

# LAND TO THE REAR OF ACORN HOUSE, ELMS ROAD, HOOK, HAMPSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING



Report Number: 1239 July 2019



# LAND TO THE REAR OF ACORN HOUSE, ELMS ROAD, HOOK, HAMPSHIRE

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

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Planning Ref.	15/02541/FUL	OASIS	britanni1-281245
Approved By:	III.	Date	July 2019



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#### **Abstract**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook continuous archaeological monitoring and recording on behalf of T A Fisher in advance of construction of five, 2 storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping Land To The Rear Of Acorn House, Elms Road, Hook, Hampshire (NGR 472463 154305) (Fig. 1). Elements of the groundworks had already begun including the topsoil strip of the dwelling plots, with a reduction of the level of plot 2, as well as piling and raft formation for the dwelling plots. In light of this, and following discussions with the County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES), it was decided that monitoring would take place on the remaining groundworks with sample sections being taken where possible as mitigation.

Two phases of activity were identified which were represented by layers. The first phase is likely of late post-medieval date and is represented by made ground 1003 which relates to the levelling of the site for possible construction during this period. The construction of Hook railway station in 1883 prompted a period of significant growth of the town as it became a commuting link to Basingstoke and, soon-after, London (Hook Parish Council website).

The second phase relates to the modern paving currently present on the site which is represented by made ground layer 1002, bedding layer 1001, and the paving blocks (1000).

Therefore, the results of the monitoring identified that the site was built up with a previous made ground likely during the late post-medieval period ahead of development. The only subsequent activity was that relating the modern development and use of the site. OS maps indicate that structures were present on the site from at least 1896 and that prior to this and the development of the town, the site was open fields. However, it is possible that the interpretation of the site is limited by the small areas which were excavated during the mitigated monitoring works.





#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook continuous archaeological monitoring and recording on behalf of T A Fisher in advance of construction of five, 2 storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping Land To The Rear Of Acorn House, Elms Road, Hook, Hampshire (NGR 472463 154305) (Fig. 1). Elements of the groundworks had already begun including the topsoil strip of the dwelling plots, with a reduction of the level of plot 2, as well as piling and raft formation for the dwelling plots. In light of this, and following discussions with the County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES), it was decided that monitoring would take place on the remaining groundworks with sample sections being taken where possible as mitigation.

The monitoring work was conducted in accordance with advice received from Hampshire County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES) and a Written Scheme of Investigation by BA (dated April 2018, updated May 2018) and approved by HCC/SES.



#### 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

Hook is a small town located in the north-east of Hampshire, approximately 12km from north east of Basingstoke. The site lies at the southern end of the village on a parcel of land at the junction of Elms Road and London Road.

#### 2.1 Site Geology

The bedrock geology is described as London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period when the local environment was previously dominated by deep seas. (BGS 2019).

No superficial deposits were recorded at the site at the time of writing. However approximately 100m west of the site areas of Surrey Hill Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel have been recorded. These superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2019).



#### 3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The relevant current local planning policy is the *Hart District Local Plan (Replacement) 1996-2006 (Condition 11).* 





#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background utilises the Hampshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2).

There was sparse evidence of occupation activity in the search area until the Bronze Age. A Bronze Age Palstave (28863) was recovered 600m to the south west of the site.

No activity dating to the Iron Age was noted in the immediate are of the site

The primary potential and most significant period in relation to the site dated to the Roman period. A Roman building (28843) located 200m south east of the site was found in 1952 along with the discovery of pottery and tile. A slight change in ground level was observable possibly indicating the site of the actual building. Further trial trenches in the garden of 10 Church View, Hook, revealed a layer of tiles beneath which was a floor of grey clay and ash over a thin layer of white clay on top of the natural flint and clay.

The settlement patterns that often persisted through the Iron Age and into the Roman period, did not generally extend into the Anglo-Saxon period. The origin of many modern settlements date to the late Anglo-Saxon period and the focus of this activity is usually some distance from earlier activity.

Potential early medieval ditches (67971) were identified during the evaluation 900m west of the site, however their exact nature and date is unknown.

Hook was first documented in AD1086 as HOUCH from the word Hoc, meaning spur of land; or part of a manor. The evaluation at High Ridge Farm (67971) recovered a single sherd of pottery of 11-12th century pottery of Newbury Ware.



Post-medieval activity was noted throughout the search area. The site of Hook Foundry is located just 100m to the east of the development site. The Hook Foundry worked with Iron and Brass and was recorded on the first edition OS map, by the second edition it had increased in size.

The majority of the listed buildings in the search related to the post medieval period with the nearest and most significant listed building being located just 20m away south of the site on the opposite side of London road. The White Hart Hotel (42401) had its origins in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Originally a coaching inn, with buildings around a yard: the front of the structure consists of two storeys in two sections. The larger taller western part (of near symmetrical form) is dominated by a carriageway entrance. The building has a red tile roof with a moulded eaves cornice, formed into a pediment above the slightly projecting centre. The former main entrance retains its large panelled doors but the only entrance on the front is a plain door in the centre of the west side. Within the yard is a granary on staddles, with weather boarded walls and a red tile ½ hipped roof.

The focus of earlier post-medieval activity lay along London Road which runs east to west through the town. The majority of the buildings dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards show a sustained period of growth to the modern period.

Given the above records the site had a specific potential for **Roman** and **post-medieval** features and finds.



#### 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

Provision will be made for the monitoring of the development including where appropriate:

- All areas of below ground disturbance, including excavations, foundation trenches, service trenches drains and soakaways.
- Above ground remains when the development affects a building of historic importance.
- Pipeline and cable trenches.



#### 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Project objectives will cover the following:

• To recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. Also that the state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits should be determined.



#### 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring and recording was to be undertaken on all of the excavations associated with ground works conducted in advance of the construction of the new dwellings (landscaping, services, etc). Elements of the groundworks had already begun including the topsoil strip of the dwelling plots, with a reduction of the level of plot 2, as well as piling and raft formation for the dwelling plots. In light of this, and following discussions with the County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES), it was decided that monitoring would take place on the remaining groundworks with sample sections being taken where possible as mitigation.

The excavation of the foundation trenches and associated intrusive ground works was undertaken by a mechanical excavator and then further investigated by hand as necessary. Any above ground remains affected by the development were photographed with appropriate scales, drawn and measured elevations taken and sections through any standing walls recorded including brick samples.



#### 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (FIG. 5 & 6)

Monitoring of the groundworks was carried out on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 by Britannia Archaeology Ltd. The foundation trenches of the parking areas adjacent to the dwelling footprints were excavated to a depth of 0.40m – 0.44m. Trenches for drainage pipes were excavated to natural clay. In addition, the northern area of the access road through the centre of the site was stripped to a depth too shallow to record, only exposing modern made ground.

No archaeological features were encountered during the monitoring. Three layers (**1000**, **1001**, **1002**) were encountered, which were associated with the modern paving on the site were identified in the east and southeast areas of the site. A further made ground layer was present beneath these layers and in the northeast area of the site, which represents a made ground of possible late post-medieval date, however there was no dating evidence present to confirm this date.





#### 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 5 & 6)

The deposit model varied across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence in sample section 1 and 2 was a layer of modern reddish grey paving blocks, **1000**.

In sample sections 1 and 2 this overlay bedding layer **1001** which comprised of a light, brownish yellow, loose sandy gravel. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.14m with a thickness of 0.07m in sample section 1. It represents a bedding layer for the modern paving blocks.

This layer overlay made ground layer **1002** in sample sections 1 and 2. Layer **1002** was also present at the top of the stratigraphic sequence in sample section 4 and 5. This layer comprised of a mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. It was present to a depth of 0.57m in sample section 5 with a thickness of 0.57m. This layer represents a modern made ground layer associated with the paving blocks and modern levelling of the site.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in sample sections 1 and 2 was made ground layer **1003**. This layer was also at the top of the stratigraphic sequence (and the only layer encountered) in sample section 3. It comprised of a mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. It was present to a depth of 0.40m with a thickness of 0.40m. This layer possibly represents the previous made ground present on the site, possibly of late post-medieval date.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in sample sections 4 and 5, below made ground **1002**, was natural geology **1004**. This comprised of a light orangey grey, compact silty clay.



#### 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background search suggested that the site had a potential for **Roman** and **post-medieval** features and finds.

Despite this potential, no archaeological finds or features were encountered during the monitoring.

Two phases of activity were identified which were represented by layers. The first phase is likely of late post-medieval date and is represented by made ground **1003** which relates to the levelling of the site for possible construction during this period. The construction of Hook railway station in 1883 prompted a period of significant growth of the town as it became a commuting link to Basingstoke and, soon-after, London (Hook Parish Council website).

The second phase relates to the modern paving currently present on the site which is represented by made ground layer **1002**, bedding layer **1001**, and the paving blocks (**1000**).

Therefore, the results of the monitoring identified that the site was built up with a previous made ground likely during the late post-medieval period ahead of development. The only subsequent activity was that relating the modern development and use of the site. OS maps indicate that structures were present on the site from at least 1896 and that prior to this and the development of the town, the site was open fields. However, it is possible that the interpretation of the site is limited by the small areas which were excavated during the mitigated monitoring works.



#### 11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank T A Fisher for commissioning and funding the work.

Britannia Archaeology would also like to thank Hampshire County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES) for their advice and assistance throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Martin Brook of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England



 $\underline{www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-\underline{england}$ 

Hook Parish Council - <a href="http://hook.gov.uk/about-hook/history/">http://hook.gov.uk/about-hook/history/</a> (last accessed 03.07.2019)

#### **HER Data**

Provided and licenced by Hampshire County Council Specialist Environment Services.



#### **APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES**

#### **Sample Section 1**

Trench No n/a	Orientation NE-SW	Height Aod		Shot No DP 1
Sample Section No	<b>Location</b> SW area	a, NW side	Facing	SE Facing
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description		
1000	0.00-0.07m	Block paving – reddish grey paving blocks.		
1001	0.07-0.14m	Bedding layer – light, brownish yellow, loose, sandy gravel.		
1002	0.14 - 0.33m	Made ground – mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions.		
1003	0.33m+	Made ground – Dark greyish black, compact, silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.		

#### **Sample Section 2**

Trench No n/a	Orientation NE-SW	Height a	OD -	Shot No DP 2	
<b>Sample Section No</b> 2	<b>Location</b> E area,	, SE side	Facing	NW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0.06m	Block paving – reddish grey paving blocks.			
1001	0.06 - 0.10m	Bedding layer – light, brownish yellow, loose, sandy gravel.			
1002	0.10 - 0.31m	Made ground – mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions.			
1003	0.31m+	Made ground – Dark greyish black, compact, silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.			

#### **Sample Section 3**

Trench No n/a	Orientation NE-SW	Height aOD		OD -	Shot No DP 3
Sample Section No	Location NE area, NW side		Facing SE Facing		
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1003	0.00 - 0.40m+	Made ground – Dark greyish black, compact, silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions.			

### **Sample Section 4**

Trench No	Orientation	Height /	\od	Shot No
n/a	NW-SE		-	DP 5
Sample Section No	Location		Facing	
4	E area,	, NE side	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description		
1002	0.00 - 0.45m	Made ground – mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions.		
1004	0.45m+	Natural – Light, orangey grey, compact, silty clay.		

#### **Sample Section 5**

Trench No	Orientation		Height Aod		Shot No
n/a	NE-SW		<del>-</del>		DP 6
Sample Section No	Location			Facing	
5	SW area, NW side			SE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00 - 0.57m	Made ground – mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions.			
1004	0.57m+	Natural – Light, orangey grey, compact, silty clay.			



#### **APPENDIX 2 - OASIS SHEET**

OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

# **OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: britanni1-281245

#### **Project details**

Project name Lan

Land to the Rear of Acorn House, Elms Road, Hook, Hampshire

Short description of the project

On the 12th and 24th June 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook continuous archaeological monitoring and recording on behalf of T A Fisher in advance of construction of five, 2 storey dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping Land To The Rear Of Acorn House, Elms Road, Hook, Hampshire (NGR 472463 154305) (Fig. 1). Elements of the groundworks had already begun including the topsoil strip of the dwelling plots, with a reduction of the level of plot 2, as well as piling and raft formation for the dwelling plots. In light of this, and following discussions with the County Council Specialist Environmental Services (HCC/SES), it was decided that monitoring would take place on the remaining groundworks with sample sections being taken where possible as mitigation. Two phases of activity were identified which were represented by layers. The first phase is likely of late post-medieval date and is represented by made ground 1003 which relates to the levelling of the site for possible construction during this period. The construction of Hook railway station in 1883 prompted a period of significant growth of the town as it became a commuting link to Basingstoke and, soon-after, London (Hook Parish Council website). The second phase relates to the modern paving currently present on the site which is represented by made ground layer 1002, bedding

layer 1001, and the paving blocks (1000).

Project dates
Previous/future

work

Start: 12-06-2019 End: 24-06-2019 No / Not known

Any associated project reference

odes

P1261 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project
Current Land use Other 3 - Built over
Monument type NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Recorded Observation","Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

#### **Project location**

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE HART HOOK Land to the Rear of Acorn House, Elms Road, Hook, Hampshire

Postcode RG27 9JD Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates SU 7245 5428 51.282537352405 -0.961067627226 51 16 57 N 000 57 39 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 82.1m Max: 83m

1 of 3



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Project brief originator

Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design

Martin Brook

originator

Martin Brook

Project director/manager

Project supervisor Martin Brook

Type of

client

body

sponsor/funding

Name of sponsor/funding

body

T A Fisher

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

Exists?

Digital Archive

recipient

Hampshire County Council Museums Service

Digital Archive ID P1261

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available

"GIS","Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

available

Hampshire County Council Museums Service

P1261 Paper Archive ID Paper Contents "Survey"

Paper Media

"Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey

","Unpublished Text","Context sheet"

Project

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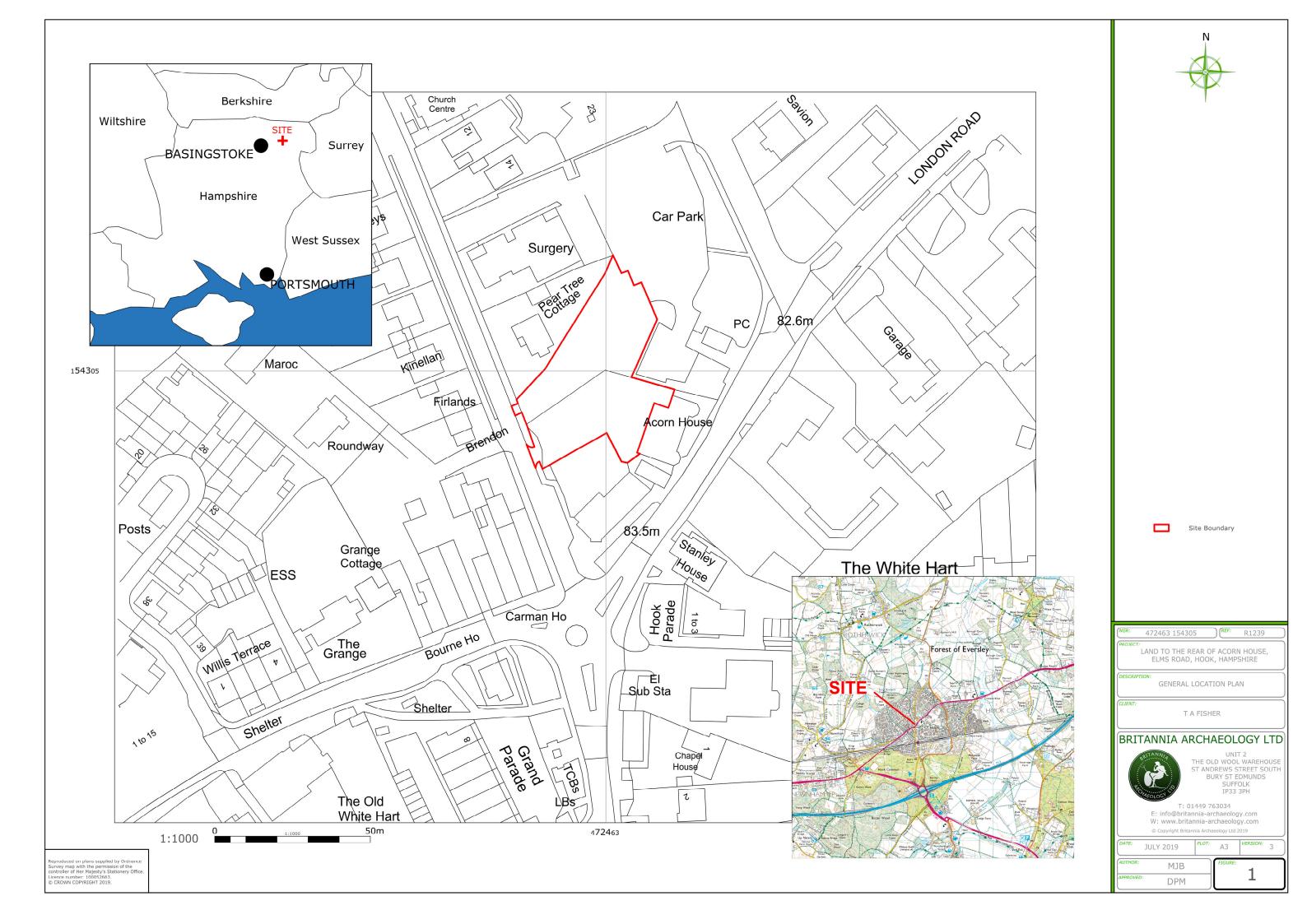
3 July 2019

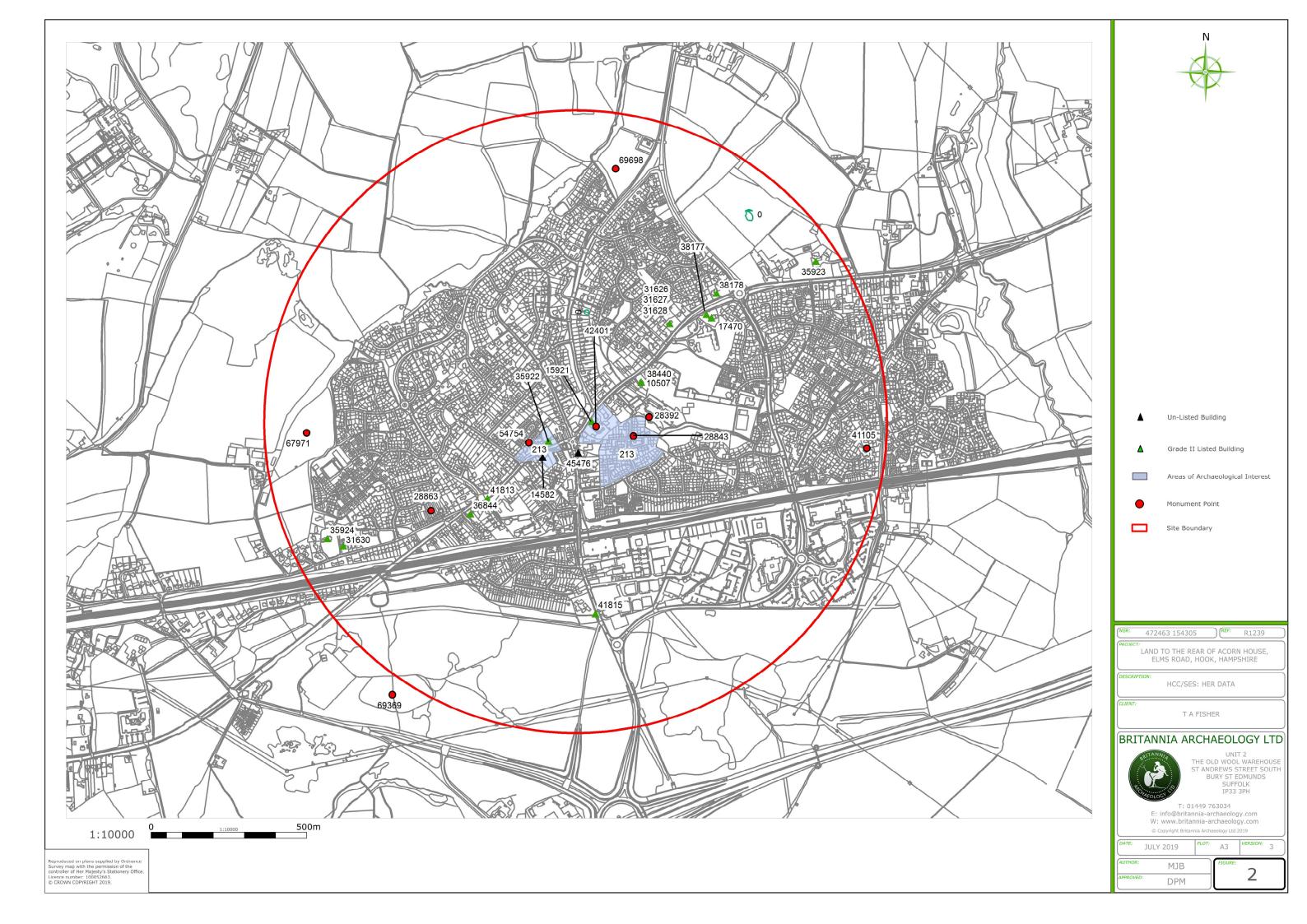
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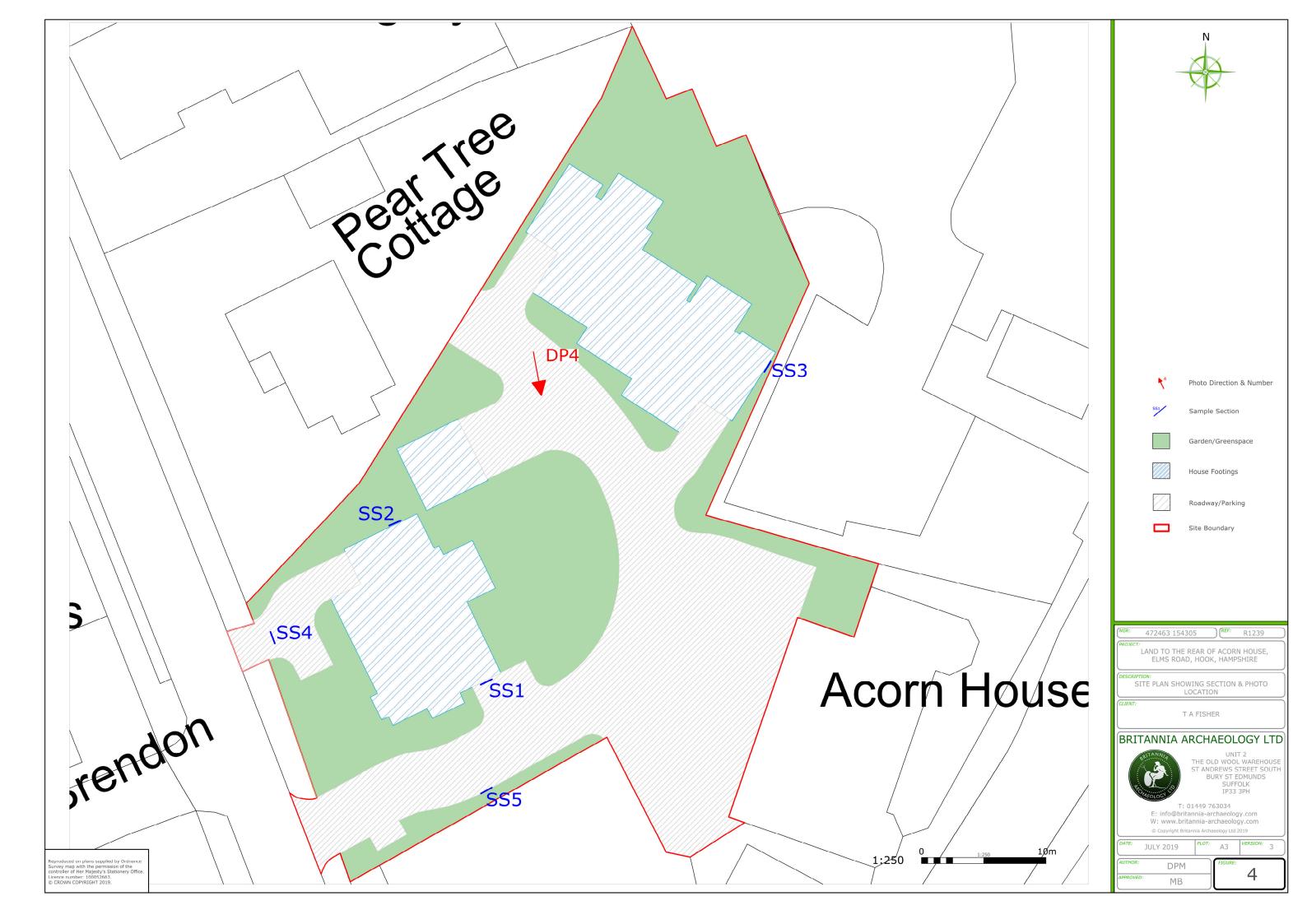
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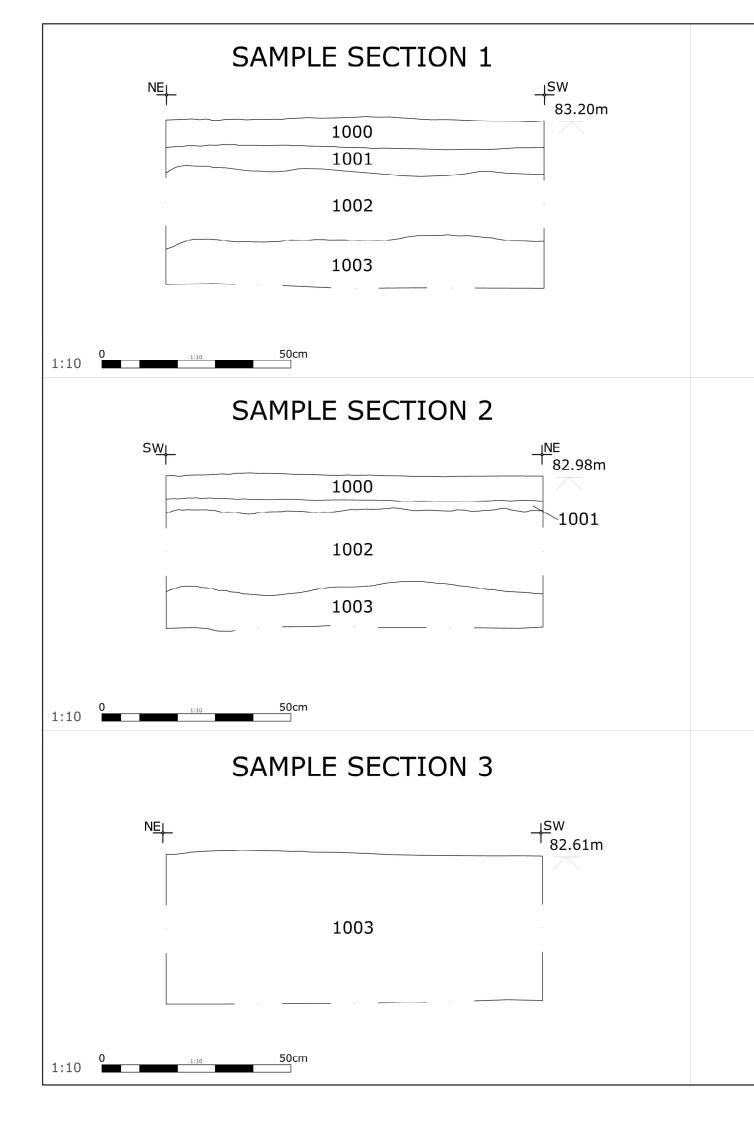
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DP1 - VIEW SE - SS1

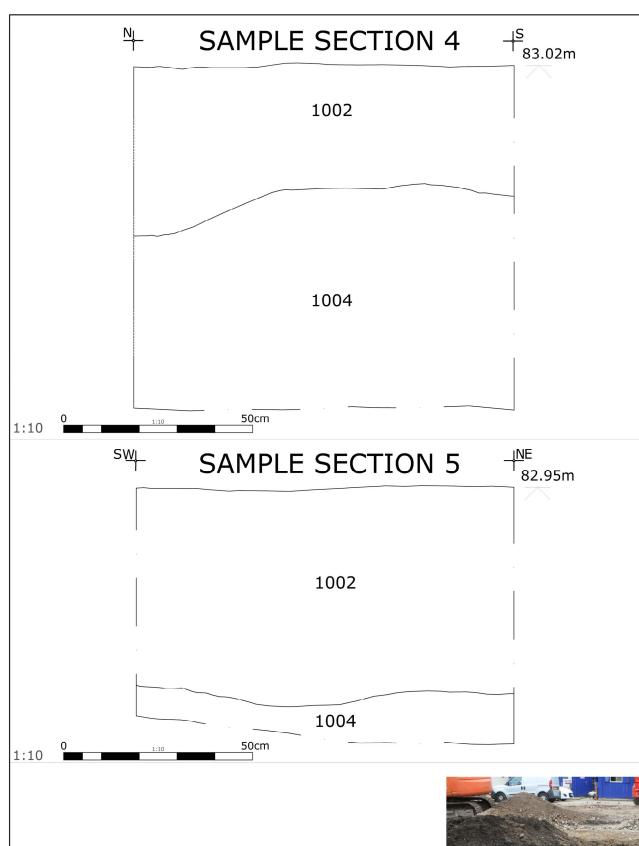


DP2 - VIEW NW - SS2



DP3 - VIEW SE - SS3







DP5 - VIEW W - SS4



DP6 - VIEW NW - SS5



DP4 - VIEW S - OVERALL SHOT

