
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED REPLACEMENT DWELLING
EDGEWOOD FARM, COCK LANE,
BROXBOURNE COMMON, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TL 3460 0697	Report No: 4004
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1307
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P3713
Signed:	Date: January 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed replacement dwelling, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3460 0697). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Dave Feltham of Edgewood Farm in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement dwelling.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated in the Lea valley, to the west of Broxbourne and it is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 327. The site had a potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	03, 05/08/2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	3868	Site code	AS 1307
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Site status	Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 327		
Current land use	Pasture		
Planned development	Construction of replacement dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Brickendon Liberty
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	EN10 7QS		
Area of site	c. 450m ²		
NGR	TL 3460 0697		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 93m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Mr D Feltham		
Full title	Proposed replacement dwelling, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4004		
Date (of report)	August 2011		

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT DWELLING EDGEWOOD FARM, COCK LANE, BROXBOURNE COMMON, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3460 0697). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Dave Feltham of Edgewood Farm in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement dwelling.

The site is situated in the Lea valley, to the west of Broxbourne and it is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 327. The site had a potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3460 0697; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Dave Feltham of Edgewood Farm in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement dwelling (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/10/1458/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 09/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 06/11/2010), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as 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 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies 2km west of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It is located within the grounds of Edgewood Farm and east of Lower White Stubbs. Edgewood Farm comprises a single residential bungalow, barn with outbuildings, manege and numerous horse pastures. The area of monitoring is located in the eastern part of the farm, to the south of existing bungalow and adjacent to Cock Lane. The farm is bounded by agricultural fields.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site at c. 93m AOD on land overlooking the valley of the river Lea to the east. Land to the east of the site undulates but generally falls in the direction of the Lea. To the immediate south of the site the land drops fairly steeply in to the valley of the Wormleybury Brook, a tributary of the Lea.

3.2 The solid geology is chalk, capped in places by gravelly Reading Beds and London Clay. Much of the Lea Valley floodplain is alluvial, lying over Taplow gravels, giving way to glacial gravel further to the west (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils in the vicinity are those of the Hamble 2 Association, which are described as brown earth, deep and stoneless, well-drained and silty (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No 327, as set out on the EHDC Local Plan. An extensive landscape of co-axial boundaries is known from the area, of pre-medieval (and possibly pre-Roman) date, crossing several of the local parishes. They survive as roads, field boundaries and as earthworks within nearby ancient woodlands (Historic Environment Record HER 9224 etc). The course of Roman Ermine Street traverses the area from north to south, part of which survives as the eastern boundary of Edgewood Farm. The road can be seen as an earthwork to the north of the site in Great Grove Wood (HER 9270), and Roman pottery has been found close to the road at White Stubbs Farm to the south (HER 1600), indicative of contemporary activity associated with the route. AS also carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording during construction of a manege at the farm in April 2010 (Adams & Dyson 2010). This revealed a single pit containing sherds of abraded post-medieval pottery. No earlier finds were made. The topsoil strip was generally very shallow and archaeological remains in these areas, if present, will remain *in situ*. Less than c. 25% of the area of the manege was stripped to the surface of the natural.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored for the current project were the site strip for the area of proposed replacement dwelling (Fig. 2). The area of the footprint of the new dwelling was stripped of topsoil and subsoil to the surface of the natural clay.

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

6.1 Deposits located within the area of excavations were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Excavation within the footprint of the proposed replacement dwelling Sample section 1 (DP 5): W part of the excavation, facing S 0.00 = 93.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy silt with moderate gravel.
0.40 – 0.55m	L2001	Subsoil. Light yellow, friable, silty sand with moderate gravel.

0.55m+	L2002	Natural dark yellow, compact, clay with occasional gravel.
<i>Excavation within the footprint of the proposed replacement dwelling Sample section 2 (DP 6): N part of the excavation, facing S 0.00 = 93.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.37m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.37m+	L2002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were found.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L2000, a mid brownish grey, friable, sandy silt with moderate gravel (0.20 – 0.40m thick). It overlay Subsoil L2001, a light yellow, friable, silty sand with moderate gravel (0.10 – 0.20m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L2002, was present at 0.33 – 0.55m below existing ground level and comprised a dark yellow, compact, clay with occasional gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval archaeology. An extensive landscape of co-axial boundaries is known from the area predating the medieval (and possibly Roman) period. Post-medieval remains have been previously found within the area of the farm during monitoring of the construction of a ménage.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. No residual finds were recovered.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr and Mrs Feltham for their co-operation and funding the project, and for their assistance.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology)*: London. Mansfield

Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994 (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief*. IfA Reading.

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

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	0
Specification	0
Registers	1 (Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	5

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed replacement dwelling, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town:	Parish: Brickendon Liberty
Planning application reference:	East Hertfordshire District Planning Ref. 3/10/1458/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Dave Feltham
Nature of application:	Construction of a replacement dwelling
Present land use:	Pasture
Size of application area: c. 450m ²	Size of area investigated c. 450m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 3460 0697
Site Code:	AS 1307
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	03, 05/08/2011
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	Adams, M. & Dyson, A., 2010, <i>Proposed Manège, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i> . AS unpublished report No 3540
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3460 0697). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Dave Feltham of Edgewood Farm in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement dwelling.</p> <p>The site is situated in the Lea valley, to the west of Broxbourne and it is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 327. The site had a potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: January 2012

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site after removal of topsoil.
Looking south-east.



DP 2. View for ground reduction within
footings of proposed bungalow. Looking
north-east.



DP 3. West part of the site. Looking north.



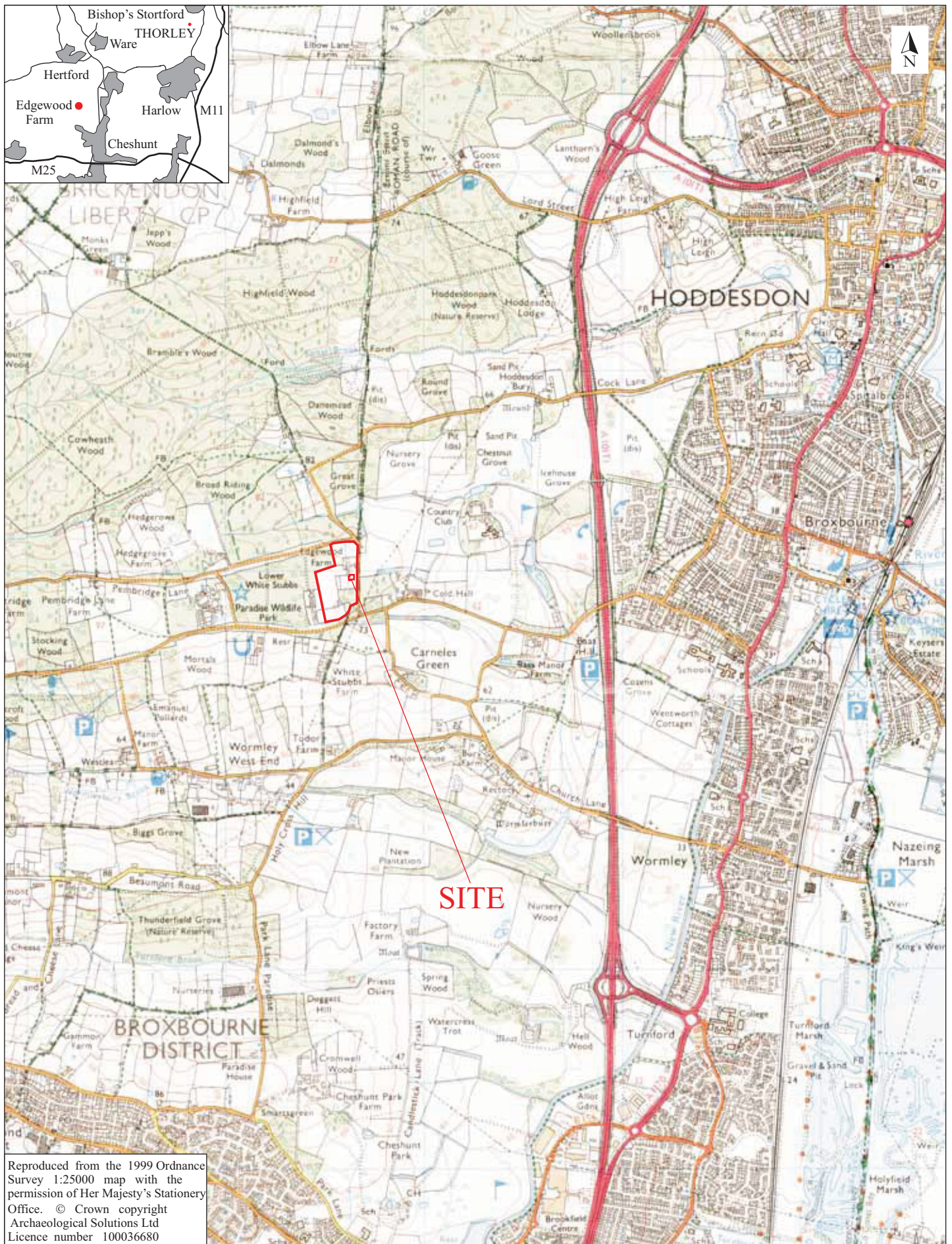
DP 4. North part of the site. Looking west.



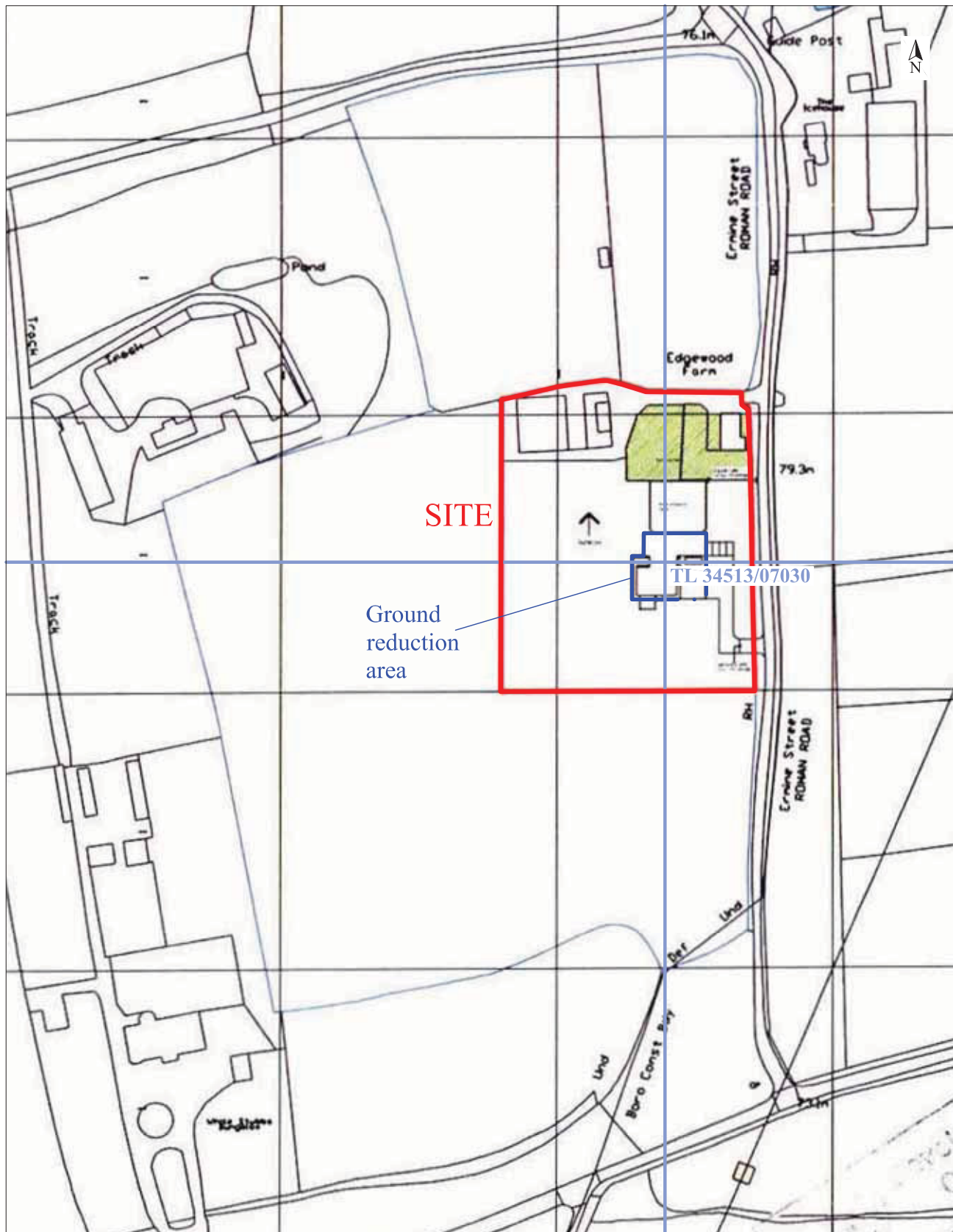
DP 5. West part of the site. Sample section
1. looking north.



DP 6. North part of the site. Sample section
2. Looking north.

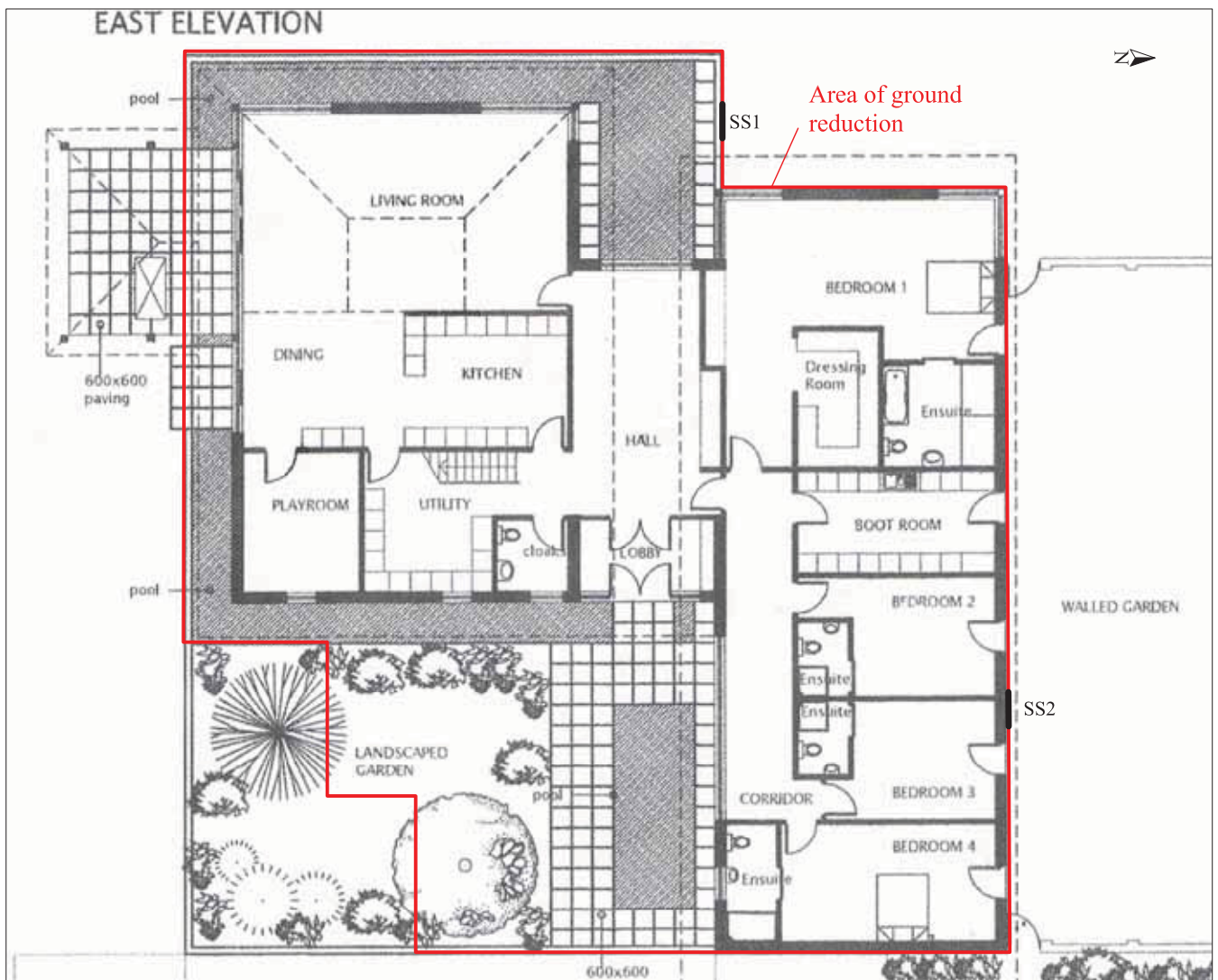


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

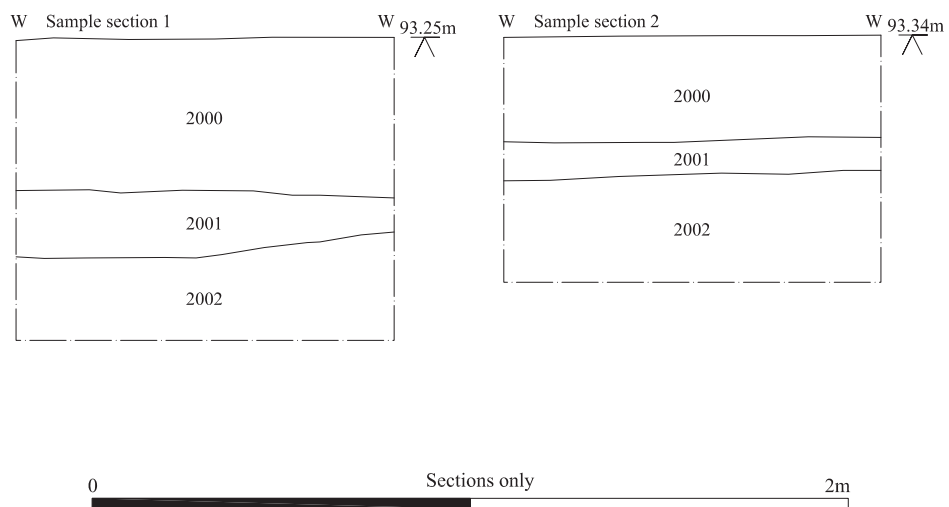


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4



Plan only
SS = Sample section
0 10m



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Fig. 3 Sections and section location plan
Scale 1:200 and 1:20 at A4