

# **Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Brian Harvey**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HUB07

**January 2007**

## Summary

**Site name:** Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon

**Grid reference:** TQ 07610 81370

**Site activity:** Field Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 10th - 11th January 2007

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** HUB07

**Area of Site:** c. 95 sq m

**Summary of results:** Medieval pottery was recovered from a buried soil horizon, which was recorded immediately below a post-medieval surface within the existing building.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, with accession code HUB07.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 23.01.07 Steve Preston✓ 24.01.07
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# **Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Sean Wallis

**Report 06/152**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon (TQ 07610 81370) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Penny Copeland, Holmwood, Chapel Road, Swanmore, Hampshire, SO32 2QA, on behalf of Mr Brian Harvey.

Planning permission (5971/APP/2003/2976) has been gained from the London Borough of Hillingdon to convert a rectangular barn, known as 'The Lesser Barn', into a two-bedroom residence. This consent is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology, which requires an investigation to be carried out to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site, so as to mitigate the effects of development. This was initially to comprise field evaluation, which was carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, in order to satisfy that condition.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Robert Whytehead of English Heritage, who act as archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Norbury and Sean Wallis on 10th and 11th January 2007, the TVAS project number is 06/152 and the site code is HUB07. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Museum of London in due course, with accession code HUB07.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The Lesser Barn is located in Hubbard's Close, a small cul-de-sac off West Drayton Road (B465) (Fig. 2). The area has been substantially developed in recent years, so that the site is now surrounded by modern housing. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Boyn Hill terrace gravel close to the boundary with brickearth (BGS 1974). However, the natural geology observed during the evaluation consisted of brickearth. The site lies at a height of about 42m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a method statement for the site (Copeland 2006). In summary the site comprises a timber-framed structure, latterly used as a barn but formerly a late medieval house. The structure is a Grade II listed building. The listing mentions the property as part of a group which includes the Great Barn, to the east, which is thought to be 16th century.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to provide information to determine the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits. The fieldwork was to be employed to provide the detailed information necessary to mitigate the effects of development. This study was to comprise a single component of work, namely a field evaluation by means of hand dug trenching.

The specific research aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if any deposits specifically related to the barn or earlier use as a house, such as hearths, are present.

It was proposed to hand dig three 1.5m by 1.5m trenches, with a small contingency for additional trenching, should this be required to clarify any initial findings. The trenches were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, should any deposits of certain or possible archaeological significance be exposed. Any such deposits were to be planned and sufficient of them hand excavated to satisfy the aims of the project. The trenches were to be located in bay 1, bay 3 and bay 6 from the north, although the exact positions may vary due to logistical considerations such as live services.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

Due to the presence of a number of upright props, which were being used to support the ceiling, it was decided not to excavate the trench in bay 3, due to the logistical problems this would create. This was agreed on site with Mr Whytehead and Ms Copeland, and it was decided that as an alternative to digging this trench, a more detailed record would be made of the brick surface which was visible between bays 2 and 3 (Fig. 3).

#### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench measured 1.5m by 1.5m, and was located in bay 1, at the northern end of the barn. The client (Mr Harvey) mentioned that a partial concrete slab floor had been removed from this area quite recently, which may explain why the top of a probable floor surface (50) was encountered almost immediately. This deposit consisted of mid reddish/brown clayey silt (re-deposited brickearth) with moderate chalk inclusions, and was up to 0.23m thick. A number of pottery sherds from a 17th century bowl were recovered from the deposit, most of which were embedded into the top of the surface. It was decided to dig a sondage trench, 1.5m long and 0.55m wide, through the floor surface to investigate any underlying deposits. A layer of mid brownish/grey clayey silt (51), about 0.25m thick, was recorded immediately below surface 50 (Fig. 5). A number of pottery sherds dating from the 12th to mid 15th century were retrieved from this deposit, which seems to represent a buried soil horizon. Natural brickearth was recorded directly below layer 51.

#### Trench 2 (Plate 2)

Trench 2 also measured 1.5m by 1.5m, and was located at the southern end of the barn, in bay 6. Penny Copeland suggested that it seems likely that this bay is actually an extension to the original barn, possibly dating to the 19th century. This may explain why no floor surface was encountered during excavation of the trench. Instead, a deposit of dark brownish grey clayey silt (52) lay directly above the natural brickearth (Fig. 5). This layer seems to represent a soil horizon and, apart from a number of brick fragments taken from a dump of material in the northwest corner of the trench, no finds were recovered.

#### Brick Surface 53 (Plate 3)

As an alternative to excavating a third trench, it was agreed that a brick surface, which was partially visible, should be recorded in more detail (Fig. 4). The surface was cleaned using hand tools, and its full extent established. The feature was then planned and photographed, but no attempt was made to excavate it. The northern part of the surface seemed to consist mainly of tightly packed red bricks, some of which could date to the early post-medieval period. The southern part of the surface was far more irregular in nature, consisting of more recent looking bricks, cobbles and flint nodules. The surface seems to have been laid directly above a compact deposit of clayey silt, similar to that recorded in trench 1 (50).

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 24 sherds with a total weight of 1151g. The range of fabrics indicates that there was activity at the site from the medieval period and the 17th century, although later medieval pottery was entirely absent.

### *Fabric*

The following fabric types were noted.

F1: Coarse flint and quartz. Moderate angular white and black angular flint up to 2mm, sparse sub-rounded calcareous material up to 2mm, sparse sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm. Very similar to material from the kiln at Camley Gardens near Maidenhead (Pike 1965). 12th-13th century. 1 sherd 37g.

F2: Quartz and sparse flint. Very similar to F1, but with sparse flint and moderate to dense quartz up to 1mm. Camley? 12th-13th century. 11 sherds 116g.

Surrey Whiteware, mid 13th -mid 15th century (Pearce and Vince 1988). 3 sherds 23g.

Metropolitan-type slipware. 17th century (Crossley 1990, 251). 9 sherds, 875g

The pottery occurrence by number and weights of sherds per context and fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The range of fabrics is typical of sites in the area. Most of the pottery was in good condition and unabraded. For the Metropolitan slipware, all but three of the sherds were from the same vessel, a large shallow bowl typical of the tradition.

## **Conclusion**

This evaluation has shown that at least part of the barn, at the northern end, was in use during the 17th century. The nature of this use is unclear, although the floor surface recorded in trench 1 seems too substantial for a barn, and may indicate that the building was used as a dwelling around this time. Although the evaluation was somewhat limited, no evidence of late medieval occupation was noted, and just three small pottery sherds were found which may date to this period. It does seem likely, however, that there was activity in the near vicinity during the 13th to 15th century, as evidenced by the relatively large number of unabraded sherds found in the buried soil horizon in Trench 1. It is possible that Trench 2 was located in an area which was further away from the focus of any such activity, and this is supported by the paucity of finds from this trench.

## References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Copeland, P, 2006, 'Lesser Barn, Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton, method statement', Swanmore
- Crossley, D, 1990, *Post-Medieval Archaeology in Britain*, Leicester
- Pearce, J and Vince, A, 1988, *A dated type-series of London Medieval pottery part 4: Surrey whitewares*, LAMAS spec pap **10**
- Pike, G 1965, 'A Medieval pottery kiln site on the Camley Gardens Estate, Maidenhead', *Berkshire Archaeol J*, **62**, 22-33
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	1.5	1.5	0.47	0-0.23m reddish brown surface (50) onto 0.23-0.43m buried soil horizon (51) onto brickearth natural. <b>[Plate 1]</b>
2	1.5	1.5	0.45	0-0.45m dark brownish grey clayey silt (52) onto brickearth natural. No archaeological features. <b>[Plate 2]</b>



## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	50	Floor surface	17th century	Pottery
1	51	Buried soil	13th – 15th century	Pottery
2	52	Soil horizon	Not known	None
-	53	Surface	Post-medieval	Bricks <b>[Plate 3]</b>

**APPENDIX 3:** Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Trench	Context	F1		F2		Surrey		Metropolitan	
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	50					1	9	9	975
1	51	1	37	11	116	2	14		
	Total	1	37	11	116	3	23	9	975

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**OASIS ID: thamesva1-22958**

## Project details

Project name	Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green, West Drayton
Short description of the project	Hand-dug trenches within a grade II listed barn, thought to be late medieval, revealed a post-medieval floor surface laid directly on top of a buried soil. the buried soil contained pottery dating between the 12th and 15th centuries; no later medieval pottery was present. A further surface composed of cobbles and a mix of post-medieval and more recent brick, was also recorded.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2007 End: 11-01-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HUB07 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	HUB07 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	06/152 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	5971/APP/2003/2976 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval

Significant Finds	CERAMICS Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON YIEWSLEY AND WEST DRAYTON Hubbard's Farm, Colham Green
Study area	95.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 07610 81370 51.5204962895 -0.448820405358 51 31 13 N 000 26 55 W Point
Height OD	Min: 41.00m Max: 42.00m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment
Project design originator	Penny Copeland
Project director/manager	Steve Ford
Project supervisor	Sean Wallis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Museum of London
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Physical Archive notes	temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition

Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Stratigraphic','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Manuscript','Matrices','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
Paper Archive notes	temporarily with TVAS in Reading pending deposition

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Hubbard's farm, Colham Lane, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon; an archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wallis, S
Other bibliographic details	06/152
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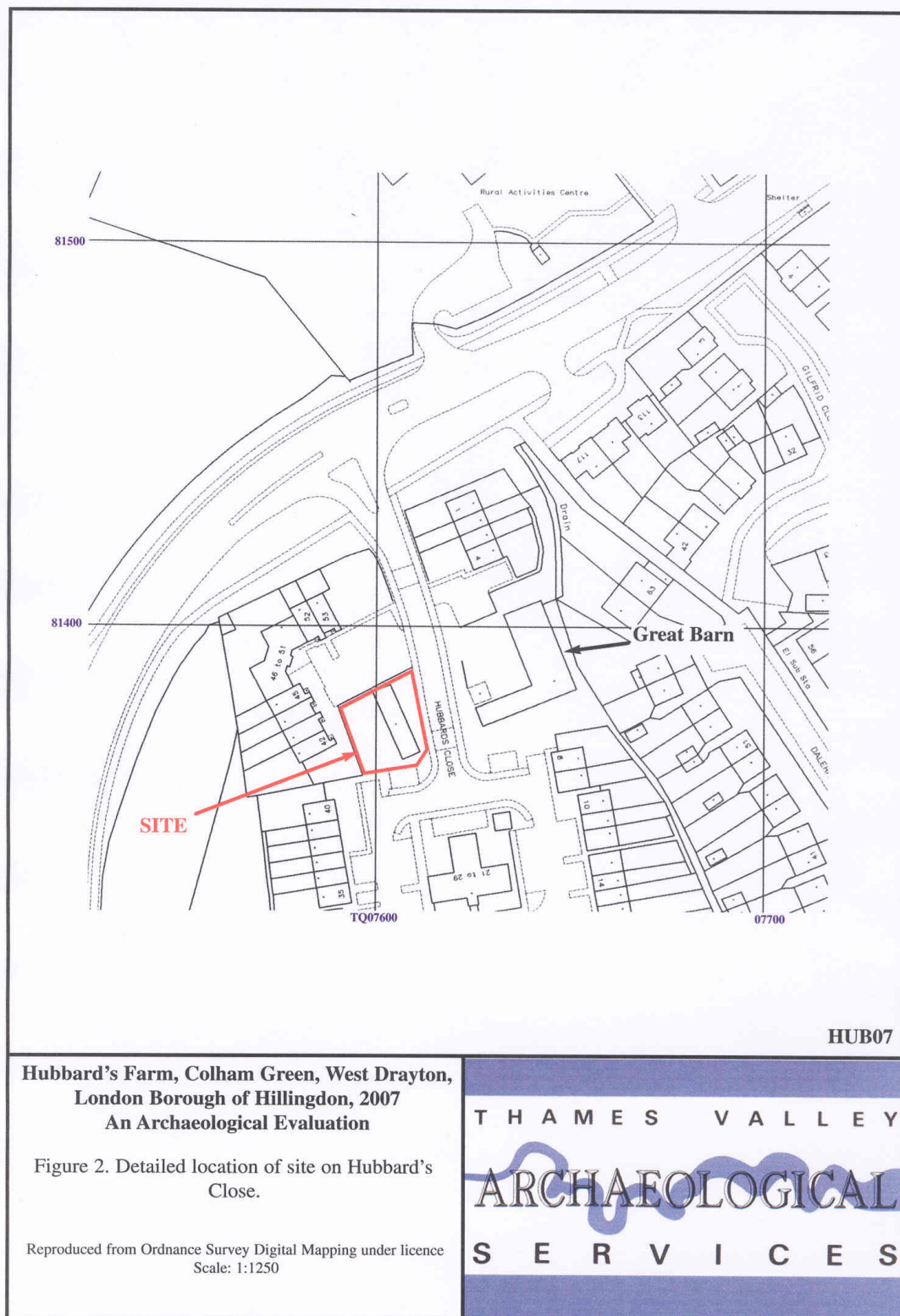


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Figure 1. Location of site within Colham Green and  
Greater London.

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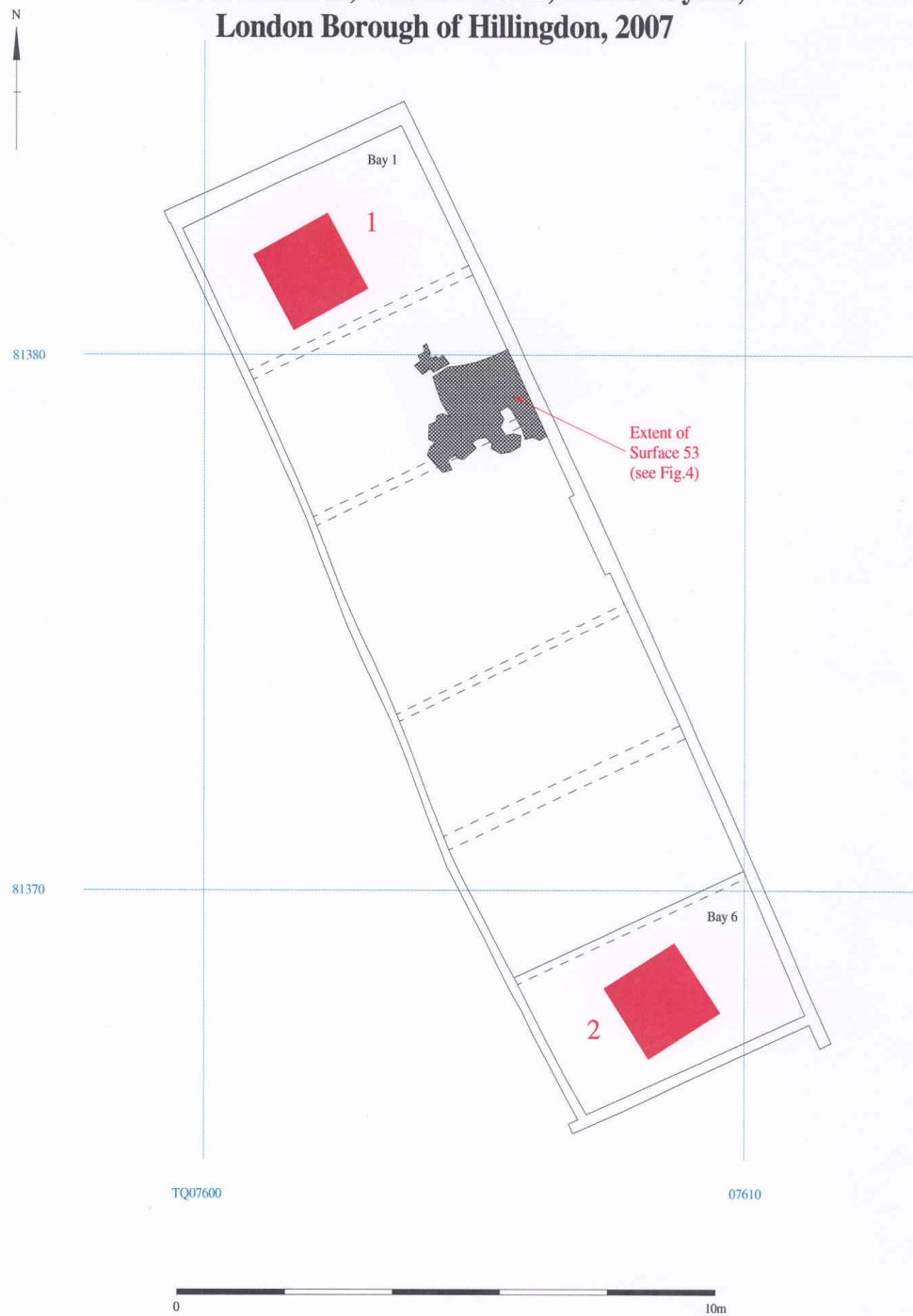
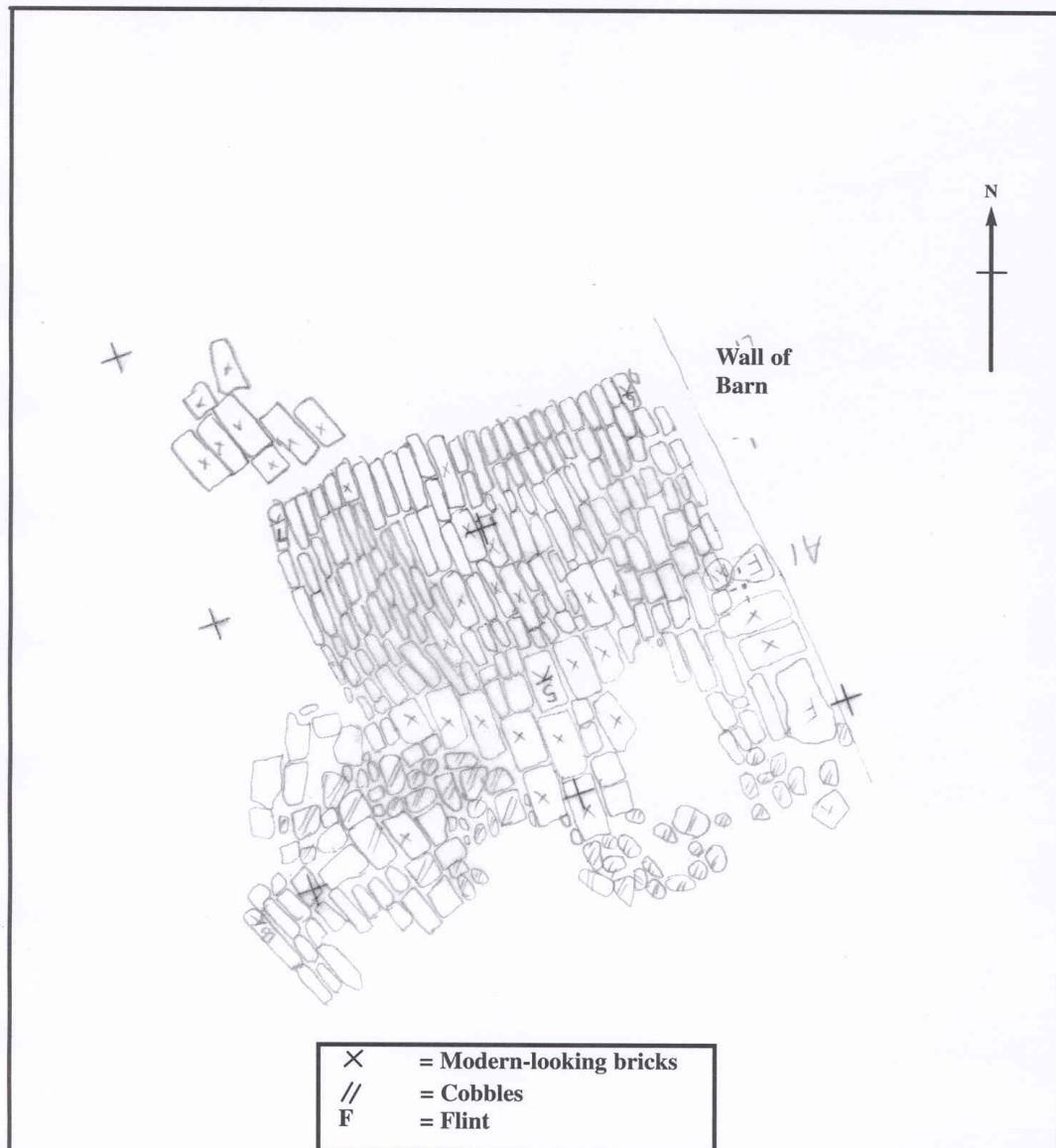


Figure 3. Location of Trenches

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Figure 4. Plan of Floor Surface 53.

Scale 1: 20

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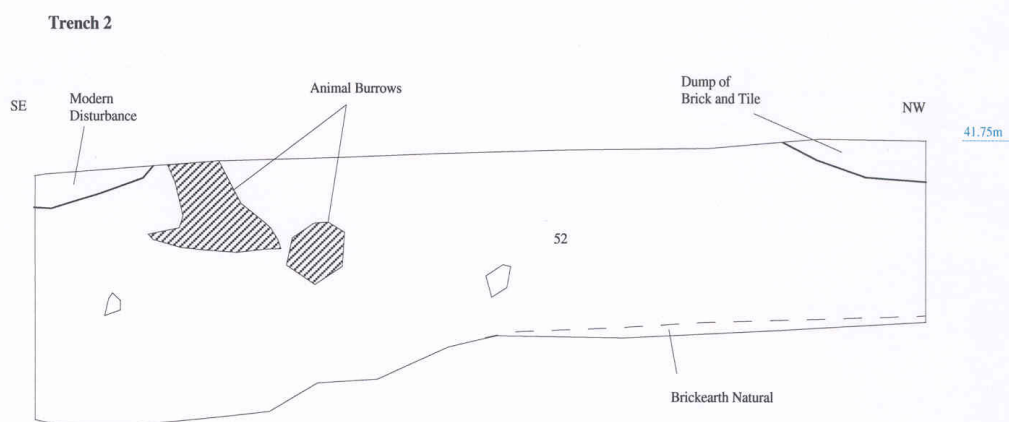
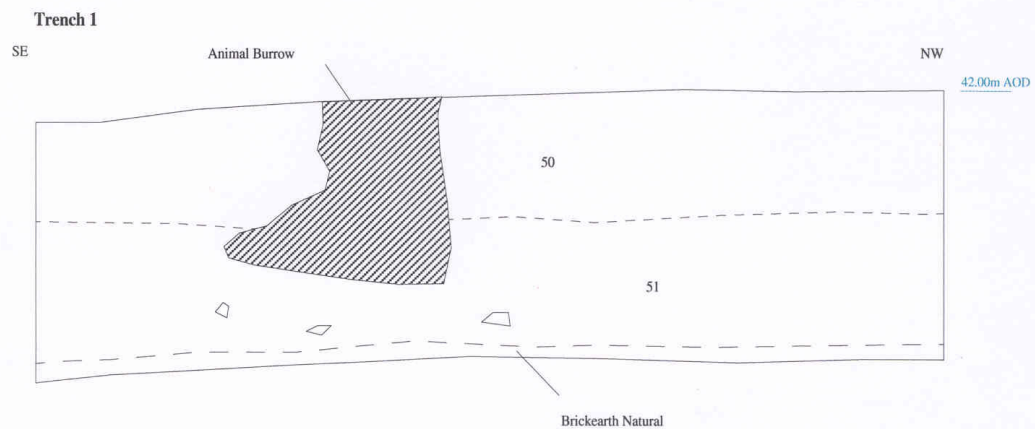


Figure 5. Sections

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Plate 1. Trench 1 looking east, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.5m.

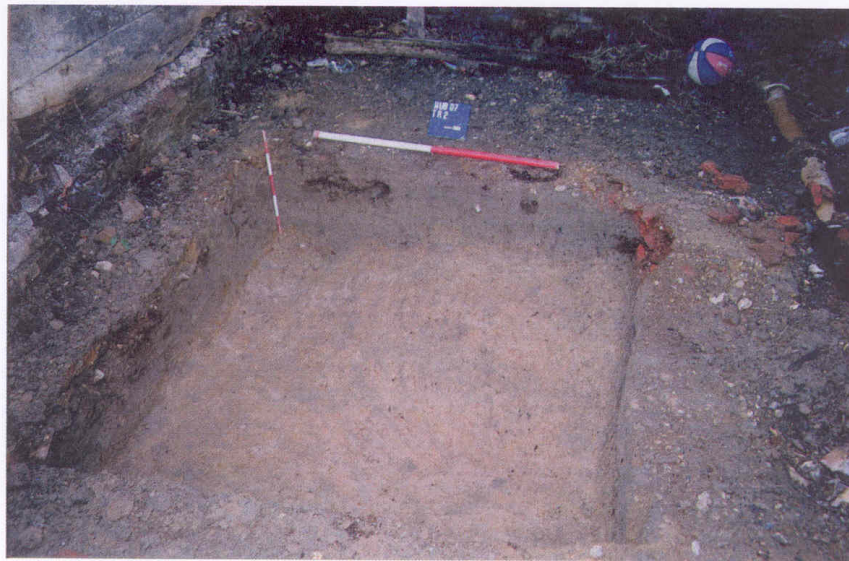


Plate 2. Trench 2 looking east, horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.5m.





Plate 3. Surface 53 looking north, scales 1m and 0.5m.