

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATION AT  
67 NEWLANDS, PERSHORE,  
WORCESTERSHIRE

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With a contribution by Alan Jacobs

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Project 2803  
Report 1394  
WSM 34771



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## **Archaeological excavation at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire**

**Jon Milward**

**With a contribution by Alan Jacobs**

### **Part 1 Project summary**

An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9441 4596). It was undertaken on behalf of David Keen and sons, who intend to develop the site as housing for which a planning application has been submitted. The project aimed to investigate archaeological deposits identified during a prior evaluation of the site. An excavation trench was opened at the front of the property with foundation trenches for the main structure as well as a garage subject to a watching brief.

Evidence for late medieval domestic activity in the form of refuse pit excavation was recorded as well as the remains of a 17<sup>th</sup> century building, which probably housed animals or served an industrial purpose. This structure was demolished not long after its construction and its masonry robbed out with the exception of a stretch of dwarf wall at the north-west corner of the building. A small amount of renewed pit and well digging then took place on the site in the 18<sup>th</sup> century before the plot was terraced in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



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## Part 2 Detailed report

### 1. Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at 67 Newlands, (NGR SO 9441 4596) Pershore, Worcestershire (Fig 1), on behalf of David Keen and Sons and their agent Berry and Young. The client intends to construct three dwellings and a garage on the site and has submitted a planning application to Wychavon District Council (reference W/04/0210). A prior evaluation proved 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century deposits exist on the site (Goad 2005). As the development would certainly damage these deposits (WSM 16051) a condition was placed on the planning consent for an excavation would be required at the front of the property on an area intended for car parking with a watching brief to be carried out during the excavation of the foundation trenches.

#### 1.2 Project parameters

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IFA 1999a) and the *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1999b).

The project also conforms to a brief prepared by the curator (HEAS 2005 a) and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (HEAS 2005 b).

#### 1.3 Aim

The aim of the excavation was to fully excavate an area at the front of the property where groundworks are to be conducted and where significant archaeological deposits were known to exist and to record deposits disturbed during the excavation of foundation trenches.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Documentary search

- Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER).

### 2.2 Fieldwork methodology

#### 2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by the Service (HEAS 2005b). The excavation was undertaken between 21<sup>st</sup> November and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Site visits to monitor the foundation groundworks were conducted on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December and the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The site reference number and site code is WSM 34771.

A controlled excavation trench amounting to 74m<sup>2</sup> in area was opened at the front of the building plot (Fig 2), in the area designated for reduction to below the level of the natural. The foundation trenches (Fig 2) on the site were observed after their excavation. Features were identified and recorded in section.

Prior to the commencement of the excavation deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a JCB 3CX wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket to a depth 0.2m above the natural ground surface. The remaining overburden was then removed under

archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995).

#### 2.2.2 **Structural analysis**

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

### 2.3 **Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs**

#### 2.3.1 **Artefact recovery policy**

All artefacts from the area of salvage recording were retrieved by hand and retained in accordance with the service manual (CAS 1995 as amended).

#### 2.3.2 **Method of analysis**

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

Pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by the Worcestershire Archaeological Service (Hurst and Rees 1992).

### 2.4 **Environmental archaeology methodology**

#### 2.4.1 **Sampling policy**

The environmental sampling strategy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 4). It was not considered necessary to sample any of the deposits observed during the excavation.

### 2.5 **The methods in retrospect**

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

## 3. **Topographical and archaeological context**

The local soil series consists of stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Bishampton series (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Beard *et al* 1986). The underlying geological series is Lower Lias clay, overlain by superficial deposits of sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1:50,000, sheet 199). The site occupies a natural gradient, which slopes down from the rear of the property to the road.

The site occupies a vacant plot of land terraced in the Victorian period, on the south side and towards the west end of Newlands. The street of Newlands is ¼ mile long running on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation on the western side of the old town of Pershore. There is a poverty of documentary evidence on the suburb but it is suspected that it is associated with planned urban expansion in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It has been suggested that the



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abbot of Pershore established it as a single street lined with burgage tenements, aligned on the main abbey precinct gate as, an extension to the ancient borough of Oldland (Bond 1977).

A small amount of archaeological work has been conducted in the area. At 14-16 Newlands 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pits were recorded along with structural evidence for two 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century timber buildings built on sill walls (Shaw 1977). At 96 Newlands, a pit dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and a well dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were recorded (Cook 1998).

An evaluation of the proposed development site was conducted in March 2005. This succeeded in identifying medieval features including a probable well and structural evidence in the form of postholes indicating a domestic presence (Goad 2005).

A general archaeological, geographical and topographical background to Pershore can be found in the Archaeological assessment of Pershore (Dalwood 1996).

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

#### 4.1.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The natural ground surface consisted of mostly firm mottled orangey grey clay with some reddish sandy gravels which existed in patches at the east end and the centre of trench. This had been disturbed in patches by root action. The large conifer trees recently removed from the site were responsible for this.

#### 4.1.2 Phase 2 Medieval deposits

The earliest activity on the site was represented by a small number of features that were stratigraphically earlier than evidence for a later building, which seems to be early post-medieval in date. These consisted of two pits (257 and 271), which were located close to each other and were of similar dimensions (0.8m by 0.65m), sharing common attributes including a shallow depth. This suggests they were related and had been dug from a depth higher than the construction level of the later building, which seems to have been constructed on a stripped and levelled ground surface. The fills of these features were also similar in that they shared a poverty of artefacts, although a small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of pit 257.

#### 4.1.3 Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits

The majority of the features recorded in the excavation trench are considered to represent the footprint of a post-medieval building or are associated with its demolition. Although undisturbed physical evidence of the building was sparse the position of the sides, front and possibly the rear of the building were ascertained which existed as a main robber trench associated with gullies and postholes. A stretch of original undisturbed wall was, however, present in one corner of the trench, which transpired to be the north-west corner of the building. This was associated with the robber trench 268 and proves that the front of the building was constructed as a dwarf wall that would have supported a wooden superstructure.

The surviving stretch of wall was 1.5m long. The southern end was the undisturbed original termination, the northern end of which formed the northwest corner of the building. The return of the wall along the front of the building had been removed and is represented by robber trench 268. The width of the wall was preserved at 0.5m, although the west edge of its

foundation had been cut by the drain trench 284. The wall was constructed of two courses of large sandstone blocks with a third levelling course of thinner stones on the top to achieve a height of 0.35m. This was constructed within a vertically sided foundation cut with a flat base. The southern end of the wall was stepped to the surface and terminated with a large rectangular shaped stone with a very flat edge. The wall was excavated to attempt recovery of datable evidence. Some post-medieval ceramic building material, which had been incorporated within the wall's construction trench was recovered.

The position of the front stretch of wall was represented by a robber trench (268). This had been severely truncated by the large undiagnostic feature 270 as well as the foundation cut for the extant boundary wall (252). It is not possible to state therefore with a high degree of confidence that the wall was unbroken. It is likely that a gap of approximately 0.9m representing the entrance to the building was present between 281, which is either a disturbed posthole, or the termination of a stretch of wall and the postholes 266 and 277. A step into the building must have originally been present in this location to account for the variation in height from the interior of the building to the street.

To the west of the probable entrance to the building the robber trench followed the profile of the original foundation cut except the sides were sloped instead of vertical. Two metres east of the wall 218 the robber trench meets with the gully 220. The fills of both of these features were indistinguishable, which suggests it was filled at the same time as the robber trench after the demolition of the building. It could be that the gully represents some form of drainage system from the building onto the street. This would have had to have been lined and built into the wall as a culvert, the evidence for which was removed during the robbing.

The stretch of robber trench on the east side of the possible entrance continuing to the north-east corner of the building reflects a different construction technique to the other side of the entrance. The wall along this stretch was associated with posts (255, 268 and 275), which could either have been a sub-foundation or part of the superstructure tied into the wall for extra strength (Plate 1). A single stone was also observed just to the north of posthole 275, possibly part of the original wall, which had been left *in situ*. Interestingly the evidence suggests the wall did not return for a short length from the front along the east side of the building like it did on the west side. This could represent a number of scenarios; either the north-west corner of the building was in need of greater strength due to the original topography of the site or two different phases of construction occurred. No evidence for expansion or contraction of a pre-existing plan was observed, however.

The east wall of the building is represented by a thin, shallow gully (238). This is probably a beam slot and is also probably associated with 236 (Plate 6), which could form the south-east corner of the building. 238 was also associated a large undiagnostic feature (209), which cut pit 204. This was sub-rectangular in plan with a flat base the same depth as gully 238. The east side of this feature also followed the projected east boundary of 238. This feature is hard to interpret as the west side has been truncated by 270 and the north side by 252. The fill of this feature was similar to topsoil and indistinguishable from the fill of 238 and is certainly associated with the demolition of the building.

The west gable end of this building was built off the short stretch of dwarf wall and then off the ground surface, which appears to have been stripped to the natural. A short ephemeral feature (215) may have been where a sill-beam had been placed, flanked by two posts positioned in postholes 202 and 213. The east gable end would have been built off a 3.6m long sill-beam, which would have been located in the gully 238. The short return of this gully (236) could represent the south-east corner of the building. Other postholes within the footprint of the building could also have been structural. Postholes 207, 262, 264 and 230 were all substantial in size.

Some of the stake-holes recorded on the site within the building footprint could be internal partitioning. Stake-holes 232 and 234 and the cluster 224, 226 and 228 (Plate 2), for example, respect the alignment of the postulated west side of the building.

Feature 248 was a rectangular pit of indiscernible function 1.35m in length, 0.52m wide by 0.06m deep. It was filled with a loose silty loam with abundant mortar fragments and ceramic building material. Context 250 was an elongated oval shaped feature 1.6m long by 0.6m wide. This had a shallow 'V'-shaped profile 0.14m deep. This was filled with cohesive grey-brown silty loam and was probably the base of a rubbish pit.

The latest post-medieval feature on the site was 270. This is a large 5.0m wide spread of compacted grey gravels filling a large concave feature extending beyond the north boundary of the trench. This pit cuts a number of features, including 209, 204, 220 and 268.

Further evidence for domestic occupation on the site is attested by three rubbish pits observed in the garage foundation trench at the rear of the property (Fig 5). These were all closely grouped and of similar dimensions. 303 and 305 were approximately 0.8m across with a depth of 0.6m and 0.4m respectively (Plate 4). Pit 307 was slightly wider at 0.9m and deeper at 1.05m (Plate 4).

Two wells were present towards the south-west corner of the main foundation trench (Fig 4). Both of these features were substantial in size and were deeper than the trench. The earliest of the two was probably 412. This was vertically sided and had a width of 1.35m and a depth greater than 1.35m. The fill 413 was a friable silty loam with frequent charcoal flecks and rare sub-rounded stones with some bone and CBM. Well 419 was again vertically sided. The width was 1.2m and the depth greater than 1.5m.

#### 4.1.4 **Phase 4 Modern deposits**

Landscaping of the site had occurred in the late Victorian period. A terrace was constructed to level the plot. In the area of trench 1 0.8m of mixed dark topsoil had been deposited on the site and was retained by a brick wall fronting the road. A concentration of late Victorian refuse (260) associated with two small features, 244 and 246 was probably from a pit cutting the Victorian overburden which had been mostly removed by machine prior to archaeological observation.

A modern ceramic drainage pipe was present at the western end of the site at a right angle to the road. This was either a drain or sewer and is now redundant.

The latest activity in the excavation trench was associated with the construction of the extant north boundary wall (254) in the 1970s, which replaced the dilapidated Victorian brick wall. The wall was 16.5m long and 0.35m wide with four course buttresses placed at regular intervals along the back. The wall was constructed of small mortared sandstone blocks adhered and constructed on a concrete footing. This was placed in a foundation trench, which had disturbed the robber trench 268 and was cut through and filled with the Victorian re-deposited soil.

Other features that are modern in date were observed in the main foundation trench. A small pit 409, on the south side of the trench cut the topsoil and was likely to have been something to do with a small pre-existing swimming pool on the site. Further disturbance in this area, for example the large shallow pit 415, was probably also something to do with late 20<sup>th</sup> century activity.

#### 4.1.5 **Undated deposits**

Artefacts were recovered during the excavation allowing for dating of most of the features. Some finds were retrieved during the watching brief but most of the features in the foundation trenches remain undated. A shallow ditch (301) was identified in the garage foundation trench running on an east to west orientation. In profile this had a wide flat base and concave *c* 45° sloping sides 1.28m wide by 0.3m deep. The fill 302, which appeared to be a natural build-up of mid grey-brown silty loam was sterile of datable artefacts. Other

undated ditches very similar to this one were recorded in the main foundation trench. Context 403/405 was orientated on more of a north to south axis, but shared a similar wide and shallow profile 1.2m by 0.4m. Another ditch was present just to the north and at a right angle to 505. Feature 407 was again wide and shallow at 0.88m by 0.3m with 45° sloping sides and a wide shallow concave base. Another undated ditch of this character was recorded as 417. This was parallel to 403/405 0.96m wide by 0.34m deep. Although variations occur in the fills of these features, as they are all similar in character it is a possibility that at least some of them are contemporary, their function, however, remains unclear.

Another feature present in the centre of the main foundation trench was also undated. 401 was a very substantial feature with a near vertical east edge and a slightly inverted west edge and was deeper than the depth of the trench at 1.1m. It was 1.6m in length but its width could not be ascertained, as it was only partially visible in the trench edge. The fill (402) comprised a firm and cohesive mid grey brown silty loam with a moderate amount of charcoal present. The size and character of this feature suggests that it might be a well.

#### 4.2 **Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs**

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 50 sherds weighing 1259g, and in addition fragments of burnt stone, tobacco pipe, bone, glass and worked stone were recovered. The group came from 28 stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Tables 1-5). The level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying only moderate levels of abrasion.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Medieval pottery	2	27
Post-medieval pottery	19	457
Modern pottery	29	775
Tobacco pipe	3	18
Bone	9	130
Burnt stone	1	19
Glass	14	905
Brick	5	2107
Tile	16	1750
Fired clay	1	55
Metal objects	2	22
Coal	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6163</b>

*Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage*

#### 4.2.1 **Discussion of the pottery**

All sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type (see Tables 2-4). Thirteen diagnostic form sherds were present, and the other sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span. The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

<b>Fabric number</b>	<b>Fabric name</b>	<b>Total Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
64.1	Worcester-type sandy glazed ware	1	9
69	Malvernian oxidised glazed ware	1	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>27</b>

*Table 2: Quantification of the medieval pottery by fabric*

The medieval material formed the second largest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 4% by sherd count and 2% by weight. Only two fabrics and sherds of medieval material were present, both residual in post-medieval contexts. The first consisted of a very abraded fragment of Worcester-type sandy glazed ware (fabric 64.1), and a base sherd of what is probably a pipkin or skillet in Malvernian oxidised glazed ware (fabric 69).

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total Sherds	Weight (g)
75	North Devon gravel tempered ware	1	163
77	Midlands yellow ware	1	18
78	Post-medieval red sandy ware	9	193
84	Creamware	1	3
90	Post-medieval orange ware	1	9
91	Post-medieval buff ware	5	58
Total		18	444

Table 3: Quantification of the post-medieval pottery by fabric

The post-medieval material formed the second largest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 36% by sherd count and 38% by weight. Post-medieval pottery was dominated by post-medieval red sandy ware (fabric 78). This fabric was primarily in the form of pancheons (contexts 204, 221, 249 and 251), or in the form of small hollow ware vessels (contexts 221, 225, 285 and 304). Distinctive early forms are not definable indicating a broad 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century date for this fabric. In addition a few sherds of a platter or dish (context 304), storage jars (context 204 and 205) and a small yellow slipped drinking vessel (context 211) in post-medieval buff ware (fabric 91) were recovered. Single sherds of post-medieval orange ware (fabric 90; context 205; 18<sup>th</sup> century), Midlands Yellow ware drinking vessels (fabric 77; context 205) and North Devon gravel tempered ware (fabric 75; context 201; 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century) were also found. A single sherd of creamware (fabric 84; context 251) plate with scalloped edges, dated from 1740-1780. Most of the material recovered represents 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century deposition, with a few earlier pieces. The assemblage is too small to draw definite conclusions, however, the balance of the fabrics and forms would clearly indicate a domestic assemblage.

Fabric number	Fabric name	Total Sherds	Weight (g)
81.4	Modern miscellaneous stoneware	4	251
85	Modern stone china	25	524
Total		29	775

Table 4: Quantification of the modern pottery by fabric

The modern material formed the second largest part of the ceramic assemblage, comprising 60% by sherd count and 60% by weight. A limited range of fabrics and forms were recovered, the modern miscellaneous stone ware (fabric 81.4) consisting of the rims of two kitchen mixing bowls (contexts 254 and 260), a small fragment of a ginger beer bottle and part of a small ink bottle (context 260). Forms represented in modern stone china (fabric 85) consisted of a teacup (context 245), several plates and saucers and a number of small bowls (contexts 245, 247 and 260). The overall size of the modern assemblage makes any conclusion problematical, but the forms follow the general range of modern domestic and kitchen assemblages.

#### 4.2.2 Other finds

A number of fragments of medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (fabric 2a; cf Hurst 1992) dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries were recovered (contexts 211, 267 and 285), and a single fragment of tile (fabric 2b cf Hurst 1992) dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century (context 269). In addition fragments of the most common tile fabric dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century were

recovered from post-medieval contexts (201, 218, 221, 227 and 258). A total of four fragments of brick (fabric 2a; cf Hurst 1992) of 17<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from post-medieval contexts (218 and 231), and a single fragment (fabric 2c cf Hurst 1992) of 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date (context 205). Other finds included a single fragment of burnt clay (fabric 2c cf Hurst 1992), possibly of medieval or post-medieval date (context 308), and nine fragments of bone (contexts 211, 256, 259 and 308). The only metal finds consisted of a brass button of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date (253) and a metal sleeve or tube, again of modern date (260). In addition a single small fragment of coal was recovered (221).

A number of tobacco pipe stems of 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered (285 and 308), and a dateable bowl (context 259) similar in form to a Broseley 4a (Higgins 1987), dating between 1690 and 1720. A single fragment of worked oolitic limestone from a modern context (243), and a small fragment of burnt oolitic limestone were also recovered (context 241). Glass was present in both window and bottle form, three fragments of painted window glass being recovered (context 237), and it is possible that these are either of medieval, but are more likely to be of early post-medieval date. A range of more modern bottle glass fragments were recovered from modern contexts (245, 253 and 260), including examples of late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century condiment bottles, post 1870 torpedo bottles and more modern fragments of beer and whisky bottles.

#### 4.2.3 Significance

In conclusion, the small quantity of finds makes this assemblage of limited archaeological interest beyond dating the features uncovered. The material represents very residual waste disposal in the medieval period followed by more extensive post-medieval and modern activity.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight	Date range
201	Cbm	Tile	4	181	16th-18th century
201	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	163	16th-17th century
204	Pottery	Medieval	1	18	14th-16th century?
204	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	13	17th-18th century
204	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	10	18th century
205	Cbm	Brick	1	10	19th-20th century
205	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	9	1650-1750
205	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	18	16th-17th century
205	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	13	18th century
211	Bone	Mammal	2	13	?
211	Cbm	Tile	3	199	13th-18th century
211	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	13	17th-18th century
218	Cbm	Brick	3	1028	17th century
218	Cbm	Tile	3	712	16th-18th century
221	Cbm	Tile	1	102	16th-18th century
221	Coal	Fragment	1	4	?
221	Pottery	Post-medieval	2	35	17th-18th century
225	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2	17th-18th century
227	Cbm	Tile	1	52	16th-18th century
231	Cbm	Brick	1	1038	17th century
237	Glass	Medieval	3	11	11th-16th century
241	Stone	Burnt	1	19	?
243	Stone	Worked	1	2018	?
245	Glass	Modern	2	3	19th-20th century
245	Glass	Modern	3	62	Late 19th-20th century

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight	Date range
245	Pottery	Modern	11	325	19th-20th century
247	Pottery	Modern	4	37	19th-20th century
249	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	45	17th-18th century
251	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	3	1740-1780
251	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	56	18th century
253	Metal	Copper alloy	1	5	19th-20th century
256	Bone	Mammal	1	8	?
258	Cbm	Tile	1	20	16th-18th century
258	Pottery	Medieval	1	9	Late 12th-14th century
259	Bone	Mammal	1	7	?
259	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	29	17th-18th century
259	tobacco pipe	Post-medieval	1	8	1690-1720
260	Glass	Modern	6	829	Late 19th-20th century
260	Metal	Copper alloy	1	17	19th-20th century
260	Pottery	Modern	1	12	1880-1930
260	Pottery	Modern	13	401	19th-20th century
267	Cbm	Tile	1	218	13th-18th century
269	Cbm	Tile	1	180	13th-16th century
285	Cbm	Tile	1	52	13th-18th century
285	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2	17th-18th century
285	Tobacco pipe	Post-medieval	1	1	?
304	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	11	17th-18th century
304	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	22	18th century
308	Bone	Mammal	4	74	?
308	Cbm	Fired clay	1	55	17th-20th century
308	Tobacco pipe	Post-medieval	1	9	17th-19th century
413	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	13	18th century
420	Bone	Mammal	1	28	?
420	Cbm	Tile	1	34	19th-20th century
420	Cbm	Brick	1	31	19th-20th century

Table 5: Context finds.

## 5. Synthesis

### 5.1 Medieval

A small amount of activity occurred on the site in the late medieval period. Pottery recovered from two pits, which pre-date the early post-medieval building. Pit 257 has a 14<sup>th</sup> century *terminus post quem* and is therefore consistent with evidence from the evaluation, which identified a medieval well along with stake-holes (Goad 2005). Medieval painted glass was recovered from the fill of the possible sill-beam slot 236. This, however, was only a small amount and is possibly intrusive, it cannot, therefore be used to date the building with any confidence as further evidence is also available suggesting the building was constructed later.

Though few features and artefacts could be dated to this period there has been much later activity, which will have removed much of the medieval evidence. Nevertheless the evidence does lend the support of physical evidence to the documentary based assertion of a medieval suburb in this area (cf Bond 1977).

## 5.2 **Post-medieval**

### 5.2.1 **The building**

Sometime, probably in the early medieval period, a small building was erected on the site. As the topography of the site naturally inclines towards the road the area would have been first stripped and levelled. A sandstone dwarf wall was constructed approximately 0.35m high from the road, the top of which became level with the ground surface. The wall returned within a foundation trench for 1.5m from the north west corner along the west side of the structure (218). This was the only stretch of wall, which had survived demolition (Plate 3), the presence of a robber trench along the front of the building (268) suggests, however, a wall existed here also. A wooden superstructure would have been built off this wall as was the normal building technique in this period. There are, however, suggestions of different phases of construction. As stated above the west wall of the building was built partially off a dwarf wall with short stretches of sill-beam then placed directly on the ground surface between posts. Evidence for posts was not present in the position of the east wall, instead a single unbroken beam would have been used. Three post-holes in the location of the stretch of wall to the east of the entrance (contexts 255, 273 and 275) were probably a sub-foundation to the wall, adding strength to the structure which for some reason was not considered necessary elsewhere (Plate 1).

The length of this structure would have been 8.0m, the full width of which could not be ascertained but was probably greater than 5.0m. It is highly likely that the entrance from the street was slightly off centre and is represented by the gap between postholes 266 and 277 on the west side and 286 and 281 on the east side.

An intriguing aspect of this structure was a substantial internal drain (220) which would have drained from the interior of the structure onto the street out of a culvert in the wall located to the west of the probable entrance to the building. This suggests the building may have had some kind of industrial function or was possibly used to house animals.

Some of the post- and stake-holes within the building could have represented internal divisions. No evidence of floor deposits were encountered as sometime during or after the demolition of the building the site was again reduced to the natural ground surface.

### 5.2.2 **Dating of the building**

The construction date of this building is ambiguous due to a general low level of finds from the site, particularly pottery. A small amount ceramic building material was recovered from the wall 218, which was the only part of the original building, which had not been removed or disturbed (Plate 3). This is hard to date but it likely originates from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Medieval painted glass was recovered from the fill of sill-beam slot 236, but may have been intrusive. Ceramic building material from the fill of drain 220, thought to be associated with the building dates from between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

It can be concluded therefore; that the earliest the building could be is early 16<sup>th</sup> century, which is still substantially later than the development of the suburb and indeed other features on the site. It is likely, however, that the building is 17<sup>th</sup> century in date and was demolished not long after, before activity on the site occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The apparent short life of this building could represent a contraction of the town, prior to a renewed development of the suburb in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which is the date of the majority of buildings along Newlands. For some reason, however, even though occupation continued on either side (now demolished) the plot has since remained undeveloped.



### 5.2.3 Other activity

After the demolition of the building a concentration of late post-medieval activity occurred to the east of a fenced boundary represented by stake holes 232, 234, 224, 226 and 228. This was in the form of pit excavation. Pit 250 is probably for refuse, while the function of 248 and 249 remain indiscernible.

Towards the rear of the plot the features exposed in the foundation trenches mainly related to late post-medieval domestic activity. Two wells 412 and 419 were identified towards the south-west corner of the main foundation trench and were assigned 18<sup>th</sup> century and 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century dates respectively. As no discernable building was present on the plot at this time these wells were probably dug by occupants of the property on the west side of the site. The cluster of pits recorded in the garage foundation trench (303, 305 and 307) were likely all contemporary and can loosely be dated to the late post-medieval period. Again occupants of the property on the west of the site would have dug these.

Prior to the terracing of the site in the Victorian period the last activity recorded in the excavation was the excavation and in-filling of a large undiagnostic feature (270) The function of this feature is unknown but as it was associated with the small gully 222, could be something to do with drainage or possibly consolidation of a damp area. The size of this feature meant it had cut and obscured many of the earlier features and so had to be completely removed, partially by machine. A small amount of datable evidence was, however, recovered in the form of 18<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe and ceramic building material.

### 5.3 Modern

Terracing of the plot occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. 0.8m of mixed topsoil was dumped on the site to form a level surface behind a brick retaining wall. Evidence for waste burial not long after the terracing was identified but was minimal in nature. The retaining wall was replaced with a sandstone wall in the 1970's and conifer trees were planted in a line parallel with the road.

Towards the rear of the plot a small swimming pool was built in the 1970s and was later demolished. Evidence of these groundworks was viewed in the southern half of the main foundation trench.

## 6. Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

*An archaeological excavation and watching brief was undertaken on behalf of David Keen and Sons who are developing an empty plot at 67 Newlands, Pershore, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9441 4596; WSM 34771). A prior evaluation determined that there was a high potential for significant medieval domestic deposits to be present on the site. Pits dating to the late medieval period were identified and predated a structure, which was poorly represented by datable evidence. A small section of dwarf wall which would have been the north-west corner of this building survived with evidence suggesting the rest of the building apart from the front was built off sill beams directly upon the ground surface. Some 17<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building material was incorporated within the walls construction providing a tentative early post-medieval date for the structure. The use of the structure is unknown but as it had a substantial drain probably housed animals or could have served an industrial purpose. The front wall was robbed out when the building was demolished in either the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, possibly during contraction of the town. After the demolition of the building pit*

*excavation and other activity occurred during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Terracing of the site occurred during the Victorian period but the plot was never built on again.*

## 7. **The archive**

The archive consists of:

- 55 Abbreviated context records AS40
- 4 Fieldwork progress records AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 2 Level records AS19
- 2 Drawing number catalogue AS4
- 40 Scale drawings
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD with digital photos

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Near Kidderminster

Worcestershire DY11 7XZ

Tel Hartlebury (01299) 250416

## 8. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, David and John Keen and their agent Berry and Young.

## 9. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Jon Milward. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Simon Woodiwiss. Fieldwork was also undertaken by Adam Lee, finds analysis by Alan Jacobs and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

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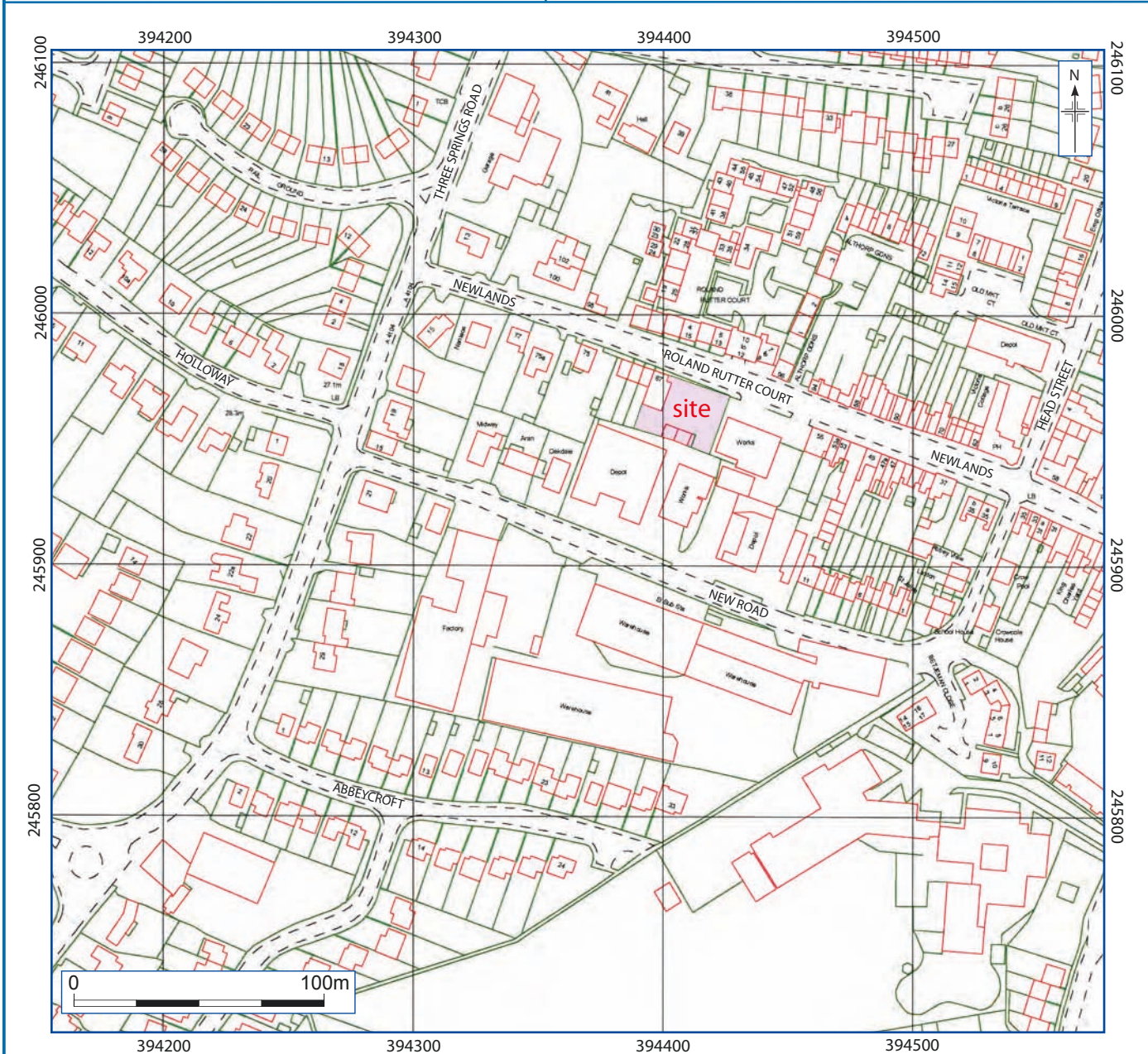
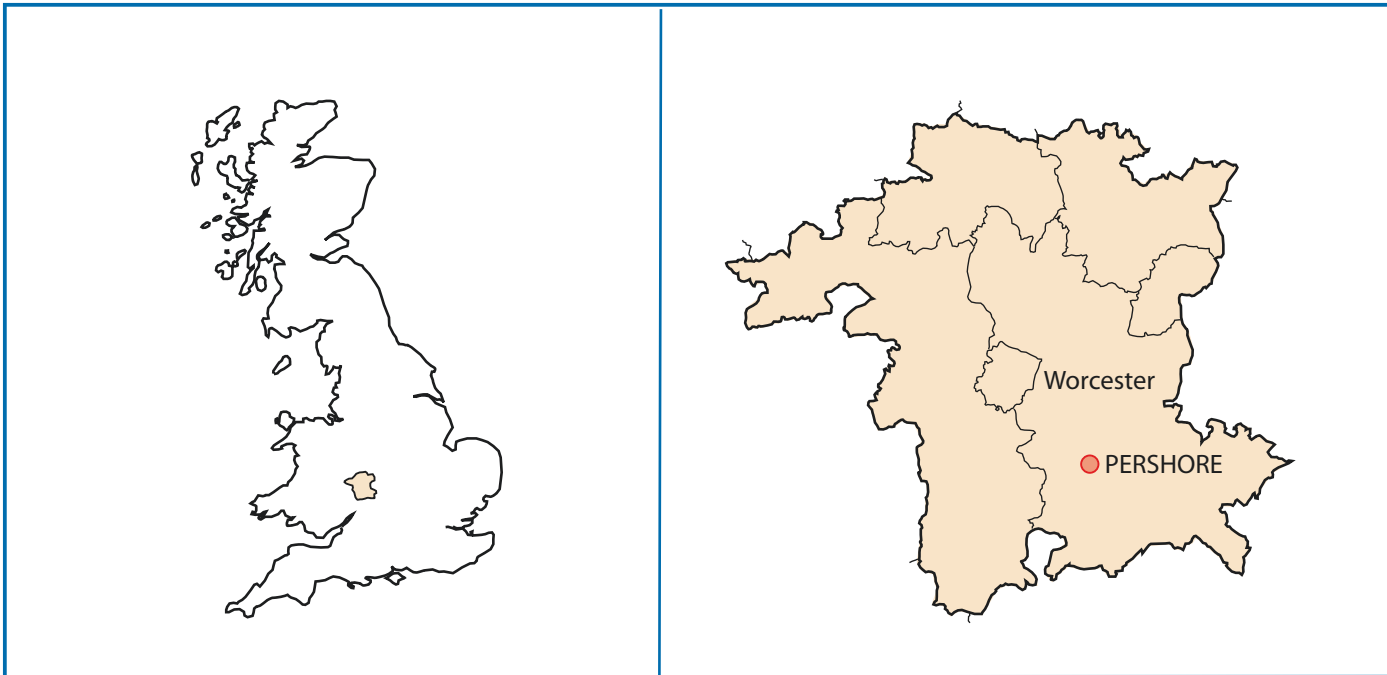
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IFA, 1999b *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

## 11. **Abbreviations**

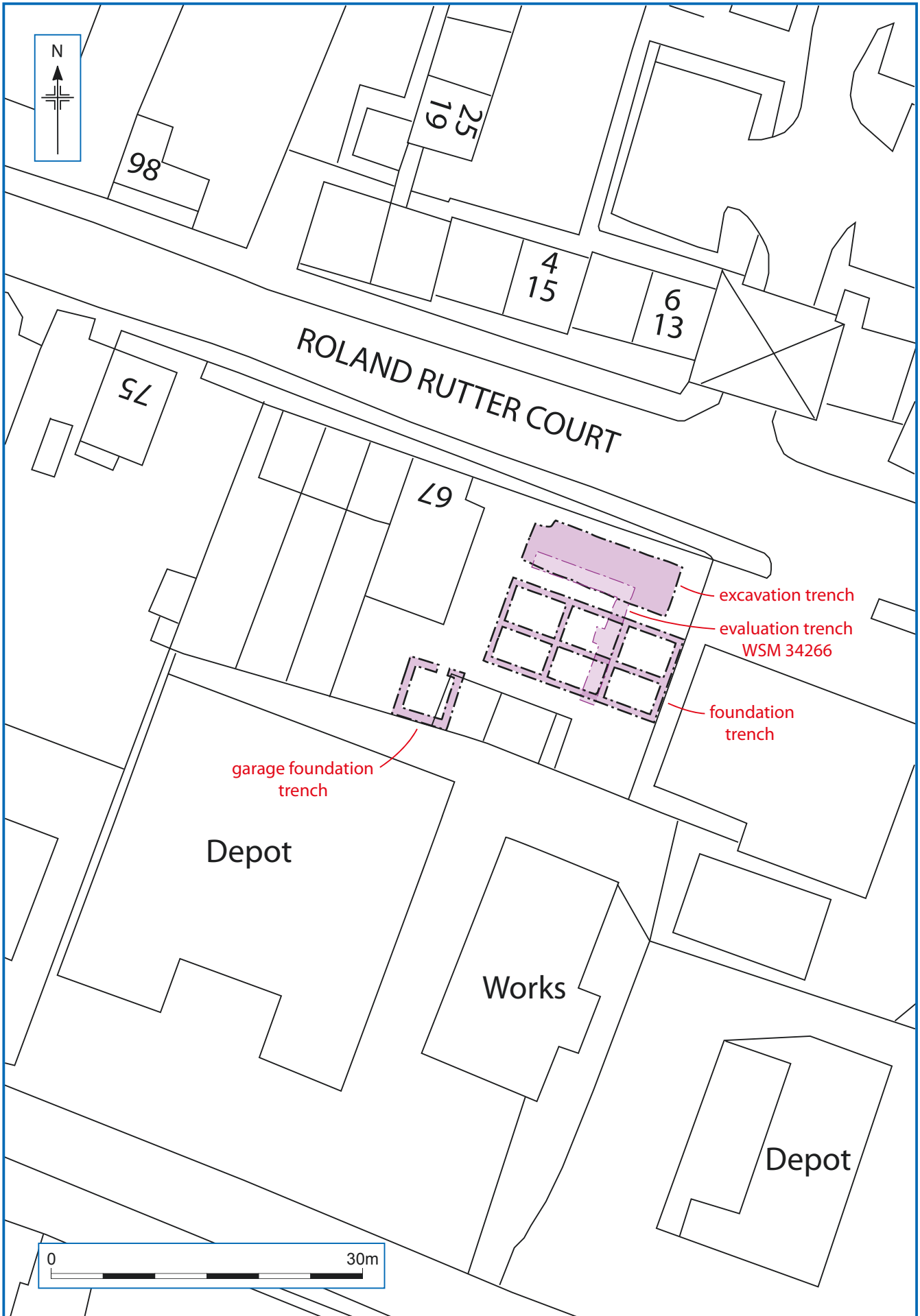
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record.
WSM	Numbers prefixed with 'WSM' are the primary reference numbers used by the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record.
CBM	Ceramic building material



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Location of the site.

Figure 1



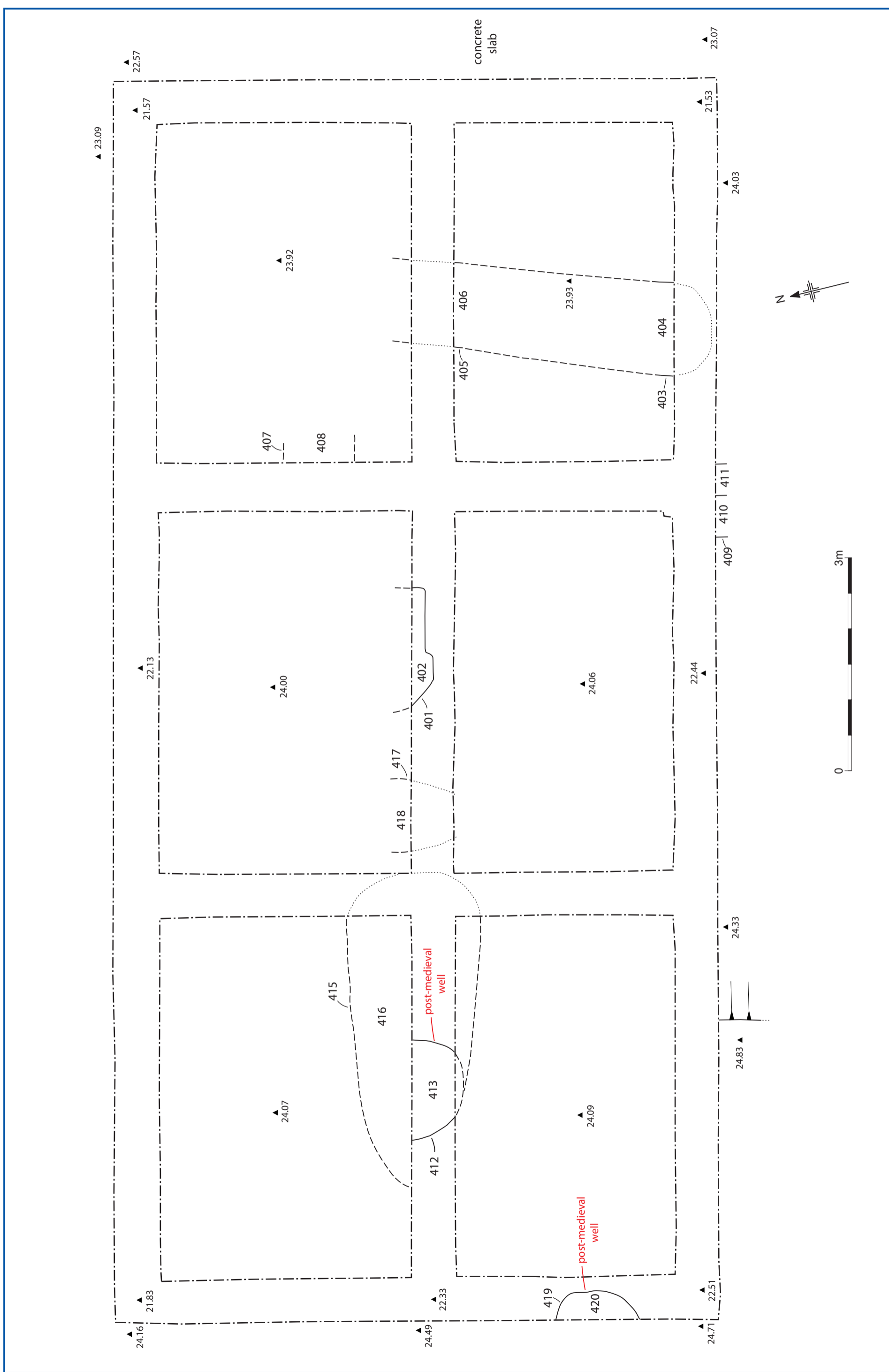
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Trench location plan

Figure 2

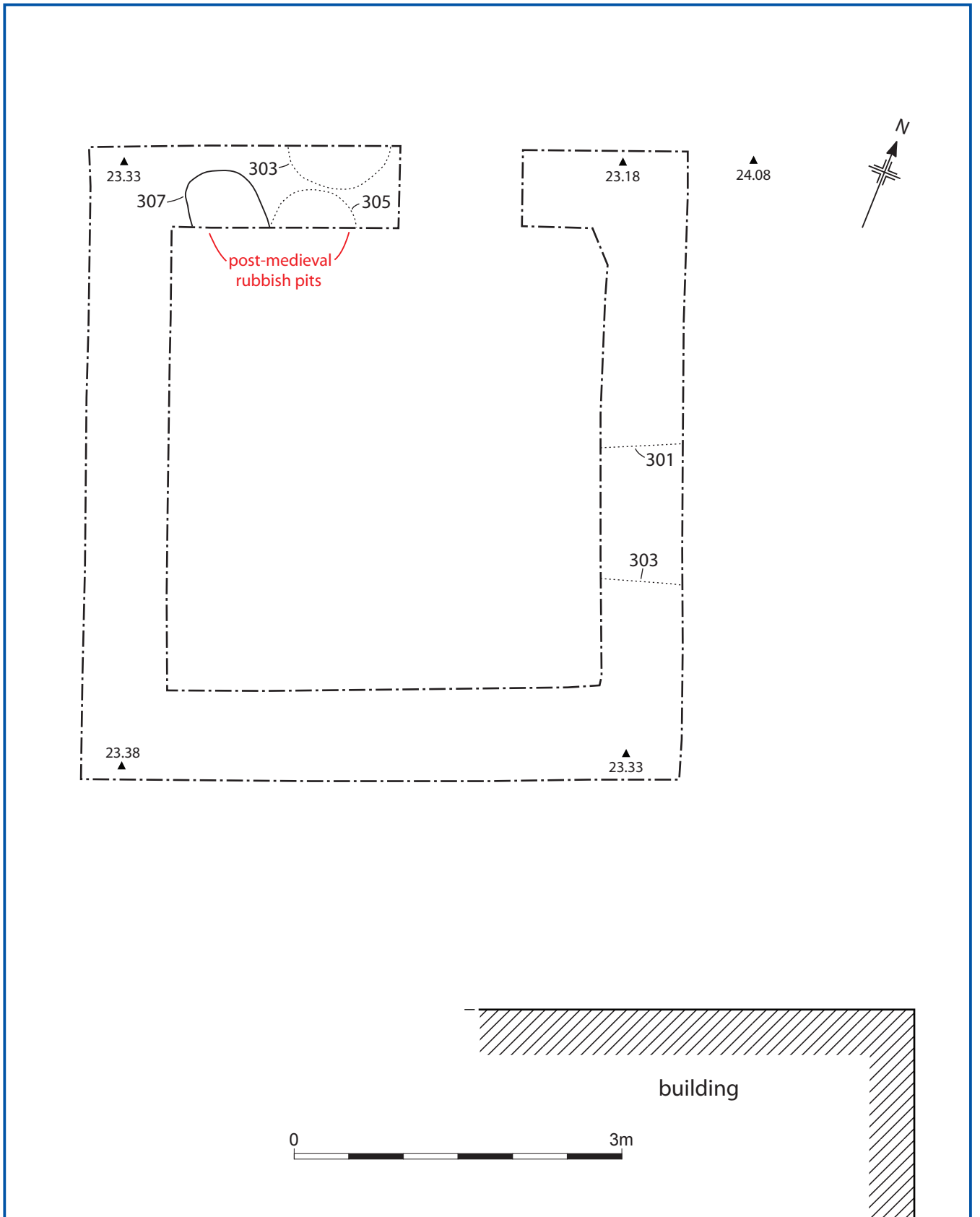






Plan of foundation trench

Figure 4



Plan of garage foundation trench

Figure 5



## Plates



*Plate 1 Facing north-east*





*Plate 2 Facing south-west.*



*Plate 3 Postholes 255, 273 and 275 within robber trench 268, facing south*



*Plate 4 Stake-holes 224, 226 and 228, facing north-east.*

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*Plate 5 Surviving stone wall 218, facing north-east.*



*Plate 6 beam slots 236 and 238, facing north north-east.*





*Plate 7 Pits 305 (left) and 307 (right), facing south.*



*Plate 8 Main foundation trench, facing north-west.*

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## **Appendix 1 Trench descriptions**

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**Trench 1 – Excavation trench**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 15m Width: 5m Depth: 0.8m

Orientation: NWW—SEE

Deposit description:

Context	Classification	Description
199	Finds number	Unstratified finds
200	Pit	Amorphous shaped feature severely disturbed by root action from pre-existing conifer trees on site. Base is relatively flat with gradually sloping east edge and near vertical west edge.
201	Fill	Single fill of 200. Comprises light/mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones and some charcoal present.
202	Posthole	Circular in plan with a narrow pointed base forming a shallow 'V'-shaped profile.
203	Fill	Single fill of 202. Comprises mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones present and some small flecks of charcoal.
204	Pit	Roughly circular in plan, west and north sides are shallow sloping, east side is near vertical.
205	Fill	Primary fill of 204. Comprises friable slightly orangey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones present.
206	Fill	Secondary/final fill of 204. Comprises greyish brown friable silty loam with some large chunks of CBM present. Occasional small sub-rounded stones and occasional small fragments of charcoal.
207	Posthole	Feature is circular in plan with a flat base conical top half with slightly inverted bottom half.
208	Fill	Primary fill of 207 mid-brown compact silty material, possibly partial decomposed post.
209	Pit	Large feature, roughly rectangular in plan with rounded corners at south end. North end has been cut by wall foundation cut 252. Feature has a flattish base in profile.
210	–	Cancelled.
211	Fill	Single fill of 209. Comprises friable mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small charcoal fragments and occasional small sub-rounded stones.
212	Natural	Mostly firm mottled orangey grey clay with some reddish sand/gravels existing in patches at east end and centre of trench.
213	Posthole	Circular in plan with near vertical sides with a wide shallow bowl shaped base.
214	Fill	Mid grey brown loose silty loam with rare small-large sub-rounded stones present, probably used as packing.

Context	Classification	Description
215	Feature	Very ephemeral rectangular feature situated between post-holes 202 and 213. This is possible remains of sill-beam slot? Only really exists as a smear on the natural.
216	Fill	Single fill of 215. Comprises mid grey-brown silty clay.
217	Foundation cut	Original foundation cut for building wall. Only part undisturbed by robber activity. Vertically sided east edge, west edge truncated by pipe cut 284. Base is flat. South end is stepped, top half declines at angle of 45 degrees, bottom half is vertical.
218	Fill	Material filling foundation trench 217 and existing around stones of wall 219. Comprises loose light grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones present.
219	Wall	Only remaining stretch as it has been robbed out everywhere else. Exists as 3 level courses, possibly representing the original height of the wall as a footing for a wooden superstructure. Wall was comprised of large sandstone blocks with CBM used to level courses, particularly between first and second course.
220	Gully	Gully, possibly a drain existing within pre-existing structure. This has a shallow bowl-shaped profile with parallel sides on an NNE-SSW orientation which turns towards NE and becomes deeper as it nears the front of the building, joining up with robber trench 268. Cuts post-hole 261.
221	Fill	Fill of gully 220. Comprises light-mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded gravels and charcoal present.
222	Gully	Parallel sided with shallow concave base. Fades away at north and south ends so may have been a lot longer. Has been truncated by 270.
223	Fill	Single fill of 222. Comprises sub-rounded medium sized gravels in silty loam matrix. This is very similar to 259 which may hint at a connection.
224	Stake-hole	Square-shaped in plan with a slightly concave base. Sides angled to the north slightly. Probably associated with 226 and 228.
225	Fill	Single homogenous fill of 224. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones.
226	Stake-hole	Oval shaped in plan, angled slightly down to the east. Base narrow and pointed.
227	Fill	Fill of 226. Comprises loose mortar rich silty loam.
228	Stake-hole	Square-shaped in plan, east side has been disturbed.
229	Fill	Fill of 228. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones present.
230	Stake-hole	Oval in plan with conical sides to a depth of 0.2m, vertical after that. Base slightly concave.
231	Fill	Single fill of 230. Comprises loose mottled orangey grey clay natural clay with a large fragment of brick present.

Context	Classification	Description
232	Stake-hole	Circular in plan, angled slightly downwards towards the south. Base is concave.
233	Fill	Single fill of 232. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam. Contains rare small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks.
234	Stake-hole	Circular in plan, angled downwards slightly to the south with a narrow concave base.
235	Fill	Fill of 234. Comprises loose silty loam with abundant small mortar fragments present.
236	Gully	Short length of gully, which joins with 238. Shallow concave profile.
237	Fill	Single fill of 236. Comprises friable mottled clay with frequent small-large cobbles and charcoal present.
238	Gully	Linear depression representing position of east building wall. Joins with 236 at south end and is truncated by 209 at north end.
239	Fill	Fill of 238. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small flecks of charcoal and occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones.
240	Posthole	Circular in plan, vertically sided with a concave base.
241	Fill	Single fill of 240. Comprises homogenous silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones and rare very large sub-angular stones present, probably used as
242	Posthole	Circular in plan with a deep concave base.
243	Fill	Single fill of 242. Comprises loose dark grey-brown silty loam with some rare small-medium sub-rounded stones present. Some rare very large stones also present, probably packing for original post. Abundant small charcoal flecks also present.
244	Feature	Small oal-shaped feature with narrow base and concave 45-degree sides. Function of feature is unclear although is probably associated with 246.
245	Fill	Single fill of 244. Comprises very dark brown, near black loose silty clay with dominant small-large charcoal flecks and abundant Victorian refuse.
246	Feature	Small oval shaped feature with undulating base, steep west side and gradually sloping east side. Function of feature is unclear.
247	Fill	Very dark brown loose silty loam with abundant small-large charcoal flecks, CBM and large sub-rounded stones. Fill is same as 245 and 260.
248	Pit	Rectangular in plan with rounded corners, wide flat base with c. 45-degree sloping sides.
249	Fill	Fill of 248. Comprises loose mortar rich silty loam containing CBM and occasional small charcoal fragments.
250	Pit	Elongated oval shaped feature with a shallow 'V'-shaped profile.



Context	Classification	Description
251	Fill	Fill of 250. Comprises cohesive grey-brown silty loam with abundant small fragments of mortar and charcoal.
252	Linear	Cut for current north sit boundary wall. Relatively straight with a bowl-shaped profile, cut through Victorian soil 283.
253	Fill	Fill of 252, as 283.
254	Wall	Current north site boundary wall. Constructed in the 1970s from sandstone on a concrete footing.
255	Posthole	Unexcavated. Circular in plan.
256	Fill	Fill of 255. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam.
257	Pit	Irregular oval shape in plan. Very shallow with undulating base, steep sloping east side and more gradual sloping west side.
258	Fill	Fill of 257. Comprises mottled grey-brown silty loam with occasional fragments of charcoal and mortar and some small-medium sub-rounded stones.
259	Fill	Fill of 270. Comprises firm, compacted sub-rounded gravels in a grey silty loam matrix.
260	Deposit	Spread of Victorian topsoil and rubbish. Indistinguishable from 283, 245 and 246. May have been fill of feature removed by machine although no evidence of this was visible in section.
261	Fill	Secondary/final fill of 207. Comprises loose mottled orangey grey natural clay.
262	Posthole	Circular in plan with vertical sides and a narrow concave base. Cut by gully 220.
263	Fill	Single fill of 262. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam with rare large rounded stones. Probably original packing stones.
264	Posthole	Oval in plan with a conical top half, which turns into a shaft 0.3m deep.
265	Fill	Single fill of 264. Comprises loose mixed natural clay with some silt loam present.
266	Posthole	Circular in plan with slightly conical profile with a shallow concave base.
267	Fill	Fill of 266. Comprises loose mixed natural clays and silty loam with 2 very large packing stones present on the surface.
268	Linear	Robber trench representing front of building. This stops to the west at the remaining masonry 219. At the west end it joins with 238. Base is flat and sides are sloping unlike original wall cut which apparently had vertical sides.
269	Fill	Fill of 268. Comprises loose light grey-brown silty loam containing occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones with some charcoal also present.
270	Feature	Large amorphous shaped feature. Gradually slopes down from south, east and west towards the north. Probably associated with stripping, consolidation and

Context	Classification	Description
		landscaping of the site.
271	Pit	Oval-shaped in plan with a concave profile with a flat gradually sloping west side and slightly concave steep east side. Feature has been disturbed by root action.
272	Fill	Fill of 271. Comprises mottled grey silty loam with some areas of orangey natural clay present. Occasional small charcoal fragments also present.
273	Stake/posthole	UNEXCAVATED. Circular in plan with an associated <i>in situ</i> stone.
274	Fill	Fill of 273. Comprises loose mid-grey silty loam.
275	Posthole	UNEXCAVATED. Circular in plan.. Possibly associated with 255 and 268.
276	Fill	Fill of 275. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam.
277	Posthole	UNEXCAVATED. Only approximately 50% visible in trench.
278	Fill	Fill of 277. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam.
279	Posthole	UNEXCAVATED. Only approximately 50% visible in trench.
280	Fill	Fill of 279. Comprises loose mid grey-brown silty loam with a very large probably packing stone present on the surface.
281	Feature	Possible post-hole disturbed during excavation or robber trench 268. Possibly represents termination of wall in this position?
282	Fill	Fill of 281, as 269.
283	Layer	Redeposited dark silty loam topsoil sat directly on top of natural representing stripping of site and landscaping in the Victorian period.
284	Service	Cut for out of use ceramic drain. Runs at a right angle to north site boundary wall and cuts 217.
285	Fill	Backfill around ceramic drain. Comprises friable mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small sub-rounded stones present.

**Trench 2 – Garage foundation trench**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5.8m Width: 5.5m Depth: 0.7-0.9m

Orientation: N/A

Deposit description:

Context	Classification	Description
300	Finds number	Unstratified finds.
301	Feature	Probable ditch on east to west orientation. This has a wide flat base and concave c. 45° sloping sides.
302	Deposit	Single fill of 301. Comprises loose mid grey brown silty loam with rare small sub-rounded stones.
303	Feature	Pit feature. Narrow concave base with steep sloping east side with more gradual sloping west side.
304	Deposit	Fill of pit 303. Comprises light grey brown silty loam with frequent small to medium charcoal fragments and occasional small sub-rounded stones.
305	Feature	Pit feature. Narrow pointed base with steep east side and more gradual sloping west side.
306	Deposit	Single fill of pit 303. Comprises light-mid grey brown silty loam with occasional small-medium charcoal flecks and rare small sub-rounded stones.
307	Feature	Pit feature. Flat base with steep west side and more gradual sloping east side.
308	Deposit	Single fill of pit 307. Comprises mid grey-brown silty loam with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones. Occasional large rounded and sub-rounded stones observed towards base of deposit.

**Trench 3 – Foundation trench**

Maximum dimensions: Length: 17.5m Width: 8.5m Depth: 2.2m

Orientation: N/A

Deposit description:

Context	Classification	Description
400	Finds number	Unstratified finds.
401	Feature	Large feature only partially visible in trench edge. Visible sides are near vertical although west edge is slightly inverted. In plan east end is square but west is rounded.
402	Deposit	Single fill of 401. Comprises firm and cohesive mid grey brown silty loam. Moderate amounts of charcoal present with rare small sub-rounded stones. Deposit slightly disturbed by root disturbance.
403	Feature	Probable ditch feature, likely the same one as 405. Sides are sloping c.45° towards a base that is flat and wide in profile.
404	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 403. Comprises firm and cohesive light-mid brown silty loam with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones.
405	Feature	Probable ditch feature, almost certainly the same as 403. Feature has gradual sloping sides with a wide flat base.
406	Deposit	Fill of 405. Comprises firm and cohesive silty loam with occasional charcoal fragments and rare medium sized sub-rounded stones.
407	Feature	Possible ditch feature with c. 45° sloping sides and a shallow concave base.
408	Deposit	Single fill of 407. Comprises light grey brown cohesive silty loam with occasional charcoal fragments and rare small sub-rounded stones.
409	Feature	Small feature possibly associated with a pre-existing swimming pool. This has a flattish base with a near vertical west side and gradually sloping east side.
410	Deposit	Fill of 409 only present on the east side. Comprises friable light grey-brown sandy loam with occasional small charcoal flecks
411	Deposit	Fill of 409 only present on the west side. Comprises friable dark brown silty loam with frequent charcoal and occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones.
412	Feature	Large pit feature, probably a well. Vertically sided and probably oval shaped in plan. Characteristics of base unknown.
413	Deposit	Fill of 412. Friable silty loam with frequent charcoal flecks and rare sub-rounded stones, bone and CBM.
414	Layer	Dark grey-brown silty loam representing Victorian topsoil.
415	Feature	Large feature, possibly a pit opened at the same time as 412.

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Context	Classification	Description
416	Deposit	Fill of 415. Comprises friable mortar rich silty loam with frequent charcoal flecks, rare sub-rounded stones, bones and CBM.
417	Feature	Possible ditch with 45° sloping sides and a wide slightly concave base.
418	Deposit	Fill of 417. Comprises firm light grey brown silty loam with a moderate amount of small-medium sized sub-rounded stones present and occasional small charcoal flecks.
419	Feature	Large possible well feature, vertically sided and probably circular in plan.
420	Deposit	Fill of 419. Comprises sticky clay loam with CBM occasional charcoal and bone.
421	Feature	Small pit or possible ditch with a bowl shaped concave profile.
422	Deposit	Fill of 421. Comprises light grey brown loam with occasional fragments of charcoal.

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