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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**WEST HILL 48, GREENHILL ROAD,  
SEVENOAKS, KENT**

DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING GARAGE,  
ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AND OTHER WORKS

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Lisa Smith BA (Text) Sophie Unger MA (Text) Iain Williamson BA (Fieldwork)	
NGR: 553591 160667	Report No: 3121
District: Kent	Site Code: AS 1101
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3032
Signed:	Date: June 2008

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>'West Hill' 48 Greenhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Project description (250 words)			
<p><i>In December 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of land at 'West Hill' 48 Greenhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: 553591 160667). The monitoring was undertaken during the demolition of an existing garage and prior to the erection of an extension and other related works.</i></p> <p><i>The programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken to the north-east of the existing building at 48, Greenhill Road.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds or features were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>4<sup>th</sup> December 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3032</i>	Site code	<i>AS1101</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Residential garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition of an existing garage and the erection of an extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>Otford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>TN14 5RS</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TQ 53591 60667</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)			
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Sevenoaks District Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>I. Williamson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Grayston Alan Durnell</i>		
Full title	<i>'West Hill' 48 Greenhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>L. Smith, S. Unger</i>		
Report no.	<i>3121</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2008</i>		

## **WEST HILL 48, GREENHILL ROAD, SEVENOAKS, KENT**

### **DEMOLITION OF AN EXISTING GARAGE, ERECTION OF AN EXTENSION AND OTHER WORKS**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In December 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of land at 'West Hill' 48 Greenhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR TQ 53591 60667). The monitoring was undertaken during the demolition of an existing garage and prior to the erection of an extension and other related works.*

*The programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken to the north-east of the existing building at 48, Greenhill Road. No archaeological finds or features were present.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In December 2007, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording of land at 'West Hill' 48 Greenhill Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR 53591 160667) (Figs.1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr P Binstead of Grayston Alan Durtnell prior to the demolition of an existing garage and the erection of an extension following advice from the local planning authority (planning reference SE/07/00723).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Sevenoaks District Council in association with the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (dated October 2007). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 1999), and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001). It also adhered to the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

#### **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located within a residential area to the east of Shoreham Road (A225) and north of the small town of Otford, which itself lies c. 2.5km north of Sevenoaks. The site is situated at the foot of the North Downs.

2.2 The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey is Middle Chalk with a band of Melbourne Rock to the south separating it from Lower Chalk. The site lies at the point where the shallow well drained calcareous soils of the Upton 1 association and the well drained calcareous fine silty soils of the Coombe 2

association, which both occupy the lower slopes of the north downs, meet (SSEW 1983).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 Archaeological investigations in Otford have revealed prehistoric remains. Adjacent to the development site at No. 46 Greenhill Road, a complete middle Bronze Age urn with an uncontaminated cremation was discovered during building works. Other prehistoric finds in the area include a Mesolithic flint tool 275m south of the site, and a Neolithic axe and bowl barrow within a 500m radius of the site. Roman implements have also been discovered in close vicinity to the site suggesting Roman activity in this area.

3.2 The name of Otford is an abbreviation of *Otterford*, a village which is said to have seen a significant battle (the Battle of Otford) between King *Offa* of Mercia and the Kentish Saxons in 776 AD. Otford was most likely founded in the Anglo-Saxon period with several buildings in the parish thought to date from this period. Remains within the parish church of St Bartholomew suggest it was built in approximately 1050 AD. Otford Palace, one of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Palaces, was re-built in 1515 although its predecessor was thought to date from the Anglo-Saxon period.

3.3 The historic route of the Pilgrims Way passes through the parish of Otford and is thought to have been taken by pilgrims from Winchester to visit the Shrine of St Thomas Beckett at Canterbury Cathedral. Artefacts discovered on the route have dated the road from 450-500 AD although this route may also lie adjacent to a prehistoric trackway.

### **4 METHOD OF WORK**

4.1 The ground level of an area measuring approximately 10m x 11m was reduced across the footprint of the proposed house extension and other works (Fig.2). The work was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Thereafter, all further investigations were undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. All works were observed during a site visit on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### 5.1 Sample Section 1 (Fig.3)

<i>0=119.5m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Garden topsoil. Dark blackish brown humic sandy silt with occasional angular flint
0.25 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate sub angular chalk flecks and angular flint fragments
0.35m+	L1002	Natural. Light yellowish white mixed silt chalk with moderate angular flint fragments

### 5.2 Sample Section 2 (Fig.3)

<i>0=119.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1003	Modern topsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint gravel
0.15 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above. Sample section 1
0.70m+	L1002	Natural. As above. Sample section 1

### 5.3 Sample Section 3 (Fig.3)

<i>0=119.2</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1003	Modern topsoil. As above. Sample section 2
0.23 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above. Sample section 1
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above. Sample section 1

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features.

## 7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 A layer of garden topsoil allocated L1000 was encountered in the northern corner of the site and consisted of a dark blackish brown humic sandy silt with occasional angular flint. It was present to a depth of 0.25m below the ground surface, and overlay subsoil layer L1001.

7.2 A modern grassed topsoil (L1003) used in garden landscaping was identified in all other areas of the site was a mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint gravel. This layer varied between 0.15m to 0.23m below the ground surface.

7.3 A mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate sub angular chalk flecks and angular flint fragments was seen after the removal of topsoil by machine and was

allocated L1001. It was a consistent layer across the whole site with a depth of 0.15m to 0.70m below the ground surface. The natural geology was seen directly below this layer.

7.4 The natural (L1002) was a light yellowish white mixed silt chalk with moderate angular flint fragments. In the north eastern area of the site the natural was recorded at a depth of 0.35m whereas in other areas it was seen at the much greater depth of 0.70m. This fluctuation is probably due to landscaping during the construction of the existing building on the site.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

### **8.1 Summary of the archaeology**

8.1.1 No archaeological features or finds were recorded during this programme of monitoring.

## **9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be lodged with Sevenoaks Museum.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

AS would like to thank Mr P Binstead of Grayston Alan Durnell for his co operation and Kent County Council for their support and advice.

## **11 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Gurney (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occasional Paper 14

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

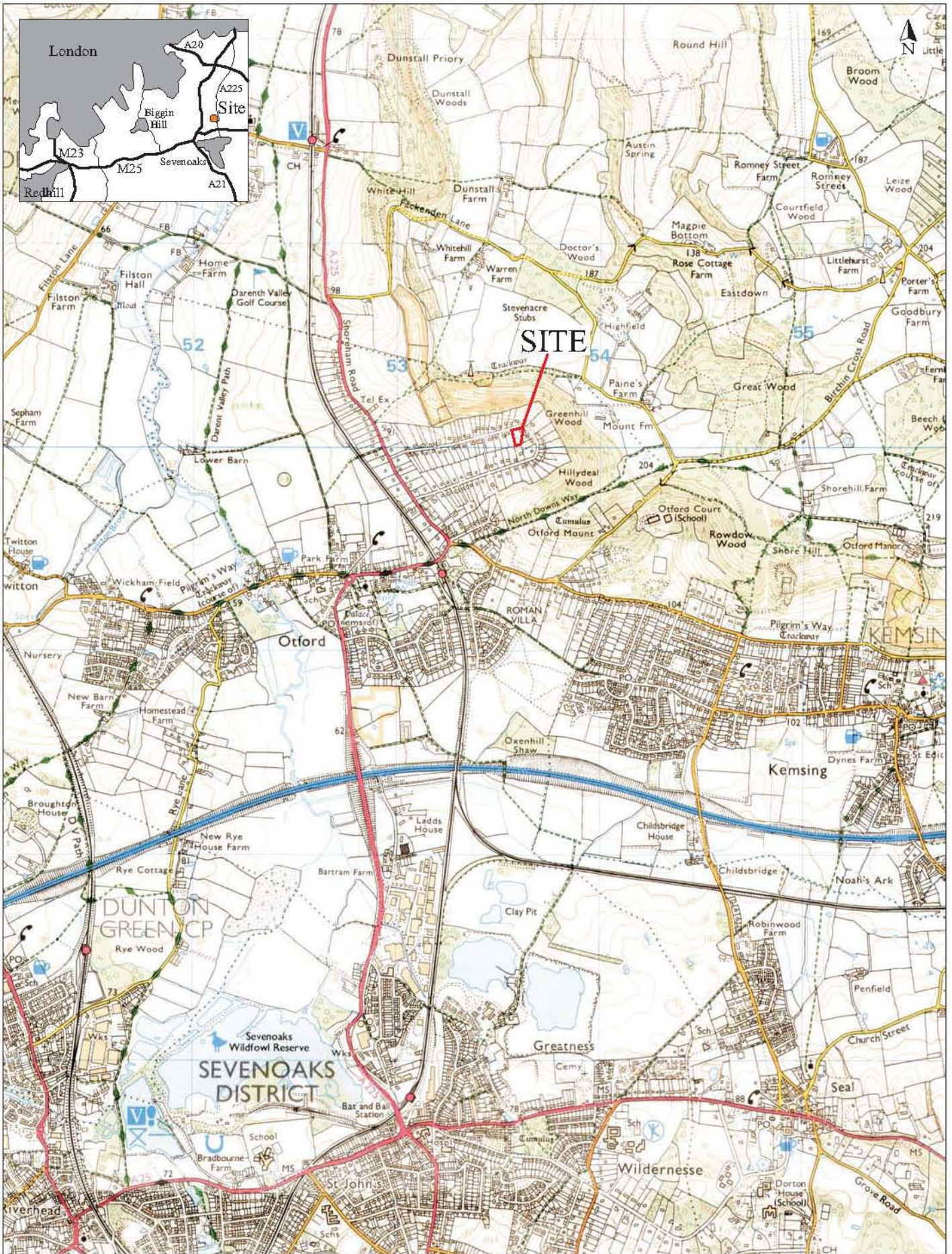


DP 1  
Monitored Area, view east



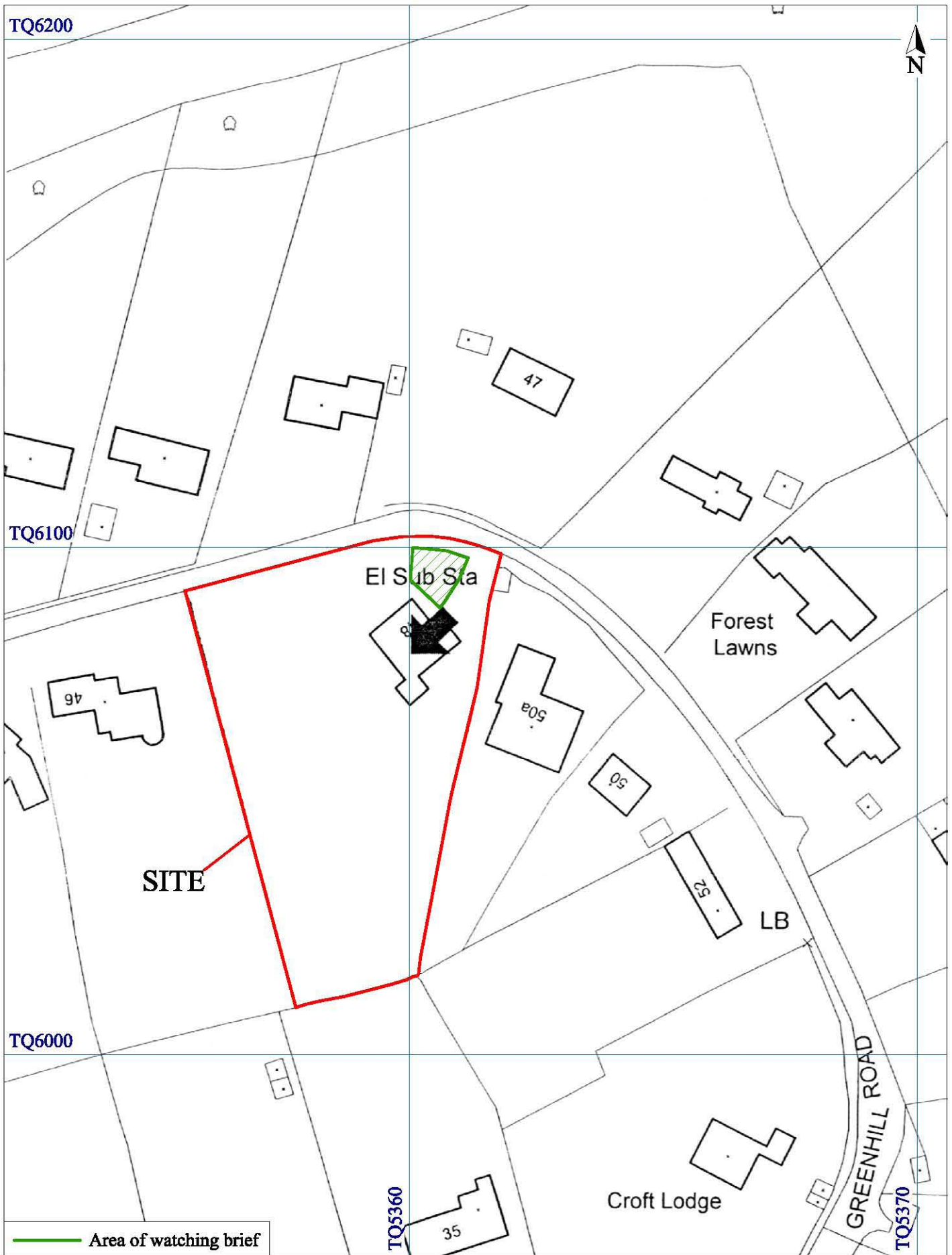
DP 2  
Monitored Area, view north



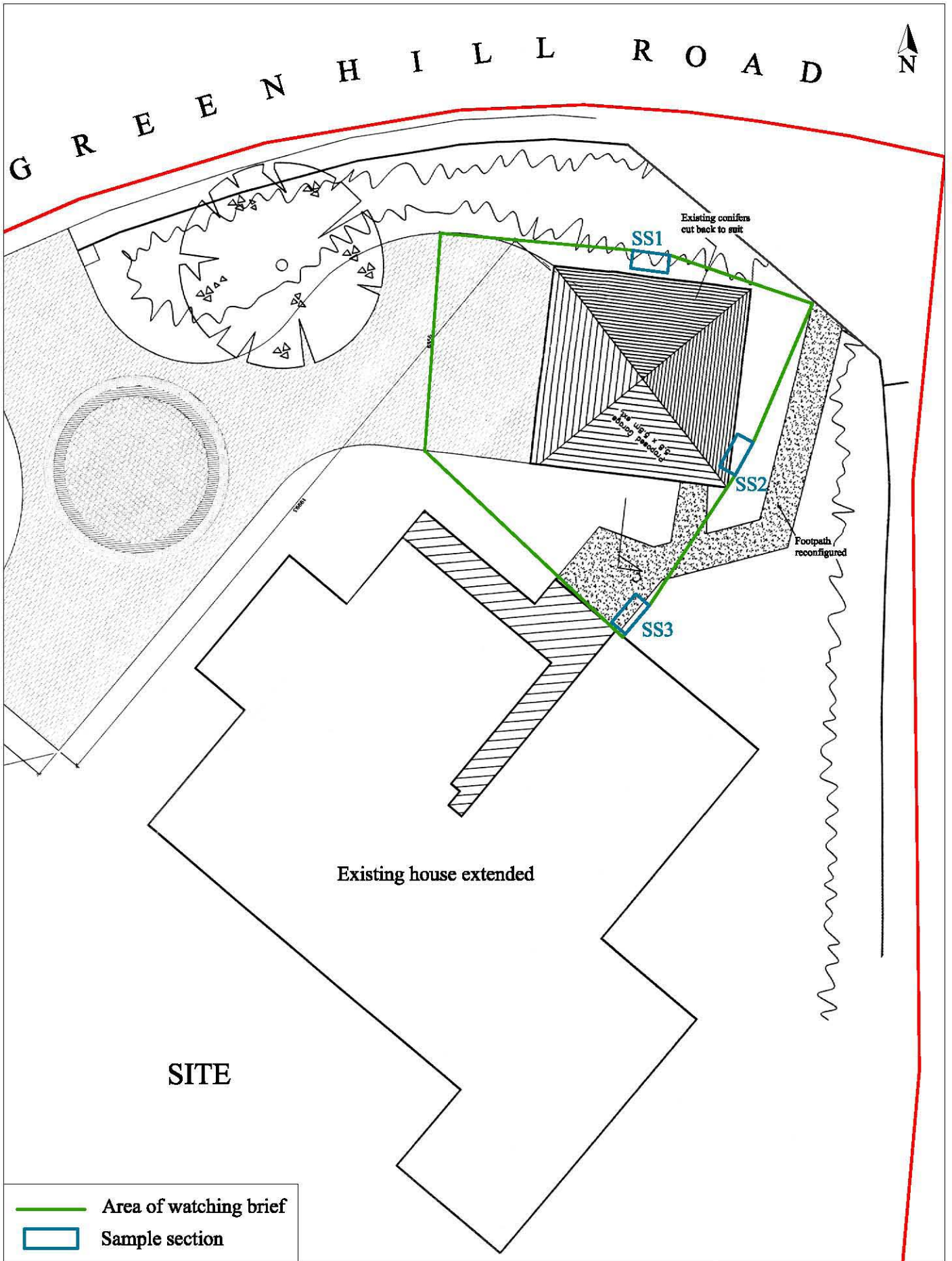


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*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1: 25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location**  
 Scale: 1: 1,000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Area of watching brief**  
 Scale: 1: 150 at A4