## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

# PROPOSED NEW EXTENSION NEWMAN COTTAGE, 261 HERTINGFORDBURY ROAD, HERTINGFORDBURY, HERTFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD'

HER Ref. 44/13

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton		
Zbigniew Pozorski		
NGR: TL 30748 12056	Report No: 4388	
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1595	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4880	
Signed:	Date: 30 September 2013	

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Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
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## **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

Project details	
Project name	Proposed New extension, Newman Cottage, 261 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire

In May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' at Newman Cottage, 261 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30748 12056). The monitoring was commissioned by Ms Sally Nicholl in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new single storey and rear extension.

The site is situated within historic core of the village. It is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 176, which identifies the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement of Hertingfordbury. The medieval parish church of St Mary & St John and Epcombs, a name of Anglo-Saxon origin indicating early occupation, is close by to the north. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the investigation revealed modern drainage and sewage features related to the house.

Project dates (fieldwork)	20-22/05 and 23/09/2013			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future	work (Y/N/?)	Υ
P. number	4880	Site c	ode	AS 1595
Type of project	Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map & Record'		ip, Map & Record'	
Site status	Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 176			
Current land use	Rear garden			
Planned development	Single storey rear extension			
Main features (+dates)	Modern soakway and toilet facilities			
Significant finds (+dates)	-			
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Э	East Herts	Hertford
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER			
Post code (if known)	SG14 2LB			
Area of site	c. 30m <sup>2</sup>			
NGR	TL 30748 12056			
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 49m AOD			
Project creators				
Brief issued by	Advice from HCC HEU			
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Andrew A. S. Newton			
Funded by	Ms Sally Nicholl			
Full title	Proposed new extension, Newman Cottage, 261			
	Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire:			
				ip, Map & Record'
Authors	Newton, A. A. S., Pozorski, Z.			
Report no.	4388			
Date (of report)	September 2	2013		

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## SUMMARY

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In the event the investigation revealed modern drainage and sewage features related to the house.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' at Newman Cottage, 261 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30748 12056; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Ms Sally Nicholl in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new single storey and rear extension (East Herts Planning Ref. 3/12/1726/FP).
- 1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 13/11/2012), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 05/02/2013), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (revised 2008), 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 investigation via 'strip, map & record' were:
  - The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the areas subject to development in accordance with the requirements of HCC HEU
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results

## 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.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

The village of Hertingfordbury lies immediately to the west of Hertford 2.1 (Fig. 1) and retains its rural character despite urban expansion. The river Mimram flows east - west through the village while the line of the disused railway to the south has become the Lea Valley Walk. It also lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt that surrounds the conurbation of Greater London, within Hertingfordbury's Conservation Area (CA) and within an Area of Archaeological Significance No 176. The site lies to the rear of the eastern side of Hertingfordbury Road, and comprises the existing Newman Cottage.

#### 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 The site lies at c. 49m AOD within valley of the river Mimram on a land gently sloping towards the river to the north (Fig. 1). The Mimram flows east/west just 100m north of the site.
- 3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Upper Cretaceous Chalk of the White Chalk Subgroup (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Ludford association, described as deep well drained fine loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Area just to the north of the site and along Mimram River contains the Thames River Alluvium.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND 4

- Relatively few pre-medieval findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the 4.1 site. Prehistoric evidence includes a Palaeolithic handaxe made of 'porphyry' (HER 274) and 20 unspecified flint flakes and worked flints near an old chalk pit (HER 4739). The Romano-British period is similarly poorly represented although the course of a Roman road which extends from Welwyn Garden City to the Ermine Street at Ware (HER 4665; Viatores 1964) is thought to lie in the surrounding area.
- 4.2 The manorial estate of Hertingfordbury appears in Domesday Book as 'Herefordingberie' and is thought to date to the Saxon period. Place-name evidence suggests that it was a possible defensive site: the 'stronghold of the people of Hertford' (HER 2682; Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). Epcombs, a name of Anglo-Saxon origin mentioned in Domesday Book indicate early occupation close by to the north. The manor remained in private ownership until 1345, when it was conveyed to the Crown in exchange for lands in Herefordshire (Cooper 1969). The parish church of St Mary's dates largely to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, but was restored in 1845 and 'virtually reconstructed' by Earl Cowper of Panshanger in 1890-91 (HER 1103; Page 1912). The medieval period is also represented by Amores, a probable late medieval house that has been significantly altered (HER 15836).

4.3 Spot finds in the area, for example the discovery of a 17<sup>th</sup> century firearm flint (HER 6079) and the presence of a number of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings which survive reflect the post-medieval expansion of the village. These include a number of Grade II Listed buildings such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century country house Epcombs (HER 13048) and the Old Rectory (HER 13752). The site may have once formed part of the grounds of the Old Rectory. Newman Cottage is a timber-framed house, also listed Grade II, described in the listing as dating from the 16<sup>th</sup>/ - 17<sup>th</sup> century with 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations during its subsequent use as an infants' school. Further buildings of early post-medieval date line the main village street to the immediate west of the cottage. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries saw a large number of buildings constructed along Hertingfordbury Road with the construction of a road bridge over the river Mimram (HER 5188) and a railway station (HER 5524) and associated bridge (HER 5631).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The investigation via 'strip, map & record' was conducted within the area of the proposed new extension and patio to the rear of the house (Fig. 2). The area subject to first phase of the excavation, conducted in May 2013, was the new extension which measured  $5.50 \times 4.40m$ . The next phase of the investigation included a new patio area to the immediate north of the extension and it was triangular area of c.  $12m^2$ .
- 5.2. Topsoil and 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

## 6.1 New extension area.

Deposits present within area of excavation were recorded in section presented below.

Section 1 (DP 2)		
East section of the area, facing west		
0.00 = 49.44m AOD		
0.00 - 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, firm, sandy silt.
0.15 – 0.57m	L1013	Dark greyish brown, firm, silt with frequent roots and
		occasional small sub-rounded stones.
0.57 – 0.85m	L1014	Dark brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate charcoal
		and occasional CBM fragments.
0.85m+	L1016	Natural mid grey, loose, gravel in yellowish grey clay
		matrix.

The investigation revealed two modern features (Soakway M1003 and M1017, possibly an outdoor lavatory) as well as modern pit (F1006) and a large linear feature (F1009) likely of natural origin.

M1003 (DP 3 – 4) was located at the northern edge of the excavated area. It was sub-circular in plan and stood to a maximum of height of 0.36m. It measured 1.18m in length and 0.9m in width. It was constructed of unbonded modern bricks (0.22 x 0.105 x 0.065m) and a maximum of 6 courses of brick were revealed in section. The feature was initially revealed only in section and a further 0.60m was excavated in order to investigate the feature further. Its upper fill, L1001, was a mid grey-brown very sandy silt with very frequent modern CBM and large rounded stones. Late 20<sup>th</sup> century to 21<sup>st</sup> century paint cans, mid 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, an Fe object, and a single piece of animal bone were recovered from this fill. Its lower fill, L1002, comprised large flint nodules in a matrix of charcoal or burnt material.

F1004 (1.25+ x 0.09m) was the construction cut for M1003. It was present around the revealed circumference of M1003. It contained a single observable fill L1005, a light yellow-brown sandy gravel.

F1006 (DP 5 - 6) was a modern pit located at the southern edge of the excavated area. It measured 1.36 x 0.73+ x 0.30+m and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south. It was sub-circular in plan with steep, near vertical sides. Its upper fill, L1008, was a grey-brown sandy silt with frequent modern CBM and medium rounded stones. Its lower fill, L1007, was a mid grey sandy clay with moderate medium sub-rounded stones. Excavation ceased at a depth of 0.30m due to the influx of substantial quantities of groundwater.

F1009 (DP 7) was likely a natural feature measuring 5.52+ x 1.75 (max) x 0.30m. It was linear in plan but varied widely in width. In section, it had steep sides which became increasingly gentle towards its narrow base. Its fill, L1010 was a dark grey silt with frequent natural flint nodules, increasing in density towards the base of the feature. This fill appeared to become increasingly gravely/clayey towards the east. F1009 was cut by construction cut F1004.

M1017 (DP 1, 8) was a modern (early to middle 20<sup>th</sup> century) brick structure located at the approximate centre of the excavated area. It measured 2.20m x 1.50m and was extant to a height of *c*. 0.6m above the natural. It was constructed of yellow stock bricks and was partially rendered on its exterior surface, it was bonded with light yellow-grey mortar. The exterior walls of the structure were 0.25m thick, comprising two rows of bricks and stood ten courses high. The remnants of a concrete cap were present at the northern end of the structure. Modern ceramic pipes were evident leading to/from the structure in both the eastern and western sides. Material removed from the interior of the structure comprised mid 20<sup>th</sup> century or later refuse in a mixture of oil and water.

## 6.2 New patio area.

Section 2 (DP	11)	
East section of the area, facing west		
0.00 = 49.48 m	4OD	
0.00 - 0.42m	L2000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, firm, sandy silt. As L1000.
0.42m+	L2005	Made ground. Dark brown to grey, firm, slightly clayey and sandy silt.

Section 3 (DP 12)		
East section of the area, facing west		
0.00 = 49.50 m AOD		
0.00 - 0.08m	L2006	Concrete cap over modern drain.
0.08 - 0.35m	L2007	Fill of modern drain trench. Bed for pipe consisting of
		loose gravel.
0.35m+	L2005	Made ground. As above.

The second part of investigation revealed the remainder of Soakaway F1003 (as M2002) and a modern drain.

M2002 (0.60 x 0.11m; DP 10) was a part of sub-circular structure constructed of unbonded modern bricks (0.22 x 0.105 x 0.065m). It was revealed only at the surface of excavated area c. 0.50m below existing ground level. The wall was part of previously unveiled Soakway F1003.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000/L2000, a dark greyish brown, firm, sandy silt (0.15m thick). It overlay deposits of made ground, in particular L1013, a dark greyish brown, firm, silt with frequent roots and occasional small sub-rounded stones (0.40 0.50m thick).
- 8.2 The natural geology, L1016, was present at 0.70 0.90m below existing ground level and comprised a mid grey, loose, gravel in yellowish grey clay matrix.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The site is located within the

historic settlement of Hertingfordbury and the medieval parish church of St Mary & St John. Epcombs, a name of Anglo-Saxon origin indicating early occupation, lies close by to the north.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed other than those of modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) origin. Those included sewage and drainage installations related to the existing building on the site. No indication of any other development was recorded. The area of proposed new patio to the north of the extension was also disturbed by modern activity. However, the site retains a potential for archaeological remains present further away from the house in its gardens area.

## 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 would like to thank Ms Sally Nicholl for commissioning the project.

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

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## APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Υ
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	26
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	7
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	30

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Newman Cottage, 261 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire	
County: Herts	District: East Herts	
Village/Town:	Parish: Hertford	
Planning application reference:	East Herts Planning Ref. 3/12/1726/FP	
Client name/address/tel:	Ms Sally Nicholl	
Nature of application:	Construction of a single storey rear extension	
Present land use:	Garden	
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated	
c.30m2	30m2	
NGR (8 figures):	TL 30748 12056	
Site Code:	AS 1595	
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd	
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording	
Date of work:	20-22/05/2013, 23/09/2013	
Location of finds/Curating	Hertford	
museum:		
Related SMR Nos:	d SMR Nos: Periods represented: 20 <sup>th</sup> c.	
Relevant previous	Pozorski Z, Newton A, Proposed new extension, Newman Cottage, 261	
summaries/reports: -	Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map & Record'. AS unpublished report No 4388	
Summary of fieldwork results:	In May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' at Newman Cottage, 261 Hertingfordbury Road, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 30748 12056). The monitoring was commissioned by Ms Sally Nicholl in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new single storey and rear extension.  The investigation revealed modern drainage and sewage features related to the house.	
Author of summary:	Date of Summary:	
Z Pozorski	September 2013	

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**



DP 1. Ground reduction for new extension. Looking south-west.



DP 2. East side section 1. Looking east.



DP 3. Soakway M1003. Looking north.



DP 4. Soakway M1003. Looking east.



DP 5. Pit F1006. Looking south.



DP 6. Pit F1006. Looking west.



DP 7. Feature F1009. Looking east.



DP 9. New patio area. Looking south.



DP 11. Sample section 2. Looking west.



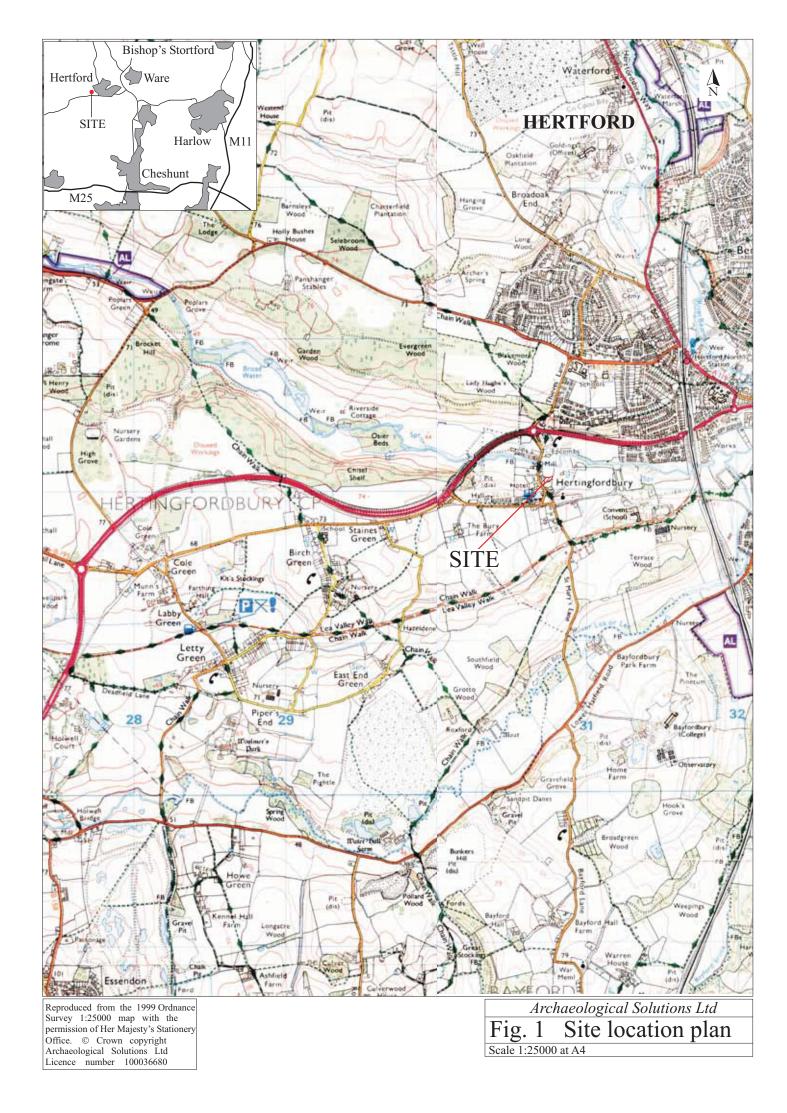
DP 8. Feature M1017. Looking west-northwest.

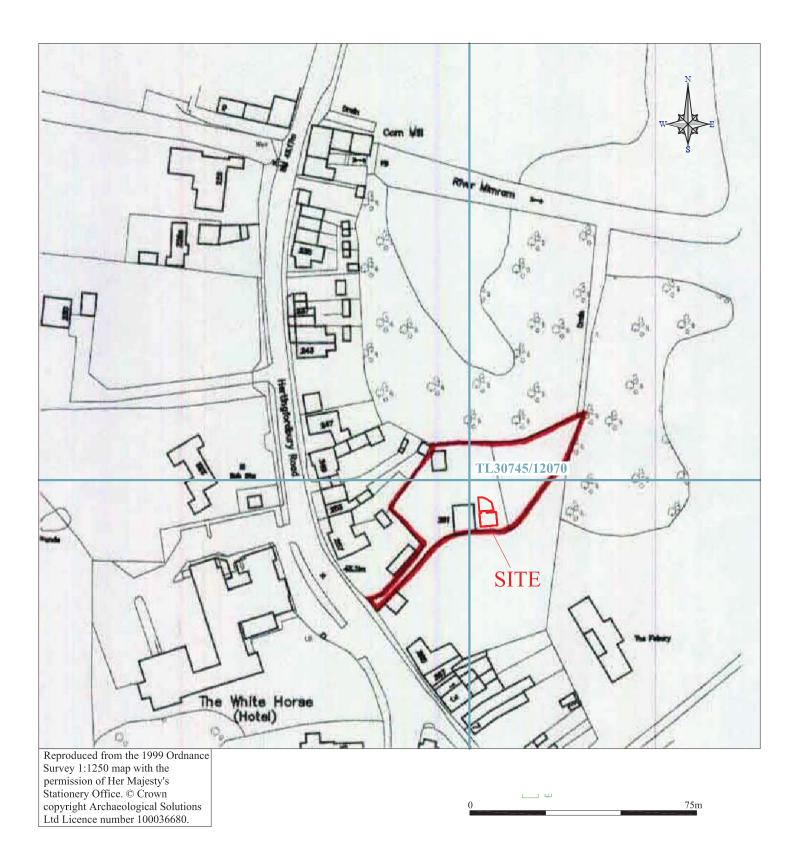


DP 10. M2002, reminder of Soakway F1003. Looking east.



DP 12. Sample section 3. Looking north-east.

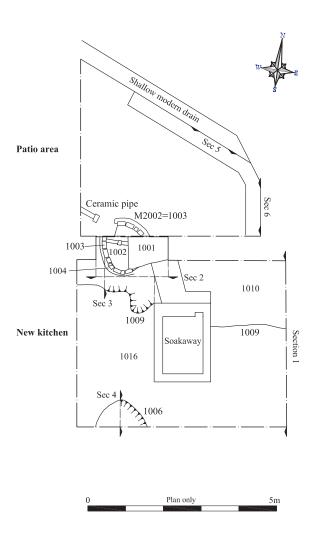




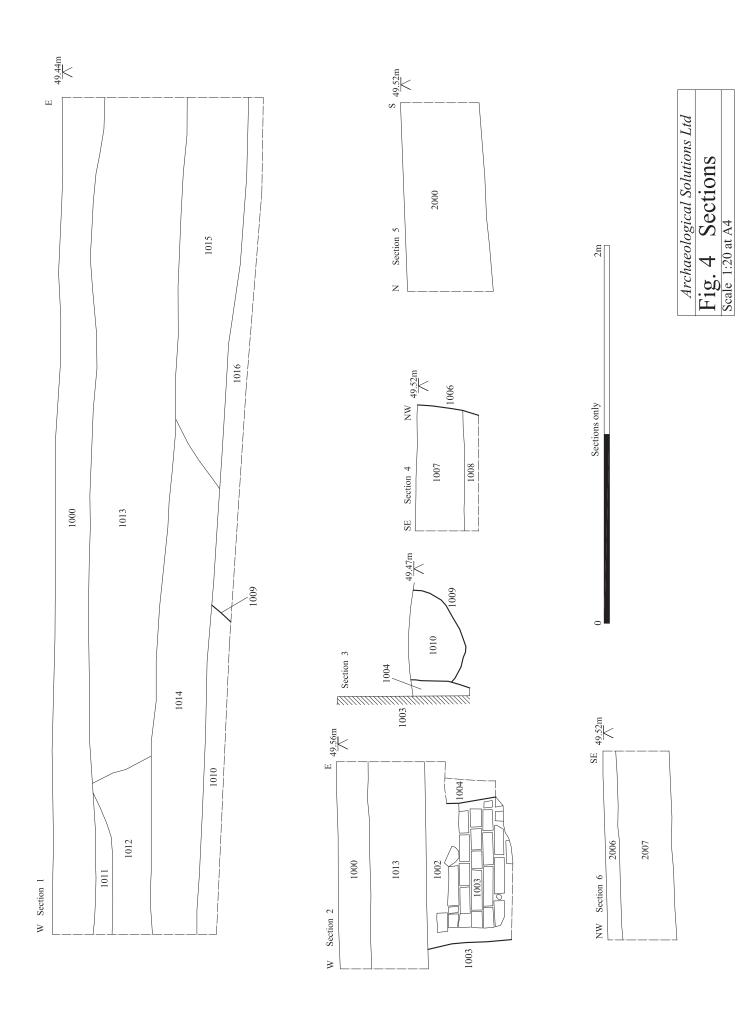
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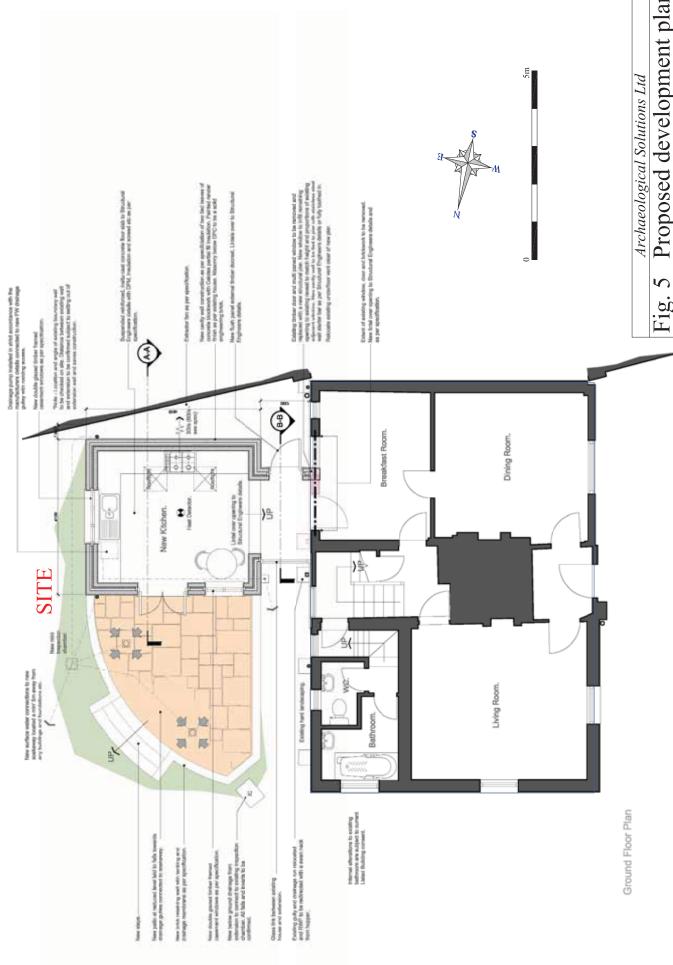
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench plan
Scale 1:100 at A4





Proposed development plan Fig. 5 Pro