

**FORMER TIGER'S HEAD PH,
350 BROMLEY ROAD, CATFORD, LONDON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
AND RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report)	
NGR: TQ 3818 7180	Report No. 3741
District: London Borough of Lewisham	Site Code: TGI 10
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3902
Signed:	Date: February 2011

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ

Tel 01992 558170

Fax 01992 553359

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk

www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk

Registered Number: 4702122



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Tiger's Head Public House, 350 Bromley Road, Catford, London</i>		
<p><i>In December 2010 and January 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at the former Tiger's Head Public House, 350 Bromley Road, Catford, London (NGR TQ 3818 7180). The observation was commissioned by Mulalley and Co. Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 3- to 5-storey block comprising 8 one-bedroom and 30 two-bedroom flats, 3 three-bedroom houses with basement parking and associated landscaping.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in the Southend area of Catford and within the Archaeological Priority Zone of London Borough of Lewisham. It is situated within the area of location of the medieval and post-medieval watermills. The Tiger's House Public House has occupied the site since 18th century; it was destroyed during the World War II and rebuilt. The Ravensbourne river (now culverted) runs through the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the observation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17/12/2010, 14/01, 17/01, 18/01, 24/01 and 31/01/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3902</i>	Site code	<i>TGI 10</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Archaeological Priority Zone of LB Lewisham</i>		
Current land use	<i>Site of demolished public house</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential block</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Lewisham</i>	<i>Catford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SE6 2RZ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 2500m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 3818 7180</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 24m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mulalley and Co. Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Tiger's Head Public House, 350 Bromley Road, Catford, London. Archaeological Observation and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3741</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2011</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In December 2010 and January 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at the former Tiger's Head Public House, 350 Bromley Road, Catford, London (NGR TQ 3818 7180). The observation was commissioned by Mulalley and Co. Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 3- to 5-storey block comprising 8 one-bedroom and 30 two-bedroom flats, 3 three-bedroom houses with basement parking and associated landscaping.

The site is located in the Southend area of Catford and within the Archaeological Priority Zone of London Borough of Lewisham. It is situated within the area of the location of the medieval and post-medieval watermills. The Tiger's House Public House occupied the site since 18th century; it was destroyed during the World War II and was rebuilt. The Ravensbourne river (now culverted) runs through the site.

In the event the project revealed no archaeological features or finds. The construction of the former public house and Ravensbourne culvert has caused significant previous truncation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2010 and January 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out pro-active archaeological observation and recording at the former Tiger's Head Public House, 350 Bromley Road, Catford, London (NGR TQ 3818 7180; Figs. 1 & 2). The observation was commissioned by Mulalley and Co. Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 3- to 5-storey block comprising 8 one-bedroom and 30 two-bedroom flats, 3 three-bedroom houses with basement parking and associated landscaping (London Borough of Lewisham Council Planning Ref. DC/09/72980).

1.2 The observation was undertaken in accordance with advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; dated 25/05/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 16/09/2010), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project adhered to EH GLAAS *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *AGP No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*. The project also conformed to the

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008).

1.3 The principal objective of the project of archaeological observation and recording was to identify any evidence of medieval/post-medieval activity (such as features associated with the site of the watermill to the south), whilst being alert to the presence of any remains or palaeoenvironmental deposits of earlier date associated with the course of the Ravensbourne.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated on the north-western corner of the crossroads of Southend Lane (A2218) and Bromley Road (A21) in the London Borough of Lewisham (Fig. 1). The surrounding area is largely residential although the open ground of Beckenham Place Park is a short distance to the south. The (culverted) Ravensbourne River runs under the site on an approximately north to south course. The site is within Archaeological Priority Area No.13 as designated by the London Borough of Lewisham, reflecting the potential survival of early (medieval/post-medieval) mill structures and associated tenements.

2.2 The site comprises an approximately rectangular plot of land that was previously occupied by the Tiger's Head, a disused public house. The vacant buildings of this establishment were observed during geotechnical investigations in January 2008 (Albury 2008), and the site is currently levelled.

2.3 It is proposed to construct a five-storey residential building with a basement car park. The footprint of the basement covers almost the entire plan of the site, with the exception of a strip of land running along the north-eastern edge of the site, where the culvert of the Ravensbourne River is located.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c. 24m AOD on the floor of the shallow valley of the Ravensbourne River. The valley rises at a moderate gradient to the north-east and south-west, cresting at c.50-60m AOD within c.1km in each direction.

3.2 The Ravensbourne River flows on an approximately north to south course, passing through Beckenham Place Park to the south, to its confluence with the Pool River c. 2km to the north. The Ravensbourne River has been culverted in the vicinity of the site, sinking c. 100m to the south-east and rising c.50m to the north. The culvert passes underneath the north-eastern edge of the site and has been taken into account in the designs for the proposed development.

3.3 The solid geology of the site comprises soils of the Lambeth Group or Woolwich Beds (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983), overlain by London Clay (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils associated with the Lambeth Group or Woolwich Beds were encountered during geotechnical investigations (Albury 2008) at depths between 9.5 and 14.5m, and comprised grey silty sand containing shell fragments and occasional nodules of cemented material. The London Clay was encountered at depths of c. 3.5m, and comprised stiff grey fissured clay containing occasional pockets of silt/fine sand and fossil fragments.

4.1.4 The Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) indicates that soils of alluvial origin associated with the Ravensbourne River should be present at a shallow depth. Geotechnical investigations (Albury 2008) revealed a thin layer of variable soils overlying the London Clay, which are thought to be representative of a sequence of Alluvium. These soils range from gravel in a matrix of grey-brown sandy clay to brown sandy clay or brown sandy gravel. However, it is possible that some of this sequence of soils has been removed and replaced by the made ground which overlies it. The investigation also revealed that the site is covered by a layer of made ground to depths between 1.2 to 2.7m, comprising soil with varying amounts of brick and concrete rubble and some gravel.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared (Peachey 2010). In summary:

There is no archaeological record of activity in vicinity of the site prior to the medieval period. The name Catford is mentioned in Domesday and does appear to have its root in an old English place name. The contours and flow of the Ravensbourne River appear to have been ideally suited for medieval agricultural industry in the area with the Domesday Book recording 11 watermills on the Ravensbourne in Lewisham, of which 'Lower Mill', adjacent to the south of the site is believed to be one. The mill functioned as a corn mill into the 17th century, after which it functioned as a mustard mill and then a

cutlery mill, before returning to being a corn mill in the 19th century. The mill continued to function until the First World War. The site contained a post-medieval private residence that was sometimes occupied by the miller, and is depicted on maps from 1746. In the latter part of the 18th century this building was converted into the Tiger's Head Public House. It was rebuilt in 1901-2, before being destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944, and rebuilt again in 1958. A modern river culvert on the Ravensbourne river runs through the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the pro-active observation of all groundworks (principally the phases of ground reduction across the site for the proposed basement car park), the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The groundworks comprised the ground reduction within the entire area of the proposed development, to the depth of c. 4.20 – 4.50m below existing ground level (Fig. 2). The reduction was preceded by shoring of the excavation limits. Also concrete piling along the sides of the site commenced before and during the ground reduction.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 No archaeological features or finds were identified. Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections tabulated below.

<i>Sample Section 1</i> <i>SW side, facing NE (DP 5)</i> <i>0.00 = 23.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	M1000	Modern concrete beam.
0.40 – 0.70m	L1001	Made ground. Brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.70 – 1.28m	L1002	Dark yellow, loose, gravel with clayey silt.
1.28m+	L1003	Alluvium. Dark grey, fairly compact, clay.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> <i>NW side, facing SE (DP 8)</i> <i>0.00 = 23.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	M1000	Concrete. As above.
0.40 – 1.10m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
1.10m+	L1002	Gravel. As above.

<i>Sample Section 3</i> <i>SE side, facing NW (DP 11-12)</i> <i>0.00 = 21.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1004	Dark orange yellow, loose, gravel.
0.22 – 0.40m	L1005	Light grey, loose, concrete rubble.
0.40m+	L1003	Alluvium. As above.

6.2 The site was characterised by substantial deep truncation related to the former public house building which stood in the central part of the site, as well as to the modern river culvert located within the northern/central part of the site. The edges of the site, away from this deeper truncation, revealed alluvial deposits. No evidence of any structures or other finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by deposit of made ground (L1001), a brownish grey, compacted, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments (0.30 – 1.00m thick). L1001 overlay L1002, a layer of dark yellow, loose, gravel with clayey silt (0.50 – 0.80m thick). The latter was most likely a deposit of a natural provenance.

8.2 The base of the site's stratigraphy was occupied by a substantial deposit of alluvium (L1003), a dark grey, fairly compact, clay. The clay was present c. 1.50 – 2m below the street level (the top level of the ground within the site was c. 0.50m lower than the initial street level due to demolition work and the need to provide access for machinery).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains could relate to the watermills known from the area, especially to the 'Lower Mill' which existed to the immediate south of the site. It was also possible that the remains of the public house predecessor in form of a post-medieval residence would be revealed.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were recorded. The site proved to be significantly deeply truncated by mid-20th century development of the rebuilt public house and river culvert, which occupied most of the site. The borders of the site were slightly less disturbed, but revealed no evidence of

any features associated with the medieval and later watermill believed to lie close by to the south of the site. No residual finds were recovered.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at London Archaeological Archives and Resource Centre (LAARC). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mulalley and Co. Ltd for funding the project, and for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. View S from Bromley Road.



DP 2. Central part of the site before excavation. View N.



DP 3. S part of the site. View S.



DP 4. S part of the site. View SE.



DP 5. SW side of the site. Sample section 1. View SSE.



DP 6. E part of the site. View SW.



DP 7. NW part of the site. View W.



DP 8. NW part of the site. Sample section 2. View NW.



DP 9. N part of the site. View NE.



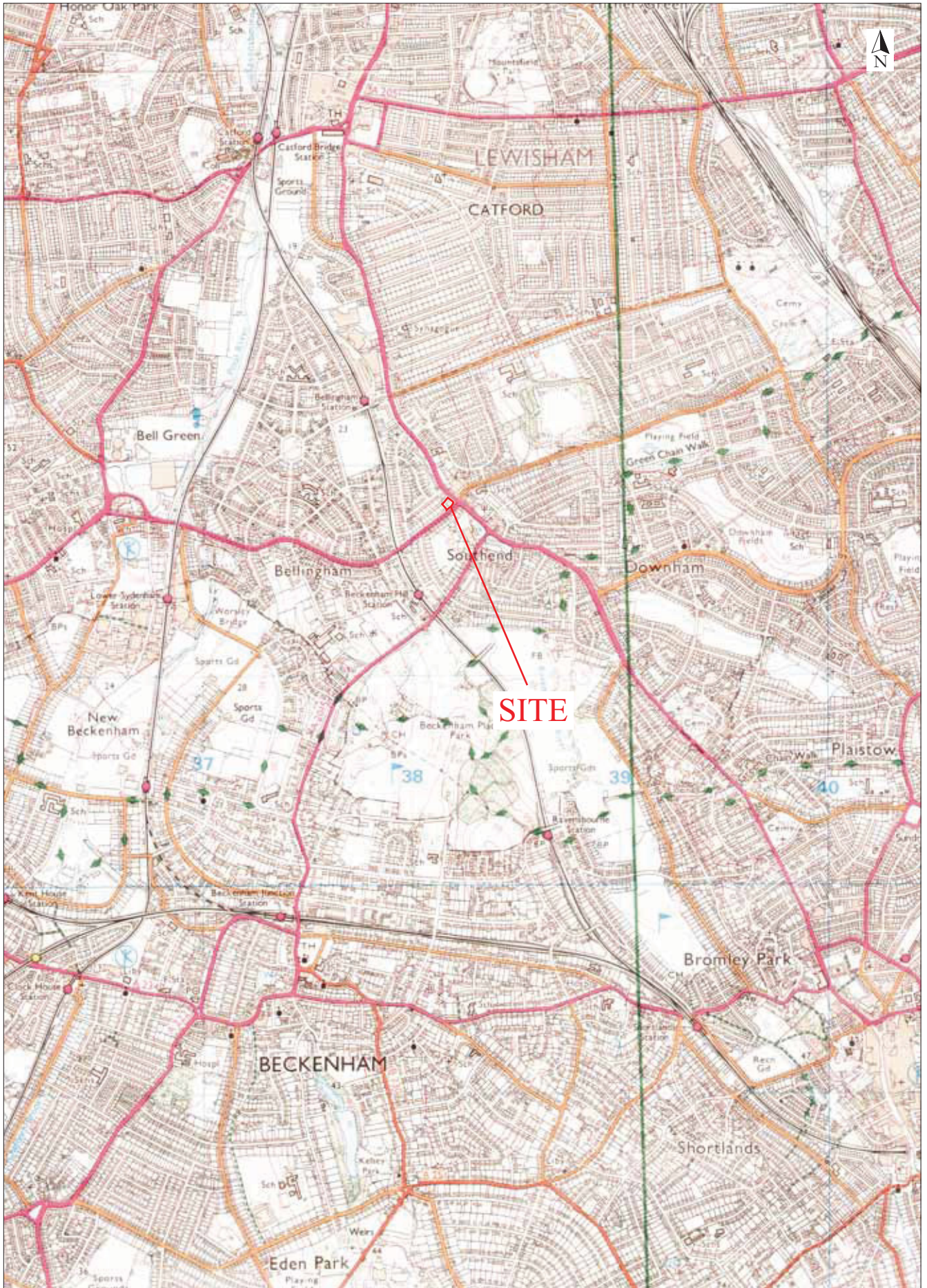
DP 10. NE part of the site. View NE.



DP 11. E part of the site. Sample section 3 with marked Sample 1. View SE.

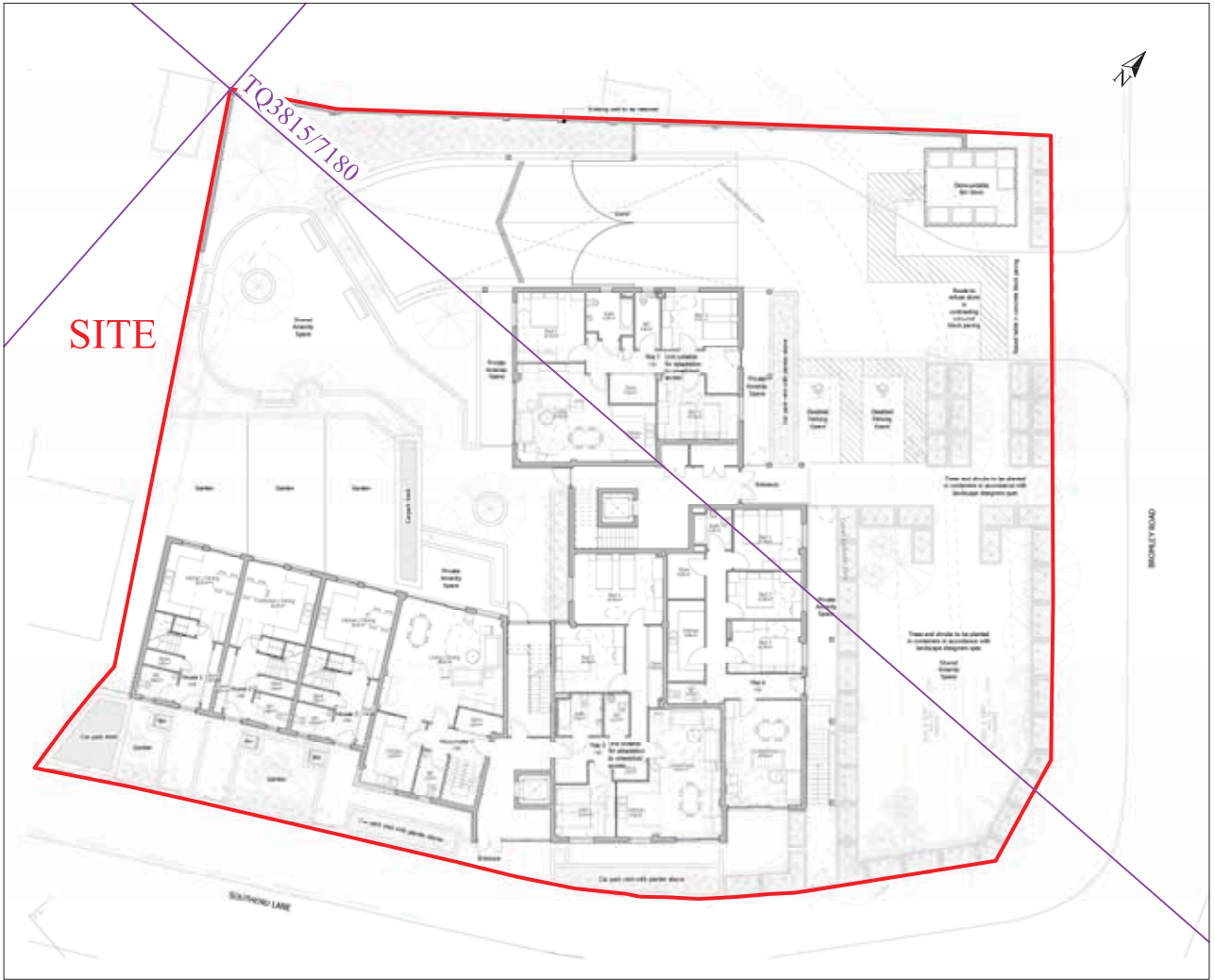


DP 12. E part of the site. Sample section 3 with marked Sample 1. View SE.



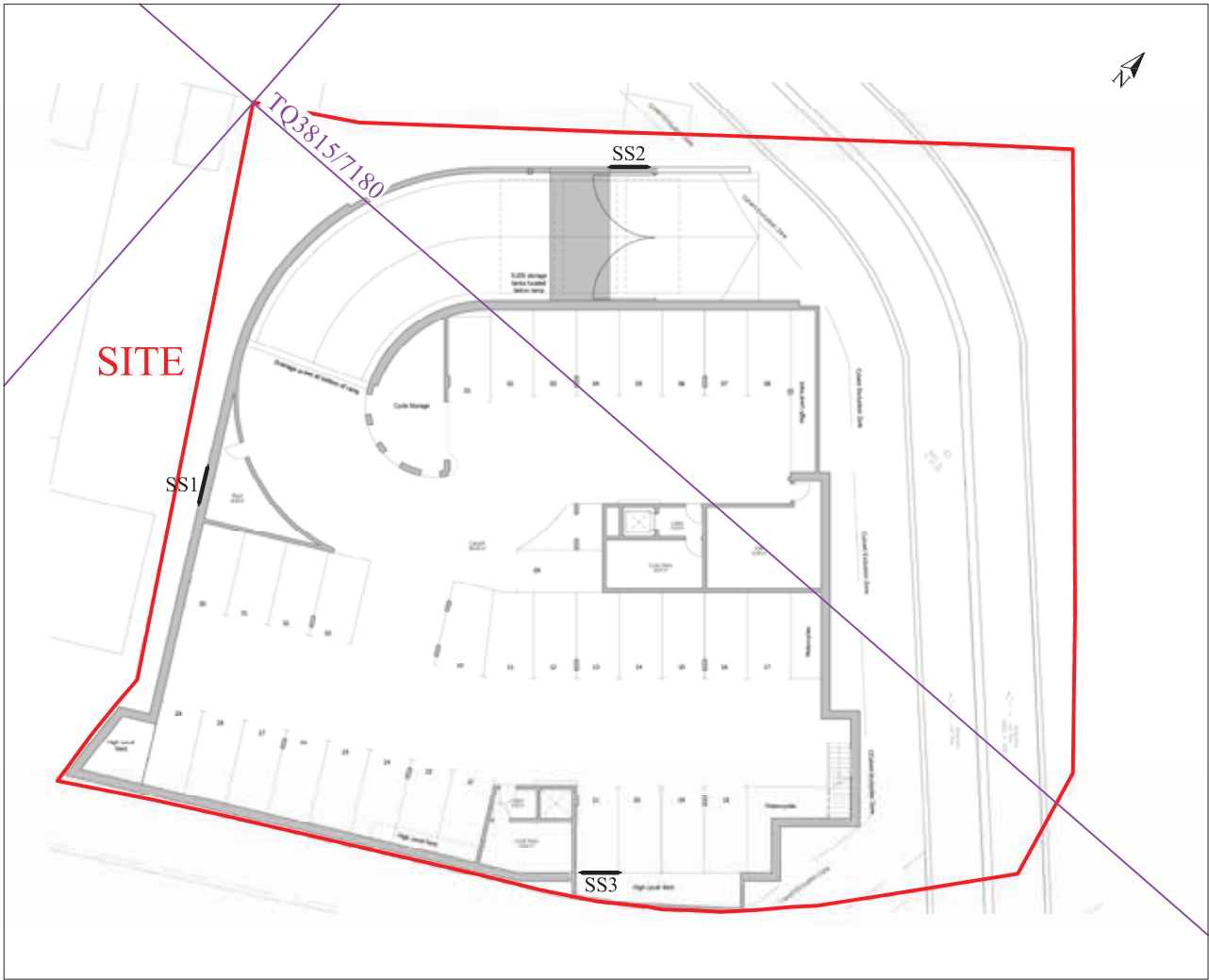
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

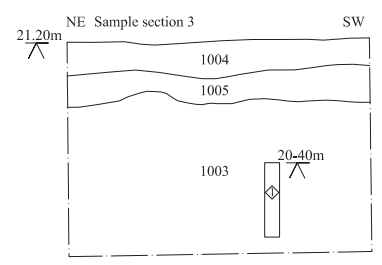
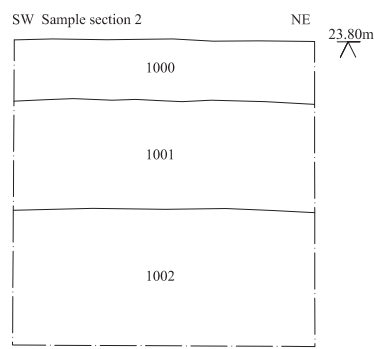
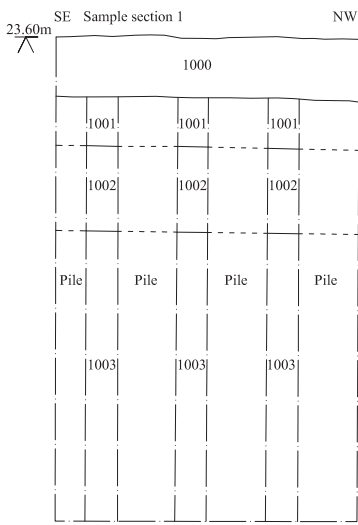



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location - ground level (proposed)
 Scale 1:400 at A4



0 SS = Sample section 20m



0  = Column sample 3m

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Fig. 3 Section location plan - basement level (proposed)
 Scale 1:400 and 1:50 at A4