
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED NEW BARN FOR STORAGE/GARAGING,
ROWNEY PRIORY, ROWNEY LANE, DANE END, WARE,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

HER Request Ref. 204/11

Authors: Christopher Leonard MA (Fieldwork and report) Antony Mustchin MSc (Editor)	
NGR: TL 34800 20250	Report No. 3939
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1447
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4545
Signed:	Date: November 2011 Revised: February 2012



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Rowney Priory, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the construction of a new barn for storage and garaging at Rowney Priory, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within the grounds of Rowney Priory, a country house dating to the 1850s. The house incorporates the remains of a 12th century Benedictine priory.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed two pits and a gravel layer, all of which contained quantities of 15th to 18th century peg tile, likely associated with the construction of the present house. Each of the pits also yielded individual sherds of 17th to 19th century red earthenware. No archaeology relating to the original Benedictine priory was encountered.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>4th & 7th November 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4545</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1447</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance No.85</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grounds of a country house.</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of a barn for storage and garaging.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Two nineteenth century waste pits and nineteenth century gravel layer.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>15th to 18th century peg tile and 17th to 19th century red earthenware.</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Little Munden</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG12 0JY</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 216 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 34800 20250</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.115m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Christopher Leonard</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Martyn Dewhurst</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring</i>		
Authors	<i>Leonard, C. M</i>		
Report no.	<i>3939</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2011 (Revised February 2012)</i>		

PROPOSED NEW BARN FOR STORAGE/GARAGING, ROWNEY PRIORY, ROWNEY LANE, DANE END, WARE, HERTFRODSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the construction of a new barn for storage and garaging at Rowney Priory, Dane End, Ware, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 34800 20250). The monitoring and recording was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (3/11/1066/FP).

The site is located within the grounds of Rowney Priory, a country house dating to the 1850s. The house incorporates the remains of a 12th century Benedictine priory.

The monitoring revealed two pits and a gravel layer, all of which contained quantities of 15th to 18th century ceramic building material (CBM) (peg tile), likely associated with the construction of the present house. Each of the pits also yielded individual sherds of 17th to 19th century red earthenware. No archaeology relating to the original Benedictine priory was encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the construction of a new barn for storage and garaging at Rowney Priory, Rowney Lane, Ware, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 34800 20250; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Mr Martyn Dewhurst and undertaken to ensure compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of the new barn (EHDC planning ref. 3/11/1066/FP).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in response to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (dated 23/08/2011) and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (dated 19/09/2011). The archaeological monitoring adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aims of the project were:

- The archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks, including the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains within the area of development;

- The provision of an adequately detailed project report, placing the findings of the monitoring and recording in their local and regional context;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual or ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions; and
- The dissemination and publication of the project results, as appropriate.

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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site is located within the grounds of Rowney Priory, approximately 18m north-east of the present house. Prior to the commencement of groundworks the site was a grass lawn, enclosed to the east, south and west by a tarmac driveway, and bordered to the north by a hedgerow. Rowney Priory is located within a small cluster of houses that were all originally part of the estate of the house, but are now separate plots.

2.2 The underlying natural geology is boulder clay overlying ballast gravel.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 85, as identified by East Hertfordshire District Council. It is thought to sit within the confines of the 12th century Benedictine priory of St John the Baptist, founded c. 1164 by the lord of the manor of Munden (HHER 1309; Page 1914). A Grade II listed stone coffin believed to be associated with the priory lies on a lake island c. 200m south of the site (IoE No. 161339). The priory fell into decline during the 15th century and by the 1450s the buildings were neglected and revenues were negligible. The estate was purchased by Samuel Adams in 1853, around which time a disastrous fire also occurred (Page 1914). Early cartographic sources (Figs. 3-8) clearly show the development of the current house (documented c. 1850s) at some point between Bryant's map of 1822

and the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. No development of the monitoring site is discernible however. The extant Rowney Priory house is a Grade II listed Victorian country house, now divided into two properties, and is thought to incorporate part of the fabric of the medieval nunnery (HHER 16056; IoE No. 161338; Andrews 1915). Construction work for the present house revealed further stone coffins, while human remains associated with the priory cemetery were unearthed during the excavation of a drainage trench in 1953. Earlier drainage works towards the south-east corner of the house, reported in 1915, revealed stone foundations believed to belong to the priory complex.

3.2 No previous archaeological work has been carried out in the vicinity of the present house and little is known regarding the size or layout of the forerunning priory. In fact, the archaeology of Sacombe Green remains relatively unexplored and past investigation in the wider area is limited to a single evaluation at Potter's Hall Farm (to the north-east) that revealed no archaeological features or deposits (HHER EHT4728). However, the ploughed-down remains of a round barrow to the west of Dilly Wood (HHER 7608) attest to late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age activity in the area. Also, the south-west to north-east alignment of a Roman road (Viatores' road 21A) exists a short distance to the south of the site (HHER 4621). Medieval evidence is more abundant in the vicinity, comprising a late 12th to 13th century pottery kiln to the north of the site, the medieval deer park of 'Fludgate Park' at Great Munden and the medieval hamlet of Potter's Green to the north-east (HHERs 1377, 9987 & 12035). Nearby Potter's Hall Farm comprises a 17th century timber-framed farmhouse (HER 12036).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Topsoil and subsoil overburden were removed using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. The removal of a shallow turf strip intended to create a temporary access to the south of the proposed barn was also monitored. Archaeological features encountered below the topsoil and subsoil were excavated and recorded across the site prior to the excavation of foundation trenches.

4.2 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 recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5 RESULTS

Four sample sections were recorded, and are tabulated below:

Sample Section 1 (Fig. 9)

<i>Sample Section: north side, facing south.</i> <i>0.00m = 115.01m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown loose clay silt with occasional small, sub-angular flint inclusions.
0.23 – 0.43m	L1001. Subsoil. Mid orange brown firm silty clay with moderate small, sub-angular flint inclusions.
0.43m +	L1003. Natural drift geology. Mid brownish orange firm clay with occasional large flint nodules.

Sample Section 2 (Fig. 9)

<i>Sample Section: east side, facing west.</i> <i>0.00m = 114.96m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000. Topsoil. As Section 1.
0.24 – 0.46m	L1001. Subsoil. As Section 1.
0.46m+	L1003. Natural drift geology. As Section 1.

Sample Section 3 (Fig. 9)

<i>Sample Section: south side, facing north.</i> <i>0.00m = 114.95m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000. Topsoil. As Section 1.
0.12 – 0.54m	L1002. Layer. Light orange yellow compact sand and gravel with occasional large flint nodules.
0.54m+	L1003. Natural drift geology. As Section 1.

Sample Section 4 (Fig. 9)

<i>Sample Section: west side, facing east.</i> <i>0.00m = 115.02m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000. Topsoil. As Section 1.
0.19 – 0.43m	L1001. Subsoil. As Section 1.
0.43m+	L1003. Natural drift geology. As Section 1.

Three archaeological features were identified during the monitoring of the groundworks, all contained 15th to 18th century CBM (peg tile) and two contained individual sherds of 17th to 19th century red earthenware.

Layer L1002 was a light orange yellow, compact, sand and gravel with occasional large flint nodules and was only present in the southernmost part of the excavation area. L1002 extended 6m east to west and was 0.42m deep. It truncated Subsoil L1001 and was overlain by Topsoil L1000. Late medieval to post-medieval (15th to 18th century) peg tile fragments (4 fragments; 1489g) were recovered from this layer.

Pit F1004 was ovoid in plan (1m x 0.25m+ x 0.17m) with moderately steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid orange brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small, rounded flint stone inclusions. It contained post-medieval/ early modern (17th to 19th century) pottery (1 sherd; 4g) and a quantity of late 15th to 18th century peg tile (20 fragments; 725g).

Pit F1006 was also ovoid in plan (2.35m x 1.45m x 0.42m) with moderately steep sides and a gradual break of slope to a concave base. Its fill, F1007, was a mid

orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small, sub-rounded flint stone inclusions. Post-medieval/ early modern (17th to 19th century) pottery (1sherd; 20g), late 15th to 18th century peg tile (19 fragments; 702g) and a single iron nail (13g) were recovered from this feature.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was present across the excavated area and sealed all other layers. It varied in depth from 0.12 to 0.24m. Subsoil L1001 was present in the majority of the foundation trenches, excepting the southernmost foundation, where layer L1002 occurred. The natural drift geology, L1003, was boulder clay.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Despite the proximity of the site to the known location of the medieval Benedictine Priory of St John the Baptist, no archaeology relating to the priory was revealed during the programme of monitoring.

8.2 The three identified contexts all contained comparable assemblages of late 15th to 18th century CBM (peg tile), while the two pits (F1004 and F1006) also yielded individual sherds of 17th to 19th century red earthenware. The later date range of the pottery indicates a likely association with the documented mid-19th century construction and use of the present house (see section 3.1). Although potentially earlier in date, the presence of the peg tile fragments within securely stratified contexts also containing pottery (L1005 and L1007), suggests that the deposition of this material did not predate the 17th century. This later depositional date gains further credence from the fact that the fills of Pits F1004 and F1006 were sealed by Subsoil L1001, which was itself truncated by a layer containing over 50 per cent of the CMB assemblage (L1002).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited with Hertford Museum. The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2* and other relevant reference documents. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Martyn Dewhurst for funding the monitoring and for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit for her advice and guidance throughout the project.

AS also acknowledges the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record for providing background information.

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APPENDIX 1 FINDS CONCORDANCE

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
1002		Gravel Layer			1489	
1004	1005	Pit	17 th -19 th centuries	(1) 5g	725	
1006	1007	Pit	17 th -19 th centuries	(1) 20g	702	Fe Nail 13g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

Two post-medieval red earthenware sherds were recovered during the monitoring. Pit F1004 (L1005) contained a thin body sherd (5g) with oxidised outer surface and reduced inner surface of 17th-19th century date. Pit F1006 (L1007) contained a bowl rim (20g) with external bevel and internal glaze of late 17th-19th century date.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

A total of 43 fragments (2916g) of late medieval to post-medieval peg tile were recovered. Gravel Layer L1002 contained four fragments (1489g), while Pits F1004 (L1005) and F1006 (L1007) contained 20 fragments (725g) and 19 fragments (702g) respectively.

The flat peg tile would have been hung by circular two circular peg holes at one end of the tile, in overlapping rows on a wooden frame to form a roof. The peg tile was manufactured in a very hard, oxidised red-orange to orange-brown fabric with abrasive surfaces. Inclusions in the fabric comprise common medium-coarse quartz (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally to 2.5mm) and occasional flint (0.5-2.5mm). This type of peg tile was probably manufactured between the late 15th to 18th centuries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General view with Rowney Priory in background.
Looking southwest.



2
Sample Section 1. Looking south.



3
Sample Section 2. Looking west.



4
Sample Section 3 showing L1002. Looking north.



5
Sample Section 4. Looking east.



6
Pit F1004. Looking south.



7
Post excavation. Looking west.



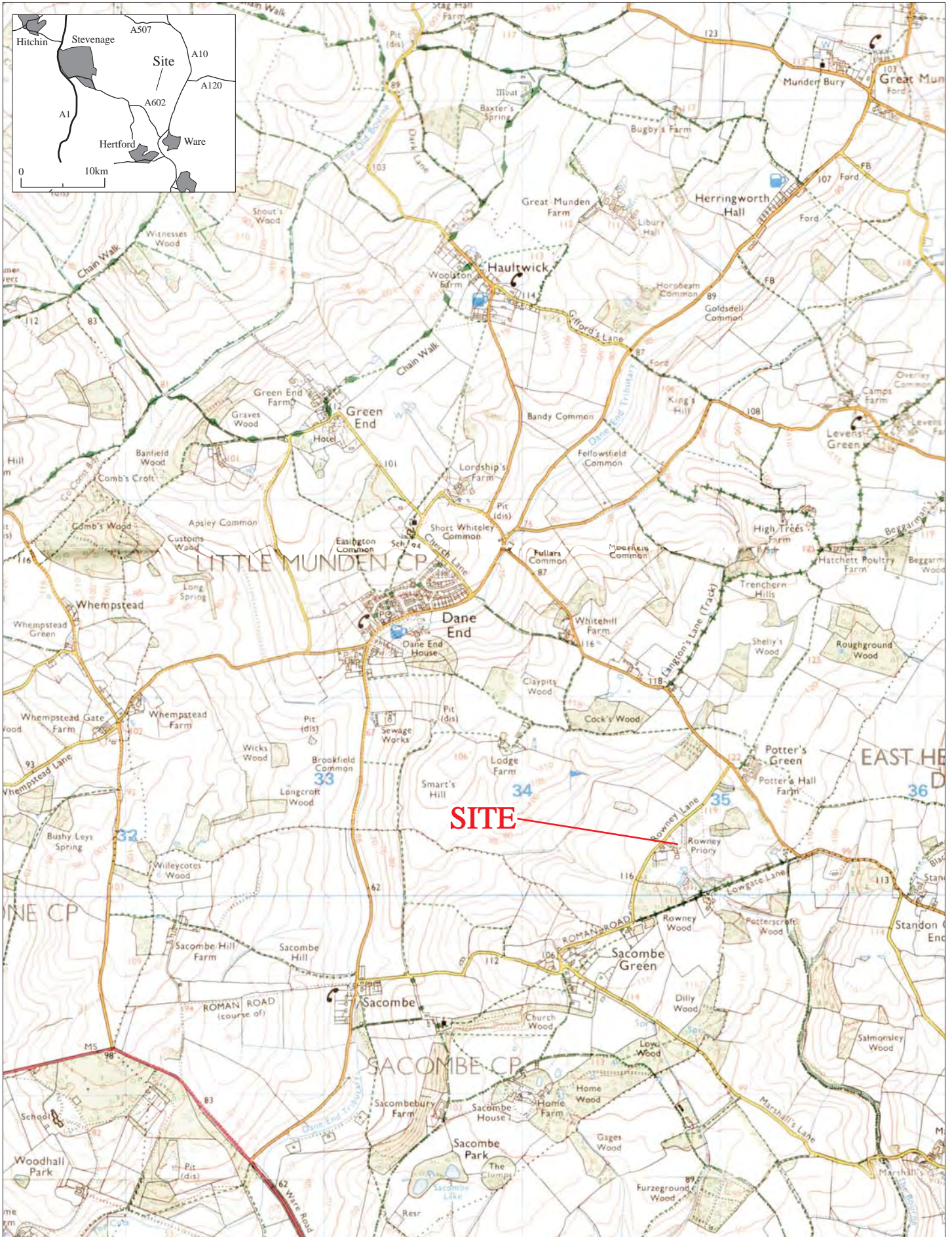
8
Post excavation. Looking north.



9
Section of fully excavated footing trench. Looking north.

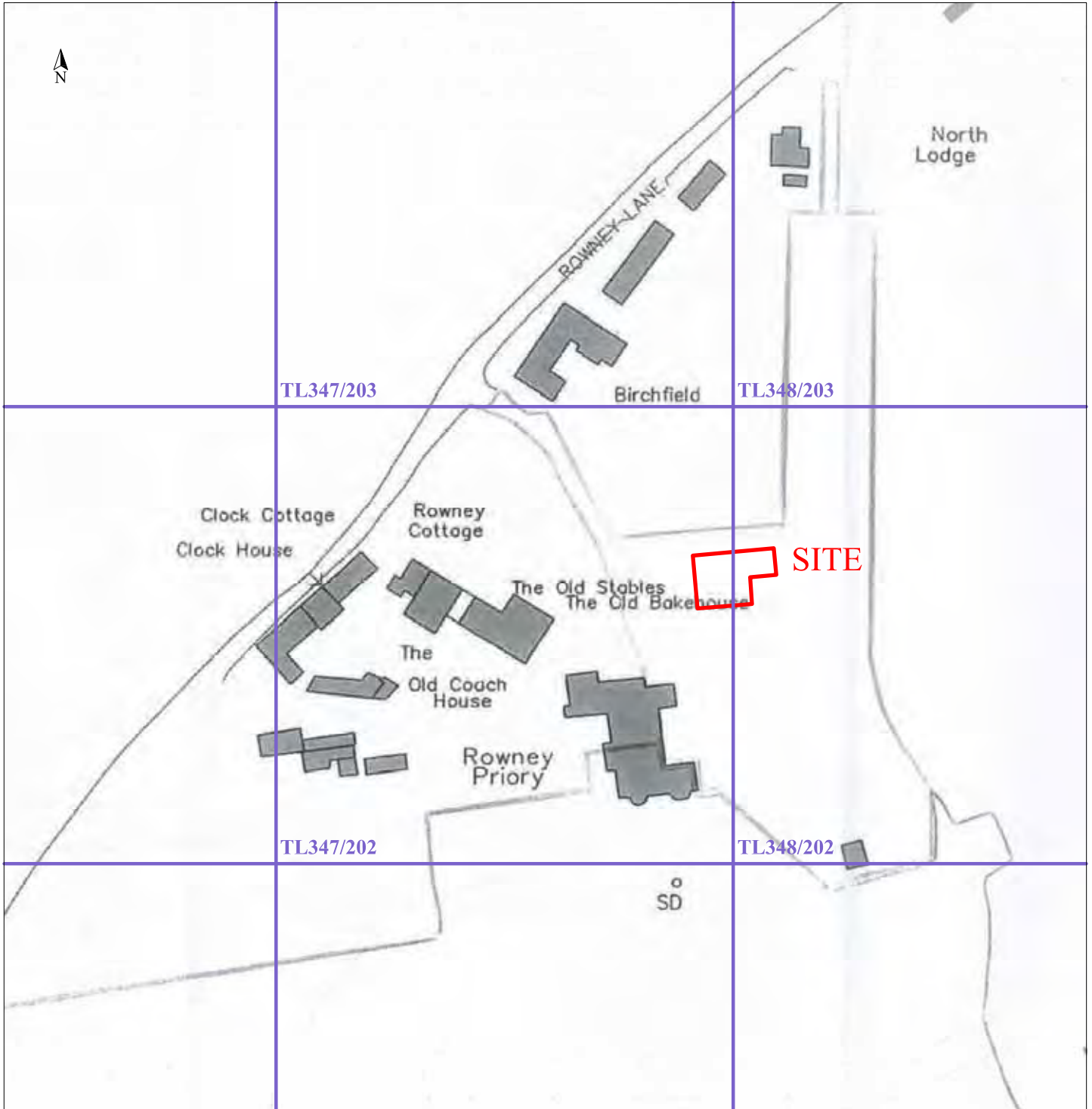


10
Fully excavated footing trench. Looking east.



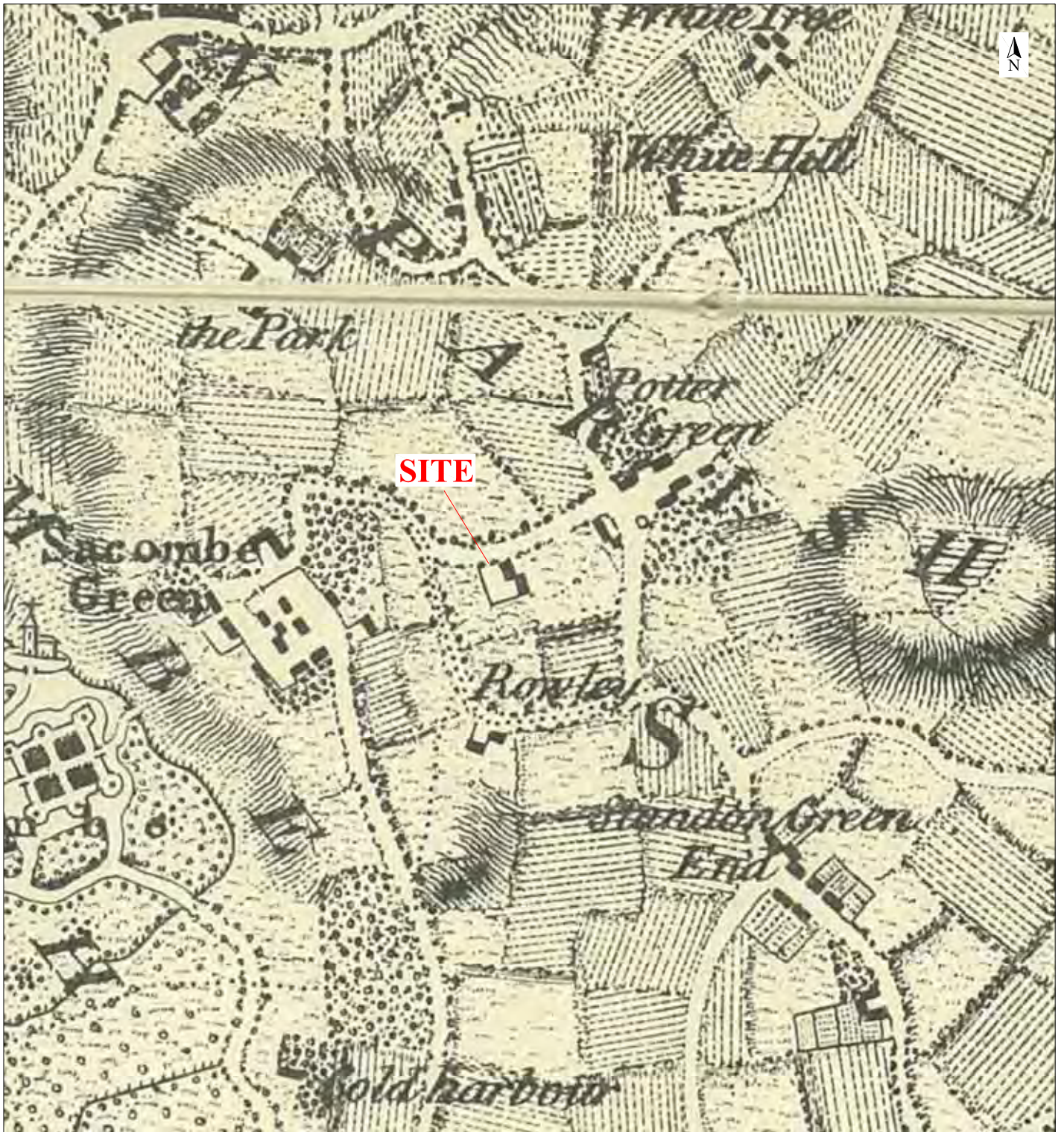
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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



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Fig. 3 Dury & Andrews', 1766
Not to scale

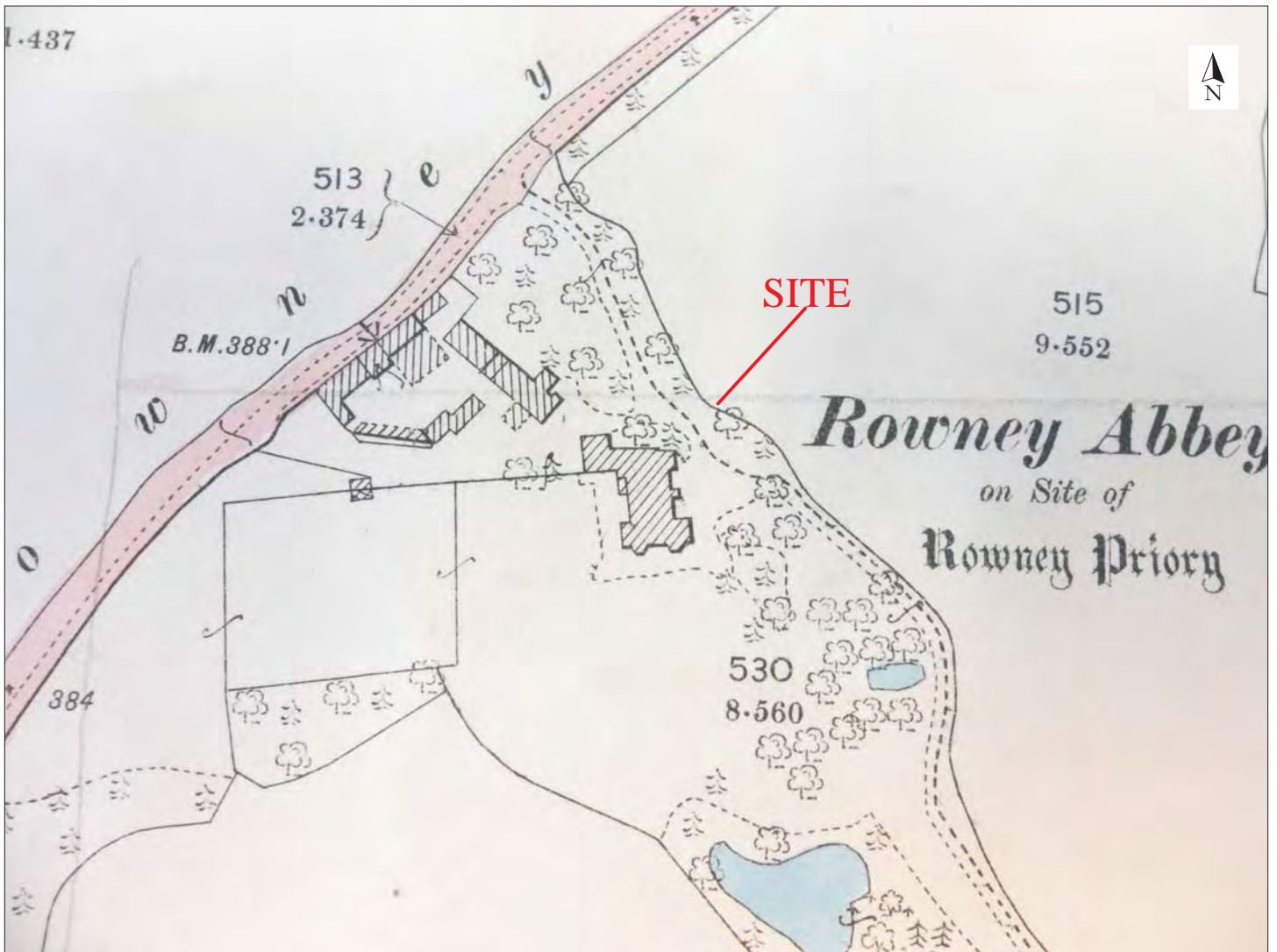


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Bryant's map, 1822
Not to scale



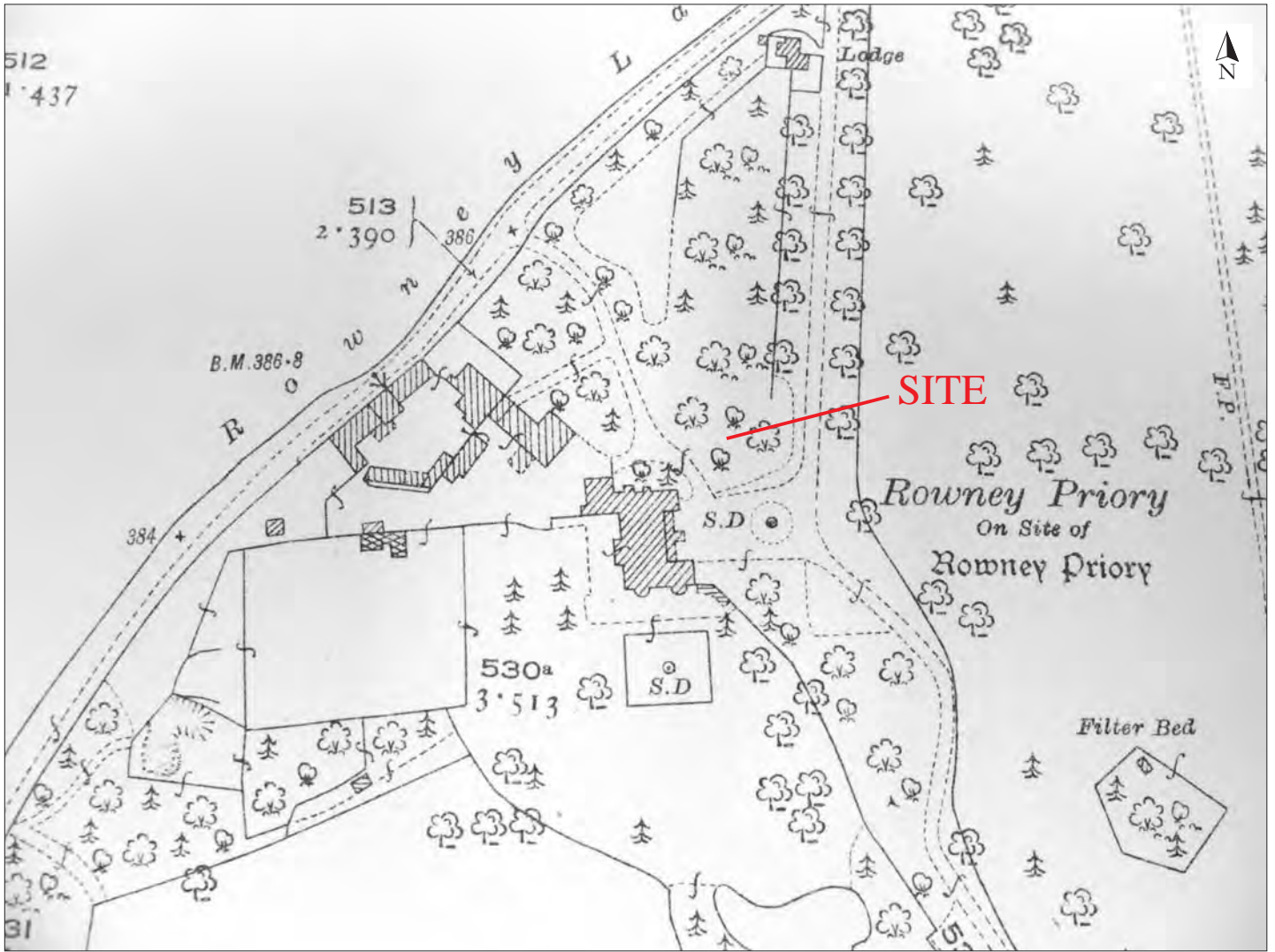
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Fig. 5 OS map, 1880
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 OS map, 1898
Not to scale



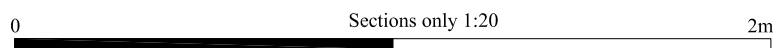
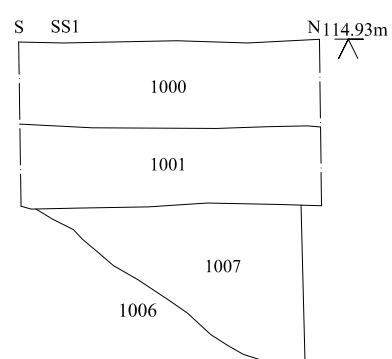
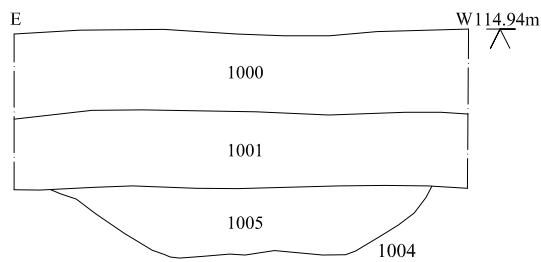
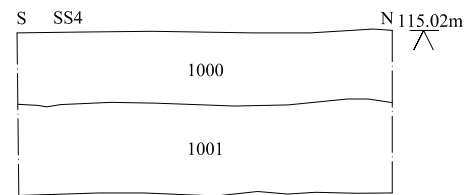
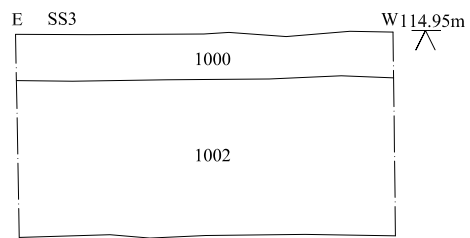
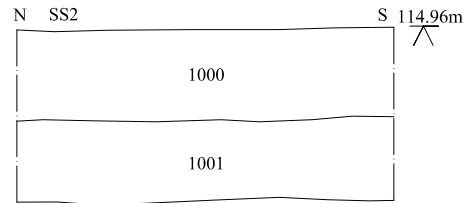
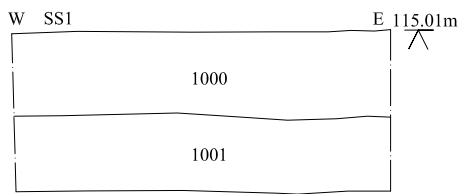
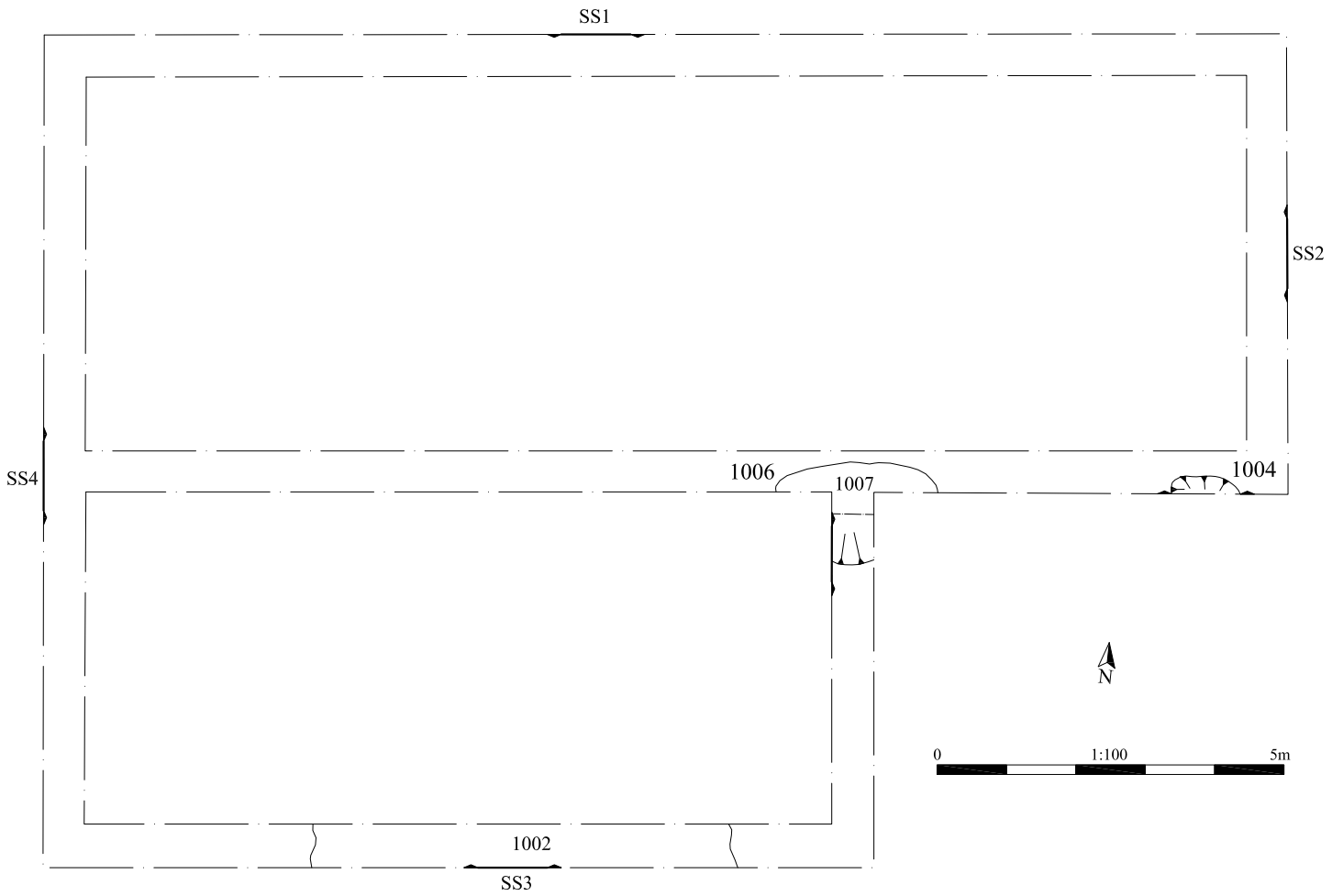
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<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 OS map, 1923
Not to scale



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Fig. 8 OS map, 1974
Not to scale



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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4