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**THE OLD VICARAGE, 2 CHURCH STREET,
GILDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 2793 4413	Report No: 5204
District: South Cambridgeshire	Site Code: ECB4778
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6803
MCIfA	Date: 16 September 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Old Vicarage, 2 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<i>In June and August 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old Vicarage, 2 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2793 4413). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a house extension and detached garage.</i>			
<i>The site is located in the historic core of Guilden Morden village. The Church of St Mary is immediately adjacent to the east of the plot. The site had a potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains, and for evidence associated with an earlier building pre-dating the vicarage.</i>			
<i>The majority of the features recorded during the monitoring were modern pits. A modern well and undated pits and ditches were also recorded. Most interesting was the Saxon annular loom weight recovered from the topsoil. Such weights form part of a warp-weighted loom, and this particular example has the impressions of finger-tips.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>27/07 and 9-11/08/2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6803</i>	Site code	<i>ECB4778</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Side yard of the house</i>		
Planned development	<i>House extension and garage block</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern well, modern pits, undated pits and ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Unstratified Saxon annular loom weight</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Guilden Morden</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG8 0JD</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.2500m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2793 4413</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.42m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>CCC HET</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs Smith</i>		
Full title	<i>The Old Vicarage, 2 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5204</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2016</i>		

THE OLD VICARAGE, 2 CHURCH STREET, GULDEN MORDEN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June and August 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old Vicarage, 2 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2793 4413). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a house extension and detached garage.

The site is located in the historic core of Guilden Morden village. The Church of St Mary is immediately adjacent to the east of the plot. The site had a potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains, and for evidence associated with an earlier building pre-dating the vicarage.

The majority of the features recorded during the monitoring were modern pits. A modern well and undated pits and ditches were also recorded. Most interesting was the Saxon annular loom weight recovered from the topsoil. Such weights form part of a warp-weighted loom, and this particular example has the impressions of finger-tips.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June and August 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old Vicarage, 2 Church Street, Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2793 4413; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a house extension and a detached garage (South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Ref. S/1067/16/FL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; dated 05/07/2016), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 20/07/2016), and approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), 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 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 is located in the historic core of Guilden Morden village, on the northern side of Church Street (Fig. 1). It comprises the existing residential dwelling of the Old Vicarage, set in a mature residential plot. The Church of St Mary lies immediately adjacent to the east of the plot.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.42m AOD on relatively flat land. The solid geology of the area is of chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Swaffham Prior association, described as well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A scatter of burnt flint is recorded at Green Knoll Farm (CHER 09850). An inhumation of possible Roman or Saxon date was found with a bronze object during coprolite digging in the 1860s (CHER 00662). Pewter plates of Roman date have been dredged from the moat at Morden Hall (CHER 01210a) and Roman pottery was included within a pottery scatter from the Craft (CHER MCB16170).

4.2 The site is within the historic core of the village. Early Anglo-Saxon inhumations have been recorded at Church Lane (CHER CB14603/ECB403). The medieval parish church of St Mary, which is largely of 14th century date, lies within its churchyard immediately adjacent to the east of the site (HER 02278). Surviving earthworks of the medieval village are recorded to the north (HER 09910). Nearby are possible medieval moated sites at Bondsbury Wood (CHER 01206) and west of North Brook End (CHER 01209). Morden Hall has medieval origins, possibly containing fabric of the house rebuilt here following the Peasant's Revolt of 1381, and the moat itself is listed as being of medieval date (CHER 01210). Extant late medieval buildings are present within the village core, for example, The Avenels (CHER 02270). Post-medieval and early modern buildings, such as the congregational chapel (CHER MCB 17160), Morden House (CHER 12104), a dovecote at 32/34 Church Street (CHER 10428), and Dove Cottage on Church Lane (CHER 10427) are also recorded in the area.

4.3 The site itself has the potential for the remains of an earlier vicarage building to be present within area of the proposed extension.

4.4 The existing dwelling on the site dates to c.1875. The heritage statement prepared with the planning application notes that the 1875 house was built as extension to a much older house to the immediate east, which was demolished in the 1950s. It was described as a very old lath and plaster house in the 19th century and may have dated to the later medieval/early post-period.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for the new garage block and house extension (Fig. 2).

5.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Garage Block

Deposits located within area of the new garage were recorded in sample sections presented below:

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 3)</i>		
<i>North-east foundation trench, facing south-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 42.92m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, friable, sandy silt.
0.52 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid to dark yellow, loose, silty sand.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural light grey and yellow, loose, chalky sand.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 4)</i>		
<i>Central foundation trench, facing south-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 42.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.68m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.68 – 0.76m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.76m+	L1002	Natural chalky sand. As above.

Description: The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new garage revealed undated Ditch F1003. From Topsoil L1000 a fragment of a Saxon annular loom weight was found.

Ditch F1003 was linear (9.00+ x 1.60 – 1.90m x 0.55 – 0.70m; DP 5-6), orientated north-north-east/south-south-west. It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1004, was a dark grey, friable, sandy silt. It contained small fragments of animal bone (58g).

House Extension

Deposits encountered within the area of the new house extension were recorded in sample section presented below.

<i>Sample section A (DP 8)</i> <i>North-west corner, facing north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 42.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L2000	Topsoil ground. Light yellowish brown, friable, silty sand with brick rubble.
0.25 – 0.53m	L2010	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, firm, sandy silt.
0.53m+	L2001	Natural white and some pale yellow, friable, clayey chalk.

Description: Pit F2002 contained modern (late 19th – early 20th century) pottery and Pits F2016, F2041 and F2044 contained small quantities of early modern CBM. Pit 2011, F2028 and F2006, while they contained no finds they truncated the early modern pits. Well M2026 was modern. Pits F2019 and F2032, and Ditch F2008 were undated.

Pit F2002 was large (4.00+ x 1.00+ x 1.10m+; DP 7, 9) and located at the northern end of the area of the new extension. It had fairly steep sides and its base was unseen. It contained at least three fills. The basal fill, L2003, was a pale brownish grey, firm, chalky and clayey silt. It contained no finds. The secondary fill, L2004, was a dark brownish grey, firm, clayey silt. It also contained no finds. The uppermost fill, L2005, was a mid greyish brown, firm, clayey silt. It contained modern (late 19th – early 20th century) pottery (2; 58g), CBM (628g) and animal bone 140g). Pit F2002 was cut by Pits F2006 and F2028.

Pit F2006 was sub circular in plan (0.67 x 0.40+ x 0.18m; DP 9). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2007, was a mid greyish brown, friable, sandy silt and it contained no finds. F2006 cut Pit F2002 and Ditch F2008.

Ditch F2008 was linear (5.00+ x 0.92 x 0.77m; DP 7), orientated north-east / south-west. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L2009, was a mid greyish brown, firm, clayey silt, and it contained no finds. The ditch was cut by Pits F2006, F2011 and F2028.

Pit F2011 was rectangular in plan (2.10+ x 1.20+ x 1.22m; DP 8) and located in the northern corner of the area of the extension. It had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained four fills: the basal fill, L2012, was a pale brownish grey, firm, chalky clay. L2013 was a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt. L2014 was a pale yellowish brown, firm, chalky clay. Fragments of modern bricks were visible in the fills. F2011 cut Ditch F2008 and Pit F2016.

Pit F2016 was rectangular (2.40+ x 0.95+ x 1.25m+; DP 8). It had vertical sides and its base was unseen. The basal fill, L2017, was a mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay and contained no finds. The upper fill, L2018, was a mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt. It contained CBM (48g) and animal bone (28g). F1016 was cut by Pit F2011 and cut Pit F2019.

Pit F2019 was rectangular (1.35 x 1.00+ x 0.78m; DP 8). Its sides were unseen and its base was uneven. It contained two fills: the basal fill, L2020, was a mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay. The upper fill, L2023, was a yellowish and brownish grey, firm, clayey silt. No finds were present. F2019 was cut by Pit F2016 and by F2024, the construction cut for Well M2026.

Well M2026 was a circular structure (1.50 x 1.25m+; DP 8), located c.4m to the north-east of the existing house. It was constructed with pale yellow and brown frogged bricks (0.225 x 0.105 x 0.065m). No mortar was evident and 0.01m thick cement lining was applied to the interior of the structure. The backfill, L2027, was a mid orange brown, friable, silty sand with brick rubble.

Pit F2028 was sub circular (1.20 x 1.00+ x 1.10m+; DP 9). It had steep to moderate sides and its base was unseen. It contained three fills: the basal fill, L2029, was a pale yellowish brown and brownish grey, firm, chalky clay. L2030 was a mid brownish grey, firm, chalky clay mixed with dark brownish grey silty clay. The uppermost fill, L2031, was a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt. No finds were present within any of the fills. F2028 cut Pit F2002 and Ditch F2008.

Pit F2032 was sub rectangular (2.70+ x 1.37 x 0.72m; DP 14). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. The basal fill, L2033, was a mid brownish grey and pale yellowish brown, firm, silty clay. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L2034, was a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt. It contained animal bone (14g). F2032 was cut by the construction cut for M2036, a brick wall of a former modern extension to the house

Pit F2041 was rectangular (3.30+ x 1.10+ x 0.63m; DP 13). It had steep sides and an uneven flat base. The basal fill, L2042, was a mid greyish brown, firm, silty clay. It contained CBM (323g). The upper fill, L2043, was a dark brownish grey, firm, clayey silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F2044 was circular (0.58 x 0.42m; DP 13). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2045, was a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt. It contained CBM (88g).

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 majority of the site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey, friable, sandy silt (0.50 – 0.70m thick). Within much of the new

garage area L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid to dark yellow, loose, silty sand (0.10 – 0.15m thick). The area of the house extension was overlain by deposits of made ground (c.0.50m thick).

8.2 The natural geology was present at 0.50 – 0.75m below existing the ground level and comprised L1002, a light grey and yellow, loose, chalky sand, in the northern part of the site. Southwards within the area of the house extension, the natural was more clayey than sandy.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site is located in the historic core of Guilden Morden village. The Church of St Mary is immediately adjacent to the east of the plot. The site had a potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval remains, and for evidence associated with an earlier building pre-dating the current vicarage.

9.2 The majority of the features were recorded in the area of the house extension. Pit F2002 contained modern (late 19th – early 20th century) pottery and Pits F2016, F2041 and F2044 contained small quantities of early modern CBM. Pit 2011, F2028 and F2006, while they contained no finds they truncated the early modern pits. Well M2026 was modern. Pits F2019 and F2032, and Ditch F2008 were undated. An undated ditch, F1003, was recorded within the footprint of the garage.

9.3 A Saxon annular loom weight, substantially complete, was recovered from the topsoil (Clay Loom Weight report Appendix 2). An intrinsically interesting feature of the loom weight is that the upper surface of one side has the impressions of four finger-tips (of one hand), potentially from where it was picked up before the clay was dry, or possibly to aid grip in use. Annular weights would have formed part of a warp-weighted loom, either within a designated weaving hut or as part of domestic industry within a residential building.

9.4 The identification of the loomweight indicates that domestic Saxon habitation occurred in the surrounding area, although as structural features and other indicators of settlement were not recorded during work here, the precise location of this domestic activity remains unknown. The presence of such activity is not unexpected as Anglo-Saxon inhumations have been recorded in the area and this presupposes the presence of domestic activity; much of the population of England in the 5th to mid 7th centuries were buried in ancestral cemeteries, which often remained in use for over a century, and which were located in close or adjacent to settlements. From the mid 7th century onwards, however, settlement space and burial space had become more integrated and even to merge (Hamerow 2010, 71, 73).

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The majority of the features recorded during the monitoring were modern pits. A modern well and undated pits and ditches were also recorded. Most interesting was the Saxon annular loom weight recovered from the topsoil. Such weights form part of a warp-weighted loom, and this particular example has the impressions of finger-tips.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Smith for funding the project and for assistance, architect Mr Tim Christy for his assistance and the assistance of the building contractor OJ Wayman.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		Topsoil						Loom Weight	1	380
1003	1004		Fill of Ditch					58			
2002	2005		Fill of Pit	L19th - E20th C	2	58	628	140			
	2010		Layer	L19th - E20th C	2	63	126		glass	2	4
2016	2018		Fill of Pit				48	28			
2032	2034		Fill of Pit					14			
	2040		Layer				178				
2041	2042		Fill of Pit				323				
2044	2045		Fill of Pit				88				

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Clay Loom Weight

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Topsoil L1000 included part of a Saxon annular loom weight; approximately 75% complete (380g). The loom weight has been fired at a low temperature, resulting in pale yellow-brown surfaces fading to a dark grey core. The circular loom weight has an outer diameter of 120mm and an inner diameter of 35mm, with a D-shape section. An intrinsically interesting feature of the loom weight is that the upper surface of one side has the impressions of four finger-tips (of one hand), potentially from where it was picked up before the clay was dry, or possibly to aid grip in use; but this is not a typical feature of annular loom weights. Saxon annular loom weights of comparable size, type and manufacture, including one example bearing a thumb print, were recorded in *Grubenhäuser* at Gamlingay c.7km to the north (Crummy 2006, 231), with further examples from the early Saxon settlement at Harston Mill c.12km to the east (Crummy 2016, 119). A single weight with finger-impressions around its circumference (upper and lower surfaces) was recorded in a layer at the settlement of West Stow (West 1985: fig.245.3) suggesting that occasional weights were decorated or enhanced. Annular weights would have formed part of a warp-weighted loom, either within a designated weaving hut or as part of domestic industry within a residential building.

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The monitoring recovered 12 fragments (1391g) of early modern CBM, in a very highly fragmented and abraded condition, possibly best regarded as crushed rubble. Pit F2002 contained fragments of soft red brick and white flooring brick/flagstone, with fragments of comparable red brick only in Pits F2016, F2044, Layer L2010; and white floor brick only in Pit F2041 and Layer L2040. It is conceivable that this CBM was manufactured from the mid-late 19th century, but it was most likely manufactured in the first half of the 20th century, and has been re-deposited and subject to significant weathering since the demolition of the original structure it formed part of.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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Garage block foundation trenches. Looking west



2
North-east trench. Looking east-south-east



3
North-east trench. Sample section 1, looking north-east



4
Central trench. Sample section 2. Looking north-east



5
Ditch F1003. Looking north-west



6
Ditch F1003. Looking north



7
General view of site looking north-west



8
Sample Section A looking south-west



9
Sample Section B looking north-east



10
Sample Section C looking north-east



11
Sample Section D looking south-east



12
Sample Section E looking north-east



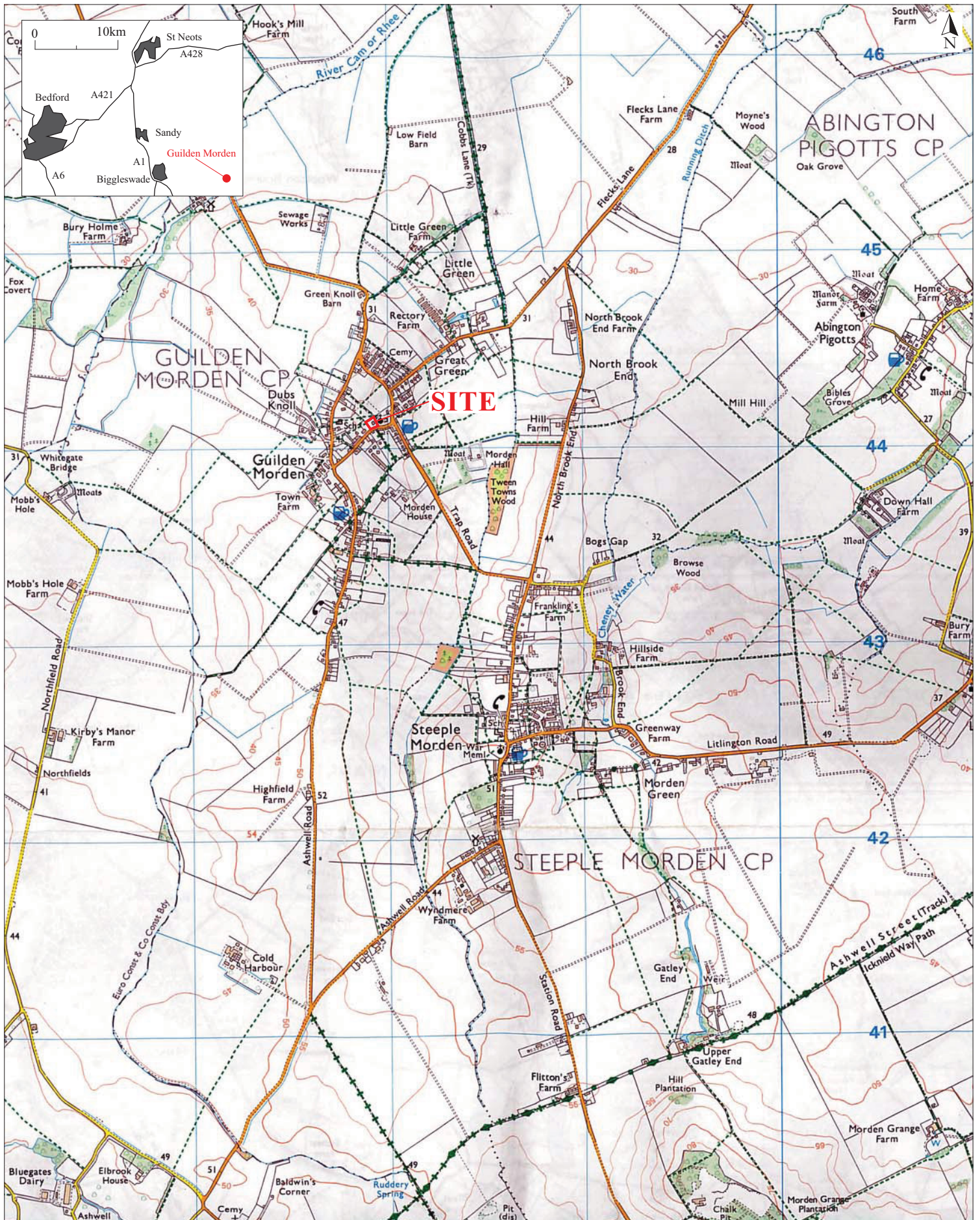
13
Sample Section F looking north-east



14
Well 2026 looking north-east

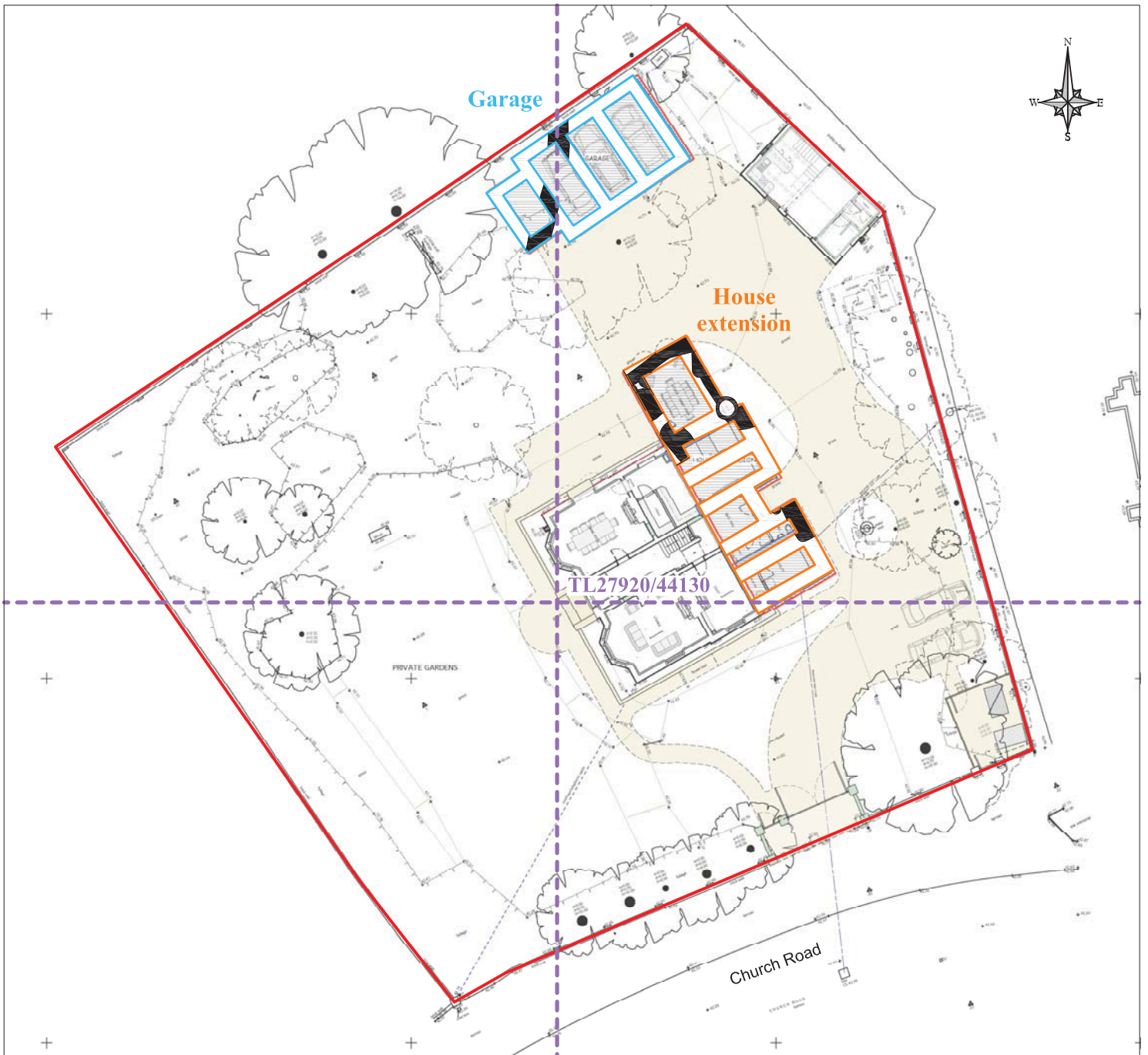


15
Saxon annular loomweight with finger impressed decoration



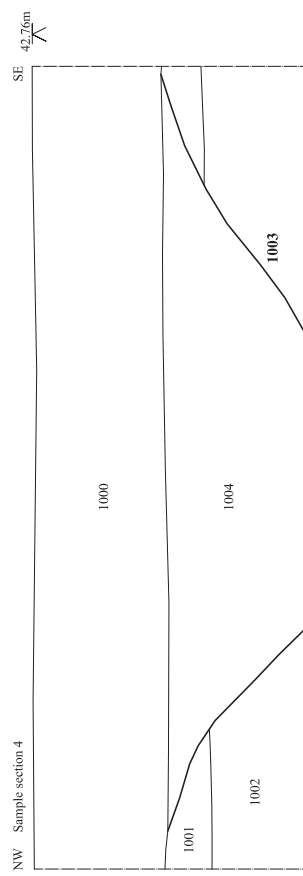
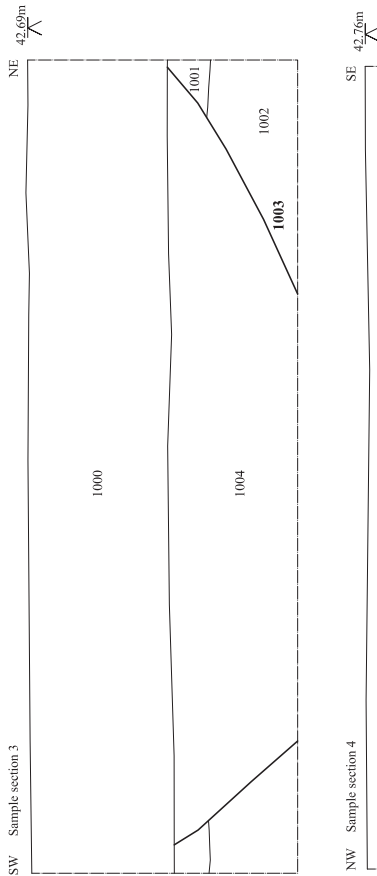
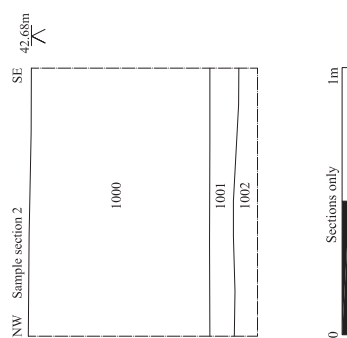
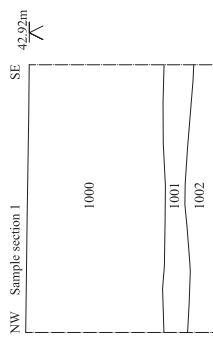
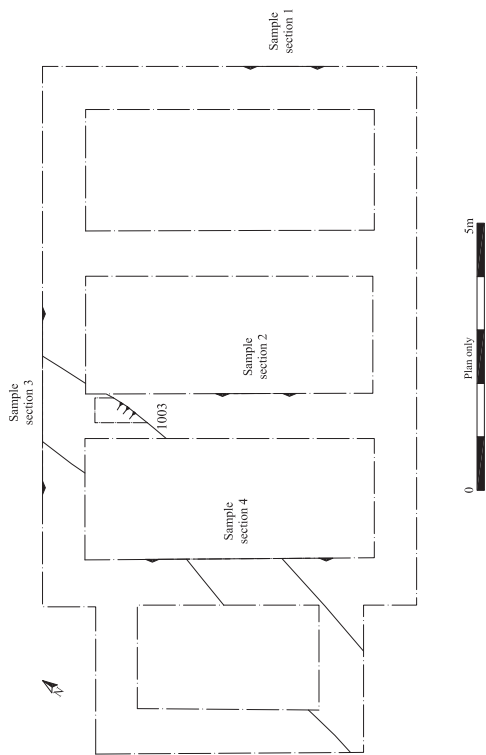
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Guilden Morden, Cambridgeshire (P6803)

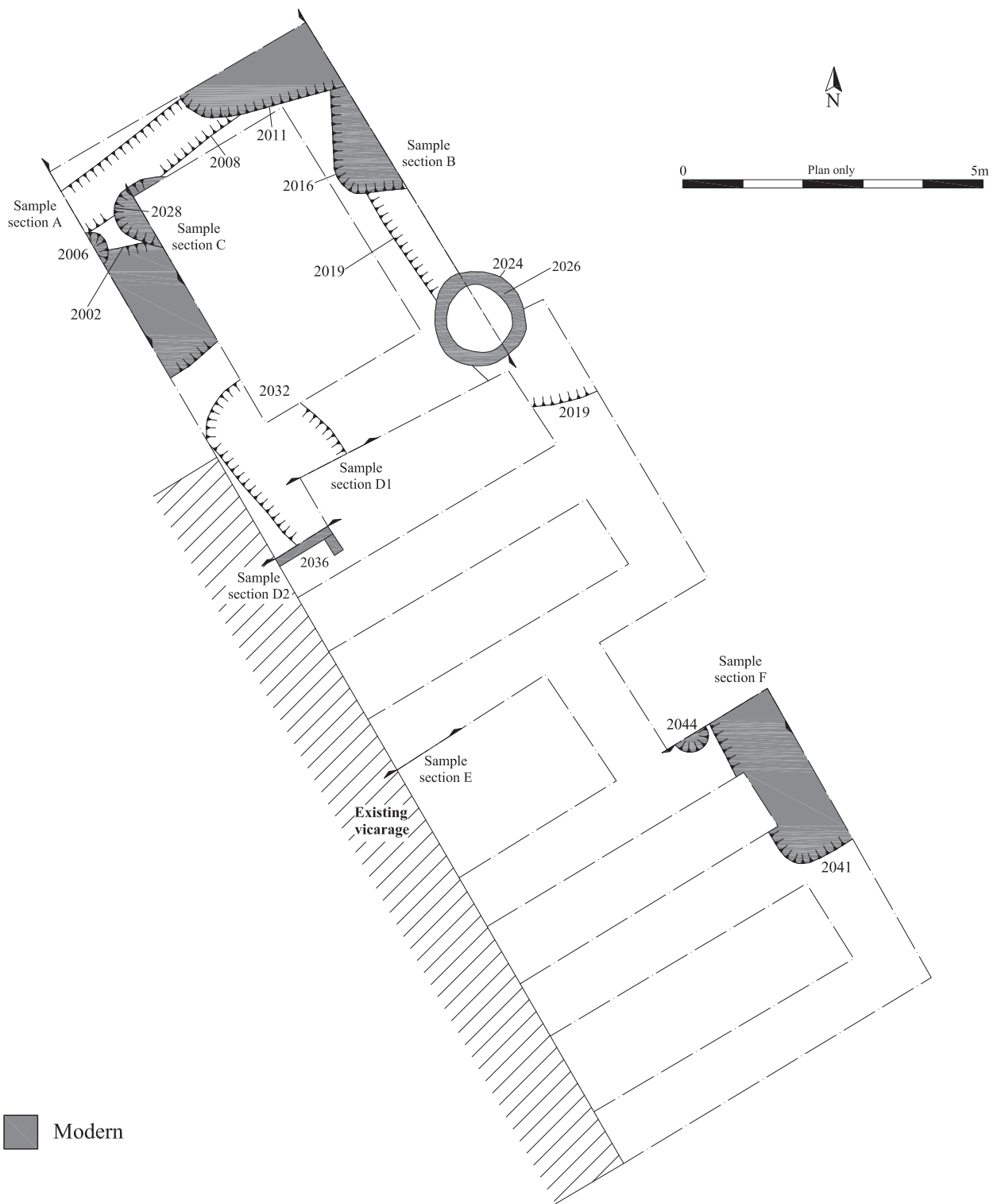


0 25m

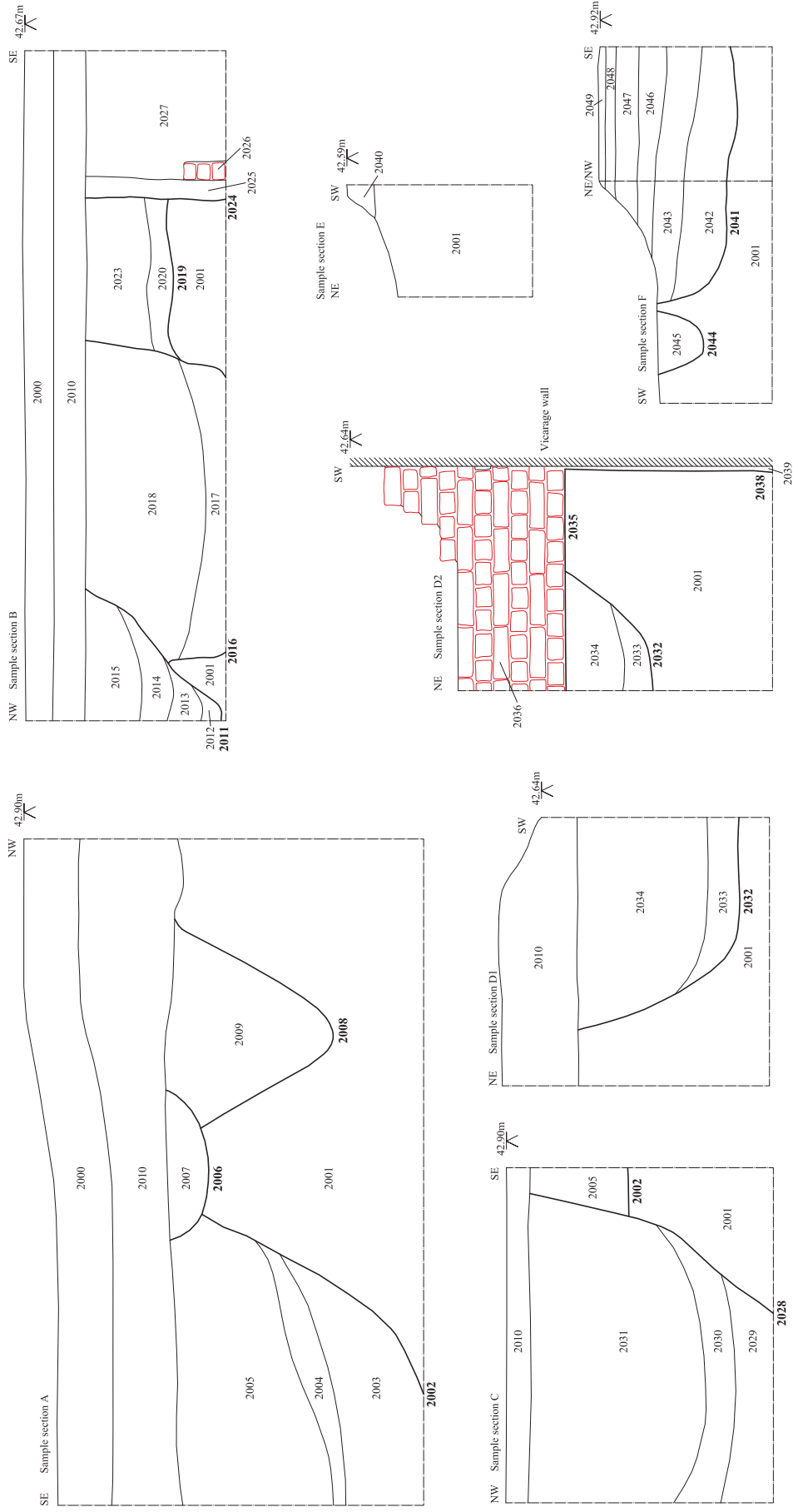
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:400 at A4
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Fig. 3 Garage plan and sections
 Scale 1:100 at A3
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Fig. 4 House extension plan
Scale 1:100 at A4
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Fig. 5 House extension sections
 Scale 1:20 at A3
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