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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**GREENACRES, THE STREET,  
SHEERING, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors: Paul Harris MA	
NGR: TL 5054 1382	Report No. 1904
District: Epping	Site Code: SHEG. 05
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 2472
Signed:	Date: Dec. 2005

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name		<i>Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex</i>	
Project description (250 words)			
<p><i>In August 2005 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex (NGR TL 5054 1382).</i></p> <p><i>The brief noted that Greenacres lies within a former medieval moated site, which is now in-filled. The house is of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Essex HER No.33904), with 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions. The house (and possibly also the barn) is shown on a map of 1777 by Chapman and Andre. The buildings are within a moated enclosure (HER 4473); three other moated enclosures are also depicted along The Street and accordingly the research agenda for the area was related to this form of monument.</i></p> <p><i>The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording identified a late post- medieval pit (F1002), and no archaeological finds were revealed.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>03/08/05 and 08/08/05</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
		<i>N</i>	
P. number		<i>2472</i>	Site code
			<i>SHEG.05</i>
Type of project		<i>Watching Brief</i>	
Site status		<i>None</i>	
Current land use		<i>Domestic garden.</i>	
Planned development		<i>Housing extension and barn conversion</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Late post-medieval pit, F1002</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>None</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Essex</i>	<i>Epping</i>
			<i>Sheering</i>
HER/ SMR for area			
Post code (if known)			
Area of site		<i>11.60 x 4.90m</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 5054 1382</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c. 74m AOD</i>	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		<i>HEB</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Mundun, A and Harris, P</i>	
Funded by		<i>Mr Martin Pattie, Martin Pattie Architects Ltd.</i>	
Full title		<i>Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex – Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>	
Authors		<i>Harris, P</i>	
Report no.		<i>1904</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>December 2005</i>	

# GREENACRES, THE STREET, SHEERING, ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

## SUMMARY

*In August 2005 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex (NGR TL 5054 1382).*

*The brief noted that Greenacres lies within a former medieval moated site, which is now in-filled. The house is of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Essex HER No.33904), with 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions. The house (and possibly also the barn) is shown on a map of 1777 by Chapman and Andre. The buildings are within a moated enclosure (HER 4473); three other moated enclosures are also depicted along The Street and accordingly the research agenda for the area was related to this form of monument.*

*The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording identified a late post-medieval pit (F1002), and no archaeological finds were revealed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During August 2005, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex (NGR TL 5054 1382) (Figs. 1 – 2; Plates 1 - 3). The project was commissioned by Mr Martin Pattie in association with the excavation of footings for a house extension (Planning no EPF/0646/04 & EPF/LB/0647/04).

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken according to a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (20/07/05), and a brief compiled by Essex County Council, Historic Environment Branch (HEB, dated July 2005). It also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999) and ALGAO's *Standards for Filed Archaeology in the East of England* (2003).

1.3 The monitoring of ground works was undertaken to ensure that any archaeological remains uncovered were excavated and adequately recorded. Thereafter analysis and interpretation of the site archive would be carried out, and the appropriate publication of the projects results. Long-term conservation and storage of the project archive will be arranged.

1.4 The specific archaeological requirements of the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording were;

- to supervise the initial clearance of overburden throughout the site,
- monitor all ground works undertaken as part of the development, and;
- to excavate and record all archaeological features revealed within the development area.

## 2 SITE DESCRIPTION & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies on the southern side of The Street, Sheering, which comprises a small linear settlement close to the M11 motorway in Essex. The site lies at approximately 74m AOD and comprises an area some 11.60m in length by 4.90m in width. The brief notes that Greenacres lies within a former medieval moated site, which is now in-filled. The house itself is of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Essex HER No.33904), with 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions (Plates 1 – 3).

2.2 The brief also notes that the house (and possibly also the barn) is shown on a map of 1777 compiled by Chapman and Andre. The buildings are shown within a moated enclosure (HER 4473); three other moated enclosures are also depicted along The Street. It will therefore be particularly important to identify any evidence of the in-filled moat, or any features associated with the use of the site in the medieval period.

2.3 The archaeological investigation of moated enclosures is an important research priority within this area. Essex has the highest density of moated sites in England and the area of West Essex has the greatest density of moated sites (Aberg 1978). Moated sites form an important element in the dispersed settlement pattern characteristic of medieval Essex (Hunter 1999). However, as a class of monument they are poorly understood and little formal excavation has been carried out on the Essex moats (Hedges 1978).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The monitoring of work was conducted in accordance with the brief and written scheme of investigation, and complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (1994, revised 1999). All ground works associated with the housing extension were monitored.

3.2 Topsoil stripping within the area of proposed extension, and the digging of the foundations, was undertaken using a mechanical excavator and was monitored. Any exposed archaeological features were cleaned as appropriate and further investigated by hand. The latter were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for residual finds, and a metal detector was used to enhance the recovery of finds.

## 4 RESULTS

4.1 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording consisted of the excavation of footings for the house extension (Fig. 3; Plates 4 - 6). All the excavations were conducted using a 360° mini digger to a depth of between 1.2m and 1.6m. The following stratigraphy was revealed;

Northern end Sample section:	
Depth	Description
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, loose clayey silt with occasional gravel, brick, glass and modern pottery.
0.39m+	L1001. Natural. Orange yellow, firm clay, with occasional chalk and flint. Cut by Pit F1002

*Description:* A pit (F1002) was identified, excavated and recorded during the ground works.

Pit F1002 (dimensions; 0.9 in length x 0.88m in depth) was partially exposed within the south-eastern corner of the site (Fig. 4). The shape of the pit was unclear in plan, although Pit F1002 was recorded in section. The pit had irregular sides, and the base was not fully exposed in section. It contained three distinct fills: L1003, L1004 and L1005. The primary fill, L1003, was a bluish grey, firm silty clay, which contained 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Overlying L1003 was a layer of yellowish/greyish brown, clayey silt, L1005, which contained fragments of brick, and modern glazed pottery. The upper fill of Pit F1002 was a brownish grey, silty sand with frequent gravel and brick, L1004.

## 5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not thought that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## 6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 A layer of dark greyish brown, loose, clayey silt, topsoil (L1000) with frequent gravel and occasional brick, glass and modern pottery overlay the area of excavation at a depth of 0.39m. Below the topsoil was the natural, an orangey yellow, firm, clay with occasional flint and chalk (L1001).

## 7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the ground works at Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex, revealed no significant archaeological remains. A pit, F1002, containing 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery was identified, excavated and recorded, and the pit is thought to have related to the adjacent dwellings. No further archaeological finds or features were revealed at the site.

7.2 Despite the site of Greenacres lying within a former medieval, but now infilled, moated site, no evidence of a moat was revealed during the ground works. Similarly despite documentary, cartographic and archaeological evidence for the house being of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date, the archaeological monitoring and recording

did not reveal any archaeological features or finds contemporary with the post-medieval dwelling.

7.3 Although the archaeological investigation of moated enclosures is an important research priority within the county of Essex, the archaeological monitoring at Greenacres, being of a small scale contributes, little to the study.

## **8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Martin Pattie, of Martin Pattie Architects Ltd. for commissioning the project, and also Mr & Mrs Messenger for their co-operation and funding of the project.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Vanessa Clarke, Essex County Council, Historic Environment Branch (HEB).

## **REFERENCES**

Aberg, F.A. (ed.), 1978 *Medieval Moated Sites*. CBA Research Report 17, York

ALGAO, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

Hedges, J, 1978 'Essex Moats', in *Medieval Moated Sites* (ed. F.A. Aberg), 63 –70

Hunter, J, 1999 *The Essex Landscape*, Essex County Council, Chelmsford

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

# APPENDIX 1

## SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex
<b>County:</b> Essex	<b>District:</b> Epping
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Sheering
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	EPF/0646/04
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Martin Pattie Architects ltd, 178 High Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM59JJ, Tel; 01277 364979
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Domestic development; housing extension
<b>Present land use:</b>	Domestic garden
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 11.6 x 4.9m
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 5054 1382
<b>Site Code:</b>	SHEG.05
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	P. Harris and A. Mundun/Archaeological Solutions
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological monitoring and recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	03/08/05 and 08/08/05
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Epping Museum
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	-
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In August 2005 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex (NGR TL 5054 1382).</p> <p>The brief noted that Greenacres lies within a former medieval moated site, which is now in-filled. The house is of early 17<sup>th</sup> century date (Essex HER No.33904), with 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions. The house (and possibly also the barn) is shown on a map of 1777 by Chapman and Andre. The buildings are within a moated enclosure (HER 4473); three other moated enclosures are also depicted along The Street and accordingly the research agenda for the area was related to this form of monument.</p> <p>The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording identified a late post-medieval pit (F1002).</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Paul Harris, MA	<b>Date of Summary:</b> December 2005



**APPENDIX 2**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS**  
**DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVE FORM**

Site Details			
County:	Essex	Museum:	Epping
Site Code:	SHEG.05	AS Project Number:	2561
Site Name:	Greenacres, The Street, Sheering, Essex.		
NGR:	TL 5054 1382	Accession Number:	
Site Type:	Watching Brief	Date of Work:	03/08/05 and 08/08/05
Planning Ref:	EPF/0646/04	SMR No:	
Related Work:			
Brief Description of Documentary Archive:	1 Ringbinder		
Brief Finds Description (Quantity & Date):			
Ownership Form Returned:		Archive Deposited:	

Introduction			
Brief/s		Specification/s	
Date	Present	Date	Present
07/05	Yes	20/07/05	Yes

A: Reports		
Report Type	Report No	Present
Archaeological monitoring and recording	1904	Yes

B: Primary Site Records		
Total No. of Files:	1 Ringbinder	
Total No. of Site Drawing Sheets:		
Material	Present	Details
Site Notes		
Context Register		
Context Sheets		
Levels Sheets		
Site Drawings		
Plan/Section Register		
Plan Sheets		
Section Sheets		
Combined Plan/Section Sheets		
Other Site Drawings		
Digital Plans		
Plans		
Data		

<b>C: Finds Data</b>			
Small Finds Register			
Finds Concordance			
Finds Box List			
X-Rays			
Conservation Photo Plates			
Conservation Lab Sheets			
Other Finds Information (Give Details)			
<b>Specialist Finds Reports</b>			
Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)

<b>D: Site Photographs</b>				
Photographic Register Present			Digital Photo Register Present	
<b>Black &amp; White 35mm</b>				
Film No	Negative Nos	Shot Nos	Contact Sheet Present	Negatives Present
<b>Colour Slides</b>				
Film No	Negative Nos	Shot Nos	Present	
<b>Digital Photos</b>				
Shot Nos	Files Present	Hard Copies Present		

<b>E: Environmental Data</b>			
Sample Register Present:			Sample Sheets Present:
Processing Register Present:			Sieving Sheets Present:
Sample Concordance Present:			
<b>Specialist Environmental Reports</b>			
Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)

<b>F: Documentary Records, Press &amp; Publicity; G: Relevant Correspondence; H: Miscellaneous</b>

### APPENDIX 3

### CONCORDANCE OF FEATURES

Feature	Fill/Layer	Description	Spot Date
	L1000	Topsoil	-
	L1001	Natural	-
F1002	L1003	Primary fill of Pit F1002	Post-medieval/modern
	L1004	Final fill of Pit F1002	
	L1005	Intermediate fill of Pit F1002	

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1

*General site shot. View W*



DP 2

*General site shot. View N*



DP 3

*General site shot. View SW*



DP 4

*South facing section. View N*



DP 5

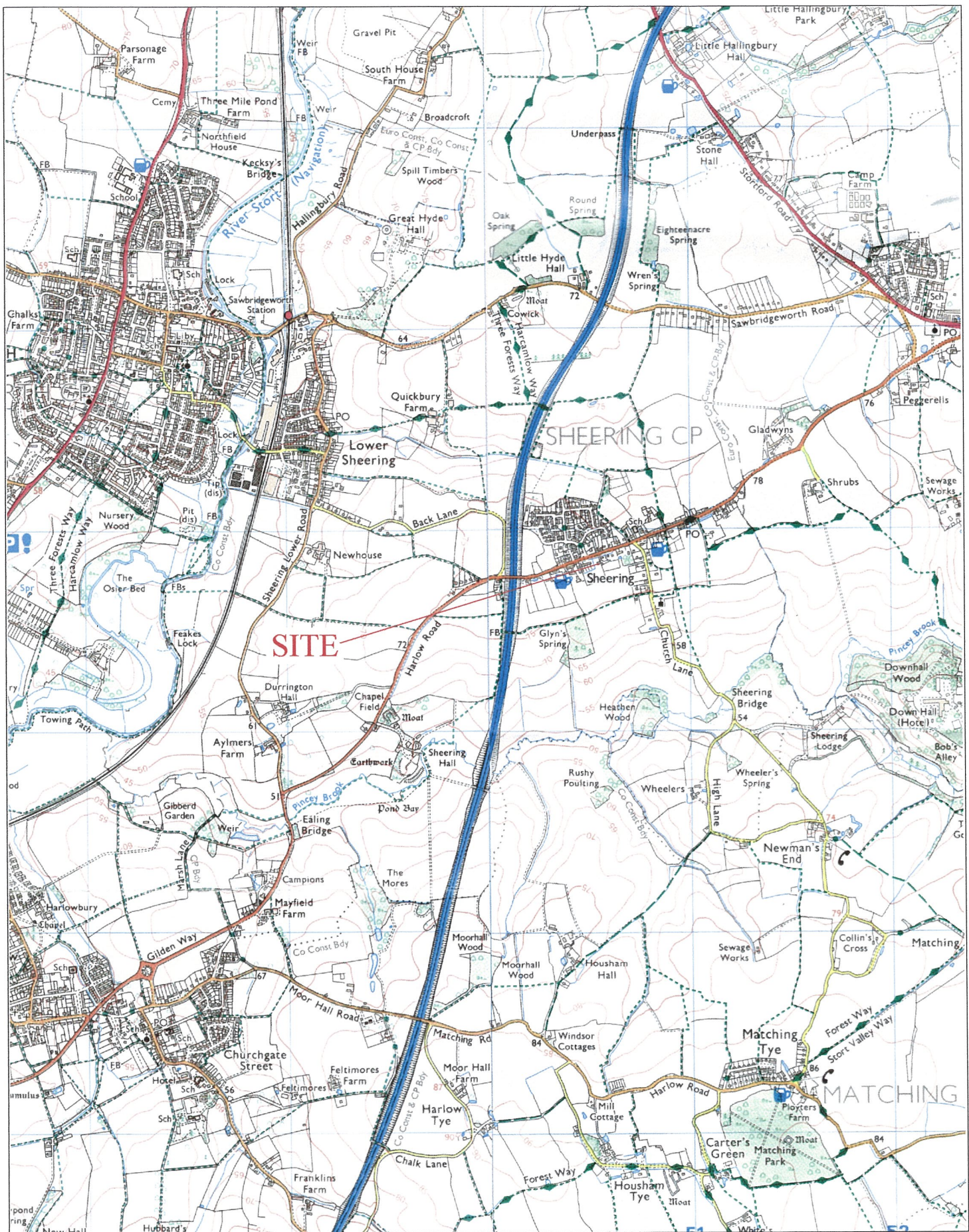
*General shot of footings. View NW*



DP 6

*East facing section. View W*

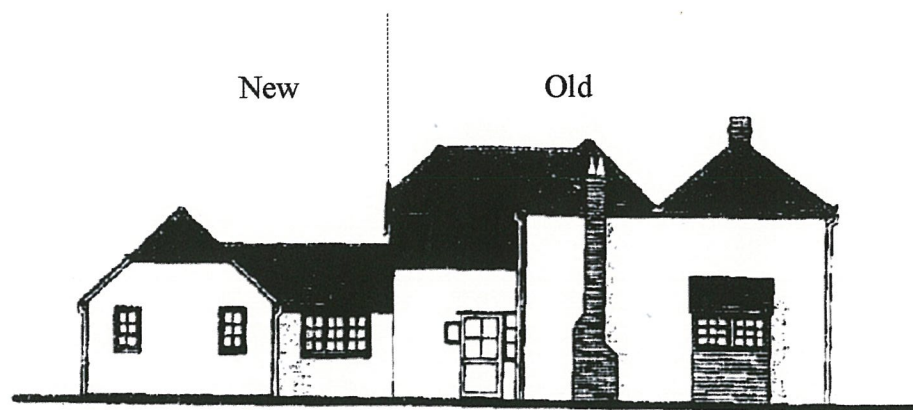




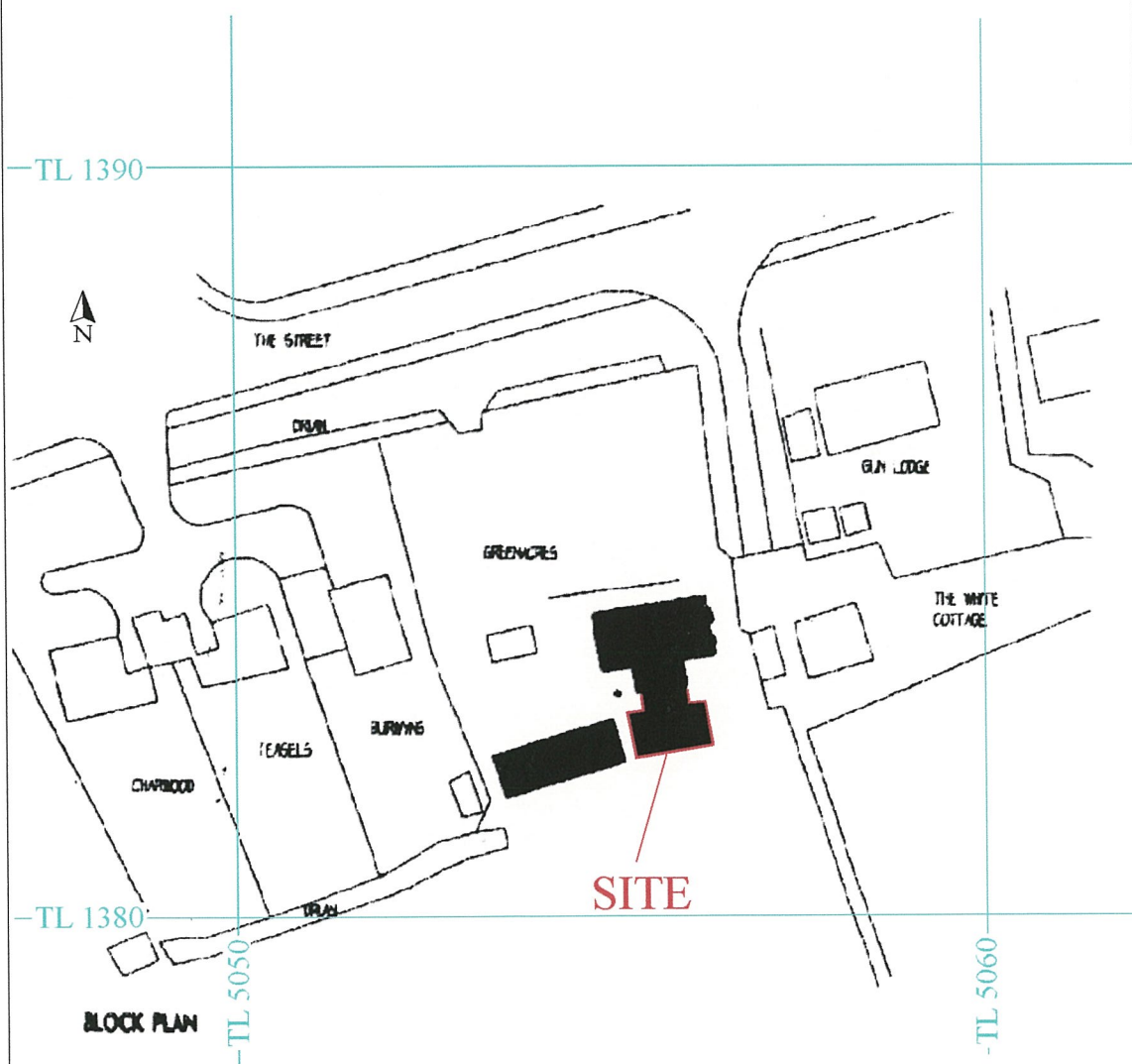
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright  
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
Scale 1:25,000





Eastern elevation

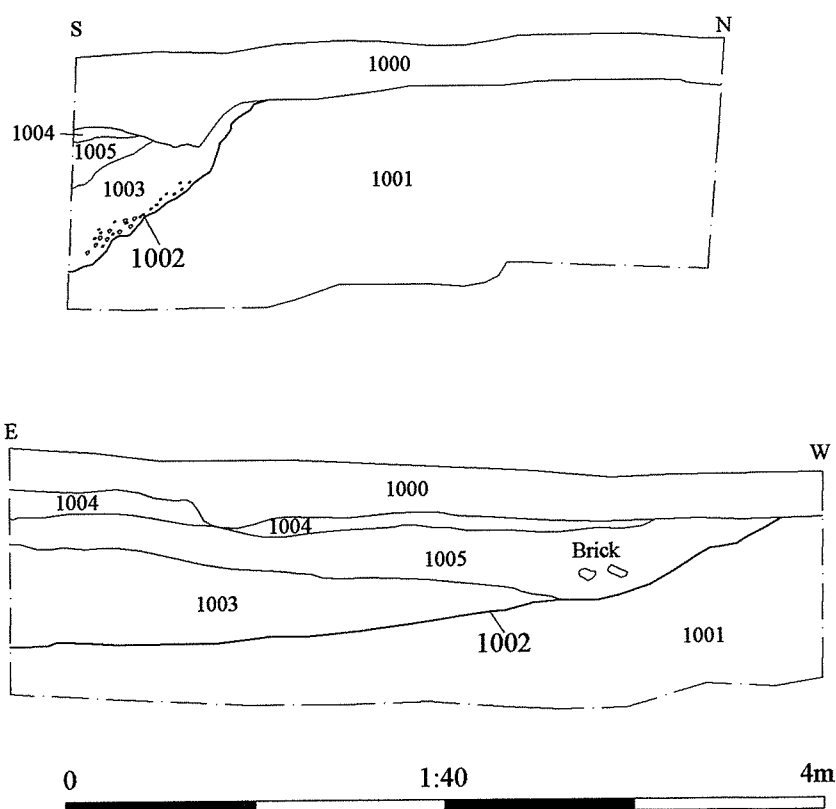
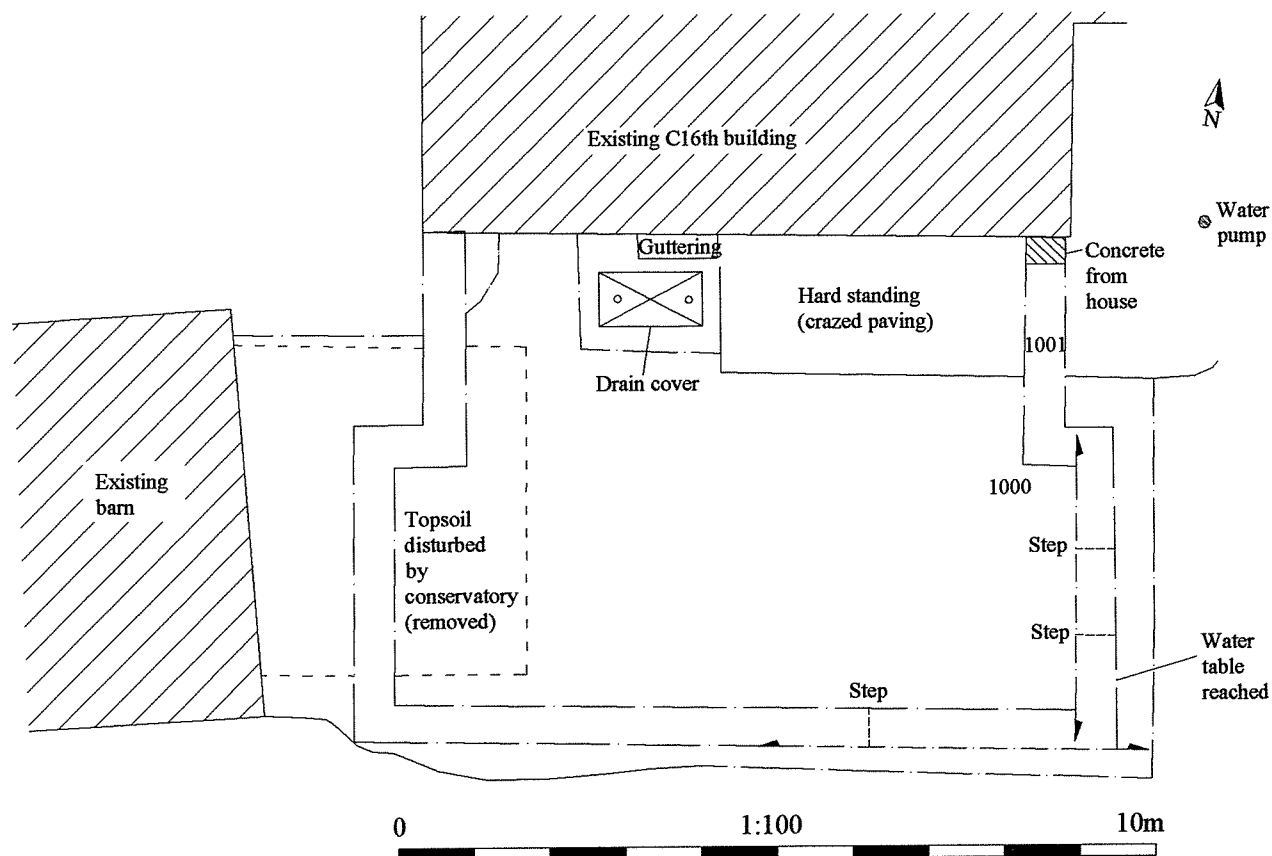


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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

Scale plan 1:1000





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Fig. 4 Plans and sections

Scale plan 1:100; sections 1:40