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**AREA G1
DENHAM PARK FARM, DENHAM
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 02150 90210	Report No: 4172
District: South Bucks	Site Code: AS 1009
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No: 2372
Signed:	Date: October 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Denham Park Farm, Denham, Buckinghamshire. Area G1</i>		
<p><i>In September and October 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Area G1, Denham Park Farm, Denham, Buckinghamshire (TQ 02150 90210). The excavation was commissioned by RJD Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological work (South Buckinghamshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/01260/CM).</i></p> <p><i>There has been little detailed archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site, although struck flints dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age have been recovered. Although a Roman road runs close to the site and a possibly Saxon lane demarcates the eastern boundary, little activity from these periods has been recorded in the area. Medieval settlement in the area is known from the Domesday Survey.</i></p> <p><i>The site has been evaluated (trial trenched) including a geo-archaeological assessment (Doyle and Hallybone 2006; Bates 2006).</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of Area G1 revealed no archaeological features excepting a modern land drain and former field boundary. Two struck flint were found.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>20-21/09, 19 and 24/10/2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>2372</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1009</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Gravel extraction and landfill</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bucks</i>	<i>South Bucks</i>	<i>Denham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Buckinghamshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TQ 02150 90210</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>64-85m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>BCC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski, Samuel Egan</i>		
Funded by	<i>RJD Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Area G1. Denham Park Farm, Denham, Buckinghamshire. Area G1. Archaeological Excavation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4172</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2012</i>		

**AREA G1
DENHAM PARK FARM, DENHAM
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In September and October 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Area G1, Denham Park Farm, Denham, Buckinghamshire (TQ 02150 90210). The excavation was commissioned by RJD Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological work (South Buckinghamshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/01260/CM).

There has been little detailed archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site, although struck flints dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age have been recovered. Although a Roman road runs close to the site and a possibly Saxon lane demarcates the eastern boundary, little activity from these periods has been recorded in the area. Medieval settlement in the area is known from the Domesday Survey.

The site has been evaluated (trial trenched) including a geo-archaeological assessment (Doyle and Hallybone 2006; Bates 2006).

The excavation of Area G1 revealed no archaeological features excepting a modern land drain and former field boundary. Two struck flint were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September and October 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation of Area G1, Denham Park Farm, Denham, Buckinghamshire (TQ 02150 90210; Figs. 1 & 2). The excavation was commissioned by RJD Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological work (South Buckinghamshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/01260/CM).

1.2 The site has been evaluated (trial trenched) including a geo-archaeological assessment (Doyle and Hallybone 2006; Bates 2006), and the further phase of investigation provided for the archaeological excavation of the site.

1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance to a generic brief prepared by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCAS), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 12th September 2012), and approved by BCAS. The project conformed to the Institute for

Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.4 The primary objective was to aim to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the quarry, and to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Topography, geology and soils

2.1.1 The site lies at a height of c. 86m AOD on the east and slopes downwards westwards to c. 70m AOD. The valley of the river Colne lies some 1km to the east, beyond the North Orbital Road. The valley of the Misbourne lies some 1km to the west and 2km to the south of the site.

2.1.2 The site consists of glacial sand and gravel which occasionally is very clayey (hoggin), which exists in greater depths towards the eastern part of the site. The gravel and glacial sand overlays Reading Beds, subdivided into

upper Reading beds (stiff reddish brown clays with silty clays and sandy clays in places) and lower Reading Beds (thick beds of sand). The latter were only recorded in the eastern part of the site. The Reading Beds in turn overlie the chalk. Overall, the geotechnical report records that deposits on the eastern side of the site are much more variable, both laterally and vertically, in comparison to the western side.

2.2 Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment has been completed (Doyle and Grassam 2005). In summary:

There has been little detailed archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site, although struck flints dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age have been recovered. Although a Roman road runs close to the site and a possibly Saxon lane demarcates the eastern boundary, little activity from these periods has been recorded in the area. Medieval settlement in the area is known from the Domesday Survey. The cartographic evidence suggests the site has not undergone any significant development.

A Geo-archaeological Assessment has been completed (Bates 2006).

Summary of findings:

The report was written to provide background information on the Pleistocene sequences of the study area and provide a geoarchaeological interpretation of the borehole records obtained as part of the site geotechnical study. Borehole records were consulted for this study from a report prepared by Greenham Construction Materials in 1998. Forty boreholes were drilled of which 1-31 and 37-40 were used in this study (Boreholes 32-36 were omitted as they lacked datum evidence).

The focus of the report was to ascertain whether or not there is likely to be Palaeolithic archaeological material present within the site area and if so in what context this material is likely to be present.

A strategy for further investigation is proposed (Section 9.3.1 below)

An archaeological evaluation has been completed (Doyle and Hallybone 2006). In summary:

Summary of the Archaeology

Sixty five archaeological features were identified in the evaluation. Thirty three trenches contained features. The majority of features comprised relatively shallow linears, especially towards the western area of the site where such features became more dense (Trenches 1, 4, 8, 15-18, 20, 49, 55, 61, 64, 67, 86, 92, 108, 114, 145, 148, 152, 181)). The shallow nature of the linear

features could indicate they have been heavily truncated by ploughing, and/or that they were used for field drainage or boundaries.

Some trenches contained isolated postholes. Trench 94 revealed one posthole, F1051, which contained Roman pottery (83g). Trench 96 revealed a posthole, F1029, and it contained a single struck flint. Trench 101 revealed one possible posthole or animal burrow, F1035. It contained no finds.

Trench 154 revealed two postholes, F1045 and F1047, which contained fragments of burnt flint and worked flint. The post holes also contained charcoal. They may have been associated and formed part a larger structure which continued beyond the limits of the trench. Posthole F1049 in Trench 158 also contained considerable burnt material within its fill (L1050) and may have be associated with postholes F1045 and F1047. This interpretation is tentative as Trenches 154 and 158 were a good distance apart.

Trench 90 had a higher density of features. It revealed three sub circular or oval pits (F1063, F1072, F1074) and a gully or elongated pit (F1061), all of which had been truncated by modern ploughing. Roman pottery (73g) was found in the primary fill (L1071) of Pit F1063, and fragments of an iron nail (6g) were recovered from Pit F1074. The function of this complex of features remains unknown.

On the western side of the site three trenches (19, 22 and 23) contained Iron Age and Roman features. Trench 19 revealed an undated gully, F1127, which was aligned NE/SW and a probable Roman ditch, F1125, which was aligned NW/SE. F1125 contained a substantial quantity of pottery: 107 sherds (685g) of Roman pottery including Samian ware. Trench 22 revealed a linear feature (F1102) and a gully (F1105). Both were aligned NE/SW, and neither contained finds. The trench also contained a linear/ elongated pit (F1093) which was aligned NE/SW and contained late Iron Age pottery (37g) and an ovoid pit (F1097) with no finds. Trench 23 revealed three linear features (F1084, F1086 & F1088), all aligned N/S. Linear F1088 was the only feature to yield finds, and it contained Late Iron Age pottery (8g). However, due their alignment and dimensions, it is considered that all three linears may be contemporary.

Perhaps the most significant finds were recovered from Trench 69. It revealed three postholes (F1011, F1017, F1027), and two pit/ postholes (F1013, F1015) which could form part of a prehistoric structure. A linear feature, F1021, was also recorded. The latter could indicate an associated enclosure system, in association with Tr.67 F1037. The finds data was consistent. Posthole F1011 contained an Iron Age pottery sherd (3g) and burnt stone (24g). Posthole F1017 contained Iron Age pottery (13g) and slag (6g). Pit/ Posthole F1013 contained a large quantity of early Iron Age pottery (421g) and burnt stone (220g). The isolated postholes recorded in Trenches 94 (F1051), Tr.96 (F1019) and Tr. 101 (F1035) are unlikely to be associated based on their distance and lack of contemporary finds.

The ceramic evidence suggests late Iron Age activity through to the mid 2nd century AD, although datable finds for these periods were only recovered in small quantities and the pottery was highly abraded. The latter may have been caused by ploughing, and the small quantity of finds likely reflects the nature of the site i.e. land in long-term agricultural use which does not produce a large finds assemblage (as opposed to settlement sites). Struck flint was recovered from the topsoil.

The evaluation did not identify any further activity until the late medieval period. Residual late medieval pottery was found within a post-medieval to early modern Ditch F1007 (Tr.110). Within Trench 10 post-medieval to early modern features comprising a building construction cut and associated features (F1069), and a further possible construction cut for a building (F1005) were recorded. It is suggested that these features were field barns or similar. Between 1825 and 1900 the site was divided into smaller land parcels.

Interpretation of the Site: Archaeology and History

The building remains located in Trench 110 possibly pre-dated a field system which was laid out between 1825 and 1900. The maps of the site for this period record the field boundaries, however, no standing buildings are located. Trench 110 is located towards the corner of a field. Tr. 110 F1069 and F1005 represent post-medieval building remains. According to the current farmer, many of the farm buildings he uses today had compacted chalk flooring when he first farmed, similar to L1144 in F1069.

Prior to the evaluation, no Iron Age activity was known within the immediate vicinity of the site, and little Roman material had been recorded. Viatores suggested that the line of Shire Lane, which bounds the east of the site, was the line of a Roman road. Based on their alignment and associated finds, Postholes F1011, F1017, F1027 and Pits/ Postholes F1013 and F1015 within Trench 69 likely represent the remains of a late prehistoric structure. Tr. 69 Linear F1021, and Tr.67 Linear F1037 may indicate an enclosure. Very few features aligned NW/SE were recorded, and therefore these features could represent an early field system or an enclosure. Ditch F1093 in Trench 22, aligned NE/SW, contained late Iron Age (early 1st century AD) finds.

Isolated Roman features were found across the site. Tr. 94 Posthole F1051 contained early to mid 2nd century AD pottery. Linears F1136 (Tr.18) and F1138 (Tr. 1) also contained Roman pottery (2nd century AD). Ditch F1125 (Tr. 19) contained late 1st – early 2nd century AD pottery. Pit F1063 (Tr. 90) also contained late 1st – early 2nd century AD pottery.

Preservation of Archaeology

The archaeological features had been truncated by ploughing. Generally the features were directly beneath the topsoil (L1000) at a depth of between 0.17m and 0.45m.

Finds and Environmental Evidence

The finds recovered comprise pottery, animal bone, struck flint, building materials, metal objects and shell. The majority of pottery comprises small sherds. The late Iron Age pottery is highly abraded and the Roman pottery less abraded. The animal bone assemblage is too small for comment beyond the identification of species and elements present. Even this information was difficult to ascertain from some of the small fragments. Much of the struck flint was recovered from the topsoil and not *in situ*. The building material comprises the bulk of the finds assemblage and consists of post-medieval peg tile and unfrosted brick. The CBM originates from post medieval to early modern farm buildings which were once present within a smaller field system.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The area of proposed extraction was subject to stripping under archaeological supervision followed by the mapping and archaeological excavation of all revealed archaeological features prior to extraction commencing.

3.2 The area of G1 in the central part of the site was mechanically soil stripped (Fig. 2). Some of the eastern parts of Area G1 were not stripped due to adverse weather conditions which delayed any further groundworks until 2013.

3.3 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

4.1 The area contained two linear features of post-medieval or modern date. One, aligned east-north-east/west-south-west and present in central part of Area G1, was a modern land drain. The second feature, located in the south-western part of Area G1, was a wide (2.50 – 3.00m) and meandering linear feature (DP 6). It represented the remains of a tree/hedge line.

4.2 No other features were present within Area G1. Two struck flint were recovered during the site walkover.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L2000, a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional stone (0.30 – 0.50m thick). Locally it overlay Subsoil L2001, a mid orange brown, compact, sandy clay (0.01 – 0.08m thick).

6.2 The natural geology, L2002, was present at 0.30 – 0.55m below existing ground level and comprised a yellow / brown grey silty gravel with frequent sub-angular flints.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 There has been little detailed archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site, although struck flints dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age have been recovered. Although a Roman road runs close to the site and a possibly Saxon lane demarcates the eastern boundary, little activity from these periods has been recorded in the area. Medieval settlement in the area is known from the Domesday Survey.

7.2 In the event Area G1 revealed no archaeological features excepting a modern land drain and former field boundary. Two struck flint were found.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

8.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Buckinghamshire Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank RJD Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the excavation.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr William Boismier of Buckinghamshire County Council.

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APPENDIX 1

SPECIALIST REPORT

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Two flakes (40g) of struck flint were recovered from Topsoil L2000 in an un-patinated condition but with dull surfaces and rolled edges. Both flakes are slightly thick, blade-like tertiary flakes, with rippled dorsal faces, hinged fractures and faceted butts. These characteristics may tentatively suggest a later Neolithic to early Bronze Age origin, but the slightly rolled edges suggest these flakes may have been repeatedly re-deposited by natural or human agency.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site, Area G1. Looking south-east.



DP 2. Area G1. Looking south.



DP 3. Area G1. Looking south-south-east.



DP 4. Central part of Area G1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 5. Southern part of Area G1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 6. Remains of landscaped tree/hedge line. Looking north-north-west.



DP 7. South-eastern part of Area G1.
Looking south-east.



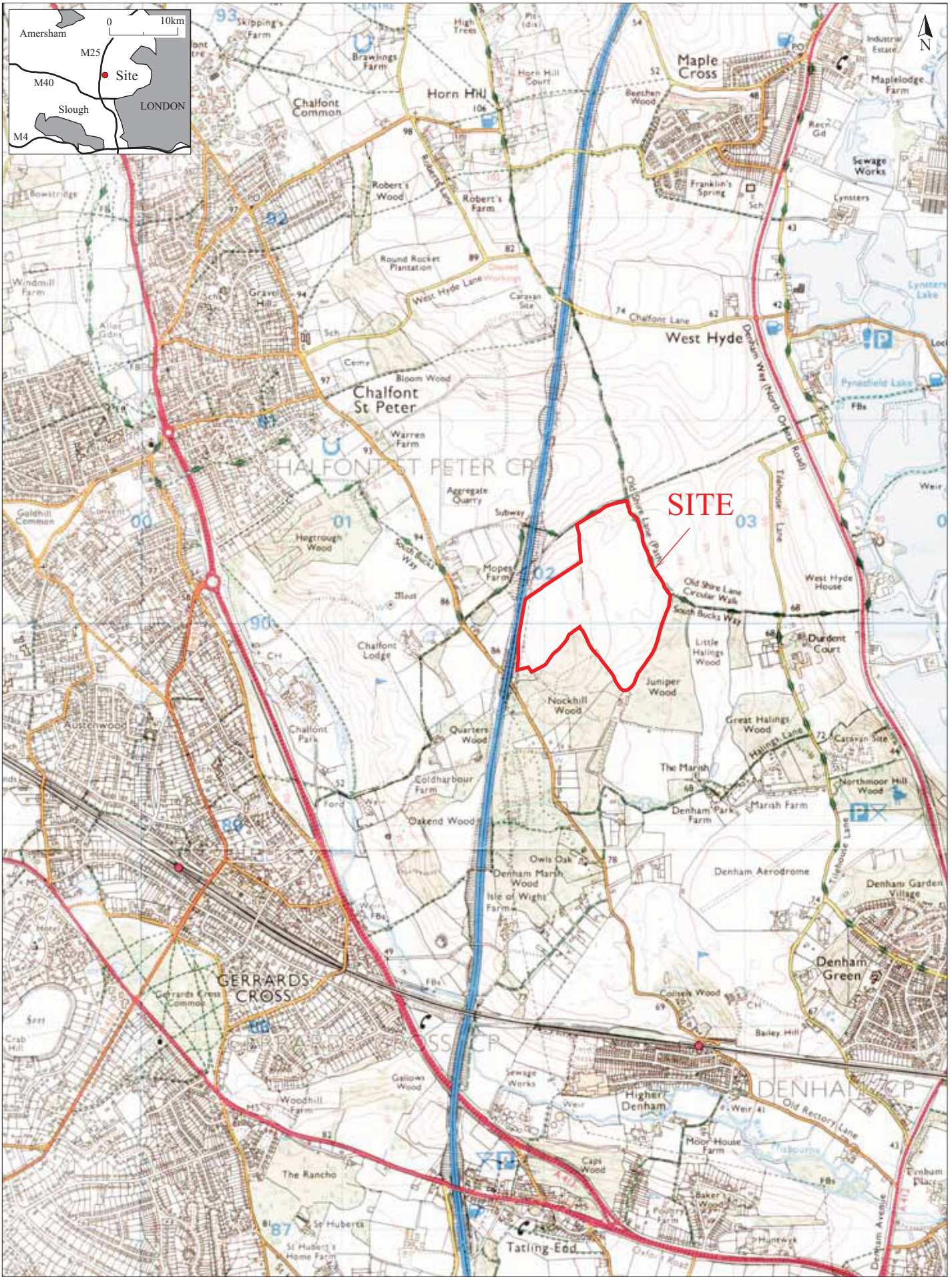
DP 8. South-eastern part of Area G1.
Looking west-south-west.



DP 9. Southern part of the area. Sample
section 1. Looking west-south-west.

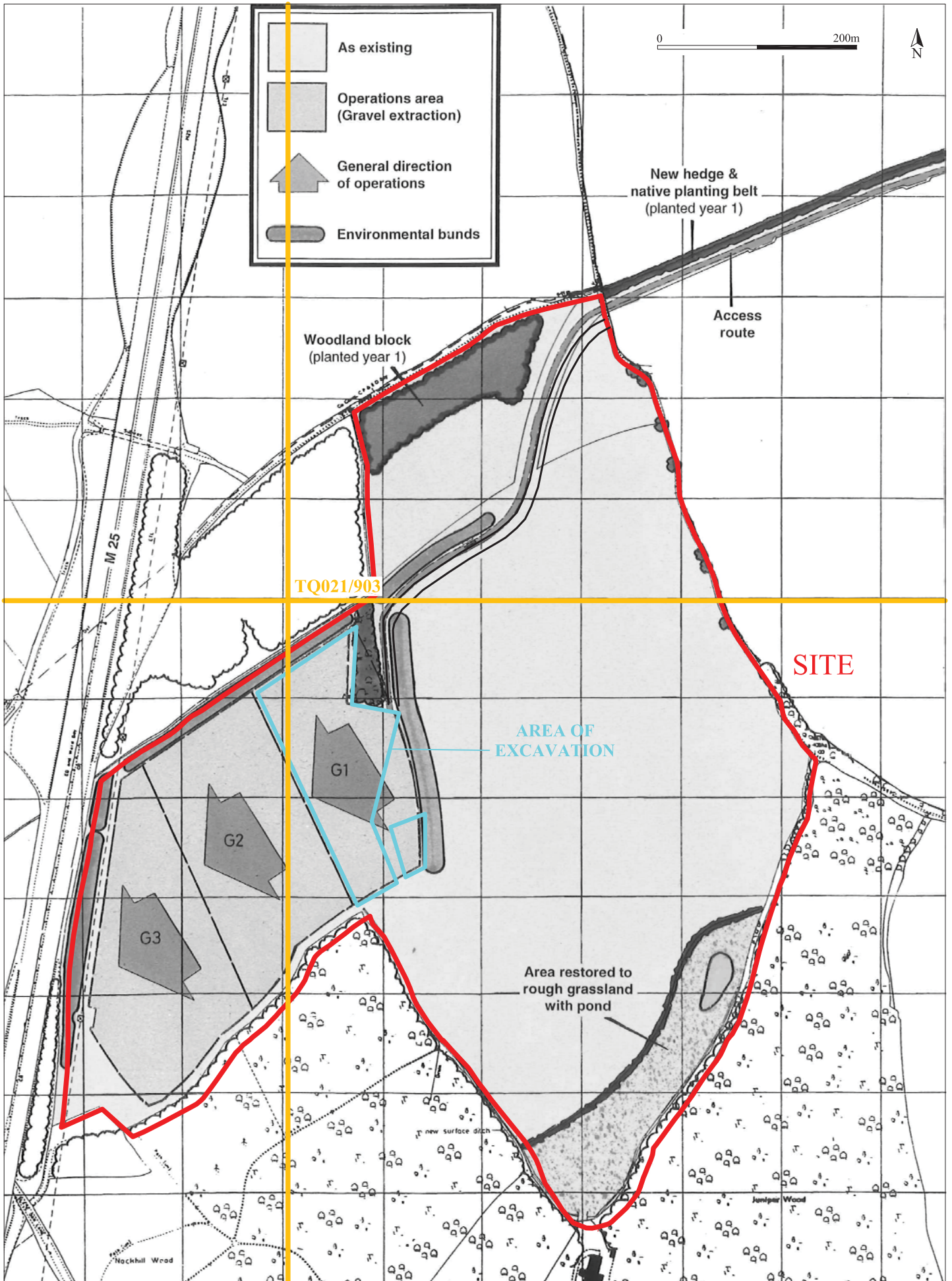


DP 10. Central part of the area. Sample
section 2. Looking west-south-west.



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



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4