

HERITAGE NETWORK



**STAMFORD YARD,
Kneesworth Street,
Royston, Herts.**

(HN331)

***Historic Building Record &
Archaeological Monitoring Report***



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

STAMFORD YARD, Kneesworth St. Royston, Herts.

HN331

Historic Building Record & Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Heritage Construction

by

Karin Semmelmann, MA, PIFA

Report No. 194

June 2003

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

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The cover photograph shows the southern and eastern elevations of the barn

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Karin Semmelmann, Geoff Saunders & David Hillelson. The illustrations were prepared by Karin Semmelmann and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Stephen Foster and Leon Holder, Heritage Construction; Adrian Gibson, MBE; Giles Scholl; Tom Doig; and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Stamford Yard, Kneesworth St. Royston		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Herts.
Village/town:	Royston	Parish:	Royston
Planning reference:	01/00716/1	NGR:	TL 3551 4083
Client name and address:	Heritage Construction, Newspaper Hse, Upper King St. Royston. SG8 9BD		
Nature of work:	Redevelopment	Previous use:	Yard & buildings
Size of affected area:	1050m ²	Size of area investigated:	1050m ²
Site Code:	HN331	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring	Finds location/Museum:	N. Herts Museums
Start of work	02/04/02	Finish of work	18/03/03
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Post-med./ modern
Previous summaries/reports:	<i>Stamford Yard, Kneesworth St. Royston.</i> Heritage Network Report No. 102		

Summary of fieldwork results: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the redevelopment of Stamford Yard, Kneesworth St. Royston, Herts., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

Timber and brickwork analysis confirmed the early 17th century date for the construction of the barn and showed that it had undergone major restoration in the late 19th and again in the mid 20th century.

The archaeological monitoring revealed evidence for some of the post-medieval structures known from the cartographic record. The archaeological and building analysis, however, suggest that the eastern end of the barn was a free-standing structure, and not an intrinsic part of the barn as suggested on the maps.

Both the steep terrace to the west of the site and the evidence from a number of pits within the barn and in the yard suggest that fairly intensive quarrying and some lime processing occurred here prior to the construction of the barn.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Heritage Construction* as part of a programme of monitoring and recording of building conversion works and development groundworks at Stamford Yard, Kneesworth Street, Royston, Herts. The planning permission for the development (ref. 01/00716/1), granted by the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), had been subject to a standard archaeological condition, according to the provisions of the DETR's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The scope of the required work was defined in a *Design Brief for Historic Building Recording* and a *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* prepared by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to NHDC (ref. SB 05/03/02).

1.2 The site is centred on grid reference TL 3551 4083. It is bounded by no.32 Kneesworth Street on the north, nos.1-3 Lower King Street and nos.28-30 Kneesworth Street on the east, Royston Museum and land to the rear of no.7 Lower King Street on the south and west. It was occupied by a number of temporary structures and a timber framed barn set around a yard area of hard standing used as a car park (Fig.1). The development consisted of the conversion of the barn to residential use and the erection of a block of 7 flats on the southern half of the site.

1.3 The surviving timber barn in Stamford Yard is believed to form part of the coach houses for the royal hunting lodge of King James I, part of which survives across Kneesworth Street at no.23. An evaluation of the site, undertaken by the Heritage Network in July 2000 (HN Report no.102), revealed post-medieval foundations to the east and west of the barn, which may form part of this range. No evidence for the presence of pre-modern buildings was recovered on the southern half of the site, but it was considered that such evidence might be concealed by the existing structures.

1.4 The aim of the present project has been to record the existing building prior to the start of the building works; to monitor all aspects of the development programme which were likely to affect the fabric of the existing building, or remains which were considered to be of archaeological importance; to identify and record any historic features which were revealed and any archaeological features and deposits which were uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed, subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

2 Historic Building Record

2.1 This Grade II listed barn has been described by the DoE as consisting of four bays, with a weatherboarded timber frame, braced tie beams with repairs to the roof truss (1976:23). It is also said to be the coach house of King James, who had a hunting lodge, commonly referred to as King James' Palace, constructed on the opposite side of Kneesworth Street, Royston.

2.2 Further analysis of the barn reveals that it is of typical post-medieval construction, whereby oak has been used for the sill beams, whilst the cross frames are constructed from elm and the studs of pine. The elevations are also indicative of a post-medieval date, in that they consist of primary bracing, which suggests an early 17th century date (Fig.5).

2.3 The middle rails and intermediate principal posts are predominantly of elm and have mostly been re-used. For example, the centre post in the north elevation of Bay 4 has a tie beam dovetail recess, showing that this was originally a wall plate, and the middle rail in the south elevation of Bay 2 has grooves for braces. An exception is the middle rail on the south elevation of Bay 4, which is waney edged and shows no evidence for re-use. Although the middle rail on the south elevation in Bay 4 has holes for Hertfordshire style wattle and daub, this is an isolated example and there is no further evidence to suggest that wattle and daub was used in this building. It can therefore be proposed that the building was always weatherboarded, but that the present pine boards are a recent replacement for the original elm.

2.4 On the whole, the studs above the middle rail are original. However, wholesale replacement can be seen below the middle rail, where the studs are machine cut and of uniform scantling. The west elevation appears to have undergone major rebuilding in recent years. The modern appearance of the timber work is further substantiated by the use of Fletton brick in the supporting dwarf wall. Some replacement has also taken place of the sill beam, as is evident in the north elevation of Bays 3 and 4.

2.5 Two scarf joints worthy of note are present in the wall plates of the north and south elevations of Bay 3. That on the south elevation is an edge-halved and bridle-butted joint, which was in use from the 15th/16th century until the early 17th century (Plate 1a). On the opposing elevation is a face-halved and counterbladed scarf joint (Plate 1b), described by Hewitt as "...the ultimate contraction of the ultimate form of joint.." (1980:269). This was also in use from the late 16th century.

2.6 The principal posts have gunstock jowls, which are typically medieval and continued in use until the early 17th century. All but one of the posts have undergone major repairs, in that the section below the middle rail has been replaced. The exception is the principal post in the north east corner. Saw marks are visible on a number of these posts, such as that in the south east corner. Chisel cut carpenters' assembly marks were also noted on the fourth truss from the west.

2.7 The roof construction is of straight tie beams and rudimentary king posts with raking struts supporting the rafters (Plate 3). There are two purlins supported by cleats in each roof pitch. The use of cleats is indicative of a late 19th/early 20th century date. The roof pitch is shallow, which indicates that it was tiled before the present corrugated roof was added.

2.8 The door is boarded, ledged and braced.

2.9 Overall, the timber work is indicative of an early 17th century date. However, the quality of the timbers, for example the re-used middle rails, is not indicative of a high status building.

2.10 The brick work throughout the barn further supports the 17th century date. The locally produced red brick, which is evident in places on all but the west elevation, appears to be of the same manufacture as one of the types of brick used in the construction of King James' Palace. There appears to be no consistent bonding type used. In places, such as the south elevation in Bays 1 and 2, there are predominantly stretchers, whereas elsewhere, such as the east elevation, headers predominate. Much of this brickwork has been covered with a grey plaster. In all areas, however, lime mortar has been used.

2.11 A blocked opening can be seen in the south elevation of Bay 4. Three of the bricks used here show tally marks, which consist of holes or indentations indicating how many bricks were produced on a particular day. Although the use of such marks dates back to the mid 18th century, a cement mortar has been used here, suggesting that these are a later insertion.

2.12 All four elevations have areas rebuilt in Cambridge Yellow brick. Those available for close inspection, showed that they were of an early date, c.1880, as they were not frogged and had been finished with a striker. The brickwork in the east and south elevations is consistently of English bond, whilst that in the north elevation of Bay 4 is a combination of Flemish Bond and an approximation of English Bond. The bricks are bonded with a lime mortar in all but the west elevation, where a cement mortar has been used.

2.13 The most recent type of brick used in the barn is Fletton Brick from the London Brick Company of Peterborough. This was commonly used after the second world war. It can be seen in the upper courses of the north elevation of Bays 2 and 3, the west elevation and immediately west of the barn door. The correlation between the use of Fletton brick in the upper three courses in the west elevation and the modern appearance of the timber work in the same elevation has been mentioned above. It would appear that this elevation was largely rebuilt some time in the 1950s or 1960s.

Conclusion

2.14 The analysis of the timber- and brick-work suggests that the barn was originally constructed at much the same time as King James' Palace. Whether this was actually the coach house, as suggested by the DoE listing, is open to doubt. There is only one main entrance into the building, which would limit the manoeuvring of coaches. In addition, the

blocked opening in the north elevation of Bay 4 gives every appearance of being a grain chute. These architectural features in combination with the location of the barn in relation to the neighbouring buildings, both extant and those known from cartographic evidence, suggest that another building within the complex, which was more readily accessible, was more likely to have been the coach house.

2.15 That the barn has seen at least two stages of major repairs is clear from the use of different types of bricks, the stud work of modern workmanship and the roof.

2.16 Although the cross frames are original, the use of cleats with the purlins indicates a re-roofing exercise in the late 19th or early twentieth century. This may well be of the same period of repair and renovation as the use of Cambridge Yellow bricks. The style of these bricks and the fact that lime mortar was predominantly used suggests that a 19th century date is the most likely. Some of the timbers, such as those immediately to the east of the barn door, and the weatherboarding, may also have been replaced at this time.

2.17 More recent work is evident in the rebuilding of the west elevation, the repairs to various parts of the walls and the modern insert to the barn door. This all appears to post-date the second world war.

2.18 There is no evidence for the demolition of the eastern end of the 17th century building as previously proposed on the basis of cartographic evidence (Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000). Indeed, the brickwork in the east elevation is almost entirely of the red brick associated with the Palace and bonded with a lime mortar.

2.19 That the western elevation has been rebuilt is clear from the brick work as well as the timber work. What is not clear, however, is whether this was rebuilt in its original location. The conjectural plan, which Beldam reconstructed on documentary evidence (Beldam 1906:123; Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000), suggested that the barn may have been part of a three-sided complex. If this had been the case, and there had been no internal division between the buildings, it could be proposed that the western elevation was constructed at the time that the building at the western end of the yard was demolished. As the earliest detailed plan of Royston, dating to 1887, shows the barn standing isolated from any other buildings to the west (Fig.2), any such hypothetical works would have been completed by this time. It is equally possible that the barn had originally been longer and was shortened for reasons such as structural failure.

2.20 What the 1887 plan also shows is a projection on the western end of the southern elevation, measuring approximately 2m (6ft 7in) in width by 3m (9ft 10in) in length. This is no longer present on the OS map of 1898. This restructuring is evident in the dwarf wall, where the last 2.20m (7ft 3in) is entirely built from Cambridge brick and has a replacement sill beam on it. It is not, however, evident in the timber work. The stud work in this bay is similar to the others, in that the studs below the middle rail have all been replaced, whilst those above are original. The presence of the original middle rail and studs indicates that most of the timber work in this bay had never been breached. On this basis, it can be proposed that the south wing was a later addition, possibly serving as a storage shed or stable.

3 Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

3.1 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise the ground reduction and the excavation of the footings trenches.

3.2 The machining was undertaken using a JCB-type tracked excavator. This was variously fitted with a 0.50m and a 0.60m toothed bucket.

3.3 Spoil from the various stages of groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Model Design Brief and followed the Heritage Network's approved Project Design.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Topography and geology

3.5 The site lies off the street frontage on the western side of Kneesworth Street (Fig.8). The natural ground level rises to the west, although the present site appears to have been terraced. The ground level of the adjacent site to the west is approximately 3m higher than within the study area which has an average level of 61mOD.

3.6 The underlying geology across the site is formed of upper chalk.

Footings trenches

3.7 The footings trenches for the block of flats on the south side of the site measured 0.70m in width and between 1.0m and 1.20m in depth (Figs.7&8).

3.8 A well or cess-pit [2001] measuring 1.60m in diameter and 2.0m in depth containing late 19th/early 20th ceramics, glass and slate was revealed at the junction of Trenches A and F.

3.9 To the east of this was a pit [2002], which measured 1.10m north-south, 1.26m east-west and 1.0m deep. The fill was very dark brown (10YR 2/2) with a high organic content including decayed wood. The finds were of a similar date and composition to those in [2001].

3.10 A large, flat-bottomed pit [2003], measuring 5.05m in length and approximately 1.60m deep was revealed 0.30m west of the junction of Trenches A and B. The fill contained modern material. Immediately to the west of this pit were the remains of a brick wall [2004].

3.11 A pit [2005] measuring approximately 1.60m in length and 0.76m (max) in depth was revealed 0.20m below the ground surface approximately 1.40m north of the junction of Trenches A and B in the west facing section of Trench B. The fill consisted of a mid-grey clayey silt (5Y 4/2) mixed with chalk, with no datable artefacts. It was unclear whether this was a single pit with a stepped base, or two adjoining pits.

3.12 Masonry remains [2006] were present 0.60m north of the junction between Trenches A & B. These measured 0.43m in height and 0.23m in width.

3.13 A cobbled surface [2007] was recorded 0.03m below the ground surface at the eastern end of the south facing section of Trench C. This surface measured approximately 2.20m in length and 0.10m in depth. To the west of this was a layer of redeposited chalk measuring 2.30m in length and between 0.15m and 0.30m in depth.

3.14 Approximately 1.50m from the eastern end of Trench C and below the cobbled surface, was a layer of chalk which measured 1.0m in length and 0.20m in depth, and which appears to have been the possible remains of a clunch wall [2008]. A similar deposit of chalk was visible 0.10m below the ground surface in the north facing section of the trench [2009]. This measured 1.40m in length and 0.25m in depth. Immediately to the east of this was an area of disturbance measuring 1.70m in length. A fragment of late post-medieval pottery was recovered from between the cobbled surface [2007] and feature [2008].

3.15 A modern wall [2010] built of red-coated Cambridge White bricks (similar to those on the barn) bonded in a cement mortar and set in an English Bond, was present in Trenches I and J.

3.16 Trench D revealed two tarmac surfaces 0.03m and 0.05m deep that were interspersed by a 0.02m layer of chalk. No further features or deposits were revealed.

Foundation pads

3.17 Ten foundation pads were excavated within the barn, two of which (Pads 3 and 8) were dug as one (Figs.7&9). They varied in size from 1.0 x 1.0 x 0.85 to 0.90 x 2.70 x 1.10m.

3.18 The recorded stratigraphy fell into two basic categories. In the southern two-thirds of the barn, there was a cinder layer between the existing concrete floor and the underlying chalk. This was absent in the northernmost series of pads, Pad 10 and the northern and eastern part of Pad 8. A double layer of concrete was apparent in some of the pads, such as Pads 3 and 5.

3.19 Seven possible pits were observed and recorded. Pit [2011] was revealed in the southern end of the east facing section of Pad 1. It lay below a 0.05m layer of cinders, which in turn was below a layer of concrete approximately 0.20m deep. The pit measured 0.55m in length and 0.58m in depth. The fill consisted of burnt chalk mixed with soil with occasional brick/tile fragments. The fragments recovered appeared to be of the locally made brick used to construct the barn.

3.20 A soft, grey (2.5Y 6/1) clay deposit with chalk inclusions [2080] was present in all the sections of Pad 3. It lay between the chalk natural and a layer of redeposited chalk approximately 0.38m deep.

3.21 Pit [2013] containing pale olive clay (5Y 6/3) with chalk inclusions and occasional brick/tile and charcoal fragments was visible in the north facing section of Pad 7. It extended 0.37m northwards in the west facing section and reached a depth of 0.67m below the modern ground surface. Within the fill was a layer of redeposited chalk approximately 0.87m long and 0.11m (max) deep. These deposits were sealed by the cinder and concrete layers.

3.22 A similar layer of pale olive clay [2014] was present below the cinder layer in the east facing section of Pad 8. It measured 1.65m in length and 0.12m in depth.

3.23 Pad 9 revealed a pit [2015] in the north facing section which extended 0.20m northwards in the east facing section and 0.18m in the west facing section. The fill consisted of a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) soft silty clay with chalk inclusions, a locally made early post-medieval brick fragment and a considerable quantity of charcoal in the eastern end. This was overlain by a layer of cinders, above which was the modern ground surface.

3.24 A large pit [2016] filled with limestone hoggin was revealed in the north facing section of Pad 10. The pit clearly extended south and east of the pad. The pit measured 0.60m in width and reached the bottom of the pad, if not extending a little beyond the pad depth. The hoggin was of large limestone fragments, similar to that revealed in the evaluation trenches at Newspaper House, Upper King Street (Saunders & Semmelmann 2003). Above the pit was a sheet of blue plastic. The pit was sealed by the concrete floor, and a smaller block of concrete (approximately 0.20m wide and 0.10m deep) lay in the south-western corner of the pad below the plastic sheeting

3.25 A layer of redeposited chalk, which measured between 0.26m and 0.37m in depth, was revealed below the concrete in the south facing section of Pad 10. Two Cambridge White brick fragments were present in the north-western corner of the pad approximately 0.50m below the present ground surface.

3.26 The remains of a north-south orientated wall [2012] was revealed in the south facing section of Pad 5. Although only three courses high, this was made of Cambridge White airbricks, locally made early post-medieval brick and an unidentified pink brick. It measured 0.57m in width and 0.27m in depth.

Service trenches

3.27 Drainage trench ST1, which ran from the barn to the centre of the yard, measured 0.60m in width, 0.90m in depth and approximately 23.50m in length (Figs.7&10).

3.27.1 A cut [2018] measuring 0.30m in width and 0.50m in depth was revealed in the south facing section. Although there were no masonry remains, this appeared to have been a foundation trench. The cartographic evidencesuggests that the cut is on the line

of the southern annexe, which was removed at some time between 1960 and 1970 (Figs.3&4).

3.27.2 A charcoal-filled pit [2019] lay to the west of cut [2018]. It measured 1.20m in width and 0.20m in depth.

3.27.3 A modern cut [2020], measuring 1.50m in width and 0.40m in depth was revealed at the eastern end of this trench.

3.28 Service trench 2 ran between the flats and the centre of the yard. It measured 0.60m in width, 0.65m in depth and approximately 13m in length (Figs.7&10).

3.28.1 The remains of a wall [2029], three courses high, made of local 17th century brick and bonded with lime mortar, was noted at the northern end of the trench.

3.29 Service trench 3 extended from the centre of the yard to the street frontage. It measured 0.50m in width, approximately 0.65m in depth and approximately 28.60m in length (Figs.7&10).

3.29.1 A number of levelling surfaces were noted, including four layers of tarmac or clinker and gravel, each approximately 0.03m deep, between the chalk and the modern ground surface.

3.29.2 A single course of brown bricks [2026] was observed in the north facing section at the western end of the trench. It lay 0.14m below the modern ground surface and was 0.65m long.

3.29.3 A pit [2017] was revealed in the south facing section approximately 6.10m from the eastern trench edge. The fill consisted of pale olive (5Y 6/3) clay with chalk. Some early post-medieval brick fragments lay at the top of the fill. The pit was overlain by a chalk layer 0.07m deep. Immediately west of the pit was a layer of redeposited chalk between 0.50m and 0.65m deep and 13m long. Both the pit and the redeposited chalk were visible in the north facing section, but were less distinct.

3.30 Service trench 4 started at the barn entrance, turning northwards at the corner of the barn. It measured 0.60m in width, 0.60m in depth and approximately 18.85m in length (Figs.7&10).

3.30.1 A pit [2021] approximately 1.60m wide was noted towards the western end of the barn. The fill consisted of black (10YR 2/1) silt with very frequent charcoal and chalk, some slag, post-medieval building material and an iron nail. A horse-shoe was also observed in the spoil nearby.

3.30.2 A layer approximately 0.10m deep, consisting of similar material to the fill of [2021] was present throughout the trench.

3.30.3 The chalk in this trench was largely redeposited material, containing a number of early post-medieval brick fragments.

3.31 Service trench 5 linked service trench 4 with the pre-existing manhole opposite the dental surgery at 30 Kneesworth Street. It measured 0.70m in width, between 0.65m and approximately 1.20m in depth and 2.40m in length (Figs.7&10).

3.31.1 A wall [2022], five courses high and made of early post-medieval brick bonded with lime mortar, was observed in the south facing section of the trench at its junction with service trench 4. The wall was approximately 0.70m long and was orientated roughly north-south.

3.31.2 A pit [2023] measuring 3.40m in length was revealed in the north facing section of the trench. The fill was a dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2) silt with chalk. Within this pit were the remains of an early post-medieval wall [2027] approximately 0.50m wide.

3.31.3 A U-shaped pit [2024] measuring 1.0m in width and 0.70m in depth was present 5.70m east of the junction with service trench 4. The fill was a grey (10YR 5/1) silty clay with chalk and frequent gravel.

3.31.4 East of pit [2024] was a floor of Cambridge White bricks bonded with lime mortar [2025]. The floor, which was one course high and 1.70m long, was visible in both trench sections.

4 Discussion & Conclusion

4.1 A possible well or cess-pit [2001] was located within the footprint of the former southern barn, which is first recorded on the 1898 Ordnance Survey plan (Fig.2). The ceramic fragments found within the fill suggest that this feature was backfilled just prior to the barn's construction. The nature of the fill, which was non-organic, suggests that the feature was not a cess-pit, but its shallow depth may argue against its interpretation as a well.

4.2 Feature [2002] had a highly organic fill, but was too shallow to have been a cess-pit. The artefact assemblage and the location of the feature suggest that this, too, was backfilled just prior to the construction of the southern barn in the late 19th century.

4.3 A modern pit [2003] lay along the southern boundary of the yard, not far from a brick-lined vehicle inspection pit, which was revealed in 2000 (cf. Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000). Despite their different characteristics, the proximity of the two features suggests that pit [2003] may also have been used for vehicle repairs in some form.

4.4 Although pit [2005] contained no datable artefacts, its location may provide an indication of its date as well as its function. The cartographic evidence suggests that it lay on the junction of the early 20th century addition to the southern barn and may thus represent the remains of the foundations and/or a service trench (Fig.3).

4.5 To the west of this pit was further possible evidence for this barn. Despite damage caused by the digger, features [2008] and [2009] gave the appearance of a clunch wall. They were also on approximate alignment with the north wall of the southern barn and may have comprised part of the foundations.

4.6 The cobbled surface [2007] is a rare example of what must have been the preferred surface for a coaching yard. That it lay above the possible foundation wall [2008], suggests that this surface extended up to the wall itself. The presence of late 19th or early 20th century pottery between the cobbles and the clunch wall would suggest that the cobbles were laid shortly after the southern barn was built.

4.7 The modern wall [2010], part of which appears to have been revealed during the evaluation excavation in July 2000 (Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000), may be all that remains of the building erected opposite the surviving barn, first shown on the 1923 Ordnance Survey plan (Figs.3&7).

4.8 Of the other masonry remains, it can be postulated that [2004] may have been a retaining wall for the large pit [2003], whilst [2006] remains more enigmatic. It does not appear to correlate with any of the structures shown on the Ordnance Survey plans and, as such, may represent the remains of a post-medieval structure that had been demolished before the publication of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey plan in 1887 (Fig.2).

4.9 The location and the nature of cut [2018] suggest that this was a foundation trench for the east wall of the southern annexe to the existing barn, which had been demolished between 1960 and 1970. Although previously described as a porch (Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000), this structure lay to the east of the barn entrance rather than at the entrance itself. A small opening, which had been blocked in fairly recent times was evident in the south wall of the barn. This may have been associated with the annexe.

4.10 Within the footprint of this annexe was pit [2021], the fill of which may be indicative of horse-shoeing. Whilst shoeing horses was doubtless a frequent activity on the site in both the 17th and the 19th centuries, the possibility that this took place within a small, enclosed structure seems unlikely. It can be suggested, then, that the pit pre-dates the annexe, and, on the basis that this would be a hazard in an open yard with regular traffic, it may even pre-date the barn itself.

4.11 Cartographic evidence suggests that cut [2024] may have been associated with the west wall of the small structure at the eastern end of the barn complex, the floor of which was made of Cambridge White bricks [2025] (Figs.2-4).

4.12 The archaeological activity to the west of this, pit [2023] and masonry remains [2022] and [2027], appear to lie in the area of the structure immediately east of the barn, which was demolished between 1960 and 1970. The wall remains [2022] adjacent to the barn were of similar early post-medieval brick to that used in the barn and King James' Palace, and were orientated north-south. This strongly suggests that the adjacent structure, which appears on the Ordnance Survey plans as an extension of the barn (Figs.2&3), was, in fact, a free-standing building. This is corroborated by the analysis of the east elevation of the barn, which is shown to be consistent with early 17th work. The early post-medieval wall [2027], orientated roughly east-west, is likely to represent the south wall of this annexe.

4.13 The modern cut [2020] is that of evaluation Trench 1 (cf. Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000). A section of walling was revealed in this trench, which may have been part of the wall remains [2027], above.

4.14 As mentioned above, a number of ground layers were revealed in the yard. Of these the most interesting is the cinder layer, which was also present in some of the foundation pads within the barn. These may have just been levelling areas, but the common appearance of cinder layers in farmyards and other places where animals had been kept may suggest that cinders were used as a means to aid drainage and/or reduce the smell of animal urine. If this is so, the cinder areas within the barn could suggest the location of the horse stalls.

4.15 Later subdivision of the barn may be postulated on the evidence from Pads 5 and 10. The wall [2012] which was revealed in Pad 10 was orientated north-south and, although it no longer extends into Pad 5, the presence of the two Cambridge White brick fragments and the layer of redeposited chalk in the south facing section of the same pad [2030] suggest that it once did.

4.16 Whether pit [2016] in Pad 10 was part of the same feature is uncertain. It appeared to extend to the south and the east, which may be indicative of a cross-wall. Alternatively, the greater depth of pit [2016] could suggest that this represents a feature that was related to the wall [2012], but not an intrinsic part of it.

4.17 Although on the same alignment, pit [2015] in Pad 9 does not appear to have been related to either [2012] or [2016]. The fill is neither modern, nor does it contain masonry evidence, other than a single fragment of early post-medieval brick. The most note worthy element of the fill is the large amount of charcoal in the eastern end.

4.18 This could tie in with the burnt chalk found in pit [2011] in Pad 1, which also contained fragments of early post-medieval brick and tile. This pit was cut by the south wall of the barn, which indicated that it pre-dated the barn. This must also have been the case for pit [2028] in Pad 3, which was cut by the north wall, and possibly pits [2013] in Pad 7 and [2014] in Pad 8.

4.19 Pits [2011] and [2015] may have been dug to extract chalk for lime production and later filled with the debris from the firing process, such as the burnt chalk in pit [2011] and the charcoal in pit [2015]. It could also be argued that the areas of chalk redeposition and particularly some of the pits in the yard, such as [2017] and [2019], which were also charcoal rich, support this interpretation. The brick and tile fragments suggest an early post-medieval date for this activity. Whilst it is tempting to suggest that the tile fragment in pit [2011] indicates that this building activity relates to the construction of King James' Palace, which would almost certainly have taken priority over the construction of the stable complex and which has a tiled roof, it is not certain whether the other buildings within this yard were thatched, as the barn once was, or tiled. It is also possible that this activity relates to buildings that were not associated with the royal household and are no longer extant.

4.20 Although the deposit in Pad 3 initially appeared to have been a very soft clay, its colour, purity and consistency suggest that this was more likely to have been slaked lime. The dimensions and depth of the deposit suggest that this could have been a lime slaking pit (T. Doig, pers. comm.)

4.21 Once hydrated, the slaked lime would have been cut and allowed to mature in shallow clay-lined pits to prevent contamination. It is possible that feature [2014] in Pad 8 was such an area.

4.22 Whether the fact that pit [2013] in Pad 7 had the same type of clay fill as [2014] suggests that this initially had a similar function, or had been a quarry pit which was backfilled with contaminated clay is open to debate.

Conclusion

4.23 The present investigation has provided considerable evidence for the development of Stamford Yard. It would appear that the northern part of the site was used as a form of builders' yard immediately prior to the construction of the barn in the early 17th century. The

evidence suggests that chalk was extracted from the site itself, possibly fired there and the lime then slaked in a pit on what is now the northern boundary. The storage areas for the lime mortar may also have been identified in the barn.

4.24 Although the original layout of the royal stable complex cannot be confirmed on the present evidence, the quality of the timberwork in the barn suggests that this was not of the highest standard. Nonetheless, a cobbled yard would have seemed a pre-requisite for a site associated with horses, and the slight evidence for this would suggest that any remaining cobbles of 17th century date were removed along with the Victorian ones to be replaced by a modern surface in the 20th century.

4.25 The archaeological evidence for the buildings is generally consistent with what is shown on the Ordnance Survey plans. In some cases, such as the floor of the easternmost addition to the barn and the clunch foundation wall for the southern barn, the archaeology enhances the cartographic evidence. Elsewhere, as in the building immediately east of the barn and the southern annexe formerly described as a porch, the interpretation has been revised.

4.26 The evidence from above and below ground indicates an overhaul of the site in the late 19th century, when Mrs. Stamford took over the property (Hillelson, Ashworth & Bray 2000). The barn was repaired and re-roofed, and a new building erected on the southern part of the yard. Later 20th century alterations are evident in the cartographic material as well as in the use of modern materials in the west wall of the barn.

4.27 Finally, it must be noted that there appears to be no archaeological evidence for medieval activity on the site, despite its proximity to the core of the medieval town. The explanation for this may lie in the steep terrace on the western boundary of the site. From this it would appear that the quarrying was fairly intensive and so could have destroyed any evidence for medieval activity. Alternatively, the quarry itself could represent the medieval activity. The documentary evidence records that the land belonged to the Augustinian Priory, and such an immediate source of construction material could well have been exploited for the monastic complex.

5 Sources Consulted

ARCHIVES

Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record
SMR database

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

Kelly's Directory	Hertfordshire 1860
Kelly's Directory	Hertfordshire 1870
Kelly's Directory	Hertfordshire 1878
Kelly's Directory	Hertfordshire 1882

Royston Museum

Royston Crow 6 April 1951

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Hillelson, D. Ashworth, H, & Bray, S. 2000 *Stamford Yard, Kneesworth St. Royston; Evaluation Report*. The Heritage Network Report no. 102

Kingston, A. 1906. *A History of Royston*. Royston: Warren Bros.

6

Illustrations

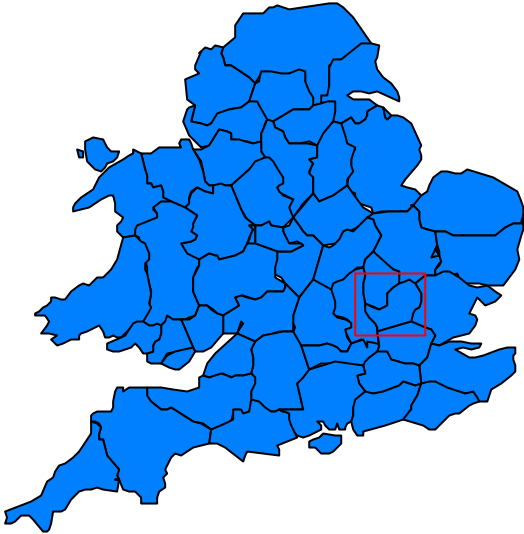
Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Ordnance Survey 25" series (19th century)
Figure 3 Ordnance Survey 25" series (e.20th century)
Figure 4 Ordnance Survey mapping (l.20th century)
Figure 5 Internal elevations of existing barn
Figure 6 Site layout
Figure 7 Archaeological features- overview
Figure 8 Footings trenches
Figure 9 Foundation pads
Figure 10 Service trenches
Figure 11 Sections-Trench A & Service Trench 3
Figure 12 Sections-Trenches B & C
Figure 13 Sections-pad foundations

Plate 1a Bay 3, south elevation: edge-halved & bridle-butted scarf joint
Plate 1b Bay 3, north elevation: face-halved & counterbladed scarf joint
Plate 2 Interior view looking north-east, showing the king post roof

Appendix 1

Schedule of Site Visits

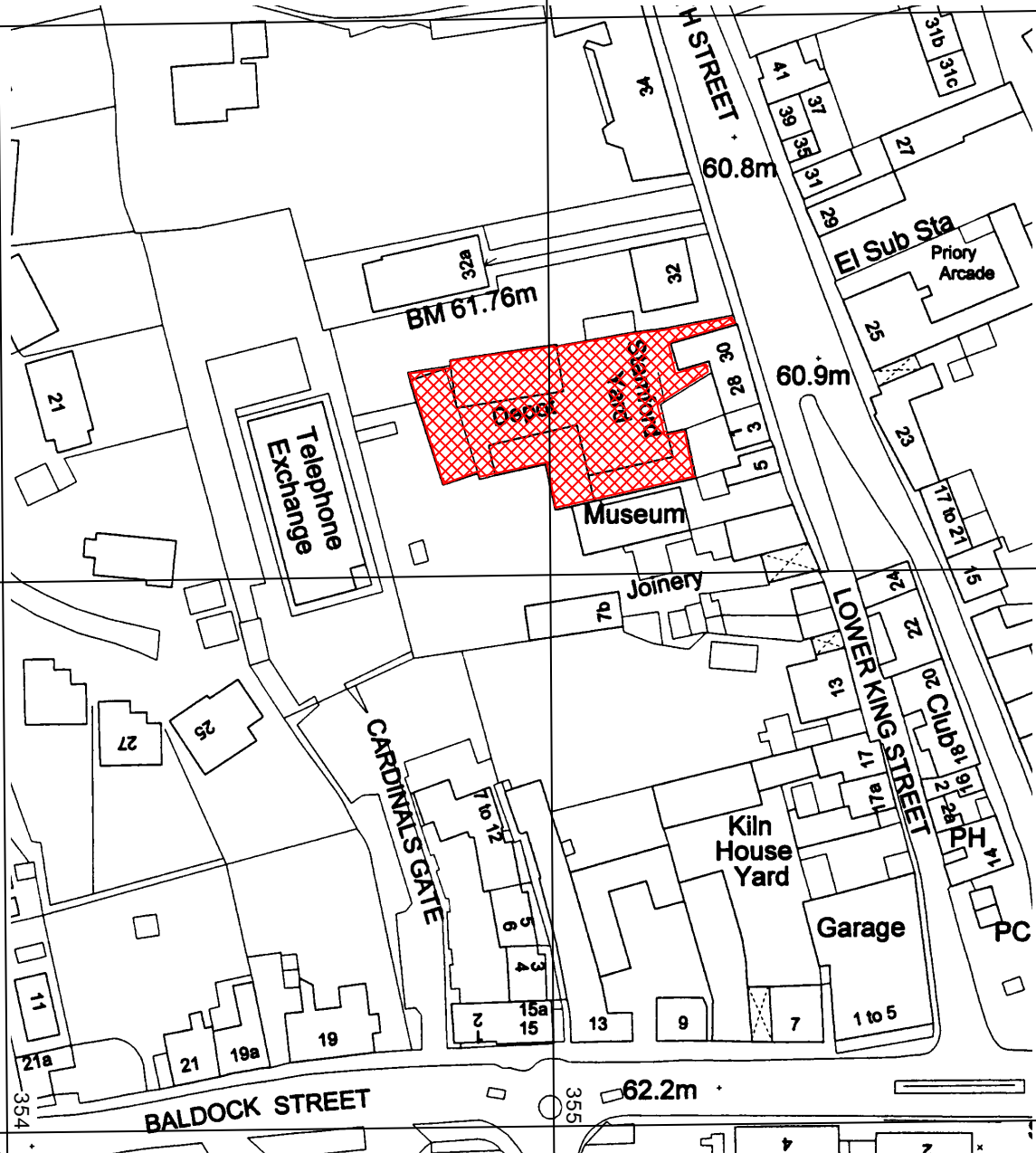
Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
02/04/02	DJH, GS & KS	8	Record barn
03/04/02	DJH, GS & KS	8	Record barn
04/04/02	KS	3	Inspect footings trenches
05/04/02	DJH	3	Inspect footings trenches
10/04/02	KS	3	Inspect footings trenches
11/04/02	KS & AG	2	Inspect barn & footings trenches
18/04/02	KS & GS	2	Record barn
24/01/03	KS	5	Inspect foundation pads
27/01/03	KS	1	Inspect foundation pads
28/01/03	KS	2	Inspect foundation pads
29/01/03	KS	2	Inspect foundation pads
03/02/03	KS	1	Inspect service trench
04/02/03	KS	2	Inspect service trench
05/02/03	KS	2	Inspect service trench
10/02/03	KS	1	Inspect service trench
13/03/03	KS	2	Inspect service trench
18/03/03	KS	3	Inspect service trench



409

408

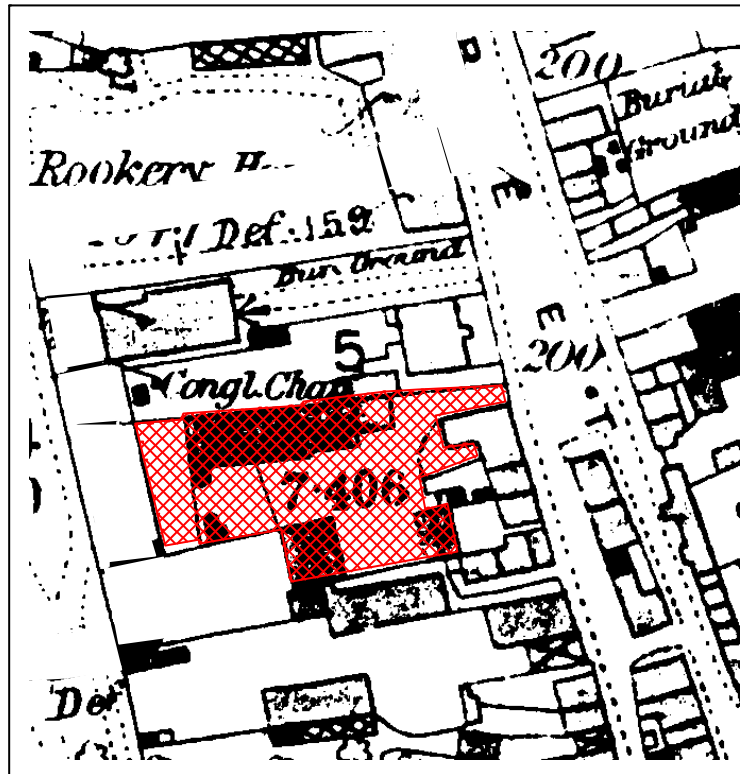
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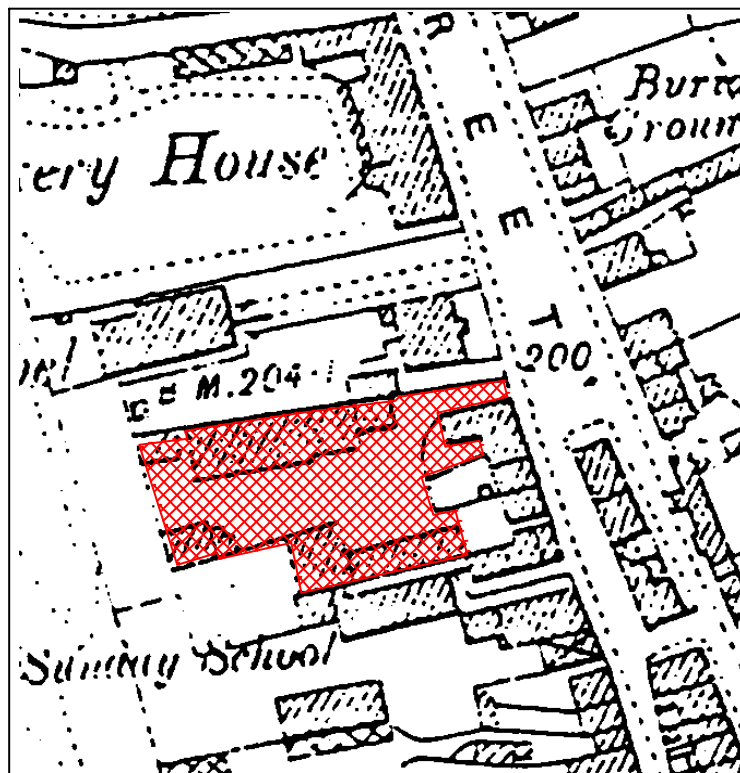
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Site Location

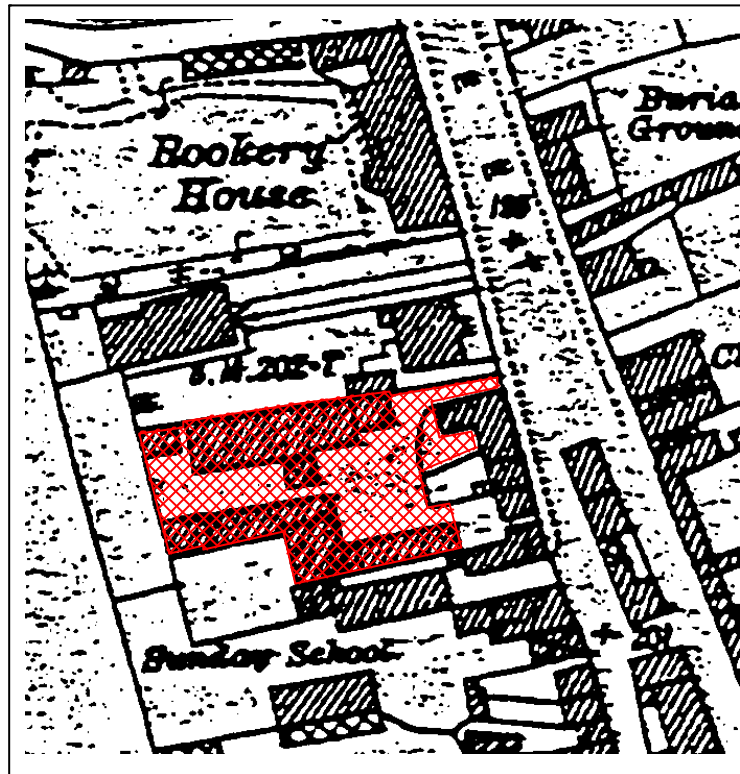
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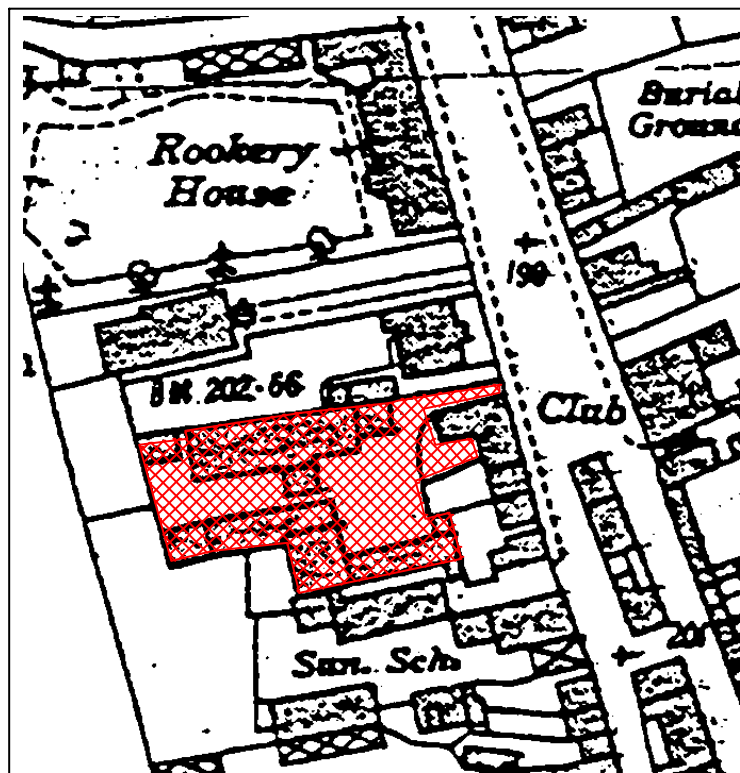
1887



1898



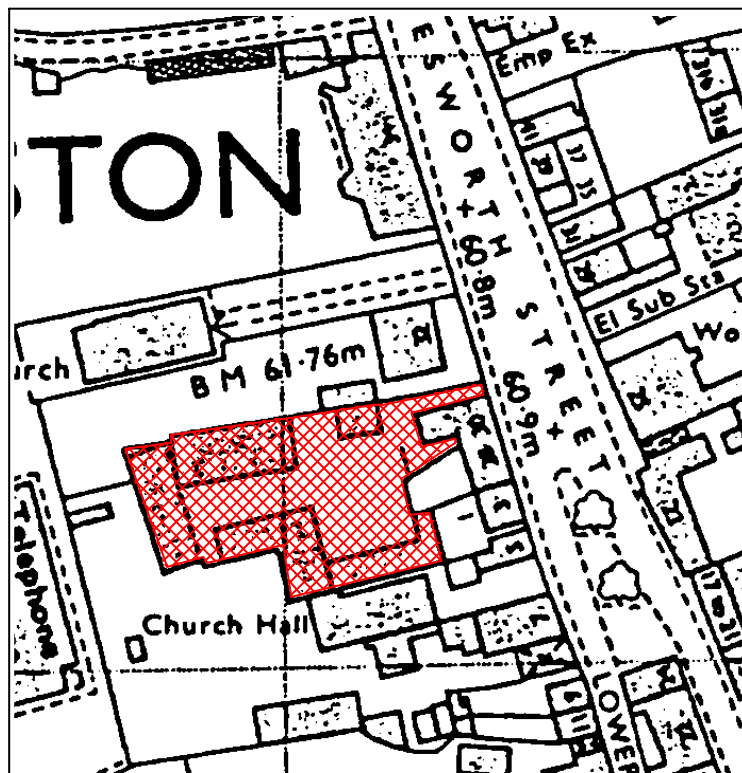
1923



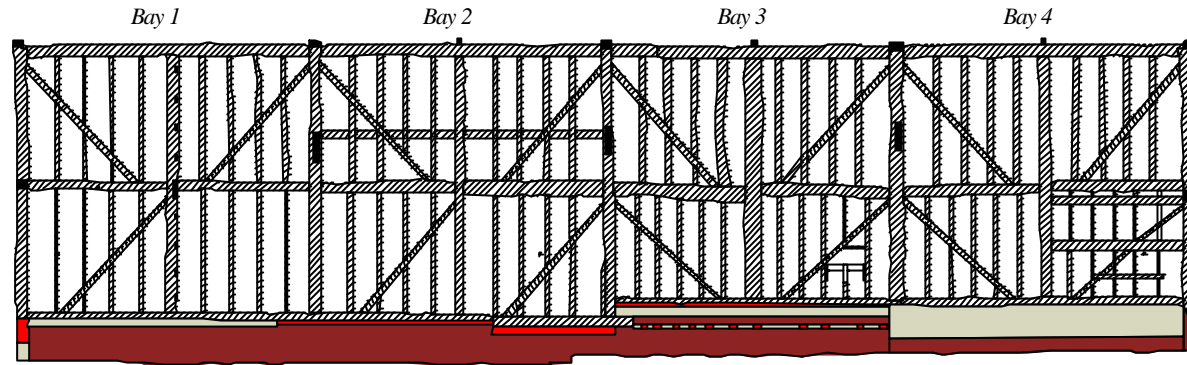
1940



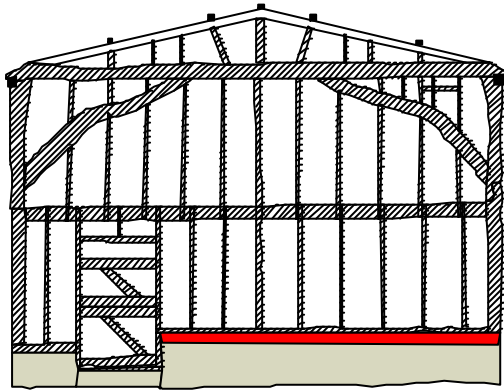
1960



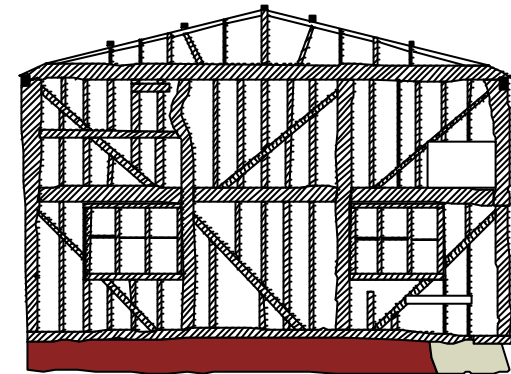
1970



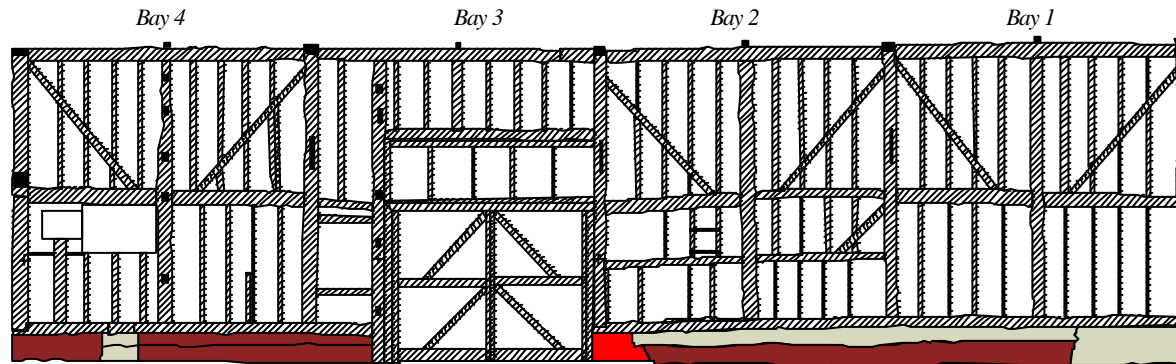
North elevation



West elevation



East elevation



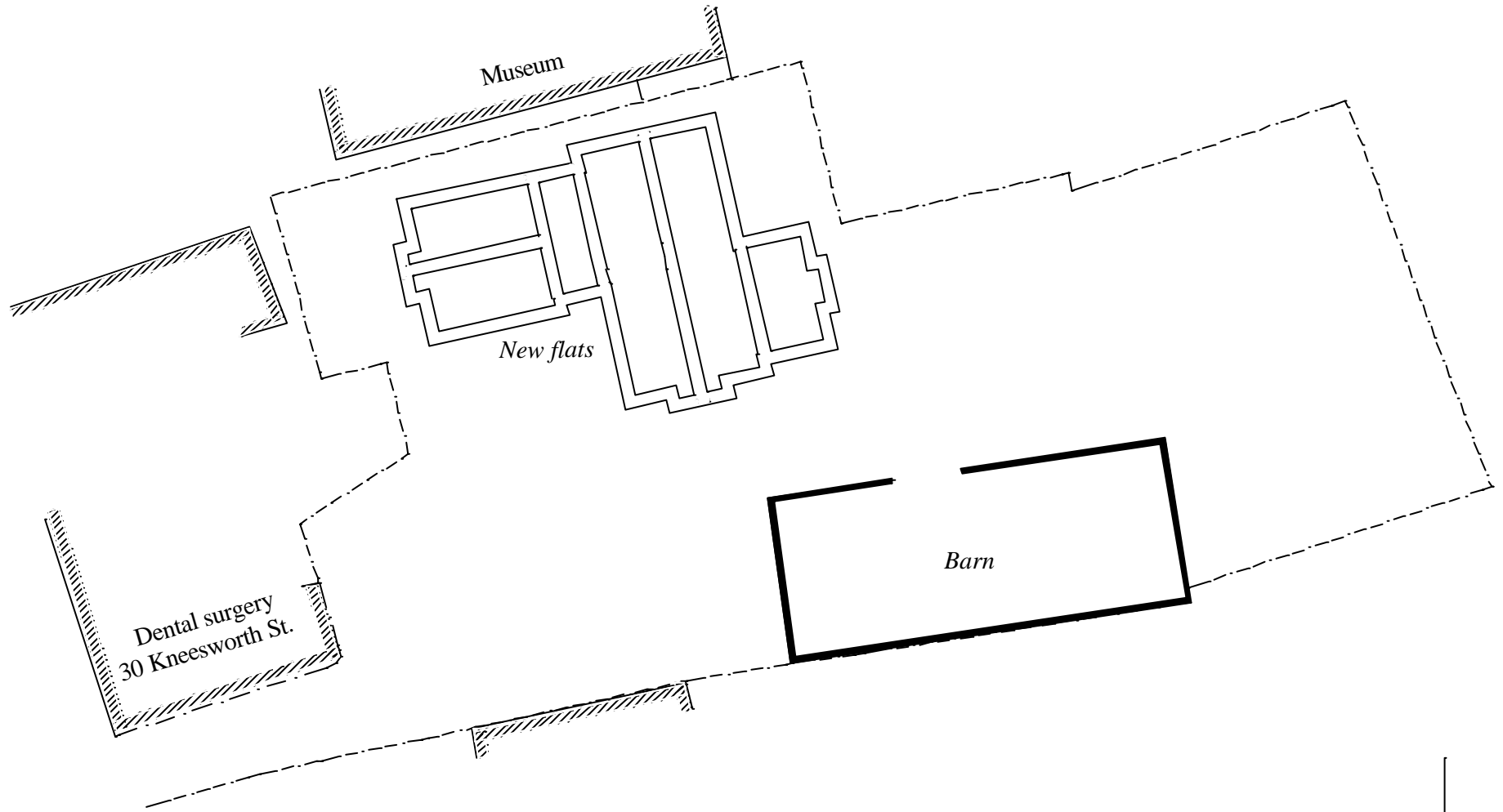
- Local 17th century brick
- 1880s Cambridge White brick
- Post 1940s Fletton brick



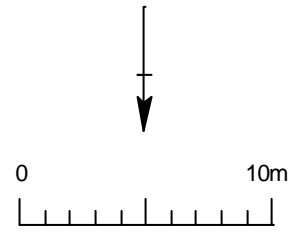
Interior elevations of existing barn

Scale 1:125

Figure 5



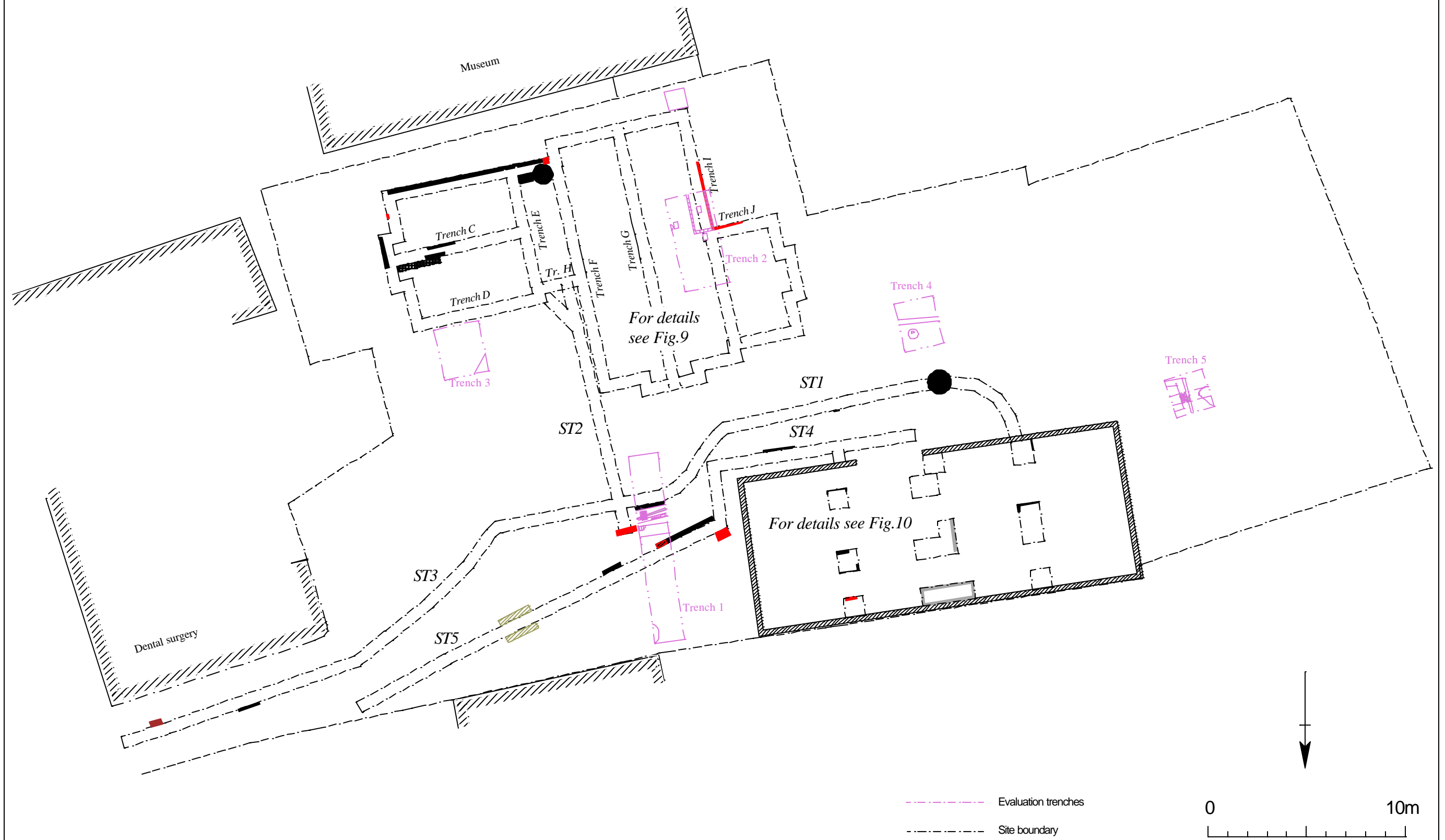
----- Site boundary



Site layout

Scale 1:300

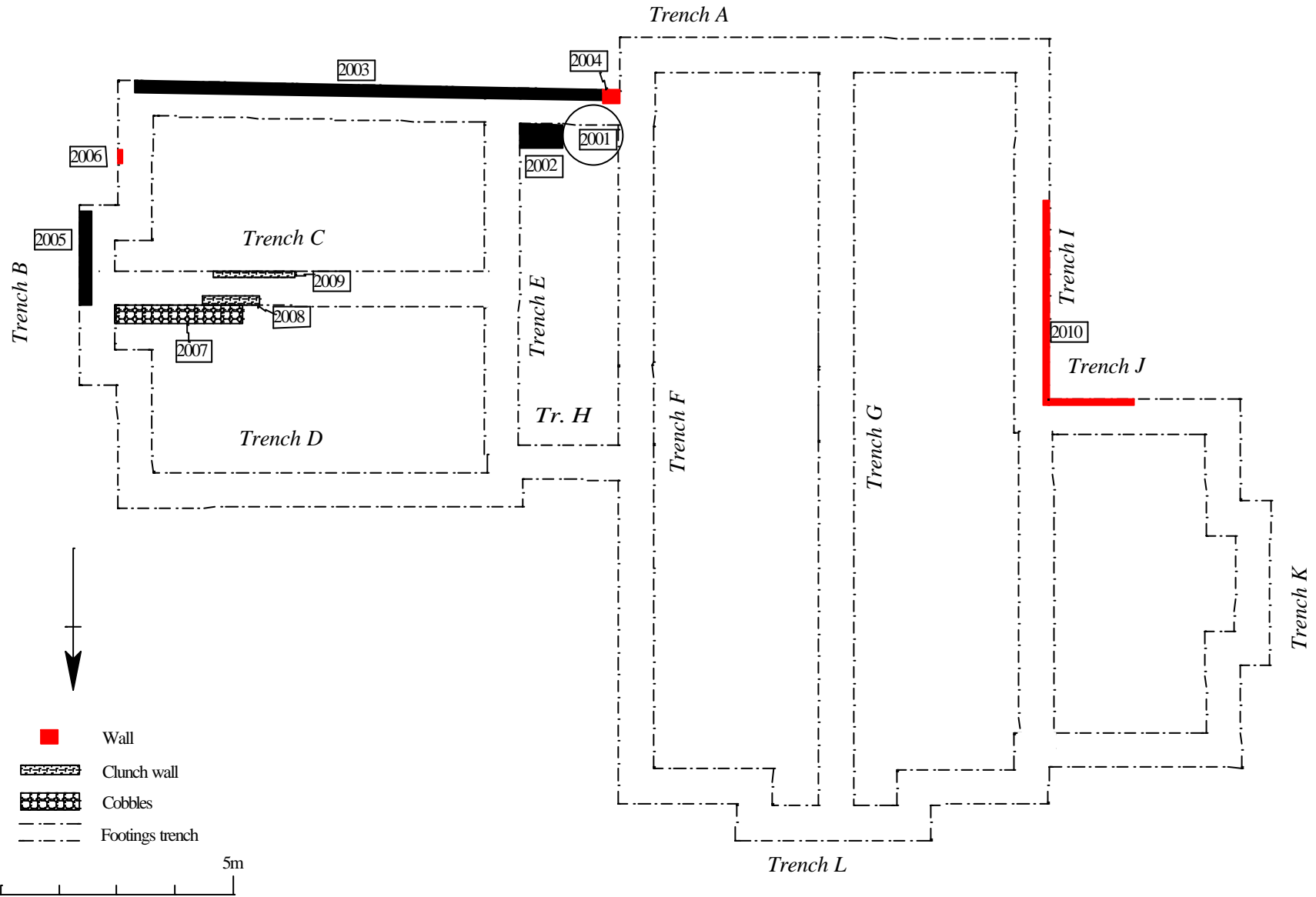
Figure 6



Archaeological features-overview

Scale 1:200

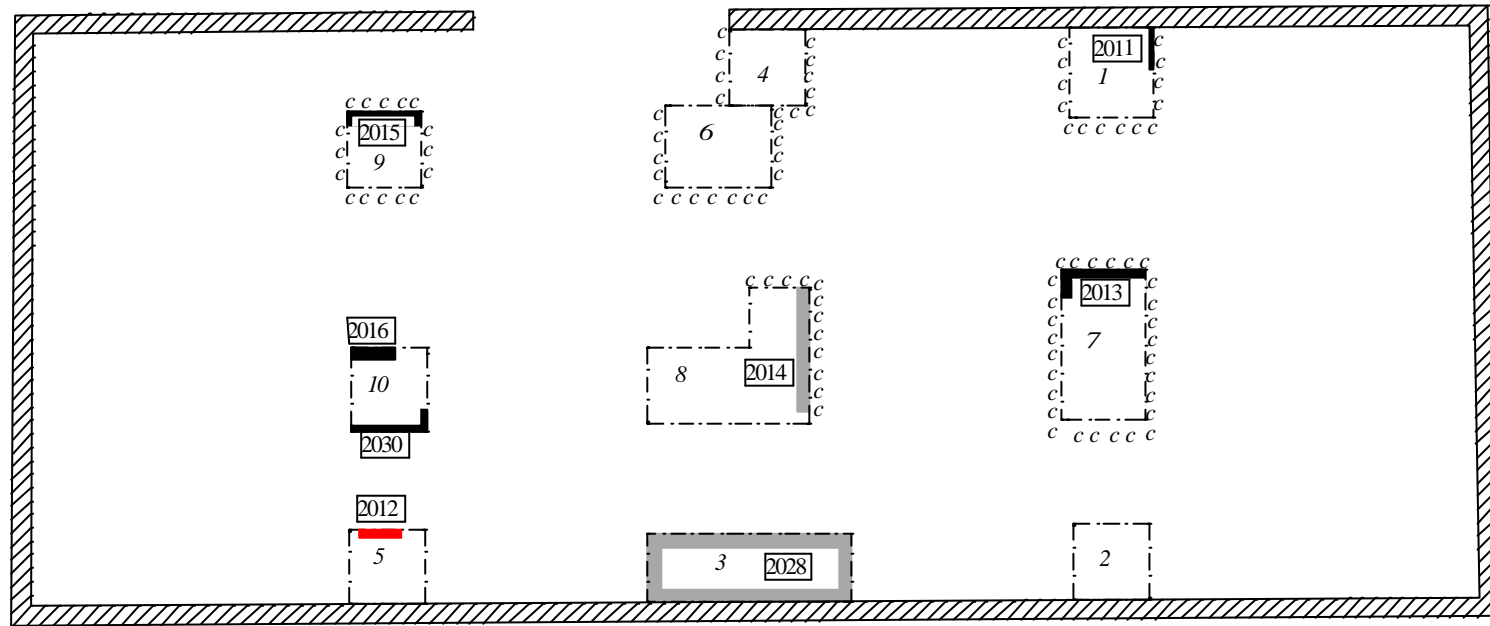
Figure 7



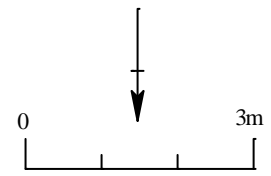
Footings trenches

Scale 1:100

Figure 8



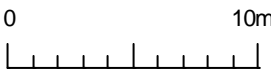
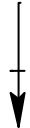
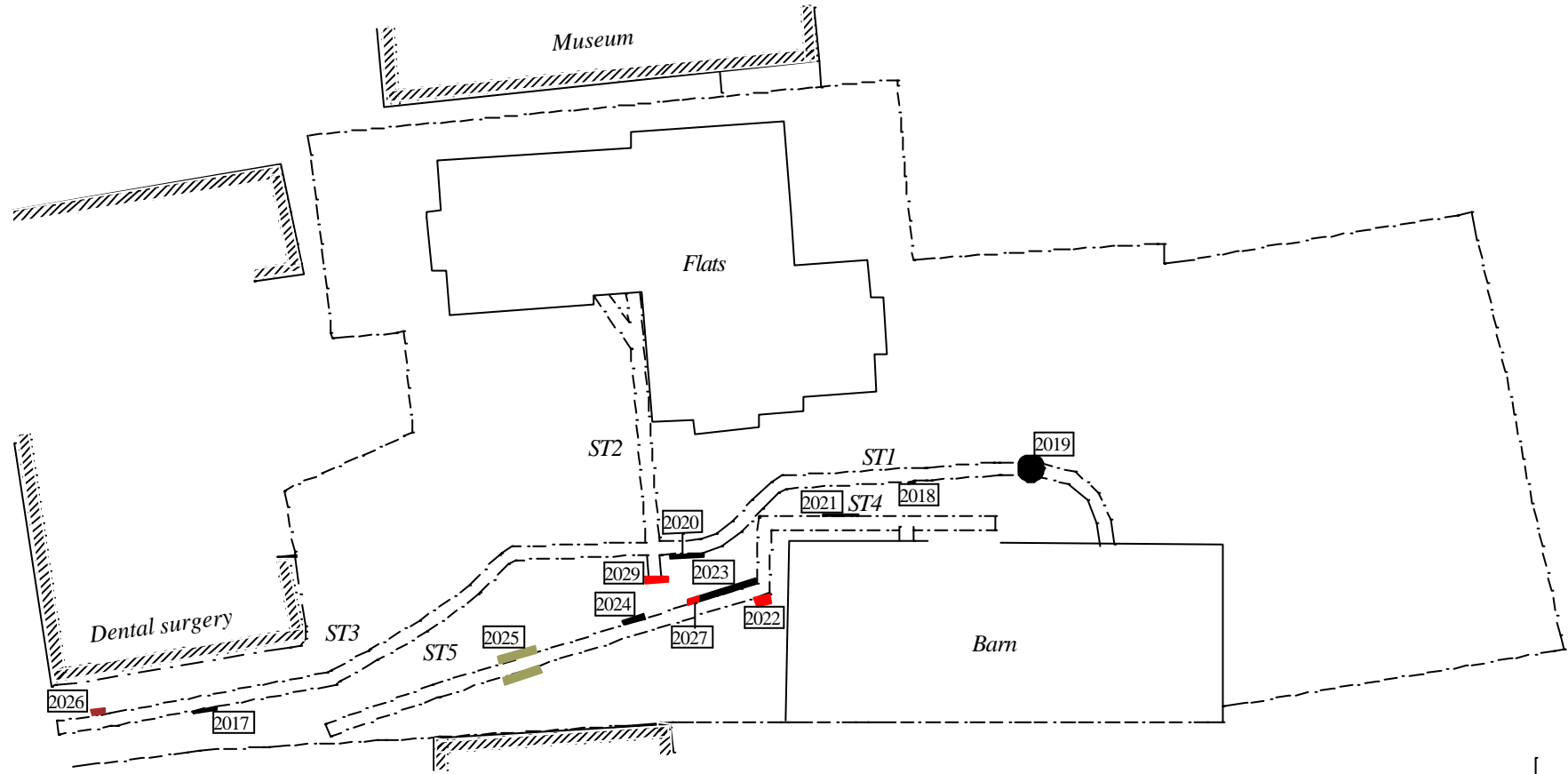
- Foundation pad
- c c c Cinder layer
- Wall
- Pit
- Clay



Foundation pads

Scale 1:100

Figure 9

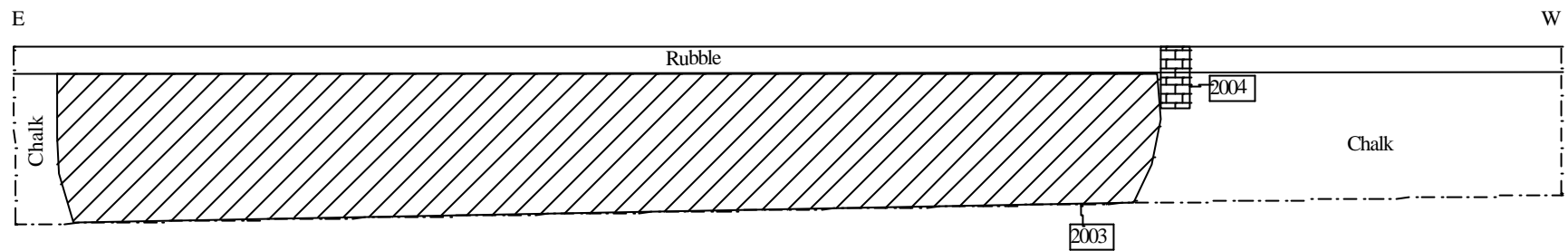


----- Site boundary

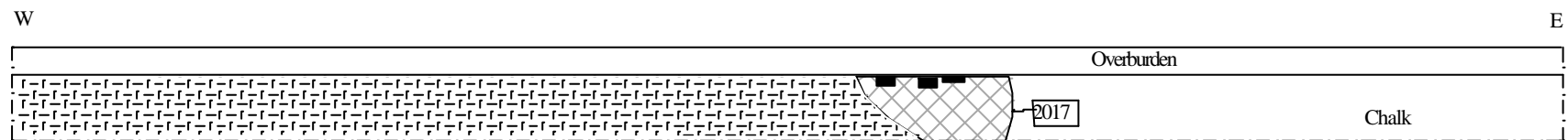
Service Trenches

Scale 1:300
Figure 10

Part of the north facing section of Trench A



Part of the south facing section of Service Trench 3



■ Early post-medieval brick

 Redeposited chalk

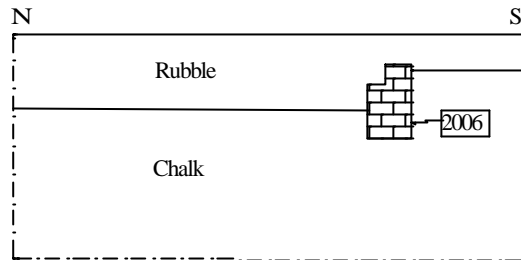


Sections-Trench A & Service Trench 3

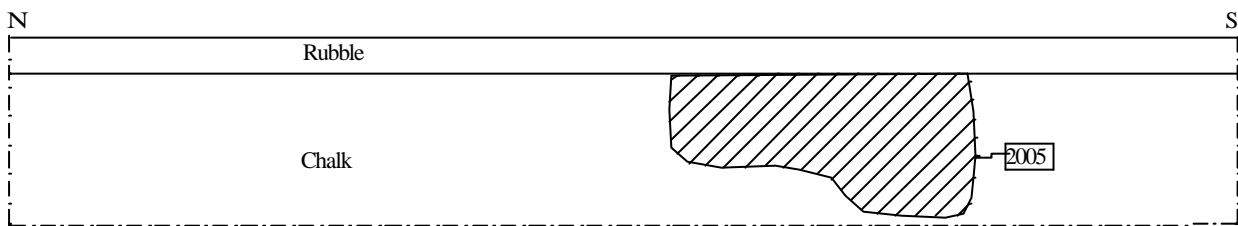
Scale 1:50

Figure 11

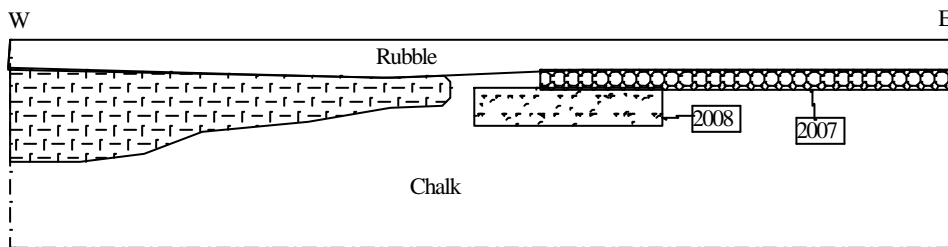
Representative section of the west facing section of Trench B







Representative section of the west facing section of Trench B



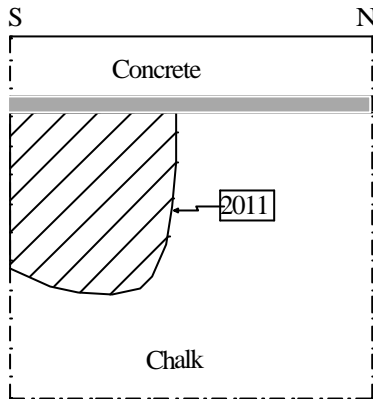
South facing section of Trench C



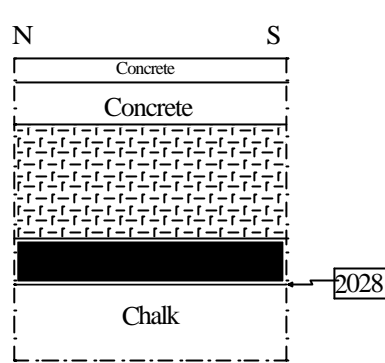
-  Masonry
-  Cobbles
-  Clunch wall
-  Redeposited chalk



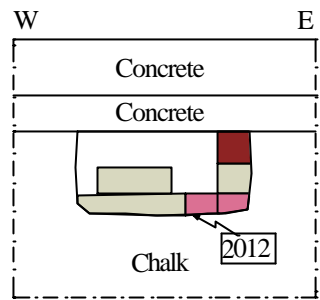
East facing section of Pad 1



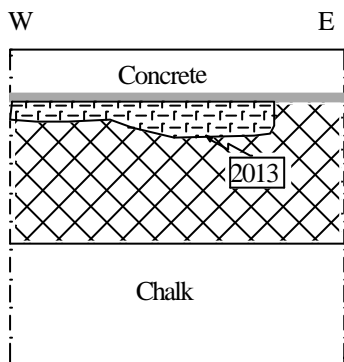
West facing section of Pad 3



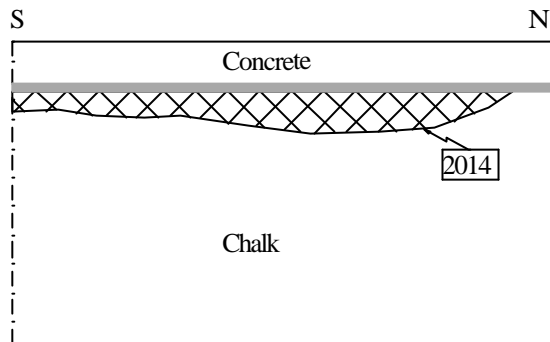
North facing section of Pad 5



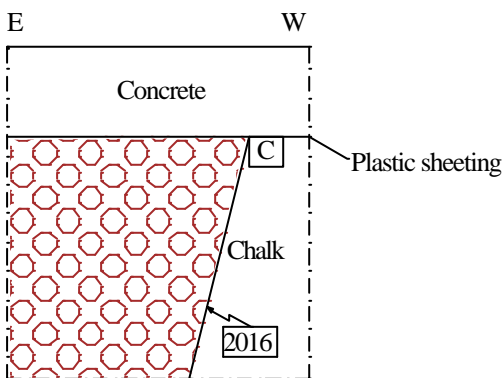
North facing section of Pad 7



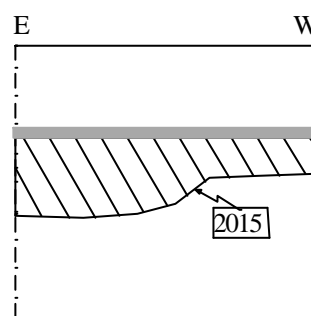
East facing section of Pad 8



North facing section of Pad



North facing section of Pad 9



- Redeposited chalk
- Slaked lime
- Hoggin
- Concrete block
- Pale olive (5Y 6/3) clay
- Cinders
- Cambridge White brick
- 17th c. red brick
- Unidentified pink brick
- Pale olive (5Y 6/3) clay
- Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clay
- Burnt chalk with soil





Bay 3, south elevation: edge-halved & bridle-butted scarf joint

Not to scale

Plate 1a



Bay 3, north elevation: face-halved & counterbladed scarf joint

Not to scale

Plate 1b



Interior view looking northeast showing the king post roof

Not to scale

Plate 2