
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**CRABBS GREEN FARM, STOCKING PELHAM,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TL 45630 28680	Report No: 3263
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1161
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P3205
Signed:	Date: February 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Crabbs Green Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Project description:	<p>On 27th January 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with construction of new boarding kennels at Crabbs Green Farm, Crabbs Green, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 45630 28680).</p> <p>A single 19th century ditch, F2002, was present in the western part of the site. The feature was orientated from N to S and curved to the E towards its southern extent. Ditch F2002 lies stratigraphically above Ditch F1006 which was recorded during the previous archaeological trial trenching (Doyle & Schofield 2008). F1006 is of modern date, containing a modern plastic drainage pipe. The route of a medieval moat is postulated by the HER to have followed a similar alignment to Ditch F1006, but no evidence of this moat was recorded during the archaeological investigations.</p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	27 th January 2009		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P3205	Site code	AS1161
Type of project	<i>Watching Brief</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Grassland</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of boarding kennels</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>19th century boundary ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>19th century pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Herts</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Stocking Pelham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG9 0JB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 210m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 45630 28680</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 125m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>ECC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Rozwadowski M.</i>		
Funded by	<i>Ms Samantha Russell</i>		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Crabbs Green Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Rozwadowski, M. & Higgs, K</i>		
Report no.	3263		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2009</i>		

CRABBS GREEN FARM, STOCKING PELHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

On 27th January 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with construction of new boarding kennels at Crabbs Green Farm, Crabbs Green, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 45630 28680) The work was commissioned by Ms Samantha Russell.

A single 19th century boundary ditch, F2002, was present in the western part of the site. The feature was orientated from N to S and curved to the E towards its southern extent. Ditch F2002 lies stratigraphically above Ditch F1006 which was recorded during the previous archaeological trial trenching (Doyle & Schofield 2008). F1006 is also of modern date, containing a modern plastic drainage pipe. The route of a medieval moat is postulated by the HER to have followed a similar alignment to Ditch F1006, but no evidence of this moat was recorded during the archaeological investigations.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 27th January 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the construction of new boarding kennels at Crabbs Green Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 45630 28680, Fig. 1) The work was commissioned by Mrs Jane Howden on behalf of Ms Samantha Russell.

1.2 The monitoring and recording was carried out according to advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) dated 27th August 2008 and written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (AS) dated 29th August 2008. A formal brief was not issued. The work was required to comply with a planning condition on consent (Planning Ref. 3/0047/08/FP) requiring a programme of archaeological work. The site has been subject to a previous programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by AS.

1.3 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).

1.4 The project 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

Crabb's Green Farm, Crabb's Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire

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.

1.5 The main project objective was to monitor all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains and 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 the project archive.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Crabb's Green Farm is situated at Crabb's Green, which lies within the parish of Stocking Pelham, within the district of East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The village of Stocking Pelham is situated 500m to the north-west, whilst the settlement of Berden, which lies in Essex, is located 1.5km to the north-east. The site is also located 125m to the west of the county boundary demarcating Hertfordshire and Essex, and 200m to the north-west of an extensive electricity transformer station.

2.2 The site of the proposed new kennel block comprises a plot of undeveloped agricultural land at Crabb's Green Farm, located to the east of existing structures (Fig. 2). To the south of the property lies a series of irregularly-shaped ponds, which are thought to be medieval in date. Both the site and Crabb's Green Farm lie within Crabb's Green's Conservation Area, and both the farmhouse and timber-framed barn at Crabb's Green Farm are Grade II listed structures (IoE Nos. 160202 & 160201).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The hamlet of Crabb's Green and neighbouring Stocking Pelham are located in a rural area close to the boundary between the counties of Hertfordshire and Essex (Fig. 1). The area surrounding the site has a varied relief and is punctuated by small watercourses and ponds such as those located to the immediate south of Crabb's Green Farm. The site lies on a relatively flat plot of land located at c.125m AOD, with land sloping slightly down to the south towards the aforementioned ponds.

3.2 The solid geology of Stocking Pelham and much of East Hertfordshire district is Upper Cretaceous Chalk (BGS 1978), with a drift geology of chalky till. The site also lies upon soils of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983), which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, and some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soil, all of which are at slight risk of water erosion. Soils of the Hanslope association are also used in agriculture for winter cereals with some other arable crops and some grassland (*ibid.*).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Relatively little is known of the Crabb's Green and Stocking Pelham area during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The surrounding area was heavily wooded during at least the Saxon period, with a single wood, known as '*Park Wood*' stretching from '*Berden Hall*' 1.3km to the north-east to Crabb's Green (Bailey 2000). Local historians suggest that Crabb's Green was the location at which '*Pela* (*'Peola*'), a Saxon leader left his dependents and, with a few followers, took an ancient track to select some high ground', thus founding Stocking Pelham in the 7th century AD (Bailey 2000). Bailey (2000), however, supplies no reference to contemporary documents that describe the movements of *Pela* and so the notion is unsubstantiated.

4.2 It is postulated that the irregularly shaped field boundaries and ponds located to the south and west of the site may comprise archaeological remains not yet subject to investigation (Bailey 2000). The Historic Environment Record (HER) suggests that the ponds present to the south of the existing buildings are possibly the remnants of a medieval moated enclosure (HER 11865). The Domesday Book of 1086 documents manors within Stocking Pelham, but makes no reference to Crabb's Green (Morris 1976).

4.3 Place-name evidence associates the hamlet with the family of John Crabbe, who was first documented in a lay subsidy roll of 1294 (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1970). That the *Victoria County History* (Page 1914) also omits to mention Crabb's Green may indicate that the hamlet had declined in favour of Stocking Pelham by the historical period. Both the site of the proposed new kennel block and Crabb's Green Farm lie within Crabb's Green's Conservation Area.

4.4 The farmhouse at Crabb's Green Farm, which lies 35m to the west of the site is a Grade II listed timber-framed structure of 17th century or earlier date (IoE No. 160202). The timber-framed barn c. 10m to the west of the site is also Grade II listed and of a similar date (IoE No. 160201), although little more is known of the buildings' early history. The Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the farmhouse may have originated as a small open hall house of c.1500 (HER 10955), although no evidence of that could be found during a recent historic building survey at Crabb's Green Farm (Garwood 2000).

4.5 The parish of Stocking Pelham tithe map, which dates to 1839, reveals that the site formed part of a large agricultural field (#87) bound to the south by ponds (Ref. DSA4/77/2; Fig. 3). The latter are suggestive of a moated enclosure. The accompanying tithe award (Ref. DSA4/77/1) reveals that '*Crabs Green Farm Homestead etc*' (#87) was owned by Thomas Sworder, yet occupied by Charles Hoy.

4.6 Sale particular documents reveal that Crabb's Green Farm was sold at auction on Tuesday 5th November 1878 (Ref. E2410-2426). Prior to its sale,

the property, and thus the site, had been held by Mr. John Trigg and comprised a farm containing 98 acres 1 rood 27 perches of land. Although it is unknown who bought the property, a map accompanying the sale particulars for Crabb's Green Farm (Ref. DE/L/5569; Fig. 4) reveals that the site formed part of Lot 16 and plot #87. Lot 16 comprised in total 84 acres 34 perches arable and pasture land, whilst plot #87 was known as 'Homestead and Hoppets' and consisted of 4 acres 2 roods 32 perches of partial grassland. Subsequent cartographic sources show no development within the site or any alteration to the ponds located to the south.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all ground works, 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 ground works associated with the ground reduction associated with the ground slab for construction of the new boarding kennels (Figs. 2 & 3). A site visit was undertaken to monitor these works on 27th January 2009

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Ground reduction

Sample Section 1: Fig. 3 DP 5

Sample section facing north 0.00 = 125m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L2004	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey moderately compact silty clay with moderate chunks of chalk, cobbles and pebbles.
0.15 – 0.25m	L2003	Fill of F2002. Mid whitish grey moderately compact silty clay with very frequent chalk and occasional CBM.
0.25m+	L2000	Buried Topsoil. Mid greyish black moderately compact silty clay with moderate sub rounded cobbles.

Sample Section 2: Fig. 3 DP 6

Sample section facing south 0.00 = 125m AOD		
0.00 – 0.08m	L2004	Topsoil. As above.
0.08 – 0.28m	L2000	Buried Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L2001	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay with moderate sub rounded cobbles and chalk chunks

Description: A single boundary ditch (F2002) was located close to the W edge of the area of works.

F2002 was a curvilinear ditch (15m+ x 2.5m+ x 0.6m) orientated N to S, located close to the western edge of the area excavated for the ground slab for the new kennels (Fig. 3). It cut a layer of buried topsoil (L2000) and curved to the E towards its southern extent. F2002 contained fill L2003 which was a mid whitish grey moderately compact silty clay with very frequent chalk and occasional CBM. A single sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from the fill.

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 uppermost deposit visible across the whole area was L2004, a mid brownish grey moderately compact silty clay with moderate nodules of chalk, cobbles and pebbles. The depth of the deposit did not exceed 0.10m and it represents modern topsoil.

8.2 In the western and southern parts of the site, where F2002 was visible, L2003 was stratified beneath L2004; L2003 was a mid whitish grey moderately compact silty clay with very frequent chalk and occasional CBM. This deposit was related to landscaping works, including backfilling of the ditch, which must have been open when L2000 was the actual topsoil.

8.3 Beneath L2003 lay L2000, a mid greyish black moderately compact silty clay with moderate sub rounded cobbles. This deposit was visible across the whole site sloping down towards the west and south. L2000 would appear to represent an earlier topsoil level. Beneath this, L2001, a mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay with moderate sub rounded cobbles and chalk chunks, was recorded.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary of the archaeology

9.1.1 A single boundary ditch, F2002, was present in the western part of the site. The feature was aligned north to south and curved to the east towards its southern extent.

9.2 Interpretation of archaeology

9.2.1 Ditch F2002 follows a similar alignment to ditch F1006 which contained a modern plastic drainage pipe and was recorded during the preceding

archaeological evaluation (Doyle & Schofield 2008). During the archaeological monitoring and recording the excavations were not as deep as during the previous trial trenching and therefore feature F1006 was not exposed. Although feature F2002 is of an earlier date it was not recorded during the trial-trenching presumably due to stratigraphic disturbance resulting from the more recent laying of the modern drainage pipe in F1006. The HER postulate that a moat ran north-south through the western area of the site. Ditch 2002 is not likely to be related to this moat as it curves to the east at the southern end of the site. Ditch F1006 was located during the archaeological trial trenching on the site, although it follows a similar north-south course to the postulated route of the moat, the features is of definite modern date and contained a modern plastic drainage pipe at its base.

9.3 Research potential

9.31 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER10955) notes that the farmhouse may have originated as a small open hall house of c.1500. This may have lain within an earlier medieval moated site. The possible remains of a moat are visible to south of the site and the new kennels may lie on the infilled arm of a former moat

9.3.2 However, no remains identifiable as a medieval moat were present in the area investigated under programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. Only the 19th century boundary ditch was located.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

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

AS would like to thank Ms. Samantha Russell for funding the project, and to Ms Jane Howden for her assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the advice of Mr Roger Jones of Jones & Sons Environmental regarding ecology issues.

Thanks are also due to the staff at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), and Ms. Isobel Thompson and Ms. Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU.

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(all consulted 21/08/08)

Access to Archives (A2A) website;
<http://www.a2a.org.uk>

English Heritage's Images of England (IoE) website;
<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

**APPENDIX 1
SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name and address:	Crabbs Green Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Stocking Pelham	Parish: Stocking Pelham
Planning application reference:	EHDC Planning Ref. 3/0047/08/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Ms. Samantha Russell
Nature of application:	12-unit boarding kennel
Present land use:	Grassland
Size of application area: 210m ²	Size of area investigated: 150m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 45630 28680
Site Code:	AS1161
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Limited
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	27 th January 2009
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford Museum
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Post-medieval to early modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	Crabbs Green Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire; Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Summary of fieldwork results:	Ditch F2002 is a 19 th century boundary ditch, which runs north-south across the area investigated curving east at the southern end of the site. The ditch lies stratigraphically above Ditch F1006 which was recorded during previous archaeological trial trenching (Doyle & Schofield 2008) and is of date, containing a modern plastic drainage pipe. The route of a medieval moat is postulated by the HER to have followed a similar alignment to Ditch F1006, but no evidence of this moat was recorded during the archaeological investigations.
Author of summary: Rozwadowski, M	Date of Summary: February 2009

APPENDIX 2
CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE: AS1161, P3205

RECORDS	NUMBER
Specification	29 th August 2008
Registers	Context, Photographic
Context Sheets	(2000)- (2004)
Site Drawings A1	-
Site Drawings A3	-
Site Drawings A4	-
Site Photographs Digital	Shots – 1-7

PHOTO INDEX



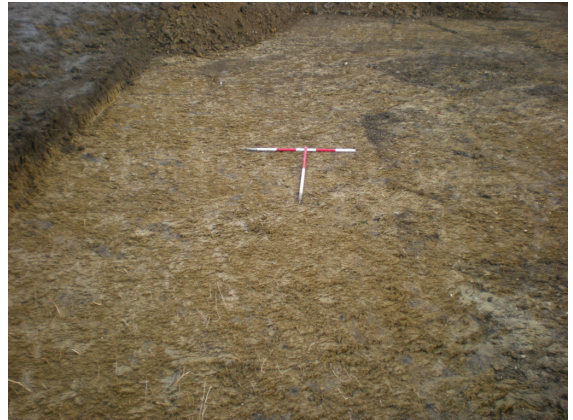
DP 1 Crabb's Green Farm. General view.
Looking SE.



DP Area of current development. Looking
NE.



DP 3 Stripped area. S part. F2002 visible in
foreground. Looking E.



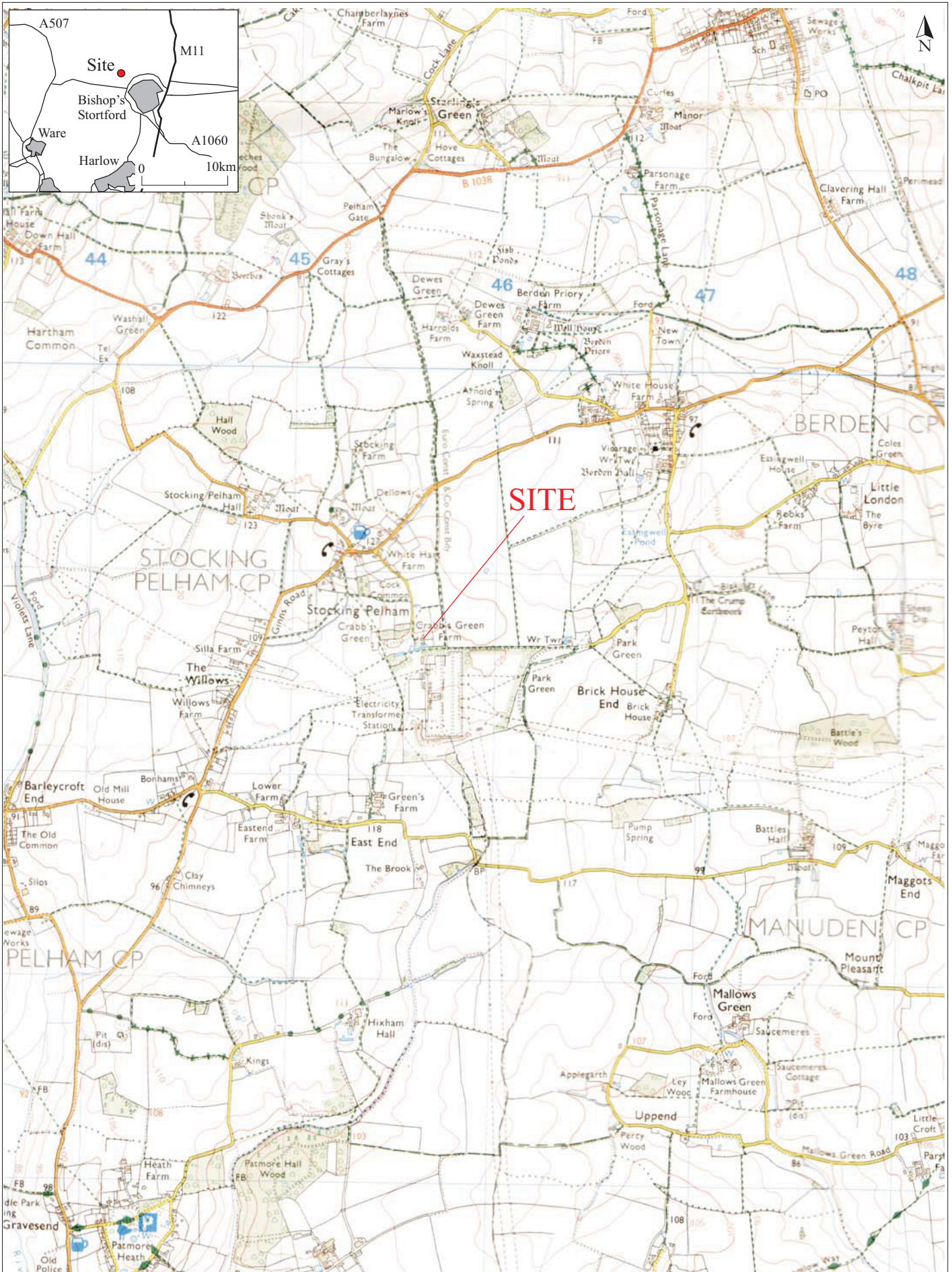
DP 4 Stripped area. N part. Looking E.



DP 5 Sample section 1. Looking S.

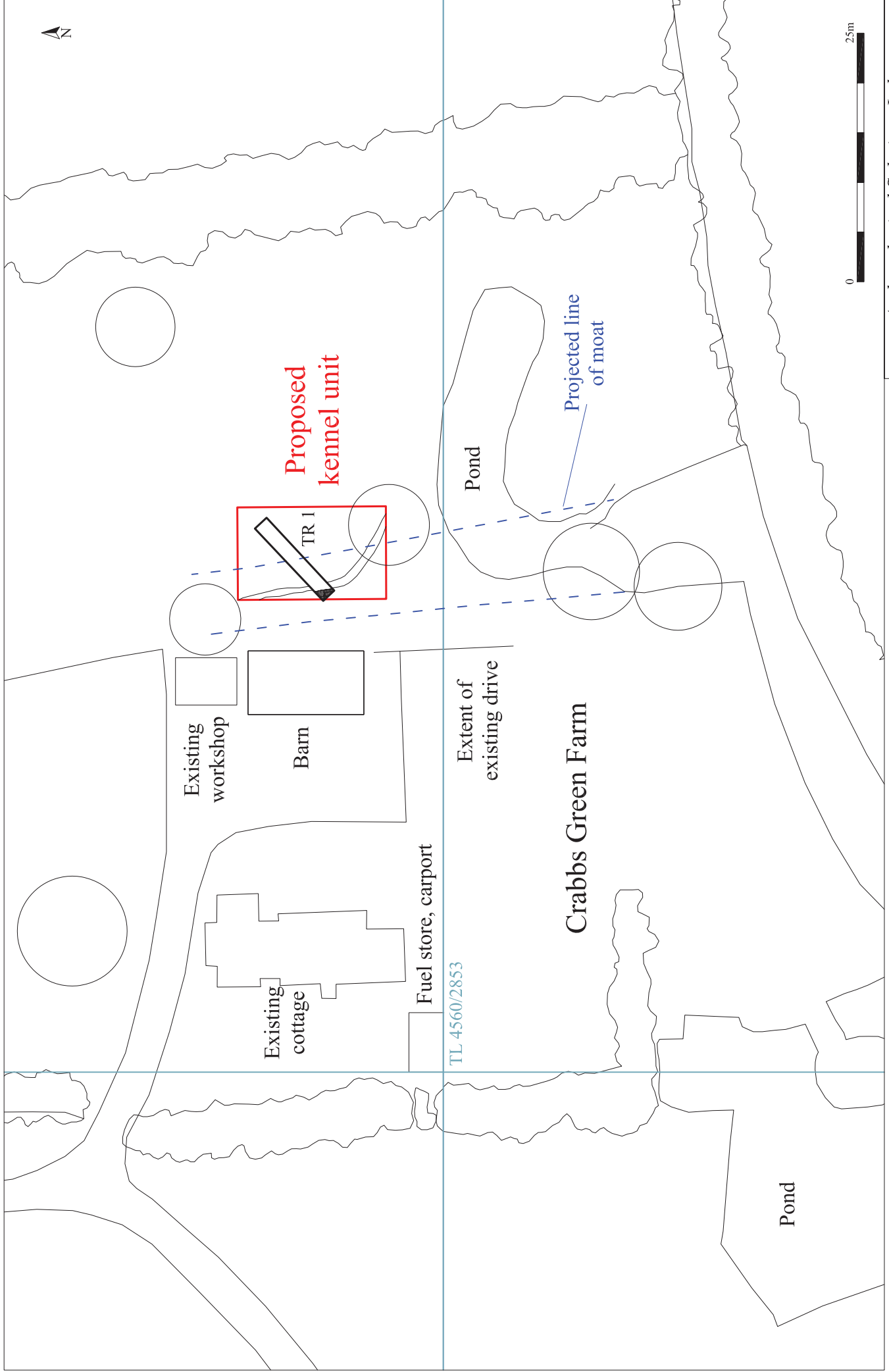


DP 6 Sample section 2. Looking N.



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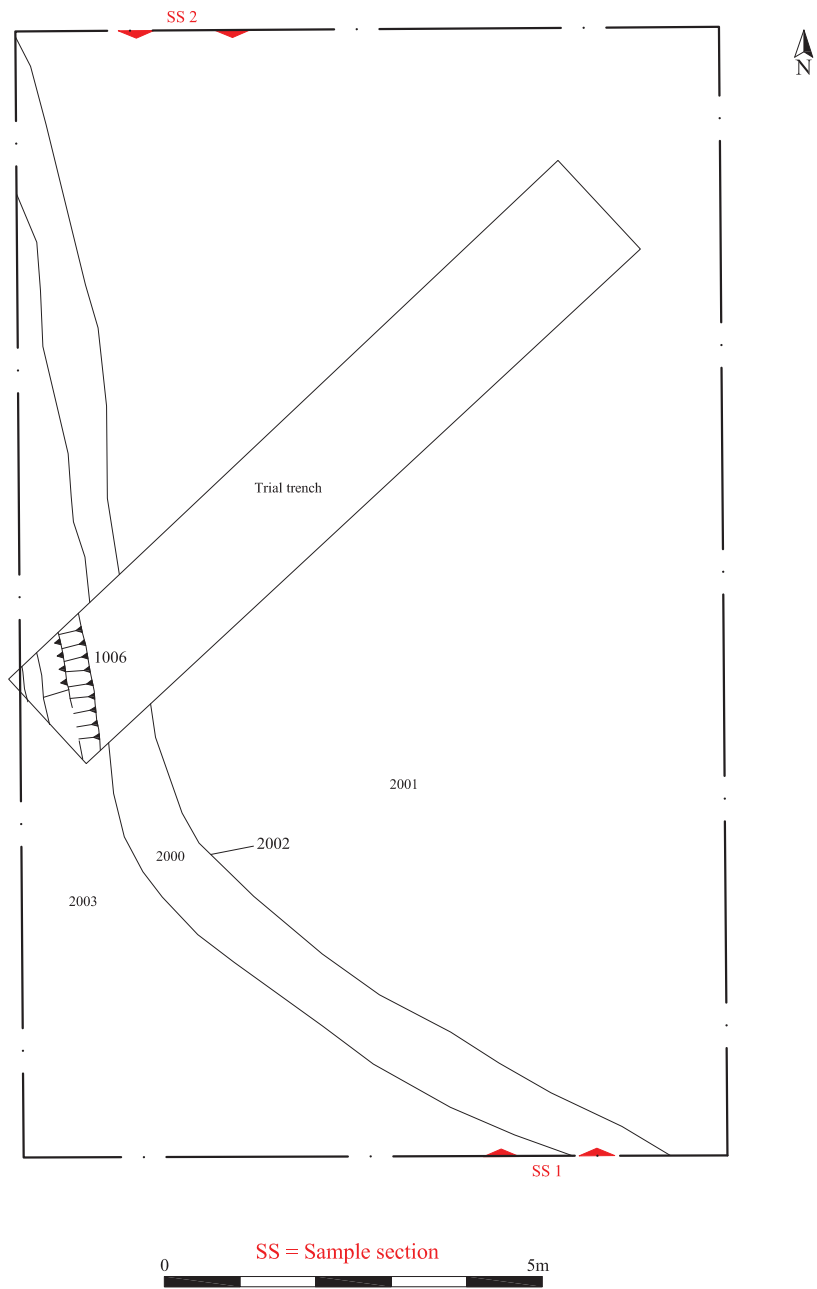
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location

Scale 1:500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief
Scale 1:100 at A4