

**FORMER VICTORIA PUBLIC HOUSE SITE
76 VICTORIA ROAD
WRITTLE
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

October 2010

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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**FORMER VICTORIA PUBLIC HOUSE SITE
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Client: Moody Homes

NGR: TL 6662 0634

Site Code: WRGO 10

Planning Ref: CHL/ 01212/09

Oasis No: 76877

Date of Fieldwork: 12-14 May and 9-10 August 2010

SUMMARY

An archaeological trenching evaluation and subsequent monitoring brief was carried out on land at 76 Victoria Street, Writtle, in advance of its residential re-development. Three trenches, totalling an area of 85 sq m, were excavated within the footprints of three buildings (Plots 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6) located in the garden to the rear of the existing property, formerly the Victoria public house. Monitoring of the construction groundworks for building plot 3/4 was also subsequently undertaken.

Occupying a distinctively square-shaped plot alongside the medieval common land of Great Oxney Green, and known from historic mapping sources to have been occupied by an earlier building, it has previously been speculated that the site could originate in the medieval, or even late Saxon, period.

The archaeological works established the presence of a range of archaeological remains to the rear of the public house, in Trenches 1 and 2 and within the eastern part of building plot 3/4 generally. Two pits and a gully, together with a small quantity of residual pottery, are of medieval date and attest to activity on the site from as early as the 12th century. However, no building remains of this date were found. Both trenches also contained post-medieval remains dating from the 17th to 19th centuries, as well as miscellaneous modern features. The majority of these comprise brick walls, floors, drains and ditches belonging to buildings that formerly occupied the site. Parts of the principal building were located within Trench 1 and demonstrate that the structure was likely to be of two major phases - an original rectangular house of 17th century origin and a rear extension of likely 18th or early 19th century date. The remains of this building can be demonstrated to closely correlate with that

depicted on historic mapping from 1777 onwards. The east side of a brick-built outbuilding range positioned to the rear of the house was only very tentatively located within Trench 2. Of likely 18th century origin, this utilitarian range was modified into the 19th century.

These former buildings were demolished by 1939 and replaced by the public house. It is likely that a significant proportion of the below-ground remains of the former house will have been removed by the pub construction. No archaeological remains were found within Trench 3, to the west of the public house, and it is assumed that this part of the property has always had a garden use.

It is judged that there is further potential for medieval and post-medieval occupation remains to be present and to survive elsewhere within the site. It is conjectured that more substantial medieval period remains may possibly lie at the front of the site, toward Victoria Road and Great Oxney Green.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out on land at 76 Victoria Road, Writtle, Essex, in advance of the proposed construction of three pairs of semi-detached houses (Plots 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6). The evaluation was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Adrian Tindall of Archaeological Risk Management acting for the developer, Moody Homes.

As the site was located within a perceived area of archaeological potential, a full archaeological condition was placed on planning consent (planning application ref: CHL/01212/09), following advice given by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) based on Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (DoE 1990) (since superseded by PPS5). The investigation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological design brief issued by ECC HEM (2010a) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2010a).

A trial trench evaluation was consequently carried out to assess the archaeological potential of those parts of the site directly impacted by the proposed development and to determine whether or not further archaeological mitigation was required before or during the construction of the new housing scheme. As archaeological remains were found to be present, monitoring of construction groundworks was subsequently undertaken in accordance with a further brief (ECC HEM 2010b) and written scheme of investigation (ECC FAU 2010b).

Copies of this report will be supplied to Archaeological Risk Management for onward transmission to their client, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record. 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 at Chelmsford Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology

The site is located on the north side of Victoria Road (TL 6662 0634), just off the north-west corner of Great Oxney Green (Fig.1), on the western edge of Writtle - some 5km from Chelmsford.

The c.0.25ha, roughly square, site was bounded by tree and hedge lines to the north, west and east. Its frontage along Victoria Road was largely open. The former pub building occupied a more-or-less central position within the plot, with areas of surfaced car parking to the front and west side, and lawn to the east. Immediately to the rear of the building there were further areas of concrete path, a substantial raised patio and a single garage. The remainder of the rear of the plot was laid to grass, with occasional trees.

2.2 Archaeology and History

The following archaeological and historical background is largely derived from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall, Chelmsford and from the Historic Town Report for Writtle (Green 2001).

Few prehistoric remains are known within the vicinity of the site. The nearest are cropmarks of a ring-ditch and linear ditches (EHER 17196) that lie c.250m to the north. No Late Iron Age and Roman remains are recorded within the vicinity of the site.

No remains of Saxon or medieval date are known from the general vicinity of the site. However, Great Oxney Green (Fig.1) is a historic landscape entity that probably originates in the Late Saxon or early Medieval periods. Writtle was a high-status royal estate in the late Saxon period and, with its recorded large population, is speculated to have functioned as an administrative centre prior to the emergence of Chelmsford. Although the location and extent of its late Saxon occupation is undetermined, it is thought likely to have been focused upon the greens and common lands of Greenbury, Oxney, Edney and Radley, settlement becoming more distinctly poly-focal in the medieval period. It is conjectured that the 1777 Chapman and Andre map broadly depicts the enduring form of the medieval landscape.

Historic mapping demonstrates the longevity and stability of the landscape features, particularly the greens and lanes, into the post-medieval period. However, the development of the extant settlement along this part of Victoria Road is all relatively late and none of the buildings are listed. The 1777 Chapman and Andre map depicts a building occupying the site, which is still extant by the time of the c.1875 1st edition OS map (Fig.2). The house is relatively large and possibly of some status, occupying the same substantial square plot that is evident today. It has been conjectured that this building could have medieval origins. Sub-division of the overall plot into various gardens is apparent, with ancillary buildings to the rear and east side of the principal building. It is possible that the further properties to its east were in some way associated. By the time of the 2nd edition OS map (c.1897) the building and its plot may be sub-divided into two properties (Fig.3), and by the 3rd edition (c.1939) the

building has evidently been demolished and replaced by that of the former public house, positioned closer toward the Victoria Road frontage.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the redevelopment scheme.

3.2 Objectives

The specific objective of the evaluation was:

- To identify and investigate evidence for medieval and early post-medieval occupation or other land-use within this plot

The research objectives for the project relate to the regional framework and agenda set out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties*, 1. *resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997) and 2. *Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

4.0 METHOD

Prior to site works, desk-based research was carried out in order to clarify site development through time and to determine the position of former buildings in relation to those still extant and those to be constructed. Cartographic study established the historic site layout (as described in Section 2.2, above) and facilitated the accurate plotting of former building positions. In consultation with the ECC HEM officer, it was determined to position trenches to the rear of the former public house and within the footprints of the proposed new buildings. Trenches 1 and 2 were deliberately positioned to coincide with parts of the earlier buildings as recorded on historic mapping and to investigate the footprints of Plots 3/4 and 5/6. Trench 3 was located within Plots 1/2, within an area of garden, both historic and modern.

The three evaluation trenches, totalling 85sq m, were duly excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. All were orientated north/south. Trenches 1 and 2 measured c.10m by 3.5m and Trench 3 10m by 1.5m.

As the trial trench evaluation established the presence of potentially-significant below-ground archaeological remains that would be impacted by construction, a second stage of monitoring and recording was carried out during construction works. The contractor's stripping of Plots 3 and 4 was observed and all exposed remains investigated and recorded as appropriate. The depths and widths of the foundation trenches were variable and in several areas the trench depth did not reach the medieval archaeological horizon.

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) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 1997; 2001) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

Archaeological remains of medieval, post-medieval and modern date were established to be present in evaluation Trenches 1 and 2 and in the subsequent monitoring of the foundation trench for Plot 3/4. Detailed context information is presented in Appendix 2.

The depth of excavation of the three evaluation trenches varied in depth. Trench 1 was 0.30m deep, Trench 2 was 0.74m deep and Trench 3 was 0.65m deep. The overburden in Trench 1 consisted of dark greyish brown clay silt topsoil in the centre and north of the trench, and concrete and brick rubble at the south end. In Trench 2, 0.32m of topsoil overlay a 0.42m-thick deposit of mixed subsoil consisting of light greyish brown silty clay with frequent rubble inclusions. At the north end of the trench a distinct gravelly interface was noted between topsoil and subsoil. In Trench 3, 0.25m of topsoil overlay 0.40m of mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil.

Natural orangey brown to yellow brown silty clay with gravel inclusions was exposed in the bottom of Trenches 2 and 3 and in the base of a small machine-excavated sondage in Trench 1.

5.1 Trench 1

The overburden in Trench 1 was removed directly onto a number of brick wall foundations and associated floor and garden deposits (Fig. 4 and Plate 1) which were planned but not

investigated in detail. The location of these remains correlate with the position of an earlier building depicted on the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey map (Figs. 2 and 3).

In the south of the evaluation trench, north-south aligned wall 5 and east-west wall 53 appear to form the earliest part of the building. Both walls contained part bricks of possible 17th century date although it is likely that these may have been reused, perhaps in later alterations or repair. However, the lower foundation courses of wall 53, which were exposed in the side of a machine sondage, appeared to be entirely original and in-situ and were comprised of whole, crisp-looking c.17th-century bricks bonded by little more than sandy mud (Plate 4). No northwards continuation of wall 5 was noted beyond its junction with wall 53. Within the angle of the two walls was a brick floor (6) of later date, composed in greater part by white 18th/19th century flooring bricks. To the east of wall 5 was a possible truncated surface of compacted on-edge bricks and stones (32). This presumably lay outside the building.

Further parts of the same building were located beyond a layer of clay and building debris (31), in the central and northern part of Trench 1. These structural remains comprised later bricks dating from the late 17th/early 18th century to the 19th century. The main feature was north/south wall 16 which was constructed from 18th century bricks laid mostly as headers and which appears to be the eastern external wall of the rear projecting range as shown on the historic mapping (Figs 2 and 3). The northern part of this north/south wall-line widened-out to a brick-and-a-half wide (c.0.38m) and was numbered as context 27. Within this projecting range extension were two east/west walls (12 and 37) and the partially surviving remains of a brick floor (54) constructed from late 17th or early 18th century bricks. Context 27 was also assigned to the remains of a further east/west wall constructed from 18th century bricks and an associated brick surface (27) located at the northern end of the building. Collectively, these structural remains imply the subdivision of the range into a number of rooms, their rough brick floors indicating a utilitarian use.

To the east and external to the building was a possible doorway threshold comprised of abraded white 18th/19th century flooring bricks (33). To the north of this was a rectangular patch of broken brick (38) and an area of gravel (21) that are both likely to be localised yard or path surfaces associated with the building. Other deposits included possible bedding deposits (14, 19 and 34), demolition material (3, 10, 20 and 24) and a number of intrusive features (pits 2, 7, 28, post-hole 25 and drainage cut 22).

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 contained three likely medieval features, all cut directly into the natural deposit (Fig. 5 and Plate 2). In the west of the trench was small north-west/south-east aligned gully (40) which had a concave profile (Fig. 7 and Plate 6) and contained five sherds of early medieval pottery (12th-13th century) and numerous fragments of oyster shell. To its north, a further sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from shallow, 0.06m-deep, oval pit (42). In the south-east of the trench was part of a large, presumably sub-circular, pit (43), over 3.5m wide though only 0.21m deep. Its fill (44) contained eleven sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery along with a single fragment of probable post-medieval brick and a sherd of post-medieval (17th-19th century) pottery that both might be intrusive.

Pit 43 was cut by a small ditch (45/52), 0.52m wide by 0.20m deep (Fig. 7, Section 2), that was aligned north/south and extended along the whole length of the trench. Finds from the ditch included two sherds of later 17th to 18th century Westerwald stoneware pottery, post-medieval roof tile and a fragment of bottle glass. The northern edge of pit 43 was also cut by a square, well-defined post-hole (50) whose dark greyish brown fill (49) produced three sherds of 17th century or later pottery, oyster shell and a fragment of post-medieval peg tile. The northern end of Trench 2 was crossed by a north-west/south east aligned pebble and tile-filled garden drain (48) containing numerous sherds of later 19th century pottery.

Drain 48 was overlain by a rectangular floor surface (57) that was likely associated with a former 19th century outbuilding that occupied this vicinity. The surface measured 2.7m by 1.7m and was composed of a mix of whole, half and broken-bricks, some of which were frogged (Plate 5). No clear evidence for the above ground structure of the outbuilding was noted, although a linear chalky clay deposit (58), containing the head of an iron hoe, located to the immediate west of the surface might indicate the presence of a robbed and back-filled wall trench. Four clearly modern sub-rectangular post-holes were also noted on the eastern and western edges of the trench, three of which contained fragments of decaying timber posts. Also of modern date was a brick-filled soakaway in the south of the trench which was cut into, and seemingly aligned upon, earlier ditch 45/52. It was noted that this soakaway was fed by a ceramic drain pipe at a higher level that probably came from the public house.

One small feature, stake-hole (63), contained no finds and remains undated.

5.3 Trench 3

No archaeological remains were identified in Trench 3. Two small sherds of abraded residual medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil (55) along with a single fragment of post-medieval window glass. A few irregular rooty patches of subsoil investigated at the north end of the trench were less than 0.10m deep and appeared to be entirely of natural origin.

5.4 Monitoring of construction groundworks

During the monitoring of the building contractor's excavation of the Plots 3/4 foundation trenches a number of archaeological remains were identified across the eastern part of the building footprint (Fig.6). However, it should be borne in mind that only the external wall trenches were dug to sufficient depth to expose remains. Notably, all the recorded remains occurred in the vicinity of the remains previously identified within Trench 2.

Two parallel, shallow, north-south aligned gullies (65 and 68) were identified in the southeast corner, some 1.1m apart (Fig.7, section 3). Dating evidence, in the form of two sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery, was only recovered from gully 68. Both were overlain by a 0.34m-thick layer of greyish brown silty clay (66/69) that produced four more sherds of medieval pottery. The gullies were not observed in the foundation trenches to the north due to the lesser depth of their excavation, though it may be significant that gully (68) aligns with minor ditch 45/52.

In the north of the footprint was a well-defined ditch (71), 0.81m wide and 0.27m deep (Fig. 7, section 4; Plate 7) that contained five sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery. The ditch was sealed beneath two layers of dark brownish grey subsoil (72 and 73). It was not traced in foundation trenches further south - again primarily due to their relatively shallow depth of excavation.

Also identified during the monitoring was the eastwards continuation of large medieval pit 43. Although its complete extent was not exposed, it is likely that it measures c.4m x 3m in plan. The eastward continuation of post-medieval drain 48 was also recorded.

6.0 FINDS by Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from a total of twenty-five contexts. All of the finds have 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 126 sherds, weighing 2015g was collected from seventeen contexts. The earliest pottery comes from fill 39 (fill of gully 40) and comprises fragments of fire-blackened sagging base, most likely from a cooking-pot in Shell-and-Sand-Tempered Ware dating from the 12th to early 13th centuries. A further sherd of this ware occurs residually in pit 43. Pit 42 produced a single sherd of Sandy Orange Ware showing a pitted olive-green splash glaze and may belong to the earlier 13th century, indicating that gully 40 and pit 42 could be contemporary.

The contents of substantial pit 43 comprises mainly 13th to 14th century pottery including, not surprisingly, as the production site is only around 5km to the south, examples of Mill Green Fine and Coarse Ware. Featured sherds from this context comprise an H1 cooking-pot rim in Medieval Coarse Ware, a rim type current throughout the 13th century and perhaps into the 14th. There is also a small fragment of thumbled base in Mill Green Coarse Ware dating from the mid 13th to 14th centuries, which is fire-blackened. Jugs were used for the storage and serving of liquids, but jugs showing fire-blackening at the base are not uncommon and it is likely that they were also used as cooking vessels. The latest material in pit 43, however, is the base of a Post-medieval Red Earthenware vessel, which cannot be earlier than 17th century. Ditch/gully 45 also contained sherds of Mill Green Ware and Post-Medieval Red Earthenware and therefore has a similar composition to that of pit 43.

Further sherds of Mill Green Coarse Ware and Fine Ware occurred in layers 66, 69, gully 68, and ditch 71, the latter containing a second example of an H1 cooking-pot rim. Mill Green products were also present in subsoil 55, although post-medieval glass also occurred in this context.

Post-hole 50 produced a few small sherds of Post-Medieval Red Earthenware and Black-Glazed Ware and dates to the 17th century or later. Ditch/gully 52 produced a fragment of Westerwald Stoneware with blue and purple moulded decoration, which is most likely 18th century as this is when importation of this ware (from Rhineland Germany) reached its peak.

There are several Post-Medieval Red Earthenware vessel fragments, but much is likely to be 19th century. It is worth noting that many of these vessels are abraded and that this abrasion appears to be through use rather than post-depositional weathering, which would be consistent with heavy use in a tavern.

Drain 48 produced a relatively large assemblage, the earliest of which is a fragment of Metropolitan Slipware flanged dish. It shows simple slip-trailed decoration consisting of a single wavy line around the rim and a single wavy line around the wall of the dish. This would indicate a later 17th or even 18th century date. Finds of Modern white earthenware make up the rest of the assemblage, these comprise the remains of a cup and two blue-transfer printed plates, one in willow pattern, which is not closely datable, and the second showing a rural scene and floral border (see catalogue) datable to the 1820s. The most recent vessel is a late 19th century Mocha Ware jug with slip-banding and showing the possible remains of a capacity mark, indicating its tavern use. A sherd from a second very similar Mocha Ware vessel was recovered from layer 61.

Layer 56 also contained 19th to early 20th century pottery, but this time comprising mainly kitchen wares (including part of a bread crock) and only a small proportion of table wares. The most datable piece is part of a plate showing a sponged purple leaf motif border, a rather cheap and cheerful ware dating from the 1830s to 20th century. Layer 50 appears to be of a similar date.

6.2 Brick

A total of nine bricks, four part bricks and eleven brick fragments weighing 26.680kg were recovered from ten contexts. Brick was recovered mainly from walls and floors/surfaces. That from the walls is the most significant for dating purposes as old, reused brick was often used for floors and worn floors were often patched. The brick from walls 5 and 53 is Tudor/17th century. A brick fragment of this date was also recovered from pit 43, containing medieval to post-medieval pottery. An interesting find from wall 53 comprises brick fragments where clay has been used instead of mortar; this is uncommon and could indicate a utilitarian structure. Wall 16 is probably later, producing bricks datable to the late 18th century. The surfaces/floors produced bricks spanning the late 17th to 19th centuries, with a London Stock-type brick from floor 57 precluding a date before the 19th century.

6.3 Metalwork

Metalwork was found unstratified (in context Tr 1 U/S) and in robed-out wall trench 60. Finds include iron nails, a door hinge and part of a hoe, with the addition of a copper alloy oil lamp fitting and a cartridge case, all of which appear to be modern.

6.4 Animal bone and shell

Four features, gully 40, pit 43, post-hole 50, and gully 65 produced small amounts of animal bone and shell. The animal bone, nine pieces, weighing 115g, mainly comprises small indeterminate fragments, although gully 40 produced a metatarsus, perhaps from a deer. All of the shell is oyster and comprises twenty-two valves, plus fragments, weighing a total of 180g. Most of this shell derives from medieval features.

6.5 Glass

A total of six pieces of glass, weighing 591g were recovered from four contexts. Of some interest is the domed base of a wine bottle in partially devitrified dark green glass, found in ditch/gully 52 and datable to the 18th century. Eighteenth century pottery was also found in this context. The remaining glass comprises fragments from modern bottles and a small piece of window glass (from subsoil 55) which may be post-medieval.

6.6 Other finds

Two small pieces of baked clay were found in the fill of pit 43 and gully 71. Post-medieval finds comprise a small piece of clay-pipe stem (in layer 46). Modern finds comprise a fragment of slate, probably roof slate, and a slate pencil.

6.7 Comments on the assemblage

Brick and pottery form the largest and most significant component of the assemblage. The medieval pottery indicates there was significant activity here from perhaps the later 12th to 14th centuries. There is only a small amount of definite post-medieval pottery and while most of the 19th to 20th century pottery is domestic in nature, the worn earthenware vessels and the possible mocha ware tavern jug are consistent with pub use, as is the wine bottle. The brick evidence also indicates a previous building on the site dating to the Tudor/17th century period. Most of the non-ceramic finds are modern, although it is worth noting that all the animal bone and oyster shell come from medieval contexts, with oyster shell also in a post-medieval context. None is modern. No further work is required on any of the finds. All the finds apart from oyster shell fragments have been retained, although further (non-brick) discard could be made at the archiving stage.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The earliest archaeological remains identified by this investigation date to the medieval period and potentially span the 12th-14 centuries. The presence of the gully and pits in the vicinity of Plots 3 and 4 may indicate that the distinctive square land entity has its origins in the medieval period. However, the absence of structural remains and the relative paucity of cultural material of this date is not conducive to the interpretation of the nature of its early use or occupation. It is perhaps significant that no archaeological remains, medieval or post-medieval, were encountered west of ditch 71. It is likely that this represents an enduring subdivision of the property, with occupation being confined to its east and gardens to its west.

The identified post-medieval remains are more substantive and together with the cartographic sources give greater insights into the later development and occupation of the site (Fig.8). The post-medieval remains recorded in Trench 1 broadly correspond to the position of parts of the former principal building (a 'house'?) depicted on the historic mapping. That part of the structure denoted by brick walls 5 and 32 are probably the remnants of the rear wall of its original 17th century extents. It would seem reasonable to assume that this post-medieval brick building is the same as that depicted on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map. The remainder of the exposed walls (12, 16/27, 37 and 54) are parts of the east side of a projecting range that appear to be added to the rear of the house in the 18th to early 19th centuries.

The rear extension of the house clearly did not extend as far as the footprint of plot 3/4. It is therefore perhaps possible to suggest that ditch 45/52, found in Trench 2, functioned as a drainage and/or boundary feature just beyond its west wall. Drain 48, brick surface 57 and possible wall trench remnant 58 all presumably relate to a freestanding range of outbuildings shown on the 1st and 2nd OS maps as lying northwest of the house, along a boundary with the gardens that occupy the west side of the property. This range also appears to be 18th to 19th century in date. Indeed the historic mapping attests its 19th century modification and apparent removal of its southern end.

Contrary to previous speculation, the building depicted on the 1777 map does not appear to have been a medieval construction, but rather one of earlier post-medieval date that is subsequently enlarged in the 18th or early 19th centuries. This does not preclude that it replaced an earlier structure and that the square land entity that it occupied, and is still in

evidence today, has its origins as an occupation plot founded alongside Great Oxney Green in the early medieval period. Indeed, the proven presence of medieval remains makes this probable.

It is likely that further medieval and post-medieval below-ground remains survive elsewhere within the site, particularly across its east side. It is conjectured that the medieval period features encountered in Trench 2 may be outliers of further activity of this date concentrated further south. While some will have been removed by the construction of the public house, more substantial occupation remains of medieval date could feasibly be present toward the Victoria Road frontage and in closer proximity to Great Oxney Green.

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- Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper **14**
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

| Context | Trench | Type | Description | Period |
|---------|--------|------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | 1 | Fill of 2 | Light creamy yellow sand, occ. brick & tile | Modern? |
| 2 | 1 | Pit | Sub-rectangular, 0.44m+ x 0.45m+ | Modern? |
| 3 | 1 | Layer | Light creamy yellow silty sand and mortar, freq. brick & tile | Modern? |
| 4 | 1 | Cons cut | N-S aligned cut for wall 5 | 17th C? |
| 5 | 1 | Wall | Whole & ½ red bricks, 1.5m+ x 0.34m, 2 courses+ high | 17th C? |
| 6 | 1 | Surface | Whole & ½ bricks, red and white/light grey, 1m x 0.9m | 18th/19th C |
| 7 | 1 | Pit | Sub-circular, 0.82m x 0.50m+ | Modern |
| 8 | 1 | Fill of 7 | Dark brown sandy silt, occ. charcoal | Modern |
| 9 | 1 | Bricks | Six whole frogged bricks (on 19?) | Modern |
| 10 | 1 | Layer | Mid grey brown sandy silt, freq. brick fragments & pebbles | Modern |
| 11 | 1 | Cons cut | E-W aligned cut for wall 12 | 18th C? |
| 12 | 1 | Wall | Whole red bricks, mostly a single line of headers, 2.5m+ x 0.21m, 2 courses | 18th C? |
| 13 | 1 | Fill of 11 | Mid grey brown sandy silt | 18th C? |
| 14 | 1 | Layer | Light yellow/cream sand & mortar with occ. tiles in (bedding?) | Modern? |
| 15 | 1 | Cons cut | N-S aligned cut for wall 16 | 18th C |
| 16 | 1 | Wall | Whole red bricks with occ. ½ bricks, mostly a single line of headers, 3.5m x 0.22m, 3 courses | 18th C |
| 17 | 1 | Fill of 15? | Light yellow/cream sand and mortar | 18th C |
| 18 | 1 | Cons cut | N-S aligned, 1.2m x 0.50m | Modern |
| 19 | 1 | Fill of 18 | Light yellow/cream sand and mortar (bedding?) | Modern |
| 20 | 1 | Layer | Mid grey brown sandy silt, freq. pebbles, brick & tile fragments | Modern |
| 21 | 1 | Surface | Mid greyish brown sandy silt, freq. pebbles, occ. brick rubble | Modern |
| 22 | 1 | Cut | Prob. drainage feature, 2m x 0.65m | Modern |
| 23 | 1 | Fill of 22 | Mid greyish brown sandy silt, ceramic drain frag? | Modern |
| 24 | 1 | Layer | Mid greyish brown sandy silt, occ mortar, brick/tile fragments | Modern |
| 25 | 1 | Post-hole | Circular, 0.25m diameter | Modern |
| 26 | 1 | Cons cut | N-S and E-W aligned for wall 27 | 18th C |
| 27 | 1 | Wall/ surface | Whole and ½ red bricks. N-S wall, 1.4m+ x 0.4m, 1½ bricks wide. Surface to W. edged by single line of headers | 18th C |
| 28 | 1 | Pit | Irregular, 1.0m x 0.95m | Modern |
| 29 | 1 | Fill of 28 | Mid greyish brown sandy silt and ash, occ. charcoal flecks | Modern |
| 30 | 1 | Pit | Irregular cut, c.2m x c.1m (north of 3) | Modern |
| 31 | 1 | Fill of 30? | Light brownish grey silty clay, freq. brick/tile & crushed mortar | Modern |
| 32 | 1 | Layer | Brown sandy silt with compact broken bricks (on edge?) | Modern? |
| 33 | 1 | Surface | Flat yellow/cream bricks with bricks on edge along N side. | 18th/19th C |
| 34 | 1 | Layer | Light yellow/cream mortar, occ. brick fragments (bedding?) | 18th C |
| 35 | 1 | Layer | Light yellow/cream sand & mortar, occ. brick frags (above 54) | Modern |

| Context | Trench | Type | Description | Period |
|---------|-----------|-------------|--|--------------|
| 36 | 1 | Layer | Red brick rubble (above 35) | Modern |
| 37 | 1 | Wall | Whole header bricks and linear rubble | 18th C |
| 38 | 1 | Surface | Rectangular broken brick surface, 1.10m x 0.98m | Modern? |
| 39 | 2 | Fill of 40 | Mid brownish grey silty clay, occ. pebbles, oyster frags | 12th/13th C |
| 40 | 2 | Gully | NW/SE aligned, 1.5m+ x 0.28m x 0.12m deep | 12th/13th C |
| 41 | 2 | Fill of 42 | Mid brownish grey silty clay, occ. pebbles & charcoal flecks | 12th/13th C |
| 42 | 2 | Pit | Oval, 0.65m x 0.50m x 0.06m deep | 12th/13th C |
| 43 | 2 | Pit | Oval/irregular, c.3.5m x 2.5m x 0.21m deep | 13th/14th C? |
| 44 | 2 | Fill of 43 | Greyish brown silty clay, occ. small stones | 13th/14th C? |
| 45 | 2 | Ditch/gully | N/S aligned, 1.6m+ x 0.50m x 0.16m deep | 18th C |
| 46 | 2 | Fill of 45 | Dark greyish brown silty clay, rare charcoal flecks | 18th C |
| 47 | 2 | Fill of 48 | Dark grey silty clay, freq. pebbles, occ. tile fragments | 19th C |
| 48 | 2 | Field drain | NW/SE aligned, 3.2m x 0.20m x 0.15m+ deep | 19th C |
| 49 | 2 | Fill of 50 | Dark greyish brown silty clay, occ small pebbles | Post-med |
| 50 | 2 | Post-hole | Sub-rectangular, 0.44m x 0.42m x 0.16m deep | Post-med |
| 51 | 2 | Fill of 52 | Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, occ. small-med pebbles | 18th C |
| 52 | 2 | Ditch/gully | N/S aligned, 7.6m+ x 0.52m x 0.20m deep | 18th C |
| 53 | 1 | Wall | Whole red bricks, E/W aligned, some pale lime mortar | 17th C |
| 54 | 1 | Surface | Whole & ½ red bricks, S. of wall 12 (below 35) | L17th/18th C |
| 55 | 3 | Subsoil | Mid greyish brown silty clay | - |
| 56 | 2 | Layer | Surface of broken tile, mortar lumps & pebbles, 0.3m thick | Post-med |
| 57 | 2 | Floor | Whole and ½ red & yellow bricks, some frogged, 2.7 x 1.7m | Modern |
| 58 | 2 | Fill of 60 | Mixed mid grey and light brown chalky clay | Modern |
| 59 | 2 | Layer | Dark grey brown clay silt, pea gravel, pebbles (above 57) | Modern |
| 60 | 2 | Wall trench | Possible robber trench to S & W of floor 57, 1.6m x 0.40m | Modern |
| 61 | 2 | Layer | Orange sandy gravel make-up (below 57) | Modern |
| 62 | 2 | Fill of 63 | Dark greyish brown silty clay | - |
| 63 | 2 | Stake-hole | Circular, tapering, 0.20m diam. x 0.15m deep | - |
| 64 | Plots 3/4 | Fill of 65 | Mid brownish grey silty clay, occ. small pebbles | Medieval? |
| 65 | Plots 3/4 | Gully | N/S aligned, 0.6m+ x 0.63m x 0.20m deep | Medieval? |
| 66 | Plots 3/4 | Layer | Mixed grey/brown silty clay, 0.34m thick | 13th/14th C |
| 67 | Plots 3/4 | Fill of 68 | Mid-dark brownish grey silty clay, occ. small flints/pebbles | 13th/14th C |
| 68 | Plots 3/4 | Gully | N/S aligned, 0.60m+ x 1.7m x 0.15m deep | 13th/14th C |
| 69 | Plots 3/4 | Layer | Mixed grey/brownish grey silty clay, occ. pebbles | 13th/14th C |
| 70 | Plots 3/4 | Fill of 71 | Mid brownish orange silty clay | 13th/14th C |
| 71 | Plots 3/4 | Gully | N/S aligned, 1m+ x 0.81m x 0.27m deep | 13th/14th C |
| 72 | Plots 3/4 | Layer | Dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.21m thick | - |
| 73 | Plots 3/4 | Layer | Dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.33m thick | - |

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight (g) | Description | Date |
|----------|------------------|-------|------------|--|----------------|
| Tr 1 U/S | n/a | 10 | 67 | Pottery | Modern |
| | | 2 | 138 | Peg tile | Post-medieval |
| | | 1 | 930 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| | | 2 | 40 | Iron nails | - |
| | | 2 | 27 | Copper alloy shell case and oil lamp fitting | Modern |
| | | 1 | 2 | Slate pencil | Modern |
| 5 | Wall | 6 | 2380 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 6 | Surface | 1 | 2000 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 16 | Wall | 2 | 4850 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 27 | Wall/ surface | 1 | 2500 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 33 | Surface | 1 | 2280 | Brick | Post-med |
| 39 | 40 | 5 | 128 | Pottery | Early medieval |
| | | 1 | 95 | Animal bone, metatarsus, perhaps deer | - |
| | | 19 | 114 | Shell, oyster | - |
| 41 | 42 | 1 | 7 | Pottery | Medieval |
| 44 | 43 | 1 | 5 | Pottery | Early medieval |
| | | 11 | 104 | Pottery | Medieval |
| | | 1 | 49 | Pottery | Post-medieval |
| | | 1 | 320 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| | | 7 | 15 | Animal bone fragments | - |
| | | 7 | 49 | Shell, oyster | - |
| | | 1 | 11 | Baked clay lump | - |
| 46 | 45 | 1 | 6 | Pottery | Medieval |
| | | 2 | 102 | Pottery | Post-medieval |
| | | 4 | 179 | Roof tile, fragments | Post-medieval |
| 47 | 48 | 1 | 73 | Pottery | Post-medieval |
| | | 38 | 469 | Pottery | Modern |
| 49 | 50 | 3 | 17 | Pottery | Post-medieval |
| | | 1 | 40 | Peg tile fragment | Post-med |
| | | 2 | 13 | Shell, oyster | - |
| 51 | 52 | 2 | 9 | Pottery | Post-medieval |
| | | 1 | 7 | Roof tile, tiny fragment of | Post-medieval |
| | | 1 | 422 | Bottle glass | Post-medieval |
| 53 | Wall | 8 | 70 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 54 | Surface | 1 | 1250 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 55 | Subsoil | 2 | 7 | Pottery | Medieval |

Former Victoria Public House site, Writtle
Archaeological evaluation and monitoring

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|----|------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | 1 | 6 | Pottery | Medieval to late medieval |
| | | 1 | 1 | Window glass | Post-medieval |
| 56 | Layer | 20 | 665 | Pottery | Modern |
| | | 1 | 94 | Glass stopper | Modern |
| | | 1 | 16 | Slate, fragment of | Post 1830s |
| | | 1 | 1 | Clay pipe stem | Post-medieval |
| 57 | Floor | 2 | 5100 | Brick | Post-medieval |
| 58 | 60 | 1 | 63 | Pottery | Post-medieval to modern |
| | | 3 | 406 | Iron objects | Modern |
| 59 | Layer | 11 | 85 | Pottery | Modern |
| | | 3 | 74 | Bottle glass fragments | Modern |
| 61 | Layer | 4 | 76 | Pottery | Modern |
| 64 | 65 | 1 | 4 | Oyster shell | - |
| | | 1 | 5 | Animal bone | - |
| 66 | Layer | 3 | 31 | Pottery | Medieval |
| 67 | 68 | 2 | 4 | Pottery | Medieval |
| 69 | Layer | 1 | 2 | Pottery | Medieval to late medieval |
| 70 | 71 | 5 | 40 | Pottery | Medieval |

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight (g) | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|-------|------------|---|-------------------------|
| Tr 1 US | | 1 | 39 | Modern stoneware, fragment of cylindrical bottle | 19th to early 20th C |
| | | 9 | 28 | Modern white earthenware, comprises transfer-printed sherds including example with a black transfer print, examples of flow-blue and plain sherds | Mid 19th C onwards |
| 39 | 40 | 5 | 128 | Shell-and-sand-tempered ware, sherds from sagging base, some joining, fire-blackened and probably from a cooking-pot | 12th to earlier 13th C |
| 41 | 42 | 1 | 7 | Sandy orange ware body sherd showing partial, pitted olive green glaze | 13th C |
| 44 | 43 | 1 | 5 | Shell-and-sand-tempered ware body sherd externally fire-blackened | 12th to earlier 13th C |
| | | 6 | 67 | Medieval coarse ware, small fragment of H1 cooking-pot rim, sagging base sherd and body sherds | 13th C, possibly 14th C |
| | | 3 | 23 | Mill Green coarse ware, small fragment from thumbled jug base, externally fire-blackened with splashes of glaze on underside of base, also sagging base and body sherd both externally fire-blackened | Mid 13th to 14th C |
| | | 1 | 10 | Mill Green fine ware unglazed sagging base in fine ware fabric | Mid 13th to 14th C |
| | | 1 | 4 | Sandy orange ware body sherd showing a matt, decomposed external glaze | 13th to 14th C |
| | | 1 | 49 | Post-medieval red earthenware, internally glazed pad base, abraded and laminated internally with most of glaze missing | 17th to 19th C |
| 46 | 45 | 1 | 6 | Mill Green fine ware, small fragment of ?thumbled jug base showing splashes of glaze and external fire-blackening | Mid 13th to 14th C |
| | | 2 | 102 | Post-medieval red earthenware comprising internally glazed base perhaps from a jar, externally abraded especially on underside of base, perhaps from use, and an internally glazed body sherd | 17th to 19th C |
| 47 | 48 | 1 | 73 | Metropolitan slipware flanged dish showing single wavy line around rim flange and single wavy line around vessel wall | Later 17th to 18th C |
| | | 12 | 185 | Modern white earthenware joining fragments from transfer-printed willow pattern plate showing remains of printed backstamp '...China' enclosed in belt cartouche | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 5 | 100 | Modern white earthenware plate showing blue transfer-printed design showing a cottage next to a bridge with a church in the background and floral border, for comparable example see Copeland (1982, 3) | 1820s |
| | | 9 | 19 | Modern white earthenware rim of ?cup showing blue slip banding | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 12 | 165 | Modern white earthenware cylindrical jug with mocha decoration and slip-banding showing possible scar of applied capacity mark for tavern use cf. Barker and Crompton 2007, 171 | Late 19th C |
| 49 | 50 | 2 | 14 | Post-medieval red earthenware comprising body sherd with all over glaze and internally glazed base sherd, abraded externally | 17th to 19th C |
| | | 1 | 3 | Black-glazed ware internally glazed sherd from flat base | 17th C or later |
| 51 | 52 | 2 | 9 | Westerwald stoneware, joining sherds showing band | Later 17th to |

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight (g) | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|------------|---------------|---|------------------------|
| | | | | moulded decoration with blue and purple, heart motifs | later 18th C |
| 55 | Subsoil | 2 | 7 | Mill Green coarse ware body sherds, one oxidised, one reduced | Mid 13th to 14th C |
| | | 1 | 6 | Mill Green-type ware, unglazed | 14th to 16th C |
| 56 | Layer | 11 | 579 | Post-medieval red earthenware, fragments from large glazed storage jar(s)/bread crock, includes beaded rim showing incised wavy line band enclosed by single horizontal lines below rim | 19th C |
| | | 1 | 20 | Late kitchen earthenware base sherd showing internal white slip-coating | 19th to early 20th C |
| | | 5 | 43 | Modern white earthenware comprising plain sherds, sherds with pale blue transfer prints and plate with purple sponged leaf border | 1830s to 20th C |
| | | 2 | 22 | Modern stoneware, lead glazed, includes spout from jug with iron wash around rim | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 1 | 1 | Bone china, plain body sherd | Late 18th to 20th C |
| 58 | 60 | 1 | 63 | Post-medieval red earthenware beaded jar rim internally glazed, externally abraded | 17th to 19th C |
| 59 | Layer | 3 | 16 | Flowerpot, joining sherds | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 4 | 37 | Modern stoneware, includes brown glazed sherd with moulded decoration, the others are from utilitarian vessels | 19th to 20th C |
| | | 4 | 32 | Modern white earthenware, includes a sherd with a pale blue floral transfer print | 1830s onwards |
| 61 | Layer | 2 | 46 | Post-medieval red earthenware beaded from a jar or bowl, joining sherds, all over glaze | 17th to 19th C |
| | | 1 | 13 | Modern white earthenware, sherd from cylindrical vessel showing mocha decoration, similar to that in context 47, but not from same vessel | Late 19th C |
| | | 1 | 17 | Modern stoneware sherd probably from cylindrical bottle | 19th to early 20th C |
| 66 | Layer | 3 | 31 | Mill Green coarse ware, comprising two joining sagging base sherds showing external fire-blackening and one thick-walled body sherd | Mid 13th to mid 14th C |
| 67 | 68 | 2 | 4 | Mill Green coarse ware, joining body sherds | Mid 13th to mid 14th C |
| 69 | Layer | 1 | 2 | Mill Green fine ware, slip-painted and unglazed, relatively sandy fabric | Mid 13th to 15th C |
| 70 | 71 | 2 | 30 | Mill Green coarse ware, joining sherds from H1 cooking-pot rim, underside of rim shows fire-blackening and splashes of glaze | Mid 13th to mid 14th C |
| | | 1 | 5 | Mill Green fine ware plain undecorated body sherd | Mid 13th to mid 14th C |
| | | 2 | 5 | Medieval coarse ware, body sherds | 13th to 14th C |
| | | 126 | 2015 | | |

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Former Victoria Public House, 76 Victoria Road, Writtle

Site Code: WRGO10

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief (x2)
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation (x2)

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 73)
- 3.3 3 Trench Record sheets
- 3.4 Plan Register
- 3.5 Section Register
- 3.6 1 x A4 Section sheet
- 3.7 Levels Register
- 3.8 Trench location plan
- 3.9 Photographic Register & thumbnails sheet
- 3.10 Site Photographic Record (1 set of black/white prints & 1 set of digital images on disk)
- 3.11 Miscellaneous notes/plans

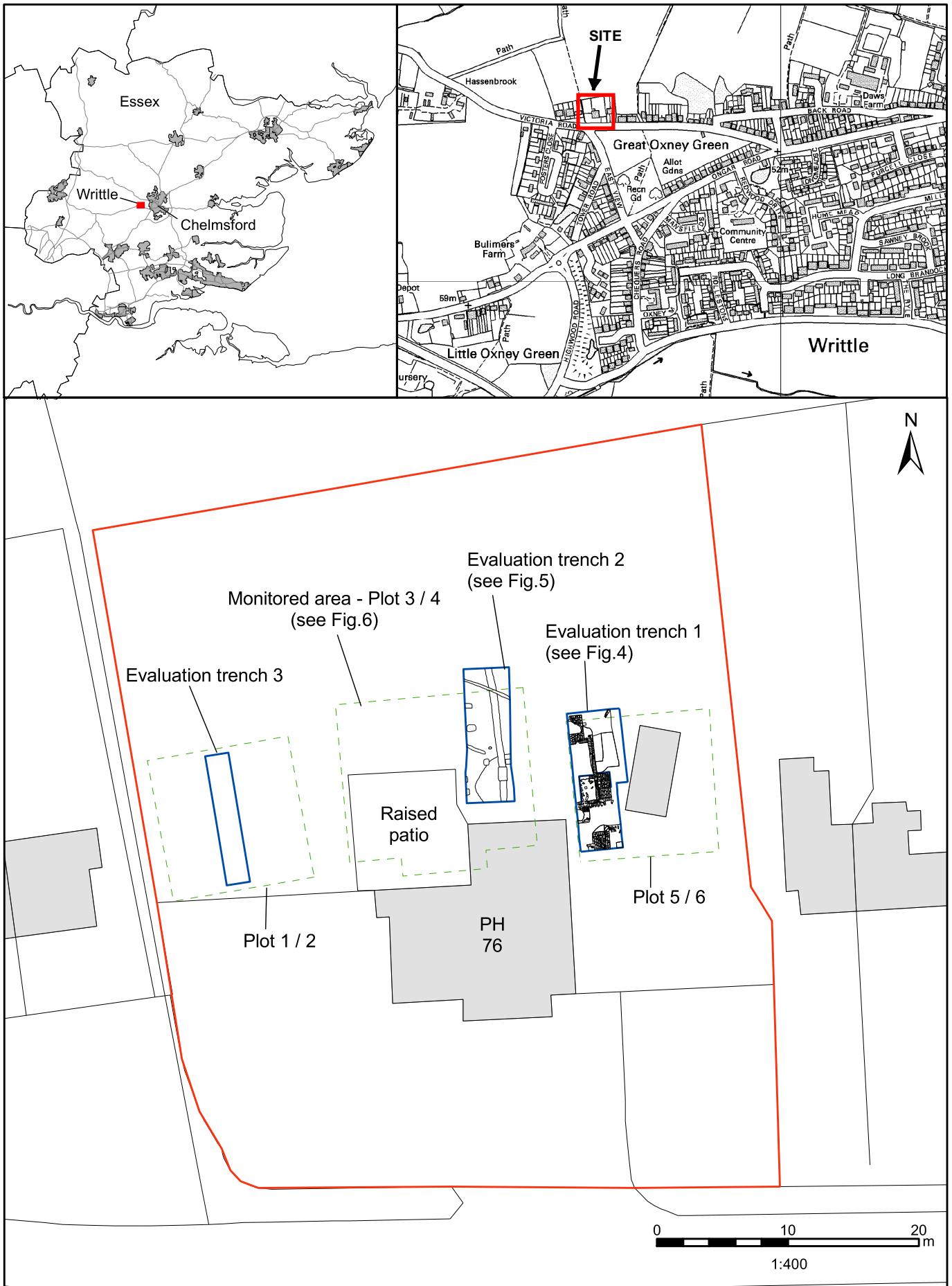
Not in File

3 large plan sheets

3 boxes of artefacts (pottery, brick, tile, metalwork, glass, shell, bone & misc)

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|--|--|
| Site name/Address: Former Victoria Public House, 76 Victoria Road, Writtle, Essex | |
| Parishes: Writtle | District: Chelmsford |
| NGR: TL 6662 0634 | Site Code: WRGO10 |
| Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation & monitoring | Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit |
| Dates of Work: 12-14 May & 09-10 Aug 2010 | Size of Area Investigated: 85 sq m |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford | Funding source: Client |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: No | Related HER Nos.: none |
| Final Report: EAH summary | Oasis No.: 76877 |
| Periods Represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p>An archaeological trenching evaluation and subsequent monitoring brief was carried out in advance of residential re-development. Three trenches, totalling an area of 85 sq m, were excavated within the footprints of three buildings (Plots 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6) located in the garden to the rear the former Victoria public house - which was subsequently demolished. Monitoring of the construction groundworks for building plot 3/4 was also undertaken.</p> | |
| <p><u>Medieval</u></p> <p>Two pits and a gully, together with a small quantity of residual pottery, are of medieval date and attest to activity on the site from as early as the 12th century. However, no building remains of this date were found.</p> | |
| <p><u>Post-medieval</u></p> <p>Trenches 2 and 3 contained post-medieval remains dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. The majority of these comprise brick walls, floors, drains and ditches belonging to buildings that formerly occupied the site and are depicted on historic mapping. Parts of the principal building (a house?) were located within Trench 1 and demonstrate that the structure was likely to be of two major phases - an original rectangular house of 17th century origin and a rear extension of likely 18th or early 19th century date. No medieval origin for this building was apparent.</p> <p>The east side of an 18th century brick-built outbuilding range positioned to the rear of the house, and apparently shortened in the 19th century, was only very tentatively located within Trench 2. No archaeological remains were found within Trench 3, to the west of the public house, and it is assumed that this part of the property had always had a garden use.</p> | |
| <p><u>Modern</u></p> <p>The former buildings were probably modified into the 20th century and demolished by 1939. Modern post-holes and a soakaway attest to activity associated with the subsequent occupation of the site by the public house. The construction of the pub has probably destroyed much of the below-ground remains of the previous house.</p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: none | |
| Author of Summary: T. Ennis | Date of Summary: 19 October 2010 |



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Fig.1. Site location plan

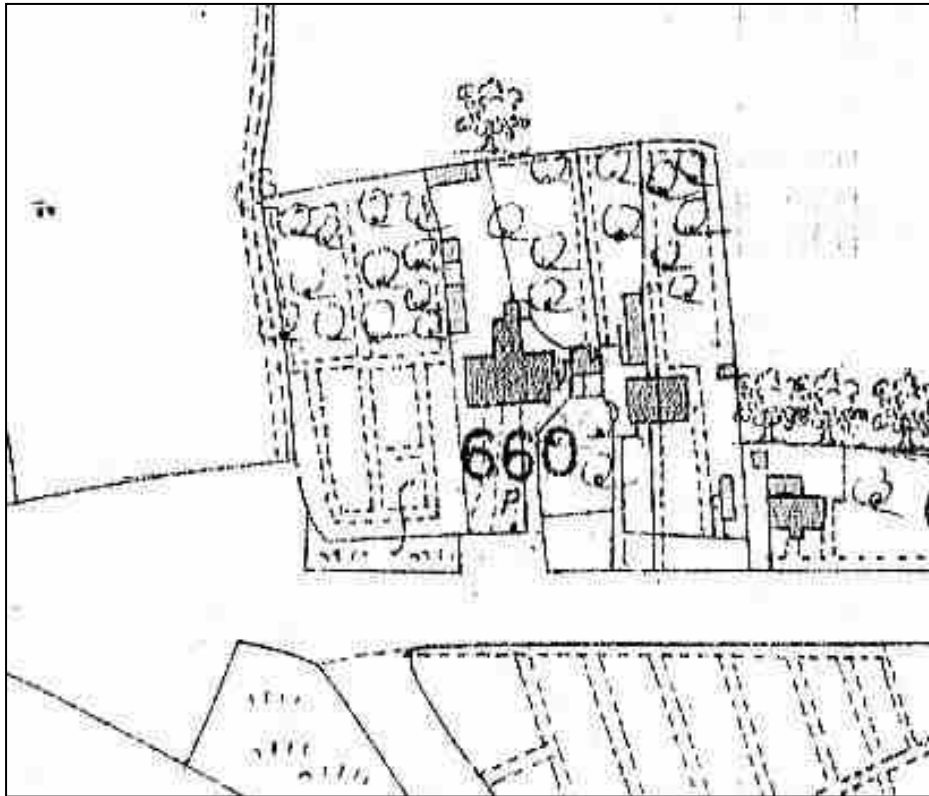


Fig.2 1st edition OS map (c.1874)

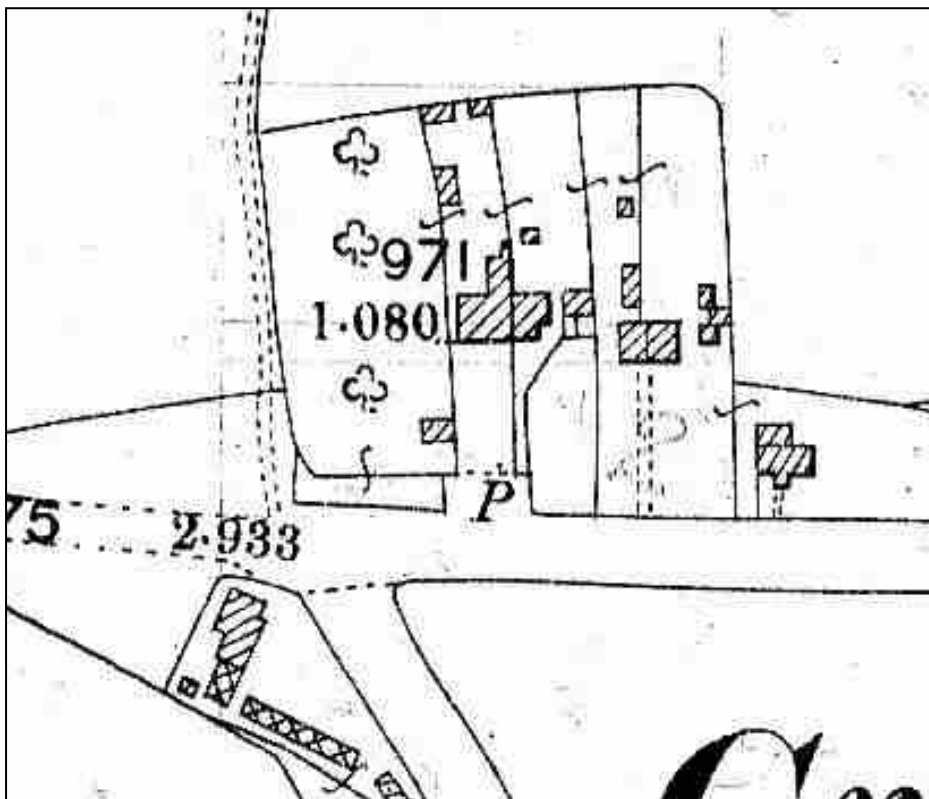


Fig.3 2nd edition OS map (c.1895)

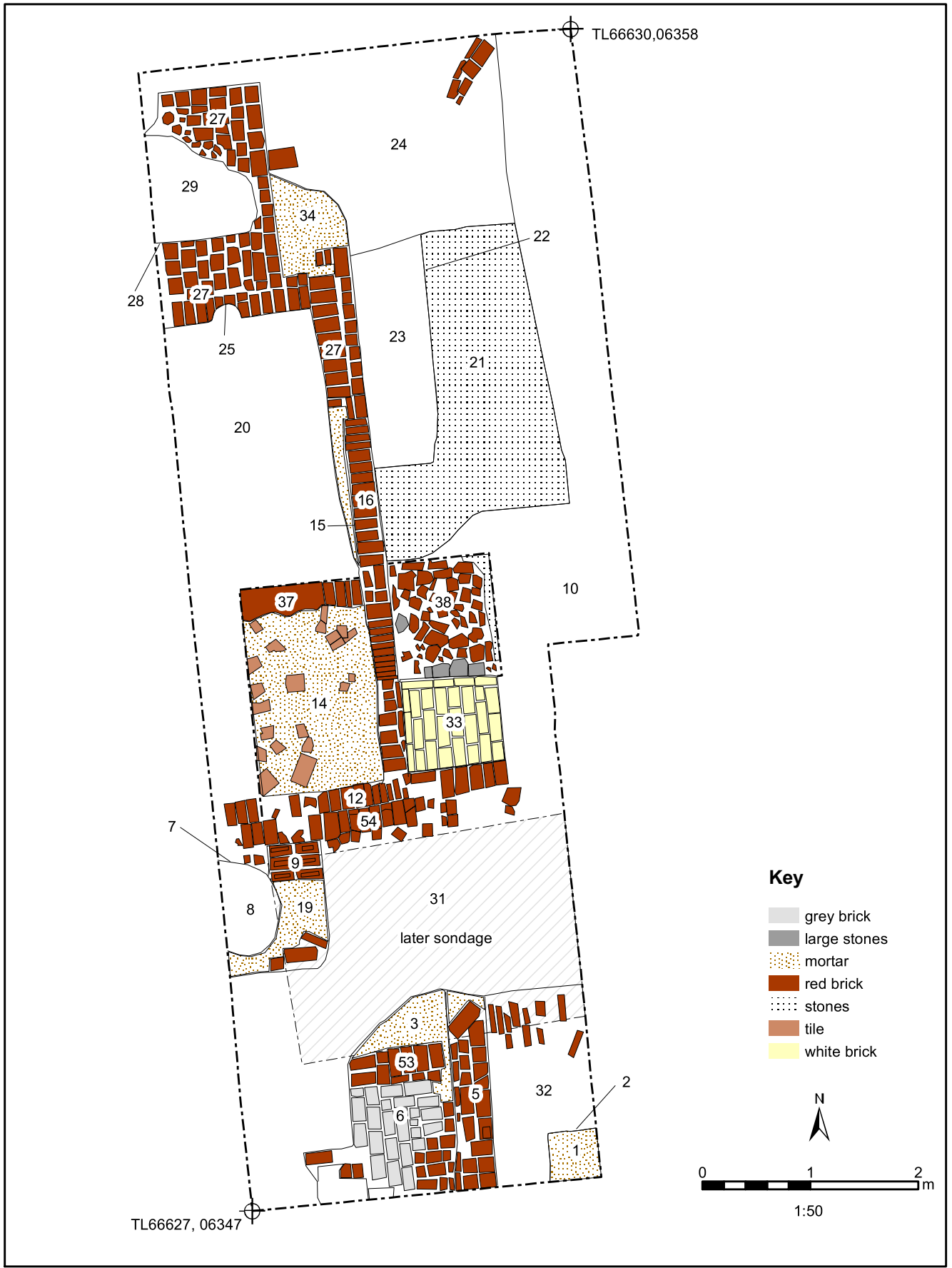


Fig.4. Trench 1 plan

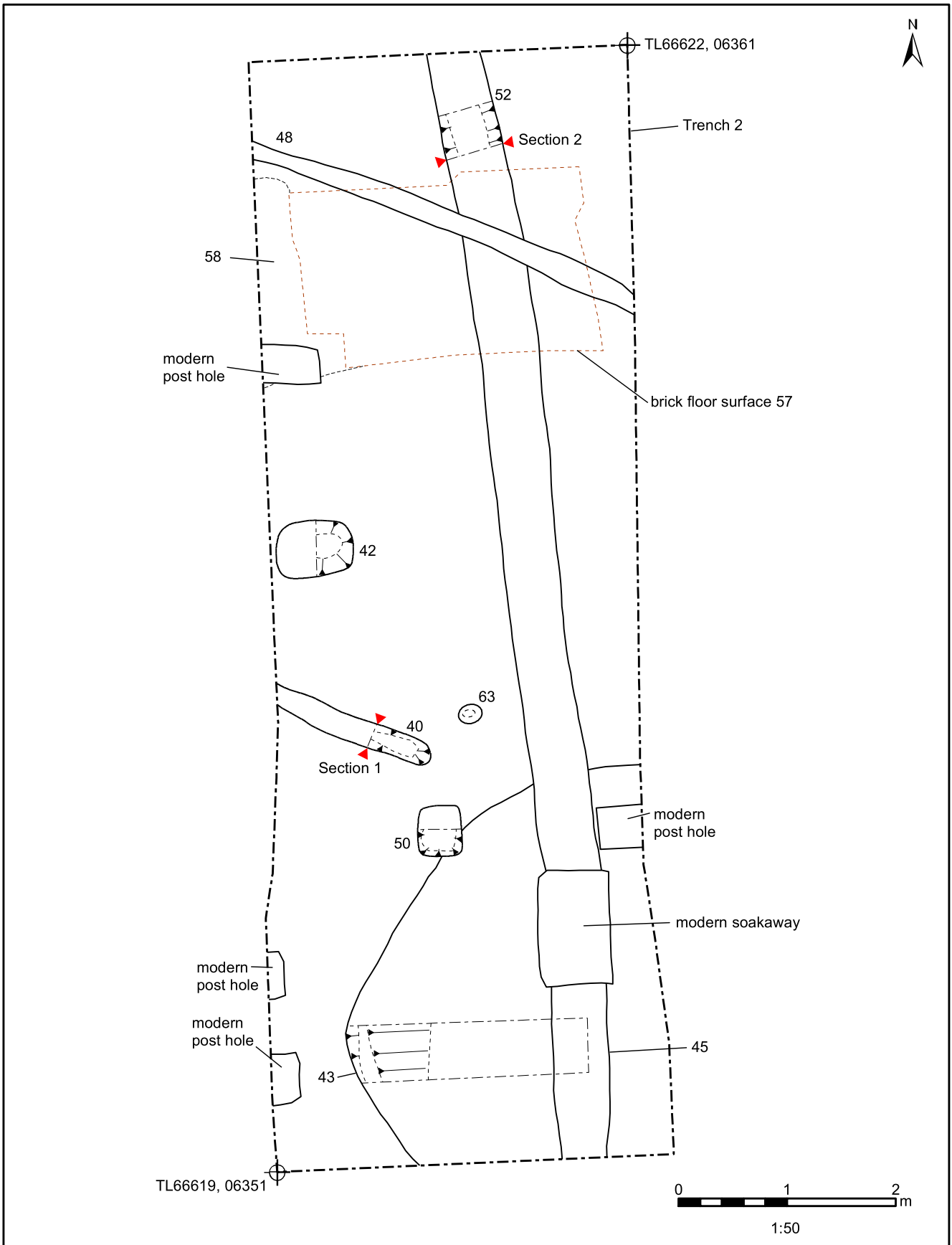


Fig.5. Trench 2 plan

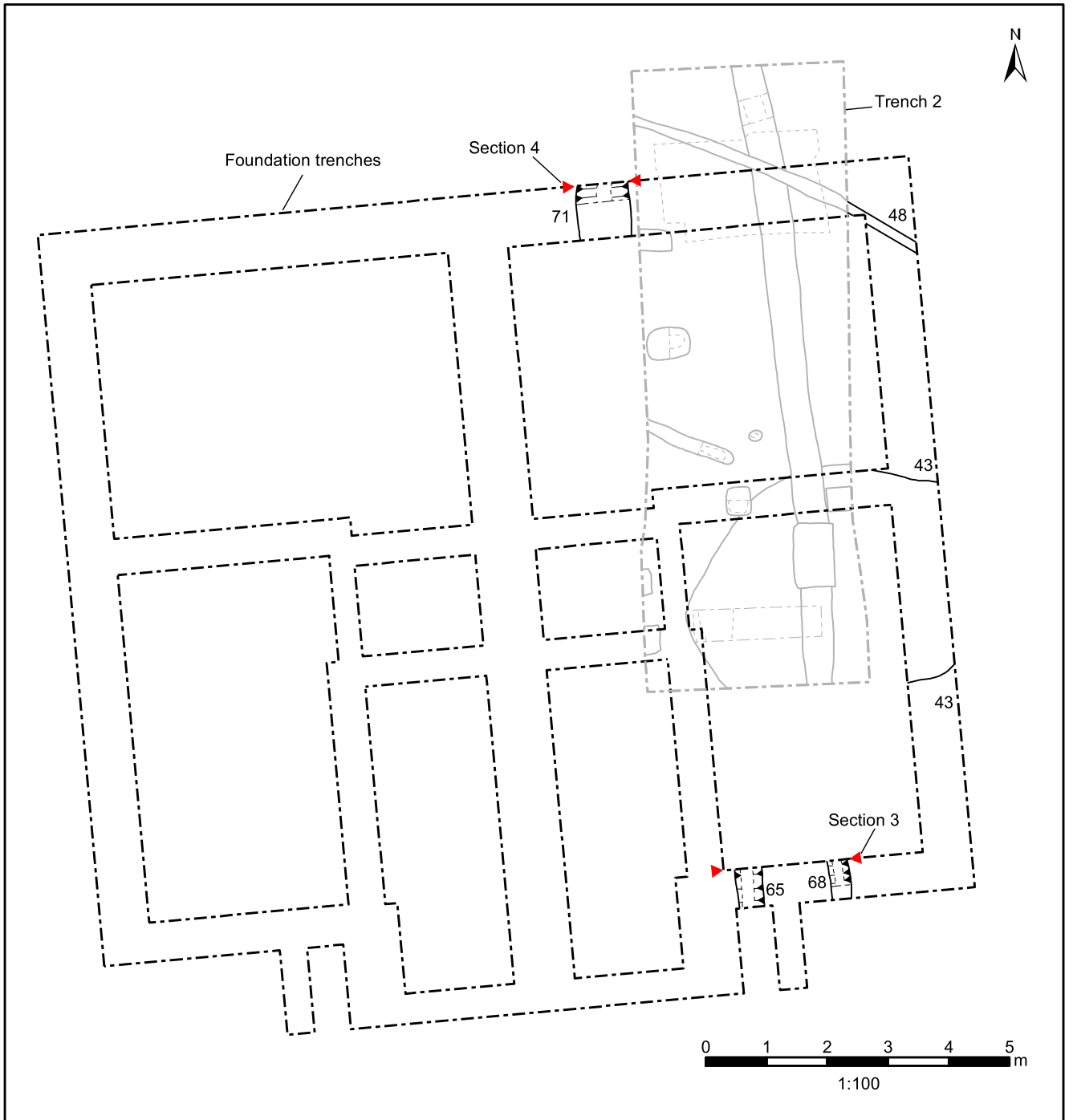


Fig.6. Plan of monitored foundation trenches of plots 3 & 4

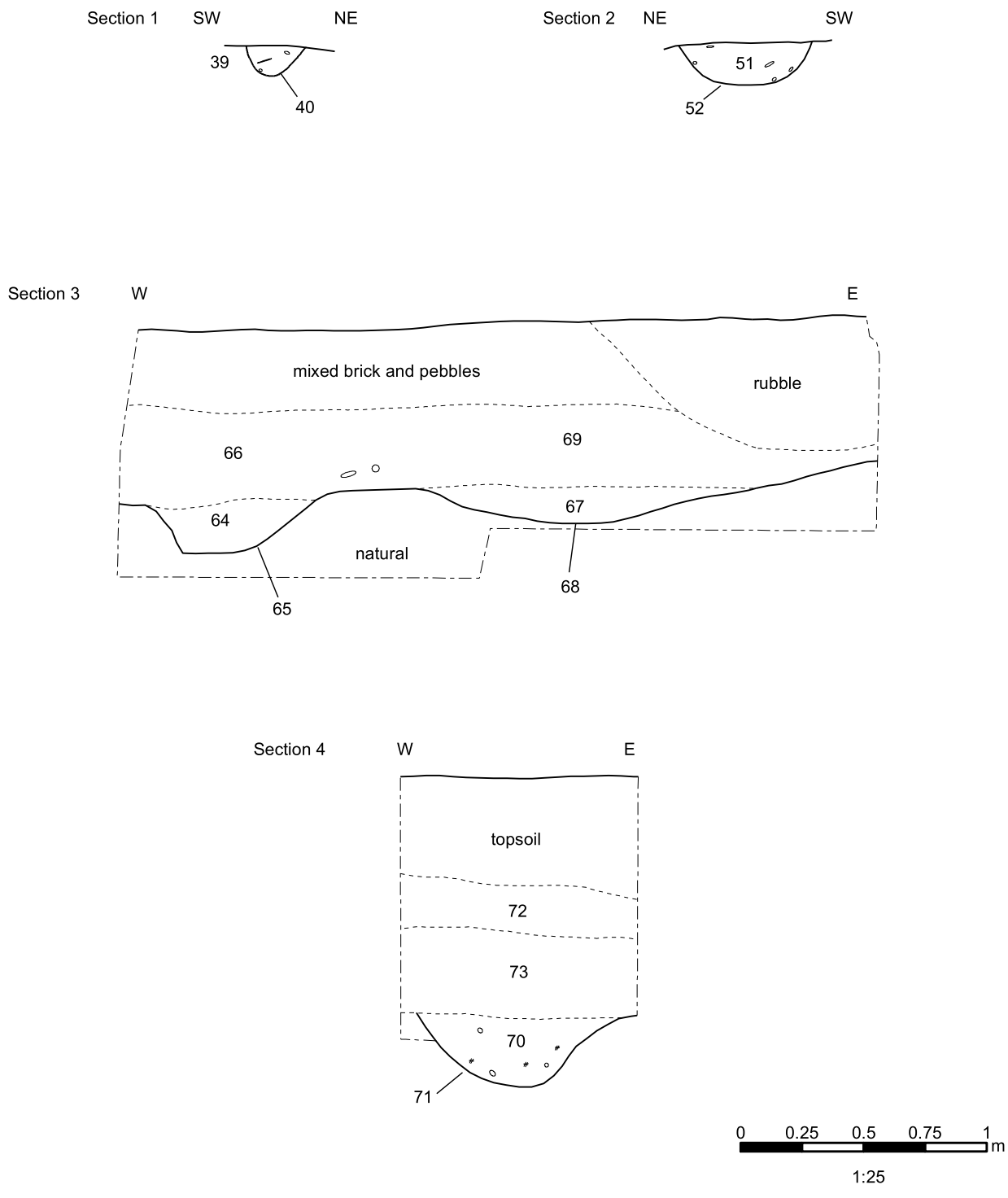
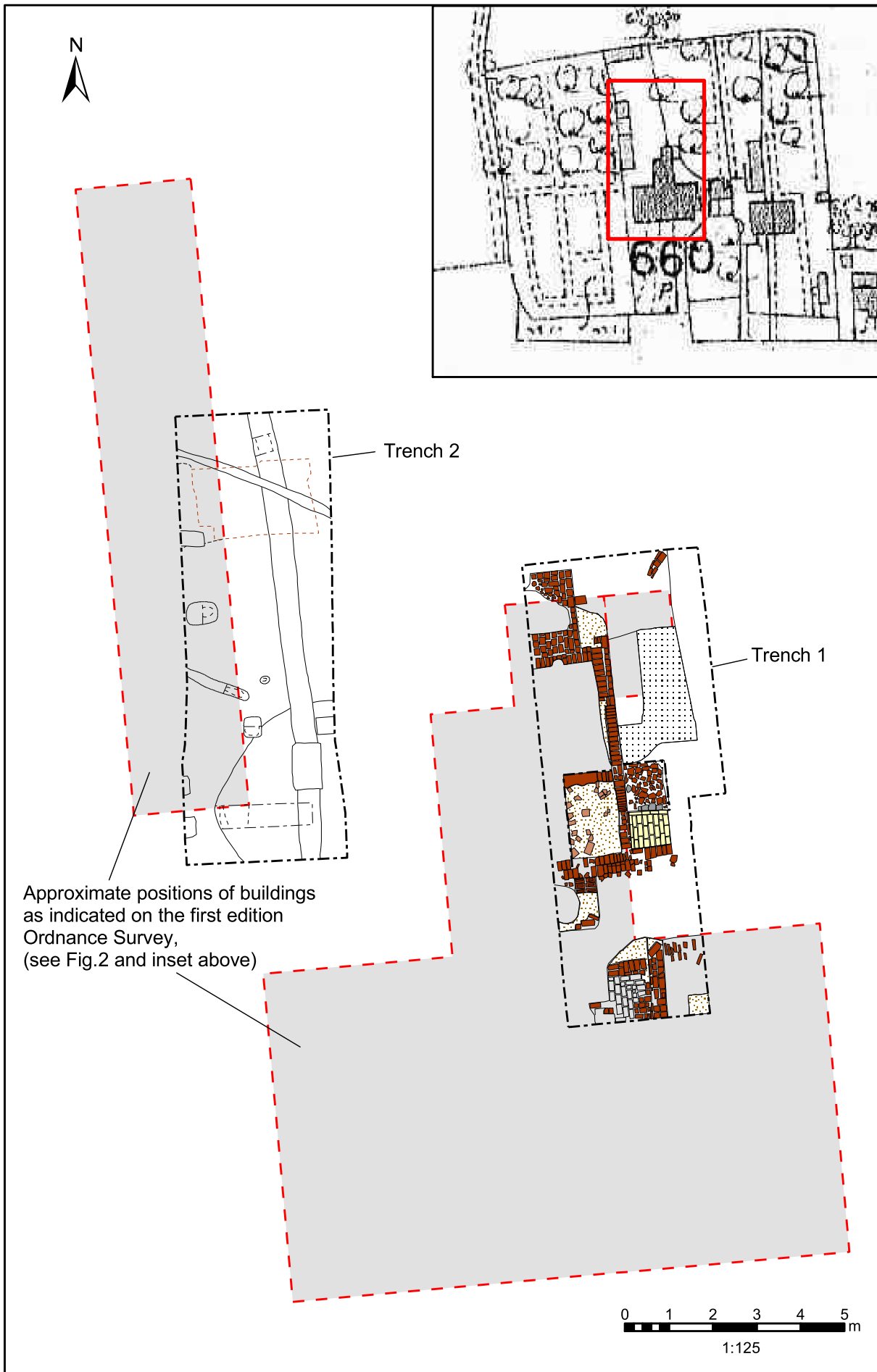


Fig.7. Sections 1 - 4



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Fig.8. Trenches 1 and 2 in relation to the first edition Ordnance Survey



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North (1m scale)



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking South (1m scale)



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North (1m scale)

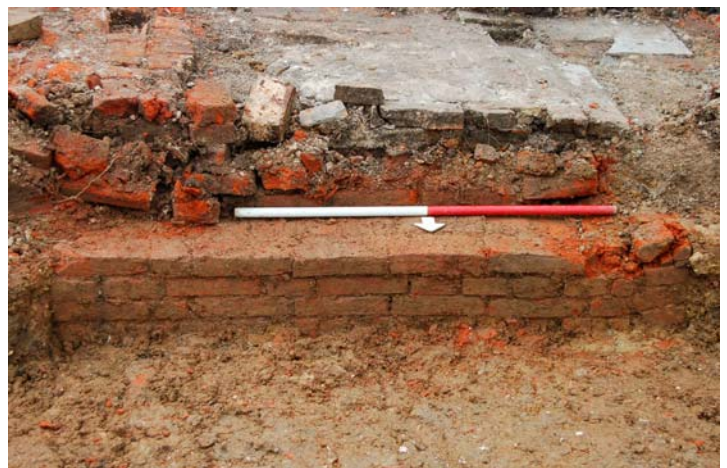


Plate 4. Wall 53, looking South (1m scale)



Plate 5. Brick floor 57, looking South (1m scale)



Plate 6. Gully 40, looking NW (0.25m scale)



Plate 7. Ditch 70, looking South (1m scale)