

**LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES MOUNTAIN BIKE VENUE  
HADLEIGH COUNTRY PARK  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING INCLUDING  
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT COMPLIANCE MONITORING**



Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit  
June 2012

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SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager at the

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING INCLUDING  
SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

**Client:** LOCOG

**NGR:** TQ 8019 8632

**ECC FAU project number:** 2556

**Site code:** CPOL 12

**Oasis entry number:** 128415

**Date of fieldwork:** 12/03/12 – 02/04/12

**SUMMARY**

*Groundworks associated with the construction of the Accredited Stand adjacent to the Start/Finish loop at the London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, were the subject of archaeological monitoring, undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG). The monitoring was also required to comply with the Scheduled Monument Consent granted for the construction of a temporary access trackway on Adder's Hill.*

*Hadleigh Country Park contains the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, consisting of a command post, a magazine, a gun store, a water tower, and two sets of gun emplacements (Scheduled Monument 23429). The Accredited Stand was located in an area of low land between Adder's Hill and Sandpit Hill, while the temporary trackway was constructed immediately to the south-west of the structures on Adder's Hill.*

*The groundworks in the Accredited Stand area uncovered foundations of a demolished World War II / Cold War, U-shaped building, which measured 12m by 22m and is assumed to have been used as a storage place or workshop. There were no other archaeological features or incidental artefacts identified within either of the monitored areas.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at the London 2012 Olympic Games Mountain Bike Venue (OMBV), Hadleigh Country Park, Essex. The monitoring was carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) for The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG).

A planning application for the construction of the OMBV was submitted to Castle Point District in April 2010 (CPT/228/10/FUL). Due to the archaeological potential of the site a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was placed upon the development consent by the District Council, based upon advice given by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) and English Heritage, in line with guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. In addition to the above, due to Scheduled status of parts of the site, an application for Scheduled Monument Consent for the MBV was obtained from English Heritage in May 2010. A further application for an amendment to this existing Scheduled Monument Consent was sought by ECC HEM and granted by English Heritage in February 2012.

The groundworks comprised the topsoil stripping, re-profiling of grounds levels and screw-pilling in the area of the Accredited Stand adjacent to the Start/Finish loop, and Scheduled Monument Consent monitoring during the construction of a temporary access trackway on Adder's Hill. The construction of a zig-zag pedestrian path to the rear of the accredited adjacent to the Start/Finish loop, that had been initially planned, was dropped following the detailed slope survey undertaken by the contractor.

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, to ECC HEM, and to the Essex Historic Environment Record. A summary of the project and a copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS online archaeological record and be accessible via the Archaeological Data Service website (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>). The site archive will be held at Southend Museum.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site Description and Location (Fig. 1)**

The London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue is located at Hadleigh Country Park, Hadleigh, Essex (TQ 8019 8632), situated within pasture farmland under the ownership of the Salvation

Army. A Scheduled Monument (SM 32429) comprising a World War II to 1955 heavy anti-aircraft gun battery is located in the northern area of the site, encompassing parts of Sand Pit Hill and Adders Hill, while other parts of the site were used as a motocross venue during the 1950s and 60s.

Hadleigh Country Park overlooks the River Thames and Benfleet Creek and comprises an extensive hilly area covered by grass, gorse and trees, sloping down towards the Thames. The local geology comprises patchy Bagshot Sands and London Clay Formation clays, silts and sands (BGS). The most recent groundworks were located in an area of low land between Adder's Hill and Sandpit Hill and immediately to the south-west of the structures on Adder's Hill.

## **2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

The archaeological and historical background of the site has previously been assessed by Wessex Archaeology as a part of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the site (Wessex Archaeology 2010b) and is summarised below:

A single (unstratified) Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recorded in the south of the site, but no further archaeological remains have been recorded within the site boundaries. Scattered Iron Age and Roman material has been found in close vicinity. Remains of a Roman Fort (SM EX108) lie in a field to the northeast of the site and remnants of a medieval Hadleigh Castle (SM 26306) can be seen atop a hill located to the southeast.

The 19th-century Salvation Army Home Farm Colony comprising the poultry farm, brickworks and tramlines is situated across the majority of the site. Florence Gardens, a group of bungalows for its retired officers, has been classified as a Conservation Area. During the First World War, the Salvation Army Colony became a training camp for boys aged 14-19. The land fell into disuse until the construction of an anti-aircraft battery, troop camp, searchlight position and pigeon breeding lofts during the Second World War, the remnants of which are designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM 32429) comprising eight areas of protection:

- Four 5.25 inch gun emplacements sited in a square formation and the remains of associated nissen huts. The emplacements mostly survive below-ground, having been infilled with soil.
- A combined Operations Room/Generator Block is located to the west of the gun emplacements. This dates to the post-war period when the gunsite was upgraded

as a response to the Cold War threat, becoming part of the Nucleus Force. The building replaced an earlier wartime building.

- An area 500m southwest of the larger guns enclosing the 4.5 inch gun emplacements and associated structures, including the command post. Concrete enclosures are still visible at two of the emplacements, whilst the foundations of the others and elements of the command post and on-site magazine are highly likely to survive as buried features.
- A second on-site magazine survives as a flat-roofed concrete structure, partly below ground level, to the west of the 4.5 inch gun emplacements.
- Four more protected areas lie between the two sets of emplacements and enclose four ancillary buildings: the gun store, a water tower and two other one-roomed structures.

The site has been subjected to an English Heritage level 3 topographic survey undertaken to inform an Environmental Statement in advance of the planning application for the establishment of the OMBV (Wessex Archaeology 2010a) and a wider Level 1 Historic Landscape Assessment of the area (Wessex Archaeology 2010b). English Heritage has determined that areas of earthworks and other features related to the battery that were identified by the Level 3 topographic survey but which are not currently included within the scheduled areas should be dealt with as if of equivalent schedulable quality.

Detailed archaeological monitoring and recording has already been undertaken during the construction of various parts of the mountain bike course and venue by the ECC FAU (2011a; 2011b) and has revealed a number of features associated with the WWII/Cold war military infrastructure/ history of the site. This has most recently included a rectified photographic survey of the Combined Operations Room/Generator Block and Gun Store structures (Letch 2012).

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

The specific aim of the works was to ensure that any archaeological remains disturbed or destroyed during the construction of the OMBV overlay, and associated enabling works, were identified and recorded to an appropriate level and that the Scheduled Monument was not

damaged or disturbed during the installation of temporary overlay infrastructure. The location of the undertaken works is shown in Figure 1 and they comprised:

- Topsoil stripping, re-profiling of ground levels and screw-piling beneath the Accredited Stand adjacent to the Start/Finish loop.
- Scheduled Monument Consent Compliance monitoring during the construction of a temporary access trackway on Adder's Hill.

### **3.2 Research Objectives**

In the event of significant discoveries appropriate research objectives, in line with those contained in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), would have been identified for any further works required, post-excavation assessment or publication. However, due to the small number and low significance of the remains identified, the project has little scope to contribute to any of the research objectives.

## **4. METHOD**

The groundworks comprised topsoil stripping and re-profiling of the existing ground level in order to form the required slope angle and the subsequent driving of piles into the ground, which were used to support the Accredited Stand in the area adjacent to the Start/Finish loop (Plates 1, 2 & 3). The machine used for the stripping and levelling was fitted with a toothless bucket and worked under the supervision of an archaeologist, who checked the exposed area for any archaeological features and unstratified finds. The foundations of the building exposed in the Accredited Stand area adjacent to the Start/Finish loop were located with a Total Station.

In order to comply with the Scheduled Monument Consent, no ground reductions or excavation took place in the vicinity of the WW II infrastructure on Adder's Hill. The temporary access trackway was built by laying the spoil, removed from the Accredited Stand area, on protective sheets and compacting it with a small machine to form a hard and even surface (Plates 4 & 5). Consequently, there was no opportunity to monitor this vicinity for the presence of below-ground remains.



The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and the Association of Local Government Officers' *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (IfA 2008; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all archaeological deposits and features.

## **5. FIELDWORK RESULTS (Fig. 1 & 2)**

The groundworks in the Accredited Stand area adjacent to the Start/Finish loop revealed a sequence of stratigraphy consisting of 0.1m-0.2m thick layer of dark brown soft clayey silt topsoil overlying 0.2m-0.4m thick mid brown soft clayey silt subsoil, which in turn overlay natural deposits that comprised yellow-orange soft sandy silt with patches of blue, grey and brown clay.

The topsoil stripping uncovered foundations of a U-shaped WWII building (Plate 6). A single hand-excavated slot across the south wall (Section 1, Fig.2) established these foundations to comprise a 0.5m wide by 0.15m thick layer of concrete, laid on a 0.2m thick layer of gravelly clay. The building walls, which had been demolished down to the foundations, appeared to have been constructed of a single skin of bricks and mortar (Plate 7). Within the interior of the structure, which measured 12m by 22m, were numerous, evenly spaced, 0.5m square by 0.05m thick concrete pads, evidently once topped with low brick 'piers' which are believed to have been supports for a wooden floor (Plate 8). The finds discovered during the groundworks around the building comprised several fragments of metal objects, a glass bottle, small bullet shell and a few fragments of brick and tile, none of which were retained for further analysis. Part of the foundations of the south wall have been demolished to facilitate the screw-pilling, while the rest of the structure was covered back with soil and remains in situ.

Topsoil and subsoil were also removed from the whole of the remainder of the Accredited Stand area in preparation for the screw pilling, but there were no other features revealed than the WW II building foundations.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

The groundworks in the Accredited Stand area revealed foundations of a WW II building but no other, pre-20th century features. Although previous desk-based assessment identified the

former presence of a WW II structure in the Accredited Stand area, the unearthed foundations belong to a significantly bigger building than the one depicted on the mapping. It appears that there has been multiple phases of 20th century military structures in this vicinity, though no trace of the smaller, mapped, structure was identified in the field. The U-shaped structure found had thin walls and was probably fairly ephemeral, which perhaps suggests it was used as a storage place or workshop rather than something substantial such as a bunker.

Apart from demolishing part of the foundations the most recent works at the OMBV had no impact upon the archaeological record. As previously stated, the access track construction had no significant below-ground impact and the presence/absence of archaeological remains in this location remains un-established.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ECC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank to LOCOG for commissioning the work and their main contractor ISG for help and cooperation throughout the archaeological monitoring. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lukasz Miciak, who also prepared the report with illustration by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored by Adrian Gascoyne of the ECC Historic Environment Management Team on behalf of the local planning authority and English Heritage.

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- Wessex Archaeology 2010a *2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex: Sandpit Hill Level 3 Topographic Survey*
- Wessex Archaeology 2010b *2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex: Historic Landscape Assessment*

## **APPENDIX 1: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

Contained within one A4 wallet file:

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation
- 1.3 Clients plans

### **2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Client report (1 bound, 1 unbound copy)
- 2.2 CD-Rom (containing reports, photos, etc)

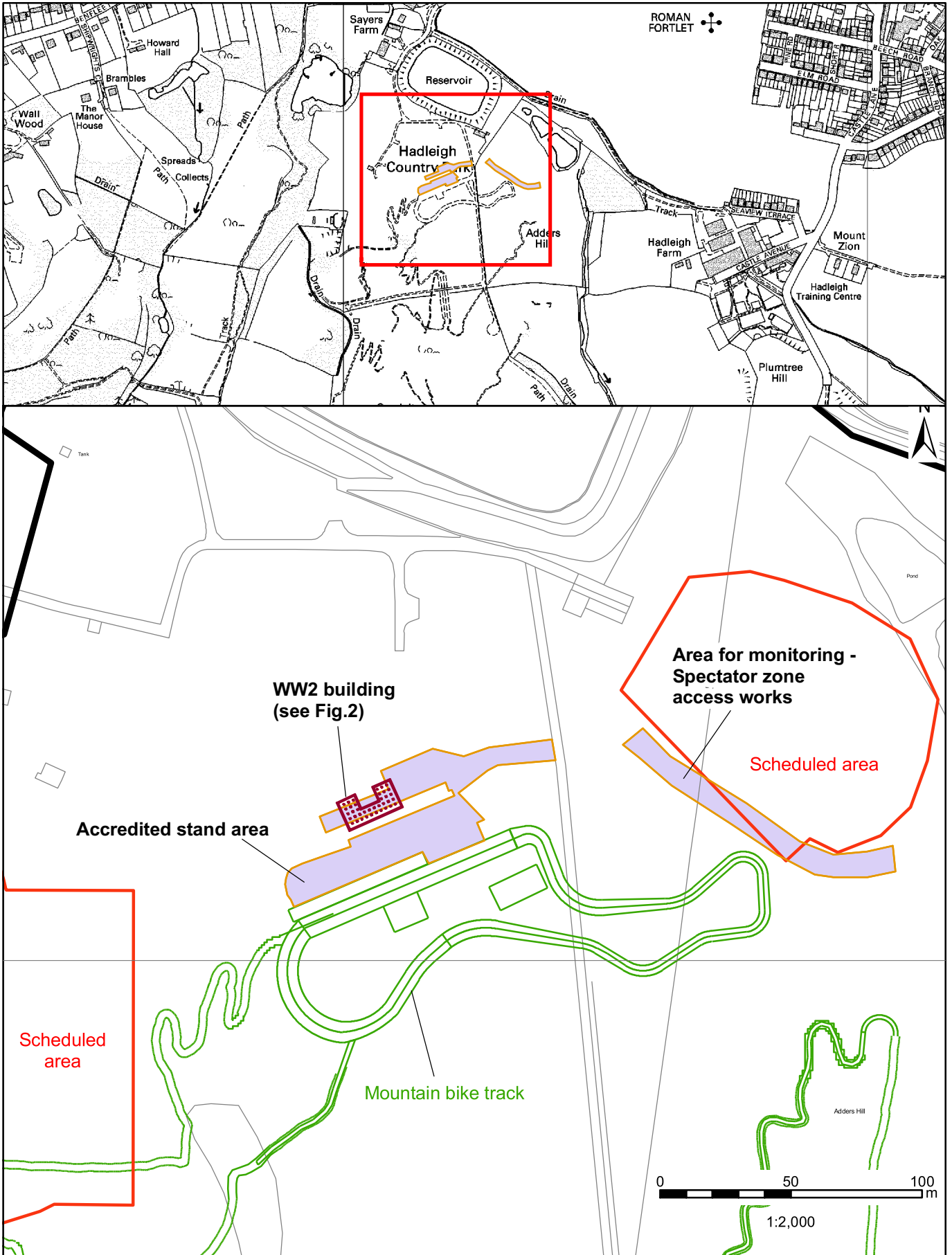
### **3. Site Archive**

- 3.1 Watching brief record sheets (x4)
- 3.2 Section drawing
- 3.3 Photographic register & thumbnail print sheet
- 3.4 Photographic record (25 colour prints from digital images)

No finds have been retained

## APPENDIX 2: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Hadleigh	<b>District:</b> Southend On Sea
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 8019 8632	<b>Site Code:</b> CPOL 12
<b>Type of Work:</b> Monitoring	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Lukasz Miciak, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 12/03/12 – 02/04/12	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 300 sqm
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Southend On Sea	<b>Client:</b> LOCOG
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> SM no. 32429
<b>Final Report:</b> Essex Archaeology and History	<b>Oasis No:</b> 128415
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>  <i>Groundworks associated with the construction of the Accredited Stand adjacent to the Start/Finish loop at the London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Essex, were the subject of archaeological monitoring, which was also required to comply with the Scheduled Monument Consent granted for the construction of a temporary access trackway on Adder's Hill.</i></p> <p><i>Hadleigh Country Park contains the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, consisting of a command post, a magazine, a gun store, a water tower, and two sets of gun emplacements (Scheduled Monument 23429). The Accredited Stand was located in an area of low land between Adder's Hill and Sandpit Hill, while the temporary trackway was constructed immediately to the south-west of the structures on Adder's Hill.</i></p> <p><i>The groundworks in the Accredited Stand area uncovered foundations of a demolished World War II / Cold War, u-shaped building, which measured 12m by 22m and is assumed to have been used as a storage place or workshop. There were no other archaeological features or incidental finds identified within the monitored area.</i></p>	
<p><b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>  ECC FAU. 2011a <i>London 2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i> ECC FAU report <b>2238</b></p> <p>ECC FAU. 2011b. <i>London 2012 Olympic Games Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex. Archaeological monitoring. Trenching for openreach cable ducts.</i> ECC FAU report <b>2428</b></p> <p>Wessex Archaeology. 2010a. <i>2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex. Historic Landscape Assessment.</i> Unpublished Report <b>72440.02</b></p> <p>Wessex Archaeology. 2010b. <i>2012 Olympic Mountain Bike Venue, Hadleigh Farm, Essex. Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and recording and scheduled monument compliance recording.</i> Unpublished Report <b>72440.03</b></p>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> Lukasz Miciak	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2012



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological monitoring

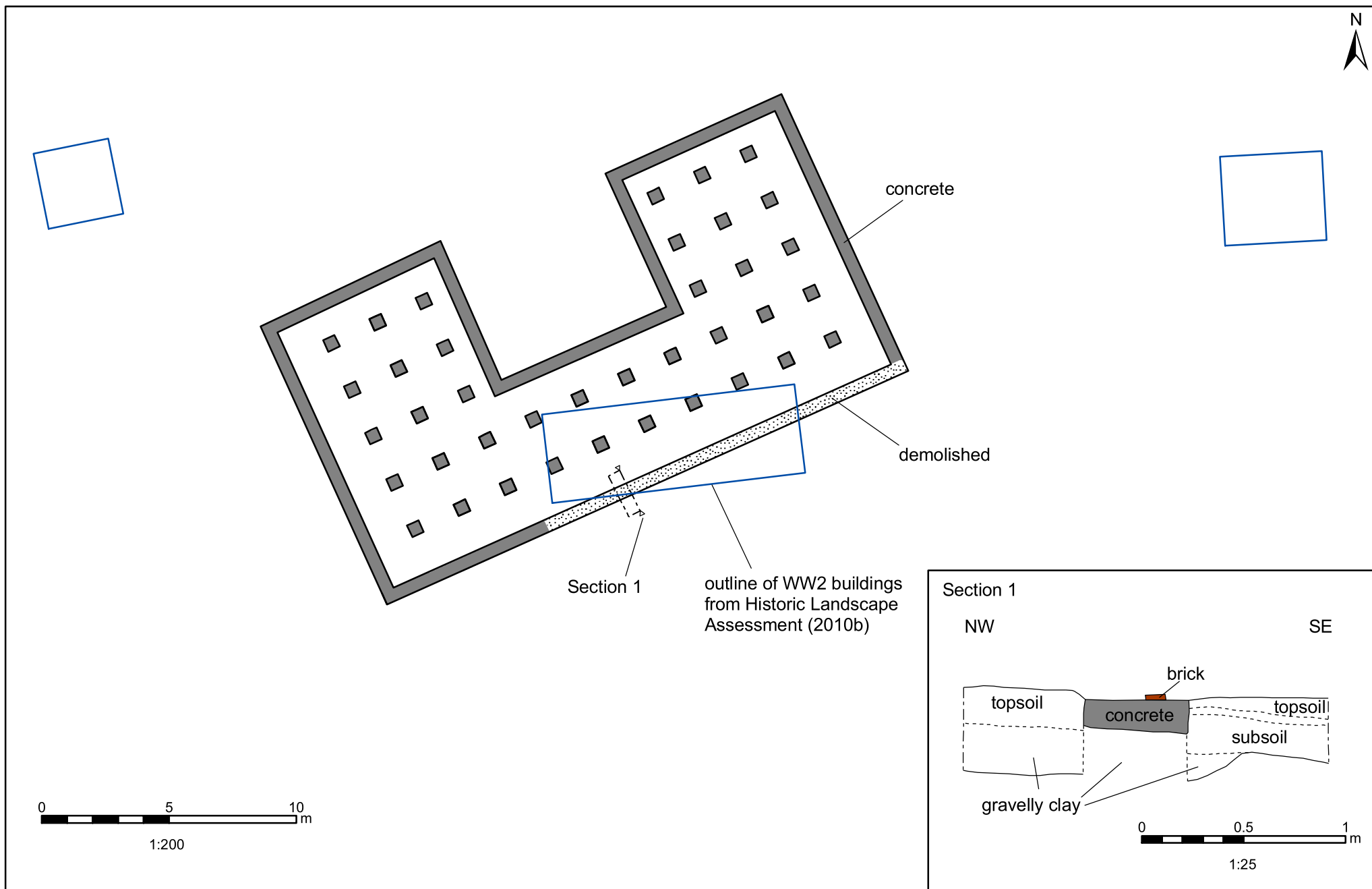


Fig.2. Footprint of WW2 structure



Plate 1. Topsoil stripping in the Accredited Stand area, looking northwest



Plate 2. Re-profiling the existing ground level in the Accredited Stand area, looking northeast





Plate 3. Screw-piles in the Accredited Stand area, looking northwest



Plate 4. Temporary trackway on Adder's Hill, looking east



Plate 5. Temporary trackway on Adder's Hill and general site view, looking northwest



Plate 6. WW II building in the Accredited Stand area, looking east



Plate 7. Section through the building foundations



Plate 8. Concrete pad within the building interior