
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LISTER HOSPITAL, COREY'S MILL LANE,
STEVENAGE, HERTFORDSHIRE**

STRATHMORE TEMPORARY CAR PARK

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
VIA 'STRIP, MAP AND RECORD'**

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NGR: TL 2298 2660	Report No. 3365
District: Stevenage	Site Code: AS 1220
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3510
Signed:	Date: August 2009

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Strathmore Temporary Car Park.</i>		
<p><i>In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2298 2660). The investigation was commissioned by East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to the approval of the construction of a new temporary car park.</i></p> <p><i>The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage and the proposed car park area is located in its south-western corner. The site has the potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>6th – 12th August 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>P3510</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1220</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map and Record'</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Hospital grounds</i>		
Planned development	<i>Temporary car park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Stevenage</i>	<i>St Nicholas, Stevenage</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG1 4AB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 14.47ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2298 2660</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 100m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust</i>		
Full title	<i>Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Strathmore Temporary Car Park. Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map and Record'</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3365</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2009</i>		

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STRATHMORE TEMPORARY CAR PARK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP AND RECORD'

SUMMARY

In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2298 2660). The investigation was commissioned by East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to the approval of the construction of a new temporary car park.

The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage and the proposed car park area is located in its south-western corner. The site has the potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2298 2660; Figs. 1 & 2). The investigation was commissioned by East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, in compliance with a planning condition required by the local planning authority (Stevenage Borough Council, Planning Ref. 2/00100/09), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

1.2 Lister Hospital is situated on the northern edge of Stevenage, on Corey's Mill Lane, close to Junction 8 of the A1 (M). Construction began on the hospital in 1967 and finished in 1974. The hospital was opened in 1972. The Maternity Unit was added in 1983 and only small additions have been made since. The hospital is to be subject to a major programme of extensions and redevelopment, including a new main block, an extension to the Maternity Unit and a new multi-storey car park.

1.3 This element of the project comprised an archaeological investigation during the construction of a temporary car park in the south-western corner of the site.

1.4 The investigation was undertaken according to advice to a design brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 30/07/2009) for an investigation in advance of the proposed Maternity Block extension. Advice received from HCC HEU indicated that the programme should be extended to cover the construction of the Strathmore Temporary Car Park. The investigation adhered to a Written Scheme of Investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 05/08/2009). The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.5 The project objectives of the programme were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the areas subject to development in accordance with the requirements of the HCC HEU brief.
- 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.
- 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

1.6 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).

1.7 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.

1.8 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 situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage (Figs. 1-2). It is bounded to the west by Corey's Mill and Hitchin Road (A602). The A1(M) motorway (Junction 8) is situated c.500m to the west. Corey's Mill Lane forms the southern boundary, south of which is Whitney Wood (a designated wildlife site). North Road forms the eastern boundary, beyond which is a residential development and Cuckoo Wood. To the north lie the grounds of Stevenage Town Rugby Football Club.

2.2 Lister Hospital comprises a complex range of buildings, car parks and grounds. The proposed extensions and redevelopment are to be constructed in phases (numbered 2 - 5) scheduled for 2009-2015 and comprising:

- a two-storey extension to the existing Maternity and Women's and Children's Unit (Phase 2);
- a multi-storey car park and landscaped plaza immediately adjacent to the main entrance of the hospital. A temporary car park will also be established in the south-western corner of the site (Phase 3);
- the construction of an Urgent Care Centre and the upgrading of the adjacent Accident and Emergency unit (Phase 4);
- the demolition of up to eight units on the south-west part of the site, the construction of a new Main Block to comprise theatres, critical care and ward accommodation (Phase 5);
- the opening up of the existing access off North Road which is currently closed;
- the conversion of the existing boiler house to a Combined Heat and Power unit; and
- amendments to the internal road layout, the removal of identified trees and the planting of new trees and open space.

2.3 This report encompasses works undertaken in the south-western corner of the site (part of Phase 3). This part of the hospital comprises an area of grass with well-established tree in the very south-western corner. Other trees located within this area were removed prior to the construction.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on relatively level land at c.100m AOD, with the north-western car park sloping away slightly to c.87-91m AOD. The surrounding landscape is gently undulating with low hills surrounding Stevenage rising to c.115-140m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Middle Chalk to some depth, overlain by soils of the Ludford Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). These are well-drained, flinty and loamy soils, overlying glacio-fluvial deposits, including gravel and clay-with-flints.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared (Peachey 2009). In summary: Prehistoric archaeology recorded in the vicinity of the site comprises scatters of worked and burnt flint dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The site is adjacent to the projected course of a Roman road and locally finds of Roman pottery and coins have been made. A Roman cemetery is located slightly further west. Scattered Roman farmsteads, often with associated cemeteries, have been recorded in the Stevenage area. The site has a moderate potential to produce further evidence dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods. The potential of the site is subject to truncation during the construction of the original hospital building. The area of the temporary car park is relatively intact.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, 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 necessary. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal element monitored was mechanically-excavated ground reduction for the new temporary car park in south-western corner of the hospital complex.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The deposits within area of excavation were recorded in sample section:

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 6)</i>		
<i>W side, facing E</i>		
<i>0.00 = 96.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1003	Asphalt pavement surface.
0.10 – 0.30m	L1001	CBM rubble mixed with yellow clay.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural yellow clay with chalk and flint gravel.

6.2 The site was affected by numerous modern services located mostly in western and central sectors of the car park area. The services comprised electric and CCTV cables, sewage and storm drains with manholes.

6.3 No archaeological features or finds were identified.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Approximately 30 – 40% of the area was reduced to a level still above the natural deposits. The excavation reached a maximum depth of only 0.40 – 0.45m below existing. At this level modern rubble, L1001, was still present. The construction work did not require the ground to be further reduced. Archaeological remains, if present, may be preserved though the modern rubble is indicative of ground disturbance likely associated with the original construction of the hospital.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a layer of dark silty soil (0.15 – 0.20m thick). Along the western side of the site was a pavement and an asphalt surface, L1003, was present.

8.2 The most substantial deposit was L1001, a mixed yellow clay with large quantities of modern CBM and rubbish. It was levelling layer likely associated with the construction of the hospital block to the north.

8.3 At the base of the excavation area was the natural chalky yellow clay, L1002. It contained flint gravel. It was visible across 60 - 70% of the site, and was c.0.30 – 0.45m below existing.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present, in particular for the prehistoric and Roman remains, no archaeological features or finds were located within the area of the new car park.

9.2 Approximately 30 – 40% of the area was reduced to a level still above the natural deposits. Archaeological remains, if present, may be preserved though the modern rubble is indicative of ground disturbance likely associated with the original construction of the hospital.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Stevenage Museum. 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 East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust for their co-operation and funding this project, in particular Mr. Dean Goodrum for commissioning the project and for his assistance.

AS acknowledges the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. Strathmore Temporary Car Park
County: Hertfordshire	District: Stevenage
Village/Town:	Parish: St Nicholas, Stevenage
Planning application reference:	2/00100/09
Client name/address/tel:	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
Nature of application:	Temporary car park
Present land use:	Hospital grounds
Size of application area	Size of area investigated <i>c. 14.47ha</i>
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2298 2660
Site Code:	
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Limited
Type of work:	Strip, Map & Record
Date of work:	6 – 12 th August 2009
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Stevenage
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In August 2009 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' at Lister Hospital, Corey's Mill Lane, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2298 2660). The investigation was commissioned by East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to the approval of the construction of a new temporary car park.</i></p> <p><i>The hospital is situated on the northern edge of the New Town of Stevenage and the proposed car park area is located in its south-western corner. The site has the potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>
Author of summary: Zbigniew Pozorski	Date of Summary: August 2009

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Temporary car park area, Lister Hospital, Stevenage. View NE.



DP 2. Car park area before soil stripping. View SW.



DP 3. Soil stripping. View NE.



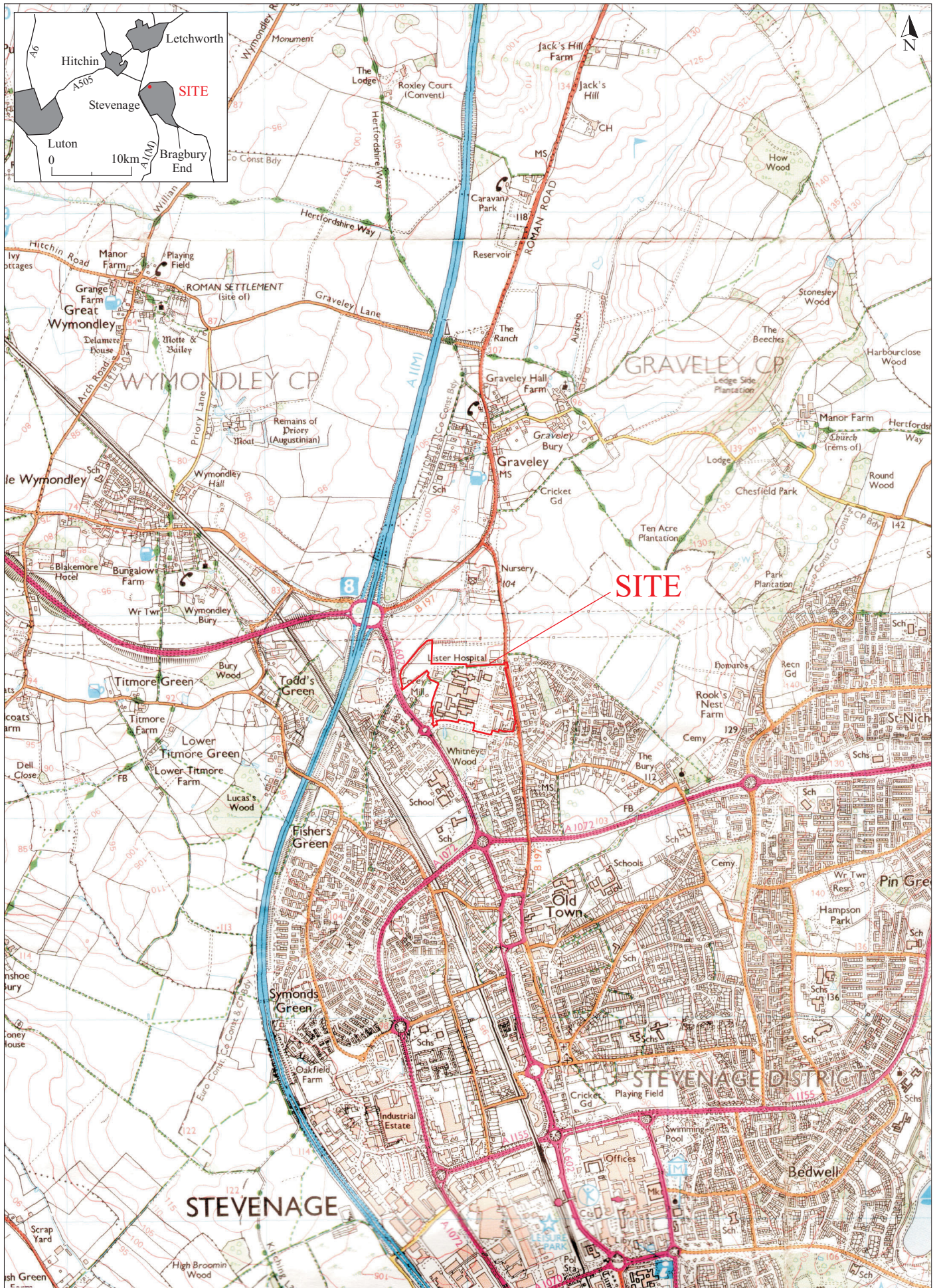
DP 4. Car park area after soil stripping. View SW.



DP 5. Car park area after soil stripping. View NW.

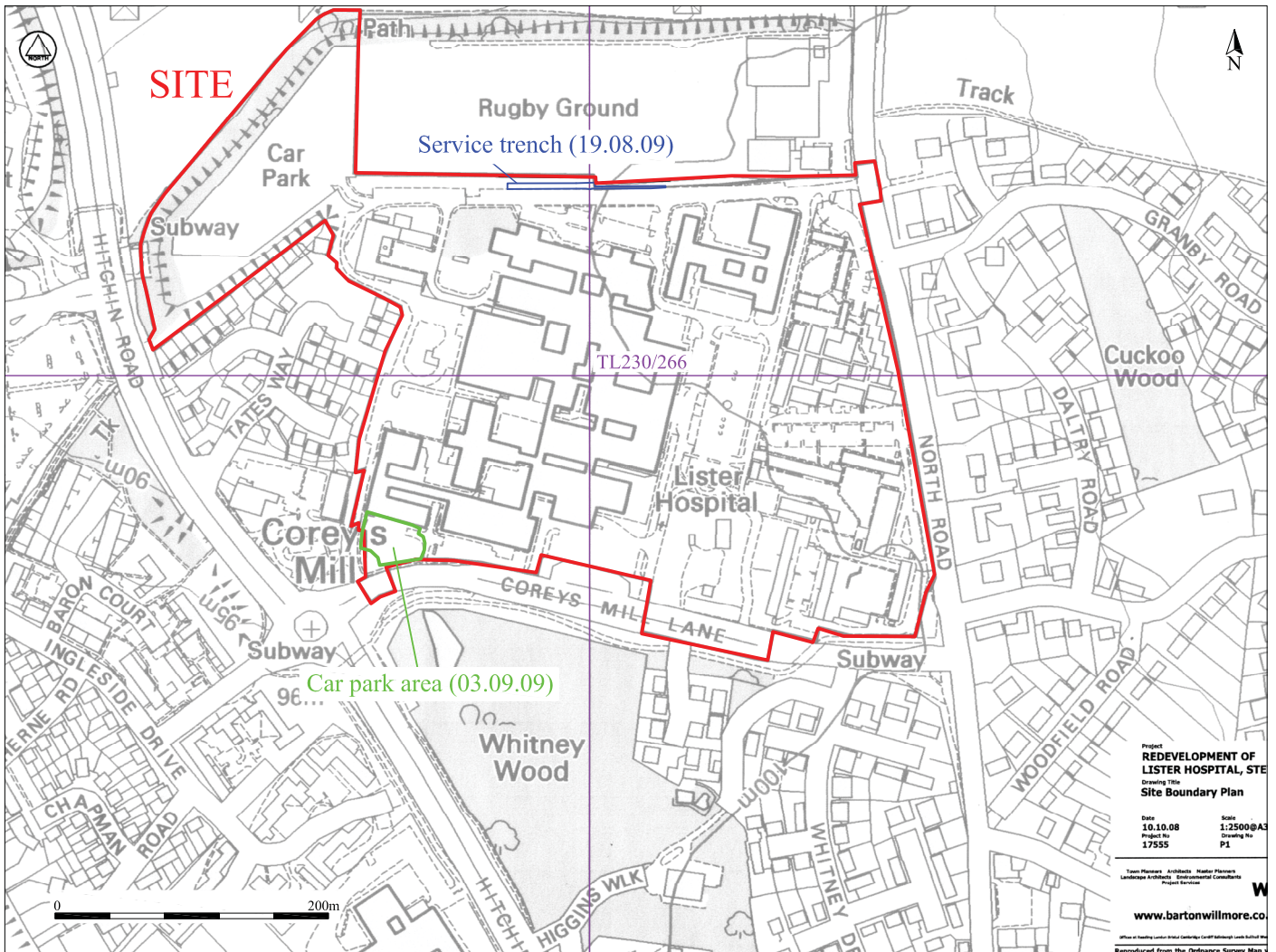


DP 6. W side of excavation area, sample section. View W.



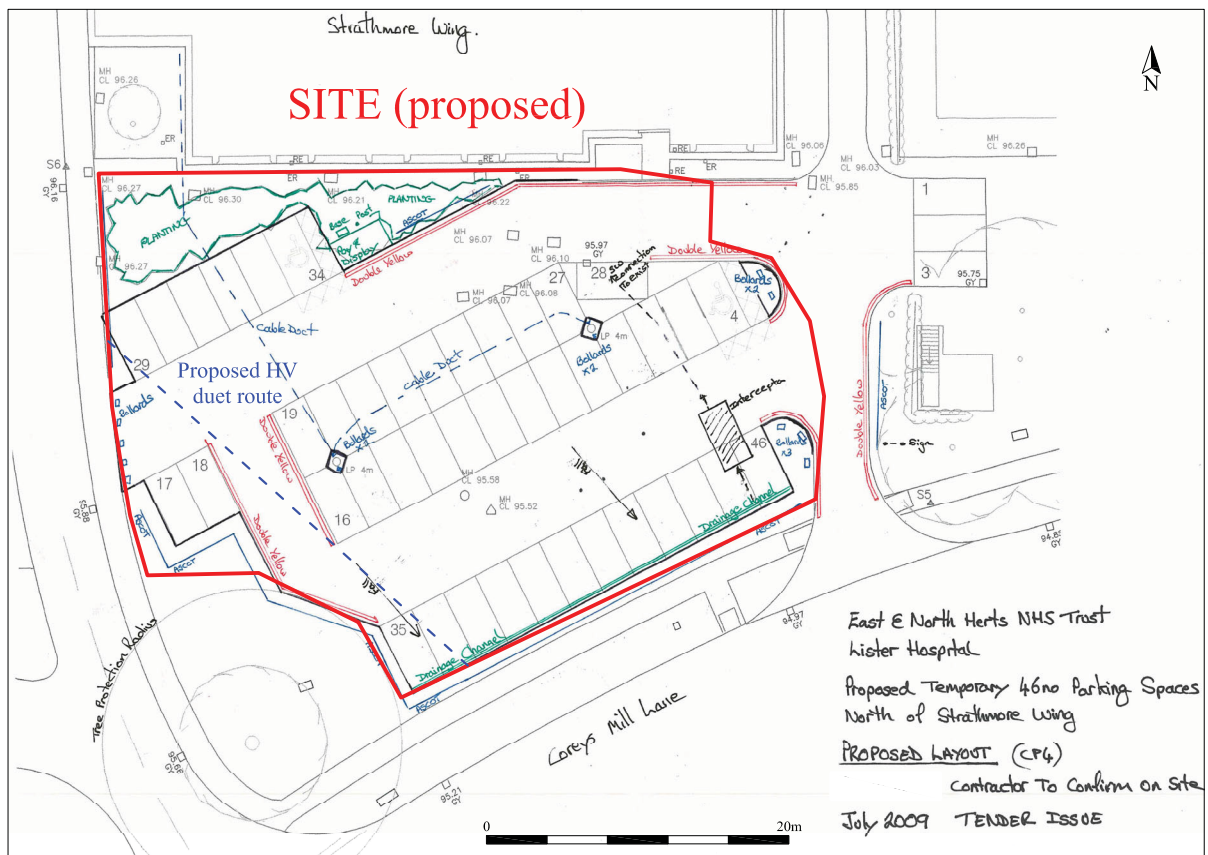
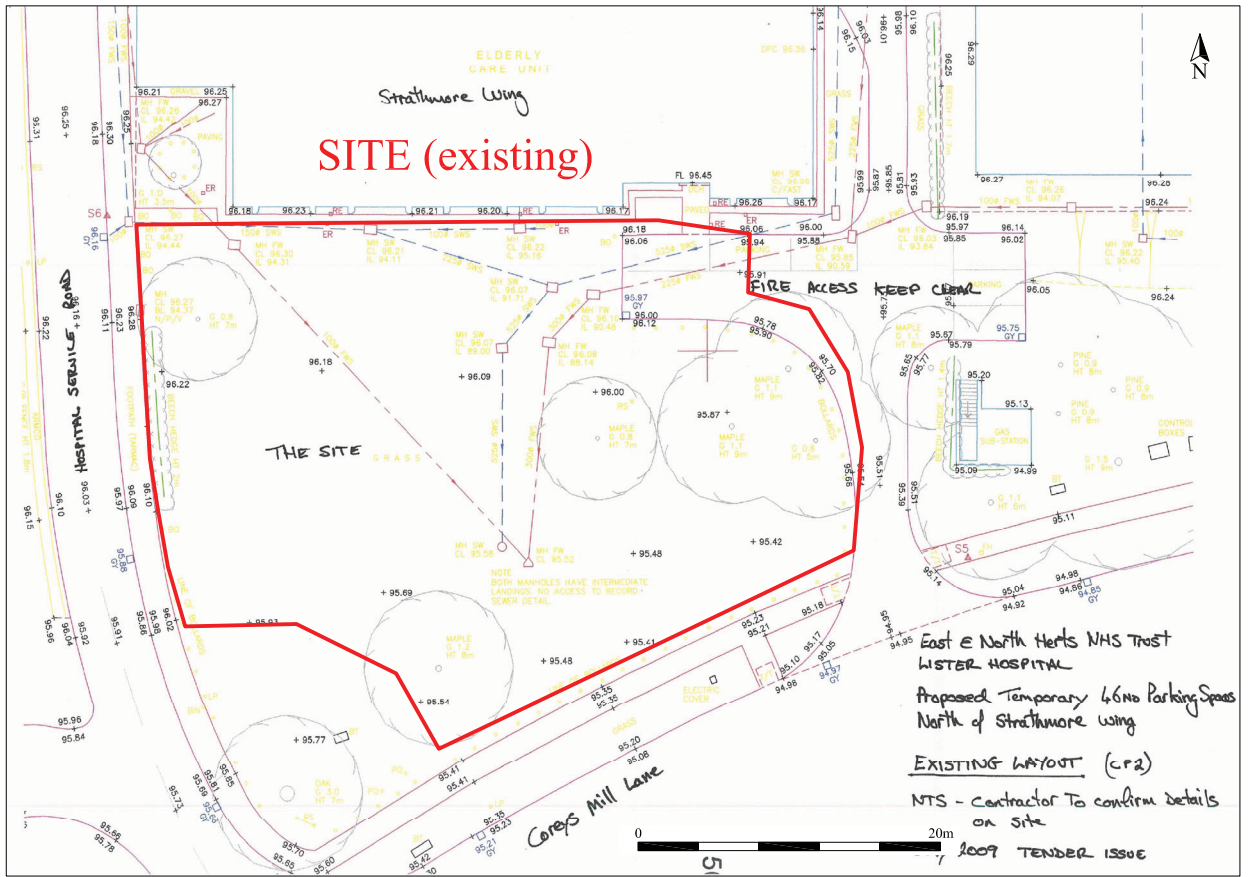
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Existing & proposed plans
Scale 1:500 at A4

