
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**COLES GREEN FARM, THROCKING ROAD, COTTERED,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING (LEVEL 3)

AND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

HER Ref: 292/11

Authors:	Dr Lee Prosser PhD BA Lisa Smith BA Kathren Henry Megan Stoakley MA PlfA Samuel Egan Antony R.R. Mustchin MSc BSc DipPAS(Editor)
Illustrations:	Kathren Henry, Thomas Light and Rosanna Price
NGR: TL 3274 2992	Report No: 4215
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS1552
Approved: C Halpin MfA	Project No: 4499
Signed:	Date: February 2013 Revised: 12/01/2015

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report is entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

*Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 THE EVIDENCE**
TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES
- 5 THE BUILDING**
- 6 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**
- 7 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appendices

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) DATA
- 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES
- 3 DETAILS OF THE 1810 INCLOSURE AWARD
- 4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET
- 5 ARCHIVE CONTENTS FORM (BUILDING RECORDING)
- 6 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE (MONITORING & RECORDING)

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	<i>Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In November 2012 and February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3274 2992). The historic building recording & archaeological monitoring & recording was commissioned to support planning approval for the conversion of a barn to a three-bedroom residential dwelling (Planning Ref. 3/11/1756/FP).</i></p> <p><i>Technical analysis reveals the barn to be of modest construction retaining much of its overall original form with some modern modification, particularly at roof level. Diagnostic features such as the primary-bracing, the predominant use of oak and bladed scarf joints indicate a late 18th century date however many of the principal timbers are re-used originating from an early 17th century context. Repair has been sensitive during the 19th and 20th centuries and the building survives as an agricultural storage building.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>21st November 2012 and 4th February 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4499</i>	Site code	<i>AS1552</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Listed Building 159870</i>		
Current land use	<i>Farmhouse, barns and outbuildings</i>		
Planned development	<i>Conversion of existing barn to form a 3-bedroom residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late 18th century barn</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>n/a</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Cottered</i>
HER for area	<i>Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG9</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.129.5m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3274 2992</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.140m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Alison Tinniswood (Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs Parbles</i>		
Full title	<i>Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording (Level 3) and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Prosser, L., Smith, L., Stoakley, M., Henry, K. and Egan, S.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4215</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2013 (Revised 12/01/2015)</i>		

COLES GREEN FARM, THROCKING ROAD, COTTERED, HERTFORDSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING (LEVEL 3) AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November 2012 and February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3274 2992). The historic building recording & archaeological monitoring & recording were commissioned to support planning approval for the conversion of a barn to a three-bedroom residential dwelling (Planning Ref. 3/11/1756/FP).

Technical analysis reveals the barn to be of modest construction retaining much of its overall original form with some modern modification, particularly at roof level. Diagnostic features such as the primary-bracing, the predominant use of oak and bladed scarf joints indicate a late 18th century date however many of the principal timbers are re-used originating from an early 17th century context. Repair has been sensitive during the 19th and 20th centuries and the building survives as an agricultural storage building.

The archaeological monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between November 2012 and February 2013, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring & recording at Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3274 2992; Figs.1-2). The historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording were commissioned to support planning approval for the conversion of a barn to a three-bedroom residential dwelling (Planning Ref. 3/11/1756/FP).

1.2 The project was conducted according to a written scheme of investigation (dated 27th January 2012) prepared by AS in response to an advice letter issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (Alison Tinniswood, dated 24th January 2012). It should be noted that Coles Green Farm is not located within the Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 250) but lies immediately to the west of the alert area. The project conformed to the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings; a guide to good recording practice, 2006* and also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2008). The project was also undertaken according to the requirements of the document

Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.3 The objectives of the historic building recording were to compile a record of the structure, in order to understand the form, function, evolution, and record any remaining architectural embellishment of the building.

1.4 The objectives of the monitoring were, the archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the scheme, with the recording of any significant archaeology thereby revealed, and analysis of the results with provision for report and/or publication of the results, and the production of an archive

Planning context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Cottered is a village and civil parish located c. 4.8km west of Buntingford and c. 9.7km east of Baldock in the East Hertfordshire District. A number of minor watercourses run north/south to the east of the village, including Aspenden Brook at c.

1.5km distant and Thistley Vale Brook at c.2km distant. The main traffic route through Cottered comprises the east/west aligned Baldock Road (A507).

2.2 Coles Green Farm is located on Throcking Road in the north part of the village, c. 1km to the west of Throcking. It lies within close proximity to other farmsteads, including Whytegates Farm c. 150m to the south-east and Southfields Farm c. 750m to the north-east. The main farmstead is a 16th century Grade II Listed building (HER 12911), extended and altered in the 17th and 18th centuries. The assessment site comprises a rectangular barn with an area of 129.5m², lying across a small yard from the main house.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

Archaeological Databases

3.2 The known archaeology of the surrounding area can indicate the types and dates of archaeological remains likely to be present on the site itself. The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within the county of Hertfordshire comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER). Significant entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and are discussed in Section 4.2 (Fig 3).

Historical and Cartographic Sources

3.3 Documentary and cartographic sources can help to establish a geographical, topographical and historical context for archaeological remains on the site and in the surrounding area. The social and economic contexts in terms of land ownership and changes in land use can often also be inferred. The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (HALS) in Hertfordshire as well as AS's own in-house library. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs 4-9. The Inclosure Map and Award (1810) were also consulted and details of land ownership and tenancy are listed in Appendix 3.

Secondary Sources

3.4 The principal sources of secondary material were from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) held at Hertfordshire County Council offices (HCC) as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

Geological/ Geotechnical Information

3.5 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

Building Recording

3.6 The site was visited on 21st November 2012 in order to compile internal descriptions of the building and undertake the photographic work. The written description, analysis and photographic survey were carried out by Lee Prosser and Lisa Smith while the drawing work was completed by Kathren Henry. Floor plans, sections and elevations based upon drawings provided by the client are included with annotations (Figs. 10-11).

3.7 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Where necessary, architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 10).

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

3.8 The monitoring encompassed the excavation of the footing trenches.

3.9 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all 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.

4 THE EVIDENCE

Topography, Geology and Soils

4.1 The site lies at c.140m AOD and is situated on a hill to the north-east of the village of Cottered, rising eastwards towards Throcking to c.150m AOD. The solid geology of the site comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk with overlying soils of the

Hanslope association, derived from Chalky Boulder Clay commonly found on plateau landscapes.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 3)

Medieval

4.2 No remains earlier than the medieval period have been discovered in the vicinity of the site. However archaeological remains in the form of rectilinear ditches (MHT 4398) are located c.65m to the south-east and appear to be the remains of medieval tofts or domestic plots lining Throcking Road. A possible medieval moated earthwork (MHT 13708) is located c.400m to the north-west, to the north of the east-west aligned Horneywood Lane which extends south through Coles Green Farm to join Throcking Road. Medieval pottery was discovered close to the moated earthwork. Traces of ridge and furrow (MHT 16897) are located c.250m to the south-east of the site.

Post-medieval

4.3 Coles Green Farm (MHT 12911, LB 159870) comprises a 16th century timber-framed farmhouse with surrounding brick and corrugated farm buildings, some of which were altered in the 17th and 18th centuries. Kelly's Directory for 1855 reveals that Samuel Cooper was the farmer, but by 1895 James Cooper had taken over the tenancy and was presumably a family relative (Kelly's 1895, 72). Cooper was still in occupation in 1922, whilst the 1919 Sales Particulars of the Broadfield Estate shows that Coles Green Farm had a decimal acreage of 51.851 and a rental value of £32 per annum. When the farm was sold again in 1923 the sales particulars show that the farm formed part of the Coles Estate (Lot 1), totalling 454 acres and 17 perches ('Coles Estate' 1923, 4).

4.4 By 1937, Herbert Dudley was the tenant and farmer at Broadfield Hall and Lodge Farm to the north of the site, while William Sanders (Nicholls) was the tenant at Lordship Farm located c.1.5km to the south-west. There is no mention of Coles Green Farm (Kelly's 1937, 96). The 1938 sales particulars show that the site was part of the Broadfield Estate and was one of six small capital farms included within the estate along with Foxholes Farm and Lodge Farm situated to the north-east. Comprising 43 acres, 2 roods and 18 perches out of a total of 757 acres, Coles Green Farm (Lot 9) is described as a brick, timber and thatched house with a dairy, barn, stable, cow-shed and tool sheds (The Broadfield Estate 1938, 17-18). The tenant was not listed.

4.5 Other post-medieval archaeological remains include the site of a post-medieval building (MHT 13709) located c.125m west of the site. A possible house, grounds and pond are shown in this location on the 1878 Ordnance Survey map. Whytegates Farm (MHT 12910) is a 20th century farm complex incorporating a 19th century barn located c.100m to the south-east of the site.

Cartographic Evidence (Figs. 4 - 9)

4.6 The 1810 Inclosure Map (Fig. 4) depicts a rural landscape with Coles Green depicted as a sub-rectangular area to the south of the farm. Plot 39, to the south of the farm, was owned by Thomas Gutteridge and plots 42, 18 and 19 to the west were rented by Richard Forester. Plot 23 was rented by Richard Forester and owned by Lord Willoughby de Broke. The site lies to the north of Coles Green (Plot 22) and is set within a rural landscape comprising two rectangular buildings located towards the south-west and south-east of the site. The first edition 1877 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) depicts significant changes in the interim period. Six additional buildings had been constructed to the north and a large north/south aligned rectangular building also appears adjacent to the building in the south-east corner of the site. Further north, a large pond is depicted as well as large wooded areas to the north and east. Two buildings are depicted in the north-east corner.

4.7 The plan of Coles Green Farm remains unchanged at the time of the 1898 survey except that the most southerly outbuilding in the northern section, depicted on the earlier map had disappeared. The 1923 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7) shows two additional buildings, adjoined to buildings in the north-east and south-east of the site. The plan from the 1938 Sales Particulars (Fig. 8) remains unchanged since 1923. The 1975 Ordnance Survey Map depicts two new buildings in the western section of the site and three buildings towards the north and north-east of the site are not depicted. The two large dwellings in the south section of the site have been extended towards the west whilst part of the eastern building had been demolished.

5 THE BUILDING

5.1 The assessment building lies a short distance from the main farm house across a muddy courtyard, and surrounded by other farm buildings of modern date. At the time of the survey modern cement render had been removed, leaving the timber-frame entirely exposed and protected only by sheets of tarpaulin (Plate 1). It is timber-framed over a dwarf wall of approximately c.1.50m height and has a corrugated sheet roof. Access is given from the east via a large steel sliding door offset to the south (Plate 2) and from the north via a small door of domestic proportions.

5.2 The building is simple and systematic in construction, comprising three bays of primary-braced wall panels supporting studs of even scantling, mostly of oak though with some softwood replacement as described below (Plate 3). The principal bay division posts are all re-used timbers, several being principal floor joists preserving redundant mortices with distinctive diminished haunches and chamfer-stops suggesting a 17th century date. Others have regular redundant mortices indicating previous use as wall-plates or sole-plates. The roof trusses are formed of raking struts, nailed on to waney tie-beams, and supporting a single purlin in each pitch. The rafters ride over these, to a ridge-board at the apex. All the upper members are softwood and it is likely the roof is entirely a modern replacement, but with a few older, recycled timbers.

5.3 The dwarf-wall is of particular interest as it appears to be early, with homogenous red brick of varying size, but with the distinctive long, flat proportions consistent with a 16th century date, all laid in a variation of English garden wall bond (Plate 4). The fabric is in poor condition in places with signs of re-pointing in cement. A wide doorway once stood on the north, but has been reduced in size to accommodate a small door, and the surrounding brickwork made good with modern material. The internal face of the wall has been rendered in cement on the north and west. On the south an extra course of brickwork has been added to bring the wall flush with the surviving sole-plate.

West Gable End

5.4 The sole-plate here is fairly well-preserved (Plate 5). A central prick-post (6¼" x 5") is clearly a re-used joist, now supported by downward primary-braces on either side. A regular arrangement of oak studs of fairly even scantling (3½" x 4¼") spaced a foot apart form the wall panels, though there is minor variation in size and spacing.

5.5 The south corner-post retains redundant mortices for studs while its northern counterpart shows no signs of re-use on its inner faces but still appears to be of some age. The wall-plate or tie-beam (8½" x 4½") is supported by dragon-ties at the corners, with upper raking-struts extending to the principal rafters. Slender studs have been used to infill the upper gable. Secondary queen-posts are bird-mouthed to carry the ends of the purlins, both of which are modern.

Bay 1

5.6 The sole-plate to the south panel is in good condition with softwood downward braces from an oak storey post. The common-studs survive but are very waney, including at least one showing signs of having once been treated with pitch or a similar preservative, and so not *in situ* in its original position. The wall-plate is also a re-used member and retains one or two redundant mortices from its previous use.

5.7 On the corresponding northern wall, the sole-plate has been competently replaced in recent times and displays circular saw-marks. As before, the studs are supported by a downward primary-brace which all show signs of weathering. Two apertures have been inserted, with the resultant truncation of two of the studs. The wall-plate retains a long mortice, possibly for a brace similar to an identical counterpart on the south.

Truss 1

5.8 The northern post retains a regular pattern of redundant mortices but also scribe marks for unexecuted mortices. The southern post has a good arrangement of floor joist mortices with diminished haunches (Plate 6). One side of the post is chamfered with a wave or lamb's-tongue run-out stop. The waney tie-beam is of oak or elm and appears to be the halved companion to the tie-beam of Truss 2. Slender curving braces, properly

pegged, extend on either side to the principal-posts. Nailed-on raking-struts rise to the roof above.

Bay 2

5.9 On the south side, the sole-plate is in poor condition. Double-bracing extends from the storey posts to the central stud, but has disengaged. As elsewhere, the wall-plate has been treated with preservative, and retains a redundant mortice for a brace. Bladed scarf joints are also present.

5.10 The northern wall panel has been modified to create the central doorway noted above (Plate 7). Mortices for an earlier mid-rail, which must have formed a lintel for a door are still evident on the flanking storey posts, but most of the earlier fabric has been replaced with softwood. Above the inserted mid-rail, the original studs remain *in situ* as do short sections of downward braces.

Truss 2

5.11 As with Truss 1 the northern post retains a regular arrangement of redundant mortices for studs, while its corresponding southern member is a reused floor joist, displaying the same characteristics. The southern posts may be half of a single joist as they both display a chamfer terminating in stops. The waney tie-beam, as noted above is probably the companion to the adjacent member, having likewise, elegant curved braces and nailed-on queen-struts.

Bay 3

5.12 As noted above the dwarf-wall is rendered and the sole-plate has been replaced along the entire length on this side. Primary-braces extend down from the storey post supporting old oak studs which have been pierced by two apertures. On the south the sole-plate is partially decayed at the west end. As elsewhere, the storey-post is braced to either side with some remaining studwork, though much has been lost. The wall-plate has signs of being covered in preservative, with a short bladed scarf at the western end and a long mortice for a brace, as we see in the western bay.

East Gable End

5.13 The eastern gable wall is mostly modern, but preserves a short section of original wall-plate at the southern end. The corner-post also survives, preserving regular redundant mortices. The southern post is likewise a former joist as elsewhere. Secondary softwood joists have been inserted to carry the steel frame for the sliding doors (Plate 8). The wall-plate is softwood and preserves some Baltic marks. The raking-struts and slender softwood studs rise to the principal-rafters. As on the west there are dragon ties at the corners. A short section of studwork fills the northern side but this is all modern softwood.

Roof

5.14 The roof is entirely homogenous with closely spaced softwood rafters of slender scantling. The knotty purlins are supported by bird-mouthed bracing from the tie-beams in the form of nailed-on raking-struts.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Description of Results

6.1 Sample sections were recorded:

<i>Sample section 1. (DP20)</i> <i>0.00 = 141.14m AOD</i>		
0.00- 0.07m	M1007	Standing brick wall of barn.
0.07 – 0.15m	L1002	Foundation layer of barn. Compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent CBM.
0.15m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Compact, pale blue grey clay with frequent medium sub-rounded chalk.

<i>Sample section 2. (DP21)</i> <i>0.00 = 141.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	M1008	Standing brick wall of barn.
0.07 – 0.12m	L1001	Foundation layer of barn. Compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent CBM .
0.12 m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample section 3. (DP22)</i> <i>0.00 = 141.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1004	Concrete.
0.12 – .27m+	L1006	Fill of modern cable trench (F1005).

<i>Sample section 4. (DP23)</i> <i>0.00 = 141.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Modern Made Ground. Compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent modern CBM fragments and small sub-rounded gravel.
0.12 – 1.20m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As sample section 1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 No naturally-occurring soil layers above the natural deposits (L1003) were present in any of the footing trenches observed. The natural deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.12m and 0.15m below the current ground surface, and comprised a compact, pale blue grey clay with frequent medium sub-rounded chalk.

8.2 Outside the northern side of the building the natural deposits (L1003) were overlain by a 0.12m thick layer (L1000) of compact, mid grey brown silty clay with very frequent modern CBM fragments and small sub-rounded gravel.

8.3 On the northwest corner of the building the present brick wall (M1007) overlay a thick (0.11m) layer (L1002) of compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent CBM fragments. The natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.15m.

8.4 On the south side of the building the present brick wall (M1008) overlay a thick (0.12m) layer (L1001) of compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent CBM fragments. The natural deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.12m.

8.5 On the northwest corner of the building a thick (0.12m) layer of concrete overlay a modern service trench (F1005) whose depth was greater than the trench cut. The natural deposits were not revealed.

7 DISCUSSION

The Building

7.1 The barn is of modest construction, retaining much of its overall original form with some modern modification, particularly at roof level, and sensitive repair. Several good diagnostic features such as the primary-bracing, the predominant use of oak and bladed scarf joints present in the wall-plate indicate a late 18th century date. In construction however, a high proportion of the timber is reused, particularly for the principal structural framing. Most display domestic traits and characteristics which suggest that they come from an early 17th century context as floor joists and mid-rails. The principal vertical posts reflect the most emphatic use, but the wall-plates also display empty mortices for sloping braces, which suggest that they were once vertical members, redeployed here in a systematic manner. In addition, several timbers have signs of preservative on them, which suggests that they form repairs, or partial reconstruction after the 19th century. More recently various alterations have been undertaken to prolong the life of the building including the replacement of the roof and the coating of the exterior in cement render to replace the earlier weatherboarding. A brick lean-to was added against the southern elevation in the 1970s, though had been partially demolished at the time of the survey.

7.2 Overall, the building reflects economy with materials, with older material brought together here and used to its maximum extent with great competence. The dwarf-wall is of particular interest, suggesting either that the building superseded an earlier structure or more likely that the bricks, like the timber are re-used from elsewhere.

7.3 In its original form, the barn may have formed a modest storage building and was no doubt attended by others now lost. The original entrance on the north side, indicated by the mortices for lintel or mid-rails suggest that the earlier entrance was fairly modest, and insufficient for drawing wagons into the building.

The Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

7.4 The site had potential for archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date, in particular rectilinear ditches c.65m to the southeast possibly represent the remains of medieval tofts on Throcking Road. Cole Green Farm comprises 16th century timber framed buildings, altered in the 17th and 18th centuries. Further post-medieval remains have been found 125m to the west.

7.5 The construction of the present building consisted of ground reduction, at least, to the level of the natural deposits. No archaeological finds or features were present in any of the foundation trenches.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The 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 Mr & Mrs Parbles for commissioning and funding the project.

Thanks are due to the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record at Hertfordshire County Council. Thanks are also given to the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute for Archaeologists 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*. IFA, Reading.

Kelly & Co. 1937. *Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire*.

Kelly & Co. 1922. *Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire*.

Kelly & Co. 1908. *Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire*.

Kelly & Co. 1895. *Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire*.

Kelly & Co. 1855. *Kelly's Post Office Directory of Hertfordshire*.

Page, W. (ed). 1912, *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3*. Victoria County History pp226-232.

1919 Sales Particulars for the Broadfield Estate, Hertfordshire (1233).

1923 (July) Sales Particulars for the 'Coles Estate, Westmill, Buntingford, Herts.' 1355. 2nd edition.

1938 (July) Sales Particulars for the Broadfield Estate, Hertfordshire.

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

Williams, A. & Martin. G., (eds.) 2002, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Classics

Web resources:

Accessed 02/02/2012

www.british-history.ac.uk

www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

<http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/places.html>

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertford Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER No	NGR SP	Description
Medieval		
4398	TL 328 298	Rectilinear ditches, possible tofts, Cole's Green, Cottered. In field 6583 are old drainage courses suggestive of tofts. The cropmarks appear to be remains of tofts lining the Throcking Road. The 1878 map shows that a road, Horneywood Lane, ran north from Throcking Road here past Cole's Green Farm, and that Cole's Green may have been a hamlet, typical of the many Greens in the county, but which had shrunk by the mid 19th century. The road was closed in the mid 20th century. The place name is not documented until the 17th century ('Coles greene' in 1638), although Cole's Green Farm [12911] is older.
13708	TL 3238 3010	Two arms of a possible moat are shown on the south side of a lane which has disappeared. It was part of Horneywood Lane, running east from its present terminus at TL 3229 3011 and then south through Cole's Green Farm into Throcking Road. The moat and the lost part of Horneywood Lane are shown on OS mapping in 1923; they are not on the 1975 edition, and the fields north of Cole's Green Farm have been amalgamated into larger ones. Medieval pottery has been found nearby; see [15627].
16897	TL 3298 2972	Ridge and furrow, Whytegates Farm, Cottered. Traces of medieval fields.
Post-medieval		
12910	TL 3286 2981	Whytegates Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered. 20th century farm incorporating one possibly older building. Possibly timber-framed with a brick sill. Possible gable roof. Some weatherboarding and later brick. Set amongst other more modern farm buildings. (No photos taken, visibility poor). The farm is not on OS mapping until after 1923; no buildings are shown here.
12911	TL 3274 2992	Cole's Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered. Post-medieval farmstead with 16th century farmhouse. Mixture of brick and corrugated farm buildings. All gabled roofs, corrugated iron covering, and a thatched roof farmhouse. Situated to the north of the road. Farmhouse at rear (north) of farm buildings (photo 13). The 16th century farmhouse is timber-framed, on a red brick sill, the exterior with fan-patterned pargetting. Originally a one and a half storey three-cell hall house, in the 17th century an upper floor was inserted into the hall and a chimney built (probably in the screens passage); a one-storey 17th century west extension converted the house into a lobby-entry plan with central chimney, with a parlour at the east end which was unheated until an external gable chimney in red brick was added in the 18th century. The roof is thatched; the large gabled porch was added in the 20th century. Until the mid 20th century the farm adjoined the east side of Horneywood Lane, which ran north from Throcking Road, past the farmyard. Outside of Area of Archaeological Significance 250 & Grade II LB: 159870.
13709	TL 3266 2986	Site of post-medieval building, Throcking Road, Cole's Green, Cottered. Possible house, grounds and pond shown on 1878 OS map. A building, apparently a house, is shown here at the end of a drive from

		the road. The building has an L plan, a pond (which survives), and trees in its grounds, which made up the centre third of the present field.
Undated		
12985	TL 3245 2979	Cropmarks of intersecting ditches and possible trackway, NE of Magpie Farm, Cottered. Possible house platforms at the edge of Cottered. Cropmarks of a large number of intersecting linear ditches and a possible trackway. The size and shape of the areas enclosed may suggest house plots, on the edge of the present settlement.

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Fig	Date	Description	Scale	Location
4	1810	<i>Inclosure Map of Cottered</i>	-	HALS
5	1877	<i>Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII.3</i>	1:1250	HALS
6	1898	<i>Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII.3 (2nd ed)</i>	1:1250	HALS
7	1923	<i>Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII.3</i>	1:1250	HALS
8	1938	Plan of Coles Green Farm, Sales Particulars "The Broadfield Hall Estate, Hertfordshire"	-	HALS
9	1975	<i>Ordnance Survey Map of East Hertfordshire Plan TL 3229-3329</i>	1:1250	HALS

APPENDIX 3 DETAILS OF THE 1810 INCLOSURE AWARD

Plot No.	Allotment Value	Description & Owner/Tenant
15	12 acres, 1 rood & 21 perches	Allotment made to the Trustees of Cottered Town
16	12 acres, 1 rood & 21 perches	Allotment made to the Trustees of Cottered Town
17	9 acres, 2 roods & 34 perches	Allotment made to the Trustees of Cottered Town ("Pightle")
18	2 acres, 1 rood & 6 perches	"As a purchaser by paying the expenses of the Vicars of Yardley" – William Parstow, current Vicar of Yardley
19	22 acres, 1 rood & 29 perches	Richard Forester, Thomas Miller & William Conyers
20	23 acres, 3 roods & 31 perches	Known as 'Holbrooke' – Richard Forester
21	2 acres, 2 roods & 27 perches	'Woodman Croft'
22	35 perches	East end of ancient enclosure owned by Lord Willoughby de Broke – allotment rented by George Carter
23	40 acres & 1 rood	Lord Willoughby de Broke (owner) & Richard Forester
37	4 acres, 1 rood & 23 perches	Known as 'Common Ramsden' – the Devisees of Thomas Sanders
39	4 acres, 3 roods & 36 perches	Thomas Gutteridge
40	8 acres & 2 roods	Lies in Church Croft to the south lies house & garden belonging to Jeremiah Gutteridge
41	1 acre & 4 perches	-
42	17 perches	Richard Forester
43	5 acres, 3 roods & 6 perches	Named 'Brundles Croft' – Lord Willoughby de Broke (owner) and Richard Forester (tenant)
44	75 acres, 1 rood & 16 perches	Lies in Hare Field – Lord Willoughby de Broke

APPENDIX 4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Barn at Coles Green Farm, Throcking Rd, Cottered, Herts
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Cottered	Parish: Cottered
Planning application reference:	3/11/0784/FP (amendment to existing application)
Client name/address/tel:	Mr & Mrs Parbles, The Old Workshop, Coles Green Farm, Throcking Rd, Cottered, Herts
Nature of application:	Proposed conversion to residential use
Present land use:	Barn
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated:
NGR (8 figures):	TL 32745 29920
Site Code:	AS1552
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Date of work:	October and November 2012 and February 2013
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford
Related SMR Nos: -	Periods represented: C18th – C20th
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In November 2012 and February 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Coles Green Farm, Throcking Road, Cottered, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3274 2992). The historic building recording & archaeological monitoring & recording was commissioned to support planning approval for the conversion of a barn to a three-bedroom residential dwelling (Planning Ref. 3/11/1756/FP).</p> <p>Technical analysis reveals the barn to be of modest construction retaining much of its overall original form with some modern modification, particularly at roof level. Diagnostic features such as the primary-bracing, the predominant use of oak and bladed scarf joints indicate a late 18th century date however many of the principal timbers are re-used originating from an early 17th century context. Repair has been sensitive during the 19th and 20th centuries and the building survives as an agricultural storage building.</p> <p>The archaeological monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds</p>
Author of summary: Dr Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: February 2013

APPENDIX 5 ARCHIVE CONTENTS FORM (BUILDING RECORDING)

Site Details							
Site Name: Coles Green Farm, Throcking Rd, Cottered, Herts					NGR: TL 32745 29920		
County: Hertfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: HALS			
Site Code: AS1552				Project Number: 4499			
Date of Work: November 2012				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
24 th January 2012		Yes		27 th January 2012		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes taken on site (3 pages A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
1 x A3 sheet of draft film							
Architect's Drawings:							
Plans and elevations 4 sheets A3 – annotated Plans and elevations 1 sheets A4 – annotated							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings in digital format on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4215		Historic Building Recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	7-15	Yes	Yes	1	10-14	Yes
2	120mm	1-5	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printouts in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD							

6 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE (MONITORING & RECORDING)

Records	Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	Y
Context Sheets	1000 - 1005
Site drawings A1	
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	12

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

Barn at Coles Green Farm, north elevation, taken from the north



2

East elevation and modern lean-to, taken from the east



3

South and east elevations, taken from the south-east



4

South and west elevations, taken from the south-west



5

Brick dwarf wall including Tudor brickwork, west elevation, taken from the west



6

Barn interior, taken from the north-east



7

Roof structure, taken from the north-east



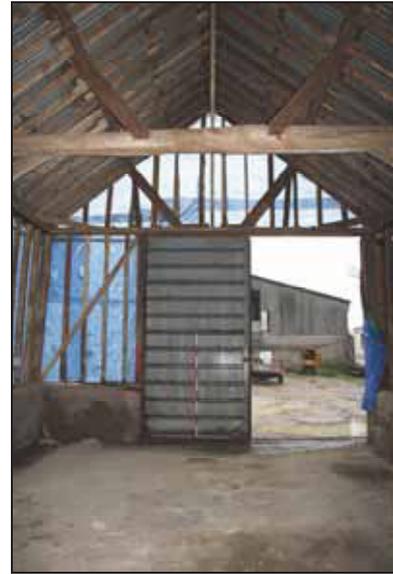
8

Wall panels to Bays 2 & 3, south elevation, taken from the north



9

Wall panels to Bays 2 & 3, north elevation, taken from the south



10

Eastern gable end, taken from the west



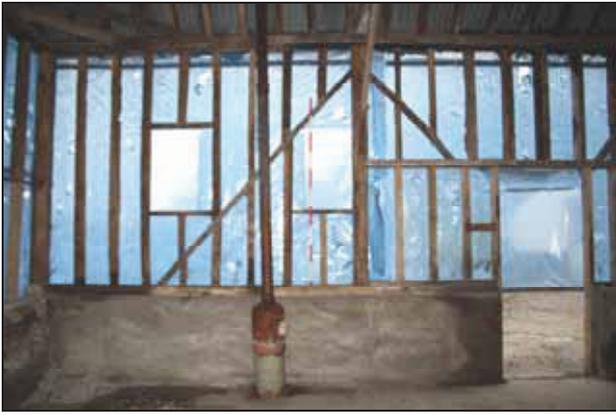
11

Wall panels to Bay 1 & 2, south elevation, taken from the north



12

Western gable end, taken from the east



13

Wall panels to Bays 1 & 2, north elevation, taken from the south



14

Barn interior, taken from the south-west



15

Re-used ceiling joist used as the southern post to Truss 1, taken from the north-east



16

Elegantly curved brace between tie-beam and principal-post, Truss 1, taken from the north-east



17

Re-used ceiling joist, chamfered with run-out stops and diminished haunches to the redundant mortices, southern post to Truss 1, taken from the north-west



18

Bladed scarf joint joining two pieces of wall-plate, north wall of Bay 2, taken from the south



19

General shot of site, looking north



20

Sample Section 1, looking east



21

Sample Section 2 (right), looking north



22

Sample Section 3, looking west



23

Sample Section 4, looking south-east



24

Underpinning on south side (complete), looking north



25

Foundation Trench 1 (post-excitation), looking south



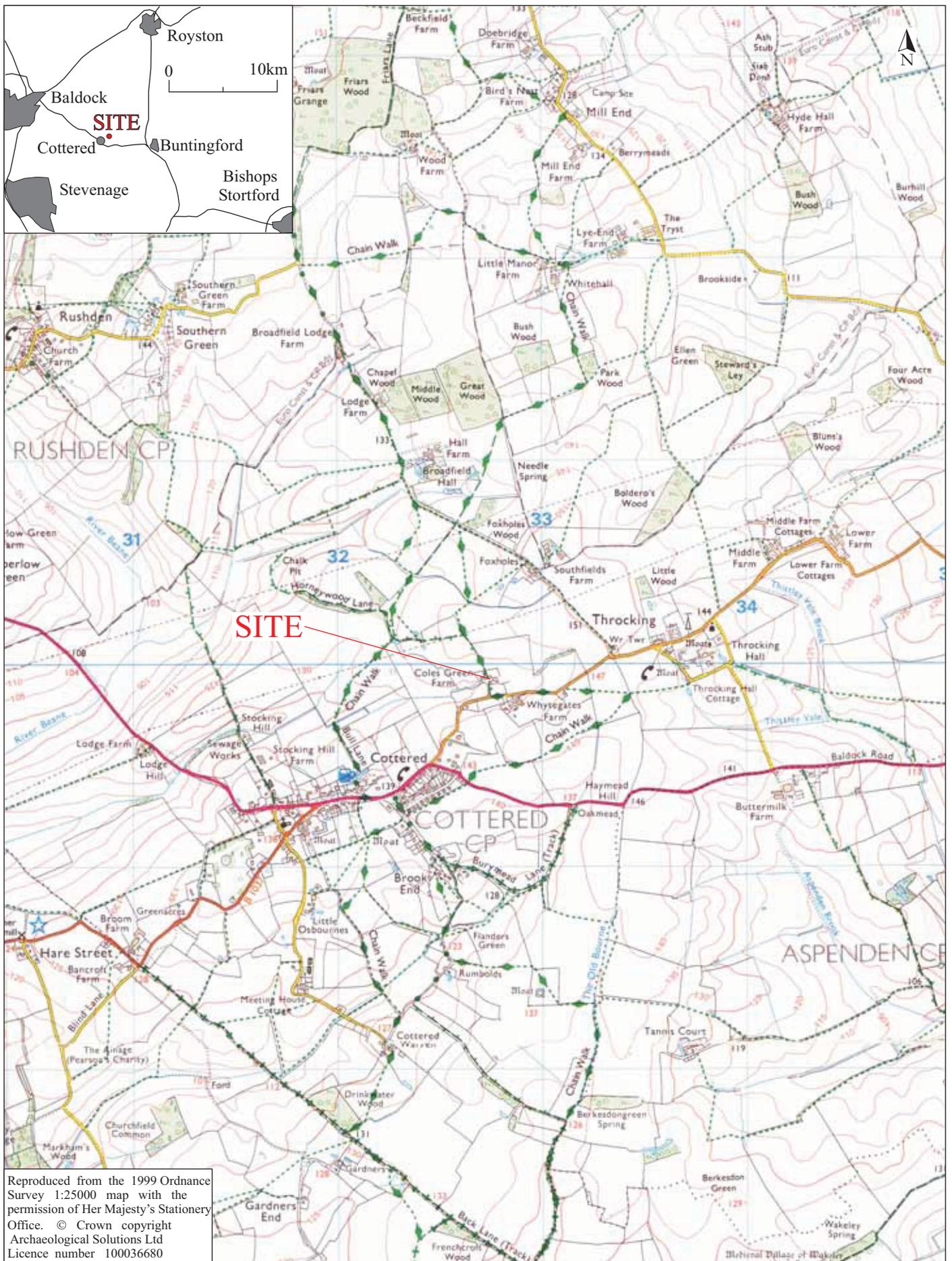
26

Pipeline trench (eastern side) (post-excitation), looking south



24

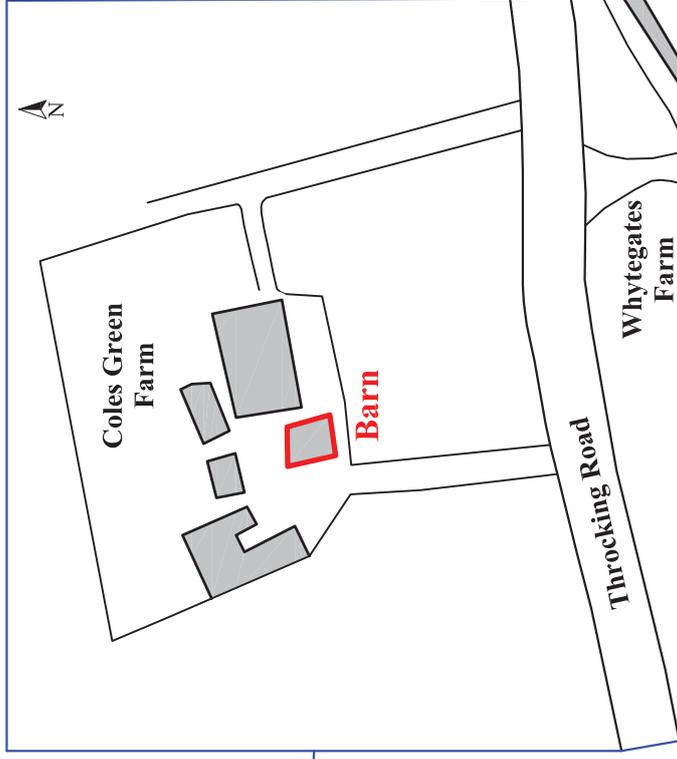
Footing trench, western side of barn (concrete underpinning poured), looking east



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



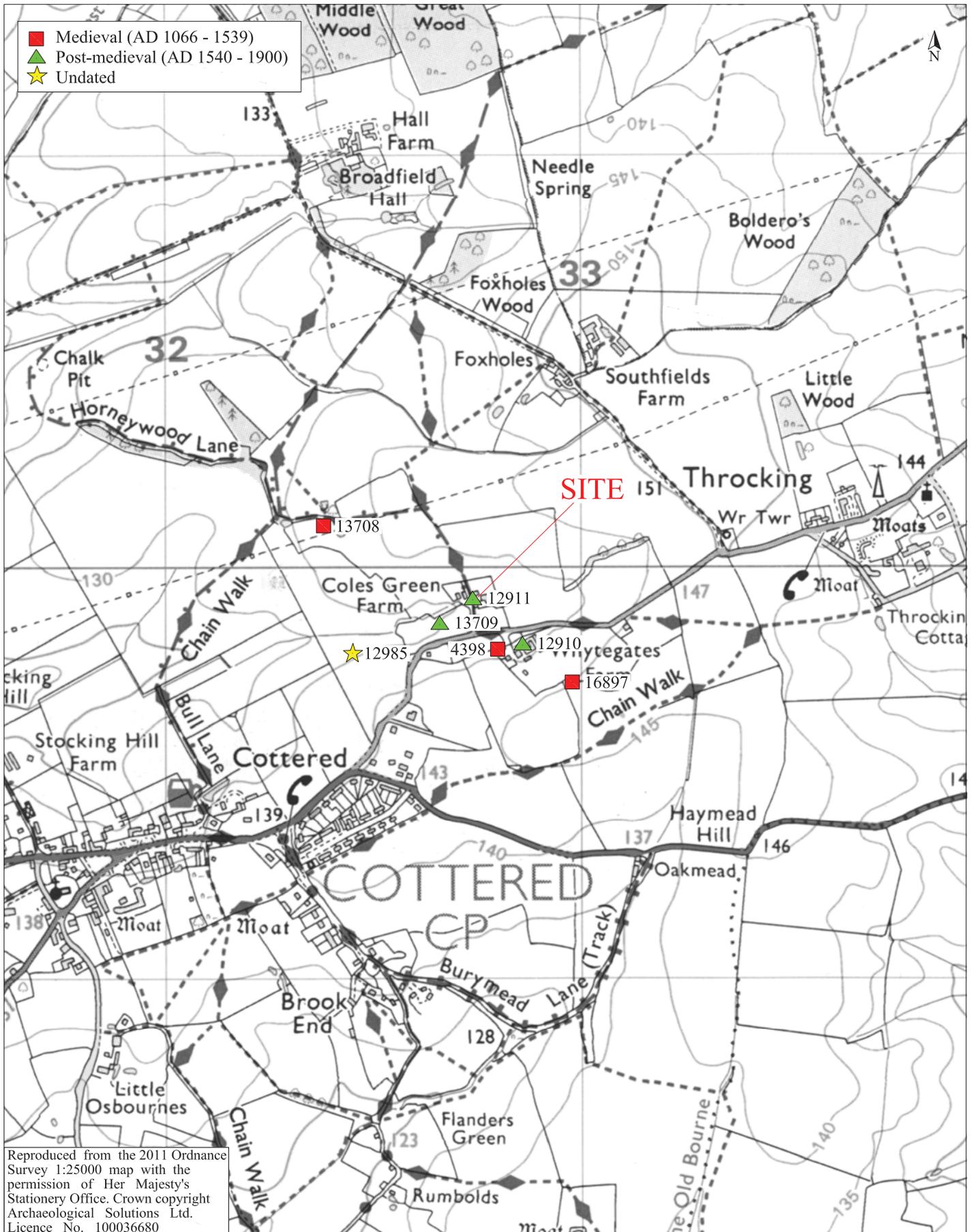
Reproduced from the 2011 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

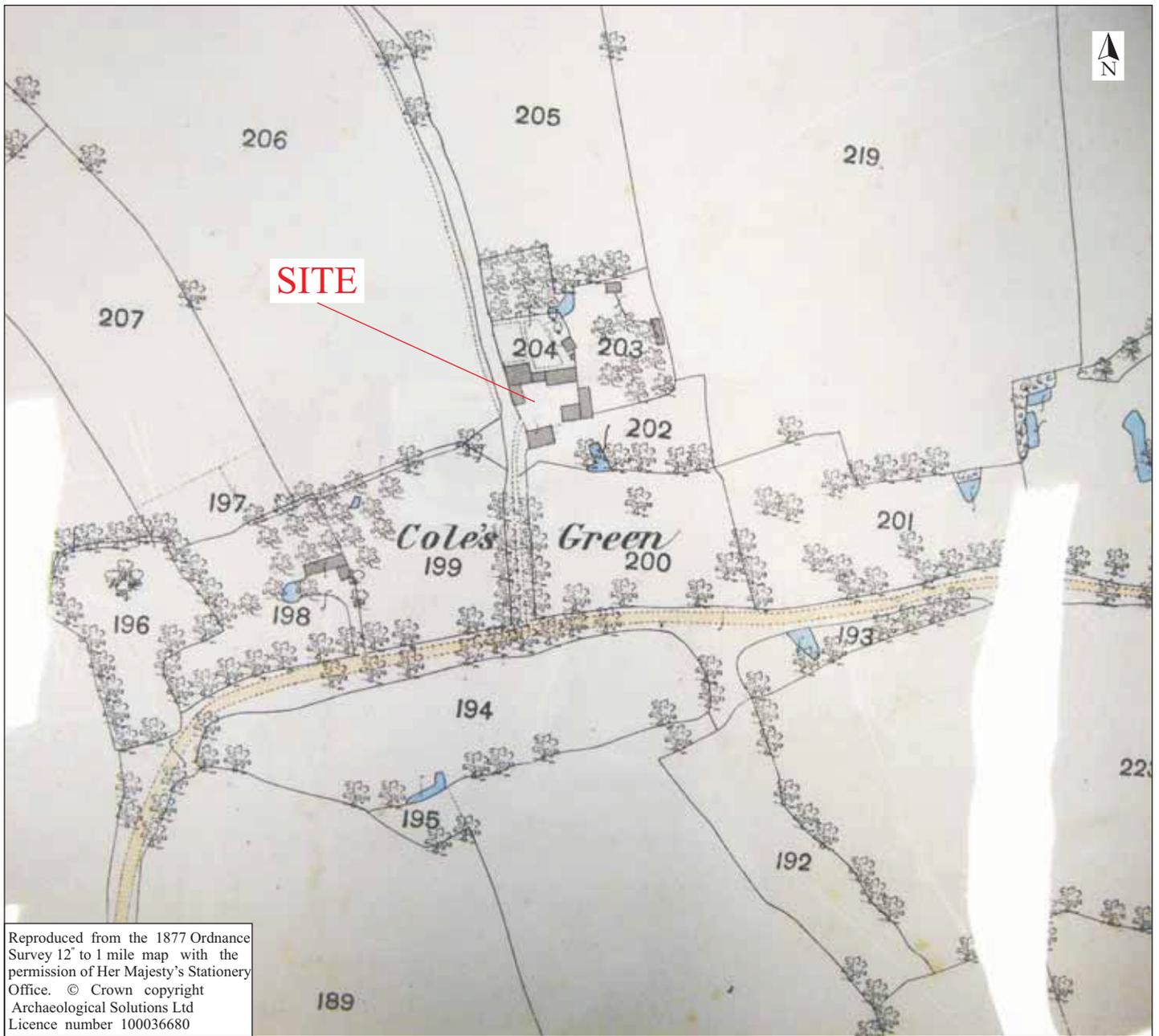
Scale 1:5000 and 1:2000 at A4



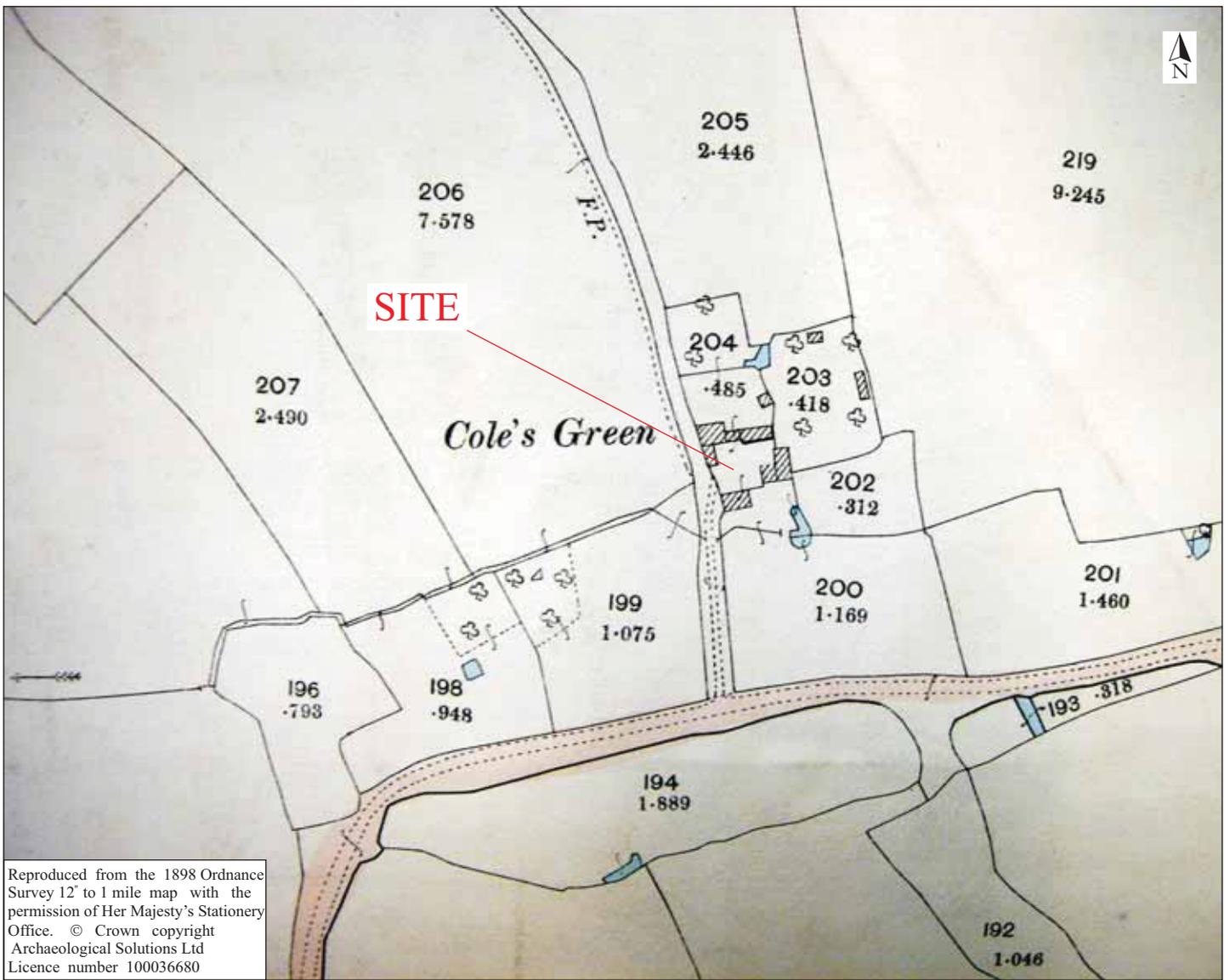
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Inclosure map of Cottered, 1810
Not to scale

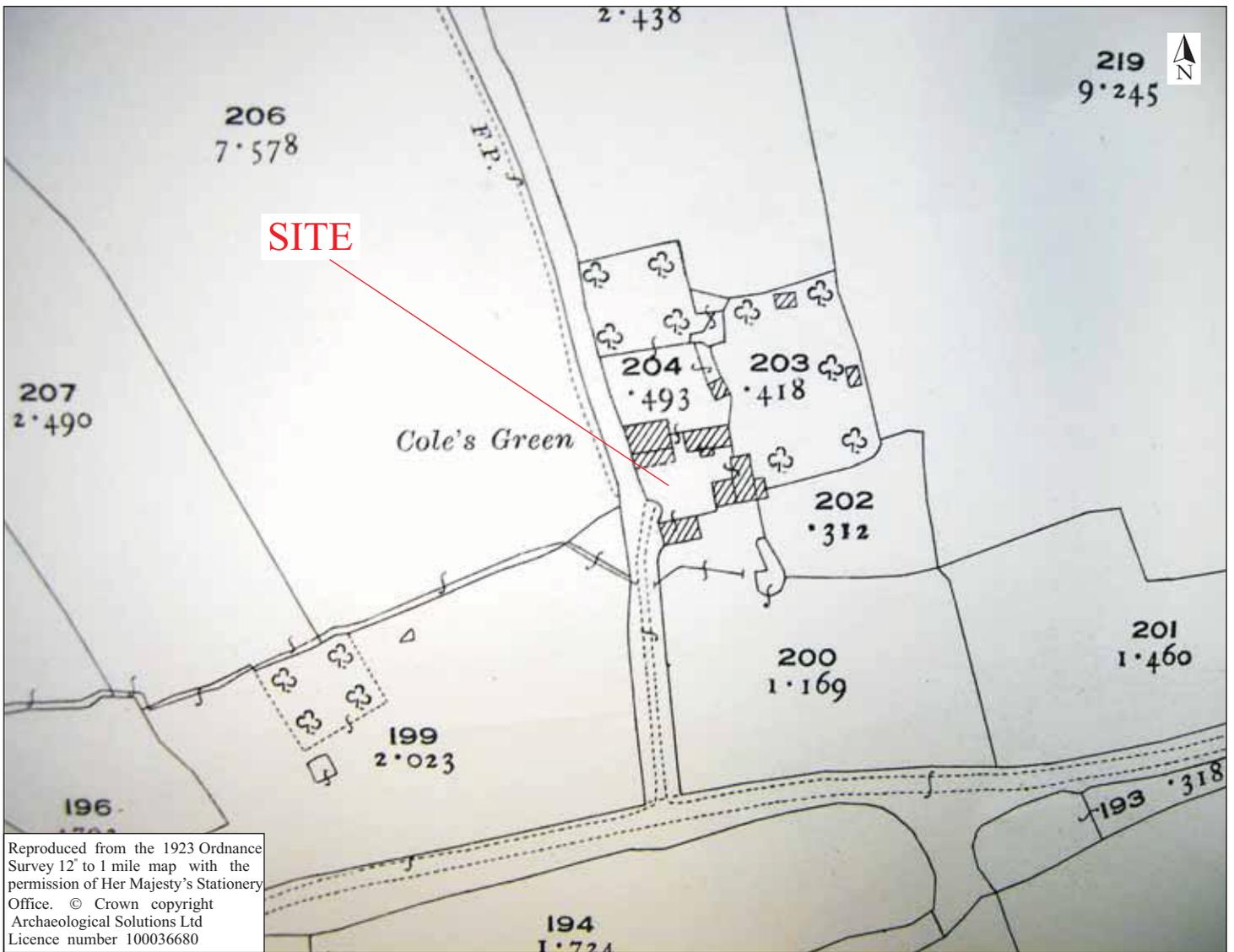


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 5 OS map, 1877
Not to scale

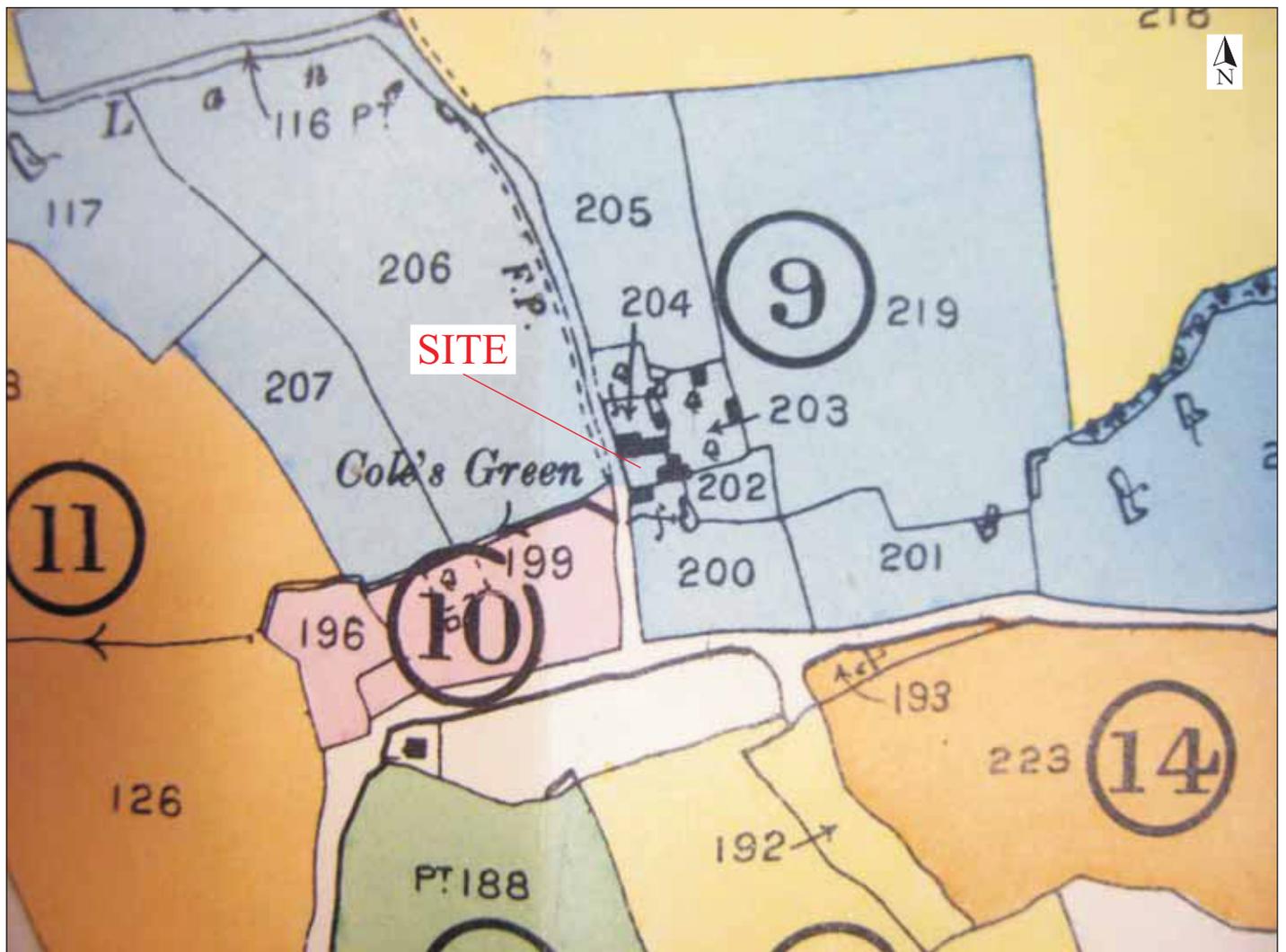


Reproduced from the 1898 Ordnance Survey 12' to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

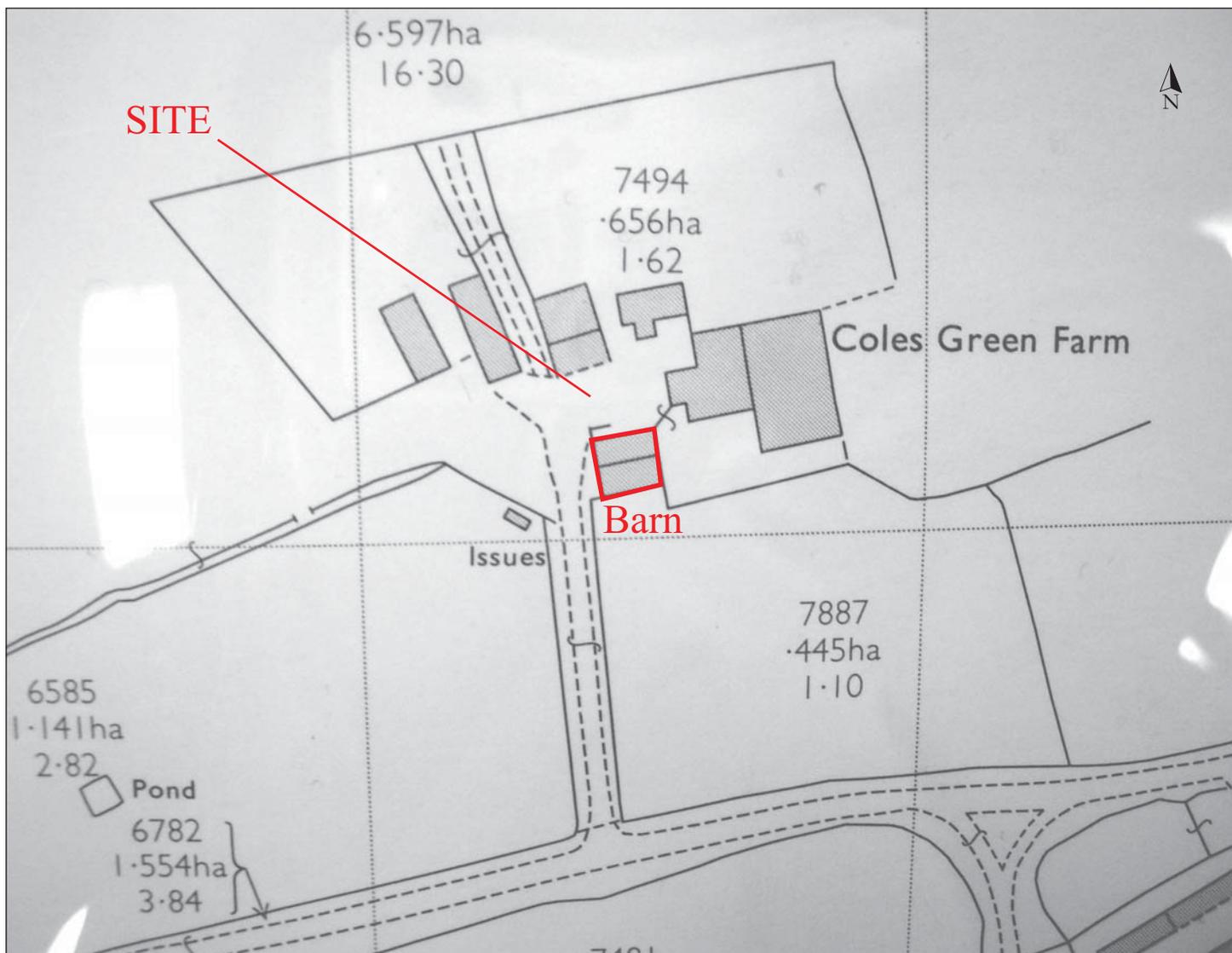
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 6 OS map, 1898
 Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 OS map, 1923
Not to scale

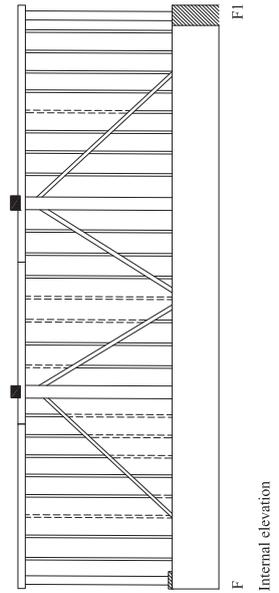
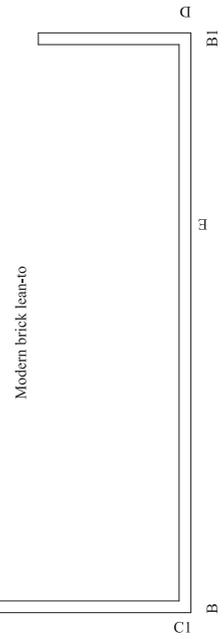
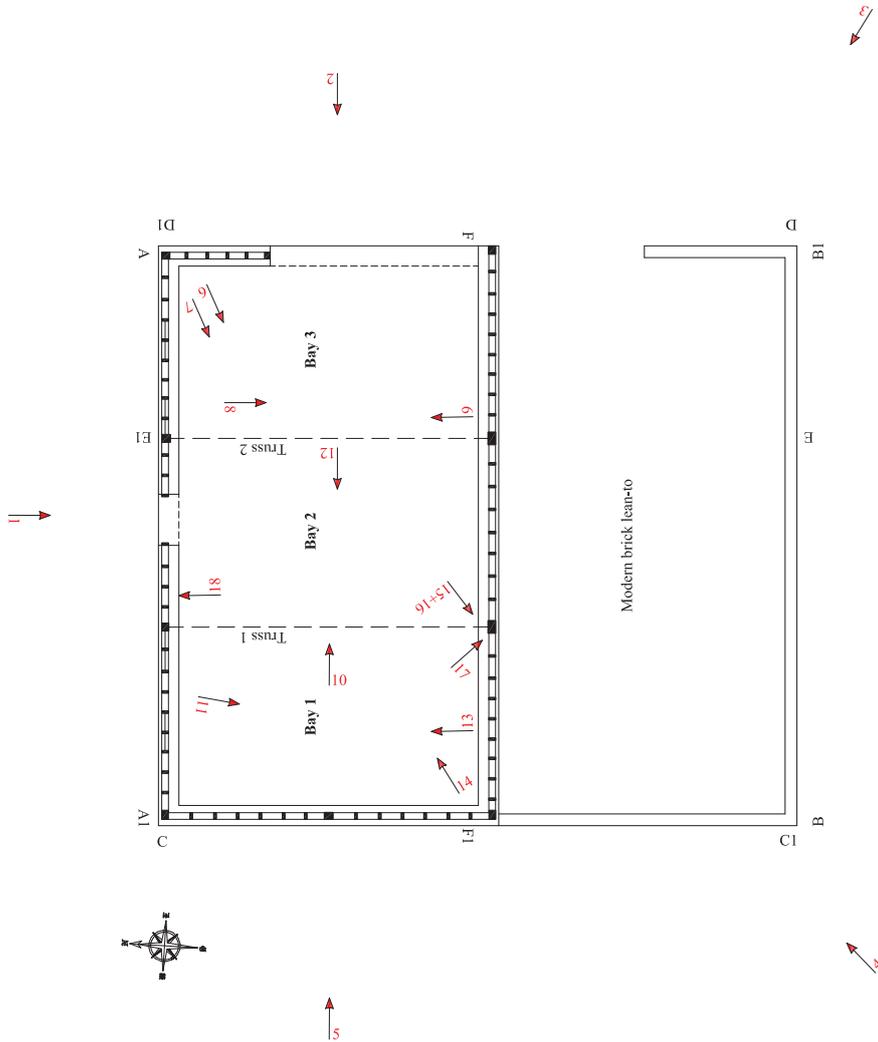
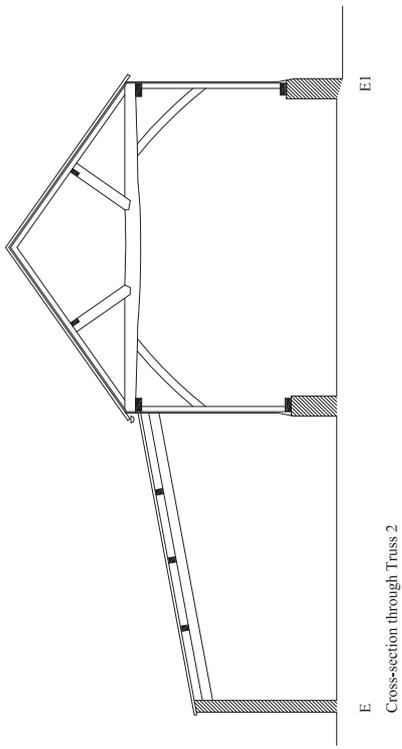


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 8 Sales Particulars of The Broadfield Hall Estate, 1938
Not to scale



Reproduced from the 1975 Ordnance Survey 12' to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

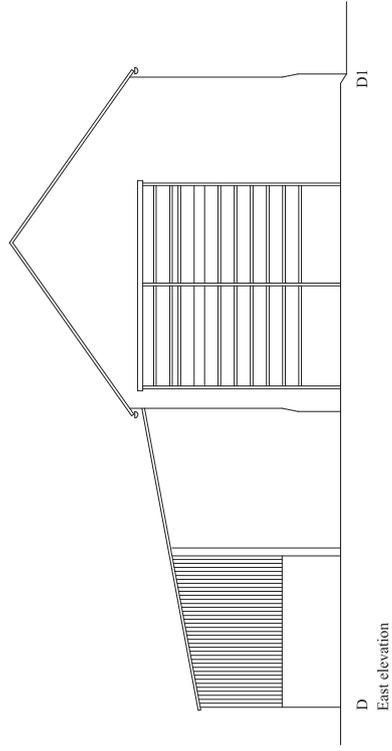
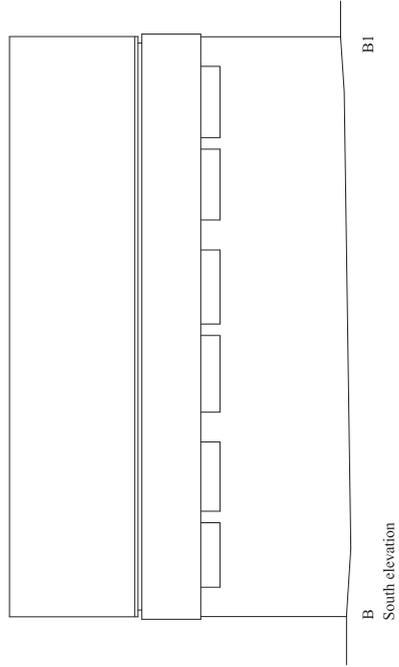
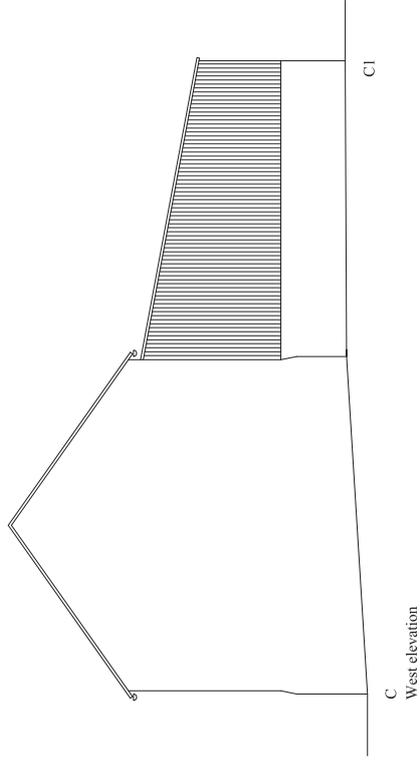
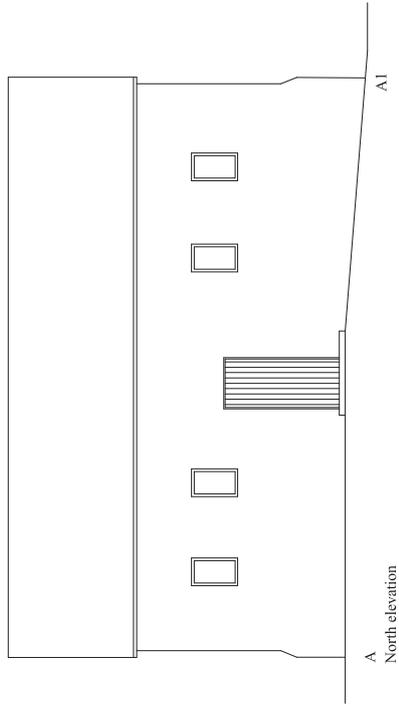
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 9 OS map, 1975
Not to scale

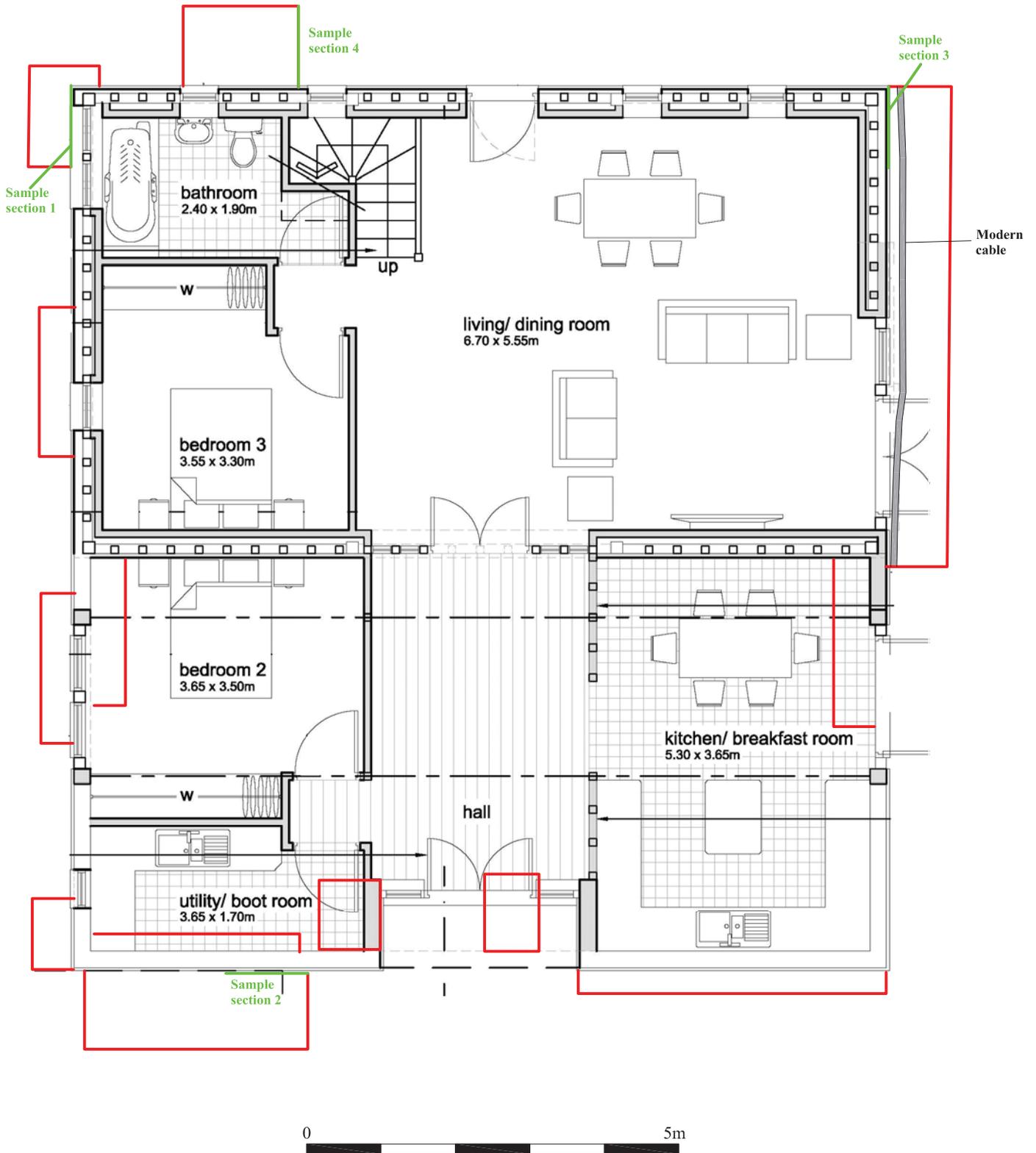


==== Missing studs
 → Photographic location



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 10 Floor plan, elevation & section
 Scale 1:100 at A3

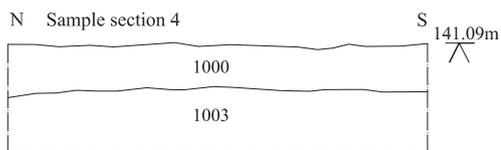
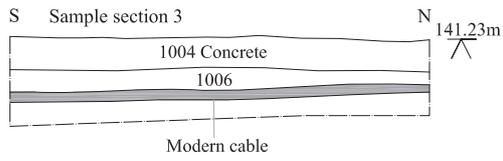
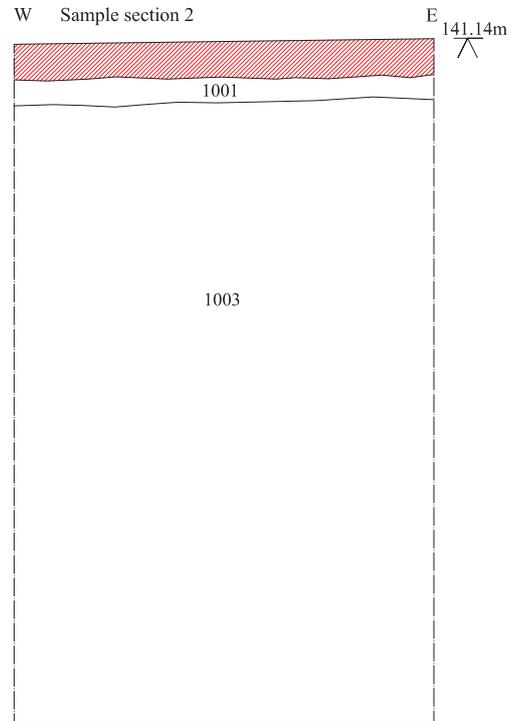
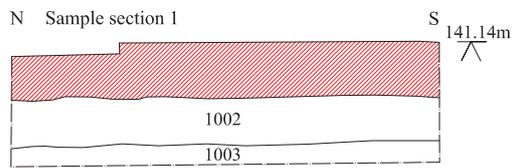




Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 12 Areas of monitoring on proposed development plan

Scale 1:75 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 13 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4