

**AUDLEY END HOUSE
SAFFRON WALDEN
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
SERVICE WING RE-PRESENTATION**

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Adam Lodoen (Project Supervisor) and Wesley Keir (Project Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Lodoen, Ian Turner (Project Supervisors) and Wesley Keir (Project Officer). The project was under the overall management of the Project Manager, Hester Cooper-Reade. Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) produced the figures.

Albion Archaeology is grateful to English Heritage for commissioning the project. The archaeological works were part of a scheme being designed and managed by R H Partnership Architects. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of T. Butler & Sons, the building contractors who undertook the ground works.

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Structure of this report

The introductory Section 1 is followed by a section on objectives and methodology (Section 2). This is followed by a summary of the results of the archaeological works (Section 3). A synthesis of the results and their significance is presented in Section 4. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Following Drury's referencing (1982), the house built by Sir Thomas Audley 1538-44 is referred to as Audley End I, whilst the Earl of Suffolk's house begun after 1603 is referred to as Audley End II.



Key Terms

Throughout this report, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

<i>Albion</i>	Albion Archaeology
<i>Architects</i>	R H Partnership Architects (RHP)
<i>EH</i>	English Heritage
<i>EHCR</i>	Essex Historic Conservation Record
<i>IFA</i>	Institute of Field Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.</i> Bedfordshire County Council
<i>SAM</i>	Scheduled Ancient Monument



Non-Technical Summary

RH Partnership Architects were commissioned by English Heritage to design and implement works associated with the construction of a new orientation and admissions building as part of the re-presentation of the service wing at Audley End House. Albion Archaeology was subsequently commissioned to undertake the works associated with the development. Assessment work was carried out by Albion Archaeology during the summer of 2007 (Albion Archaeology 2007b), followed by a programme of archaeological monitoring and investigation during construction works associated with the development during the late autumn and winter 2007-2008. This report details the results of the monitoring and investigation during construction works.

The majority of the archaeological works were confined to the area of the service yard, where ground reduction and service trenches associated with the new building were located. In addition, a record was made during removal of plaster in the former Wet Laundry and ground reduction needed to widen the access road for the car park to the north of the service yard was monitored.

The groundworks uncovered floors, walls, wall foundations and other archaeological remains dating back to the 17th century (Audley End II, after 1603).

The earliest remains revealed within the service yard appear to be associated with the 'Great Kitchen' as depicted on Winstanley's map of 1688. These comprised fragments of walls and a brick floor. Deposits associated with a possible rubbish pit are also thought to belong to this phase. Walls and deposits dating to the 18th-century layout that followed the demolition of the 'Great Kitchen' were also revealed.

Deposits associated with the demolition of the 17th- and 18th-century buildings and subsequent levelling were visible throughout the present-day service yard. Post-dating these deposits were 19th and 20th century services and features associated with the 19th-century outbuildings that once stood in this area.

Of most interest within the area of the road widening was a gravel deposit revealed beneath garden soils and road make-up layers. Its location suggests the possibility that it was associated with a pond marked in this general location on the 17th- and 18th-century maps.

Removal of plaster and soft-stripping of the former wet laundry revealed some previously hidden elements of its fabric and construction.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background to Project*

R H Partnership Architects were commissioned by English Heritage to design and implement works associated with the construction of a new orientation and admissions building as part of the re-presentation of the service wing at Audley End House.

The development is within the Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 84) and also in the immediate curtilage of Audley End House itself, a Grade 1 Listed Building.

A desk-based assessment (Lowerre 2006), undertaken by English Heritage for a previous scheme, and an archaeological evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2007b) had identified significant archaeological potential within this part of the site. As a result, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works associated with the development. The archaeological works were subject to a brief produced by English Heritage (August 2007) and Project Design produced by Albion Archaeology (2007a).

1.2 *Location and Description*

Audley End House is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL524381, within parkland on the south-western edge of Saffron Walden, within the parish of Littlebury (Fig. 1). The River Cam, diverted as part of the early 17th century landscaping works, runs through the park to the west of the house.

Groundworks associated with the development were predominantly confined to the area of the service yard located immediately to the north of the House and centred on NGR TL52459 38219. The footprint of the new building lay largely within the garages and outbuildings that were located against the northern boundary wall of the yard. In addition, associated groundworks were undertaken to widen the access road to the existing car park to the north of the yard. The Wet Laundry was one of a range of 19th-century buildings aligned along the

1.3 *Historical Background*

Audley End House is on the site of Walden Abbey, a Benedictine foundation, which at the Dissolution passed into the ownership of Sir Thomas Audley. Between 1538 and 1544, Sir Thomas converted the abbey buildings into Audley End House. A plan dating to around 1600 shows that the house was closely based on the layout of Walden Abbey with fishponds, an inner and outer court and a home farm.

During the later 16th century, a three-storey Stable range was built to the west of the Cam. The house was rebuilt between 1603 and 1616 by the Earl of Suffolk as a Jacobean 'prodigy house', and was further restored and altered during the 18th and 19th centuries. Large parts of the 16th-century house and associated buildings, including the Great Kitchen range, were demolished in the early 18th century. It is now half-H in plan, with wings extending towards the east.



The area around the house has undergone extensive landscaping and change since the 12th century. Prior Reginald, who took office in 1166, oversaw the digging of fishponds and the westward diversion of the main north-south road running through the estate, to run along the east bank of the Cam. The digging of the fishponds probably also curtailed the westward extension of the road from Abbey Lane to the north-east of the house (Drury 1982).

Elements of the various building phases can be seen in the structure and layout of the current house and grounds. At the conversion of the abbey into a house, the cloister, established south of the abbey church in the late 12th century and rebuilt in the middle of the 14th, seems to have remained largely intact, save for the addition of an upper gallery to give access to the rooms on the first floor (Drury 1982). Excavations in the 1950s and in 1979 revealed parts of the cloister wall (Drury 1982) and showed how the abbey cloister had been incorporated into the house. Audley End II originally had seven ranges, enclosing two courtyards, most of which were demolished in the early 18th century. Winstanley's view of Audley End in 1676 shows almost the full extent of the buildings: the great gatehouse and its side-wings enclosing the Principal (or Great) Court and, beyond, the surviving Great Hall of Audley End I, with its flanking porches and further wings to the east enclosing the inner court. The inner court of Audley End II followed the plan of the earlier abbey cloister, although there is no sign of any earlier work above ground level. The Mount Garden created as part of the 17th century landscaping can be seen to the south of the house, with large ponds on the site of the medieval fishponds to the north. Plans by Winstanley and dating to the same period (1676 and 1688), also show a Bowling Green to the east of the house and a kitchen range and Wood Yard to the north of the Principal Court.

The grounds of Audley End were landscaped by Capability Brown 1763-8 at the same time that Robert Adam was remodelling the house. All traces of the 18th century formal gardens and earlier 17th century gardens were obliterated by Brown. Further landscaping was carried out by Richard Woods (1780), whose work included the creation of the 'Elysian Gardens' to the north-west of the house. During the 1830s, the third Lord Braybrooke attempted to restore something of the Jacobean formality and constructed the parterre garden to the east of the house using a design by William Gilpin.

The Historic Environment Record records a number of pre-medieval finds from the vicinity of Audley End, including a Mesolithic tranchet axe (HER no. 400), Iron Age and Romano-British finds from the eastern part of the park (HER nos. 489, 491), a 19th-century report of a Roman pottery kiln and coins from the flower garden behind the house (HER no. 399) and, from between Audley End and Saffron Walden, Bronze Age burial urns.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Archaeological knowledge of the site is largely based on piecemeal intervention over the past 20-30 years. A series of larger excavations were, however, undertaken by Drury and Cunningham in the late 1970s and 1980s (see Drury 1982, Cunningham 1987), but since then work has been largely confined to small-scale trenching and monitoring during minor works.



Whilst some of the earlier work is summarised in *Saffron Walden: Excavation and Research 1972-80* (Drury 1982), recent work has not been subject to any synthesis and, furthermore, the archives are held in various locations.

Various small scale evaluation and watching brief work has been undertaken over the past few years, largely associated with insertion of cable trenches and other ancillary work. Archaeological work during the insertion of a cable trench and lighting piers to the south of the service yard in 2005 revealed elements of the earlier 17th century house and possible remains associated with Waldern Abbey. (Albion Archaeology 2005).

A desk top assessment produced by English Heritage (Lowerre 2006) gives a detailed description of the development of this area of the site and possible archaeological remains within the development area.

- North cloister and associated buildings from the earliest phases of the construction of Walden Abbey
- Twelfth century road running north-south to the west of the monastic complex
- Sixteenth-century yard to north of house (Audley End I)
- Jacobean Great Kitchen, Cellar and Wood Yards and associated boundary walls (Audley End II)
- Early 18th-century paths and associated plantings (pre-Capability Brown)
- Later 18th-century buildings (?brew house or building to north), boundary wall and associated paths and plantings

Most recently, archaeological evaluation (Albion 2007b) undertaken in advance of the current development within the service yard uncovered archaeological evidence for structures and features thought likely to post-date 1725, after the demolition of the buildings shown in Winstanley's plan of 1688. These included a wall probably associated with buildings shown on maps dating to the 1760s and a probable 19th century wall associated with out buildings along the northern edge of the service yard.

There is a large number of existing maps, plans and drawings for Audley End, the most significant of which are reproduced and listed in the Conservation Plan, which provides a useful source for the known record (OAU 2001). In addition, Drury's interpretative plan (1982) draws on a number of the historic plans, the archaeological evidence and the existing landscape to show the buildings and layout of Audley End I and the landscape features that were altered when Walden Abbey was built. Most plans and maps significant to the development of the service yard are illustrated in the Lowerre desk-based assessment.



2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken between 22nd October 2007 and 16th April 2008. During this period a full-time site presence was maintained during all groundworks that may have affected archaeological remains.

2.2 Objectives

Previous archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the new build identified structural remains probably dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, which may correspond with buildings known from plans of Audley End. It was recognised that groundworks associated with the new development would impact on the later, Victorian remains identified by the evaluation as these were just below the current surface, as well as the 18th-century structural remains which were located approximately 0.50m below the current ground surface.

The principal objective of the archaeological works, as outlined in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007a), was to fully define, investigate and record any archaeological deposits which would be disturbed in the course of the development.

2.3 Methodology

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2007a) approved by English Heritage. In summary:

- Any stripping of overburden and excavation of service trenches were monitored to try to identify *in situ* archaeological deposits.
- All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- Any excavated features and deposits were fully recorded in accordance with Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork*, (2nd edition, 2001).
- All archaeological observations were recorded at a suitable scale on base plans that were tied in to the Ordnance Survey national grid.
- A photographic record was kept of all significant features.

Throughout the project the standards and guidance in the following documents were also adhered to:

- IFA's *Code of Conduct* (Revised edition 2002); the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised edition 2001); the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Revised edition 2001); and the *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2001)
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects 'MAP 2'* (1991)



- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork*, (2nd edition, 2001)

Copies of the report and results will be deposited with English Heritage and the EHCR. All archival material will be kept together and, subject to agreement with the site owner, deposited at Saffron Walden Museum.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The majority of the archaeological works were confined to the area of the service yard (Area 1, Fig. 2), where ground reduction and service trenches associated with the new building were located. In addition, ground reduction needed to widen the access road for the car park to the north of the service yard (Area 2, Fig. 12) was also monitored.

Where the existing garages and workshops were demolished adjacent to the northern boundary of the service yard, the ground level (47.5-47.8m AOD) was reduced by up to 0.60m to accommodate the new building. Further to the south, numerous associated service trenches were excavated, by far the deepest being for a manhole. This was excavated to a depth of c.2.6m. Four square tree-planting pits, measuring 1m across by 1m deep were excavated in the eastern half of the service yard (Fig. 6).

The widening of the access road to the car park comprised the excavation of an area up to 5.5m wide and up to 0.70m deep (Fig. 12).

The results of the archaeological works are discussed by area and chronological period below. Detailed technical information on all the deposits and archaeological features referred to below can be found in Appendix 1.

3.2 Area 1 - Service Yard

3.2.1 Undisturbed geological deposits

Undisturbed geological deposits consisting of sandy gravels (1155-57/1127) were revealed at c.46.35m AOD, approximately 1.35m beneath the ground surface. These deposits were only revealed during deeper excavations associated with the construction of the manhole.

Only the top of this layer was observed, at 45.16m AOD. Two grey silt layers (1155) and (1156) overlie the natural geology. Above these layers was a black soil layer (1154), which lay directly under brick floor (1136).

Due to the depth and nature of the excavations, it was not possible to investigate layers (1154) – (1157) more closely, it is possible however that (1155) and (1156) are early sub soils. Layer (1154) could possibly be an early garden soil, or perhaps a make-up layer for floor (1136).

3.2.2 17th-century structures

Several walls and features were identified that, based on their location and nature, appear to be associated with the Jacobean Great Kitchen as depicted on Winstanley's map of 1688 (Figs. 8 and 14).



A north-south aligned wall, (1064) (Fig. 2) was revealed at 47.34m AOD during the excavation of a service trench adjacent to the service wing of the present house. It was heavily truncated by modern services and only a small part was visible within the trench. It appeared to be constructed from blocks of clunch and limestone and measured 0.7m wide.

Wall (1078/1135) (Fig. 4) was also on a north-south alignment and was revealed towards the northern end of the service yard at a depth of 47.19m AOD. The wall comprised red bricks bonded with lime mortar; it was 0.5m wide and survived to a height of 0.6m. Both this wall and wall (1064) correlate with the location of the eastern walls of the 17th-century Great Kitchen.

Associated with and abutting wall (1078/1135) was a brick floor (1136) (Fig. 4). This was revealed at 46.73m AOD during the excavation for the manhole. The floor comprised a single layer of red bricks laid perpendicular to the wall, onto a thin layer of lime mortar (1140). The floor had been cut through by a sewage pipe probably laid during the late 19th/early 20th century. The brick floor was covered by a thin layer of very dark grey silt (1134). Due to the depth and confines of the excavation, close examination was not possible, but the organic-like appearance of the layer overlaying the floor is suggestive of the remnants of wooden flooring.

Brick wall (1125) (Fig. 4), this time on a east northeast – west southwest alignment, was partially revealed to the immediate north of wall (1078/1135). This wall was found at 46.92m AOD and its location correlates with the northern boundary wall of the Great Kitchen (Fig. 9).

Remnants of a further brick wall (1118/1137) (Fig. 4) were found during the construction of a service trench near to wall (1078/1135). This wall was found at a lower level (46.66m AOD) than the other walls assigned to this phase and may be earlier. However, the confines of the service trench meant that its form was far from clear. It appeared to be on an east southeast-west northwest orientation and was possibly truncated by wall (1078/1135), tentatively indicating that it might pre-date the Great Kitchen as shown on the later 17th century plans.

Probably also dating to this period were layers (208) and (209) recorded in Trench 2 of the evaluation and interpreted as the upper layers of a rubbish pit associated with the Great Kitchen (Albion Archaeology 2007b and Fig. 2, this report). These deposits were not re-exposed during the current works, but were found to be located to the west of wall (1078/1135) and at a similar depth (46.62m AOD) to the floor level as indicated by the brick floor (1136).

3.2.3 18th-century structures

A north-south aligned wall (1103) (Fig. 5) was revealed to the east of and parallel to wall (1078/1135) at 47.28m AOD. Only the top of the wall was exposed during the excavations, but it appeared to be constructed using a mixture of red bricks and clunch blocks. The wall correlates with a wall to the east of the Great Kitchen and shown on the Bridgeman map of 1725 (Fig. 9)..



A possible garden soil (207) to the west of wall 1103 was previously recorded in Trench 2 of the evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2007 b and Fig. 2, this report). Though this area was not re-exposed during the current works, it is likely to date to the mid 18th century when this area of the present service yard was turned to parkland after the demolition of structures shown on the Bridgeman map of 1725 (these would probably have included wall 1103) but not appearing on the 1753 map by F. Warren (Fig. 14)

Further to the west of the service yard, more was exposed of the east-west aligned wall (1058), previously recorded during the evaluation as (111) (Albion Archaeology 2007b) (Fig. 4, this report). During the current works, only the top of the wall was revealed at 46.97m AOD, 0.50m beneath the present ground surface. During the evaluation the wall was found to be predominantly constructed from red brick with a lesser amount of clunch blocks. This wall correlates with the northern extent of a small square building marked on the estate map c. 1763 contained in the Audley End scrapbook (Fig. 9). A smaller north-south aligned wall (1059) was revealed adjoining wall (1058) and is likely an internal wall of the same building.

3.2.4 Demolition and levelling layers

Numerous deposits were revealed within the area of the service yard that are likely associated with the demolition of the 17th- and 18th-century buildings that existed in the vicinity.

Distinct demolition deposits¹, containing a variable mixture of brick and clunch fragments were often found overlying and adjacent to the 17th- and 18th-century walls described above. Where the deposits were visible in their entirety, they were up to 0.4m thick and found at levels ranging between 46.51m AOD and 47.38m AOD.

Within one of the excavated tree pits two distinct demolition layers (1168) and (1171) were visible. These two layers were separated by levelling or landscaping deposits (1169) and (1170) (Fig. 6). They are the visible evidence of the demolition and subsequent landscaping events that are known from historical documents to have occurred on more than one occasion in the vicinity.

Deposits containing smaller proportions of building material typically overlay the demolition layers². These generally comprised brown sandy silts with varying amounts of brick fragments and gravel.

3.2.5 Yard Surface

A series of make-up layers associated with yard surfacing were sandwiched between the demolition and levelling deposits described above and the present-day

¹ (1060); (1072); (1077); (1084); (1100); (1101); (1102); (1114); (1120); (1121); (1122); (1123); (1124); (1126); (1132); (1133); (1163); (1179); (1187)

² (1070); (1071); (1076); (1083); (1104); (1109); (1110); (1111); (1112); (1113); (1119); (1131); (1143); (1144); (1161); (1162); (1175); (1176); (1177); (1178); (1183); (1184); (1185); (1186)



yard surface.³ These typically comprised dark brown sandy silts with a mixture of gravels, clinker and fragments of building material.

In places, distinct layers of gravel (1068) and (1074) were visible within the make-up layers, probably indicative of repeated episodes of surfacing. The thickness of the make-up layers and surface deposits varied across the yard, but were typically between 0.2 and 0.3m thick.

3.2.6 Post-medieval pit

A pit (213) was previously revealed in Trench 2 of the evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2007b). The pit was found at 47.20m AOD and cut through the demolition and levelling layers described above. It was, however, sealed beneath the wall of a 19th-century building (1017, see below). Though the pit was not exposed during the current works, its location and relationship to other features on the site suggests a later 18th or 19th century date.

3.2.7 19th century outbuildings and adjacent service yard boundary wall

A rectangular brick building (1016/1017/1039) was revealed at 47.58m APD adjacent to the service yard boundary wall (Figs. 2 and 3). Part of this building was first recorded as (203) in Trench 2 of the previous evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2007b). The building measured approximately 4.20m wide by 6m long and utilised the service yard boundary wall as its northern site.

Clearly post-dating this building, were the remains of walls⁴ and surfaces⁵ associated with the range of brick outbuildings as depicted on the 1881 OS Map (Figs. 2, 3, 10 and 13). These included a brick floor (1004) (Fig. 4) revealed at 47.19m AOD towards the western end of the outbuildings. Where visible, these surfaces were seen to overlay demolition and make-up layers typically comprising brown sandy silts, frequently with fragments of building material and gravel⁶.

All the outbuildings were built against the service boundary wall. Brickwork in the service yard boundary wall suggests that the height of the wall was raised in order to facilitate the buildings. Wall (1052), revealed at 47.60m AOD and within the eastern footprint of the outbuilding range, was similar in character to the boundary wall and probably represents an earlier course of that wall (Figs. 2 and 3). The condition of the brickwork within this corner of the boundary wall suggests that course of the wall at this point has been altered.

The 19th-century surfaces to the outbuildings were overlain by concrete floors and associated make-up levels associated with 20th-century alterations and additions. These included the extension southwards of the eastern part of the range. The recorded remains of brick walls with concrete foundations are over remnants of these 20th-century additions.

³ (1067); (1069); (1075); (1082); (1152); (1153); (1159); (1160); (1167); (1173); (1174); (1181); (1182); (1188)

⁴ (1003); (1008); (1012); (1013); (1014); (1015); (1019); (1023); (2028); (1030); (1057)

⁵ (1005); (1009); (1010); (1026); (1091)

⁶ (1006); (1007); (1027); (1031); (1061); (1092); (1099); (1104); (1105); (1106); (1107); (1108)



3.2.8 Service trenches and drainage features

Numerous features associated with the servicing of the buildings in the vicinity of the service yard were revealed to the south of the outbuildings. These included brick and concrete drains dating from the 19th and/or 20th centuries⁷.

A brick structure (1145/1146) was revealed just beneath the present-day surface at 47.39m AOD during re-excavation of a Victorian storm drain on the south side of the yard. It was only revealed in section, but appeared to comprise two north-south aligned brick walls, 0.5m apart; the cavity between being filled with sandy silts and gravels, (1141) and (1142). Its form and location indicates this is most likely a drainage feature or inspection chamber associated with the extant Victorian storm drain

3.3 Area 2 – Widening of Car Park Access Road

3.3.1 Gravel layer

A gravel layer (2004) measuring 5m across was revealed 0.45m beneath the ground surface at 45m AOD (Fig. 12). Its relatively ‘clean’ appearance suggests it may have been deliberately deposited and used as some sort of surface. A large pond marked in this general location on the historic maps suggests the tentative possibility that the layer is associated with this feature (Figs. 13 and 14).

3.3.2 Early garden soils

Overlying the gravel layer (2004) and sealed beneath the make-up layers for the current road, were deposits of mid-brown sandy silts (2202/2003/2014) up to 0.45m thick. These are probably garden soils that pre-date the car park access road.

3.3.3 Gravel hardstanding

In the southern half of Area 2, a compact layer of gravel (2001/2007) was visible sandwiched between the present-day (2000) and earlier garden soils. It probably represents hardstanding associated with an earlier path or driveway.

3.3.4 Road and car park make-up layers

Make-up layers for the road and car park (2009/2011/2012/2013) were observed overlying the deposits described above. A wooden beam (2010) was revealed 100mm beneath the present-day ground surface at 45.18m AOD. It is likely that this was previously used as edging for the road.

3.4 Building Recording: The Wet Laundry

3.4.1 Introduction

Building recording of the former Wet Laundry was undertaken by Albion Archaeology between the 5th and 6th November 2007 during stripping out works. The building recording comprised a basic descriptive record of structural details revealed during the works, along with digital photographs. The works themselves

⁷ (1034); (1063); (1087); (1088); (1089); (1148)



were relatively limited and largely confined to the removal of some plasterwork and recent boarding to the walls. The works did not involve alterations to the original fabric of the building.

3.4.2 The south-west wall (Plates 1 -4)

The south-west wall of the wet laundry was generally masked by surviving plaster. However, where the wall structure could be observed it was of brick construction with some stone blocks being noted in the small alcove in the west corner of the building (plate 3) and a single stone block being observed at the southern end of the wall (plate 1). The stone blocks visible in the alcove may indicate alterations in this area of the building, possibly connected with pipe work.

A former fire place with chimney appearing as a large alcove was set back into the south-west wall by 1m.

The bricks were dark orange red in colour measuring 210mm long x 65mm high x 100mm wide, bonded with a light yellow white sandy mortar which was in good solid condition. The string coursing pattern for this wall could not be determined as it was masked by the plaster.

The stones were light grey yellow in colour and varied from 270mm long x 180mm high to 210mm long x 180mm high (width not observed).

The plaster was a light yellow white sandy mortar type plaster with small stone inclusions which was 15mm thick, with a further 2mm of white-wash coating the outer face.

3.4.3 The north-west wall (Plates 5-8)

The north-west wall of the wet laundry was also generally masked by surviving plaster. However, where the wall structure was visible it was of brick construction. Evidence of a brick formed arch (plate 8) was noted towards the top of the wall, indicating the presence of a now blocked window. The area of the 'sitting room' located immediately to the north-west of the laundry would originally have been open ground.

A small rectangular alcove measuring 1.24m high and 1m wide was set back into the wall by 230mm. This appeared to have been most recently used as a wood lined cupboard. However it may have been a hatch formed through into the 'sitting room' which was later bricked up.

The bricks were dark orange red in colour measuring 210mm x 100mm x 65mm, bonded with a light yellow white sandy mortar which was in good solid condition. The string coursing pattern for this wall was English bond.

The plaster was identical to the south-west wall.

3.4.4 The roof (Plates 9-14)

The internal arrangement of the roof of the building was largely masked by a suspended plaster ceiling. However two tie beams were visible below the ceiling



with the lower half of two principal rafters and struts. These structural timbers were of hardwood and were chamfered along most of their centre lengths the joint ends being left squared. Close observation of the joints was not carried due to safety issues and partial masking by the plaster ceiling. Common rafters and laths were also observed where some of the ceiling plaster was missing at the roof edges.

Two air vents were noted located in the plaster ceiling adjacent to the tie beams. These could be shut off with a wooden hinged hatch operated with pull cords which were fed through a bracket set into the ceiling edge above the south-west wall. The air vents are clearly visible from outside the building, protruding above the apex of the roof.

3.4.5 The floor (Plates 15-16)

The floor was laid with light yellow or pink flag stones that were square with 300mm sides. Most of the stones were in good condition with a few being cracked, pitted or drill damaged.

A concrete drain gully was noted running parallel with the north-east wall of the building which probably had sinks located above and draining into it.

A smaller gully was routed perpendicular to this gully running in a north-east to south-west direction down the centre of the floor which was capped with a metal foot grill that was flush to the floor level.

The drain gullies were formed with concrete.



4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 General Summary

The watching brief within the service yard uncovered walls most likely associated with the Great Kitchen Range of the early 18th Century. Other early wall remnants were not dateable. Demolition layers, makeup layers and yard surfaces were associated with the demolition of the Great Kitchen and with the subsequent construction of the current service yard. Two walls were found close to the current gates of the service yard and could have formed part of a later 18th Century gate. Other remains were associated with the Victorian and modern garages and workshops located in the north part of the service yard.

The watching brief associated with the road widening revealed landscaping layers probably dating from the 18th Century or later, and a layer possibly associated with a pond.

4.2 Audley End II (17th – early 18th)

Sometime prior to 1616, Thomas Howard, first earl of Suffolk, had largely completed the construction of the Jacobean house as represented on Winstanley's plan of 1688. The Great Kitchen and its associated buildings would have been located in the vicinity of what is now the service yard. Uncovered walls associated with the Great Kitchen include external as well as internal walls. Wall (1103) is likely part of a wall to the east of the Great Kitchen. Only small remnants of these walls seem to remain, probably due to deliberate robbing out of the foundations as well as being heavily truncated by later Victorian and modern services.

Part of a brick floor, (1136), of one of the rooms of the Great Kitchen was also uncovered.

A gravel surface (2004) observed during the road widening was possibly associated with a pond seen on the 1688 plan.

4.3 Audley End II (18th century)

This period covers the pre-1725 demolition of large parts of the house including the buildings around the Principal Court and the Great Kitchen and the works of Capability Brown (1763-8). A map dated to 1752 shows that the house was largely in the same form as it is today, although with various yards, and an area of tree planting and paths to the north. By the mid 1760s various ancillary buildings, including an L-shaped kitchen, brew house and small building to its north, had been built to the north of the house. The L-shaped kitchen form part of the existing range of buildings and is outside the development area, although discrepancies in the mapping make it difficult to tell whether the brew house shown on a map dating to 1763 is a representation of the existing brew house building, or an earlier building in a slightly different location. It is perhaps unlikely that an earlier brew house was built, demolished and re-built in a slightly different position in a relatively short space of time. However, regardless of the exact location of the brew house, a small building to the north of the brew house,



since demolished, would have been within the confines of the current service yard, although its exact position and alignment is not entirely clear. Two east to west aligned walls discovered just to the north of the brew house (the current EH shop) could possibly have been part of this small building.

It is likely that most the demolition and levelling layers present across the service yard, and perhaps also the current yard surface, were formed during the various periods of demolition and landscaping between the late 17th/early years of the 18th century, when the first phase of demolition took place, and Capability Brown's landscaping 1763-1768. Make-up layers (2002), (2003) and (2014) observed during the road widening could also date from this phase, or could be later.

4.4 19th Century and Later

The northern wall of the service yard (1056), which is Victorian in date, predates the garages and workshops that were present on site before the commencement of the watching brief. Chalk surface (1094) also predates these structures.

Wall (1056) also predates an earlier Victorian building represented by brick walls (1016), (1017) and (1039).

The garages and workshops present on site until recently were constructed in the late 19th Century and altered and expanded through the years.

4.5 Significance of Results

The results show that significant remains relating to the development of the ancillary buildings at Audley End exist within the service yard. Surprisingly, some of these remains were encountered as close to the surface as 0.15m. Also, landscaping layers survive in the area of the road widening.

It is clear that existing remains in the area south of the new Education Facility have been heavily disturbed by later activity, particularly by Victorian and modern services. That is probably the reason why the water mains and storm drain excavations yielded little, despite extending throughout a large part of the yard.

The water mains and storm drain excavations were generally only 0.30-0.40m deep. Further remains, including walls and floors, are likely to exist undisturbed at greater depth. Tellingly, two of the walls encountered within the service yard were found at a depth of 0.50m (wall (1058)) and 0.68m (wall (1150)), whereas floor (1136) was discovered at a depth of 1.06m below the ground surface.

The linking of some of the structural remains to the Winstanley plan of the 17th century is quite convincing. Some remains cannot however be tied to this plan or any other plan of the area with any certainty, and their dating and interpretation remain unclear.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2005, *Archaeological Investigation. CCTV and Floodlighting trench and associated works* (report 2004/56)

Albion Archaeology, 2007, *Service Wing Re-presentation. Audley End House, Saffron Walden, Essex. Project Design for Archaeological Monitoring* (report 2007/19)

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Cunningham, C. M., 1987, *Excavations at Audley End Gardens 1986/87*, Interim Report

Drury, P. J., Walden Abbey into Audley End in *Saffron Walden: Excavations and Research 1972-80*, ed. S R Bassett. CBA Res Rep 45 (1982) > 94-105

Lowerre, A., 2006, Desk-based Assessment of the Northern Half of the Service Yard at Audley End House, Saffron Walden, Essex (English Heritage)

Oxford Archaeological Unit, 2001, *Audley End Conservation Plan*

Oxford Archaeological Unit, 2002, *Audley End Fire Hydrant Trench, Watching Brief*

Plans, Maps & Drawings

1809 scrapbook (DoE) containing copies of a number of plans and maps including:

Pre-1605 plan of the estate of Audley End, showing the Abbey and park

General plan of the Royal Palace of Audley End by H. Winstanley, 1676

General ground plan of the Royal Palace of Audley End by H. Winstanley, 1688

1981, DoE Central Survey Department. Baseline survey of Audley End (Sheet refs s609/81 – s636/81)



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.2 m. Max: 1.4 m.

Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluate development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	External surface	Loose Sand and gravel. 0.18m thick. Current yard surface material.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	Firm mid brown silty sand 0.10m thick. Contained moderate amounts of brick fragments and small stones. Probable levelling layer for current yard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
102	Levelling layer	Firm light brown grey silty sand 0.10m thick. Contained occasional brick fragments. Probably associated with levelling for current yard area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Layer	Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.85m thick. Contained frequent amounts of brick fragments.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
105	Demolition layer	Mixture of dark grey-brown silty sand and fragments of lime mortar and brick. Up to 0.35m thick. Probable demolition material of wall (111) which it overlay.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Service Trench	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.5m Trench dug to contain water pipe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Backfill	Loose Sand and gravel. Repair to car park surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Backfill	Firm dark brown grey silty sand Contained frequent fragments of brick, stones and charcoal flecks.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Backfill	Mixture of sand and gravel, and dark brown-grey silty sand.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Wall	Wall visible in southern section of trench, aligned E-W. Constructed with brick and squared clunch blocks with lime mortar bonding. Wall steps out at its eastern end (a possible buttress). Bricks measure 70mm x 220mm x 120mm. Visible dimensions of clunch blocks measure between 20mm and 50mm long and approximately 15mm thick. Wall is sat on mortar and brick foundations (112) and (113) and within foundation trench [117]. Wall is overlain by collapsed/demo material (105). Top of surviving wall is 0.55m below the current ground surface at 46.97m OD. Possibly associated with range of kitchen buildings marked in this location on 17th century maps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
114	Surface	Layer of loose pale yellow lime mortar. Up to 0.10m thick. Mortared surface present across whole trench that appears to continue beneath foundation trench [117] associated with wall (111). Top of mortar is 1.25m below current ground surface at 46.28m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
117	Foundation trench	Linear E-W sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max depth 0.65m Foundation trench for wall (111).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Foundation	Hard light grey-white lime mortar. Foundation for wall (111). Up to 0.05m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Foundation	Brick rubble and mid brown grey silt. Foundation for wall (111). Up to 0.28m thick.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
115	Backfill	Firm mid grey silty sand Contained frequent amounts of brick fragments and mortar. 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
116	Backfill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt Contained moderate amounts of brick and mortar fragments. 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 2.00 m. Width: 1.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.1 m. Max: 1.25 m.

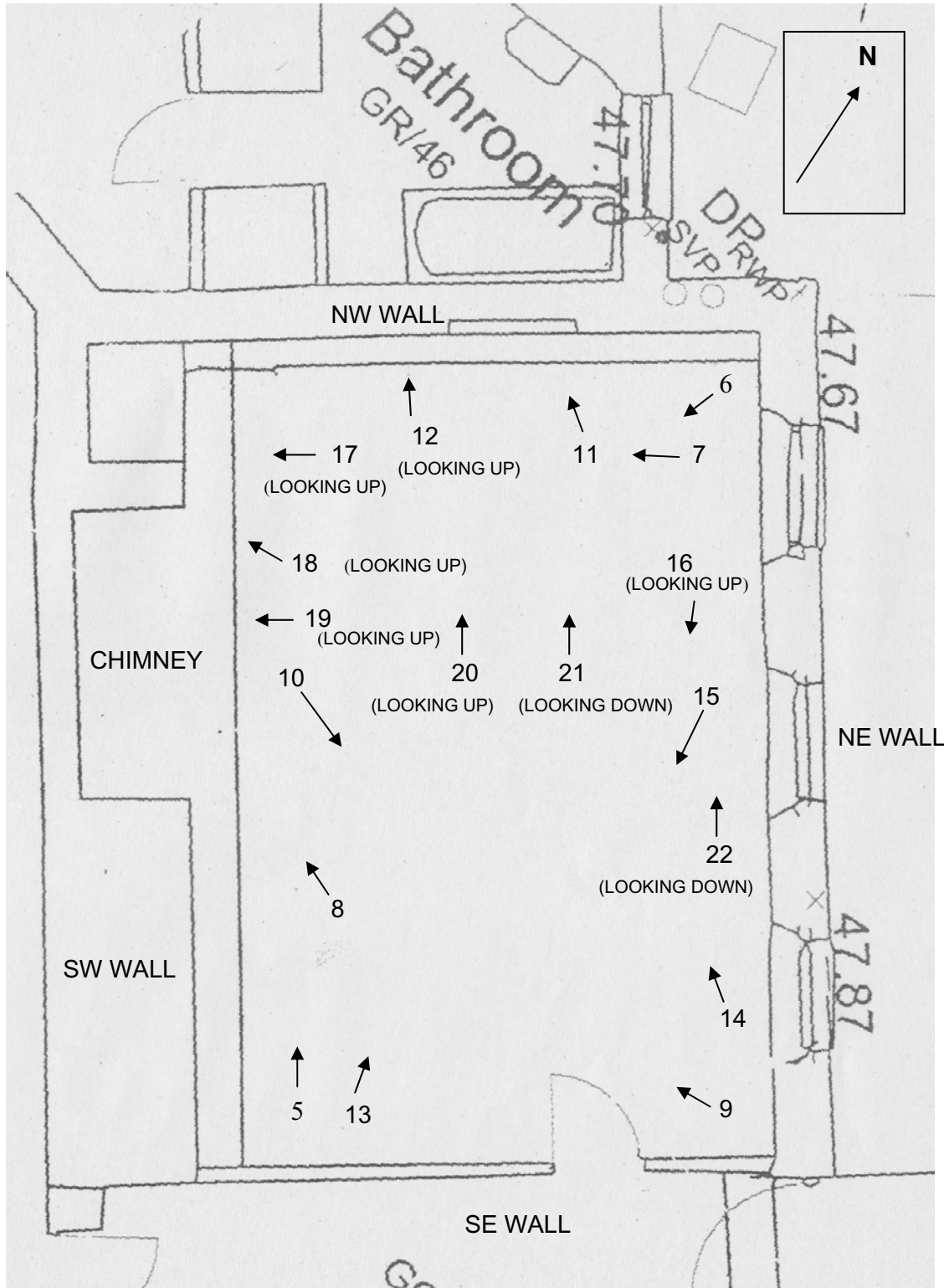
Co-ordinates:

Reason: Evaluate development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	External surface	Loose light yellow Gravel with sandy silt. Current yard surface material. 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Levelling layer	Firm mid brown grey Mixture of mid brown-grey sandy silt and yellow gravel. 0.25m thick. Probable levelling layer for current yard surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Levelling layer	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt 0.32m thick. Probable levelling layer for current yard surface.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203		Brick wall forming a corner aligned approximately E-W / N-S and measuring 0.35m wide and 0.65m deep. 4 regular courses visible and bonded with lime mortar. Top of wall was 0.10m below current ground surface at 46.97m OD. The wall appears to be associated with 19th century range of outbuildings. Individual bricks measured 70mm x 220mm x 120mm.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Surface	Layer of lime mortar located directly beneath wall (203). 0.04m thick. Possible remnant of an external surface associated with wall (203). Top of mortar was 0.42m below the current ground surface at 47.22m OD.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Demolition layer	Demolition spread consisting of fragments of clunch, brick, chalk, mortar and mid brown sandy silt. 0.40m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
206	Layer	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt Contained moderate amounts of brick fragments and stones. 0.25m thick. Possible levelling layer.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Layer	Firm dark grey brown silt Contained occasional brick fragments. 0.13m thick. Possible garden soil.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Layer	Firm mid brown-grey silt and orange gravel. 0.10m thick. Present throughout trench overlying waste material (209). May represent a capping layer to a hypothesised pit that contains waste material (209).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Layer	Firm dark brown grey sandy silt Contained frequent lumps of charcoal and lenses of ashy material and orange (scorched) clay. At least 0.20m thick. A dump of charcoal rich waste material present throughout the trench. The extent of this material may suggest that it is contained within a refuse pit, the sides of which lie outside the confines of the trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
213	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.75m Pit only partially visible in trench. Located partially underneath wall (203).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silt Contained moderate amounts of brick fragments and gravel and occasional fragments of mortar. 0.55m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Fill	Firm light brown grey sandy silt Contained moderate amounts of brick fragments and gravel and occasional fragments of mortar. 0.20m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Firm dark grey sandy silt Contained occasional mortar fragments. Probable slumping of garden soil (207) into pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS WET LAUNDRY





8. APPENDIX 3: EHCR RECORD SUMMARY

Site Name & Address: Audley End House, Saffron Walden	
Parish: Littlebury	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL524381	Site Code: SWAE07
Type of Work: Watching Brief	Site Director/Group: Adam Lodoen, Albion Archaeology
Date of Work: October 2007 – February 2008	Size of Area Investigated: Service Yard: approx. 40 x 4m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding Source: English Heritage
Further Work Anticipated: No	Related EHCR Nos: 401, 402, 406, 407 (SAM 84)
Final Report: Lodoen, A. (2008) Audley End House: Archaeological Monitoring, Service Wing Re- presentation (Albion Archaeology Report 2008/08)	
Periods Represented: Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: <i>The groundworks for the new English Heritage Education Facility and associated works uncovered floors, walls, wall foundations and other archaeological remains dating mainly to the 17th century or later (Audley End II, after 1603). Undisturbed geological deposits were rarely encountered.</i> <i>Some of the early walls encountered are likely to be part of the Great Kitchen which can be seen on Winstanley's plan of 1688.</i> <i>Broadly speaking, the deposits sealing the walls can be dated to the 17th/18th century. A more detailed analysis of these layers is not possible given the small areas monitored and lack of precisely datable evidence; however, they clearly date to the various periods of demolition and landscaping between the late 17th/early years of the 18th century, when the first phase of demolition took place, and Capability Brown's landscaping 1763-1768.</i> <i>To the north of the brew house (the current English Heritage shop) a brick structure was discovered, the foundation trench of which cut through the yard surface and landscaping layers. It was interpreted as either a wall or possibly a soak away. This structure is not marked on any maps, but dates roughly to the 18th or 19th century.</i> <i>Numerous structural remains dating from the Victorian period and later were found in the north part of the service yard. Most of these remains directly relate to the garages and workshops present on site until recently. Many represent extensions and alterations to the original plan. The remains of an earlier Victorian house and an unrelated Victorian surface were also encountered. These structures were not</i>	



directly related to the garages / workshops. In addition to this, it was shown that the north wall of the service yard probably predates any Victorian or later remains, with the exception of one part of the wall which was added later.

Previous Summaries/Reports:

Albion Archaeology (2007) Audley End House, Saffron Walden, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation, Service Wing Re-presentation (report 2007/76)

Albion Archaeology, 2005, Archaeological Investigation. CCTV and Floodlighting trench and associated works (report 2004/56)

Oxford Archaeological Unit (2002), Audley End: Watching Brief, Fire Hydrant Excavation

Roberts, J. (2000), Monitoring Cable Trenches and Trenches for Rising Bollards and Security Gate at Audley End House (CCAFU report 721)

Heppell, E & Garwood, A, 1995, Audley End: Evaluation (ECCFAU)

Foreman, S., 1994, Watching Brief, Service Trench (ECCFAU)

Note: these reports all relate to areas in vicinity of works described above

Author of Summary:

A. Lodoen

Date of Summary:

14/04/08

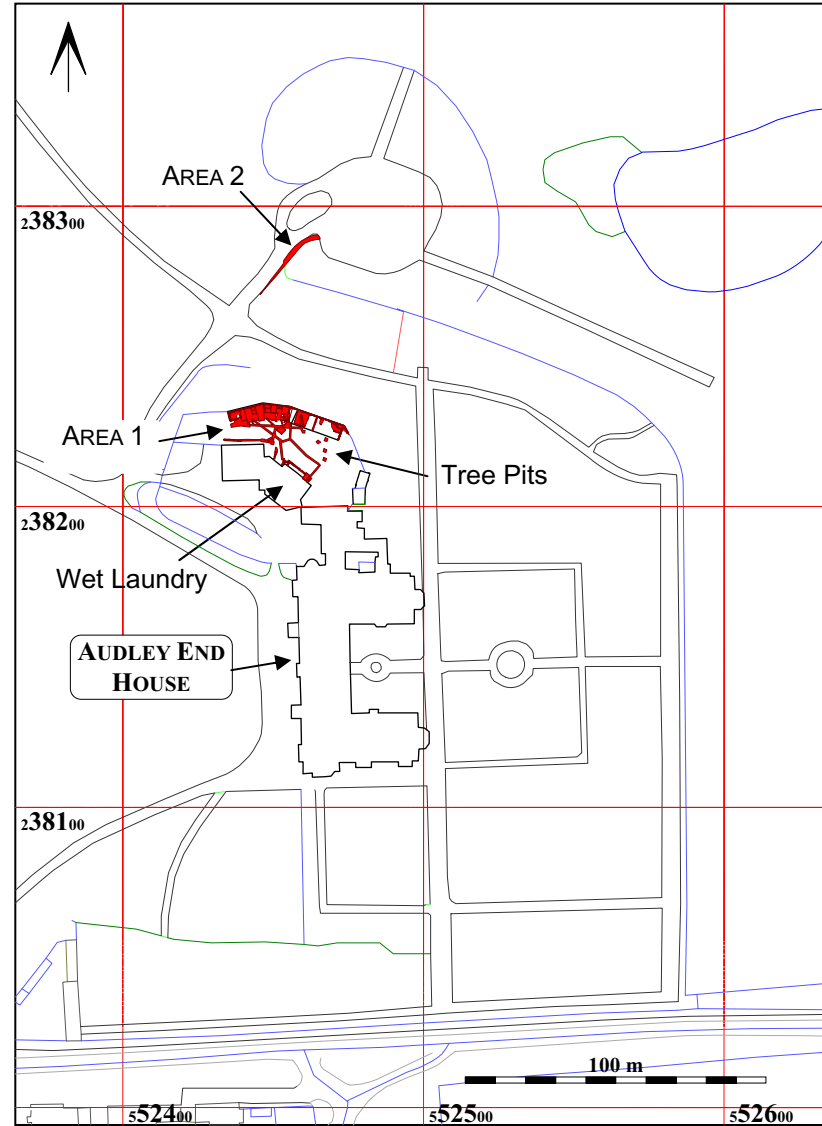
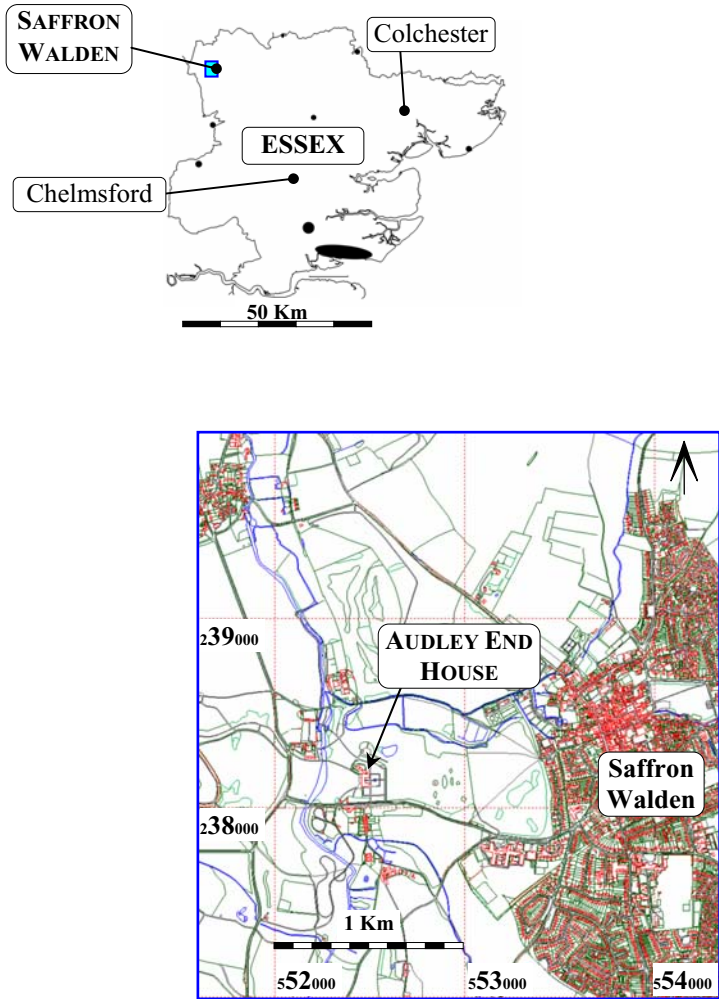


Figure 1: Site location map

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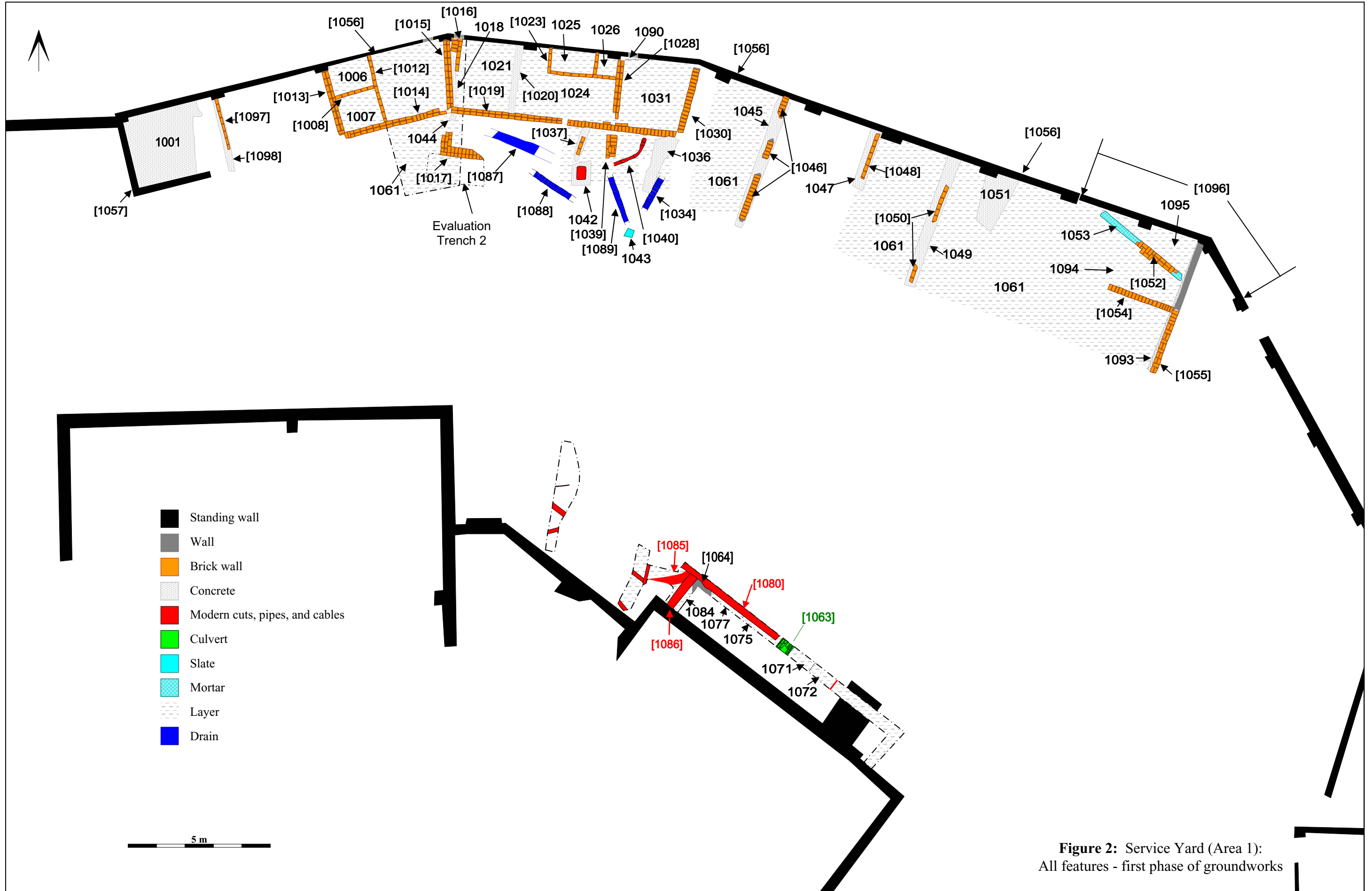
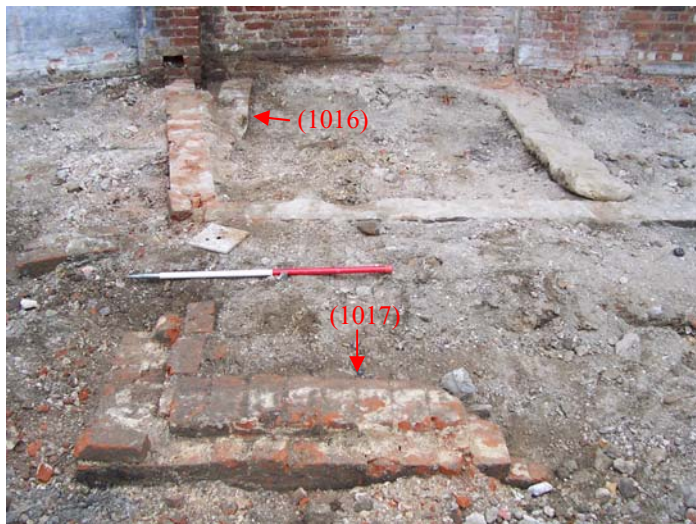


Figure 2: Service Yard (Area 1):
All features - first phase of groundworks



General view of remains of service yard outbuildings. (1m scale).

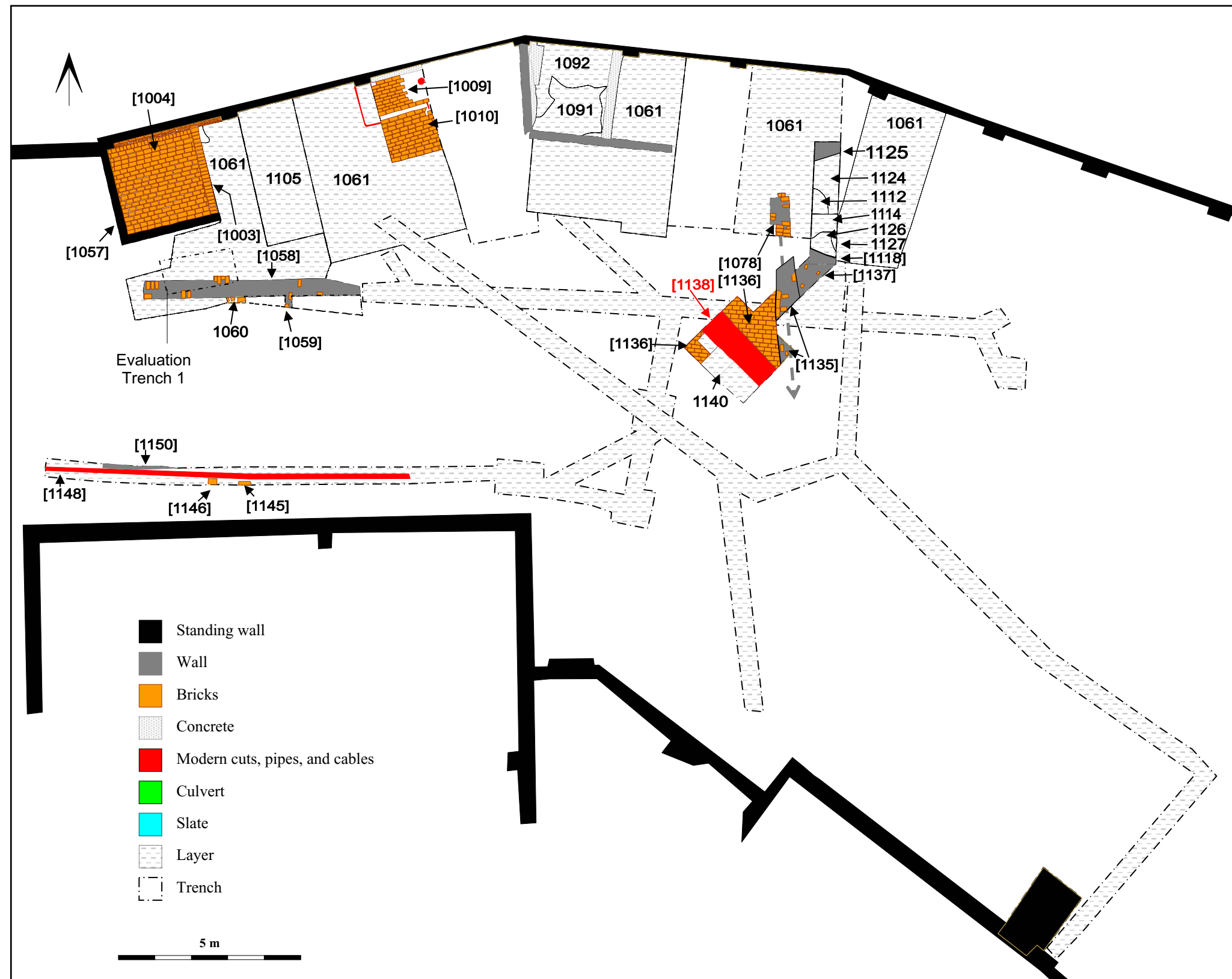


Walls (1016) and (1017) of earlier 19th-century building. (1m scale).



Earlier service yard boundary wall (1052). (1m scale).

Figure 3: Photographs of 19th-century structures



Wall (1135) and brick floor (1136).
(40cm scale).



Wall (1058). (1m scale)



Brick floor (1004). (1m scale)

Figure 4: Service Yard (Area 1):
All features - second phase of groundworks

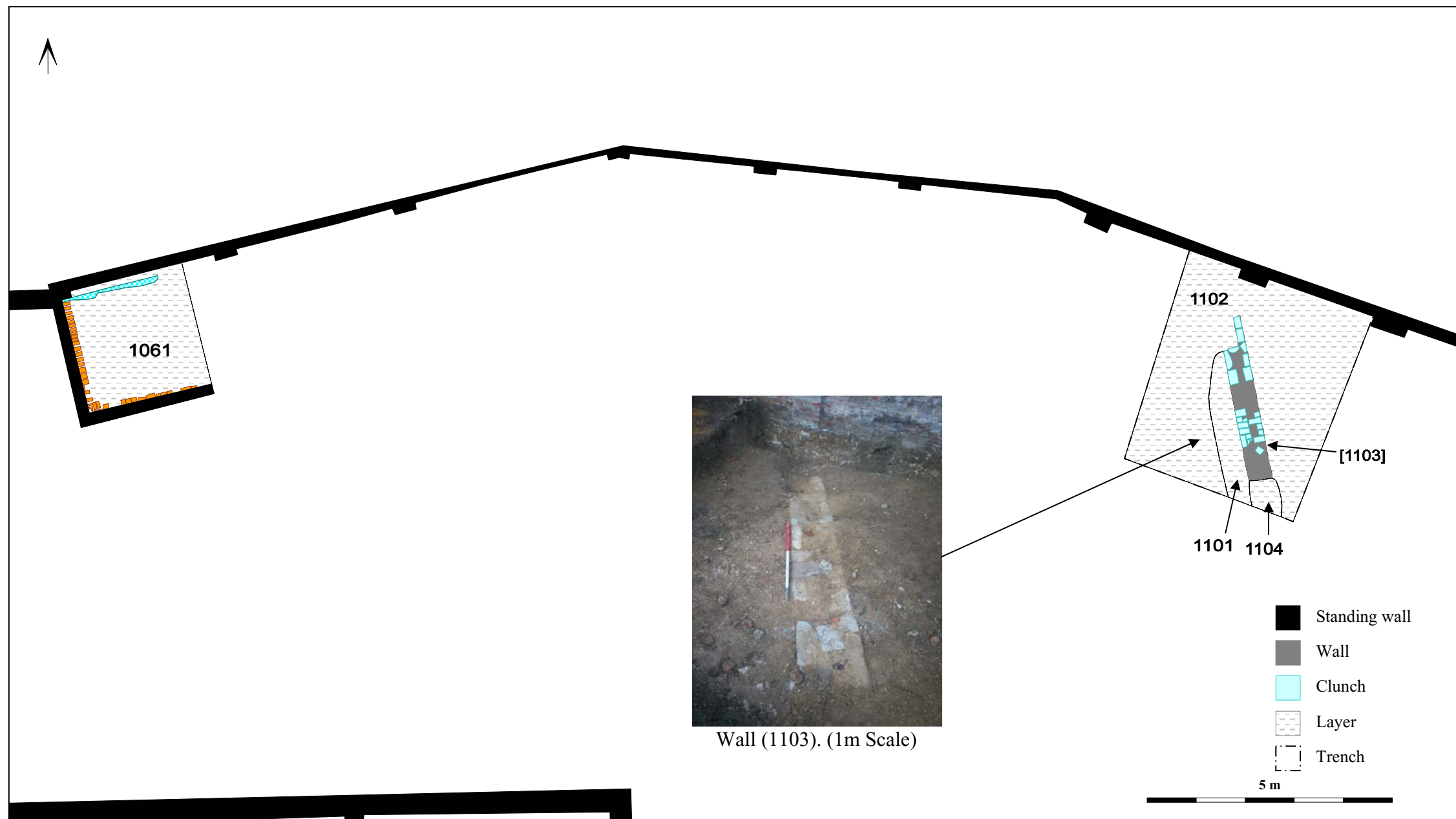


Figure 5: Service Yard (Area 1):
All features - third phase of groundworks.

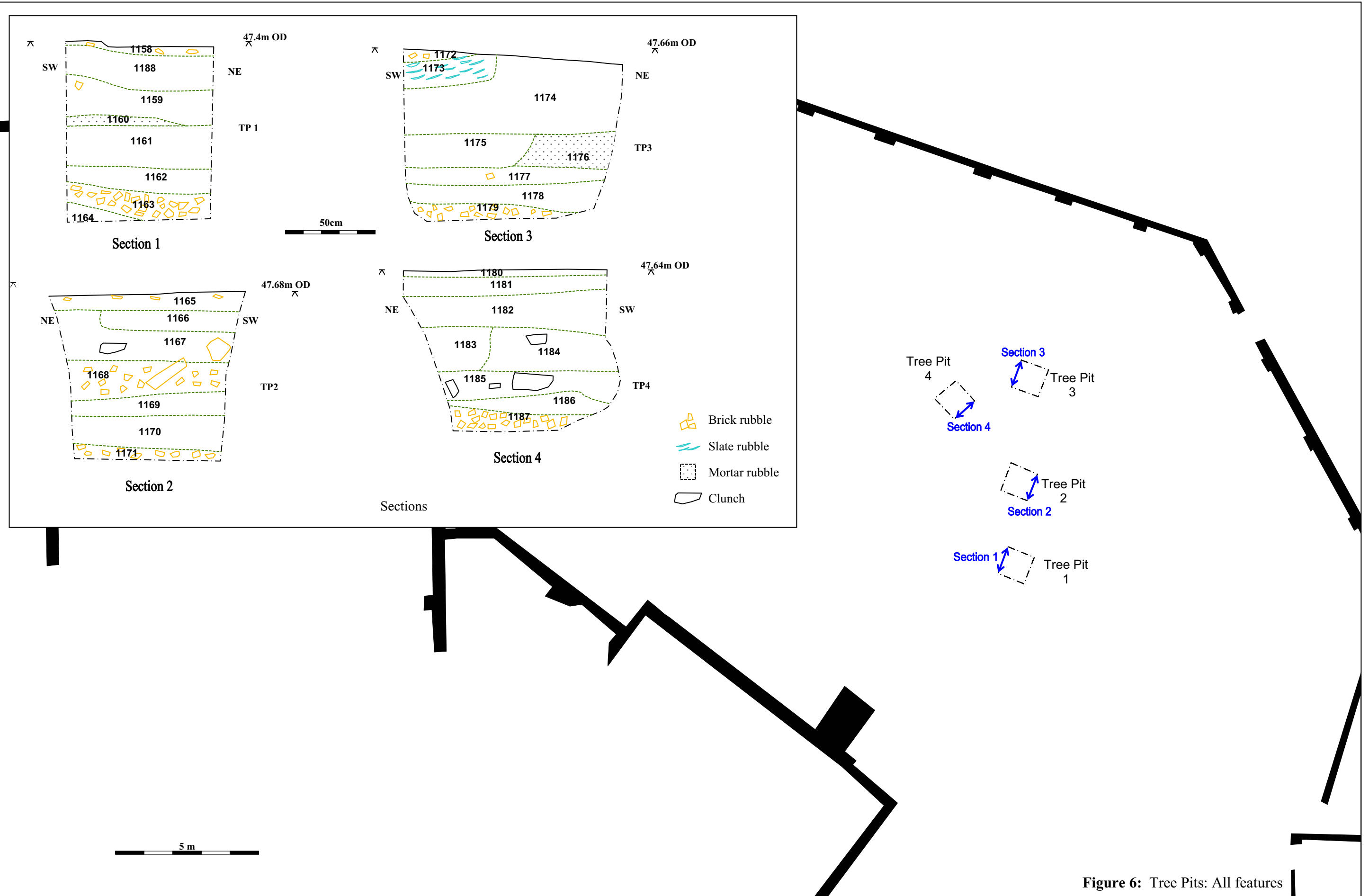


Figure 6: Tree Pits: All features

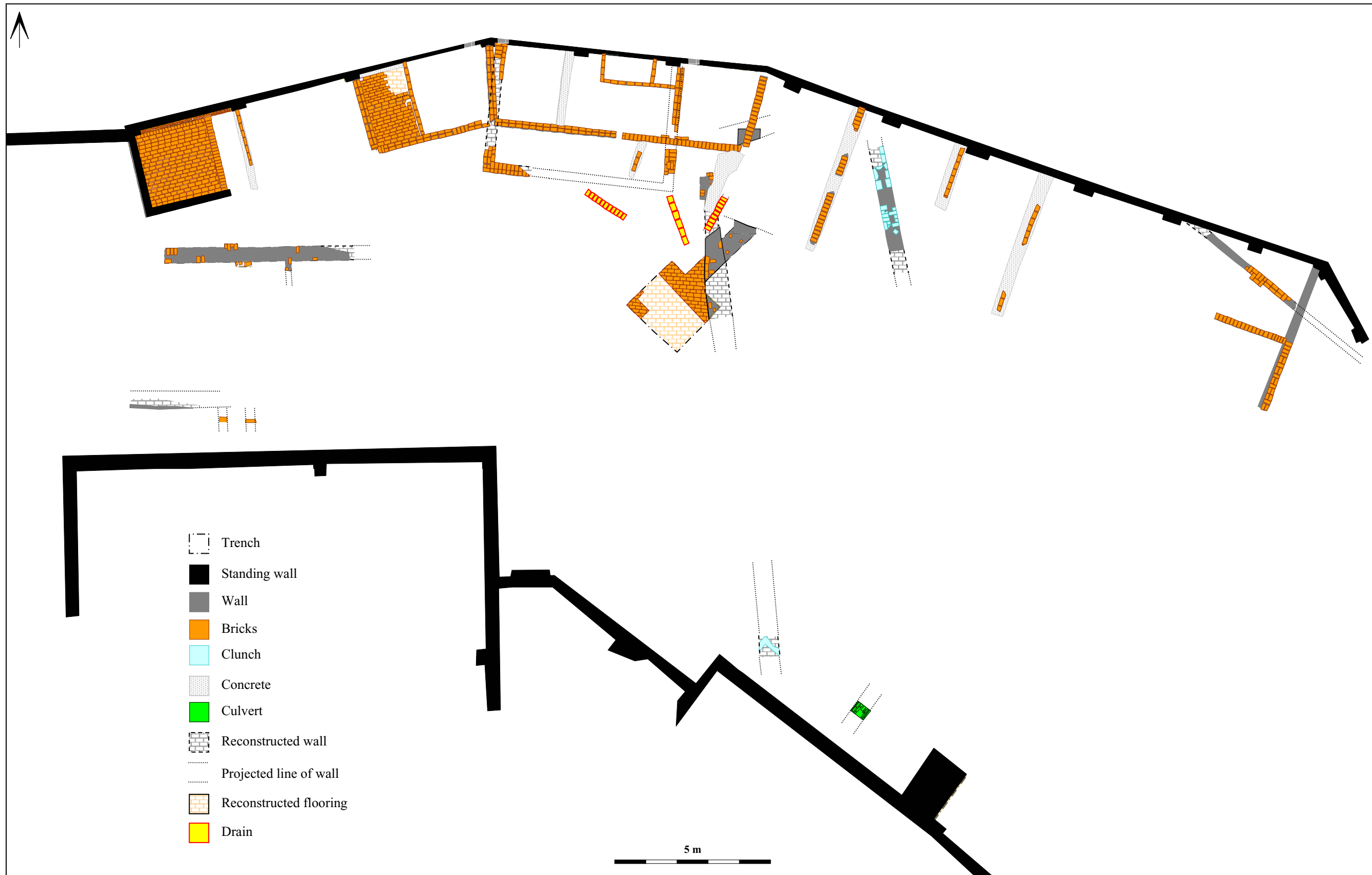
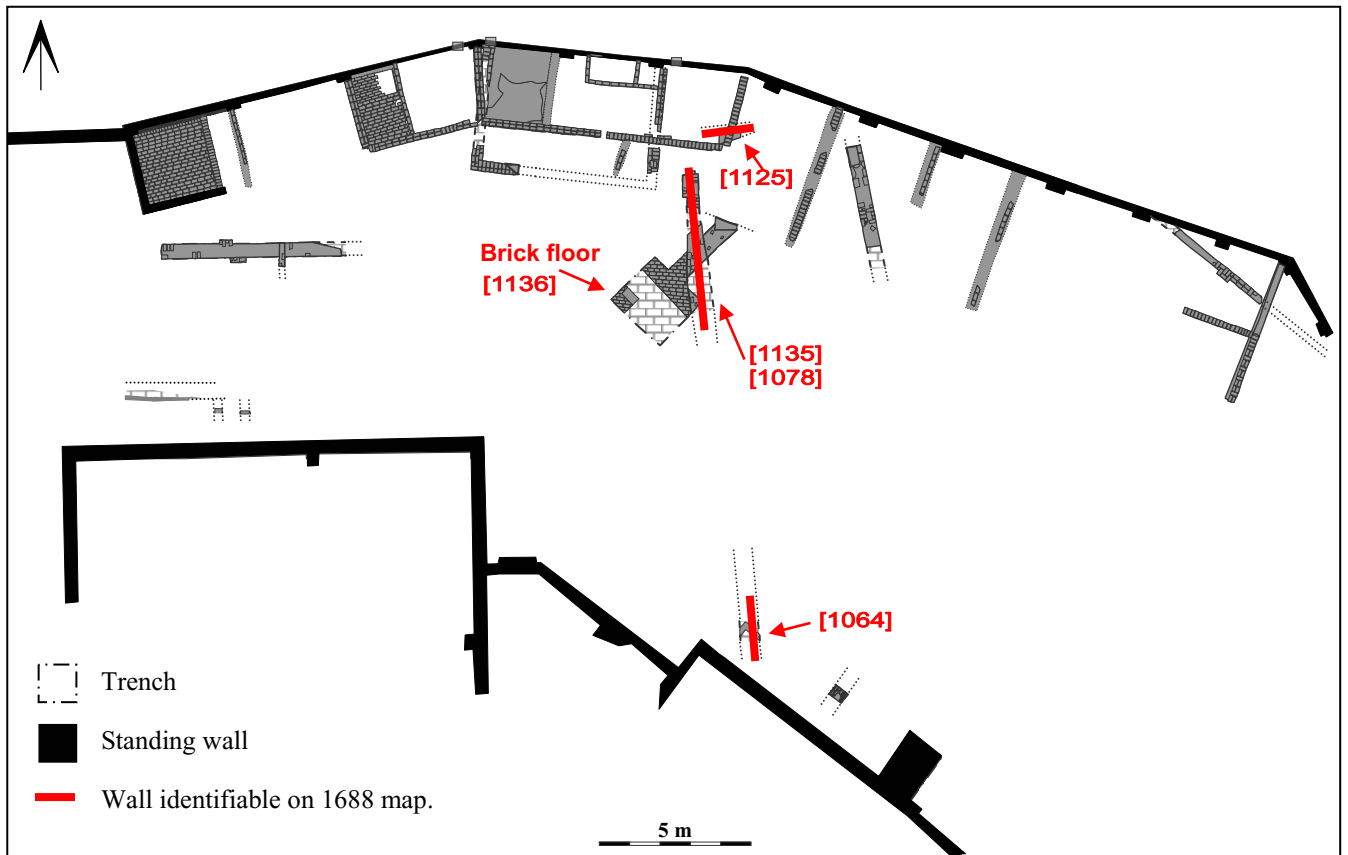
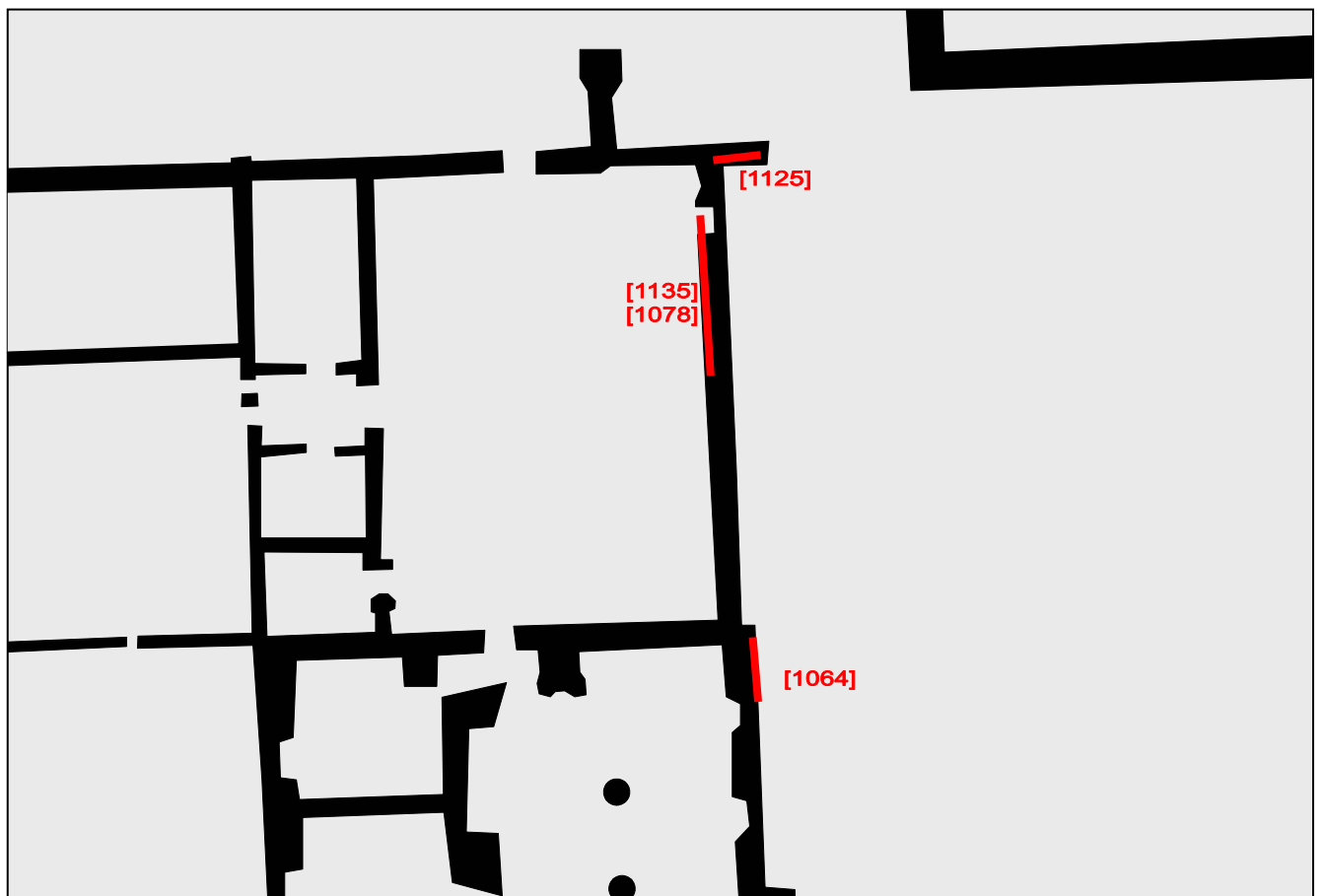


Figure 7: Service Yard (Area 1): All structures.

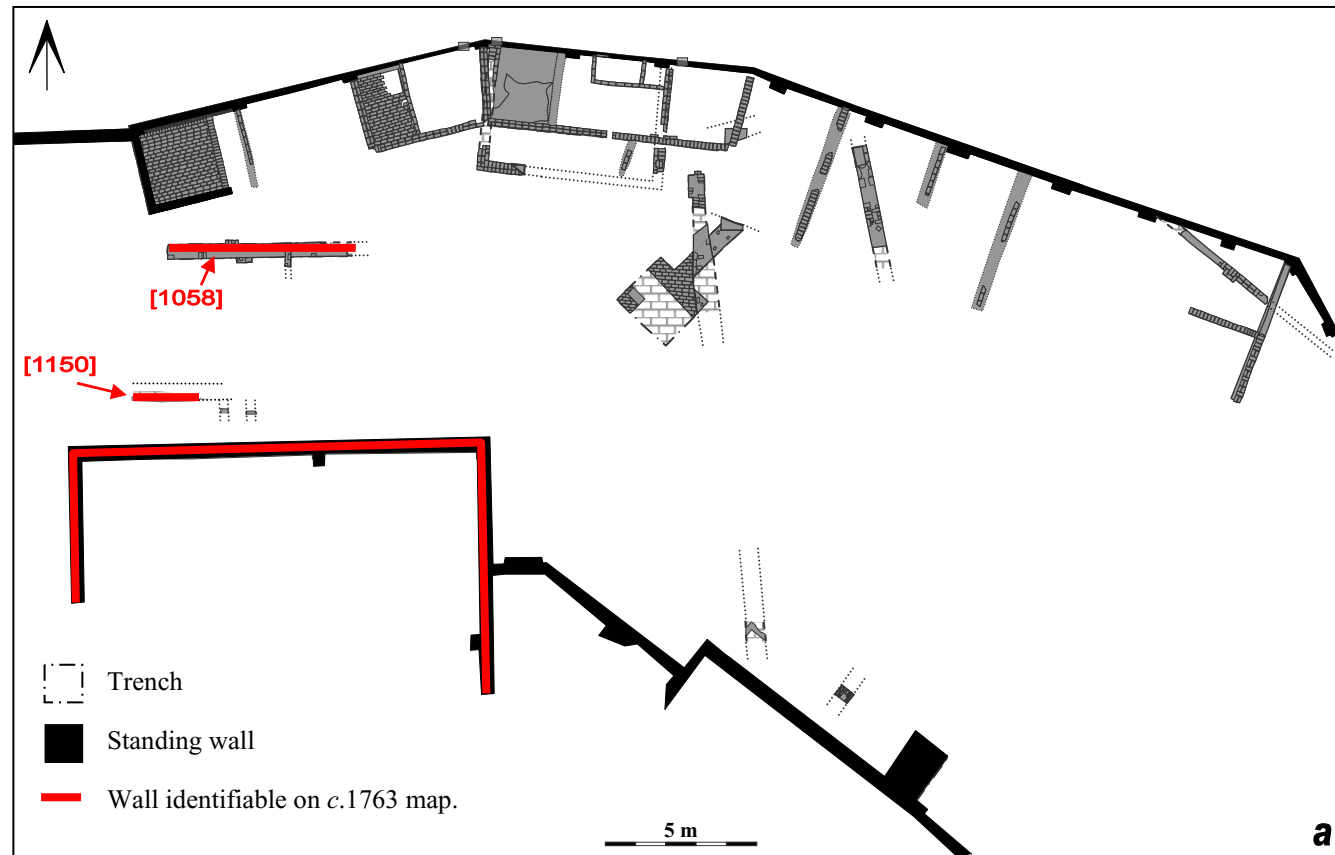


Structures that can be identified on 1688 Winstanley map, and associated features.

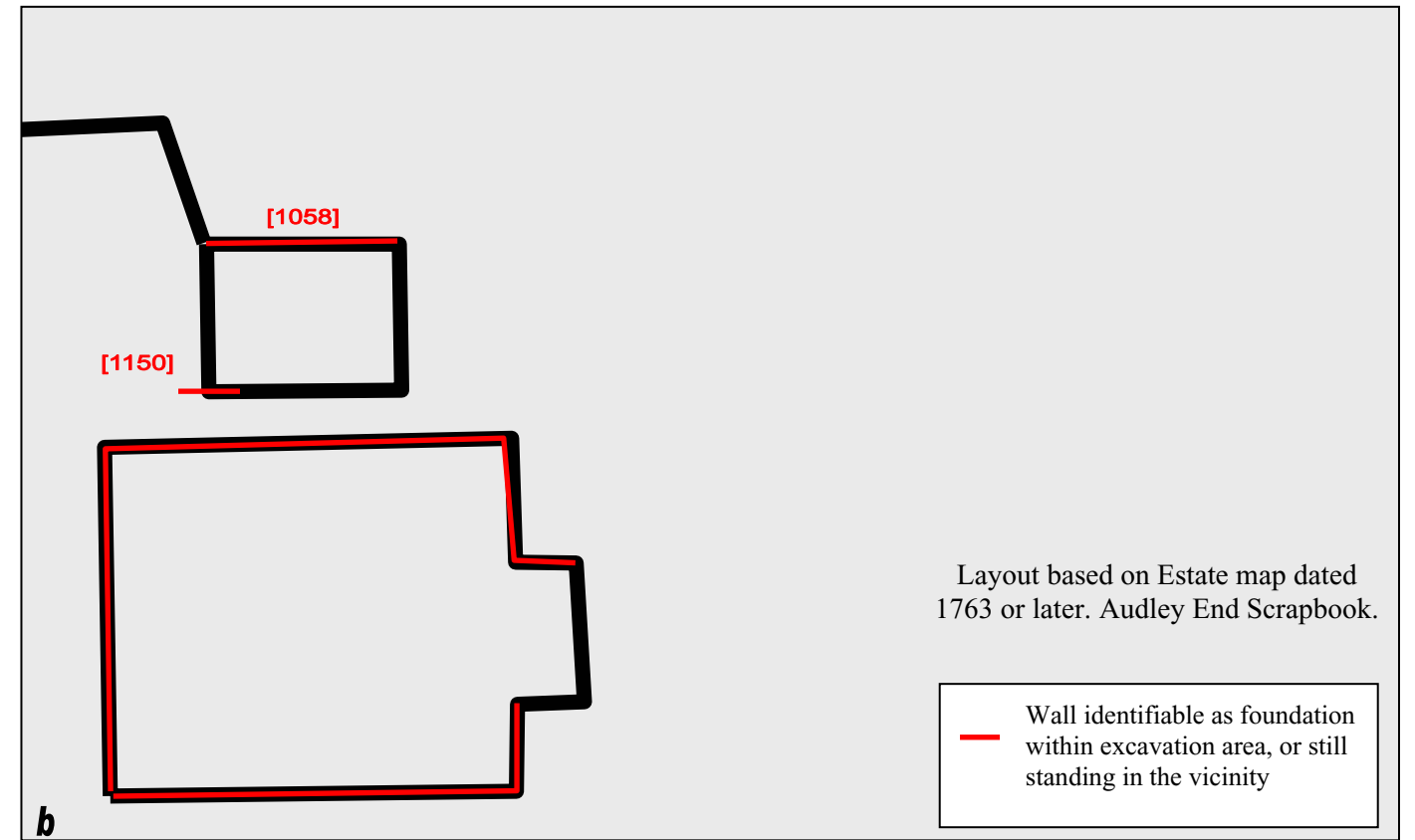


1688 layout traced from Winstanley map

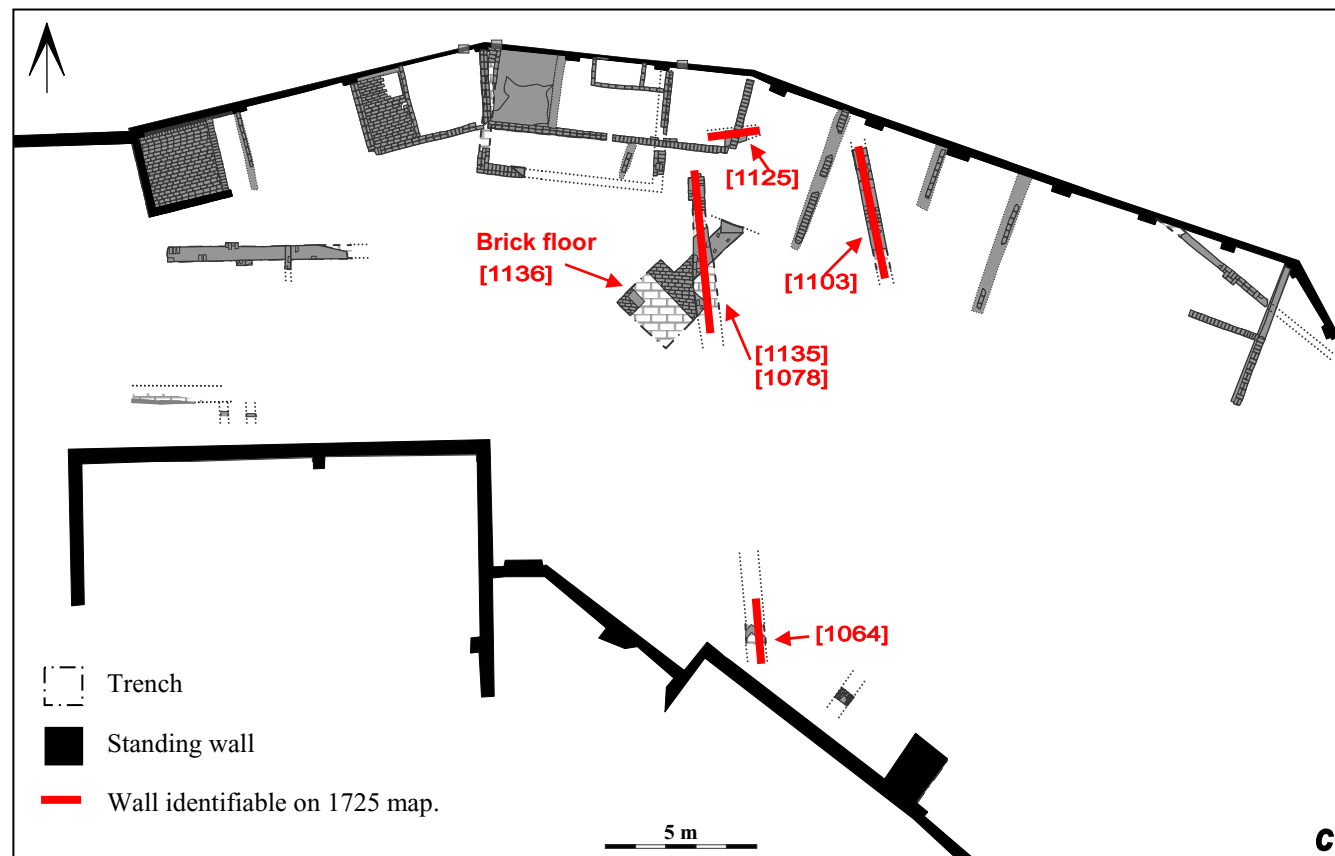
Figure 8: Interpretation: 17th century



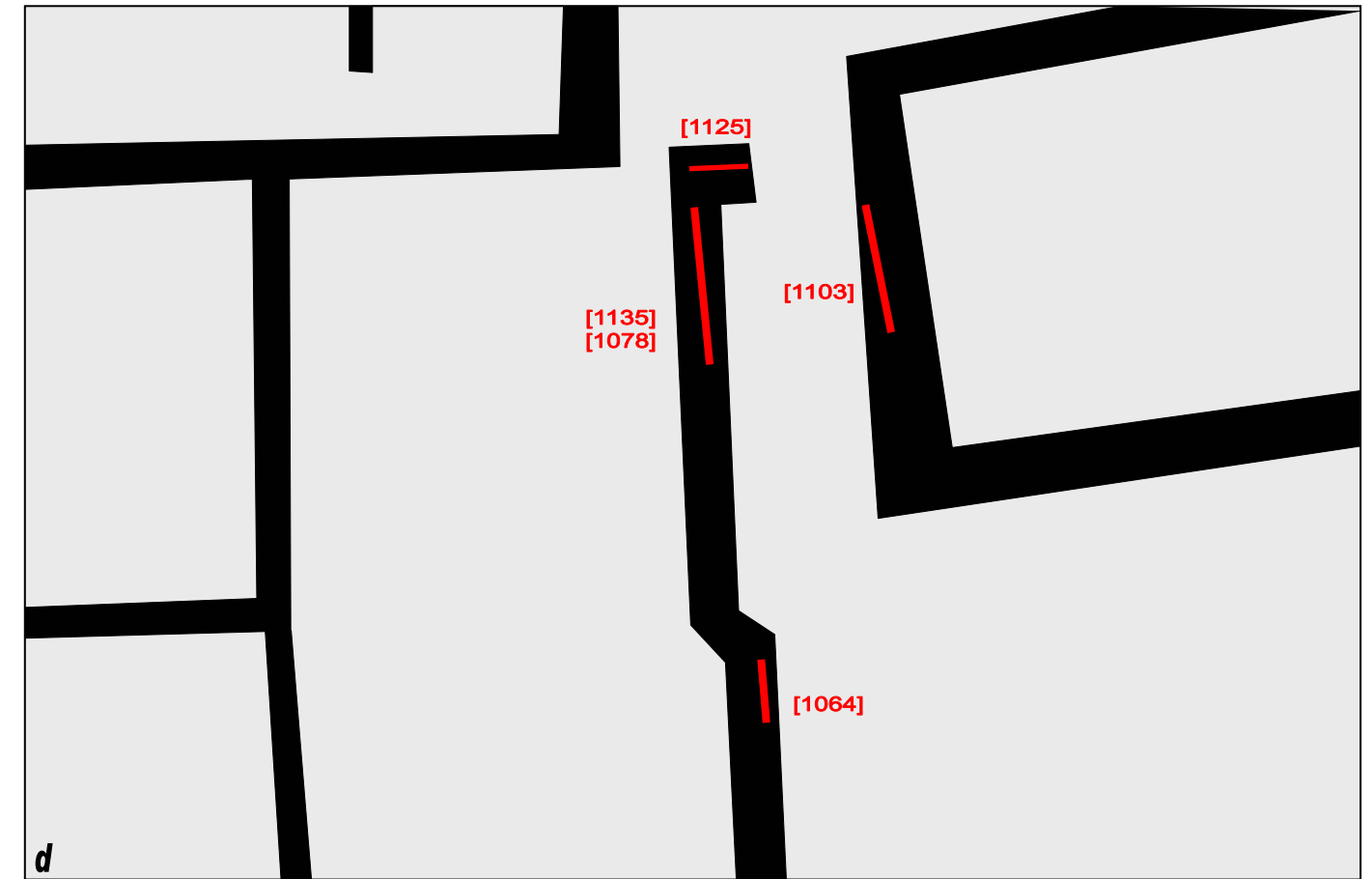
Structures that can be identified on 1763 map.



Mid 18th century layout, based on Estate map dated 1763 or later. Audley End Scrapbook.

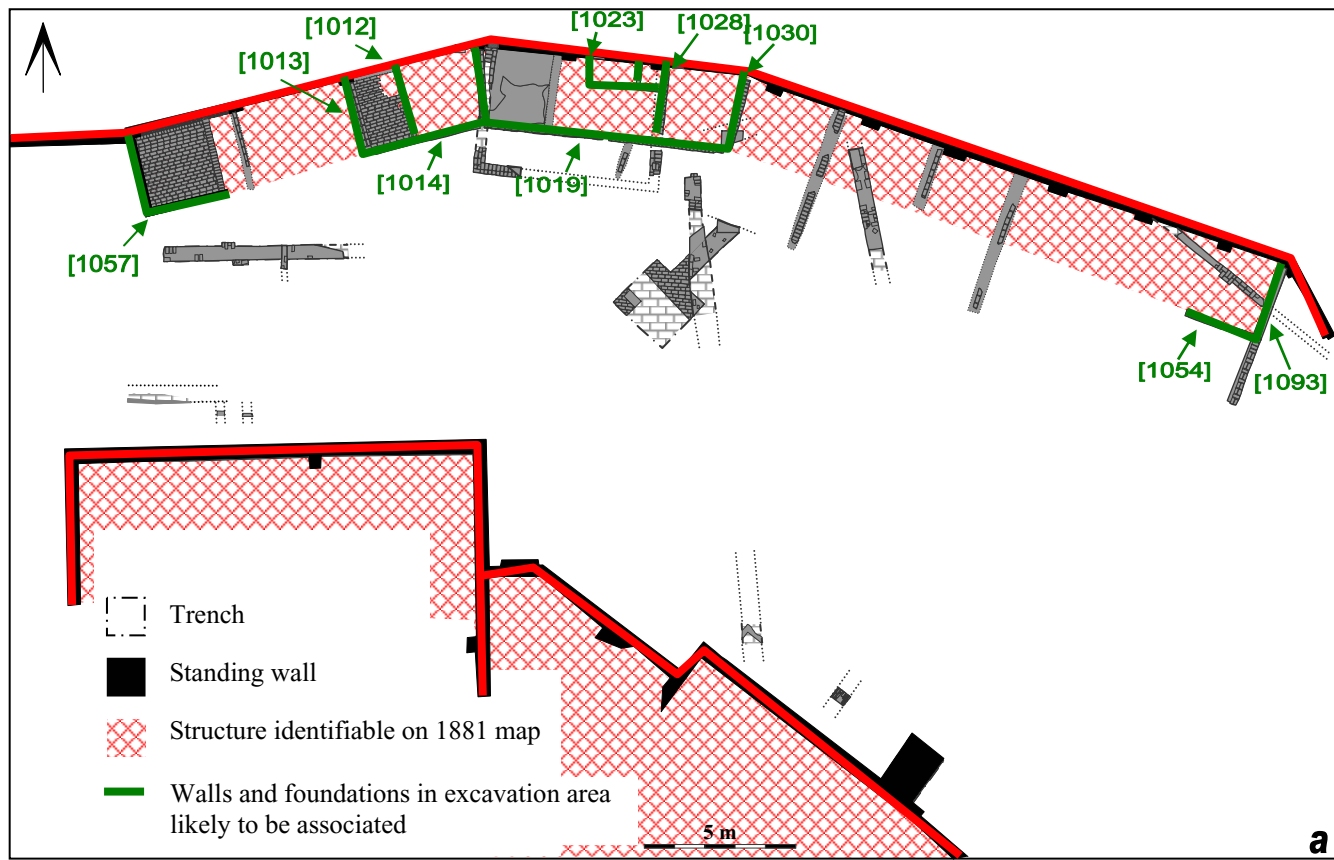


Structures that can be identified on 1725 map, and associated features.

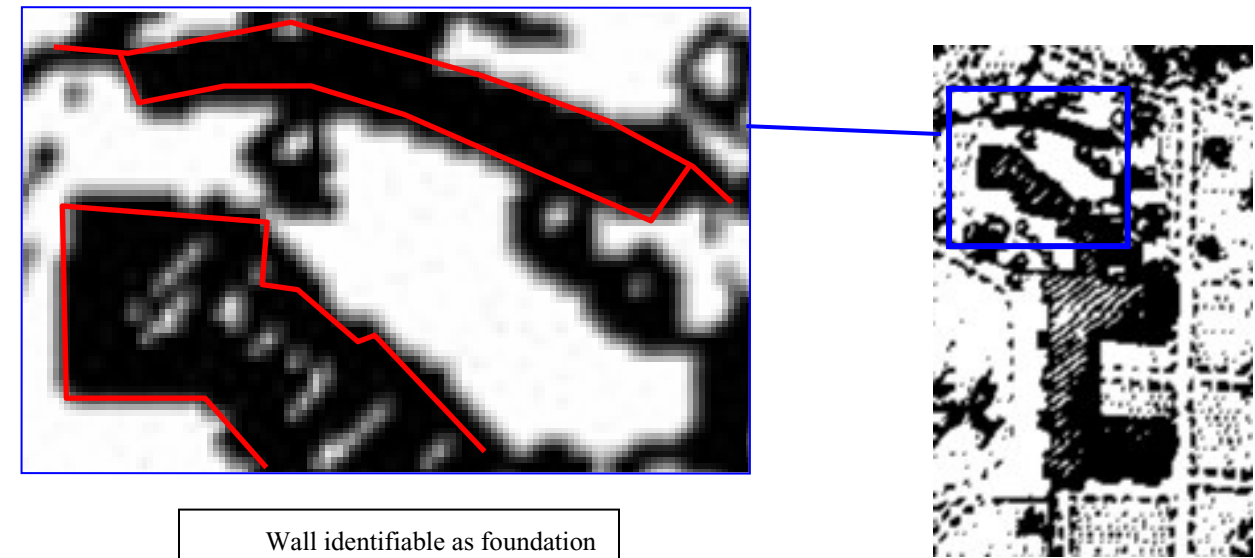


1725 layout traced from Bridgeman map

Figure 9: Interpretation: 18th century

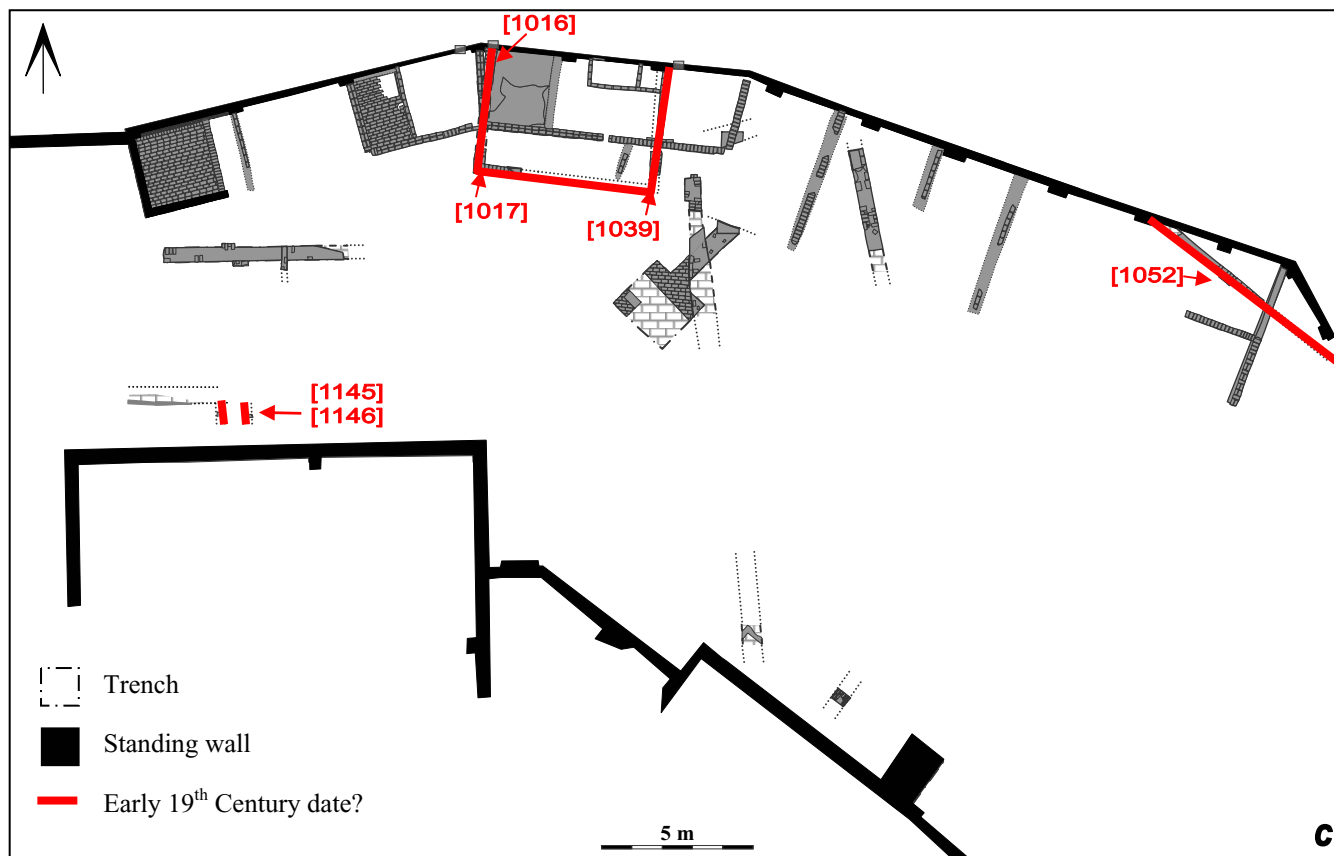


Structures that can be identified on 1881 Ordnance Survey map.

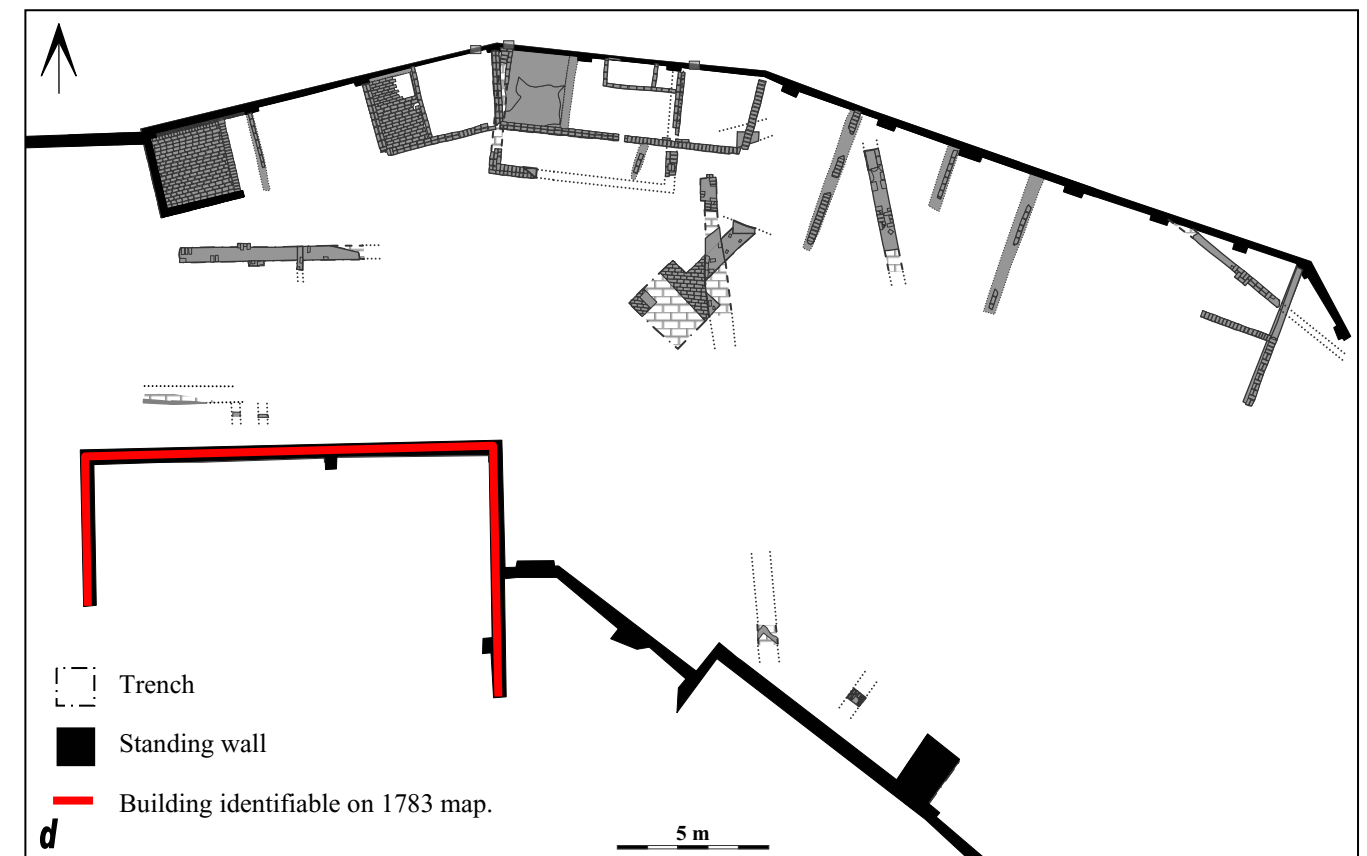


b Wall identifiable as foundation within excavation area, or still standing in the vicinity

1881 Ordnance Survey map

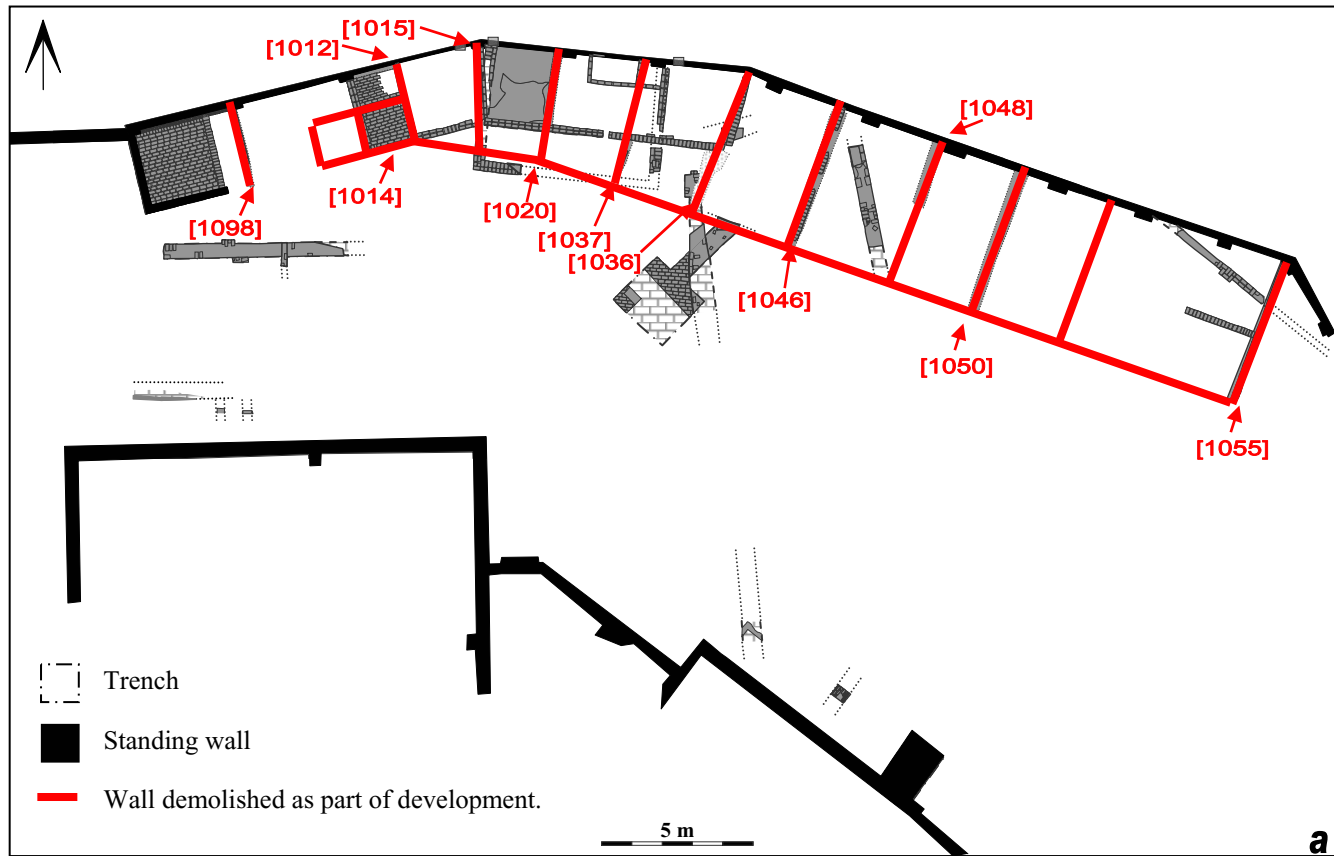


Possible early 19th century-structures.

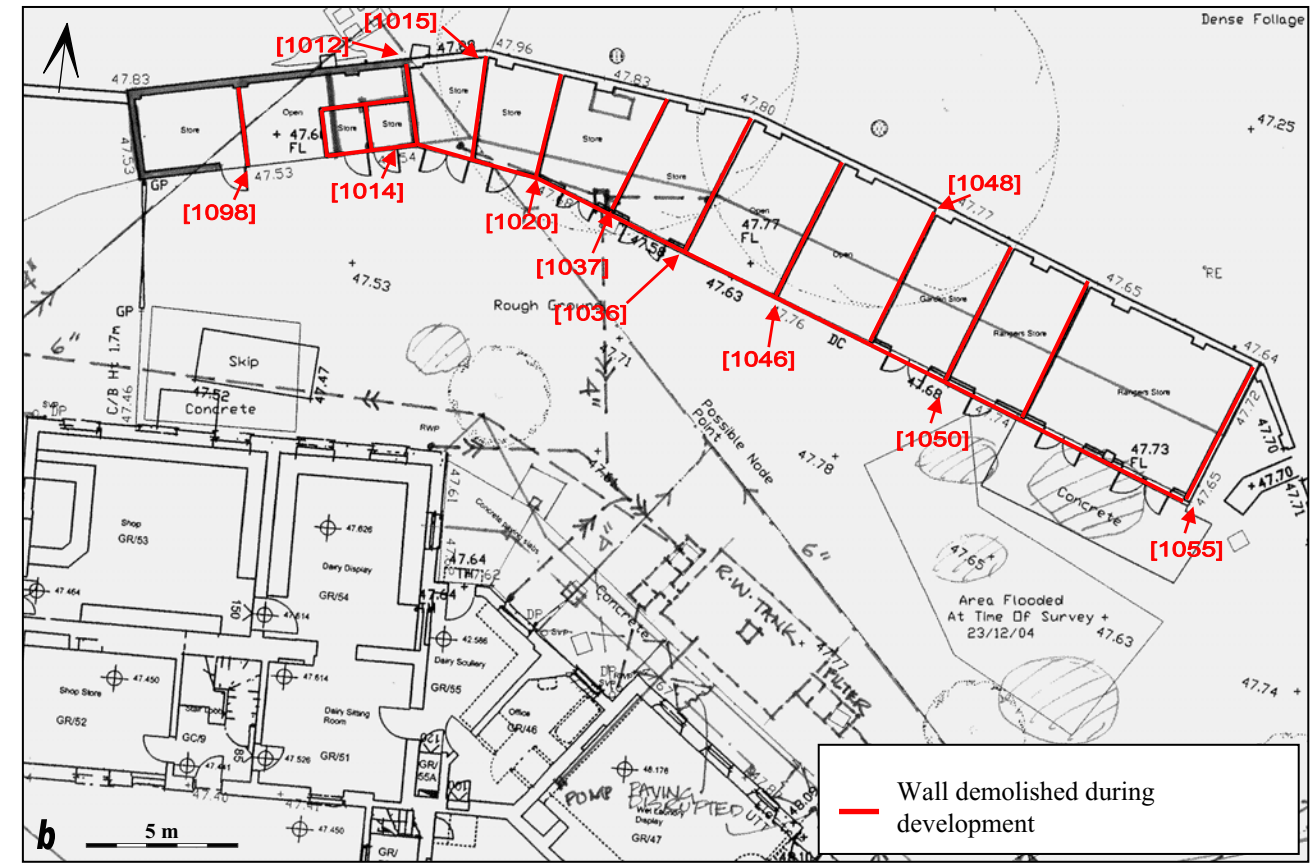


Structures that can be identified on 1783 map.

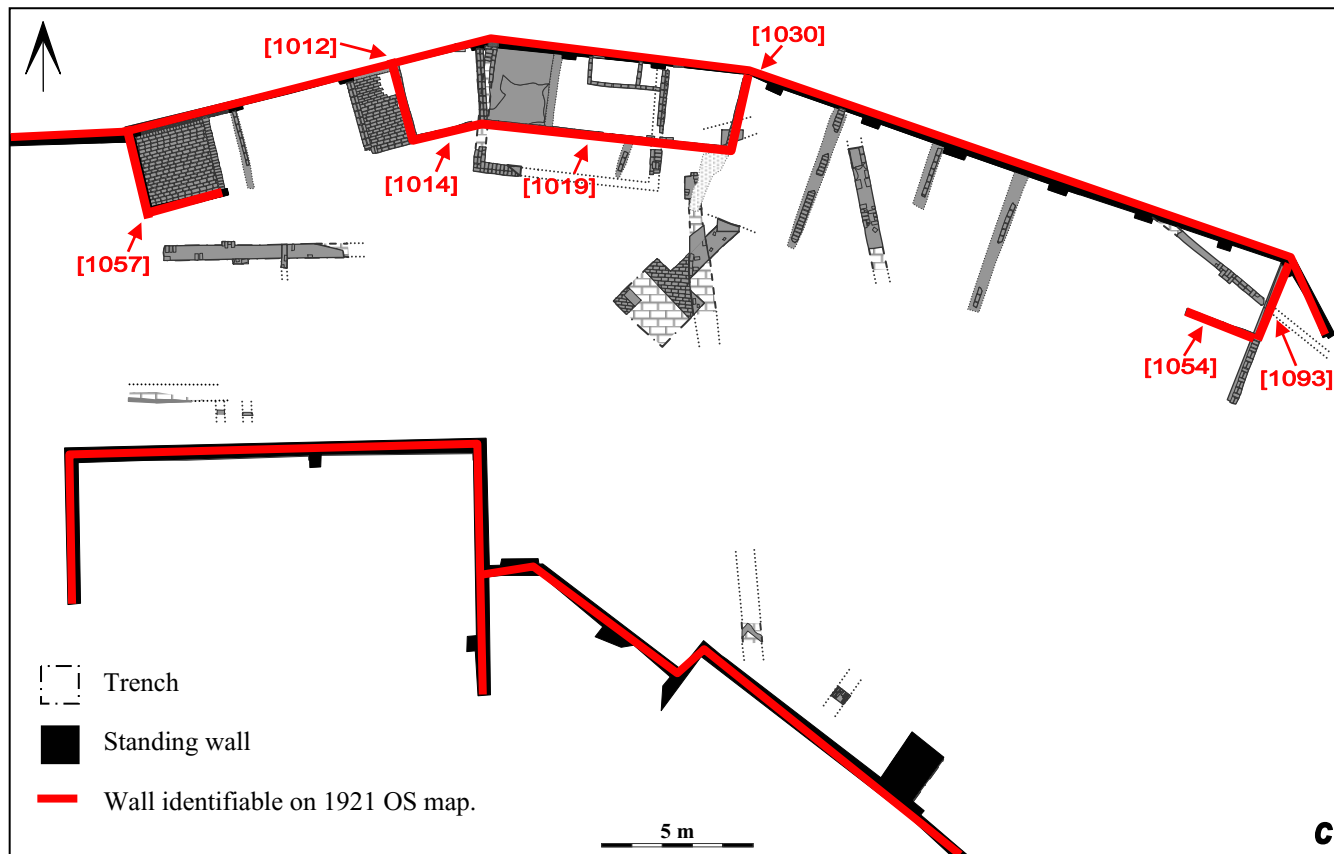
Figure 10: Interpretation; 18th and 19th centuries



Structures demolished at the start of the development



Existing Site Plan. Survey by RH Partnership Architects (2007)

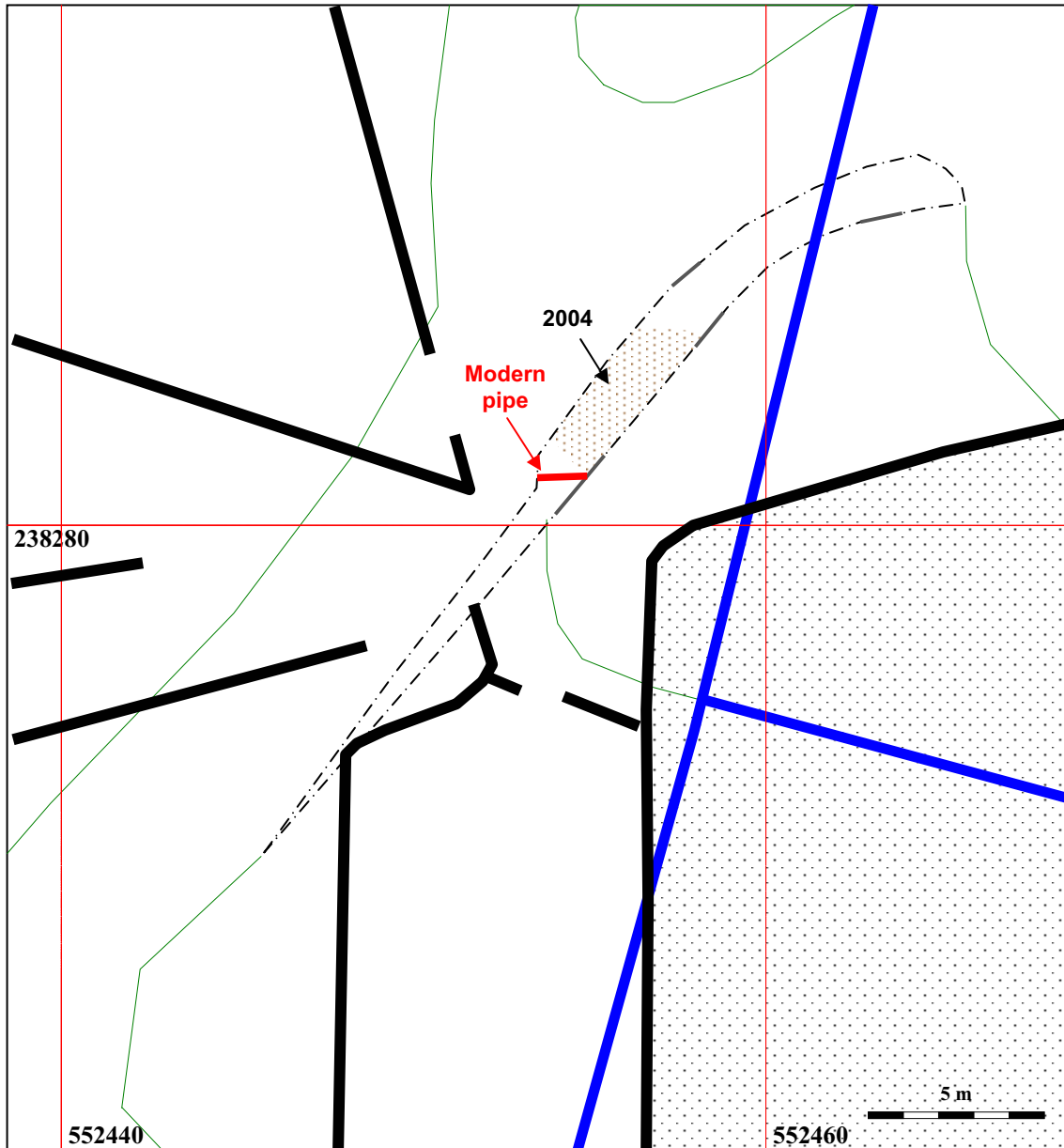


Structures that can be identified on 1921 Ordnance Survey map.



1921 OS map

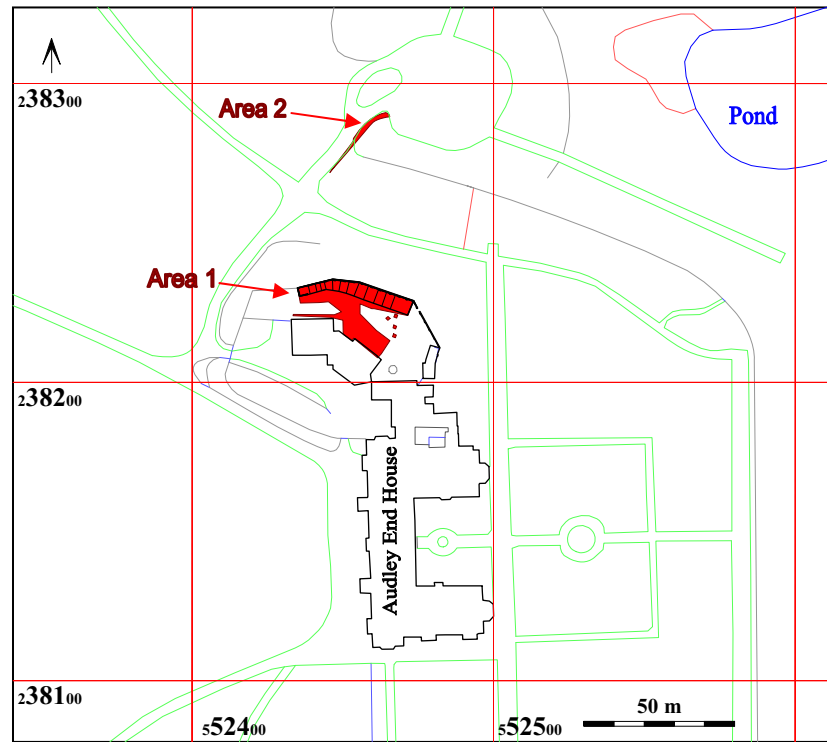
Figure 11: Interpretation; 20th and 21st centuries



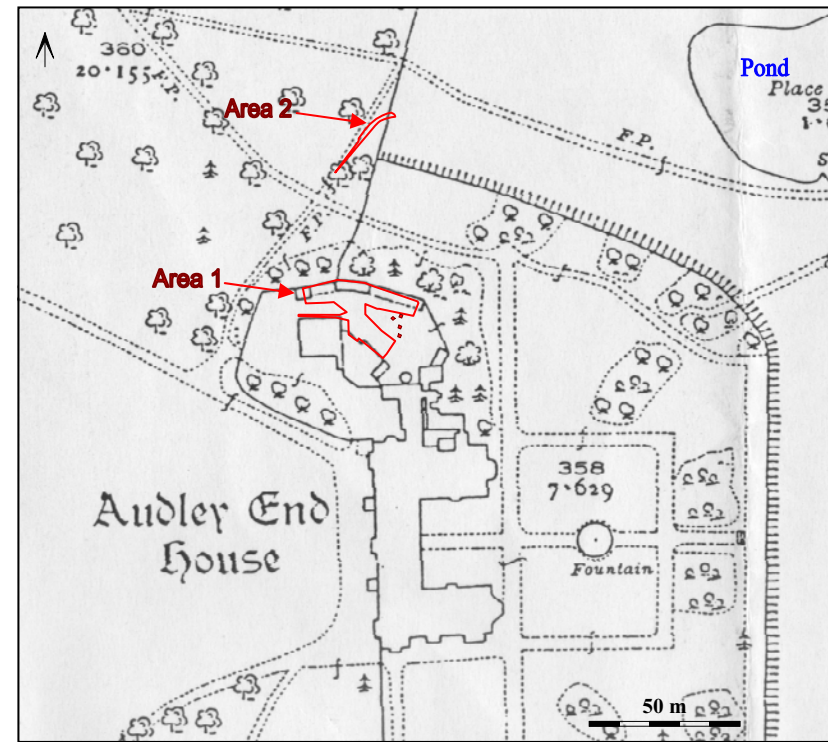
- 2004 Ordnance Survey map
- Walls seen on 1921 Ordnance Survey map
- Walls/boundaries seen on the 1688 and 1725 maps. Positions are approximate.
- · · · · Pond seen on the 1688, 1725, and 1762 maps. Position approximate.

Figure 12: Area 2: All features

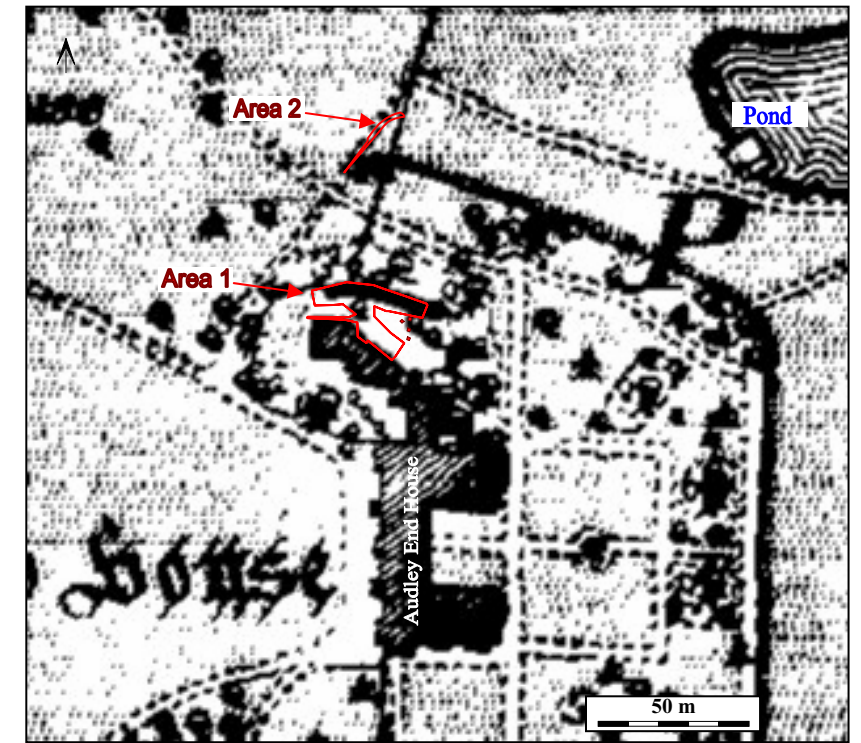
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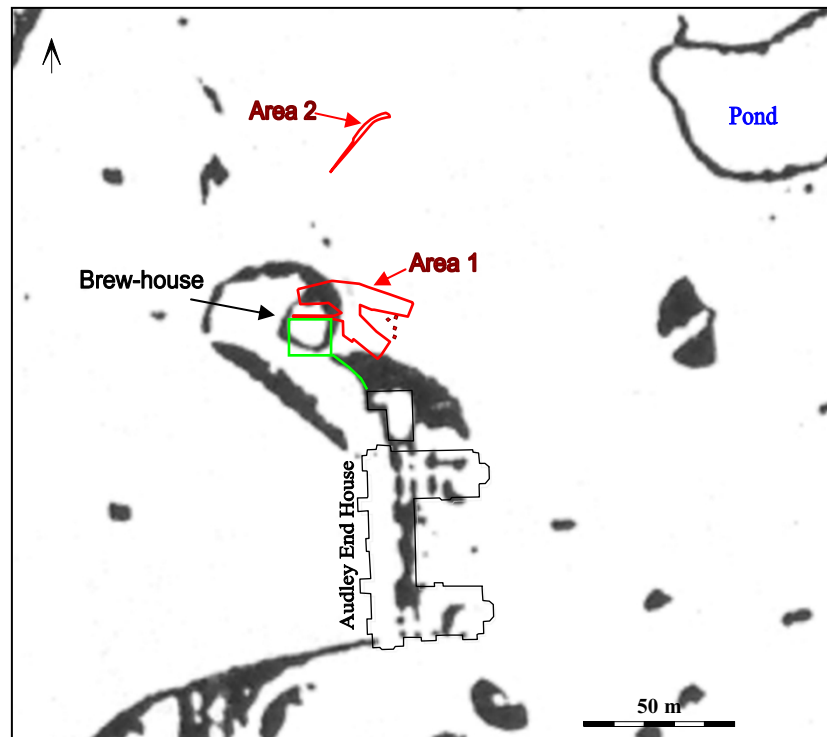
2004 Ordnance Survey Landline map, with modifications derived from surveys conducted by Albion Archaeology and RH Partnership Architects



1921 Ordnance Survey map.

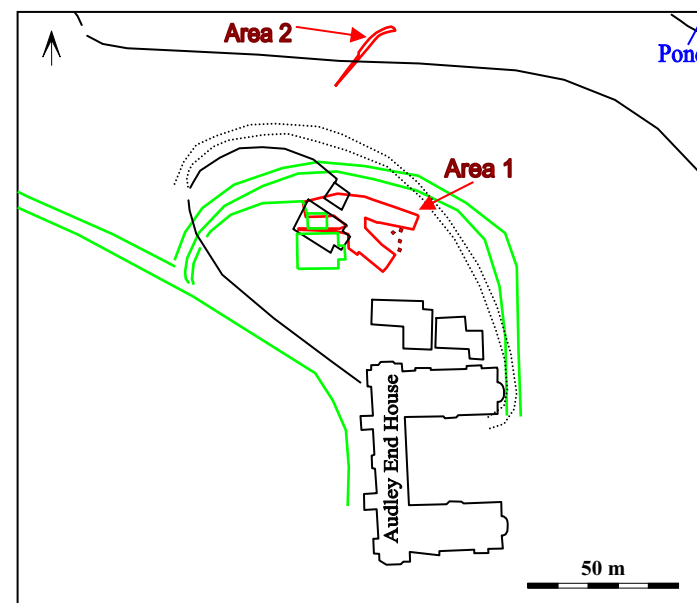


1881 Ordnance Survey map.



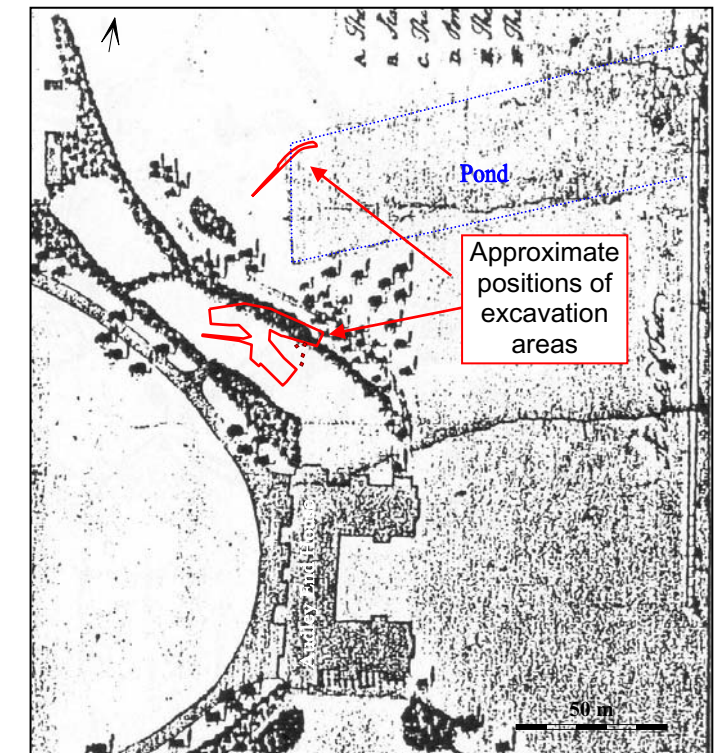
- Approximate shape of buildings.
- Rectified position of brew-house

1783 map by T. Warren.
With interpreted brew-house position overlaid.
Scale approximate.



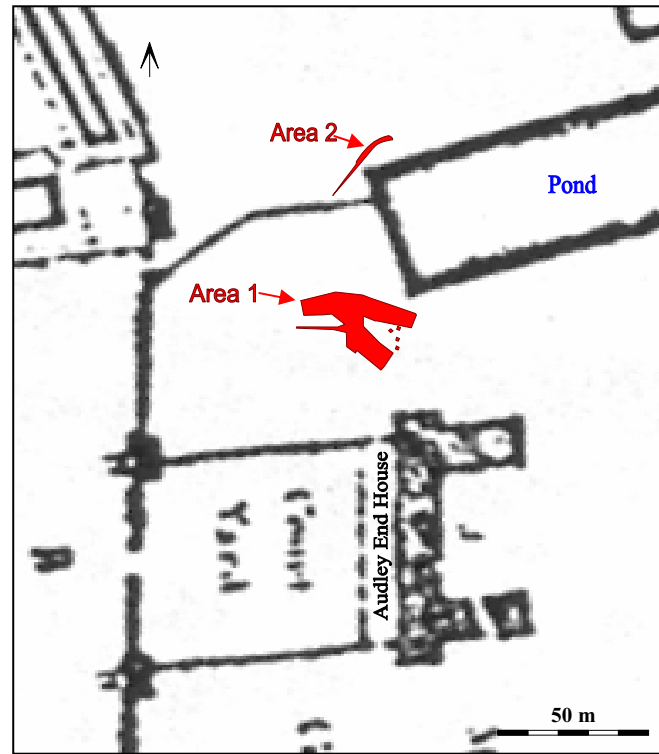
- Traced from map
- Rectified positions of buildings and paths

Tracing and interpretation of estate map dated to 1763 or later
Scale approximate.

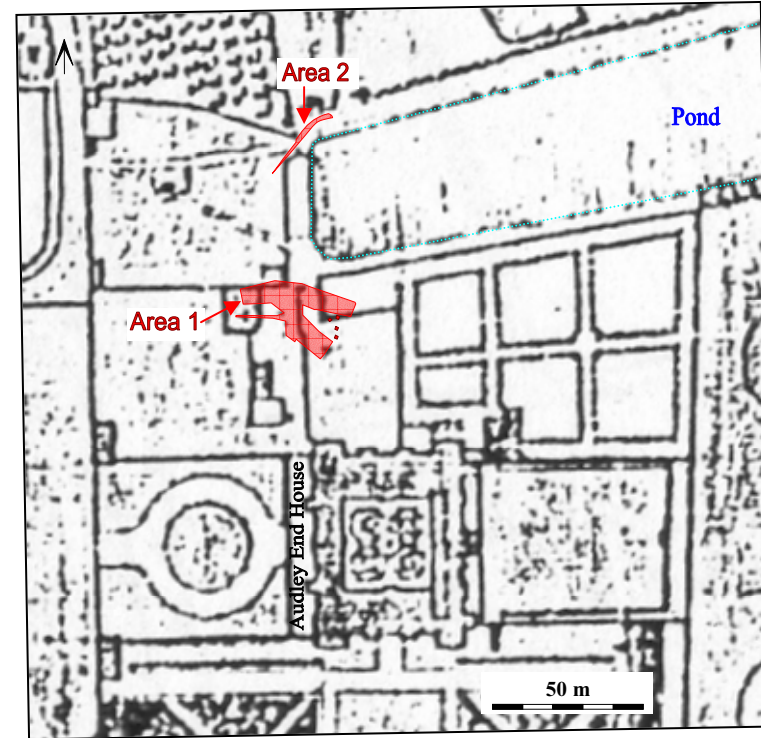


1762 map by Brown
Scale approximate.

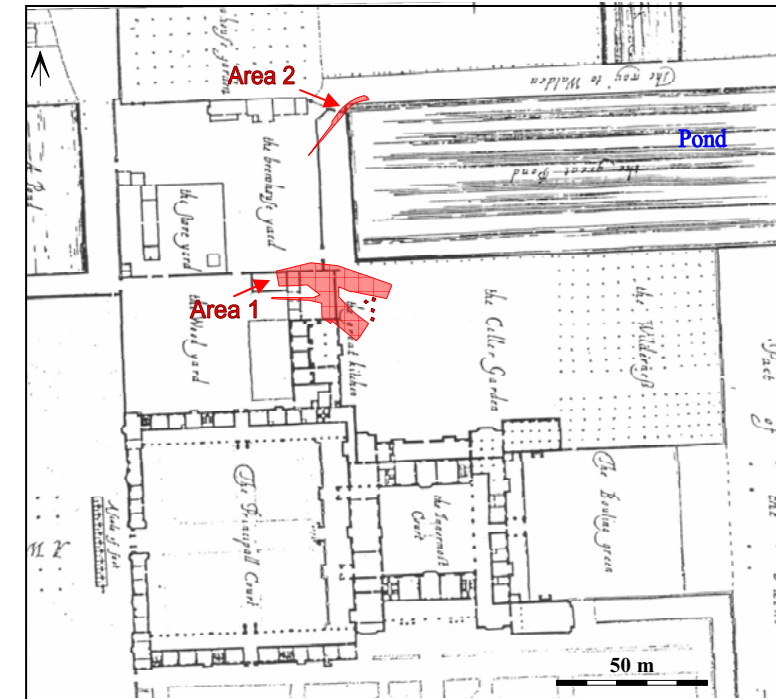
Figure 13: Map regression (2004 – 1762)
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1753 map by F. Warren.
Positions of trenches and scale very approximate.



1725 map by Bridgeman
Scale approximate.



1688 map by Winstanley
Scale approximate.



1666 map by Sargeant, not to scale. Approximate positions of areas shown
Note: North to left.



Copy of pre-1605 map. Approximate positions of areas shown
Note: North to left.

Figure 14: Map regression (1736 – pre-1605)
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Plate 1: General view of service yard prior to works



Plate 2: Wet laundry external elevation



Plate 3: External view of wet laundry (view)



Plate 4: External view of wet laundry (view



Plate 5:



Plate 6:



Plate 7:



Plate 8:



Plate 9:



Plate 10:



Plate 11:



Plate 12:



Plate 13:



Plate 14:



Plate 15:



Plate 16:



Plate 17:



Plate 18: