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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS**

**NUN'S HALL (ANN'S HALL) & SOUTH WEST PADDOCK  
ST OSYTH PRIORY, ESSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
AND EVALUATION**

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NGR: TM 115 160	Report No: 3523
District: Tendring	Site Code: STONW10
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3258
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<b>Project name</b>		<i>Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall), St Osyths Priory, Essex. Archaeological Impact Assessment and Evaluation.</i>	
<i>Summary</i> <i>In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological impact assessment and evaluation at Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall) and south-west paddock, St Osyths Priory, Essex (TM 115 160) in advance of a planning application for enabling works at St Osyths Priory Park.</i>			
<i>St Osyths Priory is a Scheduled Monument (SAM 24 &amp; EHER 4) and a Registered Park and Garden (EH 1145: Grade II). The area evaluated consists of two parts. Four trenches were located to the west of the Scheduled area near Priory Farm. Two trenches were located c.1km north-west of the Priory in Nun's Wood, an area heavily quarried in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is the reputed site of a nunnery founded in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century (EHER 46047). The ruined building in this part of the site was subject to an impact assessment.</i>			
<i>Tradition suggests that the structure is a residual fragment of a chapel, though judging by the surviving gable, the building is orientated north-south, which does not conform to the usual liturgical requirement for an east-west axis as would be expected on a religious site. Further analysis has suggested that it is a garden folly or picturesque ruin of more recent date. The current study identified no datable structural elements later than the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the overall interpretation is that much of the structure as it currently exists is of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with later repair using materials to hand. However, the hypothesis that the wall forms part of a much earlier and larger building was disproved during a trial trench evaluation (Trenches 5 &amp; 6) which revealed no early structural remains. Instead the trenches in Nun's Wood revealed an 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building, possibly a conduit house, and a post-medieval gully (F1034).</i>			
<i>Trenches 1 – 4 revealed post-medieval, modern and undated features. Ditch F1004 contained a Roman sherd. The evidence is comparable to that recorded during the evaluation to the east (McCall et al 2008).</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>1<sup>ST</sup> April 2010, 9<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> April 2010</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>TBC</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>3258</i>	<b>Site code</b>	<i>STONW10</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>Archaeological impact assessment &amp; evaluation</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>Registered park and garden, scheduled monument (The Priory)</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Wood and parkland</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>Residential</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>Gable wall in septaria with flint, Reigate stone, Caen stone, possible reused yellow Flemish brick of medieval date and 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century red brick.</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>None</i>		
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Tendring</i>	<i>St Osyths</i>
<b>HER for area</b>	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>5000m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TM 115 160</i>		
<b>Height AOD (max)</b>	<i>1 – 15m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Lisa Smith &amp; Adam Dyson</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>City and Country Group for the Sargeant Family</i>		

Full title	<i>Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall), St Osyths Priory, Essex. Archaeological Impact Assessment and Evaluation.</i>
Authors	<i>Prosser, L. Smith, L., &amp; Dyson, A.</i>
Report no.	<i>3523</i>
Date (of report)	<i>April 2010</i>

## **NUN'S HALL (ANN'S HALL) & SOUTH WEST PADDOCK ST OSYTH PRIORY, ESSEX**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological impact assessment and evaluation at Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall) and south-west paddock St Osyths Priory, Essex (TM 115 160). The investigation was undertaken in advance of a planning application for enabling works at St Osyths Priory Park.*

*St Osyths Priory is a Scheduled Monument (SAM 24 & EHER 4) and a Registered Park and Garden (EH 1145: Grade II) and consequently is designated a conservation area by Essex County Council. The area evaluated consists of two parts. Four trenches were located to the west of the Scheduled area near Priory Farm. Previous evaluations further to the west and south identified areas of medieval and post-medieval occupation and activity (EHER 46878; McCall et al 2008 and EHER 46876; Smith et al 2008). Two trenches were located c.1km north-west of the Priory in Nun's Wood, an area heavily quarried in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is the reputed site of a nunnery founded in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century (EHER 46047). The ruined building in this part of the site was subject to an impact assessment.*

*Tradition suggests that the structure is a residual fragment of a chapel, though judging by the surviving gable, the building is orientated north-south, which does not conform to the usual liturgical requirement for an east-west axis as would be expected on a religious site. Further analysis has suggested that it is a garden folly or picturesque ruin of more recent date. The current study identified no datable structural elements later than the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the overall interpretation is that much of the structure as it currently exists is of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with later repair using materials to hand. However, the hypothesis that the wall forms part of a much earlier and larger building was disproved during a trial trench evaluation (Trenches 5 & 6) which revealed no early structural remains. Instead the trenches in Nun's Wood revealed an 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century building, possibly a conduit house, and a post-medieval gully (F1034).*

*Trenches 1 – 4 revealed post-medieval, modern and undated features. Ditch F1004 contained a Roman sherd. The evidence is comparable to that recorded during the evaluation to the east (McCall et al 2008).*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological impact assessment and evaluation at Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall) and south-west paddock (NGR TM 115 160; Figs 1, & 5). The work was commissioned by City and Country Group on behalf of the Sargeant Family. The impact assessment and evaluation were carried out in advance of a planning application for enabling works at St Osyth's Priory Park, and will form part of the environmental impact assessment.

1.2 The investigation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Archaeological Service (Adrian Gascoyne, Historic Environment Management Team, dated Jan 2010), and a Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by AS (dated Jan 2010), and approved by ECC HEM. The project followed the Institute for Archaeologists' *'Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures'* (IFA, revised 2001). English Heritage in *'Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice, 2006'*. The archaeological evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to assess the potential for archaeological deposits and nature of standing structures within the development area as outline in the Essex County Council brief.

### Planning policy context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 (2010) 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 St Osyth lies some 5 km west of Clacton-on-Sea on the low-lying coastal flats. It is bounded by the sluggish waterway of Flag Creek, which divides it from Brightlingsea to the west, and St Osyth Creek, which has been dammed to form a modest lake to the south. The village extends westward as far as Clear Point on the coast. By far the most important landmark is St Osyth's Priory, comprising a collection of buildings of various dates constructed over the site of the medieval monastery, and encompassed by the former precinct – now part of a large, 155 hectare parkland.

2.2 Nun's Hall is the name given to a single standing masonry wall which has the appearance of being the gable end of a small rectangular structure. It lies in some isolation to the north-west of the main complex, at the edge of the open pastures bordering Nun's Wood. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey plan as a conduit house. The Royal Commission volume for Essex suggests a probable 14<sup>th</sup> century date, though more recent examination has led to suggestions that the structure may be a folly or garden feature of the post-medieval landscape. Nun's Wood is, however reputedly the site of the Saxon nunnery chapel of St Osyth, though some sources dispute the presence of a nunnery. No other Saxon remains are known from the park.

2.3 Four evaluation trenches for the site were located immediately to the west of the scheduled part of the priory, in the area of Priory Farm (Fig. 5). Two further evaluation trenches were located further to the north of the priory in the Nun's Wood area of St Osyth's Park (Fig. 2).

## **3 THE EVIDENCE**

### **3.1 Topography, geology and soils**

3.1.1 The local soils comprise Wix gleyic argillic brown earth overlying London Clay Formation laid down in the Eocene Epoch. The site ranges between c.1-15m AOD.

### **3.2 Archaeological and historical background**

3.2.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential at St Osyth. The village became established around the site of the priory to the north west, with a further focus around the medieval quayside on St Osyth Creek. Evidence of earlier occupation has been shown by the discovery of archaeological finds which suggest that it may have been established in the middle Saxon period. These finds include 8-10<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and Ipswich ware pitcher of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century date and a bone comb of Viking type. Middle Saxon pottery sherds have been found in the area of St Osyth Primary School (Essex Historic

Environment Record No. 2902), and further burials have been recorded nearby (EHER No. 3298). The development of the town and priory is detailed in the historic town assessment report prepared by ECC for St Osyth (Medlycott 1999). The priory was founded shortly before 1127 for the Austin Canons by the Bishop of London. The sub vault of the Dorter range dates from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and survives, in addition to a number of surviving buildings of 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The priory ruins and garden area is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SM 24). Bronze Age and Iron Age activity has also been excavated at Lodge Farm to the east of the village, and small-scale evidence of Romano-British activity is also known. Finds from within the priory precinct include prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery (EHER 2825-7) and a Roman pit (EHER 2822). Quantities of Roman brick are also incorporated into the standing medieval buildings.

3.2.2 A previous desk-based assessment (Heppell 2007) summarises the background to the site.

3.2.3 A large archaeological evaluation of the West Field site by AS (McCall *et al* 2008) revealed c.100 features, most of which were ditches and pits. Finds were generally sparse throughout the site, although the principal features were securely dated providing a general occupation range from the high medieval to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Among the excavated features was a post-medieval waterlogged timber structure in the vicinity of the older creek bed, an early post-medieval up-draught kiln with two firing tunnels for the production of peg tiles, associated waster pits, a road with a metalled surface and lateral drainage ditches, a series of post-medieval garden features, and medieval backyard rubbish pits.

3.2.4 Evaluation of the Bury to the south front of the Priory by AS (Smith *et al* 2008) revealed two ditches, a pit, posthole and two metalled surfaces. There was an absence of any surfaces in Trenches 1 and 2 leading from the original gatehouse and the entrance leading to the abbey church and Mill Street. A demolition layer have accumulated during repairs or alterations to the priory wall. The evidence recovered from Trench 4 indicates that the modern access road leading from the (15<sup>th</sup> century) gatehouse to Mill Street was originally an earthen track before becoming a more established surface. No evidence to indicate medieval usage of the trackway was recorded. The two shallow ditches and the posthole may be related to temporary structures associated with the fair that is thought to have taken place on the Bury grassland.

3.2.5 The ruin in Nun's Wood (Nun's Hall) is a masonry structure (largely a single wall only) constructed of flint and septaria rubble with limestone dressings. The RCHME volume suggests a probable 14<sup>th</sup> century date, though no evidence to corroborate this is known, and the structure may be a feature or folly of the post-medieval landscaped gardens, re-using available medieval masonry from the priory complex. Nun's Wood is reputedly the site of the Saxon nunnery chapel of St Osyth, though some sources dispute the presence of a nunnery. No other Saxon remains are known from the park.



3.2.6 The South West Paddock area lies close by to the west of the medieval priory buildings, and was part of Priory Farm. The brief notes that farmland and possible kitchen gardens are shown in this location on historic cartographic sources such as the 1762 plan of the estate by Edward John Ayre. Whether or not remains associated the priory buildings extend into this area is not known.

### **3.3.1 The site**

3.3.1 The modern OS map shows the two areas where the site evaluation trenches are located (Figs. 1, 2 & 5). Figure 6 shows the parameters of the scheduled area of the Priory and the boundaries of the Registered Park and Garden (Heppell 2007). Figure 7 shows results of the National Mapping Programme crop mark survey (Heppell 2007). The first, second and third edition OS maps show the two areas of the site in their historic settings (Figs.8 - 10).

## **4 METHODOLOGY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT)**

4.1 The site was visited on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 in order to undertake the description and photographic work of the stone structure (Fig. 2). The photographic recording was carried out using a Canon 1000D digital camera (10 megapixels). External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with locations marked on plan (Fig.3).

## **5 THE BUILDING REMAINS**

5.1 A single masonry wall rises to a rounded, degraded apex at some 3m in height, facing north-south and pierced by a low, central doorway. The whole construction is in a poor state of repair, but free of vegetation and appears to be stable. Scattered architectural fragments, including large ashlar limestone blocks, bricks, flint cobbles and carved stone lie in close proximity, scattered in a pattern which suggests that they have fallen from the monument. Further from the monument, the debris field diminishes, so that there are no apparent traces of other walls in the immediate vicinity.

5.2 The south elevation is constructed of septaria, flint cobbles (some retaining marine concretions) with little evidence of coursing. Peg-tile and limestone fragments and small yellow bricks are distributed in a number of isolated places (Plate 1). Much of the wall has been re-pointed with a soft lime mortar coloured with black ash and charcoal, which is now decaying. Dressed ashlar quoins define the western end with a localised area of flint galleting while the door jambs and head are formed of a mixture of Reigate stone and fine, yellow Caen Stone which displays differential weathering.

5.3 The doorway has a four centred arch interrupted by an incongruous pendant key-stone which is an inverted finial from a church parapet or spire (Plate 2). This supports a carved plinth or platform for a niche (Plate 3), notionally for an image and framed by large blocks having engaged pillars with moulded bases, though the upper parts have fallen away and are scattered nearby.

5.4 The northern face is more coherent with coursed septaria at lower level, though the coherence disappears at the upper level where courses of yellow brick and flint may represent later repair (Plate 4). Reigate and Caen stone quoins define the western edge, as on the south, repeating the galleting in the mortar seen on the reverse. The only feature of note on the eastern side is the remains of a limestone shelf, now mostly broken off.

5.5 The doorway has large ashlar jambs a door-check on both sides (Plate 5). An iron tie was been inserted into the eastern door jamb for additional support. One half of a brick arch of 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century brick (measuring 9¼" x 4½" x 2¼") remains *in situ*, mirroring the profile of the four-centred stone arch to the south (Plate 6). This has partly collapsed, with progressive loss of stone work above, exposing the internal mortar, which is buff-coloured with large fragments of cockle-shell, chalk and flint fragments. Iron clamps have also clearly been inserted to support the upturned pinnacle/keystone.

5.6 On the west side a few bricks define the remains of the original gable profile, which can be traced rising as an ogee in the 17<sup>th</sup> century manner (Plate 7). These are of the same fabric as the arch.

## 6 DISCUSSION (IMPACT ASSESSMENT)

6.1 This is a structure which has been repaired on many occasions, as several different mortar types are discernible, while the quality of construction varies enormously. The lower parts of the north side are properly coursed almost entirely in septaria, but this gives way at waist-height to a more confused jumble of uncoursed flint pebbles and reused stone chunks, with some possible medieval Flemish yellow bricks also incorporated as an interesting feature. The south side is merely a rubble wall constructed with little skill. The dressed stonework is confined to the door aperture and western quoining, but several of these blocks have mouldings on the inner faces which suggest they are reused from another context, and they are mostly flush with the rubble face, instead of being proud in order to accommodate render. The combination of Reigate and Caen is also doubtful; more homogenous treatment of stone would be expected. Neither edge of the structure has a suggestion of return walls.

6.2 The upturned pinnacle is incongruous in this context; a completely spurious feature which has clearly been recycled from a much larger church, most likely the demolished priory itself and reset here with little reference to its correct architectural position. The upper niche is also over-large and manufactured from recycled architectural fragments, in this instance probably

elements of a sedilia, or parts of a blind arcade or screen, which has led to the 14<sup>th</sup> century attribution of date.

6.3 This confused assemblage does not necessarily suggest that the building is entirely a later fabrication. Architectural fragments lying in the vicinity may have been recycled in a naïve repair, but the range of window mullions and other fine stonework which would be expected is absent, and the lower, coherent coursing is fairly convincing. It is likely, therefore, that very fragmentary remains of a pre-existing building were used as a basis for constructing what is seen today. On the basis of the shaped gable, and the fabric of the brickwork, this is likely to be of largely late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, with yet later repair of the upper stonework. A programme of trial trenching (see below) confirmed that the building was never envisaged as a roofed structure, but provision was made in the reset stonework for a door which originally suggested it may have been. The analysis suggests that the structure is a garden folly or picturesque ruin.

## **7 CONCLUSION (IMPACT ASSESSMENT)**

7.1 The proposals envisage the incorporation of the wall as a façade to a completely new building (Fig. 4). The alterations include the reconstruction of the wall to roof level and the reconstruction of quoining at the corners, together with the replacement of the existing doorway with a window, in-filling the lower jambs.

7.2 The proposal will alter the nature of the structure fundamentally. Much of the poorer flint cobbling will probably need considerable dismantling and rebuilding. Despite the alterations that it will bring about, the proposed development will ensure the consolidation of the current structure, ensuring that it is preserved from further degradation.

## **8 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)**

8.1 Six trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 2 & 5). The trenches provided a 4% sample of the South West Paddock. Four trenches (three 20m x 1.6m, and one 30m x 1.6) overlay the footprints of the new buildings. In addition two trenches, each up to 5 – 10m x 1.6m, were located in the vicinity of the structure of Nun's Hall.

8.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically-excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 9 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 Figs. 5 & 11

Sample Section 1: NNE end, WNW facing 0.00 = 17.28m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey silt
0.21 - 0.49m	L1017	Made Ground. Mid – dark orange grey sandy silt with occasional small stone and chalk
0.49 – 0.67m	L1001	Made Ground. Mid orange brown sandy silt with modern debris
0.67 – 0.79m	L1002	Buried Soil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt
0.79m+	L1003	Natural. Sand.

Sample Section 2: SSW end, NNW facing 0.00 = 17.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.29 - 0.55m	L1017	Made Ground. As above
0.55 – 0.85m	L1001	Made Ground. As above
0.85 – 1.01m	L1002	Buried Soil. As above
1.01m+	L1003	Natural. Sand.

*Description:* Trench 1 contained a pit (F1018) and two post holes (F1020 & F1022).

Pit F1018 (0.66 x 0.46+ x 0.15m) was square in plan. It had steep near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1019, was a greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones. It contained post-medieval CBM (16g) and slag (61g).

Post Hole F1020 (0.64 x 0.43 x 0.34m) was oval in plan. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1021, was a dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. It contained post-medieval CBM (29g).

Post Hole F1022 (0.50 x 0.56 x 0.11m) was circular in plan. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a mid brown sandy silt with frequent stones. It contained no finds.

### Trench 2 Figs. 5 & 11

Sample Section 3: SSE end, NNE facing 0.00 = 17.40m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.20 - 0.61m	L1017	Made Ground. As above Tr.1
0.61 – 0.79m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1

0.79 – 0.91m	L1002	Buried Soil. As above Tr.1
0.91m+	L1003	Natural. Pale yellow and orange sand.

Sample Section 4: WNW end, NNE facing 0.00 = 17.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.20 - 0.50m	L1017	Made Ground. As above Tr.1
0.50 – 0.76m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1
0.76 – 0.90m	L1002	Buried Soil. As above Tr.1
0.90m+	L1003	Natural. Sand. As above

*Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds*

### **Trench 3 Figs. 5 & 11**

Sample Section 5: WNW end, NNE facing 0.00 = 17.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.26 – 0.72m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1
0.72 – 0.90m	L1002	Buried Soil. As above Tr.1
0.90m+	L1003	Natural. Sand.

Sample Section 6: ESE end, NNE facing 0.00 = 17.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.25 – 0.48m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1
0.48 – 0.62m	L1002	Buried Soil. As above Tr.1
0.62m+	L1003	Natural. Sand. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 3 contained a ditch (F1004), four pits (?F1008, F1011, F1013 & F1015), and a modern feature (F1006).*

Ditch F1004 (1.50+ x 0.47+ x 0.61+m) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and its base was truncated. Its fill, L1005, was a loose, dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small flints. It contained a Roman pottery sherd (9g) and CBM (11g). It was cut by a modern feature, F1006.

F1006 (1.50+ x 2.72m+ x 1.78m) was not fully defined. It extended beyond the trench edges. It had vertical sides and its base was not exposed. Its fill, L1007, was a dark orange brown silty sand with moderate small flints. It contained modern food packaging (not collected). F1006 was sealed by Made Ground L1001 and cut Ditch F1004.

Pit F1008 (1.32+ x 2.08 x 0.85+m) was sub rectangular in plan. It had near vertical sides and its base was not exposed. Its principal fill, L1009, was a mid brownish yellow sand with frequent small stones and gravel. It contained modern glass (not collected). Its upper fill, L1010, was a mid greyish brown

silty sand. It contained 19<sup>th</sup> / early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery (31g), post-medieval CBM (312g), animal bone (15g), clay pipe (6g) and glass (85g).

Pit F1011 (0.32+ x 0.85 x 0.24m) was circular in plan. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a mid brown silty sand. It contained post-medieval CBM (15g) an animal burial (200g). F1011 was overlain by Made Ground L1001.

Pit F1013 (0.80 x 0.66 x 0.52m) was subcircular. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a mid greyish brown sand with occasional small stones. It contained no finds. F1013 was overlain by L1002.

Pit F1015 (0.64 x 0.28+ x 0.36m) was oval in plan. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present. F1015 cut L1002.

#### Trench 4 Figs. 5 & 11

Sample Section 7: E end, NE facing 0.00 = 17.80m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1024	Hard Standing. Yard
0.40 - 0.66m	L1025	Made Ground. Mid brownish grey sandy silt with moderate stones.
0.66 – 0.80m	L1026	Made Ground. Mid orange grey silty sand and gravel
0.80m+	L1003	Natural. Sand. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 8: W end, N facing 0.00 = 17.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1024	Hard Standing. Yard
0.50 - 0.70m	L1025	Made Ground. As above
0.70 – 0.85m	L1026	Made Ground. As above
0.85m+	L1003	Natural. Sand. As above Tr.1

*Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

#### Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 12

Sample Section 9: S end, E facing 0.00 = 9.32m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1027	Topsoil. Light grey brown silt with occasional stones
0.23 - 0.34m	L1028	Made Ground. Mid grey brown silt with modern CBM
0.34m+	L1029	Natural. Light grey silt with frequent stones

*Description: Trench 5 contained two walls or foundations (M1030 & M1033), and three layers (L1036 – L1038).*

Wall Foundation M1030 was orientated E/W. It measured 1.50+m x 1.15m x 0.18+m and was constructed of mid orange unfrogged post-medieval bricks (230 x 110 x 60mm). The wall was rough finished, and bonded with a mixture of light whitish yellow mortar with occasional chalk flecks, and white cement-based mortar. The construction cut was unexcavated but three courses were apparent. The wall was over one metre wide, and was therefore substantial.

Wall Foundation M1033 was orientated E/W, and measured 1.50+ x 0.40 x ?. It was constructed of mid orange unfrogged post-medieval bricks (160 x 110 x 60mm) and stone (up to 200mm in diameter). It was rough finished. Only one course was visible and no bonding material was apparent.

Wall Foundations M1030 and M1033 (Tr.5) and M1031 and M1032 (Tr.6) were parallel and perpendicular and likely represent the remains of a small structure broadly located broadly parallel to the stone gable (Fig. 2). The brick wall foundations are 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century (CBM Report below), and not contemporary with the stone gable.

Layer 1036 was a mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel. It overlay L1038

Layer 1037 was a light yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel.

Layer 1038 was a mid brown silt with frequent gravel. It contained post-medieval CBM

## **Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 12**

Sample Section 10: W end, facing		
0.00 = 9.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1027	Topsoil. As Tr. 5
0.21 - 0.60m	L1028	Made Ground with CBM (241g). As above Tr.5
0.60m+	L1029	Natural. Silt. As above Tr.5

*Description: Trench 6 contained two walls or foundations (M1031 & M1032), and a gully (L1034).*

Wall Foundation M1031 was orientated N/S, and measured 1.50+m x 0.25m x 0.19+m. It was constructed using mid orange unfrogged post-medieval bricks (160 x 120 x 50mm), and rough finished. Three courses of irregular brick were visible, and the mortar was a light orange yellow sand.

Wall Foundation M1032 was orientated N/S, and measured 1.50+m x 0.32 x 0.20+m. It was constructed of mid orange unfrogged post-medieval bricks (160 x 120 x 60mm), and rough finished. Three courses of irregular brick were visible, and the mortar was a light yellowish white sand.

Gully F1034 (6.00+ x 0.46 x 0.22m) was linear in plan. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1035, was a mid grey brown clayey silt with frequent stones. It contained post-medieval CBM and a residual medieval brick fragment (2278g). It was cut by Brick Wall M1032

## **10 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **11 DEPOSIT MODEL**

11.1 In the area of the south west paddock (Trenches 1 – 3) the topsoil (L1000) overlay Made Ground (L1017, L1001). The latter overlay a buried soil (L1002) which in turn overlay the natural sand (L1003). Topsoil L1000 was a dark brownish grey silt (0.20 – 0.26m thick). The Made Ground was 0.46 – 0.59m thick and overlay Buried Soil L1002. The latter was a dark greyish brown sandy silt (0.12 – 0.16m). Below L1002 was the natural pale yellow and orange sand, L1003 (0.26 – 1.01m below the present day ground surface).

11.2 In the area of Trench 4 was hard standing and levelling, L1024 (0.40 – 0.50m thick). It overlay Made Ground, L1025 and L1026 (0.35 – 0.30m thick). The made ground directly overlay the natural sand, L1003 (0.80 – 0.85m below the present day ground surface).

11.3 In the area of Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall) the stratigraphy is comparable. Topsoil (L1027) overlies Made Ground L1028, which in turn overlies the natural (L1028; 0.34 – 0.60m below the present day ground surface).

## **12 DISCUSSION (TRIAL TRENCHING)**

12.1 Fourteen archaeological features and layers were present within the six trenches, and are tabulated:



	<b>Feature</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Spot Date</b>
1	F1018	Pit	Post-medieval CBM
1	F1020	Post hole	Post-medieval CBM
1	F1022	Post hole	-
3	F1004	Ditch	Roman sherd
3	F1006	Feature	Modern
3	F1008	?Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> / early 20 <sup>th</sup> C
3	F1011	Pit	Modern animal burial
3	F1013	Pit	-
3	F1015	Pit	-
5	F1030	Wall / foundation	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
5	F1033	Wall / foundation	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
6	F1031	Wall / foundation	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
6	F1032	Wall / foundation	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
6	F1034	Gully	Post medieval CBM

#### *Summary of archaeological features*

12.2 The evaluation site was divided into two areas. Four trenches were located to the west of the scheduled priory (SAM 24), near to Priory Farm and within the Registered Park and Garden (EH 1145). An evaluation further to the west of here identified features including medieval backyard rubbish pits, a post-medieval peg tile kiln and wasters, a road, and garden features (McCall *et al* 2008). Evaluation at The Bury to the south found undated features and surfaces following the road alignment from the priory gatehouse to Mill Road (Smith *et al* 2008). The two trenches were located to the north in Nun's Wood in an area of modern gravel quarrying subsequently landscaped, and adjacent to a ruinous stone structure

12.3 Trenches 1 – 4 revealed post-medieval (Pit F1018 & Post Hole F1020), modern (F1006, ?Pit F1008 & Modern Animal Burial F1011) and undated features (Post Hole F1022, Ditch F1004, Pits F1013 & F1015). Ditch F1004 contained a Roman sherd. The evidence is comparable TO THAT recorded during the evaluation to the east (McCall *et al* 2008).

12.4 The trenches in Nun's Wood (Trenches 5 & 6) revealed 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century building remains and a post-medieval gully (F1034).

12.5 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no early remains were present.

## ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at the Colchester & Ipswich Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank City & Country Residential Ltd for commissioning the works (in particular Mr David Sargeant for his assistance) and Mr Richard Winsborough of RW Land & Planning for his assistance.

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Laura Belton at Essex Historic Environment Office

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Adrian Gascoyne of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management

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## APPENDIX 1 Cartographic Sources

Figure No	Name	Date	Scale	Source
1	Ordnance Survey Explorer	modern	1:25,000	OS
2	Detailed Site information	modern		Client
6	Scheduled Ancient Monument and Registered Park and Garden Details	modern	1:10,000	Heppell 2007
7	Cropmarks from the National Mapping Programme	modern	1:15,000	Heppell 2007
8	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey	1876	25 inch	Essex Record Office
9	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey	1897	25 inch	Essex Record Office
10	3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey	1915-24	25 inch	Essex Record Office

## APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

### STONW10: Nun's Hall and S-W Paddock, St Osyth's Priory, Essex Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1001			Made Ground	Post-medieval		303		
1004	1005	3	Ditch Fill	Roman sherd	(1) 9	11		
1008	1010	3	Pit Fill	19 <sup>th</sup> / E 20 <sup>th</sup>	(4) 31g	312	15	Clay Pipe (1) 6g Glass (3) 85g
1011	1012	3	Animal burial fill	Post-medieval		15	200	
1018	1019	1	Pit Fill	Post-medieval		16	1	Slag (2) 61g
1020	1021	1	Posthole Fill	Post-medieval		29		
1028		6	Subsoil	Post-medieval		241		
1030		5	E-W Wall (Southern)	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C		3632		
1031		6	N-S Wall (Eastern)	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C		3523		
1032		6	N-S Wall (Western)	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C		2068		
1033		5	E-W Wall (Northern)	18 <sup>th</sup> – E 19 <sup>th</sup> C		3392		
1034	1035	6	Linear Fill	Post-medieval		2278		

## **APPENDIX 3      SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 4 abraded sherds from L1010. These comprise 2x11g 'Willow Pattern' Transfer Printed ware and 2x19g unglazed post-medieval red earthenware. A 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date is indicated.

### **The Roman Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

A single un-diagnostic body sherd (9g) of Roman sandy grey ware was recovered from Ditch F1004 (L1005). Sandy grey ware fabrics are ubiquitous in Roman assemblages across Essex and were produced in vast quantities in local kilns.

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The evaluation produced a single medieval brick (1402g) and 33 fragments (14418g) of post-medieval brick and tile. The CBM is in a fragmentary but only slightly abraded condition. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight, with all extant dimensions and characteristics also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

The single medieval brick (1402g) was contained in Linear F1034 (1035) alongside fragments of post-medieval peg tile and brick, therefore is residual. The brick has dimensions of c.200x100x50mm with a flat base, sunken margins, slightly irregular arrises and creased faces. It occurs in a yellow-cream fabric with inclusions of abundant quartz (0.1-0.25mm, occasionally larger), sparse black iron-stone/ore (0.5-3mm) and occasional burnt grass/organic voids (linear, <30mm). These characteristics identify the brick as a medieval (14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century) Flemish-type cream brick (Ryan 1996, 94), that was probably imported into Essex from low-land Europe via one of the east coast ports associated with the Hanseatic League (Drury 1981, 127-129).

The post-medieval CBM is dominated by 8 fragments (12615g) of brick recovered from a series of Walls: M1030, M1031, M1032 and M1033. None of the fragments represents a complete brick but each is of the same type of brick. The bricks have partial dimensions of ?x115x60mm with a flat base, slightly irregular arrises and faces, and striations on their upper surface. These characteristics identify the bricks as 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century red bricks (Ryan 1996, 95). The bricks occur in an oxidised red fabric with inclusions of comprise common moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse-common iron-rich pellets (0.5-15mm) and sparse flint (0.5-6mm). Small fragments of

unidentifiable brick in this fabric were also contained in Made Ground L1001, Pit F1008 (L1010) and Linear F1034 (L1035).

The remaining post-medieval CBM comprises 21 small fragments (1001g) of peg tile that are never present in any concentration. The peg tile comprises 14mm thick flat tile with a sanded base, diamond-shaped peg hole (10mm wide, tapering to base) and pressure marks on the lateral edges where the tile was pushed into a mould. The peg tile occurs in a slightly finer variant of the fabric used to manufacture the post-medieval brick: with inclusions of common moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse flint (0.5-6mm) and occasional iron-rich clay pellets (0.5-5mm). The fragments of peg tile were contained in Made Ground L1001, Ditch F1004 (L1005), Pits F1008 (L1010), F1011 (L1012), F1018 (L1019), Posthole F1020 (L1021), Subsoil L1028 and Linear F1034 (L1035).

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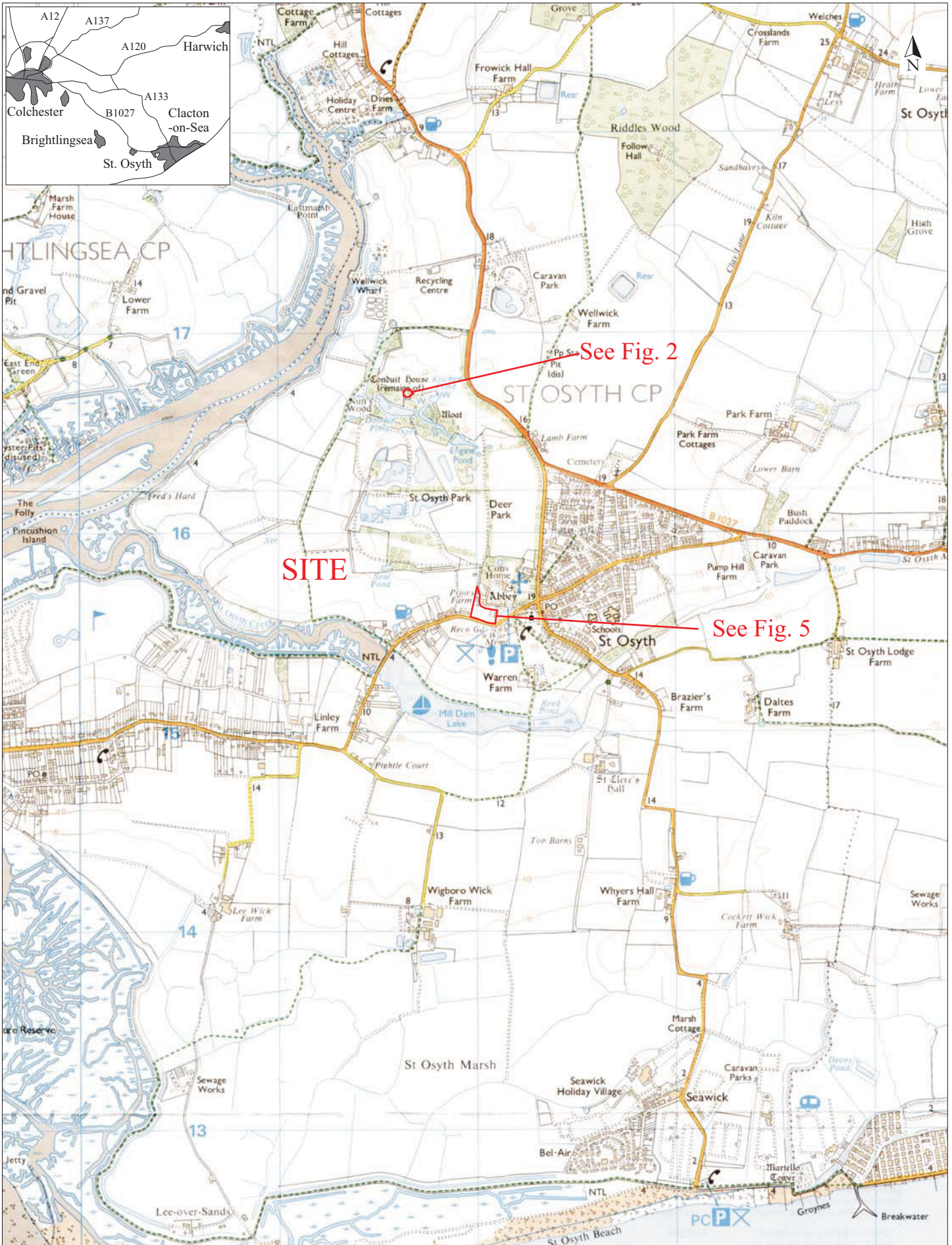
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**APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

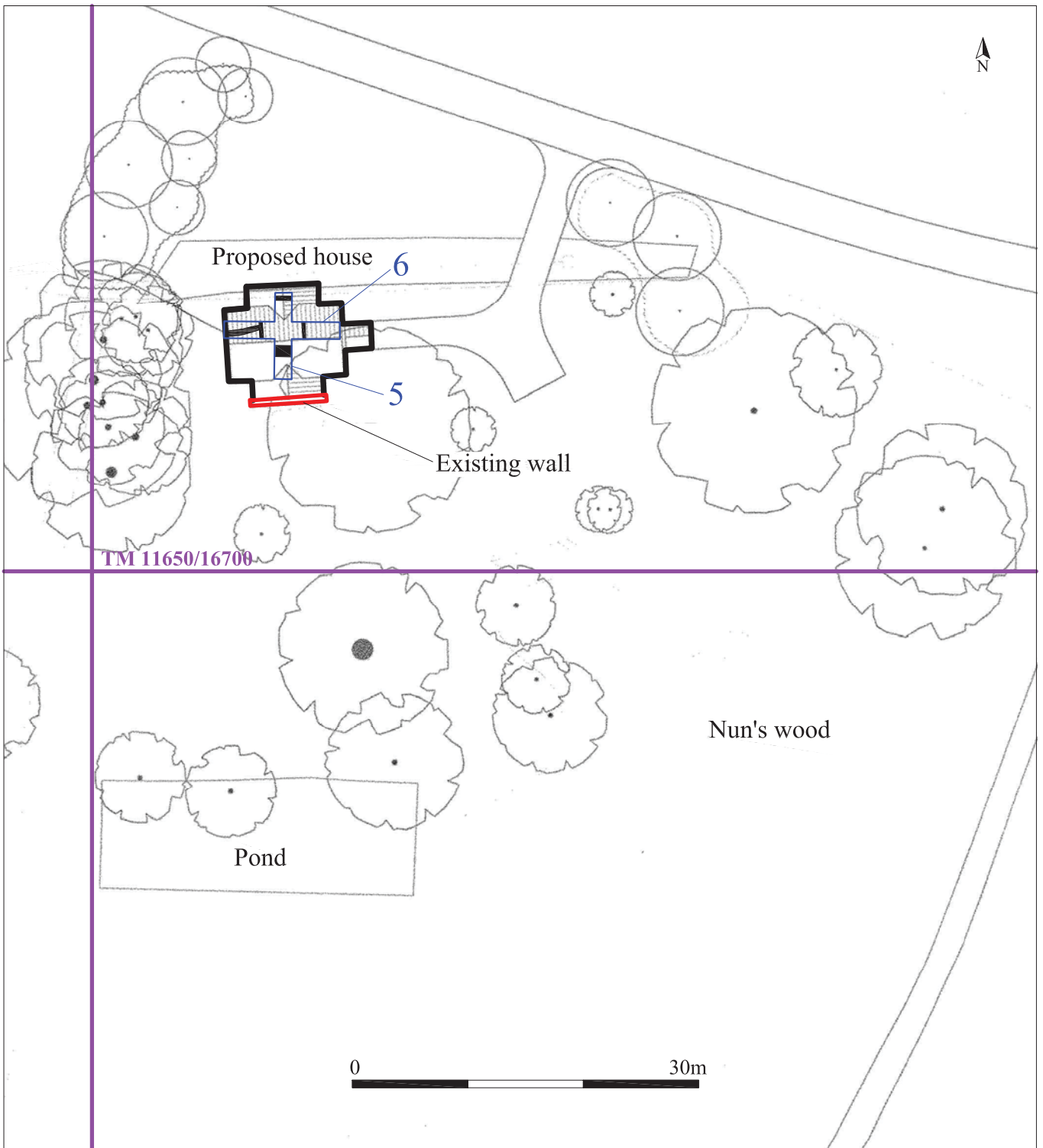
<b>Site name and address:</b>	Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall), St Osyths Priory, Essex
<b>County:</b> Essex	<b>District:</b> Tendring
<b>Village/Town:</b> St Osyths	<b>Parish:</b> St Osyths
<b>Planning application ref:</b>	n/a
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	City and Country
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Pre- planning application (Residential)
<b>Present land use:</b>	Wood and parkland
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.5000m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> c.200m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TM 1150 1600
<b>Site Code:</b>	STONW10
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions (AS)
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Impact Assessment and Evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	April 2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Colchester Museum
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> C16th/C17th
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	Goldsmith, A. <i>et al.</i> 2006, <i>The Tithe Barn and Brewhouse, St Osyth's Priory, St Osyth, Essex.</i> Archaeological Solutions. Heppell, E, 2007, <i>St Osyth Priory Park, St Oysth, Tendring, Essex: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment,</i> Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. Newton, A. (ed.), 2008, <i>St Osyth Priory Park, St Osyth, Tendring, Essex: An archaeological evaluation.</i> Archaeological Solutions.
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<i>In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological impact assessment and evaluation at Nun's Hall (Ann's Hall) and south-west paddock, St Osyths Priory, Essex (TM 115 160) in advance of a planning application for enabling works at St Osyths Priory Park.</i> <i>St Osyths Priory is a Scheduled Monument (SAM 24 &amp; EHER 4) and a Registered Park and Garden (EH 1145: Grade II). The area evaluated consists of two parts. Four trenches were located to the west of the Scheduled area near Priory Farm. Two trenches were located c.1km north-west of the Priory in Nun's Wood, an area heavily quarried in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is the reputed site of a nunnery founded in the late 7<sup>th</sup> century (EHER 46047). The ruined building in this part of the site was subject to an impact assessment.</i> <i>Tradition suggests that the structure is a residual fragment of a chapel, though judging by the surviving gable, the building is orientated north-south, which does not conform to the usual liturgical requirement for an east-west axis as would be expected on a religious site. Further analysis has suggested that it is a garden folly or picturesque ruin of more recent date. The current study identified no datable structural elements later than the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the overall interpretation is that much of the structure as it currently exists is of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date, with later repair using materials to hand. However, the hypothesis that the wall forms part of a much earlier and larger building was disproved during a trial trench evaluation (Trenches 5 &amp; 6) which revealed no early structural remains. Instead the trenches in Nun's Wood revealed an 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building, possibly a conduit house, and a post-medieval gully (F1034).</i> <i>Trenches 1 – 4 revealed post-medieval, modern and undated features. Ditch F1004 contained a Roman sherd. The evidence is comparable to that recorded during the evaluation to the east (McCall et al 2008).</i>
<b>Author of summary:</b> L. Prosser	<b>Date of Summary:</b> April 2010



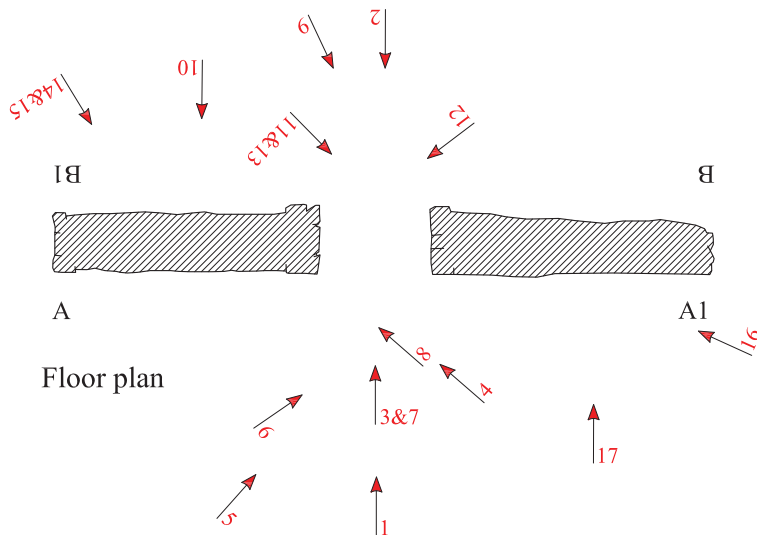
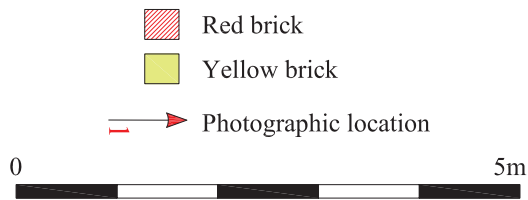
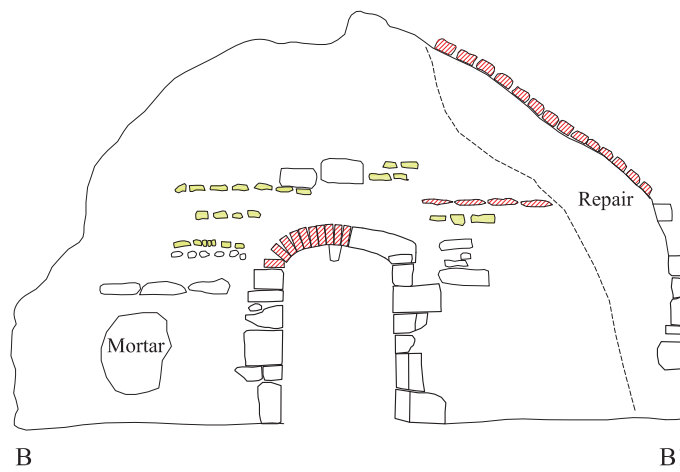
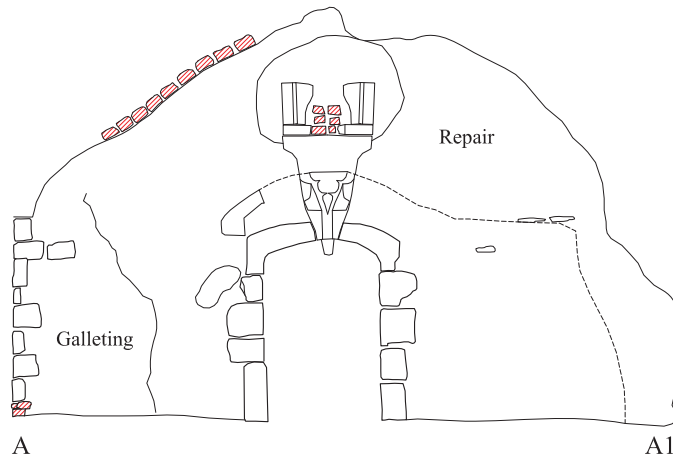


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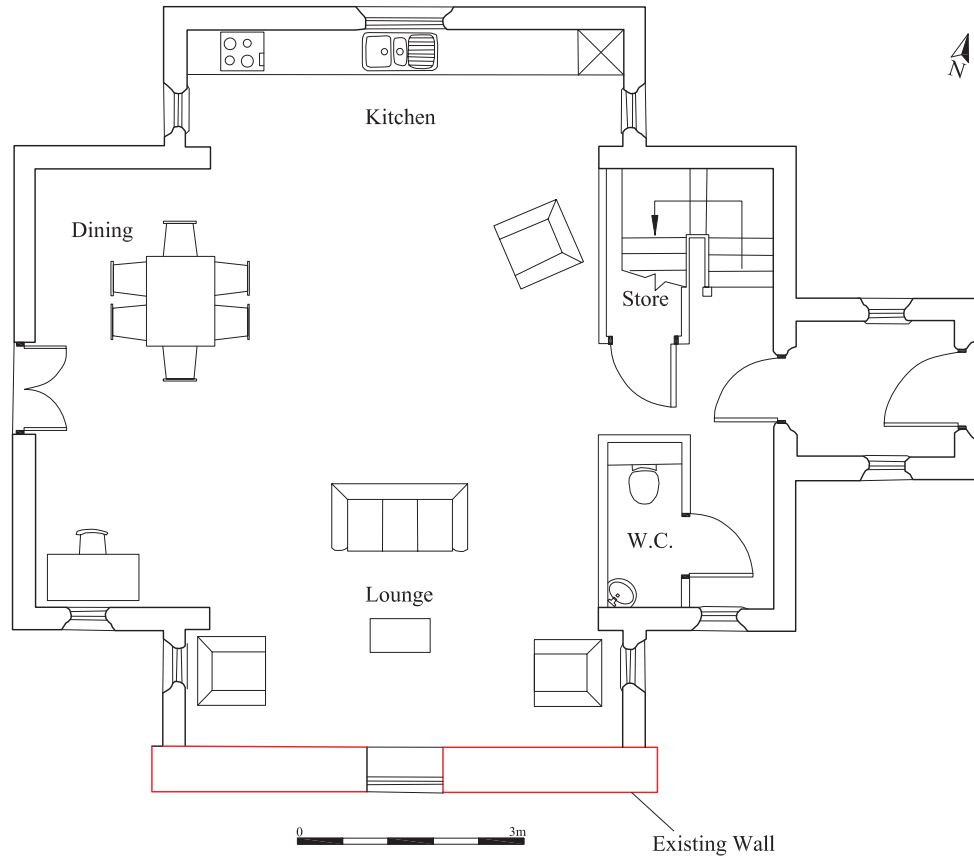
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



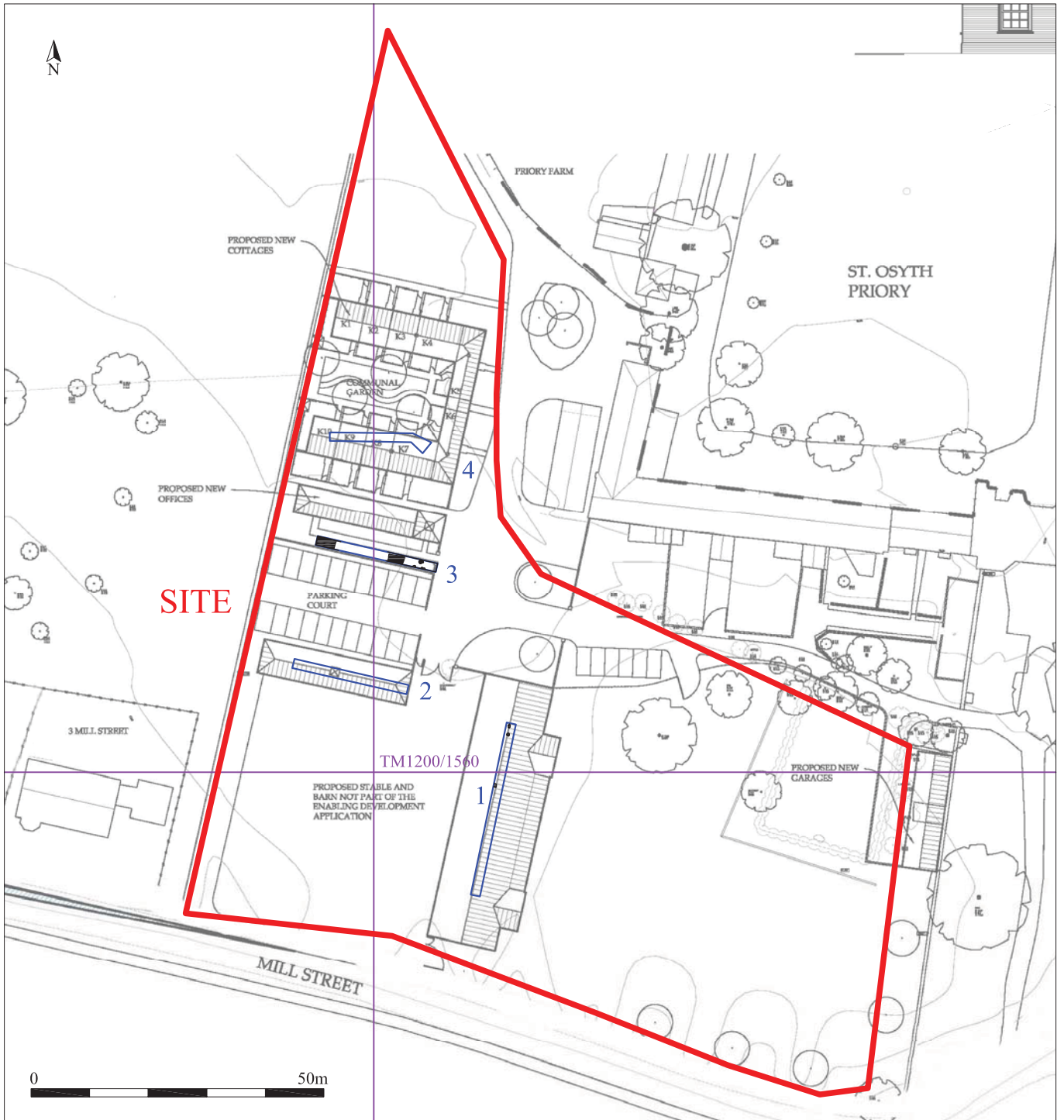
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**Fig. 3 Plan & elevations**  
 Scale 1:75 at A4



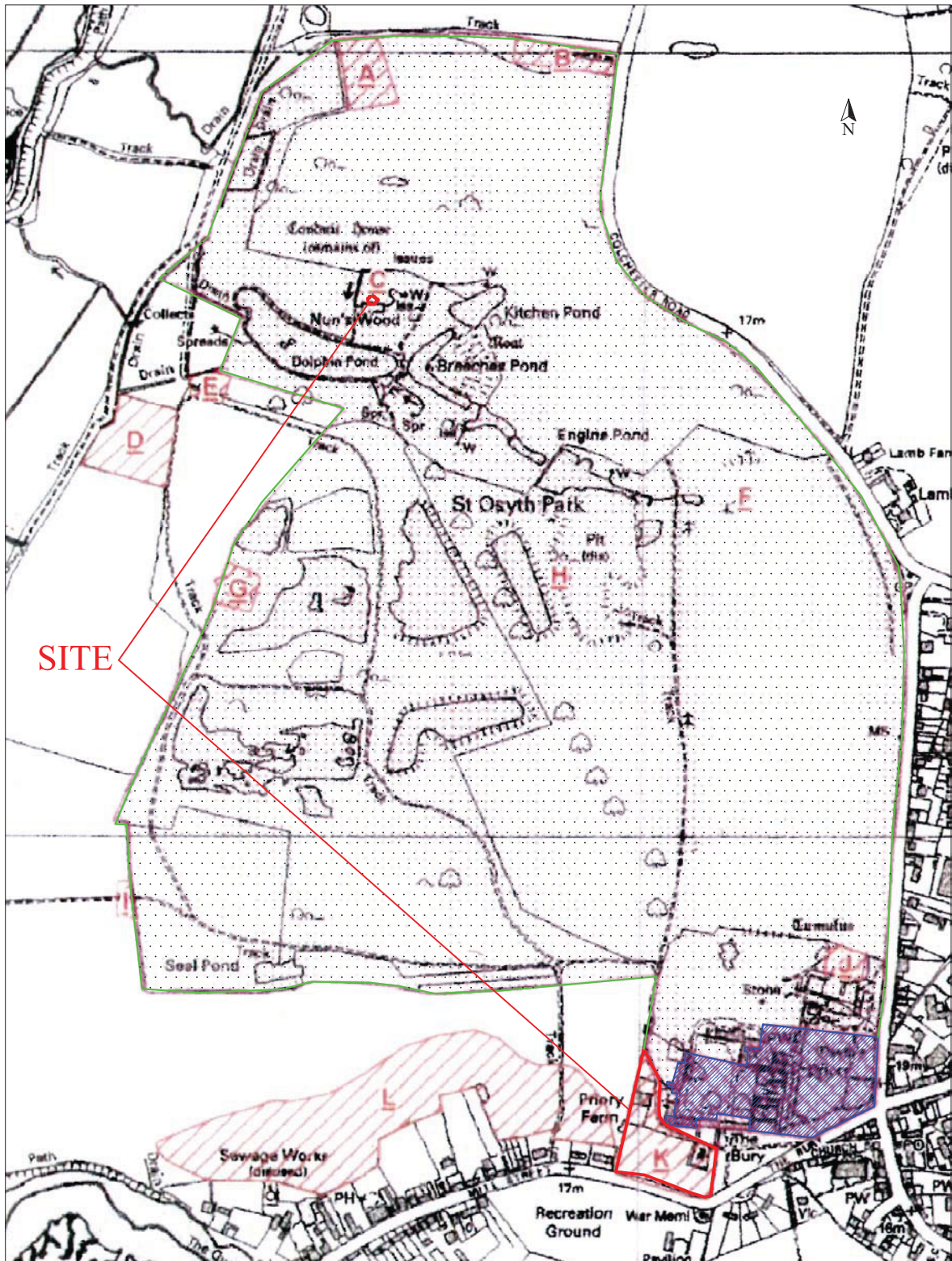
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**Fig. 4 Proposed plan**

Scale 1:100 at A4



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**Fig. 5 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



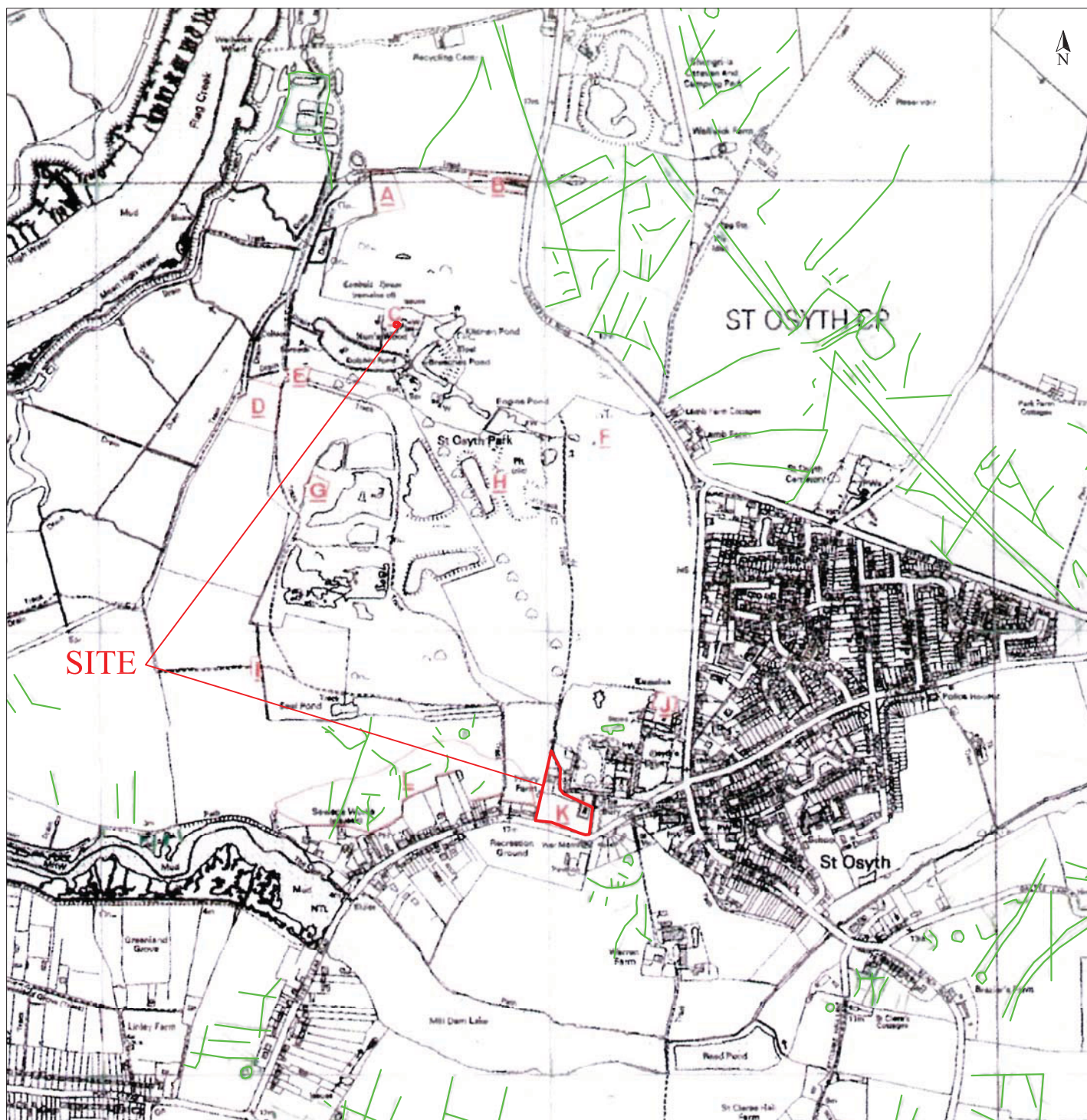
- Registered park and garden
- Scheduled Ancient Monument



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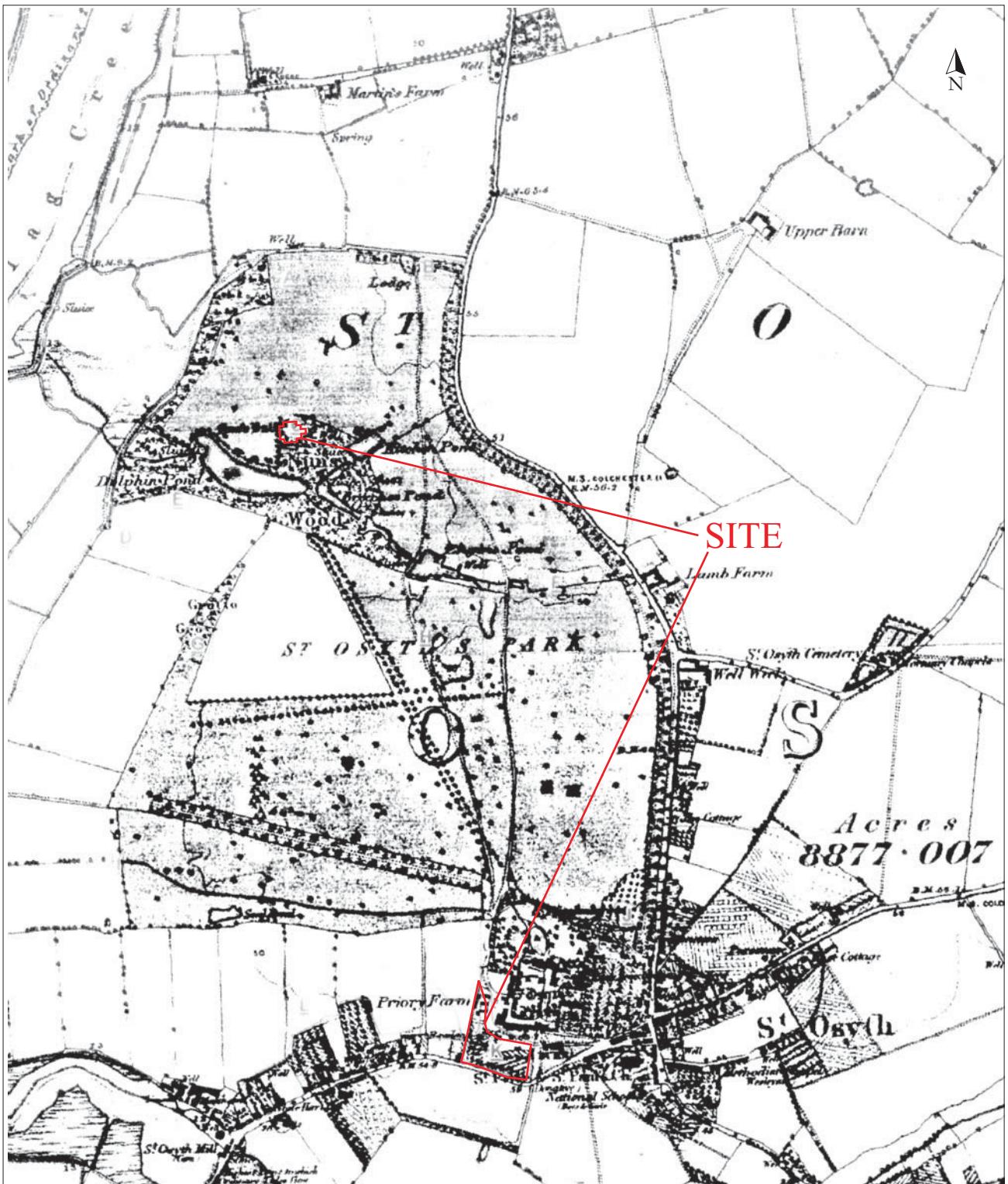
**Fig. 6 Scheduled ancient monument and registered park and garden details**

Scale 1:7500 at A4



— Cropmarks  
 0  800m

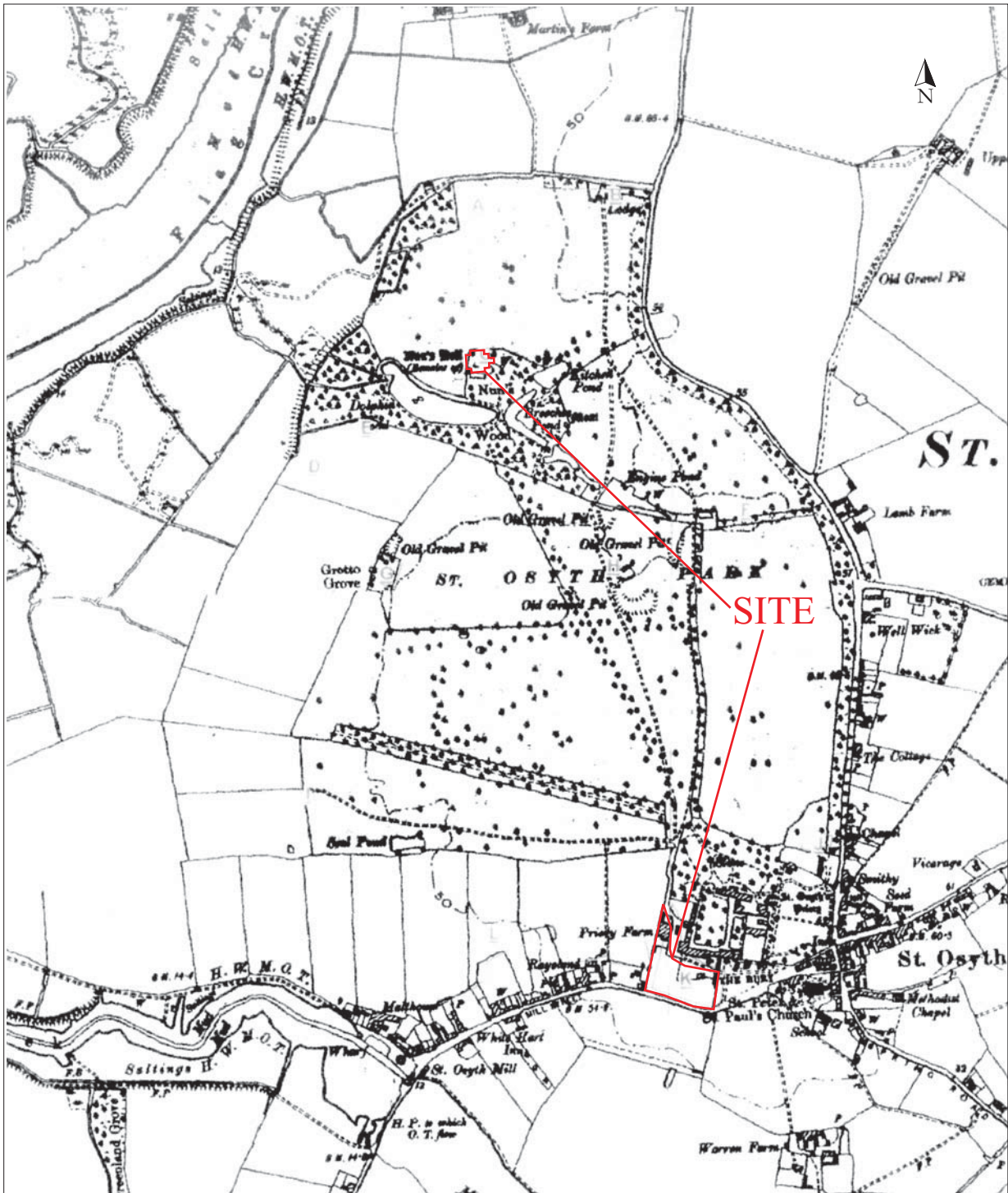
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**Fig. 7 Cropmarks from the National Mapping Programme**  
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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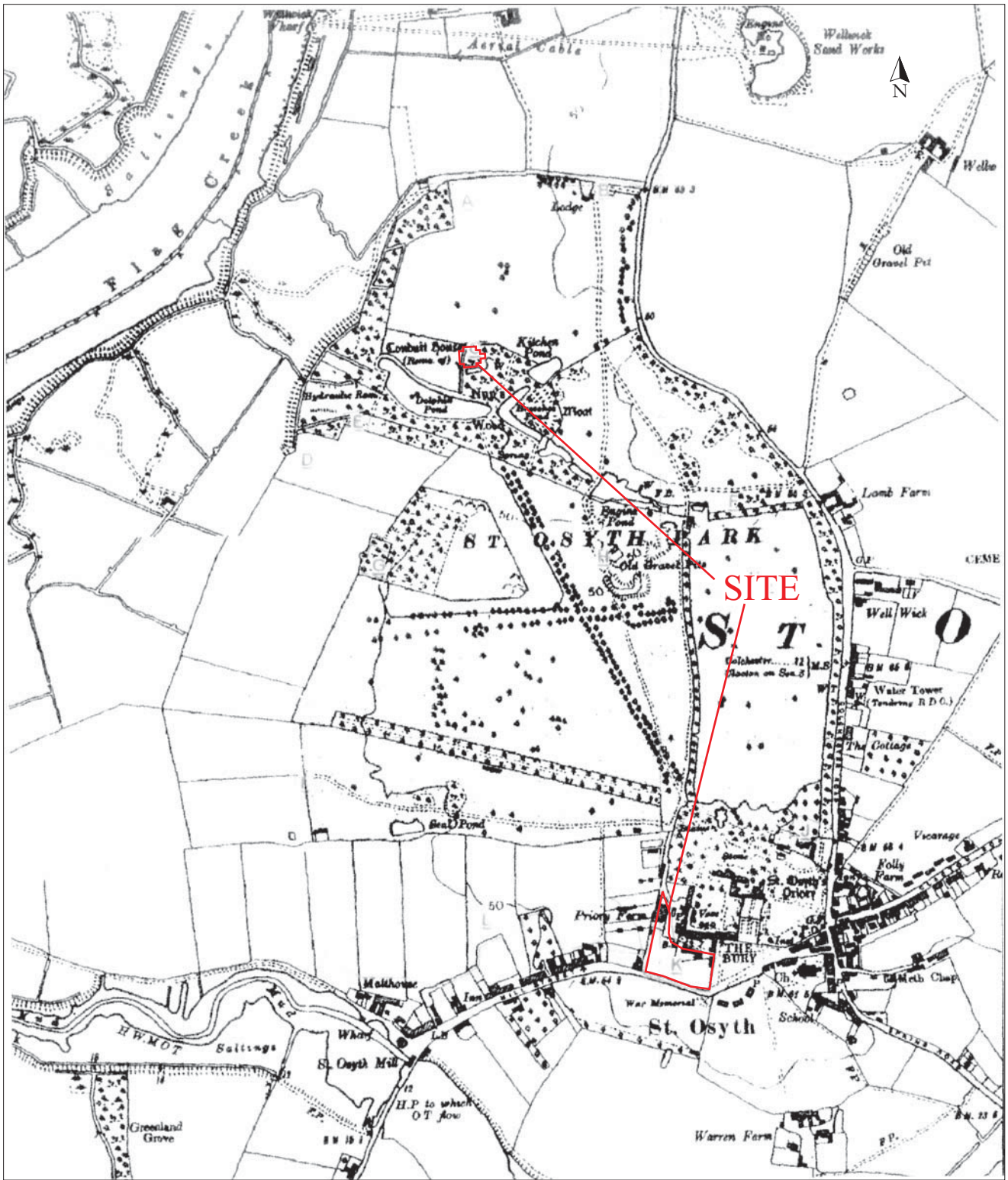
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**Fig. 8 1st edition OS map, 1876**  
 Scale 6 inch to: 1 mile at A4





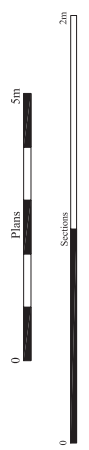
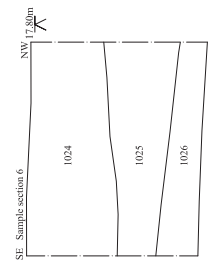
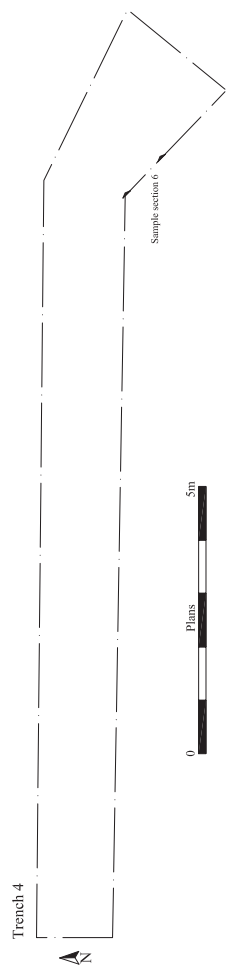
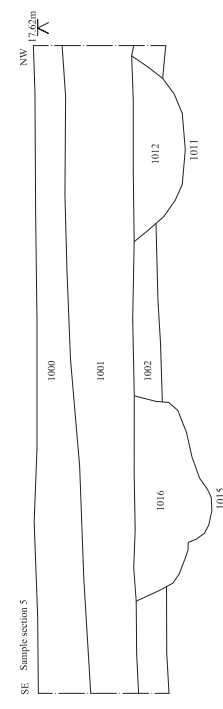
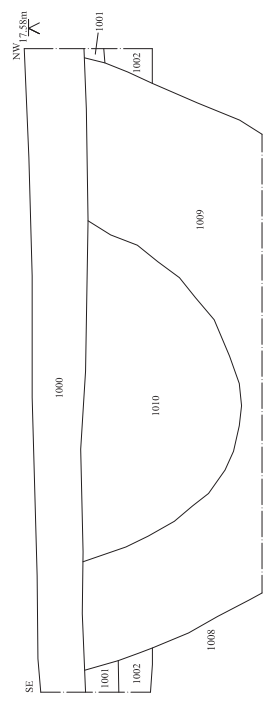
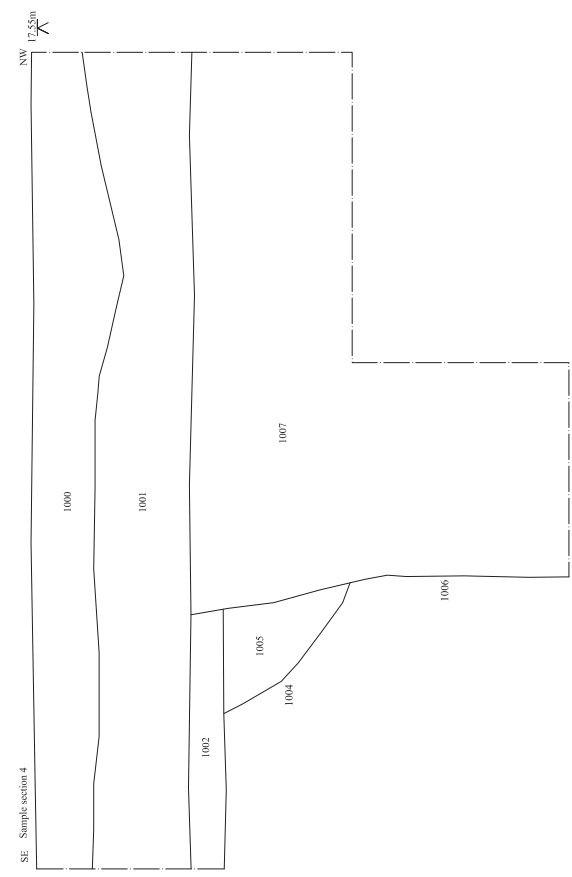
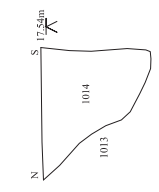
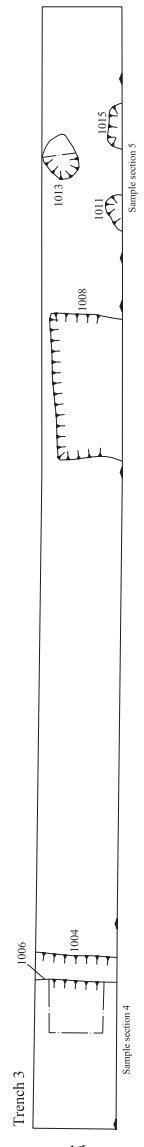
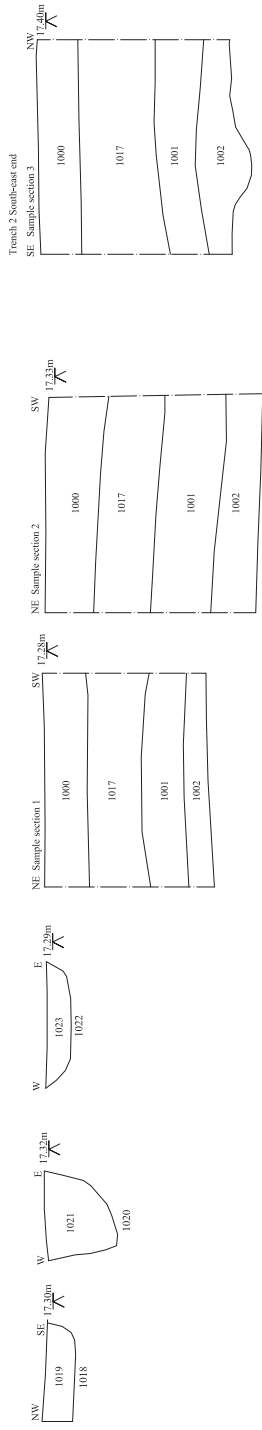
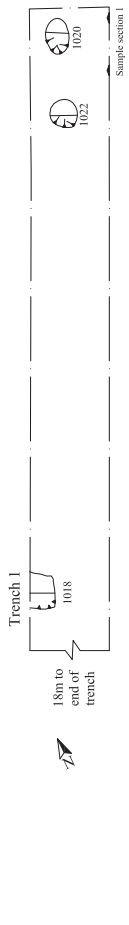
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<b>Fig. 9 2nd edition OS map, 1897</b>
Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4



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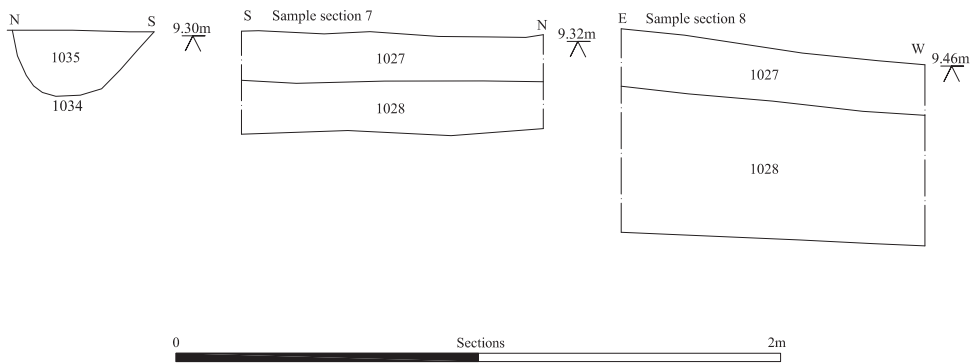
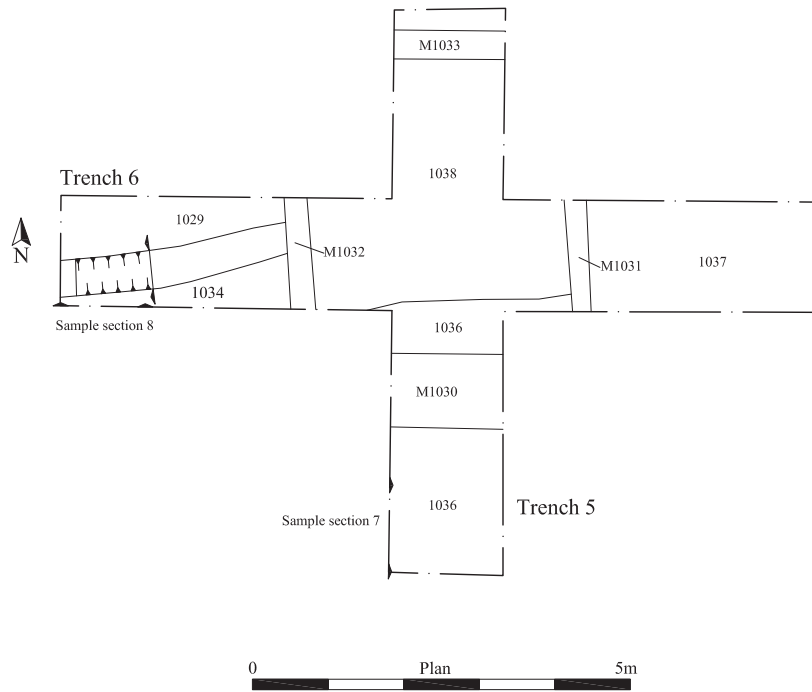
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 Fig. 10 3rd edition OS map 1915-24  
 Scale 6": 1 mile at A4



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**Fig. 11 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3



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**Fig. 12 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A4