

HERITAGE NETWORK



**11 AMWELL STREET
Hoddesdon, Herts.**

HN685

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

11 AMWELL STREET,
Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

HN685

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Glenhern Ltd

by

David Kaye, BA PIFA

Report no. 438

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

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The cover photograph shows the former vicarage facing north-east

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mark Winter and Andy Fawcett. The report text and illustrations were prepared by David Kaye, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Richard Lloyd, Glenhern Ltd; Bob Tyrell, Development Design Consultants; and Kate Batt, County Historic Environment Unit, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	11 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Broxbourne
Village/town:	Hoddesdon	Parish:	Hoddesdon
Planning reference:	7/0599/07	NGR:	TL 37292 09005
Client name and address:	Glenhern Ltd c/o Development Design Consultants, 8a Colchester Road, West Bergholt, Colchester, CO6 3JG		
Nature of work:	New dwellings	Former land use:	Garden
Site Status:	AAS3	Reason for investigation:	New dwellings
Position in planning process:	Predetermination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	2400m ²	Size of area investigated:	76.5m ²
Site Code:	HN685	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Evaluation	Archive Recipient:	Lowewood Museum
Start of work	07/08/2007	Finish of work	09/08/2007
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Medieval
Oasis UID:	heritage1-30407	Significant finds:	Brick, tile, pottery, animal bone
Monument types:	Pits, gully/beam slot – late medieval		
Physical archive:	Brick, tile, pottery, animal bone, Fe object, shell		
Previous summaries/reports:	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Historic Building Record, June 2007; Summary evaluation report, August 2007		

Synopsis:

In order to characterize the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to redevelop the former vicarage at 11 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake field evaluation in advance of the submission of a planning application. The development proposes the conversion of the house to flats and the erection of three further blocks of flats.

Four trenches were excavated using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 1.50m wide toothless bucket. Trench 2 contained a large square pit. Flint, CBM and tile were recovered from the fill, and based on an assessment of the tile, this feature appears to be late medieval in date. Trench 4 contained a beam slot or gully, two pits and a post hole. The beam slot/gully contained pottery of medieval date. The larger of the two pits contained pottery of a 12th-15th century date and a quantity of tile. No datable artefacts were recovered from the smaller pit or the post hole.

The present site is at the northern end of Hoddesdon's medieval core. An earlier desk-based assessment of the site carried out by the Heritage Network demonstrated that the street frontage had been occupied by a range of properties from at least the late 16th century, and it seems likely that the presence of medieval and post-medieval material on the site reflects the occupation and subsequent demolition of these properties over this period.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Glenhern Ltd. as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site located at 11 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. The investigation was a predetermination requirement of a planning application (ref.7/0599/07) submitted to Broxbourne Borough Council (BBC), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work has been defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation* (ref. AI 5/07/2006) prepared by the County Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to BBC, in response to an earlier application. A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated August 2007.

1.2 The study area is centred on NGR TL 37292 09005 (Figure 1). The site is a former vicarage and its gardens, and is bounded to the east by Amwell Street, to the north by Scania House, to the south by St Catherine's and St Paul's Church, and to the west by Hanover Court. The development proposes the conversion of the vicarage to flats, and the erection of three blocks of flats in the grounds. The development lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance No.3* (AAS3), as designated in the Local Plan.

1.3 An archaeological desk based assessment and historic building record for the site was prepared by the Heritage Network in June 2007. This concluded that there was a low probability of encountering features and finds of later prehistoric, early to middle Iron Age and early medieval date during development on the present site. The risk increased to Moderate for early prehistoric and late Iron Age date and to High for the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

1.4 On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, the CHEU advised that archaeological evaluation of the development site should be undertaken before the development proceeded.

1.5 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to 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. It is considered the evaluation has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins, development, and growth of settlement in Hoddesdon.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.1 The site is located in the centre of the town of Hoddesdon on fairly level ground at approximately 40m AOD. Woollens Brook, a tributary of the River Lea, flows to the north-west of the site.

1.2 The study area lies in the valley of the River Lea, which flows south into the Thames. The natural geology in the area consists of river terrace gravels of the Woolwich and Reading beds. Locally the soils are derived from the Hamble 2 Association (571z). These are described as deep stoneless well drained silty soils over gravel (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

2.1 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.

2.2 The trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures.

2.3 Four trenches were opened using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket (Figure 2). Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

2.4 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.

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

RESULTS

Trench 1

2.6 Trench 1 was located in the northwest corner of the site within the footprint of Block C (Figure 2). It measured 12m in length, 1.5m in width, and was between 0.68m and 1.93m deep (Plate 1).

2.7 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) layer of silty clay topsoil, 0.35m in depth overlying two levelling layers (Figure 4). The upper layer was 0.25m - 0.7m deep and consisted of a dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay. The lower layer consisted of a very dark greyish brown silty clay, up to 0.45m deep. The natural geology was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy gravel.

2.8 No archaeological cut features, layers or deposits were encountered in Trench 1, and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Trench data:

Length (m):	12	Width (m):	1.5	Maximum Depth (m):	1.93	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	40.94	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	40.84
		Base	40.17			Base	39.22
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
101	Layer	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay. Topsoil.			12+	1.50+	0.35
102	Layer	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay. Levelling layer.			12+	1.50+	0.25-0.70
103	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay. Levelling layer.			12+	1.50+	0.22-0.45
104	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy gravel. Natural.			12+	1.50+	-

Trench 2

2.9 Trench 2 was located on the west side of the site within the hard-standing area between Block B and Block C (Figure 2). It measured 14m in length, 1.5m in width, and was 1.05m deep (Plate 2).

2.10 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) layer of silty clay topsoil, 0.25m in depth overlying a levelling layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, 0.8m in depth (Figure 4). The natural geology was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy gravel.

2.11 The trench contained a sub-rectangular pit [201] 3.3m long, at least 1.05m wide and 0.37m deep (Figure 4). It contained a single very dark brown (10YR 2/2) loose, silty clay fill with frequent stones less than 40mm in diameter (Figure 5). A modern service trench cut was also noted.

Trench data:

Length (m):	14	Width (m):	1.5	Maximum Depth (m):	1.05	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	40.92	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	40.97
		Base	39.91			Base	40.41
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
201	Cut	Sub-rectangular pit.			3.30	1.05+	0.37
202	Fill	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) loose, silty clay with frequent stones. Sole fill of [201].			1.6+	1.05+	0.37
203	Layer	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay. Topsoil.			14+	1.50+	0.25
204	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) loose, silty clay. Levelling layer.			14+	1.50+	0.80
205	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy gravel. Natural.			14+	1.50+	-

Trench 3

2.12 Trench 3 was located in the centre of the site within the footprint of Block B (Figure 2). It measured 12m in length, 1.5m in width, and was between 0.5m deep (Plate 3).

2.13 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a very dark grey (10YR 3/1) layer of silty clay topsoil, 0.15m in depth overlying a levelling layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay, 0.35m in depth (Figure 4). The natural geology was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay.

2.14 The trench contained two tree boles and a modern services cut. No archaeological cut features, layers or deposits were encountered in Trench 1, and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Trench data:

Length (m):	12	Width (m):	1.5	Maximum Depth (m):	0.5	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	41.55	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	40.97
		Base	41.20			Base	40.61
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
301	Layer	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay. Topsoil.	12+	1.50+	0.15		
302	Layer	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay. Levelling layer.	12+	1.50+	0.35		
303	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay. Natural.	12+	1.50+	-		

Trench 4

2.15 Trench 4 was located on the south side of the site within the footprint of Block A (Figure 2). It measured 13m in length, 1.5m in width, and was 0.6m deep (Plate 4).

2.16 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) layer of silty clay topsoil, 0.29m in depth overlying a levelling layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) silty clay, 0.31m in depth (Figure 4). The natural geology was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay.

2.17 The trench contained four archaeological features (Figure 4). Context [401] was a linear feature, orientated northeast-southwest. It was greater than 3.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.26m deep, containing a single, brown (10YR 4/3), loose, silty gravel fill. The cut had a U-shaped profile, and probably represents a beam slot, gully or base of a ditch. The fill contained metal, tile, animal bone, shell and pottery, which is probably late medieval or post-medieval in date (Figure 5).

2.18 Contexts [403] and [405] were interpreted as tree boles. Context [407] consisted of either a sub-circular pit or the butt end of a ditch, 1.3m in length, at least 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep. The cut contained a single, brown (10YR 4/3), loose, silty gravel fill which yielded tile, brick and pottery which was dated to the late medieval period (Figure 5).

2.19 Context [409] probably represents the base of a post hole or the butt end of a gully. It was sub-rectangular, measuring at least 0.49m long, 0.47m wide and 0.05m in depth. It contained a single, dark brown (10YR 3/5) silty sand fill, with frequent small flint inclusions. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the fill (Figure 5).

2.20 Context [411] was a flat based, sub-rectangular feature which may represent a pit or the butt end of a ditch. It measured 1.94m in length, at least 0.56m in width and was 0.28m deep. It contained a single dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty sand fill with frequent small flint inclusions. Tile and pottery of a possible date were recovered from the fill (Figure 5).

Trench data:

Length (m):	13	Width (m):	1.5	Maximum Depth (m):	0.6	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	41.61	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	41.65
		Base	41.03			Base	40.78
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
401	Cut	Linear. Beam slot, gully or base of ditch.	3.50+	0.50	0.26		
402	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/3) loose, silty gravel. Sole fill of [401].	0.88+	0.50	0.26		
403	Cut	Tree Bole.	0.41	0.33	0.20		
404	Fill	Sole fill of tree bole.	0.20+	0.33	0.20		
405	Cut	Tree Bole.	1.25	1.00+	0.19		
406	Fill	Sole fill of tree bole.	0.50+	1.00+	0.19		
407	Cut	Sub-circular pit or butt end of a ditch.	1.30	0.80+	0.25		
408	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/3), loose, silty gravel. Sole fill of [407].	0.65+	0.80+	0.25		
409	Cut	Sub-rectangular. Post hole or butt end of a gully.	0.49+	0.47	0.05		
410	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/5) silty sand fill, with frequent small flint inclusions. Sole fill of [409].	0.49+	0.25+	0.05		
411	Cut	Sub-circular pit or butt end of a ditch.	1.94	0.56+	0.28		
412	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty sand fill with frequent small flint inclusions. Sole fill of [411].	1.94	0.56+	0.28		
413	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay. Topsoil.	13+	1.50+	0.29		
404	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) silty clay. Levelling layer.	13+	1.50+	0.31		
404	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay. Natural.	13+	1.50+	-		

FINDS ASSESSMENT**Concordance**

Context	Pottery		Tile		Brick		CBM		Mortar		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S Tr.2	1*	2	1	39							*medieval
U/S Tr.4	5*	24	22	1225	4	940	9	93			*mid 12 th -15 th C
202			5	412			3	44			
402	1*	12	20	1890							*?medieval
406	2*	6	5	185			4	4			*?medieval
408	1*	173	29	4485	13	4910	29	325	14	93	*late med
412	2*	12	8	223							*mid 12 th -15 th C
Total	12	229	90	8459	17	5850	45	466	14	93	

Context	Fe objects		Shell		Flint		Glass		Animal bone		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S Tr.2											
U/S Tr.4									87	166	
202					2	13					
402	1	48	1	7	1	9			44	100	
406									1	4	
408							1	2	7	724	
412											
Total	1	48	1	7	3	22	1	2	146	1239	

Pottery

2.21 Six sherds of pottery, weighing a total of 203g, were recovered from four stratified contexts during the evaluation. The assemblage ranged in date from the medieval period to the early Post-medieval period. Six further sherds weighing 26g were recovered from unstratified contexts, dating from the same period.

2.22 Only one sherd is truly diagnostic: a jug rim fragment with a mottled style glaze, from context [406]. No pottery from any other period was recovered from any context during the present project.

Recommendations

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

Ceramic Building Material, tile, brick and mortar

2.24 A total of 166 fragments of CBM, tile, brick and mortar weighing 14868g, were recovered from four stratified and two unstratified contexts during the evaluation. The

assemblage ranges in date from the medieval period to the early post-medieval period, broadly in line with the recovered pottery.

2.25 The majority of the assemblage was recovered from gully [401] and pit [407], and consisted of 91 pieces weighing 11610g.

2.26 Fourteen pieces of loose lime mortar were also recovered from pit [407].

Recommendations

2.27 Medieval and post-medieval brick and peg tile is a common find on urban sites of these dates. No further work is proposed on this material.

Fe Objects

2.28 A single ferrous object weighing 48g was recovered from gully [401]. Whilst heavily corroded it is probably a nail.

Recommendations

2.29 No further work is proposed on this material.

Flint

2.30 Three pieces of flint were recovered from stratified contexts. On close examination, none appear to have been affected by human agency, and they are not considered to be of archaeological significance.

Recommendations

2.31 No further work is proposed on this material.

Glass

2.32 A single undiagnostic sherd of glass weighing 2g was recovered from pit [407]. It probably represents an element of post-medieval domestic refuse.

Recommendations

2.33 No further work is proposed on this material.

Oyster Shell

2.34 A single oyster shell, weighing 7g, was recovered from gully [401].

Recommendations

2.35 No further work is proposed on this item.

Animal Bone

2.36 A total of 146 fragments of animal bone, weighing 1239g, was recovered from one unstratified, and three stratified contexts during the evaluation. Pit [201] contained a single horse metatarsal and pit/ditch [408] contained a horse femur. Unstratified, assorted skull and horn core fragments were recovered from Trench 4, and also from gully [401].

2.37 All the remaining bone was too fragmented and abraded to be identified. The majority of the assemblage is fragmentary and undiagnostic in nature; species represented include cow, horse, and pig.

Recommendations

2.38 No further work is proposed on the animal bone.

3 Discussion

3.1 Four trenches were excavated in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. The evaluation revealed the presence of several medieval features in Trenches 2 and 4 (Figure 3).

3.2 Pit [201] yielded CBM and tile which was dated to the medieval period (Plate 5). Few artefacts were recovered from this feature, relative to its overall size. Its precise function is unclear.

3.3 Beam slot/gully [401] yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery, a quantity of CBM, tile and animal bone (Plate 6). This assemblage probably represents a combination of domestic refuse and demolition debris. This feature may represent a beam slot or a boundary, possibly associated with St Catherine and St Paul's church which lies to the south of the site.

3.4 Pit [407] contained a substantial quantity of CBM, tile and brick, dated to the late medieval period (Plate 7). It is likely that this assemblage represents demolition debris. The pit appears to have been used for the deposition of refuse, but it is unclear whether this was its primary function.

3.5 Context [409] contained no datable archaeological artefacts (Plate 9). Its shape and size suggest it may represent the base of a post hole or the butt end of an east-west gully.

3.6 Context [411] yielded 2 sherds of mid 12th – 15th century pottery and 8 fragments of tile (Plate 8). The feature may represent a pit or possibly the butt end of an east-west ditch.

3.7 Two layers of levelling material were noted in Trench 1, measuring up to 1.15m in depth. Only the upper of the two layers are present in the remaining trenches, decreasing in depth from west to east. In Trench 4 it is 0.31m deep. This material may have been deposited on the site to level up the garden when the former vicarage was built. A retaining wall marks the western boundary between the site and Hanover Court.

Conclusion

3.8 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated the presence of medieval features and possible structures concentrated on the south of the site, towards Amwell Street. The quantity of CBM, tile and brick recovered during the evaluation, suggests the presence, and subsequent demolition, of structures in the immediate vicinity during the medieval period. This is supported by the cartographic evidence which shows two dwellings on the site in 1593 which appear to have been replaced by the time the Tithe map was published in 1842 (Figures 6 & 7).

3.9 No archaeological cut features, deposits or layers from any other period were encountered during the present project.

3.10 On the basis of these findings, there is considered to be a High risk that the proposed development will encounter features and deposits of medieval date. The risk that significant occupation features from any other period will be disturbed may be considered to be Low.

Confidence Rating

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

3.12 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4 Bibliography

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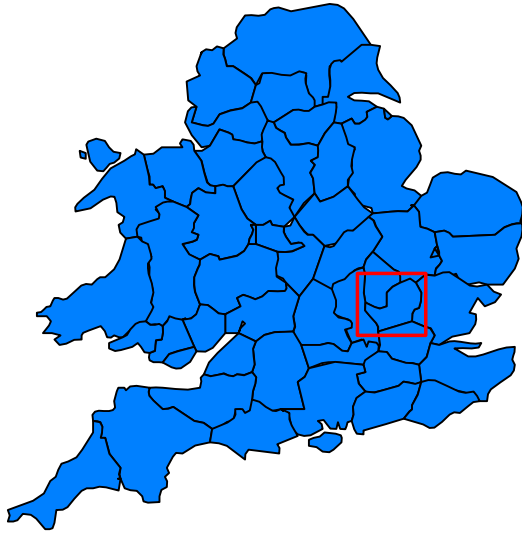
5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench location
Figure 3	Features location
Figure 4	Trench plans and sections
Figure 5	Feature sections
Figure 6	Map of Hoddesdon, 1593 (traced 1903)
Figure 7	Tithe map, 1842
Plate 1	Trench 1, facing west
Plate 2	Trench 2, facing north
Plate 3	Trench 3, facing west
Plate 4	Trench 4, facing south
Plate 5	Pit [201], facing south
Plate 6	Pit [401], facing south
Plate 7	Pit [407], facing north
Plate 8	Pit [411], facing east
Plate 9	Post hole [409], facing north

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HN685

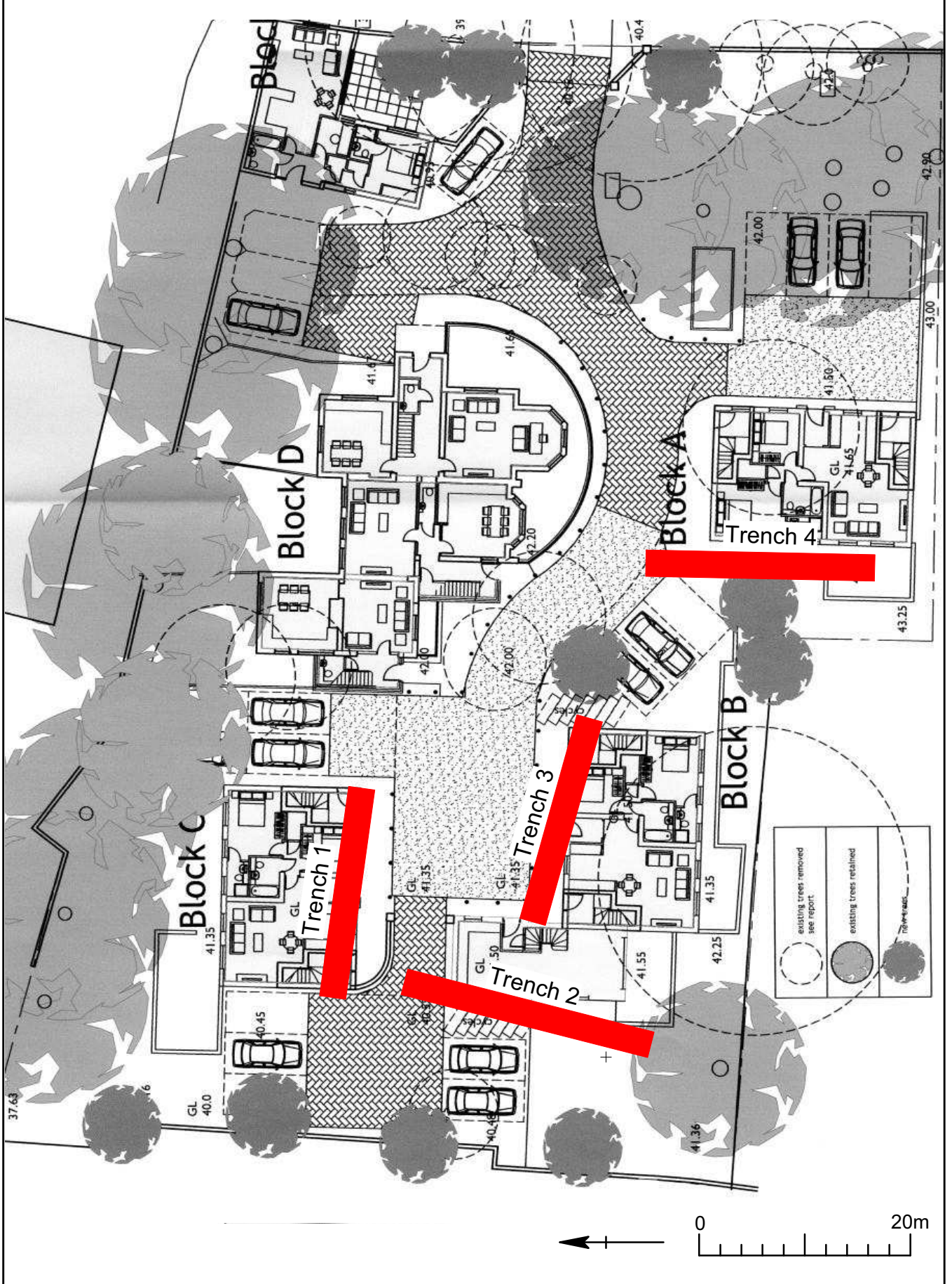


Site Location

Scale 1:10000

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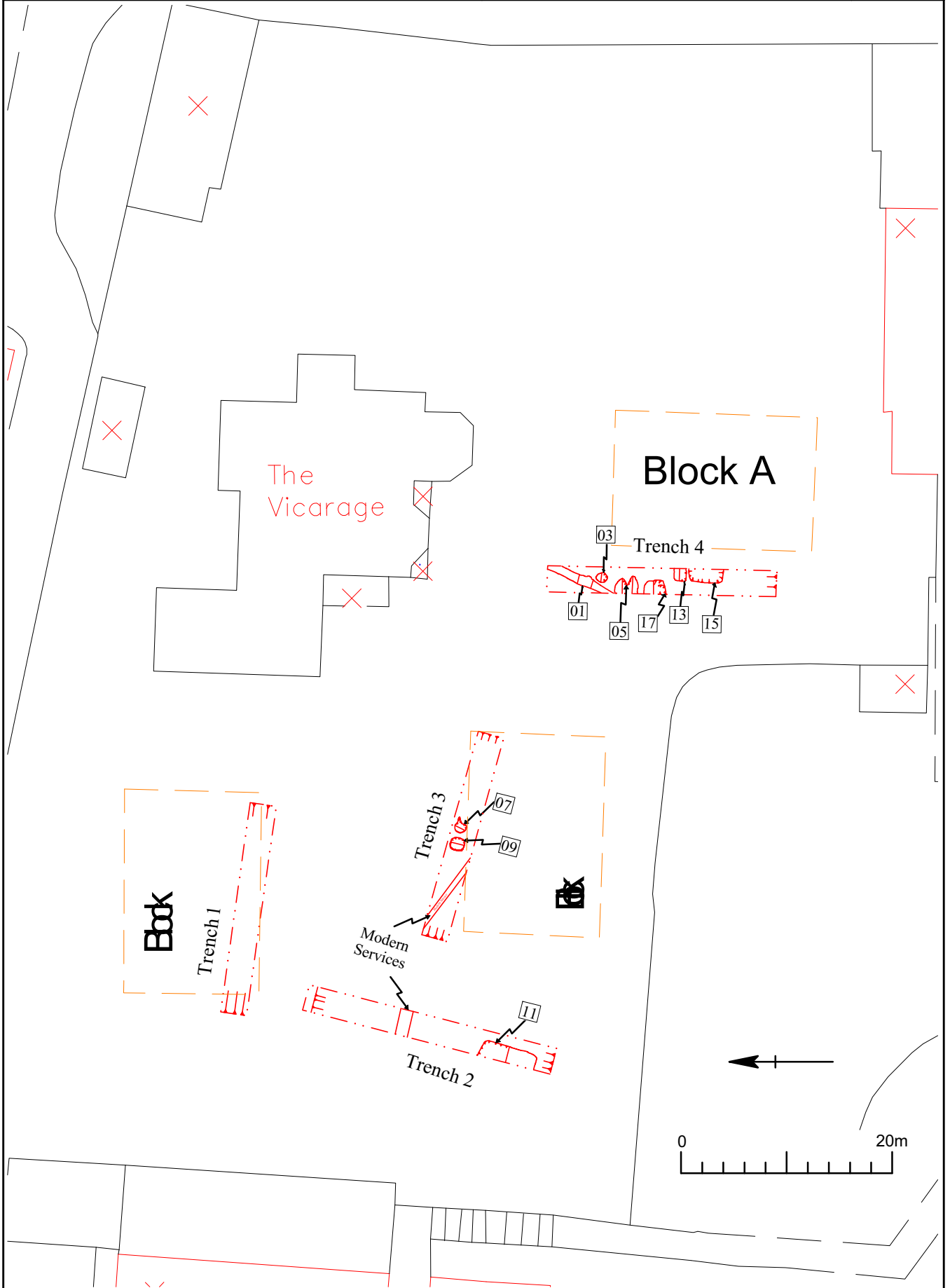
Figure 1



Trench Location

Scale 1:400

Figure 2



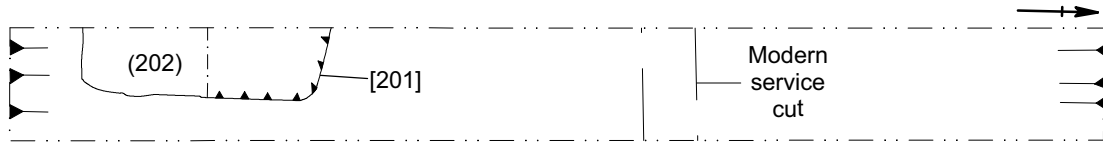
Features location

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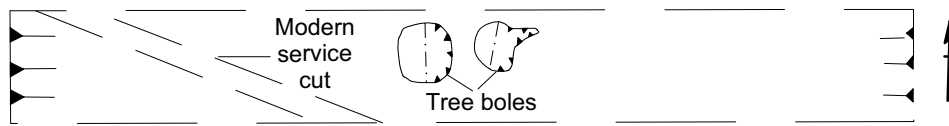
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Figure 3

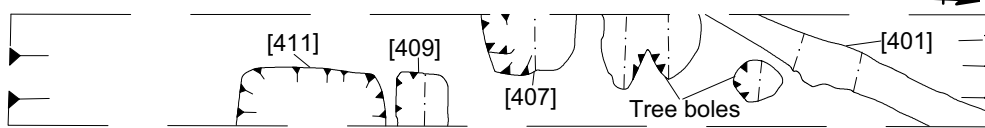
Plan of Trench 2



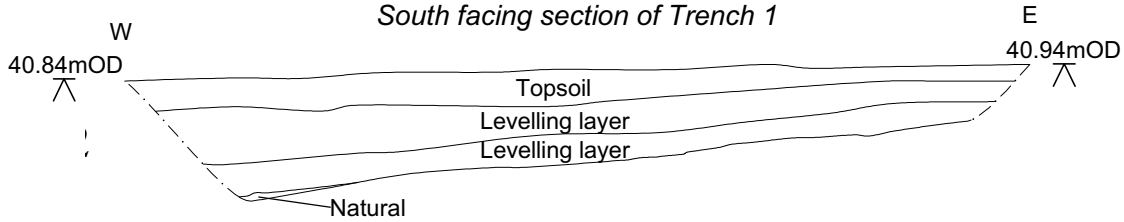
Plan of Trench 3



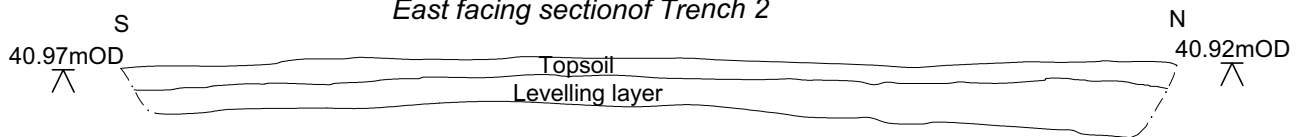
Plan of Trench 4



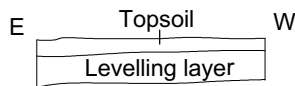
South facing section of Trench 1



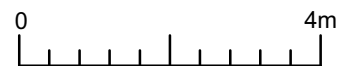
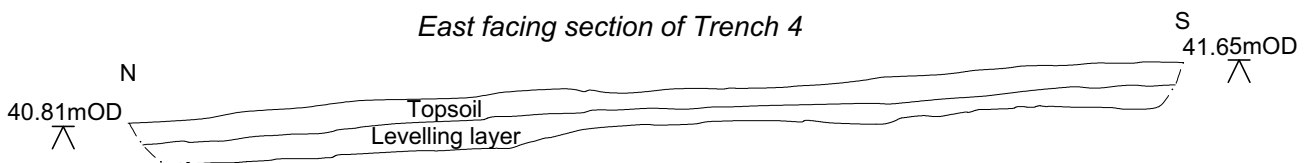
East facing section of Trench 2

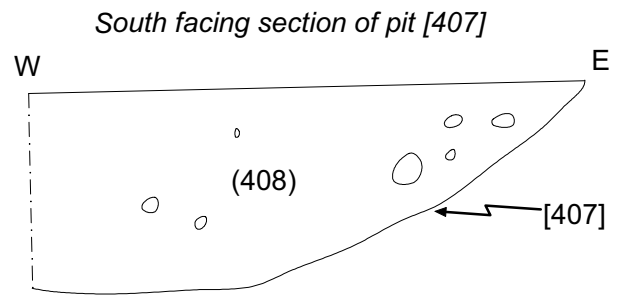
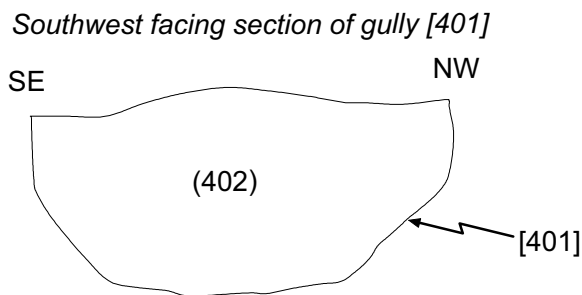
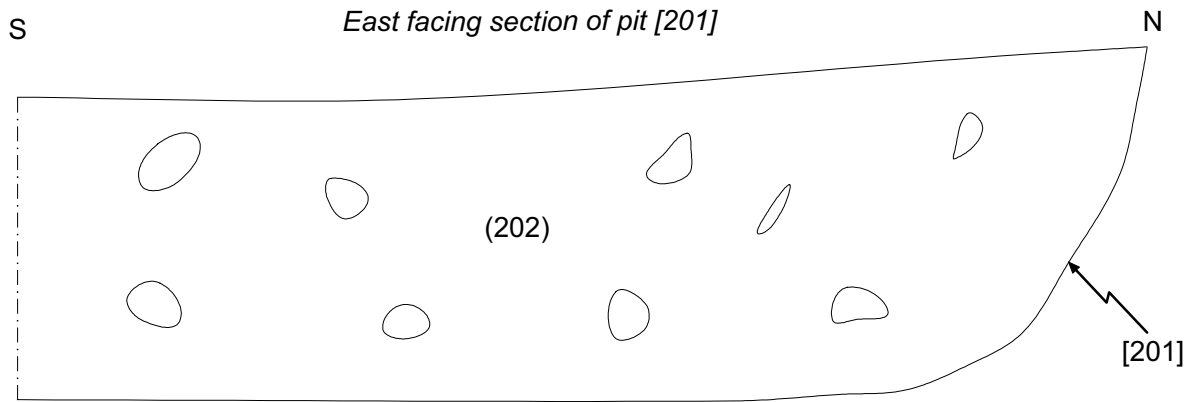


North facing sample section of Trench 3

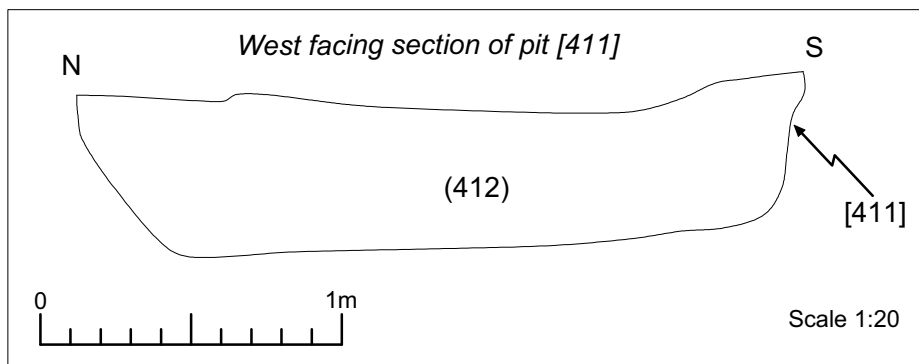
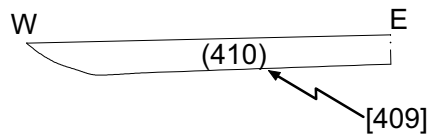


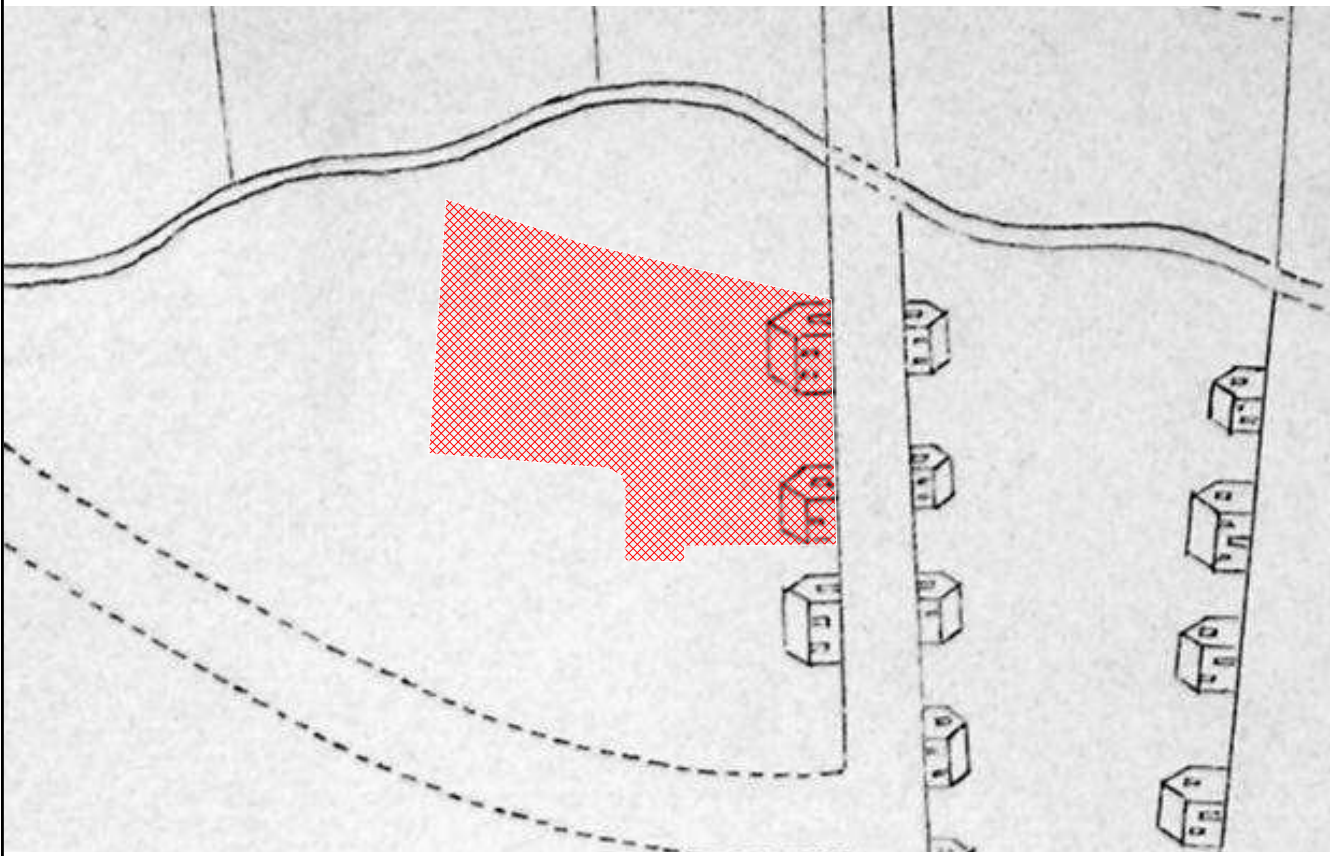
East facing section of Trench 4





South facing section of post hole [409]

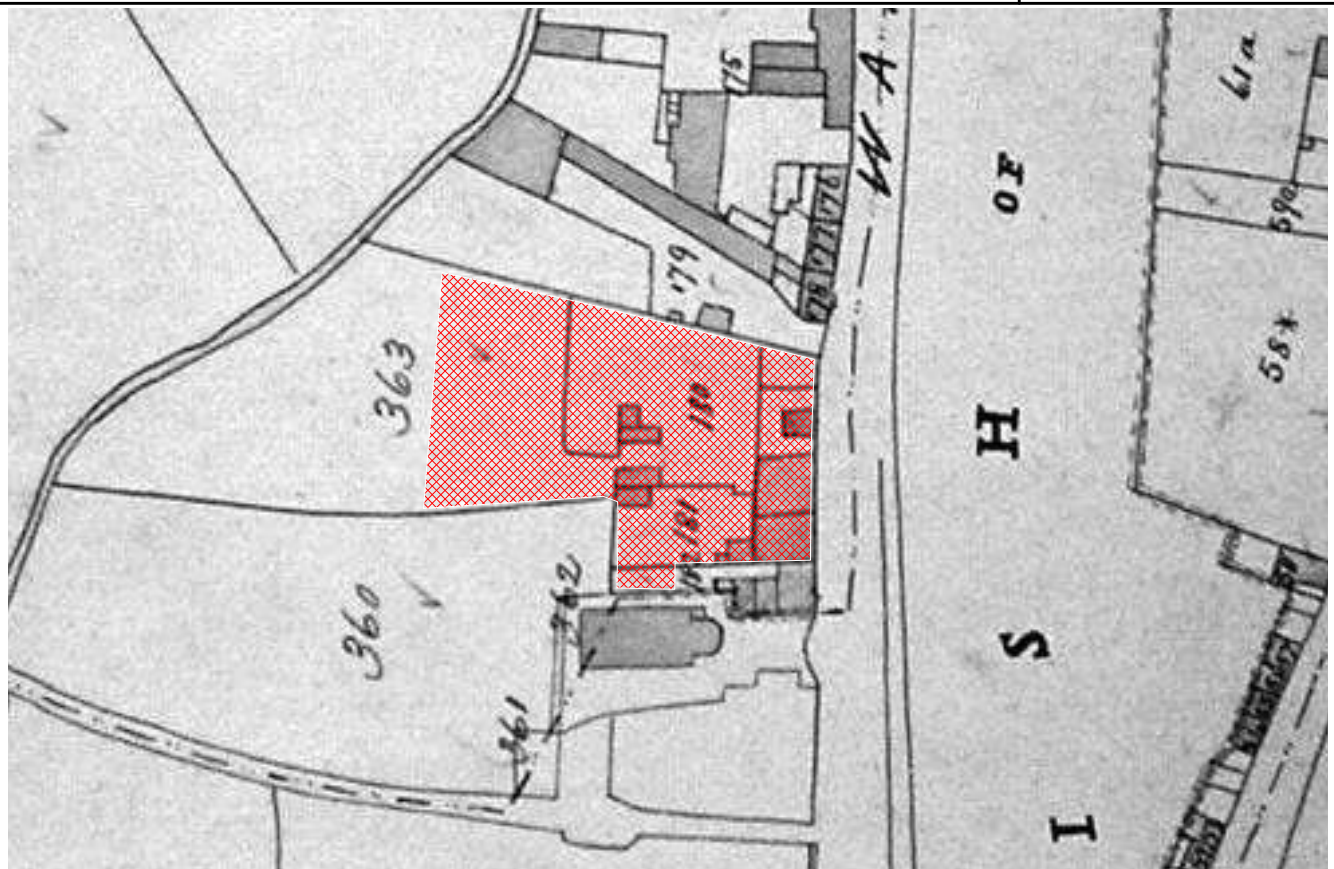




Map of Hoddesdon, 1593 (traced 1903)
(HALS ref. UDC 11 59/1)

Scale 1:1250

Figure 6



Tithe map, 1842
(HALS ref. DSA 4/54/2)

Scale 1:2000

Figure 7



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing west



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing north



Plate 3: Trench 3, facing west



Plate 4: Trench 4, facing south



Plate 5: Pit [201], facing south



Plate 6: Pit [401], facing south



Plate 7: Pit [407], facing north



Plate 8: Pit [411], facing east

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11 Amwell Street, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire

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Plate 9. Post hole [409], facing north