

3 THE ORCHARD Baldock, Hertfordshire

HN1363

Report No. 1099

Site name and address:	3 The Orchard, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6DE		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Baldock	Parish:	Baldock
Planning reference:	17/01215/1HH	NGR:	TL 24799 33623
Client name and address:	Mr & Mrs Donovan, 3 The Orchard, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6DE		
Nature of development:	Side Extension	Previous land use:	Garden
Site Status:	Archaeological Area no.96 (AA96)	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After determination, as a condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.500m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.12.25m ²
Site Code & HN Ref:	BAL/3ORC 17 & HN1363	HER consultation:	90/17
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Monitoring	Archive Recipient:	OASIS/ADS
Start of work	09/01/18	Finish of work	10/01/18
Related HER Nos:	HER 8, HER 1868	Periods represented:	None
Oasis UID:	heritage1-290538	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	No		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Introduction:

In response to a planning condition on a side extension at 3 The Orchard, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6DE, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Donovan to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring on the development groundworks. Planning permission for the development (17/01215/1HH) was granted by North Herts District Council (NHDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated October 2017.

The study area lies in the heart of a well documented multi-period archaeological landscape, centred on NGR TL 24799 33623 (Figure 1). It is located within an *Area of Archaeological Significance* No.96 as defined in the District Local Plan and close to the Scheduled Monument defining the late Iron Age settlement and Romano-British small town (List no. 1016305). The site of a wealthy Iron Age *Chieftain's Burial* (HER 1868) lies approximately 20m to the north-east, on the opposite side of The Orchard.

Narrative:

The proposed development entails the construction of a single storey extension at the rear and side of the existing house. The works for the present project involved the monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new extension.

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Foundation Trenches

The trenches for the new extension, which is located on the north-west corner of the house, measured between 2.90m and 6.25m in length, between 0.65m and 0.70m in width and between 1.20m and 1.40m in depth (Figure 2, Plate 1). This work was undertaken by a 1.5 tonne tracked 360° excavator, fitted with a 0.60m toothless ditching bucket.

The exposed stratigraphy was fairly uniform across the site and consisted of a mid grey, soft silty clay made ground, 0.5m thick, which contained occasional chalk flecks, modern artefacts, including glass and pottery fragments, and light rooting (Figure 3, Plate 2). This overlay a layer of dark grey, soft silty clay, 0.2 – 0.3m thick, with occasional small rounded stones, which may represent the pre-existing soil horizon before the ground levels were raised. Below this was a light grey soft silty clay subsoil, 0.3 – 0.5m thick, with occasional chalk flecks. The natural chalk and was reached at depths of between 1m and 1.40m.

Evidence for significant disturbance was encountered in the trenches, including modern services and a dog burial, which was left in situ.

Apart from the dog skeleton the finds from the site consisted of a sheep/goat lower mandible and long bone, which were observed but not retained. Three sherds of late Roman pottery were recovered from within the made ground and are therefore likely to be residual. Such finds would not be unexpected in this part of Baldock. However, as they were clearly residual and of no intrinsic significance, they have been discarded.

No other archaeological cut features, deposits or finds were encountered during the present project.

Discussion:

The monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a stratigraphic sequence consisting of made ground directly overlying subsoils. The made ground is likely to represent levelling of the site at some point in the recent past, possibly when The Orchard was built.

The three sherds of pottery recovered have been examined and dated to the 3rd - 4th century AD. They are all from the kiln site at Hadham and represent three individual vessels. Two sherds are of Hadham oxidised ware, including a red-slipped rim sherd from a jar, while the third is in Hadham reduced ware. Unfortunately their significance is limited as they were recovered from within the made ground. However, they were relatively unabraded, suggesting that they had not travelled far from their original site of deposition.

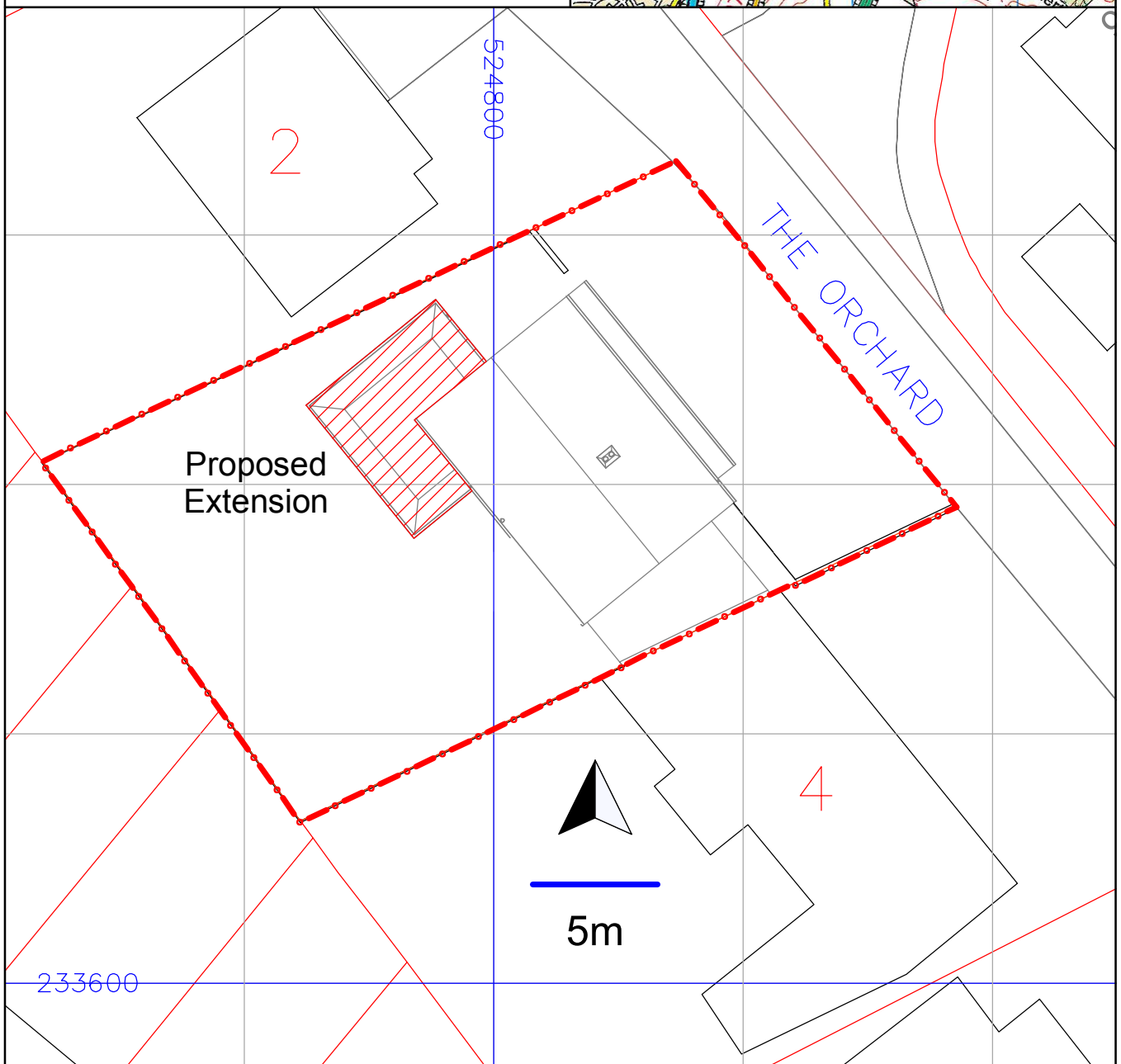
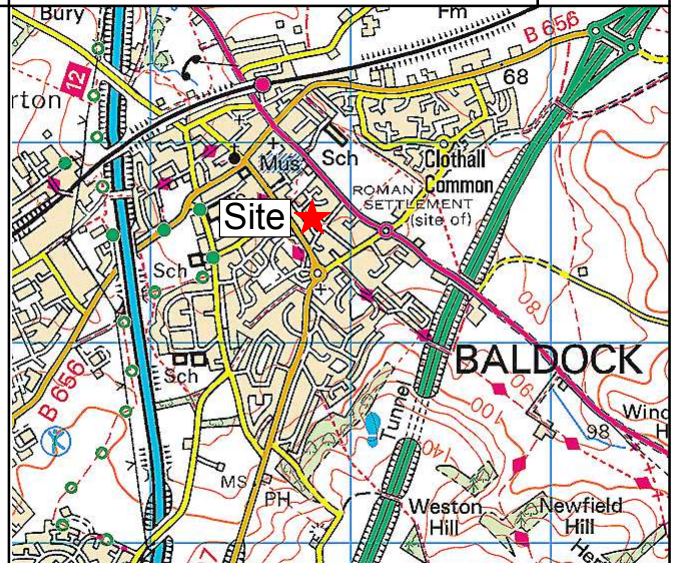
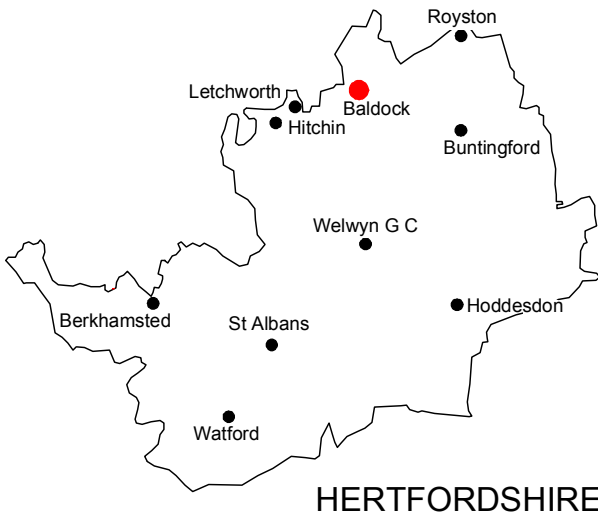
No further archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the course of the present investigation and no evidence for activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was noted. No information was gained that could be considered to contribute to the research aims for the project, as defined in the approved Project Design.

Illustrations:

Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Site layout
Figure 3 Indicative section showing stratigraphic sequence

Plate 1 Foundation trenches, looking SW
Plate 2 Indicative section, looking NE

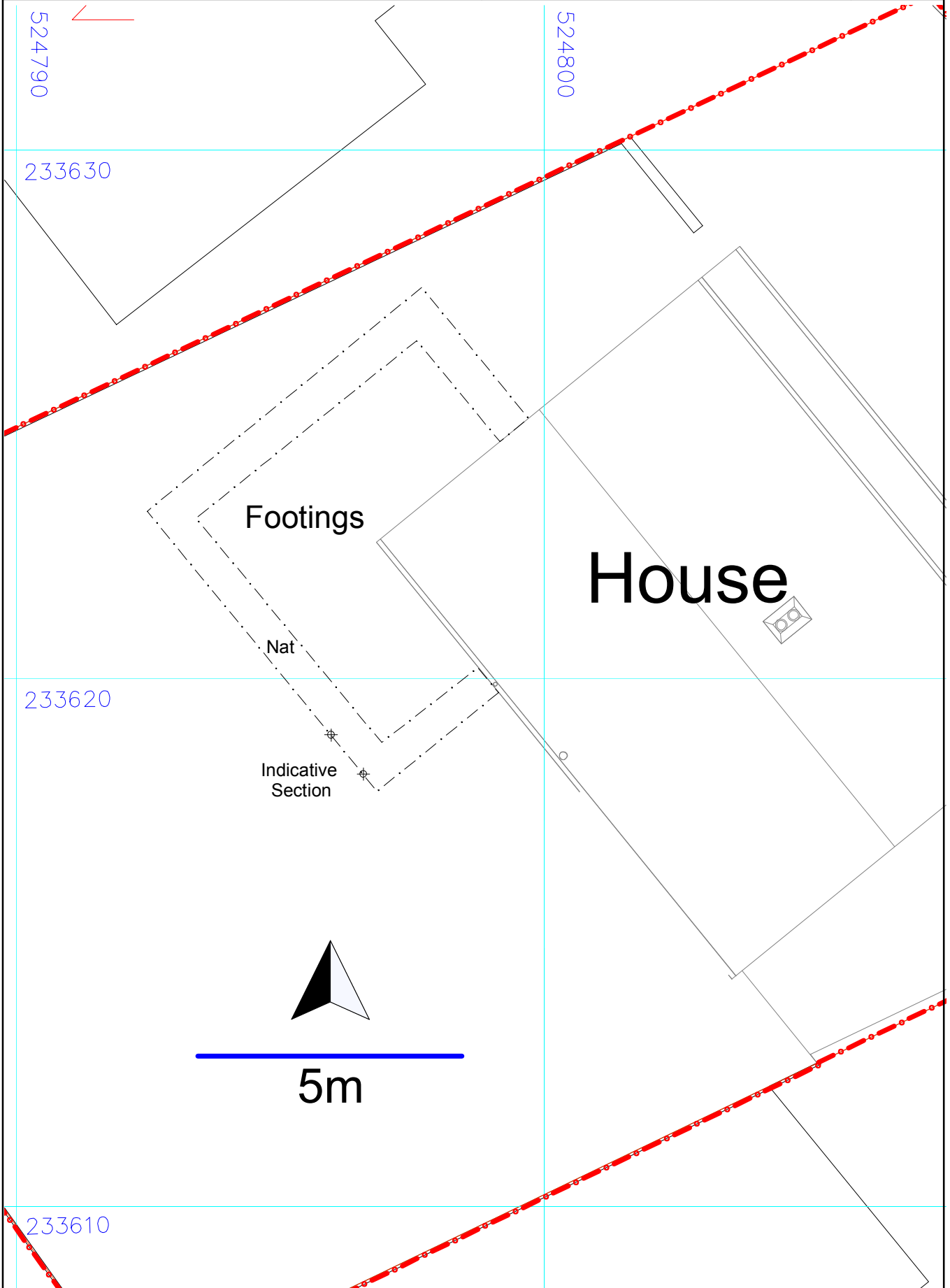
Mark Sycamore, BA
January 2018



Site location and layout

Scale 1:250

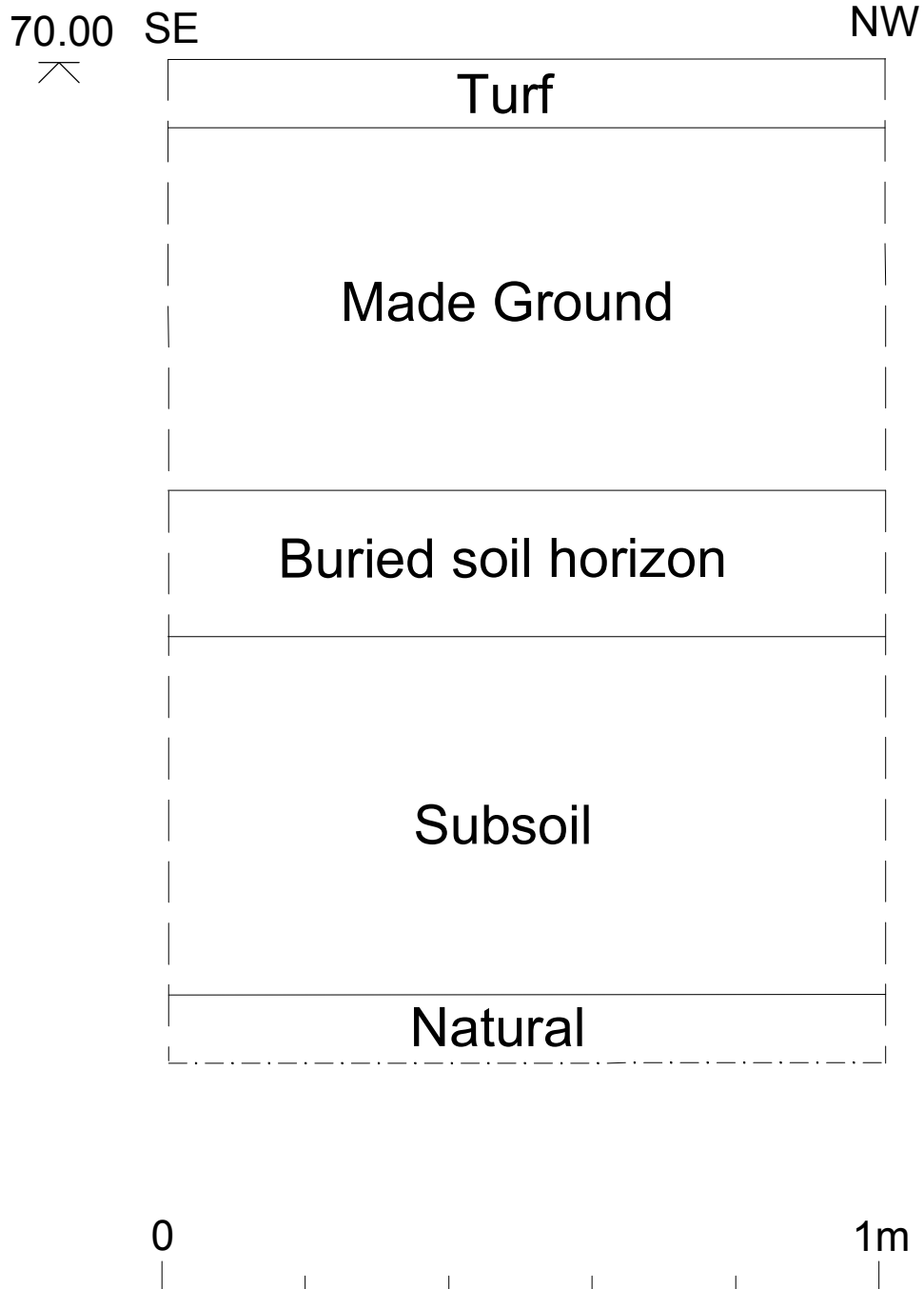
Figure 1



Site layout

Scale 1:100

Figure 2



Indicative section showing site stratigraphy

Scale 1:10

Figure 3



Plate 01 - Foundation trenches, looking SW



Plate 02 - Indicative section, looking NE

Site Name:	3 the orchard, Baldock	HN ref:	
		Site Code:	HN1363

Recorder(s):	MS	Arrive time:	08.00	Return travel:	0.5
Date:	9/1/18	Depart time:	14.30	Total hours:	

Reported to:	lean (PRB)	Position:	Foreman
Purpose of visit:	WB		

Photograph film no	
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Staff on site:	MS
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Observations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> met groundworkers + had brief discussion about work method
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→ footing trench 1m deep, 0.65 wide

→ drainage would be 0.4m deep running

into existing drains

→ ground reduction within area of footings

0.1m deep

• area already marked out, trenches

revealed deep overburden (imported?) over

an earlier (post-med?) soil horizon over

subsoil.

• would not need to see drainage or

ground reduction as these would not

impact below overburden (which contained

20th century material)

• had to halt digging at 14.30 as

they had ran out of area they

could spoil. Grab lorry booked

in for 8am next-day

Sheet	1	of	2
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Additional records:

Text sheet(s)

Sketch sheet(s)

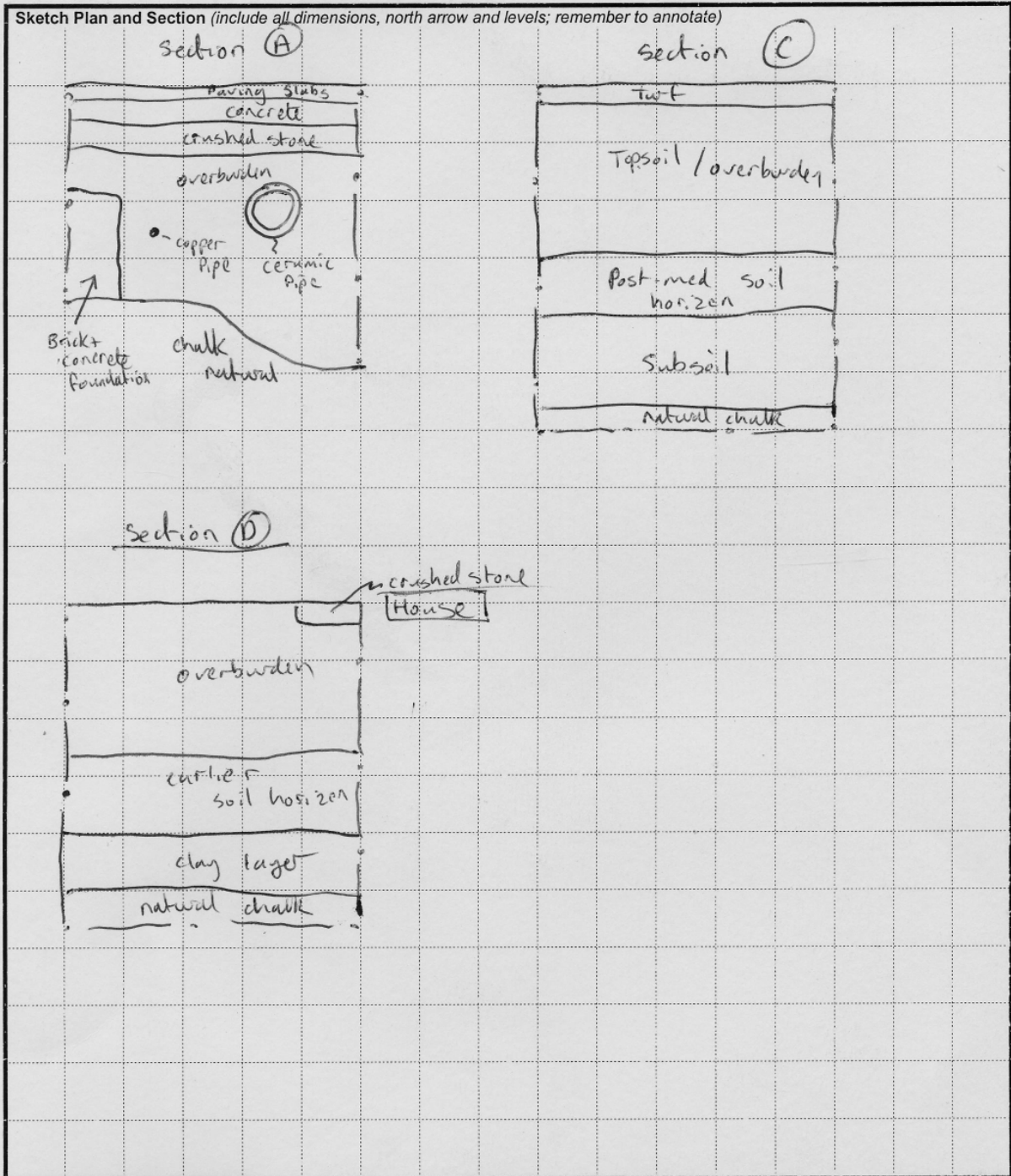
Context form(s)

A4 Scale dwng(s)

A3 Scale dwng(s)

Weather:	Dry, cold	Photographs	
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SITE CODE HN 1363	Site Name 3 the orchard	Sub-division —	CONTEXT —
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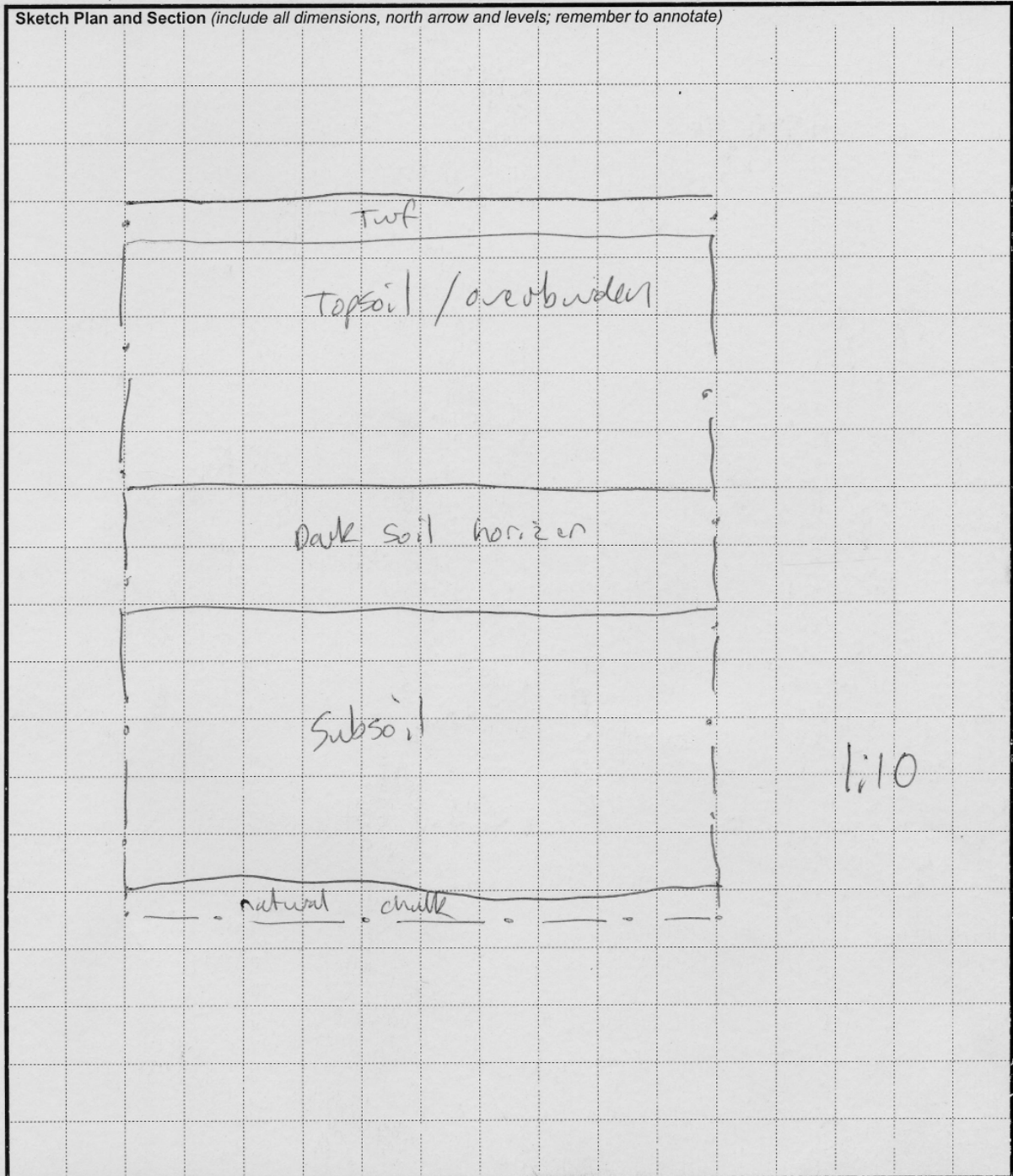


Discussion and interpretation

Section A, c + D

Scale	1:20
Signature	MS
Date	10/01/18
Sheet	2 of 3
Checked	

SITE CODE HN1363	Site Name 3 the Orchard	Sub-division —	CONTEXT —
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Discussion and interpretation			
section B			
	Scale	1:10	
	Signature	MS	
	Date	10/01/18	
	Sheet	3	of
	3	Checked	

SITE CODE HN1363	Site Name	3 the orchard, Balldale Hots -	Sub-division	Orientation	TRENCH No -	
	Length	Width	0.7m	Depth		1.2 - 1.4m
	Machine Type	tracked 1.5ton 360	Bucket Size	0.65m		

Topsoil/ Overburden		Colour	mid grey	Composition	silty clay, soft rare chalk flecks + small roots	Depth	up to 0.6
Subsoil		Colour		Composition		Depth	
Natural Sub		Colour		Composition	below	Depth	

Observations (circle)	Archaeology	Root activity	Structure	Contamination	Unstable	Mod truncation	Other:
	Bur'd horizon	A. Burrows	Services	Flooding	Blank	Plough mark

Sketch Plan and Section (include all dimensions, north arrow and levels; remember to annotate)

Basic stratigraphy

Topsoil/overburden => mid grey soft silty clay up to 0.6m thick with occasional chalk flecks + small roots (grass)

Post-med soil horizon => dark grey soft silty clay with occasional small sub rounded stone 0.2 - 0.3m deep

subsoil => light grey soft silty clay with occasional chalk flecks up to 0.5m deep

in the north eastern part of trench (see plan) no subsoil but there is a light brown soft clay layer 0.2m thick with frequent chalk flecks + lumps.

natural => chalk

Discussion and interpretation

no obvious features, too deep to go + clean by hand, some of the sides had already partially collapsed. Some changes ~~at~~ at base could be features or natural (bioturbation or glacial activity) area has likely been built up modern services + other truncations (19th/20th) based on finds + likely rubbish pits - no well defined in section

Contexts	3 pottery sheds Roman/med up out of Topsoil		
Finds	Photo (b/w)		Signature MS
Plan no.	Photo (colour)		Date 10/1/18
Section no.	Levelled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Located <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Samples -
Weather conditions	mixed rain + cloudy		Checked
			Cont.