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**DANSON CARE HOME, GLYNDE ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH,
LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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NGR: TQ 48028 75654		Report No: 4044
Borough: Bexley		Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin		Project No: 4476
Signed:		Date: March 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>Danson Care Home, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley</i>		
<i>In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Danson Care Home, Glynde Road, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley. The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of the demolition of the existing residential care home and all groundworks associated with the construction of a new care home complex. The monitored groundworks included the excavation of a large area for a basement development together with the excavation of foundations.</i>			
<i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential due to its proximity to the Roman road of Watling Street. The groundworks had the potential to reveal roadside burial or settlement remains, however, the construction of the residential care home during the 1970s caused substantial truncation over much of the site.</i>			
<i>The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	9 th – 26 th March 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4476	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within an Archaeological Priority Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Demolished residential care home</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential care home</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>Bexley Borough</i>	<i>Bexleyheath</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>GLHER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>DA7 4EU</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1500 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 48028 75654</i>		
Height AOD	<i>c. 48m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Joseph Bampton, Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Churchgate Services</i>		
Full title	<i>Danson Care Home, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Joseph Bampton & Adam Dyson</i>		
Report no.	<i>4044</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2012</i>		

DANSON CARE HOME, GLYNDE ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH, LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Danson Care Home, Glynde Road, Bexleyheath, London Borough of Bexley. The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of the demolition of the existing residential care home and all groundworks associated with the construction of a new care home complex. The monitored groundworks included the excavation of a large area for a basement development together with the excavation of footings.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential due to its proximity to the Roman road of Watling Street. The groundworks had the potential to reveal roadside burial or settlement remains, however, the construction of the residential care home during the 1970s caused substantial truncation over much of the site.

The monitoring did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Danson Care Home, Glynde Road, Bexleyheath in the London Borough of Bexley DA7 4EU (TQ 48028 75654; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the final stages of the demolition work of the existing residential care home and all groundworks associated with the construction of the new care home complex. The monitored groundworks included the excavation of a large area for a basement development and the excavations of foundations. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new 75-bed care home compliant with modern regulations (LB Bexley Planning Approval Ref. 11/01220).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice received from Mark Stevenson of the Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (GLASS), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by AS (dated 11th July 2011) and approved by EH GLAAS. The monitoring was carried out according to the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service's (EH GLAAS) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*. The project was also conducted in

accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.3 The principal aims of the project were to identify any evidence of archaeological deposits and/or artefacts, and to determine the nature and extent of those deposits within the limits of the construction groundworks.

Planning policy context

1.4 The monitoring was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. 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 BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies on the southern side of Glynde Road, in Bexleyheath, in the London Borough of Bexley.

2.2 The site is within, but on the northern edge of, an Area of Archaeological Priority, set out on the Local Plan. This relates to the line of the major Roman road of Watling Street, which lies to the south of the site. The site has the potential for Roman roadside settlement/burial remains associated with the road. In the early Victorian period the site was part of an extensive orchard. By the end of the century the orchard had given way to a complex of greenhouses. Greenhouses remained on the site up to and throughout WWII. It is probable that the construction of the current building complex on site in the 1970s caused truncation with the exception possibly of the southernmost area of the site. Advice from EH GLAAS indicated that there are two main areas of the proposed new build footprint, in the western and south eastern part of the site, which are the main focus of potential archaeological interest, and these in areas were to be the subject of archaeological monitoring recording.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The monitoring and recording specifically encompassed the later stages of demolition works followed by the excavation of the proposed basement area, and the excavation of foundations and service trenches.

3.2 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 footings. 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. 3 - 4)

Site visits 9th and 14th March 2012

4.1 The site was visited during March 2012 to monitor the final stages of the demolition and site clearance work. The initial stages of the excavation for the proposed basement development commenced, and the excavation of a trench for a temporary service was monitored.

4.2 The basement excavations covered the entire area of the proposed eastern building (47 x 16m; Fig.3). The excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. The later stages of the excavation were solely within natural geological deposits and therefore did not require archaeological monitoring.

Sample Sections

4.3 Five sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered within the basement development were recorded, and a sample section was recorded within the temporary service trench. The results are tabulated below.

Topsoil L1000 was removed from the site during initial ground preparation; consequently it is not recorded within any sample sections. It was a mid grey brown, friable sandy silt (c.0.30m thick).

Sample Section 1 – Basement

<i>South end, west facing</i>		<i>DP 3</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.06m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.53m	L1001	Made Ground. Loose mixed modern rubble within a mid grey brown sandy silt.
0.53 – 0.72m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid - light orange brown, compact, silt.
0.72m+	L1003	Natural. Light orange and yellow, compact clay and gravel.

Sample Section 2 – Basement

<i>South end, east facing</i>		<i>DP 4</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
0.38 – 0.80m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.80m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 3 – Basement

<i>South end, north facing</i>		<i>DP 5</i>
<i>0.00m = 47.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
0.32 – 0.65m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4 – Temporary service trench

<i>North west facing</i>		<i>DP 14</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.04m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m+	L1001	Made Ground. As above.

Sample Section 5 – Basement

<i>Centre, west facing</i>		<i>DP 6</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.82m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
0.82 – 1.20m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 6 – Basement

<i>North end, west facing</i>		<i>DP 7</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.78m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
0.78 – 0.92m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Made Ground L1001 was a mixed deposit and included modern debris.

Subsoil L1002 was only present at the southern end of the basement area. As anticipated, this was the best preserved area with the highest archaeological potential. Elsewhere the depth of Made Ground L1001 signified extensive modern truncation.

Site visit 22nd and 23rd March 2012

The excavation of foundations for the proposed building west of the basement was monitored. The excavation comprised exterior and interior walls of the proposed western building (31 x 16.5m). The footing trenches were 0.60m wide and c.1m deep, and were excavated using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket.

Sample Sections

Six sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered within the footing trench were recorded:

Sample Section 7 – NW corner of footing

<i>North west corner, north facing</i>		<i>DP 8</i>
<i>0.00m = 47.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, friable sandy silt.
0.28 – 0.54m	L1004	Made Ground. Dark grey brown, friable clay silt mixed with modern rubble.
0.54 – 0.82m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid - light orange brown, compact silt.
0.82- 1.10m+	L1003	Natural. Light orange and yellow, compact clay and gravel.

Sample Section 8 – SE corner of footing

<i>South east corner, north facing</i>		<i>DP 9</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.74m	L1001	Made Ground. Loose mixed modern rubble within a mid grey brown sandy silt.
0.74 – 1.10m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 9 – W end of footing

<i>West end, east facing</i>		<i>DP 10</i>
<i>0.00m = 47.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36 – 0.66m	L1004	Made Ground. As above.
0.66 – 0.80	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.80 – 1.30m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 10 – SW end of footing

<i>South west end, north facing</i>		<i>DP 11</i>
<i>0.00m = 47.98m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Made Ground. As above.
0.28 – 0.65m	L1004	Made Ground. As above.
0.65 – 0.67m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.67 – 0.95m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 11 – Centre of footing

<i>Centre, west facing</i>		<i>DP 12</i>
<i>0.00m = 47.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1005	Demolition Layer. Mid brown grey, loose sandy gravel with modern rubble.
0.27 – 1.07m+	L1001	Made Ground. As above.

Sample Section 12 – N side of footing

<i>North side, south facing</i>		<i>DP 13</i>
<i>0.00m = 48.04m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.75m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.75 – 1m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Made Ground L1004 is derived from the 1970's construction and was overlain by Topsoil L1000. It principally occurred in the western sector of the site. Subsoil L1002 was only present at the southern and western sectors of the site. As anticipated, this was the least disturbed area and with the highest potential for archaeological remains. As with the basement area, the depth of Made Ground L1001, modern features (DP 15) and services were indicative of extensive modern truncation.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The current ground surface was Topsoil L1000, a mid grey brown, friable sandy silt (c.0.30m+ thick). It was removed from site during the initial ground work preparation and was only present in the far western and south-western sectors of the site. Beneath L1000 was Made Ground L1001, modern rubble within a mid grey brown sandy silt (0.32 - 0.82m thick). At the southern end of the site (basement development), Subsoil L1002 had survived. It comprised a mid - light orange brown, compact silt (0.19 - 0.42m thick). Beneath L1002 and Made Ground L1001 were the natural orange and yellow clay and gravel deposits (L1003).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The site is located towards the northern edge of an area of archaeological priority which relates to the line of the Roman road of Watling Street. The road lies to the south of the A207. The monitoring had the potential to identify evidence of Roman roadside burial or settlement remains.

7.2 Prior to the 1970s the site was relatively undeveloped. In the Victorian period the site was part of an extensive orchard, and thereafter greenhouses were constructed.

7.3 Despite the archaeological potential of the site no archaeological features or finds were present. At least in part this is due to the extensive truncation caused in the 1970s with the construction of the recently demolished building complex.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC). 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 Limited would like to thank Churchgate Services for commissioning and funding the archaeological monitoring and recording, and for their assistance (in particular Ms Dee Horton) and their architect Mr Bernard Spears.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stevenson of EH GLAAS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994, (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
*General view of the eastern side of site.
Looking south.*



2
*General view of the basement excavations.
Looking north west.*



3
Sample section 1. Looking east.



4
Sample section 2. Looking west.



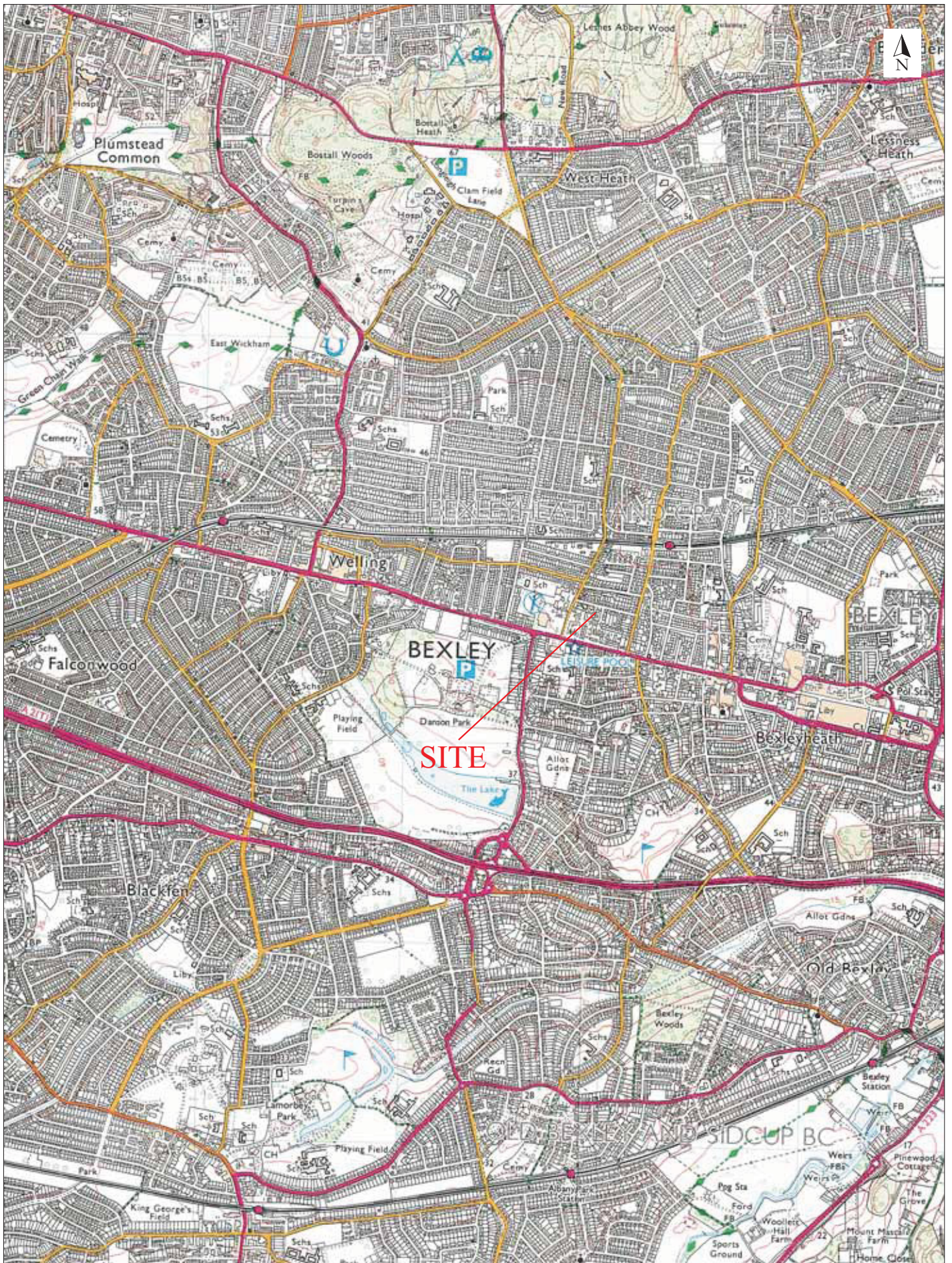
5
Sample section 3. Looking south.



6
Sample section 5. Looking east.



7
Sample section 6. Looking east.



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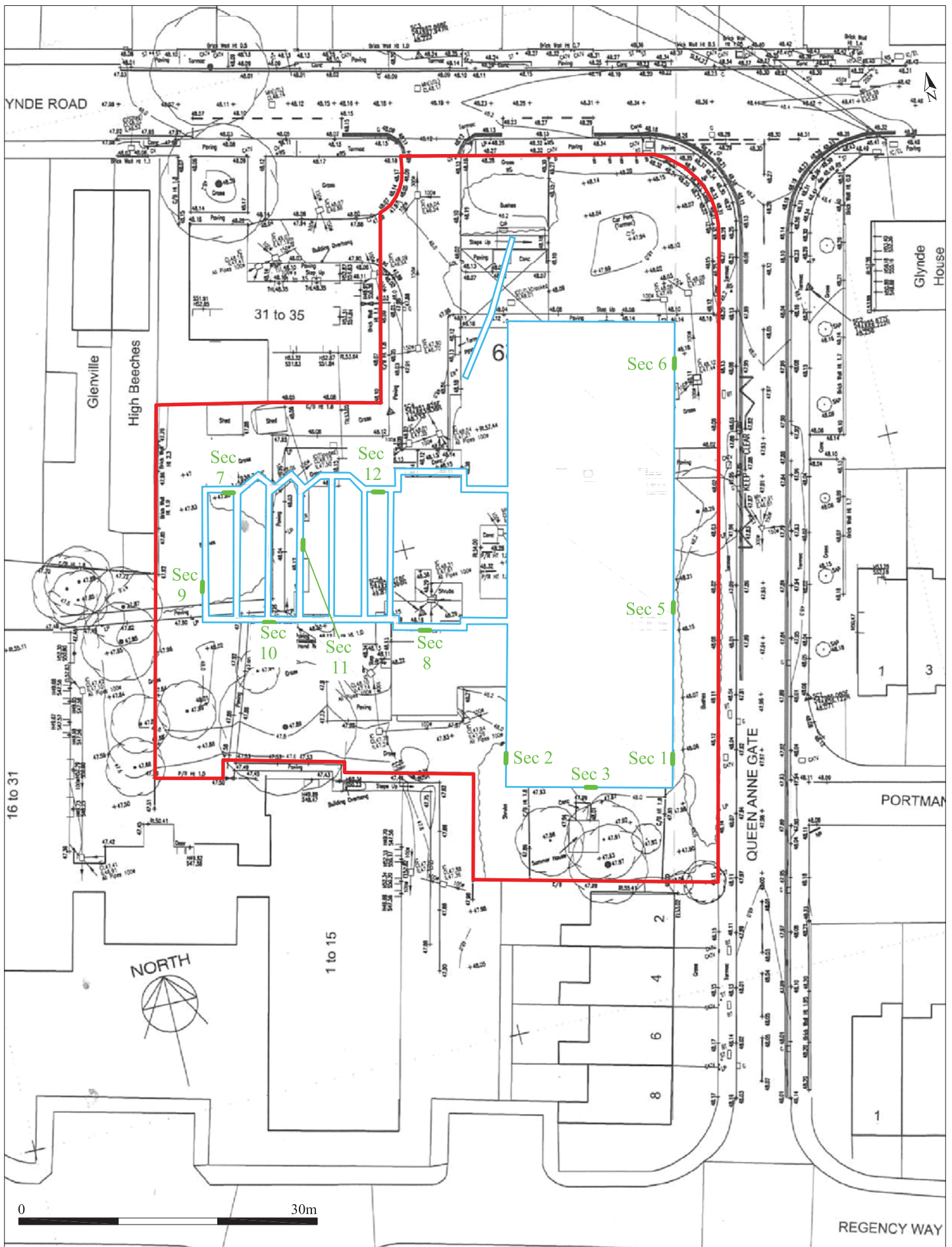
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



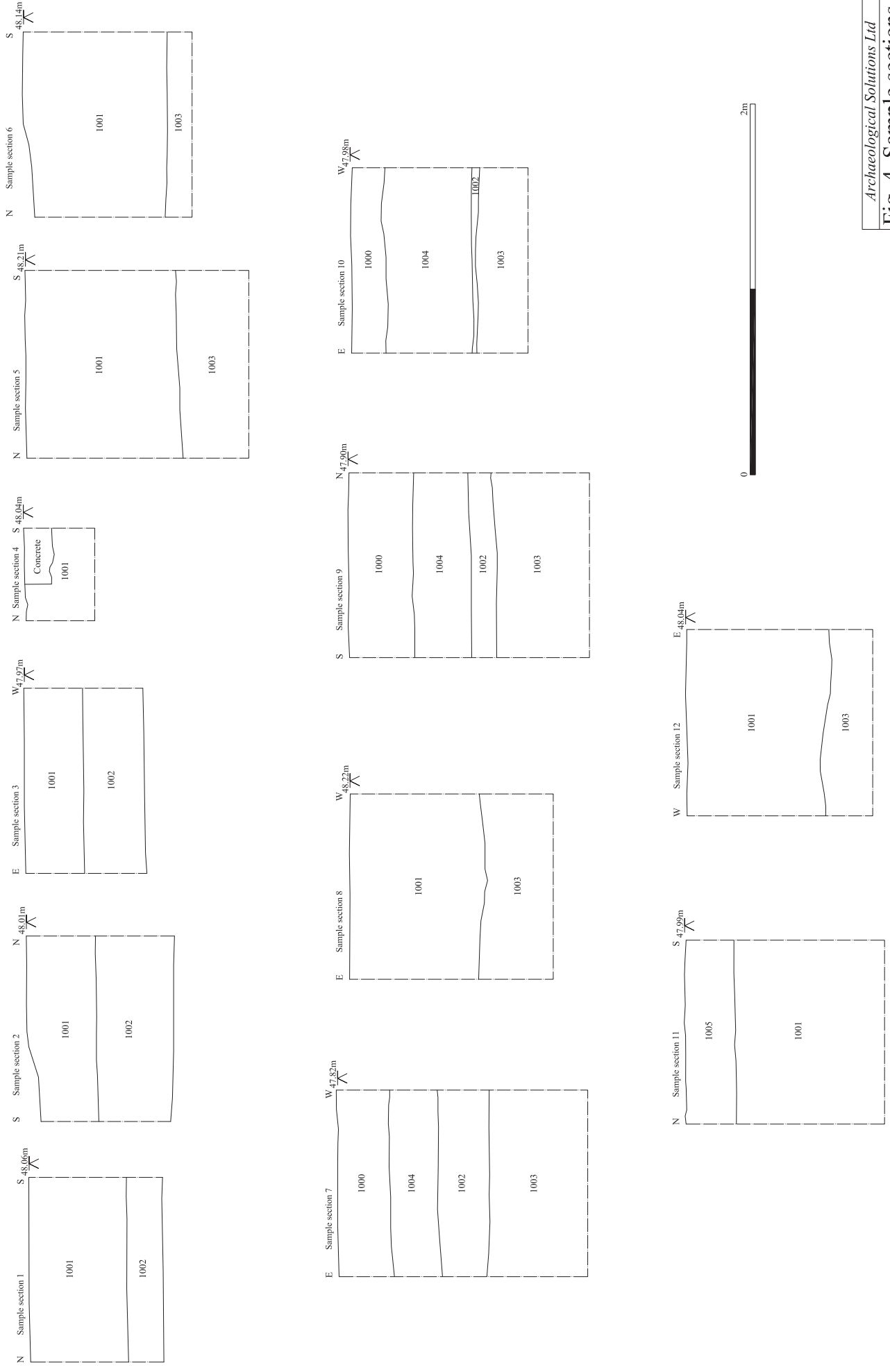
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4