

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE SITE OF THE
PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT AT BARWELL COURT FARM,
CHESSINGTON**



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Date	13 th October 2010
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Client	Mr Philip Stone on behalf of the Trustees of the Sir Francis Barker Will Trust

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation of a site at Barwell Court Farm, Chessington on the site of a proposed redevelopment on 5th October 2010 (fig 1). The archaeological desktop assessment undertaken by SCAU in August 2010 recommended the archaeological evaluation as the next stage of work, having identified the site as having a high archaeological potential which required further archaeological investigation (Robertson 2010, 10).

1.2 SCAU were commissioned to undertake the archaeological evaluation by Mr Philip Stone on behalf of the Trustees of the Sir Francis Barker Will Trust.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Following the removal of the concrete slab, one trial trench, 12m long and 1.7m wide, was excavated within the stable yard, between the brick stable block and the wooden stables, using a mini tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (fig 2). The trench was located in a position agreed prior to the start of work.

2.2 The machining of the trial trench was carefully watched for the occurrence of any features of archaeological interest, and the spoil heaps were scanned for any artefacts.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 The trial trench was 0.65-0.70m deep with a stratigraphy that varied slightly along the trench, but was generally 0.05m concrete slab, over 0.25-0.30m crushed chalk rubble, over 0.10-0.12m dark brown moist loam with frequent brick and tile rubble, over 0.25m crushed brick and tile rubble overlying the natural orange/blue-grey clay/sandy clay. It is possible that the crushed brick and tile rubble derive from the demolition of buildings that previously stood on the site of the wooden stables, as seen on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Robertson 2010, fig 6). The trial trench demonstrated that this part of the development site has been truncated down to the level of the natural clay, with no evidence for topsoil or subsoil. It was subsequently levelled up by the various layers of crushed brick and chalk rubble, then capped with concrete. It is not possible to determine by how much this part of the site has been truncated or at what depth the top of the natural clay would have originally been.

A possible capped well of apparent modern date, with a brick surround and concrete cap, was revealed at the north-eastern end of the trench, beneath the layer of crushed chalk rubble.

3.2 Only one feature of possible archaeological interest, a shallow gully-like feature (102), was revealed running diagonally across the southwest end of the trench, cutting the natural orange/grey sandy clay (fig 3). The gully was roughly linear, aligned north-south, with irregular edges, and was sampled by the hand excavation of segment 101 in order to determine its date, character and extent. The gully was observed to be c1.10m wide and up to 0.18m deep, with a fill of moist grey-green clayey sand with dark grey mottling, and a number of flints pebbles along its base (fig 4). The only finds recovered from the segment were two fragments of post-medieval tile and two small pieces of calcined flint. Two other fragments of post-medieval tile were embedded in the surface of the gully.

The irregular nature of the outline of the feature, together with the variable appearance of the natural deposits across the trench, make it possible that this is simply a further variation into which the post-medieval tile has been pushed during the truncation of the site. Otherwise it may be an irregular feature created in that process.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 One feature (102) of possible archaeological interest was revealed within the trial trench, producing four pieces of post-medieval tile and two small pieces of calcined flint. The origin and nature of the feature is uncertain; one suggestion is that the feature is of natural origin with intrusive finds, another is that it is of uncertain post-medieval purpose.

4.2 The excavation of the trial trench has demonstrated that this part of the development site has been truncated, by an unknown amount, to the level of the natural clay. The site was subsequently levelled up with layers of brick and chalk rubble, possibly in order to create a more freely draining area raised above the natural clay.

4.3 No positive evidence for ancient activity of significance was identified. It seems very unlikely that anything of significance will be identified within the stable yard. However, the complete removal of levels of potential interest in this area means that it cannot be used to assess the potential of the area around, and the views given in the desktop assessment (Robertson 2010, 9-10) still apply.

4.4 The proposed redevelopment of the site will involve groundworks in a number of different areas (fig 5):

4.4.1 The stable yard and existing wooden stables where the trial trench was excavated

4.4.2 The site of the two new back-to-back garages in the area of the existing wooden stables and the adjacent storage building

4.4.3 The interior of the brick built stable, which will be converted to two residential properties

4.4.4 The northeast and southwest ends of the brick stable block

4.5.1 The excavation of the trial trench in the stable yard has demonstrated that this part of the site has been disturbed to a depth of c0.65m. It is unlikely that anything of archaeological significance will have survived within this area, therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required within this area.

4.5.2 The site of the proposed new back-to-back garages and their driveways on the south-west side of the site, where the existing wooden stables and storage building are located, is untested by trial trenching, and it is uncertain whether or not the disturbance to a depth of 0.65m observed within the trial trench extends to this part of the site. In addition, the type of foundation to be used in the construction of the garages has not yet been specified: it could either be traditional strip foundations or a concrete raft. The degree of impact on any underlying deposits will depend upon the type of foundations chosen. It is, therefore, recommended that a watching brief be undertaken on the groundwork associated with the construction of the garages and the driveways.

4.5.3 The concrete floor in the interior of the brick stable block, which is being converted, will be removed and relaid, and services installed. The amount of previous disturbance caused during the 19th construction of the building is unknown and no information has been received to date regarding the proposed installation of services to the converted property. Any groundworks associated with the removal of the concrete floor, reduction of the floor level and the installation of services may have an impact on any underlying deposits of archaeological interest. It is, therefore, recommended that a watching brief be undertaken on the work.

4.5.4 It is proposed to remove the existing tarmac and concrete surfaces at the northeast and southwest ends of the brick stable block in order to re-landscape these areas to create gardens for the two properties. The depth of disturbance in these areas is unknown, therefore if the proposed groundworks in these areas exceed the removal of the existing tarmac and concrete surfaces, it is recommended that a watching brief be undertaken on the work.

4.6 Any recommendations contained within this report are those of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit. They will need approval by the Local Planning Authority, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, generally acting under the advice of English Heritage (Archaeology). A suitable specification will also need to be submitted and approved prior to any on site works taking place.

Bibliography

Robertson, J, 2010 *A preliminary archaeological assessment of the proposed redevelopment at Barwell Court Farm, Chessington*

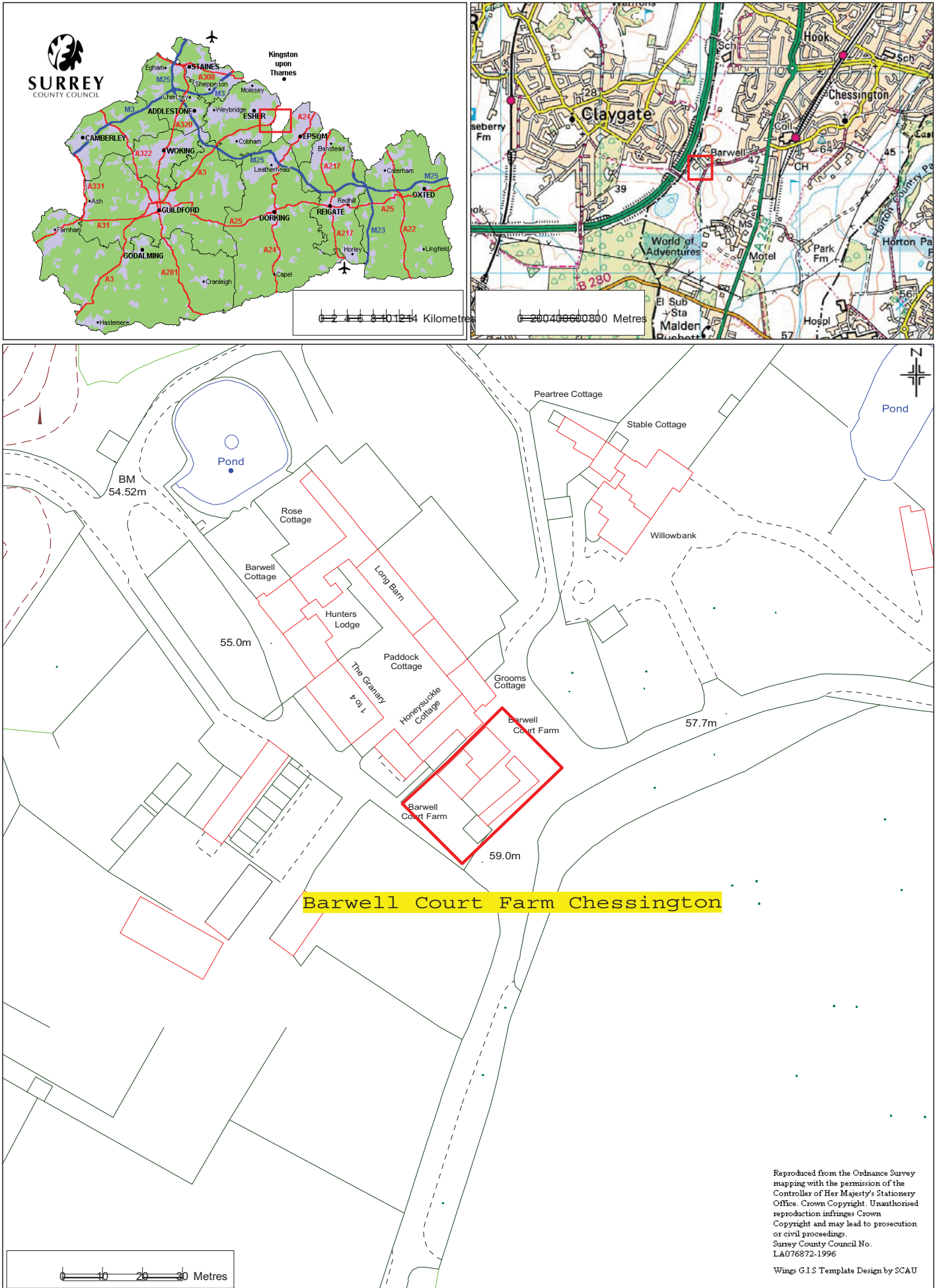
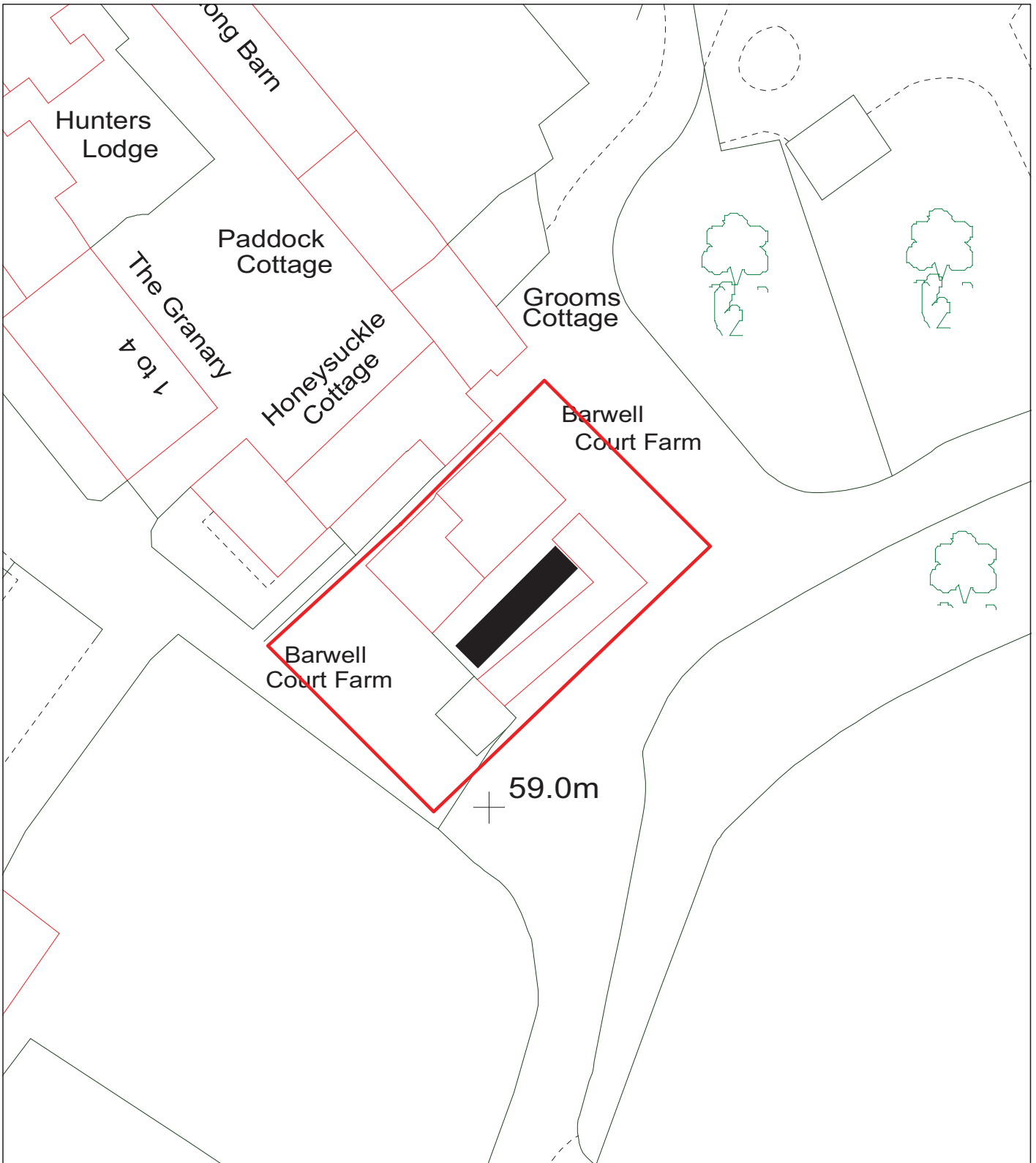


Fig 1 Barwell Court Farm, Chessington: site location



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Scale 1:500

Date: 06/10/2010

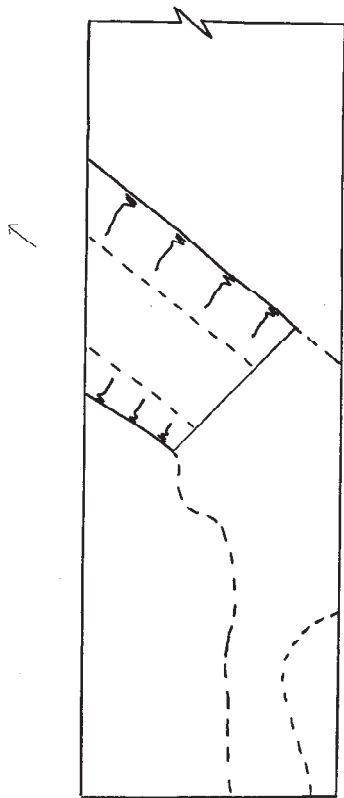
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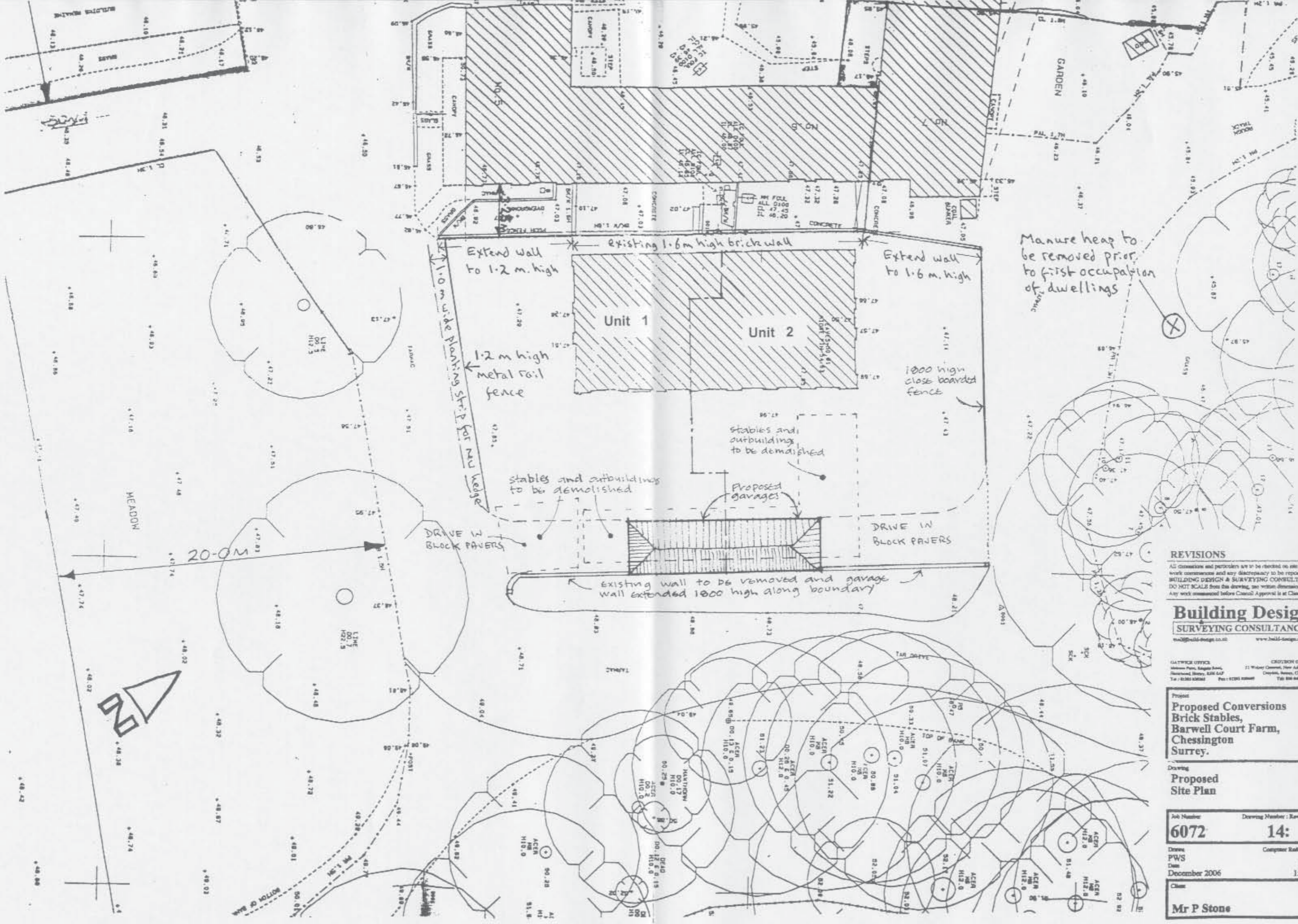
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 All dimensions and particulars are to be checked on site before work commences and any discrepancy to be reported to BUILDING DESIGN & SURVEYING CONSULTANCY. DO NOT SCALE from this drawing, see written dimensions only. Any work assessed before Council Approval is at Client's risk.

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Project
**Proposed Conversions
 Brick Stables,
 Barwell Court Farm,
 Chessington
 Surrey.**

Drawing
**Proposed
 Site Plan**

Job Number Drawing Number / Revision
6072 14:

Drawn PWS
 Date December 2006
 Scale 1:200

Client
Mr P Stone