in a section completely, please tick the **completed** box at the bottom of that section. The form will then check to see that all the mandatory fields (marked with a *) have been completed. If this is the case it will return to this page, if not it will ask you complete the missing fields.

There are some fields that **must** be filled in: the project name, the location and your name and email address.

Please note: the form entries are only saved when the **Save record** has been pressed. If you leave the form inactive for over 30 minutes any entries will be lost, this is to retain the security of your username and password.

OASIS ID: essexcou1-23229

?Project details

Add or edit entries

Project name Great Tomkyns, Upminster:Archaeological Watching Brief

Short description of the project

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster during groundworks for a new kitchen extension on the north side of the house and a new gymnasium and garage to the south-west of the house. Great Tomkyns itself is a 15th century timber framed hall house situated in a rectangular moated enclosure.

The aims and objectives of the project were establish the nature, extent and character of archaeological remains in relation to the medieval use of the site. The earliest activity identified dates to the Tudor period or the 17th century and is evidenced by Pit 3 which contained one brick of this date. A clay pipe bowl from Ditch 12 also attests to 17th century activity. Further interpretation is impossible. The remaining features attested to late post-medieval activity and comprised pits and a short length of a drainage system. Several modern features were also present. No evidence relating to the construction of the hall or the moat was encountered. It is likely that any medieval activity was focussed closer to the house.

Project dates Start: 15-02-2007 End: 03-11-2009

Previous/future work

Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes

Report 1517 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type PIT Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type GULLY Post Medieval

Monument type PATH Post Medieval

Monument type Surface Modern

Significant Finds **BRICK Post Medieval**

Significant Finds TILE Post Medieval

Significant Finds **POTTERY Post Medieval**

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval

Significant Finds Clay Pipe Stem Post Medieval

Significant Finds Glass Modern Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Status Incomplete

? Project Add or edit entries location

Site location GREATER LONDON HAVERING UPMINSTER Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane,

Upminster

Study area 150.00 Square metres

Site coordinates NGR - TQ 56679 89520

LL - 51.5822236627 0.261632396847 (decimal)

LL - 51 34 56 N 000 15 41 E (degrees)

Point

? Project Add or edit entries creators

Name of Organisation Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit

Project brief originator

Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit

Project

Patrick Allen

director/manager

Project supervisor Trevor Ennis

Project supervisor Phillippa Sparrow

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Landowner/developer

? Project archives

Physical Archive London Archaeological Archive Research Centre

recipient

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Glass', 'other'

Digital Archive

recipient

London Archaeological Archive Research Centre

Add or edit entries

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available

'Text'

Paper Archive recipient

London Archaeological Archive Research Centre

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available

'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Unpublished Text'



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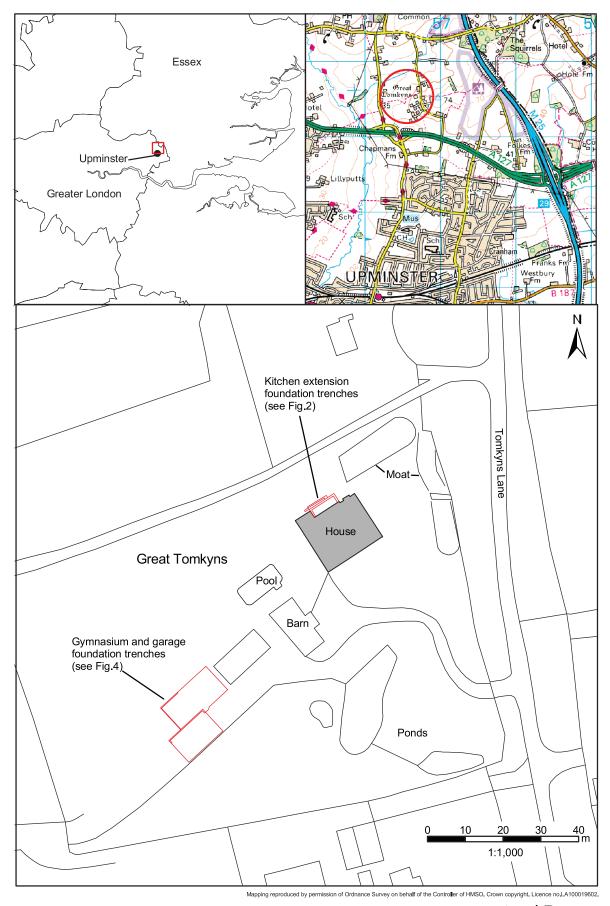


Fig.1. Site location



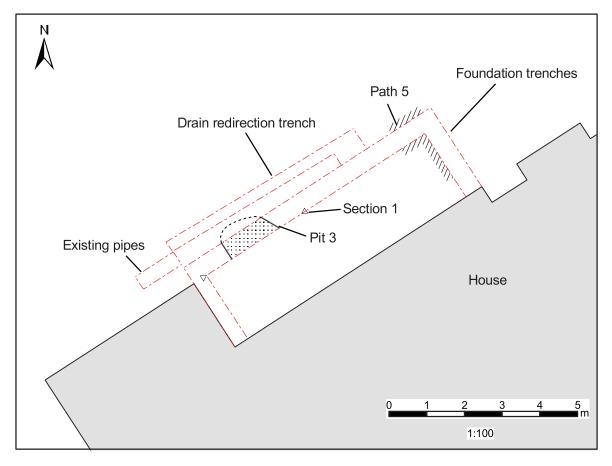


Fig.2. Kitchen extension foundation trenches

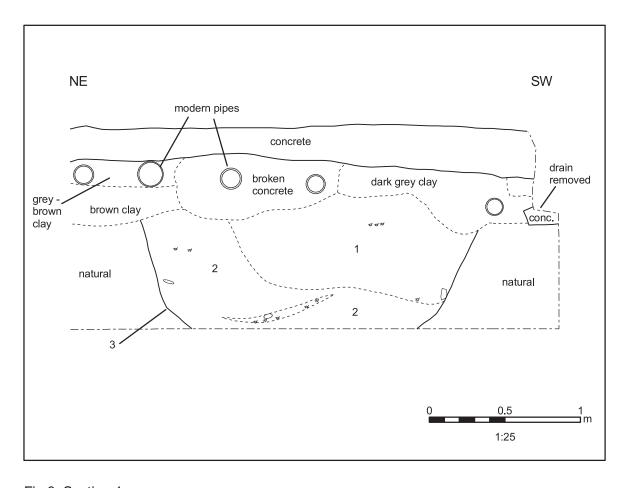


Fig.3. Section 1



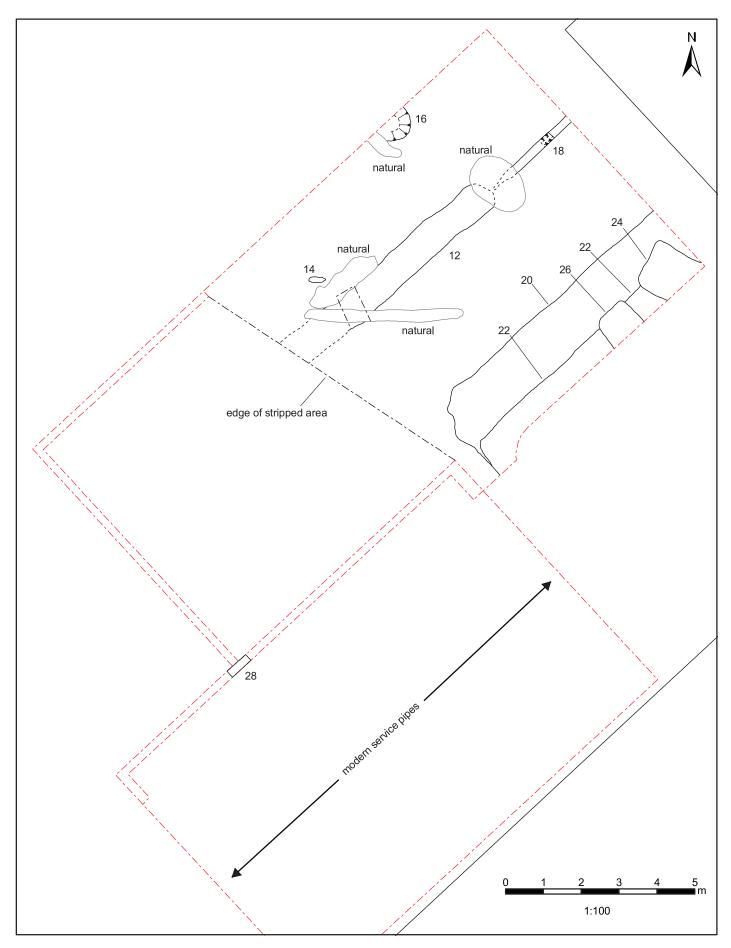


Fig.4. Gymnasium and garage foundation trenches





Plate 1. Pit 3. Kitchen extension. Looking south-east. 1m scale.



Plate 2. Layer 5. Kitchen extension. Looking north-west. 1m scale.



Plate 3. Ditch 12. Gymnasium and garage extension. Looking northeast. 0.5m scale.



Plate 4. Pit 28. Gymnasium and garage extension. Looking south-east. 1m scale.