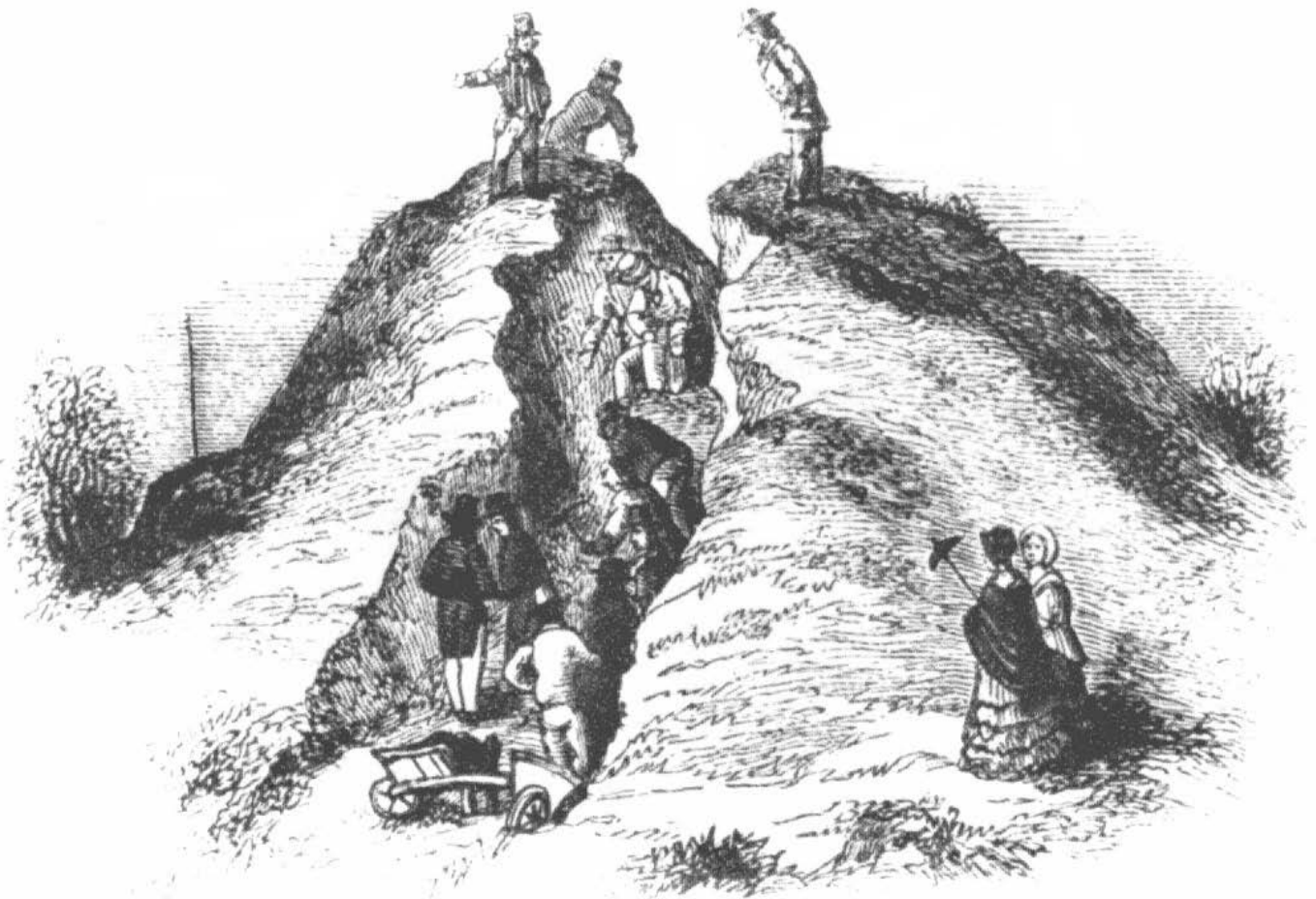


HERITAGE NETWORK



ST. IPPOLYTS JUNIOR SCHOOL St. Ippolyts, Herts.

(HN427)

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

ST IPPOLYTS JUNIOR SCHOOL
Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Herts.

HN427

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of the Govenors of St Ippolyts School

by

Helen Ashworth BA AIFA & Karin Semmelmann MA PIFA

Report no. 249a

August 2004

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Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork.....	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion and Conclusions.....	Page 7
Section 4	Schedule of Site Visits.....	Page 8
Section 5	Sources Consulted.....	Page 8
Section 6	Illustrations.....	<i>following</i> Page 8
Appendix	Finds Concordance.....	Page 9

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Chris Turner, Karin Semmelmann, Geoff Saunders, David Hillelson and David Kaye, under the direction of David Hillelson. The illustrations for the report were prepared by Karin Semmelmann and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to the Head Teacher and Governors of St Ippolyts School; Eric Pavey, AT4 Architects, Russell Maclean, Neville Constuction, and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	St Ippolyts Junior School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	St Ippolyts	Parish:	St Ippolyts
Planning reference:	02/01014/1	NGR:	TL 19814 27162
Client name and address:	The Govenors of St Ippolyts School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire		
Nature of work:	New school buildings	Present land use:	School grounds
Size of affected area:	437m ²	Size of area investigated:	437m ²
Site Code:	HN427	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring	Finds location/Museum:	North Herts Museums
Start of work	21/07/2003	Finish of work	31/03/2004
Related SMR Nos:	N/a	Periods represented:	
Previous summaries/reports:	N/a		

Synopsis: In response to a planning application for the construction of a new school hall and the excavation of foundations and drainage for a temporary classroom at St Ippolyts Junior School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Herts, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the Govenors of St Ippolyts School to carry out archaeological monitoring of the site.

The observed stratigraphy suggested that the ground had been made up with material imported from elsewhere. With the exception of one undated pit or gully, no archaeological features were recorded. A variety of unstratified artefacts were recorded including late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, as well as objects associated with the use of the site as a school.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *the Governors of St Ippolyts Junior School* as part of the archaeological monitoring of building development at St Ippolyts Junior School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Herts. The planning permission for the development (ref.02/01014/1), granted by the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), has been subject to a standard archaeological condition, according to the provisions of the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The scope of the required work followed the *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to NHDC (ref. SB 04/07/03). The specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated July 2003.

1.2 The site is located in the centre of the village, opposite the parish church and to the north of the village green, centred on NGR TL 19814 27162. The development has involved the excavation of foundations and associated drainage for a temporary classroom to the south of the school, the extension of the current building to provide a new school hall with ancillary facilities, the construction of new toilet facilities to the north of the building, and the construction of two single storey extensions to provide replacement classrooms, administration and ancillary space (Fig.1).

1.3 The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no.147* (AAS147), which defines the core of the medieval village in the District Local Plan, and opposite the parish church which is of 11th century origin. On this basis, the planning authority considered there was potential for the development to disturb archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

1.4 The aim of the present project has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which were uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with current regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), and subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

1.5 The present report is intended to set the site in its archaeological and historical context, and complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located in the centre of the village to the north-east of the church and to the north of the village green. St. Ippolyts School stands at 87.54mOD, and the land slopes steeply to the west to St. Ippolyts Brook, which lies at 65mOD.

2.2 The geology on the site consists primarily of imported material overlying reddish-brown sandy clay. The underlying drift geology is clay.

2.3 The plot is currently part of the school playing area.

METHODOLOGY

2.4 The building works were undertaken in two phases. The first phase involved the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the temporary classroom, which covered an area of approximately 140m², the new toilet block and ground reduction for the new school access. The second phase included the demolition of the eastern end of the classroom at the east of the school and the excavation of footings trenches and stanchion bases. Direct archaeological supervision was maintained on the construction groundworks, which were dug using a tracked 360 ° excavator fitted with a 0.5m, 0.6m or a 1.5m wide toothed bucket as required.

2.5 Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.6 Where safety requirements allowed, the trenches, test pits and soakaways were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.7 All work was carried out in accordance with the detailed method statement contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*.

PHASE I

2.8 The temporary classroom is located approximately 25m to the southeast of the existing school building, on the opposite side of the entrance drive (Fig.2). The groundworks for this building consisted of the excavation of two test pits, three footings trenches, four drainage trenches and a soakaway. A second soakaway and three trenches were excavated in preparation for the construction of the new school hall.

Test Pits

2.9 Two test pits (TP) were excavated to locate existing drains (Fig.2). Test Pit 1 was excavated through the current driveway, at approximately 14.1m southeast of the furthest corner of the school. It

measured 2.5m by 1.4m and was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.90m. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of tarmac over hardcore, 0.3m in depth. Below this was made ground with a maximum depth of 0.6m, above yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sand and gravel. The underlying natural clay was not reached. No finds were recovered to date the individual layers.

2.10 Test Pit 2 was located at approximately 33m from the same corner as TP1 (Fig.2). This was roughly rectangular, with a maximum length of 3.8m and a minimum width, on the southern side, of 1.1m. It was excavated to a depth of 2m. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of topsoil, 0.15m in depth, over a subsoil, 0.85m in depth. Below this was the natural sand and gravel. The underlying natural clay was not reached (Fig.4). Finds from TP2 included three sherds of late 19th or early 20th century pottery, clay floor tiles and post-medieval peg tile.

Footings Trenches

2.11 Three footings trenches were excavated for the proposed temporary classroom (Fig.2). These were aligned northeast - southwest, with 3m distance between each trench. They all measured 16.9m in length, 0.5m in width and varied in depth between 0.7m and 1.27m. The stratigraphy was similar in each trench, consisting of a layer of topsoil, 0.15m in depth, over yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) clayey sand and gravel subsoil, which was between 0.80 and 1.10m deep. The natural was a yellow sand and gravel.

2.12 Only one archaeological feature was observed (Figs. 2&3). Cut [01] was located at approximately 0.30m from the southwestern end of Trench 3 and appears to represent a pit or gully. The feature measured approximately 0.76m in depth and 0.15m at the base, and contained the subsoil observed above. It was clearly visible in the southeast facing section, but was less clearly defined in the opposite side, and was not visible in Trenches 1 and 2 to the north. No artefacts were recovered to date the feature.

2.13 A number of unstratified artefacts were collected from each of the strip footings. These chiefly consisted of 19th or 20th century pottery and peg tile, but one sherd of early medieval sandy ware, dating to between the 10th and 12th centuries AD, was recovered from Trench 2.

Drainage Trenches

2.14 Seven drainage trenches were excavated (Fig.2). Trench 1 formed the main foul drain and ran for 34m on a northwest - southeast alignment, from 2m east of the existing school building to approximately 5m east of the temporary classroom. It measured 0.50m in width and was excavated to a depth of 2.50m. The stratigraphy remained uniform along the length of the trench, consisting of a layer of topsoil, 0.40-0.60m in depth, above sandy gravel. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench. A number of unstratified artefacts, including two sherds of Hertfordshire Grey Ware, dating to the 11th to 13th century AD and one sherd of 16th / 17th century red ware, were collected.

2.15 Trench 2 ran northeast - southwest from Trench 1 to the centre of the temporary classroom. It measured 0.50m in width and approximately 2.50m in depth and the stratigraphy was the same as in Trench 1. No archaeological features were observed.

2.16 Trenches 3a and 3b ran from the manhole approximately 17m east of the existing east end of the school to the proposed new school hall, forming a V shape. They measured 0.50m in width and 1.80m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of topsoil, 0.40m in depth, above a layer of made up ground measuring between 0.60 and 1.0m in depth. Below this was the natural clay. No archaeological features were observed in the trench, but a large number of finds were collected, including animal bone, oyster shell, pottery and iron objects.

2.17 The pottery assemblage consisted of 11 sherds in relatively good condition. As well as 19th century glazed ware, the group included most of an 18th century brown glazed candlestick, the rim of an early post-medieval flask and several rims and handles from late medieval jugs and jars. Significant quantities of animal bone, including large identifiable pieces, were also collected, as were 3 iron objects, including part of a spur. The finds from this trench suggest the deposition of domestic rubbish, and it is possible that the made ground is in fact the fill of a large rubbish pit. The date range suggests either that the potential pit was used for a very long time, or that it has been backfilled with imported material. Unfortunately it was not possible to identify exactly where the various finds came from, which might have given some idea as to the date of the original feature.

2.18 Trenches 4a and 4b led from Soakaway 1 to the south-east corner and the northern end of the temporary classroom. They measured 0.50m in width and 0.63 in depth. No archaeological features were observed.

2.19 Trench 5 joined Trench 1 close to Soakaway 2. It ran for 13m on a southeast northwest alignment and measured 0.50m in width and approximately 1.50m in depth. The stratigraphy was similar to that observed in Trench 1, consisting of a layer of topsoil, between 0.40m and 0.50m in depth, over sandy gravel. The natural clay was not reached along the length of the trench. No archaeological features or layers were observed in the trench and no artefacts recovered.

Soakaways

2.20 Two new soakaways were dug (Fig.2). Soakaway 1 was located approximately 5m to the northeast of the temporary classroom. It was square in plan, measuring 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 2.20m. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of topsoil, 0.50m in depth, over sandy gravel, 1.50m in depth. Below this was natural clay (Fig.4). No archaeological features were observed, but two unstratified artefacts, comprising a small blue glazed jar and a bone knife handle, were recovered. Both are of late 19th or early 20th century date.

2.21 Soakaway 2 was located approximately 35m north of the temporary classroom. It was square in plan, measuring 1m by 1m and was excavated to a depth of 2.50m. The stratigraphy was similar to that observed in the nearby drainage trenches, that is a layer of topsoil, approximately 0.50m in depth overlying sandy gravel. The natural clay was reached at a depth of approximately 2m below existing

ground level. No archaeological features were observed, but a single unstratified sherd of 18th or 19th century Dutch Red ware was collected

New Toilet Block

2.22 The construction of a new toilet block, adjacent to the northern side of the existing building, covered an area of approximately 8.80m² (Fig.2).

2.23 The footings trenches formed an L-shape, outlining the building. Both trenches measured 0.50m in width and 1.30m in depth, with the northern trench measuring 3.30m in length and the western trench 2.15m in length. The stratigraphy was the same in both trenches, consisting of a layer of tarmac, 0.13m in depth, over bedding sand, 0.30m in depth. Below this was natural clayey sand and gravel (Fig.3). No archaeological features were observed and no finds collected.

Access Road

2.24 The area of the new access road from Ashbrook Lane to run east of the new school hall was monitored. The ground was reduced by no more than 0.40m and so went no deeper than the subsoil previously recorded in the drainage trenches. No archaeological features were observed or finds collected.

PHASE II

2.25 Phase II included the demolition of the eastern part of an existing classroom at the eastern end of the school and the excavation of footings trenches and stanchion bases for the new extension (Fig.2). The area covered by the new building was approximately 322m².

Footings Trenches

2.26 The footings trenches measured 0.60m in width, except in places where the sides collapsed, and between 1.5 and 2.5m in depth. The stratigraphy was fairly constant across the site and consisted of a layer of demolition debris measuring between 0.20 and 0.25m in depth overlying 0.50m of dark grey/black sandy silty topsoil. Below this was a layer of greyish silt approximately 0.20m deep, which overlay loose, reddish-brown sandy clay with frequent, moderate sized flints (Fig.3). A deposit of sand was observed at the base of the north-south orientated trench approximately 1.20m from the south-east corner of the school. No measurements could be taken as the trench sides were highly unstable. No archaeological features were observed or finds recovered.

Stanchion Bases

2.27 Two stanchion bases (SB) were excavated approximately 7.5m east of the south-east corner of the school (Fig.2). SB1 measured 2.0 x 2.30 x 1.80m deep and SB2 measured 2.0 x 2.50 x 1.80m deep. The stratigraphy in both bases consisted of approximately 0.13m of overburden overlying 0.18m of gravel, below which was a purple cinder deposit approximately 0.27m deep. This overlay 0.15m of dark grey clay, below which was reddish-brown sandy clay (Fig.4). No archaeological features were observed, but the presence of CBM fragments in the dark grey clay layer was noted.

FINDS

Pottery

2.28 Twenty one sherds of pottery, weighing 1221g, were recovered from the area of the temporary classroom. The pottery ranged in date from medieval wares to 20th century flowerpot. The majority of the assemblage comprised glazed wares of 19th and 20th century date. This is a reflection of the amount of modern ground disturbance that has occurred.

2.29 Medieval pottery was represented by a sherd of early medieval sandy ware, dating to between the 10th and 12th century AD, which was collected from footing trench 3, and two sherds of Hertfordshire Grey Ware, of 11th to 13th century date, from drainage trench 1. Their presence on the site may indicate medieval activity in the vicinity of the school, but since these sherds were not associated with identifiable features, it is more likely that they have been imported on to the site in make up material. The abraded state of the sherds would also support this explanation.

2.30 A number of relatively large and unabraded sherds, including jug handles and a flask rim, were collected from drainage trench 3, which lay east of the temporary schoolroom. These appear to date to the late medieval or early post-medieval period. Their condition, and the fact that they were found relatively close together, suggests the possibility of features of this period in the vicinity.

Ceramic Building Material

2.31 This group consisted of 3 clay brick fragments, weighing 505g; 39 peg tile pieces, weighing 4295g, and 3 floor tile pieces, weighing 1285g. This type of material is frequently recovered. It was cheap and easily available for use as backfill or in make up layers and, therefore, it was regularly imported on to sites.

2.32 The bulk of this material, including the floor tile, 2 bricks and 11 peg tiles, was collected from TP 2. Much of the remaining peg tile came from the drainage trenches.

3. Discussion and Conclusions

3.1 Only one clearly defined feature was recorded on the site. This appeared to be a pit or gully, but had no artefactual evidence to aid dating or interpretation.

3.2 The archaeological artefacts recovered from the site were all from Phase I works. Although a few fragments of unstratified medieval and early post-medieval pottery sherds were found, most of the artefacts were of 19th or 20th century. Many of the artefacts, such as the one-third pint milk bottle or the glass ink jar, were clearly associated with the school.

3.3 The assemblage recovered from footings trenches 3a and 3b, which included pottery fragments dating from the late medieval period to the 19th century, animal bone and three iron objects, would suggest that the material was either imported wholesale onto the site to backfill a pit, or formed the fill of a refuse pit may that had been in use for a considerable period of time.

3.4 The stratigraphy across the site appeared to suggest that much of the ground had been made up. It is likely that any potential archaeological features and deposits had either been destroyed by these levelling works, or remain buried below the impact level of the current works.

Confidence Rating

3.5 During the current fieldwork, conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which is less than high.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
21/07/03	CT	3	Preliminary site visit
22/07/03	DK	6	Monitor test pits
29/07/03	KS	5	Monitor footings trenches
31/07/03	KS	1	Inspect toilet block footings
04/08/03	DK	3	Inspect drainage trenches
05/08/03	DK	7	Monitor drainage trenches
07/08/03	DK	6	Monitor soakaway
11/08/03	CT	1	Inspect ground reduction
18/08/03	KS	1	Inspect ground reduction
02/03/04	DJH	1	Preliminary visit for Phase II
15/03/04	KS	2	Monitor footings trenches
16/03/04	CT	2	Monitor footings trenches
16/03/04	CT	2	Monitor footings trenches
18/03/04	GIS	1	Monitor footings trenches
19/03/04	KS	2	Monitor footings trenches
22/03/04	GIS	2	Inspect footings trenches
23/03/04	DJH	1	Inspect footings trenches
23/03/04	DJH	1	Inspect footings trenches
23/03/04	DJH	1	Inspect footings trenches
26/03/04	DJH	1	Inspect footings trenches
31/03/04	KS	2	Inspect footings trenches & stanchion bases

5. Sources Consulted

Bibliography

Bryant, S. 2003. *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at St Ippolyts Junior School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire*. Hertfordshire County Council

Hillelson, D. 2003., *St Ippolyts Junior School, Ashbrook Lane, St Ippolyts, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Project Design*. Heritage Network

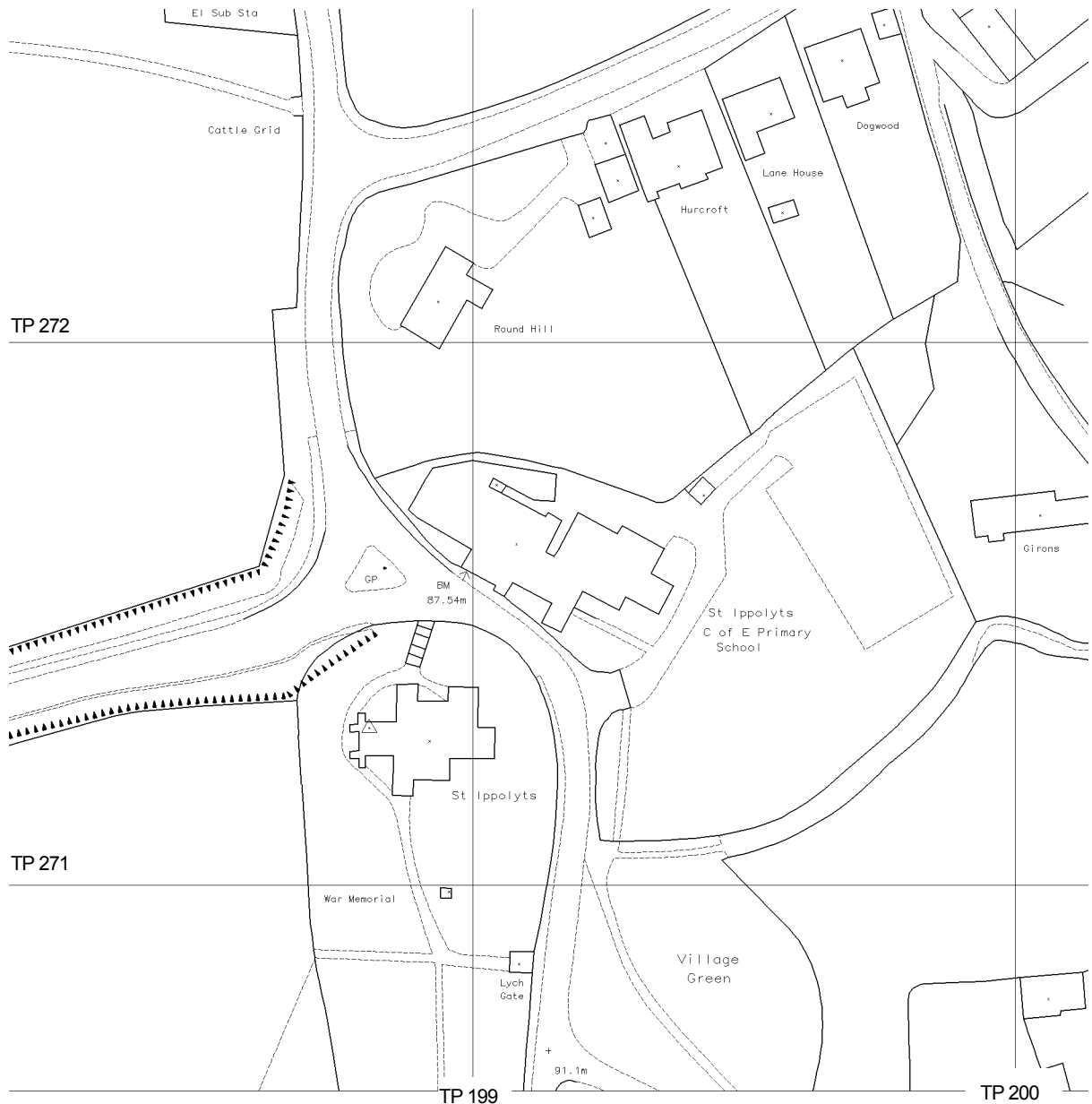
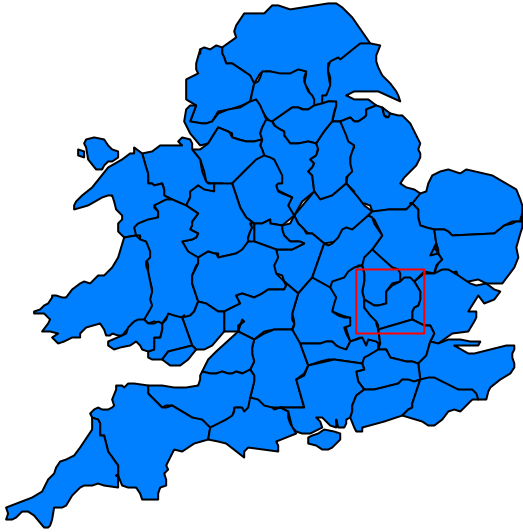
6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Sections
Figure 4	Sections

Appendix

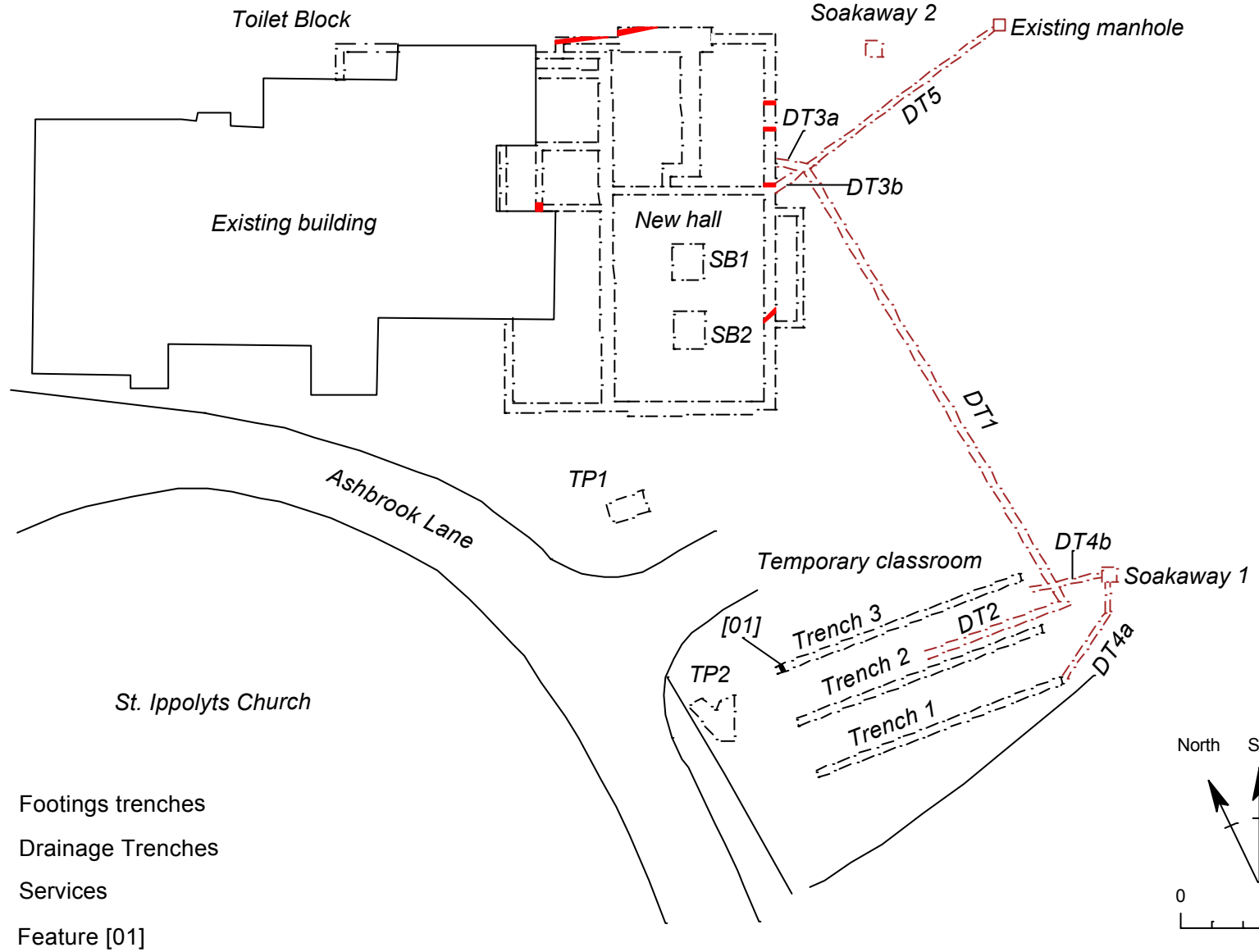
Finds Concordance

Location	Pottery		Floor tile		Roof tile		Brick		Animal Bone		Shell		Glass		Iron objects		Stone		Knife handle		Clay pipe		Misc. objects	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
Test pit 2	3	130	3	1285	11	765	2	465	3	115	4	50	0	0	5	380	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	65
Strip footing 1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	1	225	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strip footing 2	1	10	0	0	3	280	1	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strip footing 3	1	8	0	0	5	335	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	0	0	0	0
Soakaway 1	1	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Soakaway 2	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drain trench 1	3	30	0	0	12	1300	0	0	3	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drain trench 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drain trench 3	11	850	0	0	7	1560	0	0	40	1848	8	85	1	20	3	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drain trench 4	0	0	0	0	1	55	0	0	2	10	0	0	1	10	2	100	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	22	1221	3	1285	39	4295	3	505	48	2038	12	135	2	30	11	615	2	290	1	30	1	1	1	65



Site Location

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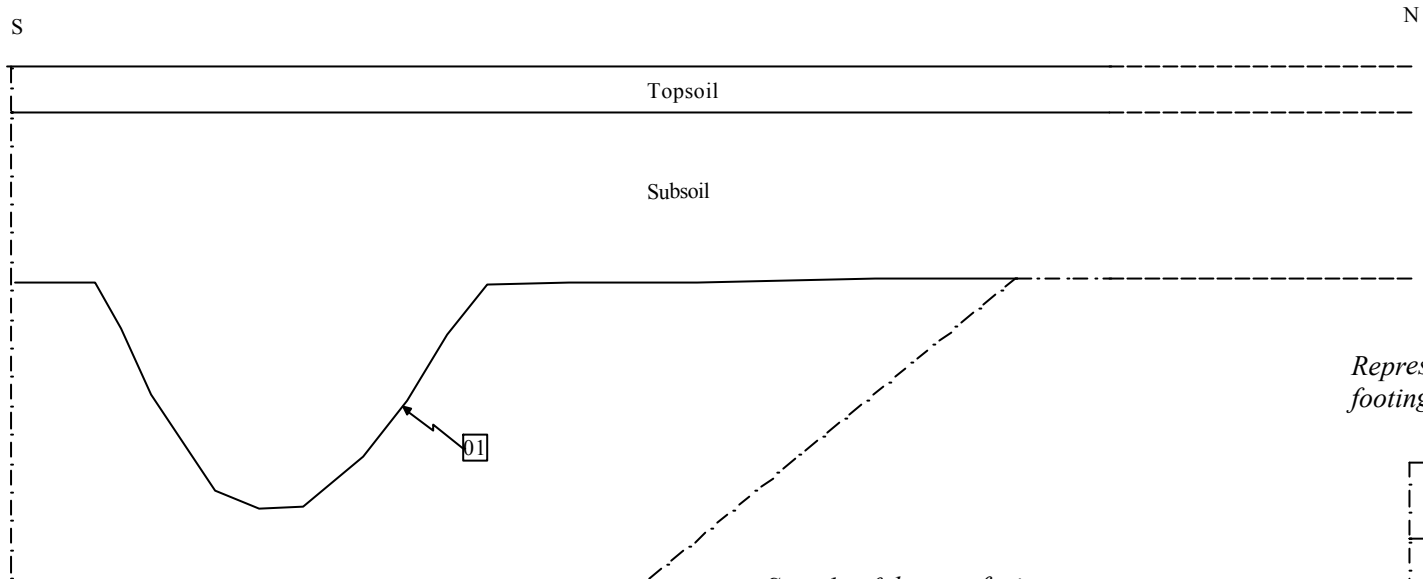


Site layout

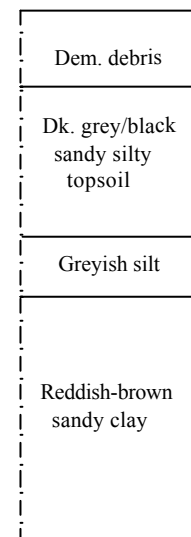
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Figure 2

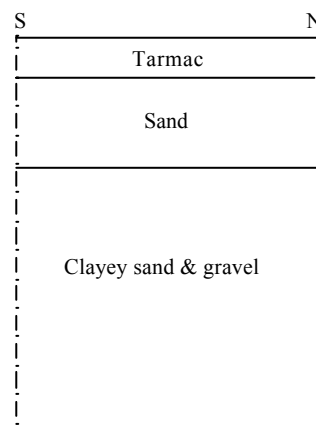
Western end of the south facing section of Footings Trench 3



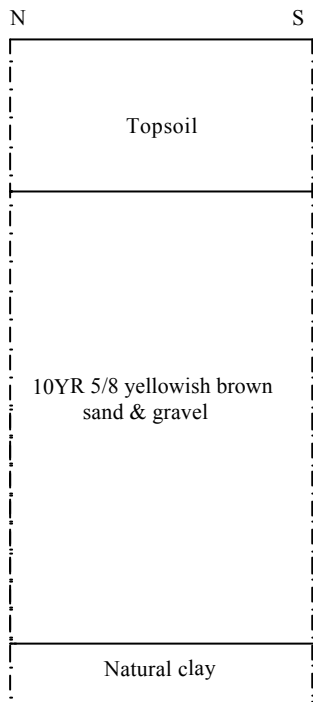
Representative section of the footings trenches in Phase II



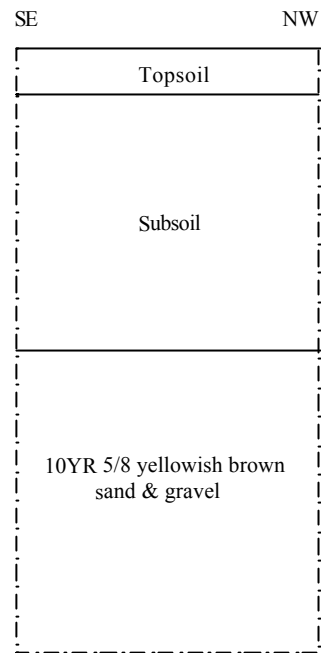
Sample of the east facing section of the western trench for the Toilet Block



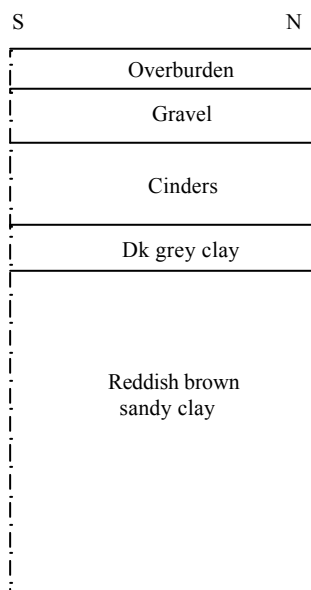
Sample of the west facing section of Soakaway 1



Sample of the northeast facing section of Test Pit 2



Sample of the east facing section of Stanchion Base 1



Sample of the southeast facing section of Test Pit 1

