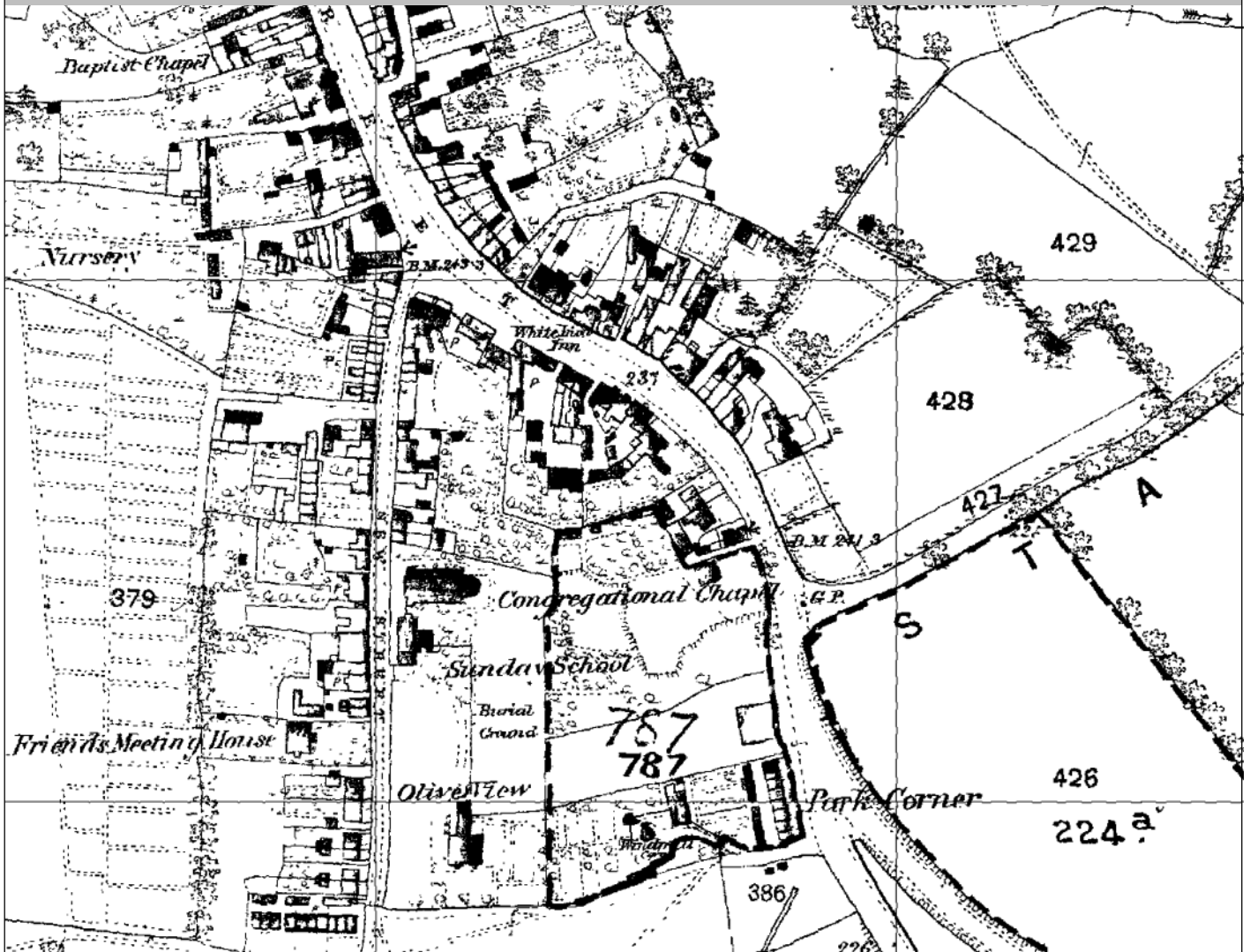


# HERITAGE NETWORK



## LAND R/O 72 HIGH STREET Great Dunmow, Essex

HN680

### *Archaeological Monitoring Report*



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

*Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA*

Land to the rear of  
72 HIGH STREET  
Great Dunmow, Essex.

HN680

## *Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Chase End Developments Ltd*

By

Mark Winter, BSc, PGDIP

Report no. 462

*March 2008*

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*The cover illustration shows an extract from the Ordnance Survey 25-inch series, dated 1875*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mark Winter and the pottery assessment was prepared by Andy Fawcett. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Bill Smith at Chase End Developments Ltd; and Richard Havis and Pat Connell, Historic Environment Management Team, Essex CC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Land to the r/o 72 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex		
<b>County:</b>	Essex	<b>District:</b>	Uttlesford
<b>Village/town:</b>	Great Dunmow	<b>Parish:</b>	Great Dunmow
<b>Planning reference:</b>	UTT/0276/07/FUL	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 6291 2170
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Chase End Developments Ltd, 82 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New Housing	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	65m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	65m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	GD24	<b>Other reference:</b>	HN680
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Saffron Walden Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	22/10/2007	<b>Finish of work</b>	07/02/2008
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Roman and Post medieval
<b>Oasis UID</b>	heritage1-39646	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

**Synopsis:**

In response to a condition on the planning permission for construction of a new bungalow on land to the rear of 72 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks, which comprised the excavation of footings, a soakaway and drainage trenches.

The evidence indicates that the site has been heavily disturbed, probably during construction of housing fronting onto the High Street. A single sherd of pottery dating to the late 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century was recovered, unstratified, from the northern foundation trench. No further evidence for activity pre-dating the Victorian period was recorded during the present project.

## 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on behalf of Chase End Developments Ltd, as part of the archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks for a development site located on land to the rear of 72 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex. The planning permission for the development (ref. UTT/0276/07/FUL), granted by Uttlesford District Council (UDC), was subject to a standard archaeological condition, in accordance with the provisions of the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The scope of the required work was defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, prepared by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council acting as archaeological advisers to the planning authority (ref. RH 07/06/07). A full specification of the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated June 2007.

**1.2** The site is located in the medieval core of the town, on the western side of the High Street, centred on NGR TL 6291 2170. It lies to the rear of 68-72 High Street, in the southern half of the town, approximately 500m to the west of the River Chelmer. Currently the site forms the garden to no.72. The development proposes the construction of a new bungalow with associated car parking and landscaping.

**1.3** On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, the HEMT advised that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development should be undertaken, and that any observed archaeological remains should be recorded and appropriately investigated before the development proceeded.

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

## 2. Fieldwork

### *SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

**2.1** The ground across the study area lies at approximately 70m AOD. It is fairly level on the site of the new bungalow but drops down steeply towards the street frontage to the east.

**2.2** The geology of the Great Dunmow area consists of glaciofluvial drift. The soils of the area belong to the Ludford Association, described as ‘deep well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils. locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk of water erosion’ (SSEW, 1983).

### *METHODOLOGY*

**2.3** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client’s groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise all intrusive excavations.

**2.4** The machining was undertaken using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or toothed bucket, as required.

**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*

#### *Foundation Trenches*

**2.6** A series of foundation trenches were excavated for the new building, which measures approximately 11m in length and 7m in width (Figure 2). The trenches measured approximately 0.60m wide by up to 1.40m deep.

**2.7** Excavation of the trenches cut through a layer of mid grey silty clay topsoil which contained occasional large tree roots and measured 0.60m in depth. Beneath this a dark grey, loose silty clay make up layer was observed. This was at its most substantial in the northwest corner of the site where it measured 0.80m in depth. This reduced in depth to 0.40m in the northeast corner. Beneath this layer was the yellow, loose sandy gravel natural (Figures 3 and 4).

**2.8** No archaeological remains or deposits were observed in this area.

**Drainage trenches and soakaway**

**2.9** Drainage trenches and a soakaway were excavated at the southern end of the new building. The trenches measured 0.50m wide by 0.50m deep. Due to their shallow nature these did not breach the topsoil layer. They led to a soakaway measuring 2.00m by 1.80m by 1.70m deep. This cut through 0.80m of topsoil onto the natural gravel. In the western side of the soakaway feature [01] was observed. This was a straight sided cut orientated north-south and measuring over 0.50m in width and over 0.90m deep. It contained fills (02) and (03). Primary fill (02) was a light brown silty clay which contained frequent small stone inclusions. Above this was fill (03), a dark grey silty clay containing frequent small stone inclusions (Figure 5).

**2.10** A further drainage trench was excavated from the new building heading southeast. This measured 0.50m wide by 0.90m deep. At its northwest end the trench cut through a 0.06m thick tarmac surface beneath which was the previously observed topsoil layer. A change of stratigraphy was noted 9.40m to the southeast where a 0.22m thick mixed rubble layer was observed. A further change in stratigraphy was noted after a further 3.20m when the topsoil layer was replaced by a mid grey silty clay containing moderate small stone inclusions (Figure 6). Unfortunately the relationship between these two deposits was unclear.

**FINDS ASSESSMENT****Concordance**

Context	Pottery		CBM		Brick		An bone		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Rubble layer			1	99	1	1260			
U/S North trench	1*	96							*L3rd-4 <sup>th</sup> C
Topsoil Drainage trench							3	370	
Total	1	96	1	99	1	1260	3	370	

**Pottery** by Andy Fawcett

**2.11** One pottery sherd has been recovered from the site. It is from a Type C8 hemispherical bowl (Going 1987, 38). This version of the form originates from Hadham in east Hertfordshire and is dated to the late 3rd to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Recommendations**

Due to the small nature of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

**CBM**

**2.12** One piece of CBM (probably a piece of roof tile) weighing 99g and one incomplete piece of brick weighing 1260g were recovered from the rubble layer in the NW-SE orientated drainage trench.



*Recommendations*

Due to the small nature of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

***Animal Bone***

**2.13** Three pieces of animal bone weighing 370g were recovered from the drainage trench topsoil. These were in a generally good condition, exhibiting little wear of the cortical bone and little fragmentation. Represented were the proximal third of a left side cattle tibia. This had a fully fused epiphysis which was lacking the medial condyle. This may have been chopped off as the break was very clean and straight. The distal half of a deer metacarpal was also recovered as was a fragment of large mammal innominate.

*Recommendations*

Due to the small nature of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

### 3. Discussion

**3.1** The present site lies in a well documented archaeological landscape containing significant remains from the prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity includes a Mesolithic flint scatter (NMR1210093) at Church End with Iron Age and Bronze Age finds in the surrounding countryside. Four barrows are situated on the northern edge of Great Dunmow (NMR32417), 1.5km to the north of the site, dating from the Iron Age/ early Roman period. There is further evidence of prehistoric activity at Chequers Lane, approximately 400m to the north-west, which includes undated prehistoric features and Bronze Age pottery, with some Mesolithic/Neolithic and early Bronze Age flints (SMR13865). A prehistoric ditch has also been identified (SMR 45194), c.150m to the south of the site.

**3.2** A Roman small town (SMR9050) developed on the junction between Stane Street (SMR1226), the line of which runs c.180m to the north of the site towards Colchester, and the Roman roads which ran from Sudbury to London and from Cambridge to Chelmsford.

**3.3** The Roman occupation appears to have been established to the west of the site and on the northern edge of the present town at Church End. The site may lie within the limits of the Roman town. Roman cremations and evidence of occupation (SMR19657) were investigated approximately 300m to the west on Chequers Lane, at Dunmow Junior School and at Redbond Lodge, where there was extensive Roman occupation, including burials and a shrine (SMR13864-13869). In addition, a Roman gravel pit (NMR658640), lies c.100m to the west of the site.

**3.4** Further Roman activity at Haslers Lane, less than 150m to the south of the site, includes scatters of pottery (SMR45195) and over 100 cremations (SMR 45194).

**3.5** The Roman settlement was reoccupied in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. The Anglo-Saxon settlement (NMR 878913) was extensive and formed the basis for the later medieval town. Pottery from the Anglo-Saxon period has been recovered from New Street (SMR13884), c.100m to the west of the site.

**3.6** The medieval settlement appears to have developed as a continuation of the late Saxon settlement at Church End, where the parish church is located. The granting of a market charter in 1227 may mark the movement of the main focus of settlement from Church End to the High Street and market-place.

**3.7** Medieval pits (NMR 1340830) have been investigated to the rear of Saracen's Head Hotel, approximately 200m to the north west.

**3.8** The evidence exposed during works on the present site has revealed a significant make up layer existing in the area of the new building. This layer became shallower towards the eastern side of the site and may represent an attempt to level the site, which slopes down to the main road to the east.

**3.9** Feature [01] was observed in the soakaway excavated in the northern edge of the site. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature but it is possible that this represents the limit of

the layer of make up previously mentioned. This is suggested by the similar consistency and colour of fill (03) and the make up layer, the similar dimensions and the absence of this deposit in the eastern side of the soakaway.

**3.10** A rubble layer observed in the southeast corner of the site which may indicate that there were other buildings previously occupying the site, as shown on the 1875 O.S. map (Figure 7). A change in the topsoil was also observed in this area. Unfortunately it was not possible to determine a relationship between the two topsoils.

**3.11** Only one sherd of pottery pre-dating the Victorian period was recovered. This was an unstratified find from the northern foundation trench and the presence of a levelling layer here suggests that it may have been imported from elsewhere.

### ***Conclusion***

**3.12** Despite the proximity of remains dating from the prehistoric to Medieval periods, only one sherd of late 3rd-4<sup>th</sup> century pottery has been recovered. No further evidence for archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed during the present project. The presence of a rubble layer on the site provides further evidence for the buildings shown on the 1875 O.S. map. These were most likely removed to allow for the present garden and parking area.

### ***Confidence Rating***

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

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

## 4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
22/10/07	MW	7	Monitor foundations
07/02/08	MW	9	Monitor services

## 5. Bibliography

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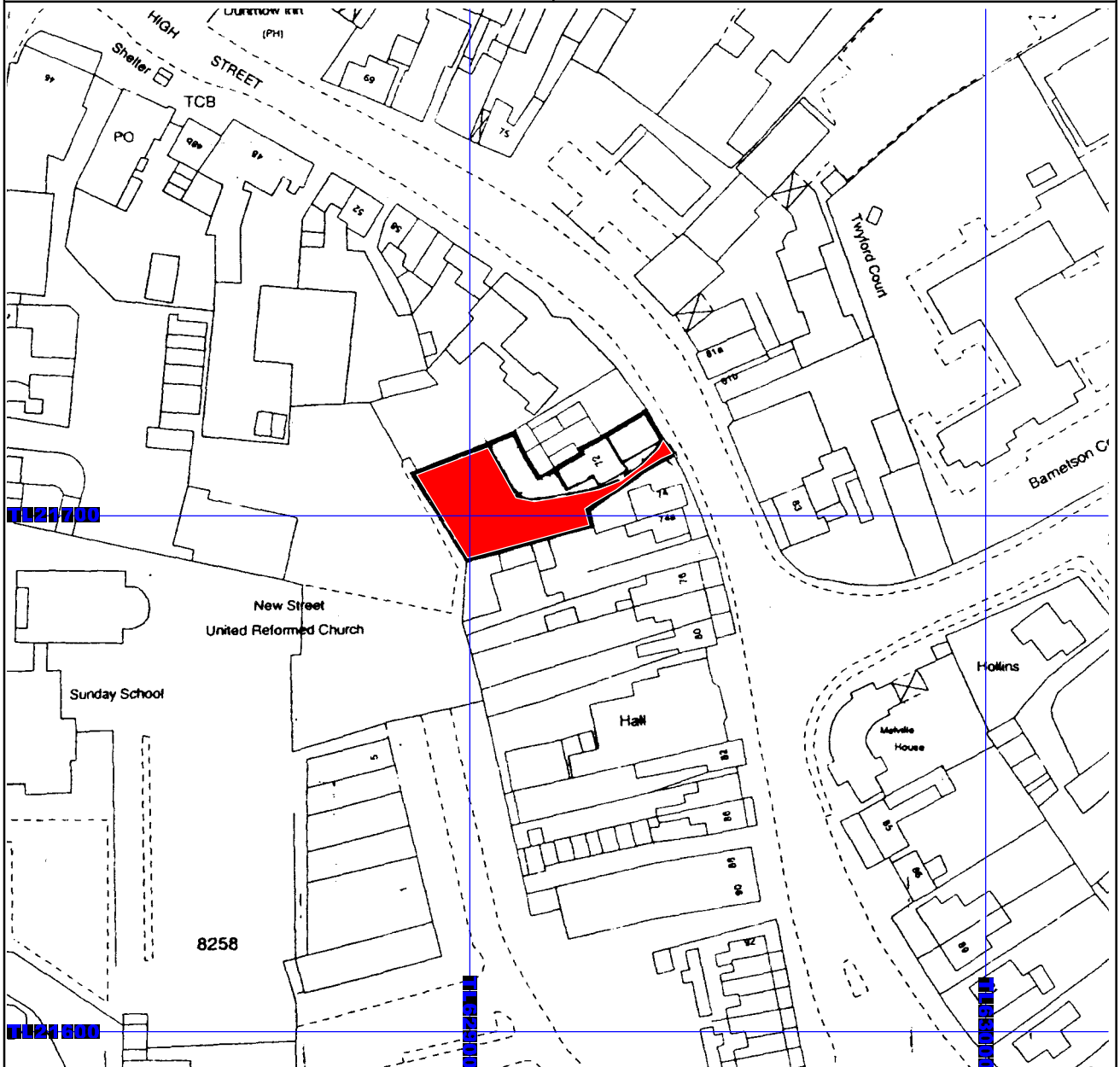
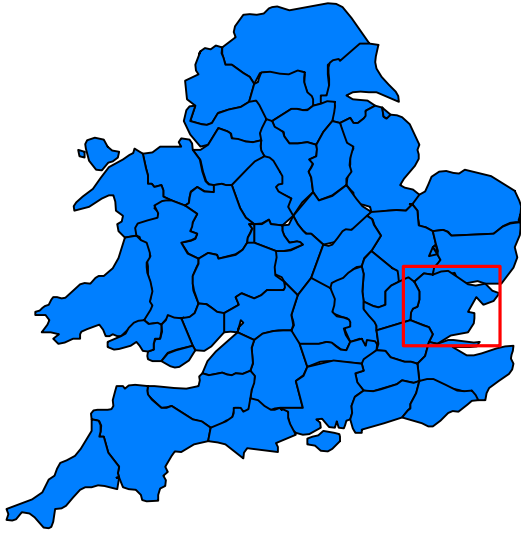
## 6. Illustrations & Plates

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Figure 4.....	Southwest facing section of NW-SE service trench
Figure 5.....	Ordnance survey, 1875
Plate 1.....	South facing section of foundation trench
Plate 2.....	South facing section of soakaway and [01]

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Land to the R/O 72 High Street,  
Great Dunmow

HN680



Site Location

Scale 1:1250

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

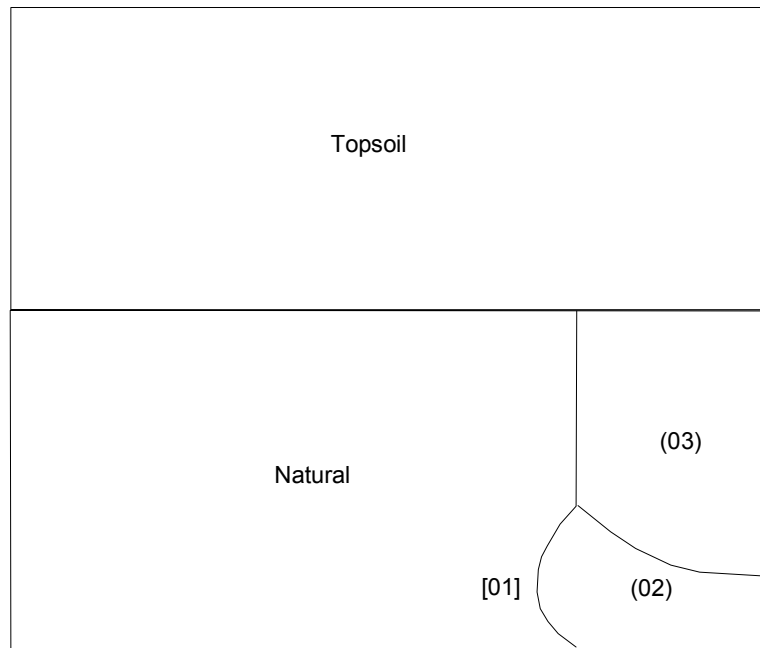
Figure 1



Site layout

E

W



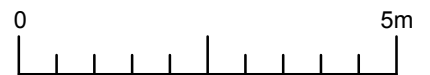
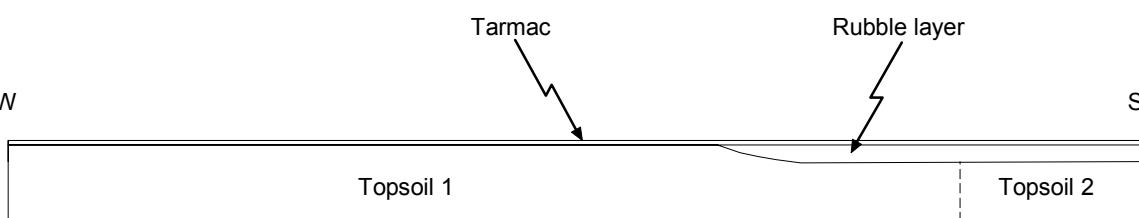
North facing section of soakaway

Scale 1:20

Figure 3

NW

SE

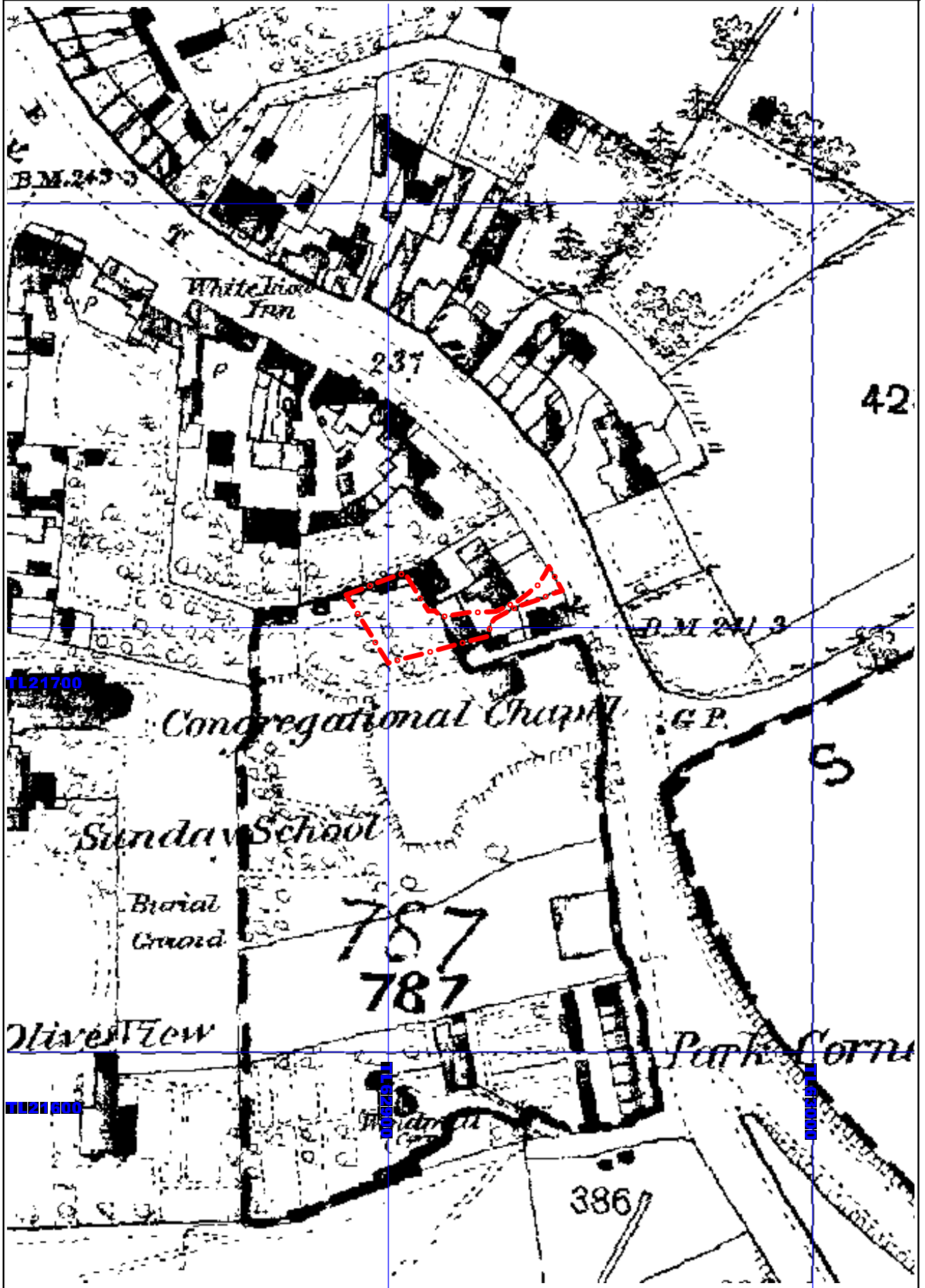


South west facing section of NW-SE service trench

Scale 1:100

Figure 4





Ordnance Survey, 1875

Scale 1:1250



Plate 1: South facing section of foundation trench



Plate 2: South facing section of soakaway and [01]