

**LITTLELANDS, BARRACK HILL, COLESHILL,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LITTLELANDS, BARRACK HILL, COLESHILL,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Tim Schofield HND BSc PIFA (Fieldwork and Report)	
NGR: SU 9450 9505	Report No: 3732
District: Chiltern	Site Code:
Approved: C Halpin	Project No: 4214
Signed:	Date: February 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Littlelands, Barrack Hill, Coleshill, Buckinghamshire.</i>		
<i>Summary</i>			
<i>In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Littlelands, Barrack Hill, Coleshill Buckinghamshire. The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-storey garage and workshop/office (Chiltern Planning Ref. CH/2010/1105/FA).</i>			
<i>The site lies on the side of Barrack Hill, Coleshill, within the plot of Littlelands, a Grade II 17th century timber-framed house with an 18th century casing. It lies within the historic core of the village of Coleshill.</i>			
<i>In the event despite the potential for medieval and post-medieval occupation and evidence of the former farm buildings, no archaeological features or finds were revealed during the monitoring.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>January 25th – 26th 2011.</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N.</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P4214</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden and driveway</i>		
Planned development	<i>Garage</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Chiltern</i>	<i>Coleshill</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bucks HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.50m²</i>		
NGR	<i>SU 9450 9505</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>150m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS)</i>		
Project Supervisor	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Charles De Soutter</i>		
Full title	<i>Littlelands Barrack Hill, Coleshill, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Dyson, A.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3732</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2011</i>		

LITTLELANDS, BARRACK HILL, COLESHILL, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Littlelands, Barrack Hill, Coleshill Buckinghamshire. The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-storey garage and workshop/office (Chiltern Planning Ref. CH/2010/1105/FA).

The site lies on the side of Barrack Hill, Coleshill, within the plot of Littlelands, a Grade II 17th century timber-framed house with an 18th century casing. It lies within the historic core of the village of Coleshill.

In the event despite the potential for medieval and post-medieval occupation and evidence of the former farm buildings, no archaeological features or finds were revealed during the monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at Littlelands, Barrack Hill, Coleshill Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 9450 9505). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-storey garage and workshop/office (Chiltern Planning Ref. CH/2010/1105/FA).

1.2 The site lies on the side of Barrack Hill, Coleshill and within the plot of Littlelands, a Grade II 17th century timber-framed house with an 18th century casing. It is located at the western extent of the Archaeological Planning Notification Area incorporating the historic core of the village of Coleshill.

1.3 The monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS; Eliza Alqassar), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 22/12/2010), and approved by BCAS. The recording conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.4 The objectives of the monitoring were to identify and record any archaeological remains revealed during the proposed groundworks, with particular regard to the potential for medieval and post-medieval features relating to the known historic core of Coleshill.

Planning context

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site of Littlelands is located towards the western extent of the village of Coleshill, which lies in the district of Chiltern and within the county of Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). It lies off the western frontage of Barrack Hill, which runs on a north-east to south-westward alignment passed Coleshill Common. The site does not lie within Coleshill's Conservation Area (CA; HER DBC7409), but does lie at the western extent of the Archaeological Planning Notification Area incorporating the village of Coleshill. The solid geology of the Coleshill area comprises Reading Beds, which are overlain by Paleo-argillic stagnogley subsoils (BGS 1978). Soils of the area comprise those of the Essenden Association, which are described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983). The Coleshill area also lies within the valley of the River Misbourne, which flows roughly west to eastwards 2.8km to the north-east of the site. The site lies at c. 150m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping significantly down to the south.

2.2 The early history of the Coleshill area is relatively unknown and very little recent work has been undertaken in the immediate area, other than a negative watching brief carried out at Potters Meadow 350m to the east (Crank 2002; HER EBC16020). The village lies at one of the highest points in the Chilterns Hills and is judged to lie in a prominent location known from as early as the Iron Age period. However, the only known findspot recorded from a 500m radius of the site and dating to the pre-medieval period comprises a possible Neolithic flint scraper found digging garden at Red Lion Cottage 300m to the north-east of the site (HER 0437300002). The Domesday Book reveals that there were eight farmers in Coleshill in 1086 (Page 1925), yet there is little to suggest that the village developed until the mid 12th century, when Coleshill and Amersham were given to William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex (Chenevix-Trench 1973; HER 0993800000). The area surrounding the site contains the medieval timber framed Forge House (HER 0448401000), the medieval manor of Stocks Place (HER 0020600000 - MBC681) and has

yielded medieval floor tile and 13th – 14th century pottery sherds from the aforementioned Red Lion Cottage (HERs 0437300000 & 0437300001).

2.3 The village of Coleshill incorporates a number of post-medieval and early modern standing buildings, many of which are Grade II listed buildings, whilst the Church of All Saints 240m to the north-east of the site is Grade II* (HERs DBC6737 & 1245140000). The site of Littlelands itself is a Grade II listed early 17th century and 1687 dwelling with later additions (HERs DBC6723 & 1249700000; IoE No. 416789). The historic building listing for the site described the dwelling as early 17th century red brick with floorbands and having an old tile roof, two storeys and attic, with its south-eastern wing dated 1687 in black bricks. An early 17th century date for Littlelands is confirmed by antiquarian reports that record that the manor of Stocks was sold in 1641 by George Coleshill and his son William to James Perrot of Amersham, agent to William Drake of Shardeloes. Chauncey recalls that George Coleshill took down the manor house at that time and built several smaller farmhouses with the materials and the local historian John Chenevix-Trench is known to have examined the timbers of both Lands and *Little Lands Farms*, now known as Littlelands, and concluded that they were indeed built about this time, using some materials from an older house (Chenevix-Trench 1973).

2.4 Local history sources also reveal that *Little Lands Farm* is a relatively modern name for one of the new farms built by the lord of the manor, George Coleshill, in the early 17th century (Hunt 2009, 29). *Little Lands Farm* is judged to have been purchased, along with a nearby tile kiln, by Nathaniel Ball of Brentford Barn, who was responsible for the south-eastern wing that contains the 1687 date picked out in blue-fired headers in its brickwork. In 1761, the site was purchased by Earl Howe, and was for many years farmed by William Parslow (Hunt 2009, 29), yet a lease dating from 20th March 1794 suggests that 1 acre 2 roods and 34 perches of land at *Little Lands* were tenanted from Sir John Dashwood of West Wycombe to Ann Whitaker (CBS Ref. D-D/6/339). A subsequent lease from 8th April 1822 reveals that *Little Lands* was still owned by Sir John Dashwood but leased to Thomas Morris (CBS Ref. D-D/6/342).

2.5 The parish of Amersham enclosure map, which dates to 1815 and includes the village of Coleshill, does not reveal any significant information about the site and illustrates only that the site lay within 'old enclosures' of the parish (Fig. 4). In contrast, the parish of *Coleshill Green* tithe map, which dates to 1839 and 24 years after the previous enclosure map, clearly depicts Littlelands as a roughly L-shape in plan structure with the extant range of outbuildings to its immediate north-east (Fig. 5). A further standing building was depicted on the tithe map just beyond the site's south-eastern boundary and within the same field (#1069). The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 depicts Littlelands as the same roughly L-shape in plan structure, yet is the earliest cartographic source to illustrate the site's driveway extending south-eastwards to Barrack Hill (Fig. 6). The 1900 map also depicts the extant range of outbuildings to the immediate north-east of Littlelands, but shows no evidence for the further standing building to the south-east. The final historic cartographic source comprises the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1925,

which shows no significant change or alteration to the site (Fig. 7). The site is also illustrated by Plate 1, which depicts Little Lands Farm c. 1965 comprising the red brick dwelling and nearby outbuildings viewed from the south.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were excavated by hand and recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Soil heaps were scanned for finds and metal detected using a C.Scope CS1220R.

4 RESULTS

The excavation of foundations for the new garage/outbuilding were closely monitored, and also an associated soakaway. Two sample sections were recorded for the garage plot and one sample section for the soakaway. They are tabulated below.

Sample Section 1 DP1

Sample Section 1 was recorded within the soakaway.

<i>Sample Section 1</i>		
<i>North-west side, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 150.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Garden soil. Dark grey brown, compact silty clay with moderate angular gravel.
0.20 – 0.66m	L1001	Made Ground. Mixed mid grey brown, compact silt clay and chalk.
0.66 – 0.85m	L1002	Made Ground / Buried Topsoil. Mid grey brown, compact clay silt with occasional chalk flecks.
0.85 – 1.10m	L1003	Made Ground. Mid to light orange brown, compact silty clay with frequent chalk flecks.
1.10 – 1.21m	L1004	Made Ground. Mid orange brown, compact clay.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present within the soakaway.

Sample Section 2 DP2

Sample Section 2 was within the excavated footings

<i>Sample Section 2; south-east end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 150.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Garden Soil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.26 – 0.61m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Sample Section 1.
0.61 – 0.90m	L1002	Made Ground / Buried Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.90m+	L1005	Natural drift geology. Light white, compact chalk with occasional large flint nodules.

Description: No archaeological features were present within the footings.

Sample Section 3 DP3

Sample Section 3 was within the excavated footings

<i>Sample Section 3; north-west end, south-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 150.39m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1006	Gravel driveway. Mid orange pink, loose gravel.
0.05 – 0.56m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Sample Section 1.
0.56 – 1.00m	L1002	Made Ground/Buried Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
1.00m+	L1005	Natural drift geology. As above Sample Section 2.

Description: No archaeological features were present within the footings.

No archaeological features or finds were present. The foundation trenches were approximately 0.60m wide and excavated to depth of 1m below the present day ground level.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The stratigraphy varied across site. Uppermost in Sample Sections 1 and 3 was Garden Soil L1000. It comprised a dark grey brown, compact silty clay with moderate angular gravel (maximum thickness 0.26m). Sample Section 3 was located over a gravel driveway (0.05m thick). Below L1000 was Made Ground L1001. It comprised a mixed mid grey brown, compact, silt clay and chalk. Made Ground L1002 was present below L1001. It comprised

a mid grey brown, compact, clay silt with occasional chalk flecks. Made Ground L1003 and L1004 were only present in Sample Section 1. They comprised a mid to light orange brown, compact silty clay with frequent chalk flecks and mid orange brown, compact clay.

6.2 At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural Drift Geology L1005. It comprised a white, compact chalk with occasional large flint nodules. This layer was not revealed within the soakaway (Sample Section 1).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The site lies on the side of Barrack Hill, Coleshill, within the plot of Littlelands, a Grade II 17th century timber-framed house with an 18th century casing. It lies within the historic core of the village of Coleshill. In the event despite the potential for medieval and post-medieval occupation and evidence of the former farm buildings, no archaeological features or finds were revealed during the monitoring.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Charles De Soutter of Littlelands funding the monitoring. AS is also grateful to Blackwood Architects, in particular Mr Nick Wood, for their kind assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Eliza Alqassar of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.

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University of London/Institute of Historical Research

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<http://www.coleshill.org/>

Heritage Gateway website;
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

Images of England (IoE) website;
<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP1



Post-excavation shot of soakaway, Sample Section 1, looking north-west.

DP2



Post-excavation shot of footings, Sample Section 2, looking south-west.

DP3



Post-excavation shot of footings, Sample Section 3, looking north-east.

DP4



Excavated garage footings, facing south-west.

DP5

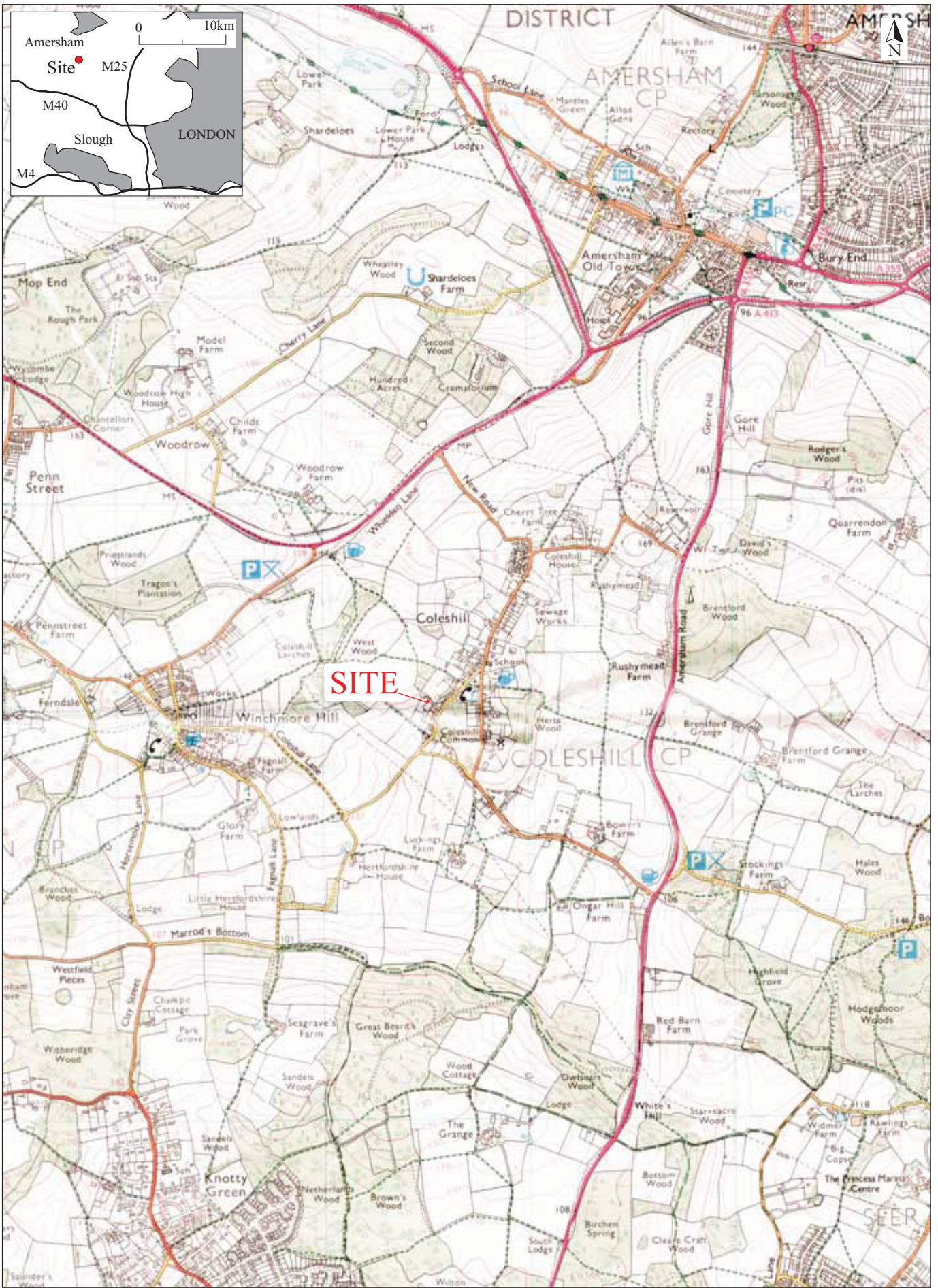


General site shot, garage footings, looking south-west.

DP6

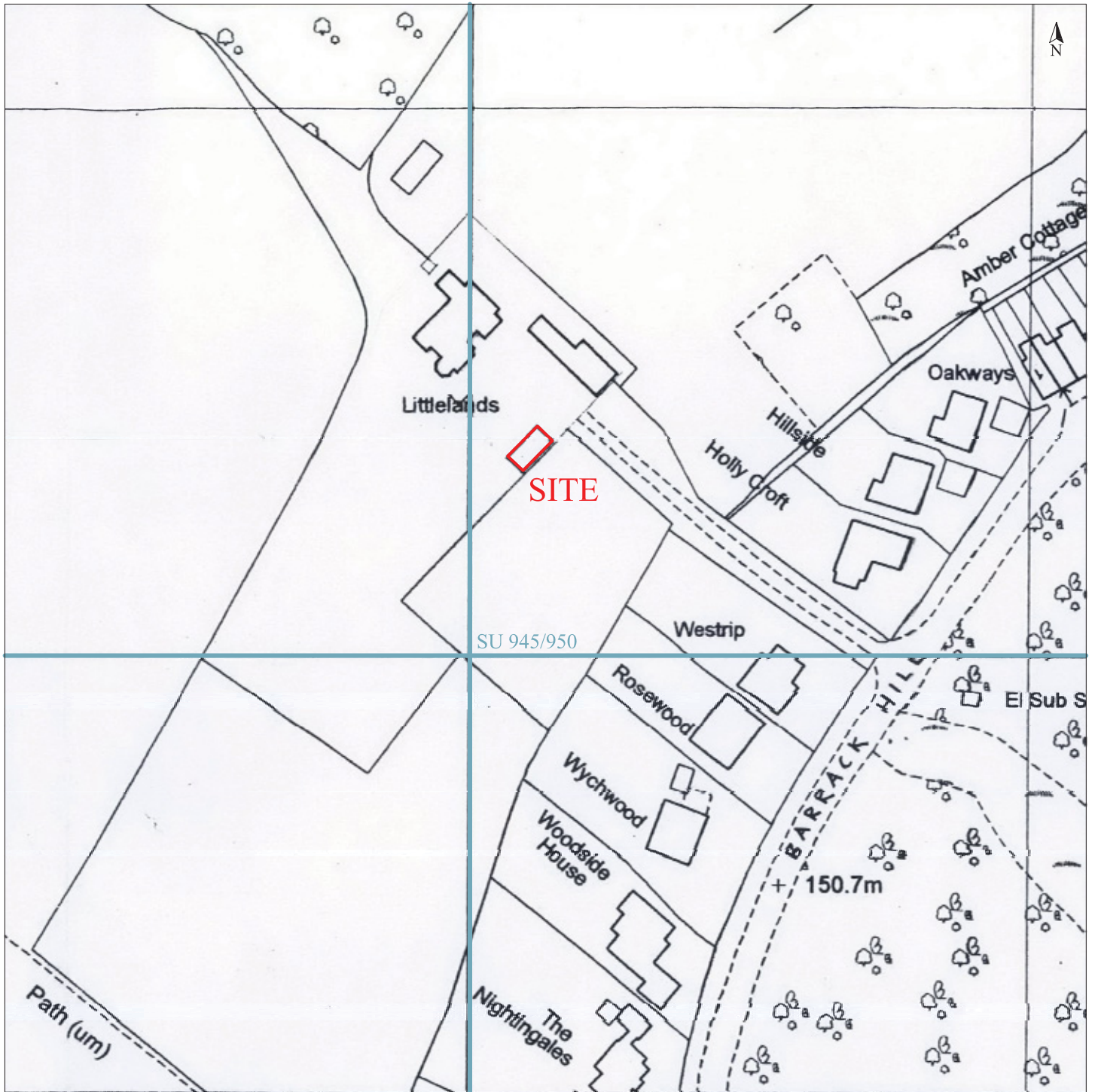


General site shot, garage footings with house in background.



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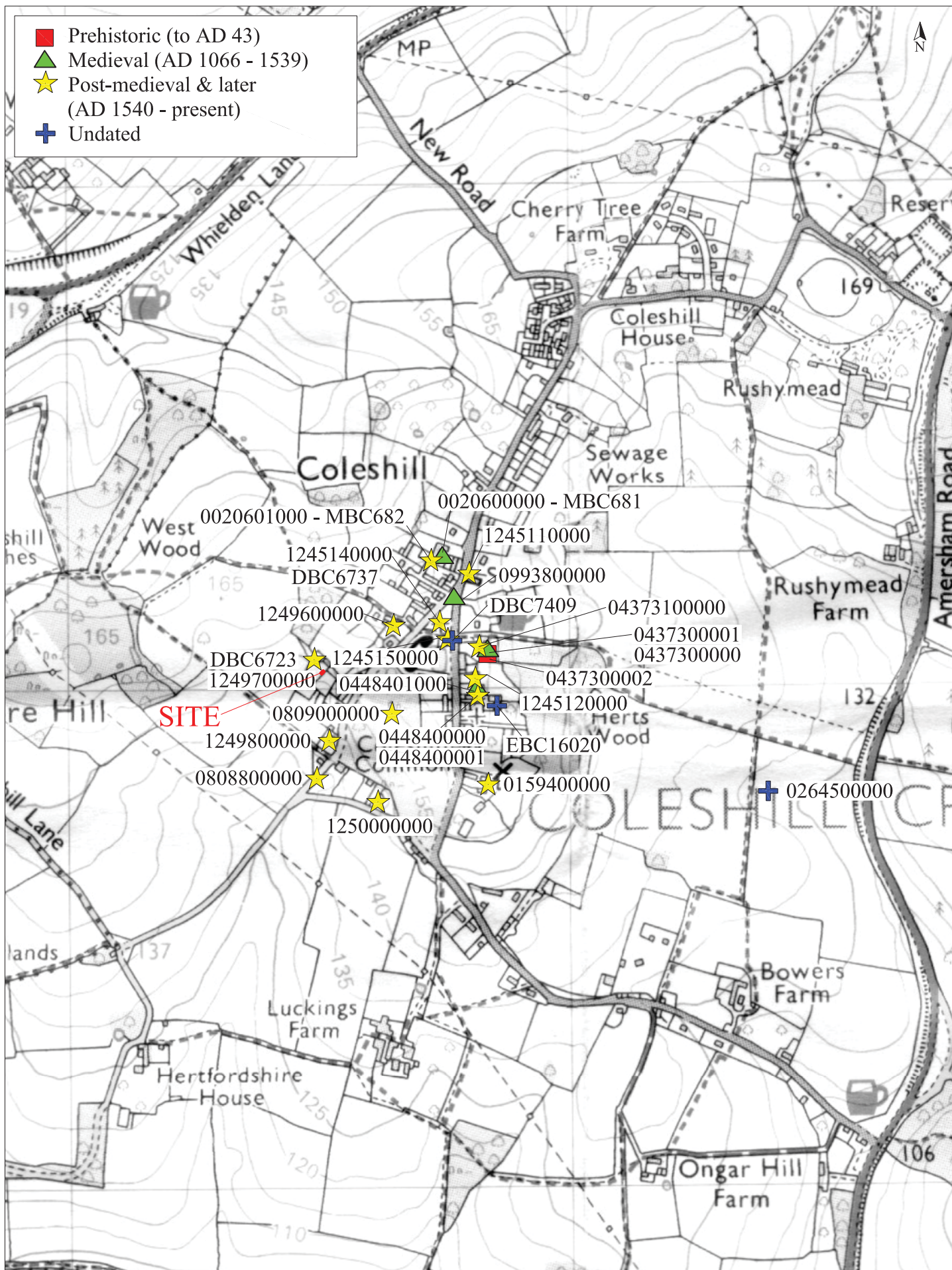
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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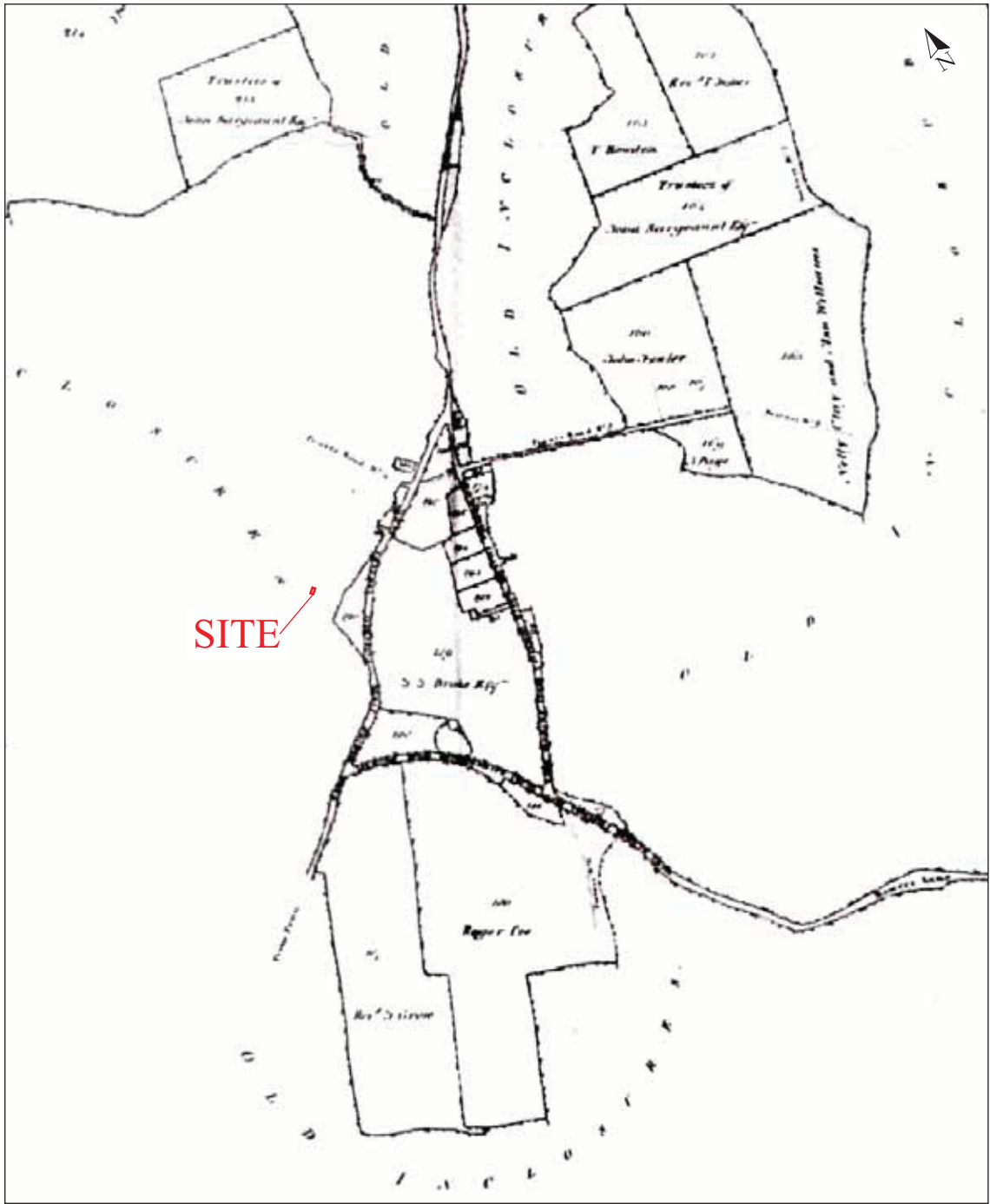
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4

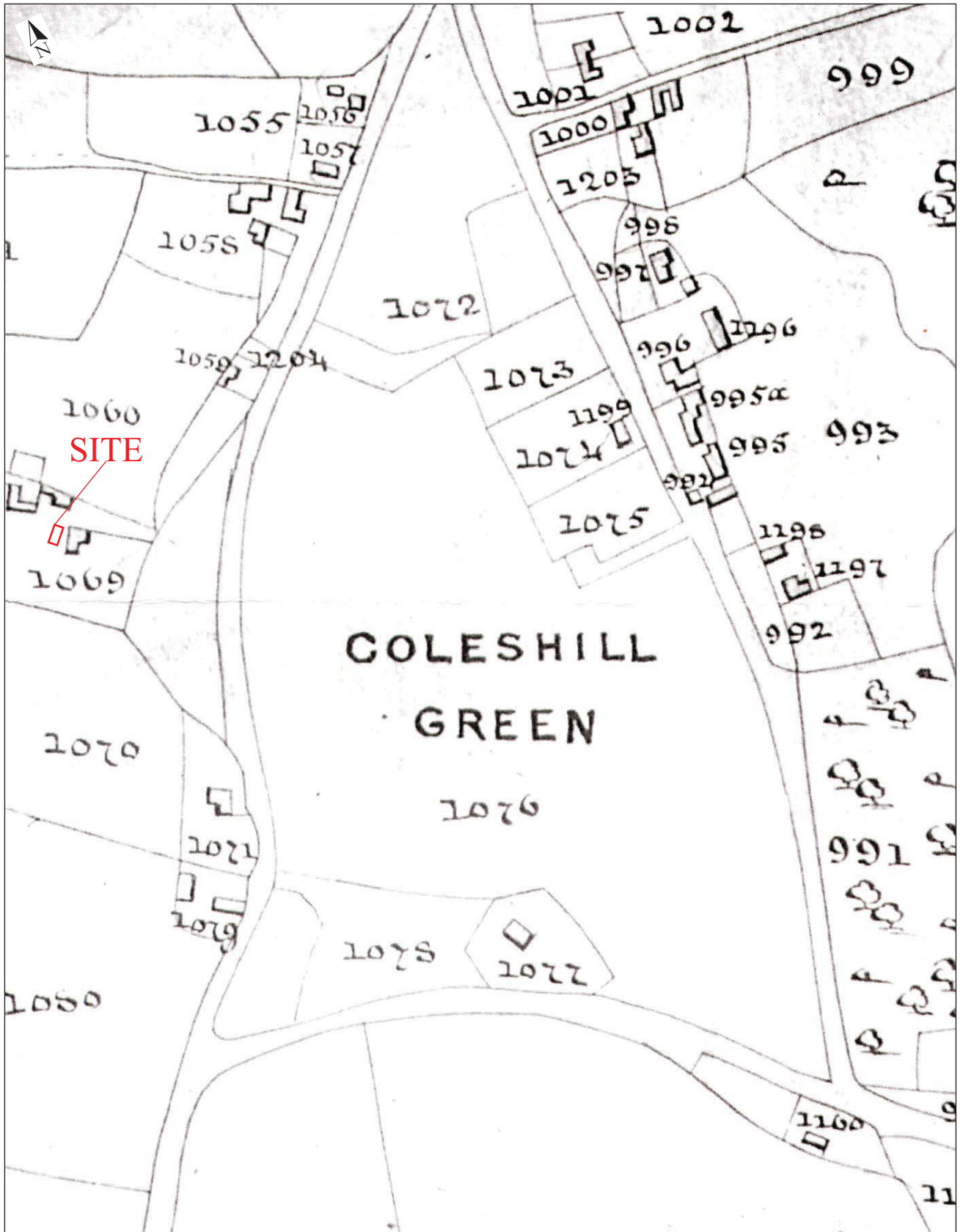


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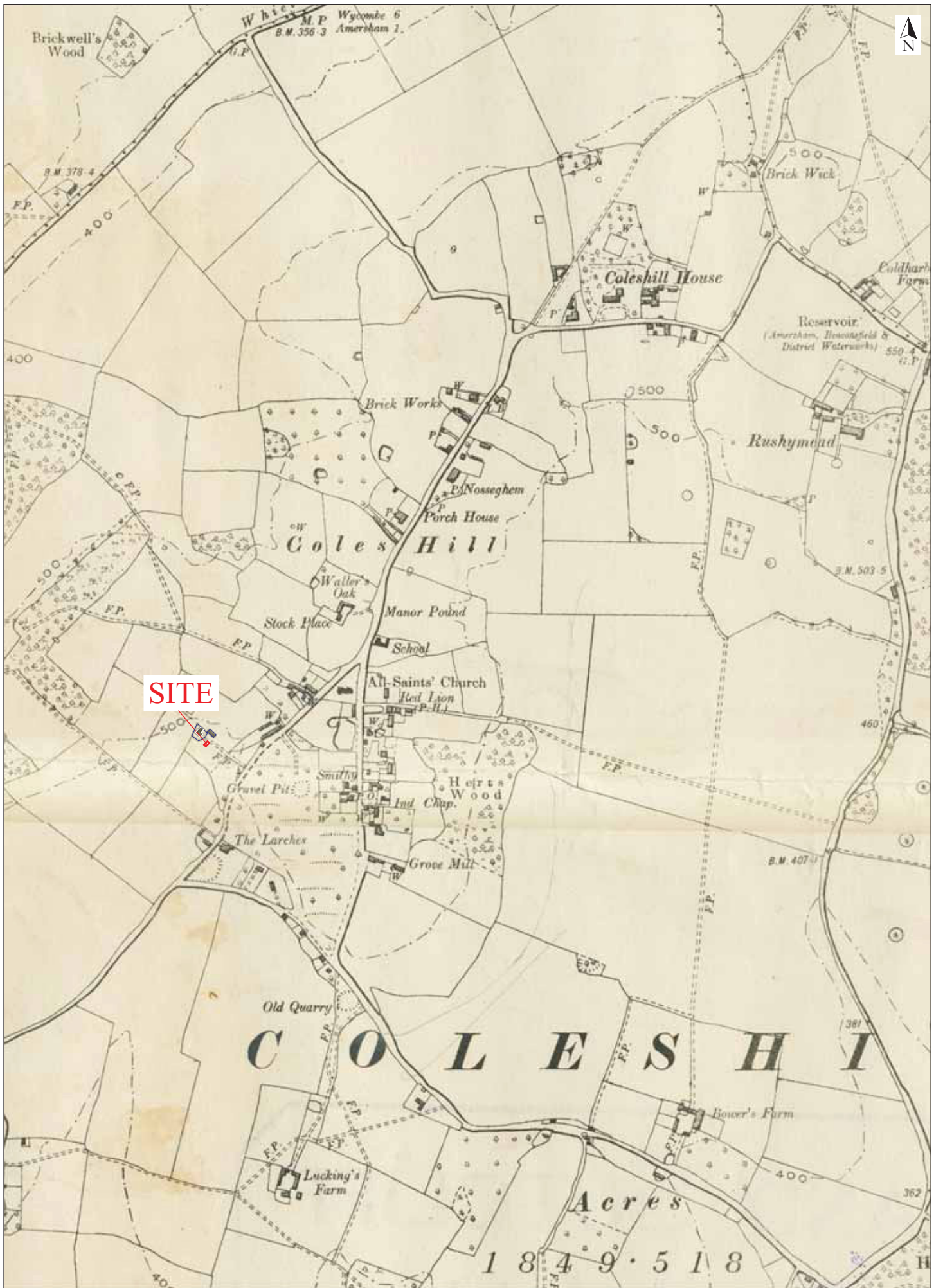
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Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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Fig. 4 Parish of Amersham enclosure map, 1815
Not to scale

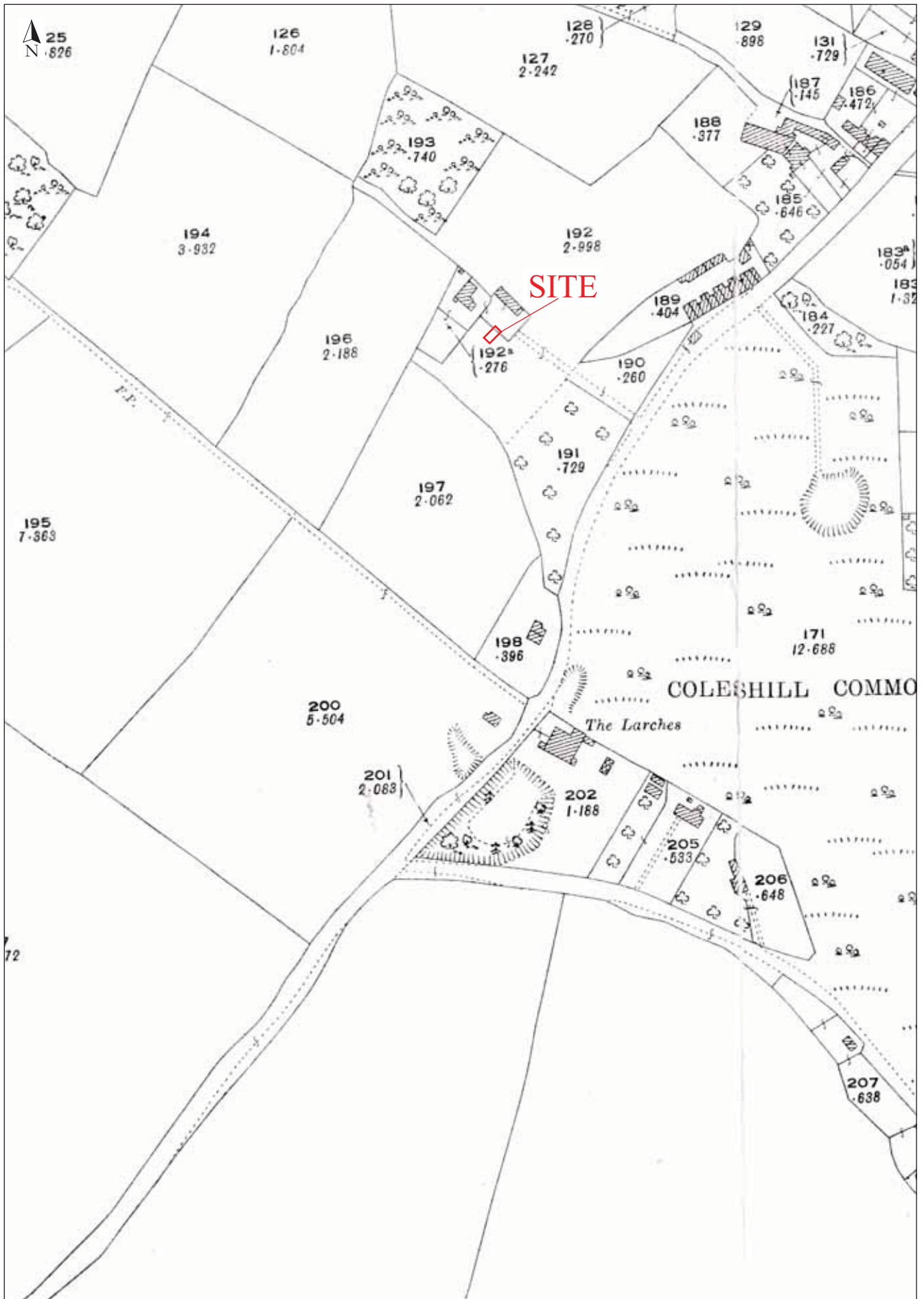


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Fig. 5 Parish of Coleshill Green tithe map, 1839
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map, 1900
 Scale 25" to 1 mile



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Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map, 1925
 Scale 25" to 1 mile

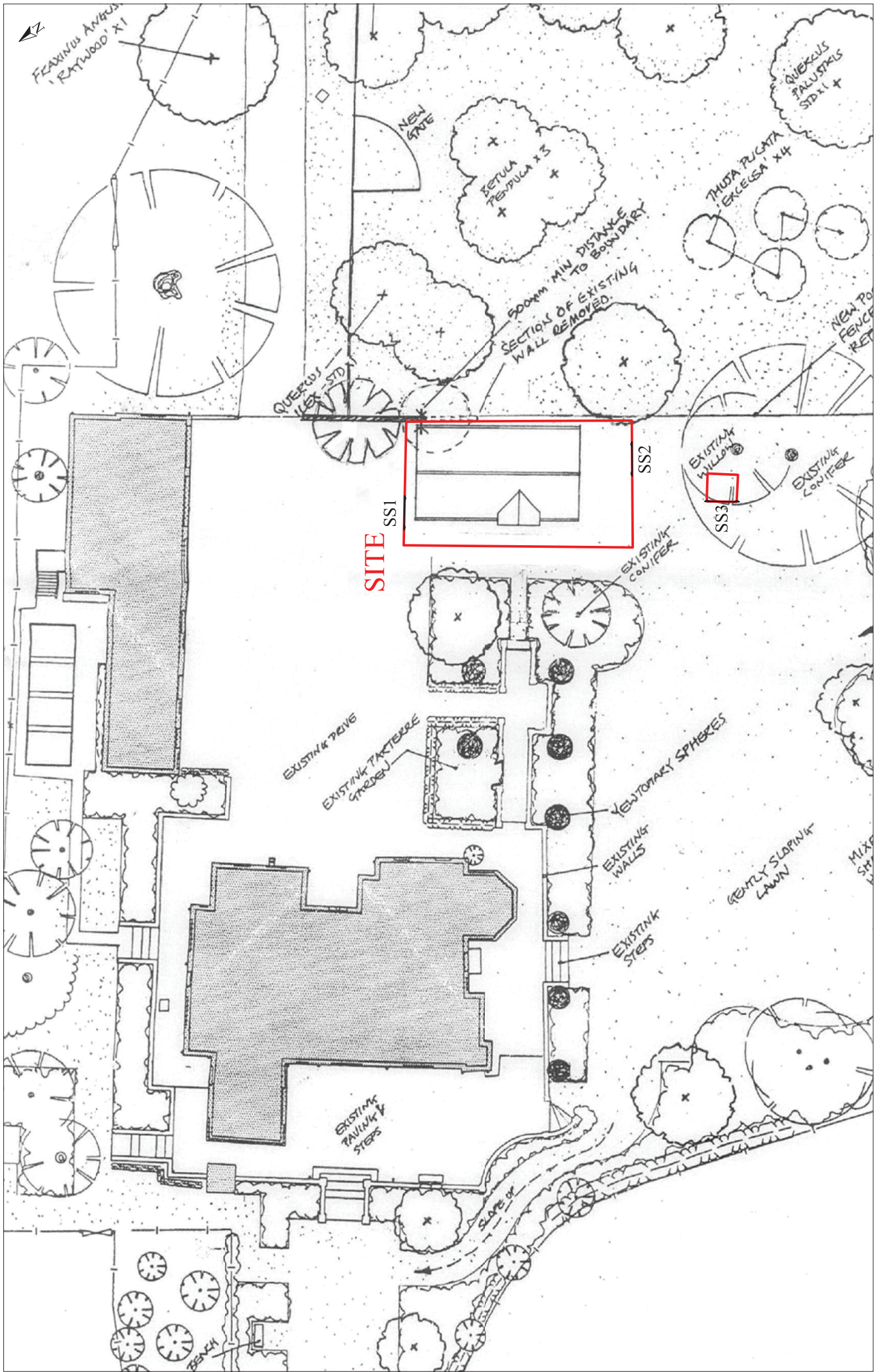
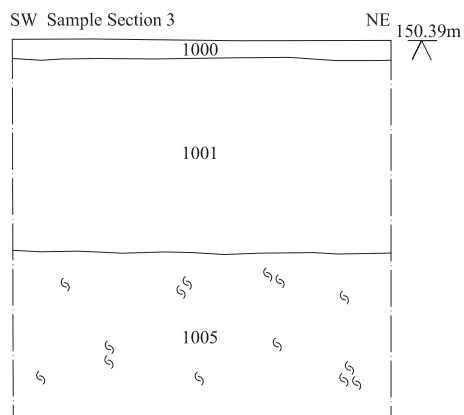
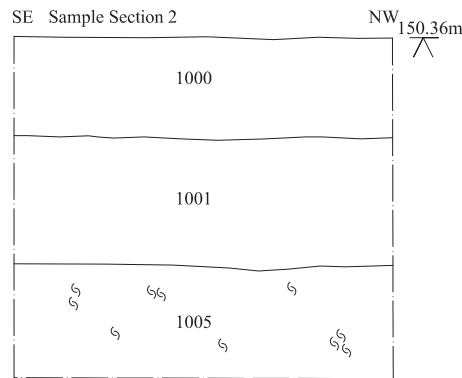
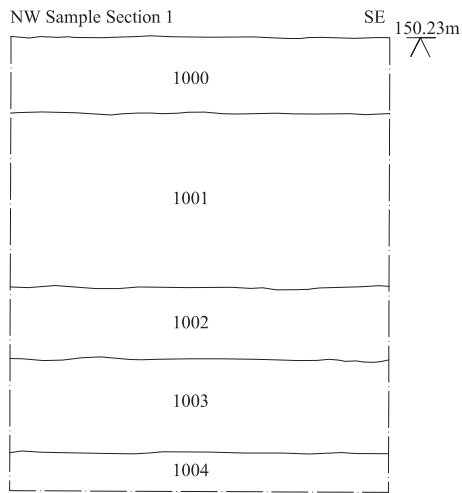


Fig. 8 Sample section location plan with proposed development
Scale 1:200 at A4



 Chalk



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Fig. 9 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4