
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**STAINES PREPARATORY SCHOOL, 3-5 GRESHAM ROAD,
STAINES, SURREY, TW18 2BT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD' INVESTIGATION

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NGR: TQ 0436 7136	Report No: 4096	
District: Spelthorne	Site Code: AS1488	
Approved: C Halpin MfA	Project No: 4549	
Signed:	Date: June 2012 Revised: February 2013	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Staines Preparatory School, 3-5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 2BT. An Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation.</i>		
<i>In May and June 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation at Staines Preparatory School, 3-5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 2BT. The investigation was commissioned to comply with a planning condition attached to approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of a two-storey extension to the Gresham Road frontage combined with the construction of a new sports hall, changing facilities and an attached specialist teaching block.</i>			
<i>The majority of the archaeological remains discovered within the vicinity of the site are located c.1km to the north-west in the modern town of Staines where numerous archaeological investigations have revealed substantial evidence for prehistoric settlement. Roman Staines (Pontes) and the medieval settlement were both established in the area of the modern town and the site lies outside of these historic urban cores. Substantial urban development occurred in Staines throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.</i>			
<i>The site of Staines Preparatory School remained agricultural until the late 19th century. The school was founded in 1935 and the buildings depicted on the 1895 map eventually became part of the school. The plan of the site, comprising five school buildings with associated sports grounds, has changed significantly since 1895, with several modern additions and extensions. The construction of the existing school buildings, play grounds and sports courts will likely have significantly truncated archaeological remains, if present.</i>			
<i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	n/a		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4549	Site code	AS1488
Type of project	<i>Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
Site status	None		
Current land use	<i>Preparatory School</i>		
Planned development	<i>The construction of a new sports hall, changing facilities & specialist teaching block, including 2-storey extension to Gresham Road frontage building.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	n/a		
Significant finds (+dates)	n/a		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Surrey	Spelthorne	Staines
HER for area	<i>Surrey Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	TW18 2BT		
Area of site	c.17,000m ²		
NGR	TQ 0436 7136		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.15m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Surrey County Council (SCC)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Staines Preparatory School Trust</i>		
Full title	<i>Staines Preparatory School, 3-5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey TW18 2BT. An Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
Authors	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski (Antony Mustchin – Editor)</i>		
Report no.	4096		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2012 (Revised February 2013)</i>		

**STAINES PREPARATORY SCHOOL, 3-5 GRESHAM ROAD, STAINES, SURREY,
TW18 2BT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD' INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

In May and June 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map and record' investigation at Staines Preparatory School, 3 – 5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 2BT (NGR TQ 0436 7136). The investigation was commissioned by Mr. Rob Nursey of Robert Davies John West Ltd on behalf of Staines Preparatory School Trust and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of a two-storey extension to the Gresham Road frontage combined with the construction of a new sports hall, changing facilities and an attached specialist teaching block.

The majority of the archaeological remains discovered within the vicinity of the site are located c.1km to the north-west in the modern town of Staines where numerous archaeological investigations have revealed substantial evidence for prehistoric settlement. Roman Staines (Pontes) and the medieval settlement were both established in the area of the modern town and the site lies outside of these historic urban cores. Substantial urban development occurred in Staines throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The site of Staines Preparatory School remained agricultural until the late 19th century. The school was founded in 1935 and the buildings depicted on the 1895 map eventually became part of the school. The plan of the site, comprising five school buildings with associated sports grounds, has changed significantly since 1895, with several modern additions and extensions. The construction of the existing school buildings, play grounds and sports courts will likely have significantly truncated archaeological remains, if present.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and June 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map and record' investigation at Staines Preparatory School, 3 – 5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey TW18 2BT (TQ 0436 7136). The investigation was commissioned by Mr. Rob Nursey of Robert Davies John West Ltd on behalf of Staines Preparatory School Trust and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of a two-storey extension to the Gresham Road frontage combined with the construction of a new sports hall, changing facilities and an attached specialist teaching block

1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been completed (Stoakley 2012)

1.3 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a requirement of Surrey County Council Planning Archaeologist (SCC PA), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 03/04/2012), and approved by the SCC PA. The English Heritage (London Region) Archaeological Guidance Papers were adhered to (in particular *AGP 1, 3 and 4*, all revised 1998), in addition to the English Heritage Archaeological Science Advisors' *Model clauses on Archaeological Science for Briefs and Specifications* (2000) and document *Environmental Archaeology, a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011). The project was also conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Excavations* (revised 2008).

1.4 The objectives of the project of archaeological investigation were:

- Archaeological monitoring during removal of the hard standing overlying the proposed new building footprint
- Archaeological investigation by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the areas subject to the new development (new block), with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed.

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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Staines is a town on the river Thames in the borough of Spelthorne, Surrey. It is a suburban development within the London Commuter Belt of South East England and the built up Greater London Urban Area. Egham is located c.3km to the south-west, East Bedfont c.4km to the north-east, Ashford c.2km to the east and Laleham c.2.5km to the south. Staines lies immediately to the south of large reservoirs including the Staines and King George VI to the north and Wraysbury Reservoir to the north-west. The Queen Mary reservoir is located c.2km to the south-east. The M25 motorway runs immediately to the west of Staines and a large road network is located immediately to the north, including the roads A30, the A3044 the A308 and the A320. The river Thames flows through the western part of the town.

2.2 The site is located c. 850m – 1km to the south-east of the town on Gresham Road (Figs. 1 and 2). It is located c. 500m west of Shortwood Common and c. 250m to the south-west of Knowle Green. The railway station is situated c. 250m to the north-west of the site. The site currently comprises a preparatory school with five main buildings, areas of hard-standing and concrete with a grass playing field, sports courts to the south and south-east and a wooded area to the south-west. The site comprises an irregular rectangular plot with an area of c. 17,000m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on relatively level ground at c. 15m AOD. It is underlain by a solid geology of London Clay. The soils present on the site remain unsurveyed. To the west lie soils of the Fladbury 3 association, which are defined as river alluvium overlaid by stoneless clayey, fine silty and fine loamy soils affected by groundwater.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared (Stoakley 2012). In summary:

The majority of the archaeological remains discovered within the vicinity of the site are located c. 1km to the north-west in the modern town of Staines where numerous archaeological investigations have revealed substantial evidence for prehistoric settlement. Roman Staines (Pontes) and the medieval settlement were both established in the area of the modern town and the site lies outside of these historic urban cores. Substantial urban development occurred in Staines throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The site of Staines Preparatory School remained agricultural until the late 19th century. The school was founded in 1935 and the buildings depicted on the 1895 map eventually became part of the school. The plan of the site, comprising five school buildings with associated sports grounds, has changed significantly since 1895, with several modern additions and extensions. The construction of the existing school buildings, play grounds and sports courts will likely have significantly truncated archaeological remains, if present. The proposed redevelopment of the site will impact archaeological remains, if they have survived previous building work and are present.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. On the basis of the assessment SCC required that the groundworks be subject to archaeological monitoring, to initially comprise the shallow ground reduction (c. 0.10 to 0.20m deep) within the footprint of the proposed new development (which did not reveal the natural deposits) and then the foundation pads/ service trenches below this level (Fig. 3).

5.2 The principal elements monitored were the temporary access road, the proposed development footprint and service and pad foundation trenches (Fig. 3).

5.3 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. Soil profiles 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 (Figs. 3 and 4)

<i>Sample Section 1</i> 0.00 = 15.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Tarmac. Dark bluish grey, compact.
0.06 – 0.25m	L1001	Made ground. Mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent modern CBM and gravel.
0.25 – 0.40m	L1002	CBM rubble. Crushed and compacted CBM and concrete.
0.40 – 0.60m	L1003	Made ground. Light brown, compact, sandy silt with frequent gravel
0.60m+	L1004	Natural gravel. Mid – dark yellow, loose, silty sand and gravel.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> 0.00 = 15.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.58m	L1005	Modern made ground. Mixed grey, brown and yellow, loose, silty sand.
0.58m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS1.

<i>Sample Section 3</i> 0.00 = 15.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.70m	L1006	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown, compact, sandy gravel.
0.70m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS1.

<i>Sample Section 4</i> <i>0.00 = 15.48m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1007	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small stones.
0.15 – 0.20m	L1008	Clinker. Black, friable, mixture of grit and small stones.
0.20 – 0.90m	L1006	Subsoil. As above SS3.
0.90m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS1.

<i>Sample Section 5</i> <i>0.00 = 15.49m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1001	Made ground. As above SS1.
0.30 – 0.94m	L1003	Made ground. As above SS1.
0.94m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS1.

<i>Sample Section 6</i> <i>0.00 = 15.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1001	Made ground. As above SS1.
0.50 – 0.84m	L1003	Made ground. As above SS1.
0.84m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS1.

<i>Sample Section 7</i> <i>0.00 = 15.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.93m	L1005	Made ground. As above SS2
0.93m+	L1004	Natural gravel. As above SS2.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

6.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern made ground deposits c. 0.60m deep. These were the only deposits exposed by shallow ground reduction within the proposed development footprint (Fig. 3). Within the monitored groundworks for foundation pads/ service trenches, these deposits were found to directly overlay the natural gravel (L1004), a mid – dark yellow, loose, silty sand and gravel. Subsoil L1006, a mid yellowish brown, compact, sandy gravel, was recorded overlaying L1004 in Sample Sections 3 and 4 only, and survived to a depth of 0.70m in both instances (Figs. 3 and 4).

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 investigation.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The majority of the archaeological remains discovered within the vicinity of the site are located c. 1km to the north-west in the modern town of Staines, where numerous archaeological investigations have revealed substantial evidence for prehistoric settlement. Roman Staines (*Pontes*) and the medieval settlement were both established in the area of the modern town; the current site lies beyond these

historic urban cores. Substantial urban development occurred in Staines throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Substantial evidence of the previous development of the site and truncation was ubiquitous however. It is possible, albeit tentatively, that *in situ* archaeological features and finds survive in discrete ‘pockets’ of the site where Subsoil L1006 overlays the natural gravel, either between or beneath areas of modern development/ truncation. The monitored groundworks were predominantly shallow (c. 0.10 to 0.20m) however and undisturbed subsoil was only recorded in two instances. No residual finds were recovered.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Spelthorne Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Staines Preparatory School for their co-operation and funding the archaeological investigation, and also their Planning Consultants Robert Davies John West Ltd (in particular Mr Rob Nursery for his assistance). AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main building contractor.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr. Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team.

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

Stoakley, M. 2012, *Staines Preparatory School, 3-5 Gresham Road, Staines, Surrey, TW18 2BT. An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report no. 4014

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1
Topsoil strip, taken from the south



DP 2
Temporary access road, taken from the north-west



DP 3
Topsoil stripped for the site compound, taken from the south-east



DP 4
Service trench monitored during first visit, taken from the south-east



DP 5
Service trench, sample section 1



DP 6
Service trench, sample section 2



DP 7
Sample section 5, taken from the south-east



DP 8
Sample section 6, taken from the north-west



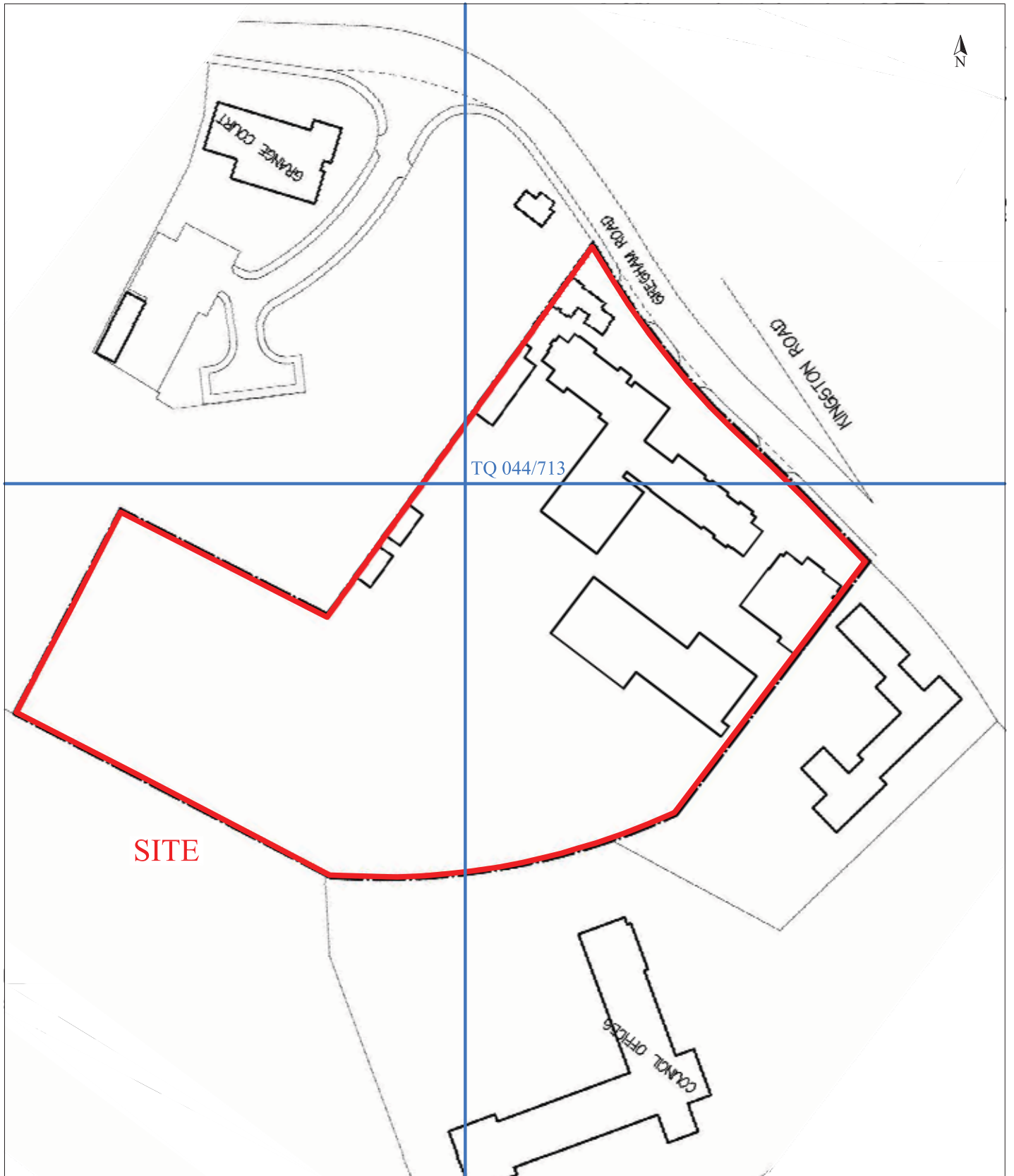
DP 9
Sample section 7, taken from the north-west



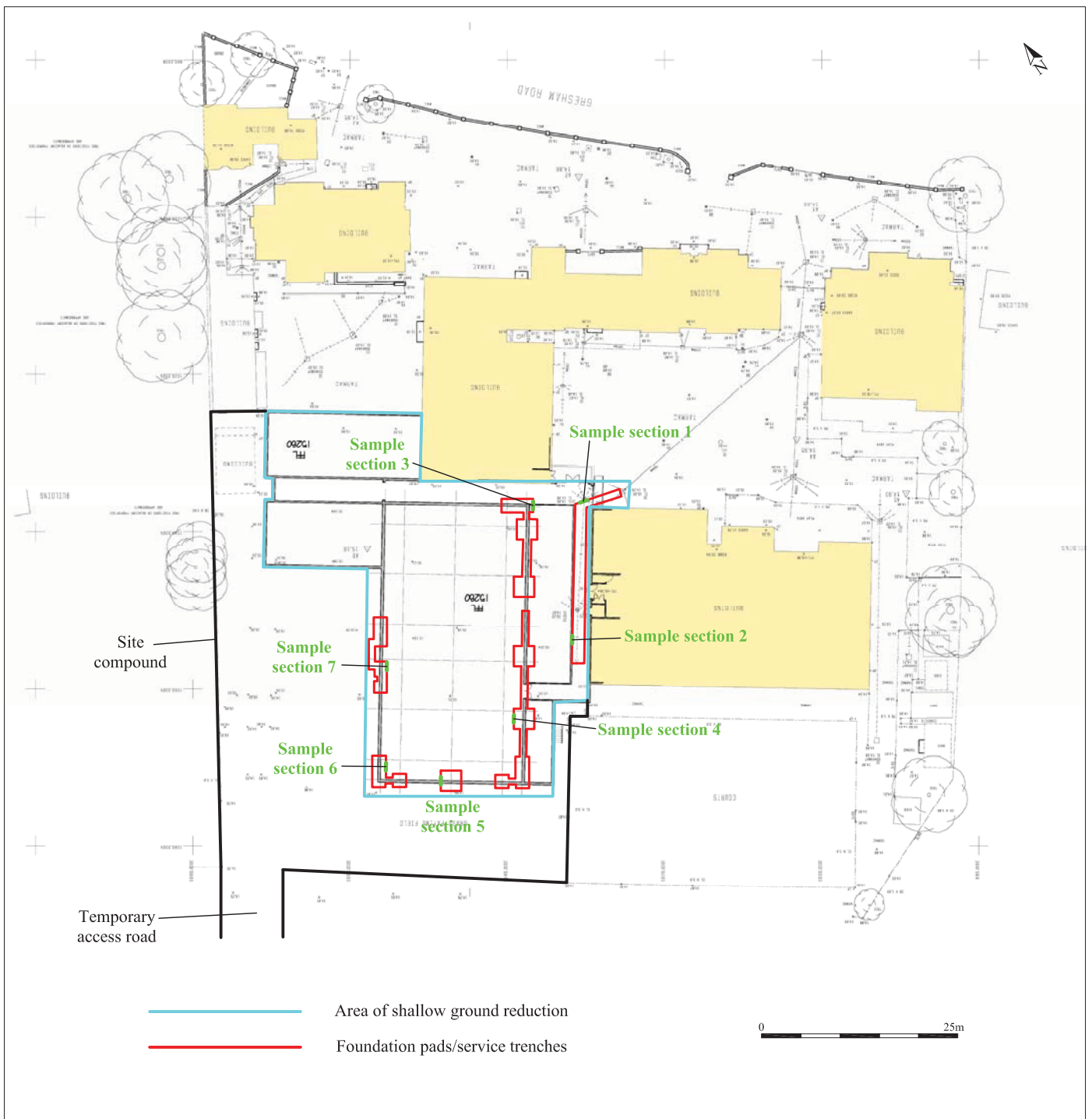
DP 10
Trench monitored 10/05/12, taken from the south



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

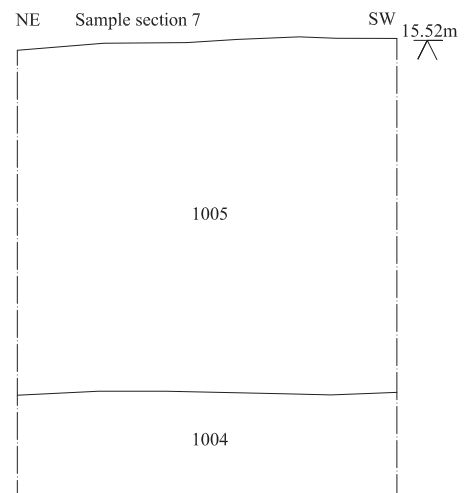
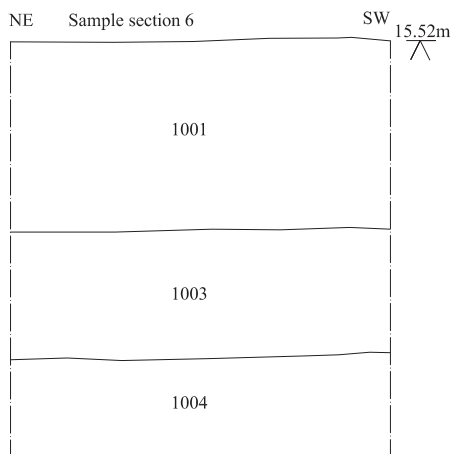
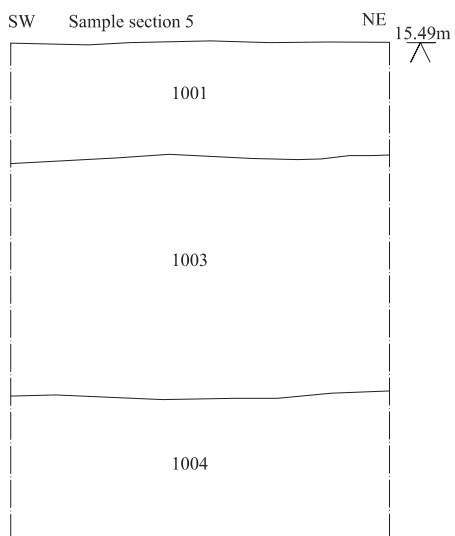
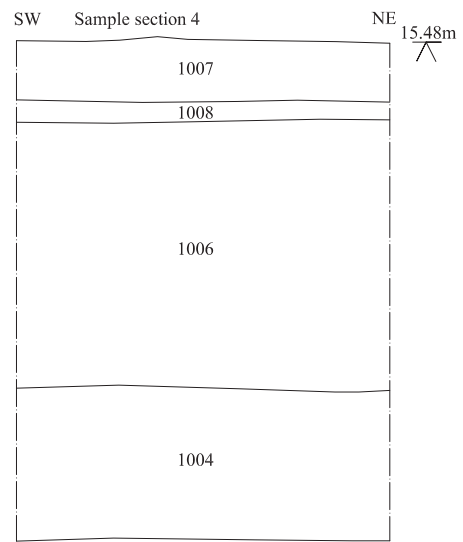
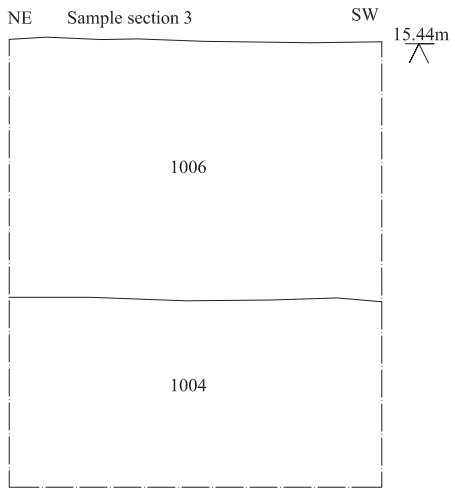
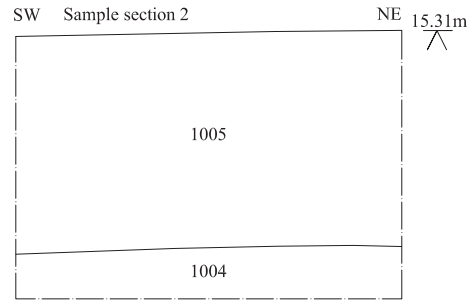
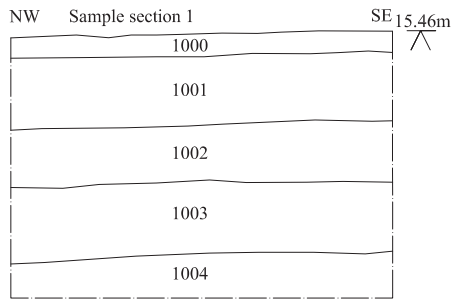


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of monitoring on proposed development plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4