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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PROPOSED CRICKET PITCH  
HARROW SCHOOL  
HARROW ON THE HILL**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION & RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 14855 87210	Report No: 4130
District: London Borough of Harrow	Site Code: HRW 12
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4949
Signed:	Date: August 2012

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB  
Tel 01992 558170**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
Tel 01284 765210**

**e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)**



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Proposed Cricket Pitch, Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, London Borough of Harrow.</i>		
<p><i>In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation and recording at Harrow School, London Borough of Harrow (NGR TQ 14855 87210). The monitoring was commissioned by Harrow School in compliance with a condition to be attached to forthcoming planning permission for the re-modelling of an existing cricket pitch to create a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form cricket pitch.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within the Harrow on the Hill Conservation Area. It had a potential for archaeological remains in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the village core of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	24-30/07/2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4949	Site code	HRW 12
Type of project	Archaeological Observation & Recording		
Site status	Within the Harrow on the Hill Conservation Area		
Current land use	Cricket pitch		
Planned development	Re-modelling of the cricket pitch		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	London Borough of Harrow	Harrow on the Hill
HER/ SMR for area	GLHER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 1.5ha		
NGR	TQ 14855 87210		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 80m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Advice from EH GLAAS		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Harrow School		
Full title	Proposed Cricket Pitch, Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, London Borough of Harrow. Archaeological Observation & Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4130		
Date (of report)	August 2012		

**PROPOSED CRICKET PITCH, HARROW SCHOOL  
HARROW ON THE HILL  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION & RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation and recording at Harrow School, London Borough of Harrow (NGR TQ 14855 87210). The monitoring was commissioned by Harrow School in compliance with a condition to be attached to forthcoming planning permission for the re-modelling of an existing cricket pitch to create a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form cricket pitch.*

*The site is situated within the Harrow on the Hill Conservation Area. It had a potential for archaeological remains in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the village core of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation and recording at the site of Harrow School, London Borough of Harrow (NGR TQ 14855 87210; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by the Harrow School in compliance with a condition to be imposed on forthcoming planning permission for the re-modelling of an existing cricket pitch to create a new 6<sup>th</sup> Form cricket pitch (LB Harrow Planning Ref. P1314/12).

1.2 The project was undertaken in response to advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; advisors to the Local Planning Authority) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 20/07/2012). 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 principal aims of the project was 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 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, 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 Harrow is a London Borough situated in the north-west part of Greater London in the former historic county of Middlesex. The site is at Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, and comprises an existing cricket field bounded to the north by West Street and to the west by Lower Road.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies just below the 80m contour at the base of Harrow Hill. The land to the east and north-east of the site rises sharply while to the west it lopes very gently.

3.2 The local soils have not been systematically surveyed due to the urban setting, but an evaluation at The King's Head to the east recorded a topsoil (a dark-brownish grey, slightly loamy clay containing rounded pebbles) overlying

London Clay at depths varying between 0.33-0.88 m (Crank, Grant & Roberts 2003).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The earliest known document relating to Harrow is a charter covering a grant of land by Offa, King of Mercia, to Abbot Stidberht of St Albans in AD 767. Settlement has a long history on the gravel-capped summit of Harrow, and properties are mentioned in the area from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, comprising free tenements, smaller houses and minor cottage industries; all under the nominal lordship of the archbishops of Canterbury. From 1261 a weekly market occurred.

4.2 The Grove is on the site of the Rectory Manor first mentioned in 1233-40 which was a former demesne of the Archbishop of Canterbury (GLHER 13000; TQ 1540 8750). The lords of the manor probably lived on this site which was subsequently incorporated in to Harrow School. Documentary evidence suggests the medieval and post-medieval manor may have stood at Redland Road to the north (MLO 68499; TQ 1540 8780). The vicarage granted in 1233-40 stood south of the church burial ground. The present building dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards (MLO 15646: TQ 1530 8730). The modern development of the area began after the endowment of Harrow School by John Lyon in 1575. The Grove, a mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century house, and the Leaf Schools, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century stable buildings associated with The Grove, are Grade II listed buildings.

4.3 In 1990 an excavation near Yew Walk, approximately 250m north-east of the site found a ditch containing abraded Saxon or possibly Early Medieval sherds (GLHER 7987; TQ 1520 8755), and another smaller ditch and pit containing medieval pottery. Post-medieval finds were also present (GLHER 7988). Some 400m to the north-east in Church Fields, is the location of a double bank, possibly the remains of medieval cultivation strips (GLHER 15665; TQ 1510 8760). The Grove Open Space contains remains of the manor's fishponds (MLO 23409 & MLO 42731: TQ 1540 8760), and slight earthworks possibly relating either to a continuation of the banks from Church Fields or representing a carriageway to Rectory Manor (MLO 15664; TQ 1530 8780). A small section of bank and ditch of a former medieval lane is situated some 150m to the north (MLO 15667; TQ 1510 8740).

4.4 Also on The Grove Open Space is a mound excavated by Harrow School in the 1970s which is believed to be post-medieval (MLO 23403: TQ 1530 8760). Post-medieval cultivation soil was identified at The Park, approximately 450m north-east of the site (MLO 84734; TQ 1550 8750). Harrow Park is a small Grade II Registered Park and Garden (4179) designed by Lancelot Brown in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and located some 350m to the east of the site. It formed the grounds to Flambards House, largest house in the village, which dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century (GLHER 16094). The 1817 Enclosure Map shows the Harrow School building to the north-east of the church. There are few other buildings in close proximity but a pond is located to the north.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The project 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.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated ground reduction of parts of the site by c. 0.30-0.40m and service trenches along the eastern side of the site (Fig. 2).

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Two sample sections were recorded:

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 8)</i>		
<i>Service trench in the eastern part of the site, northern part, facing west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 80.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid to dark brownish grey, soft, clayey loam.
0.21m+	L1001	Natural light to mid yellow, compact, clay.

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP 10)</i>		
<i>Service trench in the eastern part of the site, central part, facing north-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 80.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.1m+	L1001	Natural clay. As above.

6.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.3 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid to dark brownish grey, soft, clayey loam (0.15 – 0.25m thick). The topsoil directly over lay the natural clay, L1001.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.



## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the village of Harrow and grounds of The Grove.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified except small scale modern drainage. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. No residual finds were recovered.

## 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited 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 Harrow School for their co-operation and funding the project (in particular Mr Trevor Gray, Estates Bursar, for his assistance).

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site of proposed re-shaped cricket pitch. Looking north-west.



DP 2. Central part of the site. Looking north-east.



DP 3. Eastern part of the site. Looking south.



DP 4. Southern part of the site. Looking south-west.



DP 5. Western part of the site. Looking north.



DP 6. Northern part of the site. Looking north-west.





DP 7. Service trench in the eastern part of the site. Looking south-south-west.



DP 8. Service trench. Sample section 1.



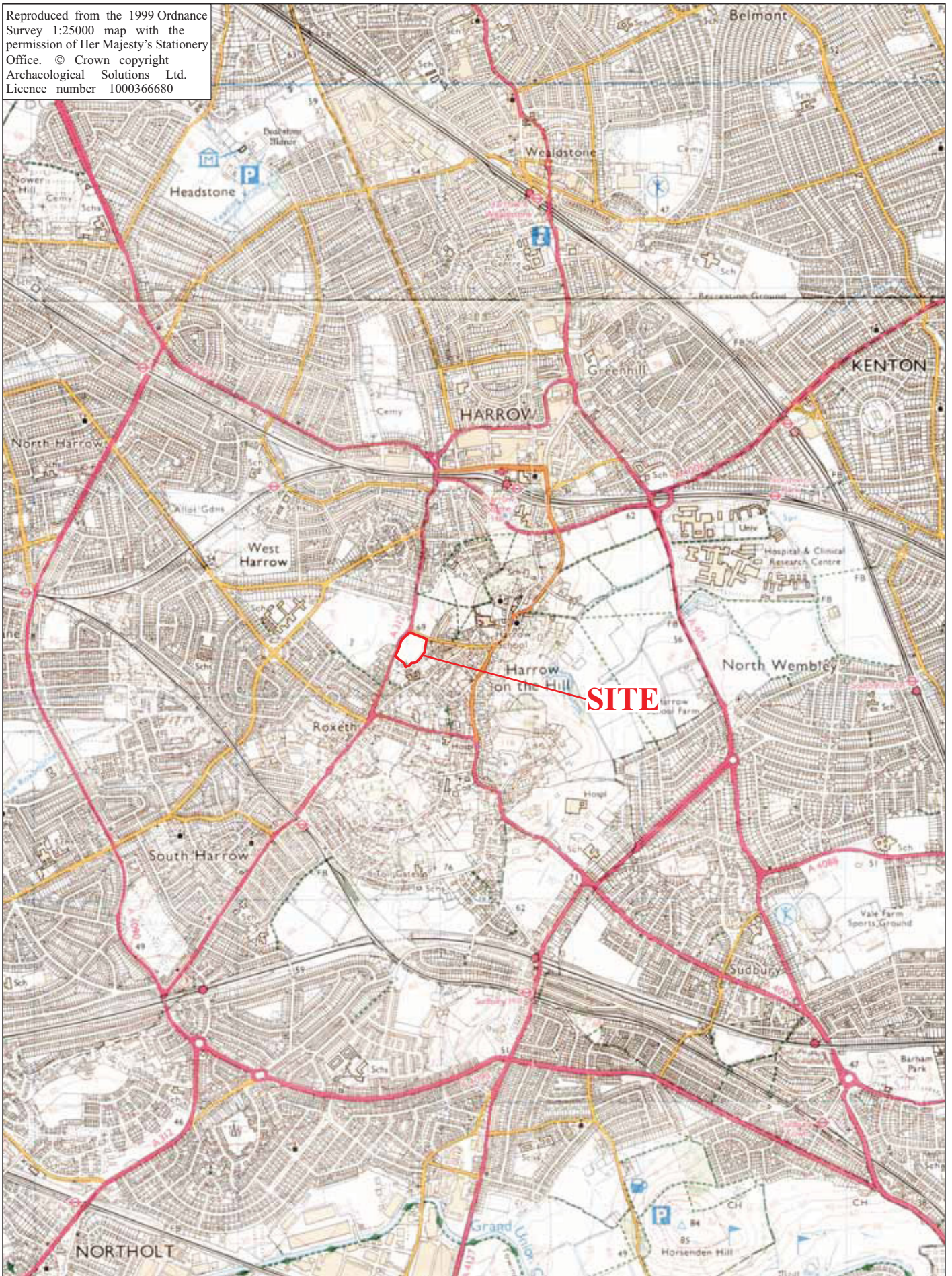
DP 9. Service trench in the eastern part of the site. Looking south-south-west.



DP 10. Service trench. Sample section 2.

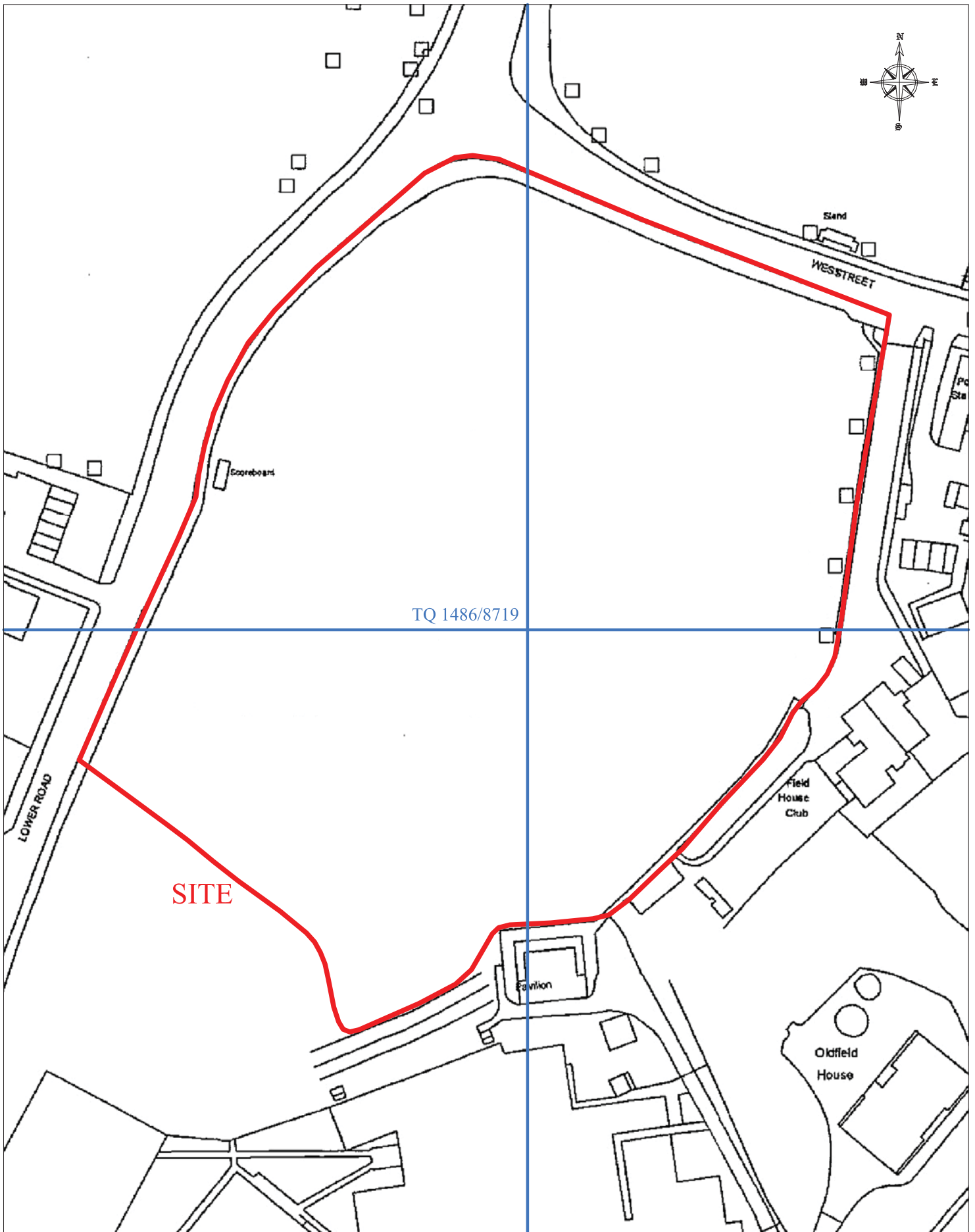


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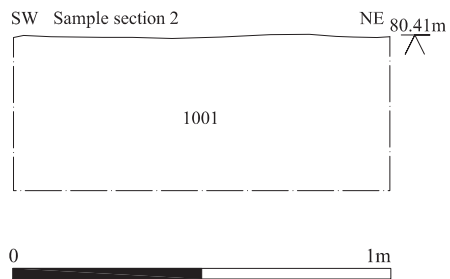
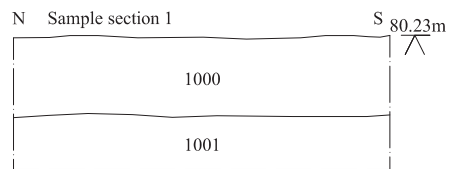
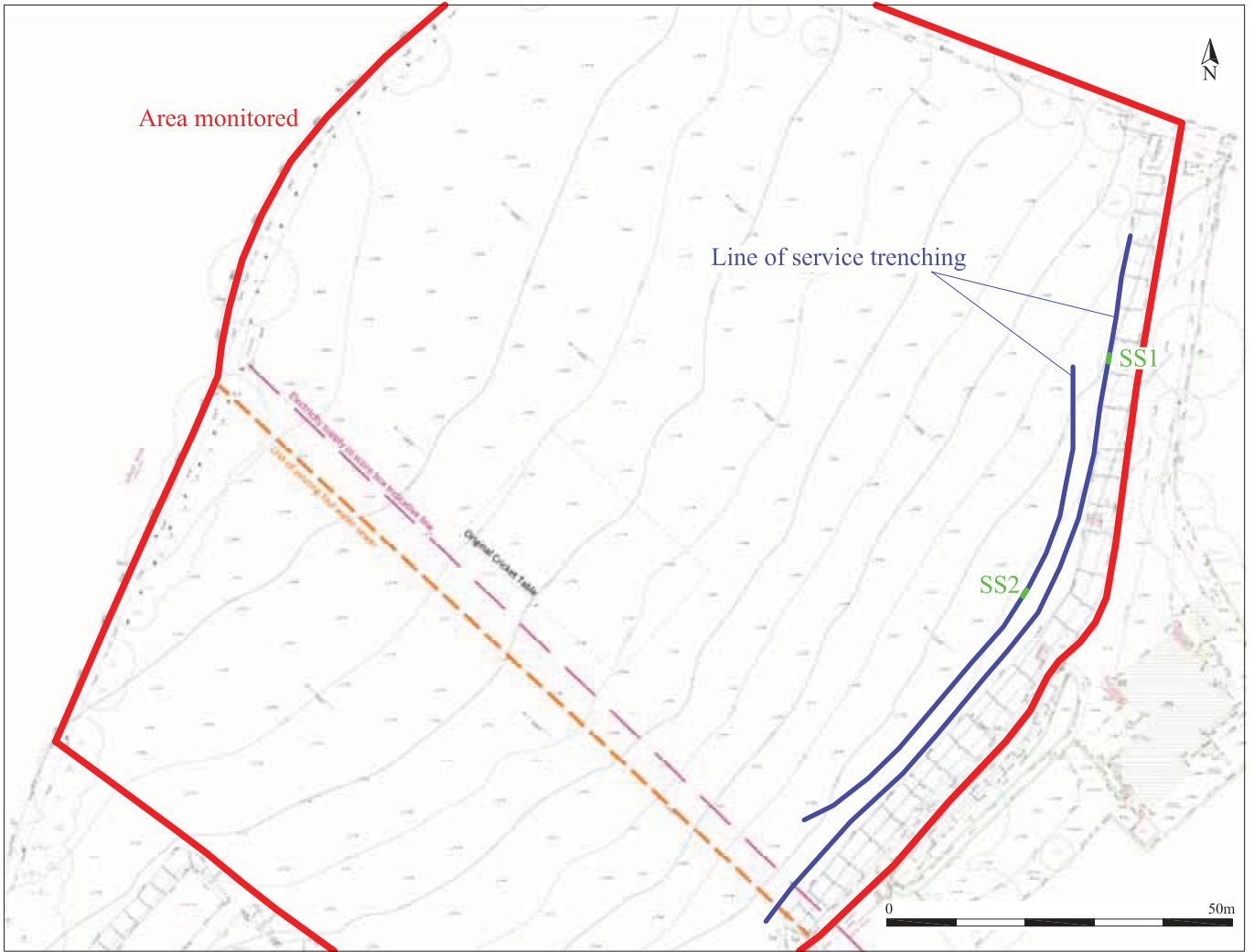


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**Fig. 1 Site Location**  
Scale: 1:25000





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



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**Fig. 3 Sections and section location plan**

Scale 1:20 and 1:1000 at A4