

**ST LEONARDS
BLACKMORE ROAD
FRYERNING
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MARCH 2011

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Document Ref.:	1976 Rep
Report Issue Date:	March 2011
Circulation:	Architectural Services
	ECC HEM team
	Essex Historic Environment Record

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**ST LEONARDS
BLACKMORE ROAD
FRYERNING
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

Client: Architectural Services

NGR: TL 6259 0070

Site Code: INSL08

Oasis No.: 51250

Dates of Fieldwork: 22nd September to 2nd October 2008 and
22nd to 30th June 2009

SUMMARY

Archaeological fieldwork was carried out at St Leonards, Fryerning in advance of, and during, a series of proposed building and landscaping works. St Leonard's House was built in 1804 (EHER 26540), close to the site of one or possibly two earlier properties, which are depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map of Essex under the title of Brick House. The property is also the possible site of a Dominican priory recorded by Speed at Ginge-atte-Stone in 1611 (EHER 19222).

The earliest artefact from the site was a flint scraper of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date that was found as a residual find in a later context. However, no archaeological features of prehistoric date were identified nor any dating to the Roman, Saxon or medieval periods. A few sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery were recovered but again as residual elements in later contexts. There was no evidence to firmly link the site with that of the medieval priory recorded by Speed in 1611.

The earliest foundations exposed on the north side of the house contained bricks dated as Tudor or early 17th century. Many of the bricks were clearly reused and were most probably salvaged from the demolition of Brick House prior to the construction of the present house in 1804. The earliest excavated features, a clay extraction pit in the evaluation trench to the north of the house and the remains of a possible T-shaped boundary ditch junction to the east, are both likely to be 18th century contemporaries of Brick House.

With the exception of a natural feature and an undated ditch in the evaluation trench most of the remaining features dated to the 19th or 20th century. The foundations constructed from Tudor/early 17th century bricks are almost certainly part of the north side of the 1804 house which was demolished in 1935. To the north of the house was a contemporary exterior yard surface constructed from buff and cream-coloured malm bricks and a brick-lined well under the lawn. Possibly also contemporary or perhaps dating to later in the 19th century were a set of brick steps at the edge of the terrace and a single brick step revealed in front of the western window, all to the south of the house, and a boundary wall between the lawn and shrubbery to the north.

Later foundations on the north side of the building were comprised of brick and concrete and represent later 19th and early 20th century additions and alterations to this side of the building which were demolished in 1935 and rebuilt on a reduced footprint. Also of later 19th and early 20th century date were a number of drainage features and the partially exposed remains of brick outbuildings to the west.

Overall, no archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered during the course of the fieldwork. A few remains of 18th century date were identified that pre-date the construction of St Leonards in 1804, however, the vast majority of remains appear contemporary with the use of the house in the 19th and 20th centuries..

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in advance of, and during, a series of proposed building and landscaping works at St Leonards, Fryerning. The fieldwork was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Architectural Services (Anthony Slee), acting for the owners, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM 2008) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken in response to a condition placed on planning consent by the local planning authority (Brentwood Borough Council) which required a programme of archaeological fieldwork to take place in advance of, and during, a series of proposed building and landscaping works (Planning Refs.: BTW/562/2008 and LB/BRW/1/08). These works consisted of the remodelling of the interior of the house, the reconstruction of the northern side of the house (demolished in 1935), the demolition of the existing pool area, the construction of a new pool in its place and the re-modelling of parts of the gardens and the driveways.

The site archive will be deposited in Chelmsford Museum. 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>).

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

St Leonards House (TL 6259 0070) is located on the Blackmore Road, approximately 2.5km to the north-west of Ingatestone. The site comprises a large Regency house, various more-recent extensions and associated stables, gardens, driveways and parkland, including a large lake.

The underlying geology consists of Claygate Member (London Clay Formation) deposits of clay, silt and sand.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This archaeological and historical background is based on information held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER 19222) shows that the proposed development lies on the possible site of a Dominican priory recorded by Speed at Ginge-atte-Stone in 1611. Ginge-atte-Stone comprised the parishes now known as Ingatestone and Fryerning. However, the evidence suggesting that St Leonards is the site of the priory is largely circumstantial. In 1913 there was a mound in the grounds of St Leonards containing quantities of flint, pudding-stone and other stones and bricks, some of which were removed to make the large rockery nearby. Some of the stones showed signs of having been worked and it is possible that they had derived from a substantial building. In the orchard nearby there were signs of old foundations, an old well and a probable mill-dam, as well as a door of 'ecclesiastical design' in the engine house.

St Leonard's House was built in 1804 (EHER 26540), on the site of one or possibly two earlier properties, which are depicted on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 under the title of Brick House (Fig. 2). There was a house in Fryerning in 1488-91 known as Lennardes or Leonardes, but it is not known whether this was located on the site of the present St Leonards, or on the site marked as Leonards (now Little St Leonards) on the 1777 map. Little St Leonards is recorded as an early 17th century timber framed house (EHER 26539).

A number of alterations and additions were made to the rear of St Leonard's House prior to the demolition of this part of the structure in 1935 and its subsequent rebuilding. The modern extension on the western side of the house, containing a lounge, conservatory and basement gym, is believed to have been constructed in the 1980s.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The general aim of the investigation was to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area. More specifically, to preserve by record the archaeological deposits that would be destroyed by the development, and to explain their role in the history of St Leonards.

3.2 Research objectives

In the event that significant archaeological deposits were encountered the report would aim to place the results in context with the research objectives laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). As few archaeological remains were encountered the results have little potential to contribute to any of the research objectives.

4.0 METHOD (Fig. 1)

Due to the complexity of the development programme the design brief (ECC HEM 2008) had subdivided the site into several individual areas (A - E). Specific archaeological works undertaken within each area are detailed below. There was some variation to the scope of the groundworks required within each area over time, for example, ground reduction to the south of the house covered a smaller area than originally proposed.

Area A - Extension on the northern side of the house

Wall foundations exposed in a previously stripped area were cleaned and archaeologically recorded.

Area B – Demolition of modern extension, basement gym & pool, new extension

Minimal archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the demolition of the modern extension and pool, and part of a new service trench to the north-west was monitored. No monitoring was undertaken on the foundations for the new pool extension as this area had been thoroughly disturbed by the previous modern extension and its basement gym.

Area C - The garden parterre to the south of the house

Modern overburden and topsoil was stripped from the terrace and garden to the immediate south of the house under archaeological supervision. In addition, the demolition of a set of modern steps to the south of the house revealed a sequence of earlier brick steps which were archaeologically recorded.

Area D - Parking area to the front of the house

The parking area to the front (east) of the house was stripped of a covering layer of tarmac and hardcore to the required depth under archaeological supervision.

Area E - Lawn north of the house (site of proposed water feature)

One 20m long evaluation trench was excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide flat-bladed bucket. The trench was cleaned and potential features were hand-excavated.

All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England

(Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 1, 3 - 6)

A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified and are described below. Additional context information is presented in Appendix 1.

5.1 Area A (Fig. 3)

The exposed wall foundations ran either parallel to or at right angles to the existing house which is aligned north-east/south-west. Two differing types of wall foundation were present. The earliest type, represented by wall foundation 3, was located in the east of the area. This comprised a 5.4m length of north-east/south-west aligned foundation, 0.44m wide by 0.44m deep and constructed from three courses of brick laid on edge (Plate 1). The upper two courses were laid vertically whereas the lowest course protruded 0.04m on either side of the foundation. Each course of bricks was bonded by a layer of hard yellowy grey-brown mortar which was quite sandy in places. Virtually no mortar had been applied to the sides of the bricks and which were gappy and easy to prise out. Most of the bricks appeared to have been reused as many had traces of a different buff-coloured lime mortar adhering to them. Four sample bricks were recovered for examination, all were dated as Tudor or early 17th century in date.

Situated just over 2m south of wall foundation 3 was a small truncated stub of wall (4) also constructed from Tudor or early 17th century bricks. The wall was 0.45m wide and visible as three courses of brick. The bricks had two types of mortar adhering to them and were clearly re-used. It is possible that this wall fragment is contemporary with wall foundation 3, possibly part of the return wall of the same structure. A second un-associated stub of wall (8), composed of a single line of flat header bricks of Tudor or early 17th century date bonded with light grey lime mortar, was recorded some 10m to the south-west.

At the southern edge of the exposed area were the partial remains of a brick surface (5) constructed from buff and cream-coloured malm bricks of late 18th or early 19th century date. Three rows of bricks laid as headers were visible with traces of a fourth row of on-edge header bricks forming the north side. The bricks were laid on a thin bed of orange sand.

The second type of foundation (6), in the west of the area, consisted of up to four stepped courses of frogged bricks set on a thick layer of concrete (Plate 2). The foundations ran for

9.6m north-east/south-west (parallel to the existing house) and for at least 3.7m north-west/south-east (at right angles to the existing house). The external foundations were c. 0.5m wide and the two internal ones c. 0.4m wide. The bricks were bonded by hard light grey mortar containing flecks of flint, brick and lime. These foundations probably date to the later 19th or earlier 20th century and represent additions to the rear of the building.

Two other truncated wall stubs (7 and 31) were recorded at the southern edge of the exposed area. The date of the bricks in either wall was undetermined. The more substantial of the two, wall 31, was aligned with the edge of the existing building and had concrete adhering to its northern edge.

The truncated remnants of three inter-cutting drainage structures (9, 10 and 11) were exposed at the south-west end of the site. Drain 9 consisted of a base of flat peg tiles with sides of on-edge stretcher bricks. Only two bricks survived in situ but the former positions were marked by two parallel lines of mortar. Drain 10 was composed of two parallel lines of stretcher bricks. Both drains were constructed from frogged bricks. In the corner of the trench was a heavily disturbed, and possibly L-shaped, third drain constructed from unfrogged header bricks of 18th or early 19th century date overlying an on-edge stretcher brick and loose brown silt infill.

The area was crossed by several modern service trenches. Three obvious ones are depicted on the plan and a fourth at depth was believed to run along the southern side of the site and was presumably responsible for the truncation to the ends of walls 4, 6, 7, 8, 31 and the edge of surface 5.

5.2 Area B (Fig. 1)

Limited monitoring was undertaken on the removal of the swimming pool and during part of the demolition of the modern lounge/conservatory/underground gym extension on the west of the house. No archaeological features were observed. However, a number of fragmentary pieces of walling were recorded in a new drainage trench to the north of the area. On the south side of the drainage trench was a jumbled piece of wall (33) c. 0.8m high constructed mainly from unfrogged red bricks of 18th or early 19th century date bonded with a buff-coloured lime mortar (Plate 3). In amongst the bricks were a couple of thinner examples of possible Tudor or early 17th century date. To the west of the wall were the remnants of a possible surface (34) constructed from flatter charcoal-covered flooring bricks. On top of this floor was a poorly-defined lump of masonry (35) constructed from unfrogged cream-coloured bricks, similar to those in surface 5, and pinkish bricks bonded with a buff-coloured mortar.

In the east of the trench was a more substantial, east-west aligned wall (36) constructed from red bricks again bonded with buff-coloured mortar (Plate 4). The entire wall was some 0.8m high, consisting of c. 0.4m of rendered wall sitting on a further c. 0.4m of slightly projecting foundation. Traces of a truncated fragment of possible southern return wall were noted at its eastern end. The ground on both sides of wall 36 had been disturbed. To the north of the wall part of a modern drainage pipe was visible beneath a thick deposit of dark grey backfill. The drainage pipe aligned with a series of manholes located to the rear of the house.

5.3 Area C (Fig. 4)

Some ground reduction was undertaken to the south of the main house. This involved the removal of modern patio deposits from the terrace immediately adjacent to the house and the demolition of most of the wall retaining the terrace, including a set of modern splayed steps. Ground reduction was also undertaken in a c. 2m wide strip on the southern (lower) side of the retaining wall; the site of a former rose border.

The work commenced with the demolition of the modern splayed steps, beneath which the partly surviving remains of an earlier set of brick steps (31) were revealed (Plate 5). The set of steps was 3m wide and c. 1.8m long and consisted of three steps – the bottom step (at lower ground level), steps one and two, and traces of side walls. The steps were composed of rows of 34 header bricks laid on their sides and bonded with light grey mortar. An additional four header bricks to either side had traces of the very truncated mortar and brick remains of the side walls upon them. The bottom step consisted of two rows of header bricks whilst steps one and two, which were both damaged, consisted of three rows apiece. Steps one and two were each approximately 0.18m high and consisted of two courses – the upper of the header bricks on their sides and the lower mostly consisting of header bricks and the occasional stretcher brick laid flat. All bricks were red in colour, unfrosted where visible and measured 220-230 mm by 65-67 mm by 100 mm, suggesting that they most likely date to the early 19th century.

Further ground reduction of the terrace and retaining wall revealed a further four rows of red header bricks (32) at a higher level c. 1.6m to the north. These bricks appeared to be remnants of the top (upper ground level) step and possibly part of a brick path leading towards the French windows in the centre of the south front of the house. No further traces of path were noted to the north of the planned bricks as the area had been disturbed.

The reduced ground level over the terrace in general did not reach the archaeological horizon but did demonstrate that the area was disturbed, with modern brick rubble and sand

observed. The top of a possible 19th century brick step constructed mainly from yellow unfrosted bricks was exposed in front of the western French windows in south front of the house (Plate 6). An east/west drainage trench was noted crossing the terrace with a square modern brick inspection chamber. The demolished terrace retaining wall was constructed from yellow and red frosted bricks and occasional re-used unfrosted examples on a wider concrete foundation. Natural gravel was exposed to the south of the wall and appeared to be root disturbed in places. No other archaeological features were observed.

5.4 Area D (Figs 5 & 7)

Ground reduction was carried out beneath the former driveway and parking area to the east of the main house. Asphalt and underlying modern make-up/levelling layers were removed from an area of approximately 250 square metres. Revealed beneath the modern deposits in the west of the area was a layer of greyish brown clayey silt subsoil containing occasional patches of gravel. Beneath the subsoil, and directly exposed in the eastern half of the reduced area, were mixed natural deposits of clay and gravel that varied in colour from bright orange/brown to light grey. Two irregular linear features (26 and 30) and a curving brick drain (27) were identified. Linear feature 26 was aligned roughly north/south and appeared to cut through the subsoil on its western side. It was approximately 17m long by 4m wide and at least 0.25m deep, possibly deepening to the north, and filled with a mid to dark grey silty clay that became browner where the feature narrowed to the north. The clay was quite organic and contained fragments of decayed wood and roots. A small number of post-medieval finds were recovered including five sherds of pottery, the latest of which dated to the early 18th century.

Adjoining the eastern side of feature 26 and cutting natural clay and gravel was a second feature (30), aligned roughly east/west. This was over 7m long by 2.8m wide and appeared to widen-out to the east (Plate 7). Although below the required depth of excavation it was investigated by means of a small sondage and found to be over 0.6m deep (Fig. 7, Section 4). The top of the feature had been deliberately in-filled with compacted brown clay and pebbles (28). Beneath was a fill of mid to dark grey silty clay (29) similar in smell and its organic composition to fill 25 but considerably greater in depth. Traces of decomposing roots and sticks were again noted along with two small fragments of post-medieval roof tile (not retained).

In the south of the area was a curving drain (27) composed of two courses of un-mortared frosted bricks, of probable early 19th century date, overlying flat roof tile. The drain was over 4m long by one brick length (c. 0.22-24m) wide and 0.16m deep. It was a simple box

construction of side by side headers overlying two parallel lines of stretcher bricks laid on edge over a tile base. Scant remains of a second, possibly earlier, drain were noted. These consisted of a shallow 0.05m deep linear depression filled with tile-flecked dirty brown clay at the east end of which were two fragmented pieces of roof tile.

Also noted in the north of the area was an east/west aligned modern service trench backfilled with re-deposited brown clay and fragments of frogged brick.

5.5 Area E (Figs 6 & 7)

A north-west/south-east aligned evaluation trench measuring 20m long by 1.5m wide by 0.38m deep was excavated in Area E. The southern two thirds of the trench were cut through lawn and the northern third through a cleared and slightly raised former tree and shrub border. The overburden in the south consisted of turf and dark grey silt topsoil and in the north, the topsoil was browner and heavily root disturbed.

The earliest feature in the trench was a large pit (20), over 6m in length and 0.42m deep (Fig. 7, Section 2). It was filled with greyish brown silty clay that contained 17th/18th century pottery, post-medieval brick and roof tile and a residual worked-flint scraper. The pit had a vertical northern side, a stepped eastern side and a flat bottom (Plate 8). It is possible that the pit was dug for clay extraction as it cut through a layer of natural clay and bottomed out onto underlying gravel.

At the northern end of the trench was a shallow north-west/south-east aligned ditch (17). This was 0.71m wide by 0.19m deep and was heavily root-disturbed (Fig. 7, Section 1). No finds were recovered from its light greyish brown clay silt fill (16).

In the centre of the trench was a small stretch of east-west aligned wall foundation (18), over 0.6m long, and comprised of a single course of alternating whole and half bricks bonded by a pale cream to light buff mortar. Traces of mortar continued beyond the extent of the bricks to the west suggesting that the feature had been truncated in this direction. The whole bricks measured 230 mm by 110 mm by 65 mm and were unfrogged with smooth surfaces and probably dated to the 18th or early 19th century.

Two semi-circular pits (12 and 15) were also recorded, both continued beyond the edge of the trench. Pit 12 was located just to the south of wall foundation 18 and was 2.7m long and over 0.42m deep (Fig. 7, Section 3). It was filled with mid greyish brown silty clay (13) that produced two sherds of modern window glass, post-medieval red earthenware pottery and

fragments of post-medieval roof tile. Pit 15 was located in the southern half of the trench, cutting pit 20, and was 3.28m long but only 0.10m deep (Fig. 7, Section 2). It had a well-defined dark grey silt fill (14) that contained fragments of coal and a variety of clearly modern finds including pottery, bottle and window glass, a fragment of light bulb and an airgun pellet. Pit 15 was most likely part of a circular planting hole or garden bed.

At the southern end of the trench was a second feature (24), with a dark grey silt fill (23) similar to that in pit 15, that also produced clearly modern finds. This feature was vaguely sub-rectangular in plan and very shallow at only 0.08m deep. It may be part of a garden feature or simply an area of modern disturbance intruding from the topsoil.

One probable natural feature (22) was investigated to the north of wall foundation 18 where the trench cut through a former tree and shrub border. The feature appeared as a shallow, 0.08m deep, concave depression with a root-disturbed greyish brown clay silt fill (21). No finds were recovered.

Subsequent to the excavation of the evaluation trench the top of a brick-lined well was discovered beneath the lawn a short distance to its west. Access to the well was restricted for safety reasons by a secured horizontal Heras fence panel. The well had a surface diameter of 1m gradually widening out with each course of bricks to about 1.5m after six courses after which it continued down vertically. The depth of the well was not determined. The bricks were crisp and red and appeared to be unfrogged, no mortar was visible. It was not possible to accurately measure the bricks, which could be anywhere from 17th to early 19th century in date, more probably the latter as the location of the well to the rear of the main house suggests that it is most likely a contemporary feature.

6.0 FINDS REPORT by Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from thirteen contexts. All of 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.

6.1 Pottery

A total of thirty sherds weighing 787g was recovered from seven contexts, most of this is modern, but some earlier material is present. Two medieval sherds were found in pit 15, comprising unglazed body sherds of Mill Green Fine Ware and Medieval Harlow Ware datable to the mid 13th to mid 14th centuries. A further sherd of Mill Green Fine Ware has been tentatively identified in pit 12, but is very small and abraded. Linear feature 26 produced a flanged rim in Mill Green-type Ware, a later version of Mill Green Ware, which may be 14th century or later. All these finds were residual in later features. Finds of Mill Green ware are to be expected as the production sites lay only 1-2km to the north-east. Medieval Harlow Ware is largely confined to west Essex, and here is at its eastern limit of distribution. Features 15 and 26 also produced sherds of Tudor Red Earthenware, one showing traces of slip-painting, and as the name suggests this dates to the later 15th to 16th centuries. It may also have been manufactured in the Mill Green/Stock area.

Pit 12, pit/quarry 20 and linear feature 26 appear to date to the post-medieval period, as all produced Post-Medieval Red Earthenware including Black-Glazed Ware and, from feature 26, Metropolitan Slipware. However modern window glass was also found in pit 12, so here the pottery may be residual. Metropolitan Slipware, decorated with slip-trailed patterns, was introduced around 1625 and both Black-Glazed Ware and Metropolitan Slipware remained popular until the earlier 18th century. Also found in feature 26 was a sherd of English tin-glazed earthenware showing blue and iron-red painted decoration, which may date to the earlier 18th century and this is the most likely date for deposition of this material. Post-Medieval Red Earthenware dating to the 17th century or later was also found unstratified (context 1).

The remaining material is modern dating to the 19th to 20th centuries, with finds comprising Creamware, Parian Ware, Ironstone China, Yellow Ware, Slipped Kitchen Earthenware and fragments from flowerpots (from pit 15, depression 24, and unstratified context 2). Parian Ware, an opaque glass-like porcelain popular for making figurines, is essentially Victorian and two of the Ironstone China vessels are decorated with floral transfer-prints which became popular from the 1830s, so are probably also Victorian.

6.2 Brick by Pat Ryan

Samples of each brick type were collected, totalling nine bricks, plus three brick fragments, which have a total weight of 23kg. They have been recorded according to Ryan and Andrew's typology of brick in Essex (Ryan 1996, 91-6). The bricks from walls 3, 4 and 8 are of Tudor or early 17th-century date. Most have two types of mortar on them *i.e.* lime mortar and a mud-coloured mortar. This suggests that they have been reused. The buff and cream-coloured bricks from surface 5 are later 18th century or early 19th century. These bricks were very popular in the second half of the 18th century or early 19th century. The frogged brick from drain 27 is probably early 19th century.

The fragment from fill 25 of linear feature 26 is more likely to be a 17th century or Tudor brick than a later one and surface indentations are therefore more likely to be accidental impressions from vegetable matter, rather than from some form of metal stamp.

6.3 Tile

A total of fifty-four fragments of roof tile weighing 2739g was excavated from six contexts. Several show pegholes, and one from pit/quarry 17 (fill 20) shows a hoof print from a sheep or goat. All the tile appears to be post-medieval.

6.4 Glass

A total of eight pieces of glass, weighing 271g was excavated from three contexts. Most comprises modern window glass, modern bottle glass and a fragment of glass from a light bulb. However, feature 26 produced a large fragment of dark green glass from the base of a cylindrical wine bottle dating to the post-medieval period.

6.5 Flint by Hazel Martingell

A scraper was recovered from context 19, the fill of pit/quarry 20 (SF2). The scraper, on a secondary flake, shows retouch half way round, across the distal end and down both sides. It is probably Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age in date. As it was found in a post-medieval context, it may have been collected and reused as a strike-a-light. The scraper has been drawn.

6.6 Other finds

The most interesting find is a copper-alloy jetton of Hans Krauwinkel datable to the 17th century (SF1) found unstratified (context 1). There are also fragments from an undated iron blade from ditch 17 (fill 16) and pieces of slate from pit 15 (fill 14).

6.7 Comments on the assemblage

The earliest evidence for human activity is the prehistoric flint scraper, possibly re-used in the post-medieval period. The pottery evidence, although somewhat sparse, broadly indicates activity from the medieval (?) through to the post-medieval and modern periods. The brick analysis shows that a building composed of ?reused Tudor or early 17th century bricks stood here, with evidence of building work in 19th and 20th centuries. Finds of pottery, bottle glass and the 17th century jetton attest in general to activity in the post-medieval period.

No further work is required on the finds. Discarded finds comprise the glass, modern pottery, and other modern finds. Modern bricks and the smaller fragments of brick and tile have also been discarded. The finds occupy two boxes.

7.0 DISCUSSION (Fig. 8)

The earliest evidence for human activity recovered from the site was the flint scraper of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. The scraper was found as a residual find in a post-medieval context and may have been picked-up and re-used as a strike-a-light in the post-medieval period. No archaeological features of prehistoric date were identified nor any dating to the Roman, Saxon or medieval periods. A few sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery were recovered again as residual elements in later contexts, whilst these do perhaps attest to activity in some form on the site in the medieval period, they do little to confirm the presence/absence of the Dominican priory.

The earliest foundations exposed on the north side of the house (Area A) contained bricks all dated as Tudor or early 17th century. Many of the bricks were clearly reused and were most probably salvaged from a near-by structure. The clear candidate for the origin of these bricks is the dwelling referred to as Brick House on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map which is depicted as standing closer to the road junction, to the north-east of the present house. Brick House was most probably constructed in the 16th or early 17th century and demolished prior to the construction of the present house in 1804.

A number of residual finds such as the Tudor red earthenware and the unstratified 17th century Jetton are likely to be contemporary with the use of Brick House. The clay extraction pit (20) in Area E that contained 17th/18th century pottery is also likely to be a contemporary feature as are the two irregular linear post-medieval features (26 and 30) in Area D. Features 26 and 30 were located to the immediate east of the main entrance to the present

house. The awkwardness of their position in relation to the house and the recovery of further sherds of 17th/18th century pottery strongly suggesting that they had been in-filled prior to its construction. Both of these features contained decomposing organic matter (roots and sticks) and at one time may have contained water. Whilst it is possible that these were water features of a garden variety it is more likely that they are the remains of a T-shaped ditch junction at the western boundary of the Brick House property. Their position does broadly equate with boundaries visible on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map.

With the exception of undated ditch 17 in Area E most of the remaining features dated to the 19th or 20th century. The foundations constructed from Tudor/early 17th century bricks in Area A are almost certainly part of the north side of the 1804 house which was demolished in 1935. In particular, contexts 3 and 4 are believed to be the remains of a contemporary single story projection known from photographic evidence to have adjoined the north-east corner of the house. To the west, brick surface 5, constructed from buff and cream-coloured malm bricks, is believed to be a remnant of a contemporary exterior yard surface. Also of probable early 19th century date is the brick-lined well in Area E, and to the south of the house, the brick steps (31/32) at the front of the garden terrace in Area C. Possibly contemporary or perhaps dating from later within the 19th century was the boundary wall (18) between lawn and shrubbery in Area E and the brick step revealed in front of the western window in Area C.

The remaining predominately frogged brick and concrete foundations in Area A are part of later 19th and early 20th century alterations and additions to the north side of the building prior to their demolition in 1935. The drainage features at the west end of Area A are no doubt broadly contemporary with these works as are the partially exposed walls (33 et al), presumably remnants of former outbuildings, in Area B. Drainage feature 27 in Area D is also likely to be of 19th or earlier 20th century date as is pit 12 in Area E, whilst pits 15 and 24 in Area E were clearly both of more recent date. Most of the service trenches are of modern date as are elements of hard landscaping, such as the garden walls and splayed steps, and the former extension on the western side of the house.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The archaeological investigation has successfully preserved by record archaeological deposits that would otherwise have been destroyed by the development. No evidence was found for a Dominican priory in the vicinity of the present house. However, it is possible that this was located elsewhere within the property, perhaps further to the west, or that it was associated with the property recorded as Leonards on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 (now Little St Leonards) 0.5 km to the south-east. Alternatively, given that the evidence for the priory is largely circumstantial, it is possible that the priory noted by Speed at Ginge-atte-Stone in 1611 (EHER 19222) was actually that of Thoby Priory which is situated only 2 km to the south.

The only features pre-dating the construction of the 1804 house were a possible clay extraction pit and two linear features that may be boundary ditches associated with Brick House, which is depicted on the site on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. Brick House is depicted as closer to the road junction and is believed to have been constructed sometime in the Tudor period or early in the 17th century, given that the foundations of the 1804 building were largely constructed from re-used bricks of this date. Presumably the red brick buildings that made up Brick House were demolished to make way for a new, grander Regency house, constructed from fashionable cream-coloured brick and situated in a parkland setting that accorded more with the aesthetic of the time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The investigation was commissioned by Architectural Services (Anthony Slee), acting for the owners. The fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Dave Smith of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Illustration was by Andrew Lewsey. Finds were processed by Phil McMichael and analysed by Joyce Compton, Hazel Martingell, Pat Ryan and Helen Walker. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby of ECC FAU and monitored by Maria Medlycott of ECC HEM.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
01	A	Finds	Unstratified finds	-
02	E	Finds	Unstratified finds	-
03	A	Wall Found.	Aligned NE/SW, 5.4m x 0.44m x 0.44m, bricks laid on edge	Early 19th century
04	A	Wall found	Aligned NW/SE, 0.33m x 0.45m x 0.17m (stubb)	Early 19th century
05	A	Surface	3.15m x 0.3m x 0.07m deep, yellow bricks	Early 19th century
06	A	Wall Found	Main foundations, aligned NE/SW and SE/NW	19th/20th century
07	A	Wall	0.22m x 0.40m x 0.08m, small stub, 2 courses, aligned N/S?	19th/20th century
08	A	Wall	0.39m+ x 0.34m x 0.08m+, small stub, aligned N/S	Early 19th century
09	A	Drain	0.58m+ x 0.23m x 0.07m+, V. truncated, brick on tile base	19th/20th century
10	A	Drain	0.80m x 0.38m, 2 rows of (frogged) header bricks	19th/20th century
11	A	Drain	0.58m x 0.20m+ x 0.08m+, unfrogged bricks & greensand?	19th/20th century
12	E	Pit	Semi-circular, 2.7m x 0.6m+ x 0.42m deep	19th/20th century
13	E	Fill of 12	Mid greyish brown silty clay	19th/20th century
14	E	Fill of 15	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
15	E	Pit	Semi-circular, 3.28m x 0.9m+ x 0.10m deep	Modern
16	E	Fill of 17	Light greyish brown clay silt	-
17	E	Ditch	NW/SE aligned, 1.8m+ x 0.71m x 0.19m	-
18	E	Wall	E/W aligned, 0.7m+ x 0.23m x 0.05m high	19th/20th century
19	E	Fill of 20	Greyish brown silty clay	18th century
20	E	Pit/quarry?	6m+ x 1.4m+ x 0.42m deep	18th century
21	E	Fill of 22	Dark grey brown clay silt	Natural
22	E	Depression	NE/SW aligned, 1.5m x 1.3m x 0.08m deep	Natural
23	E	Fill of 24	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
24	E	Depression	E/W aligned, 2.22m x 0.52m+ x 0.08m deep	Modern
25	D	Fill of 26	Mid-dark grey silty clay (organic)	18th century
26	D	Ditch/pond	Irregular, 3.4m+ x 4m x 0.25m deep	18th century
27	D	Drain	4m+ x 0.22-24m x 0.16m deep, frogged bricks, on tile	19th/20th century
28	D	Fill of 30	Compacted brown pebbly clay, 0.16m+ deep	18th century
29	D	Fill of 30	Mid-dark grey silty clay, decomposing roots/sticks	18th century
30	D	Ditch/pond	Irregular linear, 7m+ x 2.5m+ x 0.6m+ deep	18th century
31	C	Brick steps	3 steps & side wall remnants, 1.8m long+ x 3m wide, unfrogged bricks, light grey mortar	Early 19th century
32	C	Brick step	Top step, 0.92m long x 1.8m wide, unfrogged bricks, light grey mortar	Early 19th century
33	B	Wall found	c. 0.80m high, light buffy-cream lime mortar, unfrogged bricks	19th/20th century
34	B	Surface	Flat flooring bricks (charcoal covered)	19th/20th century
35	B	Masonry	Cream/yellow & pink bricks, buff mortar	19th/20th century
36	B	Wall	Rendered brick wall, 1m+ long x 0.8m high, buff mortar	19th/20th century

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	-	SF1 Copper alloy jetton, Hans Krauwinkel	17th C
		3	276	Pottery; post-medieval red earthenware base	17th C or later
2	u/s	6	268	Pottery; creamware, late kitchen earthenware, ironstone china with blue transfer-printed floral design (discarded)	Modern
3	Wall	4	9690	Sample bricks:- Red; damaged; large flint inclusions; irregular rounded arrises; fairly smooth faces; rough base; lime mortar 240 x 125 x 55mm Red; damaged; irregular; irregular rounded arrises; very rough base; mud-coloured mortar 225 x 105 x 50mm Red; moulded header, possibly originally coated in plaster; irregular; irregular rounded arrises; relatively smooth faces; rough base; lime mortar and mud-coloured mortar 240 x 120 x 50mm; Red; damaged; upper surface rainpocked and straw-marked; relatively smooth faces; very rough base; lime mortar and mud-coloured mortar 245 x 110 x 50mm	Post med.
4	Wall	1	2760	Sample brick: red; irregular; irregular rounded arrises; fairly smooth faces; rough base; ?two types of mortar <i>i.e.</i> lime and mud-coloured, 230 x 115 x 55mm	Post med.
5	Surface	2	5120	Sample bricks; Buff malm brick; regular; upper arris regular and sharp; lower arris damaged; smooth faces; smooth base 210 x 110 x 60mm Cream malm brick; very regular; damaged arrises; one face horizontal pressure mark; smooth base 220 x 105-110 x 60mm (Discarded)	Modern
8	Wall	1	2590	Sample brick; Red; irregular; irregular rounded arrises; rough base; ?two types of mortar, lime and mud-coloured; possibly roughly chamfered 230+ x 110 x 55mm	Post med.
13	12	2	1	Glass; window sherds, colourless with green tinge (Discarded)	Modern
		1	64	Brick fragment, no surfaces (Discarded)	Post med.
		9	402	Roof tile fragments, three with peg holes (4/82g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		2	12	Pottery; ?Mill Green ware and post-medieval red earthenware	Med to post-med.
14	15	1	26	Slate fragment (Discarded)	-
		2	6	Glass; colourless window sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		3	14	Glass; colourless light bulb fragment; dark brown bottle body sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		9	790	Roof tile fragments, four with peg holes (3/162g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		10	158	Pottery; Mill Green ware, medieval Harlow ware, Tudor red earthenware, modern pottery (discarded)	Medieval to modern
16	17	2	16	Iron blade fragments, joining	Prehistoric
		5	90	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
19	20	1	20	SF2 Flint scraper	-
		2	100	Brick fragments; red, one slightly over-fired (Discarded)	Post med.
		17	805	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole, one with sheep/goat print (7/92g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		2	12	Pottery; post-medieval red earthenware, black-glazed ware	Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
23	24	1	110	Roof tile fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	4	Pottery; yellow ware and ironstone (discarded)	Modern
25	26	1	250	Glass; dark green cylindrical wine bottle base (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	128	Brick corner, red, rounded arris, appears to have remains of stamped letters on end surface which may just be vegetation impressions	Post med.
		13	542	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole (5/114g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		5	52	Pottery; Tudor red earthenware, black-glazed ware, metropolitan slipware, tin-glazed earthenware	Post med.
27	Drain	1	2700	Sample brick; red; rather poorly mixed clay with paler patches; regular; fairly sharp irregular arrises; fairly smooth faces; slight horizontal pressure mark; base shallow oval frog with circular indentation between frog and ends of brick; 225 x 105 x 65mm (Discarded)	Modern

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	u/s	3	276	Post-medieval red earthenware, joining sherds from pad base, internal glaze, probably from a jar, Harlow type	17th C or later
2	u/s	1	20	Creamware, recessed base from plate or dish	Later 18th to c.1830
		1	29	Late kitchen earthenware, body sherd with white slip-coating	19th to early 20th C
		4	221	Ironstone china: joining sherds from blue transfer-printed oval dish, showing a central motif of an urn containing roses enclosed in a border	c.1835 or later
13	12	1	2	Very abraded sherd of unglazed earthenware, could be Mill Green Ware but may be later	Mid 13th C to post-med
		1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware, flat internally glazed sherd probably from the base of a vessel	17th C or later
14	15	1	5	Mill Green fine ware, unglazed thin-walled sherd	Mid 13th to 14th C
		1	4	Medieval Harlow ware, unglazed body sherd	13th to 14th C
		1	6	Tudor Red Earthenware, body sherd showing patches of plain lead glaze and a trace of slip-painting	15th to 16th C
		1	4	Late kitchen earthenware, body sherd with white slip-coating, perforated, so is from a colander or similar vessel	19th to early 20th C
		1	4	Parian ware, sherd from hollow ware or figurine	Mid 19th C to early 20th C
		3	128	Ironstone china, comprising the rim of a large undecorated plate and part of a flanged rim bowl showing a pale blue transfer-printed floral design both inside and out	1830s onwards
		2	9	Modern flowerpot sherds	19th to 20th C
19	20	1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware hollow ware sherd glazed both inside and out, possible attachment scars, and deep oblique scratch-marks, probably post-depositional	17th C or later
		1	2	Black-glazed ware, body sherd	17th to early 18th C
23	24	1	3	Yellow ware sherd with brown and white banding	19th to 20th C
		1	2	Ironstone china, small plain body sherd	19th to 20th C
25	26	1	9	Mill Green-type ware, flanged rim from bowl or jar	14th C or later
		2	16	Tudor red earthenware body sherd externally abraded	15th to 16th C
		1	16	Black-glazed ware sherd from tyg or mug showing handle attachment scar and rilled sides	17th to earlier 18th C
		1	7	Metropolitan slipware sherd from flat ware	c.1625 to earlier 18th C
		1	13	English tin-glazed earthenware hollow ware sherd perhaps from lower part of hemispherical bowl, showing blue banding and blue motif resembling a tied ribbon, intersected by cross in iron-red, and iron-red shading inside a partial motif, the red-painting is much finer, i.e. done with a finer brush, than the blue, not paralleled but comparable motifs	earlier 18th C

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
1	u/s	3	276	Post-medieval red earthenware, joining sherds from pad base, internal glaze, probably from a jar, Harlow type	17th C or later
2	u/s	1	20	Creamware, recessed base from plate or dish	Later 18th to c.1830
		1	29	Late kitchen earthenware, body sherd with white slip-coating	19th to early 20th C
		4	221	Ironstone china: joining sherds from blue transfer-printed oval dish, showing a central motif of an urn containing roses enclosed in a border	c.1835 or later
13	12	1	2	Very abraded sherd of unglazed earthenware, could be Mill Green Ware but may be later	Mid 13th C to post-med
		1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware, flat internally glazed sherd probably from the base of a vessel	17th C or later
14	15	1	5	Mill Green fine ware, unglazed thin-walled sherd	Mid 13th to 14th C
		1	4	Medieval Harlow ware, unglazed body sherd	13th to 14th C
		1	6	Tudor Red Earthenware, body sherd showing patches of plain lead glaze and a trace of slip-painting	15th to 16th C
		1	4	Late kitchen earthenware, body sherd with white slip-coating, perforated, so is from a colander or similar vessel	19th to early 20th C
		1	4	Parian ware, sherd from hollow ware or figurine	Mid 19th C to early 20th C
		3	128	Ironstone china, comprising the rim of a large undecorated plate and part of a flanged rim bowl showing a pale blue transfer-printed floral design both inside and out	1830s onwards
		2	9	Modern flowerpot sherds	19th to 20th C
19	20	1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware hollow ware sherd glazed both inside and out, possible attachment scars, and deep oblique scratch-marks, probably post-depositional	17th C or later
		1	2	Black-glazed ware, body sherd	17th to early 18th C
23	24	1	3	Yellow ware sherd with brown and white banding	19th to 20th C
		1	2	Ironstone china, small plain body sherd	19th to 20th C
				occur on London tin-glazed earthenware during the earlier 18th century	
		30	787		

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: St Leonards, Fryerning
SITE CODE: INSL08

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 HCC HEM Design Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 36)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 8 x A4 plan/section sheets
- 3.6 Levels register
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Registers
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of colour digital prints + images on disk)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

3 large plan/section drawings

Finds

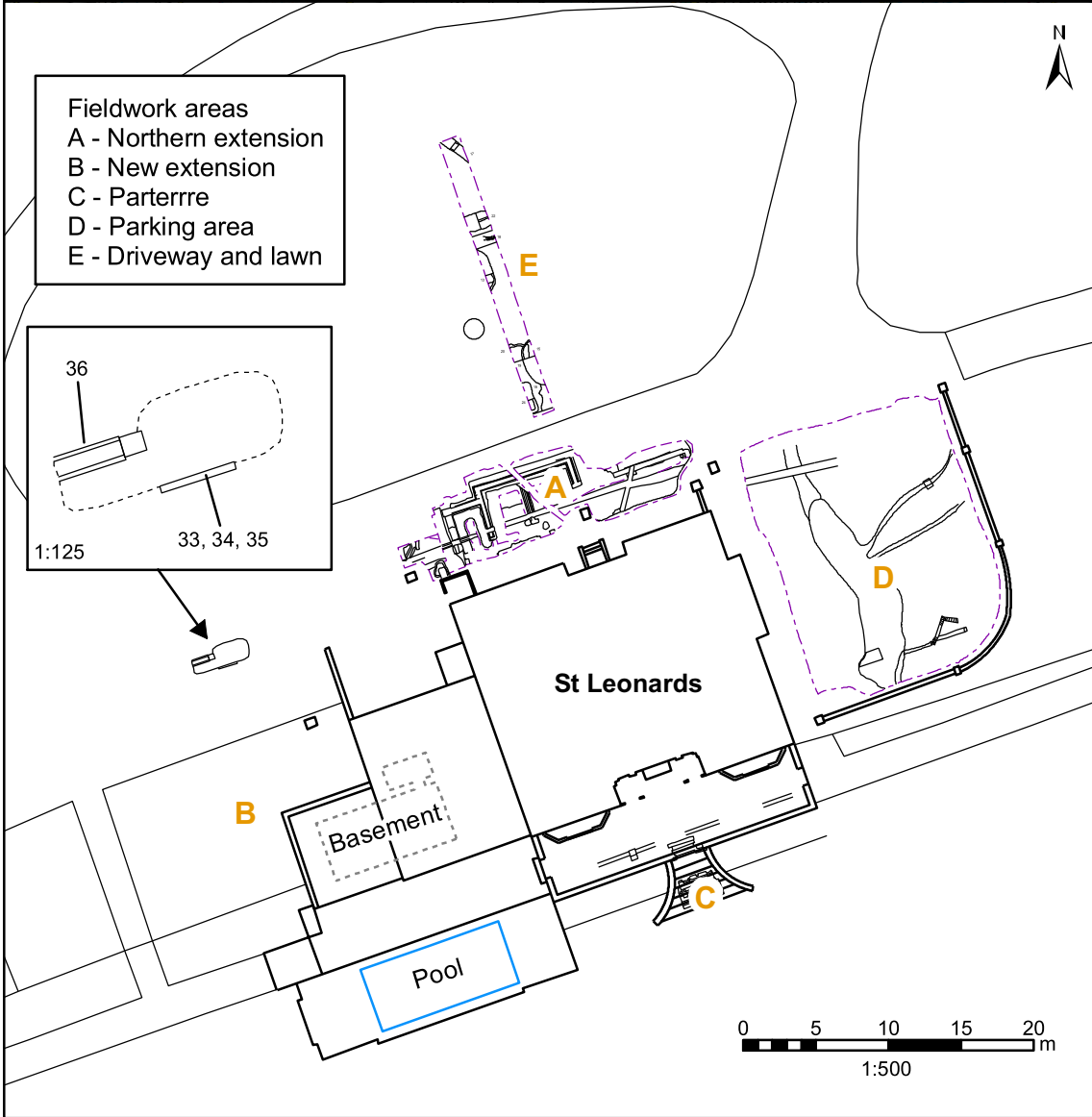
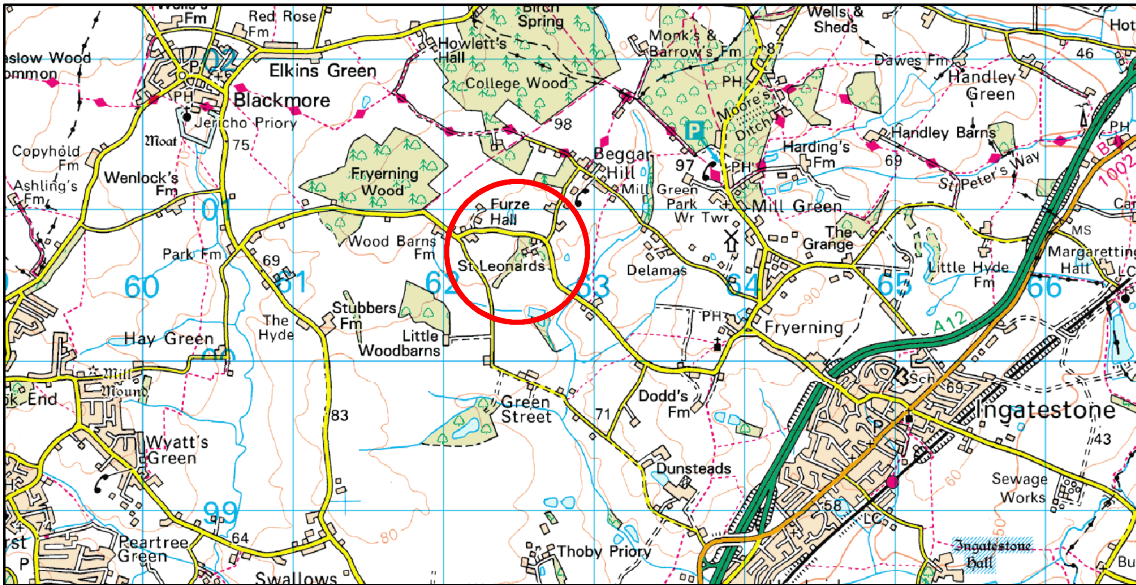
The finds occupy two boxes.

APPENDIX 5: HER SUMMARY SHEET

HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: St. Leonards, Blackmore Road, Fryerning	
Parishes: Ingatestone and Fryerning	District: Brentwood
NGR: TL 6259 0070	Site Code: INSL08
Type of Work: Archaeological Investigation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 22nd September to 2nd October 2008 and 22nd to 30th June 2009	Size of Area Investigated: 520 sq m
Location of Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 19222, 26540
Final Report: EAH Summary	Oasis No.: 51250
Periods Represented: Post-medieval, modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological fieldwork was carried out at St Leonards, Fryerning in advance of, and during, a series of proposed building and landscaping works. St Leonard's House was built in 1804 (EHER 26540), close to the site of one or possibly two earlier properties, which are depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map of Essex under the title of Brick House. The property is also the possible site of a Dominican priory recorded by Speed at Ginge-atte-Stone in 1611 (EHER 19222).</p> <p>The earliest artefact from the site was a flint scraper of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date that was found as a residual find in a later context. However, no archaeological features of prehistoric date were identified nor any dating to the Roman, Saxon or medieval periods. A few sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery were recovered but again as residual elements in later contexts. There was no evidence to firmly link the site with that of the medieval priory recorded by Speed in 1611.</p> <p>The earliest foundations exposed on the north side of the house contained bricks dated as Tudor or early 17th century. Many of the bricks were clearly reused and were most probably salvaged from the demolition of Brick House prior to the construction of the present house in 1804. The earliest excavated features, a clay extraction pit in the evaluation trench to the north of the house and the remains of a possible T-shaped boundary ditch junction to the east, are both likely to be 18th century contemporaries of Brick House.</p> <p>With the exception of a natural feature and an undated ditch in the evaluation trench most of the remaining features dated to the 19th or 20th century. The foundations constructed from Tudor/early 17th century bricks are almost certainly part of the north side of the 1804 house</p>	

Site name/Address: St. Leonards, Blackmore Road, Fryerning	
<p>which was demolished in 1935. To the north of the house was a contemporary exterior yard surface constructed from buff and cream-coloured malm bricks and a brick-lined well under the lawn. Possibly also contemporary or perhaps dating to later in the 19th century were a set of brick steps at the edge of the terrace and a single brick step revealed in front of the western window, all to the south of the house, and a boundary wall between the lawn and shrubbery to the north.</p> <p>Later foundations on the north side of the building were comprised of brick and concrete and represent later 19th and early 20th century additions and alterations to this side of the building which were demolished in 1935 and rebuilt on a reduced footprint. Also of later 19th and early 20th century date were a number of drainage features and the partially exposed remains of brick outbuildings to the west.</p> <p>Overall, no archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered during the course of the fieldwork. A few remains of 18th century date were identified that pre-date the construction of St Leonards in 1804, however, the vast majority of remains appear contemporary with the use of the house in the 19th and 20th centuries..</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: March 2011



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Fig.1. Site location

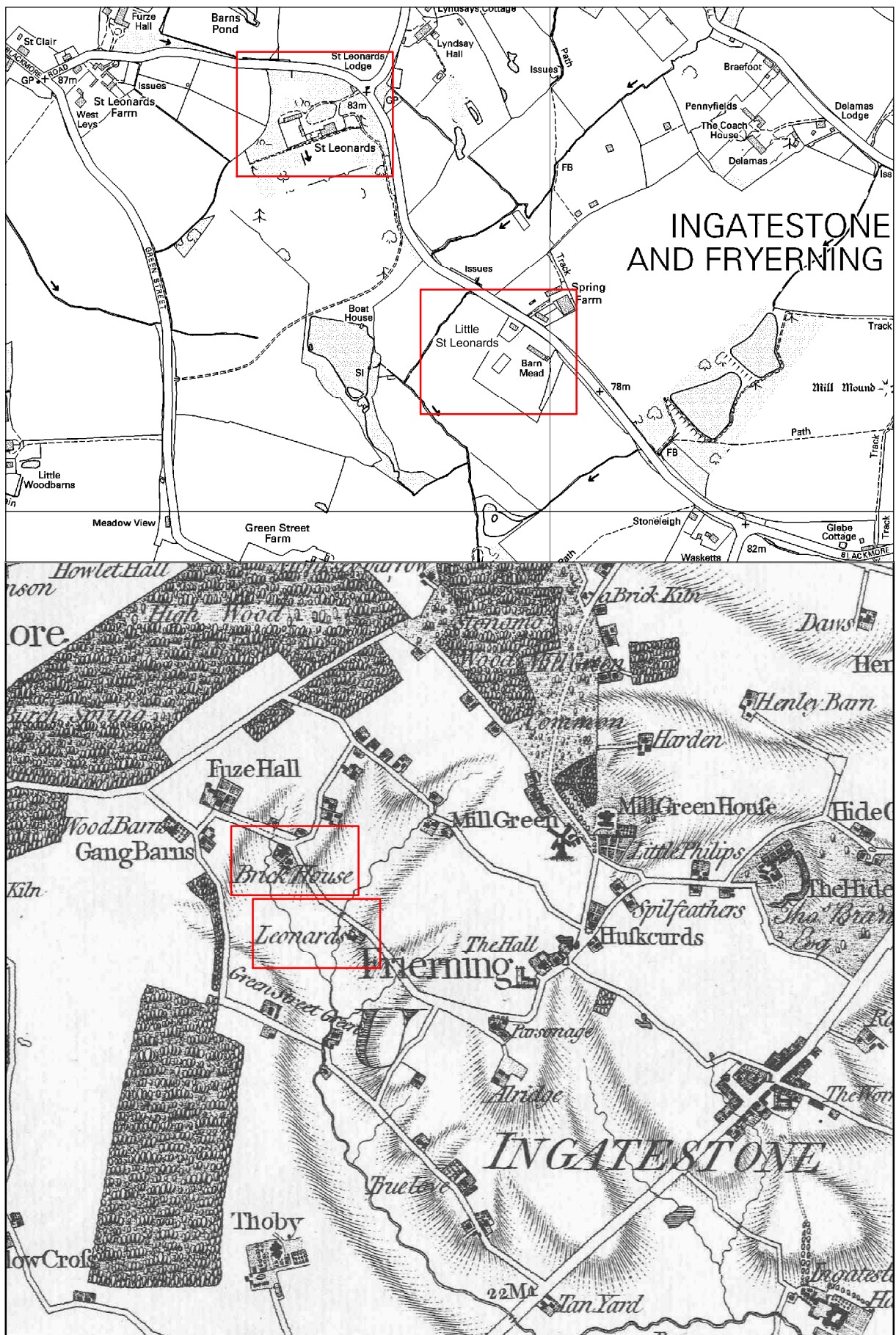


Fig.2. Modern Ordnance Survey with Chapman & Andre map, 1777, showing changes of name

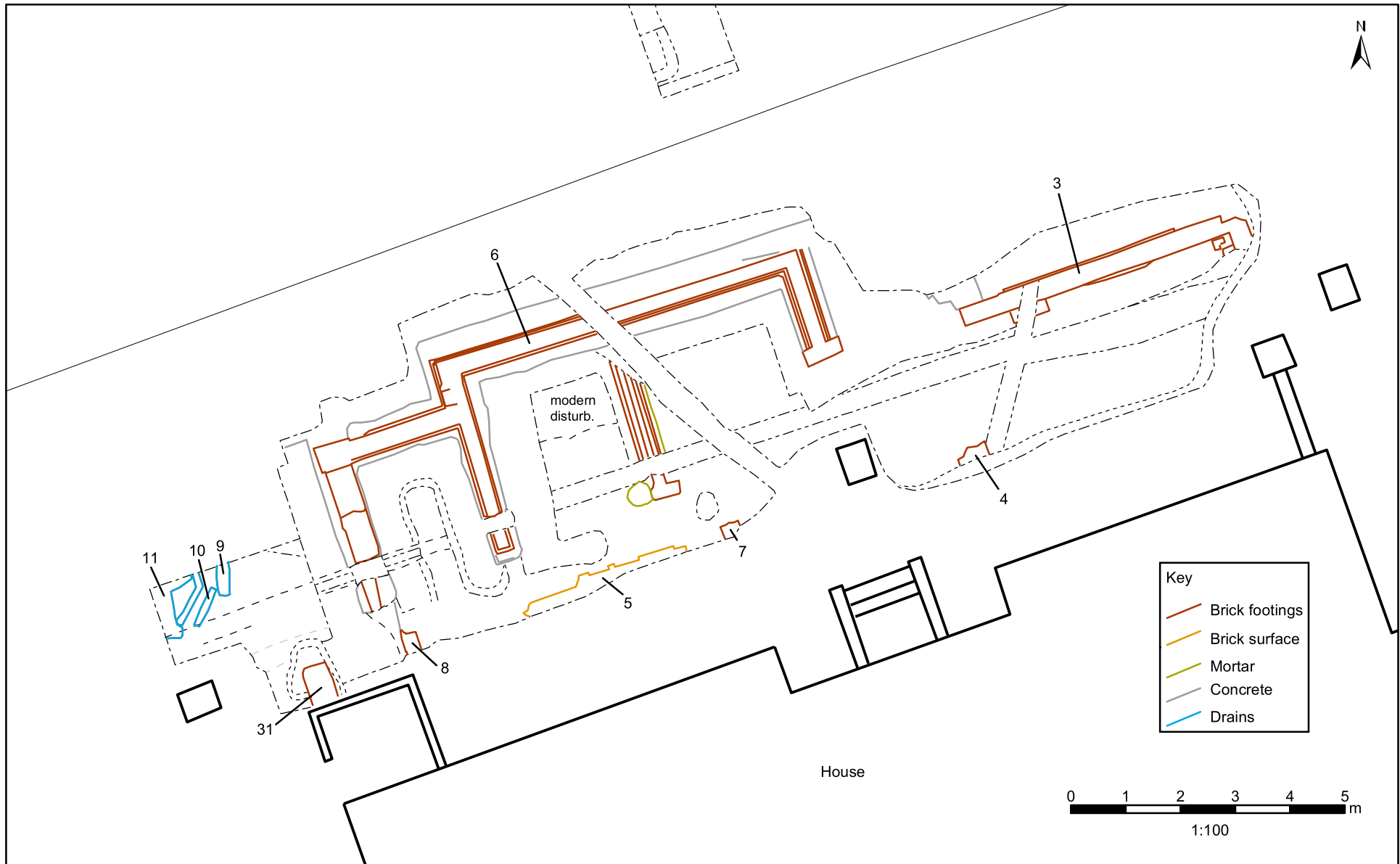


Fig.3. Area A

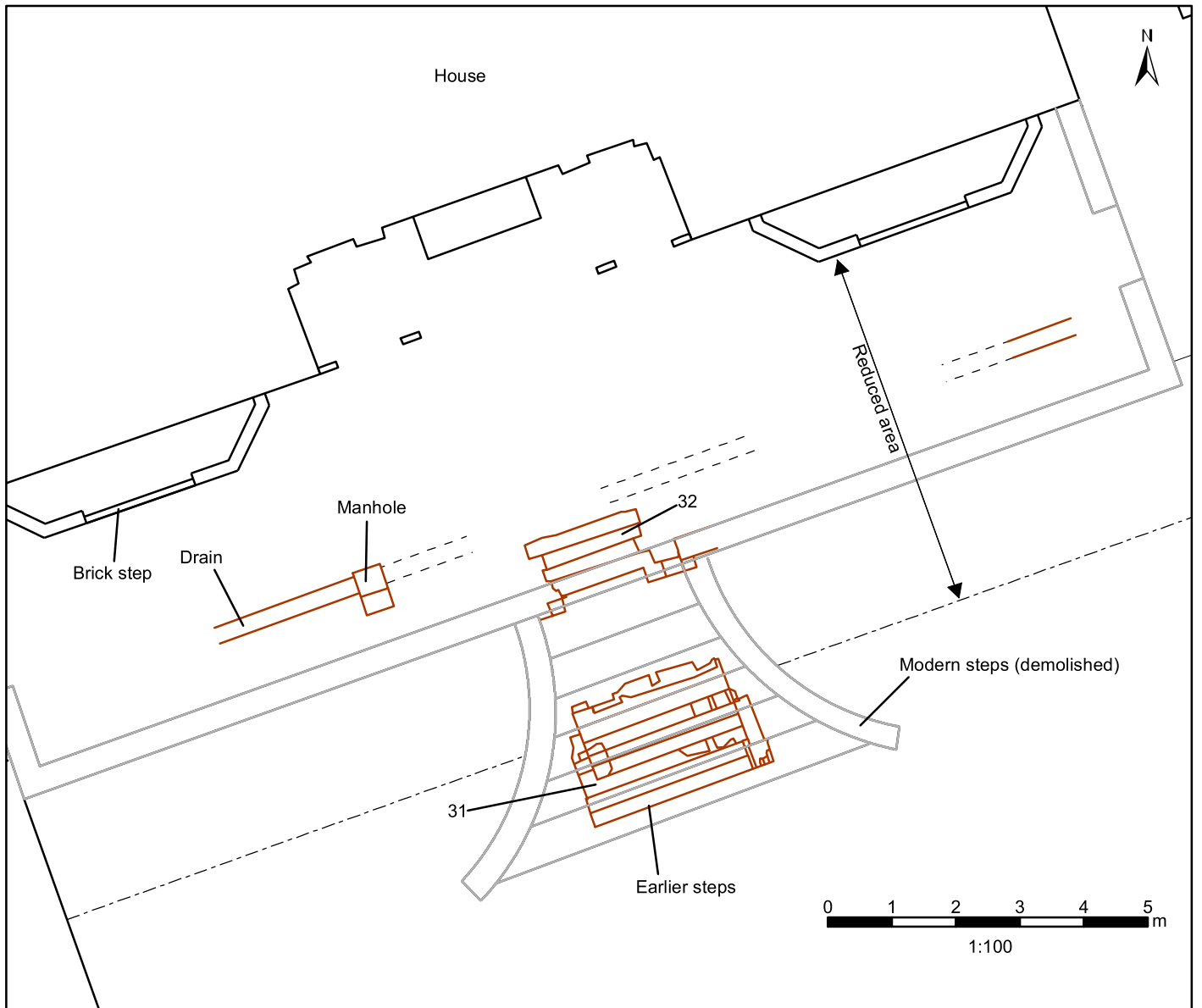


Fig.4. Area C

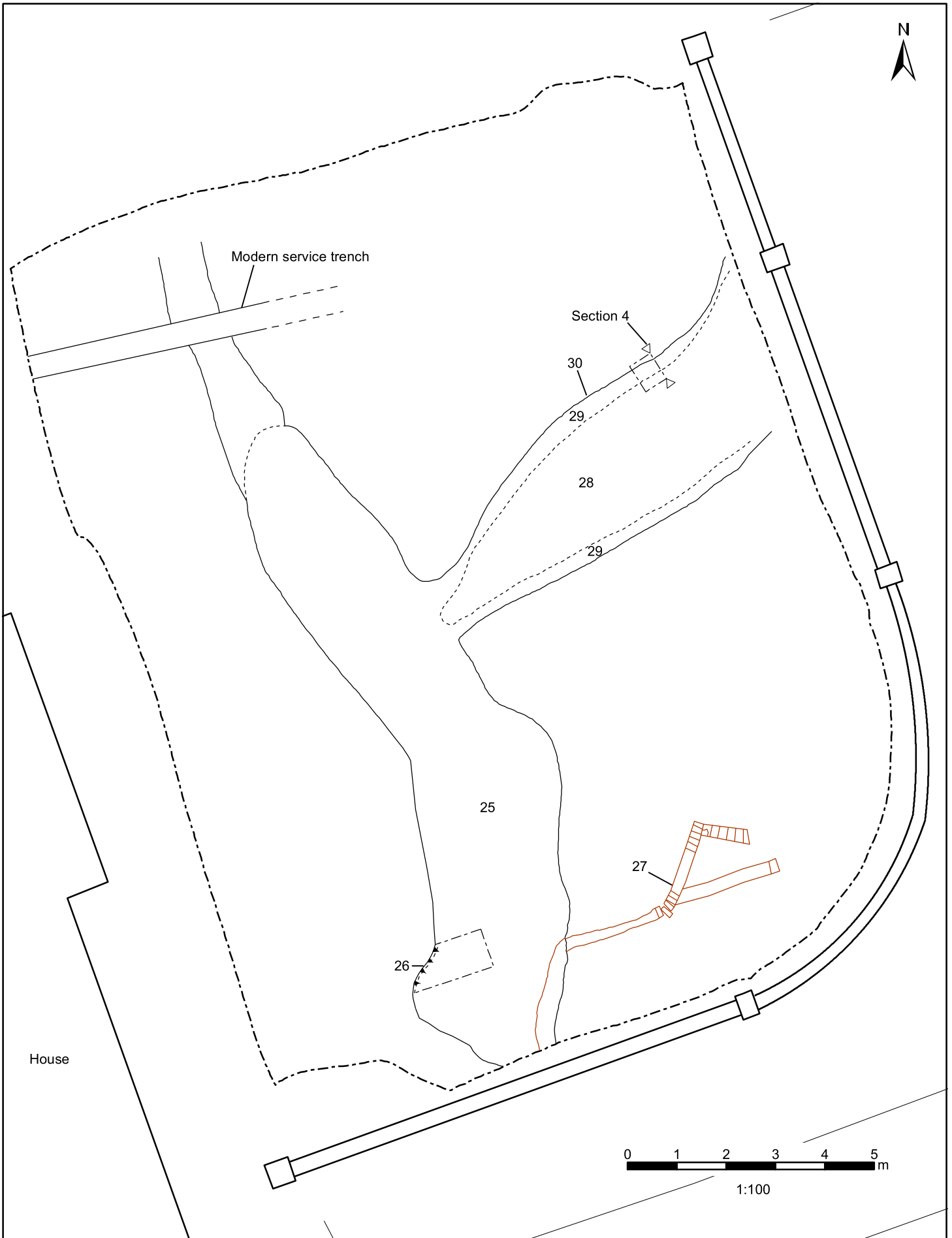


Fig.5. Area D

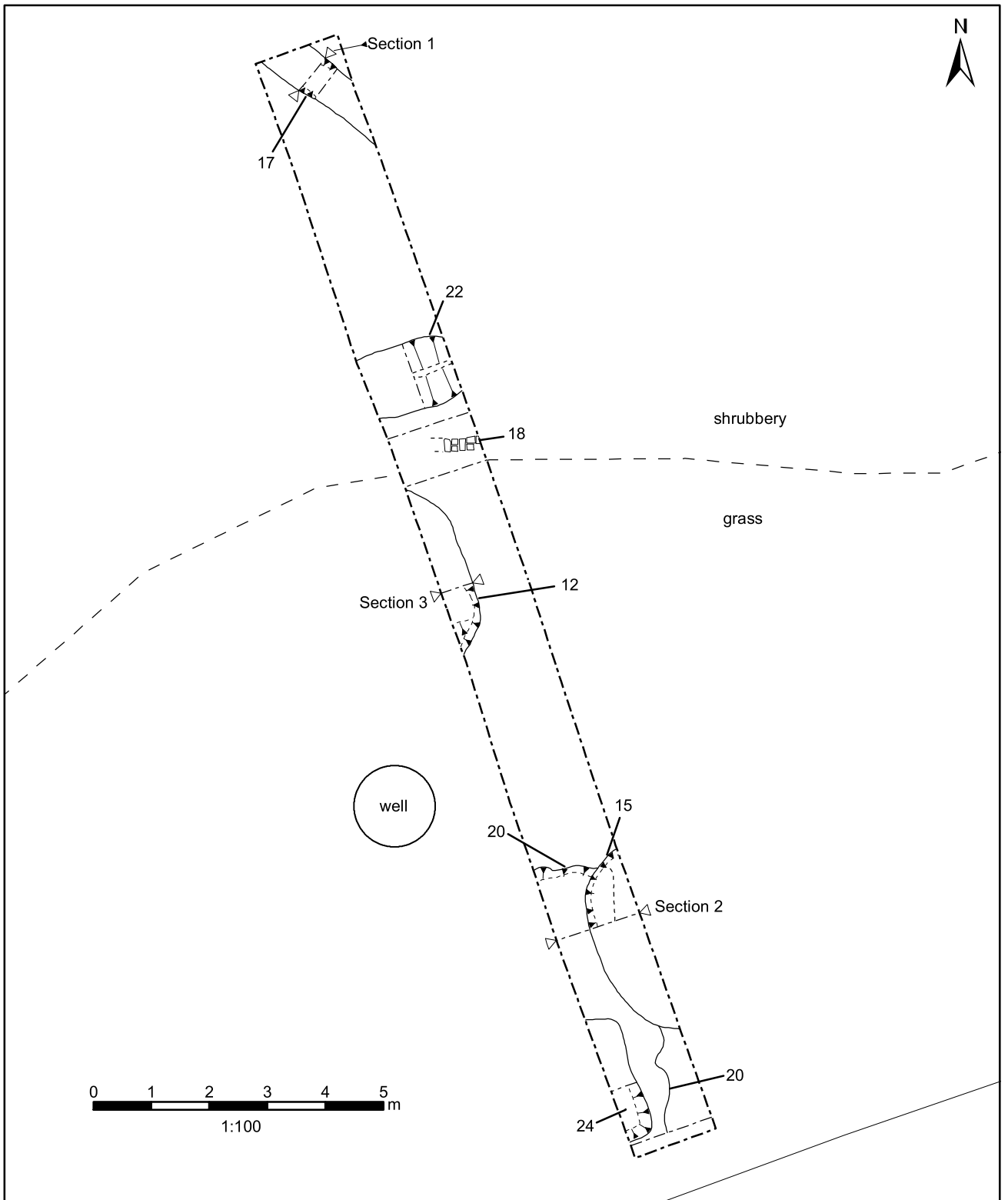


Fig.6. Area E

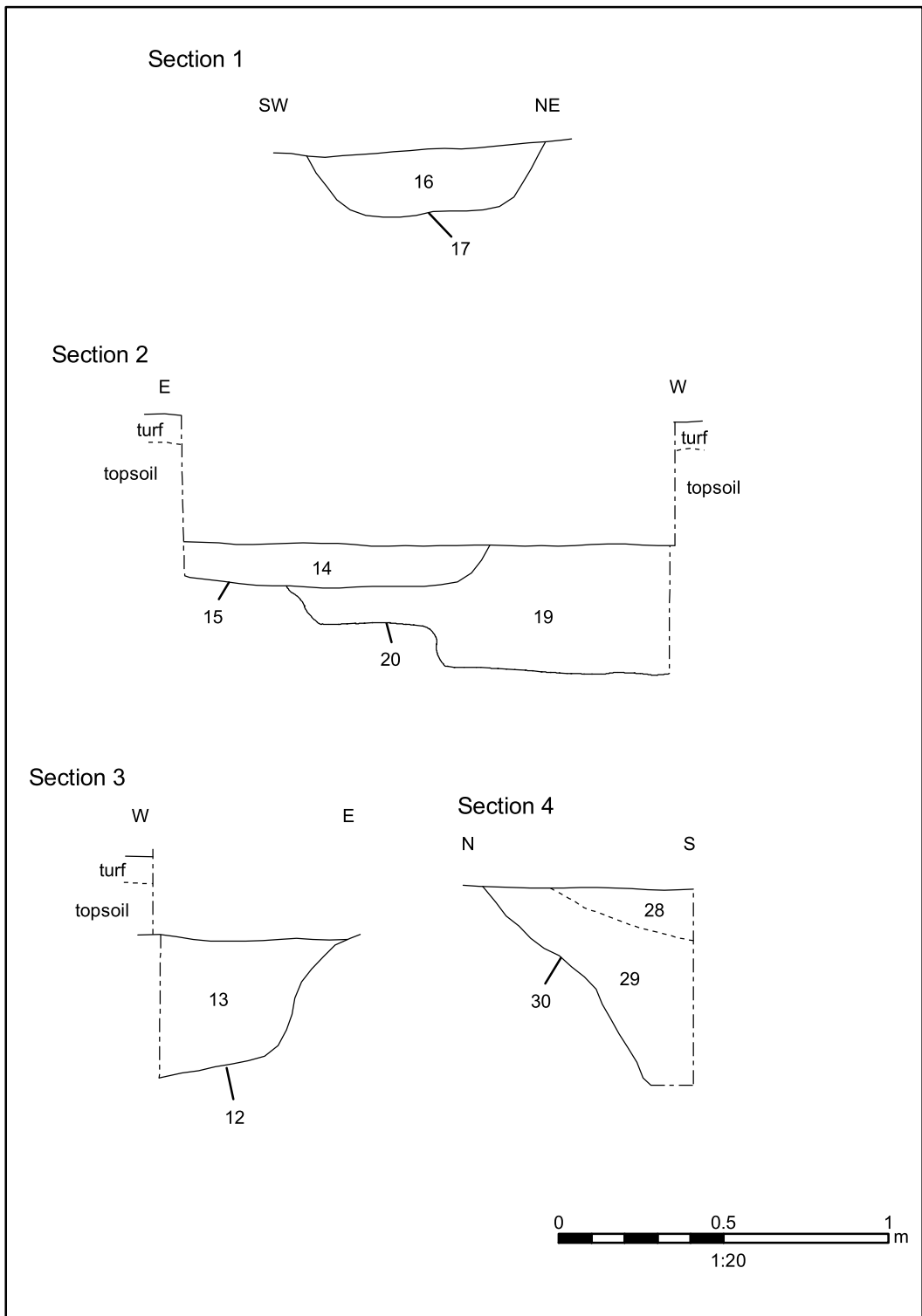
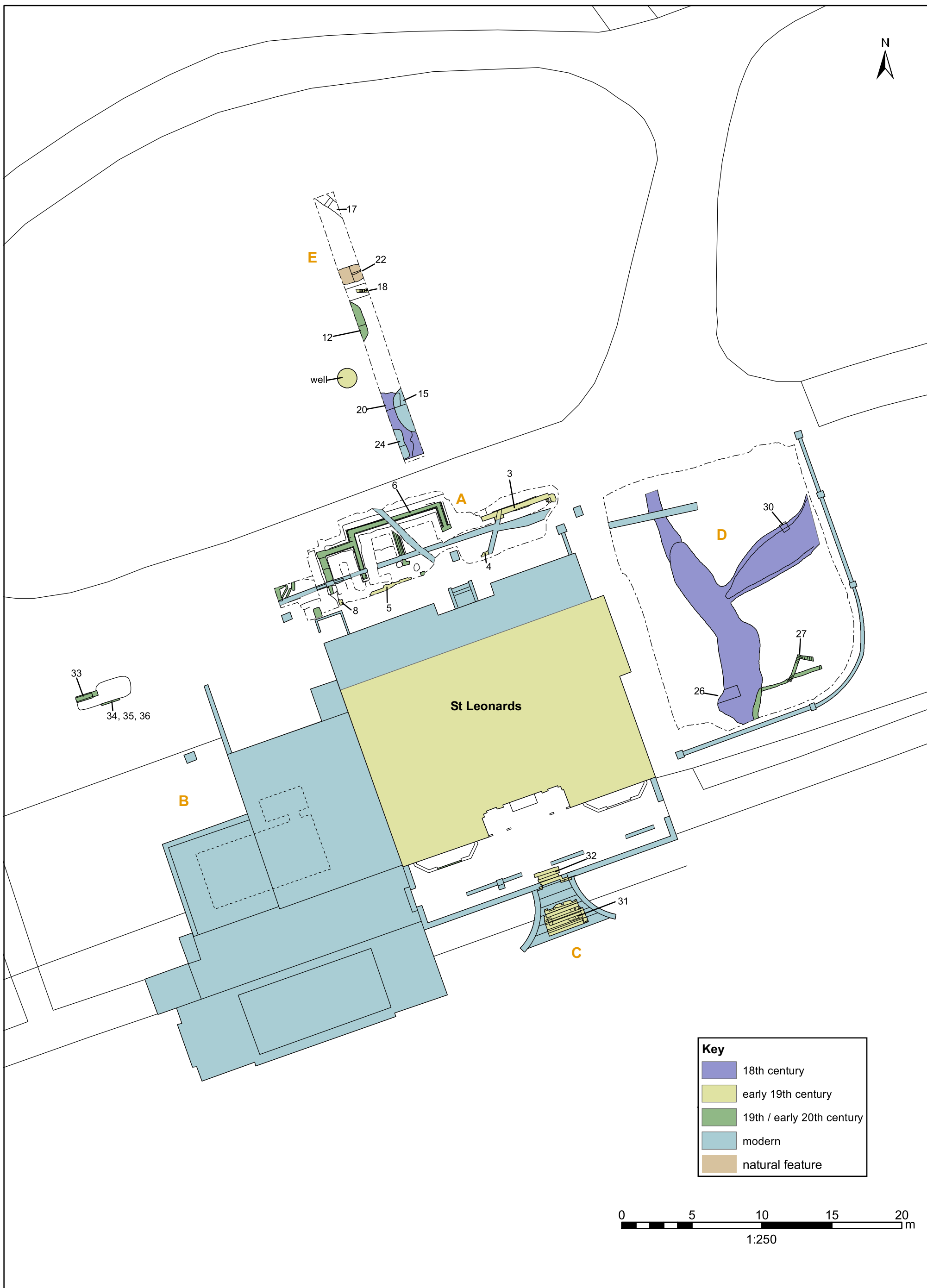


Fig.7. Sections



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Fig.8. Phased site plan



Plate 1. Wall foundation 3 looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2. Wall foundation 6 looking east (1m scale)



Plate 3. Wall 33 et al looking south (1m scale)



Plate 4. Wall 36 looking west (1m scale)



Plate 5. Brick steps 31 looking north-west (1m scale)



Plate 6. Brick step in front of west window looking north (0.10m & 1m scales)

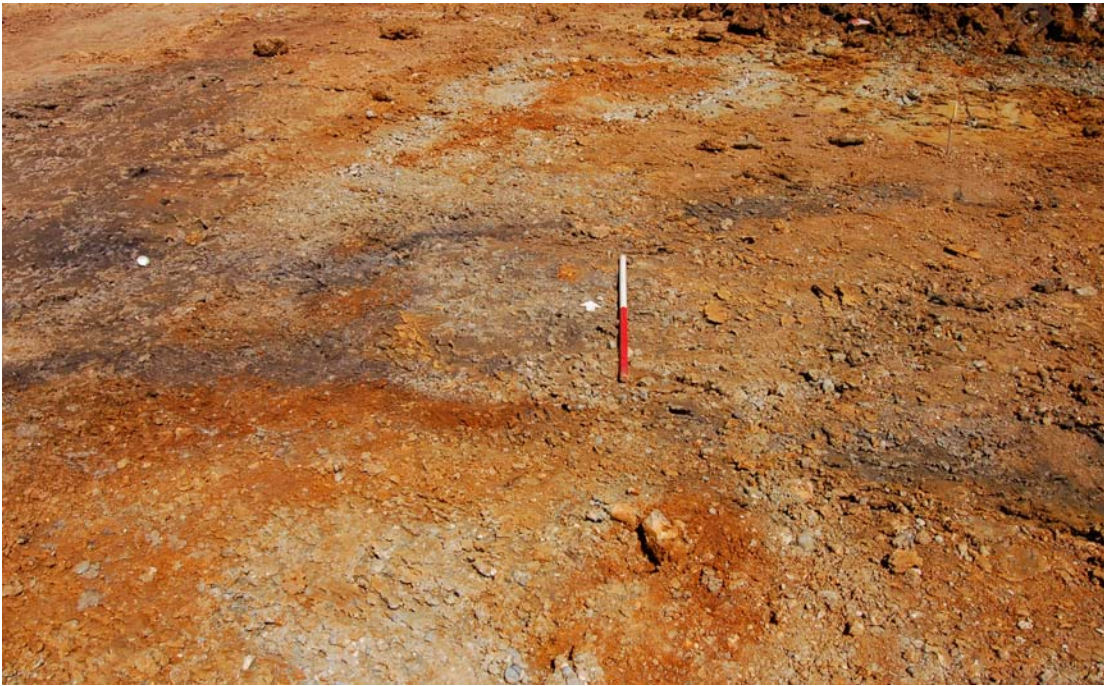


Plate 7. Linear feature 30 looking north (1m scale)



Plate 8. Pit 20 looking south-east (1m scale)