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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**WEST HOLD, 2 HIGH STREET, WEST MERSEA,  
COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO5 8QD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Antony Mustchin (Fieldwork) Kamil Orzechowski (Report) Peter Thompson (Research)	
Illustrations: Kathren Henry	
NGR: TM 00939 12462	Report No: 4773
District: Colchester	Site Code: AS1722
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5924
Signed:	Date: 04 February 2015

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West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex

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#### ***SUMMARY***

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8QD</i>		
<i>In November 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring &amp; recording at West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex. The project was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development of the existing residence. Based on recorded sites, finds and existing structures in the immediate vicinity – particularly the 11<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Peter and St Paul – the site had potential for archaeological remains dating to the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.</i>			
<i>In the event, the programme of monitoring and recording encountered no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>26/11/2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>5924</i>	Site code	<i>AS1722</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Private driveway</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential: extension to create new garage and annex</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Colchester</i>	<i>Mersea</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CO5 8QD</i>		
Area of site	<i>-</i>		
NGR	<i>TM 00939 12462</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 12.5m/ 10m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Colchester Borough Council</i>		
Project supervisor (PO)	<i>Antony R.R. Mustchin</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr and Mrs Smith</i>		
Full title	<i>West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8QD. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Report no.	<i>4773</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>04 February 2015</i>		

**WEST HOLD, 2 HIGH STREET, WEST MERSEA, COLCHESTER, ESSEX  
CO5 8QD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*In November 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring & recording during groundworks at West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex. The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Colchester Borough Council Planning Ref. 145622), based on the advice of the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council.*

*It is proposed to extend the property and to create new garage and annex; construct a replacement swimming pool building and re-contour the garden (the latter to be largely built-up from existing levels).*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. St Peter and St Paul's Church to the north has elements which date to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and it was formerly part of a larger Benedictine Priory (recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record as EHER 2274). This is believed to have succeeded a Saxon minster on the site, and was in turn preceded by a Roman villa on the site. Evidence for the Roman villa includes wall foundations, tessellated pavements and mosaic floors (EHER 12501, 13280-1). The site had a potential for remains associated with this significant multi-period complex to extend into its plot.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at *West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex*, (NGR TM 00939 12462; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Colchester Borough Council (Planning Ref 145622), based on the advice of the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council. It is proposed to extend the property and to create new garage and annexe; construct a replacement swimming pool building and re-contour the garden (the latter to be largely built-up from existing levels).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring & recording was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by the Archaeological Officer of Colchester Borough Council (CBC AO, dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014), and a Written Scheme of Investigation

prepared by AS (dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014) and approved by CBC AO. The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2008) and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed to:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

#### *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 recognize that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognize 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 to the south end of the High Street in the historic core of West Mersea. It comprises the existing residential property of West Hold, which has a garden plot sloping southwards down to the sea front. The parish church of St Peter and St Paul lies close by to the north.

2.2 It is proposed to extend the property and to create new garage and annex; construct a replacement swimming pool building and re-contour the garden (the latter to be largely built-up from existing levels).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. St Peter and St Paul's Church to the north has elements which date to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and it was formerly part of a larger Benedictine Priory (recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record as EHER 2274). It is believed to have succeeded a Saxon minster on the site, and was in turn preceded by a Roman villa. Evidence for the Roman villa includes wall foundations, tessellated pavements and mosaic floors (EHER 12501, 13280-1).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The specification provides for archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the extensions and replacement swimming pool (ground reduction/ services etc), and the monitoring of the re-contouring of the terraced garden if it is to involve significant ground reduction and has the potential to impact on archaeological remains, if present.

4.2 The monitoring observed the footings for the annexe on the north side of the existing house and garage. The footings for the new build to the south of the existing house are not due to commence until summer 2015.

4.3 The monitoring comprised the observation of mechanical excavation of footings, the inspection and metal detection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Exposed sections were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i> 0.00 = 54.23m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Gravel surface/Driveway. Yellow/cream/brown, loose, gravel.
0.08 – 0.4m	L1001	Topsoil (poss. imported). Mid brown, firm, sandy clay with frequent rounded gravel.
0.4m +	L1002	Natural. Dark orange, loose, sand.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> 0.00 = 54.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.2m	L1004	Gravel surface/Driveway. Same as above.
0.2 – 0.27m	L1001	Topsoil. Same as above.
0.27m +	L1002	Natural. Same as above.

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

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 Within the parameters of monitoring during groundworks it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy comprised gravel surface, L1000 (0.08 - 0.2m thick), overlaying topsoil (possibly imported), a mid brown, firm, sandy clay with frequent rounded gravel (0.07 - 0.32m thick). Below L1001 was Natural (L1002), dark orange, loose, sand (at 0.27 - 0.4m depth).

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site occupies an area of archaeological potential, particularly relating to the parish church of St Peter and St Paul, a short distance to the north-west. The church is of 11<sup>th</sup> century origin – originally part of a Benedictine priory – and is thought to have been preceded by a Saxon minster and earlier Roman villa.

8.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, the programme of monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.



## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Colchester Museums. The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (1996; revised 2008), UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and other relevant reference documents.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr C. Hoggarth of Hoggarth & Cooke Partnership for commissioning the monitoring and to Mr and Mrs Smith for funding the work.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Chris Lister, Major Project Planning Team, Colchester Borough Council.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, IfA, Reading

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**OASIS ID: archaeol7-208487**

### Project details

Project name	West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8QD
Short description of the project	In November 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex. The project was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development of the existing residence. Based on recorded sites, finds and existing structures in the immediate vicinity - particularly the 11th century parish church of St Peter and St Paul - the site had potential for archaeological remains dating to the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. In the event, the programme of monitoring and recording encountered no archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2014 End: 26-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	P6031 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS1722 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA West Hold, 2 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex CO5 8QD
Postcode	CO5 8QD
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 00939 12462 51.7741633162 0.912931360095 51 46 26 N 000 54 46 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 10.00m Max: 12.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project brief originator Colchester Borough Council

Project design originator Jon Murray

Project director/manager Jon Murray

Project supervisor Antony Mustchin

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr & Mrs Smith

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Contents "Survey"

Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Orzechowski, K

Other bibliographic details Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4773

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General shot of site before excavation



2  
General site shot after footings excavated



3  
Sample section 1



4  
Sample section 2

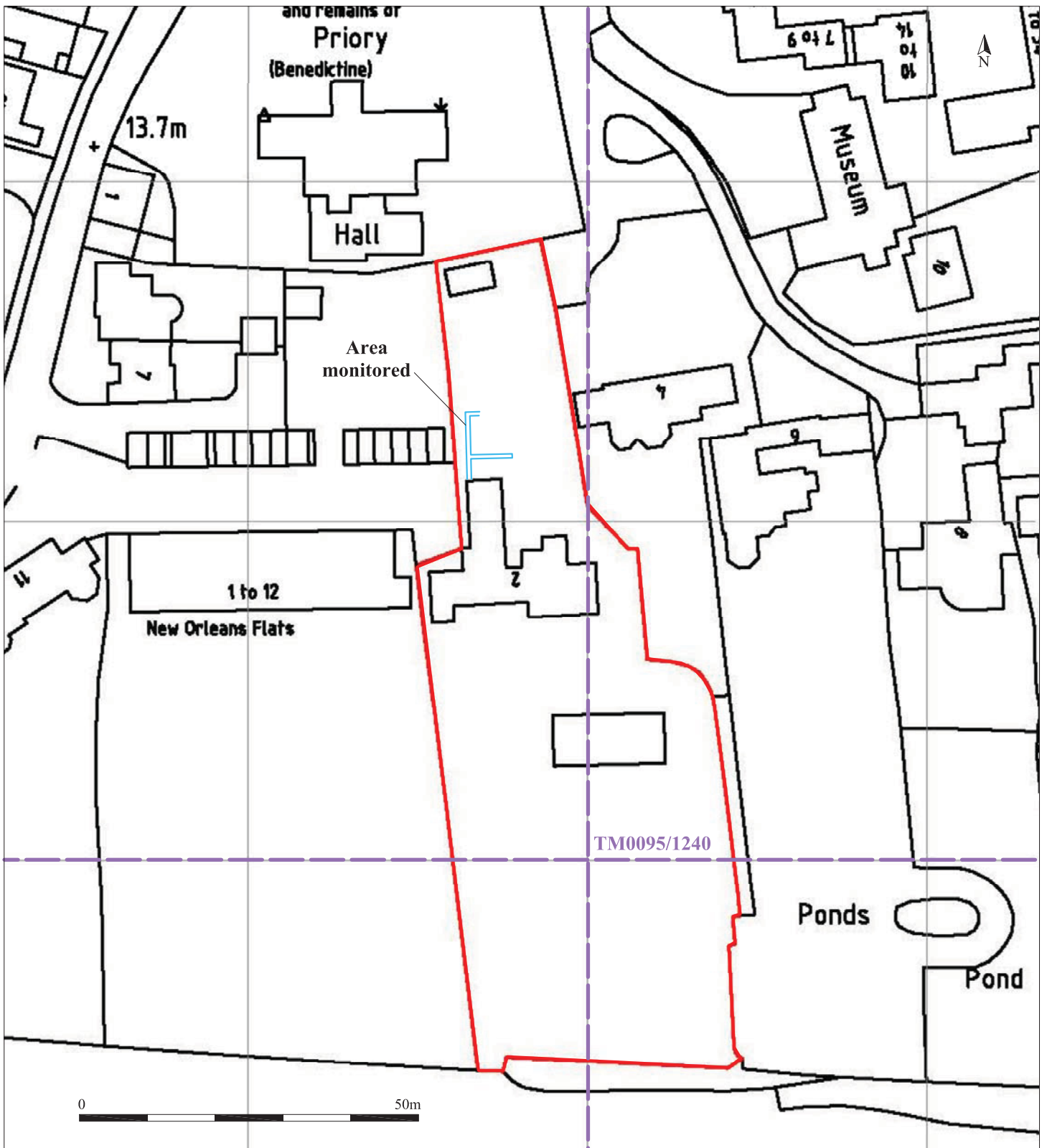




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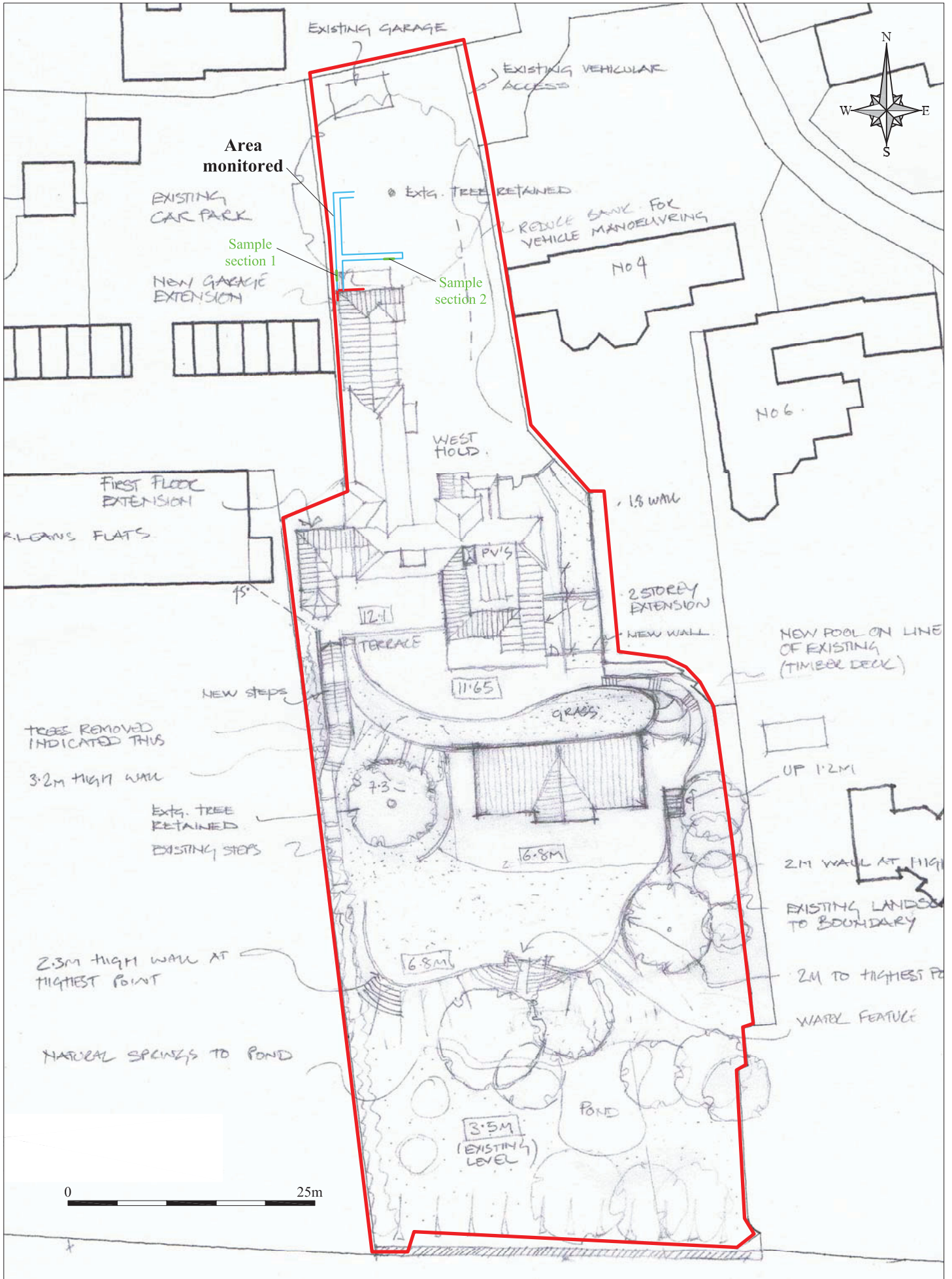
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:800 at A4

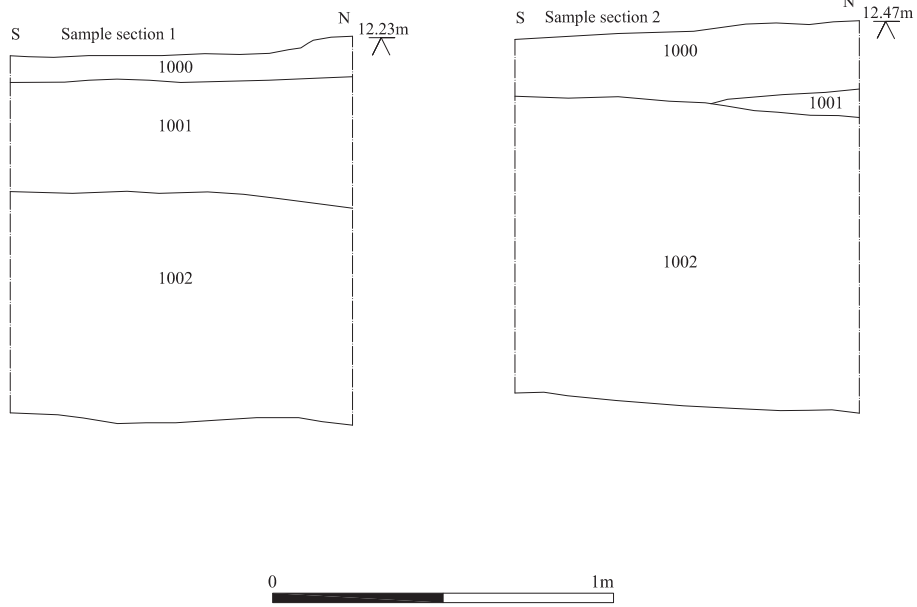


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**Fig. 3 Proposed development**

Scale 1:500 at A4





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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
Scale 1:20 at A4