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**BLACKSMITHS, LAND ADJACENT TO 12 & 12A
HEMNALL STREET, EPPING, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 4605 0211	Report No. 4026
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: EPSH12
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. 4220
Signed:	Date: March 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Blacksmiths, Land Adjacent to 12 & 12A Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of Blacksmiths, land Adjacent to 12 & 12A Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex (NGR TL 4605 0211). The evaluation was commissioned to comply with a planning condition attached to proposed demolition of an existing metalwork shop and the construction of a new building comprising six apartments and a self contained office (Planning Ref No. PL/EPF/2036/10).</i></p> <p><i>One trench was excavated and it revealed modern service trenches and a modern pit only.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>01/03/2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4220</i>	Site code	<i>EPSH12</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Metalwork shop</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development and office space.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Epping Forest</i>	<i>Epping Hemnall</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM16 4LP</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.400m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4605 0211</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>90-100m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Management</i>		
Project supervisor/(PO)	<i>Christopher Leonard</i>		
Funded by	<i>DJ Hunt Properties</i>		
Full title	<i>Blacksmiths, Land Adjacent to 12 & 12A Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>C. Leonard</i>		
Report no.	<i>4026</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2012</i>		

BLACKSMITHS, LAND ADJACENT TO 12 & 12A HEMNALL STREET, EPPING, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of Blacksmiths, land Adjacent to 12 & 12A Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex (NGR TL 4605 0211). The evaluation was commissioned to comply with a planning condition on approval for the proposed demolition of an existing metalwork shop and the construction of a new building comprising six apartments and a self contained office (Planning Ref No. PL/EPF/2036/10).

One trench was excavated and it revealed modern service trenches and a modern pit.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to 12 & 12a Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex (NGR TL 4605 0211; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work in advance of the proposed demolition of an existing metalwork shop and erection of a new building comprising 6 self-contained apartments and 900 sq ft self-contained office accommodation (Epping Forest Planning Ref. PL/EPF/2036/10).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) (dated 12/2011), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 01/2011) and approved by ECC HEM. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

1.4 The specific research issues informing the evaluation were:

- To locate any evidence of medieval/post-medieval occupation/domestic activity, its nature and extent
- To examine any evidence related to medieval and later development of the site
- Evidence of back plot development to the rear of High Street
- To identify and record any medieval or post-medieval industrial use.

Planning policy context

1.5 The evaluation was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, 2010), which is widely applied by local authorities. 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

2.1.1 The site lies within the small market town and civil parish of Epping in the Epping Forest district in the county of Essex. It is located 5.6 km to the north-east of Loughton, c.7.4 km south of Harlow and c.17.5 km to the north-west of Brentwood. The north/south M11 motorway runs c.2km to the east of the site and Epping Forest is located c.2km to the north-east of the town. A large woodland is located c.1.5km to the south-west of the town. Civil parishes of Theydon Mount, Epping Upland and Waltham Abbey lie to the south-east, north-west and west at c.3-5km distant.

2.1.2 The site currently comprises modern industrial buildings of a former metalwork/blacksmiths business (R.G Clark & Sons) at 12a Hemnall Street, Epping. It lies to the rear (south-east) of the historic High Street and close to the junction of Hemnall Street and Kendal Avenue. The site falls in the Epping Conservation Area and comprises an area of c.400m².

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, geology and soils

3.1.1 Epping lies on a ridge of land situated between the River Lea and River Roding and the site lies at c.90-100m AOD. It marks the northern end of the surviving ancient woodland of Epping Forest which, prior to the 17th century, was known as Waltham Forest. The local geology is London Clay overlain by slowly permeable clayey soil. The soils of the site belong to the Hanslope (411d) and the Windsor (712c) association.

3.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric - Roman

3.2.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains in the wider area comprise a Neolithic arrowhead (HER 3702) and a Bronze Age palstave (HER 3708) discovered in Epping Forest c.1km to the north-east of the site. The Iron Age hillfort Ambresbury Banks (EHER 24) is located c.3km to the south-west of the site. Comprising a large subrectangular banked enclosure, pottery discovered in its outer ditch suggests a construction date of the second half of the 1st millennium BC with a period of re-use in the Belgic period. Roman archaeological remains within the wider area comprise a tile kiln (HER 3761) discovered c.750m to the north-east of the site.

Medieval

3.2.2 The earliest surviving record for Epping is in the 1086 Domesday survey where *Eppinges* probably derives its name from 'settlement of the people of the ridge used as a look-out place' (Mills 1991). Epping was a medieval foundation with its primary settlement north of the Cobbins Brook now known as Epping Upland (HER 3826). The town was a deliberate plantation by the canons of Waltham Abbey, who began assarting by the mid 12th century, to capitalize on trade along the London to Cambridge Road. In 1253 the canons gained a charter, legalising their use of forest timber to make houses and stalls. The medieval market-house and market-place (HERs 18474 & 18475) were situated close to the Church of St John the Baptist, a 14th century chapel located c.100m to the west of the site (EHER 3813). An archaeological evaluation to the northwest of the High Street at 237-255 (EHER 17693) revealed medieval rubbish pits which contained sherds of 13th-14th century Harlow Ware pottery, confirming that the town lay along the Lea Valley trade route.

Post-medieval

3.2.3 The town only developed slowly until the 18th-19th centuries when it picked up owing to its location for staging posts between London and Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds and Norwich, with up to 25 coaches passing through each day. In the early 19th century, the High Street was lined with 26 coach-houses. Two former coach-houses survive to the present day and

have been converted into public houses, the Black Lion and The George and Dragon c.125m to the north-east of the site. Epping was also renowned for its agricultural produce, most notably geese and butter. The stage coach business collapsed with the advent of the railways but Epping's fortunes revived with the introduction of a branch line in 1865. In the wider vicinity, the site of a former windmill (Mill Hill) (HER 3739) is located c.625m to the east of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 One linear trial trench, measuring 14 x 1.7m was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.70m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 The individual trench description is presented below:

Sample Section 1A (DP 2)		
Northwest end, southeast facing.		
0.00 = 94.23m AOD		
0.00- 0.20m	L1000	Car park surface.
0.20- 0.31m	L1001	Sand underlay for L1000.
0.31- 0.39m	L1002	Made ground. Compact dark brown-grey silty clay and gravel.
0.39- 0.66m	L1003	Made ground. Compact mid brown-grey silty clay and gravel.
0.66m+	L1004	Natural. Light greyish yellow clay and gravel.

Description: The trench contained three modern service trenches and a brick-lined manhole. A pit containing modern material was recorded in plan but not excavated.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The uppermost layer in all trenches was L1000, a car park surface (0.20m thick). This surface sealed L1001, a layer of loose mid brown-yellow sand (0.11m thick).

7.2 L1001 overlay two made ground layers. The upper layer, L1002, was a compact dark brown-grey silty clay with frequent rounded flint gravel (0.08m thick). The lower made ground layer, L1003, was a compact mid brown-grey silty clay with frequent rounded flint gravel.

7.3 The geological natural was L1004, a light yellowish grey river terrace clay and gravel.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The only features revealed during the evaluation were service trenches relating to extant buildings on Hemnall Street and High Street, a manhole associated with the car park surface and a modern rubbish pit, probably related to the metalworks that previously occupied the site.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited, with the finds from the site, at Epping Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank DJ Hunt Properties for commissioning and funding the evaluation.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Adam Garwood Essex County Council Historic Environment Management.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Post excavation. Looking northwest.



2
Sample Section. Northwest end, looking northwest.



3
Unexcavated modern pit. Looking northeast.



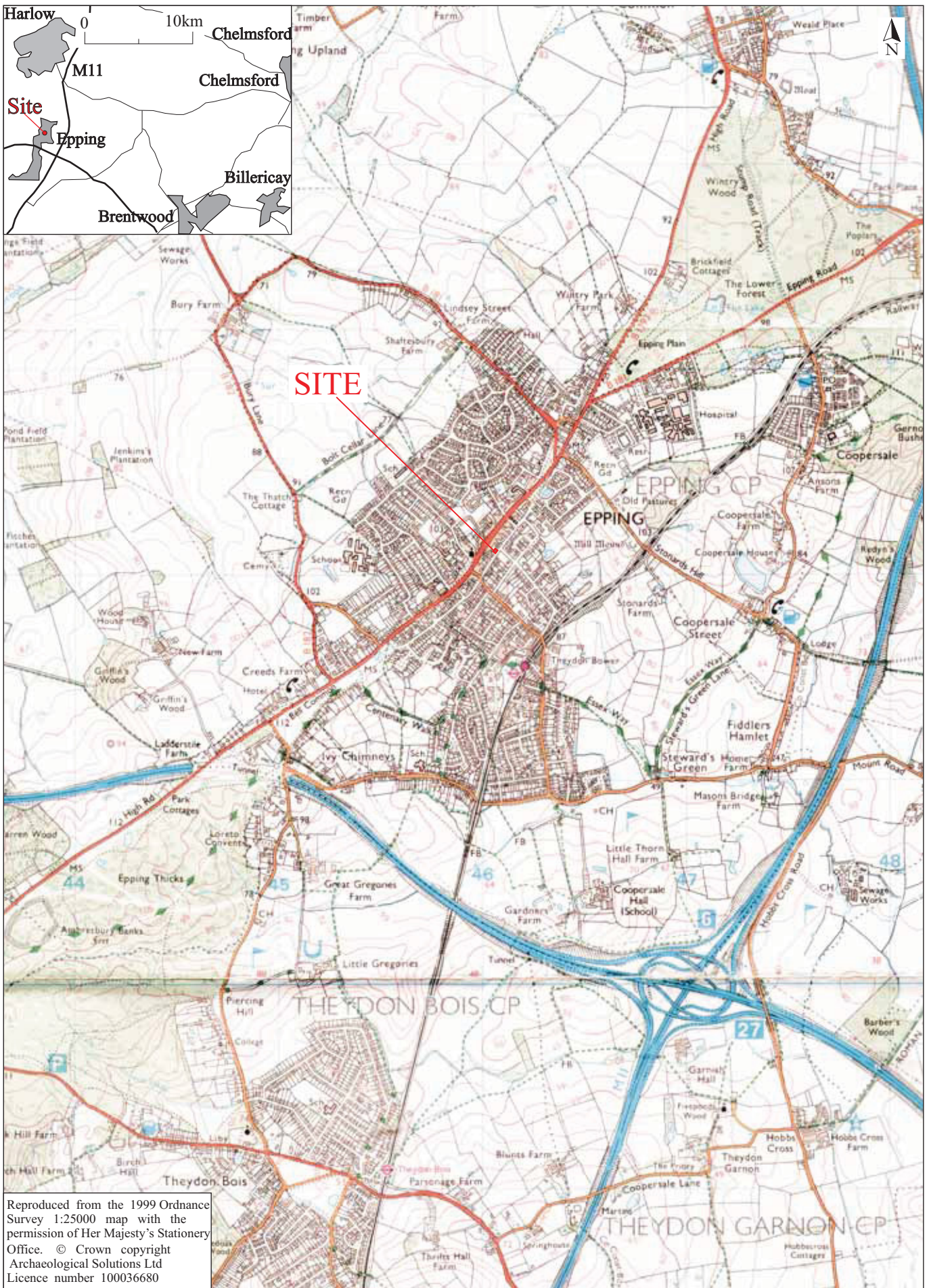
4
Manhole and water pipe. Looking northeast.



5
Modern service cuts. Looking northeast.

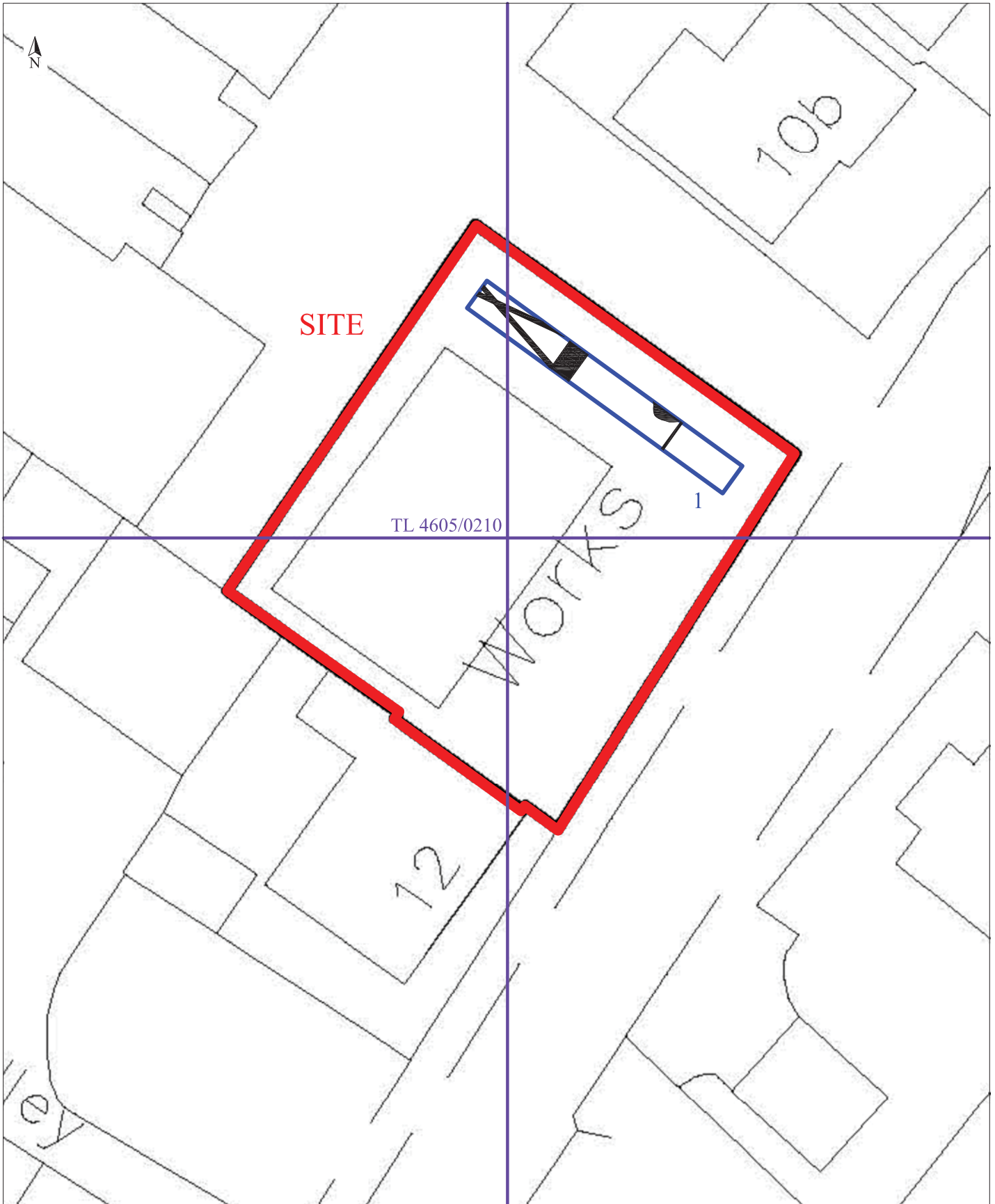


6
General site photograph. Looking south.

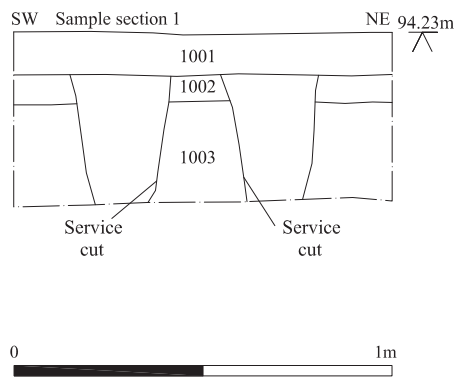
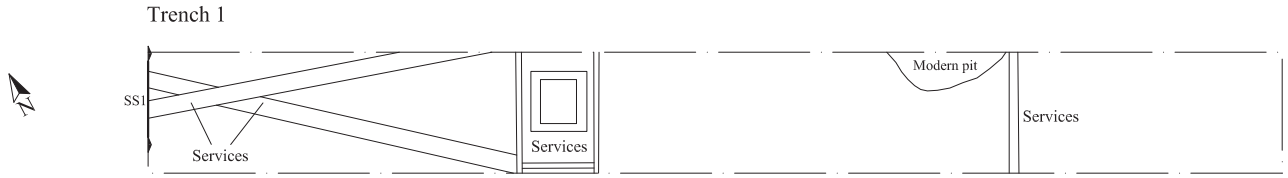


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench plan and section
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4