


**SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET,
STADIUM WAY, CRAYFORD, KENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET, STADIUM WAY, CRAYFORD, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

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NGR: TQ 5145 7450	Report No. 3528
District: LB Bexley	Site Code: AS 1303
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3618
Signed: 	Date: April 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Sainsbury's Supermarket, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent</i>		
<i>In April 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at the site of Sainsbury's Supermarket, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent (NGR TQ 5145 7450). The observation was commissioned by Longcross Construction Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the partial demolition of the existing Homebase store and the construction of an extension to the Sainsbury's store, incorporating a mezzanine floor together with external alterations and amendments to the car parking layout.</i>			
<i>The site is located on an industrial estate on the southern side of the town of Crayford, just to the south of the River Cray. The site had a potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, in particular for Palaeolithic archaeology. It also had a potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>12th and 26th April 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3618</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1303</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Supermarket and Retail Units</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition, extension and re-development of existing buildings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Kent</i>	<i>London Borough of Bexley</i>	<i>Crayford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Kent Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>DA1 4HW</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 8000m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 5145 7450</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Longcross Construction Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Sainsbury's Supermarket, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent. Archaeological Observation & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3528</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2010</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In April 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at the site of Sainsbury's Supermarket, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent (NGR TQ 5145 7450). The observation was commissioned by Longcross Construction Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the partial demolition of the existing Homebase store and the construction of an extension to the Sainsbury's store, incorporating a mezzanine floor together with external alterations and amendments to the car parking layout.

The site is located on an industrial estate on the southern side of the town of Crayford, just to the south of the River Cray. The site had a potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, in particular for Palaeolithic archaeology. It also had a potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at the site of Sainsbury's Supermarket, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent (NGR TQ 5145 7450; Figs. 1 & 2). The observation was commissioned by Longcross Construction Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the partial demolition of the existing Homebase store and the construction of an extension to the Sainsbury's store, incorporating a mezzanine floor together with external alterations and amendments to the car parking layout (London Borough of Bexley Planning Ref. 09/91236/F).

1.2 The observation was undertaken in accordance to an advice letter from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS; dated 10/03/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 22/03/2010), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), and the English Heritage London Region Archaeological Guidance Papers. (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* and *No 5; Evaluations*.

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994), 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) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment.

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated in Crayford on the eastern margin of Greater London, and adjacent to Dartford, Kent (Fig. 1). The Sainsbury's store is located on an industrial estate on the southern side of the town of Crayford, just to the south of the River Cray and just to the north of Crayford Railway Station. The site is bordered by Stadium Way to the north and west, by Station Approach (and the railway line) to the south and by a clinic and the town hall to the east.

2.2 The existing site comprises a slightly irregular, rectangular plot located adjacent to the Sainsbury's store to the east. Until recently it was occupied by the Homebase store, now partially demolished with most of the concrete floor

and roof supporting pillars left *in situ* to be reused in the proposed new extension.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on the floor of the valley of the River Cray. The latter rises in Bromley and flows on an approximately north-eastwards course into the River Darent c. 2km to the north-west. The Darent joins the Thames to the north. The land around the site rises gently to the north and south reaching heights of c. 30m within 1 - 2km.

3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises the Upper Chalk of the London basin, overlain by the Palaeocene deposits of the Thanet sands (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The Thanet sands comprise fine and firm, pale grey and greenish sands that may be loamy in parts or occasionally contain sandstone. At the base of the Thanet Sands there is usually a stony layer known as 'bull-head,' on account of the irregular, unworkable, green-coated flints of which it is mostly composed. This solid geology is overlain by a drift geology that comprises expansive spreads of Quaternary brickearth (fine-grained sediments) that form part of the Taplow-Mucking terrace of the Thames, while deposits of river gravels may also be sealed beneath the brickearth.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the site has been prepared by AS (Peachey 2009). In summary:

The location and geology of the area was favourable to activity and occupation from the Palaeolithic to Roman periods. Substantial quantities of prehistoric finds have been recorded in the vicinity, including a Palaeolithic Acheulian hand axe production site and a Bronze Age founder's hoard. An Iron Age settlement was located nearby, and the fording point of the River Cray by Watling Street became a focal point of Roman occupation, possibly the settlement of *Noviomagus*. Anglo-Saxon metal work has also been recorded in close vicinity of the site, possibly associated with a battle at Crayford recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

The site remained undeveloped until a greyhound stadium was constructed in the early 20th century. This was demolished in 1984 and replaced by the existing buildings. The latter have probably truncated the bulk of the site's stratigraphy, and archaeological remains if present will have been destroyed. However, early prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Neolithic) archaeology is known to survive locally *in situ* within gravel and brickearths to substantial depths, even beneath modern house foundations.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural 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 and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements observed were mechanically-excavated trenches for ground beams for a new extension to the east of the former Homebase store, removal of concrete surface and ground reduction to the south of the former store and numerous pile caps system located within the concrete-covered floor slab of the former store (Fig. 2).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Most of the site was overlain by modern concrete surface L1000 (c.0.30m thick), the floor of the former Homebase store. It had been partially removed in locations required by construction of new ground beams and boreholes/pillars, but otherwise left in-situ. Deposits present below the floor contained building materials and were likely levelling layers for the store. Natural deposits were not been encountered.

<i>E part of the site, E trench for ground beam. Sample section (DP 4)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Modern concrete floor.
0.32 – 0.36m	L1001	Yellow, loose, coarse sand.
0.36 – 0.40m	L1002	Pinkish grey, compact, concrete.
0.40 – 0.49m	L1003	Mid grey, loose, sandy gravel (synthetic)
0.49 – 0.54m	L1004	Pinkish grey, compact, concrete.
0.54 – 0.75m	L1005	Grey, compact, sand with moderate stones.
0.75 – 0.87m	L1006	Yellowish grey, compact, fine sand with occasional gravel.
0.87m+	L1007	Yellowish grey and brown, compact, sandy slay.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological observation and recording.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric archaeology. Such remains, especially Palaeolithic flint work have been found in the vicinity of the site and are known to remain *in situ* in gravel and brickearth to considerable depths. The site had also a potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. The observation revealed only modern deposits related to the commercial development of the site, in particular the former Homebase store. The groundworks were limited in depth (max 0.93m within the eastern part of the site) and any potential archaeological remains may have been buried underneath the modern deposits. The boreholes did also not reveal any archaeological evidence. No residual finds were recovered.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at London Archaeological Archives 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 Longcross Construction Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the archaeological monitoring, in particular Mr Mark Southgate and Mr Mark Whorlow.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Mark Stevenson of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Sainsbury's Store, Stadium Way, Crayford, Kent. View E.



DP 2. E part of the site. View SW.



DP 3. E part of the site. View NNW.



DP 4. E trench for ground beam. Sample section. View NE.



DP 5. E part of the site. View SW.



DP 6. Central part of the site. View SSE.



DP 7. Central part of the site. View SE.



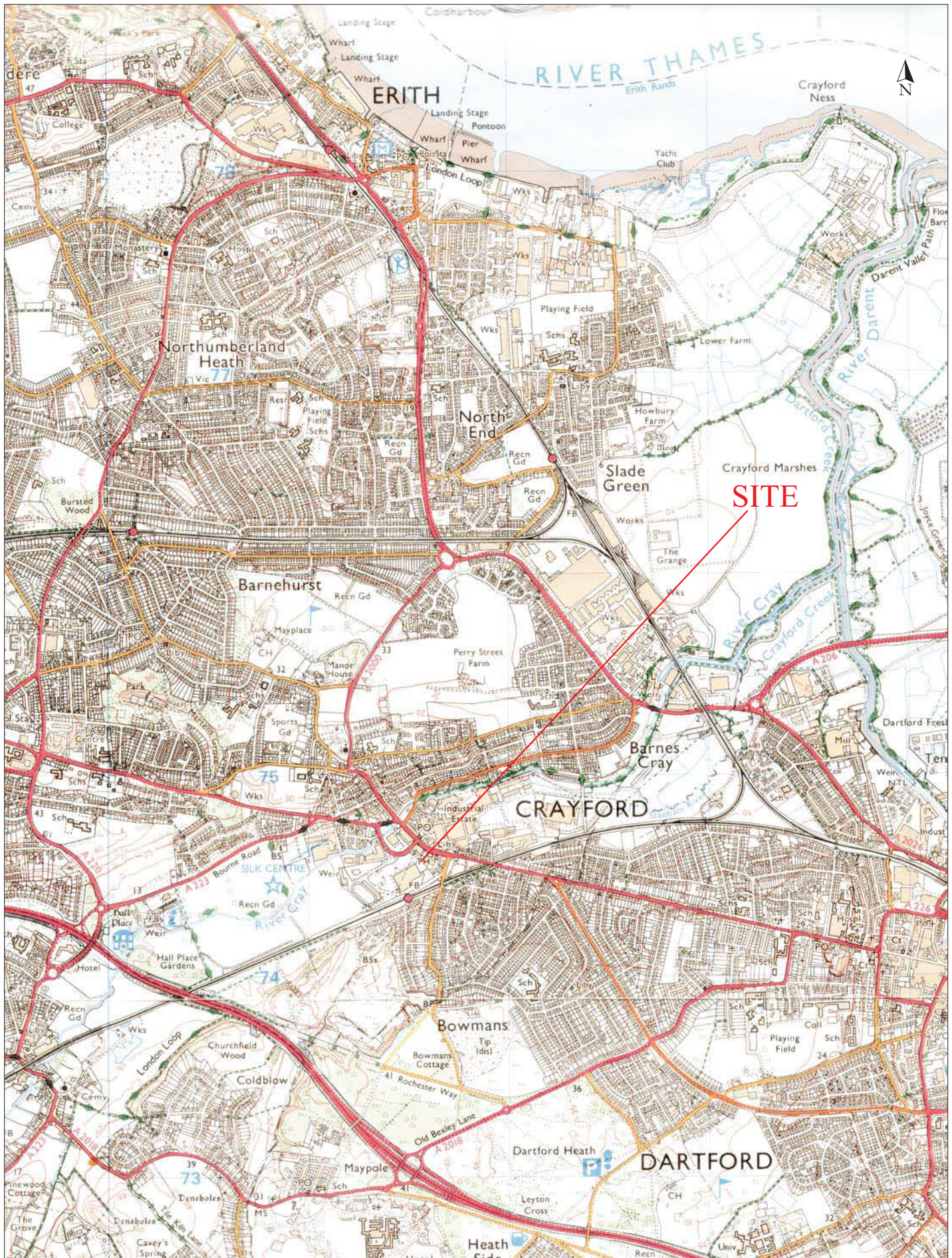
DP 8. Trench for a pile in central part of the site. View SSE.



DP 9. S part of the site. View NE.

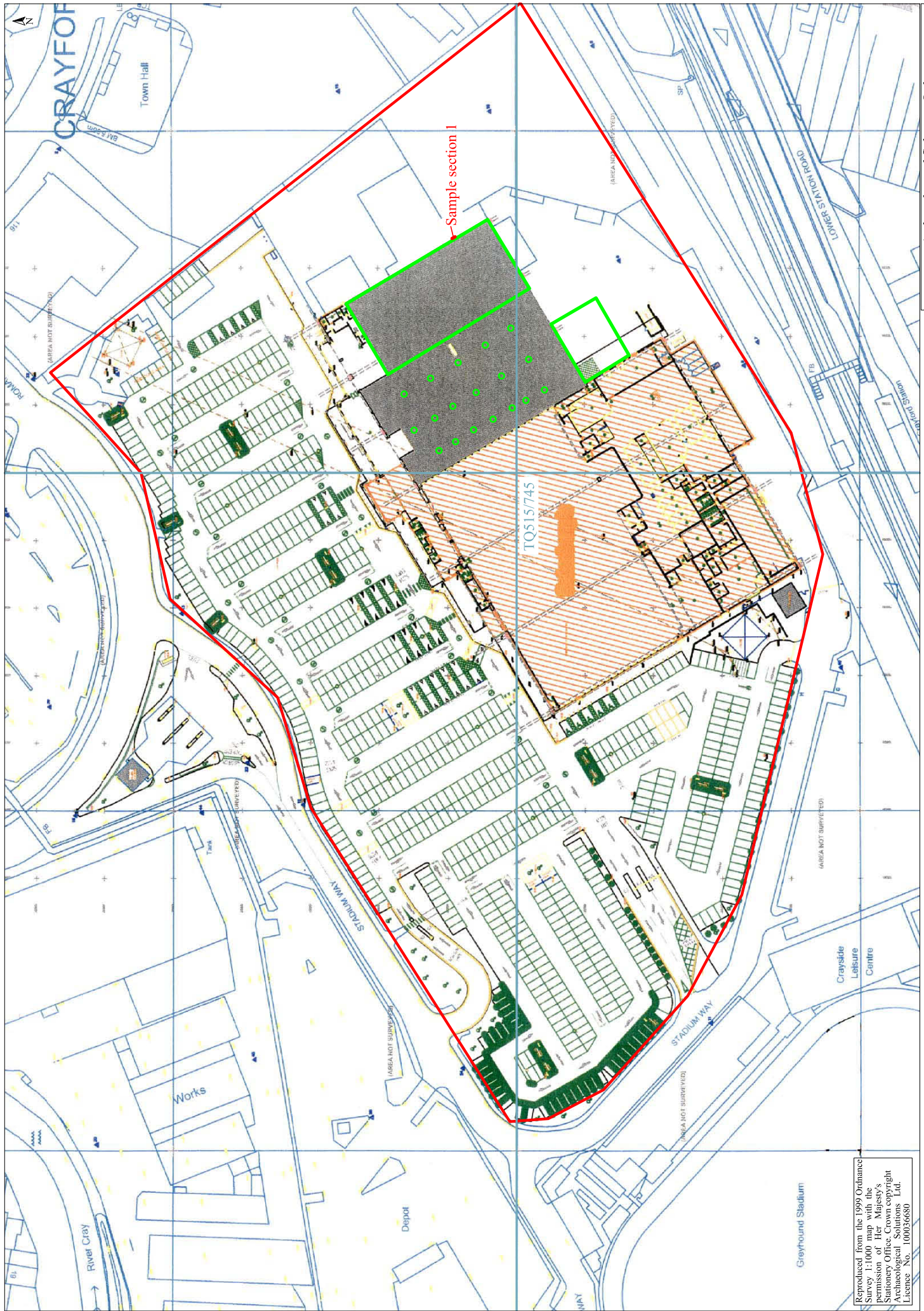


DP 10. S part of the site. View S.



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

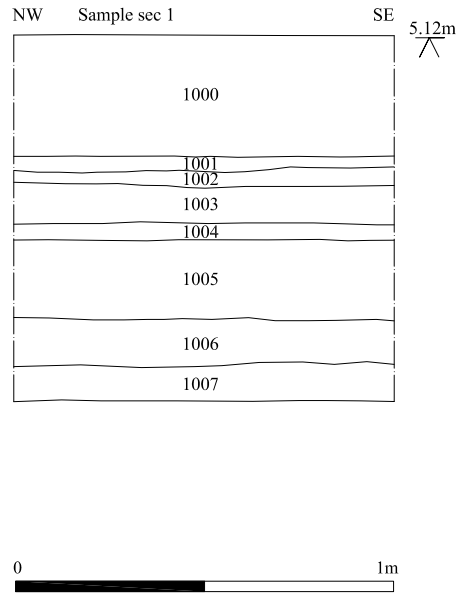


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A3

Areas monitored



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Fig. 3 Sample section

Scale 1:50 at A4