

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD REPORT:
3 THE STREET, FURNEUX PELHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 3/11/1854/FP
NGR: TL 4305 2797
AAL Site Code: FPTS 12
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-129377



Report prepared for Mr and Mrs Roberts

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number 2012054

July 2012



The
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Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Roberts to carry out a programme of archaeological investigation and recording as a condition of a planning permission for a new extension at 3 The Street, Furneux Pelham in Hertfordshire.
- The site lies in an area of archaeological interest close to the historic medieval core of Furneux Pelham.
- The excavated area exposed a single pit containing pottery and ceramic building material dating from the medieval to early modern periods, and a modern service trench.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.0 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Roberts to undertake archaeological strip, map and recording at 3 The Street, Furneux Pelham in Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for a new extension.
- 1.1 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field excavations*' (IfA 1995, revised 2001 and 2008) and the English Heritage documents '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (English Heritage 2006) and '*Management of Archaeological Projects*' (English Heritage 1991). A brief was prepared for the works (Tinniswood 2011) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2011). All appropriate English Heritage guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).
- 1.2 The documentary and physical archive will be submitted to Bishop's Stortford Museum within six months of the completion of the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Furneux Pelham is situated in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire District Council, approximately 49km north-north-east of central London and 8km north-west of central Bishop Stortford. The proposed development area is located in the centre of the village, on the north side of The Street, and centres on NGR TL 4305 2797.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area consists of undifferentiated Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formation, with a superficial geology of Lowestoft Formation diamiction (glacial till/boulder clay) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 East Hertfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the '*demolition of single storey side extension and single garage, the construction of two storey side and rear extension with double garage to no. 3 and associated works including the cladding of no. 4 to match*' (Reference 3/11/1854/FP). Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording in advance of development, to fully characterise the nature and extent of the surviving archaeological resource.
- 3.2 This was in line with the recommendations of Planning Policy Statement 5 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010) which was in place at the time of the decision. This was superseded in March 2012 by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being '*Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded as Area of Archaeological Significance No. 65, relating to the historic settlement of Furneux Pelham. The village appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 AD as the manor of *Pelehem*, which included the three villages of Furneux Pelham, Stocking Pelham and Brent Pelham. The lands were owned at this time by the Bishop of London, but comprised several estates tenanted to local landowners (Williams and Martin 2002).
- 4.2 The parish church of St. Mary is located c.100m to the east of the site. It is mainly of 15th century date, but with a 13th century chancel and 16th century south chapel. A church is documented in the village in the 12th century so it is likely that this is a replacement for an earlier building (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) Reference 4338).
- 4.3 Recent archaeological investigations at Cranston Cottage, immediately to the south of the site exposed two broadly east – west parallel ditches, one of which contained pottery of 9th to 13th century in date, and one of which contained pottery and floor tile of late medieval to post-medieval date. A single unstratified Roman pottery sherd was also recovered (Rothwell 2006).
- 4.4 At White Lion House, c.100m to the south-east, fieldwork exposed three ditches, producing quantities of medieval pottery as well as a possible rotary quern, one abraded Roman pottery sherd and two Roman tile fragments (HHER Reference 17628).
- 4.5 Approximately 150m to the east-south-east, archaeological works at the school identified an east – west ditch at the school entrance that contained 12th to 14th century pottery. Four further ditches and two undated pits were recorded during further works on the site. Two of the ditches also contained medieval material whereas two represented the continuation of existing boundaries (HHER Reference 15561).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by a team of experienced field archaeologists on Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th May 2012. The strip, map and record methodology was applied to the maximum available area of the development. This was constrained by the presence of a greenhouse on the west edge of the site, by the floor slab of a former garage to the south, an inspection chamber with associated live services to the south-east, and the former extension to the east. This extension had been demolished prior to the commencement of the site works, with the remains of the demolished structure left in-situ. The area around the extension had been reduced significantly to below the level of the natural geology prior to its construction, therefore the likelihood of archaeological deposits surviving here were deemed to be particularly low (see Figure 2).
- 5.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked mini excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The soil was removed in spits no greater than 0.1m in depth until the first archaeologically significant horizon or natural geology was exposed. Due to the lack of space available on site the excavated area had to be stripped and investigated in two portions, with the northern half of the site being completed and backfilled before stripping the southern half of the site.

- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological features and deposits were made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Each deposit was allocated a unique two-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2. All plans and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. Numbers within square brackets refer to cut features (e.g. service trench [09]).
- 5.4 A photographic record was maintained throughout the fieldwork, and a selection of these images is included in Appendix 1.

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit was a modern garden soil 01 comprising c.0.5m thick moderately loose mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay. It sealed a subsoil or levelling layer 02, c.0.24m thick moderately compact mid brown orange sandy clay with occasional gravel and flint. A modern service trench [09] was cut through this layer running on a broadly south-west to north-east alignment through the southern part of the excavated area.
- 6.2 In the north-western corner of the excavated area was a sub-circular pit with steep concave sides [04]. This feature was excavated to a maximum depth of c.1.4m below the existing ground surface. Excavation ceased at this stage on health and safety grounds. Four fills were identified in the feature. The lowermost fill encountered, 05 was a natural silting deposit of compact dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint and gravel. Overlying this deposit was a thin lens of loose greyish brown gravel and silty clay 06, sealed by a dumped deposit of greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional gravel, 07. This deposit produced ten sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 16th century to the late 19th/early 20th century. Five fragments of 13th to 15th century roof tile were also recovered, along with a single 18th to 19th century clay tobacco pipe stem. The final fill consisted of a thin lens of re-deposited natural 08.
- 6.3 At the base of the sequence was the natural geology, an orange/brown sandy clay 03.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 Other than a modern service trench, the strip, map and record revealed a single cut feature comprising a pit of late post-medieval to early modern date in the north-west corner of the excavated area. This produced a mixed assemblage of material ranging in date from 13th to 15th century roof tile to 19th to 20th century pottery from a single dumped deposit. The pit appears to have been open for a period of time before this dumping event occurred and local knowledge suggests that the area was used for dumping rubbish prior to the construction of the existing dwellings at 3 and 4 The Street.
- 7.2 Historic map evidence indicates that the site formed part of a small agricultural plot or garden towards the end of the 19th century, with tree-lined boundaries (Figure 4). The pit lies close to the western boundary of this plot. The limited artefactual evidence within the feature suggests it may not have been initially excavated for the disposal of refuse; it is possible therefore that the feature represents a pit that was dug to remove a tree on this boundary, which has subsequently silted up partially and then been backfilled with a sequence of dumped deposits.
- 7.3 The area is annotated 'Bowyer's' at this time and is likely to have been part of a small estate focussed on Bowyers Cottage, an extant 17th century house to the south-east of the site. A later

map from 1921 shows the enclosure as an orchard, and by the time of the 1960 map the area forms part of a larger plot to the rear of the adjacent Cranston Cottage. The existing buildings of 3 and 4 The Street post-date the 1960 map. These buildings and the demolished extension within the footprint of the new groundworks were constructed on a flat terraced area that is significantly lower than the level of the natural geological deposits in the excavated trench, which will have caused significant truncation to any archaeological deposits that may have been present in this area.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The archaeological scheme of works was on the whole appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposed development. The small scale of the site and numerous obstructions limited the area available for investigation, although the excavated area has shown that the site has a negligible archaeological potential.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mr and Mrs Roberts for this commission.

10.0 References

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, London, Department for Communities and Local Government

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Tinniswood, A., 2012, *Design brief for archaeological investigation via strip, map and record and archaeological monitoring of associated groundworks*, Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit, unpublished planning document

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

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Northern part of the excavated area, looking south. Scales are 1m



Plate 2: East facing section of pit [04], looking west. Scales are 1m



Plate 3: Southern end of excavated area, showing modern service trench, looking north. Scales are 1m

Appendix 2: Post Roman Pottery and Ceramic Building Material Report

By Dr Anne Irving

Post-Roman Pottery

Table 1, Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Decor.	Description	Date
07	BS	Brown stoneware	Straight sided jar	1	1	50	BS			19th to early 20th
07	DURT	Dutch-type wares	Jar/ bowl	1	1	15	Base		Abraded	16th?
07	ENPO	English Porcelain	Ornate vessel	4	1	45	BS	Sponge blue on moulded body		Late 18th to 19th
07	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Bowl	1	1	52	Rim		Everted rim; worn inner rim edge	16th to 18th
07	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	50	Base			16th to 18th
07	LERTH	Late Earthenware	Garden pot	1	1	8	BS			16th to 18th
07	PEARL	Pearlware	?	1	1	3	BS		Flake	Late 18th to 19th

Ceramic Building Material

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
07	CBM	Ceramic Building Material	1	7	Flake	?
07	PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile	5	113	Flat roofers	13th to 15th

Spot Dating

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comment
07	19th to early 20th	

Appendix 3: Clay Tobacco Pipe Report

By Maria Piirainen

A single 18th – 19th century clay tobacco pipe stem weighing 4g was collected from fill 07 of pit [04]. The fragment is from the lower part of the stem which would have connected to the bowl; there are no marks or signs of glazing. The pipe was is in a moderately fresh condition suggesting it has not travelled far from its primary context of deposition.

Table 1: Clay Tobacco Pipe Archive

Context	Plain Stem	Marks and comments	Date	Weight (g)	Total
07	1	Moderately fresh	18 th -19 th century	4	1
Total	1			4	1

Recommendations

The material is stable and should be retained for long-term storage within the project archive.

References

- Crossley, D., 1990, *Post-medieval archaeology in Britain*. Leicester University Press, Leicester
- Flood, R.J., 1976, *Clay Tobacco Pipes in Cambridgeshire*. The Oleander Press, Cambridge
- Oswald. A., 1975, *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. British Archaeological Reports **14**, 52-55. Oxford

Appendix 4: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Moderately loose mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay with frequent demolition rubble, seals 02	Modern garden soil
02	Layer	Moderately compact mid brown orange sandy clay with occasional gravel and flint inclusions, sealed by 01, seals 03	Subsoil or levelling layer
03	Layer	Compact orange brown sandy clay, with gravel and occasional flint nodules, sealed by 02	Natural geology
04	Cut	Semicircular feature with steep sloping sides, contains 05, 06, 07 and 08	Cut of pit
05	Fill	Compact dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint and gravel, sealed by 06	Lowermost silting of pit [04]
06	Fill	Moderate loose greyish brown gravel and silty clay, sealed by 07 seals 05	Secondary backfill of pit [04]
07	Fill	Greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional gravel, sealed by 08 seals 06	Tertiary backfill of pit [04]
08	Fill	Orange brown clayey sand and gravel, seals 07	Final backfill of pit [04]
09	Cut	NE-SW aligned linear with vertical sides, contains 10	Cut of modern service
10	Fill	Compact dark grey brown and orange sandy clay	Pipe and backfill of modern service

Appendix 5: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet

Site name and address: 3 The Street, Furneux Pelham, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Herts
Village/Town: Furneux Pelham		Parish: Furneux Pelham
Planning application reference: 3/11/1854/FP		
HER Enquiry reference: n/a		
Funding source: Private developer/landowner		
Nature of application: Full planning permission for extensions to existing dwelling		
Present land use: in use as a dwelling		
Size of application area: 0.1ha		Size of area investigated: 90 sq.m
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 4305 2797		
Site code (if applicable): FPTS 12		
Site director/Organization: Allen Archaeology		
Type of work Strip, map and record		
Date of work:	Start: 28/5/12	Finish: 29/5/12
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Bishops Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos: n/a		Periods represented: post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results: Stripping of an area within footprint of proposed development exposed a thick garden soil, sealing a single sub-circular pit producing a mixed group of post-medieval to early modern pottery, and a modern drain.		
Author of summary: Chris Clay		Date of summary: 15/5/13

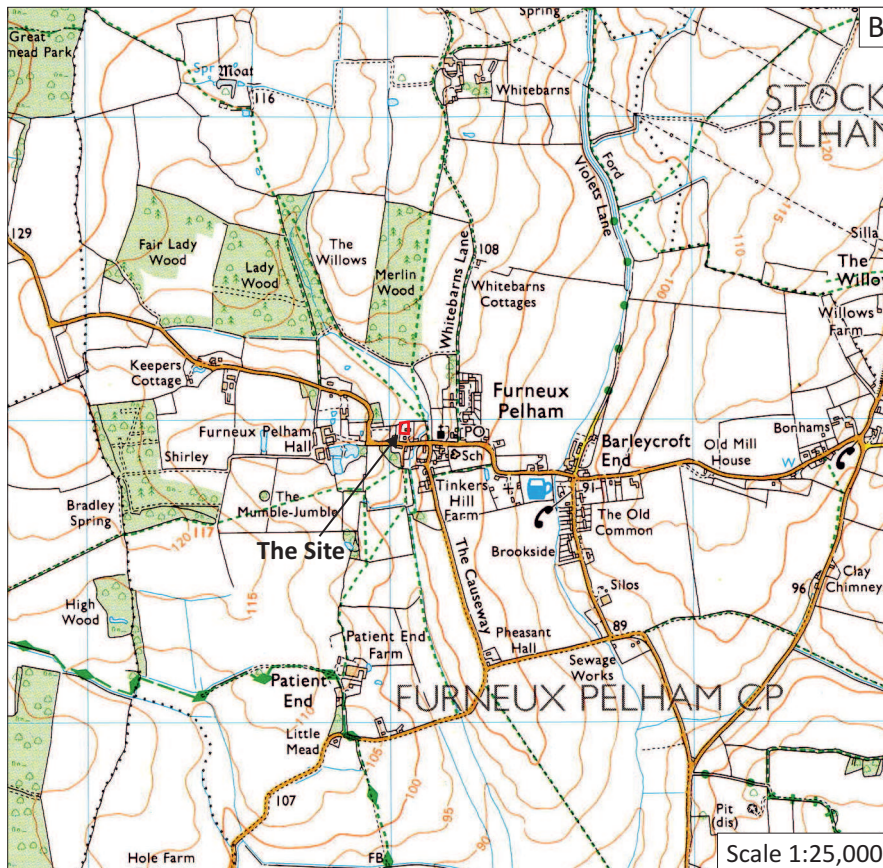
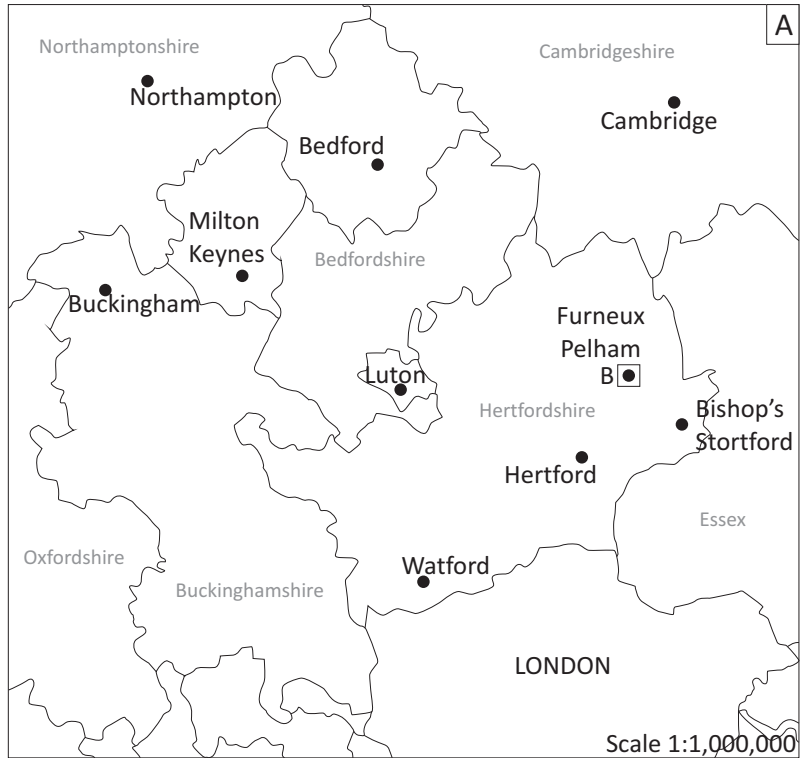
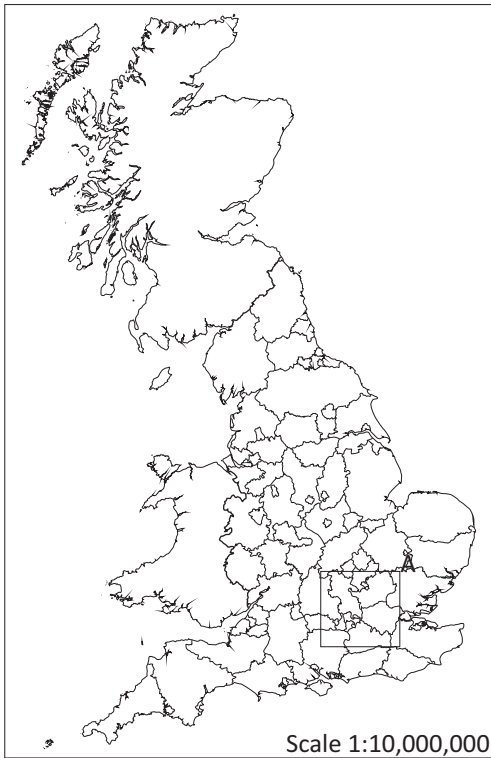


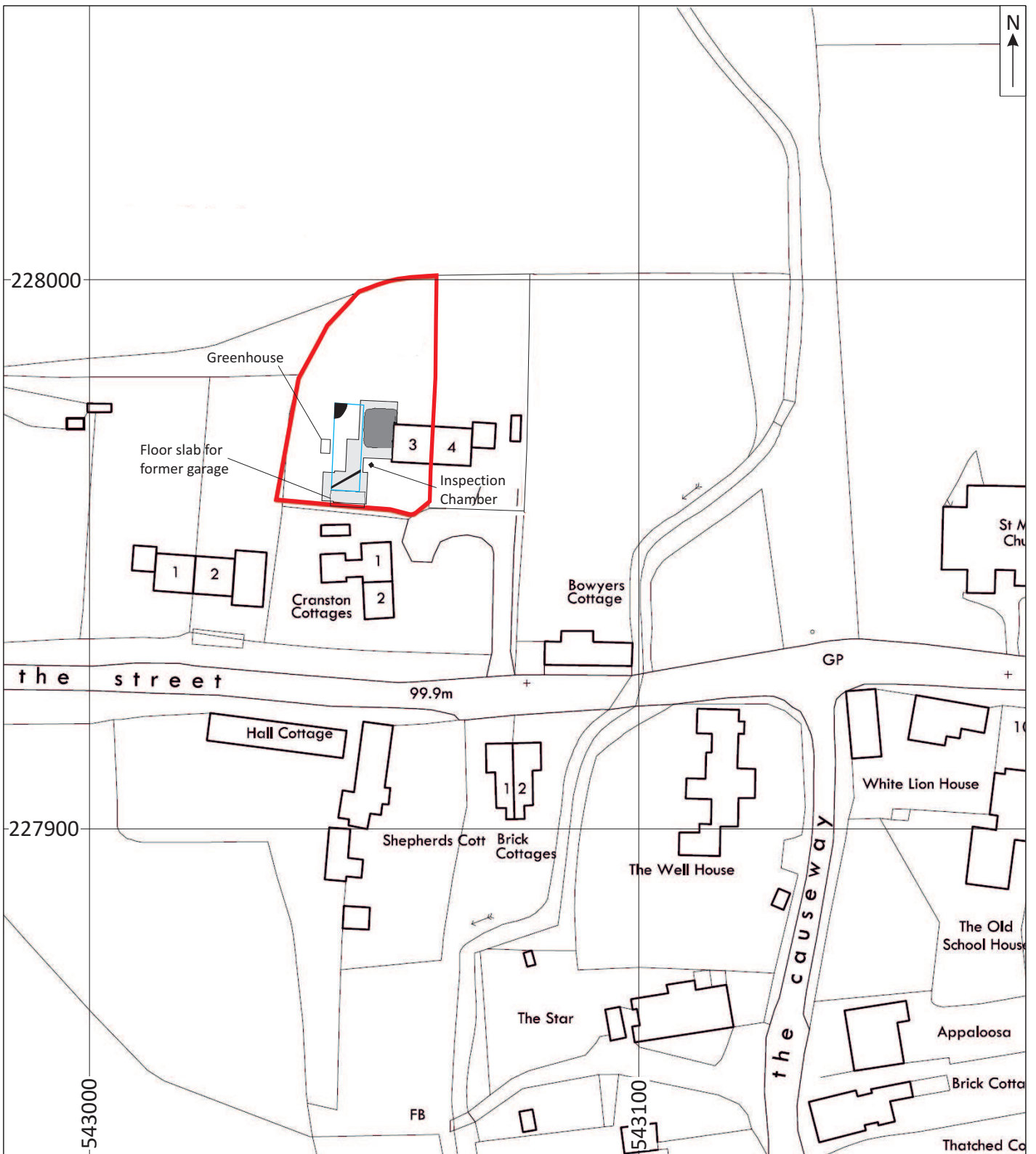
Figure 1: Site location, with the site shown in red
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Key	
	Area of excavation
	Archaeological features
	Former extension
	Proposed dwelling

Site Code	FPTS 12
Scale	1:1000 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	04/07/2012

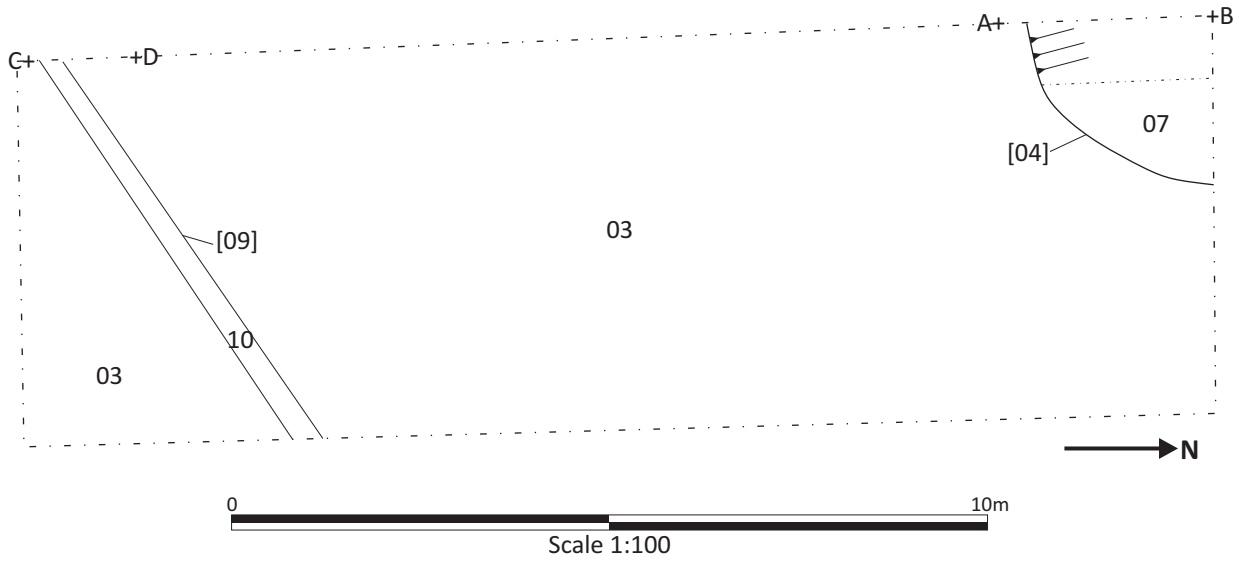
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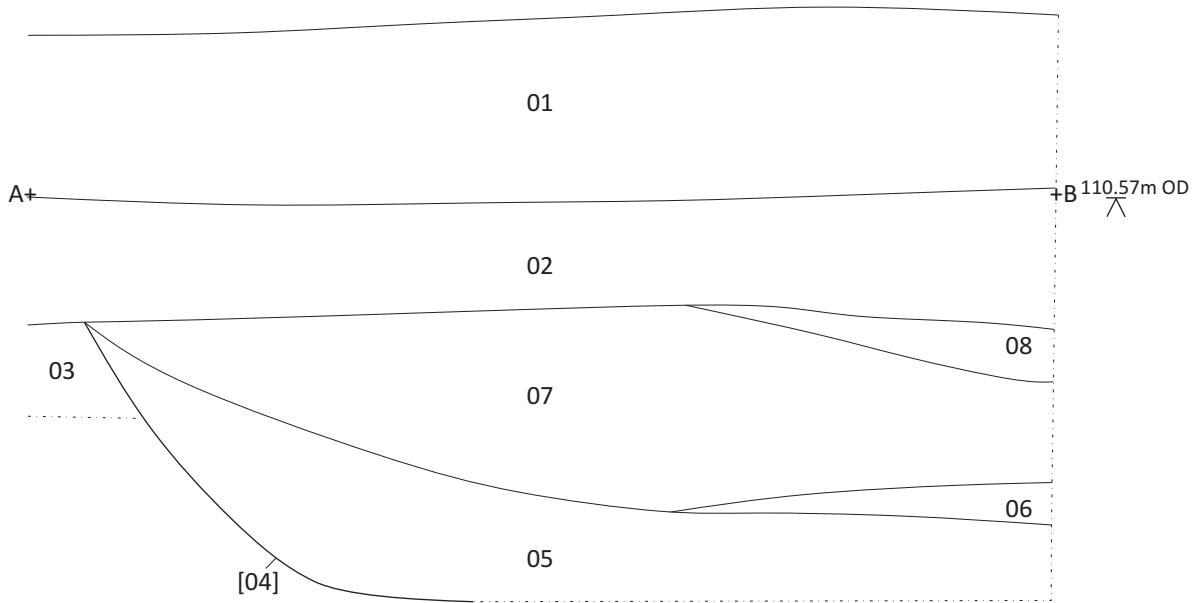
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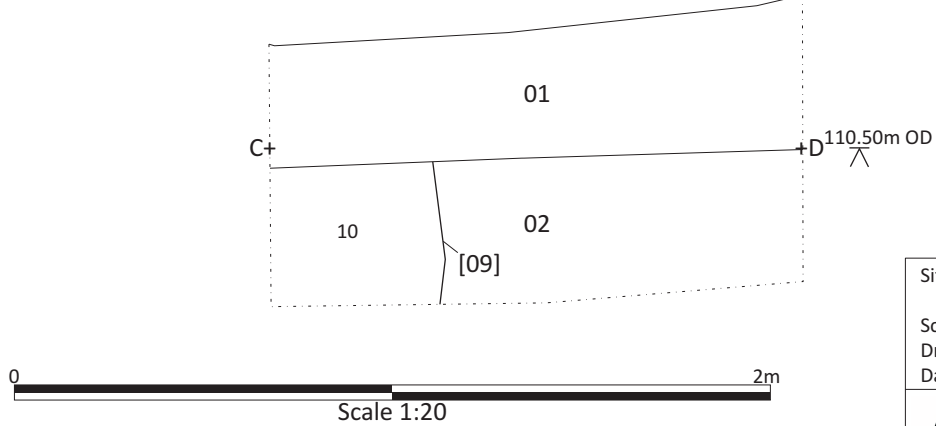
Figure 2: Site location plan showing site outlined in red and excavated area in blue, with archaeological features in black



East Facing Section



East Facing Section



Site Code	FPTS 12
Scale	1:100 and 1:20 @A4
Drawn by	M.Piirainen
Date	04/07/2012

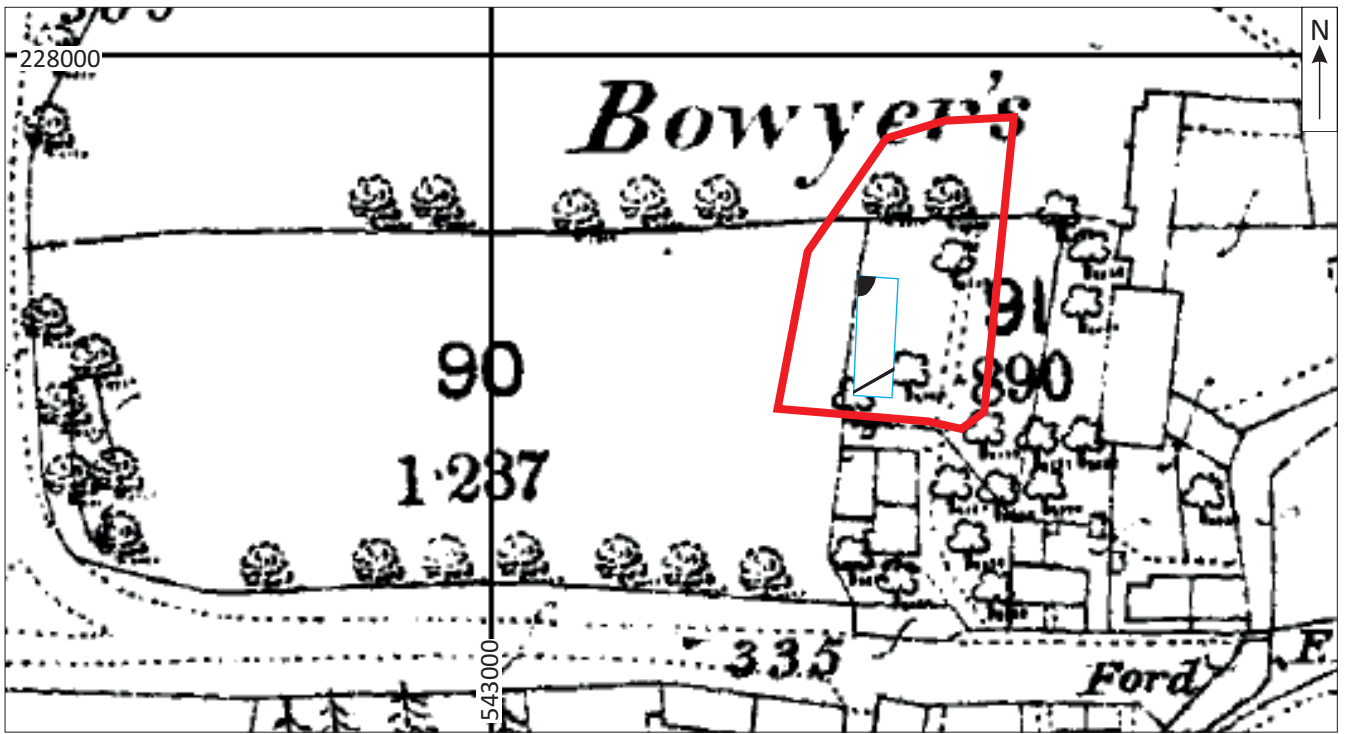
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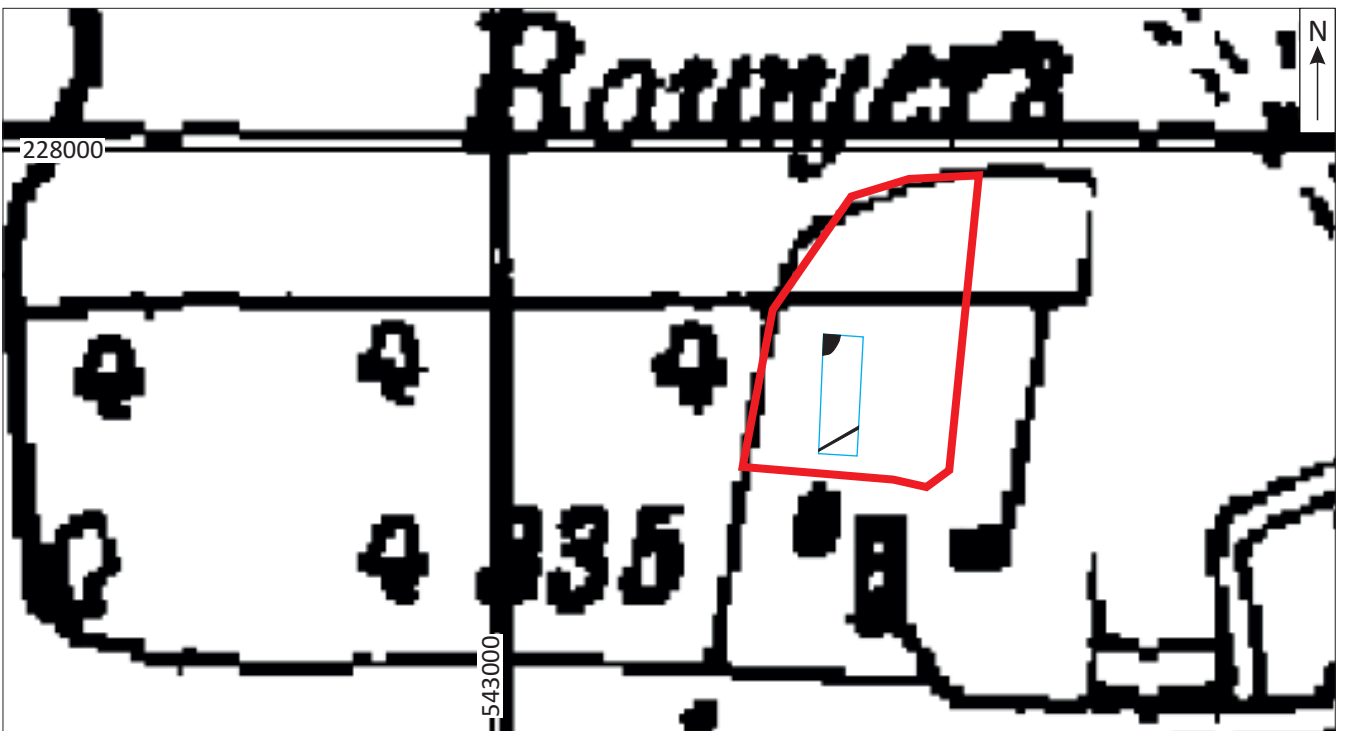
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Figure 3: Plan and sections of the excavation area



1878



1960



Site Code	FPTS 12
Scale	1:1000 @ A4
Drawn by	M. Piirainen
Date	04/07/2012

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Figure 4: Ordnance Survey maps from 1878 and 1960 with the site in red and excavated area in blue



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