

Old Rectory
Market Bosworth
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
July 2024



Report

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Site

Old Rectory, Market Bosworth

Client

Heritage Archaeology

Planning Authority

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Planning Ref

23/00667/FUL

Accession Number

X.A4.2024

Grid reference

SK 40753 02958

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Date

May 2024

Rocket Ref

RHA22/221

Version	Comments	Revised by	Date
0.1	Initial Draft		22/05/2024
0.2	Client Comments	Adam Goodfellow	02/07/2024

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Executive Summary

Rocket Heritage & Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Heritage Archaeology to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 0LS, centred at NGR SK 40753 02958.

The archaeological works were conducted in response to the development of the site, comprising the transformation of a private dwelling into a Specialist Education Needs (SEN) School, including the erection of two single story classrooms, a Multi-Use Gaming Area (MUGA) and a revised parking layout with electric charging points, widening of access, replacement perimeter fencing, external landscaping, works to trees and other works.

An archaeologist-controlled soil strip of the primary development area was undertaken, together with archaeological monitoring of tree removal and groundworks which caused below-ground disturbance at the locations of the external classroom and therapy block, the MUGA and the front car park. This was in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was approved by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

The monitoring took place over seven days between 4 March and 9 April 2024 (4–5 March, 12–13 March, 25–26 March and 9 April). All groundworks, comprising foundations, drainage, parking spaces, a tank and fencing, were monitored.

Only features resulting from modern disturbance were observed. While the site is situated within an area of archaeological potential, the absence of significant archaeological features and nature of the recorded deposits, indicates truncation including by the installation of services. It is likely that this occurred during the development and landscaping of the existing building.

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of Work

1.1.1 An archaeologist-controlled soil strip and watching brief was conducted by Rocket Heritage & Archaeology Ltd (RHA) on land at Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Leicestershire (centred NGR SK 40753 02958; Figure 1) between 4 March and 9 April 2024. This included monitoring of the soil strip in the primary development area, together with monitoring of tree removal and works which caused below-ground disturbance in the locations of the external classroom and therapy block, the MUGA and the front car park. The works were commissioned by Heritage Archaeology Ltd in response to a condition (no.3) attached to a planning application (Planning Ref. 23/00667/FUL) submitted to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

1.1.2 The application comprises the change of use of the Old Rectory, from a dwellinghouse to a Specialist Education Needs (SEN) School, and the erection of two single story classrooms, a Multi-Use Gaming Area (MUGA) and a revised parking layout with electric charging points, widening of access, replacement perimeter fencing, external landscaping, works to trees and other works.

1.1.3 The attached condition stated:

'3. No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been [submitted to and] approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and

- *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.*
- *The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.'*

1.1.4 The work was conducted in line with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; RHA 2024), detailing the Local Authority's requirements and methodologies for work necessary to inform the planning process.

2. Location, Topography and Geology

2.1.1 The site is located at Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Leicestershire, CV13 0LS (Figure 1).

2.1.2 The Old Rectory is a Grade II listed building (NHLE 1361308), built in 1849. It is a red brick structure with stone dressings and a slate roof with stone coped gable ends. It has a double depth plan of 2 parallel ranges, a central entrance hall, and a service wing. The structure has a 2:3 bay north front, symmetrical 3-bay main range, and a 2-storey canted bay window (Historic England).

2.1.3 The site is currently a private residence and is bounded to the north, east and west by trees. To the south, the site backs onto arable fields. The site is at 135m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Market Bosworth itself sits approximately 125m

aOD and is located on land forming a ridge above the basins of the rivers Sence to the west and Soar to the east.

- 2.1.4 The bedrock is classed as a Gunthorpe member mudstone, sedimentary bedrock, formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago. The superficial deposits are Glaciofluvial deposits from the mid Pleistocene period, consisting of mainly gravels and sands. (BGS)

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; 2023a) as:

a formal programme of observation, investigation and recording conducted during works carried out for non-archaeological reasons, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

- 3.1.2 The aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording is to record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. To report on these findings and, where applicable, to carry out a programme of post-excavation assessment and disseminate the results.

3.2 Objectives

- 3.2.1 The principal objective is to create a record of the archaeological resource at the site. This record should provide sufficient information to inform all interested parties, particularly the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The data can then be used to inform future mitigation and planning decisions relating to the area.

3.3 Site specific objectives

- 3.3.1 Site specific objectives as set out in the WSI, and in line with the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) were as follows.
- 6.4.5. May settlement have retreated from areas of heavier soils in some areas (e.g. Leicestershire and Northamptonshire)?
 - 6.4.4. What factors may underlie the progression from dispersed to nucleated settlement and the growth of settlement hierarchies?
 - 6.7.1. Is there evidence for new crops and other agricultural changes during the Roman/Saxon transition?
 - 6.7.3. How early may crop rotation and the open-field system have developed, and how may this relate to other agricultural innovations such as mouldboard ploughs, water meadows and land-drainage?
 - 6.7.5. To what extent did woodland regenerate in the post-Roman period and how were woodlands used and managed?
 - 7.1.1. How did the major towns and smaller market towns of the region develop after the Norman Conquest, both within the urban core and in suburban and extra-mural areas?

4. Methodology

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the WSI, CIfA *Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording* (2023a), CIfA *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording* (2023b), and

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015a).

- 4.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The groundworks comprised foundation trenches, drainage, and parking spaces, as well as fencing and the excavation of a tank.
- 4.1.3 All exposed deposits and features were recorded using RHA pro-forma context sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. Registers of context numbers, drawings and photographs were maintained and are presented in the appendix.
- 4.1.4 Digital colour photography was undertaken with a minimum resolution of 12 megapixels and in line with Historic England guidance (Historic England 2015b). Photographs included a scale. General record images were also taken. A selection of images is presented in this report.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1.1 The following section has been drawn from a heritage statement produced for the site (Heritage Archaeology 2023). The notes that any archaeological features and deposits within the site are likely to have been impacted upon by the previous land use within the gardens and construction of the original house, terraces, and a swimming pool extension.

5.2 Prehistoric and Roman

- 5.2.1 The position of the area of Market Bosworth above the Sence and Soar valleys would have been an attractive location for settlement in the prehistoric period, whilst A Roman villa was found to the northwest of Bosworth Hall in the 1960s.
- 5.2.2 Discoveries of a Bronze Age cremation urn and a Roman coin are reported in antiquarian references. It is uncertain whether these were found within the gardens of the Old Rectory, but the dates of the finds correlate to the date of the construction.

5.3 Medieval

- 5.3.1 The name Bosworth consists of the personal name 'Bosa' and the element *worthig*, denoting an enclosure, and indicating an early medieval settlement. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records the name 'Bosworth', with the ownership split between Count of Meulan and Hugh de Grandmesnil. The entry mentions a settlement was present before the Norman conquest and notes a church, possibly indicating that the current church may have an earlier phase.

5.4 Post-medieval and Modern

- 5.4.1 The site of the Old Rectory, which was built in 1849, was originally pasture with an area denoted as the 'Old Bowling Green'. This area later became gardens with terracing. This landscaping and the construction of a swimming pool on the grounds will have removed or disturbed any remains within their footprint.

6. Results

6.1 Area 1

- 6.1.1 Monitoring comprised the excavation of parking spaces to a depth of 0.18m and one trench for a new water main to the site running north-south to the west of the property to a maximum depth of 1.20m (Figure 2, Figure 3). Ground conditions throughout were dry.
- 6.1.2 Natural geology comprising mid-yellow to brown clayey silt (108) was observed at a depth of 0.60m BGL (131.24m aOD). This was sealed by a deposit comprising mid-grey to brown clayey silt subsoil (111) which ranged in thickness from 0.45m in the north to 0.35m in the south. The sequence was completed by topsoil (100) measuring up to 0.20m in thickness.
- 6.1.3 In the north of the area, this sequence was cut by the foundation of the modern paved path. Cut [104] was linear in plan and filled by a mid-pink to grey gravel (103).



Plate 1. Area 1, north section looking west (2x1m scales)

- 6.1.4 In the east of Area 1, a similar sequence of deposits was visible, with path cut [106] filled by (105) a mid-pink to grey gravel.
- 6.1.5 In the southeast of Area 1, made ground (107) was present, comprising firm mid-yellow to grey clayey silt with clay lenses (Plate 3).



Plate 2. Area 1, west section looking northeast (no scale)



Plate 3. Area 1, west section with made ground (107), looking north (2x1m scales)

- 6.1.6 A large area was stripped (Plate 4), and a trench running north-south was excavated in the western area. In the southwest of this area, subsoil (111) was cut the construction cut for the paved path, measuring 15m long, 0.60m wide (excavated) and 0.24m thick. The northern side of the cut [110] was visible, comprising a gradual break of slope at the top, vertical sides and a flat base. Fill (109) consisted of a mid-grey brown clayey silt with occasional frogged bricks and frequent small subangular stones.



Plate 4. Area 1, western area, looking northwest (2x1m scales)



Plate 5. Trench for new water main excavated in Area 1, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 6. Southwest section of western trench for new water main, showing (109), looking northeast (1m scale)

- 6.1.7 To the north of the central area was a modern deposit consisting of redeposited natural geology (101), a mid-yellow to brown clayey silt, with frequent subangular stones, occasional modern pottery and frequent modern glass (not retained) (Plate 7). This was sealed by topsoil (100). Cutting into (101) were a number of tree-throws, which were investigated but were not recorded as the regularity of their spacing (1.40m exactly on a northeast-southwest alignment) and the inclusions found within suggested a very modern date.



Plate 7. Area 1, northern part of parking area showing deposit (101), looking west (2x1m scales)

- 6.1.8 To the south of the central area, made ground (102) comprising a mid grey to brown sandy silt with occasional modern pottery (not retained), and frequent small subangular stones was observed under topsoil (100). The relationship between (101) and (102) was unclear (Plate 8).
- 6.1.9 Services, including gas and electricity were observed to the south. All were on a northwest-southeast alignment leading to the existing building.



Plate 8. Area 1, parking area showing intersection between (101) and (102), looking east (2x1m scales)



Plate 9. Area 1, southern part of parking area showing deposit (102), looking southeast (2x1m scales)

6.2 Area 2

- 6.2.1** Monitoring was undertaken of the removal of four tree stumps, and the excavation of: a playground area at a depth of 0.30m; MUGA to a depth of 0.20m; the path connecting them to a depth of 0.20mm; the location of a drainage tank to a depth of 0.30m and seven drains of varying orientation, length and depth (Figure 2, Figure 4 to Figure 6). Ground conditions throughout the works were wet.
- 6.2.2** To the centre and west of the property, natural geology comprising mid-red to brown silty clay (215) was observed at a depth ranging from 0.65m BGL (127.88m aOD), to 1m in the southwest (125.92m aOD). To the east of the property, the natural geology comprising mid-yellow to brown clayey silt (203) with frequent gravel inclusions was observed at a depth of 1.22m BGL (130.55m aOD). These natural deposits were sealed by a mid-grey to brown clayey silt subsoil (202) which ranged in thickness from 0.40m at the east to 0.45m at the west.

- 6.2.3 To the east of the property, deposit (202) was sealed by a dark orange to brown clayey silt (201), possibly associated with the rooting system of the removed stumps. This was sealed by topsoil (200) measuring up to 0.28m in thickness.



Plate 10. Area 2, west-facing section of tree stump 3 (1m scale)

- 6.2.4 In the centre of Area 2, deposit (202) was truncated by a large cut, 25m in length, 13m in width and 0.45 in depth (Figure 6). The cut [206] was rectangular, with a sharp break of slope at the top, concave sides, and a flat base. This was filled by primary fill (205) 0.23m thick, comprised of a mix of mid-blue to grey silty clay and mid-red to brown silty, with occasional small subangular stones, and secondary fill (204), a mid-grey to yellow silty clay measuring 0.18m thick.



Plate 11. Area 2, Drain 1 [206] (205) (204), looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 12. Area 2, north of tank location showing deposits (206) (205), looking east (2x1m scales)

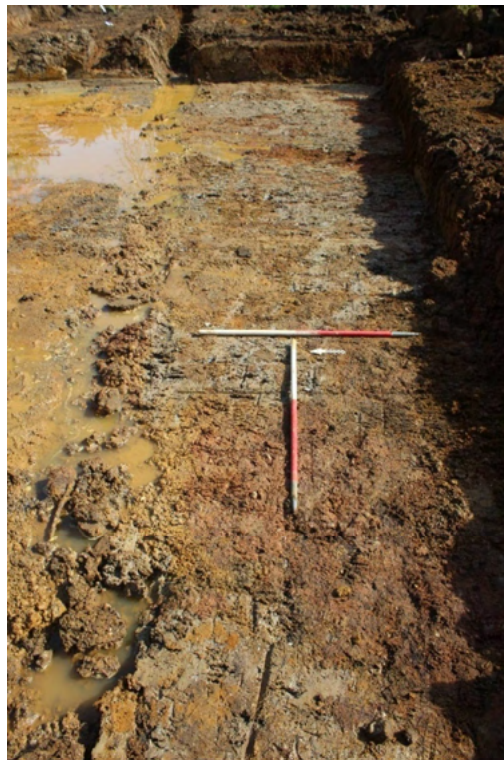


Plate 13. Area 2, south of tank location showing (205), looking east (2x1m scales)



Plate 14. Area 2, east-facing section of Drain 7 (1m scale)

- 6.2.5 Deposit (202) was also cut by a possible cess pit [214], measuring 50m long, 0.60m wide (excavated) and 0.60m deep. Cut [214] was only visible at the southern end of Drain 2 and was filled by (213), a mid-yellow to brown silty clay with occasional small subrounded stones, and modern glass bottles (not retained).



Plate 15. Area 2, Drain 3b showing (200) and fill (213), looking west (1m scale)

- 6.2.6 Fill (213) was cut by another cess pit [217], measuring 35m long, 0.60m wide (excavated), and 0.50m deep. This cut was only visible on one side, within Drain 3,

with concave sides and a flat base. It was filled by (216), a dark grey to brown clayey silt with occasional animal bones (cattle), glass bottles, slate, and modern plastic (not retained).

6.2.7 To the centre and west of the property, this sequence was completed by topsoil (200) measuring up to 0.20m thick.

6.2.8 Several post-medieval drains were observed in Area 2 (Figure 3). Most were on a north-south alignment leading to the existing building. Two ran east to west.



Plate 16. Area 2, Drain 3b showing (216), looking north-northwest (1m scale)



Plate 17. Northwest facing section of the corner of Drain 3b showing (200) (216) - Looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 18. Area 2, post-medieval drain running east-west in south facing section of tank excavation (1m scale)

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 Only recent archaeological features, including tree boles resulting from modern planting, drainage and service cuts and levelling deposits/made ground associated with garden features, were encountered. All finds were modern and were not retained.
- 7.1.2 The natural geology was observed at a depth of 0.60m BGL (131.24m aOD) at the north of the development area and 0.65m BGL (127.88m aOD), to 1m BGL to the southwest (125.92m aOD).
- 7.1.3 Made ground (205, 206) correlated to the location of an old tennis court and is most likely a deposit related to its construction, with drains possibly associated with this use.
- 7.1.4 The construction of the Old Rectory and landscaping of the grounds has resulted in substantial truncation of the original ground surface and removal of earlier deposits. The archaeological monitoring has enabled a permanent record of those deposits present to be made.

8. OASIS

- 8.1.1 An OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations) form will be completed for this project. After validation by the HER the project report will become a publicly accessible document.

9. Copyright

- 9.1.1 Copyright in the project report will rest with RHA Ltd unless specific arrangements are made for its assignment elsewhere. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will have permission to use the report for the purposes of the HER. This may include photocopying by third parties. Copyright of the written archive will be vested in the project archive repository at such a time that deposition is possible.

Sources

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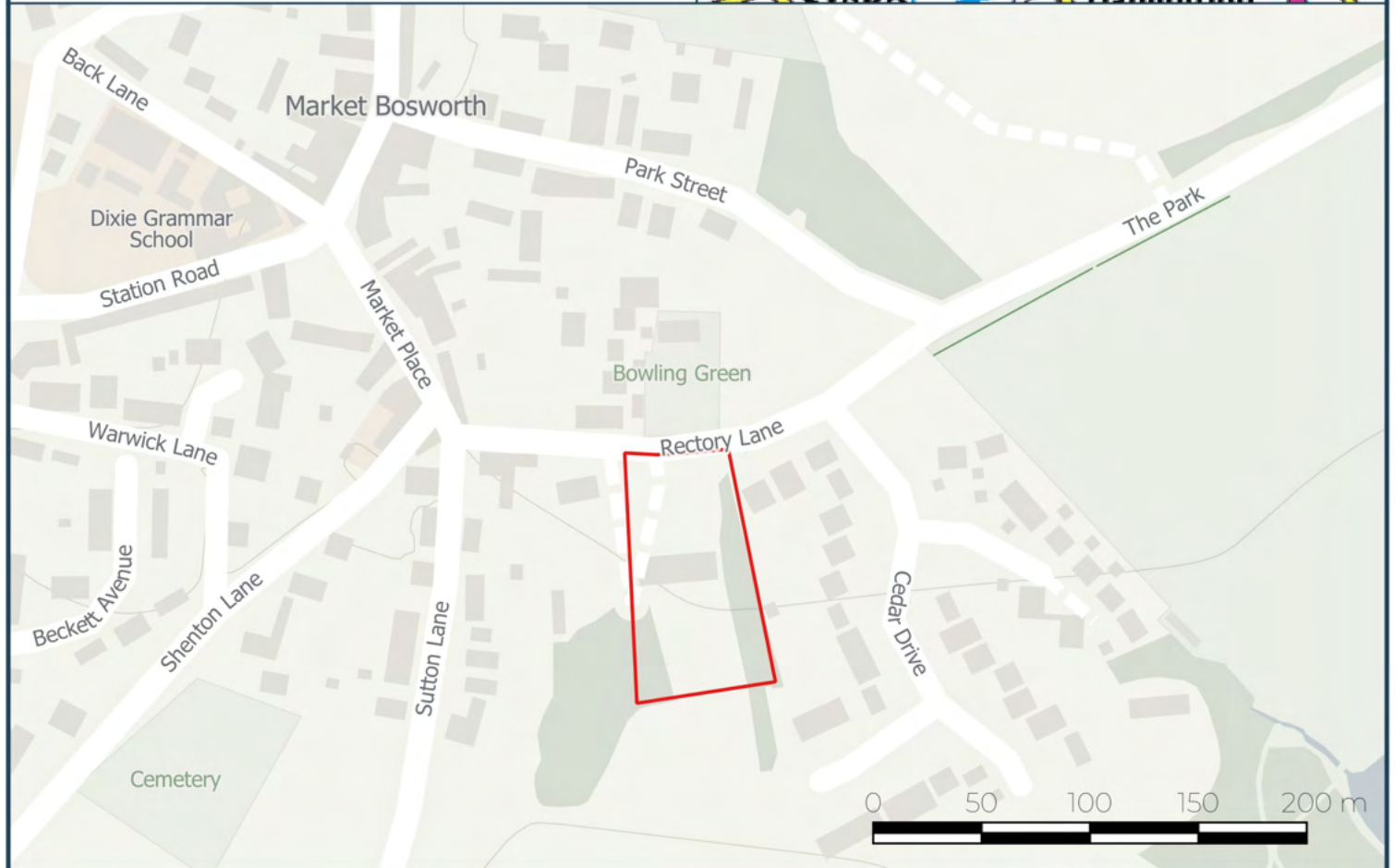
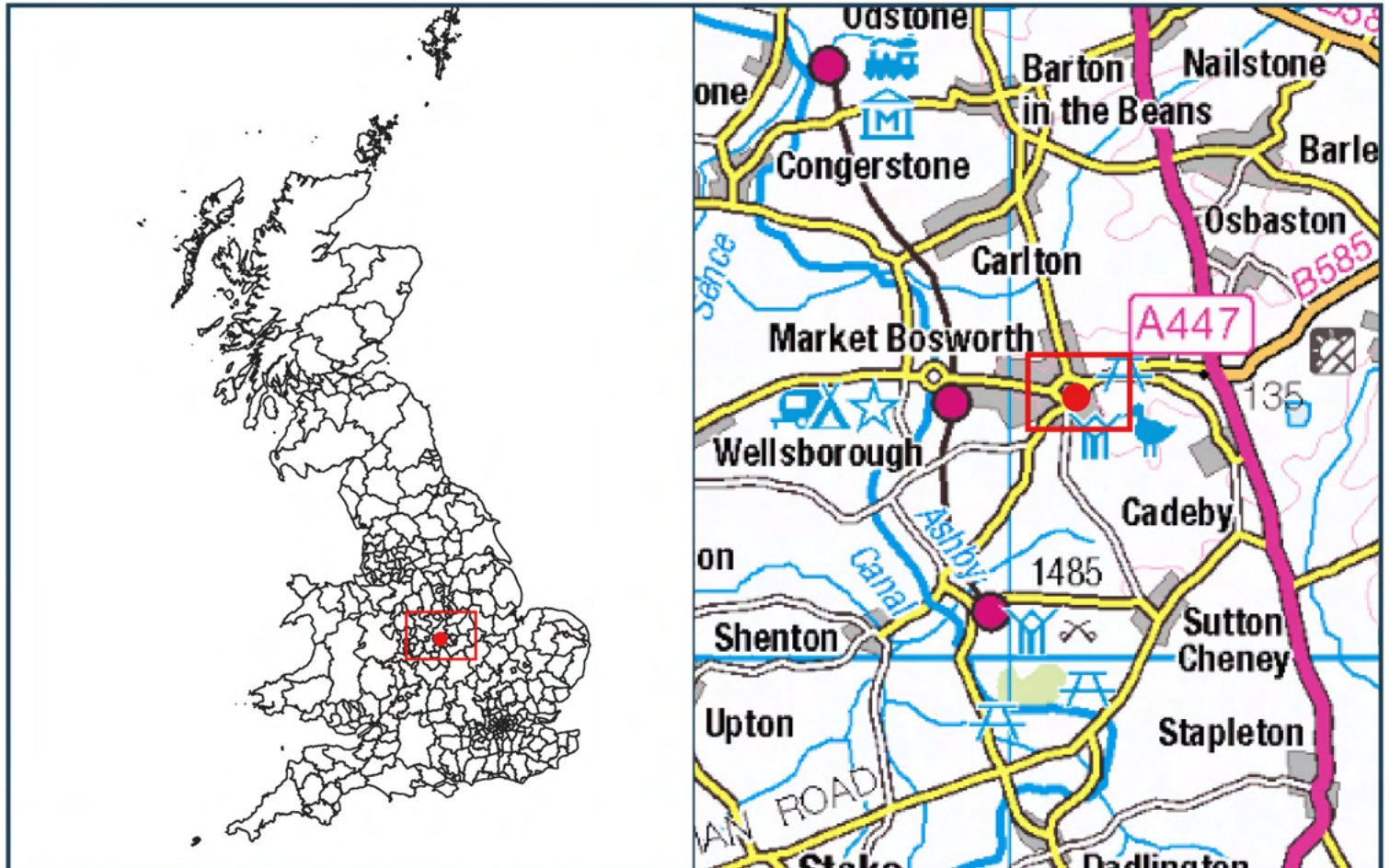
RHA 2024, Old Rectory, Market Bosworth, Written Scheme of Investigation, unpublished planning document

Appendix A: Context List

Number	Description	Thickness
(100)	Topsoil	Up to 0.20m
(101)	Redeposited natural (northern area)	Not excavated
(102)	Made ground (southern area)	Not excavated
(103)	Fill of cut 104 (mid-pink grey gravel)	Not excavated
[104]	Foundation cut by existing path (north area)	Not excavated
(105)	Fill of cut 106 (mid-pink grey gravel)	Not excavated
[106]	Foundation cut by existing path (east area)	Not excavated
(107)	Made ground (southeast area)	Not excavated
(108)	Natural geology (mid-yellow brown clayey silt)	Not excavated
(109)	Fill of cut 110 (mid-grey brown clayey silt)	0.24m
[110]	Modern feature cut in southwest drain area	0.24m
(111)	Mid-grey brown clayey silt subsoil	0.45m
(200)	Topsoil	Up to 0.28m
(201)	Dark orange brown clayey silt deposit	0.32m
(202)	Mid-grey brown clayey silt subsoil	0.42m
(203)	Weathered geology (mid-yellow brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions)	0.39m
(204)	Secondary fill of cut 206 (mid-grey yellow loam)	0.18m
(205)	Primary fill of cut 206 (mix of mid-blue grey silty clay and mid-red brown silty clay)	0.23m
[206]	Cut for made ground (centre)	0.45m
(213)	Fill of cut 214 (mid-yellow brown silty clay with occasional small subrounded stones)	0.60m
[214]	Cess pit cut in deposit (202)	0.60m
(215)	Natural geology (mid-red brown silty clay)	0.15m
(216)	Fill of cut [217] (dark grey brown clayey silt with rare animal bones, glass bottles, slate, plastic tubs)	0.50
[217]	Cess pit cut, cutting pit [214]	0.50m
(218)	Fill of cut [218] mid-purple grey loam (ashes from house according to previous owner)	0.42m
[219]	Cut for two post-medieval ceramic drains	0.42m
(220)	Fill of cut [221] mid-yellow brown silty clay	0.40m
[221]	Cut for post-medieval ceramic drains	0.40m

Appendix B: Figures





Title:
Figure 1: Site Location

Address:
 Old Rectory, Rectory Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, CV13 0LS





0 5 10 15 20 m



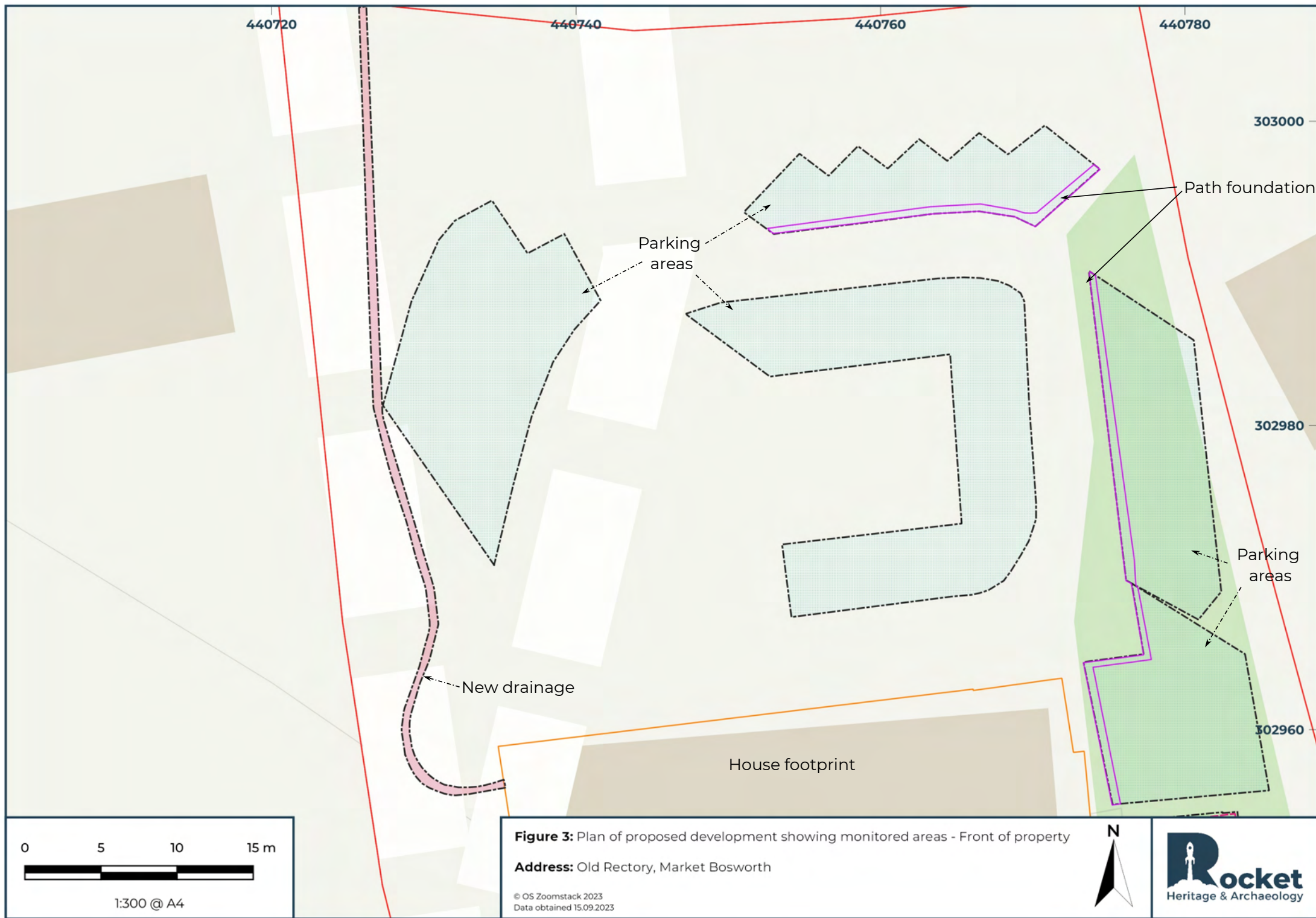
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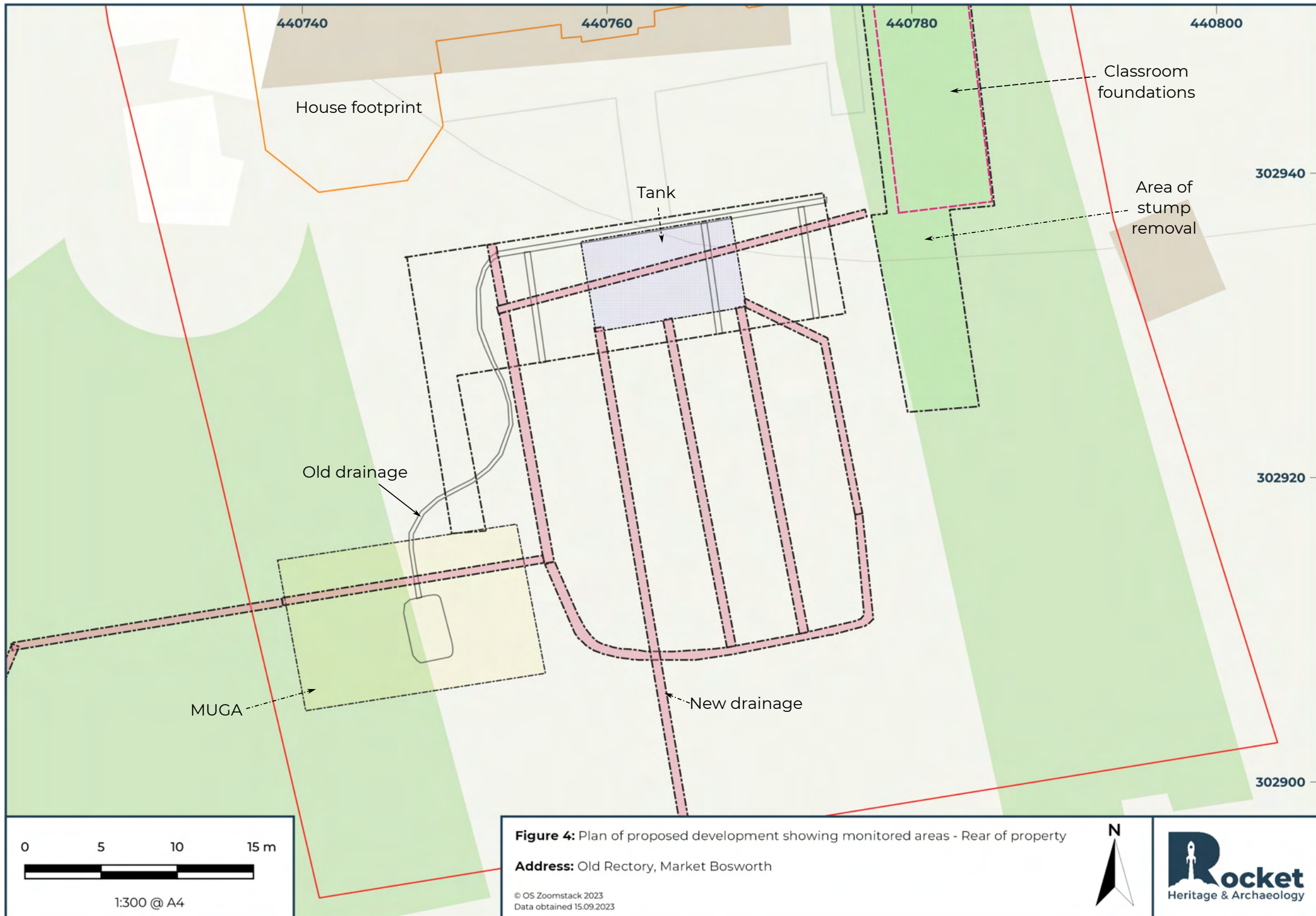
Figure 2: Plan of development showing monitored areas

Address: Old Rectory, Market Bosworth

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Data obtained on 15.09.2023







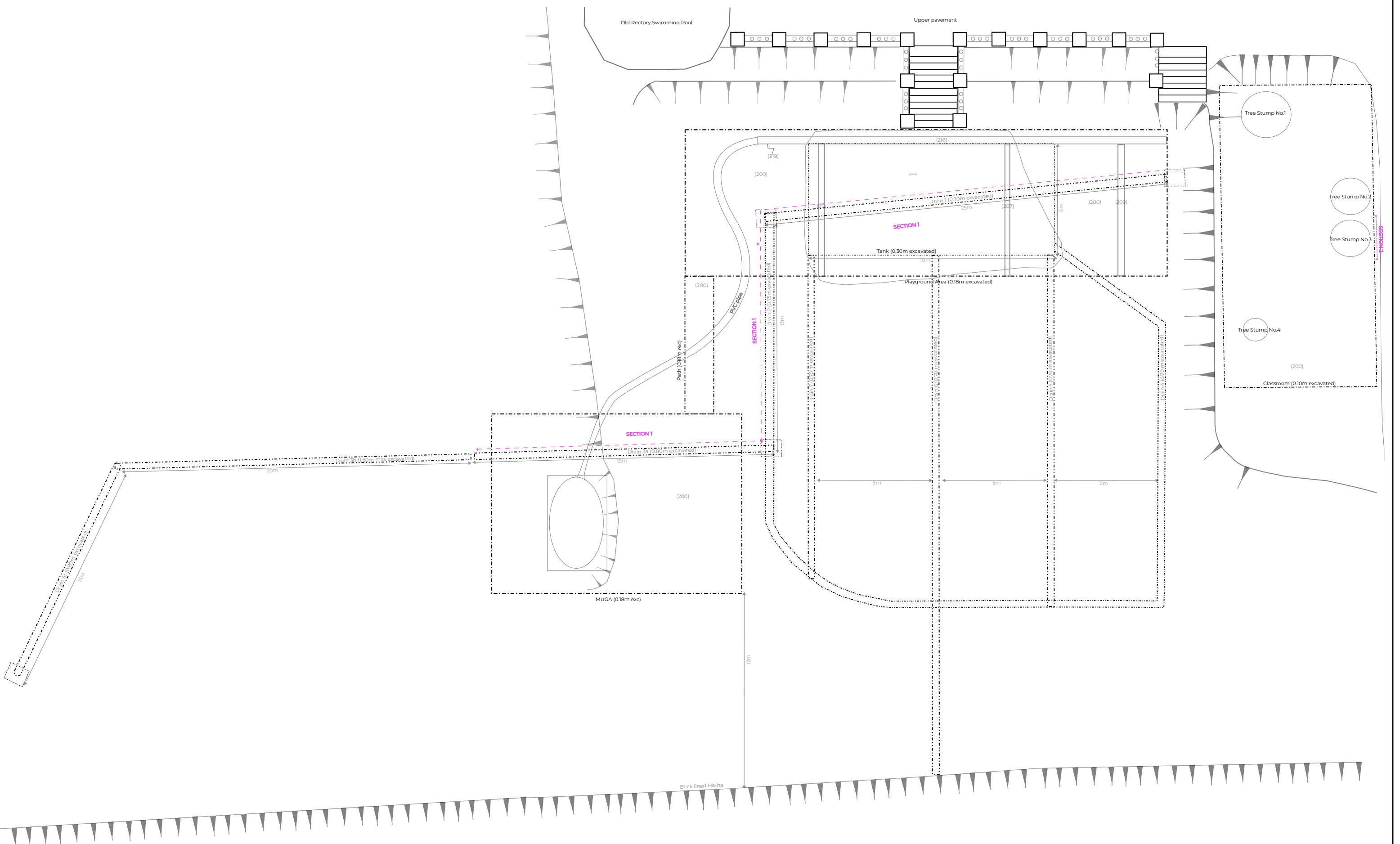
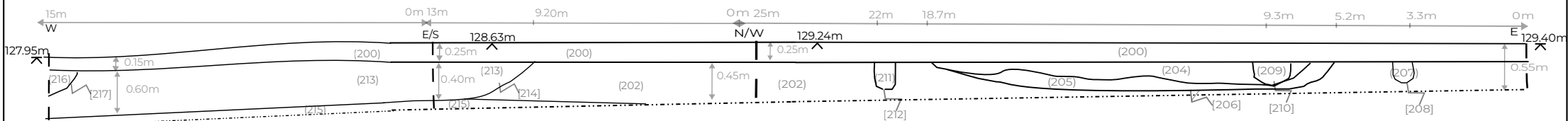


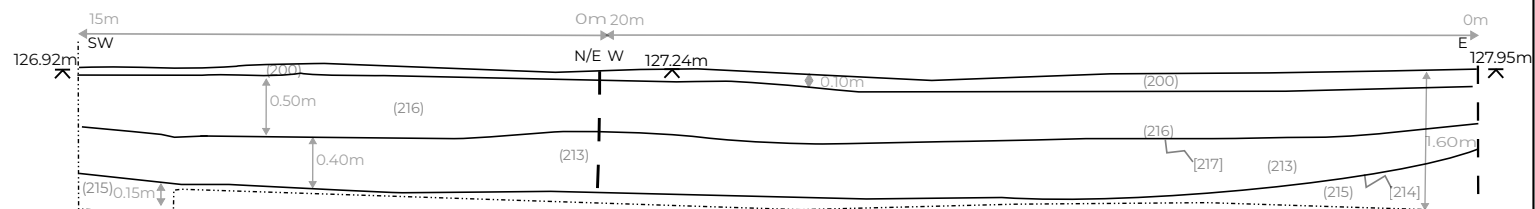
Figure 5: Detailed plan of rear of the property
Site: Old Rectory, Market Bosworth



Sketch of South, North and South facing dsection of Drains 3a,2,1



Sketch of South facing section of Drains 3b



Sketch of West facing section of Tree stump No.3

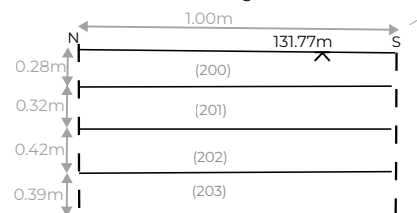


Figure 6: Sections in Area 2

Site: Old Rectory, Market Bosworth

Key