
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

108 HOME PARK ROAD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 24582 71725	Report No: 4239
District: LB Merton	Site Code: HRK 12
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4288
Signed:	Date: January 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	108 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, London		
<p>Between November 2012 and January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 108 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, London (NGR TQ 24582 71725). The monitoring was commissioned by SHH Architects and Design Consultants on behalf of their client Times Holdings Ltd. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 7 bedroom contemporary dwelling.</p> <p>The site lies within an Archaeological priority Area as set out on the Merton Unitary Development Plan, relating to the house, gardens and park of Wimbledon Park House, and the early Wimbledon village further to the south-west. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeology.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	19.11.2012 – 08.01.2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4288	Site code	HRK 12
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	Within Archaeological Priority Area		
Current land use	House (demolished) with garden		
Planned development	New residential dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	London Borough of	Wimbledon Merton
HER/ SMR for area	Greater London HER		
Post code (if known)	SW19 7HU		
Area of site	c. 3200m ²		
NGR	TQ 24582 71725		
Height AOD (min/max)	30-36.50m		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	EH GLAAS		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Times Holdings Ltd		
Full title	108 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, London. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4239		
Date (of report)	January 2013		

108 HOME PARK ROAD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

Between November 2012 and January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 108 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, London (NGR TQ 24582 71725). The monitoring was commissioned by SHH Architects and Design Consultants on behalf of their client Times Holdings Ltd. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 7 bedroom contemporary dwelling.

The site lies within an Archaeological priority Area as set out on the Merton Unitary Development Plan, relating to the house, gardens and park of Wimbledon Park House, and the early Wimbledon village further to the south-west. The site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeology.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between November 2012 and January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at 108 Home Park Road, Wimbledon, London (NGR TQ 24582 71725; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by SHH Architects and Design Consultants on behalf of their client Times Holdings Ltd. It was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a 7 bedroom contemporary dwelling (London Borough of Merton Planning Ref. 10/P3231).

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 Merton) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 25/02/2011) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the EH (London Region) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*.

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;

- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

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 is located on the western side of Home Park Road, Wimbledon, and comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land currently not occupied by any standing structure (Fig. 2). Wimbledon Park lies to the immediate north of the site with a golf course occupying that part of the park. Wimbledon village centre is located c. 600m to the south-west.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located on a natural slope with land descending southwards and sharply to the west. The heights vary from 30.00 - 36.50m AOD.

3.2 The site and the surrounding area are located upon a solid geology of Eocene Palaeogene London Clay (British Geological Survey 1978). The soils in that urbanised area remain unsurveyed. Known soils to the 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 The site lies within an Archaeological Priority Area as set out on the Merton Unitary Development Plan, relating to the house, gardens and park of Wimbledon Park House, and the early Wimbledon village further to the south-west. Wimbledon was not listed in Domesday, being assessed under the extensive Mortlake manor. After 1328, the manor of Wimbledon is recorded as a possession of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The medieval village developed at the top of the hill, close to the church, and ribbon development descended down Wimbledon Hill to the south east in the early part of the post-medieval period.

4.2 Wimbledon Park House was built in 1588 close to the church, between Arthur Road and Home Park Road. It was rebuilt on the 1640s by Inigo Jones and the gardens and parkland were later developed by Capability Brown. It was rebuilt again in 1801 following a fire. Much of the park was sold for redevelopment in the 1870s, with the northern part bought by then London Borough of Wimbledon in 1914 and made into a public park. The house was demolished in 1949.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanical ground reduction and the groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling, in particular the ground reduction for the extensive new basement (Fig. 3).

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 The deposits located within the area of investigation were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 5)</i> <i>Northern excavation limit, central part, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 33.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Modern made ground. Mid to dark yellow, compact, redeposited natural clay with frequent CBM fragments and rubbish.
0.37 – 0.60m	L1001	Buried topsoil. Dark grey, soft, clayey silt with frequent roots and occasional modern rubbish.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural mid to dark brownish yellow, compact, clay.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 8)</i> <i>North-eastern part of the site, foundation trench, facing north</i> <i>0.00 = 35.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Modern made ground with a plastic net at the bottom. As above.
0.24 – 0.44m	L1003	Mid yellow, loose, sand.
0.44 – 0.68m	L1004	Made ground. Dark greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM fragments.
0.68 – 1.45m	L1005	Made ground. Light brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
1.45m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 11)</i> <i>North-western part of the site, ground reduction, facing north</i> <i>0.00 = 33.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.26 – 1.30m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
1.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 16)</i> <i>North-central part of the site, ground reduction, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 33.98m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.55m	M1009	Modern foundations.
0.55 – 0.69m	L1006	Dark grey, compact, concrete with gravel.
0.69m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 17)</i> <i>North-western part of the site, ground reduction, facing north</i> <i>0.00 = 34.02m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.24 – 0.60m	L1007	Made ground. Yellowish grey, compact, silty clay.
0.60 – 0.79m	L1008	Dark grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.79m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: 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 was commonly overlain by numerous deposits of modern made ground accumulating locally down to 1.50m below existing ground level. The uppermost deposit was L1000 which was related to the current works on the site. The most substantial deposit was Made Ground L1005, a light brown, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments and it was present within the majority of the site.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.60 – 1.50m below existing and comprised a mid to dark brownish yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains would possibly have been related to the medieval settlement of Wimbledon and Wimbledon Manor. The seat of the manor was at Wimbledon Park House which stood in the vicinity of the site until the mid-20th century.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. The site was characterised by presence of modern made ground deposits. No residual finds were recovered.

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 Guy Matheson of SHH Architects and Design Consultants for commissioning the project on behalf of their client Times Holdings Ltd.

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AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

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DP 10. Ground reduction in north-western part of the excavation. Looking south-west.



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DP 12. South-western part of the excavation area. Looking south-east.



DP 13. Central part of the site during ground reduction. Looking west.



DP 14. Ground reduction in the south/central part of the site. Looking south-south-west.



DP 15. North/central part of the site. Looking east-north-east.



DP 16. Sample section 4. Looking east.



DP 17. Sample section 5. Looking south.



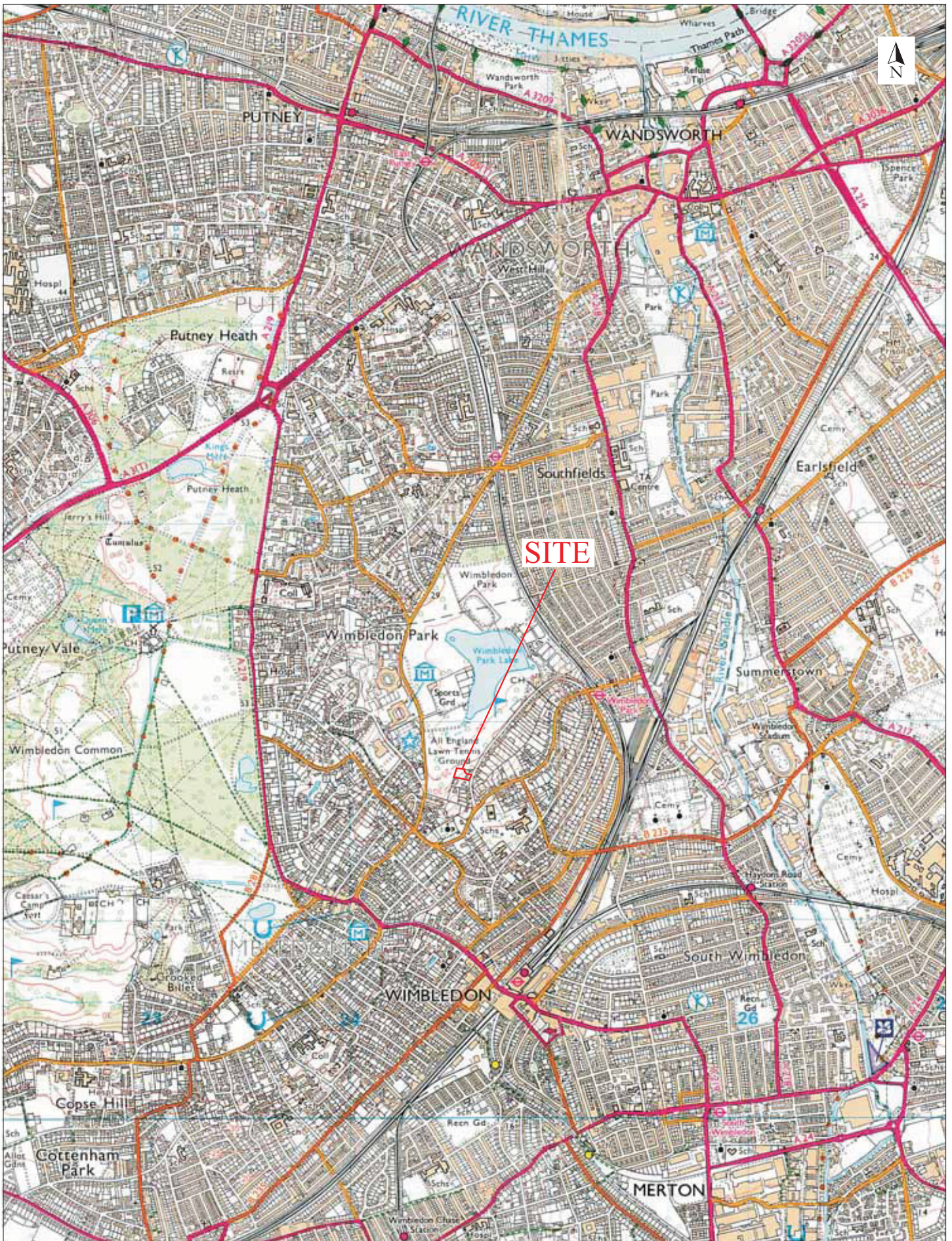
DP 18. South-eastern part of the site, ground reduction. Looking south-east.



DP 19. Eastern and central part of the site during the ground reduction. Looking south-west.



DP 20. Central/western part of the site. Looking south-south-west.



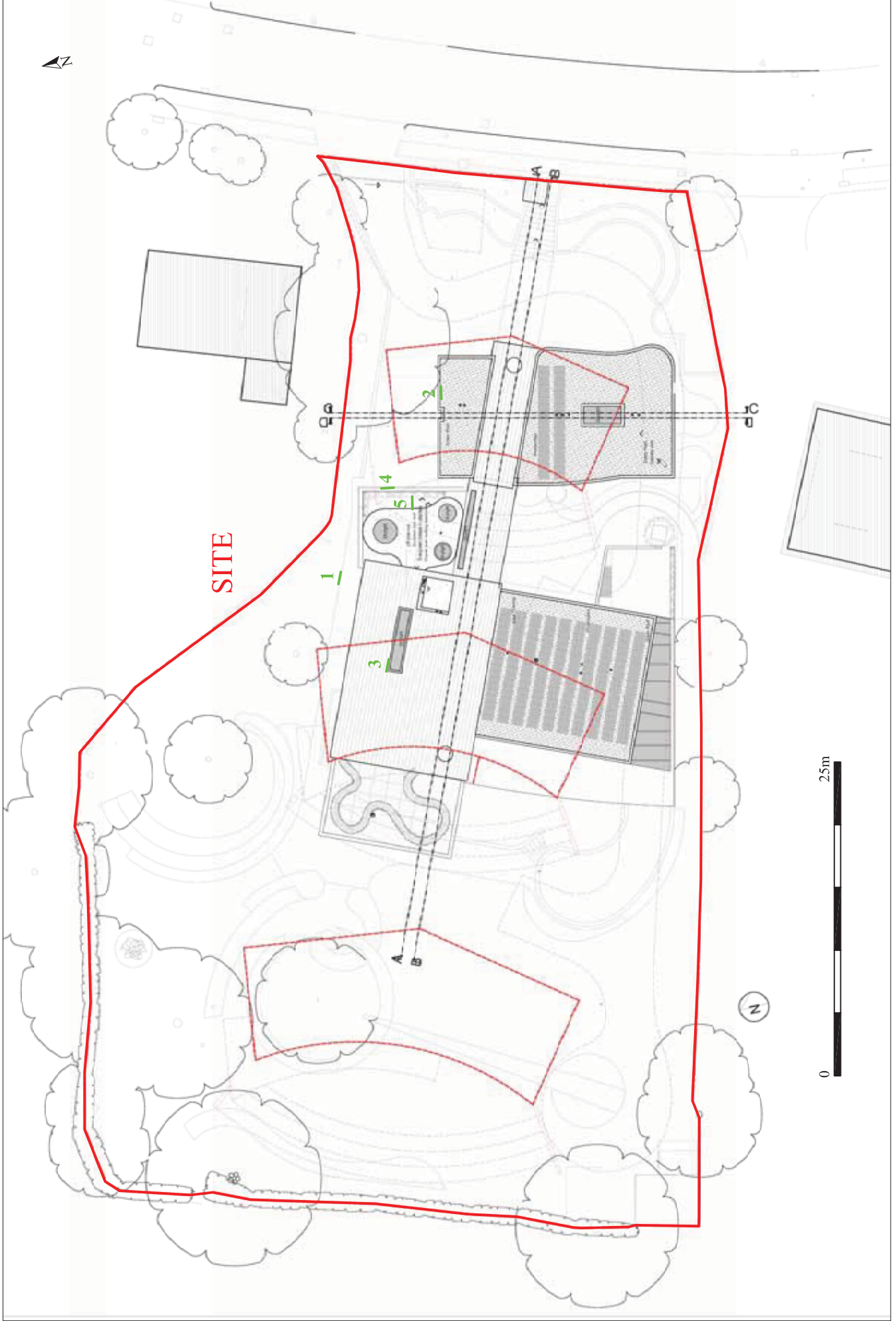
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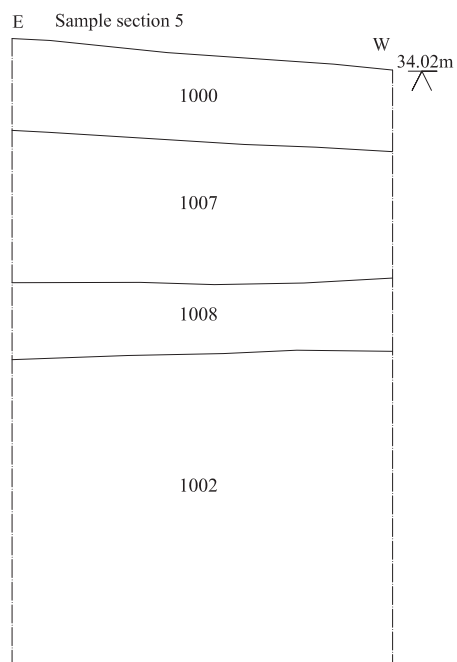
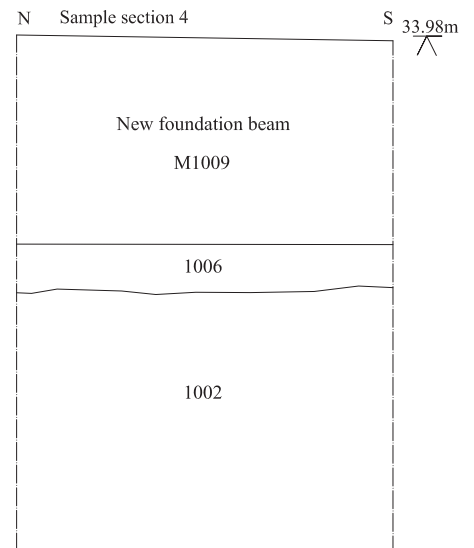
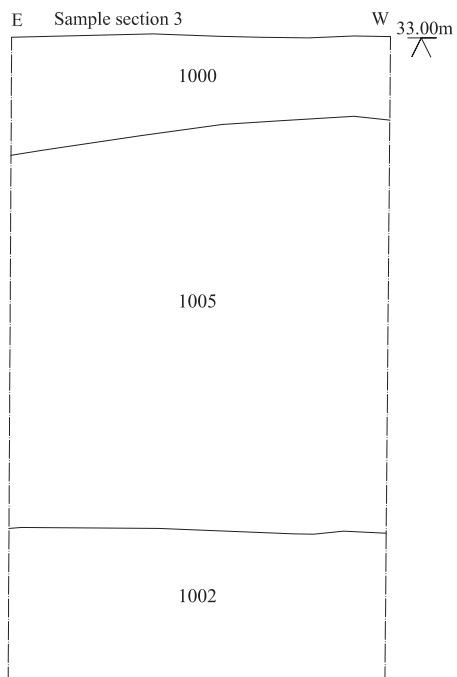
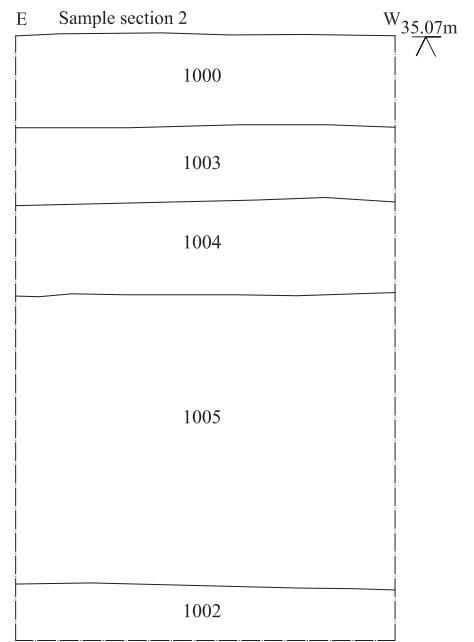
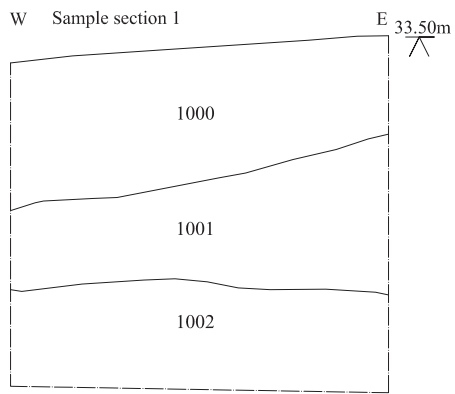
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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





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Fig. 4 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4