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**ELIZABETH HOUSE, 28-30 BADDOW ROAD, CHELMSFORD,
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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NGR: TL 7104 0639		Report No: 4342
District: Chelmsford		Site Code: CF73
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA		Project No: 5304
Signed:		Date: 28/06/2013 Revised: 15/07/2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Elizabeth House, 28-30 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
<i>Between the 3rd and 5th of June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Elizabeth House, 28-30 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 7104 0639). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning consent for the refurbishment of the existing building and the construction of new extensions (Chelmsford BC Approval 13/00183/FUL). The condition was based on advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.</i>			
<i>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record, with particular potential for Roman and medieval remains. There is a potential for road frontage deposits associated with the Roman settlement, and land use outside the area of the Roman temple, and also a potential for roadside deposits associated the medieval settlement at Chelmsford</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>3rd-5th June 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5304</i>	Site code	<i>CF73</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Building</i>		
Planned development	<i>Refurbishment and new extensions</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>	<i>Moulsham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>-</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 7104 0639</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 30-35m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Sam Egan</i>		
Funded by	<i>Wedderburn Shopfitting Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Elizabeth House, 28-30 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Egan, S.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4342</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>02/07/2013 (Revised 15/07/2013)</i>		

ELIZABETH HOUSE, 28-30 BADDOW ROAD, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

Between the 3rd and 5th of June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Elizabeth House, 28-30 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 7104 0639). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning consent for the refurbishment of the existing building and the construction of new extensions (Chelmsford BC Approval 13/00183/FUL). The condition was based on advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record, with particular potential for Roman and medieval remains. There is a potential for road frontage deposits associated with the Roman settlement, and land use outside the area of the Roman temple, and also a potential for roadside deposits associated the medieval settlement at Chelmsford

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between the 3rd and 5th of June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Elizabeth House, 28-30 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, Essex (NGR TL 7104 0639; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning consent for the refurbishment of the existing building and the construction of new extensions (Chelmsford BC Approval 13/00183/FUL). The condition was based on advice from Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (Alison Bennett, dated 04/2013) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 23/04/2013), approved by Essex CC HEM. It followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed 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 is located on the southern side of Baddow Road, just to the north of Parkway in central Chelmsford. It comprises the existing Elizabeth House and car park. It is proposed to refurbish the building and construct extensions.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at approximately 30-35m AOD at the base of a river valley, and is 240m west of the confluence of the rivers Can and Chelmer. The local soil is un-surveyed due to the urban setting. The town of Chelmsford is situated on the margin of the boulder clay plateau of north and west Essex. The drift geology of the site comprises Quaternary River Terrace Deposits of sandy gravels covered by a Quaternary Alluvium of silty clay that may also include layers of sand, silt, peat or basal gravel. The solid geology of the area is Eocene London Clay Formation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential and has almost 170 points recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record; there is particular potential for Roman and medieval remains. This includes potential for road frontage deposits associated with the Roman settlement, and land use outside the area of the Roman

temple, and also a potential for roadside deposits associated with the medieval settlement at Chelmsford

4.2 The site lies within the north-eastern part of a large Roman town and is alongside a Roman road. A trench dug at 16-18 Baddow Road to assess the archaeological potential of the Chelmer flood-plain within Chelmsford identified a 2nd century Roman pit or well overlain by three Roman road surfaces, the last one following the modern line of Baddow Road (EHER 5900, 5940). The platform of a 14th century earth fast building overlay the Roman Road (EHER 5901). The Roman settlement at Chelmsford (*Caesaromagus*) lay to the west of the site, built around a fort constructed after the Boudiccan revolt of 60-61 AD. Civilian settlement grew along the contemporary London-Colchester Road along the route of today's Moulsham Street, and a side road to the south-east leading to Heybridge/Wickford.

4.3 The town included elements such as a *mansion*, located at the junction of Roman Road and Orchard Street (Wacher 1974, 197), a bath house and temple precinct. The site of the temple is located beneath the Odeon roundabout to the south-east of the site, and was in use from the mid 1st through to the 5th centuries AD (EHER 5865). The temple was preceded by a large prehistoric mound of unknown function which contained Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery (EHER 5864). The site was deserted after the 5th century, until a 13th century dyer's premises was built which included large timber lined tanks and a palisade boundary later replaced by a ditch (EHER 5866). Further small excavations within approximately 50m south of the site identified a pit containing a Roman pot, which was cut by a ditch associated with a gravel surface thought to be a Roman road (EHER 5934). The Roman road was in turn cut by a medieval or post-medieval ditch (EHER 47222). To the south of this, near Hall Street, was identified another gravel surface indicative of a Roman road (EHER 47222). Also to the south of the site, in the area between the Odeon roundabout and Moulsham Street, evidence of Roman occupation including rubbish and cess pits have been excavated along with cremation burials of 1st and 3rd centuries date (EHER 17171).

4.4 At the end of the Roman period the Roman town was abandoned and settlement was based on rural estates in the surrounding area (ECC 1999, 26). An early Saxon cemetery and late Saxon manor are known at Springfield to the north (Peachey 2007). The manor of Moulsham remained a minor settlement and by the time of the Domesday Survey was held by the Abbot of Westminster (ECC 1999, 26).

4.5 New timber bridges were constructed over the Rivers Can and Chelmer in the early 12th century and the town of Chelmsford was re-founded by the Bishop of London on a new site to the north of the River Can, in the area of the modern High Street. By the 1250s the town had become the regular seat for royal justice in Essex, effectively replacing Colchester as the county town (ECC 1999, 27). An excavation at the Odeon Cinema, 23-33 Baddow Road, immediately to the north of the site, identified gravel surfaces relating to Roman and medieval reclamation of marginal land in the river floodplain (EHER 16115). Overlying this were the remains of 13th-14th century house footprints and a 15th-16th century ditch and pit (EHER 17530). Number 20 Baddow Road is a 15th century Grade II listed timber framed house (EHER 31472).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for the new extensions.

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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The removal of the concrete stairs and the paving slabs were monitored and thereafter the foundation excavations for the new extensions were monitored

Deposits located within this area were recorded in sample sections:

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>West foundation trench, facing east-south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 33.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Tarmac. Surface of pavement.
0.07 – 0.12m	L1001	Concrete. Basal layer for L1000.
0.12 – 0.33m	L1002	Made ground. Light brownish grey, loose, silty sand and CBM rubble.
0.33 – 0.68m	L1003	Made ground. Light brownish grey, loose, silty sand.
0.68 – 0.78m	L1004	Made ground. Light grey, loose, sand with frequent CBM (roof tiles) fragments.
0.78m+	L1005	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, clayey silt.

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>0.00 = 33.56m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.m	L1000	Tarmac. Car park.
0. – 0.m	L1002	Modern Made Ground. Building demolition debris with frequent brick, tile and rubble.
0.m+	L1006	Natural Clay. Dark bluish grey, compact, clay with occasional chalk flecks

<i>Sample section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 33.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.m	L1002	Modern Made Ground. As above.
0.m+	L1006	Natural Clay. As above.

No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy of the site was fairly uniform and comprised tarmac (L1000) overlying deposits of fairly modern made ground (L1002 – L1003). In western part of the site earlier made ground was present (L1004; 0.30m+ thick) and natural deposits were not encountered. The natural clay (L1006) was present elsewhere below Made Ground L1002.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

8.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record, with particular potential for Roman and medieval remains. There was a potential for road frontage deposits associated with the Roman settlement, and land use outside the area of the Roman temple, and also a potential for roadside deposits associated the medieval settlement at Chelmsford

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed, and no residual finds were recovered. That said, evidence of modern disturbance was present and the site was small.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Chelmsford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Wedderburn Shopfitting Ltd their co-operation and funding the project, in particular Mr Jason Buontempo.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Ms Alison Bennett of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

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WEBSITES

Heritage Gateway
(www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

Unlocking Essex's Past
(http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/custom_pages/home_page.asp?)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

Sample Section 1



2

Sample Section 2



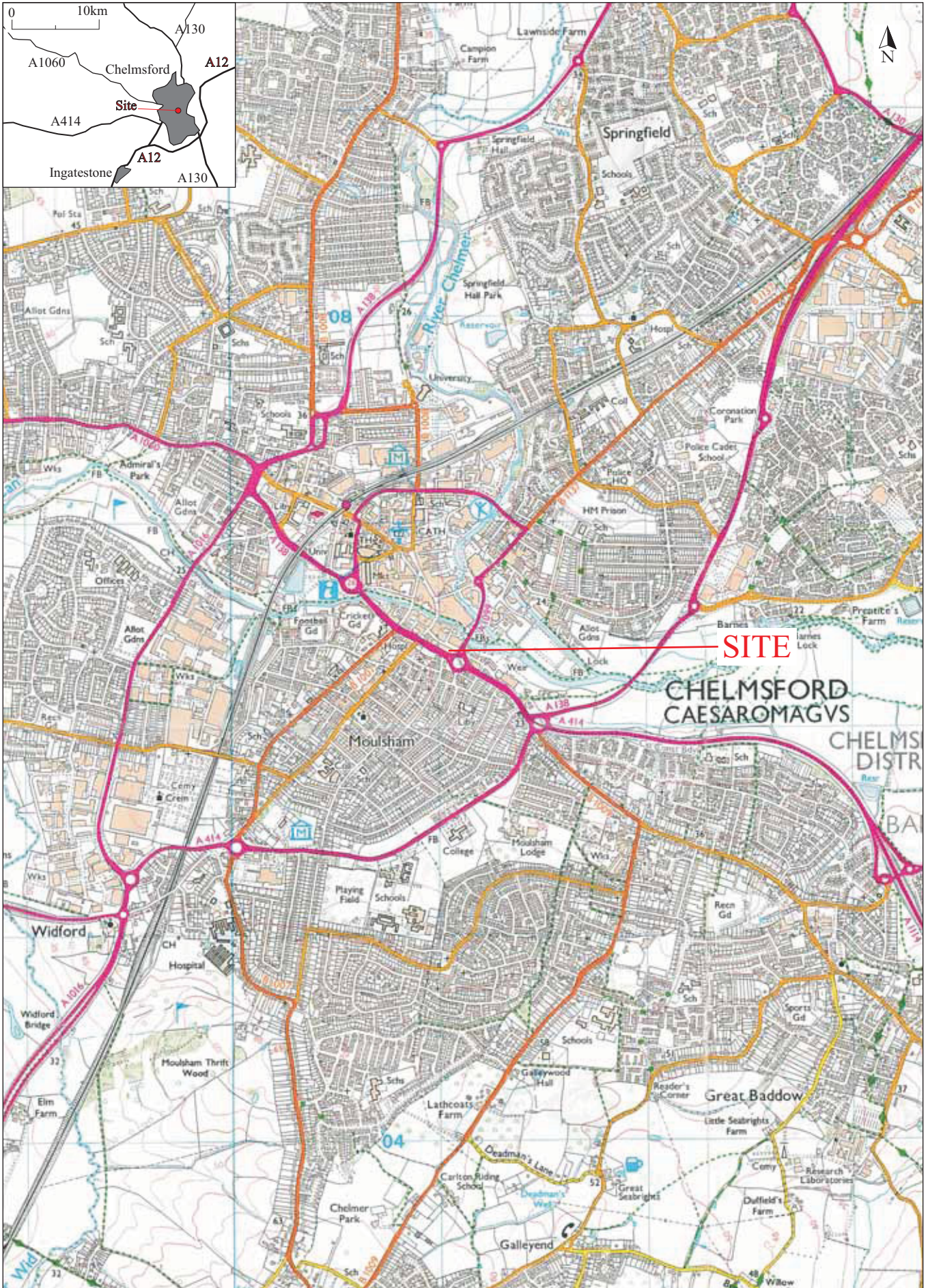
3

Sample Section 3



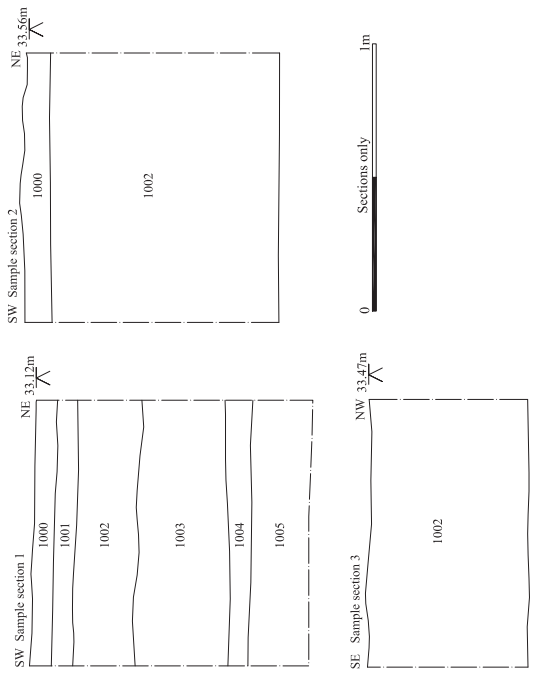
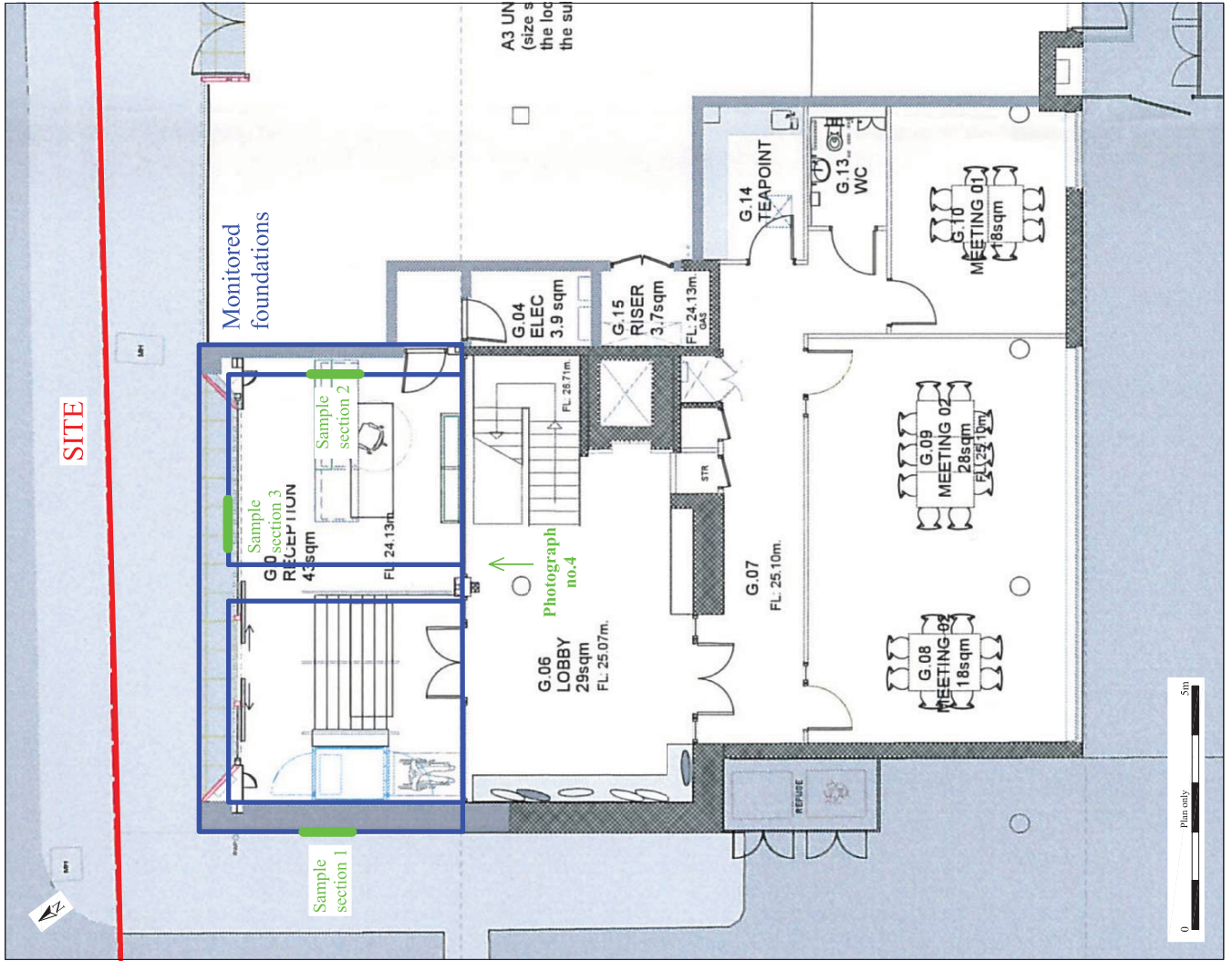
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General view of site



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



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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections
 Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A3