

WICKHAM HILL NURSERY

WICKHAM HILL

BRAUGHING

HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

PHASE 2



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

November 2009

HERTFORDSHIRE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

Site name and address: Wickham Hill Nursery, Wickham Hill, Braughing		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Braughing	Parish: Braughing	
Planning application reference: 3/09/0659/FP (an amendment of 3/2320/07/FP)		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Mrs Claire Hudson-Clements		
Nature of application: House extension		
Present land use: House and garden		
Size of application area: 70m ²	Size of area investigated: 60m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 38925 23795		
Site code: BRWH 09		
Site director/Organization: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit		
Type of work: Archaeological monitoring and recording		
Date of work:	Start: 10/11/09	Finish: 10/11/09
Location of finds/curating museum: Hertford		
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Relevant previous summaries/reports: Germany, M. 2009 <i>Wickham Hill Nursery, Wickham Hill, Braughing, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i> ECC FAU report 2019</p> <p>Partridge, C.R. 1977 'Excavations and Fieldwork at Braughing 1968-73'. <i>Herts Archaeol.</i> 5, 90-1</p>		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) inspected an underpinning trench along two sides of the existing house at Wickham Hill Nursery, Wickham Hill, Braughing for the possible occurrence of archaeological remains (Figs 1 and 2).</p> <p>Wickham Hill is the site of the scheduled ancient monument of the Late Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Braughing (SAM 75). Archaeological investigation during the construction of the existing house in the early 1970s revealed a Roman road, well, post-holes and ditch and a floor of a Roman timber building (Partridge 1977).</p> <p>No archaeological remains were found during groundworks for a new lobby and extension on the north and south sides of the existing house respectively in August 2009 (Germany 2009).</p> <p>The groundworks for the underpinning comprised the excavation of a c.1m wide, 0.8m deep trench around the west and north sides of the house. The trench was dug by the developer</p>		

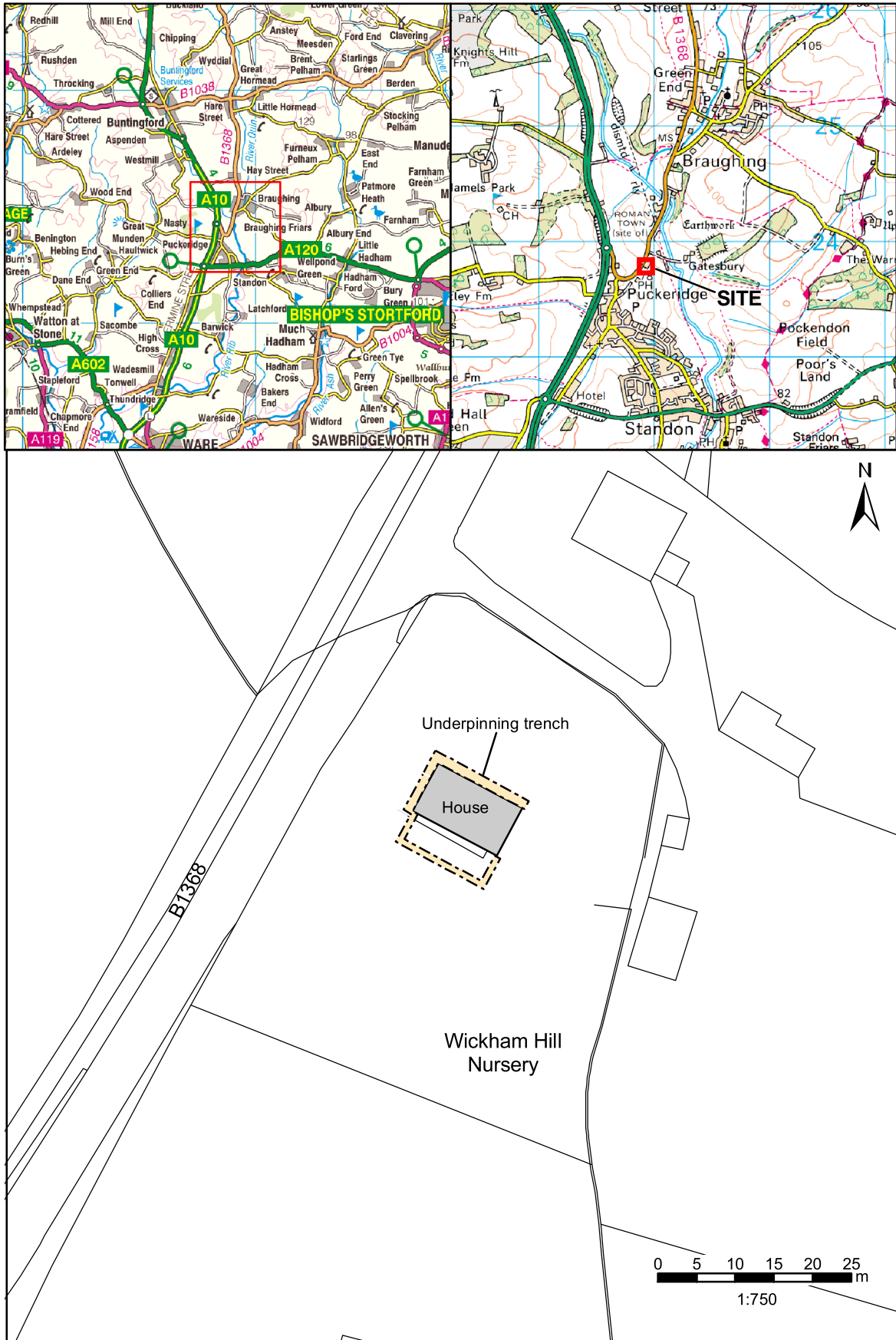
and was inspected by the ECC FAU for the possible presence of archaeological remains. Also monitored at the same time by the ECC FAU was the foundation trench for the new extension (Plates 1 to 3).

The monitoring found no archaeological remains, although it established that the overlying topsoil varied greatly in thickness and had probably been previously reduced and/or stripped, probably when the existing house was constructed during the early 1970s.

The results of the archaeological work are in line with the results of the August 2009 monitoring and further suggest that the area immediately surrounding the house was probably badly disturbed when the house built in the 1970s.

Author of summary: Mark Germany

Date of summary: November 2009



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Fig.1. Site location

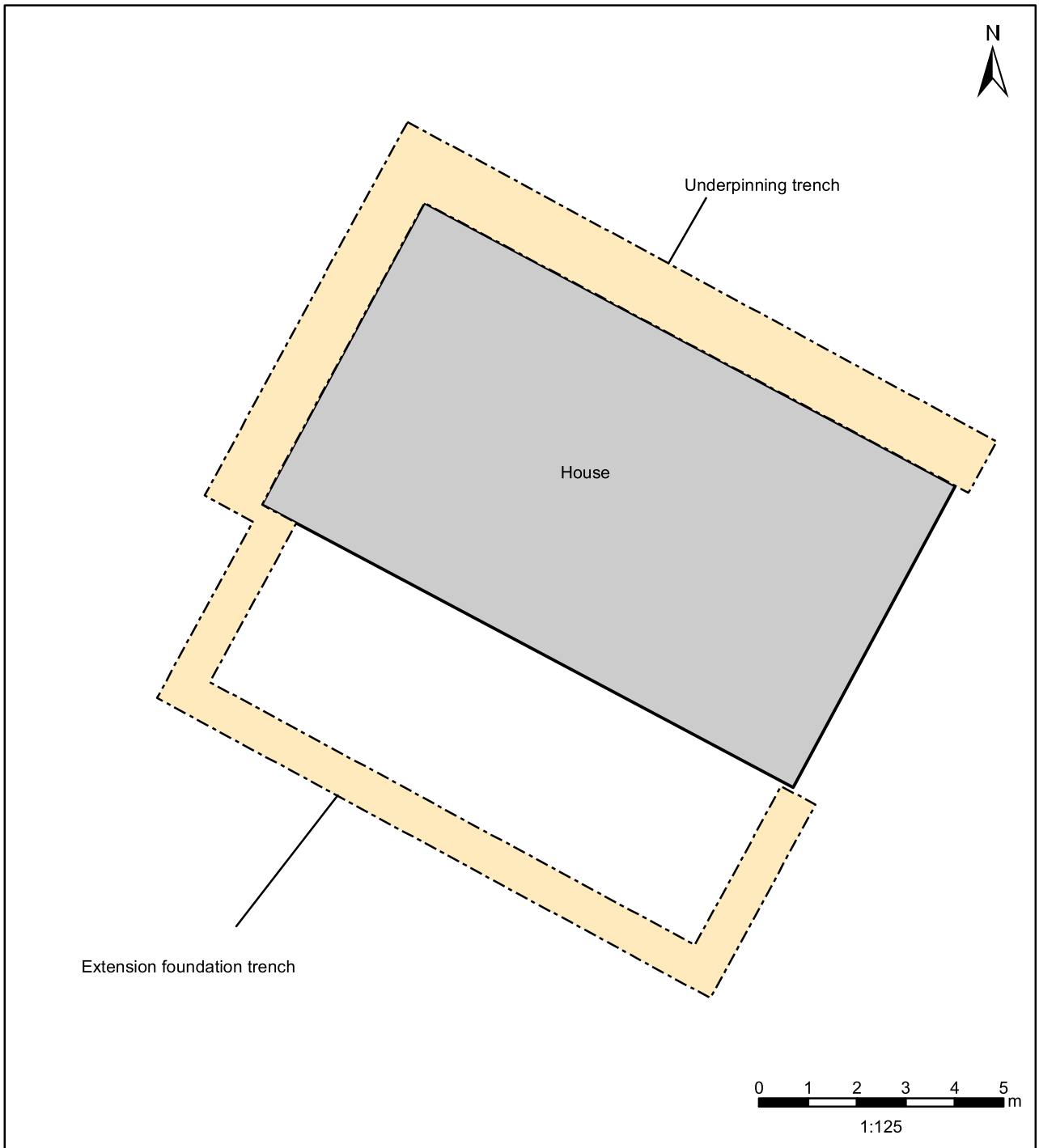


Fig.2. Monitored areas



Plate 1. Ground clearance and extension foundation trench, south side of house



Plate 2. Underpinning trench, west side of house. 1m scale bar



Plate 3. Underpinning trench, north side of house. 1m scale bar