HERITAGE NETWORK

PARK FARM BARN, Old Warden, Bedfordshire

HN359

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK *LTD*
Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation
Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

PARK FARM BARN
Old Warden, Beds.

HN359

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of N Lewis Esq.

by

Geoff Saunders, BA AIFA

Report no.

May 2005

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Contents

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye, Mark Winter, Karin Semmelmann and David Hillelson. Illustrations were prepared by Geoff Saunders, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Nigel Lewis, Client; Stephen Boddey and Stephen Swaby, BBR Architects; and Martin Oake and Lesley-Anne Mather, Development Control Archaeologists, Bedfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Park Farm Barn, Old Warden, Bedfordshire.		
County:	Bedfordshire	**District:**	Mid Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Old Warden	**Parish:**	Old Warden
Planning reference:	36/97/1205/LB	**NGR:**	TL 1243 4438
Client name and address:	Nigel Lewis Esq., Park Farm, Warden Street, Old Warden, Bedfordshire.		
Nature of work:	Barn Conversion	**Present land use:**	Agricultural
Size of affected area:	c.m^2	**Size of area investigated:**	c.m^2
Site Code:	HN359	**Other reference:**	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	**Site Director:**	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring & Recording	**Finds location/Museum:**	Bedford Museum
Start of work	3rd September 2002	**Finish of work**	8th October 2003
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	**Periods represented:**	Unknown/Modern
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the conversion of a barn at Park Farm, Old Warden, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to conduct a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

Although the site is located within the former estate of Warden Abbey, a Cistercian monastery, the monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features or deposits. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from within the overburden, these are however likely to be residual in material imported onto the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *BBR Architects*, acting on behalf of N Lewis Esq., as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of development groundworks for the conversion of an historic barn at Park Farm, Old Warden, Beds. The planning permission for the development (ref. 36/97/1205/LB), granted by the Mid Bedfordshire District Council (MBDC), has been subject to an archaeological condition which is to be met by following the provisions set out in the *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* prepared by the County Archaeology Officer (CAO) of Bedfordshire County Council (ref. MO 19/02/02).

1.2 The development, centred on NGR TL 1243 4438, proposes the conversion of the existing listed barn to a single dwelling.

1.3 The site lies on the southern side of the Park Farm farmyard. During the medieval period the farm formed part of the estate of Warden Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded in 1135. Many medieval earthworks survive in the vicinity, and a number of undated cropmarks have also been identified. The present farmhouse is early 17th century in date. In view of the known historical and archaeological information concerning the farm and its immediate vicinity there was considered by the planning authority to be a reasonable chance that Medieval and Post-medieval remains would be disturbed in the course of the groundworks for the development.

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 to allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality. Particular emphasis has been given to features, deposits and artefacts which may elucidate the origins and development of the site before and during the medieval period.

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 Park Farm is situated immediately to the west of Palmers Wood on fairly level land between the 60m and 65m contours.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is a firm, yellowish brown (10YR 5/6), clay.

METHODOLOGY

2.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule.

2.4 Spoil from the various stages of groundwork on the site was regularly inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.5 The archaeological monitoring focused on ground reduction immediately to the north-east of the barn, underpinning trenches, and service trenches.

2.6 All work was carried out in accordance with the detailed method statement contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design,* and followed the relevant sections of the Heritage Network's *Operations Manual.*

RESULTS

Ground reduction

2.7 A small area, measuring approximately 1.5 x 6.0m, immediately to the north-east of the barn was reduced by 0.3m. The only features revealed were a modern land drain and a ceramic drainage pipe (see Figure 3).

2.8 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were observed.

Underpinning trenches

2.9 In total, 48 underpinning trenches were excavated for the new development along the external walls of the barn. A total of 30 of the underpinning trenches, located around the perimeter of the barn, were inspected prior to the pouring of concrete (see Figure 3). The trenches were irregular in size and varied in depth from approximately 0.75m to 1.60m.

2.10 The trenches revealed that the existing stone foundation of the barn varied in depth from 0.10m to 0.50m in depth.

2.11 Two undiagnostic bodysherds of Brill Boarstall type pottery of 12th-14th century date were recovered from underpinning trenches, 10, and 19. A further rim sherd of the same fabric was recovered as a surface find above underpinning trench 10. The fragments are small and reasonably abraded and are likely to be residual.

2.12 A further shallow trench (Tr31) was excavated inside the barn as a foundation for a new fireplace. The trench did not penetrate the modern overburden.

2.13 No archaeological features or deposits other than the footings of the existing barn were observed in the underpinning trenches.

Service Trenches

2.14 A single drainage trench was monitored, the trench was located within the northern corner of the barn and ran along the interior of the north-east wall. The trench was approximately 0.9m wide and between 0.40 – 0.60m deep.

2.15 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were observed within the drainage trench.

Finds concordance

	Pottery		An.bone		Shell		Glass	
Ctxt	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.
Tr 2			135	2	35	1	25	1
Tr 10	15	1						
Tr 19 Topsoil			70	5				
Tr 19 Subsoil	20	1	55	7				
Tr 20 Topsoil			35	1				
Tr 20 Subsoil			2	3				
U/S	15	1	850	11				
Total	50	3	1147	29	35	1	25	1

Pottery

2.16 A total of 3 sherds of pottery, weighing 50g, was recovered unstratified during the present investigation. Two abraded undiagnostic bodysherds of Brill Boarstall type pottery of 12th – 14th century date were recovered from underpinning trenches, 10, and 19. A further abraded rim sherd of the same fabric was recovered as a surface find above underpinning trench 10.

2.17 The small and abraded nature of the sherds indicates that this material was not in its primary place of deposition. The unstratified nature of the assemblage within the overburden suggests that the sherds are likely to have been imported onto the site.

2.18 Given the small size of the assemblage, the abraded nature of the sherds, and that the material is unstratified, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Animal bone

2.19 A total of 29 fragments of animal bone, weighing 1147g, were recovered during the present investigation. The majority of the fragments are small, worn, undiagnostic, and were recovered from unstratified contexts.

2.20 No further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Shell

2.21 A single oyster shell, weighing 35g, was recovered during the present investigation.

2.22 No further work is proposed on the shell.

Glass

2.23 A single fragment of modern glass, weighing 25g, was recovered during the investigation.

2.24 No further work is proposed on this item.

3. Discussion

3.1 Despite the location of the site within the estate of a medieval Cistercian Monastery, the monitoring of the groundworks failed to identify any significant archaeological remains on the site.

3.2 Three sherds of unstratified Brill Boarstall type pottery were the only evidence of medieval activity observed during the investigation. These sherds are likely to have been imported and as such do not necessarily indicate activity at this time on the site.

3.3 The stone plinth of the existing barn sits on a foundation of similar stone varying in depth between 0.10 – 0.50m.

Conclusion

3.4 The monitoring of the present groundworks on the site did not encounter any significant evidence for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period. This may either reflect a genuine lack of earlier occupation, or indicate that the construction of Park Farm destroyed such evidence. Three sherds of pottery of Medieval date were collected, but these were unstratified within the overburden and may have been imported onto the site.

4. Sources Consulted

Hillelson, D. 2002. *Park Farm Barn, Old Warden, Beds. Archaeological Monitoring Project Design* Heritage Network April 2002

Oake, M. 2002. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis, and Publication at Park Farm, Old Warden, Bedfordshire.* Bedfordshire County Council.

5. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
03/09/02	DJH	2	Preliminary site visit
05/09/02	MW/KS	4	Underpin trench 1
12/09/02	MW	8	Underpin trench 2
16/09/02	MW	3	Underpin trenches 3-4
17/09/02	MW	2	Underpin trench 5
18/09/02	MW	2	Underpin trench 6
23/09/02	MW	3	Underpin trenches 7-8
24/09/02	MW	3	Underpin trench 9
08/09/03	MW	5	Underpin trenches 10-14
12/09/03	DGK	3	Underpin trenches 15-17, and Drainage trench
18/09/03	DGK	2	Underpin trenches 18-21
25/09/03	DGK	4	Underpin trenches 18-21
30/09/03	MW	3	Underpin trenches 22-25
03/10/03	MW	3	Underpin trenches 26-28
07/10/03	DGK	3	Underpin trench 30
08/10/03	MW	3	Underpin trenches 29 & 31

6. Illustrations

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Park Farm Barn, Old Warden

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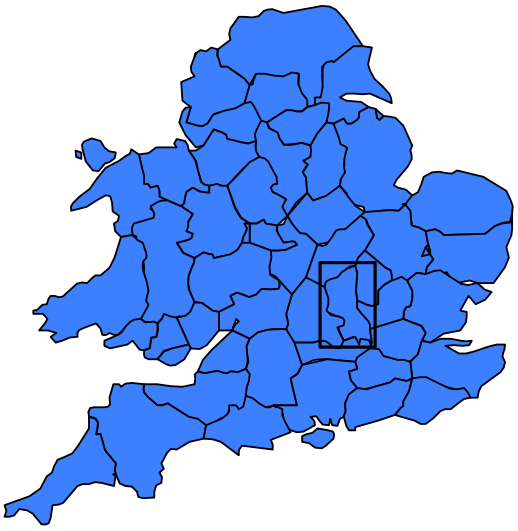
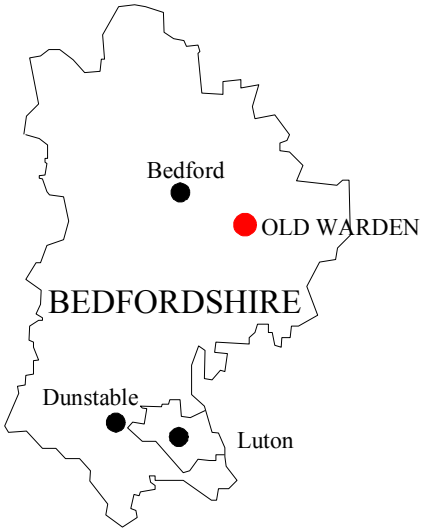
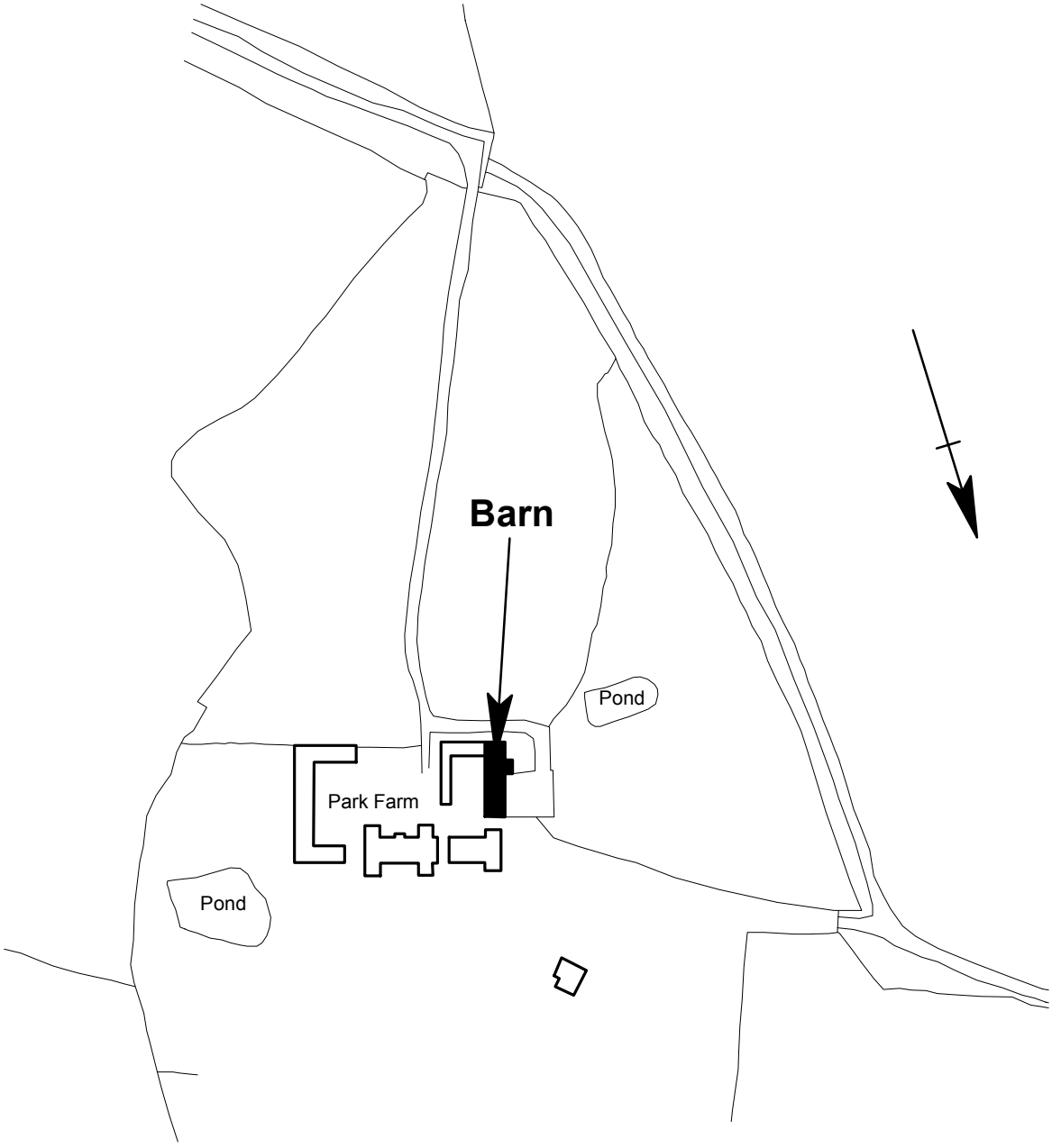




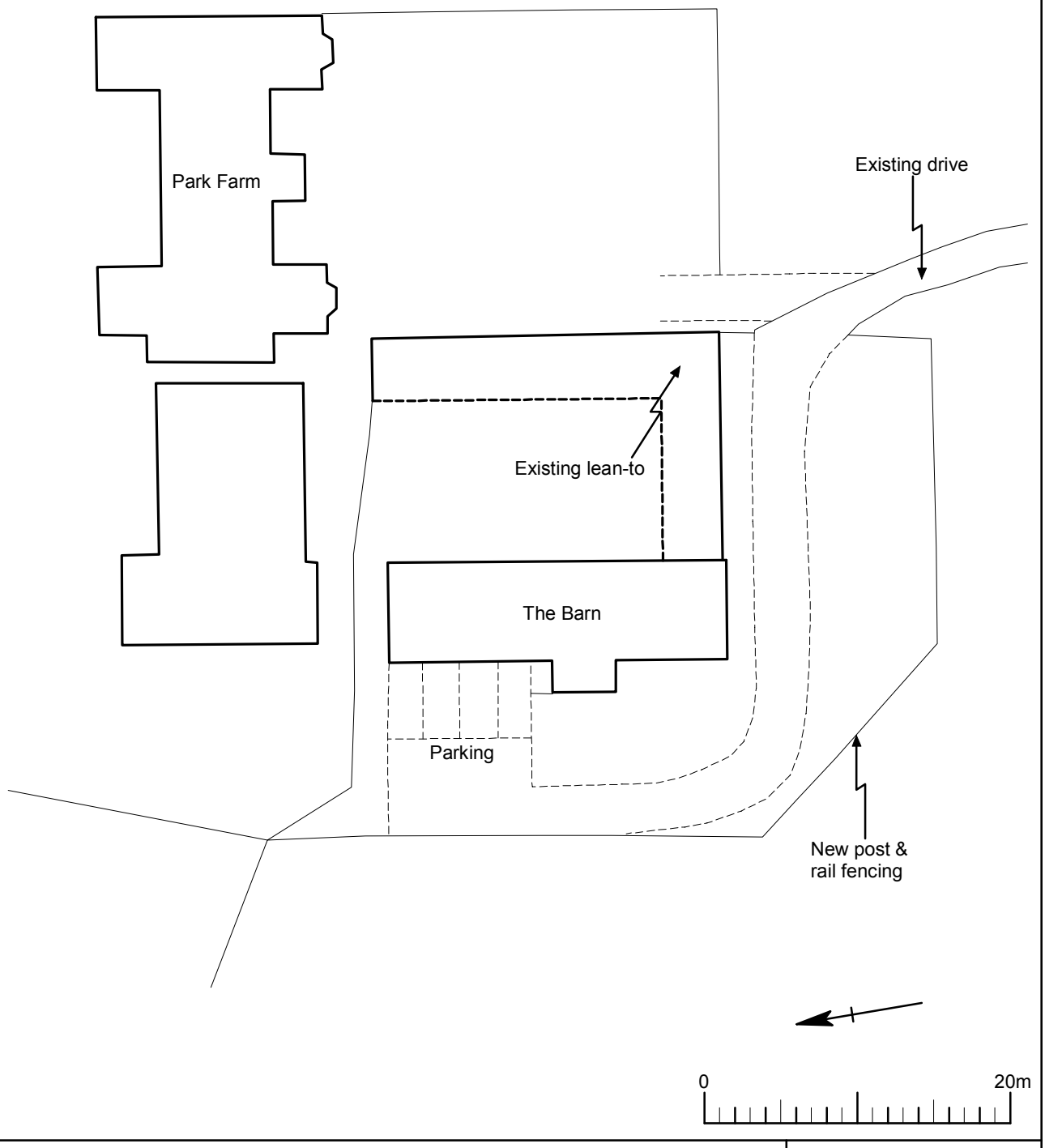


Site Location

Scale 1:2000

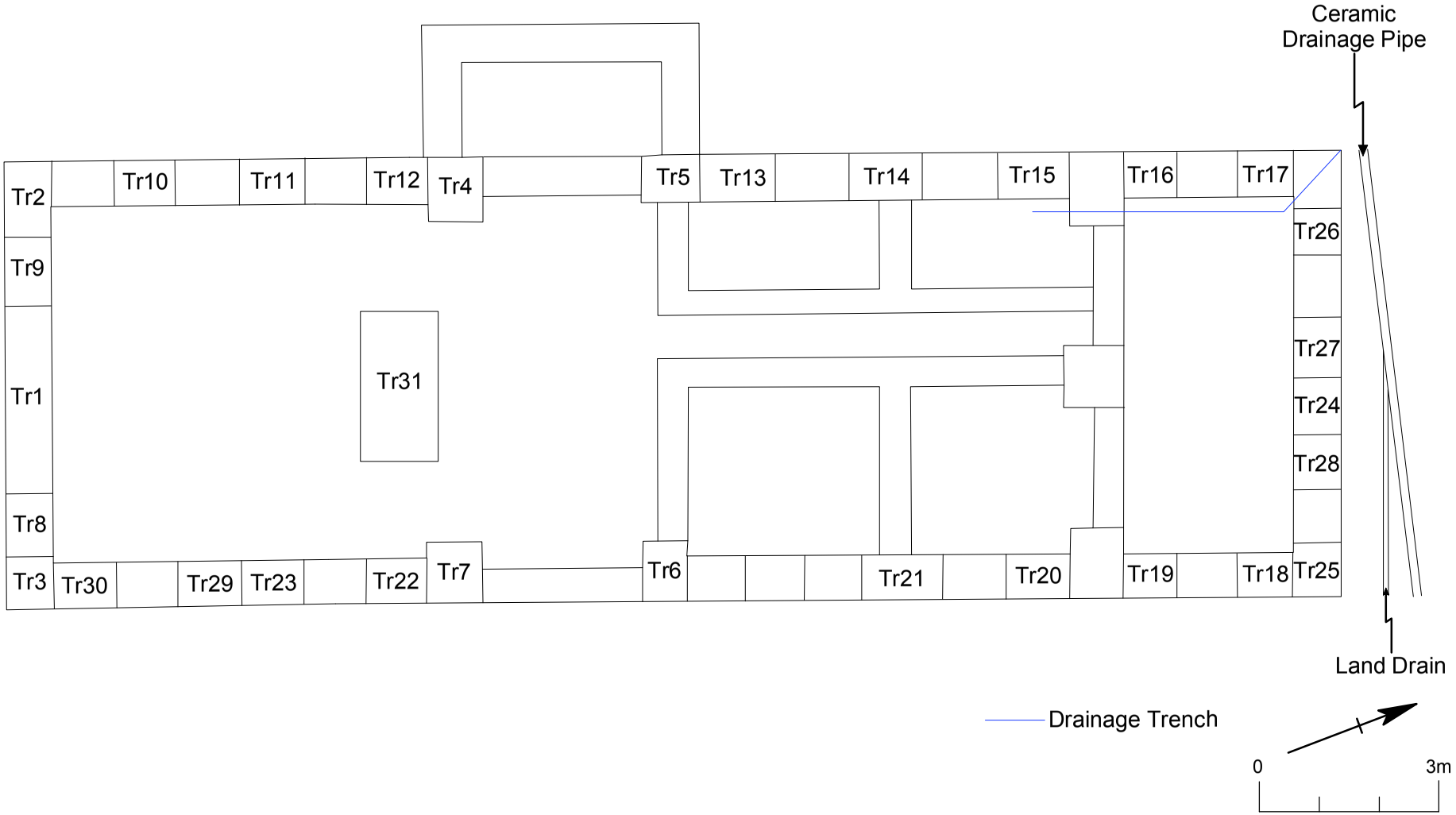
Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Park Farm Barn, Old Warden	HN359



Site layout	Scale 1:400
	Figure 2

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Park Farm Barn, Old Warden	HN359



Location of underpinning trenches	Scale 1:100
	Figure 3

Appendix 1

Underpinning Record

Description of Underpinning trenches

Tr1 – 2.90m x 1.00m x 1.13m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.22m of concrete over 0.46m of disturbed dark yellowish brown sandy clay beneath which lay an olive brown silty clay greater in depth than 0.51m.
Tr2 – 3.30m x 1.50m x 1.30m deep. Stratigraphy comprises a dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent rubble over a disturbed olive brown clay beneath which lay the natural geology of yellowish brown clay.
Tr3 – 1.60m x 0.61m x 1.16m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.56m of very dark brown loamy clay over 0.31m of olive brown clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr4 – 1.12m x 1.08m x 1.23m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.35m of dark brown silty clay with rubble over 0.70m of dark yellowish brown clay with flints beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr5 – 1.47m x 1.04m x 1.25m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.11m of concrete over 0.93m of dark yellowish brown clay with rubble beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr6 – 1.05m x 0.82m x 1.57m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.49m of brown silty clay with rubble over 0.80m of disturbed very dark greyish brown silty clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr7 – 1.00m x 0.85m x 1.42m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.57m of dark brown silty clay with rubble over 0.64m of disturbed dark brown silty clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr8 – 1.05m x 1.00m x 1.35m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.17m of concrete over 0.45m of brown silty clay with rubble beneath which lay 0.50m of disturbed dark brown silty clay over the natural clay geology.
Tr9 – 1.40m x 1.20m x 1.30m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.61m of dark yellowish brown silty clay with rubble over 0.41m of disturbed olive brown silty clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr10 – 1.10m x 1.00m x 0.80m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of dark yellowish brown silty clay with gravel over an olive brown clay with gravel greater in depth than 0.60m.
Tr11 – 1.20m x 1.00m x 0.86m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.26m of dark yellowish brown silty clay with gravel over an olive brown clay with gravel greater in depth than 0.60m.
Tr12 – 1.10m x 1.10m x 0.90m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.25m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over a dark yellowish brown soft clay with gravel greater in depth than 0.65m.
Tr13 – 1.10m x 1.10m x 0.80m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.40m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over 0.10m of yellowish brown clayey gravel beneath which was 0.20m of olive brown clay with gravel over the natural clay geology.
Tr14 – 1.40m x 1.20m x 0.85m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.30m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over 0.25m of yellowish brown clayey gravel beneath which was 0.20m of olive brown clay with gravel over the natural clay geology.
Tr15 – 1.45m x 1.10m x 0.90m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.35m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over 0.08m of ash beneath which was 0.11m of yellowish brown gravel over 0.26m of olive brown silty clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr16 – 1.30m x 1.10m x 1.00m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over 0.05m of ash beneath which was 0.40m of yellowish brown gravel over o.25m of olive brown silty clay beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr17 – 1.60m x 1.10m x 0.90m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.30m of dark olive brown clay with gravel over 0.25m of yellowish brown gravel beneath which was 0.25m of olive brown silty clay over the natural clay geology.
Tr18 – 1.50m x 1.20m x 0.80m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.30m of dark brown clay with gravel over 0.20m of dark yellowish brown silty clay beneath which lay a very dark greyish brown clay greater in depth than 0.30m.
Tr19 – 1.50m x 1.20m x 0.75m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of dark brown clay with gravel over 0.35m of dark yellowish brown silty clay beneath which lay a very dark greyish brown clay greater in depth than 0.20m.
Tr20 – 1.50m x 1.20m x 0.90m deep Stratigraphy comprises 0.30m of dark brown clay with gravel over 0.30m of dark yellowish brown silty clay beneath which lay a very dark greyish brown clay greater in depth than 0.30m.
Tr21 – 1.50m x 1.20m x 0.80m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of dark brown clay with gravel over 0.25m of dark yellowish brown silty clay beneath which lay a very dark greyish brown clay greater in depth than 0.35m.

Tr22 – 1.20m x 1.10m x 0.95m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.25m of very dark brown silty clay with gravel over 0.20m of olive brown silty clay with gravel beneath which lay an olive grey clay with gravel and flint greater in depth than 0.50m.
Tr23 – 1.40m x 1.10m x 0.80m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.30m of very dark brown silty clay with gravel over 0.20m of olive brown soft clay with gravel beneath which lay an olive grey malleable clay with gravel greater in depth than 0.30m
Tr24 – 1.50m x 1.10m x 1.15m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.15m of concrete over 0.55m of very dark greyish brown silty clay with rubble beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr25 – 2.10m x 1.40m x 0.95m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.15m of concrete over 0.65m of very dark greyish brown silty clay with rubble beneath which lay the natural clay geology.
Tr26 – 1.50m x 0.90m x 0.70m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of yellowish brown clayey gravel over 0.25m of olive brown silty clay with gravel beneath which was a strong brown silty clay greater in depth than 0.25m.
Tr27 – 1.60m x 1.10m x 1.00m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.40m of brown malleable clay with gravel over an olive brown soft malleable clay greater in depth than 0.60m.
Tr28 – 1.40m x 1.20m x approximately 1.00m deep. Stratigraphy comprises brown clay with gravel over olive brown silty clay with gravel beneath which was yellowish brown firm clay with gravel over very dark greyish brown silty clay.
Tr29 – 1.30m x 1.00m x 0.90m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.20m of hard core over dark olive brown clay with flint and gravel greater in depth than 0.70m.
Tr30 – 1.40m x 1.05m x 1.10m deep. Stratigraphy comprises 0.15m of hard core over 0.30m of clay with rubble beneath which was 0.45m of dark olive brown soft silty clay with flints over olive brown firm clay greater in depth than 0.21m.
Tr31 – 2.50m x 1.30m x 0.37m deep. Foundation trench for fire place. Stratigraphy comprises 0.10m of concrete over very dark greyish brown soft silty clay greater in depth than 0.27m.