
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**CLOCKHOUSE NURSERY, FORTY HILL,
ENFIELD, EN2 9EU****PRO-ACTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

GLHER No. 13386

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NGR: TQ 34105 98405	Report No: 5471
Borough: Enfield	Site Code: CL017
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7043
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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION***
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS***
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 5 METHODOLOGY***
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS***
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 9 DISCUSSION***

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**Project details**

Project name	Clockhouse Nursery, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9EU
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In August 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of pro-active archaeological observation, monitoring and recording at the Clockhouse Nursery, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9EU (LB Enfield; NGR TL 34105 98405; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new single storey building for use as an ancillary sales, display and check out area following demolition of the existing building at the site (LB Enfield Planning Approval Ref. 16/02419/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS).

The site lies within a large area identified as having a high archaeological potential (LB Enfield Archaeological Priority Area), centred on Forty Hill, Whitewebbs Hill and Bulls Cross (GLHER DLO35150). The area is identified as a multi-period site that includes Ermine Street, medieval manors, post-medieval Elsyng Palace and the scheduled Flash Road Aqueduct, as well as the settlements of Clay Hill and Forty Hill. The proximity of the area of the Turkey Brook and the old course of the New River indicates it would have been conducive to early exploitation and settlement from the Palaeolithic period onwards (MoLAS 2000).

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

Project dates (fieldwork)	August 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	7043	Site code	
Type of project	Pro-active archaeological monitoring & recording		
Site status	Archaeological Priority Area		
Current land use	Plant nursery		
Planned development	New sales and check out building		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	Enfield	Enfield
HER for area	Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER; No. 13386)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 450m ²		
NGR	TQ 34105 98405		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 37m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Clockhouse Nursery Ltd		
Full title	Clockhouse Nursery, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9EU. Pro-active Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Authors	Newton, A.		
Report no.	5471		
Date (of report)	October 2017		

CLOCKHOUSE NURSERY, FORTY HILL, ENFIELD, EN2 9EU

PRO-ACTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of pro-active archaeological observation, monitoring and recording at the Clockhouse Nursery, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9EU (LB Enfield; NGR TL 34105 98405; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new single storey building for use as an ancillary sales, display and check out area following demolition of the existing building at the site (LB Enfield Planning Approval Ref. 16/02419/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS).

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2017, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of pro-active archaeological observation, monitoring and recording at the Clockhouse Nursery, Forty Hill, Enfield, EN2 9EU (LB Enfield; NGR TL 34105 98405; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a new single storey building for use as an ancillary sales, display and check out area following demolition of the existing building at the site (LB Enfield Planning Approval Ref. 16/02419/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic England Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service (HE GLAAS).

1.2 The monitoring adhered to the advice of HE GLAAS, and a specification compiled by AS (19th January 2017), and approved by HE GLAAS and the LPA. The project was also undertaken according to the requirements of the Historic England GLAAS *Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Greater London* (2015), and the Chartered Institute for

Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

1.3 The requirements of the project were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the new development;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

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 towards the northern extent of Enfield and within an area known as Forty Hill, which is distinguished by the Grade I listed Forty Hall located 450m to the west of the site. The site lies within a large area identified as having a high archaeological potential (LB Enfield Archaeological Priority Area), centred on Forty Hill, Whitewebbs Hill and Bulls Cross (GLHER DLO35150).

2.2 The site comprises an area adjacent to an existing car park in the north-eastern section of the Clockhouse Nursery at Forty Hill (Fig. 2).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The topography of the site is dominated by its relatively urban location towards the northern extent of both Greater London and the London Borough of Enfield. However the Forty Hill area remains relatively undeveloped. The New River Navigation Canal, which forms the eastern extent of the Clockhouse Nursery, flows on a north to south alignment only 110m to the east of the site. The old course of the New River flows south-eastwards 500m to the north-east of the site, and the Turkey Brook only 300m to the north. The site lies at approximately 35m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping down to the east from Forty Hill.

3.2 The geology of the area is characterised by brickearths, which are underlain by a solid geology of clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation (BGS 2015), while the soils of the area remain unsurveyed (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Within the immediate vicinity of the site, a prehistoric sub-cordate rolled handaxe was found by W. Smith only 50m to the west of the site (GLHER 080570/00/00 - MLO12169). A watching brief on land adjacent to Jesus Church on Forty Hill to the north revealed a disturbed and re-deposited plough soil, which contained a range of finds dating from early Mesolithic struck flints to 19th century pottery (GLHER MLO10267). A Mesolithic adze was recovered from allotments only 250m to the south of the site (GLHER 083618/00/00 - MLO67652). Archaeological investigations at Forty Hill School and 200m to the north have also revealed a prehistoric sub-circular structure (GLHERs 082590/00/00 - MLO59937, 082591/00/00 - MLO59939 & 082592/00/00 - MLO59941).

Romano-British

4.2 The Roman road, Ermine Street, which linked the city of London (*Londinium*) to Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*) and York (*Eboracum*) is known to run on a south to north alignment at Bulls Cross, which lies 800m to the north of the site (MoLAS). Its course through Forty Hill, however, remains unclear and an excavation undertaken in 1959 and 250m to the east of the site sought to reveal evidence for the Roman road, but revealed no trace (NMR Excavation Index 1875685). The excavation within the Clockhouse Nursery revealed only an undated ditch (GLHER 082148/00/00 - MLO20761).

4.3 A puddingstone quern and Roman glass bottle were found in 19th century in the grounds of the Clockhouse Nursery (GLHERs 080629/00/00 - MLO2849 & 080630/00/00 - MLO15585). A Roman bronze coin of Victorinus (Constantine the Great) was also found in gravel on the west bank of New River Navigation Canal and 115m to the east of the site (GLHER 080631/00/00 - MLO20473). A gold pin of a brooch was found on the same spot.

Saxon and medieval

4.4 No Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded in the vicinity of the site and Enfield is first recorded in Domesday Book (MoLAS 2000). During the medieval period, Enfield was famous for its park; a heavily forested area maintained for hunting. Trial trenching of land immediately adjacent to Jesus Church, Forty Hill, and to the north of the site revealed only ploughsoil (GLHER MLO7687). Forty Hall, which stands 450m to the west of the site, is also the location the medieval manor house of *Elsynge Palace*, which was the palatial house of Sir Thomas Lovell until he surrendered to the King in 1539 (GLHER MLO20710).

Post-medieval and later

4.5 The post-medieval development of Forty Hill is dominated by the Grade I listed Forty Hall, which stands 450m to the west of the site, although Enfield in general remained noted for its hunting and well-to-do residences. Forty Hall was built in 1629 - 36 for Sir Nicholas Raynton, on the site of the Tudor building of *Elsynge Palace*, and numerous excavations have provided evidence for the phases of the building's construction (GLHER MLO82821). A buried land surface and the possible remains of the demolished Tudor predecessor to Forty Hall were identified during investigations (GLHER MLO10470), whilst the late 18th century pleasure grounds at Forty Hall are known to overlie 17th century gardens (GLHER MLO5983).

4.6 Within the immediate vicinity of the site, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken 100m to the north-east of the site (GLHERs 082442/00/00 - MLO58903 & 083219/00/00 - MLO64235; MoLAS 1994). However, the only feature uncovered was a 19th - early 20th century sheep/goat burial, which cut the natural boulder clay and was overlain by topsoil. Local history sources

reveal that the Clockhouse Nursery was established in 1928 and resulted from a previous area of market garden associated with the large, private residence of Clock House.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new single storey building, following the demolition of the existing building. The monitored works included ground reduction, and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. The excavation was undertaken using a 360 13 tonne excavator.

5.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of groundworks, the inspection of 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i> <i>West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 37.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Tarmac.
0.11 – 0.22m	L1001	Made Ground. Moderately loose black cindery grit with frequent sub-rounded stones.
0.22m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. Firm, mid orange brown with seams of pale blue grey, silty clay.

<i>Sample Section 2</i> <i>South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 37.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1003	Made Ground. Loose, grey gritty sandy silt with moderate to frequent small to medium sized sub-rounded stones.
0.14 – 0.30m	L1004	Made Ground. Mixed deposit of re-deposited gravel, clayey silt with frequent CBM rubble, black cinder and moderate quantities of sub-rounded stones.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural Deposits. As above.

Description:

Modern disturbance was evident within the NE corner of the site, in the area of former greenhouses which are understood to have been demolished in the 1960's-1970's. Evidence of these former greenhouses comprised concrete slabs, former wall footings and the remains of drains. The site was overlain by Made Ground deposits, L1004 and L1001 which overlay the natural deposits

(L1002). Anecdotal evidence suggests that hogging from a nearby gravel pit and material from nearby coke ovens was used to level the ground surface prior to the laying of tarmac grounds (L1000).

No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the parameter of the monitoring, it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by existing Tarmac, L1000 (c.0.11m thick). Commonly underlying L1000 was Made Ground L1003, a loose, grey gritty sandy silt with moderate to frequent medium sized sub-rounded stones (c. 0.13m thick). L1003 overlay Made Ground layer L1004, a mixed deposit of re-deposited gravel, clayey silt with frequent CBM rubble, black cinder fragments and moderate quantities of sub-rounded stones (c. 0.16m thick). In the south-eastern corner of the site L1000 overlay Made Ground L1001, a moderately loose, black cindery grit with frequent sub-rounded stones (c. 0.11m thick).

8.2 Both L1001 and L1004 overlay the natural deposit, L1002, a predominantly firm, mid orange brown silty clay with seams of blue grey silty clay throughout. L1002 was present c. 0.22 – 0.30m below the present ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within a large area identified as having a high archaeological potential (LB Enfield Archaeological Priority Area), centred on Forty Hill, Whitewebbs Hill and Bulls Cross (GLHER DLO35150). The area is identified as a multi-period site that includes Ermine Street, medieval manors, post-medieval Elsynge Palace and the scheduled Flash Road Aqueduct, as well as the settlements of Clay Hill and Forty Hill. The proximity of the area of the Turkey Brook and the old course of the New River indicates it would have been conducive to early exploitation and settlement from the Palaeolithic period onwards (MoLAS 2000).

9.2 In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was truncated and had archaeological features been present they may have been removed in the past. No residual finds were present.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr David Mills of Clockhouse Nursery Ltd for finding the works and for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Greater London Historic Environment Record, in particular Ms. Laura Hampden.

AS would like to acknowledge the assistance, input and advice of Ms Laura O' Gorman of Historic England GLAAS.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of site after removal of topsoil



2
Area of modern disturbance



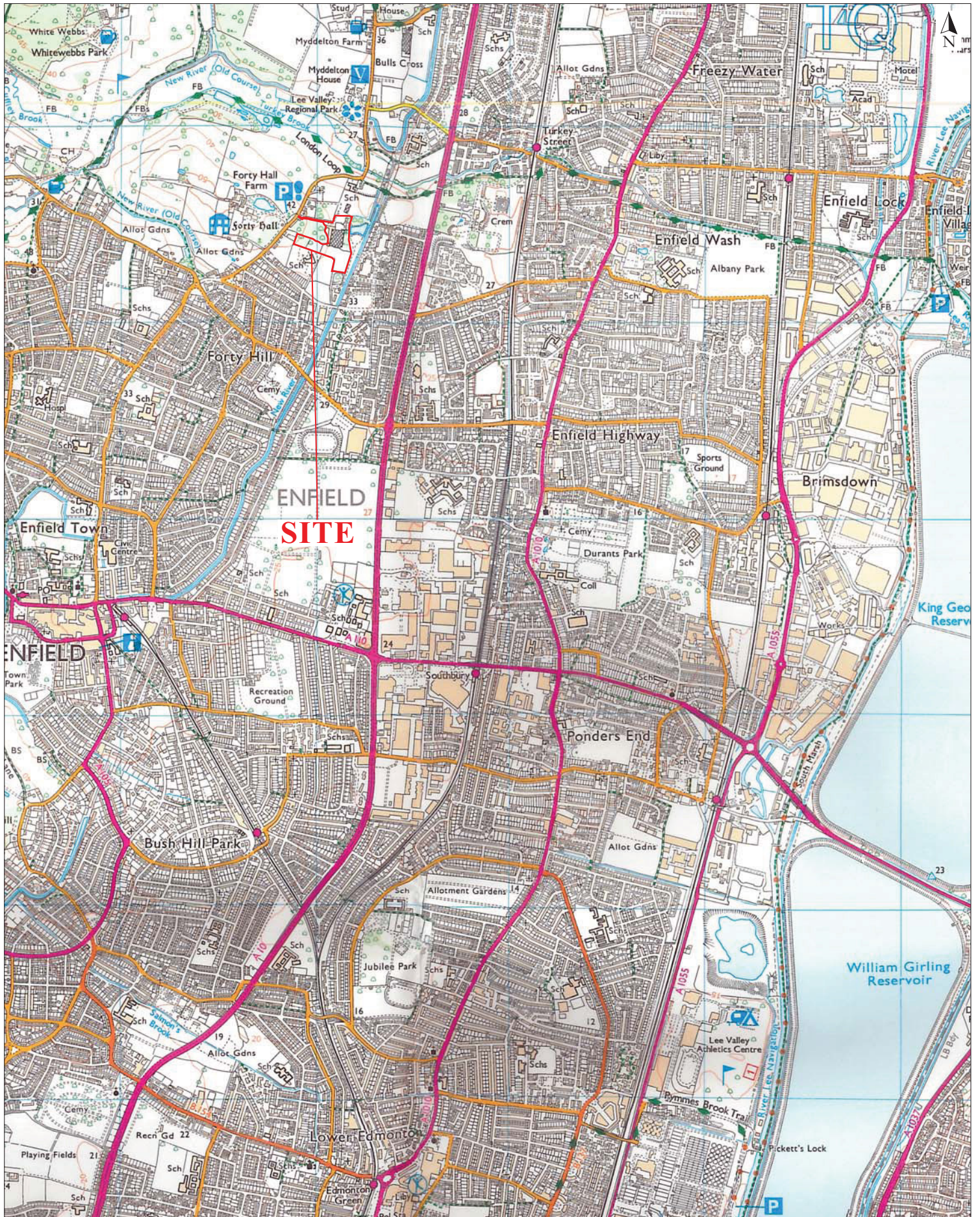
3
19th century land drain



4
Sample section 1

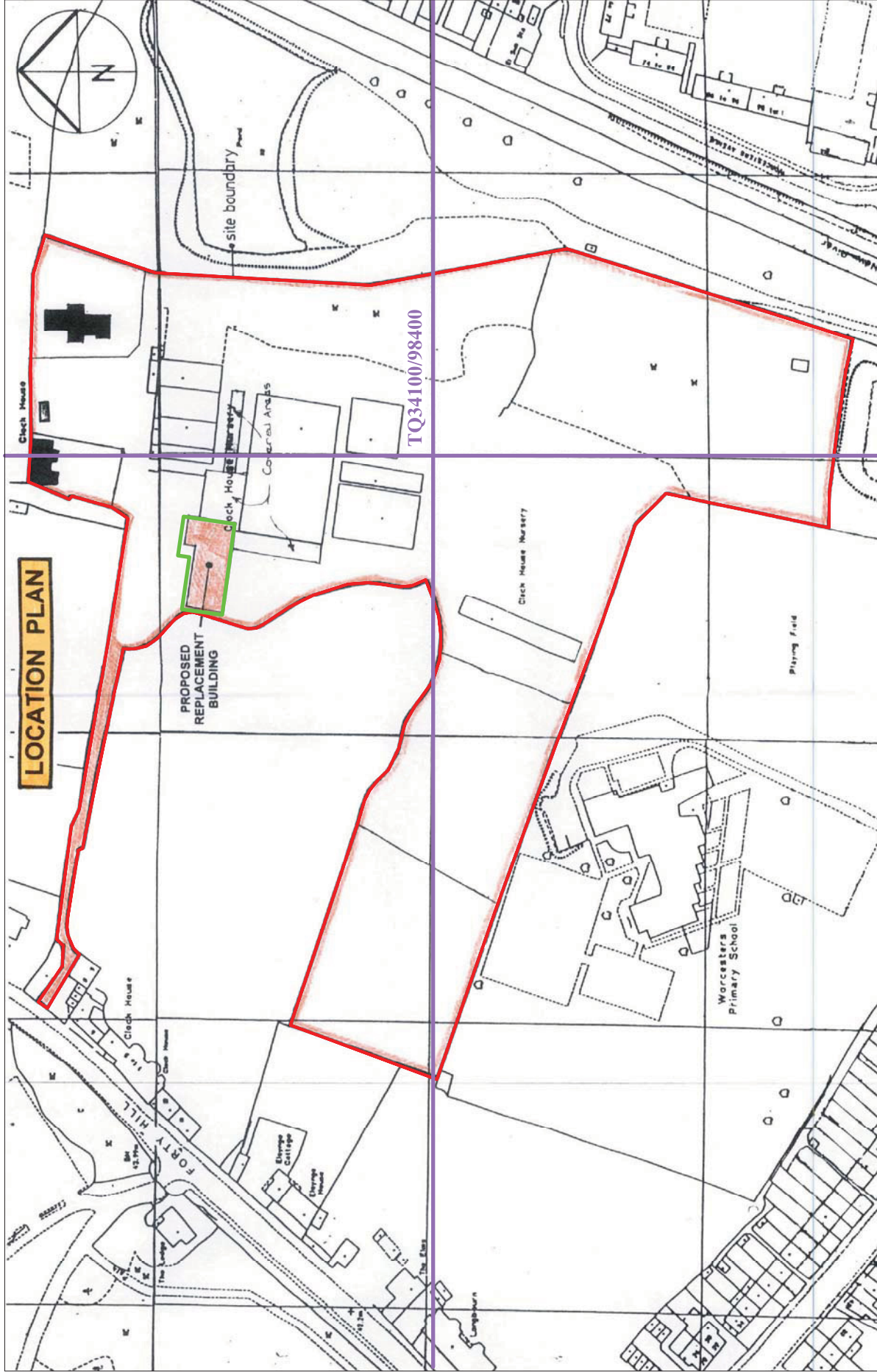


5
Sample section 2



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Clock House Nursery, Enfield, London (P7043)



Area monitored

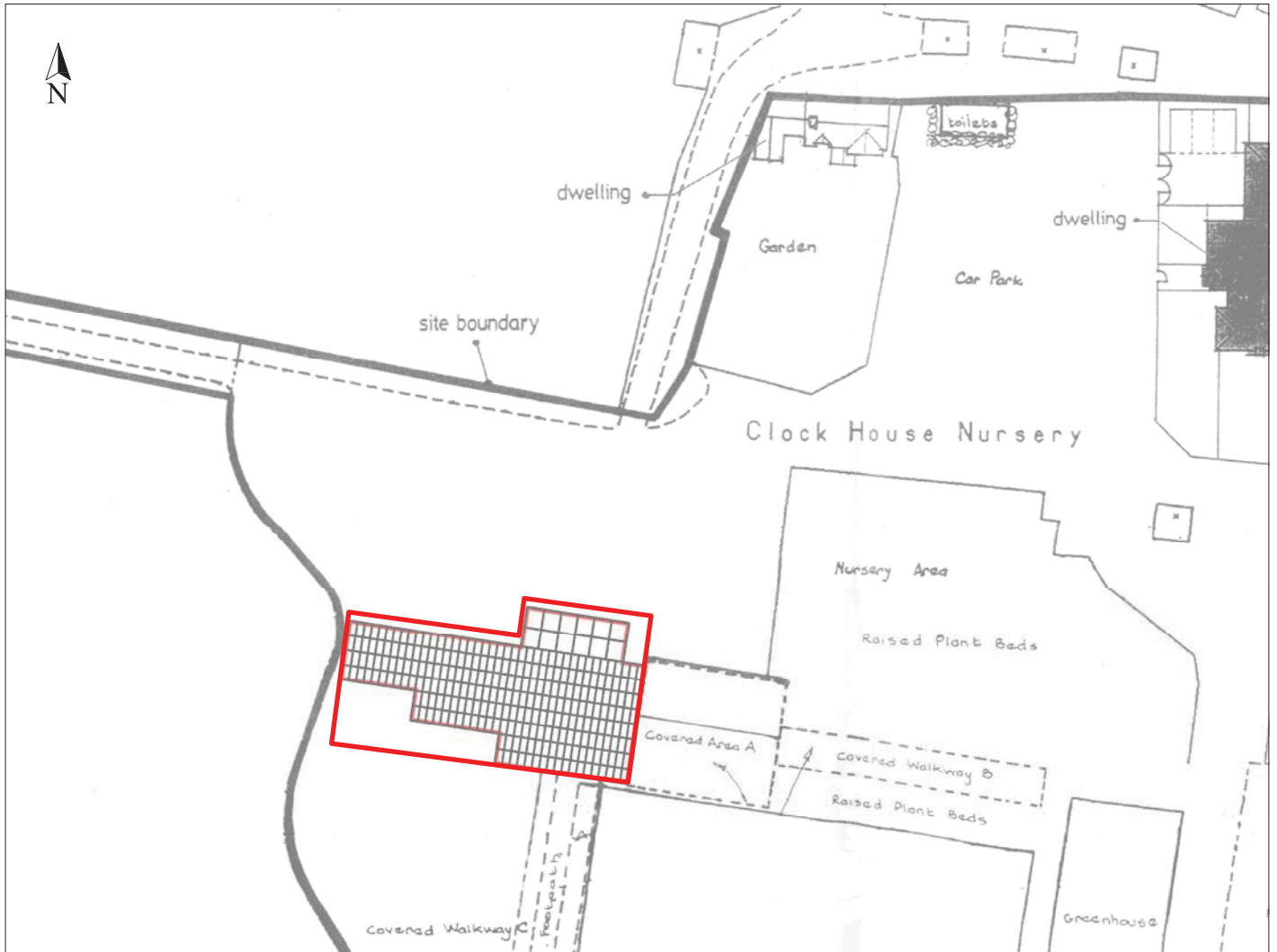


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:2000 at A4

Clock House Nursery, Enfield, London (P7043)

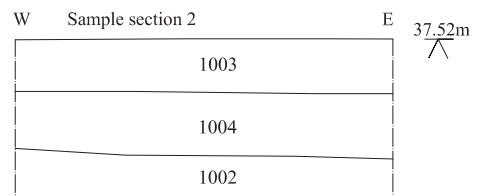
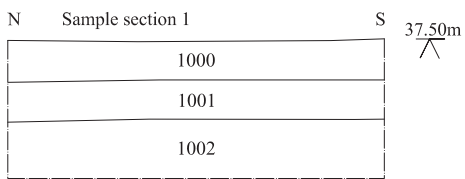
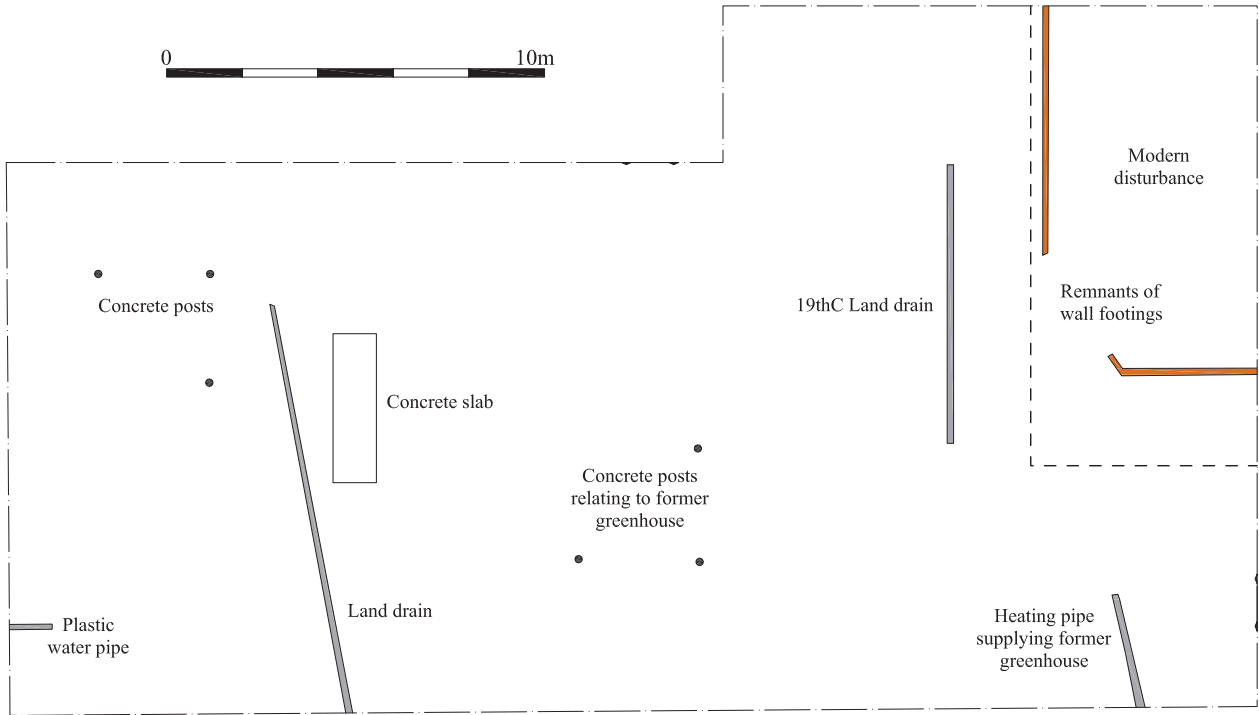


0 50m

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Fig. 3 Plan of site as existing
Scale 1:750 at A4
Clock House Nursery, Enfield, London (P7043)



0 10m



0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 4 Plan and sample sections
Scale Plan 1:200, sections 1:20 at A4
Clock House Nursery, Enfield, London (P7043)