

MIDDLE ROW PUBLIC TOILETS STEVENAGE

HN521

Report No. 292

Site name and address:	Middle Row Public Toilets, Stevenage, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Stevenage Borough
Village/town:	Stevenage	Parish:	Stevenage
Planning reference:	2/04/0154	NGR:	TL 23370 25203
Client name and address:	Stevenage Borough Council, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage		
Nature of work:	Toilet Refurbishment	Present land use:	Public Toilets
Size of affected area:	c.9m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.9m ²
Site Code:	HN521	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring	Curating Museum:	Stevenage Museum
Start of work	7/04/2005	Finish of work	18/04/2005
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	n/a
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Narrative:

In order to meet the requirements of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for refurbishment work at Middle Row Public Toilets, Stevenage, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Stevenage Borough Council to monitor the groundworks associated with an extension on the rear of the building.

The site, centred on NGR TL 23370 25203, is located on the east side of Middle Row, between no.37, High Street, and no.1 Middle Row. The development proposes an extension to the eastern elevation of the existing building.

The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no.2* (AAS2), which defines the core of Stevenage Old Town in the District Local Plan. Evidence for Roman and Medieval settlement activity has been recorded along the High Street and Middle Row.

Three site visits were made to inspect ground reduction, undertaken by hand, within the footprint of the proposed extension. The ground was reduced through approximately 0.1m of modern concrete, 0.2m of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silty clay, and 0.1m of dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3) sandy clay. A single modern ceramic drainage pipe was observed in the south east corner of the reduced area. The overburden was not breached and no archaeology was affected by the works.

The spoil from the ground reduction was inspected and artefacts including modern pottery, CBM, and modern glass, were observed. This material is not unusual on urban sites, has no archaeological value and was not collected.

In conclusion, the archaeological monitoring of the development revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. The groundworks failed to penetrate the overburden on the site, as such any underlying archaeological remains were undisturbed by the development.

Illustrations:

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Location of groundworks

Geoff Saunders

June 2005

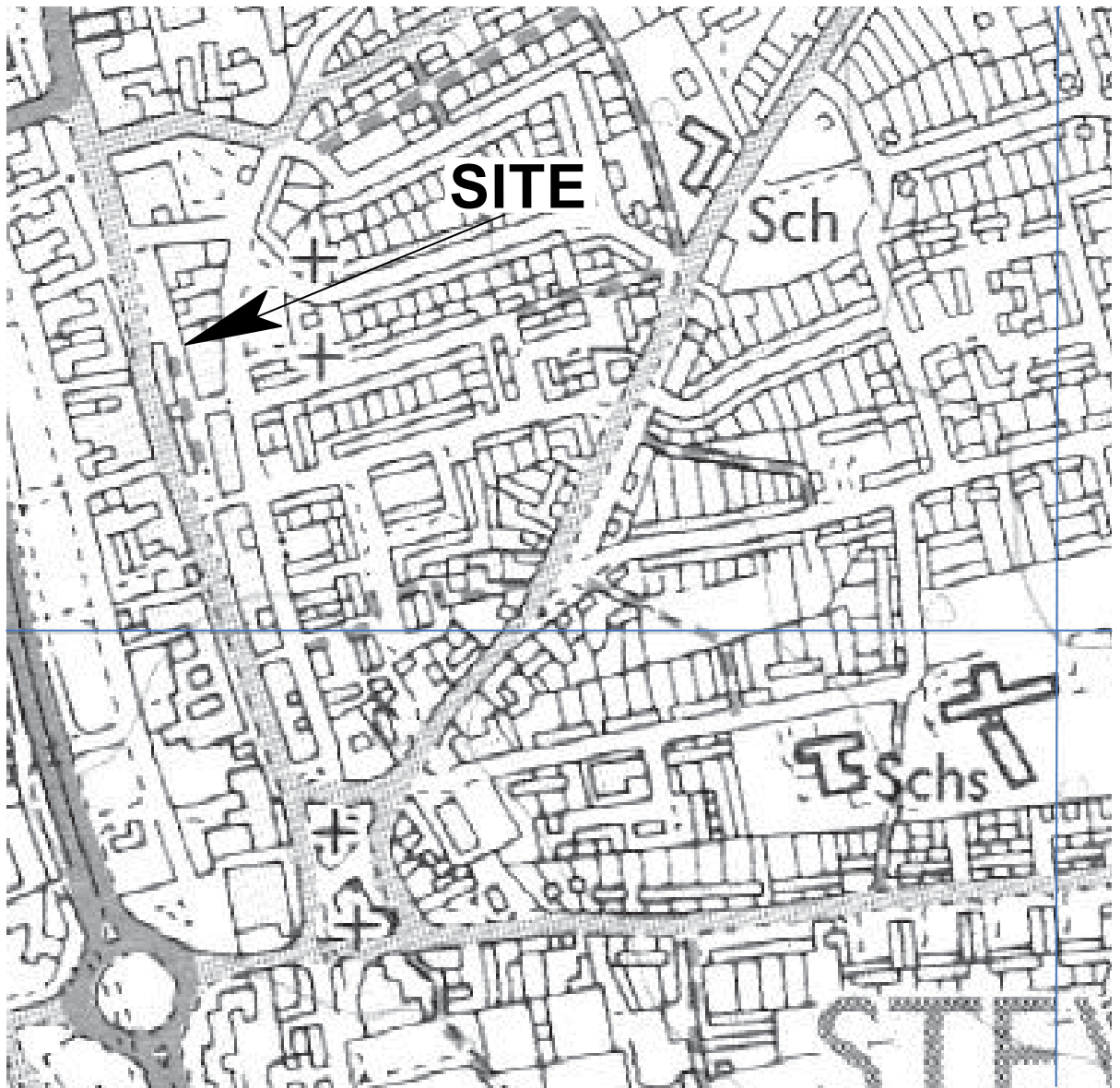
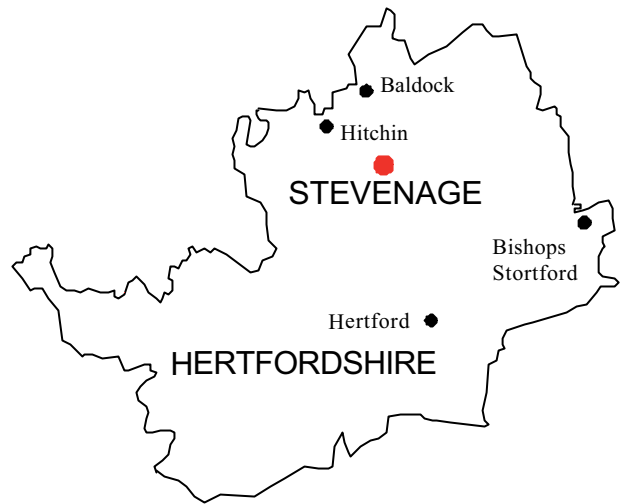
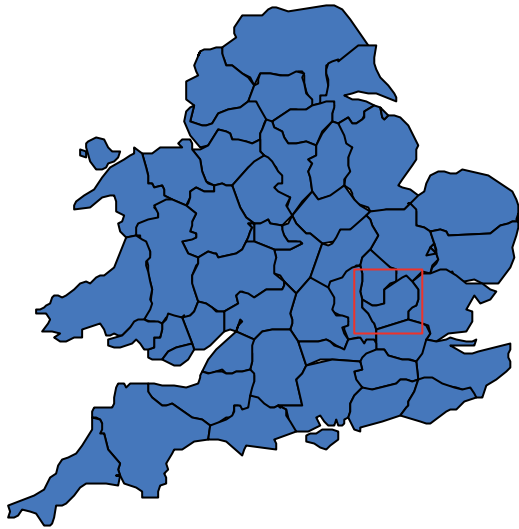
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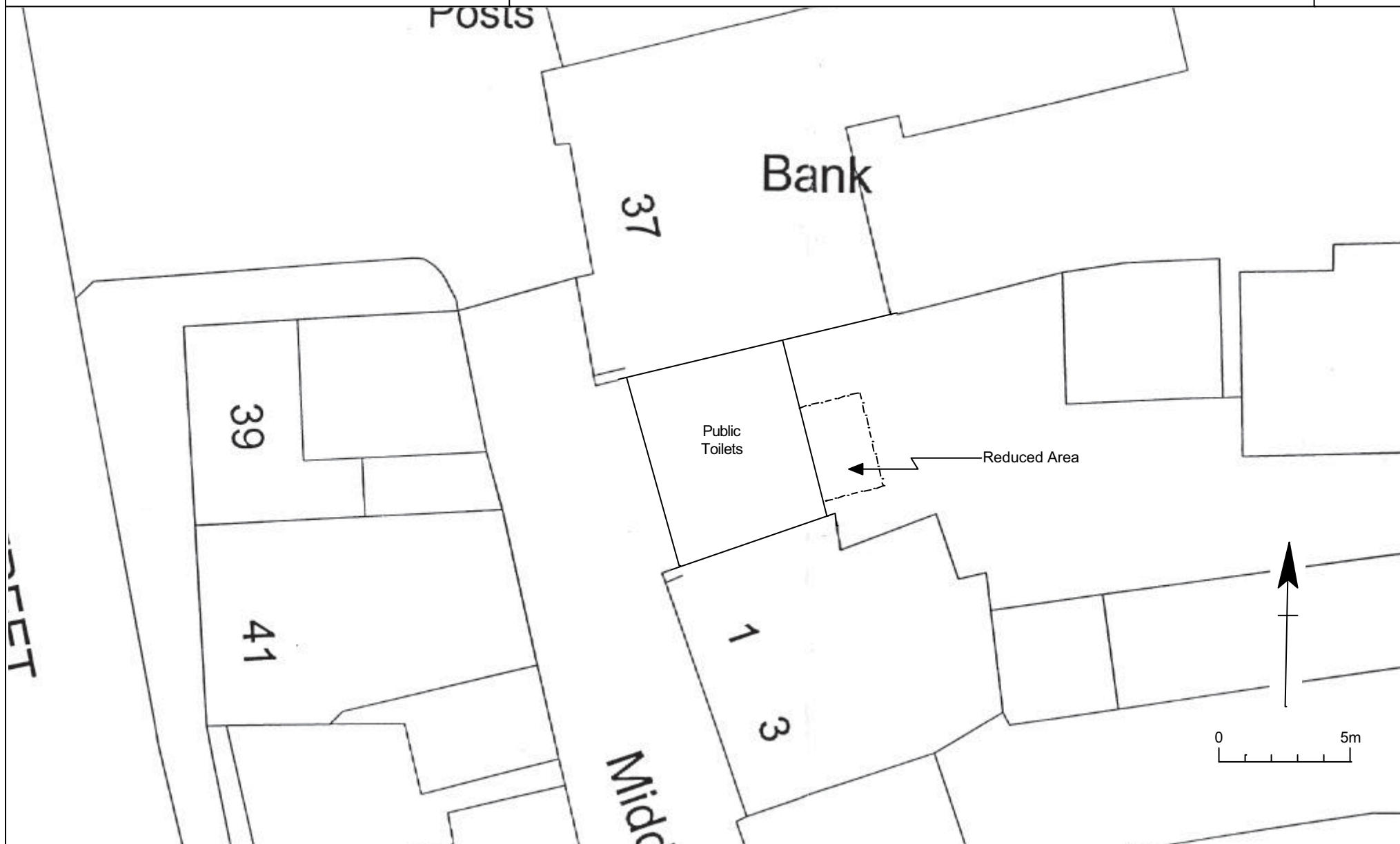
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Site Location

Scale 1:5000

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Figure 1



Location of groundworks

Scale 1:200

Figure 2