

# RED LODGE, BALLS PARK, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report)	
NGR: TL 33617 12266	Report No. 3680
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1070
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 2606
Signed:	Date: November 2010

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire.</i>		
<p><i>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 33617 12266). The monitoring was commissioned by City and Country Residential Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of the two-storey side and rear extensions and a detached single garage, and access and refurbishment of the property.</i></p> <p><i>Balls Park comprises a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion set within a formal 18<sup>th</sup> century park landscape. Previous excavations in the vicinity of the site revealed Iron Age remains including a sub-circular enclosure. Red Lodge is a Grade II listed building of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The site had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>08, 11, 19, 22/10/2010</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>Y</i>	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>2606</i>	<b>Site code</b>	<i>AS 1070</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>Within an Area of Archaeological Significance No. 372</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Former gate house</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>Construction of two-storey side and rear extension and detached garage</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Hertford</i>
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>SG13 8QF</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>25.7 ha</i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TL 33617 12266</i>		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	<i>60-70m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski, Gareth Barlow</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>City and Country Residential Ltd.</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>3680</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>November 2010</i>		

## **RED LODGE, BALLS PARK, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 33617 12266). The monitoring was commissioned by City and Country Residential Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of the two-storey side and rear extensions, and a detached single garage and access and refurbishment of the property.*

*Balls Park comprises a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion set within a formal 18<sup>th</sup> century park landscape. Previous excavations in the vicinity of the site revealed Iron Age remains including a sub-circular enclosure. Red Lodge is a Grade II listed building of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The site had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

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

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 33617 12266; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by City and Country Residential Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of the two-storey side and rear extensions and detached single garage and access (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/09/0552/FP as amended layout and design of 3/06/2029/FP) and refurbishment of the property (Ref. 3/09/0553/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice received from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 20/01/2010), and approved by HCC HEU. The WSI noted that some foundations for the proposed extension had already been completed, and that the WSI allowed for monitoring the remaining groundworks for the new garage etc. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

### *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 outskirts of Hertford, approximately 1km to the south-east of the town. It is situated within the metropolitan green belt, bounded to the north by the main A414 London Road and the grounds of the Simon Balle School, while to the east lies farmland adjacent to the moated site of Jenningsbury. A caravan park and fields adjoining Mangrove Road enclose the site to the south and the west.

2.2 Balls Park comprises a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion with modern buildings set within the formal 18<sup>th</sup> century park landscape. Substantial elements of the original layout survive, but the buildings have been gradually augmented, particularly during the recent past with the occupation of the estate by the former Hatfield Polytechnic, now the University of Hertfordshire, with a major phase of new building during the 1970's.

2.3 Red Lodge is located in the northern part of Balls Park (Figs. 1-2) and comprises Grade II listed building of a former gate house. It is situated off London Road at the former main access gate to Balls Park. The proposed extensions were constructed to the east and south of the house.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at approximately 60m AOD on a gentle slope and plateau that surround the Lea river valley. Geologically the area is underlain by chalk

formed during the cretaceous era, overlain by areas of London clay, glacial boulder clays and gravel terraces (British Geological Survey 1978).

3.2 Balls Park lies at the junction of the gravel terraces to the north, with the heavier boulder clays to the south of the house. Exposed caps of London clay lie to the east at Jenningsbury, but the conditions around Balls Park are relatively homogenous and give rise to just two distinct soil profiles. The gravels support the glaciofluvial drift of the Ludford Association. These are characterised by deep, well-drained fine to coarse loamy and sandy soils which are locally flinty (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). To the south is the chalky till of the Hanslope Association, which forms a heavier permeable calcareous clayey soil.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Balls Park area has been prepared (Prosser 2001). In summary:

*Archaeological remains in close proximity reveal that occupation in the area spans most periods since the Neolithic, though with varying intensity of activity. Excavations at nearby Foxholes Farm suggest that during the Roman period, the local gravels supported agricultural field systems with dispersed farmsteads, possibly as part of an economic catchment for a small town at Ware to the north-east. The evidence also indicates some possible post-Roman and middle Saxon activity in the area, but this was ephemeral and short-lived.*

*During the 10<sup>th</sup> century the town of Hertford was deliberately created as part of the defensive strategy of King Edward the Elder (899-925) who established two defended burhs at the southern and northern approaches to the River Lea crossing in 912 and 914. Following the Norman Conquest the defence of the river crossing was further consolidated by the construction of motte-and-bailey castle on the southern bank of the river.*

*During the next two centuries much of the area surrounding the new town was granted to monasteries such as Waltham Abbey and the local priory of St Mary. While some of the land was cultivated, historic field names and the surviving open landscape pattern suggest that much remained as woodland, pasture or heath, probably determined by local geological conditions. The site of Balls Park is likely to have comprised a mixed regime of mainly rough pasture and heath.*

*During the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century, the modern estate may have been consolidated from several earlier holdings following the dissolution of the monasteries and emparked. The earliest description of the house at Balls Park was compiled by Chauncy in 1700, where he described that 'Sir John Harrison built a fair stately fabrick of brick in the middle of a warren'. Rabbit warrens were invariably established from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards on marginal or uncultivated land, reinforcing the local profile of Balls Park as an*

*area of open grass or heathland. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, mansions and new parks surrounded the town, as Hertford became a fashionable country retreat for the London elite (Prosser, 2001).*

*The origin of Balls Park may preserve the presence of an earlier family at the site, as a Philip Balle is mentioned in the Feet of Fines for Hertford in 1235. Circumstantial evidence suggests that an earlier house lay on the site of the later mansion, though this can not be conclusively verified by historical means; references are confined to mention of earlier structural remains being present within the fabric of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion.*

4.2 An excavation carried out by AS at Balls Park Area C in 2008 (Pozorski 2008), only 250m to the south-east, revealed numerous features dated to the middle Iron Age, including a sub-rectangular enclosure with internal features and possible habitation layer, also ditches, pits and postholes were found. These Iron Age features are likely to represent agricultural activity associated with settlement. The excavation revealed large number of features associated with the formal gardens of the Balls Park estate. Most of these early modern features represented drains and greenhouses. Remains of the early modern water management system of the mansion and drainage were also found during the monitoring of works in Area A in 2008 and 2009 (Rozwadowski & Brogan 2009).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all remaining 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 remaining mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for new extensions, ground reduction for a new garage and trenches for new drainage and a septic tank (Fig. 2). The northern and eastern arms of the foundation trench had been previously excavated and concreted before this phase of monitoring, as made aware to HCC HEU and set out in the approved WSI. All other remaining groundworks were monitored.

## **6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS** Figs.3 - 4

6.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L3003 (0.10m thick) and, in the area adjacent to Red Lodge building, by layer of modern made ground containing building materials (L3000). The southern part of the site was characterised by the presence of numerous deposits possibly the modern backfill of a pit or a trench, perhaps related to the existing drainage or to the



house. These were relatively deep (1.50m+) and the natural geology in this part of the site was not encountered. Elsewhere, the natural clay, L3007, was present at c. 0.70 – 1m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow compact clay.

6.2 No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Deposits present within the monitored area were recorded in sample sections and are presented below.

<i>N drainage trench. Sample section 1 (DP 3): SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 60.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L3000	Modern made ground. Mixed gravel, topsoil and CBM rubble.
0.10 – 0.48m	L3001	Dark blackish grey, friable, silt sand.
0.48m+	L3002	Mid brown compact sandy silt with gravel.

<i>S foundation trench for house extension. Sample section 2 (DP 4): NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 60.65m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L3003	Topsoil. Brownish grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.12 – 0.72m	L3001	As above.
0.72m+	L3004	Natural mid to dark yellow compact clay.

<i>S drainage trench. Sample section 3 (DP 5): NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 60.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L3003	Topsoil. As above.
0.16 – 0.69m	L3005	Mid brown friable clayey silt with CBM fragments.
0.69 – 1.05m	L3006	Mid grey friable sandy silt with occasional gravel.
1.05m+	L3007	Mid brown friable sandy silt with gravel.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

## 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, even though the initial phase of foundation trenching had taken place prior to the implementation of the archaeological monitoring.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, within Area C of Balls Park to the south-east where an Iron Age enclosure with internal features was recorded. The potential for medieval and later remains relates to the manor house and its surroundings.



8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Deposits present within monitored area consisted of modern construction and/or demolition layers and earlier deposits of made ground. No residual finds were recovered.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank City & Country Residential for funding the project (in particular Mr Ian Dieffenthaler for his assistance).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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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

**APPENDIX 1          CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	14
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	18

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire.
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Hertford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/09/0552/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	City & Country Residential
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of two-storey side and rear extension and detached garage
<b>Present land use:</b>	Rear yard/garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 200m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 200m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 33617 12266
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1070
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	08, 11, 19, 22/10/2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at the Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 33617 12266). The monitoring was commissioned by City and Country Residential Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of the two-storey side and rear extensions and a detached single garage, and access and refurbishment of the property.</p> <p>Balls Park comprises a 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion set within the formal 18<sup>th</sup> century park landscape. Previous excavations in vicinity of the site revealed Iron Age remains including sub-circular enclosure. Red Lodge is a Grade II listed building of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The site had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> November 2010



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Red Lodge, Balls Park, Hertford. View W.



DP 2. Ground reduction for a new garage, E part of the site. View NE.



DP 3. N trench for foundation and drainage. Sample section. View NE.



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

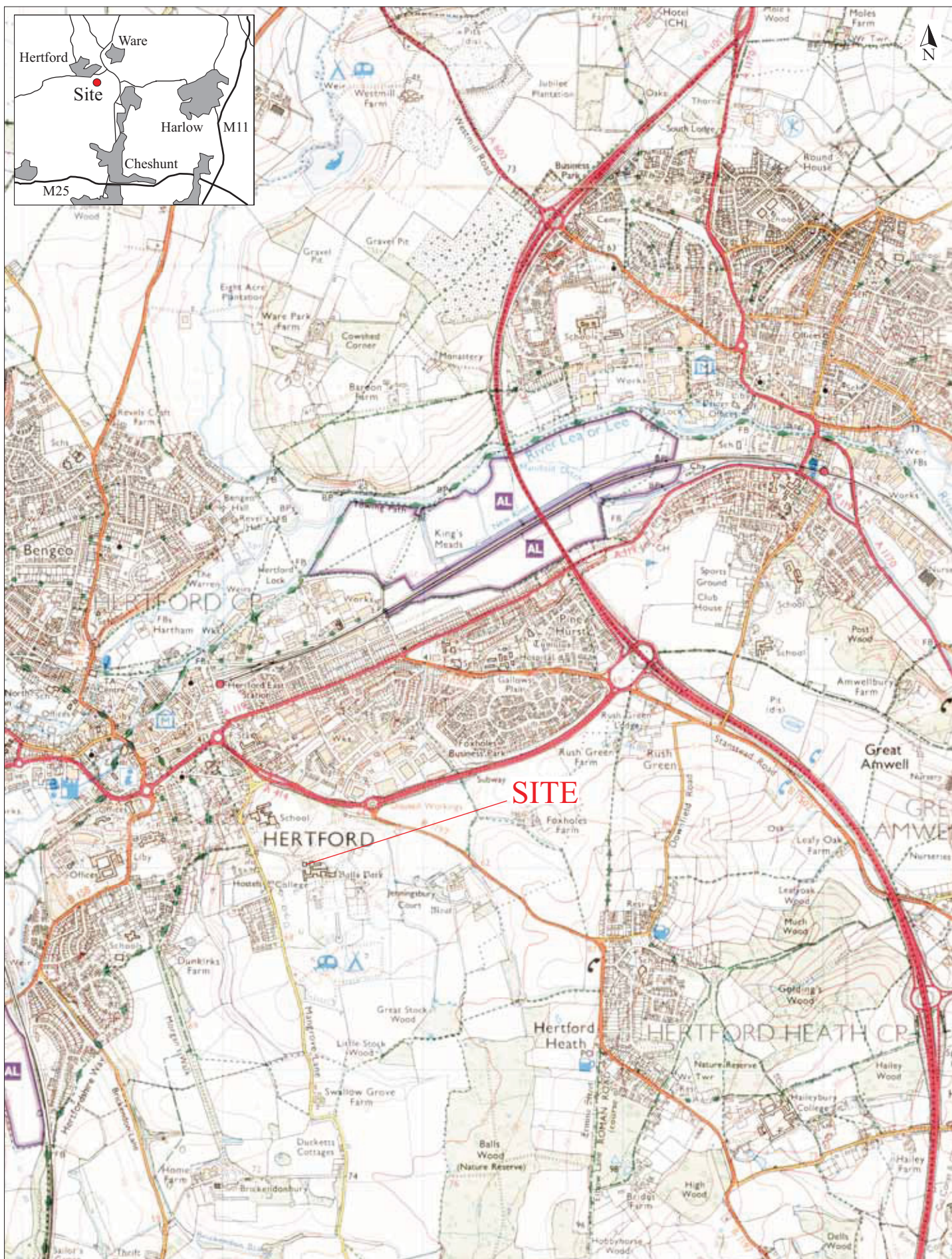


DP 5. Drainage trench in S part of the site. Sample section. View SW.



DP 6. Drainage trench in S part of the site. View N.





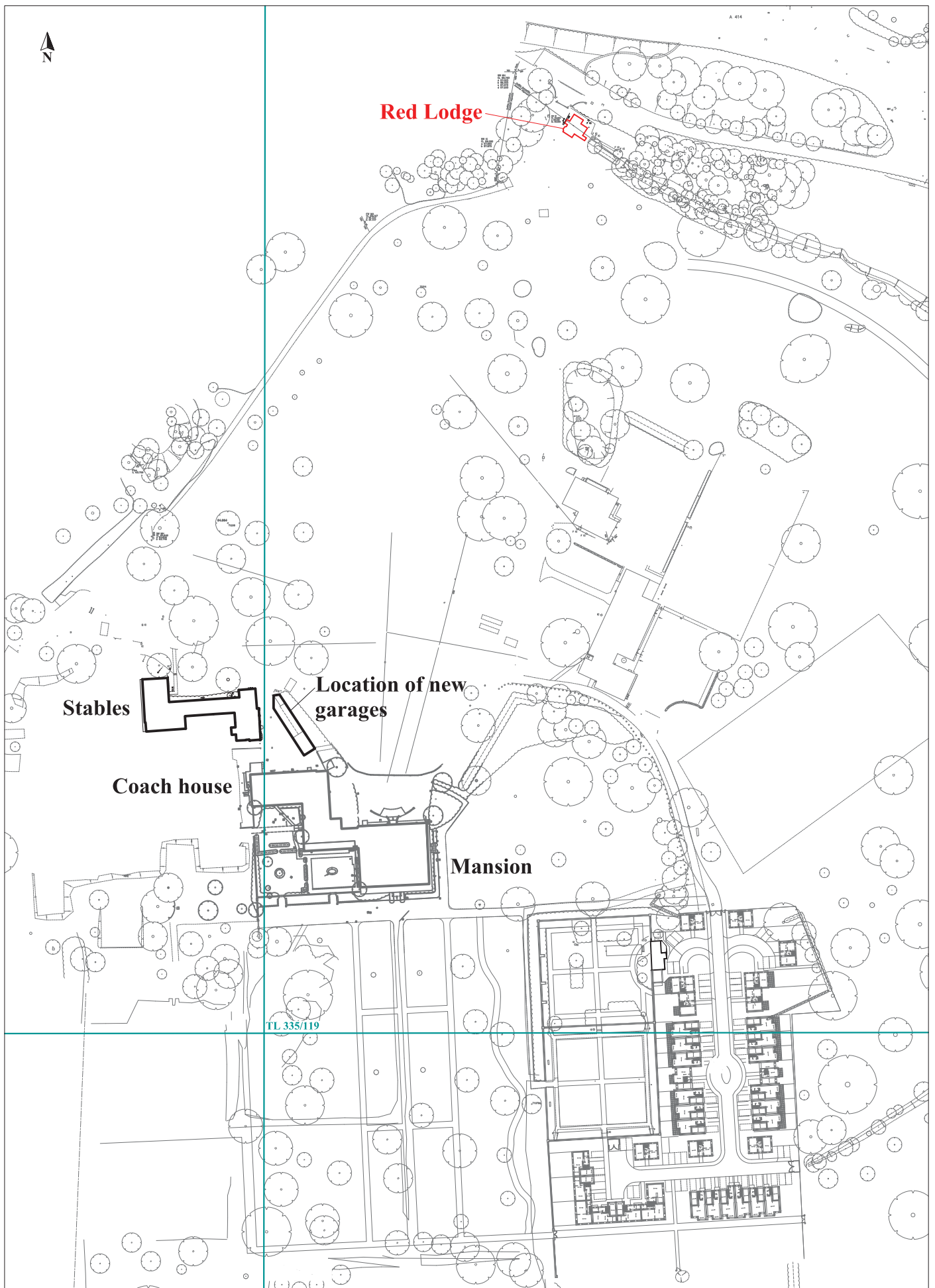
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

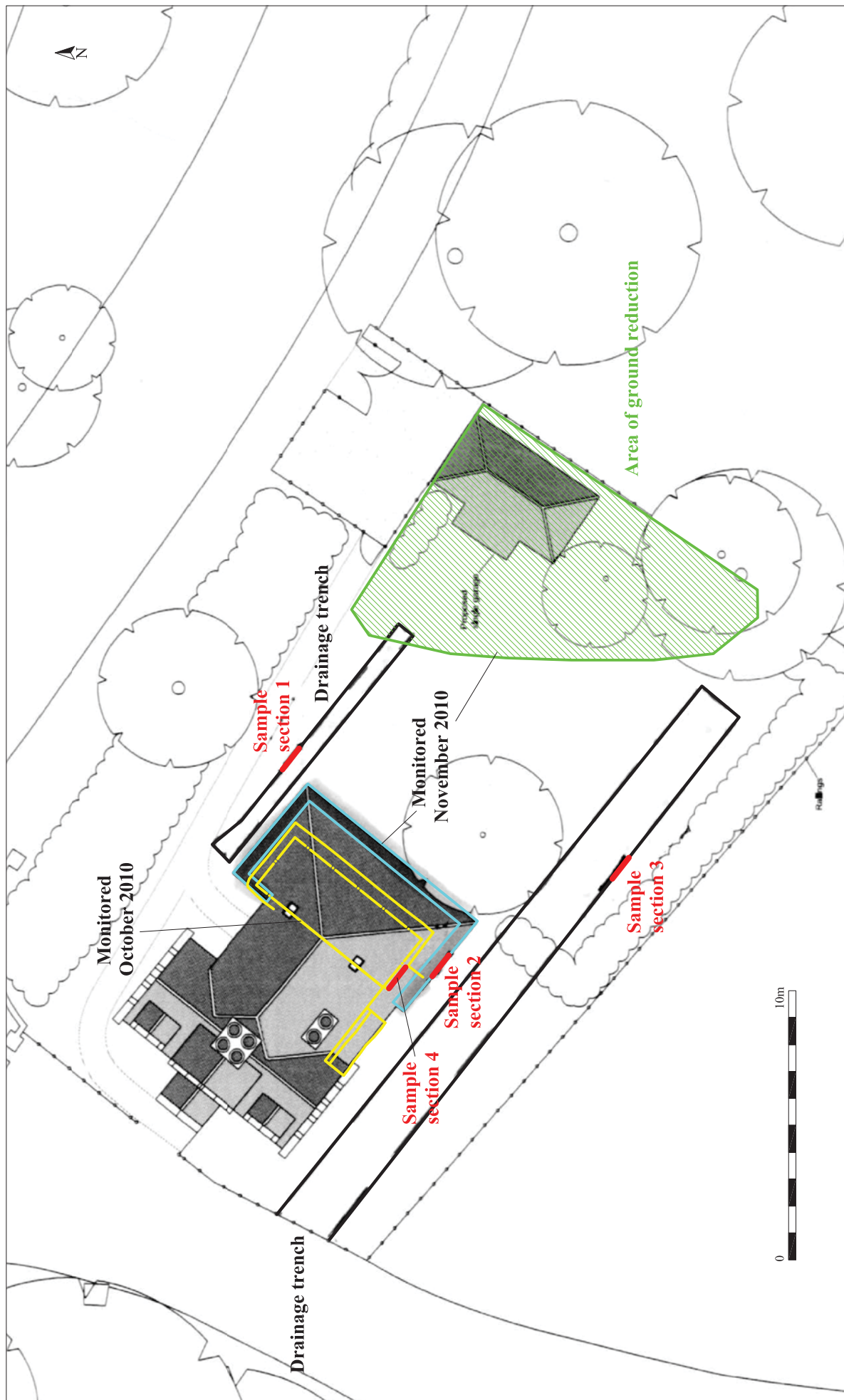


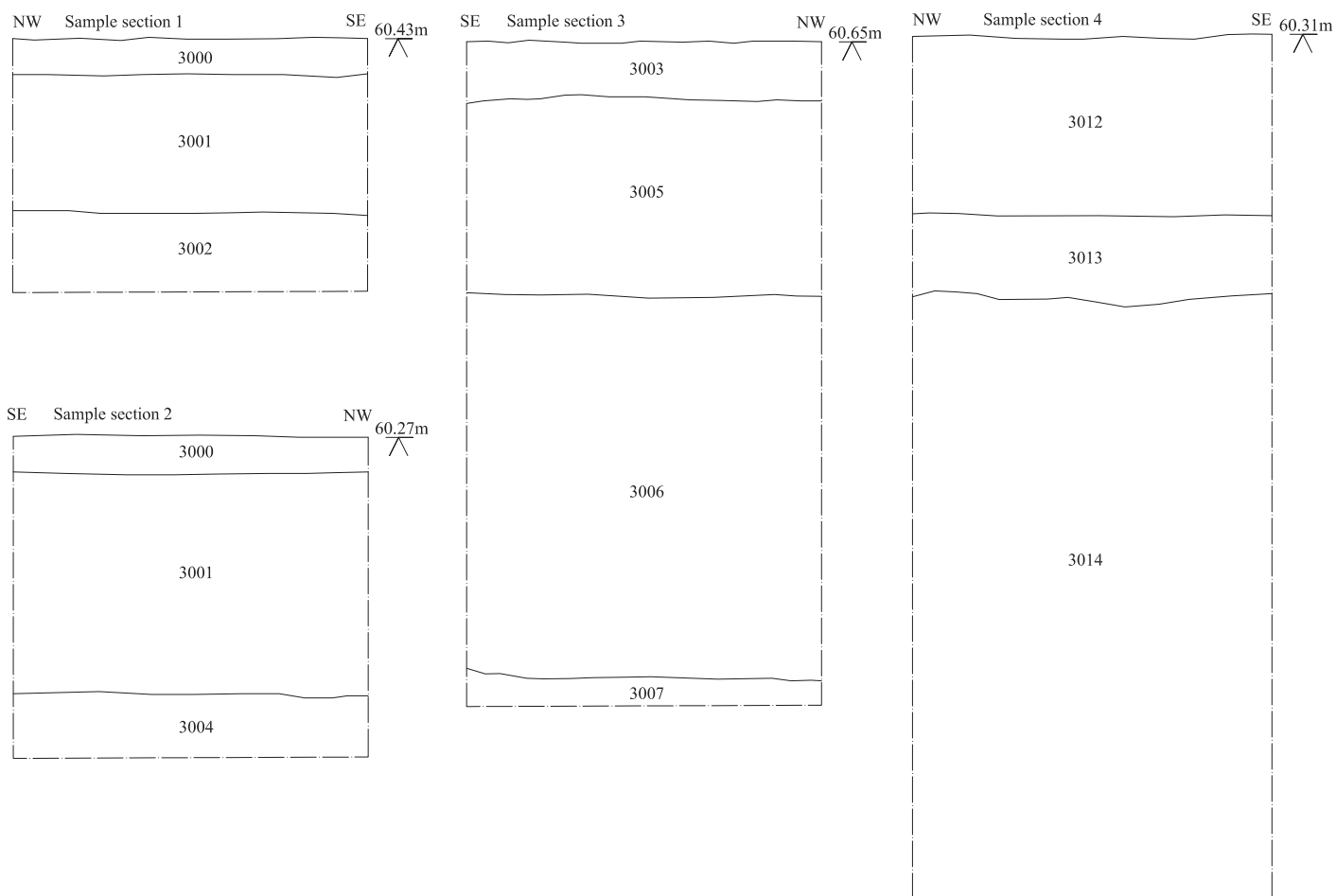


0 60m

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







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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A4