
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BUSHEY ACADEMY, LONDON ROAD, BUSHEY,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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NGR: TQ 1285 9545	Report No: 3984
District: Hertsmere	Site Code: AS 1375
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4121
Signed:	Date: December 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>Between January and September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 1285 9545). The monitoring was commissioned by Kier London in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed erection of new buildings for educational use, temporary classroom accommodation, alteration of existing access, regrading of existing fields, car parking, MUGA, Bat Roosting Building, removal of trees and related uses of land.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated west-north-west of Bushey centre and comprises buildings of Bushey Academy, incorporating former Bushey Hall School, and its playing fields. It is located just north of the route of Roman Akeman Street. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>20/12/2010, 07, 13/01, 16, 27, 30/06, 12/07, 01, 31/08, 29/09/2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4121</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1375</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>School with playgrounds</i>		
Planned development	<i>New Academy</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Hertsmere</i>	<i>Bushey</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>WD23 3AA</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 12ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 1285 9545</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>80/92m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Kier London</i>		
Full title	<i>Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3984</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2012</i>		

BUSHEY ACADEMY, LONDON ROAD, BUSHEY, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING INTERIM REPORT

SUMMARY

Between January and September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 1285 9545). The monitoring was commissioned by Kier London in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed erection of new buildings for educational use, temporary classroom accommodation, alteration of existing access, regrading of existing fields, car parking, MUGA, Bat Roosting Building, removal of trees and related uses of land.

The site is situated west-north-west of Bushey centre and comprises buildings of Bushey Academy, incorporating former Bushey Hall School, and its playing fields. It is located just north of the route of Roman Akeman Street. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between January and September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 1285 9545; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Kier London in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed erection of new buildings for educational use, temporary classroom accommodation, alteration of existing access, regrading of existing fields, car parking, MUGA, Bat Roosting Building, removal of trees and related uses of land (Hertsmere Council Planning Ref. 0/1301-10 (CC0730)).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 28/07/2010 and 11/11/2010) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 30/11/2010), and approved by HCC HEU. 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 document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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 the impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies c. 500m to the west-north-west of Bushey centre and c.1.2km south-east of Watford centre (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by the A411 London Road, to the east by Falconer Road and the grounds of Falconer School and Bushey Community Centre, to the north by playing

fields, and to the west by the gardens of houses bordering Grange Road, and the playing fields of Bushey Manor School.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The Bushey Academy grounds are located on a gently sloping land between 80 and 92m AOD. The school buildings are situated at c. 85m AOD. The site is located on the transition between solid geology (clay) of Paleocene Lambeth Group and Eocene Thames Group (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of Windsor association, described as permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The school has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Zeepvat 2009) and historic buildings and conservation area appraisal (Beacon Planning 2009), and these reports have been submitted to HCC with the planning application for the proposed works. In summary:

Bushey is strategically located on the main London to Watford road. The settlement developed on the eastern bank of the river Colne which provided fertile water meadows and pasture land. There is much evidence for settlement in the valley of the river Colne from the prehistoric period although finds from Bushey, on the south side of the river are sparse and limited to a number of flint implements. Known remains include a Palaeolithic flint implement (HER 944) and a Mesolithic axe head and engraver (HER 938 and 944). Later prehistoric finds are recorded, notably the Bronze Age 'Watford Hoard' of metal work, but distribution is irregular and generally located away from the site.

In the wider area, evidence for Roman occupation can be seen in the route of Akeman Street which ran north-east from Brockley Hill (Sulloniaca), through Watford and up the Bulbourne Valley towards the settlement at Cow Roast, and by projection, may have followed or lain close to the route of the High Street in Bushey (HER 4589). Despite this, evidence for occupation in Bushey is slight and there no firm evidence earlier than the medieval period has been found for the road. Finds of Roman building materials, tesserae and pottery (HER 773, 911) have suggested the presence of a Roman building or settlement to the east of the site, while an isolated Roman coin was also recorded c. 1.3km to the east (HER 943).

Evidence of Saxon occupation is meagre, although the manor of Bushey (formerly known as Hartshead) was supposedly granted to the Abbey of St Albans in the 8th century by King Offa. During the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor was held by Lewin, a thane of the king. Bushey manor is recorded in Domesday, but by the later Middle Ages had fragmented into at least three smaller manorial units (Bournhall, Bushey and Hartsbourne). The

village of Bushey likely derives from a settlement in the 11th century or earlier, and, like its neighbour Watford, consists in essence of a single street (High Street), flanked on both sides by housing. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book c. 1066 as 'Bissei' and was held by the powerful Norman Lord of Geoffrey de Manderville. It is believed the name was derived from 'the place covered with wood' from the Old English word 'bysce'. The settlement was granted a market in 1141 on Thursdays and also allowed to hold an annual fayre. St James' church is reputed to date from the beginning of the 11th century, though much dates from the 13th century, restored in 1871 by Sir Gilbert Scott. The few medieval remains recorded in the vicinity include the possible location of Hartsbourne manor to the south-east (HER 771), while possible medieval 'ridge and furrow' cultivation marks have also been recorded c. 1.4km to the east (HER 9192).

The manor of Bushey Hall is recorded as early as 1428. A Bushey Hall or Bushey Bury was located to the north of the Parish close to Bushey Hall Farm and was demolished in the 19th century. A second building also known as Bushey Hall was located near to Bushey Grove (near the Golf Club). This building was converted in 1882 to a hydropathic treatment centre and then became a hotel. It was requisitioned in the Second World War and demolished in 1955.

Bushey experienced continued social and environmental change in the second half of the 19th century. The present rectangular village green close to the site is a relatively recent creation, cleared in 1914. The earliest buildings in the High Street, many of which are listed, date from the 17th century. The available cartographic evidence suggests that Bushey remained an essentially small rural, largely agricultural community well into the 19th century, when development of the heath area began to occur.

Bushey Academy is located on the site of 17th century manor house (HER 16231). The manor house is shown on the 1871 and 1914 OS maps, in the western side of the school grounds, in the location of the current lodge adjacent to the school gates. The school was built from 1926 as the Royal Masonic School, described by Pevsner as 'chastened neo-Tudor' style. It is recorded on the HER (HER 16230) and, apart from the Gymnasium and Headmasters House, believed to have been little altered.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for new foundations, ground reduction within demolished and new building areas, ground reduction for new car parks, MUGA and temporary accommodation and service trench (Fig. 2).

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 the monitored areas were recorded in sample sections shown below.

<i>MUGA, north-east side. Sample section 1. Looking north-east-north. 0.00 = 84.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark, blackish grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.25 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Light brownish grey, friable, silty sand with frequent gravel.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural mid yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

<i>Service trench in south part of the site. Sample section 2. Looking north. 0.00 = 83.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.85m	L1003	Made ground. Mixed natural with dark grey, loose, clayey silt.
0.85m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>South part of the site. Sample section 3. Looking north-east. 0.00 = 83.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1007	Temporary road – compacted CBM rubble.
0.36 – 0.78m	L1001	Made ground. Mid to dark, compact, brownish grey sandy silt with CBM fragments.
0.78m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

<i>South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 4. Looking SW. 0.00 = 83.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 1.28m	L1004	Made ground. Mid yellowish brown, firm, silty clay.
1.28m+	L1005	Dark bluish grey, firm, silty clay.

<i>South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 5. Looking NW.. 0.00 = 83.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.80m+	L1004	Made ground. As above.

<i>South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 6. Looking SE. 0.00 = 83.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.15 – 0.76m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.76m+	L1004	Made ground. As above.

<i>South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 7. Looking NE.</i> <i>0.00 = 83.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.60m	L1007	Temporary road. As above.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural gravel. 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 Outside the school building, within the playgrounds, the site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark, blackish grey, soft, sandy silt (0.10 – 0.30m thick). Within area of school buildings the only deposits present above the natural geology were layers of modern made ground (0.50 – 1.00m thick).

8.2 Subsoil L1001 was present below the topsoil and within the area outside of the buildings. It comprised light brownish grey, friable, silty sand with frequent gravel.

8.3 The natural geology, L1002, was present at 0.60 – 0.80m below existing ground level and comprised a mid yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains may have been related to the Roman settlements along the Akeman Street, medieval Bushy Hall manor and post-medieval manor house.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified except the modern truncation and deposits related to the construction of the school. The central part of the site in particular had been subject to significant previous truncation. 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 Bushey Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Kier London for commissioning the project.

AS would also like to thank Mr Joe Murphy and Mr Tim Parker of Kier London for their assistance on site.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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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

Zeepvat, B., 2009, *Desk-based Assessment: Bushey Hall School, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire*, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd.

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	82

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: Hertsmere
Village/Town:	Parish: Bushey
Planning application reference:	Hertsmere District Council Planning Ref. 0/1301-10 (CC0730)
Client name/address/tel:	Kier London
Nature of application:	Conversion of the site to improve the school
Present land use:	School with playgrounds
Size of application area: c. 12ha	Size of area investigated c. 5ha
NGR (8 figures):	TQ 1285 9545
Site Code:	AS 1375
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Date of work:	08/03/2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Bushey
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>Between January and September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Bushey Academy, London Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 1285 9545). The monitoring was commissioned by Kier London in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed erection of new buildings for educational use, temporary classroom accommodation, alteration of existing access, car parking, MUGA, Bat Roosting Building, removal of trees and related uses of land.</p> <p>The site is situated west-north-west of Bushey centre and comprises buildings of Bushey Academy, incorporating former Bushey Hall School, and its playing fields. It is located just north of the route of Roman Akeman Street. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: December 2012

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site of Bushey Academy. Looking north-east.



DP 2. North-east part of the site. Area of temporary Academy accommodation. Looking south-west.



DP 3. South-west part of the site. Topsoil stripped off the MUGA. Looking south-west.



DP 4. MUGA. Looking north-east.



DP 5. MUGA, north-east side. Sample section 1. Looking north-east-north.



DP 6. Road leading to MUGA. Looking west.



DP 7. Service trench in south part of the site. Looking north-east.



DP 8. Service trench in south part of the site. Sample section 2. Looking north.



DP 9. North-east part of the site. Looking north-east.



DP 10. South part of the site. Looking north-west.



DP 11. South part of the site. Sample section 3. Looking north-east.



DP 12. Central/south part of the site. Looking west-south-west.



DP 13. North part of the site. New foundations. Looking south-west.



DP 14. South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 4. Looking south-west.



DP 15. South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 5. Looking north-west.



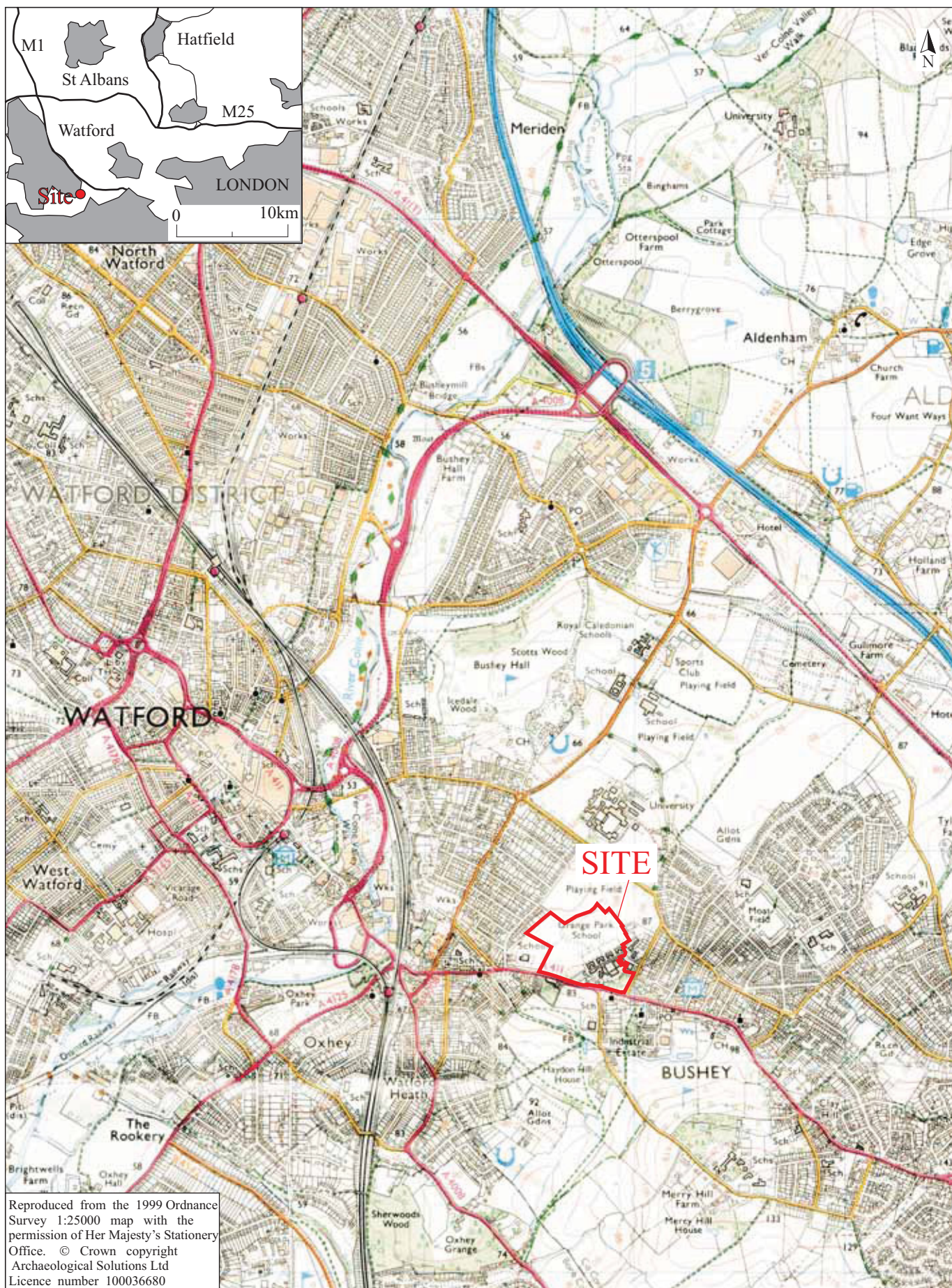
DP 16. South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 6. Looking south-east.



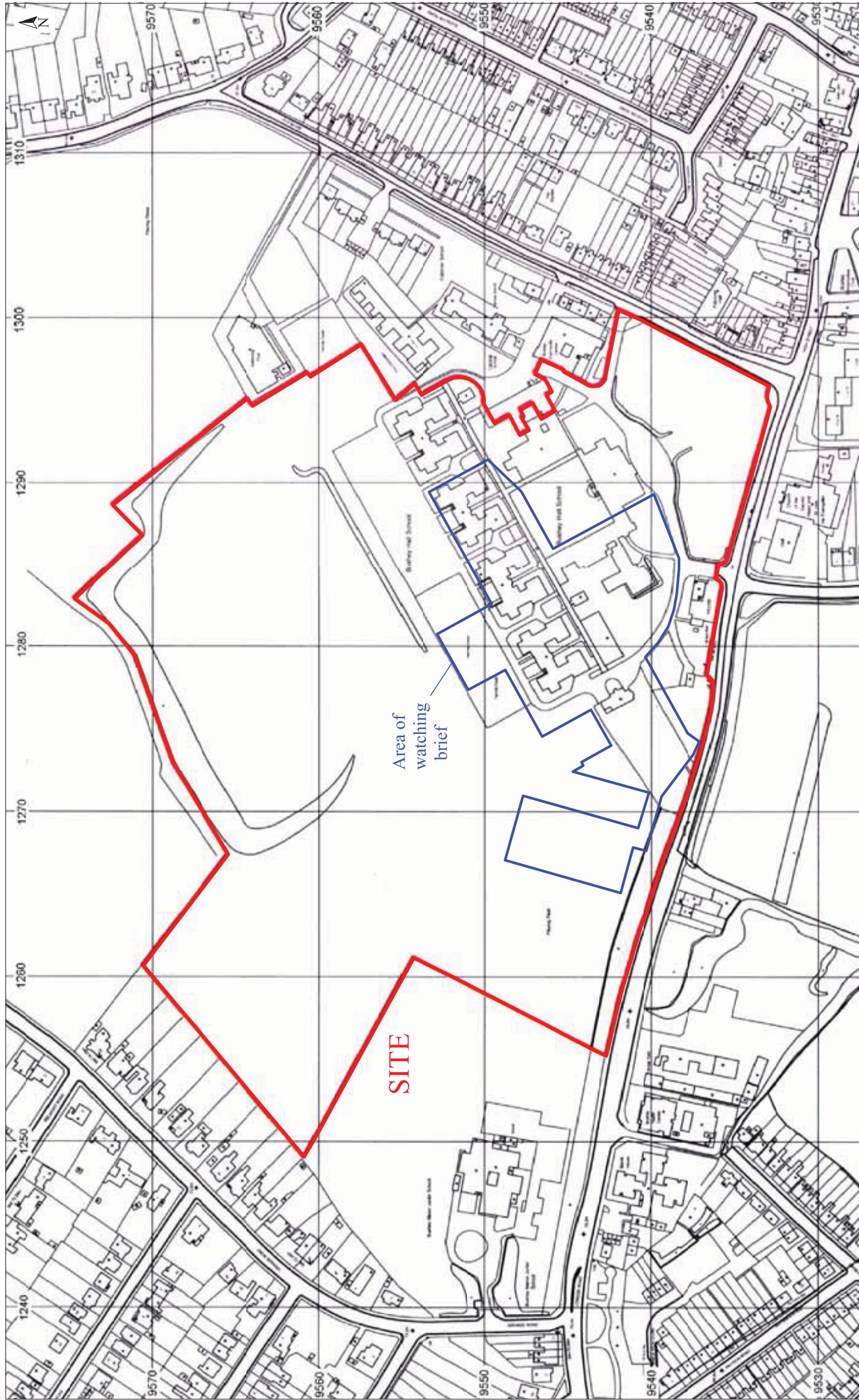
DP 17. South part of the site. New foundations. Sample section 7. Looking north-east.

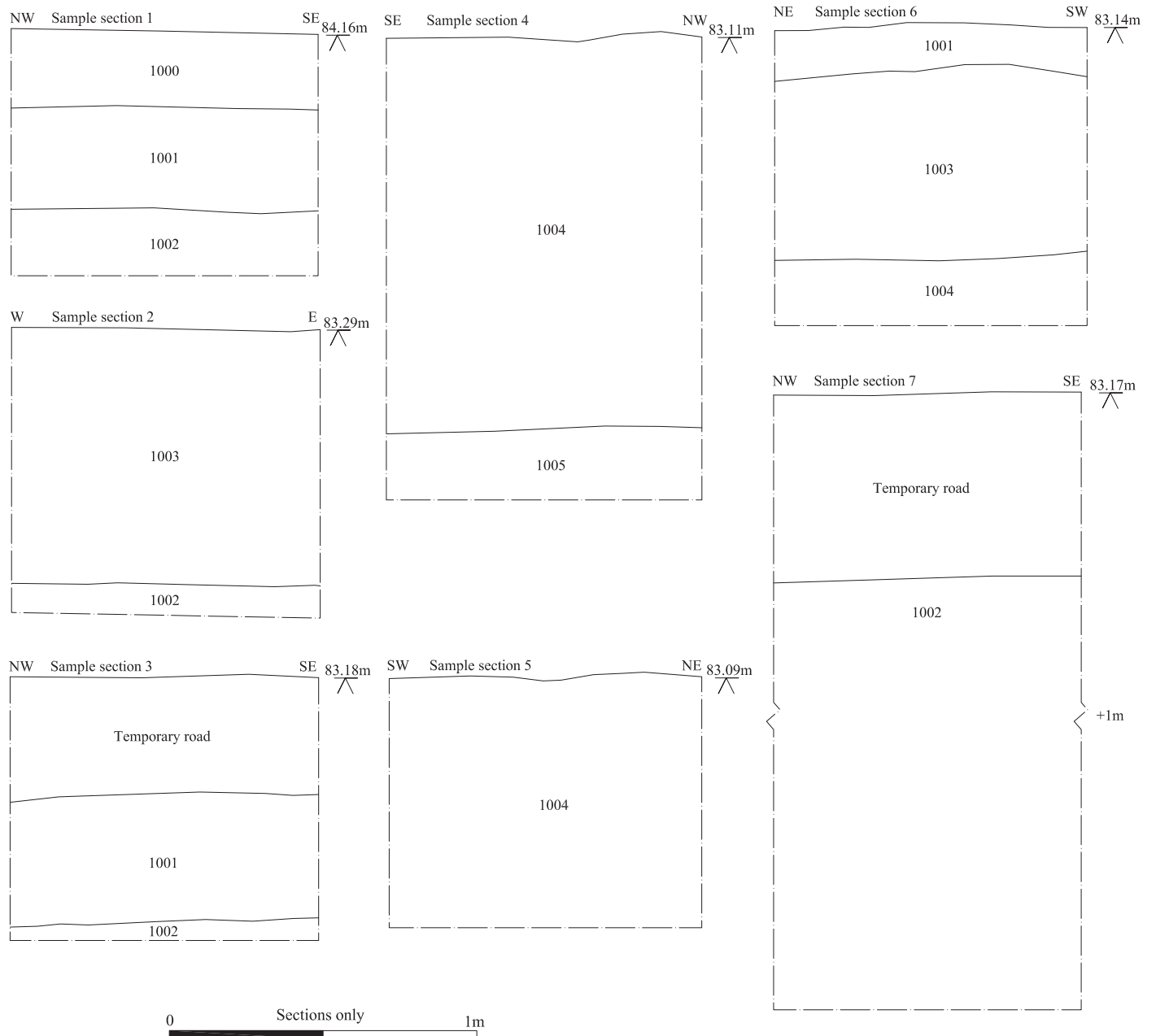
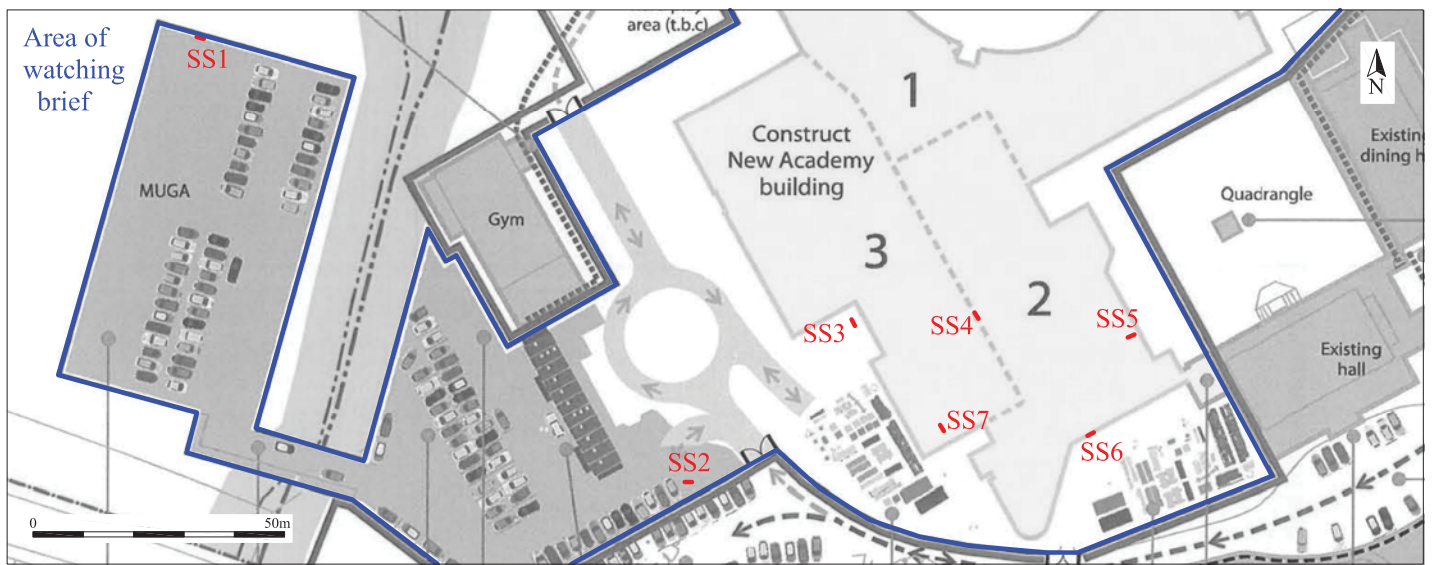


DP 18. Central part of the site. Looking north-east.



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





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Fig. 3 Sections with location plan

Scale Plan 1:1500, sections 1:20 at A4