
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**11-13 CHURCH STREET, HERTFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (Fieldwork & Report) Andrew Peachey BA, AIFA (Desk-based research)	
NGR: TL 3272 1251	Report No. 3363
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1218
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3558
Signed:	Date: August 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3272 1251). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Adrian Harms, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a two-storey rear extension to the existing house.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within historic core of the town of Hertford and is surrounded by residential and commercial properties on Church Street and Fore Street. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.172</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	19 th – 24 th August 2009		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P3558	Site code	AS 1218
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Site status	Within Area of Archaeological Significance No.172		
Current land use	Rear extension - demolished		
Planned development	Two storey residential rear extension		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Herts	East Herts	Hertford (All Saints)
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	SG14 1EJ		
Area of site	c. 300m ²		
NGR	TL 3272 1251		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 43m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Andrew Newton, Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Mr A Harms		
Full title	11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	3363		
Date (of report)	August 2009		

11-13 CHURCH STREET, HERTFORD HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3272 1251). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Adrian Harms, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a two-storey rear extension to an existing house.

The site is situated within the historic core of the town of Hertford and is surrounded by residential and commercial properties fronting Church Street and Fore Street. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.172

The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3272 1251; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Adrian Harms, in compliance with a planning condition required by the local planning authority (Hertfordshire County Council Planning Ref 3/1229/08/FP), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU). The monitoring was conducted during the works comprising the demolition of a single-storey rear extension and construction of a new two-storey residential rear extension to the existing house.

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken according to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a specification prepared by AS. The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (revised 2001), and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project objective was

- To monitor all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains

- to secure the adequate recording of any below ground archaeological remains revealed by the development programme, and any alterations to the rear elevation of the listed building during development, and
- to secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

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 of 11-13 Church Street lies within the historic core of the town of Hertford, the county town of Hertfordshire, within the district of East Hertfordshire. The site is also situated within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) 172, as designated on the East Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan. AAS 172 encompasses the historic core of Hertford, including the two late Saxon *burhs* and the medieval town (Bryant & Seddon 1999).

2.2 The site lies on the north-eastern side of Church Street. The latter extends south-eastwards from Fore Street. Church Street is a cul-de-sac, truncated at its south-eastern end by the A414. The site is bounded in all directions by residential or commercial properties fronting Church Street and Fore Street. The proposed demolition and extension are situated to the rear of the property.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The settlement of Hertford lies close to the confluence of the river Lea and four of its tributaries; the rivers Ash, Beane, Rib and Mimram (Fig. 1). The town is also situated at the junction of two distinct geological areas; the sands, gravels and clays to the south and the fertile brick-earths and boulder clays to the north (Kiln & Partridge 1994). The site lies 220m to the south-east of the river Lea as it traverses the town and is situated on flat land in the Lea valley at approximately 43m AOD.

3.2 Local geological conditions of the site are characterised by floodplains and river terrace gravels, overlying the glaciofluvial drift geology. Chalk bedrock is present below the soils and drift geology (BGS 1978). The soils of the site are dominated by those of the Ludford association, which are described as deep, well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, which are locally flinty and in places over gravel (SSEW 1983). It is also noted that such soils of the Ludford association are at slight risk of water erosion.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 A Palaeolithic flint handaxe has been recovered c. 70m south-east of the site in the churchyard of All Saints (HER 2073). Others are known in the northern suburbs of the town and further afield along the valley of the river Lea. Scattered Neolithic finds have been recorded on the gravels overlooking the river valley (HERs 4123 & 4124), c. 210m south-east of the site. Four Neolithic flint hand axes were also found during building work in Hertford (HER 1161) c. 900m south-east of the site.

4.2 Later Bronze Age bronze sword blade fragments and an accompanying ingot have been discovered, probably during the dredging of the river (HER 271). Later prehistoric material is scarce, though late Iron Age and Roman occupation can be demonstrated within the Millbridge modern town area and at the site of 54 St Andrew's Street (HERs 9881 & 9841 respectively).

Romano-British

4.3 Traces of first and second century settlement have been discovered in St Andrew's Street, c. 550m west of the site (HER 9841). Such evidence is supported by Roman pottery from Maidenhead Street (HER 1400) and a coin of Aurelian (AD 270 - 275) dug up in an allotment in Wesley Avenue (HER 1401). The construction of the Green Dragon Hotel in 1903 yielded fragments of Roman tile, while excavations at Millbridge revealed plough marks, a sub-circular ditched enclosure, a cobbled surface and parts of stakeholes and fence lines (HER 9881).

Anglo-Saxon

4.4 The river Lea became the dividing boundary between the Danish and West Saxon-controlled areas of England in the 9th century. The site of a possible Anglo-Saxon royal manor has been identified at the site of Old Cross, c. 380m west of the site (HER 9897). In an early campaign, King Edward the Elder (899-925) established two defended *burhs* at the southern and northern approaches to the river in AD 912 and 914 (HERs 9828 & 9830 respectively). The extent of the *burhs* remains a matter of some conjecture, but the southern burgh appears to have been centred on Salisbury Square, which was surrounded by a regular grid of streets including Church Street as well as Railway Street, Fore Street, Market Street, Maidenhead Street and Bull Plain (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 5). An 11th century ditch discovered at Bircherley Green (HER 6427) may represent the eastern ramparts of the southern *burgh*, with associated features at Railway Street (HER 1402 & 9886). At Mill Bridge, cesspits and limited activity can be demonstrated for the 10th and 11th centuries (HER 9885). The approximate site of an Anglo-Saxon mint c. AD 925 - 1100, however, has been identified (HER 4004).

Medieval

4.5 The town was designated as the administrative centre of the new shire during the Norman period, and the creation of a royal castle was one of many strategic focal points which ringed the capital. Fragments of the original motte survive (HER 77), and have been ascribed to the late 11th century, though it is not recorded until the 12th century in surviving documents. Hertford's medieval and post-medieval borough, recorded as a Royal Borough in Domesday Book, is well documented in the archaeological record (HER 9831). Prior to being truncated by the modern A414, Church Street connected All Saints Church to Fore Street. All Saints Church is first mentioned in probably early 11th century documents, and was apparently bestowed by Robert de Valognes to Waltham Abbey; a grant confirmed in 1189 by Richard I (Bryant and Seddon 1999, 11). This connection with the de Valognes has led to speculation that All Saints was one of the two churches held by Peter de Valognes in 1086. The Salisbury Arms (formerly The Bell) public house on Fore Street, at the corner of Church Street also has medieval origins (HER 9808).

4.6 Archaeological evidence suggests the abandonment of some street tenements during the late medieval period; settlement contracted (HER 6428) and a degree of economic poverty is recorded in the 15th century (Bryant & Seddon 1999).

Post-medieval and modern

4.7 Hertford's fortunes were revived by national industrial expansion and the construction of the Lea Navigation in the early 18th century. As industry grew, so did the population. In the later 18th century, the town was ringed by important country estates which limited physical expansion, but also maintained Hertford's role as the centre of social life among the landed elite. As in the medieval period, evidence of post-medieval cultivation reached into

the town centre as close as to the rear of Bull Pla in (HER 9896). The Shire Hall, designed by James Adam in 1767 was in the most advanced style of its day, and many fine examples of the period survive in the town.

4.8 By the modern period, the settlement of Hertford was expanding at a slower rate, although several modern period buildings are recorded in the HER database. The most significant modern building in Hertford, must surely be the Grade II* listed County Hall, which was built between 1935 and 1939 (HER 11754).

The Site

4.9 The Grade II listed building that currently occupies 11-13 Church Street was built in the 16th century and altered in the 19th and 20th centuries (IoE No. 461291). The building is timber framed with Flemish bond red brick and weatherboarding on the ground floor and plaster on the first floor. The rear is covered in colour-washed plaster and pebble dashing. The roof is tiles with red brick chimneystacks and a central projecting jettied gable. Notable historic features include the late 16th/early 17th century timber frame with a cambered tie beam with queen's truts, formerly with arch bracing against the party wall with No.9 Church Street.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. 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. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for a new rear extension to the existing house.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The deposits located within area of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4)</i>		
<i>Foundation trench, central part, facing S</i>		
<i>0.00 = 43.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Concrete surface.
0.09 – 0.25m	L1001	Levelling layer. Yellowish grey sand with CBM.
0.25 – 0.60m	L1002	Mid grey silty clay with CBM.
0.60 – 0.71m	L1003	Dark greyish black clayey silt.
0.71 – 1.05m	L1004	Mid brownish grey gravelly clay with chalk.
1.05m+	L1005	Natural light brown sandy gravel.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 5)</i> <i>Foundation trench, N part, facing W</i> <i>0.00 = 43.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1006	Mixed building materials surface deposit.
0.11 – 0.17m	M1007	Single course of red bricks.
0.17 – 0.39m	L1008	Mid greyish brown silt with CBM.
0.39 – 0.80m	L1009	Mid brownish grey sand with CBM.
0.80 – 1.02m	L1004	As above.
1.02m+	L1005	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 6)</i> <i>Foundation trench, S part, facing W</i> <i>0.00 = 43.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1001	As above.
0.25 – 0.60m	L1002	As above.
0.60 – 1.20m	L1003	As above.
1.20m+	L1005	Natural gravel. As above.

6.1 A single course of red bricks was recorded within Section 2, M1007, and may represent the remains of a floor or yard surface. No other archaeological features or finds were identified.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The backyard of the property, where the excavated foundation trench was located, was covered with a concrete surface L1000 (c. 0.10m). The latter had been partially removed prior to construction works. Below the surface numerous levelling layers were located, including the remains of a possible floor, M1007, and layer of sand, L1009. These deposits extended to a depth of c.0.60 – 0.75m below existing.

8.2 The base of the stratigraphic sequence comprised L1003 and L1004, deposits of silty clays. The latter directly overlay the natural sandy gravel, L1005 (at c. 1.00 – 1.20m below the current ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval periods, sparse archaeological features were located within the foundation trench comprising the remains of a modern brick floor or yard surface.

9.2 The deposits revealed during the monitoring probably related to early modern and modern alterations and improvements associated with the existing house.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Adrian Harms for his cooperation and funding of this project.

AS also would like to thank staff at the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record, for their assistance, as well as the staff at the Hertford Record Office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	11 -1 3 Church Street, Hertford
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town:	Parish: Hertford (All Saints)
Planning application reference:	3/1229/08/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Mr A Harms
Nature of application:	Two-storey residential extension
Present land use:	Rear extension – demolished
Size of application area: c. 300m ²	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL 3272 1251
Site Code:	AS1218
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Limited
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	19 – 24 August 2009
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented:
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 11-13 Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3272 1251). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Adrian Harms, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a two-storey rear extension to existing house.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within historic core of the town of Hertford and is surrounded by residential and commercial properties on Church St and Fore Street. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.172</i></p>
Author of summary Pozorski, Z.	Date of Summary: August 2009

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Church Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire. View S.



DP 2. 11-13 Church Street, Hertford. Street frontage. View SE.



DP 3. Foundation trench in the backyard. View E.



DP 4. Sample section 1. View N.



DP 5. Sample section 2. View E.



DP 6. Sample section 3. View E.

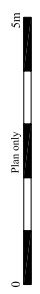
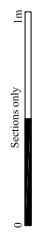
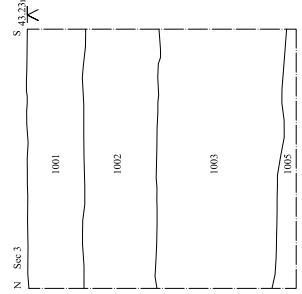
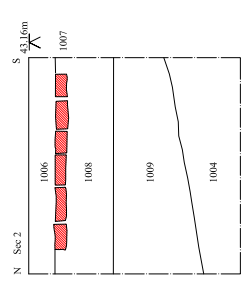
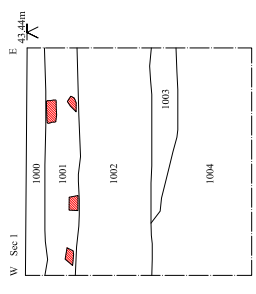
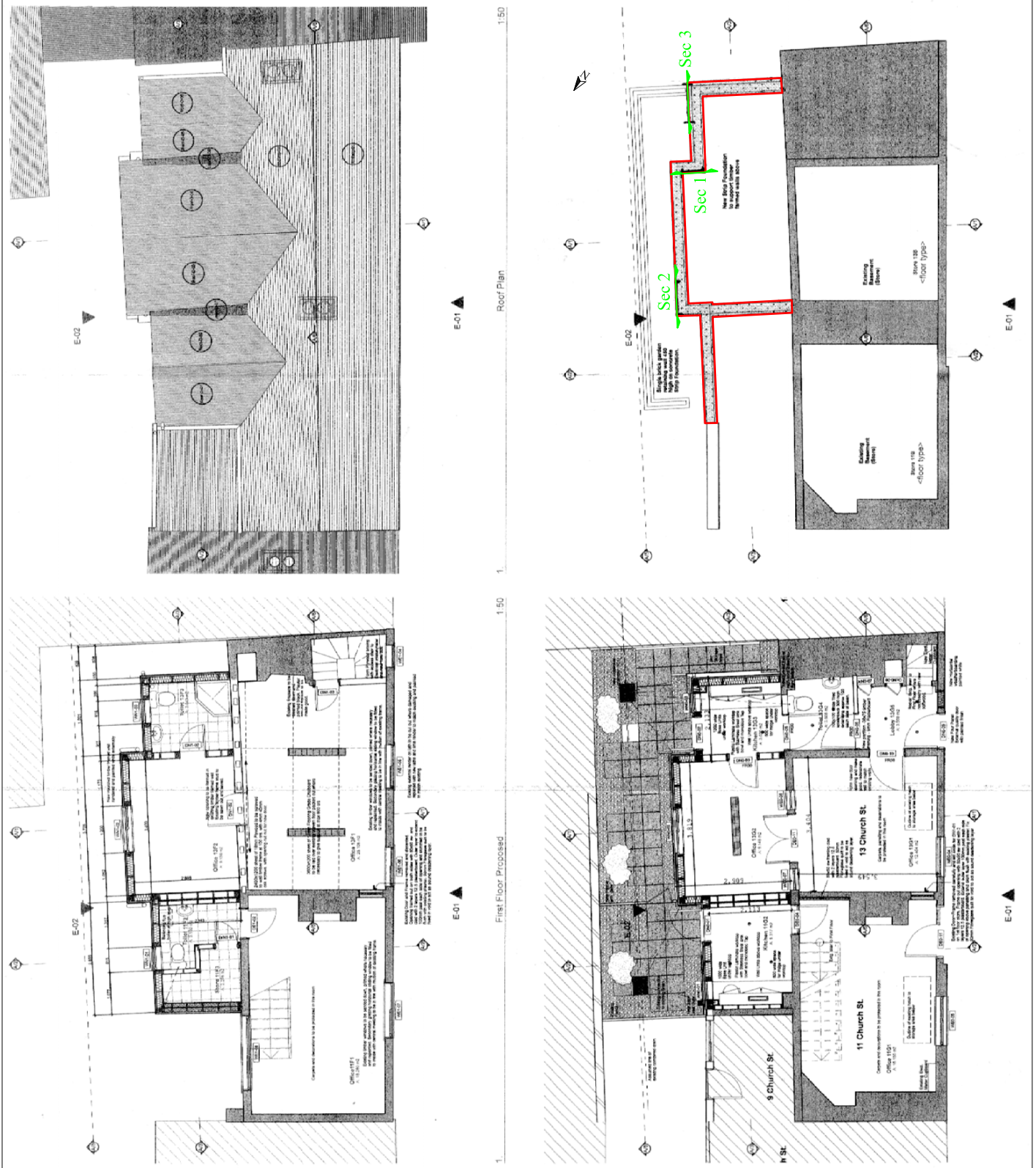


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:200 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area monitored
 Scale: Plan 1:100, sections 1:40 at A3