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Interpretation, Design & Display

**3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone,
London, N20 9AA:**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. MK081/17

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Fig. 1 - Site and trench location plan

Fig. 2 – East-facing section of the trench

Fig. 3 – General shot of the Site prior to works

Fig. 4 – Shot of the concrete wall footing (009), facing north

Fig. 5 – East-facing profile of the trench showing pond deposits at the bottom

Fig. 6 – Photo of the trench showing linear gully, facing south

Fig. 7 – Ordnance Survey Map 1897 and 1920

1. SUMMARY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Fresh Lime Developments on the site of a housing development at 3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, London, N20 9AA (centred on TQ 2644 9407). The Site comprised a demolished house with paved driveway to the left. One trench was excavated on the foundations of the demolished house. It revealed several concrete wall footings and deposits from the 19th century pond, but no significant archaeology.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. General

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 29th of March 2017 at 3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, London. The work was commissioned by Fresh Lime Developments.

2.2. Planning Background

The work was carried out to fulfil an archaeological condition (17) on planning consent (B/04689/14) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated February 2017, covering this programme of works produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd and approved by the Historic England Greater London advisory service.

2.3. Archaeological Background

The Site lies within the area which was presumably occupied from the medieval period onwards. CFA Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment (CFA 2017), which summary is presented below:

The available evidence suggests that ‘Whetstone’ has been a settlement alongside the Great North Road (between London and Edinburgh) since at least 1398. High Road follows this historic highway and the proposed development site lies just to the east of High Road. Archaeological desk-based assessments (ELO6863, 12789 and 13245) and interventions (ELO12788, ELO6863 and to the rear of the listed 1264 High Road 7 (1064903) have revealed remains of medieval buildings (MLO98056 and MLO29348) and artefacts.

The proposed development site was occupied in the mid 19th century (Ordnance Survey 1868 map) and the buildings on the site at that time may have been of early 19th century, or earlier, date. The proposed development site was built on in the earlier 20th

century and part of the site is currently occupied by an office building and warehouse extension (Logan House) which is of 1960s or 70s date. The building is slightly elevated above the present road level and it is possible that remains of earlier occupation on the site, at lower levels below the modern ground level, survive within the proposed development site.

No archaeological information is available regarding the neighbouring Martins Court housing development, to the east of the proposed development site; therefore no directly useful information on the archaeological potential is available from that source.

Taking account of the historical development of Whetstone, the proximity of the proposed development site to High Road (the route of the former Great North Road) and the discovery elsewhere adjacent to High Road of remains of medieval settlement, it is assessed that the proposed development site has some archaeological potential; particularly in respect of possible finds relating to the early development of Whetstone as a medieval settlement along The Great North Road but also of later 18th and 19th century occupation and redevelopment of the town.

2.4. Geology

The bedrock in the area consists of London Clay Formation. The superficial deposits belong to Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton, which is composed of sand and gravel deposits created during the Ice Age.

2.5. Objectives

The evaluation was undertaken in order to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their extent, nature, quality, date, and character. A further purpose of the evaluation was to enable the significance of the site's archaeological potential to be understood.

3. WORKING METHODS

3.1. General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

3.2. Trenching

A single trench measuring 20m x 2m covering the footprint of the new building was excavated in the middle of the recently demolished building.

Under the supervision from CFA staff, the concrete slabs of the previous building (Fig. 3) were lifted and deposited at the rear of the plot.

3.3. Excavation and Recording Strategy

At the time of the evaluation the Site was a demolition/building site. The make-up layers underneath the concrete slabs were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision until the top of the natural geology was exposed next to 19th-century pond deposits. This archaeological feature which was found to be recent in origin, was left unexcavated though context descriptions were made of the fills. A small gully and a possibly modern pit were recorded.

The trench was planned at a scale of 1:50. However, due to the height of the surrounding buildings it was impossible for the Trimble Geo7X GPS unit to reach the desired accuracy. Therefore, the trench was positioned manually using hand tape. The character, composition and general depositional sequence of the site stratigraphy was recorded on pro-forma sheets, with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and in accordance with the MoLAS site manual. A digital photographic record was made of all trenches as well as photos of the site in general.

3.4. Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at LAARC within an agreed timescale. Appropriate conservation of finds will be conducted before disposal. The archive will be ordered, indexed and conform to the requirements of LAARC and to all relevant professional guidance (Brown 2011).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1. General

The locations of the trench and features are shown in plan on Fig. 1 and in section on Fig. 2, and a summary of deposits is contained in Appendix 1. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report. An overview of the trench is presented below, followed by individual descriptions of the features.

4.2. Trench Descriptions

The natural (008) was exposed at the northern end of the trench, consisting of orange clay with 20% gravel, firmly compacted. The top of the natural had pieces of tile pressed into it and some of this material was removed by hand.

A series of concrete wall footings from 1950s were found directly under concrete slabs from the demolished building (Fig. 4). In total four wall footings, give a general number 009 were recorded. All of them measured 0.75m in length and approx. 2m deep, and were enforced with right-hand twisted iron rods which measured 5cm in diam. The first footing was found 2.5m from the southern edge of the trench. The next two were spaced equally in 2.5m intervals, and the last one marked the northern edge of the trench. The southern edge of the trench was delineated by concrete wall footing 012, which had darker colour than 009. It was 1m deep. These footings were impossible to demolish with the machinery available on site and it was decided to expose the deposits between the footings.

Two 19th-century pond deposits were exposed (Fig. 5). The older deposit 005 consisted of dark brown gravel. Due to safety reasons it was impossible to reveal its thickness, though a minimum depth of 0.15m was established. Glass material and red bricks were observed in this deposit, but not collected. The more recent deposit 004 consisted of black silt 0.25m deep. It was full of glass bottles, bricks and decorative tiles. Fragments of a metal oil drum were also observed.

Deposit 006, found at the northern end of the trench, was composed of dark grey silt deposit with 50% gravel. This was a buried topsoil from the 19th century. Underneath it a small linear gully 011 was found (Fig. 6). It was 5.5m long, 0.3m wide and approx. 0.2m deep, and directed the water into the 19th century pond. It was filled with dark grey-orange silty gravel with 19th to 20th century material. Feature 010, situated at the northern end of the trench, was 2m wide and more than 0.1m deep deposit of grey clay with small black spills of industrial oil.

Pond deposits and the buried topsoil 006 were covered by the levelling deposit 002, which was composed of brown mottled silty sand with 60% of gravel. It contained modern material. A small deposit 003 was found within this deposit, composed of white pebble and lime mortar.

5. FINDS

By Rebekah Pressler

5.1 Introduction

A total of 17 finds were collected from three contexts as shown in the table below. The assemblage is characterised and assessed for potential for further analysis in the commentary below the table.

OP	Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Glass		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
002							1	66.8		1930s-50s?
004	3	1437.6			1	8.7	4	1366.5		1876 –early C20 th
007	1	12.2	2	109.6	2	83.9			CTP x1 2.3g, stone x2, 234.3g	C20 th
Total	4	1449.8	2	109.6	3	92.6	5	1433.3	CTP x1 2.3g Stone x 2, 234.3g	

5.2 Pottery

Post-Roman

All of the pottery was recorded using the Museum of London Pottery Codes for both dating and fabrics. The earliest dated pottery from the assemblage comprises a sherd of an internally brown glazed post-medieval redware vessel from deposit 007 (possibly either **PMFRB** or **PMR**) dating from the late 16th to 17 or early 18th century. From pond deposit 004, a complete R Whites lemonade brown stoneware bottle (**ENGS**) dates from 1845-1900 (Askey, D. 1981). A complete stoneware jar from the same context is similarly of late 19th or early 20th century date, as is small white ware jar base (**REFW** - possibly either a cold cream or mustard pot).

5.3 Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material consists of late 19th or early 20th century tile fragments derived from deposit 007 and 004. A brown glazed fragment from 007 probably dates to the Art Nouveau (1890-1910) period, while the smaller tile piece from 004 is possibly Art Deco (1920s-30s).

5.4 Glass

The recovered glass assemblage included four complete bottles of late 19th to early 20th century date. Two machine-made bottles of Patersons of Glasgow “Camp” Coffee and Chicory from 004 are of post 1876 date (but probably not dating to any later than the early 20th century). A ‘William Batey Britannia Works’ bottle from the same context is of similar date to the R Whites Lemonade c1840-1900. The complete ‘Gestetner’ glass ink bottle probably dates somewhere from the 1920s to the 1950s.

5.5 Animal bone

Two fragments of animal bones were recovered from context 007. One was a horse femur, showing advanced pathology. The other was a fragment of pelvis, probably from young domestic cat.

5.6 Other finds

Part of a cemented stone 'mosaic' floor, a squared piece of flint, a fragment of Clay-Tobacco-Pipe stem were also noted amongst the assemblage.

5.7 Discussion

The finds evidence provides dating for the primary contexts, as well as more general dating for activity within the wider area. It is recommended that the material may be kept for reference purposes; however, the assemblage is largely modern and thus no further assessment is necessary.

6. DISCUSSION

The pond deposits recorded in the trench correspond with the OS maps. 1867 OS map edition shows the pond, but the 1920 edition does not (Fig. 7), which means that it fell into disuse and was subsequently filled up between those dates. Rich building material observed in the fill of the pond suggests building activity in the area.

7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The evaluation has revealed the remains of the 19th century pond and modern made up layers, but no significant archaeology.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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MAPS

OS MAP Middlesex VI.SE 6 inch, Published 1897

OS MAP Hertfordshire XLV.SE 6 inch, Published 1920

ONLINE SOURCES

British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer (www.bgs.ac.uk)

Wikipedia page on 'Camp Coffee'
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Coffee)

Wikipedia page on 'R. White's lemonade' (<http://letslookagain.com/tag/r-whites-lemonade/>)

APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Trench 1		Trench Size 20 x 2m	
Trench depth 1.5-2.5m			
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Date</i>
001	Modern made ground levelling	Orange gravel and red bricks	Modern
002	Made ground	Brown mottled silty sand with 60% gravel	Modern
003	Pebble and mortar deposit	White pebble and lime mortar	Modern
004	Pond deposit - younger	Black silt containing glass and bricks	19th century / modern
005	Pond deposit - older	Dark brown gravel	19th century / modern
006	Buried topsoil	Grey silt with 50% gravel	19th century / modern
007	Mixed natural and 006	Dark grey-orange clayey gravel	19th century / modern
008	Natural gravel	Orange clay with 20% gravel	NA
009	Concrete footings	Dark grey – pinkish concrete with rightside twisted iron reinforcement 5cm in diam.	Modern
010	Clay deposit at northern end	Grey clay with frequent small black industrial spills	19th century / modern
011	Unexcavated shallow linear feature	Dark grey-orange silty gravel containing 19 th and 20 th century material	19th century / modern
012	Concrete foundations at southern end	Grey concrete with stone pebbles	Modern

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OASIS ID: cfaarcha1-283718

Project details

Project name	3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, London N20 9AA Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for Fresh Lime Developments on the site of a housing development at 3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, London, N20 9AA (centred on TQ 2644 9407). The Site comprised a demolished house with paved driveway to the left. One trench was excavated on the foundations of the demolished house. It revealed several concrete wall footings and deposits from the 19th century pond, but no significant archaeology.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2017 End: 29-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	POND Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARNET BARNET 3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, London, N20 9AA
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 2644 9407 51.630733441499 -0.172953800036 51 37 50 N 000 10 22 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	English Heritage/Department of Environment

Project design originator CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project director/manager Mark Roberts
Project supervisor Marta Perlinska

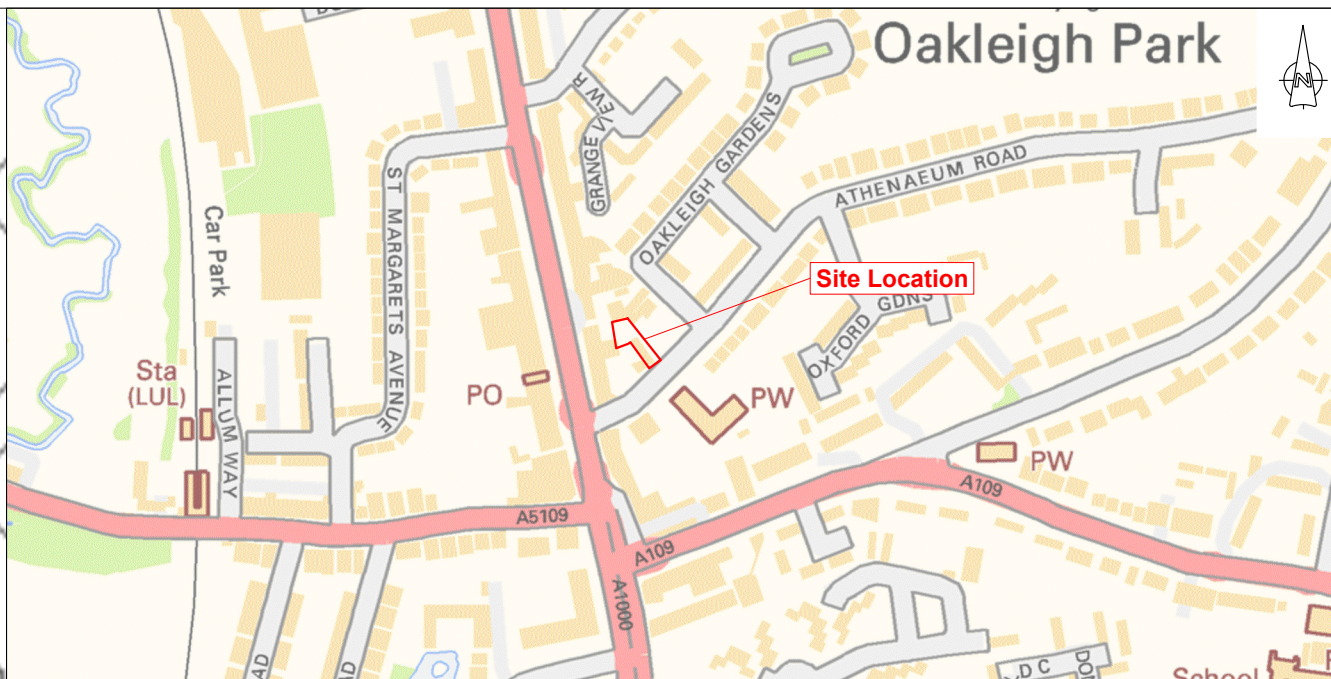
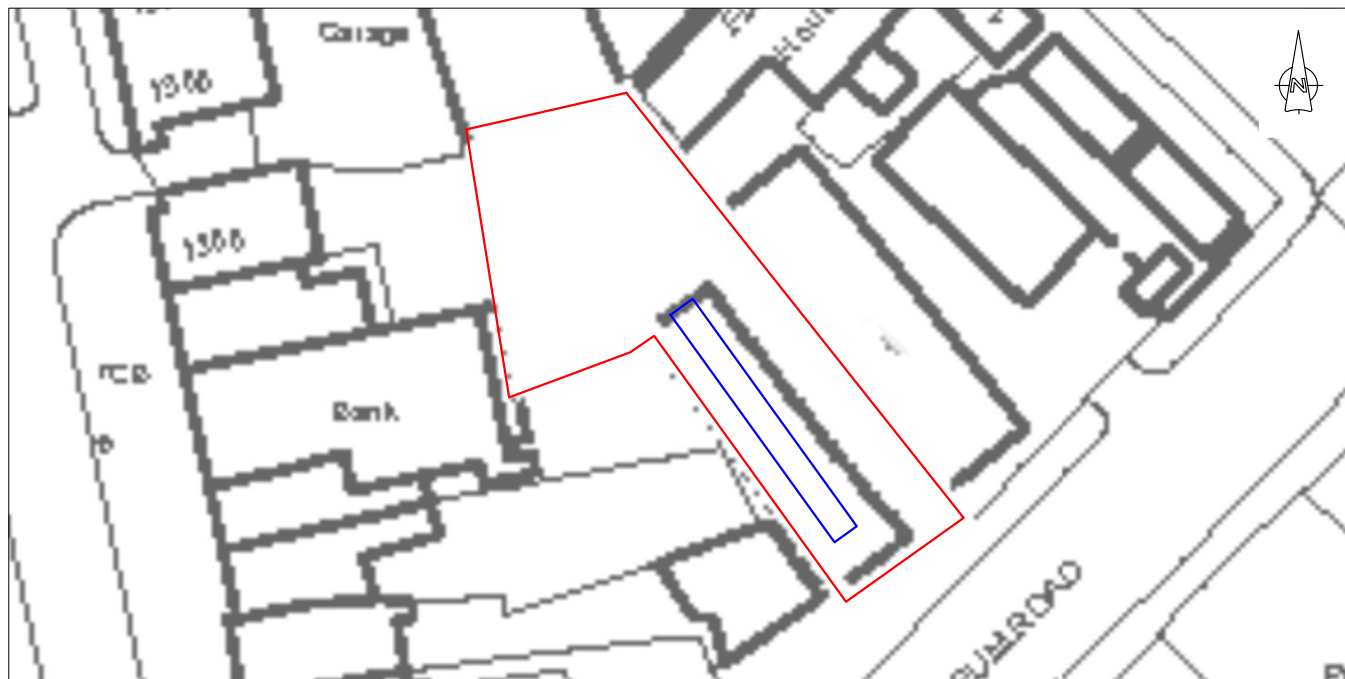
Entered by Marta Perlinska (mperlinska@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on 26 April 2017

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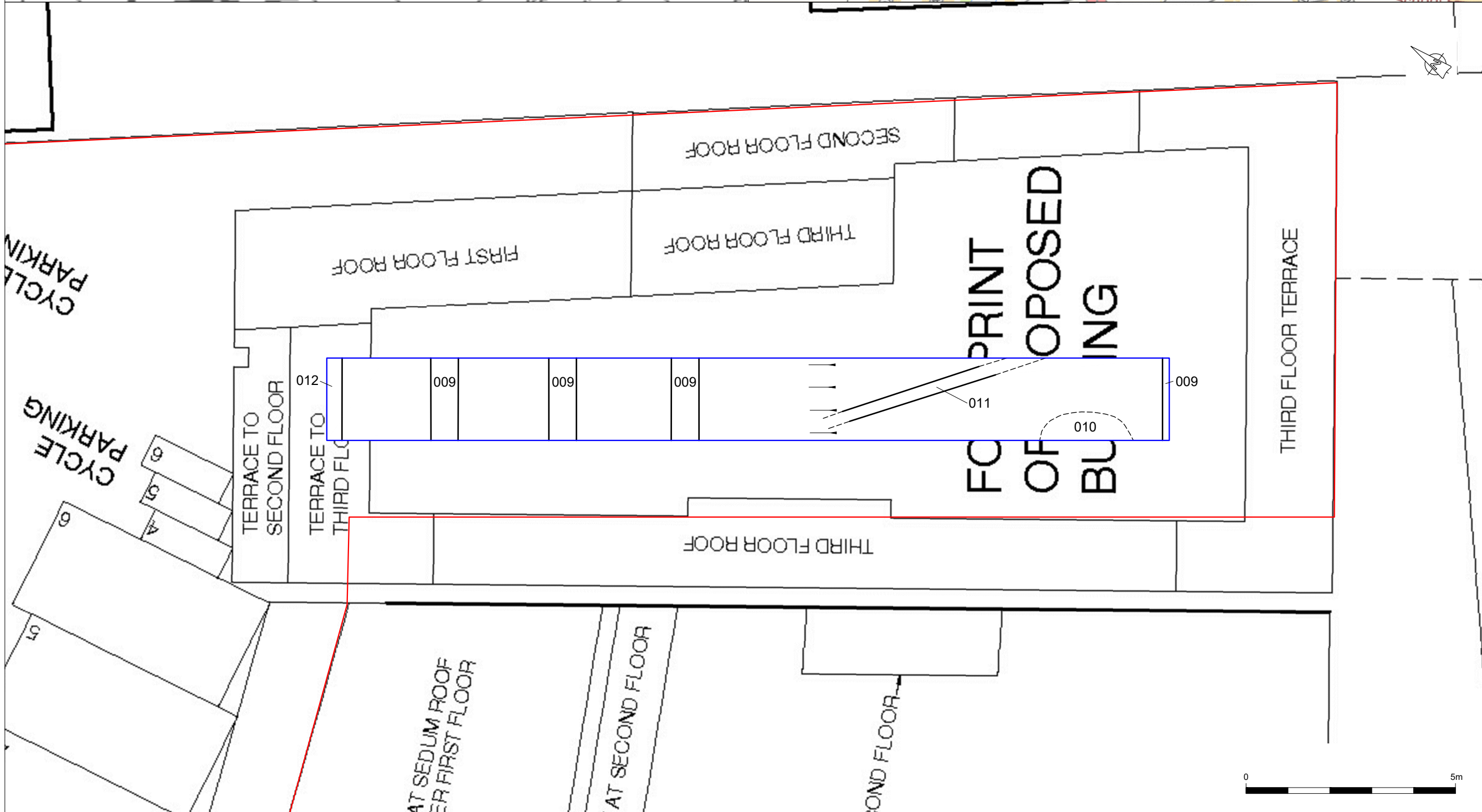
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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline



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Title:
Site and trench location plan

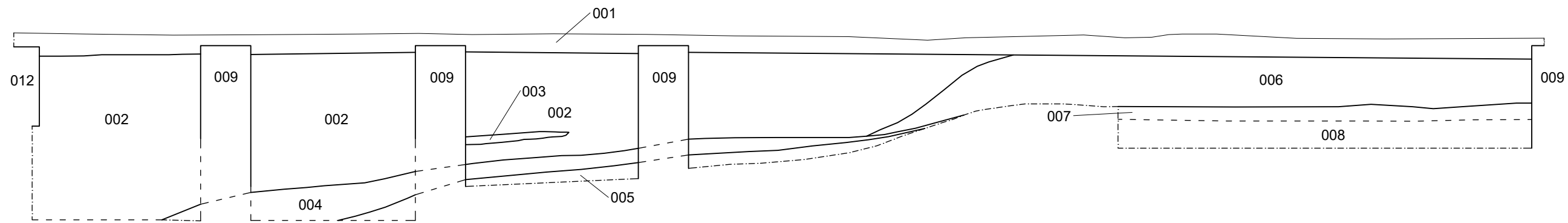
Project:
3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone,
London, N20 9AA: Archaeological
Evaluation

Client:
Fresh Lime Developments

Scale at A3:
main inset: 1:100

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 06/04/2017
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Report No: MK081/17	Fig. No: 1
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Title:
East-facing section of the trench

Project:
**3 Athenaeum Road, Whetstone,
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Client:
Fresh Lime Developments

Scale at A3:
1:60

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 06/04/2017
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Report No: MK081/17	Fig. No: 2
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Fig. 3 - General shot of the Site prior to works



Fig. 4 - Shot of the concrete wall footing (009), facing north

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Fig. 5 - East-facing profile of the trench showing pond deposits at the bottom



Fig. 6 - Photo of the trench showing linear gully at the rear and clay feature 010 at the bottom, facing south

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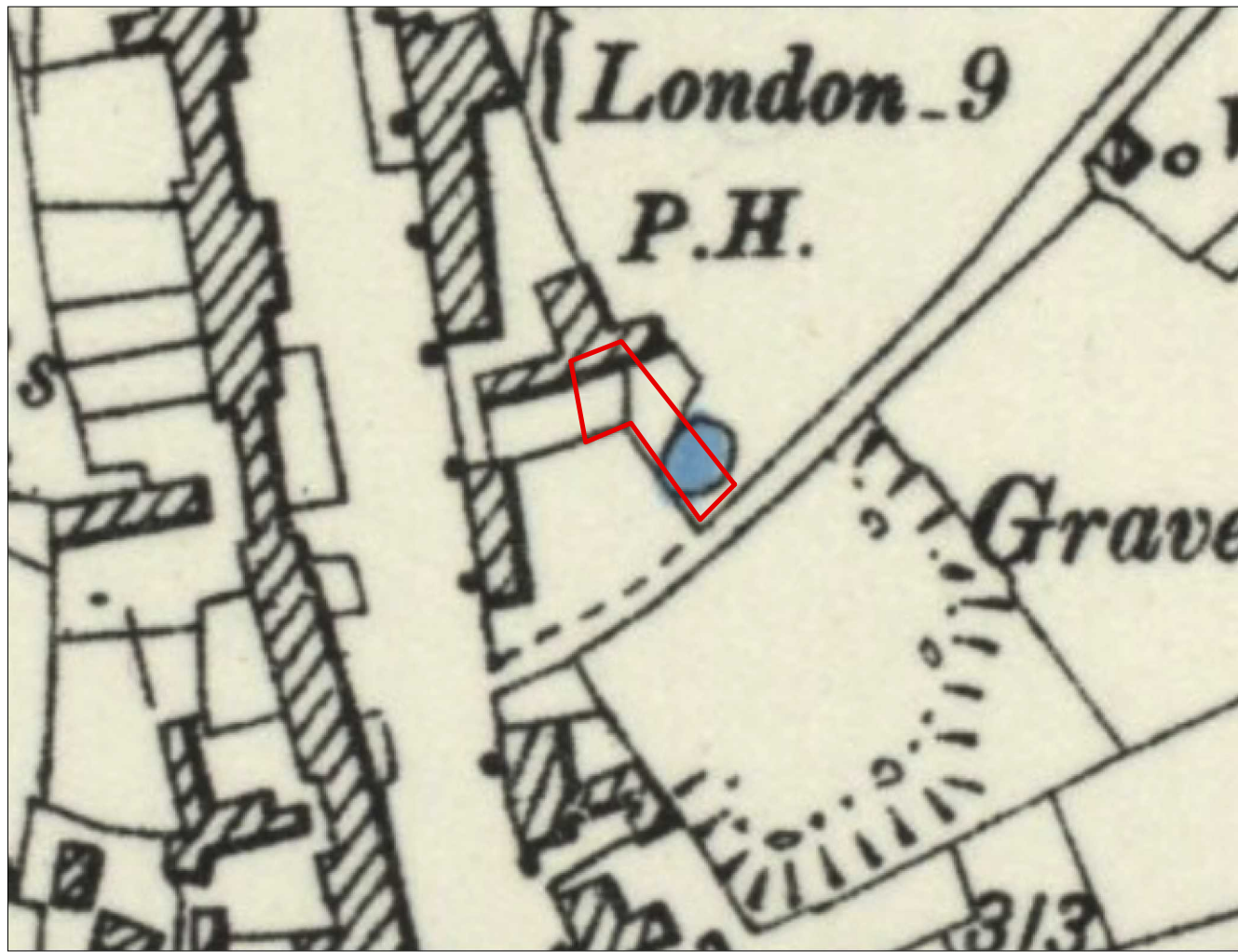


Fig. 7a - OS Map, Middlesex VI.SE 6 inch, Published 1897

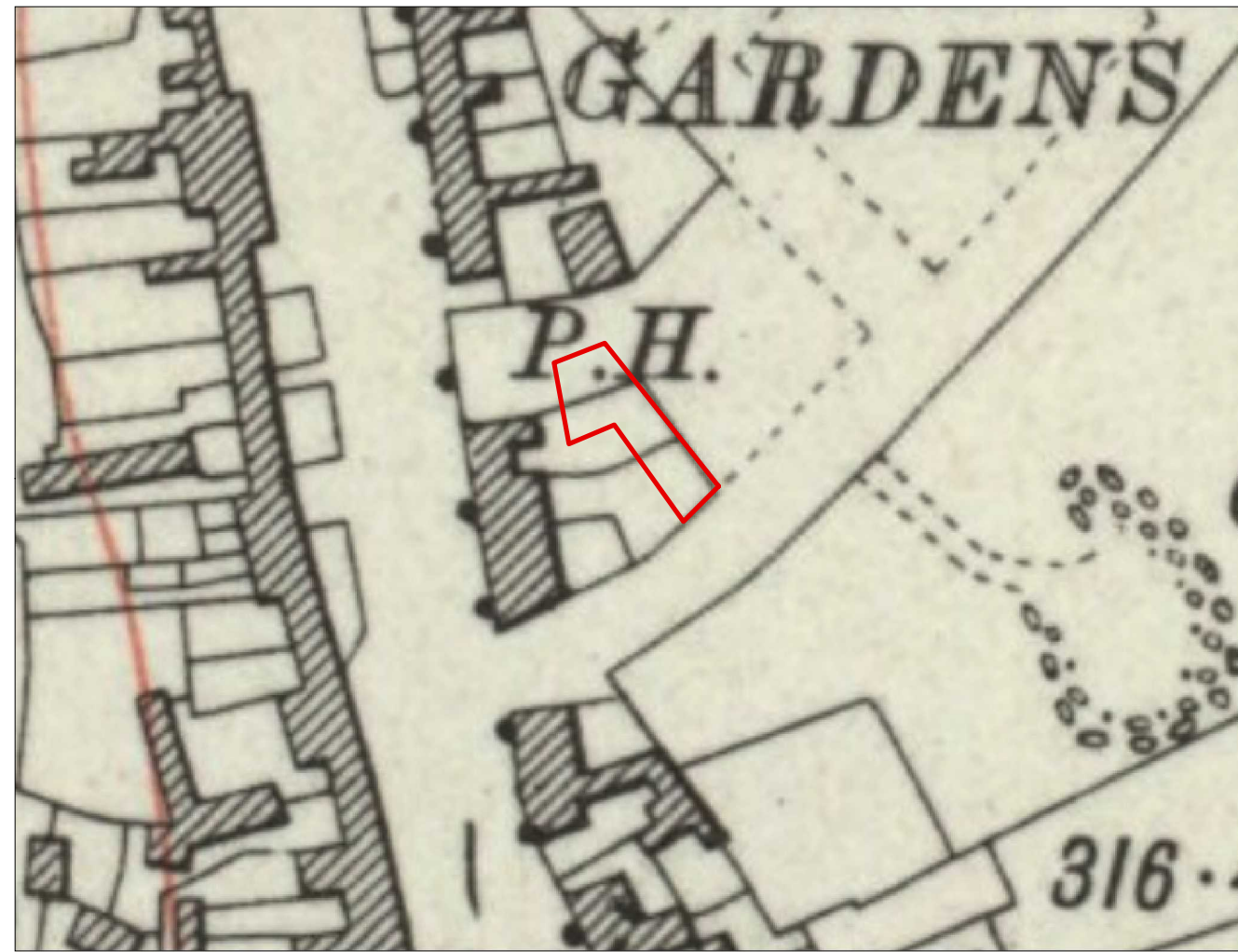


Fig. 7b - OS Map, Hertfordshire XLV.SE 6 inch, Published 1920

Key:

Site Boundary



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Title:
 Ordnance Survey Map 1897
 and 1920

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Scale at A3:
 1:1,500

Drawn by: MP	Checked: SW	Date: 06/04/2017
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Report No: MK081/17	Fig. No: 7
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