

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**42 BERNARD STREET, ST ALBANS
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Tom Janes	(report and fieldwork)
NGR: TL 14813 07829	Report No: 3874
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1426
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4449
Signed:	Date: July 2011



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	42 Bernard Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 42 Bernard Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 14813 07829). The proposed development comprised the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the property. The monitoring was commissioned by Mr J Browne, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the area designated on the Local Plan as AS.R.25 where archaeological work may be required as part of planning permission. It is close to the historic core of the city of St Albans, within an area where evidence has been found of later prehistoric, Romano-British and sub-Roman, and Saxon activity at Kingsbury and adjacent Verulamium. The advice from the SADC indicated that the principal potential for the current site is for remains adjacent to the western boundary of the medieval St Peter's Grange and associated farm buildings (St Albans Urban Archaeological Database Monument 609).</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of approximately 4.5m² of ground reduction was monitored with the primary aim of identifying and fully recording any archaeological deposits and associated artefacts in the area affected by the proposed development. In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	6 th July 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work	N
P. number	4449	Site code	AS 1426
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	Area of Archaeological Potential		
Current land use	Yard		
Planned development	Rear extension		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	St Albans	St Peter
HER/ SMR for area	Herts HER/ St Albans UAD		
Post code (if known)	AL3 5QN		
Area of site	Approximately 50m ²		
NGR	TL 14813 07829		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 110m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Advice from SADC		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Tom Janes		
Funded by	Mr J Browne		
Full title	42 Bernard Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Authors	Janes, T.		
Report no.	3874		
Date (of report)	July 2011		

42 BERNARD STREET, ST ALBANS HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of a proposed development at 42 Bernard Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 14813 07829).

The site lies within the area designated on the Local Plan as AS.R.25 where archaeological work may be required as part of planning permission. It is close to the historic core of the city of St Albans, within an area where evidence has been found of later prehistoric, Romano-British and sub-Roman, and Saxon activity at Kingsbury and adjacent Verulamium. The advice from the SADC indicated that the principal potential for the current site was for remains adjacent to the western boundary of the medieval St Peter's Grange and associated farm buildings (recorded as St Albans Urban Archaeological Database Monument 609).

The excavation of approximately 4.5m² of ground reduction was monitored with the primary aim of identifying and fully recording any archaeological deposits and associated artefacts in the area affected by the proposed development. However, no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in advance of a proposed development at 42 Bernard Street, St. Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 14813 07829). The proposed development comprised the construction of a new single-storey extension to the rear of the residential property. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by the client, Mr J Browne, in order to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development (Ref. 5/2010/2901).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a specification compiled by AS (15/06/2011), approved by the SADC District Archaeologist. It was conducted according to the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (also revised 2008). It also adhered to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project had the particular aims of identifying any archaeological deposits and associated artefacts in the area affected by the proposed development. Any and all evidence for the past environment of the site revealed during the work was also to be recorded and analyzed. Further aims were as set out in the SADC advice and Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) documents, namely:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains and alterations to the fabric of the building;
- 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;
- To secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 (2010) states 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 (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 No. 42 is a locally listed, two storey mid terrace dwelling located on the east side of Bernard Street. The property has a vehicle access that runs between no's 40 and 42 at ground floor level, however, the property is built above this at first floor level. The surrounding area is residential and characterised by similar two storey semi-detached and terraced dwellings. The area where the proposed rear extension is to be built is currently a concreted yard, continuing the vehicle access from Bernard Street to the rear of the garden.

2.2 The site lies within the area designated on the Local Plan as AS.R.25 where archaeological work may be required as part of planning permission. It is close to the historic core of the city of St Albans, within an area where evidence has been found of later prehistoric, Romano-British and sub-Roman, and Saxon activity at Kingsbury and adjacent *Verulamium*. Advice from SADC indicated that the principal potential for the current site is for remains adjacent to the western boundary of the medieval St Peter's Grange and associated farm buildings (recorded as St Albans Urban Archaeological Database (SA UAD) Monument 609). The complex was surrounded by a moat and earthen wall. One of the moat arms has been located, but the line of the other three arms remains unknown. More recent investigations by AS to the rear of 53/55 Church Street revealed a short section of the enclosure ditch, with possibly two phases of activity. The location of the western ditch arm, which may be within some 20m of the current site at 42 Bernard Street, has not been confirmed, but there may also be features external to this ditch, in the vicinity of the current site.

2.3 Consultation of the historic Ordnance Survey maps of the area revealed that 42 Bernard Street (along with Nos.40 and 44) is depicted on the 1898 map, but not on the 1883 version. This indicates that the property was built no earlier than 1884. No other structures or features of interest are depicted on the site before the construction of No. 42.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological monitoring witnessed the excavation of the foundation trench for the proposed rear extension; approximately 4.5m² of ground was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m, (Plates 1 & 2). The work was undertaken by hand. 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3)

A sample section of the stratigraphy was recorded around the edge of the excavation area. The results are tabulated below:

Sample Section 1 (Plate 3)

<i>North side, south facing</i> 0.00 = 110.47 m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Concrete yard surface.
0.10m – 0.60m	L1001	Made ground. Mid yellow-brown compact sandy silt with frequent ceramic building material, concrete, fragments of tarmac.
0.60m – 0.90m (formation layer)	L1002	Natural geology. Mid brown-yellow, compact sandy clay.

Description: No archaeological features or artefacts were present.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The current ground surface was a concrete yard; the concrete had been removed with a pneumatic drill before reduction work began. Beneath the concrete, L1000, was a layer of made ground mixed with topsoil, L1001, which had served as a bedding plane for the paving slabs. Fragments of ceramic building material, concrete and modern refuse were noted in this layer.

7.2 Beneath L1001 was a compact layer of sandy clay, L1002. This was the natural drift geology and was sterile.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were present. The layer of made ground, L1001, is likely to represent debris associated with the creation of a passageway from Bernard St to the rear of No. 42. This had previously been a property between the current Nos. 40 and 42. The ground floor of this property had been removed to allow access to the rear of No. 42; the upper floor became part of No. 42 (J Browne, *pers comm.*).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at St Albans Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Browne for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Simon West of St Albans District Council

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



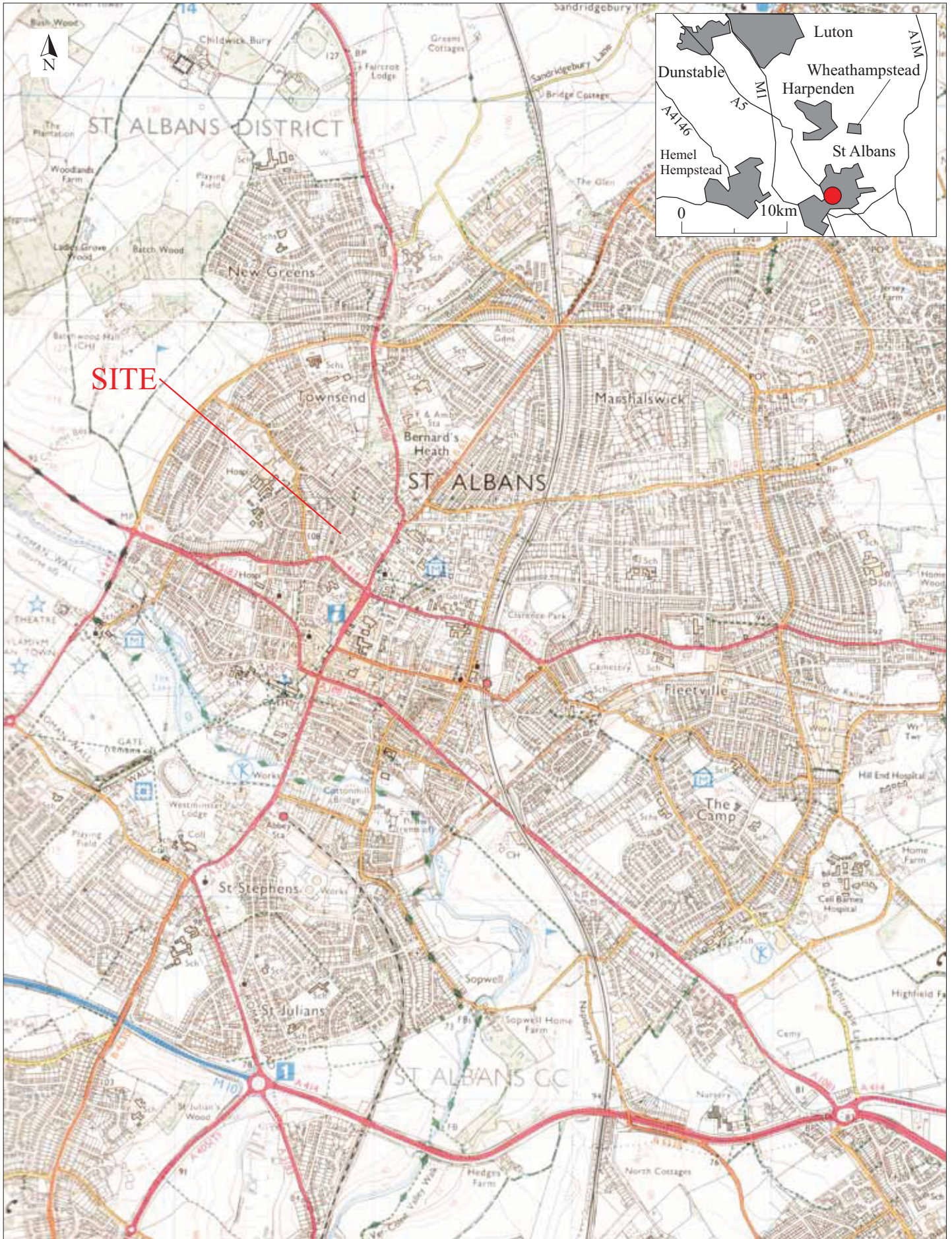
1 Area of excavation. Looking east.



2 Area of excavation. Looking west.

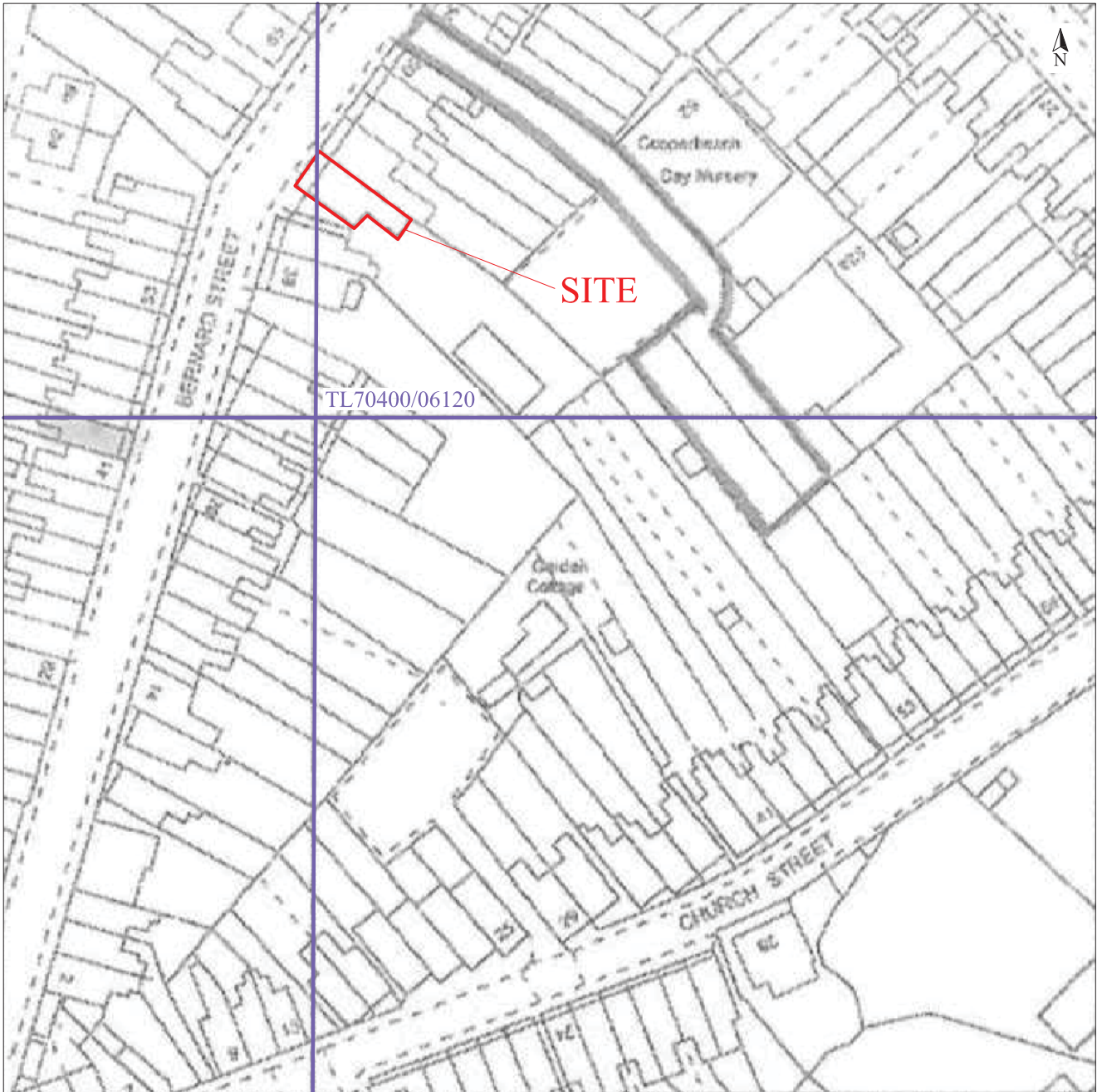


2 Sample section 1. Looking south



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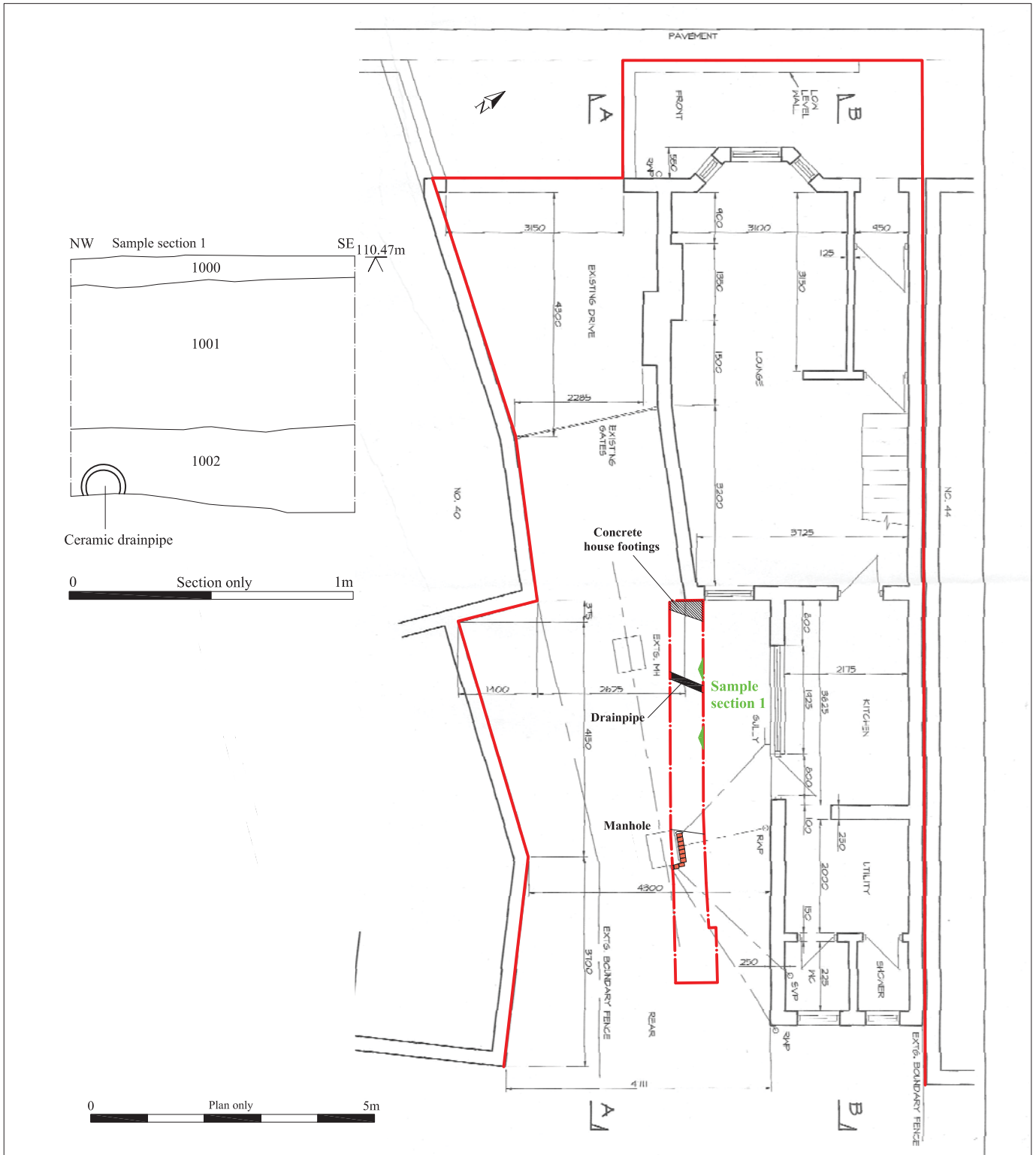
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:800 at A4



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Fig. 3 Foundation trench & section
 Scale Plan 1:100, section 1:20 at A4