

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**21 COMMON ROAD, STUDHAM
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Authors: Gareth Barlow BSc	
NGR: TL 01855 15222	Report No. 4185
District: Central Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS1536
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No. 4612
Signed:	Date: November 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire		
<p><i>In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire LU6 2NQ (NGR TL 01855 15222). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new triple garage and soakaways. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval. (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/11/04080/FULL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the southern part of the historic core of the village of Studham and comprises the semi-detached dwelling of 21 Common Road and garden. It lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Studham, and had particular potential for settlement remains of medieval and post-medieval date.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed a modern made ground layer and demolition debris associated with the demolition of an outbuilding.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	15 th October 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P4612	Site code	AS1536
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Extensions and triple garage		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire	Studham
HER/ SMR for area	Central Bedfordshire Council HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.100m ²		
NGR	TL 01855 15222		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.185.50m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	CBC		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Adam Dyson		
Funded by	Mr Chris Trippett		
Full title	21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication.		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	4612		
Date (of report)	November 2012		

21 COMMON ROAD, STUDHAM BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire LU6 2NQ (NGR TL 01855 15222). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new triple garage and soakaways. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval. (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/11/04080/FULL).

The site lies within the southern part of the historic core of the village of Studham and comprises the semi-detached dwelling of 21 Common Road and garden. It lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Studham, and had particular potential for settlement remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

The monitoring revealed modern made ground layer and demolition debris associated with the demolition of an outbuilding.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire LU6 2NQ (NGR TL 01855 15222; Figs.1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions and a new triple garage (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/11/04080/FULL). It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval.

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC) (*Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 21 Common Road, Studham, Bedfordshire*, dated 28/06/2012), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (dated 02/07/2012), approved by CBC. 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 identify and record any features of interest that exposed during groundworks for the proposed development. The archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

1.4 The project objective was to identify and record any features of interest that are exposed during groundworks for the proposed development. The archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

1.5 Specific attention were to be paid to:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site;
- establishing the relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- Recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a regional type series; and
- Recovery of palaeo-environmental remains in order to determine local environmental conditions

Planning policy context

1.6 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.

1.7 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 (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 The site currently comprises a large 19th century residential property (MBD 6962) and is one of four houses facing north on to Common Road (Nos. 17-21). A large, rectangular garden backing on to open fields or paddocks is situated to the south of the property and several garages, a log store and a small orchard are located to the front (north). A modern extension is situated to the south.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at the southern end of the village of Studham and the topography of the local landscape is undulating, comprising alternating peaks and troughs to the south and north of the site. It lies at an elevation of c.185m – 186m AOD. The solid geology of the area comprises (Cretaceous) Upper Chalk. The soils are the fine silty loam overlying clayey loamey soils with slow permeable subsoils of the Batcombe Association (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site has been subject to a heritage assessment (Stoakley 2011).

4.2 With the exceptions of the discovery of lithic implements in the wider area in the 1970s (Robson & Robson 1981, 3) and the recovery of a Neolithic axe (CBHER 2022) from a location c.1km to the east of the site, evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is limited. Indeed, prehistoric remains are not recorded within 500m of the site.

4.3 A Roman road (MBD 696; Viatores No. 169) runs SE/NW through the village of Studham. A small agger (MBD 8800), recorded c.157m to the south-east of the site, marks the course of this road. Beyond this, no Roman archaeology has been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

4.4 The site is located within the southern area of the Saxon and medieval historic core of the settlement of Studham Common (HER 16916). The first documentary reference to Studham dates to 1053/1065 and comprises a charter granting land to St Albans Abbey. At Domesday, Studham was in the possession of Robert de Tosny. Studham has a complex manorial history with at least five manors within the parish.

4.5 The Church of St Mary the Virgin (CBHERs 1134 & 8975), located c.750m to the north of Common Road, was consecrated in 1219 by Abbot Leofstan of St Albans. Eleventh century documentary evidence indicates the presence of an earlier church and masonry of this date is present within the current building. The church may originally have been part of a church-manor complex as it lies adjacent to Manor Farmhouse and moat (HER 6956 and HER 3131). Medieval settlement evidence is recorded in the area around the church (CBHER 16961). As today, the medieval settlement pattern is likely to have been polyfocal with separate hamlets at Studham Common North (MBD 16962) and Studham Common South (MBD 16963).

4.6 Woodland at Elm Grove (MBD 11036), located c.83m west of the site, is thought to have been established during the 13th century. Bury Farm, located c.46m south-east of the site, was the site of a medieval manor farm (MBD 10943). A medieval road (MBD 11195) runs south from Common Road to Milebarn c.74m west of the site.

4.7 The landscape of Studham remained largely rural during the post-medieval period. The only listed building within the vicinity of the site comprises the 18th century Adelaide Cottage (MBD 4393, Listed Building 1159264), which lies c.33m east of the site. Another 18th century building (MBD 10904) was formerly present c.111m south-west of the site but was demolished prior to 1884. Common Road, on which the site lies, was constructed in 1870 by Earl Brownlow and Sir Thomas Sebright (Robson & Robson 1981, 27). A moderate-sized farmstead (MBD 10901) is located c.37m south of the site and was demolished prior to 1880. Another demolished farmstead (MBD 10902) was located c.31m to the south-west of the site. Bury Farmhouse on Common Road (MBD 6959) situated c.46m to the south-east, comprises a two-storey T-plan farmhouse with alterations dating to 1879. Model farm buildings and a railway dating to 1839 (MBD 11329) and the 19th century landscaped grounds of Barwythe House are located c.64m – c.157m to the south-east.

4.8 The property occupying No. 21 Common Road (MBD 6962) was constructed in 1864, by Earl Brownlow, along with the adjoining No.17, as an estate cottage. It comprises a purple and red brick two-storey residential property with a modern extension to the rear.

4.9 Post-medieval chalk pits and crop-marks (MBD 11024) are recorded c. 27m to the north of the site. 19th century gravel pits are

known to the north-east (MBD 10839) and north-west (MBD 10808) of the site, at distances between 100 and 200m. The former sites of a 19th century farmstead and school are recorded c. 96m north of the site.

4.10 Until the mid 19th century the parish of Studham was divided between the counties of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. This situation had existed since Domesday. During the 19th century most of the parish became the property of the Earls of Bridgewater and Brownlow. Bury Farm was totally rebuilt by Earl Brownlow as a model farm (MBD 11329).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground works associated with the triple garage and two soakaways.

5.2 The monitoring comprised the observation of ground works, inspection of subsoil, make-up layers, and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Sample sections were recorded (Fig.3):

<i>Sample section 1.</i>		
<i>East facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 185.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, mid grey brown clay silt.
0.20 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, pale yellow brown silty clay with occasional CBM and chalk flecks.
0.40 – 0.90m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Compact, pale orange yellow silty clay with occasional large flints.

<i>Sample section 2.</i>		
<i>West facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 185.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1002	Modern made ground. Friable, mid grey brown clay silt with frequent CBM rubble.
0.18 – 0.26m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.26m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: The ground works observed comprised the excavation of the foundations trenches for the new triple garage and the excavation of two new soakaways. The foundation trenches were 0.45 – 0.80m

wide. The soakaways were located to the rear of the new garage and house and they measured 1.80 - 2.20 x 1.40 x 1.80m).

Modern Made Ground L1002 was only present on the east side of the new garage footings to the rear of the dwelling. It was in the area of a recently-demolished outbuilding and was associated with that event.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy varied between the eastern and the western sectors of the garage footprint. Eastwards uppermost, L1002 was made ground consisting of a friable, mid grey brown clay silt with frequent CBM rubble (0.08m thick). Below L1002 was Subsoil L1001, a firm, pale yellow brown silty clay with occasional CBM and chalk flecks (0.20m thick). At the base of the sequence was the natural deposits (L1003), a compact, pale orange yellow silty clay with occasional large flints (0.26m below the present day ground level).

8.2 Westwards uppermost, L1000 was a garden soil consisting of a friable, mid grey brown clay silt (0.20m thick). Below L1002 was Subsoil L1001 (0.20m thick). Again at the base of the sequence were natural deposits (L1003) at a depth of 0.40m below the present day ground level. A similar stratigraphy was present in both soakaways.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within the southern part of the historic core of the village of Studham and comprises the semi-detached dwelling of 21 Common Road and garden. It lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Studham, and had particular potential for settlement remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

9.2 In the event modern Made Ground L1002 was only present on the east side of the new garage foundations to the rear of the dwelling. It was in the area of a recently-demolished outbuilding and was associated with that event.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Luton Museum (Accession No.LUTNM.2012.31). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Chris Trippett for funding the monitoring and for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice, assistance and input of Ms Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire Council.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

General view of footing trench excavation in progress. Looking northwest.



2

General view northwest corner. Looking north.



3

Sample section 1. Looking west.



4

Sample section 2. Looking east.



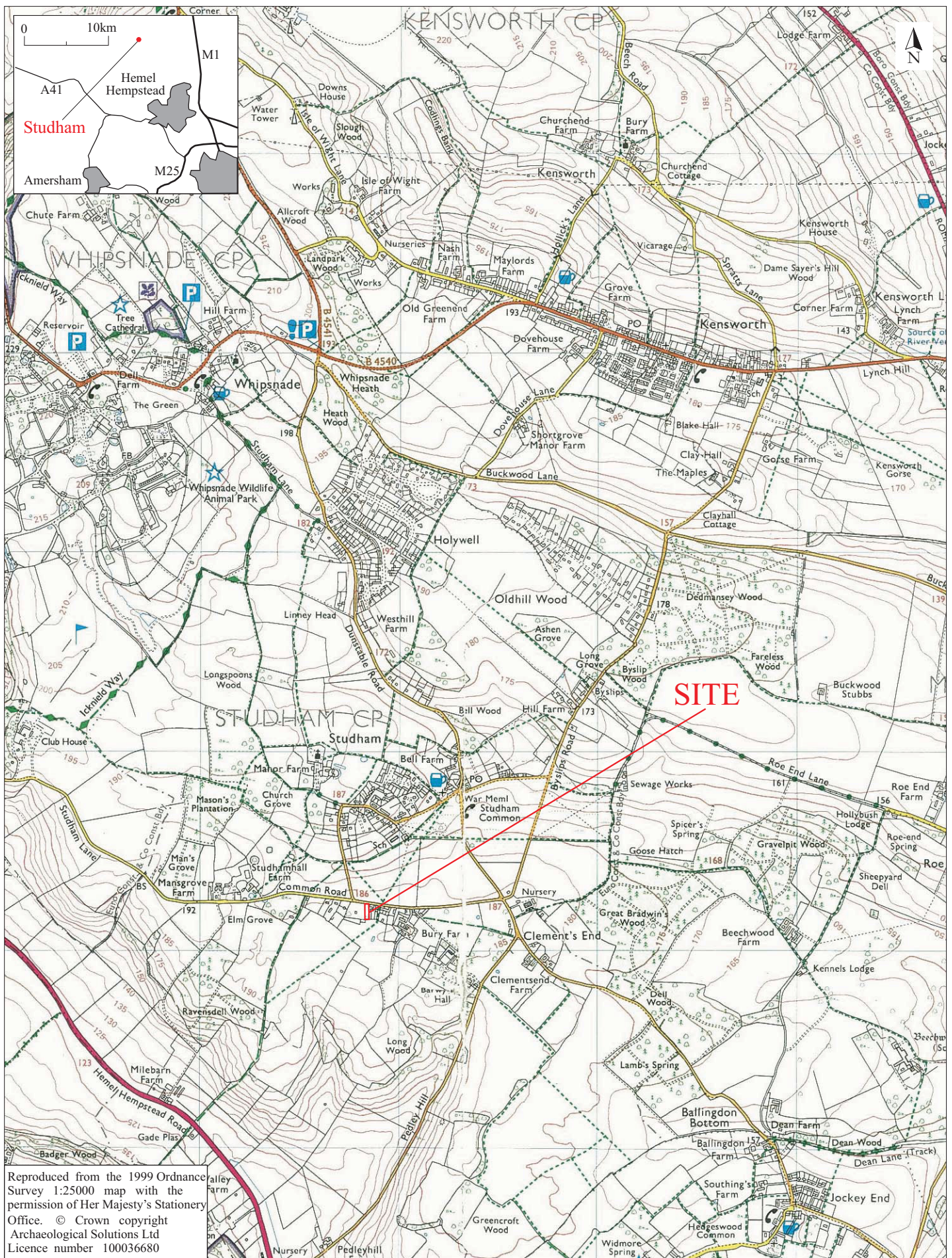
5

General view of western soakaway. Looking north.

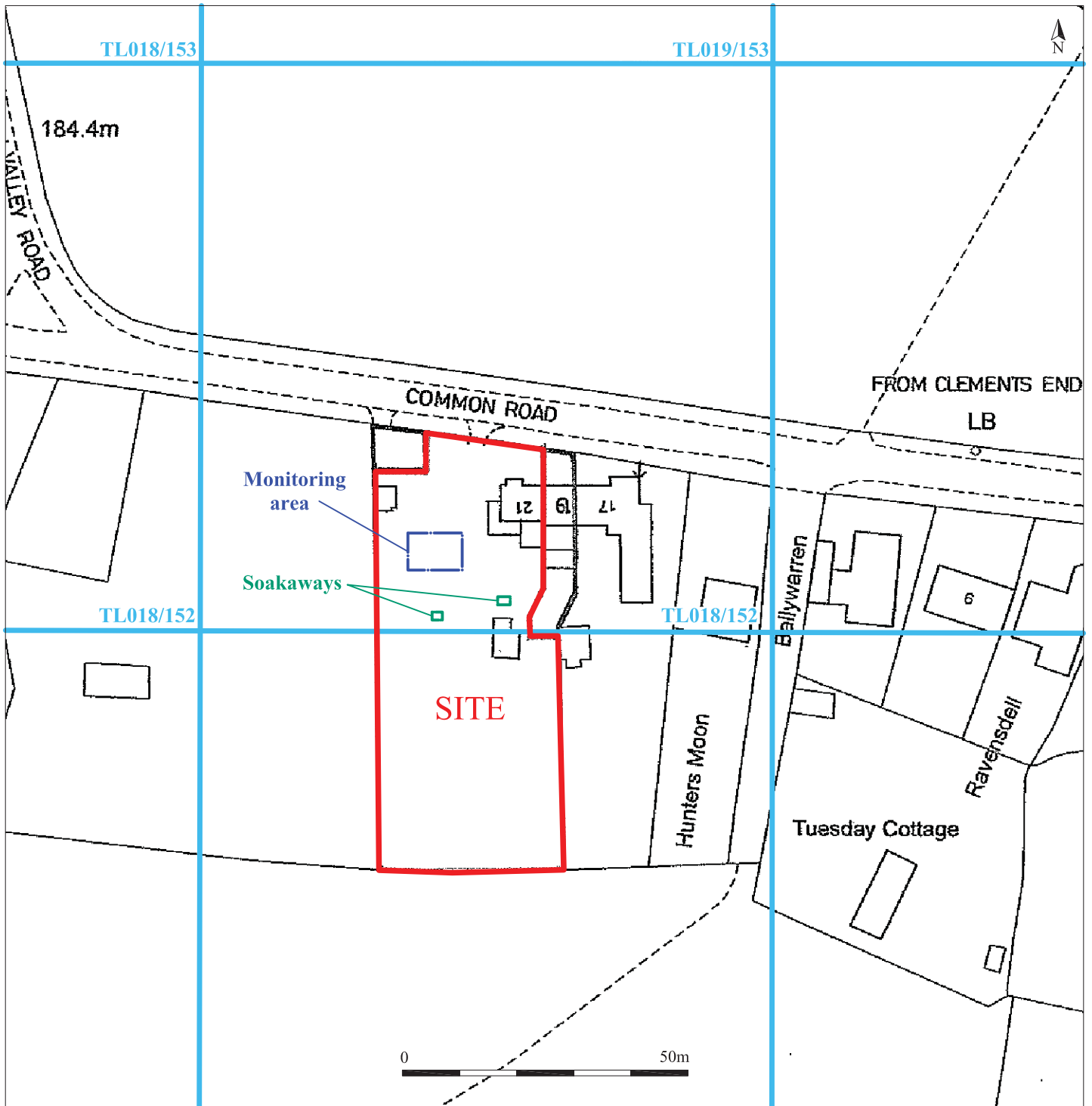


6

General view of eastern soakaway. Looking north.

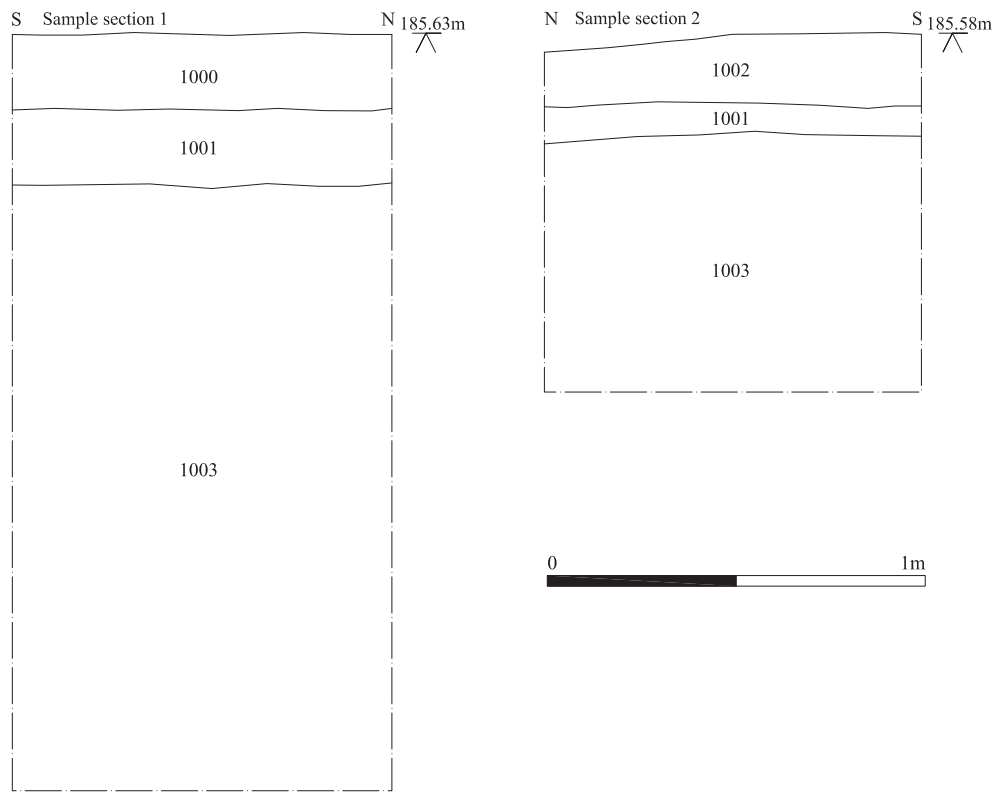
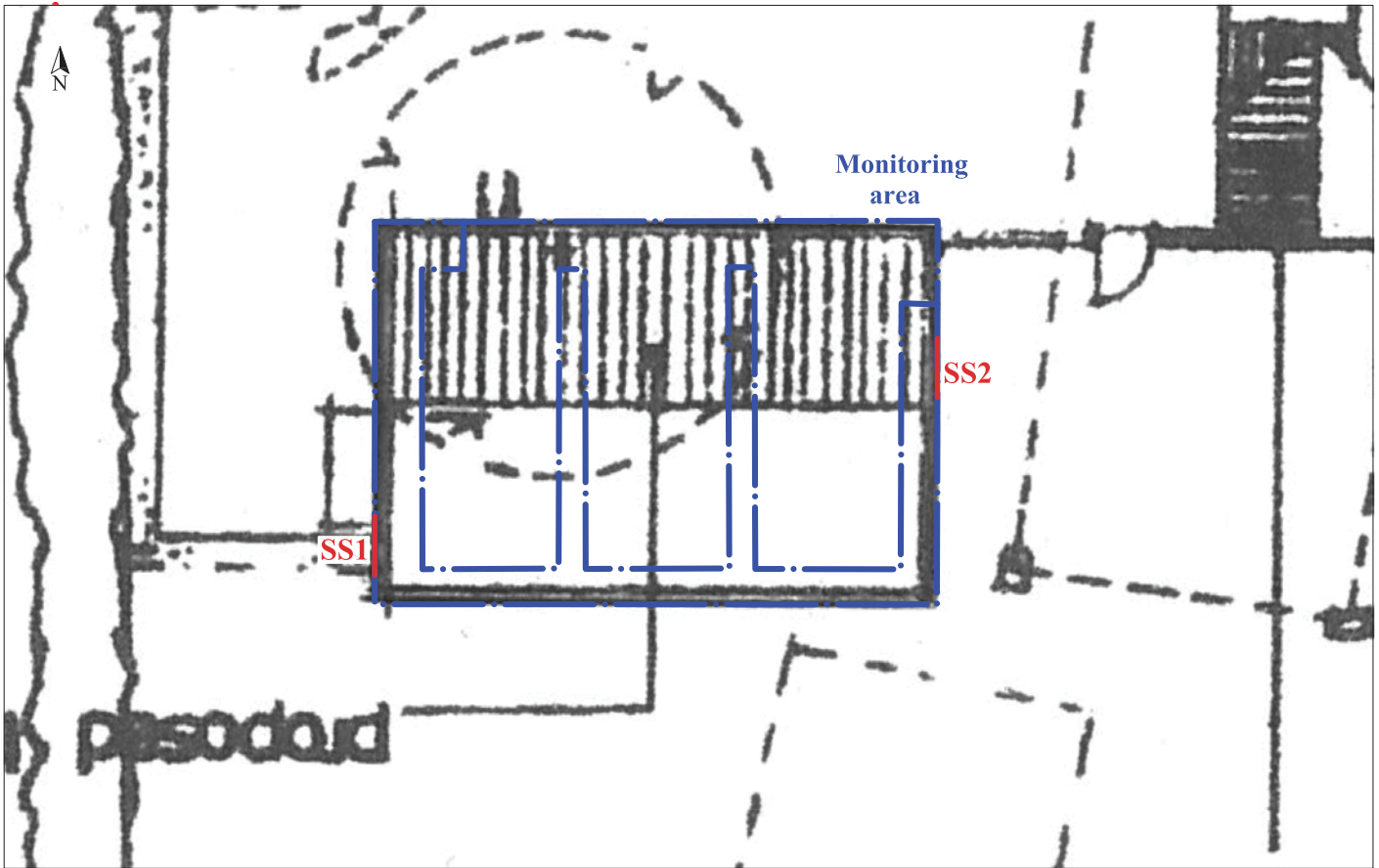


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Foundation trench plan and sections

Scale 1:1000 at A4