
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**HORNDON ON THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL,
HILLCREST ROAD, HORNDON ON THE HILL,
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Lisa Smith BA (Report) Peter Thompson MA (Research) Gareth Barlow MSc (Fieldwork)	
NGR: TQ 66905 83564	Report No. 3664
District: Thurrock	Site Code: HH6
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4039
Signed:	Date: November 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Horndon on the Hill Primary School, Hillcrest Road, Horndon on the Hill, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring</i>		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Horndon on the Hill Primary School, Hillcrest Road, Essex (NGR TQ 66905 83564). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a new single-storey front extension, entrance canopy and buggy park, at the school (Thurrock Planning Ref. 10/00423/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>Modern services associated with the current school buildings were identified. The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>26th – 27th October 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P4039</i>	Site code	<i>HH6</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Primary school and grounds</i>		
Planned development	<i>Single-storey front extension, entrance canopy and buggy park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Thurrock</i>	<i>Horndon on the Hill</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (HEM)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SS17 8LR</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TQ 66905 83564</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.30m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (HEM)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow</i>		
Funded by	<i>Bardon Contracts Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Horndon on the Hill Primary School, Hillcrest Road, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G., Smith, L., & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3664</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2010</i>		

HORNDON ON THE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL,
HILLCREST ROAD, HORNDON ON THE HILL, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Horndon on the Hill Primary School, Hillcrest Road, Essex (NGR TQ 66905 83564). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a new single-storey front extension, entrance canopy and buggy park, at the school (Thurrock Planning Ref. 10/00423/FUL).

Modern services associated with the current school buildings were identified. The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Horndon on the Hill Primary School, Hillcrest Road, Essex (NGR TQ 66905 83564)(Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was carried out to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a new single-storey front extension, entrance canopy and buggy park at the school (Thurrock Planning Ref. 10/00423/FUL).

1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording were conducted in accordance to a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (HEM) (R Havis, dated 17th August 2010) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 19th August 2010) and approved by ECC HEM. It complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 Horndon on the Hill is situated 8.5km east of the east side of the M25 in the Orsett Rural District of Essex, and is 2km west of Stanford-le-Hope. The primary school is in a residential area on the east side of the village. It is located on the south side of Hillcrest Road which leads onto High Road. The area at the front of the Church of England Primary School is mainly metalled with a small area of lawn to the east and a larger area of lawn and a building to the west.

3 METHODOLOGY (Research)

3.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by, or relate to, the development. Those sites within 250m of the primary school are described below (Section 4.2)

4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.1 The site is located on a small hill at approximately 32m AOD with the shallowest slope to the west. The river Thames flows 4km to the south-east. The local soil is of the Windsor series which are seasonally waterlogged clayey soils featuring in lowland Britain over tills and soft argillaceous rocks. The underlying geology is London Clay.

5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Horndon takes its name from 'horn-shaped hill' and "showed aspirations to urban status before the Conquest" when it had a mint in the late 10th century (EHER 1877). At Domesday the land was divided between six landowners and settlement was primarily along High Road, but did not develop into a town (EHER 1878). The market, located between High Road and the church, probably originated in the Saxon period and was certainly in existence by the late 13th century (EHER 18759) and was important as a centre for rural produce particularly in cheese and wool. The church of St Peter and St Paul is Grade I listed and also dates to the 13th century (EHER 1880).

5.2 Four archaeological evaluations or watching briefs have been carried out within 250m of the site. The first was at the Horndon on the Hill Primary School play ground in 1999 where only tarmac and shallow ground beams were present (EHER 18915). An excavation in 2003 at Halls Row, High Road approximately 100m to the south, identified pits and post holes of 10th-13th century date, and a pit containing two 16th-century Surrey whiteware jugs (EHER 18623). An excavation was carried out between 2000 and 2003 in three phases between Hall Row and the village hall, High Road some 250m to the south. It identified post-medieval beam slots or eave drip gullies, pits and post-holes that fronted the road. To the rear (north), a complex of cess pits and rubbish pits, sealing deposits and dumped material were uncovered (EHER 45375). In 1991, a watching brief at Mayfield Cottage on High Road identified an early 18th century pit containing pottery, tile, mortar and animal bone (EHER 13943). Grade II listed buildings within 250m of the Primary School are Mayfield Cottage (EHER 26364), Nos 1-4 terraced houses at Hall Row (EHER 26359), the Post Office store on High Road, and a telephone kiosk opposite the Wesleyan Chapel (EHER 35236).

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The ground works consisted of the reduction of the ground level across the proposed new building footprint by approximately 0.70m (Fig 3, DP 2). A small area in the north-west corner of the site was reduced by 0.30m, which only exposed the subsoil.

6.2 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated; thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary.

7 RESULTS

<i>Sample Section 1</i>		<i>Fig. 3 DP 3</i>
<i>West facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 30.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown organic clay silt with sparse medium rounded and small angular flint
0.33 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid greyish orangey-brown clay silt with sparse medium rounded and small angular flint
0.55 – 0.61m+	L1002	Silty clay natural. Pale orange brown silty clay with veins of blue grey clay and patches of pale blue grey clay.

<i>Sample Section 2</i>		<i>Fig. 3 DP 4</i>
<i>South facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 30.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	-	Kerb stones
0.07 – 0.30m	-	Concrete
0.30 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1
0.53 – 0.70m+	L1002	Silty clay natural. As above Sample Section 1

Description: Modern services were identified extending across the site. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Topsoil (L1000) was the uppermost layer over the eastern portion of the site consisting of a dark greyish brown organic clay silt with sparse medium rounded and small angular flint (0.33m thick). The western area of the site was occupied by a concrete car park which when removed was 0.30m thick. After the removal of both these deposits Subsoil L1001 was seen comprising a mid greyish orangey-brown clay silt with sparse medium rounded and small angular flint (0.20m thick). It directly overlay the silty clay natural.

9.2 The natural (L1002) was identified after the removal of L1001 as a pale orangey brown silty clay with veins of blue grey clay and patches of pale blue grey clay. It was seen at a depth of between 0.53m and 0.55m below the ground surface.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Despite the high potential for archaeological remains none were encountered during the monitoring. The construction of the modern school and associated services had a large impact on the site and may have removed archaeological features, if present.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

11.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Thurrock Museum. The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and other relevant reference documents. The full archive of finds and records will be made secure at all stages of the project, both on and off site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Bardon Contracts Ltd for commissioning/funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Mr Gus Vickery) and William Martin Property Consultants Limited for their assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
*Horndon on the Hill primary school.
Looking south-west*



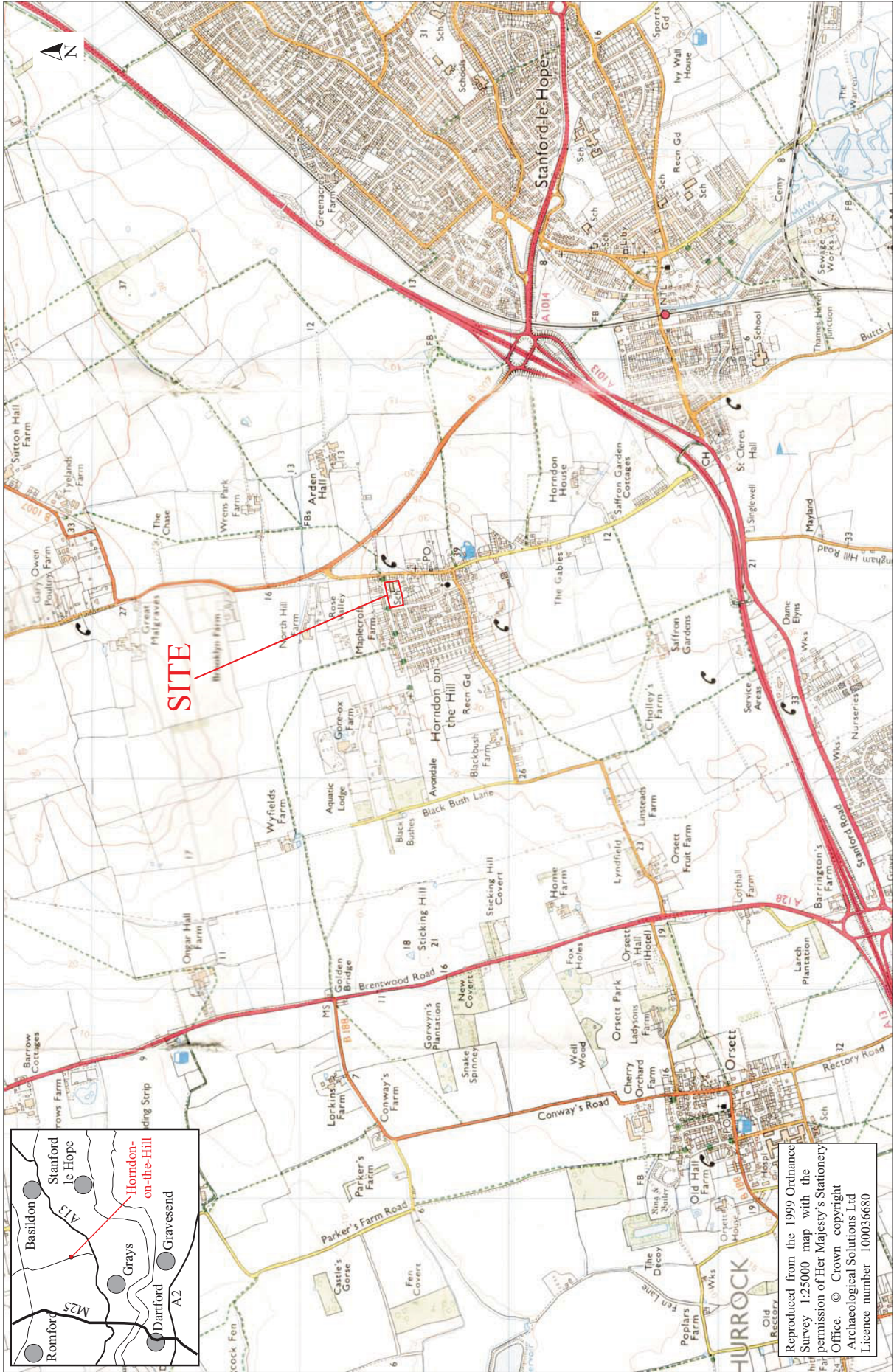
2
*General view of the site, working shot.
Looking south-west*



3
Sample section 1. Looking east



4
Sample section 2. Looking north

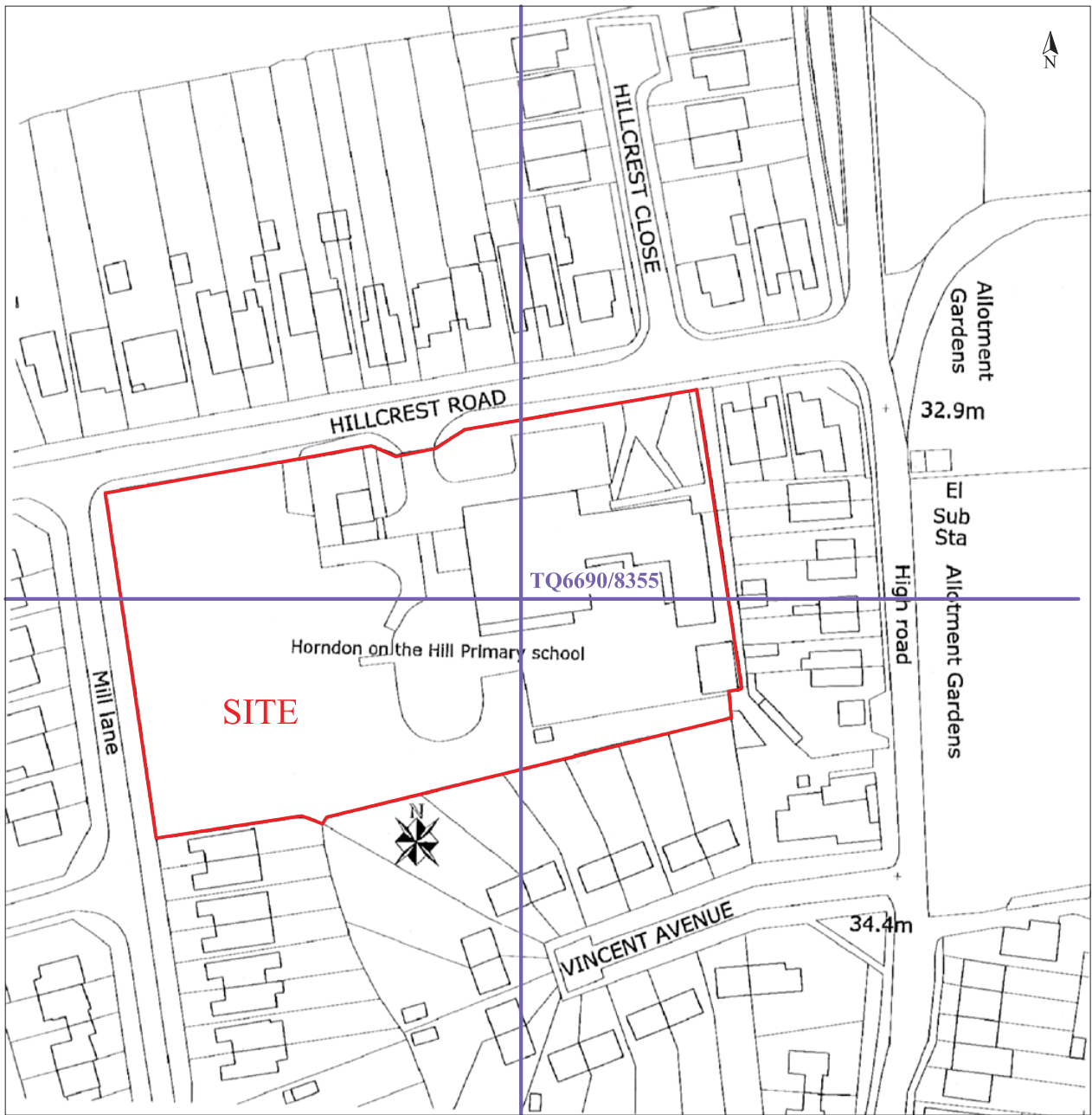


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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

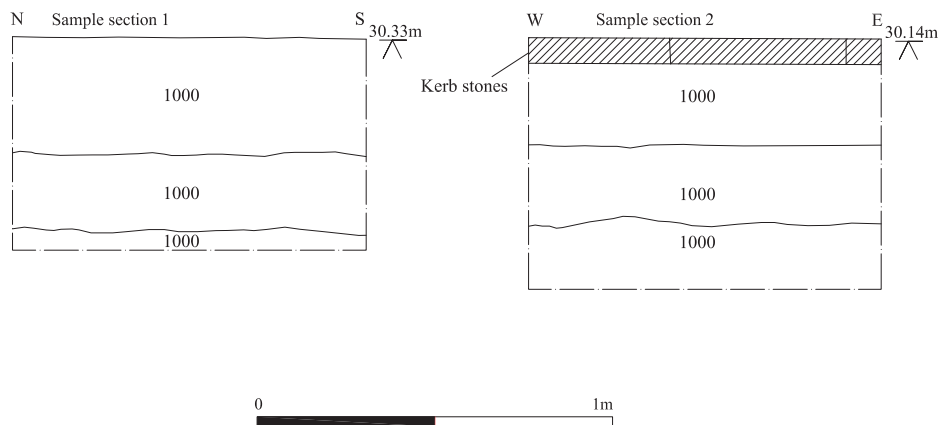
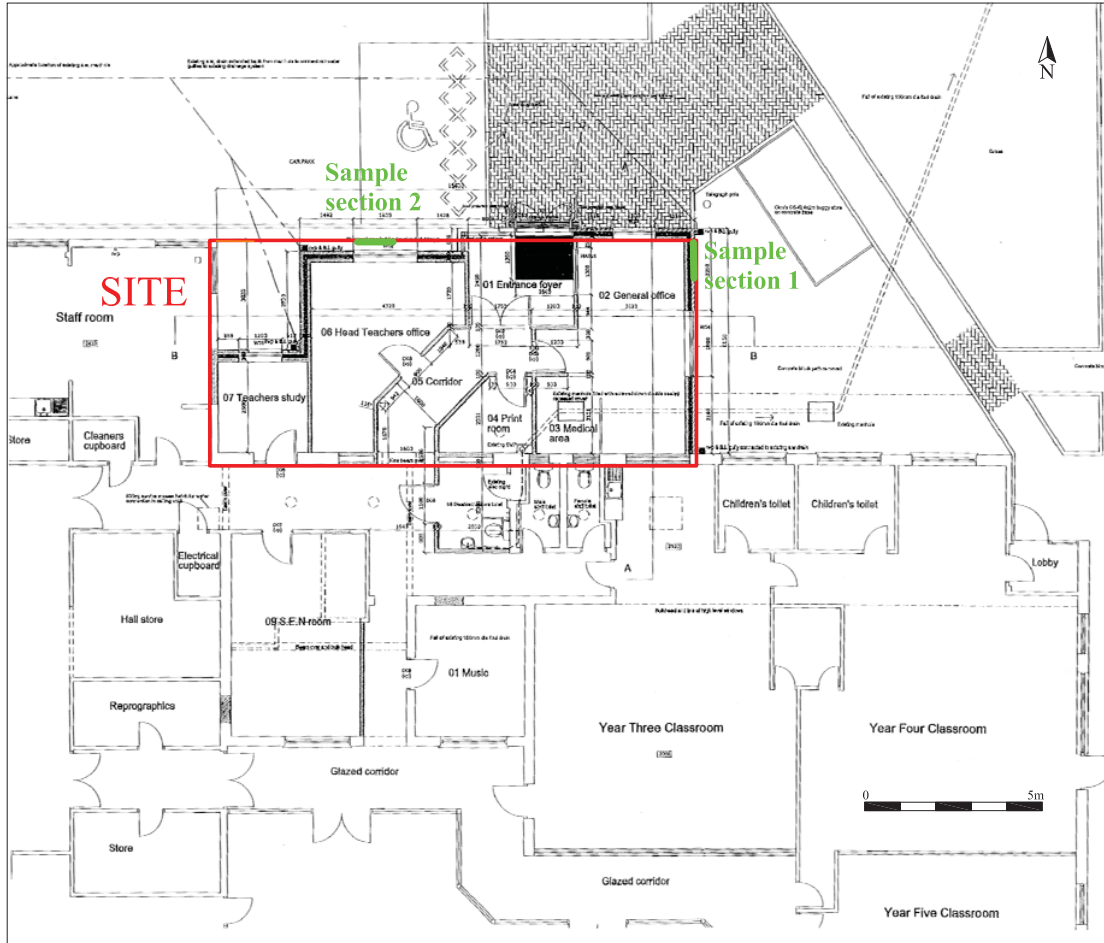
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Section location plan

Scale Plan 1:200, sections 1:20 at A4