

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**HILL FARM HOUSE, 20 CHISHILL ROAD, HEYDON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE SG8 8PW**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO.ECB3972

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & report) Peter Thompson (Archaeological background)	
NGR: TL 4308 3987	Report No: 4409
District: South Cambs	Site Code: AS 1618
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5107
Signed:	Date: 26 September 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Hill Farm House, 20 Chishill Road, Heydon, Cambridgeshire SG8 8PW		
<p>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land at Hill Farm House, 20 Chishill Road, Heydon, Cambridgeshire SG8 8PW (NGR TL 4308 3987; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Fay Dutton and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new residential dwelling and car port within the garden area of Hill Farm House (Planning Ref. S/2267/10).</p> <p>The site is situated within the historic core of the village of Heydon, on the western side of Chishill Road. It lies within an area of archaeological potential, as suggested by its position within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the settlement, opposite the medieval parish church of Holy Trinity (Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record HER MCB 14882). The site thus had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval occupation.</p> <p>In the event no archaeological features were present and a single struck flint was found within Subsoil L1001. The stratigraphy appeared intact and the natural was not disturbed so had archaeological remains been present they would likely have been preserved.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	5269	Site code	AS 1618
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	Single struck flint		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	South Cambs	Heydon
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)		
Post code (if known)	SG8 8PW		
Area of site	-		
NGR:	TL 4308 3987		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.136m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Dan McConnell)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	Fay Dutton		
Full title	Hill Farmhouse, 20 Chishill Road, Heydon, Cambridgeshire SG8 8PW. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Gareth Barlow & Peter Thompson		
Report no.	4409		
Date (of report)	September 2013		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land at Hill Farm House, 20 Chishill Road, Heydon, Cambridgeshire SG8 8PW (NGR TL 4308 3987). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new residential dwelling and car port within the garden area of Hill Farm House (Planning Ref. S/2267/10).

The site is situated within the historic core of the village of Heydon, on the western side of Chishill Road. It lies within an area of archaeological potential, as suggested by its position within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the settlement, opposite the medieval parish church of Holy Trinity (Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record HER MCB 14882). The site thus had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval occupation.

In the event no archaeological features were present and a single struck flint was found within Subsoil L1001. The stratigraphy appeared intact and the natural was not disturbed so had archaeological remains been present they would likely have been preserved.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation of land at Hill Farm House, 20 Chishill Road, Heydon, Cambridgeshire SG8 8PW (NGR TL 4308 3987; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Fay Dutton and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new residential dwelling and car port within the garden area of Hill Farm House (Planning Ref. S/2267/10).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Dan McConnell dated 14 November 2012), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 17 May 2013), and approved by CCC HET. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2008) were used for guidance.

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Heydon is situated 16km south of Cambridge and 7km east of Royston. The site is situated within the historic core of the village, on the western side of Chishill Road. It comprises part of the mature garden plot of Hill Farm House, which lies adjacent to the immediate south.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology & Soils

3.1.1 The site lies at c.136m AOD near the top of a hill. The local soils comprise chalky till of the Hanslope association and the local geology is Cretaceous middle chalk. A large pond lies close to the road frontage to the immediate east, and another is to the south of Hill Farm House.

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.2.1 Prehistoric finds are scarce from the parish with the nearest find a Bronze Age palstave recovered from 320m to the east (CHER 03979). Cropmarks of a possible rectangular Roman enclosure have been identified 300m to the north-east of the site, east of Heydon Place (CHER 03892), and a Roman corn drying kiln was excavated at the north end of the village (CHER 04139). In the same area is the south end of the Bran Ditch which ran between Heydon and Fowlmere and is thought to be of 5th-6th century origin (CHER 07802). An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found alongside it, and the Bran Ditch is a Scheduled Monument.

3.2.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, as suggested by its position within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the settlement. It is 200m from the Grade II* listed medieval parish church of Holy Trinity (CHER MCB 14882). The existing church dates from the 15th century and was restored in 1866. In 1940 a large part of the church was destroyed by a German bomb and the church was restored again in the 1950s. Cropmarks of a possible moated site are located 160m south of Hill Farm House (CHER MCB 19129). Undated strip lynchets and a linear ditched feature are located to the west of Heydon and are shown on the OS map (CHER 09293 & 08763).

3.2.3 The 1877 1st edition OS map shows that a range of buildings stood immediately to the south of Hill Farm House (Fig. 3).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Two trial trenches were excavated to cover the footprint of the proposed house and cart lodge (Fig.2). The individual trenches varied in length between 5 and 20m; all measured in 1.80m width.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further

investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>0.00 = 136.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint and limestone.
0.25 – 0.34m	L1003	Made Ground. Mid orange brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint and limestone.
0.34 – 0.47m	L1004	Made Ground. Mid yellow brown, firm, silty clay with frequent small – medium chalk, flint and limestone.
0.47 – 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium angular flint, and limestone and chalk fragments.
0.67m+	L1002	Natural. Mid yellow grey, firm, silty clay with moderate small – medium angular flint, and limestone and chalk fragments.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>0.00 = 136.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 2.</i> <i>0.00 = 136.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.75m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.75m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features of finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Across the site and uppermost was Topsoil, L1000, a dark grey brown, friable, clayey silt with occasional small angular flint and limestone (0.25 - 0.36m thick). In part of Trench 1 below L1000 was made ground (0.22m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid yellow brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium angular flint, and limestone and chalk fragments (c.0.35m thick). Below L1001, the natural L1002, was a mid yellow grey, firm, silty clay with moderate small – medium angular flint, and limestone and chalk fragments. L1002 was between 0.50 - 0.75m below the ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is situated within the historic core of the village of Heydon, on the western side of Chishill Road. It lies within an area of archaeological potential, as suggested by its position within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the settlement, opposite the medieval parish church of Holy Trinity (Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record HER MCB 14882). The site thus had a potential for remains of medieval and post-medieval occupation.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features were present and a single struck flint was found within Subsoil L1001. The stratigraphy appeared intact and the natural was not disturbed so had archaeological remains been present they would likely have been preserved.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Dutton for funding the project and for their assistance, and also the assistance of Cheffins, in particular Mr Paul Sutton.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, Ms Sarah Bultz for providing the HER information, and staff at the Cambridge Record Office.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) 1994 (revised 2012) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*. IFA, Reading

Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*

WEB SITE

Heritage Gateway

APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Fig. Number	Title	Date	Scale	Reference
1	Site location	Modern		
2	Detailed site location	Modern		
3	1 st edition OS map	1877	25 inch	59.13

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MfA

A single flake (13g) of struck flint debitage was recovered from Subsoil L1001. The tertiary flake exhibits an abraded striking platform and blade-like dorsal scars, suggesting it was manufactured in the later Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic. However the flake is also moderately patinated and rolled suggesting a significant degree of re-deposition and weathering.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1, facing east



2
Trench 2, facing south-west



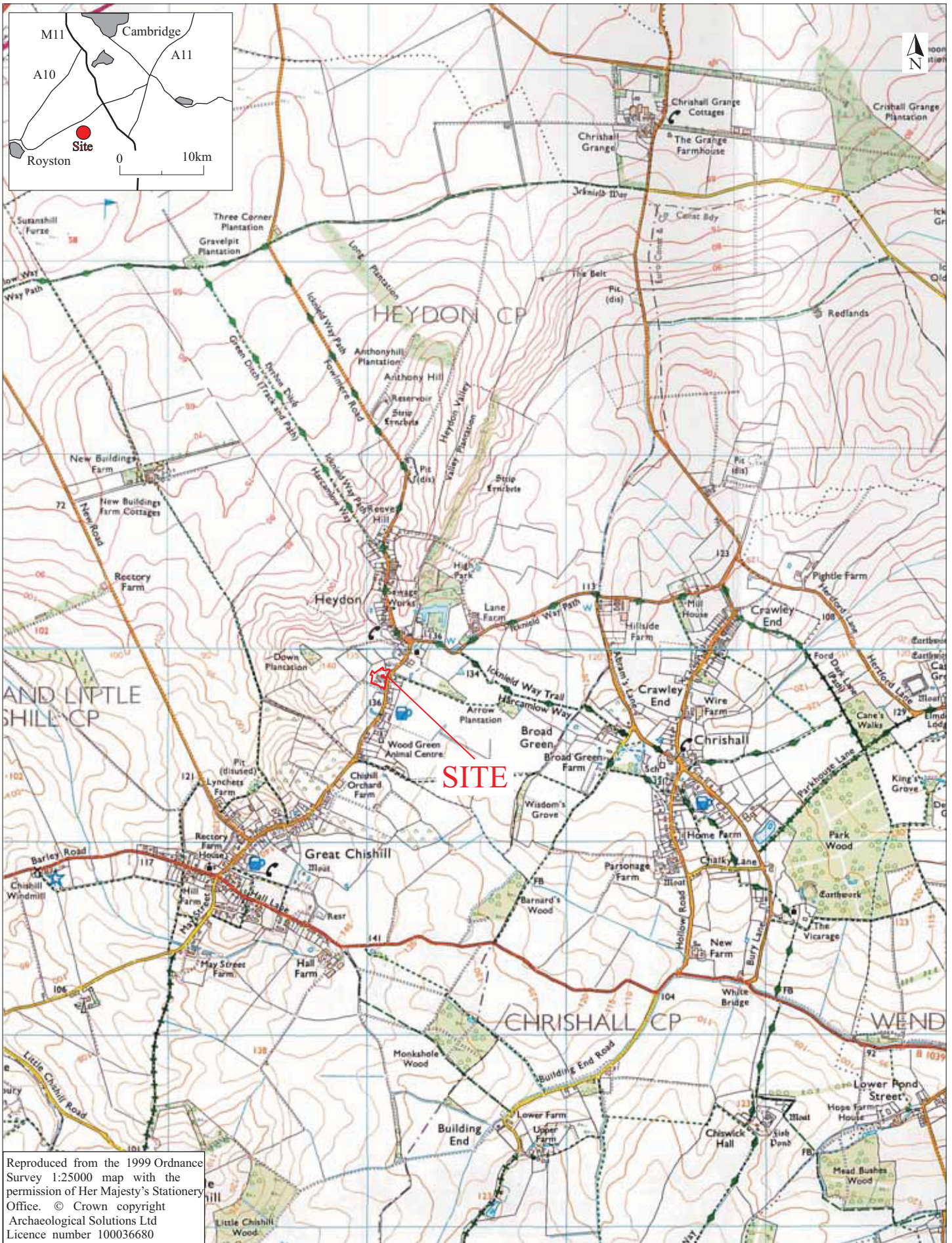
3
Sample section 1A, facing south



4
Sample section 1B, facing north

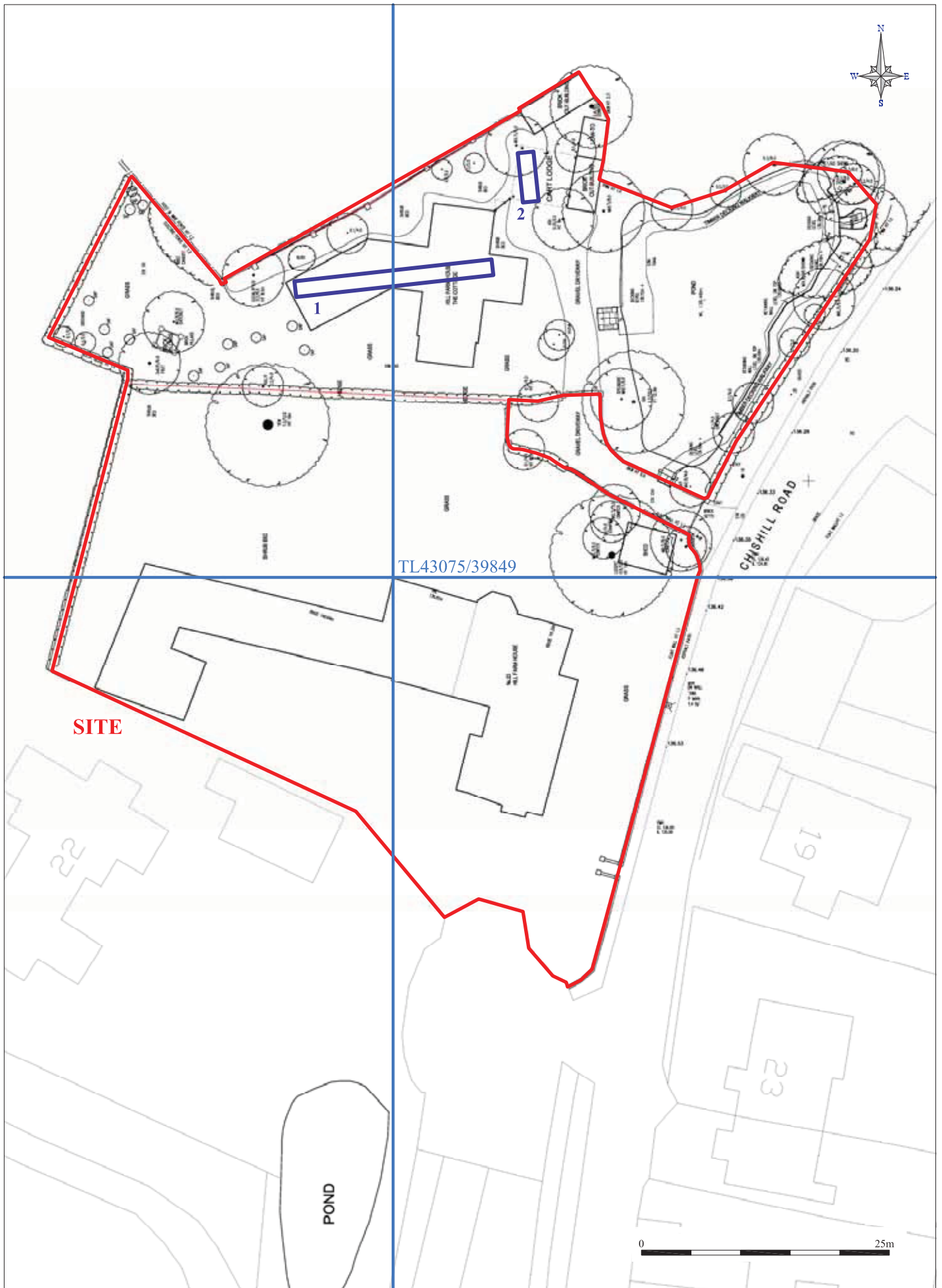


5
Sample section 2, facing south-east



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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 1:500 at A4



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 Fig. 3 1st edition OS map, 1877
 Not to scale