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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**91 HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,  
ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

Authors: Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 0903 3823	Report No: 3630
District: Central Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS 1315
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3899
Signed: 	Date: Aug 2010

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Project details</b>	<b>91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire</b>		
Project name	91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire		
<p>In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling with garage, car port and landscaped garden at 91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 09033823). The monitoring was undertaken during the various stages of grading the site; the latter required due to the site's gradient. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and their replacement with a detached dwelling, garage and car port (CBC Planning Approval Ref. CB/09/05637/FULL).</p> <p>The site is within the historic core of the settlement of Clophill (HER 16998). The original settlement is thought to have been around the now ruined medieval church (HER 2467) which is c.600m north-north-east of the development site.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work(Y/N/?)	N
P. number	3899	Site code	AS1315
Type of project	Archaeological monitoring and recording		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Detached dwelling with garage, car port and landscaped garden		
Main features (+dates)	Modern pits		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Bedfordshire	Central Bedfordshire	Clophill
HER/ SMR for area	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC)		
Post code (if known)	MK45 4BJ		
Area of site	c. 0.25 ha		
NGR	TL 0903 3823		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.55m		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Adam Dyson		
Funded by	Mr T Palmer		
Full title	91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication		
Authors	Dyson, A		
Report no.	3630		
Date (of report)	Aug 2010		

**91 HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING,**  
**ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling with garage, car port and landscaped garden at 91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 09033823). The monitoring was undertaken during the various stages of grading the site; the latter required due to the site's gradient. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and their replacement with a detached dwelling, garage and car port (CBC Planning Approval Ref. CB/09/05637/FULL).*

*The site is within the historic core of the settlement of Clophill (HER 16998). The original settlement is thought to have been around the now ruined medieval church (HER 2467) which is c.600m north-north-east of the development site.*

*In the event the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling with garage, car port, and landscaped garden at 91 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 09033823). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Tim Palmer, and was undertaken during various stages of grading the site; the latter required due to the site's gradient. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and their replacement with a detached dwelling, garage and car port (CBC Planning Approval Ref. CB/09/05637/FULL).

1.2 The monitoring was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC), dated 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) It also adhered to the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The fieldwork objectives of the project as set out in the specification are summarised below:

- to identify and record any features of interest that are exposed during groundworks for the proposed development;
- to determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting;
- to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establishing the relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a regional type series;
- the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains in order to determine local environmental conditions.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located within the historic core of the settlement at Clophill, on the northern side of the High Street. To the rear of the street frontage property, the site was recently occupied by outbuildings including a garage, boiler house and a large greenhouse.

2.2 Topographically the site is situated in the valley of the River Filt, which flows approximately 250m to the south. The site lies at an approximate height of 54mAOD at the northern end, falling to 51mAOD at the southern street frontage. The geology is deposits of alluvium and valley gavel of the River Filt, overlying Lower Greensand with outcrops of Gault Clay.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The site is within the historic core of the settlement of Clophill (HER 169998). The original settlement is thought to have been around the now ruined medieval church (HER 2467) which is c.600m north-north-east of the development site (DP 3).

3.2 There is some evidence that the church was surrounded by a now deserted settlement (HER 9145). Documentary evidence suggests that this settlement was being abandoned during the mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> Century. At some time during the medieval period settlement began to develop along the present High Street as the settlement around the church was abandoned. This new, shifted settlement may have originated at the foot of the hill on which the church stands and progressed westwards through time. The present parish church of St. Mary (HER 3721) is immediately to the west of the site (DP 2).

3.3 Limited previous archaeological work has been undertaken in the surrounding area. The High Street is thought to follow the course of a former Roman road (HER 5342), although no associated Roman remains are known. Other than post-medieval disused sand extraction pits (HERs 9134 & 9137) to the north-west of the site, the remaining HER records concern listed and non-listed buildings located along the course of the High Street. Little is known of the current development site, other than it lies within the extent of Clophill's medieval village (HER 16998) and Conservation Area (CA). Historic maps reveal that the current development site existed as a range of narrow outbuildings standing perpendicular to the High Street as early as the 1880s.

#### **4 METHOD OF WORK**

4.1 The archaeological monitoring began after the demolition of the existing garage, boiler house and greenhouse, and at the commencement of groundworks associated with the new development. The groundwork was undertaken with a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Due to the site's steep slope, the majority of groundworks observed were the various stages of site grading carried out prior to the construction of the proposed buildings. The grading consisted of cutting of a two-tier garden terrace at the NNE end of the site, ground reduction over the footprint of the proposed dwelling and the creation of an even shallow slope over the proposed garage and car port area. Additional groundworks included ground reduction along the course of the new driveway. The latter was laid with hardcore during the ground works to provide stable ground for the movement of plant.

4.2 The natural geological deposits were exposed across all areas of proposed development during the grading of the site; therefore the subsequent foundation groundworks did not require archaeological monitoring.

#### **5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

##### **5.1 Sample Section**

Due to the nature of the development, the limits of excavation were generally battered; therefore only one sample section was recorded. The results are tabulated below.

**Sample Section 1 Fig.3 & DP9**

<i>W edge of car port area, ENE facing</i>		
<i>0.00m – 52.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown friable silty sand.
0.36 – 0.63m	L1005	Natural Deposits. Mid orange brown firm sandy silt.

**5.2 Description of features Fig.3**

*All features recorded were modern. F1009 was a square post hole, and F1006 and F1011 were parallel elongated pits. The function of these pits is uncertain, possibly they are horticultural based on the site's recent use. All the features contained modern finds including pottery, CBM and glass.*

F1009 was an isolated modern post hole, square in plan (0.56 x 0.56 x 0.90m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill was a mid brownish grey, friable silty sand which contained modern glass fragments.

F1006 was an elongated pit (2.32 x 0.45 x 0.40m). It had steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1008, was only present at the west-south-west end of the feature, and was a mottled mid greyish brown and pinkish orange, compact silty sand, which contained no finds. The upper fill, L1007, was a mid to dark reddish brown friable silty sand, which contained modern finds comprising pottery, CBM, and glass.

F1011 was an elongated pit (2.60 x 0.60 x 0.60m), similar to F1006. It had steep sides and an irregular base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1013, was a mid to dark reddish brown, friable silty sand, which contained modern finds including pottery CBM, and glass. The upper fill, L1012, was a light orange brown, compact sand, which contained no finds.

**6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

**7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was mid brownish grey friable silty sand (up to 0.36m thick), and was present across the whole site. In the centre of the site L1000 overlay the natural alluvial silt deposit L1005, which was a mid brownish orange firm sandy silt.

7.2 On the higher ground at the north-north-eastern end of the site, due to previous landscaping, L1000 overlay three separate deposits. L1003 was made ground comprising a dark to mid brownish grey friable silty sand with occasional CBM rubble. Subsoil L1001 was a light yellowish brown friable silty sand (c.0.40m deep). Below L1001, L1002 was the natural, a light mottled yellow and orange loose sand.

7.3 At the south-south-eastern end of site, the modern demolition and made ground deposit L1004 (0.50+m) was the only layer present. It was a dark brownish grey loose silty sand mixed with modern demolition material.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site is within the historic core of the settlement of Clophill (HER 16998). The original settlement is thought to have been around the now ruined medieval church (HER 2467) which is c.600m north-north-east of the development site.

8.2 In the event the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.

## **9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at Bedford Museum (Accession No.BEDFM.2010.36). 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.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project and a digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeological Data Service database (<http://ads.adhs.ac.uk/catalogue/grevilt>) on completion of the project.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Tim Palmer for his assistance and for funding the archaeological monitoring and recording.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main contractor.

Archaeological Solutions is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (in particular Mr Martin Oake for his on-site advice).

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DP1. General view of site, looking SSE.



DP3. Ruined medieval Church of St. Mary c.600m NNE of the development site, looking ESE.



DP2. St. Mary's Church in relation to site, looking W.



DP4. Garden terracing, looking SE.



DP5. F1006, looking ENE.



DP6. F1009, looking WSW.



DP7. F1011, looking WSW.



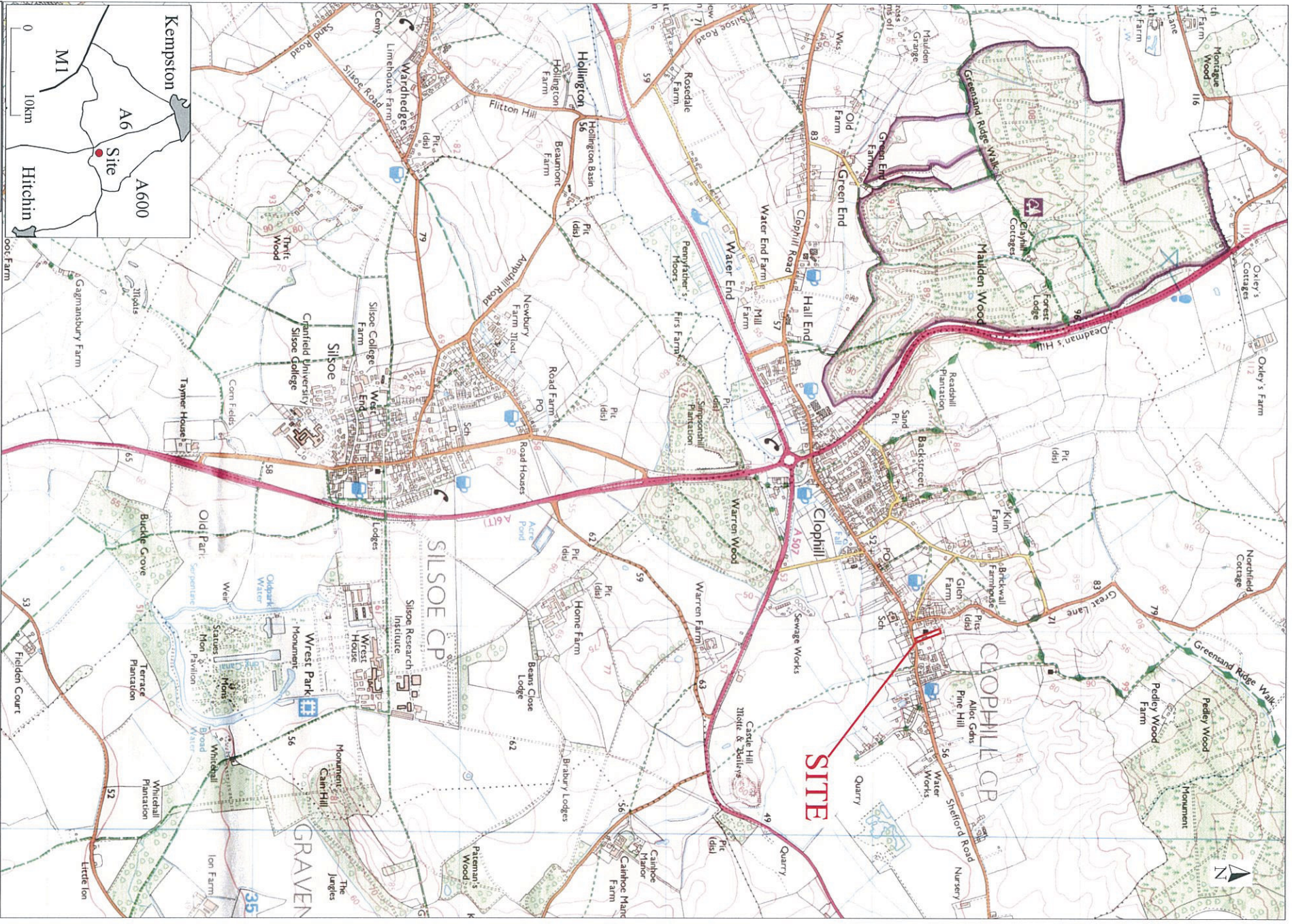
DP8. General view of car port area, looking NW.



DP9. Sample section 1, looking WSW.

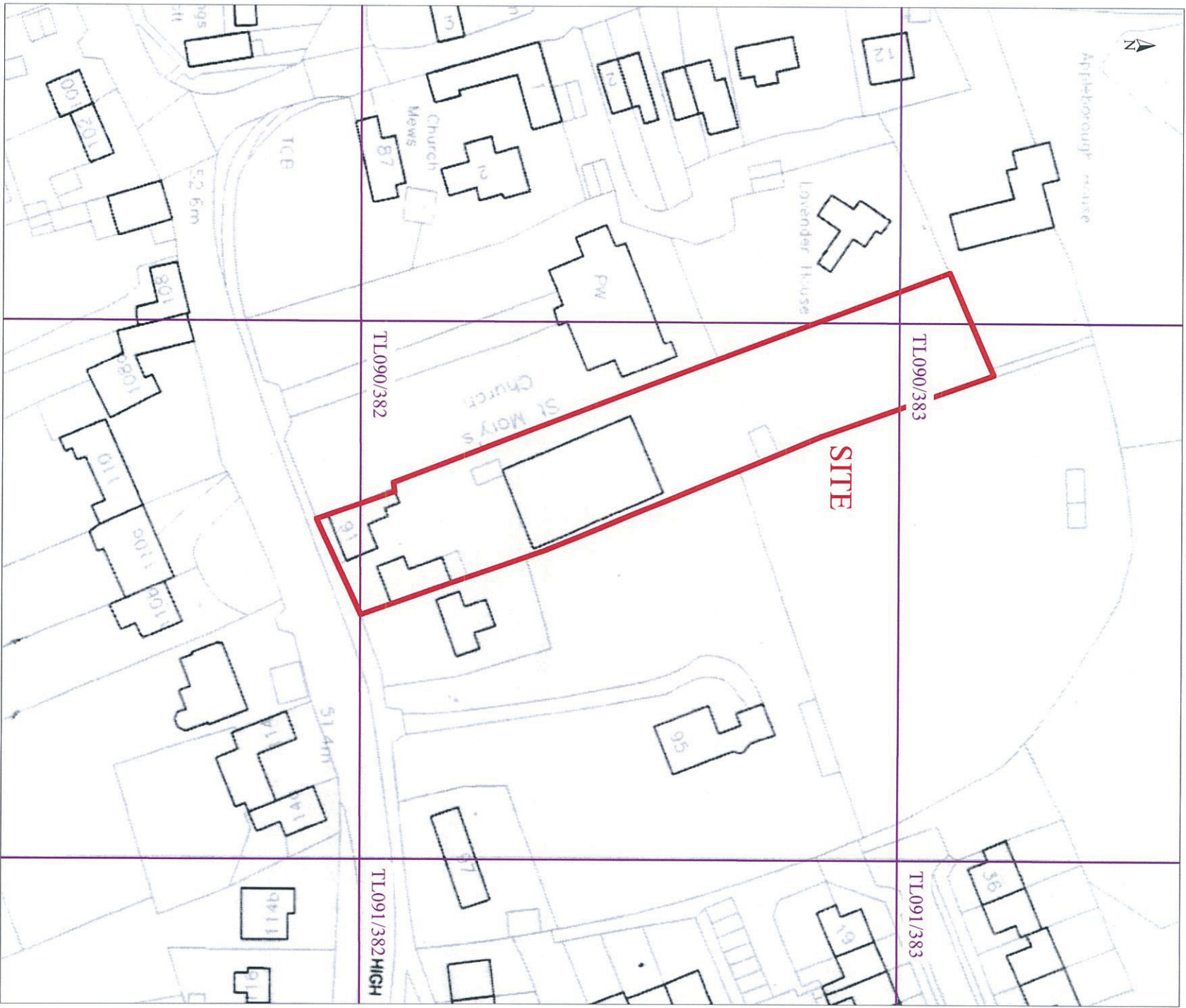


DP10. Area of proposed new dwelling, looking NNW.

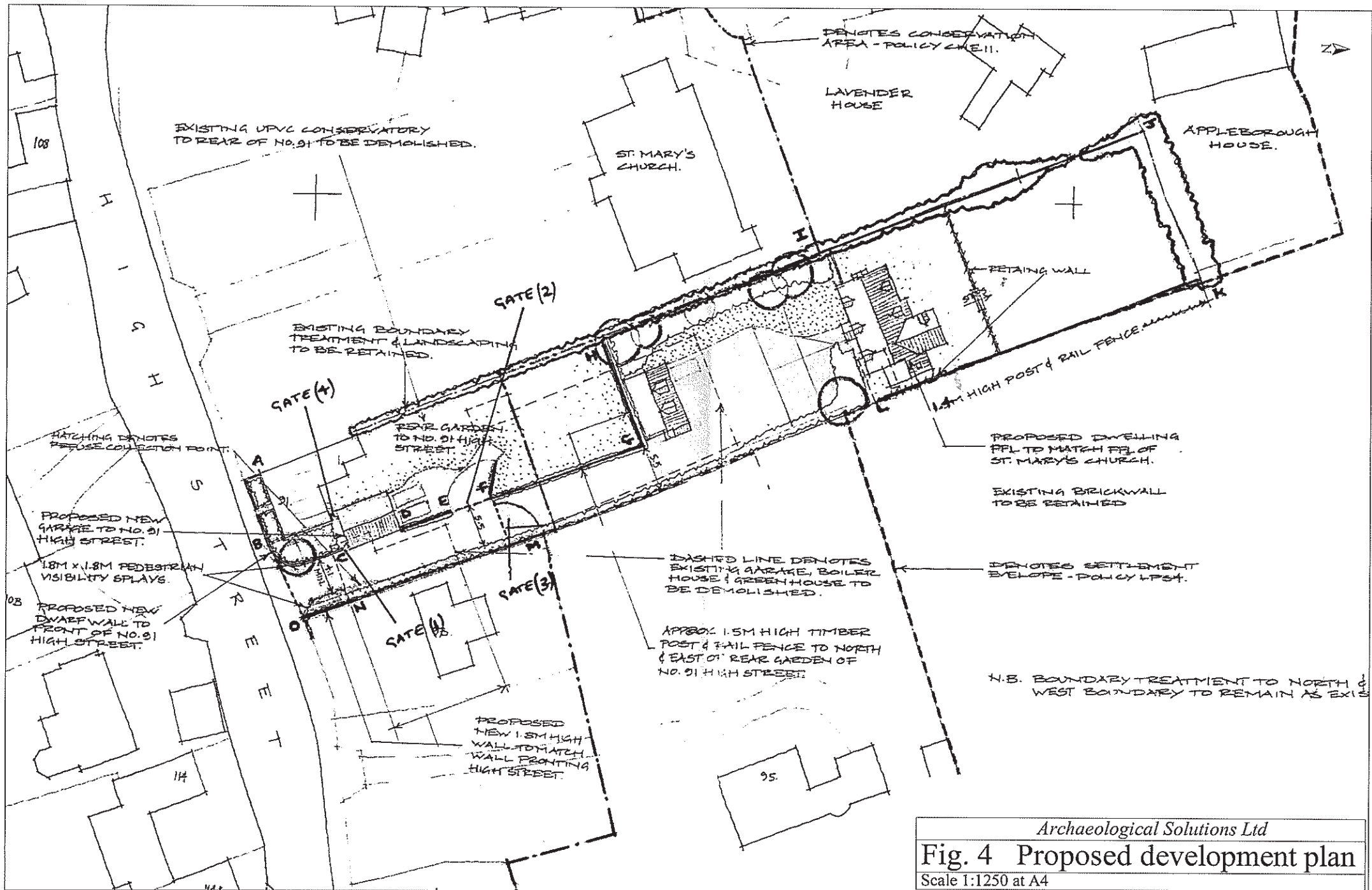


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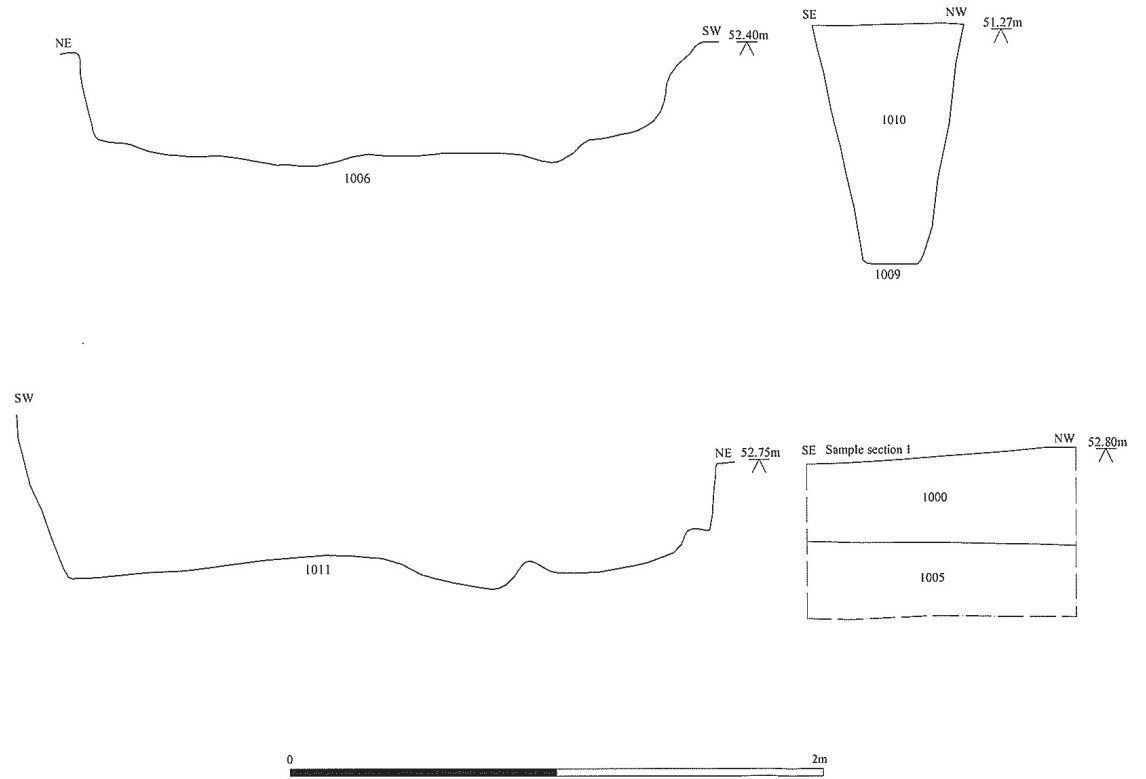
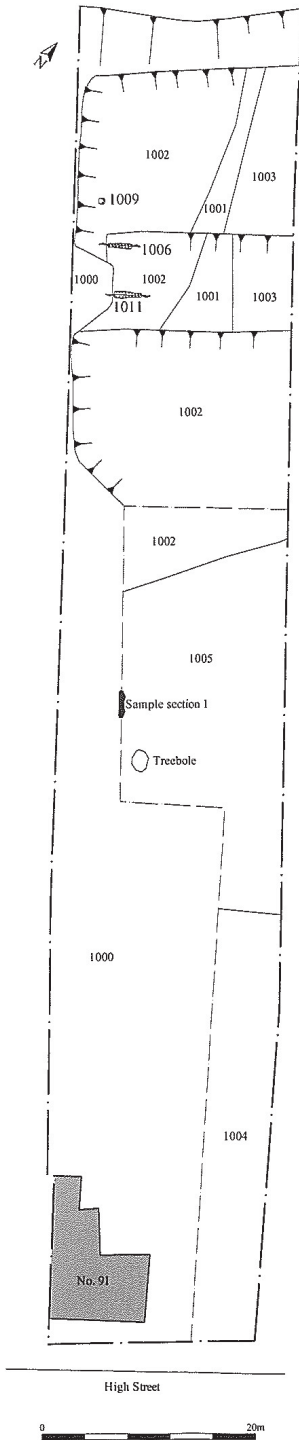
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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**Fig. 4 Proposed development plan**  
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Plan and sections**  
 Scale plan at 1:500 & sections at 1:20 at A3