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**2 HOME CLOSE FARM, NORTH CRAY ROAD,
BEXLEY DA5 3NH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Vinnie Monahan (Fieldwork & Report) Peter Thompson (Research)	
NGR: TQ 4929 7248	Report No: 4777
District: Greater London	Site Code: HME14
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4388
Signed:	Date: 29 January 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>2 Home Close Farm, North Cray Road, Bexley DA5 3NH</i>		
<p><i>In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at 2 Home Close Farm, North Cray Road, Bexley DA5 3NH (NGR TQ 4938 7250). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a replacement single storey side extension following the demolition of an existing detached pool house (Planning Ref. 13/00856/FUL), based on the advice of the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to LB Bexley).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>December 2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4388</i>	Site code	<i>HME14</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation & Recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Bexley</i>	<i>Bexley</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Greater London HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>DA5 3NH</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.250m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 4938 7250</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.38m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Vinny Monahan</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Steve McCarthy</i>		
Full title	<i>2 Home Close, North Cray Road, Bexley DA5 3NH. Archaeological Observation & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Monahan, V.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4777</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2015</i>		

2 HOME CLOSE FARM, NORTH CRAY ROAD, BEXLEY DA5 3NH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING.

SUMMARY

In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at 2 Home Close Farm, North Cray Road, Bexley DA5 3NH (NGR TQ 4929 7248). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a replacement single storey side extension following the demolition of an existing detached pool house (Planning Ref. 13/00856/FUL), based on the advice of the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to LB Bexley).

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at 2 Home Close Farm, North Cray Road, Bexley DA5 3NH (NGR TL 4929 7248; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a replacement single storey side extension following the demolition of an existing detached pool house (Planning Ref. 13/00856/FUL), based on the advice of the English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to LB Bexley).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in a response to advice received from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to LB Bexley), and a specification prepared by AS. The project adhered to the EH GLAAS *Archaeological Standards (2014)*. The project was also be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008).

1.3 The project aimed to:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by

- the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

1.4 The site lies at Home Close Farm and the principal aims of the project were to identify any further evidence of activity of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date.

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 of Home Close Farm is situated between North Cray and Bexley, both of which lie within the London Borough of Bexley and approximately 10km to the east-south-east of the City of London (Fig. 1). The south-eastern extent of Bexley village lies 1km to the north of the site, whilst the village of North Cray it

located 600m to the south-west. The site is set back 200m from the eastern frontage of the A223 or North Cray Road, which runs between Bexley and Sidcup. Despite its location within Greater London, the immediate surroundings of the site have retained their predominantly rural character. The site is surrounded by undeveloped agricultural land associated with Home Close Farm and Mount Mascal Farm 120m to the north, whilst to the east lies the extensive Joyden's Wood. The site comprises Home Close Farmhouse and a range of other residential/agricultural buildings, in different residential uses.

2.2 The site is located at c.38m AOD on a relatively varied relief with the surrounding land sloping down to the north and north-west (Fig. 1). The River Cray flows on a roughly south-west to north-eastern alignment 450m to the north-west of the site. Bexley lies within the London Basin, which covers London and majority of south-eastern England (BGS 1978). The solid geology of the basin consists of Eocene London Clay overlain by gravels of the Blackheath Beds, whilst river alluvium deposits are known in proximity to the River Cray (Wessex Archaeology 2008). The soils of the Bexley area remain unsurveyed given that they lie within an urban area (SSEW 1983), and the area has not been subject to extensive previous archaeological investigation.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric & Romano-British

3.1 The prehistory of Greater London is well-documented and the London Borough of Bexley includes substantial concentrations of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic finds, primarily on the chalk and alluvium geology close to the River Cray or other tributaries. However, the only recorded prehistoric findspot recorded in proximity to the site comprises six flint artefacts of Mesolithic date found 220m to the south-west of the site (GLHER MLO8433). The wider Bexley area has revealed more substantial remains including a late Mesolithic/early Neolithic hearth found in Bexley village (Bishop 2003, 255 – 271), and a number of Neolithic finds recorded to the north at Crayford (MoLAS 2000). The Bronze and Iron Ages are poorly represented in the Bexley area, although a mid to late Iron Age was uncovered in the 1930s in the Crayford area (*ibid.*).

3.2 Archaeological evidence for the Romano-British period is virtually absent in the vicinity of the site. Much of the Romano-British evidence from the London Borough of Bexley is focussed around the River Cray and Watling Street. The present day line of the A207 London Road, which runs west-north-west to east-south-eastwards 2.8km to the north of the site, follows the course of the main Watling Street Roman road from London to Dover (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983, 850). There are no recorded Romano-British findspots recorded in the area surrounding the site.

Anglo-Saxon & medieval

3.3 Although it is likely that *Londinium* was occupied after the Roman abandonment, evidence suggests that Anglo-Saxon settlement did not become prominent until the 7th century. There is very little evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation in area of the site, and no recorded findspots, and the main focus of Saxon activity in the area appears to have been Crayford situated where Watling Street crossed the River Cray 4km to the north-east of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2008). The manor of Bexley is listed in the Domesday Book as *Bix* and mentions a church and three watermills in the area (Williams & Martin 2002).

3.4 The 11th century Domesday Book also reveals that the small settlement of North Cray was given to Bishop Odo (c.1030 – 1097), the half brother of William the Conqueror, along with Ruxley, which lies 2.3km to the south-west of the site. In the 12th century, both Ruxley and North Cray came into the possession of the Rokesle family (Ideal Homes website), whilst St. Mary's church in Bexley is also 12th century in date (Weinreb & Hibbert, 1983, 64). The only recorded medieval findspot recorded in proximity to the site comprises a rectangular possible outhouse building found on North Cray Road and 500m to the west-south-west of the site, which has been dated to c. 1250 – 1300 (GLHER MLO23327).

Post-medieval & Later

3.5 In the post-medieval period, the settlement of North Cray developed as a private estate for the wealthy keen to escape the bustle of London. By the early 18th century the area was dominated by large houses such as North Cray Place, Loring Hall and Vale Mascall, any of which fronted onto the River Cray (Ideal Homes website). Significant development of Bexley occurred in the mid 19th century following the construction of South East Railway's Dartford loop and Bexley railway station in 1866, with further urban sprawl dating from the 20th century and post World War II period in particular. The post-medieval period is represented in the immediate area of the site by the Jacobean house of Mount Mascall (GLHER MLO14782), a jettied crown post roof structure dated c. 1575 found during the construction of North Cray Road (GLHER MLO10837) and a post box along North Cray Road (GLHER MLO66847).

The Site

3.6 Relatively little is known about the site and no historic documents concerning Home Close Farm could be found in either the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) or the Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre (BLSAC). None of the standing buildings within the Home Close Farm complex are listed, yet three separate structures are recorded by the GLHER database as being on the London Borough of Bexley Locally Listed Buildings Database and thus of being

of local interest. The farmhouse at Home Close Farm is described as a 19th century house forming the southern side of a cobbled courtyard, with a three bay plan and two storeys (GLHER MLO100681). It was added to the Bexley local list on the basis that it a good local example of a 19th century detached house and includes design qualities and building materials typical of the local area.

3.7 To the south of the Home Close Farm complex lie 19th - 20th century timber framed and weather boarded farm outbuildings, which are also recorded on the Bexley Locally Listed Buildings Database (GLHER MLO100953). Two further outbuildings to the north-east of the farm complex were probably associated originally with Mount Mascall Farm further to the north (GLHER MLO100682). The local listing for the latter two outbuildings reveals that a former open cart shed dated to 1824 was adapted before 1947 for residential use. The neighbouring coach house is of similar proportions and probably similar date, and both were added to the local list as they have considerable historic interest as part of the Mount Mascall estate.

3.8 Historic cartographic sources confirm that Home Close Farm formed part of the Mount Mascall estate until at least the mid 20th century. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1870 reveals that Home Close Farm was labelled only as part of Mount Mascall and presumably comprised its home farm (Fig. 3). The complex of five local listed structures known to lie within Home Close Farm was extant by the late 19th century. The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1938, also describes the site as part of the wider Mount Mascall (Fig. 4). The name Home Close Farm is thus thought to be modern in date and was in use by 1950 when a proposed new drive from North Cray Road to "Home Close Farm" was planned (BLSAC Ref. LASC/DC/4/3/544). In 1973 Home Close Farm was also the subject of alterations to existing farm building to form a private residence (BLSAC Ref. LABX/DC/4/1/6661).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The site strip was observed. Exposed sections 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 scanned by metal detector and searched for archaeological finds.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i> <i>0.00 = 38.34 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1003	Paving concrete slabs.
0.05 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown, loose, silty sand
0.30 – 1.30m	L1001	Made ground. Mid yellowish grey, friable, silty sand with occasional modern building rubble.
1.30m +	L1002	Natural. Mid yellowish brown, compact, sand/silty sand.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> <i>0.00 = 38.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1004	Concrete floor.
0.10 – 0.95m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.95 – 1.70m	L1005	Concrete swimming pool lining.
1.70m +	L1006	Concrete swimming pool surface.

<i>Sample Section 3</i> <i>0.00 = 38.56m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1004	Concrete floor. As above.
0.10 – 1.00m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
1.0-m +	L1006	Concrete swimming pool surface. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the parameters of monitoring during groundworks it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The most upper layer was L1003, paving slabs (0.5m thick) and a modern concrete surface, L1004 (0.1m thick). L1003 overlay Topsoil L1000 (0.2m thick) and Made Ground L1001 (0.85 - 1.00m thick). Below was the natural, L1002 (at 1.30m depth).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Although the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, particularly for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features or finds. This was due previous ground disturbance and the relatively small area investigated.

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 Limited would like to thank Mr Steven McCarthy for commissioning the monitoring.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stephenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (Archaeological Advisors to LB Bexley).

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

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General shot showing concrete being broken up



2
Base and edge of swimming pool



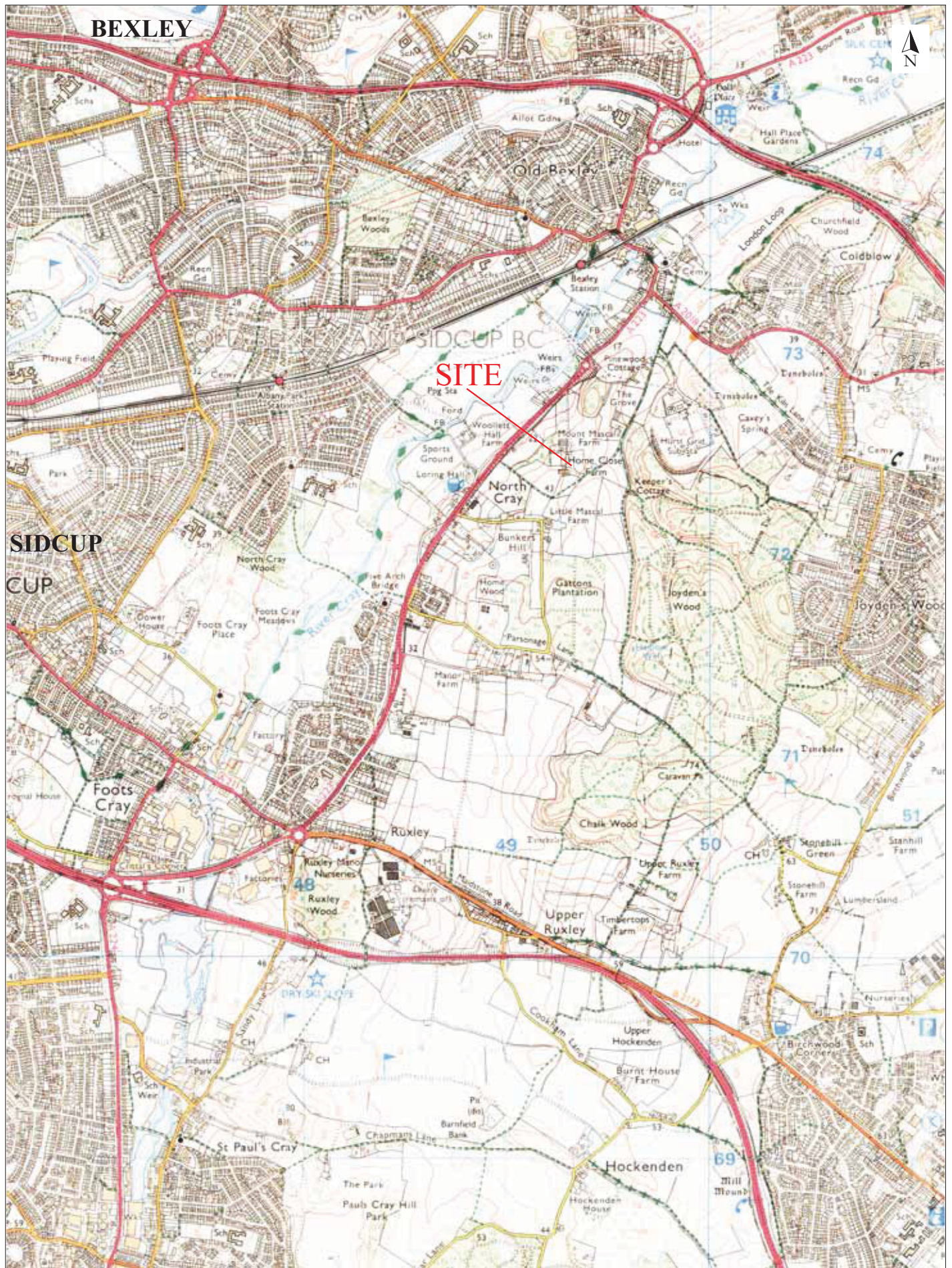
3
Sample section 1



4
Sample section 2

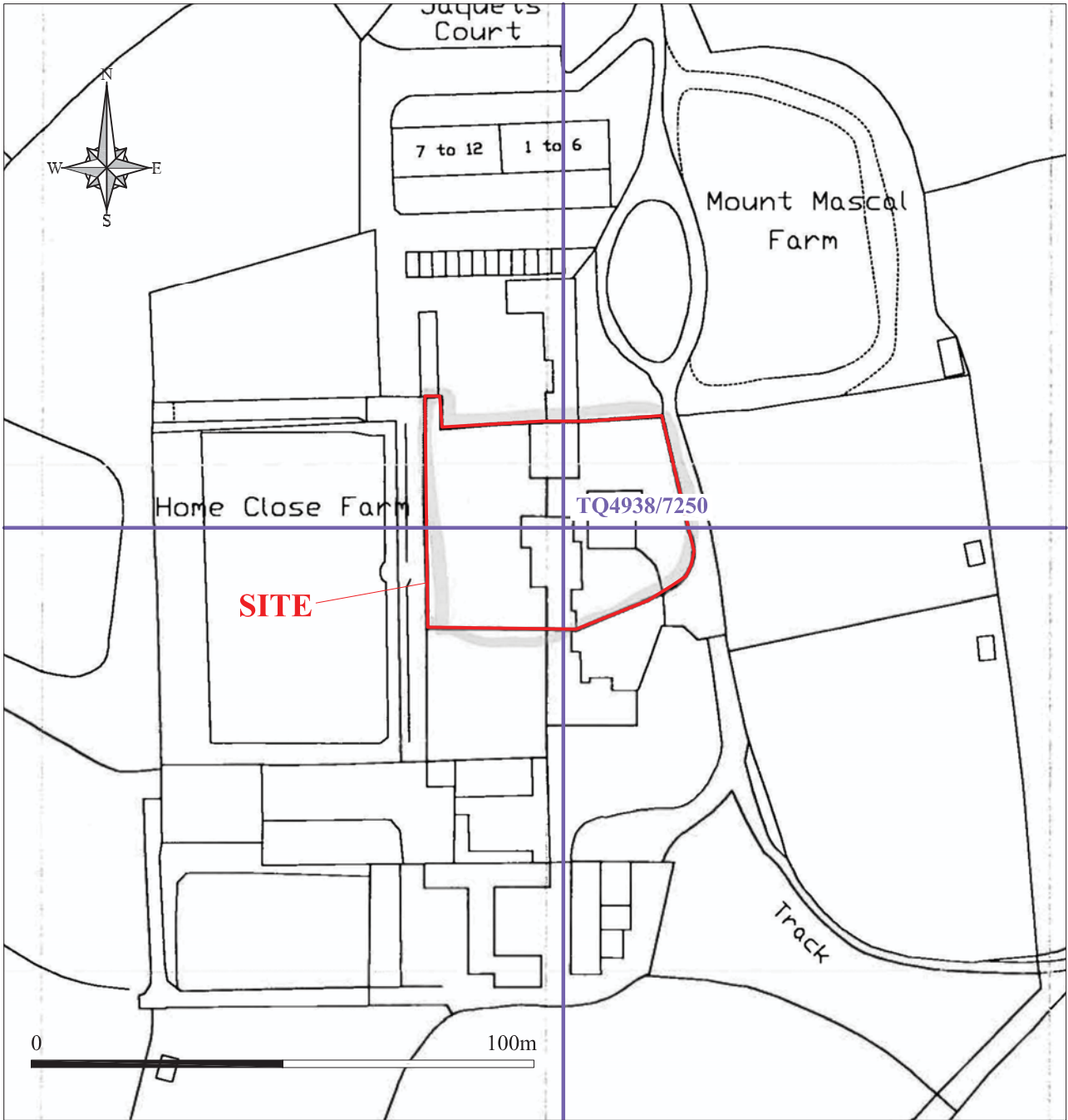


5
Sample section 3

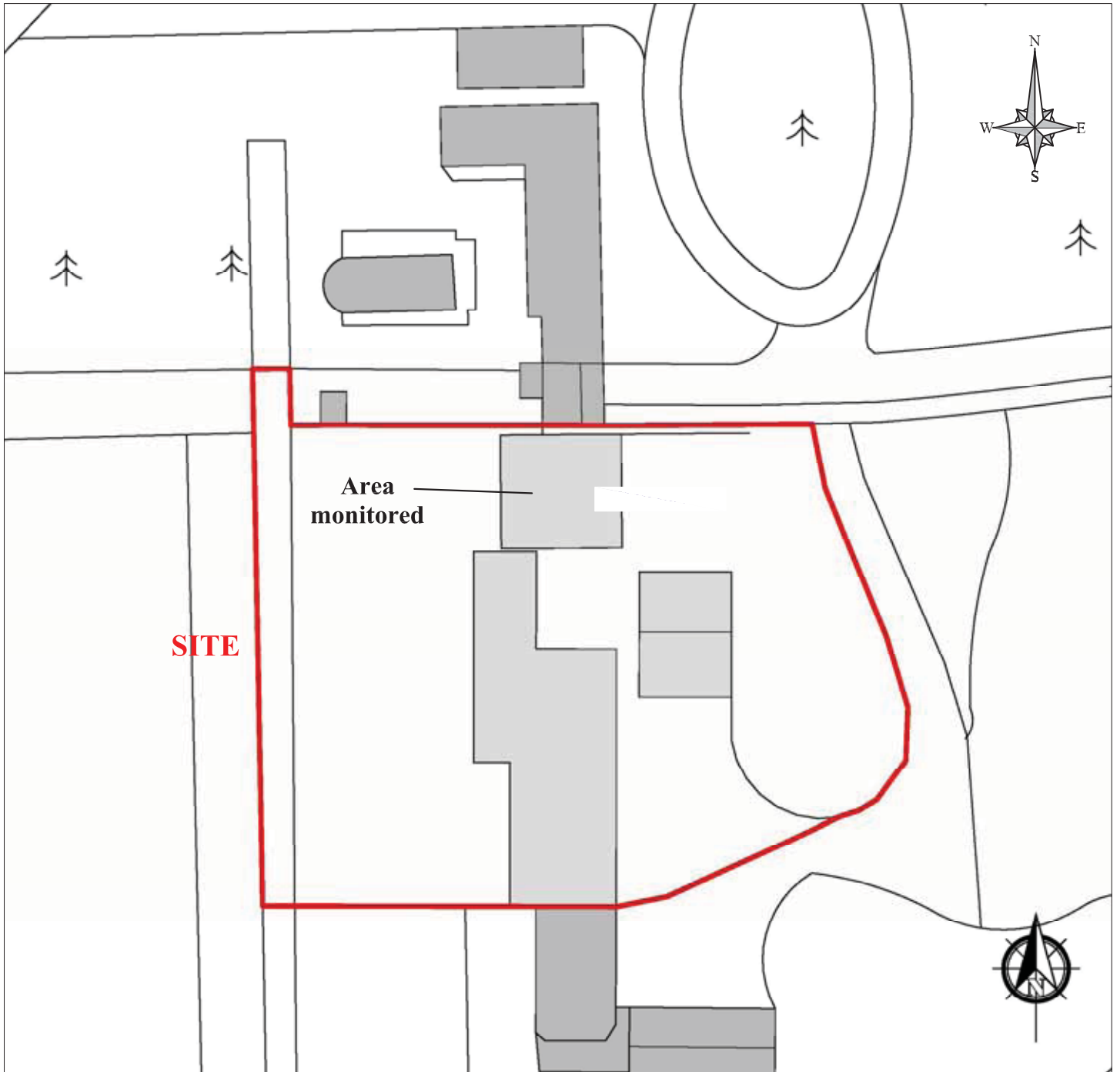


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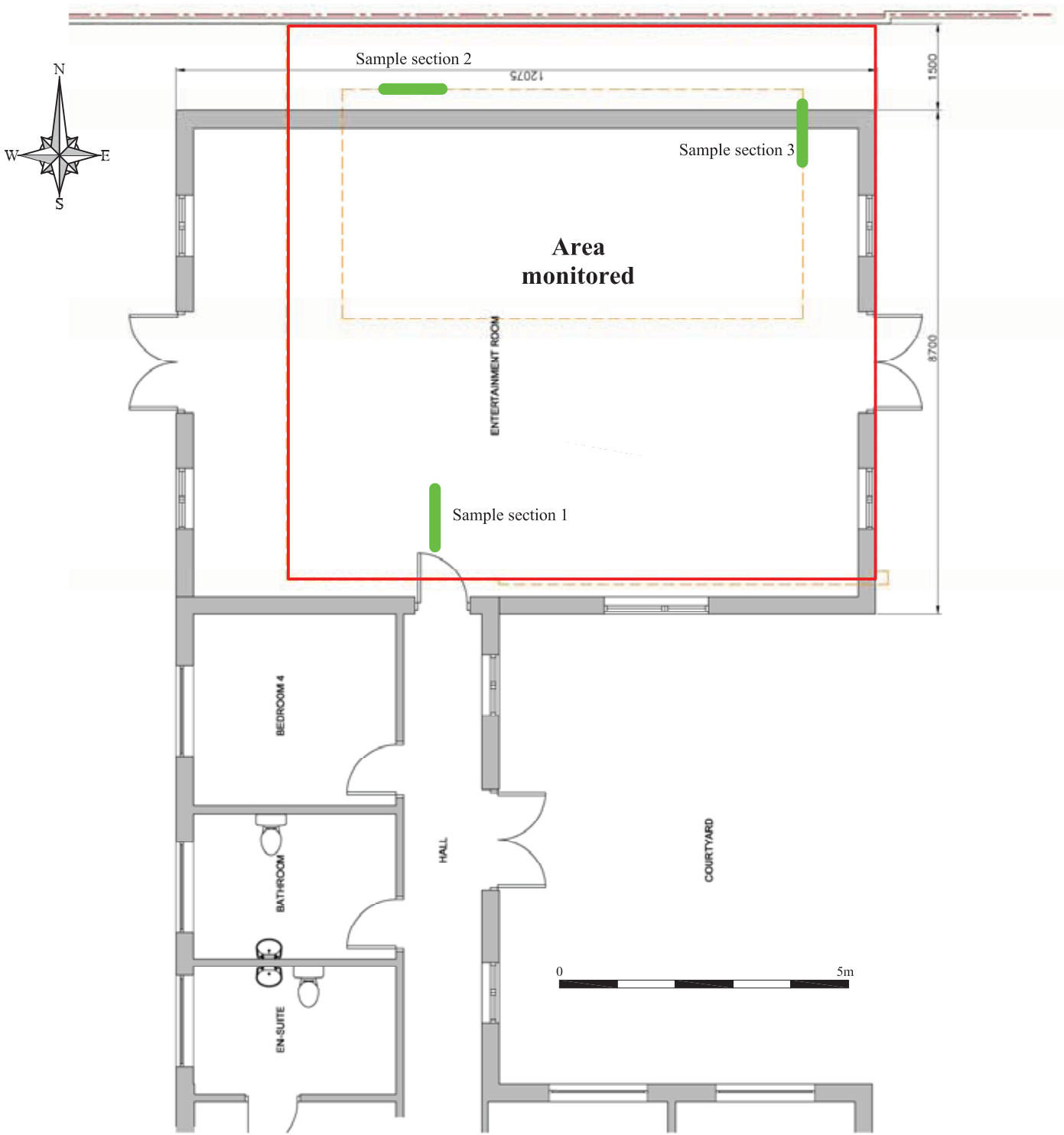
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



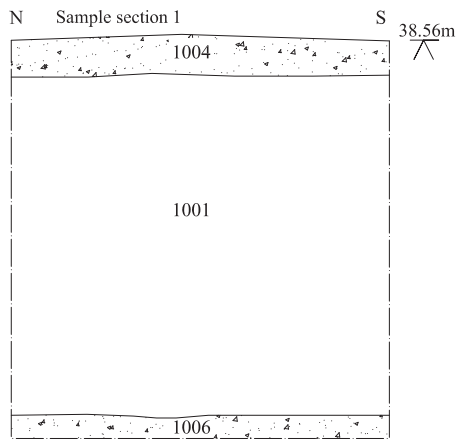
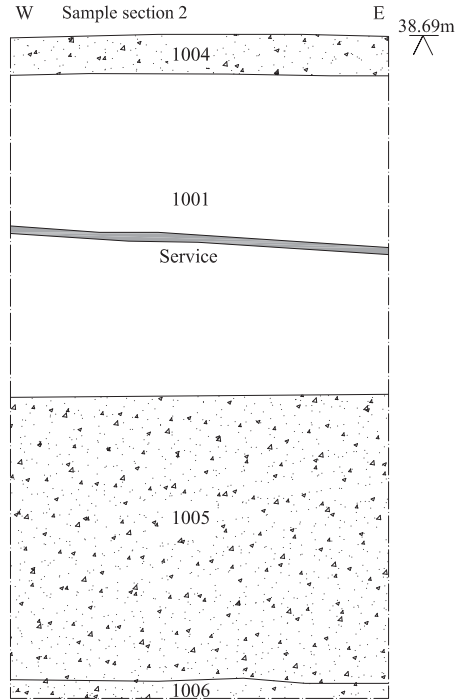
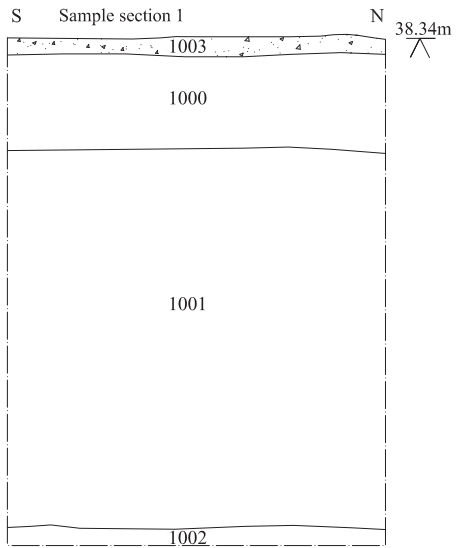
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of monitoring
Scale 1:200 at A4



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Fig. 4 Proposed development
 Scale 1:100 at A4



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Fig. 5 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4