

WAYSIDE, CHURCH ROAD, PENN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report)	
NGR: SU 90785 93483	Report No. 3709
District: Chiltern	Site Code: AS 1359
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire</i>	
<p><i>In November and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 90785 93483). The monitoring was commissioned by Richard Anthony Developments Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey side extension, part two-storey part first-floor rear extension incorporating a basement, front porch, detached single garage and alterations to hardstanding.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn and within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area as identified by Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council. The village is known as an important production centre for medieval and post-medieval tiles. Several archaeological remains confirming that status have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>4th, 5th, 16th and 19th November, 8th December 2010</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>3581</i>	Site code
			<i>AS 1359</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>	
Site status		<i>Within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area</i>	
Current land use		<i>Side and rear yard to the house</i>	
Planned development		<i>Extensions to the house, new basement and garage</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Chiltern</i>
			<i>Penn</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Buckinghamshire HER</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>HP10 8LY</i>	
Area of site		<i>4047m²</i>	
NGR		<i>90785 93483</i>	
Height AOD (min/max)		<i>c.165m AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>	
Funded by		<i>Richard Anthony Developments Ltd</i>	
Full title		<i>Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>	
Authors		<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>	
Report no.		<i>3709</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>January 2011</i>	

WAYSIDE, CHURCH ROAD, PENN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 90785 93483). The monitoring was commissioned by Richard Anthony Developments Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey side extension, part two-storey part first-floor rear extension incorporating a basement, front porch, detached single garage and alterations to hardstanding.

The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn and within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area as identified by Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council. The village is known as an important production centre for medieval and post-medieval tiles. Several archaeological remains confirming that status have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 90785 93483; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Richard Anthony Developments Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey side extension, part two-storey part first-floor rear extension incorporating basement, front porch, detached single garage and alterations to hardstanding (Chiltern District Council Planning Ref. CH/2010/0005/FA & CH/2010/0005/CA).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice from Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 23/07/2010), and approved by BCAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008).

1.3 The principal objective of the archaeological monitoring and recording was 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 local pottery and tile production industries.

Planning policy context

1.4 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of Church Road, within the historic core of the village of Penn (Fig. 1-2). It is located to the immediate south-west of Tylers Green, opposite the Penn School. The site comprises the detached residential property of Wayside with a large rear garden. To the north and south it neighbours other residential properties at Church Road. To the east is open farmland.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies within the hilly area to the north of River Wye. It is located on undulating terrain at a height of c.165m AOD. The landscape has its greatest height at Beacon Hill c. 250m to the south (173m AOD).

3.2 The underlying geology comprises Lambeth clay (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are Paleo-argillic stagnogley soils of the Essendon association, which can be characterised as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse loamy over clayey soils, with some area of similar fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Penn is not recorded in the Domesday survey, and it has a few recorded archaeological remains prior to the medieval tile industry for which it is nationally-recognised. A fragment of a copper alloy leaf-shaped spear head of the Ewart Park type and dating to the late Bronze Age c. 800BC was found

in Elm Road (HER 5877) and some undated cropmarks comprising three ring ditches and a boundary have been noted on aerial photographs, located at Gatemoor Wood (HER 6872).

4.2 Penn is known as an important production centre for medieval tiles, being referred to as early as 1332 in the Subsidy Roll, which lists three tilers and their stock (HER 4244). It is thought that in the 14th century a new technique for producing two colour tiles was probably invented at Penn (Cauvain 1990). The Penn floor tile industry became the most extensive, successful, well organised commercial tile industry in medieval Britain, and between 1350-80 Penn had virtually achieved a monopoly within the southeast, producing floor and roof tiles for royal palaces, monasteries, churches, manor houses and rich merchants' houses. Several kiln sites or possible kiln sites have been recorded focused at the junction of Beacon Hill, Stumpwell Lane and Church Road (HER 4224, 4225, 4246, 6880). Numerous finds of floor tiles, wasters and debris from the kilns have been found (HER 4761, 5162 & 5411) and there is also ample evidence of clay pits in the area (HER 4245, 4246, 6881, 8358, 8359, 8361 & 9944)

4.3 Previous archaeological investigations in the area include an archaeological trial trench to the east of the site at Stumpwell Cottage, which revealed a medieval posthole and seven modern dog burials (HER 6868). In Elm Road, a watching brief revealed a medieval posthole and a wall footing of probable post-medieval date (HER 9942). At Glenmore a ditch aligned northwest/southeast was identified during trial trenching; it was filled with 11th-13th century pottery and animal bone fragments, and is thought to be a medieval boundary ditch at the rear of properties fronting onto Church Road (HER 8407). To the east of the site a watching brief revealed two pits, a flint-lined well, a tile-lined cess pit, a brick-lined soak away and flint and tile wall footings dating to the post-medieval period, and interpreted as representing either earlier occupation on the site or the rebuilding of the existing cottage (HER 8048).

4.4 The site lies within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation area as designated by Wycombe District Council, and Chiltern District Council. It is located c. 700m to the west of the parish church of Holy Trinity which features the rare survival of a wooden tympanum, dating to the 15th century and showing a painting of The Last Judgment; it is one of only five such examples to survive in the country.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically and manually excavated foundation trenches for the new extensions and the excavation for a new basement (Fig. 2).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified except a modern well. Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample section tabulated below.

<i>SW foundation trench, facing NE (DP 4)</i> <i>0.00 = 165.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Made ground. Modern concrete and CBM rubble with dark grey, loose, sandy silt.
0.13 – 0.58m	L1001	Light brown, compact, silty clay with gravel.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural greenish dark yellow, compact, clay with gravel and chalk.

<i>N foundation trench, facing SE (DP 8)</i> <i>0.00 = 165.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	As above.
0.10 – 0.71m	L1001	As above.
0.71m+	L1002	As above.

6.2 The well (DP 6) was located in the eastern part of the site and measured 1.50m in diameter and 4m+ in depth. It was constructed of red bricks (0.22 x 0.105 x 0.065m) bonded with light grey, cement mortar. The well was of late 19th – early 20th century origin.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern layer of made ground (L1000), concrete and CBM rubble with dark grey, loose, sandy silt (0.10 – 0.300m thick). The layer was created during the current works and contained materials from the partly-demolished building which is subject to development.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.50 – 0.80m below existing ground level and comprised a greenish dark yellow, compact, clay with lenses of dark yellow silty gravel and lenses of white, compact, chalk.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the production of tiles and pottery since at least the early 14th century.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified except the well of late 19th – early 20th century date. Little evidence of previous truncation was apparent. No residual finds were recovered.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site 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 Richard Anthony Developments Ltd for funding the project, and Mr Tony Mealing of GMTW Architects.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Wayside, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire. View SSW.



DP 2. W/central foundation trench. View NW.



DP 3. SW foundation trench. View NW.



DP 4. SW foundation trench. Sample section. View SW.



DP 5. N part of the site. View WNW.



DP 6. Well in E part of the site. View NE.



DP 7. N foundation trench. View WNW.



DP 8. N foundation trench. Sample section. View NW.

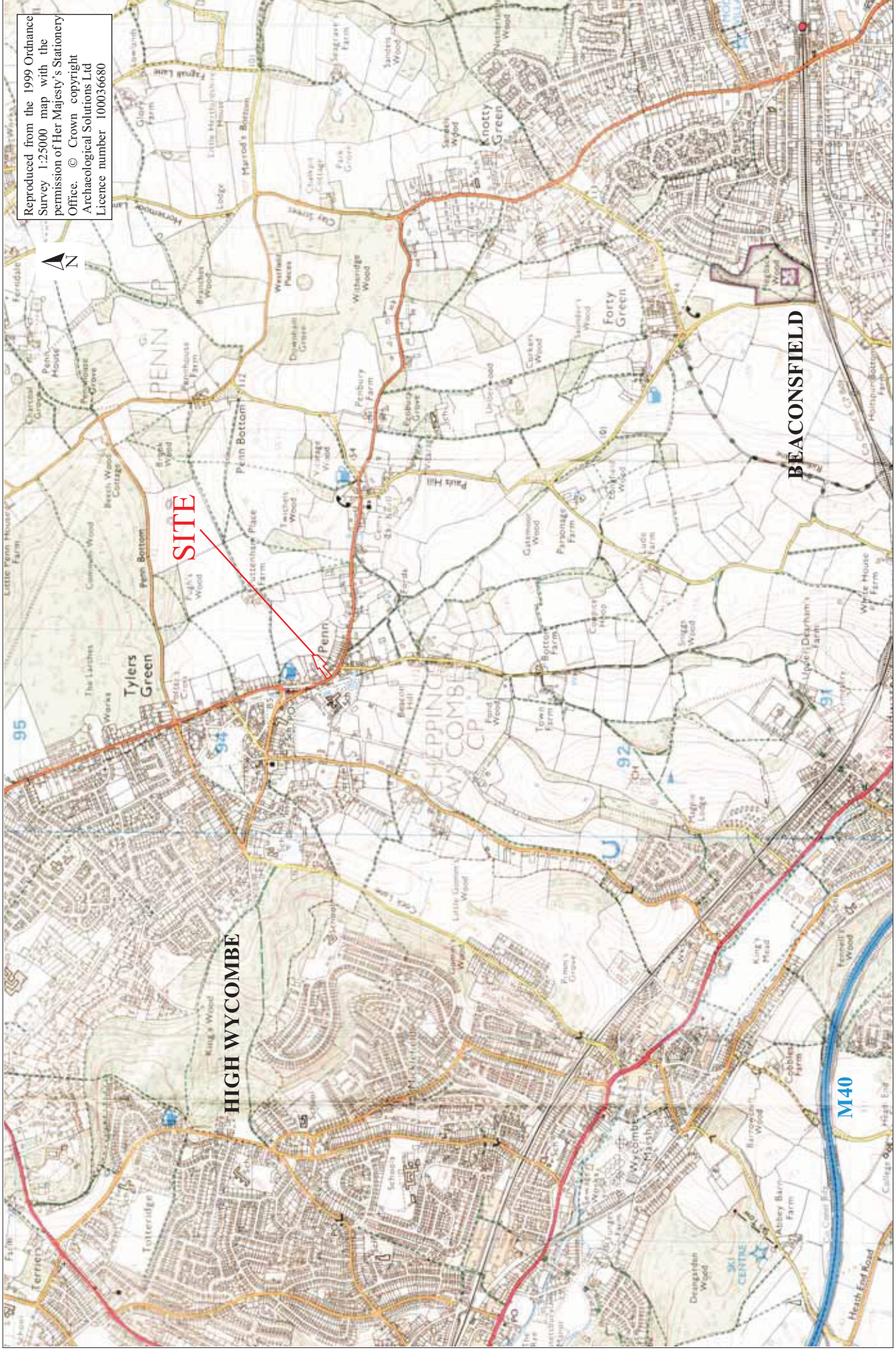


DP 9. Excavation for a new basement. View SW.



DP 10. Excavation for a new basement. View N.

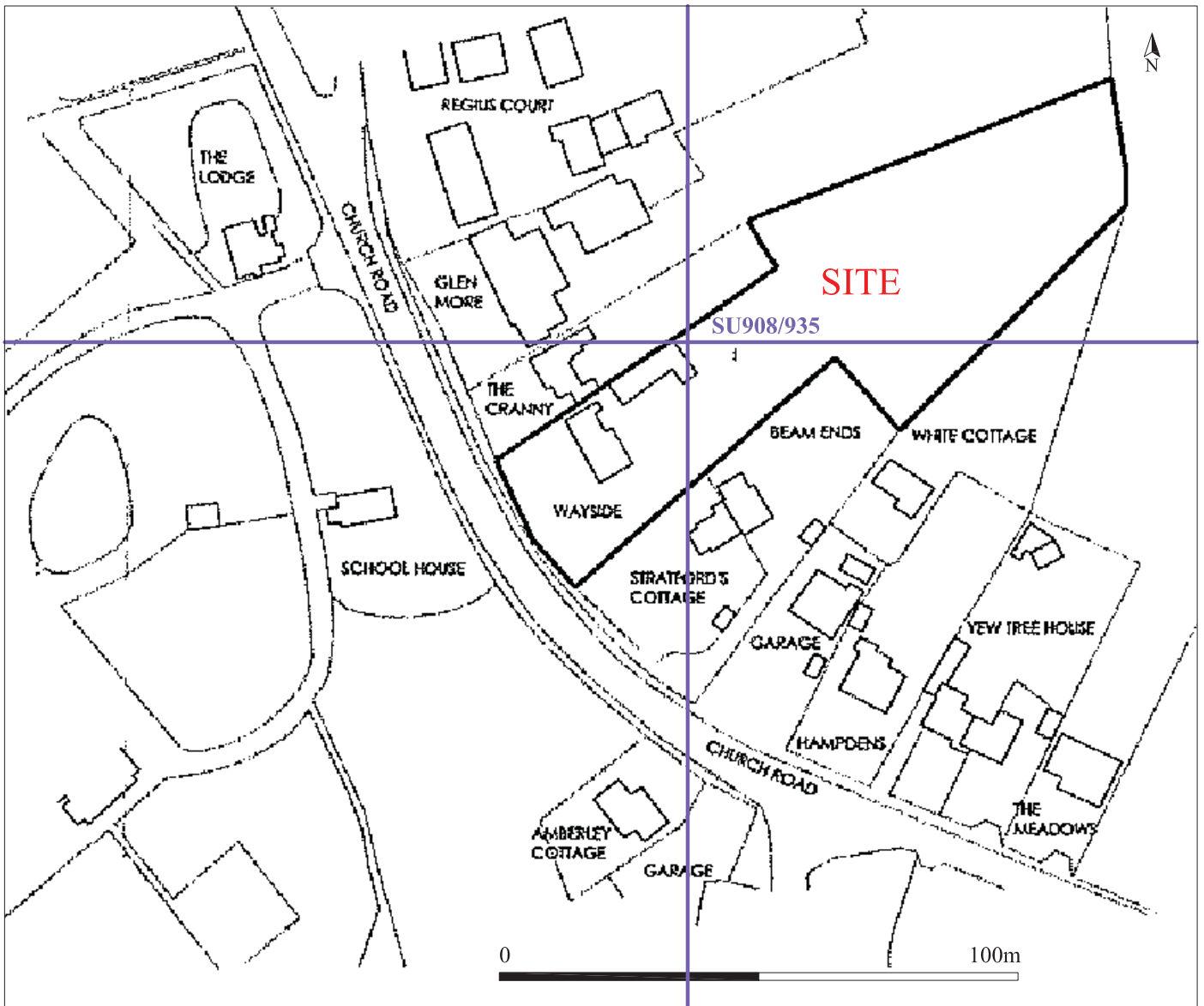
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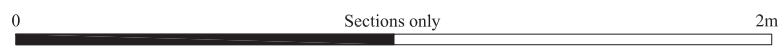
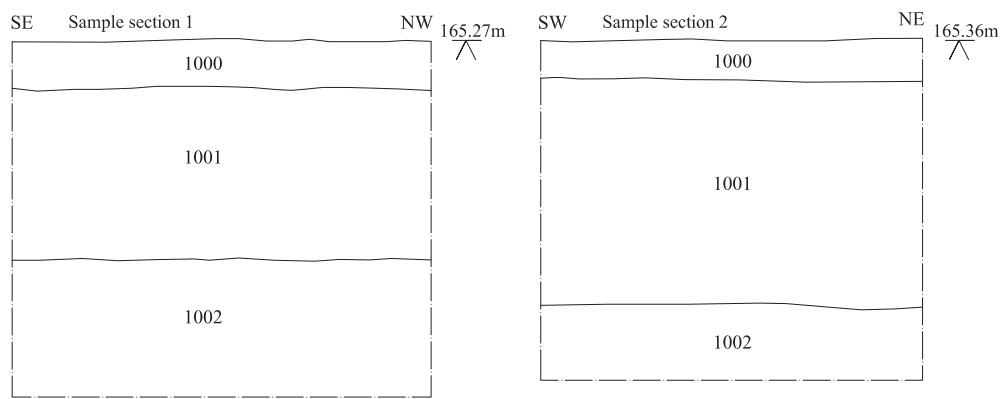
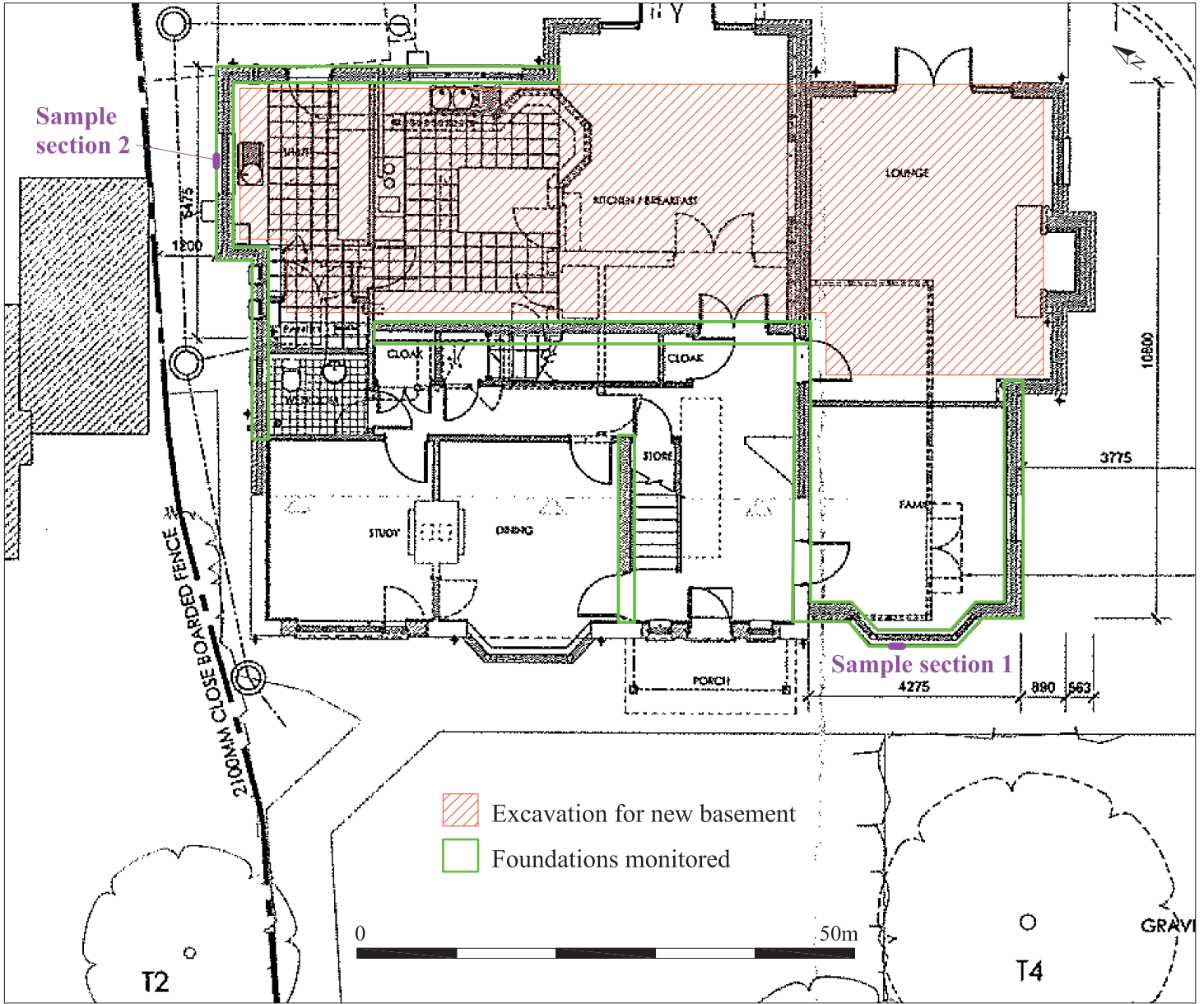
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Plan & sections
 Scale Plan 1:125, sections 1:20 at A4