

**LAND EAST OF 5 STATION BRIDGE, BROADWAY,  
YAXLEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE7 3EN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

CHER No. ECB 4003

Authors: Laszlo Lichtenstein	
NGR: TL 1954 9365	Report No: 4362
District: TL 1954 9365	Site Code: AS 1604
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5395
Signed:	Date: 17 July 2013

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Land East of 5 Station Bridge, Broadway, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording of land east of 5 Station Bridge, Broadway, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1954 9365). The monitoring was commissioned by Rob Abbott of Expert Logistics Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a storage or distribution building (Planning Ref. 1300653FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.</i></p> <p><i>The site had potential for archaeological remains. Recent excavations c.700m to the south east of the site have revealed an Iron Age and Roman farming settlement (HER MCB16368).</i></p> <p><i>In the event no archaeological features or finds were located. The excavations were shallow and revealed only modern layers. The natural geology was not revealed.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5395</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1604</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>Storage or distribution building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>Yaxley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE7 3EN</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.51 acres</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 1954 9365</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 15.50m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Laszlo Lichenstein</i>		
Funded by	<i>Expert Logistics Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land East of 5 Station Bridge, Broadway, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein/ Sam Egan</i>		
Report no.	<i>4362</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2013</i>		

**LAND EAST OF 5 STATION BRIDGE, BROADWAY, YAXLEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE7 3EN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

*In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording of land east of 5 Station Bridge, Broadway, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1954 9365). The monitoring was commissioned by Rob Abbott of Expert Logistics Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a storage or distribution building (Planning Ref. 1300653FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.*

*The site had potential for archaeological remains. Recent excavations c.700m to the south east of the site have revealed an Iron Age and Roman farming settlement (HER MCB16368).*

*In the event no archaeological features or finds were located. The excavations were shallow and revealed only modern layers. The natural geology was not revealed.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording of land east of 5 Station Bridge, Broadway, Yaxley, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1954 9365; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Rob Abbott of Expert Logistics Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a storage or distribution building (Planning Ref. 1300653FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEU; dated 09/07/2013), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 09/07/2013), and approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An*

*Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and 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.

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 Yaxley is a village situated in the Fenland c.3km to the south of the outskirts of Peterborough. The village is situated on the eastern side of the A15, which connects the A1 (M) and Peterborough. The principal road through Yaxley is Broadway (B1091, with residential streets to the north and south. The site is situated adjacent to the north-west of Broadway, c.1km north-east of the village. It comprises Plot 7 (0.51 acres) within a sub-rectangular area that has been demarcated for development. The site is hard standing formerly used for vehicle parking for a transport site. Station Farm is adjacent to the south and the railway line passes close to the west.

### **3 THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology & Soils**

3.1.1 The site lies at 15.5m AOD on a slightly raised plateau overlooking drained fen to the south east. The Yaxley Lode (drain) extends to the south-east of the village, which is in part fed by the Pig Water, a drain that passes c.500m to the east of the site. The plateau on which the site sits contains numerous flooded clay extraction pits, including two close to the north, with those of Orton Brick Works further west.

3.1.2 The solid geology of the area comprises the mudstones and clays of the Jurassic Oxford Clat, overlain by mid Pleistocene glacial lake sediments and glacial tills. The lake sediments comprise clays, silts and sands, while the tills comprise stiff light grey to light brown clays with a high clast content of chalk, flint, limestone, Jurassic fossils, sandstone and some igneous or metamorphic rocks. These deposits are typically covered by the slowly permeable, calcareous clayey soils of the Hanslope Association.

#### **3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background**

3.2.1 Although sparse prehistoric artefacts and barrows have been recorded on a fen island to the east, the vicinity of the site has only produced a Bronze Age socketed axe and polished, discoidal flint knife (HER 02936) from c.600m to the north-east, with Yaxley and Farcet Fens appearing to lack prehistoric settlement.

3.2.2 Yaxley is situated c.7.5km south-east of the Roman town of Durobrivae (Water Newton), a prosperous town associated with a major pottery industry and metal working, as well as wealthy villa sites and cemeteries. Local villas, farmsteads and settlements would have benefited from their proximity to Durobrivae and are known to have included Longthorpe, Orton Longueville, Orton Hall Farm and Lynch Farm. Recent excavations c.700m to the south east of the site have revealed an Iron Age and Roman farming settlement that may be

added to this list (HER MCB16368; Brown 2008). The settlement included Iron Age roundhouses, a Roman stone-roofed building and timber-framed structures, enclosures and a small cemetery, which may have been associated with a villa in the vicinity. The extent of the settlement was not fully defined and settlement appeared to shift to another location in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Scattered finds in the close proximity of the site, including pottery c.100m to the south (HER 01353) and c.200-300m to the north (HER 01379 & 01346) suggest that Roman settlement or activity may extend through the area of the site.

3.2.3 In the 10<sup>th</sup> century the Abbeys of Ramsey and Thorney held shared rights over the marginal and often marshy land to the north-east of Yaxley, while in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century these were entirely held by Thorney Abbey. The historic course of the River Nene was canalised via the Yaxley Lode and the village became an inland until the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, the site was detached from the medieval nucleus of Yaxley and medieval remains are limited to those associated with the south-west edge of Farcet (HER MCB17286), including 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery (HER 07851) and the base of a 15<sup>th</sup> century stone cross (HER 02913).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The principal element monitored was the mechanically-excavated 1mx1m column foundations for the proposed new portal framed building (Fig.3).

4.2 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.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Deposits located within the area of the groundworks were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1</i>		
<i>Eastern foundation column, facing east</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Tarmac
0.06 – 0.47m	L1001	Levelling layer of crushed brick
0.47m+	L1002	Demolition layer with slag and some soil



<i>Sample section 2</i>		
<i>North-Western foundation column, facing south</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1003	Levelling layer of crushed brick and stone.
0.12 – 0.22m	L1000	Tarmac
0.22 – 58m+	L1002	Demolition layer as above

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 The uppermost layers were Tarmac L1000 (0.06m thick) and a levelling layer of crushed brick and stone, L1003 (0.12m thick). L1000 and L1003 overlay a levelling layer of crushed brick, L1001 (0.06m-0.47m thick) and L1002 a demolition layer with slag and some soil (0.22m-0.58m thick).

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site had potential for archaeological remains. Recent excavations c.700m to the south east of the site have revealed an Iron Age and Roman farming settlement (HER MCB16368). The site is some distance from the medieval core of Yaxley so limiting the possibility of medieval finds.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were located. The excavations were shallow and revealed only modern layers. The natural geology was not revealed.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Expert Logistics Ltd for funding the monitoring, in particular Mr Rob Abbott for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Brown, J. 2008 *Late Iron Age occupation and the emergence of a Roman farming settlement at Broadway Fields, Yaxley, Huntingdonshire*. Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 08/135

Gurney, D 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

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

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General view of the site looking north-east



2  
View of site looking north-east showing row of test pits



3  
View of the site looking north-west



4  
View of site looking west

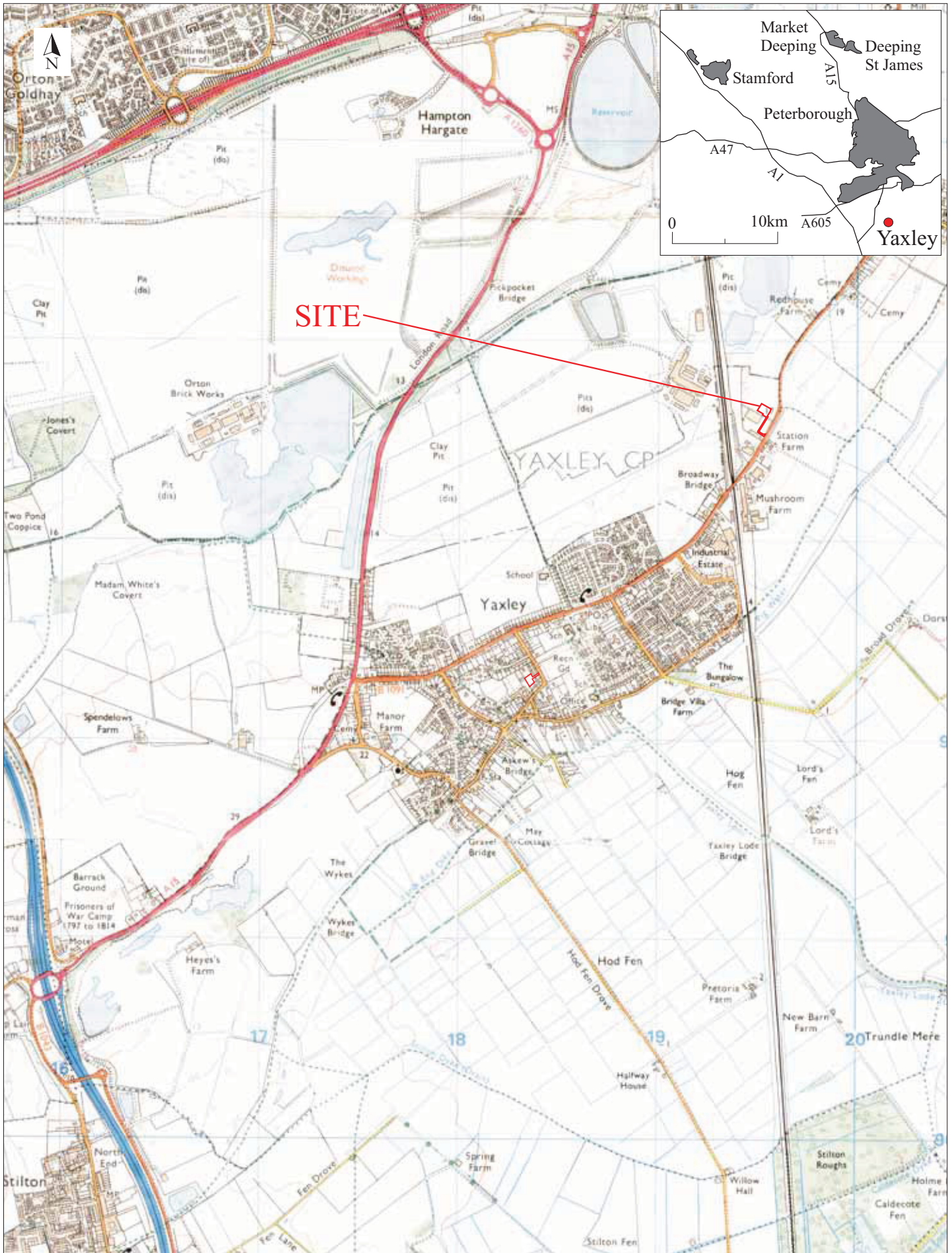


5  
Sample section 1



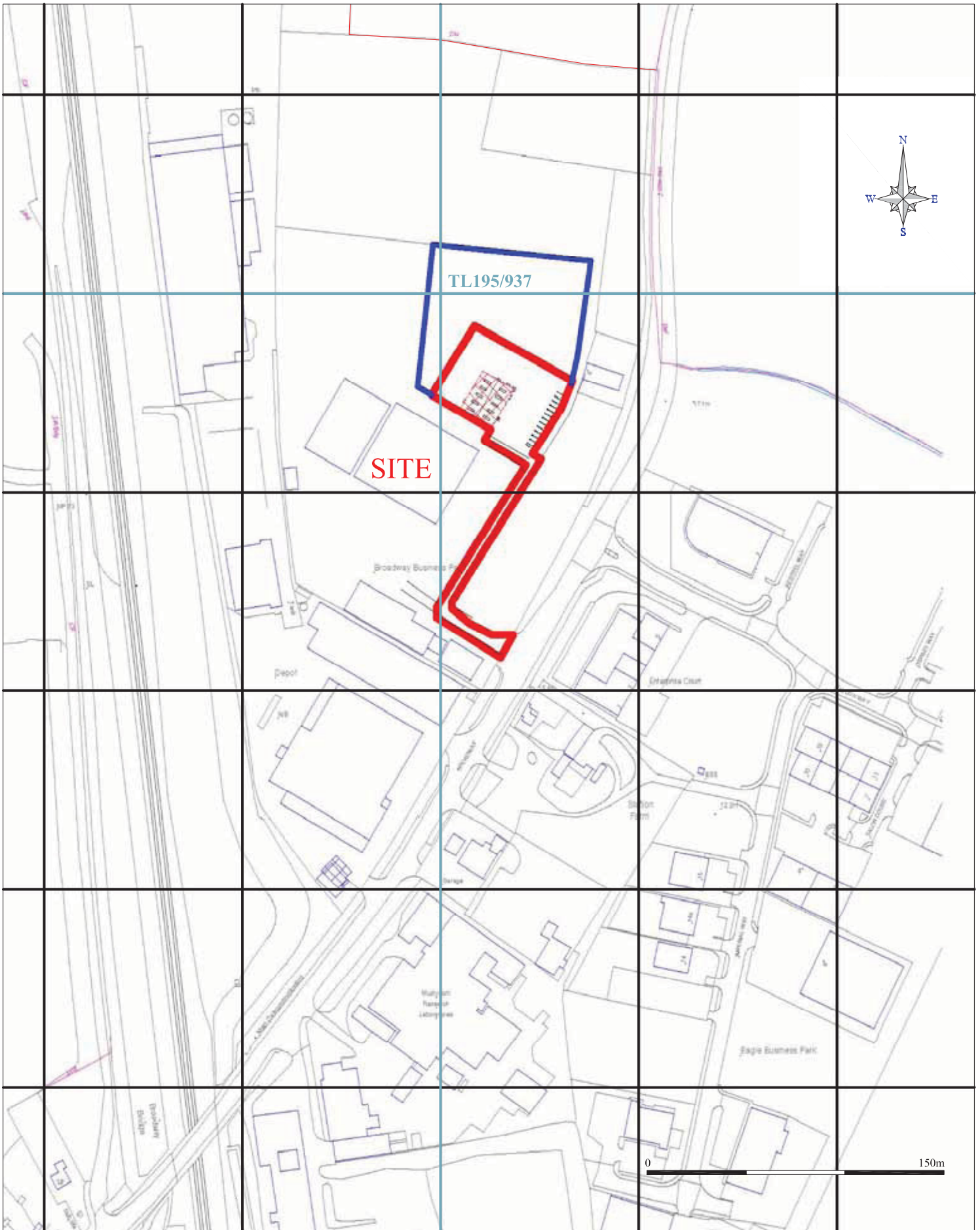
6  
Sample section 2





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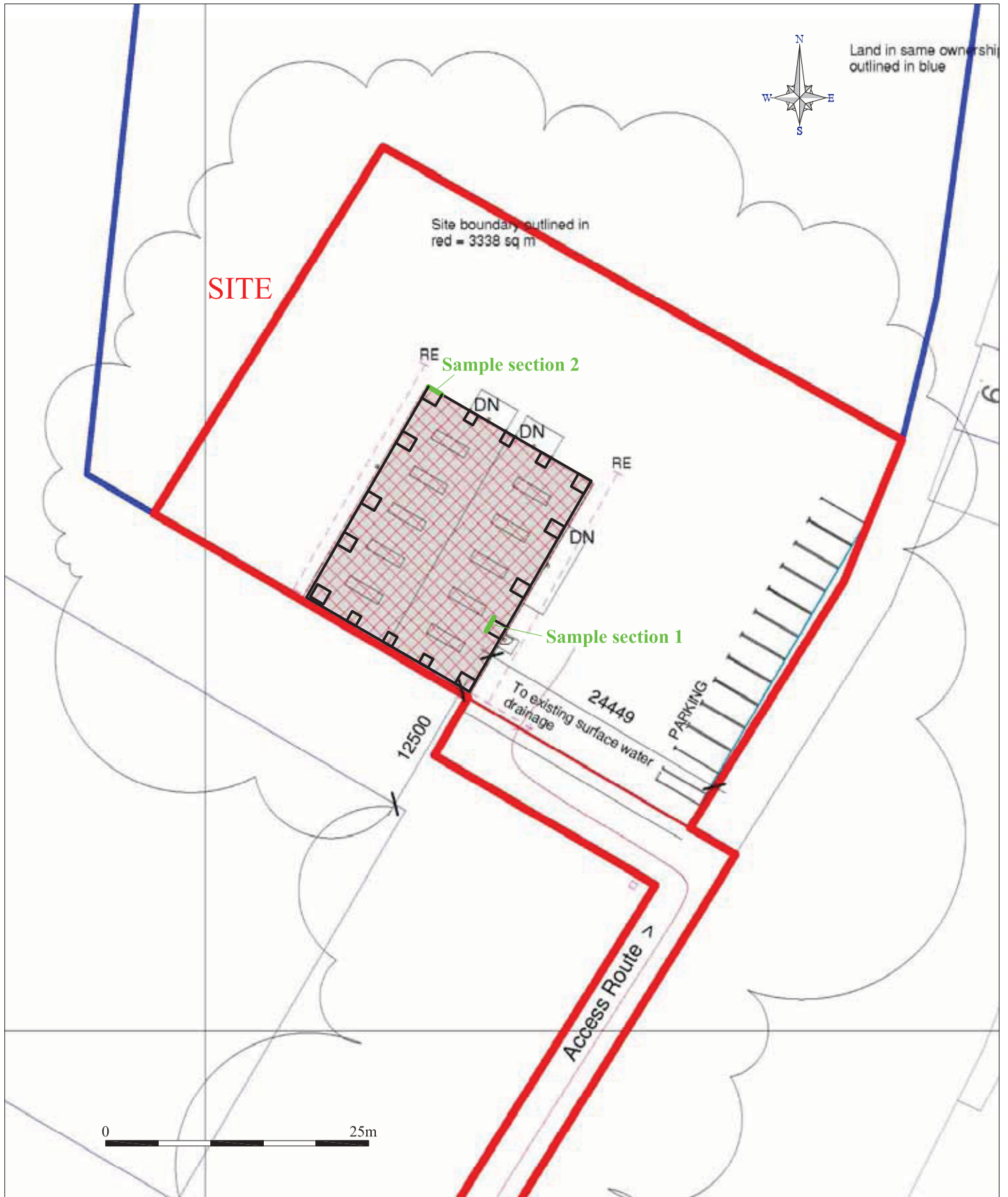
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2500 at A4

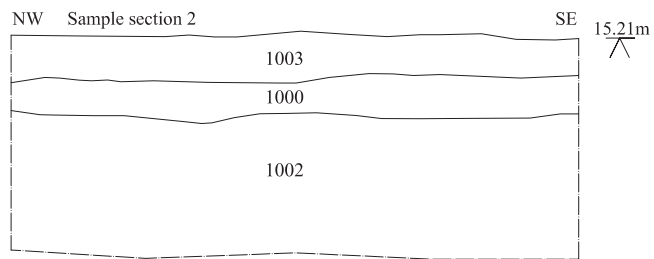
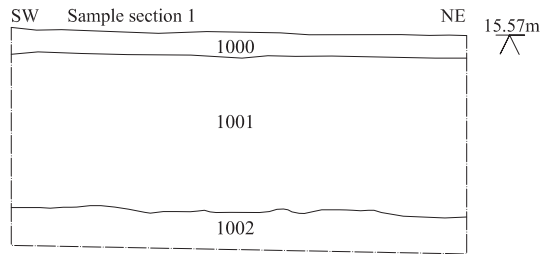




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**Fig. 3 Sample section location plan**

Scale 1:500 at A4



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<b>Fig. 4 Sample sections</b>
Scale 1:20 at A4