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Archaeology Report Number CB474R v.1.1

Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Norfolk, PE32 1AJ
King's Lynn & West Norfolk - 15/01999/F

Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control
19 June 2017 to 02 February 2018

Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF141327

Prepared for

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**Report on Works under Archaeological Supervision and
Control at
'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Norfolk'
ENF141327**

Title	Report on Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Norfolk, PE32 1AJ'
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Grid reference	TF 70396 22653
NCC ES reference	CNF46239_2
NHER event	ENF141327
OASIS ID	chrisbir1-323246
Fieldwork dates	19 June 2017 to 02 February 2018
Derivation	Initial draft CB474R v.1.0
Origination Date	11 October 2018
Sequence	CB474R v.1.0 Grimston, CB474R v.1.1 Grimston
Version	1.1
Status	Approved final copy
Reviser(s)	Chris Birks
Date of revision	11 March 2019
Summary of Changes	Confirmation of approval
Sections revised	1.2
Circulation	Norfolk County Council Environment Service, Client
Required Action	n/a
File Name/Location	C:\Users\Chris\Desktop\Chris Business\Year 15 Apr2018 to Apr2019\Finished projects\Grimston\Report\Report CB474R v.1.1 Grimston.pdf
Approval	Approved
Comments	Draft report submitted to Norfolk County Council Environment Service on 22 October 2018, approved on 07 March 2019.

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Plate 1. Example of foundation trenches and modern disturbance, looking southeast

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Summary

Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were carried out at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk' (Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF141327) between 19 June 2017 to 02 February 2018 during residential development of the site. No archaeological remains were present.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A programme of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk' (grid reference TF 70396 22653, *Fig. 1*) was requested by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service as a planning condition to record archaeological remains that may otherwise have been destroyed by the development in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework (2012)*.

Figure 1 Site Location



- 1.2 Report, CB474R v.1.0, describes the results and a copy was submitted to the Norfolk County Council Environment Service (formerly Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service) for

consideration on 22 October 2018. Approval was received on 07 March 2019 prior to preparation of this final copy, CB474R v.1.1.

2.0 Project Background

- 2.1 A proposal for the construction of three new dwellings at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk' was approved subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological work. Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control (also referred to as "archaeological monitoring" or "Watching Brief") were required at a level of constant attendance.
- 2.2 Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were required to record the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework (2012)*, (paras 128, 129, 132, 134 and 141). They were undertaken in accordance with a generic Brief issued by the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (reference CNF46239_2) and a generic Written Scheme of Investigation for Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control (CBGenWB v.1.9). Specific aims of the project are to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features. This forms part of the research agenda for the eastern counties of England in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). Full details of research aims, methodology and standards are provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 2.3 The *Code of Conduct (2014)*, *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (January 2015 revision) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014)* by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIFA) were adhered to.
- 2.4 Works were carried out according to guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and *Management of research projects in the historic environment. The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).
- 2.5 Norfolk Historic Environment Record event number ENF141327. Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) ID: chrisbir-323246 (*Appendix 2*).
- 2.6 The archive will be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of research projects in the historic environment. The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015) and submitted to the Norfolk Museums Service for long-term storage.

3.0 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 A search of entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for the site and 500m radius was carried out on 19 September 2016 and produced 21 records. A summary of these records is provided in this report. Further details of these and all other entries can be seen at the Historic Environment Record office at Gressenhall near Dereham by prior appointment.
- 3.2 The earliest activities are represented by the recovery of prehistoric tools including a Neolithic stone axe or adze (NHER 34912), a Neolithic or Bronze Age stone axehammer (NHER 3571) and a part-polished Neolithic axehead (NHER 20561).
- 3.3 Metal-detected finds indicate activities during the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and Post-medieval periods (NHER 3599, 32764 and 56852). Settlement during the Saxon and medieval periods is represented through the recovery of pottery finds (NHER 22913, 25432, 29544, 39695) and medieval periods (NHER 14481 and 14482) and the recovery of kiln waste indicates pottery production in the Late Saxon and medieval periods (NHER 3581). Grimston was well known for pottery production, in particular during the 13th and 14th centuries. The site lies within an area of secondary, probably green-edge settlement known in the later medieval period as Long Row Green. A possible medieval manor was located nearby (NHER 18106). It remained an area of scattered, though reduced in density, settlement throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (NHER 46886, 46813, 50018 and 47128). Congham Hall (NHER 3605) was built between 1794 and 1812 with an associated historic parkland created in 1814 (NHER 31969). A section of The Midland and

Great Northern Joint Railway 19th century link between Great Yarmouth and Sutton Bridge passes to the northwest of the development site (NHER 13581).

3.4 The site was most recently used as a slaughter yard.

4.0 Geology and Topography

4.1 The west half of Grimston parish lies upon a solid geology of the Lower Cretaceous series with areas of overlying blown sand, shingle and river gravels and the east half lies upon a Lower and Middle Chalk solid geology (Funnell 2005). The western two thirds of the parish lie within the West Norfolk Lowlands soil landscape and the remainder lies within the Good Sands (Williamson 2005). Soils are typically a dark loamy plough layer over chalk rubble.

4.2 The site lies to the west of Grimston village, north of Pott Row and south of Roydon on reasonable level ground at an elevation of c. 15m OD.

5.0 Results

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control were carried out between 19 June 2017 and 02 February 2018 during excavations associated with the construction of three new dwellings (*Fig. 2*).

5.1.2 Site conditions were good and access was gained from Chequers Road to the north of the site. The weather varied from dry and sunny to occasional rain showers.

5.1.3 Context numbers were allocated during fieldwork and are summarised in *Appendix 1*.

5.2 Observations

Context No.	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds	Spot date
1	Deposit	Light to mid grey sandy loam topsoil with frequent brick and concrete rubble and occasional medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.4m	No	-
2	Deposit	Mid brown sandy loam subsoil with occasional medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.5m	No	-
3	Deposit	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized chalk pieces and concentrations of frequent small- to medium-sized subangular flints	-	-	-

5.2.1 The 3 house plots were initially stripped and levelled removing c. 0.2m of topsoil (1). Excavations for foundation trenches measured 0.6m wide to a depth of c. 0.7m beneath stripped ground level removing c. 0.2m of topsoil (1) above c. 0.5m of subsoil (2) and undisturbed 'natural' deposits (3). Depths of deposits were quite consistent across the site. Areas of concrete floors and ground beams and a steel stanchion post relating to former buildings on the site were exposed (*Plate 1*).

5.2.2 Excavations for surface water soakaways measured c. 3m by 1.5m to a depth of c. 1m beneath ground level removing similar depths of topsoil (1) and subsoil (2) as observed in the foundation trenches and excavations for drains and mains service trenches did not extend beyond subsoil (2) (*Plate 2*, not illustrated).

5.2.3 No archaeological remains were observed during the excavations.

Plate 1. Example of foundation trenches and modern disturbance, looking southeast



Scale is 2m in 0.5m intervals

Plate 2. Example of soakaway and drain, looking northwest



Scale is 2m in 0.5m intervals

6.0 Conclusions and Discussion

- 6.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to have been present, none were observed. Settlement activities may have occurred closer to present day Chequers Road some distance to the

north of the development plot. Equally, a great deal of modern disturbance to and beyond the depth of undisturbed 'natural' deposits was observed, associated with the former slaughter yard on this site, that may have truncated archaeological remains.

Acknowledgments

The project was undertaken by Chris Birks for Firefox Coastal Limited who also funded the work and provided plant. Many thanks to Kevin and Peter Waddison at Firefox Coastal Limited. Thanks also to Mr Ian Bix and Martin Skeritt at Ian H Bix Associates Ltd.

Fieldwork was undertaken by John Simmons. The report was written and drawings were prepared by Chris Birks.

Many thanks to Peter Watkins at the Norfolk Historic Environment Record office and to Xenia Paula Kyriakou at the former Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service. Thanks also to James Albone, Steve Hickling and John Percival at the Norfolk County Council Environment Service.

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Appendix 1. Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Thickness	Finds	Spot date	Date
1	Deposit	Light to mid grey sandy loam topsoil with frequent brick and concrete rubble and occasional medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.4m	No	-	JS/23 June 17
2	Deposit	Mid brown sandy loam subsoil with occasional medium-sized subangular flints	c. 0.5m	No	-	JS/23 June 17
3	Deposit	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay undisturbed 'natural' deposits with rare small-sized chalk pieces and concentrations of frequent small- to medium-sized subangular flints	-	-	-	JS/23 June 17

Appendix 2. OASIS record

OASIS ID: chrisbir1-323246

Project details

Project name	WUASC at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Norfolk'
Short description of the project	Monitoring during residential development revealed no archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2017 End: 02-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141327 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK GRIMSTON Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Grimston, Norfolk
Study area	500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 7040 2265 52.774124501334 0.526404500455 52 46 26 N 000 31 35 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Chris Birks
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Birks
Project director/manager	Chris Birks
Project supervisor	John Simmons
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	ENF141327
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	Report includes colour digital images

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Report on Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control at 'Middle Farm, 15 Chequers Road, Pott Row, Griston, Norfolk'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Birks, C.,
Other bibliographic details	Report Number CB474R
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Chris Birks
Place of issue or publication	Contractor's Report
Description	A4 report with fold-out A3 drawing
Entered by	Chris Birks (chris@chrisbirksarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	22 October 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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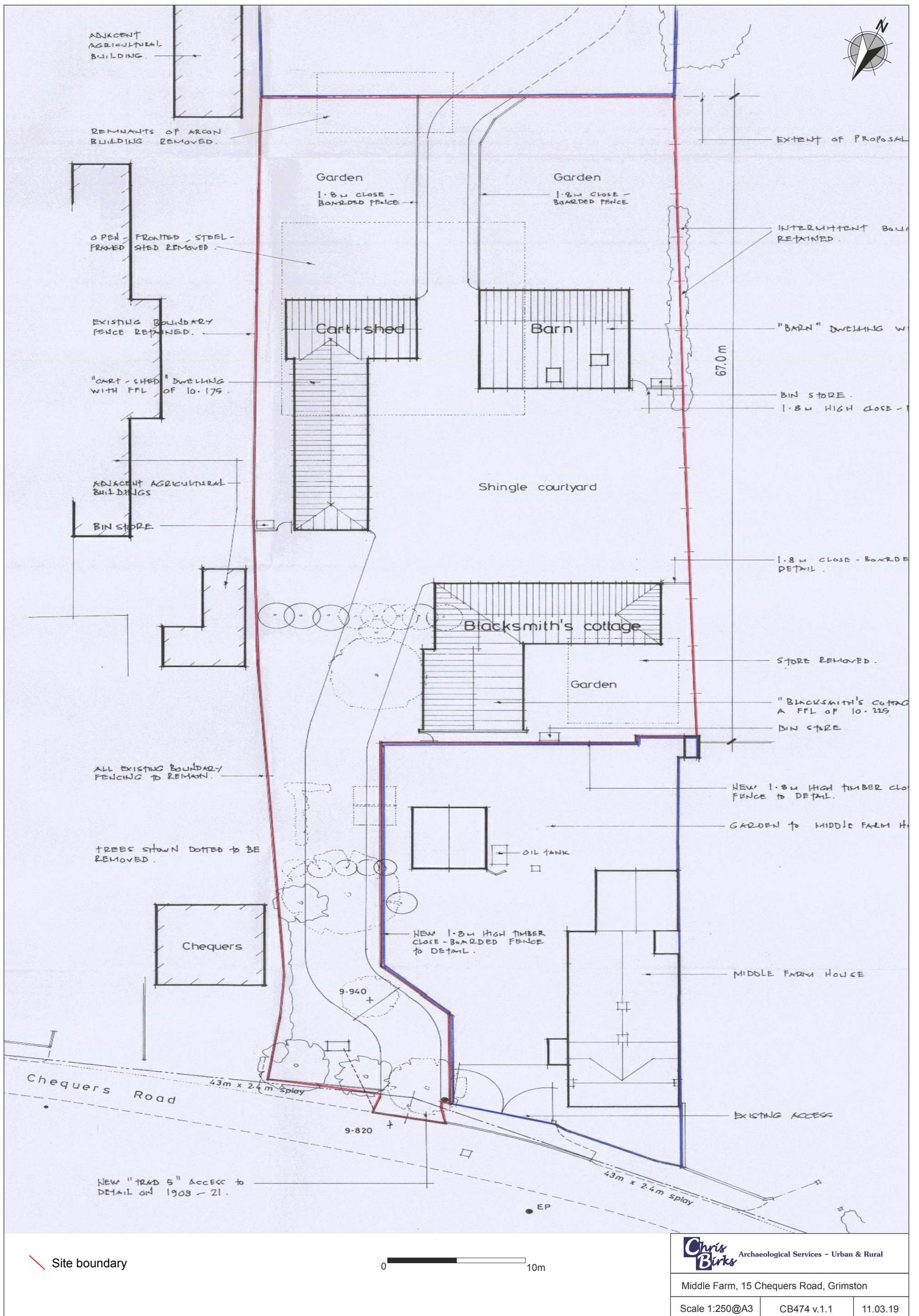


Figure 2. Site plan