
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**RENTOKIL SITE, 4 LONDON ROAD,
BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED IMPACT ASSESSMENT
& ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 2473 3311	Report No. 3371
District: North Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1223
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3591
Signed:	Date: September 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire</i>	
<i>In August and September 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and conducted an archaeological evaluation at Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2473 3311). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Broad Oak Manor Care Homes, and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the conversion of former offices to a 55-bedroom care home.</i>			
<i>The site is situated to the south of the town centre of Baldock, within the district of North Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire. It is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96, which identifies potential for evidence of settlement in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in Baldock.</i>			
<i>In the event the trial trench evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>2nd September 2009</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>P3591</i>	Site code
			<i>AS 1223</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Desk-Based Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96</i>	
Current land use		<i>Former offices</i>	
Planned development		<i>Conversion of former offices to 55-bedroom care home</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>North Hertfordshire</i>
			<i>Baldock</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>SG7 6ND</i>	
Area of site		<i>c. 3000m²</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 2473 3311</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c. 98m AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>HCC HEU</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>	
Funded by		<i>Broad Oak Manor Care Homes</i>	
Full title		<i>Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>Pozorski, Z., & Peachey, A.</i>	
Report no.		<i>3371</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>September 2009</i>	

RENTOKIL SITE, 4 LONDON ROAD, BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED IMPACT ASSESSMENT & ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August and September 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and conducted an archaeological evaluation at Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2473 3311). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Broad Oak Manor Care Homes, and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the conversion of former offices to a 55-bedroom care home.

The site is situated to the south of the town centre of Baldock, within the district of North Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire. It is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96, which identifies the potential for settlement evidence from the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in Baldock.

In the event the trial trench evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August and September 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and conducted an archaeological evaluation at Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2473 3311; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Broad Oak Manor Care Homes, in advance of the determination of a planning application for the conversion of former offices to a 55-bedroom care home comprising extensions and alterations to existing buildings (North Hertfordshire Planning Ref. 1/09/00883).

1.2 The programme was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 31/07/2009), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 06/08/2009). It conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the archaeological impact assessment were:

- to determine the location, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of the site's historic environment from documentary sources,
- to include a comprehensive appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site,
- to provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains present and likely to be present on the site, and include an appraisal of their significance,
- to assess any previous impacts on the site and the impact on any potential archaeological remains by the current proposed development, and;
- to provide sufficient information to enable the formation of a suitable management/investigation strategy for the site's historic environment in the light of the future planning proposal.

1.4 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were 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. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.5 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).

1.6 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.

1.7 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to 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 is located to the south of the centre of the town of Baldock, which is situated within the district of North Hertfordshire and the county of

Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The larger settlement of Letchworth lies c.1km to the west beyond the A1 (M) motorway. To the north, south and east of Baldock is largely open countryside with the small villages of Bygrave, Wallington and Weston a short distance away in each direction.

2.2 The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No.96, as identified on the Local Plan, which broadly identifies the potential for evidence of settlement in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in the town of Baldock. The site is situated on the western side of London Road, with residential buildings to the north, south and east of the site, including Hillcrest. The site is currently occupied by a former office building on its western side, and former stables and offices on the northern boundary. The remainder of the site is occupied by a driveway and gardens (Fig.2).

3 METHODOLOGY (DESK BASED RESEARCH)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within Hertfordshire comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HCC HER). Significant entries within an approximate 1km radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

3.2.1 The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4-7.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

4 THE EVIDENCE (DESK-BASED RESEARCH)

4.1 Topography, Geology & Soils

4.1.1 The site is located close to the centre of Baldock (Fig. 1). It is also close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27913) incorporating the Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Baldock, and indicative of the extensive period of occupation in the surrounding area. Baldock is set at the very far north-eastern extent of the Chiltern Hills, whilst the Weston Hills lie 1.2km to the south-east. The site is situated on Upper Cretaceous Middle Chalk characteristic of the Chiltern Hills (BGS 1978). No detailed geotechnical information for the site was available at the time of writing. The site lies on gently varying relief, which slopes slightly downwards from 78m in the east to 75m AOD at the western edge

4.1.2 The soils on the site remained undefined given that it lies within the urban area of Baldock (SSEW 1983). However, soils present within the site are likely to comprise soils of the Upton 1 Association, which are based upon chalk, and are described as shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk. Such Upton 1 Association soils are found mainly on moderately steep, sometimes very steep land and include deeper fine silty calcareous soils found in coombes and dry valleys common in the Chiltern Hills (*ibid.*).

4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Prehistoric

4.2.1 Despite the town's situation along the Icknield Way, which comprised a prehistoric route and subsequently a major Anglo-Saxon road between Wessex and East Anglia, recorded earlier prehistoric finds from Baldock remain scarce. No pre-Bronze Age find-spots are known from the area surrounding the site, although limited artefacts from both the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods have been found to the north of Baldock (Rozwadowski & Williams 2008). Evidence of Bronze Age activity in the wider area include three ring-ditched barrows along the Icknield Way, whilst recent excavations prompted by the construction of the Baldock bypass in 2003 – 2004 revealed a cluster of seven Bronze Age barrows and a round house (Phillips *et al* 2009). A Bronze Age cremation was found during ground works for the Tesco site, c.250m to the north (HER 10077) supporting the theory that the local landscape was subject to extensive deposition within the Bronze Age.

4.2.2 Significant activity from the later Iron Age is recorded across central and southern section of the town, overlapping with later Roman use of the same area. The majority of the late Iron Age discoveries relate to ritual burials, in many cases taking the form of cremations with assemblages of pottery grave goods with a notable example recorded c.100m to the north (HER 4280). In addition to this common form of burial, a high status grave often described as 'The Chieftain's burial' was uncovered at The Tene to the east of the High Street, c.600m to the north (HER 1868). This comprised a cremation with extensive grave goods including a bronze cauldron, a pair of fire dogs,

bronze dishes, wooden buckets, an amphora and pig bones, and dated to c.50 BC (Stead & Rigby 1986). Additional late Iron Age remains consist of a probable relict ploughsoil, notably c.200m to the east (HER 9940), possible pits, ditches and post holes and a well, which commonly revealed evidence of a continuation of use into the Romano-British period (HERs 9924, 10945, 11880, 11883, 12859 & 13689).

Romano-British

4.2.3 Extensive archaeological excavation in and around Baldock, particularly of the Walls Field and Clothall Road area, has produced evidence for a substantial Roman settlement of over 30 hectares (Burleigh 1982; Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthew 2008). The settlement was established by the mid 1st century, although the large number of Iron Age finds from the site indicate that it had probably been occupied from c.100 BC (Burleigh 1982, 3). The settlement lay at the cross-roads of two important Roman roads, including that from Baldock to Braughing located to the east of the site, and the prehistoric Icknield Way (HER 4685). These gave direct communication with the towns of *Durocubris* (Dunstable) to the south-west, *Verulamium* (St Albans) to the south, Braughing to the south-east, and *Durovigutum* (Godmanchester) to the north (The Viatores 1964).

4.2.4 Although the Roman town of Baldock was situated on a strategically important site, there is no evidence that Baldock had a military fort prior to the establishment of the town (Burnham & Wachter 1990, 282). Interestingly, excavations of the Roman town have revealed an exceptionally large number of burials including 21 separate formal cemeteries (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2008). Zoning and migration of activity has been identified within the town, with burials generally occurring only outside the settlement area, including examples c.200-300m to the north and north-east (HER 482, 1077 & 4279). A Romano-British inhumation cemetery was also found during development between The Tene and the High Street, c.400m to the north, and included c.80 - 100 estimated inhumations, though only a small area was excavated and many may have been destroyed by development (HER 6082).

4.2.5 Further evidence of extensive Romano-British settlement within Baldock includes the Romano-Celtic temple and associated buildings noted at Baker's Close, c.900m to the north (HER 770) and an area of Roman occupation evident in the form of a bone pin, iron implements, bronze spoon, tweezers, an iron fork and pottery dated to the 3rd - 4th century found along Pinnocks Lane, which lies 800m to the north (HER 1073). Other Romano-British finds from the area date from the 1st century through to the 4th century: the number of coins serving to indicate the Roman town's status as an important market for the region, including an example found c.100m to the west (HER 487). A bronze fibula has also been recorded c.100m to the south (HER 1072). Additional areas of Romano-British occupation include the London Road, to the rear of Nos. 33 - 39B High Street, on the corner of Pembroke Road and South Road, and to the rear of No. 25 Clothall Road (Appendix 1, below).

Anglo-Saxon

4.2.6 There is little archaeological evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period in Baldock, although it is now thought that sub-Roman activity continued within the Roman town until as late as the 6th century (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2008). The lack of an Anglo-Saxon presence, however, is not unexpected as many small Roman towns or even large settlements exhibit evidence of discontinuous habitation after the 4th century and often total abandonment by the 5th century. Baldock may have suffered particularly badly during this period due to its location along the established Roman roads and the Icknield Way, which would have made it vulnerable to attack. Consistent with the theory of decline and abandonment, there are no known Anglo-Saxon find-spots from the area surrounding the site.

Medieval

4.2.7 At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Baldock formed part of the manor of Weston, which was assessed as a relatively large holding comprising approximately 1,200 acres of arable land (Page 1912). While the manor of Weston was relatively populous with 300 – 400 inhabitants, there is no evidence to show that Baldock existed as a separate entity in the 11th century. It is thought that the town came into existence between 1138 and 1148 when the lord of Weston manor, the Earl of Pembroke, Gilbert de Clare, granted 10 librates to the Knights Templar, which later became the medieval town of Baldock (HER 9). The medieval settlement was established at the junction of the Icknield Way and the Great North Road, the latter of which was altered slightly with a dog-leg to form the High Street (Crellin 1995), however the site remained to the south of the extent of the medieval settlement (Thompson 2002)

4.2.8 In a survey of the possessions of the Knights Templar undertaken in 1185, the 12th century town was estimated to cover a total area of c.150 acres (Page 1912; Crellin 1995). At the time the town was known as *Baudoc*, thought to be a Franco-Norman corruption of Baghdad (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938; Beresford 1967), and had become *Baldoke* by the 16th century. In 1189 Richard I confirmed a grant to the Templars of the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. To this end a double market place was designated along High Street and Whitehorse Street, accounting for the exceptional width of these streets today (HER 10871). Despite the proximity of the site to the medieval town of Baldock, the only additional medieval remains found in the area of the site include a oval pit found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street which contained medieval pottery (HER 11879) and a medieval well located to the rear of No. 26 High Street (HER 12732), both c.500m to the north.

Post-medieval & later

4.2.9 In the 16th century, the town of Baldock was described as being in a state of decay, in common with many settlements at this time (Crellin 1996). However, Baldock flourished with the introduction of coach travel in the 17th

century during which the Great North Road from London, adjacent to the east of the site, became an important route, only 37 miles from the capital (HER 11197). The town remained as a relatively small, nucleated settlement, with open or garden land located immediately to the rear of properties fronting the High Street (HER 10872). Extant post-medieval structures include Wynne's Almshouses on the High Street, which were built for six tenants in 1621 (HER 11198), the Manor House/Brewery House at No. 21 High Street (HER 12866), and the house at No. 14A High Street (HER 13672). As in the medieval period the site remained beyond the southern extent of the post-medieval settlement (Thompson 2002).

4.2.10 Passing trade declined and the coaching houses suffered a recession following the opening of the Royston & Hitchin Railway through Baldock railway station in the 1850s (Thompson 2002; Rider 1982, 22). Baldock did not suffer wholesale decline in the early modern period, however, as the brewing and malting industries of late 18th century proved to be of great resilience and continued working into the 20th century (HERs 5339, 5340, 5343 & 5442), long after the loss of the industry in many nearby towns. A new Garden City at Letchworth was founded in 1903, with the immediate effect on Baldock of offering many opportunities for work nearby, whilst the Kayser-Bondor factory, c.300m to the north, was established in 1924 originally for Kosmos, a photographic materials manufacturer (HER 9910).

4.3 The Site

4.3.1 No relevant documentary sources referring directly to the site before the 20th century were present in the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS). The scarcity of information is consistent with cartographic sources indicating that the site was not significantly developed until Hill Crest was constructed some time between 1898 and 1922.

4.3.2 The *Extensive Urban Survey* for the town of Baldock reveals that the site remained beyond the extent of the town throughout the 19th century, despite the construction of a Regency mansion, The Elms to the north, and lime kilns and chalk pits to the east (Thompson 2002).

4.3.3 Kelly's Post Office Directory reveals that between at least 1922 and 1937 the private residence of Hillcrest, London Road was occupied by William Sale (Kelly & Co 1922, 29; 1937, 33), previously a resident of the High Street, Baldock (Kelly & Co 1917, 22). Subsequently the property was the residence of D.K. Bowen in 1953-4, I. McPherson in 1962-3 and E. Boot in 1968 (Letchworth and Baldock Directory 1953-4; 1962-3; 1968).

4.4 Cartographic Sources

Pre-1898 Cartographic Sources

4.4.1 Dury and Andrew's map of Hertfordshire (1766), Bryant's map of Hertfordshire (1822), the Tithe map for the parish of Weston (1847) and the

1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1880) all depict the site as it subsequently appears on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1898, Fig.4, see below). That is, as undeveloped land between London Road to the east and Crabtree Lane to the north-west, with the junction of the two to the north of the site. Buildings associated with South Lodge and Heath Farm are located around the junction of London Road, Crabtree Lane and High Street with further small buildings to the north fronting the High Street.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898, Herts Sheet VII.12 (Fig.4)

4.4.2 The 1898 Ordnance Survey map continues to depict the site as undeveloped, and the surrounding landscape as virtually unchanged from the earlier cartographic sources.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1922, Herts Sheet VII.12 (Fig.5)

4.4.3 The 1922 Ordnance Survey map is the first cartographic source to depict the development of the site and the surrounding land between London Road and Crabtree Lane. The area of the site is now occupied by Hill Crest, a property comprising three buildings that are on the footprints of their modern counterparts, but not yet developed (extended) into their contemporary forms. The northern-most building equates to part of the modern Stables and Offices, while the remaining two detached buildings equate to the northern end and southern half of the modern Office building.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1938, Herts Sheet VII.12 (Fig.6)

4.4.4 The 1938 Ordnance Survey map does not depict any significant developments to the site or to land between London Road and Crabtree Lane, although industrial buildings have been constructed to the north-west of Crabtree Lane and further residential streets to the east of London Road.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1974, Sheet TL 24 33 (Fig.7)

4.4.5 The 1974 Ordnance Survey map is the first cartographic source to define the site within its modern boundaries. The northern building has had an extension added to its western end, equating to the extent of the modern building. The other two buildings remain unaltered and detached (subsequently, an extension was added, joining these two buildings). The street of Hillcrest has now been built and residential properties now enclose the western and southern edges of the site. The surrounding area has been incorporated into the urban extent of Baldock with further industrial buildings added to north-west and residential streets to the north and east.

4.5 Constraints

4.5.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) – The site does not incorporate any scheduled ancient monuments although it lies 500m to the south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27913), which incorporates the Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Baldock.

4.5.2 Areas of Archaeological Significance – The site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96, as identified on the Local Plan, and which demarcates the Iron Age, Roman and medieval town of Baldock.

4.5.3 Listed Buildings – The site does not contain any listed buildings, nor is adjacent to any.

4.5.4 Conservation Areas (CA) – The site is not located within Baldock's Conservation Area, which is focussed around the historic core of the medieval town to the north-east.

4.5.5 Historic Parks & Gardens – The site does not lie within a designated historic park and garden.

4.6 Previous Ground Disturbance

4.6.1 Prior to the construction of the existing buildings, which include in their footprints the earlier buildings of Hill Crest, there does not appear to have been any medieval or post-medieval development on the site. The site lay beyond the known extent of Baldock during these periods. Cartographic sources also suggest the driveway serving these buildings has remained intact since the construction of Hill Crest in the early 20th century, and that the development of adjacent land has not impacted upon the site. Therefore, the site appears to have been subject to a very low degree of previous ground disturbance, associated with the construction of the existing buildings

4.7 Impact of the Proposed Development (Fig. 9)

4.7.1 The foundations of the proposed extensions will have a significant impact on any intact archaeological stratigraphy, if present, in the north-western corner and the northern half of the site. The landscaping and ancillary work proposed for the remainder of the site to create new car parking facilities within the grounds are likely to have a lesser impact

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were located within the footprints of the proposed extensions to the existing buildings. Trench 1 measured 10 x 1.80m and Trench 2 measured 16 x 1.8m.

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

6.1 Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 8, DP 3

<i>Sample section 6 (DP 4)</i> <i>N end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 97.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Tarmac surface.
0.05 – 0.14m	L1002	Layer of CBM rubble.
0.14 – 0.27m	L1007	Brick and concrete made slab/cover.
0.27m +	L1004	Natural white chalk.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 5)</i> <i>S end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 98.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Tarmac surface.
0.05 – 0.18m	L1001	Layer of grey and black gravel.
0.18 – 0.36m	L1003	Brownish grey, compact sandy silt with chalk.
0.36m +	L1004	Natural white chalk.

Description of results:

Trench 1 was heavily truncated by several modern services. No archaeological features or finds were present.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 8, DP 7)

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 8)</i> <i>NW end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 98.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1005	Topsoil. Brownish grey, soft sandy silt.
0.15 – 0.35m	L1006	Subsoil. Light brown, compact sandy silt.
0.35m +	L1004	Natural white chalk.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 9)</i> <i>SE end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 99.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1005	Topsoil. Brownish grey, soft sandy silt.
0.15 – 0.25m	L1006	Subsoil. Light brown, compact sandy silt.
0.25m +	L1004	Natural white chalk.

Description of results:

Trench 2 contained tree roots and a modern service. No archaeological features or finds were present

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Trench 1 was much truncated by modern services. Nonetheless it is felt that sufficient of the trench area was preserved, that had archaeological features been present they would have been evident. The area of Trench 2 was substantially intact.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 In its western and northern western sectors, the site was covered by tarmac surface of the yard and drive, L1000. Deposits recorded below the yard and drive within Trench 1 were probably associated with the surfaces, L1001, L1002 and L1007. The natural white chalk, L1004, was present at c.0.30m below existing the ground surface.

8.2 In the eastern sector of the site the uppermost layer was Topsoil L1005. It was a brownish grey, soft sandy silt (c.0.15m thick). Below L1005 was Subsoil L1006, a light brown, compacted sandy silt (c. 0.20m thick). Thereafter the natural chalk, L1004, was present at c. 0.25 – 0.35m below ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for remains dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Such remains have been recorded locally, mostly to the north of the site. The site is also located in vicinity of medieval settlement of Baldock.

9.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no features or finds were revealed.

9.3 Taking into consideration the results of the evaluation results and development proposal, the site seems to have very limited potential for archaeological remains.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at North Hertfordshire Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Broad Oak Manor Care Homes for their co-operation and funding the project (in particular Mr Lance Adams

and Mr Philip Massetti). AS is also grateful to their architect, Mike Easton, for his assistance.

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APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (HER)

HER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric (to AD 43)		
1868	2481 3365	A wealthy late Iron Age cremation burial was disturbed by bulldozing at The Tene and revealed an assemblage consisting of a bronze cauldron, a pair of iron fire dogs, two bronze dishes, two wooden buckets, an amphora and some pig bones
4280	248 332	A late 1 st century BC/early 1 st century AD cremation vessel was recovered in 1975 from a small pit disturbed by a builders' trench on the site of the new RC church on South Road
9924	2492 3363	A scatter of abraded late Iron Age and Roman pottery, the latter dating to the 1 st and 2 nd century AD, was recovered from two subsoil layers during evaluation in 1995 to the rear of No. 18 Pinnocks Lane
9940	24989 33130	Evaluation in 1995 at Providence Court revealed a probable relict ploughsoil which contained a number of abraded sherds of pottery dating from the 1 st century BC to the 3 rd century AD
10077	2475 3334	A Bronze Age cremation was found by contractors in the mid 1980s during ground works in the area of the Tesco petrol station, whilst further human remains have come from rubbish pits in the area of the supermarket
10945	2468 3383	A possible pit or ditch terminus in a foundation trench for an extension at the rear of Nos. 37 – 39 The Twitchell contained seven near-complete late Iron Age pots, dating to the first half of the 1 st century AD
11880	2465 3374	A well to the rear of 33 – 39B High Street was in use until the late 1 st - early 2 nd century AD when it appears to have been used for the dumping of rubbish
11883	2465 3373	Late Iron Age and Roman pits, ditches and post holes containing pottery, tile and animal bone
12859	2499 3356	A large linear ditch orientated NW-SE on land behind Roman Lane had a single sandy silt fill containing fragments of animal bone and oyster shell, and was thought to be Iron Age or Roman in date
13146	24277 33467	A complete early Bronze Age collared urn containing a cremation was found in the yard of New Farm on Weston Way
13689	24250 33472	A single late Iron Age/Roman ditch running in a straight line NE-SE across the site of the farm buildings at New Farm cut natural sandy chalk
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
447	2468 3388	Roman coin found in 1978 at No. 12 Thurnall Close
482	2480 3336	Roman burial with an early 3 rd century dish, together with another burial, apparently found on the Kayser Bondor site, close to the High Street frontage of the factory land
487	246 331	Two rubbish pits containing animal bones, pottery sherds and coins of Claudius Gothicus and Valentinian I
529	2484 3378	Rather worn mid 4 th century Roman coin found in 1977 at

		No. 33 Clothall Road
770	2477 3386	Romano-Celtic temple and other buildings noted at Baker's Close from cropmarks, and also including a winged house, metalled roads, walled enclosures, courtyards, and a trapezoidal walled enclosure, perhaps a second temple
1055	2484 3377	Two Roman asses coins of Constantius II found at No. 35 Clothall Road
1056	2485 3376	Six 4 th century coins and a radiate possibly of Carausius or Gallienus found in the garden of No. 37 Clothall Road
1057	2486 3375	Roman coin found in the garden of No. 39 Clothall Road
1060	2485 3364	Coin of Constantine the Great (AD 307 - 337) found in 1963 in the garden of No. 27 Pinnocks Lane
1063	248 338	Coins of Constans, Constantine I, Constantine II, Valentinian, Gallienus and Antoninus Pius reported as having come from the cemetery along Clothall Road
1064	243 333	Roman Dupondius of Nero (66 - 68 AD) found along Park Lane
1065	250 337	Roman coin of Vespasian and fragments of Roman pottery found in 1922 along Pesthouse Lane
1072	248 330	Roman bronze fibula dated c. 40 - 50AD found in 1927 along the London Road
1073	2492 3368	Roman occupation evidence in the form of a bone pin, iron implements, bronze spoon, tweezers, an iron fork and pottery were found at a depth of 3ft along Pinnocks Lane
1077	2495 3341	Early Roman cremation burial dating to the 2 nd century and found with an iron object at Nos. 18 – 20 South Road that formed part of the South Road cremation cemetery
2270	24 33	Roman coins found with pottery by Westell in 1930, during widening of the London Road corner
4279	248 333	A burial disturbed during the laying of a sewer trench in 1971, in the grounds of the Convent of Providence, consisted of the cremation of an elderly male, placed in a wooden box held with iron nails
4686	2500 3365	Viaiores Road 22 comprises the line of a Roman road from Baldock to Braughing
6082	248 335	Romano-British inhumation cemetery found during development between the Tene and the High Street included c. 80 - 100 estimated inhumations though only a small area excavated and many destroyed by development
11876	2467 3371	Romano-British well found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street, the upper fill of which contained pottery from the 1 st - 4 th centuries AD, butchered animal bone and roof tile
11878	2466 3371	Four square shaped storage pits containing Roman pottery and animal bones and also a 19 th century soakaway found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street
11881	2465 3373	Possible Roman cellar within a sill-beam building 2 nd - 3 rd century AD in date found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street
12731	2451 3371	A grave containing disturbed possibly Roman human remains was recorded behind No. 26 High Street in 2004
12754	2501 3347	Evaluation on the corner of Pembroke Road and South Road uncovered a NE-SW boundary ditch, which contained Roman pottery dating to the late 1 st –mid or late 2 nd century

		AD
13475	24820 33810	A buried soil, sealing the chalk natural, covered the entire area investigated behind 25 Clothall Road and contained oyster shell, animal bone, and Roman potsherds including Hadham ware and Verulamium Region ware
Medieval (AD 1150 – 1500)		
9	245 338	Medieval town of Baldock that formed part of Weston in the Domesday Book
10871	2450 3384	Baldock had two medieval market-places, the larger was in the High Street, the smaller in Whitehorse Street.
11879	2464 3371	An oval pit found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street contained medieval pottery dating to the 14 th - 16 th centuries
12732	2451 3371	At the rear of No. 26 High Street observation noted a medieval well, two pits and a posthole, as well as a post-medieval well, two pits and three postholes
Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1750)		
10872	2447 3371	Cartographic evidence suggests the area to the rear of No. 24 High Street had been open or garden land, whilst post-medieval features included a brick-capped wall
11197	2457 3375	The 37-mile marker on the Great North Road/High Street stood outside the Brewery House and No.23 on the east side of Baldock High Street
11198	2456 3370	Wynne's Almshouses on the High Street were built for six tenants in 1621 under the will of John Wynne, a wealthy London mercer, and were renovated in 1958
11882	2465 3373	Two irregular pits and nine post holes found to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street, thought to be post-medieval in date
12866	2455 3383	In 1730 the Manor House/Brewery House at No. 21 High Street (then two dwellings) was bought by the Sparhawke family of Graveley & Chesfield, and by 1740 the house had been built
13599	24950 33300	Evaluation across the grounds of the former Convent of Providence on South Road found several cut features, apparently fragments of ditches
13672	24481 33818	The house at No. 14A High Street is dated to 1728 on the evidence of two rainwater hoppers on the rear wall, with the date and the letters MMM
Early modern (AD 1750 – 1900)		
5339	2467 3365	Former malting to the rear of No. 41 High Street are recorded as being owned and occupied by Edith Fossey in 1850 and are thought to be 18 th century or earlier in date
5340	2445 3373	One of formerly two early 19 th century parallel maltings at Seven Roes on Park Street joined at the west end by a store demolished in c. 1935
5343	2455 3365	Lion Maltings on the N-side of Mansfield Road are L-shaped in plan and date to the early 19 th century
5442	246 338	Simpson's Brewery and associated buildings at No. 23 High Street were probably originally built by John Izard Pryor 1780, but demolished in 1967
10820	2425 3348	The 18 th century farmhouse at New Farm on Weston Way includes a late 18 th - early 19 th century planned farmstead

11200	2458 3368	The White Lion Inn at No. 46 High Street comprises an early 19 th century brick front, which hides the earlier structure
11884	2464 3371	A 17 th century timber-framed barn to the rear of Nos. 33-39B High Street has been converted to housing
12860	2499 3354	Two parallel foundation walls recorded on land off Roman Lane were made of handmade red bricks and bonded with poor quality lime mortar and represent the site of a 19 th century Whitewash Works
Modern (AD 1900 – present)		
9910	2466 3342	Kayser-Bondor factory with surviving very large Romano-Greek façade dated to the 1920s
Undated		
485	248 331	Inhumations of unknown date were found in 1947 along Pinnocks Lane

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Description	Scale	Location
1766	Dury & Andrews' map of Hertfordshire	1.95":1 mile	AS
1822	Bryant's map of Hertfordshire	1.5":1 mile	AS
1847	Parish of Weston tithe map (HALS Ref. 26875)	1":2 chains	HALS
1880	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Herts Sheet VII.12 (HALS Ref. D/ESb/P14)	25":1 mile	HALS
1922	Ordnance Survey Map, Herts Sheet VII.12	25":1 mile	HALS
1938	Ordnance Survey Map, Herts Sheet VII.12	25":1 mile	HALS
1974	Plan TL 24 33; Ordnance Survey map	1:2,500	HALS
2001	Ordnance Survey Explorer series 193; site location	1:25,000	AS
2009	Site survey as existing	1:200	Client
2009	Proposed development plan	1:200	Client

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Herts
Village/Town:	Parish: Baldock
Planning application reference:	1/09/00883
Client name/address/tel:	Broad Oak Manor Care Homes
Nature of application:	Conversion of former offices to 55-bedroom care home
Present land use:	Former offices
Size of application area	Size of area investigated c. 3000 sq m
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2473 3311
Site Code:	AS1223
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Limited
Type of work:	Desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation
Date of work:	2 nd September 2009
Location of finds/Curating museum:	North Hertfordshire Museum
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: none
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In August and September 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and conducted an archaeological evaluation at Rentokil Site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2473 3311). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Broad Oak Manor Care Homes, and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application for the conversion of former offices to a 55-bedroom care home.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated to the south of the town centre of Baldock, within the district of North Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire. It is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96, which identifies the potential for evidence for settlement in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in Baldock.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the trial trench evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>
Author of summary: Zbigniew Pozorski	Date of Summary: September 2009

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Rentokil site, 4 London Road, Baldock, Herts. Main building. View NW.



DP 2. N part of the site with Trench 1. View NW.



DP 3. Trench 1. View N.



DP 4. Trench 1, N end. Sample section. View W.



DP 5. Trench 1, S end. Sample section. View W.



DP 6. E part of the site with Trench 2. View NE.



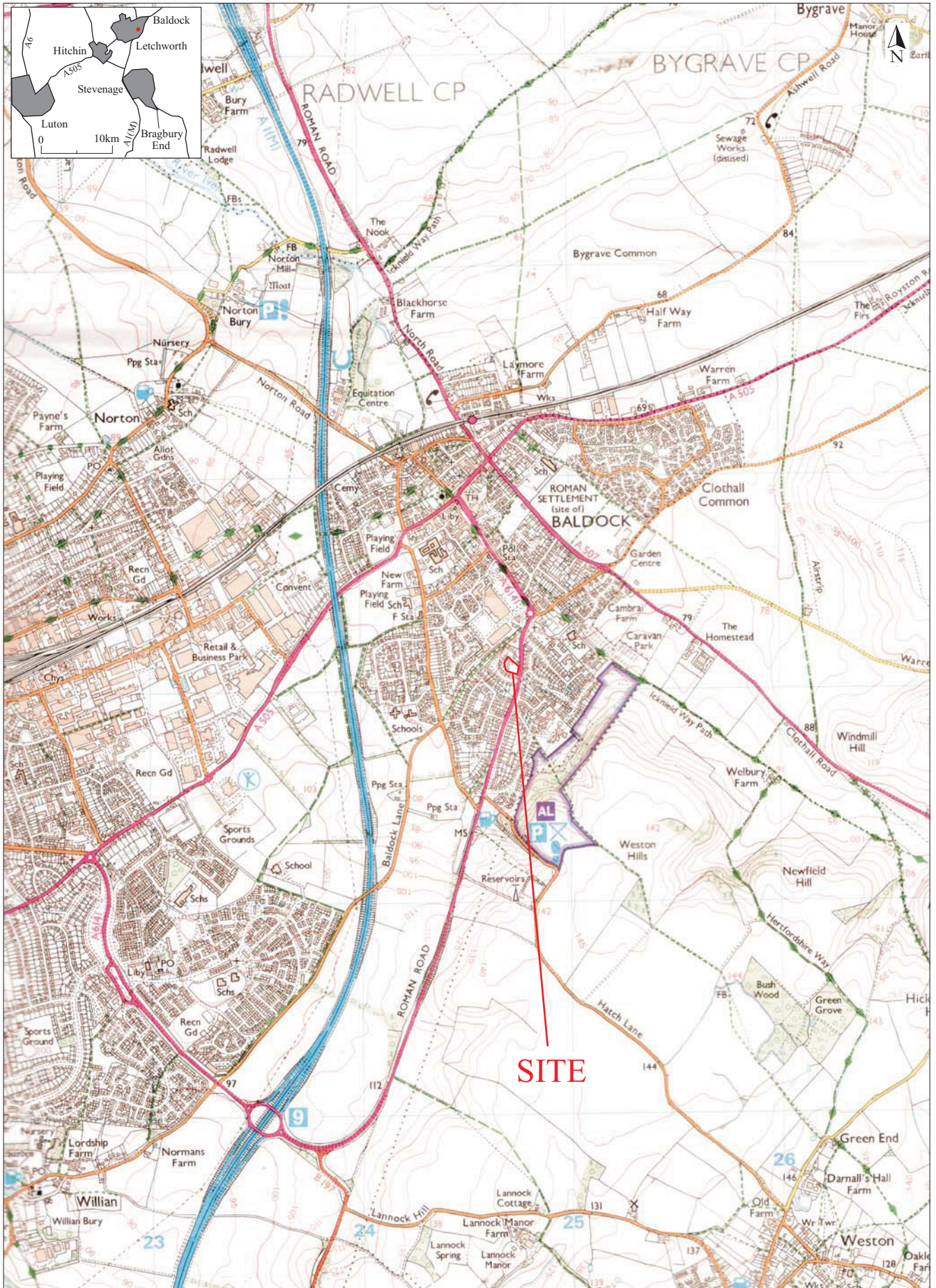
DP 7. Trench 2. View NW.



DP 8. Trench 2, NW end. Sample section.
View SW.

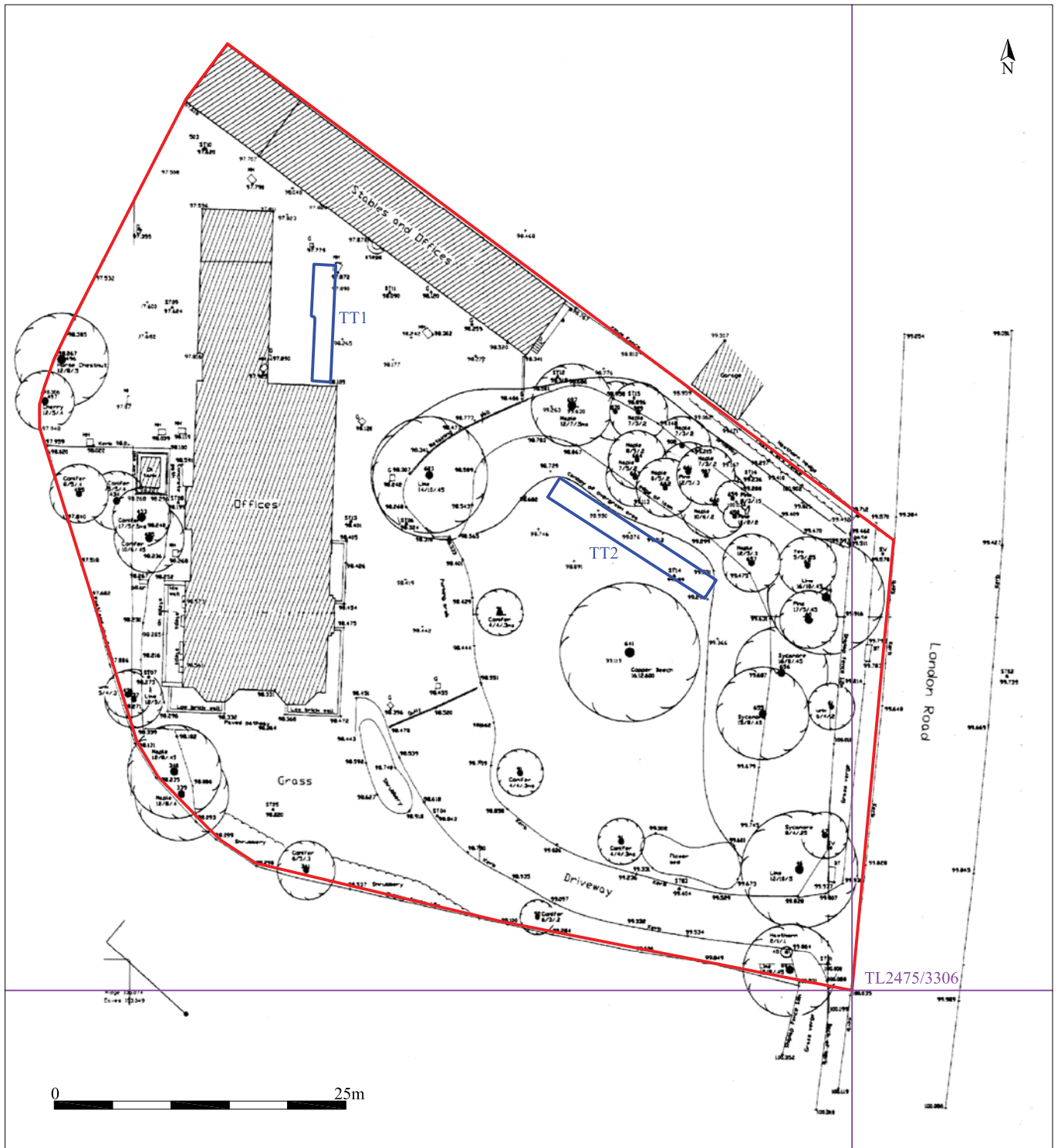


DP 9. Trench 2, SE end. Sample section.
View SW.

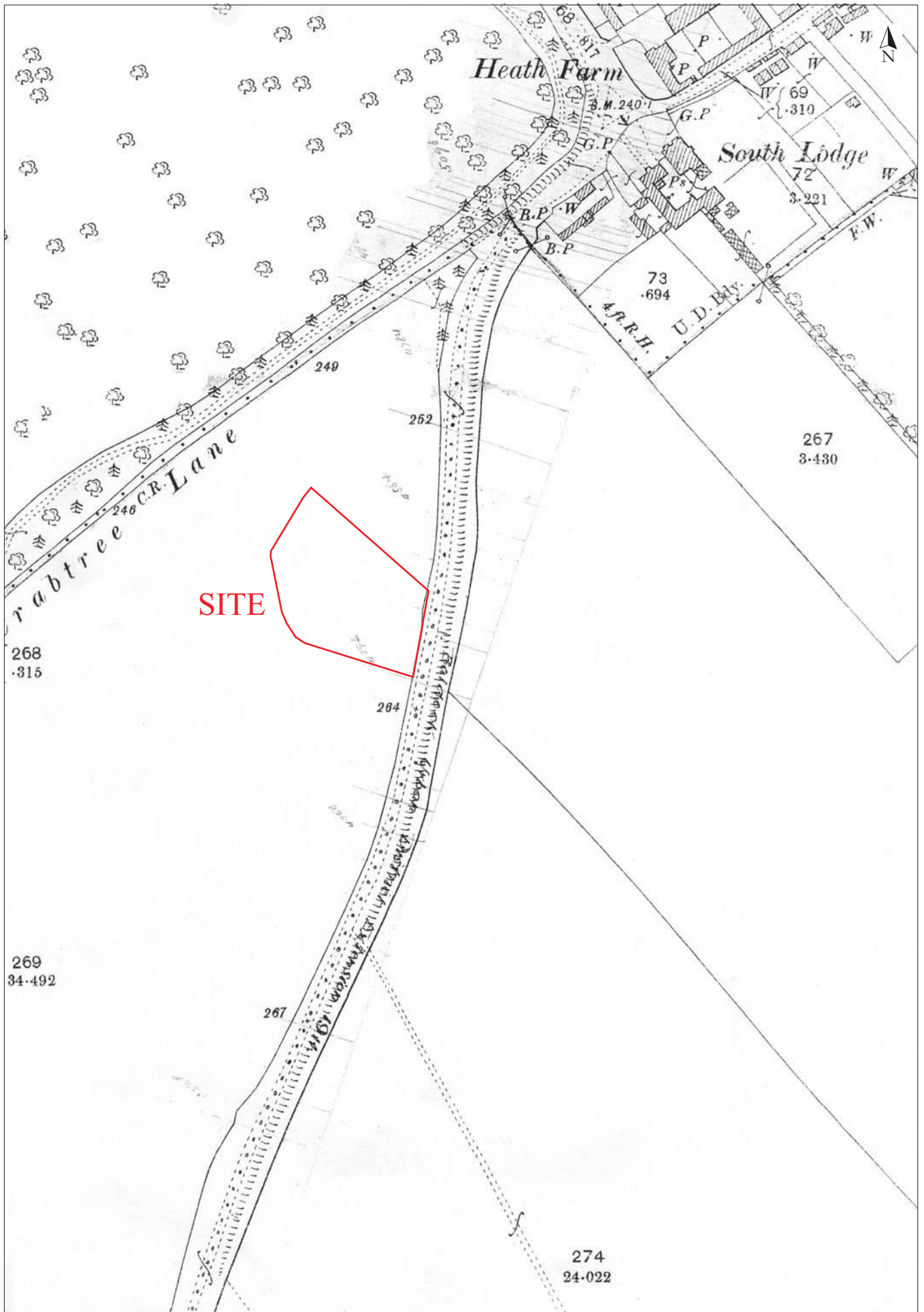


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

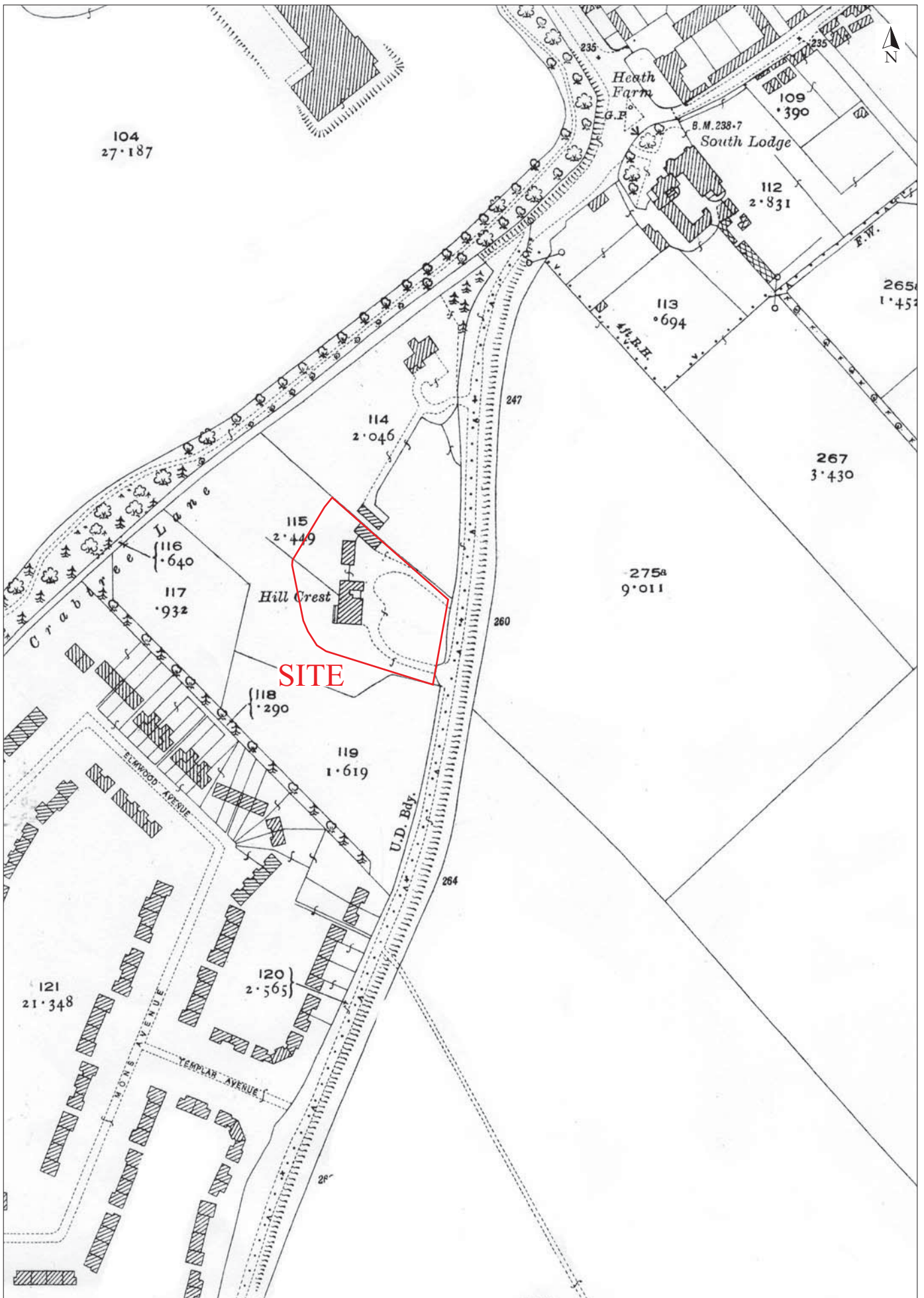


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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



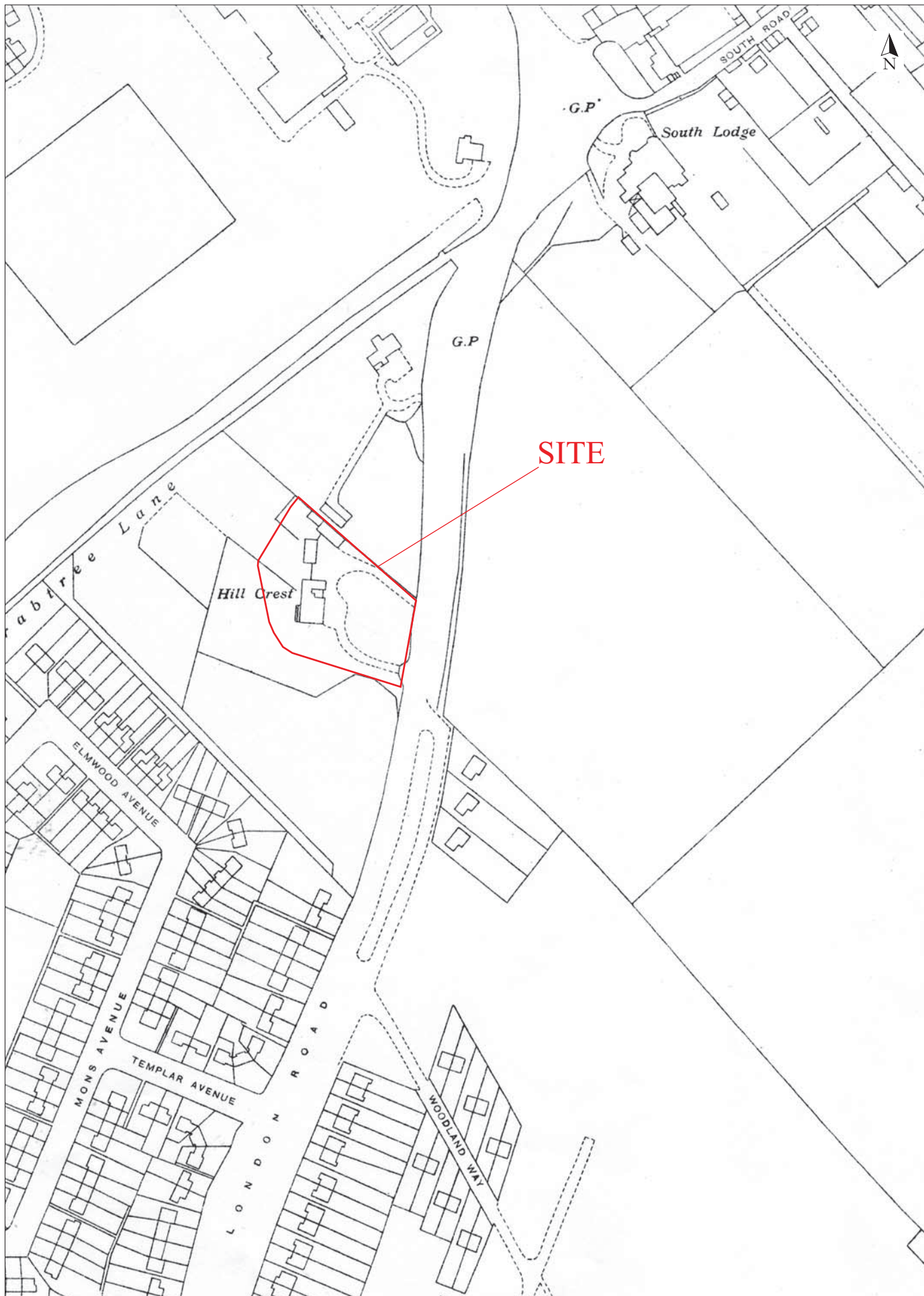
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Fig. 4 OS map, 1898
 Scale 25" to 1 mile at A4



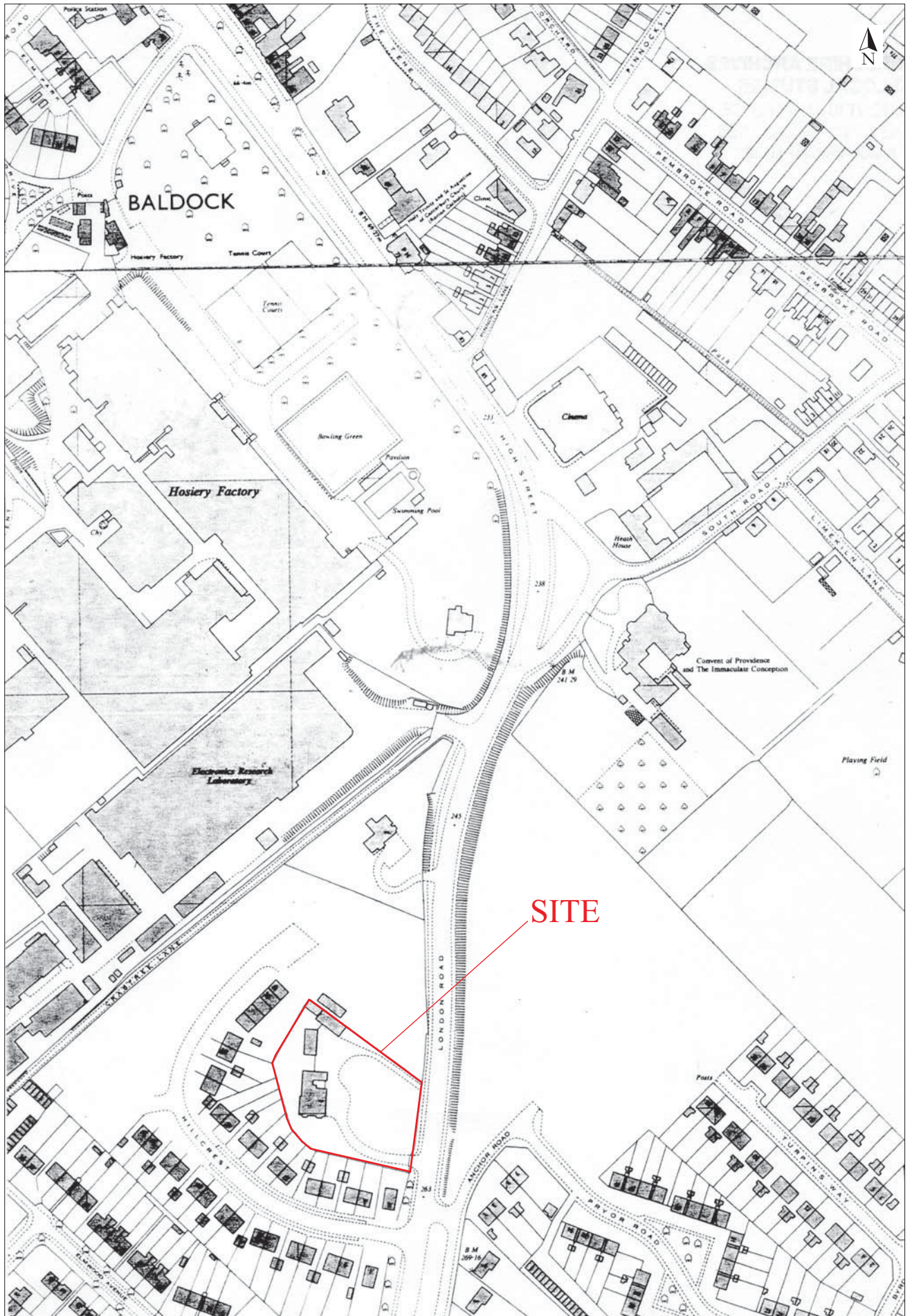
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 Fig. 5 OS map, 1922
 Scale 25" to 1 mile at A4



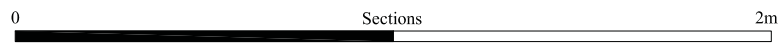
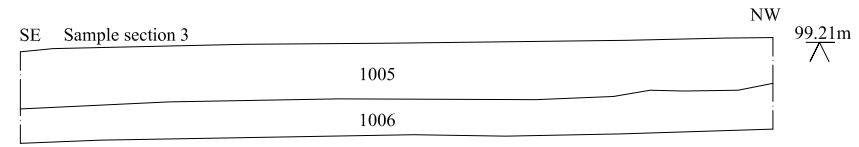
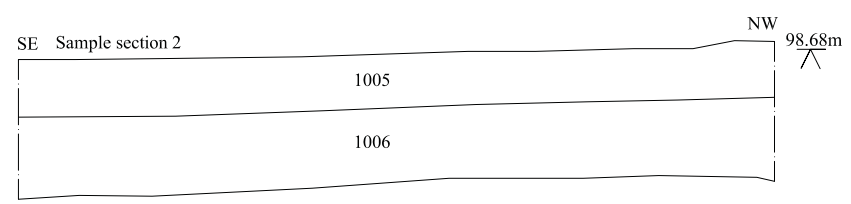
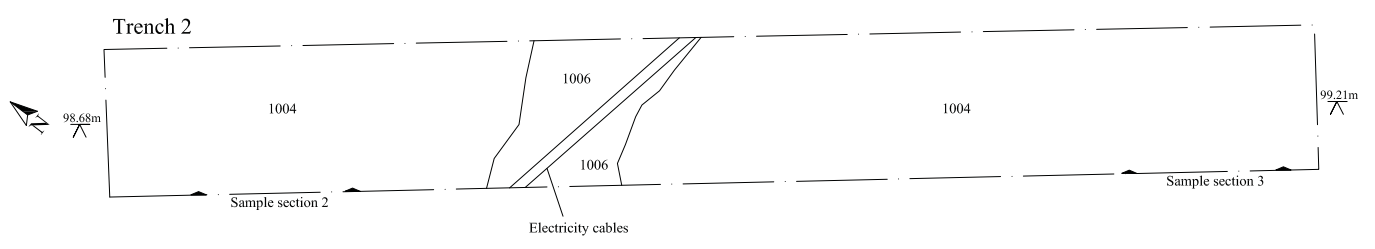
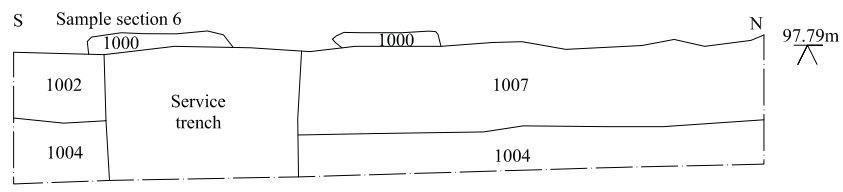
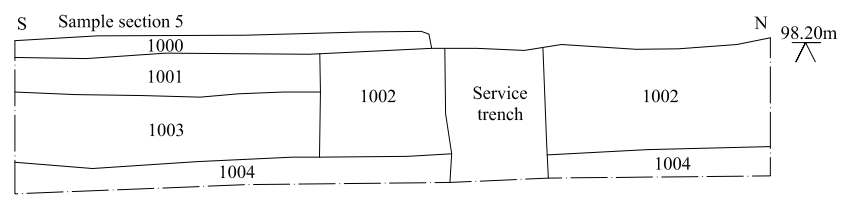
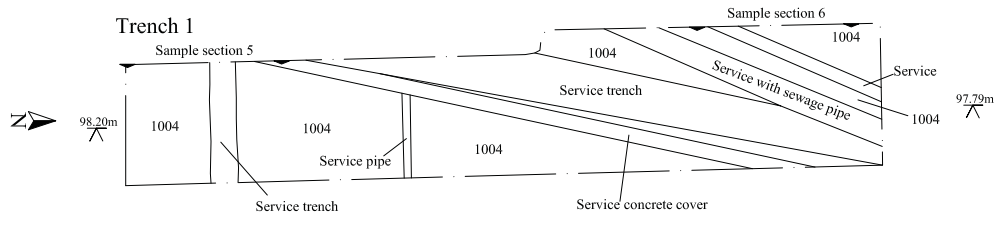
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Fig. 6 OS map, 1938
Scale 25" to 1 mile at A4



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Fig. 7 OS map, 1974
Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 8 Plans & sections

Scale plans at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 9 Proposed site plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4