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**BURGESS BUILDING,
Wratten Road East,
Hitchin, Herts.**

HN1113

***HISTORIC BUILDING
RECORD &
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT***

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIFA

BURGESS BUILDING, Wratten Road East, Hitchin, Herts.

Project ref.: HN1113

Planning ref.: 13/02206/1

HER enquiry ref.: HER 115/13

Historic Building Record and Archaeological Monitoring

Prepared on behalf of John Burgess & Co. Ltd.

by

Daniel Phillips BA (HONS) ACIFA

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

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The cover photograph shows the historic barn and later extension, looking SE.

Acknowledgements

The historic building record for this project was carried out by David Hillelson. The fieldwork was carried out by Robin Densem, Greg Jones and Daniel Phillips. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Phillips and edited by Helen Ashworth.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Burgess Building, Wratten Road East, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 2AP		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Hitchin	Parish:	Hitchin
Planning reference:	13/02206/1	NGR:	TL 18262 28898
Client name and address:	John Burgess & Co. Ltd, Burgess Building, Wratten Road East, Hitchin, SG5 2AP		
Nature of work:	Building conversion	Former use:	Storage
Site Status:	Archaeological Area 142 (AA142)	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Site Code:	HN1113	HER consultation:	115/13
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	HBR / OR	Archive Recipient:	HALS (HBR); North Herts Museums Service (OR)
Start of work	14/11/2014	Finish of work	01/10/2015
Related HER Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Post-medieval / modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-168121	Significant finds:	Brick
Monument types:	Barn		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	Ashworth, H. 2013a <i>Burgess Building, Wratten Road East, Hitchin : Historic Impact Assessment</i> . The Heritage Network, Report No.808. Ashworth, H. 2013b <i>Burgess Building, Wratten Road East, Hitchin : Archaeological Evaluation Report</i> . The Heritage Network, Report No.820.		

Synopsis:

As the result of a condition on planning consent for the demolition of a number of buildings, including a brick-built barn, at the Burgess site, Wratten Road East, Hitchin and their replacement with new residential dwellings, the Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the buildings in advance of the demolition works.

The barn at the Burgess site was in existence by 1818. It appears originally to have formed the south-western end of a longer range, extending back from Tilehouse Street. The observed evidence suggests that it formed a barn or cart shed, open on the north-western side and with a timber framed wall to the south-eastern side. The timber framing to this elevation, which is infilled with brick noggin, survives in reasonably good condition.

At some point in the mid 19th century the open frontage was enclosed in brick. Possibly at the same time Bay 1, at the north-eastern end, was enclosed to form a dwelling or storage. Bay 4, at the south-western end, was also apparently partitioned to form a number of smaller spaces with brick walls, again possibly in the mid 19th century.

Monitoring of the excavation of service trenches, both within the barn and the adjacent extension, and within the yard to the north of the building, revealed a considerable depth of overburden.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of John Burgess & Co. Ltd, as part of a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring carried out at the Burgess site, Wratten Road East, Hitchin, Herts.

1.2 Previous work on the site comprised a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (Ashworth 2013 a & b). The desk-based assessment demonstrated that the site lies within a well-documented archaeological landscape, with a moderate to high probability of encountering features and finds dating from the late prehistoric onwards during the course of redevelopment of the site. The trial trenching encountered a cut feature of possible 18th century date, located below levelling layers associated with a chalk surface, which contained finds of late 19th and early 20th century date. Two pits had been cut into the chalk surface.

1.3 On the basis of the results of the desk-based assessment and the evaluation the Historic Environment Team at Hertfordshire County Council requested a programme of rapid building recording of the identified historic structure, together with the monitoring of the works to the structure.

1.4 The present report is focused on the works associated with the historic structure. A further report will present the data gathered from the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the removal of the foundations to the building on the site frontage and the excavation of footings and service trenches for the new dwellings.

1.5 The planning permission for the development (ref. 13/02206/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) subject to an archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The full specification for the investigation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated February 2014 (Turner 2014).

1.6 The study area, centred on NGR TL 18262 28898, is located on the south-eastern side of Wratten Road East, close to the junction with Tilehouse Street. It lies within Archaeological Area 142 (AA142), which covers the historic core of the town, and within the Hitchin Conservation Area (Character Area 2c). The site encompasses the Burgess Building and the yard and barns immediately to its east (Figure 1).

1.7 The proposed development involves the demolition of the existing building on the Wratten Road frontage and its replacement by a terrace of new dwellings, with the existing buildings at the rear of the yard being converted to office use.

1.8 The full archive for the historic building record, including copies of the architect's plans and digital photographic images, will be deposited with Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (HALS). The archive generated by the archaeological fieldwork will be deposited with the North Hertfordshire Museums Service.

2. Archaeological & Historical Background

2.1 Hitchin lies in the valley of the River Hiz, part of the Hitchin Gap, a glacially derived deep cutting through the chalk hills of the East Anglian Heights. The site is located on the south-eastern side of Wratten Road East, close to the junction with Tilehouse Street to the west. This street continues the line of a lane running south from Tilehouse Street into the fields, which is marked on maps from at least the late 17th century. Wratten Road East, which was not named on maps until the early 1850s, when it is shown as Ratten Lane, was formalised as the route to Charlton in the later 18th century as part of the works carried out at The Priory by John Radcliffe (Howlett 2004, 42). Previously the road to Charlton had followed Malt Mill Lane, now occupied by The Priory stables, to the south of the study area.

2.2 Cartographic evidence indicates the present site was open land in the mid 18th century, H.S. Merrett's map of Hitchin, dated 1818, shows that the south-western end of the range of barns to the rear of the present site was in existence at this date. The barns formed part of a longer range, extending south into the site. Its northern end was removed between 1820 and 1844 and it has since undergone a number of phases of rebuilding. The present northern bays are formed of a garage block that dates to the late 20th century.

2.3 Two ranges of buildings appear to extend into the eastern half of the site. These structures are not shown on the 1844 tithe map, which identifies the site as Plot 291, described in the Tithe Award (HALS DSA 4/53/1) as comprising 6 houses, gardens, yards etc, measuring 2 roods and 4 perches. It was owned by the Reverend Richard Lucas and occupied by the Reverend Richard Lucas and others.

2.4 Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found in the immediate vicinity of the study area, including a group of flint artefacts of Neolithic date (HER 290), found near Wratten Road, approximately 170m to the west. Other struck flints, of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (HER 11794), were found during archaeological evaluation at 35 Tilehouse Street, approximately 120m to the north-west. While a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (HER 18276) was recovered from the fill of a medieval rubbish pit during archaeological investigations at Brookers Yard, approximately 130m to the north. A number of possible Bronze Age ring ditches have been recorded in Priory Park, to the south of the present site.

2.5 Archaeological fieldwork has found evidence of occupation in the immediate vicinity of the present site. A probable Iron Age ring ditch (HER 12582) was revealed during archaeological excavation between Bucklersbury and Paynes Park, approximately 190m to the north, in 2004. Excavations at the eastern end of Portmill Lane, approximately 490m to the north-east, found slight evidence of Iron Age activity, including sherds of middle and late Iron Age pottery (HER 6455). A number of undated pits and postholes may represent the remains of structures dating to this period (G.Burleigh, pers. comm.). Other chance finds of late Iron Age artefacts were recorded from the town in the 19th century, including an uninscribed gold stater (HER 4873) found in 1884.

2.6 Finds of Roman artefacts (HER 1175) were made by a metal detector user in Priory Park in 1977, close to the eastern boundary. Two early Saxon brooches (HER 2298 and HER 6535) were also found in Priory Park with a metal detector in 1981.

2.7 Tilehouse Street seems to have formed the south-western boundary to the town from at least the medieval period. It has been suggested that Tilehouse Street lay within the area settled in the early and middle Saxon periods (Burleigh and Stevenson 1994, Figure 3), but that it was outside the postulated planned late Saxon town (ibid. Figure 4). The large ditch recorded to

the north between Bucklersbury and Paynes Park may mark the western extent of the late Saxon town. At present there is no indication of it curving to the east and its line may continue south to reach Tilehouse Street in the vicinity of the present site.

2.8 The site lies to the north of The Priory, the site of a Carmelite friary established in the early 14th century on the western side of Tilehouse Street. A conjectural plan of the friary buildings suggests that the monastic buildings were located on the eastern side of the river (Savage 1970). However, the barn at no.7 Tilehouse Street (HER 18798), which may be the great barn of the friary listed in the grant to Edmund Watson and Henry Herdson in 1546, is located on the western side of the river.

2.9 Brewing and malting were important in the town during the post-medieval period. Many of the maltings supplied the large London breweries, as well as the more local ones. Maltings are known 40m to the west of the site and on the corner of Tilehouse Street and Bucklersbury, approximately 120m to the east. The brewhouse belonging to the Lucas family (HER 12589) was located on the corner of Sun Street and Bridge Street, approximately 170m to the south-east.

2.10 All the buildings fronting Tilehouse Street have been listed, the majority being Grade II. They range in date from the 15th century to the 19th century.

Cartographic Evidence

2.11 The cartographic evidence for the present site was detailed in the historic impact assessment (Ashworth 2013a). Briefly, this showed that the site remained as undeveloped land to the rear of properties fronting Tilehouse Street until the late 18th or early 19th century (Ashworth 2013a, Figure 5).

2.12 A map of Hitchin, dated 1818, shows two ranges of buildings extending into the eastern half of the site. The eastern range is located on the site of the present barn.

2.13 The Tithe map of 1844 (HALS DSA 4/53/2) indicated either that the north-eastern end of this structure had been removed or that the range had been rebuilt on a smaller footprint. A number of smaller structures were added to the north-eastern end of the building between 1844 and 1898. These had all been demolished by 1923. By 1966 the surviving barn had been subdivided into smaller garage units, with three modern garages added to the north-eastern elevation.

3. Building record

3.1 The historic barn at the Burgess site was recorded in two stages. Stage 1 comprised a record of the building, undertaken in August 2013, while it was still used as storage and garaging (Ashworth 2013a, 11-13). This was followed by a further examination of the barn in November 2014, after it had been cleared and prior to its conversion, in order to identify any previously hidden architectural or historic features.

3.2 The bay descriptions in the following report reflect the original layout and are numbered 1 – 4 from the north.

STAGE 1 RECORD

3.3 The site is located on Wratten Road East, 20m to the south-west of its junction with Tilehouse Street. The frontage is occupied by a small office building, flanked to the north-east by a 14m length of brick wall, and to the south-west by a gateway giving access to a yard at the rear of the site. The yard is bounded on the south-east by a group of buildings used for storage (Plate 1) but is otherwise open and paved with tarmac. The northern corner of the site is fenced off for open storage (Plate 2), with an area of concrete hard standing running northeast – southwest in line with the footprint of the office building. The site is otherwise generally bounded by high brick walls.

3.4 The group of buildings at the rear of the yard is formed of a barn running north-east to south-west along the south-eastern boundary from the southern corner of the site, with three modern brick-built flat-roofed garages continuing the range to the north-east. A modern brick-built and gabled shed butts the southern half of the north-west elevation of the barn. The modern garages and shed are of no historic significance.

Exterior (Figure 2)

3.5 The barn appears to be brick-built with a half-hipped slate roof, and originally comprised four bays (Plate 3). To the north of the shed, the north-west elevation has been remodelled to create three garage bays, with up-and-over doors, concrete lintels and modern brick piers. At the northern end of the exposed elevation, between the lintels and the eaves, the wall is constructed of red brick with some burnt headers, laid in Flemish bond with lime mortar, topped by a dentilled cornice. This extends to the line of the original northern bay (i.e. half-way along the second garage bay), beyond which the elevation above the lintels is formed of reclaimed brick bonded with cement mortar, below wooden boarding. The elevation is no longer extant where it butts the later shed.

3.6 The north-eastern elevation is formed of red brick to the level of the eaves and may have been rebuilt using reclaimed materials (Plate 4). The bricks are laid in Flemish bond, with a line of headers at eaves level, and the gable has been in-filled with weatherboard including some older, wider planks of elm, with later softwood above.

3.7 The south-western elevation is also formed of red brick, with some burnt headers, laid in Flemish stretcher bond, with a line of headers at eaves level (Plate 5). A three-brick high band of modern red bricks, possibly marking the location of an earlier tie-beam, separates this from the gable, which has been infilled with more red brick laid in Flemish stretcher bond. Two cast-iron vents have been inserted in the wall, just below the level of the eaves, and a blocked window opening with brick arch can be seen towards the base of the wall towards the southern corner.

3.8 The south-east elevation was not accessible on either visit.

Interior

3.9 The interior of the barn was originally divided into four bays, now remodelled to five by the insertion of the modern garage doors at the northern end, and associated partitioning. Bay 1 (to the north) in the original scheme, has a suspended lath and plaster ceiling that suggests, together with the brickwork in the north-west exterior elevation, that this end of the barn had been remodelled to provide an enclosed living or working space, probably in the mid-19th century (Plate 6). At the same time a new, independent wall post was introduced, supporting an additional tie-beam which sits just below the level of the existing wall-plate (Plate 7).

3.10 The north-eastern interior elevation retains largely original timber framing, including the wall-plate and studs, staggered primary bracing, and a sole plate resting on a later brick plinth (Plate 8). Some repairs to the wall plate are apparent, particularly in Bay 4. Substantial tie beams separate the bays, with mortices indicating that they were originally braced to the principal posts, which are jowled but half the width of the tie-beams (Plates 9 & 10). The framing is infilled with brick nogging.

3.11 The roof structure is formed of paired rafters, meeting at a ridge plate, with collars and a single clasped purlin in each slope (Plate 11). This appears to be a 19th or early 20th century rebuild, with some more modern repair to the south. It is likely that the barn was originally thatched.

3.12 The evidence suggests that this was originally an open-fronted barn or cart-shed, possibly of mid-18th century date and possibly reusing the tie-beams from elsewhere. The side elevations were later clad in brick, possibly in the mid-19th century and possibly at the same time that Bay 1 was enclosed. The surviving structural elements appear to be in reasonable condition.

STAGE 2 RECORD

3.13 The Stage 2 record was focussed on the interior of the barn, particularly on the historic east elevation. A number of previously hidden features were noted during this stage of the works.

3.14 The timber framing to the south-east elevation was fully exposed in all four bays (Plates 12 - 13). This is as described above.

3.15 The wall plate to the centre of the south-east elevation was in several sections, linked by scarf joints in Bays 2 and 3 (Plates 14 – 15). The sole plate was also in sections, with joints in Bays 2, 3 and 4. The joints in Bays 2 and 4 were scarf joints (Plates 16 - 17), while that in Bay 3 was a butt joint (Plate 18).

3.16 The tie beam to the original jowled principal post between Bays 1 and 2 has been cut short and is supported on timbers resting on the replacement tie beam (Plate 19).

3.17 Removal of the wall plaster to the south-western gable end exposed the tie beam on the interior elevation (Plate 20). A blocked opening with an arched brick header was seen at the base of the wall, offset to the south. This was previously noted on the exterior elevation (see Plate 5). It measured approximately 1m in height and 1m in width. A short length of timber ran between the blocked opening and the north-east elevation below the height of the header. A timber levelling strip was also revealed in this wall, at approximately 2m above the present ground level.

3.18 A previously hidden blocked opening was revealed at the north-western end of the south-western elevation, immediately adjacent to the former north-eastern wall. The original timber lintel is missing, and its former location plastered over (Plate 21). A horizontal timber may mark the base of the opening.

3.19 Three blocked openings were exposed in the north-eastern gable (Plate 22). These consisted of an opening for a personnel door at the north-western end of the elevation, with a window opening to the south-east. A smaller blocked opening was visible in the centre of the elevation, below ceiling level.

3.20 Removal of the suspended ceiling to Bay 1 revealed joists running north-east to south-west, possibly indicating that there was a floored loft or a mezzanine (Plate 23).

4. Archaeological Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

4.1 The study area is located on the south-eastern side of Wratten Road East, which lies on the south-western limit of the medieval core of Hitchin. It lies in the valley of the River Hiz, part of the Hitchin Gap, a glacially derived deep cutting through the chalk hills of the East Anglian Heights. The land rises to the east and west.

4.2 The solid geology is Lower Chalk, with a deep drift covering of fluvio-glacial sands and gravels of the Anglian phase of the Quarternary period. The chalk bedrock is present at considerable depths below the fluvio-glacial deposits.

4.3 Although the Soil Survey of England and Wales describes the local soils as unsurveyed, they are likely to belong to the Swaffham Prior Association (511e) described as *Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble. Some similar shallow soils. Striped and polygonal soil patterns locally. Slight risk of water erosion.* (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

4.4 The timetable for the monitoring fieldwork followed the client's work schedule. A series of site visits were made to monitor the conversion of the barn and the development groundworks.

4.5 The excavation of footing trenches, and all ground reduction, was undertaken with a tracked mini-digger using a variety of toothed and toothless buckets as appropriate.

4.6 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on pro-forma sheets, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10.

4.7 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the current IfA and ALGAO standards.

COLLECTED DATA

4.8 The monitoring programme on the groundworks for the present project was divided into two principal phases. These comprised monitoring of the internal works within the barn, which consisted of ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches; and the monitoring of the excavation of service trenches in the yard to the north of the barn.

External works

4.9 The external works consisted of the excavation of a trench (Trench 2) against the north-eastern wall of the later 20th century extension to the barn; and the excavation of service trenches across the yard to the north of the barn.

Trench 2

4.10 Trench 2 was located against the north-east elevation to the later 20th century extension, at 0.70m from the north-west wall to the barn, in order to allow the internal and external services to meet (Figure 4). It measured 2.20m in length, 1m in width and 1.30m in depth. The sections revealed a layer of dark yellowish brown loose sandy silt, 0.55m in depth, containing frequent gravel and occasional large flints (Plate 24). This overlay a dark greyish brown friable sandy clay subsoil, 0.35m in depth, containing occasional small sub-angular flints. The

redeposited yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural was encountered below the subsoil at a depth of approximately 0.90m.

4.11 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in this trench.

Service trenches

4.12 Four service trenches were excavated across the yard to the north-west of the barn.

4.12.1 Service trench 1 measured approximately 24.80m and ran on a north – south alignment from the extension to the boundary with the neighbouring property. At its southern end it measured 1.20m in width and was excavated to a depth of 2.50m. From approximately 6.50m from its southern end it measured 0.80m in width and between 1.80 and 2.20m in depth. The exposed stratigraphy could not be accurately recorded owing to the instability of the sections, which required shoring (Plate 25). However, it appeared to consist of a layer of concrete, c. 0.10m in depth, above heavily mixed made ground, approximately 0.70m in depth (Figure 6). This apparently consisted of layers of tarmac, interspersed with gravel bedding layers. Below this was a further made ground, comprising reddish brown loose silty clay containing frequent brick fragments and rounded stones over 1m in depth. The underlying redeposited sandy clay natural was not reached in this trench and no archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

4.12.2 Service Trench 2 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site and ran east from ST 1 at 10.66m from its southern end. It measured 9.50m in length, 0.80m in width and between 0.80 and 1.40m in depth.

4.12.3 Service Trench 3 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site and ran north from ST 2 to a new access chamber at 2.90m from its junction with ST 1. It measured 4.30m in length, 0.30m in width and between 0.80 and 1.40m in depth.

4.12.4 Service Trench 4 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site and ran north-west to a new access chamber from the north-east end of the barn. It measured 8.90m in length, 0.30m in width and between 0.30 and 1m in depth.

4.12.5 The stratigraphy exposed in the trenches in the north-eastern corner of the site was different to that encountered elsewhere and consisted of layers of dumped overburden, 0.80m in depth, containing concrete and brick fragments and frequent stones, in a reddish brown silty clay matrix (Figure 6). This overlay a strong brown compact silty clay subsoil, over 0.60m in depth, containing frequent sub-rounded stones (Plate 26).

4.12.6 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the excavation of these trenches.

Internal works

Ground reduction

4.13 The ground level within the barn was reduced by up to 0.60m to an impact level of 87.29m AOD. This entire area was recorded as Trench 1 by the excavator. Removal of the existing concrete floor revealed a cobbled surface, covering an area measuring 5m in length, 1.20m in width and 0.10m in depth (Figure 4). This survived in Bays 2 and 3 only and was formed of tightly packed sub-rounded stones (Plate 27).

4.14 A very compact thin white chalk surface, (1007)/(1008), was revealed below (1001). This measured approximately 5m in length, over 1m in width and less than 0.01m in depth (Plate 28). No finds were encountered within any of these deposits.

4.15 Deposit (1002) extended across the entire internal area of the barn and into the later extension at its south-western end. It comprised a brown loose silty sand, containing frequent sub-angular flint and occasional rounded flint, 0.60m in depth (Plate 29). This has been interpreted as a modern make-up layer.

4.16 Layer (1003) was encountered below (1002) at the north-eastern end of the barn. It consisted of a brownish yellow loose silty sand, with moderate sub-angular flint and occasional brick fragments, over 0.10m in depth.

4.17 A series of brick walls were revealed below (1002) at the south-western end of the building (Figure 5).

4.17.1 Wall [1009] ran on a south-west to north-east alignment for approximately 3.60m from the south-western end of the north-west exterior elevation to the barn to the base of a concrete column (Plate 30). The wall measured 0.33m in width and survived to at least 7 courses (over 0.5m) in height. It was constructed of unfrogged handmade red bricks, laid in Flemish bond with lime mortar. The individual bricks measured $8\frac{3}{4}'' \times 4'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$ (222mm x 100mm x 70mm).

4.17.2 Wall [1010] ran on a south-west to north-east alignment for approximately 3m from the concrete base to the south-western wall of the barn (Plate 31). The wall measured 0.32m in width and had formerly stood to roof height (Plate 32). The foundations were constructed of handmade unfrogged bricks, laid in Flemish bond with lime mortar and was butted at its southern end by the south-western wall of the later 20th century extension. The individual bricks measured $8\frac{3}{4}'' \times 4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ (222mm x 105mm x 64mm). No clear relationship between this wall and the surviving south-western elevation to the north-east could be discerned, but it was butted by the south-western wall to the later 20th century extension.

4.17.3 Wall [1015] was located to the north-west of [1010] and formed the north-eastern and north-western sides of a small lean-to structure, possibly that noted on mapping between 1844 and 1886 (Ashworth 2013a, Figures 7 – 9). This had been demolished by 1898. The north-eastern arm measured approximately 1.89m in length, while the north-western arm measured approximately 1.85m in length (Plate 33). Both measured 0.22m in width and survived to at least 2 courses (0.06m) in height. The wall was constructed of unfrogged handmade red bricks, bonded with lime mortar. No bond pattern could be discerned. The individual bricks measured $8\frac{5}{8}'' \times 4'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$ (220mm x 100mm x 60mm).

4.17.4 Wall [1014] ran south-east from the concrete base between [1009] and [1010]. The wall, which measured 1.86m in length, 0.25m in width and survived to a height of at least 2 courses, is likely to have continued to the south-east. It was constructed of handmade unfrogged red bricks, bonded with soft lime mortar (Plate 34). No bond pattern could be identified. The individual bricks measured $8\frac{5}{8}'' \times 4'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$ (220mm x 100mm x 70mm).

4.17.5 Wall [1013] ran on south-west to north-east elevation from [1014] to the south-west exterior wall (Plate 35). It was cut through by pit [1016] at approximately 1.25m from its north-eastern end. The wall originally measured

approximately 3.50m in length and 0.22m in width. A mark on the south-western wall to the barn showed that it had previously survived to at least 0.42m in height above the impact level. It was constructed of handmade unfrosted red bricks, bonded with lime mortar. The individual bricks measured $8\frac{5}{8}$ " x 4" (220mm x 100mm).

4.17.6 Wall [1012] ran on a north-west to south-east alignment to the north-west of pit [1016]. Its exposed area measured 0.58m in length and 0.22m in width (Plate 36). The wall was constructed of red bricks, which appeared to be handmade and unfrosted, and bonded with lime mortar. It is possible that it once ran between walls [1010] and [1013].

4.17.7 Wall [1011], which ran on a north-west to south-east alignment between pit [1016] and the south-eastern wall to the barn, may represent the south-eastern continuation of [1012]. The wall measured 2.35m in length, 0.23m in width and stood to 2 courses high (0.15m) (Plate 37). A mark on the south-eastern wall of the barn showed that it formerly survived to a height of approximately 0.50m above the impact level.

4.18 The evidence indicates that walls [1009] and [1010] formed the south-western end of the north-western elevation to the barn. This was presumably demolished when the modern extension was added after 1966.

4.19 The south-western end of the barn appears to have been sub-divided into a number of small spaces (Plate 38). Walls [1010], [1013] and [1014] enclosed a space measuring approximately 3.5m by 1.5m, while [1011] and [1013] enclosed a space measuring 3.10m by 1.70m. Walls [1011], [1013] and [1014] may also have enclosed a space with similar dimensions. Where they meet the barn walls they appear to be butted to the exterior walls, suggesting that they are later in date.

4.20 Pit [1016] was cut through the junction of walls [1011], [1012] and [1013]. It was oval in plan and measured 1m in length, 0.75m in width and 0.40m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base (Plate 39). It contained fill (1017), a dark yellowish brown loose silty sand, which enclosed a ceramic vessel, (1018), at the north-western end of [1016].

4.20.1 The rim of the vessel, which measured 0.40m in diameter, was flush with the impact level for the re-development and contained fill (1019), a yellowish brown loose sandy silt with moderate amounts of mortar and charcoal.

4.20.2 Initially the vessel was to be preserved in situ, but the excavation of service trenches at the south-western end of the barn required its removal. This showed that it was a large plant pot, which stood 0.40m in height, and appeared to have been buried upside down, with the rim and shoulder at the base of the pit (Plate 40).

4.21 A brick lined well, [1005], was encountered within the area of the later extension, approximately 4m to the north-west of the barn (Figure 5). This was circular in plan, with an external diameter of 1.20m and an internal diameter of 0.98m (Plate 41). It was constructed of handmade and slightly curved red bricks, laid in stretcher bond without mortar. The individual bricks measured 8 " x $4\frac{5}{8}$ " x $2\frac{3}{8}$ " (203mm x 112mm x 60mm) and have been dated to the late 18th or early 19th century.

4.21.1 The mapping evidence shows two pumps to the north-west of the barn on the 1st edition OS map (Ashworth 2013a, Figure 9), and it is probable that this well

represents one of those marked. Only one is marked on the OS map of 1898 (ibid, Figure 10).

4.21.2 The well contained water, which was reached at a depth of 5.79m below the reduced surface. The top 0.30m of the well was removed by machine, the rest has been backfilled with Type 1 granite chips and will be preserved in situ.

4.21.3 A vertical lead pipe, [1006], with an external diameter of 2³/₄" (70mm), had been inserted on the western side of the well, at 0.32m below its exposed top. This was subsequently removed and found to measure 6.60m in length.

4.22 Possible subsoils, make-up and demolition layers, were encountered in the spaces enclosed by the walls. These had all been sealed by deposit (1002).

4.22.1 Layer (1020) was present in the south-western corner of the barn, in the space defined by walls [1011] and [1013]. It has been interpreted as a make-up layer and comprised a brownish yellow loose silty sand, containing moderate gravel and occasional brick and tile fragments. Excavation of service trenches at the south-west end of the barn revealed that it was 0.40m in depth.

4.22.2 Layer (1021) was located to the north-west of (1020), in the space enclosed by walls [1010], [1013] and [1014]. It has been interpreted as a subsoil and comprised a dark greyish brown friable sandy clay, with occasional small sub-angular flints. The excavator has suggested that the surrounding walls were cut into this deposit. Excavation of service trenches at the south-west end of the barn revealed that it was 0.40m in depth.

4.22.3 Layer (1022) was located to the north-west of (1021), in the space enclosed by walls [1010] and [1015]. It has been interpreted as either a make-up or a demolition layer and comprised very pale brown, loose, mortar fragments, over 0.05m in depth.

Service trenches

4.23 Two adjoining service trenches, recorded as Trench 3 by the excavator, were dug at the south-western end of the barn (Figure 5). The western arm measured 5.45m in length, the eastern arm measured approximately 9.70m in length (Plate 42). Both were between 0.40m and 0.50m in width and excavated to a depth of 0.76m below the impact level.

4.24 The sections revealed that deposits (1020) and (1021) reached a depth of approximately 0.40m below the impact level. Subsoil layer (1021) was encountered at the north-eastern end of both trenches, beyond wall [1014] (Plate 43). This overlay the redeposited yellowish brown sandy silty clay natural.

4.25 The western edge of a possible chalk surface, (3002), was revealed in section at the north-eastern end of Trench 3 (Figure 6, Plate 44). This consisted of compacted chalk fragments, up to 0.08m in size and measured 0.50m in width and 0.10m in depth. The surface did not appear to continue eastwards.

ARTEFACTS***Finds concordance – significant finds***

Context	Pottery		Brick	
	No	Wt	No	Wt
1005			2	6060
1017				
1018	17	11065		
Totals	17	11065	2	6060

Pottery

4.26 A single complete vessel, context (1018), was encountered at the south-western end of the barn. It had been buried in pit [1016], which had been cut through walls [1011], [1012] and [1013]. Initially it had been proposed to leave this in situ, but it lay on the line of the internal drainage trench. On that basis the pot was excavated and lifted.

4.27 The vessel, which was recovered in 17 large pieces, weighing 11065g, was a large, thick-walled, plant pot in red earthenware with a darker red slip on the exterior. It stood approximately 0.40m in height. The rim had an internal diameter of 0.08m, and the base had an opening of 0.20m in diameter. A band of impressed decoration ran around the shoulder. The excavator noted that it had been buried upside down, with the rim facing downwards and the base exposed at the impact level.

4.28 No clear purpose for its burial could be identified, but it may have been used for drainage.

Brick (Tom Doig)

4.29 Two soft, fine-grained, red bricks, weighing 6060g, were recovered from well [1005]. Both of these were slightly curved along the flat upper face, with an outer circumference of c.8” and an inner circumference of c. 7¼“. They measured c.4¼” in width and c.2¼” in height.

4.30 The bricks were hand-made in a rectangular mould and when leather-hard reshaped to a slight curve. This curve has been set by eye without the use of a template. After the re-shaping, the cracked faces have been filled and cleaned with two passes of the strike. One example shows clear markings where it has been stacked on edge in the drying shed; the second shows only slight similar markings. It could be suggested that the two were locally-made in the same batch. The matrices have been poorly puddled and there is considerable intrusion of small stone debris in both examples. Neither shows any evidence of a frog but they have been loosely located with a thin layer of mortar.

4.31 Taking into account the shape of the bricks and the manner in which they have been used in construction, it is evident that they were specifically manufactured for the lining of a well and probably used in the upper courses. They would appear to date from the period between 1780 and 1820.

4.32 No other bricks were recovered from the site.

5. Discussion

5.1 The accumulated evidence suggests that the barn at the Burgess site was originally constructed as an open-fronted barn or cart-shed, possibly in the mid-18th century. It was certainly in existence by the early 19th century, when it apparently formed the south-western end of a long range (Ashworth 2013a, Figures 5 & 6). Later mapping suggests that the front of the building was enclosed by 1844 and it is possible that Bay 1 was enclosed at the same time (ibid, Figure 7).

5.2 The initial historic building assessment, carried out when the barn was still in use, demonstrated that the timber framing was in reasonable condition, and suggested that the substantial tie beams may have been re-used from an earlier structure. Further examination after the building was cleared revealed a number of previously hidden features, including joints in the wall and sole plates and blocked openings in both gable ends. No evidence to alter the earlier conclusions was encountered.

5.3 Monitoring of the ground reduction within the barn revealed a series of brick walls enclosing small spaces at the south-western end of the barn. These may represent small rooms associated with a dwelling or storage. The use of handmade and unfrosted bricks suggest that these partitions were inserted in the early – mid 19th century, possibly at the same time that the front elevation and Bay 1 were enclosed.

5.4 A later pit, [1016], was cut through the junction of three of these walls. The pit contained a large plant pot, which had apparently been buried upside down, at its north-western end.

5.5 The foundations to the small lean-to structure on the north-west elevation, shown on maps between 1852 and 1886, were exposed within the later 20th century extension. A nearby well, constructed of bricks dated to the late 18th or early 19th century, was also encountered in this area.

5.6 Several floor surfaces were exposed within the barn, including compacted chalk surfaces and a cobbled surface. The cobbles, which were exposed in the centre of the barn, overlay chalk surfaces (107) and (108). The western edge of another chalk surface, (3002), was exposed at the western end of Trench 3, within the area of the later extension.

5.7 Monitoring of the excavation of the service trenches in the yard to the north of the barn revealed a significant amount of overburden, over 2m in depth. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in any of the trenches and the underlying natural was not reached.

Conclusion

5.8 The barn at the Burgess site was in existence by 1818. It appears originally to have formed the south-western end of a longer range, extending back from Tilehouse Street. The observed evidence suggests that it formed a barn or cart shed, open on the north-western side and with a timber framed wall to the south-eastern side. The timber framing to this elevation, which is infilled with brick noggin, survives in reasonably good condition.

5.9 At some point in the mid 19th century the open frontage was enclosed in brick. Possibly at the same time Bay 1, at the north-eastern end, was enclosed to form a dwelling or storage. Bay 4, at the south-western end, was also apparently partitioned to form a number of smaller spaces with brick walls, again possibly in the mid 19th century.

5.10 Monitoring of the excavation of service trenches, both within the barn and the adjacent extension, and within the yard to the north of the building, revealed a considerable depth of overburden.

5.11 No archaeological features, deposits or finds pre-dating the 18th century were encountered during the project.

Confidence Rating

5.12 During the course of the building recording and the archaeological monitoring, reasonable access was available, and weather and ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of all significant elements both above and below the ground.

5.13 On this basis, there are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the outcomes of the project that were less than *High*.

6. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
27/02/2015	GAJ	4	Monitoring ground reduction within the barn
03/03/2015	RGD	10	Monitoring ground reduction within the barn
04/03/2015	RGD	7	Monitoring ground reduction within the barn
05/03/2015	RGD	9	Monitoring excavation of service trenches within building
23/09/2015	DRP	2	Inspection of service trenches in yard
29/09/2015	DRP	2	Inspection of service trenches in yard
30/09/2015	DRP	2	Inspection of service trenches in yard
01/10/2015	DRP	2	Inspection of service trenches in yard

7. Sources Consulted

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8. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
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Figure 3	Barn – plan as existing
Figure 4	Plan showing groundworks
Figure 5	Plan showing features revealed in the barn
Figure 6	Sections
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Plate 11	Roof structure
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Plate 23	Bay 1, looking NE
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Plate 26	Service trenches in NE corner of site, indicative section, looking W
Plate 27	Cobbled surface (1001), looking NW
Plate 28	Chalk surfaces (1007) & (1008), looking NE
Plate 29	Deposit (1002), looking NE
Plate 30	Wall [1009], looking W
Plate 31	Wall [1010], looking NW
Plate 32	Wall [1010], former height looking SW
Plate 33	Wall [1015], looking SE

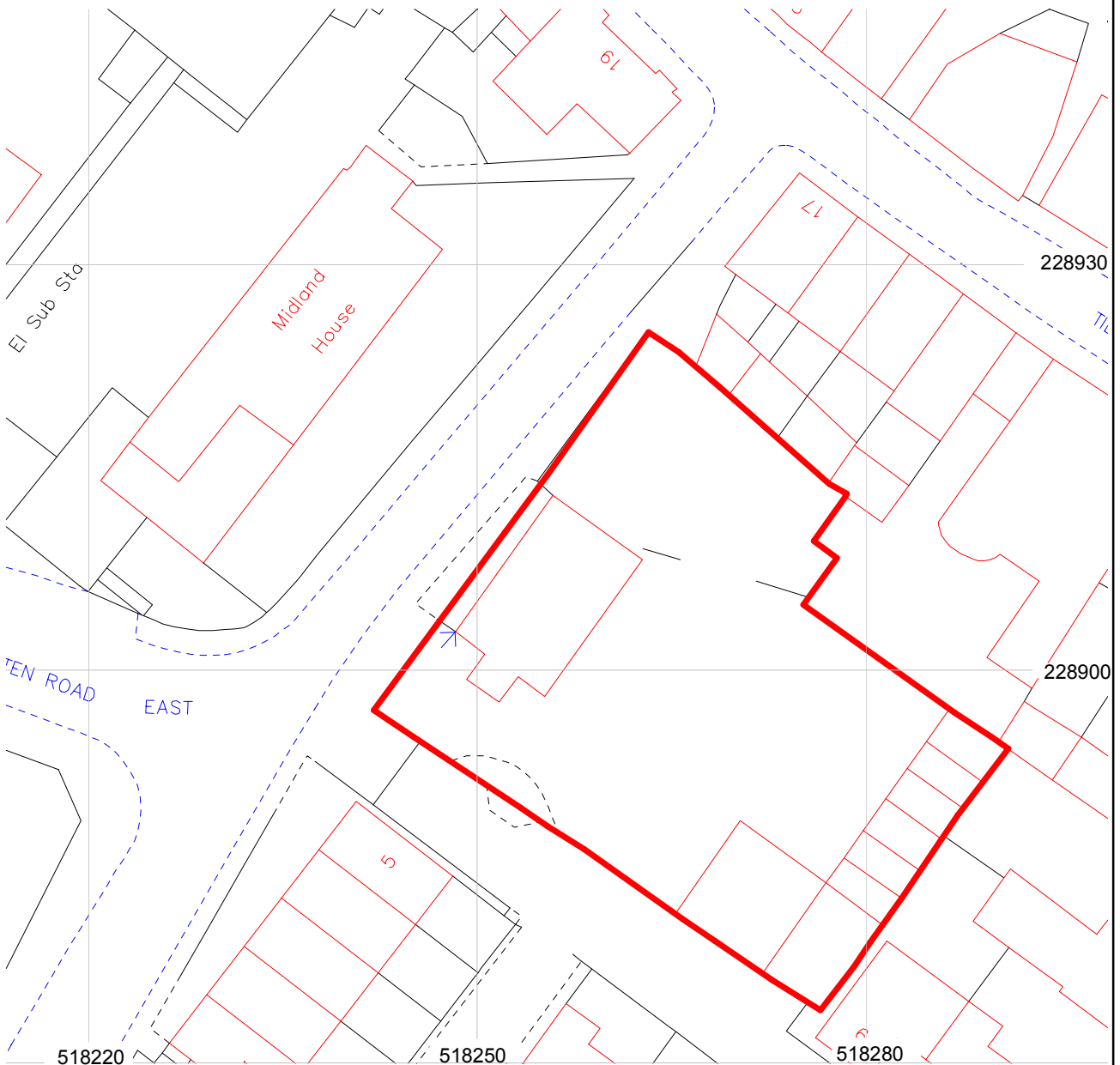
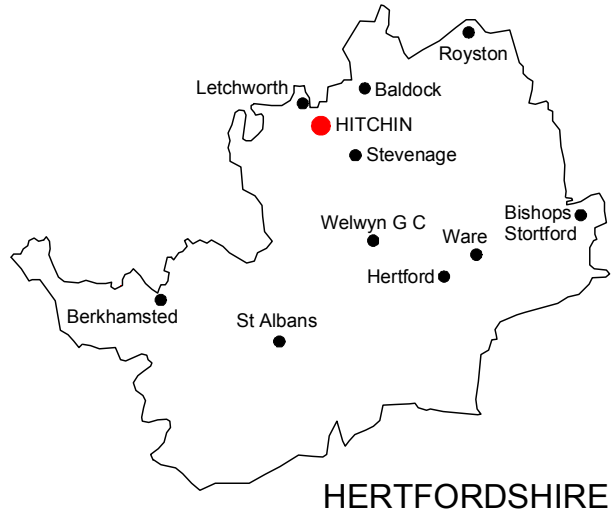
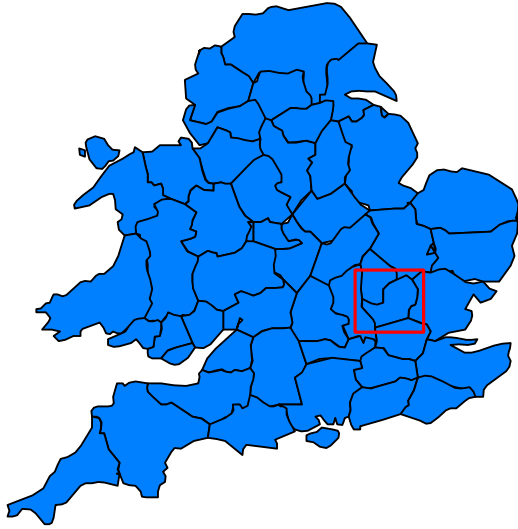
Plate 34..... Walls [1013] and [1014], looking NE
Plate 35..... Wall [1013], looking SW
Plate 36..... Wall [1012], looking NE
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Plate 42..... Service trenches at SW end of barn, looking N
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Plate 44..... Section 1, showing surface (3002), looking NW

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Burgess Building, Wratten Road East,
Hitchin, Herts.

HN1113



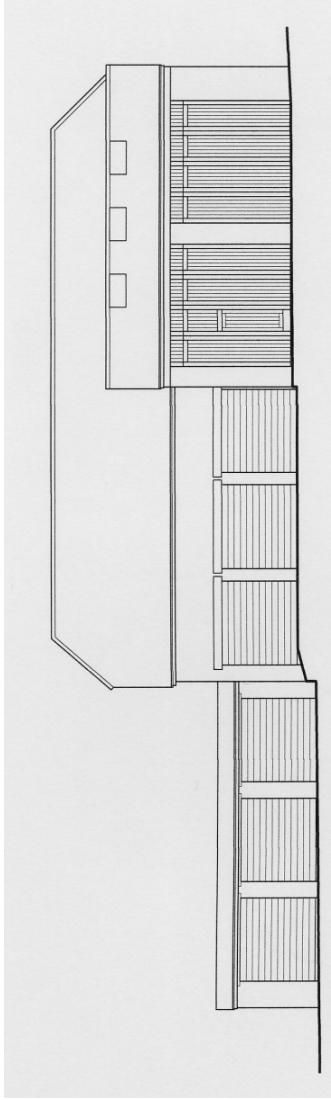
Site Location

Scale 1:500

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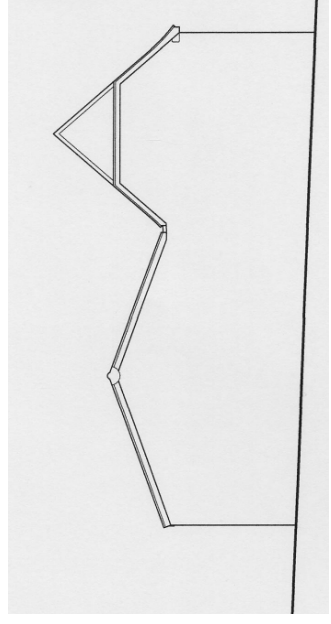
Figure 1

NE



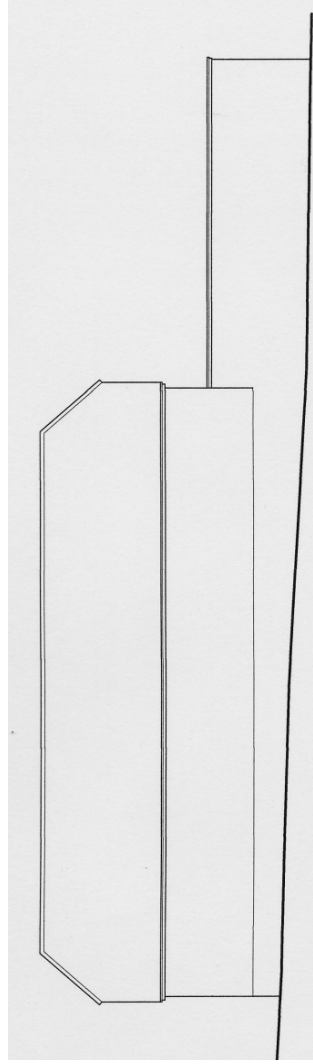
North-east elevation

SW



South-west elevation

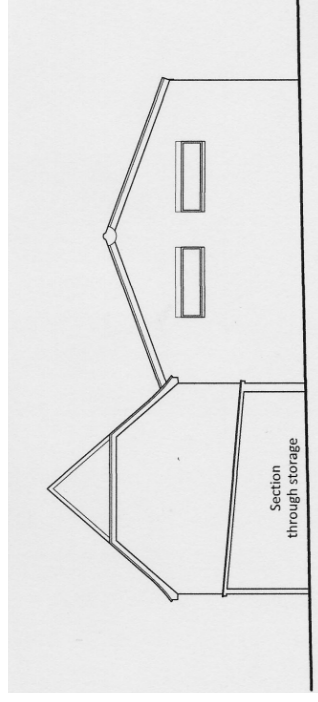
SW



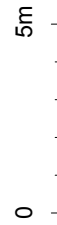
South-east elevation

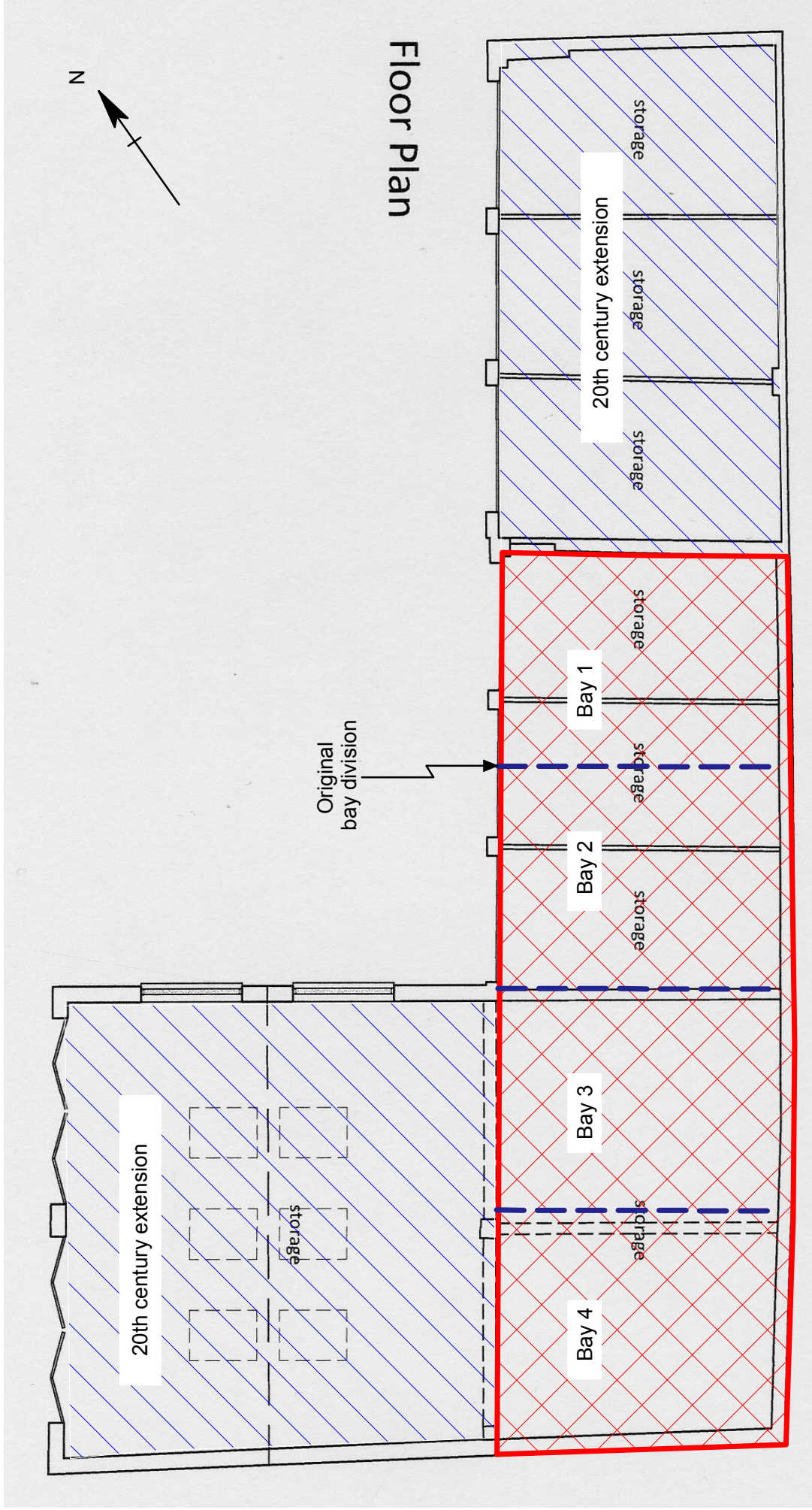
NE

SE

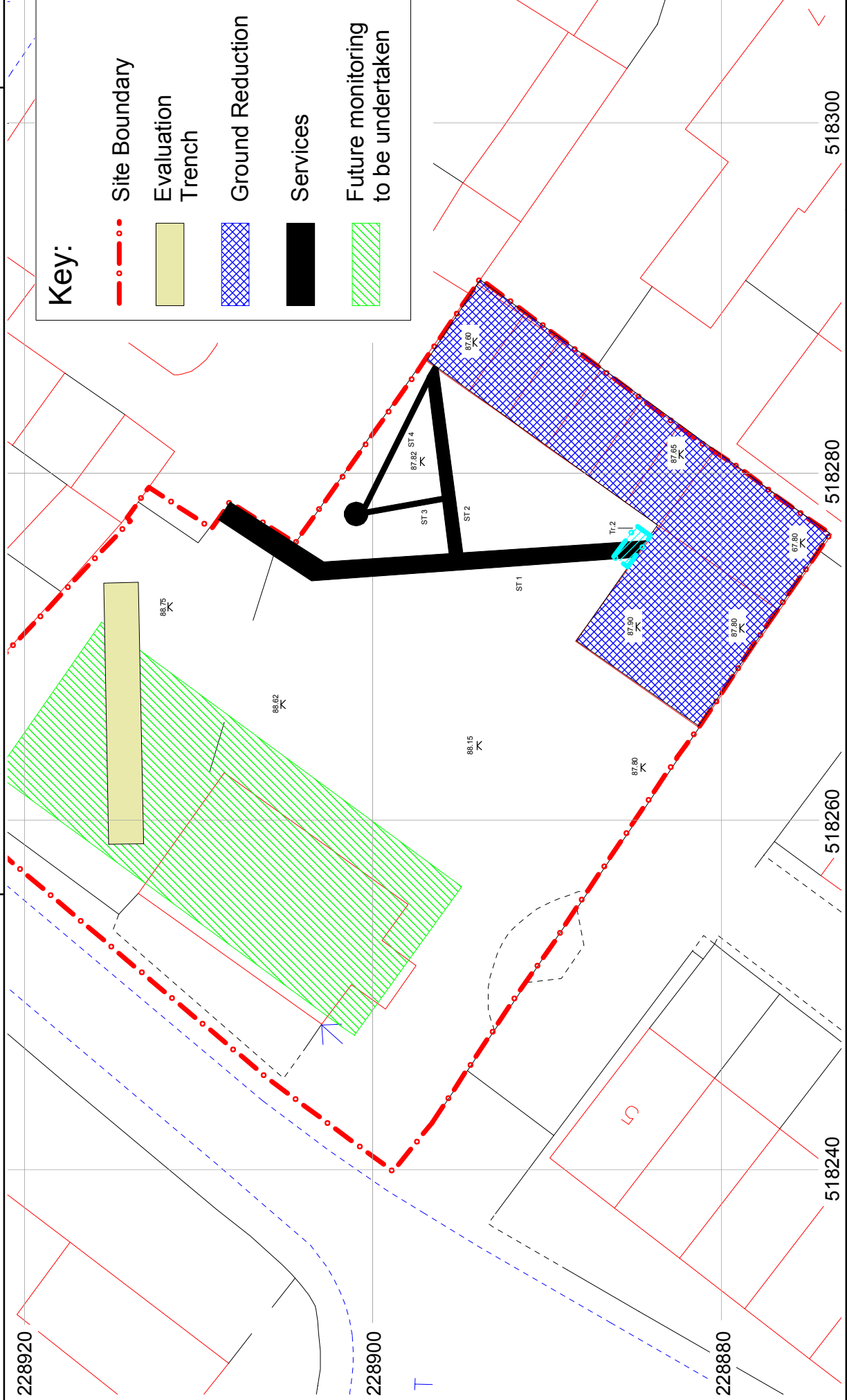


North-east elevation










Barn plan as existing



Key:

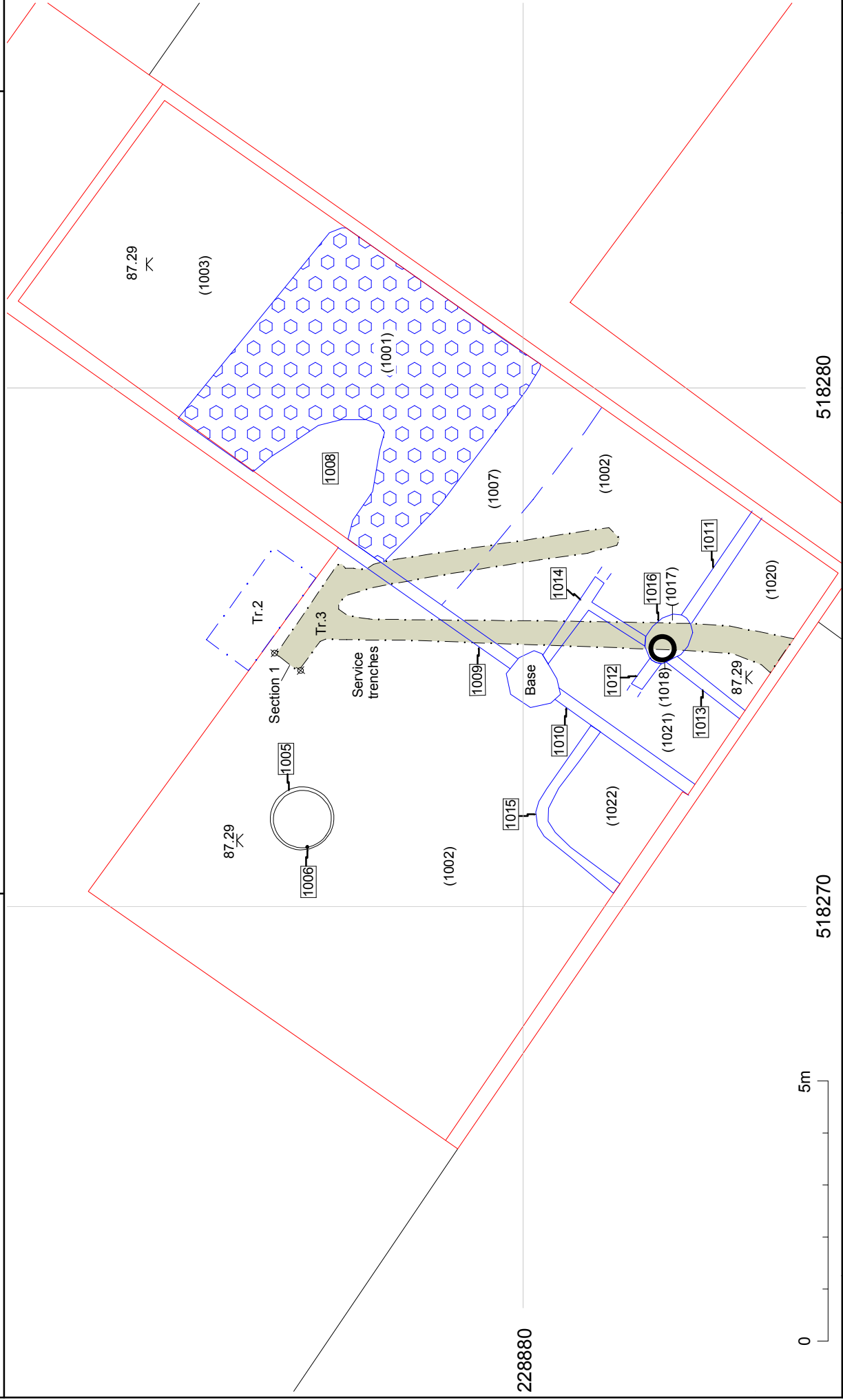
-  Site Boundary
-  Evaluation Trench
-  Ground Reduction
-  Services
-  Future monitoring to be undertaken

Plan showing external groundworks and area of ground reduction

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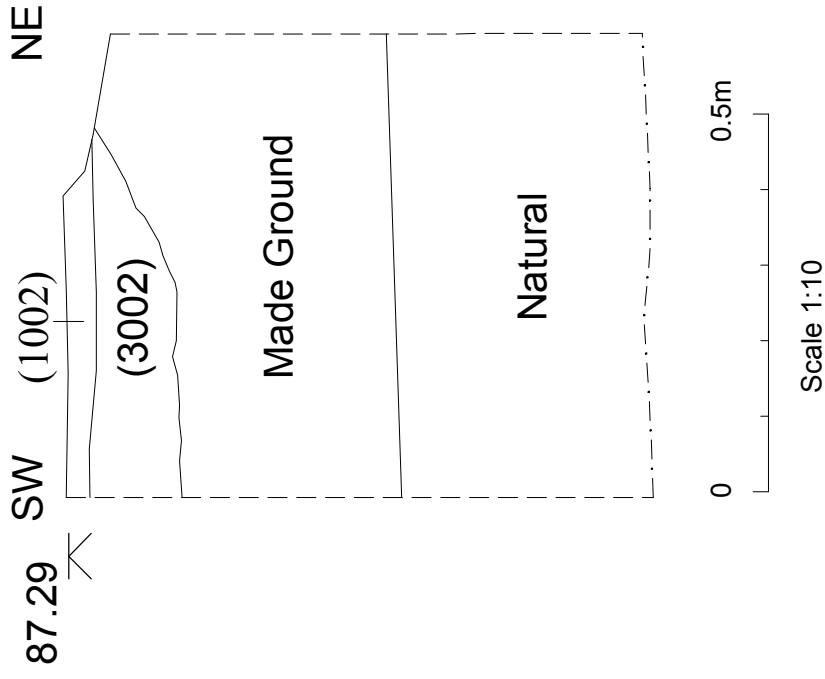
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Figure 5

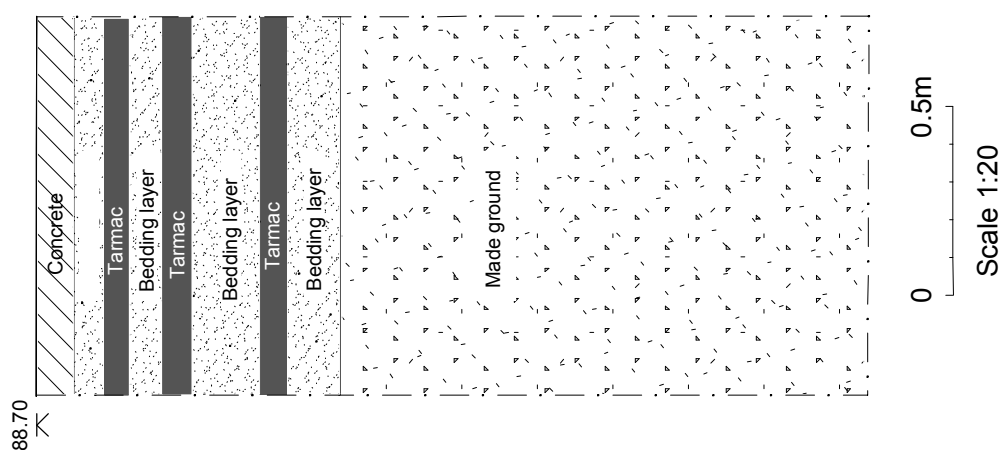


Plan showing features revealed following ground reduction within the barn

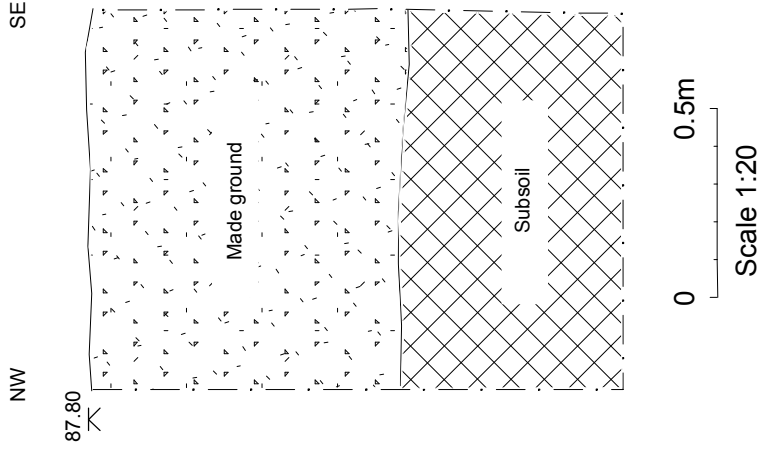
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Indicative sections



Plate 01 - Buildings along the SE boundary of the site



Plate 02 - Northern corner of the site
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 03 - NW elevation of barn



Plate 04 - NE elevation of barn
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 05 - SW elevation of barn



Plate 06 - Suspended ceiling in Bay 1
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 07 - Introduced post and tie-beam at S end of Bay 1



Plate 08 - Timber framing in SE elevation of Bay 3
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.

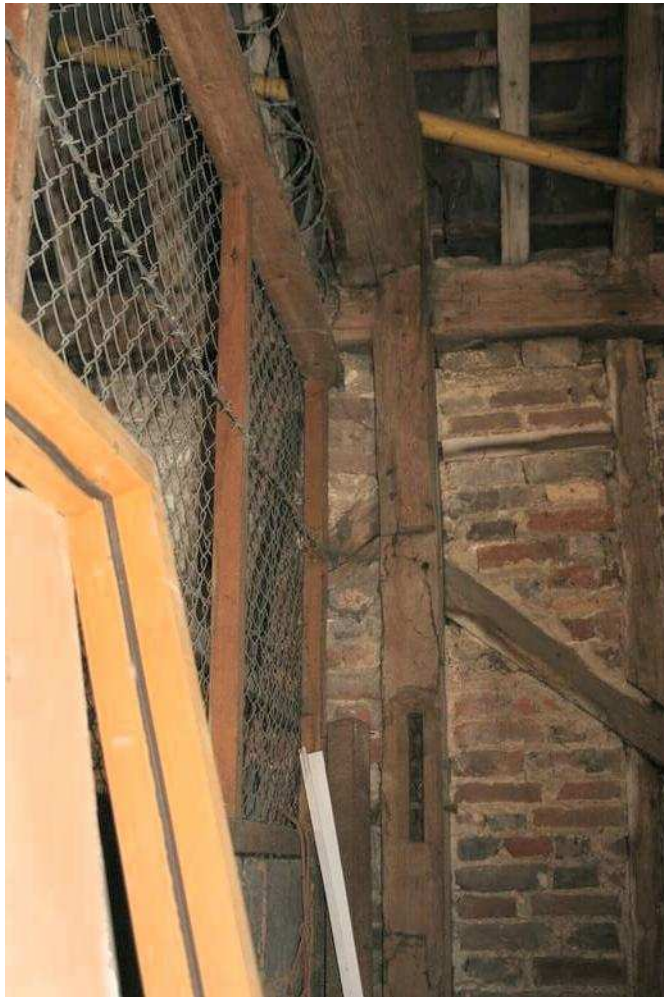


Plate 09 - Principal post and tie-beam between Bays 2 and 3



Plate 10 - Principal post and tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 11 - Roof structure



Plate 12 - Bays 1 & 2, SE elevation
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 13 - Bays 3 & 4, SE elevation



Plate 14 - Detail of scarf joint in wall plate, Bay 2
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 15 - Detail of joint in wall plate, Bay 3



Plate 16 - Detail of scarf joint in sole plate, Bay 2
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 17 - Detail of scarf joint in sole plate, Bay 4



Plate 18 - Detail of butt joint in sole plate, Bay 3
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 19 - Detail of the principal posts between Bays 1 & 2



Plate 20 - South-west interior elevation after removal of plaster
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 21 - Blocked opening in SW elevation



Plate 22 - NE interior elevation, looking NE
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 23 - Bay 1, looking NE



Plate 24 - Trench 2, looking NW
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 25 - ST 1, indicative section, looking E

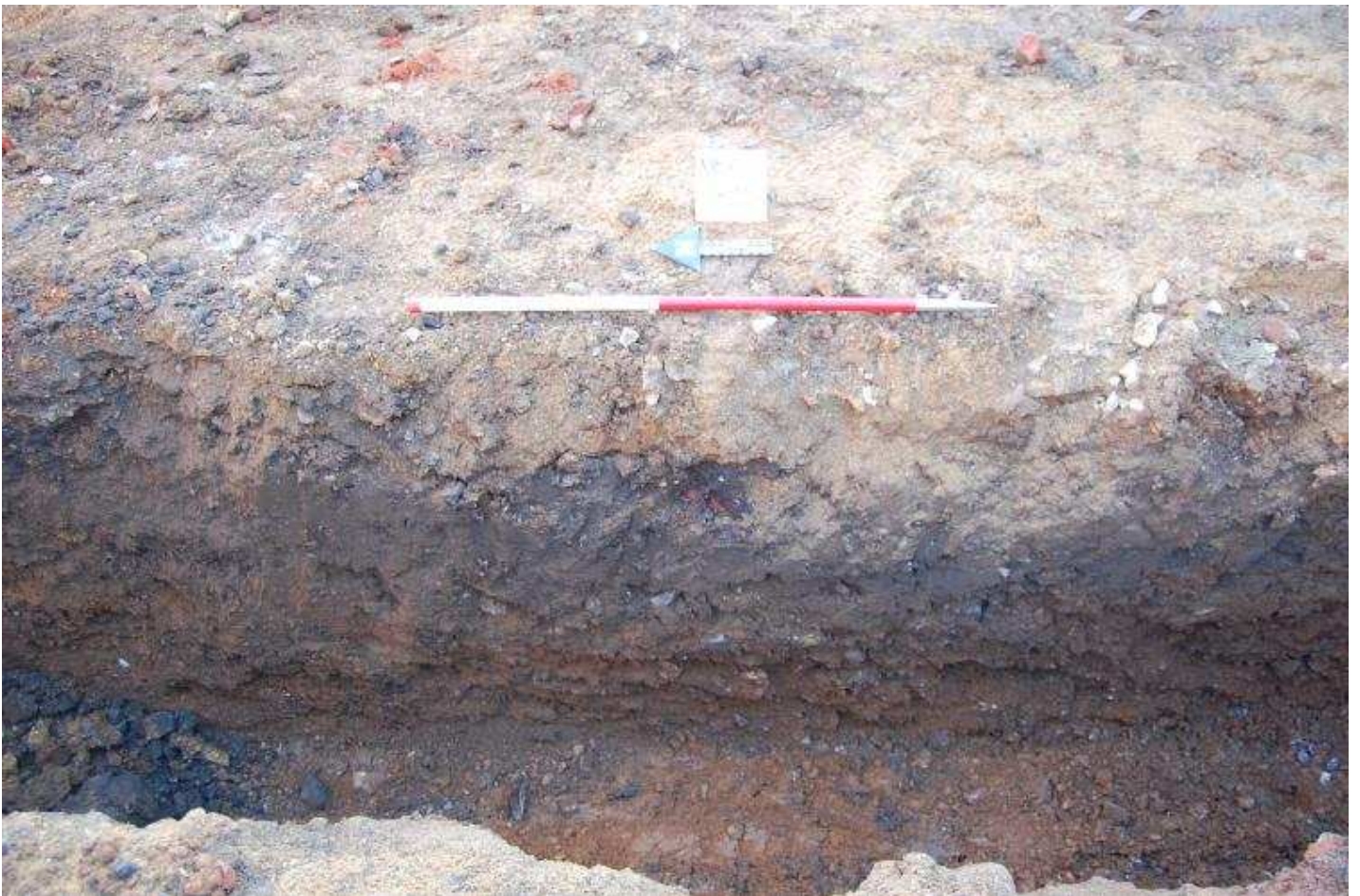


Plate 26 - Service trenches in NE corner of site, indicative section, looking W
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 27 - Cobbled surface (1001), looking NW



Plate 28 - Chalk surfaces (1007) & (1008), looking NE
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.

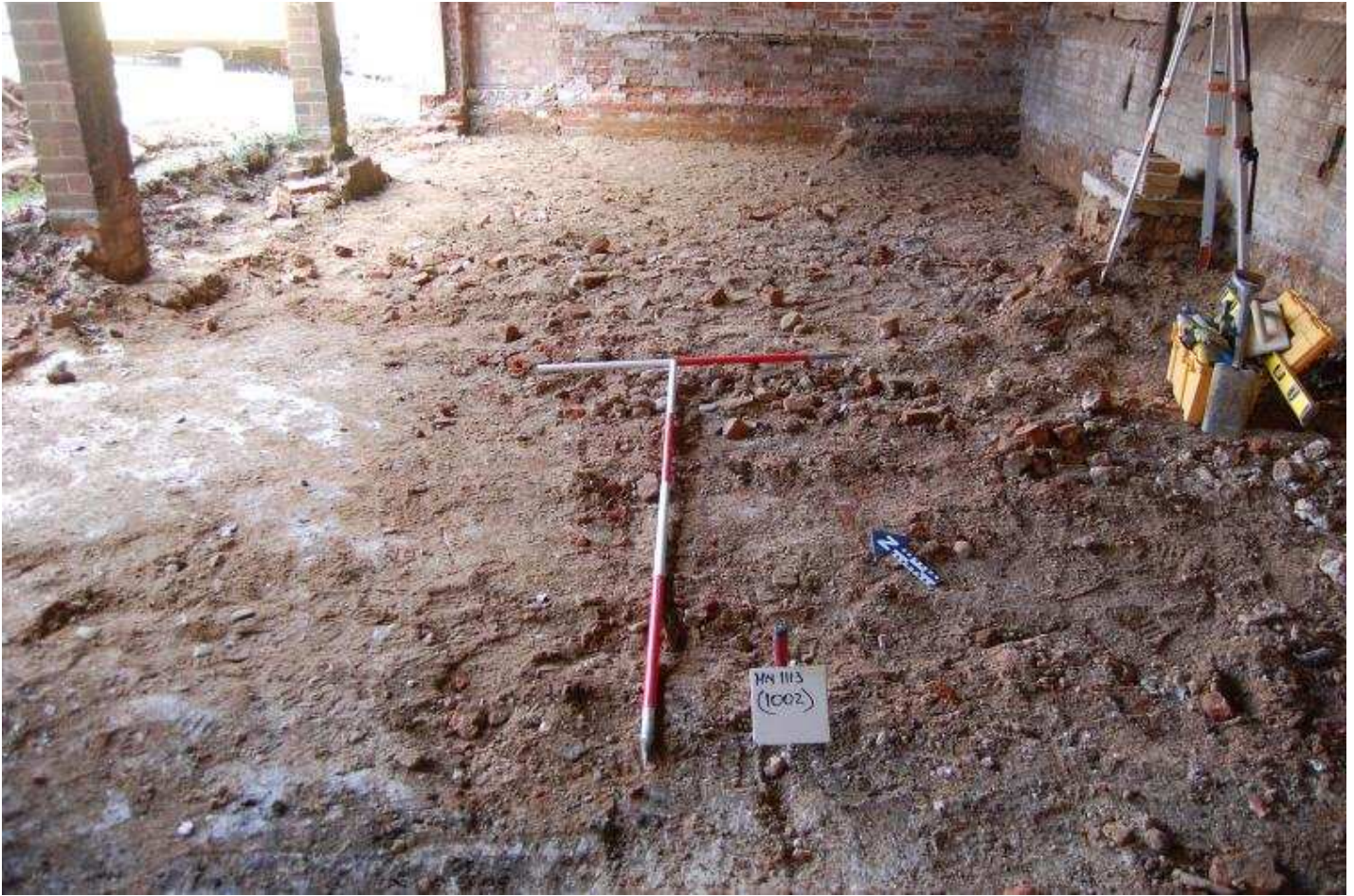


Plate 29 - Deposit (1002), looking NE



Plate 30 - Wall [1009], looking W
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 31 - Wall [1010], looking NW



Plate 32 - Wall [1010], former height, looking SW
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 33 - Wall [1015], looking SE

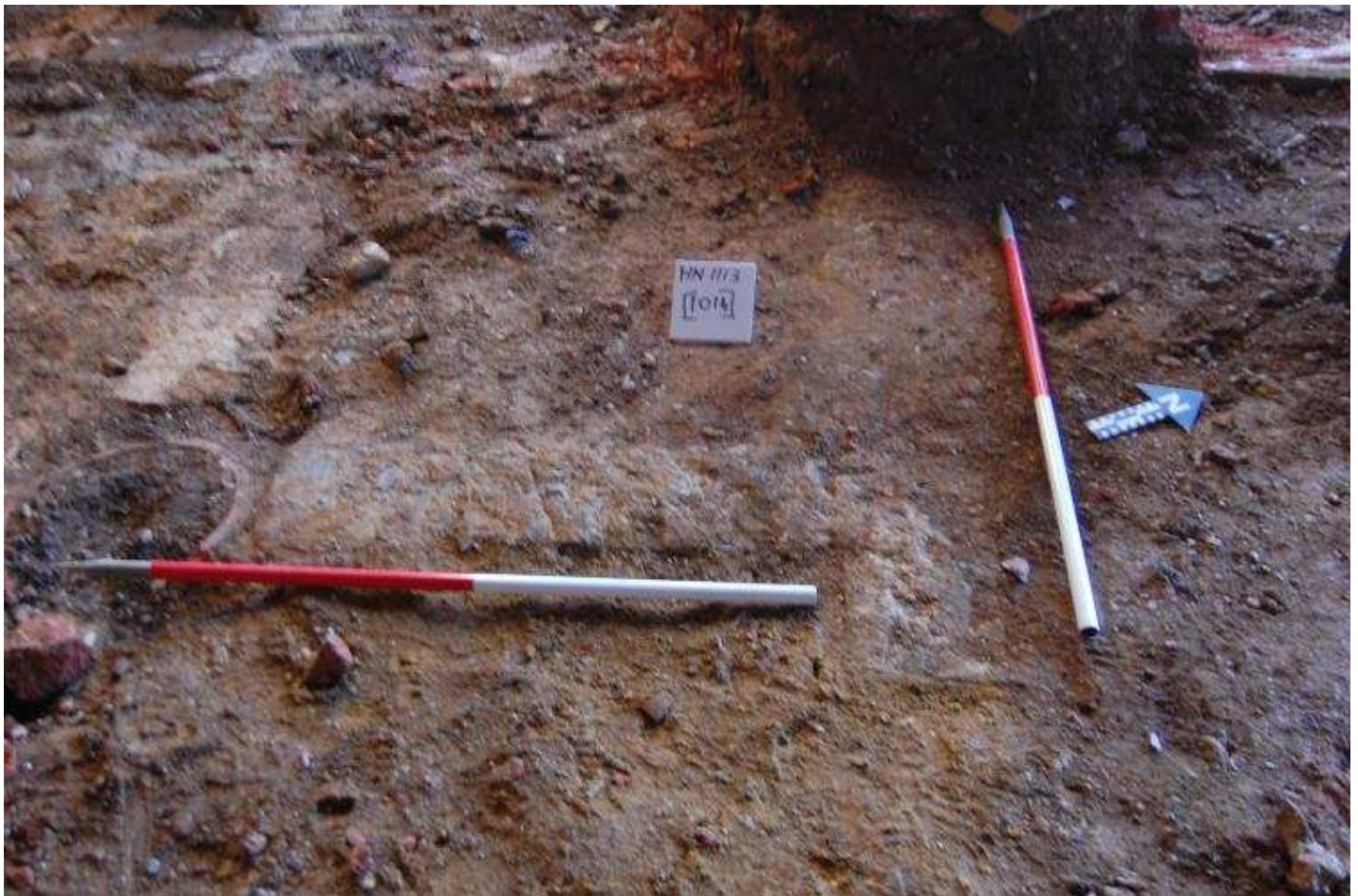


Plate 34 - Walls [1014] & [1013], looking NE
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 35 - Wall [1013], looking SW



Plate 36 - Wall [1012], looking NE
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 37 - Wall [1011], looking SE



Plate 38 - Walls at the SW end of the barn, looking NW
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 39 - Pit [1016], looking NW



Plate 40 - Pot (1018) during excavation, looking NW
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 41 - Well [1005] and pipe [1006], looking W



Plate 42 - Service trenches at SW end of barn, looking N
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.



Plate 43 - Trench 3, looking SW



Plate 44 - Section 1, showing surface (3002), looking NW
(c) The Heritage Network Ltd.

Appendix 1

OASIS Data Entry

OASIS ID: heritage1-168121	
Project details	
Project name	Hitchin, Burgess Site, Wratten Road East
Short description of the project	As the result of a condition on planning consent for the demolition of a number of buildings, including a brick-built barn, at the Burgess site, Wratten Road East, Hitchin and their replacement with new residential dwellings, the Heritage Network was commissioned to create a record of the buildings in advance of the demolition works. The barn at the Burgess site was in existence by 1818. It appears originally to have formed the south-western end of a longer range, extending back from Tilehouse Street. The observed evidence suggests that it formed a barn or cart shed, open on the north-western side and with a timber framed wall to the south-eastern side. The timber framing to this elevation, which is infilled with brick noggin, survives in reasonably good condition. At some point in the mid 19th century the open frontage was enclosed in brick. Possibly at the same time Bay 1, at the north-eastern end, was enclosed to form a dwelling or storage. Bay 4, at the south-western end, was also apparently partitioned to form a number of smaller spaces with brick walls, again possibly in the mid 19th century. Monitoring of the exaction of service trenches, both within the barn and the adjacent extension, and within the yard to the north of the building, revealed a considerable depth of overburden.
Project dates	Start: 14-11-2014 End: 01-10-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	HN1113 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HITCHIN Burgess Site, Wratten Road East
Postcode	SG5 2AP
Study area	238 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 18262 28898 51.945550273808 -0.279192104936 51 56 43 N 000 16 45 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	None

Project design originator	Chris Turner
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	David Hillelson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	North Herts Museums Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museum Services
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unspecified Archive"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Burgess Building, Wratten Road East, Hitchin, Herts.: historic building record and archaeological monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Phillips, D.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.1047
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb-bound, green cover, 20 text pages, 6 figures, 44 plates