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**140A PICCOTTS END ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 05130 09152	Report No: 4375
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS 1602
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5329
Signed:	Date: 22 July 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In June and July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at 140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35603 08416). The monitoring was commissioned by Behan Partnership LLP on behalf of Mr & Mrs Foster in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension.</i>			
<i>Piccotts End is located on the north-west outskirts of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 59 which identifies the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Piccotts End. It also lies within Piccotts End Conservation Area and close to an extant 15th century building and the site of an 'Old Infirmary Yard' to the south. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains and Roman archaeology is also known in the area.</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit. The area of monitoring had been significantly affected by the construction and subsequent landscaping associated with the late 20th century construction of No.140a dwelling.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28/06 and 04/07/2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5329</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1602</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance 59 and within Conservation Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear garden and patio</i>		
Planned development	<i>Rear extension to residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pit</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Dacorum</i>	<i>Hemel Hempstead</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HP1 3AU</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 20m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 05130 09152</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 94m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs Foster</i>		
Full title	<i>140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4360</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2013</i>		

140A PICCOTTS END ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June and July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at 140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35603 08416). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension.

Piccotts End is located on the north-west outskirts of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 59 which identifies the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Piccotts End. It also lies within Piccotts End Conservation Area and close to an extant 15th century building and the site of an 'Old Infirmary Yard' to the south. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains and Roman archaeology is also known in the area.

In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit. The area of monitoring had been significantly affected by the construction and subsequent landscaping associated with the late 20th century construction of No.140a dwelling.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June and July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35603 08416; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Behan Partnership LLP on behalf of Mr & Mrs Foster, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00185/13/FHA).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 07/05/2013), 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), and 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:

- archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks;

- the provision of an adequately detailed project report; and
- the dissemination and publication of the project results, as appropriate.

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 Piccotts End is located on the north-west outskirts of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. It is close to Gadebridge c. 1.5km to the south-west and Highfield c. 2km to the south-east. The River Gade runs a north-south course c. 100m to the west of the site. Piccotts End Lane runs north-south through the village and a branch of the lane verges SW/NE in the direction of Grovehill c. 500m to the south-east of the site at the location of Marchmont Farm.

2.1 The site comprises a rear garden and patio of No 140a, a residential property located on the eastern side of Piccotts End Road (Fig. 1). The house closer to the street. No 140 is Grade II listed and lies at the front of narrow plot of land stretching towards north-east. No 140a was constructed in the late

20th century and it is proposed to construct a new rear extension to this, replacing a conservatory and patio.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies within the Gade valley situated to the north-west of Hemel Hempstead. The broad, V-shaped valley is subdivided into valley floor and valley slopes, the latter comprising largely mixed farmland. The River Gade runs a north-south course c. 100m to the west of the site and the banks are bordered by water meadows and pasture. At Grovehill c. 2km to the north-east of the site, the land slopes from c. 145m AOD to c. 95m AOD at the location of the site. To the west, the land rises from c. 95m AOD to c.135m AOD at the location in of Dell Wood at c. 1km distant.

3.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk which is present on the lower slopes to the south and the valley floor (British Geological Survey 1978). The bedrock geology is overlain by peri-glacial gravels and alluvium. The crests of the slopes to the east and west of the site are capped with clay-with-flints. The soils of the site belong to the Coombe 1 association and are defined as well-drained, calcareous fine silty soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). On the valley floor to the west, the soils are comprised of shallow, calcareous and non-calcareous loamy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains are not recorded within a 1km radius of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 Archaeological remains of Romano-British date are located to the south of the site. The Gadebridge Roman villa (HHER 88, SAM 27881) is situated c. 350m to the south-west of the site. Archaeological excavations revealed a 1st century winged corridor villa and bath house (Neal 2001). Additional wings were constructed in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and further alterations were made in the late 3rd century (*Ibid*). A large assemblage of metalwork objects (HHER 1867) were discovered in the area of the bath house at the villa (HHER 88) and included 173 bronze coins, spoons, iron knives, tweezers and items of jewellery comprising rings, bracelets and brooches (Neal 1974, Robertson 2000).

4.3 Other Romano-British archaeological remains comprise a number of coins (HHERs 518 & 13275) and a pennanular brooch (HHER 6209) discovered c. 350m to the south. A linear cropmark is located towards the north of the site and east of the River Gade. It has been suggested that the cropmark comprises the route of a Roman road running north-south through

the Gade Valley (pers comm. Thompson 2012).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

4.4 There is no mention of Piccotts End in the Domesday book of 1086. Due to the hamlet's close proximity to Hemel Hempstead, it is possible that Piccotts End fell within the manor of Hemel Hempstead, located in the Tring Hundred (Williams & Martin 2002, 379). Two 15th century houses (HHERs 4096 & 6193) are situated c. 500m to the north-west and c. 30m to the south. In 1953 restoration work at the Piccotts End cottages (HHER 6193) revealed late medieval religious wall paintings, comprising seven panels with depictions of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and several saints (Yaxley 1973, 36). It is thought that the building would have been of great importance in the late medieval period (Rouse 1989).

Post-medieval

4.5 Late 16th to 17th century archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site comprise two cottages (HHERs 9884 & 17546) situated c. 125m to the south-east. Piccotts End Farm (HHER 15390) comprises a late 16th century farmstead located adjacent c. 50m to the south-east (Smith 1993).

4.6 18th century archaeological remains within the environs of the site comprise two country houses (HHERs 15391 & 18117) situated c. 100m – 300m to the south-east as well as a complex of late 18th century red-brick stables (HHER 12822) associated with the Boar's Head Inn c. 175m to the south-east. The earliest reference to the Boar's Head dates to c. 1736 and in 1750, it had stabling for two horses (Gibson *et al* 2005). Analysis of brickwork from Piccotts End Mill (HHER 5786), located c. 75m to the north-west, is possibly 18th century in date, although the mill may have earlier origins.

4.7 19th century archaeological remains comprise Marchmont Farm and the site of a school (HHERs 18118 & 18119) situated c. 280m to the south-east. The site of the Old Infirmary (HHER 12107) situated at the location of the site, was established in 1827 by Sir Astley Paston Cooper, the royal surgeon to King George IV. The complex of buildings included a long, three-storey range which may have been the infirmary itself as well as pair of brick-built cottages and several small outbuildings.

4.8 The Kelly's 1898 Directory records Edward Mead as a miller, possibly at Piccotts End Mill (HHER 5786) and a William Oakley at the Boar's Head Inn (associated with HHER 12822) (Kelly's 1898, 101). David Walters was the farmer at Marchmont Farm (HHER 18118) and Piccotts End Farm (HHER 15390). The 1937 Kelly's Directory records a Sidney Young at the Boar's Head Inn and a Miss Catherine Bone at the post office situated c. 60m to the south boundary of the site (Kelly's 1937; Fig 7).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal element monitored was the mechanically-excavated ground reduction within the area of the proposed new extension (Figs. 2-3). Following the removal of the patio surfacing within the area of the new extension the natural geology was exposed. Therefore the monitoring did not include the later excavation of foundation trenches for the extension as these were entirely located within the natural clay that has already been revealed.

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

6.1 Deposits located within the area of monitoring were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 5)</i> <i>Ground reduction area, northern part, facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 94.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt.
0.23 – 0.67m	L1001	Made ground. Dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments and debris.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural dark brownish yellow, compact, clay with frequent flints and small stones.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 6)</i> <i>Ground reduction area, new stairs area, facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 94.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.15 – 0.23m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.23 – 0.63m	L1005	Subsoil. Light brown, compact, silty sand with frequent small stones and occasional CBM fragments.
0.63m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: The monitoring revealed a modern pit, F1006, and a modern drainage trench (F1003).

Modern Service F1003 was a linear and orientated north-east/south-west. It was located in the northern part of the site extending from the back of the garden to a drainage connection at the north-eastern corner of the building.

Pit F1006 (0.89 x 0.53m; DP 7) was located in the south-eastern corner of monitored area and was recorded in section only. It had near vertical sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. The principal and upper fill, L1007, was a mid to dark brownish grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments. It contained modern window glass fragments. The lower fill, L1008, consisted of charcoal mixed with dark brownish grey clayey silt and burnt red clay.

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 part of the site which was not reduced to provide the patio area was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt (0.15 – 0.38m thick). It overlay modern made ground (L1001 and L1005) and in the southern part of the site it directly overlay Subsoil L1005, a light brown, compact, silty sand with frequent small stones and occasional CBM fragments (0.40m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.15 – 0.60m below existing ground level and comprised a dark brownish yellow, compact, clay with frequent flints and small stones. The clay was also present within former patio area directly beneath (removed) pavement stones.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.59 which identifies the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Piccotts End. It also lies within Piccotts End Conservation Area and close to an extant 15th century building and the site of an 'Old Infirmary Yard' to the south.

9.2 In the event the monitoring recorded only modern remains, a pit and a service trench. The area of monitoring had been significantly affected by the construction and subsequent landscaping associated with the late 20th century construction of No.140a.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Foster for funding the work, and Ms Louise Polledri of Behan Partnership LLP for her assistance, and Mr Peter Baker of Synergy LLP.

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

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

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).

HHER No	NGR TL	Details
Roman		
88 EHT5041 EHT5214	0495 0865	Gadebridge Roman villa. Winged corridor villa with timber antecedent and bath house. Excavations revealed a 1 st century timber building and bath house. The winged corridor villa was built c.140-60 AD; additional wings were added in the late 2 nd /early 3 rd century and further alterations were made c.300 AD. A bathing pool was added to the bath-house by AD 325. The villa and bath-house were demolished by the mid 4 th century, although some occupation continued into the early 5 th century. Area of Archaeological Significance 34. SAM 27881.
518	0499 0865	19 coins from 144 BC-79 AD found at various times around 1851 in the Park; thought to be part of a hoard of denarii deposited after 73 AD. 'A field a little to the NW of the town' 'has yielded a number of silver denarii', 12 Republican, three of Augustus, and four of Vespasian.
1867	0499 0872	173 bronze coins associated with a large number of small bronze objects (rings, brooches, bracelet fragments) suggest votive deposits into the bathing pool [88]. The objects consisted of fragments of 15 bracelets, 11 rings, four penannular brooches, tweezers, part of a mirror, a spoon, fragments of worked bronze, and also some broken iron knives. 'Possibly the finds were deliberately thrown into the water as a tribute to a water deity'. These fragments were with scattered coins, as well as the 173 coins which may be the dispersed contents of a single votive deposit, 'found in one-time waterlogged levels NW of the bathing pool, although the possibility of this group of coins being a dispersed hoard should not be ignored'. The date range of the group of 173 was AD 259-353.
6209	052 086	Roman brooch found in 1977 on W bank of River Gade, approx 125m east of Gadebridge Roman villa [88]. Made of bronze, heavily enamelled; good state of preservation but with signs of wear on edges of central plate and foot. Only head of pin survived. Some damage to edge of catch plate; condition of enamel poor. The brooch is a possible continental product of the mid-second century AD.
13275	0473 0870	A Roman Republican denarius found in the rear garden of 125 Marlins Turn, Gadebridge. It dates

		from 96-91BC, from the Auxiliary Italian mint. L Calpurnius Piso, Q Servilius Caepio; Sydenham no.603.
Medieval		
4096	0430 0959	Gaddesden Hall. Late 15 th or early 16 th century house, later partly rebuilt of brick and flint. Gaddesden Hall is the successor of a manor variously called Southall, Gadesden or Oliver's Place. In 1448 the manor fell to co-heirs; in 1614 it came to two brothers; and in 1658 it was sold to John Halsey of Great Gaddesden and Thomas Bamford of Ashridge. LB II* 157891.
6193	0513 0911	15 th century hall house, for many years a range of four cottages. Timber frame, two storeys with five-gabled front, whitewashed plaster, red brick infill, old tiled roofs. Crown post roof of three trusses visible in no.132 which contains very important late 15th century wall paintings discovered in March 1953, on NW wall. LB I 355629.
Post-medieval		
5208	0516 0821	19th century bridge moved to a different position and replaced with a new one.
5786	0499 0920	Piccotts End Mill. Large post-medieval mill and mill-house, with much earlier origins; demolished after a fire in 1991. Some bricks in brick base suggest 18th century but much patched with later material.
9060	0455 0940	Rectilinear earthworks of linear features on the floodplain of the river Gade. Probably watercross beds or water meadows.
9884	0526 0890	Dolphin Cottage. 17 th century house.
12107	0517 0911	Old Infirmary, 114-138 Piccotts End. Site of infirmary for the poor, set up by Astley Cooper in 1827. Apparently demolished about 30 years ago, they included a long three storey range with a mansard roof, which may be the infirmary itself, a pair of brick-built (or brick-faced) cottages, and several small outbuildings.
12822	0527 0885	Late 18 th to early 19 th century red brick stables – Boar's Head PH. The earliest reference to the Boar's Head dates to 1736; in the 1750s it had stabling for two horses. The 'barn' in the rear yard is a two-storey, three bay stable block of red brick, and dates to the late 18 th century to early 19 th century.
15390	0514 0904	Piccotts End Farm, 117 Piccotts End. The farmhouse is 16 th or early 17 th century, a two-storey timber-framed house with red brick nogging and plaster infill, the ground floor front wall rebuilt in whitewashed brick; old tiled roof, with plain early red brick chimneystack.
15391	0522 0899	Piccotts End House. Late 18 th to early 19 th century house with outbuildings in large plot.
15982	0513 0822	Possible cottage or nee by the river Gade. Round Cottage is shown on the 1878 OS Map as a circular building with a small square extension at the rear,

		and a separate rectangular outbuilding behind it. It stood in the park at Gadebridge by the footbridge over the river, in its own plot, and would have been within the view from the house itself.
17546	0524 0892	Gade Spring, 109 Piccotts End, Hemel Hempstead. 17th or 18th century house.
18117	0528 0861	Marchmont House is a small late 18 th century country house, built for the third Earl of Marchmont (1708-94), statesman and friend of Alexander Pope.
18118	0537 0868	Marchmont Farm. Marchmont Farm, opposite Marchmont House [18117], is shown on the 1878 OS map as a group of post-medieval barns and other buildings around an irregular trapezoidal yard, set back from the road. The farmhouse stood at the north side of this yard, adjoining the barns, with a separate large barn standing towards the road at the junction with the track leading NE (now Piccotts End Lane) and other small separate outbuildings to the north.
18119	0537 0874	19 th century village school, demolished in the mid 20 th century.

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
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	10

APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Parish: Hemel Hempstead
Planning application reference:	Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00185/13/FHA
Client name/address/tel:	Mr & Mrs Foster, 140a Piccotts End Road.
Nature of application:	Construction of a single storey rear extension.
Present land use:	Rear patio and garden
Size of application area: c. 20m ²	Size of area investigated 20m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 35603 08416
Site Code:	AS 1602
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Date of work:	28/06 and 04/04/2013
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Dacorum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In June and July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at 140a Piccotts End Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35603 08416). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear extension.</p> <p>The monitoring revealed a modern pit. The area of monitoring had been significantly affected by the construction and subsequent landscaping associated with the late 20th century construction of No.140a dwelling.</p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: July 2013

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. View from rear garden. Looking south.



DP 2. Ground reduction. Looking north.



DP 3. Northern part of ground reduction area. Looking east-south-east.



DP 4. Southern part of ground reduction area in later phase. Looking east-south-east.



DP 5. Sample section 1. Looking north-east.



DP 6. Sample section 2. Looking north-east.



DP 7. Pit F1006. Looking north-east.

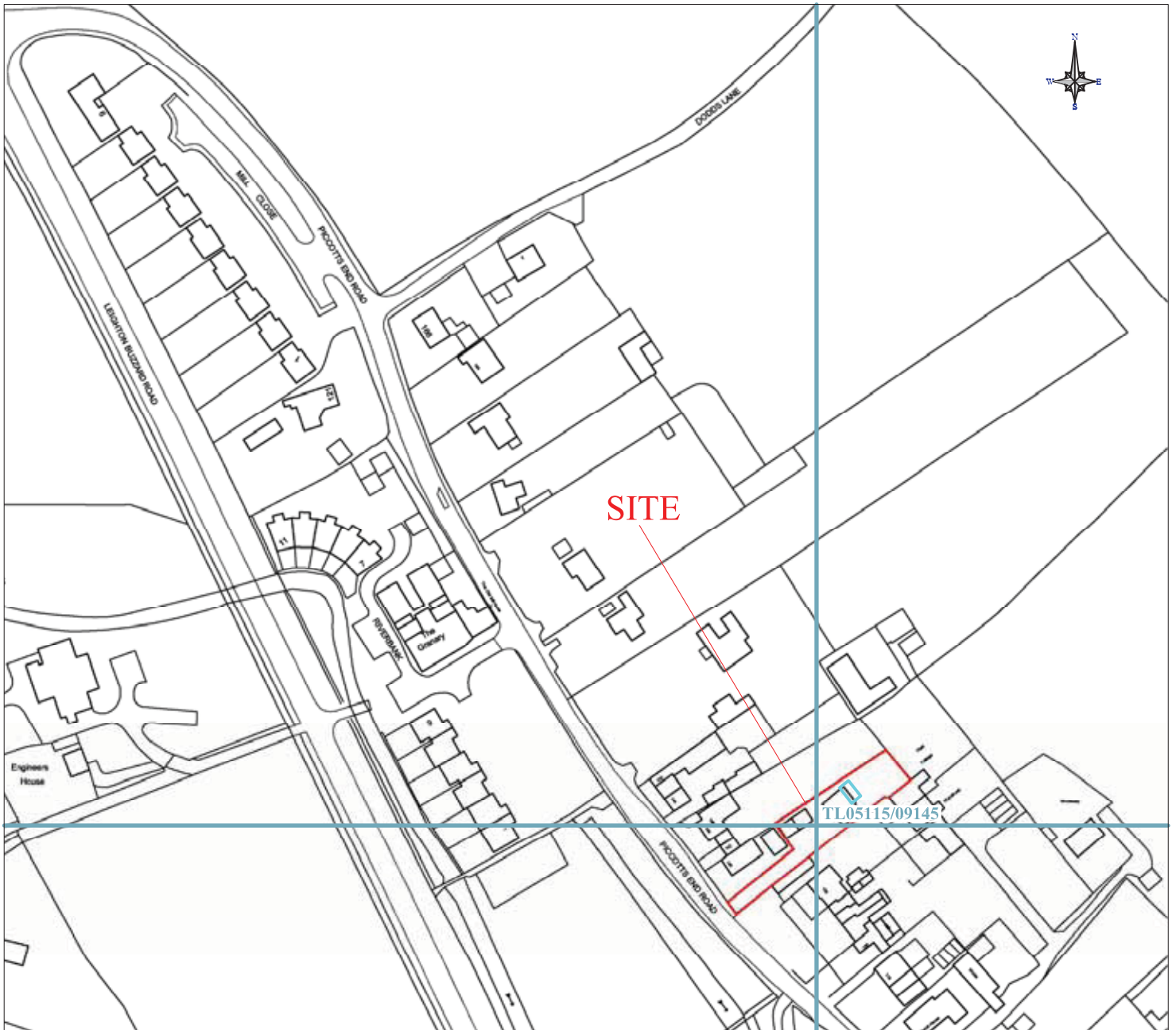


DP 8. Area of removed conservatory and part of patio. Looking north-west.



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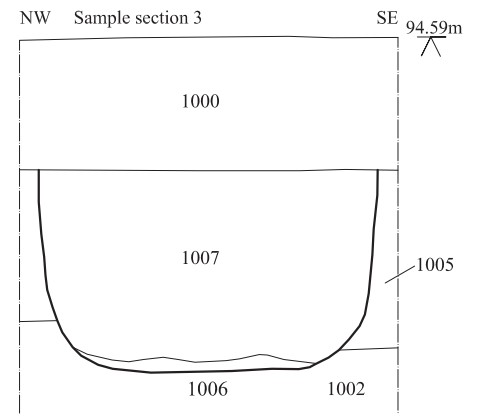
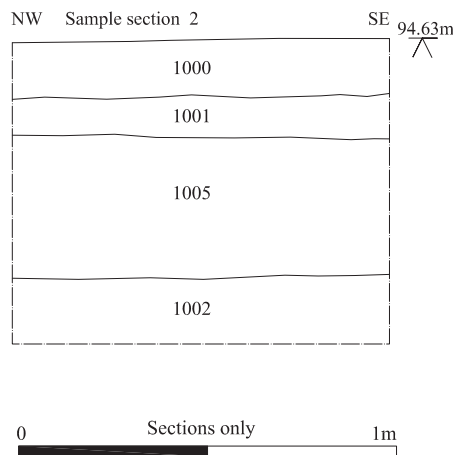
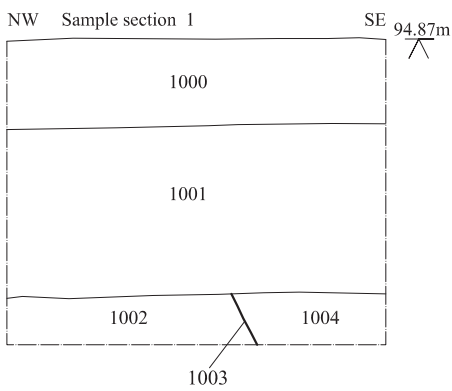
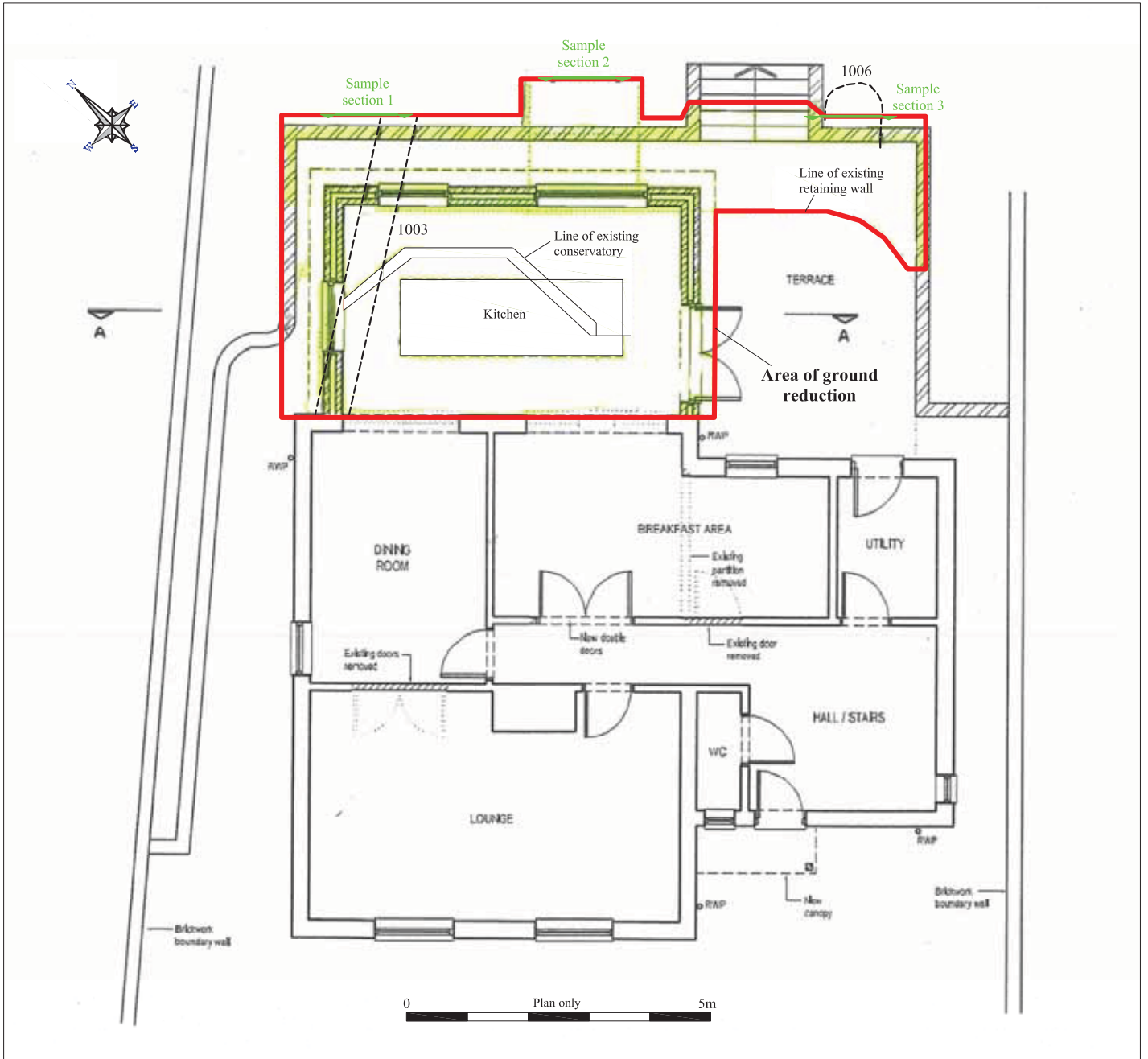
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4



0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 3 Groundworks & sample sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4