

**The Blue Bell Inn, 2 Whitecross Street, Barton-upon-Humber,
North Lincolnshire, DN18 5EU**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

Approx. central NGR: TA 03337 21789
Planning app.: PA/2011/0569
NLMS site code: BNFD
PCAS Site code: BBBM 14
PCAS Job No.: 1272

Prepared for

Qudos Homes Ltd.

by

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Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Site location and description	4
3.0 Geology and topography	4
4.0 Planning background	4
5.0 Archaeological and historical background	5
6.0 Methodology	6
7.0 Results	6
8.0 Conclusion	7
9.0 Effectiveness of methodology	8
10.0 Acknowledgements	8
11.0 Site Archive	8
12.0 Bibliography	8
Appendix 1: Colour Plates	
Appendix 2: Context Register	
Appendix 3: Finds Catalogue	
Appendix 4: Pottery report	
Appendix 5: OASIS summary	

Figures

- Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000
- Fig. 2:** Site location plan OS map 2nd edition, sheet VII.9. Site outlined in red and outbuilding in yellow. Scale unknown.
- Fig. 3:** Site location plan, 1933 OS map. Site outlined in red. Scale unknown.
- Fig. 4:** Site location plan, 1956 OS map. Site outlined in red. Scale unknown.
- Fig. 5:** Site location plan, 1971 OS map. Site outlined in red. Scale unknown.
- Fig. 6:** Site plan of initial works scale 1:500
- Fig. 7:** Sections of initial works at scale 1:20
- Fig. 8:** Plan of ground reduction area at scale 1:200 and location plan at 1:500
- Fig. 9:** Sections of ground reduction area at 1:50 & 1:20
- Fig. 10:** Plan of footings at scale 1:200
- Fig. 11:** Sections of large pit [112] at scale 1:20
- Fig. 12:** Section of large pit [112] at scale 1:20
- Fig. 13:** Plan of footings after further groundworks at scale 1:200
- Fig. 14:** Representative sections and construction trench [111] at scale 1:20

Fig. 15: Plan of known drainage excavations at scale 1:500

Fig. 16: Modern pit [118] at scale 1:20

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of private flats and dwellings at The Blue Bell Inn, Whitecross Road, Barton-upon-Humber.

Barton lies at the northern end of a prehistoric trackway, and evidence of activity here has been dated back to the Neolithic. Permanent settlement appears to have commenced in the mid-late Iron Age, with enclosures of this period being identified on the eastern edge of the town. A Roman town emerged at a crossing of the River Humber, and the remnants of a high status building have been recovered from the vicinity. As a port on the Humber estuary, Barton developed as a large Saxon and medieval town, only falling into decline in the 19th and 20th centuries as transport methods moved away from the waterways.

The Blue Bell Inn is a Grade II Listed Building dating from the 18th century. Previous archaeological investigation of the carpark identified medieval activity, possibly structural, and features relating to the post-medieval inn.

During ground reduction on the east of the site, two east-west parallel brick walls and an associated cobble floor of post-medieval date were observed. A construction cut and robbed stone wall associated with a compact chalk layer was recorded in the footing excavations. A large pit was observed to predate the robbed wall but has not been otherwise dated. A small corpus of pottery retrieved from redeposited topsoil proved to be of modern date, with a single sherd dating to the 17th-18th century.



Figure 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000. Site location shown in yellow. OS Explorer map sheet 281. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Qudos Homes Ltd to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all groundworks associated with a scheme of residential development.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1)

Barton-upon-Humber is a town and parish situated on the south bank of the River Humber in North Lincolnshire. Central Hull lies c. 9km to the northeast on the north bank of the River, while Scunthorpe lies c. 18km to the southwest of the town. The modern A15 leading to the Humber Bridge defines the western boundary of the town.

The development site is close to the centre of Barton, on the corner of Whitecross Street and Barrow Road (A1077). The Blue Bell Inn fronts onto Whitecross Street. The plot measures c. 1250m², with the former pub standing in the southwest corner of the site.

The central NGR of the site is TA 03337 21789.

3.0 Geology and topography

Barton lies on the south bank of the River Humber, where the bedrock and overlying drift geology is varied. The area of the development site lies on a bedrock geology of Welton Chalk, laid down in the Cretaceous Period. The chalk formed in shallow, warm seas, where the microscopic remains of plankton were deposited. The overlying geology is recorded as Alluvium, Clay, Silt Sand and Gravel, laid down in former river channels; in this case probably related to the River Humber (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies at approximately 10m OD.

4.0 Planning background

Permission for residential development was granted in November 2011. As The Blue Bell is a Grade II Listed Building, and lies in the historic core of Barton, the permission was subject to the following archaeological conditions:

9.: No demolition, alteration or development shall take place until a heritage asset mitigation strategy, as defined in a written scheme of investigation, has been submitted by the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, at least three months prior to commencement of development, and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The strategy shall include details of the following:

- (i) production of an historic building record in advance of and during demolition and alteration work;*
- (ii) measures to ensure the preservation in situ, or the preservation by record, of architectural and archaeological features of identified importance within the standing buildings and the area of the new build;*
- (iii) methodologies for the recording and recovery of archaeological remains, including artefacts and ecofacts;*
- (iv) post-fieldwork methodologies for assessment and analyses;*
- (v) report content and arrangements for dissemination, and publication proposals;*
- (vi) archive preparation and deposition with recognised repositories;*

(vii) a timetable of works in relation to the proposed development, including sufficient notification and allowance of time to ensure that the site work is undertaken and completed in accordance with the strategy;

(viii) monitoring arrangements, including the notification in writing to the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office, of the commencement of archaeological works and the opportunity to monitor such works;

(ix) a list of all staff involved in the implementation of the strategy, including subcontractors and specialists, their responsibilities and qualifications.

Reason: To comply with policies HE5 and HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan as the listed building and the archaeological remains are heritage assets of significance.

10. The recording of the heritage assets shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings, subject to any variations agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To comply with policies HE5 and HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan as the listed building and the archaeological remains are heritage assets of significance.

11. The heritage asset archive shall be deposited at the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within six months of the date of commencement of the development hereby approved by this permission or such other period as may be agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To comply with policies HE5 and HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan as the listed building and the archaeological remains are heritage assets of significance.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 2-5)

Barton upon Humber appears repeatedly in historic documents dating from the medieval period; the Domesday settlement is recorded as having nearly 200 households, 2 mills and a church (<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/TA0322/barton-upon-humber/>). A ferry crossing of the Humber docked here, which continued throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Medieval Barton was a market town enjoying the additional benefits of being a port on the edge of a flourishing market involved with the Wool Trade, and the town became one of the largest settlements in Lincolnshire in the 19th century, again benefitting from its position on the Humber estuary (NLHER ref: 9000).

The Blue Bell Inn is a Grade II Listed Building (ref: 1083046, NLHER ref: 5303). It was built in the 18th century, one of the earliest buildings on the east side of Whitecross Street, although it is contemporary with other buildings opposite. Historic mapping identifies the Inn, the building in the southwest corner of a long plot. Although it is not clear, there may be additional buildings along the northern and western boundary of the plot, probably the former stables and other outbuildings. The town plan of 1835 also shows buildings along the street front of Barrow Road (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>). These outbuildings were present on the 1956 OS map but were no longer extant by the time of the 1971 OS map (Figs 2-5).

The carpark of the Blue Bell was investigated during a scheme of trial trenching in 1997 (Atkinson, 1997). Natural boulder clay was encountered immediately beneath modern tarmac and hardcore surfaces. An area of hardcore with associated foundation trench, thought to be evidence of a medieval building platform, was identified in the eastern side of the site. A partially exposed pit was the only other medieval feature. An 18th century drain on a north-west-southeast alignment was identified close to the building, thought to be contemporary with the Blue Bell. Two further 18th- 19th century shallow pits were also recorded. Although two of the trenches lay close to the modern street front, no evidence of the buildings on the 1835 town plan was noted. None of the trenches lay in the area of the

outbuildings identified on the 1887 1:2500 OS map of Barton (<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>).

6.0 Methodology

A vegetation strip, using a 360° excavator with a flat-bladed bucket, was carried out as the first stage of groundworks; initial works also included the excavation of Test Pit 1 atop the bund on the east of the site. Subsequently, ground reduction works were carried out on the east of the site in the area surrounding the test pit. The groundworks went to a maximum depth of 1.90m and covered 200m². The same machine was then used to excavate footings trenches for new structures. The trenches were 0.80m wide and a maximum of 1.75m below modern tarmac.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced as Appendix 1.

The initial groundworks were conducted on 6/10/14 and monitored by Michael Rowe (Fig. 6-7). Archaeological monitoring of groundworks continued on the 24/10/14 to 28/10/14. These works comprised of ground reduction and footings excavations which were monitored by Leigh Brocklehurst (Fig. 8-14). PCAS were recalled to the site on 09/07/15 to monitor a short stretch of drainage excavations north of the Blue Bell Inn; this was monitored by Rachel Savage (Fig. 15-16).

7.0 Results

Test Pit 1 (1.20m x 1m) was excavated to a depth of 70cm atop the bund on the east of the site. These excavations revealed natural clay (103) at the base and an overlying mixed demolition layer (102). Redeposited topsoil (101) which formed the bund was directly above this (Fig. 6-7; plate 3). Pottery sherds recovered from (101) ranged from late 17th century to modern, whilst clay pipe fragments were dated to the 19th century.

Ground reduction works carried out in the area of the bund to the east exposed two parallel east-west brick walls, 104 and 107. Associated with both walls was chalk ballast 106 which formed the foundation of a cobble floor 105, which was bounded by the walls. A demolition layer (102) covered the brick walls and the cobble floor (Fig.8-9). Much of the walls and cobble floor were not present in plan as excavations on this part of the site were carried out without archaeological monitoring (plate 6). PCAS staff recorded what remained in section and monitored the remainder of this portion of the groundworks.

Initial trenching carried out on 6/10/14 revealed structural remains and natural clay at the base of the excavations. Deposit (206) was natural clay cut by construction cut [202] which was filled by chalk ballast 203. Overlying this was brick foundation 204 and associated brick floor 205. The brick floor was not observed in plan but was clearly visible in section and considered to be abutting 204 (plate 4). The representative section east of 204 demonstrated demolition layer 207 directly overlying the natural. The demolition layer was in turn covered by modern made ground and tarmac (plate 5). These initial excavations were 1m deep and 19m in length (Fig.6-7).

The area of initial trenching was stripped down by 30cm, after which excavation of the footing trenches began. The trenches commenced 3m east of the Blue Bell structure, with the

furthest extent being 23.5m. Four 'islands' were formed as a result of the trenching with the two nearest the existing structure being approximately 20cm lower than those to the east. On the east side of the footings, construction cut [111] and robbed out stone wall 108 were observed. This was 13.5m in length, covering a surface area of 10.26m² with a maximum depth of 56cm. The construction cut was orientated north-south for 5.0m, then turning 90° west. The feature appeared to extend beyond the southern site boundary, towards Barrow Road. A compact chalk layer (110) was observed within the confines of [111] and recorded as abutting the feature. A demolition layer (109), considered to be the same as (207), was seen to overlie stone wall 108 and chalk layer (110).

A large pit [112] was observed midway along the footings trenches on the south side of the site. The feature extended 3.5m north from the southern edge of the footings with a maximum width of 5m and depth of 80cm. The pit cut natural deposits (114) & (103) and contained a single silty clay fill (113). No artefacts were retrieved from this. The feature was covered by the compact chalk layer (110) and cut by construction trench [111] at its most northern extent, confirming [112] to be an earlier feature than [111].

The representative section of the footings to the north demonstrates modern made ground and tarmac overlying natural clay (103) which in turn covered natural sand (114). This demonstrated the absence of archaeological remains in the north of the footings (plate 14).

A modern pit [118] was observed in drainage excavations north of the existing Blue Bell Inn. The fill of the pit contained demolition rubble of unworked chalk blocks, roof tiles and occasional bricks.

8.0 Conclusion

Outbuildings depicted in Fig. 2 survived until at least 1956 (Fig.4), but by the 1971 OS map these structures had evidently been demolished (Fig.5). The structures were present along the northern border of the site and bordered Barrow Road at the east end. The brick walls 104 & 107 and cobbled floor contained within are likely to be the partial remnants of these outbuildings. No structural remains were extant north of 107, possibly indicating that this wall was the northern extent of the outbuilding. Overlying deposits noted above provide a *terminus ante quem* of the 20th century.

The construction trench [111] of the robbed out stone wall 108 appears in plan to extend beyond the south edge of the site towards Barrow Road. An association between [111] and the purported buildings bordering Barrow Road on the 1835 Town Plan may be tentatively drawn; although no artefacts were recovered from accompanying deposits, thus leaving the structure undated. The form of [111] would suggest the rear of the structure was to the north, whilst the frontage extended beyond the site's boundary. The compact chalk layer (110) confined within the bounds of the wall is indicative of a compacted floor surface.

The large pit [112] was observed to be earlier than the above; however no artefacts were recovered from its fill, thus leaving the feature undated and its purpose unknown.

Demolition material within pit [118] is of a broadly modern date and could be evidence of the 20th century demolition of outbuildings indicated by historic mapping.

The purpose of the outbuildings remains unknown, though it is suggested they may have functioned as a stables. Brick walls 107 and 104 are most likely remnants of the outbuildings, which were demolished before 1971. Whilst there is a lack of dateable evidence for the construction trench [111], its form suggests it relates to the purported buildings bordering Barrow Road on the 1835 Town Plan.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that archaeological remains were not destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Qudos Homes Ltd. for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with the Lincoln City and County Museum ('The Collection') by May 2015.

12.0 Bibliography

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>

Atkinson, D, 1997, Trial excavations on Land to the Rear of Kookies, Barton-upon-Humber. Unpublished report by Humber Archaeology Partnership.

OS Explorer Map, 2012, *Sheet 281: Ancholme Valley: Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Scunthorpe and Kirton in Lindsey*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

Planning documents viewed online 24/7/14 at
<http://www.planning.northlincs.gov.uk/newplanet/planetMain.aspx?refno=PA/2011/0569>

Figure 2: OS map 2nd edition, sheet VII.9
Site outlined in red and outbuilding in yellow

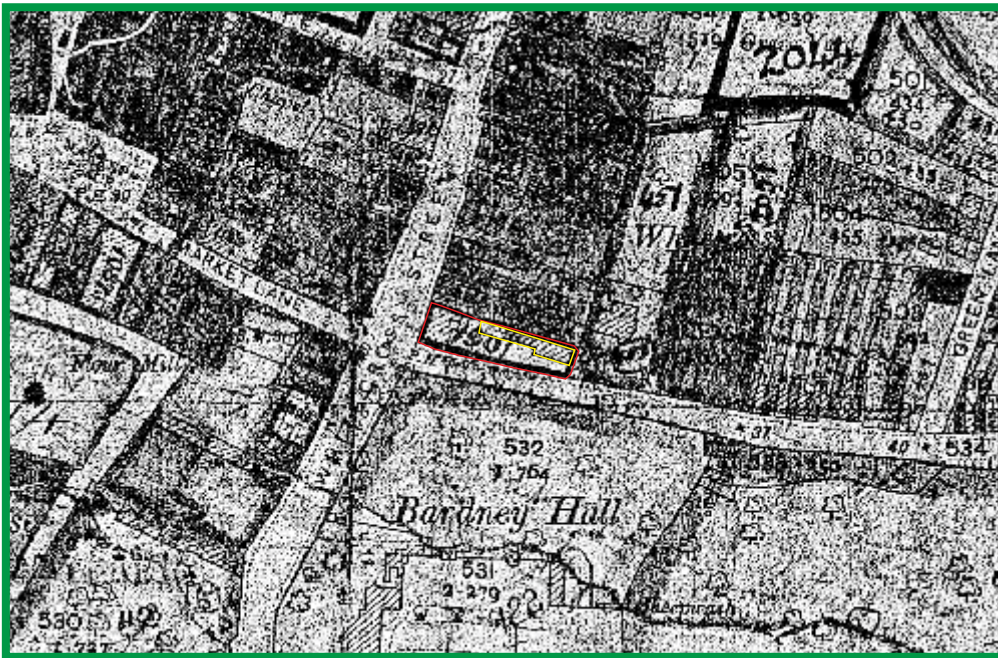


Figure 3: OS map, 1933
Site outlined in red

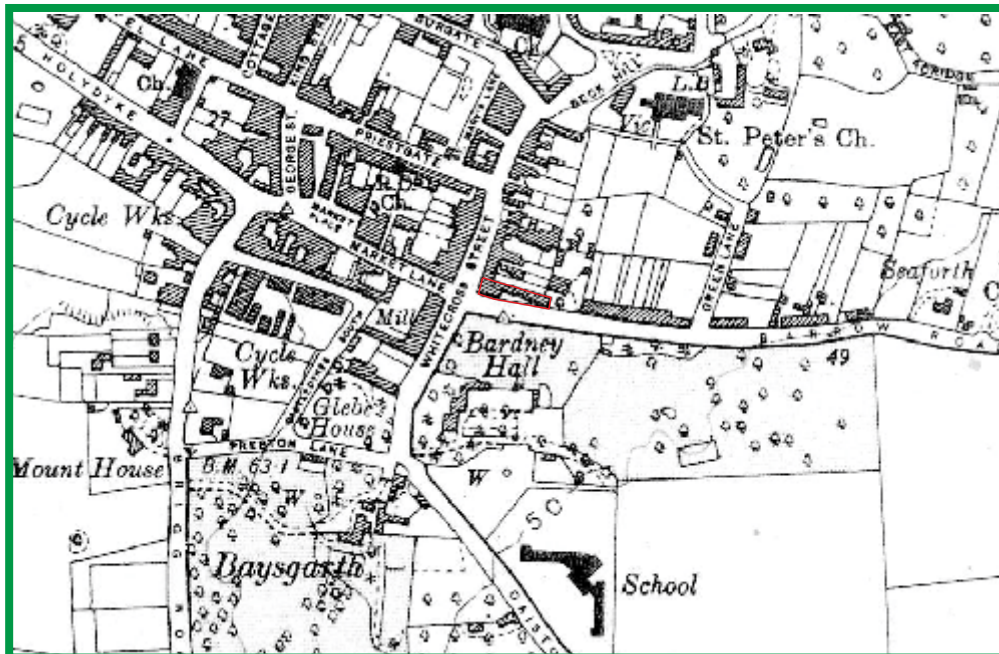


Figure 4: OS map, 1956
Site outlined in red

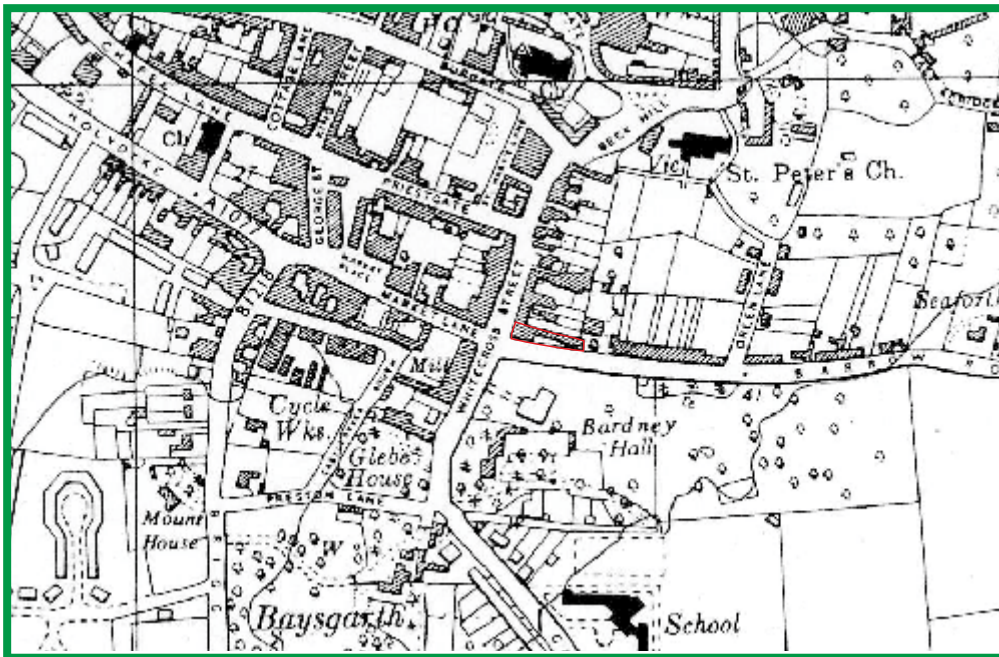


Figure 5: OS map, 1971
Site outlined in red, out building now removed

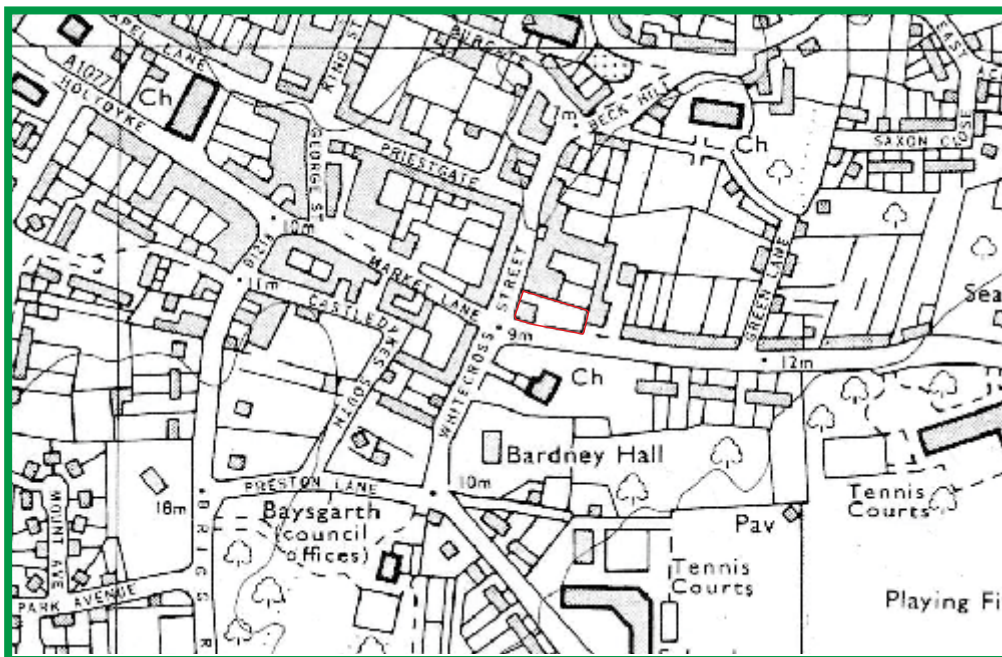


Figure 6: Site plan of initial works on 6/10/14 at scale 1:500

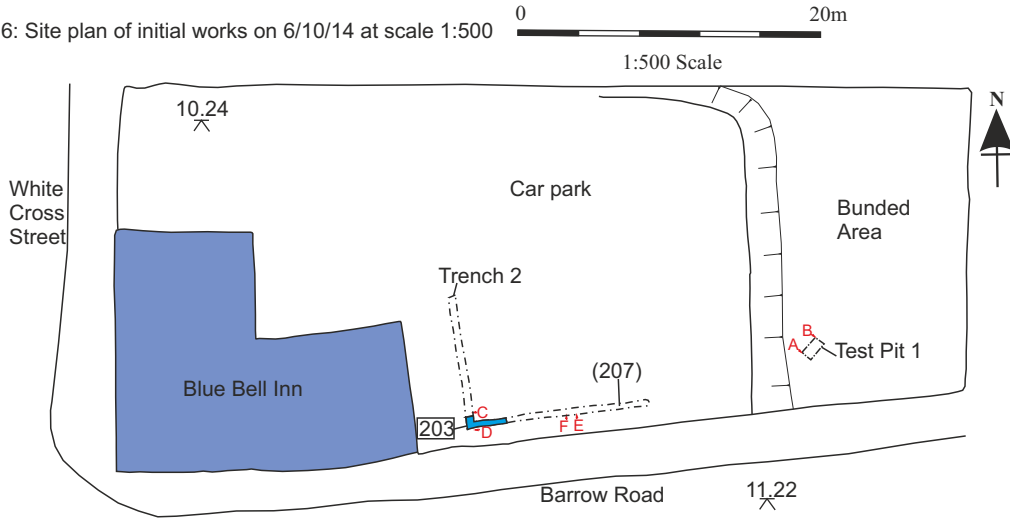


Figure 7: Sections at scale 1:20



Key
 Blue Bell Inn
 Brickwork floor surface
 Brick wall
 Chalk rubble foundation

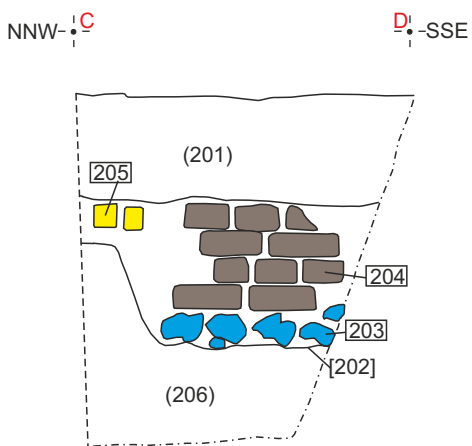
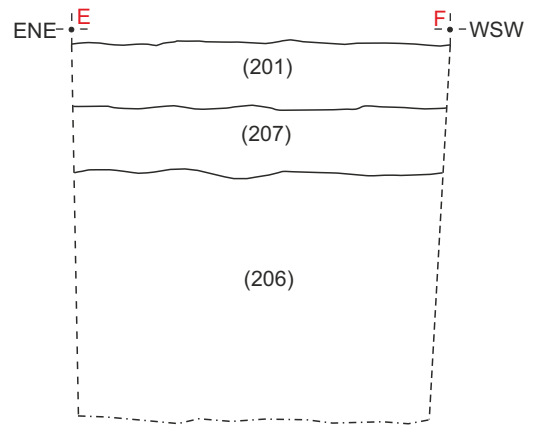
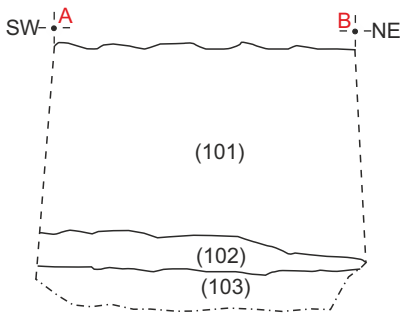


Figure 8: Plan of ground reduction area on the east edge of site at scale 1:200
 Location of ground reduction area at scale 1:500

Key
 Blue Bell Inn
 Brick wall
 Cobbled surface

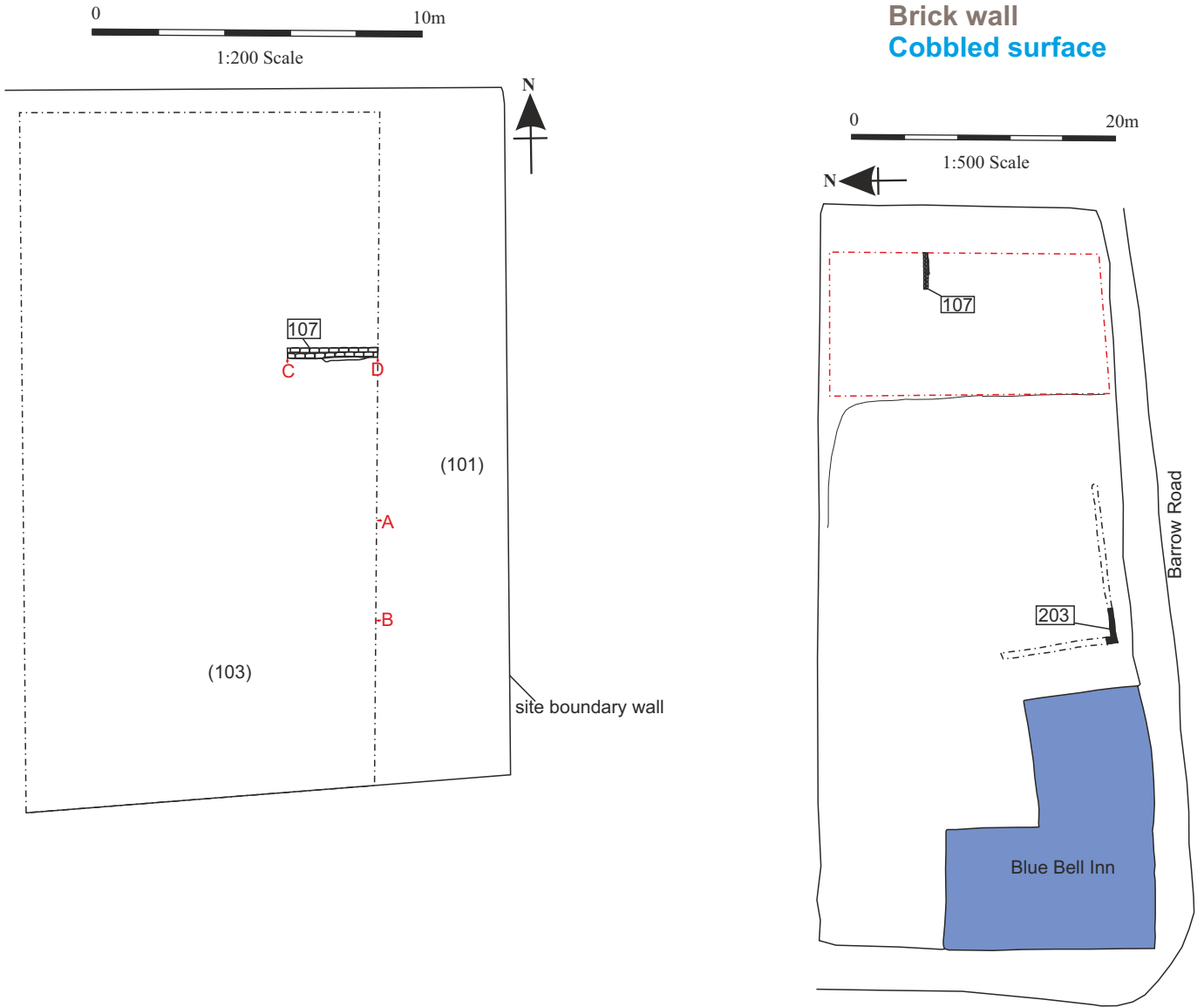


Figure 9: Sections at scale 1:50 & 1:20

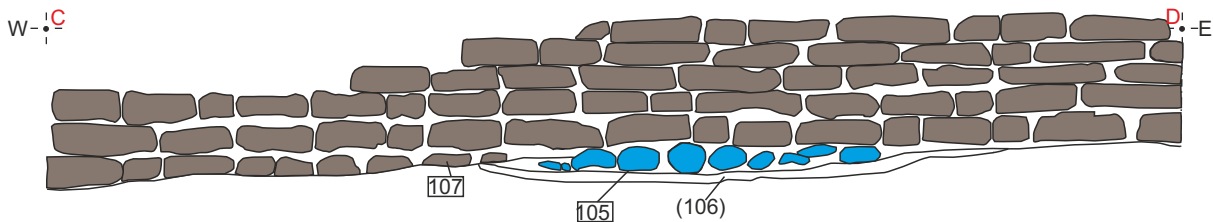
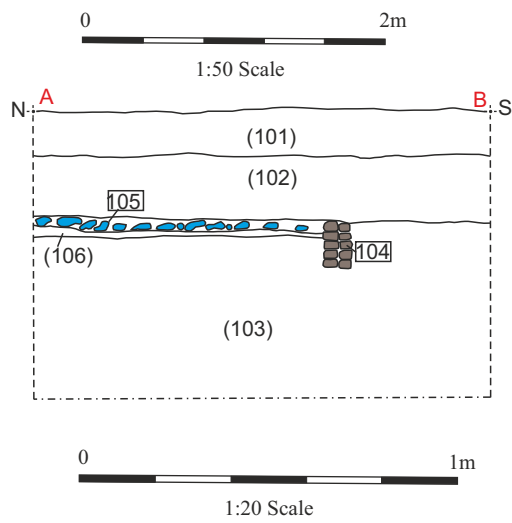
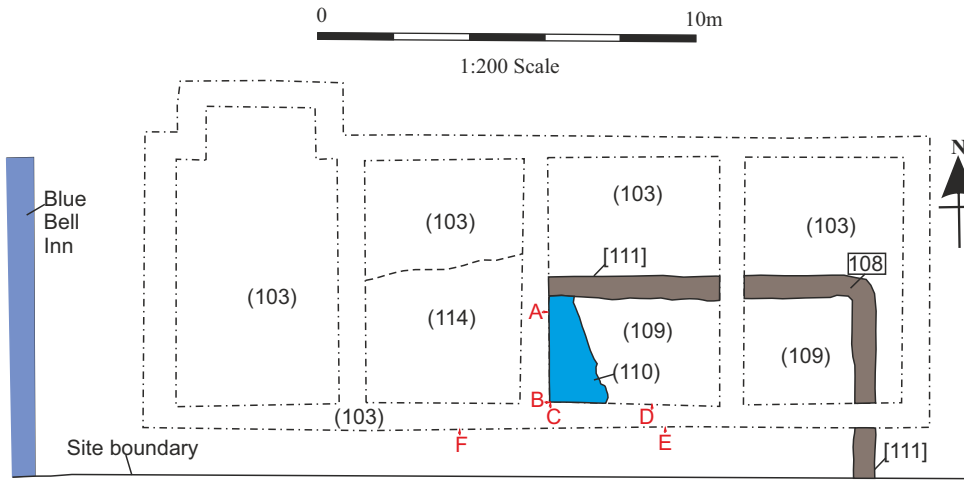


Figure 10: Plan of footings at scale 1:200



Key
 Blue Bell Inn
 Limestone wall
 Compact chalk surface

Figure 11: Sections at scale 1:20

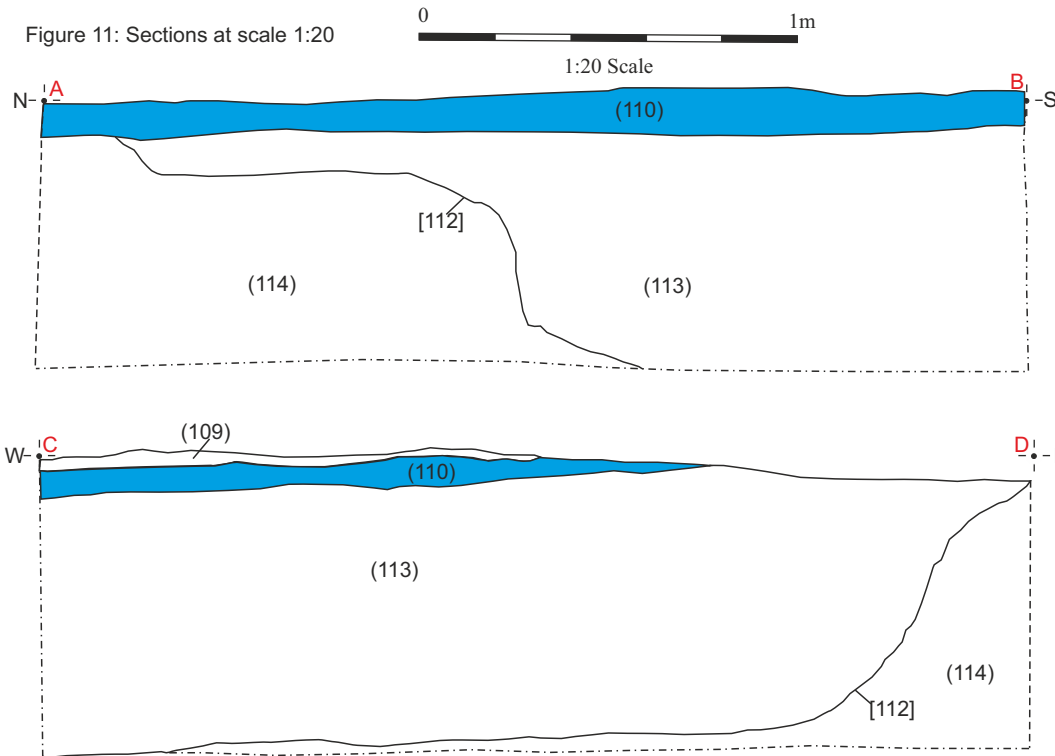


Figure 12: Sections at scale 1:20

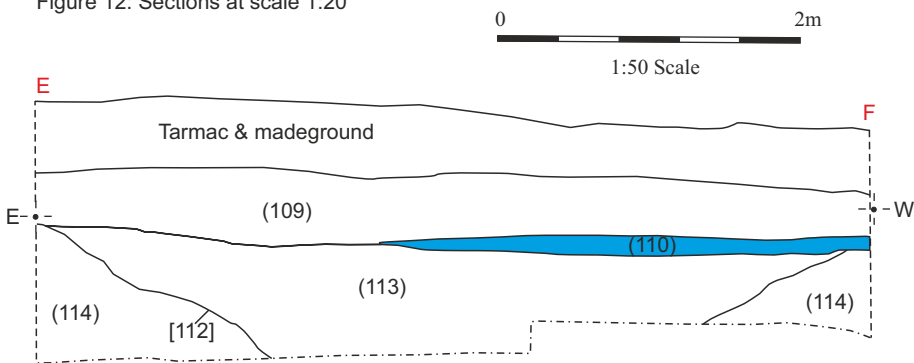
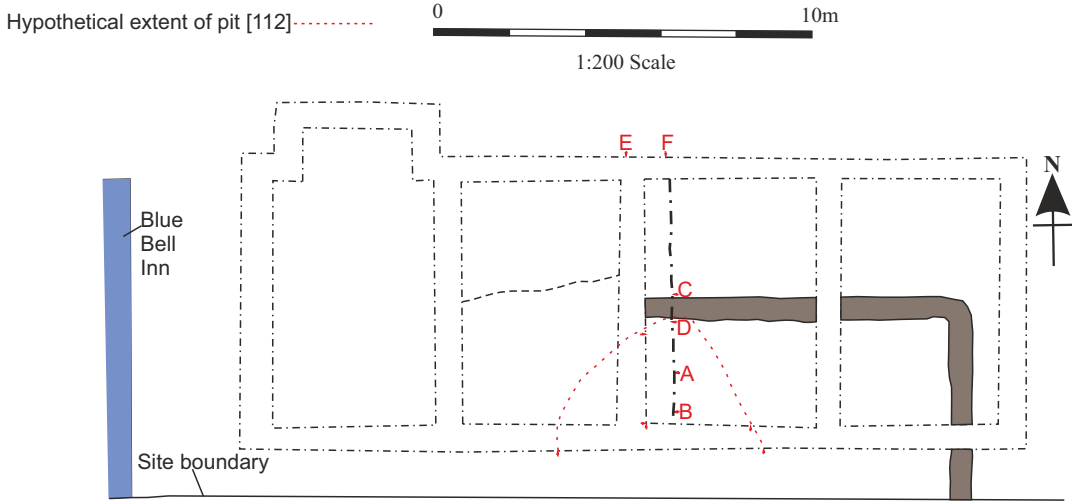


Figure 13: Plan of footings at scale 1:200



Key
 Blue Bell Inn
 Limestone wall
 Compact chalk surface

Figure 14: Sections at scale 1:20

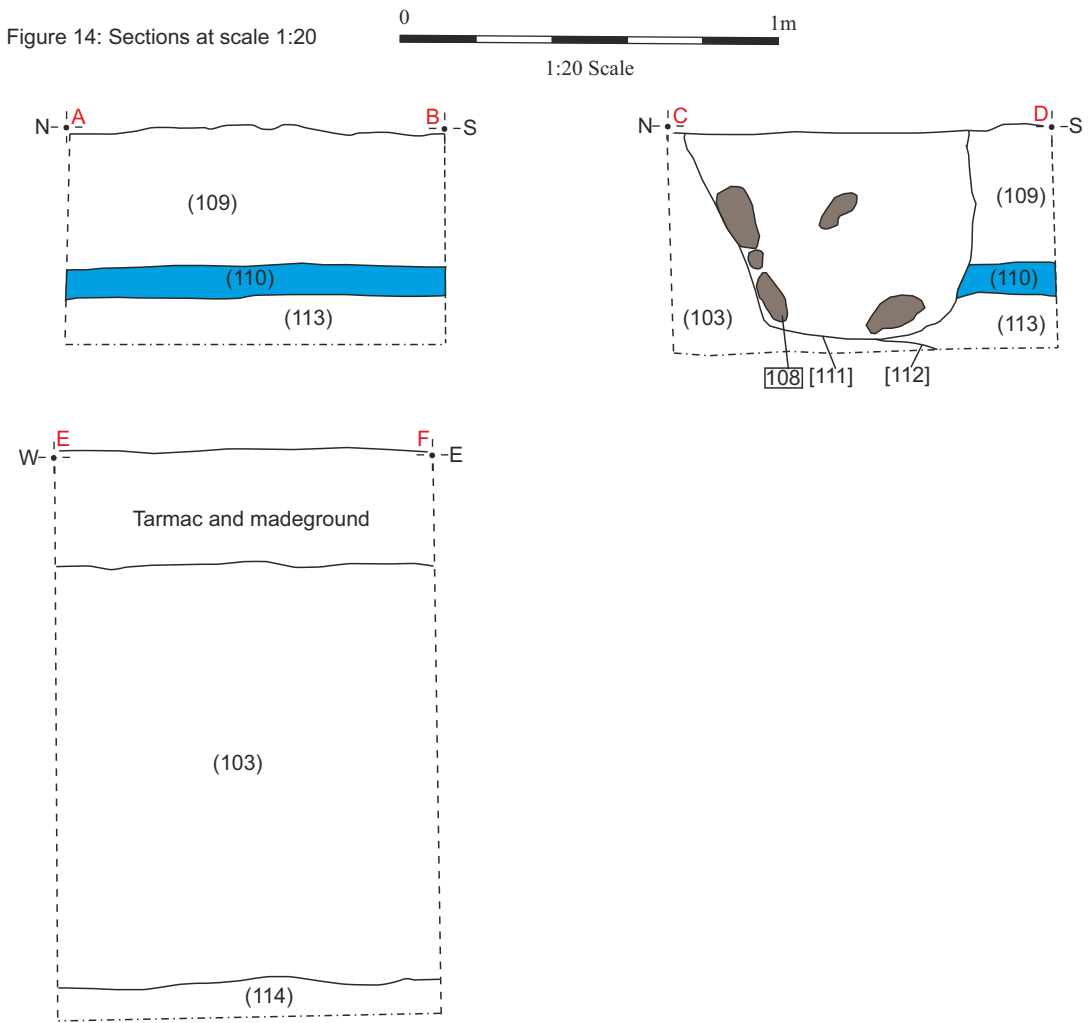


Figure 15: Plan of known drainage excavations at scale 1:500

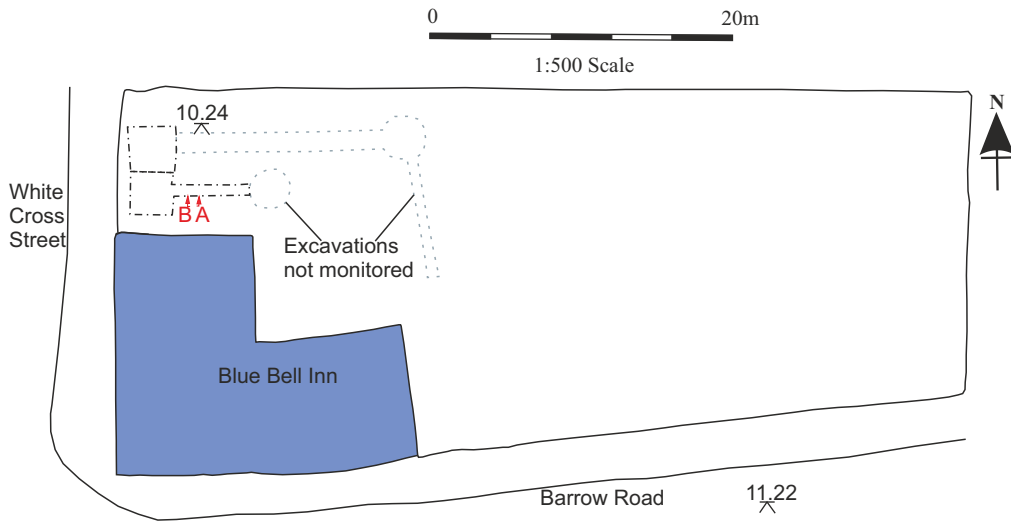
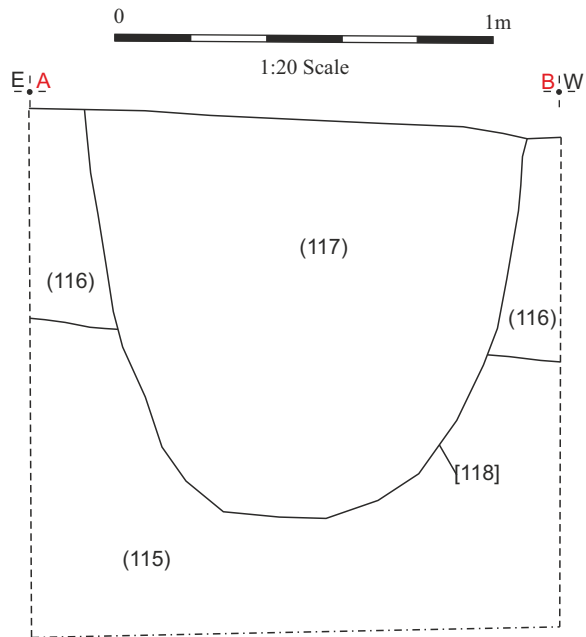


Figure 16: Modern pit [118] at scale 1:20



APPENDIX 1 BBBM14



1. The Blue Bell, looking southeast



2. Pre-excitation shot of site, looking southeast



3. Section of Test Pit 1, looking northwest



4. Brick footing 204, underlying chalk ballast 203 and adjacent brick floor 205, looking east



5. Representative Section of initial trenching on 6/10/14, looking west



6. Ground works carried out the day before archaeological monitoring was recalled, looking east



7. Section of wall 104, chalk ballast 106 and associated cobble floor 105, looking east



8. Section of wall 107 and associated cobble floor 105, looking north



9. Completed excavations of ground reduction area, looking northeast



10. Overview of construction cut [111] and robbed out wall 108, looking southwest



11. Section of construction cut [111] and robbed out wall 108, looking east



12. Section of large pit [112], looking east



13. Section of large pit [112], looking southeast



14. Representative Section of north of footings, looking north



15. Completed footings excavation, looking east



16. Modern pit [118], looking south

APPENDIX 2 BBBM14

<u>context no.</u>	<u>type</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>width (cm)</u>	<u>length (cm)</u>	<u>depth (cm)</u>	<u>finds</u>
101	layer	Re-deposited topsoil of bund			70	pottery, clay pipe
102	layer	thin demolition layer			10	
103	layer	natural clay			10	
104	structure	E-W brickwall	20		45	
105	layer	cobbled surface				
106	layer	chalk layer	500		10	
107	structure	E-W brickwall	30	300	50	
108	structure	Limestone wall	50	1650	56	
109	layer	demolition layer, same as 207.				
110	layer	chalk deposit associated with 108			10	
111	cut	construction cut of 108	70	1650	56	
112	cut	large pit	600		60	
113	fill	of 112	600		60	
114	layer	natural sand				
115	natural	chalk				
116	layer	Brown-yellow clay with chalk				
117	fill	Of 118				
118	cut	Modern pit				
201	layer	modern tarmac				
202	cut	E-W construction cut				
203	structure	chalk rubble footing				
204	structure	brick footing for post				bricks
205	structure	brick floor				
206	layer	natural clay				
207	layer	demolition layer				

The Blue Bell , Barton-Upon-Humber
BBBM14
PA/2011/0569

Finds Catalogue

Context	Material	No.	Weight (g)	Description	Date	Action
101	C pipe	1	1	stem	C19th	Discard
101	C Pipe	1	1	stem	C19th	Discard
204	CBM	1	2365	Brick	Modern	Discard
204	CBM	1	2390	Brick	Modern	Discard

Appendix 4: BBBM14

A small assemblage of early modern pottery was recovered from a single context. All the pottery is suitable for discard. The date of the context is Late 18th to 19th century.

Table 1, Archive of the Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Full name	Form	NoS	NoV	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
101	BL	Black-glazed wares	Bowl	1	1	39	Rim		Late 17th to 18th
101	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	Bottle	1	1	13	Neck		
101	WHITE	Modern whiteware	?	1	1	4	BS		
101	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	Bowl	1	1	10	Rim	White slip on rim	
101	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	Jar/ bowl	1	1	5	BS		
101	CREA	Creamware	Flat	1	1	2	BS		