

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

ELM COTTAGE, NEWMARKET ROAD,
GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Matthew Adams BA (Fieldwork and Report)	
NGR: TL 5041 4320	Report No. 3542
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: CG 49
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3843
Signed:	Date: April 2010

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party replies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD
98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB
Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel: 01992 558170
Fax: 01992 553359
E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Project details			
Project name	<i>Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In March and April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of two extensions to a residential dwelling at Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR: TL 5041 4320). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Pat Maurice and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Uttlesford District Council (Ref. UTT/1045/09/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the area of the 4th century Roman walled town (EHER 4925) and next to the 1st century fort (EHER 4944).</i></p> <p><i>The site had the potential for Roman remains, as evidenced by a previous evaluation carried out on the site. For the music room a shallow raft foundation was inserted, and for the kitchen extension strip foundation trenches were excavated. In the event the foundations were relatively shallow and did not penetrate modern deposits.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>31st March and 19th April 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3843</i>	Site code	<i>CG 49</i>
Type of project	<i>Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological interest associated with the Roman town wall</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Two extensions to residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Great Chesterford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>c. 56.5m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 5041 4320</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.38m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Martin Brook BA</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mrs Pat Maurice of Elm Cottage</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Matthew Adams BA</i>		
Report no.	<i>3542</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>7th May 2010</i>		

ELM COTTAGE, GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In March and April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of two extensions to a residential dwelling at Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR: TL 5041 4320). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Pat Maurice and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Uttlesford District Council (Ref. UTT/1045/09/FUL).

The site lies within the area of the 4th century Roman walled town (EHER 4925) and next to the 1st century fort (EHER 4944).

The site had the potential for Roman remains, as revealed by the previous evaluation of the site. For the music room a shallow raft foundation was inserted, and for the kitchen extension strip foundation trenches were excavated. In the event the foundations were relatively shallow and did not penetrate modern deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March and April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of two extensions to a residential dwelling at Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR: TL 5041 4320; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Pat Maurice. It was carried out to comply with a planning condition imposed on approval to construct a single-storey extension to the south side of the property, and a two-storey extension to the rear and new front porch (Uttlesford Planning Ref. UTT/1045/09/FUL). The site also lies with an area designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument, and Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained for the works by the client. The front porch is not being built at this time, so the monitoring was confined to the two extensions (music room and kitchen extension).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (R Havis, dated 12/2009), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (dated 11/03/2010), and approved by both ECC HEM and English Heritage. The programme of archaeological monitoring & recording during groundworks for the proposed new extensions was conducted according to the IfA *Standard and Guidance for*

Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (also revised 2008). It will also adhere to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 Objectives

- ECC HEM required detailed archaeological monitoring of the excavations for the proposed groundworks (in particular topsoil stripping, foundation excavations etc).

For the music room, a shallow raft foundation was proposed, and the monitoring was carried out during soil removal down to the base of the raft.

For the kitchen extension, the foundation trenches were to be subject to archaeological monitoring.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) 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) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 (2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 It is proposed to construct a new music room extension and kitchen

extension at Elm Cottage, Great Chesterford, Essex. The cottage lies within the area of the Roman town, on the line of the town wall, within the area which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. The extensions extend into the current garden / drives area of the house.

2.2 The brief notes the detailed archaeological background to the site, which is also detailed in the historic town assessment report for Great Chesterford (Medlycott, 1999). In summary:

The site lies within the area of the 4th century Roman walled town (EHER 4925) and next to the 1st century fort (EHER 4944). The town wall runs roughly N/S through the site, and has been recorded to the south along Newmarket Street as a large robbed-out foundation trench. Roman burial and a lead coffin have been found at Fairacre to the north (EHER 13928 & 13930).

2.3 Following on-site discussions with the client, ECC HEM and English Heritage, a previous programme of test pitting/trial trenching was carried out in order to define the position of the Roman town wall and depths of archaeological deposits on the site (ECC FAU). Following discussions with the architect, the foundations of the proposed extensions were designed to protect the archaeological remains.

2.4 The archaeological evaluation comprised a 3.2m x 0.6m trial trench along the proposed south-eastern foundation of the music room extension, and 1x1m test pit in the proposed kitchen extension area, with the aim of locating the western defensive wall of the late Roman town. The substantial wall foundation (of large flint nodules/rubble set in sandy clay) was recorded in the music room trench, with stratified probable dump deposits against its south-western (internal) side. This was overlain by Victorian walls/surfaces associated with an ancillary building. The test pit to the rear in the proposed kitchen extension revealed only modern services, a chalk/tile layer sealing a post-medieval buried soil with sparse residual Roman material.

Research Aims

2.5 The principal research aims are to identify any evidence of archaeological remains within the site which are exposed during the limited groundworks required for the proposed extensions. The East Anglian regional research frameworks (Glazebrook 1997, Brown & Glazebrook 2000) provide research topics for the Roman period, many of which are applicable to the understanding of the known development of Great Chesterford.

2.6 Research topics for the Roman period are set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22). These topics include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production, further research into agricultural

production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession/regression and issues of relict landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues.

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 encompassed the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including the mechanical excavation of footings, ground reduction and service trenches.

4 RESULTS

Site visits 31st March and 19th April 2010 (Fig. 3)

4.1 The site was visited over two days with continuous observation of the stripping of the proposed foundation trenches.

4.2 An area covering approximately c. 56.5m² was excavated using a tracked, mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a bladed ditching bucket.

4.3 Five sample sections were recorded of the stratigraphy and are tabulated below.

Sample Section 1 Figs.3 - 4

Sample Section 1, NW/SE 0.00m = 38.22m AOD	
0.00 – 0.14m	L1001. Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent CBM
0.14 – 0.28m	L1002. Surface. White chalk with occasional CBM
0.28 – 0.32m	L1003. Bedding Layer. Light orange / yellow silty sand with mortar
0.32 – 0.46m	L1004. Buried Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt

Sample Section 2 Figs.3 - 4

Sample Section 2 SE/NW 0.00m = 38.25m AOD	
0.00 – 0.08m	L1002. Surface. White chalk with occasional CBM. As above
0.08 – 0.12m	L1003. Bedding Layer. As above.
0.12 – 0.43m	L1004. Buried Topsoil. As above

Sample Section 3 Figs.3 - 4

Sample Section 3 NE/SW 0.00m = 38.34m AOD	
	L1002. Surface. White chalk with occasional CBM. As above
0.07 – 0.12m	L1003. Bedding Layer. Light orange / yellow silty sand with mortar
0.12 – 0.30m	L1004. Buried Topsoil. As above

Sample Section 4 Figs.3 - 4

Sample Section 4 SW/NE 0.00m = 38.47m AOD	
0.00 – 0.29m	L2023. Made Ground. Light yellowish brown sandy gravel
0.29 – 0.99m	L2024. Re-deposited topsoil/subsoil. Dark orange brown compact clay

Sample Section 5 Figs.3 - 4

Sample Section 5 SE/NW 0.00m = 38.51m AOD	
0.00 – 0.18m	L2025. Made Ground. Light grey / yellow loose sandy gravel
0.18 – 0.41m	L2002. Surface. White chalk with occasional CBM. As above
0.41 – 0.48m	L2026. Bedding Layer. Dark brown / grey silty sand with frequent fragmented modern roof tile
0.48m +	L2024. Re-deposited topsoil / subsoil. As above

Description: The monitoring and recording revealed modern and made ground deposits. Undisturbed deposits and the underlying natural were not revealed.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The site had the potential for Roman remains (Section 2 above). For the music room a shallow raft foundation was inserted, and for the kitchen extension strip foundation trenches were excavated. In the event the foundations were relatively shallow and did not penetrate modern deposits.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and will be integrated with that of the preceding archaeological evaluation. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mrs Pat Maurice for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological monitoring.

Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank the Mr R Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch for his input and advice with the project, as well as the assistance of Ms Deborah Priddy of English Heritage Eastern Region.

REFERENCES

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (eds.), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

ECC FAU, 2009, *Elm Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation*, Report Ref. 2125

Glazebrook, J (ed.), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Medlycott, M, 1999, *Great Chesterford: Historic Town Assessment*

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Area of watching brief (south-west side), looking north-east.



2
Area of watching brief (south-east side), looking north-west.



3
Area of watching brief (south-east side), looking south-east.



4
Sample section 1, looking north-east.



5
Sample section 2, looking south-west.



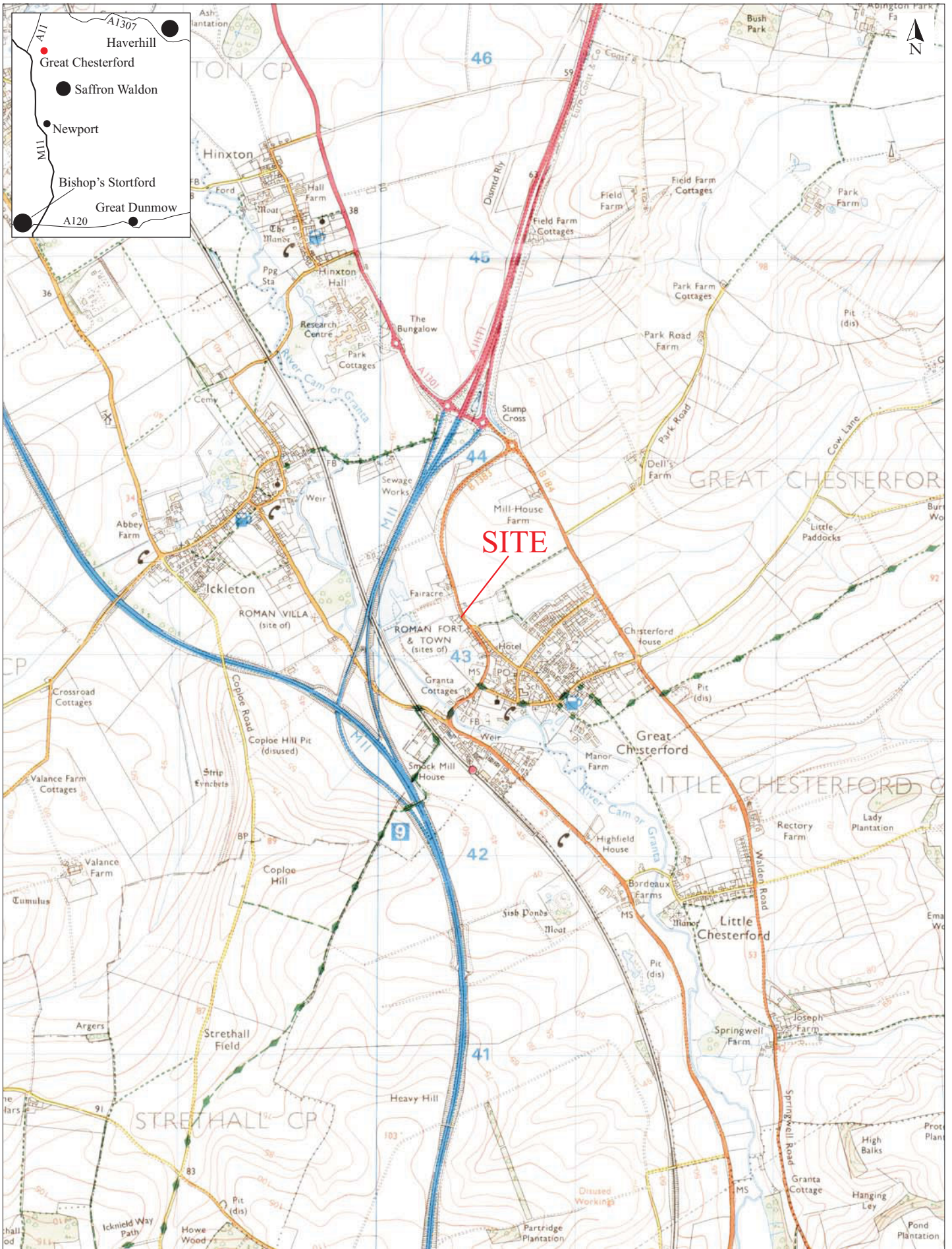
6
Sample section 3, looking south-east.



7
Sample section 4, looking north-west.

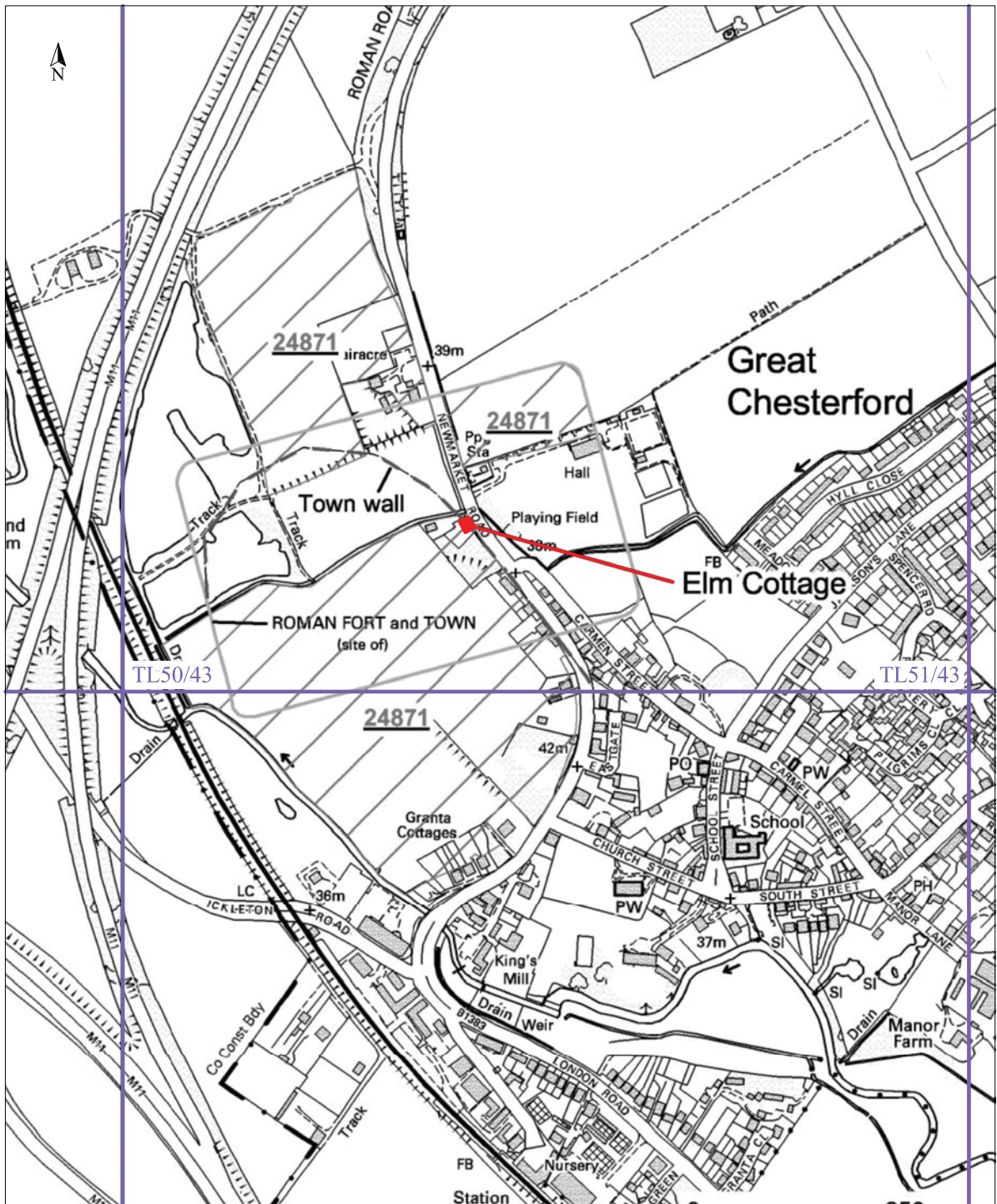


8
Sample section 5, looking south-west.



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

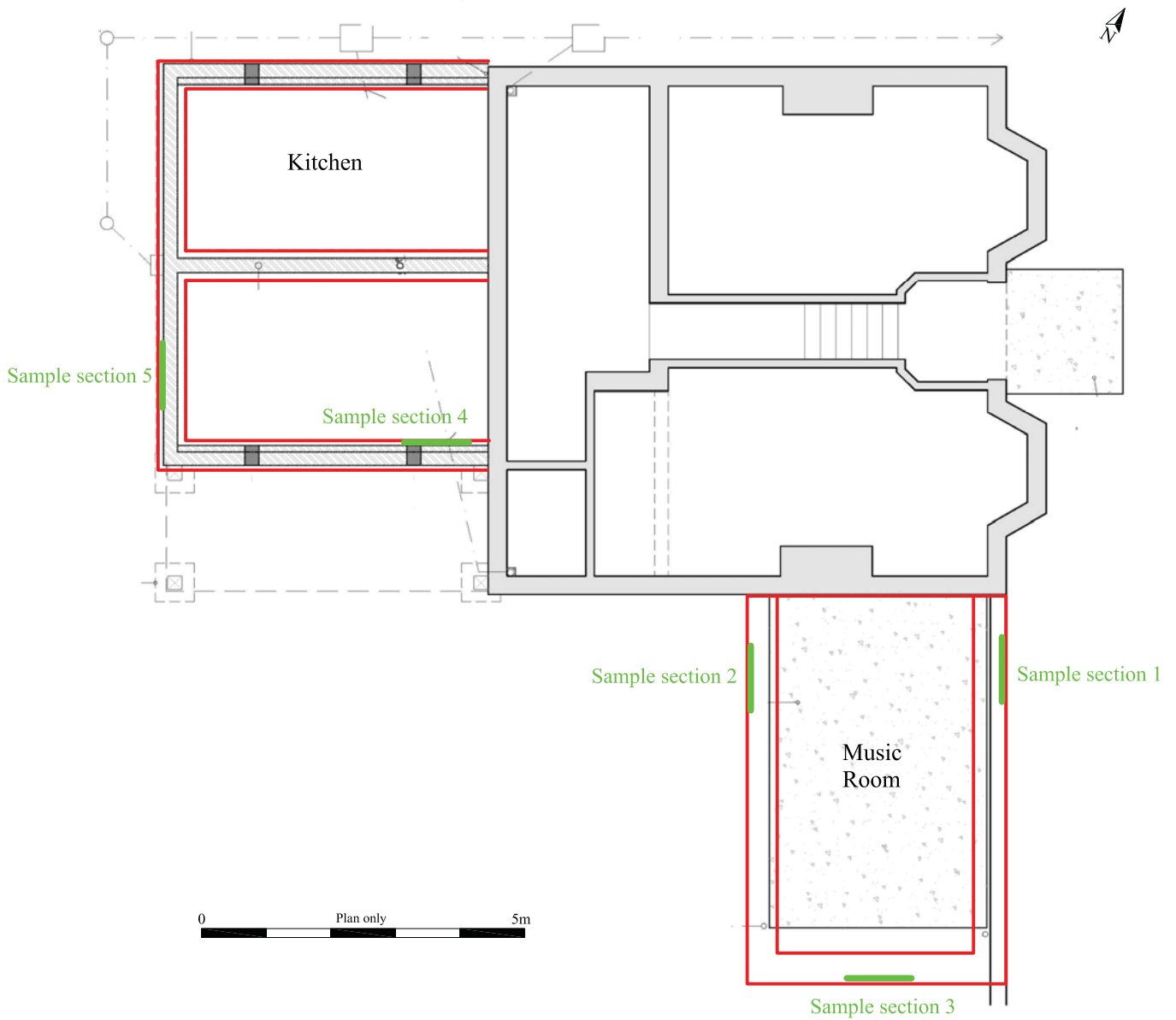
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



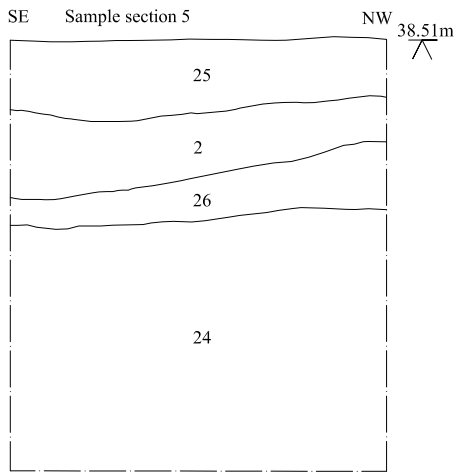
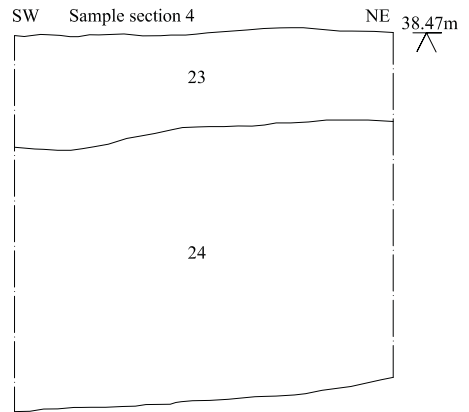
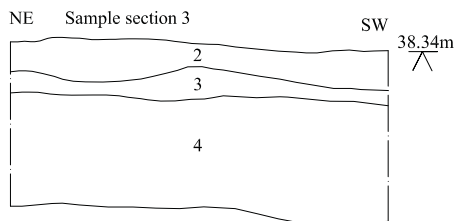
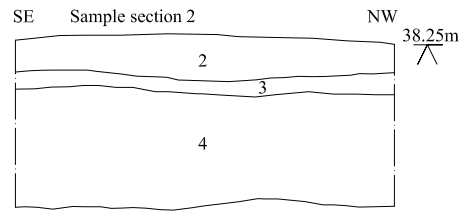
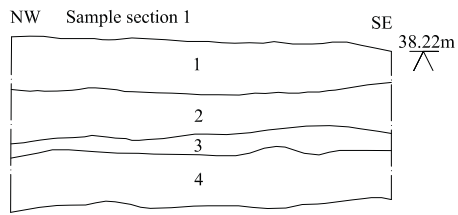
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:7,500 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Section location plan
 Scale 1:100 at A4



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Sample section
 Scale 1:20 at A4