

HERITAGE NETWORK



THATCH END Furneux Pelham, Herts

HN524

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

THATCH END

The Causeway, Furneux Pelham, Herts.

HN524

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Mr Edward Davidson, QC

by

David Kaye, BA, PIFA

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11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998

Contents

	Summary	Page i
Section 1	Introduction	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion and conclusion.....	Page 4
Section 4	Schedule of Site Visits	Page 5
Section 5	Bibliography	Page 5
Section 6	Illustrations.....	following Page 5

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye and Karin Semmelmann under the supervision of Chris Turner. The report text was prepared by David Kaye and Karin Semmelmann and the illustrations prepared by David Kaye. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Chris Honey, Mr and Mrs Davidson 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:	Thatch End, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Herts.
Village/town:	Furneux Pelham	Parish:	Furneux Pelham
Planning reference:	3/04/1440	NGR:	TL 43138 27836
Client name and address:	Mr and Mrs Davidson, Thatch End, The Causeway, Furneux Pelham, Herts		
Nature of work:	Garage & Extension	Former land use:	Drive and garden
Site Status:	AAS65	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG16)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	133m ²	Size of area investigated:	39m ²
Site Code:	HN524	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation, monitoring of groundworks	Archive Recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	06/04/2005	Finish of work	25/05/05
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Post-medieval
Oasis UID:	heritage1-11945	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Building (foundation)		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: In response to a condition on the planning permission for a replacement garage and extension at Thatch End, Furneux Pelham, Herts, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The garage construction revealed a modern brick built septic tank and fragments of footings from a 19th century garden feature or outbuilding. The house extension revealed three further fragments of footings and an underlying chalk floor surface. These, too, are likely to be associated with a post-medieval garden feature or outbuilding.

The study area appears to be located at the southern margin of the medieval settlement, and the present buildings are 18th century in date. Terracing of the site to create a platform for the house and its outbuildings is likely to have destroyed or severely truncated any evidence for earlier activity on the site. In the limited confines of the footings trenches no evidence for medieval or earlier activity on the site was identified.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Christopher Honey, RIBA, acting on behalf of Mr and Mrs E Davidson, as part of a programme of monitoring and recording of groundworks for a garage and extension at Thatch End, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire. The planning permission for the development (ref. 3/04/1440), granted by the East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), was subject to a standard archaeological condition, in accordance with 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 Monitoring and Recording* issued by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to EHDC. A full specification of the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated March 2005.

1.2 The site, centred on NGR TL 43138 27836, is located on the east side of The Causeway, 100m south of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The development involved an extension to the northern end of the eastern elevation of the existing house, and the construction of a new garage against the southern boundary of the property to the east of the house (Figure 1).

1.3 The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no.65* (AAS65), which defines the medieval core of Furneux Pelham in the District Local Plan. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book, as is the manor, which is located at its heart.

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 describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Hertford Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies on the east side of The Causeway, 100m south of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The geology was fairly consistent across the site and comprised a layer of very dark brown (10YR 2/2) silty clay subsoil, varying in depth between 0.3-0.7m. This overlay a natural geology mainly consisting of an olive yellow (2.5Y 6/6) sand with some strong brown (7.5YR 5/6) gravel. The depth of topsoil increased as a result of some landscaping of the garden on the eastern side of the property.

METHODOLOGY

2.2 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise the excavation of the footings and drainage trenches and a soakaway.

2.3 The machining was undertaken using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 450mm toothed and an 800mm toothless bucket, as required.

2.4 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.5 The project has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Design Brief, and with the Heritage Network's approved Project Design.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Garage footings

2.6 A total of six trenches were dug for the footings of the garage. These measured approximately 0.45m in width and varied from 1.2-2.2m in depth (Figure 2).

2.7 Trench A cut through an area of made-up ground which ran along its entire length to a depth of 1.2m. There were frequent post-medieval artefacts within the deposit including pottery, glass and CBM.

2.8 Trench A revealed no features of archaeological interest.

2.9 Trench B contained the cut for a land drain running on a NE-SW alignment, which was located at the eastern end of the trench and measured 1.4m wide by 1.5m deep. A second linear cut, to the west of the first, was also 1.4m wide but only 1m deep. Both features were cut through the made-up ground identified in Trench A, and may be associated with the construction of a septic tank described below.

2.10 Trench C exposed three courses of 19th century brick at its southern end, set in a layer of compacted makeup containing chalk and modern pottery. The makeup layer continued into the western end of Trench D.

2.11 Trench E exposed part of a modern brick-built septic tank at its northern end, together with an inlet pipe orientated east-west in the direction of the southern end of the existing house. There was a considerable amount disturbance associated with the construction of the tank which extended to a depth of 2.2m below the present ground level.

2.12 Trench F was cut through a deep layer of topsoil marking a hedgeline forming the southern boundary of the garden. A large quantity of modern glass, ceramic bottles and china were recovered from the backfill around the outside of the septic tank.

Extension footings

2.13 A total of eight trenches were dug for the house extension ranging in depth from 1.1m to 1.8m to accommodate the rising slope of the garden (Figure 2).

2.14 Trenches 1 to 5 were cut largely through made-up ground built up over the natural sandy geology. No archaeological features were observed.

2.15 Trenches 6, 7 & 8 were cut through an existing gravel driveway which had been built up over a 0.4m thick layer of consolidated hardcore. No archaeological features were observed.

2.16 Trench 8 exposed a 0.04m thick chalk surface which was 1.65m in length and supported three brick footings. The southern footing was three courses wide and four courses high and abutted a small retaining wall that constitutes part of the existing patio. The remaining footings were two courses wide and four courses high (Figure 3). They appear all to be part of the same post-medieval or Victorian outbuilding.

Soakaway and drainage trenches

2.17 Both the soakaway and its associated drainage trench were dug to a depth that did not breach the overburden.

3. Discussion and Conclusion

3.1 Thatch End lies on the southern edge of the core of the medieval settlement of Furneux Pelham, approximately 100m south of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The house is made up of four timber framed, plastered and weatherboarded cottages dating to the 18th century, and facing on to The Causeway. It is Grade II listed (IoE ref.160147).

3.2 The property is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1883, which shows a long narrow building at the rear of the cottages which may form a block of sheds or privies.

3.3 The aim of the project was to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might be 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 the current published regional research agenda. It was considered that the site had the potential to extend our understanding of the development of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

3.4 The monitoring of the groundworks associated with the new garage and the extension to the house revealed Victorian and modern features, probably associated with garden features or outbuildings. No artefacts pre-dating the Victorian period were identified.

3.5 The stratigraphy of the site suggests that it had been heavily landscaped, probably during the construction of the cottages. The house sits on terrace formed by cutting into the natural slope which rises to the east. This is likely to have affected the potential survival of any earlier evidence in this area.

Conclusion

3.6 The study area appears to be located at the southern margin of the medieval settlement, and the present buildings are 18th century in date. Terracing of the site to create a platform for the house and its outbuildings is likely to have destroyed or severely truncated any evidence for earlier activity on the site. In the limited confines of the footings trenches no evidence for medieval or earlier activity on the site was identified.

Confidence Rating

3.7 The conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4. Schedule of site visits

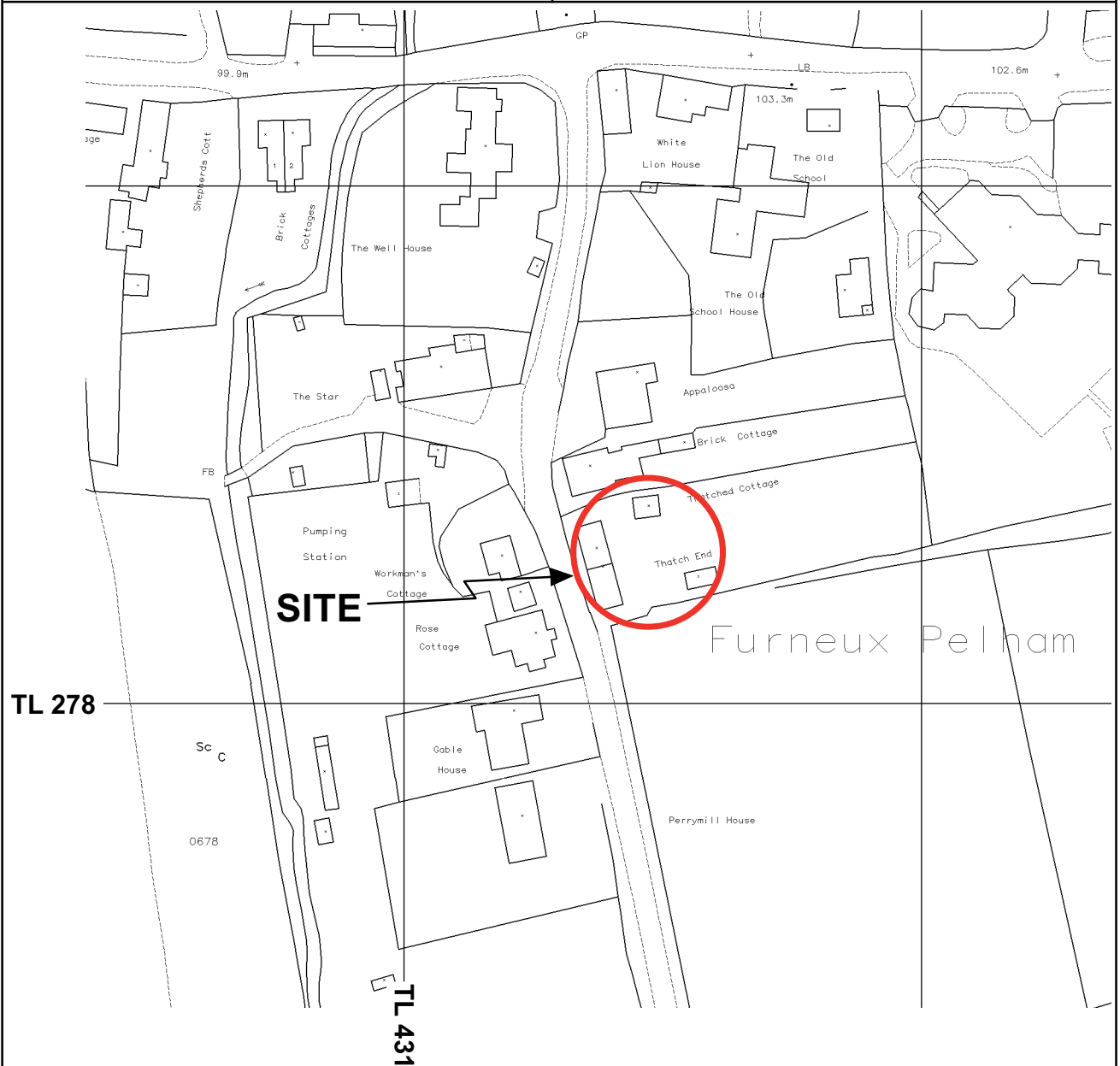
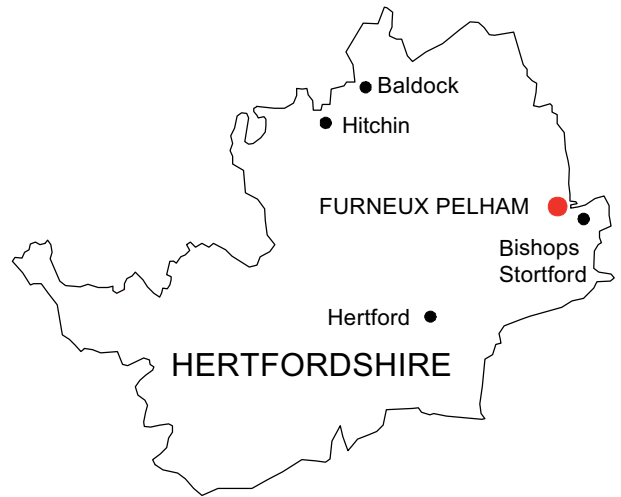
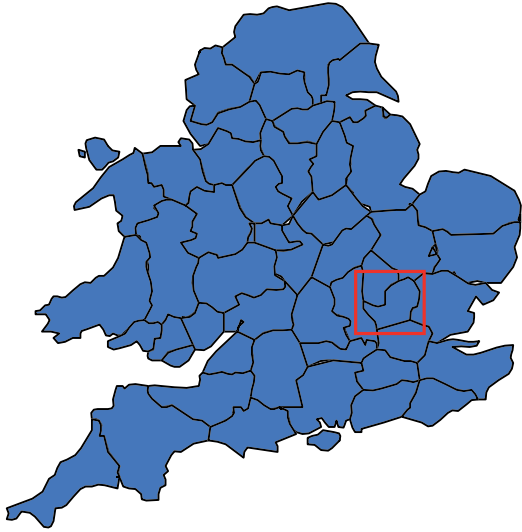
Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
06/04/05	KS	8	Monitor footings trenches for garage
07/04/05	KS	8	Monitor footings trenches for garage
11/04/05	DJH	3	Monitor footings trenches for garage
17/05/05	DGK	7	Monitor footings trenches for extension
18/05/05	DGK	4	Monitor footings trenches for extension
20/05/05	DGK	4	Monitor footings trenches for extension
23/05/05	DGK	7	Monitor footings trenches for extension
25/05/05	DGK	7	Monitor footings trenches for extension

5. Bibliography

Hillelson, D. 2005, *Thatch End, The Causeway, Furneux Pelham, Herts: Archaeological Project Design*. Heritage Network

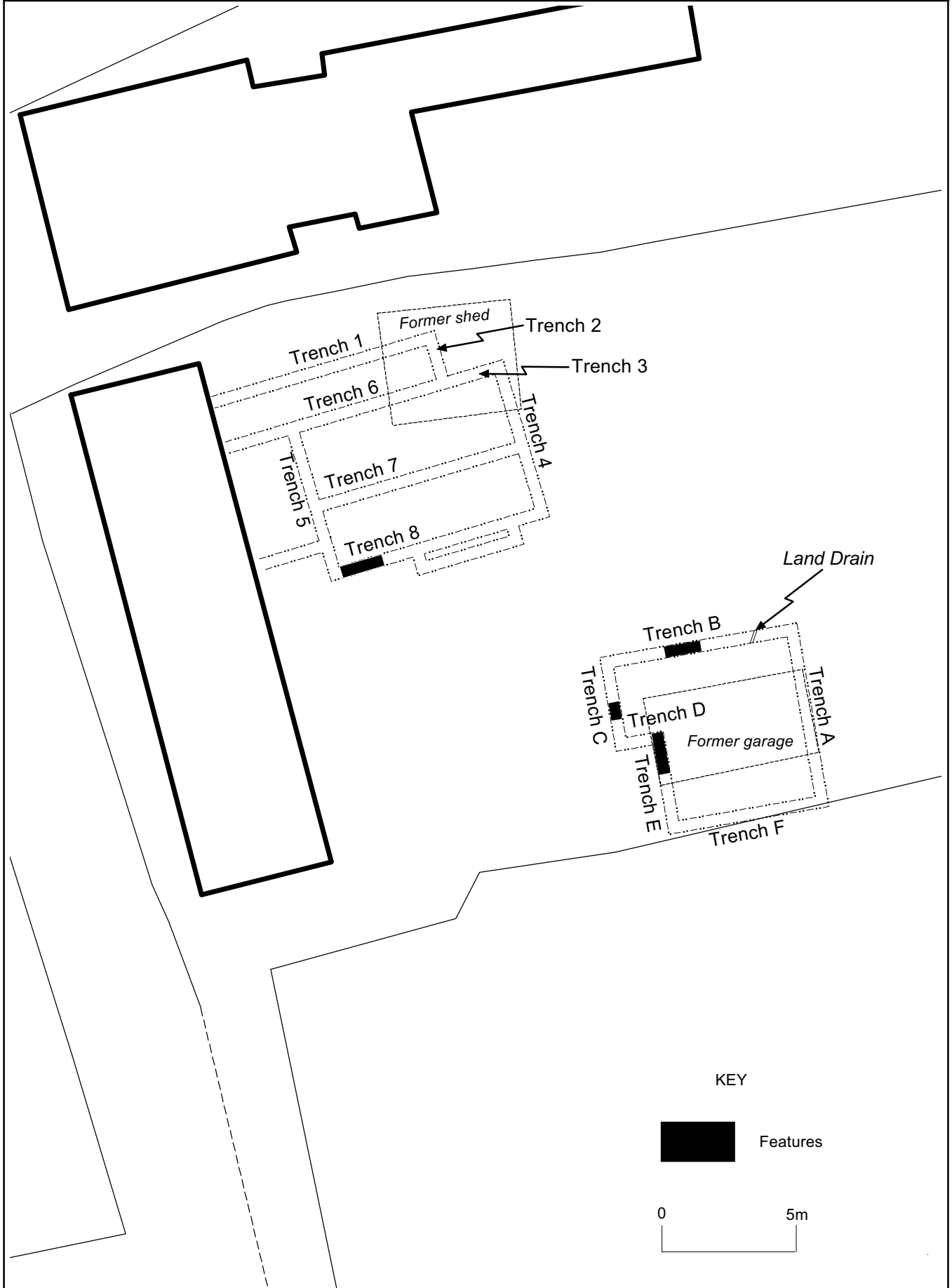
6. Illustrations

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Site layout and features location
- Figure 3 Detail of feature in Trench 8



Site Location

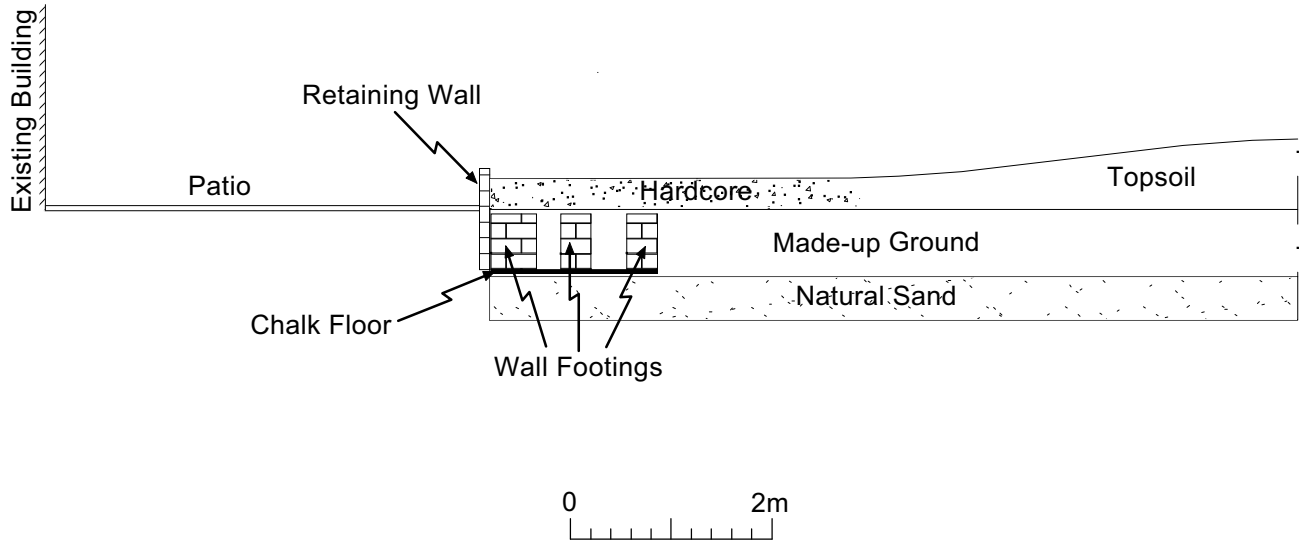
Scale 1:1250



Site Layout and Feature Location

Scale 1:200

Figure 2



Detail of Feature in Trench 8

Scale 1:75

Figure 3