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**LAND ADJACENT TO 128 PASTON RIDINGS,
PETERBOROUGH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Joseph Bampton MA	(Fieldwork and report)
NGR: TF 18396 02212	Report No: 4054
Borough: Peterborough	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4547
Signed:	Date: March 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>Land Adjacent to 128 Paston Ridings, Peterborough</i>		
<p><i>In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 128 Paston Ridings, Peterborough PE4 7YF (NGR TF 18396 02212; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of site clearance and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed building. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a dwelling (Planning Ref. 09/01520/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential due to its proximity to the centre of the city of Peterborough, which has revealed archaeological evidence from the Bronze Age site at Flag Fen, east of the city centre, through to the present day. The potential presence of glacial drift deposits from the Nene Valley, which may contain prehistoric remains, extends the date of potential archaeology yet further back. The site is located within the grounds of an 18th century Grade 2 listed farmhouse.</i></p> <p><i>Despite archaeological potential of the site the monitoring did not reveal any archaeological remains.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28th & 30th March 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4547</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Annexed garden space</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Peterborough City</i>	<i>Peterborough City</i>	<i>Peterborough</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Peterborough HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 911.5 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 18396 02212</i>		
Height AOD	<i>c. 9m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from Peterborough City Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Joseph Bampton</i>		
Funded by	<i>Rupert Kotowski</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Adjacent to 128 Paston Ridings, Peterborough, Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Joseph Bampton</i>		
Report no.	<i>4054</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2012</i>		

LAND ADJACENT TO 128 PASTON RIDINGS, PETERBOROUGH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 128 Paston Ridings, Peterborough PE4 7YF (NGR TF 18396 02212; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of site clearance and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed building. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new dwelling (Planning Ref. 09/01520/FUL).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential due to its proximity to the centre of the city of Peterborough, which has revealed archaeological evidence from the Bronze Age site at Flag Fen, east of the city centre, through to the present day. The potential presence of glacial drift deposits from the Nene Valley, which may contain prehistoric remains, extends the date of potential archaeology yet further back. The site is located within the grounds of an 18th century Grade 2 listed farmhouse.

Despite archaeological potential of the site the monitoring did not reveal any archaeological remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at land adjacent to 128 Paston Ridings, Peterborough PE4 7YF (NGR TF 18396 02212; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of site clearance and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed building. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling (Planning Ref. 09/01520/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice received from Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS) which expressed their requirements for a watching brief, and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 16th September 2011), and approved by PCC AS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project objectives were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;

- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required, and
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies adjacent to the west of 128 Paston Ridings to the north of Peterborough city centre. It lies on the southern side of Paston Ridings, and was formerly a garden plot. It is situated at around 9m AOD on gravel drift deposits.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The glacial drift deposits of the Nene Valley have the potential to contain archaeological remains of early prehistoric date. Small struck flint assemblages of Mesolithic date and other evidence of occupation of this date have been identified at the Fengate sewage treatment works to the south of the city centre. Neolithic evidence from Fengate indicates that there may be a potential for archaeological remains of this date to exist in the vicinity of the city centre.

3.2 The nationally-important site at Flag Fen and chance finds of artefacts from across the city indicate a Bronze Age presence in the area. Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the form of a ring-ditch and arrowhead has been recovered 400m west of the site (HER 02218). No evidence of Iron Age occupation is known within the city centre but artefacts of this date, including a well preserved canoe, have been recovered. An isolated Iron Age coin has been found approximately 200m east of the site (HER 02220).

3.3 Well preserved evidence for Romano-British settlement exists within the vicinity of Peterborough but there is little evidence of activity of this date within the city centre. Evidence of a Roman settlement (HER 02203) was found approximately 600m southwest of the site, as well as an isolated Roman coin (HER 52107). Evidence of multi-period activity including Roman, early Medieval and Post Medieval artefacts has also been found approximately 100m west of the site (HER 50502).

3.4 Peterborough was established as a monastic settlement in the 7th century AD. The Saxon settlement continued to grow during the 7th and 8th centuries but was sacked by Norse raiders in AD 870. The abbey was reconsecrated as a Benedictine monastery in 972.

3.5 Substantial expansion of Peterborough is understood to have occurred following the Norman Conquest. A new Norman cathedral was constructed from 1118, a planned settlement was built to the west of the Abbey gates in 1146 and the development of the Benedictine monastery led to the development of the town itself. Peterborough became an important inland port during the medieval period. Evidence for medieval activity in the city centre is, therefore, considerable. An archaeological assessment by Northants County Council at the Old Rectory (HER 02247) on Fulbridge Road, approximately 100m southwest of the site, identified tentative evidence of a 13th-14th century timber aisled hall (Maull 1999). The nearby church of All Saints (HER 02244, a & b) contains some evidence of 11th century stonework in its construction, although the present building is 13th – 14th century.

3.6 Increasing industrialisation and the continued growth of the population facilitated and caused continued expansion and growth of Peterborough during the latter part of the post-medieval period. Continued growth and industrialisation, bringing development of railways, industry and other infrastructure has had an impact on the character of the city centre since the late 19th century.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the later stages of demolition and the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed new dwelling.

4.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works including demolition works general ground reduction, and the excavation of foundations. 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 archaeological finds.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 2-3)

Site visits 28th and 30th March 2012

The site was visited on the above dates to monitor excavation of the foundations for the proposed building.

The proposed building is centrally located within the site (Fig.4) and its footprint is c.12 x 12m. The foundations were 0.60m wide for the outer walls and 0.40m wide for the interior walls. The excavation was carried out using a JCB excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket.

Sample sections

Six sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded, and are tabulated below. Topsoil L1000 was removed from within the footprint of the building therefore is absent from Sample Section 4.

Sample Section 1

<i>East side, east facing</i>			<i>DP 1</i>
<i>0.00m = 8.99m AOD</i>			
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown grey, friable sandy silt.	
0.27 – 0.42m	L1004	Demolition layer/made ground. Mottled light orange grey (50%) and mid brown grey (50%), loose mixed sandy silt and gravely modern rubble.	
0.42 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, friable sandy silt.	
0.70 – 1.00m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orange, friable silty sand.	
1.00 – 1.51m+	L1003	Natural. Light grey orange, sandy gravel.	

Sample Section 2

<i>Southern east side, east facing</i>			<i>DP 2</i>
<i>9.05m AOD</i>			
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.	
0.20 – 0.42m	L1004	Demolition layer/made ground. As above.	
0.42 – 0.74m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.	

0.74 – 1.00m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
1.00 – 1.55m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 3

<i>South side, north facing</i>		<i>DP 3</i>
<i>9.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.60 – 0.90m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.90 – 1.60m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4

<i>Central, east facing</i>		<i>DP 4</i>
<i>8.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.55 – 0.85m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 5

<i>Centre, west facing</i>		<i>DP 5</i>
<i>9.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.43 – 0.63m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.63 – 1.11m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 6

<i>North side, south facing</i>		<i>DP 6</i>
<i>8.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.48 – 0.70m+	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.70 – 1.18m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description:

The stratigraphy was consistent across the site. The only variation was the presence of modern demolition debris, L1004, and made ground present in the extreme western sections of the footings (Sample Section 1).

A modern wall constructed of machine-made brick (DP7) was present in the NNE corner of the site. It was overlain by Topsoil L1000 and cut Subsoils L1001 and L1002, and the natural, L1003.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a dark brown grey, friable sandy silt (c.0.20 – 0.32m thick). It was removed from within the proposed building footprint. Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt (0.22 and 0.33m thick). L1001 overlay Subsoil L1002, a mid orange friable silty sand (0.20 - 0.30m thick). Below L1002 was the natural geology L1003, a light grey orange, sandy gravel with occasional large limestone/sandstone and chalk angular rock.

7.2 On the far west side of the excavation (Sample Section 1), below the topsoil was a demolition layer, L1004, a mottled light orange grey and mid brown grey, loose mixed sandy silt and gravely modern rubble (0.14m - 0.25m thick).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located towards the north of Peterborough City centre. Due its position on the Nene River and its proximity to Flag Fen it had a potential for archaeology dating from prehistory. Prior to the current development the site was part of the gardens of a listed 18th century farmhouse to the west of the site. Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological finds or features were present.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough City 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Rupert Kotowski for funding the project, and PDG Architects Ltd for their assistance (in particular Mr Colan Bartram).

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the building contractor, Burmor Construction.

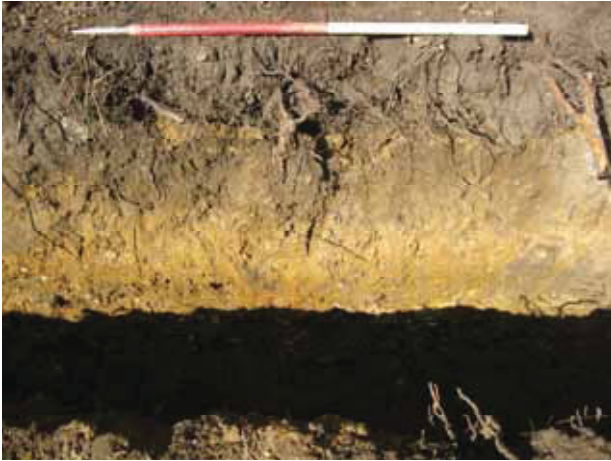
AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Sample section 1. Looking west.



2
Sample section 2. Looking west.



3
Sample section 3. Looking south.



4
Sample section 4. Looking west.



5
Sample section 5. Looking west.



6
Sample section 6. Looking north.



7
Modern feature in north-east corner. Looking east.



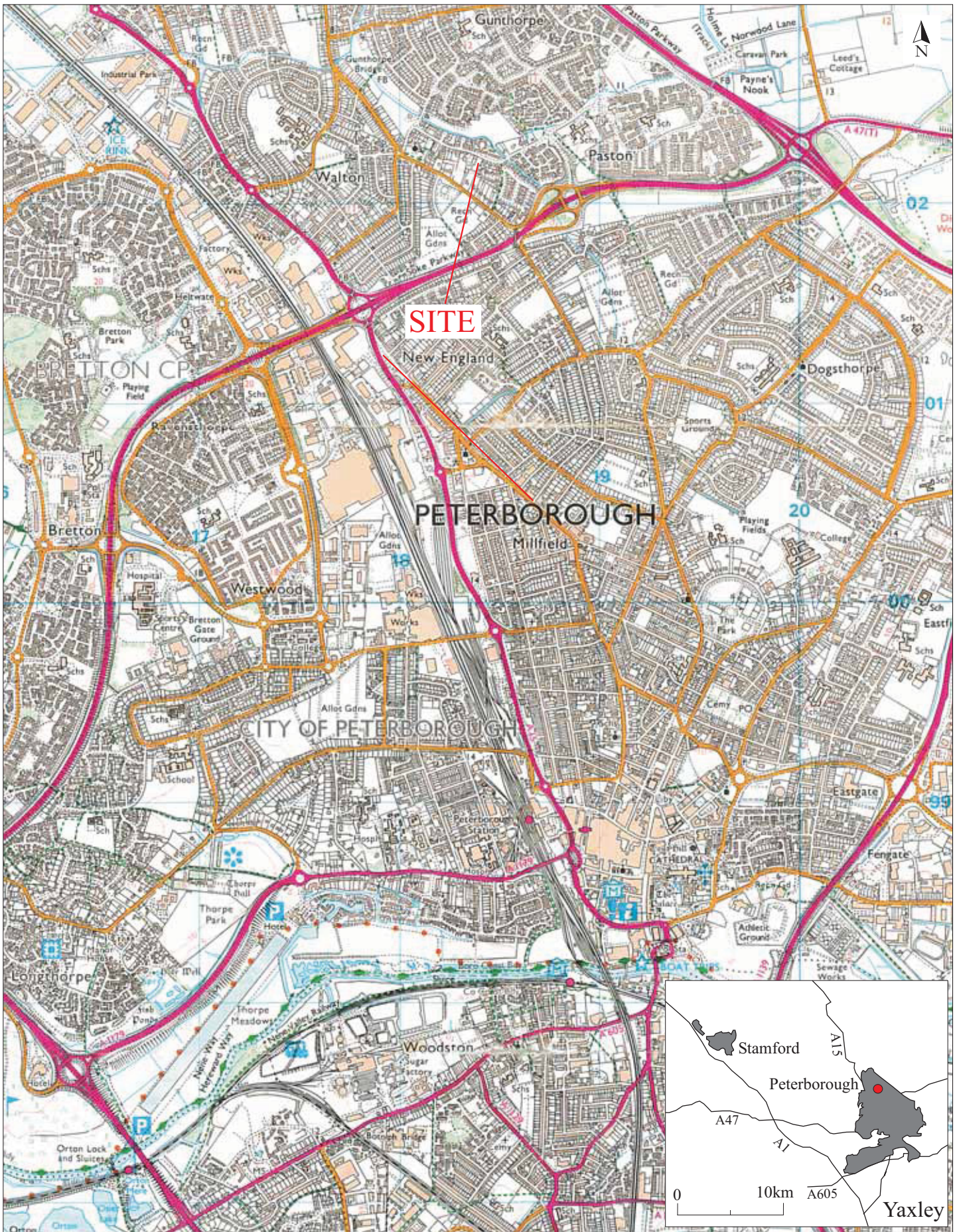
8
General site view. Looking south-west.



9
General site view. Looking north.

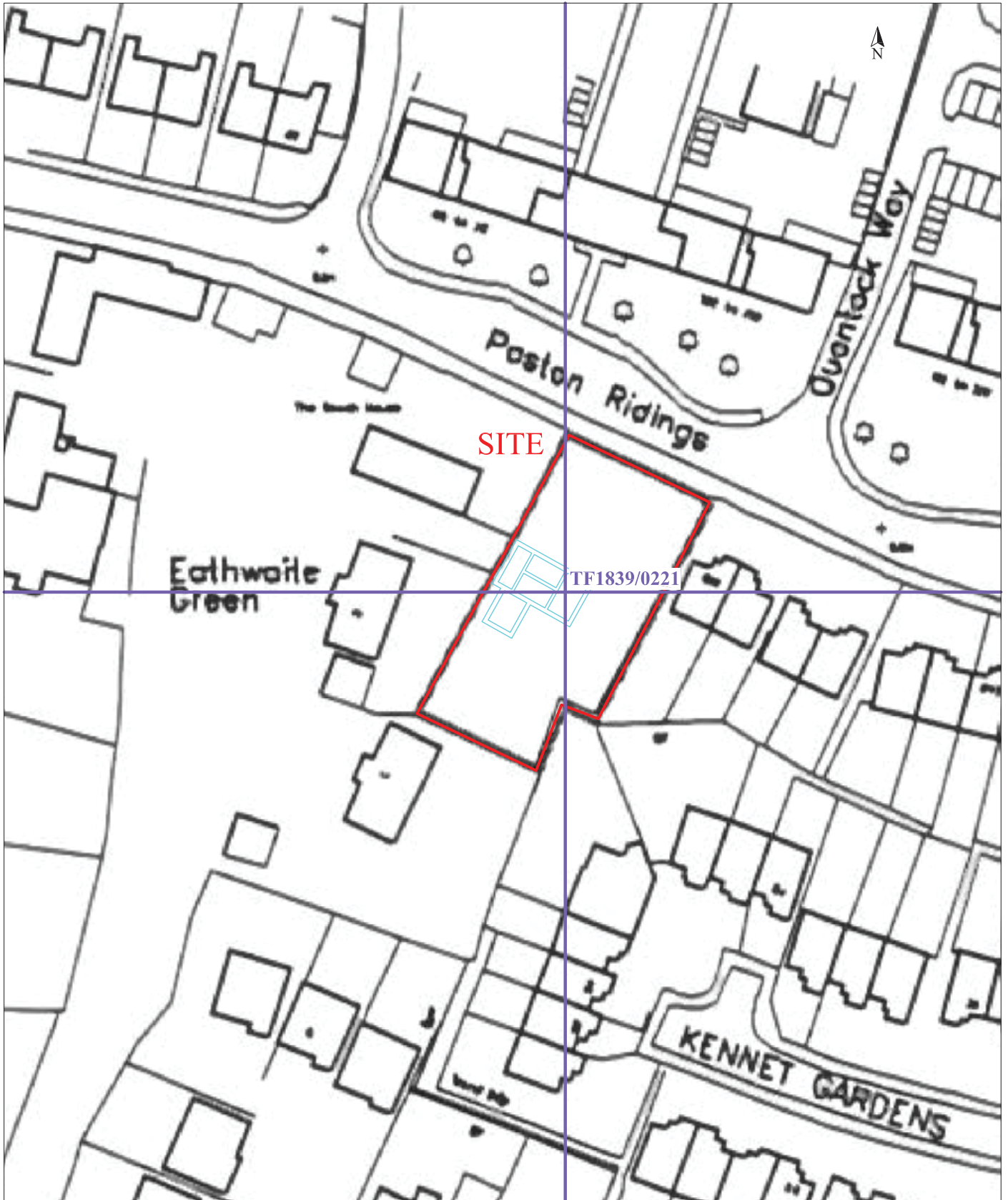


10
Footing trenches. Looking west.



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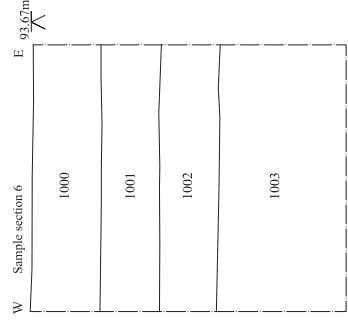
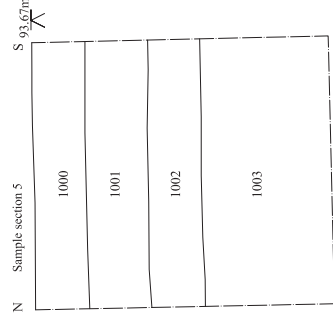
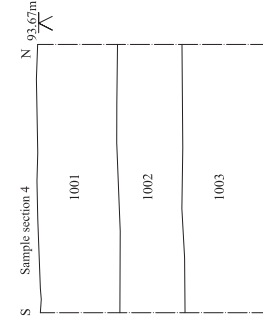
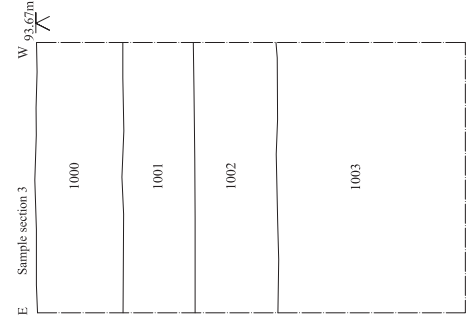
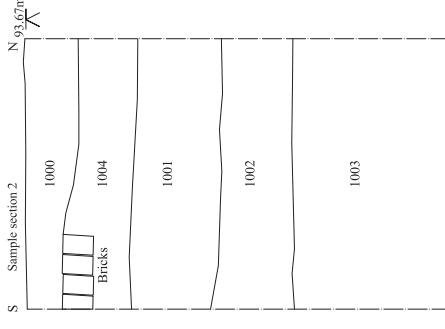
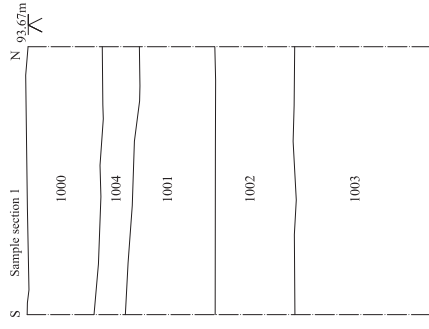
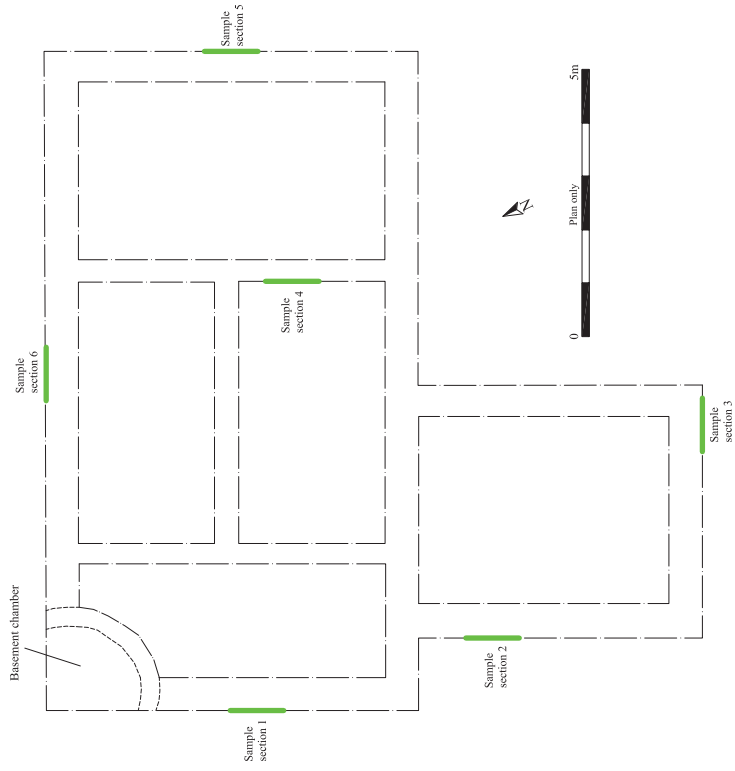
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



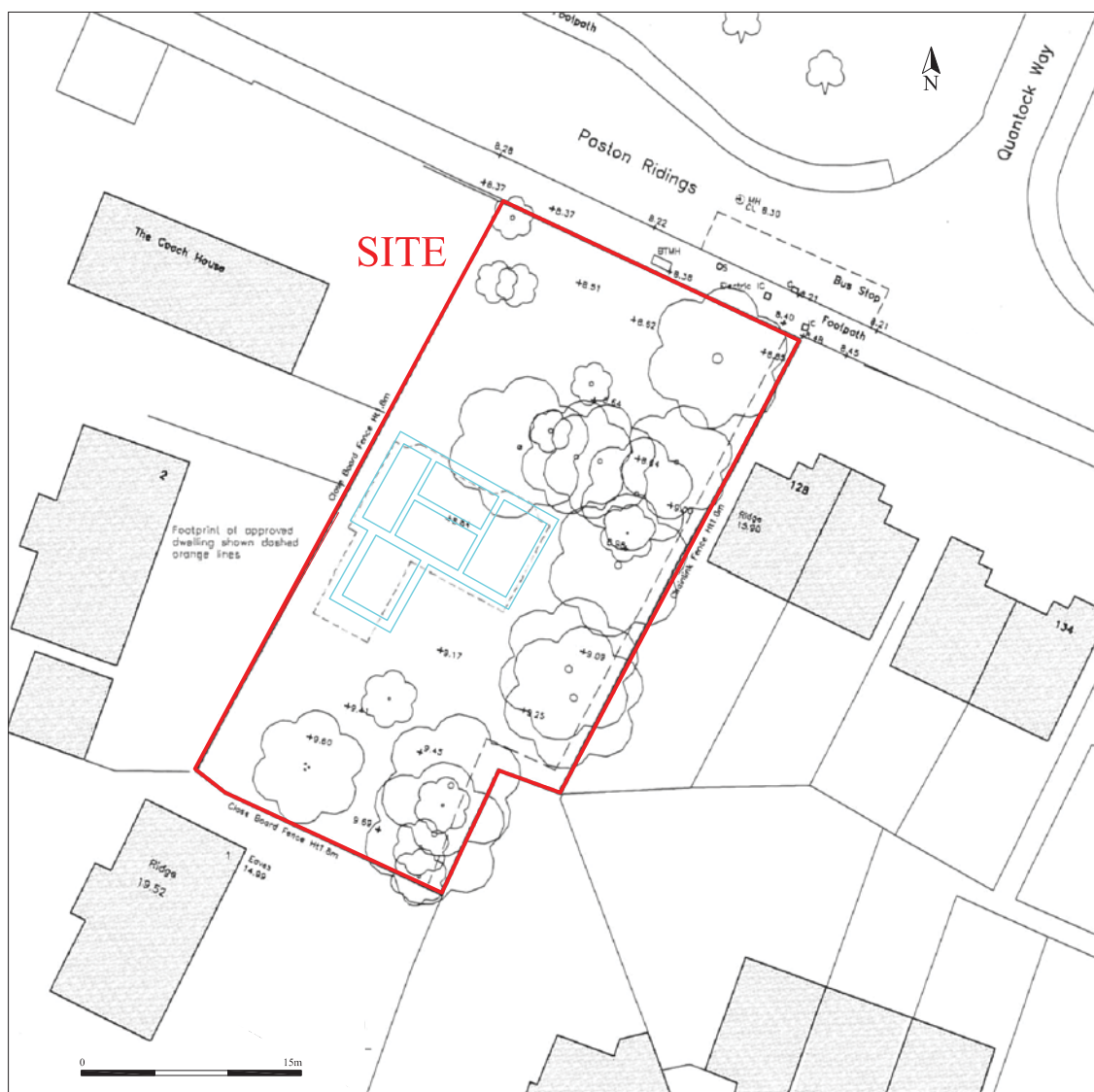
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0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 3 Section location plan
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:500 at A4