

# REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SWIMMING POOL BUILDING AT SAXON PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRIAR ROAD, SHEPPERTON

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



# REDEVELOPMENT OF THE SWIMMING POOL BUILDING AT SAXON PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRIAR ROAD, SHEPPERTON

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### Summary

An archaeological monitoring brief was conducted on land at Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton between 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument no. SU142), as well as being located within an Area of High Archaeological Potential, associated to a Saxon/early medieval settlement and burial ground. The works included demolition of the existing structure, but retention and slight expansion to the existing slab foundation, so a new lightweight structure can be erected to cover the swimming pool. The areas of expansion were essentially two narrow, and shallow, strip foundations and both were observed, but were too shallow to impact upon underlying archaeological deposits. No further archaeological work is recommended.

Surrey County Archaeological Unit  
Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road,  
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518777 Fax: 01483 518780  
email: [archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk)

website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCAU](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCAU)

Checked by	Rob Poulton
Author	Wayne Weller
Date of report	November 2016
Postcode	TW17 0JB
NGR	TQ 0701 6765
Client	Synergy LLP



The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit and is not for publication to third parties, without the prior written consent of Surrey County Council, otherwise than in pursuance of the specific purpose for which it was prepared

## **CONTENTS**

List of figures.....	ii
1 Introduction .....	1
2 Geology and topography .....	1
3 Methodology .....	1
4 Results .....	2
5 Conclusions and recommendations.....	2
6 References.....	2

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Location plan
- Figure 2 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Plan showing prior foundation configuration and WB areas.
- Figure 3 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Plan showing location of SAM and AHAP
- Figure 4 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Plan showing new foundation configuration
- Figure 5 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Photo of strip foundation 1

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted between 31<sup>st</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 at Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton in preparation for the redevelopment of the swimming pool building (see figures 1 and 2).

1.2 The site is located within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument no. SU142) designated by Historic England, and an Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP, see figure 3), designated by Spelthorne Borough Council, both associated to a Saxon/early medieval settlement and cemetery.

1.3 The current building is to be replaced with a more modern, lightweight structure.

1.4 The form and scope of the work was in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Weller 2016).

1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by staff of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, on behalf of Synergy LLP and the Governors of Saxon Primary School.

## 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 269 at scale 1:50,000 shows the area of the excavations located on brickearth. The general stratigraphy was variable, but generally consisted of:

**100 - Topsoil:** A dark, grey-brown silt, 0.08m - 0.11m deep.

**101 (area dependent) - Subsoil:** Variable, but where undisturbed was in general mid grey-brown clay sand.

**Natural:** The underlying natural consists of brickearth and deeper lying sands and gravels, as past interventions have confirmed, but was not observed during this phase of work.

2.2 The site is located within the northwestern aspect of the school site, between the overflow car park and the nursery building. No gradient can be observed here, as opposed to the site overall, which is on a gentle southerly gradient.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief was designed to allow the identification of any archaeological artefacts or features. Full details of methodology are found in the WSI (see Weller 2016).

3.2 The prior structure (a metal framed, fibreglass construction), had been demolished prior to the commencement of the watching brief, exposing the swimming pool and the surrounding slab foundations. The aim of the works was to expand the foundations within the recesses (fig 4) and create a fully rectangular slab foundation, as well as raising the existing foundation at the west end. This basically consisted of exposing the existing foundation depth either side of the recesses and creating new strip foundations, connecting both. It had been previously agreed that these foundations were to be hand dug. The re-formatting of the existing foundation required no new deep excavations as the replacement structure is to be an aluminium framed, lightweight structure.

3.3 Groundworks were monitored during the removal of deposits by hand until the natural until the desired depth was reached. The hand excavation was carefully watched for the occurrence of any features or artefacts of archaeological interest that might relate to ancient activity in the immediate vicinity. The exposed sections of the trenches were also carefully examined, and the removed spoil scanned for any stray unstratified artefacts.

## 4 RESULTS

4.1 Strip foundation 1 (fig 5) was exactly 0.20m in depth at its deepest, before stepping up to approximately 0.12m in depth. The excavations barely exceed the topsoil and no features or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

4.2 The initial excavations of strip foundation 2 were observed, before being abandoned once it became apparent that the excavations were not deep enough to impact on potential archaeological deposits. In fact the area in general had been clearly disturbed, as had been observed within the closest pit, TP7, during the test pit evaluation conducted in April 2016 (Weller 2016).

4.3 A portion of the slab foundation to the west was observed during breaking, but once it was determined that no further excavations were to be conducted, the watching brief was abandoned.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The new foundation trenches on the north and south side of the existing foundation were not deep enough to impact on any potential in situ archaeology and produced no finds. Whether deeper archaeological deposits exist at lower levels was not clarified within this phase of work and any future deep excavations would certainly require further observation, should future works exceed 0.60m.

5.2 It is recommended that there is no need for further archaeological involvement in relation to this development.

5.3 The statements and recommendations in 5.1-5.2 are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented in the earlier part of this report. It must be emphasised, however, that whether further archaeological work is required, what form it should take and when it might be scheduled are decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority (generally acting under the advice of Surrey County Council's Heritage Conservation Team) and/or by Historic England in respect of the Scheduled Ancient Monument and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

---

## 6 REFERENCES

- Shaikhley, N, 2016 *Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton – Written Scheme of Investigation for the Conduct of an Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation*. SCAU unpublished report
- Weller, W, 2016 *Saxon County School, Briar Road, Shepperton. A Trial Trench Evaluation*. SCAU unpublished report, 8-9.
- Weller, W, 2016 *Saxon Primary School, Briar Road, Shepperton. Written Scheme of Investigation of the Reconstruction of the Swimming Pool Building and Facilities*. SCAU unpublished report.

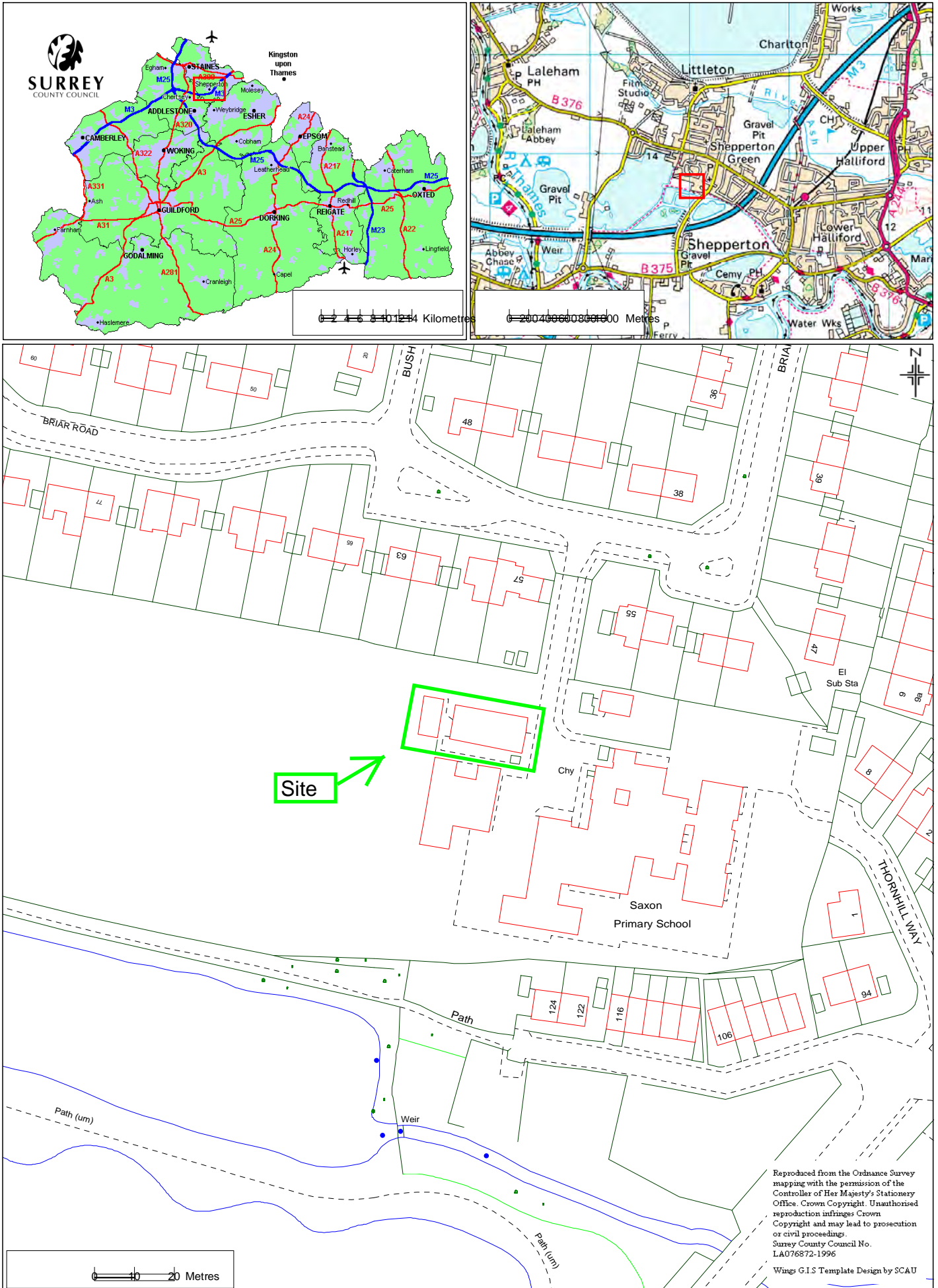


Fig 1 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton: Site Location



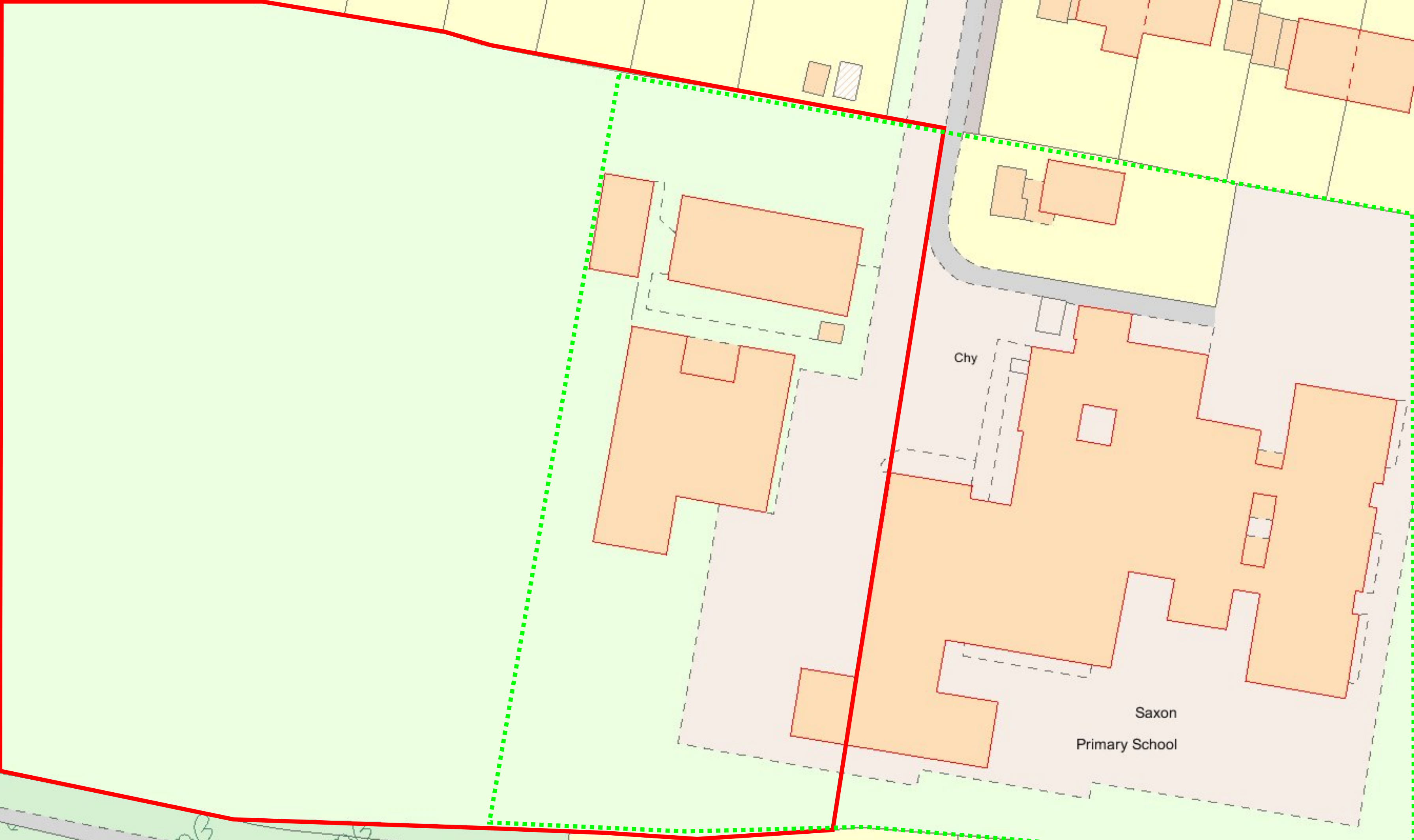
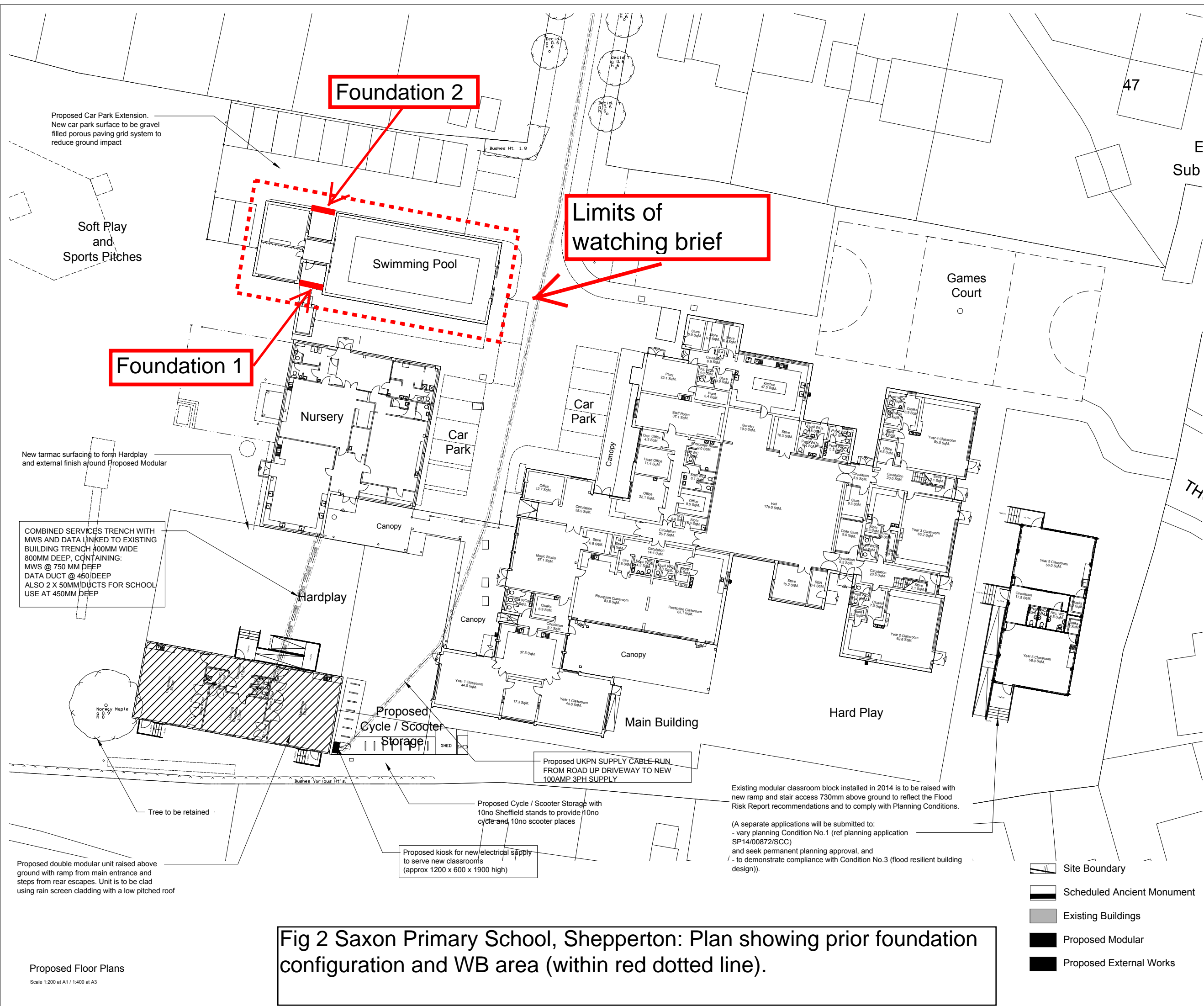
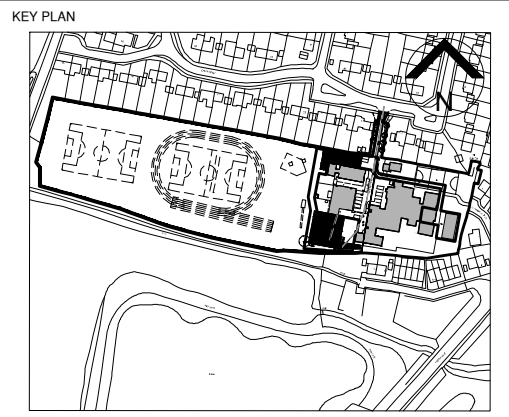


Fig 3: Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Plan showing location of SAM (red), AHAP (green)

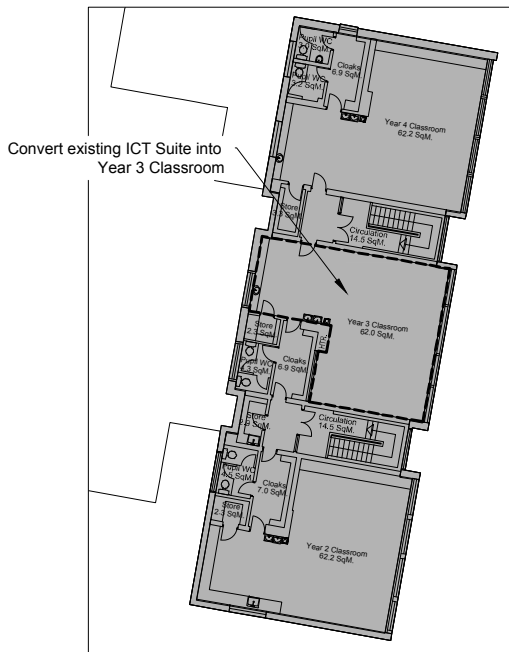




**Fig 2 Saxon Primary School, Shepperton: Plan showing prior foundation configuration and WB area (within red dotted line).**



**NOTES:**  
 This drawing is produced for use in this project only and may not be used for any other purpose. NPS Property Consultants Ltd accept no liability for the use of this drawing other than the purpose for which it was intended in connection with this project as recorded on the title block fields 'Purpose for Issue' and 'File Status Code'.  
 This drawing may not be reproduced in any form without prior written agreement.  
 Do not scale from the drawing, use written dimensions only.  
 THIS SPACE IS FOR PROJECT SPECIFIC DISCLAIMERS



**Proposed First Floor Plan**  
 Scale 1:200 at A1 / 1:400 at A3

Previously proposed ground floor internal remodelling works removed			
A	REVISED BY: SDS	DATE: 21.12.15	CHECKED BY: TB
SCALE BAR			

PURPOSE OF ISSUE: **Issued for Planning**

FILE STATUS CODE: **PLANNING**

© COPYRIGHT NPS GROUP  
Ordnance Survey mapping reproduced by permission of 100019783 ADO & Controller of HM Stationery Office Crown Copyright.

**nps group**  
 NPS South East Ltd.  
 4 Huma Mere Way  
 Woodingdean Business Park, Brighton  
 East Sussex, BN2 6AH  
 TEL: 01273 391100 FAX: 01273 391101  
 EMAIL: brighton@nps.co.uk  
 Head Office:  
 Lancaster House, 15 Central Avenue, St Andrews Business Park,  
 Norwich, NR7 6RH. Tel: 01603 70000 Fax: 01603 70001  
 Other Office locations can be found on our website: www.nps.co.uk

Property Design and Management Services  
 CLIENT: **Surrey County Council**  
**Surrey East Programme**

PROJECT: **Saxon Primary Academy**  
**Briar Road, Shepperton, TW17 0JB**  
**Expansion from a 1FE Primary to a 2FE Primary**

TITLE: **PROPOSED SITE PLAN WITH M&E SERVICES ADDED**

SCALES	DATE	DRAWN	CHECKED
1:200 at A1 / 1:400 at A3	15.01.16	TC	KA
FILE / DRAWING NAME			REV CODE
PROJECT NR	DRAWING FIELDS	UNIQUE NR	
<b>15-1-2062</b>	<b>NPS-PL-00</b>	<b>ME104</b>	<b>A</b>

**Proposed Floor Plans**  
 Scale 1:200 at A1 / 1:400 at A3

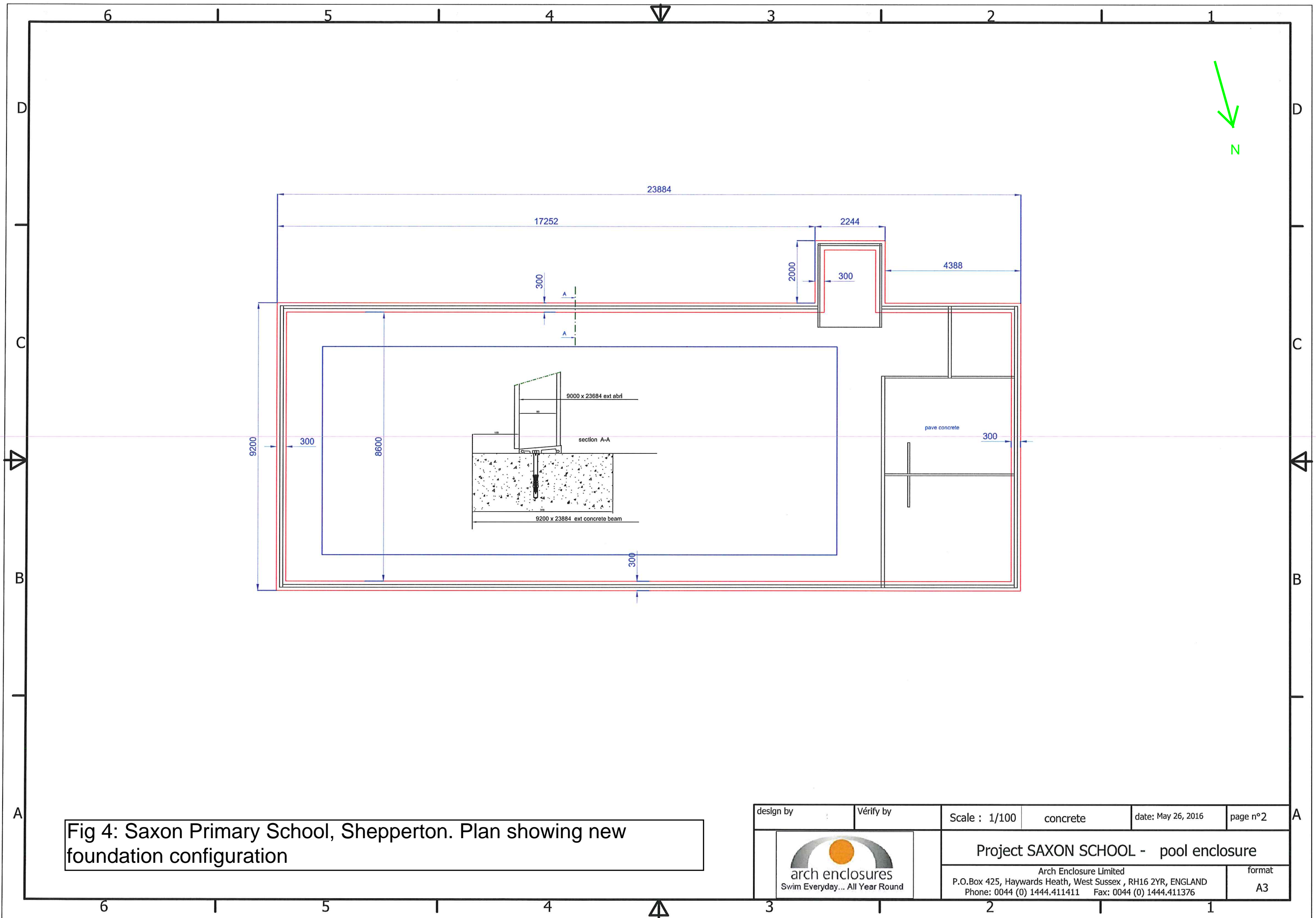


Fig 4: Saxon Primary School, Shepperton. Plan showing new foundation configuration


design by	Vérify by	Scale : 1/100	concrete	date: May 26, 2016	page n°2
 <b>arch enclosures</b> Swim Everyday... All Year Round		Project SAXON SCHOOL - pool enclosure			format
		Arch Enclosure Limited P.O.Box 425, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2YR, ENGLAND Phone: 0044 (0) 1444.411411 Fax: 0044 (0) 1444.411376			A3





Fig 5. Shepperton Primary School, Shepperton. Strip foundation 1.



# SURREY COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT



The Surrey County Archaeological Unit is a long-established provider of high quality, competitively priced archaeological services to both commercial and public sector clients.

We offer specialist services covering all elements of archaeology, from assessment through to fieldwork and post-excavation work and final publication. This provides seamless integration of an archaeological programme into your development project enabling you to satisfy all requirements of the planning process.

We can also raise the profile and public appreciation of archaeological projects through a wide range of educational and outreach services and the production of high quality heritage promotional material and publications.

**Desk-based assessment**  
**Archaeological fieldwork**  
**Expert artefact analysis**  
**Heritage Statements**  
**Heritage promotion and publication**  
**Archaeological project management**  
**Community archaeology and education**  
**Specialist photographic services**

Tel: 01483 518779

Fax: 01483 518780

Email: [archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk)

Surrey County Archaeological Unit  
Surrey History Centre  
130 Goldsworth Road  
Surrey GU21 6ND



**SURREY HERITAGE**  
*discovering preserving celebrating*