331 – 335 CHISWICK HIGH ROAD, LONDON W4 4HS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TQ 20237 78498 Report No. 3742		
District: London Borough of Hounslow	Site Code:	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4175	
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1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (GLHER)

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details	
Project name	331 – 335 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HS

In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 331 – 335 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HS (NGR TQ 20237 78498). The evaluation was commissioned by James Taylor Construction and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolishing the existing shops/offices/flats and construction of a four-storey block comprising 10 x one bed and 6 x two bed flats, as well as a new front wall.

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential on the southern side of Chiswick High Road. The present High Road is believed to follow the course of a Roman road. The site also had a potential for prehistoric evidence associated with the brickearth/gravel deposits known locally.

In the event the evaluation revealed a pit containing early 20th century material.

Project dates (fieldwork)	14 th Februar	y 2011	
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4175	Site code	
Type of project	An Archaeol	ogical Evaluation	·
Site status	-		
Current land use	Disused form	ner commercial and rea	sidential premises
Planned development	Residential i	redevelopment	
Main features (+dates)	Modern pit		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	London Borough Hounslow	of Chiswick
HER/ SMR for area	Greater London HER		
Post code (if known)	W4 4HS		
Area of site	c. 540 m ²		
NGR	TQ 20237 78	8498	
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 7m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	EH GLAAS		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Po	zorski	
Funded by	James Taylor Construction		
Full title	331 – 335 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HS. An		
	Archaeologic	cal Evaluation	
Authors	Pozorski, Z.,	Higgs, K.	
Report no.	3742		
Date (of report)	February 20	11	

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 331 335 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4HS (NGR TQ 20237 78498; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by James Taylor Construction and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolishing the existing shops/offices/flats and construction of a four-storey block comprising 10 x one bed and 6 x two bed flats, as well as a new front wall (London Borough of Hounslow Planning Ref. 00248/331-335/P2).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of London Borough of Hounslow and their advisors English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 26/11/2010) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project adhered to EH GLAAS Archaeological Guidance Papers (AGPs, revised 2009), in particular AGP No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London and No 5: Evaluations. The project also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (revised 2008).
- 1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to

establish the presence or absence of any evidence of Roman activity associated with the adjacent line of the Roman road, and/or any evidence of prehistoric activity.

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 Nos. 331 – 335 Chiswick High Road is located in Chiswick, which lies at the centre of the London Borough of Hounslow and approximately 10.5km to the west-south-west of the City of London (Fig. 1). The site lies along the southern frontage of Chiswick High Road, also known as the A315, which is one of the main thoroughfares through Chiswick and Hammersmith. To the immediate south of the site lies a residential street known as Bishops Close. It is bound to the west and east by Nos. 337 and 329 Chiswick High Road respectively. The site is roughly rectangular in plan, covering an area of c.540m², and is currently occupied by three terraced properties previously in use as a former timber merchants. To the south and rear of the site lies a yard area containing open-fronted wood sheds and building extensions. The standing buildings are basemented.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located at c. 7m AOD on a predominantly flat relief and lies within the original floodplain of the River Thames, which flows 1.15km to the south-west of the site (Fig. 1). Chiswick lies within the London Basin, which covers London and majority of south-east England (British Geological Survey 1978). The solid geology consists of Eocene London Clay overlain by Langley Silt and Kempton Park Gravel, the latter of which is first terrace alluvium. This was confirmed by a recent geotechnical borehole investigation undertaken within the site (Smith 2006), which encountered Kempton Park Gravel at 7 - 8m depth overlain by a light brown and orange brown sandy clay with gravel Langley Silt between 1.6 - 2.6m below ground level. The site's yard area was overlain by a fill material of brown gravelly topsoil to 0.7m depth (*ibid*.). The

stratigraphy was very similar to that revealed during an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 610-624 Chiswick High Road and 500m to the west (Preston 2007).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 4.1 The prehistory of Greater London is well-documented and the brickearth and gravel deposits of west London have produced a wealth of prehistoric finds, particularly as a result of gravel and brick clay extraction (MoLAS 2000). Although the first terrace of the surrounding area, and the extensive brickearth deposits overlying it, have not historically been associated with finds of Palaeolithic date, a large Palaeolithic flint was found in 1873 and 900m to the north-west of the site (GLHER MLO444). A second Palaeolithic flint implement was found at Turnham Green (GLHER MLO1960). Unspecified prehistoric remains from the area comprise unstratified material found close to some undated pits at the LRT Bus Works (GLHER MLO22189) and a prehistoric feature containing struck flint, burnt clay and charcoal revealed during an excavation at Turnham Green Bus Garage (GLHER MLO7911).
- 4.2 The area surrounding the site is known to contain the brickearth/ gravel deposits which may produce the Mesolithic flint scatters or 'floors' associated with the capping brickearth.
- 4.2 Extensive later prehistoric settlement of the gravel terraces is known from the survival of Neolithic causewayed enclosures at Staines in Middlesex (Robertson-Mackay 1987) and rich Bronze Age sites such as at Runnymede Bridge in Egham (Longley 1980). The Neolithic period in Chiswick is predominantly represented by individual stray finds, such as the Neolithic arrowhead found during archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works (GLHER MLO22185). The Bronze Age is represented by pits, postholes and ditches forming what is probably the northern edge of a small, domestic Late Bronze Age settlement at the LRT Bus Works (GLHER MLO22186).

Romano-British

4.3 Although Chiswick High Road lies on the course of Akeman Street (Margary 1955), the Romano-British period in the area is represented only by a fragment of stamped Roman tile found at Acton Green and an urn containing silver Roman coins found at Turnham Green (GLHERs MLO68427 & MLO249).

Anglo-Saxon

4.4 Although it is likely that *Londinium* was occupied after the Roman abandonment, evidence suggests that Anglo-Saxon settlement did not become prominent until the 7th century. There is little evidence of Anglo-Saxon

occupation in Chiswick and no findspots lie in proximity to the site. Place-name evidence suggests an Anglo-Saxon origin for Chiswick, meaning 'cheese farm', and is first attested as Ceswican c. 1000 (Mills 1998, 84). The Domesday Book reveals that Chiswick comprised a separate parish within Fulham held by the canons of St Paul's (Williams & Martin 2002, 1038).

Medieval

4.5 Chiswick High Road is regarded as having been a major thoroughfare westwards from London in the medieval period, yet the site does not appear to lie within an area of significant archaeological potential. Medieval finds are limited to occasional fragments of pottery revealed during the archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works and 400m to the west of the site (GLHER MLO22187). Documentary and cartographic sources also make reference to a medieval and post-medieval settlement at Little Sutton or *Sutton Beauregard* from the mid 15th century onwards, and which was focussed 300m to the south (GLHER MLO68842). Sutton Manor and its church were first mentioned in 1181 and are attested by Mansion House on Fauconberg Road (GLHER MLO68838).

Post-medieval & later

4.6 The settlement of Chiswick continued to develop throughout the post-medieval and later periods and is notable mainly for the Battle of Turnham Green that persuaded the King against advancing on the capital in 1642 (Baker, Elrington, Bolton, Croot & Hicks 1982, 60). Chiswick's history is otherwise dominated by the River Thames and Chiswick High Road, which was known as 'the great western road' by the early 19th century (ibid. 1982, 51). Road-side occupation dating from the post-medieval and later previous is well-documented along Chiswick High Road and includes the LRT Bus Works (GLHER MLO22188) and The Pinnacle (GLHERs MLO73418, MLO73419 & MLO73420). Further early modern remains are recorded at 375 Palmerston Road and Turnham Green Bus Garage (GLHERs MLO99355 & MLO7932), whilst the grounds of Chiswick House were largely laid out by the third earl of Burlington in the 18th century (GLHER MLO63893).

The site

4.7 Despite the site's relatively prominent location along the southern frontage of Chiswick High Road, very little is known of the history of the site. The three terraced properties known to stand within the site are not listed and thus remain undated, but are judged to be 19th century in character. Given the site's location within the floodplain of the River Thames and an area liable to flood, it is possible that it was not significantly developed until the early modern period; a date consistent with 19th century date assigned to Nos. 331 – 335 Chiswick High Road. The site was not listed in the earliest available trade and residential directory for Chiswick, which dates to 1889 – 90 (Historical Directories website; Kelly's Directory 1889 - 90). An existing shop frontage at the site suggests that Nos. 331 – 335 Chiswick High Road were occupied until recently by *G. R. Mumford & Co Ltd timber merchants*, who

were established in 1910. However, the business was not recorded in local directories dating to 1911 or 1914, and *Kelly's Directory* from 1911 reveals that the site was occupied by residents Frederick Makey and Herbert Lane, as well as a printers and stationer known as *Broad & Co.* (Kelly's Directory 1911).

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The northern sector of the site could not be excavated due to a standing building and its basements. The trench measured 12 x 1.80m.
- 5.2 Initially the development plans included the construction of a basement to the rear of the site, therefore it was proposed to excavate deeper into deposits of brickearth present on the site, potentially to the level of gravels, in order to investigate the possibility of presence of the Mesolithic/Upper Palaeolithic remains. The rear basement is not now proposed, and it was agreed with EH GLAAS that the deep excavation was not required.
- 5.3 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 3-4)

Sample section	Sample section 1 (DP 5): N end, W facing		
0.00 = 7.41m A	0.00 = 7.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil mixed with demolition materials. Dark blackish grey, loose, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments.	
0.12 – 0.62m	L1001	Made ground. Mid grey, compact, sandy silt with moderate CBM fragments and rubbish.	
0.62 – 1.20m	L1002	Subsoil. Light brown, compact, clayey silt.	
1.20m +	L1003	Brickearth. Mid brownish yellow, compact, sandy clay with occasional gravel.	

Sample section 2 (DP 6): S end, W facing 0.00 = 7.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m L1000 Topsoil. As above.		
0.10 - 0.58m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.58 – 1.05m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
1.05m +	L1003	Brickearth. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained one archaeological feature, a ?pit.

F1004 was probably a circular/oval feature (1 x 0.70m; DP 6), located in the southern end of the trench. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its single fill, L1005, was a grey, loose, silty sand with ash. It contained early 20th century pottery, glass (bottles) and refuse material.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The northern sector of the site could not be excavated due to the presence of a standing structure currently under demolition (Fig. 2). The building also contained basements which will have truncated archaeological deposits, if present. Aside from this, it is not felt that any other factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The rear part of the site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark, blackish grey, loose, clayey silt (0.10 0.15m thick), mixed with demolition materials. It overlay Made Ground L1001 (0.40 0.60m thick) and a Subsoil L1002, a light brown, compact, clayey silt (0.50 0.60m thick).
- 8.2 The natural brickearth deposit clay, L1003, was present at *c.* 1.20m below existing ground level and comprised a mid brownish yellow, compact, sandy clay with occasional gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Romano-British archaeology. Such remains may relate to the route of Roman road to the immediate north of the site. It also had a potential for prehistoric remains potentially present in brickearth deposits or at the interface with subgravels.
- 9.2 In the event the only archaeological feature revealed was a pit of a fairly recent date (early 20th century). Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place with the exception of the deposit of made ground likely related to the 19th/20th century occupation/development of the site. The brickearth deposit was not excavated as explained above (Section 5.2). 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 Mr Michael Johnson of James Taylor Group for commissioning the project, and Mr Ian Cox of James Taylor Construction for his assistance.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (GLHER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER).

GLHER	NGR TQ	Description	
Prehistoric (to		μεσοιιμιίοιι	
MLO22186	1985 7861	Dita poetholog and ditabas forming what is probably the	
IVILOZZ 100	1905 7001	Pits, postholes and ditches forming what is probably the northern edge of a small, domestic Late Bronze Age	
		settlement were revealed during archaeological work at	
		the LRT Bus Works	
MLO22189	1985 7861	Archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works revealed	
WILO22109	1900 7001	prehistoric material was found unstratified on the	
		surface close to some undated pits	
MLO7911	2067 7867	Excavation at Turnham Green Bus Garage revealed a	
IVILOT	2007 7007	prehistoric feature containing struck flint, burnt clay and	
		charcoal	
MLO444	1990 7940	Large Palaeolithic flint found in 1873	
MLO22185	1985 7861	Archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works revealed a	
WILO22165	1965 7661	single Neolithic arrowhead	
MLO1960	2040 7840	Palaeolithic flint implement found at Turnham Green	
Romano-Britis	sh (AD 43 – 410)	·	
MLO68427	2090 7880	A fragment of stamped Roman tile of the VIth Legion	
WILCOOTZ	2000 7000	found at Acton Green	
MLO249	2040 78	Urn containing silver Roman coins found at Turnham	
WIEGZ 10	201070	Green	
Medieval (AD	1066 – 1539)	0.0011	
MLO68838	2030 7770	Mansion House on Fauconberg Road was first	
		recorded as Sutton Manor by 1181, and Sutton Court	
		by 1537; in 1589, it had a gatehouse, malt house,	
		dovecote and farm buildings, some of which were	
		repaired in 1590	
MLO68842	2018 7817 (Little Sutton was first recorded 1181, known as Sutton	
		Beauregard in the 1450s and comprised a small hamlet	
		in 1589	
MLO22187	1985 7861	Archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works revealed	
		occasional fragments of medieval pottery	
Post-medieval	Post-medieval & Later (AD 1540 – present)		
MLO22188	1985 7861	Archaeological work at the LRT Bus Works revealed a	
		small cluster of pits and ditches dating from 17 th - 19 th	
		century and a Victorian gravel quarry	
MLO99355	20075 79341	An archaeological evaluation at 375 Palmerston Road,	
		South Acton revealed evidence of two late post-	
		medieval pits, one with a residual prehistoric struck flint	
		in the fill	
MLO73418	1932 7842	Evaluation undertaken at The Pinnacle revealed post-	
		medieval bedding trenches running parallel on a N-S	
		alignment	
MLO73419	1932 7842	Evaluation undertaken at The Pinnacle revealed a post-	
		medieval pit	
MLO73420	1932 7842	Evaluation undertaken at The Pinnacle revealed a	

		brick-lined soakaway of post-medieval date
MLO7932	2067 7867	Excavation at Turnham Green Bus Garage found the
		remains of former 19th century & 20th century bus
		garages, including a bricked surface
MLO63893	2090 7761	The grounds of Chiswick House, largely laid out by the
		third earl of Burlington in the 18th century, consist of
		pleasure grounds, walled gardens, and parkland
Undated remains		
MLO78254	20781 78442	An archaeological field excavation carried out at 1-4
		Barley Mow Passage did not reveal any significant finds

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. 331-335 Chiswick High Road. View SSW.





DP 3. Trench 1. View SSW.



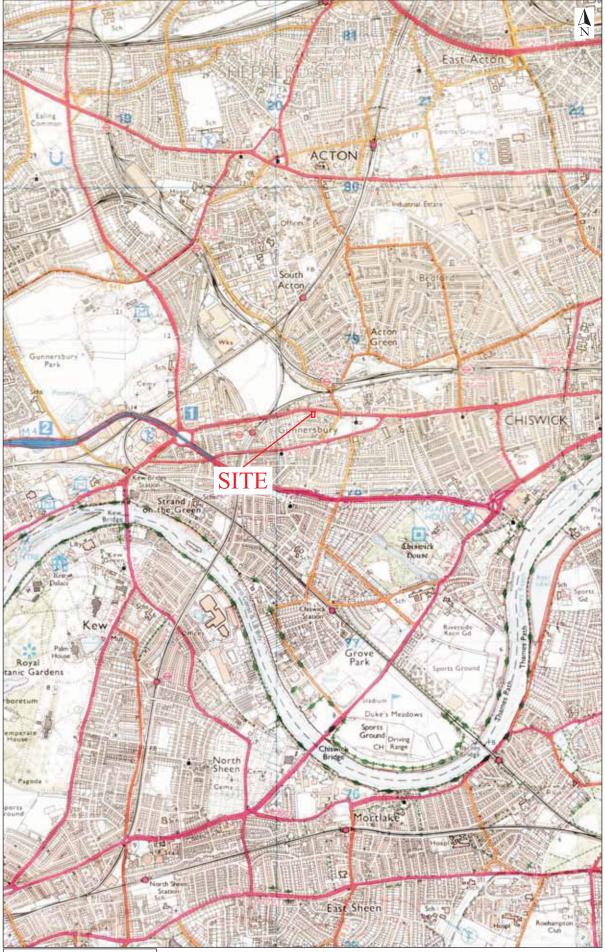
DP 4. Trench 1. View S.



DP 5. Trench 1, N end. Sample section. View E.



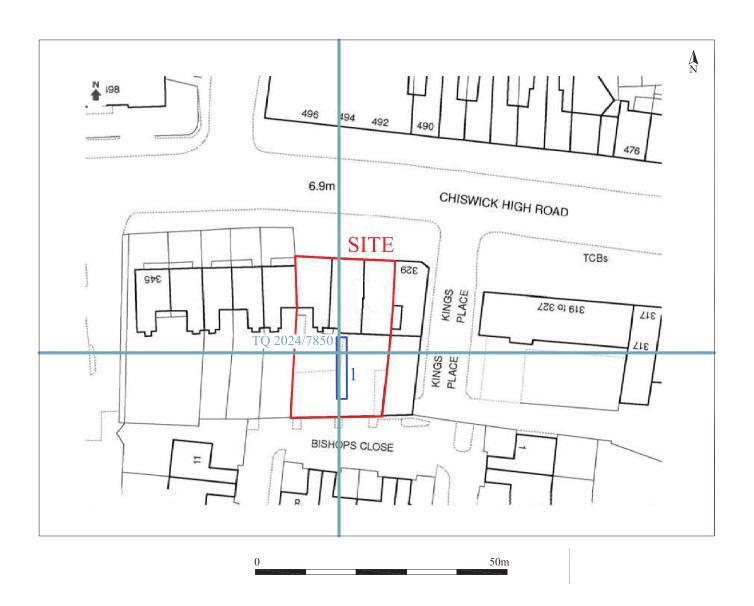
DP 6. Trench 1, S end. Sample section. View E.



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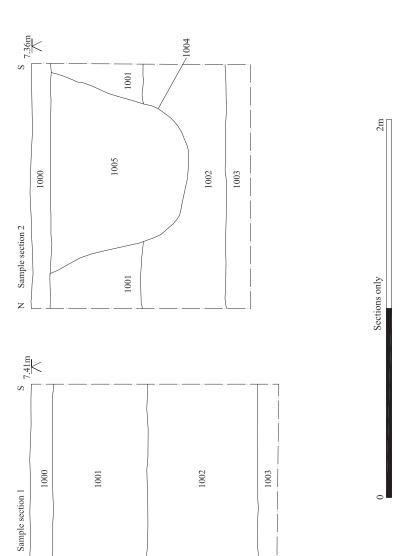
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4

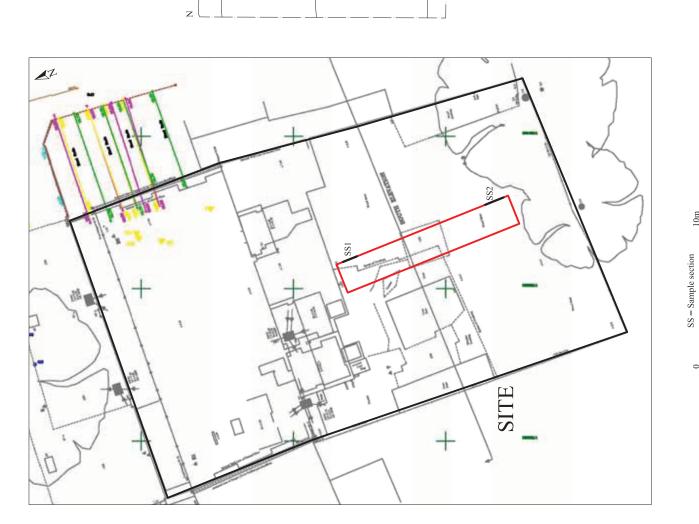


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4





Sections and section location plan Archaeological Solutions Ltd Scale 1:50 and 1:250 at A4 Fig. 3