

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND ADJACENT TO DUGGERS LANE,
BRAINTREE, ESSEX CM7 1BA**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Stuart Rathbone (Fieldwork and report) Megan Stoakley (Research)	
NGR: TL 7660 2231	Report No: 4113
District: Braintree	Site Code: BTDL12
Approved: C Halpin MfA	Project No: 4780
Signed:	Date: July 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Land adjacent to Duggers Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1BA. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Duggers Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1BA (NGR TL 7660 2231; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Alexander Sedgley on behalf of Westgate Healthcare Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a 32-bed residential care home with associated landscaping and car parking facilities. The southern part of the site will be retained as an ecological area (Planning Ref. BTE/00532/11).</i></p> <p><i>The site was considered to have a potential for archaeological remains with Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains in the immediate vicinity. It also had the potential for a water mill to be present at the southern apex of the site and alluvial deposits with the possibility of preserved organic material along the eastern side of the site. In the event the area investigated was found to have been heavily disturbed during the later part of the 20th century, with each trench revealing small building foundations and rubbish dumps. The area where the suggested watermill might be located was not investigated as it will not be affected by the proposed development, and the alluvial deposits along the eastern side of the site were also not encountered.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4780</i>	Site code	<i>BTDL12</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Undeveloped: trees, rough grass & fen vegetation</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of 32-bed residential care home with associated landscaping and car park facilities</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Braintree</i>	<i>Braintree</i>
HER for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM7 1BA</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 4007m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 7660 2231</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 39-41m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM; Maria Medlycott)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Westgate Healthcare Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land adjacent to Duggers Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1BA. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Rathbone, S. & Stoakley, M.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4113</i>		
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Duggers Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1BA (NGR TL 7660 2231; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Alexander Sedgley on behalf of Westgate Healthcare Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a 32-bed residential care home with associated landscaping and car parking facilities. The southern part of the site will be retained as an ecological area (Planning Ref. BTE/00532/11).

The site was considered to have a potential for archaeological remains with Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains in the immediate vicinity. It also had the potential for a water mill to be present at the southern apex of the site and alluvial deposits with the possibility of preserved organic material along the eastern side of the site. In the event the area investigated was found to have been heavily disturbed during the later part of the 20th century, with each trench revealing small building foundations and rubbish dumps. The area where the suggested watermill might be located was not investigated as it will not be affected by the proposed development, and the alluvial deposits along the eastern side of the site were also not encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Duggers Lane, Braintree, Essex CM7 1BA (NGR TL 7660 2231; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Neil Forster of Alexander Sedgley on behalf of Westgate Healthcare Ltd, and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a 32-bed residential care home with associated landscaping and car parking facilities. The southern part of the site will be retained as an ecological area (Planning Ref. BTE/00532/11).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Maria Medlycott at the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM) (dated March 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 5th March 2012), approved by ECC HEM. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

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 (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 The site is located in the southern part of Braintree, Essex. The eastern and western perimeters of the site are bounded by the river Brain and Duggers Lane respectively.

2.2 The land slopes down steeply from the north west to the east and south east (DP1). Prior to the commencement of work the northern part of the site was heavily overgrown with brambles, and there are a large number of trees in the eastern and southern parts of the site. The proposed development consists of a block of residential apartments to be constructed in the northern part of the site with car parking to the north and north east.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The eastern boundary of the site is located adjacent to the river Brain, and the site is at c.39-41m AOD.

3.1.2 The solid geology of the site comprises the Eocene London Clay formation, including Claygate Beds and Harwich Member (gpge; BGS 1978). The soils of the site comprise the Ludford association (571x) which run along the eastern and western banks of the north-south aligned River Brain. They are described as deep, well-drained coarse loam (SSEW 1983).

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Mesolithic - Neolithic

3.2.1 Evidence of Mesolithic to Neolithic occupation has been recorded c.250m to the north-west of the site at Skitts Hill (EHERs 6418, 6419 & 6191). Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements were recovered and also waterlogged remains preserved within alluvial layers. Archaeological excavations conducted at Mill Hill c.250m to the south-east of the site revealed Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements (EHER 18447; AOC GP 1999; Humphrey 2001).

Bronze Age – Iron Age

3.2.2 Evidence of Bronze Age occupation has been uncovered at Skitts Hill c.250m to the north-west with artefacts including middle Bronze Age pottery and flint implements (EHER 6420). Archaeological excavations at the old golf course c.250m to the south-east of the site revealed an isolated pit containing sherds derived from a bucket urn as well as residual late Bronze Age pottery (EHER 18447; Humphrey 2001).

3.2.3 A small assemblage of early Iron Age pottery (EHER 6421) was found at Skitts Hill c.250m to the north-west. Human remains, worked bone and antler and a whetstone (EHER 6424) were also recorded at Skitts Hill. The base of a large middle Iron Age pot (EHER 6412) was discovered 500m to the north. Three late Iron Age Belgic cremation urns (EHER 6416) were found c.300m to the north-west. Evidence of late Iron Age activity was recorded at Mill Hill c.250m to the south-east during an archaeological evaluation. A large late Iron Age ditch and linear feature were recorded, and also pottery sherds and a quern (EHER 18448, AOC GP 1999).

Romano-British

3.2.4 A small assemblage of animal bone, domestic pottery and a 2nd century cremation burial (EHER 6417) were recorded c.300m to the north-east. Artefacts including pottery, tegulla, flue tiles and oyster shells (EHERs 6413 & 6422) have been recorded c.250m to the north-west. A Roman road (EHER 6253) is located 1km to the north-west.

Saxon - Medieval

3.2.5 Braintree or *Branchetreu* is mentioned in Domesday (EHER 6409). The settlement was a minor element of the larger manor of Great Rayne which was owned by the Bishop of London (Williams & Martin 2002, 1047-1048). The sites of the late Saxon manor, chapel and church (EHERs 6407, 6410 & 6411) are located 350m to the north of the site. Numerous skeletons were excavated at the site of the former chapel (EHER 6407).

3.2.6 Many artefacts of medieval date (11th – 13th century) have been recorded within close proximity of the site, including pottery assemblages (EHERs 6414, 6415 & 6423) located c.50m to the west and 250m to the north-west respectively. A late medieval (early 16th century) oval-shaped medal (EHER 6408) was discovered c.50m to the east.

Post-medieval

3.2.7 Archaeological investigations (EEXs 53823 & 53828) at Mill Hill c.250m to the

south-east of the site revealed a post-medieval pit and a drain (EHER 18449; AOC AG 1999; Humphrey 2001). The former site of Megs Mill, located 100m to the north, comprised a flourmill (EHER 46096) and is recorded on Chapman and Andre’s 1777 topographical map of Essex.

3.2.8 The 19th century Skitts Hill Brickworks (EHER 15416) are situated c.270m to the north-west and the site of the Courtaulds silk mill (EHER 15833) is located c.300m to the north. The mid-late 19th century railway stations at Braintree (EHER 28102) and Flich Way (EHER 19629) are located 500m to the north and 600m to the south-east respectively.

4 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

4.1 Four trial trenches were excavated at the site, in the areas of principal proposed development. Trench 1 (29 x 1.6m) running east north east to west south west close to the northern boundary of the site, Trench 2, (31 x 1.6m) running north west to south east close to the western boundary of the site Trench 3 (7 x 1.6m) running north east to south west across the middle of the site and Trench 4 (24 x 1.6m) running north west to south east from the middle of the site to the eastern boundary.

4.2 Topsoil and overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision, thereafter excavation 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. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2-3, DP 2 & 3)

<i>Sample section: east north east end, west south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 =39.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, slightly compacted, sandy silt with occasional small stones and frequent fragments of modern CBM.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural. Light yellowish orange, compact, sandy clay with occasional fragments of modern CBM pressed into its upper surface.

Description: Trench 1 sloped downwards steeply to the east north east. At the western end there was a small 20th century brick and concrete foundation and a modern rubbish pit was present towards to the eastern end. The topsoil in the area around the foundation contained a large concentration of CBM and concrete.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2-3, DP 4 & 5)

<i>Sample section: middle of trench, south western side, facing north east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 40.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.06 – 0.68m	L1002	Made Ground. Mid greyish brown, compact, sandy silt with frequent small stones and fragments of modern century CBM throughout.
0.19m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features. The centre of the trench was occupied by a substantial modern rubbish pit, some 12m across which was overlain by the deposit of made ground L1002. Smaller rubbish pits were present to the north of the large pit, and a single pit was present to its south. A small modern brick wall foundation traversed the trench from north west to south east immediately south of the large rubbish pit.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2-3, DP 6 & 7)

<i>Sample section: north east end, south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.78m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m +	L1001	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. A large modern rubbish pit occupied the trench, and a small concrete wall foundation had been built across the upper fill of this pit.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 3, DP 8 & 9)

<i>Sample section: middle of trench, south western side, facing north east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.37m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20m +	L1010	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features. Towards the north western end of the trench very little topsoil was present suggesting substantial groundworks had taken place on the site. The trench contained several substantial modern rubbish pits (DP 10). A small brick foundation connected to a large concrete foundation was present in the middle of the trench (DP 11), and a concrete built drain ran across the trench close to the north western end (DP12).

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 Excepting the modern intrusions described above it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 overlay the natural clay L1002. Along the western boundary, adjacent to Duggers Lane, a large rubbish pit (possibly a backfilled quarry pit) was overlain by a deep deposit of made ground (L1002).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site investigated off Duggers Lane was considered to have a potential for archaeological remains with Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains in the immediate vicinity. It also had the potential for a water mill to be present at the southern apex of the site and alluvial deposits with the possibility of preserved organic material along the eastern side of the site. In the event the area investigated was found to have been heavily disturbed during the later part of the 20th century, with each trench revealing small building foundations and rubbish dumps. The area where the suggested watermill might be located was not investigated as it will not be affected by the proposed development, and the alluvial deposits along the eastern side of the site were also not encountered.

8.2 No archaeological deposits or finds were made during the investigations at this heavily disturbed site.

8.3 No archaeological remains were present. However the possible water mill and waterlogged alluvial deposits may still be present in areas that are beyond the footprint of the proposed development.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Westgate Healthcare Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the project, and also Mr Neil Forster of Alexander Sedgley for his assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Teresa O'Connor of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM)

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Accessed on 26th July 2012

www.old-maps.co.uk

www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

<http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>

www.britishlistedbuildings.ac.uk

www.british-history.ac.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

EHER No.	NGR TL	Description
Mesolithic		
6418	7655 2245	Mesolithic flints found at site of lake dwelling.
18447 EEX53823 EEX53828	768 220	Mill Hill, Braintree. Multi-period prehistoric site. 17 trenches were opened and the earliest feature recorded was a securely dated Bronze Age pit, 0.5m deep, containing sherds from a Bucket Urn decorated in a style typical for the area. Residual LBA pottery was also collected from the fill of a ditch. Also in Trench 3 was a possible ditch terminus, the fill of which contained abraded late Iron Age pottery.
Neolithic		
6191	76 22	Hammer stone found a few hundred yards from the supposed Neolithic settlement at Skitts Hill.
6419	7655 2245	Neolithic occupation. Features were observed by Revd JW Kenworthy in the late 19 th century during brickearth digging in the Brain Valley south-east of Skitts Hill. He observed timber and organic material in alluvium and suggested that they were remains from Neolithic 'fascine dwellings'.
Bronze Age		
6420	7655 2245	Knife, barbed & tanged arrowhead & middle Bronze Age pottery found at Skitts Hill.
Iron Age		
6412	766 227	Base of a large hand-made pot. Middle to Late Iron Age in date.
6416	765 226	Three Belgic cremation urns were discovered in 1903. Late Iron Age.
6421	7655 2245	Early Iron Age pottery. It belongs in Cunliffe's Darmsden-Linton group, 5th-3rd centuries BC in date.
18448 EEX53823 EEX53828	768 220	Mill Hill, Braintree. Late Iron Age ditch, linear feature, vessel & quern found during evaluation. Roman pit and coin found during evaluation.
Roman		
6253	764 245	Course of Roman Road leading north-south from Braintree.
6413	766 227	Roman pottery found in 1906 when the foundry was built.
6417	765 226	A scatter of animal bones and Roman domestic pottery (including stamped Samian ware) found at Mill Cottages. Cremation burial: 2 nd century.
6422	7655 2245	Finds from the site at Skitts Hill included pottery; tegulae; flue tiles and oyster shells.
Saxon		
6409	767 226	Although the place name 'Braintree' is mentioned in Domesday "it was a minor holding in the larger manor of Great Rayne, owned by the Bishop of London.
Medieval		
6407	7671 2269	Site of former chapel that lay south of the Bishop of London's

		manor house and the parsonage. Skeletons from the graveyard were excavated in the Albion Works area.
6408	767 226	An oval-shaped medal was found in 1910. Early 16 th century,
6410	767 227	The site of a manor of the Bishops of London since the late 10 th century.
6411	767 227	Site of church and chapel of early medieval settlement (i.e before the founding of Braintree in 1199).
6414	766 227	Pottery was found by Rev JW Kenworthy when the foundry was built in 1906, and in the area of Chapel Hill. The earliest medieval sherd is part of a Thetford ware jar, of the type produced in the Carr Street kilns at Ipswich during the 10 th to 12 th centuries.
6415	766 227	Late 12 th - early 13 th century and 13 th century sherds, in hard, sandy fabrics.
6423	7655 2245	12 th century pottery and horseshoe.
Post-medieval		
28102	7610 2274	Braintree Railway Station and former Station. The Maldon, Witham and Braintree railway opened in 1848 and the line was extended to Bishops Stortford in 1869. The railway station dates to 1865 and is of red brick.
15833	7660 2255	Courtaulds Braintree Mill. Early 19 th century silk mill, demolished in 1983.
19629	6292 2175	Bishops Stortford to Braintree Railway (Flitch Way). The former Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow and Braintree Branch Railway opened in 1869.
15416	7640 2244	Skitts Hill Brickworks. 19 th century.
18449 EEX53828 EEX53823	768 220	Mill Hill, Braintree. Post-medieval pit and drain found during evaluation. Later features consisted of a single, isolated, post-medieval pit in the southern part of the site. The excavation also revealed 3 large WWII bomb craters, which had been backfilled with local industrial soot and cinders.
46096	7656 2248	Megs Mill. Former site of a flour mill along the River Brain. Watermill or flourmill shown on Chapman & Andre's 1777 map.
Modern		
14210	773 219	Cropmark behind Stubbs Lane Piggeries.
15298	7668 2277	Albion Works (Steel Foundry), Chapel Hill. Early 20 th century large complex engineering works.
45168	7680 2265	Lower Chapel Hill, Braintree, Essex. Modern features and foundations of recently demolished terraced housing.
Undated		
6424	7655 2245	Undated human remains. Whetstone & animal remains (red deer antlers, worked bone & antler), plant & wood remains and a hone.
17487	761 221	Bone artefacts from Braintree.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of the site, looking SE.



2
Trench 1, looking ENE.



3
Trench 1 Sample Section 1. Looking ENE.



4
Trench 2. Looking SE.



5
Trench 2 Sample Section 2. Looking SW.



6
Trench 3. Looking NE.



7

Trench 3 Sample Section 3. Looking NE.



8

Trench 4, looking SE.



9

Trench 4 Sample Section 4. Looking NE.



10

Trench 4 Modern pit



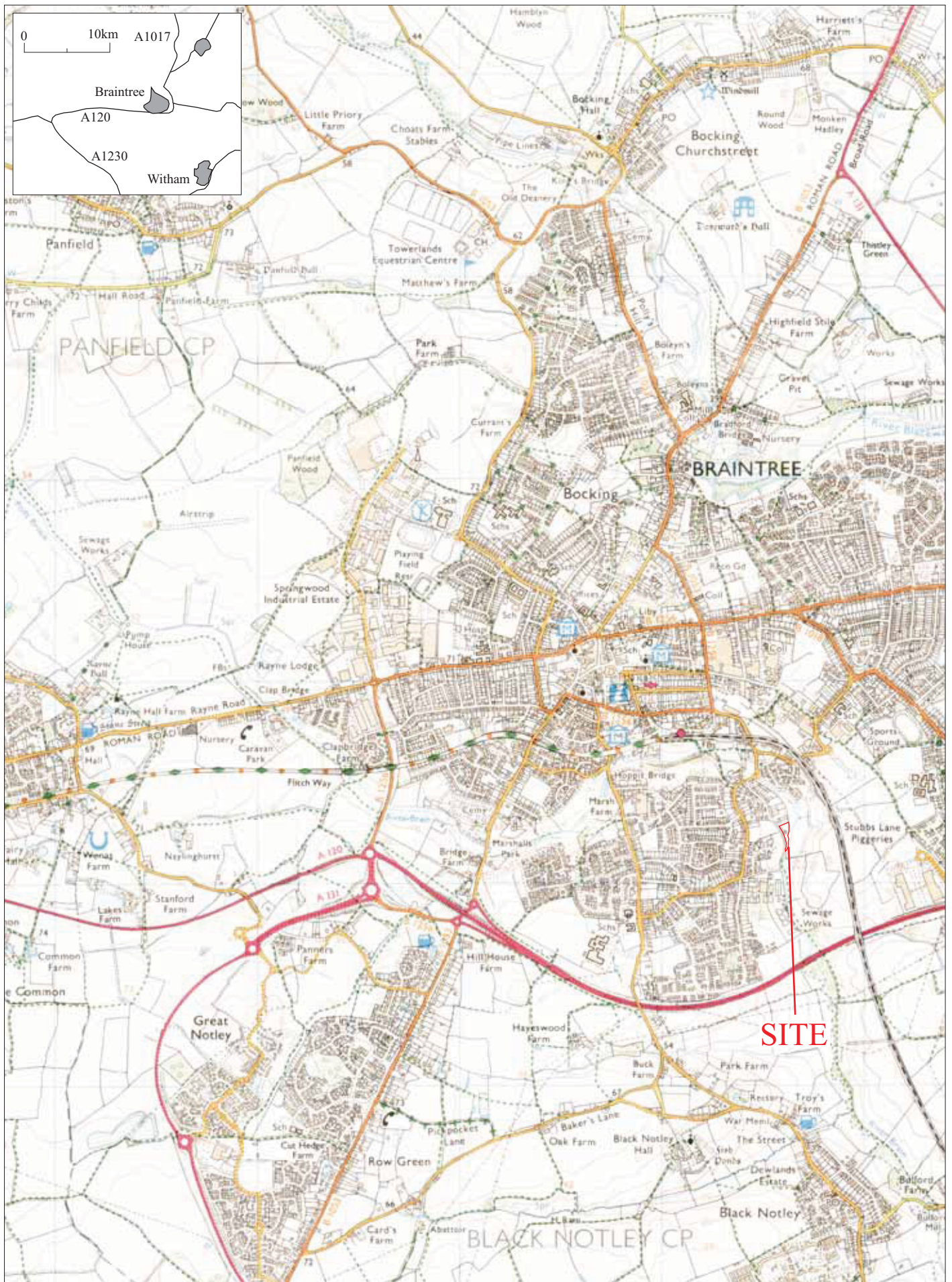
11

Trench 4. Modern brick foundation.



12

Trench 4. Modern drain.

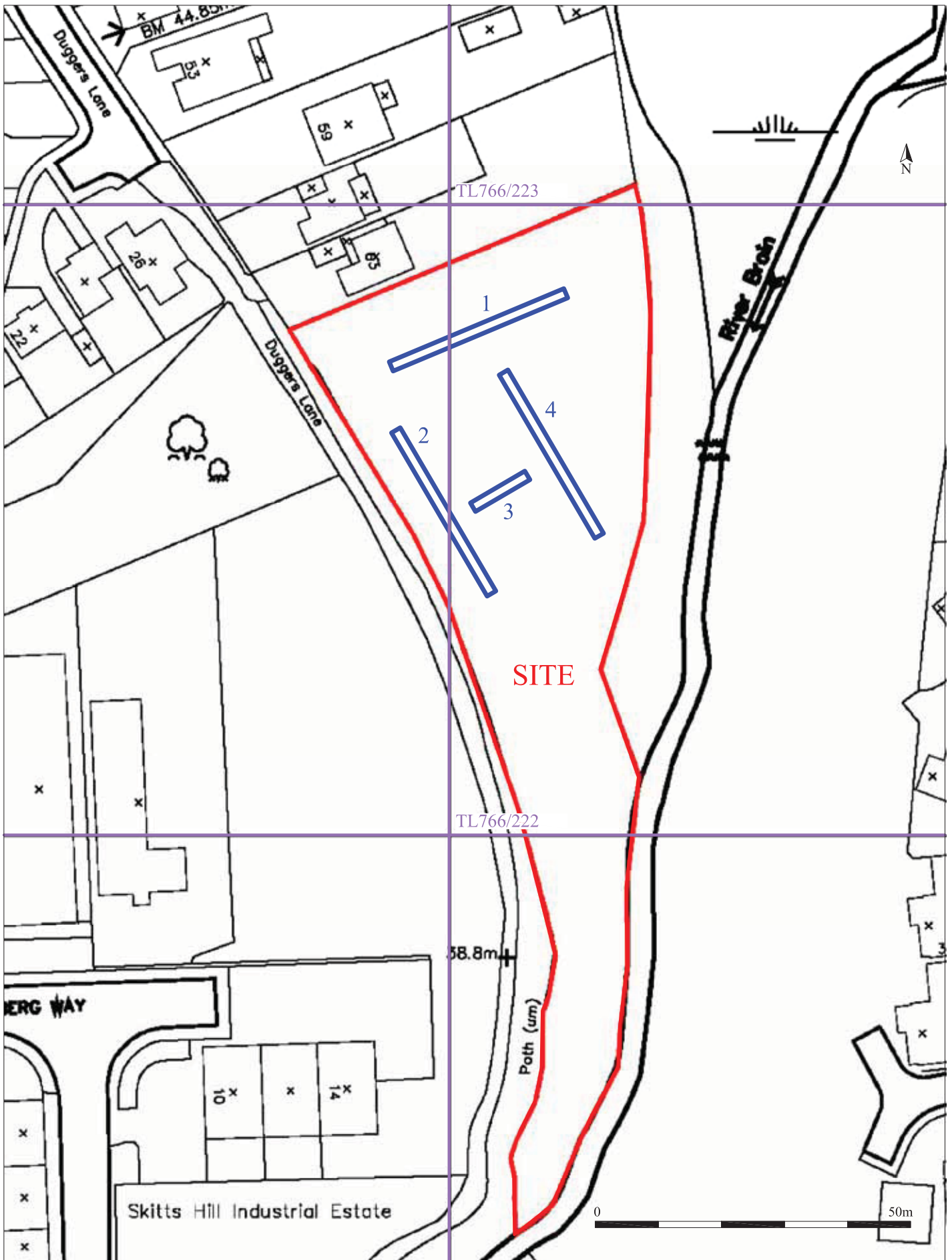


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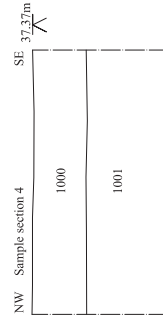
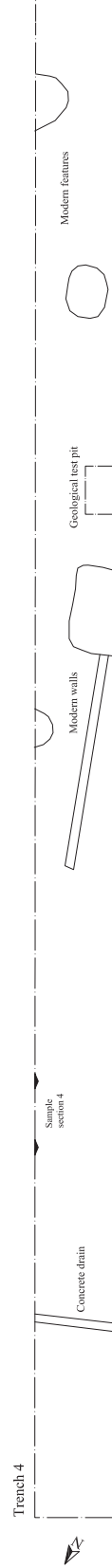
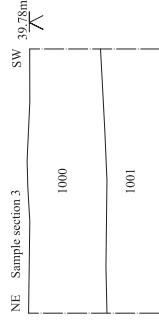
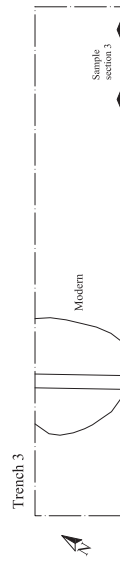
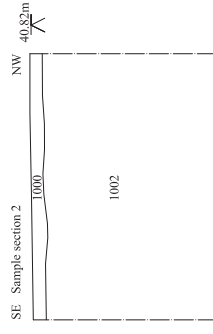
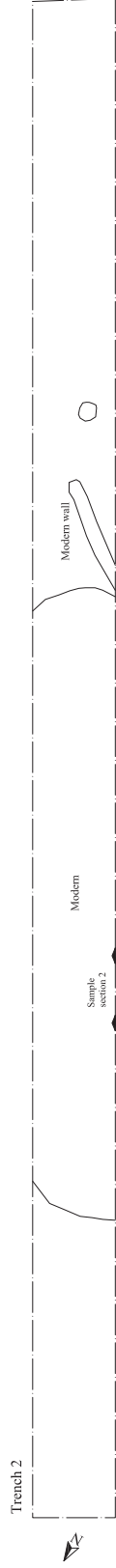
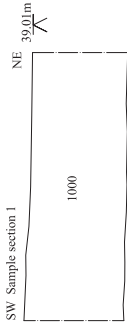
Fig. 1 Site Location

Scale 1:25000

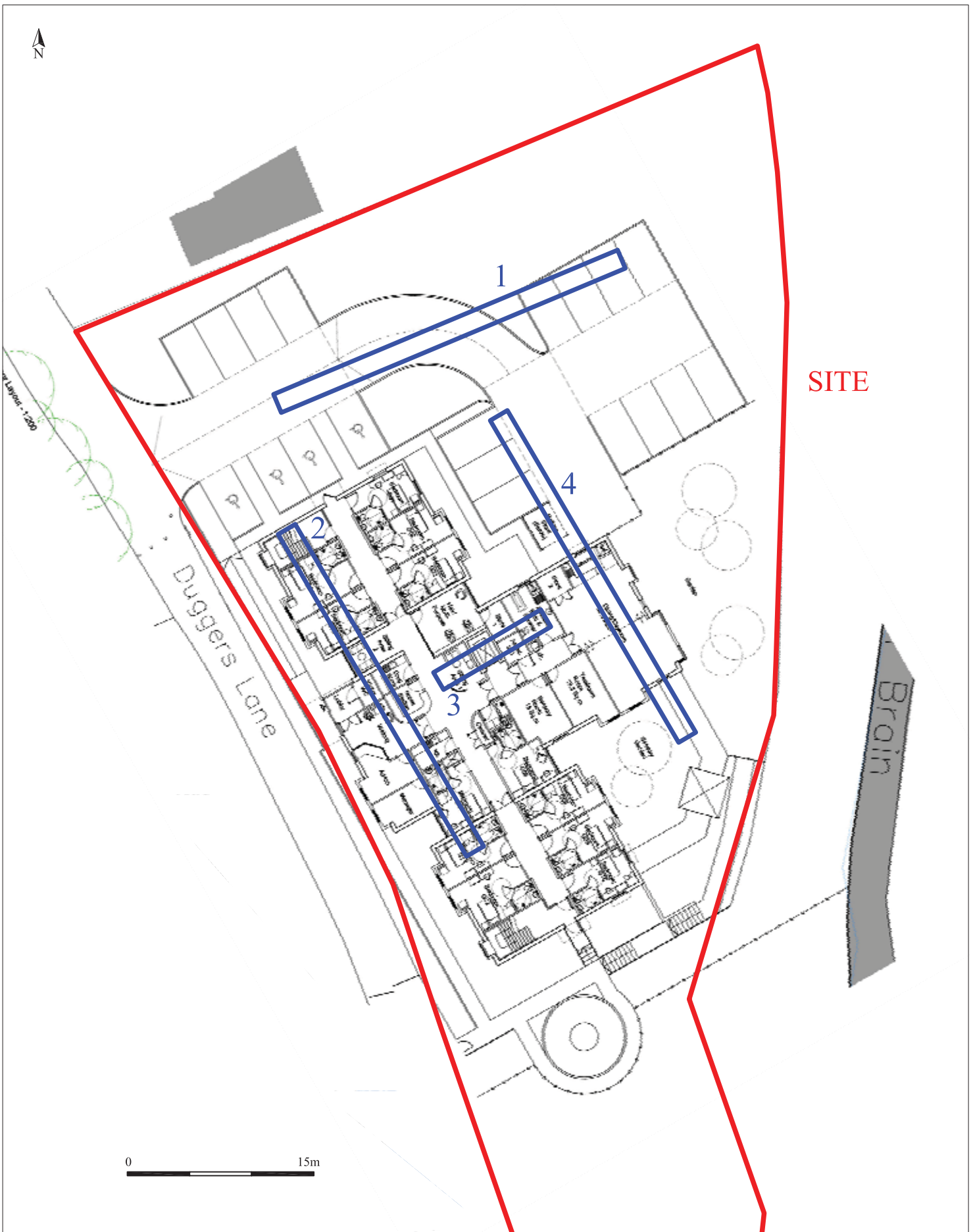


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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:800 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:400 at A4