

3. Discussion

3.1 The present site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance (AA10), as designated in the district local plan. This encompasses the centre of Royston, which was recorded in 1163 as 'Crux Roys'. Kneesworth Street follows the line of the Roman road called Ermine Street. It crosses the Icknield Way, an important route between East Anglia and Wessex since at least the Neolithic period, approximately 400m to the south-east of the present site, at the junction between Baldock Street and High Street. A medieval hospital and cemetery are known to be located in the vicinity of the site. In the early 17th century a number of buildings along Kneesworth Street were used as court residences and offices associated with the royal hunting lodge, known as 'King James' Palace'.

3.2 It was noted that the chalk natural on the site occurs at an unexpectedly low level. This may reflect the natural downward slope of the land from the west to the east. The layer of build up material on the site is likely to have been introduced to bring the site up to a construction level in keeping with the surroundings.

3.3 The layer of redeposited chalk observed in the foundation trenches may represent an earlier floor, indicating previous occupation of the site. The brick feature observed in the drainage trench appears to be shown on the modern O.S. plan (Figure 2) and is likely to be a brick garden feature.

3.4 The monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the late post medieval period.

Confidence Rating

3.5 All elements of the development were monitored and 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
03/03/08	MW	9	Monitor excavations
07/03/08	DJH	2	Monitor excavations

5. Bibliography

Ashworth, H. 2008, *13 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Herts. Project Design: Archaeological Monitoring*. Heritage Network.

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

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

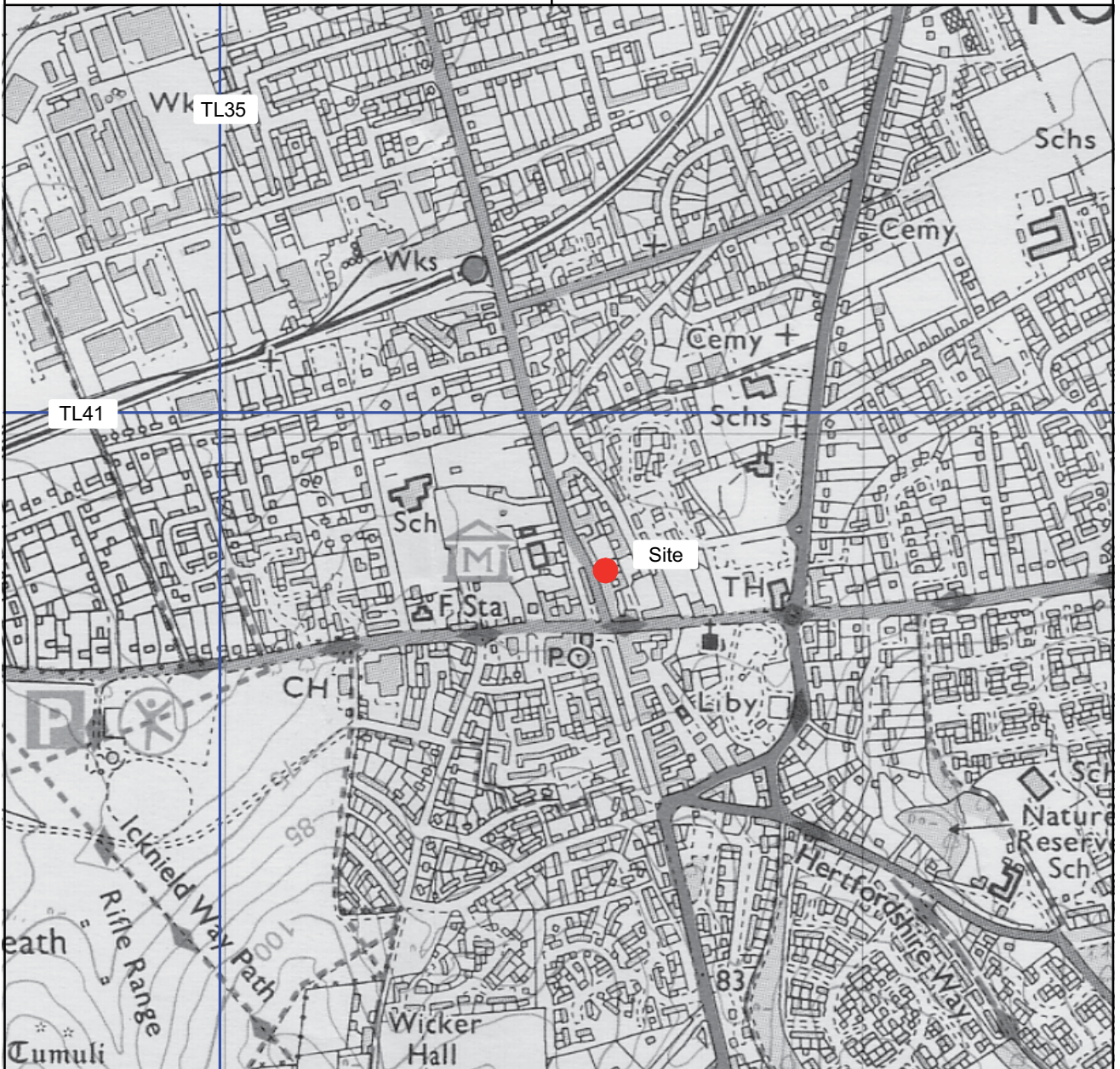
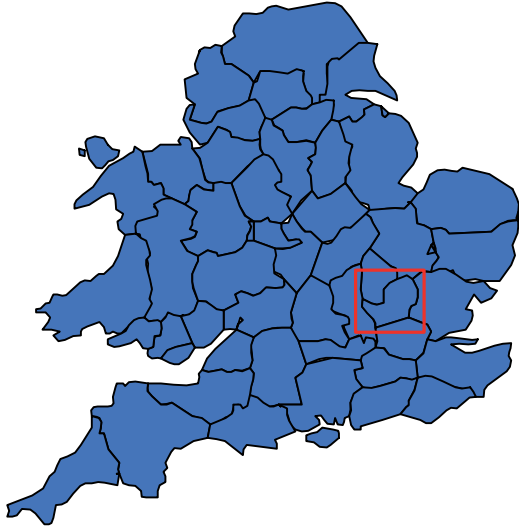
6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Site Layout
Plate 1	Drainage trench, indicative section looking southeast
Plate 2	Brick feature [01]
Plate 3	Foundation trench, indicative section
Plate 4	Brick Pier

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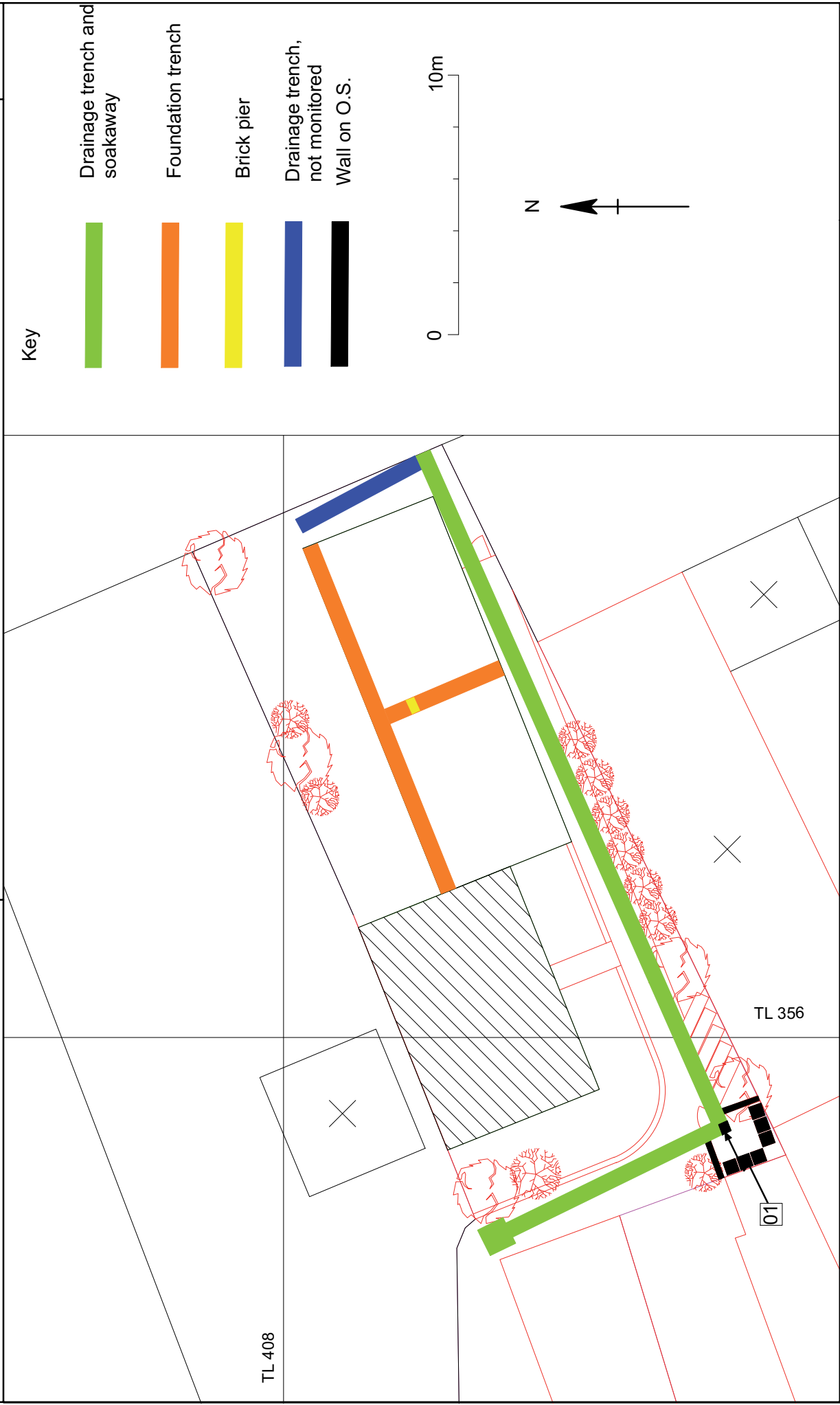


Site Location

Scale 1:5000

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Figure 1



Site layout



Plate 1: Drainage trench, indicative section looking southeast



Plate 2: Brick feature [01]



Plate 3: Foundation trench, indicative section



Plate 4: Brick pier