

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **1-5 BALDOCK STREET Royston, Herts.**

HN441

*Archaeological Evaluation 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  
1-5 BALDOCK STREET,  
Royston, Herts.

HN441

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

*Prepared on behalf of G.F. Hughes Builders*

by

Karin Semmelmann, MA PIFA

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12 ROYSTON ROAD, BALDOCK, HERTS. SG7 6NT  
TEL: (01462) 893288 FAX: (01462) 893562

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*The front cover shows an early photograph of the junction of Baldock Street and Lower King Street, with the present site on the left. (Courtesy of J.F. Smith 1983)*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Karin Semmelmann and Mark Winter. The report was written and illustrated by Karin Semmelmann and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Godfrey Hughes and Andy Nodes, builders; Tom Doig, local historian; and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, HCC for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	1-5 Baldock Street Royston, Herts.		
<b>County:</b>	Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b>	North Herts.
<b>Village/town:</b>	Royston	<b>Parish:</b>	Royston
<b>Planning reference:</b>	1/01/1903	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 35553 40730
<b>Client name and address:</b>	G.F. Hughes Builders, 37 Gower Rd. Royston. SG8 5DU		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Redevelopment	<b>Present land use:</b>	Taxi garage
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	323m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.42m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN441	<b>Other reference:</b>	n/a
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Type of work:</b>	Evaluation	<b>Curating Museum:</b>	N. Herts Museum Services
<b>Start of work</b>	15/10/2003	<b>Finish of work</b>	18/10/2003
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Post-med/modern
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

**Synopsis:** In response to a condition placed on the planning permission for the redevelopment of nos. 1-5 Baldock Street and 3-5 Lower King Street, Royston, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Two 5m trenches were excavated in the northern part of the site. Trench 1, which was orientated east – west revealed the floor and external wall of a probable stable. Below the floor were the heavily truncated remains of a row of post- or stake-holes, and a posthole containing the remains of the wooden post, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A further posthole was revealed east of the possible stable, which contained two handmade iron nails.

Trench 2, which was orientated north-south, was located in the eastern part of the site and ran parallel to Lower King St. A cellar and a series of structural remains, dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> century to recent times, were revealed. Trench 2 was then extended eastwards to assess the extent of the cellar. The earliest remains appear to be a brick-lined well, which was located on the street frontage and immediately below a 19<sup>th</sup> century wall aligned east – west. To the north of the well was a coal chute. A vehicle inspection pit, which was orientated east-west, and an oil storage tank had been built into the cellar in recent times.

No remains predating the late 18<sup>th</sup> / early 19<sup>th</sup> century were revealed.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on behalf of G.F. Hughes Builders as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation on development groundworks at the rear of 1-5 Baldock Street, Royston, Herts. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in response to a planning condition placed on the development by the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) according to the provisions of the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG 16). It followed the provisions set out in the *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council (Ref.JS/13/10/2003), and the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*.

**1.2** The site is located on the north-west corner of the junction between Baldock Street and Lower King Street and incorporates the buildings on the Baldock Street frontage and the former taxi garage at 3-5 Lower King Street (centred on NGR TL 35553 40730). The development includes the extension and refurbishment of the buildings on the frontage, and the construction of a block of flats around a central courtyard to the rear (Fig. 1).

**1.3** The site lies at the town's principal crossroads, between the Icknield Way and the Old North Road. This area, close to The Cross, would certainly have been prime location for development in the medieval period and possibly earlier. The site may have formed part of the extensive holdings which would have served King James' Palace, the royal hunting lodge of King James I, part of which survives nearby on the eastern side of Kneesworth Street. Following the guidance of the published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), the site is considered to have the potential to preserve medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains of regional or, potentially, national significance, as well as earlier remains.

**1.4** The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains which were liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide an archaeological and historical context for any such surviving remains.

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

## 2. Desk-Based Research

### *TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

**2.1** The site is located within the historic core of Royston. The ground is relatively level, at approximately 60m AOD.

**2.2** The site is bounded by Baldock Street to the south and Lower King Street to the east. The rear of the site was recently occupied by a taxi garage.

**2.3** The area around Royston is located on a solid geology of Middle Chalk overlying Lower Chalk. Archaeological fieldwork in the vicinity of the present site has indicated that the natural chalk occurs within 0.50m of the modern surface (Ashworth 1998:14; Semmelmann 2000:2).

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND*

**2.4** The County Sites and Monuments Record demonstrates activity in the vicinity of the present site from a variety of periods. Accurately located entries, pre-dating the Victorian period, are detailed below (Fig. 2).

#### *Prehistoric*

**2.5** Although Royston lies within area of high prehistoric activity only one possible prehistoric feature lies within the half kilometre study area, the site of a round barrow, now destroyed, which lay immediately north of the White Bear Public House (SMR 1734). The barrow contained nine burials, a knife, a spear and coins, none of which were dated. These possibly represent secondary Anglo-Saxon burials within a prehistoric tumulus.

**2.6** Other evidence of prehistoric activity has been found within a kilometre of the present site, including Neolithic (c.3,500bc - 2,000bc) flint implements (SMR 0578/0823/1042) and a socketed bronze axe of Bronze Age date (c.2,000bc - 700bc).

#### *Romano-British*

**2.7** Evidence for Roman occupation has been located in Royston, including a site on the west side of Briary Lane, approximately 482m south-west of the present site, which produced coins and other artefacts (SMR 1489).

**2.8** Roman artefacts, including a glass bottle coins, bronze pins and pottery, have also been recovered from unknown sites within the town (SMR 1736/1737/4198/4199).

#### *Anglo-Saxon*

**2.9** Three skeletons and an iron knife, dated to this period, were found in the vicinity of a medieval cemetery on Briary Lane (SMR 1738). It is possible that the skeletons and artefacts within the round barrow to the north of the White Bear (SMR 1734) are also of Anglo-Saxon date.



**2.10** A small Anglo-Saxon hoard, containing six bronze fibulae brooches, has also been located in the town (SMR 2728).

### ***Medieval***

**2.11** The present site lies within the medieval core of the town. The settlement of Royston was established by the second half of the twelfth century (SMR 0016) around the Augustinian priory (SMR 4200), the site of which lies approximately 223m south-east of the present site. The Priory church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, (SMR 0569) became the parish church after the Dissolution of the Priory in 1537.

**2.12** The present study area lies within 160m of the early thirteenth century Hospital of St John and St James (SMR 2726), which lay in the vicinity of the junction of Baldock Street and Upper King Street (then known as Back Street). Part of the possible cemetery associated with this hospital was located in 1959 on Briary Lane (SMR 1738). The skeletons of 3 adults and 1 child, were discovered, along with evidence for coffins and other artefacts of medieval date.

**2.13** The Royston Cave (SMR 0030) which lies approximately 120m east of the present site, is an artificial cavern cut into the chalk beneath the southern side of Melbourn Street. The walls of the Cave are decorated by sculptures cut in low relief which depict religious subjects, including Crucifixion scenes, St Katherine, St Laurence and St Christopher. These were all saints revered by the Knights Templar and other symbols carved into the walls, such as the hand and heart, can be paralleled with known Templar sites. It has been suggested that the Cave was a deliberate copy of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, which was circular and had its altar on the western side (Beamon and Donel, 1976).

### ***Post-Medieval***

**2.14** The present site lies approximately 138m south-west from the site of the Old Palace, a seventeenth century royal hunting lodge (SMR 2723). King James I converted two adjacent public houses, the 'Cock' and the 'Greyhound', on Armynge Street, later called Kneesworth Street, into accommodation for himself and his immediate entourage during his frequent stays to hunt in the vicinity of Royston. Between 1604 and 1611 the king spent nearly £4,000.00 on building and buying property in the town to accommodate the court, hunting dogs and horses (Figure 3).

**2.15** Observation and recording work on groundworks associated with the Royston Town Centre Enhancement Scheme undertaken by the Heritage Network in 1997 revealed the remains of post-medieval buildings on the island between the Old Palace and Lower King Street. No buildings are shown in this location on Beldam's plan of the Royston Court House, although the area is shown as built up on the 1887 Ordnance Survey and the buildings appear to have survived until the 1960s.

## ***HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***

**2.16** Royston was built at the crossing of the Icknield Way and Ermine Street, a major Roman road. The line of the Icknield Way, an important east - west route between East Anglia and

Wessex since the Neolithic period and which formed the county boundary between Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire until 1897, is now followed by Baldock Street to the west and Melbourn Street to the east. The line of Ermine Street, which ran from London to Lincoln and York and later became the Old North Road, is now followed by High Street and King Street to the south, Kneesworth Street and Lower King Street to the north.

**2.17** The location of the town on the Icknield Way undoubtedly brought traders and drovers through this area in the prehistoric period. This is shown by the amount of evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity, including a barrow cemetery, comprising one Neolithic long barrow and six Bronze Age round barrows, on Therfield Heath to the south-west of the town. Cropmarks and aerial photographs have revealed evidence for other prehistoric monuments in all the surrounding parishes, especially Therfield.

**2.18** Royston is not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. The area of the present town was divided between six separate manors: Barkway, Reed and Therfield in Hertfordshire; Bassingbourn, Melbourn and Kneesworth in Cambridgeshire.

**2.19** The town grew up around the Augustinian Priory, dedicated to St John the Baptist and St Thomas of Canterbury, which was founded c.1163 by Eustace de Merc, lord of Newsells Manor and his nephew and heir, Ralph of Rochester. A charter, dated c.1184, granted the priors manorial rights over the land with which they had been endowed. The manor of Royse Cross thus formed was held by the priors until Dissolution in 1537.

**2.20** In 1189 Richard I granted Royston Priory the right to hold a market on the fourth day of each week and to have a fair throughout Whitsun week. A further fair was granted in 1242. These fairs and markets would have attracted trade, and encouraged the growth of the town.

**2.21** Two other religious foundations were established in Royston during the medieval period. the Hospital of St Nicholas (site currently unknown) was founded c.1220 as a chantry chapel and hospital for lepers, with its own fair granted c.1212. It had ceased to exist by 1359. The Hospital of SS John and James was founded c.1224.

**2.22** The Knights Templar, a military and religious order founded in 1118 to protect pilgrims to the Holy Land, had preceptories (religious houses) and churches at Wendy and Duxford and a church at Baldock, a town founded by the Templars in the late twelfth century. They would certainly have brought goods to sell at the fairs and markets in Royston from their nearby properties. The Royston Cave is thought to have been used by the Templars when they came to the town. One theory suggests that there was an upper floor in the Cave, which was used to store goods, the lower floor, with all the carvings, being used as a chapel (Beamon and Donel, 1978).

**2.23** The location of the town, on the crossing of the Old North Road and the Icknield Way, meant that many travellers passed through, especially from the north-east. Royston was a day's journey from London by stagecoach, so many travellers would have spent their last night on the road in the town. A large number of inns were established to cater for this trade. In 1603 King James I spent the night in Royston on his way south following his accession.



**2.24** Until September 1897, Royston was divided by the county boundary between Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, which followed the line of the Icknield Way. Following the recommendation of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, the whole of the town was included in Hertfordshire, as one civil parish under an Urban District Council. The first council was formed in September 1897.

### **CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

**2.25** None of the available historic surveys of Hertfordshire or Cambridgeshire show sufficient detail to assess the use or layout of the present site.

**2.26** A survey of the Royston Priory estate, which included much of the town, was carried out in 1610. A second survey, of the lands held by the King in Royston, was undertaken on the orders of Parliament after the death of Charles I in 1649. Both of these, and other sources, were used by the nineteenth century Royston antiquarian, Joseph Beldam, to produce a plan of *The Royston Court House and its Appurtenances* which was presented to the Society of Antiquaries. The plan is reproduced in Kingston's *History of Royston* (Fig. 3).

**2.27** The Royston Tithe Map of 1851 (CRO DSA4 82/2) shows no detail of the present site. The Tithe Award, dated 1850 (CRO DSA4 82/1) makes it clear that the centre of Royston was built up, and that it was *unproductive of titheable matters* and therefore no detail was recorded.

**2.28** The earliest reliable cartographic evidence for the site is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1887 Ordnance Survey plan, which shows that there was a continuous run of buildings to the south and east, and another structure to the north (Fig. 4a).

**2.29** The site was subdivided into three plots by 1898 (Fig. 4b). The northern part formed one plot, orientated east-west, and the southern part was divided by a north-south orientated boundary. Some of the structures on Lower King Street had been demolished, and an extension had been added to the rear of the building in the south-east plot.

**2.30** By 1923 the south-east plot had almost completely been built up, but the other two plots remained relatively unaltered (Fig. 5a).

**2.31** The Ordnance Survey plan of 1940 appears to show the site as being devoid of buildings, although the version examined may have been altered and cannot be relied upon (Fig. 5b).

**2.32** By 1970, the whole site had been developed in its most recent form.

## **3. Fieldwork**

### **EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

**3.1** The site occupies an area of approximately 323m<sup>2</sup>. Two trenches were excavated with a total area of 19.62m<sup>2</sup>. In response to the developers' requirements, Trench 2 was further excavated, under close archaeological supervision, to ascertain the extent of the cellar which had been revealed. The total area investigated measured approximately 42m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 6).

**3.2** The overburden was removed and the cellar cleared with a JCB fitted with a 1.60m toothless bucket.

**3.3** The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date and quality of preservation.

**3.4** All work was carried out in accordance with the detailed method statement contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, and followed the relevant sections of the Heritage Network's *Operations Manual*.

## RESULTS

### Trench 1

**3.5** Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site. It was aligned east-west parallel with the site boundary and measured 5.40 x 1.70m (Fig. 7).

**3.6** The trench was bisected by wall [104], which ran north-south across the trench. To the west of the wall lay what appears to be a stable floor [101], below which was a layer of redeposited chalk [003], which lay over the chalk natural. Between the stable floor and the present concrete ground surface [001] was a layer of rubble [002].

**3.7** Both the concrete and the rubble layer were present to the east of the wall [104], but the redeposited chalk deposit [003] was absent.

**3.8** The stable floor had been built of grooved pavements measuring 23.5 x 11 x 6.5cm (9¼ x 4¼ x 2½ inches) which were set in lime mortar. A posthole, [109], measuring approximately 0.14 x 0.12m, had been cut into the floor and filled with concrete. On removing the floor, the posthole was seen to contain a fragment of Cambridge White brick, which fitted almost exactly into the hole, below which was a piece of animal bone, a fragment of clay pipe and two small fragments of red brick.

**3.9** The stable floor extended approximately 3.0m eastwards, terminating at a red brick wall [104]. This was two courses wide and made of unfrosted bricks set in lime mortar. The bricks measured 22 x 10.5 x 6cm (8½ x 4 x 2¼ inches).

**3.10** Another posthole [107] was revealed south of posthole [109], which measured approximately 0.22 x 0.17m and contained the remains of a wooden post within a chalk matrix.

**3.11** Also below the stable floor, and approximately 2.06m west of wall [104], was a row of heavily truncated post- or stake-holes [105]. The edges of the individual holes were difficult to ascertain as the holes were at most 0.03m deep. The northernmost cut contained two fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery.

**3.12** A sub-rectangular posthole, [103], was revealed approximately 1.40m east of wall [104]. It measured 0.17 x 0.22m, and contained two hand made iron nails. Thirteen contexts were recorded in this trench:

Trench 1					
C'text No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Surface	0.08m-0.12m d	Concrete ground surface	Yard & garage surface	Modern
002	Deposit	0.14m-0.45m d	Rubble	Levelling deposit	Modern
003	Deposit	0.20m-0.39m d	Redeposited chalk	Levelling deposit	Modern
101	Floor	>3.74m l x >1.65m w x 0.08m d	Brick floor made of stable bricks set in lime mortar	Stable floor	19 <sup>th</sup> C
102	Fill	0.18 x 0.22 x 0.09m d	2.5Y v. dark grey loose silty sand	Fill of posthole [103]	Post-med
103	Cut	0.18 x 0.22 x 0.09m d	Rectangular posthole with straight sides and flat base.	Posthole	Post-med
104	Wall	0.29m w x 0.31m d	Wall made of red, unfrogged bricks in a lime mortar	Stable wall	19 <sup>th</sup> C
105	Feature	0.15m w x 0.03m d	Line of possible post or stake holes	Fence line	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
106	Fill	0.03m d	2.5Y v. dark grey loose silty sand	Fill of feature [105]	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
107	Cut	0.15 x 0.15m x 0.25m d	Posthole	Posthole	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
108	Fill	0.15 x 0.15 x 0.25m d	Degraded chalk and some 2.5Y v. dark grey loose silty sand	Fill of posthole [107]	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> C
109	Cut	0.16 x 0.21 x 0.10m d	Rectangular posthole with straight sides & flat base	Posthole cut into floor [101]	19 <sup>th</sup> C
110	Fill	0.16 x 0.21 x 0.10m d	Large fragment of Cambridge White brick with animal bone, CBM & clay pipe frag below	Fill of posthole [109]	19 <sup>th</sup> C

### Trench 2

**3.13** Trench 2 was located in the north eastern part of the site, and measured 5.80 x 1.80m. It had been intended to locate this trench closer to the site boundary, but a buried oil storage tank was revealed close to the surface and the trench was moved westwards. This trench was aligned north to south (Figs. 8 & 9).

**3.14** The stratigraphy consisted of a number of backfill and levelling deposits associated with the various building activities revealed in the trench. The most prominent feature was cellar [209], which extended from the northern end of the trench for 3.82m.

**3.15** Within this cellar was a vehicle inspection pit made of Cambridge White bricks, set in cement mortar [300]. The west wall [206] was visible in the east facing section of the trench and the eastern end of the pit was revealed when Trench 2 was later extended, see below. It measured approximately 4.92m in length, 1.0m in width and 1.18m in depth. A wall constructed of London brick had been added at a later date in the eastern end of the pit, presumably to house the used oil storage tank that was still present.

**3.16** A red brick wall [207] was revealed running from the northern end of the trench and extending behind the west wall of the inspection pit [206]. The bricks were set in a lime mortar and appeared to be of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**3.17** Another wall of similar construction [204] was located approximately 1.07m north of the southern end of the trench. This was orientated east-west, and was later seen to extend as far as the site boundary. It lay immediately south of wall [203], which was made of Cambridge White bricks.

**3.18** South of wall [204] was a drainage channel [205], which was built of red brick and capped with sandstone blocks. The channel was also orientated east-west, and measured approximately 0.17m in width.

Trench 2					
C'text No.	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation	Date
001	Surface	0.08m-0.12m d	Concrete ground surface	Yard & garage surface	Modern
004	Surface	0.15m-0.30m d	Concrete ground surface	Yard & garage surface	Modern
201	Structure	0.12m w	Wall of Cambridge White bricks	N. wall of service pit	Modern
202	Structure	0.12m w	Wall of Cambridge White bricks	S. wall of service pit	Modern
203	Structure	0.18m w	Wall of Cambridge White bricks	Building	Modern
204	Structure	0.22m w	Wall of red, unfrogged bricks	Building	Post-med
205	Structure	0.17m w x 0.18m d	Brick-built gully with sandstone capping	Drainage channel	Post-med
206	Structure	1m w x 1.92m d	Wall of Cambridge White bricks	W. wall of service pit	Modern
207	Structure	1.20m w x 0.59m h	Wall of red, unfrogged bricks in lime mortar	Building	Post-med
208	Fill	1.30m x 1.30m d	2.5Y 3/1 dark grey silty sand and rubble	Backfill of cellar	Post-med
209	Cut	1.80m d x .56m w	Straight sided, flat bottomed	Cut of cellar	Post-med
210	Structure	0.08m h	?Concrete floor surface	Floor of service pit	Modern
211	Structure	1.48m dia x 1.60m h	Circular structure made of red, unfrogged bricks I lime mortar	Well	Post-med
212	Structure	0.18 w x 2.20m d	Straight sided cut	Coal chute	P/med
213	Fill	1.49m w x 1.43m d	2.5Y 3/1 v dark grey silty sand with rubble, glass & occ pot	Backfill of cellar	Post-med
214	Fill	1.0m w x 1.17m d	Rubble	Backfill of service pit	Modern
215	Fill	1.0m w x 0.77m d	Mixed dump material	Backfill of service pit	Modern
216	Fill	2.65 w x 0.67m d	Rubble	Backfill of cellar	Modern
217	Fill	0.87m x 0.66m d	2.5Y 3/1 dark grey silty sand	Backfill of cellar	Modern
218	Deposit	0.78m x 0.28m d	Mixed dump material	Levelling material	Modern
219	Deposit	0.58m x 0.12m d	CBM	Levelling material	Modern
220	Deposit	0.55m x 0.14m d	Mixed dump material	Levelling material	Modern
300	Group no			Inspection pit	Modern

### Trench 2 extension

**3.19** A 4.5 x 5m extension to trench 2 was excavated eastwards, towards Lower King Street, to ascertain the extent and the depth of the cellar [209] (Fig. 10). The cellar went as far as the site boundary to the east, and, as the trench extension came within 0.50m of the northern boundary edge, it probably extended to the northern site boundary as well.

**3.20** Two further features were revealed within the trench extension. Structure [211], which was damaged by the machine, appeared to be circular and was approximately 1.48m wide and 1.60m high. It was built from hand made bricks, which measured 19.5 x 12 x 6cm (7¾ x 4¾ x 2¼ inches) and were set in a lime mortar. The structure was straight sided at the bottom, but appeared to have a gentle curve further up the sides. The base of the structure rested on the chalk natural, but the fill extended beyond the wall and was not bottomed. On balance, the structure gave every appearance of being a well. It was located against the street frontage, and lay immediately below wall [204].

**3.21** Immediately north of the postulated well was a coal chute [212], which was approximately 0.13m wide at the base, and still contained coal fragments.

## ***FINDS ASSESSMENT***

### ***Concordance of Retrieved Finds***

Ctxt	Brick		Pottery		Fe. objects		An. bone		Wood		Clay pipe		Glass	
	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.
Tr.2 u/s													15	460
101	1	1660												
102					2	70								
104	1	2315												
106			2	15										
108									4	40				
110	2	35					1	10			1	10		
212	1	3070												
Total	5	7080	2	15	2	70	1	10	4	40	1	10	15	460

### **Brick**

**3.22** A total of 5 bricks weighing 7080g was recovered during the evaluation. Two of these were fragments found within fill [110] and were of 19<sup>th</sup> date. The remaining three were samples taken to aid dating. The brick from the stable floor [101] was 6.5cm deep, and, as such, was datable to c.1875. The sample from the stable wall [104] was a handmade brick of relative poor quality, and dated from c.1850. The brick from the well [211] was good quality brick with a firm matrix. It was dated to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Pottery**

**3.23** Two small fragments of pottery weighing 15g were recovered. These came from the end post- or stake-hole in feature [105] and were of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **Iron Objects**

**3.24** Two iron objects weighing 70g were recovered during the evaluation. Both came from feature [103]. One was a complete, hand-made iron nail and the other was the shank of a similar nail.

### **Animal Bone**

**3.25** One small, unidentifiable, fragment of animal bone weighing 10g was recovered during the evaluation. It came from posthole [109], which had been cut into the stable floor.

### **Wood**

**3.26** Four fragments of wood weighing 40g were recovered during the evaluation. These were from posthole [107], which lay below the stable floor, and presumably represent the remains of the post. The fragments appear to be of oak wood.

### **Clay Pipe**

**3.27** One fragment of clay pipe stem weighing 10g was recovered during the evaluation.

### **Glass**

**3.28** Two complete glass rods, and thirteen fragments, weighing a total of 460g, were recovered from the backfill of the cellar in the trench 2 extension. The complete examples resembled knitting needles, having tapered ends and domed caps, which were marked with the letter 'E'. They were 290mm (11½") long and 10mm (") in diameter, the bottom 20mm being tapered to a cut end. The domed cap was 16mm (") in diameter and the whole rod weighed 55g. Their date and function is unclear

## **4. Risk Assessment**

**4.1** Early photographs show that 1-5 Baldock Street, which was initially residential, was converted to a garage some time before 1930 when the roads were widened at the Cross.

**4.2** The former taxi garage at the northern end of the site, which was orientated east-west, is shown as a separate structure on the Ordnance Survey plans from 1887 to 1923, and clearly remained so until it was demolished. The archaeological evidence shows that a considerable amount of structural activity occurred in this part of the site within the last two hundred years.



**4.3** Trench 1 revealed evidence for a possible stable. The depth of the bricks used to construct the stable floor suggest that they were made between 1865 and 1885, after which the bricks became shallower and were unfrosted. The wall on which the floor rested was built of roughly made, local bricks of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**4.4** Below the stable floor were the remains of a row of post- or stake-holes, which were also 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. Whether these represent an early partition wall in the stable, or a garden fence predating the stable, is unclear.

**4.5** Similarly posthole [107], which contained the fragments of a wooden post, remains enigmatic. It is earlier than the stable floor and may have been associated with the row of postholes, and possibly even with posthole [103].

**4.6** The archaeological evidence suggests that there was a stable in the north-western corner of the site in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the end wall of which aligns with the wall of the building to the north of the site. There was no further archaeological evidence for structural activity east of the stable. The cartographic evidence, however, shows that there was a structure running along the entire northern boundary of the site by 1878. The present evidence suggests that the stable predates this building, but did not enjoy a long period of use.

**4.7** Trench 2 revealed a number of structural remains, of which the vehicle inspection pit was the most recent, and, indeed, is remembered by local residents (G. Hughes pers. comm.).

**4.8** The earliest remains in Trench 2 were that of the probable well [211]. The bricks were of good quality, hand made and possibly dated from the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (T. Doig pers. comm.). The southern part of the well lay immediately below wall [204], which was of mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

**4.9** The cartographic and stratigraphic evidence would suggest that the northern part of the present study area may have originally been a medieval burghage plot, which contained a house on the street frontage and a stable in the rear in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These buildings were then replaced by the structure shown on Ordnance Survey plans from 1887 on, and which survived with some alterations until very recently.

**4.10** The location of the well is of interest, as it appears to have been within the building. If this was actually the case, a domed form may indicate that it was used with a hand pump.

**4.11** Despite the relative density of archaeological remains, there was no surviving evidence for any activity prior to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly due to successive redevelopment on a site in a prime location within the town centre.

**4.12** On the basis of this information, it is possible to propose a predictive model for the occurrence of archaeological remains within the study area. The model has been subdivided by period:

### ***Prehistoric***

**4.13** No chance finds of archaeological material have been recorded from the present site or its immediate vicinity on local or national databases, although Royston has a long history of occupation from the Mesolithic period onwards and material of this period has been found in the town (eg SMR 1734 & 0578).

**4.14** On this basis, it is considered that there is a low probability that prehistoric remains will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

#### ***Romano-British***

**4.15** Despite the proximity of Ermine Street and the Icknield Way, no chance finds of this period have been recovered from the present site or its immediate vicinity, though occupation sites have been discovered in the town (eg SMR 1489).

**4.16** On this basis, it is considered that there is a low probability that Romano-British remains will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

#### ***Anglo-Saxon***

**4.17** No chance finds of this period have been recovered from the present site or its immediate vicinity, though evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation has been recovered from elsewhere in the town (eg SMR 1738 & 2728).

**4.18** On this basis, it is considered that there is a low probability that Anglo-Saxon remains will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

#### ***Medieval***

**4.19** The location of the present site, in the centre of Royston, close to the cross-roads and the market place would have made this a prime location in the medieval period, but also later on, as is evident from the present study.

**4.20** On this basis, it is considered that there is a low probability that features and finds of medieval date will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

#### ***Post-Medieval***

**4.21** There was no archaeological evidence for activity in the post-medieval period.

**4.22** On this basis, it is considered that there is a low probability that features and finds of post-medieval date will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

#### ***Early Modern***

**4.23** All of the archaeological evidence from the site dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

**4.24** On this basis, it is considered that there is a high probability that further features and finds of the early modern period will be encountered in the course of the development of the site.

***CONFIDENCE RATING***

**4.25** The weather and ground conditions encountered in the course of the fieldwork were ideal for the identification and recording of the range of features and deposits present on the site.

**4.26** An acceptable range of documents and maps were considered, to put the findings of the fieldwork into their historical context.

**4.27** On this basis, there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which is less than High.

## 5. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
09/10/03	DJH	2	Preliminary site visit
13/10/03	KS	2	Site meeting
15/10/03	KS / MW	9 / 4	Excavation
16/10/03	KS / MW	9 / 7	Excavation & monitoring
17/10/03	KS	4	Monitoring trench extension

## 6. Sources Consulted

### Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

#### Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)

DSA4 82/1 Royston Tithe Award, 1850  
 DSA4 82/2 Royston Tithe Map, 1851  
 OS 25" series Hertfordshire Sheet LVIII.14 First edition, 1887  
 OS 25" series Hertfordshire Sheet IV.8 Second edition, 1898  
 OS 25" series Hertfordshire Sheet IV.8, 1923  
 OS 1:2500 series Hertfordshire Sheet IV.8, 1940  
 OS 6" series Sheet TL 34 SE, 1960  
 OS 1:2500 series Sheet TL 34 40, 1970

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- Turner, C. 1999. *Land at Dog Kennel Lane, Royston, Herts*. Heritage Network Report 66

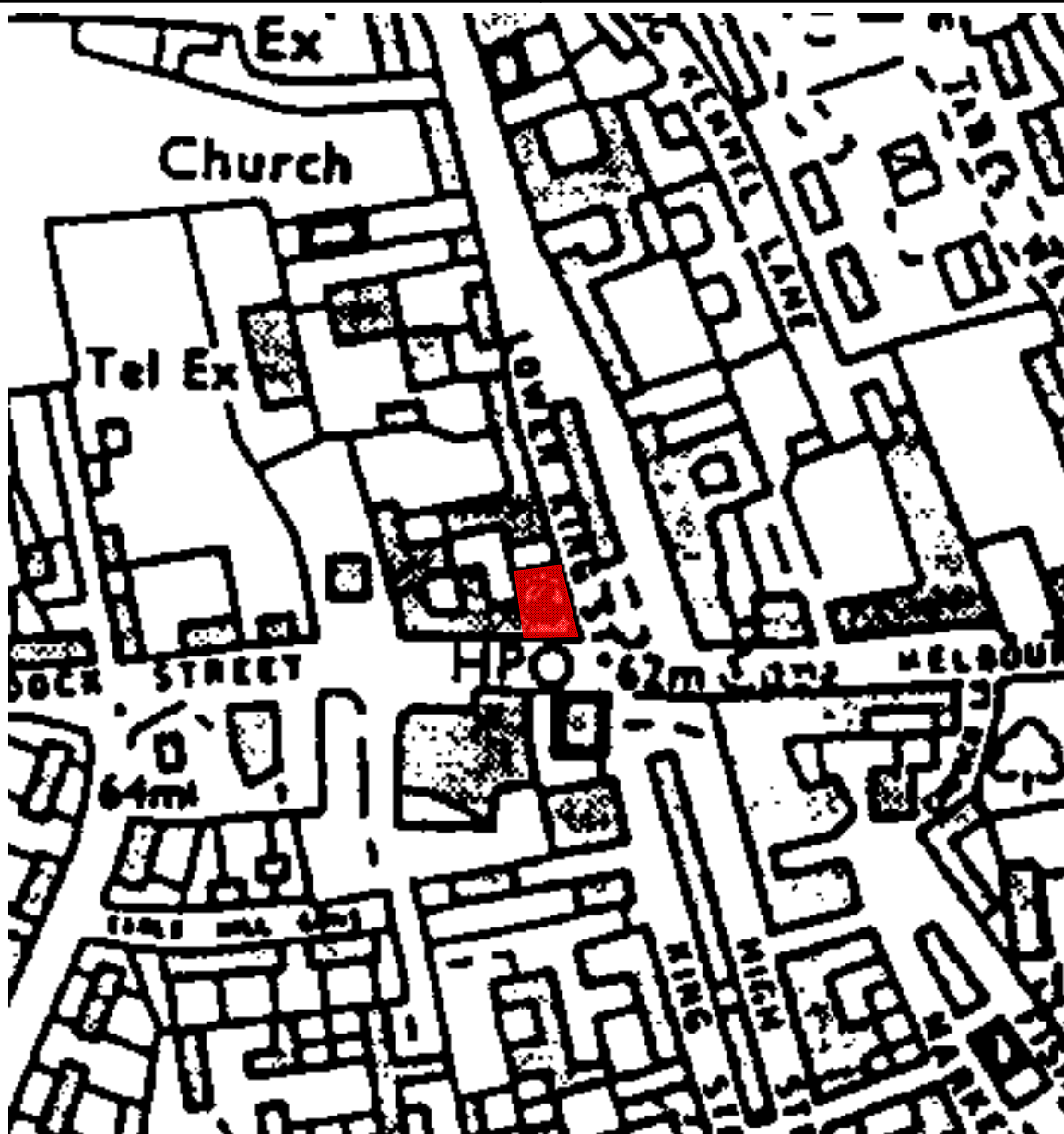
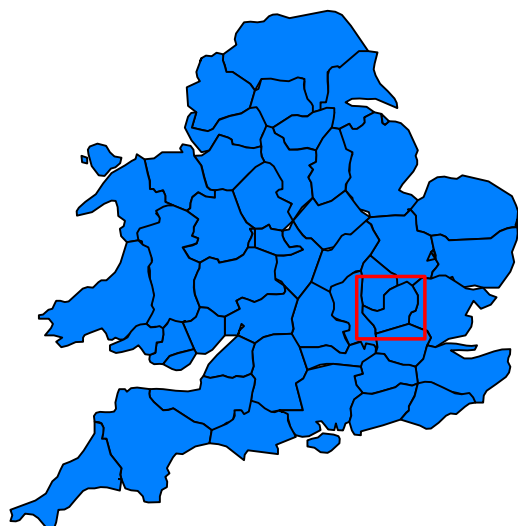
## 8. Illustrations

Figure 1 .....	Site location
Figure 2 .....	SMR Plot
Figure 3 .....	Royston Court House & its Appurtenances
Figure 4a.....	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Plan (1887)
Figure 4b .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Plan (1898)
Figure 5a.....	Ordnance Survey Plan (1923)
Figure 5b .....	Ordnance Survey Plan 1970
Figure 6 .....	Trench location
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HN441



Site Location

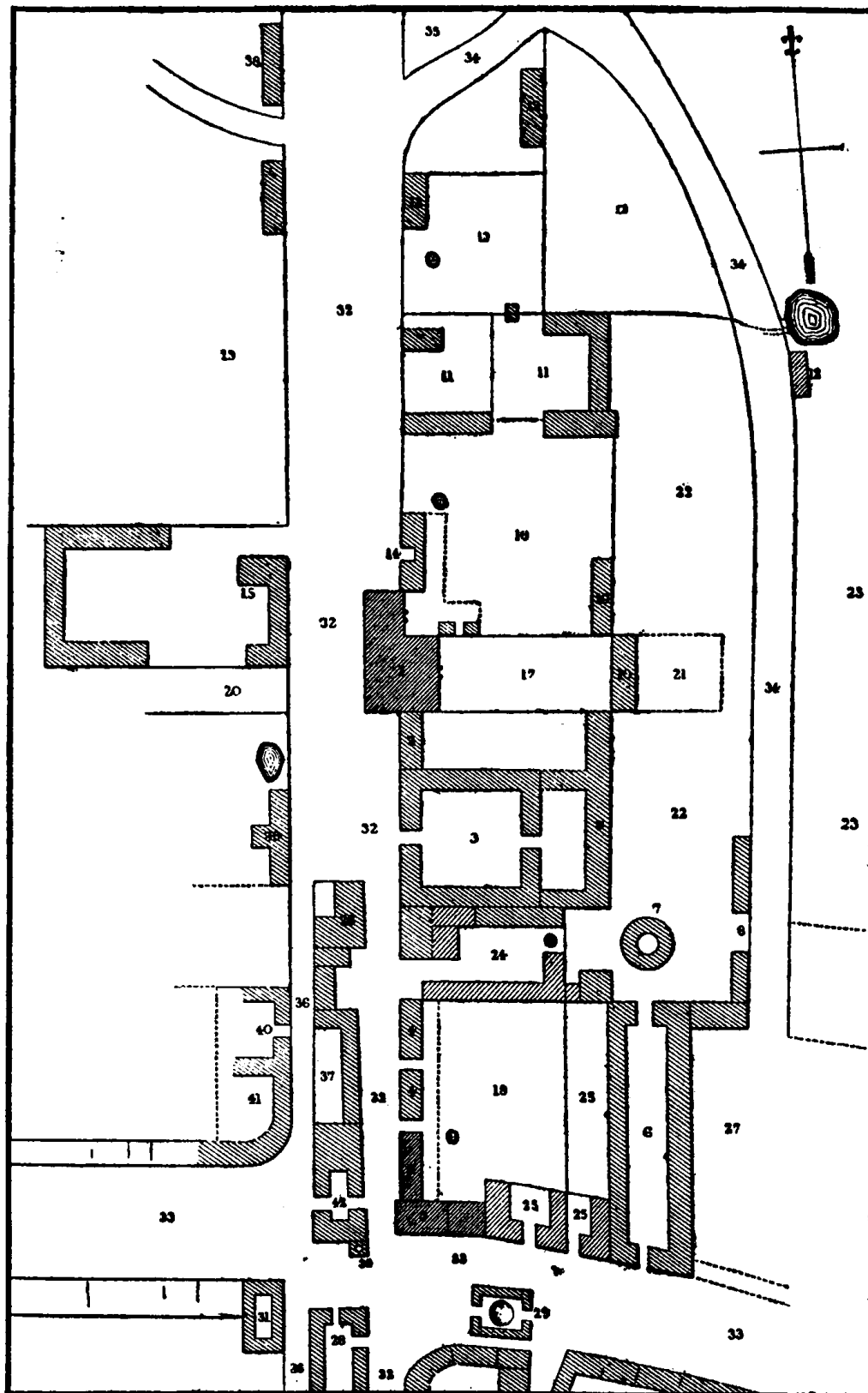
Scale 1:2000

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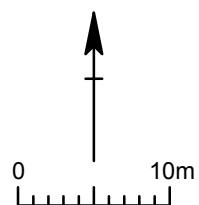
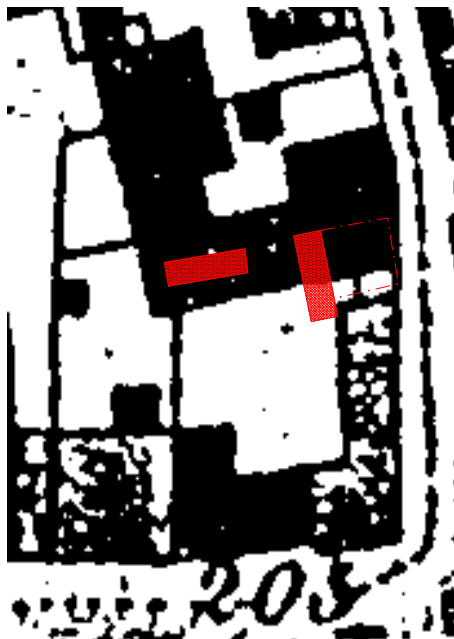
Figure 1







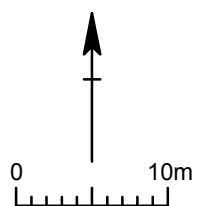
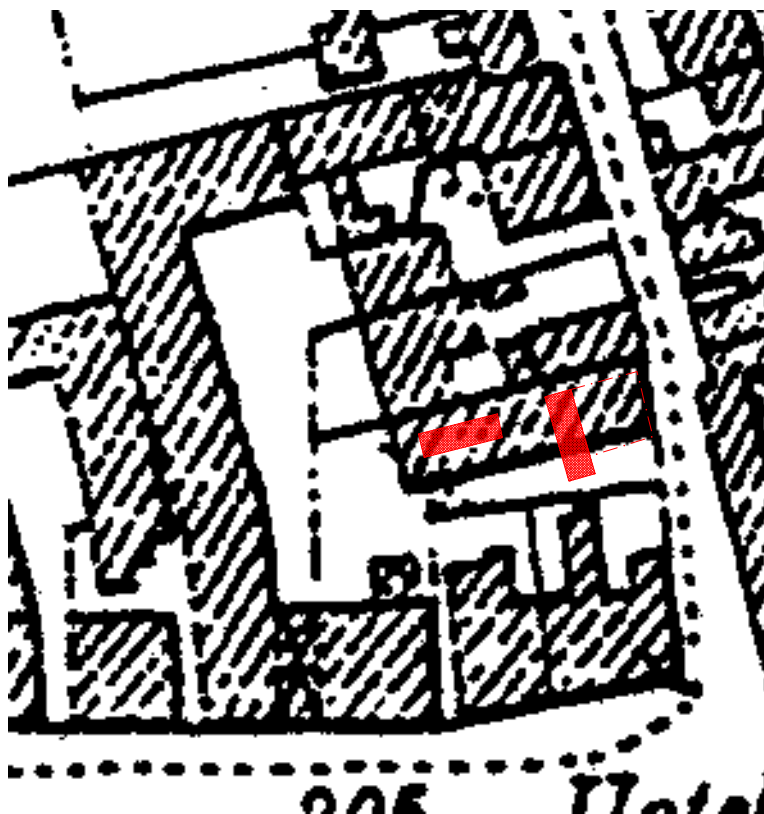
ROYSTON COURT HOUSE AND ITS APPURTENANCES.  
*From Parliamentary Surveys and other Documents.*



1st edition Ordnance Survey Plan (1887)

Scale 1:500

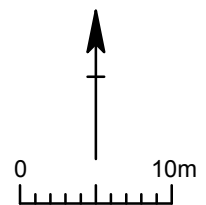
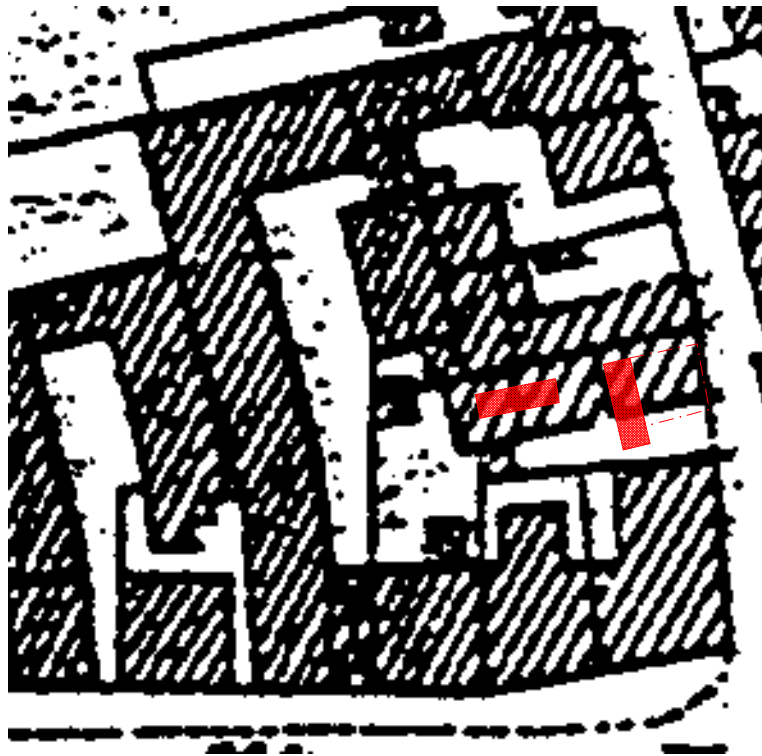
Figure 4a



2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan (1898)

Scale 1:500

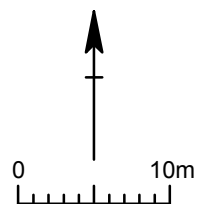
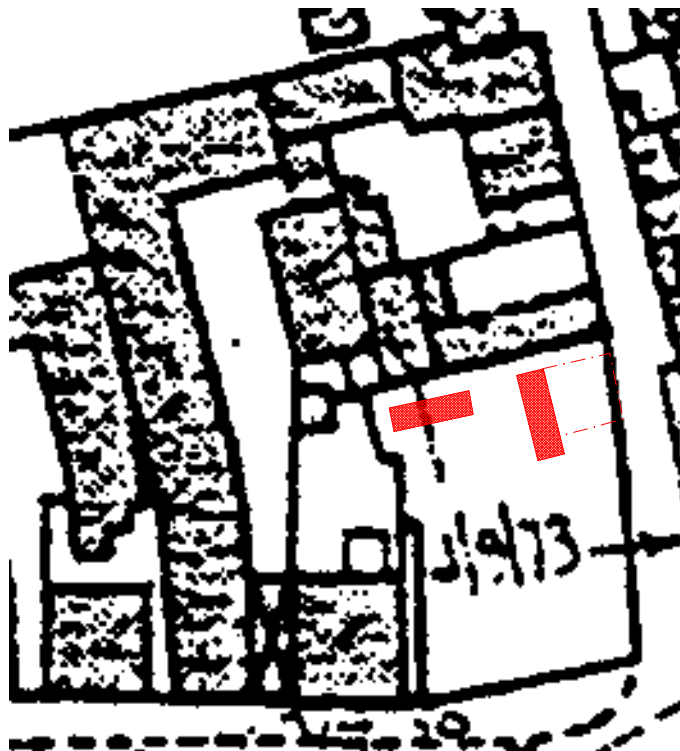
Figure 4b



Ordnance Survey Plan (1923)

Scale 1:500

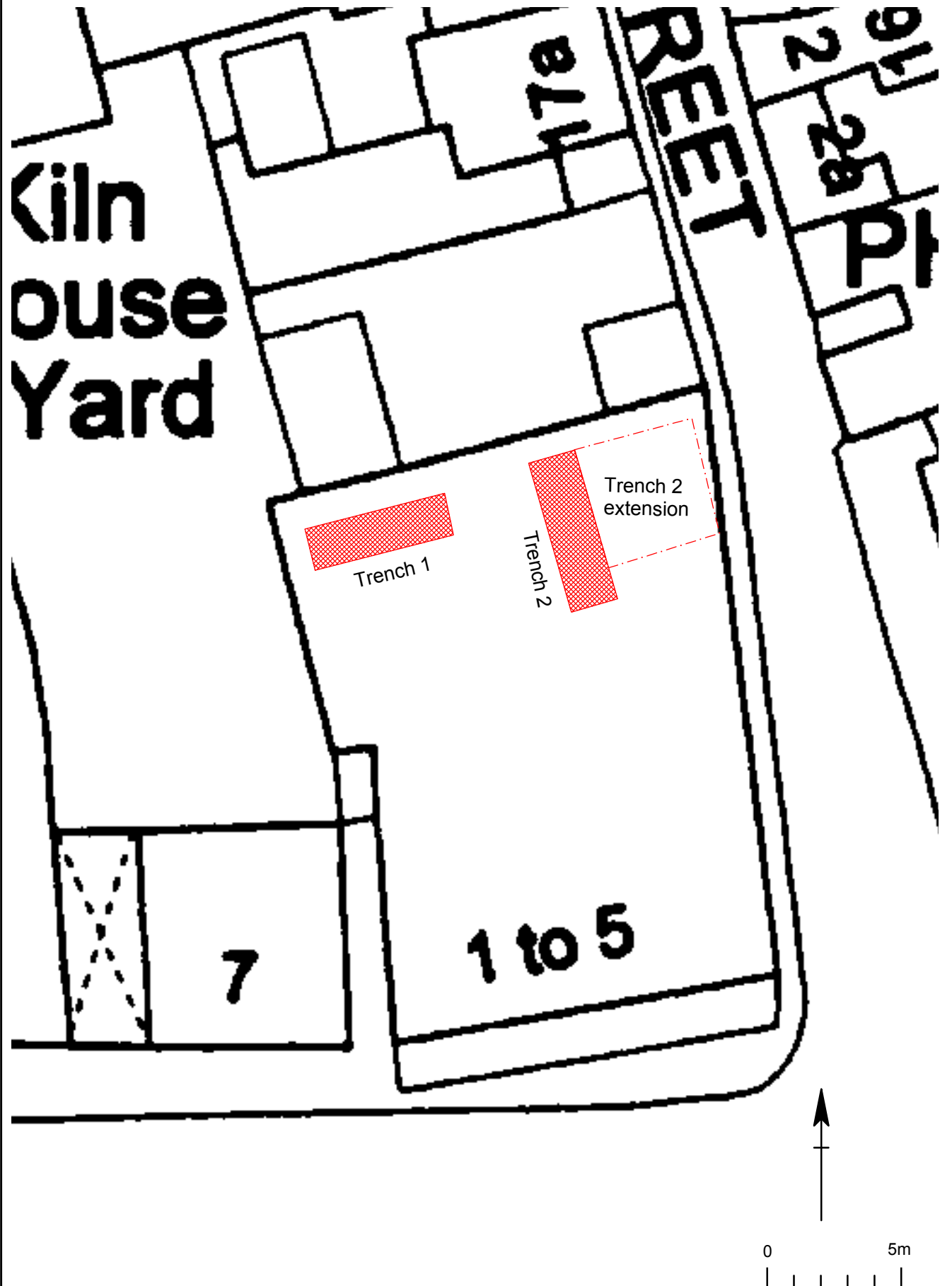
Figure 5a



Ordnance Survey Plan (1940)

Scale 1:500

Figure 5b

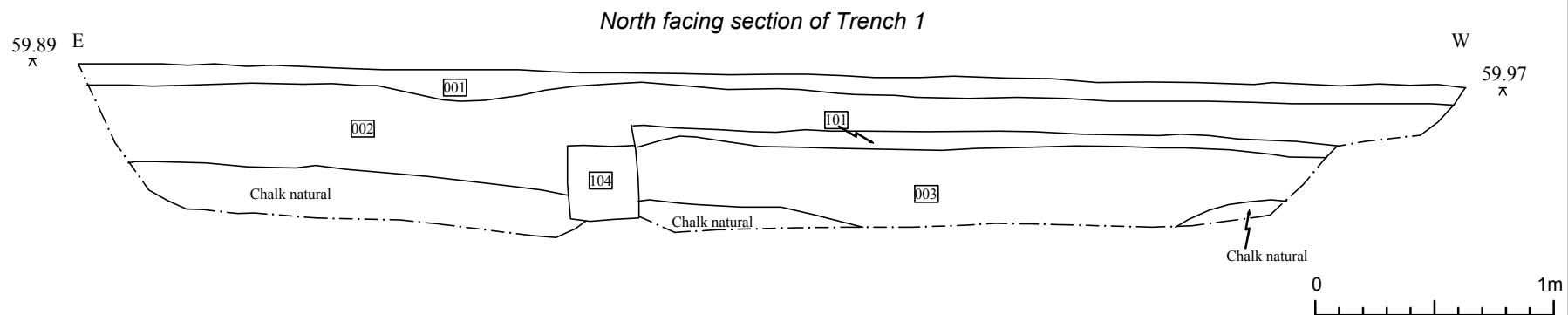
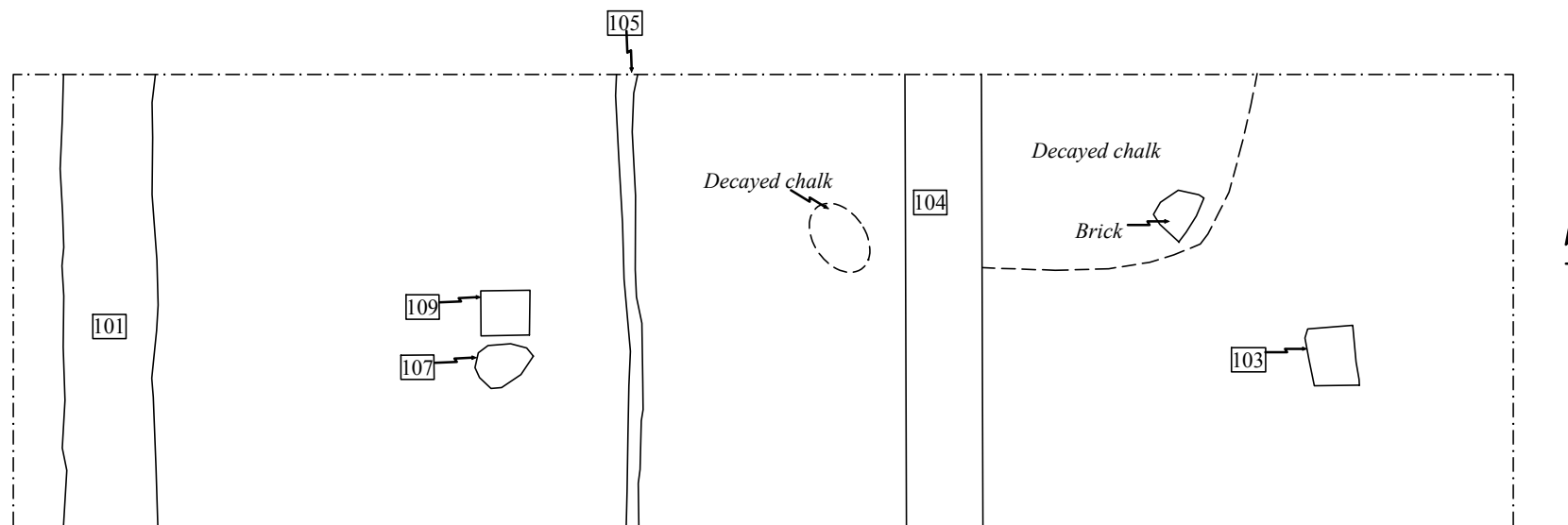


Trench location

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Scale 1:200

Figure 6

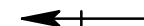
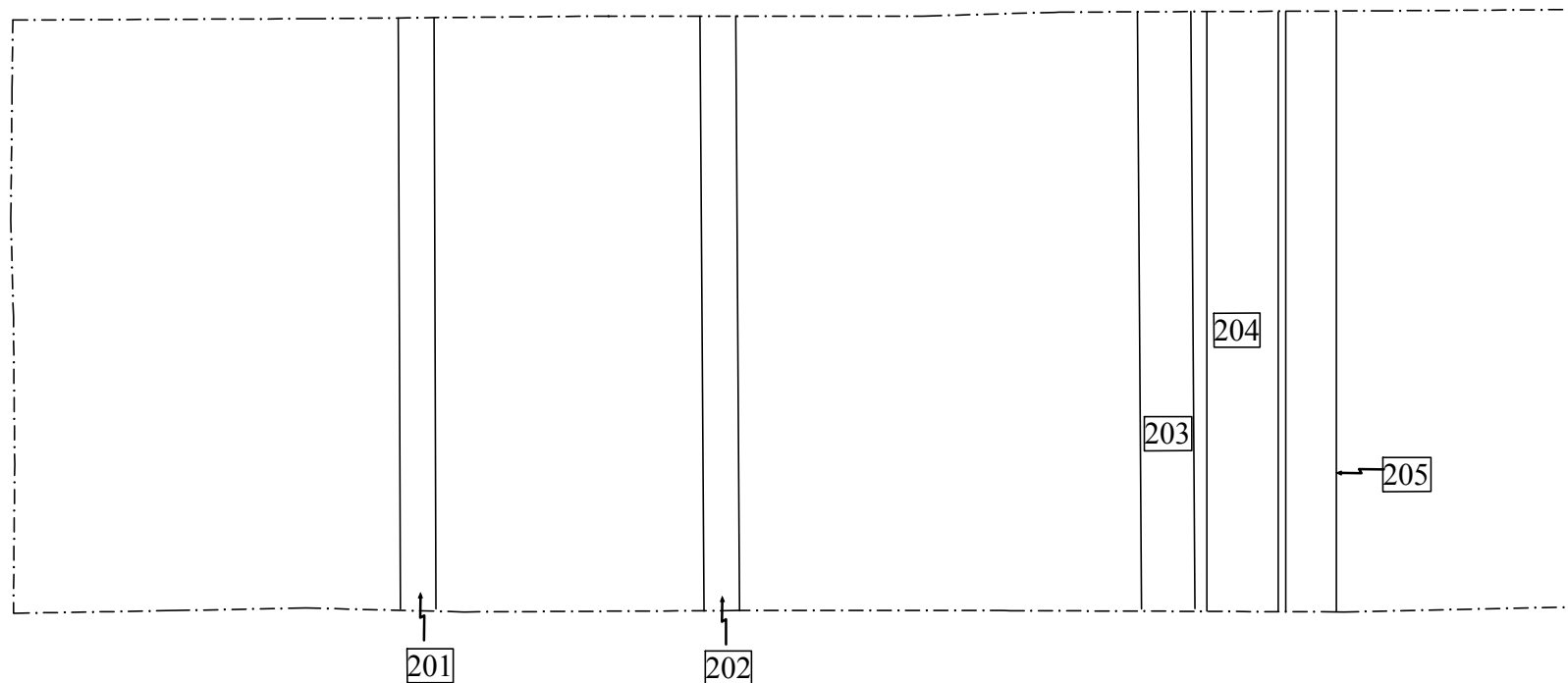


Trench 1

Scale 1:25

Figure 7

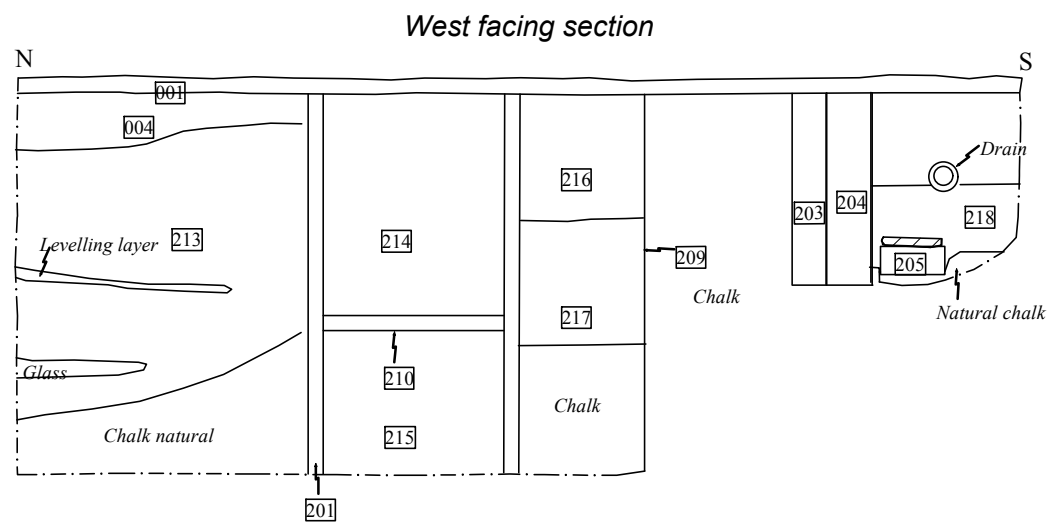
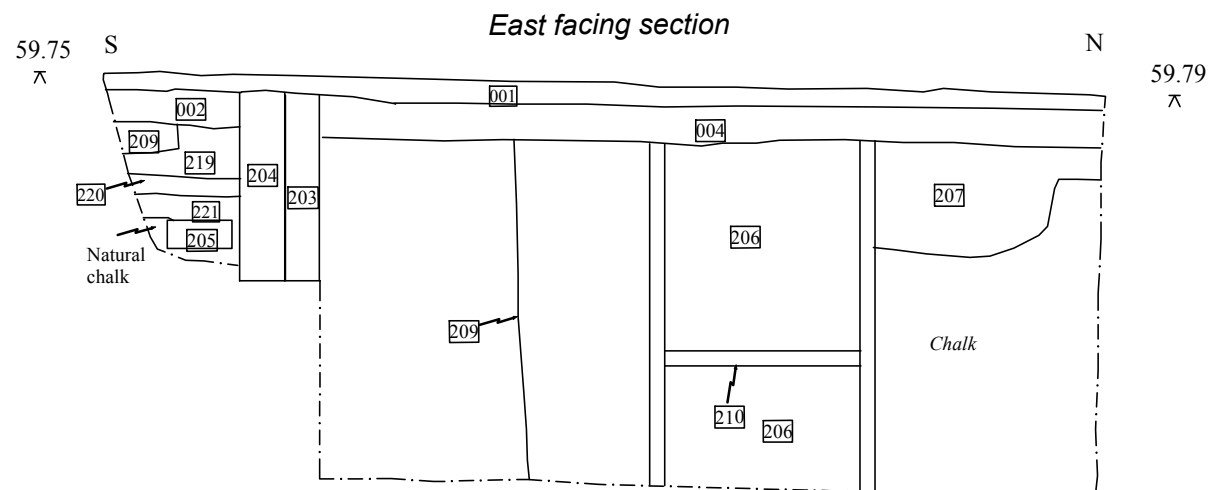




Trench 2: plan

Scale 1:25

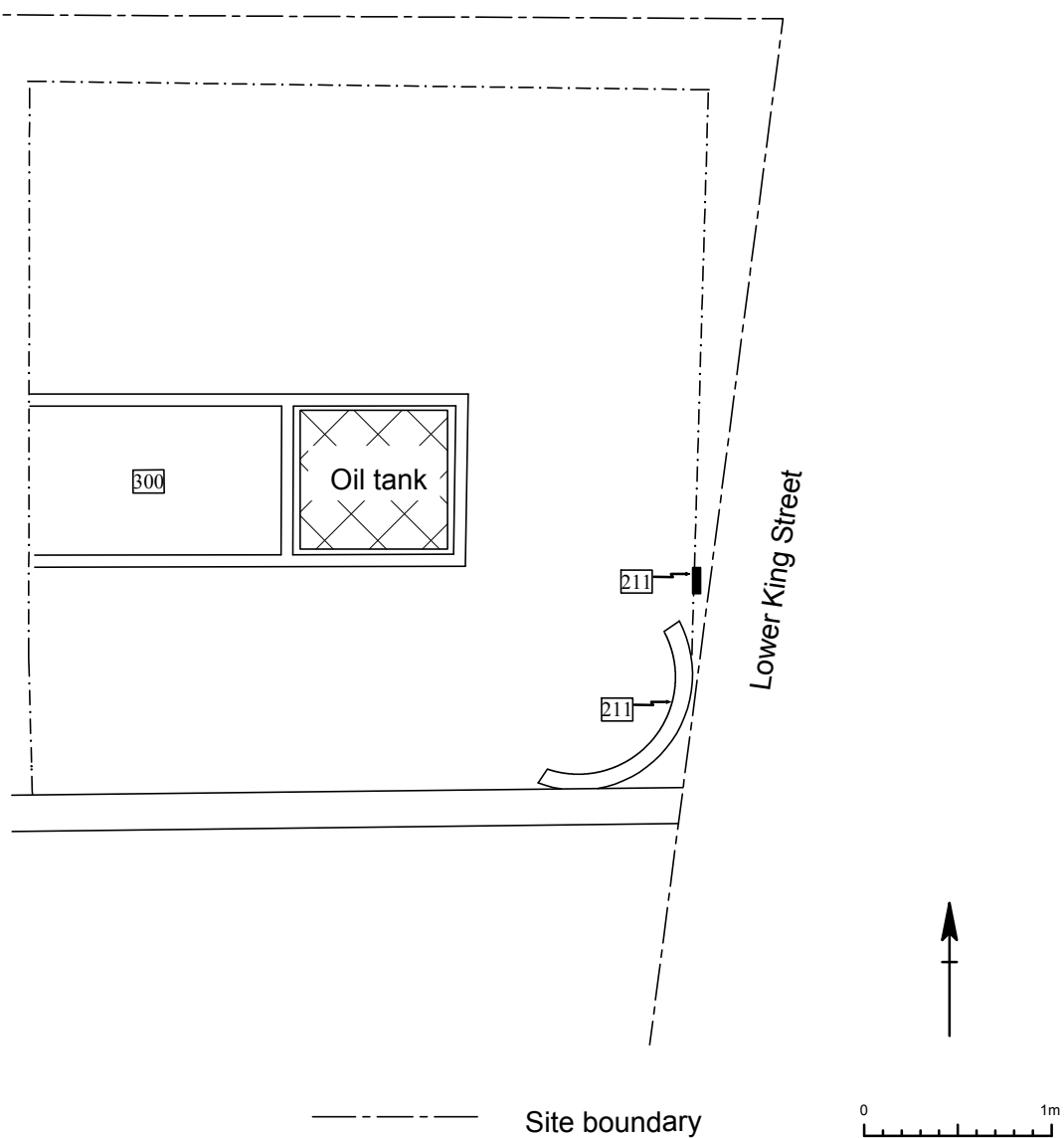
Figure 8



Trench 2: sections

Scale 1:40

Figure 9



Trench 2 extension

Scale 1:50

Figure 10