
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**FORMER GBN SKIP HIRE, THRESHERS,
HASTINGWOOD ROAD, HASTINGWOOD, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & ASSESS' INVESTIGATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 48679 07672	Report No: 4715
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: NWBT 14
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5770
Signed:	Date: 30 October 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological “strip, map & assess” investigation at the former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex (NGR TL 48679 07672). The investigation was commissioned by Biminster Homes Limited on behalf of William Thompson Homes Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 14 dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval archaeology. It lies close to the medieval moated manorial site of Paris Hall, which dates from c.1600, and is enclosed by a partially-surviving moat. A former Chapel of Ease lies close by and Hastingwood Road is of medieval or later date.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The land proved to be contaminated in large parts and contained only modern deposits over the natural geology.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	02-03/09/2014		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5770	Site code	NWBT 14
Type of project	Archaeological “Strip, Map & Assess” Investigation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Former skip hire yard		
Planned development	Residential: 14 new dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Epping Forest	Hastingwood
HER/ SMR for area	Essex HER		
Post code (if known)	CM17 9JT		
Area of site	c.2700m ²		
NGR	TL 48679 07672		
Height AOD (min/max)	91.30/91.80m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	ECC HEA		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	William Thompson Homes Limited		
Full title	Former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex. Archaeological “Strip, Map & Assess” Investigation		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4715		
Date (of report)	October 2014		

FORMER GBN SKIP HIRE, THRESHERS, HASTINGWOOD ROAD, HASTINGWOOD, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & ASSESS' INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological "strip, map & assess" investigation at the former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex (NGR TL 48679 07672). The investigation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 14 dwellings.

The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval archaeology. It lies close to the medieval moated manorial site of Paris Hall, which dates from c.1600, and is enclosed by a partially-surviving moat. A former Chapel of Ease lies close by and Hastingwood Road is of medieval or later date.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The land proved to be contaminated in large parts and contained only modern deposits over the natural geology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological "strip, map & assess" investigation at former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex (NGR TL 48679 07672; Figs. 1 & 2). The investigation was commissioned by William Thompson Homes Limited in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 14 dwellings on the site (Epping Forest District Council Planning Ref. EPF/0739/10).

1.2 The investigation initially was to be undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA; dated 01/05/2014) obligating a programme of archaeological trial trenching. This requirement was revised by ECC HEA due to the presence of contaminants on the site that required remediation prior to the archaeological investigation being carried out. Therefore the obligation was changed to a programme of archaeological excavation via 'strip, map & assess' following remediation of the site.

1.3 The project was undertaken according to a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 13/06/2014), and approved by ECC HEA. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

(revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The investigation aimed to characterise the presence of any archaeological remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 former Hastingwood Common, close to the border between Epping Forest and Harlow on the southern side of Hastingwood Road (Fig. 1). It comprises rectangular plot of land of c.2700m². Buildings and installations of the former GBN Skip Hire located in the centre of the site had been demolished prior to the archaeological investigation.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.91.50m AOD on relatively flat land but gently falling towards the south-east. The solid geology of the area is of clay of the London

Clay Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are clayey soils of the Hanslope association, described as mainly slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). It lies close to the medieval moated manorial site of Paris Hall, which is now within Paris Hall Farm (EHER 3724). The family of Richard de Paris are first recorded in 1276. The present house of Paris Hall dates from c.1600, and is enclosed by a partially-surviving moat. A former Chapel of Ease lies close by, fronting Hastingwood Road (the line of which is of medieval or later date) by Church Farm.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The site was required to be remediated prior to any archaeological investigation being carried out. Following removal of the made ground, ECC HEA required the site to be stripped of any remaining subsoil etc. down to the archaeological horizon/natural ground surface under close archaeological supervision, followed by the planning of any archaeological remains. If archaeological remains were identified a mitigation strategy would be discussed and implemented.

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation of designated areas to the level of the natural geology, 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.

5.2 Three large areas of the site were stripped to the level of natural deposits (Fig. 2), and the excavated areas were located within the footprints of the proposed buildings.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Three areas of the site have been designated for archaeological investigation (Fig. 2). The deposits encountered were recorded in sample sections and are presented below.

Northern corner of the site (DP 2-3)

<p>Sample section 1 (DP 4) Facing north-east 0.00 = 91.75m AOD</p>
--

0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Modern made ground. Light brownish grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent debris and CBM fragments.
0.38 – 0.56m	L1001	Dark grey, compact, clayey silt.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. Light to mid yellow, clay with local mid to dark bluish grey decolourisation caused by contamination.

Description: This area of the site, as revealed during the excavation, contained asbestos and excavation ceased; however c.45m² of the area was investigated.

West corner of the site (DP 5-6)

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 7)</i> <i>Facing north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 91.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: Modern services were present within this area, orientated north-west/south-east. Contaminated ground was present in the south part of the area.

South part of the site (DP 8-10)

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 11)</i> <i>Facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 91.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.17m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 12)</i> <i>Facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 91.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.22 – 0.34m	L1003	Modern made ground. Contaminated dark bluish grey, friable, clayey silt with moderate CBM fragments.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 13)</i> <i>Facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 91.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.48 – 0.57m	L1003	Modern made ground. As above.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: Contaminated ground was present across the area, in particular in its southern and eastern parts.

Three areas of the site were designated for archaeological investigation (Fig. 2). No archaeological features or finds were identified in neither of them.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The contamination of the ground and the presence of hazardous materials reduced the area of investigation. However, it is not felt that any other factor inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological “strip, map & assess” investigation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern made ground, L1000, a light brownish grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent modern debris and CBM fragments (0.10 – 0.60m thick). In some places it overlay other deposits, also likely modern, e.g. L1003, a contaminated dark bluish grey, friable, clayey silt with moderate CBM fragments (0.08 – 0.15m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.15 – 0.60m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, clay with local mid to dark bluish grey decolourisation caused by contamination.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval archaeology. It lies close to the medieval moated manorial site of Paris Hall, which dates from c.1600, and is enclosed by a partially-surviving moat. A former Chapel of Ease lies close by and Hastingwood Road is of medieval or later date.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed, and no residual finds were recovered. The site contained only modern deposits and it is judged that archaeological remains, if present, would have been removed in the early-mid 20th century development of the site. Despite earlier efforts of clearance the ground on the site was still contaminated in a number of locations. The contamination was often severe and it affected the natural clay. It is thought that the remaining parts of the site, beyond the footprints of proposed buildings, present a similar stratigraphic sequence.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank William Thompson Homes Ltd for funding the work and Biminster Homes Limited for their assistance (in particular Ms Sarah Girchen). AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Grant Thompson and Mr also Mr Mitchell Shaw of BRD Tech Ltd.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Maria Medlycott, the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

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

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

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Y
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	21

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex	
Parish: Hastingwood	District: Epping Forest
NGR: TL 48679 07672	Site Code: NWBT 14
Type of Work: Archaeological “strip, map & assess” investigation	Site Director/Group: Z. Pozorski
Date of Work: 02-03/09/2014	Size of Area Investigated: c.5000m2
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Forest Museum	Funding source: William Thompson Homes Limited
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	Related HER No.s:
Final Report: Pozorski, Z., 2014, <i>Former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex: Archaeological “Strip, Map & Assess” Investigation</i>	
Periods Represented: -	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: <i>In September 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological “strip, map & assess” investigation at the former GBN Skip Hire, Threshers, Hastingwood Road, Hastingwood, Essex (NGR TL 48679 07672). The investigation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 14 dwellings.</i> <i>The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The land proved to be contaminated in large parts and contained only modern deposits over the natural geology.</i>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Z. Pozorski	Date of Summary: 30/10/2014

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking south-east from Hastingwood Road.



DP 2. North corner of the site. Looking east-south-east.



DP 3. North corner of the site. Looking south-east.



DP 4. North corner of the site. Sample section 1. Looking south-west.



DP 5. West corner of the site. Looking west-north-west.



DP 6. West corner of the site. Looking south-east.



DP 7. West corner of the site. Sample section 2. Looking south-west.



DP 8. South part of the site. Looking south.



DP 9. South part of the site. Looking north.



DP 10. South part of the site. Looking north-west.



DP 11. South part of the site. Sample section 3. Looking north-east.



DP 12. South part of the site. Sample section 4. Looking south-west.

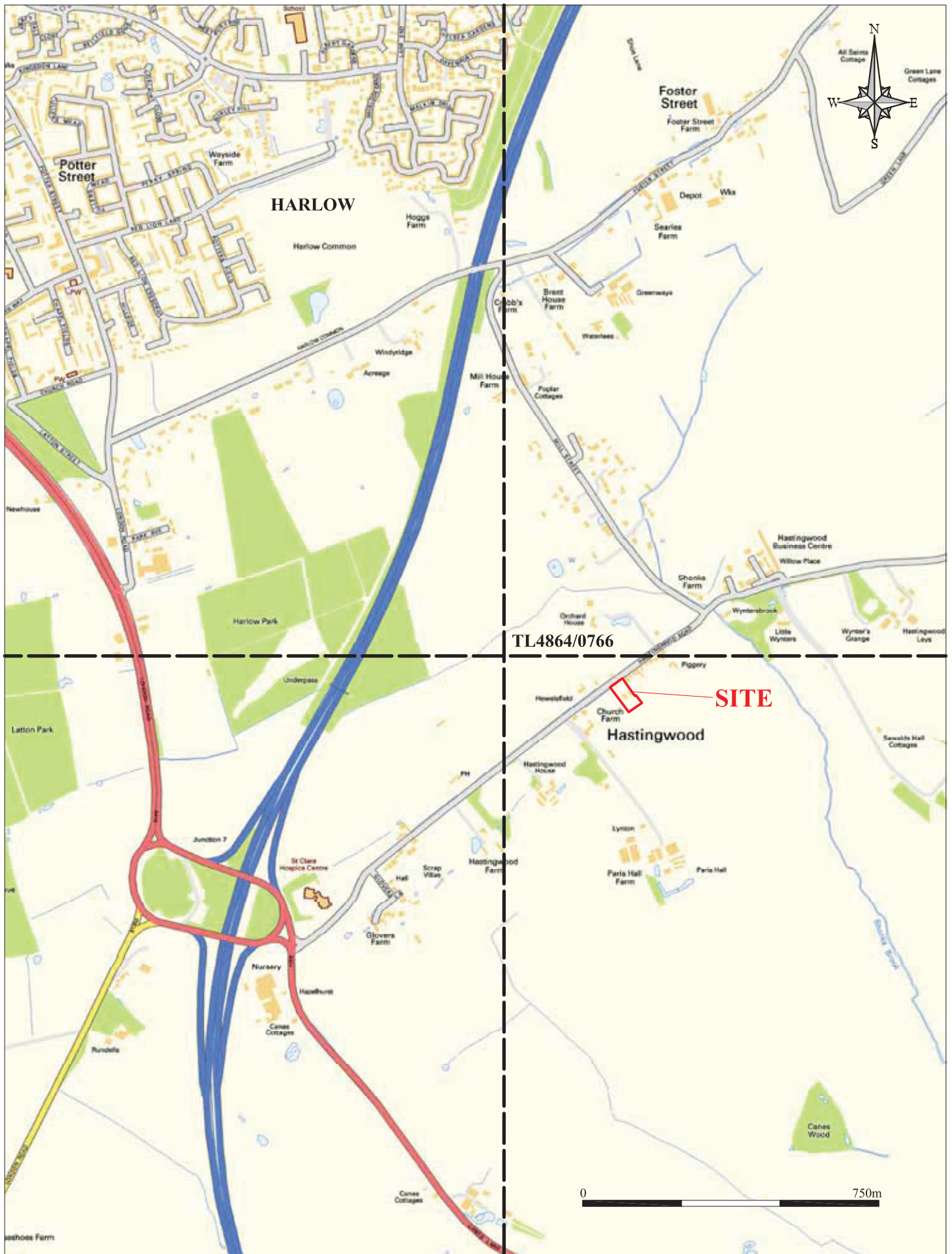


DP 13. South part of the site. Sample section 5. Looking south-east.



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



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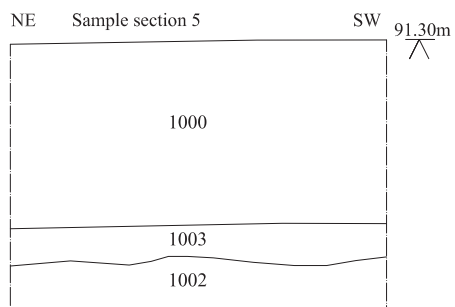
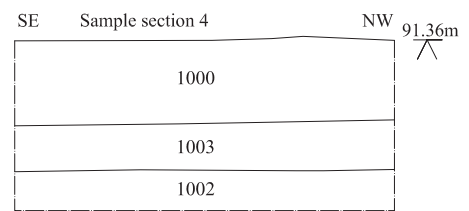
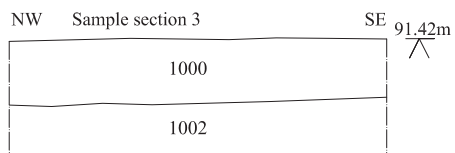
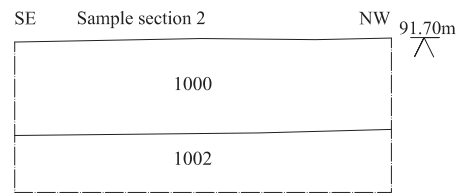
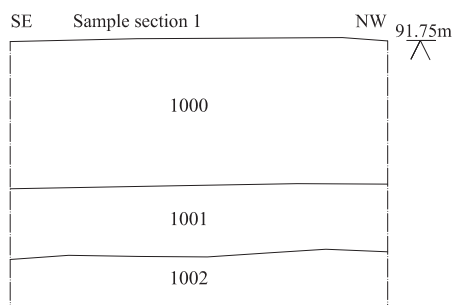
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Sample section location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4