
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**DOLIFFE CLOSE, BOND ROAD, MITCHAM,
LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 2745 6930	Report No: 4311
District: LB of Merton	Site Code: DLF 13
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4725
Signed:	Date: 30 April 2013

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

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
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



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

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Dolliffe Close, Bond Road, London Borough of Merton</i>		
<p><i>In February and March 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Dolliffe Close, Bond Road, London Borough of Merton (NGR TQ 2745 6930). The monitoring was commissioned by Higgins Construction in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement building containing 43 flats to provide accommodation for the elderly and others.</i></p> <p><i>The western part of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone defined by LB Merton and it identifies an area of Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement. The Roman remains were found c.150m south of the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>27/02 – 05/03/2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4725</i>	Site code	<i>DLF 13</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Archaeological Priority Zone of LB Merton</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former Sheltered Housing site</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Construction of a replacement building containing 43 flats</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>LB of Merton</i>	<i>Mitcham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CR4 3EN</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.37ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 2745 6930</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 19m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice letter from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Higgins Construction</i>		
Full title	<i>Dolliffe Close, Bond Road, London Borough of Merton: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4311</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2013</i>		

DOLIFFE CLOSE, BOND ROAD, MITCHAM, LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In February and March 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Doliffe Close, Bond Road, London Borough of Merton (NGR TQ 2745 6930). The monitoring was commissioned by Higgins Construction in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement building containing 43 flats to provide accommodation for the elderly and others.

The western part of the site lies within an Archaeological Priority Zone defined by LB Merton and it identifies an area of Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement. The Roman remains were found c. 150m south of the site.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February and March 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Doliffe Close, Bond Road, London Borough of Merton (NGR TQ 2745 6930; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Higgins Construction in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement building containing 43 flats to provide accommodation for the elderly and others (LB of Merton Planning Ref. 11/P1772).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice letter from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; dated 04/08/2011), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 02/02/2012), 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 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 The site lies on the northern side of Bond Road, Mitcham, London Borough of Merton (Fig. 1). It comprises roughly rectangular plot of land bounded to the west by the rear properties off Western Road, to the north by the rear properties off Dorset Road and to the east by the side of 104 Bond Road. Until recently the site was occupied by a Sheltered Housing Scheme with associated car parking. The buildings had been demolished prior to the new development.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies on between 18.10m and 19.60m AOD on a land gently sloping towards the west and south-west. The River Wandle is present c. 1km west of the site.

3.2 The site and the surrounding area are located upon a solid geology of Eocene Clay of Thames Group (British Geological Survey 1978). The soils in

that urbanised area remain unsurveyed. The nearest known soils c. 4km to the north-west of the site, within Wimbledon Common are those of Holidays Hill association described as Tertiary and Cretaceous sand, loam and clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2011) in advance of the planning submission. It summarised that in view of discoveries at the nearby Gasworks site some 150m to the south (including a Roman well and pottery sherds), the site has a low to moderate potential for remains of Romano-British date, and a low potential for remains of other periods.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for new drainage, excavation for temporary crane base and ground reduction in the south-western end of the site (Fig. 2). New foundations were to be piled affording very limited opportunity for archaeological investigation.

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

Deposits located within area of monitoring were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP3)</i> <i>Drainage trench along south-eastern side of the site, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 19.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Made ground. Mid greyish brown, loose, silty sand with occasional CBM fragments.
0.22 – 0.32m	L1001	Dark bluish grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.32 – 0.38m	L1002	White, compact, chalk with frequent CBM (bricks) fragments.
0.38 – 0.63m	L1003	Light brown, friable, clayey silt.
0.63m+	L1004	Natural clay. Light to mid yellow, compact, clay locally topped by light yellow, loose, sand.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 5)</i> <i>Drainage trench along south-eastern side of the site, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 18.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1006	Dark bluish grey, compact, tarmac.
0.17 – 0.51m	L1007	Made ground. Light to mid brown, friable, sand with frequent CBM fragments.
0.51 – 0.60m	L1008	White, compact, chalk.
0.60 – 0.66m	L1010	Light yellow, friable, sand.
0.66 – 0.93m	L1003	As above.
0.93m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 8)</i> <i>Drainage trench in the north-eastern part of the site, facing south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 19.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1005	Made ground. Dark grey, loose, clayey silt with sand and moderate CBM fragments.
0.39m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 10)</i> <i>Excavation for crane base, facing south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 19.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 1.80m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
1.80m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 12)</i> <i>Ground reduction in the south-western part of the site, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 18.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1006	Tarmac. As above.
0.07 – 0.21m	L1011	Basal layer for L1006. Light grey, compact, crushed concrete gravel.
0.21 – 0.25m	L1012	Dark yellow, compact, sandy gravel.
0.25m+	L1013	Made ground. Dark brown, loose, silty sand with CBM rubble.

No archaeological features or finds were identified.

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 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site had been a subject to demolition works before the construction works started. As a result the majority of the site was overlain by Made

Ground L1005, a dark grey, loose, clayey silt with sand and moderate CBM fragments (0.30 – 1.80m thick). Within the area of excavation for a temporary crane base L1005 was particularly thick (1.30 – 1.80m). Along the south-eastern side of the site numerous layers of mainly modern made ground (0.40 – 0.80m thick in total) were also present. A layer of possible subsoil (L1003; 0.24 – 0.28m thick) was present above natural geology. The latter was present mainly at 0.40 – 0.90m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, compact, clay locally topped by light yellow, loose, sand.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site within the area of gas works to the south.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified with the exception of modern activity. No residual finds were recovered. The majority of the site was subject to modern truncation likely related to the construction and recent demolition of the Sheltered Housing Scheme buildings.

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 Higgins Construction for funding the project.

AS would also like to thank Mr Paul Garner and Mr Tom Dring of Higgins Construction for their assistance.

AS acknowledges the advice of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology)*: London. Mansfield

CgMs, 2011, *Dolliffe Close, Bond Road, Mitcham; Heritage Statement*, Ref. AA1892

English Heritage (London Region), 1998 (revised 2009), *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*

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

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking south-west.



DP 2. Drainage trench along southern side of the site. Looking south-west.



DP 3. Drainage trench, sample section 1. Looking south-east.



DP 4. Drainage trench. Looking south-south-west.



DP 5. Drainage trench, sample section 2. Looking south-east.



DP 6. Drainage trench, south-western section. Looking south-south-west.



DP 7. Drainage trench in north-eastern part of the site. Looking north-east.



DP 8. North-eastern drainage trench, sample section 3. Looking north-west.



DP 9. Excavation for a crane base. Looking west.



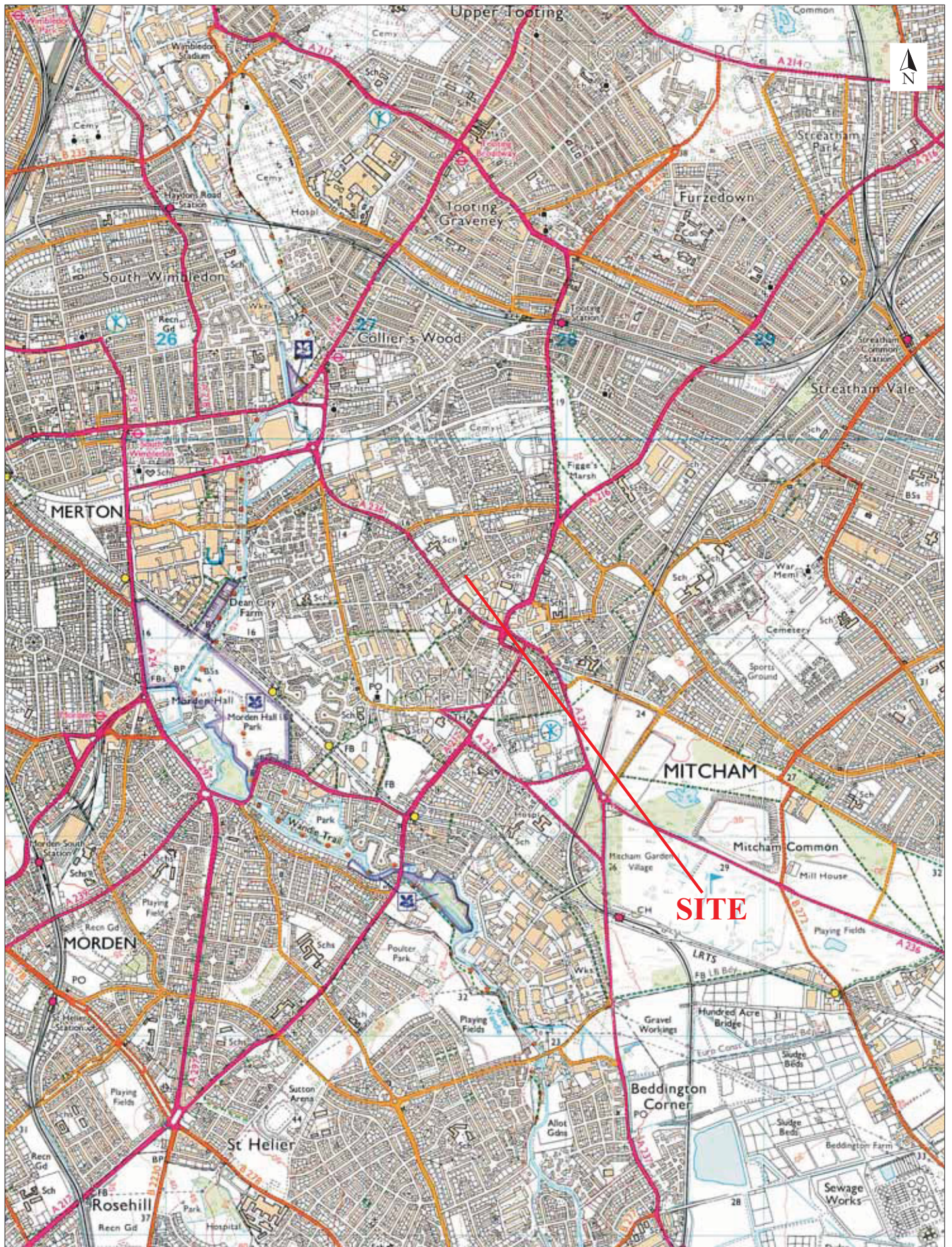
DP 10. Crane base, northern side. Sample section 4. Looking north.



DP 11. Ground reduction in south-western end of the site. Looking south-west.

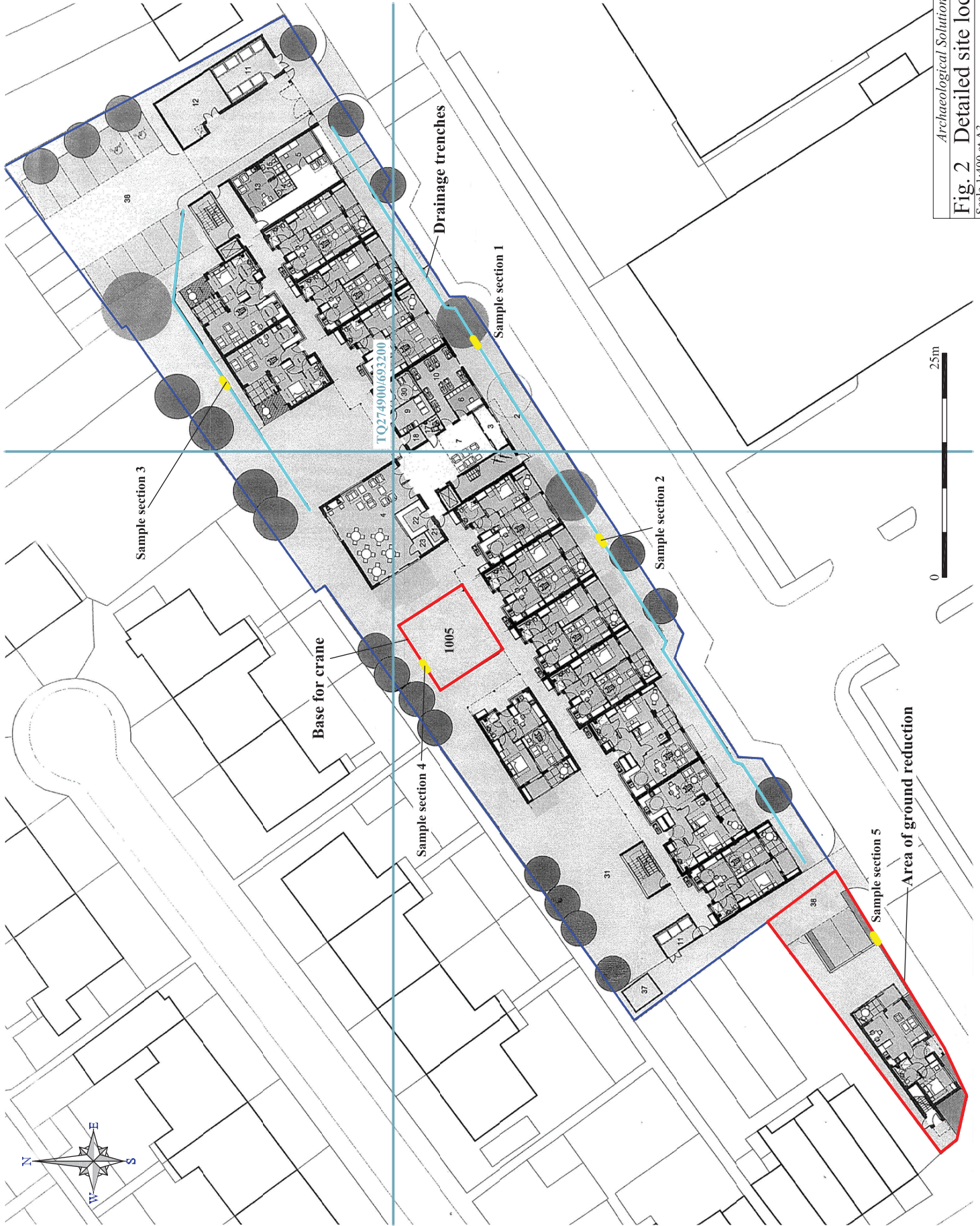


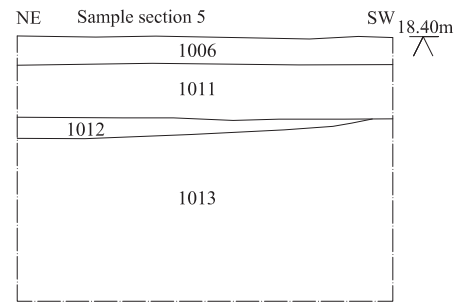
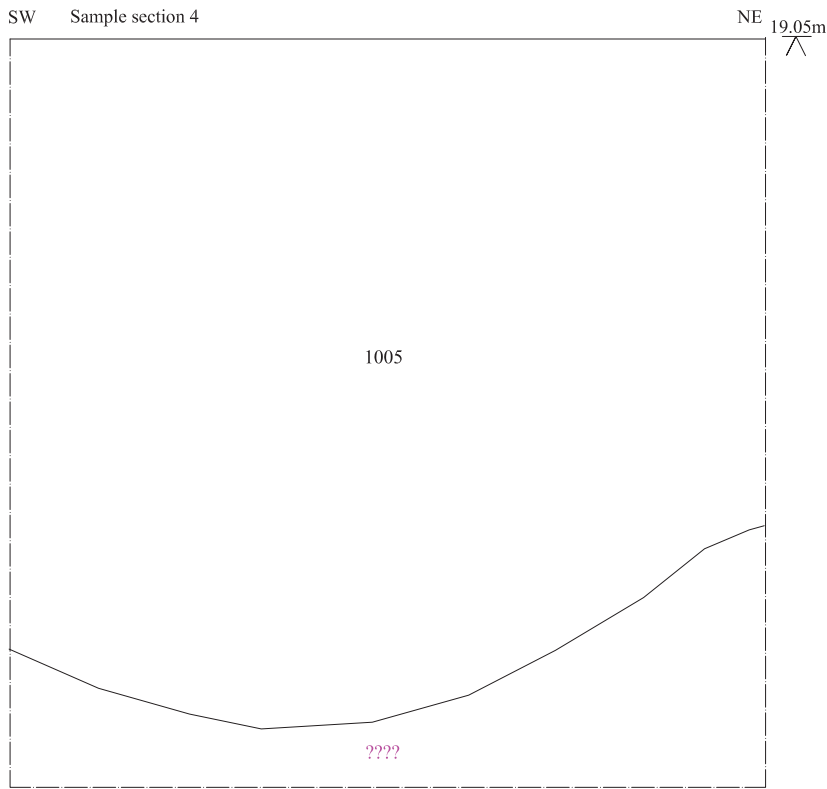
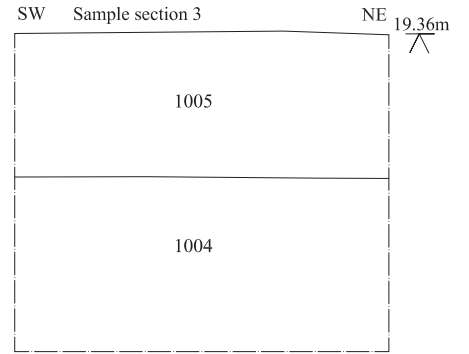
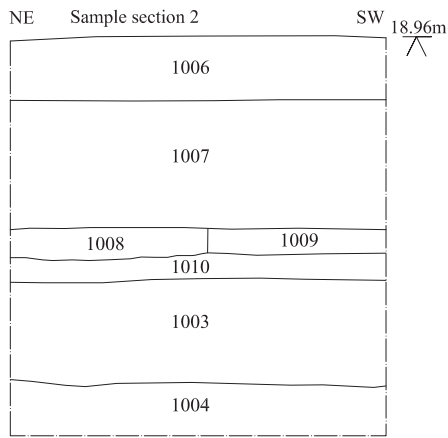
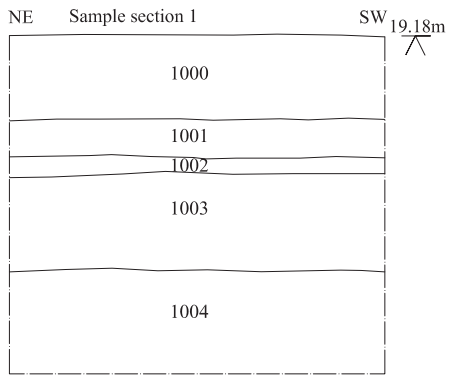
DP 12. Ground reduction, sample section 5. Looking south-east.



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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





Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4