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**SALPERTON, MERRY HILL ROAD,  
BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

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NGR: TQ 1334 9444	Report No. 3202
Parish: Bushey	Site Code: AS 1178
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3234
Signed:	Date: December 2008

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire: Historic Building Recording</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In November 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire prior to demolition of the house in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling.</i></p> <p><i>The building is a large, detached early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban dwelling in the eclectic style typical of the Edwardian period, with characteristic asymmetry in its design and Arts and Crafts-style features associated with buildings of the period. The interior of the house retains a good representative selection of its original decorative features, though these are fairly typical of such houses, which were constructed by speculative builders under the influence of eminent contemporary architects such as C.F. Voysey.</i></p> <p><i>Any surviving historic or architectural significance has been diminished by the wholesale replacement of windows in modern PVCu and the enclosure of a large balcony in similar unsympathetic plastic materials.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28<sup>th</sup> November 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>3234</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1178</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic Building Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>N/A</i>		
Current land use	<i>Detached house and grounds</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition and construction of new replacement detached house</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Early 20<sup>th</sup> century house</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>N/A</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Hertsmere</i>	<i>Bushey</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>WD23 1DP</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 0.78 ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 1334 9444</i>		
Height AOD (max/min)	<i>125/130m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council</i>		
Project Officers	<i>Matthew Williams</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs J Cooper</i>		
Full title	<i>Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire: Historic Building Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Williams, M., Prosser, L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3202</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2008</i>		

# **SALPERTON, MERRY HILL ROAD, BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

## **SYNOPSIS**

*In November 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire prior to demolition of the house in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling.*

*The building is a large, detached early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban dwelling in the eclectic style typical of the Edwardian period, with characteristic asymmetry in its design and Arts and Crafts-style features associated with buildings of the period. The interior of the house retains a good representative selection of its original decorative features, though these are fairly typical of such houses, which were constructed by speculative builders under the influence of eminent contemporary architects such as C.F. Voysey.*

*Any surviving historic or architectural significance has been diminished by the wholesale replacement of windows in modern PVCu and the enclosure of a large balcony in similar unsympathetic plastic materials.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 1DP (NGR TQ 1334 9444; Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by The RM Partnership Ltd on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs J Cooper, to satisfy part of a condition of Planning/Listed Building Consent relating to the proposed demolition of the existing detached house and the construction of a new replacement detached house in its place. The condition required the implementation of a programme of recording and analysis of the building in advance of the proposed works (Hertsmere Planning Ref TP/0153/08).

1.2 The work was conducted according to a specification prepared by AS and dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008, following the production of a design brief by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008. The recording was carried out to Level 3 as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, 2006. It was also carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (revised 2001).

1.3 As set out in the English Heritage and IFA documents, the objectives of the historic building recording were:

- to compile a comprehensive and high quality record of the structure identified for demolition, with analysis and interpretation of that structure in conjunction with an associated documentary survey;

- to provide a review of the local and regional historical context of the building, adequately detailed to place the findings of the archaeological recording in context, and;
- to produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ‘preserve by record’ the building in its current form prior to demolition.

1.4 Research priorities for the region are outlined in the East Anglian regional archaeological research framework which notes that structures of the Industrial Age, dating from 1750 – 1960, face a high rate of loss due to renovation, conversion and redundancy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000). It is noted that the building falls within this time frame.

### *Planning Policy Context*

1.5 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effects of development upon cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 ‘Planning and the Historic Environment’ (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 ‘Archaeology and Planning’ (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment. This encourages protection of the character and appearance of conservation areas and protection of listed buildings from demolition and unsympathetic change, safeguarding their settings as far as possible. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.7 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 METHOD OF WORK**

### **2.1 Primary Sources: Documents and Maps**

The primary cartographic sources consulted were located at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies centre (HALS) in Hertford. The library resources at AS were also consulted. The documentary sources are discussed in Section 4, the cartographic sources in Section 5, the maps being reproduced as Figs. 3-13. All primary sources are listed in Appendix 1.

### **2.2 Secondary Sources**

The principal location of secondary sources was HALS. The library resources at AS were also consulted. These sources have been listed in the bibliography and referenced in the text where appropriate.

## 2.3 Fieldwork

2.3.1 The site was visited on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in order to compile the description of the building and undertake the drawing and photographic work. The written description was carried out by Matthew Williams and Lee Prosser. Drawings were produced by Kathren Henry and Charlotte Davies. These are included, with annotations, as Figs. 14 - 17.

2.3.2 The photographic recording was conducted by Matthew Williams using medium format (4.5 x 6 cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This was carried out using a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera with 62mm lens and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 film. Colour photographs were taken using an Olympus Camedia E20 digital camera, duplicating the principal black and white photography. Supplementary colour photography was carried out using an MZ-M Pentax camera and 3.5 cm Kodak elite slide film. External lighting and weather conditions were poor at the time of the survey with overcast skies and periodic rain. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of all the digital photographs is included below. Also included are selected digital plates as well as location plots for all digital photographs (Figs. 14 & 15).

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 & 2)

3.1 The site lies at the south-western edge of the village of Bushey in south-west Hertfordshire. Lying well within the M25 orbital, the village is heavily suburbanised and only separated by narrow strips of countryside from Watford to the north-west, Carpenders Park to the south-west, and the north London suburb of Stanmore to the south-east. To the north-east lies the M1 motorway. Bushey is linked to Watford by the A411 and to Stanmore by the A4140. Bushey has a station on the Euston – Watford Junction railway line although this is located in Oxhey which is somewhat closer to Watford. To the north beyond the M1 the countryside becomes more open and here smaller villages such as Letchmore Heath and Aldenham survive relatively undeveloped. To the south there is a small area of relatively steep open countryside which slopes down towards the south and the Thames Valley.

3.2 Despite extensive urbanisation, Salperton retains views over a surviving pocket of open countryside. The house is detached, lying within grounds of approximately 0.7 ha. This plot is aligned north-east to south-west with access on to Merry Hill Road at the north-eastern end. Two pairs of detached houses of a similar size have been built along the road on each side of Salperton. Beyond the pair on the south-east side is Merry Hill Farm and Merry Hill House. To the north-east of this part of Merry Hill Road, and directly opposite Salperton is St Margaret's School. Separating Merry Hill Road from the centre of the village to the north is a large golf course.

## 4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Bushey is an ancient village and parish, being mentioned in Domesday Book. What had probably been a large, single estate from earliest times gradually became fragmented from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards. By the later Middle Ages, there were at least three manors holding land in the area: Bournhall; Bushey Hall; and Hartsbourne. The land on which Salperton was eventually built falls within the manor of Bournhall, which first emerges in the documentary record in 1231 when it was conveyed to Ralph, son of Bernard, by John de Martham. In the 1370s the manor was owned by Alice Perrers who was a mistress of Edward III, but then passed through a number of owners including the Capper family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2 Clutterbuck's *History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford* of 1815 gives some information on the social character of Bushey in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries through details of a parliamentary survey. Fewer than 200 families lived in the parish, most of whom were occupied in small-scale manufactures, agriculture or handicrafts.

4.3 Bushey experienced continued social and environmental change in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Hertfordshire antiquarian Cussans wrote in the 1870s that "thirty years ago, when access from London was less easy than at present, Bushey was incomparable for its natural beauties: it was a vast park, thickly wooded, with intervening glades of pasture, meadow, and corn-land, and a glorious heath, on which the evergreen, gorse, and holly, throve luxuriantly." By 1879, however, "Detached fragments of the Heath still remain, but they are daily giving way to the encroachments of the builder". The march of the suburban commuter belt which had begun to devour the southern counties around London from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century also affected Bushey, as the path of the railway and improved roads opened up the parish to the possibilities of commuting.

4.4 Despite development, by 1912 it was fairly fashionable, as the *Watford Tradesmen's Guide* describes Bushey as "an excellent residential locality...inhabited largely by artists, students of art, literateurs of greater or less repute, and those of the professional class. Perhaps the most famous resident was Sir Hubert von Herkomer, an artist and patron, whose own house 'Lululand' was an eclectic fantasy inspired by romantic Bavarian castles. This building, which had been designed by the American architect H.H. Richardson between 1886 and 1894 was a catastrophic loss when demolished in 1939.

4.5 Other architects of note from that period have left a large cluster of suburban houses in the village which, like Salperton, are drawn from the eclecticism and Arts and Crafts of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Pevsner & Cherry 1977). These include Bournmead, Herkomer Road, designed by J.M. Brydon in 1892; Tilehurst, Grange Road, of 1903; Avalon and Inwood both of approximately the same date and also on Grange Road; and Myholme, nearby on Merry Hill Road, of 1904. All of these houses, with the exceptions of Bournmead and Inwood, are listed at grade II and received some input from the architect C.F.A. Voysey (1857 – 1941). In the case of Tilehurst, Voysey was responsible for the entire design, while at Avalon and Myholme it is likely that he was partially responsible or involved in slightly later alterations.

4.7 Shortly after the arrival of Professor Herkomer and “Lululand” an entirely separate development took place on Merry Hill Road immediately opposite the future site of Salperton. This was the construction of St Margaret’s Clergy Orphan School in 1897, a large gothic revival complex of buildings designed by Alfred Waterhouse (1830 – 1905) at the very end of his career. The school was founded in 1749 to support the female children of deceased clergy and had been located in St. John’s Wood, London, but required more space and moved out to this suburban location as a result (Hall 1938). It was opened to fee-paying girls of any background shortly afterwards and remains a private school operating on this basis.

4.8 There is evidence that Salperton was in use as an annexe of the school for much of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. While *Kelly’s Directory of Watford Bushey Rickmansworth and District* for 1914 refers to the inhabitant of Salperton as William Walker, by 1926 the entry for the house reads “St. Margaret’s School”. This remained the case until at least the late 1960s, when the directories cease.

## 5 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### 5.1 *Map of Bushey, c. 1600-1650* (Fig. 3)

This is the earliest map known to depict the site, drawn on vellum. At this stage the site was part of a much larger field. There is a rough sketch of a building with a hipped roof in the eastern corner, which apparently was a barn as the accompanying text reads “This is the Barn field”. The field to the north-west is labelled “Marry Hill Orchard” of 3 acres, 2 rods, and 24 perches. Both of these fields have had the word “abbott” written across them in pencil, the handwriting suggesting that this is a much later addition to the map of the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, presumably indicating a change of ownership. The next field to the south-west has been left unlabelled but measured as 5 acres, 1 rod, and 23 perches while a little to the west is “The Great Wood” of 7 acres, 3 rods and 16 perches, vividly illustrated with tiny drawings of deciduous trees. Merry Hill Road is depicted although not labelled, while a further track which can still be seen on modern maps is also clearly depicted to the north-west of the “Orchard” and “The Great Wood”.

### 5.2 *Dury & Andrews’ Map of Hertfordshire, 1766* (Fig. 4)

This map includes rudimentary depictions of the barn referred to above along with the nearby Merry Hill Farm immediately to the south-east although they are not labelled as such. Merry Hill Road and the un-named lane to the north-west are also clearly visible although again they too are un-labelled. To the north is a small area of open farmland beyond which is the village of Bushey, apparently arranged along a wide central street extending south-east to north-west from London to Watford and beyond. The parish church is slightly off-set from this main street in a small square to the south-west. To the north-west of the site is the River Colne and beyond this is Watford, already at this stage a substantial town. To the south-west is open countryside and the house and grounds of Oxhey Place. To the north-east are the dispersed settlements of Sparrows Hern, Little Bushey and Clay Hill, all now part of the village of Bushey.



5.3 *A Plan of Merry Hill Farm in the Parish of Bushey, Herts 1786*  
(Not reproduced)

This map does not depict the site itself as it only shows the land attached to Merry Hill Farm, which came under separate ownership. It does note, however, that the site was owned by Mr. Capper, a piece of evidence which corresponds with the ownership of Bournehall Manor by the Capper family from 1770 referred to above.

5.4 *A Plan of the Parish of Bushey in the County of Hertford, 1800* (Fig. 5)

This map shows remarkably little change when compared to the first map of 150 – 200 years before. The field in which Salperton was eventually built has at this stage been extended somewhat to the south-west and now meets the corner of the wood. It is now named “Barn Field” and measured at 3 acres, 2 rods and 32 perches. The barn is now depicted more clearly in plan and is shown with a central protrusion on the north-east elevation which, on the basis of surviving examples, is likely to have been the location of the main entrance to the building. To the south-east is Merry Hill, a group of buildings loosely distributed around a yard (now Merry Hill Farm) and a single, isolated house to the south (now Merry Hill House). The surrounding fields remain in much the same configuration as before, although the wood is now labelled “Merry Hill Spring”, a spring meaning a small wood in this context.

5.5 *Bryant’s Map of Hertfordshire, 1822* (Fig. 6)

Like Dury and Andrews’ Map of 1766, this map gives rudimentary illustrations of the buildings and roads on the site, these having remained unchanged since 1800. Bryant’s map, however, provides more information about the surrounding area. This appears to remain as largely open countryside although it is notable that both Bushey and Watford have grown considerably in the period since 1766, the outer parts of Watford having crossed the River Colne and advanced south-east.

5.6 *Bushey Tithe Map, 1840* (Fig. 7)

This map again shows little change from that of 1800. A small extension has been added to the south-eastern corner of the barn, while all but a small amount of the woodland at “Merry Hill Spring” has been removed and converted to farmland.

5.7 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1880* (Fig. 8)

This map gives substantially more detail than any of the preceding documents. There are two notable changes from the Tithe map of 40 years earlier: the barn is no longer visible and the field around it reduced in size by a return to its pre-1800 boundaries. Merryhill House and farm to the south-east is now shown with substantial grounds containing planted trees and a fish pond. Large numbers of individual trees are noted elsewhere throughout the surrounding fields.

### 5.8 *Second Edition OS Map, 1898* (Fig. 9)

This map shows very little change except for the appearance of the substantial Clergy Orphan School immediately opposite the site.

### 5.9 *OS Map, 1914* (Fig. 10)

This map shows substantial changes, notably the construction of Salperton itself. The building is clearly visible in plan along with outbuildings, a semi-circular driveway with tree planting on the road-ward side for privacy, and a further strip of tree plantation at the rear of the plot. The rear of the property appears to have a kind of partially covered terrace and a glass covered area which may be a greenhouse. This is discussed further in Section 6 below. Four other houses of a similar kind have been constructed on the same side of Merry Hill Road, each with driveways and large gardens. The house closest to the farm appears to be attached to it, while Merryhill House is now entirely separated from the farm.

### 5.10 *OS Map, 1934* (Fig. 11)

This map shows little change in the past 20 years, the only alteration to Salperton itself being the addition of a new stand-alone greenhouse in the garden. Two further small buildings of unknown function have been added to the field behind the house.

### 5.11 *OS Maps, 1968 & 1976* (Figs. 12 & 13)

Although the reduced scale of this map provides less detail concerning the immediate area around the site, little change appears to have taken place. In the wider area, however, most available farmland has been converted to housing schools, allotments, golf courses etc. so that the area is now entirely suburban in character.

## **6 THE BUILDING**

### **6.1 Exterior**

6.1.1 Salperton is a typical large, late Victorian or Edwardian house in eclectic style, using a combination of motifs such as brick and rough-cast render, projecting hoods and other rustic features, perhaps in emulation of the work of Voysey, but clearly more conservative and diluted in form. The house is set back from the road and screened with mature trees. It is faced in sandy red brick laid in Flemish bond on the ground floor with painted roughcast render above and machine-made tiles to the roof. The rear façade is arranged with an asymmetry typical of the time, pitching a corner bay, double gables, a long stair and oriels within gables together in a seemingly haphazard manner, but clearly with order and thought to internal layout and usage while projecting a picturesque ensemble (Plate 1). Other typical features include heavy bargeboards, faux timber-framing, some decorative ironwork which supports the porch hood, and shaped corbelled supports to oriel windows. What has most conspicuously been lost is the original timber window treatment, which has been replaced without exception with plastic double-glazing.

6.1.2 The principal doorway is off-set to the left and recessed within an open porch (Plate 2). This is protected by a flat projecting canopy of simple timber boarding suspended from two decorative, scrolled iron brackets. The doorway forms a wide elliptical arch with voussoirs alternating fine gauged brickwork and bold projecting quoins of composite flat tiles to give a rusticated effect. Much of the surrounding brickwork preserves the original pointing which is of fine, buff coloured lime mortar with small flint pieces. A moulded brick string-course marks the division between the lower brickwork and upper render.

6.1.3 Above the canopy is a small circular window. To the left of the doorway is a bay window projecting from the corner angle with its own small roof and gable with heavy, simply chamfered bargeboards, faux timber studs and painted roughcast panels. To the right of the doorway a narrow projecting stair light rises from a shaped rendered corbel, through the two storeys to a moulded timber and lead top. Both the doorway and the upper part of the stair light are flanked by two additional small windows. The façade rises to a double bay, of which the left continues downwards to incorporate the door and stair lancet. These also have faux timber framing and roughcast infill panels framing attic windows. To the right, upper windows are supported by asymmetrical shaped corbels.

6.1.4 The south-west, garden elevation is less elaborate but displays more conventional symmetry (Plate 3). Two deeply-projecting gables enclose bay windows to the main reception rooms, and an extensive balcony above, designed to take in the views and to provide a verandah, now latterly enclosed with plastic boarding and windows. The adjoining ground floor windows are now both three-cant bays, but lie within semi-circular profiles which might indicate the original pattern. The balcony was originally framed with robust posts decorated with chamfers and inset medallions, but most is now obscured by later reinforcement and crude boxing-in with plywood. There is no trace of the original balustrade, but the balcony is floored with lead, indicating that it was originally open. The upper parts of the gables preserve the faux timbering seen elsewhere, though the bargeboards are simpler and probably replaced. To the left is a wide kitchen window to ground floor, with a bedroom window above. The attic preserves dormer windows with flat roofs. Immediately adjoining the house, the garden has been extensively remodelled with a stepped patio and brick planters, all in modern materials.

6.1.5 A freestanding wall extends from the left of the house, screening the kitchen yard to the rear, but also appears to have formed the back wall of a modest glass-house. Brick footings for this structure remain, confirmed in this position on the early 20<sup>th</sup> century OS maps.

6.1.6 The south-east side elevation is fairly simple (Plate 4). There is a single side window accompanying the main bay window frontage along with a single upper window adjoining the side of the former balcony described above. Chamfered timbers can be seen framing the balcony here as on the south-west elevation. Protruding rafter ends may also be seen; the fact that they are not interrupted by the chimney confirms that these are primarily decorative. The chimney stack, though truncated still retains its shoulders.

6.1.7 The north-west elevation incorporates the former kitchen yard (Plate 5). A flight of steps gives access to the original back door. Unlike all the other openings, which have flat heads or 'soldier' arches, this has a cambered voussoir. To the left a brick-built, flat-roofed lavatory survives, while adjoining the step is a pent-roofed lean-to with a corrugated sheet roof. The first floor is blank, while above this in the roof is a simple dormer window.

## 6.2 Interior

6.2.1 The porch is plain with large terracotta tiles, the decorative elliptical arch also being similarly constructed on its inner face. A heavy threshold step and the original oak front door survive. This has three deep lower applied panels and six glazed upper framed lights set with four of six original crown glass pontils or so-called bulls' eyes. The original letter box remains but all other items of door furniture have been replaced. The door opens into a long entrance vestibule and stairwell with the main reception rooms leading off to the south-west, the kitchen at the far end to the north-west and a study immediately adjacent to the door on the south-east.

6.2.2 Generally, the house is decorated in modern style throughout, mostly with cheap wood-chip wallpaper and gloss paints. Some original decorative features are preserved in most rooms however. These include typical Edwardian skirtings, picture rails, cornices, door and window surrounds along with internal domestic doors characteristic of the period - most having three long, ovolo moulded vertical panels in the lower section and a single raised and fielded panel above, also with ovolo mouldings (Plate 6). The door furniture appears to have been replaced. It is noticeable that the plaster cornices are very heavy throughout the building and differ slightly from room to room.

6.2.3 A study leads off from the east corner of the hall immediately to the left of the front door. This is a small room lit by the corner bay window described above and a very small single light flanking the front door. The room originally had an angled fireplace in the south-east corner which is now blocked. The picture rail and cornice survive.

6.2.4 The two large adjoining reception rooms, a probable parlour and dining room, are each lit by the canted bay windows described above. In the lounge a high skirting, picture rail and other features survive together with a heavy boxed beam supported on pilasters at the junction of the main core of the house and the gabled extensions. A painted timber chimney piece in Georgian revival style survives to the south-east. This has ears and small volutes to the sides, egg-and-dart mouldings, urn scrollwork and other related features, though the hearth and inset are both later. There is an inset grate and a hearth stone of composite terrazzo or marble which are both later.

6.2.5 The dining room is separated by wide double-doors, glazed with modern bevelled panes, but set within a contemporary surround. This has a bay window as before along with the same other original features which survive in the parlour. There is a serving hatch from the kitchen which has a contemporary frame and appears to be original. A typically Edwardian fireplace on the north-west wall has egg-and-dart mouldings, a high frieze with a swag of fruit, and a modern inset grate and hearth stone.

6.2.6 The kitchen is divided into two areas, a probable breakfast room to the front of the house and the kitchen proper at the rear facing the garden. A surviving chimney stack between the two rooms suggests that they have always been arranged in this manner. The aperture on the kitchen side of this stack survives although the fireplace has been removed and replaced by a central heating boiler, now enclosed by wooden doors as a built-in cupboard. The breakfast room has a small utility room in the eastern corner (possibly originally a larder) and a modern four-panelled door to the yard in the north-west wall. Of the original decorative scheme in this room only the door surrounds survive while all other fixtures and fittings have been replaced. Adjacent to the kitchen there is a small WC and an under-stairs cupboard off the north-east side of the ground floor hall. The upper panel to the door of the WC appears to have been added later suggesting that the original may have been glass. The under-stairs cupboard was not accessible at the time of the site visit.

6.2.7 The narrow, winder staircase is typical of the Edwardian period. This has simple newels with a moulded cap and ball finial and flat balusters tapering slightly to a moulded handrail. The staircase is of closed string form with a curtail at the base. It rises through two storeys in the same style with a curved string on the first floor landing (Plate 7). It appears to be well-made with the hand rail pegged to the newels.

6.2.8 At first floor level, two large bedrooms lie above the principal reception rooms, both with access to the balcony through modern, inserted aluminium sliding windows (the larger with a modern en-suite bathroom to the rear). A modest, original bathroom adjoins the stair, while two further bedrooms occupy the north-western portion of this floor.

6.2.9 Originally, it seems as if a short corridor with an elliptical arch from the landing gave original access to the balcony, and separated the two principal bedrooms, though this arrangement has been modified by the creation of large apertures directly from each room. The balcony has been stripped of anything interesting except its original a timber cornice. The principal bedroom sits over the parlour and study. The door has two long lower panels and two wide upper panels which may indicate that it is a later replacement. Surviving original decorative features include skirting, picture rail and cornice moulding. The rear of the room has been enclosed with an en-suite bathroom which is entirely modern. There is a blocked fireplace on the south-east wall.

6.2.10 The second bedroom, lying over the dining room, is fairly modest. Original decorative features survive as in the master bedroom. There is a chimneybreast and a blocked fireplace to the north-west wall. The entrance door is of the same pattern as those on the ground floor (Plate 6). The bathroom adjoining the stair has a three-cant oriel bay window but otherwise retains no original features except the door and door case. A third bedroom lies directly above the kitchen and retains an original skirting and picture rail along with a typical door. There is a blocked fireplace to the north-east wall. Bedroom four has a typical door, three-cant oriel bay window and retains its original high skirting and a built-in wardrobe (Plate 8).

6.2.11 Between bedrooms three and four there is an airing cupboard which is of little importance except for the exposure of the underlying Fletton brickwork core of the building, discussed below.

6.2.12 The staircase rises to the attic floor and a large open landing from which doors lead to bedrooms five – seven which are all smaller than those on the first floor. In addition various cupboards give access to the roof spaces. All the rooms in the attic preserve their original skirtings and doorcases although here the doors have six panels. One end of the landing is occupied by a large pair of plain six panelled doors giving access to a more substantial cupboard with a row of original coat hooks and a small hatch into the roof space over one of the main gables. To the south-east, bedroom five lies above the master bedroom on the first floor. This is fairly plain in appearance, lit by a large dormer and a hatch giving access into a second roof space. At the kitchen end of the house are bedrooms six and seven which are smaller and very simple.

### **6.3 Roof structure**

Where visible within the gables the roof is of fairly simple form, all of thin-sawn softwood, with raking struts nailed on supporting purlins and common rafters rising over the back. The roof itself is boarded and has a ridgeboard. Some of the valley rafters are exposed in the landing area and where this occurs they are decorated with simple chamfers and stops.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

7.1 Salperton is an interesting reflection of its period. It is typical of the type of large house we would expect to see from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but despite its attractive Arts and Crafts style it utilises modern construction materials and methods. Where the structure is exposed, we see common Fletton bricks, so that the red brick and rendered exterior, expressing the language of craftsmanship and giving the appearance of a timber-framed house, is simply a veneer. In the straight heads of the windows there has been no overt attempt to disguise the modern character of the building. Internally, the mouldings, the doors and other decorative elements are typically mass-produced, or drawn from a limited repertoire of profiles. Only in the treatment of the focal points of the house, the front door and the staircase, has any individuality or greater degree of thought and design been expressed.

7.2 The combination of these rather ordinary elements sets the building apart from the flair and true craftsmanship which we would see expressed in the houses of Voysey and other architects of note, so that while Salperton is an attractive house, it remains a pale imitation of that form, and is only one step removed from the typical repetitive suburban villa by its location in a country setting.

7.3 The layout and quality expressed is fairly readable in the traditional manner, however. The ground floor has parlour, dining room, study for the head of the household, and separate kitchen, with its outside privy. The first floor has only one small bathroom, at a time when sanitary arrangements were still fairly novel, while the children's bedrooms or nursery, which would benefit from the heat of the kitchen

are probably those over that room (and at the furthest distance from the parents' bedroom). Lesser quality, more awkward rooms with storage space are located on the attic floor. This was the house of a middle class family, possibly with a cook and a second servant, typical of a stockbroker or financial worker in the City.

7.2 Modernisation has taken its toll, removing original decoration which would undoubtedly have included parquet floors, perhaps exposed timberwork and heavily patterned wallpapers. Most of the fireplaces have been blocked and the building sterilised with gloss paint throughout. In particular, the replacement of the original timber glazing with plastic windows demonstrates eloquently how a building of moderate historic interest and intrinsic charm can be spoiled and diminished by ill-judged modifications.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs J Cooper for funding the project, and their architects the RM Partnership, for their kind assistance.

AS would also like to thank the staff at HALS for their help with archival work.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

## **DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE**

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the client, the local planning authority, Hertfordshire HER, HALS and the National Monuments Record, Swindon. The archive will be lodged with HALS.

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## APPENDIX 1 PRIMARY SOURCES CONSULTED

### Documentary Sources

Date	Description	Location	Reference
1840	Bushey Tithe Award	HALS	DSA/27/1

### Cartographic Sources

Date	Description	Scale	Location	Reference
c.1600-1650	Map of the Parish of Bushey	-	HALS	D/EsaP2
1766	Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire	-	AS	-
1786	A Plan of Merry Hill Farm in the Parish of Bushey, Herts Luke Pope Surveyor (Not photographed for conservation reasons)	-	HALS	D/EAmP.1.
1800	A Plan of the Parish of Bushey in the County of Hertford R. Cooper Surveyor	-	HALS	D/P26.29/2
1822	Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire	-	AS	-
1840	Bushey Tithe Map	-	HALS	DSA4/27/2
1880	First Edition Ordnance Survey Map	25":1 mile	HALS	XLIV.7-11
1898	Second Edition Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	HALS	XLIV.7-11
1914	Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	HALS	XLIV.7-11
1934	Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	HALS	XLIV.7-11
1968	Ordnance Survey map	1:10,000	HALS	TQ19SW
1976	Ordnance Survey map	1:10,000	HALS	TQ19SW

## APPENDIX 2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, WD23 1DP
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> Hertsmere
<b>Village/Town:</b> Bushey	<b>Parish:</b> Bushey
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	10/0153/08
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr & Mrs J Cooper
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Demolition of existing detached house and construction of new replacement detached house on the same site
<b>Present land use:</b>	Detached house and grounds
<b>Size of application area:</b> 0.78 ha.	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Entire area - existing building and rear yard
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TQ 1334 9444
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1178
<b>Site director/Organisation:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Historic building recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	November 2008
<b>Curating museum:</b>	
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	None
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In November 2008 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire prior to demolition of the house in advance of proposed residential redevelopment.</p> <p>The house was found to be a typical large early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban dwelling in the Arts &amp; Crafts style with characteristic asymmetry in the design and several “rustic” features such as oriel windows and a brick porch with voussoirs alternating between smooth brick and stacked tile sections. The interior of the house retained many internal mouldings, doors and built-in cupboards although these were all mass produced to some extent and came from a stock pattern of designs. The feature of most interest was the staircase which was a narrow winder with a long stair light housed in a gable in the fashion of an oriel window.</p> <p>The building has, however, suffered extensive unsympathetic modification including the truncation of chimneys, the addition of plastic facing to the balcony in imitation of weatherboarding, and most detrimentally the replacement of all the original wooden windows with modern upvc double glazed units. As a result it is no longer considered to be of any real historic interest.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Matthew Williams	<b>Date of Summary:</b> November 2008

## APPENDIX 4 ARCHIVE CONTENTS FORM

Site Details	
Site Name: Salperton, Merry Hill Road, Bushey	NGR: TQ 1334 9444
County: Hertfordshire	Museum Collecting Area:
Site Code: AS 1178	Project Number: 3202
Date of Work: November 2008	Related Work:

Brief/s		Specification/s	
Date	Present	Date	Present
17/07/2008	Yes	23/07/2008	Yes

Site Records (Description)		
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)		
Drawn Plans & Sections:		
Architect's Drawings:		
Digital Drawings		
Printouts of Drawings	Printouts of Data	Digital Data

Reports		
Report No	Report Type	Present
3202	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
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
Yes							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Yes							

### DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the client, the local planning authority, Hertfordshire HER, Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies (HALS) and the National Monuments Record, Swindon. The archive will be lodged with HALS.

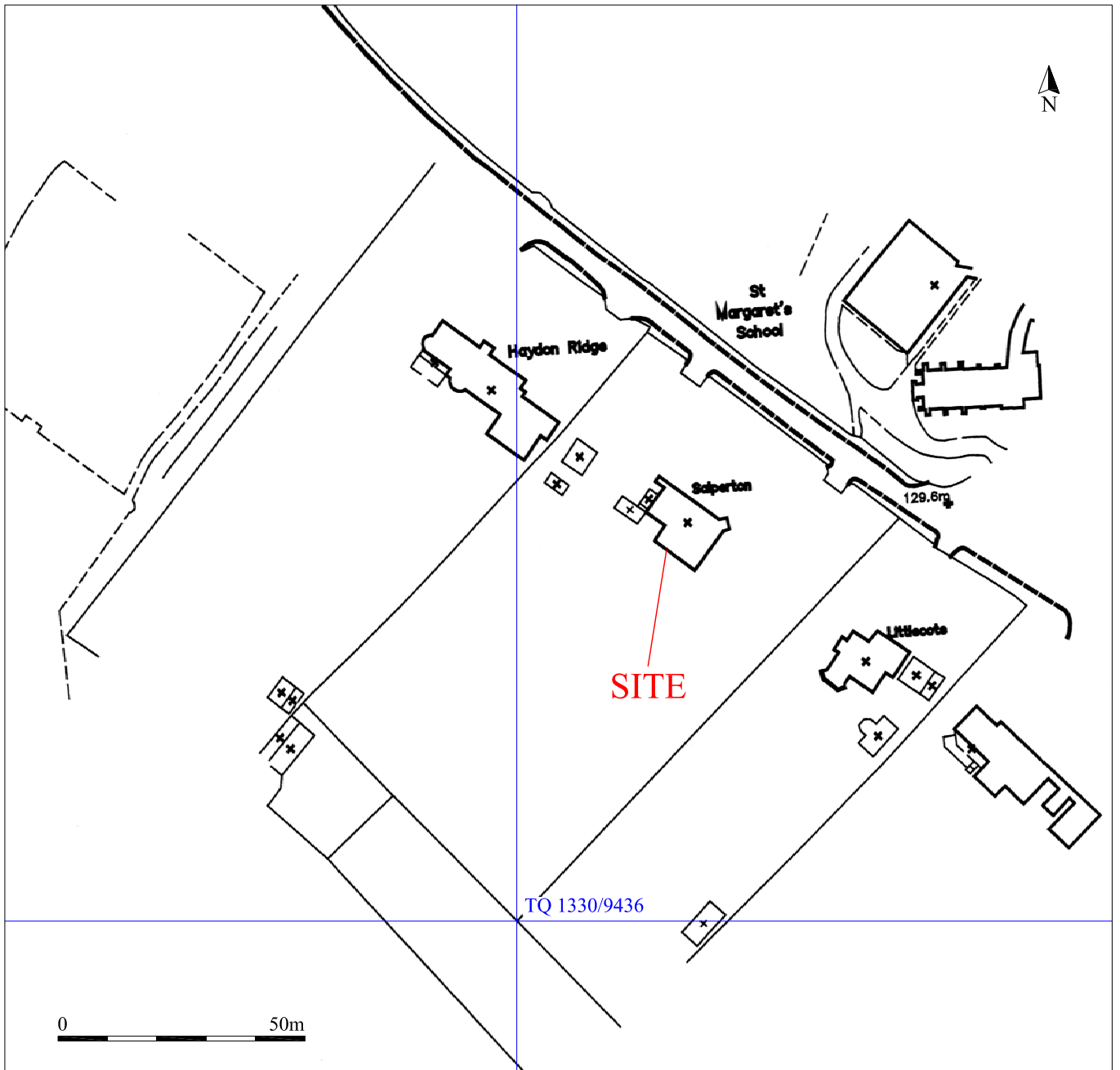




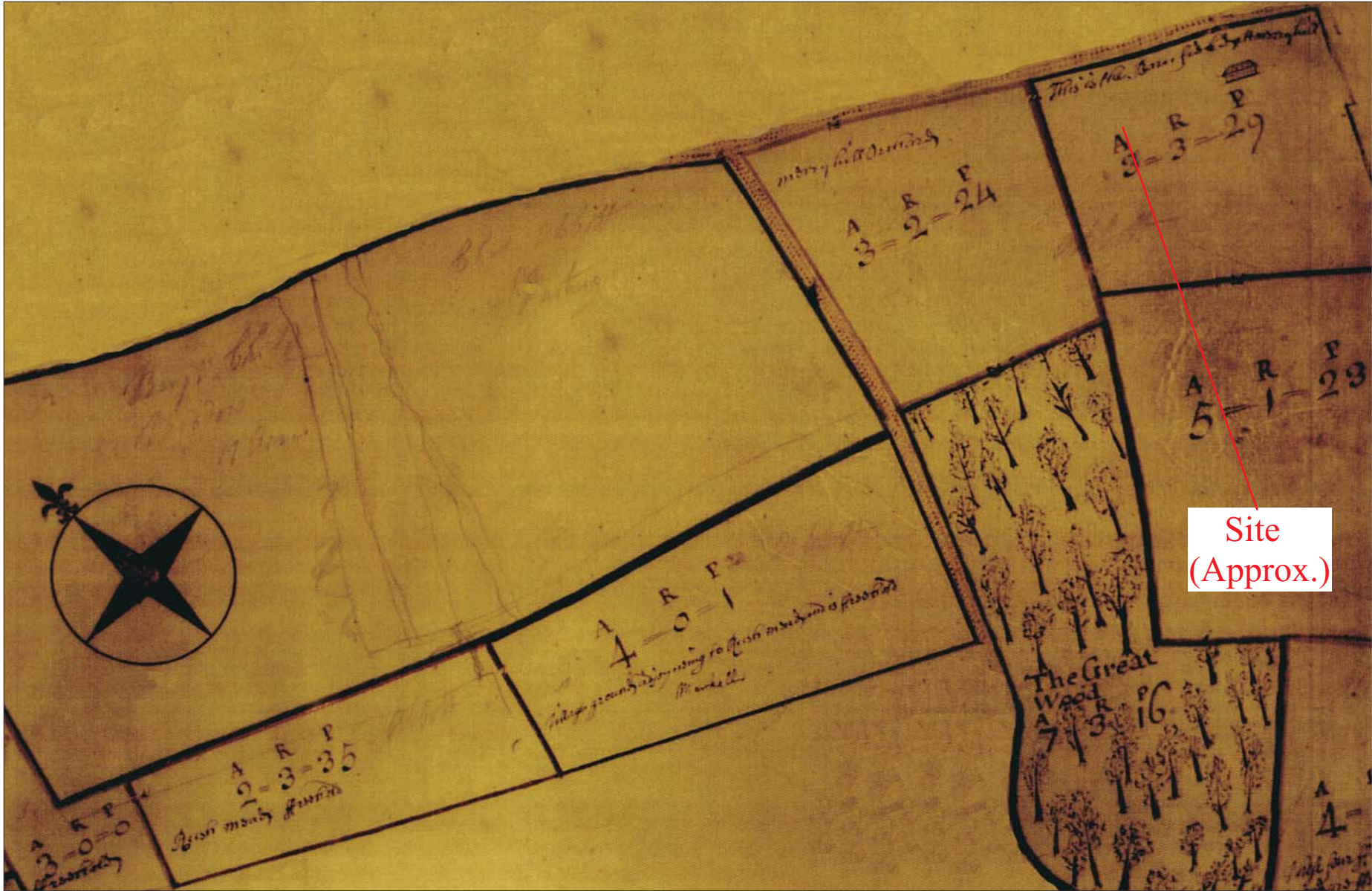
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*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Map of Bushey, c.1600-1650  
Not to scale



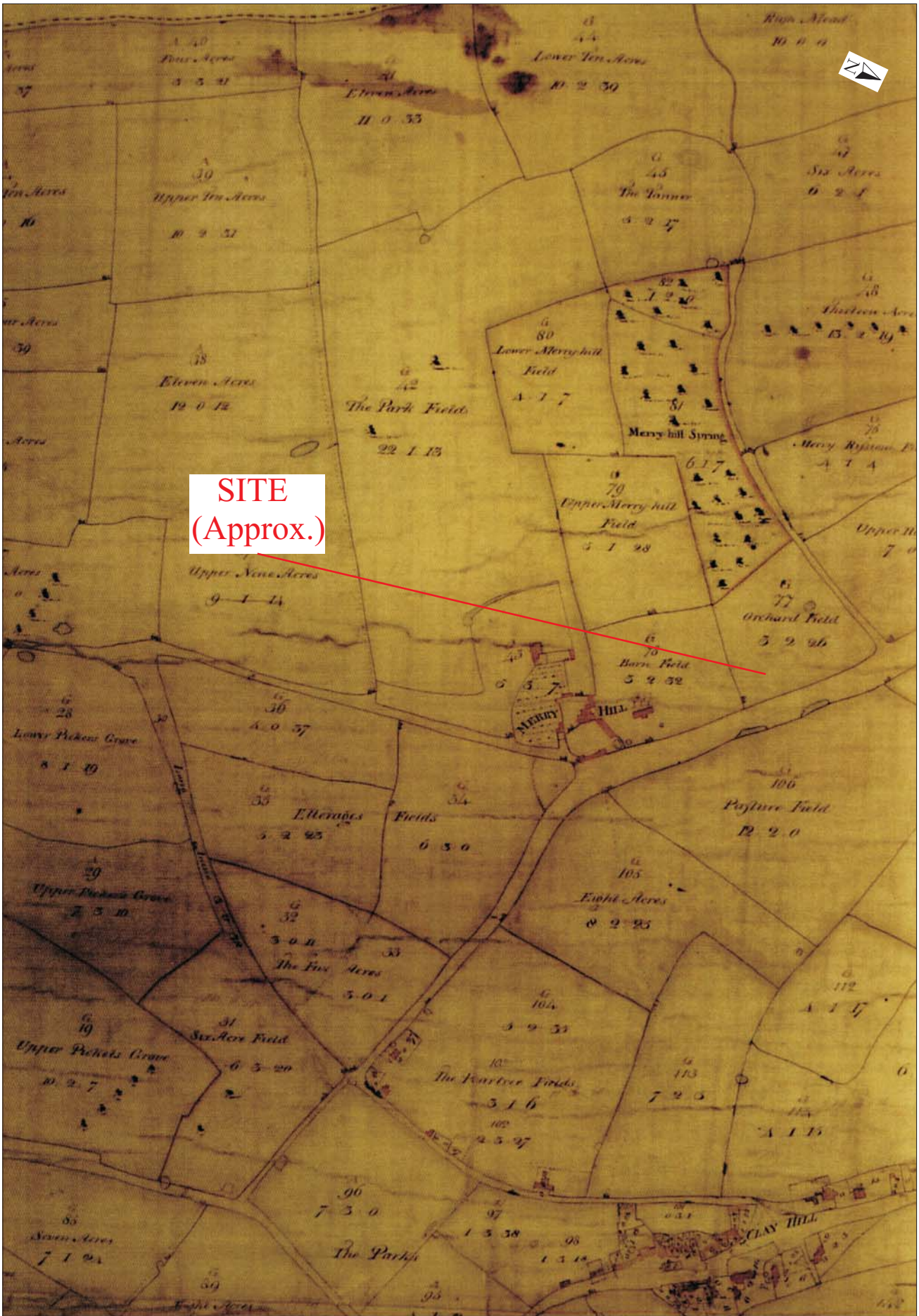


*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*

Fig. 4 Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire, 1766

Not to scale





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Fig. 5 Plan of the Parish of Bushey  
in the County of Hertford, 1800

Not to scale





*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*

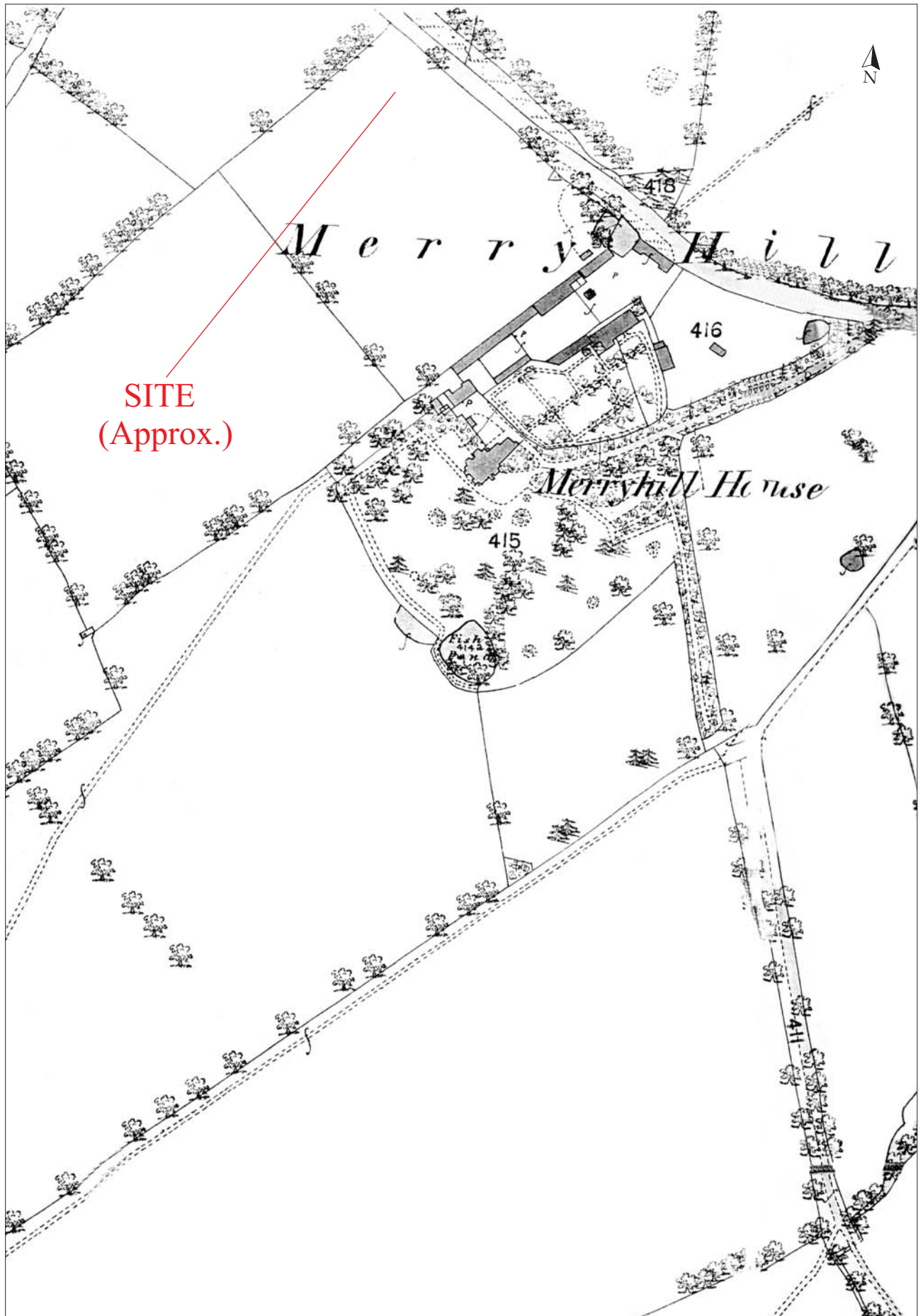
**Fig. 6** Bryant's map of Hertfordshire, 1822

Not to scale





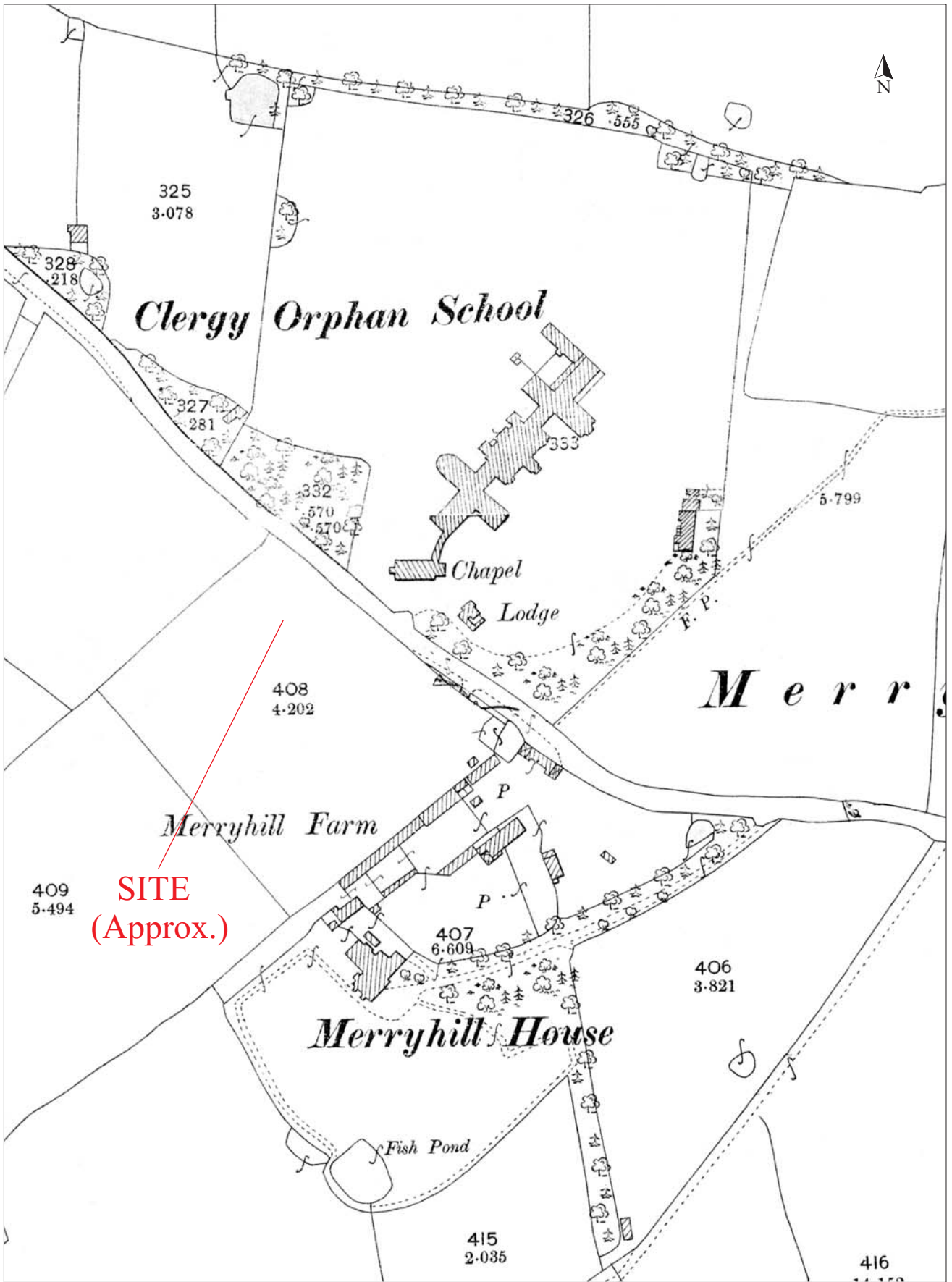
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Fig. 7 Bushey tithe map, 1840  
Not to scale



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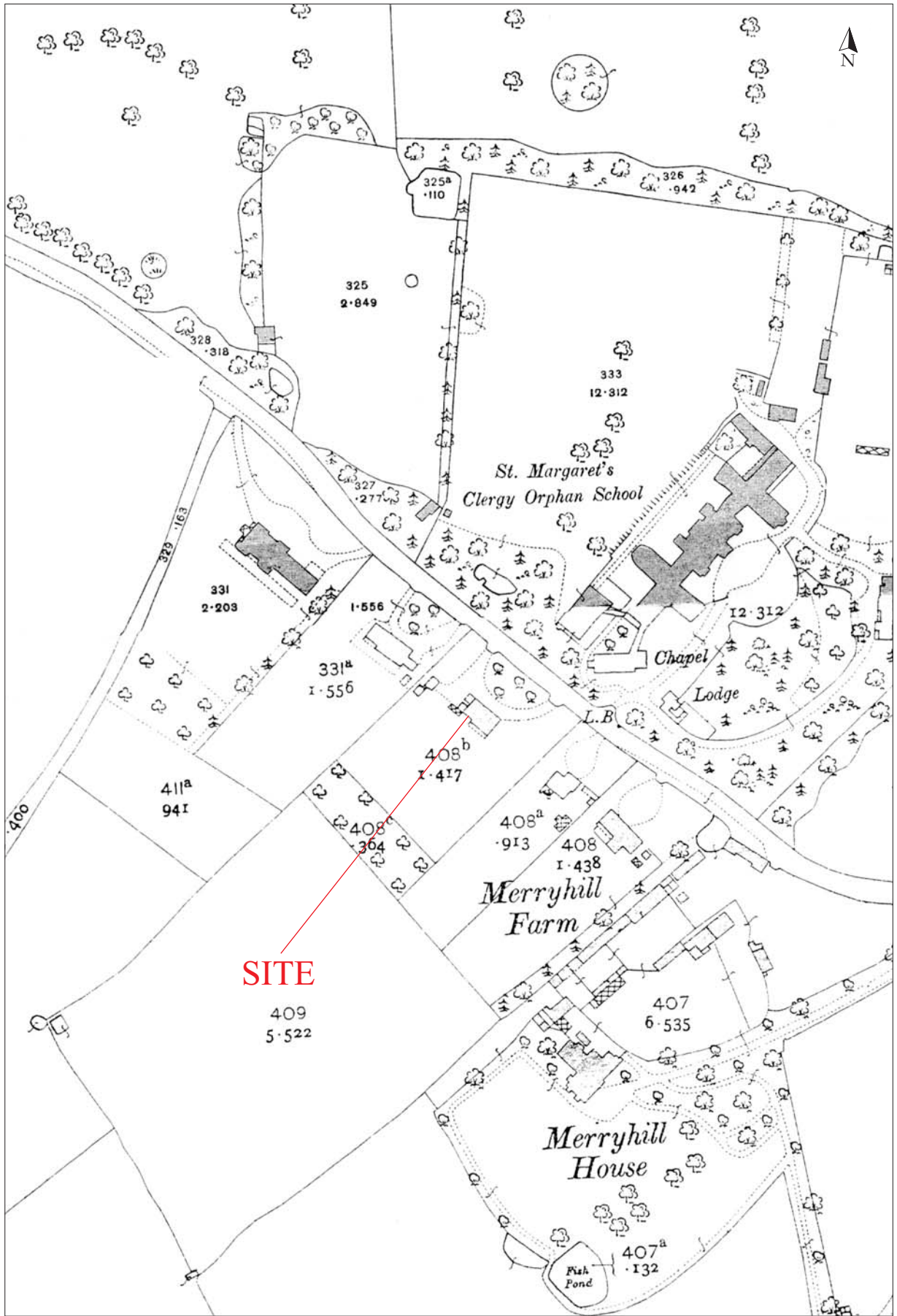
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 8 First edition OS map, 1880**  
Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4





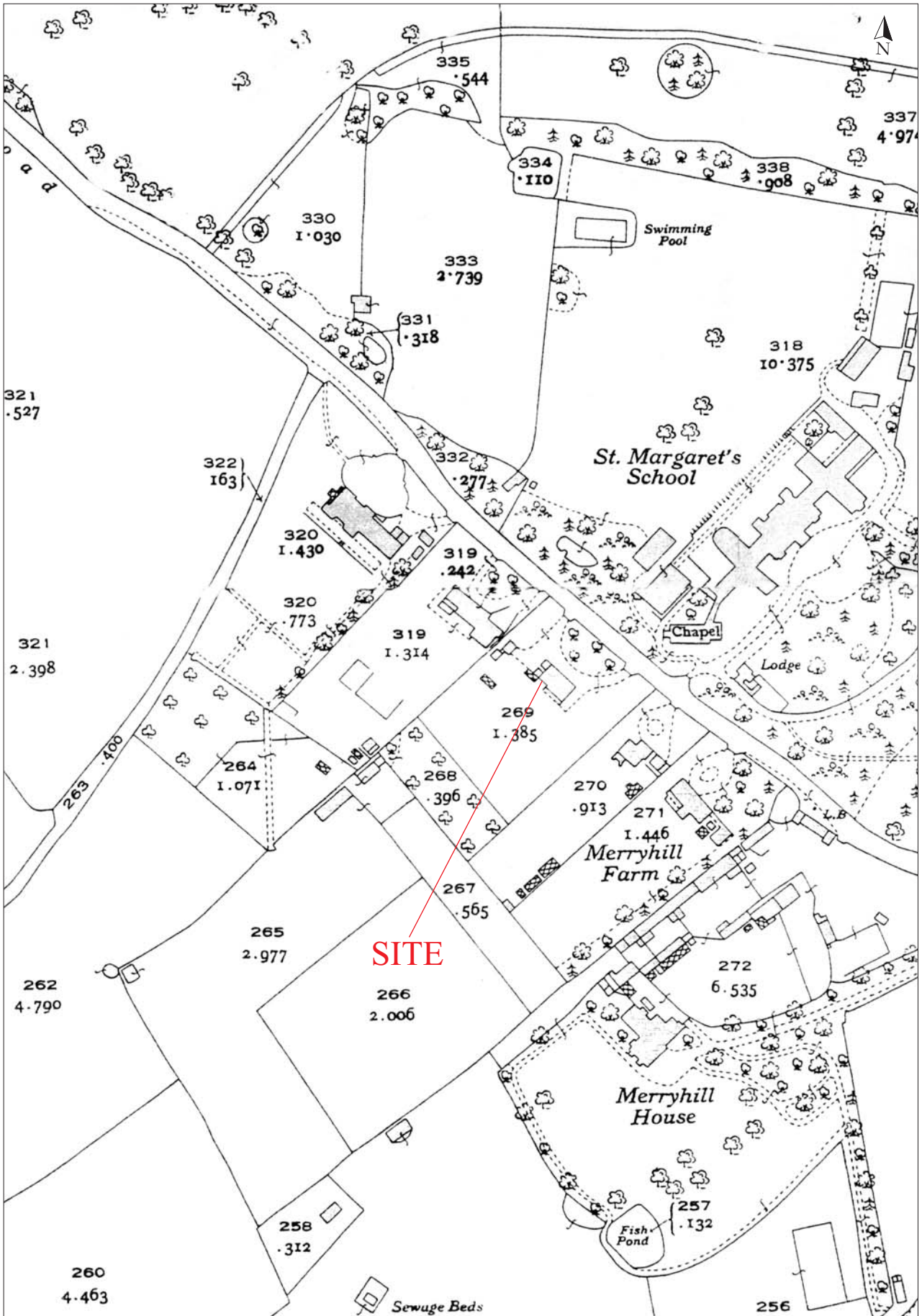
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**Fig. 9** Second edition OS map, 1898  
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



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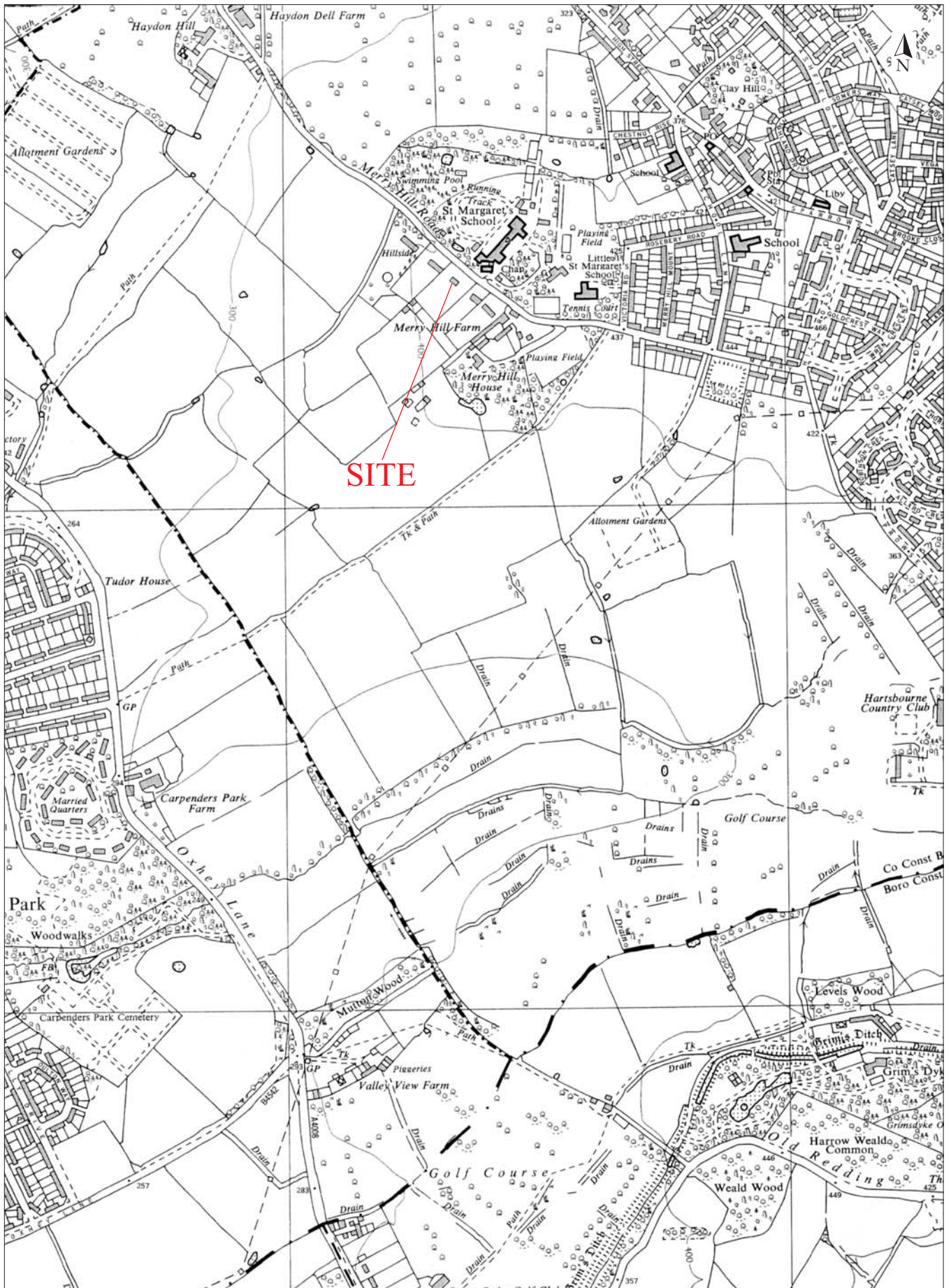
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**Fig. 10 OS map, 1914**  
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



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**Fig. 11 OS map, 1934**  
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4

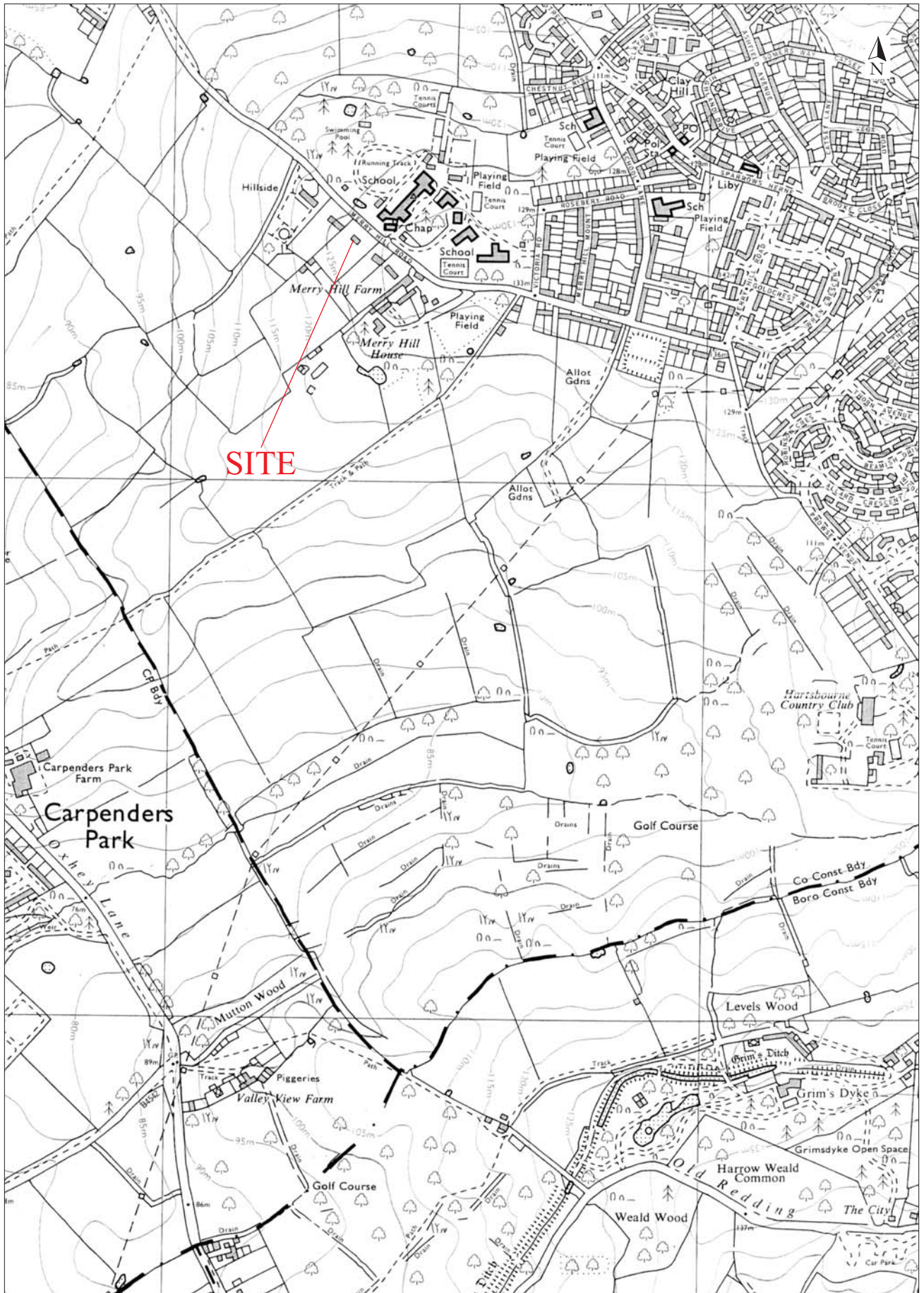




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**Fig. 12 OS map, 1968**  
 Scale: 6" to 1 mile at A4

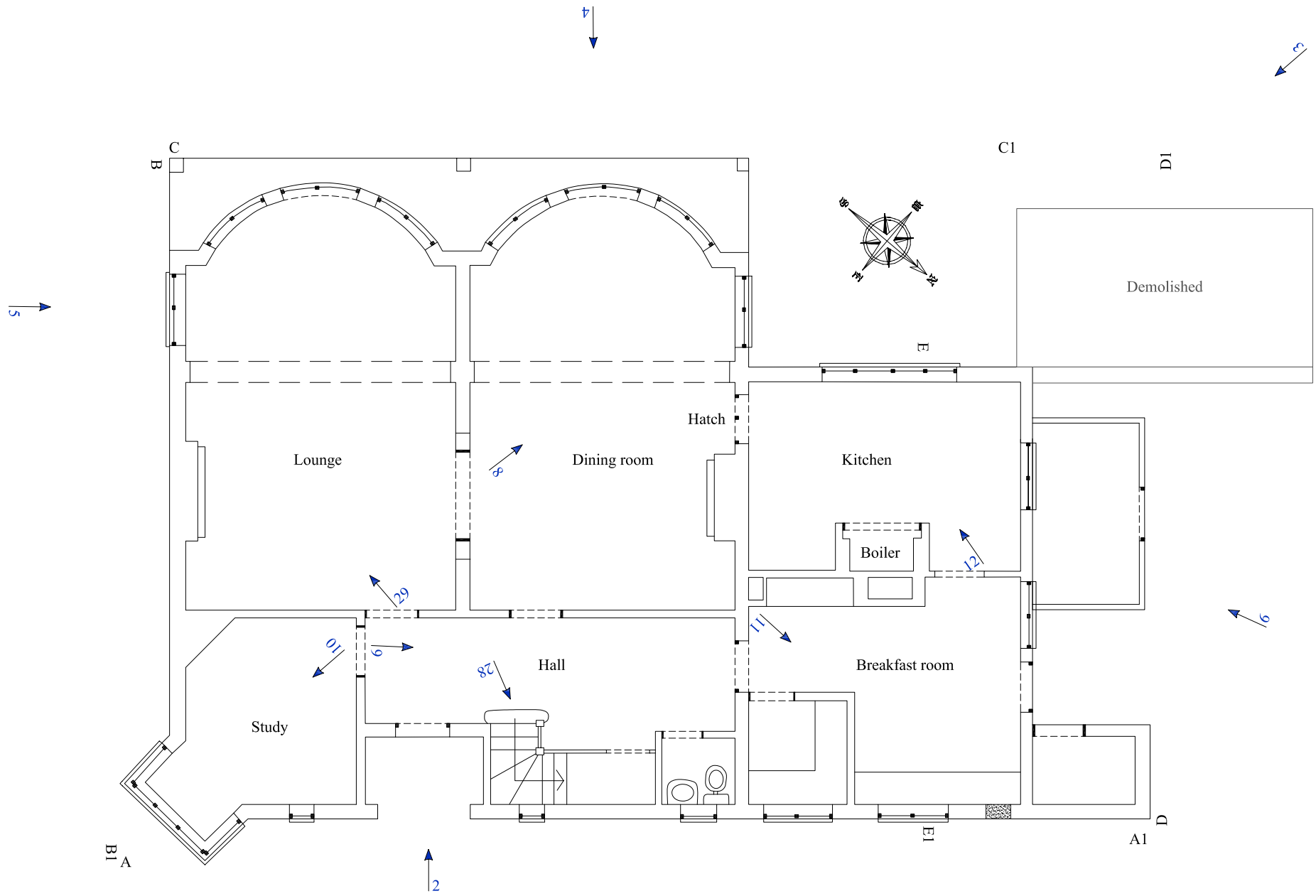




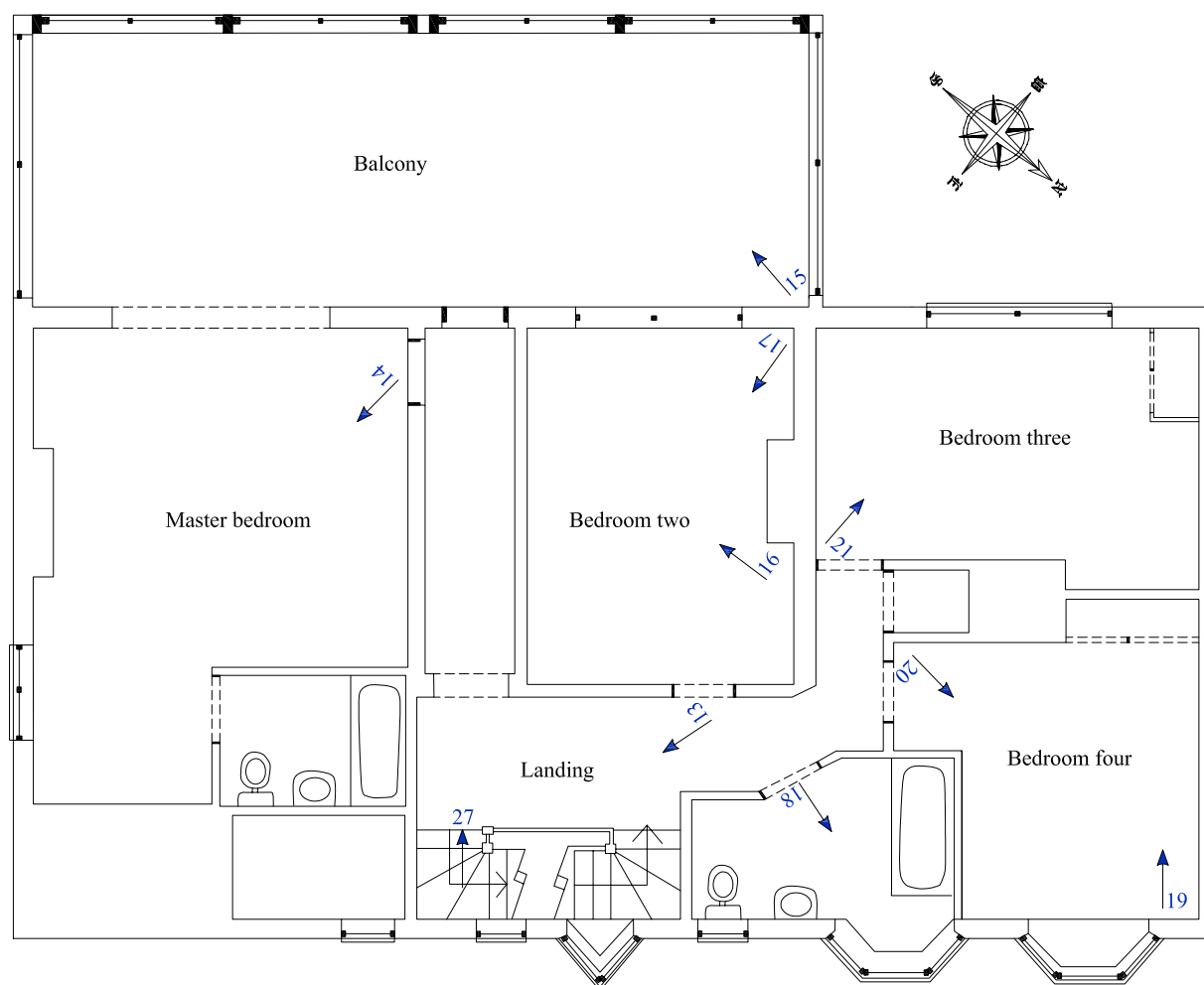
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**Fig. 13 OS map, 1976**  
 Scale: 6" to 1 mile at A4





Ground Floor Plan



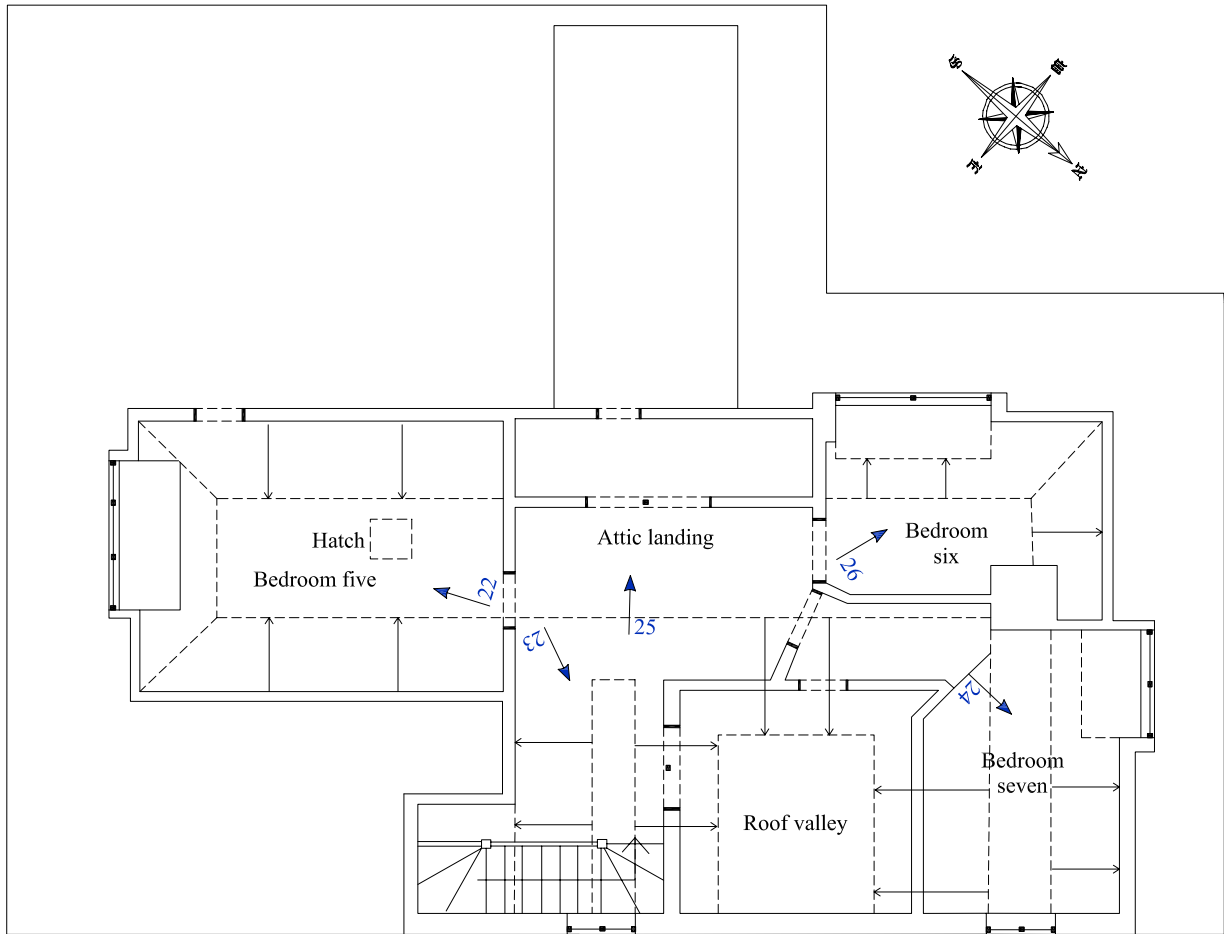
First Floor Plan

→ Photographic location

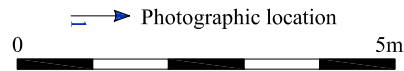
Blocked aperture

0 5m

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**Fig. 14 Plans and photographic locations**  
 Scale 1:100 at A3



Second Floor Plan



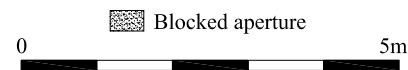
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 15 Plans and photographic locations**  
 Scale 1:100 at A4



North-east elevation



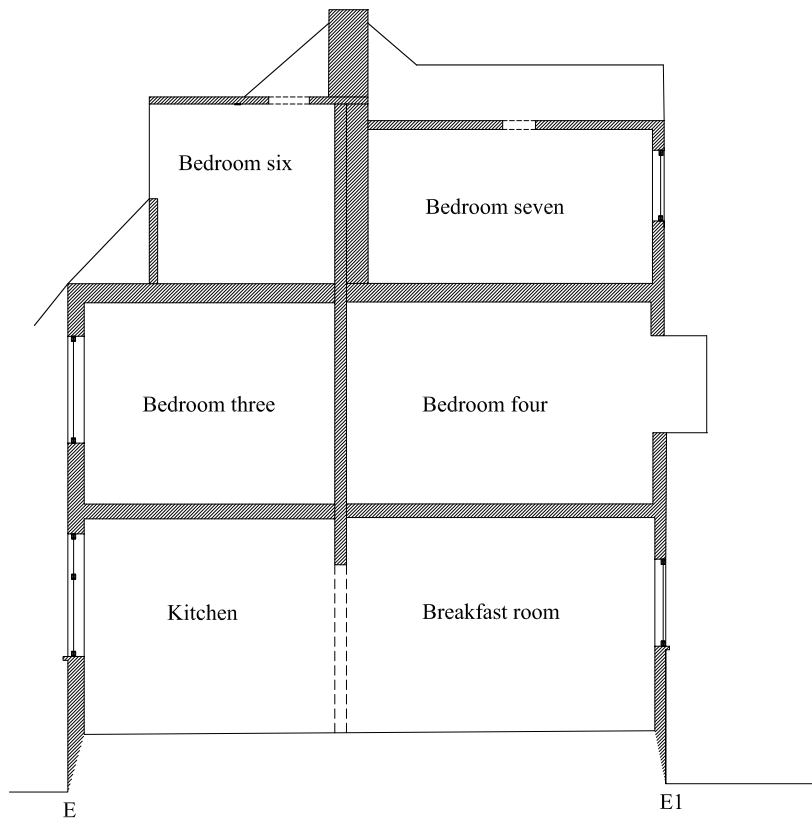
South-east elevation



South-west elevation



North-west elevation



0 5m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 17 Section</b>
Scale 1:100 at A4

## PLATES



1 North-east and south-east elevations, taken from the east (1)



2 Detail of the porch and main entrance, taken from the north-east (2)





3 South-west elevation, taken from the south-west (4)



4 South-east elevation, taken from the south-east (5)



5 North-west elevation, taken from the north-west (6)



6 Detail of indicative door (bedroom two) (17)





7 First floor landing and staircase, taken from the west (13)





8 Detail of built-in cupboard to bedroom four, taken from the north-east (19)

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*North-east and south-east elevations, taken from the east*



2

*Detail of the porch and main entrance, taken from the north-east*



3

*North-west and south-west elevations, taken from the west*



4

*South-west elevation, taken from the south-west*



5

*South-east elevation, taken from the south-east*



6

*North-west elevation, taken from the north-west*



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*North-east and north-west elevations,  
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*Dining room taken from the east*



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*Ground floor hall taken from the  
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*Study taken from the west*



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*Breakfast room taken from the south*



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*Kitchen taken from the north*



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*First floor landing and staircase,  
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*Master bedroom taken from the west*



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*Enclosed balcony taken from the  
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*Bedroom two taken from the north*



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*Detail of indicative door (bedroom  
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*Bathroom taken from the south*



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*Detail of built-in cupboard to bedroom four, taken from the north-east*



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*Bedroom four taken from the south*



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*Bedroom three taken from the east*



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*Bedroom five taken from the north*



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*Attic landing, taken from the south-west*



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*Bedroom seven taken from the south-west*





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*Attic landing and roof space, taken from the north-east*



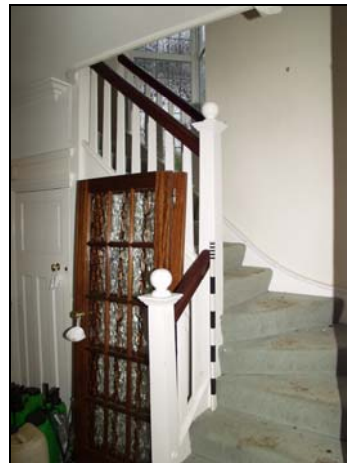
26

*Bedroom six taken from the south-east*



27

*Corridor from first floor landing to master bedroom and enclosed balcony, elevated shot taken from the north-east*



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*Ground floor hall and stair case, taken from the south-west*



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*Lounge taken from the north-east*