
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL,
GLENURE ROAD, ELTHAM**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD'
INVESTIGATION**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA	
NGR: TL 2350 2030	Report No: 4012
District: London Borough of Greenwich	Site Code: MRY 11
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4655
Signed:	Date: February 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham</i>		
<p><i>In November and December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & record' investigation at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham (NGR TQ 4344 7477). The project was commissioned by CWA Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey extension.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within a residential area in the central part of Eltham. It had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the investigation revealed the foundations of the existing building and another foundation wall (post-medieval) just beyond the building.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>24-25/11 and 16/12/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>4655</i>	Site code	<i>MRY 11</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear yard/playground of the school</i>		
Planned development	<i>New two storey extension to the school's main building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>LB Greenwich</i>	<i>Eltham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SE9 1UF</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1750m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TR 3990 6855</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 75m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>CWA Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham. Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4012</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2012</i>		

ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLENURE ROAD, ELTHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD' INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

In November and December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & record' investigation at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham (NGR TQ 4344 7477). The project was commissioned by CWA Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey extension.

The site is situated within a residential area in the central part of Eltham. It had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the investigation revealed foundations of the existing building and another foundation wall (post medieval) just beyond the building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & record' investigation at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glenure Road, Eltham (NGR TQ 4344 7477; Figs. 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by CWA Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a two-storey extension (London Borough of Greenwich Council Planning Ref. 11/2152/F). The condition also required a programme of building recording of the existing structure, the results of which will be presented as a separate report.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice received from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; Archaeological Advisors to LB Greenwich), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 16/11/2011), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the EH (London Region) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*. It also followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008).

1.3 The objectives of the investigation were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring during the strip of overburden from the footprint of the proposed new extension, followed by a contingency for archaeological investigation of any archaeological remains present;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

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 within the residential area of central Eltham, and the High Street is located c. 250m to the south. The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land north of Glenure Road, and is occupied St Mary's School buildings with associated hard playgrounds. To the north the school is bounded by the rear plots of residential properties fronting Glenshiel Road.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.75m contour on land gently falling towards the south/south-east. Both the site and the surrounding area are located on a solid geology of Eocene London Clay (British Geological Survey 1978). It is overlain by a drift geology of Greenwich Terrace Beds, which also includes pockets of brickearth and clay, as well as alluvial soils and flood plain gravels. The soils of the site remain unsurveyed given its urban location (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983), and relatively little previous archaeological work has been undertaken in the surrounding area to identify the stratigraphy likely to be encountered at the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Roman cremation burials in urns, a ceramic bottle and a cup were found in 1913 at No 14 Glenesk Road, c. 200m to the south-east of the site. The finds were dated to c.160 AD. Roman coins are known from Eltham, for example, from the High Street and Eltham Green.

4.2 The manor of Eltham is mentioned in Domesday as Altheam formerly held by Alwold under Edward the Confessor. The timber manor house was rebuilt in stone by Anthony Bek, Bishop of Durham, who acquired the manor in 1295. In 1311 Eltham became a royal palace and was used as a royal residence until 16th century. The palace comprised several buildings with the Great Hall, king's lodgings and a chapel, and was surrounded by a moat. The Great Hall, rebuilt in the 15th century with a hammerbeam roof, survives. The chapel was built in stone by Henry VII and a bridge across the moat on the south side was built in the late 15th century. The building was ransacked in 1649 and ruined by 1660. The site of the manor house and later Eltham Place is located c. 1.2km to the south-west of St Mary's School.

4.3 The school is located on the site of the former country house of Park Farm Place. It is a flat-roofed building which is proposed to be extended, and is a remnant of the former house. In 1790 it was described as a 'beautiful villa (...) ornamented with pilasters of the Ionic order' (Stuart 2003).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The stripping of the footprint of the new extension and the excavation of foundation and service trenches for the extension were observed (Fig. 2).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Deposits located within the area of excavation were recorded in sample sections described below:

<i>North foundation trench. Sample section 1 (DP 3)</i>		
<i>Facing south-east-south</i>		
<i>0.00 = 75.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	M1000	Tarmac.
0.07 – 0.12m	L1001	Levelling Layer. Light greyish brown, compact, gravel.
0.12 – 0.18m	L1002	Levelling Layer. Dark greyish red, compact, silty sand.
0.18 – 0.53m	L1003	Made Ground. Light greyish brown, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel and moderate CBM fragments.
0.53 – 0.98m	L1004	Light to mid greyish brown, compact, silty sand with some yellow, loose, sand.
0.98m+	L1005	Natural. Light yellow, loose, sand.

<i>West foundation trench. Sample section 2 (DP 4)</i>		
<i>Facing east-north-east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 75.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	M1000	Tarmac. As above.
0.08 – 0.15m	L1001	Levelling Layer. As above.
0.15 – 0.19m	L1006	Compacted black crushed tarmac and CBM fragments.
0.19 – 0.50m	L1003	Made Ground. As above.
0.50 – 0.78m	L1004	As above.
0.78m+	L1005	Natural sand. As above.

Description: The foundations of the existing building were revealed within the western and southern foundation trenches of the proposed new extension. Foundation Wall M1007 was constructed of red bricks lay in offset courses where each ledge measuring 0.02 – 0.04m (DP 5). The bonding material was a white lime mortar with chalk. The wall was 1.50m+ deep. Within the southern trench for the new extension another wall was present (M1008; DP 6), and it was also constructed of red bricks. It was parallel to the school building, orientated north-north-west/south-south-east. Its eastern arm or extension (0.30m wide) was also briefly visible at its north end within the trench. It was revealed at c. 1.50m below present playground level and was 0.70m wide and 1m+ deep. It was revealed no further during the remainder of the groundworks.

No archaeological features or finds were identified during the ground reduction which did not exceed 0.40m deep. The excavation of the foundation trenches revealed the foundations of the existing building and numerous modern services and a modern pit, in particular in the eastern part of the site. It also revealed another foundation wall just beyond the building.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during archaeological work. The site, the eastern sector in particular, was affected by deep modern truncation which related to numerous services for the building. The access to that part of the site (south and eastern foundation trenches) was very limited.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by deposits of made ground capped with tarmac. Modern deposits were c. 0.50 – 0.60m thick. The natural, L1005, was present at 0.70 – 1.10m below existing ground level and comprised a light yellow, loose, sand.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site. The current school building stands on the site of a former country house of at least 18th century origin.

9.2 In the event the investigation revealed the foundations of the existing building and another foundation wall just beyond the building. The latter may have been a remnant of an earlier structure, likely part of the house of Park Place which previously occupied the site. Wall M1008 was late post-medieval, likely 18th century. The majority of deposits revealed within the area of the new extension were of early modern/modern date and related to the construction of the school. 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 Richard Lewis of CWA Limited for commissioning the project.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Foundation trenches. Looking east.



DP 2. North foundation trench. Looking north-east.



DP 3. North foundation trench. Sample section 1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 4. West foundation trench. Sample section 2. Looking west-south-west.



DP 5. West foundation trench. Looking south-south-east.



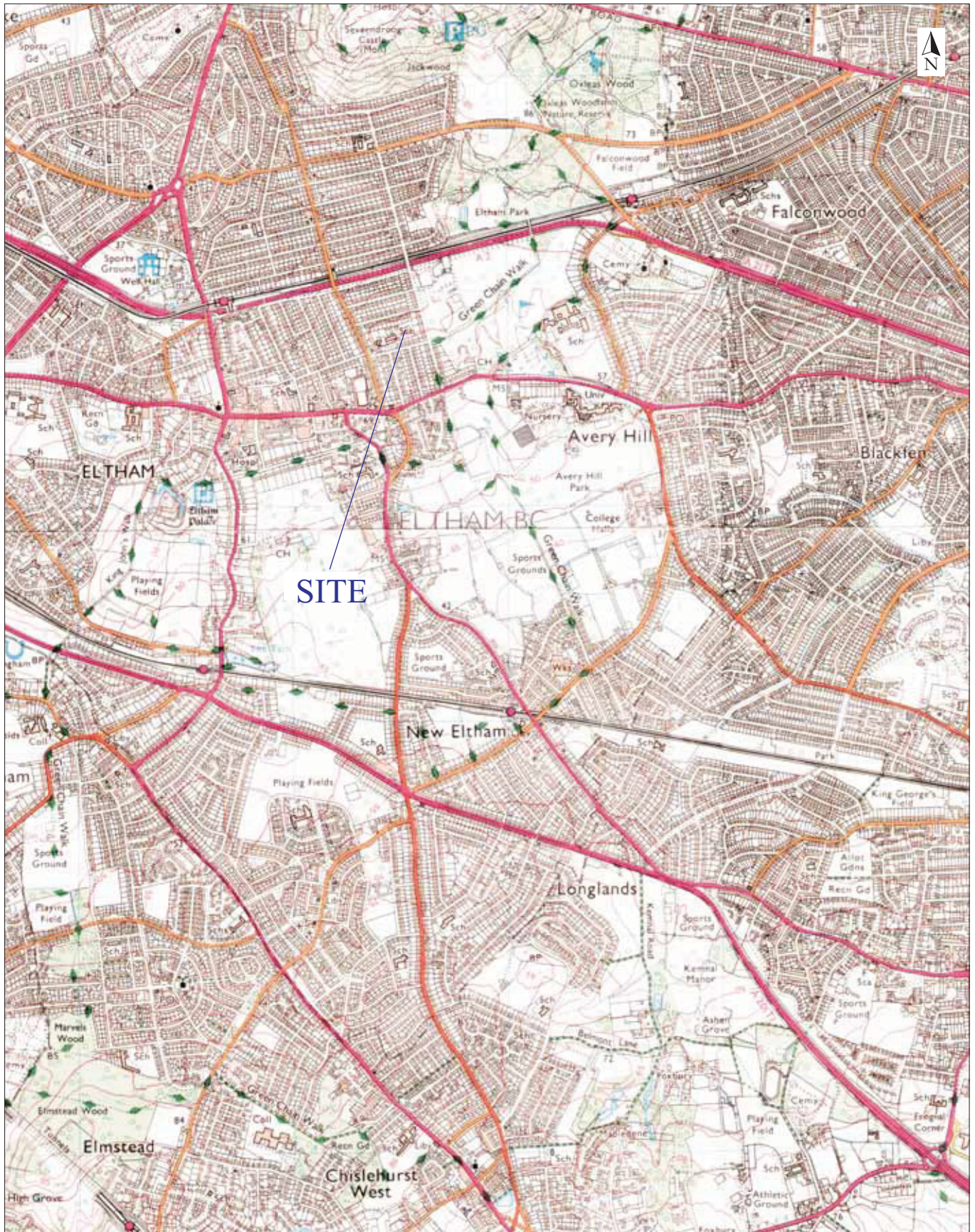
DP 6. South-western foundation/service trench. Looking west.



DP 7. Reduced ground within proposed extension. Looking west-south-west.



DP 8. Reduced ground within proposed extension. Looking east-north-east.



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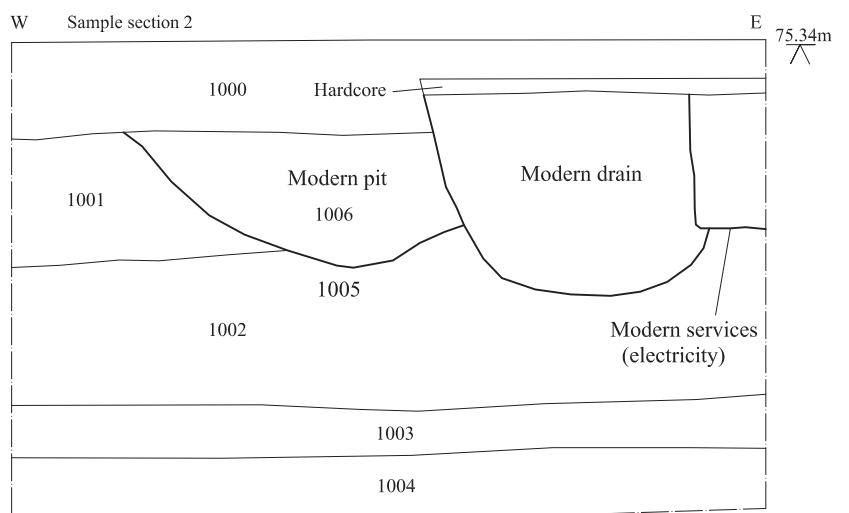
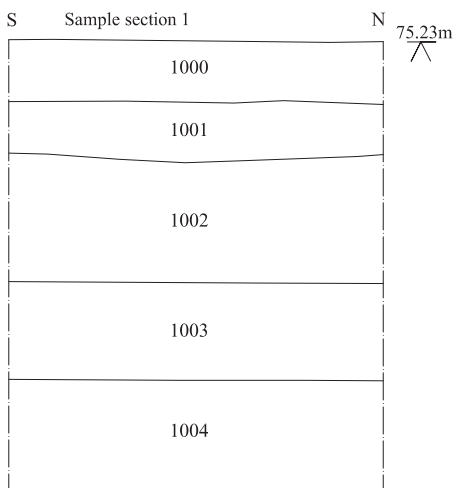
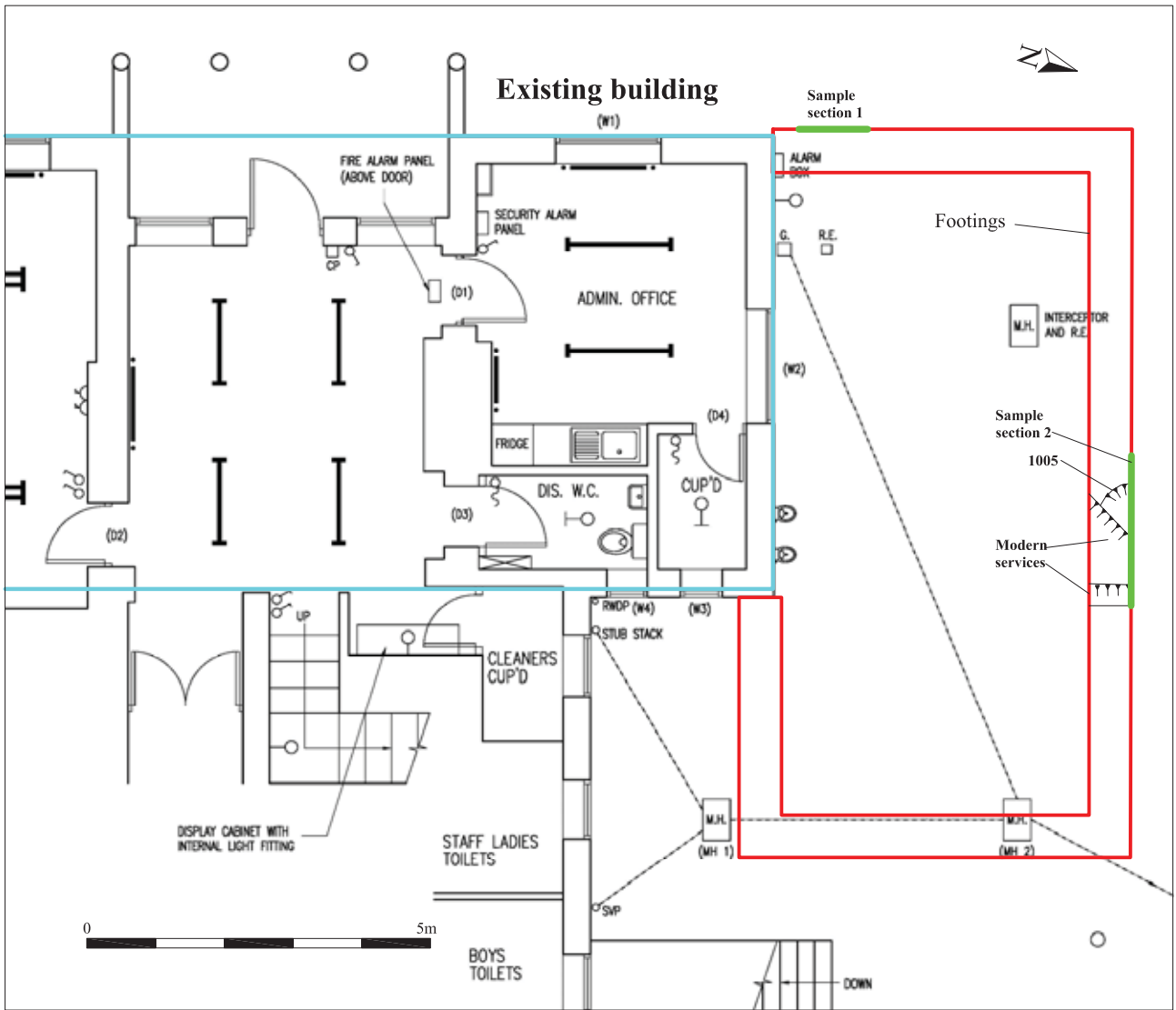
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 100m

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



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Fig. 3 Area of monitoring

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4