

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**NAPSBURY CHURCH, GOLDRING WAY,
LONDON COLNEY, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Kamil Orzechowski (report and fieldwork)	
NGR: TL 1670 0400	Report No: 4938
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1769
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6388
Signed:	Date: 21 September 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Napsbury Church, Goldring Way, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire.</i>	
<p><i>In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with a development on land at Napsbury Church, Goldring Way, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1670 0400). The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and erection of a three-storey building including retail and residential units with associated parking and amenity space. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (St Albans City & District Council Planning Ref. 5/10/1659).</i></p> <p><i>Prehistoric activity is known to the west, manifest in cropmarks identified by aerial photography, and sparse features, possibly of prehistoric date, were recorded in a trial trench evaluation carried out in the hospital grounds in 1996. In the Roman period, a road followed a course close to Shenley Lane, and occupation has been recorded along its line. Napsbury was a Domesday manor and its associated medieval settlement is believed to have been located in the eastern part of the hospital site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>11th, 12th & 21st August 2015</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work <i>N</i>
P. number		<i>6388</i>	Site code <i>AS1769</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>	
Site status		<i>None</i>	
Current land use		<i>Residential</i>	
Planned development		<i>Demolition of existing building and erection of three-storey building including retail and residential units with associated parking and amenity space.</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>None</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>None</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i> <i>London Colney</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>St Albans City & District Council</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>-</i>	
Area of site		<i>Approximately 1200m²</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 1670 0400</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c.78m AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>St Albans City & District Council</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>	
Funded by		<i>Burrhouse Developments Ltd.</i>	
Full title		<i>Napsbury Church, Goldring Way, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>	
Authors		<i>Orzechowski, K.</i>	
Report no.		<i>4938</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>September 2015</i>	

NAPSBURY CHURCH, GOLDRING WAY, LONDON COLNEY, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with a development on land at Napsbury Church, Goldring Way, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1670 0400). The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and erection of a three-storey building including retail and residential units with associated parking and amenity space. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (St Albans City & District Council Planning Ref. 5/10/1659).

Prehistoric activity is known to the west, manifest in cropmarks identified by aerial photography, and sparse features, possibly of prehistoric date, were recorded in a trial trench evaluation carried out in the hospital grounds in 1996. In the Roman period, a road followed a course close to Shenley Lane, and occupation has been recorded along its line. Napsbury was a Domesday manor and its associated medieval settlement is believed to have been located in the eastern part of the hospital site.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with a development on land at Napsbury Church, Goldring Way, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1670 0400; Figs. 1 - 2). The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing building and erection of a three-storey building including retail and residential units with associated parking and amenity space. The monitoring was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (St Albans City & District Council Planning Ref. 5/10/1659).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with advice from St Albans City & District Council (SADC), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 06/08/2015). The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of

Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), 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:

1. to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
2. to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
3. to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

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 (Figs. 1 - 3)

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Goldring Way in the Napsbury development to the west of London Colney. The site was formerly the Napsbury Hospital site, developed for housing in recent years. The hospital was a largely Edwardian psychiatric facility, in mature landscaped grounds.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 It is proposed to erect a new retail/residential block on the site, with associated access, parking and amenity space. The site was formerly occupied by the 20th century Napsbury Church, which has since been demolished.

3.2 Prehistoric activity is known to the west, manifest in cropmarks identified by aerial photography, and sparse features, possibly of prehistoric date, were recorded in a trial trench evaluation carried out in the hospital grounds in 1996. In the Roman period, a road followed a course close to Shenley Lane, and occupation has been recorded along its line. Napsbury was a Domesday manor and its associated medieval settlement is believed to have been located in the eastern part of the hospital site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring observed the excavation of the footing trenches for the new development. The excavation was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 4)

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP 3)</i> <i>West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Modern made ground. Friable, pale greyish yellow silt with frequent demolition rubble.
0.36m – 0.65m	L1001	Made ground. Friable, pale yellow silty sand with sparse small rounded stones.
0.65m – 0.85m +	L1002	Natural clay. Compact, dark red brown clay with frequent medium and large angular flints.

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP 4)</i> <i>West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.88m+	L1002	Natural clay. As Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample Section 3 (DP 6)</i> <i>North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1003	Re-deposited natural clay layer. Very firm, dark orange brown clay with occasional small angular flints.
0.40m – 0.67m	L1004	Buried topsoil. Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional – moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.67m – 0.84m	L1000	Modern made ground. As Sample Section 1.
0.84 – 0.99m	L1001	Made ground. As Sample Section 1.
0.99 – 1.29m+	L1002	Natural clay. As Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample Section 4 (DP 8)</i> <i>South-west part of the site, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above, Sample Section 1.
0.36 – 0.69m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample Section 5 (DP 9)</i> <i>West/central part of the site, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1005	Modern made ground. Light to mid grey, friable, silty sand with frequent stones and CBM fragments.
0.28 – 0.60m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Sample Section 1.

<i>Sample Section 6 (DP 11)</i> <i>Central part of the site, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above, Sample Section 1.
0.37 – 0.58m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Sample Section 1.

Description: Excepting modern finds of slate, glass, and CBM found within buried Topsoil L1004 no archaeological finds or features were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 In the north-eastern part of the site Made Ground L1000 comprised a friable, pale greyish yellow silt with frequent demolition rubble (0.36m thick). It overlay Made Ground L1001, a friable, pale yellow silty sand with sparse small rounded stones (0.29m thick). At the base of the sequence, at a depth of 0.65m, was the natural (L1002) comprising a compact, dark red brown clay with frequent medium and large angular flints.

7.2 In the south-eastern part of the site L1003 was a very firm, dark orange brown clay with occasional small angular flints (0.40m thick). L1003 overlay L1004, a buried topsoil comprising a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional – moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (0.27m thick). Below L1004 was Made Ground L1000 (0.17m thick) L1001 (0.15m thick).

7.3 The natural, L1002, was a compact, dark red brown clay with frequent medium and large angular flints were encountered at a depth of 0.99m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Prehistoric activity is known, in the form of cropmarks, to the west of the site. Trial trenching in 1996 in the grounds of Napsbury Hospital revealed sparse features of possible prehistoric date. Roman occupation has been recorded along the line of a Roman road that followed a course close to Shenley Lane. A medieval settlement is believed to have been located in the eastern part of the Napsbury Hospital site. As such the site had the potential for remains of prehistoric, Roman, and medieval date.

8.2 In the event the monitoring of the footing trenches for this development revealed no archaeological finds or features.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The requirements for the deposition of the archive records, with an inventory, will be agreed with St Albans Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Michael Rubinow for his co-operation and funding of the monitoring.

Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank Mr Simon West of St Albans City & District Council for his input and advice.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking east.



DP 2. The east part of the site. Looking north-north-east.



DP 3. North-east part of the site. Sample Section 1. Looking east-north-east.



DP 4. East/central part of the site. Sample Section 2. Looking east-north-east.



DP 5. East foundation trenches. Looking south-south-east.



DP 6. South-east part of the site. Sample Section 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 7. South-west part of the site. Looking south-south-west.



DP 8. South-west part of the site. Sample Section 4. Looking east-north-east.



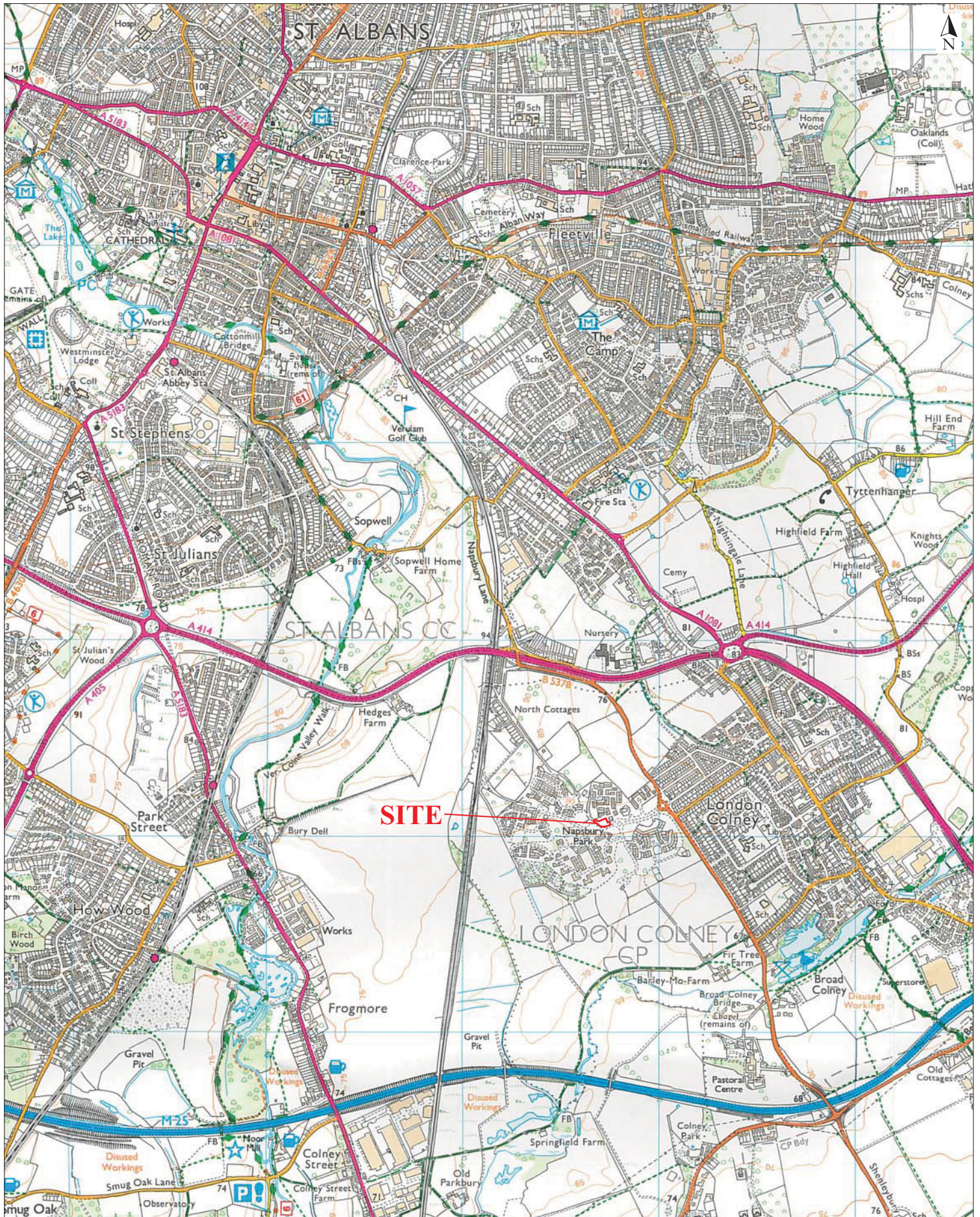
DP 9. West/central part of the site. Sample Section 5. Looking east-north-east.



DP 10. Central part of the site. Looking north-north-east.

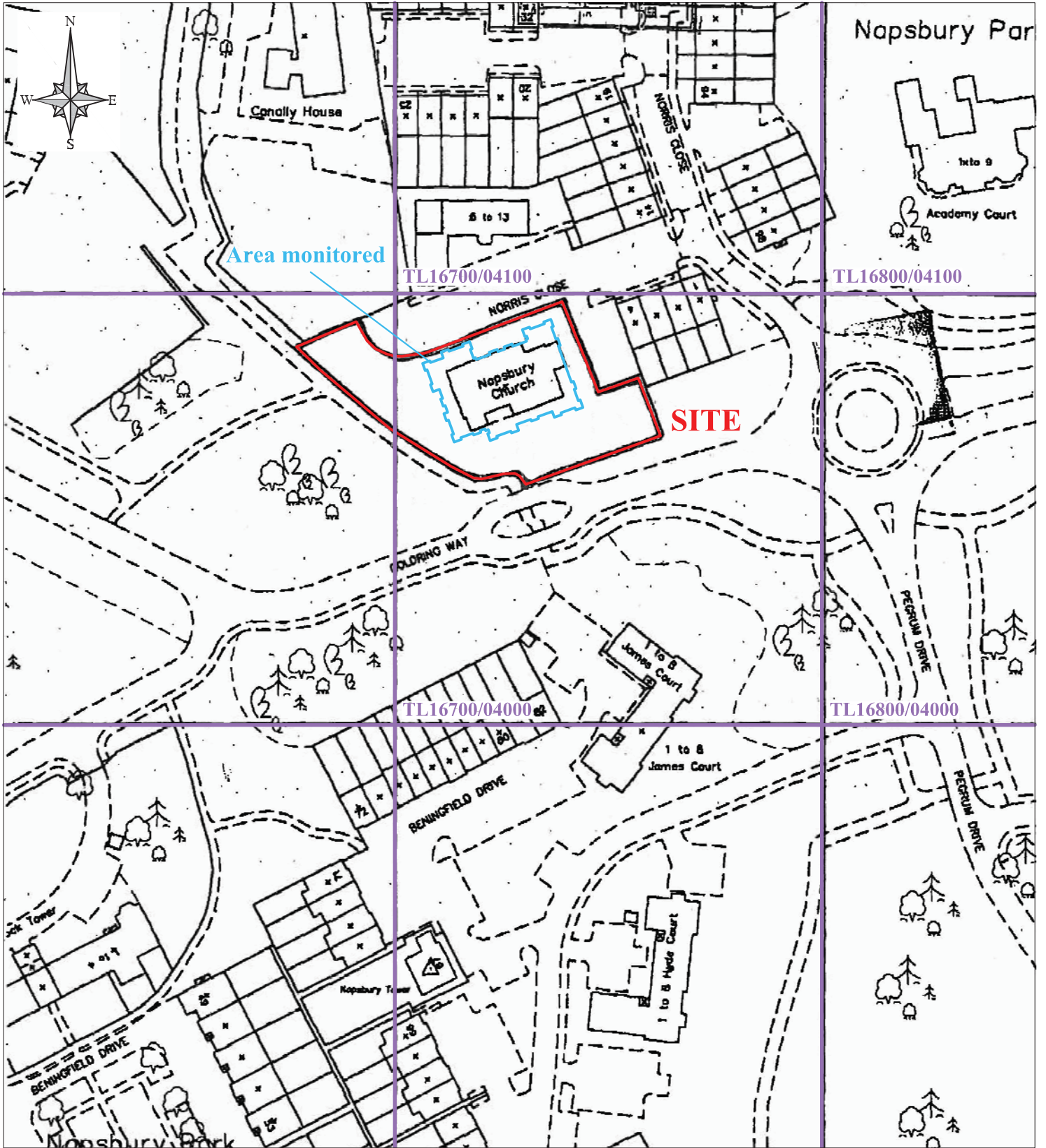


DP 11. Central part of the site. Sample Section 6. Looking west-south-west.



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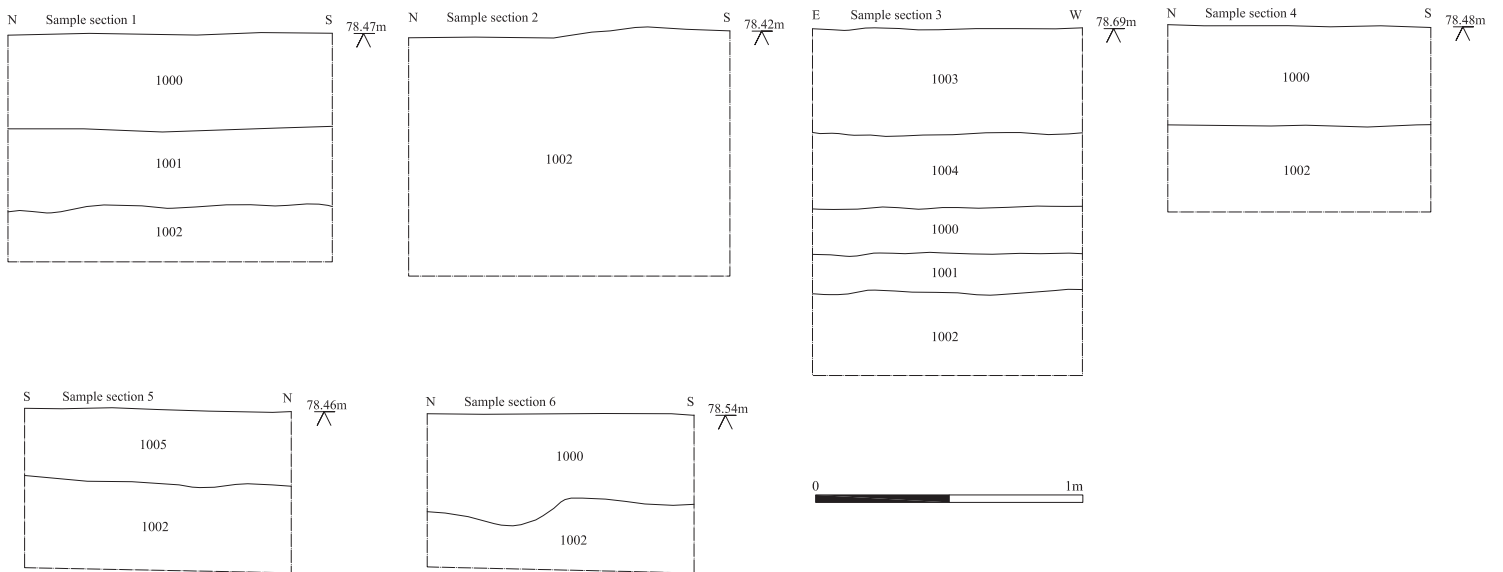
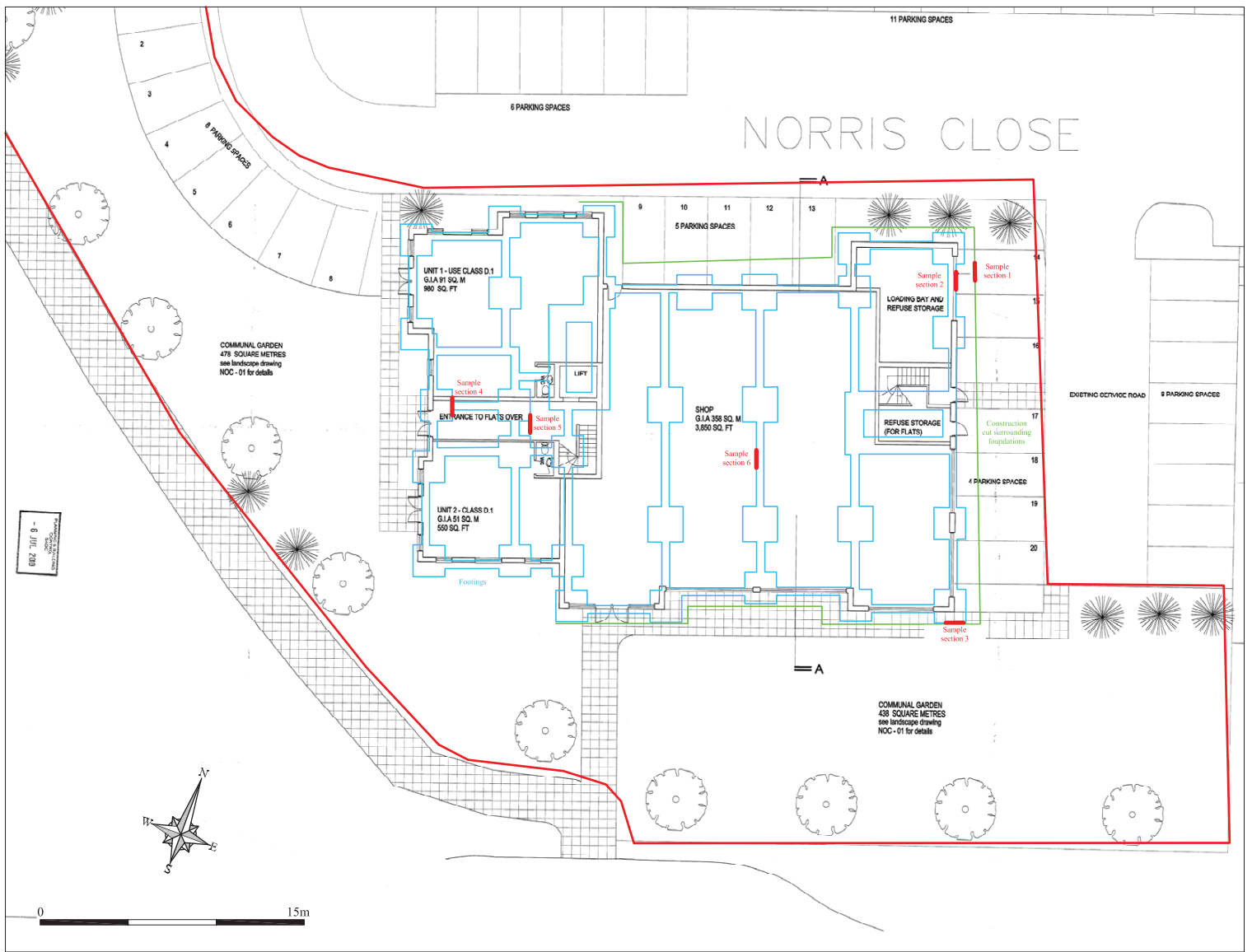
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Napsbury church, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P6388)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1250 at A4
 Napsbury church, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P6388)



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Fig. 3 Sample sections and locations
 Scale 1:250 and 1:20 at A4
 Napsbury church, London Colney, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P6388)