

**3-13 SILVER STREET, ENFIELD,  
EN1 3EF**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TQ 32900 96610	Report No. 3658
District: London Borough of Enfield	Site Code: SVE 10
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4038
Signed:	Date: October 2010

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## **CONTENTS**

### ***OASIS SUMMARY SHEET***

#### ***SUMMARY***

- 1 INTRODUCTION***
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE***
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS***
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***
- 5 METHODOLOGY***
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS***
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING***
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL***
- 9 DISCUSSION***
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE***

#### ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

#### ***BIBLIOGRAPHY***

#### ***APPENDICES***

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (GLHER)***

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	3-13 Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3EF		
<p><i>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 3-13 Silver Street, Enfield, London (NGR TQ 32900 96610). The evaluation was funded by Elisabeth Homes UK Ltd and commissioned by Roy Welling Associates in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new part-4 and part-5 storey building containing commercial units and 14 dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within the historic core of the town, within Enfield Town Archaeological Priority Zone. It had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century basement and a wall.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4038	Site code	SVE 10
Type of project	An Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	Within Enfield Town Archaeological Priority Zone		
Current land use	Car park		
Planned development	Construction of a new mixed use building		
Main features (+dates)	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century building/basement		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Greater London	London Borough of Enfield	Enfield
HER/ SMR for area	GLHER		
Post code (if known)	EN1 3EF		
Area of site	c. 620m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TQ 32900 96610		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 32m		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	EH GLAAS		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Elisabeth Homes UK Ltd		
Full title	3-13 Silver Street, Enfield, London. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	3658		
Date (of report)	October 2010		

## **3-13 SILVER STREET, ENFIELD EN1 3EF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 3-13 Silver Street, Enfield, London (NGR TQ 32900 96610). The evaluation was funded by Elisabeth Homes UK Ltd and commissioned by Roy Welling Associates in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new part-4 and part-5 storey building containing commercial units and 14 dwellings.*

*The site is located within the historic core of the town, within Enfield Town Archaeological Priority Zone. It had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the evaluation revealed remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century basement and a wall.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Nos. 3-13 Silver Street, Enfield, London (NGR TQ 32900 96610; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was funded by Elisabeth Homes UK Ltd and commissioned by Roy Welling Associates in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new part-4 and part-5 storey building containing commercial units and 14 dwellings (London Borough of Enfield Planning Ref. TP/08/1733).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 19/08/2010) and approved by EH GLAAS. The project adhered to EH GLAAS *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *AGP No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London* and *No 5: Evaluations*. The project also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 2001).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any remains relating to the prehistoric and medieval occupation. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

### *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 located within the historic core of Enfield, close to the junction of Church Street/South Street and London Road/Silver Street (Fig. 1). It faces west on to Silver Street and east on to local road which leads from St Andrews Road to Churchbury Lane and provides rear access to the properties fronting Silver Street. The site comprises rectangular plot not occupied by any standing structures and until recently was used as a car park.

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

3.1 Enfield lies on a gradual slope down to the River Lea which flows c.5km to the east of the site. The latter comprises relatively flat land at approximately 32m AOD. The New River, a man-made construction of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, flows to the immediate east of the site parallel to Silver Street. Several other tributaries of the river Lea flow through the parish.

3.2 The solid geology of the environs is clay of Eocene Thames Group overlay by brickearth of Enfield Silt Formation, close to the edge of an outcrop of Taplow Gravels c. 40m to the west (British Geological Survey 1978). The site lies within urbanised area and the soil in the area remain unsurveyed; however, the soils to the north are of the Windsor association, described as

clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils over clay (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 A Palaeolithic flake (GLHER 80585) and handaxe (GLHER 380575) have been recorded nearby, and it is reported that a prehistoric arrowhead was found in 1836 (GLHER 82363). Further afield, an oval camp in Hadley Wood is believed to represent prehistoric settlement.

4.2 Excavations in 2005 off London Road, c. 100m south of the site, found multi-period remains including ditches containing lithic implements and charred grain (GLHER 98132). These finds were dated to the Mesolithic, or perhaps the early Neolithic era. The presence of cut ditches as well as charred grain may suggest the area was not simply a temporary camp or flint 'workshop'.

### *Romano-British*

4.3 No Roman remains are recorded from the immediate vicinity with the exception of residual sherds of Roman pottery within medieval features found during excavations in 2005 off London Road (Section 4.2). Roman settlement remains were located much further south and south east, although Ermine Street to the east remains the main north-south route through the parish (Baker & Pugh 1976).

4.4 A Roman stone coffin was allegedly found but broken soon after its discovery at No.18, Wellington Road, c. 750m south-east of the site (GLHER 2817). Evidence of substantial Roman occupation was found at Lincoln Road to the north-east of the site during excavations in the 1970s, with material dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. More recently, further evidence of Roman activity was recorded during the 1990s, particularly in the Leighton Road area c. 1.3km the south-east of the site.

### *Medieval*

4.5 Enfield is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Enfelde*, held by Geoffrey de Mandeville. The place name derives from the word clearing or *feld*, most of the parish at this time having been covered in woodland. Settlement was concentrated along the main north-south routes through the parish; Ermine Street to the east and the slightly less important route further to the west that included Silver Street and Baker Street (Baker & Pugh 1976).

4.6 Medieval activity around the site is represented by the medieval church and market to the west (GLHER 222090, 81538, 80700). Medieval activity was also recorded during the 2005 evaluation off London Road, some 100m from the site. A market and fairs were granted in 1303 and houses overlooked

the green to the south of the church by 1364. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries the area was settled by rich maltmen and by 1632 a market-place had been established. From the 16<sup>th</sup> century families were attracted to Enfield by its accessibility to London and large houses were built, although many of the large 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century houses have since been demolished. It was a fashionable place of residence into the 18<sup>th</sup> century and noted for the handsome houses in Enfield Town and the roads to the north (Baker & Pugh 1976). This is reflected in the many listed buildings around the site along Silver Street, Chase Side and Gentleman's Row (GLHER).

#### *Post-medieval & modern*

4.7 Enfield saw much suburban development after the introduction of the railway in 1840. A station was opened at Enfield Town in 1849, prompting the development of Enfield New Town (Raleigh Road, Essex Road, Sydney Road and Cecil Road). Further development followed around Lancaster Road to the north in the 1870s, Windmill Hill to the west in the 1870's-80s, and on the Willow Estate to the east in the 1930s (Area History 7, 1989). Enfield joined Edmonton in 1965 to form the London Borough of Enfield (Baker & Pugh 1976).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The location of Trench 1 was modified to avoid a modern drainage channel running across the site. Trench 2 was located close to the street frontage, as advised by EH GLAAS.

5.2 Tarmac and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. 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 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4): NE end, SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 32.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Tarmac. Surface of the site (car park).
0.12 – 0.36m	L1001	Made ground. Mid grey, compact, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.36 – 1.10m	L1002	Made ground. Light to mid brown, friable, clayey silt with gravel and occasional CBM fragments.
1.10m +	L1003	Natural reddish dark yellow, loose, sandy gravel.



<i>Sample section 2 (DP 5): SW end, SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 32.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Tarmac. As above.
0.12 – 0.28m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.28 – 1.12m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
1.12m +	L1003	Natural gravel. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological remains or finds were revealed. Trench 1 contained a modern drainage inspection chamber with service pipes.

### **Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 6-7)**

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 8): N end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 32.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.12 – 0.27m	L1004	Layer of mixed, compact CBM rubble.
0.27 – 0.56m	L1005	Layer of loose CBM rubble.
0.56 – 0.83m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.83m +	L1003	Natural gravel. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 9): S end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 32.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.14 – 0.34m	L1004	CBM rubble. As above.
0.34 – 0.96m	L1002	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.96m +	L1003	Natural gravel. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* The remains of what were probably a basement and a wall were present within the trench.

M1008 was a wall (0.48 x 0.60m) present in the southern end of the trench (DP 8). It was heavily truncated and was recorded in the eastern section of the trench. The wall was constructed of red and some yellow bricks (0.225 x 0.105 x 0.065m) bonded with creamy mortar. The wall was likely of 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

M1009 (5.50 x 1.25 x 0.90m+) was likely a basement wall associated with a building located on the street frontage (DP 7). The basement was rectangular in plan and was roughly parallel to Silver Street. M1009 was constructed of just red bricks (0.225 x 0.105 x 0.063m) bonded with creamy, slightly yellowish mortar and covered with white paint. The basement was backfilled with L1010, a fairly recent, loose, deposit of CBM rubble and debris. The basement may have been of late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century date.



## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern Tarmac L1000, a dark, blackish grey, compact deposit (0.12 – 0.16m thick). It overlay layers containing large amounts of compact CBM rubble (L1001 and L1004), probably levelling layers. The most substantial deposit encountered during the evaluation was L1002, a thick (0.50 – 0.85m) layer of light to mid brown, friable, clayey silt with gravel and occasional CBM fragments.

8.2 The natural geology was present at 0.80 – 1.15m below the existing ground level and comprised a reddish dark yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Mesolithic/Neolithic remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, and medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the historic core of Enfield within which the site is located were anticipated.

9.2 In the event the only archaeological features revealed were relatively late building remains of 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. The site was subject to a degree of modern truncation including numerous drains, sewerage and power lines, however earlier deposits were intact indicating surprisingly limited previous development of the site.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 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 Mr Mareos Miltiadous of Elisabeth Homes UK Ltd for funding the project. AS would like to thank Mr Roy Welling of Roy Welling Associates for commissioning the project. AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Kim Stabler of English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service.

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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (GLHER)

HER Number	National Grid Reference (TQ)	Description
<b>Prehistoric 500,000 BC – 43 AD</b>		
80585	3270 9690	Palaeolithic flake recorded at Nags Head.
82363	3280 9650	Prehistoric arrowhead reported in 1836.
380575	3270 9690	Palaeolithic handaxe from Griffith's pit.
98132	3292 9650	Mesolithic, or early Neolithic ditches containing lithic implements and charred grain
<b>Medieval 1067 – 1540 AD</b>		
222090	3278 9666	St Andrew's Church, Church Walk. Listed building.
81538	3278 9666	St Andrew's Church, Church Walk. Priest recorded in 1086 and church certainly from 12C.
82357	3280 9650	Five short-cross pennies of Henry II & III & fragments of earthenware vessel exhibited in 1864.
81486	3270 9653	Palace Mews. Excavation in 1977 found ditches, pits, a possible posthole and some South Herts pottery.
80696	3270 9650	Palace Gardens. Site of medieval manor house. Wall also observed in watching brief-1977.
80700	3270 9650	Site of medieval market.
80665	3260 9650	Medieval settlement around Church Street. Recorded in 1086 as Enefelde.
81485	3270 9650	Medieval occupation evidence excavated in 1977. 12-13C pottery, gravel floor & coin of Henry II.
81488	3272 9643	Agricultural ditches and rubbish pits containing pottery excavated in 1979, Cecil Stlaings Yard.
<b>Post-medieval 1540 – 1900 AD</b>		
222090	3281 9663- 3281 9672	Wall at St Andrew's church, Church Walk.
225004	3246 9700	Listed footbridge at Parsonage Gardens.
225005	3242 9693	Listed footbridge at River View.
225006	3241 9690	Listed footbridge at River View.
225007	3240 9678	Listed footbridge at River View.
223330	3286 9670	36 Silver St. Listed building dated c.1600, extended 18-19C. Also listed wall.
223336	3283 9704	Silver St. Listed building dated c.1690. Extended 19C & now part of Enfield Grammar School.
82156	3275 9650	Sydney Rd. Wall observed in service trench, 1980.
222065	3238 9710	79 Chase Side. Listed building.

222128	3247 9681	21 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222069	3236 9714	89 Chase Side. Listed building.
223363	3289 9674- 3296 9675	Wall in Churchbury Lane.
223339	3279 9657	22 The Town. Listed Vestry building dated 1829 & railings.
223340	3283 9654	3 & 4 The Town. Listed building.
223332	3286 9676	60 Silver St. Listed building.
223333	3285 9679	68 Silver St. Listed building.
223334	3285 9682	84 Silver St. Listed outbuilding incorporating 17C front wall.
223335	3285 9684	90 Silver St. Listed building.
223331	3285 9675	58 Silver St. Listed building.
223325	3243 9692	River View. Listed building.
223326	3243 9692	River View. Listed Public House.
222071	3236 9718	97 Chase Side. Listed building.
222133	3241 9683	16 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222134	3243 9687	32 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222129	3246 9682	23 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222130	3245 9683	25 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222131	3246 9684- 3246 9685	27-33 Gentleman's Row. Listed terraced houses.
222132	3244 9691	55 Gentleman's Row. Listed building, c.1754, & wall.
222124	3248 9676	Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222125	3247 9677	13 & 15 Gentleman's Row. Listed building & railings.
222126	3247 9678	17 Gentleman's Row. Listed 16C timber-framed Hall house with 17 & 18C additions. Re-fronted in brick.
222127	3247 9680	19 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222121	3249 9670	5 Gentleman's Row. Listed building.
222122	3248 9674	7 & 9 Gentleman's Row. Listed building, railings & gate.
222123	3248 9675	11 Gentleman's Row. Listed building & railings.
222119	3247 9665	Gentleman's Row. Listed wall.
222120	3249 9666	1 Gentleman's Row. Listed building & wall.
222092	3274 9669	1 Church Walk. Listed building.
222091	3274 9667	Church Walk. Enfield Grammar School, founded 1548, re-endowed 1621.
222068	3237 9713	87 Chase Side. Listed building.
222070	3236 9717	93 & 95 Chase Side. Listed building.
222064	3239 9709	77 Chase Side. Listed building.
222066	3238 9711	81 & 83 Chase Side. Listed building.
222067	3238 9712	85 Chase Side. Listed building.

222131	3246 9684	27 Gentleman's Row. Listed terrace house.
80696	3270 9650	Palace Gardens. Walls and floor of garden building.
222081	3280 9675	Church Lane. Listed wall.
222072	3235 9723	103 Chase Side. Listed building.83617
83617	3290 9650	Palace Gardens. Wall seen in 1980 watching brief.
84723	3290 9680	Silver St. Town Hall.
LO76775	3315 9690	10-14 Village Rd. Trial trench revealed no features or finds, 2001.
222100	3260 9657	Little Park Gardens. Listed telephone box.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. 3-13 Silver Street, Enfield. View NE.



DP 2. Trench 1. View SSW.



DP 3. Trench 1. View SW.



DP 4. Trench 1, NE end. Sample section. View NW.



DP 5. Trench 1, SW end. Sample section. View NW.



DP 6. Trench 2. View SSW.





DP 7. Trench 2. View S.

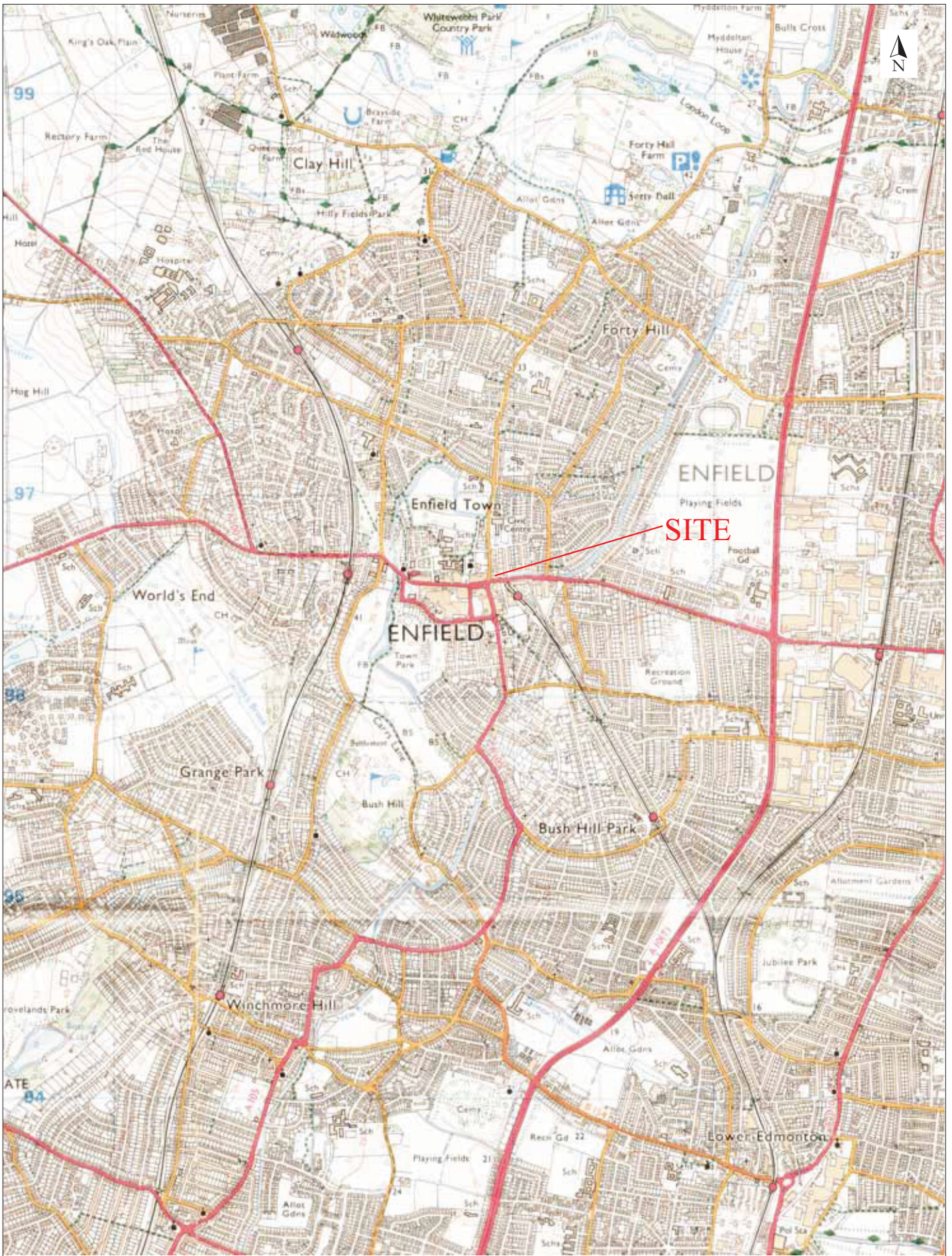


DP 8. Trench 2, N end. Sample section.  
View E.



DP 9. Trench 2, S end. Sample section.  
View E.

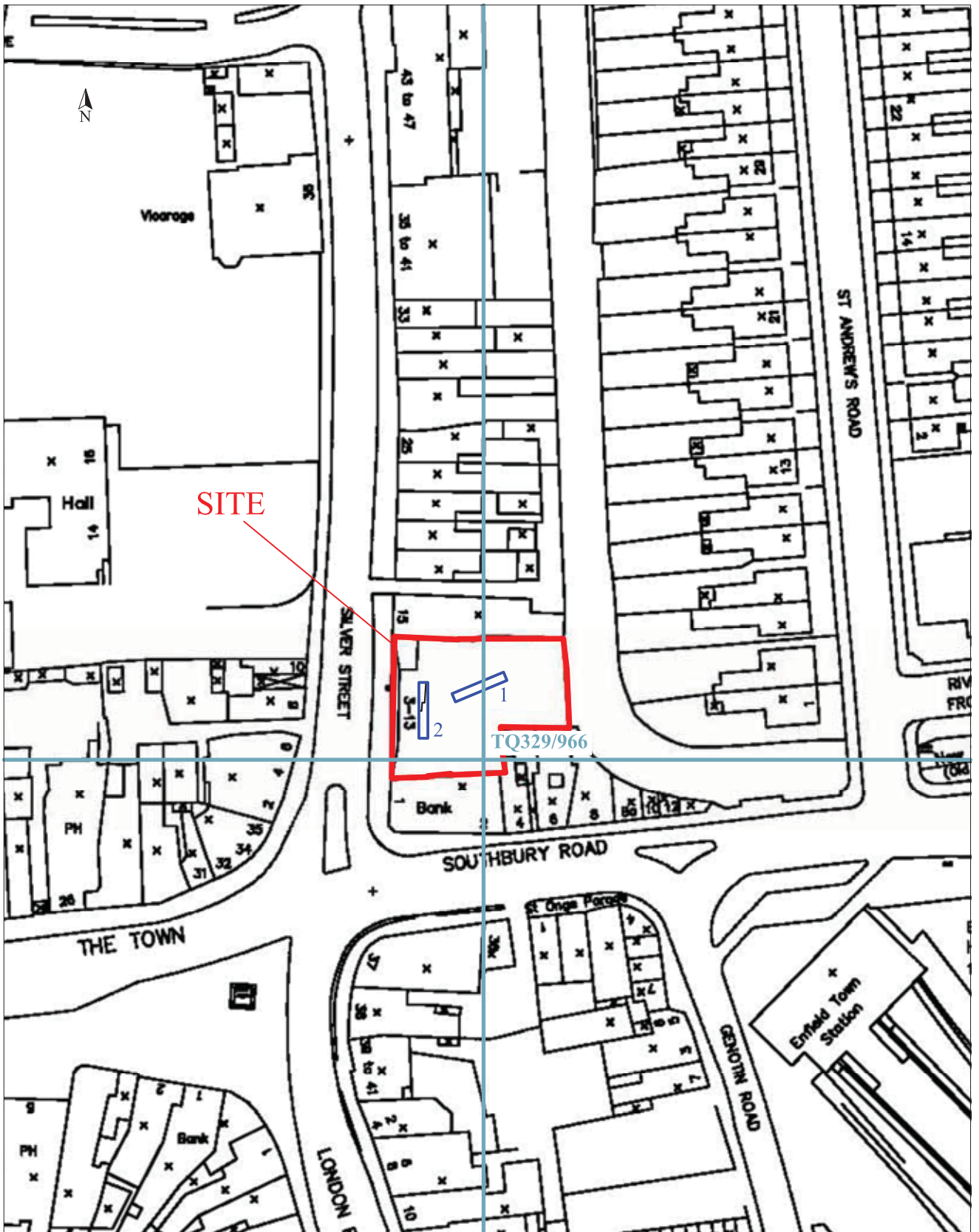




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
Scale 1:25,000 at A4

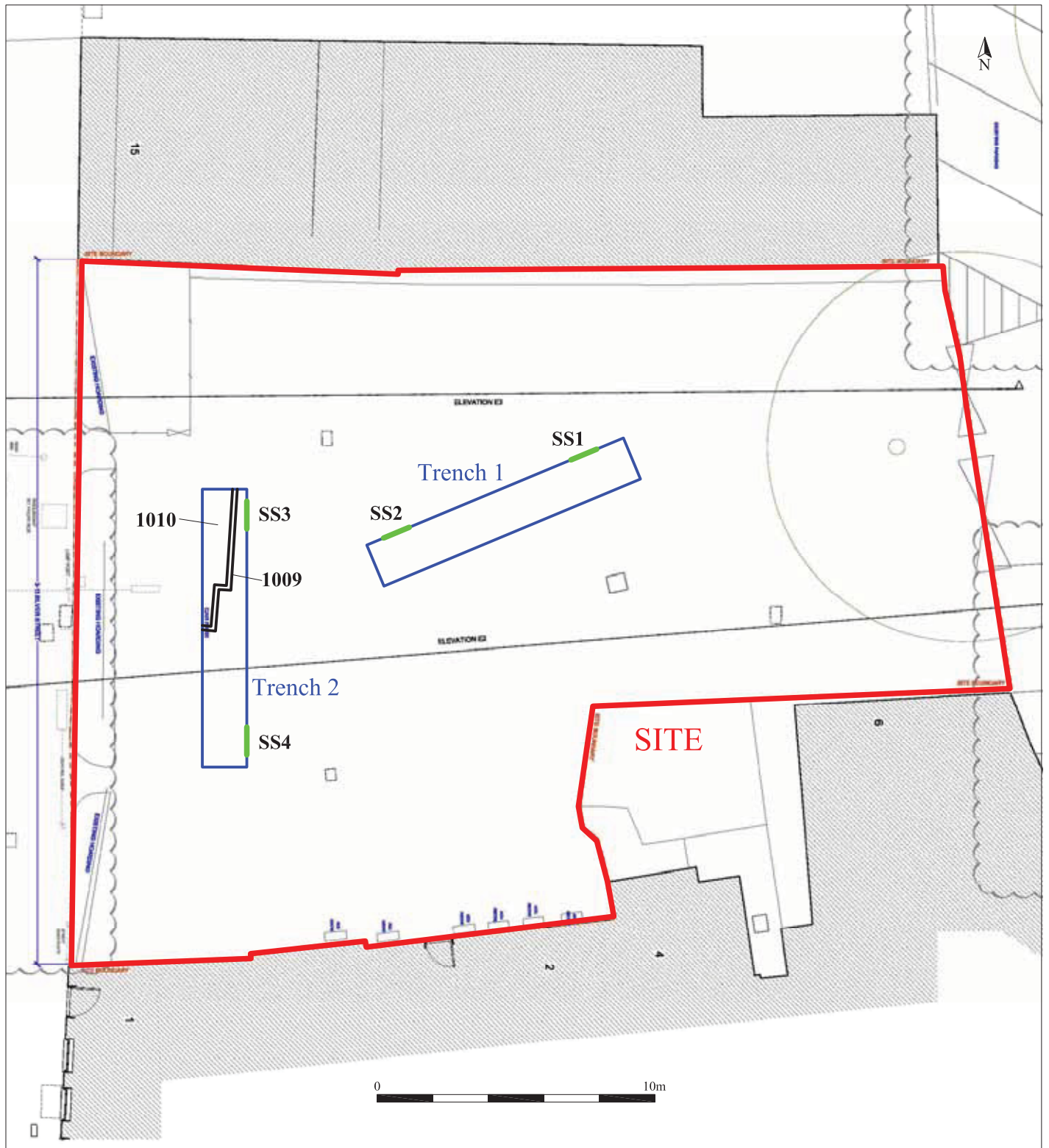




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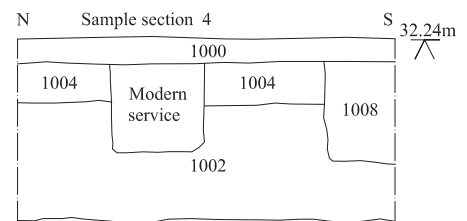
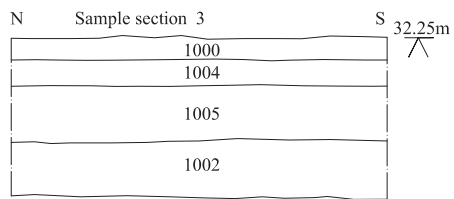
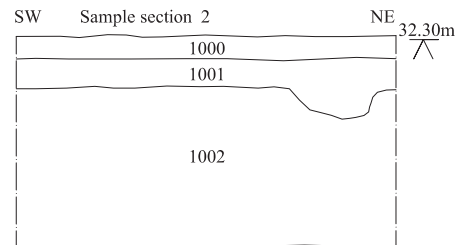
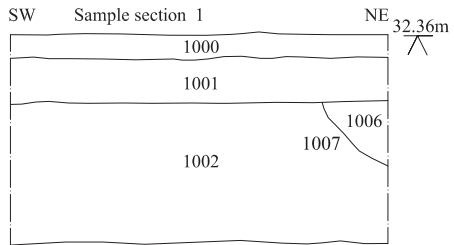
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**

Scale 1:200 at A4



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