

**REPAIR GARAGE
REAR OF 65 BRIDGE STREET, PINNER,
MIDDLESEX HA5 3HZ**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TQ 1196 8967	Report No. 3845
District: London Borough of Harrow	Site Code: BRI 11
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4413
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Repair Garage, Rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HZ</i>		
<p><i>In June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 (NGR TQ 1196 8967). The evaluation was commissioned by David Kann Associates, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to redevelop the former repair garage site for residential use.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic core of medieval/early modern Pinner, and to the rear of the historic street frontage of Bridge Street. The principal potential of the site was for medieval and post-medieval remains related to 'back-yard' activity and possible evidence of structures closer to the street frontage.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	21/06/2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4413	Site code	BRI 11
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Former repair garage, disused</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential use</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Harrow</i>	<i>Pinner</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HA5 3HZ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1000m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 1196 8967</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 55m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS advice</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>David Kann Associates</i>		
Full title	<i>Repair Garage rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HZ. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	3845		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2011</i>		

REPAIR GARAGE, REAR OF 65 BRIDGE STREET, PINNER, MIDDLESEX HA5 3HZ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HZ (NGR TQ 1196 8967). The evaluation was commissioned by David Kann Associates, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to redevelop the former repair garage site for residential use.

The site lies within the historic core of medieval/early modern Pinner, and to the rear of the historic street frontage of Bridge Street. The principal potential of the site was for medieval and post-medieval remains related to 'back-yard' activity and possible evidence of structures closer to the street frontage.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3HZ (NGR TQ 1196 8967; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by David Kann Associates and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning consent (London Borough of Harrow Planning Ref. P/1966/09). It is proposed to redevelop the former repair garage site for residential use.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 24/05/2011) 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* 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. The evaluation was to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving

structures of archaeological significance. It was particularly important to identify any evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity associated with occupation along, and to the rear of, Bridge Street.

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 The site lies to the rear of 65 Bridge Street, and comprises a former repair garage within a largely open plot bounded to the south-west by the Metropolitan Line. It is accessed via a narrow access strip from Bridge Street. The former garage structures have been partially demolished.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The London Borough of Harrow occupies the northern extremities of the London basin, formed by a bowl of heavy clay overlying Cretaceous chalk. Reading and Woolwich beds of sands and gravels were deposited during the Palaeocene and outcrop through the later Eocene London clay in gravel capped prominences at Harrow on the Hill and Pinner (British Geological Survey 1978). These variations often give place to heavy London clay. The site lies at c. 55m AOD.

3.2 The soil conditions across much of the area reflect the local geology, comprising mainly soils of the Windsor or Wickham 4 association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). These are difficult, slow-draining soils with limited agricultural potential before the advent of mechanised farming. For the archaeological record, this has direct implications on the level of human activity and survival of remains. The environmental evidence suggests that large areas of the clay were dominated for long periods by oak and elm woodland, so that occupation and agriculture are likely to have been hindered or prevented altogether (MoLAS 2000).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 For much of the prehistoric period knowledge of large areas of northwest London are poorly understood. Little archaeological activity has been uncovered from around the area of Pinner. Isolated artefacts have been found within close proximity to the site, indicative perhaps of small and localised land use. An undated flint was found in the grounds of East End House, while a possible spearhead was recovered from Tudor Cottage, Moss Lane. Residual prehistoric flakes have also been found at Waxwell Lane.

4.2 Few sites of any note pre-dating the medieval period are recorded anywhere within the parish and archaeological evaluations have, in general, yielded negative or sparse results. This confirms the general conclusion that settlement was discouraged by the poor soils and the continuing importance of the local woodland as a common resource. Many of Pinner's historic farms probably appeared as new settlements from the medieval period. From then until the modern period, settlement was augmented by occasional ribbon development and the enclosure of fields, but little change occurred until the modern day.

4.3 During Saxon times the area was under the long patronage of the archbishops of Canterbury, evolving into a mixture of woodland, common pasture and eventually open field arable, interspersed with small hamlets. In 1086 the Domesday Book recorded that the manor of Pinner supported pannage for 2000 pigs, confirming the use of the land as woodland and pastureland. The hamlet of Pinner is first recorded in the 13th century and by the 14th century it is known that Pinner had become the largest village after Harrow within the borough, being given its own market and fair in 1336. There is no evidence for an Anglo-Saxon origin for the village, but a dense scatter of 13th century pottery to the north (HER MLO20223) and a 13th century ditch to the east (HER MLO24487) are recorded. The settlement was focussed on the church to the north of the site, with the main street leading down towards the river Pinn. Narrow tenements led back from the main streets of High Street and Bridge Street.

4.4 By the 16th century the evaluation site appears to have been within an area of well-defined tenement plots including the approximate site of 'Leonards' tenement, the approximate site of which is thought to be just to west on Elm Park Road (HER MLO20748). The probable sites of further tenements established by the 16th century are located to the south on Chapel Lane (HER MLO20942, MLO20749 and MLO20750), West End Way (HER MLO20945), and to the north on Waxwell Lane (HER MLO20739). The village developed slowly in the 18th and 19th centuries, including the construction of a windmill by 1787 on Love Lane to the east (HER MLO74454). Encouraged by the arrival of the Metropolitan railway the village expanded rapidly between 1923 and 1939 when a series of garden estates were established around the historic core of Pinner.

4.5 In conclusion, the site lies on the western edge of the medieval village of Pinner (HER MLO15675), to the rear of the historic street frontage. The

principal potential for the site is for remains of 'back-yard' activity to the rear of the street frontage dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, for example, property boundaries, refuse pits, and industrial features etc. Monitoring of geotechnical pits recorded in an archaeological desk-based assessment for the site (MoLAS 2005) noted that some 1m of post-medieval/modern made ground overlies the natural clay deposits. No archaeological features were recorded in the test pits.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by EH GLAAS. Trench 2 was slightly relocated to the north-west due to an existing live gas valve in the centre of the site. Trench 1 measured 8 x 1.60m and Trench 2 measured 16.50 x 1.60m.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was 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 3-5)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 5): NW end, SW facing</i> 0.00 = 55.19 AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel and moderate CBM fragments.
0.17 – 0.48m	L1001	Made ground. Mid to dark grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural light yellow, compact, clay with occasional gravel.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 6-9)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 8): NE end, NW facing</i> 0.00 = 55.22 AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	As above, Tr.1.
0.12 – 0.53m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.53m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 9): SW end, NW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 55.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	As above, Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.57m	L1001	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.57m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present. Within the southern and central part of the trench L1000 and L1001 were much contaminated with ?motor oil or petrol/diesel. Both deposits had a bluish colouring and a sharp smell of oil.

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 commonly overlain by concrete which was removed within the trench locations. Therefore, the uppermost deposit was L1000, a dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel and moderate CBM fragments (0.15 – 0.20m thick). L1000 overlay Made Ground L1001, a mid to dark grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments (0.30 – 0.40m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.45 – 0.60m below the existing ground level and comprised a light yellow, compact, clay with occasional gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains may have related to 'back-yard' activity to the rear of the street frontage and to possible structures fronting the street in that part of the site closer to Bridge Street.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. No residual finds were recovered. Deposits present on the site contained fragments of modern CBM. The contemporary use of the site as a garage affected the central/southern part of the site resulting with oil contamination. Apart of this, no indication of any other previous development of the site was identified.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr David Kann of David Kann Associates for commissioning the project and for his kind assistance.

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

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site rear of 65 Bridge Street, Pinner. View N.



DP 2. The site. View SW.



DP 3. Trench 1. View E.



DP 4. Trench 1. View SE.



DP 5. Trench 1, NW end. Sample section 1A. View NE.



DP 6. Trench 2. View SSW.



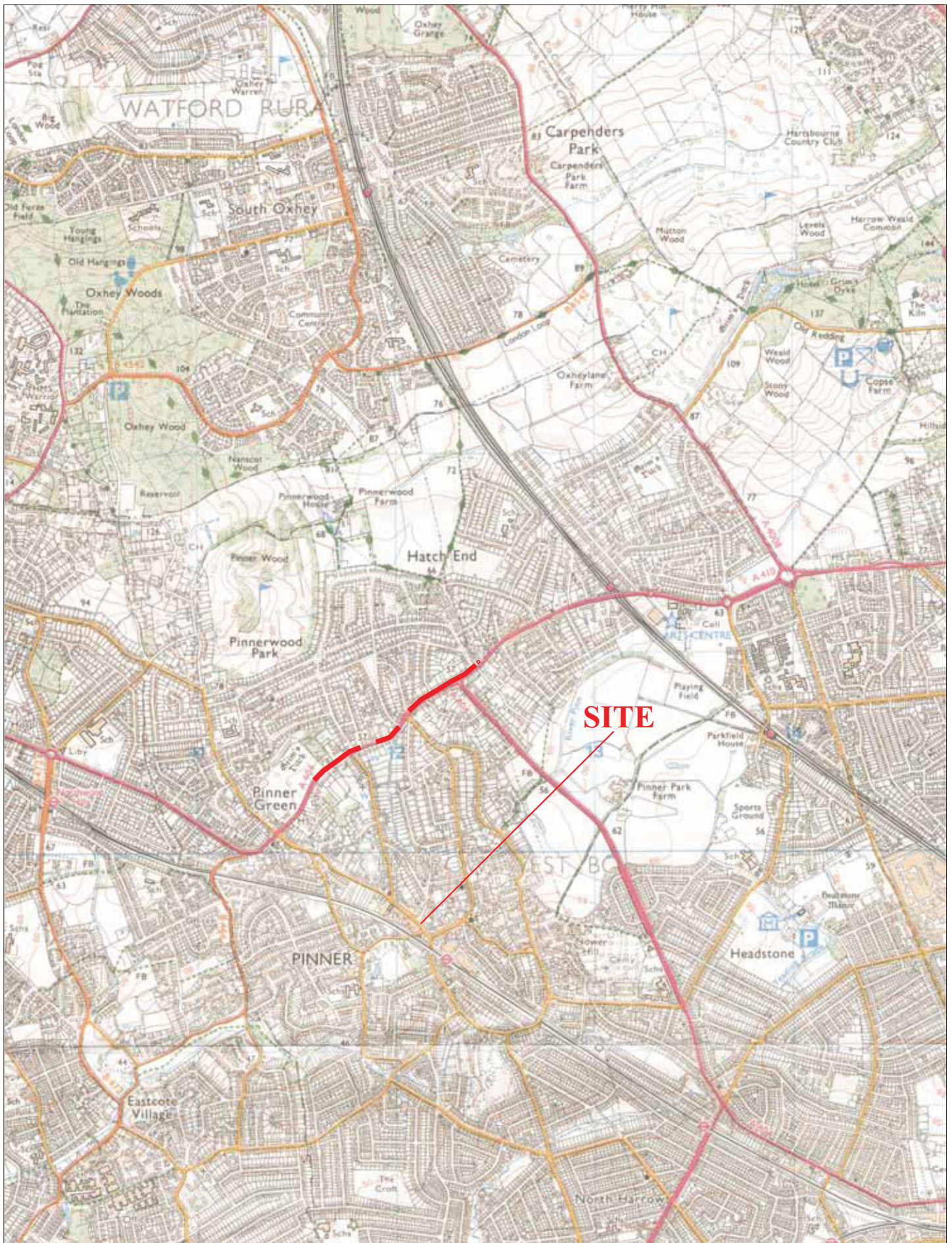
DP 7. Trench 2. View SW.



DP 8. Trench 2, NE end. Sample section 2A. View SE.

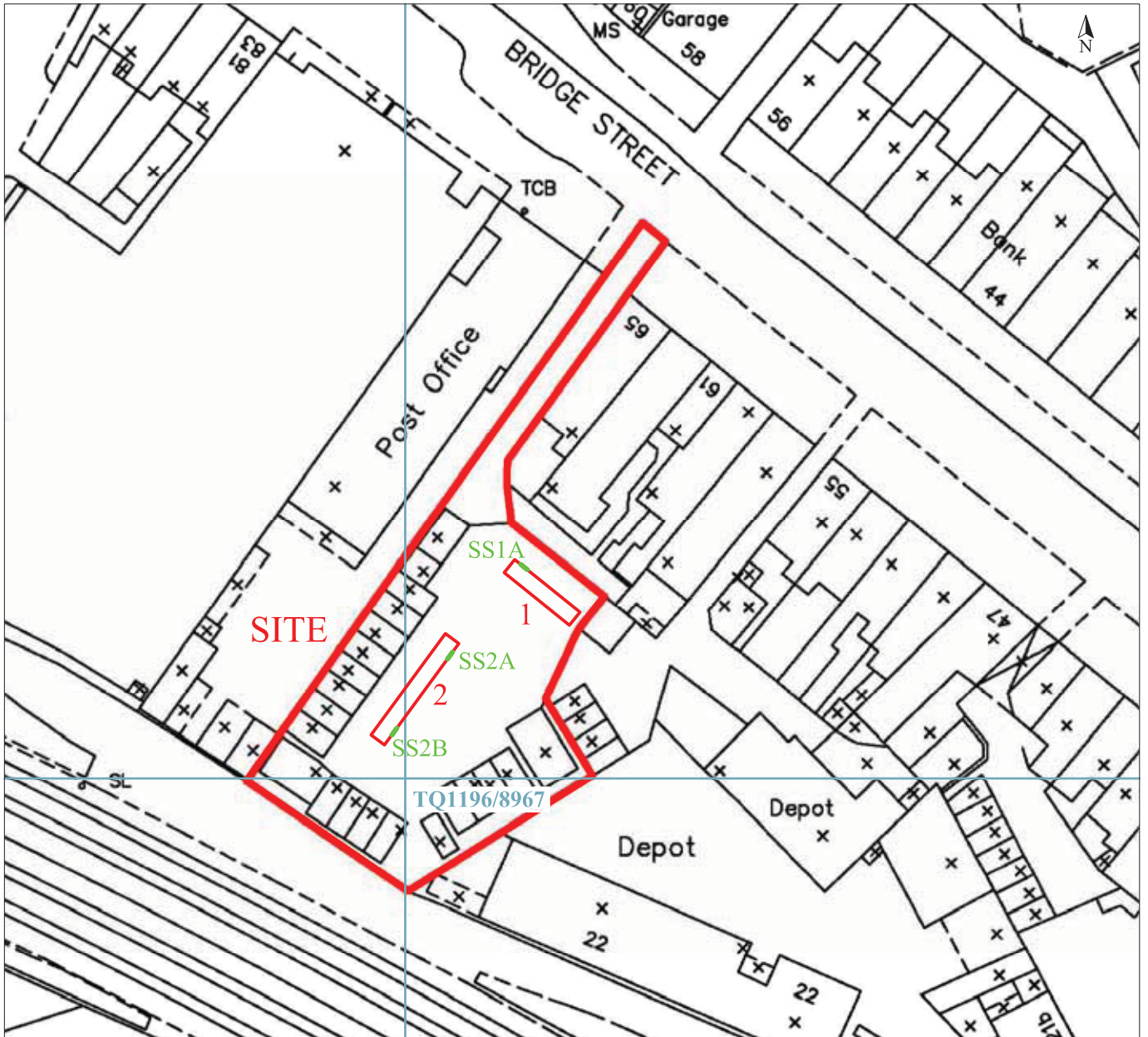


DP 9. Trench 2, SW end. Sample section 2B. View SE.

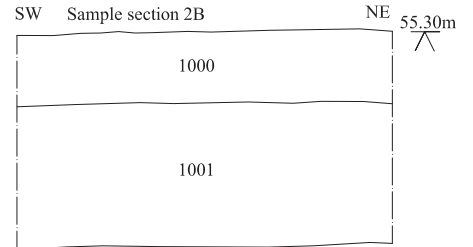
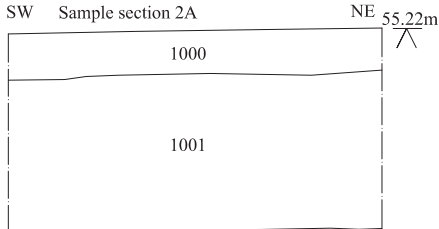
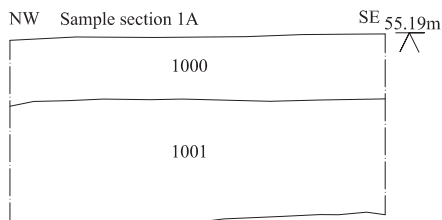


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



0 1:750 50m



0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Plan 1:750, sections 1:20 at A4