

NEW CART SHED, RAYLANDS MOAT, PLESHEY, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION

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NGR: TL 6409 1449	Report No. 3872
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: HERM 11
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4254
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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION***
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 METHODOLOGY (DESK-BASED RESEARCH)***
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 5 METHODOLOGY (MONITORING & RECORDING)***
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS***
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 9 DISCUSSION***
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>New Cart Shed, Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In May and June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring at Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex (NGR TL 6409 1449). The project was commissioned by Mr Howard Ryles in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new 4-bay garage/outbuilding.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within a moated enclosure thought to be of medieval date. The house located on the site is Grade II listed dating to 15th century. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains dating from 12th century onwards.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17/05 and 06,10/06/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4254</i>	Site code	<i>HERM 11</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>15th century Grade II listed house within moated enclosure</i>		
Current land use	<i>Side yard of the house</i>		
Planned development	<i>New 4-bay garage/outbuilding</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>High Easter</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM3 1HS</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 100m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6409 1449</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 79m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HEM</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Howard Ryles</i>		
Full title	<i>New Cart Shed, Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3872</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2011</i>		

NEW CART SHED, RAYLANDS MOAT, PLESHEY, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In May and June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring at Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex (NGR TL 6409 1449). The project was commissioned by Mr Howard Ryles in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new 4-bay garage/outbuilding.

The site is situated within a moated enclosure thought to be of medieval date. The house on the site is Grade II listed dating to 15th century. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains dating from 12th century onwards.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and excavation at Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex CM3 1HS (NGR TL 6409 1449; Figs. 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by Mr Howard Ryles in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new 4-bay garage/outbuilding (Uttlesford District Council Planning Ref. UTT/1495/09/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (HEM; dated 19/01/2011), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 25/11/2011), and approved by HEM. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The archaeological monitoring and excavation aimed to identify any evidence of archaeological remains within the site exposed during the groundworks required for the proposed new outbuilding/garage. It was particularly important to identify any evidence associated with use of the site as a medieval moated enclosure, and to identify any activity pre-dating the construction of the moat.

Planning policy context

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 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 The small village of Pleshey is 9km north of Chelmsford, and Raylands Moat is 2.2km west of Pleshey. Raylands Moat comprises an L-shaped enclosure of lawns and trees accessed from the north-east and surrounded by open agricultural fields. The house has a car parking area to the west and north, with a second dwelling to the south, and other ancillary buildings within the enclosure.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based Research)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Essex comes from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the EHER database was searched for all known entries within a c. 1 km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 1 km radius of the site are listed (Appendices 1 & 2) and plotted below (Fig. 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1 km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Chelmsford Record Office (CRO). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 3 and reproduced in Figs. 4 – 7.

3.3 Geological/geotechnical information

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the British Geological Survey.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 The site is at approximately 85m AOD in a rolling landscape with the valley of the Parsonage Brook to the north-west. The underlying geology is London Clay beneath typical brown calcareous earth of the Stretham series. These are soils in which pedogenic processes have produced dominantly brownish or reddish subsurface horizons with no prominent mottling or greyish colours (gleying) above 40cm depth. They are widespread, mainly on permeable materials, at elevations below about 300m and are mostly in agricultural use. Typical brown calcareous earths are unmottled non-alluvial loamy or clayey soils with a weathered calcareous subsoil (UK Soil Survey).

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric & Romano-British

4.2.1 There is a relative dearth of prehistoric finds from within the 1km radius. A Lower Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from Acreland some 380m to the north-east (EHER 1097), whilst flint scrapers and flakes, and pottery of Neolithic to Bronze Age date have been found 500m to the north-west at Stagden Cross (EHER 7385 & 881). A Late Iron Age coin was also recovered from this location (EHER 881). Evidence for the Romano-British period is more substantial with a Roman courtyard villa located 900m east of Raylands Moat, and a number of burials were found beyond towards Pleshey (EHER 1170). A concentration of metal work, pottery and a rubbish pit were also found in gardens around at Stagden Cross (EHER 1020, 875, 876 and 877). Five Late Roman gold coins were also found in the area of High Easter (EHER 18708).

Anglo-Saxon

4.2.2 There is no evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation within a 1km radius.

Medieval

4.2.3 A motte and bailey castle was built at Pleshey by Geoffrey de Mandeville after the Battle of Hastings, and subsequently a small town within its own attached enclosure developed (EHER 1126). It was a place of

importance and status initially owned by the de Bohun family and then Thomas Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, before becoming a royal residence under Henry V. After the reign of Edward IV in the late 15th century it fell into decline. Raylands Farm contains a probable medieval moat measuring 60m east-west and 80m north-south, with arms 4m wide and 1.5m deep (EHER 1053). The northern arm is recorded as filled in c.1946, and the whole area has been landscaped in recent years. The adjacent Raylands hall house is late 15th century and Grade II listed (EHER 39242). Moated homestead sites in north-west Essex most frequently date to the 12th-13th centuries and similar sites are located at Stagden Cross (EHER 903), Bailey's (EHER 1080), Whites (EHER 1074) and Elbows (EHER 1080).

Post-medieval

4.2. Cropmarks of field boundaries have been identified approximately 100m to the east of the site some of which are shown on the first edition OS map (EHER 19180).

4.3 The site

4.1 The c.1840 tithe map was not available. The 1881 first edition OS map (Fig. 4) shows the Raylands Moat enclosure essentially the same as it is today, although there are more field boundaries within the surrounding fields than the present day. The 1886 second edition OS map shows good detail of the site (Fig. 5), the moat is clearly outlined and there are more buildings than now at its northern end. The 1923 and 1946 OS maps (Figs. 6 & 7), show that some of the earlier buildings west of the main house have gone, and the house appears to have undergone alterations since then.

5 METHODOLOGY (MONITORING & RECORDING)

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated ground beam foundation trenches for the new outbuilding/garage and the ground reduction within the area of the proposed garage (Fig. 8). The area of the proposed new garage measured 13.50 x 6m.

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Sample section 1: S foundation trench, facing NW (DP 5)</i> <i>0.00 = 79.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.18 – 0.68m	L1001	Natural mid to dark yellow, compact, clay.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural creamy white, compact, chalk.

<i>Sample section 2: W foundation trench, facing NE (DP 6)</i> <i>0.00 = 79.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 – 0.44m	L1001	Natural clay. As above.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural chalk. As above.

<i>Sample section 3: N foundation trench, facing SE (DP 9)</i> <i>0.00 = 79.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 4: E foundation trench, facing SW (DP 10)</i> <i>0.00 = 79.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural chalk. As above.

6.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified.

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 Topsoil L1000, a dark, blackish grey, soft, sandy silt (0.30 – 0.50m thick). Within Trench 2 L1000 overlay Subsoil L1002, a light to mid grey, clayey silt with gravel (0.10 – 0.25m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1001, was present at 0.37 – 0.55m below existing ground level and comprised a light yellow, compact, clay with lenses of dark yellow and mid grey clayey silt and gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The house located within the moated site dates from the 15th century though the site may have been occupied from 12th century onwards. The current groundworks occurred within the moated area.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place, and 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 Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Ryles for their co-operation and funding of the monitoring, and Donald Purkiss and Associates for their assistance.

Archaeological Solutions Limited thanks Laura Belton of the Essex Historic Environment Record Office and staff at the Chelmsford Record Office

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WEB SITES

Heritage Gateway
UK Soil Survey
Unlocking Essex's Past

APPENDIX 1: ESSEX HER INFORMATION

EHER Number	National Grid Reference	Details
<i>Prehistoric 700,000 BC to AD 43</i>		
1097	6425 1485	Lower Palaeolithic handaxe from Acreland Green
7385	634 150	Stagden Cross 10 flakes and a scraper
1019	634 151	Neolithic or Bronze Age flints and pottery from Stagden Cross
881	63 15	Late Iron Age gold coin of Addedomarus from north of Stagden Cross
<i>Romano-British AD 43- 410</i>		
1020	635 149	Roman finds from Stagden Cross: Bronze coin of Carausius found in a garden west of the cross roads. Also a Roman rubbish pit and a scatter of finds including a bronze bracelet, and coins of Postumus and Constantius, a knife, latchlifter, glass, bone and pottery
1170	650 143	Roman Villa 450m west of Bury Farm. Courtyard villa and pottery and metalwork finds; a large number of burials west of Pleshey
875	63 14	Roman pottery from Churchfield, Stagden Cross
876	63 14	Roman pottery from Sundries Field, Stagden Cross
877	63 14	Roman pottery from Stagden Cross
18708	62 13	5 gold Roman coins from Good Easter dated 394-403
<i>Medieval 1066-1539</i>		
903	637 150	Fragmentary medieval moat, Stagden Cross
946	6476 1358	Baileys fragmentary medieval moat and early 16 th century Grade II listed house
1053	641 145	Raylands Farm possible moat. Measures 60m east-west x 80m north-south with arms 4m wide x 1.5m deep. North arm was filled c1946 according to farmer and the whole work landscaped in recent years.
1074	6460 1540	Whites probable homestead moat
1080	6390 1380	North side of Elbows, remains of a small rectangular homestead moat
18613	6480 1405	Medieval sherd excavated at Little Linsteads, Bury Road
<i>Post-medieval 1539-1900</i>		
904	637 150	Late 16 th /early 17 th century Grade II listed

		house on medieval site
947	6476 1358	Baileys 17 th century gable added to main block, Grade II listed
1021	635 149	Post-medieval pottery from Stagden Cross
1054	641 145	Raylands 17 th century timber-framed and plastered house
1075	6460 1540	Whites 16 th century house
30725	6469 1355	Baileys 16 th century Grade I listed house
30730	6483 1389	Linstead 16/17 th century Grade II listed
30731	6476 1398	Beam Ends 18 th to early 19 th century row of Grade II listed cottages
38139	6368 1496	Stagden Cross Farmhouse 16 th century Grade II listed hall house
38140	6365 1493	Barn 10m SW of Stagden Cross Farmhouse Grade II listed
39242	6408 1445	Raylands Hall House built between 1467 and 1499, Grade II listed
<i>Modern 1900+</i>		
8893	6394 1249	GHQ Anti-Tank Ditch
<i>Undated</i>		
45504	649 142	Crop marks south of Great Stone, Pleshey of linear features possibly field boundaries
19173	644 153	Crop marks of field boundaries
19180	642 145	Crop marks of field boundaries some shown on 1st edition six inch map
19191	634 137	Crop marks of field boundaries some shown on 1st edition six inch map

APPENDIX 2: CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Map Description	Date	Scale
Site Location: OS Explorer	Modern	1:25,000
Detailed Site Location	Modern	
HER Information	Modern	1:10,000
First Edition OS map	1881	1:10,560
Second Edition OS map	1896	1:2,500
OS map	1923	1:10,560
OS map	1946	1:10,560

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Raylands Moat, Pleshey, Essex. The house. View SW.



DP 2. Removed paving area to the east of the house. View SSE.



DP 3. Foundation trenches for new garage. View ESE.



DP 4. Foundation trenches for new garage. View NW.



DP 5. S trench. Sample section 1. View SE.



DP 6. W trench, S part. Sample section 2. View SW.



DP 7. E trench/ View N.



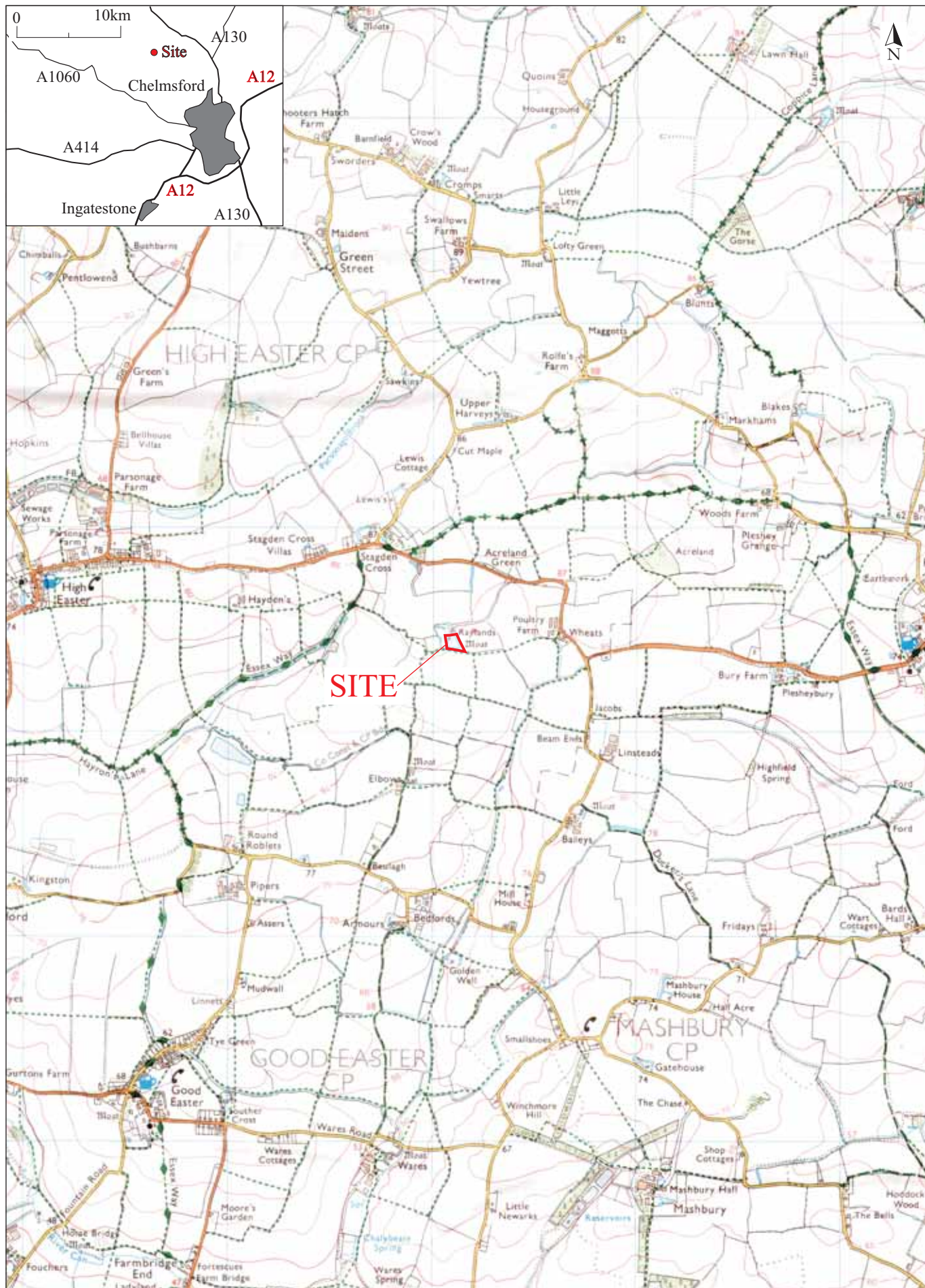
DP 8. Central trench. View NE.



DP 9. N trench. Sample section 3. View NW.

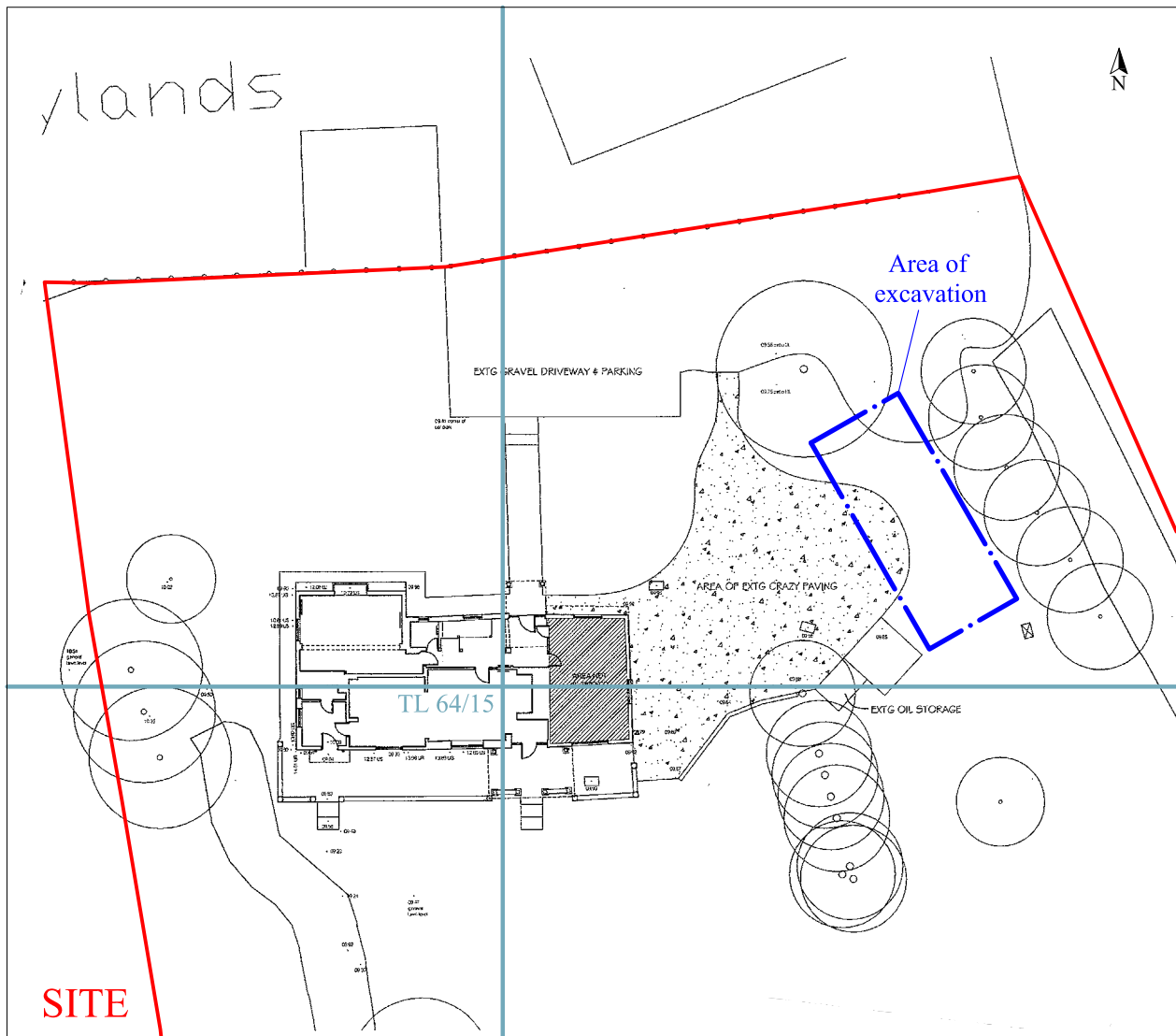


DP 10. E trench, N/central part. Sample section 4. View NE.

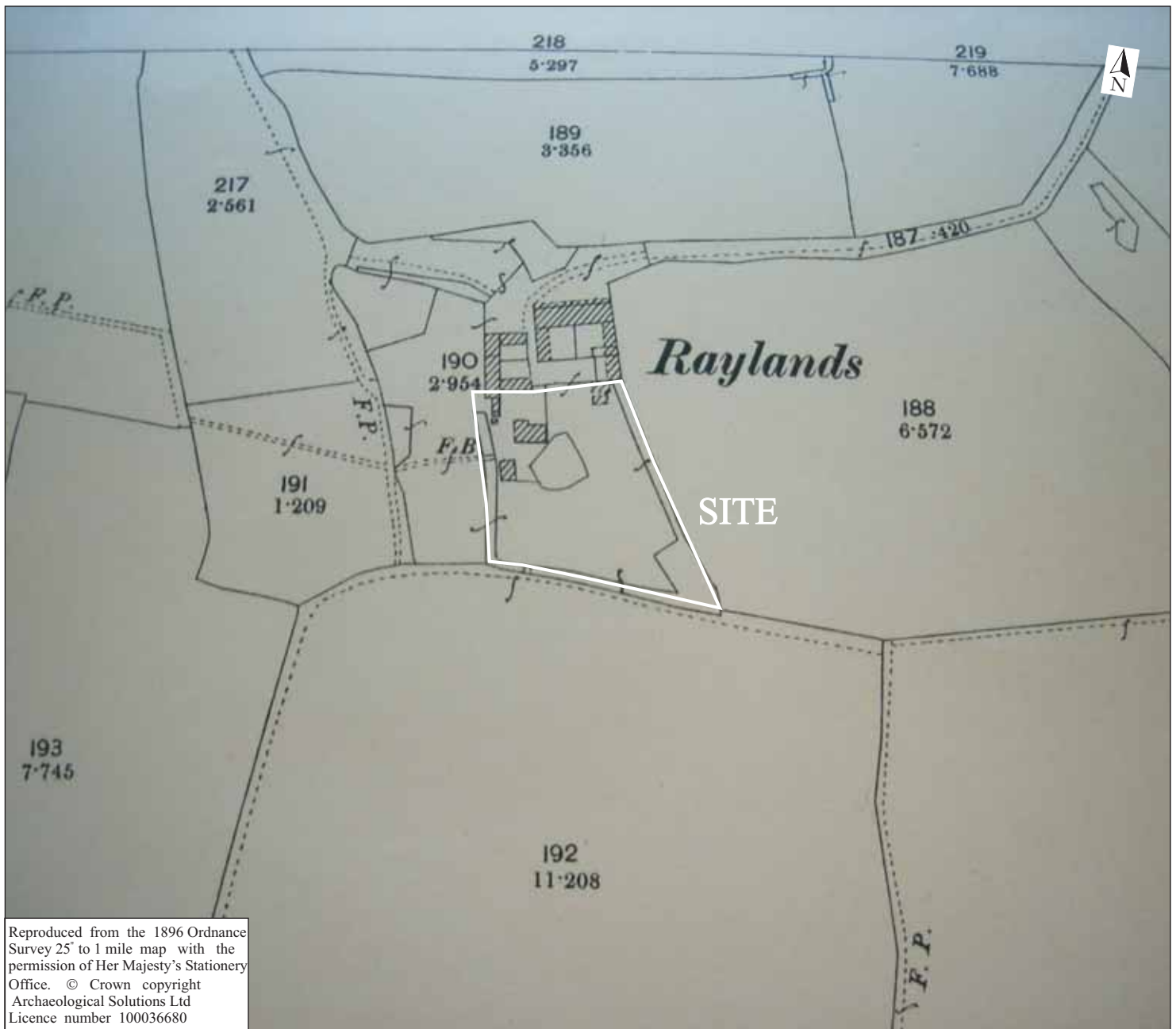


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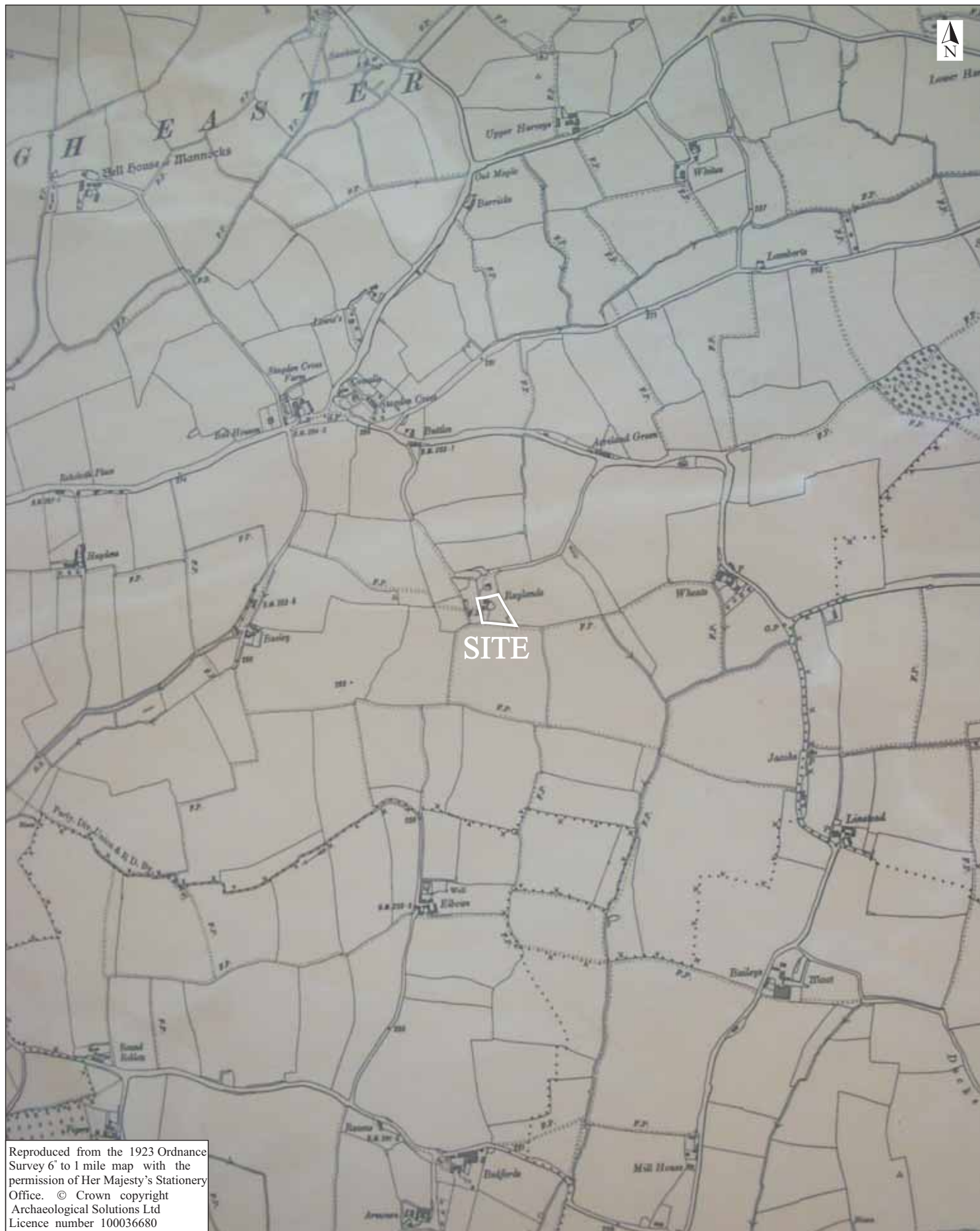
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 25m



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Fig. 5 OS map, 1896
Not to scale

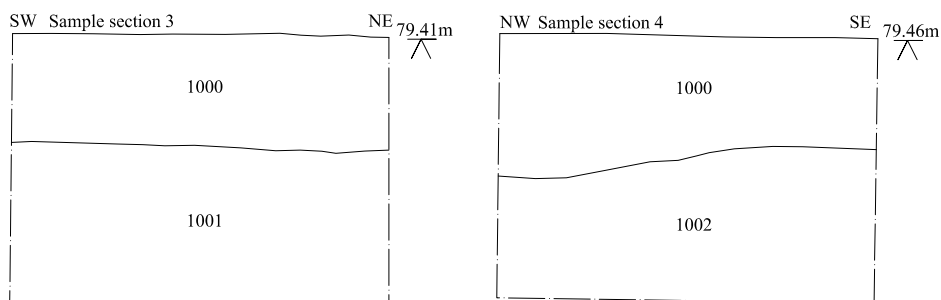
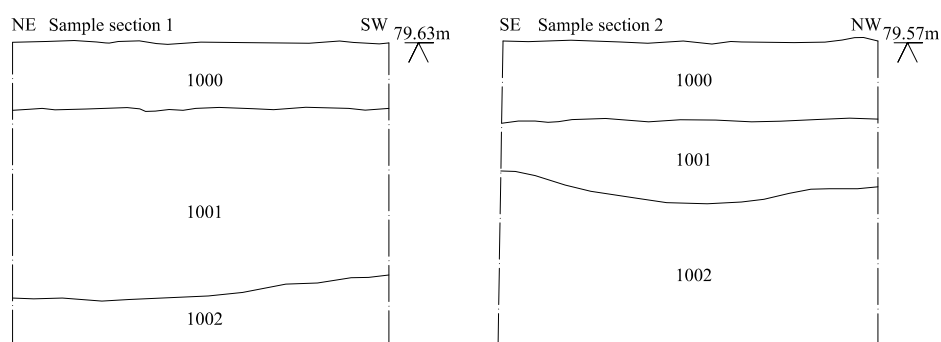
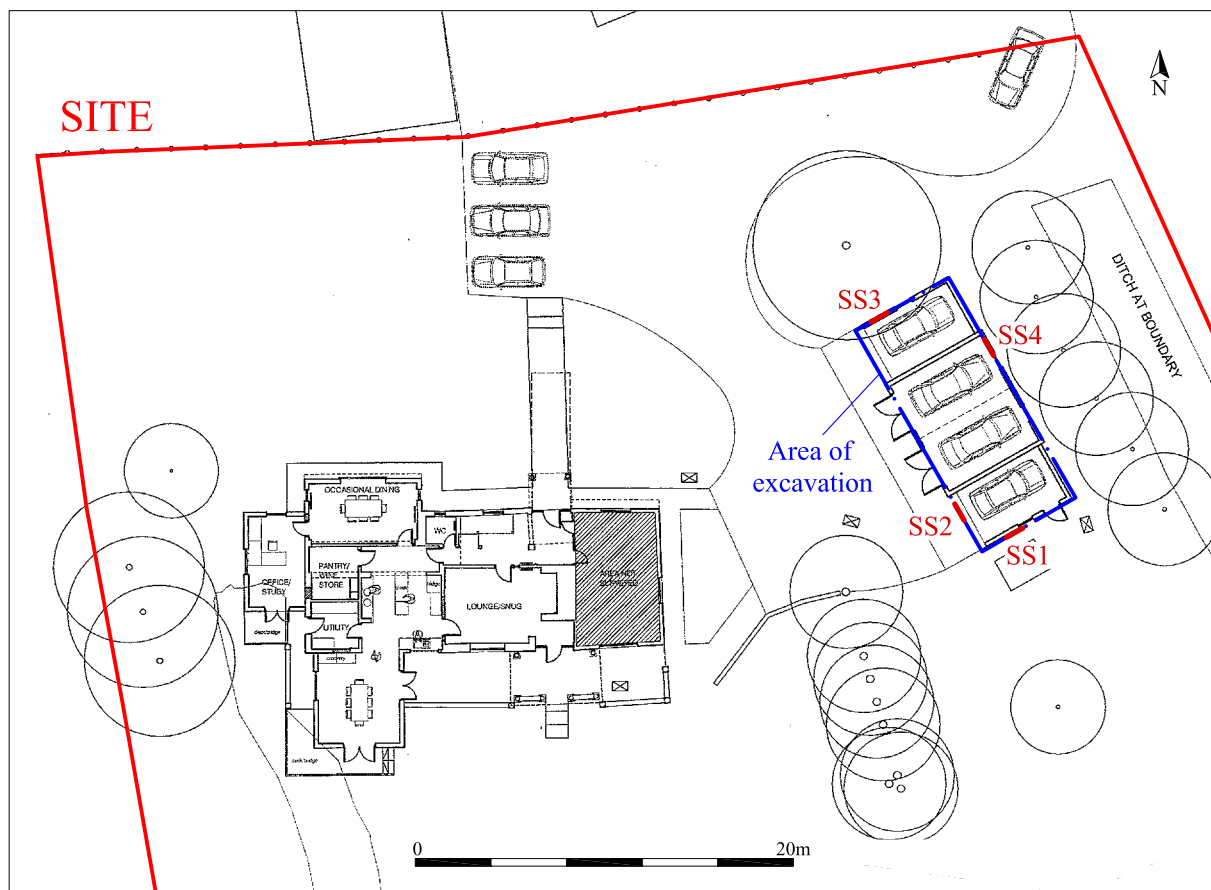


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Fig. 7 OS map, 1946
Not to scale



0 Sections only 2m

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Fig. 8 Sample sections and section location plan
 Scale 1:400 and 1:20 at A4