
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**1 PARK VIEW ROAD, BERKHAMSTED
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING
'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION**

Authors: Jim Fairclough (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TL 988 079	Report No: 4638
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS 1699
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5836
Signed:	Date: 30 July 2014

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

PI House, R/O 23 Clifton Road,
Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5AF
Tel 01462 817 933

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk

www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording / 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
<p><i>In July 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording / 'strip, map and sample' investigation during the removal of the slab following demolition at 1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 988 079). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00927/12).</i></p> <p><i>The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21 which records the presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The settlement of Berkhamsted lies in the Bulbourne river valley, where early activity is known through archaeological investigations on the route of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass and within the town itself.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	21 July 2014		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5836	Site code	AS 1699
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	Within an Area of Archaeological Significance No.21		
Current land use			
Planned development	residential		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Dacorum	Berkhamsted
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 400m ²		
NGR	TL 988 079		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.107m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	-		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Jim Fairclough		
Funded by	Saker Industrial Ltd		
Full title	<i>1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording / 'Strip, Map & Record' Investigation</i>		
Authors	Fairclough, J.		
Report no.	4638		
Date (of report)	July 2014		

1 PARK VIEW ROAD, BERKHAMSTED HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

In July 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording / 'strip, map and sample' investigation during the removal of the slab following demolition at 1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 988 079). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00927/12).

The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21 which records the presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The settlement of Berkhamsted lies in the Bulbourne river valley, where early activity is known through archaeological investigations on the route of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass and within the town itself.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording / 'strip, map and sample' investigation during the removal of the slab following demolition at 1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 988 079; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Saker Industrial Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00927/12).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to advice prepared by Kate Batt (dated 21/10/13) of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 20th March 2014), 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), 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:

- Archaeological evaluation by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the footprint of the proposed new development, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed.
- The archaeological monitoring of the removal of the slab following the demolition of the current structure.
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21 which records the presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The settlement of Berkhamsted lies in the Bulbourne river valley, where early activity is known through archaeological investigations on the route of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass and within the town itself. The investigations have revealed that the heavy local soils were exploited during the Neolithic, late Bronze Age and the early Iron Age. Grim's Ditch, a Scheduled Ancient Monument of late Bronze Age or Iron Age date, lies on the high ground to the west of the town. Iron Age occupation is known from Cow Roast to the north-north-west, whilst by the later Iron Age, an important iron working industry, focussed on Northchurch, had developed. Two late Iron Age coins have also been found in the vicinity of the site (HERs 6075 & 22769).

Romano-British

2.2 The route of Akeman Street, connecting *Verulamium* (St Albans) to Alcester and Cirencester passes through Berkhamsted, and it is thought to be the route of the modern High Street. At least two Romano-British villas have been identified within this part of the Bulbourne valley, including one at Northchurch. A second villa is located at Boxmoor, whilst a possible third may be on Berkhamsted Common. Roman buildings have been identified close to Berkhamsted Castle, which stands 600m to the north-east of the site. The construction of the Castle Hill estate during the 1930s revealed finds of oyster shells and Roman pottery (HER 12193). A deposit of 3rd - 4th century pottery, sherds derived from c. 60 vessels including wasters, was also discovered in a builders' trench during construction of garage in 1956 (HER 6803).

Anglo-Saxon

2.3 The district and Hundred of Dacorum, in which the site lies, derived its name from the Saxon period term '*hundred of the Danes or Dacians*' in reference to its purported inhabitants originating in Dacia (Gover *et al* 1938). The settlement of Berkhamsted, however, first appeared as *Beorhðanstædæ*, or 'birch-grown homestead', in 966 – 984. The Domesday Book of 1086 documented that the Count of Mortain held the manor of *Berchamsted*, which comprised 13 hides and land for 26 ploughs (Morris 1976). The Saxon period in Berkhamsted is represented by the discovery of several sherds of early

to mid Saxon pottery recovered during field work at Chesham Road c. 300m to the north-east of the site.

Medieval

2.4 It appears that the existence of an 11th century motte and bailey castle at Berkhamsted had surprisingly little influence on the topography of the medieval town. It is thought that Berkhamsted developed during the 12th - 13th centuries as an undefended settlement or trading centre on an arterial road, rather than a fortified town focussed on the castle (Doggett & Hunn 1985). The manor of Berkhamsted remained an important throughout the medieval period. The earliest reference to a medieval deer park at Berkhamsted was in 1296 when it is recorded in the ownership of the Earl of Cornwall (HER 6381). Although the location and extent of the deer park are unknown, but it was presumably in the vicinity of Berkhamsted Castle, which was held by the Earl.

2.5 A large number of medieval findspots are recorded, and attest to the importance of the High Street as the main thoroughfare and historic core. The St John the Baptist's hospital for lepers was founded before 1216-17 and formerly stood 150m to the west of the site until it was dissolved before 1540 (HER 4142). The apparent site of St John's Well, associated with St John the Baptist's hospital for lepers, as well as an associated graveyard are also recorded in the same area (HERs 4143 & 9182). The documented church of St James also reputedly stood 100m to the west (HER 9181). A number of archaeological investigations along the course of the High Street attest to former medieval structures, occupation evidence and burgage plot boundaries, with an open pastoral habitat along the River Bulbourne.

Post-medieval & later

2.6 By the 16th century, the town of Berkhamsted had fallen into decline and the castle lost much of its importance after the death of its last owner, Cicily, Duchess of York and the mother of King Edward IV in 1495. By the mid 18th century both Northchurch and Berkhamsted extended along the High Street and the main industries were lace making and straw plaiting (Page 1903). There is extensive evidence for post-medieval and early modern remains in proximity to the site, with the majority of such remains located along the High Street (see Appendix 1). Post-medieval structures recorded close to the site include Bourne School (HER 12042), the 17th century building at Nos. 296 – 298 High Street (HER 17586) and the remains of post-medieval buildings at Nos. 286 – 290 High Street (HER 17584).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The ground works observed comprised the site clearance, ground reduction and subsequent foundation trenches for the construction of the replacement dwelling.

3.2 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

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

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>0.00m = AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.60m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown grey, firm, clayey silt with modern demolition material, brick, wire, stone and concrete.
0.60 – 0.91m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid grey brown, firm, silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded flint.
0.91 – 1.34m	L1002	Natural. Light orange red, compact clay with moderate small to medium sub-rounded flint.

<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>0.00m = AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above
0.25 – 0.74m	L1003	Made ground. Light yellowish brown, firm silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint.
0.74 – 1.15m	L1002	Natural. As Above

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The uppermost layer was Topsoil L1000 (0.60m thick), a dark brown grey, firm, clayey silt with demolition material, brick, wire and

concrete. This overlay subsoil L1001 (0.30m thick), a mid grey brown, firm silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded flint. L1001 overlay L1002, the natural, a light orange red compact clay with moderate small to medium sub-rounded flint.

6.2 Across the southern side of the site Topsoil L1000 overlay Made ground L1003 (0.51m thick), a light yellowish brown, firm silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21 which records the presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The settlement of Berkhamsted lies in the Bulbourne river valley, where early activity is known through archaeological investigations on the route of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass and within the town itself.

7.2 In the event the monitoring of the groundworks for the replacement dwelling revealed no archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank the client, Saker Industrial Ltd for funding the work and for their assistance (in particular Mr David Joyner and Mr Ian Grant). AS is also pleased to acknowledge Mr Matt Seers of MW Steers.

AS also acknowledges the advice and input of Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit, and the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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.

WEB SITES

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

www.heritagegateway

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	4
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	22

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Parish: Berkhamsted
Planning application reference:	Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00927/12
Client name/address/tel:	Saker Industrial Ltd
Nature of application:	Residential
Present land use:	
Size of application area: c.400m2	Size of area investigated c.40m2
NGR (8 figures):	TL 988 079
Site Code:	AS 1699
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Date of work:	21 July 2014
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Dacorum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In July 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording / 'strip, map and sample' investigation during the removal of the slab following demolition at 1 Park View Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 988 079). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00927/12).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>
Author of summary: Jim Fairclough	Date of Summary: July 2014

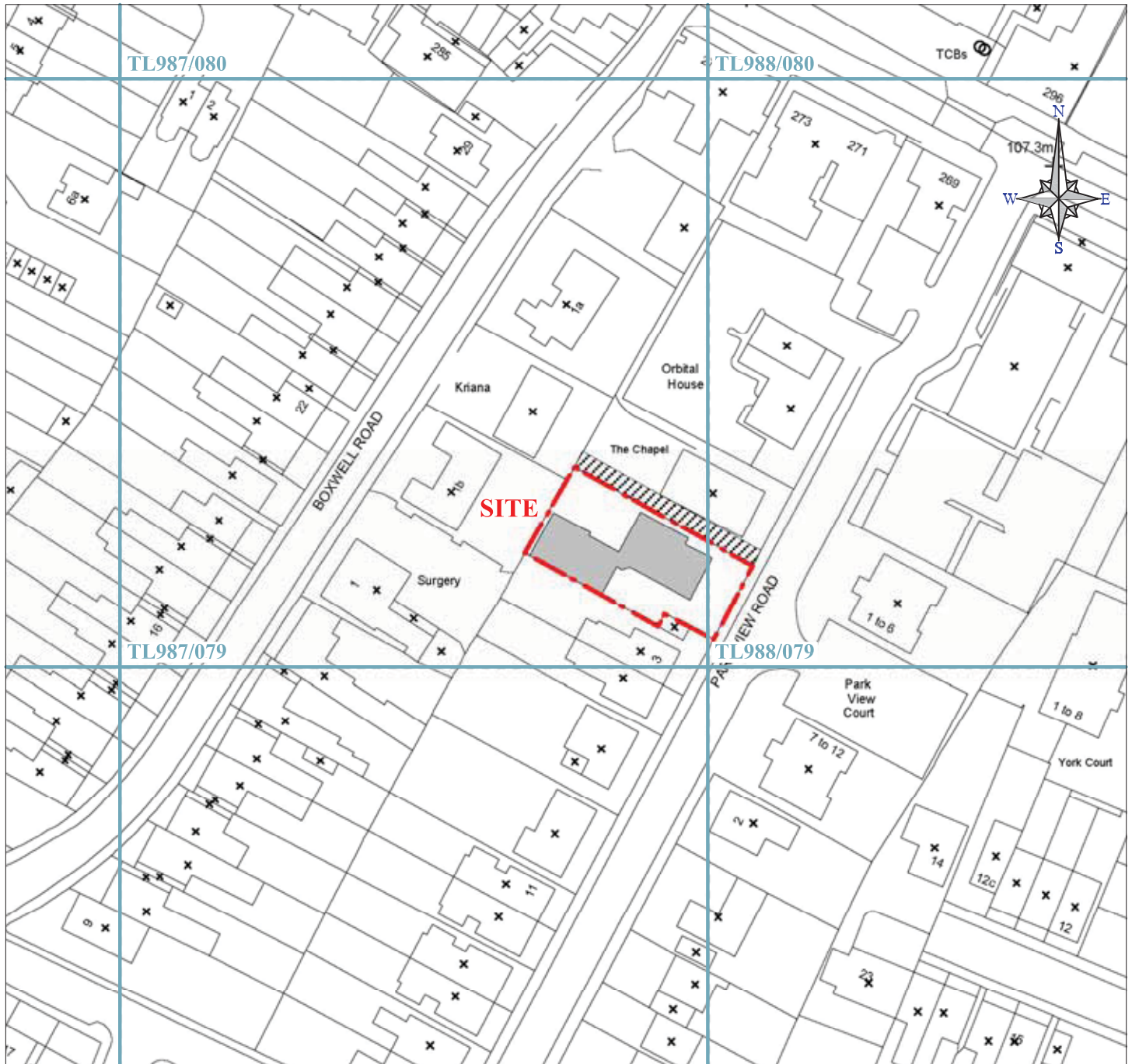
PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Sample section 1



2
Sample section 2



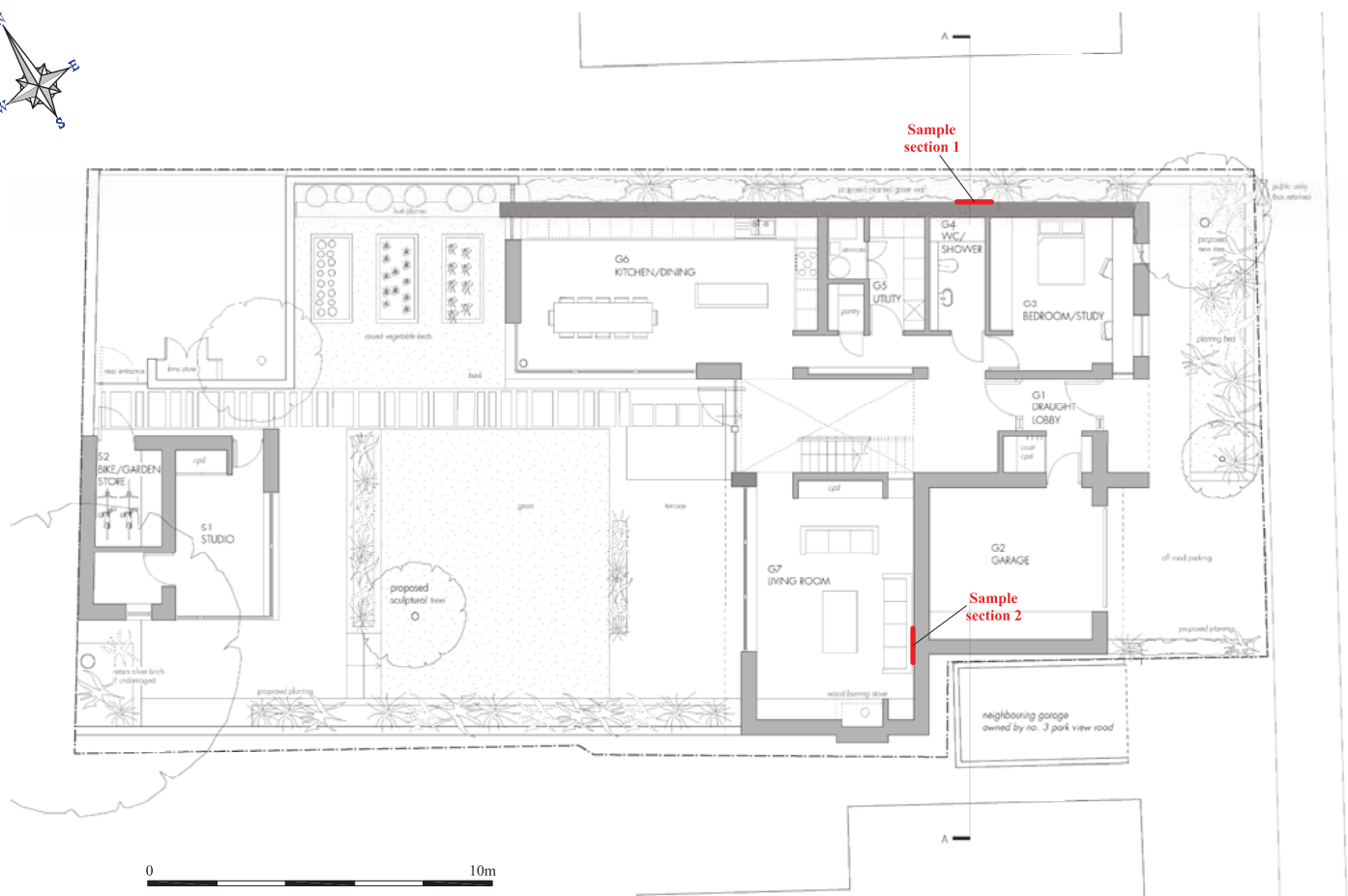
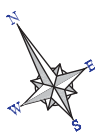
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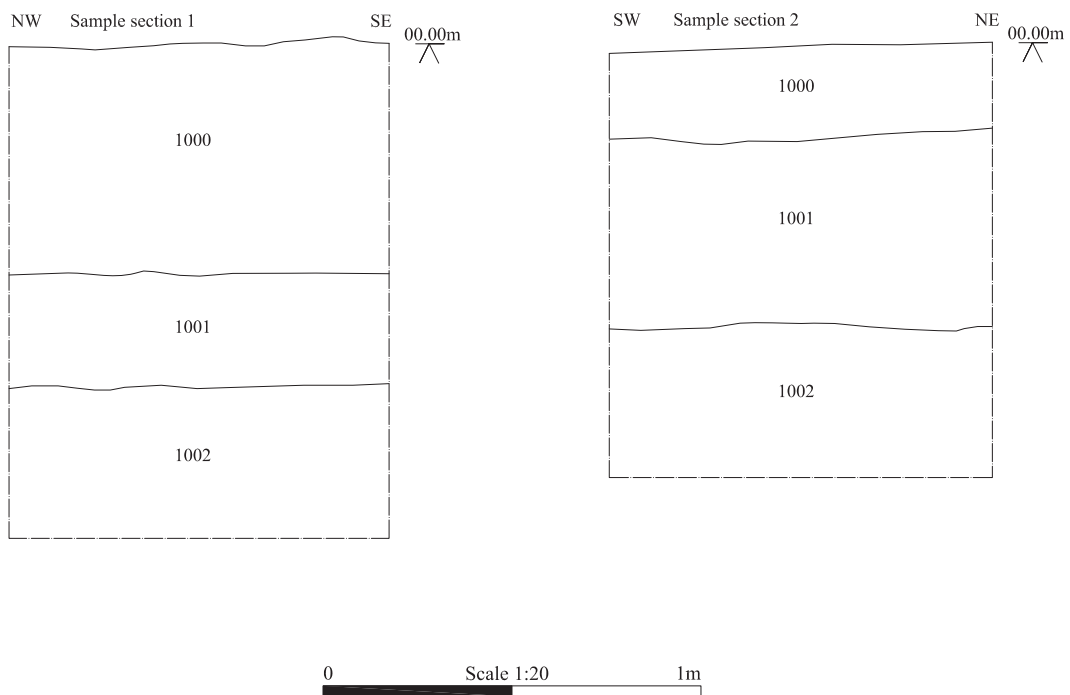
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Monitored footings
Scale 1:150 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4