



**GRANGE PADDOCKS,
RYE STREET,
BISHOP'S STORTFORD**

**AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust

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GRANGE PADDOCKS, RYE STREET
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
HERTFORDSHIRE.

An Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: TL 48939 22081
Site Code: HAT 511

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SUMMARY

*During March 2001 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Grange Paddocks, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 48939 22081).
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A desk-based assessment of the site revealed it to have been part of The Meads (an area of arable cultivation and pasture) prior to the construction of the leisure centre and existing sports pitches. The site lies in the area of the Roman settlement at Bishop's Stortford that was established on the eastern bank of the Stort at the point where it was crossed by Stane Street. Previous archaeological works in the 1970s beneath the present changing rooms had revealed two phases of Romano-British occupation.

Six trenches were excavated revealing multiple features of a Romano-British date in all trenches. The features recorded principally comprised pits and ditches, however four inhumations of a similar date were also recorded within Trench 5. The features relate to activity on the periphery of the Roman town, comprising a number of enclosures or field systems, and a cemetery in the south-western part of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During March 2001 Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Grange Paddocks, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 48939 22081) (Fig.1). The works were commissioned by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) in advance of proposals to construct new changing facilities, two all weather pitches, associated fencing and floodlights.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief compiled by Hertfordshire County Council, County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO)(Ref: 3/00/1176, dated 02/01/01) and a specification drawn up by HAT (dated 17/01/01). The investigation complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised 1999) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (revised 1999).

1.3 The principal objective of the study was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. Particular importance was given to establishing the presence of remains relating to the Roman settlement in the vicinity. In addition to gaining an appreciation of the level of truncation on the site and the possibilities of mitigation within the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains. Specific research objectives included:

- To establish the extent of surviving pre-Roman, Romano-British or later deposits on the site.
- To establish the nature of land use in the area of Roman settlement.
- To establish the economic base of the settlement.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies to the north side of the centre of Bishop's Stortford, in the flood plain and edge of the terrace of the River Stort (Figs.1-2). The latter lies some 100m to the west. The site currently comprises a grassed football pitch and a single-storey, free-standing changing room to the south west. They belong to the EHDC Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre. Many of the other low-lying sports pitches in the vicinity were flooded at the time of the field evaluation. The site is bounded to the north and west by an established hedge line and ditch, and to the south by a further hedged boundary and the main leisure centre building. Rye Street lies on the western side of the river Stort, and a railway line lies some 125m to the east of the site, bounding the Cannons Close housing estate.

3 METHOD OF WORK (Desk-based Assessment)

The rapid desk-based assessment was carried out according to the brief and specification. Information was sought from a variety of available sources, and reference was made to the IFA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments. The following material was consulted:

3.1 Archaeological Databases

3.1.1 Archaeological databases are the standard reference to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source was the Hertfordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (HCC SMR). The known entries within, or immediately adjacent to, the study area are plotted and listed (Appendix 1).

3.2 Historical Documents

3.2.1 Documentary research can provide an overview of the history of an area, including a site and its immediate environs. In some cases, information can be related directly to existing buildings and features. The principal sources were Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, County Hall, Hertford (HALS). Source material is listed (Appendix 3).

3.3 Secondary Sources

3.3.1 Secondary sources were consulted so as to provide information on the general history and archaeology of the study area, and as a reference for primary sources of information. The principal sources of secondary material were HALS and HAT's own library. The sources are listed (Appendix 2).

3.4 Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

3.4.1 Cartographic and pictorial documents are commonly a productive area of research, sometimes detailing land use changes over the last few hundred years. All relevant and available information was examined, and is listed (Appendix 3).

3.5 Geological/Geotechnical information

3.5.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology was compiled so as to appreciate the likelihood of the presence and the potential condition of any archaeological remains. The topography of the area was also considered. Borehole/test-pit information for the site was not available at the time of writing.

3.6 Site Inspection

3.6.1 The site was visited prior to the field evaluation, in order to examine areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment, and to identify any constraints. Attention was paid to gauging the potential survival of buried archaeological remains, and the deployment of field evaluation techniques.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

4.1.1 The geology, topography and soils of an area can have an important bearing on the presence, character and survival of archaeological sites.

4.1.2 The site lies in the floodplain of the river Stort (which flows generally N/S some 100m to the west). The site is generally level (at some 58m AOD), though rises slightly away from the river to the east.

4.1.3 The site lies on floodplain/terrace gravels of the river Stort. Soils in the area comprise deep, well-drained loamy soils overlying calcareous clayey subsoils (soil survey of England and Wales 1983).

4.1.4 Soils in the area of the assessment site belong to the *Melford* association (Soil Survey 1983), described as being derived from chalky till and comprising deep, well drained fine loamy over clayey soils, and coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous subsoils. These soils are described as being suited to cereals, sugar beet and other arable crops. Soils closer to the river Stort (and to the south east of the study area), comprise alluvial soils. The BGS maps the solid geology as being Upper Chalk in the study area, though a band of Woolwich and Reading Beds stretch from the centre of Bishop's Stortford in a line through Wickham Hall towards Farnham. Floodplain and terrace gravels occur adjacent to the river Stort. The drift geology on the southern side of the Bishop's Stortford area consists predominantly of chalky clay, though, again, some terrace gravels occur in association with the river Stort.

4.2 Known Archaeology within the Area of Proposed Development (Fig. 5)

4.2.1 The town of Bishop's Stortford was established in the valley of the River Stort and grew into a large mediaeval and early post-mediaeval settlement. Elements of a Roman settlement have been excavated over a number of years to the north of the town centre in the vicinity of the *Grange Paddocks/Cannons Close* site. Archaeological remains of the Roman period were recorded when elements of the present sports centre were developed in the 1970s.

4.2.2 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.113 as designated in EHDC Local Plan. This encompasses the Cannons Close housing estate and the sports fields to the west of the railway, reflecting the assumed extent of Roman occupation of the area.

4.2.3 Excavations in advance of the construction of the football changing room on the site in 1978 revealed some elements of ground disturbance but recorded archaeological features dating to two phases of occupation in the Romano-British period (see below).

4.3 General Archaeological/Historical Background to the Study Area

(Figs. 1&5-12)

4.3.1 The Bishop's Stortford section of the Stort valley has produced few finds of earlier prehistoric date (pre c.2400BC), in contrast to the valley of the river Lea to the south-west, to which the Stort is a tributary. The Herts SMR records only three prehistoric sites/findspots in the area: a Palaeolithic axe (SMR 1091), found by the Stort to the west of the site, and a possible Mesolithic occupation site (SMR 2849) and a Neolithic flint axe (SMR 2847), both found close to the river near Bishop's Stortford College. A Neolithic flint axe was also found during excavations at Stansted Airport to the north east of the town, whilst a flint axe found at Hazel End (Essex SMR 3865/6) also points to possible occupation to the north of the town.

4.3.2 Evidence of Bronze Age (c.2400-1000BC), late Bronze Age/early Iron Age (c.1000-400BC) and Iron Age (c.400BC-AD43) activity is well-known from around Bishop's Stortford, particularly on the higher plateaux surrounding the present town. Many of the known sites are located to the south and south-west of the town around Thorley, where in 1994 large-scale excavations by HAT revealed extensive evidence of late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation (McDonald 1995). In addition, the widespread archaeological investigation of the Stansted Airport area (to the north east of Bishop's Stortford) by Essex County Council in the late 1980s and beyond revealed further evidence of later Bronze Age/early Iron Age settlement and late Iron Age/early Roman settlement, as well as an early Roman cremation cemetery. Further work by Essex County Council adjacent to the A120 at Woodside Industrial Park on the western edge of the town (Medlycott, 1994) revealed pits, ditches and gullies ranging in date from the early Iron Age through to the Roman Period, and included a cremation with grave goods. An evaluation by HAT of land at the new football ground to the north east of the town in late 1997 revealed features of early/middle Iron Age date, probably representing peripheral activity related to the first two phases of domestic settlement at Woodside Industrial Park (Vaughan, 1997).

4.3.3 The earliest settlement within Bishop's Stortford itself dates from the Roman period (c.AD43-410), and was located at the point where *Stane Street*, the Roman road from St Albans - Braughing to Colchester (Fig. 1: now the A120/A1250), crossed the Stort (Margery 1973, road 32). This former course of the road crosses the Grange Paddocks site to the immediate south of the study area, from east to west. From the large number of Roman finds recorded in the SMR (e.g. SMR 0512, 0514, 2132, 2138), the settlement appears to have been centred on the Cannons Close estate to the east, on the northern side of *Stane Street*. During the construction of the Cannons Close estate in 1953-60, observation and salvage works led by Wing Commander T.W. Ellcock revealed evidence of buildings, rubbish pits and burials, and large quantities of finds (SMR 0513). About the same time, excavations on the Grange Paddocks sportsfield west of the railway by Bishop's Stortford College, led by H.E. Wall, revealed further evidence of settlement (SMR 1435) (Ellcock, 1970). Ellcock noted that the Meads (now the sports fields) were

ploughed fields in the 19th century but subject to flooding in the first half of the century. He also suggested that the line of *Stane Street* ran slightly parallel to the north of the course described by Margary. Chance finds of Roman material are still recovered sporadically from gardens in Cannons Close. In 1976, excavations prior to the construction of the Legions Way development (SMR 6250) revealed further occupation evidence, and more importantly the line of *Stane Street*. The exact dating and extent of the settlement are still uncertain, though it appears to have survived to the end of the Roman period. Recent excavations by HAT (Fell, forthcoming) at the junction of Legions Way/Stanstead Road, to the east of the site revealed the course of *Stane Street*, in addition to a number of earlier and later Roman roadside features. Ceramic evidence here suggested that much of the activity on the site took place in the 2nd century after the establishment of the road sometime in the 1st century. An isolated inhumation burial was subsequently inserted into the edge of a silted roadside ditch. On the Grange Paddocks site itself, excavations were carried out in 1978 in advance of the construction of the football changing rooms that exist on the site today. These revealed a small concentration of pits and post holes, cut into gravel dumps and relating to two distinct phases of Roman occupation on the site in the 1st century and, following temporary abandonment, in the later 3rd century. A single residual barbed and tanged flint arrowhead was also found. The Roman features appeared to have been preserved by a later hedgerow bank, and Garfi suggested that the rest of the site had probably been truncated by ploughing, and a number of areas of disturbance on the southern part of the site was suggested to have been caused by the previous construction of the Grange Paddocks swimming pool. It was assumed that similar conditions of preservation may have been apparent on the current site.

4.3.4 An archaeological evaluation by HAT in 1998 at Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford (to the west of the study area), revealed no archaeological features adjacent to the line of *Stane Street*. An archaeological evaluation at Blacklands, Essex (close to the site at Woodside Industrial Park) revealed no archaeological features (McDonald, 1998).

4.3.5 By the 5th century the settlement appears to have fallen into disuse, along with the *Stane Street* river crossing, which was replaced by a fording point 2.5km to the south, the site of the present crossing. The present town was probably established adjacent to this during the Saxon period, in the area of North Street, High Street and Market Street (Orton 1976). Orton also suggests that the parish church of St Michael (the earliest surviving part of which dates from the 15th century) stands on a pagan Saxon site, though he presents no evidence for this. Little is known of the Saxon town, and the only finds recorded are two spearheads (one of which may be Roman) found during railway 'operations' at Finchingbrook, near Bishop's Stortford (SMR 2846). The town and its environs formed part of Braughing Hundred, whilst the area of proposed development was historically within Bishop's Stortford parish. It was referred-to as *Storteford* in Domesday (Gover *et al*), though the English Place Name Society find the origins of the name obscure, suggesting that the river Stort is possibly a back-formation from Stortford (?from a possible personal name).

4.3.6 On the east bank of the river opposite the town and overlooking the ford is Waytemore Castle. Orton (*op. cit.*) suggests that the castle site was founded by Edward the Elder in the 10th century to guard the river crossing, much the same as the *burh* at Hertford, which dates from this period, and was established at a major crossing of the Lea. However, most other authorities (e.g. Page 1913, 297) state that Waytemore was one of the many castles founded by William I shortly after the Conquest, between 1066 and 1075 and this appears to be the accepted opinion.

4.3.7 By the time of the Norman Conquest, the manor of Stortford was held by Eddeva the Fair, mistress of King Harold. After the Conquest it was sold by William I to William, Bishop of London, and remained in the possession of successive Bishops of London until 1868 (Page 1913, 296). The name '*Bishop's Stortford*' resulted from this long association. The Bishops also owned land in Hadham, to the west of Stortford, including a palace at Much Hadham.

4.3.8 During the medieval period, crosses were set up on the four major roads leading from the town: one close to the site lay at the northern end of Rye Street (itself mentioned as *Rystrret* in a 1535 Subsidy Roll - Gover *et al*) at the junction of Hazelend Road and the watercourse of Bourne Brook (noted as an ancient road to Farnham in the VCH). It was known as Crabb's Cross, almost certainly taking its name from a local family (Crabbs Croft and Mead are local field names, occurring in the eastern part of the study area), and indeed BSDLHS notes a reference of 1572 to Nicholas, Margaret and Geoffrey Crabbe, holding land with 'appurtenances in Ffarnham, Welfield and Riefield in Essex'. The four crosses appear to have been destroyed during either the Reformation or the Commonwealth (1645-60) (the other crosses were Maple Cross, Collins Cross to the east of Cannon's Close and Watye Cross). Mediaeval moated sites are known at Walker's Manor (Essex SMR 3859), for instance, whilst a possible deserted mediaeval village lies at Wickham Hall on the Herts/Essex border (Herts SMR 1024, Essex SMR 3869/70), both to the north west and west of the town. The Essex SMR suggests that the 'Wick' prefix of Wickham Hall could suggest the former presence of another outlying Roman site, citing Wickham Hill at Braughing, Hertfordshire (which lies adjacent to the former Roman small town).

4.3.9 From the medieval period onwards, Bishop's Stortford developed into a thriving commercial centre, attested by the large numbers of inns in the town. Fairs were held three times a year, on the feasts of St Michael, Ascension and Corpus Christi. From the 15th century onwards a successful tanning and leather industry developed rapidly in Stortford, centred on Water Lane (BSDLHS 1973).

4.3.10 Perhaps the most important event in the later history of Bishop's Stortford was the opening of the Stort Navigation in 1769, linking Bishop's Stortford with London via the Lea Navigation, itself constructed in the early 18th century. This provided a further incentive to commercial development, leading to an increase in brewing and malting, which became the town's most important industries during the nineteenth century. The SMR lists 16 former maltings in the town, all of post-medieval date. Other industries include brickmaking, lime burning, a coach works and a foundry (Page 1913, 295). The

Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow & Braintree Railway was opened in 1869 (Gordon 1968), and closed in 1966.

4.3.11 The earliest available maps showing Bishop's Stortford are those of Seller (1676), and Oliver (1695), though they show very little detail of the study area, other than the former noting the course of the river Stort and the presence of Parsonage Mill. Rye Street is not shown. Warburton's county map of 1749 shows the line of Rye Street and the river Stort, but little other detail.

4.3.12 The 1766 county map of Dury and Andrews (Fig. 6) show quite a detailed view of the county, and depicts the environs of Bishop's Stortford in some detail. Rye Street is shown and labelled, and a number of small buildings seem to be present in the vicinity of the site. Rye Street appears to have been mis-labelled and appears to the east of the river. The scale and detail of the map does not allow the buildings to be placed within the site with any certainty, and they are likely those associated with the 'Parsons Mill' (shown on the Bryant map of 1822, and the roadway across the river is probably the present Cannon's Mill Lane).

4.3.13 Bryant's map of 1822 (Fig. 7) is reasonably detailed and depicts Rye Street, Cannon's Mill Lane and 'Parsons Mill' straddling the Stort. No detail is shown of the site itself, though the river Stort can be seen to bifurcate close the site and proceed towards the town to the south with two distinct channels. This possibly allowed the site to be drained and brought into arable cultivation.

4.3.14 King's map of 1823 provides little detail of the site itself.

4.3.15 The tithe map of 1839 (Fig. 8) shows the area in more detail. One can see that the local field boundaries are largely the same as today, particularly the northern, southern and north eastern boundaries of the site. The site itself is shown in rectorial ownership and occupation, held by the Reverend Charles Almeric Belli, Sir Thomas Downman and Thomas Bosvile Esq, and comprises the field known as Little Hooks. The field to the immediate north is under the same ownership and occupation and is referred-to as Great Mead. All the adjacent lands are all shown as meadow. Fields 480 and 481 to the west are shown as rectorial glebe and constitute Great Field. The Parsonage Mill is clearly depicted along Cannon Mill Lane to the north of the site.

4.3.16 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map of 1878 (Fig. 9) shows the area in some detail. The Great Eastern Railway has been constructed to the east of the site, and the current pattern of field/property boundaries can be clearly recognisable. The site itself contains the same curving northern boundary and straight hedged southern boundary as today. A forerunner 'Recreation Ground' is shown on the site of the present car park on the western side of the Stort. No other detail is shown of the site itself, though it is not shown as 'liable to floods' as are lands adjacent to the river closer to the town to the south.

4.3.17 The next available cartographic source is the 1898 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" sheet (Fig.10). No detail is shown within the site itself, which reflects the information shown on the 1st edition map of 20 years previous. It comprises the same featureless field with the same boundaries as today. Similar detail is shown on the 1921 edition (not included). The 1939 edition (Fig.11) shows the same detail of the site and its boundaries, though development is well underway along Stansted Road and Rye Street.

4.3.18 The expansion of Bishop's Stortford continued apace in the 20th century, and demand for housing increased in the immediate Post-War period. The construction of the Cannon's Close housing estate to the east of the site is a prime example of this. The Ordnance Survey map of 1960 (Fig.12) clearly shows this development, though the site itself is still contained within the same established boundaries and remains featureless. The swimming pool and car parks were constructed in the 1960s/1970s, and the changing rooms within the area of proposed development not built until 1978.

5 DISCUSSION (Desk-based Assessment)

5.1 The desk-based assessment of the site has revealed that it lies within the presumed extent of the Roman settlement of Bishop's Stortford, established along the line of *Stane Street* after the 1st century, to the east of a crossing point of the river Stort. The site was believed to lie on the western periphery of the settlement, though small-scale Roman archaeological features were recorded on the site itself when the football changing rooms were constructed. The 1978 excavation will have truncated the archaeological features within part of the footprint of the proposed building to be constructed on the site.

5.2 As noted above, the particular importance of the project lay in the definition of any further features of the Roman settlement. Research frameworks for the region have been set out in Brown & Glazebrook 2000 and Glazebrook 1997. The late Iron Age/Roman transition period has been identified as a key theme in archaeological studies (English Heritage 1997), and of relevance here is an understanding of the origin and subsequent development of Roman Bishop's Stortford from any Iron Age predecessor. Bryant (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 14-18) notes the importance of analysis of processes of economic and social change/development during this period, along with establishment of more concrete chronologies, developments in the agrarian economy and settlement chronology/dynamics.

5.3 For the Roman period itself, the nature of the settlement at Bishop's Stortford requires further characterisation and dating. General regional research topics the period (as set out by Going & Plouviez in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22) include fuller analysis of both larger and smaller towns. Allied to the development of these small towns and larger settlements, other research topics include the analysis of pottery assemblages to perhaps indicate shifting settlement patterns within towns and analysis of crop production/storage and industry in the later Roman towns. Further analysis of many areas of food consumption and production during the period is also seen as a research priority,

as is further evidence of agricultural production (particularly with regard to the question of a possible reverse in the import/export bias of grain in the later Roman period). Further analysis of the landscape during the period provokes wide-ranging research topics, including the development/distribution and change of woodland, particularly with regard to possible regeneration at the end of the Roman period, and further research into the Roman road network and bridges/crossing points. Further research into rural settlement in general is seen as an important topic.

5.4 It will be particularly important to ascertain the chronology of the settlement, the development of the roadside settlement, phases of secondary occupation and the abandonment of the settlement. Other issues that the project may address include analysis of the economic base of the settlement and any evidence of trade/craft production, in order to characterise the functioning of this part of Roman Bishop's Stortford

6 METHODOLOGY (Field Evaluation)

6.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the brief and specification, and complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 1999).

6.2 4.3 Six trenches were excavated using a 180° wheeled mechanical excavator (JCB) (Fig.2). All were 25m in length, and 1.6m wide, and were excavated in the proposed locations as approved by the client and HCC CAO. The topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close supervision until the underlying natural deposits or archaeological horizons were visible. All further excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits revealed were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

6.3 Individual trench descriptions are detailed below:

6.3.1 Trench 1 Figs. 2&3

Sample section (0.00 = 58.49m AOD):

0.00 – 0.41 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.41 m +	L1002 Natural drift. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravels. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description Within the base of Trench 1, five closely-spaced linear field ditches (F1029, F1031, F1033, F1051, F1053) and a gully (F1061) were found running through the trench on an E-W alignment. The rounded terminals of two further E/W aligned ditches (F1035, F1057) were also recorded. Datable finds from the ditches include a small

amount of 2nd-3rd century pottery. A small amount of human bone was present within F1051.

The eastern ends of two vertically-sided and flat-bottomed features (F1055, F1059) were recorded at the southern end of the trench. F1059 cut through an earlier E-W aligned gully F1061. These features appear to be later than the ditches; pottery from F1059 dates to the 4th century.

F1029 was the most northerly recorded in the trench. It was 1.2 m wide, 0.44 m deep, its sides were steeply cut and formed a flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. The ditch was filled with a mid to dark brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of rounded flint gravel (L1030). It contained a small amount of 2nd century pottery (41g) and 18 residual struck flints.

A lesser ditch, F1031, found 2.6 m south of F1029, shared a similar flattish profile, it measured 0.9 m wide and 0.32 m deep. It was filled with a similar silt-derived fill (L1032) which contained a small amount of 2nd century pottery (46g) and an iron object (12g).

A larger ditch, F1033, measuring 1.2 m wide and 0.62 m deep, was found immediately south of F1031. Like F1029 and F1031, its sides were steep, the base of the ditch was more concave in profile. It was filled by a mid to dark brown silt derived deposit (L1034) which contained a larger amount of 2nd century pottery (262g), 2 iron objects (62g) and a lump of slag (8g).

F1035 was the western terminus of a shallow ditch found between Ditches F1033 and F1051. It was concave in profile and measured 0.84 m wide and 0.29 m deep. Like the other ditches, it was filled with a soft and loose mid brown sandy silt (L1036). It contained a small pellet of pottery (2g) and 4g of animal bone.

Ditch F1051 was found 1.5 m south of F1033, immediately south of F1035, it measured 0.95 m wide and 0.35 m deep. It shared a similar profile with F1031 and was filled with a mid brown sandy silt (L1052) which contained a small amount of Roman pottery (5g) and 72g of human bone.

Ditch F1053 was found 1.56 m south of ditch F1051, it measured 1.1 m wide and 0.43 m deep, its sides were steep and formed a flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. The ditch was filled with a reddish brown sandy silt (L1054). The latter contained sherds of Roman pottery (193g), 4g of animal bone and a few fragments of iron nails 40g.

F1057 was the eastern terminal of a ditch found immediately south of F1053. It measured 0.9 m wide and 0.42 m deep, its sides sloped steeply and formed a flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. It was filled with a single deposit of mid to dark brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

F1061 was a narrow E/W aligned gully found 1.57 m south of ditch 1053, it measured 0.53 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Its sides were steep and gave way to a flattish base. It was filled with a mid reddish brown sandy silt, L1062 (similar to the fill of F1053). No finds were present.

F1059 was the eastern side of a square-shaped feature which measured 0.9 m wide, 0.6 m deep. Its sides were vertical, they formed a flattish with a sharp break of slope. The feature was filled with a mid brown sandy silt (L1060) which contained a small quantity of 4th century pottery (254g). It cut through earlier E-W aligned gully F1061.

F1055 was found immediately south of F1059. It measured 0.8 m wide, 0.45 m deep and shared the same vertically sided and flat based profile as F1059. It was filled with a mid brown sandy silt (L1056) which contained a single iron nail (30g).

6.3.2 Trench 2 Figs. 2-3

Sample section (0.00 = 57.81m AOD):

0.00 – 0.25 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.25 - 0.49 m	L1001 Subsoil. Mid to dark brown gravelly sandy silt.
0.49 m +	L1002 Natural drift. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravels. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description The bases of two shallow N/S aligned ditches (F1047 and F1049) were found running through the eastern end of Trench 2. F1047 contained a small amount of Roman pottery whilst F1049 contained a few fragments of brick and tile.

F1047 was the lesser of two ditches found 2.5 m west of the northern end of Trench 2. It measured 1.25 m wide and 0.1 m deep and was filled with a mid greyish brown clayey sandy silt, L1048. It contained a small amount of Roman pottery (17g).

F1049 was found west of F1047, it measured 2 m wide, 0.2 m deep. Given the width and profile of the cut it is probable that the ditch was re-cut. It was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy clay (L1050) which contained brick (584g) and tile (212g).

6.3.3 Trench 3 Figs. 2&3

Sample section (0.00 = 58.45m AOD):

0.00 – 0.39 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.39 m +	L1002 Natural. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravel. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description Three parallel E/W aligned ditches (F1043, F1073, F1075) were found running through the trench 5 m – 10 m apart. Two of the ditches contained 2nd century pottery. F1073 cut through an earlier NE/SW aligned ditch, F1037. Ditch F1037 and a parallel ditch F1041 found 6 m apart ran diagonally through the trench, both ditches contained early 2nd century pottery. The eastern terminal of an E/W aligned ditch F1039 was found between F1043 and F1075. It contained 2nd- mid 3rd century pottery. Tree-hollow F1045 was found towards the southern end of the trench between F1041 and F1073.

F1043 was the middle of three E-W aligned ditches found running through the trench. It measured 1.35 m wide and 0.5 m deep, its sides were steep and gave way to a flat base with no perceptible break of slope. The ditch was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (L1044) which contained a few sherds of 2nd century pottery (173g), other finds include a few lumps of daub (10g), fragments of animal bone (70g), a lump of slag (50g) and a few fragments of unidentifiable iron (140g). It was cut by a larger ditch F1041.

The southerly ditch, F1073, measured 1.10 m wide, 0.2 m deep, its sides were cut steeply and formed a broad flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. It was filled with mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate flint gravels (L1074). It contained a few sherds of Roman pottery (12g).

The northerly ditch, F1075, was found 3 m south of the northern end of the trench. It appeared to have a NW spur and may have formed a curving enclosure. The ditch measured 0.8 m wide and 0.1 m deep. Its sides sloped more gently than F1073 and formed a flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. It was filled by a mid grey sandy silt L1076 and contained no finds. It was cut by Ditch F1037.

F1037 was one of a pair of ditches found running diagonally through the trench. Only the eastern side of the ditch was recorded. It measured 1.1 m + wide, 0.4 m deep and was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (L1038). It contained a large amount of mid 1st-2nd century pottery (713g), a few fragments of animal bone (154g) and a large amount of slag (1390g). It was cut by the spur of a later ditch, F1075.

F1041 was the southerly ditch to F1037, unlike F1037, its full width was exposed within the trench, it measured 1.45 m wide and 0.45 m deep. Its sides were steep and formed a broad flattish base. It was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt (L1042) which contained a few sherds of mid 1st century- AD 110/120 pottery (199g).

F1039 was the eastern terminal of a ditch found between Ditches F1043 and F1075. Its sides were vertical and gave way to a flat base with a sharp break of slope. The ditch measured 0.8m wide and 0.5 m deep and was filled with a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt (L1040) which contained sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd century-AD 260 (42g) and a small amount of daub (12g).

F1045 was the base of a tree hollow found at the southern end of the trench between ditches F1073 and F1041. It was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt, L1046, which contained a few sherds of Roman pottery (6g) only.

6.3.4 Trench 4 Figs. 2&4

Sample section (0.00 = 58.55m AOD):

0.00 – 0.42 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.42 m +	L1002 Natural drift. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravel. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description Two parallel N/S aligned ditches (F1063 and F1069) were found running through the east and west ends of the trench. The north and south sides of two pits (F1065 and F1071) were also found. A small circular post hole, F1067, was found east of Pit F1065.

F1063 was a very shallow linear ditch found running through the western side of the trench. It measured 0.68 m wide and 0.2 m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish brown gravelly sandy silt, L1064, which contained a few sherds of Roman pottery (20g), tile (32g), animal bone (2g) and iron nail fragments (12g).

F1069 was a large ditch found 13 m east of F1063. It measured 4 m wide and 0.45 m deep. Its sloping stepped profile suggests that the ditch was re-cut along its western side. It was filled with a dark greyish brown, gravelly sandy silt (L1070) which contained a quantity of mid – later 2nd century pottery (780g) and a few fragments of animal bone (36g) and struck flint (8g).

F1065 was the southern side of a probable curvilinear shaped pit which was found running through the northern side of the trench, 2.2 m east of Ditch F1063. The pit measured 1.4 m wide and 0.29 m deep. It was filled with a dark greyish brown gravelly sandy silt (L1066) which contained a few sherds of mid 1st –early/mid 2nd century pottery (35g).

F1067 was a small circular post hole found 2.1m east of Pit F1065. It measured 0.48 m in diameter and 0.24 m deep. Its rounded shallow base contained a dark grey brown sandy silt L1068. No finds were present.

F1071 was the most easterly feature recorded within the trench. It comprised the northern side of a circular feature which continued beyond the southern side of the trench. The pit measured 0.84 m wide and 0.41m + deep. Its exposed edge sloped steeply at 25° from the horizontal. It was filled with a loosely compacted dark greyish brown sandy silt, L1072, which contained a single pottery sherd (6g) of 1st-early 2nd century date.

6.3.5 Trench 5 Figs. 2&4

Sample section (0.00 = 58.68m AOD):

0.00 – 0.42 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.42 m +	L1002 Natural Drift. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravel. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description Within Trench 5 the southern side of a large pit (F1027) containing 2nd century pottery was found in the eastern end of the trench, It was cut by Grave F1005 Skeleton (SK) 1021, one of four Roman burials (which included SK1022, SK1023, SK1024) found towards the eastern end of the trench. The graves exhibited a number of different alignments. The eastern side of Grave F1005 was cut away by a large flat-bottomed linear feature, F1003, which contained and articulated burial SK1022. An unexcavated probable archaeological feature located in the centre of the trench was cut by a later grave F1011 containing SK1023. A post hole, F1007, was found adjacent to Graves F1009 and F1011.

F1027 comprised the southern and western sides of a large pit which was found at the east end of the trench running through its northern side. It measured 3.2 m + long, 1.2 m + wide. Its sides were cut steeply and formed a flattish base with a perceptible break of slope. It was filled with a single deposit of loosely compacted mid reddish brown gravelly sandy silt. L1028 contained 2nd century pottery (130g) and a small amount of tile (6g) and animal bone (4g). Its southern side was cut by Grave F1005 SK1021, whilst the western side of linear feature F1003 cut its east side.

F1007 was a steep-sided flat-bottomed sub-circular post hole which was found towards the middle of the trench. It measured 0.43 m in diameter, 0.2 m deep and was filled with a loosely compacted, mid brown, gravelly sandy silt, L1008. No finds were present.

F1009 was the most westerly grave recorded, it was found towards the centre of the trench on a NNE-SSW alignment partially running through the northern edge of the trench. The grave which was not fully excavated measured 2.3 m long, 0.7 m wide. It contained the skeleton, SK1024, of an articulated adult, its skull, part vertebrae and left humerus were exposed and cleaned for definition. The grave's backfill F1010 comprised a mid brown gravelly sandy silt, and it contained a few sherds of mid 1st century-AD 110/120 pottery (19g).

F1025 was a sub-rectangular feature (almost certainly another grave) found running through the northern edge of the trench, 2.3 m east of grave F1009. Its southern end was cut away by a later Grave F1011. The grave measured 1.2 m + long, and its backfill

L1026 comprised a mid reddish brown, loosely compacted, sandy silt. The grave was unexcavated. No finds were recovered from the surface of the feature.

F1011 was a NW/SE aligned grave which cut the southern end of Grave F1025, Its southern end continued beyond the edge of the trench. The grave which was sub-rectangular in shape measured 1.8 m + long, it was not fully excavated. It contained the articulated remains of an adult articulated skeleton, SK1023. These were partially exposed to confirm the form of the skeleton but left unexcavated. The grave was back-filled with a loosely compacted, mid to dark brown, sandy silt, L1012. It contained a small amount of 3rd-4th century pottery (41g), animal bone (2g) and a single residual struck flint (1g).

F1005 was an E/W aligned grave which truncated the southern side of an earlier pit F1027. The eastern end of the grave was cut away by F1003. The grave contained the remains of a child, SK1021, laid in a supine position with its head at the western end of the grave. The skeleton was partially cleaned and exposed for definition. The grave fill, L1006, comprised a mid-dark reddish brown sandy silt which contained late 1st-2nd century pottery (33g), a few fragments of animal bone (8g) and residual struck flints (6g).

F1003 was the western side of a possible linear feature found running through the eastern end of the trench on a N-S alignment. It cut SK1021. It measured 0.50 m + wide and 0.50 m deep. Its exposed side had a sharp break from the surface and fell almost vertically to an even, regular base. It was filled with L1004, a dark greyish/brown, very humic sandy silt of loose compaction. It contained pottery of late 1st-early/mid 2nd century date (278g), animal bone (286g), slag (386g) and a fragment of shell (4g). Part of SK1022 was revealed within L1004; the skull, right humerus and proximal ends of the radius and ulna were partially exposed to determine articulation and alignment. SK1022 proved to be articulated, an adult and on a NW-SE alignment.

6.3.6 Trench 6 Figs. 2&4

Sample section (0.00 = 58.88m AOD):

0.00 – 0.31 m	L1000 Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt, soft with a loose compaction, containing small sub-angular flints and pebble.
0.31 – 0.74 m	L1001 Subsoil. Mid to dark brown sandy silt.
0.41 m +	L1002 Natural drift. Mid brownish orange silty sand and coarse/fine flint gravel. Moderate to firm compaction.

Description The trench traversed an E/W aligned water pipe which passed through the southern end of the trench. A 4-metre wide unexcavated baulk was left overlying the live service. Two similar-shaped pits, F1017 and F1019, were found towards the northern end of the trench. Both contained Roman pottery. A large post-mediaeval or modern, V-shaped, boundary passed through the southern half of the trench on an E/W alignment

(F1013). It truncated subsoil L1001. It coincided with the present hedged boundary to the east (observed on maps from the first half of the 19th century and almost certainly of earlier origin).

F1015 (=F1017) was a sub-rectangular pit. It was found towards the northern half of the trench. It measured 3.5 m long, 1.2 m + wide and 0.18m – 0.35 m deep. The sides of the southern end of Pit F1015 sloped gently giving way to a flattish base with no perceptible break of slope. Towards its northern end (=F1017) it measured 0.35 m deep, its sides became near vertical, and the base flat with a perceptible break of slope. The pit was filled with a dark greyish brown, sandy silt L1016 (=L1018), and it contained sherds of Roman pottery (166g), animal bone (38g), tile (40g), daub (4g) and an iron object (116g).

F1019 appeared to be of similar shape to F1015, only part of its eastern side was revealed running through the western side of the trench. Its partially-exposed profile was similar to F1015, and it measured 0.2 m + deep. It was filled with a dark greyish brown, sandy silt with infrequent flecks of charcoal (L1020). The latter contained a few sherds of mid 1st-later 2nd century pottery (37g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological contexts during the evaluation, despite the presence of a high water table and intrusive groundwater in Trench 2 in particular that necessitated pumping.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 All the trenches contained archaeological features. These principally date to the Romano-British period.

8.2 A common stratigraphy was revealed. It comprised some 0.4m of topsoil overlying the floodplain/terrace gravels and sealing the archaeological features. A thin subsoil partially survived, and it also sealed the archaeological features. The subsoil was most apparent in Trenches 2 and 6, particularly in the latter.

9 CONCLUSIONS

Field/enclosures

9.1 Evidence to suggest the presence of three or more periods of field/enclosure were found within Trenches 1-4. These three phases date to the mid 1st-2nd century AD, the 2nd-3rd century AD and the 3rd-4th century AD.

9.2 Two parallel NE/SW aligned ditches, F1037 and F1041, may represent part of a Roman field system; pottery from both ditches would suggest that the fields ceased to be maintained between the mid 1st-2nd century.

9.3 Four N/S aligned ditches revealed within Trenches 2 and 4 may also belong to this phase. Ditch F1069 contained a larger quantity of mid-late 2nd century pottery. Pit F1065 in Trench 4 contained mid 1st-early mid 2nd century pottery.

9.4 Evidence for later field systems were revealed within Trench 1 (F1055, F1057, F1053, F1051, F1035, F1033, F1031, F1061) and Trench 3 (F1043, F1073 and F1075). The ditches were generally small in size (maximum depth 0.62 m and maximum width 1.3 m), and those within Trench 1 were set closely together (between 0.3 m – 2.6 m apart). All shared a common silt-derived fill, and pottery within them fills would suggest that they were abandoned between the 2nd-3rd century. Pit F1039 in Trench 3 contained a few sherds of 2nd -3rd century pottery.

9.5 The terminus of an E/W aligned ditch (F1059) within Trench 1 cut an earlier 2nd-3rd century ditch (F1061). Pottery dates from the former would suggest that it is much later, abandoned during the 3rd-4th century.

Cemetery

9.6 Evidence for a burial ground was recorded within Trench 5. The cemetery appears to comprise at least two or more phases of burial, both pre- and post- 2nd century. Grave F1009 contained pottery which dates to the mid 1st century - AD110/120. Pottery from Grave F1005 which cut an earlier 2nd century pit (F1027) dates to the late 1st-2nd century. Grave F1005 was also cut by a later linear feature which contained SK1022.

9.7 The latest phase of burial may be represented by Grave F1011 (orientated NE/SW), which cut an earlier grave, F1025. Pottery from the grave fill dates to the 3rd-4th century.

9.8 Many finds associated with the Roman settlement on *Stane Street* at Bishop's Stortford had been made to the east of the river Stort, both from the site itself and also from a wide area of the Cannon's Close housing estate further east. Earlier archaeological excavation on the site of the existing changing rooms revealed small-scale, probably truncated archaeological features of the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. It is possible that the site had suffered some truncation by ploughing prior to its use as a sports field. The earlier excavations strongly suggested that the site had been truncated, though this was not apparent from the current investigations by HAT. Features (and indeed the inhumations where present) appeared to be moderate to well preserved.

10 THE ARCHIVE

The archive comprises an A4 file, A1 permatrace plans, colour and b/w film, and the finds listed below (concordance). It will be deposited with the local museum, Bishop's Stortford.

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APPENDIX I

Sites and Monuments Record Information

SMR No.	NGR TL	Period	Description
0011	487 214	Med	Bishop's Stortford mediaeval town. A mediaeval borough, first referred-to as a borough when taxed in 1306-1336. Sent MPs to Parliament in 1311. Town owned by the Bishops of London who resided in Waytemore Castle (SMR 0028)
0028	4900 2145	Med	Waytemore Castle, 11 th century motte-and-bailey castle with an unusual, sub-rectangular plan, with masonry remains of shell keep. Bailey to the south much remodelled as a public park. Built by William I, early stronghold of the Bishop's of London. Used as a prison from 1344. Foundations of the latter found in 1850. Burials and coins found in the grounds. Castle masonry incorporates Roman <i>tegulae</i> , some with flanges.
0127	479 219	Roman	4 th -5 th century sherds and ironwork found in the footings of a new estate at Stane Street. Possibly associated with the other finds from the Cannons Close estate. Roman material of similar date found over a wide area. Possibly also similar to other remaining areas that have been ass
0512	4960 2226	Roman	Cremation urns located on the Cannons Close estate in the 1960s
0513		Roman	Site of Romano-British settlement of Bishop's Stortford. Occupation of the 1 st -4 th century first noted from pottery finds (SMR 2234). Cannons Close housing estate built 1953-60, where remains of Roman buildings, rubbish pits (2132), burials (0512, 0514, 2136) and large amounts of pottery/other finds (1360, 2138/9, 2260). Area recorded by Bishops Stortford college (1435)
0514	4945 2211	Roman	Barnack stone coffin found in 1962 containing a 'gypsum' burial
0784	493 220	?Med	Pottery of possible mediaeval date recorded near Collin's Cross
0972	4863 2134	Med	Church of St Michael, High Street. Principally early 15 th century in date. Upper tower storey added in 1812, prior to major restoration in the later 19 th century
1091	49 22	Palaeo	Acheulian hand axe found in brickearth by the side of a ditch a short distance from the Stort in the late 19 th century.
1339	490 214	Roman	Roman coins found at Waytemore Castle Garden, including one of Marcus (161-180 AD)
1342	482 218	Roman	Two Roman coins found to the west of Oak Hall, one of Hadrian and the other illegible
1360	493 222	Unk	Possible gold ring and pottery recorded by TW Elcock in the area of the Roman settlement
1435	4916 2205	Roman	Area of Roman settlement excavated by Bishops Stortford College (HE Wall). Also excavated in the sports ground to the west of the railway. Possibly five trenches but little further information available. Collection of 400 pots at the college is believed to include much material from the site.
2132	4920 2214	Roman	Inscribed bone disc with ironwork, tools, bone pins and hundreds of pottery sherds (including Samian ware). Found in Roman rubbish pit in the garden of 92, Cannons Close
2133	4855 2190	Meso/Preh	Flints of possible Mesolithic date found in 1963 at 35 Barrelsdown Road
2134	4880 2212	Roman	Roman barbarous coin found at The Fox in 1955.
2136	4960 2195	Roman	Samian dish and three other pots found in 1962, probably part of a burial group.
2138	494 221	Roman	Around 19 coins found between 1954-9 in general area of the Cannons Close estate. Many more coins recorded. Sestertius found in 1902
2139	491 220	Roman	Three coins found to the west of the railway by Bishops Stortford College, discovered when a section was excavated through Stane Street
2140	492 221	Roman	Part of a Roman bronze lock bolt found in 1962 to the NW of Collins Cross in the area of the Roman settlement.
2141	4916 2234	Roman	Roman pottery sherds found in 1971 when the river bed was dredged to the north of the sports ground.
2142	497 224	Roman	Roman bracelet & coins found in 1969 in Glasscock's brickyard
2143	4996 2225	Roman	Coin of Antoninus Pius found in 1959 to the SW of the Grange
2234	497 224	Roman/ Med	Possible Roman and mediaeval tile kilns found in Glasscock's Brickyard, Stanstead Road. Pottery included worn Samian sherds, Roman <i>tegula</i> and flue-tile, one piece being kiln waste. Kiln pottery destroyed by later clay working. Mediaeval sherds of the 14 th century and two hoeshoes also recovered.
2260	4922 2209	Roman	Roman bronze steelyard found in 1964 at 65 Cannons Close. Two lead weights attached
2296	4815 2185	Roman	Roman coins of Constantine (306-337) and sestertius/dupondius of Hadrian (117-138) found 1936/67 in a ditch to the south of Cricketfield Lane.
2826	487 213	Med	Site of Potters Cross at Potters Hill, possibly a market cross and extant in the 13 th century.
2827	4960 2104	Med	Site of Collin's Cross, possibly so named after Collin family referred-to in the mediaeval period. Destroyed during the Reformation or during the Commonwealth.
2828	487 214	P-Med	Site of the lock-up, built in 1520 and standing on the north side of Market Square/top of North Street. Moved in 1718 to the lower end of North Street.
2830	487 22	Unk ?med	Site of Crabb's Cross, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford. Probably stood at Rye Street at its intersection with an ancient way. Destroyed either at the Reformation or during the Commonwealth
2831	482 215	Unk	Site of Wayte Cross in the grounds of Westfield House. Stood at the junction of Maze Green

		?med	Road and the old road from Stortford to Little Hadham. Destroyed either at the Reformation or during the Commonwealth
2846	49 21	Roman ?Saxon	Two iron spearheads of Roman or possible Saxon date found in association with three others during railway works 'at Finchingbrook' in the mid 19 th century
2847	49 21	Preh ?Neo	Cutting end of a polished flint axe found on the bank of the ??Lea (presumably the Stort) in 1880
2849	490 210	Meso	Excavation by Bishop's Stortford College under HE Wall at the Meads revealed a tranchet axe, several flakes/cores and some pottery. Depoist recorded as 'jumbled', probably derived from the making up of the playing field edge on the side of the river. Suggested that the Mesolithic material had not been moved too far from its original context.
2850	487 216	Unk	Undated inhumation burials of a woman and child found in 1937 at North Gate End
3565	490 215		Air photo of motte-and-bailey castle
4227	4895 2137	Unk	Inhumations found at Castle Cottage in 1938. Three inhumations and 3 skulls. Possibly mediaeval, possibly associated with a prison on the site which was pulled down in 1649. A number of further skeletons have been found in the area surrounding the motte. Further human remains recently found during gardening activities on the same site (HAT/HCC CAO visit).
4681	500 219	Roman	Supposed line of Road 32 as recorded by Margary
5142	4914 2125	Mod	Road bridge, carrying Hockerill Road, rebuilt in 1956
5347	488 214	P-Med	Former maltings at Bridge Street/Water Lane, now in use as a garden centre
5348	4903 2123	P-Med	Former malting, Dane Street. Front of building now converted to a garage.
5353	4913 2126	P-Med	Former maltings, Hockerill Street. Built c.1800, small house adjoining probably early 18 th century. Now converted to flats.
5354	4919 2124	P-Med	Former maltings/barley store on Hockerill Street, fire-damaged in the 1960s
5355	4920 2124	P-Med	Former malting, probably of 19 th century date, now converted into offices and private dwellings.
5536	491 212	P-Med	Former maltings on the south side of Hockerill Street. Probably built in the 1860s. Now converted to offices
5638	492 224	P-Med	Railway bridge over the river Stort at Mill Croft. Brick piers, iron girder construction, single span.
6505	4906 2207	Roman	Rescue excavation in advance of the construction of football changing rooms revealed a small concentration of pits and post holes representing 2 distinct phases of Roman occupation. Site appears to have been abandoned after a period of early occupation in the 1 st century and a later occupied in the later 3 rd century
6520	4949 2197	Roman	Section through Stane Street excavated in the 1970s. Housing development at Cannons Close revealed a possible Iron Age pottery scatter. Above this was a pebble surface reflecting Phase 1. Above this lay 2 gravel layers. A layer apparently comprising smithing hearths overlay the norther roadside ditch as Phase 3. This suggests that there may have been iron working in the general area.
6791	4936 2235	P-Med	Former water corn mill, Parsonage Mill. Now demolished and site occupied by housing estate and gardens. Parsonage Mill House remains. Site located on 2 nd Edition OS
6850	4870 2140	P-Med	Site of Benskins Brewery on the north side of Water Lane. Archaeological evaluation by HAT in 1992. Site now occupied by Waitrose supermarket
6853	4798 2160	P-Med	Site of brick grounds identified from 1896 OS map. Now occupied by two 1930s houses and gardens
6854	4825 2145	P-Med	Brick Kiln Field marked on 1896 OS map at Hadham Road. Now occupied by buildings and grounds of Bishop's Stortford College
6857	4855 2240	P-Med	Site of a windmill shown at Whitehall Lane on Bryant's map of 1822, probably recently built. Ceased to grind corn by the late 19 th century and site now occupied by a house and gardens.
6858	4865 2210	P-Med	Brickworks at Lindsey Road identified from 1896 OS map. Still visible as a large pit, though modern housing built around it.
6860	4910 2275	P-Med	Brickgrounds at Rye Street identified from the 1896 OS map. Now occupied by houses and gardens.
6947	4916 2273	Mod	Spigot mortar base at Rye Street, half-embedded in a stream bank. Located on the western side of Rye Street, to cover approaches from the north across the bridge.
6949	4960 2200	Mod	Site of a WWII pillbox recorded in 1985, though no trace found in 1992.

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Zeepvat, B, 1997, 133. *Stanstead Road, Bishop's Stortford: A Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment*, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report No. 215

APPENDIX 3: Cartographic Sources

1676	Seller's Map of Hertfordshire	MM40 (CRO)
1695	Oliver's Map of Hertfordshire	MM40 (CRO)
1749	Warburton's Map of Hertfordshire	MM40 (CRO)
1766	Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire	HAT
1822	Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire	MM40 (CRO)
1823	"Plan of the Parish of Bishop's Stortford in the County of Hertfordshire. Taken for the Purpose of equalising the Poor's Rates in March by John King, Land Surveyor, Saffron Walden, Essex"	D/2 61 P1
1839	Bishop's Stortford Tithe Map	D/P21/27/3
	" " " Award	D/P21/27/1
1878	Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" map (25" unavailable from HALS)	Sheet XXIII
1898	Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" map	Sheet XXIII.2
1921	Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 25" map	Sheet XXIII.2
1939	Ordnance Survey 25" map	Sheet XXIII.2
1960	Ordnance Survey 6" (provisional)	Sheet XXIII
1983	<i>1:250,000 soil map of England and Wales: Sheet 6, South-East England (and accompanying legend). Soil Survey of England & Wales (Harpenden).</i>	
1995	East Hertfordshire District Council Local Plan.	
1991	Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1:25000	Sheet 1074

HAT 511

Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts

26/03/01

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery (g)	Building material (g)	Human Bone (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Struck flint (g)	Other
1059	1060	1	Ditch fill	2 nd -4 th C	254					
1063	1064	4	?Ditch fill	Roman	20	tile 32		2		Fe nails (12g)
1065	1066	4	?Pit fill	Mid 1 st -early/mid 2 nd C	35					
1069	1070	4	Ditch fill	Mid-later 2 nd C	780			36	8	
1071	1072	4	Pit fill		6					
1073	1074	3	Ditch fill	Roman	12					

The Roman Pottery

A. R. Fawcett MA

Introduction

This report provides dating evidence for each context that contained pottery at Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. Dating is based (where possible) on both the identification of form and fabric. This report also contains a brief summary of the results of analysis.

Methodology

Quantification is by sherd count and weight per fabric. A summary of the results are presented below. The assemblage from each context was given a brief macroscopic examination. No detailed fabric description of any of the material and no detailed comparison with other material of a similar nature has been attempted. The spot date for each context is based upon the most recent sherd. However, where appropriate a range is given and comments are directed toward the condition and majority of pottery. Fabric and form keys are provided below to ease reference.

Fabric Key

LGF SA	La Graufeseneque samian ware (Southern Gaul)
MON SA	Montans samian ware (Southern Gaul)
LEZ SA 2	Lezoux samian ware (Central Gaul)
HGB SA	Heiligenberg samian ware (East Gaul)
EGL SA	Unsourcesd East Gaulish samian ware
COL CC	Colchester colour coated ware
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour coated ware
OXF RS	Oxfordshire red/brown slip ware
HAD WS	Hadham white slipped ware
ROB MD	Romano-British mica dusted wares
COL WH	Colchester white ware
OXF WH	Oxfordshire white ware
VER WH	Verulamium white ware
UNS WH	Unsourcesd white ware
HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware
UNS OX	Unsourcesd oxidised ware
BSW	Black surfaced or Romanising grey ware
GRS	Unsourcesd sandy grey wares
HAD RE 1	Hadham reduced ware category 1
HAD RE 2	Hadham reduced ware category 2
STOR	Storage jar fabrics
HAR SH	Harrold shell tempered ware
PNK GT	Pink grog tempered ware
SOB GT	Southern British grog tempered ware
BAT AM	Baetican amphorae fabrics

Form Key

A = Platter, B = Dish, C = Bowl, D = Mortaria, G = Jar, H = Beaker.

Ceramic Listing

CONTEXT	CERAMIC LISTING	DATE RANGE	COMMENTS
US Tr1	2x HAD RE 1 [G 2nd C style] (23g)	2nd C	
US Tr2	3x LEZ SA 2 [Drg31 mid to later 2nd C] (21g) 1x MON SA [Drg33-mid to later 2nd C] (6g) 3x HAD WS (25g) 1x HAD OX (51g) 2x GRS [G-2nd C style] (85g) 1x HAD RE 1 [G] (128g) 1x Fired clay (9g)	Mid to later 2nd C	
US Tr5	1x BSW (17g)	Roman	
1004 Tr5	1x LGF SA [Drg18/31-AD90-117] (21g) 1x UNS WH (6g) 6x BSW [G-late 1st-2nd C] (44g) 16x HAD RE 1 [C, G-?2nd C] (129g) 1x HAD RE 2 [B-2nd C+] (8g) 6x GRS [B-2nd C+] (70g)	Late 1st - early/mid 2nd C	
1006 Tr5	1x BSW (1g) 1x GRS [G] (17g) 2x HAD RE 1 [G-late 1st - 2nd C] (15g)	Late 1st - 2nd C	
1010 Tr5	1x LGF SA [mid 1st - AD110/120] (19g)	Mid 1st - AD110/120	
1012 Tr5	2x HAD OX [later fabric] (10g) 1x GRS (6g) 1x HAD RE 2 (2g) 1x HAR SH [G-3rd-4th C] (23g)	3rd - 4th C	
1016 Tr6	2x BSW (29g) 3x GRS [G] (20g) 1x STOR (37g)	Roman	
1018 Tr6	1x COL CC [cAD120-later 3rd C] (8g) 5x GRS [C flanged - 3rd-4th C] (72g)	3rd C	The decoration on the COL CC sherd is more reminiscent of LNV CC's combination of white paint and rouletting.
1020 Tr6	1x MON SA [mid 1st - later 2nd C] (22g) 1x GRS (15g)	Mid 1st - later 2nd C	The fabric of the rilled sherd is one that has been noted by the author throughout Hertfordshire. Although there is no evidence to date the fabric and form styles, it appears to be related to the Hadham industry.

1028 Tr5	1x HGB SA [Hadrian-Antonine] (1g) 1x HAD OX (7g) 1x UNS OX (5g) 3x BSW (12g) 1x GRS (2g) 4x HAD RE 1 (34g) 1x STOR (69g)	2nd C	
1030 Tr1	3x BSW [G 2nd C+ style] (34g) 1x HAD OX (2g) 1x UNS OX (1g) 1x HAD RE 1 (4g)	2nd C ?+	Two types of jar are present in BSW.
1032 Tr1	2x BSW (25g) 2x GRS (11g) 2x HAD RE 1 (10g)	2nd C ?+	Rilling occurs on one BSW sherd.
1034 Tr1	1x LGF SA [mid 1st - AD110/120] (<1g) 10x BSW [G 2nd C style] (173g) 2x GRS (5g) 5x HAD RE 1 [G 2nd C] (65g) 1x STOR (19g)	2nd C	The samian sherd is very small and abraded relative to the rest of the assemblage.
1036 Tr1	1x UNS OX (2g)	Roman	
1038 Tr3	2x ROB MD [C-2nd C] (29g) 1x VER WH [D-2nd C] (232g) 7x BSW (109g) 11x HAD RE 1 (141g) 3x STOR (154g) 4x SOB GT (48g)	Mid 1st - 2nd C	
1040 Tr3	1x EGL SA [2nd - AD260] (7g) 1x BSW (1g) 2x HAD RE 1 (17g) 1x GRS (14g) 2x STOR (3g)	2nd - AD260	
1042 Tr3	1x LGF SA (13g) 2x BSW (27g) 1x STOR (126g) 2x SOB GT [C-1st AD] (33g)	Mid 1st - AD110/120	
1044 Tr3	2x LEZ SA 2 [Drg33a-2nd C] (12g) 1x LNV CC [mid 2nd - 4th C] (11g) 3x HAD OX (7g) 1x UNS OX (1g) 3x BSW (22g) 5x GRS [G 2nd C style] (34g) 5x HAD RE 1 [G] (52g) 1x STOR (34g)	2nd C	An unknown form in hard finer fabric is present in LEZ SA 2.
1046 Tr3	1x UNS OX (2g) 1x BSW (4g)	Roman	
1048 Tr2	1x STOR (17g)	Roman	
1052 Tr1	1x HAD RE 1 (5g)	Roman	

1054 Tr1	3x OXF RS [C-AD240+] (113g) 1x BSW (8g) 1x HAD RE 1 [G-3rd C+] (36g) 1x STOR (19g) 1x <i>PNK</i> GT (17g)	AD240+	The OXF RS bowl is flanged and belongs in Youngs category C51.
1060 Tr1	1x OXF WH [D-2nd-4th C AD] (245g) 1x HAD OX [H] (2g) 1x GRS (7g)	2nd - 4th C	The fabric in OXF WH is similar to VER WH however, significantly the trituration grits consist of multi coloured quartz not flint.
1064 Tr4	3x HAD RE 1 (20g)	Roman	
1066 Tr4	1x GRS (11g) 2x HAD RE 1 [A & G mid 1st-early/mid 2nd C] (24g)	Mid 1st - early/mid 2nd C	
1070 Tr4	4x LEZ SA 2 [Drg31-mid to late 2nd C] (9g) 1x HAD OX (3g) 2x COL WH [mid 1st-early 3rd] (30g) 5x BSW (43g) 5x GRS [G] (154g) 8x HAD RE 1 [G] (98g) 6x STOR (334g) 3x BAT AM [mid 1st - cAD260] (109g)	Mid - later 2nd C	
1072 Tr4	1x SOB GT (6g)	1st - early 2nd C AD	
1074 Tr3	1x HAD RE 1 (12g)	Roman	

Results and Discussion

A total of 232 sherds, weighing 3876g, were recovered from the trial trenches at Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford. The pottery as a whole (in terms of size and abrasion) is in a variable condition. Nevertheless the average sherd size (excepting storage, mortaria and amphorae fabrics) is reasonable at 12g. The form assemblage is dominated by jars accompanied by a small number of dishes, bowls, mortaria and one beaker sherd.

The majority of the 29 contexts are 2nd century AD, and eight are dated mid/late 1st to early/mid or 2nd century. The small quantity of La Graufesenque samian ware and grog tempered sherds errs to the 2nd century being the main period of activity. Finally, three contexts are dated to the later Roman period (3rd and 4th centuries AD).

Samian from La Graufesenque (southern Gaul) arrives in the early period of activity. This is followed by imported samian from Lezoux, Montans, and a small number of east Gaulish sherds during the 2nd century AD. The only other import are sherds belonging to a Baetican oil amphora. Only five Romano-British finewares are recorded, one each from the Nene Valley and Colchester and three from Oxford in the later Roman period. The

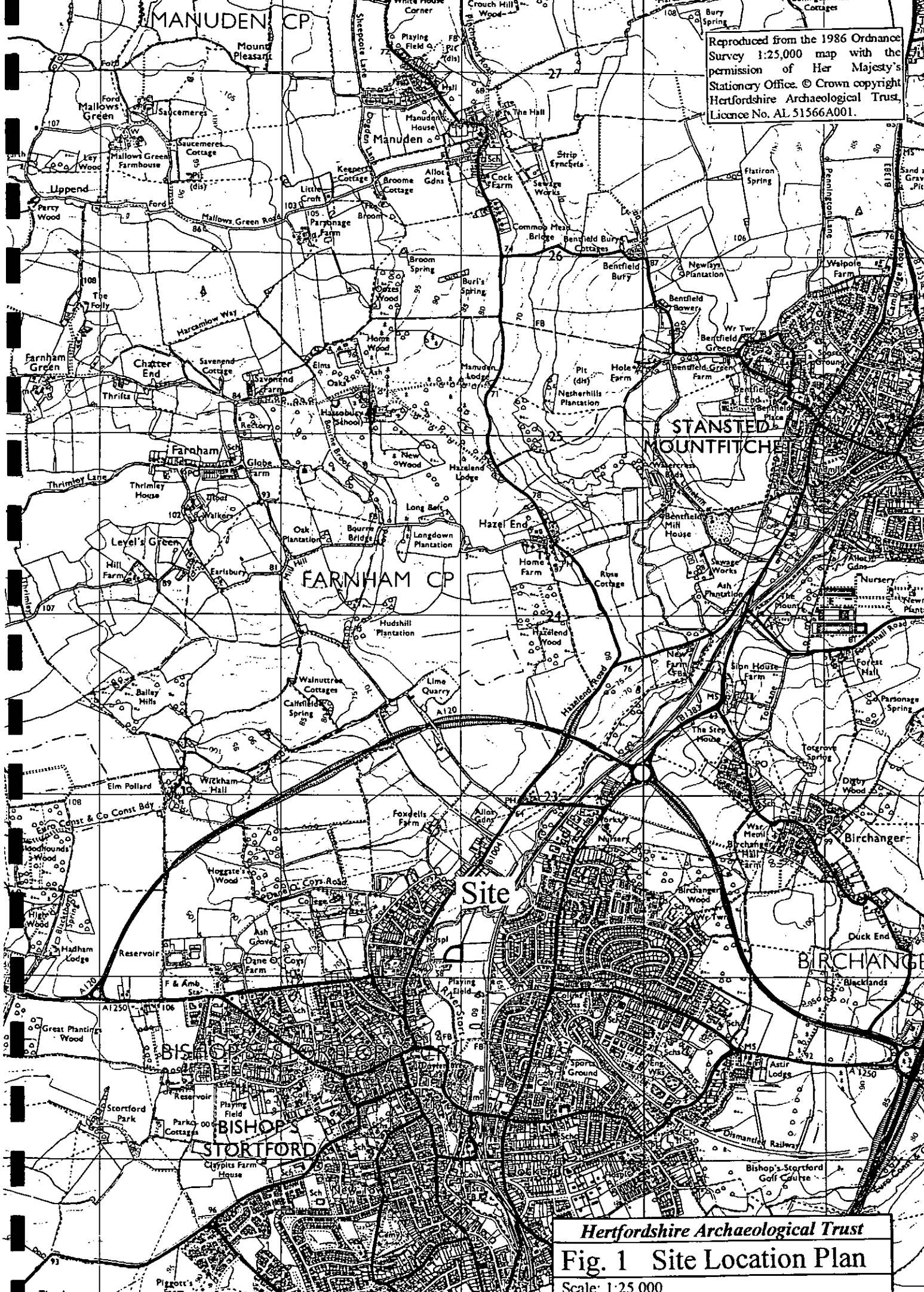
presence of Colchester products is not surprising due to the close proximity of Stane Street and indeed a number of white ware sherds are also attendant. However as might be expected the most common coarsewares on the site are those from the Hadham industry. These are present throughout the Roman period and account for 35% of the assemblage. A number of the unsourced sandy grey wares on closer inspection may prove to be coarser fabrics related to the Hadham industry (e.g. L1020 Tr.6). The remaining coarsewares that can be sourced are from Verulamium, Harrod (Beds) and Oxford.

The assemblage compares favorably with that recovered from Legions Way, a site located a short distance away on Stane Street (Fawcett, forthcoming). Here the activity on the site was more or less restricted to the 2nd century with similar lesser amounts at either side of the century. Comparable percentages are also noted at Legions Way (Hadham products 37%, Samian 7% and similarly a low number of Romano-British finewares 9%). Another nearby site, Elliotts Yard (Wright 1982, 81), also yielded a 2nd-century assemblage.

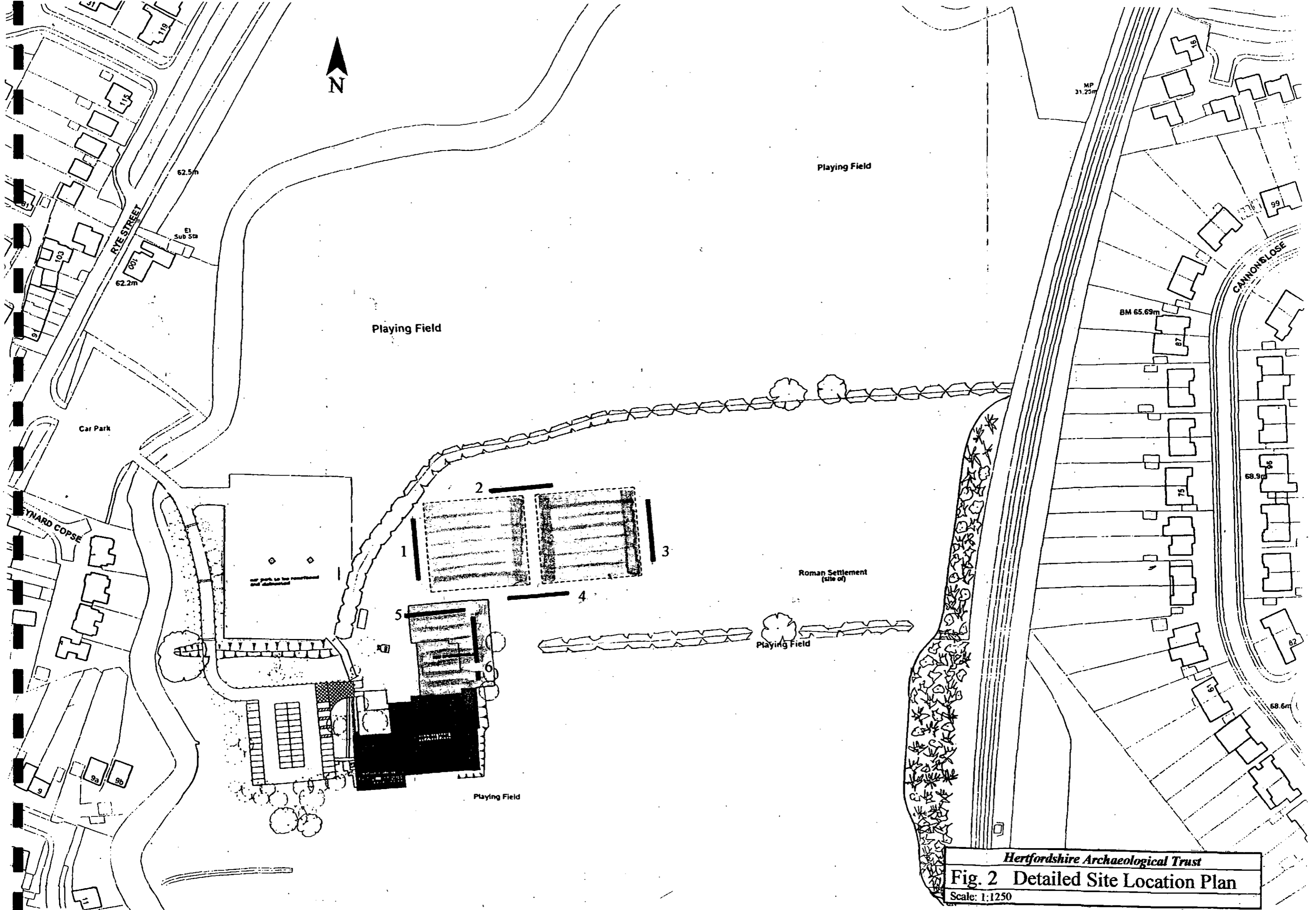
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- Wright, W. J., 1982 'The Pottery' in *Excavations at Elliotts Yard, Bishop's Stortford* Hertfordshire Archaeology Vol 8 78-84.

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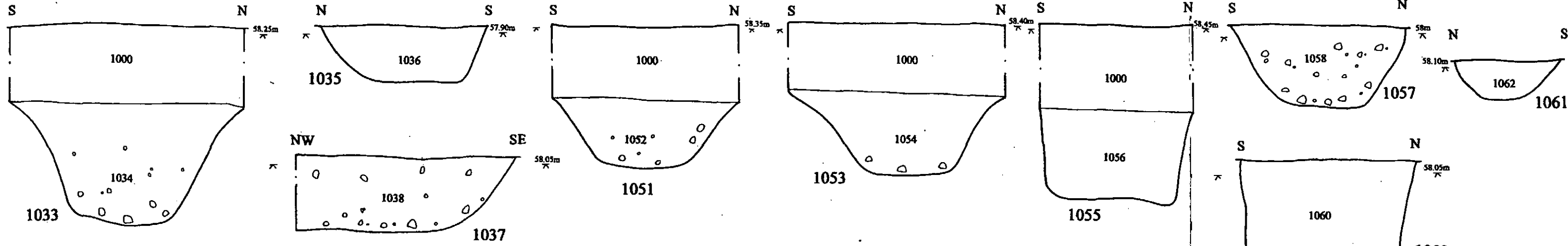
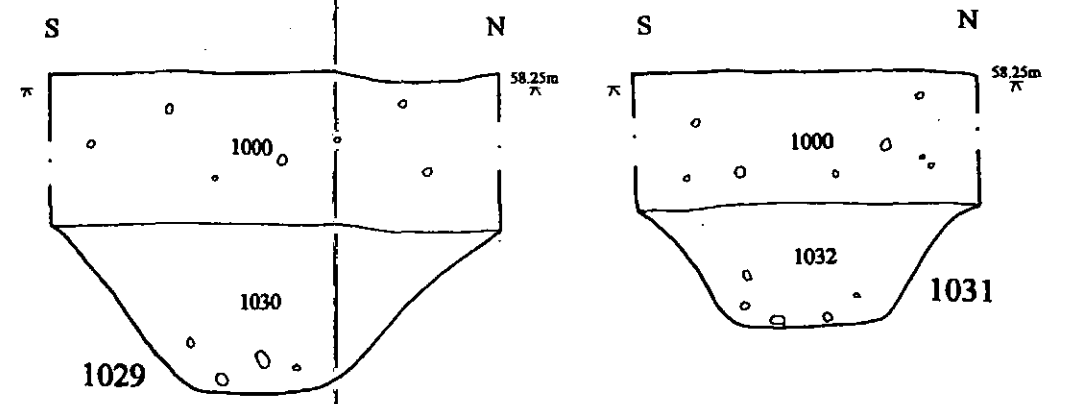
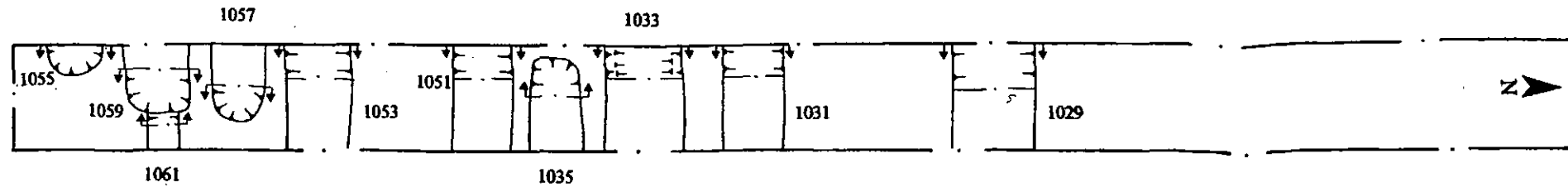


Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
Scale: 1:25,000

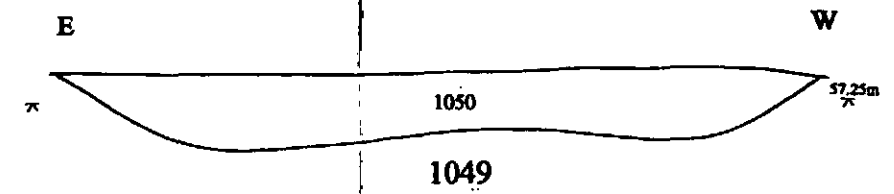
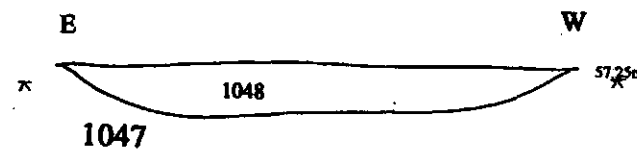
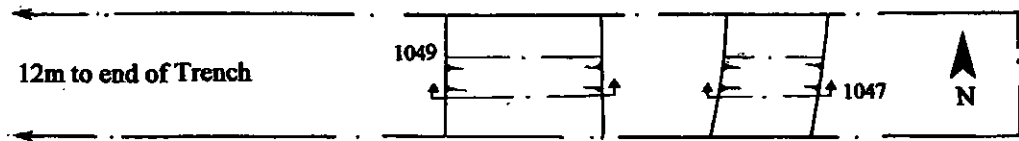


Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 2 Detailed Site Location Plan
 Scale: 1:1250

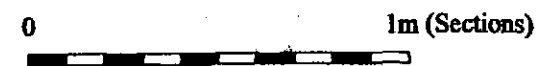
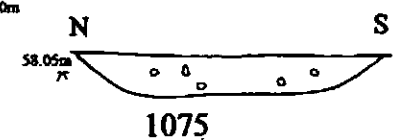
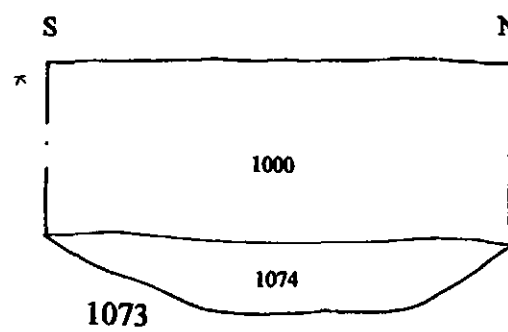
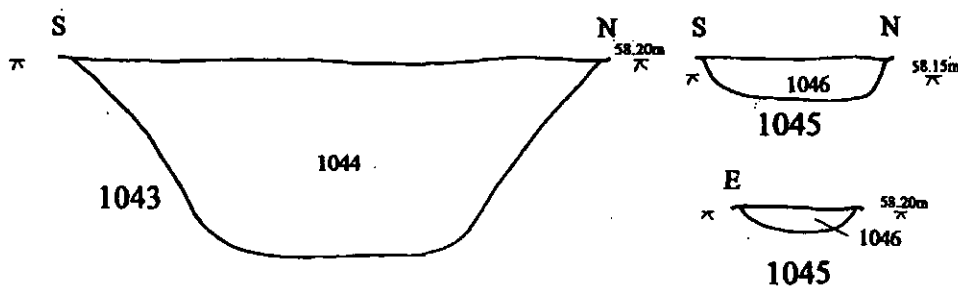
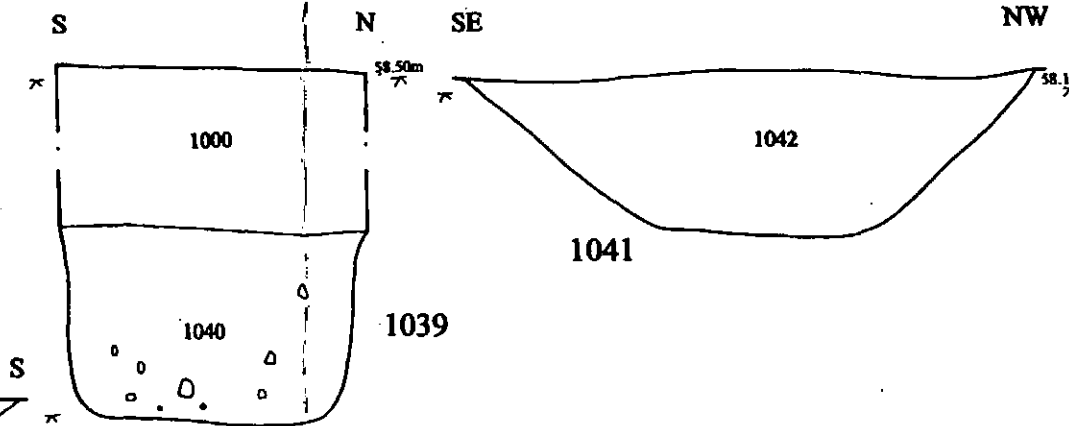
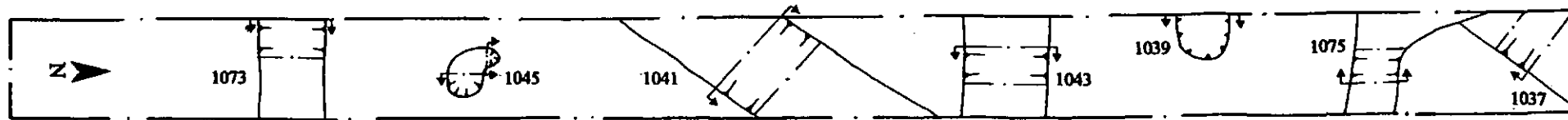
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



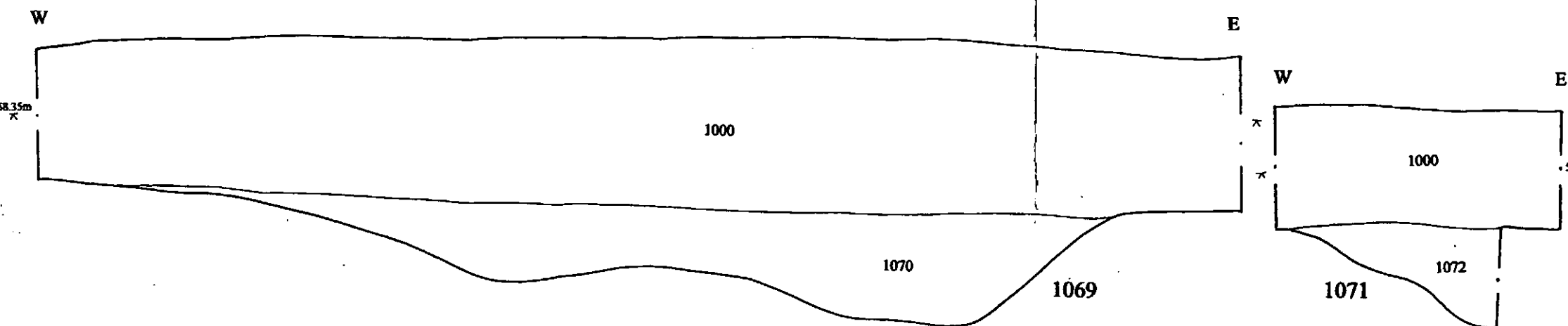
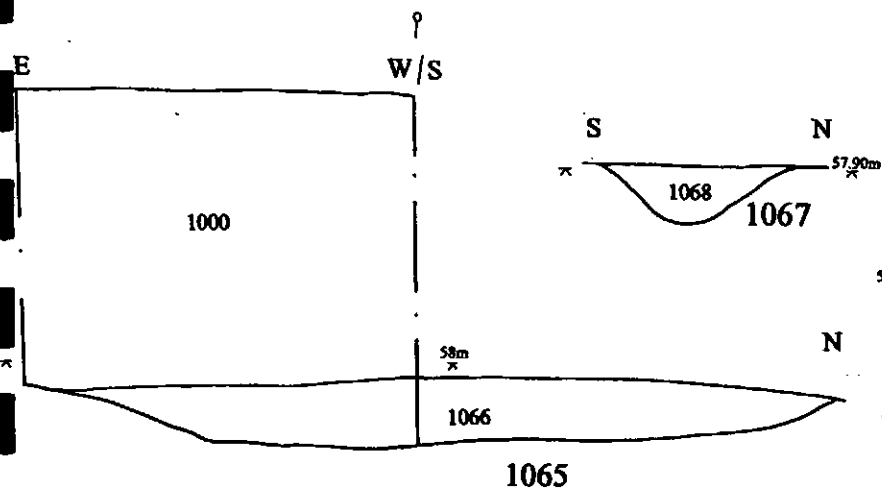
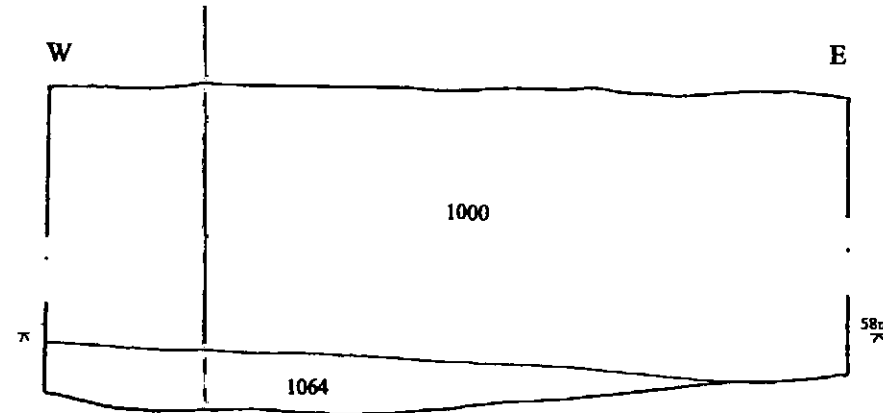
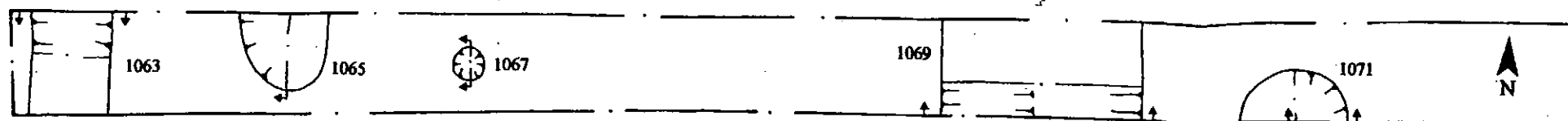
Herfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 3 Trench Plans & Sections
 Scale: Trench Plans at 1:100 & Sections 1:20 at A3

APPENDIX

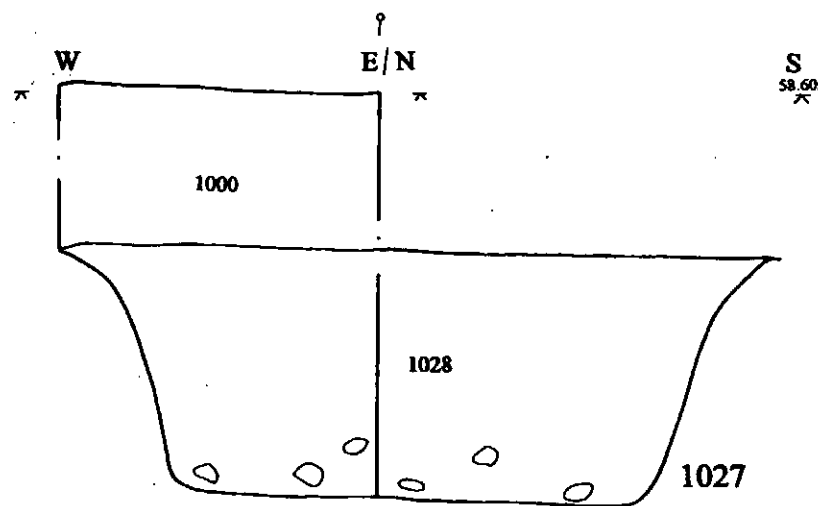
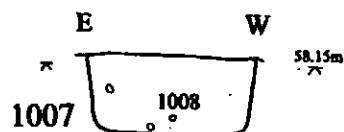
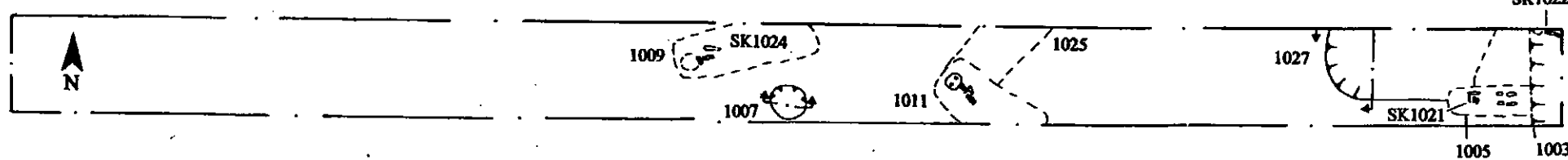
SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Grange Paddocks, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Bishops Stortford	Parish: Bishops Stortford
Planning application reference:	3/00/1176
Client name/address/tel:	East Herts District Council
Nature of application:	New sports pitch/changing facilities
Present land use:	Football pitch
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated: c.240m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TQ 48939 22081
Site Code: HAT 511	
Site director/Organization:	N Crank – Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Type of work:	Evaluation
Date of work: 4/2001	
Location of finds/Curating museum:	HAT/Hertford Museum
Related SMR Nos: 1435, 0513, 0512, 0514, 2132, 2138, 6250	Periods represented: Roman (1 st -4 th century)
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	Crank, N, McDonald, T & Murray, J, 2001, <i>Grange Paddocks, Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire; An Archaeological Evaluation</i> , HAT Report 858
Summary of fieldwork results:	Moderately dense archaeological features of Romano-British date were recorded in all six trial trenches on the site, comprising pits and ditches, field systems/enclosures and an inhumation cemetery (the latter in the south western part of the site).
Author of summary: J Murray	Date of Summary: 29/5/01

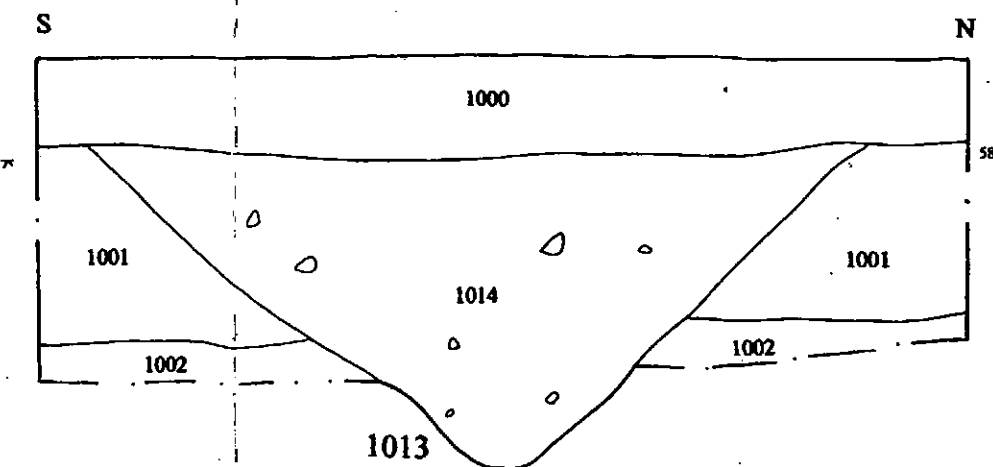
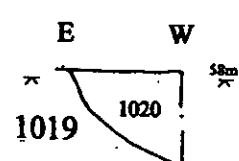
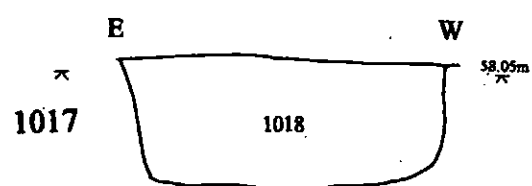
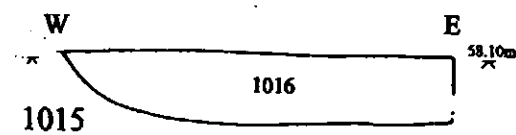
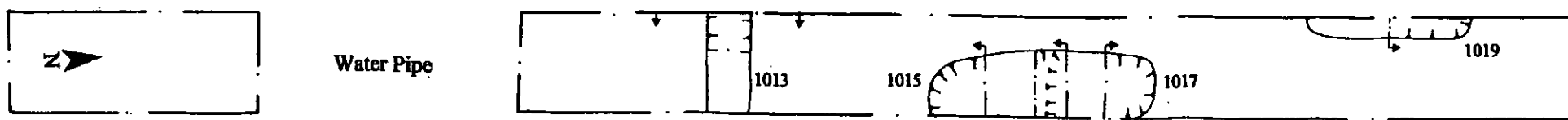
Trench 4



Trench 5



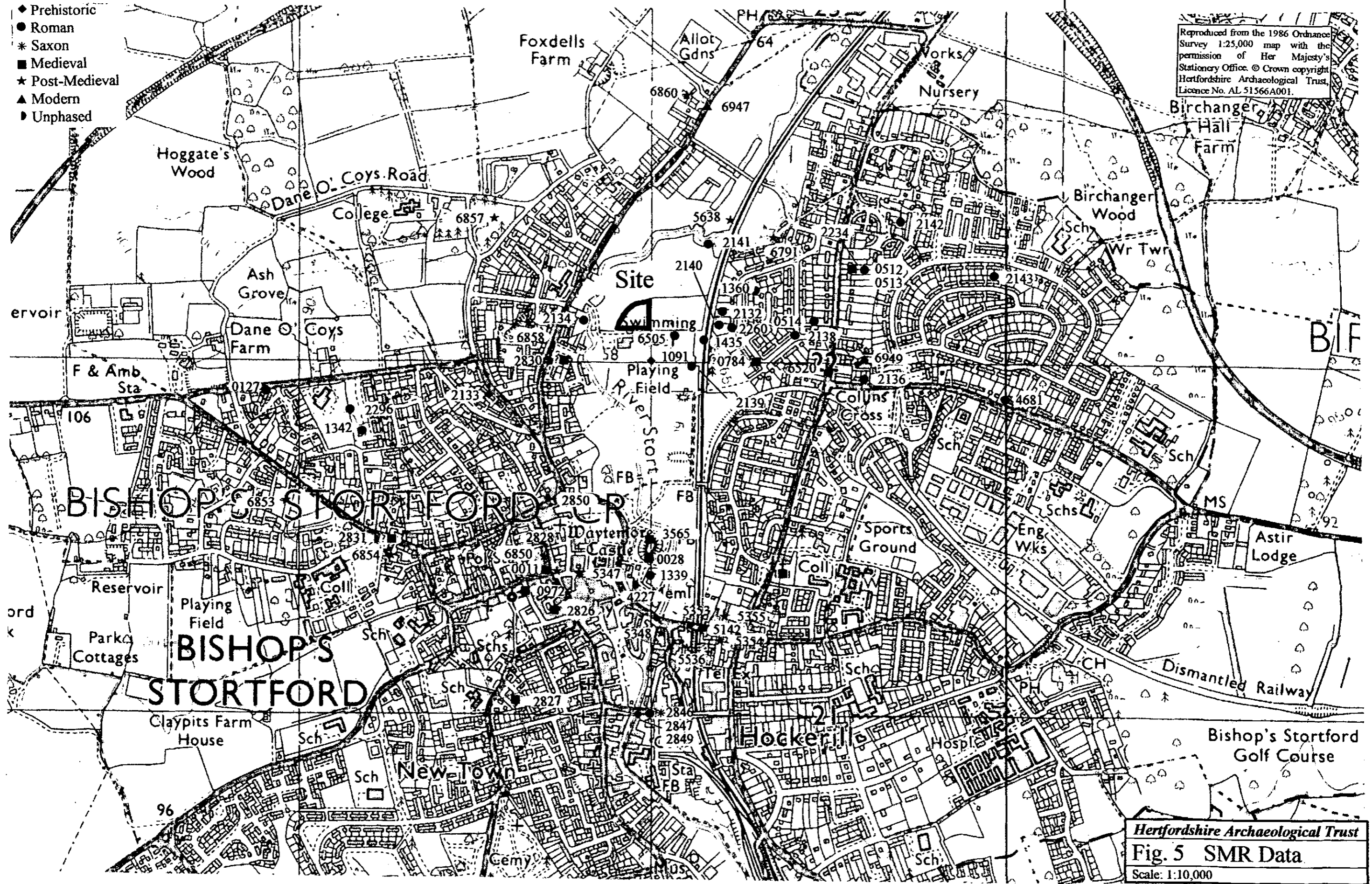
Trench 6



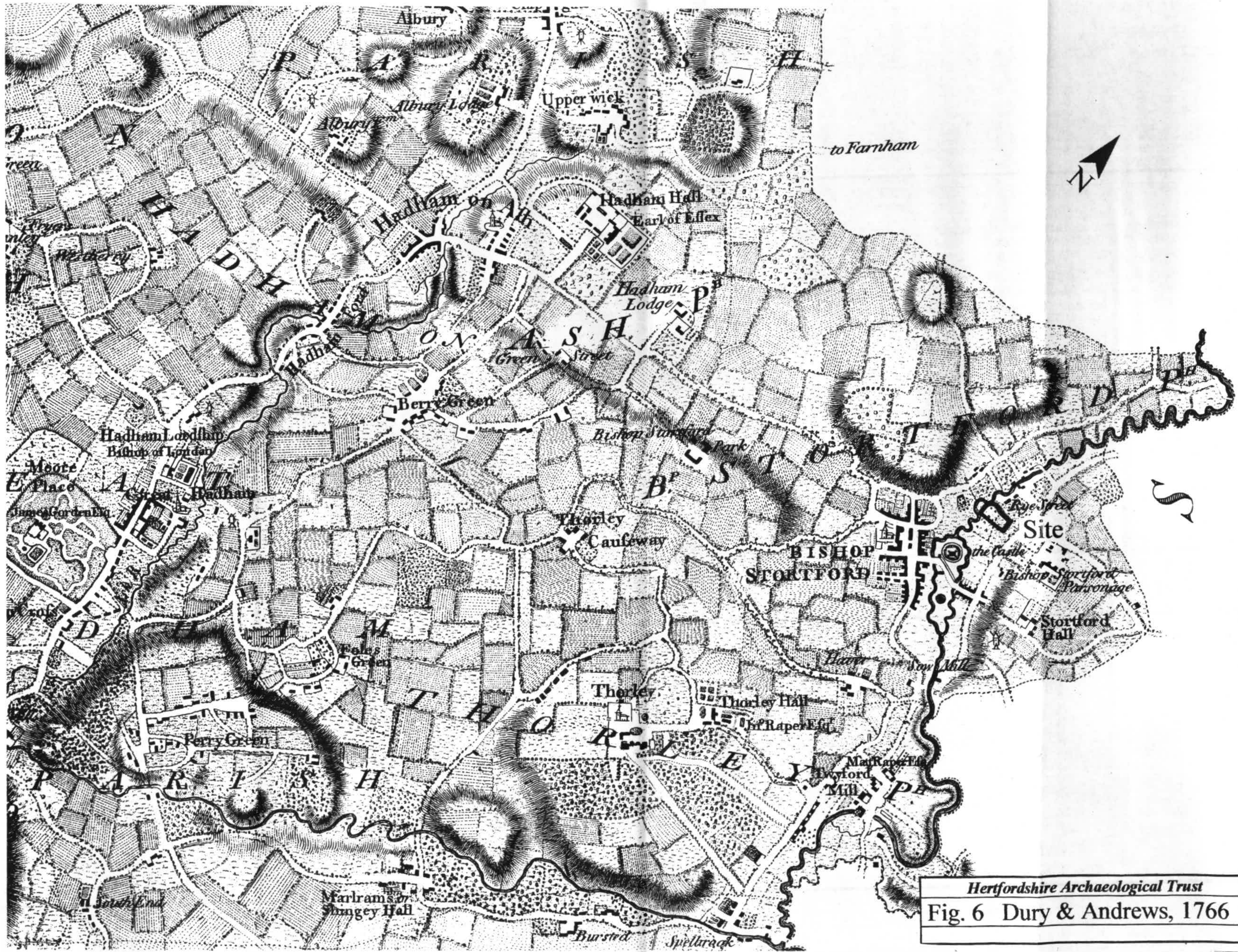
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Fig.4 Trench Plans & Sections
 Scale: Trench Plans at 1:100 & Sections 1:20 at A3

- ◆ Prehistoric
- Roman
- * Saxon
- Medieval
- ★ Post-Medieval
- ▲ Modern
- ▷ Unphased

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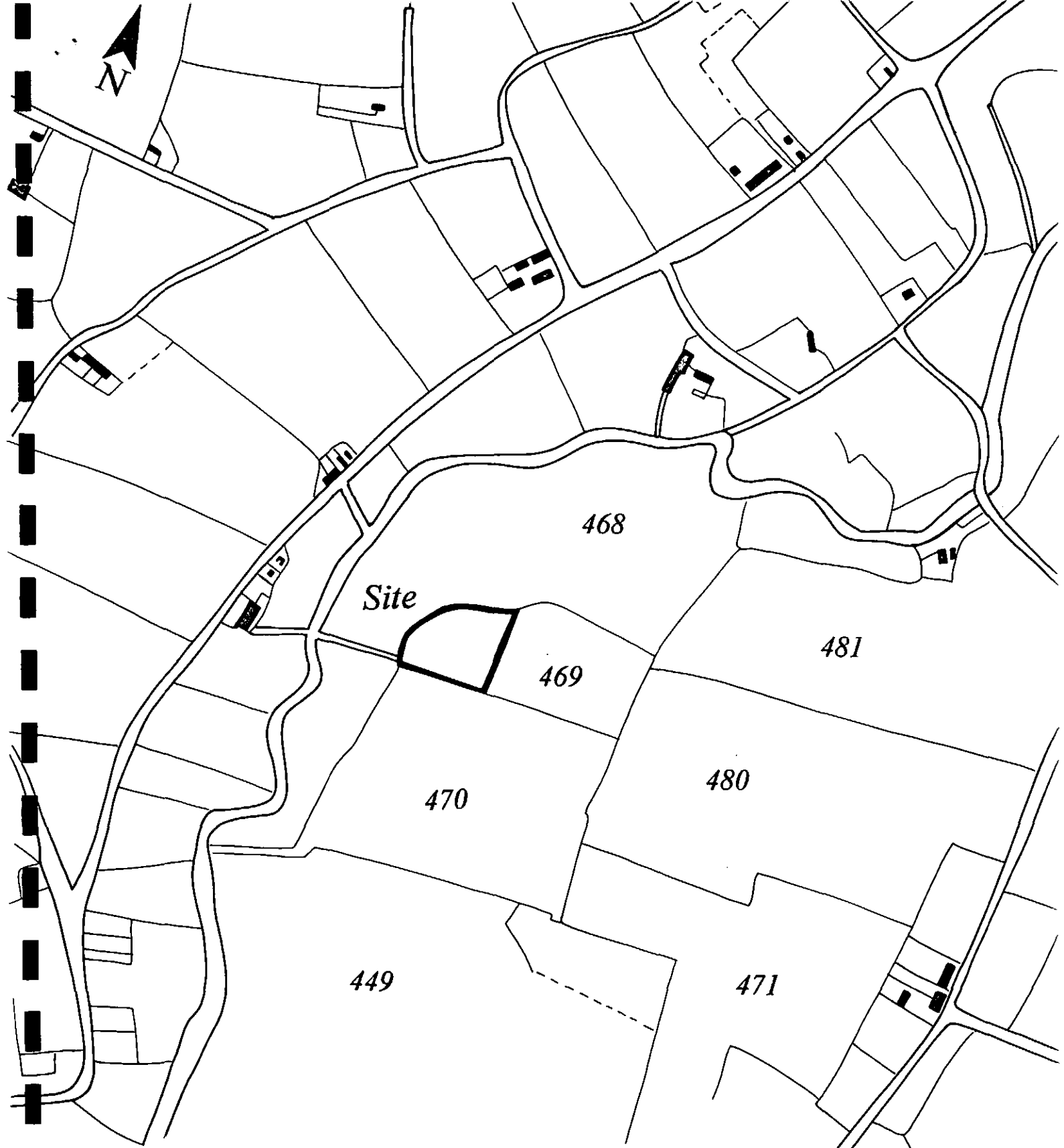
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Fig. 5 SMR Data
 Scale: 1:10,000



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 Fig. 6 Dury & Andrews, 1766

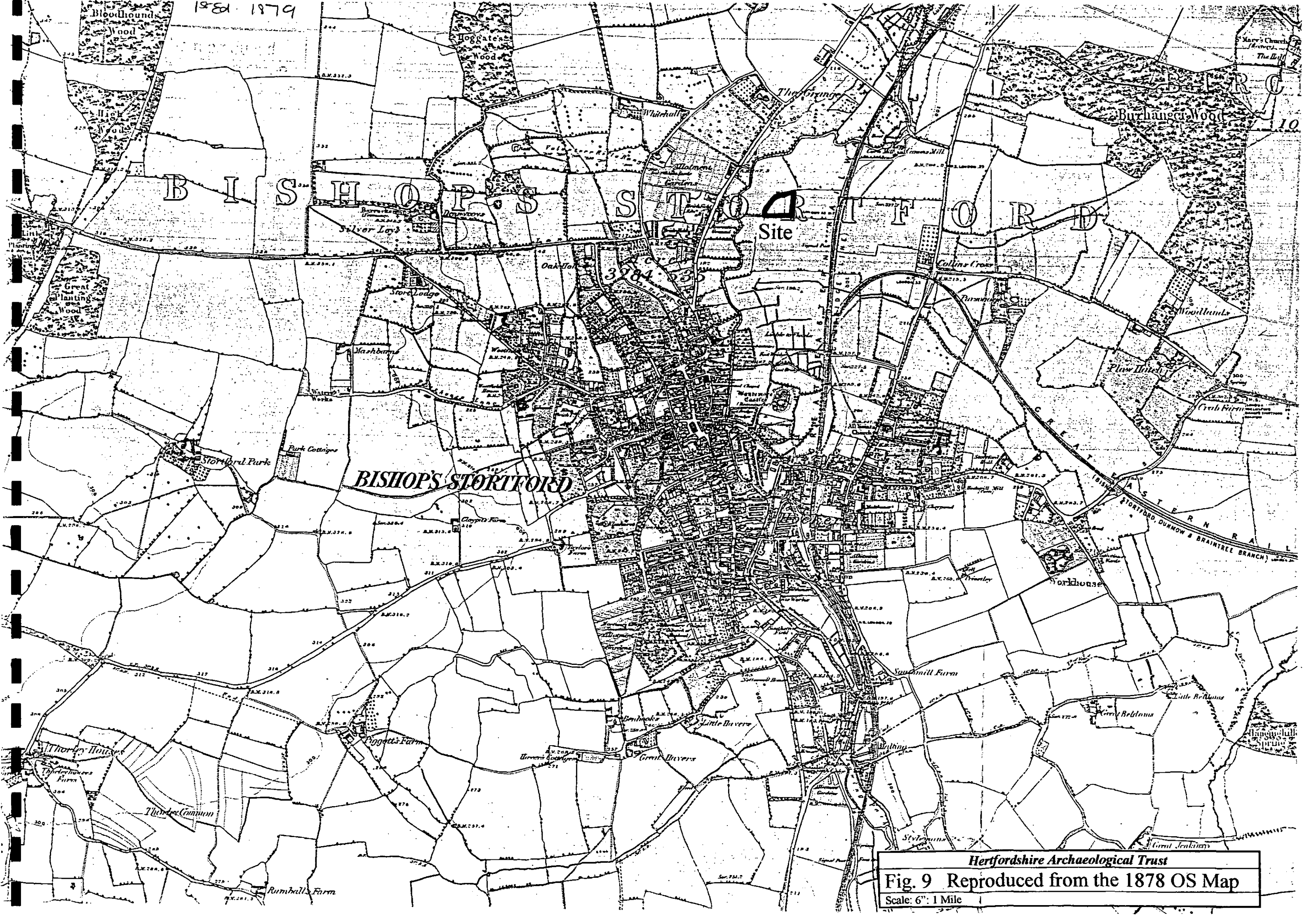


Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 7 Bryant, 1822



- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 449 Bishop of London & Catherine Broome Wriegall | Coney Gra Mead |
| 468 Rev. Charles Almeric Belli, Sir Thomas Charles Downman | Great Mead |
| 469 . Thomas Bosvile Bosvile Esq | |
| 470 Charles Broom & James Bythesea & Rebecca Newton | Hastler's Lodge |
| 471 Charles Broom & James Bythesea & Rebecca Newton | The Hooks |
| 480 Rev. Charles Almeric Belli, Sir Thomas Charles Downman | Great Field |
| 481 Rev. Charles Almeric Belli, Sir Thomas Charles Downman | Great Field |

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 8 Tithe Map, 1839

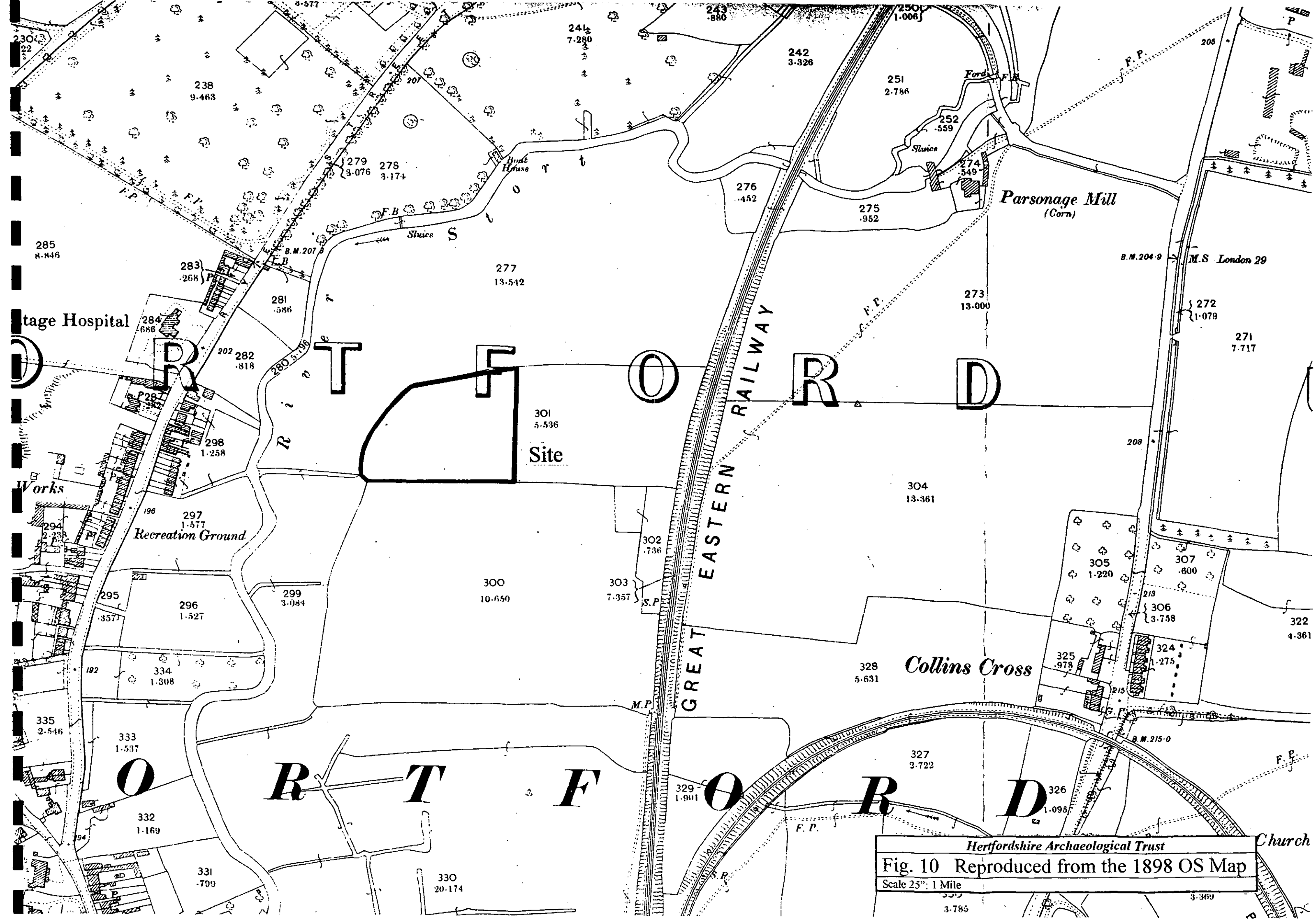


B I S H O P S S T O R T F O R D

BISHOPS STORTFORD

Site

Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 9 Reproduced from the 1878 OS Map
Scale: 6" : 1 Mile



Age Hospital

Works

Parsonage Mill
(Corn)

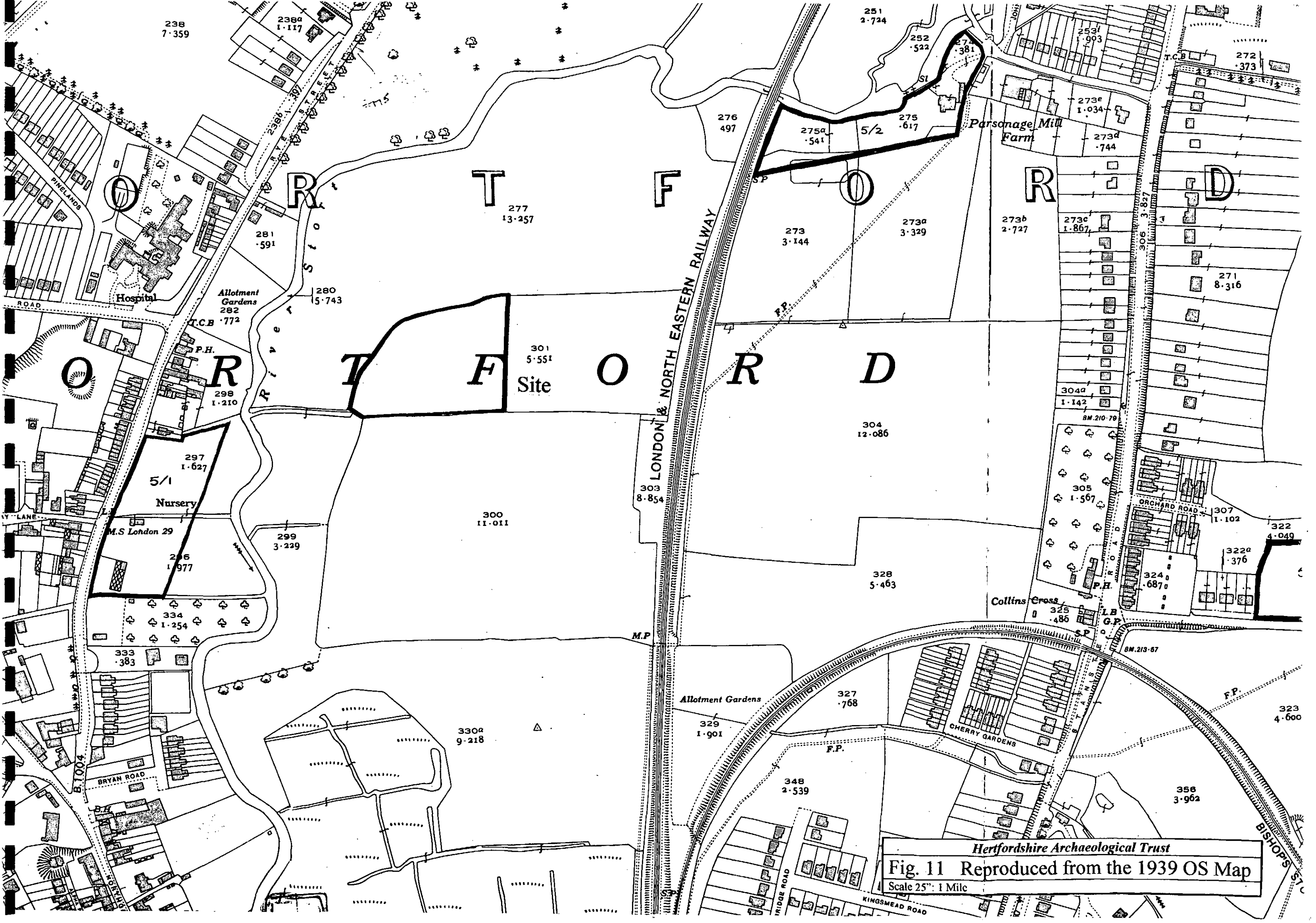
Collins Cross

ORTFORD

Site

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Fig. 10 Reproduced from the 1898 OS Map
Scale 25": 1 Mile

Church



Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 11 Reproduced from the 1939 OS Map
Scale 25" : 1 Mile

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Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust
Fig. 12 Reproduced from the 1960 OS Map
Scale: 1:10,000