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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**GREENWOOD HOUSE, 4 WARDEN ROAD, ICKWELL,  
BEDFORDSHIRE SG18 9EL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION,  
RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 1490 4534	Report No: 5913
Unitary Authority: Central Beds	Site Code: AS 2007
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8081
	Date: 25 September 2019; revised 10 October 2019

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#### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

#### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

**PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EL</i>		
<p><i>In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication scheme at Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire SG18 9EL (NGR TL 1490 4534; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The investigation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear and side extension and front porch to Greenwood House (Central Beds Council Planning Approval Ref. CB/19/00290/FULL). The investigation was required by the local planning authority base on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Archaeology Team.</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. There was also a low potential to reveal prehistoric and Roman archaeology.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Manhole F1004 cover was recorded.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>3/09/2019</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>8081</i>	Site code	<i>AS 2007</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Ickwell</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Central Bedfordshire and Luton HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG18 9EL</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.90m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 1490 4534</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.32m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow, Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr J Sims</i>		
Full title	<i>Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EL. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5913</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2019; revised October 2019</i>		

**GREENWOOD HOUSE, 4 WARDEN ROAD, ICKWELL,  
BEDFORDSHIRE SG18 9EL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,  
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication scheme at Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire SG18 9EL (NGR TL 1490 4534; Figs. 1 & 2). The investigation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear and side extension and front porch to Greenwood House (Central Beds Council Planning Approval Ref. CB/19/00290/FULL). The investigation was required by the local planning authority base on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Archaeology Team.*

*The site had a potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. There was also a low potential to reveal prehistoric and Roman archaeology.*

*No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Manhole F1004 cover was recorded.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication scheme at Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire SG18 9EL (NGR TL 1490 4534; Figs. 1 & 2). The investigation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear and side extension and front porch to Greenwood House (Central Beds Council Planning Approval Ref. CB/19/00290/FULL). The investigation was required by the local planning authority base on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Archaeology Team.

1.2 The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a brief issued by the CBC Archaeologists, *Brief for a Scheme of Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication, Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire* (Slawek Utrata, dated 31 May 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18 July 2019), and approved by CBC. 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 were to identify and record any features of interest/significance that were exposed during groundworks for the proposed development. The archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) 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 lies on the southern side of Warden Road, in the south western part of the historic core of Ickwell village, and comprises the detached property of Greenwood House.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at c.32m AOD at the eastern end of a ridge, located on Jurassic Stewartby Member and Weymouth member geological deposits.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The prehistory of the Ickwell area is relatively unknown, possibly due to the scarcity of previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the village. Three Bronze Age axes or palstaves, including one unusual type with a rib around the socket, and two possible ingots, were discovered at Ickwell Bury approximately 580m to the north-west of the site (HER 431). Excavations at a predominantly Roman settlement site, c.1.1km to the south-east, also revealed a small assemblage of prehistoric struck flint in association with human remains (HER 16787). A collection of undated prehistoric struck flint was also found on a former quarry some 530m south-west of the development site (HER 7286).

4.2 Evidence for Romano-British occupation at Ickwell is also relatively limited. Two Roman burials were found in c.1845, accompanied by glass vessels and samian ware, approximately 660m to the north-west of the site (HER 425). Further Roman pottery and numismatic evidence has also been found in the surrounding landscape (HER 430 & 18666). More substantial evidence in the area comes in the form of the possible Roman road between Biggleswade and Old Warden (HER 706), and the settlement c.1.1km to the southeast mentioned above (HER 6787). The settlement site appears to show occupation starting in the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century with a high amount of features dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries. There was then a period of minimal activity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century which picked up in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when new features were dug and old ones cleaned out or recut; the core of the settlement was probably centred at the site of the trapezoidal enclosure cropmark to the north.

4.3 The origins of settlement at Ickwell is unclear, with it being part of Northill parish, thought, with Southill and Old Warden to have formed the tribal territory of the Gifle in the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD as recorded in the Tribal Hideage. It is thought that settlement was thus well established here by the middle Saxon period, and remains of settlement of this date have been recorded during investigations at Broom Quarry (HER 9095; Cooper & Edmonds 2007). Northill and Southill are recorded at Domesday, but Ickwell is not documented until the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The well documented deserted village of Aston, which was first recorded in 1170 and deserted by 1432, is recorded c.900m south-east of the site (HER 14112).

4.4 The village is centred on a green (HER 14899 & 17122), possibly a result of deliberate reorganisation/planning in the medieval period (Wood 1985). A medieval moated site has been identified at the southern end of the green south of Old House (HER 456), while a further possible moat lies some 580m to the west (HER 3371). The manorial site of Ickwell Bury lies to the north west of Greenwood House. This site was held by the Priory of St John of Jerusalem prior to the dissolution, and may have been a moated site, with the house replaced in the 1600s by what became Ickwell Bury (HER 438). The house was razed by fire in 1937 and replaced with the current building, though a series of Grade II listed outbuildings and barns associated with the earlier Ickwell Bury survive (HER 2150, 2122, 12749, 11900 & 11901). The medieval period is also represented by a 13<sup>th</sup> century silver penny of John found by

metal detecting to the south-east of Ickwell Bury (HER 18659), a 14<sup>th</sup> century copper alloy thimble (HER 18643) and a copper-alloy shield shaped harness pendant (HER 19424).

4.5 The Ickwell Bury is also surrounded by parkland with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century features, and it may have originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (HER 6995). A number of further extant buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date lie in proximity of Greenwood House (HER 2110, 2111, 2117 & 12721), with more substantial development apparent on Ickwell Green, Northill Road and Caldecote Road. In addition to the relatively substantial number of post-medieval domestic listed buildings a 17<sup>th</sup> century brickwork and watermill (HER 12131 & 19794), 18<sup>th</sup> century granary (HER 12821), and a 19<sup>th</sup> century blacksmith and brickwork (HER 3224 & 6690) are present in the landscape surrounding the development site.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The monitoring observed the mechanical excavation of the footings of the new extension (Figs. 2 - 3).

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 Fig. 4

6.1 The site stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

<i>Sample section 1</i>		
<i>0.00 = 33.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1002	Levelling layer. Friable, pale grey sandy cement.
0.07 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint.
0.38 – 1.02m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, pale to mid yellow brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular flint.
1.02m+	L1006	Layer. Firm, grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular flint.

<i>Sample section 2</i>		
<i>0.00 = 33.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil, as above.
0.37 – 1.02m	L1001	Subsoil, as above.
1.02m+	L1006	Layer, as above



<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 33.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil, as above.
0.41 – 1.06m	L1001	Subsoil, as above.
1.06m+	L1006	Layer, as above

*Description: Manhole F1004 was exposed during the groundworks (Sample Section 1). No archaeological features or finds were present.*

Manhole F1004 was constructed using pale orange frogged bricks (220 x 110 x 70mm) arranged in stretcher bond with a pale grey cement mortar. It was contained within Construction Cut F1003. It was square in plan (1.00 x 1.00 x 1.00m), with vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1005, was a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint. No finds were present.

On-site recording originally characterised Layers L1001 and L1006 as a single layer of natural geological deposits. Following advice from Slawek Utrata (CBC-AT) that these deposits are inconsistent with natural deposits elsewhere in Ickwell (for example, Albion Archaeology 2016), they have been re-interpreted based on the site photographs. It is likely that L1001 represents subsoil, while the darker colour of L1006 indicates a more organic matrix, such as a possible buried soil, although this interpretation cannot be confirmed.

## **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 observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval to post-medieval period. There was also a small potential to reveal evidence from the Roman and prehistoric periods.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. A known man-hole cover was exposed during works.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford (Accession No BEDFM.2019.72). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr John Sims for funding the project and for his assistance, the building contractor Mr Nick Try and Mr Ian Hale of Ian Hale Planning and Design assistance their assistance,

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Slawek Utrata of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team.

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

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**OASIS ID: archaeol7-368411**

### Project details

Project name	Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EL
Short description of the project	In September 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication scheme at Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire SG18 9EL (NGR TL 1490 4534; Figs. 1 and 2). The investigation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single storey rear and side extension and front porch to Greenwood House (Central Beds Council Planning Approval Ref. CB/19/00290/FULL). The investigation was required by the local planning authority base on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Archaeology Team. The site had a potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval and postmedieval periods. There was also a low potential to reveal prehistoric and Roman archaeology. No archaeological features or finds were revealed. Manhole F1004 cover was recorded
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2019 End: 03-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8081 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS2007 - 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	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE SANDY Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EL
Postcode	SG18 9EL
Study area	90 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1490 4534 52.094034429494 -0.322569045851 52 05 38 N 000 19 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 32m Max: 32m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EL. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
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Entered on	11 October 2019

**OASIS:**

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8081)



1  
General site overview looking north-west



2  
Excavation of footings looking north



3  
Footings trench looking south-east



4  
Manhole F1004 in Sample section 1 looking north-west



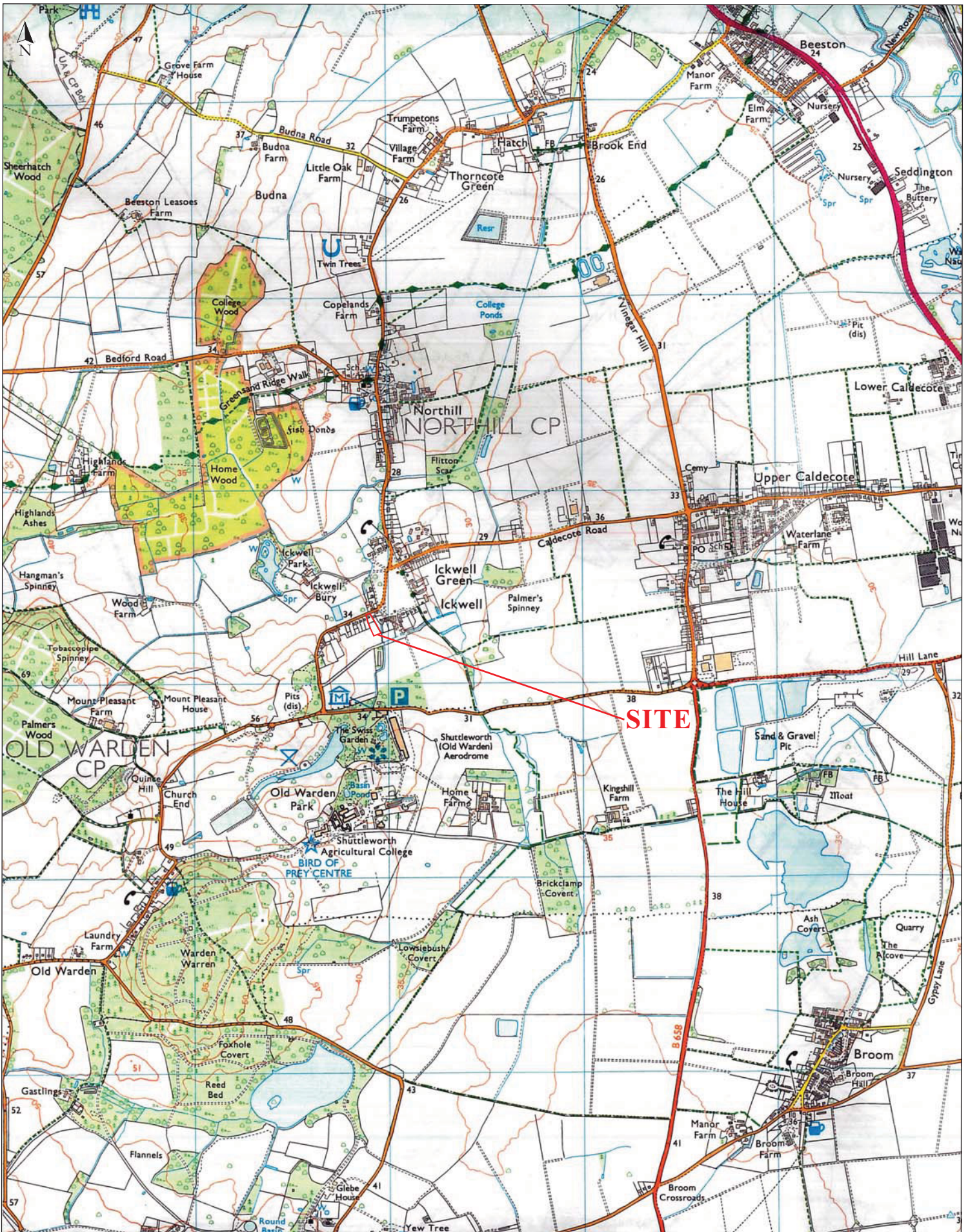
5  
Sample section 2 looking south-east



6  
Sample section 3 looking south-west

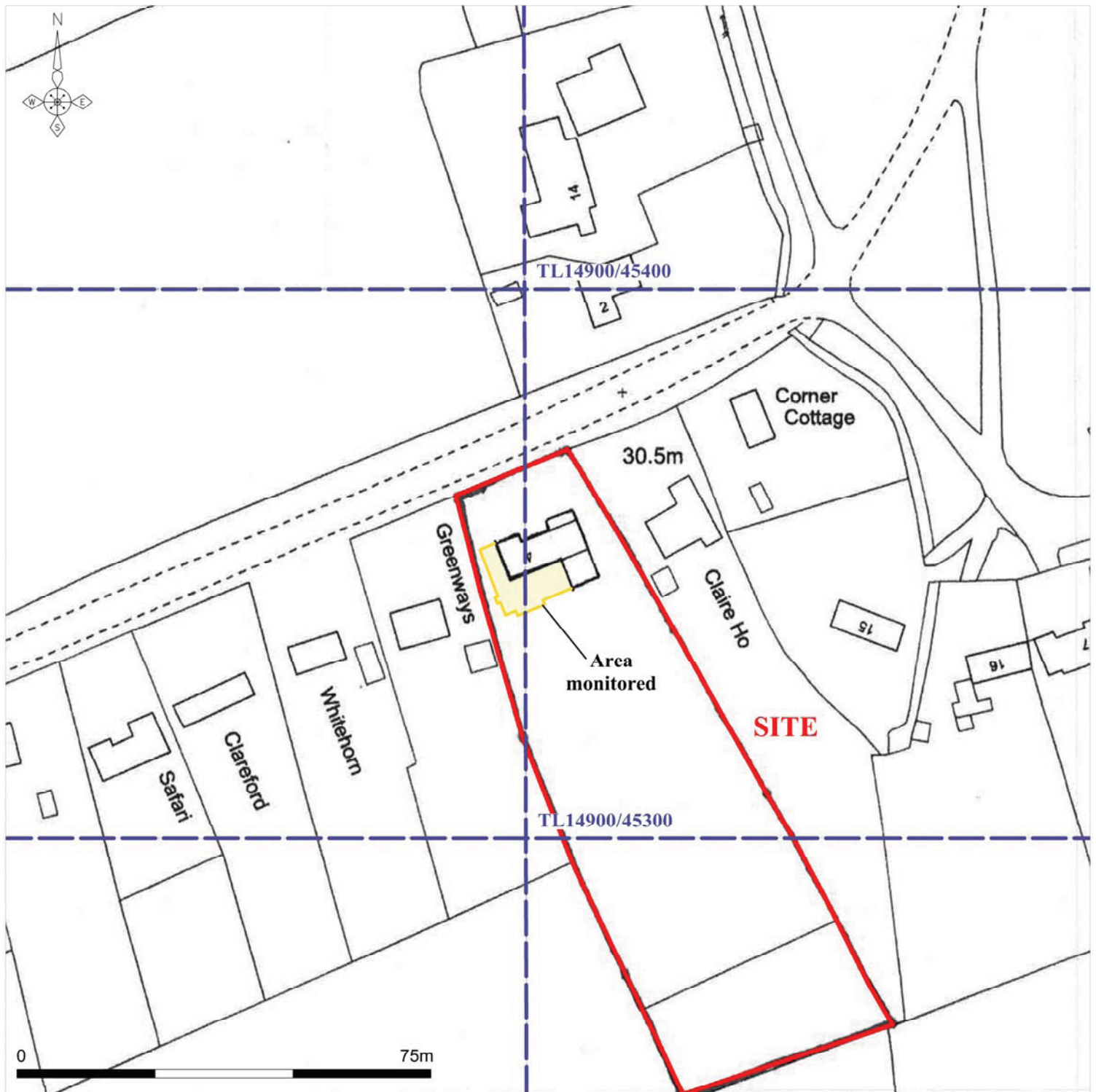


7  
View of the trench showing depth of sample section  
2 in the corner



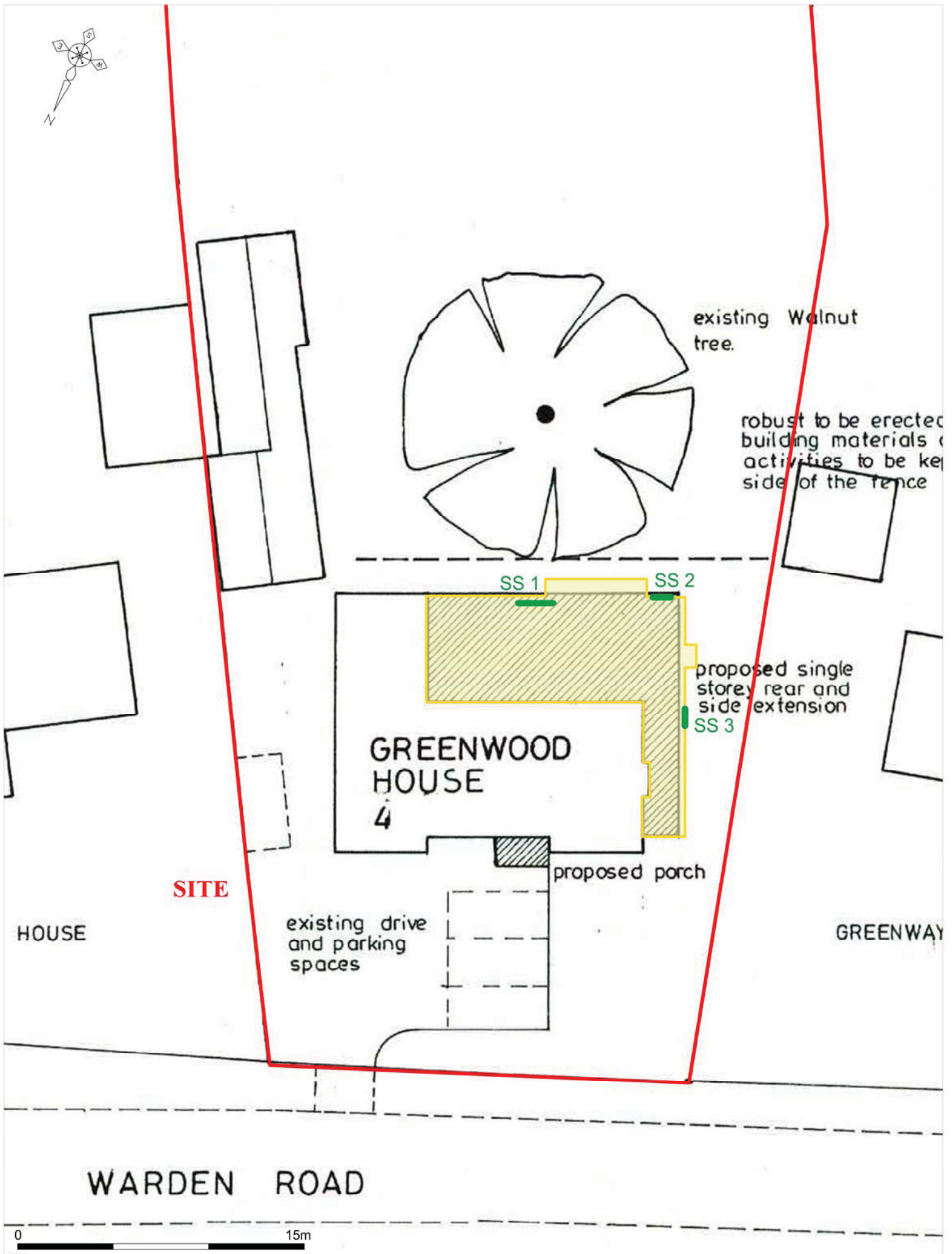
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell (P8081)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell (P8081)





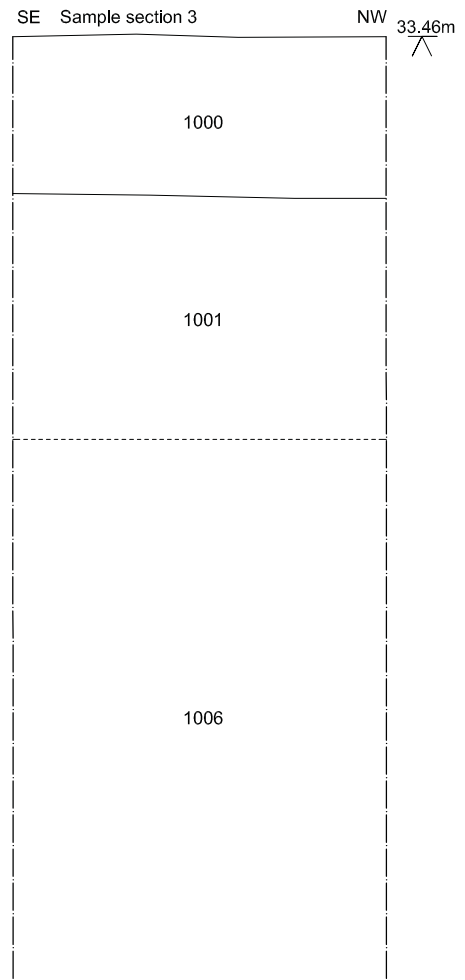
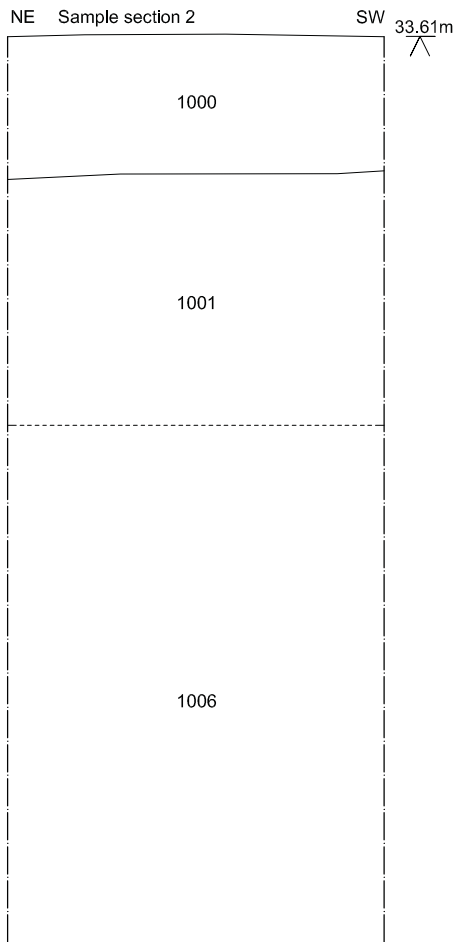
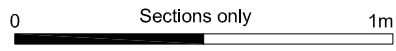
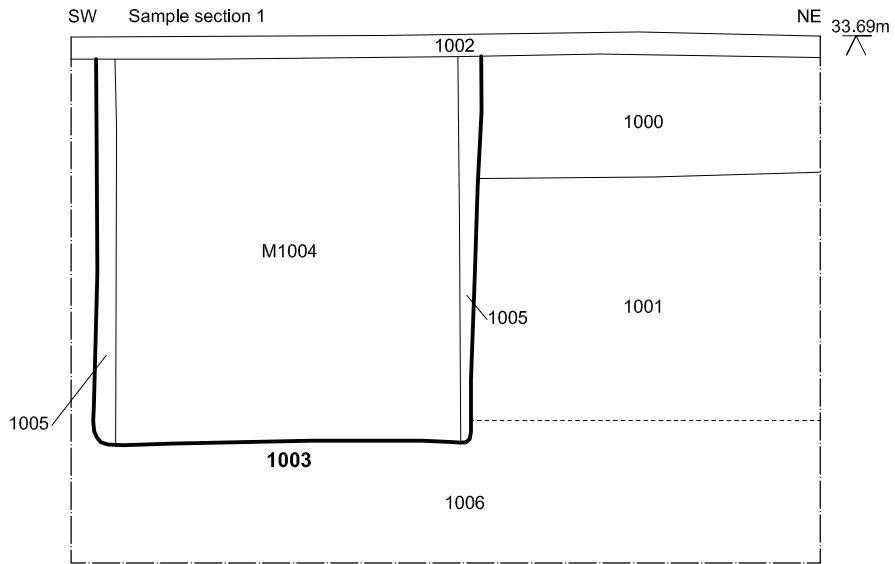
- SS 1 Sample sections
- Groundworks monitored

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**Fig. 3 Groundworks monitored**

Scale 1:250 at A4

Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell (P8081)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4 Sections</b>
Scale 1:20 at A4
Greenwood House, 4 Warden Road, Ickwell (P8081)