

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **WOODSIDE FARM Stratford Road, Sandy, Beds.**

HN626

*Archaeological Monitoring Report*



*THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

*Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA*

WOODSIDE FARM  
Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

HN626

*Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Robert Glenn Esq*

By

Chris Turner, BSc MIFA

Report no. 459

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11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ

TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998



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*The cover photograph shows the excavation of the house platform looking south west*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Geoff Saunders and Chris Turner, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Robert Glenn, Woodside Farm; Lesley-Ann Mather and Martin Oake, Bedfordshire County Archaeological Officers, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Woodside Farm, Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire		
<b>County:</b>	Bedfordshire	<b>District:</b>	Mid Bedfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Sandy	<b>Parish:</b>	Sandy
<b>Planning reference:</b>	01/1847/FUL	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 1793 4853
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Robert Glenn, Woodside Farm, Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New House	<b>Former land use:</b>	Pasture
<b>Site Status:</b>	n/a	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of LPA (PPG16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN626	<b>Other reference:</b>	BEDFM.2006.581
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc...</b>	Monitoring & Recording	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Bedford Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	<b>Finish of work</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Romano-British
<b>Oasis UID</b>	heritage1- 38888	<b>Significant finds:</b>	n/a
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	Pottery		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

**Synopsis:**

In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling at Woodside Farm, Stratford Road, Sandy, Beds., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development.

The site is located to the south-east of the present core of Sandy, 40m to the south of the municipal cemetery and 400m to the east of the River Ivel. It is centred on grid reference TL 1793 4853. The site was previously used as pasture and is situated on reasonably level ground at approximately 30mAOD to the east of Stratford Road.

Previous work had demonstrated the presence of archaeological features beneath a layer of colluvium at a depth of 0.80m. The development proposed the construction of a new farm dwelling and garage with associated tree planting and landscaping.

A total of two site visits were made, to monitor the reduction of the footprint of the new house, and to monitor the excavation of four soakaways and a drainage trench. No element of the development was deeper than 0.40m and the colluvial deposits were not breached.

No archaeological features or deposits relating to the known Romano-British remains were observed in the course of the groundworks. Three unstratified Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered.

## 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on behalf of *Robert Glenn Esq*, as part of the archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at Woodside Farm, Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

**1.2** The investigation is a requirement of the planning consent for the development granted by Mid Bedfordshire District Council (MBDC) (ref. 01/1847/FUL), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work has been defined in a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* prepared by the Heritage and Environment Section of Bedfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to the MBDC (ref. LAM 20/08/2006). A full specification for the project is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated September 2006.

**1.3** The site is located to the south east of the present core of Sandy, 40m to the south of the municipal cemetery and 400m to the east of the River Ivel. It is centred on NGR TL 1793 4853. The development proposes the construction of a new dwelling to the south of the existing farm house.

**1.4** The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains, protected by a colluvial layer c.0.80m deep. On this basis it was considered by the planning authority that there was a high risk that features and deposits dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods may be encountered at a depth greater than 0.5m in the course of development of the site.

**1.5** The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Bedford Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

## 2. Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** The site is situated close to the River Ivel on pasture land immediately to the south of the present farm buildings. The development lies on relatively level ground approximately 30mAOD. The ground falls to 25mAOD towards the river 400m to the west and rises to a height of 66mAOD on the plateau of sandy heath 300m to the east. The location of the site on the flood plain and at the foot of higher ground to the east has led to a build up of sandy colluvium silts at least 0.80m thick.

**2.2** The soils of the area belong to the Frilford association (554a), which is described as *mesozoic and tertiary sands, deep well drained sandy coarse loamy soils. Some ferruginous sandy and some coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater.*

### METHODOLOGY

**2.3** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A total of two site visits were made to supervise and monitor the excavation of the new house platform, four shallow soakaways and a service trench. In accordance with the requirements of the LPA Brief, none of the development groundworks exceeded 0.50m in depth.

**2.4** The machining was undertaken using JCB wheeled excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

**2.5** All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

### MONITORING AND RECORDING

#### *Stratigraphy*

**2.6** The observed stratigraphy on the site consisted of a dark grey silty topsoil, 0.1m thick, overlying 0.30m+ of dark greyish brown sandy colluvial silts. This layer was not breached by the development.

#### *House Platform*

**2.7** The footprint for the new house was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m to provide a concrete platform. There were no separate footings excavated for this development. No features were observed during this stage of works, but fragments of unstratified Romano-British pottery were recovered from the colluvial silts.

#### *Soakaways*

**2.8** In accordance with the requirements of the LPA Brief, four shallow rectangular soakaways were excavated around the new house platform (Figure 3). Each soakaway measured 6m in length, 1m wide and a maximum depth of 0.40m.

**2.9** No features or artefacts were observed during this stage of works.

### ***Service Trench***

**2.10** A service trench, 0.28m wide and 0.40m deep was excavated from the north eastern corner of the house platform to tie into the existing services and septic tank to the east of existing farmhouse. (Figure 3).

**2.11** No features or artefacts were encountered in this trench.

### ***FINDS CONCORDANCE***

**2.12** Three unstratified sherds of pottery, weighing 40g, were recovered during the monitoring of the house platform. The assemblage consisted of a fragment of a greyware base (Bedfordshire pottery fabric type series R06B), and two fragments of colour coated ware (R12B). One of the colour coated sherds appears to be Nene Valley ware.

**2.13** This Romano-British assemblage is dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, and is in keeping with the presence of Romano-British occupation in the vicinity of the development. No further work is envisaged on this assemblage.



### **3. Discussion**

**3.1** Woodside Farm lies within an area of known Roman and Prehistoric archaeological activity. Three Iron Age hill forts are located within a 1km of the site. Two hill forts are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Galley Hill (SAM 27164) and Sandy Lodge (SAM 27163), both approximately 1km south east of the site. The third hill fort known as 'Caesar's Camp' (NMR 362654) lies 0.5km to the north of the site. Extensive remains of a Roman town (NMR 362658) have been encountered within and extending beyond the cemetery to the north of the site.

**3.2** The site has been the subject of previous archaeological investigations. A geophysical survey, carried out by GSB Prospection in 1996, identified extensive Roman remains across fields to the south of the cemetery including the site of the current development. The presence of Roman remains, sealed by colluvial deposits, within the development area was confirmed by evaluation trenches undertaken by Albion Archaeology in 2002. This work identified significant stratified deposits, including the remains of a high status structure (NMR 1180233) encountered at a depth of approximately 0.8m.

**3.3** The stratigraphy demonstrated that the layer of colluvium was at least 0.40m thick and any archaeological remains beneath the site survive at a greater depth. The archaeological supervision of the groundworks has ensured buried features and deposits have not been disturbed and have been preserved in situ.

**3.4** The monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development revealed no archaeological features or deposits. Three unstratified sherds were recovered from the colluvium indicating Romano-British, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Century AD, activity in the immediate vicinity.

#### ***Confidence Rating***

**3.5** All elements of the development were monitored and there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

## 4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
25/10/06	GIS	6	Site inspection
04/04/07	GIS	2	Site inspection

## 5. Bibliography

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties*, 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian Archaeology

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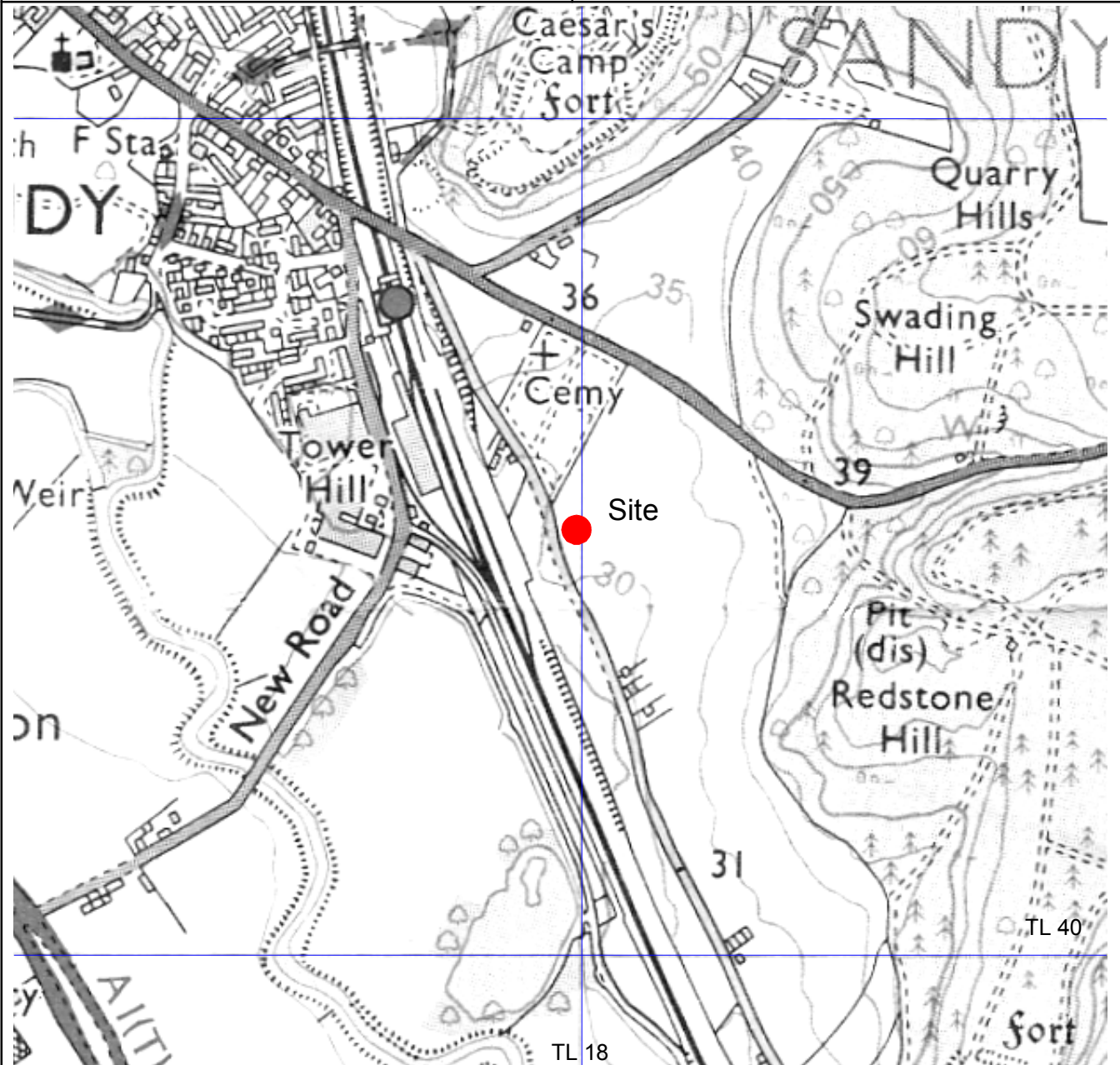
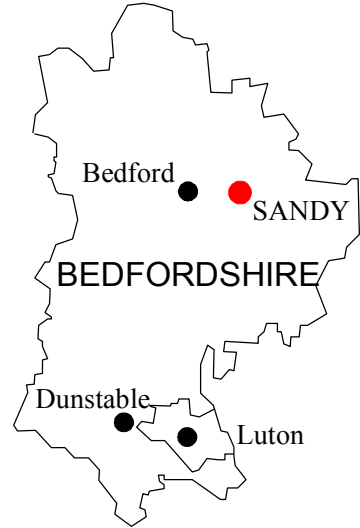
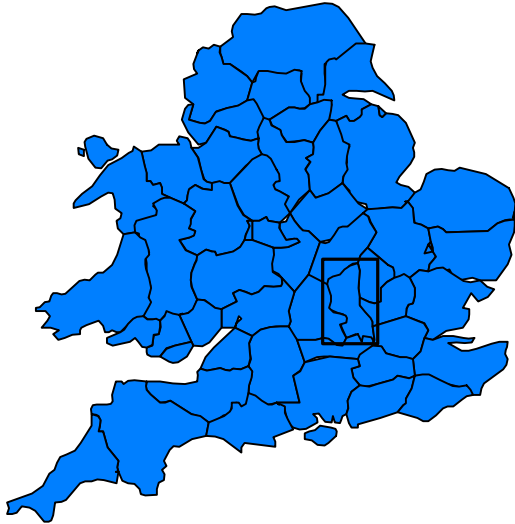
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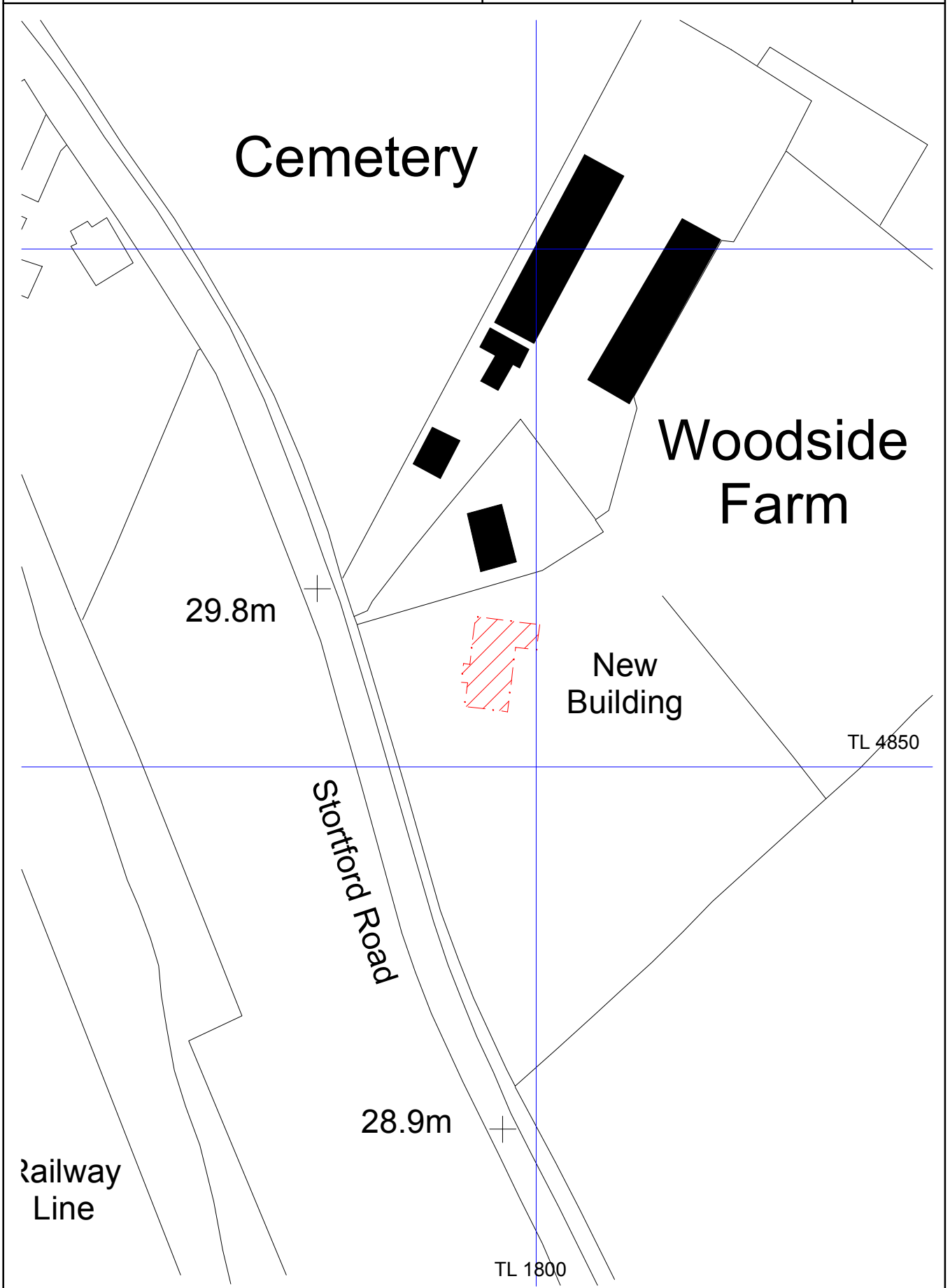
## 6. Illustrations

Figure 1 .....	Site Location
Figure 2 .....	Site Layout
Figure 3 .....	Layout of Services



Site Location

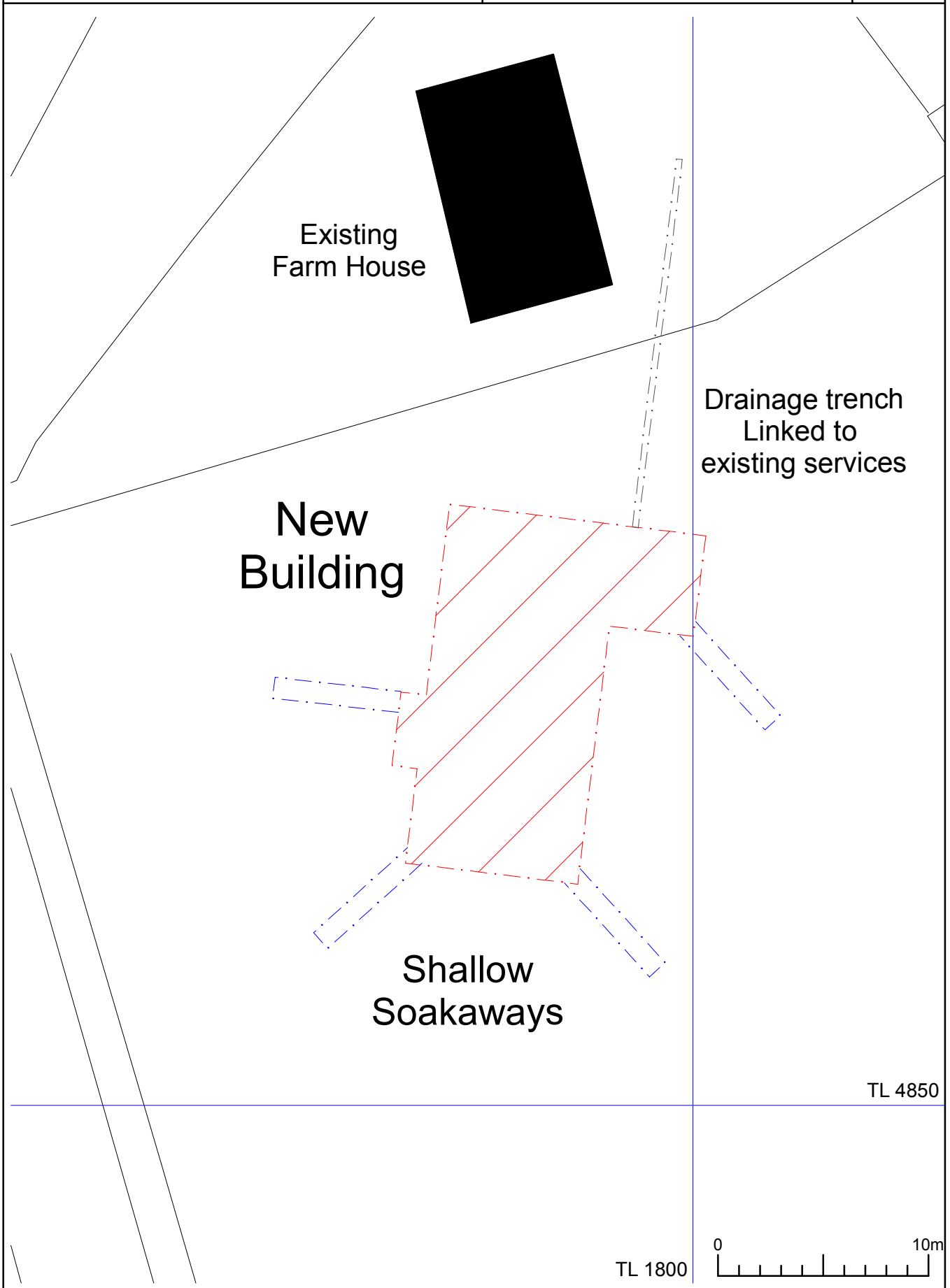
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Site Layout

Scale 1:1000

Figure 2



Layout of services

Scale 1:250

Figure 3