

New College The Avenue Southampton



Archaeological Investigation Report



February 2008

**Client: CgMs Limited on behalf of
Linden Homes Southern Limited**

Issue N^o: Draft
OA Job N^o: 3889
Planning Ref N^o: 07/01063/CAC,
07/0161/FUL, 07/01045/FUL
NGR: SU 419 130

Client Name: CgMs Limited on behalf of
Linden Homes Southern Limited

Client Ref No: N/A

Document Title: New College, The Avenue, Southampton

Document Type: Investigation Report

Issue Number: Draft

National Grid Reference: SU 419 130

Planning Reference: 07/01063/CAC 07/0161/FUL 07/01045/FUL

OA Job Number: 3889

Site Code: SOU1460

Invoice Code: SONWEX

Receiving Museum: Southampton Museum

Museum Accession No: SOU1460

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Document File Location Projects Server 1 \Southampton New College

Graphics File Location \\Server GO\SONWEX

Illustrated by - Leo Heatly

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

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Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Site plan

SUMMARY

During January 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field investigation at New College, The Avenue, Southampton, Hampshire (NGR SU 419 130) on behalf of Linden Homes Southern Limited. No finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Linden Homes are proposing comprehensive redevelopment of a site at New College, The Avenue Southampton (NGR SU 419 130). A series of applications for planning permission have been approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.1.2 In order to comply with PPG16 and Southampton policies, Alan Morton (Southampton City Archaeologist) required an archaeological trench evaluation of the site prior to planning approval. The investigation provided the basis for the City Archaeologist to advise on the extent of conditions for archaeological mitigation that are attached to planning permissions. The condition is a standard (C11) requirement, this and the City Archaeologists advice on the relevance of the condition to each planning application is set out below;

Standard Condition C11	<i>“No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of works has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. (Reason: to ensure that the archaeology of the site is properly investigated)”</i>
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Planning Application	Specific comment from City Archaeologist
07/01034/FUL 10-12 Rockstone Place and Part of Former New College Site	The proposed ground work involves no significant groundworks and no C11 condition is required
07/01045/FUL 10-12 Part of Former New College Site, The Avenue	C11 condition. Blocks 2 and 3 lie within the main area of archaeological activity as revealed by the evaluation and the fieldwork is likely to be an appropriate level of archaeological excavation
07/01053/LB 10-12 Rockstone Place = demolition consent	The proposed work does not constitute a significant threat to archaeological remains and no C11 condition is required
07/01056/OUT	The evaluation tended to indicate a high level of disturbance here

10-12 Part of former New College Site at junction of Archers Road and Carlton Road	and no C11 condition is required
07/01060/OUT Former New College, The Avenue = The New Science Block	C11 condition. The site roughly coincides with evaluation trench 11. While the excavator identified one feature within it as a 'probable tree throw', I feel that it had the appearance of a lined pit and that more work is justified in this area to clarify matters. A single archaeological trench, along the line of the north wall of the science block should therefore be excavated
07/0161/FUL Former New College, The Avenue =Main Development	C11 condition. The evaluation indicated a low level of archaeological activity across the site, and an archaeological watching brief should be carried out on selected groundworks associated with the redevelopment. However Block D lies within the main area of archaeological activity and an appropriately scaled excavation is required there.
07/01063/CAC Former New College, The Avenue =demolition consent	C11 condition. The evaluation indicated a low level of archaeological activity across the site, and an archaeological watching brief should be carried out at the grubbing out stage of each demolition

- 1.1.3 CgMs Consulting on behalf of Linden Homes appointed Oxford Archaeology (OA) as the contractor to carry out mitigation works in respect of the requirements.
- 1.1.4 The condition in relation to application 07/01060/OUT has been carried out (see archaeological background section) and is reported in OA 2007.
- 1.1.5 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the methodology of works that would be carried out in order to address the remaining planning conditions. This report details the results of investigation in Areas A and B as set out in the WSI.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development site is located at grid reference SU 419 130. It is bound by the Avenue to the east, Archers Road to the north, Carlton Road to the west and properties fronting Rockstone Place to the South. The site is generally flat (lying at c24m OD). The underlying geology of the site is brickearth.

1.3 Archaeological [and historical] background

- 1.3.1 The following is largely derived from a desk-based assessment produced by CgMs (CgMs 2006). Historic maps contained in the desk-based assessment are not reproduced here, therefore the desk based assessment should be read in conjunction this document. The summary results of the recent evaluation (OA2007) attached to the end of this background.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Two Palaeolithic axes are recorded as having been found on the site of the former Ordnance Survey buildings c. 50m to the south of the study site (MSH235). A single Palaeolithic hand axe has been recorded in Rockstone Place c. 40m to the south. There are no other Palaeolithic remains recorded within or in the vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.3 The presence of these hand axes indicates that there is some limited potential for isolated Palaeolithic artefacts in the general vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.4 There are no Mesolithic remains recorded in the vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.5 Three Neolithic stone axes have been recorded c. 400m to the north east of the site. Two were recorded as being found on the 'Bevois Mount' (MSH245) and a polished axe is recorded as having been found in a gravel layer at 26 Cambridge Street (MSH254).
- 1.3.6 Various archaeological investigations focussed on Archers Road to the immediate north west of the site have revealed the remains of a settlement that may have Bronze Age origins and was occupied through to, and including, the Iron Age. The main focus of this settlement appears to have been to the west of the junction of Archers Road and Carlton Road. Various ditches, stakeholes, pits and 'pitlets' were recorded at 24-26 Archers Road (MSH1059). Although not securely dated, the features produced 2 sherds of Bronze Age or Mid Iron Age pottery and three worked flint flakes. A Prehistoric ditch was recorded at 19-21 Archers Road (MSH1896). A large ditch was recorded at 15-17 Archers Road containing charcoal, burnt and worked Neolithic/ Bronze Age flint (MSH1198). Iron Age pottery and further worked flint was found redeposited in later features. Undated, but presumed Prehistoric, features comprised pits and ditches.
- 1.3.7 The extent of the settlement has yet to be firmly established. However, it may not extend as far east as the proposal site. An evaluation and watching brief at 14-20 Archers Road (the opposite side of the road from the site) failed to reveal any Prehistoric features but did produce some worked flint from the spoil heaps (MSH 1068). The site had not been subject to significant modern disturbance and therefore, the lack of features may indicate that settlement did not extend this far. However, this is only supposition. A watching brief on 5 Archers Road (on the north side of Archers Road from the study site) revealed 2 features, which produced Bronze Age pottery (MSH1064). However, they also contained modern material and therefore are likely to have been disturbed. This indicates that there may have been at least some Bronze Age/Iron Age activity immediately to the north of the site, the nature of which is unclear. The settlement appears to have extended at least 300m to the west of the study site as ditches, post holes, stakeholes and pits of Iron Age/Romano-British date have been recorded at 38-44 Archers Road (MSH1201) and at 12-14 Holt Road (MSH1195). The settlement may have extended as far as Hulse Road to the north where an Iron Age pit was recorded at both 15 Hulse Road (MSH1049) and 23 Hulse Road (MSH2365), both c. 300m to the north.

- 1.3.8 A single worked flint was recorded during a watching brief of 62 and 62a The Avenue c. 50m to the east of the study site (MSH1047). It is not thought that this find indicates that the settlement extended as far east as this.

Roman

- 1.3.9 Records held in the Southampton SMR indicate the presence of a Roman occupation/settlement site immediately to the south of the study site. Roman 1st-4th century remains comprising a boundary ditch, two pits and other smaller features were recorded during a watching brief on the London Road Magistrates Court, c. 50m to the south (MSH1464). Pottery, glass, iron nails, a silver coin, tile fragments and shell were recovered from these features. A coin of Constantine II (MSH237) and an unquantified number of other Roman coins (MSH2290) have been recorded on the former Ordnance Survey office site immediately to the south of the study site.
- 1.3.10 A single sherd of Samian pottery was recorded during the evaluation and watching brief of 5 Archers Road (MSH1064). This does not appear to be related to the occupation to the south of the site.

Saxon

- 1.3.11 The only evidence for Saxon remains in the vicinity of the study site, is a small sherd of late Saxon pottery at 5 Archers Road (MSH1064). While this is indicative of at least some activity in the area, it is not thought that this relates to a Saxon occupation site. It has been postulated that there could be a Saxon farmstead somewhere in the general vicinity of the study site but there is no evidence to suggest such occupation was within the study site.

Medieval

- 1.3.12 During the Medieval period, the site is likely to have been within agricultural farmland. A farmstead is thought to have stood at somewhere in the region of the Banister Road/Court Road junction c. 125m to the north west of the study site. A documentary reference to the division of farmlands either side of The Avenue is dated 1228, thereby implying the presence of a nearby farmstead at that time. In 1420 there is a reference to the farm at Banister Road. There is little hard archaeological evidence for this farmstead.
- 1.3.13 Padwell Crosse is marked on a map dated 1560 (MSH1898). This is thought to have been one of a line of crosses that may have marked the western limits of the Saxon town. An inhumation cemetery comprising 'many burials' some of which were in wooden coffins was uncovered at Padwell Cross sometime before 1865 (MSH1467). The date of this cemetery is unclear and consequently the SMR dates it as being of any date between the Roman and Post-Medieval periods. If some of the burials were in wooden coffins, it is considered unlikely that these burials were Roman but could have been Saxon or Medieval in date.

- 1.3.14 Many of the archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site have produced small amounts of Medieval pottery. These are likely to relate to Medieval manuring of the fields.

Post-Medieval

- 1.3.15 The first edition OS map (1869) depicts the site as being largely open ground with the exception Archer's Lodge located toward the eastern boundary. By 1897 Archer's Lodge had been replaced by the La Sainte des Sacres Coeurs. The existing detached villas fronting The Avenue and Archers Road had been constructed by this time, with the remaining area being within the grounds of La Sainte Union and the villas. The school building toward canton Road was constructed by 1910 but the rest of the site remained unchanged.
- 1.3.16 The convent chapel to the south western corner of the site is first depicted on the 1933 OS map. By this time the Sainte Union building had been demolished and replaced by the existing building to the north of the main access road and a Clarks College had been constructed behind one of the villas fronting The Avenue. By 1948, a number of buildings and extensions had been added to the Sainte Union school complex and one of the villas fronting Carlton Road had been demolished (presumably destroyed during W.W.II bombing raids).
- 1.3.17 By 1966, the main existing college buildings in the centre of the site had been constructed. The convent and the College Chapel had also been extended into its current form. The halls of residence fronting Carlton Road had been constructed as had a building behind 12 Archers Road. With the exception of the demolition of the villa located at the junction of Archers Road and Carlton Road (no. 12 Archers Road), the site has remained unchanged since 1966. 12 Archers Road is depicted on OS maps up to 1993 after which it disappears, therefore it must have been demolished since 1993.

Trial trench evaluation

- 1.3.18 In February 2007 OA carried out a field evaluation at the site. The evaluation comprised of 12 trenches totalling 240 m in length.
- 1.3.19 Within Trench 12, located near to the south east corner of the site, a single undated pit (possibly of Iron Age/Roman date) was revealed containing evidence for smithing, probably derived from such activity nearby. A posthole from Trench 10 to the northwest of Trench 12 contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and fragments of burnt flint. Other features revealed by the evaluation including stakeholes, postholes and plough scars are likely to relate to post-medieval activity, either when the site was agricultural land or from its development from the 19th century.
- 1.3.20 OA returned to site on 11/09/07 in accordance with a condition attached to planning permission by the Southampton City Council Archaeologist (see Section 1).

1.3.21 An archaeological trench was excavated adjacent to Trench 11. Subsequent to reinvestigation and exposure of the entire feature, it was agreed by the City Archaeologist that the initial interpretation of a tree throw was still valid and no further work was required.

2 INVESTIGATION AIMS

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of other evidence.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

3 INVESTIGATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The investigation consisted of two areas (see Fig.2). Area A located on the western side of building A measured 25m (north west-south east) x 10m (north east-south west). Area B was split into two areas by the presence of east-west running gas, electricity and water services. The north end of area B measured 10m (north east - south west) x 3 m (north west- south east), and the south end measured 16m (north west-south east) x 10m (north east - south west) (Fig 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.1.2 The site was stripped down to the natural brickearth, all features were planned at 1:50 and located on to the site grid.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The excavation and recording methodology was undertaken in accordance to that outlined in the WSI.

3.2.2 Mechanical excavation was carried out with a JCB. All mechanical excavation was carried out in such a manner so as to avoid or minimise damage to the archaeological remains. All machinery used was of an appropriate nature and power to suit the situation and fitted with a ditching bucket. An archaeologist directly supervised all machine work.

- 3.2.3 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Excavation spits did not exceed 0.20m in depth across the full width of the trench.
- 3.2.4 All revealed features, that is, linear features and pits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 and where excavated sections were drawn at scales of 1:20. All archaeological features were photographed using colour digital and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992) and appendix 9 of the WSI (OA2007).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Two bags of finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 There was no palaeo-environmental samples taken.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 All features were cut into the natural brickearth and overlain by two subsoils, that were in turn overlain by Type 1 hardcore and tarmac

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 No archaeological deposits were encountered

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 A number of 19th century and modern features were encountered in the southern end of Area A, some of these were excavated but showed to be depressions within the natural brickearth that contained quantities of modern material. In the northern end of Area A several robbed out and two surviving walls were recorded. The buildings were delimited by a ditch, which ran parallel to the walls. The buildings correspond with an outbuilding shown on the first edition (1869) OS map and associated with Archers Lodge.
- 5.1.2 The south end Area B contained no features. One small modern feature was noted in the north end.

5.2 Finds

5.2.1 One fragment of 19th century pottery from context 101, and one stem fragment of clay pipe from context 103 were recovered during the excavation. No further work has been carried out on this material.

5.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains**

5.3.1 No palaeo-environmental samples were taken.

6 **DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

6.1 **Overall interpretation**

6.1.1 The earliest period represented is the 19th century buildings that are the associated with outhouses of Archers Lodge. Several amorphous features were encountered that represented modern disturbance. These were left unexcavated where modern debris could be clearly seen within the fills.

7 **SUMMARY OF RESULTS**

7.1.1 No archaeological remains were observed during the excavation.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
100	cut	2.1	0.3	Cut for ditch			
101	fill	2.1	0.3	Fill of ditch	Clay pipe	1	19th Century
102	layer	Area A	N/A	Natural			
103	layer	Area A	0.28	Sub soil	pot	1	19th century
104	layer	Area A	0.18	Buried soil			
105	layer	Area A	0.16	Type 1 Hardcore			
106	Layer	Area A	0.2	Tarmac			
107	cut	0.7	0.02	Cut for modern feature			
108	fill	0.7	0.02	Fill of modern feature			
109	cut	1.10	0.05	Cut for modern feature			
110	fill	1.10	0.05	Fill of modern feature			
111	cut	0.5	0.05	Cut for modern feature			
112	fill	0.5	0.05	Fill of modern feature			

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- CgMs 2006 Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation, New College , The Avenue , Southampton
- CgMs 2007 Specification for Archaeological Mitigation, New College , The Avenue , Southampton
- OA 2006 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at New College, The Avenue, Southampton
- OA 2007a New College the Avenue Southampton, Archaeological Evaluation Report
(reissued with addendum 12/09/07)
- OA 2007b New College the Avenue Southampton, Written Scheme of Investigation
- SCC 2007 Standards for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives'

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: New college, Southampton, Hampshire

Site code: SOU1460

Grid reference:

Type of excavation: Strip map and sample

Date and duration of project: 21/1/08

Area of site: 440m²

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits found.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number:

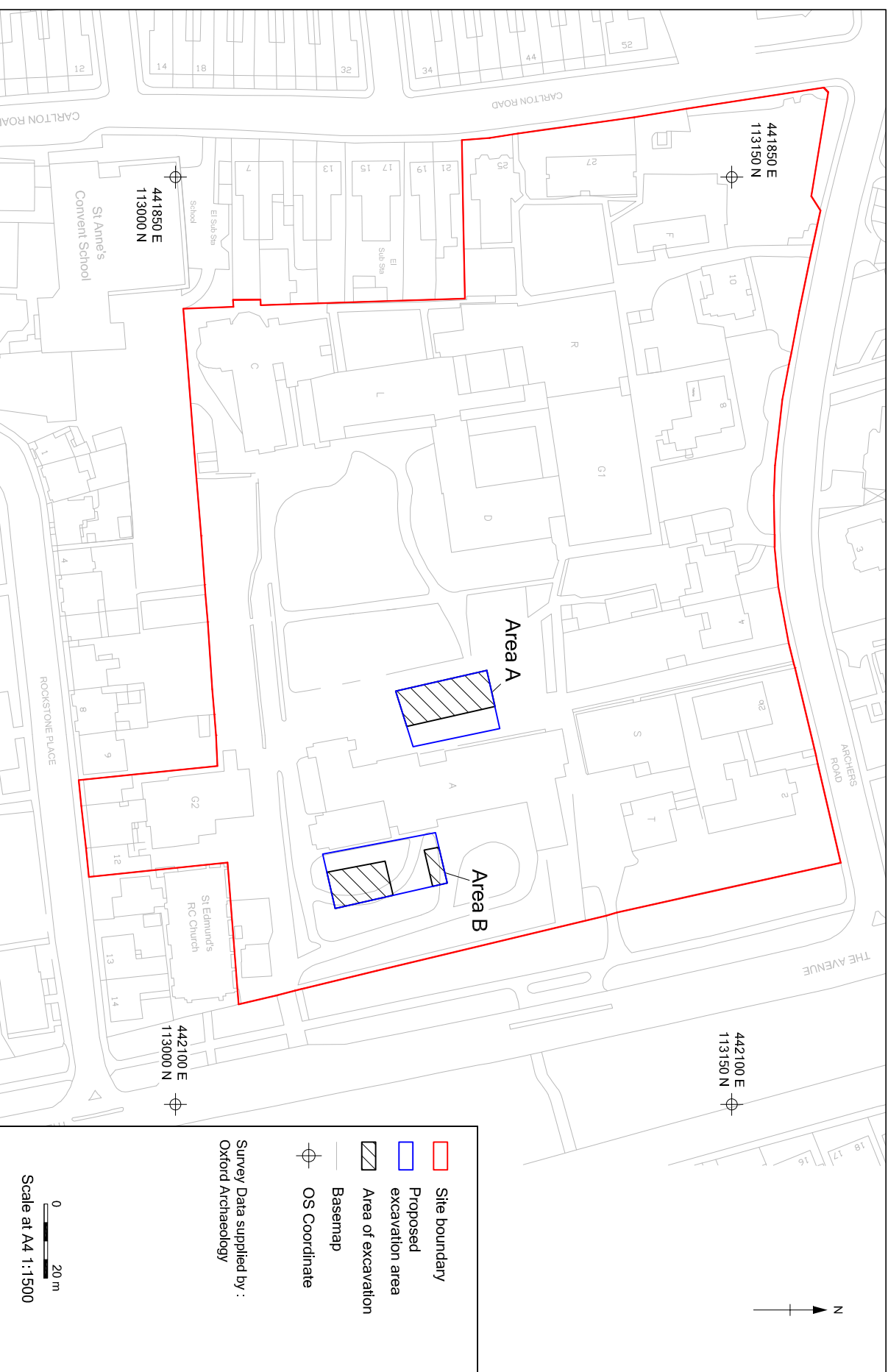
Top: Area B south and north. Bottom left and right: Area B south and north from the east





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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Site Plan