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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PRIORY FARM, HIGH STREET, WIDFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE  
SG12 8RA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER Ref. 128/13

Authors:	Lisa Smith (field work and report) Kate Higgs (Research) Antony RR Mustchin (Editor)	
NGR: TL 4204 1583		Report No: 4402
District: East Herts		Site Code: AS1614
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA		Project No: 5358
Signed:		Date: September 2013 Revised: 05/02/2014

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**OASIS SUMMARY**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA</i>		
<p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583). The evaluation was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The evaluation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features and this is in keeping with expectations. The medieval features (Ditch F1011 and Pit F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The post-medieval post hole, F1004 (Tr.3) was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>2 – 5 September 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5078</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1614</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance No.153</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural buildings and farmyard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pit, post hole, ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> C) pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Widford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG12 8RA</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 2600m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4204 1583</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.79m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Nickel Holdings</i>		
Full title	<i>Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Smith, L and Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4402</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2013 (Revised 05/02/2014)</i>		

## **PRIORY FARM, HIGH STREET, WIDFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE SG12 8RA**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583). The evaluation was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The evaluation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.*

*The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, on the eastern side of the south end of the High Street/Hunsdon Road. It comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm. Widford has medieval origins, with a medieval parish church and manorial centre, Widfordbury, adjacent. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 153, which designates the historic core of the village on the Local Plan.*

*The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. There may likely have been a farmstead on or close to the site since medieval times. The present listed farmhouse is described as late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, incorporating an earlier structure Historic Environment Record HER 17564).*

*In the event the evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features and this is inkeeping with expectations. The medieval features (Ditch F1011 and Pit F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The post-medieval post hole, F1004 (Tr.3) was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The evaluation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out according to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (Alison Tinniswood, dated 29/05/2013), and a specification by AS (dated 31/05/2013), approved by HCC HEU. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it will be important to establish the presence or absence of any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the Priory Farm site and any precursor. It will also be important to understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

#### *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 lies within the village and parish of Widford, which is situated within the district of East Herts and the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). Widford is located c. 6km north-east of Ware and 7km to the north-west of Sawbridgeworth, whilst the village of Hunsdon lies 2km to the south. The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, on the eastern side of the south end of the High Street/Hunsdon Road. It also lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 153, which encompasses the historic core of the village on the Local Plan.

2.2 The site comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 2,000m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2). It comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm, which stands to the immediate north and is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating to c.1692 (IoE No. 160012; see Appendix 2, below). Also to the north of the site stands the Grade II listed and early 18<sup>th</sup> century South Barn and adjoining stables for Priory Farm (IoE No. 160014) and Grade II listed and early West Barn (IoE No. 160013). None of the standing buildings within the site are listed. It is proposed to construct five dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP).

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

3.1 Widford lies in a predominantly rural location towards the eastern extent of Hertfordshire. It lies within the small, narrow valley of the River Ash, which is a tributary of the River Lea and flows on a roughly north-east to south-western alignment 600m to the north-west of the site. The surrounding relief is gently undulating and slopes noticeably down to the north-west and the river. The site lies at c. 80m AOD on land gently sloping towards the north-west.

3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises clay of the Paleocene Lambeth Group (BGS 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Ashley Association, which are described as fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Prehistoric activity is present within the wider Widford area, as the Hertfordshire *Victoria County History* mentions two barrows, of unknown date, on a hill in the northwest of the parish (Page 1912, 403). No prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon remains have been found within the vicinity of the site. The manor and settlement of Widford dates to the early medieval period (HER 2677), with two entries for *Widford* recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.



4.2 In 1118 the manor of Widford was given by to the Prior and Convent of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, by the Earl of Leicester (Traviss-Lockwood 1883). Bermondsey Abbey retained the rights to the manor until the dissolution in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. Despite its medieval origin, the only other medieval findspot comprises Abbotts Farm, which is a possibly late medieval timber-framed house located 480m to the south-west of the site (HER 12180). There is also limited evidence for a 12<sup>th</sup> century church at Widford, as the current building of St John the Baptist Church contains fabric from an earlier building: most notably a chevron pattern moulding can be seen above the south door (*ibid.*).

4.3 The village of Widford incorporates a large number of post-medieval and early modern standing structures, the majority of which stand along the High Street/Hunsdon Road (Appendix 1 below). Widford also lies sandwiched to the west and east of 'ancient irregular fields', with enclosure not taking place until a late date. Undated common land is recorded at the village pump on Nether Street (HER 12543), whilst undated cropmarks of ditches and enclosures are documented to the south of Nether Street (HER 16855).

4.4 The site lies to the immediate south and within the complex of Priory Farm, which is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating to c. 1692 (IoE No. 160012; see Appendix 2, below). Also to the north of the site also stands the Grade II listed and early 18<sup>th</sup> century South Barn and adjoining stables for Priory Farm (IoE No. 160014) and Grade II listed and early West Barn (IoE No. 160013). None of the standing buildings within the site are listed. Cartographic sources dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards consistently depicted the site as agricultural land associated with Priory Farm to the north. It is not until the 1977 Ordnance Survey map (not depicted) that the site is shown to contain the three standing buildings present within the site.

4.5 Relatively little is known about the history of Priory Farm, other than the deeds, which are said to suggest that it dates to c.1692 incorporating an earlier structure, of which nothing is known (HER 17564). The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. There may thus possibly have been an earlier farmstead on or close to the site since the medieval period.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench locations were approved by Hertfordshire County Council HEU. The individual trenches were linear in plan and were c.10 - 25m in length. They were all 1.60m in width.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.



## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>SE end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.48m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1001	Farmyard surface. Mid grey, compact gravel in a sandy matrix.
0.40m +	L1010	Natural. Mid yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with bands of flint gravel.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>NW end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1001	Farmyard surface. As above.
0.22m+	L1010	Natural. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present. Therefore, no plan of Trench 1 is included herein.

### Trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 4)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 5)</i> <i>SE end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1001	Farmyard surface. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.42m	L1013	Dark greyish brown, firm, sandy clay with sparse modern CBM.
0.42 – 0.54m	L1002	Mid brownish grey, compact, gravel within a sandy matrix. Possible earlier farmyard surface.
0.54m +	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 6)</i> <i>NW end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1001	Farmyard surface. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.54	L1002	Gravel. As above Tr.2.
0.54m+	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

*Description:* Ditches F1008 and F1011, and Pit F1006 were recorded in Trench 2.

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.50m+ x 0.69m x 0.08m), orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a mid greyish brown, firm, sandy clay with frequent small – medium angular flint gravel. It contained medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (5g) and CBM (12g). Ditch F1006 cut Pit F1011.

Pit F1011 was ?oval in plan (0.73m+ x 0.99m x 0.14m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a mid grey, firm, sandy clay with moderate small

angular and rounded flint gravel. Like Ditch F1006 it contained medieval (late 13<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (45g) and CBM (3g). Pit F1011 was cut by Ditch F1006.

Ditch F1008 was linear in plan (1.50m+ x 0.65m x 0.16m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid greyish brown, firm, slightly sandy clay with frequent rounded and angular gravel flint. It contained no finds.

### Trench 3 (Figs. 3 & 4)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 7)</i> <i>NE end, NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, firm, sandy clay with frequent rounded and angular flint gravel and pebbles. It contained modern CBM
0.30 – 0.41m	L1013	Dark greyish brown. As above Tr.2
0.41 – 0.66m	L1002	Gravel. As above Tr.2
0.66m+	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 8)</i> <i>NW end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.13 – 0.32m	L1013	Dark greyish brown. As above Tr.2
0.32 – 0.60m	L1002	Gravel. As above Tr.2.
0.60m+	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

*Description: Post Hole F1004 was recorded in Trench 3.*

Post Hole F1004 was oval in plan (0.54m x 0.40m x 0.38m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid greyish brown, firm, sandy clay with frequent small – medium angular flint gravel. It contained post medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (23g) and an iron fragment

### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 4A (DP 9)</i> <i>SE end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.15 – 0.45m	L1003	Made ground. Dark grey, firm, rubble within a sandy clay matrix with frequent modern CBM.
0.45m+	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B (DP 10)</i> <i>NW end, SE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.12 – 0.52m	L1003	Made ground. As above Tr.4.
0.52m+	L1010	Natural. As above Tr.1.

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

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark brownish grey, firm, sandy clay (Trenches 3 and 4) and Farmyard Surface L1001, a mid grey, compact, gravel in a sandy matrix (Trenches 1 and 2). Underlying L1000 and L1001 were made ground deposits and possible former farmyard surfaces.

8.2 The natural geology, L1010, comprised a mid yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with bands of flint gravel (0.22 – 0.66m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
2	F1006	Pit	Medieval (late 12 <sup>th</sup> – mid 14 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1008	Ditch	Undated
	F1011	Ditch	Medieval (late 13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 14 <sup>th</sup> C)
3	F1004	Post Hole	Post-medieval (17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C)

9.2 The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, on the eastern side of the south end of the High Street/Hunsdon Road. It comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm. Widford has medieval origins, with a medieval parish church and manorial centre, Widfordbury, adjacent.

9.3 The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. There may likely have been a farmstead on or close to the site since medieval times. The present listed farmhouse is described as late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, incorporating an earlier structure Historic Environment Record HER 17564).

9.4 In the event the evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features and this is in keeping with expectations. The medieval features (Ditch F1011 and Pit F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The post-medieval post hole, F1004 (Tr.3) was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr David Robins of Nickel Holdings for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit, and Dr. Isobel Thompson for providing the HER information.

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### Web resources

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

HER	NGR TL	Description
<b>Medieval</b>		
2677	419 158	The manor of Widford appears in Domesday Book as 'Widford'
12180	41793 15441	Abbots Farm is a possibly late medieval timber-framed house, with large 1913 west wing built at about the time the farm buildings were demolished
<b>Post-medieval &amp; later</b>		
12245	41952 15597	Goddards is an 18th century red brick country house (on a medieval estate), used as a private school for girls in the 19th century
12246	42500 15987	Nether Hall is a timber-framed 16th century house with much later brick range, known as Netherstreet House in the 19th century; also 16th and 17th century barns
12247	42026 15980	The Old Cottage 17th century timber-framed and thatched house, originally with an open hall
13031	41625 15660	Ash View is an historic picturesque house on a prominent site at the bend of the road when entering the village
13032	41715 15655	The village cricket ground at Widford was laid out in the grounds of Mr Pawle's property, Walnut Tree House (now Ash View) between 1880 and 1898
13609	42000 15910	Wheelwrights is a 17th century timber-framed house, with pargettin
15266	41960 15630	Little Goddards is a 17th century village house, given a brick front in the early 19th century
15370	42042 15936	Priory Row is an 18th century terrace of small houses
17564	42045 15900	The farmhouse at Priory Farm is a small Queen Anne brick house, with little alteration; the deeds, however, are said to suggest that it dates to c.1692 incorporating an earlier structure. In red brick with some blue headers, it is a tall symmetrical house with two storeys and attics, three windows wide, facing south with its west gable towards the street behind a high red brick wall. The plan is of two rooms with central lobby and end chimneys (the east chimney has been removed); the decorative door case is 20th century. A shallow two-storey rear extension in red brick was added c.1880. The farm buildings lie south of the house, along Hunsdon Road. They encompass a comparatively large area, and include on the south side a barn and stables, timber-framed and weatherboarded, on a low sill of red bricks. The barn dates to the early 18th century, originally a symmetrical three-bay barn with central south doors and a low winnowing door in a small side aisle on the north side. In the apex of the east gable is a dovecote with perching ledges on the outside. In the early 19th century a low stable range was added with a slate roof, extending north

		from the barn's east end and enclosing the yard. Also in the 19th century the barn was reroofed and extended westwards by one bay to provide a cart shed and loft above. The dividing wall has since been removed, and lean-to outshuts added on the north side. Also early 19th century is the west range, a tall single-storey barn 11 bays long, running alongside the Hunsdon Road, and of unusual construction for the time. It is of uncoursed unknapped flints, laid in lifts with piers of plum brick. On the east side is a parallel but shorter timber-framed and weatherboarded extension added c.1900 <1>; this addition is shown on, so is earlier than 1880. The flint barn is shown on this map as open to the road. The farmstead has extended further south in the 20th century.
17565	41992 15792	Swan House is a late 16th century house, a beer house since at least the 18th century, and 17th century timber barn in the yard behind; both now in domestic occupation
17566	41969 15748	The Bell Inn is a 17th century or earlier timber-framed house, the Bell since 1730
18571	42016 15936	The Green Man is a late 19th century public house, on previously empty plot
18837	41785 15800	White's Farm is a post-medieval farmstead with origins in the 16th century and possibly earlier
18838	41877 15842	Widford JMI School is an 1875-6 Local Board School, probably by G E Pritchett
18839	42000 15713	Adams Farm is a post-medieval farmstead, the late 16th century farmhouse incorporating remnants of a late medieval house
18840	42105 16229	Widford Bridge is at a crossing point which may have been the ford from which the name Widford derives
18841	42101 16274	Ashbourne House is probably a late 18th century small country house, much enlarged in Jacobethan style in the mid 19th century
<b>Undated</b>		
12543	42364 16010	Registered common land at the village pump on Nether Street
16855	42624 15677	Cropmarks of ditches and enclosures to the south of Nether Street, which appear to relate to others known in the area



## APPENDIX 2 HISTORIC BUILDING LISTING

IoE Number: 160012

Location: PRIORY FARM HOUSE ON EAST OF JUNCTION WITH HUNSDON ROAD, HIGH STREET (east side), WIDFORD, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Photographer: N/A

Date Photographed: N/A

Date listed: 19 September 1984

Date of last amendment: 19 September 1984

Grade II

TL 4215 WIDFORD HIGH STREET (east side) Widford village 6/5 Priory Farm House on E of junction with - Hunsdon Road GV II House. Circa. 1692 possibly incorporating an older structure (information from owner date said to be in deeds) extended to rear c1880. Redbrick with occasional blue headers and red gauged arches. Steep gabled old red tile roof. A tall symmetrical house of 2 storeys and attics, 3 windows wide, facing S with its gable towards the street behind a high red brick wall. 2 rooms, central lobby and end chimneys plan house with shallow C19 2 storeys rear extension in red brick. The front has sash windows with 6/6 panes and flat gauged arches. Projecting band at 1st floor level, box eaves with steep gabled tiled roof and 2 gabled dormers. Formerly 2 internal gable chimneys (right hand one removed). 6-panel raised and fielded door with modern pilastered doorcase with flat hood on shaped brackets. An historic small Queen Anne brick farmhouse little altered. Prominent in views when entering the village from W. Part of the architectural group at the head of the High Street in the centre of the Conservation Area.

IoE Number: 160014

Location: SOUTH BARN AND ADJOINING STABLES AT PRIORY FARM HOUSE (60 METRES SOUTH OF HOUSE), HIGH STREET (east side), WIDFORD, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Photographer: N/A

Date Photographed: N/A

Date listed: 19 September 1984

Date of last amendment: 19 September 1984

Grade II

TL 4215 WIDFORD HIGH STREET (east side) Widford village 6/7 South Barn and adjoining stables at - Priory Farm House (60 metres S of house) GV II Barn, and stables. Early C18 extended and reroofed in C19. Timberframed and black weatherboarded on a low red brick sill. Very steep gabled roof now covered in corrugated grey tiles. Originally a symmetrical 3-bay barn with double doors central on the S, and a low winnowing door in a bay projecting as a small aisle on the N. Unjowled posts with long curved braces to the tie beams and numbered and pegged joints. Thin clasped purlin roof reconstructed when barn was extended I-bay to W to provide a trap-house with double doors on S and small pitching door to loft over. Dividing wall now removed and lean-to outshuts added on N, to W of original aisle. A pidgeoncote with perching ledges outside occupied the apex of the E gable, Early



C19 timberframed and black weatherboarded low stable range with hipped slate roof, laid with vent gaps, extends N from E part of barn, enclosing the yard. An historic timberframed group of former farm buildings. Part of a group with the West Barn and the house. Important in views within the Conservation Area.



© Mr A. Gude

IoE Number: 160013

Location: WEST BARN AT PRIORY FARM HOUSE (ON ROADSIDE), HIGH STREET (east side), WIDFORD, EAST HERTFORDSHIRE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Photographer: Mr A. Gude

Date Photographed: 20 August 2001

Date listed: 19 September 1984

Date of last amendment: 19 September 1984

Grade II

TL 4215 WIDFORD HIGH STREET (east side) Widford village 6/6 West Barn at Priory Farm House - (on roadside) GV II Barn. Early C19, extended c1900. Uncoursed, unknapped flints in lifts with plum brick pilastered piers, extended by shorter parallel timberframed weatherboarded range on E side and reroofed in corrugated iron to a low pitch. A tall 1 storey barn with 11 bays fronting Hunsdon Road and extending about 40 metres along roadside. The building is of special interest for its unusual construction for the period. It adds visual interest to the village centre and is essential in maintaining the enclosure, in this part of the Conservation Area. Included for group value.

### APPENDIX 3            CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Other
1004	1005	3	Posthole fill	17th-18th	(2) 23g		Fe. Frag. (1) - 4g
1006	1007	2	Ditch fill	Late 12th-mid 14th	(3) 5g	12	
1011	1012	2	Pit fill	Late 13th-mid 14th	(5) 45g	3	

## APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 10 sherds weighing 69g recovered from three features (Table 1). Ditch F1006 (L1007) contained three small pale grey body sherds of South Hertfordshire type greyware (6g) dated between c.1170-1350. Pit F1012 (L1011) also contained two conjoining dark grey sherds of South Hertfordshire type greyware (34g) deriving from the body/ base angle of a jar. Two small sherds (3g) with pale orange-brown surfaces are probably also South-Hertfordshire type 'greywares'. These sherds were associated with the only glazed medieval ware comprising a Mill Green body sherd, giving a most probable date between c. 1270-1350. Post-hole F1004 (L1005) contained two pieces of glazed post-medieval red earthenware including the rim to a pancheon or deep bowl.

#### KEY:

SHER: South Hertfordshire type greyware late 12<sup>th</sup> –mid 14<sup>th</sup>

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

MG: Mill Green ware late 13<sup>th</sup>-mid 14<sup>th</sup>

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1004	1005	Post-hole	2x21g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE: abraded, internal and external glaze, includes pancheon or bowl rim
1006	1007	Ditch	3x6g SHER	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> -mid 14 <sup>th</sup>	SHER: lightly abraded 1x1g daub
1011	1012	Pit	2x34g SHER 2x3g ?SHER 1x5g MG	Late 13 <sup>th</sup> -mid 14 <sup>th</sup>	SHER: abraded conjoining jar body/base angle 1x3g daub

Table 1: Pottery summary

**APPENDIX 5            CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	13
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	3
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	12
Site photographs colour slides	12
Digital Photographs	18

## APPENDIX 6 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Widford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Nickel Holdings
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Residential
<b>Present land use:</b>	
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 2600m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c.100m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 4204 1583
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1614
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	2-5 September 2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval (late 12 <sup>th</sup> – mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century)
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	None
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features, in keeping with expectations. The medieval features (Ditch F1011 and Pit F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. Post-medieval posthole F1004 was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site (Trench 3).</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Smith, L.	<b>Date of Summary:</b> September 2013 (Revised 05/02/2014)

## Photographic Index



1: Trench 1 looking north-west



2: Trench 2 looking north-west



3: Trench 3 looking south with F1004 in the foreground



4: Trench 4 looking south-east





5: Sample Section 2A looking south



6: Sample Section 2B looking north



7: Sample Section 3A looking west



8: Sample Section 3B looking east



9: Sample Section 4A looking north



10: Sample Section 4B looking south





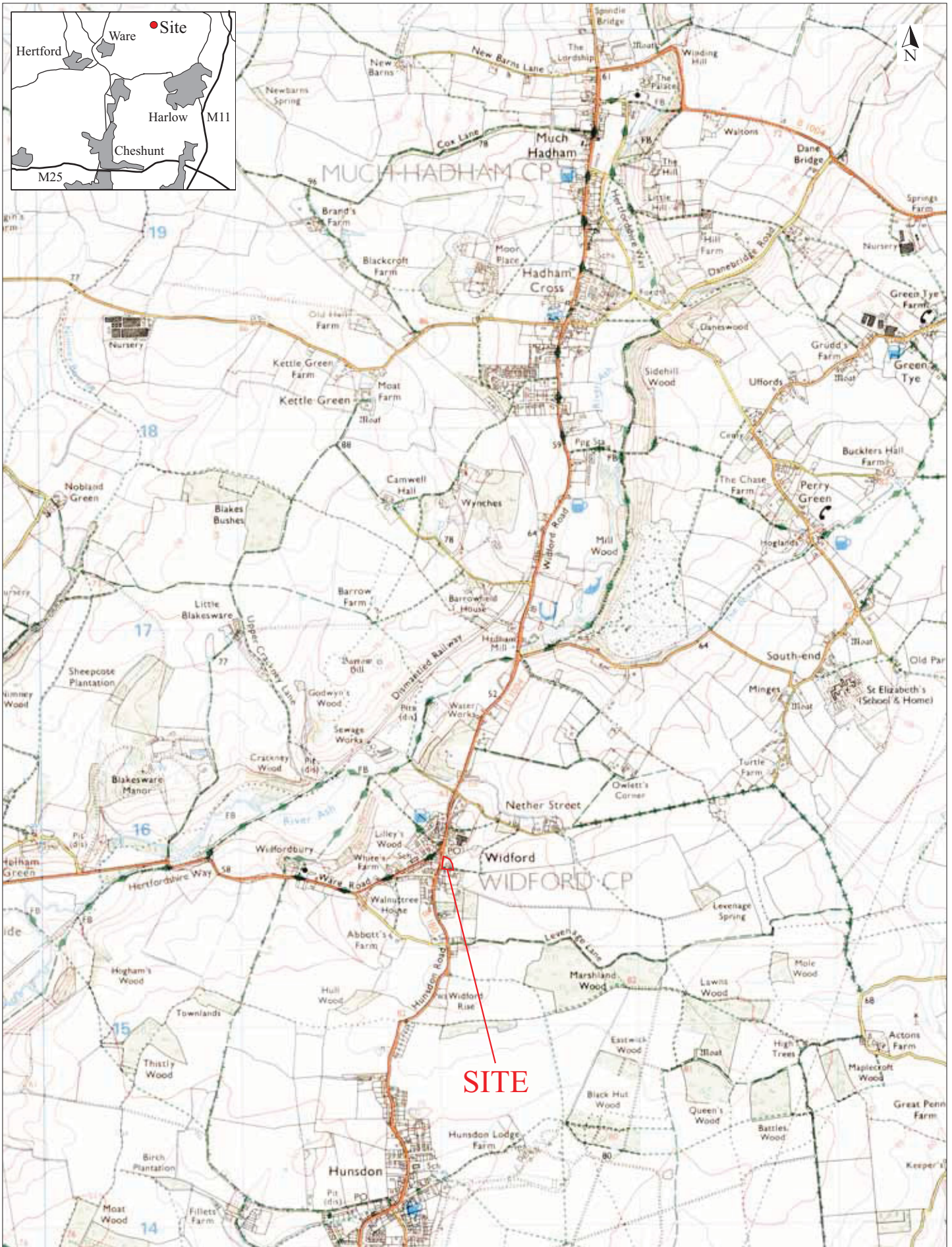
11: F1004 looking south



12: F1006 (left) and F1011 (right) looking south



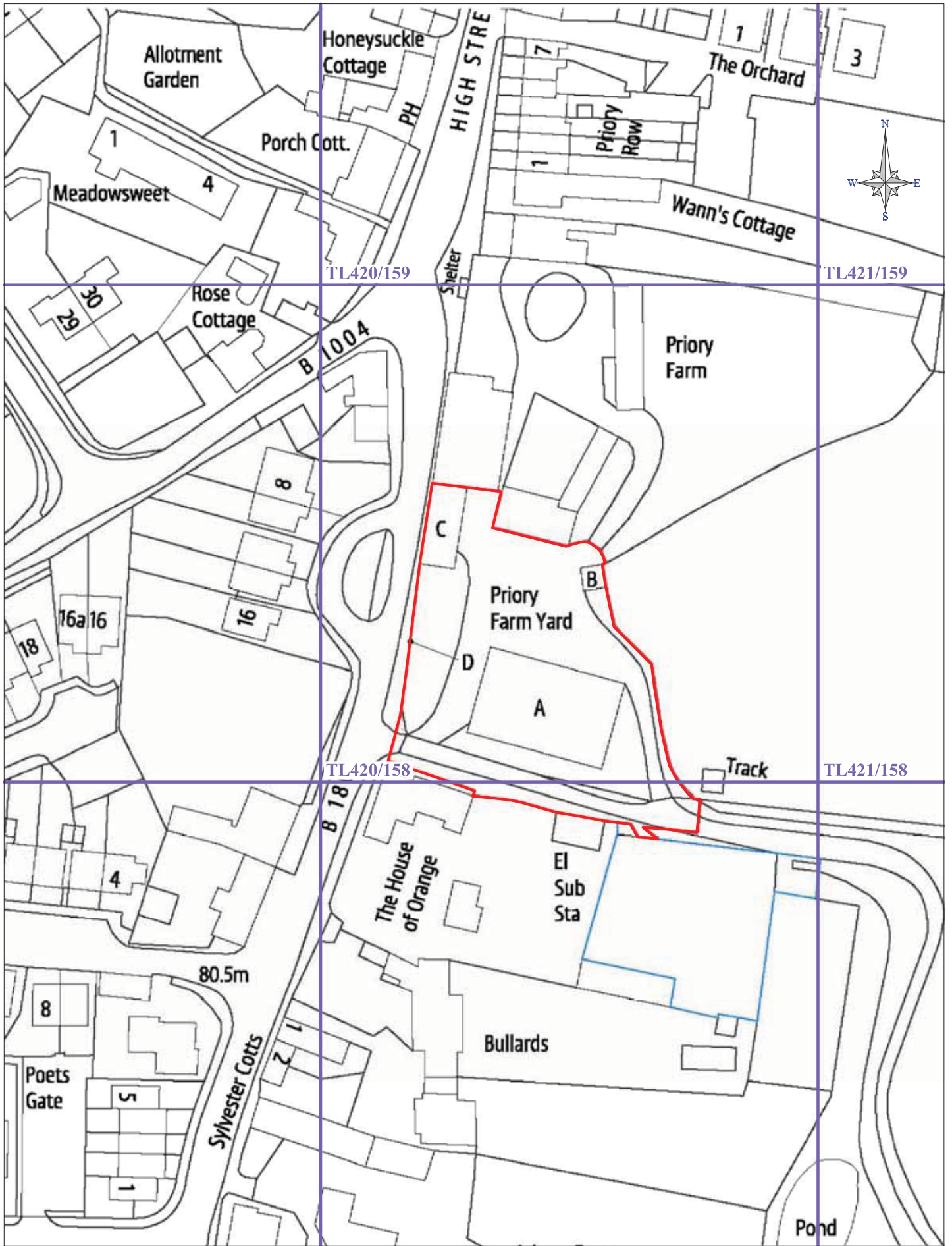
13: F1008 looking south



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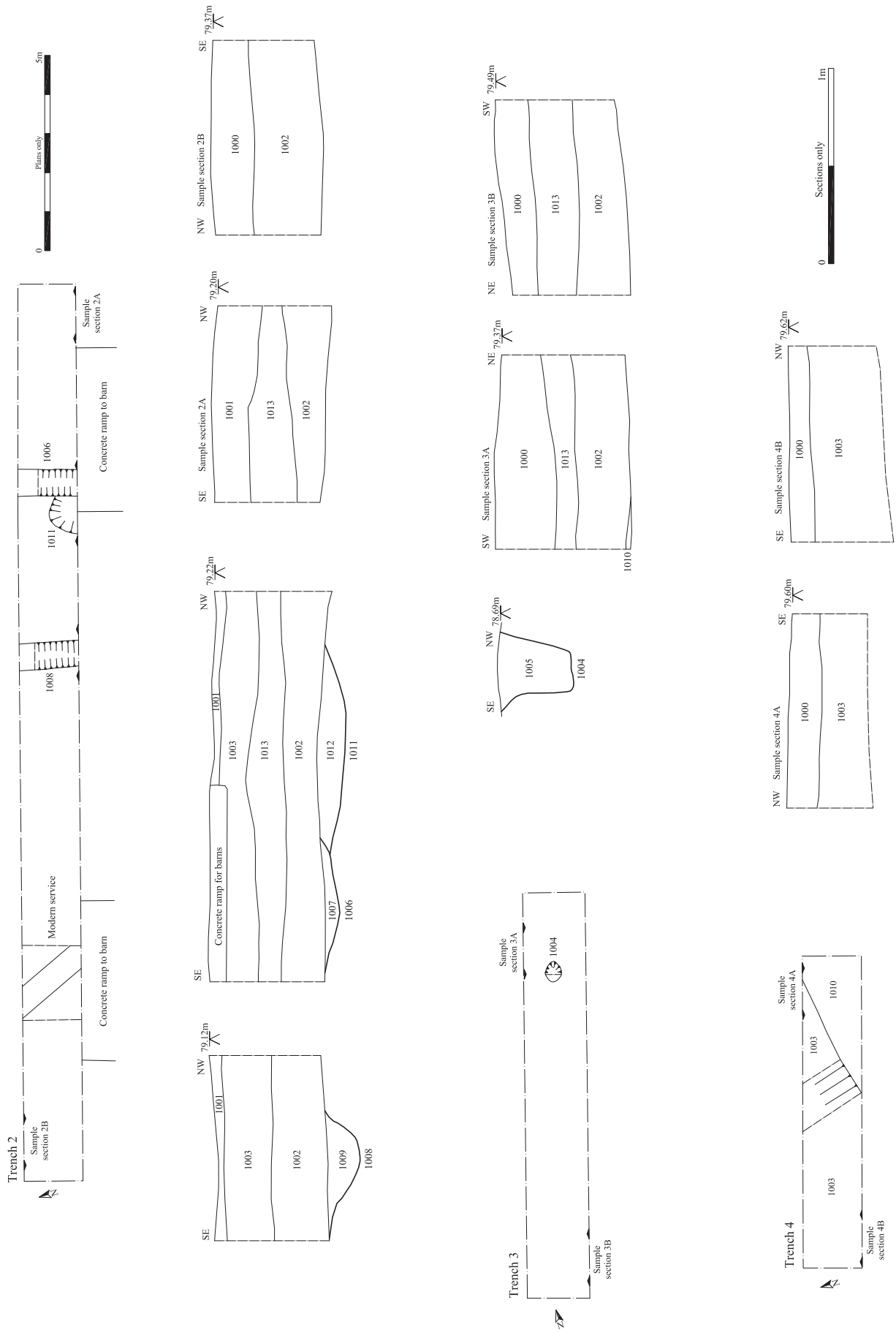
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000





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





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**Fig. 4 Plans and sections**  
 Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3