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**LAND ADJACENT TO 4 DATCHWORTH GREEN,
DATCHWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 26682 18303	Report No: 5256
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1857
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3646
MCIfA	Date: 17 November 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 26682 18303). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling with new vehicular access and associated hard surfacing and landscaping.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as identified on the Local Plan. The Area encompasses the historic core of Datchworth Green with its medieval and later settlement. Post-medieval buildings are present in the area and the site contained post-medieval buildings in the past. Therefore the site had potential for medieval and later archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed a modern pit and a modern ditch.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>09/11/2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6827</i>	Site code	<i>AS1857</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>Dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pit and ditch</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Datchworth</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG3 6TL</i>		
Area of site	<i>920m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 26682 18303</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>103.60/104.90</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Requirements of HCC HEAT</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr A Hamilton</i>		
Full title	<i>Land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5256</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2016</i>		

LAND ADJACENT TO 4 DATCHWORTH GREEN, DATCHWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 26682 18303). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling with new vehicular access and associated hard surfacing and landscaping.

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as identified on the Local Plan. The Area encompasses the historic core of Datchworth Green with its medieval and later settlement. Post-medieval buildings are present in the area and the site contained post-medieval buildings in the past. Therefore the site had potential for medieval and later archaeological remains.

In the event the evaluation revealed a modern pit and a modern ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 26682 18303; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling with new vehicular access and associated hard surfacing and landscaping (East Herts Planning Ref. 3/15/1575/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with requirements of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 10/10/2016) and approved by HCC HEAT. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

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 on the northern side of Datchworth Green close to the main road junction in the village of Datchworth. The southern part of the site is currently an area of concrete and unmade ground serving as a car park for the Plough Inn which is located on the other side of the road. The northern part of the site consists of a garden lawn with trees.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at between 103.60 and 104.90m AOD¹, on a land rising gradually to the east and south-east. The southern part of the site appears to have been levelled and is slightly elevated over the northern garden half.

¹ Above Ordnance Datum

3.2 The solid geology of the area is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) with superficial deposits of diamicton including clay (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Hornbeam 2 association, described as deep fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The Area, as identified on the Local Plan, encompasses the historic core of Datchworth Green with its medieval and later settlement. Datchworth grew up along the earlier Roman road from Verulamium to Braughing, and may date to the later Saxon period, though it is first documented in 1451. Until expansion in the 20th century, the settlement lay along the north side of the triangular green with a cluster of houses at the crossroads linking Datchworth and Green to Welwyn and Watton-at-Stone.

4.2 Early buildings still survive around Datchworth Green. Adjacent No 4 is Grade II listed and dates to the late 17th century, and the three other corners of the green contain two listed 17th century buildings (No 3 and Hoppers Hall) and the early 18th century Inn on the Green. Historic maps show a small building to the rear of the plot in 1839 and later 19th century maps show small cottages at the front of the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 3 - 4). The trenches were located within the south part of the site where the new development will take place.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces 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 searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 5, DP 3-4)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 5): north end, west-north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.73m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1001	Car park surface and partly basal layer for tarmac L1000. Light brown, loose, fine silty gravel.
0.05 – 0.09m	L1002	Levelling layer. Dark grey, compact, silty gravel.
0.09 – 0.17m	L1003	Levelling layer. Mid to dark orange yellow, compact, CBM rubble and sandy gravel.
0.17 – 0.52m	L1004	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.52 – 0.71m	L1005	Subsoil. Light grey, compact, silty clay with occasional CBM fragments.
0.71m +	L1006	Natural. Light to mid yellow, compact, clay.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 6): south end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac.
0.04 – 0.08m	L1001	As above.
0.08 – 0.14m	L1007	Light yellow, loose, sand.
0.14 – 0.19m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above.
0.19 – 0.66m	L1008	Modern made ground. CBM rubble and debris.
0.66m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1009 which was also present in Trench 4.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 4, DP 7-8)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 9): north-west end, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1011	Topsoil. Dark grey, friable, sandy silt.
0.09 – 0.21m	L1012	Made ground. CBM rubble with yellow sand, loose.
0.21 – 0.72m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.72 – 0.90m	L1005	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.90m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 10): south-east end, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1001	As above, Trench 1.
0.07 – 0.18m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.18 – 0.77m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.77m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 - 5, DP 11-12)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 13): north end, west-north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1011	Topsoil. As above, Trench 2.
0.14 – 0.56m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.56m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 14): south end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1001	As above, Trench 1.
0.07 – 0.13m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.20m	L1012	As above, Trench 2.
0.20 – 0.63m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.63m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Modern (20th century) Pit F1013 was present within the trench.

Pit 1013 was rectangular in plan (1.14 x 0.67 x 0.32m+; DP 15). It had near vertical sides and its base was not reached. Its fill, L1014, was a dark grey, loose, sandy silt. It contained modern (20th century) rubbish.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 - 5, DP 16-17)

<i>Sample section 4A (DP 18): north end, west-north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1001	As above, Trench 1.
0.08 – 0.18m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.18 – 0.52m	L1016	Made ground. Light to mid grey and yellow, compact, clay with occasional CBM fragments.
0.52m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 4B (DP 19): south end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1001	As above, Trench 1.
0.09 – 0.16m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Trench 1.
0.16 – 0.44m	L1010	Fill of Ditch F1009. Dark grey, nearly black, friable, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments and debris.
0.44 – 0.61m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Trench 1.
0.61m +	L1006	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Modern (20th century) ditch, F1009, was present within the trench. It was also recorded in Trench 1.

Ditch F1009 was linear (11.50+ 1.80 x 0.68m+; DP 19-20). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a dark grey, nearly black, friable, clayey silt with frequent modern CBM fragments and debris. The ditch was present just below modern levelling layers, 0.15 – 0.20m below existing ground level.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern tarmac (L1000) and gravelly layer L1001. Below were also modern levelling layers, 0.15 – 0.25m below existing ground level. Below the levelling layers, the principal deposit was Made Ground L1004 (0.15 – 0.45m thick), a dark grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments. It overlay Subsoil L1005, a light grey, compact, silty clay with occasional CBM fragments (0.05 – 0.20m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1001, was present at 0.50 – 0.90m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance as designated on the Local Plan, which encompasses the historic core of Datchworth Green with its medieval and later settlement. Post-medieval buildings are present in the area and the site itself contained post-medieval buildings in the past.

9.2 In the event only modern (20th century) features were revealed, a pit and a ditch. No residual finds were present and no indication of previous development of the site was identified.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Anthony Hamilton for funding the project and Ms Nina Smith for assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team.

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Page, W (ed.), 1912 (rep. 1971), *The Victoria History of the Counties of England; Hertfordshire*, Vol III

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	13
Site photographs colour slides	13
Digital Photographs	26

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	<i>Land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire</i>
County: Hertfordshire	District: <i>East Herts</i>
Village/Town:	Parish: <i>Datchworth</i>
Planning application reference:	<i>East Herts Planning Ref. 3/15/1575/FUL</i>
Client name/address/tel:	<i>Mr A Hamilton</i>
Nature of application:	<i>Single dwelling</i>
Present land use:	<i>Car park</i>
Size of application area: <i>c.920m²</i>	Size of area investigated <i>m²</i>
NGR (8 figures):	<i>TL 26682 18303</i>
Site Code:	<i>AS 1857</i>
Site director/Organization:	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Type of work:	<i>Trial trench evaluation</i>
Date of work:	<i>09/11/16</i>
Location of finds/Curating museum:	<i>Hertford</i>
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: <i>Modern</i>
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<i>In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to 4 Datchworth Green, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 26682 18303). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached dwelling with new vehicular access and associated hard surfacing and landscaping. <i>In the event the evaluation revealed a modern pit and a modern ditch.</i></i>
Author of summary: <i>Z Pozorski</i>	Date of Summary: <i>November 2016</i>

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. West part of the site. Looking north-north-east.



DP 2. East part of the site. Looking south.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking north.



DP 4. Trench 1. Looking south-south-west.



DP 5. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking east-south-east.



DP 6. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1A. Looking west-north-west.



DP 7. Trench 2. Looking south-south-east.



DP 8. Trench 2. Looking north-west.



DP 9. Trench 2, north-west end. Sample section 2A. Looking north-east.



DP 10. Trench 2, south-east end. Sample section 2B. Looking south-west.



DP 11. Trench 3. Looking north.



DP 12. Trench 3. Looking south-south-west.



DP 13. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking east-south-east.



DP 14. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking west-north-west.



DP 15. Trench 3, Pit F1013. Looking south-south-west.



DP 16. Trench 4. Looking north-west.



DP 17. Trench 4. Looking south-south-west.



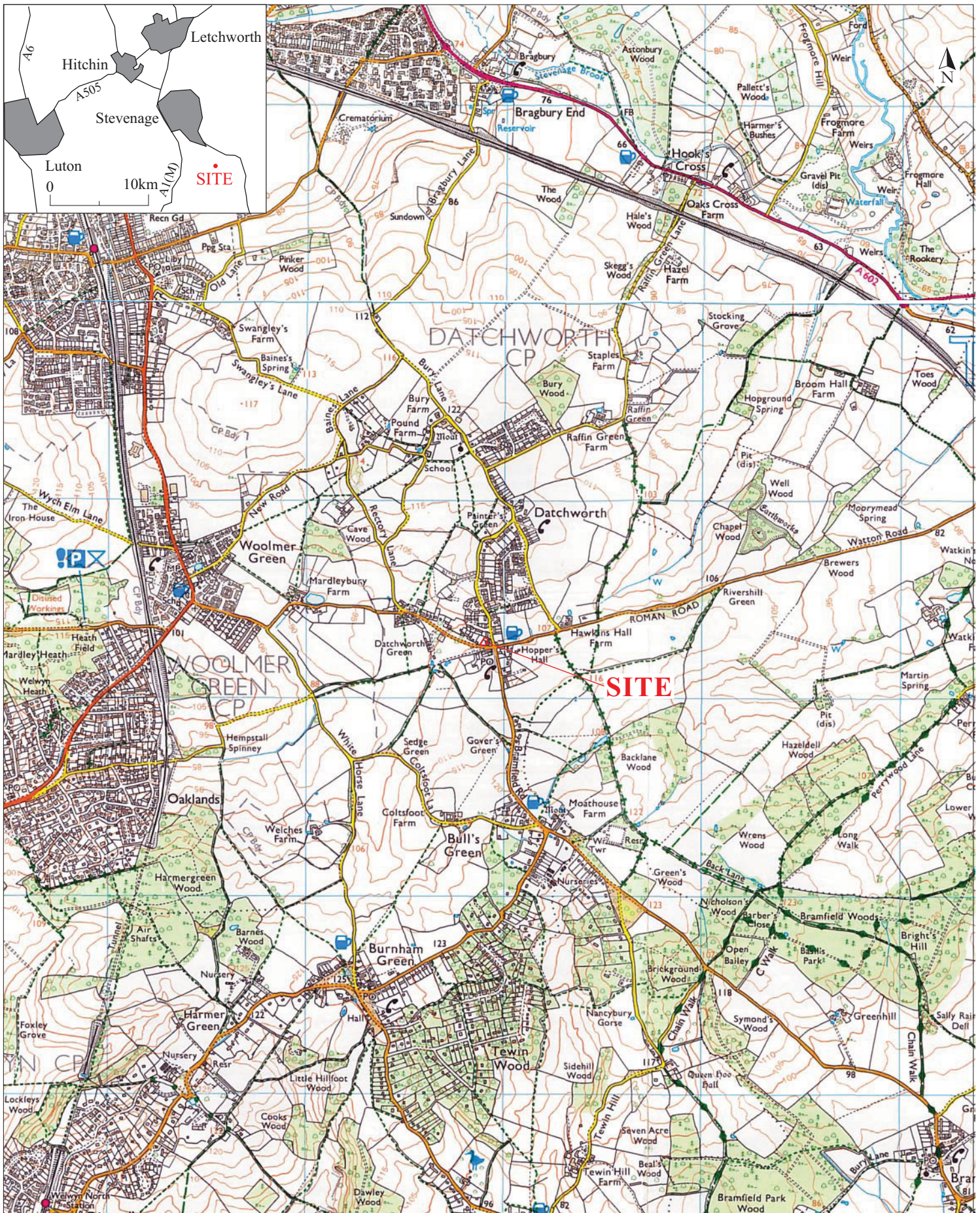
DP 18. Trench 4, north end. Sample section 4A. Looking east-south-east.



DP 19. Trench 4, south end. Sample section 4B. Looking west-north-west.



DP 20. Trench 4. Ditch F1009. Looking south-west.

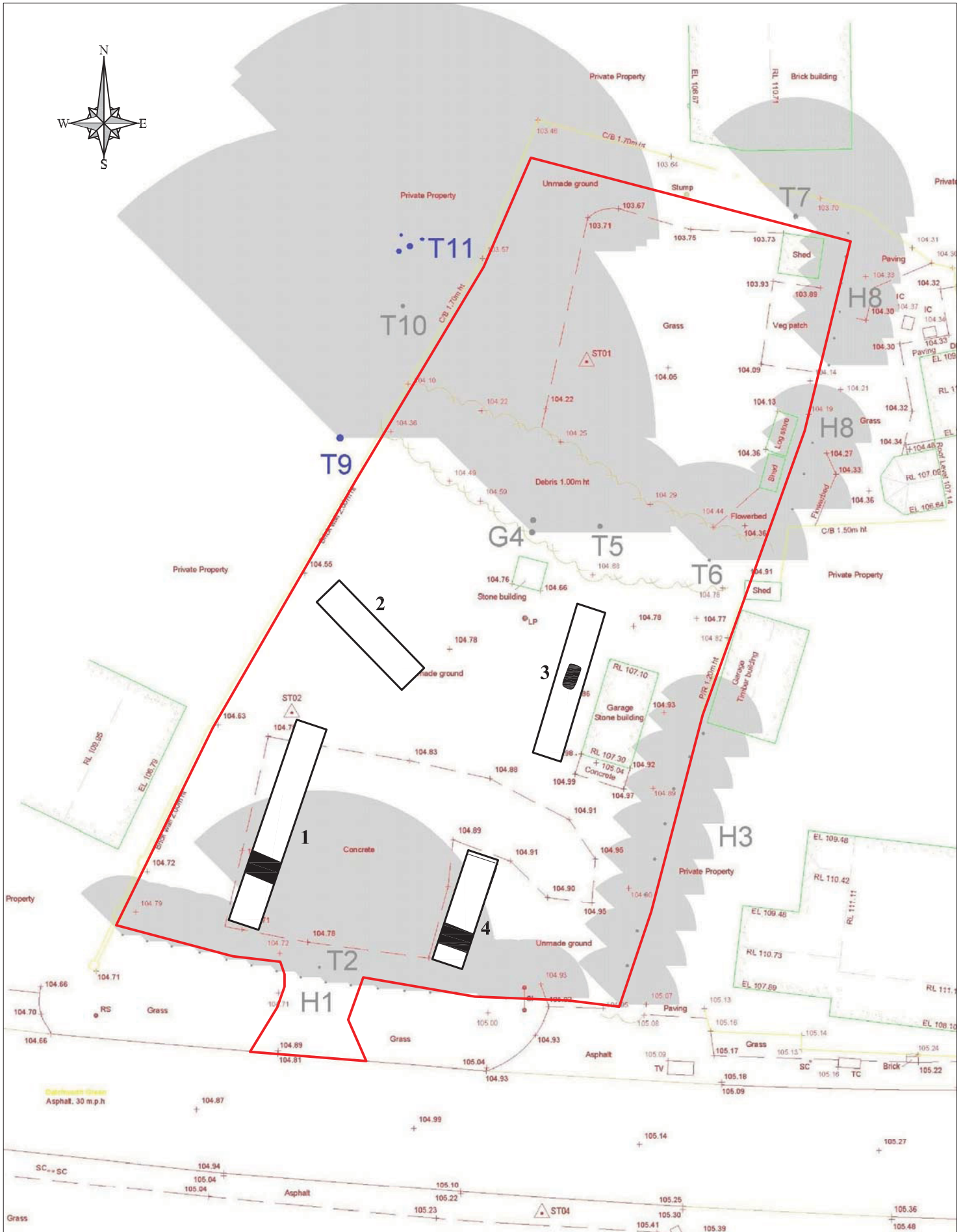


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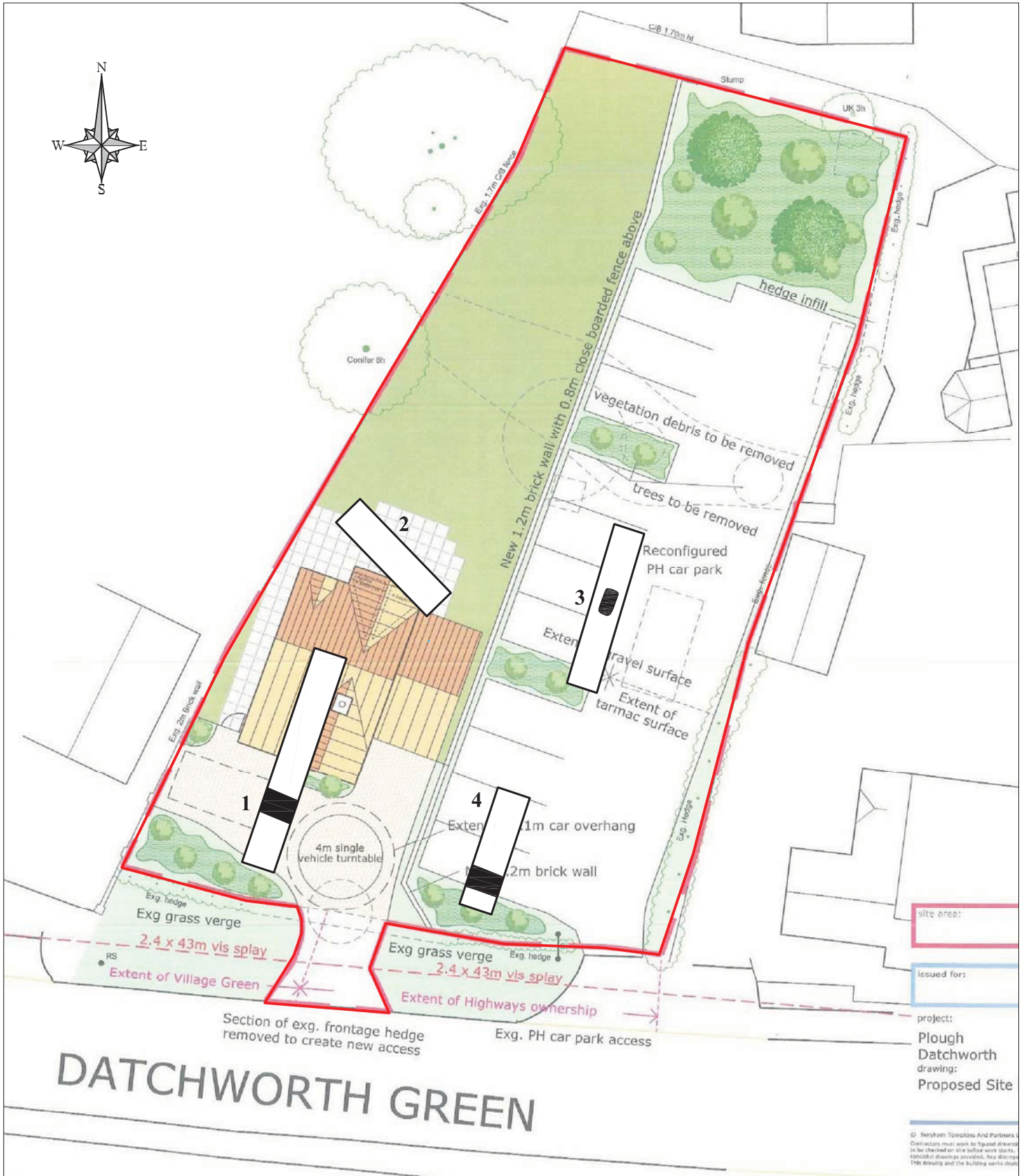
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 The Plough, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (P6827)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4
 The Plough, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (P6827)

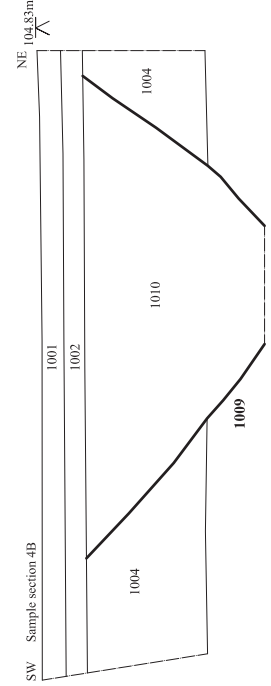
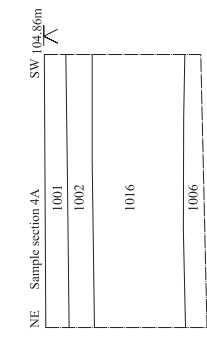
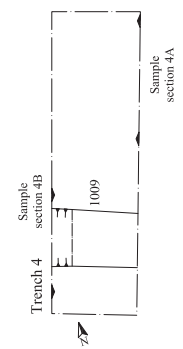
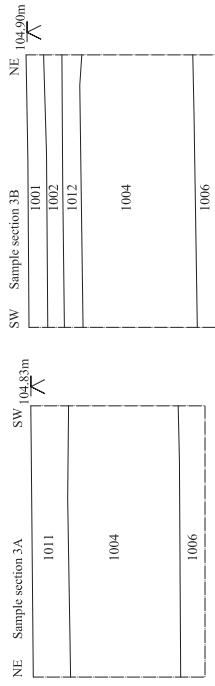
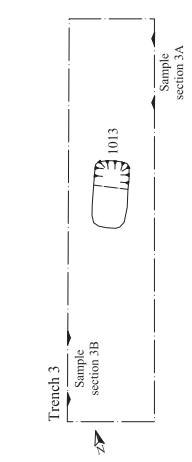
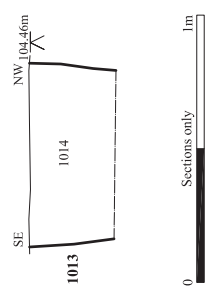
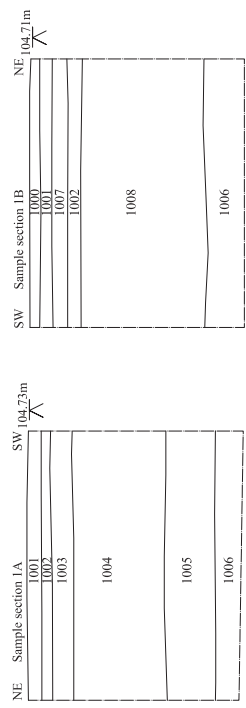
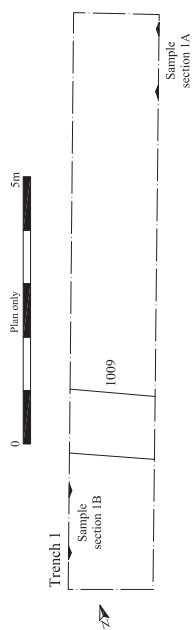


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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:200 at A4
 Datchworth, Hertfordshire (P6827)



0 15m

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Fig. 4 Proposed development
 Scale 1:250 at A4
 Datchworth, Hertfordshire (P6827)



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
 Scale: Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
 Datchworth, Hertfordshire (P6827)