

**SPRING GARDENS (SOUTH SITE),  
ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**SPRING GARDENS (SOUTH SITE),  
ROMFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TQ 50305 88475	Report No. 3582
Parish: Romford	Site Code: SXG10
Approved: Claire Halpin, MIFA	Project No. 3737
Signed:	Date: July 2010

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Spring Gardens (South Site), Romford, London Borough of Havering</i>		
<p>Project description (250 words)</p> <p><i>In July 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation at Spring Gardens (South Side) Romford, Essex (TQ 50305 88475). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising new residential apartments.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the north of London Road, west of town centre, on the purported line of a possible Roman road. Prehistoric activity has also been recognised in the vicinity while medieval and post-medieval settlement is well documented.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two Roman ditches, a 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch, and six undated features (ditches, gully and a posthole).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>3737</i>	Site code	<i>SXG 10</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Industrial works units</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential apartments</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Roman and undated ditches</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Roman pottery and CBM</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>Havering</i>	<i>Romford</i>
HER or SMR for area	<i>GLHER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 5,500m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 50305 88475</i>		
Height AOD (max/min)	<i>c. 15m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>GLAAS</i>		
Project Officers	<i>W McCall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Swan New Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Spring Gardens (South Site), Romford, London Borough of Havering An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3582</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2010</i>		

# SPRING GARDENS (SOUTH SITE), ROMFORD LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In July 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation at Spring Gardens (South Side) Romford, Essex (TQ 50305 88475; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission to redevelopment the site comprising new residential apartments.*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the north of London Road, west of town centre, on the purported line of a possible Roman road. Prehistoric activity has also been recognised in the vicinity while medieval and post-medieval settlement is well documented.*

*The evaluation revealed two Roman ditches, a 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch, and six undated features (ditches, gully and a posthole).*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In July 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Spring Gardens (South Site), Romford, Essex (LB Havering; NGR TQ 50305 88475; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Swan New Homes Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing structures on the site and a redevelopment comprising new residential apartments. The evaluation was required by the London Borough of Havering based on advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS).

1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by AS (dated 01/12/09). It conformed to the IfA' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised 2001).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation was to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened was studied, and attention was given to sites and remains of all periods. The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance. It was

particularly important to identify any evidence of Roman, medieval and/or post-medieval activity.

### *Planning context*

1.4 The report was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. 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 located on the northern side of London Road, which forms the main arterial road leading westward out of the former Essex town of Romford (Fig. 1). The town centre of Romford, which lies within the London Borough of Havering, lies 1km to the east of the site. The site comprises the southern section of Spring Gardens, which consisted of a range of industrial works buildings focused on the road known as Spring Gardens. The proposed development would demolish the three existing structures on the site and redevelop the site for new residential apartments.

2.2 The site comprises a roughly triangular shaped plot of land covering an area of approximately 5,500m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2). It is bound to the south by the rear property boundaries of residential properties fronting London Road and to the east by further residential properties located along Richards Avenue. To the north of the site Spring Gardens road and the northern section of Spring Gardens containing industrial works buildings. The western boundary of the site is demarcated by additional residential structures fronting London Road. It

is noted that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, to the north of London Road.

### **3 METHOD OF WORK**

#### *Archaeological databases*

3.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds in the area is the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER), formerly known as the Greater London Site & Monuments Record (GLSMR). In order to provide a representative sample, the GLHER database was searched for all known entries within a 250m radius of the site. Entries within this approximate 250m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1, and plotted in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 5.

#### *Historical & cartographic documents*

3.2 The principal source for maps and primary documentary sources at the local studies library in Romford's Central Library was not available to consultation due to its refurbishment. All other available material regarding the study area and the buildings was consulted, has been listed in Appendix 1.

#### *Secondary sources*

3.3 The principal source for secondary material at the local studies library in Romford's Central Library was not available to consultation due to its refurbishment. Library resources at AS and relevant internet websites were consulted. Sources have been referenced appropriately in the bibliography.

### **4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

4.1 The settlement of Romford lies on the eastern side of the valley of the River Rom, which is now culverted to the east of the site (Fig. 1). The old town core is located c. 16m above sea level, on the upper edge of the gravel terrace that rises from the River Thames (BGS). Further north, on the London Clay at Collier Row, the land rises to over 48m AOD. The main watercourse is the River Rom, which flows south through Romford and Hornchurch to join the Thames as the River Beam. The site itself lies at approximately 15m AOD on the Thames gravel terrace.

4.2 Soils of the local area comprise those of the Waterstock association, which derive from river terrace drift, and are described as deep permeable loamy soils (SSEW 1983). The north of the town consists of Hucklesbrook soils, again derived from river terrace drift, which are well-drained coarse loamy and occasionally sandy soils. A geotechnical survey carried out prior to an evaluation 250m to the east of the site (Crank, Grant & Williams 2004) encountered the upper surface of the Thames river terrace gravels (Hackney Gravels) at between 1.2 – 2.25m below ground level (Soil Mechanics 1999;

Golder Associates 2003). It was overlain by variable made ground (generally 0.3m -1.50m thickness) overlying a soft brown, mottled, variably sandy clay.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistoric*

5.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential situated to the north of London Road. Bronze Age finds from the surrounding area include three residual late Bronze Age sherds found during an evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Mildway Road (GLHER MLO589895). Iron Age settlement is also known, shown by a late Iron Age/early Roman period boundary or enclosure ditch, repeatedly recut, recorded during an archaeological evaluation at Marks Road (MoLAS 2000; GLHER MLO98649). An enclosure at Warren Farm, Romford represents an important early Iron Age hillfort type, with vessels from here having been used to identify a local ceramic tradition (MoLAS 2000: 105, 109). Also one cannot discount potential Mesolithic/early Neolithic occupation of the lower-lying areas adjacent to watercourses such as the Rivers Rom and Ravensbourne.

### *Romano-British*

5.2 A Roman settlement has been postulated in the Romford area for many years and Romford's extent of Roman activity is still not well known. In Journey IX, the Antonine Itinerary mentions a station called *Durolitum*, 15 miles from London and 16 miles from *Caesaromagus* (Chelmsford), thought to represent the predecessor of the present town of Romford. The Roman road from London to Colchester followed the course of the modern A118 London Road (GLHER MLO14415), which lies c. 50m to the south of the site, and a smaller Roman Road is believed to have diverged at Ilford and followed the course of the modern day Green Lane to Hornchurch.

5.3 *Durolitum* was a strategic military posting station rather than a fully fledged town. This is suggested by its position between larger centres, guarding the ways east-west and north-south and the Rom crossing. An evaluation carried out by AS in 2004 to the east at 140 London Road and 250m to the east of the site revealed much evidence of previous cellaring and truncation, but identified a single Roman ditch along with further ditch, a pit and two postholes of probable post-medieval date (Crank *et al* 2004). A small quantity of heavily abraded Roman pottery and tile was also recovered from the former Panasonic Depot in Spring Gardens, barely 30m beyond the northern boundary of the site (GLHER MLO77849; AOC Archaeology Group 2003).

### *Anglo-Saxon*

5.4 Relatively little is known of the Romford area in the Anglo-Saxon period and understanding of the area during that period remains relatively unknown. However, an evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Mildway Road and



300m to the north of the site revealed a single residual Saxon sherd (GLHER MLO58992).

### *Medieval*

5.5 Romford was originally a chapelry of the ancient parish of Hornchurch. The medieval chapel of St Andrew, Romford, was first mentioned in 1177, situated to the east of the River Rom, on the south corner of Oldchurch Road and South Street. Fields in this area have 'ruins' in their names in 17<sup>th</sup> century sources, the vicinity probably being abandoned in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century due to its flooding-prone location. The chapel of St Edward was then built on higher ground to the north. The growth of the town along the main London to Colchester road probably coincides with the granting of a medieval market and fair in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval remains found within the area of the site comprise a medieval ditch at the Motorpoint Showroom dated to c.1350-1450 AD, and a single residual medieval sherd found at Nos. 71 – 99 Mildway Road (GLHERs MLO72988 & MLO58993).

### *Post-medieval & later*

5.6 The 1960s and 1970s saw the complete redevelopment of the town centre, and the loss of much of its medieval character. The shape of modern Romford, in particular, is formed by its later 20<sup>th</sup> century road network; St Edwards Way was opened in 1970, as the northern section of the inner ring road, followed by the subsequent construction of the rest of the circle by the early 1990s, with the large-scale pedestrianisation schemes for the old London Road in the core of the town. Despite its redevelopment, Romford's High Street still contains a tenement of five three-storey buildings dated to the post-medieval period (GLHER MLO10909), and the area surrounding the site has yielded a number of post-medieval and later findspots (see Appendix 1, below).

### *The site*

5.7 Relatively little is known of the Spring Gardens site, particularly given the temporary closure of the relevant local studies library. Cartographic sources indicate that the site remained as undeveloped land until the post-World War II period, possibly coinciding with the large-scale redevelopment of Romford in the 1960s and 1970s. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1871 depicts the site as undeveloped agricultural land associated with *Lowlands Farm* to the west (not illustrated). The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897 – 98 indicates the formation of the site's southern boundary with the construction of properties fronting London Road. It is also indicated that a pump may have stood along the southern boundary of the site. By 1938, the site remained as undeveloped land located between Recreation Road to the east and the *Crown Hotel* to the west.

5.8 The GLHER database reveals that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the northern section of Spring Gardens and thus less than 30m beyond the northern boundary of the site in 2003 (AOC Archaeology Group

2003). The report indicates that Spring Gardens consisted of a former Panasonic Depot. The archaeological work comprised the excavation of three trial trenches. Although very little archaeology was revealed the GLHER database records that a small quantity of heavily abraded Roman pottery and tile was recovered from one of the trenches (GLHER MLO77849). A post-medieval post hole cutting the current subsoil, which overlies a Roman alluvial subsoil, as well as a linear post-medieval cut with east to west alignment were also revealed. The site therefore has a significant potential to reveal further Roman and prehistoric remains.

## **6 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)**

6.1 Six trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by EH GLAAS and were located to provide a broad coverage of the development area (based on 5% sample of the site). Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision.

6.2 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.

6.3 The measurements and orientation of each trench are tabulated below:

<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Orientation</b>
1	15.00	1.50	NW/SE
2	25.00	1.50	NE/SW
3	20.00	1.50	NW/SE
4	20.00	1.50	NE/SW
5	15.00	1.50	NE/SW
6	25.00	1.50	NW/SE

*Measurement and orientation of trenches*

## 7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 Fig. 4, DP 1-2

Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing 0.00 = 15.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Made ground. Compact, mid brown grey silt with frequent charcoal and CBM.
0.25 – 0.30m	L1001	Made ground. Compact, light brown yellow silt.
0.30 – 0.50m	L1002	Subsoil. Compact, light and mid orange brown silt.
0.50m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. Compact mid orange brown clayey silt and gravel.

*Description:* Three linear features (F1019, F1017 and F1015) were revealed in Trench 1. Ditches F1019 and F1014 were sealed by Subsoil L1002. Gully F1017 cut Made Ground L1001 and was sealed by Made Ground L1000.

Ditch F1019 (1.50+ x 0.77 x 0.12m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was a compact, light grey brown and orange stained clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. No finds were present.

Gully F1017 (0.75+ x 0.40 x 0.40m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides, a narrow base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1018, was a semi-compact medium brown grey sandy silt. Finds comprise 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (1; 3g).

Ditch F1015 (1.85+ x 0.80 x 0.35m) was linear in plan, Orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a semi-compact mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional small angular flint and charcoal near the base. Finds comprise Roman pottery (9; 159g).

### Trench 2 Fig. 4, DP 3-5

Sample section: North-east end, north-west facing 0.00 = 15.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.30 – 0.55m	L1029	Semi-compact, dark brown grey sandy silt with moderate small and medium stones and CBM.
0.55m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* Four parallel ditches (F1021, F1023, F10125 and F1027) were revealed in the south-western half of Trench 2, sealed by Made Ground L1001.

Ditch F1021 (1.50+ x 1.15 x 0.15m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a semi-compact, light brown grey clayey silt with orange flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1023 (1.50+ x 1.20 x 0.18m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had shallow sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a semi-compact, light brown grey clayey silt with orange flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1025 (1.50+ x 1.20 x 0.13m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1026, was a semi-compact, light brown grey clayey silt with orange flecks. No finds were present.

Ditch F1027 (1.50+ x 2.70 x 0.59m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1028, was a dark grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. Finds comprise Roman pottery (23; 412g) and CBM (507g).

### **Trench 3      Fig. 4**

Sample section: South-east end, south-west facing 0.00 = 15.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1004	Compact layer of brick and rubble in a very mottled sand and silt matrix.
0.30 – 0.54m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.54 – 1.10m	L1005	Compact, light blue grey silty clay with occasional CBM and charcoal.
1.10m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological finds or features were present.

### **Trench 4      Fig. 4, DP 6**

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 15.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1006	Loose, dark grey and black ashy silt bedding course.
0.50 – 0.62m	L1007	Compact, mottled mid grey and orange clayey silt with occasional medium stones.
0.62m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* A short linear feature, F1011, and a posthole, F1013 were revealed in Trench 4. Both were sealed by Made Ground L1007.

Gully F1011 (2.70 x 0.26 x 0.12m) was sinuous in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a compact, medium blue grey clayey silt with occasional small angular stones. No finds were present.

Posthole F1013 (0.30 x 0.25 x 0.09m) was round in plan with vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a compact, medium brown grey clayey silt. No finds were present.

#### **Trench 5      Fig. 4, DP 7**

Sample section: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 15.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1006	Ashy silt layer. As above.
0.50 – 0.70m	L1007	Made ground. As above.
0.70m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological finds or features were present.

#### **Trench 6      Fig. 4, DP 8**

Sample section: North-west end, south-west facing 0.00 = 15.23m AOD		
0.00 – 0.60m	L1006	Ashy silt layer. As above.
0.60 – 0.80m	L1007	Made ground. As above.
0.80m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

Sample section: South-east end, south-west facing 0.00 = 15.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1008	Semi-compact layer of brick and rubble in a mixed grey and brown clayey silt matrix.
0.30 – 0.60m	L1009	Compact, mid dark grey clayey silt with moderate medium stones.
0.60 – 1.00m	L1010	Compact, mid blue grey clayey silt.
1.00m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above.

*Description:* Most of Trench 6 was truncated by the foundations of a large modern building comprising two brick and mortar walls and fill material between them. No archaeological finds or features were present.

### **8      CONFIDENCE RATING**

8.1      It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

### **9      DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 4, DP 1, 3, 7)**

9.1      The stratigraphy comprised modern made ground and demolition layers. Trenches 1 – 3, featured Made Ground of compact brown grey silt and CBM, L1000 (0.25 – 0.30m). In Trench 3, the made ground was overlain by a layer of modern building debris, L1004. The made ground varied between

trenches. The silt layer in Trench 3, L1005 (0.56m), resembled an alluvial deposit.

9.2 The stratigraphy in Trenches 4 – 6 comprised a thick ashy silt, L1006 (0.40 – 0.60m), and mottled grey and orange made ground, L1007 (0.12 – 0.20m). The south-eastern end of Trench 6 varied from this sequence. It featured a layer of demolition rubble, L1008 (0.30), a dark grey made ground layer (L1009), and an alluvial layer, L1010 (0.40) reminiscent of L1005 in Trench 3.

9.3 The natural geological deposit comprised a compact medium orange brown clayey silt and gravel. L1003.

## 10 DISCUSSION

### *Summary of archaeology*

10.1 Nine archaeological features were recorded, mostly linear ditches. A gully and a posthole were also present. Seven of the features were contained in Trenches 1 and 2, in the north-western sector of the site. A gully (F1011) and posthole (F1013) were located in Trench 4. The majority of features cut the natural and were sealed by modern made ground layers. F1017 cut Made Ground L1001.

10.2 Ditches F1015, F1017 and F1027 were the only features to contain archaeological material. Roman pottery and CBM were recovered from Ditches F1015 and F1027, and Gully F1017 contained a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

10.3 The features were generally well preserved, but likely truncated by successive phases of construction. The distribution of the features and their spot dates are tabulated below:

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
1	F1015	Ditch	Roman
1	F1017	Gully	19 <sup>th</sup> century
1	F1019	Ditch	-
2	F1021	Ditch	-
2	F1023	Ditch	-
2	F1025	Ditch	-
2	F1027	Ditch	Roman
4	F1011	Gully	-
4	F1013	Posthole	-

### *Summary of archaeological features*

### *Interpretation of the Site*

10.4 The desk-based assessment notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological finds dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The greatest potential was for late Iron Age and Roman remains (Section 5 above). The proximity of the principal Roman road linking London to Colchester (GLHER MLO14415) and a smaller road (modern day Green Lane) suggests the presence of a strategic military post in the area. An evaluation (Crank *et al* 2004) 250m to the east of the site recorded a Roman ditch, and Roman pottery and tile were recovered 30m to the north at the former Panasonic Depot in Spring Gardens.

10.5 The current investigation confirmed the presence of Roman activity in the area. Two Roman ditches running perpendicular to each other (F1015 and F1027) were revealed in the north-western sector of the site. The features yielded slightly abraded sherds of a locally-produced coarse ware. Two fragments of Roman *tegulae* roof tile were recovered from Ditch F1027.

### *Research potential*

10.6 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development. In particular it sought to identify any evidence of Roman, medieval or post-medieval activity.

10.7 The evaluation recorded nine features, most located in the north-western sector of the site. Much of the remainder of the site was truncated by modern development and contained made ground. Two of the seven linear features revealed in Trenches 1 and 2 were dated to the Roman period. The research potential of the site is limited

## **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

The archive will be lodged with the London Archaeological Archive and Resource Centre (LAARC).

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Swan New Homes Ltd for their co-operation and funding of this evaluation, in particular Mr Gary Boyle.

Thanks are also due to the staff at the Greater London Historic Environment Record (GLHER), in particular Krystyna Truscoe.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of David Divers, Archaeological Advisor, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service.



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<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

Romford Then & Now website;  
<http://www.romford.org/>



# **APPENDIX 1** **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (GLHER)**

GLHER	NGR TQ	Description
<b>Prehistoric (to AD 43)</b>		
MLO98649	50710 88713	A late Iron Age/early Roman period boundary or enclosure ditch, repeatedly recut, was recorded during an archaeological evaluation at Marks Road
MLO58989	5028 8879	Evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Midway Road revealed three residual late Bronze Age sherds
<b>Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)</b>		
MLO14415	5063 8860	White mark across field at Cottons recreation ground possible Roman road being on the alignment of the London Road.; a Roman cemetery was discovered in the immediate vicinity in the 1930s, though it was not reported until 1988
MLO77849	5018 8852	A small quantity of heavily abraded Roman pottery and tile was recovered from the former Panasonic Depot in Spring Gardens
<b>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)</b>		
MLO58992	5028 8879	Evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Midway Road revealed one residual Saxon sherd
<b>Medieval (AD 1066 - 1500)</b>		
MLO72988	5044 8835	Evaluation undertaken at the Motorpoint Showroom revealed a medieval ditch 2.85m wide and probably designed to function as a drainage ditch or culvert dated to c.1350-1450 AD.
MLO58993	5028 8879	Evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Midway Road revealed one residual medieval sherd
<b>Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1750)</b>		
MLO76373	5018 8852	The former Panasonic Depot in Spring Gardens revealed a post-medieval post hole cutting the current subsoil, which overlies a Roman alluvial subsoil

MLO77850	5018 8852	The former Panasonic Depot in Spring Gardens revealed a linear post medieval cut with east/west alignment
MLO10909	5092 8877	Romford's High Street contains a tenement of five three-storey buildings dated to the post-medieval period
MLO72989	5044 8835	Evaluation undertaken at the Motorpoint Showroom revealed a ditch, thought to be part of the same sequence recorded on site dating from the medieval period, dated to the early 17th century on the basis of pottery
MLO72990	5044 8835	Evaluation undertaken at the Motorpoint Showroom revealed two pits or post holes dating to the mid 17th century
MLO72991	5044 8835	Evaluation undertaken at the Motorpoint Showroom revealed archaeological features sealed by a 0.25m thick homogenous ploughsoil deposit
<b>Early modern &amp; later (AD 1750 – present)</b>		
MLO78255	50435 88411	A 19th century refuse pit and a well were found through excavation at Nos. 142-162 London Road
MLO58995	5028 8879	Evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Mildway Road revealed air-raid shelters and recent dumping
MLO58997	5028 8879	Evaluation and watching brief at Nos. 71 – 99 Mildway Road revealed filled-in WW II air-raid shelters.
<b>Undated remains</b>		
MLO39206	4988 8869	Double ditched trackway visible as both cropmark in agricultural land and as parchmark in playing field near London Road, orientated north-west, south-east, and its north-west end opens in a funnel on its south side
MLO75131	5060 8910	Evaluation undertaken at No. 80 Como Street did not reveal any o archaeological deposits or remains
MLO98145	50304 89340	Evaluation undertaken at Edinburgh Drive and Eastern Avenue did not reveal any o archaeological deposits or remains

## APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCES

### Concordance of Finds

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)
1015	1016	1	Ditch Fill	Roman	(5) 159g	
1017	1018	1	Gully Fill	19th C	(1) 3g	
1027	1028	2	Ditch Fill	Roman	(11) 306g	507

### Concordance of Samples

Sample	Size (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Flot (ml)	Pot (g)	Other
1	40	1015	1016	1	Ditch Fill	Roman	1	(4) 16g (12)	B. Flint (2) 3g
2	40	1027	1028	2	Ditch Fill	Roman	5	106g	B. Flint (3) 14g B. Stone (1) 84g

## **APPENDIX 4 SPECIALISTS REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trenching recovered a total of 16 fragments (465g) of slightly abraded Roman pottery, and a single fragment (3g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

The Roman pottery is entirely comprised of non-diagnostic sherds of locally-produced coarse ware, either reduced or oxidised sand-tempered fabrics. Ditch F1015 (L1016) contained a total of 5 sherds (159g) including a basal fragment from a jar; while Ditch F1027 (L1028) contained a total of 11 sherds (306g) including basal fragments from two jars and a small jar/beaker. These fabrics were ubiquitous throughout the Roman period and produced in large quantities in the region.

A single fragment (3g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer-printed ware was contained in Gully F1017 (L1018), and exhibits a blue border on a white background possibly from the rim of a plate.

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

A total of two fragments (507g) of slightly abraded Roman CBM were contained in Ditch F1027 (L1028). The fragments comprise a flanged edge and a 28mm thick flat body fragment derived from tegulae roof tile. Both fragments are in an oxidised orange fabric tempered with common, medium sand that was probably produced locally and is common in the region throughout the Roman period.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*Trench 1. Sample Section. Looking south-west.*



2  
*Trench 1: Roman Ditch F1015. Looking south-east.*



3  
*Trench 2. Sample section (north-east end). Looking north-west.*



4  
*Trench 2. Roman Ditch F1027. Looking north-west.*



5  
*Trench 2. Three undated ditches (front) and Roman Ditch F1027 (back). Looking north-east.*



6  
*Trench 4. Gully F1011 (foreground) and Posthole F1013 (background). Looking north-east.*

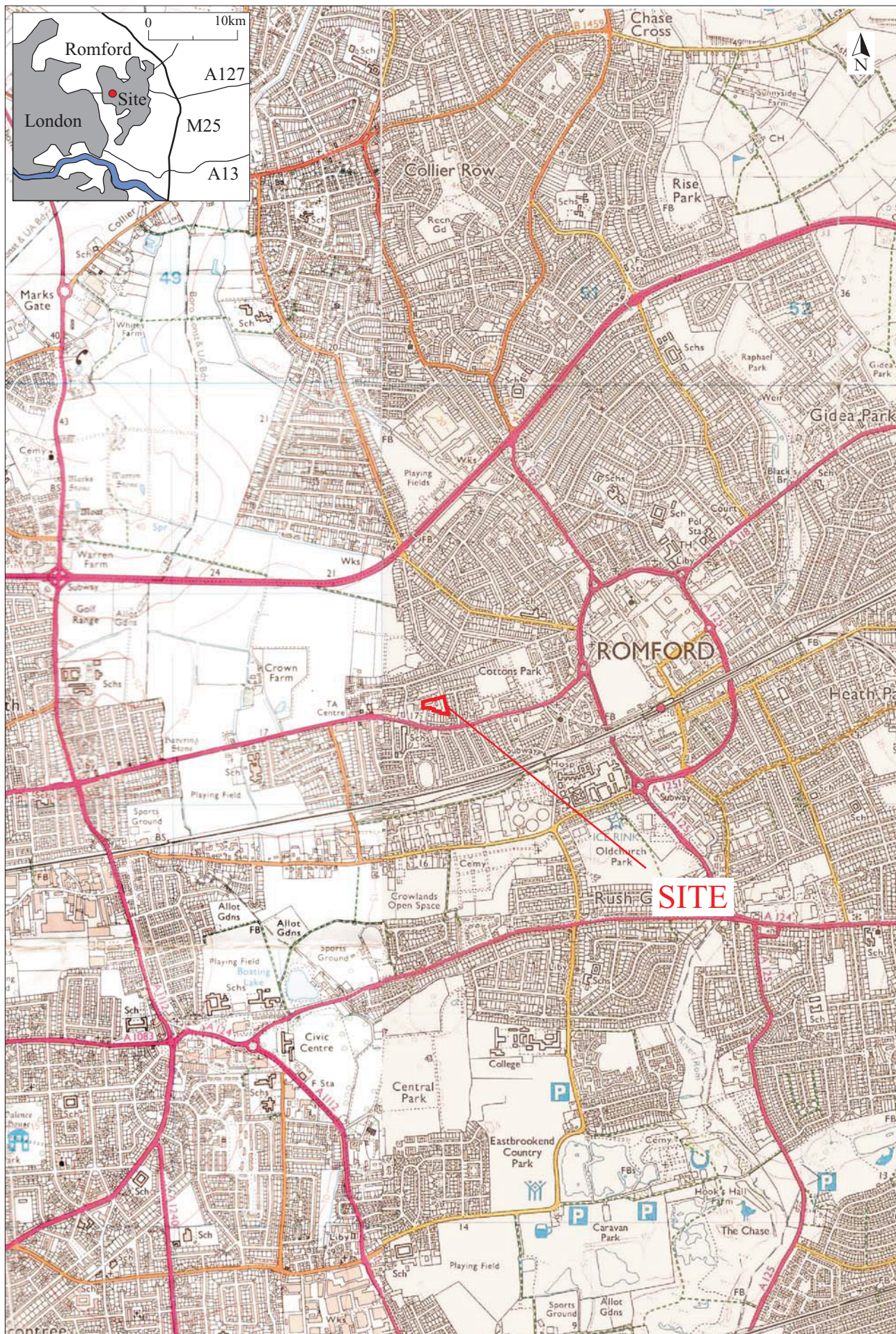


7  
*Trench 5. Sample section. Looking south-east.*



8  
*Trench 6. Modern building truncating centre of trench. Looking north-west.*





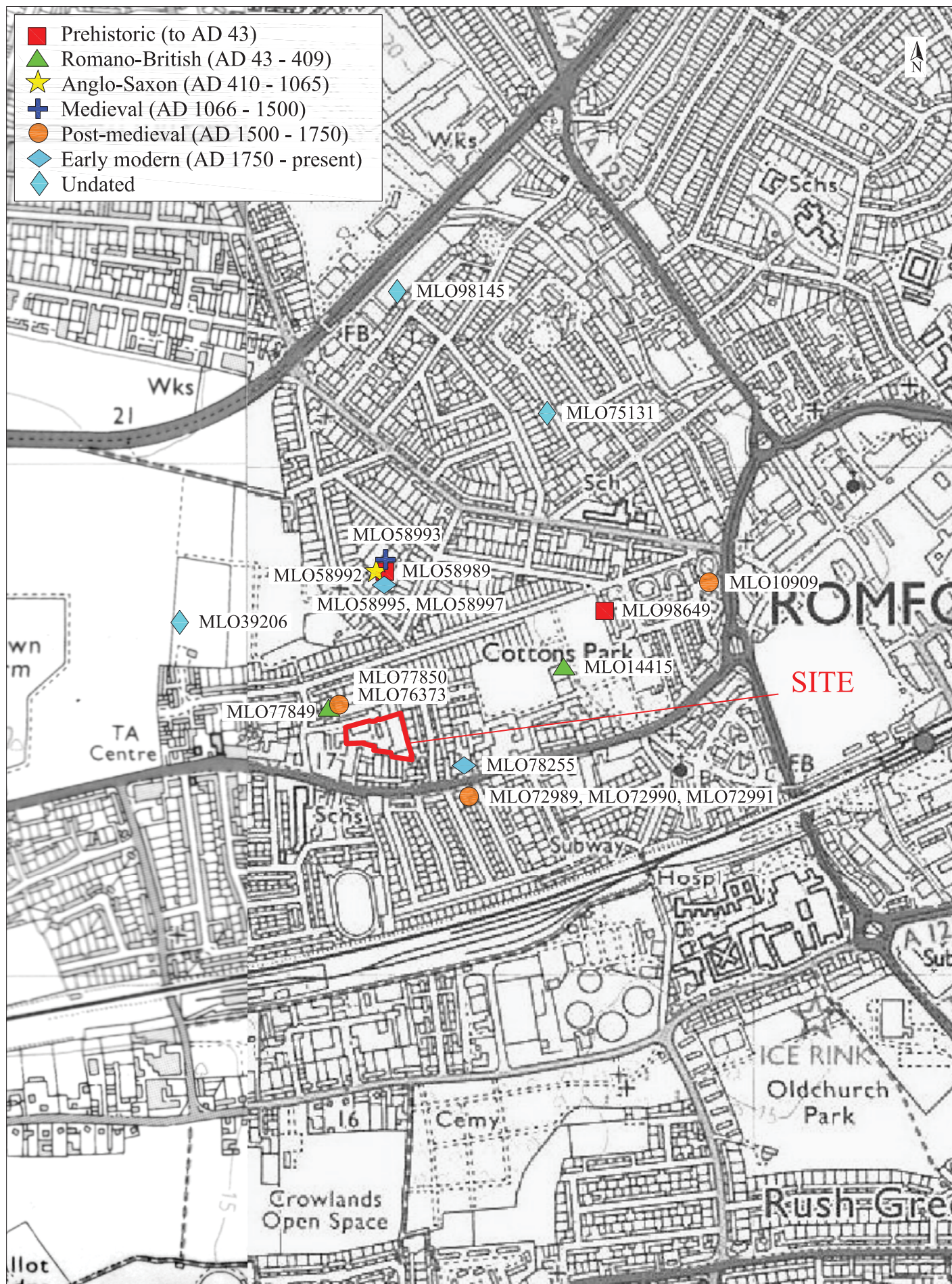
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4









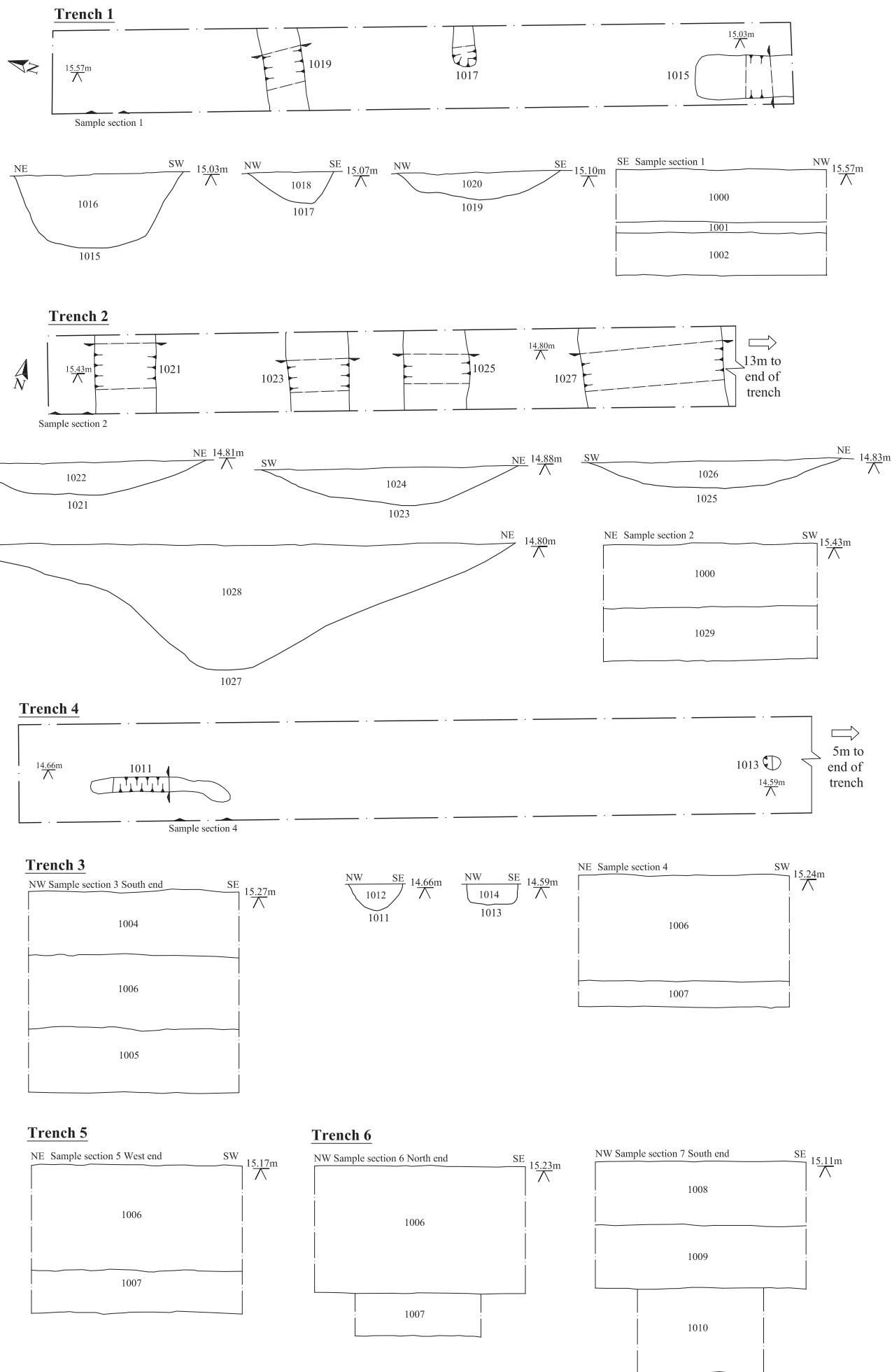
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**Fig. 3 HER Data**

Scale 1:10,000 at A4

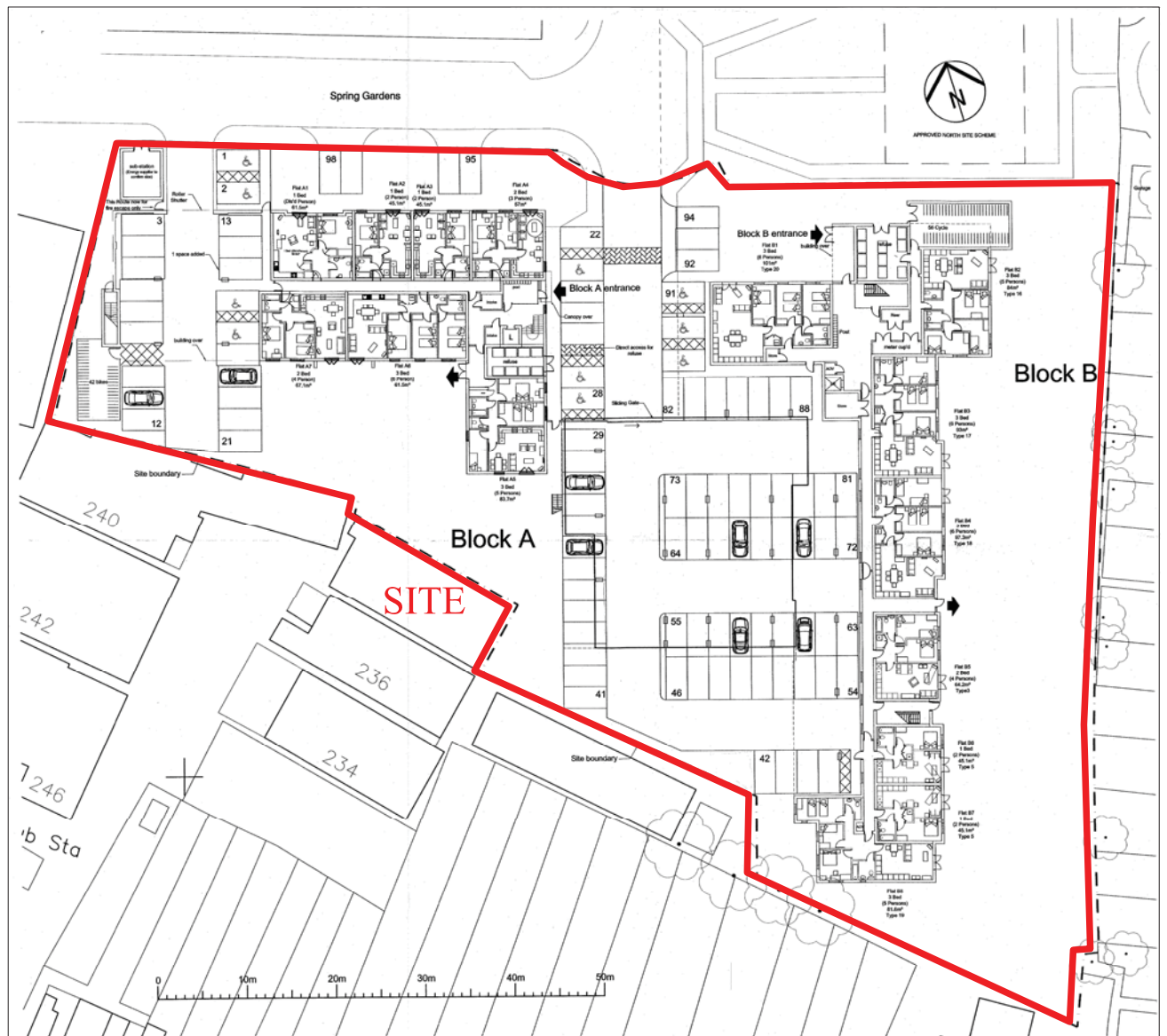




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**Fig. 4 Trench plans & sections**

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A4



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**Fig. 5 Proposed development plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4