
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LANCASTER FARM, HATFIELD HEATH, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TL 5442 1496	Report No: 3249
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: HFLF.08
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P3301
Signed:	Date: January 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Project description: <i>During November 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex. The work was commissioned in advance of the proposed construction of a new agricultural building.</i>			
<i>The site is located in a small depression which slopes towards Pincey Brook in the west. On the opposite side of a Pincey Brook at a distance of c. 2km is the small settlement of Hatfield Heath. About 1.5km to the north is the small settlement of Hatfield Broad Oak. The site lies close to the southern moat of a double moated enclosure located south of the parish church (EHER 4341).</i>			
<i>Only a single modern boundary ditch was located during the archaeological monitoring and recording. It is likely that any archaeological feature, if present, were destroyed about 20 years ago when the land was levelled and a hardcore surface was created to provide parking and storage space. No finds or features were located associated with located nearby moat.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	25 th November 2008		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P3301	Site code	HFLF.08
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	None		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural machinery parking area</i>		
Planned development	<i>Agricultural building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern boundary ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Uttlesford	Hatfield Heath
HER/ SMR for area	ECC HEM		
Post code (if known)	CM22 7BB		
Area of site	600m ²		
NGR	TL 5442 1496		
Height AOD (max/min)	74 – 76m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	ECC HEM		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Rozwadowski M.		
Funded by	Mr. JG. Hunt		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Rozwadowski, M.</i>		
Report no.	3249		
Date (of report)	December 2008		

LANCASTER FARM, HATFIELD HEATH, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

During November 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex. The work was commissioned in advance of the proposed construction of a new agricultural building.

The site is located in a small depression which slopes towards Pincey Brook in the west. On the opposite side of a Pincey Brook at a distance of c. 2km is the small settlement of Hatfield Heath. About 1.5km to the north is the small settlement of Hatfield Broad Oak. The site lies close to the southern moat of a double moated enclosure located south of the parish church (EHER 4341).

Only a single modern boundary ditch was located during the archaeological monitoring and recording. It is likely that any archaeological feature, if present, were destroyed about 20 years ago when the land was levelled and a hardcore surface was created to provide parking and storage space. No finds or features were located associated with located nearby moat.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During November 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an program of archaeological monitoring and recording at Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex (NGR: TL 5442 1496, Fig. 1) The work was commissioned by Mr JG Hunt in advance of the proposed construction of a new agricultural building.

1.2 The monitoring and recording was carried out according to brief from Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) dated September 2008 and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (AS) dated 16th October 2008. The work was required to comply with a planning condition for archaeological investigation required as part of a planning consent (Planning Ref. UTT/1119/08FUL). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999) and also the relevant sections of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed to identify any evidence of occupation of medieval or later date in the area of the nearby moat.

1.4 The main project objectives were:

- to monitor all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of project archive.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is adjacent to an existing agricultural building. Additional agricultural buildings are located to the north-east. The area of the site is level providing parking and storage space. The site lies at a height of approximately 75m AOD. A water-filled moat is located to the north of the site.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on Palaeogene marine silty clays, clayey and sandy silts of the London Clay group which overlie Cretaceous white chalk with flints of the Upper Chalk group.

3.2 Soils in the area are of the Stretham association which is characterised by deep well drained calcareous soils associated with similar but slowly permeable soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies in close proximity to the southern moat of a double moated enclosure (EHER 4341). Around the house the moat is filled-in, elsewhere it is water-filled and is on average 10m in width. An archaeological watching brief undertaken in 1994 during the construction of an agricultural building to the south of the moated enclosure revealed evidence of soil being deposited and levelled. The material was probably derived from the excavation of the moat. A single archaeological feature consisting of a layer of burnt daub possibly pre-dating the moat was also uncovered.

4.2 Another moated site is located 750m north east of the site (EHER 4416). The moat is stirrup-shaped and possibly encloses one or two small mounds or tumuli. There are no traces of any structures within the moated area.

4.3 The Historic Environment Record documents several areas of cropmarks within a 1km radius of the site. A possible ring ditch and trackway are recorded c.1km to the north-east of the site (EHER 19546). Additional cropmarks in the area primarily show the alignments of former field boundaries (EHER 19400 & 19401).

4.4 Approximately 1200m to the south of the site a Bronze Age finders hoard was excavated in 1893 (EHER 4355). The hoard was contained within an earthen pot, and comprised socketed axes, a socketed hammer, four fragments of a bronze vessel, two spearheads (and a fragment of another), two cauldron handles with rings, one hollow loop and twenty lumps of copper and bronze.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the 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.

5.2 The monitoring and recording was conducted on groundworks associated with the excavation of foundation pads associated with the construction of the new agricultural building (Fig. 2). The site visit to monitor these works was undertaken on 25th November 2008.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Thirteen post-pads were excavated to allow for the construction of a new agricultural building. The monitoring revealed that the stratigraphy across the eastern side of the site was uniform. Given the close proximity of the excavated post-pads it was decided to select several of the sample sections to provide coverage of the whole area. The location of the recorded sample sections is depicted in Fig. 3.

Foundation Pad 1: DP 2

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP 2) west side; east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 72.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern surface. Dark blackish grey loose silty gravel.
0.05 – 0.30m	L1002	Modern build up hardcore. Mid reddish brown moderately compact clayey silt with frequent CBM and moderate sub rounded cobbles.
0.30 – 0.75m	L1003	Mid orangey red moderately compact sandy silt with frequent large cobbles.
0.75m+	L1001	Natural. Light greyish yellow mottled with white compact silty clay with frequent chunks of chalk.

Foundation Pad 2: DP3

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 3) north side; south facing</i> <i>0.00m = 72.13m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern surface. As above.
0.05 – 0.35m	L1002	Modern build up. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Foundation Pad 3: DP 4

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 4) west side; east facing</i> <i>0.00m=72.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern surface. As above.
0.05 – 0.35m	L1002	Modern build up. As above.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Foundation Pad 4: DP 5

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 5) west side; east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 72.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern surface. As above.
0.05 – 0.40m	L1002	Modern build up. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Foundation Pad 5: DP 6

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 6) south side; north facing</i> <i>0.00m = 72.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1004	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional pebbles and cobbles.
0.35 – 0.60m	L1005	Subsoil. Light brownish grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional pebbles, cobbles and chalk chunks.
0.60m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Foundation Pad 6: DP 7

<i>Sample section 6 (DP 7) west side; east facing</i> <i>0.00m =72.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern surface. As above.
0.05 – 0.30m	L1002	Modern build up. As above.
0.30 – 0.50m	L1005	Subsoil. As above.
0.50m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: A modern ditch was located in this sample section.

F1006 was a linear ditch (1.6m+x1.2m+x0.8m+) with steep sides. The base of the feature was not revealed, and the northern edge of the ditch was not revealed within the excavated foundation pad. Its upper fill, L1007, was a light greyish yellow mottled with white moderately compact silty clay with frequent chunks of chalk. Its lower fill L1008, was a dark greyish brown soft to moderately compact clayey silt with modern CBM and concrete.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Only the western end of the site was not disturbed by modern development. In this area (Sample Section 5), the topsoil L1004, was mid brownish grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional pebbles and cobbles. It overlay, L1005, light brownish grey moderately compact clayey silt with occasional pebbles, cobbles and chalk. Below 1005, was the natural, L1001, a light greyish yellow mottled with white compact silty clay with frequent chunks of chalk.

8.2 Across the rest of the site, a modern surface, L1000, was present. It comprised a dark blackish grey loose silty gravel modern surface with a depth of 0.05m. It overlay L1002, hardcore. L1002 directly overlay the natural clay, L1001. In the south-eastern most corner of the site (Sample Section 1) a layer of demolition material, L1003, overlay the natural clay, this deposit was only visible in foundation pad 1.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies close to the southern moat of a double moated enclosure located south of the parish church (EHER 4341). In the event the site proved to have very limited archaeological potential. Only a single modern boundary ditch was located during the archaeological monitoring and recording. It is likely that archaeological features, if present, were destroyed about 20 years ago when the land was levelled and a hardcore surface was created to provide parking and storage space. No archaeological features or finds were located associated with the nearby; moat.

10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr JG Hunt for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological works, and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge Adam Garwood of ECC HEM for his advice and input.

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Institute of Field Archaeologists (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

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

Webpages:

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Lancaster Farm, Hatfield Heath, Essex	
Parish: Hatfield Heath	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5442 1496	Site Code: HFLF.08
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	Site Director/Group: Michal Rozwadowski/ Archaeological Solutions
Date of Work: 25 November 2008	Size of Area Investigated: c. 60m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated? No	Related HER No.s: 19028, 4341
Final Report: Yes.	
Periods represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>The site is located in a small depression which slopes towards Pincey Brook in the west. On the opposite side of a Pincey Brook at a distance of c. 2km is the small settlement of Hatfield Heath. About 1.5km to the north is the small settlement of Hatfield Broad Oak. The site lies close to the southern moat of a double moated enclosure located south of the parish church (EHER 4341).</i></p> <p><i>Only a single modern boundary ditch was located during the archaeological monitoring and recording. It is likely that any archaeological feature, if present, were destroyed about 20 years ago when the land was levelled and a hardcore surface was created to provide parking and storage space. No finds or features were located associated with located nearby moat</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/ Reports: No	
Author of Summary: Michal Rozwadowski	Date of Summary: January 2008

PHOTO INDEX



DP 1 General view of the site before work commences, looking west.



DP 2 Sample section 1, looking west.



DP 3 Sample section 2, looking north.



DP 4 Sample section 3, looking west.



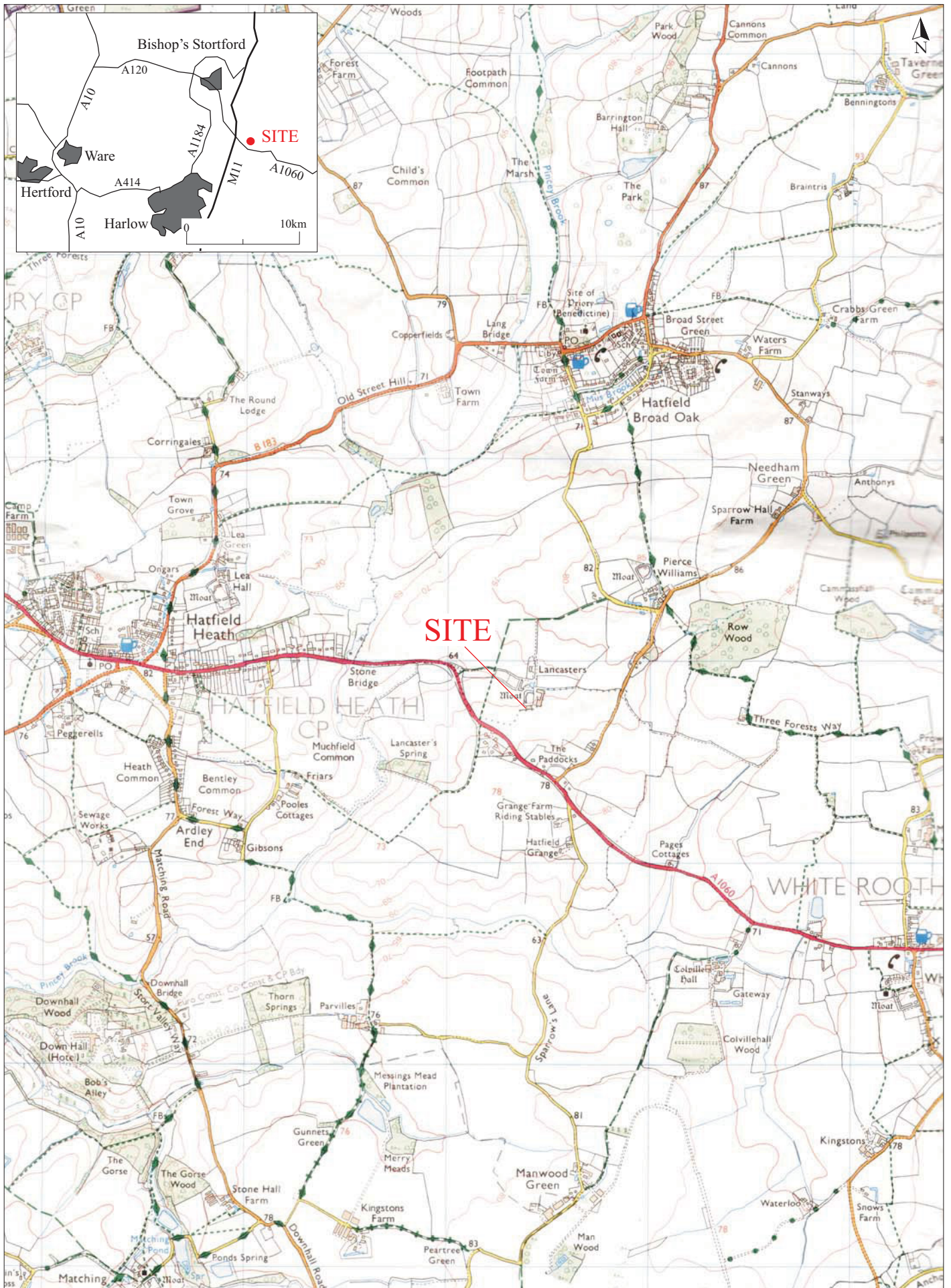
DP 5 Sample section 4, looking west.



DP 6. Sample section 5, looking south.

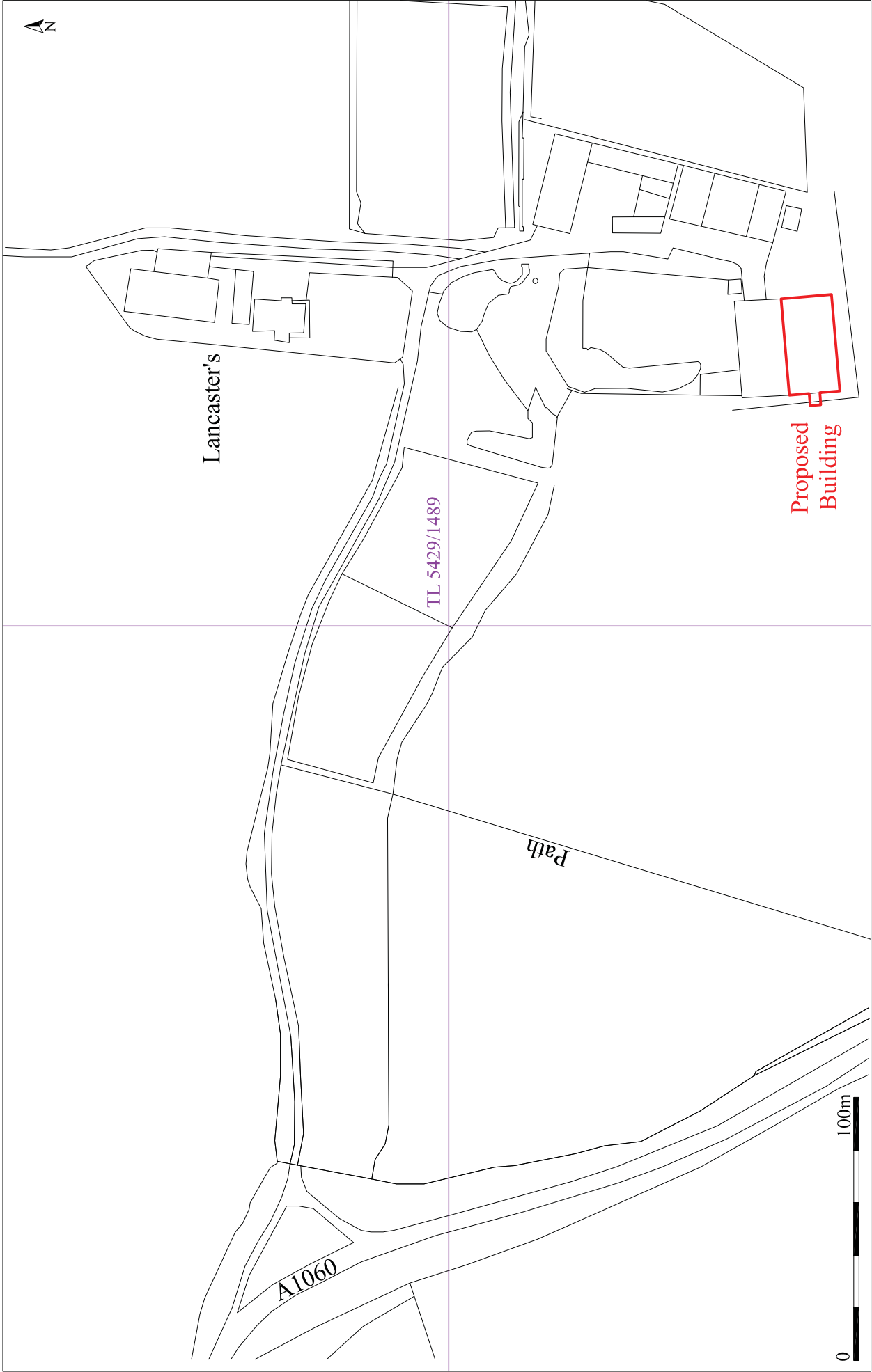


DP 7. Sample section 6 with F1006 visible, looking west.



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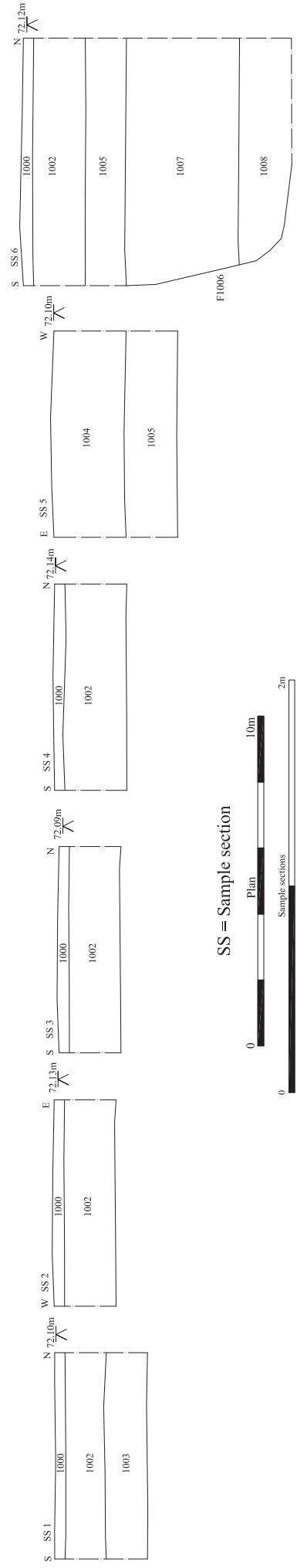
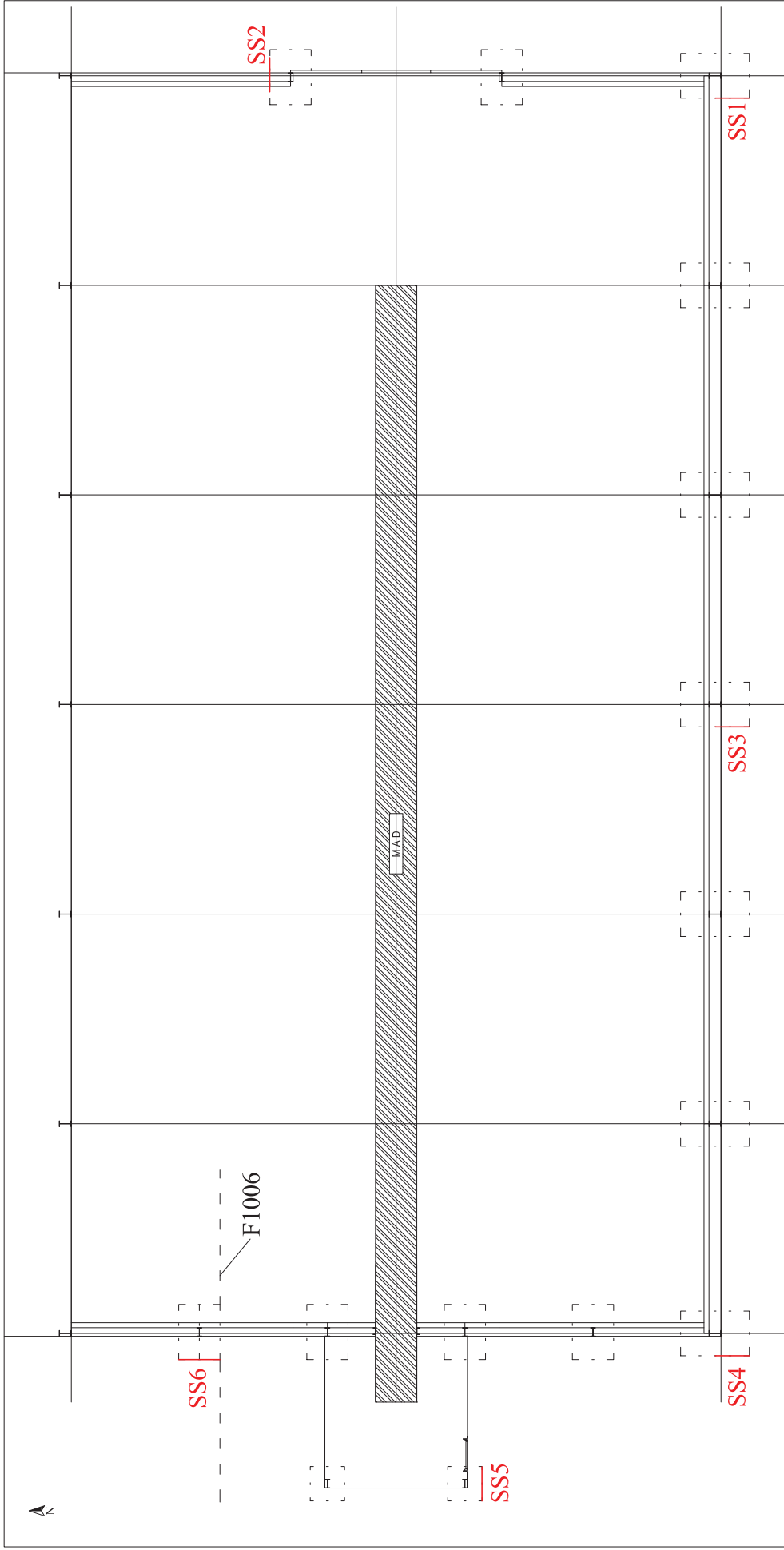
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



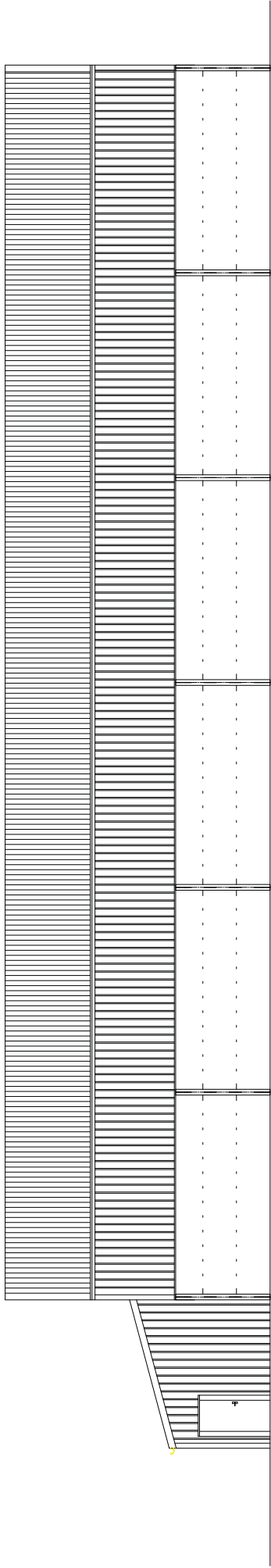
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

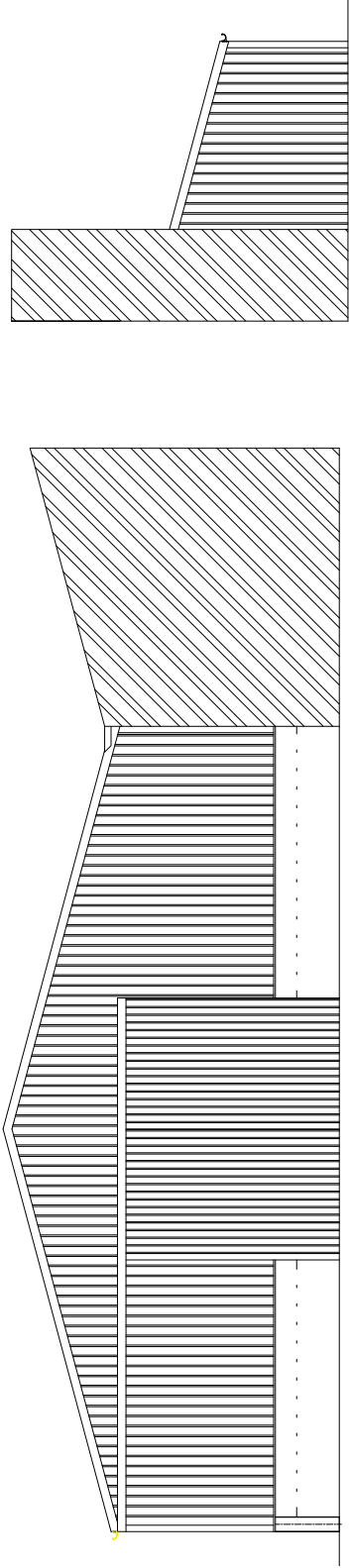
Scale 1:2000 at A4



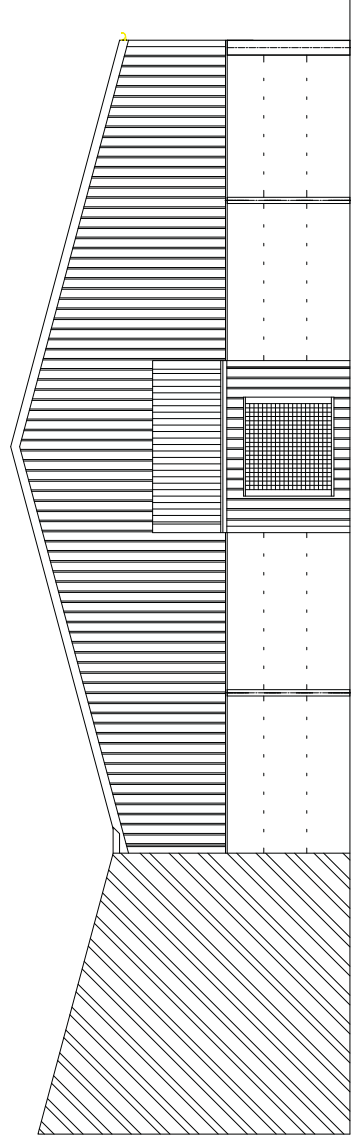
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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections
 Scale plan at 1:125 & sample sections at 1:20 at A3



North elevation



West elevation



East elevation

