

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

### **PROPOSED NEW FLATS, SHENLEYBURY VILLAS, SHENLEYBURY, SHENLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER request No. 110/13

Authors: Laszlo Lichtenstein MA MSc (Fieldwork & Report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon) (Research)	
NGR: TL 18391 01821	Report No. 4444
District: Hertsmere	Site Code: AS1637
Approved: C. Halpin MIfA	Project No. 5384
Signed:	Date: 28 October 2013

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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>Proposed new flats, Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation at Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire, WD7 9DL (NGR TL 18391 01821). The evaluation was commissioned by Hightown Praetorian &amp; Churches Housing Association Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of two 2-bedroom flats over garages (Hertsmere Planning Ref. TP/13/0894).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed modern demolition rubble and modern services in each trench. The site was much disturbed by modern activity.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	24 October 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5384	Site code	AS1637
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	Archaeological Alert Area		
Current land use	Car park		
Planned development	Flats		
Main features (+dates)	Modern demolition rubble and services		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
<b>Project locations</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Hertsmere	Shenley
HER for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (request No. 110/13)		
Post code (if known)	WD7 9DL		
Area of site	0.1 ha.		
NGR	TL 18391 01821		
Height AOD (max)	c. 82m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Laszlo Lichtenstein		
Funded by	Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association Ltd		
Full title	Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire. Archaeological evaluation		
Authors	Lichtenstein, L. and Higgs, K.		
Report no.	4444		
Date (of report)	October 2013		

## **PROPOSED NEW FLATS, SHENLEYBURY VILLAS, SHENLEYBURY, SHENLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation at Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire, WD7 9DL (NGR TL 18391 01821). The evaluation was commissioned by Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of two 2-bedroom flats over garages (Hertsmere Planning Ref. TP/13/0894).*

*The site lies on the eastern side of Shenleybury Road, Shenley. It comprises an existing car park to the rear of Shenleybury Villas. It lies within an area that has the potential for medieval archaeological remains. The medieval manor of Shenley is recorded at Domesday as Scenlai, and the manorial site is believed to lie at Shenleybury (recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record – HER 6217). The nearby Church of St Botolph dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, likely on the site of an earlier church (HER 916).*

*In the event the evaluation revealed modern demolition rubble and modern services in each trench. The site was much disturbed by modern activity.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation at Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire, WD7 9DL (NGR TL 18391 01821; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of two 2-bedroom flats over garages (Hertsmere Planning Ref. TP/13/0894).

1.2 The evaluation was also conducted according to a brief prepared by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) issued by AS (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013). It was carried out according to the Institute of Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (revised 2008), and conformed with the guidelines set down in the document Gurney (2003) *Standards for Field*

*Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14/ALGAOEE.

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it was important to establish the presence or absence of any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the manorial site at Shenleybury. It was also important to understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

*Planning policy*

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 within the hamlet of Shenleybury, which lies within the parish of Shenley, the district of Hertsmere and the county of Hertfordshire. The village of Shenley lies 1.5km to the south, whilst the M25 motorway is located 800m to the north. The site lies towards the southern extent of Shenleybury and to the immediate north of the Grade II\* listed St Botolph's Church, which is now converted to residential use. Shenleybury Villas lie along the eastern frontage of Shenleybury Road, which runs on a north-north-west to south-south-eastern alignment through both Shenleybury and Shenley. The site also lies within an Archaeological Alert Area associated with the medieval manor of Shenleybury.

2.2 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land covering an area of approximately 0.1 hectares (Fig. 2). It currently consists of a terrace of houses known as Shenleybury Villas and associated grounds located along the eastern frontage of Shenleybury Road. To the north of the site stand commercial units occupying Hertford House and residential properties at Shenleybury Farm Cottages. It is proposed to construct two 2-bedroom flats over garages to the rear of the existing Shenleybury Villas. The site is currently in use as parking and amenity area for Nos 1 to 5 Shenleybury Villas with a double garage and a waste skip compound used by a caretaker for the social landlord for the wider area.

## **3 THE EVIDENCE**

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

3.1.1 The Shenleybury area lies within a varied relief within the valley of the River Colne, which flows on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment 1.7km to the north of the site (Fig. 1). The surrounding relief slopes significantly to the north and north-west, with the site located at approximately 82m AOD. The underlying geology comprises clays and gravel drift (BGS 1978). Oils of the area comprise those of the Windsor Association, which are described as slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils (SSEW 1983). A recent archaeological evaluation undertaken by AS at St Botolph's Church and 20m to the south revealed a tripartite stratigraphy comprising topsoil subsoil and natural clay across the majority of the site (Williamson 2005). The natural drift clay was encountered at a depth of 0.5m+.

## 3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.2.1 The prehistory of the Shenleybury area remains relatively unexplored, although Mesolithic worked flints are known from London Colney to the north (HER 9754). The large number of undated cropmarks in the vicinity may also prove to indicate significant activity from the later prehistoric periods. Evidence for Roman activity in the area is known from the course of Watling Street, which ran close to the present A5183 approximately 2km to the west of Shenleybury. Watling Street ran from *Londinium* to *Verulamium*, via a local centre of pottery production at *Sulloniaca* (modern day Brockley Hill) to the south. It is also postulated that a Roman road passed along Bell Lane in Shenley, leading towards Borehamwood (HER 9530).

3.2.2 The site lies to the north of the medieval village of Shenley (HER 2686), occupying what would historically have been heavily wooded high ground to the north of London. Shenley was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Scenlai or Senlai*, a name probably meaning 'fair or bright clearing or wood' (Gover *et al* 1970). The village formed part of the lands held by the Abbey of St Albans, passing to Robert of Mortain after the conquest. It developed largely as a linear settlement following the course of the old road to London. The right to hold a market was granted to Adam de Stratton in 1268. The parish had two principle manors, those of Salisbury Hall and Shenleybury, the location of the latter remains uncertain, other than in the vicinity of the site (HER 6217; Page 1908).

3.2.3 The site also lies to the immediate north of the Grade II\* listed St Botolph's Church (HER 916), which was first recorded in 1160 (Barton) and the first record of priest dates to 1240. The present church of St Botolph is of late medieval date, probably being rebuilt around 1424, when Maud, Countess of Salisbury bequeathed money to upkeep the fabric of the building (Page 1908). The church is now a private dwelling, having been superseded by the Chapel of St Martin built in 1841. The tomb of Hawksmoor lies in St Botolph's churchyard directly to the south-west of the site. The site also lies to the south of Shenleybury Farm (HER 9345), which is a post-medieval farmstead at a medieval manorial site with the 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings adapted for use by Shenley Hospital in the 1930s. A large number of medieval and post-medieval field systems are also known locally including evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 6 x 1.60m and Trench 2 measured 10 x 1.60m. Trench one later was moved slightly from its proposed location due to presence of a car in the original location.



4.2 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.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The individual trenches are described below:

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 0.00 = 82.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1003	Tarmac layer over car park.
0.10 – 0.50m	L1004	Made ground. Light yellowish brown, compact, demolition material from former building mixed with redeposited natural with occasional 20 <sup>th</sup> century CBM fragments.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay with occasional small to medium rounded pebbles.

*Description:* Demolition rubble and a drain were present in Trench 1.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 0.00 = 82.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish black, friable, clayey silt.
0.30 – 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey, hard, silty clay with occasional modern CBM fragments.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. Light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay.

*Description:* Like Trench 1 demolition rubble and a drain were present in Trench 2.

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 The site was commonly overlain by Tarmac L1003 (north and north-east part of the site) and by Topsoil L1000 (0.00 – 0.30m thick) in the south-east area.

7.2 Within majority of the site below the tarmac, modern made ground deposits were present to 0.10 – 0.50m below existing ground level. The most substantial deposit, L1004, comprised made ground containing CBM fragments and debris. Subsoil L1001 was only present in the north-eastern part of Trench 2 and consisted of a mid brownish grey, hard, clay with occasional CBM fragments (0.04m thick).

7.3 The natural geology, L1002, was present at 0.34m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The medieval manor of Shenley is recorded at Domesday as Scenlai, and the manorial site is believed to lie at Shenleybury (recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record – HER 6217). The nearby Church of St Botolph dates to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and is likely on the site of an earlier church (HER 916).

8.2 In the event the evaluation revealed modern demolition rubble and modern services in each trench. The site was much disturbed by modern activity.

## **9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Borehamwood Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association Ltd for funding the archaeological evaluation, in particular Ms Sarah McMillan for assistance.

AS is grateful to Dr Isobel Thompson at the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU),

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

Williamson, I. 2005 *Proposed New Burial Ground, St Botolph's Church, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions Limited unpublished report No. 2373

## **Web resources**

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 1      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	5 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	8
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	7
Site photographs colour slides	7
Digital Photographs	11

## APPENDIX 2      HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Proposed New flats, Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Hertsmere
<b>Village/Town:</b> Shenleybury	<b>Parish:</b> Shenley
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Hertsmere Planning Ref. TP/13/0894
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Hightown Praetorian & Churches Housing Association Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of flats
<b>Present land use:</b>	Car park
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 150m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 32m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 1839 0182
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1637
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	24/10/2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Borehamwood
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited carried out an archaeological evaluation at Shenleybury Villas, Shenleybury, Shenley, Hertfordshire, WD7 9DL (NGR TL 18391 01821). The evaluation was commissioned by Hightown Praetorian &amp; Churches Housing Association Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of two 2-bedroom flats over garages (Hertsmere Planning Ref. TP/13/0894).</p> <p>In the event the evaluation revealed modern demolition rubble and modern services in each trench. The site was much disturbed by modern remains.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> L Lichtenstein	<b>Date of Summary:</b> October 2013

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1 looking north



36  
Trench 2 looking north



3  
Sample section in Trench 1





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



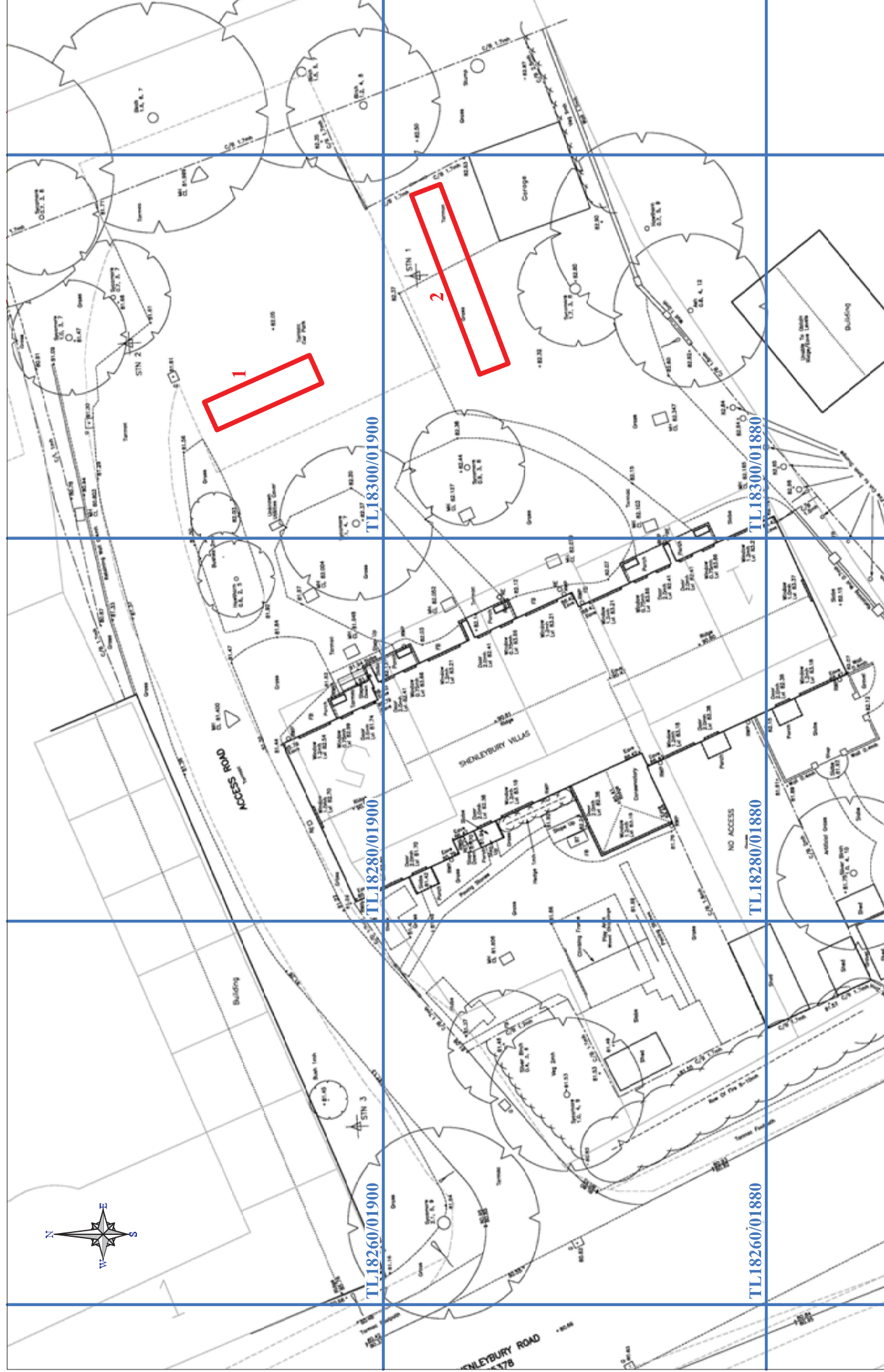
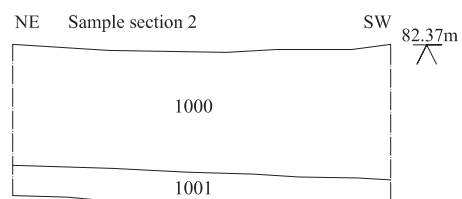
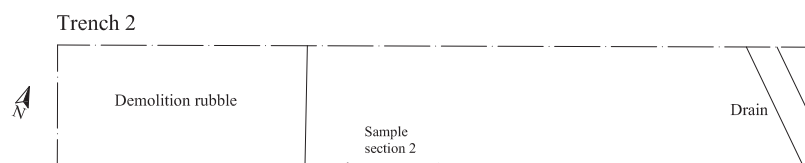
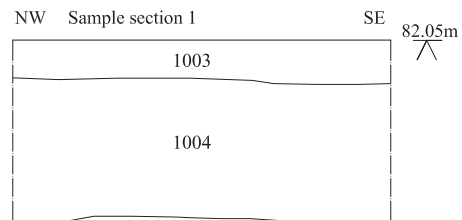
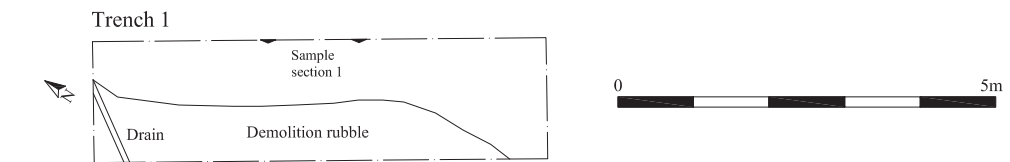


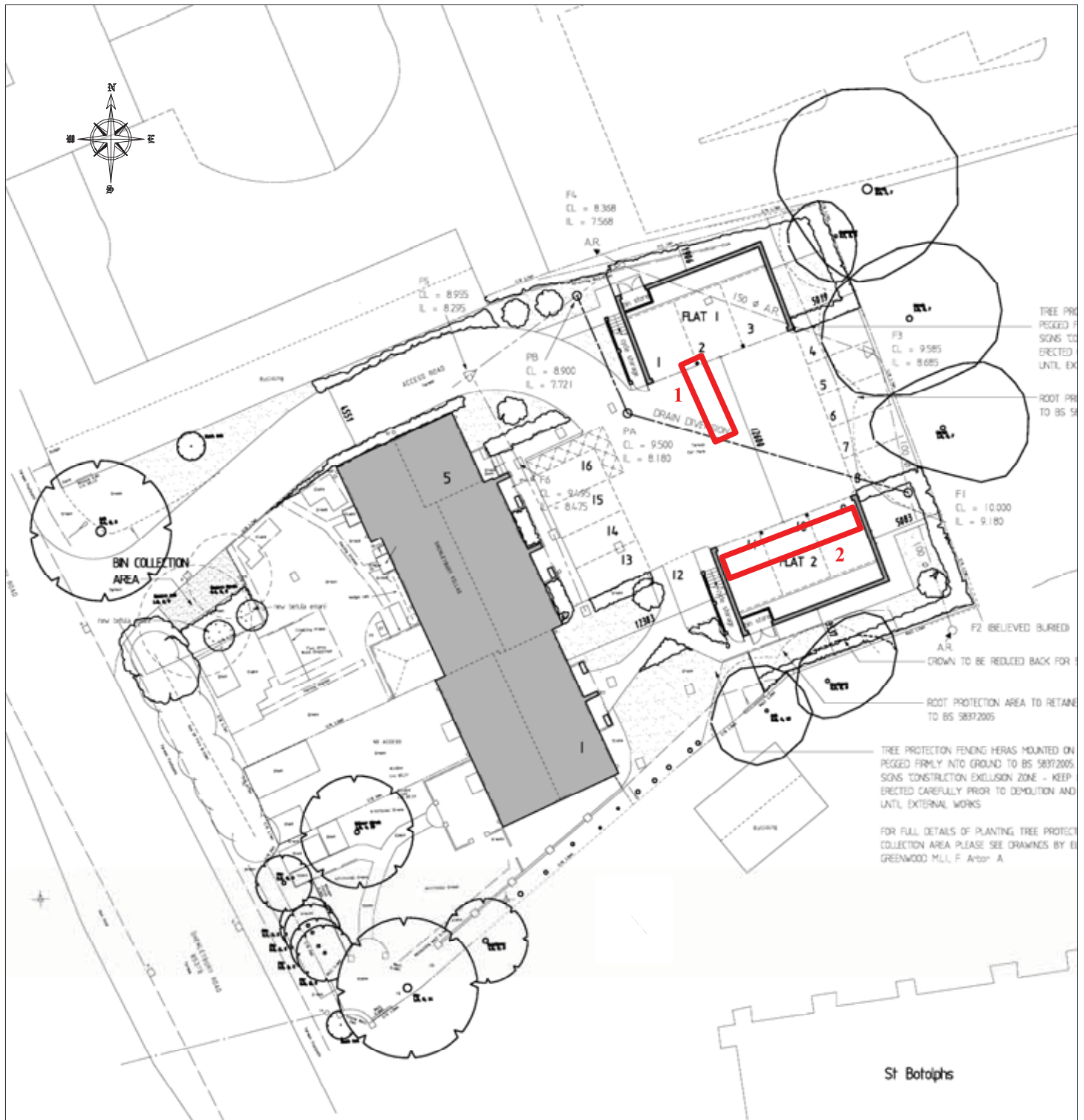
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:250 at A4





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<b>Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections</b>
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4



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**Fig. 4 Proposed development plan**  
 Scale 1:400 at A4