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**LAND REAR OF 62 BATHOLOMEW STREET,
NEWBURY, WEST BERKSHIRE**

CONSTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: SU 4690 6668	Report No: 4421
District: West Berkshire	Site Code: AS 1594
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5051
Signed:	Date: 30 September 2013

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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 IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land rear of 62 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire</i>		
<p><i>Between May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out constant archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of 62 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire (NGR SU 4690 6668). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Phil Ridgwell of Core Atlantic Recruitment in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new block of six flats.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic medieval core of Newbury. It had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular those related to the medieval cemetery which was attached to the Hospital of St Bartholomew and lies close by to the south.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The majority of the site was affected by the construction of the railway to the immediate north.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>05 – 09/2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5051</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1594</i>
Type of project	<i>Constant Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Block of 6 flats</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Berkshire</i>	<i>West Berkshire</i>	<i>Newbury</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Berkshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>RG14 7BE</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 100m²</i>		
NGR	<i>SU 4690 6668</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 78m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from WBAO</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Phil Ridgwell of Core Atlantic Recruitment</i>		
Full title	<i>Land rear of 62 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire: Constant Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4421</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2013</i>		

LAND REAR OF 62 BATHOLOMEW STREET, NEWBURY, WEST BERKSHIRE

CONSTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

Between May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out constant archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of 62 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire (NGR SU 4690 6668). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Phil Ridgwell of Core Atlantic Recruitment in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new block of six flats.

The site lies within the historic medieval core of Newbury. It had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular those related to the medieval cemetery which was attached to the Hospital of St Bartholomew and lies close by to the south.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The majority of the site was affected by the construction of the railway to the immediate north.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between May and September 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a constant archaeological monitoring and recording at land rear of 62 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berkshire (NGR SU 4690 6668; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Phil Ridgwell of Core Atlantic Recruitment in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new block of 6 flats (West Berkshire Council Planning Ref. 10/00541/FULD).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to an advice from West Berkshire Archaeological Officer (WBAO), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 23/10/2012), and approved by WBAO. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008).

1.3 The objectives of the project of constant archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;

- to provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- to provide a record of all areas where preservation in-situ has been achieved during the development;
- to excavate and record any archaeological deposits or finds affected by the construction work.

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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies to the rear (west) of 62 Bartholomew Street in the historic core of Newbury, and comprises an existing yard area to the rear of the street frontage property. To the south is a yard/car park with access to Pound Street. To the south-east are Victorian properties fronting Bartholomew Street. The site is bounded to the immediate north by the deep cutting for the adjacent railway line.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies immediately adjacent to the south of a cutting for the adjacent railway (Fig. 1), at c. 78m AOD. The land gently rises towards the south-west. The site is located on a transition between solid geology of the Cretaceous Upper Chalk and Paleocene clay of the Lambeth Group (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are not surveyed due to urban character of the area (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The area around Newbury was a focus for Mesolithic activity and flint debris of the period has been found at several sites along Bartholomew and Cheap Street. In addition, a Mesolithic site was excavated on the north bank of the River Kennet.

4.2 Some evidence of Romano-British activity in the area has been recorded (stray finds of coins, a cemetery to the south-east of the town) but no occupation has been found in Newbury itself.

4.3 The site lies within the historic medieval core of Newbury. It is thought that the town originated a planned settlement on the Domesday manor of *Ulvritone*. The earliest elements of the town were around the church, marketplace and castle, and consist of burgage plots along Bartholomew Street and Cheap Street. The castle was extant by 1152 when it was raided by Stephen (Vince *et al* 1997) and probably occupied the area now known as the Wharf, c. 200m to the north-east of the site.

4.4 The medieval cemetery which was attached to the Hospital of St Bartholomew lies close by to the south, next to The Litten. The full extent of the cemetery has not been established and it has the potential to extend into the current proposed development site. Investigations in the 1980s revealed human remains on the northern side of Pound Street, some 10m from the site. Excavations in 2004 at the Pound Street/Newtown Road junction 40m south of the site discovered 59 burials within a very small area (Oxford Archaeology 2006).

4.5 The town developed steadily through the 12th and early 13th centuries as a centre of the wool and cloth trade. A market is mentioned in 1204. The later 13th and 14th centuries may have been a less prosperous time for the town but during the late 15th and 16th centuries it reached its peak a wool and cloth production centre and was repeatedly redeveloped. By the end of the 16th century the industry was in decline but improved communication saw growth in other trade. The opening of the Kennet and Avon canal in particular helped the expansion of brewing, silk and paper manufacture and iron founding. During the 16th and 17th centuries previously open areas within the town were built on and continued growth saw the limits of medieval town exceeded by the 18th century.

4.6 The town has been subject to assessment through the Newbury Historic Character Study (Oxford Archaeology 2006a) which divided the town into Historic Urban Character Areas. The development site lies within HUCA 1, St Bartholomew's, and within the area of medieval archaeological potential. Relevant research questions include *What was the extent of the Litten cemetery and St Bartholomew's Hospital?*

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for new foundations and services for the new block of flats (Fig. 2).

5.2 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Deposits located within area of excavation were recorded in sample sections shown below:

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4)</i> <i>West part of service trench, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 78.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Tarmac. Surface of a yard.
0.09 – 0.33m	L1001	Made ground. Mid to dark grey, compacted, silty sand with frequent CBM fragments.
0.33 – 0.95m+	L1002	Made ground. Dark greyish brown, friable, silty sand with occasional CBM fragments.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 5)</i> <i>Central part of service trench, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 78.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1003	Topsoil on railway cutting bank. Mid to dark grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.36 – 0.45m	L1004	Light to mid yellow, loose, sand with occasional CBM fragments.
0.45 – 1.05m+	L1002	Made ground. As above.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 6)</i> <i>East part of service trench, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 78.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1005	Modern made ground. Mid greyish brown, loose, silty sand with moderate CBM fragments and debris.
0.42 – 0.80m+	L1002	Made ground. As above.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 12)</i> <i>Central foundation trench, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 78.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1005	Modern made ground. As above.
0.22 – 1.00m+	L1002	Made ground. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were identified.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy of the site was dominated by presence of substantial deposits of relatively modern made ground. The principal deposit was L1002, a dark greyish brown, friable, silty sand with occasional CBM fragments (0.60 – 1.60m+ thick), present above natural deposits in those areas where the natural was exposed.

8.2 The natural geology, L1006, was present at c. 1.m below existing ground level and was present only in the central and south/central parts of the site. The deposit consisted of light to mid yellow, loose, gravels.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval archaeology. It is located lies within the historic medieval core of Newbury and medieval remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, those related to the medieval cemetery which was attached to the Hospital of St Bartholomew which lies close by to the south.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. The site was subject to extensive truncation in the past most likely related to the construction of the railway and neighbouring buildings. The made ground present on the site contained 19th – 20th century debris and likely

accumulated when the cutting and its bank support for the railway were created. The current groundworks also revealed numerous services of 20th century date. The potential extent of the cemetery to the site could not have been verified during the monitoring as the site seems had been completely redeveloped in 19th – 20th centuries. This probably eradicated any earlier remains which could have survived until that period.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Phil Ridgwell of Core Atlantic Recruitment for funding the project and for his assistance, and Mr Jason Gardner for assistance on site.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Sarah Orr of West Berkshire Council.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



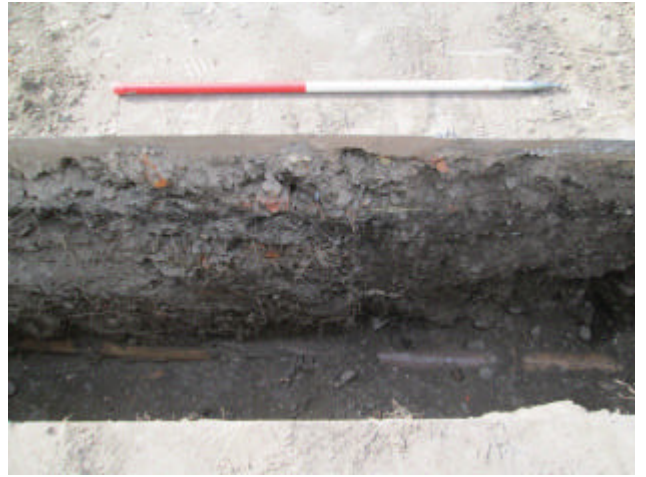
DP 1. The site. Looking west.



DP 2. The site. Looking east.



DP 3. Service trench. Looking west.



DP 4. Service trench, sample section 1. Looking north.



DP 5. Service trench, sample section 2. Looking north.



DP 6. Service trench, sample section 3. Looking south-east.



DP 7. North foundation trench under excavation. Looking east.



DP 8. South foundation trench. Looking west.



DP 9. Central foundation trench. Looking east-north-east.



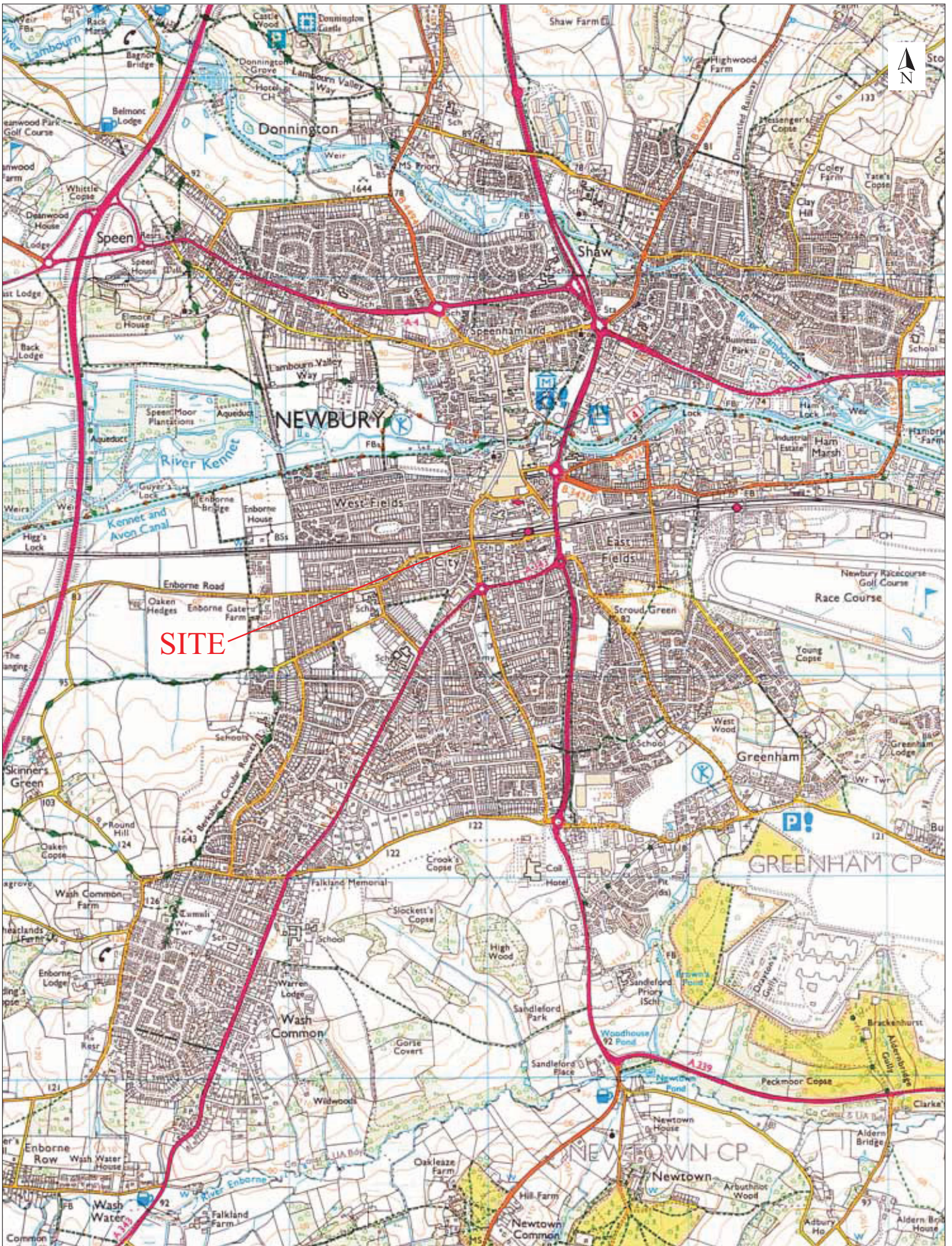
DP 10. Central/south foundation trench. Looking west.



DP 11. South-west corner of foundation trench. Looking west.

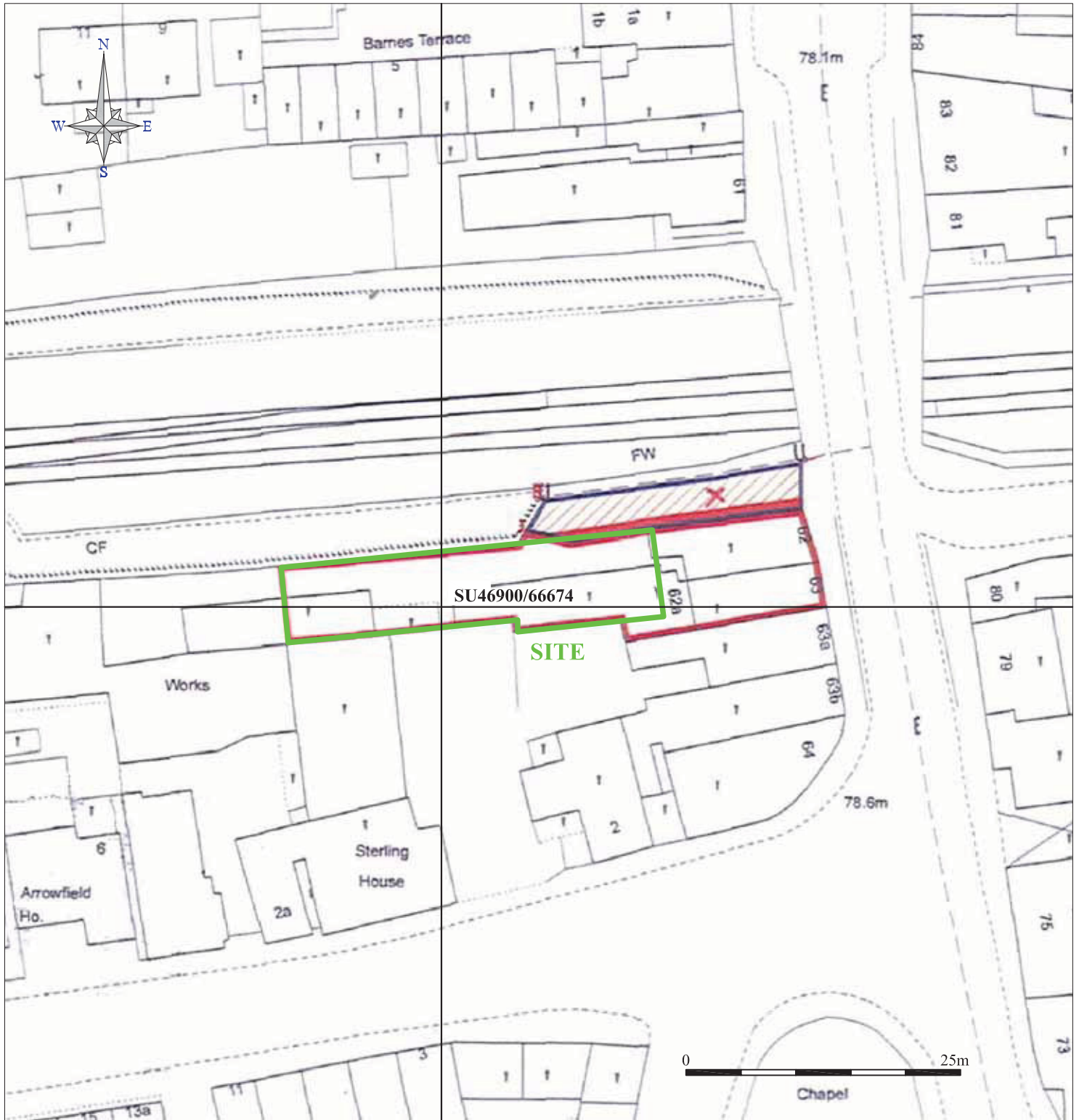


DP 12. Central foundation trench, sample section 4. Looking west.



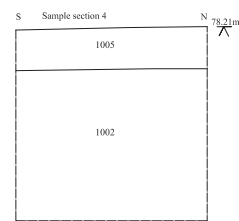
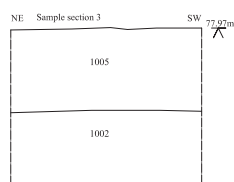
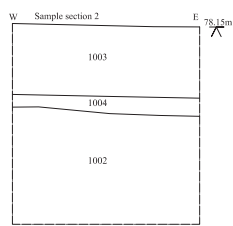
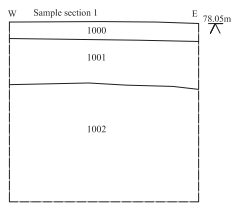
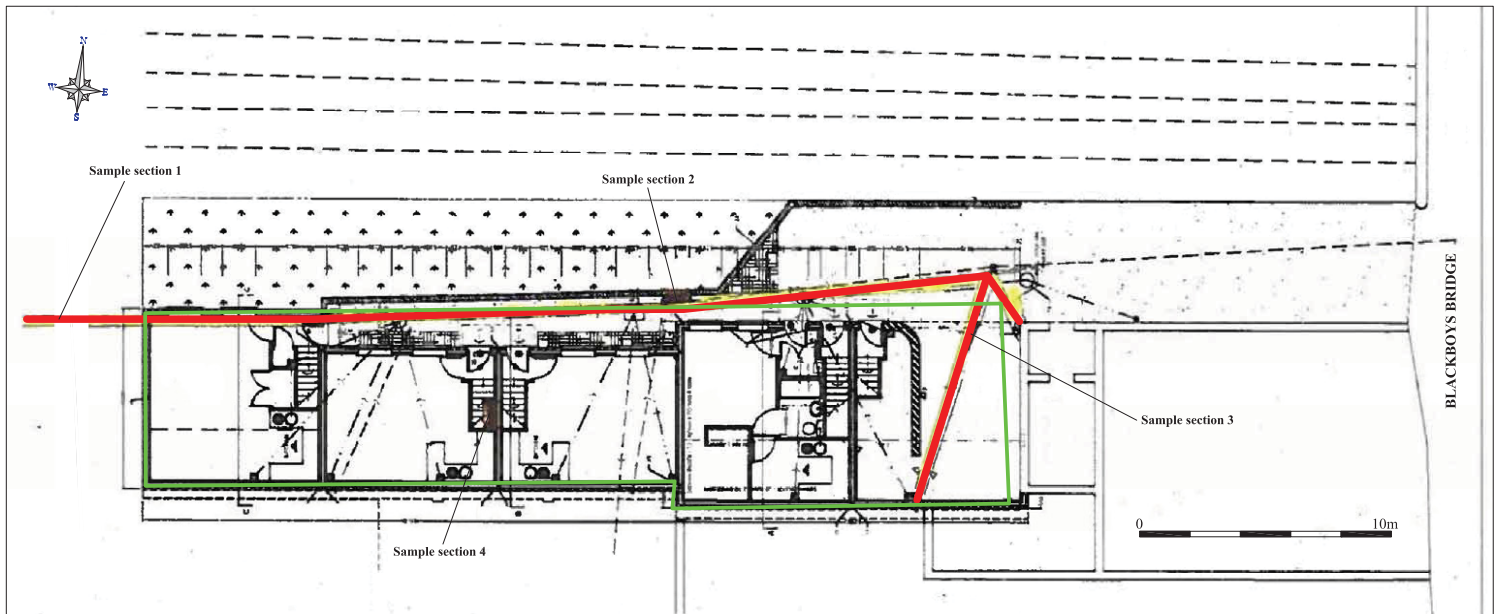
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 3 Sample section location plan
 Scale Plan 1:150, sections 1:20 at A3