

HERITAGE NETWORK



**79-81 RAILWAY STREET
Hertford, Hertfordshire**

HN886

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

79-81 RAILWAY STREET Hertford, Hertfordshire

Project Ref.: HN886
EHDC Planning Ref.: 3/09/1800/FP

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Christopher Abbiss, Esq.

by

James Snee BSC AIFA

Report no. 715

March 2012

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The cover illustration shows the site looking east

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem and James Snee. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to: Andrew Boakes, Andrew Boakes Associates; Alison Tinniswood and Isobel Thompson, Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	79-81 Railway Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG14 1RP		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Hertford	Parish:	Hertford
Planning reference:	3/09/1800/FP	NGR:	TL 3287 1285
Client name and address:	A E Abbiss Ltd, c/o Andrew Boakes Associates, 10 Yeomans Drive, Aston, Stevenage, SG2 7EJ		
Nature of work:	Residential	Current land use:	Vacant Land
Site Status:	AAI	Reason for investigation:	Potential development
Position in planning process:	Pre-determination (PPS5)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	340m ²	Size of area investigated:	18m ²
Site code:	HN886	Other reference	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Field evaluation	Archive Recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work:	02/03/2012	Finish of work:	05/03/2012
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented	Medieval, Post-Medieval
OASIS UID:	heritage1-182639	Significant finds:	Pottery, Brick, Tile, Stone, Human Bone
Monument types:	Wall, Ditch, Pit, Masonry.		
Physical archive:	Pottery, Brick, Tile.		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In order to advise the determination of a planning application for a development on land at 79-81 Railway Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation

The excavation located the south wall of the 12th century priory church, and confirmed that medieval remains were preserved below the post-medieval structures and layers. The evaluation also showed that the impact of 19th century buildings was not as severe as previously thought and that there are likely to be medieval and earlier remains preserved across all areas of the site.

On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might disturb significant archaeological remains of is considered to be *High* for the medieval and post-medieval periods and *Moderate* for all earlier periods.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Andrew Boakes Associates acting on behalf of Christopher Abbiss, Esq, to cover a programme of archaeological work required to advise the determination of a planning application for the development of land at 79-81 Railway Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire.

1.2 In line with comments included in correspondence from the Historic Environment Unit (HEU) of Hertfordshire County Council (KAT/09/1800-1), acting as advisers to the EHDC, and in line with Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), further information regarding the impact of the proposals on the historic environment has been requested. The HEU indicated that the investigation should take the form of an evaluation by trial trenching within the proposed development area.

1.3 The proposed development area lies on an area of open ground on the north-western side of Railway Street, just to the south-west of its junction with St John's Street, centred on NGR TL 3287 1285 (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north-east by no.83 Railway Street, and to the south-west by residential buildings forming part of Mitre Court. To the north-west it extends to into part of a garage lot fronting on to St John's Street, currently occupied by 'European Cars'.

1.4 The development proposes the construction of a block of three apartments on the Railway Street frontage, and an MOT testing station on the garage lot, with associated access and services.

1.5 The site is known to lie within the precinct of the late 12th century Benedictine Priory of St Mary Monk (or St Mary the Virgin). The remains of the Priory Church of St John the Evangelist (founded between 1086 and 1093) were discovered in 1893, immediately to the west of the present site. Although much of the plan of the church was revealed, its east end was not located, perhaps due to gravel quarrying.

1.6 The full extent of the associated churchyard has not been fully determined, but in 1882, burials were recorded to the west, south and east of the application site, and in 1989-90, archaeological investigations carried out prior to construction of the adjacent Mitre Court, revealed a minimum of 247 burials, dating to between the 12th to 19th centuries (Zeevat 1994-6). Of these, 91 burials were excavated from an area immediately to the southwest of the present site.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Hertford lies in the valley of the River Lea or Lee, close to its confluences with the Rivers Rib, Beane and Mimram. The study area, which lies just to the southeast of one channel of the River Lea, is located on level ground, adjacent to 83 Railway Street to the east of the town centre, at approximately 41m AOD.

2.2 The study area is located within an urban area, and the local soils have not been mapped. It is likely that the present site is located on soils of the Ludford Association (571x) as these are recorded as immediately surrounding the town. These are described as “*Deep well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel*” (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying bedrock consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (British Geological Society website). The superficial geology consists of Kempton Park Gravel Formation - Sand And Gravel, described as superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, in an environment dominated by rivers (ibid).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.5 The trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. All trenches were opened using a tracked excavator fitted with a 0.90m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

2.6 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and any potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.7 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:20.

RESULTS

2.8 Two trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwellings (Figure 2). Trench 1 measured 5m long and 2m wide and Trench 2 measured 4m long and 2m wide.

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located at the northwest side of the site (Figure 3, Plates 1 & 2). It was orientated northeast to southwest and was excavated to a depth of 1.02m.

Trench 1 data:

Length (m):	5.90	Width (m):	2.05	Maximum Depth (m):	1.02	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top 41.82	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top 41.94
			Base 41.11				Base 40.92
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
	Layer	Tarmac	5.90	2.05	0.09		
	Layer	Sand and gravel bedding.	5.90	2.05	0.12		
	Layer	Brick and mortar demolition rubble.	5.90	2.05	Up to 0.35		
101	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) friable silty sand with frequent roots and occasional pebbles.	3.00	2.05	Up to 0.25		
102	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) friable silty sand with frequent gravel, pebbles and occasional CBM.	3.00	2.05	Up to 0.25		
103	Layer	Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) loose sand, with frequent pebbles, chalk fragments and mortar.	4.50	2.05	> 0.60		
104	Cut	Linear cut with vertical sides and a flattish base, oriented northwest-southeast.	> 2.05	0.40	0.56		
105	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) friable silty sand with occasional pebbles.	> 2.05	0.40	0.56		
106	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) friable sand with occasional pebbles.	> 2.05	0.75	0.13		
107	Structure	Wall composed of chalk blocks, flint cobbles and tile, bonded with lime mortar, oriented east-west and rendered on the north face.	> 0.70	> 0.50	> 0.55		
108	Structure	Red brick structure, possible remains of brick floor.	> 1.80	> 2.05	0.12		
109	Structure	Wall composed of red brick bonded with grey cement mortar, oriented east-west.	> 2.05	0.30	0.18		
110	Structure	Brick and cement mortar layer, probably floor of cottage.	> 1.80	> 2.05	0.22		
111	Layer	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sandy clayey silt with very occasional mortar flecks.	> 1.80	> 2.05	0.06		
112	Structure	Red brick and cement mortar, oriented east-west.	> 2.05	0.34	0.21		
113	Layer	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft sandy clayey silt with frequent grit and gravel.	-	0.65	0.13		
114	Cut	Large cut feature, with steep sides and an irregular base.	> 1.50	> 2.05	0.65		
115	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose, clayey silty sand with frequent flint fragments.	> 1.50	> 2.05	0.65		
116	Structure	Lime mortared dressed stone masonry fragment.	0.45	0.38	0.35		
117	Layer	Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) loose, clayey silty sand with frequent gravel.	> 2.60	> 2.05	> 0.50		

2.10 The earliest feature was revealed in the south-eastern corner of the trench. This was a fragment of an east-west aligned wall, (107), which was composed of chalk blocks, flint cobbles and tile, bonded with lime mortar and rendered on the north face (Figures 3 & 5; Plates 3 & 5). The wall was covered in a lens of yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) friable sand with occasional pebbles, context (106), which was, in turn, sealed below a general layer of light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) loose sand (103) & (117), with frequent pebbles, chalk fragments and mortar. Fragments of carved stone were recovered from this layer.

2.11 Two features were cut into layers (103) & (117) (Figure 3). Towards the south-west end of the trench was a north-west - south-east oriented ditch [104], which measured 0.40m wide and 0.56m deep, with vertical sides and a flattish base (Figure 5, Plate 6). This was filled with dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) friable silty sand (105) with occasional pebbles.

2.12 At the north-east end of the trench was a large cut feature [114] that extended beyond the limits of excavation (Figure 5, Plate 4). This had a steep south-west side and an irregular base. The fill (115) comprised dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose, clayey silty sand with frequent flint fragments. Within fill (115) was a fragment of lime mortar bonded masonry (116) composed of dressed limestone blocks (Figures 3 & 5).

2.13 Covering layer (103), and sealing the top of ditch [104], was a layer of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) friable silty sand (102 & 113) up to 0.25m thick with frequent gravel, pebbles and occasional CBM (brick and tile). This layer had been truncated at the north-east end of the trench by the base of a structure which comprised a north-west – south-east oriented wall (109), with red brick and cement mortar footings below, context (112) (Figure 5). Several floor layers, contexts (108), (110) and (111), were also encountered. This is likely to represent the remains of one of the buildings shown on the site on the 1st edition OS map of 1881.

2.14 At the south-west end of the trench, layer (102) was overlain by up to 0.25m of black (10YR 2/1) friable silty sand (101) with frequent roots and occasional pebbles, indicative of garden soil. This was covered by layers of rubble, sand and gravel and tarmac.

Trench 2

2.15 Trench 2 was located at the south-east end of site, close to Railway Street (Figure 2). It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 4.40m in length, 1.95m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.40m.

Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	4.40	Width (m):	1.95	Maximum Depth (m):	1.40	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	41.94	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	41.97
			Base	41.53			Base	40.52
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Layer	Concrete.	> 4.40	> 1.95	0.12			
-	Layer	Brick and sand rubble.	> 4.40	> 1.95	0.19			
201	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) friable silty sand with frequent gravel, moderate pebbles and occasional CBM.	> 1.30	> 1.95	0.30			
202	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty sand with frequent gravel, moderate pebbles and occasional CBM.	> 1.30	> 1.95	> 0.80			
203	Structure	Brick (?hand made) wall with yellowish brown lime mortar, oriented northwest-southeast.	> 1.95	0.35	> 0.55			
204	Structure	Brick (?hand made) wall with yellowish brown lime mortar, rendered on both sides, oriented northeast-southwest.	> 1.10	0.25	> 0.55			
205	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6), loose sand and mortar with frequent brick, tile slate and mortar fragments.	> 1.10	> 0.72	> 0.55			

Length (m):	4.40	Width (m):	1.95	Maximum Depth (m):	1.40	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	41.94	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	41.97
			Base	41.53			Base	40.52
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
206	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6), loose sand and mortar with frequent brick, tile slate and mortar fragments.	> 1.10	> 0.94	> 0.55			

2.16 At the south-west end of Trench 2 (Figures 4 & 5, Plate 8), a sondage revealed the overall stratigraphy to consist of more than 0.80m of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty sand (202) with frequent gravel, moderate pebbles and occasional brick and tile fragments. A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered from this deposit. Overlying (202) was a layer of black (10YR 2/1) friable silty sand (201), 0.30m in depth, with frequent gravel, moderate pebbles and occasional brick and tile fragments. This was covered by a layer of rubble and a cap of reinforced concrete.

2.17 The centre of the trench (Figure 4) had been substantially disturbed by the presence of a north-west to south-east oriented service trench with a brick lined, steel covered access pit.

2.18 The remains of a cellar were encountered at the northeast end of the trench (Figure 4, Plate 7). These comprised a 0.35m wide, north-west to south-east aligned exterior wall (203), which was constructed of red brick and yellowish brown lime mortar. An internal wall (204), extended north-east from (203). This wall was 0.25m wide and constructed of similar red brick and lime mortar. Filling the cellar was yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loose sand and mortar (205) & (206) with frequent brick, tile slate and mortar fragments.

FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery		CBM		Tile		Bone		Brick		Worked Stone		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
103					14	835			2	670	1	>10,000	
105			1	105									
107					2	300							
108									1	1445			Early 19 th century
109									1	860			19 th century
110									1	2525			3 rd quarter 19 th century
112									1	1830			Late 18 th century
115			5	555	3	185	1	50					2 nd quarter 19 th century
116											1	6150	
201	4	45											18 th /19 th century
202					4	200	4	100	1	290			
203									2	3190			Late 19 th century
204									1	3060			2 nd quarter 19 th century
206									1	2825			2 nd quarter 19 th century
TOTAL S	4	45	6	660	23	1520	5	150	11	16695	2	>16,150	

FINDS ASSESSMENT - Artefacts*Pottery*

2.19 A total of 4 sherds of pottery, weighing 45g, was recovered from context (201). The material comprised 2 sherds from a Copeland transfer print soup plate, a fragment of a mocha-ware jug and a sherd from a blue and white hot water jug. This small assemblage has a date range from the late 18th century to the mid 19th century.

Brick and Tile

2.20 A total of 11 bricks, weighing 16,695g, was recovered from 9 stratified contexts, while 23 tile fragments, weighing 1520g were recovered from 4 stratified contexts. The material was recovered from both trenches.

2.21 In Trench 1, brick and tile was recovered from structures and demolition layers and is summarised below:

Context	Feature type	Description
103	Demolition Layer	14 fragments of hand made tile, weighing 835g, one has peg hole. 2 fragments of red brick, weighing 670g, not well puddled: cracked in firing. Probably 1850s – 1870s.
105	Ditch Fill	1 fragment of tile, weighing 105g. This could well be a waster which split in firing (where water lay between layers of the clay).
107	Wall	2 fragments of hand made tile, weighing 300g.
108	Floor	1 footings brick, weighing 1445g, very badly fired. Not puddled and may have broken in the kiln. Early 19 th century.
109	Wall	1 brick fragment, weighing 860g. Not well puddled: cracked in firing, 1850s - 1870s.
110	Floor	1 footings brick, weighing 2525g, yellow, hand made and frogged. Probably not local, typical of Essex but also known in St Albans, dates to 1850s – 1870s.
112	Floor	1 late 17 th century brick, weighing 1830g. Covered in mortar, suggests re-use as hardcore for footings
115	Pit fill	1 piece of mortar, 2 fragments of over fired brick and 5 pieces of handmade tile, one with peg hole.

2.22 In Trench 2, brick and tile was recovered from structures and demolition layers and is summarised below:

Context	Feature type	Description
202	Make up layer	4 fragments of hand made tile, weighing 200g, one with peg hole. 1 fragment of hand made brick, weighing 290g.
203	Wall	2 bricks, weighing 3190g. 1 grey imported brick with squared frog, dating to the 1870s – 1880s. 1 red hand made brick, dating to the 1820s – 1840s.
204	Wall	1 hand made brick, weighing 3060g. Dating to the 1820s – 1840s but re-used with modern rendering.
206	Demolition layer	1 hand made brick, weighing 2825g. Dating to the 1820s – 1840s.

2.23 The assemblage in general dates to the mid – late 19th century. The bricks in the wall and floors of the structure at the north-eastern end of Trench 1 have been dated to the period 1850 – 1880, suggesting that the buildings to the north of Railway Street date to the mid 19th century, and are undoubtedly contemporary with the arrival of the Great Northern Railway.

2.24 Where earlier fragments of brick or tile are present these appear to have been re-used in the construction of the 19th century structure.

Worked Stone

2.25 A total of 2 pieces of worked stone were recovered from two contexts, demolition layer (103) and masonry fragment (116).

2.26 The fragment from layer (103) was an approximate cuboid with moulding along the edge of one face. It appears to be Totternhoe Clunch and measures 295mm long by 195mm wide and 270mm high. The upper and lower faces had been roughly trimmed and have coarse tool marks. The other faces were smoothly worked and had tool marks forming radial lines, possibly indicating that these faces had been sawn. The corner of the stone has been carved into a semi-circle, with thumb mouldings on the two adjacent faces (Plate 9). A series of incised lines, representing the mason's markings, are visible on the upper and lower faces (Plate 10).

2.27 A fragment of worked sandstone was recovered from structure (116). This measured 260mm long by 205mm wide and 70mm high. It was worked on five sides with visible tool marks on one side and a single incised line on one face.

FINDS ASSESSMENT - Ecofacts

Bone

2.28 A total of 5 fragments of bone, weighing 150g, was recovered from deposits in both trenches.

2.29 In Trench 1, fill (115) contained a single bone fragment, weighing 50g. This was the distal quarter of a mammal humerus, with unfused epiphysis and moderate wear to cortical bone.

2.30 In Trench 2, makeup layer (202) contained 4 fragments of human bone, weighing 100g. Two fragments could not be identified and all exhibited heavy wear. One fragment was a left femur of a human juvenile, with the distal epiphysis missing due to post-mortem break and the proximal epiphysis was unfused. Another fragment was the right femur of a human juvenile, with the distal half lost post-mortem and the proximal epiphysis was unfused. Their presence indicates that earlier burials have been disturbed by later activity on the site.

3. Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 Hertford is a town of considerable archaeological and historical importance. Situated in the Lea Valley, the earliest evidence suggests the area was populated with prehistoric and Romano-British agricultural settlements. (Bryant & Seddon 1999).

3.2 The first historical reference to the settlement is in 673 AD when it is named as the location of the first Synod of the Bishops of England. It is recorded in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles that King Edward the Elder built fortresses known as ‘burhs’ on the north and south banks of the River Lea at Hertford in 912 and 913. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Hertford had two churches, two markets and three mills. The Normans established a castle at Hertford, which was re-built in stone by Henry II, later becoming an important royal residence before being gifted to the Cecil family in the reign of Elizabeth I (ibid.).

3.3 The present site lies in the south ‘burh’ of the Anglo-Saxon town (HER 9828), within the precinct of the late 12th century Benedictine Priory of St Mary Monk (or St Mary the Virgin) (HER 2994). The remains of the Priory Church of St John the Evangelist (founded between 1086 and 1093) were discovered in 1893, immediately to the west of the present site (HER 2999). Much of the plan of the church was revealed, apart from its east end which was not located, perhaps due to gravel digging. Should any remains of the east end survive, these would lie, in part, within the present site. The full extent of its associated churchyard has not been fully determined, but in 1882, burials were recorded to the west, south and east of the present site, and in 1989-90, archaeological investigations carried out prior to construction of the adjacent Mitre Court (HER 9783), revealed a minimum of 247 burials, dating to between the 12th to 19th centuries (Zeepvat 1994-6). Of these, 91 burials were excavated from an area immediately to the southwest of the present site.

3.4 In addition to the Priory and the Church, the area around the site has revealed considerable evidence of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation. This includes pits, ditches and postholes at Dolphin Yard (HER 12038), buildings, pits and ovens found at Market Street (HER 6428) and buildings and rubbish pits found at Railway Street (HER 9886).

3.5 As a historic town, Hertford contains many important historic buildings dating to the medieval, post-medieval and early modern periods. The area around the site contains post-medieval houses, maltings, and industrial era transport features, such as the basin on the River Lee Navigation and the Hertford branch of the Great Northern Railway. No. 83 Railway Street, currently occupied by an undertakers, is marked on the OS map of 1881 as an inn.

Research Design

3.6 The aim of the present programme of work has been to identify any archaeological remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, consider their location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and provide a local and regional archaeological and historical context for them.

3.7 It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of activity within the precinct of the Benedictine Priory of St Mary Monk, and the extent and survival of the Priory Church of St John the Evangelist and its associated graveyard. Also of interest was the potential for evidence of early Anglo-Saxon or early Norman activity on the site.

Discussion

3.8 The earliest feature revealed on the site was an east-west oriented wall of medieval date [107], with white render on the north face. The presence of the render on one side suggests that this is an internal face. Its location indicates that this is likely to be part of the south wall of the 12th century priory church. The wall was buried below a layer of sand, mortar and rubble, context (103), that probably represent material left behind after the priory buildings had been demolished and robbed. The recovery of carved masonry from this layer supports the identification of the structure as part of the priory church.

3.9 A second piece of masonry, [116], was located to the north of [107], in the fill of feature [114], and possibly represents a piece of fallen masonry. Cut [114] may represent post-medieval stone robbing from the site of the church.

3.10 A deep layer of post-medieval makeup, (202), was revealed in Trench 2. Although no graves were identified in the small area of this deposit that was excavated, the presence of human bone indicates that there are burials in close proximity.

3.11 The basements and foundations of post-medieval buildings encountered in both trenches correspond to the positions of possible cellars identified from historical records and maps. The foundation and floor structures identified in Trench 1 were relatively shallow and only impacted on the upper portion of post-medieval deposits. This strongly suggests that medieval structures and deposits could be preserved beneath them. The cellars in Trench 2, were deeper, at least 0.90m below existing ground level, but are cut into deep post-medieval make up layers and there remains a possibility of earlier remains preserved below.

3.12 A narrow linear feature, cut [104], was identified at the southern end of Trench 1. This follows the modern building alignments rather than the medieval, and may represent a post-medieval property boundary, possibly associated with the structure identified to the north.

Conclusions

3.13 The present evaluation has located a fragment of rendered walling that is likely to represent the south wall of the 12th century priory church, and it has confirmed that medieval remains are preserved below the post-medieval structures and layers. The work has also demonstrated that the impact of 19th century buildings was not as significant as had been thought, and, consequently, medieval and earlier remains may remain preserved across all areas of the site.

3.14 On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might disturb significant archaeological remains is considered to be *High* for the medieval and post-medieval periods and *Moderate* for all earlier periods.

Confidence Rating

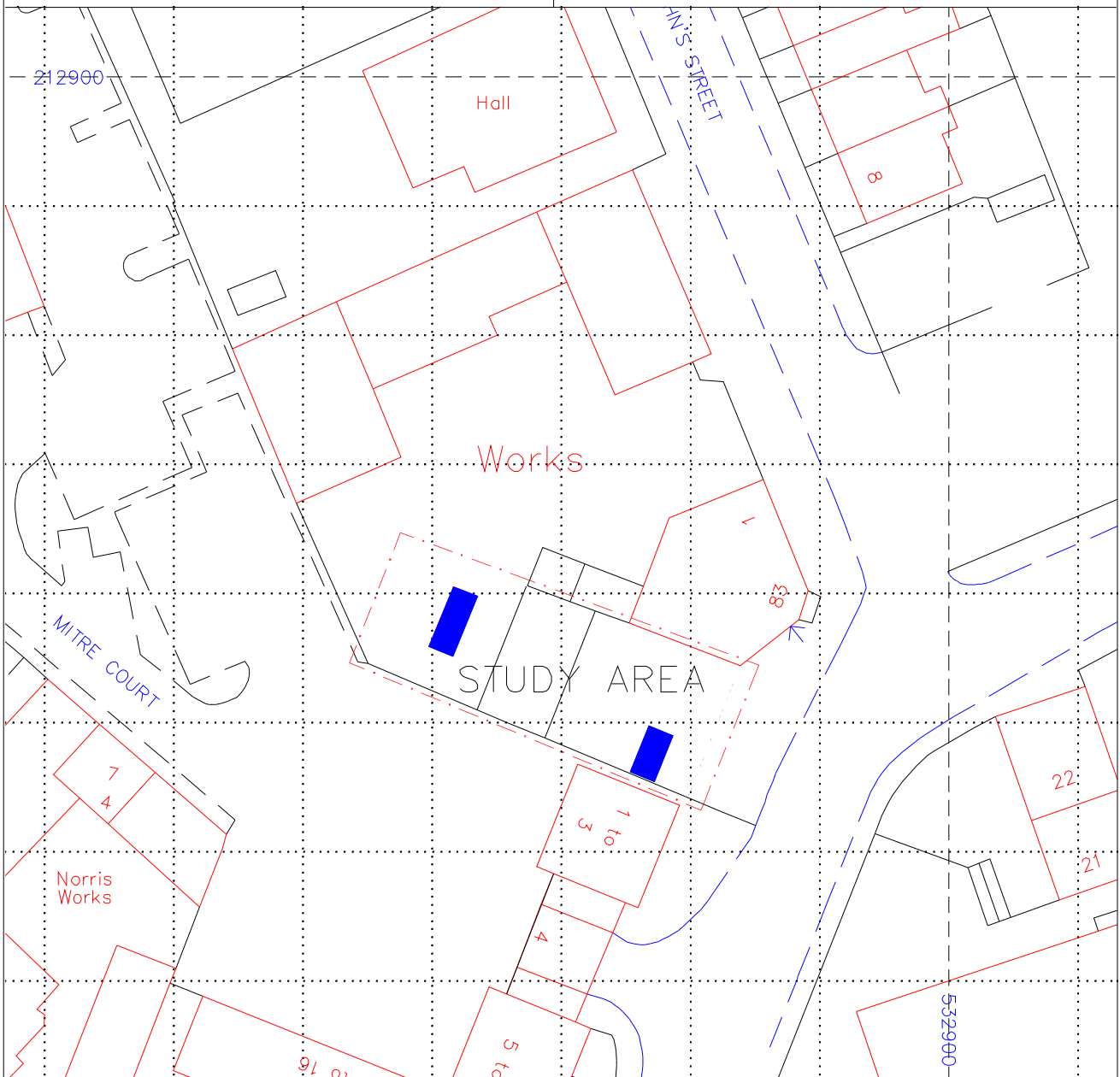
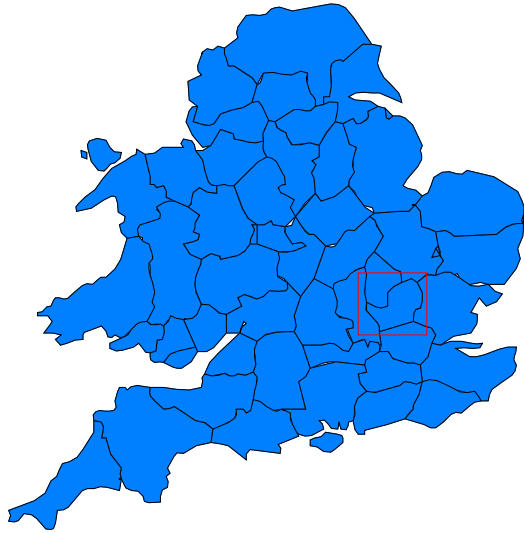
3.15 The weather in the course of the present evaluation was mild and the light was good. The ground conditions were favourable for the identification of archaeological features and deposits. On this basis, the confidence rating for the work may be considered to be *High*.

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5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Archaeological Constraints and Trench Location
Figure 3	Trench 1
Figure 4	Trench 2
Figure 5	Sections from trenches 1 and 2
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking northeast.
Plate 2	Trench 1, looking southwest.
Plate 3	Trench 1, Section 4, looking southeast.
Plate 4	Trench 1, Section 5, looking southeast.
Plate 5	Wall (107), looking south.
Plate 6	Ditch [104], looking southeast.
Plate 7	Trench 2, looking southwest.
Plate 8	Trench 2, looking northeast.
Plate 9	Moulded face of carved stone from (103)
Plate 10	Upper face of carved stone from (103)

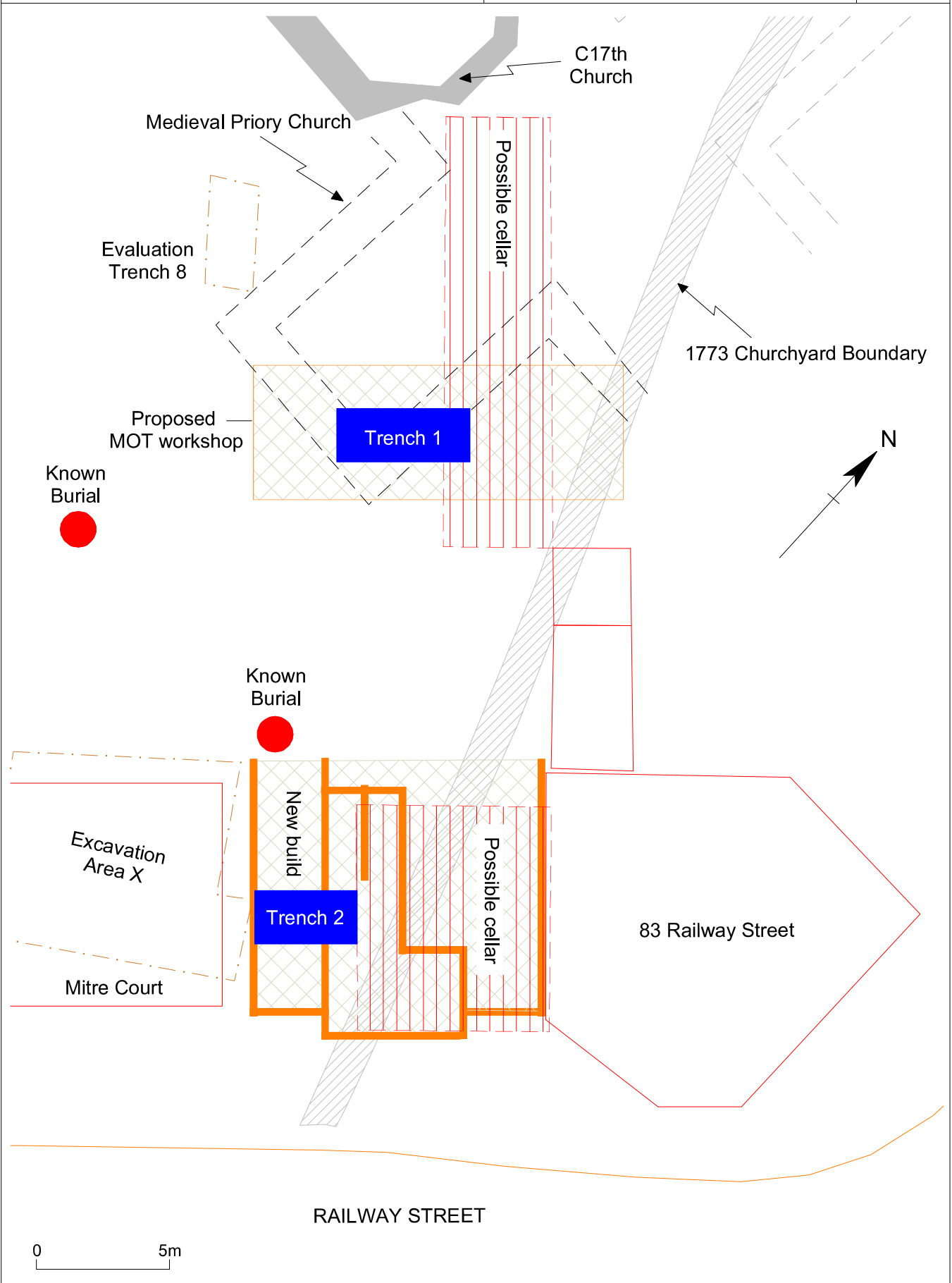


Site Location

Scale 1:500

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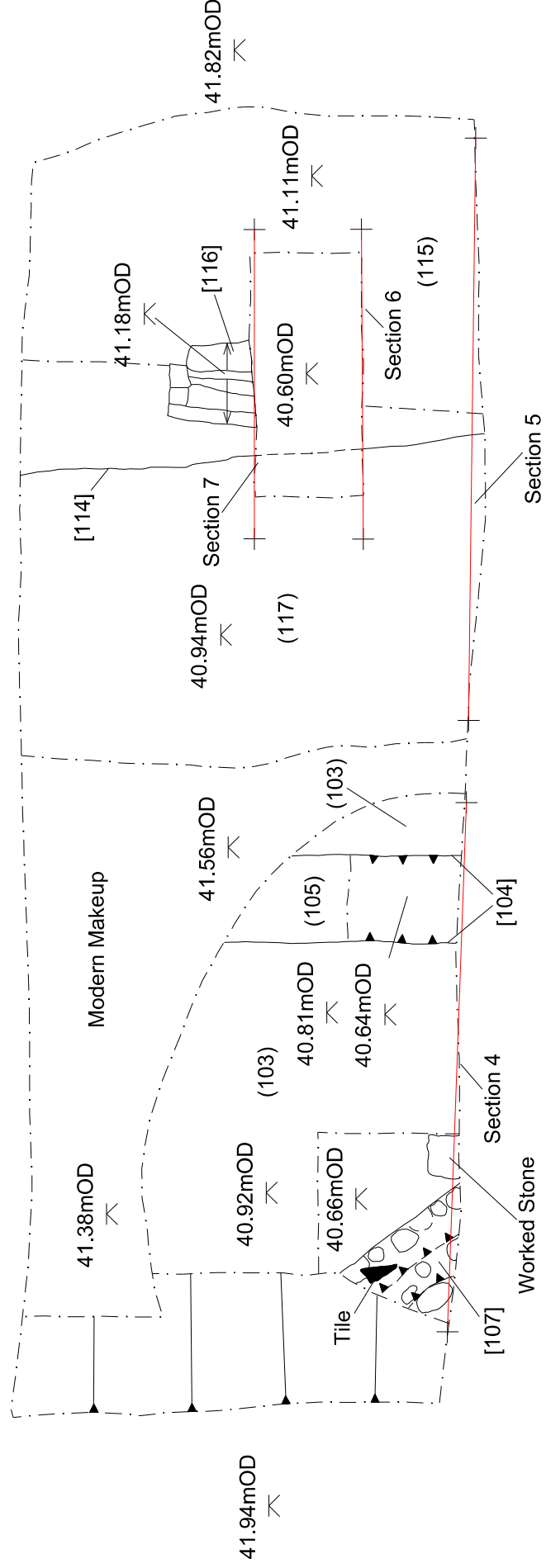
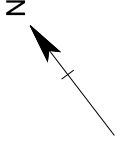
Figure 1



Archaeological Constraints and Trench Layout

Scale 1:200

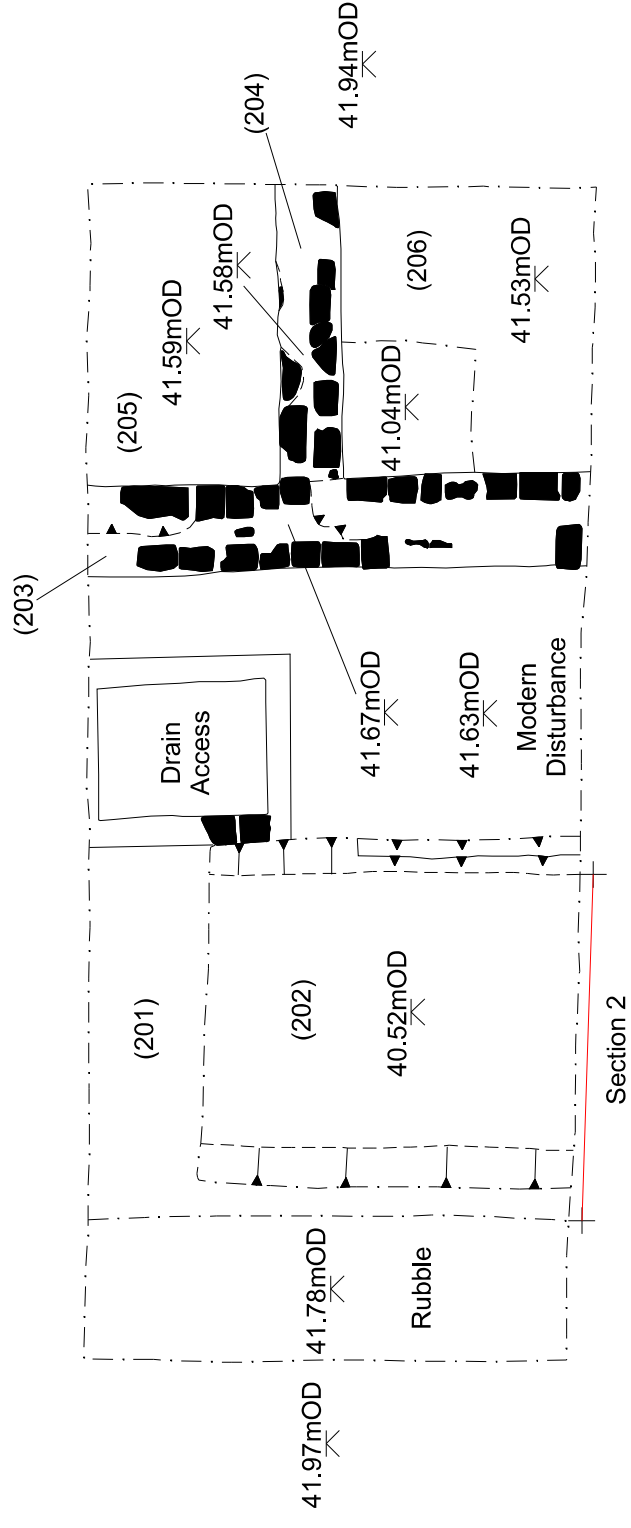
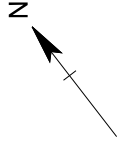
Figure 2



79 - 81 Railway Street, Hertford

HN886 Scale 1:20 Figure 3

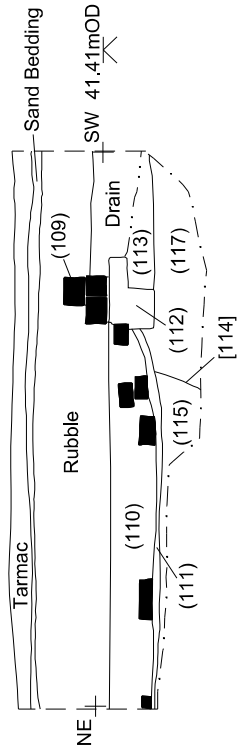
Trench 1



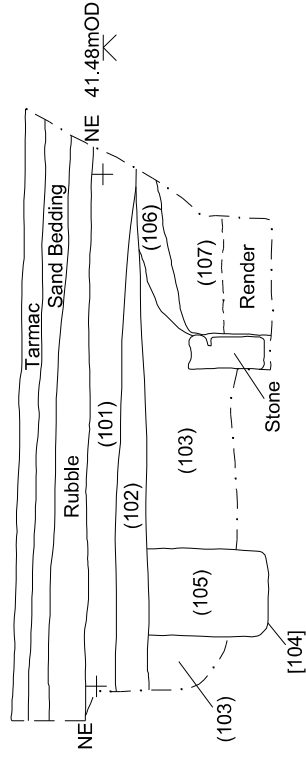
79 - 81 Railway Street, Hertford

HN886 Scale 1:20 Figure 4

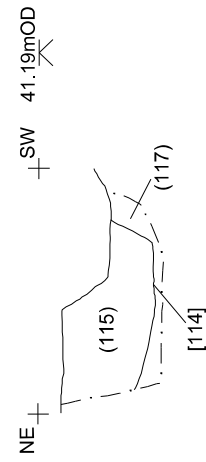
Trench 2



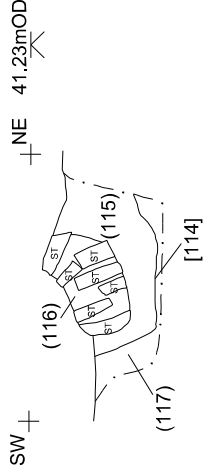
Trench 1, Section 5, Northwest facing



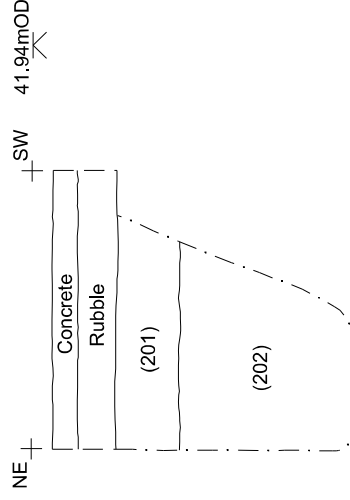
Trench 1, Section 4, Northwest facing



Trench 1, Section 6, Northwest facing



Trench 1, Section 7, Southeast facing



Trench 2, Section 2, Northwest facing





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking southwest.



Plate 3: Trench 1, Section 4, looking southeast.



Plate 4: Trench 1, Section 5, looking southeast.



Plate 5: Wall (107), looking south.



Plate 6: Ditch [104], looking southeast.



Plate 7: Trench 2, looking southwest.



Plate 8: Trench 2, looking northeast.



Plate 9: Moulded face of carved stone from (103)

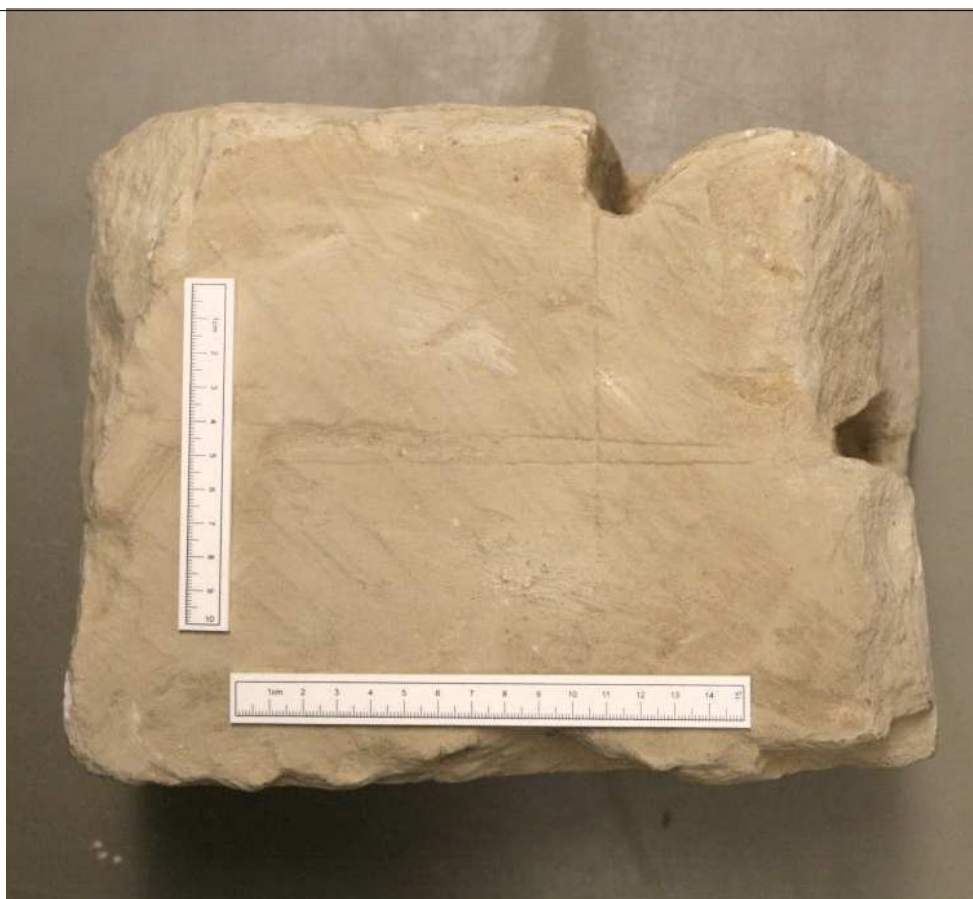


Plate 10: Upper face of carved stone from (103)

Appendix 1

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-82639</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Hertford, 79-81 Railway Street
Short description of the project	In order to advise the determination of a planning application for a development on land at 79-81 Railway Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation. The excavation located the south wall of the 12th century priory church, and confirmed that medieval remains were preserved below the post-medieval demolition layers. The evaluation also showed that the impact of 19th century buildings was not as severe as previously thought and that there are likely to be medieval and earlier remains preserved across the site. On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might disturb significant archaeological remains is considered to be High for the medieval and post-medieval periods and Moderate for all earlier periods.
Project dates	Start: 02-03-2012 End: 03-03-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HN886 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STONE Medieval
Methods	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE HERTFORD 79-81 Railway Street
Postcode	SG14 1RP
Study area	18.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3287 1285 51.7980260697 -0.07293341694710 51 47 52 N 000 04 22 W Point

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Human Bones','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	79-81 RAILWAY STREET, Hertford, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No: 715
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 14 pages, 5 figures, 10 plates