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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,  
RICKMANSWORTH PARK, RICKMANSWORTH,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (Fieldwork & report) Kate Higgs BA (Research)	
NGR: TQ 05591 95624	Report No. 3566
District: Three Rivers	Site Code: AS 1314
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3157
Signed:	Date: June 2010

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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB  
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
Web: [www.archeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archeologicalsolutions.co.uk)  
Registered Number: 4702122

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## **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In May and June 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0594 9546). The monitoring was commissioned by the RMIG Endowment Trust, and was carried out during the groundworks for proposed extensions and alterations to Cadogan House and the construction of a new hall.</i>			
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<i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17 May &amp; 3, 8, 10 - 11 June 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P3157</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1314</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>School building and open area</i>		
Planned development	<i>Infill extension to existing building, new hall</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Three Rivers</i>	<i>Rickmansworth</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TQ 05591 95624</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 68m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>RMIG Endowment Trust</i>		
Full title	<i>Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
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# ROYAL MASONIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, RICKMANSWORTH PARK, RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### **SUMMARY**

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

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May and June 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 05591 95624; Figs 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by the RMIG Endowment Trust, and was carried out during the groundworks for proposed extensions and alterations to Cadogan House and the construction of a new hall. It was commissioned by Newland Construction Limited, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission and required by the local planning authority (Three Rivers Planning Ref. 08/1249/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken according to advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU, dated 30/09/2008) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008). The project conformed to the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *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).

1.3 The project objectives were:

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and 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;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of project results, if required;
- to secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of the project archive.

### *Planning policy context*

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

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 at the rear of Cadogan House, in the core of the school complex. The proposed development comprised the creation of an infill extension between the rear wings of Cadogan House, and a new build school hall building to the rear (north).

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site is situated in the valley of the River Colne and upon the north-western section of the river's floodplain (Fig. 1). The River Colne flows on an approximately east to west alignment almost 1km to the south-west of the site, whilst the Grand Union Canal also lies 900m from the site's southern boundary. The smaller River Chess, however, lies on a meandering north-

west to south-east alignment just beyond the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, reaching its confluence with the river Colne to the south-east of the site. The surrounding relief is generally very varied and sloping. The area slopes down towards the River Chess to the north and east, and towards the River Colne in the south-west, ranging from 52m AOD beside the River Chess to 85m beside the Chorleywood Road.

3.2 Geologically, the settlement of Rickmansworth is situated on an alluvial sequence comprising silty clays with peaty inclusions. The solid geology of the site and the surrounding area comprises Cretaceous Upper chalk, although gravel extraction has been a feature of the area, resulting in the creation of Batchworth Lake, 1km south of the site. The site is situated upon a drift geology of chalky and gravelly river alluvium and soils of the Frome Association. Frome association soils are described as shallow calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils over flint gravel affected by groundwater, which also include small areas of peat and are at risk of flooding.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site was subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment, carried out by AS for the client prior to the determination of the planning application for the proposed development (Doyle 2008).

4.2 In summary:

*The site has a general potential for prehistoric occupation of this part of the Colne valley, as shown by the presence of three Neolithic flints from its north-eastern section, and a Bronze Age hoard found within 120m of the site's south-western boundary. The school site is also thought to be traversed by a north to south aligned minor Roman road. The site comprised the post-medieval estate of Rickmansworth Park, with the mansion house located towards the centre of the site from 1741 until its demolition in 1928. The Royal Masonic School for Girls was established at the site from 1928 onwards and incorporates a Grade II listed chapel and a number of later 20<sup>th</sup> century developments.*

4.3 The regional research frameworks have been presented in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown & Glazebrook (2000). The principal potential is for remains of post-medieval activity associated with Rickmansworth Park, but it will also be important to identify any evidence of a medieval precursor, identify any evidence of Roman activity associated with the road of this date which is believed to cross the site, and/or to identify any further evidence of prehistoric activity within this part of the Colne valley.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The archaeological monitoring 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 elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated ground reduction for the new infill extension, and the ground reduction and foundations for the new hall. The site was visited on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs.3-4

6.1 The deposits encountered were recorded in sample sections tabulated below.

### Infill extension to Cadogan House

Ground reduction (viewed 17/05/2010)

<i>Sample section 1</i> 0.00 = 86.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1001	Made ground of recent date.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural gravel.

### Infill extension to Cadogan House

Further ground reduction (viewed 03/06/2010)

<i>Sample section 2:</i> 0.00 = 86.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Only present in the northern part of the area.
0.20-0.40m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.40m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

### New Hall Building

#### Site visit 08/06/2010

Ground reduction across the footprint and foundations in the western part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 3</i> 0.00 = 86.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20-0.42m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.42m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**Site visit 10/06/2010**

Foundations in the central part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 4</i>		
<i>0.00 = 86.45m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.20m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.20m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**Site visit 11/06/2010**

Foundations in the eastern part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 5</i>		
<i>0.00 = 86.48m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.20m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.20m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**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 monitoring and recording.

**8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Topsoil was present across the area of the new hall, and across a small part of the area of the infill extension to Cadogan House. It overlay shallow deposits of made ground associated with the previous construction of the school buildings on the site (average 0.20m thick). Natural gravels were present at shallow depth across the whole area.

**9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, especially for prehistoric activity associated with the Colne/Chess valleys, Roman remains and evidence of features associated with Rickmansworth Park and any medieval precursor, no archaeological features or finds were located within the areas of monitoring.

9.2 Shallow deposits of recent made ground directly overlay the natural gravels at shallow depth across the area for the new infill extension to Cadogan House and across the footprint of the new hall.



## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Three Rivers Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the RMIG Endowment Trust for funding the works, and their architects Gould and Company for their assistance (in particular Mr Tim Mole).

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Borrás Construction Limited (in particular Mr Colin Earl).

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone and Ms Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Doyle, K, 2008, *Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire; Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, AS Report 3063

## APPENDIX 1      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets/Record Sheets	4
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	2
Site photographs b/w	2
Site photographs colour slides	2
Digital Photographs	21

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Three Rivers
<b>Village/Town:</b> Rickmansworth	<b>Parish:</b> Rickmansworth
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	08/1249/FUL
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	RMIG Endowment Trust Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	New infill extension to Cadogan House, new school hall
<b>Present land use:</b>	School
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 300m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TQ 05591 95624
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1314
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	17 May, 3, 8, 10 – 11 June 2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Three Rivers
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In May and June 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0594 9546). The monitoring was commissioned by the RMIG Endowment Trust, and was carried out during the groundworks for proposed extensions and alterations to Cadogan House and the construction of a new hall.</i></p> <p><i>The prime potential was for remains of post-medieval activity associated with Rickmansworth Park, but it was also be important to identify any evidence of a medieval precursor, identify any evidence of Roman activity associated with the road of this date which is believed to cross the site, and/or to identify any further evidence of prehistoric activity within this part of the Colne valley.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2010



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## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site is situated in the valley of the River Colne and upon the north-western section of the river's floodplain (Fig. 1). The River Colne flows on an approximately east to west alignment almost 1km to the south-west of the site, whilst the Grand Union Canal also lies 900m from the site's southern boundary. The smaller River Chess, however, lies on a meandering north-

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4.2 In summary:

*The site has a general potential for prehistoric occupation of this part of the Colne valley, as shown by the presence of three Neolithic flints from its north-eastern section, and a Bronze Age hoard found within 120m of the site's south-western boundary. The school site is also thought to be traversed by a north to south aligned minor Roman road. The site comprised the post-medieval estate of Rickmansworth Park, with the mansion house located towards the centre of the site from 1741 until its demolition in 1928. The Royal Masonic School for Girls was established at the site from 1928 onwards and incorporates a Grade II listed chapel and a number of later 20<sup>th</sup> century developments.*

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## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs.3-4

6.1 The deposits encountered were recorded in sample sections tabulated below.

### Infill extension to Cadogan House

Ground reduction (viewed 17/05/2010)

<i>Sample section 1</i> 0.00 = 86.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1001	Made ground of recent date.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural gravel.

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Further ground reduction (viewed 03/06/2010)

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0.20-0.40m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.40m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

### New Hall Building

#### Site visit 08/06/2010

Ground reduction across the footprint and foundations in the western part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 3</i> 0.00 = 86.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20-0.42m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.42m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**Site visit 10/06/2010**

Foundations in the central part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 4</i>		
<i>0.00 = 86.45m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.20m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.20m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**Site visit 11/06/2010**

Foundations in the eastern part of the new hall building were monitored

<i>Sample section 5</i>		
<i>0.00 = 86.48m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.20m	L1001	Made ground. As above
0.20m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

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

**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 monitoring and recording.

**8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Topsoil was present across the area of the new hall, and across a small part of the area of the infill extension to Cadogan House. It overlay shallow deposits of made ground associated with the previous construction of the school buildings on the site (average 0.20m thick). Natural gravels were present at shallow depth across the whole area.

**9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, especially for prehistoric activity associated with the Colne/Chess valleys, Roman remains and evidence of features associated with Rickmansworth Park and any medieval precursor, no archaeological features or finds were located within the areas of monitoring.

9.2 Shallow deposits of recent made ground directly overlay the natural gravels at shallow depth across the area for the new infill extension to Cadogan House and across the footprint of the new hall.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Three Rivers Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the RMIG Endowment Trust for funding the works, and their architects Gould and Company for their assistance (in particular Mr Tim Mole).

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Borrás Construction Limited (in particular Mr Colin Earl).

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone and Ms Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU.

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## APPENDIX 1      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets/Record Sheets	4
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	2
Site photographs b/w	2
Site photographs colour slides	2
Digital Photographs	21

## APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth Park, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Three Rivers
<b>Village/Town:</b> Rickmansworth	<b>Parish:</b> Rickmansworth
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	08/1249/FUL
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	RMIG Endowment Trust Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	New infill extension to Cadogan House, new school hall
<b>Present land use:</b>	School
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 300m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TQ 05591 95624
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1314
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	17 May, 3, 8, 10 – 11 June 2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Three Rivers
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In May and June 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (NGR TQ 0594 9546). The monitoring was commissioned by the RMIG Endowment Trust, and was carried out during the groundworks for proposed extensions and alterations to Cadogan House and the construction of a new hall.</i></p> <p><i>The prime potential was for remains of post-medieval activity associated with Rickmansworth Park, but it was also be important to identify any evidence of a medieval precursor, identify any evidence of Roman activity associated with the road of this date which is believed to cross the site, and/or to identify any further evidence of prehistoric activity within this part of the Colne valley.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2010

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1  
General view of site, looking south*



*DP 2  
Sample Section 1 – east facing, looking west*



*DP 3  
General view of groundworks within footprint of proposed extension, looking south*



*DP 4  
Sample Section 3, looking west*



*DP 5  
View of site looking south*

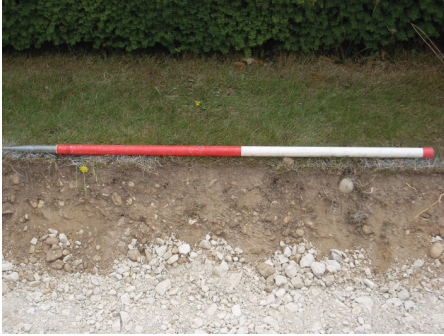


*DP 6  
Sample Section 4, looking south*



**PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**

*DP 7*



*Sample Section 3, facing SE.*

*DP 8*



*Sample Section 4, facing SE.*

*DP 9*

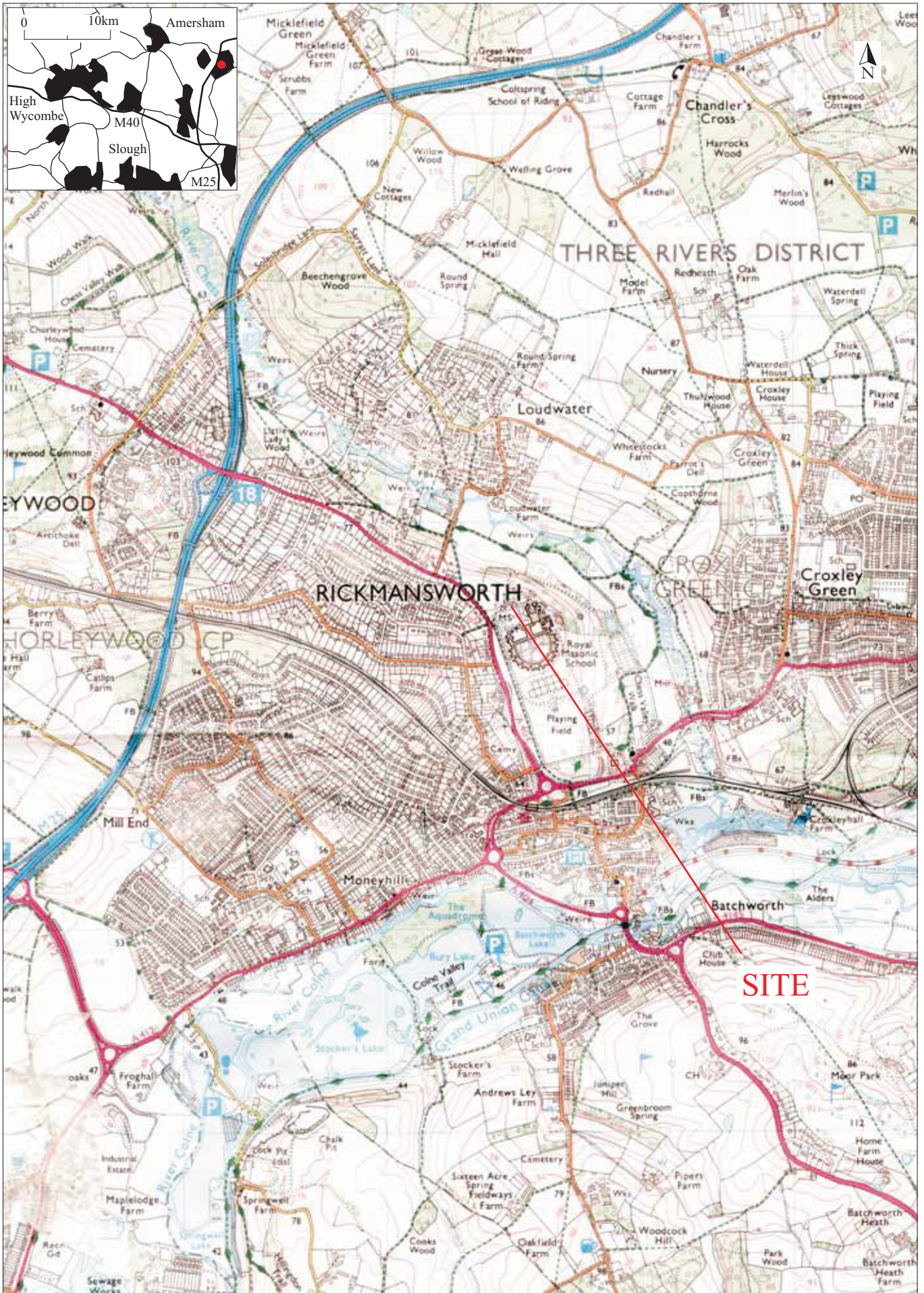


*South-western play area, facing W.*

*DP 10*



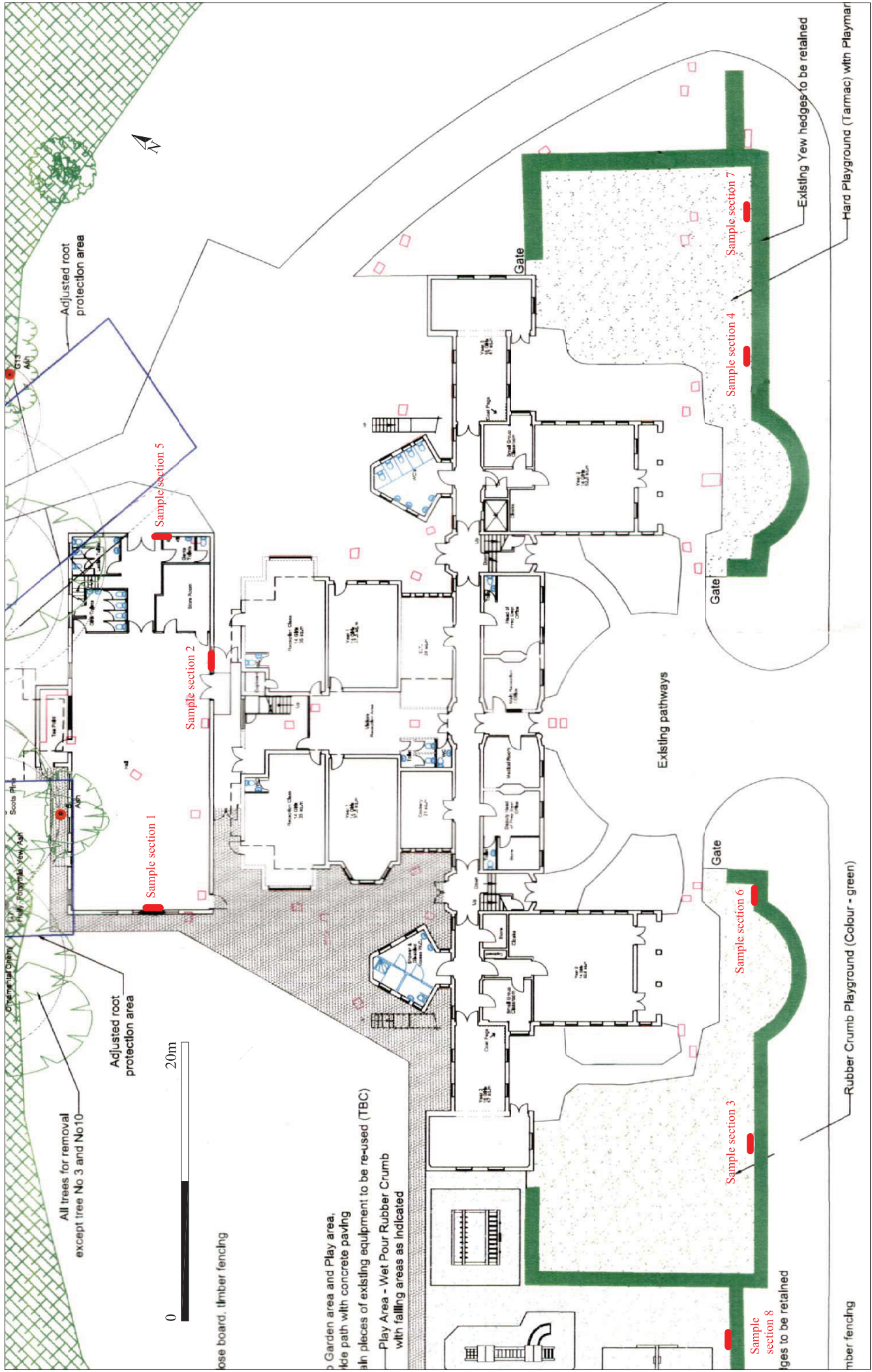
*South-eastern play area, facing W.*



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





All trees for removal  
except tree No 3 and No10

Adjusted root  
protection area



Close board, timber fencing

Garden area and Play area,  
to be paved with concrete paving  
Play Area - Wet Pour Rubber Crumb  
with falling areas as indicated

Existing pathways

Gate

Sample section 4

Sample section 7

Existing Yew hedges to be retained

Hard Playground (Tarmac) with Playmat

Gate

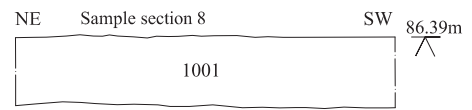
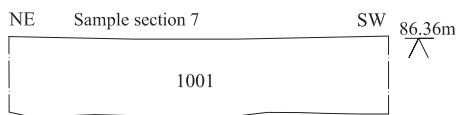
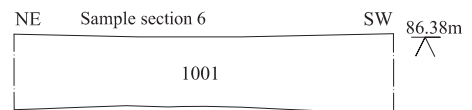
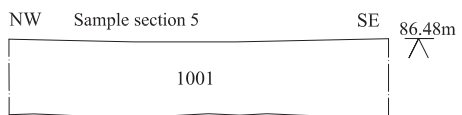
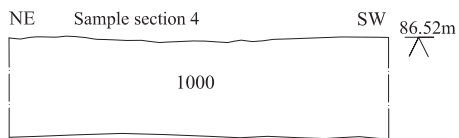
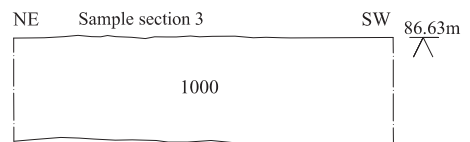
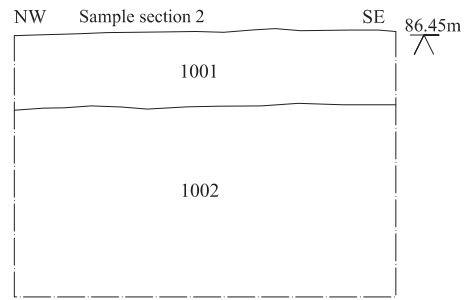
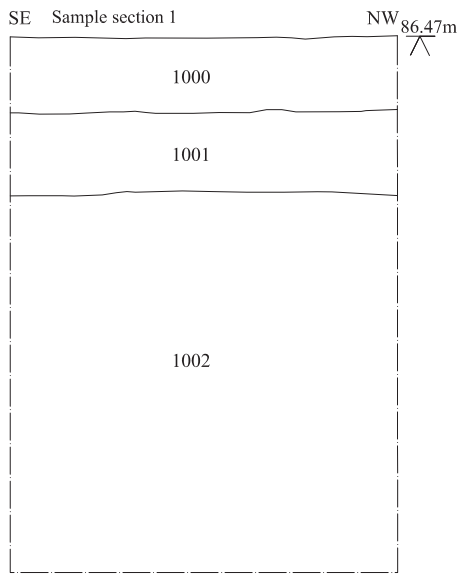
Sample section 6

Sample section 3

Sample section 8  
to be retained

Rubber Crumb Playground (Colour - green)

timber fencing



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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:20 at A4