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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**4-8 TAPSTER STREET, BARNET, LONDON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 24610 96515	Report No: 4264
District: LB of Barnet	Site Code: TPR 13
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4931
Signed:	Date: February 2013

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## **CONTENTS**

### ***OASIS SUMMARY SHEET***

#### ***SUMMARY***

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

#### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

#### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

#### ***APPENDICES***

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORT**

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	4-8 Tapster Street, Barnet, London		
<p><i>In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 4-8 Tapster Street, Barnet, London (NGR TQ 24610 96515). The monitoring was commissioned by The Peter Dodge Partnership in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a three-storey block of flats.</i></p> <p><i>Barnet (formerly Chipping Barnet) is an historic roadside settlement, located on the former Great North Road between London and the North. The site had a potential for remains of the medieval and post-medieval period associated with the historic core of Barnet. It also had a potential for earlier remains, in particular Romano-British.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed thick deposits of made ground. A sherd of medieval (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found within the made ground. The monitoring also revealed remains of a wall and a chimney breast of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century origin.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	04-16/01/2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4931	Site code	TPR 13
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Residential plot		
Planned development	New residential block of flats		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	London Borough of Barnet	Barnet
HER/ SMR for area	Greater London HER		
Post code (if known)	EN5 5TX		
Area of site	c. 300m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TQ 24610 96515		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 128m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Advice from EH GLAAS		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	The Peter Dodge Partnership		
Full title	4-8 Tapster Street, Barnet, London: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4264		
Date (of report)	February 2013		

## 4-8 TAPSTER STREET, BARNET, LONDON

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

#### **SUMMARY**

*In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 4-8 Tapster Street, Barnet, London (NGR TQ 24610 96515). The monitoring was commissioned by The Peter Dodge Partnership in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a three-storey block of flats.*

*Barnet (formerly Chipping Barnet) is an historic roadside settlement, located on the former Great North Road between London and the North. The site had a potential for remains of the medieval and post-medieval period associated with the historic core of Barnet. It also had a potential for earlier remains, in particular Romano-British.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed thick deposits of made ground. A sherd of medieval (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found within the made ground. The monitoring also revealed remains of a wall and a chimney breast of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century origin.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at No 4-8 Tapster Street, Barnet, London (NGR TQ 24610 96515; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by The Peter Dodge Partnership in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of a three-storey block of flats (London Borough of Barnet Planning Ref. B/03034/10).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a requirement of the local planning authority as advised by English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; archaeological advisors to LB of Barnet) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 11/07/2012) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the EH (London Region) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (revised 2009), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork in London*.

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 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 The site lies to the rear of the northern side of the High Street, Barnet, bounded by Tapster Street to the west (Fig. 1). It is a rectangular plot of land between residential dwellings to the immediate north and south. The building which occupied the site has been demolished prior to the monitoring.

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

3.1 The site lies on a high ground of c.128m AOD above the valley of the Dollis Brook to the south. The land descends towards the east. The solid geology of the area is Pebble Gravel overlying Eocene clay of the Thames Group (London Clay) (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are unsurveyed due to urbanised character of the area although soils to the north

are those of the Fforest association described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine silty and fine loamy soils, some with peaty surface horizon (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Prehistoric remains in the vicinity are limited but do include chance finds of Palaeolithic flint tools (eg GLHER 081851). During the Roman period, Barnet lay between the major north/south routes of Watling Street and Ermine Street. Work on The Bull Inn site at 68 High Street to the south (GLHER 081949) and The Mitre, 58 High Street, also to the south (GLHER 082277) have shown evidence for Roman occupation. Numerous horse bones and shoes (GLHER 081992, 081839 and 082242) and wells (GLHER 081889, 081848, 081844 and 081974) have been uncovered along the High Street, with material dating from Roman through to post-medieval times.

4.2 Barnet (formerly Chipping Barnet) is an historic roadside settlement, located on the former Great North Road between London and the North. The historic core of the settlement was probably centred on the area of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century church of St John the Baptist to the south west (GLHER 222005). The prefix Chipping refers to the market place on the Great North Road, right of market first granted to the abbot of St Albans by King John in 1199 (Page 1912). Medieval and later settlement grew up to service the needs of travellers along the Great North Road. Medieval inns are known along the High Street including the Red Lion at 70 High Street (GLHER 081841). Medieval pottery sherds are known from 74 High Street (GLHER 081833). Hadley Highstone to the north of the town was the scene of the famous Battle of Barnet 1471.

4.3 The principal archaeological potential of the site was for 'backyard' remains of the medieval and post-medieval period associated with the historic core of Barnet (such as industrial features, property boundaries and refuse pits), or any evidence of earlier activity (possibly Roman occupation).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for the foundations and the foundation pads of the new building (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated in sections and shortly after filled with concrete.

5.2 The archaeological monitoring 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

6.1 Deposits located within the areas of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4)</i> <i>West foundation trench, central part, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 127.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Modern made ground. Light to mid brownish grey, loose, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.10 – 0.15m	L1001	CBM rubble. Dark red, friable, crushed brick fragments with some gravel.
0.15 – 0.65m	L1002	Made ground. Dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM fragments.
0.65 – 0.97m	L1003	Made ground. Light grey, loose, in some places compacted, sandy gravel.
0.97m+	L1004	Natural mid to dark yellow, loose, gravel.

*Description:* L1003 initially appeared to be a natural deposit however further excavations revealed it contained dark grey silt similar to Made Ground L1002.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 6)</i> <i>South foundation pad trench, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 128.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.05 – 0.54m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.54 – 0.98m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.98m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above.

*Description:* The remains of a modern chimney breast (M1007) were present within this section.

M1007 was a rectangular structure (1.00 x 0.70 x 0.78m; DP 6) adjacent to the southern boundary (wall of neighbouring building). It was constructed of mid red bricks (0.225 x 0.120 x 0.045m) bonded with yellow a sandy mortar. The wall was a single-brick wide. The interior of the feature was filled with L1008, a dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments and gravel. M1007 was of late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century date.



<i>Sample section 3 (DP 7)</i> <i>South foundation pad trench, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 127.74m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.09 – 0.64m	M1005	Wall. Remains of retaining wall.
0.64 – 0.87m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.87 – 1.07m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.98m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 9)</i> <i>Central foundation pad trench, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 127.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.05 – 0.17m	M1005	Wall. As above.
0.17 – 0.60m	M1006	Concrete foundation/support for M1005.
0.60 – 0.79m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.79 – 1.05m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
1.05m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above.

*Description:* Late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century wall (M1005) was present along the eastern edge of the trenches for the foundation pads.

M1005 (10+ x 0.55m; DP 7-9) was a linear wall aligned north/south and it followed the line of the rear wall of the neighbouring property to the south. The wall was constructed of mid red bricks (0.220 x 0.105 x 0.060m) bonded with a creamy, chalky mortar and it had regular finish but irregular coursing. In the southern part of the site M1005 was present directly over Made Ground L1002. In the central part of the site only two courses of bricks were visible while within the rest of the structure consisted of M1006 (0.50m thick), a light grey concrete with single bricks. The concrete was a modern repair.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 10)</i> <i>Central foundation pad trench, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 127.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.23 – 0.76m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.76 – 0.98m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.98m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 6 (DP 12)</i> <i>Central foundation trench, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 127.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.74m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.74 – 1.20m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
1.20m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>Sample section 7 (DP 14)</i> <i>East foundation trench, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 127.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.75m+	L1002	Made ground. As above.

<i>Sample section 8 (DP 15)</i> <i>East foundation trench, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 127.49m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.72m+	L1002	Made ground. As above.

## 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 with the exception of the far eastern part of the site. The foundation trench located in this area was immediately filled with concrete for safety reasons and the only archaeological deposit which could have been recorded was Made Ground L1002 (0.75m+ thick).

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern made ground (L1000), a light to mid brownish grey, loose, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments (0.05 – 0.25m thick). It overlay the principal deposit present on the site, L1002, a dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM fragments (0.40 – 0.75m+ thick).

8.2 Below L1002 was Made Ground L1003, a light grey, loose, in some places compact, sandy gravel (0.20 – 0.50m thick).

8.3 The natural gravel, L1004, was present at 0.95 – 1.20m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, loose, gravel.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology associated with the historic core of Barnet. It also had a potential for earlier remains, in particular Romano-British activity.

9.2 In the event no remains earlier than the late 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century were revealed. A residual medieval pottery sherd was found within modern Made Ground L1002. The wall present in the central part of the site was almost certainly a boundary wall separating the building fronting Tapster Street from the back of the site arranged as a garden. The chimney breast was likely a

part of an earlier structure preceding the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century building which occupied the site until recently.

## **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 Mr Peter Dodge of The Peter Dodge Partnership for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

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Page, W (ed.) 1912 (rep. 1971), *The Victoria History of the Counties of England; Hertfordshire*, Vol III

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**APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Spot Date</b>	<b>Pottery</b>	<b>CBM (g)</b>	<b>A.Bone (g)</b>	<b>Other</b>
	1002		Made Ground	11-13th C	(1) 17g			

## **APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORT**

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The monitoring recovered one abraded early medieval jar rim sherd weighing 17g from Made Ground L1002. The fabric contains sand and dissolved shell, while the flanged rim and mottled dark grey and brown surfaces indicates the sherd is an Early Medieval sandy shelly ware of 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries date.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

*Sample section 2 looking west*



2

*Sample section 3 looking east*



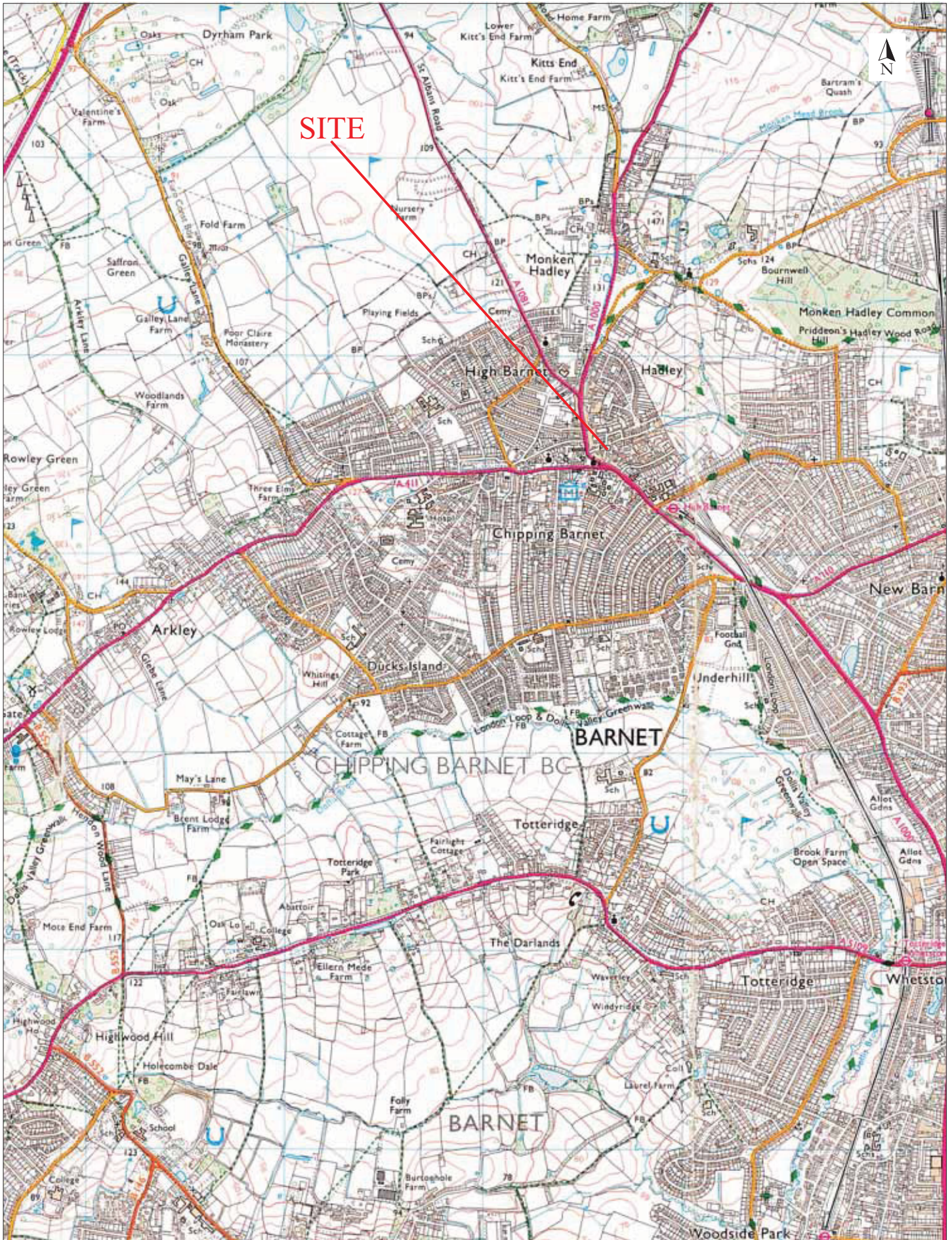
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*Sample section 4 looking east*



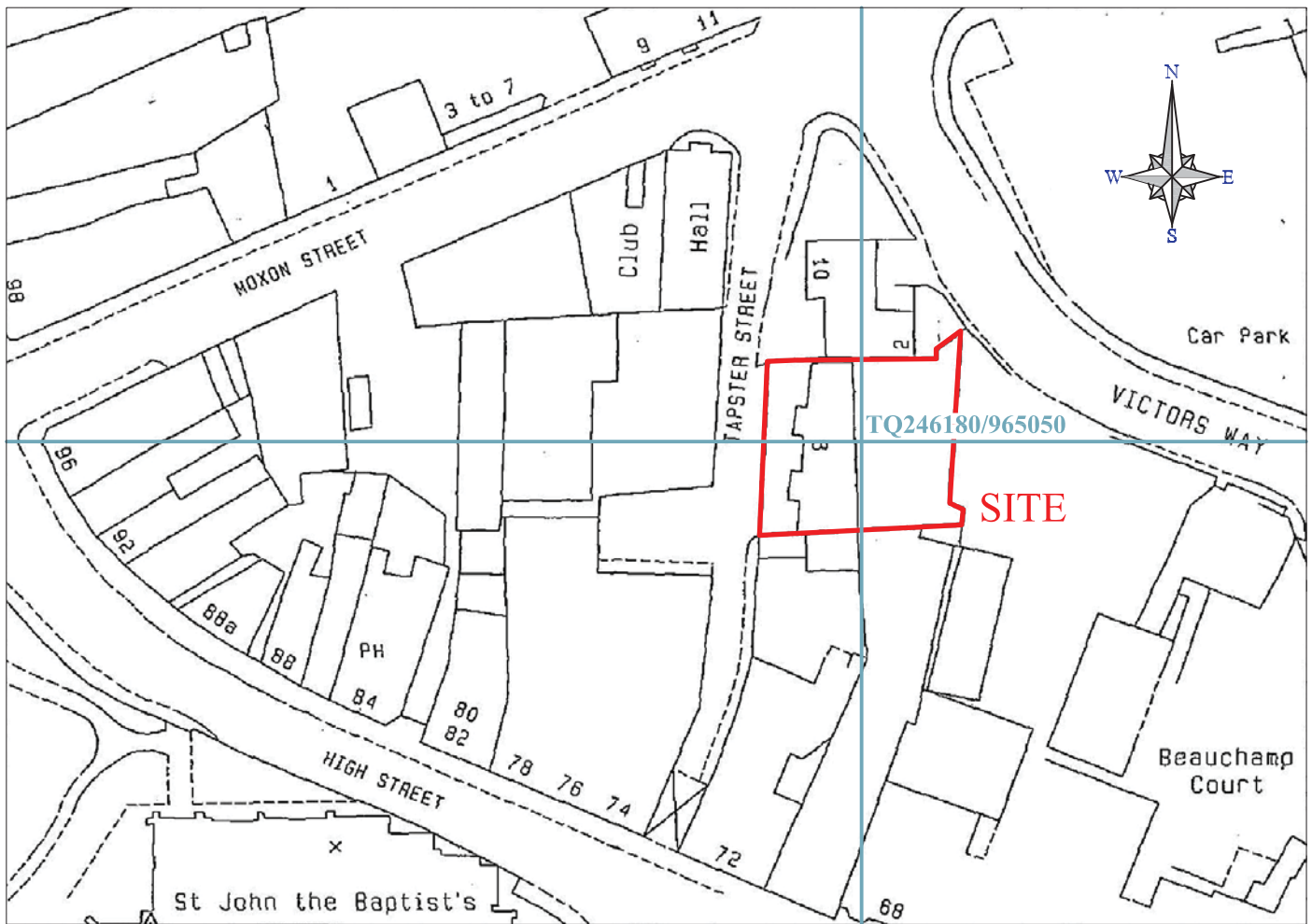
4

*Sample section 6 looking west*



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*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

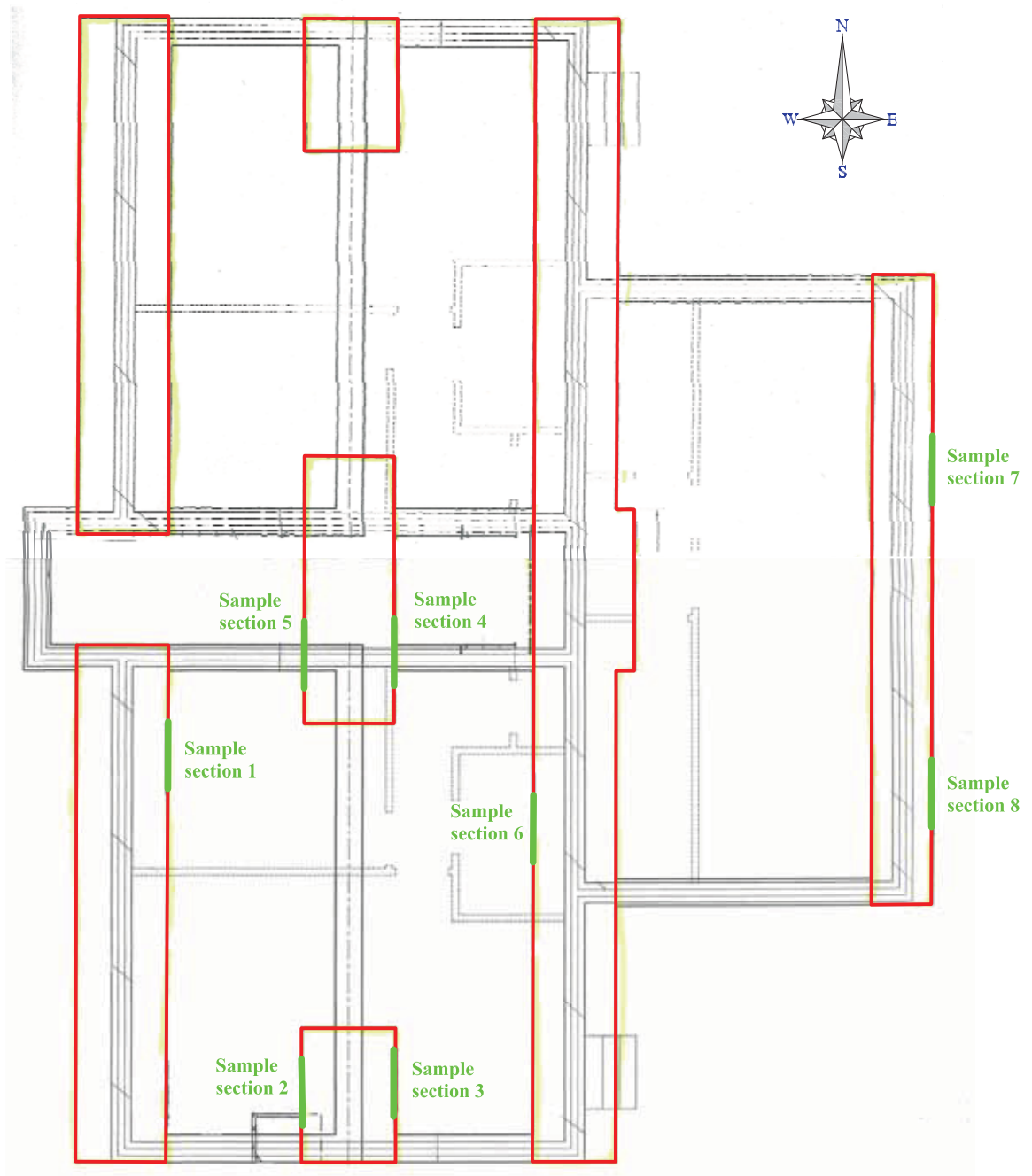


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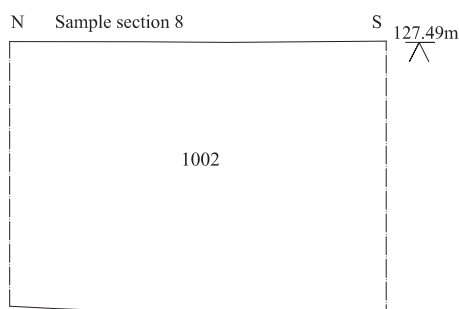
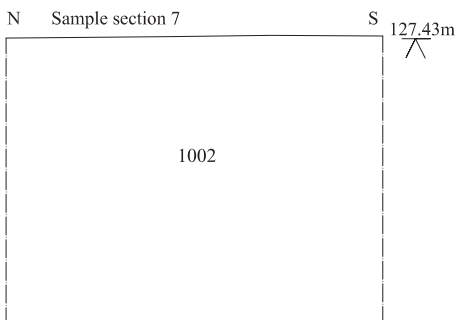
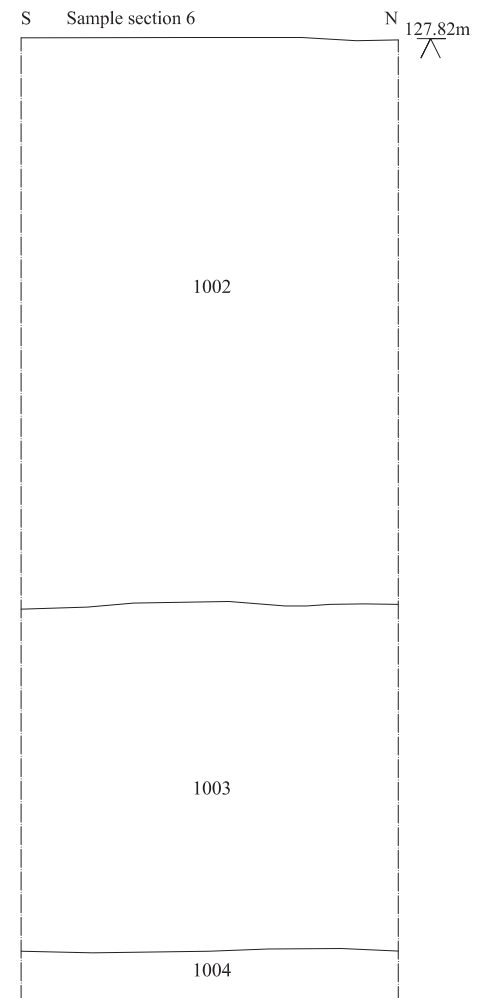
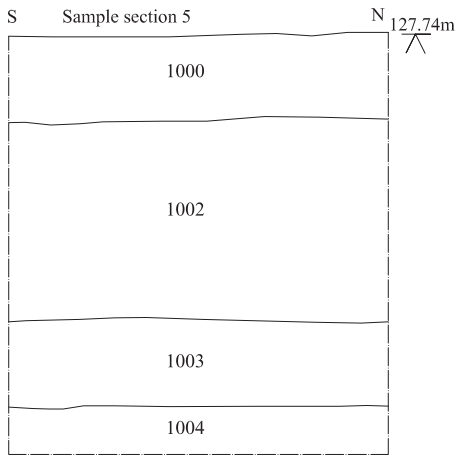
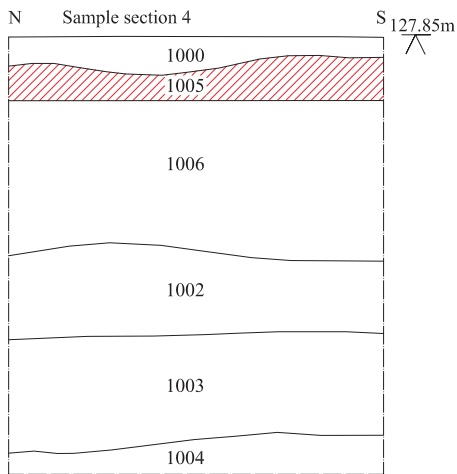
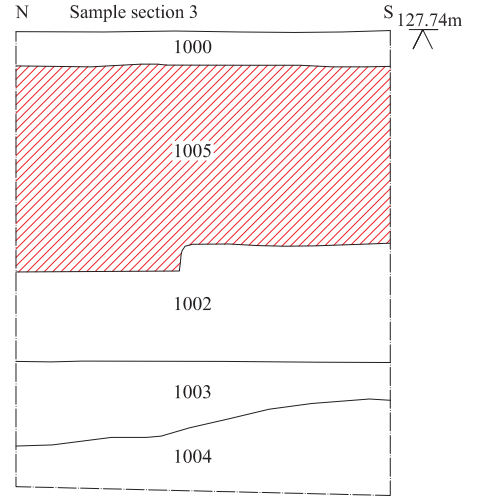
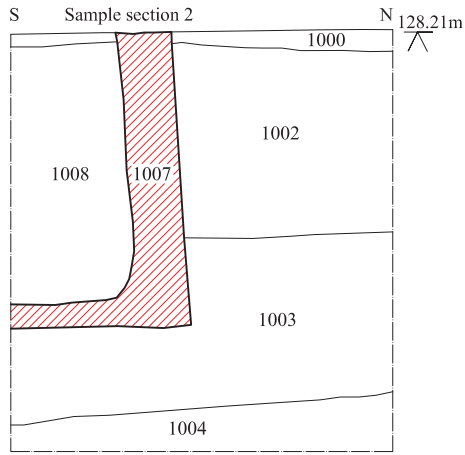
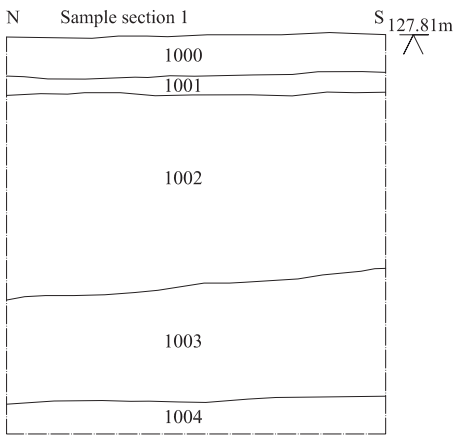
0 50m

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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4





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**Fig. 3 Section location plan**  
 Scale 1:100 at A4



 Bricks



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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A4