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QUENBYS YARD **Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire**

HN1054

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION &
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD**

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

QUENBYS YARD, Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1054
LPA ref.: 12/01585/1 & 13/01292/1
HER ref.: 8/13

Archaeological Evaluation & Historic Building Record

Prepared on behalf of Mahone Bay Ltd & Peaktoll Ltd

By

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Report no. 858

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The front cover shows the frontage of Quenbys Yard, looking southeast

Acknowledgements

The evaluation fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem and Daniel Phillips; the building recording was carried out by David Hillelson. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Phillips & Helen Ashworth and edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Site name and address: | Quenbys Yard, Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire | | |
| County: | Hertfordshire | District: | North Herts DC |
| Village/town: | Baldock | Parish: | Baldock |
| Planning reference: | 12/01585/1 & 13/01292/1 | NGR: | TL 24328 33981 |
| Client name and address: | Mahone Bay Ltd & Peaktoll Ltd, c/o Messrs John Shilcock, 99 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1NQ | | |
| Nature of work: | Housing | Current land use: | Yard |
| Site Status: | Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS 96) | Reason for investigation: | Direction of LPA (NPPF) |
| Position in planning process: | As a condition | Project brief originator: | n/a |
| Size of affected area: | c.574m ² | Size of area investigated: | c.44.46m ² |
| Site code: | HN1054 | HER ref: | 8/13 |
| Organisation: | Heritage Network | Site Director: | David Hillelson |
| Project type, methods etc... | Field evaluation | Archive recipient: | North Herts. Museums |
| Start of work: | 18/03/14 | Finish of work: | 19/03/14 |
| Related HER nos: | n/a | Periods represented: | Post-medieval |
| OASIS UID: | heritage1-146612 | Significant finds: | Pottery, Plaster |
| Monument types: | Pit | | |
| Physical archive: | Pottery, Plaster | | |
| Previous summaries/reports: | Ashworth, H. & Wilcox, S. 2008 <i>‘Quenby’s Yard, Pond Lane, Baldock, Herts. Desk-based Archaeological Assessment and Historic Building Impact Assessment.</i> Heritage Network report no.469 | | |

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land located at ‘Quenby’s Yard’, Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 96, which encompasses both the medieval town and the earlier Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.

Two trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new dwellings in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. These revealed a layer of overburden containing possible demolition debris above a layer of redeposited chalk, possibly a make-up layer for the 1950s garage blocks.

A number of modern features were encountered, including a concrete wall foundation, and a service trench in Trench 1 and three postholes or small pits in Trench 2. It is likely that these relate to the garages and workshops built in the yard in the mid 20th century.

Two intercutting pits were revealed to the south of the concrete wall foundation in Trench 1. The upper fill of the latest feature contained two abraded sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery. No function could be assigned to either pit, but a shallow gully, [108], possibly fed into [103], the latest pit, suggesting it may have been intended to hold liquid.

Building 3, in the north-western corner, was initially considered to be either of pre-19th century construction, or to have incorporated material from an earlier structure, but a closer examination of the building has demonstrated that this is not the case and it is contemporary with Building 2, to the east.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 This Report has been prepared at the request of Moulton Walker, acting on behalf of Mahone Bay Ltd & Peaktoll Ltd, to cover a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of a proposed development at 'Quenby's Yard', Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (Figure 1).

1.2 The planning consent for the proposed development (ref: 12/01585/1 & 13/01292/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) subject to a standard suite of archaeological conditions issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

1.3 The scope of this investigation was defined in correspondence with the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) for Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to the NHDC. A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated April 2013.

1.4 Stage 1 of the present project, which consisted of desk-based research and an historic building impact assessment, was carried out in 2008 (Ashworth & Wilcox 2008). This demonstrated that the site lies in a well documented archaeological landscape, with a moderate to high probability of encountering finds and features dating from the late prehistoric period onwards during archaeological fieldwork. The historic building record showed that the buildings on the site have undergone a number of changes since the mid-19th century, with only a small part of the layout shown on the Tithe Map of 1850 surviving to the present day. The proposed new buildings are located in the southern corner of the yard, across the site of a series of workshops and garages built in the mid 20th century.

1.5 The present site consists of a square courtyard, with buildings along each side, located on the south-eastern side of Pond Lane, close to the junction with Church Street, and centred on NGR TL 24328 33981. It is bounded to the northwest by Pond Lane; to the southwest by the boundary with no.5 Pond Lane; to the northeast by nos. 7-11 Church Street; and on the southeast by the rear of no.5 Church Street.

1.6 The study area lies within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS 96), as defined in the District Local Plan, which encompasses both the medieval town of Baldock and the earlier late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, centred on the junction between the Icknield Way and Clothall Road, approximately 300m to the east-north-east. On this basis it was considered that archaeological investigation of the site had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins, development and growth of settlement and land use in the vicinity of the study area from the late Iron Age onwards.

1.7 The proposed development entails the conversion of existing buildings along the street frontage to residential properties, together with the demolition of existing buildings at the rear of the yard and their replacement with two new semi-detached dwellings.

2 Archaeological fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located in the core of the town on the edge of a plateau at a height of approximately 61m AOD. The land rises to the east

2.2 Map sheet 147 of the Soil Survey of England shows the town of Baldock to lie in an area of Moulton series brown earth, formed by chalky, sandy and loamy drift over chalk (SSEW 1983). The underlying solid geology comprises Cretaceous Middle and Lower Chalk (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.4 Two trial trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. The trenches were opened using a 3-tonne tracked mini-digger fitted with a 1.3m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

2.5 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.6 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

2.7 Two evaluation trenches, covering an area of c.40 square metres, were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new dwellings (Figure 2, Plate 1).

2.8 The stratigraphy was uniform across the site, consisting of a very dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) compact silty sand overburden, 0.20m in depth, containing moderate chalk fragments and post-medieval brick and tile fragments. Below this was a layer of very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) redeposited natural chalk, between 0.20m and 0.40m in depth, with occasional red brick inclusions. This was present at the northern end of Trench 1, but absent at its southern end, suggesting that this represents a make-up layer for the workshop and garage blocks built in the mid 20th century. Beneath this was the firm very pale brown (10 YR 8/2) natural chalk.

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located in the southern half of the site, orientated north to south. It measured 10.3m in length, 2.2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m (Plates 2 & 3). The northern end of the trench lay within the site of a workshop, constructed in the 1950s along the front of a former barn of mid-19th century date (Ashworth & Wilcox 2008, Figure 13). Its southern end lay within a previously undeveloped part of the yard (Figure 5).

2.10 A sondage, measuring 1.90m in length, 1.30m in width and 0.40m in depth, was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the trench in order to define the natural chalk.

Trench 1 data:

| Length (m): | 10.30 | Width (m): | 2.20 | Maximum Depth (m): | 0.70 | Orientation | N-S | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------|-------|
| Level at N End of Trench (mOD) | | | Top | 61.44 | Level at S End of Trench (mOD) | | | Top | 61.63 |
| | | | Base | 60.85 | | | | Base | 61.20 |
| Context | Type | Description | Dimensions (m) | | | | | | |
| | | | Length | Width | Depth | | | | |
| - | Layer | Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) compact silty sand w/ moderate chalk fragments & post-med brick & tile fragments. | >10.30 | >2.00 | 0.20 | | | | |
| - | Layer | Very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) firm chalk fragments & powder w/ occ. red brick fragments | >10.30 | >2.00 | 0.40 | | | | |
| - | Layer | Very pale brown (10 YR 8/2) solid natural chalk | >10.30 | >2.00 | >0.10 | | | | |
| 101 | Cut | Sub-rectangular cut for dog burial. Extended beneath eastern baulk. | > 0.70 | 0.50 | 0.30 | | | | |
| 102 | Fill | Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silty clay, with moderate chalk flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Contained the skeleton of a pet dog. Fill of [101]. | > 0.70 | 0.50 | 0.30 | | | | |
| 103 | Cut | Cut of circular pit. Contains fills (104) & (105). | >0.70 | 0.60 | 0.80 | | | | |
| 104 | Fill | Dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable sandy clayey silt, with moderate chalk flecks. Upper fill of [103]. Contained 2 pottery sherds. | >0.70 | 0.70 | 0.45 | | | | |
| 105 | Fill | Light grey (10YR 7/1) loose chalk. Lower fill of [103]. No finds. | >0.50 | 0.50 | 0.35 | | | | |
| 106 | Cut | Cut of pit. Contains fill (107) | 1.70 | 1.30 | 0.30 | | | | |
| 107 | Fill | Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) firm silty clay, with moderate chalk flecks. Fill of [106] | 1.70 | NA | 0.30 | | | | |
| 108 | Cut | Linear cut, aligned approximately E-W, which either feeds or is cut by pit [103]. Contains fill (109) | 1.30 | 0.30 | 0.20 | | | | |
| 109 | Fill | Dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable sandy clayey silt, with moderate chalk flecks. No finds. | 1.30 | 0.30 | 0.20 | | | | |

2.11 A number of modern features were revealed in the trench (Figure 3). A sub-rectangular cut, feature [101], which continued into the eastern baulk, was exposed in the north-eastern corner. Investigation revealed that this was the site of a dog’s grave, presumably pre-dating the construction of the garage block in the 1950s. The bones were reburied on site.

2.12 Approximately 2.25m to the south of [101], was a concrete wall footing which crossed the centre of the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment (Figure 3). This probably relates to the south-eastern wall of a 1950s garage block (Ashworth & Wilcox 2008, Figures 7 – 9). A modern service trench, running north-west to south-east, butted the southern side of the wall, but was not observed on the northern side.

2.13 Several features were encountered to the south of the concrete wall. The stratigraphically latest feature was a sub-circular pit, cut [103], which had steep, almost vertical, sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, contexts (104) and (105). Finds recovered from the upper fill include a piece of wall plaster and two sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery.

2.14 A linear gully, cut [108], ran approximately east – west to meet the eastern side of [103]. It contained a single fill, (109), which was identical to (104). No finds were recovered to date the fill. The relationship between [103] and [108] was difficult to determine: either the gully was contemporary with the pit and fed into it, or the pit cut the gully. The similarity of the fills suggests a single phase of backfilling.

2.15 Both [103] and [108] cut (107), the single fill of a large, shallow pit, [106], which had irregular sides and base (Plate 4). No finds were recovered to date the feature.

2.16 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.17 Trench 2 was located at the eastern corner of the site and was orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 10.9m by 2.3m m and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m (Plate 5). This trench was located across the site of a garage block constructed along the south-eastern boundary to the yard in the 1950s.

Trench 2 Data:

Trench 2

| Length (m): | 10.90 | Width (m): | 2.30 | Maximum Depth (m): | 0.55 | Orientation | E-W |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| Level at E End of Trench (mOD) | | Top | 61.36 | Level at W End of Trench (mOD) | | Top | 61.31 |
| | | Base | 61.00 | | | Base | 60.77 |
| Context | Type | Description | Dimensions (m) | | | | |
| | | | Length | Width | Depth | | |
| - | Layer | Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) compact silty sand w/ moderate chalk fragments & post-med brick & tile fragments. | >10.90 | >2.00 | 0.30 | | |
| - | Layer | Very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) firm chalk fragments & powder w/ occ. red brick fragments | >10.90 | >2.00 | 0.20 | | |
| - | Layer | Very pale brown (10 YR 8/2) solid natural chalk | >10.90 | >2.00 | >0.05 | | |
| 201 | Cut | Sub-circular feature, possible small pit. Contained fill (202) | 0.55 | 0.50 | 0.40 | | |
| 202 | Fill | Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) loose silty sand, containing frequent chalk fragments & occ. post-medieval brick fragments. Fill of [201]. | 0.55 | 0.50 | 0.40 | | |
| 203 | Cut | Oval feature, aligned NW-SE. Possible small pit. Contained fill (204). | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.10 | | |
| 204 | Fill | Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) loose silty clay with occasional flints and chalk fragments. Modern artefacts recovered, but not retained. Fill of [203] | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.10 | | |
| 205 | Cut | Sub-rectangular post pit. Contained post (206) & fill (207). | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.25 | | |
| 206 | Structure | Wooden post within cut [205] | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.25 | | |
| 207 | Fill | Very pale brown (10YR 7/3) hard redeposited chalk. Packing around post (206) Fill of [205]. | 0.45 | 0.40 | 0.25 | | |

2.18 Three small features, cuts [201], [203] and [205], were encountered in Trench 2 (Figure 3, Plate 5).

2.19 Posthole [201] was located in the centre of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, with a central post-pit (Figure 4, Plate 6). It contained a single fill (202), which produced fragments of late post-medieval brick. These were noted, but not retained. The post had previously been removed.

2.20 Feature [203] was located approximately 1.20m to the north-west of [201]. This was oval in plan, a bowl-shaped profile (Figure 4, Plate 7). It contained a single fill, (204), which produced modern pottery and tile fragments. These were noted, but not retained.

2.21 Posthole [205] was located on the south-eastern edge of the trench, approximately 5.35m to the south of [201] (Figure 3). It was sub-rectangular in shape, with steep sides and a flat base. The remains of a wooden post (206) stood in the centre of the feature, packed with redeposited chalk, (207). Modern artefacts, including a battery and fragments of pottery and tile, were noted within the fill, but not retained.

2.22 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in Trench 2.

FINDS CONCORDANCE

| Context | Pottery | | Mortar | |
|---------|---------|----|--------|----|
| | No | Wt | No | Wt |
| 104 | 2 | 15 | 1 | 35 |

Pottery

2.23 Two sherds of pottery, weighing 15g, were recovered context (104), the upper fill of pit [103]. Both pieces consisted of abraded and undecorated bodysherds of oxidised sandy ware of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

Recommendations

2.24 Given the small size and abraded nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Plaster

2.25 A single fragment of wall plaster, weighing 35g, was recovered from context (104), the upper fill of pit [103]. The fragment measured approximately 35mm in length, 30mm in width and 23mm in depth. The matrix was yellowish pink, tempered with frequent crushed quartz and moderate chalk inclusions. Traces of possible limewash or whitewash are still visible on the upper surface.

Recommendations

2.26 Given the small size and abraded nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

3 Historic Building Record

3.1 A series of visits were undertaken prior to the demolition of a group of buildings along the south-eastern and south-western boundaries, as a supplement to the building impact assessment carried out previously (Ashworth & Wilcox 2008).

3.2 The report below deals with the buildings demolished as part of the present development (Figure 5). The details are taken from the earlier assessment, with additional information from recent site visits.

Building 3 (workshop, former barn)

Exterior

3.3 Building 3 is a rectangular, two-bay, single storey former barn with a gabled slate roof. It abuts Building 2 to the east and Building 4 to the south forming the northwest corner of the site. Its west elevation stands upon a high brick wall which runs along the west boundary along the length of Buildings 3, 4 and 5. Surviving part of an adjoining building to the south side, also two bays, now incorporated into Building 3 with a sloping slate roof creating an aisle feature.

3.4 The north elevation is constructed in mid – late 19th century red brick with a random bond pattern and a metal strap tie (Plate 9). Doorway inserted with 20th century part glazed double doors opening out onto Pond Lane. At its northwest corner above the roof line is a simple red brick chimney stack.

3.5 Late 18th or early 19th century hand-made red brick to the south-west gable end. Brickwork below to the remainder of the west elevation unseen.

3.6 A re-used assortment of red brick to east elevation of the main barn with no particular bond pattern has been inserted around a post and truss bay division including exposed posts, tiebeam, braces and a king post roof truss. 20th century window divided into four parts inserted into the east elevation with metal security bars. Re-used red and yellow brick to the aisle on the south side with a doorway, boarded door with side windows and large window above in the angle of the roof to the east elevation. Re-used red brick to the aisle on the south elevation.

Interior

3.7 The interior of Building 3 is one large room. Its brick walls are painted, with a brick chimney flue inserted in the northeast corner during the 19th century. Buttresses along the north and west elevations. Two inserted late 19th century 1-over-1 sash windows to the west elevation with security bars. Inserted, part glazed, modern double doors to the north elevation leading out on to Pond Lane. Along the east elevation is a 20th century window divided into four parts with security bars inserted to the north end, and at the south end in the aisle is a doorway with a boarded door, side windows and a large window above in the angle of the roof. Concrete floor throughout with a slope up to the inserted doorway in the south elevation which leads into Building 4.

3.8 Timber post between the two bays towards the south side of the room with an aisle tie joining the post to the brick south elevation. Curved braces to the tie-beam to the north and

the wall plate to the east and west. A modern ceiling has been inserted concealing the roof truss.

Discussion

3.9 Building 3 was probably built in the early 19th century (1800 – 1825) but has undergone a series of small changes. It stood at the northwest corner as part of a range of buildings along the west boundary of the farmyard at rear of 7 – 11 Church Street that was listed as ‘warehouses’ on the 1850 Tithe Map. However it has undergone re-working of its north elevation which coincides with the construction of Building 2 between 1850 and 1880. The aisle to the south side of Building 3 was probably part of the earlier west range, however its external walls were re-built utilising a variety of older brick types when most of the west range was demolished just after c1850.

Additional information

3.10 The earlier impact assessment identified Building 3 as being of interest. It was probably built in the early 19th century, and was recorded on the Tithe map of 1850 as forming part of a range of warehouses. The building incorporated an aisle post at its south-eastern end, with a gunstock jowled head and braces to the tie beam and wall plate, which looked to be of an earlier date than had been previously suggested (Plates 10 & 11). Carpenter’s marks were also present on the north-eastern face of the post (Plate 12).

3.11 Examination of the aisle post has demonstrated that it is, in fact, a modern copy. An early post would have had a central mortice for the braces, but on this example the mortice is offset to one side (Plates 13 & 14).

3.12 The trusses in the roof structure are also not as early as they initially appeared. The trusses in Building 3 match the manufactured trusses in Building 2, which has been dated to the mid – late 19th century (Plates 15 & 16).

Building 4 (workshop)

Exterior

3.13 Building 4 is a modern link constructed between Building 3 and Building 5. It has a weatherboarded east elevation with a sloping corrugated iron roof that leans up against a high brick wall which runs along the west boundary along the length of Buildings 3, 4 and 5. Modern part glazed door to the east elevation.

Interior

3.14 Brick wall to the west elevation with internal plasterboard above the wall up to the roof. Weatherboarded south elevation with timber framing behind resting on a low yellow brick sill (now painted) forming the north wall of Building 5. Large opening at the west end created by the removal of stud work, yellow brick sill and weatherboarding with a small, modern, part glazed door at the south end. Plasterboarded west elevation with a modern part glazed door leading out into the yard. Brick wall along the north elevation with an opening cut into the brickwork and concrete block above leading into Building 3. Concrete floor throughout with a slope up to the external door in the east elevation and a slope down into Building 4 on the north elevation.

Discussion

3.15 Building 4 was constructed in the later 20th century (c1980s) as a workshop to link Building 3 (workshop) with the first bay of 5 (workshop office), enabling it to function as a single unit. These buildings have been used by a small engineering company, King-Powell Engineering, for over forty years. Building 4 replaced a late 19th century structure that was being used as a garage before its demolition.

Building 5 (workshop and offices, former barn)

Exterior

3.16 Building 5 is a mid 19th century timber framed and weatherboarded barn with a gabled slate roof that abuts Building 4 to the north and Building 6 to the east. The external weatherboarding has been replaced at the north end and it was re-roofed about ten years ago ('Mr King', pers.comm). It comprises four bays; the bay at the north end is accessed directly from Building 4 while the remaining three bays are accessed through a door in the north elevation of Building 6. The north elevation is timber framed with external weatherboarding above the sloping roof of Building 4 and a small section of weatherboarding is also found at the northeast corner at its junction with Building 6. The east elevation is now entirely located inside the structure (see below) and is also timber framed and weatherboarded (although much of the fabric has been removed). The south elevation is thought to be timber framed and externally weatherboarded (unseen) with a low yellow brick sill. Along the west elevation is a high brick wall with timber framing above and external weatherboarding. Three windows have been inserted above the level of the wall within the frame along the west elevation, two at the south end of the building and one at the north end.

Interior

3.17 Bay 1 (formerly the workshop office) at the north end of Building 5 is timber framed with internal plasterboard to the north, west and east elevations. Wall posts to the southeast and southwest corners with braces to the tiebeam (hidden under an inserted plasterboard ceiling). A modern concrete block wall has been inserted at the end of the north bay between the wall posts forming the south elevation. Wide opening into Building 4 on the north elevation with a modern part glazed door. Window above divided into three parts, now blocked from the replacement weatherboarding on the exterior. Window to the west elevation above the high brick wall. Former large doorway to the east elevation, now blocked. Concrete floor.

3.18 Bay 2 is divided into two rooms (Office 1 and 2) with a doorway between and is plasterboarded throughout. In the south elevation are two window openings (no window frames), one to each room. Office 2 has access through a doorway (no door) into the hallway of Building 6. Its east elevation was formerly the external wall of Building 5 (see description for Building 6).

3.19 Bays 3 and 4 at the south end of Building 5 are open along their east elevation forming one large area with the south end of Building 6 (the original east elevation is marked by the small change in floor level). These two bays are entered through a doorway at the end of the hallway in Building 6. The west elevation has a high brick wall, now painted with plasterboard above over the timber frame. The south elevation has half-height horizontal timber boarding with plasterboard above. The north elevation is plasterboarded with two

openings for windows (no windows). The wall plate, indicating the position of the former east elevation, survives. However the wall posts are either embedded in later work or have been removed so that the wall plate sits upon a modern brick wall. A post has been inserted at the southeast corner to provide a brace to the wall plate. A further brace has been inserted at the northeast corner. The tiebeam running east to west is partly exposed with a brace to a wall post on the west elevation between two windows. The roof truss between Bays 2 and 3 and Bays 3 and 4 each comprise two diagonal struts from the tiebeam to the principal rafter (queen strut roof). A modern timber ceiling has been inserted over Bay 4.

Discussion

3.20 Building 5 was originally constructed as a four bay, timber framed and weatherboarded barn during the mid 19th century (c1850) following the partial demolition of a range of buildings (warehouses) that formerly stood along the west boundary of the farmyard at rear of 7 – 11 Church Street (as shown on the c1850 Tithe Map).

3.21 Its original fabric survives in part; high brick west wall and low brick sills to the north and south elevations, the timber frame, and the queen strut roof truss. Overall much of its fabric has been altered, particularly following the construction of Building 6 in the 1930s which resulted in the loss of most of its former external east elevation.

3.22 During the later 20th century the internal layout was also re-arranged. The sub-division of the barn between bay 1 and bay 2 resulted in the creation of two separate spaces requiring two separate access points. The north elevation of bay 1 was broken through so that it could be entered from Building 4. Bays 2, 3 and 4 at the south end of the barn were now entered through a new door in the north elevation of Building 6. Bays 3 and 4 of Building 5 were incorporated into the southern end of Building 6 which led to the total removal of the east external wall and wall post in this section.

Building 6 (workshop and offices, former double garage)

Exterior

3.23 Single storey garage abuts Building 5 to the west. Constructed in fletton brick to the north and south elevations with a sloping corrugated iron roof. Two large doorways lie along the length of the east elevation and are of equal size; part glazed sliding doors to the south end and two double part glazed doors to the north end (now out of use – see interior). Modern door inserted into the north elevation with a concrete lintel.

Interior

3.24 The garage has recently been divided internally into six rooms with internal plasterboard walls; a lobby from the north doorway with WC to the east, a hall with a kitchen and office leading off to the east, and a large workshop leading south from the hallway. Along the east elevation of the WC, kitchen and office, the double doorways have been boarded at their base leaving the upper glazing exposed to function as windows in each of these rooms.

3.25 Office 1 & 2 of Building 5 are entered from a doorway in the hallway of Building 6 to the west, and the workshop of Building 5 to the west opens into the workshop of Building 6 to create one large space.

3.26 The west elevation of the hall on Building 6 is partly plasterboarded with some former external weatherboarding above the level of the doorway and window opening (no window frame).

Discussion

3.27 Building 6 is a 1930s garage block that was constructed up against the east elevation of Building 5, a mid 19th century timber framed and weatherboarded barn. Since it was built the internal layout has changed reflecting its part change in function; from two garages to a workshop with office and amenities. Building 6 forms a contemporary group with Building 8 on the opposite side of the yard signifying a further new phase in the use of the site.

Building 7 (garage en-block with a detached garage)

Exterior

3.28 Single storey, detached en-block garage divided into five parts with a flat corrugated iron roof located along the southern boundary of the site. Constructed in kit form with concrete walls and metal garage doors facing into the centre of the yard. Similarly styled, single, detached garage located close by at the southeast corner of the site with a metal door facing towards the centre of the yard.

Interior

3.29 Not inspected.

Discussion

3.30 Building 7 is a 1950s/60s en-block garage that forms part of a contemporary group with garages either side of Building 8 to the northeast signifying a further phase in the use of the site, possibly in relation to the use of part of the site by Quenby's, a local firm of car dealers based on the High Street in Baldock (hence the name 'Quenby's Yard').

4 Discussion

Archaeological Background

4.1 The study area lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS 96) which encompasses the both medieval town of Baldock and the earlier late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, centred on the junction between the Icknield Way and Clothall Road approximately 300m to the east-north-east.

4.2 The present site lies in an area of intense archaeological activity (Figure 2). It is located close to the western edge of the Roman small town and in the north-western corner of the medieval town.

4.3 The Stage 1 desk-based archaeological assessment set the archaeological and historical context for the present project:

- No evidence for early prehistoric activity has been discovered in the immediate vicinity of the study area, although limited evidence for this period has been recorded from excavations on Walls Field and Clothall Common.
- The line of the Icknield Way, an important route between East Anglia and Wessex since at least the Neolithic period, potentially runs approximately 100m to the north-west. A small group of Neolithic flint implements (HER 358) has been recovered from Icknield Way, within 500m to the north-east of the study area. Two cropmarks, possibly representing plough-raised burial mounds of Bronze Age date, have been recorded approximately 400m to the west (HER 7422 / 7423).
- The settlement at Baldock appears to have originated in the late Iron Age, close to the line of the Icknield Way, which was investigated during archaeological excavations on the eastern side of Royston Road in 1994. The road was approximately 16m in width and running on a slightly curving ENE-WSW alignment. A series of roadside cemeteries and funerary enclosures were also recorded during the excavations. These included a number of individuals buried in the soft silts of the road ditches themselves. The line of the Romanised Icknield Way is likely to run close to the present site.
- Evidence for Roman occupation has been recorded in the vicinity of the study area. Sherds of Roman pottery and unidentified bone (HER 1075) were found on Norton Crescent, approximately 175m to the west. A number of features of Roman date were revealed during archaeological excavations at 2-24 Orchard Road (HER 10986), approximately 180m to the north-east. The evidence indicated domestic enclosures occupied between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Ashworth 2004). Archaeological evaluation at 33 Whitehorse Street (HER 11423) revealed further evidence for Roman occupation in this part of the town.
- It appears that the north-western side of the Roman town was abandoned by the 4th century AD. Two human burials (HER 10987 / 12002) were uncovered in the tops of wells on the site at 2-24 Orchard Road. The practice of late Roman burial in the tops of well has been recorded from other parts of Baldock and has been interpreted as evidence of settlement shrinkage in the later Roman period.

- The settlement at Baldock did not completely disappear in the 5th century AD. Features indicating post-Roman occupation were recorded during the excavations on Clothall Common between 1980-5 (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2010, 27-8). These included a sub-rectangular building and a large Roman pit re-used as a sunken-featured building. A ditched enclosure and a number of post-Roman inhumations were also recorded in the vicinity.
- Until the 12th century Baldock lay on the northern edge of the manor of Weston. It has been pointed out that, although Weston village has never been large, the manor recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 was extensive and consisted of 75 households, including two priests and, a man-at-arms and two 'Frenchmen' (Thompson 2002, 5). This suggests that there may already have been an established settlement on the site of the later town by the late Saxon period, possibly located close to the Icknield Way / Clothall Road junction. The fact that Weston had two priests suggests that this settlement may have had its own church, though possibly not on the same location as the present building.
- The study area is located in the north-western quadrant of the medieval parish (HER 9). The town laid out by the Templars was focused around two elongated market places at right angles to each other - the present High Street and Whitehorse Street (HER 10871). The parish church was sited to overlook their junction in the centre of the town. The continuation of these roads, modern Hitchin Street and Church Street, were established at the same time and suggest deliberate quartering of the new town (Thompson 2002, 6). Pond Lane and Meeting House Lane may also have been established in the medieval period as back lanes.
- The parish church of St Mary (HER 4062) is a Grade I listed building (List no. 1347611) lying 100m to the south-east of the study area. The present building was erected in the 13th century, with 14th and 15th century additions. The fabric may incorporate 12th century stonework, suggesting that there may have been an earlier building on the site.
- A watermill is recorded on the manor of Weston in 1086 (Morris 1976) and it has been suggested that this may have been located at the junction of Church Street and Icknield Way, on one of the springs of the River Ivel (Thompson 2002, Figure 4). Church Street was known as *Wel strete* in the medieval period (ibid, p.5).
- No. 1 Church Street, to the south-east of the study area, is a Grade II* listed 15th century timber-framed gatehouse overlooking the churchyard (List no 1102134). The building was the property of the Guild of Jesus, which was founded in 1459 partly in response to the problems of population decline and reduced prosperity caused as a result of the Black Death in the mid 14th century (Thompson 2002, 8). The Guild helped maintain the church fabric and organised the town's charities. Its property was confiscated in 1547 as a result of the Dissolution.
- Although it has been suggested that the study area lay just outside the north-western limits of the built-up area of the medieval town (Thompson 2002, Figures 4 & 6) archaeological investigation on the site of Darton Coachworks on the east side of Church Street, approximately 80m to the north, revealed a length of ditch running parallel with the Icknield Way (HER 13405). This has been interpreted as a possible medieval boundary between properties fronting Church Street.

- Baldock's position on two major roads meant that in the early post-medieval period it became a coaching town and a number of inns were established in the town centre to cater to passing travellers.
- The wealth brought by the coaching trade and the thriving markets meant that the town expanded in the early post-medieval period. A number of substantial houses were erected in the immediate vicinity of the study area at this period, of which a number still survive. The building at nos.3-5 Church Street, to the south-east of the present site, was erected in the 17th century and forms part of a group with the medieval building at 1 Church Street (List no.1102135). The dwellings at 7 – 13 Church Street, adjoining the eastern boundary of the study area, were also built in the 17th century (List no. 1102098).
- Four inns were established on Church Street by the mid 18th century. The George and Dragon (HER 11199), at the junction of Church Street and Hitchin Street is a Grade II listed building (List no. 1102077). It was a coaching inn, first recorded in 1591 (Thompson 2002, 11) and was regularly used by travelling Quakers and is assumed to be the inn where George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, stayed in 1655. The other inns fronted Church Street and comprise the Eight Bells at 22-24 Church Street, to the south-east of the present site (List no. 1175261); the Bull's Head at 50 Church Street, to the north of the study area (List no. 1102094) and The Stag, at the junction of Church Street and Icknield Way. Two further inns were opened in the early 19th century. 'The Star' near the junction with Pond Lane, which was the brewery tap for Steed's Brewery from c.1823, and 'The Old Black Eagle' at the northern end of Church Street, which was owned by the brewery from c.1850.
- By the late 17th century many Quakers were living in the town (Thompson 2002, 12). Their Meeting House is located on Meeting House Lane, the eastern continuation of Pond Lane. The building, which is Grade II listed and dates to the late 17th or early 18th century, consists of a single storey structure with a tiled roof (List no.1102083).
- An Independent chapel, called the New Chapel, was erected on Pond Lane in c.1790, almost opposite the present site (Thompson 2002, 24). It was built of brick and was described as having been used as a theatre in 1819 (ibid). The chapel, which had a burial ground in front, was in use until 1904, when the Congregational church was built on Whitehorse Street. The original building later became a warehouse and was demolished in 1982. The site is now occupied by new housing, with the former cemetery used as a garden. A school for children of nonconformist families was established next to the chapel in 1839. This became Knights Templar School in the 20th century (ibid).
- Malting and brewing became the chief industries in the town from the 18th century. The Pale Ale Brewery (also known as Steed's Brewery) was established by William Oliver on the corner of Pond Lane and Church Street, opposite to the present site, in the early 1800s (Whitaker 2006, 66). He leased it to John Steed, a Quaker, in 1823, who bought it in 1831. John Steed's son, Oliver, succeeded to ownership in 1867, but died in 1888 and his widow sold the brewery and tied estate in 1888/1889 (ibid, 69-70). Brewing ceased on the site shortly afterwards and the site was used for storage. In 1966 the land was sold to the Baldock UDC for housing. 'The Star', the former brewery tap, remained open until 1980.
- A rapid survey and detailed digital photographic record of the buildings at the site, along with the archaeological desk-based assessment, revealed that there have been

several different phases of building at 'Quenby's Yard', with the earliest structures recorded as cottages and warehouses in the Tithe Award of c.1850.

- The buildings to be converted are located along the western side of the yard and include the earliest surviving building on the site, which was thought to date to the late 18th or early 19th century (Ashworth & Wilcox 2008, Figure 13). To its north are two structures of mid – late 19th century date. The buildings for demolition include a much-remodelled mid 19th century barn and a series of mid – late 20th century garages and workshops

Research Design

4.4 The aim of the present stage of work has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

4.5 It was considered that such an investigation had the potential to contribute to a number of research objectives. These include:

- the origins and development of the settlement at Baldock from the prehistoric period onwards;
- the domestic and industrial economy of Baldock in the Romano-British period;
- changes in ritual practices, with particular emphasis on funerary practice from the late pre-Roman Iron Age to the sub-Roman period;
- land division and use in Baldock during the Romano-British period;
- the Iron Age to Roman, and the Roman to Saxon transition periods;
- the domestic and industrial economy of Baldock in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.6 No evidence was uncovered in the course of the trial trenching to indicate prehistoric, late Iron Age or Roman activity on the site.

4.7 Slight evidence for late medieval or early post-medieval activity was encountered in the trenches. A series of intercutting pits, with a possibly associated linear feature, was uncovered in Trench 1. The fill of the latest feature produced two abraded sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

4.8 Further examination of the buildings scheduled for demolition, following the soft strip of the interiors, revealed that they were all of late post-medieval or modern date. Building 3 had previously been considered to be of pre-19th century date, on the basis of an aisle post with a gunstock jowl, curved braces and potentially early roof trusses. The stripping out of the building allowed a closer examination, which demonstrated that the aisle was a modern copy in an earlier style and that the roof trusses are similar to those in the adjacent Building 2, which has been dated to the mid-late 19th century.

Conclusion

4.9 Two trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new dwellings in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. These revealed a layer of

overburden containing possible demolition debris above a layer of redeposited chalk, possibly a make-up layer for the 1950s garage blocks.

4.10 A number of modern features were encountered, including a concrete wall foundation, and a service trench in Trench 1 and three postholes or small pits in Trench 2. It is likely that these relate to the garages and workshops built in the yard in the mid-20th century.

4.11 Two intercutting pits were revealed to the south of the concrete wall foundation in Trench 1. The upper fill of the latest feature contained two abraded sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery. No function could be assigned to either pit, but a shallow gully, [108], possibly fed into [103], the latest pit, suggesting it may have been intended to hold liquid.

4.12 Building 3, in the north-western corner, was initially considered to be either of pre-19th century construction, or to have incorporated material from an earlier structure, but a closer examination of the building has demonstrated that this is not the case and it is contemporary with Building 2, to the east.

4.13 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to *Low* for all periods.

Confidence Rating

4.14 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

4.15 There were no circumstances which would lead to confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

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6 Illustrations

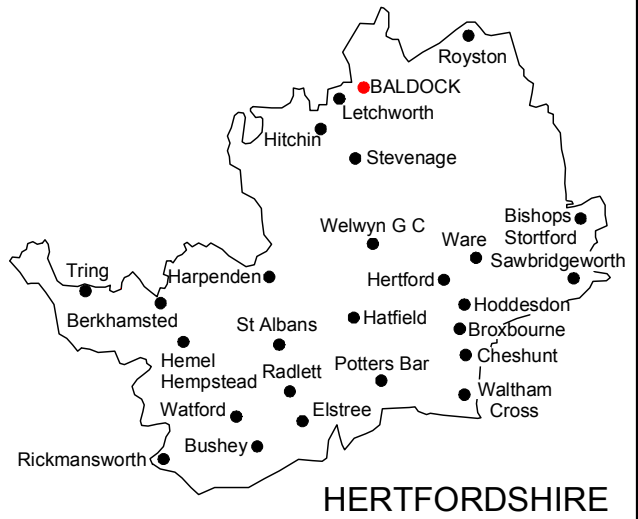
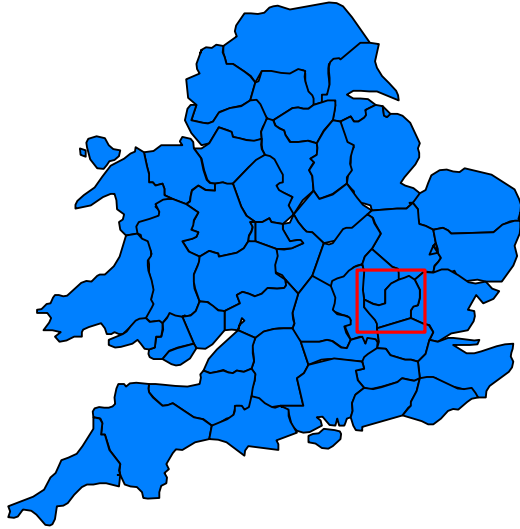
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|----------------|--|
| Figure 1 | Site location |
| Figure 2 | Trench Layout |
| Figure 3 | Trench 1 & 2: plan and section |
| Figure 4 | Sections 1, 2, 3 |
| Figure 5 | Site layout |
| | |
| Plate 1 | Area of proposed new development, looking W |
| Plate 2 | Trench 1, showing concrete service, looking S |
| Plate 3 | Trench 1, showing sondage, looking N |
| Plate 4 | Pits [103] & [106], looking W |
| Plate 5 | Trench 2, showing pits [201] [203] [205], looking E |
| Plate 6 | Pit [201], looking E |
| Plate 7 | Pit [203], looking NW |
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| Plate 9 | Buildings 2 & 3, NW exterior elevation |
| Plate 10 | Building 3, looking SE, showing the aisle post |
| Plate 11 | Building 3, detail of jowled post & braces |
| Plate 12 | Building 3, detail of carpenter's marks to NE face of aisle post |
| Plate 13 | Building 3, detail of SE face to post, showing offset mortice |
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| Plate 15 | Building 3, roof structure, looking NE |
| Plate 16 | Building 2, roof structure looking E |

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THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Quenby's Yard, Pond Lane, Baldock

HN1054



HERTFORDSHIRE

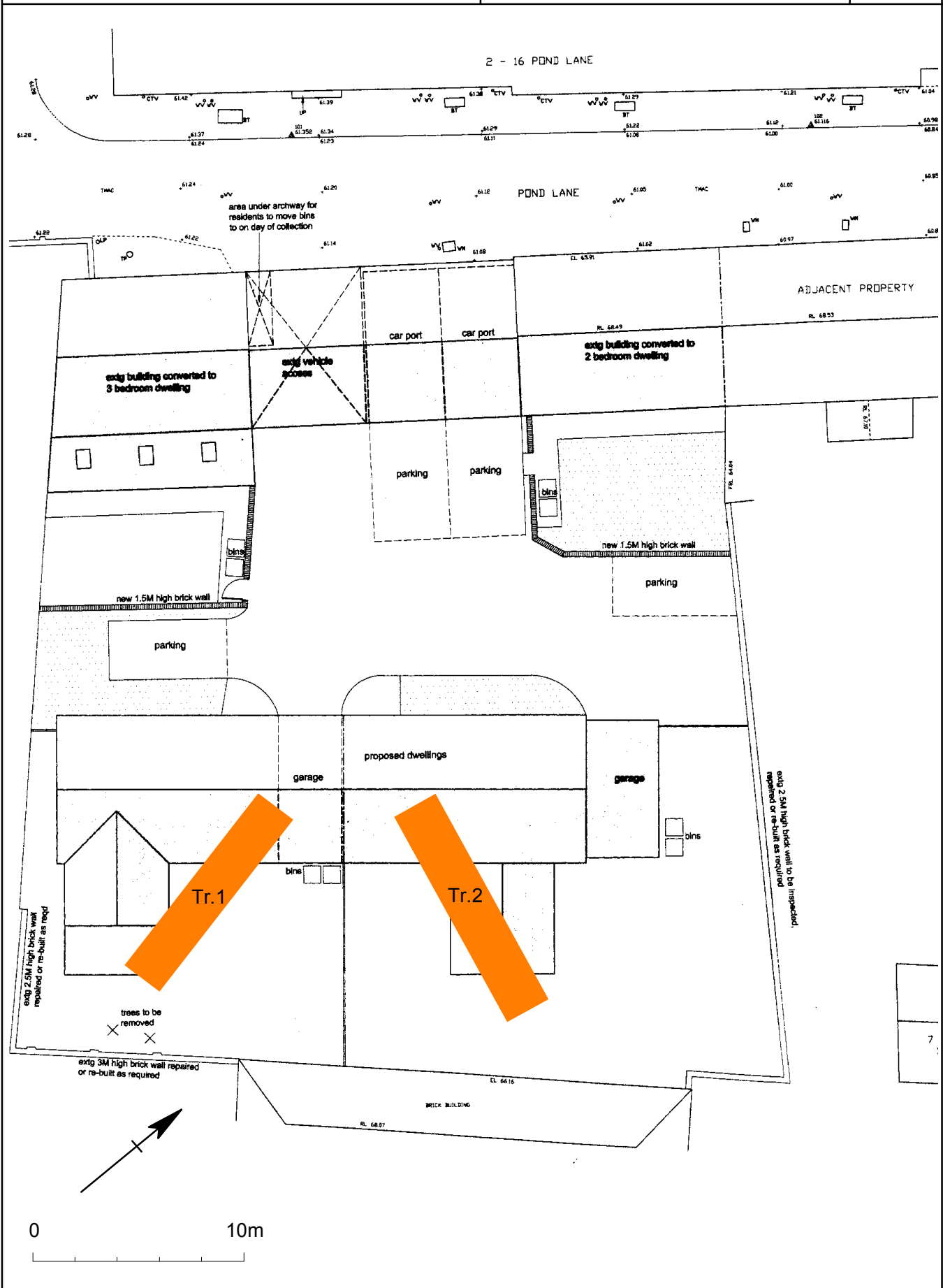


Site Location

Scale 1:7500

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Figure 1

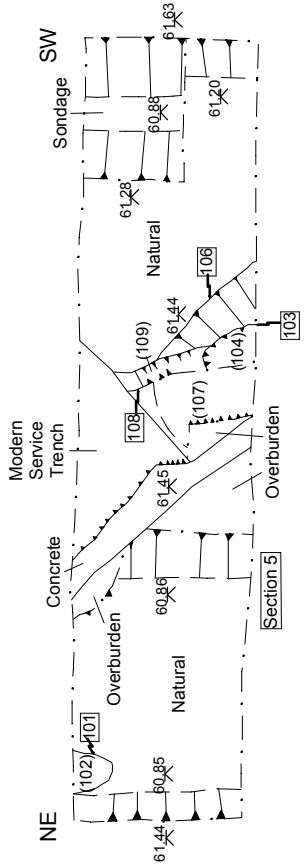


Trench location

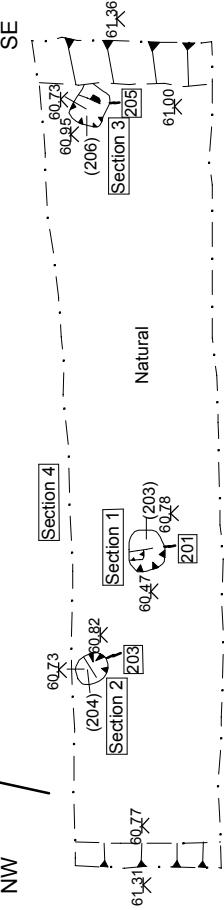
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Figure 2

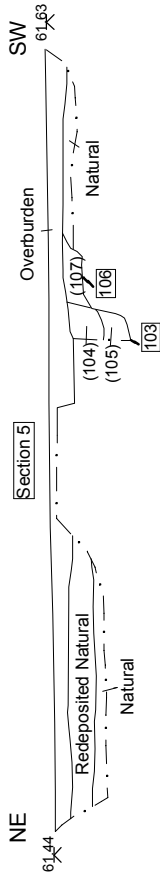
Trench 1



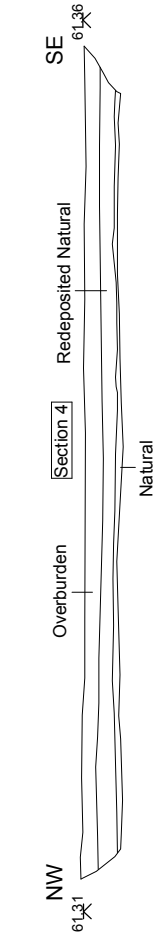
Trench 2



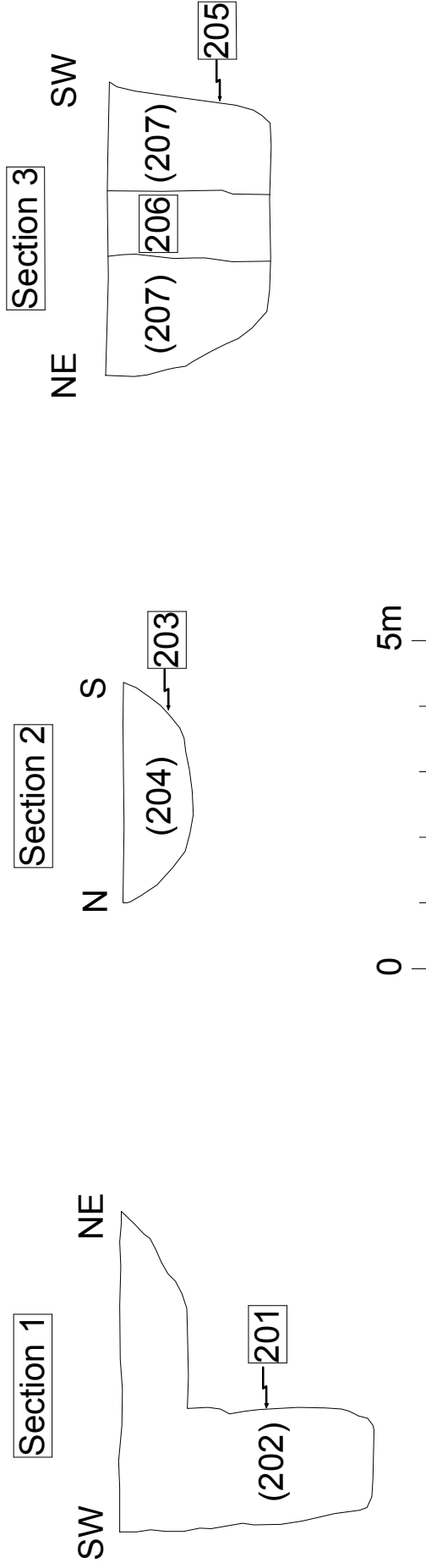
Trench 1 Section



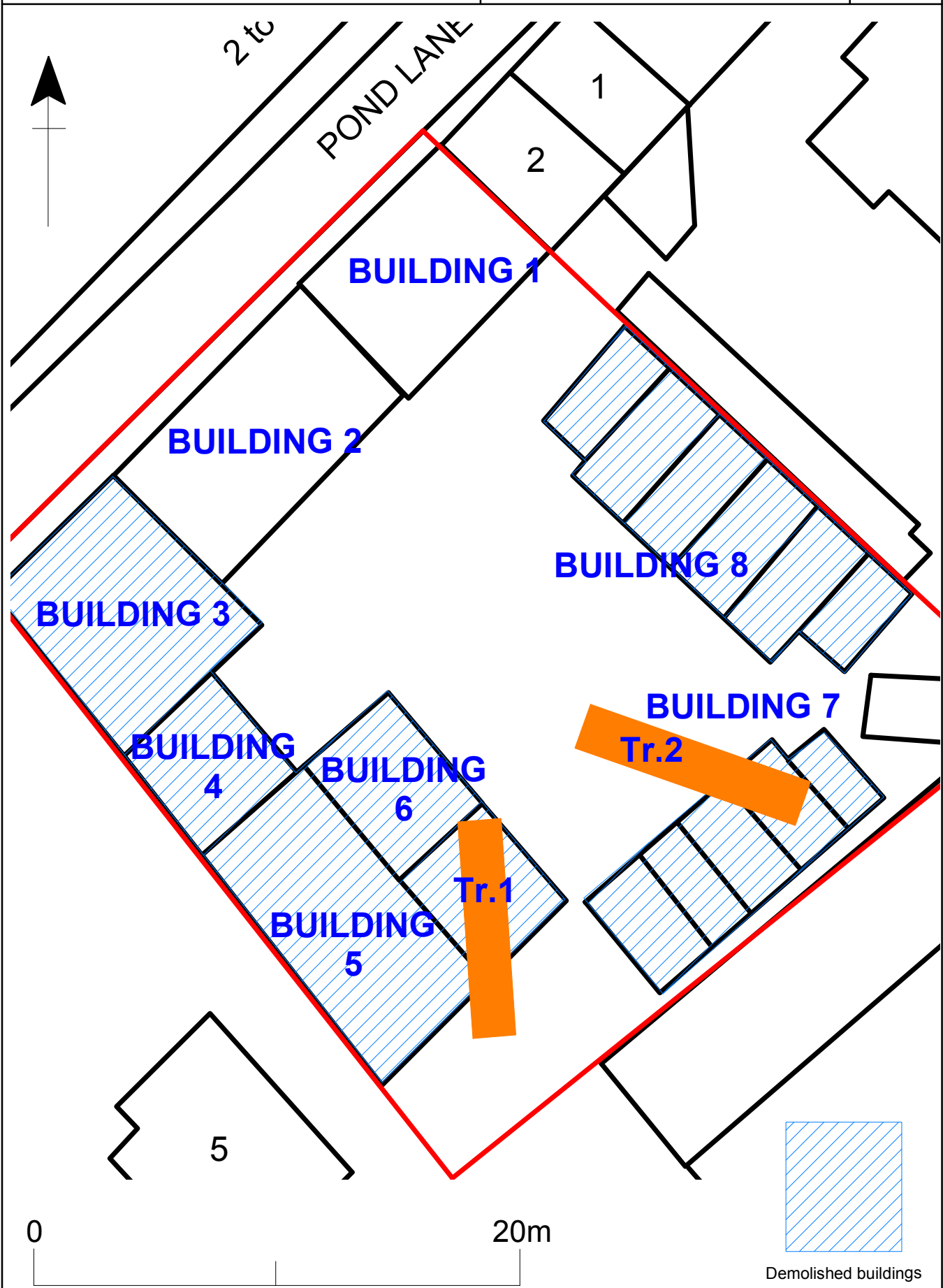
Trench 2 Section



Trench 1 & 2: Plan and Section



Sections 1, 2, 3



Site layout, showing evaluation trenches and demolished buildings

Scale 1:250

Figure 5



Plate 1: Area of proposed new development, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1, showing concrete service, looking south



Plate 3: Trench 1, showing sondage, looking north



Plate 4: Pits [103] & [106], looking west



Plate 5: Trench 2, showing pits [201], [203] & [205], looking east



Plate 6: Pit [201], looking east



Plate 7: Pit [203], looking northwest



Plate 8: Pit [205], showing in situ post, looking east



Plate 9: Buildings 2 & 3, NW elevation



Plate 10: Building 3, looking SE, showing the aisle post



Plate 11: Building 3, detail of jowled post & braces to aisle post



Plate 12: Building 3, detail of carpenter's marks on NE face of aisle post



Plate 13: Building 3, detail of SE face of aisle post, showing offset mortice



Plate 14: Building 3, detail of NW face of aisle post, showing offset tenon



Plate 15: Building 3, roof structure, looking NE



Plate 16: Building 2, roof structure, looking E

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

| OASIS ID: heritage1-146612 | |
|--|---|
| Project details | |
| Project name | Baldock, Quenby's Yard, Pond Lane |
| Short description of the project | <p>In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land located at 'Quenby's Yard', Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological field evaluation and undertake some limited building recording .</p> <p>The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 96, which encompasses both the medieval town and the earlier Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.</p> <p>Two trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new dwellings in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. These revealed a layer of overburden containing possible demolition debris above a layer of redeposited chalk, possibly a make-up layer for the 1950s garage blocks.</p> <p>A number of modern features were encountered, including a concrete wall foundation, and a service trench in Trench 1 and three postholes or small pits in Trench 2. It is likely that these relate to the garages and workshops built in the yard in the mid 20th century. Two intercutting pits were revealed to the south of the concrete wall foundation in Trench 1. The upper fill of the latest feature contained two abraded sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery. No function could be assigned to either pit, but a shallow gully possibly fed into the later pit.</p> <p>Building 3, in the north-western corner, was initially considered to be either of pre-19th century construction, or to have incorporated material from an earlier structure, but a closer examination has demonstrated that it is of mid-late 19th century date.</p> |
| Project dates | Start: 18-03-2014 End: 19-03-2014 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | HN1054 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area |
| Current Land use | Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed |
| Monument type | PIT Uncertain |
| Monument type | PIT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Methods & techniques | ""Targeted Trenches"" |
| Development type | Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.) |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE BALDOCK Quenby's Yard, Pond Lane |
| Postcode | SG7 5AS |
| Study area | 44.46 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 24268 33928 51.9894446691 -0.190025075783 51 59 22 N 000 11 24 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 61.14m Max: 61.14m |
| | |

| Project creators | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Name of Organisation | Heritage Network |
| Project brief originator | None |
| Project design originator | Helen Ashworth |
| Project director/manager | David Hillelson |
| Project supervisor | Daniel Phillips |
| Type of funding body | Developer |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive recipient | North Herts Museum Services |
| Digital Archive recipient | North Herts Museums Service |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | North Herts Museum Services |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section" |
| Project bibliography 1 | |
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Quenbys Yard, Pond Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Record |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Phillips, D. |
| Other bibliographic details | Report no. 858 |
| Date | 2014 |
| Issuer or publisher | Heritage Network |
| Place of issue or publication | Letchworth |
| Description | A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 20 text pages, 5 figures, 16 plates |