HERITAGE NETWORK

Specialists in Archaeology and the Historic Environment Since 1992

17 WALNUT TREE ROAD
Pirton, Hertfordshire

HN1451

Archaeological Evaluation

[Revision A]

This page has been left blank to optimize duplex printing

HERITAGE NETWORK
Registered with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

Land at
17 WALNUT TREE ROAD
Pirton, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1451
Planning ref.: 18/01635/FP
HER consultation: 90/18
N Herts Museums ref.: PIR/17WTR'18

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Alison Smither & Celia Farley

by

Mark Sycamore, BA ACIfA

Report no. 1150
[Revision A – 16/01/2019: paras 2.46, 2.48, 3.9, 3.10 redrafted]

November 2018

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

This page has been left blank to optimize duplex printing

Contents

The front cover shows the site, looking north-west

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mark Sycamore, Dan Phillips, Jenny Heinzelmann, Alison Hudson and Ivor Davies. Finds were processed by Jenny Heinzelmann and Alison Hudson, and assessed by Helen Ashworth. Bulk soil samples were processed by KDK Archaeology and assessed by Lisa Gray. The report was written by Mark Sycamore, with illustrations prepared by Dan Phillips. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Alison Smither and Celia Farley, Colin Eades, EHW Architects, and Simon Woods, Historic Environment Team, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, SG5 3PX		
County:	Hertfordshire	**District:**	North Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Pirton	**Parish:**	Pirton
Planning reference:	Pre-application	**NGR:**	TL 14950 31570
Client name and address:	Alison Smither, 37 Bunyan Close, Pirton, Hertfordshire, SG5 3RE		
Nature of work:	Residential	**Current land use:**	Cultivated land – Minimal cultivation
Site Status:	None	**Reason for investigation:**	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Pre-determination	**Project brief originator:**	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	4660m²	**Size of area investigated:**	c.195m²
Site code:	HN1451	**Museum entry no.:**	PIR/17WTR'18
Organisation:	Heritage Network	**Site Director:**	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation	**Archive recipient:**	North Herts Museum
Start of work:	22/10/2018	**Finish of work:**	31/10/2018
Related HER nos:	N/A	**Periods represented:**	Prehistoric, early medieval, post-medieval
OASIS UID:	heritage1-328918	**Significant finds:**	Pottery, animal bone, fe objects.
Monument types:	Ditch, Pit		
Physical archive:	North Hertfordshire Museum		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to advise the local planning authority regarding the archaeological potential of a proposed development site on land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching.

The present stage of work has involved the excavation of ten trenches of varying dimensions. The trenches exposed a stratigraphy consisting of a topsoil and subsoil over the natural slightly silty clay substrate.

The fieldwork revealed four pits and two ditches, which are considered to be of archaeological significance. All the features were dated by pottery finds to the 9-12th centuries AD, except for one of the ditches, which had no finds but was close to a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery that may be associated.

On the basis of the results of the investigation, the risk that the proposed development might encounter and have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance, may be considered to be *High* for early medieval and *Low* for all other periods.

The collected evidence suggests that such remains could be of regional and local interest, but would not be of a quality or rarity sufficient to warrant statutory protection, or the refusal of planning consent on archaeological grounds.

1 Introduction

1.1 This archaeological evaluation report has been prepared at the request of EHW Architects, acting on behalf of Alison Smither and Celia Farley, to support a planning application for development on land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire (ref. 18/01635/FP).

1.2 In line with Paragraph 189 of the revised *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and in line with pre-application advice provided by the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), the present works are intended to advise the NHDC in advance of the determination of an application for planning consent for the proposed development.

1.3 The present site forms an irregular shaped plot on the east side of Walnut Tree Road, within *Area of Archaeological Importance 75* (AA75) and on the south-eastern edge of the Pirton Conservation Area. It is centred on NGR TL 14950 31570 and is bounded to the west by the rear gardens of nos. 11 - 17 Walnut Tree Road, to the north by the garden to no.4 Hambridge Way, to the east by allotment gardens and agricultural land, and to the south by the access track to Pirton Sports and Social Club (Figure 1). A public footpath runs across the site on a north-west to south-east alignment.

1.4 The proposed development entails the construction of 9 new dwellings, with associated access, services and landscaping.

1.5 The aim of the targeted trial trenching programme has been to establish the location, depth, extent, date, character and condition of any remains that might be threatened by development of the site, and to set them in their local and regional, archaeological and historical context, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient information about the archaeological potential of the site and the impacts of the proposed development, to allow it to decide what further measures may be required, if any, to mitigate those impacts, should the development be permitted to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of Walnut Tree Lane, to the south-east of the historic core of the village.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Wantage 2 Association (342d), described as: *Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over argillaceous chalk associated with similar soils affected by groundwater. Deeper well drained coarse loamy soils in places. Complex soil patterns locally* (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

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

2.5 The site was divided into Areas 1 and 2. A public footpath separated the two areas, with Area 1 located to the south of the footpath and Area 2 to the north. Evaluation trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were in Area 1 and trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 were in Area 2.

2.6 For the trenches within Area 1, the overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate, using a wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

2.7 For the trenches within Area 2, a similar approach was taken, except that the sub-soil was taken down in separate spits and a 40 litre sample from each spit was dry sieved on site through a 5mm mesh to retrieve artefactual evidence.

2.8 The remaining spoil from the machining was scanned for archaeological artefacts both visually and using a metal detector.

2.9 The area exposed by the machining was cleaned by hand, and potential archaeological features and deposits were investigated to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.10 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate standard pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:100.

RESULTS

2.11 Ten trial trenches of varying sizes were excavated across the site providing an overall sample of more than 4% of the 4660m² development site by area (Figure 1).

2.12 Due to local conditions, the trenches in Area 1 were moved and/or reduced in size, but relocated as close as possible to the locations set out in the approved Project Design (Turner 2018).

Trench 1

2.13 Trench 1 was located at the western end of the site, close to Walnut Tree Road and just to the south of TP 7/11 of the *Pirton Test-pitting Project* (PTP), and was oriented approximately east to west. It measured 5.5m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.68m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 1).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	5.5	**Width (m):**	2	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.68	**Orientation**	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.79	**Level at W End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.83
		Base	70.11			**Base**	70.15

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>5.5	>2	0.25
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>5.5	>2	0.35
101	Cut	Sub- circular pit, with very steep sides and a flattish base.	0.9	>0.46	0.3
102	Fill	Fill of 101. A mid grey soft silty clay.	0.9	>0.46	0.3
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>5.5	>2	>0.08

2.14 The stratigraphy in Trench 1 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Plate 2).

2.15 A single small pit was encountered in Trench 1. It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured >0.46m wide by 0.9m in length and was 0.3m deep. Sherds of pottery, dating to the 9th-12th century were recovered from this feature which was of unknown function (Figure 10, Plate 3).

Trench 2

2.16 Trench 2 was located along the southern edge of the Area 1 and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 10.25m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.65m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 4).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	10.25	**Width (m):**	2	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.65	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.00	**Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.17
		Base	69.35			**Base**	69.52

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>10.25	>2	0.45
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>10.25	>2	0.18
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>10.25	>2	>0.05

2.17 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9).

2.18 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in Trench 2.

Trench 3

2.19 Trench 3 was located at the eastern end of the Area 1, just to the east of TP 23/08 of the PTP, and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 4.5m long by 3.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 1.3m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 5).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	4.5	**Width (m):**	3.8	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.5	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	69.88	**Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	69.82
		Base	69.38			**Base**	69.33

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>4.5	>3.8	0.2
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>4.5	>3.8	0.26
301	Cut	Linear, runs approximately east to west	>3	1.06	0.27
302	Fill	Fill of 301, Mid grey, soft silty clay	>3	1.06	0.27
305	Layer	Dark grey, friable silty clay layer with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint	>4.5	>3.8	0.11
303	Cut	Probable natural feature, tree-bole or animal burrow.	>2.8	>1.25	>0.4
304	Fill	Fill of 303. Mid brown sandy clay.	>2.8	>1.25	>0.4
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>4.5	>3.8	>0.23

2.20 The stratigraphy in Trench 3 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. This in turn overlay a dark grey, friable silty clay layer (305) with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 6).

2.21 A single linear was encountered in Trench 3. It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured 1.06m wide by >3m in length and was 0.27m deep. Sherds of pottery, dating to the 9th-12th century were recovered from this feature. It has been interpreted as a possible boundary ditch (Figure 10, Plate 7).

2.22 A second feature was encountered within this trench (Figure 10, Plate 8). It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured >1.25m wide by 2.8m in length and was >0.4m deep. Sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from its fill, which was very dry and compact with an uneven base and feathered edges. It has been interpreted as a natural feature, possibly a tree-bole or animal burrow. The feature was cut by ditch [301] and sealed by layer (305), a probable natural deposit.

Trench 4

2.23 Trench 4 was located to the north-west of Trench 3, running almost parallel to the public footpath that bisects the site, and was oriented approximately north-west to south-east. It measured 9.7m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.6m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 9).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	9.7	**Width (m):**	2	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.6	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.24	**Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.03
		Base	69.64			**Base**	69.63

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>9.7	>2	0.24
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>9.7	>2	0.28
401	Cut	Cut of small pit.	>0.87	1.06	0.43
402	Fill	Upper fill of pit [401].	>0.87	1.06	0.12
403	Fill	Middle fill of pit [401].	>0.70	1.06	0.16
404	Fill	Lower fill of pit [401].	>0.87	1.04	0.28
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>9.7	>2	>0.08

2.24 The stratigraphy in Trench 4 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 10).

2.25 A single pit was encountered in Trench 4. It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured >0.87m wide by 1.06m in length and was 0.43m deep. It contained three fills, one of which had a high ash content, suggesting a nearby fire (Figure 10, Plate 11). Sherds of pottery, dating to the 9th-12th century, were recovered from this feature, which has been interpreted as a rubbish pit.

Trench 5

2.26 Trench 5 was located in Area 2, at right angles to the public footpath that bisects the site, and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 7.3m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.29m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 12).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	7.3	**Width (m):**	2	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.62	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.03	**Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.13
		Base	69.48			**Base**	69.51

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	7.3	>2	0.2
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	7.3	>2	0.32
501	Cut	Modern intrusion, pit possibly one of the previous test pits	>1.04	>0.45	>0.4
502	Fill	Dark grey, friable silty clay	>1.04	>0.45	>0.4
503	Cut	Linear ditch cut	>2	1.08	0.2
504	Fill	Fill of [503].	>2	1.08	0.2
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	7.3	>2	>0.1

2.27 The stratigraphy in Trench 5 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 13).

2.28 A single linear was encountered in Trench 5. It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured 1.08m wide by >2m in length and was 0.2m deep.

No finds were recovered from this feature, although prehistoric pottery was found less than 0.25m away and may be associated. It has been interpreted as a possible boundary ditch (Figure 10, Plate 14).

2.29 A modern intrusion was seen at the north-east end of the trench cutting the subsoil. It contained a 'Bic' biro pen and the plastic top from a water bottle. The feature was photographed and drawn on the trench plan but no further recording of was carried out. It is possible that this feature forms one of the earlier test pits.

2.30 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in Trench 5.

Trench 6

2.31 Trench 6 was located at the south-east corner of Area 2, just to the west of TP 1/08 of the PTP, and was oriented approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 9m long by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.8m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 15).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	9	**Width (m):**	2	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.8	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	69.94	**Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	69.93
		Base	69.14			**Base**	69.12

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>9	>2	0.28
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>9	>2	0.2
601	Layer	Dark grey, friable silty clay layer with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint	>9	>2	0.1
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>9	>2	>0.2

2.32 The stratigraphy in Trench 6 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer (601) consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. This in turn overlay a dark grey, friable silty clay layer with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 16).

2.33 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in Trench 6.

Trench 7

2.34 Trench 7 was located immediately to the east of Trench 5, focused on TP 17/08 of the PTP, and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured 6m long by 4m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.61m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 17).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	6	**Width (m):**	4	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.61	**Orientation**	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.03	**Level at S End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	69.75
		Base	69.42			**Base**	69.15

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.26
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.2
701	Cut	Cut of small sub-circular pit.	0.6	>0.2	0.45
702	Fill	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stone. Fill of 701.	0.6	>0.2	0.45
703	Layer	Dark grey, friable silty clay layer with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint	>6	>4	0.1
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>6	>4	>0.2

2.35 The stratigraphy in Trench 7 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. This in turn overlay a dark grey, friable silty clay layer (703) on the western edge of the trench, with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 18).

2.36 A single pit was encountered in Trench 7. It extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured >0.2m wide by 0.6m long and was 0.45m deep. Sherds of pottery, dating to the 9th-12th century were recovered from this feature. Its function is unknown (Figure 10, Plate 19).

Trench 8

2.37 Trench 8 was located to the north-west of Trench 5 and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured 6m long by 4m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.55m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 20).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	6	**Width (m):**	4	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.7	**Orientation**	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.41	**Level at S End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.37
		Base	69.71			**Base**	69.72

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.25
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.2
801	Cut	Sub-circular cut for pit.	0.8	0.5	0.14
802	Fill	Compact dark grey silty clay with occasional small-medium stones.	0.8	0.5	0.14
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>6	>4	>0.2

2.38 The stratigraphy in Trench 8 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 21).

2.39 Cutting the subsoil were two post-holes with 19th-20th brick used as packing. These are almost certainly related to the earlier use of the site as allotments.

2.40 A single pit was encountered in Trench 8. It measured 0.46m wide by 0.7m in length and was 0.14m deep. Sherds of pottery dating to the 9th-12th century, and a high number of animal bones, were recovered from this feature, which has been interpreted as a possible rubbish pit (Figure 10, Plate 22).

Trench 9

2.41 Trench 9 was located in the north-west corner of Area 2, focused on TP 3/09 of the PTP, and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured 6m long by 4m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.86m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 23).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	6	**Width (m):**	4	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.86	**Orientation**	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.49	**Level at S End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.46
		Base	69.83			**Base**	69.60

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.3
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.38
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>6	>4	>0.1

2.42 The stratigraphy in Trench 9 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 24).

2.43 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in Trench 6.

Trench 10

2.44 Trench 10 was located towards the north-east corner of the site, focused on TP 18/08 of the PTP, and was oriented approximately north to south. It measured 6m long by 4m wide and was excavated to a depth of up to 0.8m below the existing ground level (Figure 1, Plate 25).

Recorded Data

Length (m):	6	**Width (m):**	4	**Maximum Depth (m):**	0.8	**Orientation**	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		**Top**	70.03	**Level at S End of Trench (mOD)**		**Top**	70.02
		Base	69.43			**Base**	69.22

Context	**Type**	**Description**	**Dimensions (m)**		
			Length	**Width**	**Depth**
Topsoil	Layer	Dark brown, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.25
Subsoil	Layer	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>6	>4	0.38
1001	Cut	Cut of linear ditch, runs north-east to south-west.	>6.5	0.73	0.22
1002	Fill	Fill of ditch [1001]. Mid brown silty clay, moderate small to medium sub angular stone.	>6.5	0.73	0.22
1004	Cut	Cut of linear ditch, runs north-east to south-west.	>6.5	0.73	0.2
1005	Fill	Fill of ditch [1004]. Mid brown silty clay, moderate small to medium sub angular stone.	>6.5	0.73	0.2
1006	Cut	Cut of natural feature.	>2	1	0.4
1007	Fill	Fill of natural feature [1006]	>2	1	0.4
1003	Layer	Dark grey, friable silty clay layer with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint	>4.5	1.5	0.05
Natural	Layer	Light yellow brown, friable slightly silty clay.	>6	>4	>0.1

2.45 The stratigraphy in Trench 10 comprised a topsoil of dark brown, friable silty clay, overlying a subsoil layer consisting of mid grey friable silty clay. This in turn overlay a dark grey, friable silty clay layer (1003) with very frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Beneath this was the natural substrate of light yellow brown slightly silty clay (Figure 9, Plate 26).

2.46 Layer (1003) has been equated to the possible cobbled layer recorded in TP 23/09 of the PTP. It was irregular and discontinuous, lying at the natural horizon. Its formation process is unclear and it may be natural in origin.

2.47 A linear feature [1001/1004] crossed the trench from south-west to north-east. It measured 0.73m wide by >6.5m in length and was 0.22m deep, but extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It cut layer (1003) and has been interpreted as a possible boundary ditch. No finds were recovered (Figure 10, Plate 27).

2.48 A second feature was observed, [1006], which may have cut linear [1004], although the similarity between their fills and the lack of definition at their intersection makes this uncertain. The feature extended beyond the limits of the trench so its full extent is unknown. It measured 1m wide by >2m in length and was 0.4m deep, and has been interpreted as a natural feature, possibly a tree throw (Figure 10, Plate 28).

Spot-dates for material retrieved from sieving in Area 2

2.49 The subsoil in each of the Area 2 trenches was divided into an upper and a lower spit, each being sieved in tranches, the number being dependant on the size of the trench. Each tranche was allocated a context number and a 40l sample from each was dry sieved through a 5mm mesh and the finds processed and spot-dated. The date range for each tranche is shown in the table, below. The finds are discussed in more detail in the following Finds Assessment.

Trench 5						
Tranche	**Context**	**Dateable finds**		**Context**	**Dateable finds**	
Upper	505	Post-medieval		506	10th-12th century	
Lower	507	10th-12th century		508	Undated	
Trench 6						
Upper	602	12th-14th century		603	12th-14th century	
					Modern	
Lower	604	12th-14th century		605	Undated	
Trench 7						
Tranche	**Cntxt**	**Dateable finds**	**Cntxt**	**Dateable finds**	**Cntxt**	**Dateable finds**
Upper	704	Late post-medieval	705	Late post-medieval	706	Late post-medieval
				Modern		Modern
Lower	707	2nd-4th century	708	Post-medieval	709	Modern
Trench 8						
Upper	803	Romano-British	804	Romano-British	805	Romano-British
		Modern				
Lower	806	Romano-British	807	Romano-British	808	Romano-British
				Modern		
Trench 9						
Upper	901	Late post-medieval	902	12th-14th century	903	12th-14th century
		Modern				
Lower	904	10th-12th century	905	9th-12th century	906	11th-14th century
				Late post-medieval		
Trench 10						
Upper	1008	Romano-British	1009	12th-14th century	1010	11th-14th century
		Post-medieval				Late post-medieval
Lower	1011	Post-medieval	1012	11th-14th century	1013	Undated
		Modern		Late post-medieval		

FINDS ASSESSMENT

See Appendix 2 for Finds Concordance

Pottery

2.50 A total of 156 sherds, weighing 889g, was recovered from 10 stratified and 44 unstratified contexts. The bulk of the assemblage comprised undiagnostic bodysherds, with very few appearing to be in their place of primary deposition.

2.51 The earliest material recovered may be represented by a group of nine plain bodysherds, located close to linear feature (504) in Trench 5. These are in a black micaceous fabric, tempered with moderate quartz grains and grog and are all from the same vessel. The dating of this pottery is problematic and could equally be late prehistoric or early Saxon, as could a further scrap of pottery recovered from (304), the fill of a probable natural feature.

2.52 A number of sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the overburden in Trenches 7, 8 and 10, in the northern half of the site. These consisted of plain bodysherds, dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. Trench 10, which produced a scrap of samian ware and a sherd from the Verulamium kilns, was focused on TP 18/08. Fragments of Roman tile were also recovered from Trench 10, indicative of a possible structure in the vicinity.

2.53 The bulk of the pottery assemblage dated to the early medieval period, with sherds of 9th – 12th century date recovered from most of the trenches on the site, with the exception of Trenches 2 and 8. Sherds of St Neots-type ware were recovered from three features on the site, comprising pit [101] in Trench 1, ditch [301] in Trench 3 and pit [401] in Trench 4. Other contemporary fabrics recovered include a single sherd of Thetford ware from Trench 7 and several sherds of early medieval sandy ware. These were found in both the upper and lower spits within the trenches.

2.54 Occupation in the vicinity of the site continued into the later medieval period, with sherds of Hertfordshire Grey Ware, dated to the 12th – 14th centuries AD. No early post-medieval pottery was present, suggesting a possible hiatus in activity on the site until the later 18th or 19th century. Victorian and modern pottery sherds, and fragments of ceramic building material, were, however, recovered from across the site.

Discussion

2.55 The pottery assemblage indicates activity in the northern half of the site in the Roman period. This supports evidence collected during the earlier test-pitting survey. Occupation in the vicinity may have continued into the early Saxon period, as part of a single vessel which may date to this period was found in Trench 5, in the centre of the site.

2.56 The bulk of the pottery recovered during the present project dates to the medieval period, with sherds dating to between the 9th – 12th centuries and to between the 12th – 14th centuries recovered from all trenches across the site. Activity appears to have stopped in the late medieval period, to resume in the later post-medieval period when the site formed part of Bannisters Close.

Recommendations

2.57 Given the abraded and undiagnostic nature of the pottery recovered from the present site no further work on this material is proposed.

Animal Bone

2.58 A small amount of animal bone was collected from stratified contexts.

2.59 Pit fill (102) contained two small undiagnostic fragments: one piece of long bone and one piece of flat bone. Ditch fill (302) contained six small fragments, four of which were undiagnostic. The remaining fragments consisted of the rear part of a right side lower mandible, possibly pig, with two teeth, one of which had not yet erupted, suggesting a young animal; and a bone awl (see below).

2.60 Pit fill (402) contained seven small fragments of bone, all of which had been burnt. The assemblage included a single long bone, while the rest were undiagnostic. Pit fill (403) contained eight small fragments of bone, which had also been burnt. The assemblage was made up of long bone fragments, one of which shows possible butchery marks.

2.61 Pit fill (702) contained two small fragments of rib. Pit fill (802) contained four small fragments of bone, three of which were undiagnostic. The assemblage included a horse tooth from the upper mandible.

Worked Bone

2.62 A single piece of worked bone was recovered from Ditch fill (302). This measures 72mm in length, 4mm in depth, and with a maximum width of 9mm at the top, narrowing to 1mm. It has a slight curve, suggesting that it may have been manufactured from a rib, possibly cattle or horse, and is broken at the top. The object may represent part of an awl, possibly used in leather-working. The bone surfaces appear to be polished with use. The item was found together with sherds of St Neots-type pottery of 9th – 12th century date and is likely to be contemporary.

Animal Bone from within the trench spits

2.63 The sieving of samples of subsoil from the Area 2 trenches produced further fragments of animal bone:

- Trench 1 contained three small fragments of bone, and a small horse tooth.
- Trench 2 contained nine small fragments of bone, including a long bone fragment with clear butchery marks.
- Trench 6 contained six small undiagnostic fragments of bone, some with butchery marks, including a possible deer tooth.
- Trench 8 contained twenty three small fragments of bone. The assemblage included 6 teeth from various animals including horse, cow and rodent. The distal end of a dog fibula was also present.
- Trench 9 contained nine small fragments of bone, some with slight butchery marks. The assemblage included a single rodent tooth and a pig phalange.
- Trench 10 contained twelve small fragments of bone. The assemblage included two teeth, one sheep/goat and one cow. It also included two different sized pig tusks.

Recommendations

2.64 The assemblage represents a mixture of animals, but all the bones are in a fragmentary state. Some of the bones show possible butchery marks, suggesting domestic activity in the vicinity of the site. One piece of worked bone in the form of a possible awl was recovered.

2.65 Given the fragmentary nature of the bones, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Iron objects

2.66 Thirteen iron objects were recovered, mostly from the sieving of trenches within Area 2, but some from a visual scan of the spoil. None were recovered through metal detecting.

2.67 The finds consisted of 1 horse-shoe, 1 fragment of a belt buckle, 1 metal hook and 10 nails, all of modern or late post-medieval date.

Recommendations

2.68 As all of these items are of late date and none is of intrinsic significance, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Tile

2.69 Twenty-six abraded fragments, weighing a total of 885g were recovered, all from the sieving of trenches within Area 2. One fragment of tile from Trench 8 and one from Trench 10 may be of Romano-British date, but the remainder was either post-medieval or undateable.

Recommendations

2.70 Due to the abraded and undiagnostic nature of the finds, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

2.71 Thirty-two fragments of CBM, weighing a total of 1268g, were recovered from the sieving of trenches within Area 2, consisting of twenty-three abraded and undiagnostic fragments, two pieces of cement, half a modern frogged brick and a fragment of modern ceramic drain.

Recommendations

2.72 Due to the abraded and undiagnostic nature of the finds, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Flint

2.73 Thirty-one pieces of flint were recovered, mostly from the sieving of trenches within Area 2, but also from three stratified deposits, (402), (504) and (802).

2.74 None of these appear to have been worked except for one piece of debitage recovered from ditch [503] (Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, pers.com.).

Recommendations

2.75 No further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Worked Stone

2.76 A single fragment of worked stone was recovered from the sieving of trenches within Area 2. This was a broken toroid chalk object from Trench 6, which could form part of a spindle-whorl.

Recommendations

2.77 No further work is proposed on this item.

Miscellaneous

2.78 Eight further miscellaneous items were recovered from the sieving of trenches within Area 2. These consisted of one fragment of post-medieval glass, one fragment of charcoal, five fragments of shell and a fragment of fossilized shell, possibly derived from the local chalk.

Recommendations

2.79 None of these items is thought to be significant and no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Bulk samples

2.80 Seven bulk soil samples were taken from dateable contexts in five separate features:

Sample no.	Context	Trench	Volume (l.)	Context type	Dating
1	102	1	40	Pit fill	Early medieval
2	702	7	10	Pit fill	Early medieval
3	402	4	30	Pit fill	Early medieval
4	403	4	10	Pit fill	Early medieval
5	404	4	40	Pit fill	Early medieval
6	802	8	20	Pit fill	Early medieval
7	302	3	40	Ditch fill	Early medieval

2.81 The samples have been washed in a flotation tank using a flotation sieve with a 300 micron mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1.0mm mesh for the residue. The residues have been sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out:

		Pottery		CBM		Burnt clay		An. bone		Flint		Fe		Flot	Residue
Sample no.	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Wt (g)	Wt (kg)
1	102	7	11					42	10					8	2
2	702	12	9			1	>1	36	4	1	>1			4	0.65
3	402	7	11					50	29					22	3.3
4	403	7	3					35	7					12	0.25
5	404	1	1					22	12					10	6.6
6	802	6	6	1	8			29	2					6	1.65
7	302	10	9					39	14			1	1	33	3.8
Totals		50	50	1	8	1	>1	253	78	1	>1	1	1	95	18.25

2.82 The flots were submitted to archaeobotanist Lisa Gray, MSc MA ACIfA, for assessment. The results are summarised below:

- Identifiable charcoal fragments were found in pit sample 2, pit sample 3, pit sample 5, pit sample 6 and ditch sample 7. Charred cereal grains were found in all samples. Most of these grains were those with the morphology of bread/club/rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) with lower numbers of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains. Charred seeds of legumes were found in pit samples 2, 3, 5 and 7. Low numbers of broad bean (*Vicia faba* L.) seeds were found in pit sample 4. Charred seeds of grasses (Poaceae) were found in low numbers in pit sample 3. A charred dock (*Rumex* sp.) seed was found in pit sample 6. No cereal chaff was found.
- Terrestrial mollusca were present in each sample. Shells of the subterranean snail *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) were found in pit samples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Low

numbers of freshwater snails were found in ditch sample 7. Earthworm cocoons were found in pit samples 2, 3, 4 and 6. A fragment of uncharred bone as found in pit sample 2. Bone was found in the residues of each sample.

- The flots produced no significant inorganic remains. No hammerscale was present.

Discussion

2.83 The density of charred plant remains in these samples is low but they are well-preserved so do not seem to have been abraded by being moved around the site in backfill. They could provide evidence of activities taking place in the locality. It is possible that some form of cereal processing was taking place, maybe grain drying or storage. The lack of chaff suggests that the sort of activity here is the preparation of grains for consumption. The charred plant remains and the legumes have the potential to provide information about diet.

Recommendations

2.84 The charred plant remains have the potential to reveal general information about diet, crop husbandry and feature function. In addition, the charred plant remains and the charcoal have the potential to be radiocarbon dated, if suitable taxa are identified.

2.85 If the investigation proceeds to a further stage, this material should be considered together with material recovered from any further whole earth bulk samples that are taken.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, the overview set out below has been drawn from the *Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record* (HER), the Heritage Network's own records and other sources. The study area covers a 500m radius around the site.

3.2 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, a *desk-based archaeological assessment* (DBA) of the site was prepared by the Heritage Network (Ashworth, 2018) and submitted to NHDC. The overview set out below has been drawn from the DBA and extends to a 750m radius around the centre of the site.

- The site is likely to have been occupied during the Roman, late Saxon and early medieval periods, but the settlement shrank significantly, or was abandoned, in the 13th century. By the early post-medieval period, the site had become part of a larger field.
- Significant evidence for prehistoric activity has been recovered during recent archaeological investigations to the east and west of the modern core of Pirton. Archaeological fieldwork at Holwell Road, to the east of the village and approximately 400m to the north of the present site, has revealed evidence for late Bronze Age to early Iron Age settlement.
- An extensive settlement (HER 6978), which started in the late Iron Age and continued into the sub-Roman period, was identified during archaeological investigations ahead of the construction of the Humberside to Buncefield pipeline towards the northern end of Dane Field, approximately 1km to the west north west (Went & Burleigh 1990a & b).
- There is also evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the present site, including part of a Roman building (HER1478) which was uncovered in Bury Field in 1955, approximately 250m to the north-west. This is likely to represent the remains of one of a series of small farmsteads surrounding the main settlement (Burleigh 2016, 2). Sherds of redeposited Roman pottery (HER 1477) were also found in the Norman earthwork bank at Toot Hill, approximately 300m to the north-west. A coin of Probus (AD 276-282) was found in 1959 (HER 1474), possibly at Walnut Tree Farm, approximately 200m to the south-west.
- Significant evidence for an early – middle Saxon settlement has been recorded at Pirton. The core of the settlement appears to have been located in the vicinity of Dane Field, to the west, where a large number of early Saxon burials were encountered during quarrying in the 18th and 19th centuries. Recent archaeological investigations at Priors Hill, approximately 700m to the west, uncovered a high status enclosed settlement, apparently in use between the 6th and 10th centuries AD (Bull 2015).
- Archaeological evaluation to the rear of The Fox Public House (HER 9676), in the centre of the village to the north of St Mary's Church, encountered features and finds dating to the Saxon and medieval periods (Fenton 1993). A subsequent open area excavation exposed the remains of a series of middle Saxon timber buildings (Turner 2003). An enclosed cemetery (HER 9677), containing 40 inhumation burials, was located to the south of one of the east – west aligned buildings, which has been interpreted as a possible earlier church.

- Later Saxon settlement appears to have extended eastwards and northwards. Archaeological fieldwork at Little Lane (HER 11409) and Elm Tree Farm (HER 12824) to the east of The Fox, identified features of 9th – 10th century date. Trial trenching to the south of Shillington Road, to the north of The Fox, recorded evidence for occupation dating from the early – middle Saxon period to the early medieval period (Summerfield-Hill 2016).
- By the time of the Norman Conquest, Pirton was a thriving manorial estate. Pirton is recorded as Peritone, meaning 'pear tree farm', in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Burleigh 2016, 29).
- The manor of Pirton for was held by the de Limesy family for four generations. During this time they may have erected the motte and bailey castle, now known as Toot Hill (HER 32), on The Bury in the centre of the village, approximately 300m to the west, as protection during the civil wars between Stephen and Matilda in the mid-12th century. Toot Hill motte and bailey castle, less than 100m from the present site, and earthworks relating to a shrunken medieval village, form a scheduled monument (SM 1012325).
- Recent archaeological test pitting across the area of the present village (HER 16620) appears to indicate continuity of occupation from the Roman period into the post-Roman period on the eastern side of the village.
- Following this the settlement appears to have been abandoned until the later Saxon period, when settlement became widespread, focussed around several farms, with the land between them appearing to be unoccupied, suggesting polyfocal settlement. The centre of settlement gradually became focussed around the church and the castle between the 12th and 14th centuries. The village contracted after the 14th century, presumably as the result of plagues and poor harvests, and may have been reduced to no more than 5 tiny hamlets. Recovery was slow, not occurring until the 17th or even 18th centuries.
- From the late medieval period and into the early post-medieval period, settlement at Pirton appears to have been scattered, consisting of farms and groups of cottages separated by fields, paddocks and orchards, and linked by small lanes and tracks. The population only gradually recovered during the 17th and 18th centuries, before expanding rapidly in the 19th century (Burleigh 2016, 32). Terraces of houses were built around the village, including along High Street and Walnut Tree Road, to provide accommodation for the growing population.
- Some of the archaeological test pits across the village were excavated within the present site, and in its immediate vicinity. They were carried out as part of the research into the history and development of currently occupied rural settlements, by Cambridge University through Access Cambridge Archaeology and the Higher Education Field Academy (Collins & Burleigh forthcoming).
- The accumulated evidence from this test pitting programme indicates the possibility of low level prehistoric activity in the area. Finds of Roman pottery, and the uncovering of a possible road or yard surface, suggest occupation of this period on or adjacent to the present site possibly a small farmstead close to the main settlement (Burleigh 2016, 30).
- A single sherd of handmade early Saxon pottery was also recovered, just to the north of the present site. Its presence may suggest that occupation continued for a short time beyond the Roman period on this side of the village.

- Most of the pottery recovered from the test pits within and close to the present site dates to the period between the 10th and 14th centuries and indicates settlement activity on the site. The low numbers of later medieval pottery sherds recovered from the test pits suggests that occupation on the site shrank considerably during the 14th century, probably as a result of the series of poor harvests, harsh winters and the Black Death, which drastically reduced the population of Pirton.
- A number of surviving medieval buildings are located within the 500m study area, including the St Mary's Church (HER 4315), the farmhouse at Walnut Tree farm (HER 15907) and number 2 Bury End (HER 15903).

Research Design

3.3 On the basis of the known archaeological activity on the site and in the vicinity, the DBA demonstrated that the potential for encountering features or finds of prehistoric date during development should be considered to be *Low*, the risk increases to *High* for the Roman, Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

3.4 Following on from this, the aims of the present investigation have been:

- to establish the location, depth, extent, date, character and condition of any heritage assets that could be threatened by the development;
- to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such assets, and their significance and quality, in relation to statutory guidance and current published regional research;
- to provide sufficient information, regarding the impacts of the proposed development on identified and potential heritage assets, to advise the local planning authority and to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such assets by the development could be implemented, should planning consent be granted.

3.5 It was considered that this investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Pirton from the prehistoric onwards, in particular:

- the nature and extent of rural settlement in the Roman and early medieval periods;
- the transition between the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods; and,
- the extent and layout of the settlement, and its decline during the medieval period.

Assessment of Collected Data

3.6 The present investigation revealed six potential archaeological features within the ten excavated trial trenches. These include four pits and two ditches, all of which have been dated by pottery finds to the 9th to 12th century AD, except for one of the ditches which had no finds but was close to a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery that may be associated. Also encountered was a feature likely to be natural in origin, but which did produce some small sherds of pottery that could date to either the prehistoric or early Saxon periods. The low number of finds collected overall, suggests that this site lies on the periphery of the settlement at Pirton, rather than at its core.

3.7 The investigation has also provided the opportunity to test observations made in the course of the Pirton Test-pitting Project, which included eight test-pits within the site boundary and a further two around the immediate perimeter of the site. The test-pitting had

suggested the existence of an undisturbed subsoil deposit across the northern part of the site that might have the potential to retain stratified material evidence.

3.8 To test this hypothesis, a programme of dry sieving of the subsoil deposits in each of the trenches in Area 2 was undertaken. This demonstrated a mix of material in both the upper and lower spits of the subsoil that would confirm activity on the site over a long period of time, but would argue against discernible stratification within the deposit.

3.9 The quantity of material collected would appear to be high, but there are no indices to measure against other than the results of the PTP programme itself. It would seem likely that any long-lived settlement, where expansion and contraction had taken place, would demonstrate similar characteristics, especially if the ground has also been subject to cultivation, with features being ploughed out or significantly truncated through ploughing. Another factor may be demonstrated by the variation in levels between the site and the adjacent field to the east, which is significantly lower and suggests differences in historic land use. It might also suggest the importation of material onto the present site at some point to raise its levels.

3.10 The presence of a cobbled roadway or courtyard surface was also proposed for TP18/08 in the north-east corner of the site. The trial trenching identified a stony layer in Trenches 3, 6, 7 and 10 (Contexts (305), (601), (703) and (1003)), in the eastern part of the site, at the interface between the subsoil and the natural, which would appear to equate to the layer observed in the test pit. The stones in this layer were poorly sorted and uncompacted, and the formation process for the layer is unclear. It does not give the impression of being a formally laid surface, but could have been introduced to stabilise a soft surface and subsequently drifted down in the stratigraphy, or could have been naturally laid down.

Conclusion

3.11 Following the field investigation, the archaeological potential of the site, as established by the DBA, has been reviewed. On the basis of the results of the investigation, the risk that the proposed development might encounter and have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance, may be considered to be *High* for the early medieval and *Low* for all other periods.

3.12 The collected evidence suggests that such remains could be of regional and local interest, but would not be of a quality or rarity sufficient to warrant statutory protection, or the refusal of planning consent on archaeological grounds.

3.13 The identified remains are of sufficient significance, nevertheless, to warrant a detailed programme of archaeological investigation of the site, should it be developed, in order to mitigate the impacts of the development on their survival and ensure that they are preserved by record, with the collected data made publically accessible. Such a programme would normally be secured through a standard archaeological condition attached to any planning consent that might be granted.

Confidence Rating

3.14 During the course of the fieldwork, the weather and ground conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. As such the confidence rating for the work carried out may be considered to be *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

Published documents & grey literature

Albion Archaeology 2004 *St Mary's Church, Pirton, Hertfordshire: programme of archaeological test pitting*. Albion Archaeology report 2004/29

Anon 2018a *Pirton Hill, Pirton: archaeological evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology report no.13138

Anon 2018b *Pirton Hill, Pirton: archaeological evaluation*. Pre-Construct Archaeology report no.13138b

Ashworth, H. 1998 *Barn 2, Walnut Tree Farm, Pirton, Herts.: archaeological observation report*. Heritage Network report no.34

Ashworth, H. 2013 *Bury Cottage, 6 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: summary report*. Heritage Network report no.806

Ashworth, H. 2015 *Three Gables, 2 Bury End, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological monitoring report*. Heritage Network report no.969

Ashworth, H. & Hillelson, D. 2000 *Land at Little Lane, Pirton, Herts.: desk-based archaeological assessment*. Heritage Network report no.103

Ashworth, H. 2018 *Land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts.: desk-based archaeological assessment*. Heritage Network report no.1135

Austin, L. 2000 'Palaeolithic and Mesolithic' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 5 - 8

Ayers, B. 'Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval (Urban)' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 27 – 32

Brown, N. & P. Murphy 2000 'Neolithic and Bronze Age' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 9 – 13

Brown, N., P. Murphy, B. Ayers, S. Bryant & T. Malim 2000 'Research Themes' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 44 - 58

Bryant, S. 2000 'The Iron Age' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8, 14 – 18

Bull, K. 2015 *Land at Pollards Way/Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire: an archaeological trial trench evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions report no.4821

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. (CIfA)

Collins, C. & Burleigh, G.R. forthcoming *Archaeological Test Pit Excavations in Pirton, Hertfordshire 2007 – 2014*. Access Cambridge Archaeology (uncompleted draft report supplied by G.R. Burleigh).

Dobney et al. 1995, *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological evaluations: recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (Second Edition) (HBMC)

English Heritage 2010 The Setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage Guidance Consultation Draft

Fenton, P. 1993 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the rear of The Fox Public House, Pirton, Hertfordshire*. NHDC Museums Field Archaeology Section, Report 21.

Fenton, P. 1996 *Walnut Tree Farm, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological watching brief report*. Heritage Network report no.12

Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Management*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No.3

Gilman, P., S. Gould & S. Green 2000 'Post-Medieval and Modern' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 33 - 43

Going, C. & J. Plouviez 2000 'Roman' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 19 - 22

Gurney, D. et al 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)

Historic England 2015a *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning*. (HBMC)

Historic England, 2015b *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)

Jones, G. & Sycamore, M. 2016 *Land Adjacent to 40 Royal Oak Lane, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation*. Heritage Network report no.975

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018 *National Planning Policy Framework*. (TSO)

Morgan-Shelbourne, L. 2017 *Land at Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: an archaeological evaluation report*. Pre-Construct Archaeology unpublished report

Morris, J. (ed.) 1976 Domesday Book, Hertfordshire. Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd.

Morris, C. & Potten, S. 2018 *Land off Holwell Road, Pirton: an Archaeological Evaluation*. AOC Archaeology Group unpublished report

Newton, A. 2017 *19 Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological monitoring & recording*. Archaeological Solutions report no.5470

Phillips, D. 2014 *The Old Bakery, 28 Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological monitoring report*. Heritage Network report no. 845

Phillips, D. & Ashworth, H. 2016 *Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological assessment report*. Heritage Network report no.940

RCHM(E) 1910 An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Hertfordshire. London: HMSO

Semmelmann, K. 2006 *Archaeological Strip & Record: Elm Tree Farm, Pirton, Hertfordshire*. Archaeological Services & Consultancy ASC:747/PET/2

Snee, J. 2012 *6 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological monitoring report*. Heritage Network report no.713

Snee, J. 2012 *Land at Pollards Way, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation*. Heritage Network report no.750

Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. Sheet 4, Eastern England. Harpenden: SSEW

Summerfield-Hill, C. 2016 *Land adjacent to The Coach House, Shillington Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation report*. KDK Archaeology unpublished report

Turner, C. 1998 *77 High Street, Pirton, Herts.: archaeological observation & recording report*. Heritage Network report no.58

Turner, C. 2003 *Land to the rear of The Fox Public House: archaeological assessment report*. Heritage Network unpublished report

Turner, C. & Winter, M. 2003 *Land at Little Lane, Pirton, Herts.: archaeological assessment report*. Heritage Network report no.181

Wade, K. 2000 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural)' in Brown, N. & J. Glazebrook (ed.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, 23 - 26

Went, D. & Burleigh, G. 1990a *Humberside to Buncefield Pipeline: Pre-construction Archaeological Survey Report - Dane Field, Pirton, Hertfordshire*. NHDC Field Archaeology Section Report 3

Went, D. & Burleigh, G. 1990b *An Archaeological Assessment on the Route of the Humberside to Buncefield Pipeline, Pirton, Hertfordshire*. NHDC Field Archaeology Section Report 6

Williamson, T. 2010 *The Origins of Hertfordshire*. Hatfield: Hertfordshire Publications

Winter, M. 2003 *Land at 14 Priors Hill, Pirton, Herts.: archaeological monitoring report*. Heritage Network report no.202

Winter, M. 2009 *St Mary's Church, Pirton, Herts.: historic building record & archaeological monitoring*. Heritage Network, report no.548

Winter, M. 2011 *6 Priors Hill, Pirton, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation report*. Heritage Network report no.697

Wood, M. 2013 *Trial Trenching on Land at The Dial, West Lane, Pirton, Hertfordshire*. Allen Archaeology report AAL2013096

WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd 2017 *Land off Holwell Road, Pirton – Phase 2 Archaeological Desk-Based assessment*. WYG unpublished report

Websites

Burleigh, G.R. 2016 Pirton Village Character Assessment. Available from https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-UcrpyJKtdjN3BfWFA4YjNCdkE. Accessed 10 July 2018

Headland Archaeology 2017 Annual Report 2017. Available from http://www.headlandarchaeology.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Annual-Report-2017-final.pdf. Accessed 23 July 2018

Heritage Gateway 2012: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/. Accessed 10 July 2018

National Library of Scotland: http://www.nls.uk

Matthews, K. 1989 Earthwork Survey at The Bury, Pirton. Available from http://www.pirtonhistory.org.uk/archaeology-landscape/reports/. Accessed 12 July 2018

Natural England 2018, MAGIC Interactive Map. http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/. Accessed 23 April 2018

Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC) 2017 British Geological Survey Geology of Britain map. Available from http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html. Accessed 10 July 2018

North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) 2004 Pirton Lowlands Landscape Character Area. Available from https://northherts-cms.cms-dev.firmstep.com/sites/northherts-cms-files/218_2011-2.pdf. Accessed 10 July 2018

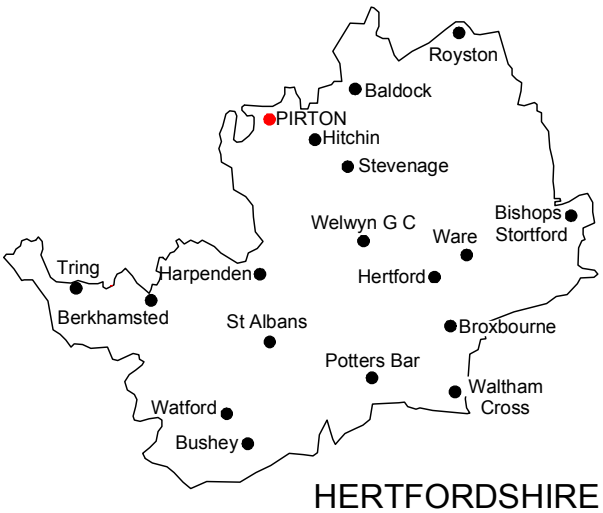
Pirton Local History Group 2018: Historic mapping. Available from http://www.pirtonhistory.org.uk/about-the-village/maps/. Accessed 12 July 2018.

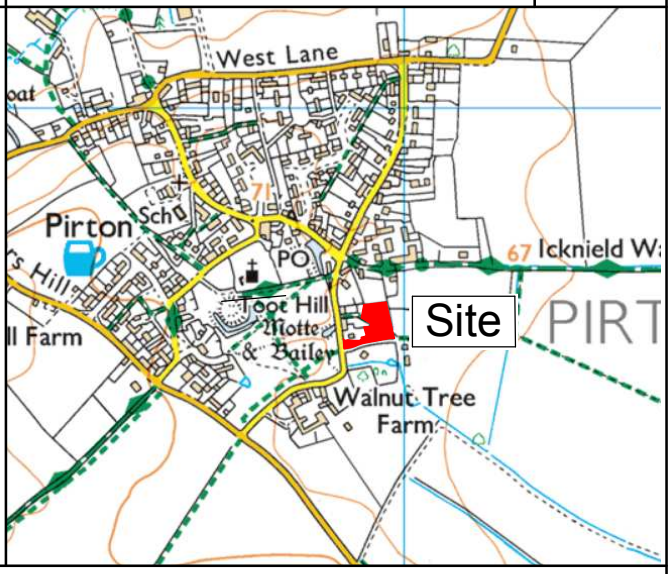
Pirton Parish Council 2016 Pirton Neighbourhood Development Plan. Available from https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxwaXJ0b25wYXJpc2hjb3VuY2lsb3JnfGd4OjYxMmJlYmQzZDJmMTgzMzc. Accessed 10 July 2018.

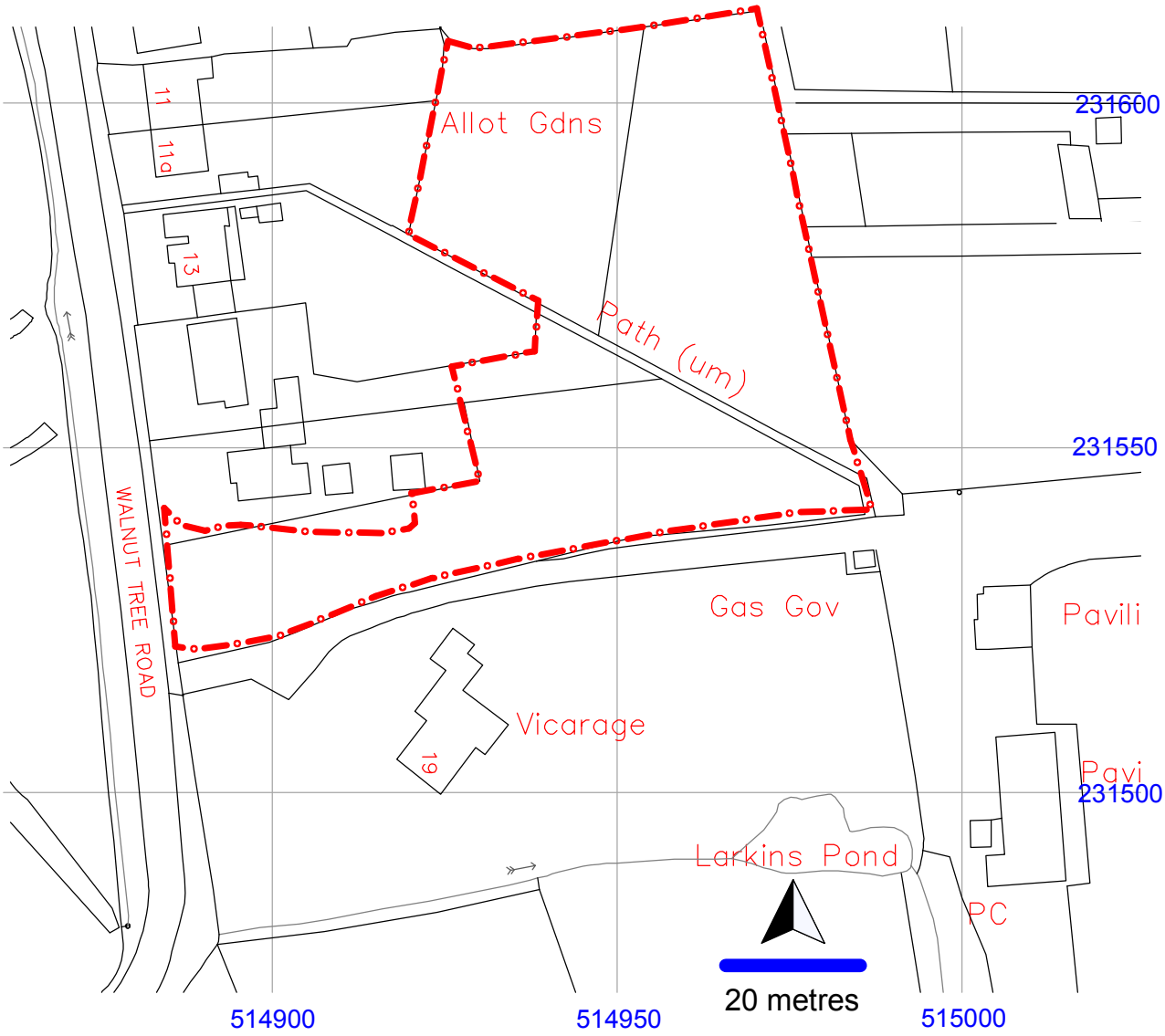
Page, W. 1912. Available from 'Parishes: Pirton', in A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 44-51. British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol3/pp44-51 [accessed 24 July 2018].

5 Illustrations

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts.	HN1451

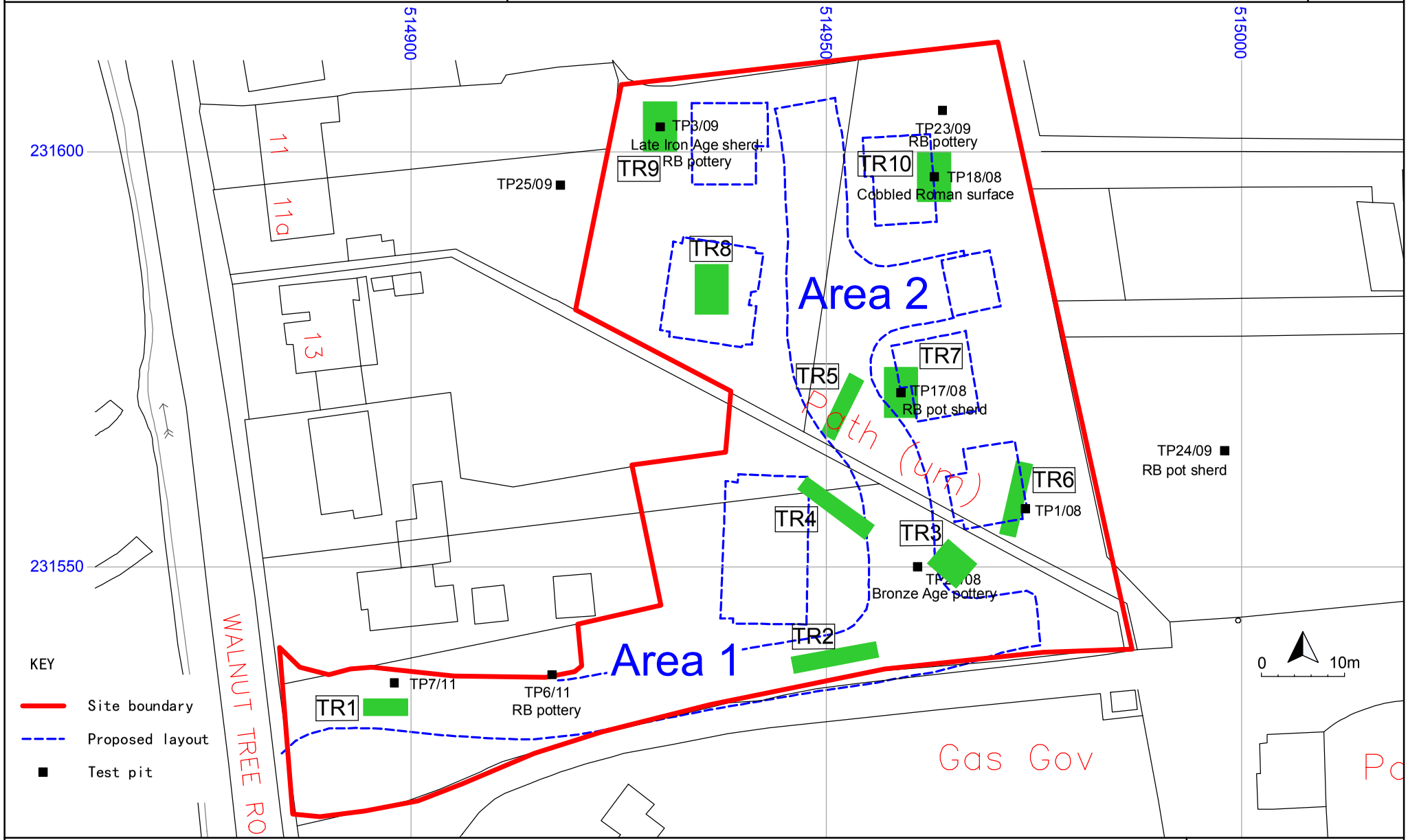






Site location and layout	Scale 1:1000
	Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	Land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts.	HN1451



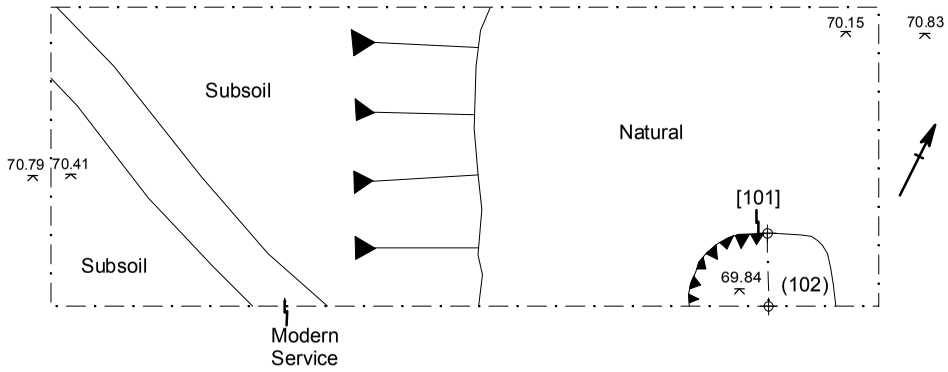
Trench location

Scale 1:625

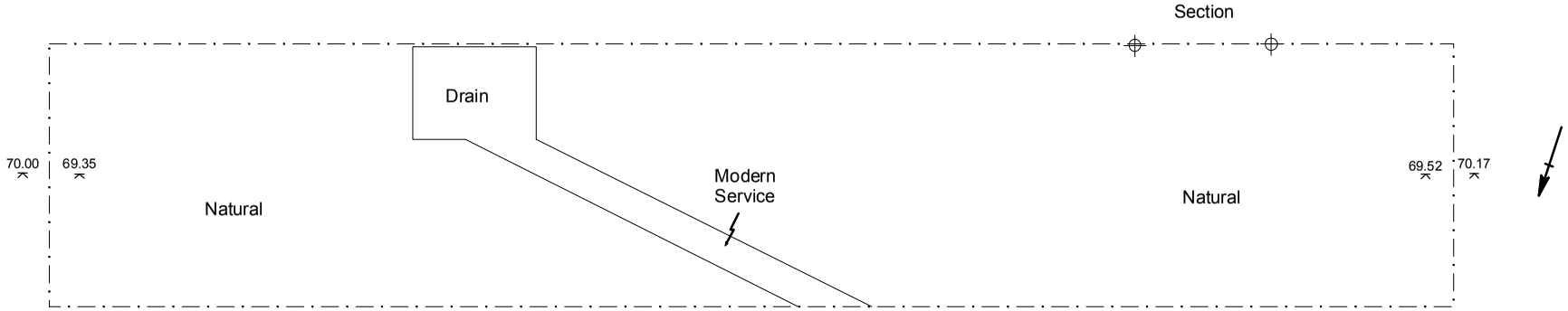
Figure 2

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts	HN1451

Trench 1

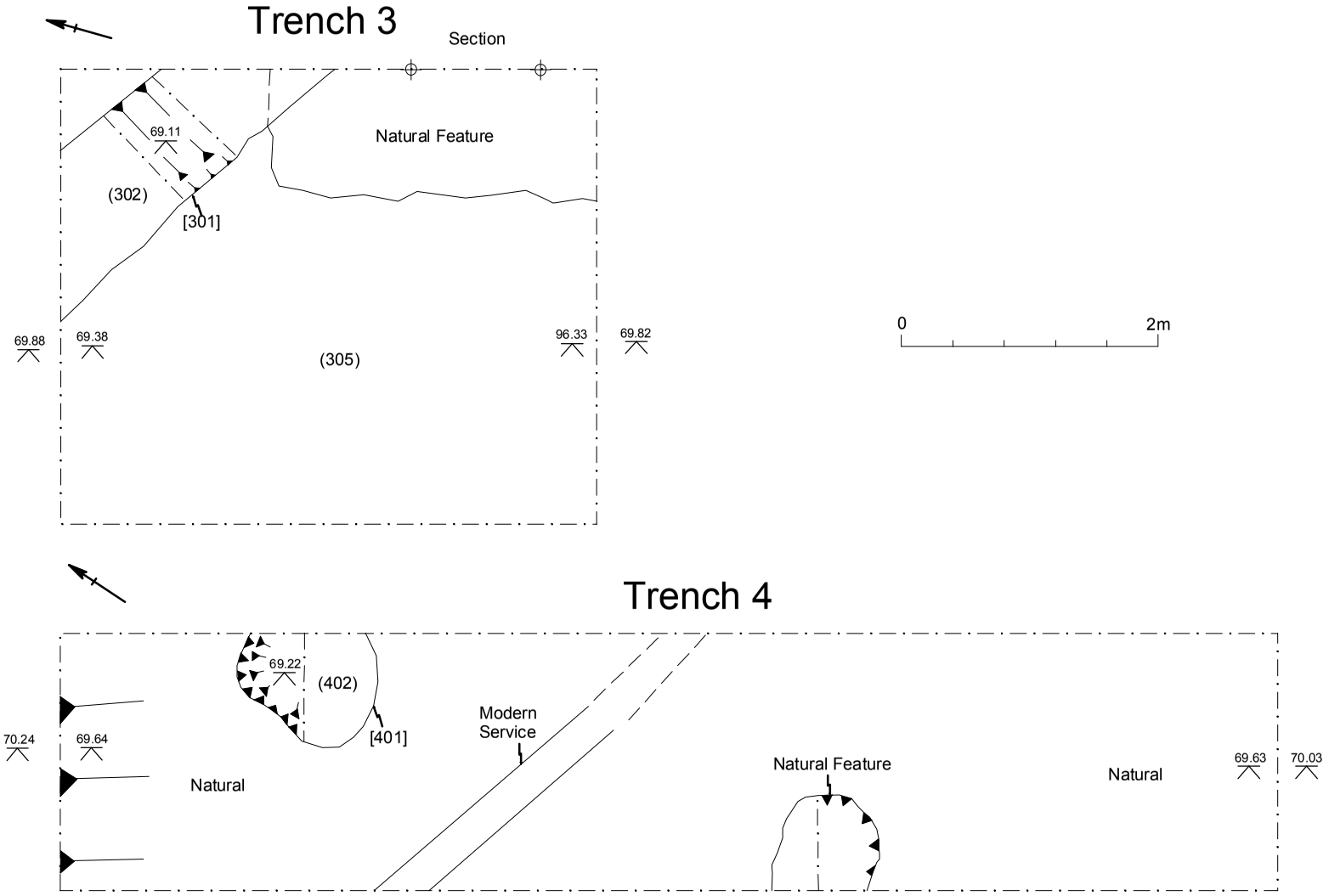


Trench 2



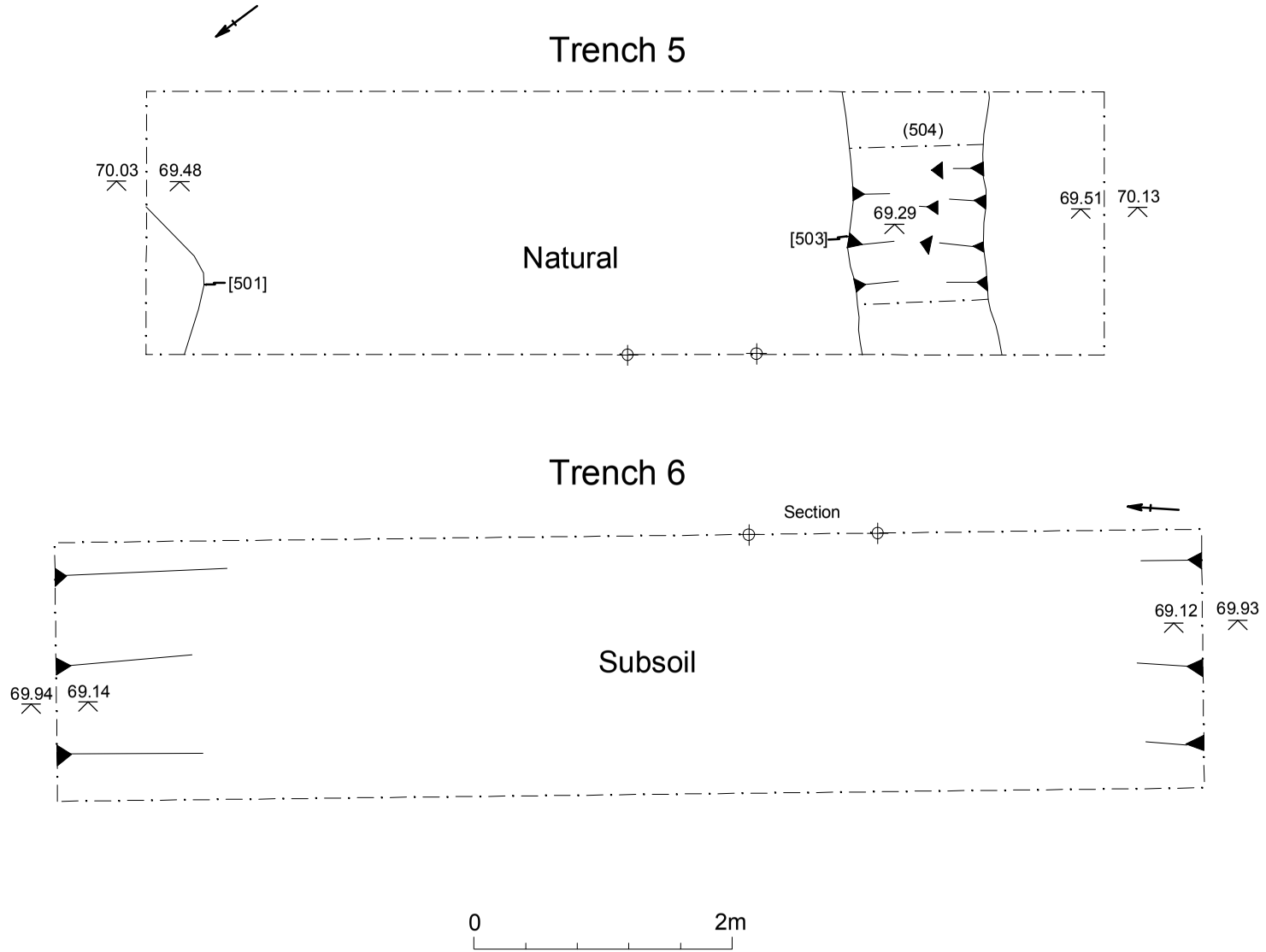
Trench Plans 1 & 2	Scale 1:50
	Figure 3

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts	HN1451



Trench Plans 3 & 4	Scale 1:50
	Figure 4

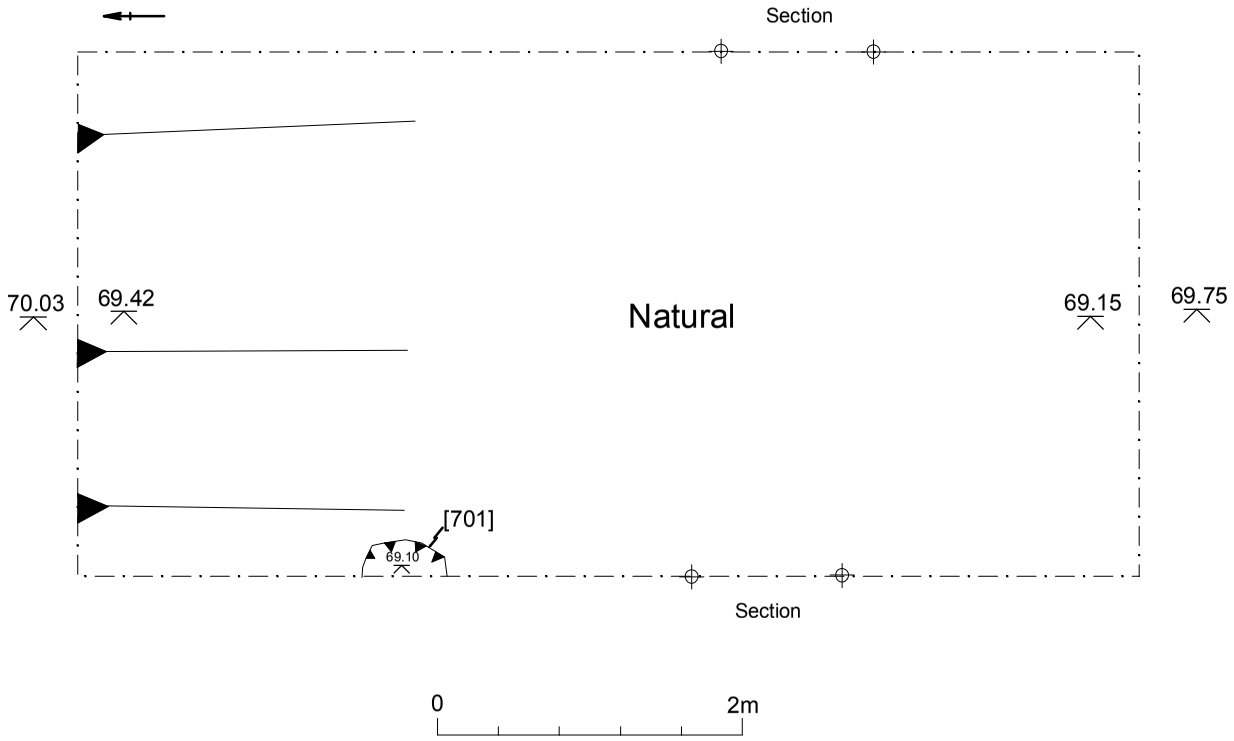
THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts	HN1451



Trench Plans 5 & 6	Scale 1:50
	Figure 5

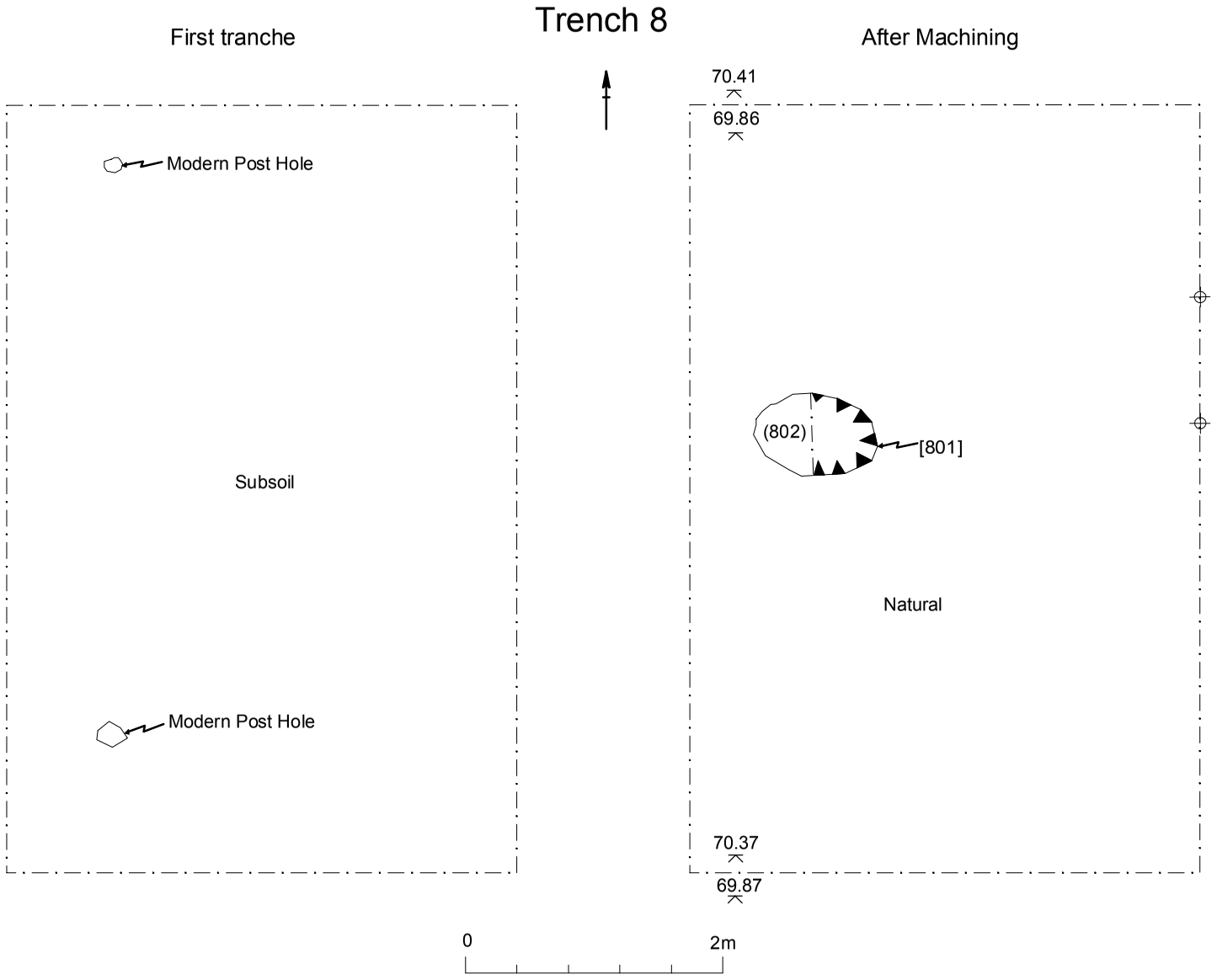
THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton	HN1451

Trench 7



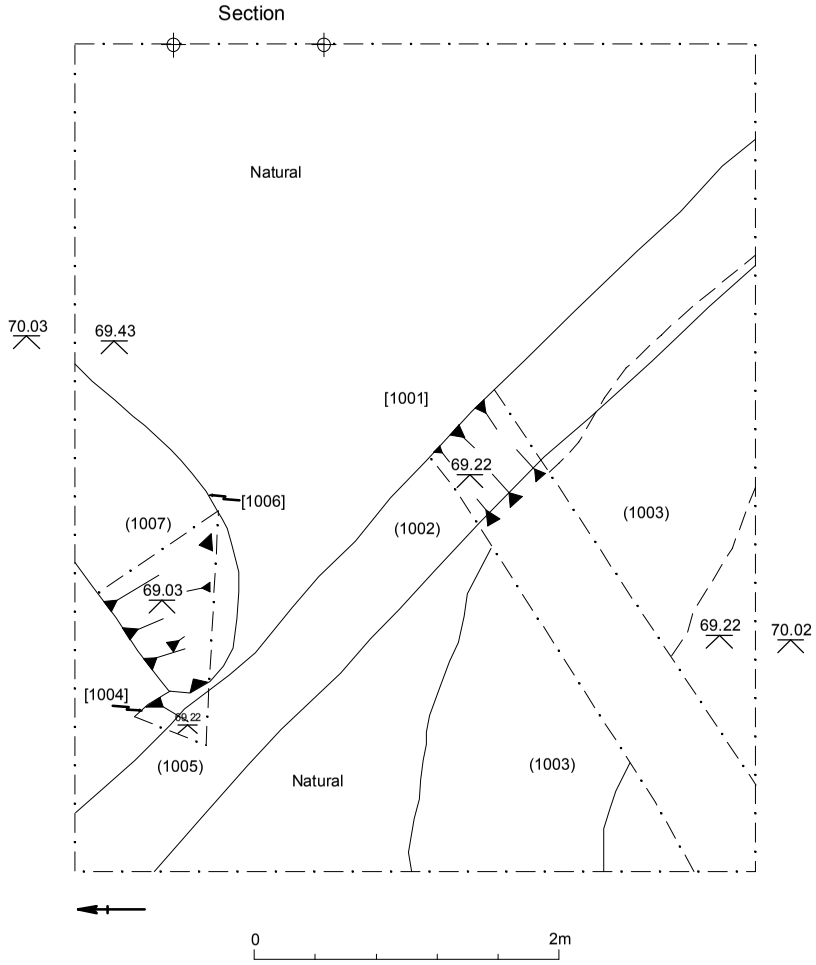
Trenchs 7	Scale 1:50
	Figure 6

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Herts	HN1451



Trench Plan 8	Scale 1:50
	Figure 7

Trench 10

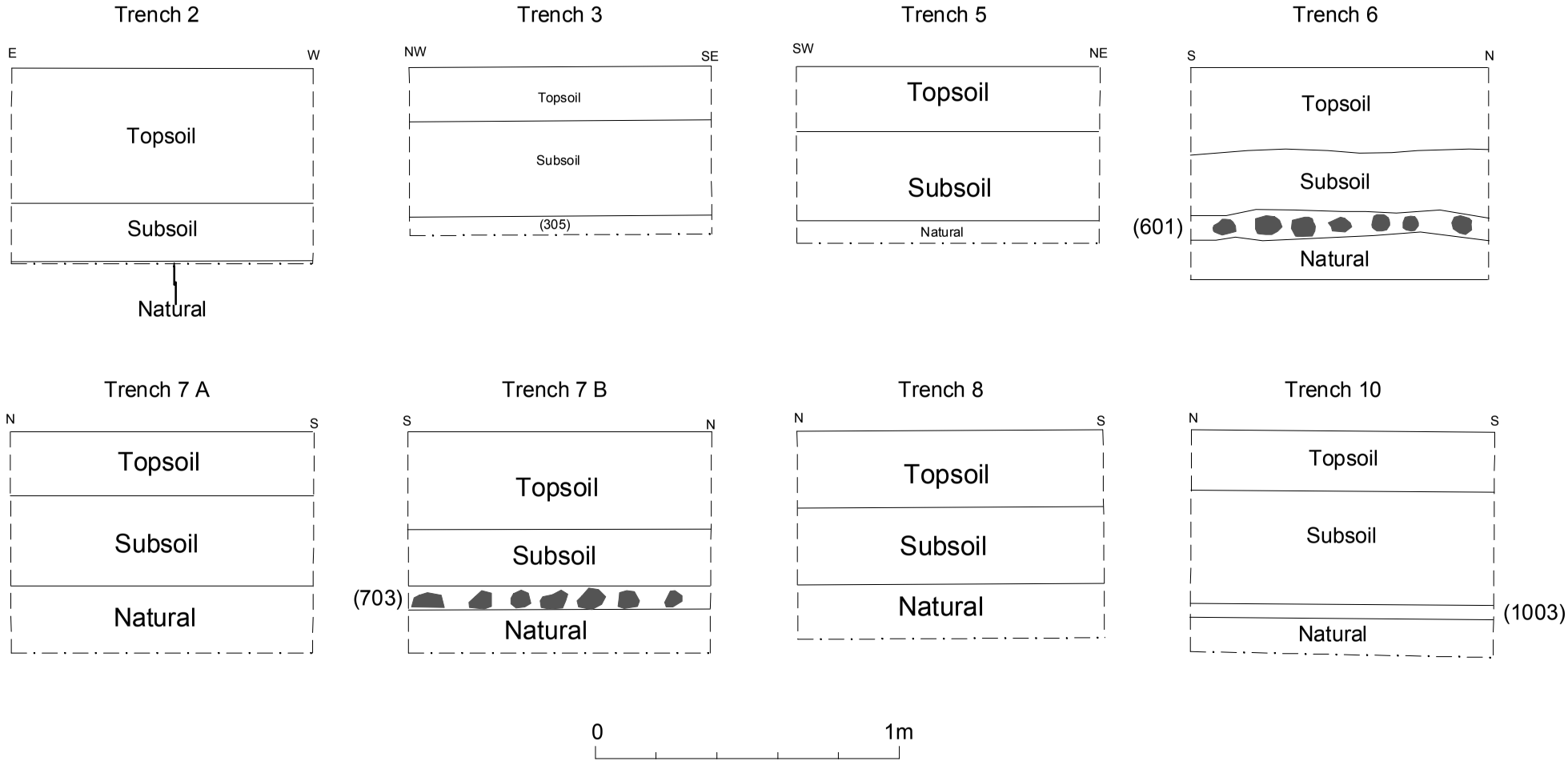


Trenches 10

Scale 1:50

Figure 8

Indicative Sections

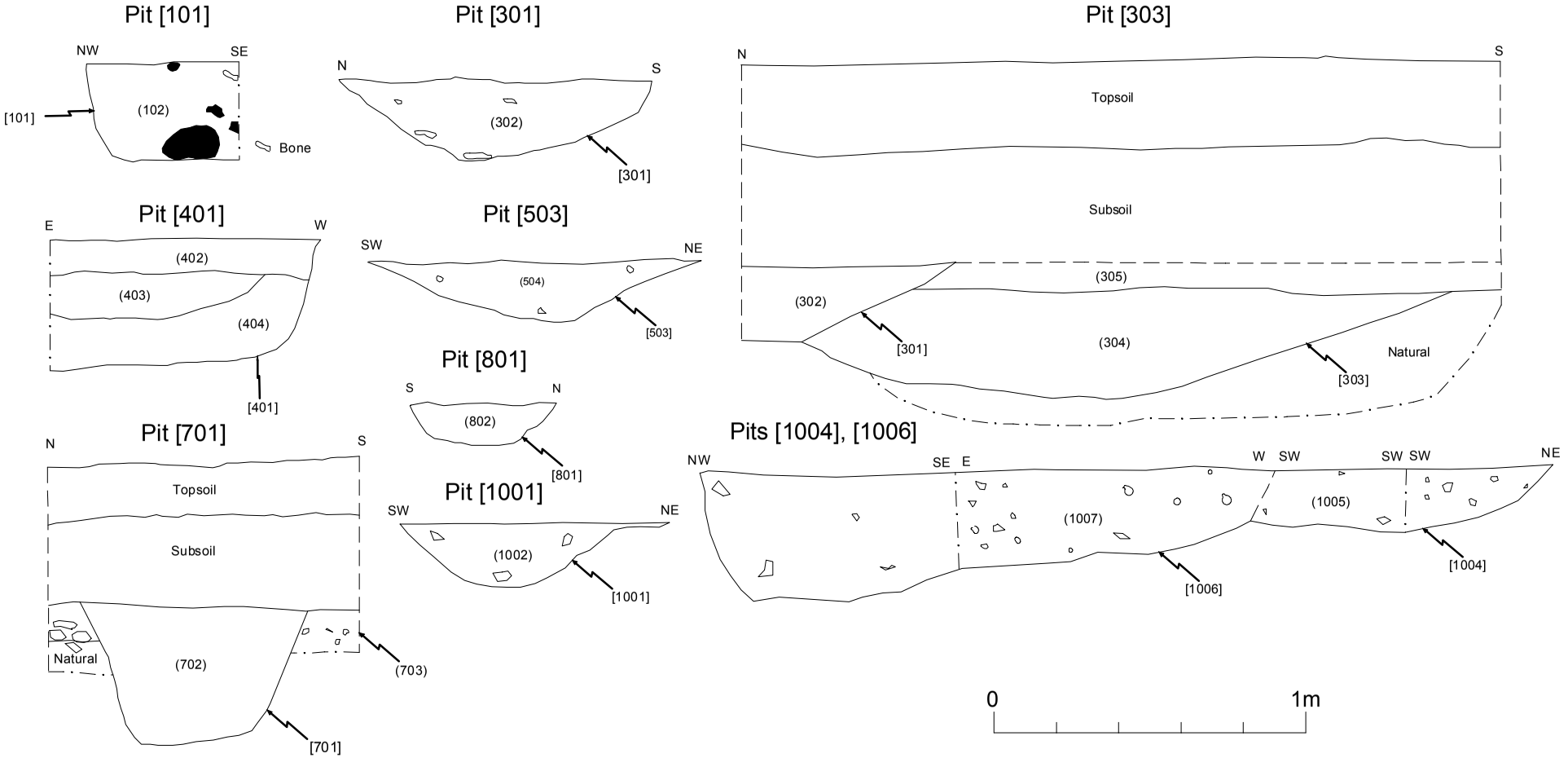


Indicative Sections

Scale 1:20

Figure 9

Feature Sections



Feature Sections

Scale 1:20

Figure 10

Plate 01 - Trench 1, looking east

Plate 02 - Trench 1, indicative section looking north

Plate 03 - Feature [101], looking north-east

Plate 04 - Trench 2, looking north-east

Plate 05 - Trench 3, looking north-west

Plate 06 - Trench 3, indicative section looking east

Plate 07 - Feature [301], looking north-west

Plate 08 - Feature [303], looking north-east

Plate 09 - Trench 4, looking south-east

Plate 10 - Trench 4, indicative section looking north-east

Plate 11 - Feature [401], looking south-east

Plate 12 - Trench 5, looking west

Plate 13 - Trench 5, indicative section looking north

Plate 14 - Feature [503], looking north-west

Plate 15 - Trench 6, looking north-east

Plate 16 - Trench 6, indicative section, looking north-west

Plate 17 - Trench 7, looking north-east

Plate 18 - Trench 7, indicative section, looking east

Plate 19 - Feature [701], looking north-west

Plate 20 - Trench 8, looking south

Plate 21 - Trench 8, indicative section looking west

Plate 22 - Feature [801], looking north-west

Plate 23 - Trench 9, looking north

Plate 24 - Trench 9, indicative section looking east

Plate 25 - Trench 10, looking north-west

Plate 26 - Trench 10, indicative section looking south

Plate 27 - Feature [1001], looking south-west

Plate 28 - Features [1004] and [1006], looking west

Appendix 1

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-328918	
Project details	
Project name	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton
Short description of the project	In order to advise the local planning authority regarding the archaeological potential of a proposed development site on land at 17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching. The present stage of work has involved the excavation of ten trenches of varying dimensions. The trenches exposed a stratigraphy consisting of a topsoil and subsoil over the natural slightly silty clay substrate. The fieldwork revealed four pits and two ditches, which are considered to be of archaeological significance. All the features were dated by pottery finds to the 9-12th centuries AD, except for one of the ditches, which had no finds but was close to a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery that may be associated. On the basis of the results of the investigation, the risk that the proposed development might encounter and have a negative impact on remains of archaeological significance, may be considered to be High for early medieval and Low for all other periods. The collected evidence suggests that such remains could be of regional and local interest, but would not be of a quality or rarity sufficient to warrant statutory protection, or the refusal of planning consent on archaeological grounds.
Project dates	Start: 22-10-2018 End: 31-10-2018
Previous/future work	No/ Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1451- Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Gardens
Monument type	Ditch, Pit
Significant Finds	Pottery, Animal bone, CBM, Fe objects, Flint
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire
Postcode	SG5 3PX
Study area	*c.* 4660 Square Metres
Site coordinates	TL 14950 31570
Height OD / Depth	Min: 69.14mAOD Max: 70.15mAOD

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Hertfordshire County Council
Project design originator	Chris Turner
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Mark Sycamore
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Owner c/o EHW Architects
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	North Herts Museums
Physical Contents	Pottery, Worked Bone, Worked Stone
Digital Archive recipient	North Herts Museums
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	North Herts Museums
Paper Contents	"Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Report"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section",'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	17 Walnut Tree Road, Pirton, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sycamore, M / Hillelson, D
Other bibliographic details	Report no.1150
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	Comb-bound A4 document, Green cover, 22 text pages, 10 figures, 28 plates, 2 appendices

Appendix 2

Finds Concordance

	Pottery		Tile		CBM		An bone		Flint		Burnt flint		Fe obj		Misc		
Context	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**No**	**Wt**	**Notes**
102	*2	10					2	15									*St Neots-type ware
302	*1	3					^6	30									*St Neots-type ^1 worked bone – awl?
304	*1	1															*1 scrap prehist or early AS
402 –top layer	*8	40					^7	45	1	5	`2	35			`2	75	*St Neots type & early med sandy ^burned `chalk lumps/burnt flint discarded
403							*8	50			1	5					*Burned
404	*1	2					2	3									*St Neots-type ware
T5 Topsoil	*1	55															*Post-med glazed
T5 Subsoil (N)	*2	20															*1x St Neots-type 1 x mod glazed
T5 1a			*1	25									^1	3	`1	2	*post-med ^nail `Charcoal
T5 1b	*5	25	1	70			2	10					^1	3	`2	10	*10th – 12th C ^Small buckle `Oyster shell
T5 2a	*3	10					7	35	1	5					^2	5	*1 x St Neots 2 x med grey ^Cu buckle and pin
502															2*	10	*Modern plastic items Discarded
504									7	40							
T5 assoc with 504	*9	55															*same vessel late prehistoric or early AS
T6 1a	*3	15			^3	15	1	10							`3	3	*Med greyware ^ post-med`2x charcoal 1x glass
T6 2a			^1	85			1	1	1	1	`2	65					^post med `discarded
T6 1b	*6	25					2	5							^1	10	*4 x Medieval greyware 2 x modern ^chalk loom weight?
T6 2b							3	15			*3	155					*Discarded
T7 u/s subsoil	*1	30															*Thetford ware? 9th – 12th C
T7 1a	*11	15			^7	55	1	1									*Late post-med ^Late post-med
T7 1b	*2	70			^13	240	3	4							`1	10	*^Late post med `Mod glass discarded
T7 1c	*2	4	1	80	3	10	4	10					^1	295			*1 x Early RB sandy 1 x mod ^horseshoe
T7 2a	*2	30					1	2	3	5	^2	25					*RB ^discarded
T7 2b	*1	5	^3	40			4	4	2	10							*^post-med
T7 2c	*2	5							1	3							*1 x RB greyware 1 x Mod

	Pottery		Tile		CBM		An bone		Flint		Burnt flint		Fe obj		Misc		
702	*4	55					2	10									*St Neots type ware 9th – 12th C
T8 topsoil	*1	4											*2	5	^1	30	*late post med/modern ^Mod metal hook discarded
T8 1a	*8	35	**1	55	^2	925	2	25							`2	750	*RB ** post med ^ mod brick & field drain `1 x Anthropic rock? 1 x oyster shell
T8 1b	*8	40	**3	75			7	10					^2	10	`1	4	*RB **post med ^nails `alabaster carving
T8 1c	*9	40	^1	70			4	20							`1	5	*^RB `Glass post-med
T8 2a	*3	5					2	3			^1	4	1	2			*RB ^Discarded
T8 2b	*6	25			1	5	3	30							^2	20	*4 x RB, 2 x Mod ^Tarmac discarded
T8 2c	*4	15					5	10									*RB
T8 Cleaning	*3	20	^2	65			1	4									*RB ^Post medieval
802	*1	5					5	35	^1	3							*St Neots-type ware 9th – 12th C ^burnt
T9 Topsoil	*3	5											^1	60	`2	3	*Post-med^ Mod frag discarded `Mod glass frags discarded
T9 1a			*3	60			1	1	1	1			`2	10			*late post-med `Mod nails discarded
T9 1b	*3	10	^1	10			1	1									*Medieval ^post-med
T9 1c	*2	5					2	5					^1	3			*Medieval ^Nail
T9 2a	*2	10											^1	2			*Early med sandy ^Nail
T9 2b	*3	20					2	2									*1 x St Neots-type 2 x post-med earthenware
T9 2c	*5	20			1	2	2	3									*1 x mod frag 2 x St Neots-type 2 x Herts Grey
T10 U/S	*2	15															*1 x St Neots-type 1 x post-med
T 10 Topsoil					1	15									*3	70	*Modern metal artefacts discarded
T10 1a	*1	10	^1	25			2	2							`2	2	*1 x RB Ver-Reg? ^Post-med peg tile `shell
T10 1a Base	*1	10	^3	70			`1	5									*RB ^1 x RB 2 x post-med `tusk
T10 1b	*1	1			^1	1	4	10	2	10			`1	3			*Samian ^RB? `Nail
T10 1c	*10	55	^2	110			1	2									*St Neots-type 11th – 14th C ^post-med
T10 2a	*4	4	^2	45			1	2									*Med greyware mod glazed ^p-med
T10 2b	*3	15					3	35					^1	10			*St Neots-type med grey, p-med scrap. ^nail
T10 2c							1	1									
T10 cleaning	*1	5					2	5									*Early Med Sandy
T11 subsoil	*2	10															*1 x St Neots-type 1 x Post-med blue/white
u/s	*3	30															Medieval frags
Total	**156**	**889**	**26**	**885**	**32**	**1268**	**108**	**461**	**20**	**83**	**11**	**289**	**15**	**406**	**29**	**1009**	