

Historic Environment Record

Parish Topsham	National Grid Reference SX 9603 8865	Number (Leave blank)	
Subject Watching brief during construction of extensions at 6 Belvedere Close, Topsham	Measurements See attached location plan and sketch plan and sections.		
<p>Description <i>History, field notes and other information. (Please use a separate form for ea</i></p> <p>A watching brief was undertaken on this development, as it lies in an area which has previously produced Roman material – mostly during the construction of the housing & services during the 1930s and subsequently. In this particular case, because of the small scale residential nature of the development, monitoring was undertaken by the ECC Archaeology Officer via a condition on the planning permission (ECC 11/0066/03). Three visits were made on 6, 7 & 9 December 2011; during the excavation of the strip footings.</p> <p>The footings trenches were generally 600mm wide and approx 1m deep, and locally wider due to occasional collapses. A public sewer, in a trench c 1.50m deep, ran through the footprint of the new outbuilding, from NW to SE. Other shallower services were present along the south western trench but otherwise the ground had not been disturbed, except by the footings of the present house.</p> <p>Natural gravels occurred at a depth of 0.70-0.80m within the SW area of the site (new extension) and along the NW edge of the outbuilding, gradually sloping down to the SE to a depth of 1m at the NE corner of the outbuilding (east end of trench 2).</p> <p>Finds</p> <p>The ceramics were identified (13 & 22 Feb 2012) by J. Durrant of RAM Museum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tr 2 unstrat - Samian (military period). Box tile (large fragment, hasn't moved far). Several flagons (wide array of fabrics which is unusual. 1st-mid 3rd century) • Tr 1 unstrat - flagon. Buff tile (mid 3rd/4th C) Exeter Fabric 4 (from Solent area). BB (black burnished) conical flanged bowl (late Rom). Tile ?teg • Tr 1 layer 3 - Buff tegula tile (mid 3rd/4th C) Exeter Fabric 4. At least 2 BB wares (fresh, unabraded, late 3rd/4th C). 2 frags Exeter volcanic stone, but the kind found North of Exeter (beyond Killerton) rather than the immediately local material. Not building stone, possibly a quern (Roger Taylor, id.) • Tr 2 layer 9 - flagon • Tr 3 unstrat – 1 imbrex tile Exeter Fabric 2; 1 tegula Exeter fabric 2 (upper cut away); 1 tegula Exeter Fabric 3 (top cut away). mid 2nd-mid 3rd century • Tr 3 layer 12 – 1 colour coated beaker – German, 1st & 2nd Cent; 1 abraded fine ware; 1 poss amphorae frag; SE Dorset BB rim – mid 2nd C flat rimmed dish; SW Dorset BB base & body 	Reference for each piece of information	Date of each entry Dec 2011 & April 2013	

sherd, & SW Dorset BB body sherd from a jar – both undiagnostic.

The archive and retained finds are to be deposited in the RAMM.

Conclusion/interpretation

A further indication of Roman activity in this area of Topsham, consistent with previous observations in the vicinity. The presence of intensive burning, including ash, and some remnants of walling (some heavily shattered by heat), together with its relatively limited extent/footprint, suggests that this was an oven structure or a drying kiln, rather than a stoking area for example (as there were no related structural remains in the adjoining trenches). There was a complete lack of any wasters or slag (ruling it out as a ceramics kiln or industrial furnace), and also there were no visibly identifiable seeds for example in the ash layer. Two possible quern fragments were found, though it remains possible that these may be residual.

Unfortunately, most finds were recovered from the builders' spoil and were unstratified, although the presence of 3rd/4th cent tile in the layer(3) that directly overlay the burning and that appeared to be at the same horizon as the walling suggests that this structure is later Roman in date. There were, however, no finds within the burnt layer, or within the walling itself. The presence of earlier, 1st-2nd cent material suggests earlier activity in the vicinity, in line with previous observations, and the presence of a reasonable amount of tile – of varying type and date, indicates the presence of at least one (presumably masonry) building in the vicinity.

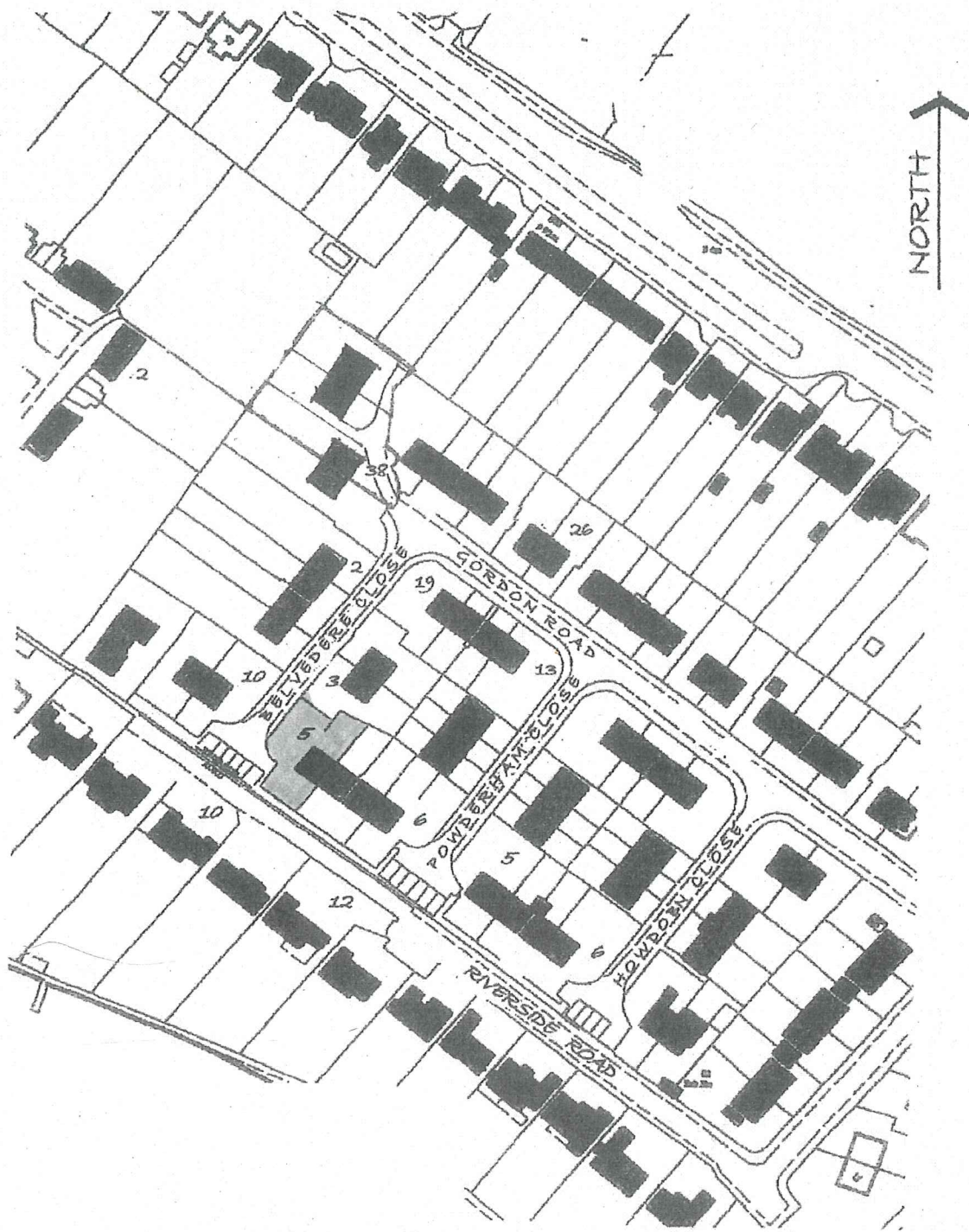
Lastly, the material associated with this structure overlaid and sealed three cut features, including an apparent posthole and a substantial pit in trench 1. These all had clean loamy fills, containing no ceramic material, charcoal, burning or any other direct evidence of human activity. They do however appear to be man-made rather than of natural origin, and may represent perhaps some earlier prehistoric activity in this area.

Owner/Tenant



Recorder

Andrew Pye, ECC Archaeology Officer.



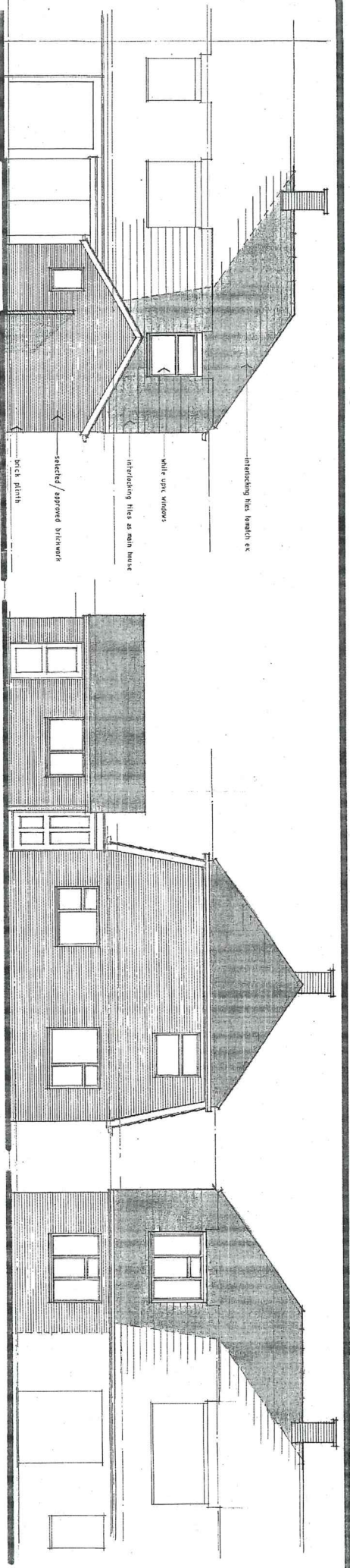
SITE LOCATION PLAN

1:1250



PROPOSED EXTENSION & REPLACEMENT OUTBUILDING
 5 BELEVDERE CLOSE
 TOPSHAM
 EXETER EX3 0LL

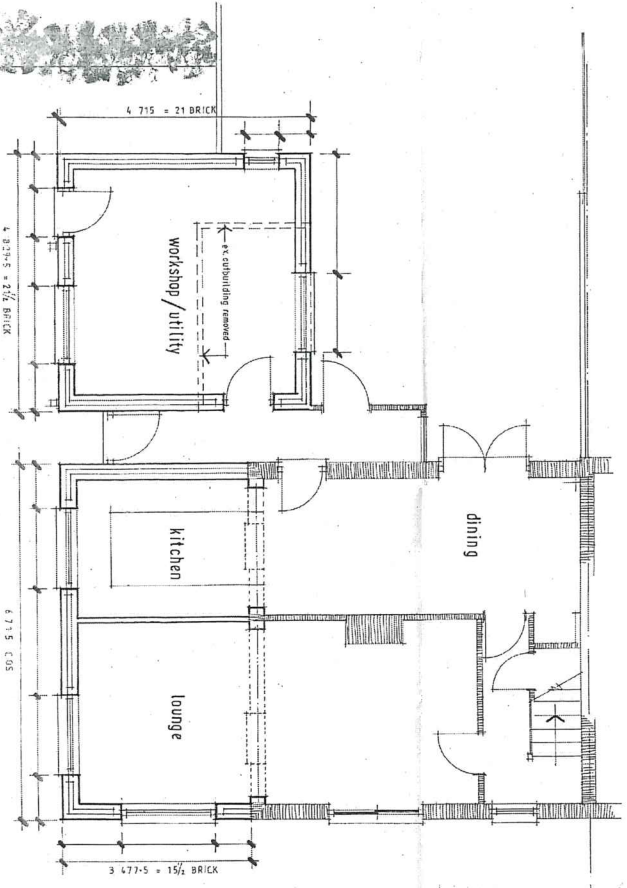
11/0066/03
 13 JAN 2011



ne rear elevation

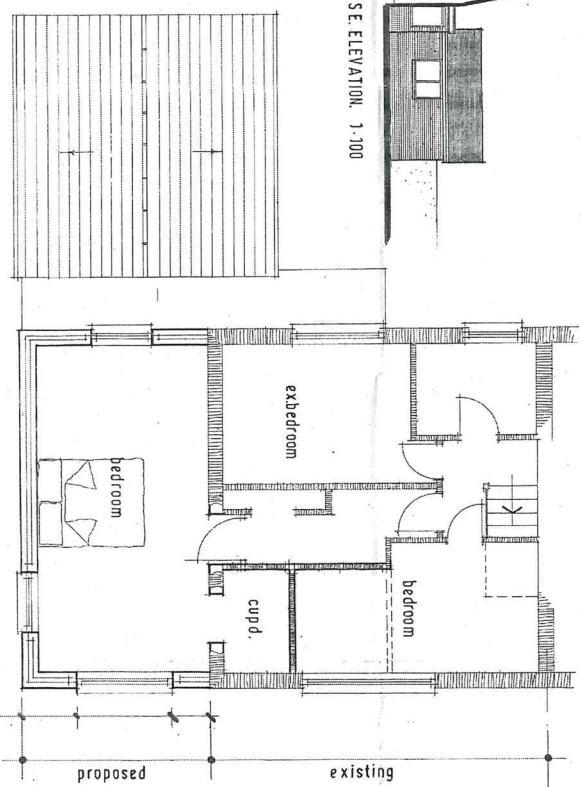
nw elevation fronting Belvedere Close

s w elevation



ground floor plan

ex gravel parking



first floor plan

NO.	DATE	REVISION
1	JAN 2011	* CAR PORT REMOVED

D. J. Wright
 ARCH. TECH. BLDG. CONSULTANT
 31, BOURNE RISE, PINHOE EXETER
 EX4 8BD TEL/FAX 01392 - 201283

CLIENT
 MR & MRS. S. CUTHBERTON

CONTRACT
 PROPOSED EXTENSION ALTERATIONS
 AND REPLACEMENT OUTBUILDING
 5 BELVEDERE CLOSE
 TORSHAM
 EXETER. EX3 0LL

17/0086703
 13 JAN 2011

Property as Proposed

SCALE 1:50
 JOB NO. 10.19
 DRAWING NO. 2
 DATE JUNE 2010
 REVISIONS A

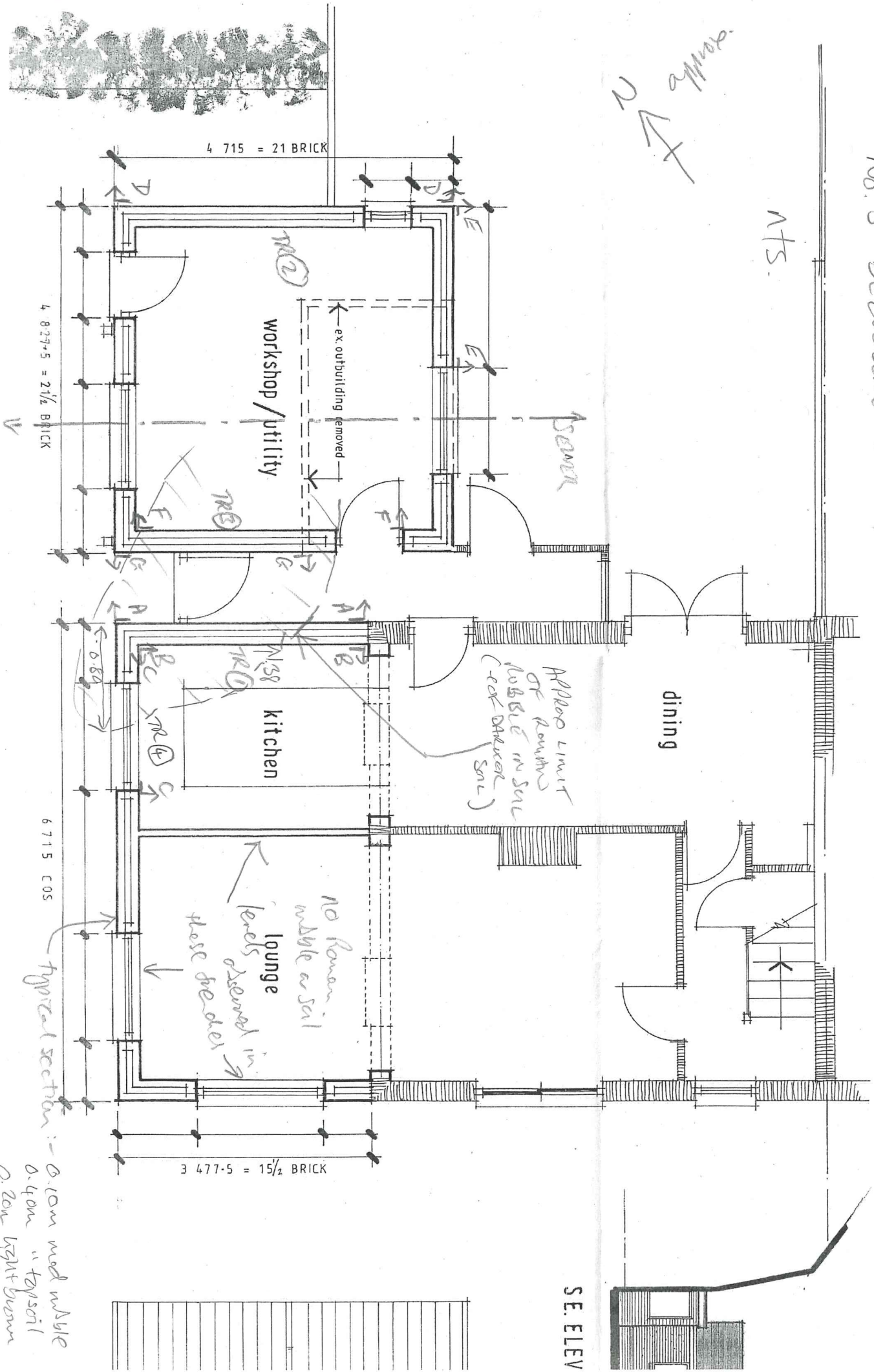
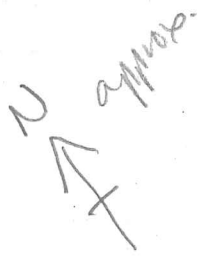
ne rear elevation

Nb. S Belvedere Cross

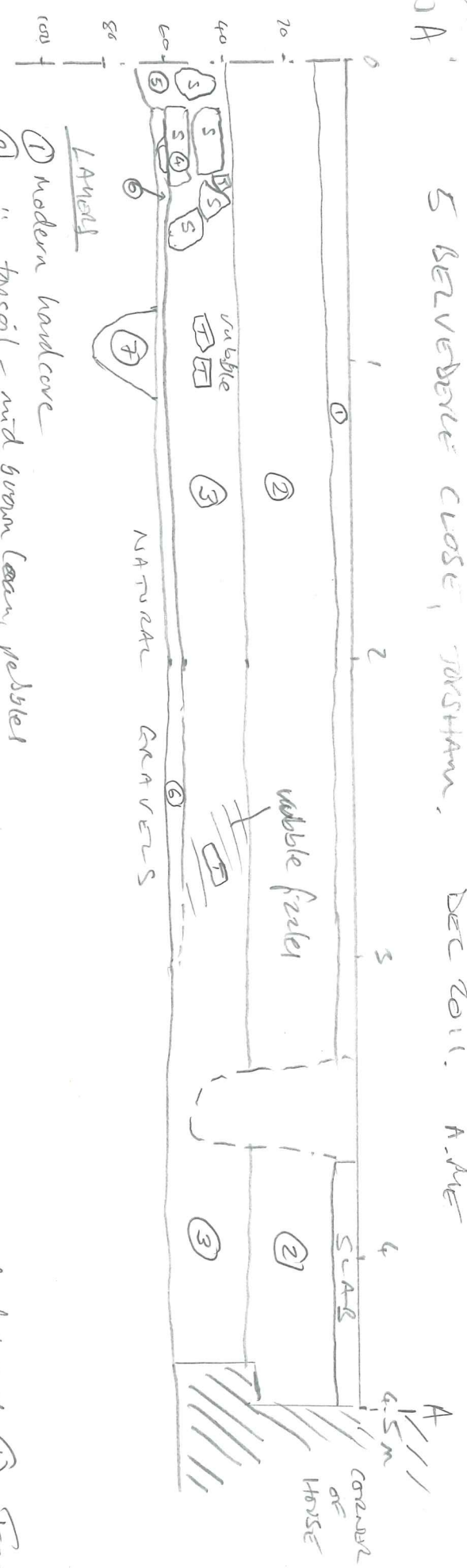
Robtman. Dec 2011 A. Ave

nw elevation frontir

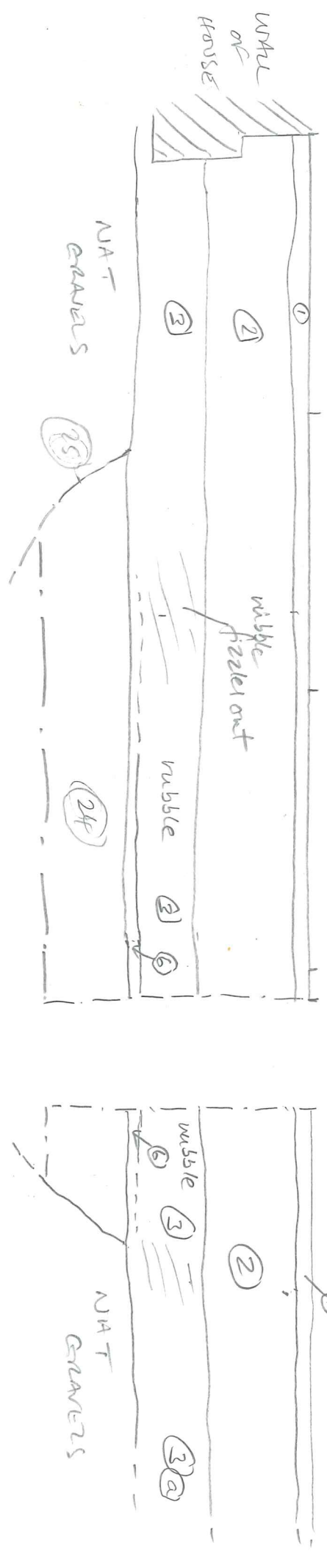
NTS



- 0.10m med w/ble
- 0.40m "top soil"
- 0.20m light brown
- clean loam



- ① modern hardcore
 ② " topsoil - mid brown loam, pebbles
 ③ mid-dark brown loam - fine, sandstone rubble, pottery - concentrated @ NW end of the ch. ① - Frazzles out towards SE
 ④ to 8m - clean mid-light brown loam, no inclusions

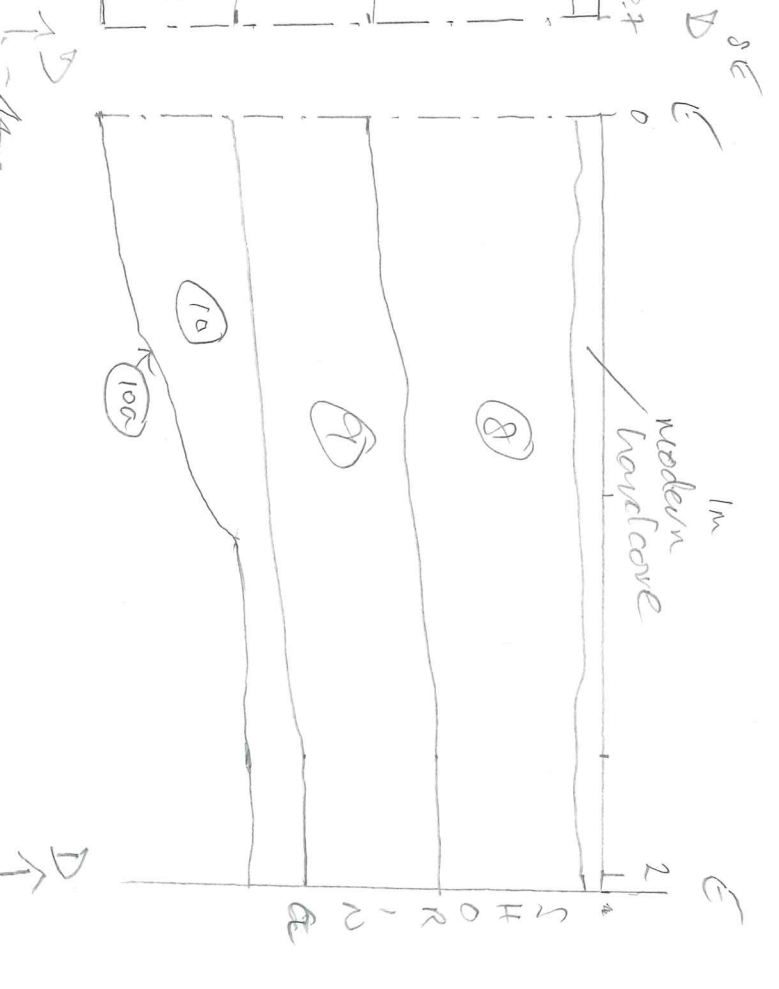
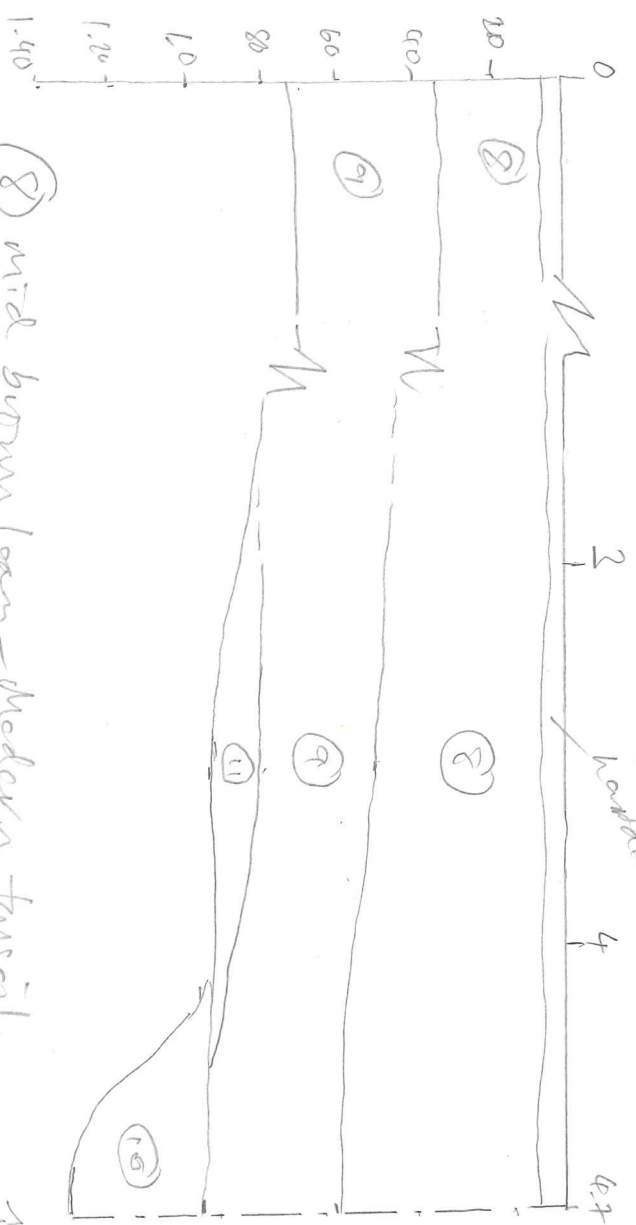


Sketch sections @ 1:20.

- ④ rectangular sandstone blocks - laid. No binding.
 ⑤ same as ③.
 ⑥ v. dark grey brown sandy
 ⑦ light brown pebbly sandy fill, with occasional pockets of ⑥. Frazzles possible?
 ⑧ clear silty brown fill, of out ②⑤. No finds or stone flecks etc.

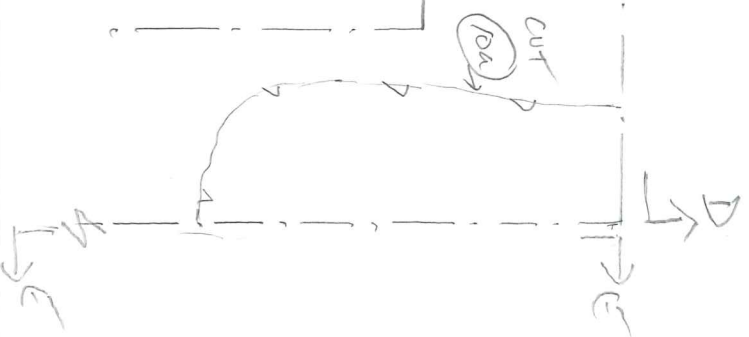
MANHATTAN 2 BELVEDERE CROSS, DISTRICT. DEC 2011. A.VIVE.

SECTION D-D
NW ↙



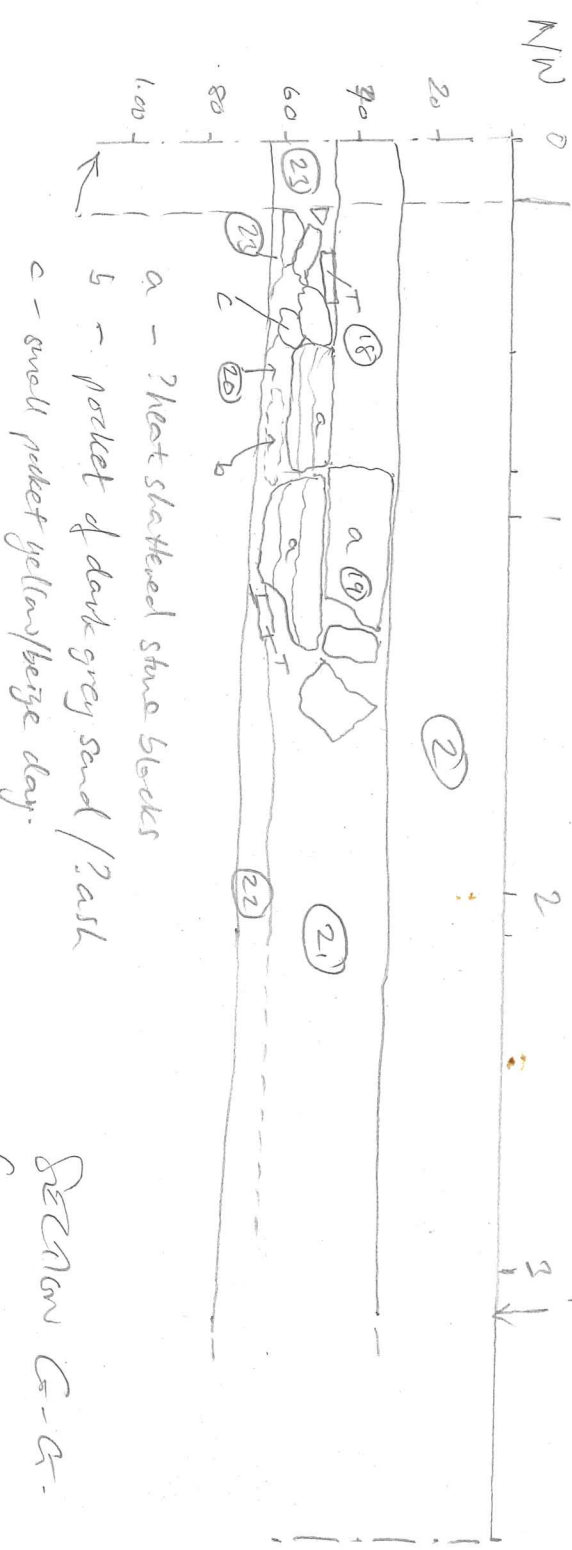
- (8) mid brown loam - modern topsoil.
- (9) mid dark grey-brown sandy loam with pebbles, occas clonozed & pottery, fine (v. occas here). Gravel - lower & later soil horizon.
- (10) mid brown sandy loam with pebbles. Clean. Fill of cut (10a).

- (10a) CUT - POSSIBLE REMAINS OF STRATA DISTRICT
- (11) light brown sandy silty loam - clean.



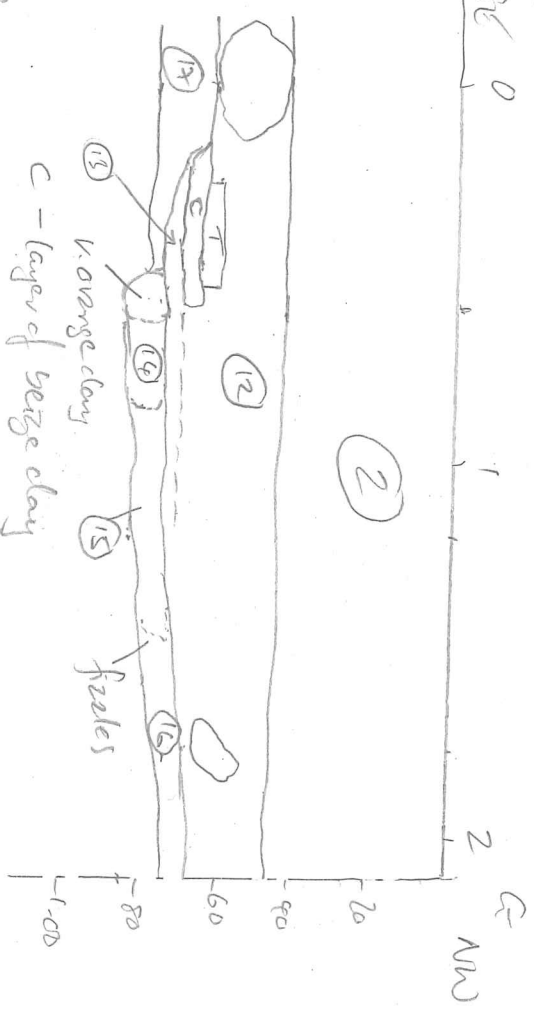
Blanch 3. S. BELVEDERE CREEK, TRASHAM. DEC 2011. A.P.H.E

Section F-F



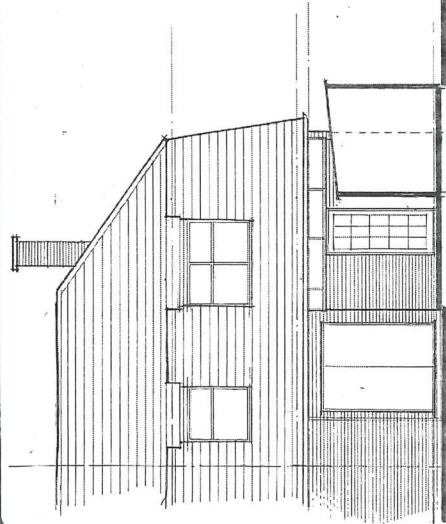
Section G-G
 PRESENT AND SOLID
 (level) taken at bottom

- ② see sections A + B
- ⑫ v. dark grey sandy loam, areas with r. hls - equiv. to ③
- ⑬ v.v. dark grey sandy layer, less ind. ash. Equiv. to ⑥ + pocket
- ⑭ burnt pockets of orange-brown sandy clay. (6) in section F.
- ⑮ dark grey sandy layer, v. similar to ⑬ but not as dark.
- ⑯ light brown sandy clay, clean. Equiv. to ⑭, ⑮, ⑮, ⑮.
- ⑰ ditto.
- ⑱ equiv. to ⑮ + ⑮. But v. dark grey.
- ⑲ stone blocks, heavily fractured (prob very heat); laid flat + on top of other - sug. no. structure
- ⑳ burnt orange-brown sandy layer with pockets clay + dark grey sand. Equiv. to ⑭/⑮.
- ㉑ Also equiv. to B. Generally less dark to SE.

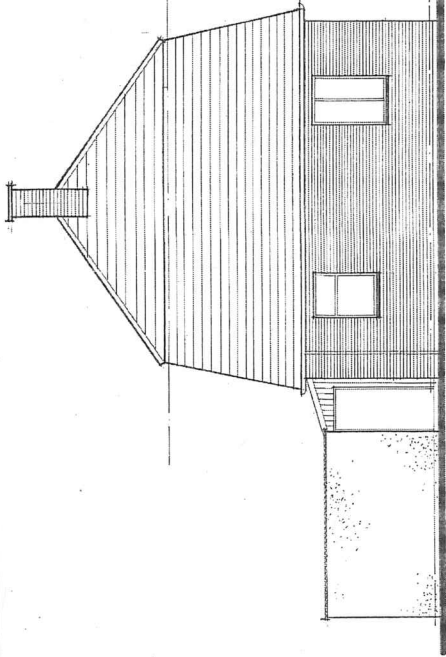


light brown instead sandy loam.

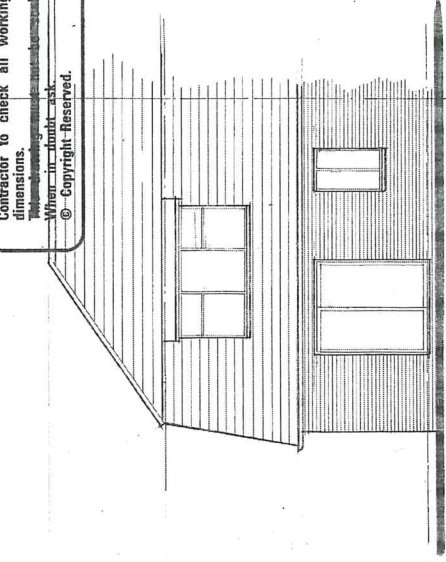
Contractor to check all working dimensions. This drawing is for information only. © Copyright - Reserved.



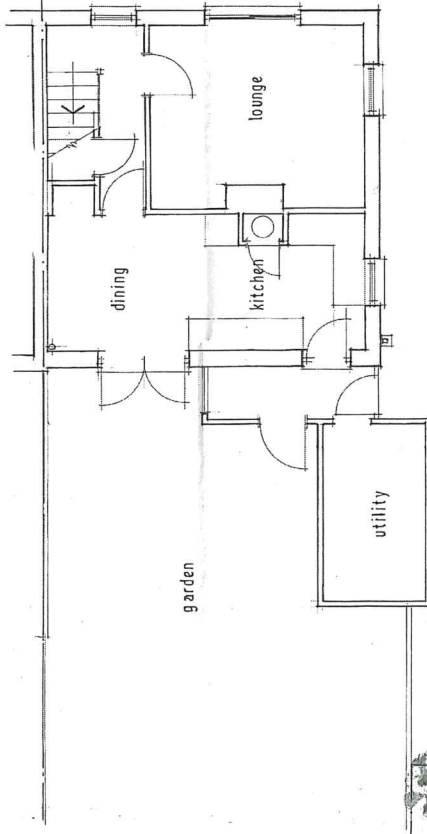
north east rear elevation



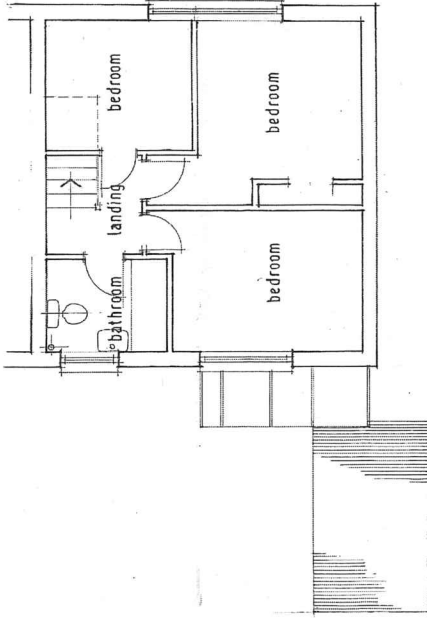
north west fronting Belvedere close



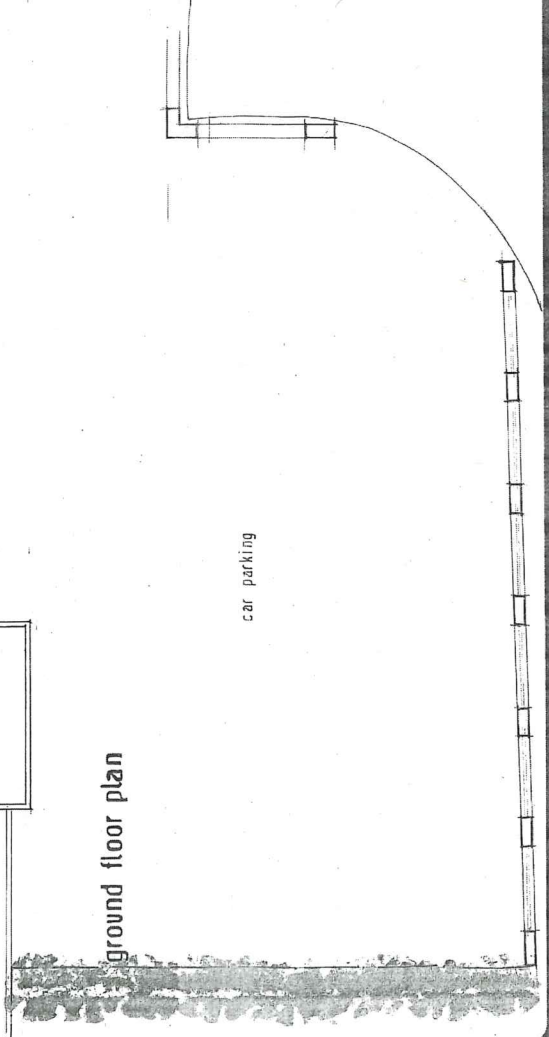
south west elevation



ground floor plan



first floor plan



NO.	DATE	REVISION

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CLIENT
 MR & MRS. S. CUTHBERTON
 CONTRACT
 5 BELVEDERE CLOSE
 TOPSHAM
 EXETER. EX3 0LL
 DRAWING
 1170066703
 13 JAN 2011
 property as existing

SCALE	DATE	REVISIONS
1:50 <td>MAY 2010 <td> </td> </td>	MAY 2010 <td> </td>	
JOB No.	DRAWING No.	
10.19	1	



TRENCH 1. SECTION A-A

07/12/2011 13:09



TRENCH 1 SECTION A-A NW END

07/12/2011 13:08



TRENCH 4. NE END, NW FACINE.

07/12/2011 13:10



TRENCH 1. SECTION B-B, SW END-

07/12/2011 13:09

5 BELVEDERE CLOSE, TORSHAM DEC 2011.

TRENCH 1. SECTION 8-13.



TRENCH 4. SECTION C-C



TRENCH 4. TYPICAL SOIL PROFILE

VIEW E. TRENCHES 4-1 1

5 BELVEDERE CLOSE, TOPSHAM. DEC 2011.



TRENCH 3. DETAIL OF STONE WALLING (19) SECTION F-F



TRENCH 2 VIEW E. SECTION F-F



TRENCH 3 SECTION G-G



TRENCH 2 - W. END OF SECTION F-F



07/12/2011 14:13

TRENCH 2. CUT @ NE CORNER - VIEW NE



09/12/2011 12:49

TRENCH 3. SECTION F-F



07/12/2011 13:20

TRENCH 1. VIEW E.



07/12/2011 14:15

TRENCH 2. NE CORNER. VIEW E.

5 BELVEDERE CLOSE, TONSHAM DEC 2011



TRENCH 3. SECTION E-G.



TRENCH 1 - SECTION A-A. NW END



TRENCH 3. SECTION F-F.



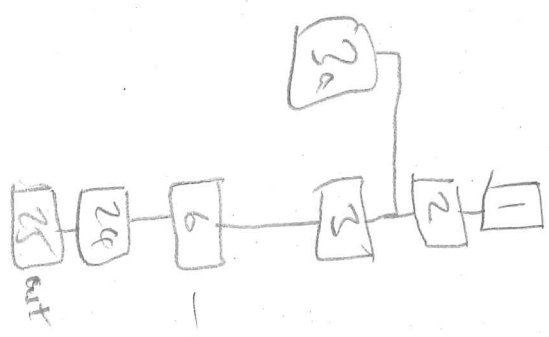
TRENCH 3. SECTION F-F NW END.

MENCH ②
SECTION G-G.

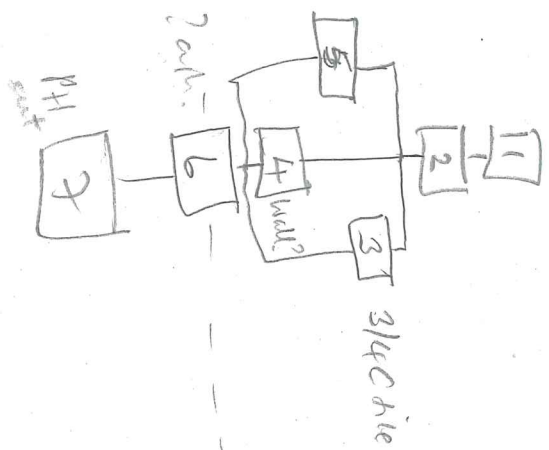


09/12/2011 14:13

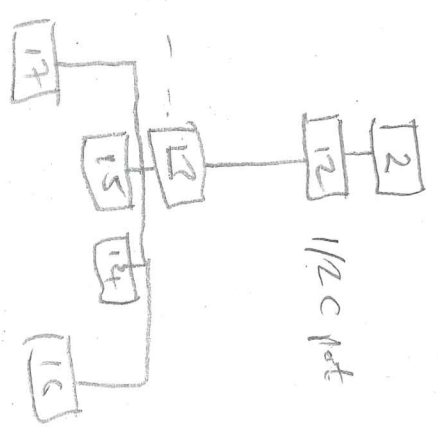
MD 3-8



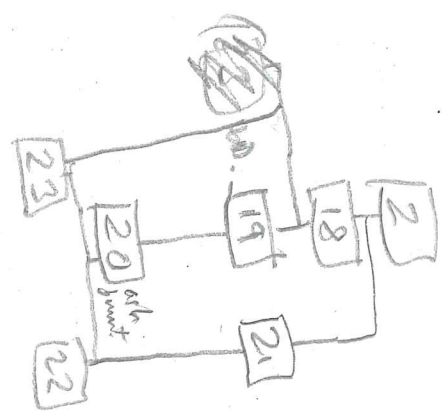
R2: ① section A-A



R3 ac



R3 FE



NAT

NAT

NAT

R2

DP

