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**BROOK FARM, STATION ROAD, TILBROOK,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

CHER. ECB3417

Authors: Adam Dyson BA (Report) Martin Brook BA (Fieldwork) Charlotte Davies BA (Graphics)	
NGR: TL 0801 6939	Report No.3633
District: Huntingdon	Site Code: AS 1332
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3967
Signed:	Date: September 2010

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD
98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB
Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel: 01992 558170
Fax: 01992 553359
E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations to a Grade II listed building at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 0801 6939). The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition (Refs: 1000416FUL, 1000417LBC, 1000522FUL & 1000523LBC), and it was commissioned by Mr G Randall.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the monitoring.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>20th July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3967</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1332</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Adjacent to Grade II listed building</i>		
Current land use	<i>Domestic</i>		
Planned development	<i>Alterations to Grade II listed building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>	<i>Tilbrook</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 0801 6939</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>39m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA CCC)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Matthew Adams BA</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr G Randall</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Adam Dyson, Martin Brook, Charlotte Davies</i>		
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Date (of report)	<i>September 2010</i>		

BROOK FARM, STATION ROAD, TILBROOK, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations to a Grade II listed building at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 0801 6939). The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition (Refs: 1000416FUL, 1000417LBC, 1000522FUL & 1000523LBC), and it was commissioned by Mr G Randall.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with alterations to a Grade II listed building at Brook Farm, Station Road, Tilbrook, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 0801 6939). The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition (Refs: 1000416FUL, 1000417LBC, 1000522FUL & 1000523LBC). Historic building recording and examination of wall paintings (Collins *et al*, 2010; Kirkham 2010) are the subject of separate reports.

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with advice issued to the client by *Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice* Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA CCC) (McConnell, D) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 5th July 2010). The archaeological monitoring adhered to the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), 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;
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

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 (Figs. 1 & 2)

2.1 Tilbrook is situated 16km west of Huntingdon on the B645 between St Neots and Higham Ferrers. Brook Farm is on the north side of the village, to the north of the parish church. Brook Farm lies on the south side of Station Road, which extends around the north side of the village. An open paddock extends to the south and east of the farmhouse, while a garden on the west is occupied principally by the driveway and a drained ornamental pond.

2.2 The building is a former farmhouse, Grade II Listed (LBN 399726) and described as of 17th century in date of timber-framed construction with a kitchen wing to the north and 19th century additions to the west including a single-storey brew-house.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Tillbrook is located on March Gravels in the valley of the Till stream at c.39m AOD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.1.1 There are no prehistoric remains from within c.1km of the site.

4.2 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.1 There are no Romano-British remains from within c.1km of the site other than possibly one piece of residual tile from an undated gully (CHER MCB16876). Evidence for Romano-British settlement was identified during evaluation to the north-east between Tilbrook and Stow Longa.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)

4.2.3 An evaluation west of the church c.150m to the south, identified Saxon ditches grouped in two discrete phases following different alignments to the modern village layout (CHER MCB18229). They pre-date the suggested later 11th century medieval village plan and have been tentatively dated to the Middle and Late Saxon periods. A sherd of Late Saxon pottery was found during evaluation in an undated gully off Station Road (CHER MCB16876).

4.3 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.3.1 All Saints Church is a Grade I listed building (399721) which dates from the late 12th century, although the bulk of the existing structure dates to the 14th-16th centuries (CHER 00234). The church was restored in the 19th century. A fragment of medieval cross was found in the south porch (CHER 00234a). The stump of another 15th century village cross was also identified c.80m to the east of the site which is Grade II listed (399727: CHER 5221). Medieval quarry pits, probably for gravel extraction, have been found in the vicinity of the Saxon ditches (CHER MCB18229). Aerial photographs taken in 1997/8 indicate the presence of medieval house platforms to the north, between Station Road and the river Til (CHER MCB16816). The aerial photography also identified a large amount of ridge and furrow to the west, mainly lying across the Til (CHER MCB16815 and MCB18640). More ridge and furrow lies to the east of Tilbrook (CHER MCB18643 and MCB18644).

4.4 Post-medieval & Modern (AD 1540 – 1900)

4.4.1 The site, Brook Farm, is a 17th century Grade II listed building (399726); of particular interest are its original wall paintings (Kirkham 2010). The Manor House to the north is Grade II* (399729: CHER 00235). It is early 17th century with a late 17th century wing added, and also contains 16th century moulded ceiling beams. An ancillary barn c.15m to the south is Grade II listed (399728: CHER 00236). The evaluation on Station Road c.230m to the south uncovered remains of modern features and an undated gully containing a sherd each of Roman tile and Late Saxon pottery (MCB16876). An evaluation c.100m to the south of the site over a building shown on the Inclosure map found no evidence for it (MCB18230).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, 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 encompassed the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including the mechanical excavation of footings, ground reduction and service trenches.

5.3 Five small trenches measuring between 2 - 3m by 0.50m were excavated, and overlay the following areas:

Trench 1 – roadway	Trench 2 – drainage	Trench 3 – drainage
Trench 4 – footings	Trench 5 – oil reserve	

6 RESULTS

6.1 The site was visited on the 20th July 2010 by an Archaeological Project Officer.

6.2 The excavation of five small trenches associated with the alterations to the existing building were monitored. The trenches were excavated using a tracked mini 360° excavator fitted with a 500mm bucket.

6.3 Five sample sections were recorded of the stratigraphy and are tabulated below.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the west of the farm building and was aligned roughly north-east/south-west. It measured 3.00 x 0.50m. Sample Section 1 was located on the north-western section of the trench (Fig.3)

Sample Section 1 (DP 1) SE Facing 0.00m = 39.26m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional gravel.
0.30 – 0.70m	L1001. Subsoil. Dark brownish orange, firm sandy clay.
0.70m+	L1002 Natural. Light whitish yellow, loose sand and gravel.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located at the north of the farm building, adjacent to an existing wall and was aligned roughly east/west. It measured 3.00 x 0.50m. Sample Section 2 was located on the south section of the trench (Fig.3)

Sample Section 2 (DP 2) N Facing 0.00m = 39.37m AOD	
0.00 – 0.16m	L1003. Made ground. Dark brown and grey, very loose sandy gravel.
0.16 – 0.80m+	L1004. Natural. Dark greenish grey firm silty clay.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located adjacent to the northern wall in the north-west corner of the existing farm building and was aligned roughly east/west. It measured 3.00 x 0.50m. Sample Section 3 was located on the south section of the trench (Fig.3)

Sample Section 3 (DP 3) N Facing 0.00m = 39.43m AOD	
0.00 – 0.13m	L1003. Made ground as above.
0.13 – 0.42m+	L1004. Natural as above.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located adjacent to the western wall of the existing farm building and was aligned roughly east/west. It measured 2.50 x 0.50m. Sample Section 4 was located on the south section of the trench (Fig.3)

Sample Section 4 (DP 4) N Facing 0.00m = 39.54m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L1003. Made ground as above.
0.30– 1.20m+	L1004. Natural as above.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to the north-east of the existing farm building and was aligned roughly east/west. It measured 2.00 x 0.50m. Sample Section 5 was located on the south section of the trench (Fig.3)

Sample Section 5 (DP 5) N Facing 0.00m = 39.36m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil as above.
0.30m+	L1004. Natural as above.

No archaeological features or finds were present during the excavation.

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 The sequence of deposits recorded at this site varies. Topsoil L1000 was a dark greyish brown, firm silty clay with occasional gravel (0.25 – 0.30m thick). It was present at the western and eastern ends of site in Trenches 1 and 5. Beneath L1000 at the western end of site, Trench 1 revealed Subsoil L1002, a dark brownish orange, firm sandy clay (0.40m thick). This subsoil was not present at the eastern end of site. L1001 to the west and L1000 to the east both overlay the natural geological deposits. Westwards in Trench 1, L1002 was a light whitish yellow, loose sand and gravel. Eastwards in Trench 5, L1004 was a dark greenish grey firm silty clay.

8.2 Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were located amongst the existing buildings and as a consequence revealed a different sequence of deposits. Here the ground surface was Made Ground L1003, a dark brown and grey, very loose sandy gravel (0.05 – 0.30m). Beneath this was the natural clay, L1004 described above.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for Anglo-Saxon, later medieval and post-medieval remains. No evidence showing activity of this nature was encountered during the monitoring. This is likely due to the limited size of the excavation area and/or previous ground reduction associated with the construction of the existing dwelling and its subsequent development.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Cambridge County Archaeological Store (CCAS). 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

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Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council for his advice and input to the project.

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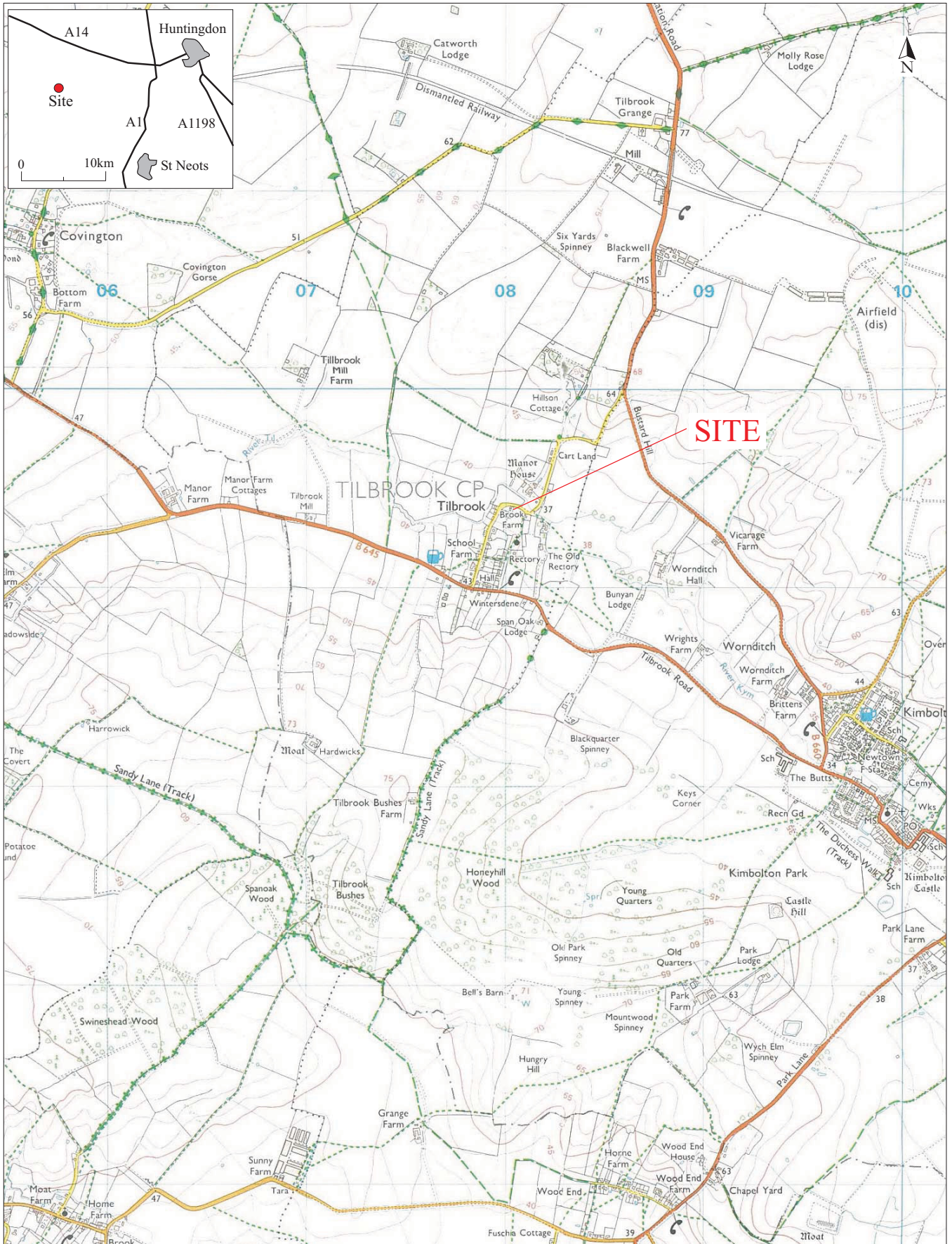
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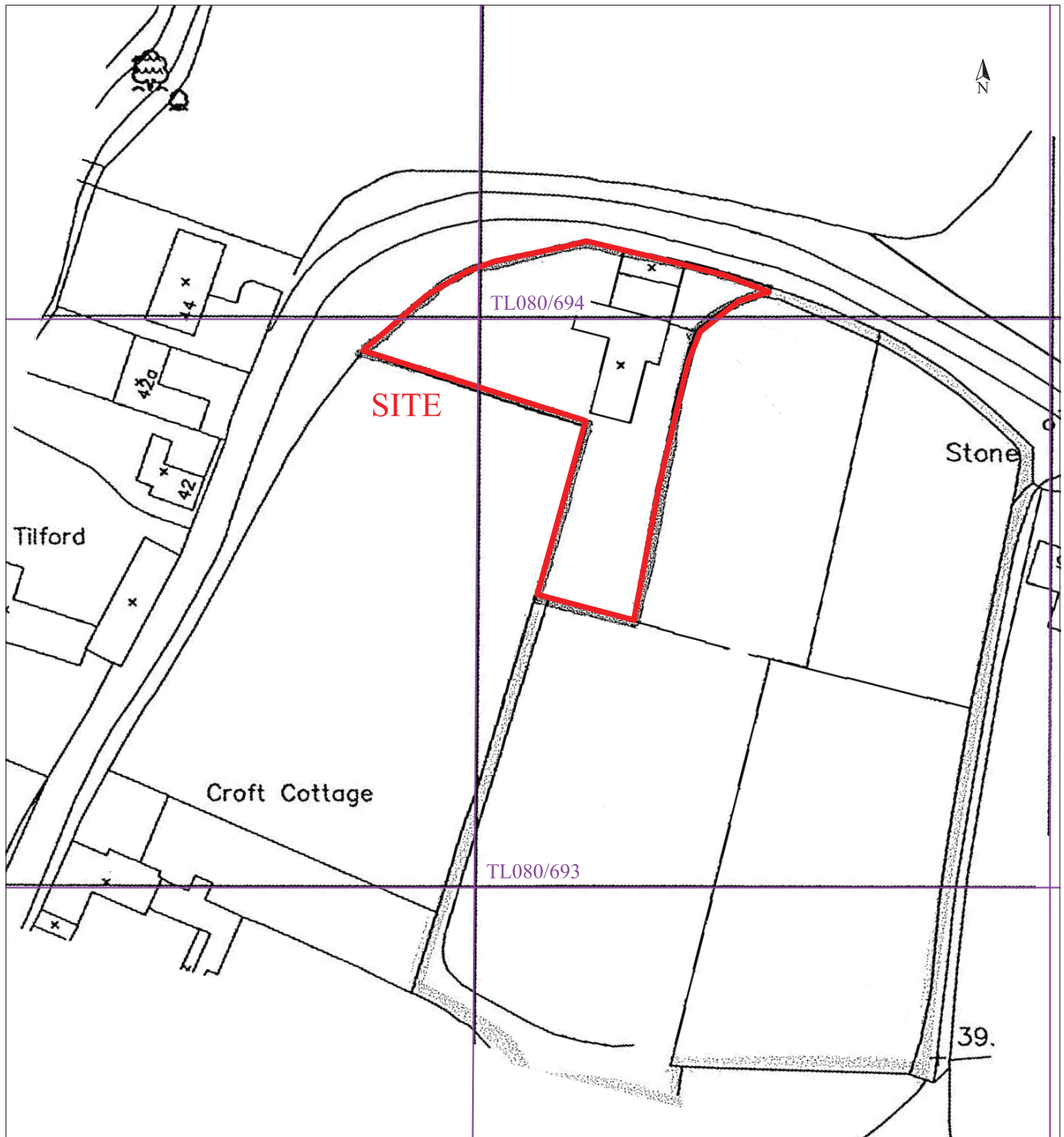
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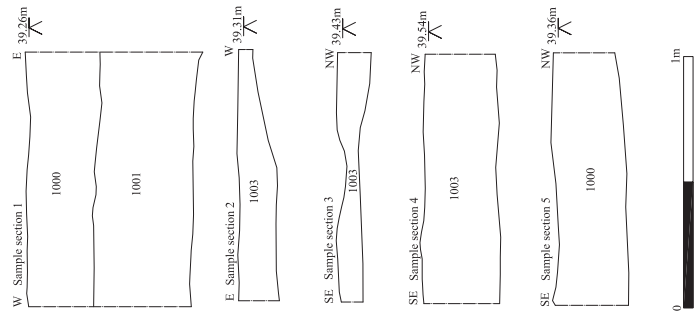
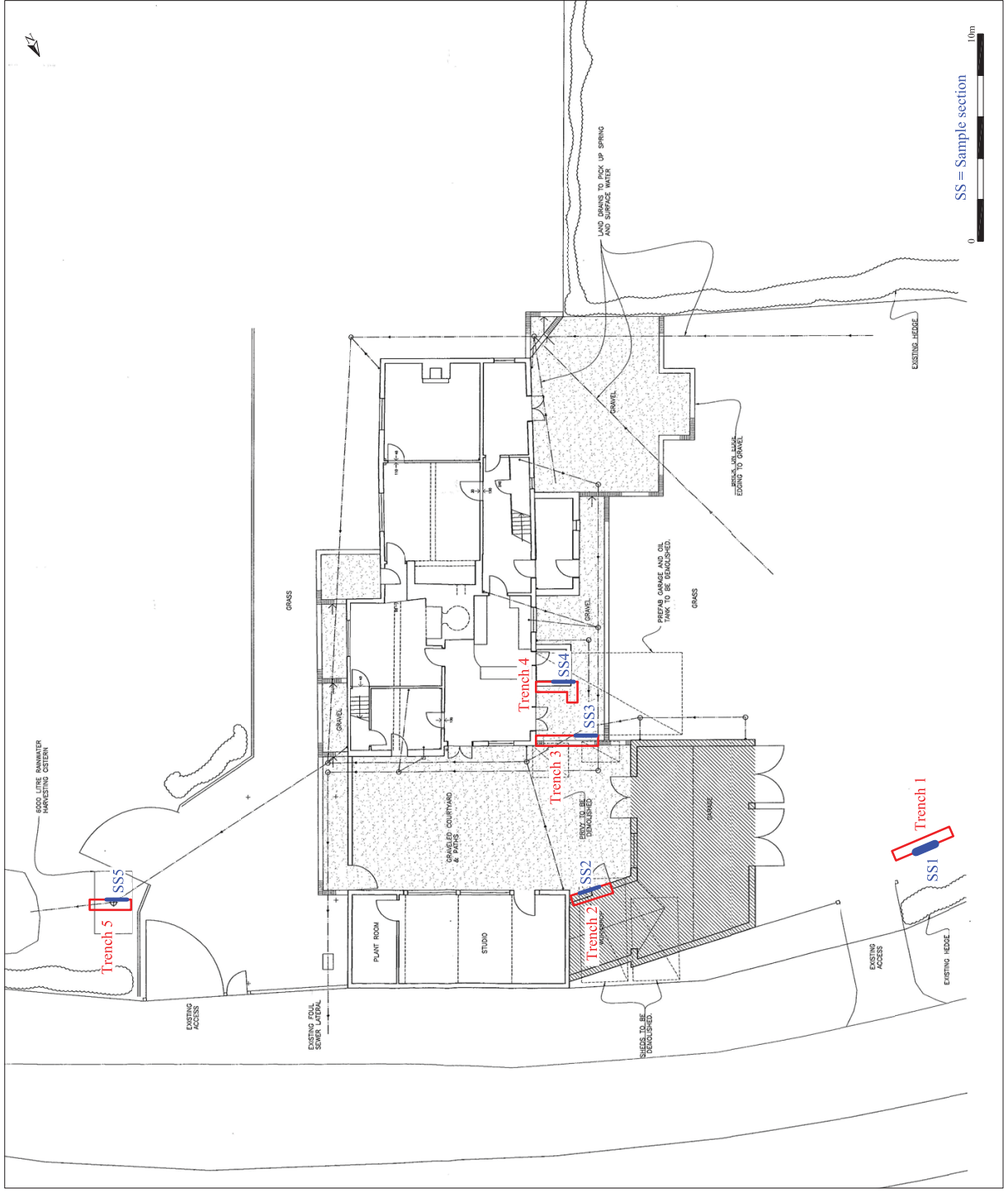


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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



SS = Sample section

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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections
 Scale plan at 1:200 & sections at 1:20 at A3