

HERITAGE NETWORK



THE OLD VICARAGE Brent Pelham, Herts.

HN678

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

THE OLD VICARAGE Brent Pelham, Herts.

HN678

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Robert Turner, Esq.

by

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and

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The cover is taken from Dury and Andrews' Map of Hartford-shire dated 1766

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders. The report text was written by Mark Winter and Geoff Saunders, and the illustrations were prepared by Chris Turner and Mark Winter. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Robert Turner Esq; and Alison Tinniswood, County Historic Environment Unit, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	The Old Vicarage, Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Brent Pelham	Parish:	Brent Pelham
Planning reference:	03/06/1841	NGR:	TL 43280 30740
Client name and address:	Robert Turner Esq, The Old Vicarage, Brent Pelham, Buntingford, SG9 0HE		
Nature of work:	Two storey extension	Former land use:	Car park and garden
Site status:	AAS23	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c.290m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.290m ²
Site Code:	HN 678	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	02/07/07	Finish of work	13/07/07
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-33300	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	n/a		
Physical archive:	n/a		
Previous summaries/reports:			

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning permission for a single storey and a two storey extension at The Old Vicarage, Brent Pelham, Herts, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The monitoring programme revealed the remains of a foundation wall similar in nature to those forming the core of the existing building. The Old Vicarage appears to date to the latter half of the 19th century and has been subject to several phases of alteration since then. No archaeological evidence predating the existing building was identified during the present project.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Robert Turner Esq*, as part of the archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at The Old Vicarage, Brent Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

1.2 The investigation was a requirement of the planning consent granted by East Herts District Council (EHDC), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990), for a two storey extension (ref. 3/06/1841). The extent of the work was defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, prepared by the County Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to the EHDC (ref. AT 22/12/06). A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated June 2007.

1.3 The Old Vicarage is located approximately at the western edge of the historic core of the village, centred on NGR TL 43280 30740 (Figure 1). The site is situated on the southern side of the B1038 within an Area of Archaeological Significance No.23 as designated in the East Hertfordshire District Local Plan. Currently the site is a private dwelling situated within garden. The development proposed the construction of two extensions to the existing house and the excavation of a basement (Figure 3).

1.4 The aim of the investigation has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might have been uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements to allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with the current regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

1.5 The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Hertford Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The development is located on the southern side of the B1038 at approximately 120mAOD.

2.2 The underlying geology consists of a chalky till of the Hanslope association, described as having slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils; some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils; and slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. The development required the excavation of a series of footings trenches, a new basement and associated drainage. A number of site visits were made to supervise the ground reduction.

2.4 The machining was undertaken under close supervision using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The ground was reduced to the potential archaeological horizon first, and following investigation and recording was reduced to the final construction level.

2.5 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Stratigraphy

2.6 The stratigraphy across the site consisted of a greyish brown, silty clay topsoil layer, measuring between 0.20m and 0.50m deep (Plate 2). Below this was the olive brown clay natural which contained chalk fragments. The only variation occurred in the area of the new basement where a 0.5m thick layer of redeposited natural containing CBM fragments was observed beneath the topsoil.

Ground reduction

2.7 Excavation of the eastern footings trench revealed the remains of an L-shaped wall which had been bonded to the eastern elevation of the house (Figure 5; Plate 1). It was of similar construction to the house being laid in English bond using bricks of the same dimensions. A possible return was identified at the northern end of the north-south arm of the wall.

2.8 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts earlier than those associated with the existing building were observed during the groundworks.

3. Discussion

Historical background and previous work

3.1 Evidence of Roman activity has been encountered within the vicinity of the village. Roman pottery and coins (NMR370763) were discovered during work at Brent Pelham Hall approximately 200m to the north-east. To the south of the village lies evidence of Roman enclosures (NMR 370342).

3.2 Brent Pelham forms one of a group of villages with the suffix 'Pelham'. The others are Furneux Pelham and Stocking Pelham. The prefix Brent means burnt and refers to a serious fire during the reign of Henry I (1100 - 1135) when the church and most of the village was burnt down.

3.3 The Domesday Book of 1086 records the villages as a single estate, called *Peleha*, which was held by the Bishop of London. The manor was apparently divided into seven individual land holdings at that time, which later became the separate villages.

3.4 The Old Vicarage lies less than 100m south west of the 14th century St Mary's church. Cartographic evidence from the 1st edition (1878-81) Ordnance Survey shows the core of the building, named *The Parsonage* at this time (Figure 2).

Present site

3.5 The existing building appears to date to the latter half of the 19th century. It is shown on a smaller footprint on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey dated 1878, with a small extension against the eastern elevation in the general location of the wall foundation identified in the course of the present project (Figure 2). The building has been extended, and subject to other alterations, on a number of occasions since.

Confidence Rating

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

3.7 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for this project which is less than High.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
02/07/07	GIS	8	Monitor ground reduction
03/07/07	GIS	4	ditto
04/07/07	GIS	2	ditto
05/07/07	GIS	4	ditto
06/07/07	GIS	2	ditto
13/07/07	GIS	3	ditto

5. Bibliography

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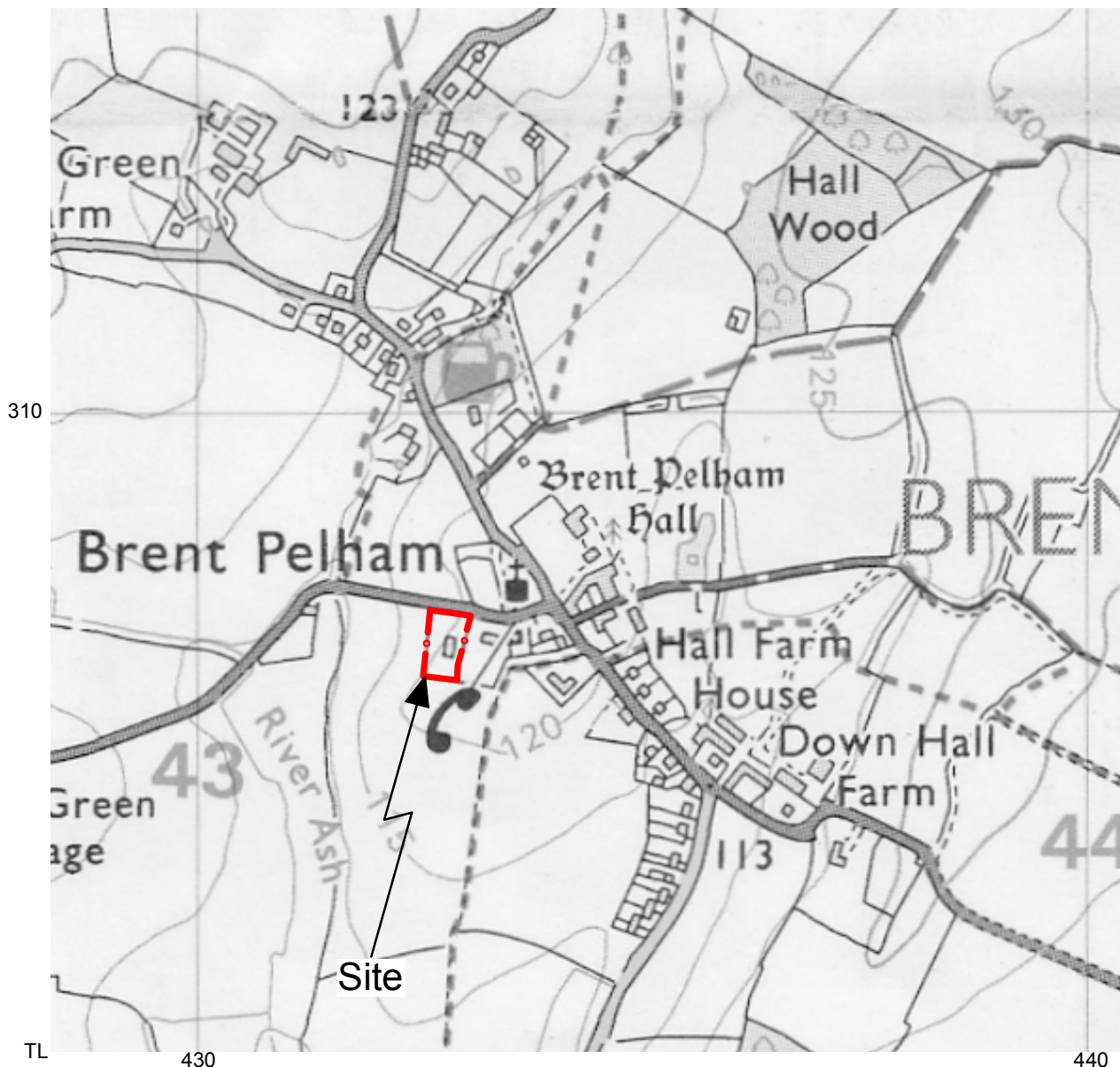
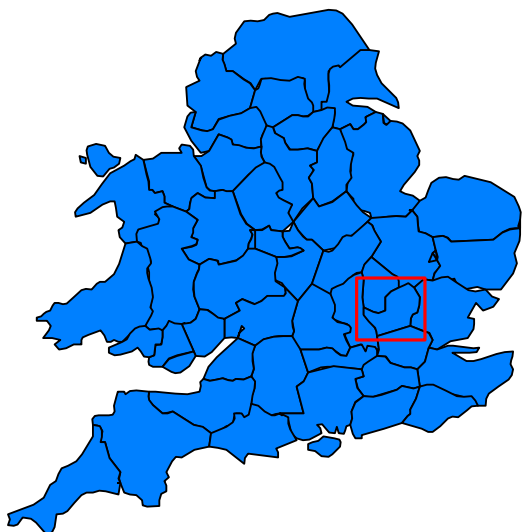
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6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Location of groundworks
Figure 4	Eastern bay window – footings detail
Figure 5	Eastern bay window - foundation sections
Plate 1	Foundation of demolished eastern extension
Plate 2	Typical stratigraphy

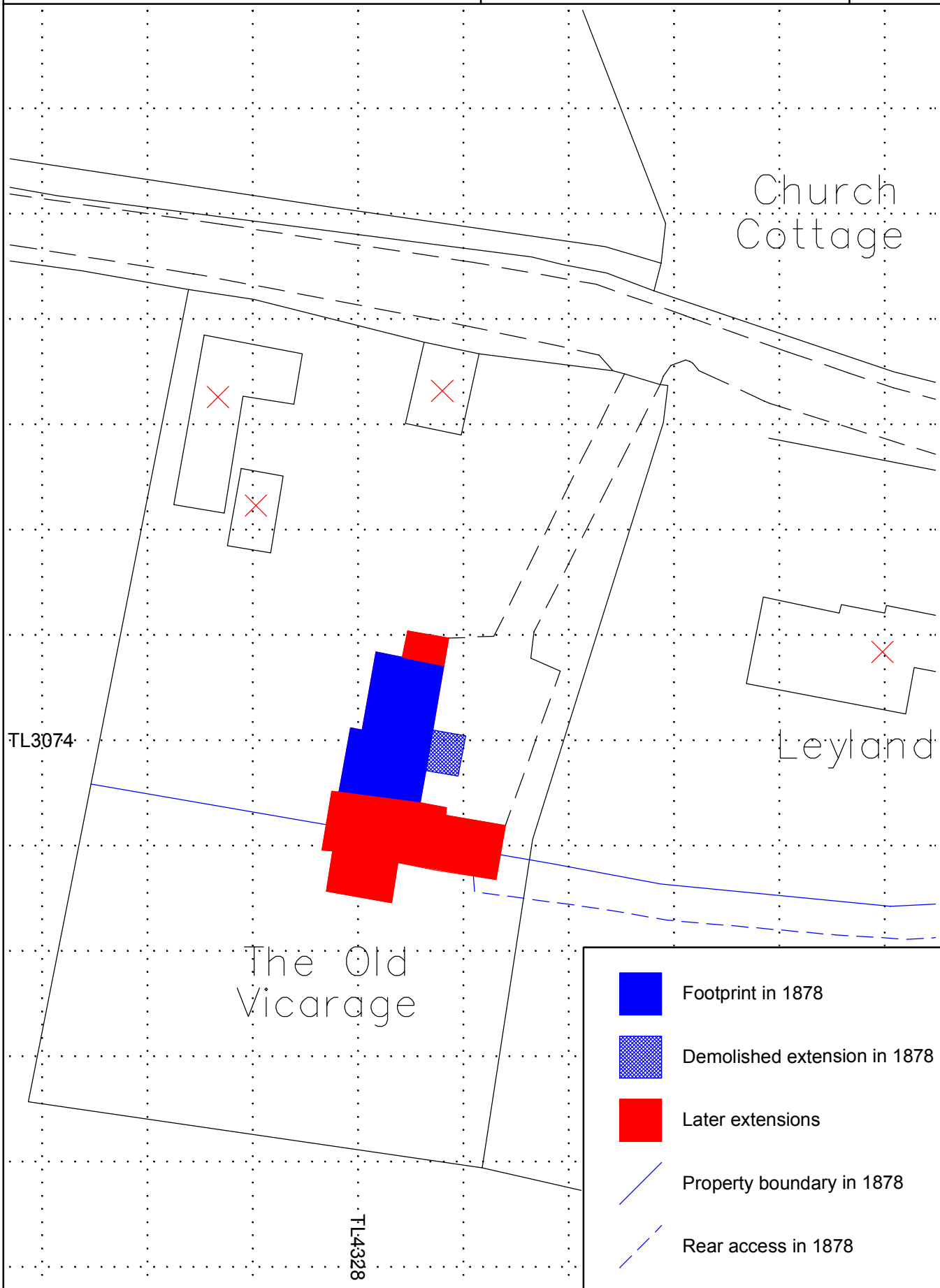


Site location

Scale 1:7500

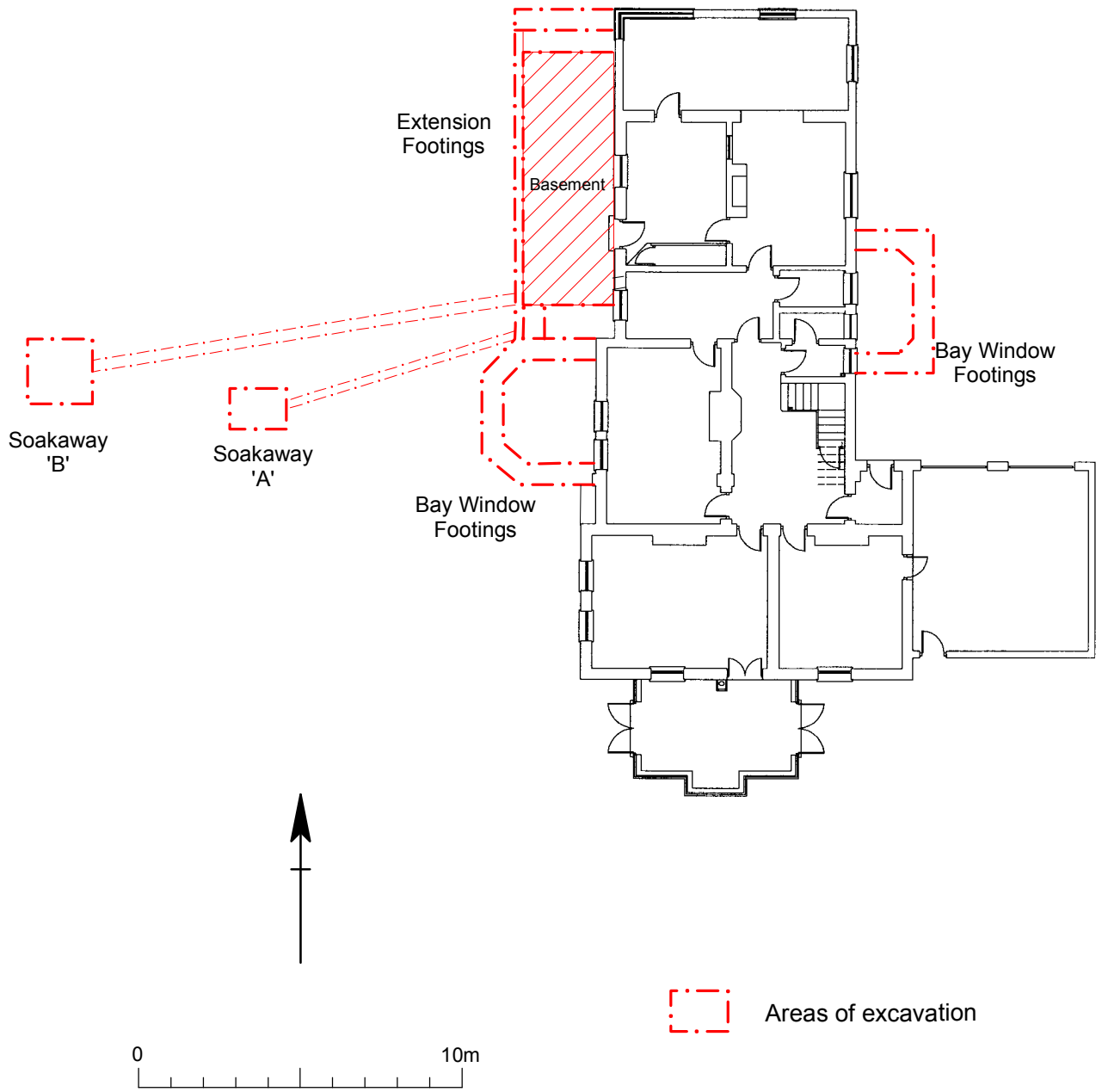
(Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861)

Figure 1



Site layout

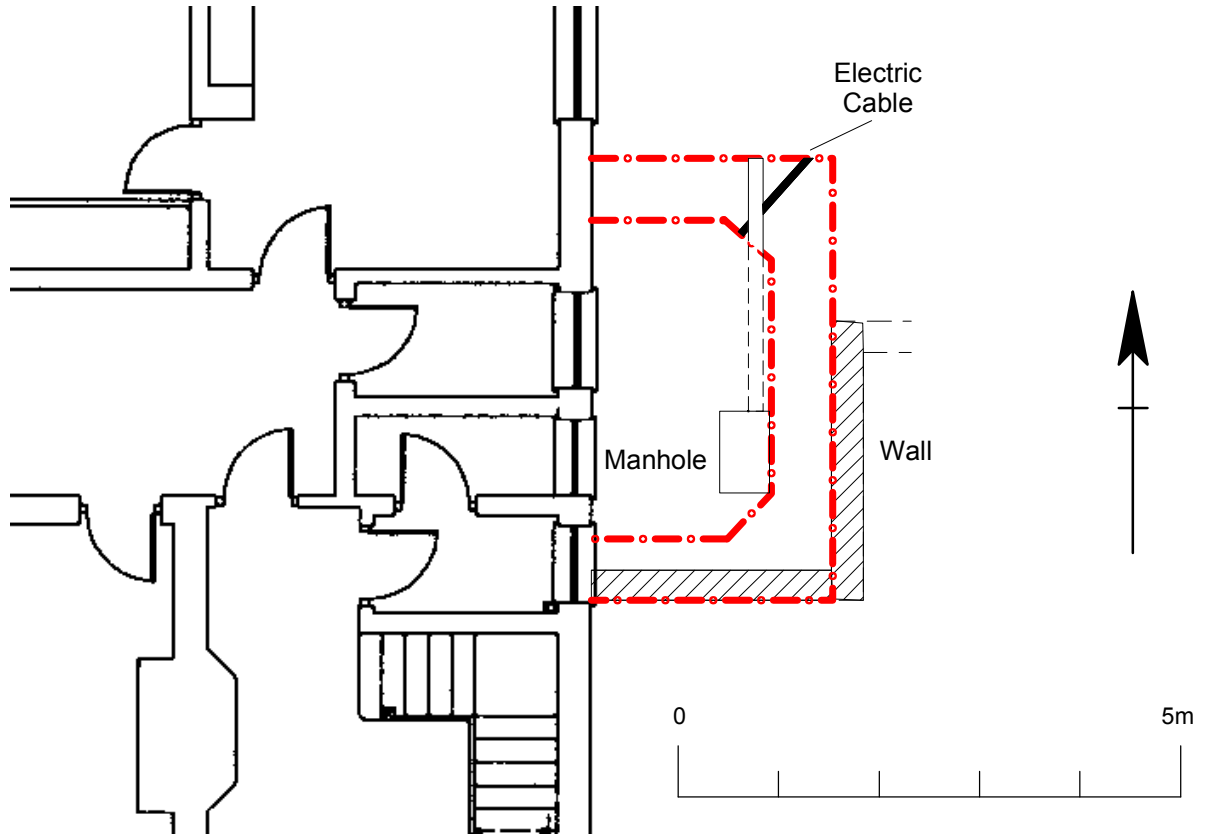
Scale 1:500



Location of groundworks

Scale 1:200

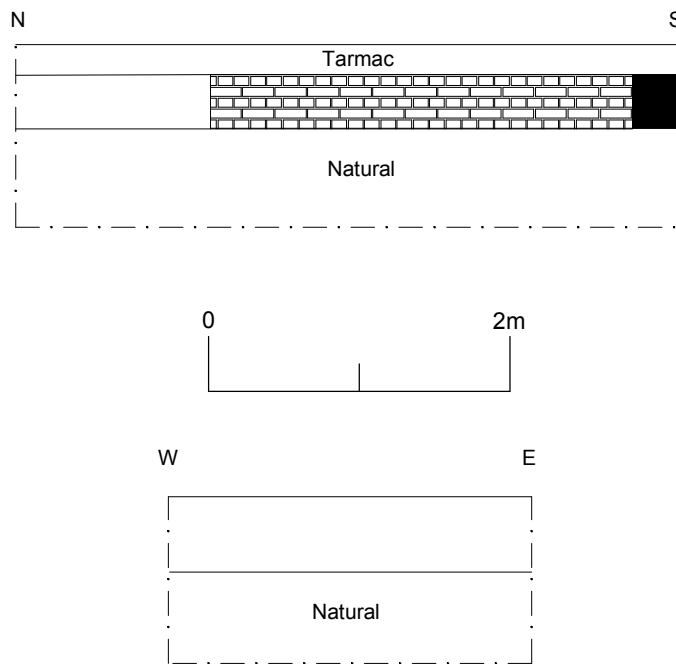
Figure 3



Eastern bay window - footings detail

Scale 1:10

Figure 4



Eastern bay window - foundation sections

Scale 1:50

Figure 5



Plate 1: Foundation to demolished eastern extension



Plate 2: Typical stratigraphy