

**2 MANOR COTTAGES, GREAT CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**2 MANOR COTTAGES, GREAT CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Andy Peachey BA (Research) Gary Brogan BSc (Fieldwork)	
NGR: TL 5088 4275	Report No. 3351
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: GC48
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3527
Signed:	Date: July 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford, Essex</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford, Essex. The monitoring was carried out in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning permission (Uttlesford District Council, Planning Ref. UTT/1712/08/FUL) for a large extension to the rear of the present building.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the archaeological potential of the site, in particular for Roman and medieval remains, no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>16 July 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3527</i>	Site code	<i>GC48</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of archaeological potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension to the rear of the existing house</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Great Chesterford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>Approx 4 sq m</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 5088 4275</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>39m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Richard Havis, Historic Environment Management Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mrs J Moss</i>		
Full title	<i>2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford; Essex Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Andy Peachey and Gary Brogan.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3351</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2009</i>		

2 MANOR COTTAGES, GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford, Essex. The monitoring was carried out in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning permission (Uttlesford District Council, Planning Ref. UTT/1712/08/FUL) for a large extension to the rear of the present building.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, in particular for Roman and medieval remains, no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 16th July 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford, Essex. (NGR TL 5088 4275; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by the owner, Mrs J Moss, was carried in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning permission (Uttlesford District Council, Planning Ref. UTT/1712/08/FUL) for a large extension to the rear of the present building.

1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken according to a brief issued Essex County Council Historic Environmental Management Team (HEM) (Mr. R. Havis, dated May 2009) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (dated 8th June 2009). It also adhered to the IFA' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001), and was undertaken according to the requirements of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 '*Archaeology and Planning*' (PPG16), which is widely applied by local authorities. PPG16 (1994) applies to archaeology and 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, when necessary, the excavation of the site.

1.4 The principal objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording were;

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains,
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme,
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required, and;
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies within the village of Great Chesterford, in the core of the medieval and post-medieval settlements, and just to the south of the scheduled area of the Roman walled town (Fig. 1). Therefore the site is within an area of established archaeological potential.

2.2 The development lies to the rear of 2 Manor Cottages, which is one of a small row of terraced cottages (DP 1). The development consists of the demolition of an existing 20th century extension and construction of a new extension. The latter therefore is to utilise some existing foundations with the remainder located on established garden.

2.3 The site is located within an area that slopes very gradually to the south-west, toward the River Cam or Granta. It lies at approximately 39m AOD. The village of Great Chesterford is located upon a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous Upper Chalk and Middle Chalk, which is overlain by chalky till. Soils of the area comprise those of the Moulton and Swaffham Prior Associations, which are described as well drained and fine loamy soils over chalk (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric

3.1.1 Earlier prehistoric activity in Great Chesterford is represented by scatters of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint work particularly in the southern area of the town close to the site, and to the north of the modern town in the area of the late Iron Age/Roman Fort. Bronze Age burials and hoards have also been recorded in and around the town, within a 2km radius of the modern settlement.

3.2 Romano-British

3.2.1 The earliest Roman settlement at Great Chesterford was a fort, which appears to have been founded in the period immediately following the

Boudiccan revolt of AD60. A settlement developed and expanded outside the southern gate and achieved urban status during the 2nd century AD. After the abandonment of the fort the town expanded into the area of the fort and by the end of the 2nd century AD filled an area of approximately 12 hectares. The town declined in the 3rd century AD before expanding again in the 4th century AD, culminating in the construction of the town walls. In addition, a local antiquarian, Dr Gower, discovered the remains of a second walled enclosure south of Newmarket Road in 1756. On the outskirts of the town at least five cemeteries have been identified, one of which may be located under the area of the adjacent public house (Havis 2009). A Roman temple (built c.AD70 on the site of a late Iron Age shrine) has been located approximately 1km north-east of the town. However, the site is to the south and east of the defined areas of late Iron Age and Roman occupation and activity.

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

3.3.1 The archaeological evidence, principally in the form of burials, suggests a large Saxon population at Great Chesterford from the end of the Roman period to at least the 7th century. The location of the Saxon settlement may have been at Hinxtton Hall, Cambridgeshire and later on the same site as the medieval town but does not appear to have been urban in nature. The site falls within an area defined as one of the Saxon cemeteries to the south of the town, where five burials were found in an area adjoining the churchyard and two horse burials found under Crown Cottages.

3.4 Medieval

3.4.1 Following the Norman Conquest, Great Chesterford became a royal manor and was reasonably prosperous during the medieval period, largely due to the cloth trade. It is of interest as an example of an Essex settlement (apparently more of a village than a town) that has developed according to the Midlands tradition, both in morphology and in building types. Great Chesterford is one of the few areas of Essex that retained its strip-fields until the enclosure acts of 1804. The site is close to the medieval market place and within the built-up area of medieval Great Chesterford.

3.5 Post-medieval & later

3.5.1 The post-medieval period was a period of decline for Great Chesterford, mainly because of the collapse of the cloth trade. As a result, by the 16th century the area of the site was no longer within the built up area of the town, but was only c.150m north-west of Manor Farm (built c.1500), a grand manor possibly on the site of an earlier medieval hall within a moated enclosure.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

4.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted on the new foundation trenches and pier base for the new extension. Both were excavated by hand, the foundation trenches being 0.65m wide on average and the pier base was 0.70m square (Figs. 3-4). The new foundations were located on the western side of the extension. On the eastern side the existing foundations were retained.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 The new foundation trenches.

<i>Sample Section 1 DP 4; Fig. 3.</i> <i>Facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 39.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 1.10m	L1000	Made ground. Firm dark grey brown sandy silt, flecked with chalk and containing occasional small angular flint.
1.10m+	L1001	Natural. Compact white chalk.

<i>Sample Section 2 DP 5 Fig. 3.</i> <i>Facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 39.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 1.00m	L1000	Made ground. As above
1.00m+	L1001	Natural. As above

No archaeological features or finds were present.

5.2 The pier base

<i>Sample Section 3 DP 6 Fig. 3.</i> <i>Facing north</i> <i>0.00 = 39.04m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1002	Surface. Pale yellow grey concrete yard surface.
0.12 – 0.90m+	L1000	Made ground. As above.

No archaeological features or finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Immediately to the rear of the house was a concrete yard surface (L1002). This had been removed over the footprint of the western half of the extension and was not extant over the eastern part of the new extension due to the location of the previous extension. Under the concrete yard, L1002, was a substantial layer of made ground, L1000. This was uniform across the site, being firm dark grey brown sandy silt, flecked with chalk and containing occasional small angular flint. Several modern services were located within this layer, which was presumably associated with the construction of the cottages or the later rear extensions. A fragment of 19th to 20th century sewage pipe (67g) was recovered from the made ground layer (L1000).

7.2 The natural chalk (L1001) was located at the base of the foundation trenches, between 1m and 1.10m below present ground level.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Despite the high archaeological potential of the site, in particular for Roman and medieval remains, no archaeological features were present. This was possibly due to the limited nature of the groundworks.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mrs J. Moss for commissioning and funding the archaeological monitoring and recording.

AS would also like to acknowledge Mr. R. Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team for his advice and input.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper No. 14

Havis, R. 2009 *Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*. IFA, Reading

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

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Description	Spot Date	Pottery
1000	Topsoil	Late 19th/early 20th C	(1) 67g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery *Peter Thompson*

The monitoring and recording recovered a fragment of sewage pipe weighing 67g recovered from made ground layer, L1000. It is dated to the late 19th-20th centuries.

APPENDIX 3

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY
AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford	
Parish: Great Chesterford	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5088 4275	Site Code: GC48
Type of Work: Monitoring and recording	Site Director/Group: Gareth Barlow
Date of Work: 16 July 2009	Size of Area Investigated:
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Private client. Mrs J. Moss
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: -
Final Report: Yes	
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 2 Manor Cottages, Great Chesterford, Essex. The monitoring was carried out in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning permission (Uttlesford District Council, Planning Ref. UTT/1712/08/FUL) for a large extension to the rear of the present building.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the archaeological potential of the site, in particular for Roman and medieval remains, no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Gary Brogan	Date of Summary: July 2009

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Front view of 2 Manor Cottages, looking south.



2
Rear of 2 Manor Cottages showing the new foundation trenches under excavation, looking north.



3
General view of foundation trenches, looking north.



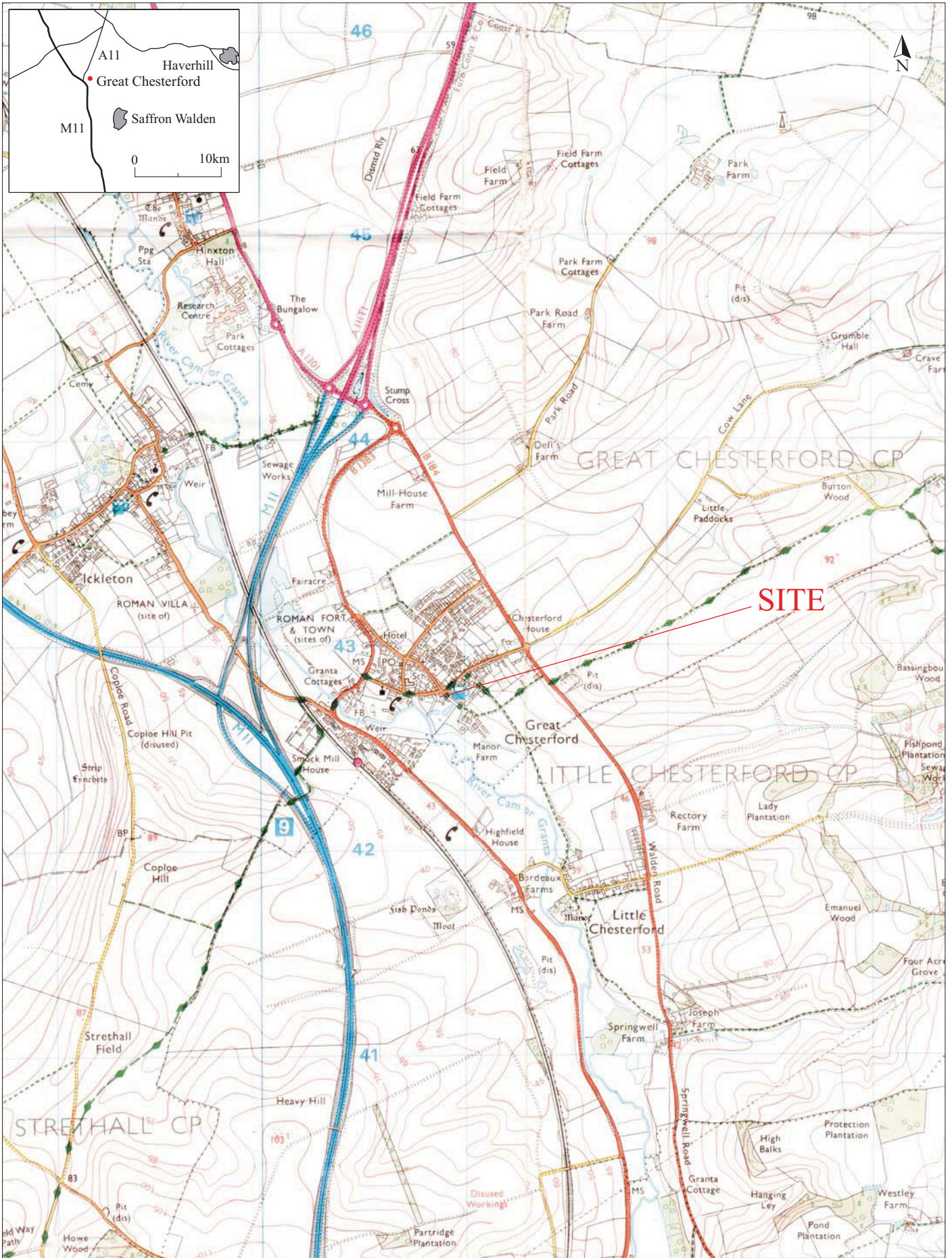
4
Sample Section 1, looking north.



5
Sample Section 2, looking east.

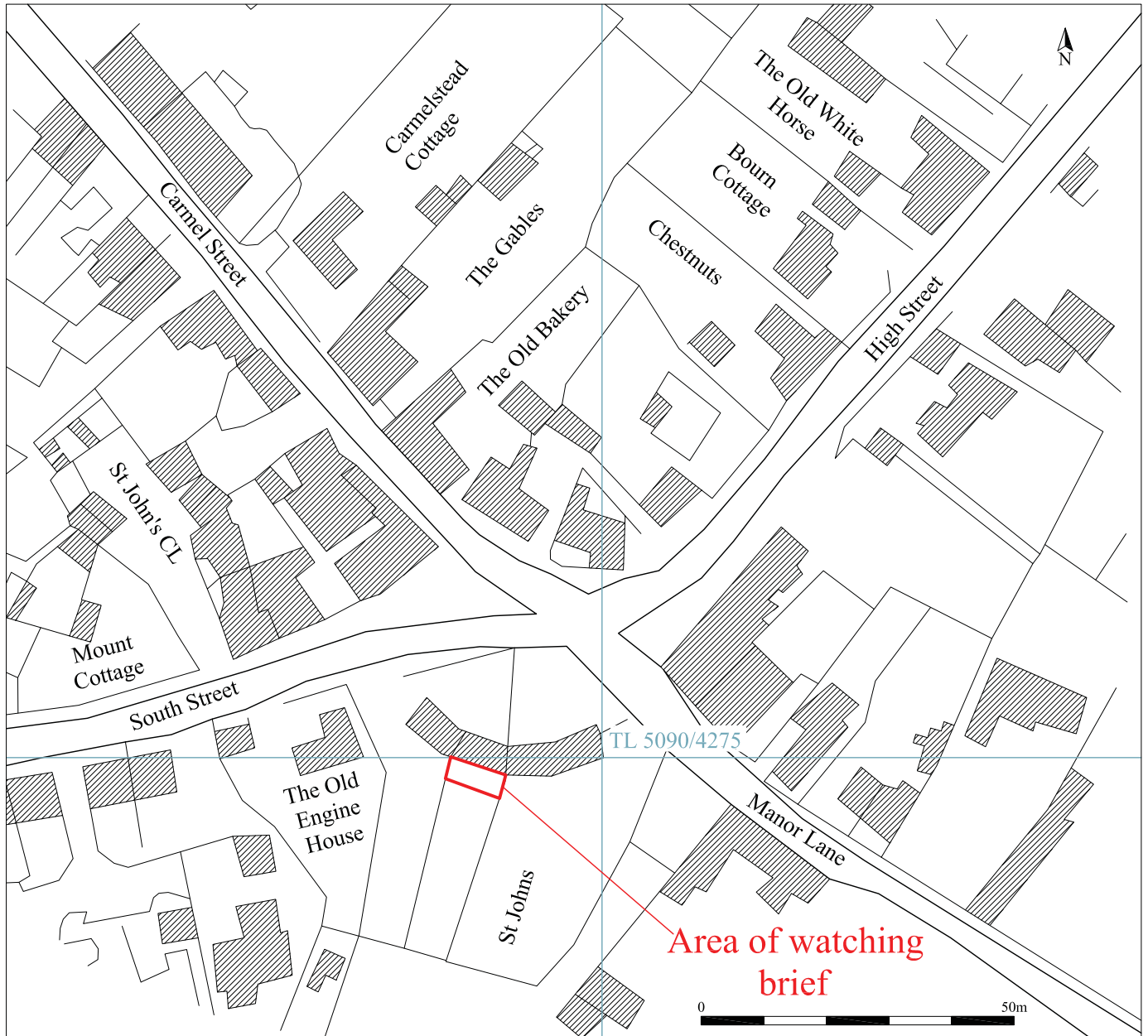


6
Sample Section 3, looking south.

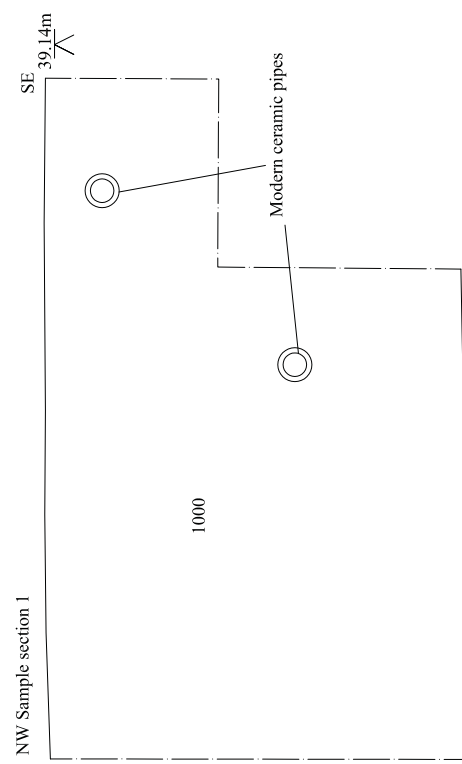
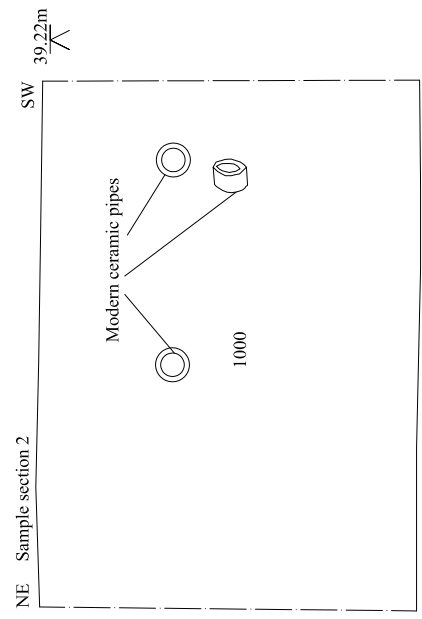
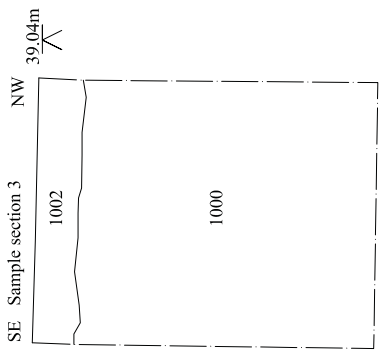
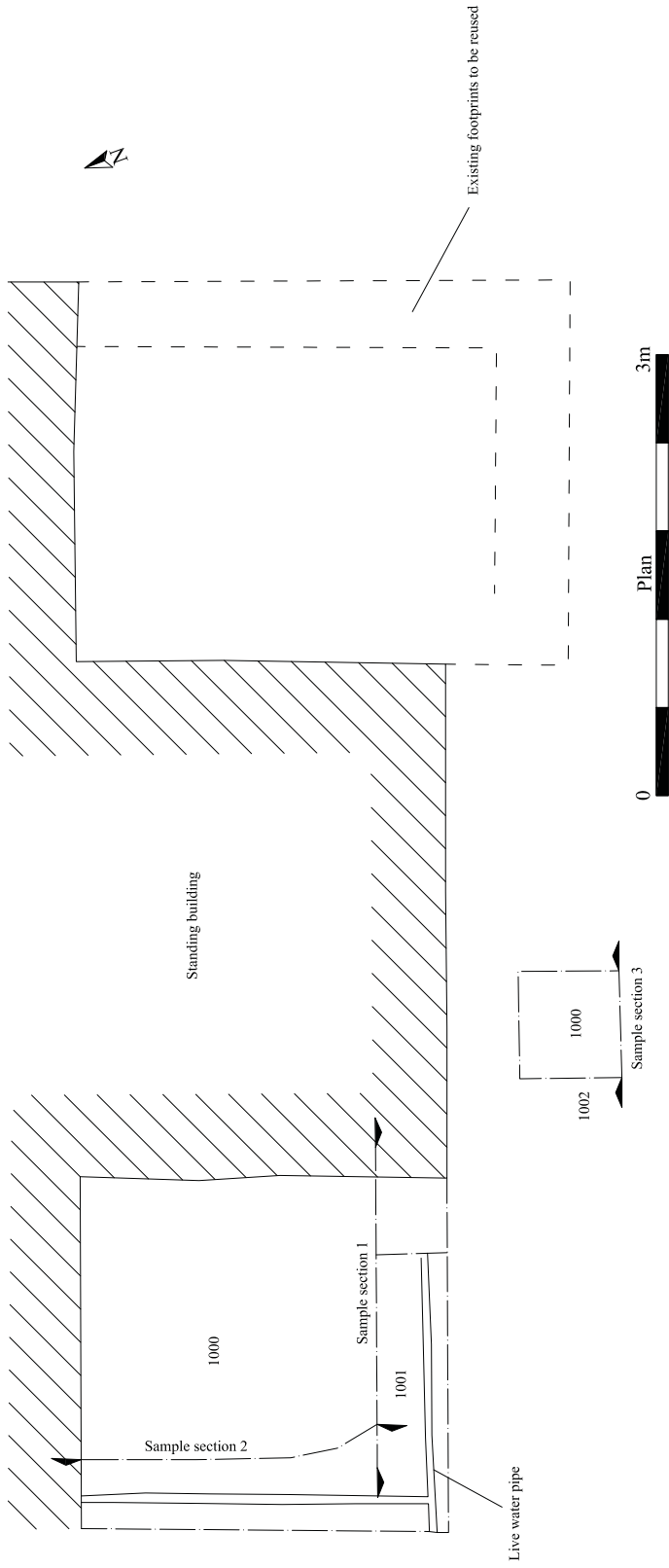


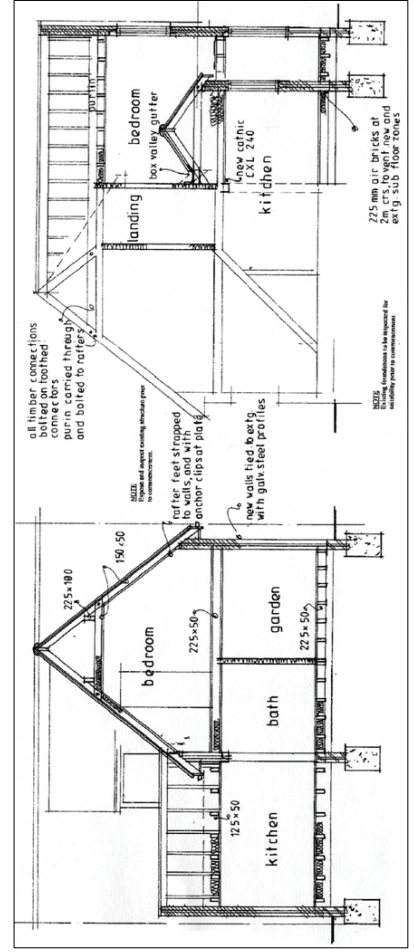
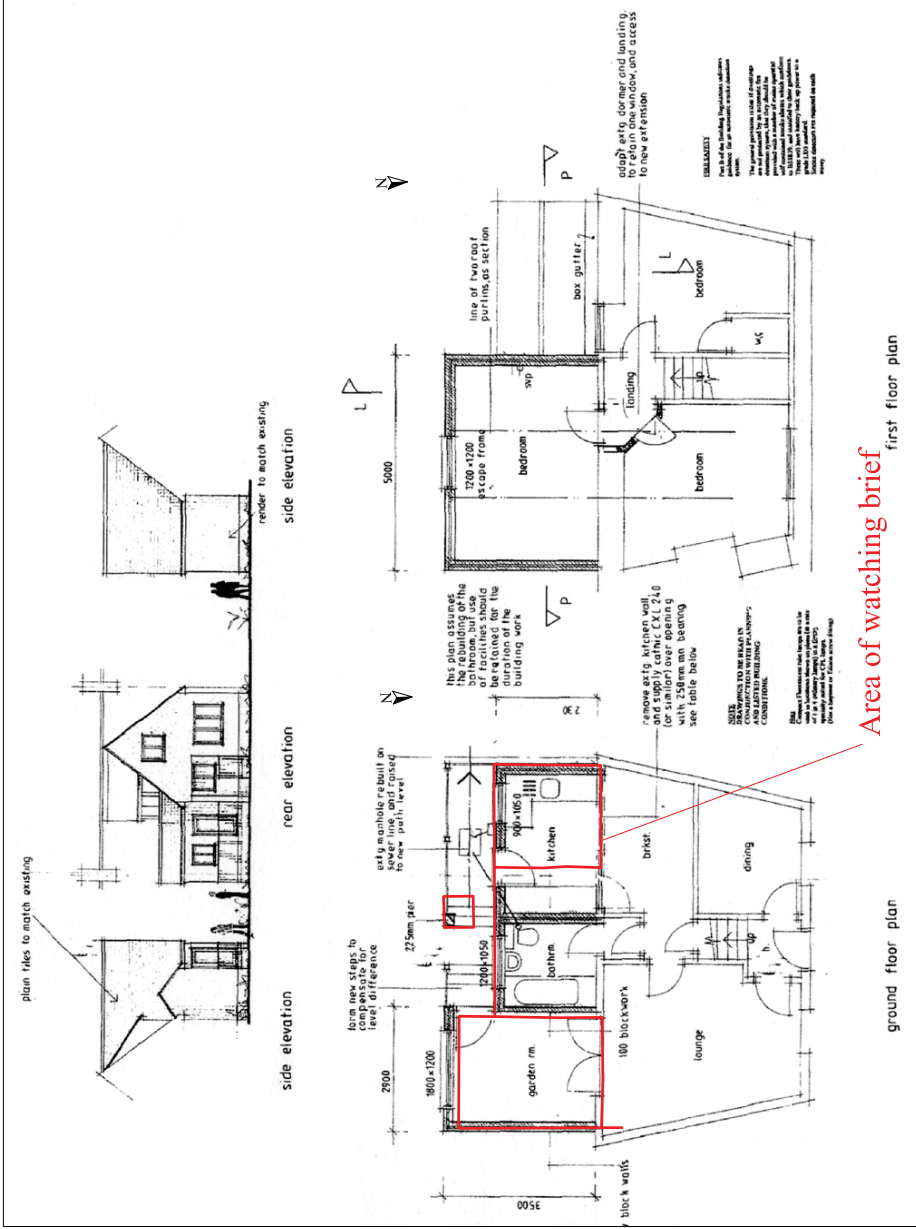
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4





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Fig. 4 Proposed plans, elevations, & sections
 Scale 1:125 at A3