

**LAND REAR OF 34 DEPTFORD HIGH STREET,
DEPTFORD, LONDON SE8**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION AND RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report)	
NGR: TQ 37218 77058	Report No. 3698
Borough: Lewisham	Site Code: DPT 10
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4147
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land Rear of 34 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London SE8</i>		
<p><i>In November 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological observation and recording at land rear of 34 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London SE8 (NGR TQ 37218 77058). The observation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new three-storey building to provide a live/work studio at ground floor level and a maisonette above.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located to the rear of property fronting Deptford High Street, London SE8 4RU. It lies within Lewisham Council's Conservation Area No.11: Deptford High Street and within Area of Archaeological Priority (APA) No. 10: Deptford - the Broadway and Tanners Hill. The latter records the continuous settlement in the area from the Roman period onwards and with some evidence of previous occupation. Therefore, the site had a potential for Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the observation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>11th and 17th November 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4147</i>	Site code	<i>DPT 10</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Lewisham Council's Conservation Area No. 11 Within Area of Archaeological Priority (APA) No. 10</i>		
Current land use	<i>Rear yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>New residential dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Greater London</i>	<i>London Borough of Lewisham</i>	<i>Deptford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>GLSMR</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SE8 4RU</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 60m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 37218 77058</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>5.80/6.00m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from EH GLAAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Minh Dao</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Rear of 34 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London SE8. Archaeological Observation and Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3698</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2010</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation and recording at land rear of 34 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London SE8 (NGR TQ 37218 77058). The observation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new three-storey building to provide a live/work studio at ground floor and a maisonette above.

The site is located to the rear of property fronting Deptford High Street, London SE8 4RU. It lies within Lewisham Council's Conservation Area No.11: Deptford High Street and within Area of Archaeological Priority (APA) No. 10: Deptford - the Broadway and Tanners Hill. The latter records the continuous settlement in the area from the Roman period onwards and with some evidence of previous occupation. Therefore, the site had a potential for Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological observation and recording at land rear of 34 Deptford High Street, Deptford, London SE8 (NGR TQ 37218 77058; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme was commissioned Alexander Sedgley Architects on behalf of Mr Minh Dao in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new three-storey building to provide a live/work studio at ground floor and a maisonette above (London Borough of Lewisham Planning Ref. DE/156/34/TP).

1.2 The observation was undertaken in accordance to an advice from English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (EH GLAAS), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 27/10/2010), and approved by EH GLAAS. The project conformed to the EH (London Region) *Archaeological Guidance Papers* (AGPs, revised 1998), in particular *Archaeological Guidance Paper No 3; Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork in London*. It also followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008).

1.3 The project aimed to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains on the site and, as far it was reasonably possible, to identify the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated on the west side of Reginald Square, Deptford, c.100m north of A2 New Cross Road and Deptford Broadway (Fig. 1). It comprises a small rectangular plot (c. 80m²) located to the rear of No 34 building fronting Deptford High Street to the west. The building is being used as a dwelling and business premises.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies just below the 6m contour on relatively flat land c. 200m to the west of the River Ravensbourne, a tributary to the Thames, which lies c.1km to the north.

3.2 The solid geology of the environs is terrace gravel of the Thames and the River Ravensbourne. The site is located on the transition between solid geology of Paleocene Lambeth Group (sands and gravels) and Thanetian Thanet Sand Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). The soils on the site remain unsurveyed as it is located within highly urbanised area (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Local evidence for human activity in the prehistoric period includes a single Upper Palaeolithic / Mesolithic flake (GLSMR 070028) and 4 Bronze Age axes (GLSMR 070029; 070031), found at Thurstan Road. Neolithic flint flakes and an Iron Age pit containing saddle quern (GLSMR071483) were found at the Dover Castle Public House c. 80m to the south. A palaeochannel of the River Ravensbourne (GLSMR 076551), Neolithic/Bronze Age flint (GLSMR 074216) and a possible prehistoric burnt mound (GLSMR 076308) were found c. 400m to the south-east of the site. Also prehistoric flint (GLSMR 073849) was found c. 400m north-east of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 The main Roman road leading from Dover to London, Watling Street is believed to have crossed the River Ravensbourne at Deptford and then followed modern Deptford Broadway and Deptford High Street to the immediate west of the site (Margary 1973). The excavations at the Dover Castle site, c. 80m to the south of the site, revealed a Roman ditch (GLSMR 059319). At the junction of Deptford Broadway/New Cross and Deptford High Street, c. 100m to the south of the 36 Reginald Square, remains of Roman building comprising brick foundations and tessellated pavement were found in 1886. A probable Roman stone coffin (GLSMR 069636) was found in Vanguard Street in 1868, c. 260m to the south and is now kept in St. Paul's Church at Deptford High. The settlement on Deptford Broadway is likely to be associated with the course of Watling Street (Gaimster 2005).

Anglo-Saxon

4.3 The place name Deptford probably derives from *deep ford*, a name of settlement presumably located around the crossing point on the River Ravensbourne (GLSMR 071581). The Domesday Book describes Deptford as the manor of Grenviz held by Gilbert de Magminot, bishop of Lisieux (Williams 2003). It is thought that Gilbert has built a castle on his land at Deptford which location remains unknown; however, it may have been situated on the Thames bank further to the west, near Sayes Court (Gaimster 2005). Before the Conquest two manors were located in Grenviz. It is suggested that one of them was located around Deptford Broadway and the other further north, around St. Nicholas Church, c. 650m to the north of the site.

4.4 The location of the early medieval settlement near Deptford Broadway has been confirmed in 1992, when two Anglo-Saxon inhumation burials were found at the site of the Dover Castle public house, only 80m to the south of the site. The graves have been dated to 7th – 8th century and were similar to those found in East Kent (Gaimster 2005). The burials contained several grave goods including a gilt-bronze pendant cast with animal-style interlace and set with small garnet on gold foil (Burial 137). The graves may form a part of cemetery extending towards the north.

Medieval

4.5 During the medieval period two distinct settlements have existed in the area, located at Deptford Broadway and Deptford Strand, a land adjacent to St. Nicholas Church in the northern part of Deptford (Hind 2006). The latter became increasingly prominent since Royal Naval Dockyard was founded by Henry VIII in 1513. The area between two settlements remained undeveloped until the late 17th century.

4.6 Excavations at the Dover Castle site produced a large quantity of 11th – 15th century pottery (Gaimster 2005). The site of medieval tidal mill has been identified on Deptford Church Street, c. 200m north-east of the site (GLSMR 070074). Some medieval materials have also been found on the site of former Deptford kilns, c. 450m to the north-east.

Post-medieval and modern

4.7 A map from 1623 shows Deptford High Street, formerly called Butt Lane, with just one building on it, being a route through open fields towards Upper Deptford. By 1686, however, Deptford had ceased to be two separate settlements, and was depicted as a single town (Guillery & Herman 1998).

4.8 By 1700, Deptford was a large town with a population of between 10,000 and 12,000 and had two parishes (St Nicholas and St Paul). The church of St Paul lies to the rear of the High Street (GLSMR 211564), along with the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption of 1844 which probably served the large Irish community who were employed in Deptford (Guillery & Herman 1998; Weinreb & Hibbert 1983). The Broadway had developed into a significant shopping area by the end of 19th century. The houses in and around Deptford High Street were small and populated by artisans and labourers. By the late 19th century Deptford had been incorporated into London suburbs. The terraced buildings at Reginald Square have been mostly removed and replaced during the 20th century.

4.9 The archaeological investigation on the adjacent site at 36 Deptford High Street, carried out by AS in April 2010, did not reveal any archaeological evidence except modern truncation related to the development of neighbouring properties (Pozorski 2010).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological work comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for the new building (Fig. 3).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The site was commonly overlain by the concrete surface of a yard (L1000; 0.10 – 0.40m thick) removed prior to the development. It overlay layers of made ground containing modern CBM fragments. The natural gravel, L1005, was present at c. 1.50m below the existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, loose, gravel with sand.

<i>E end of S foundation trench. Sample section, facing W (Fig. 4; DP 4)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Concrete surface of the yard.
0.10 – 0.58m	L1001	Backfill of foundation trench. Dark greyish brown, loose, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments and modern debris.
0.58 – 1.30m	L1003	Made ground. Dark grey, loose, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
1.30 – 1.55m	L1004	Made ground. Brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with gravel.
1.55m+	L1005	Natural dark yellow, loose, gravel with sand

<i>E foundation trench. Sample section, facing E (Fig. 4; DP 6)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1006	Made ground. Mid grey, loose, sandy silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.10 – 0.24m	L1007	Compact layer of CBM and concrete rubble.
0.24 – 1.05m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
1.05 – 1.50m	L1004	Made ground. As above.
1.50m+	L1005	Natural gravel. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present. F1002 was a foundation trench which contained frequent CBM fragments and modern debris.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, for example, within the Dover Castle Public House site which included Anglo-Saxon burials.

8.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. The site was likely subject to previous, modern truncation related to the development of neighbouring properties, in particular those to the south of the site. Deposit of made ground L1003, although earlier than the building, contained modern CBM fragments and was most likely also related to the modern construction activity in the area. No residual finds were recovered.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at London Archaeological Archives and Resource Centre (LAARC). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Minh Dao for funding the project and the architects, Alexander Sedgley for their assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the main contractor, Lika Interiors.

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

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Rear of 34 Deptford High Street, view from Reginald Square. View SW.



DP 2. The site, View WSW.



DP 3. S foundation trench. View ESE.



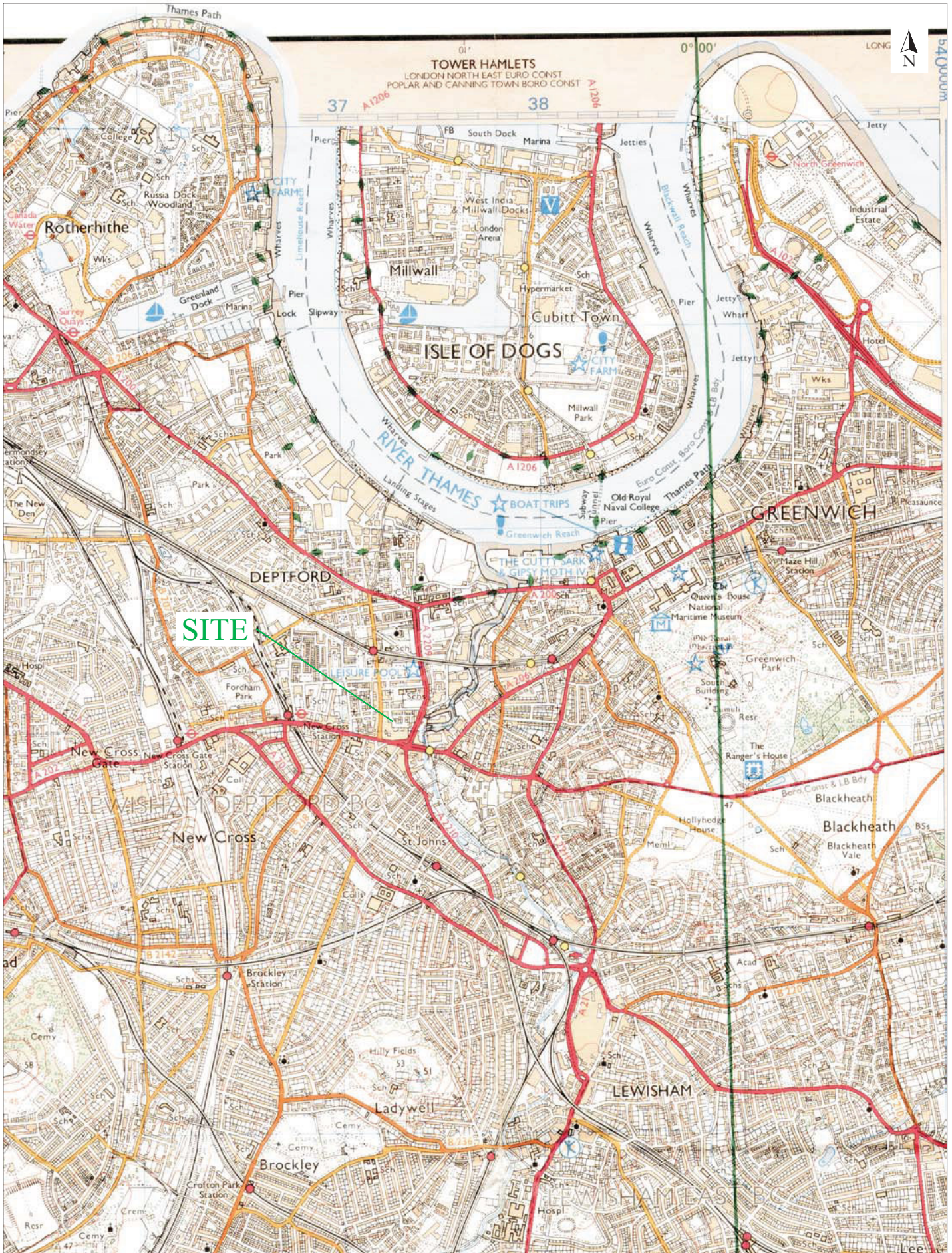
DP 4. S foundation trench, E end. View E.



DP 5. E foundation trench. View SE.

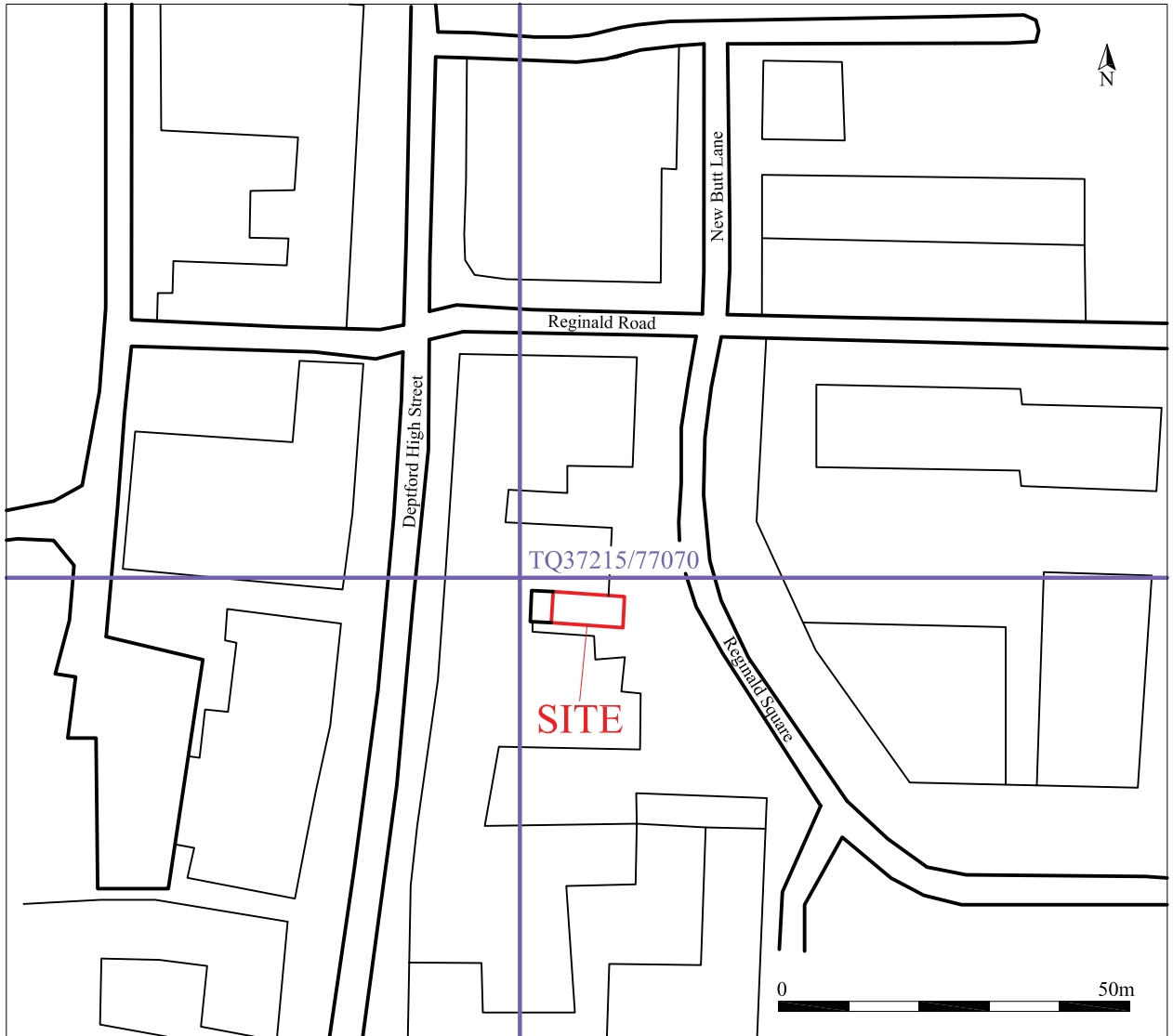


DP 6. E foundation trench. Sample section. View W.

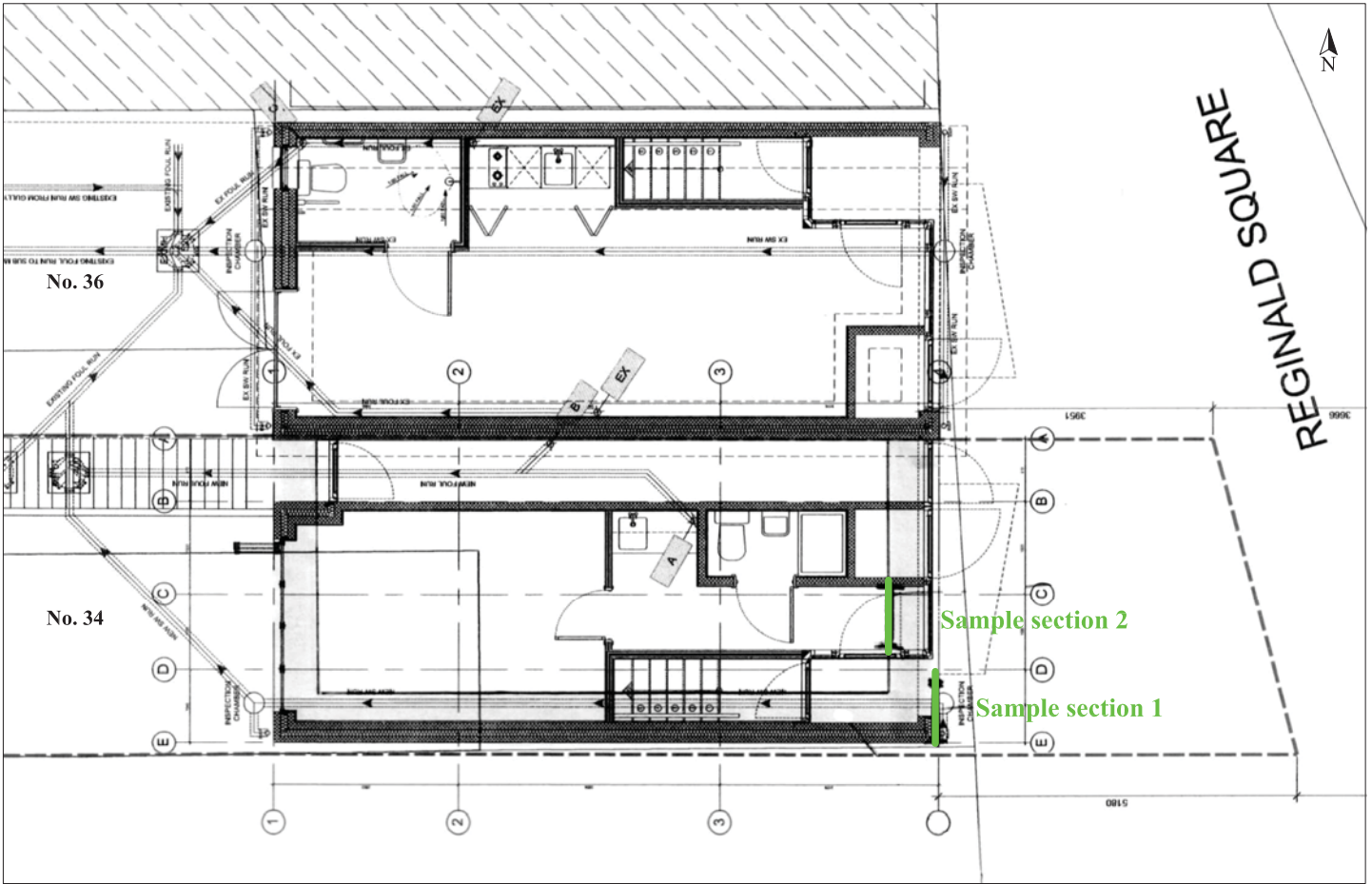


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

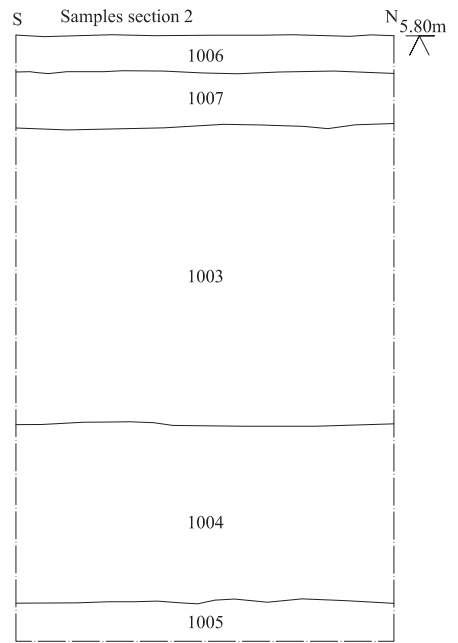
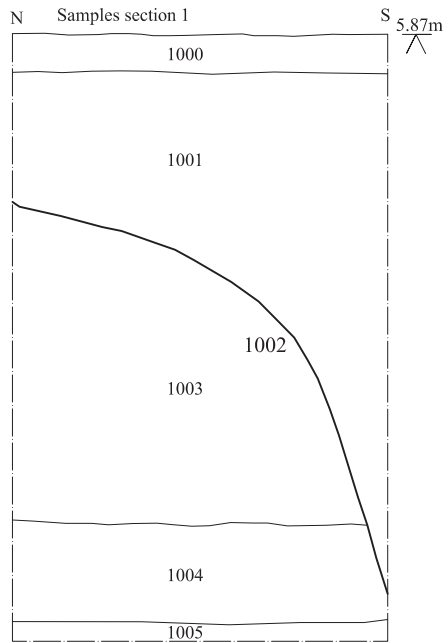


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4



0 5m

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Fig. 3 Section location plan
 Scale 1:100 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A4