

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

GIFFORDS, 51 HIGH ST, IXWORTH, SUFFOLK, IP31 2HN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Adam Dyson BA (fieldwork) Tom Janes MA (report)	
NGR: TL 933 706	Report No: 3862
District: St Edmundsbury	Site Code: IXW073
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4400
Signed:	Date: July 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP32 2HN		
<p><i>In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of foundation trenches at Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2HN (NGR TL 933 706). The proposed development was the erection of a new extension to the property.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies on the western side of the High Street, to the immediate north of Thetford Road, within an area of archaeological interest as recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. It lies within the area of medieval settlement at Ixworth (IXW 068). Iron Age and Roman finds have also been made nearby, indicative of earlier occupation (HER IXW 024).</i></p> <p><i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	27 th and 29 th June 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	4400	Site code	IXW 073
Type of project	Continuous Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	Area of Archaeological Interest		
Current land use	Patio of residential property		
Planned development	Extension to existing dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	St Edmundsbury	Ixworth
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk Historic Environment Record		
Post code (if known)	IP31 2HN		
Area of site	Approximately 25m ²		
NGR	TL 933 706		
Height AOD (max/ min)	Approximately 30m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Adam Dyson		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Turner, Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk		
Full title	Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Dyson, A. & Janes, T		
Report no.	3862		
Date (of report)	July 2011		

GIFFORDS, 51 HIGH ST, IXWORTH, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of footing trenches at Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2HN (NGR TL 933 706). The proposed development was the erection of a new extension to the property. The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the extension (St Edmundsbury Council).

The site lies on the western side of the High Street, to the immediate north of Thetford Road, within an area of archaeological interest as recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. It lies within the area of medieval settlement at Ixworth (IXW 068). Iron Age and Roman finds have also been made nearby, indicative of earlier occupation (HER IXW 024).

In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Giffords, 51 High St, Ixworth, Suffolk. The site lies on the western side of the High Street, to the immediate north of Thetford Road, within the historic core of Ixworth. It is proposed to construct a new kitchen/lobby extension to the existing residential property of 51 High Street. The archaeological works were commissioned by MNL Designs Ltd on behalf of Mr & Mrs Turner, to comply with a condition on planning consent for the extension.

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT; dated February 2011), and a specification compiled by AS (4th May 2011). The monitoring adhered to the Institute for 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:

Generally:

- 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

Specifically:

- Identify evidence for earlier (in particular medieval and post-medieval, and possibly also Iron Age and Roman) occupation of the site.

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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies on the western side of the High Street, to the immediate north of Thetford Road, within the historic core of Ixworth. It comprises the existing residential property of 51 High Street. It is proposed to construct a new kitchen/lobby extension. The site lies within an area of archaeological interest as recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. It lies within the area of medieval settlement at Ixworth (IXW 068). Iron Age and Roman finds have also been made nearby, indicative of earlier occupation (HER IXW 024).

2.2 Ixworth is located approximately 9.5km north-east of Bury St Edmunds on the A143 linking Bury with Diss. It lies at approximately 30m AOD on the north bank of the River Black Bourne. It is close to the meeting of two soil types. The

first, humic-sandy gley soils are predominantly sandy soils developed in aeolian or glaciofluvial deposits with a humose or peaty topsoil; they occupy low-lying sites or depressions and are intermediate between sandy gley soils and peats. The second are brown rendzinas which are calcareous soils over chalk limestone, or extremely calcareous unconsolidated material. The underlying solid geology is Cretaceous Chalk.

2.3 Ixworth is an area of high archaeological importance. A Roman fort and large settlement was centred on Priory Farm, Poultry Farm and Appleyard and Duck Farm (IXW 002). There are also a number of areas containing scatters of Roman finds including the churchyard (IXW 010), Byways and Riverside Paddocks (IXW 005), and the field opposite Cross House, Stow Road (IXW 018). A Roman ditch was identified at 4 Stow Road (IXW 027). An early Saxon Cemetery has been identified and its full extent has not been ascertained (IXW 005). Prior to 1849 Anglo-Saxon burial urns were discovered to the south-west of the church and in 1868 burials were found in Cross House Meadow. The 7th century Ixworth Cross housed in the Ashmolean Museum was recovered from these excavations. Three further Anglo-Saxon burials were found during an archaeological evaluation in 2001. An early to middle Saxon sword dredged from the Black Bourne probably also relates to the cemetery. The earliest surviving record for Ixworth is from 1025 as *Gyxeweorde* meaning 'Enclosure of a man called Gisca' (Mills 1991). Late Saxon decorated stonework has been identified at the church (IXW 012), and two 11th century coffin lids were found beneath St Mary's Church, whilst a Late Saxon bronze finger ring was found in the churchyard (IXW 010).

2.4 Ixworth Priory was founded in 1170 with canons introduced two years later (IXW 012). The monastic house had over a dozen monks/canons and so was one of the larger establishments in Suffolk (Northeast 1988, 70). The priory was dissolved in 1537 and became a private residence known as Abbey House which incorporates some of the medieval building. Earthworks of a large moated enclosure were located west of St Mary's Church which has now been built upon and is the probable site of Le Blunds manor dating from the 13th century (IXW 059). Thin scatters of medieval pottery have been found (IXW 005), and three early medieval pits were identified at 12 Stow Road (IXW 063). The same location contained building rubble dated between the 16th and 18th centuries.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the continuous monitoring of all the groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension to 51 High Street, Ixworth.

3.2 The monitoring encompassed the observation of the excavation of the foundations for the kitchen/lobby extension between the existing property and its

outbuildings. The foundations were excavated to a depth of 0.7m, and excavation was undertaken by hand due to space restrictions.

3.3 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 archaeological finds.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3)

Site visit 27th June 2011

4.1 The site was visited on the above date to monitor the excavation of the northernmost stretch of foundations between the house and the outbuildings (DP 1). Following the lifting of the patio slabs, the foundation trench was dug by hand to a depth of 0.7m and a width of 0.6m. It was 4.5m long between the two existing buildings.

4.2 A sample section of the stratigraphy encountered was recorded on the north-eastern edge of the trench, at its south-eastern end, and the results are tabulated below:

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP 2)</i> <i>North-eastern side, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Made ground. Mixture of dark brown-grey compact sandy silt and light grey-white compact chalk with moderate medium and large rounded stones.
0.17m – 0.70m+	L1001	Natural geology. Light white compact chalk

4.3 No archaeological finds or features were present.

Site visit 29th June 2011

4.4 The site was visited on the above date to monitor the excavation of the southernmost stretch of foundations between the house and the outbuildings, and the trench connecting this with the northernmost footings (DP 3). Following the lifting of the patio slabs, the foundation trench was dug by hand to a depth of 0.7m and a width of 0.6m. It was 4.9m long between the two existing buildings. The connecting trench was 4.75m long, 0.6m wide, and 0.7m deep (Fig. 3).

Sample Section 2

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP 4)</i> <i>North-eastern side, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Made ground. Mixture of dark brown-grey compact sandy silt and light grey-white compact chalk with moderate medium and large rounded stones.
0.34m – 0.70m+	L1001	Natural geology. Light white compact chalk

4.5 No archaeological finds or features were present.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The existing ground surface across the site had been a paved patio; the slabs had been removed before the first site visit. Beneath this was L1000; a layer of made ground comprising a mix of dark brown-grey compact sandy silt and white compact chalk. It was 0.25m deep on average across site. Below this was the natural geology L1001; a white, compact chalk excavated to the formation layer; a depth of 0.7m.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 No evidence for earlier (in particular Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval) occupation of the site was identified. Also, no evidence of remains relating to other archaeological periods was identified.

7.2 The site is within an area of archaeological interest. In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

8.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Suffolk HER, and the archive deposited there within three months of the conclusion of fieldwork.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client Mr & Mrs Turner for funding the works, and Mr Mark Lewis of MNL Designs Ltd.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team; in particular Ms Judith Plouviez.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Northernmost footing trench. Looking north-east



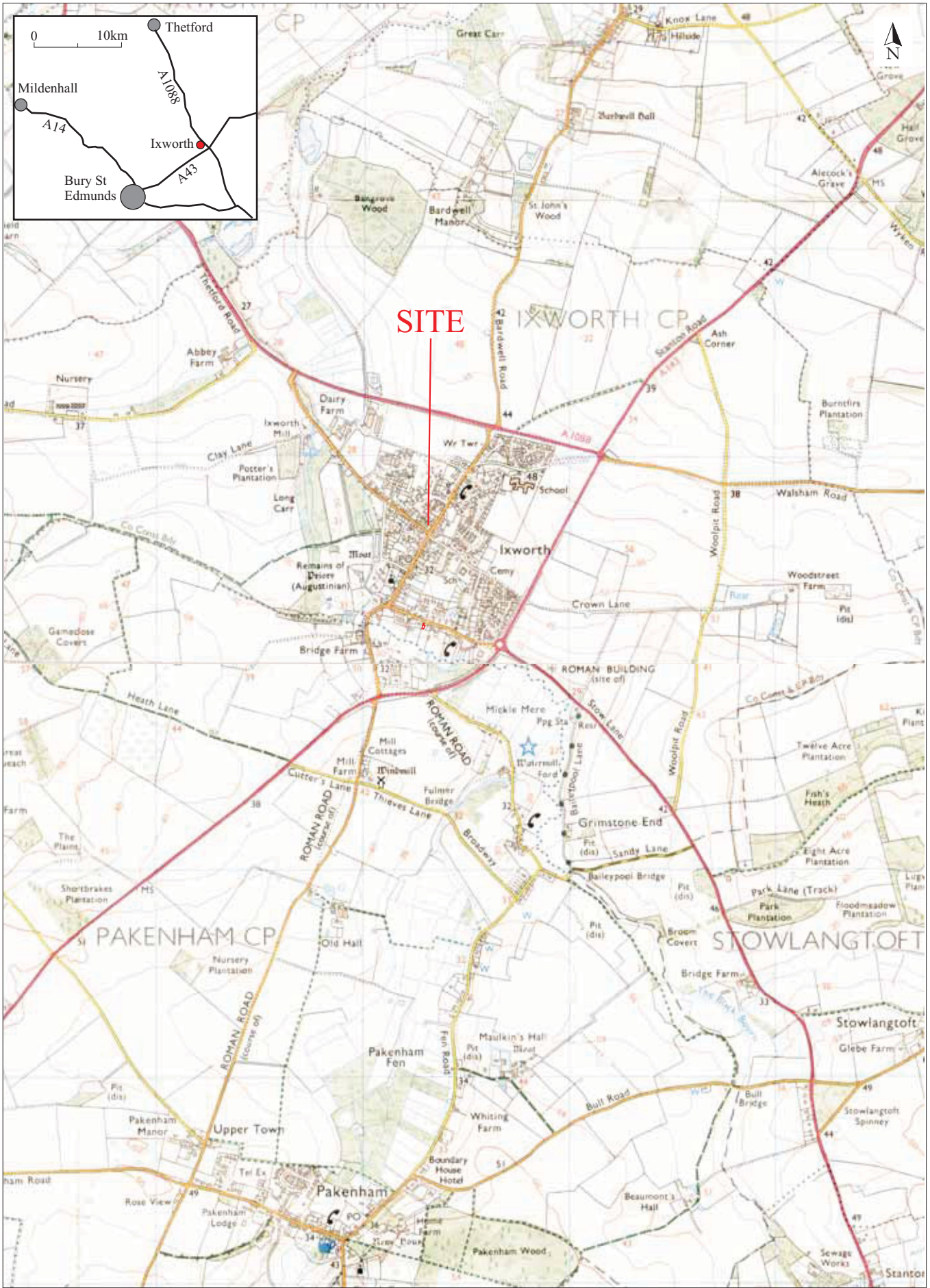
2
Sample Section 1. Looking north-east.



3
General view of southernmost footing trench and connecting trench. Looking north.

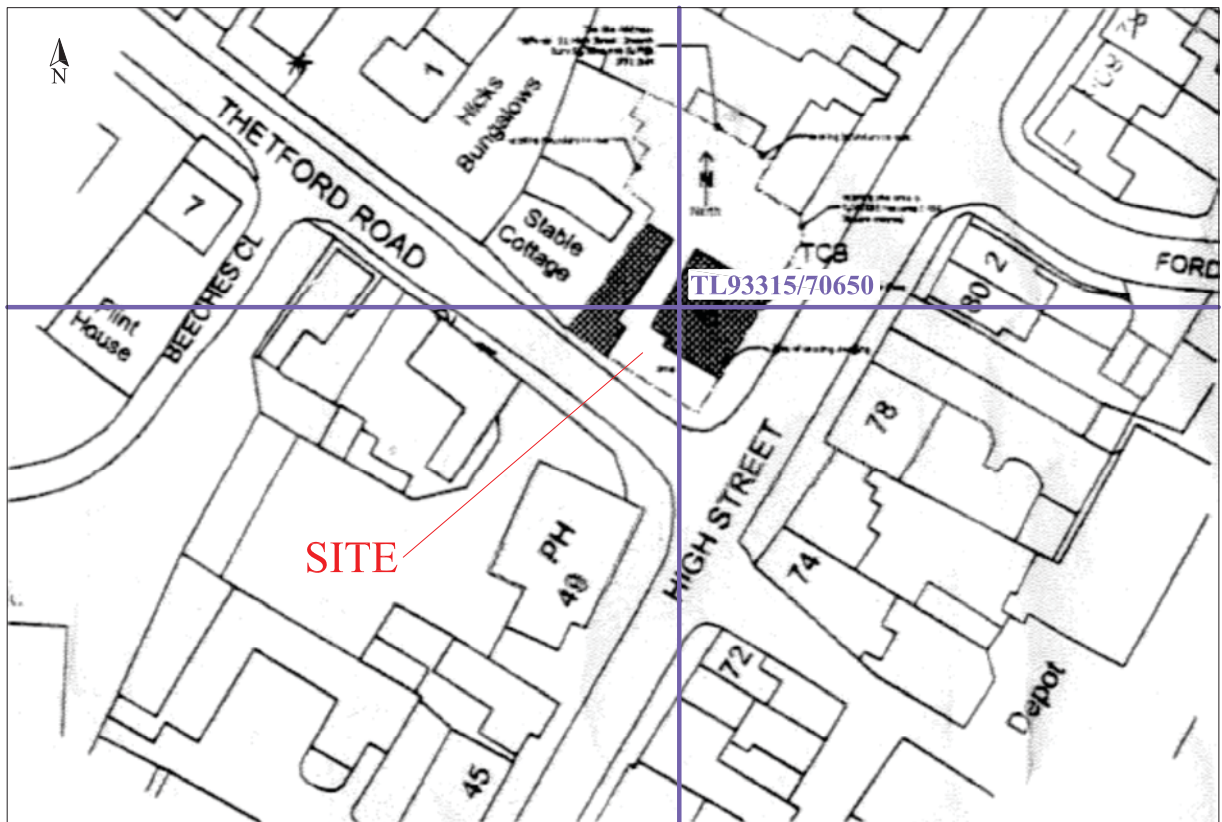


4
Sample section 2. Looking north-east.



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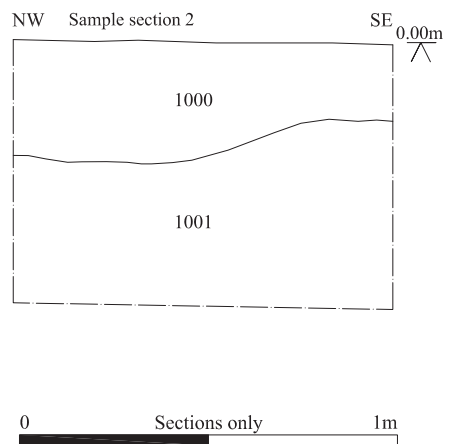
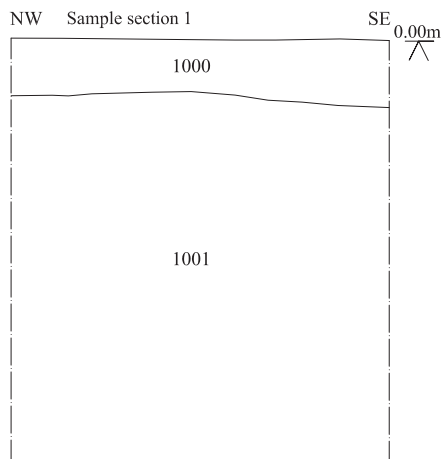
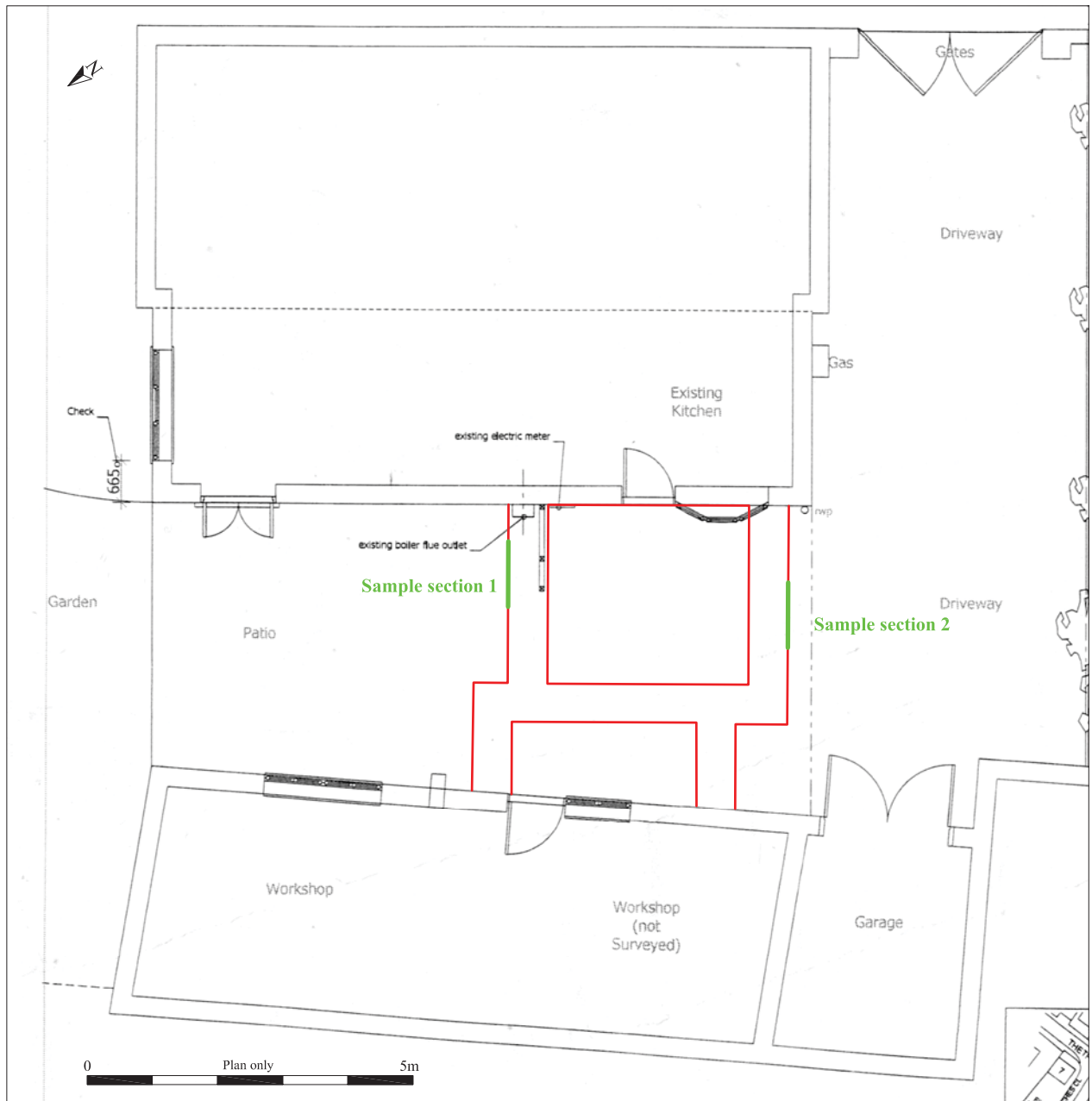
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of monitoring
 Plan 1:100, sections 1:50 at A4