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**LAND ADJACENT TO 32 PETTLEY GARDENS,
ROMFORD RM7 9AB**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (Fieldwork & report) Andrew Peachey (Desk-based research)	
NGR: TQ 5079 8869	Report No: 4252
District: London Borough of Havering	Site Code: PTG 13
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5146
Signed:	Date: February 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land Adjacent to 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford RM7 9AB</i>		
<i>In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford RM7 9AB (NGR TQ 5079 8869). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr David Rayment of DRB Limited and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling on a former grass verge.</i>			
<i>The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as identified by the LB of Havering Unitary Development Plan. The identification is due to the projected route of the major Roman Road between London and Colchester crossing the site. Romano-British remains were also found in vicinity. Therefore the site had a potential for Romano-British archaeological remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed three archaeological features. These included two pits dated to the Roman period (one of them to the late 1st – 4th century) and an undated posthole.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>01/02/2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5146</i>	Site code	<i>PTG 13</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Archaeological Priority Zone</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former grass verge</i>		
Planned development	<i>Single new dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Two Roman (one of them the late 1st – 4th century) pits, one undated posthole</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Late 1st – 4th century pottery and CBM</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>LB Havering</i>	<i>Romford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>RM7 9AB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 325m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 5079 8869</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 15m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr David Rayment (DRB Limited)</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Adjacent to 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford RM7 9AB: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z., Peachey, A.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4252</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2013</i>		

LAND ADJACENT TO 32 PETTLEY GARDENS, ROMFORD RM7 9AB

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford RM7 9AB (NGR TQ 5079 8869). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr David Rayment of DRB Limited and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling on a former grass verge.

The site is located within an Archaeological Priority Zone as identified by the LB of Havering Unitary Development Plan. The identification is due to the projected route of the major Roman Road between London and Colchester crossing the site. Romano-British remains were also found in vicinity. Therefore the site had a potential for Romano-British archaeological remains.

In the event the evaluation revealed three archaeological features. These included two pits dated to the Roman period (one of them to the late 1st – 4th century) and an undated posthole.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford RM7 9AB (NGR TQ 5079 8869; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr David Rayment of DRB Limited and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling on a former grass verge (LB Havering Planning Ref. P.1623.11).

1.2 The evaluation 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 Islington) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 21/12/2012) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the EH (London Region) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 2009), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*.

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains

liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any remains of the Roman occupation. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

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 the centre of Romford. Pettley Gardens forms part of a small complex of residential streets accessed via Marks Road to the north, and London Road to the south (Fig. 1). St. Edwards Way and the High Street are located to the east, and Cottons Park to the West. Pettley Gardens comprises a row of houses, formed of a series of small terraces. The site was a former grass verge situated at the western end of these houses, also bordered to the west by Cottons Approaches, an adjacent residential street.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c. 15m AOD close to the foot of the shallow lower slope of the northern side of the Thames Valley and the western side of the Rom Valley, c. 7km to the north of the River Thames. The partially culverted, slightly meandering north/south course of the River Rom passes c.450m to the east, converging c. 2.5km to the south with the Ravensbourne to form the Beam River, which flows into the Thames.

3.2 Romford is situated within the London Basin and therefore underlain by a solid geology of London Clay above Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey 1978). The drift geology of the site is formed of river terrace drift, comprising sand and gravels that rise from the Rivers Thames and Rom. The soils on the western side of Romford are of the Waterstock association, described as deep permeable mainly fine loamy soils variably affected by groundwater, as well as some deep well drained fine and coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 – 750 BC)

4.1 Significant prehistoric occupation from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age has been recorded in the London Borough of Havering, including a small Bronze Age hoard in Romford (Shaw 1966), however the only evidence recorded in the proximity of the site comprises a single late Neolithic or early Bronze Age flint arrowhead (GLHER MLO26056).

Iron Age and Romano-British (750 BC – AD 410)

4.2 Based on distances recorded in the Antonine Itinerary, it has been postulated that the Roman station of Durolitum was situated at Romford (GLHER MLO26658), possibly in the Hare Street/Gidea Park area but this remains unidentified. The Antonine Itinerary identifies this station on the Roman road between London and Colchester, via Chelmsford, which follows the approximate course of the modern A118 (London Road) between Romford and Ilford. A linear cropmark on Cottons Recreation Ground to the west appears aligned with London Road is believed to be this Roman road (GLHER MLO14415), with a postulated course that may traverse the site.

4.3 The precise extent and character of Roman activity adjacent to this road at Romford is yet to be fully characterised, but numerous finds support a substantial Roman presence here. At Cottons Recreation Ground to the west a Roman cemetery was reported in the 1930s, while a further late 1st/early 2nd century cremation burial group was also later recorded (GLHER MLO14414 & MLO67573). Possibly related to this activity, a series of ditches ranging from the later Iron Age to mid 2nd century were recorded close to the west, on the opposite site of Cottons Approach. Roman coins and metal work have also been recorded on High Street and South Street (GLHER MLO4186, MLO4168

& MLO26051). Most relevant to the present site, however, are remains of Iron Age and Roman date recorded to the immediate west at the new housing site of Marks Lodge in 2008. An evaluation carried out by AS in 2004 to the west at 140 London Road revealed much evidence of previous cellaring and truncation, but identified a single Roman ditch along with further ditch, a pit and two postholes of probable post-medieval date (Crank *et al* 2004).

Saxon & Medieval (AD 411 - 1550)

4.4 A Saxon dedication in the church at Romford suggests a settlement, possibly associated with the Abbey at Barking, but archaeological evidence pre-dating the Norman Conquest is absent in the vicinity of the site. The town grew in importance during the reign of Edward the Confessor, becoming a royal borough, and after the Norman Conquest passed to the Crown. The Manor of Mawneys, a moated site, was situated c. 250m to the east, with the core of the medieval town developing further east around South Street, North Street and the Market Place, significantly detached from the area of the site. The Market Place c. 500m to the east includes the former medieval Gaol (GLHER MLO10822), Chapel of Edward the Confessor and vicarage (GLHER MLO14387, MLO31803 & MLO1688); while North Street includes former almshouses (GLHER MLO10853). The former sites of several public houses with at least 15th century origins are also known on North Street, High Street and Market Place to the east of the site (GLHER MLO23351, MLO13765, MLO5805, MLO5807 & MLO5810).

Post-medieval (AD 1550 - 1900)

4.5 Until the 19th century Romford was principally centred around the High Street, Market Place, North and South Street. In the early post-medieval period the town thrived with two, and later three, markets a week. As a result many significant people from London acquired houses in Romford in the 16th to 18th centuries, one of which was the manor house of Stewards on South Street (GLHER MLO23139). A 17th century building (GLHER MLO84825) and an 18th century almshouse were also located on North Street (GLHER MLO5791), while a 17th century public house is located on High Street (GLHER MLO84911) and a courthouse on Market Place (GLHER MLO56233). Archaeological investigations on North Street and Market Place have also recorded numerous 16th to 18th century structures, features and deposits (i.e. GLHER MLO98054, MLO72989 & MLO72990), but the site appears to remain detached from the core of the town during this period. The lack of urban development to the west of the core of the town is further demonstrated by the presence of a postmill and cavalry barracks c. 350m to the west on London Road (GLHER MLO58305 & MLO24961).

Early modern & modern (1900 – present day)

4.6 The arrival of the railways in 1839, including the station on Waterloo Road (GLHER MLO5819) led to the development of the area immediately to the west of the town, which began to fill with housing. Nonetheless, the bulk of 19th century buildings and archaeological remains have been recorded in

the core of the town to the east of the site. The Market Place includes a 19th century courthouse, goal and public house (GLHER MLO5799, MLO38407 & MLO84857); High Street included Romford Brewery (GLHER MLO98651), tenement buildings (GLHER MLO14367 & MLO10909), a church, chapel and mission hall (GLHER MLO84863, MLO5793 & MLO22894). Beyond the core of the town the only archaeological evidence for previous structures comprises a 19th century refuse pit and well (GLHER MLO78255) recorded at 142-162 London Road, c. 300m south-west of the site.

4.7 The 1960s and 1970s saw the complete redevelopment of the town centre, and the destruction of much of its medieval character. The shape of modern Romford, in particular, is formed by its later 20th century road network – St Edwards Way was opened in 1970, as the northern section of the inner ring road, followed by the subsequent construction of the rest of the circle by the early 1990s, with the large-scale pedestrianisation schemes for the old London Road.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical 360° mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new building, and measured 11 x 1.80m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-4)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 5): north end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 14.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft to friable, silty sand with frequent small stones and occasional CBM fragments.
0.23 – 0.94m	L1001	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional small stones, CBM fragments and debris.
0.94 – 1.03m	L1002	Light grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
1.03m +	L1003	Natural light to mid yellow, compact, silty clay with localized small pockets of fine gravel.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 6): south end, east-north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 – 0.70m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.70 – 0.84m	L1002	As above.
0.84m +	L1003	Natural clay. As above.

Description: Roman pit (F1004), medieval (late 12th – 14th century) pit (F1006) and undated posthole (F1009) were present within the trench.

Description: Two pits of the Roman date (F1004 and F1006) and undated posthole (F1009) were present within the trench.

Pit F1004 was large and circular (3.10+ x 1.40+ x 0.35m; DP 7) partially located in the northern part of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid to dark grey, friable, sandy silt. It contained Roman CBM fragments and an unidentified iron object.

Pit F1006 was oval (1.56+ x 1.10 x 0.26m; DP 8) located in the central part of the trench and extending beyond its eastern limit. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1007, was a dark grey, locally black, compact, sandy silt. Roman (late 1st – 4th century) pottery sherds and a slag were recovered from the fill. The basal fill, L1008, was a light grey, locally yellowish grey, compact, clayey silt. No finds were present.

Post Hole F1009 was circular (0.45 x 0.43 x 0.09m; DP 9) recoded in the southern end of the trench. It had moderate to steep sides and slightly concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a light yellowish grey, friable, sandy silt. No finds were present.

One fragment of medieval pottery (late 12th – 14th century) was also found in the topsoil, L1000.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds. The water table was relatively high (0.85 – 1.00m below ground level) and parts of Pits F1004 and F1006 were waterlogged; however this did not inhibit the archaeological investigation. A live low voltage electric cable was present across the trench but again did not inhibit the evaluation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a dark grey, soft to friable, silty sand with frequent small stones and occasional CBM fragments,(0.20 – 0.25m thick). Below L1000, Made Ground L1001 was the principal deposit (0.50 – 0.70m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1003, was present at 0.89 – 1.10m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, compact, silty clay with localized small pockets of fine gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and the projected route of the major Roman Road between London and Colchester traversed the area.

9.2 In the event three archaeological features were found. Two pits were dated to the Roman period (in general to late 1st – 4th century) and may have been broadly contemporary with remains found earlier to the west of the site at Marks Lodge. Together these remains may indicate more substantial Roman occupation of the area than anticipated. It is possible that habitation may have extended along both sides of the purported Roman road.

9.3 The site was truncated with the made ground containing modern debris being the most substantial deposit (L1001). Despite this the archaeological horizon is still present and the area retains the potential for further remains.

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 David Rayment of DRB Limited for funding the project and for his assistance.

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

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

PTG13, P5146, Romford
 Concordance of finds by
 feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000		1	Topsoil	Late 12th-14th C	(1) 2g			
1004	1005	1	Fill of Pit	Roman		667		Fe. Frag (1) - 10g
1006	1007	1	Upper fill of Pit	Late 12th-14th C	(5) 6g			Slag - 23g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS REPORTS

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Pit F1004 (L1005) contained six fragments (667g) of Roman CBM in a slightly abraded condition. The CBM was manufactured in an orange-red fabric with inclusions of common, moderately sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and sparse red/cream clay pellets (0.25-2mm). This small group includes four fragments of 15-18mm thick flat tile, of which one exhibits the edge of a flange on a tegula roof tile. The remaining two fragments have a comparable thickness but an arcing profile, suggesting they are derived from imbrex roof tile.

Romford may have been the location of the Roman station of Durolitum with the postulated course of a road passing through or close to the site, and a Roman cemetery located close to the west. Therefore this homogenous and relatively well-preserved small group of Roman CBM may represent a trace of a roadside structure or activity.

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Trial trench excavations recovered a total of 6 small, abraded sherds (8g) of pottery, including 5 sherds (6g) of locally produced Roman coarse ware, and a single sherd (2g) of medieval south Hertfordshire grey ware.

The Roman coarse ware, entirely contained in Pit F1006 (L1007), comprises three sherds (4g) of sandy grey ware and two (2g) sherds in a comparable oxidised orange fabric. The fabric has inclusions of common well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse fine mica and sparse fine dark grey/black iron-rich grains (<0.5mm). The sandy grey ware sherds are from a small base, possibly of a beaker or jar, and could date from the late 1st to 4th centuries AD.

A single body sherd of south Hertfordshire grey ware was recovered from Topsoil L1000, and would have been produced between the late 12th and 14th centuries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. 32 Pettley Gardens, Romford. Looking north-east.



DP 2. The site with Trench 1. Looking south-south-east.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking south-south-west.



DP 4. Trench 1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 5. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking west-south-west.



DP 6. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west-south-west.



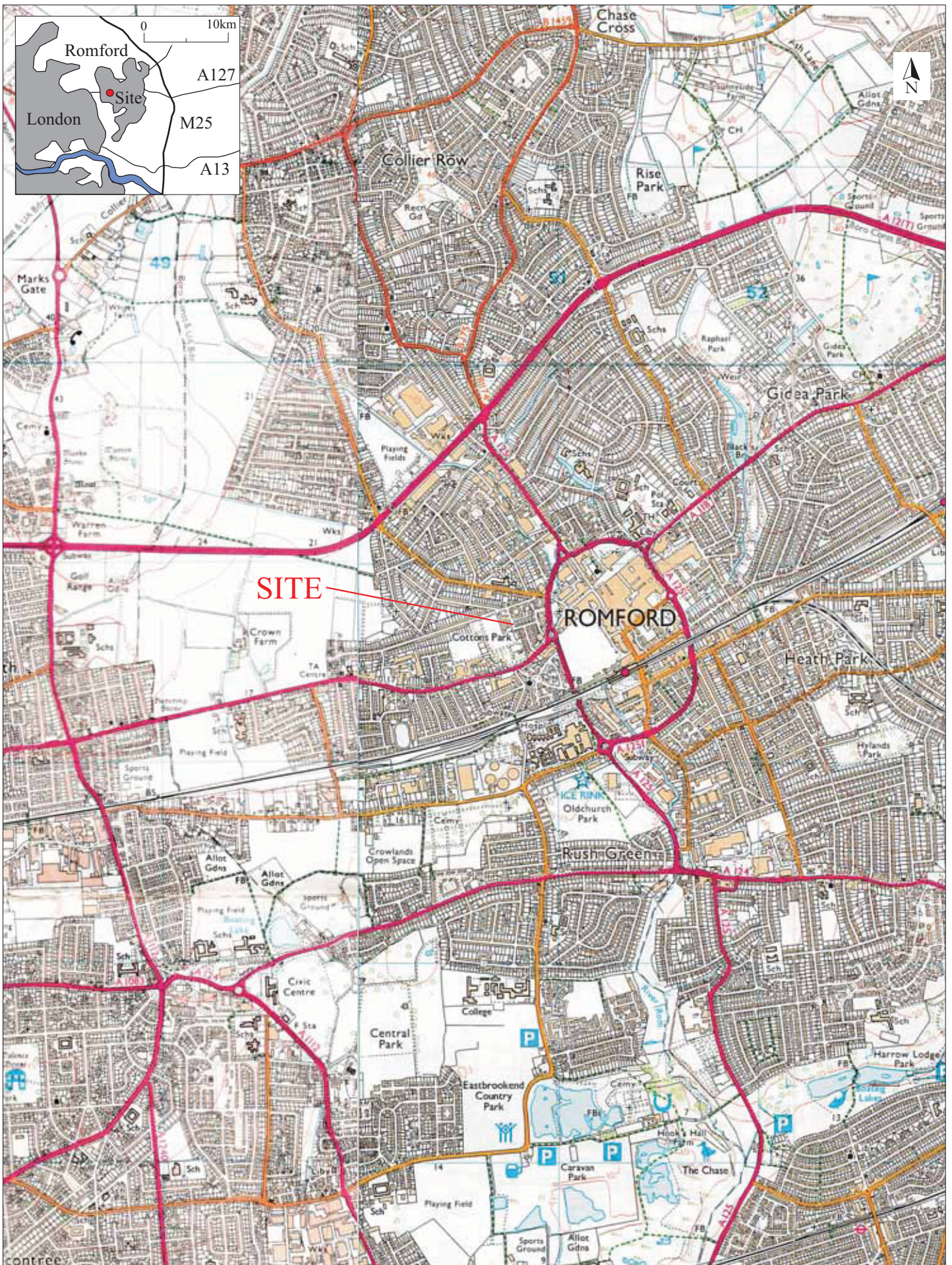
DP 7. Pit F1004. Looking north-north-west.



DP 8. Pit F1006. Looking south-south-east.

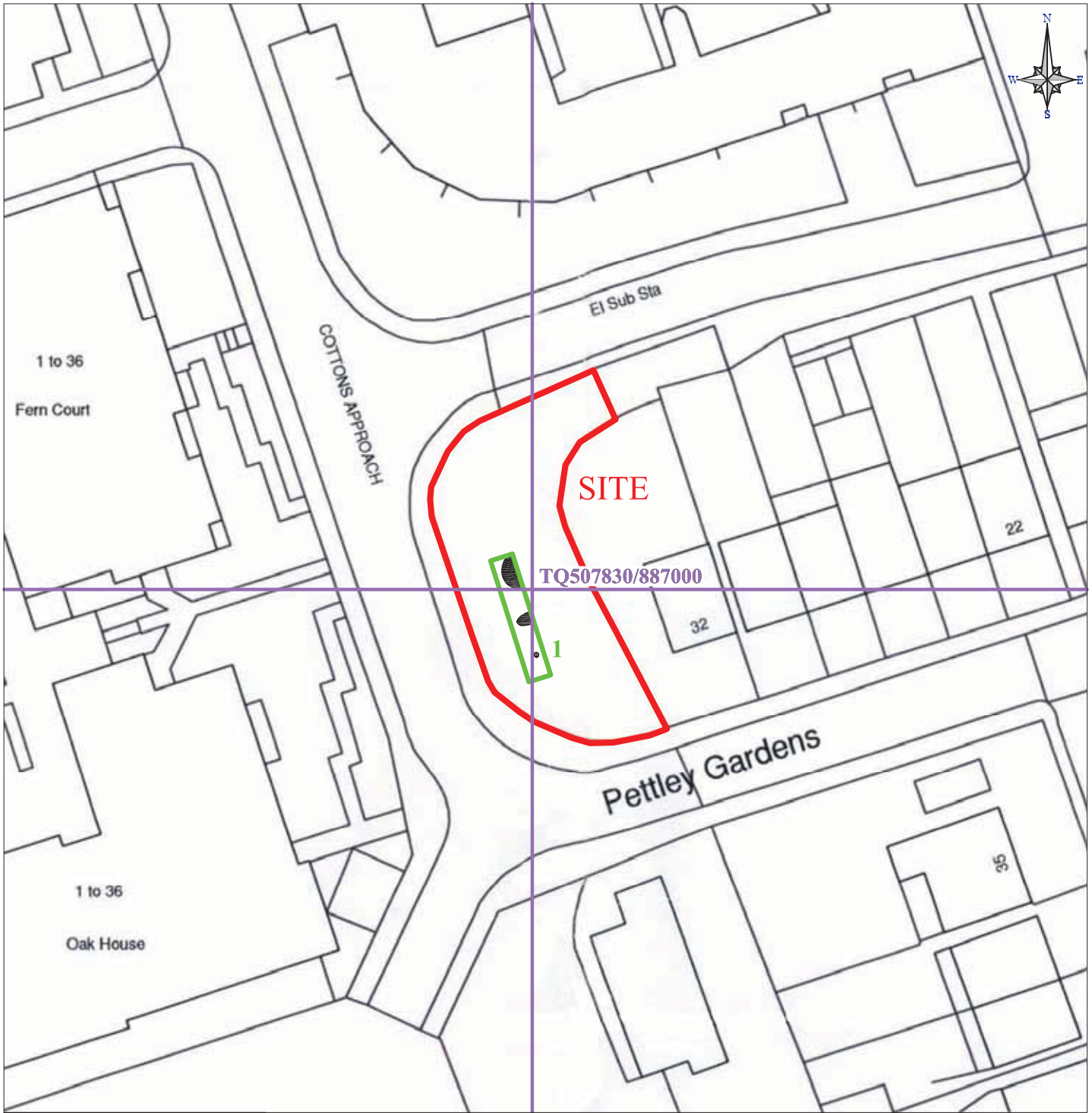


DP 9. Posthole F1009. Looking east-north-east.



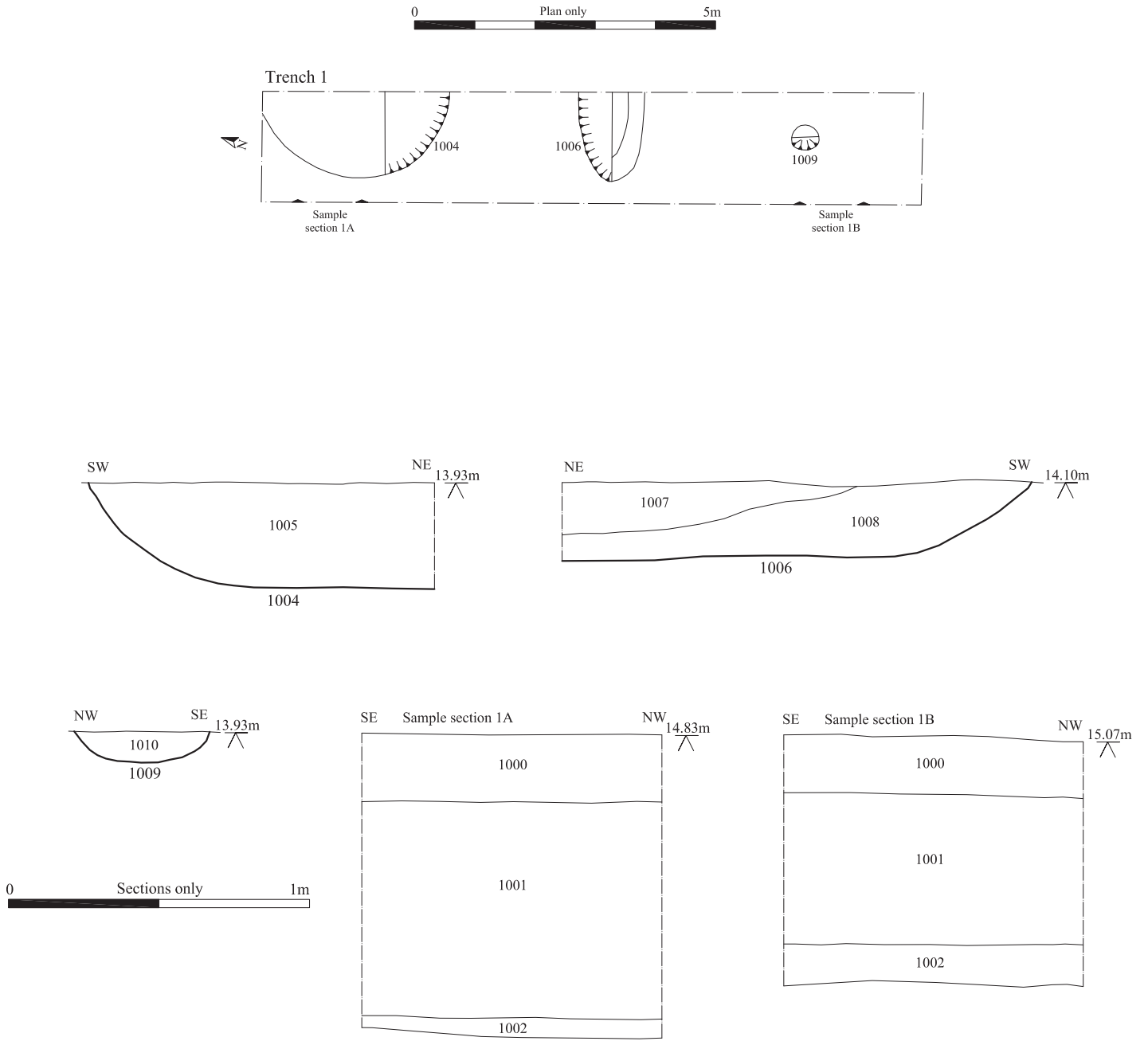
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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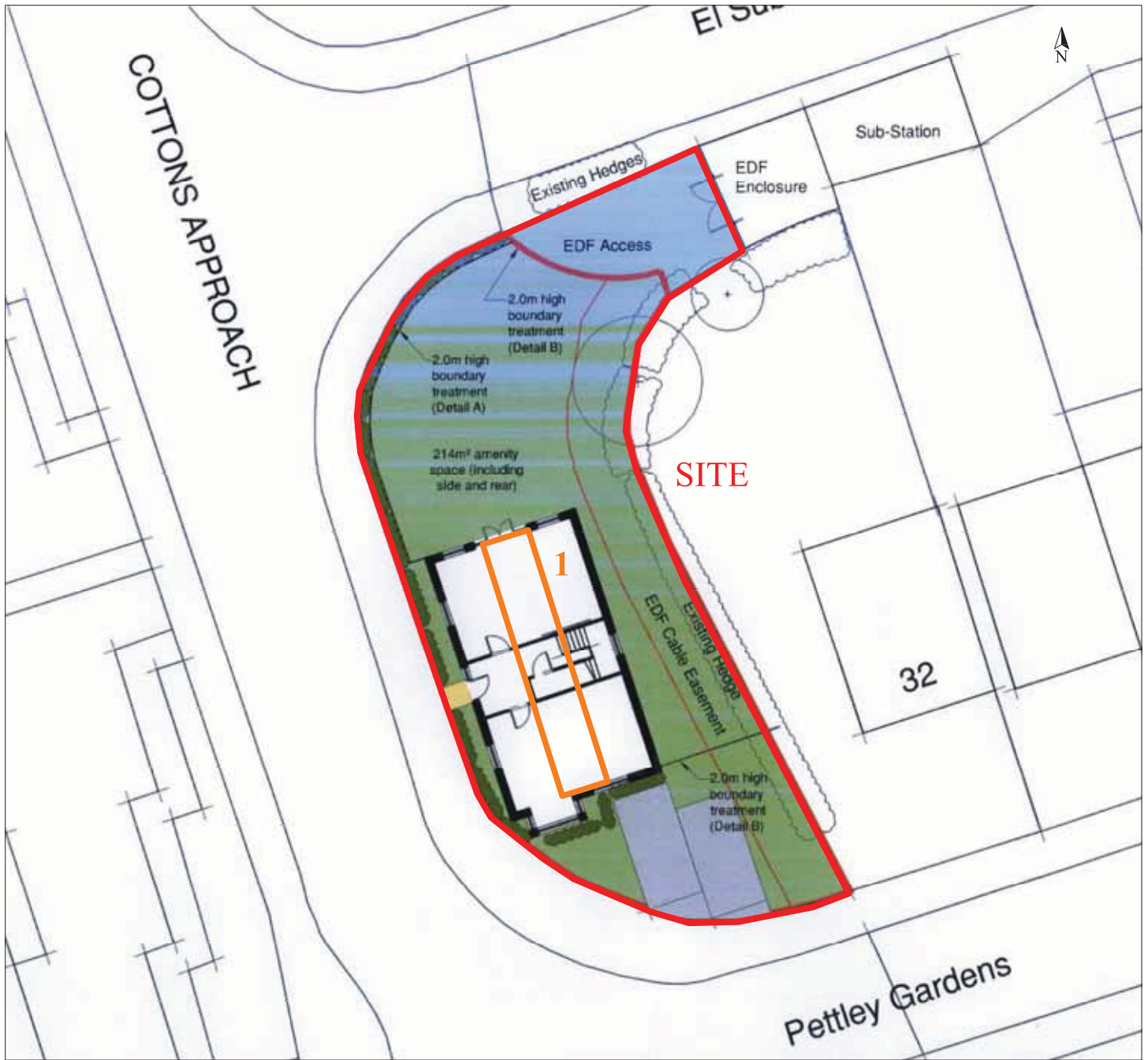
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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4



0 15m

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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:250 at A4