
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**HARROW SCHOOL, ART & LEAF SCHOOL,
HARROW, MIDDLESEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (Fieldwork & Report) Peter Thompson MA (Desk-Based Assessment)	
NGR: TQ 1537 8751	Report No: 3893
District: London Borough of Harrow	Site Code: HRR11
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4485
Signed:	Date: August 2011



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Harrow School, Art & Leaf School, Harrow, Middlesex</i>		
<p><i>In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Harrow School, Art & Leaf School, Harrow, Middlesex. The evaluation was commissioned by Kenneth W Reed and Associates on behalf of Harrow School, and was carried out in anticipation of a condition in an anticipated planning approval (LB Harrow Ref. P/09/11/11). It is proposed to construct new painting and sculpture studios comprising a double and single storey annexe in the existing garden between Leaf Schools and The Grove boarding house.</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the village core of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.</i></p> <p><i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>August 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4485</i>	Site code	<i>HRR11</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car park and gardens within school grounds</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension of art department buildings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Middlesex</i>	<i>LB Harrow</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>GLHER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HA1 3HP</i>		
Area of site	<i>2000 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 1537 8751</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>Approximately 110-115m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Harrow School</i>		
Full title	<i>Harrow School, Art & Leaf School, Harrow, Middlesex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z., & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3893</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2011</i>		

HARROW SCHOOL, ART & LEAF SCHOOL, HARROW, MIDDLESEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Harrow School, Art & Leaf School, Harrow, Middlesex. The evaluation was commissioned by Kenneth W Reed and Associates on behalf of Harrow School, and was carried out in anticipation of a condition in an anticipated planning approval (LB Harrow Ref. P/09/11/11). It is proposed to construct new painting and sculpture studios comprising a double and single storey annexe in the existing garden between Leaf Schools and The Grove boarding house.

The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the village core of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.

In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Harrow School, Art & Leaf School, Harrow, Middlesex (NGR TQ 1537 8751; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Kenneth W Reed and Associates on behalf of Harrow School, and was carried out in anticipation of a condition in an anticipated planning approval (LB Harrow Ref. P/09/11/11). It is proposed to construct new painting and sculpture studios comprising a double and single storey annexe in the existing garden between Leaf Schools and The Grove boarding house.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in response to advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18/07/2011). 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* 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.

Planning policy context

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) 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 Harrow is a London Borough situated in the north-west part of Greater London in the former historic county of Middlesex. The site lies on the grounds of Harrow School to the rear of a school boarding house, The Grove. It is immediately northwest of the art buildings, the Leaf Schools. The site currently comprises a garden with mature broadleaved trees, and an area of tarmac. The site lies at around 110m AOD on a geology of London Clay.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located at the top of the prominent hill of the eponymous Harrow-on-the-Hill at 110-115m AOD. The local soils have not been systematically surveyed due to the urban setting, but an evaluation at The King's Head to the south recorded a topsoil, a dark-brownish grey, slightly loamy clay containing rounded pebbles overlying London Clay, an orangey-yellow clay, at depths varying between 33 and 88 cm (Crank, Grant & Roberts 2003).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The earliest known document relating to Harrow is a charter covering a grant of land by Offa, King of Mercia, to Abbot Stidberht of St Albans in AD 767. Settlement has a long history on the gravel-capped summit of Harrow, and properties are mentioned in the area in detail from the 13th century, comprising free tenements, smaller houses and minor cottage industries, all under the nominal lordship of the archbishops of Canterbury. During the Middle Ages the

village was also granted the right to hold a market. The modern development of the area began after the endowment of Harrow School by John Lyon in 1575.

4.2 The Grove is on the site of the Rectory Manor first mentioned in 1233-40 which was a former demesne of the Archbishop of Canterbury (GLHER 13000; TQ 1540 8750). The lords of the manor probably lived on this site which was subsequently incorporated into Harrow School. Documentary evidence suggests the medieval and post-medieval manor may have stood at Redland Road to the north (MLO 68499; TQ 1540 8780). The vicarage granted in 1233-40 stood south of the church burial ground, although the present building dates from the early 19th century onwards (MLO 15646; TQ 1530 8730).

4.3 In 1990 an excavation near Yew Walk, approximately 200m south-west of the site found a ditch containing abraded Saxon or possibly Early Medieval sherds (GLHER 7987; TQ 1520 8755), and another smaller ditch and pit containing medieval pottery. Post-medieval finds were also present (GLHER 7988). Some 300m to the north-west in Church Fields, is the location of a double bank, possibly the remains of medieval cultivation strips (GLHER 15665; TQ 1510 8760). The Grove Open Space contains remains of the manor's fishponds (MLO 23409 & MLO 42731; TQ 1540 8760), and slight earthworks possibly relating either to a continuation of the banks from Church Fields or representing a carriageway to Rectory Manor (MLO 15664; TQ 1530 8780). A small section of bank and ditch of a former medieval lane is situated some 350m to the west (MLO 15667; TQ 1510 8740).

4.4 Also on The Grove Open Space is a mound excavated by Harrow School in the 1970s which is believed to be post-medieval (MLO 23403; TQ 1530 8760). Post-medieval cultivation soil was identified at The Park, approximately 100m east of the site (MLO 84734; TQ 1550 8750). Harrow Park is a small Grade II Registered Park and Garden (4179) designed by Lancelot Brown in the 18th century and located some 300m to the south of the site. It formed the grounds to Flambards House, largest house in the village, which dates from the 14th century (GLHER 16094). The 1817 Enclosure Map shows the Harrow School building to the north-east of the church. There are few other buildings in close proximity but a pond is located to the north (Fig 3)

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (DP 1 & 2, Fig. 4). The trench locations were approved by EH GLAAS (Archaeological Advisors to LB Harrow) and were situated to assess the footprint of the proposed development.

5.2 Topsoil and subsoil 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. 4, DP 3 & 4)

<i>Sample section: 0.3m from E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 109.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark blackish-grey loose silty sand with occasional pebbles and CBM
0.36 – 0.48m	L1001	Layer of rubble – CBM (roofing tiles)
0.48 – 0.61m	L1002	Mid greyish-brown loose clayey silt with frequent gravel.
0.61 – 0.67m	L1003	Pale yellow loose sand with frequent gravel, and occasional CBM fragments.
0.67 – 0.77m	L1004	Layer derived from Natural Geology. Yellowish-orange compact sandy clay with moderate gravel.
0.77m +	L1005	Natural Geology. Mid yellow compact silty clay.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4, DP 5 & 6)

<i>Sample section 2A: 2.5m from N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 110.93m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.45m	L1006	Subsoil. Light yellow compact silty sand
0.45m +	L1005	Natural Geology. As Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B: 0.3m from S end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 109.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1.
0.36 – 0.48m	L1007	Rubble layer. CBM and mortar.
0.48 – 0.74m	L1008	Light grey loose silty clay with frequent CBM fragments
0.74m +	L1005	Natural Geology. As Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was sealed by Topsoil L1000, a dark blackish-grey loose silty sand with occasional pebbles and CBM. This was a maximum of 0.36m deep.

8.2 Beneath L1000 in Trench 1 was a layer of CBM rubble, L1001, 0.12m thick. This layer comprised fragments of modern roofing tiles and bricks. L1002 is likely to be the same as L1007 identified at the southern end of Trench 2 (below), and represents a deposit associated with construction or demolition activity.

8.3 Beneath L1001 were two further layers likely to be associated with this construction or demolition activity. L1002 was a mid greyish brown clayey silt layer, 0.13m thick, with frequent gravels. It sealed L1003, a pale yellow sand layer, 0.06m thick, with frequent gravel and occasional CBM fragments.

8.4 At the base of Trench 1, overlying the Natural Geology L1005, was a layer of yellowish orange compact sandy clay 0.10m thick, L1004, likely to be derived from L1005.

8.5 The deposit sequence in Trench 2 differed at either end. At the northern end Topsoil L1000 sealed Subsoil L1006. This was a light yellow compact silty sand 0.17m thick.

8.6 At the southern end of Trench 2, Topsoil L1000 sealed a layer of CBM rubble, L1007. This is likely to be the same deposit identified in Trench 1 as L1001. Beneath this was another layer, L1008, likely to be associated with the activity represented by L1001 and L1007. L1008 was a light grey loose silty clay with frequent inclusions of CBM fragments. Early Modern finds including glass and china were recovered from this layer.

8.7 The Natural Geology, L1002, was the same in both trenches and comprised a mid yellow compact silty clay. It was encountered at an average depth of 0.64m below existing ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the village core of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive 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 Harrow School for their co-operation and funding the project, and their consultant, Mr Paul Chatham of Kenneth W Reed Associates

AS thanks Stuart Cakebread of the Greater London Historic Environment Record.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site during trenching works. View SE



DP 2. The site during trenching works. View NW



DP 3. Trench 1 View SW



DP 4. Trench 1 Sample Section 1A View .SE

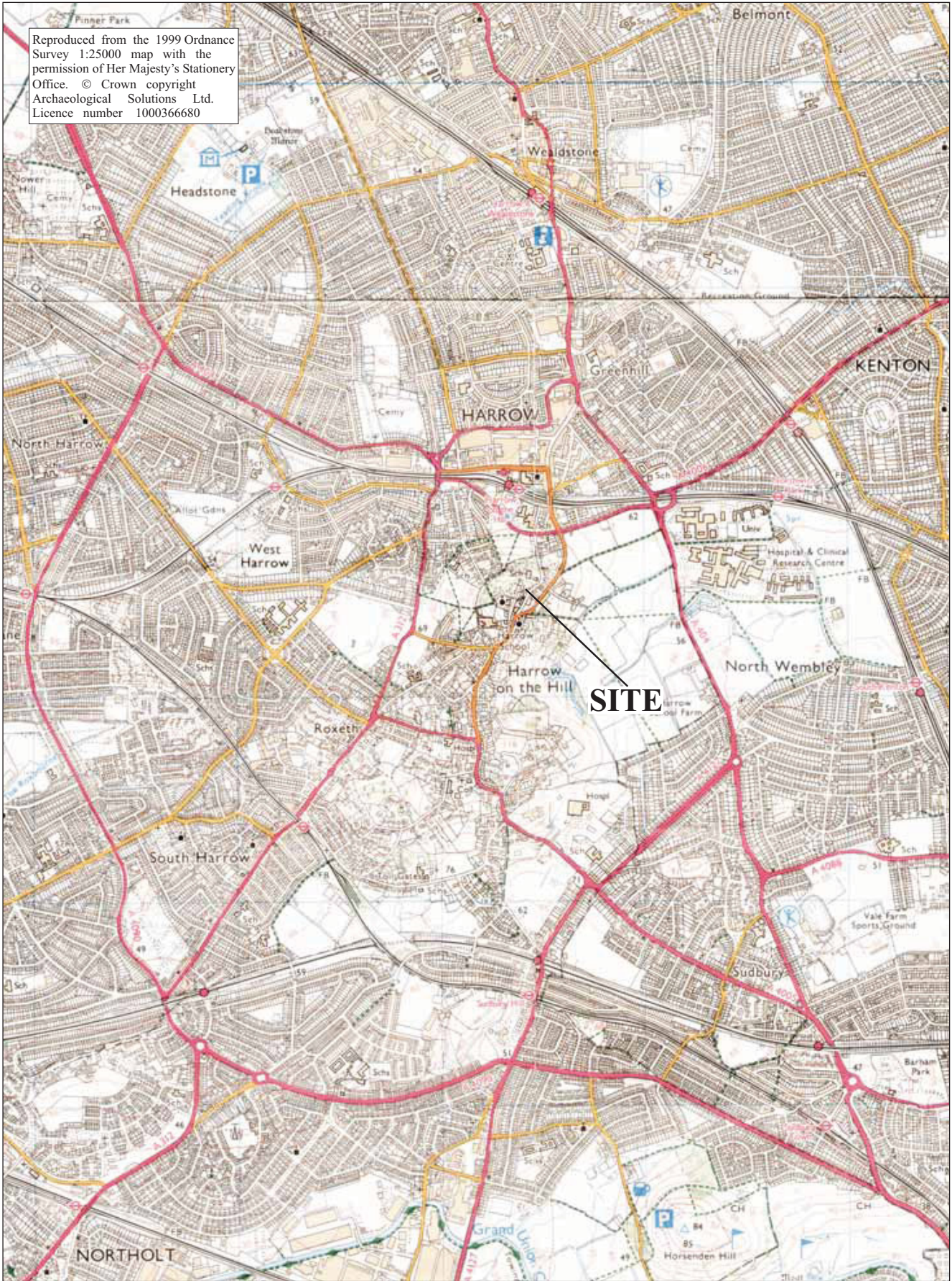


DP 5. Trench 2 View NNW



DP 6. Trench 2 Sample Section 2A View NE

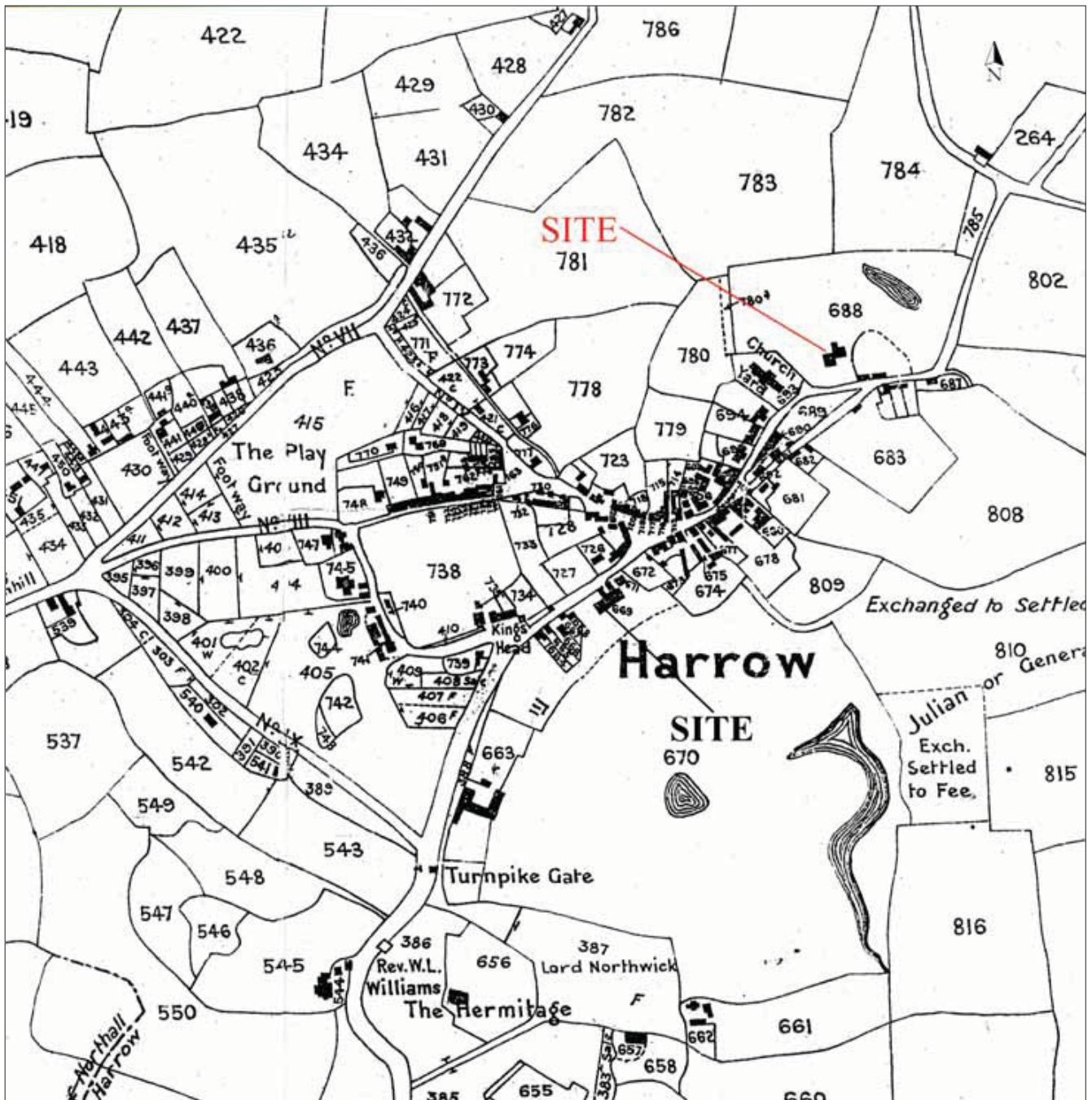
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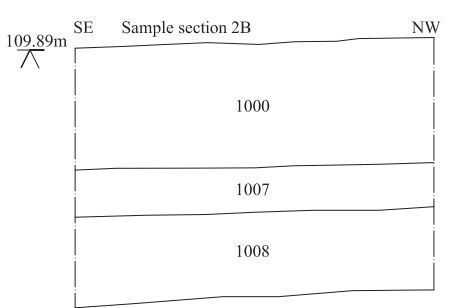
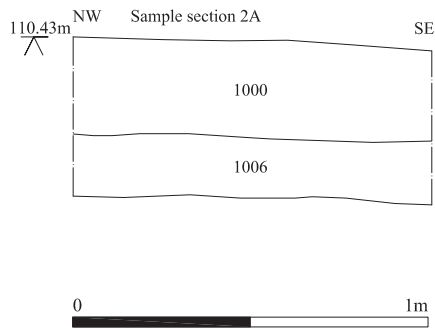
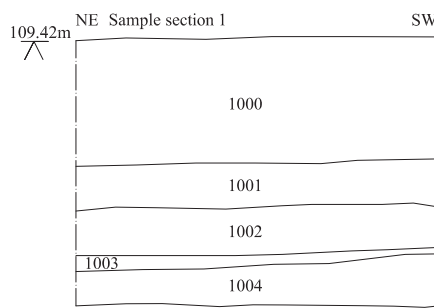
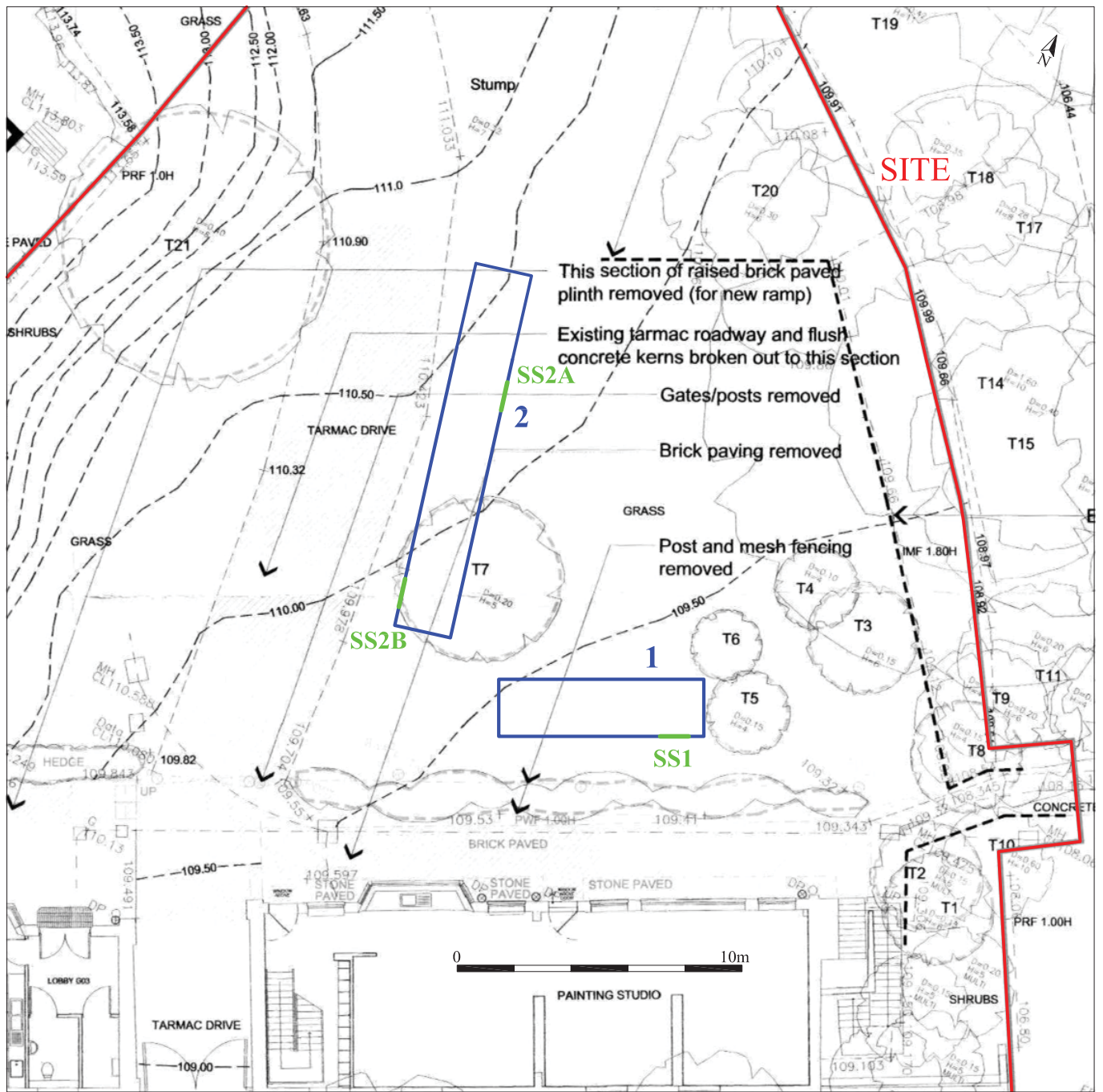
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Fig. 1 Site Location

Scale: 1:25000



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Fig. 3 Enclosure map, 1817
Not to scale



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Fig. 4 Trench location plan & sample sections

Scale Plan 1:200, sections 1:20 at A4