

HERITAGE NETWORK



FURNEUX PELHAM HALL **Furneux Pelham, Herts.**

HN943

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

FURNEUX PELHAM HALL Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire

Project ref: HN943
Planning Ref.: 3/11/0341/FP, 3/11/0343/FP
HER request no.: 148/11

Archaeological Report

Prepared on behalf of Adrian Brunner Esq

by

James Snee BSC (HONS) AIFA

Report no. 693

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The cover photograph shows the west wing and garden room groundworks, looking southeast

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and James Snee. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Adrian Brunner Esq; and Alison Tinniswood, HEU, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Furneux Pelham Hall, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, SG9 0LB		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Furneux Pelham	Parish:	Furneux Pelham
Planning reference:	3/11/0341/FP & 3/11/0343/FP	NGR:	TL 42850 28030
Client name and address:	Adrian Brunner Esq, Furneux Pelham Hall, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, SG9 0LB		
Nature of work:	Rural residential	Former land use:	Rural residential
Site status:	AAS65	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPS 5)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	205m ²	Size of area investigated:	205m ²
Site Code:	HN943	HER consultation:	148/11
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	26/09/2011	Finish of work	12/01/2012
Related HER Nos:	13229	Periods represented:	Post-medieval
Oasis UID	Heritage1-108564	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Well, Walls.		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In response to conditions placed on the planning permissions for the construction of two extensions at Furneux Pelham Hall, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the manor of Furneux Pelham during the medieval period.

In the footprint of the extension to the East wing, no features or deposits dating to earlier than the post-medieval period were revealed. The alignment, form and component elements of the two walls revealed, suggest that they were constructed at the same time as the annex to the West wing. These appear to have been dwarf walls and may have been features in a walled or terraced garden.

In the area between the pond and the north of the house drainage trenches were excavated which revealed made up ground layers.

To the west, in the area of the footprint of the Garden Room, a cut line was revealed in the sequence of deposits, although the fill was post-medieval in date. It clearly shows that the existing pond to the west, formerly extended further to the east. However, it has not been possible to determine whether or not this pond forms part of the medieval moat that is believed to have surrounded Furneux Pelham Hall.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Adrian Brunner Esq, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of the construction of two extensions to Furneux Pelham Hall, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire.

1.2 The planning consents for the extensions (ref: 3/11/0341/FP & 3/11/0343/FP) granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), were each subject to an archaeological condition issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)*.

1.3 The scope of the archaeological work was defined in two separate Design Briefs, both entitled *Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map and Record' and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Associated Groundworks* issued by the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to EHDC (ref: AT 30/05/2011 (a) & (b), re-issued 30/06/2011). A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated August 2011.

1.4 Furneux Pelham Hall lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.65, as defined in the District Local Plan, which encompasses the core of the medieval settlement of Furneux Pelham. It is located on the west side of the village, centred on NGR TL 42850 28030, and is bounded to the north and east by Duck Street, to the south by Hall Farm, and to the west by fields.

1.5 The development has entailed the construction of a two-storey extension to the East wing, incorporating garages and living accommodation, and a single-storey extension to the West wing forming a Garden Room, both of which are intended to be built on piled foundations.

1.6 The work carried out, and the data collected, are sufficient to meet the criteria of Stage 1 of the project, as defined in the Project Design, and no remains were uncovered such as to require the project to move on to Stage 2 or beyond. On this basis, the present report is considered to be sufficient to meet the requirements of the planning consents for the extensions and, together with the deposition of the site archive with Hertford Museum, will allow the archaeological conditions on those consents to be discharged.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Furneux Pelham Hall is located on the west side of Furneux Pelham village, and is centred on NGR TL 42850 28030 (Figure 1). The property comprises a brick-built 16th century manor house, with alterations dating to the 17th through to the 19th century, set on an east facing slope at a height of approximately 112mOD. The grounds are landscaped and contain a linear pond, to the west, which may have formed part of a moat.

2.2 The site lies on the boundary between two groups of soils, as described in the Soil Survey of England and Wales. To the west are soils of the Hanslope association, described as ‘*Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils.*’ To the east are soils of the Melford association, described as ‘*Deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils.*’

2.3 The underlying geology consists of Lewes nodular chalk formation and Seaford chalk formation Lowestoft formation chalky till (BGS).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client’s groundwork schedule. A series of site visits were made to monitor the development groundworks.

2.5 Ground reduction was undertaken by using a New Holland wheeled excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches for the ground beams were excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a 0.50m toothed bucket.

2.6 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both IfA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.7 The initial site strip for the development was carried out under archaeological supervision.

Eastern extension

2.8 To the north of the East wing (Figure 2, Plate 3), up to 0.60m of overburden was removed from an area that exceeded the footprint of the extension by 1m in each direction. The majority of the material removed was dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay with frequent stones and CBM fragments. This layer had been capped with modern building sand and tarmac. The top of an east-west oriented brick and lime mortar wall (004) was revealed on the west side of the strip (Figure 4 & 5), this was 0.43m wide and 1.72m long, with a 0.20m long south return at the east end. Subsequent excavation revealed that it was four courses high, including a two course stepped foundation (Figure 7, Plate 9).

2.9 The eastern arm of the extension (Figure 4) was excavated by a further 0.75m. This removed more overburden and revealed the yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) natural sandy silty clay and gravel. At the west end of this arm, the east face of a north-south oriented brick wall (005) was exposed (Figure 7, Plate 10). This was composed of handmade red brick with lime mortar laid in English bond. The bricks and bond appeared to match the walls of the existing East wing.

2.10 Following piling, a series of trenches, 0.50m wide and up to 1m deep were excavated for the ground beams (Plate 6). These trenches were monitored to record any further archaeological features or deposits. Below wall (004) and to the west of wall (005) was a 0.10m deep layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay subsoil with frequent stones and occasional CBM (Figure 7, Plates 9 & 10).

Garden Room

2.11 Between the West wing and the L-shaped pond identified as the former moat, an area 11m long and 8m wide was stripped prior to piling (Figure 2, Plate 4). Up to 0.30m of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clayey silt was removed under archaeological supervision.

2.12 Following piling, a series of 0.50m wide trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m for the ground beams (Figure 3, Plate 5). These excavations revealed a brick lined, dome capped well (01) and a sequence of deposits (Plate 7).

2.13 The earliest deposit was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) natural sandy silty clay and gravel, revealed along the southern edge of the footprint (Figures 3 & 6, Plate 8). This had been cut by a large feature [02] with sloping sides, which was filled with compacted light olive brown (2.5Y 5/3) silty clay (03) with occasional chalk, and charcoal flecks and brick fragments.

Drainage Trenches

2.14 To the immediate north of the site located between the pond and the driveway two drainage trenches were excavated (Figure 2). The first trench (Trench 1, Plate 11) measured *c.* 17m in length, 0.6m wide and had an average depth of *c.* 1m. The stratigraphy consisted of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt clay overburden *c.* 0.3m thick, above a makeup layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) sandy silt clay with very frequent tree roots *c.* 1m thick. The natural substratum was then revealed which consisted of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) natural sandy silty clay and gravel. No archaeology was present within this trench.

2.15 A second shorter drainage trench (Trench 2) was excavated immediately to the north west of the first trench, which also measured 0.6m wide and had an average depth of *c.* 1m. The stratigraphy in this trench was the same as that noted in the previous drainage trench. No archaeology was present within this trench, although an earlier modern drain was revealed at the south western corner of the trench base (Plate 12).

3. Discussion

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1 Furneux Pelham lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.65, as defined in the District Local Plan, which encompasses the core of the medieval settlement of Furneux Pelham. The village (HER2663) is recorded in the Domesday survey as *Peleham*, and the parish church of St Mary (HER4338) is documented from the mid-12th century with the earliest surviving part of the building being the chancel of c.1280.

3.2 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) documents known heritage assets throughout the county, including standing monuments and historic buildings, chance finds of archaeological material, and the results of formal archaeological investigations. The HER was consulted on 25 August 2011, for a 500m radius around the present site, and this has indicated activity in the vicinity of largely medieval and post-medieval date, many entries being listed buildings.

3.3 Furneux Pelham Hall itself (HER4522), is a late 16th century L-shaped manor house with the main block to the south. The manor was held in the medieval period by the Dean & Chapter of St Paul's, and records show that the tenant, Simon de Furnell, from whom the village derives its name, was allowed to build a chapel at his house around 1240. The manor may have been surrounded by a moat (HER13229) of which the north-west corner, to the west of the hall, appears to survive, a pond to the south-east of the house possibly representing the remains of an eastern arm.

CONCLUSIONS

3.4 It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the manor of Furneux Pelham during the medieval period.

3.5 In the East wing, no features or deposits dating to earlier than the post-medieval period were revealed. The alignment, form and component elements of the two walls that were exposed suggest that they were constructed at the same time as the annexe to the West wing. These appear to have been dwarf walls and may have been features in a walled or terraced garden.

3.6 To the west, in the footprint of the Garden Room, a cut line [02] was revealed in the sequence of deposits, although the fill (03) was post-medieval in date. It clearly shows that the existing pond originally extended further to the east. However, it has not been possible to determine whether or not this was the medieval moat.

Confidence Rating

3.7 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
26/9/2011	JGS	9	Monitored site strip for East wing extension.
27/9/2011	JGS	9	Monitored site strip for Garden Room.
28/9/2011	JGS	3	Monitored lower strip for East wing extension.
17/10/2011	GJ	4	Recorded well.
25/10/2011	GJ	8	Monitored excavation of ground beams in Garden Room.
27/10/2011	GJ	7	Monitored excavation of ground beams in Garden Room.
08/11/2011	JGS	3	Monitored excavation of ground beams in East wing extension.
09/11/2011	JGS	2	Monitored excavation of ground beams in East wing extension.
10/11/2011	JGS	2	Monitored excavation of ground beams in East wing extension.
12/01/2012	GJ	4	Monitored excavation of drainage trenches to northwest of house.

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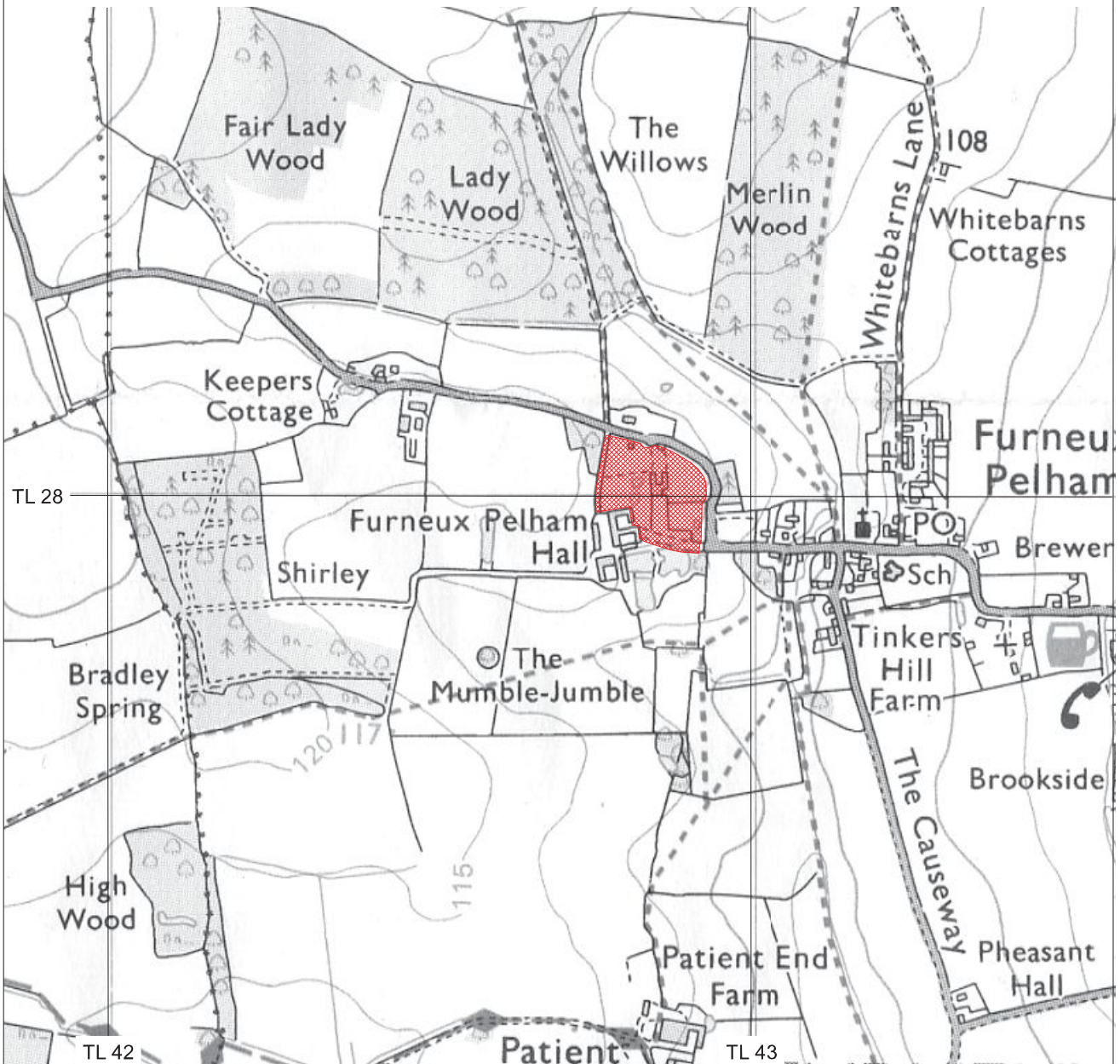
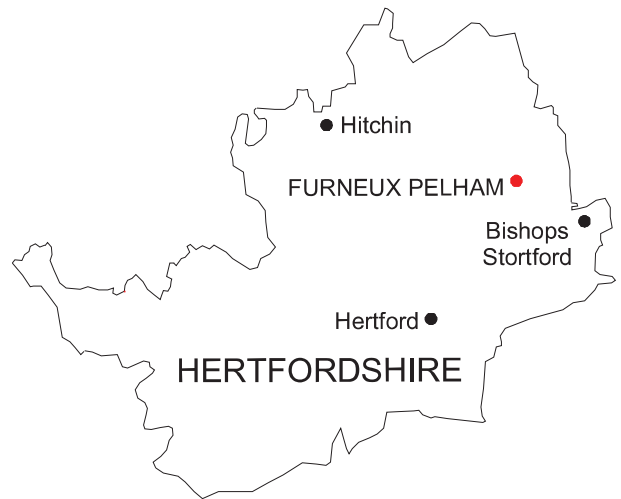
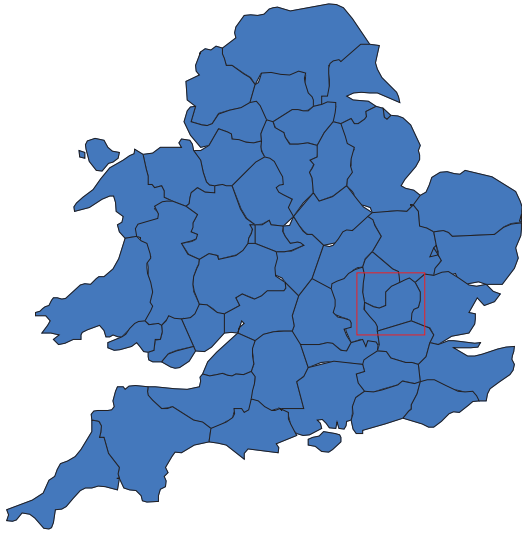
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6. Illustrations

Figure 1.....	Site Location
Figure 2.....	Site Layout
Figure 3.....	Features and deposits revealed in the Garden Room
Figure 4.....	Features revealed in East wing extension
Figure 5.....	Wall (004)
Figure 6.....	Sections 2 & 3
Figure 7.....	Sections 4 & 5
Plate 1.....	East wing prior to groundworks, looking south.
Plate 2.....	West wing prior to groundworks, looking southeast.
Plate 3.....	Eastern extension after initial strip, looking north.
Plate 4.....	Garden Room after initial strip, looking north.
Plate 5.....	Ground beam trenches for Garden Room, looking east.
Plate 6.....	Eastern extension groundbeam trenches, looking southeast.
Plate 7.....	Well (01), looking southeast.
Plate 8.....	Cut [02], looking east.
Plate 9.....	Wall (004), looking west.
Plate 10.....	Wall (005), looking south.
Plate 11.....	Drainage trench 1, looking SW
Plate 12.....	Drainage trench 2, looking S

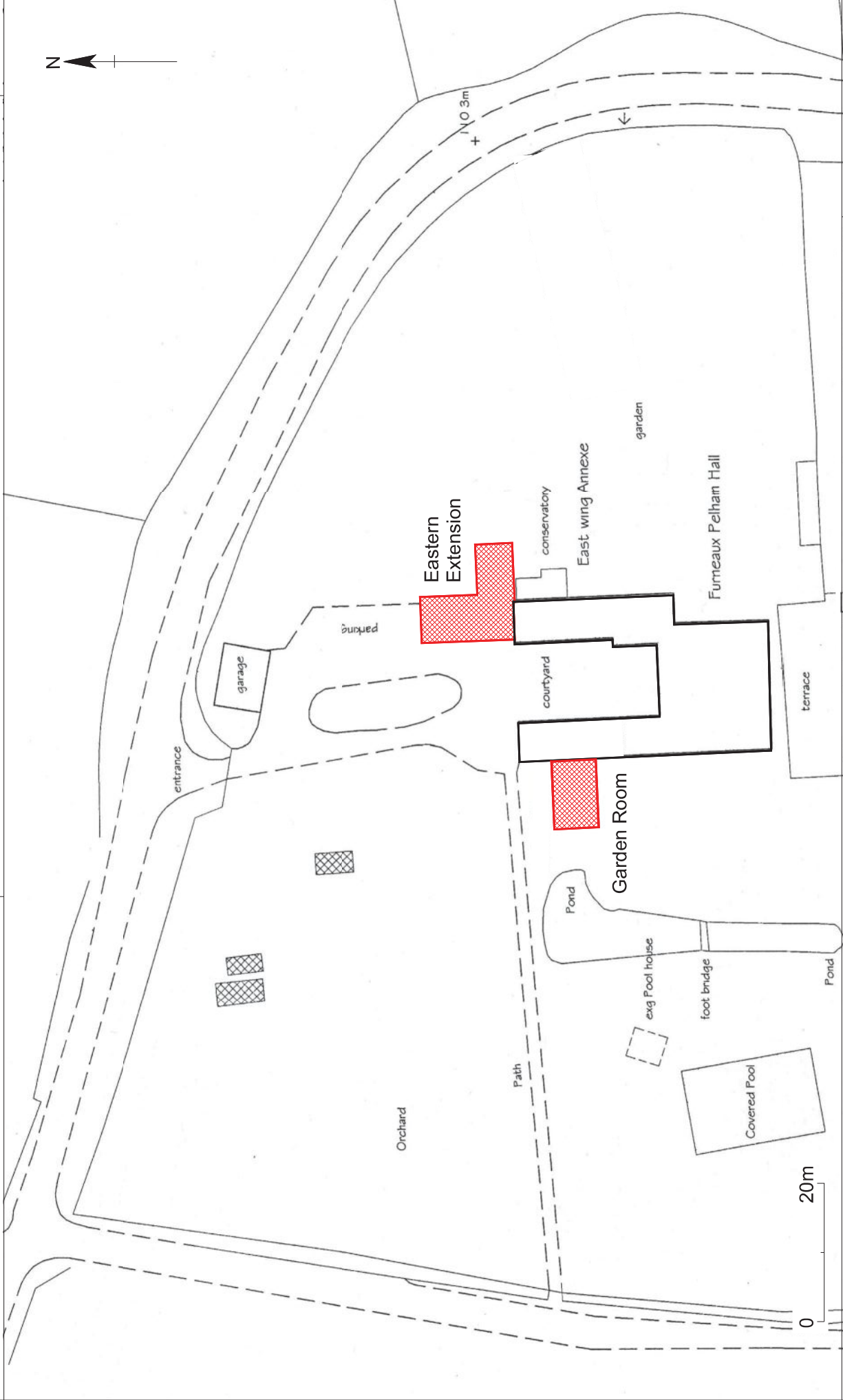


Site Location

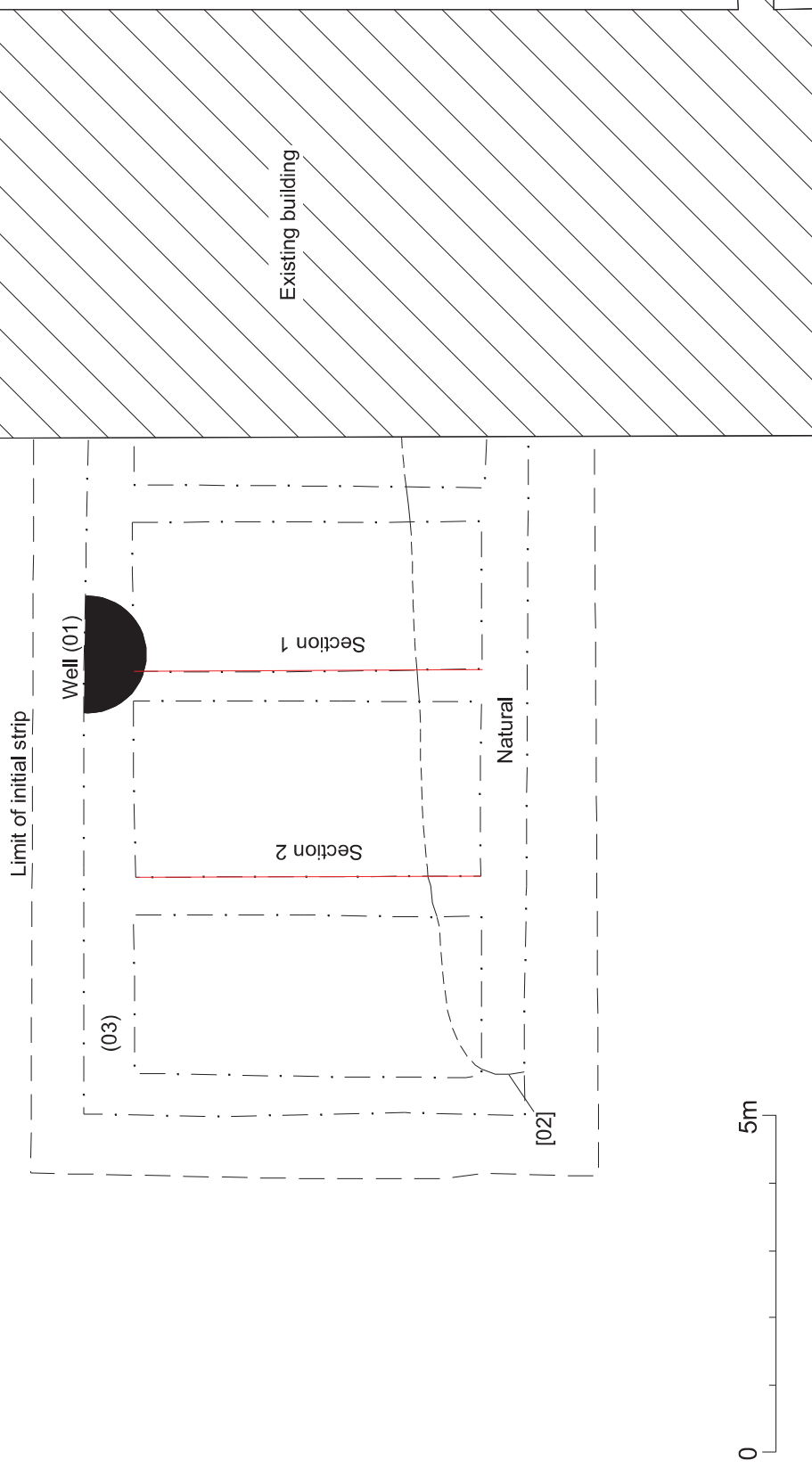
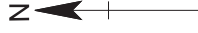
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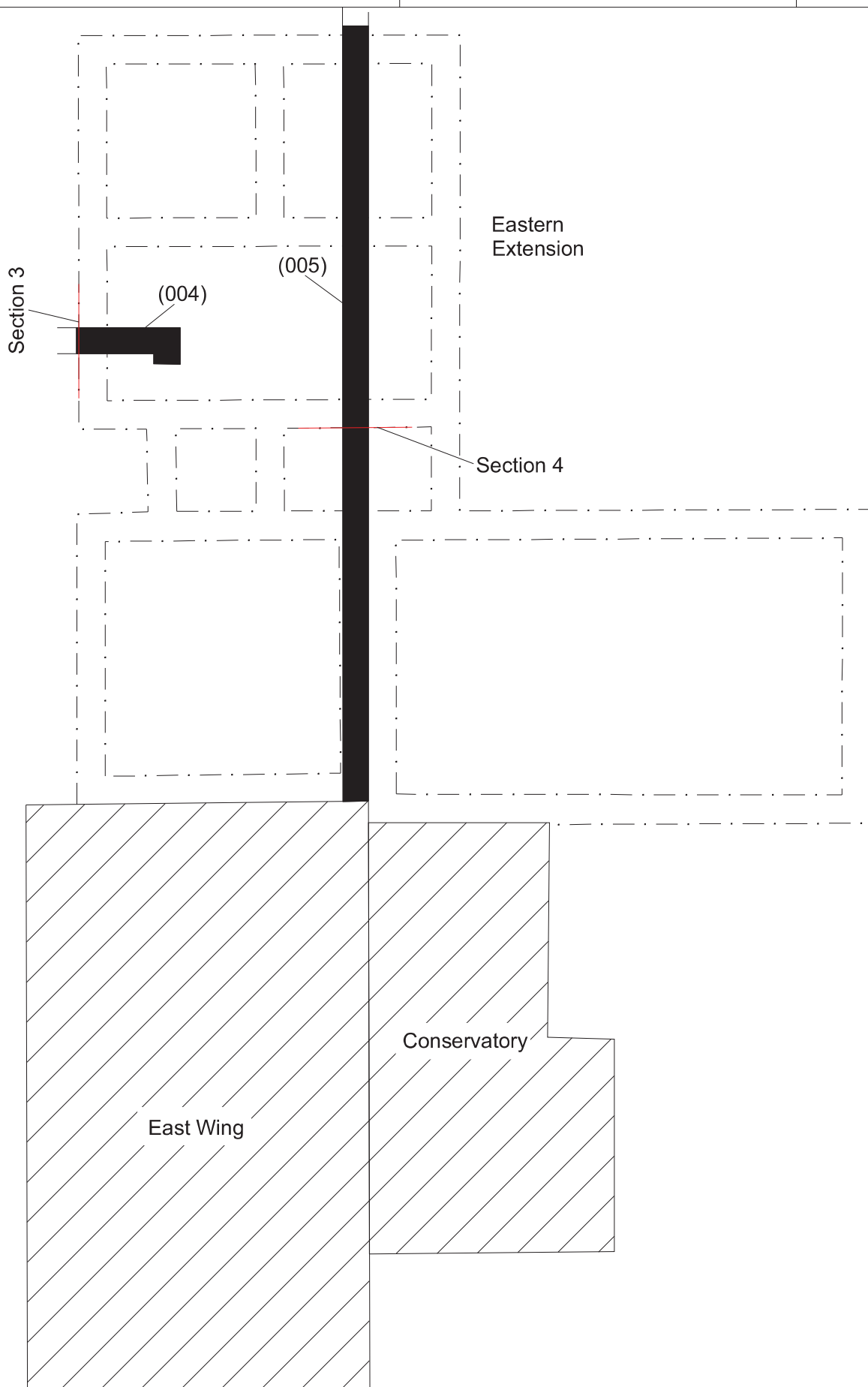
Figure 1



Site Layout



Features and deposits revealed in the Garden Room footprint



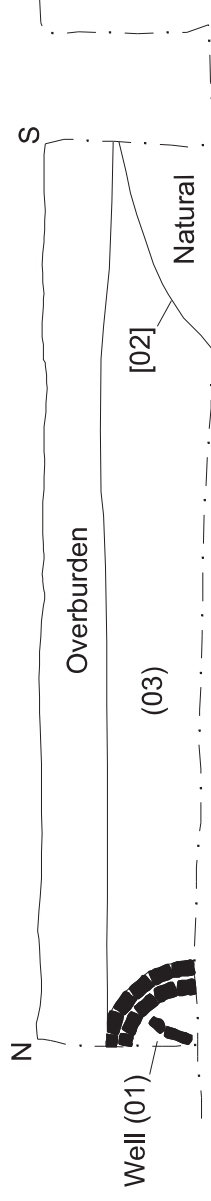
Features revealed in East Wing Extension.

Scale 1:100

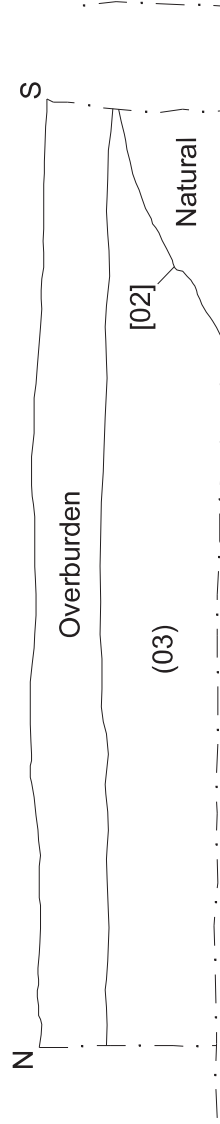
Figure 4



Wall (004)

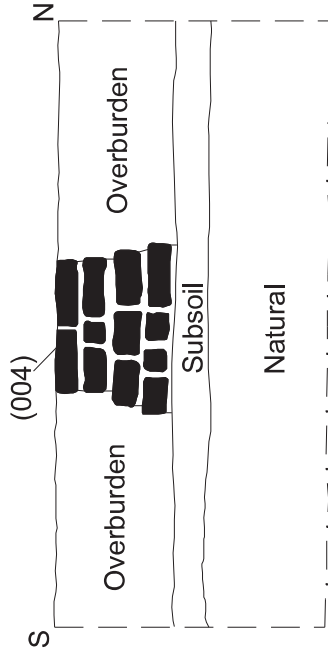


Section 1, west facing

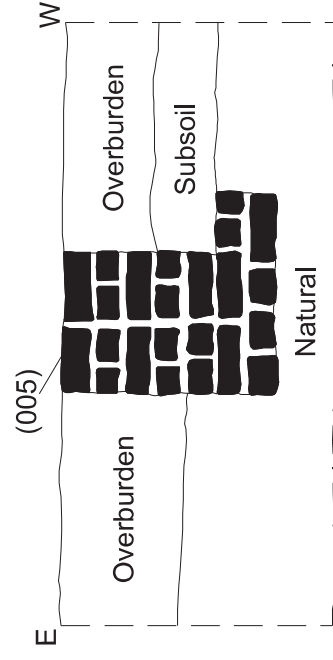


Section 2, west facing

0 1m



Section 3, east facing



Section 4, north facing





Plate 1: East wing prior to groundworks, looking south



Plate 2: West wing prior to groundworks, looking southeast



Plate 3: Eastern extension after initial strip, looking north



Plate 4: Garden Room after initial strip, looking north



Plate 5: Ground beam trenches for Garden Room, looking east



Plate 6: Eastern extension ground beam trenches, looking southeast



Plate 7: Well (01), looking southeast



Plate 8: Cut [02], looking east



Plate 9: Wall (004), looking west



Plate 10: Wall (005), looking south



Plate 11: Drainage 1 trench looking southwest



Plate 12: Drainage trench 2 looking south

Appendix

Oasis Data Entry Form

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-108564</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Furneux Pelham, Furneux Pelham Hall
Short description of the project	<p>In response to conditions placed on the planning permissions for the construction of two extensions at Furneux Pelham Hall, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of the manor of Furneux Pelham during the medieval period.</p> <p>In the footprint of the extension to the East wing, no features or deposits dating to earlier than the post-medieval period were revealed. The alignment, form and component elements of the two walls revealed, suggest that they were constructed at the same time as the annex to the West wing. These appear to have been dwarf walls and may have been features in a walled or terraced garden.</p> <p>To the west, in the area of the footprint of the Garden Room, a cut line was revealed in the sequence of deposits, although the fill was post-medieval in date. It clearly shows that the existing pond to the west, formerly extended further to the east. However, it has not been possible to determine whether or not this pond forms part of the medieval moat that is believed to have surrounded Furneux Pelham Hall.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2011 End: 10-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN943 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Recorded Observation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE FURNEUX PELHAM Furneux Pelham Hall
Postcode	SG9 0LB
Study area	205.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 42850 28030 51.9319680221 0.07799046323840 51 55 55 N 000 04 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 112.00m Max: 112.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson

Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Adrian Brunner Esq
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Physical Contents	'none'
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	FURNEUX PELHAM HALL, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No: 693
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 8 pages, 7 figures, 10 plates