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PROPOSED MANÈGE, EDGEWOOD FARM, COCK LANE, BROXBOURNE COMMON, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Matthew Adams BA (Report) Adams Dyson BA (Fieldwork)	
NGR: TL 34573 07054	Report No. 3540
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1307
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3868
Signed:	Date: April 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed Manège, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<p><i>In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by means of 'strip, map and record' during groundworks associated with the construction of a manège at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for the retrospective change of use from agricultural to stud farm and a proposed manege (Planning ref. 3/09/1889/FP). It was commissioned by Mr Feltham of Edgewood Farm.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Edgewood Farm (AAS No.327). It lies some 60m to the west of the course of Roman Ermine Street.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring of the very shallow soil stripping for the manege revealed a single large pit, F1003. The latter contained an abraded sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (c.17th-18th century), and an abraded sherd of undiagnostic, but possibly c.15th-17th/18th century pottery. No other archaeological features or finds were present. Less than c.25% of the area of the manege was stripped to the surface of the natural.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	19 th April 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P3868	Site code	AS 1307
Type of project	Monitoring and Recording		
Site status	Area of Archaeological Significance No. 327		
Current land use	Agricultural field		
Planned development	Construction of a manège		
Main features (+dates)	Large pit		
Significant finds (+dates)	Abraded sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (c.17 th -18 th C) & an abraded sherd c.15 th -17 th /18 th C pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Herts	Brickendon Liberty
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire		
Post code (if known)	EN10 7QS		
Area of site	c.0.24ha		
NGR	TL 34573 07054		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.93m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Alison Tinniswood. Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Adam Dyson BA		
Funded by	Mr Feltham of Edgewood Farm		
Bibliography			
Full title	<i>Proposed Manège, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	Matthew Adams BA		
Report no.	3540		
Date (of report)	April 2010		

PROPOSED MANÈGE, EDGEWOOD FARM, COCK LANE, BROXBOURNE COMMON, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by means of 'strip, map and record' during groundworks associated with the construction of a manège at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for the retrospective change of use from agricultural to stud farm and a proposed manege (Planning ref. 3/09/1889/FP). It was commissioned by Mr Feltham of Edgewood Farm.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Edgewood Farm (AAS No.327). It lies some 60m to the west of the course of Roman Ermine Street.

The monitoring of the very shallow topsoil strip revealed a single large pit, F1003. The latter contained an abraded sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (c.17th-18th century), and an abraded sherd of undiagnostic, but possibly c.15th-17th/18th century pottery. No other archaeological features or finds were present. Less than c.25% of the area of the manege was stripped to the surface of the natural.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by means of 'strip, map and record', during groundworks associated with the construction of a manège at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 34573 07054; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Feltham of Edgewood Farm, and undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for the retrospective change of use from agricultural to stud farm and a proposed manege (Planning ref. 3/09/1889/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with an advice letter issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (dated 9/02/2010), further advice received from HCC HEU and a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (dated 09/04/2010) and approved by HCC HEU. The archaeological monitoring adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010), and the procedures described in the *IfA Standard and*

Guidance for Watching Briefs (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The main research issues for the project are to identify any archaeological remains during stripping of the topsoil from the footprint of the proposed new manege, and any further groundworks to create a level base and drainage. The project aimed to:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains via process of 'strip, map and record';
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required; and
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 & 2)

2.1 The site lies 2km due west of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). Hertford lies 5.5km to the north-east, and Cheshunt 5km to the south.

2.2 The site is located within the grounds of Edgewood Farm and east of Lower White Stubbs (Fig. 2). It is bounded by agricultural fields.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

3.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Edgewood Farm. The site of the proposed manege lies some 60m to the west of the course of Roman Ermine Street.

3.2 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 327, as set out on the East Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan. An extensive landscape of co-axial boundaries are known from the area, of pre-medieval (and possibly pre-Roman) date, crossing several of the local parishes. They survive as roads, field boundaries and as earthworks within nearby ancient woodlands. The course of Roman Ermine Street also traverses the area from north to south, part of which survives as the eastern boundary of Edgewood Farm. The road can be seen as an earthwork to the north of the site in Great Grove Wood (Historic Environment Record HER 9270), and Roman pottery has been found close to the road at White Stubbs Farm to the south (HER 1600), indicative of contemporary activity associated with the route.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 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.

4.2 The monitoring and recording by means of 'strip, map and record' encompassed the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the groundworks principally comprising the mechanical excavation of the proposed manege area. A very shallow partial topsoil strip was carried out across most of the site, with a slightly deeper area at one end to create a level surface. Less than c.25% of the area of the manege was stripped to the surface of the natural (Fig.3). A small test pit was also monitored (Fig.3). Information from the client indicated that drainage was to be formed at the stripped level only, prior to the surface being built up.

5 RESULTS

Site visit 19th April 2010

5.1 The site was visited on the 19th April 2010 and comprised the continuous observation of all groundworks.

5.2 The ground reduction of the manège area was monitored. The ground reduction was undertaken using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a bladed ditching bucket.

5.3 Two sample sections were recorded of the stratigraphy and are tabulated below.

Sample Section 1

Sample Section 1 Figs. 3 - 4 0.00m = 93.72m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000. Topsoil. Mid grey brown, loose sandy silt
0.25 – 0.35m+	L1001. Subsoil. Mid – light grey brown, friable sandy silt

Sample Section 2

Sample Section 2. Eastern baulk of test pit. Figs.3 – 4 0.00m = 93.53m AOD	
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil. As above
0.30 – 0.48m	L1001. Subsoil. As above
0.48m+	L1003. Natural. Light yellow, loose sand with patches of grey orange silty gravel

Description: A pit, F1003, was revealed during the ground reduction, in the area stripped to the greatest depth.

Pit F1003 was sub-circular in plan (2.06 x 1.90 x 0.60m+). It had irregular sides. The water table was reached at 0.60m and consequently the base was not excavated. Its fill, F1004, was a mid brownish grey, loose silty sand with frequent gravel. Finds comprise two heavily abraded sherds of pottery: one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (c.17th-18th century) (12g) and one sherd of undiagnostic, but possibly c.15th-17th/18th century pottery (2g) (Pottery Report below).

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 The natural was only exposed in small areas of the site and therefore archaeological features, if present, would not have been wholly exposed. Less than c.25% of the area of the manage was stripped to the surface of the natural (Fig.3).

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The topsoil, L1000, was a mid grey brown, loose sandy silt with occasional small rounded to sub-angular stones and was present across site. It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid to light grey brown, friable sandy silt. L1001 overlay the natural gravel, L1002. The latter was a light yellow, loose sand with patches of grey and orange silty gravel and was only exposed in small areas of the site.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Pit F1003 was the only feature recorded. It contained relatively few finds (two pottery sherds: c.17th – 18th C, and c.15th – 17th/18th C). The pottery was sparse and heavily abraded (Pottery Report below).

8.2 The site had a medium to high potential for Romano-British remains, particularly associated with the Roman Road 'Ermine Street' located 60m to the east. The only archaeology present was post-medieval and no evidence of Roman-British activity was observed. The topsoil strip was generally very shallow and any potential archaeological remains in these areas would remain *in situ*. Less than c.25% of the area of the manage was stripped to the surface of the natural.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site, with Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. 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 Mr Dave Feltham of Edgewood Farm for funding the archaeological monitoring and recording, and Mr Geoffrey Lane of Listed Building and Conservation Planning Ltd for his assistance.

Archaeological Solutions would also like to acknowledge the advice and input of Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

APPENDIX 1

The Pottery Report

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 2 heavily abraded sherds weighing 15g from pit F1003 (L1004). One sherd weighing 12g is from the base angle of a post-medieval red earthenware (c.17th-18th centuries) with internal brown glaze. The second undiagnostic sherd weighing 2g could be a little earlier in date, and possibly even late medieval (c.15th-17th/18th centuries).

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	14

APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed Manege, Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts
Village/Town: Broxbourne	Parish: Brickendon Liberty
Planning application reference:	Planning Ref. 3/09/1889/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Feltham of Edgewood Farm
Nature of application:	Manege
Present land use:	Agricultural land
Size of application area: 2400m ²	Size of area investigated 600m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 3457 0705
Site Code:	AS 1307
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	19/04/10
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: 17 th – 18 th C
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In April 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by means of 'strip, map and record' during groundworks associated with the construction of a manège at Edgewood Farm, Cock Lane, Broxbourne Common, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for the retrospective change of use from agricultural to stud farm and a proposed manege (Planning ref. 3/09/1889/FP). It was commissioned by Mr Felham of Edgewood Farm.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Edgewood Farm (AAS No.327). It lies some 60m to the west of the course of Roman Ermine Street.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring of the very shallow soil stripping for the manege revealed a single large pit, F1003. The latter contained an abraded sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (c.17th-18th century), and an abraded sherd of undiagnostic, but possibly c.15th-17th/18th century pottery. No other archaeological features or finds were present. Less than c.25% of the area of the manege was stripped to the surface of the natural.</i></p>
Author of summary: M Adams	Date of Summary: April 2010

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Sample Section 1



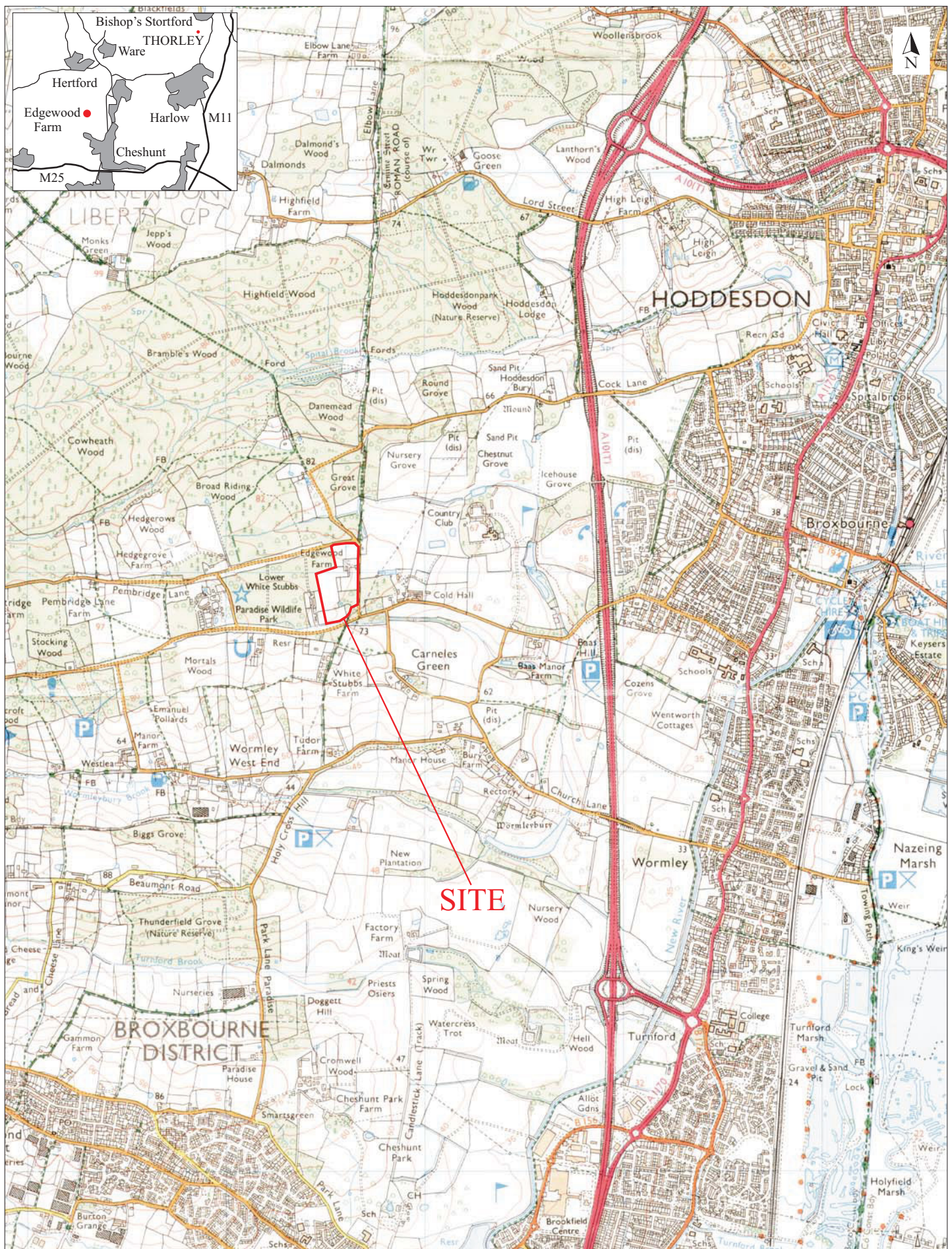
DP 2. Sample Section 2



DP 3. Pit F1003

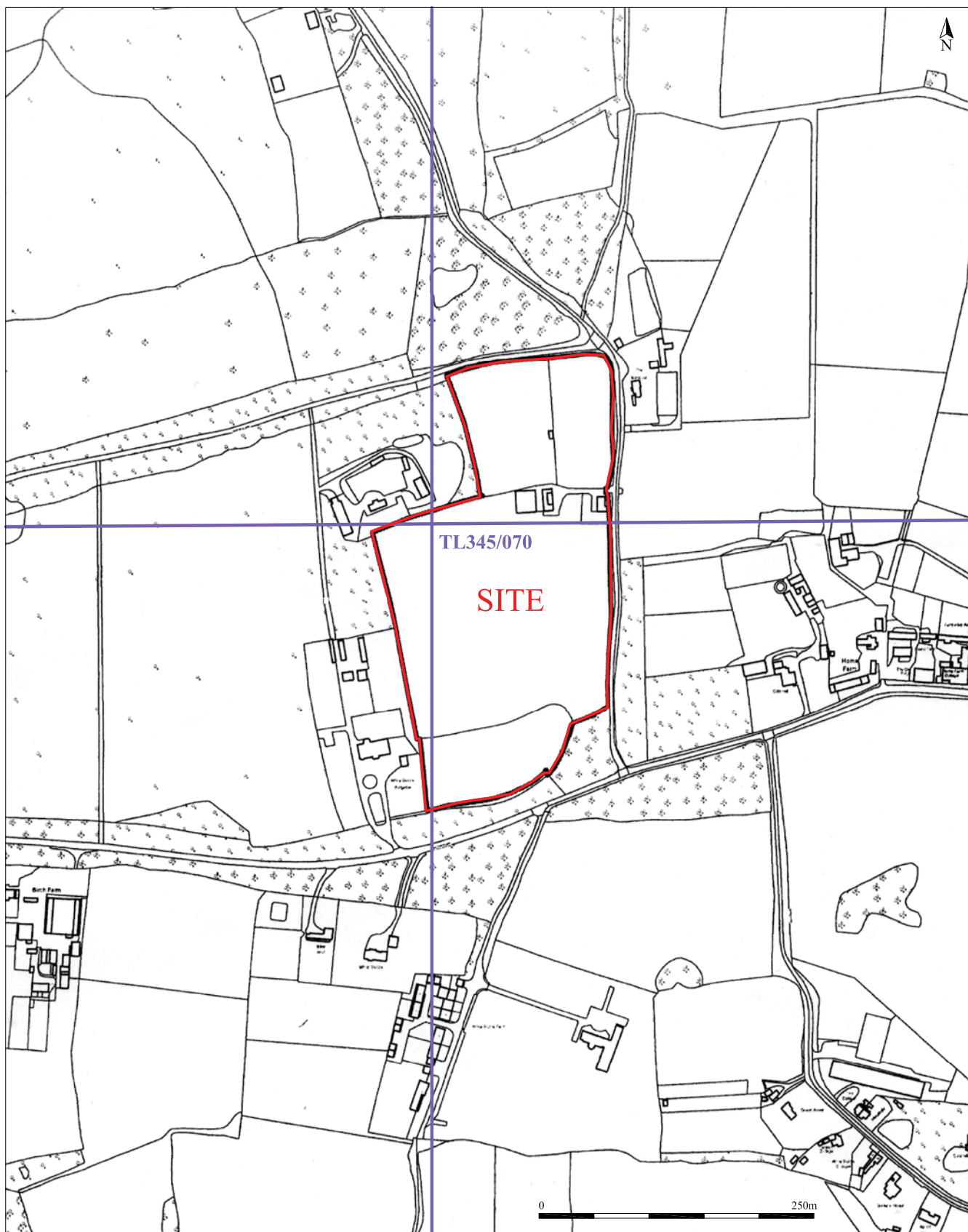


DP 4. Site shot – Post Exc



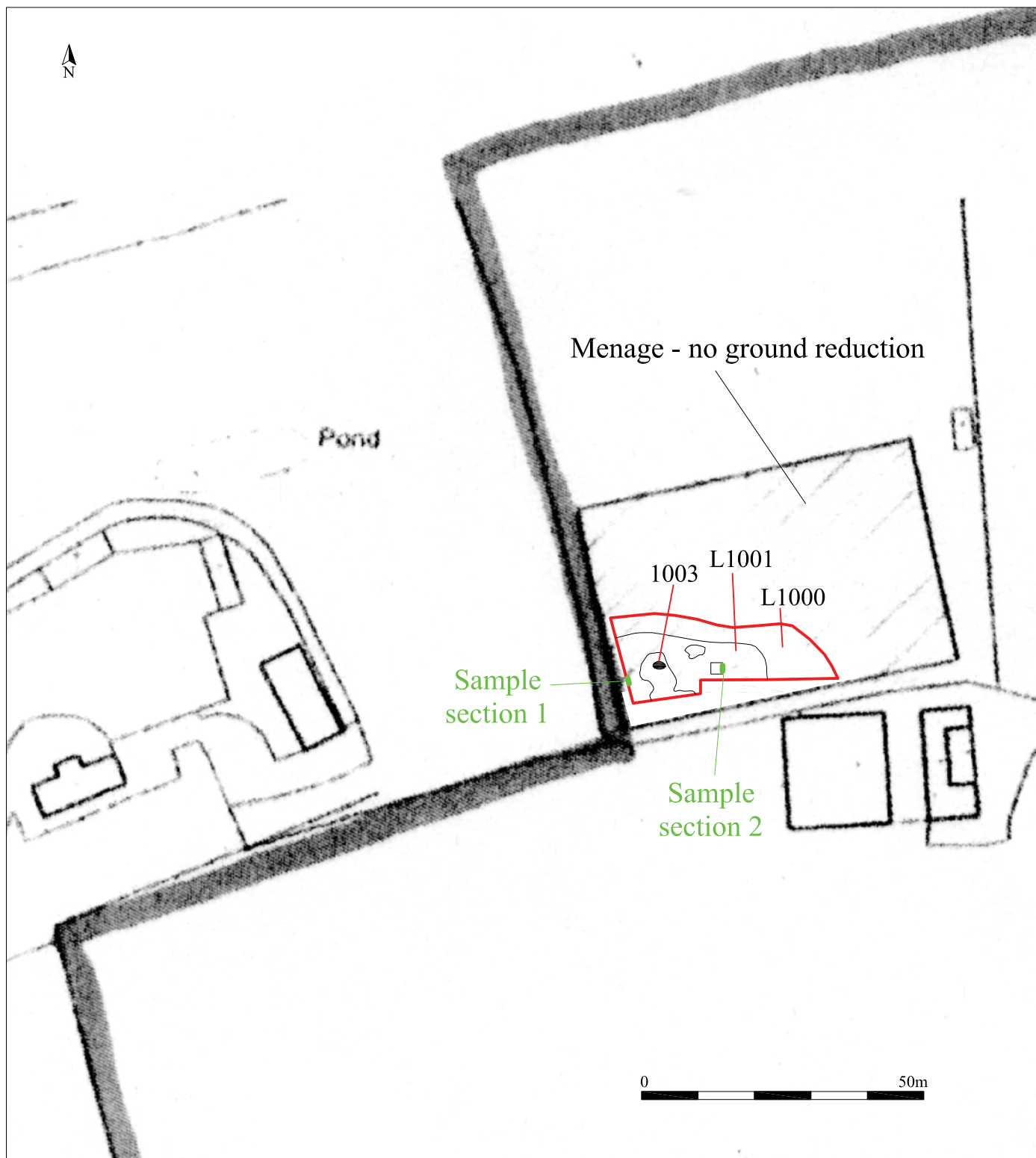
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



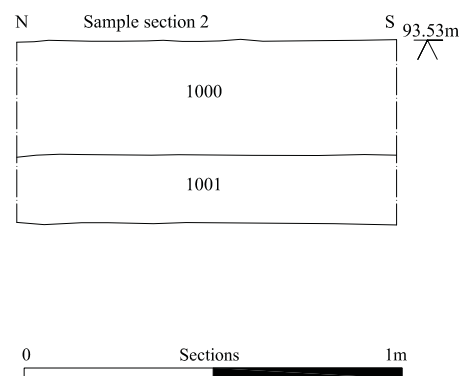
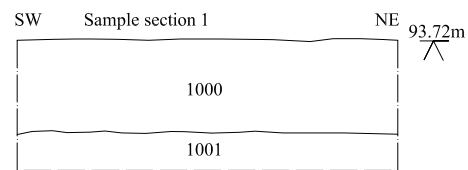
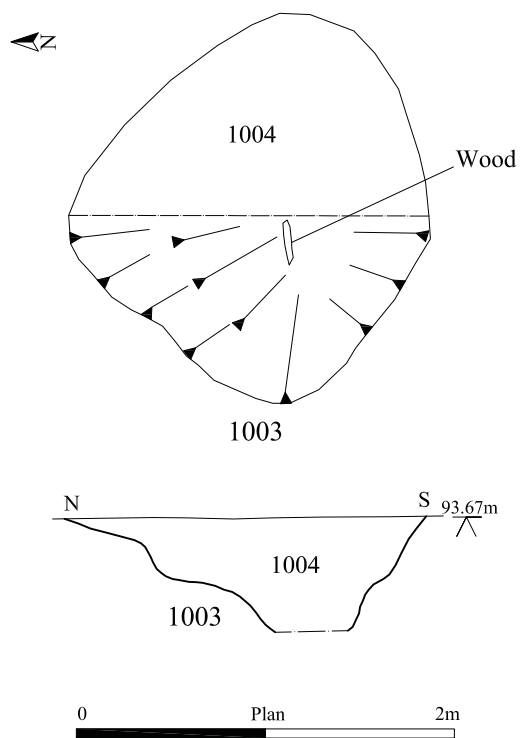
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area investigated
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 4 Plans and sections
 Scale - Plan 1:40, sections 1:20 at A4