

**191-197 UPTON LANE, FOREST GATE,
LONDON E7**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**191-197 UPTON LANE, FOREST GATE,
LONDON E7**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TQ 4038 8446	Report No. 3333
London Borough: Newham	Site Code: UPF 09
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3551
Signed:	Date: July 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		191-197 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7: An Archaeological Evaluation	
<p>Project description <i>In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at 191-197 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7 (NGR TQ 4038 8446). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a four-storey residential building with retail unit.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the potential for prehistoric, Roman-British and medieval remains, no features or finds related to these periods were found. The earliest stratigraphic feature was F1006. It contained no finds and is undated.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed numerous modern features located at a significant depth below the existing surface. The may have truncated earlier deposits, but no residual finds were found during evaluation.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		01/07/2009	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?) N
P. number		3551	Site code UPF 09
Type of project		Archaeological evaluation	
Site status			
Current land use		Former post office (demolished)	
Planned development		Building with flats and retail unit	
Main features (+dates)		Modern ditch and pits	
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Greater London	LB Newham Forest Gate
HER or SMR for area		GLSMR	
Post code (if known)		E7 9PJ	
Area of site		c. 300m ²	
NGR		TQ 4038 8446	
Height AOD (max/min)		c. 16m	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		EH GLAAS	
Project Officers		Zbigniew Pozorski	
Funded by		Mr Dal Sanger	
Full title		191-197 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7. An Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Pozorski, Z.	
Report no.		3333	
Date (of report)		July 2009	

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at 191-197 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7 (NGR TQ 4038 8446). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a four-storey residential building with retail unit.

Despite the potential for prehistoric, Roman-British and medieval remains, no features or finds related to these periods were found. The earliest stratigraphic feature was F1006. It contained no finds and is undated.

The evaluation revealed numerous modern features located at a significant depth below the existing surface. The may have truncated earlier deposits, but no residual finds were found during evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at 191-197 Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7 (NGR TQ 4038 8446; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Dal Sanger, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning consent for the construction of a four-storey residential building with ground floor retail unit (London Borough of Newham, Plan. Ref. 08/01493/FUL). The condition was imposed by the London Borough of Newham, based on the advice of David Divers of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) (advisors to the borough)

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to advice from EH GLAAS, and a specification prepared by AS (dated 25/06/2009) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site of No. 191 – 197 Upton Lane is located within Forest Gate, which lies within the London Borough of Newham and the conurbation of Greater London (Fig. 1). The historic core of Forest Gate is located approximately 1km to the north of the site, whilst the centre of neighbouring Upton is situated c. 1.2km to the south-east. West Ham lies to the south-west of the site, with West Ham Park located within 200m of the site's south-western boundary. The site itself is located along the course of Upton Lane, the A114, between Forest Gate and Upton.

2.2 The northern and western boundaries of the site are formed by Upton Lane, whilst to the immediate east of the site lies Upton Avenue (Fig. 2). The southern boundary of the site is demarcated by Doris Road. The site was until recently occupied by partly-basemented buildings. It is roughly rectangular in plan.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site has an overwhelmingly urban topography given its location within the London Borough of Newham and conurbation of Greater London (Fig. 1). It lies to the north of the floodplain of the River Thames and on a relatively flat relief at c. 16m AOD, with land sloping only slightly down to the south-east. The solid geology of the site comprises Thanet Beds, which are capped by River Thames terrace deposits (Kempston Park Gravels) to a depth of c. 11m below ground level (b.g.l.; BGS 1978).

3.2 Information regarding the soil types and classification likely to be encountered at the site was not readily available, as the site lies within a built-up area and thus remains unclassified (SSEW 1983). Nevertheless, an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Spotted Dog Public House, which lies to the immediate north-west of the site revealed natural gravel overlain by a ploughsoil, which in turn was overlain by modern material (GLSMR MLO63585). An archaeological evaluation at St Angela's Ursuline Convent School on St George's Road and 350m to the east also did not reveal any archaeological features (GLSMR MLO98117).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site is situated within an area of archaeological potential, to the north of the fertile gravels and alluvial floodplains of the River Thames, which are known to have been exploited throughout the prehistoric and later periods (MoLAS 2000). Palaeolithic occupation of the area is attested by the discovery of Palaeolithic flint artefacts found during the course of sewer works at Forest Gate up to Wanstead and 500m to the north of the site (GLSMR MLO22721). Two further Palaeolithic flint flakes were found in gravel during sewer cutting along Upton Lane and 170m to the south of the site (GLSMR MLO22716), whilst a leaf shaped Neolithic arrowhead was recovered from No. 47 Wolseley Road, 400m to the east (GLSMR MLO25404).

4.2 Romano-British activity in the north London area is well-documented, particularly from Stratford to the west. Closer to the site, a projected course of a Roman route between *Londinium* and Chelmsford/Colchester is thought to pass nearby, and shadowed the course of the present-day Romford Road (Margary 1979). Despite the site's proximity to *Londinium* and arterial roads leading north-eastwards, the only Romano-British find-spot known in the area surrounding the site comprises a Roman denarius of Trajan found at No. 81 Warwick Road and 450m to the west of the site (GLSMR MLO25417).

4.3 In the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, it is likely that the site and its surrounding area formed part of the manor of Woodgrange and the Hamfrith estate of West Ham manor (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983, 298). No Anglo-Saxon findspots are known from the environs of the site, whilst documentary evidence first attests the village of Upton, located barely 50m to the south of the site, in the 13th century (GLSMR MLO25836). Although documentary sources first refer to Grove House in West Ham Park in the 18th century, its half H-shaped plan suggests medieval origins (GLSMR MLO25678). The Royal hunting forest of Epping lay to the north of the site and place-name evidence attests to the area's rural origin as Forest Gate derives from a gate placed across the Woodford road to prevent cattle straying out of the Lower Forest (Field 1980).

4.4 The post-medieval development of the Upton Road area of Forest Gate is well-attested by the large quantity of post-medieval and later find-spots recorded in the area surrounding the site. Extant structures include the Upton

manor house, which later became part of the Shrubberies (GLSMRs MLO25673 & MLO25837), and the Grade II listed timber framed public house, known as The Spotted Dog, which dates to the 16th century and lies to the immediate north-west of the site (GLSMR MLO90666). The early modern period is represented by the surviving Grade II listed Red House and the Grade II listed St Antony's Church and Monastery (GLSMRs MLO90611 & MLO90664).

Suburban development began in the Forest Gate area in the early 1850s, but it was not until the 1870s that the area to the south of Wanstead Flats began to be recognized a London suburb (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983, 298).

4.5 Upton Lane, along which the site lies, is thought to date to the medieval period (Powell 1973). The site occupies a prominent position along its course, at the point at which it turns southwards towards Upton and opposite the 16th century timber framed Spotted Dog public house. Although the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, relatively little is known of the history of the site. Suburban development began in the Forest Gate area in the early 1850s, but it was not until the 1870s that the area to the south of Wanstead Flats began to be recognized a London suburb (Weinreb & Hibbert 1983, 298). The site is part basemented and occupied by extant structures occupying Nos. 191 – 197 Upton Lane.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 A trial trench was excavated, and it measured 14 x 2m was excavated (Figs. 2-3).

5.2 The trench was mechanically excavated using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Concrete surface and undifferentiated overburden were removed mechanically under close archaeological supervision. All further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features and finds. 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 with a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 4; DPs 1-10)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 1 (DP5)</i> <i>SW end, SE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 16.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Concrete surface.
0.12 – 0.43m	L1001	Blackish dark grey, friable sandy silt
0.43 – 0.63m	L1003	Mid yellow, loose sand with light grey gravel.
0.63 – 0.74m	L1004	Dark grey, compact sandy silt.
0.74 – 1.05m	L1005	Mid grey, friable sandy silt.
1.05 – 1.23m	L1007	Fill of F1006. Light brown, loose sandy silt with gravel.
1.23m+	L1008	Natural mid to dark yellow gravel and sand.

<i>Sample Section 2 (DP6)</i> <i>NE end, SE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 16.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Concrete surface. As above.
0.12 – 0.41m	L1001	As above.
0.41 – 0.97m	L1004	As above.
0.97 – 1.35m	L1012	Fill of F1011. Dark brownish grey, loose sandy silt,
1.35m +	L1008	Natural gravel. As above.

Description The trench contained four archaeological features.

F1006 was located in western part of the trench and was probably a linear ditch (1.10+ x 1.60+ x 1.5m+; DP 7). It had gently sloping sides close to the top and nearly vertical in lower part. Its base has not been reached as it was not fully excavated for safety reasons. Its fill, L1007, was a light brown, loose sandy silt with gravel. It contained no finds. F1006 was cut by F1009.

Ditch F1009 was linear (4+ x 3 x 0.40m+), aligned N/S. It was not excavated. It contained L1010, a mixed brown, grey and black, friable sandy silt with debris and burnt materials. F1009 was a modern service or construction trench.

F1011 was probably a pit ((2.30 x 1.25+) located in NE corner of the trench. It contained L1012, a dark brownish grey, loose sandy silt with modern CBM and debris.

F1013 was also probably a pit (1.75 x 0.75m+), located at NE end of the trench. It was filled with L1014, modern CBM rubble.

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 Modern concrete layer (L1000) covered area of entire site. Several deposits located below were probable levelling layers or remains of construction/demolition activity. Layers L1004 and L1005 seemed to represent the earliest horizon of habitation at the site, although it remains undated.

8.2 Those deposits overlay natural L1008, a mid to dark yellow terrace gravels with sand.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Despite the potential for prehistoric, Roman-British and medieval remains, no features or finds related to these periods were found. The earliest stratigraphic feature was F1006. It contained no finds and is undated.

9.2 The evaluation revealed numerous modern features located at a significant depth below the existing surface. They may have truncated earlier deposits, but no residual finds were found during evaluation.

9.3 The site represents very limited potential for further archaeological remains.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre, Museum of London. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Dalbir Sanger for his co-operation and funding of the archaeological evaluation

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr David Divers of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

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APPENDIX 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (GLSMR)

GLSMR	NGR TQ	Description
Prehistoric (until AD 43)		
MLO25404	4080 8438	Works in the back garden of No. 47 Wolseley Road revealed a leaf shaped Neolithic arrowhead
MLO22721	4045 8500	Sewer works at Forest Gate up to Wanstead revealed a number of Palaeolithic flint artefacts including flakes, flint scrapers & a "remarkable knife of very thin flint, neatly worked & chipped"
MLO22716	4048 8430	Sewer cutting along Upton Lane revealed two Palaeolithic flint flakes found in gravel
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
MLO25417	3998 8451	Unspecified works at No. 81 Warwick Road revealed a Roman denarius of Trajan
Medieval (AD 1150 – 1500)		
MLO25836	4047 8444	Documentary evidence first attests the village of Upton, meaning "at the high-lying tun", in the 13 th century
MLO25678	4026 8414	Documentary sources first reference "a small tenement called Grove House" at West Ham Park from 1762 to 1780, although its half H-shaped plan suggests a much earlier construction date
Post-medieval (AD 1500 - 1750)		
MLO25439	4077 8473	Collapse of the casing of a well in the back garden of No. 47 Studley Road revealed a brick lined well of unknown depth, the spoil of which contained post-medieval pottery and glass
MLO25438	4038 8408	Road works at the junction of Boleyn Road and Upton Lane revealed fragments of limestone mortar, brick & tile fragments, ash, oyster shell, organic refuse and two fragments of Staffordshire slipware dated c. 1700 - 1800
MLO25673	4037 8397	Documentary evidence states that the Upton manor house dated from/was rebuilt in the 18 th century, whilst in 1875 the park was opened as a public tea garden called the Shrubberies but had been built over by 1890
MLO25837	4048 8414	Documentary sources state that Upton house was rebuilt in 1731 suggesting a much earlier date for the original building
MLO25679	4015 8409	A number of elm trees were uprooted by high winds in West Ham Park and the resulting holes disturbed a Victorian brick lined pit which was filled with "a considerable amount of Victorian pottery"
MLO25680	4015 8409	A number of elm trees were uprooted by high winds in West Ham Park and a resulting hole near the cairn commemorating the house revealed a brick structure and a piece of post-medieval pot
MLO90666	40374 84498	The Spotted Dog is a Grade II listed timber framed public house dating to the 16 th century

Early modern (AD 1750 – 1900)		
MLO90611	40564 84311	The Red House is a Grade II listed house, later converted into club, thought to date to 1717 and extensively remodelled in c. 1805
MLO90664	40549 84238	St Antony's Church and Monastery comprises a Grade II listed church and monastery built 1884 – 91 in the Early English and Geometrical Gothic style
Undated remains		
MLO63585	4035 8455	Evaluation at the Spotted Dog Public House close to a 16 th century farm revealed natural gravel overlain by a ploughsoil, which in turn was overlain by modern material
MLO98117	40784 84565	An archaeological evaluation on at St Angela's Ursuline Convent School on St George's Road did not reveal any archaeological features

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Upton Lane, Forest Gate, London E7.
Taken from W.



DP 2. The site. View from Upton Lane. Take from NW.



DP 3. The site before trial trenching. Taken from SW.



DP 4. Trial trenching. Taken from NE.



DP 5. Trench 1, SW end. Sample section.
Taken from SE.



DP 6. Trench 1, NE end. Sample section.
Taken from SE.



DP 7. Trench 1, F1006. Taken from SE.



DP 8. Trench 1. Taken from NE.



DP 9. Trench 1. Taken from SSW.

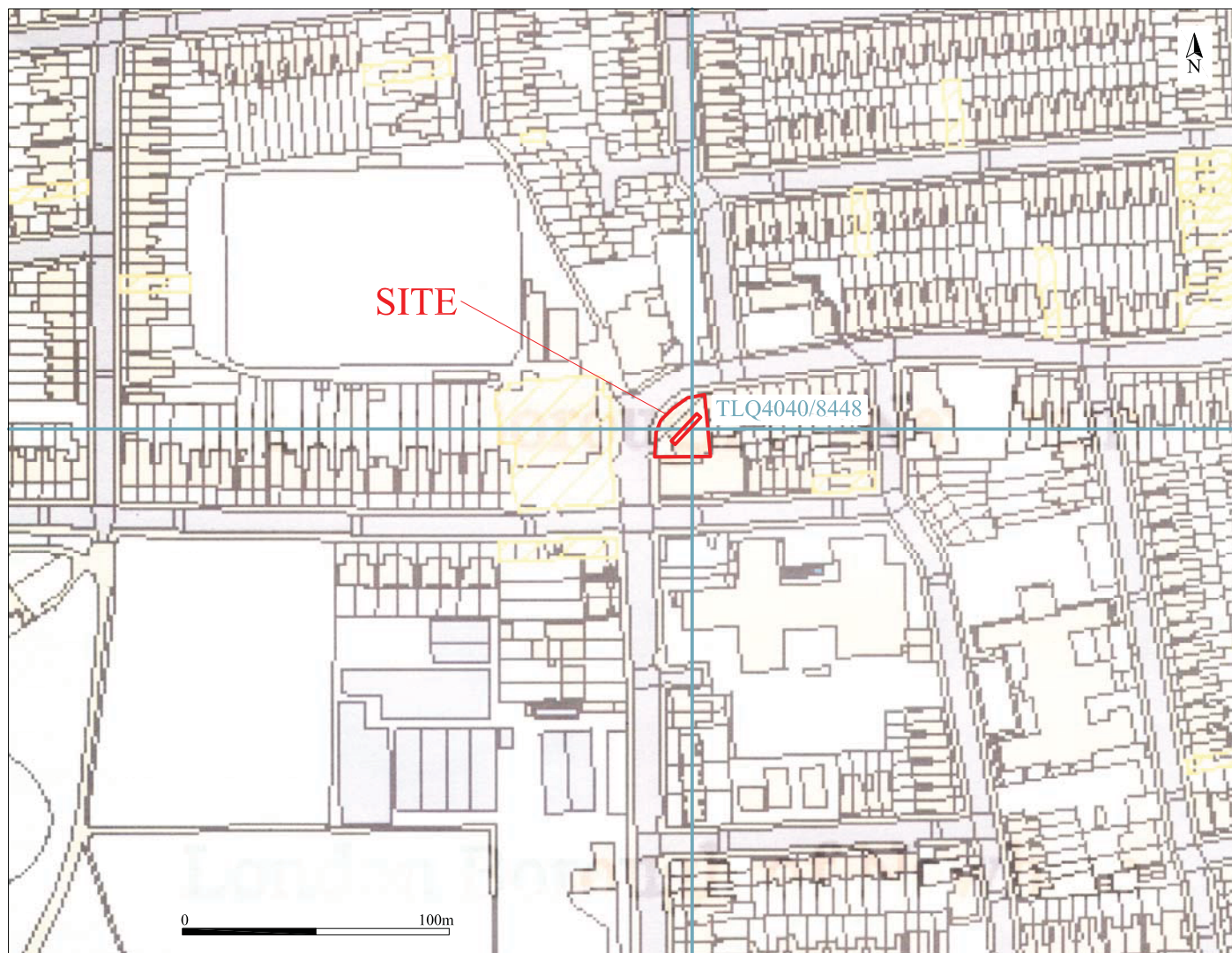


DP 10. Trench 1. Taken from NNE.



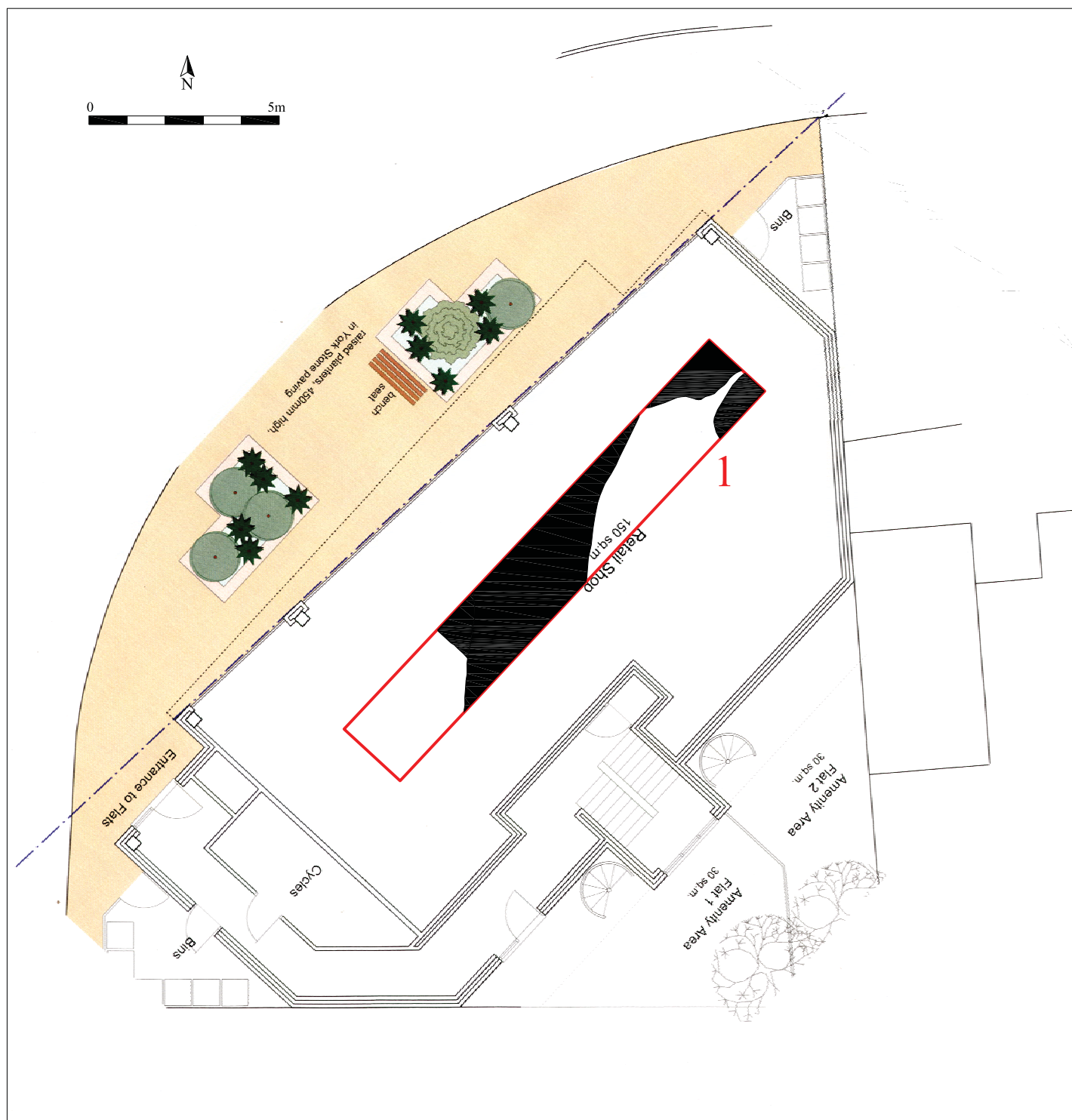
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

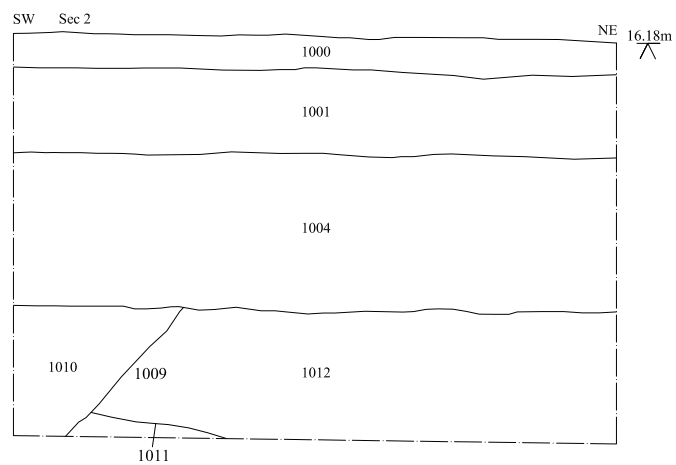
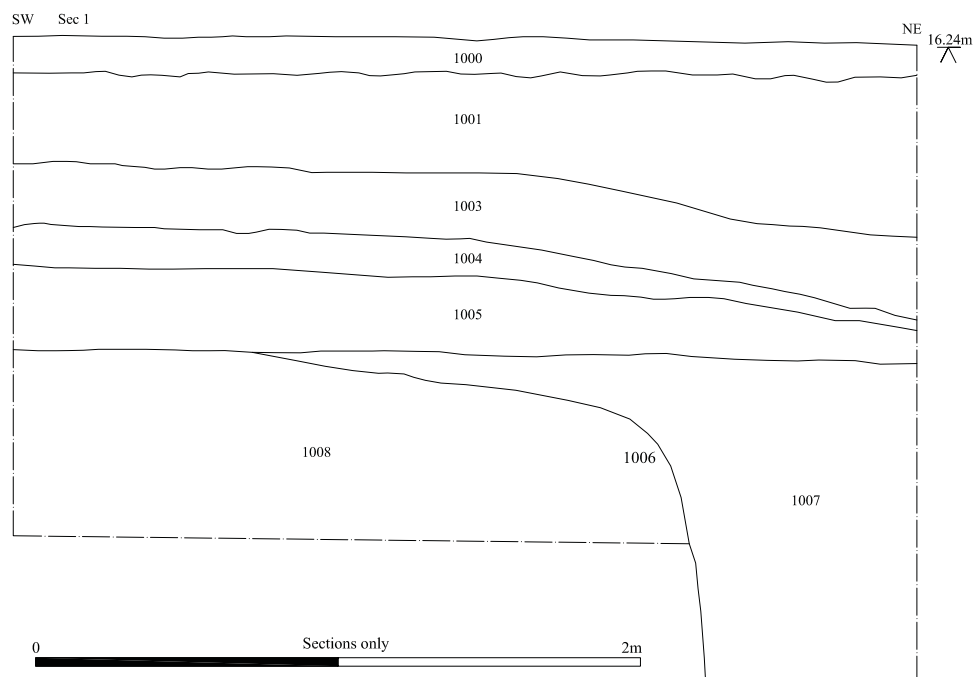
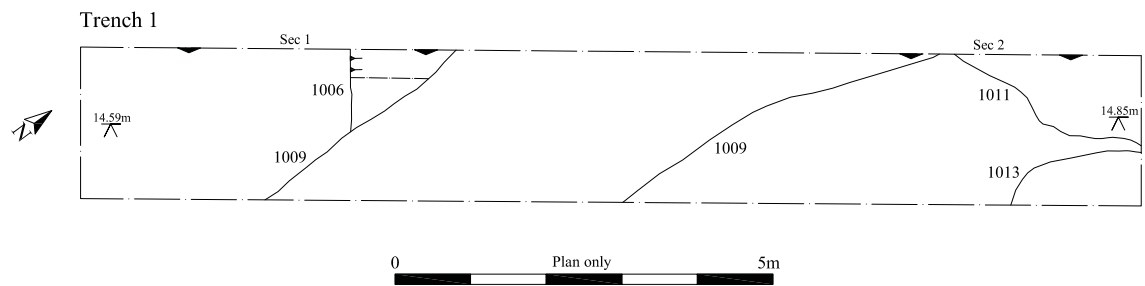


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:150 at A4



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Fig. 4 Trench plan & sections

Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:25 at A4