
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, COLLIERS WOOD,
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 2673 7031	Report No: 3892
London Borough of Merton	Site Code: HIE 11
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4502
Signed:	Date: August 2011



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Holiday Inn Express, Colliers Wood, Merton, London</i>		
<i>In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the site of the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Colliers Wood, Merton, London (NGR TQ 26735 70315). The evaluation was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Interiors Ltd on behalf of Holiday Inn Hotels and was carried out as a condition of planning consent. It is proposed to construct a three-storey extension to the front of the existing hotel building, a new hotel entrance and undertake internal alterations.</i>			
<i>The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area along the route of a Roman road. Numerous prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains have been found in the vicinity. Colliers Wood High Street follows the course of the Roman Road Stane Street which would also have been used by medieval kings travelling with their court (MLO 71558). Evidence for medieval occupation has been found in the vicinity and in prehistoric times the area was marshy with palaeochannels running through it (MLO 71559).</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed an early modern/modern wall foundation, and two layers of alluvium.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>12/08/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4502</i>	Site code	<i>HIE 11</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Archaeological Priority Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Front yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Front extension to the hotel</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Merton</i>	<i>Colliers Wood</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SW19 2BH</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 250m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 26735 70315</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 12m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Holiday Inn Hotels</i>		
Full title	<i>Holiday Inn Express, Colliers Wood, Merton, London. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3892</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2011</i>		

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, COLLIERS WOOD, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the site of the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Colliers Wood, Merton, London (NGR TQ 26735 70315). The evaluation was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Interiors Ltd on behalf of Holiday Inn Hotels and was carried out as a condition of planning consent. It is proposed to construct a three-storey extension to the front of the existing hotel building, a new hotel entrance and undertake internal alterations.

The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Area along the route of a Roman road. Numerous prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains have been found in the vicinity. Colliers Wood High Street follows the course of the Roman Road Stane Street which would also have been used by medieval kings travelling with their court (MLO 71558). Evidence for medieval occupation has been found in the vicinity and in prehistoric times the area was marshy with palaeo-channels running through it (MLO 71559).

In the event the evaluation an early modern/modern wall foundation, and two layers of alluvium.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the site of the Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Colliers Wood, Merton, London (NGR TQ 26735 70315; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Interiors Ltd on behalf of Holiday Inn Hotels and was carried out as a condition of planning consent (LB Merton Ref. 09/P1272). It is proposed to construct a three-storey extension to the front of the existing hotel building, a new hotel entrance and undertake internal alterations.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28/07/2011) 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*. 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 remains relating to Roman occupation in the area. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

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 is located in the centre of Collier's Wood on the western side of the High Street, and comprises the existing Holiday Inn hotel.

2.2 The site comprises an area of paving in front of the existing hotel building, adjacent to the High Street. It lies at c.12m AOD, and within an Archaeological Priority Area of the London Borough of Merton.

2.1 Colliers Wood is in south London in the London Borough of Merton and close to Tooting Broadway. The Holiday Inn Express fronts the High Street which is also the A24 close to where it joins the A238.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is approximately 20m east of the River Wandle at a height of approximately 15-22m AOD. The local soils are unsurveyed due to the urban setting but the geology comprises London Clay overlain by Thames group silt, sand and gravels. Excavations close by indicate that natural sand and gravel is likely to be reached at depths of 10-12m.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Roman Road of Stane Street runs along Colliers Wood High Street, excavations in the area showed that the Roman road surface, roadside ditches and banks still exist in places (MLO 71558). The closest points of the excavation are at TQ 2672 7022 and TQ 2073 7004. The road would also have been the route in medieval times for the king and court to move between London and Guildford or Winchester (Weinreb and Hibbert 1983, 195). The excavations also revealed palaeochannels showing that in prehistoric times this area was a braided system of the Pickle/Wandle and was marshy (MLO 71555). Evidence of the 18th-19th century calico textile industry including a possible ditch or channel was also identified (MLO 71559), and a dark silty layer is thought to be associated with water cress beds shown on 19th century maps (MLO 71904).

4.2 Colliers Wood takes its name from woodland used by charcoal burners (Weinreb and Hibbert 1983, 195). An Augustinian Abbey was founded in Merton High Street in 1117 where Henry VI held his coronation ceremony in 1436 (MLO 10782; TQ 2641 6976). Evidence for medieval industry has been identified in the Bennetts Ditch/River Wandle/Meratun Way area including a mill (MLO 77190) and an iron working area, along with other occupation evidence including walls, surfaces, posts and ditches and a fish pond (MLO 77191, MLO 97929 and MLO 97931), with the closest point at TQ 26730 69920. Post-medieval and early modern mills are also known from the same locality (MLO 77190 and MLO 77191).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated in three segments in order to avoid underground services, and to preserve access to the hotel.

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

Individual trench description are presented below.

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

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3): N end, NW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 12.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	M1000	Pavement. Concrete paving stones.
0.06 – 0.13m	L1001	Basal layer for the paving. Mid yellow, loose, sand.
0.13 – 0.47m	L1002	Made ground. Mid brown, friable, silty sand with frequent gravel and moderate CBM fragments.
0.47 – 0.47m	L1003	Geotextile.
0.47 – 0.59m	L1004	Light to mid yellow, loose, sand with occasional CBM fragments.
0.59 – 0.75m	L1005	Layer of mixed red and white, compacted, brick rubble.
0.75 – 1.43m	L1007	Alluvium. Dark brown, compact, clayey silt.
1.43 – 1.57m	L1008	Alluvium. Black, compact, clayey silt with moderate small shells.
1.57m +	L1009	Natural greenish yellow, compact, clay.

Description: Wall foundations (M1006) were present within the trench.

M1006 was an early modern/modern wall foundation (1.60+ x 0.27 x 0.23m; DP 3) aligned north-west/south-east and located within the northern part of the trench. The wall was constructed of red bricks (0.230 x 0.115 x 0.065m) bonded with white chalky mortar.

Trench 1B (Fig. 2, DP 4-6)

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 6): N end, SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	M1000	Pavement. As above, Tr. 1A.
0.06 – 0.14m	L1001	Sand. As above, Tr. 1A.
0.14 – 0.59m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1A.
0.59 – 0.76m	L1010	Dark blackish grey, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.76 – 1.46m	L1007	Alluvium. As above, Tr. 1A.
1.46 – 1.56m	L1008	Alluvium. As above, Tr. 1A.
1.56m +	L1009	Natural clay. As above, Tr. 1A.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 1C (Fig. 2, DP 7-9)

<i>Sample section 1C (DP 9): N end, WNW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 11.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	M1000	Pavement. As above, Tr. 1A.
0.06 – 0.13m	L1001	Sand. As above, Tr. 1A.
0.13 – 0.19m	L1011	Blackish grey, compact, clayey silt.
0.19 – 0.61m	L1012	Made Ground. Concrete and CBM, loose, rubble
0.61 – 0.61m	L1013	Geotextile.
0.61 – 1.21m	L1007	Alluvium. As above, Tr. 1A.
1.21 – 1.33m	L1008	Alluvium. As above, Tr. 1A.
1.33m +	L1009	Natural clay. As above, Tr. 1A.

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 pavement M1000 and a bedding layer of sand L1001 (0.13 – 0.15m thick).

8.2 In Trench 1A L1001 sealed a layer of Made Ground, L1002 (0.34m thick). Beneath this was a layer of construction textile, L1003, which sealed further deposits of Made Ground, L1004 (0.12m thick) and L1005 (0.16m thick).

8.3 In Trench 1B the same deposit of Made Ground, L1002, was revealed, although it was thicker (0.45m) than in Trench 1A. The construction textile was not present within Trench 1B due to modern truncation by a service trench. Beneath L1002 was a second layer of Made Ground, L1010 (0.17m thick).

8.4 In Trench 1C a thin layer of clayey silt, L1011 (0.06m thick) overlay a deposit of Made Ground, L1012 (0.42m thick). This Made Ground consisted of concrete and CBM rubble, and overlay a layer of construction textile, L1013. This textile is likely to be the same as L1003 (Trench 1A).

8.5 Two alluvial deposits were present within all segments of the trench. L1007 was a dark brown, compact, clayey silt (0.80m thick). Beneath it was L1008, a black, compact, clayey silt with moderate small shells (0.12m thick).

8.6 The natural geology, L1009, was present within all segments of the trench at 1.30 – 1.60m below existing ground level. It comprised a greenish yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, within the Prior's Wood development to the north-east.

9.2 In the event an early modern/modern wall foundation (M1006) was recorded in the section of Trench 1A, and two layers of alluvium (L1007 & L1008, Trenches 1A – 1C). Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. 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 Holiday Inn Hotels for their co-operation and funding of the project. AS also would like to thank Mr Philip J Young of Willmott Dixon Interiors Limited for commissioning the project.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Trench 1A. View S.



DP 2. Trench 1A. View NE.



DP 3. Trench 1A, N end. Sample section 1A.
View NW.



DP 4. Trench 1B. View W.



DP 5. Trench 1B. View SW.



DP 6. Trench 1B, S end. Sample section 1B.
View SE.



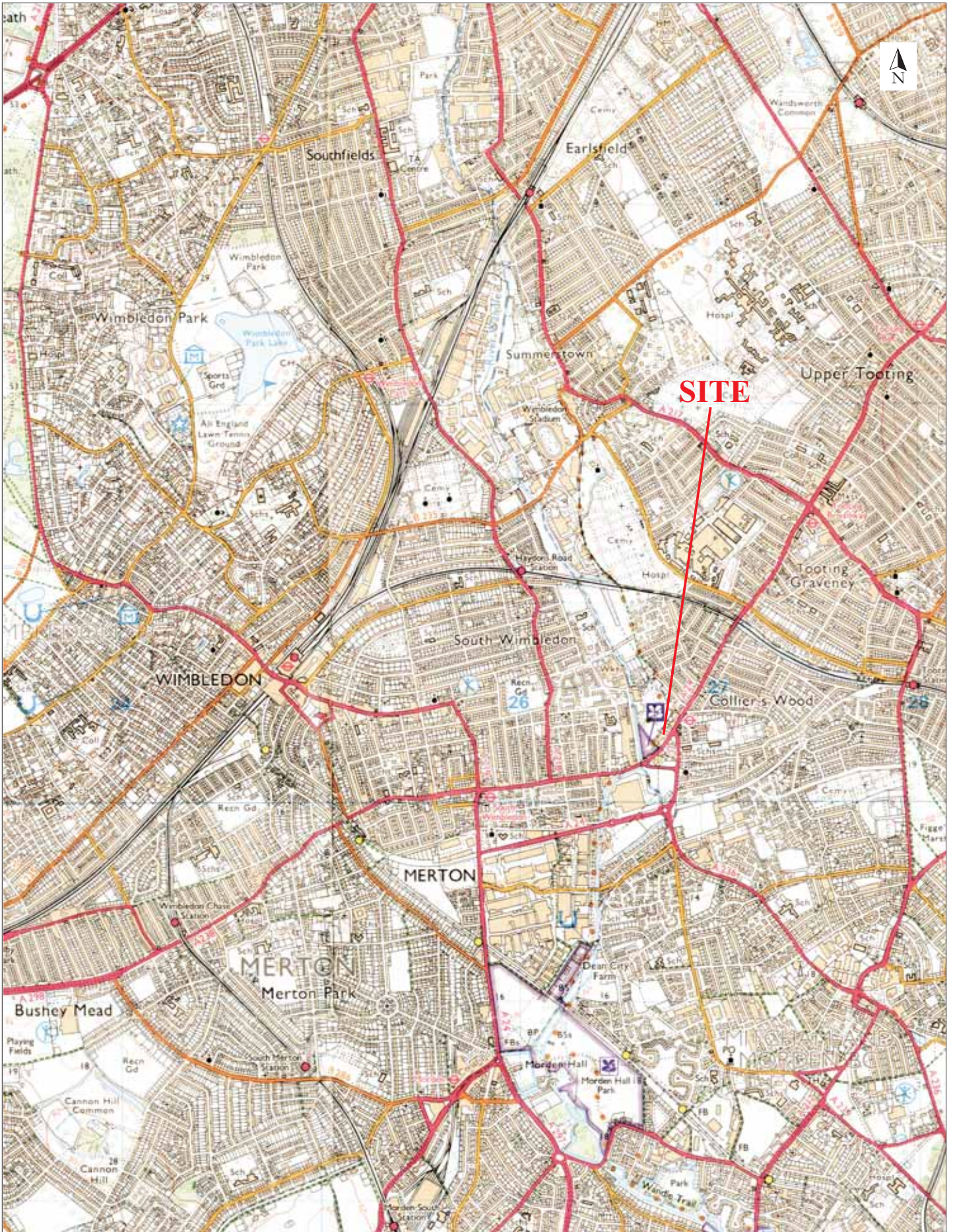
DP 7. Trench 1C. View NNE.



DP 8. Trench 1C. View NNE.

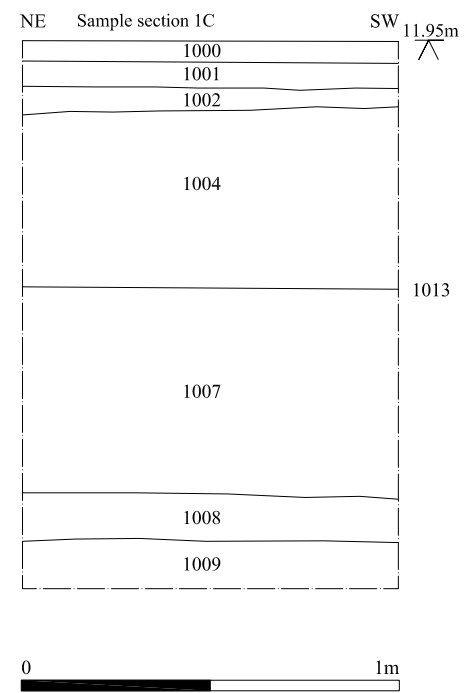
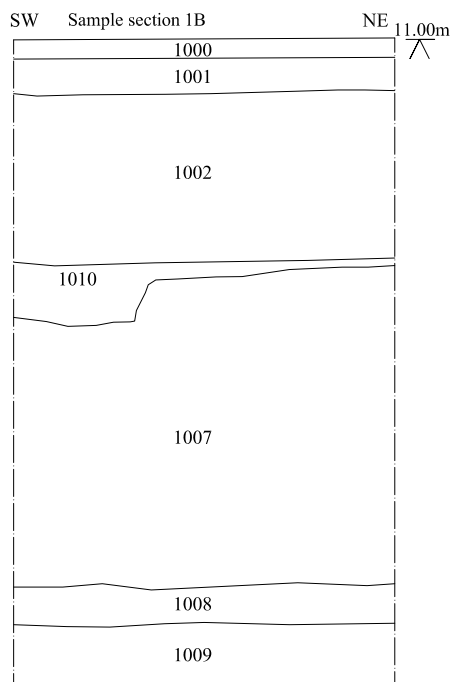
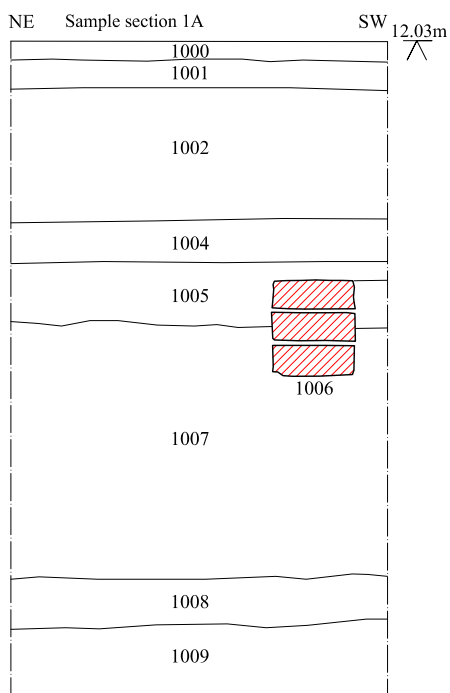
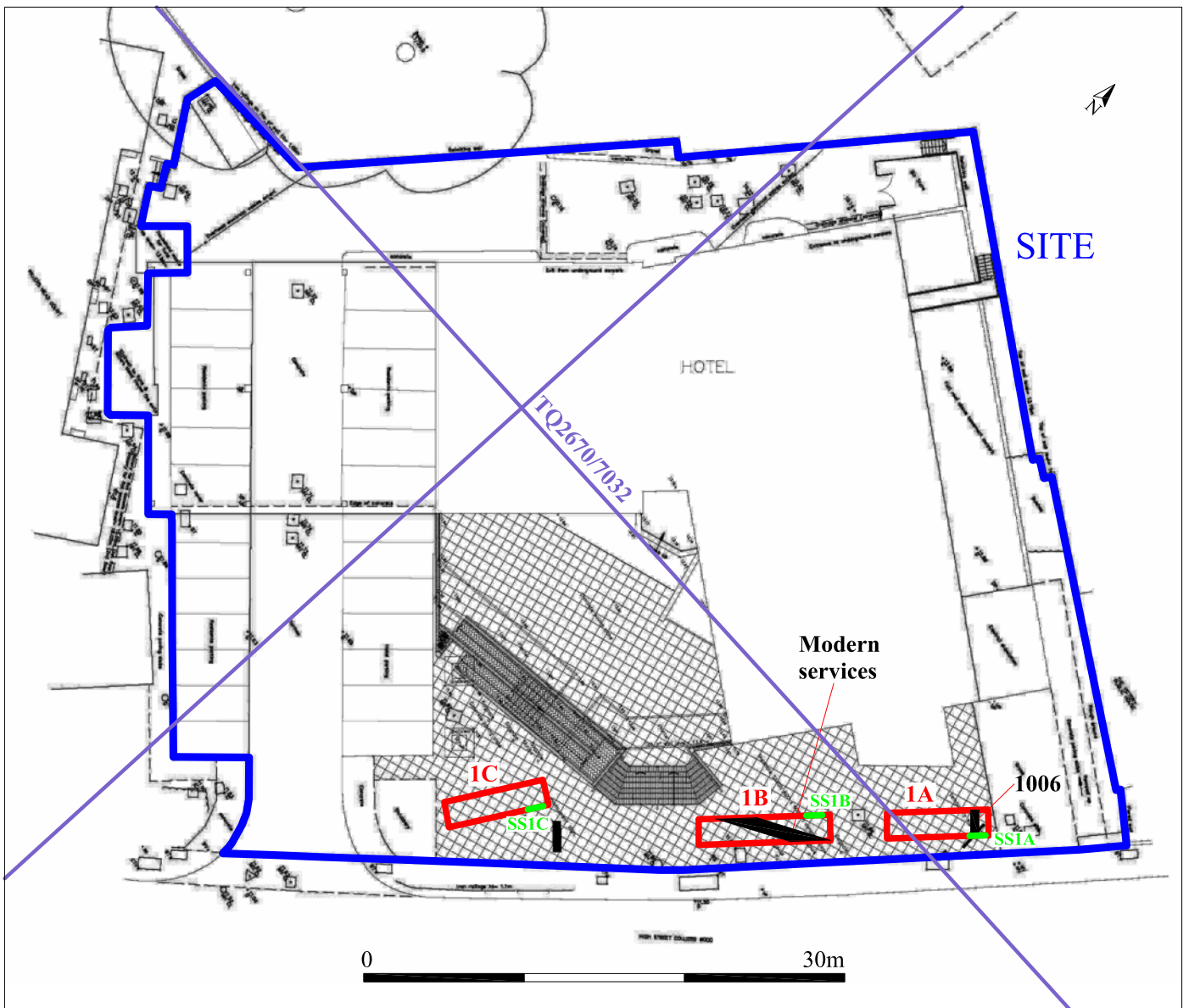


DP 9. Trench 1C, N end. Sample section 1C.
View ESE.



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



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale Plan 1:400, sections 1:20 at A4