

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:  
23 HILL VIEW, BUCKLAND, HERTFORDSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 3/11/0150/FP  
NGR: TL 35575 33770  
AAL Site Code: BUCK 12  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-128701



Report prepared for Mr Chris Harrington

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number 2012051

June 2012



The  
Authority on  
Archaeological  
Planning  
Services



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### Document Control

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## Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mr Chris Harrington to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for an extension and porch at 23 Hill View, Buckland in Hertfordshire.
- The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, close to the line of the Roman road Ermine Street, and within the historic core of the medieval and later settlement of Buckland.
- The groundworks exposed two pits or ditches sealed by a chalk rubble spread that may represent the remnants of a yard surface associated with farm buildings that occupied the site until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The surface was sealed by a subsequent sequence of dumped deposits associated with the construction of the existing dwelling. A small group of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material from the site is likely to date the former farm buildings.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr Chris Harrington to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for the construction of an extension and porch at 23 Hill View, Buckland in Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1994, revised 2001 and 2008), the regional guidelines in '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed ([www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740](http://www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740)).
- 1.3 The documentary archive will be submitted to Hertford Museum within twelve months of the completion of the project.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The village of Buckland straddles the A10 main road between the towns of Royston and Buntingford. The village lies approximately 6.5km to the south of Royston and 52km to the north of central London, in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire District Council. The proposed development area is located in the central part of the village, to the west of the A10, and is centred on NGR TL 35575 33770.
- 2.2 The local superficial geology consists of chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation which seals a bedrock geology comprising the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 In response to a proposal for the construction of a '*single storey side and rear extensions and a front porch*' at 23 Hill View, Buckland (Planning Application Reference 3/11/0150/FP), the Planning Authority placed a condition on consent requiring that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording be carried out. The works comprised the monitoring of all groundworks associated with the scheme and the recording of any archaeological remains exposed, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record' (see Figure 1).
- 3.2 This approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), which was in place when the planning condition was issued, and with the guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, which superseded PPS 5 in March 2012 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site is in Area of Archaeological Significance No.4, as identified in the Local Plan (Tinniswood 2011). This includes the medieval and later settlement of Buckland, which may have Anglo-Saxon origins.
- 4.2 The A10 main road is thought to follow the line of Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to York, where it passes through Buckland. Finds from the Roman period have been recovered from the village (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter HHER) Reference 1345) and as the development site is located immediately next to the Roman road there is the potential for Roman remains to be present at the site.
- 4.3 The village church, St Andrew's, is located to the east of the A10 where the core of the medieval village is most likely to have been centred. It dates to at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century with additions to the church having been made in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (HHER Reference 4334). The church may however have earlier origins as the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD records Buckland as being a relatively wealthy manor, held by a man named Osbern. The entry includes mention of a priest, perhaps suggesting that there was already a church by this time (Williams and Martin 2002, 374).
- 4.4 A circular earthwork approximately 100m to the south-west of the church, now filled in, is undated. It has been interpreted as a homestead moat but could be a more complex feature and may have Saxon or Norman origins (HHER Reference 1940).
- 4.5 Buildings of note within the village include Buckland House, located on the eastern side of the A10, which was originally the manor house of the manors Buckland and Horne. The present structure is likely to be of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date although the manor house is recorded as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century (HHER Reference 15513). Painter's Farm is a two story timber framed house, parts of which date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, with later alterations (HHER Reference 11109).
- 4.6 A moated site, Bull Moat (HHER Reference 1941), of probable medieval date, is located approximately 200m to the north of the site, on the northern edge of the village.
- 4.7 The 1878 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) shows that the development site was formerly occupied by several buildings and yards, the date of which are unknown. A smithy lay to the south, partly under the present buildings of numbers 22 and 22b Hill View.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Martin Campbell of AAL on Thursday and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked 360° mini excavator fitted with a 600mm toothless bucket. All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and deposits to determine the stratigraphic sequence.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All

photographs incorporated scales, with an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.

- 5.3 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 6. Two digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. ditch [21]).

## 6.0 Results (Figures 2 – 4)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit in the western half of the site consisted of a modern concrete surface 10/18, which sealed a dump of brick rubble and other modern building materials, 09. This layer appears to have been dumped during construction of the existing house and store building, as it abutted the wall of the store to the west. Layer 09 sealed a sequence of dumped deposits comprising clayey sand 02, chalk rubble spread 03, clayey sand 04 and sandy clay 05. Layer 04 produced three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM); two of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date and one of 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 6.2 Further to the east, the uppermost deposit was a garden soil 13/32 which was up to 0.6m thick and sealed a made ground layer 31, over a chalk rubble spread 19/30, which contained a single 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century brick fragment. Topsoil 13 sealed a small pit [11], containing a backfill of brown sandy clay 12 that produced a fragment of brick and a fragment of floor tile, both of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 6.3 Approximately 2m east of pit [11] the topsoil sealed a larger pit [25] with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained four distinct dump deposits, 26 – 29, with a single mid 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd and one brick fragment of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date recovered from its secondary deposit 27.
- 6.4 Layer 30 sealed two steep sided pits or ditches [21] and [23]. Both had diffuse edges and contained similar fills of blueish grey silty clays, 22 and 24 respectively. Fill 22 produced a single 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century blackware pottery sherd and a fragment of cattle skull.
- 6.5 At the base of the sequence was the natural chalky till geology 01.

## 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions (Figure 5)

- 7.1 Four cut features were recorded during the watching brief, with a small group of artefactual evidence from three of these features dating the activity to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The stratigraphically earliest features were two pits or ditches [21] and [23] of uncertain function, sealed by a chalk rubble spread that was evident throughout the site. This spread was sealed by a number of subsequent dumped deposits.
- 7.2 Historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the area (Figure 5) shows a range of what appear to be farm buildings along the southern boundary of the site and along the road frontage to the east. These are shown from the time of the 1878 map, but had been cleared by the time of the 1960 map that shows the existing building on the site. It seems probable that the chalk rubble spread may be the remains of a former yard surface associated with the farm buildings, with the overlying dumps of material and the later pits [11] and [25] reflecting the demolition and levelling of the site and subsequent construction of the existing buildings in the mid 20<sup>th</sup>



century. The dating evidence recovered from the site is therefore likely to reflect the broadly post-medieval date of the former buildings on the site rather than the deposits and cut features themselves.

- 7.3 There was no evidence for any activity of Roman date associated with the line of the adjacent Ermine Street, or for the road itself, suggesting that it closely follows the line of the existing road or lies further to the east.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has demonstrated that there are a small number of post-medieval to early modern features and deposits of limited archaeological significance on the site.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr Chris Harrington for this commission and the co-operation of the groundworkers during the fieldwork is also acknowledged.

## **10.0 References**

AAL 2012, *Specification for archaeological monitoring and recording: 23 Hill View, Buckland, Hertfordshire*, unpublished document Allen Archaeology Limited

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Tinniswood, A., 2011, *Design Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording. 23 Hill View, Buckland*, Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, unpublished planning document

Williams A. and Martin G.H., 2002, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, Penguin, London



## Appendix 1: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view of the development area, looking west from the main road



**Plate 2:** Wall of existing store to left of shot with demolition deposit 09 overlying a sequence of dumps, including chalk rubble spread 03, looking north. Scale is 0.5m



**Plate 3:** Pit [25] cutting chalk rubble spread 30 and underlying pit or ditch [21], looking south-south-east. Scale is 0.5m

## Appendix 2: Post-Roman Pottery and CBM Archive

By Dr Anne Irving, The Ceramic Consultancy

### Pottery Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Full name | Form         | NoS | NoV | W (g) | Part | Description       | Date             |
|-----|-------|-----------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|------|-------------------|------------------|
| 22  | BL    | Blackware | Small hollow | 1   | 1   | 3     | BS   |                   | Mid 17th to 18th |
| 27  | BL    | Blackware | Jar          | 1   | 1   | 15    | Rim  | Round everted rim | Mid 17th to 18th |

### Ceramic Building Material Archive

| Cxt | Cname    | Full name              | Fabric                                  | NoF | W (g) | Description  | Date         |
|-----|----------|------------------------|---|-----|-------|--|--------------|
| 04  | BRK      | Brick                  | Gault                                   | 1   | 91    | Corner, 40mm thick                                   | 18th to 20th |
| 04  | MODDRAIN | Modern Drain           |   | 1   | 66    | Abraded  | 16th to 18th |
| 04  | PNR      | Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile |   | 1   | 15    | Flat roofer  | 16th to 18th |
| 12  | BRK      | Brick                  | Oxidised medium to coarse sandy + flint | 1   | 660   | Abraded; 50 x 95mm; handmade                         | 16th to 18th |
| 12  | FLOOR    | Floor Tile             | Oxidised medium to coarse sandy + fe    | 1   | 744   | Very abraded on all surfaces; 35 x 105 x 120+mm; ?ID | 16th to 18th |
| 27  | BRK      | Brick                  | Oxidised medium to coarse sandy + flint | 1   | 139   | Abraded; handmade                                    | 16th to 18th |
| 30  | BRK      | Brick                  | Oxidised medium to coarse sandy + flint | 1   | 1351  | Half brick; handmade; 65 x 105 x 135+mm              | 16th to 18th |

### Context Dating

| Cxt | Date             | Comment                |
|-----|------------------|------------------------|
| 04  | 18th to 20th     | Date on CBM            |
| 12  | 16th to 18th     | Date on CBM            |
| 22  | Mid 17th to 18th | Date on a single sherd |
| 27  | Mid 17th to 18th |                        |
| 30  | 16th to 18th     | Date on CBM            |

### Summary

A small collection of post-medieval pottery and brick was retrieved from contexts 12, 22, 27 and 30. A later brick came from 04. All of the material is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage. No further work is required on the assemblage.

## Appendix 3: Animal Bone Report

By Jen Wood

### Introduction

A total of 1 (30g) fragments of animal bone were recovered during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Ltd at on land at 23 Hill View, Buckland, Hertfordshire. The animal bone assemblage was recovered from ditch [21].

### Results

The remains were of a moderate overall condition, averaging at grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996). The bone was heavily stained with a brown colouration, suggesting that the remains had been recovered from a waterlogged or organic rich deposit.

No evidence of butchery, pathology, burning or gnawing was noted on any of the remains.

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

| Cut | Context | Taxon  | Element        | Side | Number | Weight | Comments |
|-----|---------|--------|----------------|------|--------|--------|----------|
| 21  | 22      | Cattle | Skull- frontal | X    | 1      | 30     | Fragment |

As can be seen from Table 1, cattle was the only species identified.

The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site.

### References

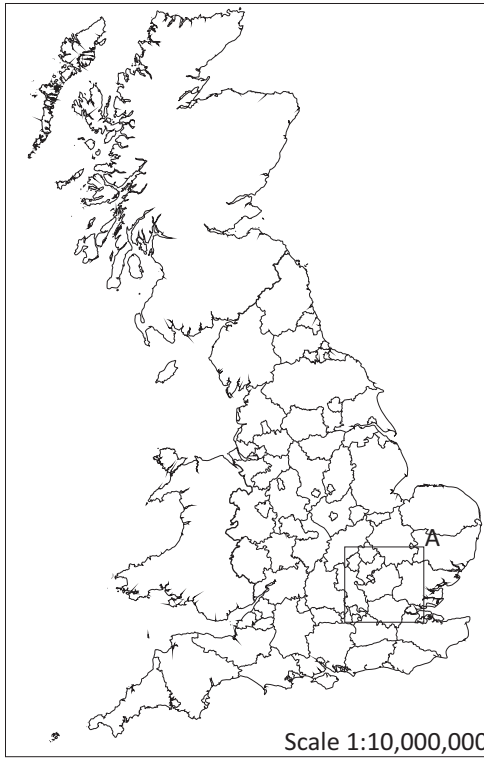
Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge



## Appendix 4: Context Summary List

CBM = Ceramic Building Material (e.g. brick and tile)

| Context | Type      | Description   | Interpretation                               |
|---------|-----------|---|--|
| 01      | Layer     | Chalky till, sealed by 02   | Natural geology                              |
| 02      | Layer     | Friable reddish brown clayey sand with small fragments of chalk, sealed by 03 seals 01                                      | Made ground                                  |
| 03      | Layer     | Friable off white chalk and flint rubble, sealed by 04 seals 02. Same as 15, 19 and 30                                      | Made ground of chalk rubble. Group number 14 |
| 04      | Layer     | Friable dark to mid grey clayey sand with unsorted stones and rare CBM inclusions sealed by 05 seals 03. Same as 16 and 31  | Made ground. Group number 20                 |
| 05      | Layer     | Firm dark yellow sandy clay with occasional flint and small stone inclusions, seals 04, sealed by 09                        | Re-deposited natural                         |
| 06      | Cut       | N-S aligned linear with moderately steep sides and concave base, contains 07 and 08   | Wall foundation cut                          |
| 07      | Fill      | Yellowish brown concrete  | Concrete foundation in [06]                  |
| 08      | Structure | Brick wall  | Brick wall                                   |
| 09      | Layer     | Brick rubble, sealed by 10 seals 05   | Demolition dump, same as 17                  |
| 10      | Layer     | Concrete  | Modern concrete surface                      |
| 11      | Cut       | Moderately steep sided feature with irregular concave base, contains 12, cuts 19  | Small modern pit                             |
| 12      | Fill      | Light brownish grey malleable silty clay and crushed chalk with CBM and stone inclusions. Sealed by 13                      | Backfill of [11]                             |
| 13      | Layer     | Loose dark greyish brown silty clay. Seals 12 and 19  | Modern topsoil, same as 32                   |
| 14      | Group     | Group number for layers 03, 15, 19 and 30   |  |
| 15      | Layer     | Friable off white chalk and flint rubble, sealed by 16, seals 01. Same as 03, 19 and 30                                     | Made ground of chalk rubble. Group number 14 |
| 16      | Layer     | Friable dark to mid grey clayey sand with unsorted stones and rare CBM inclusions, sealed by 17 seals 15. Same as 04 and 31 | Made ground. Group number 20                 |
| 17      | Layer     | Brick rubble, sealed by 18 seals 16   | Demolition dump, same as 09                  |
| 18      | Layer     | Concrete, seals 17  | Concrete surface                             |
| 19      | Layer     | Friable off white chalk and flint rubble, sealed by 13 seals 01. Same as 03, 15 and 30                                      | Made ground of chalk rubble. Group number 14 |
| 20      | Group     | Group number for layer 04, 16 and 31  |  |
| 21      | Cut       | Cut feature with steep sloping sides, contains 22   | Possible ditch or pit                        |
| 22      | Fill      | Soft dark bluish grey silty clay with rare organic inclusions and small stones  | Natural silting of [21]                      |
| 23      | Cut       | Possible E-W linear with steep sloping sides, contains 24   | Possible ditch or pit                        |
| 24      | Fill      | Soft dark bluish grey silty clay with rare organic inclusions and small stones  | Natural silting of [21]                      |
| 25      | Cut       | Feature with moderately steep sides and concave base, contains 26, 27, 28 and 29  | Cut of probable pit                          |
| 26      | Fill      | Soft dark grey sandy clay with small stones and rare charcoal flecks, sealed by 27  | Primary backfill of [25]                     |
| 27      | Fill      | Firm mix of orange and black clay with stones and chalk sealed by 28 seals 26   | Secondary backfill of [25]                   |
| 28      | Fill      | Loose and coarse black clayey sand with construction debris, sealed by 29 seals 27  | Tertiary backfill of pit [25]                |
| 29      | Fill      | Soft dark brownish yellow gritty clay sealed by 32, seals 28  | Quaternary backfill of pit [25]              |
| 30      | Layer     | Friable off white chalk and flint rubble, sealed by 31 seals 29. Same as 03, 15 and 19                                      | Made ground of chalk rubble. Group number 14 |
| 31      | Layer     | Friable dark to mid grey clayey sand with unsorted stones and rare CBM inclusions, sealed by 32 seals 30. Same as 04, 16    | Made ground. Group number 20                 |
| 32      | Layer     | Friable dark greyish brown sandy clay with debris, seals 31   | Modern topsoil, same as 13                   |



**Figure 1:** Site location with development site shown in red  
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|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Site Name | 23 Hill View, Buckland |
| Scale     | 1:1250@A4              |
| Drawn by  | Maria Piirainen        |
| Date      | 27/06/2012             |

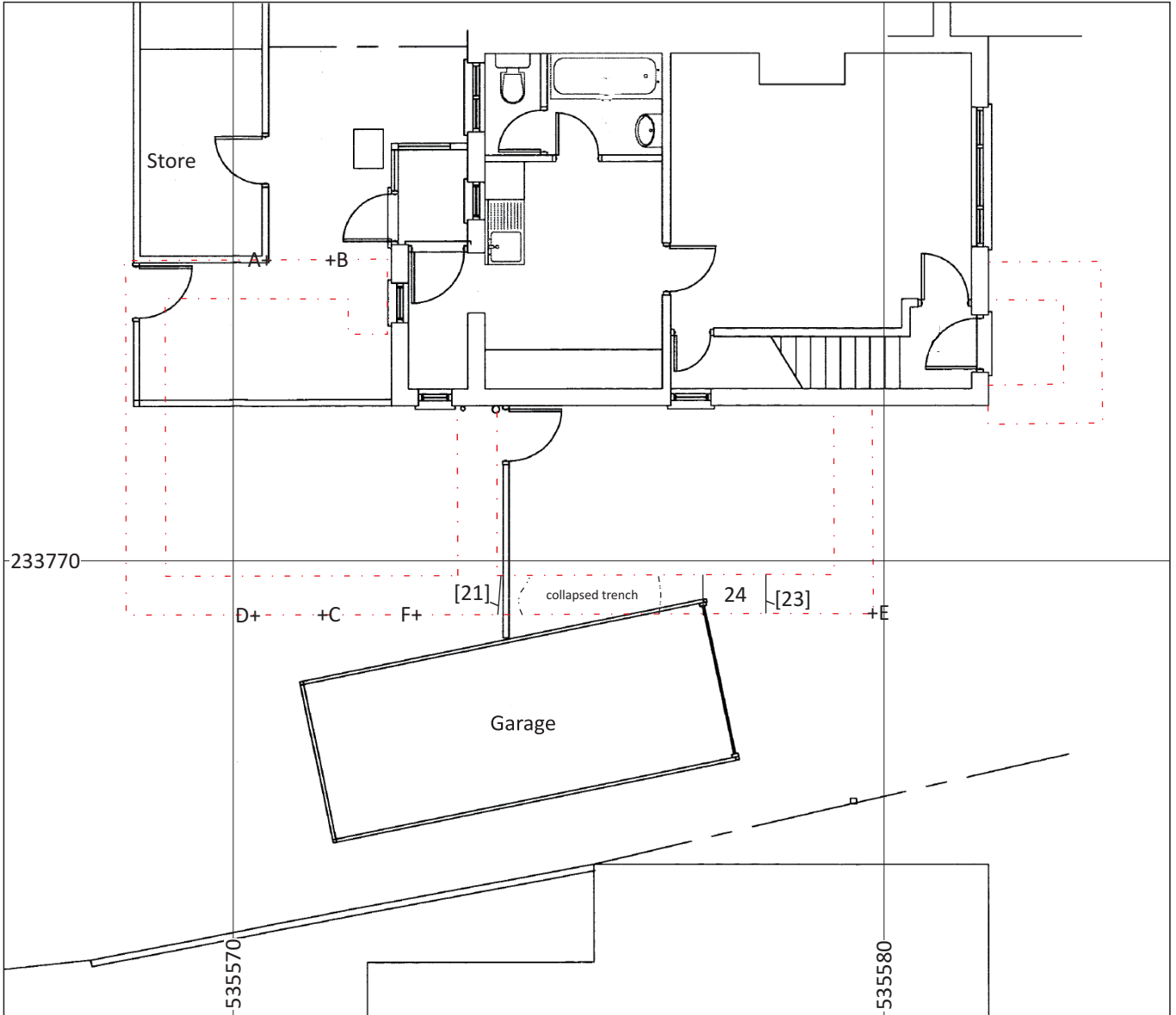
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**Figure 2:** Site location plan with the site outlined in red



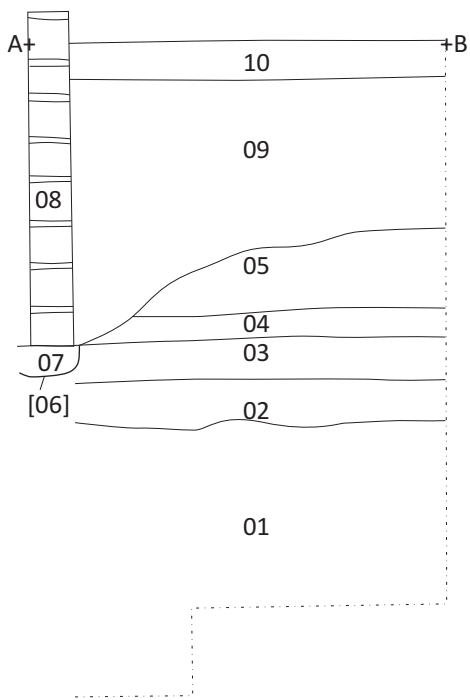
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|-----------|------------------------|
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| Scale     | 1:100 @A4              |
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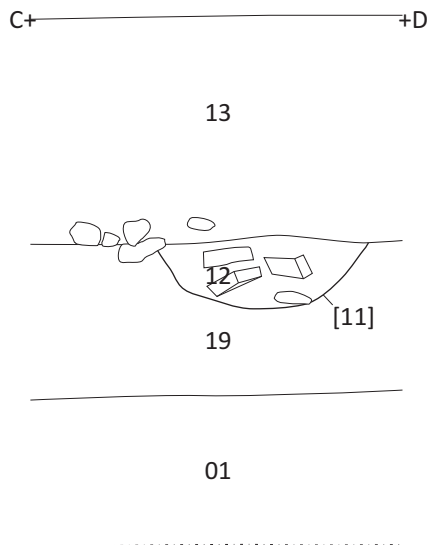
**Figure 3:** Site plan with monitored footings in red. Sections shown on Figure 4



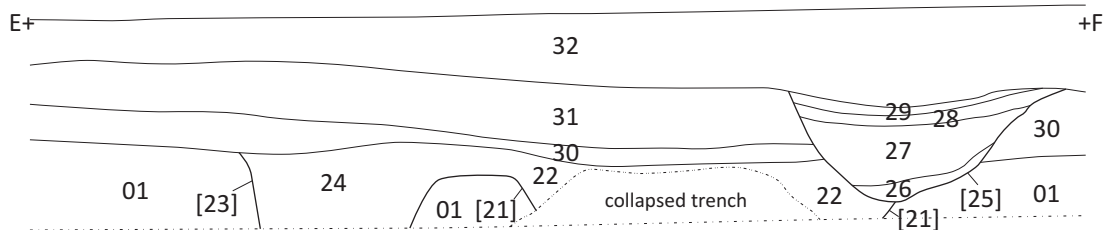
South Facing Section



North Facing Section



North Facing Section



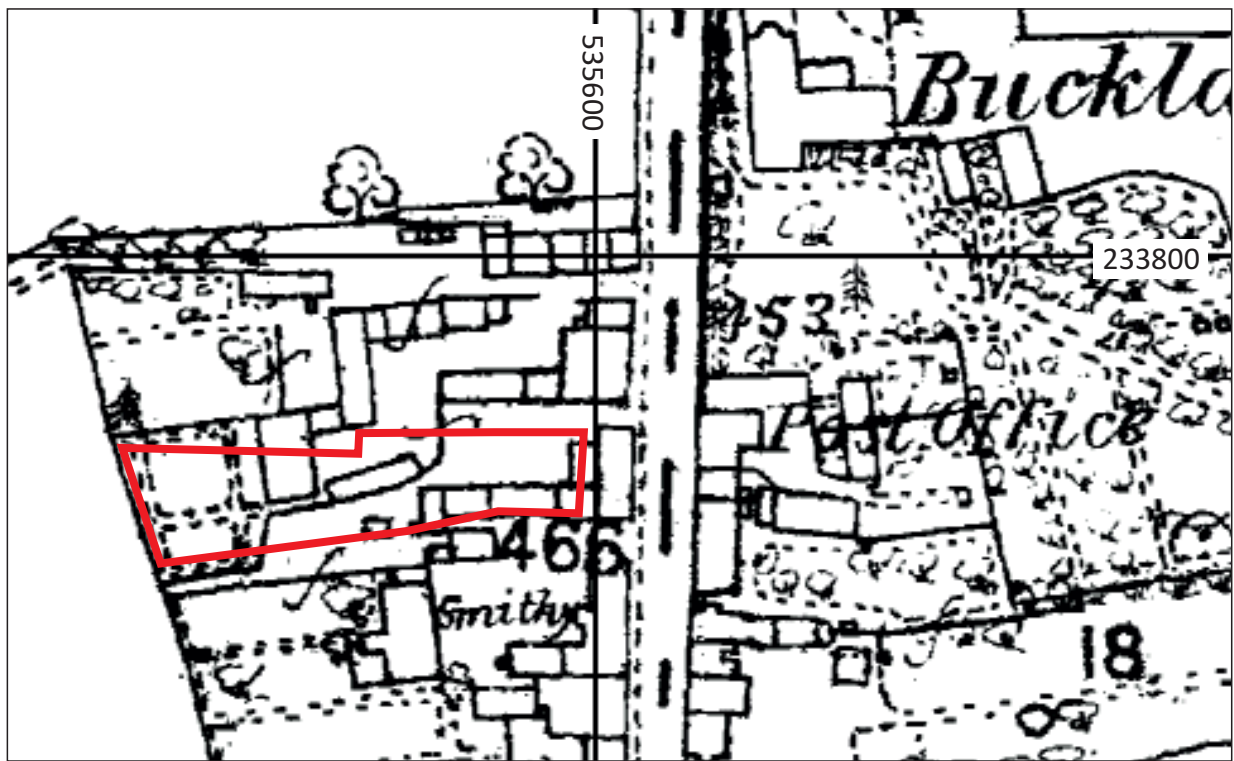
|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Site Name | 23 Hill View, Buckland |
| Scales    | 1:20 and 1:50 @A4      |
| Drawn by  | Maria Piirainen        |
| Date      | 27/06/2012             |

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Figure 4: Section drawings, located on Figure 3



1878



1960

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Site Name | 23 Hill View, Buckland |
| Scale     | 1:1,000 @A4            |
| Date      | 27/06/2012             |

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Figure 5: Ordnance Survey maps from 1878 and 1960 with the site outlined in red



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