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**ASKERN HOUSE, MANOR ROAD, KEMPTON HARDWICK,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Matthew Adams BA (Fieldwork and Report)	
NGR: TL 02984 44532	Report No. 3771
District: Bedford	Site Code: AS 1398
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P4285
Signed:	Date: March 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Askern House, Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In March 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions and a garage at Askern House, Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 02984 44532). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval and required by Bedford Borough Council (Refs.10/2956/FUL & 10/02957/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the monitoring.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>21st – 23rd March 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4285</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1398</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological interest</i>		
Current land use	<i>Domestic Dwelling</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extensions to the front and rear, and an adjacent garage</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Kempston Hardwick</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bedfordshire</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 0.38ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 02984 44532</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>34.5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Bedford Borough Council (BBC) (Geoff Saunders)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Matthew Adams BA</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs Evans</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Askern House, Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Matthew Adams BA</i>		
Report no.	<i>3771</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2011</i>		

ASKERN HOUSE, MANOR ROAD, KEMPTON HARDWICK, BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In March 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions and a garage at Askern House, Manor Road, Kempton Hardwick, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 02984 44532). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval and required by Bedford Borough Council (Refs. 10/2956/FUL & 10/02957/FUL).

No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated the construction of new front and rear extensions and a new detached double garage/store at Askern House, Manor Road, Kempton Hardwick, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 02984 44532; Figs 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Evans, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval and required by Bedford Borough Council (Planning Refs. 10/2956/FUL & 10/02957/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Archaeological Officer of Bedfordshire Borough Council (BBC; 15/02/2011) and a specification compiled by AS (28/02/2011). It adhered to the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010), and the procedures described in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed to:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required; and
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project

archive.

Specifically (Section 5 of the brief):

- Establish the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- Establish the relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary medieval landscape, especially the moat;
- Recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a regional type series;
- Recovery of palaeo-environmental remains in order to determine local environmental conditions

Planning Policy Context

1.4 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 (Figs. 1 & 2)

2.1 Askern House is located along the north-eastern frontage of Manor Road, which runs through the small settlement of Kempston Hardwick. It lies approximately 2km to the south-west of Wootton, 2.5km to the north-north-east of Stewartby and 3km to the south of Kempston; a suburb of Bedford. The site comprises a detached property located in a 0.38 hectare plot of ground and lies on a relatively flat relief at approximately 34.5m AOD. A medieval moated site, Scheduled as an Ancient Monument, lies immediately adjacent to the north.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The underlying drift geology of the area comprises natural superficial deposits of undivided head of clay, silt, sand, and gravel (BGS 1979). Soils of the area comprise those of the Evesham 3 association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

4.1 Askern House is located in an area of archaeological interest and within the core of the medieval linear settlement of Kempston Hardwick (HER 17040). No archaeological remains predating the medieval period are recorded in the surrounding area. In the wider area of the parish, Iron Age and Romano-British finds are known (Bedford Community Archives; Kempston Hardwick website) and a very large and important Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found in Kempston during the 19th century (Fitch 1864). The settlement or manor of Kempston Hardwick was not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and does not appear to have developed until the medieval period. It was first recorded in 1276 as *Hardwyke* and *Herdewyk by Kemeston* in 1334 and possibly derived from the place-name for 'sheep farm' (Bedford Community Archives; Kempston Hardwick website).

4.2 The site lies to the immediate south-east of the medieval moat of Kempston Hardwick, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HER 303; SM 11553). The monument comprises a rectangular enclosure with a waterlogged surrounding moat. To its south lies the remains of a stone-faced 'rustic' causeway, which is considered to be a later post-medieval landscaped feature constructed on the site of an earlier causeway. The moat is associated with the manor house occupied by the Snowe family in the 16th century (Page 1912), and late John Rush (Bedford Community Archives; Kempston Hardwick website). The concrete shell of a World War II air raid shelter lies within the moat. The site also lies within an area of probable shrunken settlement earthworks (HER 3286) associated with the moated manor and recorded on aerial photographs taken in 1946. The earthworks appear to correspond to moat-like ditches shown on the 1804 enclosure map, defining closes and fields.

4.3 The settlement of Kempston Hardwick is thought to have reduced in size in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods (Bedford Community Archives; Kempston Hardwick website). A post-medieval windmill, known from field names recorded in the 18th and 19th centuries (HER 3571), stood approximately 500m to the north-east of the site, whilst an early 19th century farm stood eastwards along Manor Road until its demolition between 1946 and 1968 (HER 3122). The arrival of the Bedford to Bletchley railway and the railway station at built Kempston Hardwick c.1846 (HERs 11594 & 7314) appears to have had only limited impact on the development of the early modern settlement. The area remained in a peripheral location throughout the modern period, comprising an industrial area with two early 20th century brickworks located to the north-east and south-east of the site (HERs 6678 & 8474), the latter of which was in use as a Prisoner of War camp during World War II (HER 18267).

4.4 Relatively little is known about the history of the site and no relevant documents concerning Askern House could be found in the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS). Although the site lies within the area of probable shrunken settlement earthworks (HER 3286) and to the

immediate south-east of the medieval moat of Kempston Hardwick (HER 303; SM 11553), there is little to suggest that the site was developed until the construction of Askern House in the modern period. To the immediate west of the site lies Moat House, also known as The Cottage in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which consisted of the main residence associated with scheduled moat. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1883 (Fig. 3), confirms that the site remained as undeveloped agricultural land.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 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 as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5.2 The monitoring and recording specifically encompassed the groundworks for the excavation of the foundation trenches and the ground reduction for the front and rear extensions and detached garage (Fig.4). The overburden was mechanically stripped using a 360° tracked excavator under the close supervision of an archaeologist. Exposed surfaces were hand cleaned as necessary and all further investigation was undertaken by hand.

6 RESULTS

6.1 The stripping of the proposed extensions and garage footings were continuously observed (Fig. 4). Five sample sections were recorded of the stratigraphy and are tabulated below.

Sample Section 1 Fig.3

Sample Section 1 was located in the front extension foundation trench (Area 1).

Sample Section 1 Located on NE facing baulk 0.00 = 34.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose, clay silt with occasional CBM
0.38 – 0.77m	L1001	Made Ground. Mid yellow grey, compact, clay with moderate CBM
0.77 – 0.92m	L1002	Subsoil. Dark red brown, firm, clay silt
0.92m+	L1003	Natural. Mid to light, compact, blue clay with lenses of light brown yellow, loose, sand

Sample Section 2 Fig.3

Sample Section 2 was located in the middle of the rear extension (Area 2).

Sample Section 2 Located on SW facing baulk 0.00 = 34.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.42 – 1.00m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above Sample Section 1.
1.00 – 1.12m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Sample Section 1.
1.12m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Sample Section 1.

Sample Section 3 Fig.3

Sample Section 3 was located within the footprint of the garage (Area 3).

Sample Section 3 NW baulk facing SE 0.00 = 34.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1001	Make Ground. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.21 – 0.31m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.31m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Sample Section 1.

Sample Section 4 Fig.3

Sample Section 4 was located within the footprint of the garage (Area 3).

Sample Section 4 SW baulk facing NE 0.00 = 34.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1004	Hardcore. Light reddish white, loose granite
0.41 – 0.54m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.54m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Sample Section 1.

Sample Section 5 Fig.3

Sample Section 5 was located within the footprint of the garage (Area 3).

Sample Section 5 N baulk facing S 0.00 = 34.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1004	Hardcore. As Above Sample Section 4.
0.15 – 0.15m	L1001	Made Ground. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.15 – 0.32m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Sample Section 1.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Sample Section 1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Hardcore L1004 which formed the base for a patio (now removed). It was a light reddish white, loose, granite. Also uppermost was Topsoil L1000 a mid grey brown, loose, clayey silt with occasional CBM. L1000 overlay Made Ground L1001 a mid yellow grey, compact, clay with moderate CBM. L1001 overlay Subsoil L1002, a dark red brown, firm, clayey silt. No finds were present. L1002 overlay the Natural Drift Geology, L1003, a mid to light, compact, blue clay with lenses of light brown yellow, loose, sand.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 No archaeological features or finds were recording during the monitoring.

9.3 The site had a high potential for medieval remains particularly associated with the moated site located 20m to the north-east of the site. In the event no medieval remains were encountered.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Bedford Museum, under Accession No. BEDFM.2011.25. 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 Mr & Mrs Evans for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological monitoring, their architect Mr Steve Everitt for his assistance, and the building contractor Mr Paul Darlow for his assistance on site. Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank the Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council for his input and advice.

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

The National Archives website;
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX
P4285 ASKERN HOUSE, MANOR RD, KEMPTON HARDWICK, BEDS



1
Sample Section 1. Looking south-west.



2
Sample Section 2. Looking north-west.



3
Area 1 – Front Extension. Looking south-east.



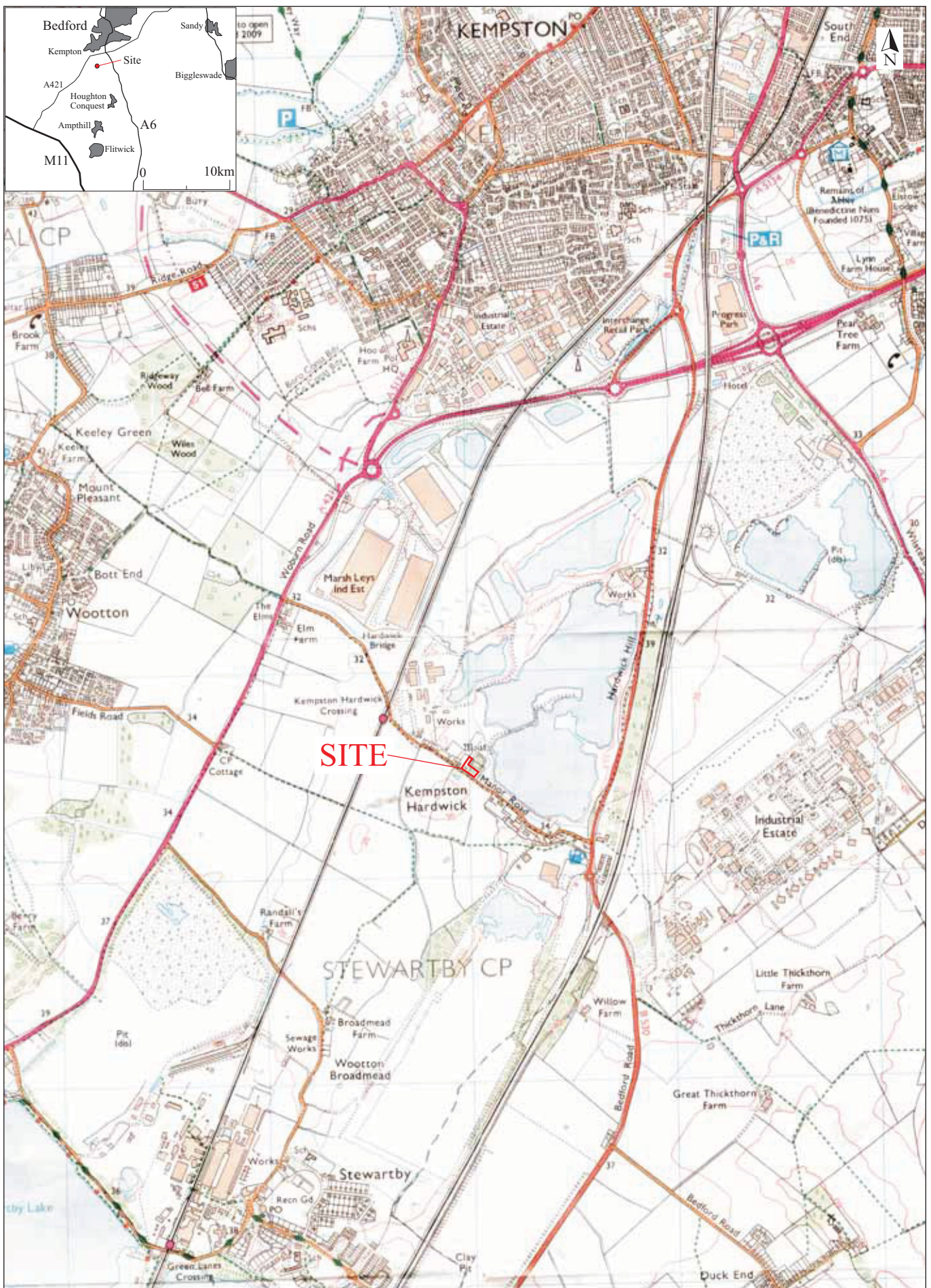
4
Area 2 – Rear Extension. Looking south-east.



5
Sample Section 4. Looking south-west.

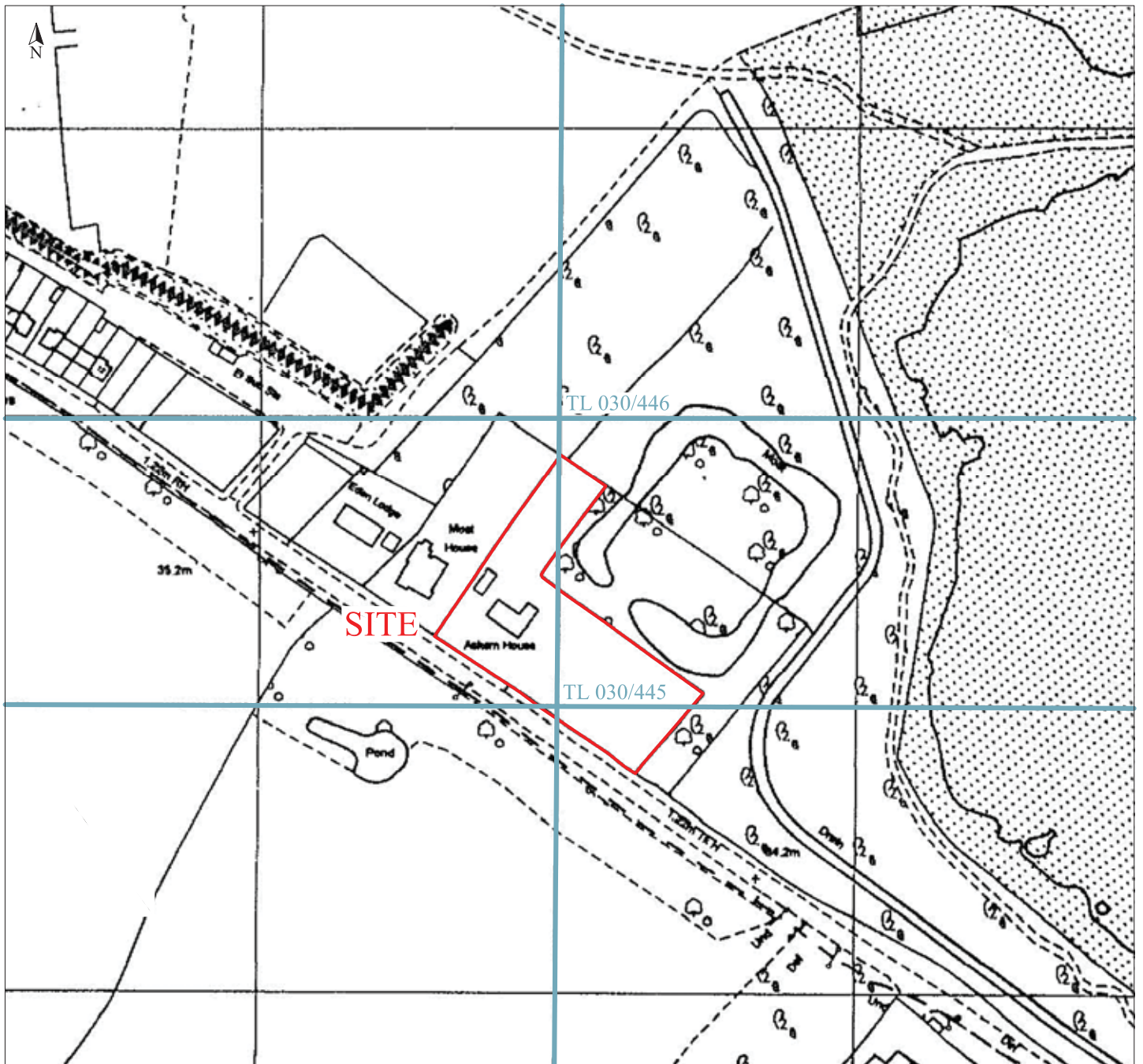


6
Area 3 – Garage footings. Looking south.



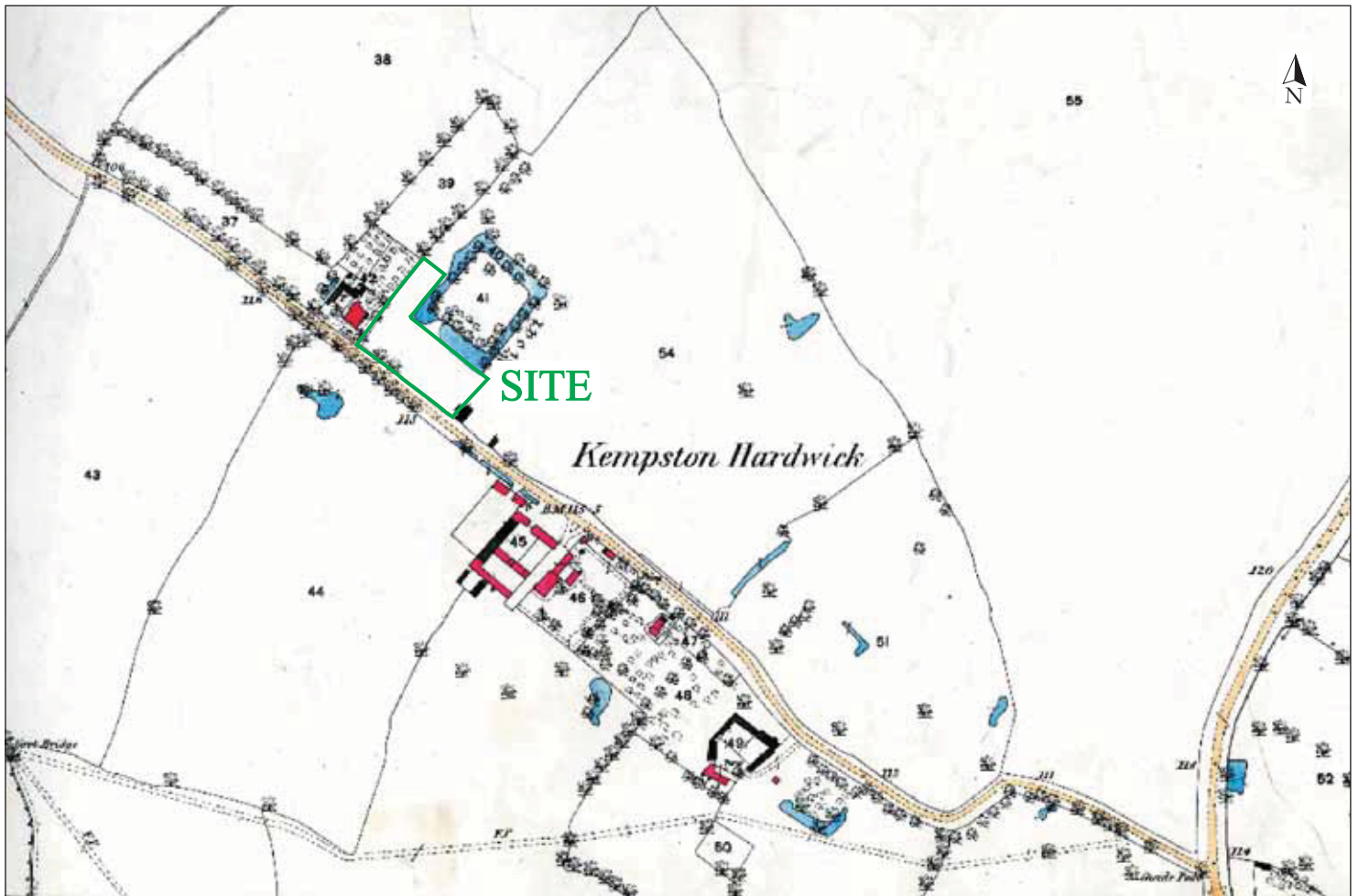
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4

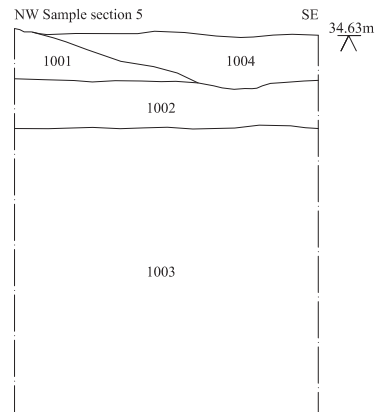
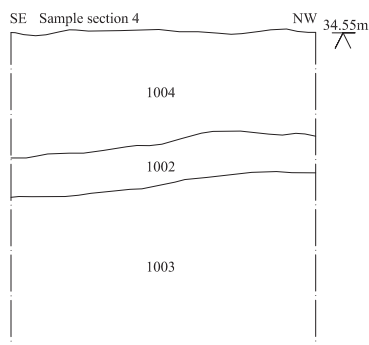
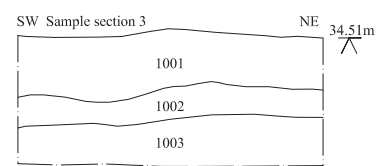
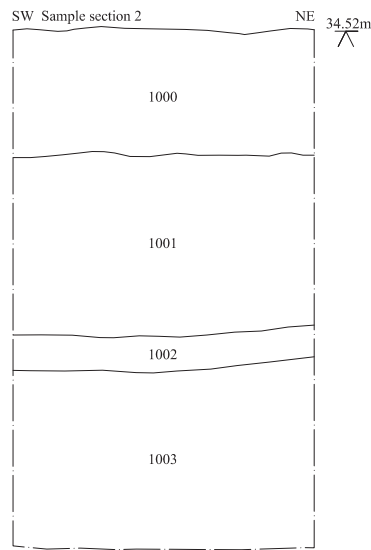
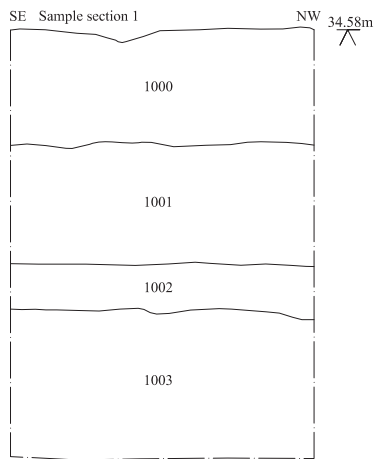


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Fig. 3 1st edition OS map, 1883

Not to scale



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Fig. 4 Sample section and section location plan

Scale 1:400 and 1:25 at A4