GLEBE HOUSE, HILLSIDE LANE, GREAT AMWELL, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TL 37195 12310	Report No. 3687			
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1358			
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3971			
Signed:	Date: November 2010 Revised: 01/05/2013			

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details					
Project name	Proposed 2-storey extension and conservatory, Glebe				
	House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire.				
	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording				

In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 37195 12310). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Gerald King in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 2-storey side extension and conservatory.

The site is located to the immediate south-east of the centre of Great Amwell village and comprises Glebe House and a large garden. Glebe House is Grade II listed. It lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 181, which identifies the area of medieval settlement of the village. Glebe House is also located close to the site of possible Roman burial ground. Therefore the site had a potential for Romano-British and medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Project dates (fieldwork)	28-29/10/2010				
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future	e work (Y/N/?)	N	
P. number	3971	Site c	ode	AS	1358
Type of project	Archaeologi	cal Moi	nitoring and Reco	ordin	g
Site status	Within Area	of Arch	naeological Signi	fican	ce No. 181
Current land use	Side yard of	house			
Planned development	New 2-store	y exter	sion and conser	vatoi	ry
Main features (+dates)	-				
Significant finds (+dates)	-				
Project location					
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Э	East Hertfordsh	nire	Great Amwell
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER				
Post code (if known)	SG12 9SF				
Area of site	c. 4400m ²				
NGR	TL 37195 12310				
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 63m AOD				
Project creators					
Brief issued by	HCC HEU				
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski				
Funded by	Mr Gerald King				
Full title	Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire.				
	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording				
Authors	Pozorski, Z.				
Report no.	3687				
Date (of report)	November 2010 (Revised 01/05/2013)				

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SUMMARY

In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 37195 12310). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Gerald King in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 2-storey side extension and conservatory.

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In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 37195 12310; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Gerald King in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 2-storey side extension and conservatory (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/05/1579/FP).
- 1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 02/06/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 25/06/2010), and approved by HCC HEU. 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 objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:
- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and

• to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 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 The Glebe House is located to the immediate south-east of the centre of Great Amwell village (Fig. 1). It is situated to the north of Hillside Lane and to the east of the narrow road leading north-east to The Old Vicarage. The site comprises The Glebe House, a 19th century Grade II listed building of the former vicarage, and a large, roughly rectangular garden. The new extension and conservatory were to be located adjacent to the northern side of the building.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 The site lies at *c*. 63m AOD near the top of the hill overlooking the valley of the river Lea to the east. Land to the east of the site falls in the direction of the Lea and it slopes to the south and south-west as well.
- 3.2 The site is located on the transition between solid geology of Upper Cretaceous Chalk of the White Chalk subgroup present to the north and the Palaeocene clay, silt, sand and gravel of Lambeth Group occupying the area to the south (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Ludford association, described as deep well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 4.1 Human activity in the area of Great Amwell is known from the Palaeolithic period onwards, indicated by finds of Palaeolithic flint implements (HER 4117), as well late Mesolithic worked flint found in Hertford Road, Great Amwell (HER 2092) and near Leafyoak Wood (HER 2093). Three cropmarks of ring ditches are located at Amwellplace Farm, Little Amwell (HER 2194, 2195, 4757) two of which are recorded as being of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, while the third is recorded as being of uncertain prehistoric date. Two rectangular maculae of unknown date (HER 2196 and 2751) are also recorded to the south of the ring ditches. Bronze Age activity is further indicated by a find of a bronze Spearhead (HER 4118).
- 4.2 The emergence of an increasingly sedentary lifestyle which is reflected with the division of the landscape into fields and paddocks during the Bronze Age continued into the Iron Age period, with agrarian activities such as growing corps, cereals, ranching and animal husbandry continue almost unchanged into the early Iron Age (Kiln & Partridge 1994). Although no evidence of settlement in this period is recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site a number of sites are recorded in the wider area including the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age site at Cole Green (located between Hertford and Turnford) and the multiperiod site of Foxholes, located *c.* 1.75km from Great Amwell.

Romano-British

4.3 During the Romano-British period Ware, c.1.25km north of Great Amwell, was a prosperous and extensive settlement, probably due to its location at the highest navigable point along the River Lee during this period, and its proximity to the important emporium near Braughing (Kiln & Partridge 1994). Ermine Street, a principal Roman road connecting London with the legionary settlement of Lincoln, extends along the course of the old A10 road, close to Great Amwell. Within the immediate vicinity of the site Romano-British activity is represented by finds of Roman urns and coins (HER 319) found at Great Amwell Vicarage. The vicarage itself stands within an earthwork (HER 1319) which is suggested to be the site of a beacon. The reported finds do suggest that the site, now destroyed, was a burial mound, possibly Roman.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

4.4 Evidence of Saxon occupation in Hertfordshire is sparse, and accordingly no finds of Saxon date have been recorded within the vicinity of Great Amwell. Great Amwell is recorded in the Domesday Book as Emmewelle, held by Ralf de Limesy, and, prior to the conquest, was an outlying estate attached to Earl Harold's manor at Hatfield Broadoak. At the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book a priest is mentioned amongst the inhabitants, as are four Frenchmen, indicating a site of reasonable

standing already containing post-Conquest Norman settlers. The church of St. John the Baptist (HER 4362) in Great Amwell retains 11th century features such as its apse, nave, chancel arch, and a narrow window in the north wall. Ralf de Limesy, holder of the lands around Great Amwell, founded and endowed the Priory at Hertford (Kiln & Partridge 1994) and gave the church in Great Amwell to the Priory. The Priory's Charter was confirmed between 1108 and 1123. The village of Great Amwell (HER 2643) is recorded as a medieval village and is a designated conservation area. The historic environment records mentions few remains of medieval date, although medieval activity is represented by the 15th century additions to the Church of St John the Baptist (HER 4362), including the pyramidal spire and the west door.

Post-medieval and modern

- 4.5 The New River, in the valley of the River Lee, is the largest monument dating to the post-medieval era in the area. It was constructed between 1608 and 1613 by Hugh Myddleton, Alderman of London, to augment London's water supply. The then abundant Chadwell Spring and a spring at Great Amwell were used to supply the water to the New River (Branch Johnson 1970). In 1738, the growth of London, and the resulting increased demand for water meant that the New River Company had to draw a measured quantity of water from the River Lee. This was achieved through the construction of an intake gauge over a cut made between the Lee and the New River. In 1770, this was replaced by a larger gauge, designed by Robert Mylne (d. 1811). Mylne, and his son William Chadwell Mylne (d. 1862), both held the position of chief engineer to the New River Company and presided over engineering works on the New River during a century of change (Branch Johnson 1970, 98-99). There are monuments to this era of change around Great Amwell. At Amwell Hill in Great Amwell is a yellow brick-built pumping station (HER 5330), this was constructed in 1849 and is the earliest extant pumping station in Hertfordshire, it was also the first to be built on the New River. This station was originally steam powered but was later converted to electricity. Crossing the New River at Great Amwell is a road bridge (HER 5694) and at Ware Road near Amwellbury, at the boundary with Great Amwell, is the earliest of nine road bridges (Branch Johnson 1970) built across the New River (HER 5705). One of the girders of this bridge, which is now open only to pedestrians, bears the date 1824.
- 4.6 In the early 19th century, to commemorate the building of the New River, and their family's involvement, the Mylnes created a landscaped ornamental garden next to the New River near St John the Baptist's church, known as Amwell Grove (HER 7348). One of the original sources of the New River was at Great Amwell, on islands near this point stand two stone monuments (HER 7252), one is dedicated to Sir Hugh Myddleton, founder of the New River. The other bears a poem to Emma's Well, the spring which fed the New River at this point, and which is reputedly named after Emma, wife of Cnut (Page 1912).

4.7 The Glebe House is Grade II listed and was built in 1864 for Rev. Richard Parrott, who was a vicar in Great Amwell during the years 1864 – 1893. In 1866 he restored a church of St John the Baptist.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *proforma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.
- 5.2 The principal element monitored was the mechanically-excavated foundation trench for new extension and conservatory. The trench was located to the immediate north of the existing building (Fig. 2). It was 20m long (in total), 0.75 0.85 wide and 0.85 1.15m deep.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified. Deposits located within area of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below.

NW part of foundation trench. Sample section 1, facing SE (DP 4) 0.00 = 63.42m AOD			
0.00 - 0.05m	L1000	Tarmac. Surface of a road and access to the site.	
0.05 – 0.15m	L1001	Levelling layer. Light orange yellow, compact, sandy gravel.	
0.15 – 0.52m	L1002	Made ground. Mid to dark greyish brown, compact, clayey silt with CBM fragments.	
0.52m+	L1003	Natural light orange brown, loose, silty and sandy gravel.	

NE part of foundation trench. Sample section 2, facing NE (DP 5) 0.00 = 37m AOD			
0.00 – 0.20m	L1004	Modern made ground. Light orange brown, loose, silty	
		sand with gravel.	
0.20 - 0.46m	L1005	Modern concrete and brick rubble.	
0.46 - 0.73m	L1002	Made ground. As above.	
0.73m+	L1003	Natural gravel. As above.	

SE part of foundation trench. Sample section 3 , facing SE (DP 6) 0.00 = 63.19m AOD			
0.00 – 0.11m L1006 Modern layout. Creamy, loose, coarse sand.			
0.11 – 0.20m	L1007	Topsoil of the garden. Dark blackish grey, soft, sandy silt.	
0.20 - 0.49m	L1002	Made ground. As above.	
0.49m+	L1003	Natural gravel. As above.	

S part of foundation trench. Sample section 4, facing NE (DP 7) 0.00 = 63.25OD		
0.00 - 0.09m	L1008	Modern concrete base for a floor.
0.09 – 0.57m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.57m+	L1003	Natural gravel. As above.

Description: No archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1007, a dark, blackish grey, soft, sandy silt (0.10m thick). Within the area of the extension the topsoil had been removed or covered with modern made ground. The western part of the site was topped with Tarmac L1000 (0.05 0.08m thick), which also removed prior to the current construction works.
- 8.2 Deposits of modern made ground were present throughout the site. The natural geology was present at 0.49 0.75m below existing ground level and comprised light orange brown, loose, silty and sandy gravel (L1003).

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British and medieval archaeology. Roman remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, and Glebe House is also located within the medieval core of the village of Great Amwell.
- 9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. The earliest deposits revealed within the foundation trench may relate to the construction of the house in 1864 and later. The area of investigation was subject to modern truncation including drains and sewerage serving the house. Truncation was evident in the north-eastern arm of the foundation trench. No residual finds were recovered.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Ware Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Gerald King of Glebe House for funding the monitoring, and for his kind assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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Page, W. (ed.), 1912, *The Victoria County History of the Counties of England; Hertfordshire*. Dawsons, London.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), HER Search No. 182/10

HER No	NGR	Description		
Prehistoric sites (period unspecified)				
4757	TL 3538 1236	Cropmark of a small circular single-ditched enclosure.		
.				
Palaeolith 4117	ic (Before 12000BC TL 372 125			
4117	1L 3/2 125	Palaeolithic flint implements found in Great Amwell.		
Mesolithic	(8500-4500BC)			
2092	TL 362 119	Worked Mesolithic flint found by 'Rescue' observer on A414 roadworks, Hertford Rd, on 27.8.72		
2093	TL 365 118	Worked Mesolithic flint found by 'Rescue' observer on A414 roadworks, near Leafyoak Wood, on 27.8.72		
Neolithic	 4500-2500BC)/Earl	lier Bronze Age (c. 2500-1200BC)		
2194	TL 3539 1238	Cropmark of a very small circular single-ditched enclosure. Diameter approx. 7m		
2195	TL 3540 1239	Cropmark of a small circular single-ditched enclosure. Diameter approx. 20m		
	ge (c. 2500-800BC)			
4118	TL 37 12	Middle Bronze Age spearhead found adjoining Lower Rd, Great Amwell, by H Billings in 1934.		
Roman (A	D50-AD410)			
319	TL 372 123	Roman urns and coins found at Great Amwell Vicarage in 1847		
1319	TL 372 123	Possible site of Beacon. Great Amwell Vicarage stands within earthwork		
2643	(AD1066-1500) TL 3720 1248	Great Amwell Village. Village in Domesday Book as 'Emmewelle'		
4362	TL 3719 1251	Church of St John the Baptist, Great Amwell		
Post-med	 ieval (AD1500-1900)		
6283	TL 3642 1296	Octagonal red-brick dovecote at Amwellbury Farm. Built <i>c.</i> 1700		
5330	TL 368 128	Pumping Station, yellow brick, single storey, arcaded, slate roof. Built 1849 by William Chadwell Mylne, chief Engineer to the New River Company		
5694	TL 3714 1260	Brick built road bridge over New River at Great Amwell		
5705	TL 3658 1313	Ware Road Bridge, near Amwellbury. Road bridge with concrete piers, low arched iron girder, plain iron handrail, dated 1824		
7252	TL 371 125	Two monuments commemorating the New River		
7348	TL 3708 1258	Amwell Grove and Pool. Late 18 th and early 19 th century		

		picturesque landscaped garden
Modern (A	D1900-present)	
6675	TL 3552 1307	Hexagonal, brick & concrete pillbox at Hoe Lane, Ware. Situated at side of field backing onto Thieves Lane.
Historic- p	eriod uncertain	
4017	TL 3714 1251	Stocks, west of St John's Church, Great Amwell
Unknown	period	
2196	TL 3542 1235	Cropmark of a rectangular macula. Dimensions approx. 22m x 15m
2751	TL 3538 1231	Cropmark of a rectangular macula. Dimensions approx. 20m x 10m

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Υ
Specification	Υ
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	12

APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town:	Parish: Great Amwell
Planning application reference:	East Hertfordshire District Planning Ref. 3/05/1579/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Gerald King
Nature of application:	Construction of 2-storey extension and conservatory
Present land use:	Side yard of the house
Size of application area: c.64m2	Size of area investigated 10m2
NGR (8 figures):	TL 37195 12310
Site Code:	AS 1358
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	28-29/10/2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Ware
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 37195 12310). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Gerald King in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 2-storey side extension and conservatory. The site is located to the immediate south-east of the centre of Great Amwell village and comprises Glebe House (Grade II listed) and a large garden. It lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 181, which identifies the area of medieval settlement of the village. Glebe House is also located close to the site of possible Roman burial ground. Therefore, the site had a potential for Romano-British and medieval archaeological remains. In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.
Author of summary:	Date of Summary:
Z Pozorski	November 2010 (Revised 01/05/2013)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The Glebe House, Hillside Lane, Great Amwell. View NW.



DP 2. Foundation trench, NW part. View W.



DP 3. Foundation trench, NE part. View NW.



DP 4. Foundation trench, NW part. Sample section. View NW.



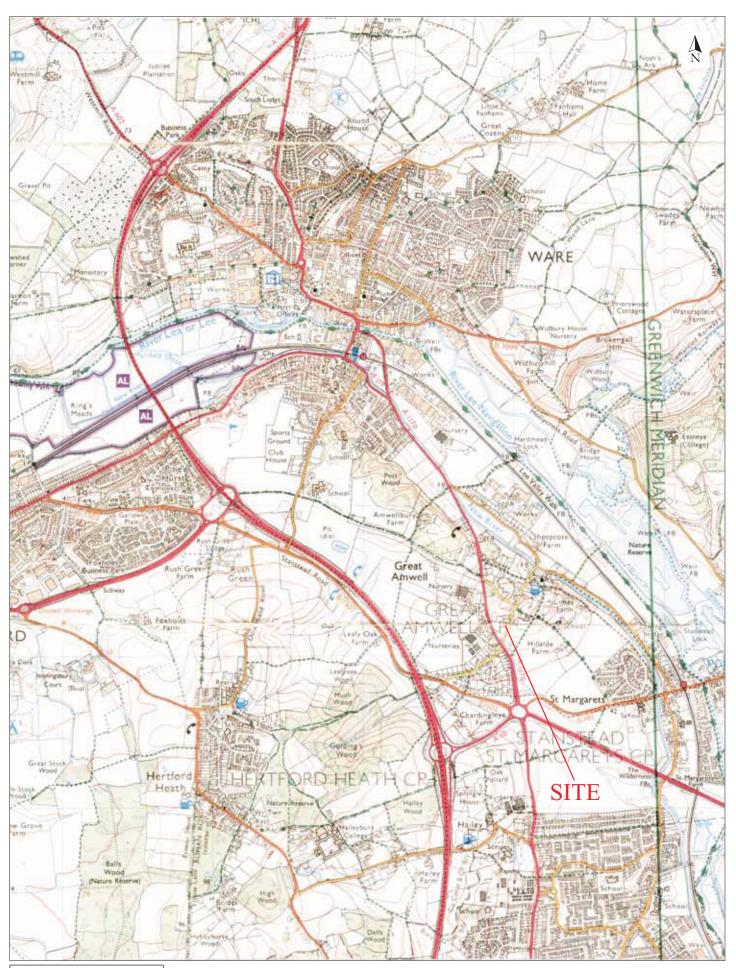
DP 5. Foundation trench, NE part. Sample section. View SW.



DP 6. Foundation trench, SE part. Sample section. View NW.



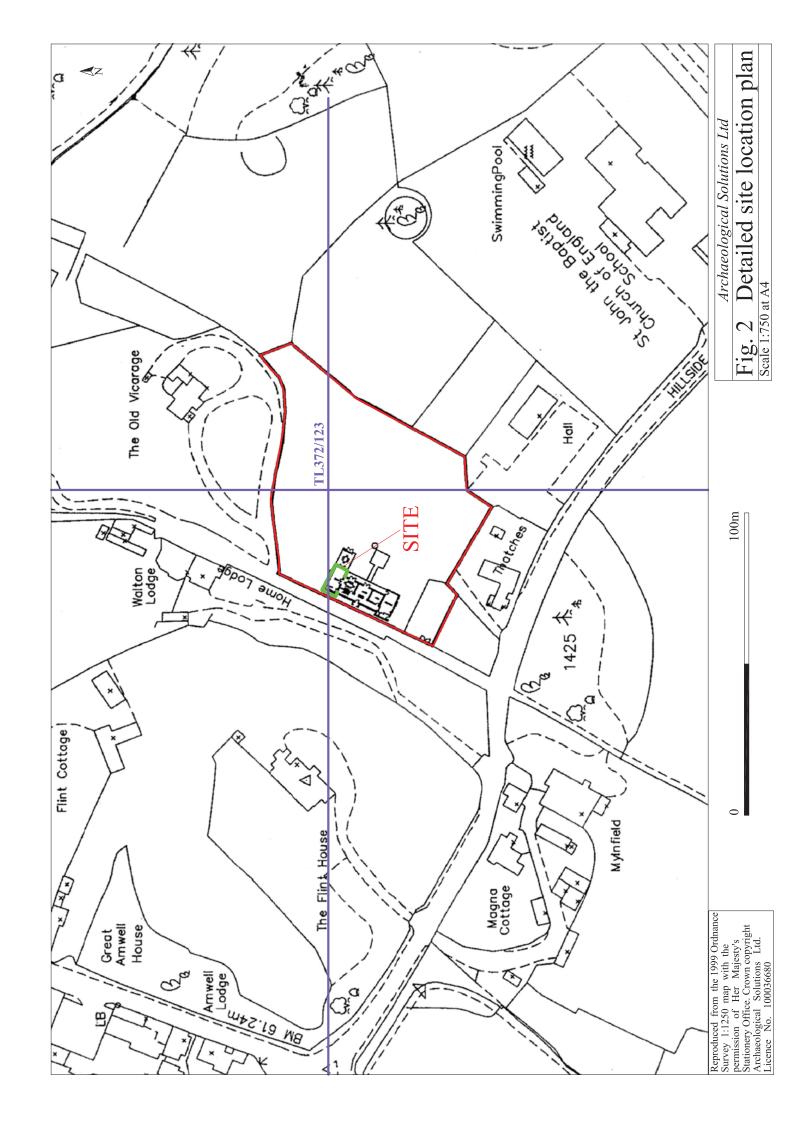
DP 7. Foundation trench, S part. Sample section. View SW.



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



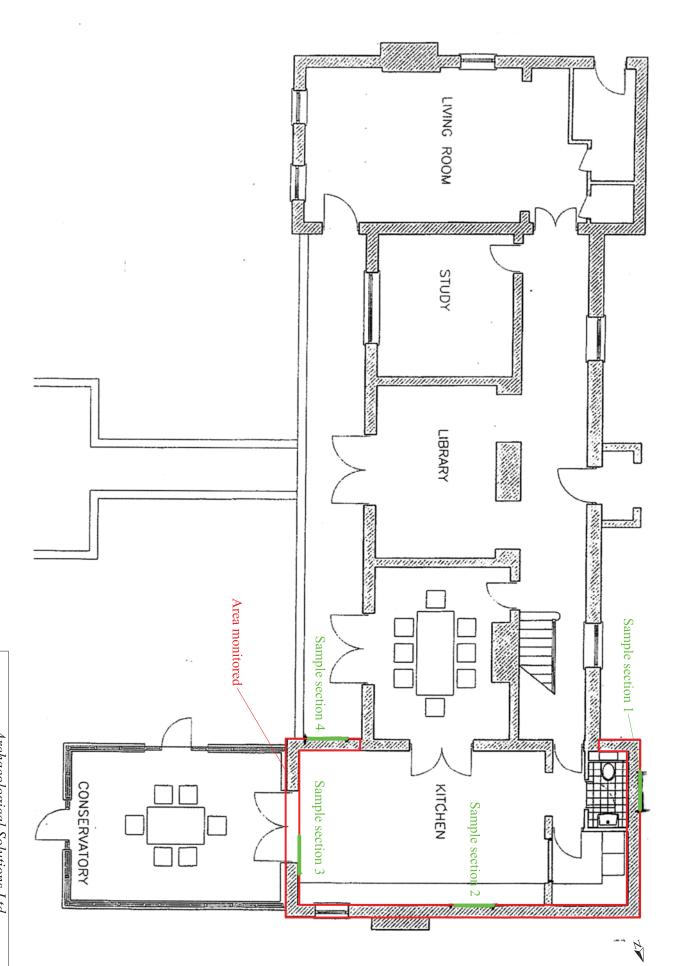
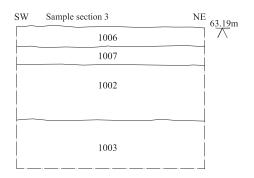


Fig. 3 Sample section location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

SW	Sample section 1	NE	6 <u>3.42</u> m
	1001		/ \
	1002		
	1003		

SE	Sample section 2	NW	63.37m
	1004		<u></u>
	1005		
	1002		
	1003		



SE	Sample section 4	NW 63.25m
	1008	
	1002	
-		
	1003	

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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4