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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

BEDWELL LODGE, CUCUMBER LANE, ESSENDON,  
HERTFORDSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Gareth Barlow	(Fieldwork)
Zbigniew Pozorski	(Fieldwork & Report)
Adam Dyson	(Report)
NGR: TL 2778 0701	Report No: 3870
District: Welwyn Hatfield	Site Code: AS1425
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4376
Signed:	Date: July 2011



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In June and July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 27782 07012). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single-storey side extension. It was undertaken in compliance with an anticipated planning condition attached to planning approval for the extension (Welwyn Hatfield Planning Ref. S6/2011/0326/LB).</i></p> <p><i>Bedwell Lodge is Grade I listed, described as being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (LB158312), and it is also recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER15620). Therefore the site could reveal post-medieval and potentially earlier archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	28 <sup>th</sup> June and 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	4376	Site code	AS 1425
Type of project	Building Fabric & Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	Grade I Listed Building (LB158312, HER15260)		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Single-storey side extension		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Welwyn Hatfield	Essendon
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	AL9 6JB		
Area of site	Approximately 36 m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 27782 07012		
Height AOD (max/ min)	Approximately 110 m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs S Pegg		
Full title	Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire. Building Fabric & Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Barlow, G. & Dyson, A.		
Report no.	3870		
Date (of report)	July 2011		

## **BEDWELL LODGE, CUCUMBER LANE, ESSENDON, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In June and July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 27782 07012). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single-storey side extension. It was undertaken in compliance with an anticipated planning condition attached to planning approval for the extension (Welwyn Hatfield Planning Ref. S6/2011/0326/LB).*

*Bedwell Lodge is Grade I listed, described as being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (LB158312), and it is also recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER15620). Therefore the site could reveal post-medieval and potentially earlier archaeological remains.*

*In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In June and July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 27782 07012; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single-storey side extension. It was undertaken in compliance with an anticipated planning condition attached to planning approval for the extension (Welwyn Hatfield Planning Ref. S6/2011/0326/LB).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with advice issued by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 06/04/2011) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 17/05/2011). 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 requirements of the project were set out in the HCC HEU advice, namely:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains

within the area of the new development in accordance with the requirements of the HCC HEU advice;

- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Bedwell Lodge is located 1.5km south of village centre of Essendon and c. 5km east of Hatfield, Hertfordshire. The site comprises main house situated east off Cucumber Lane and rear annexes and outbuildings. It is located within the southern part of Bedwell Lodge Farm complex which is now divided and converted into residential estate. To the south lies Cucumber Hall Farm.

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

3.1 The site is located at c. 110m AOD on a land descending towards the course of Essendon Brook to the west. Soils on the site are those of the Windsor association, described as permeable slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The solid geology of the area is Eocene clay of Thames Group (British Geological Survey 1978).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Bedwell Lodge is Grade I listed, described as being 17<sup>th</sup> century in date (LB158312). It is recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER15260) as being an early 17<sup>th</sup> century house, with a reference to Beatrix Potter staying there when preparing drawings for her Peter Rabbit story. Timber framed farm buildings are also recorded on the site, which may, as is often the case with post-medieval farms, have an earlier medieval precursor. Cucumber Hall nearby is also 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, possibly earlier (HER10961).

### **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the excavation of approximately 16m of foundation trench for the new extension and an excavation for a new septic tank (Fig 2). The trenches for the footings were 0.60m wide and c. 2m deep whilst the excavation for the tank measured c. 5 x 4 x 3m. The groundworks were carried out using a tracked 360° mini digger. Alterations to the building fabric were also to be monitored for the new extension, but as this utilised the existing opening for a later brick bay window, no new fabric was revealed.

5.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including the mechanical excavation of footings, ground reduction and service trenches, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. 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.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3)

### 6.1 Foundation trenches for the new extension.

Four sample sections were recorded of the stratigraphy and are tabulated below.

#### Sample Section 1 (DP3)

<i>South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 110.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	M1002	South east wall of the existing building. See below for details.
0.40 – 0.55m	L1003	Construction deposit. Light white, compact, mix of rammed chalk and medium rounded flint.
0.55 – 2.00m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. Mid orange brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small and medium sub rounded and rounded flint and occasional chalk flecks.

#### Sample Section 2 (DP4)

<i>West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 110.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1005	Current flag-stone paved surface. Mid yellow grey limestone.
0.003 – 0.35m	L1004	Made ground. Mid orange grey brown, firm, sandy clay with moderate small and medium sub angular and rounded flint and occasional modern brick rubble.
0.35 – 2.00m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

#### Sample Section 3

The section was drawn when 0.20m of topsoil had been removed

<i>North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 110.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, firm, sandy silt with moderate small and medium rounded flint.
0.15 – 2.00m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

**Sample Section 4 (DP5)**

<i>East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 101.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 2.00m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* The base of the south west wall of the existing house (M1002) was recorded within Sample Section 1 (DP3). M1002 continued for a depth of 0.40m (5 courses) below ground level and was constructed of red bricks measuring 210 x 70mm. The latter were bonded with a pale grey mortar with bedding joints 1mm thick.

**6.2 Excavation for the new septic tank.****Sample Section 5 (DP 8)**

<i>East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 101.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.47m	L1006	Subsoil. Mid brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional gravel.
0.47 – 3.00m+	L1001	Natural geological deposit. As above.

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

**6.3 Interior of the house.**

The new extension was located in the area of an existing brick bay window, and utilised the existing opening of the window therefore no new opening was required for the new extension. No historic fabric was revealed during monitoring of works to the extension.

**7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

**8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The current ground surface over the majority of the site of the proposed orangery was L1000, a mid grey brown, firm sandy silt with moderate small and medium rounded flint. It measured 0.30 - 0.35m thick. On the eastern side of the



site, the footings abutted a mid yellow grey limestone paved pathway, L1005 (0.03m thick), which overlay the topsoil. Beneath the topsoil over the majority of the site was the natural geological deposit L1001, which was a mid orange brown, compact silty clay with occasional small and medium sub rounded and rounded flint and occasional chalk flecks; it continued beyond the excavated depth of 0.20m. The subsoil (L1006) consisting of mid brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional gravel was recorded above L1001 only within the excavation for new septic tank.

8.2 Sample section 1 recorded the south east façade of the existing building; the continuation of the wall below ground, M1002, to a depth of 0.40m. Beneath this was construction deposit L1003, a light white, compact mix of rammed chalk and medium rounded flint; beneath this was the natural geological clay deposit, L1001, tabulated above.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Bedwell Lodge is Grade I listed, described as being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (LB158312), and it is also recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER15620). Therefore the site could reveal post-medieval and potentially earlier archaeological remains.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were present. The works for the extension revealed no additional information with regard to the historic fabric of the building.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Mill Green Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions is pleased to acknowledge Mr and Mrs S Pegg for their co-operation and funding of the project, and their architect, Mr Alp Arikoglu for his assistance.

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

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994 (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief*. IfA Reading.

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	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	2
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	54

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Welwyn Hatfield
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Essendon
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Welwyn Hatfield Planning Ref. S6/2011/0326/LB
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr & Mrs Pegg
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Single-storey side extension
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.30m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c.15m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 2778 0701
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1425
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Monitoring and recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	28/06/ and 07/07/2011
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Mill Green
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In June and July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Bedwell Lodge, Cucumber Lane, Essendon, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 27782 07012). The monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single storey side extension. It was undertaken in compliance with an anticipated planning condition attached to planning approval for the extension (Welwyn Hatfield Planning Ref. S6/2011/0326/LB).</i></p> <p><i>Bedwell Lodge is Grade I listed, described as being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date (LB158312), and it is also recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER15620). Therefore the site could reveal post-medieval and potentially earlier archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Dyson	<b>Date of Summary:</b> July 2011

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General view of the house. Looking NE.



2  
General view of the site. Looking NW.



3  
Sample section 1. Looking N.



4  
Sample section 2. Looking E.



5  
Sample Section 4. Looking W.



6  
Post excavation view of the area of proposed extension. Looking N.



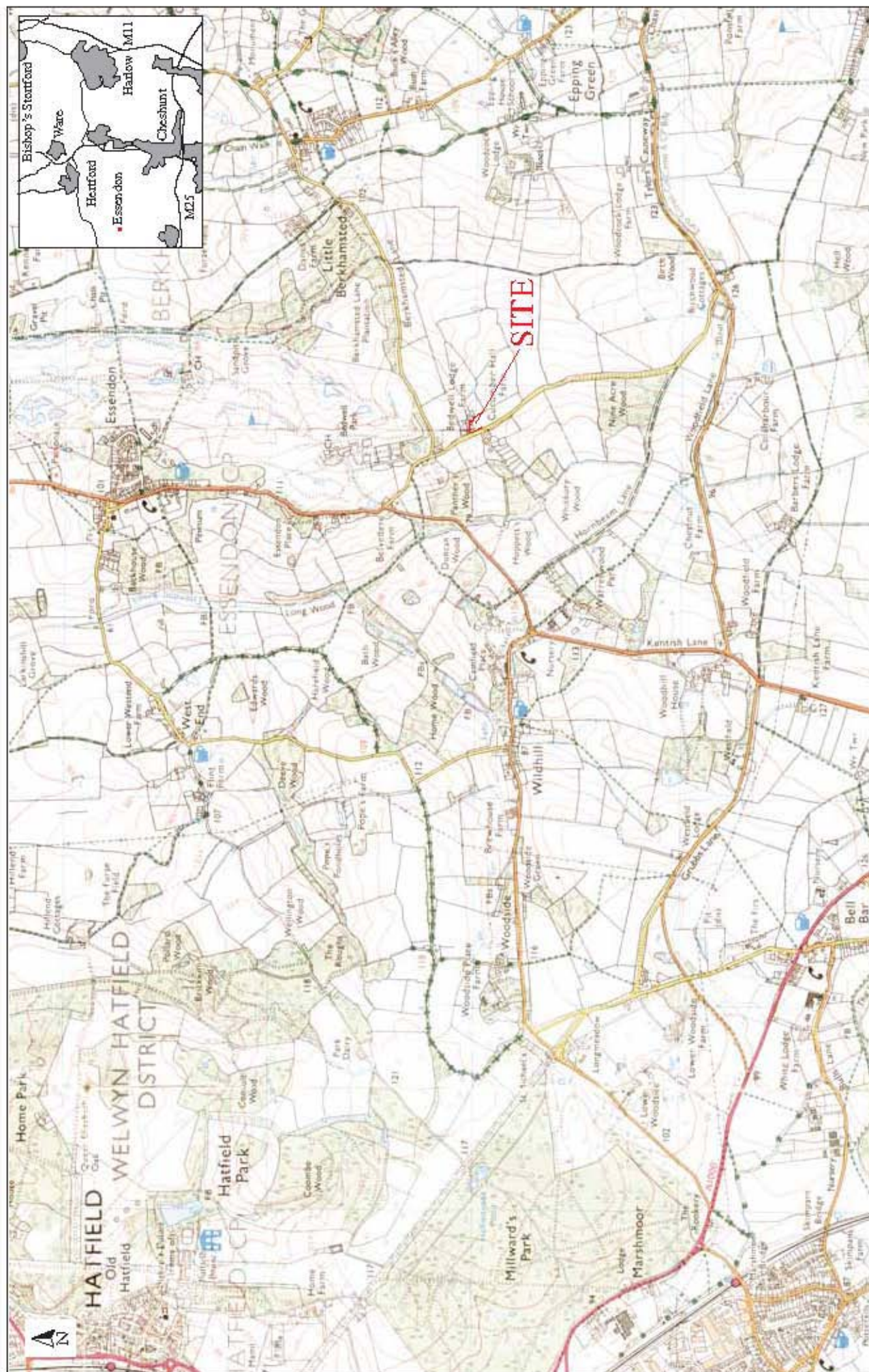


7  
Excavation for new septic tank. Looking SW.



8  
Excavation for new septic tank. Sample section 5. Looking SSW.





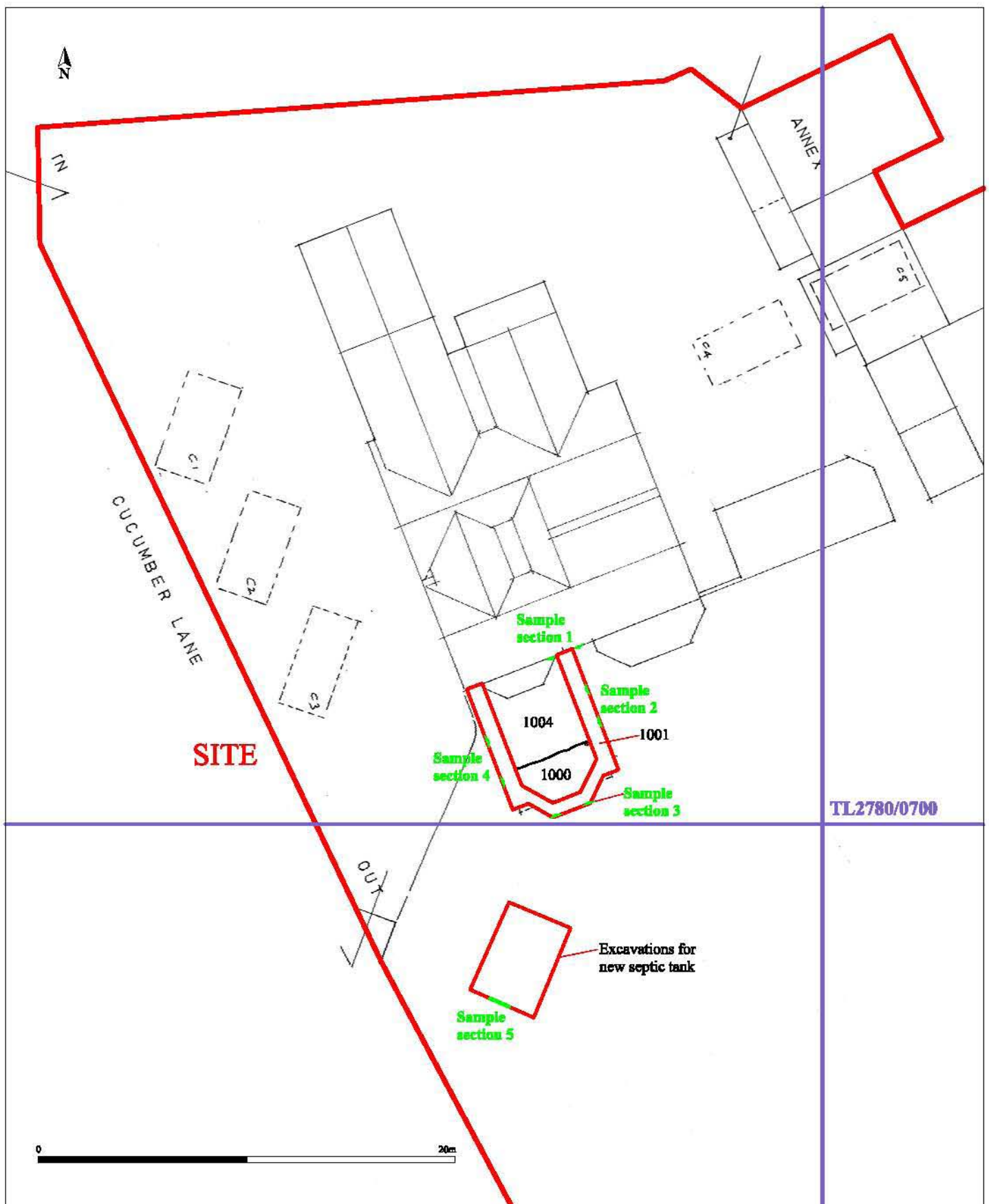
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

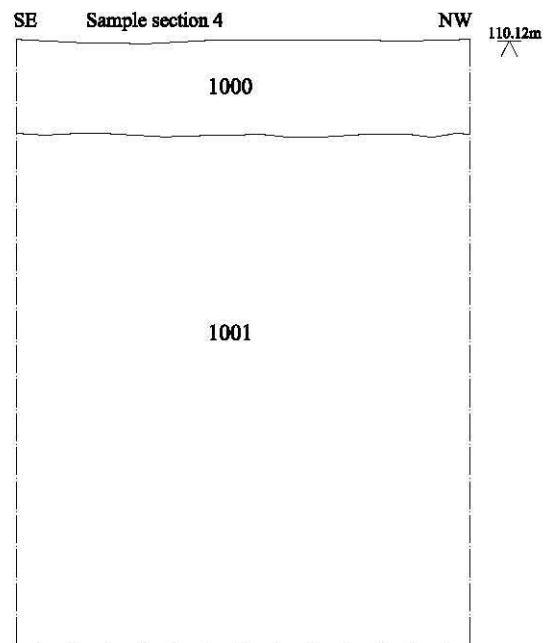
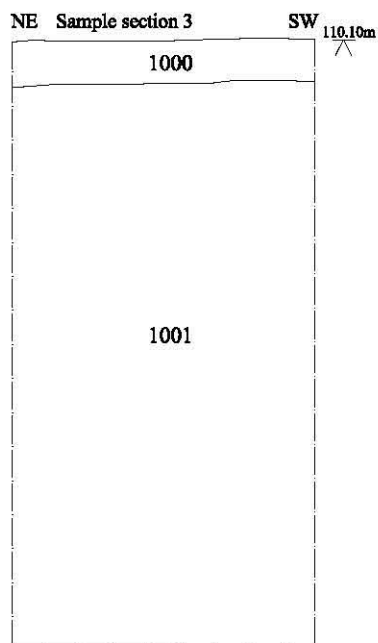
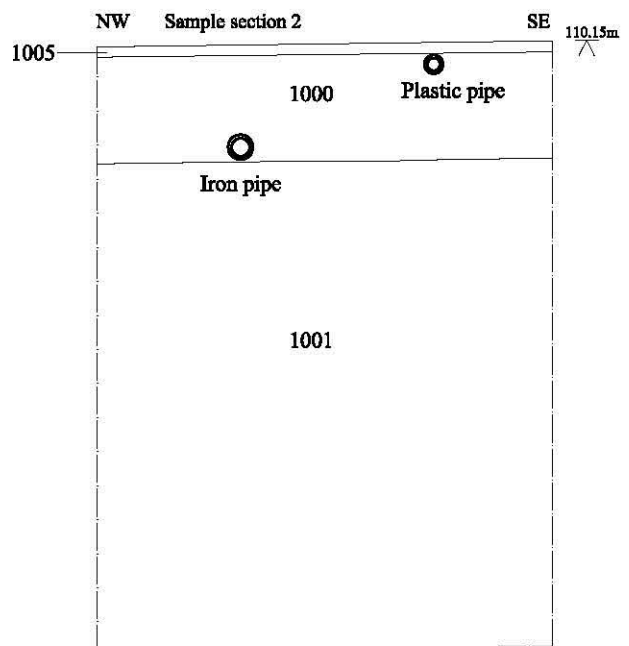
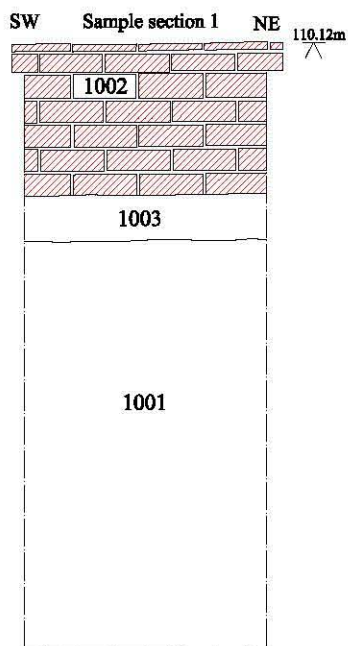
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



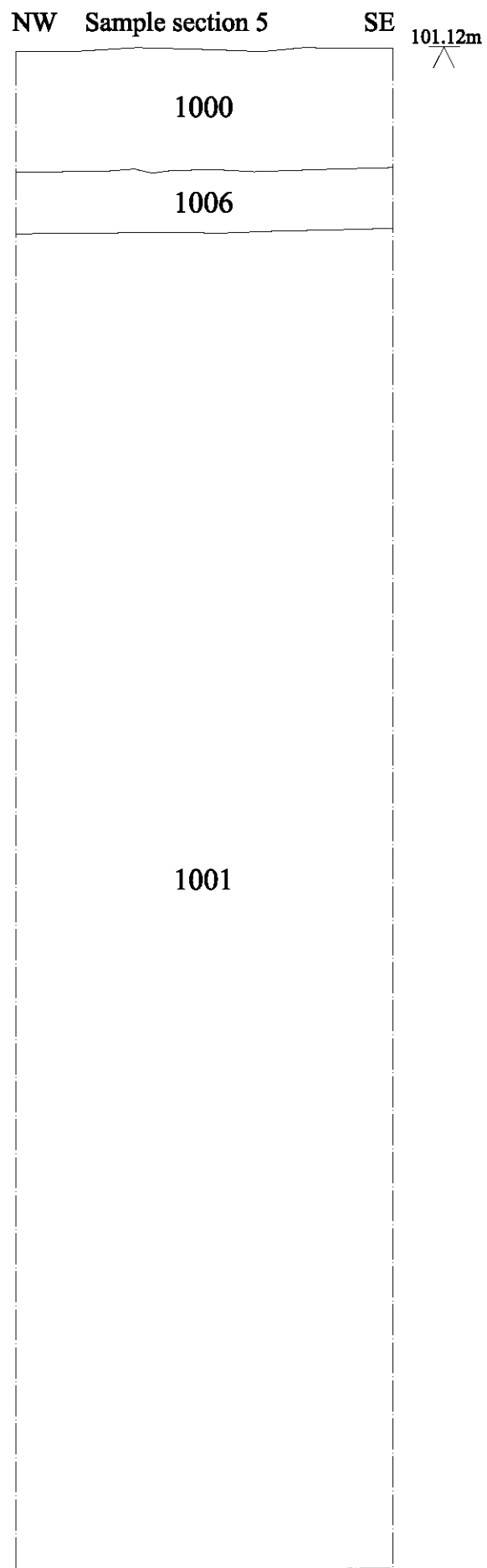


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:250 at A4





0 Sections only 2m



0 Sections only 2m