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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ORSETT GOLF CLUB, BRENTWOOD ROAD,  
CHADWELL ST MARY, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 6545 8082	Report No: 4333
District: Thurrock	Site Code: THOG 13
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4299
Signed:	Date: 27 June 2013 Revised 01 October 2013

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB  
Tel 01992 558170**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
Tel 01284 765210**

**e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)**



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex.</i>		
<i>In March and May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex (NGR TQ 6545 8082). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Jason Jones in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new detached house and garage.</i>			
<i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential identified by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM). The area contains numerous cropmarks indicative of multi-period occupation. Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains have been found in the area surrounding the site. The archaeology includes the Scheduled Ancient Monument of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. The site had a potential for prehistoric archaeological remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>6-8 March 2013 and 15 May 2013</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>4299</i>	<b>Site code</b>	<i>THOG 13</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>Within an area of archaeological potential</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Grassland</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>New residential dwelling and garage</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Thurrock</i>	<i>Chadwell St Mary</i>
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	<i>Essex HER</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>-</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>c. 400m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TR 3990 6855</i>		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	<i>c. 34m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>ECC HEM</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>Mr Jason Jones</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>4333</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>June 2013</i>		

**ORSETT GOLF CLUB, BRENTWOOD ROAD,  
CHADWELL ST MARY, ESSEX**

**PROPOSED NEW HOUSE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*In March and May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex (NGR TQ 6545 8082). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Jason Jones in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new detached house and garage.*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological potential identified by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM). The area contains numerous cropmarks indicative of multi-period occupation. Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains have been found in the area surrounding the site. The archaeology includes the scheduled Ancient Monument of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. The site had a potential for prehistoric archaeological remains.*

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

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March and May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Essex (NGR TQ 6545 8082; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Jason Jones in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new detached house and garage (Thurrock District Council Planning Ref. 10/00400/FUL & 11/00566/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (HEM; dated 23/02/2011), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28/09/2011), and approved by HEM. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project of archaeological monitoring and recording aimed to identify any evidence of archaeological remains within the site which would be

exposed during the groundworks required for the proposed new house and garage. It was particularly important to identify any evidence associated with the known cropmark complexes and any evidence of prehistoric activity.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located in a rural location c. 2.2km north-east of the centre of Chadwell St Mary, Essex. It comprises a rectangular plot of rough grassland and it is bounded to the east and south by the golf course, and to the north by the access road to the course and to the west by Brentwood Road.

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

3.1 The site is situated on the Thames terrace to the east of Chadwell St Mary. It lies at c.34m AOD. The River Thames is approximately 5km to the south and east. The solid geology of the area is river terrace and marine alluvium (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the

Hucklesbrook Association, described as well drained coarse loamy and some sandy soils, commonly over gravel. The soils are suitable for cereals, vegetables and gravel extraction (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 Chadwell St Mary and West Tilbury lie in the Pleistocene river valley which has a high potential for Lower and Middle Palaeolithic remains. There have been numerous Palaeolithic spot finds (EHER 1732, 1821 and 18617) including Acheulian handaxes and large scatters of handaxes within 2km of the site (EHER 1786). Neolithic activity is represented by a handaxe (EHE 1768) and a macehead (EHER 18616) found close to each other, c. 400m south-east of the site.

4.2 The site lies within an area of extensive cropmarks indicative of multi period occupation. Two complexes of cropmarks are known, on either side of the site. On the eastern side of Buckingham Hill Road lie trackways, enclosures and remains of burial mounds, indicative of a prehistoric date (EHER 5226). On the western side of the road is a larger complex of cropmarks (HER 5159 – 5164), which include the Scheduled Ancient Monument of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Ditches, pits, further enclosures and probable burial mounds are recorded, some of the ditches extending on the development plot.

4.3 The archaeological evaluations conducted by AS at Mill House Farm to the immediate south of the golf course and c.800m to the south-east of the site revealed a ring ditch, gullies, enclosure ditches, pits and postholes (Sheffield 2012; Schofield & Quinn 2012). In the northern sector of the site few of the features produced dating evidence, but the pottery recovered was consistently late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. In the southern sector of the site pottery was more common, again consistently late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, suggesting that prehistoric archaeological features occur throughout the area.

4.4 Excavations and cropmarks at Gun Hill (c.2km to the south-west) revealed a Bronze Age ditch, postholes and numerous sherds of pottery (EHER 1764). Iron Age activity comprises a considerable amount of settlement evidence including a domestic house excavated c. 1km to the south-west (EHER 1790). An Iron Age trackway (EHER 1764) was documented along the line of the current High House Lane that borders the field to the west. Iron Age pits and postholes have also been found c. 1.8km to the south-west (EHER 1685) suggesting a presence of Iron Age settlement in this area.

### *Romano-British*

4.5 Locally it is believed that a Romano-British settlement was situated to the south of the road between Chadwell St Mary and Tilbury. The



archaeological evidence indicates that Romano-British remains in the area appear to be focussed to the south-west. Antiquarian finds in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century reported the existence of a probable occupation area (EHER 1686). These remains included a pottery kiln, cremation urns, numerous assemblages of pottery and coins recovered from a location c. 1.8km south-west of the site. An excavation at Gun Hill (c. 2km south-west) recorded a rectangular enclosure, a field boundary system, a pottery kiln and kiln wasters (EHER 1791).

### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.6 Excavations in Chadwell St Mary and West Tilbury area have revealed *grubenhäuser* (sunken featured buildings) of Anglo-Saxon date, located by a cropmark survey c.2km to the south-west (EHER 1792). Continual occupation throughout the prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods was evident. Postholes, pits and walls indicating a structure thought to be a *grubenhäuser* were recorded. Loomweights and vessels dated the features from the 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### *Medieval*

4.7 Chadwell St Mary at the time of the Domesday Survey had a priest, and seven smallholders and pasture for 100 sheep (Morris, 1983). St Mary's Church is mostly of 12<sup>th</sup> century date but may have some Norman elements. No medieval remains have been found in close proximity to the site. Field boundaries and ditches located c.1km to the south-west indicate previous agricultural land use (EHER 1793). An excavation c.400m to the west revealed a millstone, numerous sherds derived from medieval vessels and animal bone (EHER 1804). Medieval pottery has also been found c.1.8km south-west of the site (EHER 1683).

### *Post-medieval*

4.8 Chadwell St Mary continued to develop in the post-medieval period. Numerous 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are listed in the village, including Mill House Farm, which is a 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey Grade II listed building (EHER 119737). Prior to this building, a windmill was known to exist on the site of Mill House Farm (EHER 1806).

### *Undated*

4.9 There is an abundance of reported cropmarks including linear features (Figs. 2 and 3) recorded by air photography in the area of Chadwell St Mary and West Tilbury, that remain unexcavated. Cropmarks have also been located on and surrounding the site (EHER 1750, 1753 and 1769). It is likely that these anomalies represent prehistoric ring ditches, round barrows and enclosure ditches.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated ground reduction within the area of development, the foundation trenches for the new house and garage and a service trench (Fig. 2). The location of the garage was changed during the development and instead of being a detached structure it has been incorporated into the house which has also been extended to include the annexe. Prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches the existing ground level within the area of the development was reduced by removing most of the topsoil (0.15 – 0.20m).

5.2 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 *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>South foundation trench, facing north-north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 34.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.08 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. Light to mid brown, friable, silty sand with frequent small stones.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural light to mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt with gravel.

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>West foundation trench, facing east-south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 34.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural silt with gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>East/central foundation trench, facing south-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 34.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.18m+	L1002	Natural silt with gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 4</i>		
<i>Extension for a garage, south foundation trench, facing north-north-east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 34.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural silt with gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 5</i>		
<i>Service trench, facing east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 34.28m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.18 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural silt with gravel. As above.

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

## **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 L1000, a dark grey, soft, sandy silt (0.20 – 0.25m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a light to mid brown, friable, silty sand with frequent small stones (0.15 – 0.34m thick).

8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was present at 0.18 – 0.34m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid orangey brown, friable, sandy silt with gravel.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology. The site lies within the area of extensive cropmarks identified as remains of prehistoric occupation. The Scheduled Ancient Monument of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure is located in vicinity as well as numerous enclosures, ditches, pits, burial mounds etc. The recent archaeological investigations to the south of the site revealed numerous late Bronze Age/early Iron Age remains.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified and no

evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. No residual finds were recovered.

9.3 No archaeological features or finds were present but this may be due to the limited scale of the development.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Jason Jones for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team.

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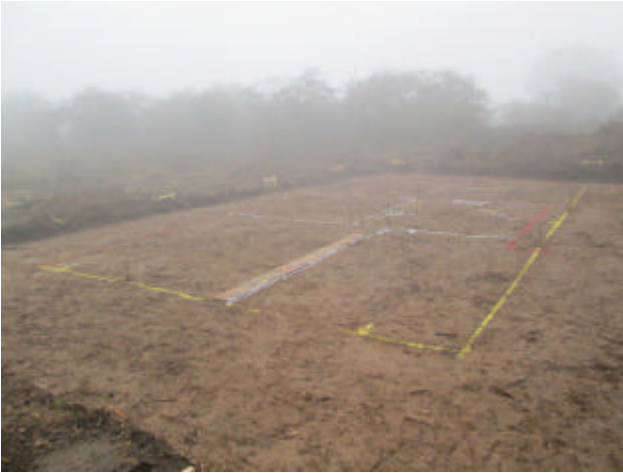
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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site with topsoil removed. Looking south-west.



DP 2. Foundation trenches for new house. Looking south-west.



DP 3. South foundation trench. Looking south-east.



DP 4. South foundation trench. Sample section 1. Looking south-south-west.



DP 5. West foundation trench. Looking south-west.



DP 6. West foundation trench. Sample section 2. Looking west-north-west.





DP 7. East/central foundation trench. Looking north-west.



DP 8. East/central foundation trench. Sample section 3. Looking north-north-east.



DP 9. Ground reduction within the area of new garage. Looking south-west.



DP 10. Foundation trenches for annexe and garage. Looking north-west.



DP 11. South foundation trench for new garage. Looking south-west.



DP 12. South foundation trench for new garage. Sample section 4. Looking south-south-west.

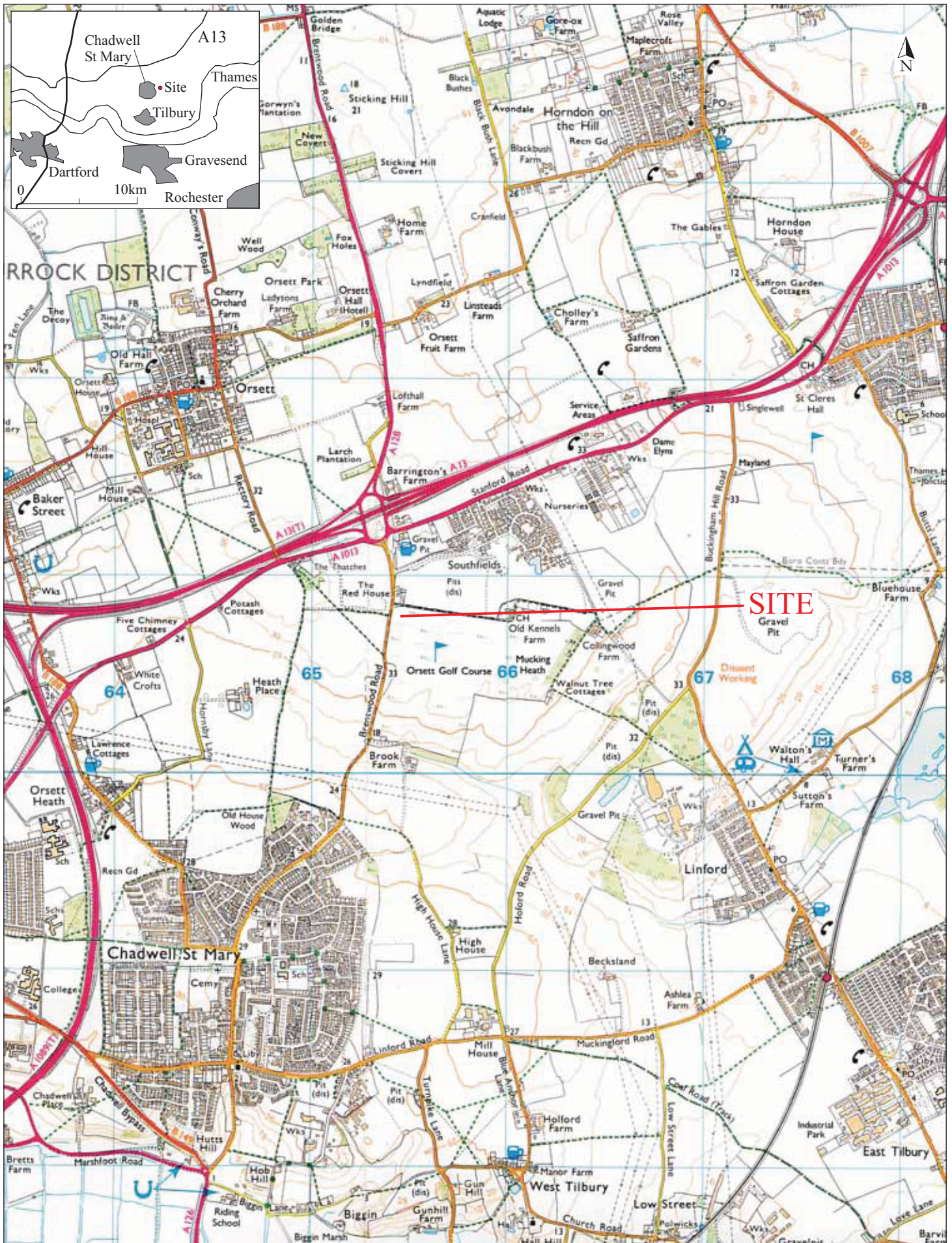


DP 13. Service trench. Looking south.



DP 14. Service trench. Sample section 5. Looking west.

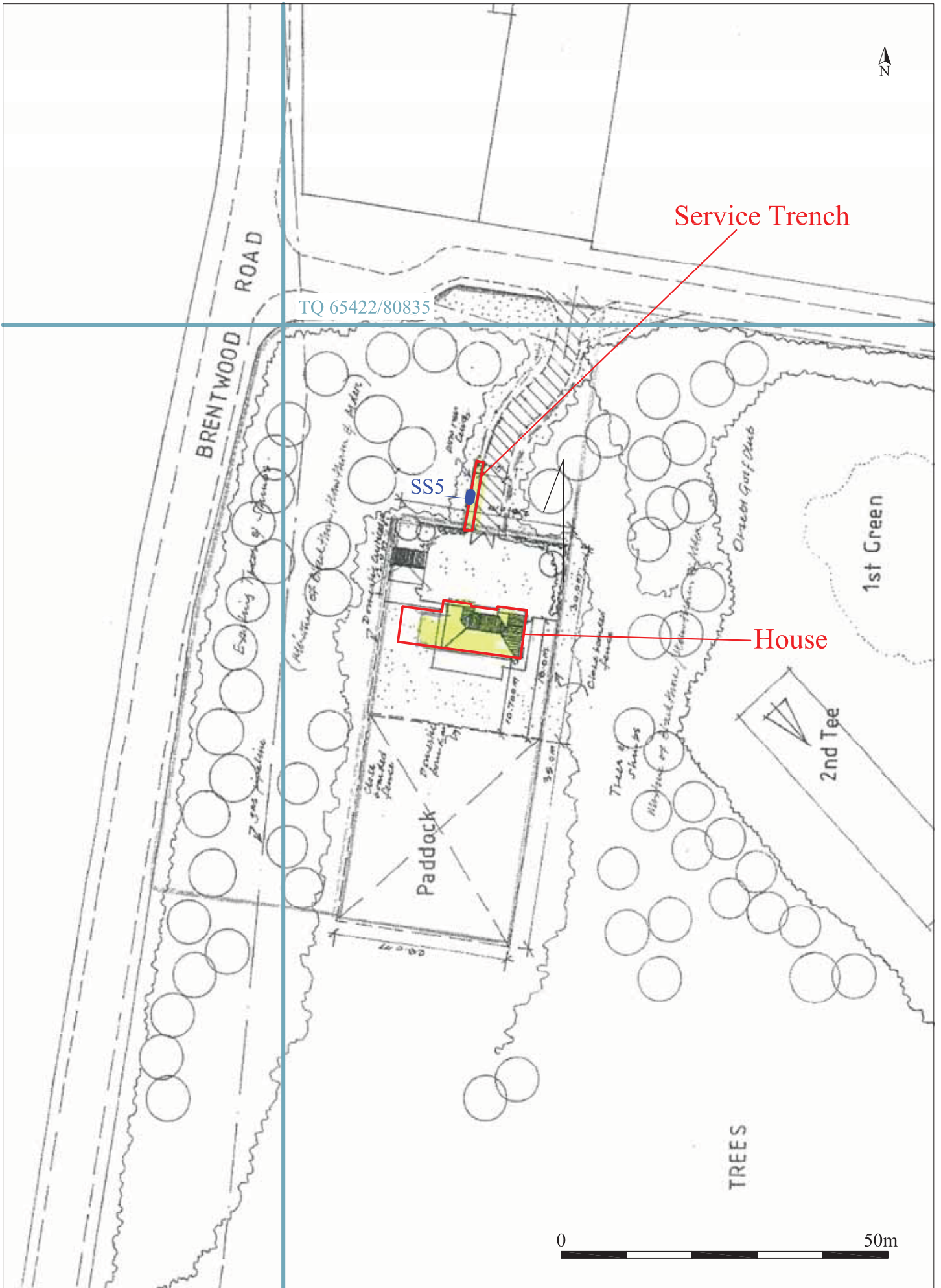




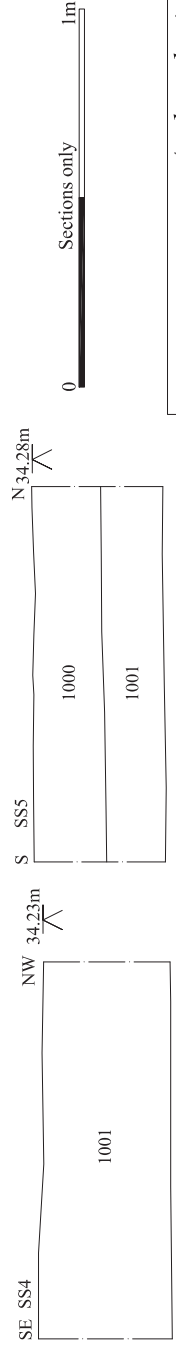
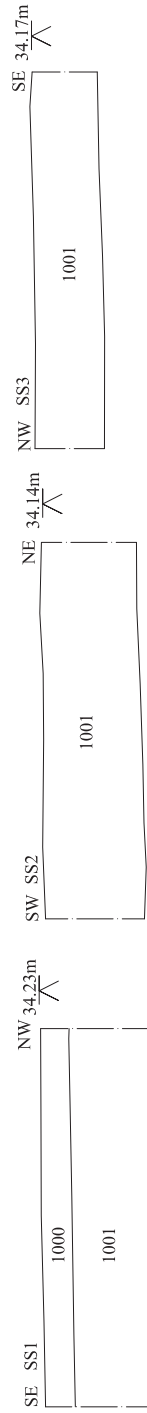
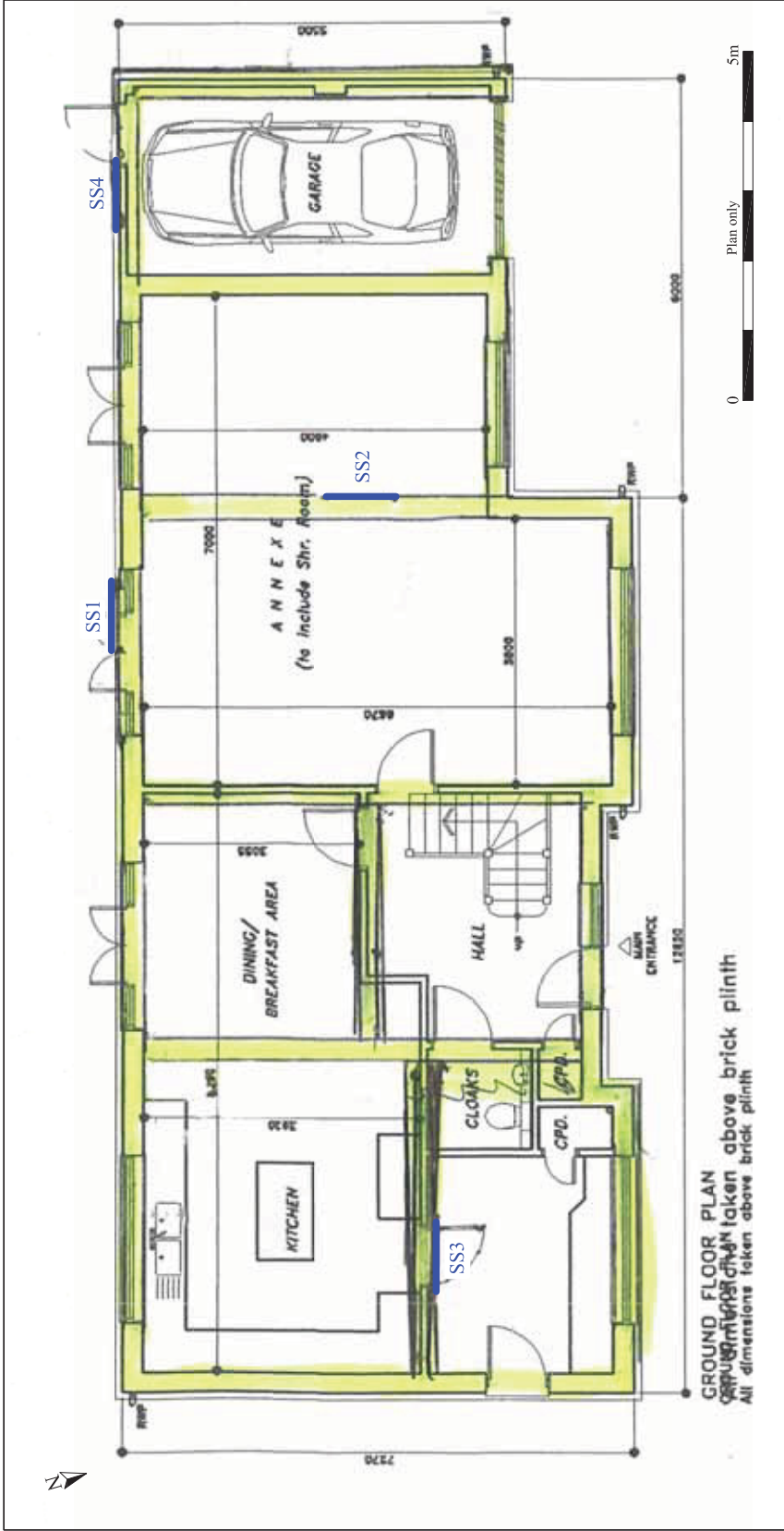
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4



0 1m Sections only

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**Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4