


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, WALTON,  
FELIXSTOWE, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Tim Schofield BSc (Fieldwork and report) Lisa Smith BA (Report) Kathren Henry (Graphics)	
NGR: TM 2958 3561	Report No. 3427
District:	Site Code: FEX 079
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3418
Signed: 	Date: November 2009

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>St Mary's Church Hall, Walton, Suffolk. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In October 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at St. Mary's Church Hall, Walton, Suffolk (NGR TM 2958 3561). The monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the northern side of the church hall (Planning Ref. C/08/1901).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring encountered a series of modern made ground layers associated with the construction and use of the existing church hall. No archaeological finds or features were present.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P3418</i>	Site code	<i>FEX 079</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Existing church hall</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension to church hall</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>		<i>Felixstowe</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>30 sq m</i>		
NGR	<i>TM 2958 3561</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 21m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – Conservation Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tim Schofield</i>		
Funded by	<i>Trustees of St Mary's Hall</i>		
Full title	<i>St Mary's Church Hall, Walton, Suffolk. Archaeological Monitoring.</i>		
Authors	<i>Schofield, T. and Smith L.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3427</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2009</i>		

# ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, WALTON, FELIXSTOWE SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*In October 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at St. Mary's Church Hall, Walton, Suffolk (NGR TM 2958 3561). The monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the northern side of the church hall (Planning Ref. C/08/1901).*

*The monitoring encountered a series of modern made ground layers associated with the construction and use of the existing church hall. No archaeological finds or features were present.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at St. Mary's Church Hall, Walton, Suffolk (NGR TM 2958 3561)(Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the northern side of the church hall (Planning Ref. C/08/1901). It was commissioned by Peter Donoghue Architect on behalf of the Trustees of St Mary's Church Hall.

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was conducted in response to a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Keith Wade, dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 18th February 2009). It complied with the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001). It also complied with the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

### 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE Figs. 1 - 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies on the western side of the High Street, Walton, Felixstowe, c. 100m from the church of St. Mary. The latter retains some medieval elements, along with much Victorian work.

2.2 Walton is an area of archaeological potential with known remains dating back to the Roman period. A Roman fort, built in the third or fourth centuries AD was discovered on high ground near Brackenbury Fort. It would have formed part of the coastal defences for the area, and is often referred to as Walton Castle. It continued to be in use throughout the early 7<sup>th</sup> century

and Middle Ages becoming one of the two principal sites claimed for the location of Dommoc, the original Bishop's seat of St Felix (c. 630 AD). The site lies within the historic core of the medieval/post-medieval settlement of Walton.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 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 excavated by hand and recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

3.2 The monitoring and recording focused on all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including ground reduction, and the digging of foundations for the small extension. The site was visited on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009.

### 4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig. 2

#### 4.1 Site visit 21/10/09

Approximate 5 m of the foundation trench was excavated at the north-eastern end using a 2.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3 DP 1). The wall to the west of the building was removed using a pneumatic pecker exposing the existing wall foundations of the church hall. Three sample sections were recorded. Sample Section 1 illustrated the wall foundations and associated levels. Sample Sections 2 and 3 recorded the stratigraphy either side of the foundation trench.

##### *Sample Section 1*

South-east side, north-west facing (Fig 3 DP 2)		
0.00m = 21.93m AOD		
0.00 – 0.89m	L1008	Wall foundation backfill. Hardcore and brick within a compact, mid brown yellow sandy clay.
0.89 – 1.10m	L1003	Made ground. Compact, mid grey brown clayey silt and sand with hardcore rubble and occasional broken brick and cement.
1.10m+	L1004	Sandy Clay Natural. Friable, mid brown yellow, sandy clay and gravel.

*Description:* The church hall wall foundations (M1006 and M1007) were contained within the backfill (L1008) of the construction cut.

Foundation M1006 consisted of nine brick courses (0.22m x 0.08m) in stretcher bond. The foundations extended 0.80m below the ground surface and rested on a single levelling course (M1007). It was directly above Made

Ground L1003. The backfill of the construction cut for M1006 comprised hardcore and brick within a compact, mid brown yellow sandy clay (L1008).

*Sample Section 2*

North-west side, south-east facing (Fig 3) 0.00m = 21.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.70m	L1005	Garden soil. Compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent tree roots.
0.70m+	L1004	Sandy Clay Natural. As above.

*Sample Section 3*

South-east side, North-west facing (Fig 3) 0.00m = 21.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Made ground. Friable light grey pink ashy silt and clinker
0.09 – 0.15m	L1001	Made ground. Friable, dark grey black charcoal and ash.
0.15 – 0.17m	L1002	Made ground. Friable, light white yellow silty sand.
0.17 – 0.80m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.80m+	L1004	Sandy Clay Natural. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological finds or features were present.

**4.2 Site visit 23/10/09**

The remainder of the foundation trench was excavated. Two sample sections were recorded at the southern end of the trench. The stratigraphy at the southern end of the trench was the same as that in the north.

*Sample Section 4*

North-west side, South-east facing (Fig 3) 0.00m = 21.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.75m	L1005	Garden soil. As above.
0.75m+	L1004	Sandy Clay Natural. As above.

*Sample Section 5*

South-east side, North-west facing (Fig 3 DP3) 0.00m = 21.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.09 – 0.16m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.15 – 0.18m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.17 – 0.86m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.86m+	L1004	Sandy Clay Natural. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological finds or features were present.

## **5 CONFIDENCE RATING**

5.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

## **6 DEPOSIT MODEL**

6.1 A series of modern made ground layers were identified in the section immediately adjacent to the church hall wall. The uppermost layer was a friable light grey pink ashy silt and clinker (0.09m thick; L1000). The latter overlay L1001, a friable, dark grey black charcoal and ash (up to 0.07m thick) L1002 was below L1001. It was a friable, light white yellow silty sand (0.02m thick). It overlay L1003. The latter was a compact, mid greyish brown clayey silt and sand with hardcore rubble and occasional broken brick and cement (0.21m - 0.69m thick). L1003 overlay the natural (L1004).

6.2 In the trench sections furthest away from the church hall wall a garden soil, L1005, directly overlay the natural. L1005 was a compact, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent tree roots. It was up to 0.75m below the present ground surface, and overlay L1004, a friable, mid brown yellow, sandy clay and gravel.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

7.1 The archaeological monitoring encountered a series of modern made ground layers associated with the construction and use of the existing church hall. No archaeological finds or features were present.

## **8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

8.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Suffolk HER, and the archive deposited there. A unique event number will be obtained from the County Historic Environment Record Officer.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank The Trustees of St Mary's Church Hall for their co-operation and funding the project. AS acknowledges Mr Peter Donoghue, Architect, who commissioned the project

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Keith Wade of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001).



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

*General view of the site. Looking East*



2

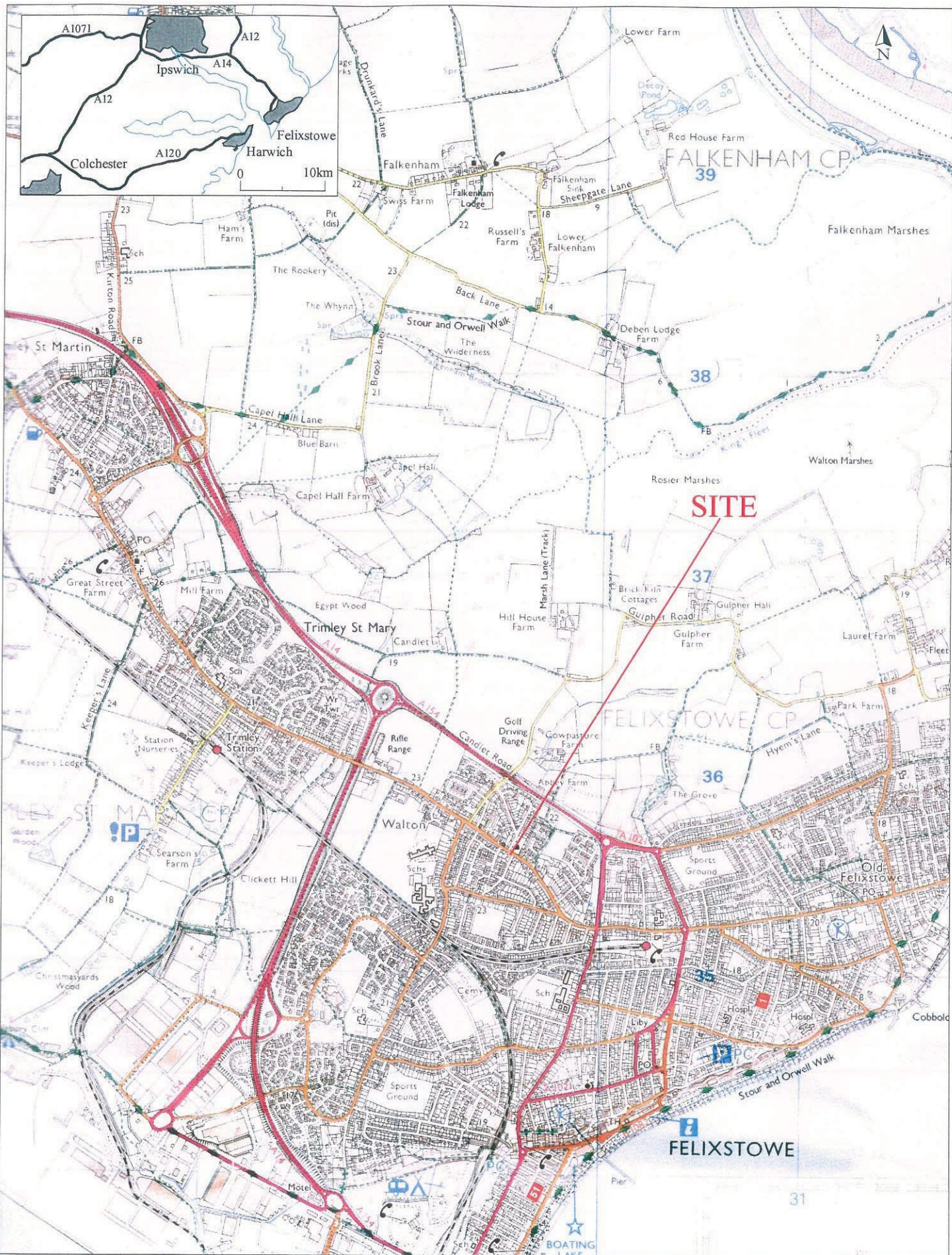
*Sample Section 1. Looking South-East.*



3

*Sample Section 5. Looking South- East.*

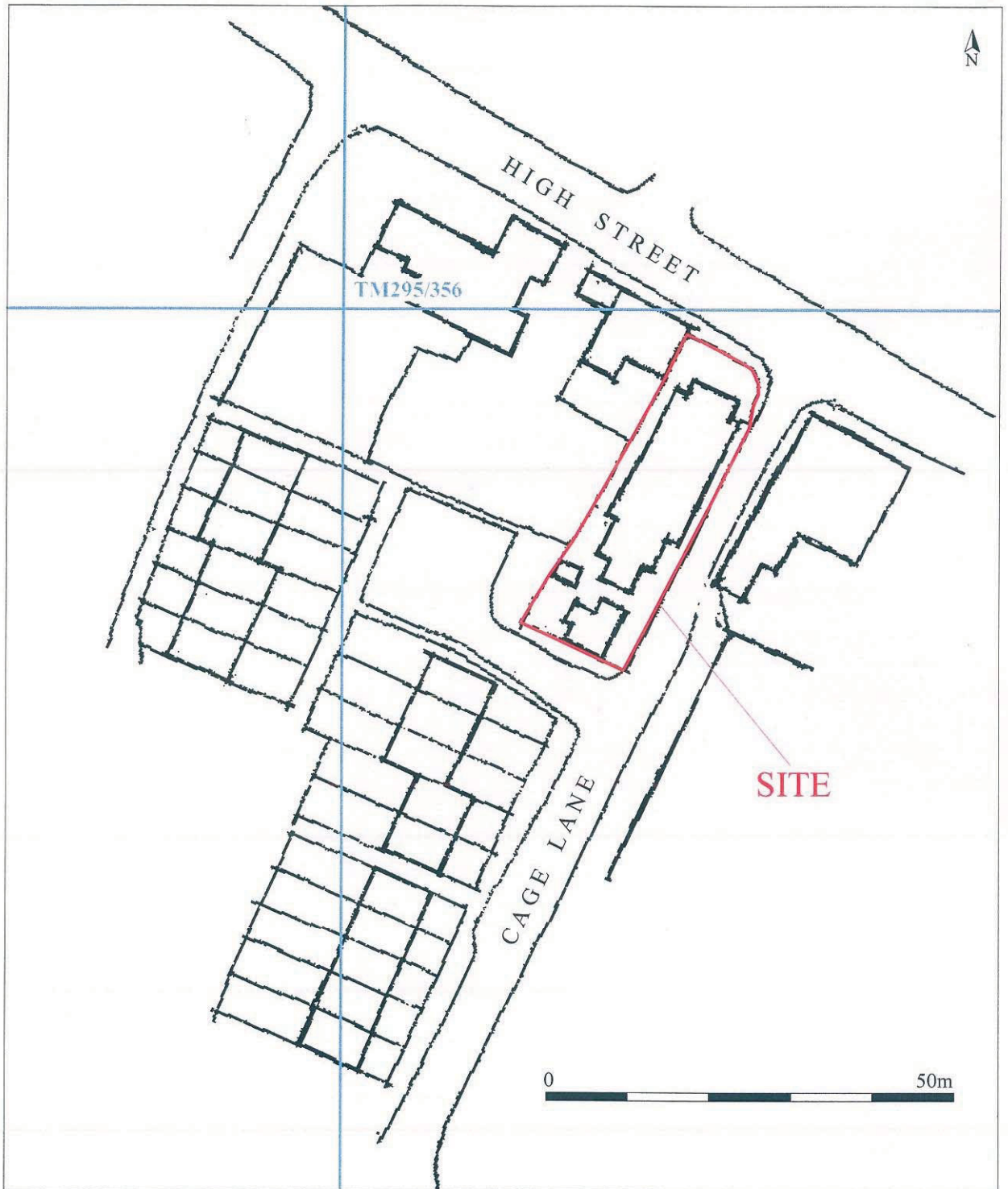




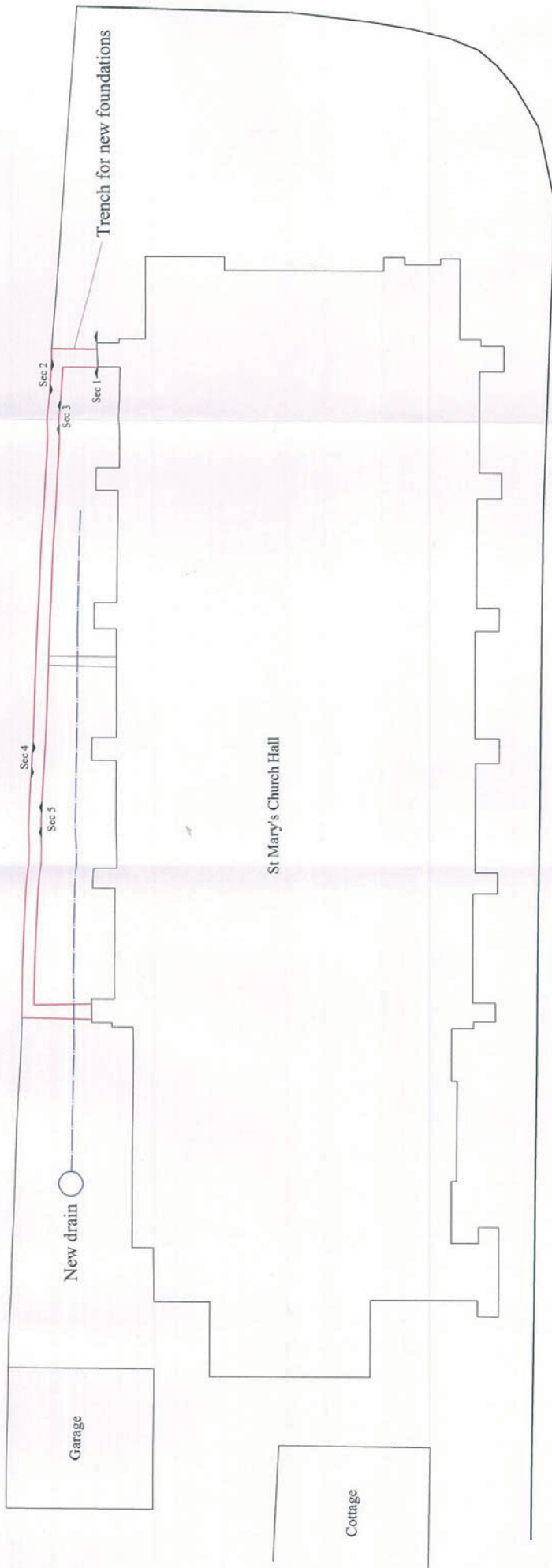
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

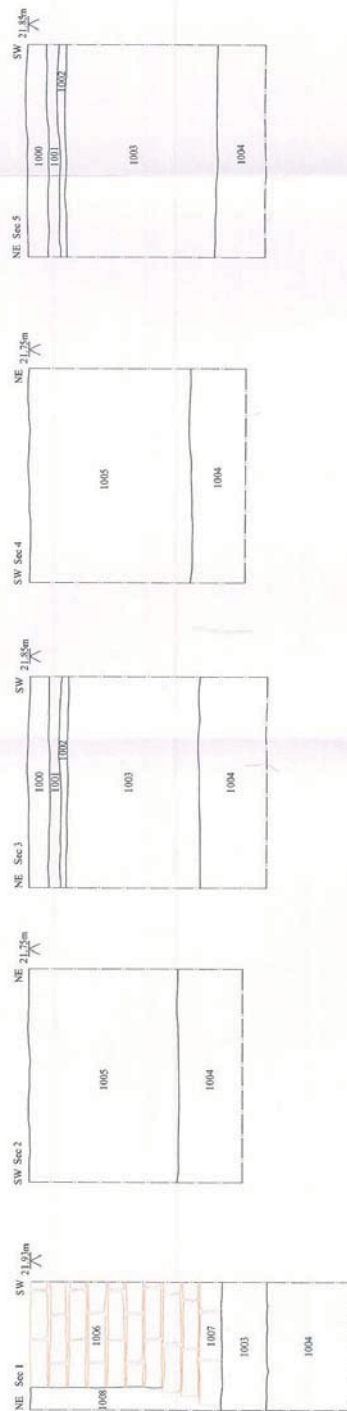




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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:750 at A4



CAGE LANE



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**Fig. 3 Plan and sections**  
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:25 at A3