
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**JACKSONS FARM, LITTLE BURSTEAD, BILLERICAY,
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
& MONITORING**

Authors: Tom Janes & Chris Leonard (fieldwork & report) Peter Thompson (research) Antony Mustchin (Editor)	
NGR: TQ 66980 92506	Report No. 3968
District: Basildon	Site Code: BLJF11
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4380
Signed:	Date: November 2011

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB
Tel 01992 558170**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION***
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 4 METHOD OF WORK***
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS***
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 8 DISCUSSION***
- 9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION***

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring at Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex (NGR: TQ 66980 92506). The programme was undertaken to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of an extension and new buildings (Basildon Planning Ref BAS/00263/09).</i></p> <p><i>Jacksons Farm lies to the north of Laindon Common Road (TQ 6697 9249) adjacent to a house known as the Reddings. The site comprises approximately three acres with a range of derelict buildings, an 18th to 19th century timber framed stable and a large timber framed building, believed to be of 15th century date and likely to be the original 'high-status' dwelling in Little Burstead.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation and monitoring had the potential to reveal medieval and post-medieval deposits, in the event no archaeological finds or features were present. The areas subject to open-area excavation had been previously occupied by modern outbuildings and yard surfaces, and these may have truncated and/or removed archaeological deposits, if present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>31st October and 17th November 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P4380</i>	Site code	<i>BLJF11</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Conservation Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Disused farmyard and pasture</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension to existing building and associated outbuildings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>15th century timber framed hall (upstanding)</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Basildon</i>	<i>Little Burstead</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM12 9TB</i>		
Area of site	<i>Approx. 1.2 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 66980 92506</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>70m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>ECC HEM Richard Havis</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tom Janes & Christopher Leonard</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Geoff Fall</i>		
Full title	<i>Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex. Archaeological Excavation & Monitoring</i>		
Authors	<i>Janes, T., & Leonard, C.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3968</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2011 (Revised February 2012)</i>		

JACKSONS FARM, LITTLE BURSTEAD, BILLERICAY, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION & MONITORING

SUMMARY

In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring at Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex (NGR: TQ 66980 92506). The programme was undertaken to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of an extension and new buildings (Basildon Planning Ref BAS/00263/09).

Jacksons Farm lies to the north of Laindon Common Road (TQ 6697 9249) adjacent to a house known as the Reddings. The site comprises approximately three acres with a range of derelict buildings, an 18th / 19th century timber-framed stable and a large timber-framed building, believed to be of 15th century date and likely to be the original 'high-status' dwelling in Little Burstead.

The excavation and monitoring had the potential to reveal medieval and post-medieval deposits, in the event no archaeological finds or features were present. The areas subject to open-area excavation had been previously occupied by modern outbuildings and yard surfaces, and these may have truncated and/or removed archaeological deposits, if present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring at Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex (NGR TQ 66980 92506; Figs.1-2). The programme was undertaken to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the restoration, conversion and extension of the 15th century timber framed building for residential use, the demolition of existing modern outbuildings, the erection of a cart lodge, repairs to the stable block, re-surfacing of the access drive and manoeuvring area, and the re-excavation of an in-filled pond (Basildon Planning Ref BAS/00263/09).

1.2 The excavation and monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (ECC HEM) (R Havis, dated 01/2011), and a specification compiled by AS (15/04/2011), and approved by ECC HEM. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2008), and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) were used for guidance.

1.3 ECC HEM required two stages of investigation:

- The archaeological open area excavation of the footprints of the house extension and cart lodge. The footprints were to be stripped under

archaeological supervision, and the presence of any archaeological features noted. If remains were encountered they were to be subject to recording and open area excavation, (as to be advised by ECC HEB following a site meeting).

- The monitoring of the groundworks for the remainder of the proposed development (including the access road and pond excavation).

1.4 The aim of the project was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development, and to excavate and report on those remains.

Planning policy context

1.5 PPS5 (2010) states 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 (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 Little Burstead is a small village located approximately 1km south of Billericay, Essex. Jackson's Farm lies on the north-western edge of the village.

The site lies to the north of Laindon Common Road, adjacent to the Reddings. It is some 3 acres in extent, and contains a range of derelict buildings, and 18th/19th timber framed stable and a large timber-framed building, believed to be of 15th century date.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies at 70m AOD on a hill with a fairly steep slope to the south and the small valley of the River Crouch immediately to the east. The site is close to the boundary between soils of the Windsor and Essendon Associations which are generally classed as seasonally waterlogged, slowly permeable clayey soils. The underlying geology is London Clay.

3.2 Prehistoric remains from within 500m or so of Jackson's Farm are sparse, but include a piece of Neolithic flint axe blade recovered from approximately 300m to the

south (EHER 13392). A Romano-British ditch containing a small hoard of bronze and silver coins and other metalwork was found in pasture 500m south of Jacksons Farm (EHER 5519). A subsequent excavation carried out by the farmer in this area known as 'Lyndhurst' found Iron Age and possible Late Saxon or Early Medieval pottery sherds. It is suggested that there was settlement of these periods on the site and in the adjacent field (EHER 6777 & 6778). A Romano-British gold earring of a type sometimes found in Greek burials was also found within approximately 80m of the ditch (EHER 18628). Roman building material is incorporated in the local church walls (EHER 5443).

3.3 A medieval moated site is situated at the rectory at the south end of the village (EHER 5435). The Church of St Mary to the south of the village has walls of pudding stone and ragstone rubble (EHER 5443). The existing building dates mainly between the early 13th and 16th centuries, but test pits have found evidence of 12th-13th century foundations beneath. No.s 1 & 2 Coopers Cottage in Little Burstead date to the late 14th-15th centuries and are Grade II listed (EHER 39389).

3.4 Stockwell Hall in Little Burstead is a Grade II* timber-framed and plaster building (EHER 5360). There is no evidence to show that the associated moated site at Stockwell Hall is medieval (EHER 5359). On Laindon Common 83 coins of mainly post-medieval date have been recovered from metal detecting. Some were minted in the reigns of George III and George IV (EHER 5517), while earlier coins include one apiece of Constantine I (4th century), and Edward IV (14th century (EHER 5515 & 5516).

3.5 The 15th century farmstead of Jackson's Farm is recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER 40863), within the extent of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Little Burstead. A previous historic building survey (Hillman-Crouch 2008) was carried out as part of the planning application, noting that the timber-framed building that is to be restored/extended is a rare surviving medieval in-line hall house, likely originally the main 'high-status' dwelling in the village. The hall building contains a post and truss arrangement and has a large jowel and added spandrel. It is believed to date no later than c.1475 when crown-post roof construction went out of use. Historic maps indicate that the stable was built between 1838 and 1878.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological excavation comprised the removal of overburden within the footprints of the extension and the cart lodge under archaeological supervision. The overburden was removed to the surface of the underlying natural geology, and this was inspected for the presence of archaeological features and/or deposits.

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of groundworks associated with the underpinning of the timber-framed building.

4.3 Both phases involved the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and

the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5 RESULTS

Excavation of extension and cart lodge (DP 1 – 3)

5.1 The groundworks observed comprised the removal of overburden within the footprints of the two proposed buildings. This work was undertaken with a 360° 5-tonne tracked mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits, or the surface of the natural geology, depending on which was encountered first.

5.2. Four sample sections were recorded on site, and are tabulated below:

Sample Section 1 Fig.3

<i>SE facing</i> 0.00m = 70.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Made Ground. Black, compact, silty-clay with frequent CBM and concrete rubble
0.22m +	L1001	Natural Geology. Yellow-brown, compact, clay with moderate flint gravel towards NE corner of extension footprint.

Sample Section 2 (Fig. 3, DP 5)

<i>NE facing</i> 0.00m = 70.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Made Ground. As Section 1
0.20m +	L1001	Natural Geology. As Section 1

Sample Section 3 (Fig. 3)

<i>NW facing</i> 0.00m = 70.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Made Ground. As Section 1
0.12m +	L1001	Natural Geology. As Section 1

Sample Section 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>SW facing</i> 0.00m = 70.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Made Ground. As Section 1
0.04m +	L1001	Natural Geology. As Section 1

Description: Made Ground L1000 was present across site and comprised a mixture of silty clay topsoil, demolition rubble and construction debris, compacted by the passage of machinery. A greater concentration of rubble was noted within the extension footprint; this represented the remains of a concrete ramp and brick yard surface that had been associated with the recent use of the timber framed building as a barn/shed.

Within the footprint of the cart lodge, the rubble content of L1000 was sparse; when the modern outbuildings had been demolished most of the material produced had been reused elsewhere on site in drainage works (Geoff Fall, *pers. comm.*). Traces of modern building footings were also noted on the site of the proposed cart lodge, these were the foundations of the recently-demolished outbuildings (DP 4).

No archaeological finds or features were present within either footprint.

Monitoring of underpinning around timber framed building

5.3 The underpinning comprised the excavation of a trench around the outer edge of the building which was then filled with concrete. The work was undertaken by hand. The stratigraphy was identical to that observed in the extension footprint. No archaeological finds or features were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Made Ground L1000 was present across site and comprised a mixture of silty clay topsoil, demolition rubble and construction debris, compacted by the passage of machinery.

7.2 The natural geology, L1001, was a yellow-brown compact clay. Large patches of gravel were noted towards the north-east corner of the extension footprint, and occasional patches of greyish clay were also noted in both areas.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavations at Jackson's Farm had significant potential for medieval and/or post-medieval archaeology. The 15th century timber framed building is a rare surviving example of a medieval in-line hall house, and is likely to be one of the earliest, if not the first, 'high-status' dwellings in the village (Hillman-Crouch, 2008).

8.2 Given historic map evidence, and evidence from comparable sites, other structures relating to medieval and post-medieval occupation of the site may be anticipated near to the house.

8.3 In the event, no archaeological finds or features were present. The areas subject to open-area excavation had been previously occupied by modern outbuildings and yard surfaces, and these may have truncated and/or removed archaeological deposits, if present.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Southend Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited is grateful to Geoff Fall for his co-operation and funding of the monitoring.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Hillman-Crouch, BJ, 2008, *Jacksons Farm, Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex	
Parish: Little Burstead	District: Basildon
NGR: TQ 66980 92506	Site Code:
Type of Work: Excavation & Monitoring	Site Director/Team: Tom Janes & Christopher Leonard
Date of Work: 31 st October & 17 th November 2011	Size of Area Investigated: 1.21 ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: Mr G Fall
Further Seasons Anticipated?: N	Related HER Nos: EHER 40863
Final Report: Y	
Periods Represented: Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological excavation and monitoring at Jackson's Farm, Little Burstead, Billericay, Essex (NGR: TQ 66980 92506). The programme was undertaken to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of an extension and new buildings (Basildon Planning Ref BAS/00263/09).</i></p> <p><i>Jacksons Farm lies to the north of Laindon Common Road (TQ 6697 9249) adjacent to a house known as the Reddings. The site comprises approximately three acres with a range of derelict buildings, an 18th / 19th century timber-framed stable and a large timber-framed building, believed to be of 15th century date and likely to be the original 'high-status' dwelling in Little Burstead.</i></p> <p><i>The excavation and monitoring had the potential to reveal medieval and post-medieval deposits, in the event no archaeological finds or features were present.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: HBR Report Hillman-crouch 2008	
Author of Summary: Tom Janes	Date of Summary: 18/11/2011

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP1
Both stripped areas, timber hall to left, looking SW



DP2
Footprint of extension, looking NE



DP3
Footprint of cart lodge, looking N



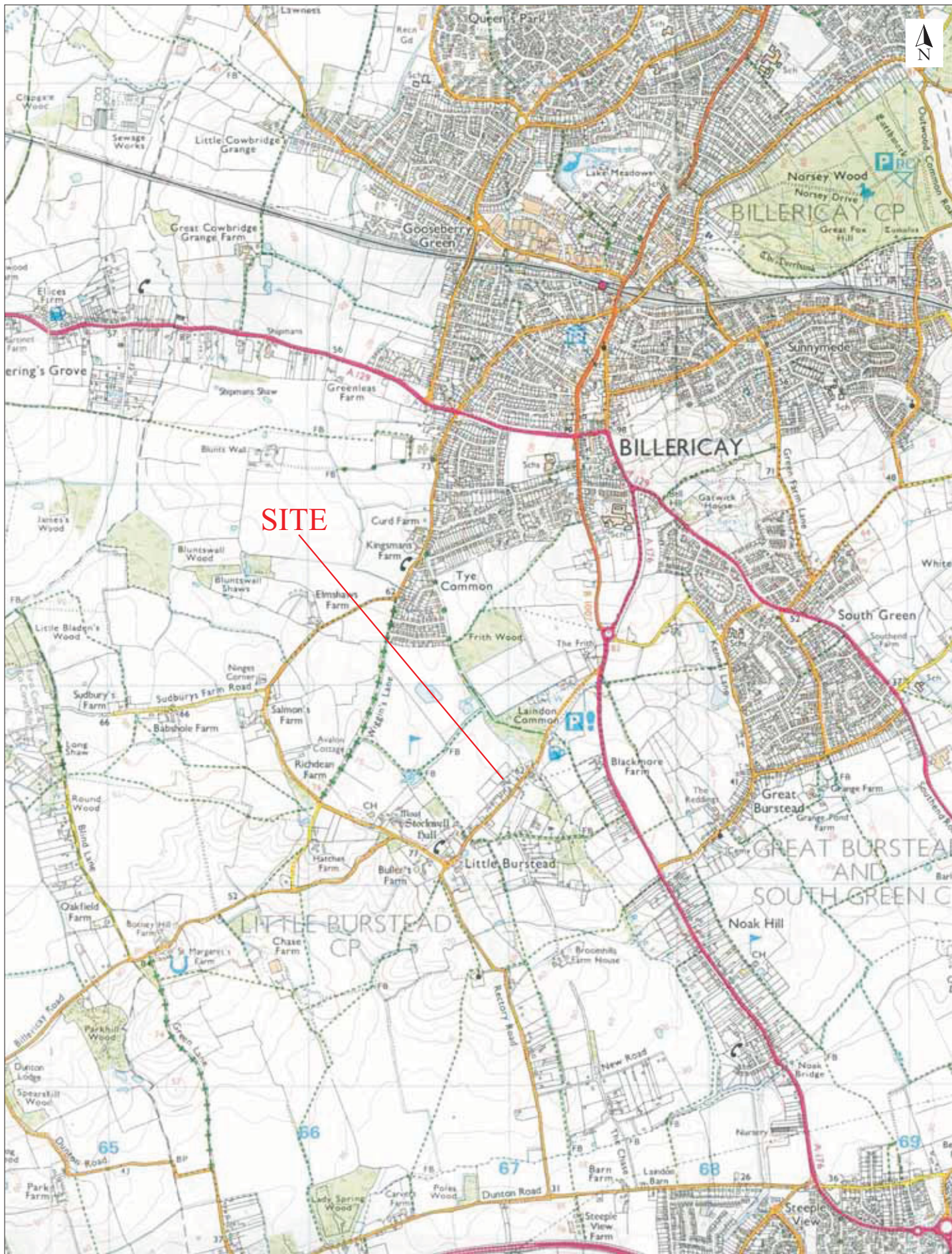
DP4
Trace of modern footings in cart lodge footprint, looking SW



DP5
Sample section 2, looking SW

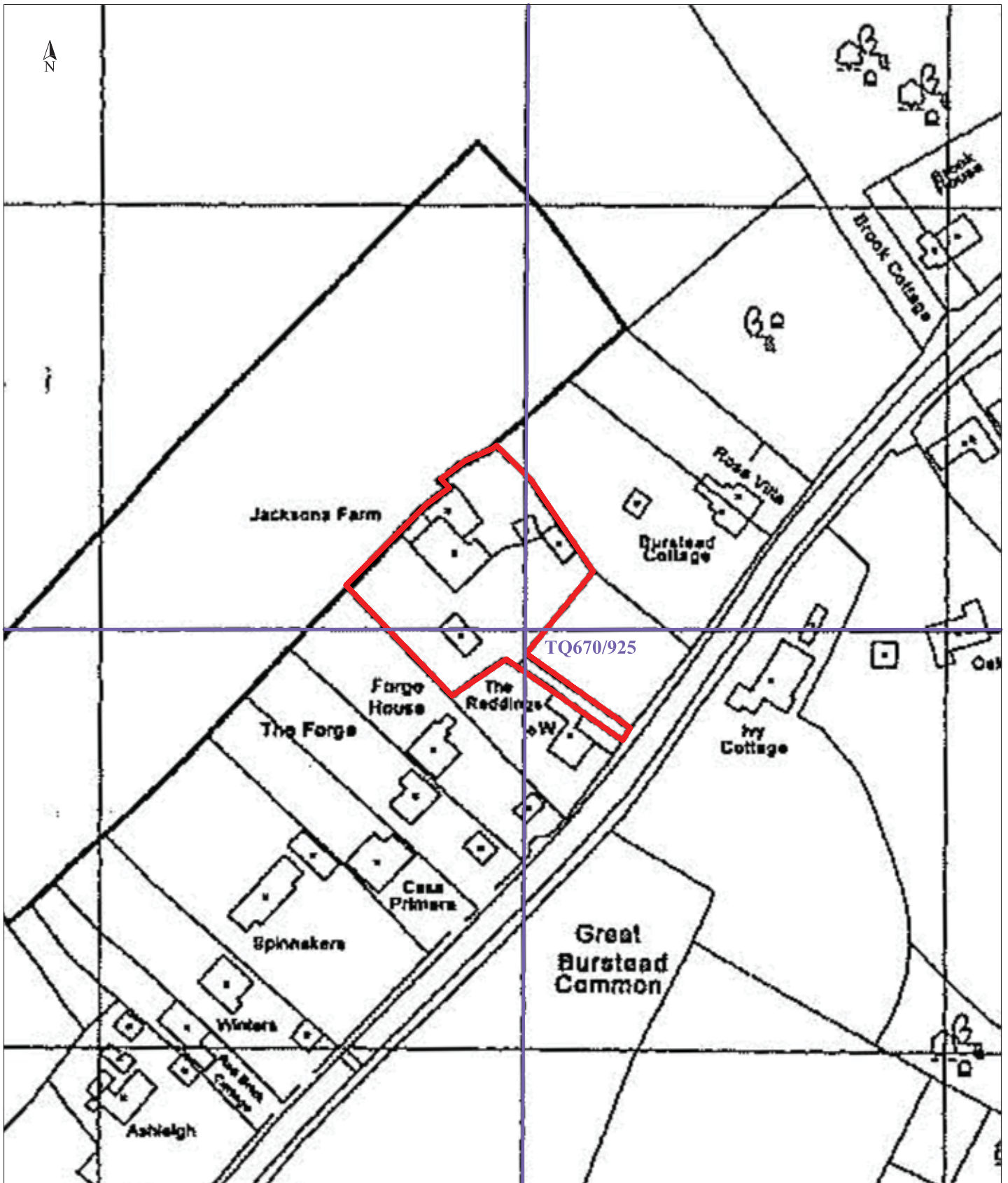


DP6
Sample section 4, looking NE



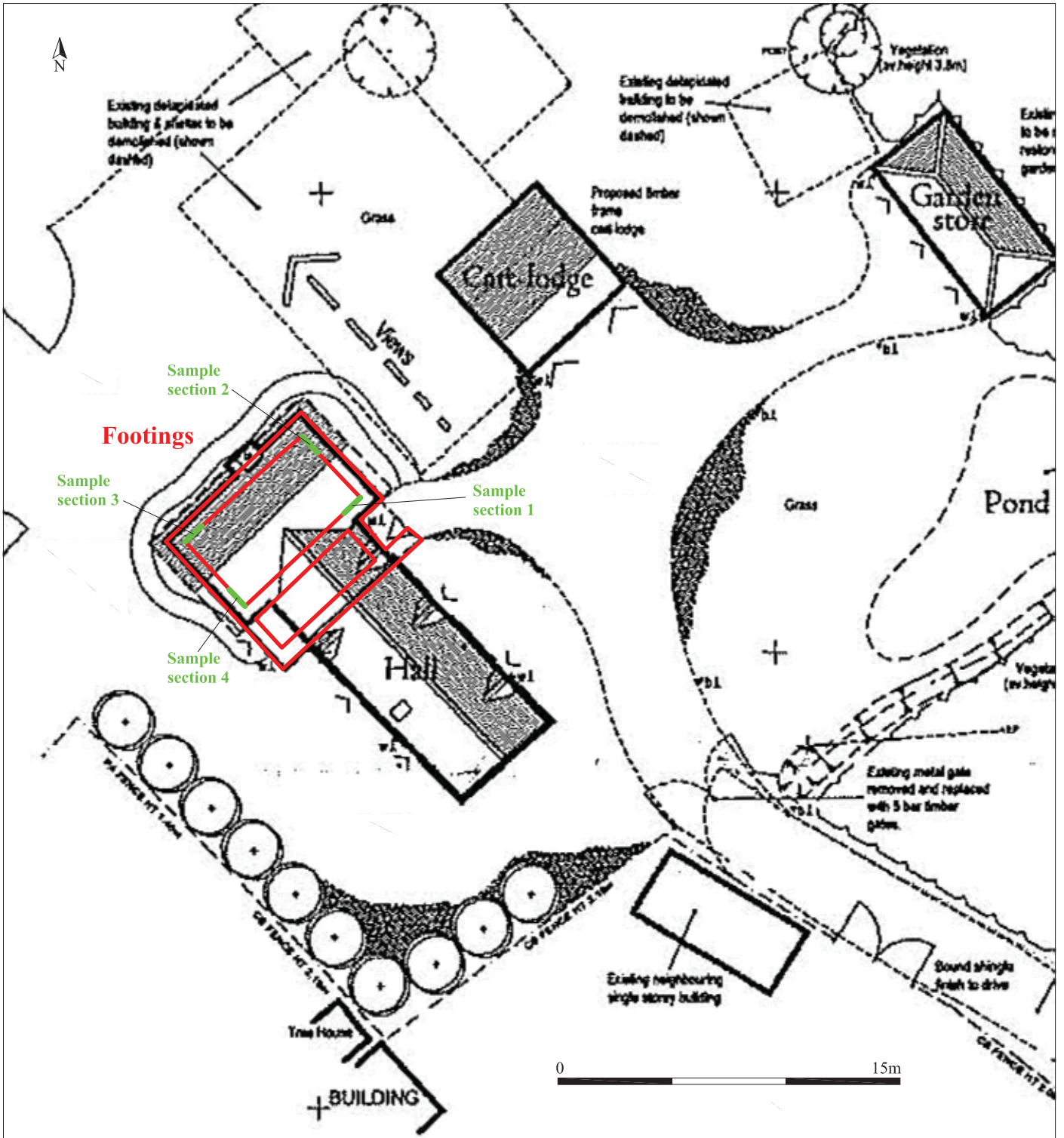
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

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



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Location of monitoring
 Scale 1:250 at A4