

**LISTER HOSPITAL, COREY'S MILL LANE,
STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE**

NEW MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
VIA 'STRIP, MAP AND RECORD'**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report)	
NGR: TL 23100 26587	Report No. 3711
District: Stevenage	Site Code: AS 1220
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3510
Signed:	Date: November 2010

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**
- 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. New multi-storey car park.</i>		
<i>Between October and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 23100 26587). The programme was commissioned by Vinci Construction UK in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new multi-storey car park.</i>			
<i>The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage. The site had a potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>20, 21, 22, 29 October, 3, 10, 17, 24 November, & 2 December 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3510</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1220</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record'</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>New multi-storey car park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Stevenage</i>	<i>Stevenage</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG1 4AB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 14.50ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 23100 26587</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 100m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Vinci Construction UK</i>		
Full title	<i>Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. New multi-storey car park. Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map and Record'</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3711</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2010</i>		

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NEW MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP AND RECORD'

SUMMARY

Between October and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 23100 26587). The programme was commissioned by Vinci Construction UK in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new multi-storey car park.

The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage. The site had a potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological remains.

In the event the investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between October and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 23100 26587; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme was commissioned by Vinci Construction UK in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new multi-storey car park (Stevenage Borough Council Planning Ref. 2/00100/09).

1.2 The investigation was undertaken in accordance to requirements of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 03/09/2009), and approved by HCC HEU. The investigation conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed to provide:

- the investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the areas subject to development in accordance with the requirements of the HCC HEU brief;

- the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- the provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

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 northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage (Figs. 1 - 2). It is bounded to the west by Corey's Mill and Hitchin Road (A602). The A1(M) motorway (Junction 8) is situated c. 500m to the west. Corey's Mill Lane forms the southern boundary, south of which is Whitney Wood (a designated wildlife site). North Road forms the eastern boundary, beyond which is a residential development and Cuckoo Wood. To the north lie the grounds of Stevenage Town Rugby Football Club.

2.2 Lister Hospital comprises a complex range of buildings, car parks and grounds. The proposed extensions and redevelopment are to be constructed in phases scheduled for 2009-2015 and comprising:

- a two-storey extension to the existing Maternity and Women's and Children's Unit (Phase 2);
- a multi-storey car park and landscaped plaza immediately adjacent to the main entrance of the hospital, to the east. A temporary car park was also established in the south-western corner of the site (Phase 3);
- the construction of an Urgent Care Centre and the upgrading of the adjacent Accident and Emergency unit (Phase 4);

- the demolition of up to eight units on the south-west part of the site, the construction of a new Main Block to comprise theatres, critical care and ward accommodation (Phase 5);
- the opening up of the existing access off North Road which is currently closed;
- the conversion of the existing boiler house to a Combined Heat and Power unit; and
- amendments to the internal road layout, the removal of identified trees and the planting of new trees and open space.

2.3 This report encompasses the construction of a new multi-storey car park at the front of the main hospital building (Phase 3).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is relatively level at c.98-100m AOD. The surrounding landscape is gently undulating with low hills surrounding Stevenage rising to c. 115-140m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Middle Chalk to some depth, overlain by soils of the Ludford Association. These are well-drained, flinty and loamy soils, overlying glacio-fluvial deposits, including gravel and clay-with-flints (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared (Peachey 2009). In summary:

Archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity is well-attested in the vicinity of the site, and is generally represented by scatters of flint artefacts and debitage with sparse sherds of pottery dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. These scatters of finds have been recovered through archaeological field walking and excavation to the west of the site on land of comparable geology and topography.

The site is passed at its south-western corner by a Roman road and lies close to the junction of this road with the Roman Road which connects Verulamium and Baldock. The Corey's Mill area beside these roads, and adjacent to the west of the site, has produced significant Roman archaeology including a cemetery, pottery and a coin. Several farmsteads with associated cemeteries, such as Lobs Hole and Boxfield, have been identified in the Roman landscape in the Stevenage area, with further examples at Wymondley and Hitchin.

The site is situated just outside the medieval parish of Stevenage and at some distance from the medieval nucleus of Graveley. No significant medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity.

Post-medieval occupation in the vicinity of the site is focussed on the windmill and public house at Corey's Mill adjacent to the west, and the public house and turnpike tollgate at the Marquis of Granby adjacent to the east. Corey's Mill Lane appears to have been a minor road between these two locations. The site appears to have remained agricultural.

Prior to the construction of Lister Hospital (opened 1972), the only development was the construction of a house and outbuildings: St Margaret's, between 1898 and 1923. These buildings were subsequently demolished to make way for hospital buildings.

4.2 The initial phases of redevelopment at Lister Hospital were the subject of archaeological investigations conducted by AS in 2009. The investigated areas comprised a temporary car park area in the south-western part of site (Pozorski 2009) and the new maternity block area to the north of the existing hospital buildings (Pozorski 2010). The investigations did not reveal any archaeological features or finds and indicated significant modern truncation of the site during the construction of the present hospital buildings.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological investigation of the MSCP area comprised the observation of all groundworks, 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 project comprised the investigation of mechanically-excavated trenches for foundation ground beams and pads for the new multi-storey car park and a trench for new drainage/services associated with the proposed building (Fig. 2).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

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

<i>W foundation trench, central part, facing W (DP 8)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 99.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L3000	Tarmac. Surface of the car park.
0.16 – 0.31m	L3001	Levelling layer. Reddish light brown, compacted, sandy gravel
0.31 – 0.47m	L3002	Light grey concrete.
0.47 – 0.76m	L3003	Black, friable, clayey silt with gravel and charcoal.
0.76m+	L3004	Natural greenish dark yellow, compact, clay.

<i>W/central foundation trench, central part, facing W (DP 12)</i> <i>0.00 = 99.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L3000	Tarmac. As above.
0.17 – 0.40m	L3001	Levelling layer. As above.
0.40 – 0.54m	L3003	As above.
0.54m+	L3004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>E/central foundation trench, northern part, facing W (DP 15)</i> <i>0.00 = 99.67m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L3000	Tarmac. As above.
0.20 – 0.45m	L3001	Levelling layer. As above.
0.45 – 0.65m	L3003	As above.
0.65m+	L3004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>E foundation trench, southern part, facing W (DP 18)</i> <i>0.00 = 99.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L3000	Tarmac. As above.
0.18 – 0.39m	L3001	Levelling layer. As above.
0.39 – 0.57m	L3003	As above.
0.57m+	L3004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Drainage trench in W part of the site, southern part, facing E (DP 21)</i> <i>0.00 = 99.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L3000	Tarmac. As above.
0.15 – 0.41m	L3002	Concrete. As above.
0.41 – 0.62m	L3003	As above.
0.62m+	L3004	Natural clay. As above.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the investigation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Tarmac L3000, a dark bluish grey, compact, tarmac – surface of the former car park (0.15 – 0.20m thick). L1003 overlay a base layer of compact, reddish light brown, sandy gravel (L1001; 0.20m thick). Below L3001, a layer of black, friable, clayey silt with gravel (L3003; 0.15 – 0.20m thick) was present. The layer contained large amounts of charcoal and was present within the majority of the site.

8.2 The natural clay, L3004, was present at 0.50 – 0.80m below existing ground level and comprised a greenish dark yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the prehistoric and Romano-British archaeology. In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified except the modern levelling deposits, and no residual finds were recovered.

9.2 Any archaeological remains which may have been present may have destroyed during the groundworks associated with construction of the hospital buildings and previous levelling of the ground for the car park.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Stevenage Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Vinci Construction UK for their co-operation and funding of the project.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	2
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	83

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. New multi-storey car park.
County: Hertfordshire	District: Stevenage
Village/Town:	Parish: Stevenage
Planning application reference:	Stevenage Borough Council Planning Ref. 2/00100/09
Client name/address/tel:	Vinci Construction UK
Nature of application:	Construction of a new multi-story car park
Present land use:	Car park
Size of application area: c. 3600m ²	Size of area investigated c. 1200m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 23100 26587
Site Code:	AS 1220
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	20, 21, 22, 29 October, 3, 10, 17, 24 November, 2 December 2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Stevenage Museum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>Between October and December 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 23100 26587). The programme was commissioned by Vinci Construction UK in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new multi-storey car park.</p> <p>The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage. The site had a potential for prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: December 2010

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Area of the proposed new multi-storey car park, Lister Hospital, Stevenage. View SW.



DP 2. SW part of the site. View WNW.



DP 3. The site. View NW.



DP 4. E part of the site. View N.



DP 5. W foundation trench. View S.



DP 6. W foundation trench. View NNE.



DP 7. W foundation trench. View SSE.



DP 8. W foundation trench, central part. Sample section. View E.



DP 9. W/central foundation trench. View SSW.



DP 10. W/central foundation trench. View SW.



DP 11. W/central foundation trench. View S.



DP 12. W/central foundation trench. Sample section. View E.



DP 13. E/central foundation trench. View N.



DP 14. E/central foundation trench. View NNW.



DP 15. E/central foundation trench. Sample section. View E.



DP 16. E foundation trench. View NNE.



DP 17. E foundation trench. View NNE.



DP 18. E foundation trench. Sample section. View WNW.



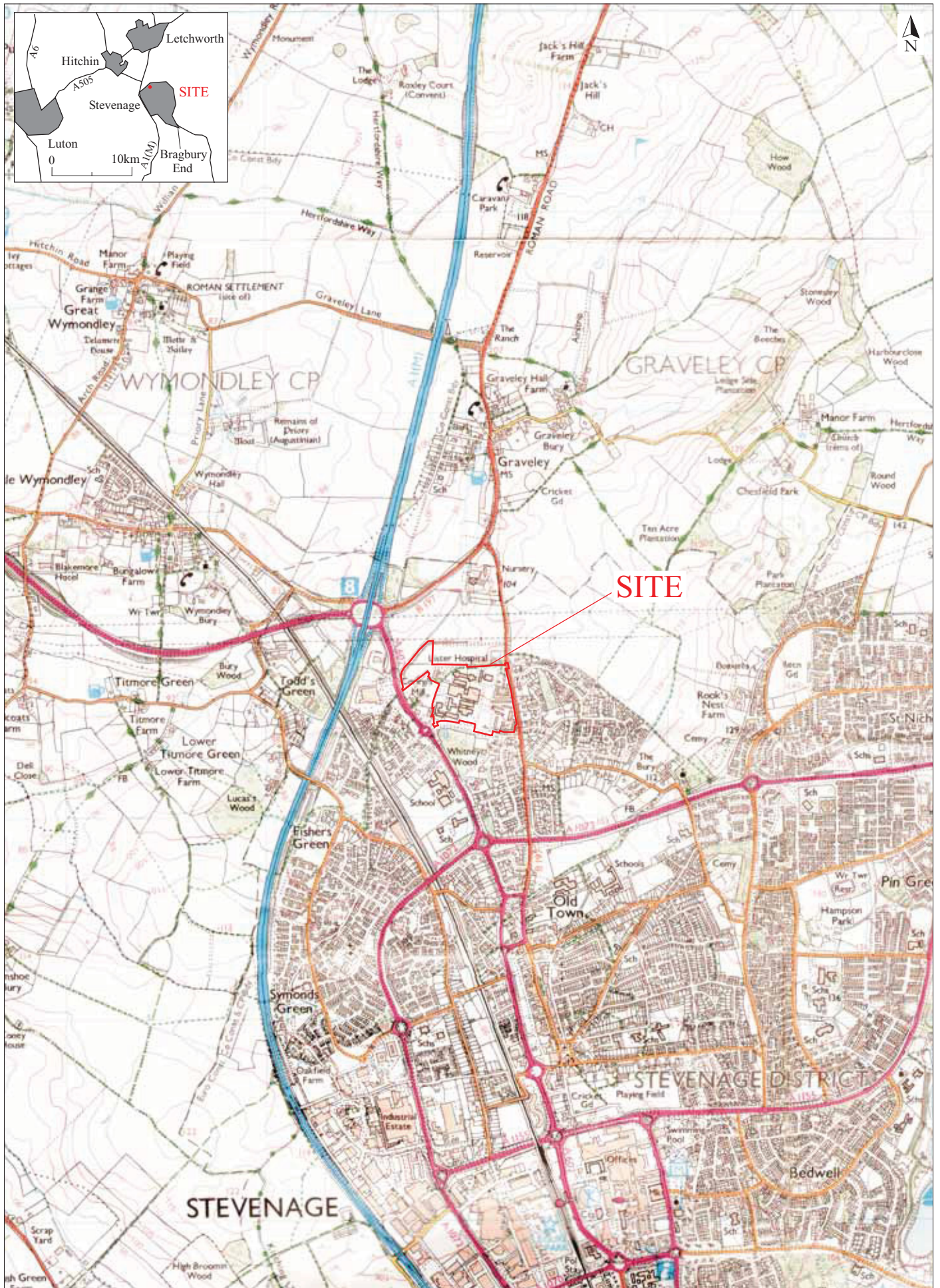
DP 19. S foundation trench. View N.



DP 20. Drainage trench in W part of the site. View NNW.

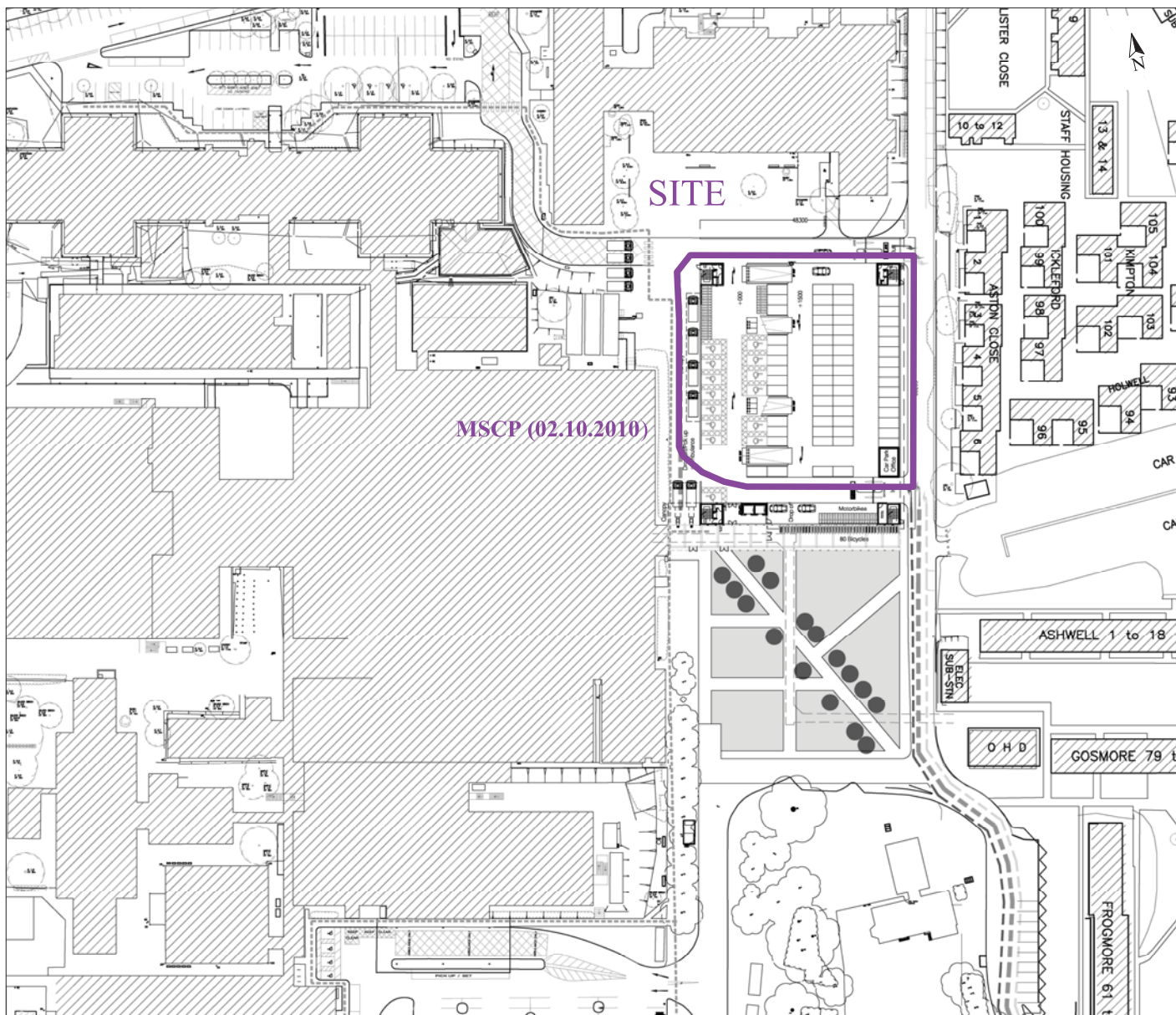


DP 21. Drainage trench. Sample section. View W.



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



0 100m

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Fig. 3 Location of MSCP
Scale 1:1500 at A4

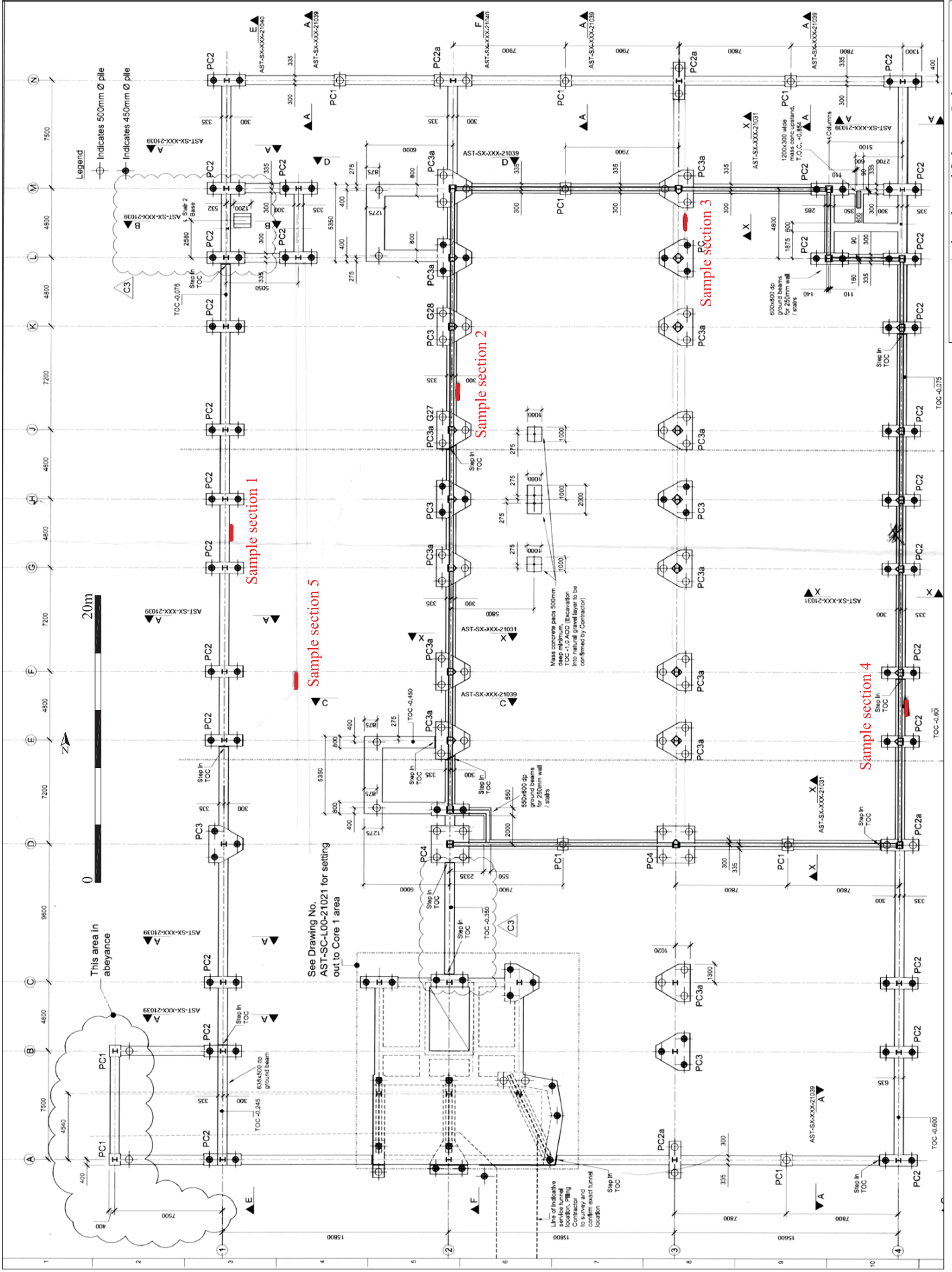
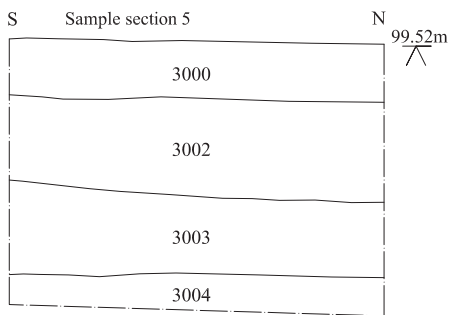
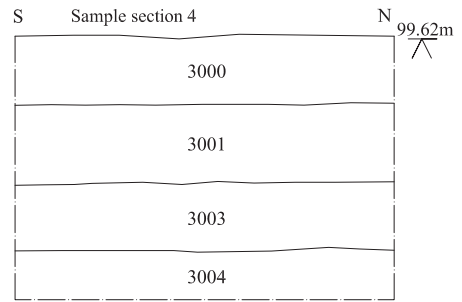
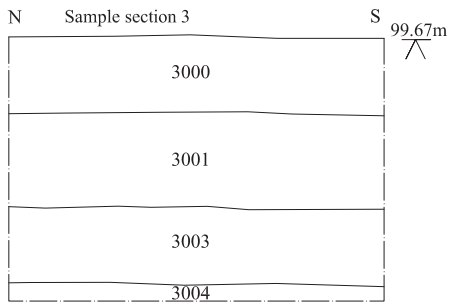
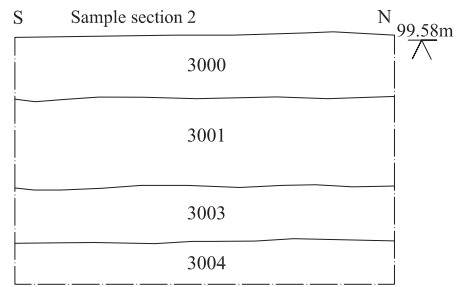
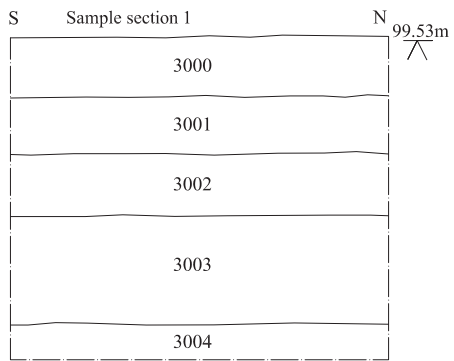


Fig. 4 Location of sample sections
 Scale 1:250 at A4



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Fig. 5 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4