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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PROPOSED EXTENSION  
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL,  
CHURCH ROAD, PENN,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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NGR: SU 9160 9334	Report No. 3647
District: Chiltern	Site Code: AS 1267
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3686
Signed:	Date: January 2010

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Proposed Extension to Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire</i>		
<p><i>In January 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 9160 9334). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Bob Berry on behalf of Penn Parish Council, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-story extension to the church hall.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn. It is known as an important production centre for medieval tiles. Several archaeological remains confirming that status have been noted in vicinity of the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed an undated pit, and a possible wall or demolition material.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>18<sup>th</sup> January 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3686</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1267</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Side yard of the church hall</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension to the existing building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated pit, possible wall or demolition material</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Chiltern</i>	<i>Penn</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Buckinghamshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HP10 8NU</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 30m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>SU 9160 9334</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>166/165m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>BCAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Penn Parish Council</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Extension to Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3647</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2010</i>		

# **PROPOSED EXTENSION TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL, CHURCH ROAD, PENN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

### **SUMMARY**

*In January 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 9160 9334). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Bob Berry Architect on behalf of Penn Parish Council, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-story extension to the church hall.*

*The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn. It is known as an important production centre for medieval tiles. Several archaeological remains confirming that status have been noted in vicinity of the site.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed an undated pit, and a possible wall or demolition material.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire (NGR SU 9160 9334; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Bob Berry Architect on behalf of Penn Parish Council, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a single-story extension to the church hall. It was required by the local planning authority (Chiltern District Council Planning Ref. CH/2009/1372/FA & CH/2009/1373/HB). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a single story extension to the church hall.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS; dated 16/10/2009), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28/10/2009), and approved by BCAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001).

1.3 The project aimed to identify and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, with particular regard to:

- Identification and recording of any significant archaeological remains, in particular the potential for medieval and post-medieval pottery or tile manufacture.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to 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).

1.5 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 widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Church Road, Penn (SU 9160 9334), within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn, and is within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation Area as identified by Wycombe District Council and Chiltern District Council. Holy Trinity Church Hall is Grade II listed as being of architectural and historical importance. The church is located to the south of Church Road, c. 100m to the south-east of the hall.

2.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of a single-storey extension to the Holy Trinity Church Hall; the area of the proposed groundworks currently forms a part of the cartilage of the hall. The site is surrounded to the north by gardens of residential properties bounded by a timber fence.

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

3.1 The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Penn, and is located on gently undulating terrain at a height of c.165m AOD.

3.2 The underlying geology comprises Lambeth clay with overlying Paleo-argillic stagnogley soils of the Essendon association, which can be characterised as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse loamy over clayey soils, with some area of similar fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Penn was not recorded in the Domesday survey, and it has few archaeological remains prior to the medieval tile industry for which it is nationally-recognised. A fragment of a copper alloy leaf-shaped spear head of the Ewart Park type and dating to the late Bronze Age c. 800BC was found in Elm Road (HER 5877) and some undated cropmarks comprising three ring ditches and a boundary have been noted on aerial photographs, located at Gatemoor Wood (HER 6872).

4.2 Penn is known as an important production centre for medieval tiles, being referred to as early as 1332 in the Subsidy Roll, which lists three tilers and their stock (HER 4244). It is thought that in the 14<sup>th</sup> century a new technique for producing two colour tiles was probably invented at Penn (Cauvain 1990). The Penn floor tile industry became the most extensive, successful, well organised commercial tile industry in medieval Britain, and between 1350-80 Penn had virtually achieved a monopoly within the southeast, producing floor and roof tiles for royal palaces, monasteries, churches, manor houses and rich merchants' houses. Several kiln sites or possible kiln sites have been noted focusing at the junction of Beacon Hill, Stumpwell Lane and Church Road (HER 4224, 4225, 4246, 6880). Numerous finds of floor tiles, wasters and debris from the kilns have been found (HER 4761, 5162, 5411) and there is also ample evidence of clay pits in the area (HER 4245, 4246, 6881, 8358, 8359, 8361, 9944)

4.3 Previous archaeological investigations in the area include an archaeological trial trench to the west of the site at Stumpwell Cottage, which revealed a medieval posthole and seven modern dog burials (HER 6868). In Elm Road, a watching brief revealed a medieval posthole and a wall footing of probable post-medieval date (HER 9942). At Glenmore a ditch aligned northwest southeast was identified during trial trenching; it was filled with 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone fragments, and is thought to be a medieval boundary ditch at the rear of properties fronting onto Church Road (HER 8407). To the west of the site a watching brief revealed two pits, a flint-lined well, a tile-lined cess pit, a brick lined soak away and flint and tile wall footings dating to the post-medieval period, and interpreted as representing either earlier occupation on the site or the rebuilding of the existing cottage (HER 8048).

4.4 The site lies within the Penn and Tylers Green Conservation area as designated by Wycombe District Council, and Chiltern District Council. The Church Hall lies opposite the parish church of Holy Trinity which features the rare survival of a wooden tympanum, dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and showing a

painting of The Last Judgment; it is one of only five such examples to survive in the country. The Church Hall is a Grade II Listed Building, and stands on the site of the former parish workhouse, which is first referred to in 1773 (Green 2007, HER 12702). The current building was designed by Edward Blore, and built in 1839 in a Tudor Style using imported yellow brick. The building was used as a working school for girls, with boys joining the school in 1875. The building was extended in 1910 to a design by Harrison-Townsend. Since the school closed in 1949 the building has been in use as the Holy Trinity Church Hall.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. 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.

5.2 The principal monitored element was mechanically-excavated foundation trench for a new extension to the existing building (Figs. 2-3).

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig.4

6.1 The site was overlain by a modern concrete surface, L1008, which was removed prior to the excavation of the foundation trench. Below L1008 several levelling layers were present, including L1002, a layer of mid to dark orange, compact sand and gravel. The western part of the trench was dominated by a substantial (c. 0.60m thick) layer of made ground (L1009) associated with modern services present within the trench.

<i>Foundation trench, sample section 1. E end, facing N</i> 0.00 = 165.54 m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Dark grey to black, loose, silty sand with gravel.
0.12 – 0.25m	L1001	Dark grey, friable, sandy silt with dark yellow sand.
0.25 – 0.47m	L1002	Mid to dark orange, compact, sand with gravel.
0.47 – 0.56m	L1003	Red and white, loose, CBM rubble.
0.56m+	L1006	Natural mid to yellowish grey, compact, clay with occasional flint gravel.

<i>Foundation trench, sample section 2. S end, facing E</i> 0.00 = 165.47 m AOD		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1008	Concrete surface.
0.07 – 0.65m	L1009	Made ground. Dark grey, loose, sandy silt.
0.65 – 0.73m	L1010	Yellowish grey, compact, clayey silt with CBM.
0.73m+	L1006	Natural clay. As above.



6.2 An undated pit was recorded during the monitoring. F1004 was located in NE part of the trench and was located below L1003 at depth c. 0.47m below ground level (DP 5). It had moderately sloping sides and concave base (0.50 x 0.27m). Its plan was not distinguished as the feature was recorded only in the south section of the trench. F1004 contained a single fill, L1005, a blackish dark grey, friable sandy silt with ash and occasional charcoal and CBM. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

6.3 In the western part of the trench, below made ground L1009, the possible remains of a wall, M1011, were present. Two dark red bricks (0.12 x 0.08m) bonded with white chalky mortar were located directly above natural clay, L1006. These brick may represent a wall or demolition material.

## **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 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the production of tiles dating since at least early 14<sup>th</sup> century.

8.2 In the event the only archaeological feature found was an undated pit (F1004), and a possible wall or demolition material (M1011). No finds were recovered during the monitoring. The groundworks revealed that the area of the proposed extension to the church hall was significantly disturbed by modern drainage installations servicing the building.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Buckinghamshire County Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Penn Parish Council for their co-operation and funding of the monitoring. AS is grateful to Mr Bob Berry Architect for commissioning the project.

AS would also like to thank Ms Julia Wise of Buckinghamshire HER.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Ruth Beckley of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Church Road, Penn, Buckinghamshire. View NE.



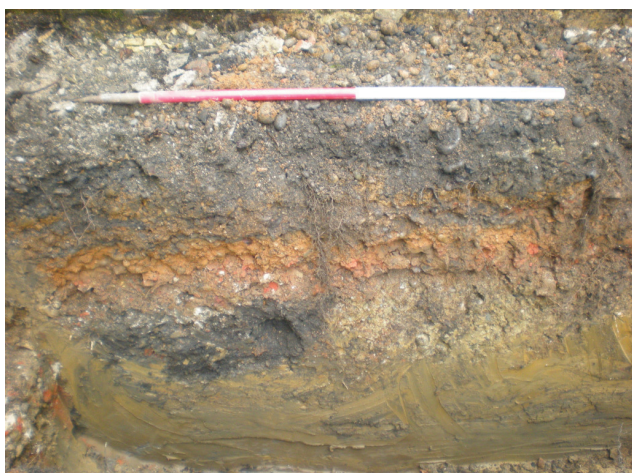
DP 2. Groundworks. View NE.



DP 3. Foundation trench. View NE.



DP 4. N part of the foundation trench with modern services. View WSW.

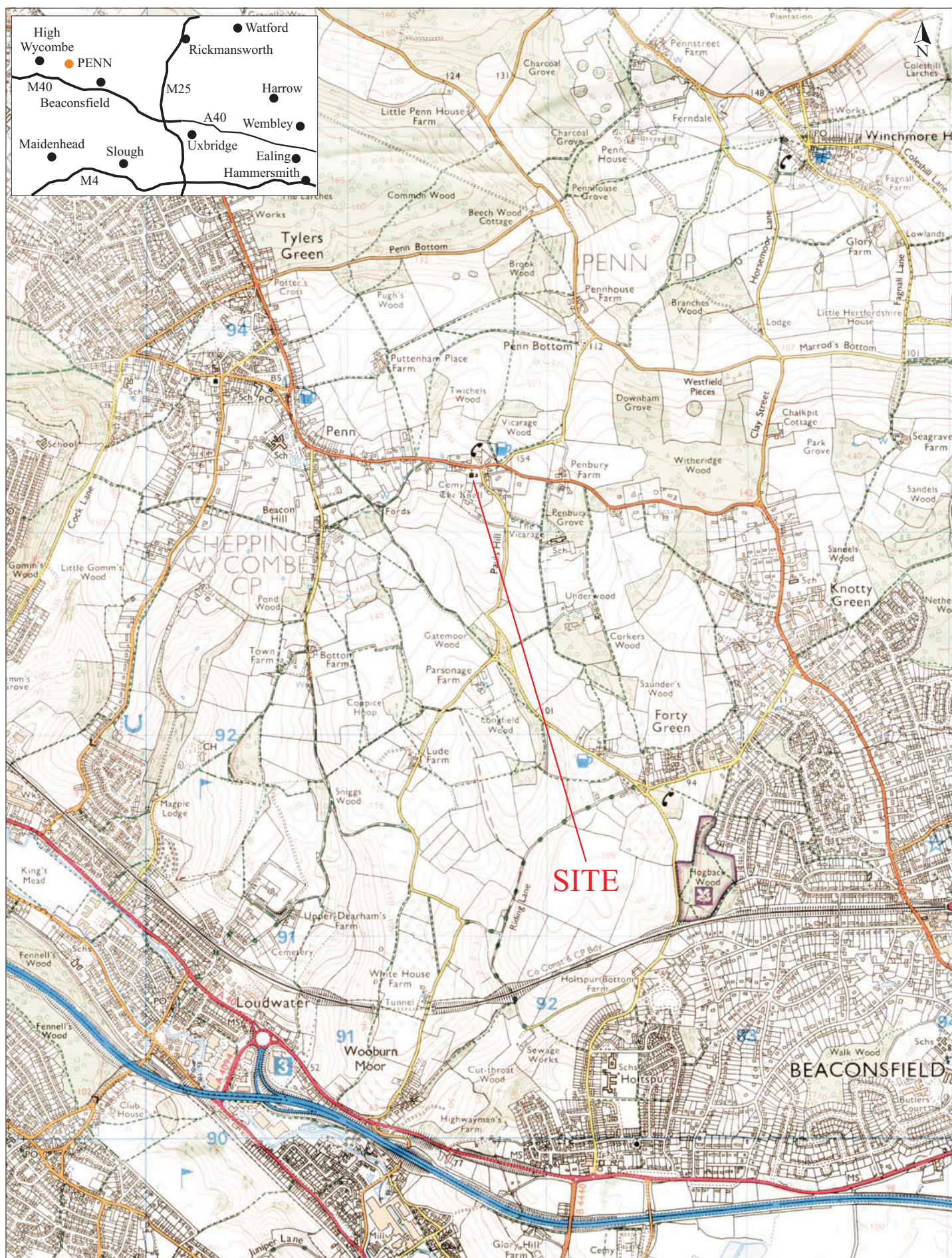


DP 5. N part of the foundation trench. Sample section 1. View S.



DP 6. W part of the foundation trench. Sample section 2. View W.

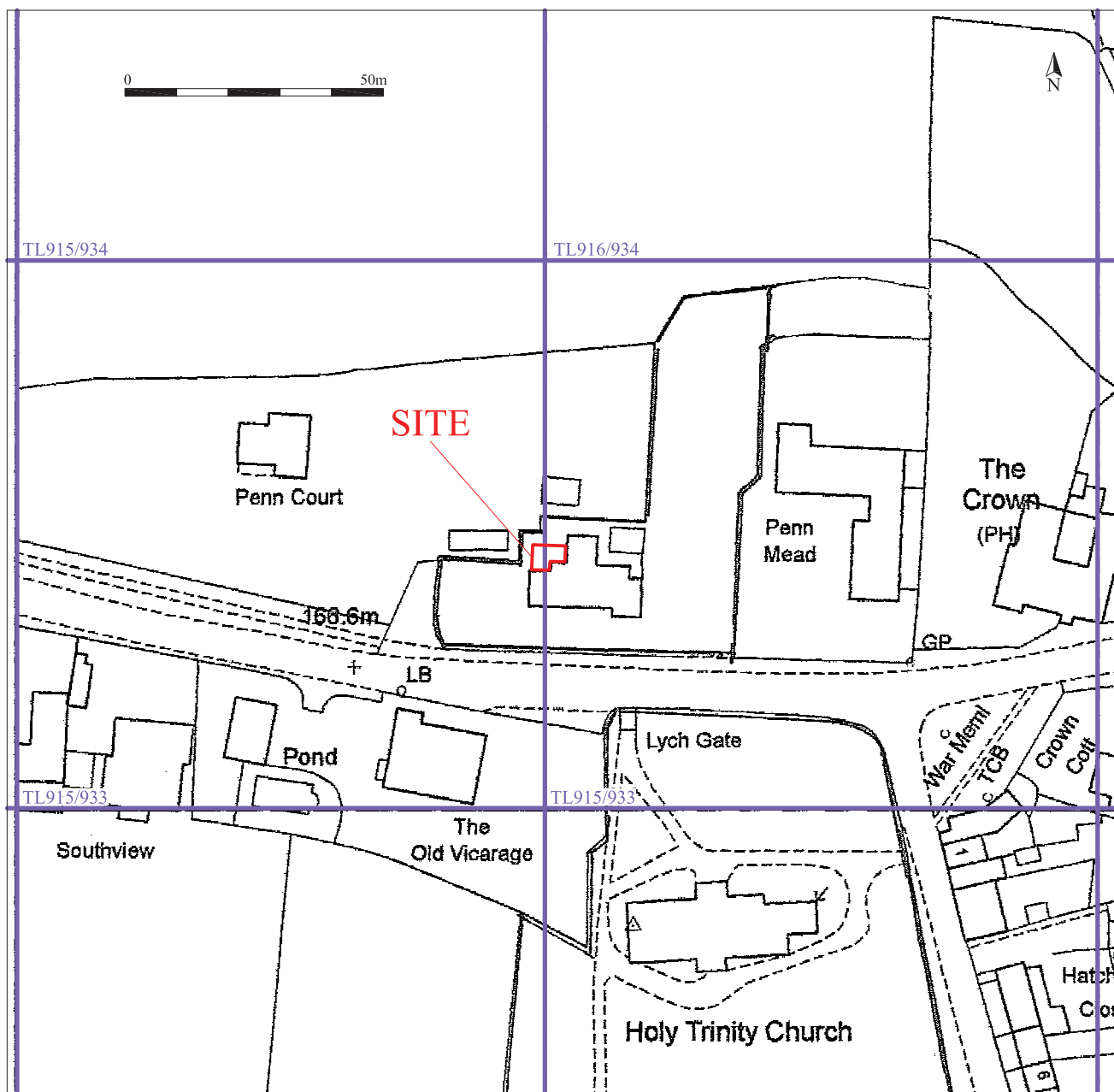




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



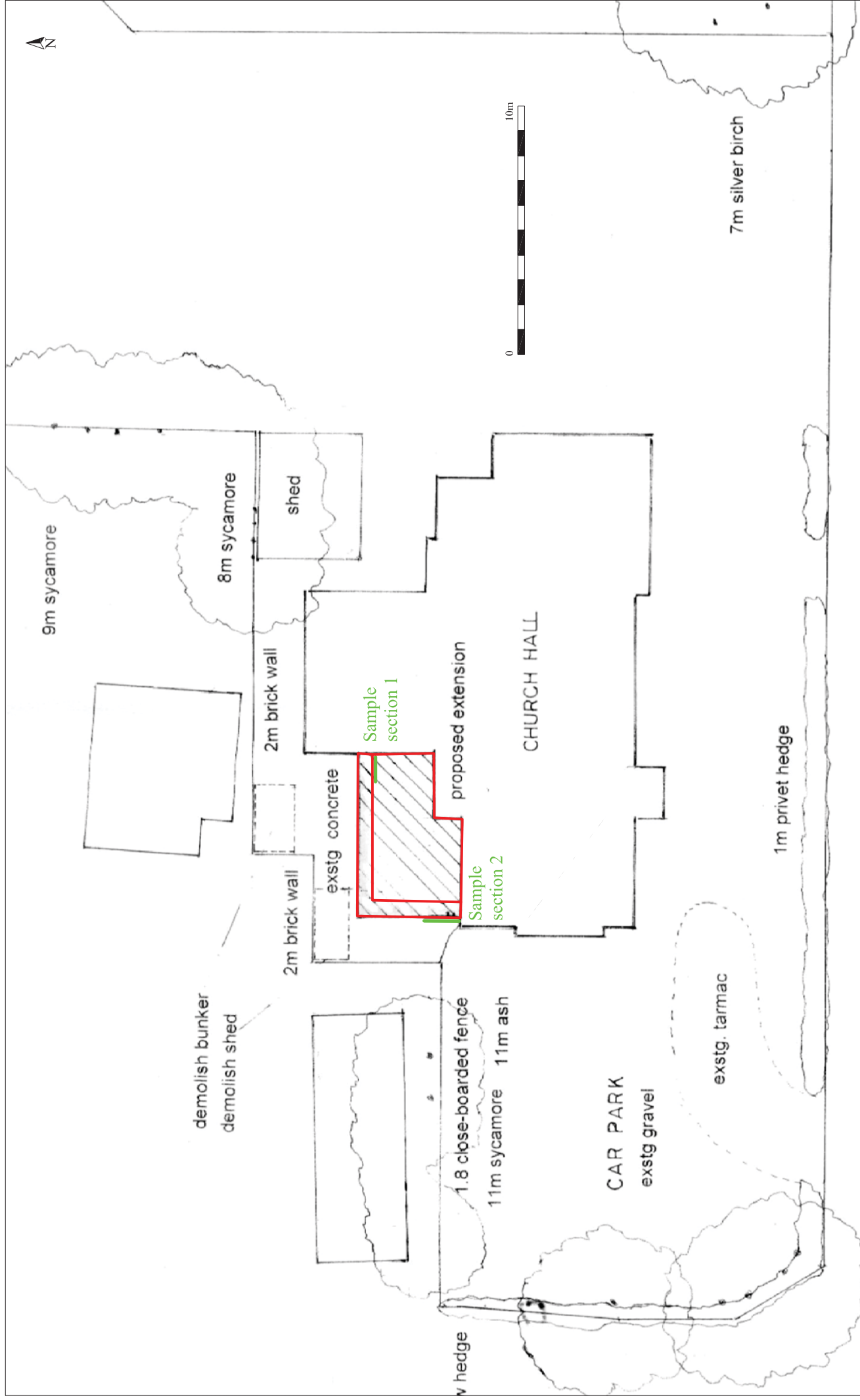


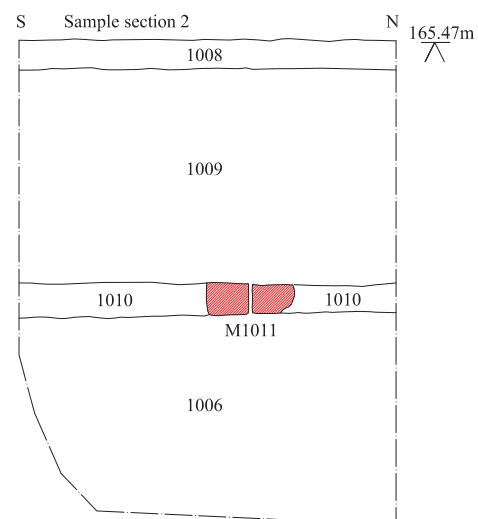
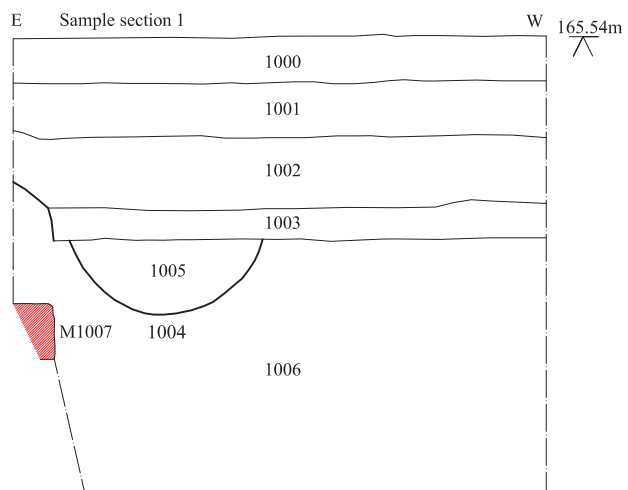
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

Scale 1:200 at A4





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<b>Fig. 4 Sections</b>
Scale 1:50 at A4