

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**CHURCH FARM, OLD HURST, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

CHER ECB3624

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NGR: TL 3006 7726	Report No: 3954
District: Huntingdon	Site Code: AS 1430
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4062
Signed:	Date: November 2011

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Church Farm, Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In August 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Farm, Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire. The monitoring was carried out during the demolition of an existing barn and the excavation of footings for a replacement barn for retail use as an extension to an existing farm shop. The monitoring was required by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA), as advisors to the LPA, as a condition attached to planning consent (1000804FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Old Hurst. The site forms part of the existing Church Farm complex, and lies between a medieval moated site associated with the manor house to the east, and the medieval parish church of St Peter close by to the west.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the high potential for archaeology of medieval date, no archaeological remains were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4062</i>	Site code	<i>AS1430</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Barn</i>		
Planned development	<i>Single storey barn for retail use</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>	<i>Old Hurst</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE28 3AF</i>		
Area of site	<i>Approximately 480m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3006 7726</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 30m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr A Johnson</i>		
Full title	<i>Church Farm, Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Dyson, A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3954</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2011</i>		

# CHURCH FARM, OLD HURST, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*In August 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Farm, Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3006 7726). The monitoring was carried out during the demolition of an existing barn and the excavation of footings for a replacement barn for retail use as an extension to an existing farm shop. The monitoring was required by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA), as advisors to the LPA, as a condition attached to planning consent (1000804FUL).*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Old Hurst. The site forms part of the existing Church Farm complex, and lies between a medieval moated site associated with the manor house to the east, and the medieval parish church of St Peter close by to the west.*

*Despite the high potential for archaeology of medieval date, no archaeological remains were present.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Farm, Old Hurst, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3006 7726; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the demolition of an existing barn and the excavation of footings for a replacement barn for retail use as an extension to an existing farm shop. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Old Hurst. It forms part of the existing Church Farm complex, and lies between a medieval moated site to the east, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument associated with the manor house (Cambridgeshire HER MCB4347, MCB1358, and DCB185), and the medieval parish church of St Peter close by to the west (HER NCB4340).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice office (CAPCA, now CCC Historic Environment Team) (10/09/2010), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (07/07/2011). The archaeological monitoring adhered to the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the procedures described in the IfA *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs*

(revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed to:

Generally:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required; and
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

Specifically:

- Identify any surviving remains of the shrunken medieval village likely to be encountered within the bounds of the development.

### *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 (Figs. 1 – 2, 4)**

2.1 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of the village of Old Hurst. It forms part of the existing Church Farm complex, and lies adjacent to the existing farm shop. It was proposed to remove the existing barn on the site and erect a new extension to the farm shop (Fig. 4).

2.2 The village of Old Hurst dates to the medieval period, and the site lay between a medieval moated site to the east which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument associated with the manor house (Cambridgeshire HER MCB4347, MCB1358, DCB185), and the medieval parish church of St Peter close by to the west (HER NCB4340). The site had potential for remains associated with the now shrunken medieval village.

### **3 METHODOLOGY (Archaeological monitoring and recording)**

3.1 Archaeological monitoring observed the final stages of demolition works and the excavation of foundation trenches for the new development. The demolition process encompassed varying depths of excavation/ground reduction ranging from 0.40 to 1.0m. Following this process, the ground level was reinstated with a deposit of imported stone hardcore. Footings were excavated at a width of 0.60m and to depths ranging from 0.70 to 0.90m. Excavation was carried out with a variety of mechanical 360° excavators.

3.2 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.

### **4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3)**

#### **4.1 Demolition Works**

4.1.1 The site was visited to monitor the final stages of demolition works prior to the new development. The monitoring observed the excavation of existing foundations and the general reduction of the ground level. The exposed surfaces were planned prior to the subsequent reinstatement of ground level.

##### *Description of deposits*

4.1.2 Layer L1000 represented the modern material removed during the demolition works. It consisted of mixed deposits of concrete, masonry, and wooden posts within a dark brown grey clayey silt. It was entirely removed during the initial stages of groundwork. The layer was replaced with imported stone hardcore used to reinstate the ground level.

#### **4.2 Excavation of Foundations**

4.2.1 The new trenches were excavated at a width of 0.60m with an occasional extension to 1m to create 1m<sup>2</sup> bases for posts.

### Sample sections

4.2.2 Five sample sections of the stratigraphy were recorded at intervals across the site. The results are tabulated below:

#### Sample Section 1 (DP 5)

<i>Western corner, north east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.37m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	Imported hardcore layer	
0.24 – 0.90m+	L1002	Layer. Mottled mid blue grey and mid green grey, compact silty clay.

#### Sample Section 2 (DP 6)

<i>Western corner, north east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	Imported hardcore layer	
0.30 – 0.52m+	L1001	Made ground. Dark black grey, compact clay silt.
0.52 – 0.82m+	L1002	Layer. As above.

#### Sample Section 3 (DP 8)

<i>South east side, south east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	Imported hardcore layer	
0.40 – 0.54m+	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.54 – 0.76m	L1002	Layer. As above.

#### Sample Section 4 (DP 10)

<i>Central footings, north west side, south east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.49m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.50m	Imported hardcore layer	
0.50 – 0.62m+	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.62 – 0.78m	L1002	Layer. As above.

#### Sample Section 5 (DP 12)

<i>Northern corner, south west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 30.55m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.50m	Imported hardcore layer	
0.50 – 0.70m+	L1001	Made ground. As above.

### Additional description of deposits

4.2.3 Made Ground L1001 was a mixed deposit primarily consisting of a dark black grey compact clayey silt. It was deepest at the south western sector of site (Sample Section 2); elsewhere it was likely truncated during the demolition works. It contained CBM (3.9kg) and modern pottery (85g).

4.2.4 Layer L1002 was a mottled mid blue grey and mid green grey, compact, silty clay. It was present across the whole site. It was first revealed in the western corner of site where it was less disturbed by modern Made Ground L1001; here it measured 0.66m+ in depth (Sample Section 1). It was the earliest deposit exposed during the excavation, possibly representing an alluvial clay. It contained no finds.

## **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 uppermost deposit was L1000, a mixed deposit of concrete, masonry, and wooden posts within a dark brown grey clayey silt. It was the material excavated during the demolition of the former barn.

8.2 Below L1000 was modern Made Ground L1001, a dark black grey, compact clay silt (0.26 - 0.05m). The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation was layer L1002, a mottled mid blue grey and mid green grey compact silty clay. It was present across the whole site and had survived to its greatest depth in the western corner of the site; it continued beneath the excavated depth of all monitored footings.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The monitoring had the potential for uncovering surviving remains associated with the now shrunken former medieval village of Old Hurst. This potential was due to the site's location. It lies between a medieval moated site to the east, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument associated with the manor house (Cambridgeshire HER MCB4347, MCB1358, and DCB185); and the medieval parish church of St Peter close by to the west (HER NCB4340).

9.2 Despite this high potential, no archaeological remains were present. This is most likely due to the small scale of the monitoring.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.



## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Mr Andrew Johnson for his co-operation and his funding of the project, and for his assistance.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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## APPENDIX 1 FINDS CONCORDANCE

Feature	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)
1001	Made Ground	Early Modern	(2) 85g	3900

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*General view during later stages of demolition work. Looking south west.*



2  
*L1002 exposed in western corner. Looking south west.*



3  
*General view after reinstatement of ground level. Looking north.*



4  
*General view of footings in western corner. Looking east.*



5  
*Sample section 1. Looking south west.*



6  
*Sample section 2. Looking south west.*



7  
General view of footings along south east edge.  
Looking north east.



8  
Sample section 3. Looking north west.



9  
General view of central footings. Looking south.



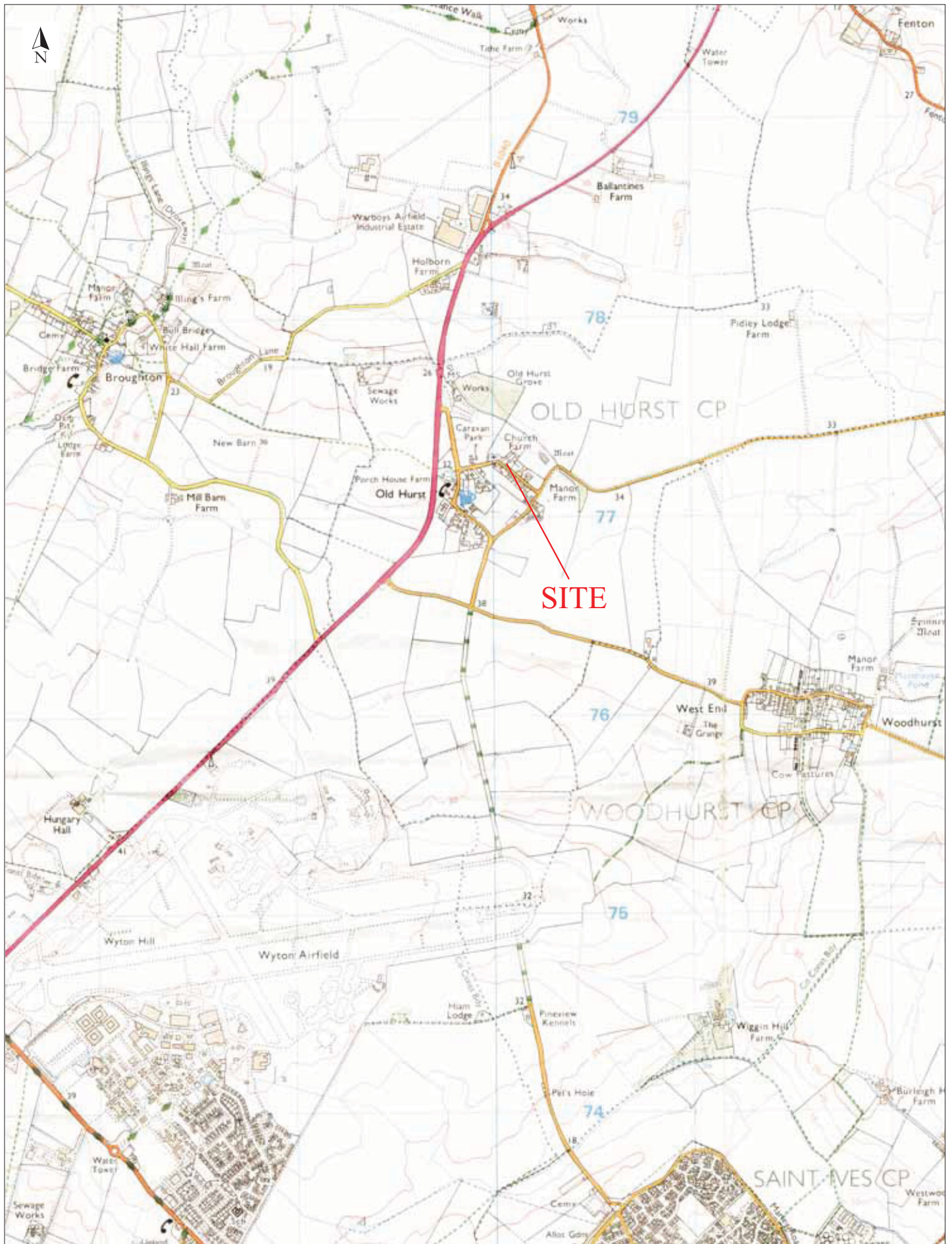
10  
Sample section 4. Looking north west.



11  
General view of footings in northern corner.  
Looking north west.

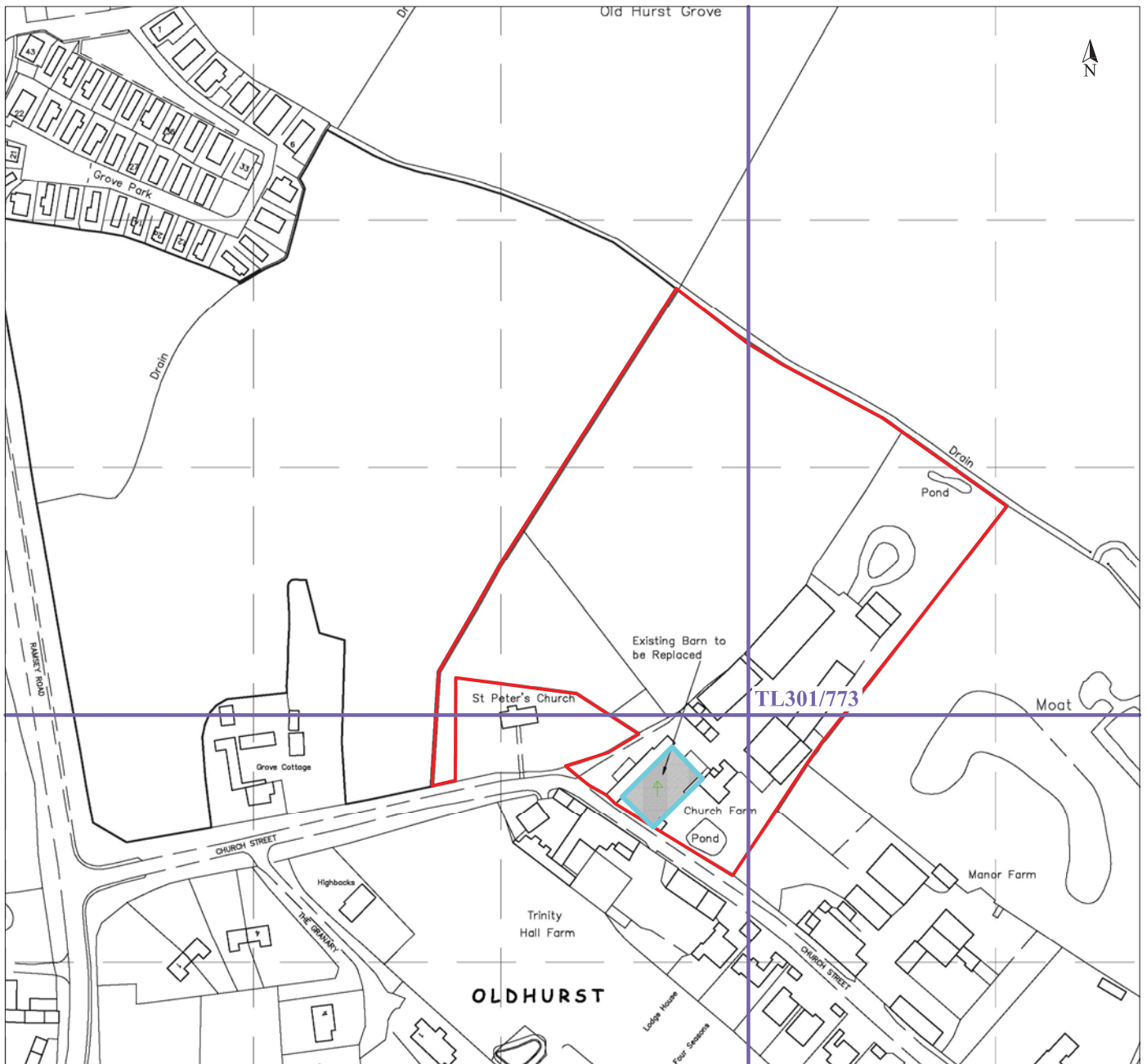


12  
Sample section 5. Looking north east.



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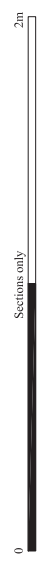
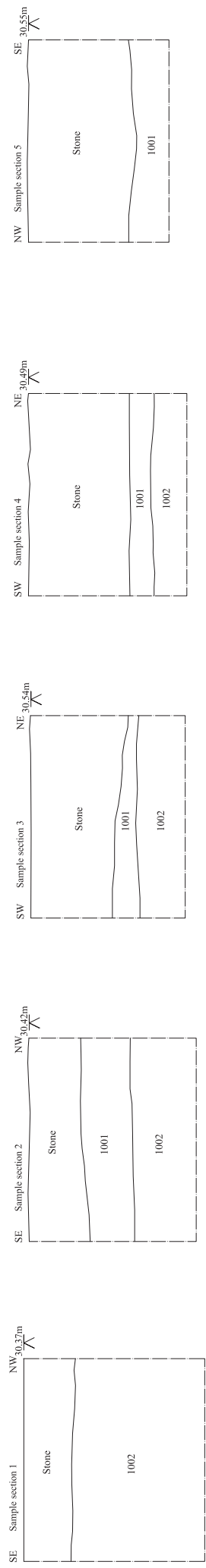
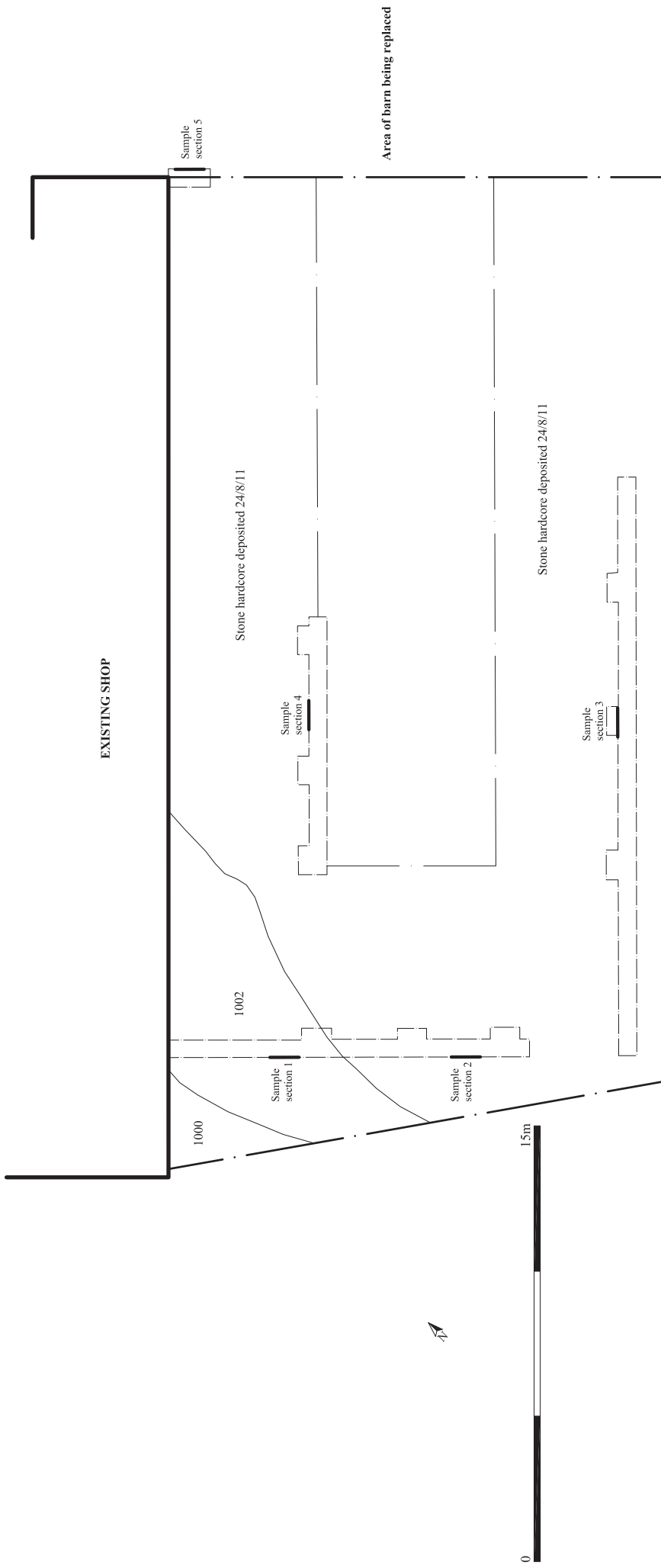
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 150m

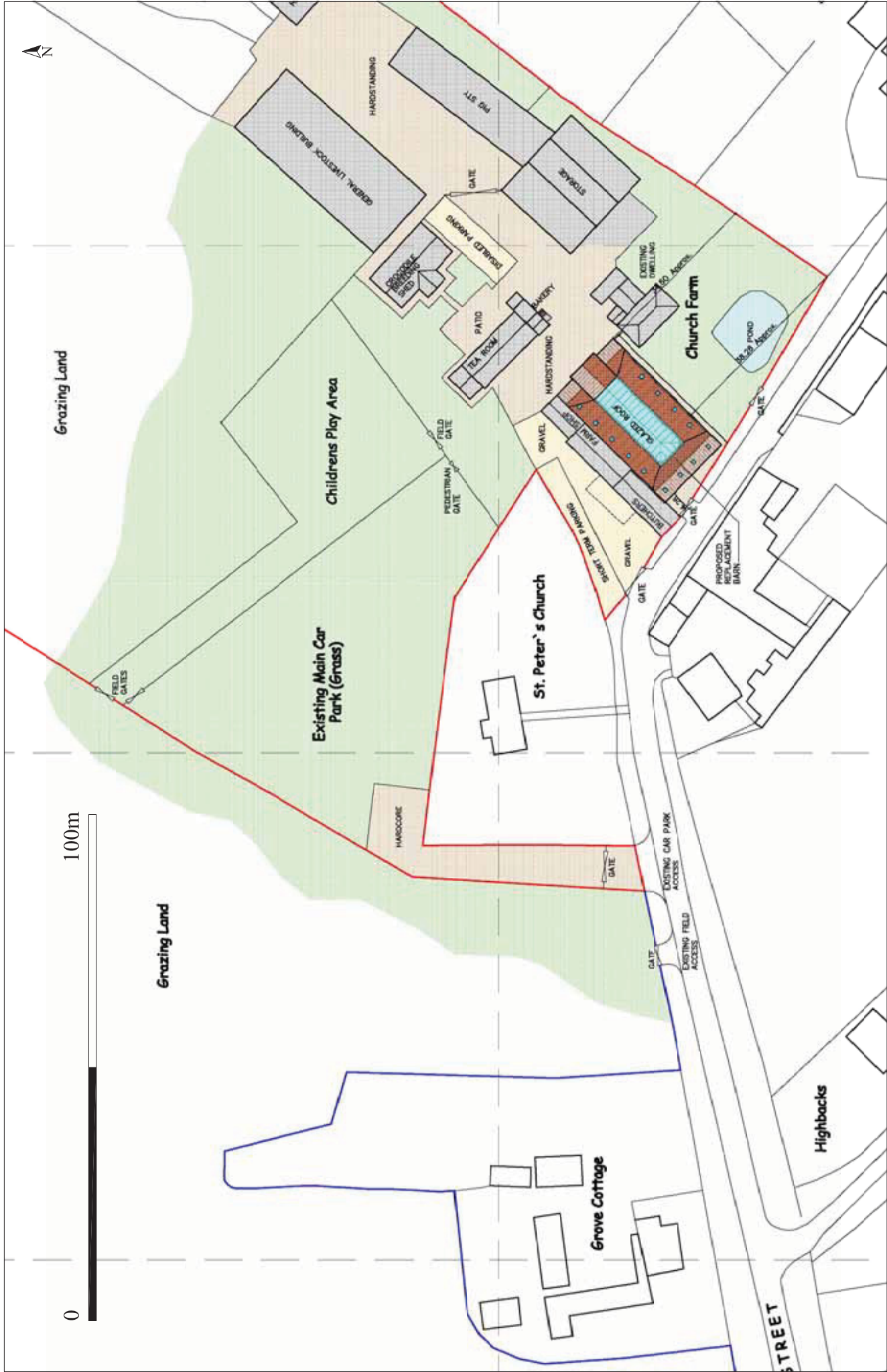
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Area monitored & sample sections**

Scale 1:2500 at A3



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**Fig. 4 Proposed layout plan**

Scale 1:1000 at A4