

Archaeological Monitoring & Recording

**24 Windhill
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire**

**ASE Project No: 8362
HER Enquiry Number: 63/15
Site Code: BSWH 15**

ASE Report No: 2015262



July 2015

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

24 Windhill
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire

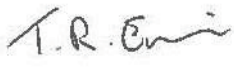
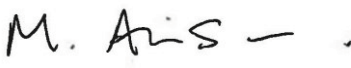
NGR: TL 48500 21331

ASE Project no: 8362
Site Code: BSWH 15

Planning Ref: 3/14/1987/FP
HER Enquiry Number: 63/15

ASE Report No: 2015262
OASIS No. 218796

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Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the property owner, Mr Michael Bowes, to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated the construction of an extension to the existing property at 24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

The site is located in the historic core of the town, which is of medieval origin. The property is probably of mid-Victorian construction and surrounded by a number of listed buildings of 16/17th to 19th century date.

The monitoring of construction groundworks recorded a 0.75m thick deposit sequence overlying the natural deposit, comprising topsoil and subsoils. Archaeological features were identified to be present, being recorded to both cut and seemingly underlie subsoil. Potential robbed wall remains [1004] and its wall trench infill deposits cut the subsoil and intruded into the natural deposit below. Intercut pits [1010] and [1012] were identified below the subsoil. All were determined to be of 19th or 20th century date, due to the presence of diagnostic pottery and building materials in their fills, and therefore almost certainly therefore contemporary with the construction and/or subsequent use of the extant house.

The recorded archaeological remains are judged to be of low significance and potential to the improved understanding of the origins and development of Bishops Stortford. As such, this development has not had a significant impact upon the below-ground heritage resource of this location within the historic town.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Site Background**
- 3.0 Aims and Objectives**
- 4.0 Archaeological Method**
- 5.0 Results**
- 6.0 Finds**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Appendices

Appendix 1: HER Summary Sheet

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

FIGURES

- 1. Location of site and archaeological monitoring area
- 2. Location of area of archaeological monitoring
- 3. Plan of monitored foundation trenches
- 4. Section 1
- 5. Sections 2 and 3

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

Table 4: Pottery quantification

Table 5: Overview of brick and tile fabrics

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the property owner, Mr Michael Bowes, to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated the construction of an extension to the existing property at 24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 A planning application (3/1/1987/FP) was submitted to East Hertfordshire District Council in November 2014 for the construction of a garden room extension at 24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford. As the site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 114), the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HEU), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. This advice is based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the condition (no. 3) that was subsequently attached to the planning consent states that:

“No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing. This condition will only be considered to be discharged when the planning authority has received and approved an archaeological report of all the required archaeological works, and if appropriate, a commitment to publication has been made.”

1.2.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), specifying the archaeological methodology to be employed, was subsequently produced (ASE 2015) and approved by the HCC HEU prior to the commencement of works.

1.3 Scope of Report

1.3.1 This report details the results of monitoring and recording carried out by Trevor Ennis (Senior Archaeologist) during groundworks at 24 Windhill, Bishop’s Stortford on 15th June 2015. The fieldwork was managed by Adrian Scruby.

2.0 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, topography and geology

2.1.1 No. 24 Windhill is located in the historic core of Bishops Stortford, on the north side of the road, at NGR TL 48500 21331 (Figure 1). The plot is surrounded by residential properties and associated gardens to the north, east and west. The parish church of St Michael's lies approximately 90m to the east.

2.1.2 Due to the presence of the nearby River Stort, which flows to the east of the site in a roughly north–south direction, the site lies in an area of transitional geology. The British Geological Survey maps the geology of the site as consisting of London Clay with no overlying superficial deposits, although immediately to the east of the site the sequence is mapped as the Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group (undifferentiated) overlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits – Mid Pleistocene (sand and gravel), and Thanet Sand overlain by Head deposits to the north (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 03/06/15).

2.2 Archaeological Background

2.2.1 No. 24 Windhill lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 114, which encompasses the historic core of Bishops Stortford. The medieval town (HHER 11) is documented from the 11th century onwards and is thought to have developed from an earlier Saxon settlement, believed to have been centred on North Street and possibly the High Street.

2.2.2 The Grade I Listed medieval parish church of St Michael (HHER 972; NHLE 1101613) lies approximately 90m to the east of the site, while a number of buildings of late medieval and early post-medieval date are also situated nearby. No. 30 Windhill is a timber-framed building of 16th/17th century date refaced in brick in the early 19th century (HHER 10744; NHLE 1102379); the Courtyard, 26b Windhill, is a converted Grade II listed 17th century and later malthouse and stables (HHER 30354; NHLE 1102377); 28 Windhill, now the British Legion Club, is also Grade II listed and of 18th century date.

2.2.3 No. 24 Windhill, itself, is a house of probable Victorian origin. It appears on the 1st edition OS map and so was constructed prior to c.1880. Judging from this historic mapping, the immediate environs have not significantly changed since this time.

2.2.4 Relatively little previous investigation has taken place in the Windhill area of the historic town core. An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of the Combined Parish Centre for St. Michael's and St. Joseph's Churches c.110m to the south-east of the present development. Of the two trenches excavated, only one contained two pits of probable 18-19th century date (Ennis 2008).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to sufficiently excavate and record any remains exposed during groundworks in order to ensure their preservation by record.

3.1.2 With regard to Medlycott (2011, 70), the development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and their role as centres of supply and demand have all been highlighted as needing further study. Specific research objectives were to investigate, record and assess any evidence of:

- the origins and development of the site with regard to the history and development of the town.

3.1.3 In the event that any significant discoveries were made this report would have sought to relate these to appropriate regional research objectives identified in Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011).

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHOD

4.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1.1 Monitoring was undertaken by a professional archaeologist on groundworks that had the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains that may have been present. Groundworks consisted of the removal of modern overburden from within the footprint of the new extension and the excavation of three east/west foundation trenches (Figure 2). The later excavation of a shallow north/south trench linking the western ends of the foundation trenches was not monitored after consideration of the results from the initial monitoring visit.
- 4.1.2 Following mechanical excavation, any archaeological features exposed were investigated by hand. Deposit and feature profiles were drawn at 1:10. Details of individual trenches, archaeological deposits and features were recorded on pro-forma sheets. Photographs were taken of each trench and any archaeological deposits/features.
- 4.1.3 Where present, artefacts were collected from all investigated deposits and retained for identification and study. No bulk samples for environmental remains were taken.
- 4.1.4 Work was carried out in accordance with the ClfA (Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (ClfA 2014) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Bishops Stortford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are summarised below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	14
No. of files	1
Plan and sections sheets	2
Photographs	16
Bulk finds	18 items / 5072g

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Extension footprint

5.1.1 Approximately 0.5m of modern overburden and mixed grey silt subsoil were removed from across the c.30sq m extension footprint onto the top of the underlying orange silty clay natural deposit. In part of the western side of the footprint, the uppermost overburden deposits were sealed beneath an additional 0.4m of garden soil retained behind a modern brick wall (Figure 4, Section 1), which presumably once extended across the whole site. To the east of the retaining wall, ground reduction had previously taken place to create a paved area alongside the house. Sitting on a bedding layer of clay, this paving overlay the mixed grey subsoil.

5.2 Foundation trenches

5.2.1 The three east/west foundation trenches were all approximately 4.5m long by 1.1m wide and up to 1.25m deep. Archaeological features and deposits were identified in the north and central foundation trenches (Figure 3).

5.2.2 Toward the base of the west end of the northern foundation trench was a partially exposed possible foundation in a steep-sided and flat-bottomed construction cut, [1013], 0.33m deep. In the base of the cut was a deposit of half-bricks, occasional large flints and white mortar [1004], sealed by a grey pebbly deposit containing occasional pieces of peg tile and flecks of white mortar [1003]. A narrow vertical band of dirty clay (un-numbered) visible in Section 1 (Figure 4) may have infilled a void between these deposits and the eastern edge of the cut. The recovery of modern white earthenware and brick fragments from deposit [1004] indicates that this possible foundation dates to the 19th century or later.

5.2.3 The foundation trench and its fills were cut by later pit [1008]. This pit, which continued beyond the south-west corner of the trench, was 1.12m deep and contained three fills [1005], [1006] and [1007] (Figure 5, section 2). The earliest was a banded brown to greyish brown silty clay deposit [1007] containing rare fragments of peg tile. Fills [1005] and [1006] consisted of grey silt with the lower fill, [1006], being darker and containing charcoal flecks. Two sherds of early post-medieval pottery and similarly dated brick fragments were recovered from fill [1005]. However, stratigraphic evidence indicates that this fill must be 19th century or later in date and is supported by the noted presence of both coal and slate fragments which are not local materials and may not have been commonplace within the town until the coming of the railway in the mid-19th century.

5.2.4 The fills of construction cut [1013] and pit [1008] were both sealed by a 0.33m thick deposit of re-deposited brown clay [1002] (Figure 4, section 1). Above this was a mixed deposit of brown clay and grey silt [1001] and then a layer of modern brick rubble and tile [1000]. Deposits [1001] and [1002] appeared to respect the eastern edge of cut [1013] and may represent deliberate infill perhaps following the robbing of the wall built upon foundation [1003/4]. Deposit [1000] was probably a slightly later infilling / levelling of the top of the robbed and infilled wall trench.

5.2.5 Two further pits, [1010] and [1012], were identified in section (Figure 5, Section 3) at the western end of the central foundation trench. Cut into the natural. the earlier feature [1012] was c.0.5m deep, but poorly defined and filled with pale silty clay [1011]. The only find recovered from it was a single fragment of dog-gnawed animal bone. Fill [1011] was truncated by later, shallower, pit [1010]. This pit was 0.35m

deep and contained a mixed grey clay silt fill with patches of white mortar. Four fragments of brick were recovered from it, one of which dates to the early post-medieval period but may be residual.

Context	Type	Description	Depth
1000	Layer	Brick and tile rubble, one large stone	0.20m
1001	Layer?	Mixed brown clay and grey silt	0.31m
1002	Layer?	Redeposited brown clay	0.33m
1003	Fill of 1013	Grey silt, frequent pebble inclusions, occasional tile	0.23m
1004	Fill of 1013	White mortar, half bricks, occasional large flints	0.12m
1005	Fill of 1008	Mid grey clay silt, occasional flints and white mortar flecks	0.96m
1006	Fill of 1008	Dark grey silt, frequent charcoal flecks	0.20m
1007	Fill of 1008	Dirty brown to greyish brown silty clay (banded)	0.90m
1008	Cut	Pit, 1.1m+ long x 0.6m+ wide	1.12m
1009	Fill of 1010	Mixed mid to dark grey clay silt, occasional white mortar patches	0.35m
1010	Cut	Pit, concave profile, 1.10m wide	0.35m
1011	Fill of 1012	Pale yellowish grey silty clay	0.50m
1012	Cut	Poorly defined pit or natural feature, 0.57m wide	0.50m
1013	Cut	Foundation	0.33m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

6.0 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the monitoring at 24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 3). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Mortar	Wt (g)
1004	1	2	2	1752				
1005	2	46	7	2254				
1009			4	912			1	90
1011					1	16		
Total	3	48	13	4918	1	16	1	90

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

6.2 Post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

6.2.1 A total of three sherds of pottery weighing 48g was excavated from two contexts (Table 4). Context 1005, the top fill of pit 1008, produced two sherds of unglazed early post-medieval red earthenware, a body sherd and an upright thickened rim almost certainly from a cistern. It shows reduced surfaces and a curved slip-painted line, and is datable to the later 15th to mid-16th centuries. Context 1004, a possible brick foundation, produced a single sherd of modern white earthenware, a rim fragment from a plate or dish showing a transfer-printed willow pattern, which was first introduced by Spode around the 1790s and is still in production today.

Context	Feature	Sherd Nos	Wt (g)	Pottery – ware and featured sherds	Date
1004	1013	1	2	Modern white earthenware: fragment of flanged rim from a plate or dish showing transfer-printed willow pattern decoration	Late 18th to 20th C
1005	1008	2	46	Early post-medieval red earthenware: upright thickened rim almost certainly from a cistern showing reduced surfaces a curved slip-painted line	Later 15th to mid-16th C
		3	48		

Table 4: Pottery quantification

6.3 Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

6.3.1 A small assemblage comprising 15 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 4833g was recovered from three different contexts. In addition, a fragment of mortar was recovered from [1009]. The latter fragment is a white lime mortar with common fine quartz. The remaining assemblage comprises a mixture of bricks and roof tiles. Five different brick (B1-B5) and two different roof tile fabrics (T1-T2) were encountered, summarized in Table 5.

Fabric	Fabric description
B1	Orange fabric with abundant fine quartz and common fine black specks
B2	Orange with common/abundant fine quartz, rare flint to 9mm and rare black iron oxides to 1mm
B3	Orange fabric with moderate fine quartz, rare coarse quartz and rare iron oxides to 1mm

B4	Calcareous cream fabric with moderate medium quartz, rare coarse to very coarse (2mm)
B5	Silty, crumbly orange fabric with common medium quartz, moderate voids, rare coarse quartz and rare iron oxides to 2mm
T1	Orange fabric with common fine quartz, common black specks, moderate red and black iron oxides rare ?ferruginous pebbles to 2mm
T2	Orange fabric with sparse very fine quartz, rare flint pebbles to 3mm and rare coarse red iron oxides to 1mm

Table 5: Overview of brick and tile fabrics

- 6.3.2 Two main periods are represented. Early post-medieval material, dating to the 15th to 16th century, was recovered from [1005] and [1009]. Included are three bricks from [1005] and one from [1009]. Bricks are in fabrics B3-5, with widths ranging between 50 and 58mm. Their finish varies, and they include bricks with sharp as well as rounded arrises, smooth and creased tops, and smooth and creased sides. Roof tile was recovered from the same contexts. Two fragments from [1005], including one with polygonal nail hole (12mm across), are of 15th- to 16th-century date. The same context also contained a residual medieval roof tile fragment. The remainder of roof tile comprises undiagnostic flakes. However, all of these are of post-medieval date.
- 6.3.3 Late post-medieval material was recovered from [1004]. Included is a brick fragment (53mm thick) of 18th- to 19th-century date (fabric B1), and a shaped brick fragment in fabric B2, with concave surface parallel to the corner, possibly part of a brick coping system or representing brick coving. The fragment is of 19th- to early 20th-century date.
- 6.3.4 The CBM has been recorded in full on pro forma sheet for archive and data has been entered onto digital spreadsheet. A sample of each fabric has been retained; the remainder of the assemblage has been discarded.
- 6.4 Animal Bone** by Gemma Ayton
- 6.4.1 A single fragment of animal bone was recovered by hand-collection from context [1011]. The bone has been identified as the shaft of a medium-mammal sized humerus. There is evidence of canid gnawing on the ends of the shaft, no evidence of butchery, burning or pathology has been noted.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The recorded deposit sequence comprises modern topsoil, partly truncated by a lower paved area alongside the house, which overlies grey sub-soils that in turn overlie the natural deposit. The total maximum thickness of this sequence is c.0.75m.
- 7.1.2 Archaeological features were identified to be present, being recorded to both cut and seemingly underlie the grey subsoil. Potential robbed wall remains [1004] and its wall trench infill deposits cut the subsoil and intruded into the natural deposit below. Intercut pits [1010] and [1012] were identified below the subsoil.
- 7.1.3 All of the recorded archaeological features were determined to be of 19th or 20th century date, due to the presence of diagnostic pottery and building materials in their fills. These features are almost certainly therefore contemporary with the construction and/or subsequent use of the extant house.
- 7.1.4 The recovery of earlier post-medieval artefacts, of probable later 15th-16th century date, although residual in later features and deposits, hint at earlier land use activity at this location of the town. This broadly reflects the date of some of the other buildings in the Windhill vicinity (see 2.3.2).
- 7.1.5 The recorded archaeological remains exposed within the building extension groundworks at 24 Windhill are judged to be of low significance and potential to the improved understanding of the origins and development of Bishops Stortford. As such, this development has not had a significant impact upon the below-ground heritage resource of this location within the historic town.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank the property owner, Mr Michael Bowes, for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Alison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit for guidance and monitoring of the project.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out by Trevor Ennis. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation work.

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- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--|
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Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

Site name and address: 24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Bishops Stortford	Parish:	
Planning application reference: 3/14/1987/FP		
HER Enquiry reference: 63/15		
Funding source: Client		
Nature of application: Extension (garden room) on west side of house		
Present land use: Garden		
Size of application area: c.30 sq. m	Size of area investigated: c.30 sq. m	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 48500 21331		
Site code (if applicable): BSWH15		
Site director/Organization: Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East		
Type of work: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Date of work:	Start: 15th June 2015	Finish: 15th June 2015
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Bishops Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos: None	Periods represented: Post-medieval, modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated the construction of an extension to the existing property at 24 Windhill.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in the historic core of the town, which is of medieval origin. The property is probably of mid-Victorian construction and surrounded by a number of listed buildings of 16/17th to 19th century date.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring of construction groundworks recorded a 0.75m thick deposit sequence overlying the natural deposit, comprising topsoil and subsoils. Archaeological features were identified to be present, being recorded to both cut and seemingly underlie subsoil. Potential robbed wall remains [1004] and its wall trench infill deposits cut the subsoil and intruded into the natural deposit below. Intercut pits [1010] and [1012] were identified below the subsoil. All were determined to be of 19th or 20th century date, due to the presence of diagnostic pottery and building materials in their fills, and therefore almost certainly therefore contemporary with the construction and/or subsequent use of the extant house.</i></p>		
Author of summary: T. Ennis	Date of summary: August 2015	

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-218796	
Project details	
Project name	24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated the construction of an extension to the existing property at 24 Windhill. The site is located in the historic core of the town, which is of medieval origin. The property is probably of mid-Victorian construction and surrounded by a number of listed buildings of 16/17th to 19th century date. The monitoring of construction groundworks recorded a 0.75m thick deposit sequence overlying the natural deposit, comprising topsoil and subsoils. Archaeological features were identified to be present, being recorded to both cut and seemingly underlie subsoil. Potential robbed wall remains [1004] and its wall trench infill deposits cut the subsoil and intruded into the natural deposit below. Intercut pits [1010] and [1012] were identified below the subsoil. All were determined to be of 19th or 20th century date, due to the presence of diagnostic pottery and building materials in their fills, and therefore almost certainly therefore contemporary with the construction and/or subsequent use of the extant house.
Project dates	Start: 15-06-2015 End: 15-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Associated project reference codes	BSWH15 - Sitecode 8362 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BISHOPS STORTFORD 24 Windhill
Postcode	CM23 2NG
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 48500 21331 51.870291613841 0.15723089566 51 52 13 N 000 09 26 E Point
Project creators	

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Hertfordshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Bishops Stortford
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bishops Stortford
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording: 24 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other biblio details	ASE rep. 2015262
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue	Braintree
Description	A4 report, 16 pages including 4 figures.
Entered by	Mark Atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	25 August 2015

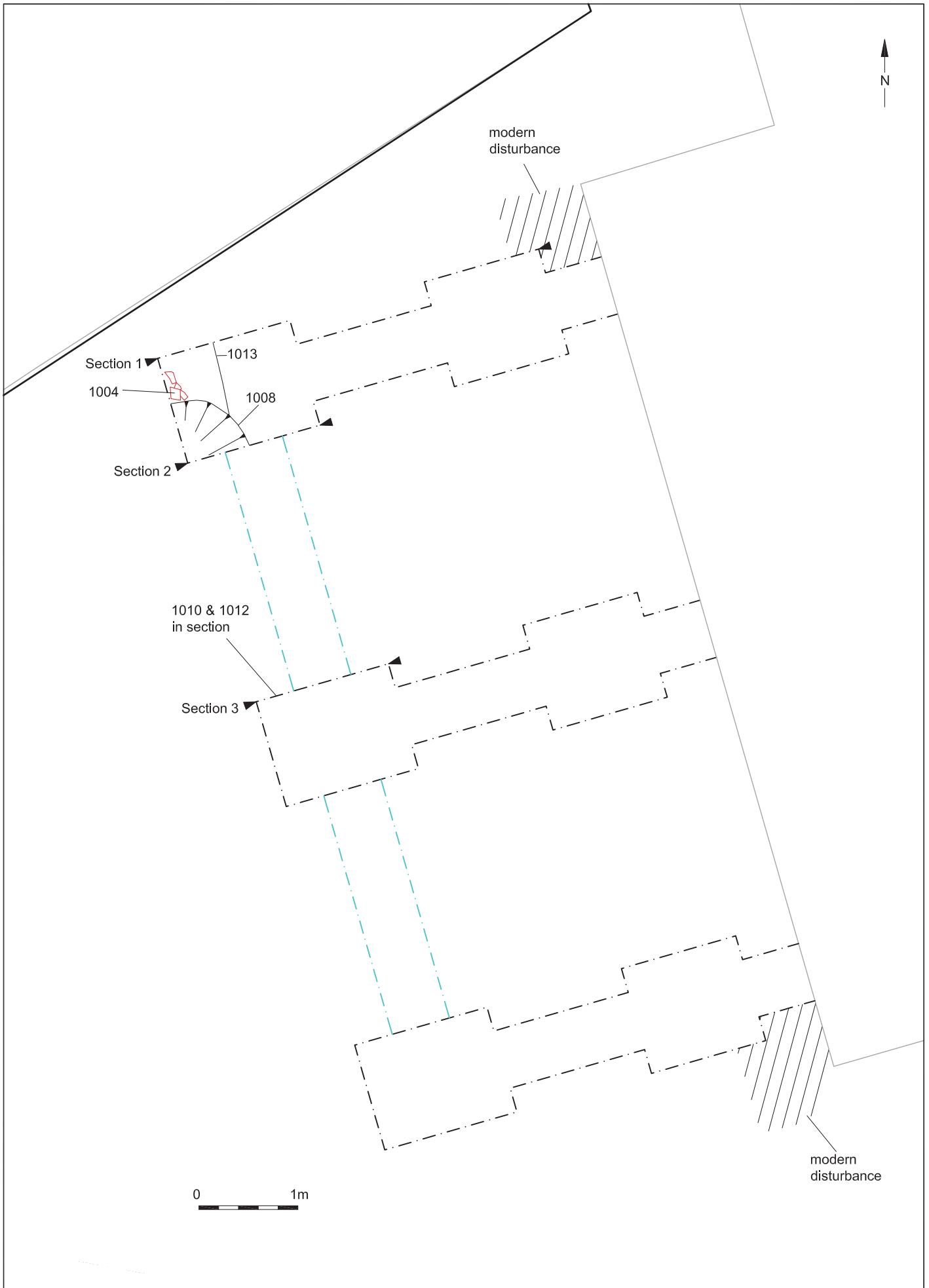


© Archaeology South-East		24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8362	May 2015	Site location		
Report No: 2015262	Drawn by: APL			

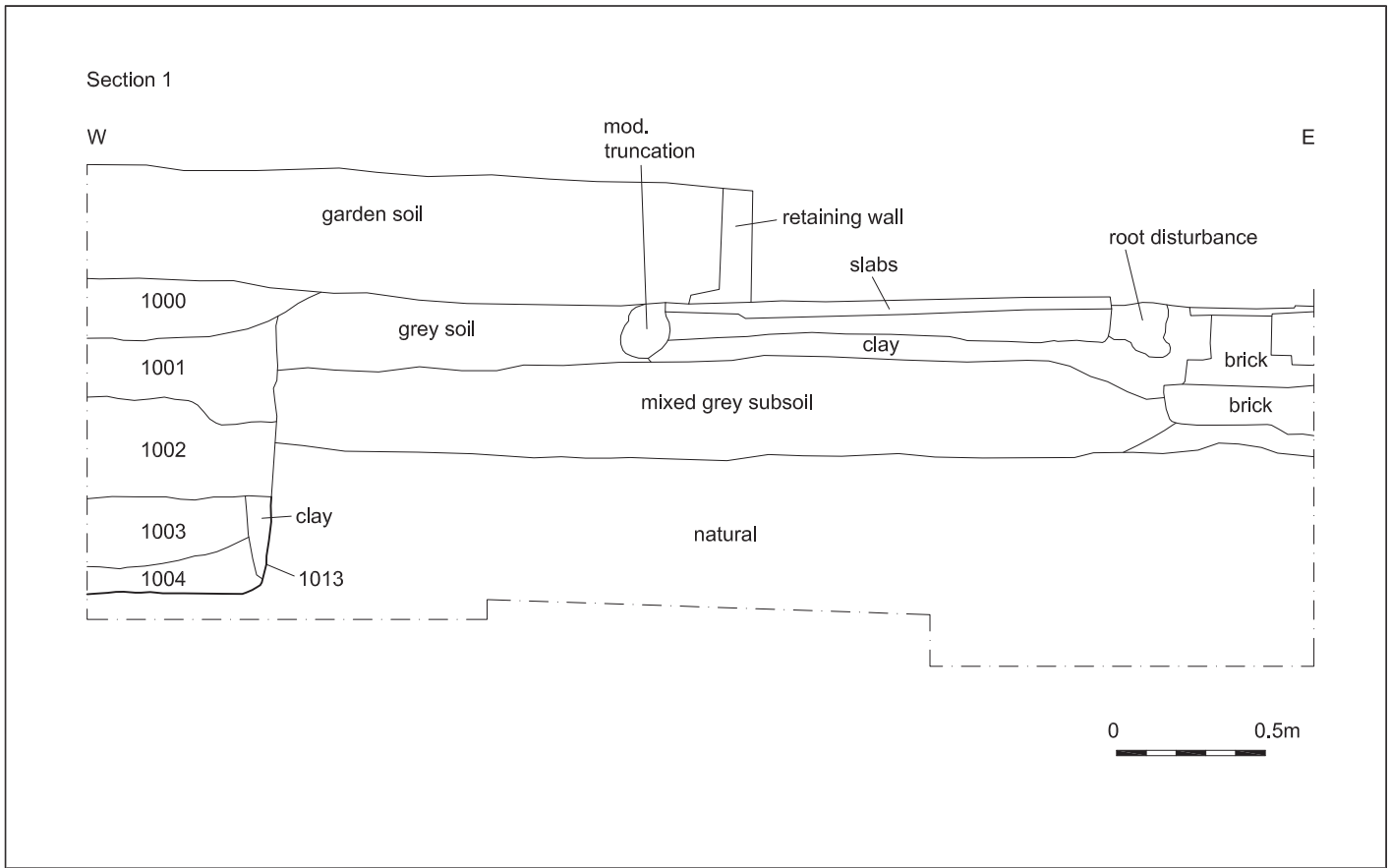


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© Archaeology South-East		24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8362	June 2015	Location of area of archaeological monitoring	
Report Ref: 2015262	Drawn by: APL		



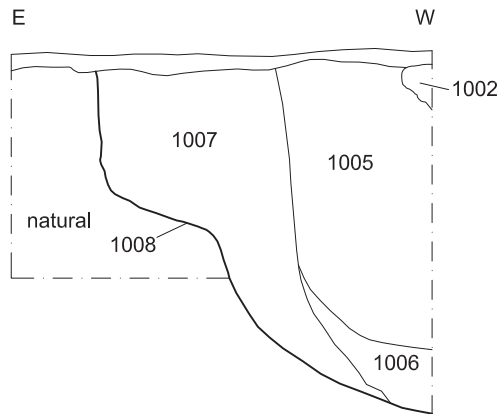
© Archaeology South-East		24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8421	June 2015	Plan of monitored foundation trenches	
Report Ref: 2015262	Drawn by: APL		



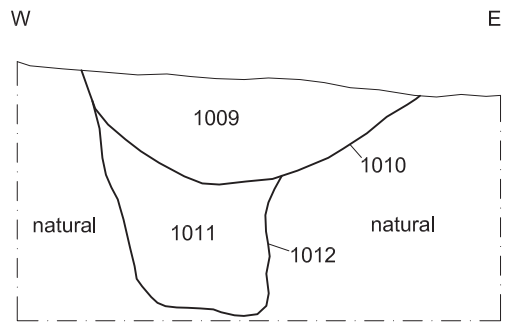
Section 1 looking north, 1m scale

© Archaeology South-East		24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 8362	June 2015	Section 1	
Report Ref: 2015262	Drawn by: APL		

Section 2



Section 3



0 0.5m



Section 2 looking south, 1m scale



Section 3 looking north 1m scale

© Archaeology South-East		24 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 8362	June 2015	Sections 2 & 3 and selected photographs	
Report Ref: 2015262	Drawn by: APL		

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