
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT
NOS. 21, 23 & 25 SCHOOL LANE, WELWYN,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 22885 16006	Report No: 2938
District: Welwyn Hatfield	Site Code: AS1082
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 2984
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Nos. 21, 23 & 25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Impact Assessment and Evaluation.</i>		
<i>In September 2007, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological impact assessment and trial trench evaluation of land at Nos. 21, 23 & 25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 22885 16006). The work was commissioned in advance of proposals to construct seven houses and garages following demolition of existing houses on the site (Planning ref. 6/07/0803).</i>			
<i>Welwyn has extensive late Iron Age and Roman remains, including high-status burials, villa sites and evidence of widespread agricultural activity. The northern boundary of the site may follow the line of the Roman road from St Albans to Colchester and Roman features have been excavated at several sites in the immediate vicinity, notably at 17-19 School Lane. The site lay on the south-western periphery of the medieval village. Cartographic sources indicate that 21, 23 & 25 School Lane remained undeveloped farmland until the mid-20th century.</i>			
<i>Four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These indicate some disturbance to the ground caused by the construction of the gardens of Nos. 21, 23 and 25 School Lane in the 1950s. Nonetheless, a well was located in Trench 3 and this was backfilled during or after the mid-2nd century AD. The area to the front of the houses was less disturbed. Within Trench 1, Roman features were very well preserved. These consisted of a boundary ditch, an isolated pit, a beam slot for a timber wall and an associated chalk floor surface. These features have all been dated to the first half of the 2nd century.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>2984</i>	Site code	<i>AS1082</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Impact Assessment an Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 7)</i>		
Current land use	<i>Houses & gardens</i>		
Planned development	<i>Seven new residential dwellings and associated garages, parking and landscaping.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>A boundary ditch, wall slot and chalk floor have all been dated to the first half of the second century.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>late 1st to mid-2nd century pottery, early-mid 2nd century AD pottery, Fe nails, quernstone fragment</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Welwyn Hatfield</i>	<i>Welwyn</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>2600m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 22885 16006</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>51.33 – 59.48m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Iain Williamson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Netherdown</i>		
Full title	<i>Residential Development at Nos. 21, 23 & 25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Impact Assessment and Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Unger, S, Woolhouse, T, Williamson, I & Brogan, G</i>		
Report no.	<i>2938</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>Oct 2007</i>		

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT
NOS. 21, 23 & 25 SCHOOL LANE, WELWYN,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2007, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological impact assessment and trial trench evaluation of land at Nos. 21, 23 & 25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 22885 16006). The assessment was commissioned in advance of proposals to construct seven houses and garages following the demolition of the existing houses on the site (Planning ref. 6/07/0803).

Welwyn has extensive late Iron Age and Roman remains, including high-status burials, villa sites and evidence of widespread agricultural activity. The area was clearly a focus of settlement. The northern boundary of the site is likely to follow the line of the Roman road from St Albans to Colchester and Roman features have been excavated at several sites in the immediate vicinity, notably at 17-19 School Lane. The site lay on the south-western periphery of the medieval village. Cartographic courses indicate that 21, 23 & 25 School Lane remained undeveloped farmland until the mid-20th century.

Four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These suggest that there has been some disturbance to the ground caused by the construction of the rear gardens of Nos. 21, 23 and 25 School Lane in the 1950s. Nonetheless, a well was located in Trench 3 and this was backfilled during or after the mid-2nd century AD. The area to the front of the houses was less disturbed and here, within Trench 1, Roman features were very well preserved. These consisted of a boundary ditch, an isolated pit, a beam slot for a timber wall and an associated chalk floor surface. These structural remains and the plot boundary ditch have all been dated to the first half of the 2nd century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological impact assessment and trial trench evaluation of land at Nos. 21, 23 & 25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 22885 16006; Figs. 1 & 2). The investigation was required to support a planning application for proposed residential redevelopment of the site (Planning ref. 6/07/0803). It is proposed to erect seven houses and garages following the demolition of the existing houses on the site. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Netherdown.

1.2 The desk-based impact assessment and field evaluation were conducted in accordance with a Brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (dated 03/09/07), and a Specification compiled by AS (dated 10/09/07). The investigations also followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance*

for *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (both revised 2001), as well as those highlighted in the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the desk-based impact assessment and field evaluation were:

- to determine the likely location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of the site's historic environment from documentary sources;
- to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits, including environmental, which are liable to be threatened by the proposed development;
- to provide a comprehensive appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and highlight any research priorities relevant to further investigation of the site;
- to provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains present and likely to be present on the site and include an appraisal of their significance; and
- to aim to provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a suitable management/ investigation strategy for the site's historic environment in light of the current planning proposal.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 The site is in Welwyn village, 3km north-west of Welwyn Garden City and 12km north-east of St Albans. The site itself is located on the north-west side of School Lane, in a residential area immediately to the south-west of the historic core of Welwyn, and near the site of the bridging point over the river Mimram. It is currently occupied by two semi-detached residential dwellings set in mature gardens. The site

fronts onto School Lane to the south-east, with other houses and gardens to the north-east, west and south-west.

2.2 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.7, as designated in the Local Plan. This designation reflects the evidence for a substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the immediate area. Welwyn was also a settlement in the medieval period.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within Hertfordshire comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record. In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a 500m radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below (Fig. 3). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 500m radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for this type of evidence was Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, Hertford (HALS). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4-7.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Centre (HALS), as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. No detailed geotechnical information was available from the client at the time of writing.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 The village at Welwyn lies at an elevation of *c.* 67m AOD on a drift geology of glacial river gravels. These give way to chalky boulder clays and outcrops of chalk bedrock further away from the river valley. The presence of the river Mimram has resulted in small-scale deposition of Thames alluvium, but the river has been fordable for most of its recorded history and there is little evidence of a substantial floodplain. Soils of the area are predominantly of the Hornbeam 2 Association, consisting of a plateau drift of deep fine loamy over clayey soils, though the village core also displays Marlow Association soils, which are well-drained. Traditionally, these have supported deciduous woodland and permanent grassland, with some cereals (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4.1.2 The site itself slopes downwards towards School Lane. Spot heights taken during a site survey varied between 51.33m AOD in the south of the site and 59.48m AOD in the north.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 The suitability of the local gravel soils for farming is reflected in the wealth of archaeological remains from many periods recovered in the vicinity of the village.

4.2.2 Flint scatters, mostly recovered from secondary deposits on glacial gravels, indicate a Palaeolithic presence in the area. An assemblage of Palaeolithic flints was found near the Clock Restaurant (now the Quality Hotel), near the line of the modern A1(M) (HER 1781), while other flints of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date have been recovered from an area around the old fulling mill to the north-east (HER 2734, 2782) and during gravel extraction near the old workhouse to the south (HER 4162). A Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from a garden in Mill Lane (HER 10392), approximately 350m north-east of the present site.

4.2.3 Later prehistoric evidence is also present. Cropmarks of a circular enclosure *c.* 1km east of the site may represent the remains of a ploughed-out Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow (HER 7933), although this interpretation has not been confirmed. Several sites in and around Welwyn have yielded Bronze Age worked flints (e.g. HER 4164), with some evidence of settlement dating from the middle Iron Age (HER 9267; Murray 1993). Scattered finds of worked flint attest to a level of prehistoric activity across the wider area (HER 2063, 9613).

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.4 Welwyn Hatfield Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7 broadly defines an area of extensive Romano-British settlement in and around the vicinity of the later settlement at Welwyn.

4.2.5 The Roman settlement at Welwyn had its origins in the late Iron Age, when several farmsteads appear to have been scattered across the higher ground of the area. Although the evidence for actual settlement is limited, the ‘chieftains’ burials’ found at Prospect Place in 1906 and an amphora burial from Mardleybury are indicative of a wealthy pre-Roman elite and of connections with the Roman world before the Roman conquest. The Roman settlement, which emerged shortly after the Conquest, was centred on the point where the road from *Verulamium* to Braughing and Colchester crossed the river Mimram. Two villas, Lockleys and Dicket Mead, are known in the Welwyn area, the former on the valley side and the latter at the river’s edge. Lockleys is thought to have been occupied from the late Iron Age until the 4th century AD, though with a possible hiatus from AD 120-300, while Dicket Mead seems to have been occupied for a relatively short time in the 3rd and earlier 4th centuries AD. A large cemetery area has been identified to the north-east of the settlement, adjacent to the Roman road. Other known Roman burial sites in Welwyn include a 1st century inhumation burial and two urned cremation burials found on School Lane *c.* 200m south-west of the current site (HER 2303), and cremations found close to the late Iron Age ‘chieftains’ burials’ in Prospect Place (HER 158), *c.* 400m to the south-east.

4.2.6 The School Lane site appears to have lain within the area of the Roman settlement, but close to its southern edge. Pits containing Roman pottery, including a 1st century mortarium, were discovered at no. 17 School Lane in 1958 (HER 1693). Two Roman wells, one of which contained building rubble and 3rd to 4th century coins, have been found to the north of the Roman road (HER 6418). Further pits (HER 6418) have also been identified in this area. Approximately 90m to the west of the present site, a corn drier, a scatter of Roman pottery and two coins have been recorded at no. 7 Elmoor Avenue (HER 6181), and a 3rd century coin hoard was discovered in 1961 *c.* 150m north-west of the site (HER 1787). To the north of the assessment site, a flint-walled, tile-roofed structure with rubbish pits nearby was discovered at the Manor House in 1906 (HER 1556, 6501) and more recent excavation has revealed structural evidence (postholes and construction slots) along with pits and a possible well at West Manor (HER 11407).

4.2.7 In 2003-4, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (now AS) carried out archaeological investigations at 17-19 School Lane, immediately to the east of the present site (Williams and Thompson 2005; Grassam and Nicholson forthcoming). This revealed small-scale Roman activity dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD, including a possible roadside boundary ditch (1.50m across) running north-east to south-west, and pits, the contents of which were consistent with the disposal of domestic and possibly industrial waste.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1066)

4.2.8 Where it can be adequately demonstrated, evidence for Roman activity in Welwyn ceases at the end of the 4th century. The presence of wild animal bones in upper archaeological layers has been taken as evidence of abandonment from the end of the 4th century (Niblett 1995, 119). Several Anglo-Saxon burials have been found near to St Mary’s Churchyard, which indicates some activity in the area (HER 10902). Four skeletons were buried in shallow graves and due to the lack of grave goods, were assumed to be Christian. Five more were excavated in the Grange in 1986, yielding radiocarbon dates centred around *c.* AD 670. The standing church (HER 4327) lies

over the Roman road from *Verulamium* to Braughing and Colchester and the Saxon churchyard and possible church may have been entirely to the north of the later medieval village layout (Thompson 2000, 7).

4.2.9 Welwyn appears for the first time in the historical record in the 10th century. In her will of AD 947, one Æðelgifu bequeathed food rents and cattle from Munden to the minster at '*Welingum*'. This demonstrates that an important church existed at the settlement from at least the first half of the 10th century (Gelling 1979, 85). The name Welwyn is probably derived from the Old English *welig* meaning 'at the willows' (Gover *et al.* 1938, 144). Archaeologically, there are few traces of activity for the period. A small hoard of Anglo-Saxon pennies was discovered in 1912 during road works along the old line of the A1 (HER 2483) together with an unprovenanced penny of Edward the Confessor (HER 4165). These are significant finds as they attest economic activity at an early date. Successive restorations of the church after fire and structural damage will have obscured or destroyed any traces of Anglo-Saxon fabric (HER 4327).

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.10 At the time of the Domesday survey, the estate at Welwyn was divided into a number of fragmented holdings (Morris 1976). The largest portions were held by Geoffrey of Bec and comprised a manor of two hides, owned before the Norman Conquest by Queen Edith, the wife of King Edward the Confessor. This is usually identified with the later manor of Mardleybury, although the identification is by no means certain. A second manor, comprising a single-hide holding belonging to a priest at Welwyn provides further evidence of the importance of the church, and may be traced as the later rectory manor of the parish (HER 10840, 10855).

4.2.11 During the later medieval period, Welwyn was divided into a number of important estates, including Lockleys and Mardleybury. Lockleys descended through minor aristocratic owners, being tenanted with local squires in the late 13th and 14th centuries (Christie 1912, *passim*). Similarly, Mardleybury descended through undistinguished owners until 1700, when the manor came into the possession of the Lytton family of Knebworth. Finally, a third estate at the Frythe formed a monastic possession, belonging to the priory of Holywell in Shoreditch, London. After the Dissolution in 1539, the manor and its possessions passed through the Goswick family and from them to the Wilshere family.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1540 – present)

4.2.12 In the 16th century, several pre-existing roads (including a section of the Roman road from St Albans to Welwyn) were linked together to form the Great North Road, a mail route from London to York and Edinburgh. The impact of the passing traffic on Welwyn at this time appears to have been limited; a few inns are attested, but there is no mention of a local market and the settlement remained modest in size (Thompson 2000, 10).

4.2.13 Several large houses, such as Danesbury and the Frythe, attest to increasing wealth in the 18th century. However, other evidence indicates the 'seedier' side of the post-medieval town. Proximity to the road meant that the Welwyn area was a haunt

of robbers and ‘footpads’. In addition, parts of the village were used for stacking timber, making dung heaps and for dumping the carcasses of dead dogs (Johnson 1960, 211). Evidence also survives for small-scale gravel and chalk extraction (e.g. HER 7034, 7035 and 7039).

4.2.14 In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the village was home to a sister of the artist Vincent van Gogh, and later to the author George Bernard Shaw. Traffic was already a considerable problem by the early 20th century and a bypass was constructed, during the building of which many of the archaeological discoveries in the town were made. Welwyn Garden City, to the south-east, was established in 1920 and has continued to expand since then. The HER database records numerous listed buildings of varying date, the earliest of which dates to the 17th century; none are located in the immediate vicinity of the site.

4.3 The site

1837 Tithe Map (Figure 4)

4.3.1 The site is shown within an agricultural field named Barn Close. There was one building in the south-west corner of the field, likely to be a barn structure due to its fairly small size in comparison to the homes and businesses depicted in the village centre. The field was on the south-western periphery of the village and was surrounded by farmland. A short distance to the north, a complex of several buildings is labelled as the village rectory; a garden to the south was probably associated with them. The Tithe Map shows that School Lane, to the east of the site, was already present by 1837. The field adjoining Barn Close to the west was called Elmoor Land Shot, but the modern road to the north of the site (now Elmoor Avenue) was not in existence at this time.

1898, 1923 and 1937 Ordnance Survey Maps (Figures 5 - 7)

4.3.2 The 2nd Edition OS map (1898) shows some alterations to both the site and the surrounding area. The barn structure in the south-west corner of the field named Barn Close had been removed and a larger structure, possibly a farmhouse, built in the north-west corner. However, both these developments appear to have been outside the boundaries of the site itself. The land surrounding the site was still largely agricultural, although there are signs of some development beginning to spread south-westwards along School Lane from the village centre. By 1923, a small access road had been established on the west side of School Lane, to the north of the site. This was the precursor of the modern Elmoor Avenue, but appears to have been only a private driveway or minor track in the early 20th century.

4.3.3 Development in Welwyn in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was mainly focused along the High Street and areas to the east and south-east. There seems to have been little development on the site or in the immediate vicinity. The original rectory to the north of the site had been turned into a manor house by 1923. By this time, the field to the east of School Lane, called Great Hobbs Hill on the Tithe Map, was recreational ground and may have been used by the school further to the east. The land to the west of the site appears to have remained agricultural.

5 DISCUSSION (Desk-based assessment)

5.1 Archaeological background

5.1.1 There have been a few isolated prehistoric finds in the area, notably several Palaeolithic handaxes. None were found particularly close to the present site.

5.1.2 By the later Iron Age, the Welwyn area seems to have been an important focus of activity, with finds indicating the presence of a wealthy local elite. Notable finds include the ‘chieftains’ burials’ found 350m east of the site (HER 158). The evidence suggests that a settlement of some kind had been established by the Roman period, probably focused on the bridging point where the Roman road from St Albans to Colchester crossed the river Mimram. Roman features and finds are widespread in the area around the site.

5.1.3 The post-Roman history of Welwyn is uncertain. Anglo-Saxon burials have been found near St Mary’s Churchyard (HER 10902) and others found at the Grange have been radiocarbon-dated to the late 7th century, indicating some activity by the middle Saxon period. Evidence of medieval activity is more widespread. Land in Welwyn was divided into a number of fragmented holdings; several manors developed, including the moated site at the Old Rectory (HER 10855). The medieval settlement appears to have been focused around St Mary’s Church (HER 4327) and the High Street.

5.1.4 Welwyn grew in the post-medieval period with the routing of the Great North Road through the town. A few coaching inns developed to serve the demand from travellers. There are numerous listed 17th century buildings in the centre of the village, but none in the vicinity of the site.

6 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

6.1 Four trenches were excavated on the site in locations approved by HCC HEU (Fig. 2). The locations of Trenches 2 & 3, however, had to be altered slightly due to the presence of a pond and a hedgerow which made it impossible for them to be located in their original positions. Trench 1 was 13m x 1.3m, Trench 2 was 15m x 1.5m, and Trench 4 was 26m x 1.5m. Trench 3 was L-shaped and the north-east to south-west arm was 7.50m x 1.5m, with the north-west to south-east arm being 4.4m x 1.5m.

6.2 Trench 1 was divided toward the north-east end by a retained modern concrete path.

6.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated; thereafter all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds.

Archaeological features and deposits were recorded by means of *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

7.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 8; DPs 1, 2 & 3)

<i>Sample section: South-west end, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty soil.
0.13 – 0.40m	1004	Make-up. Light orange brown sandy silt.
0.40 – 0.51m	1005	Make-up. Light brownish grey ashy silt.
0.51 – 0.63m	1006	Make-up. Light orange brown sandy silt with moderate flint gravel.
0.63 – 0.89m	1007	Buried soil horizon. Light brown silty loam plough soil.
0.89m+	1001	Natural subsoil (drift). Light orange brown / dark reddish brown, silty clay with lenses of poorly sorted flint gravel.

<i>Sample section: North-east end, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.11 – 0.15m	1002	Make-up. Light yellowish brown sand.
0.15 – 0.36m	1003	Make-up. Light greyish brown silty soil.
0.36 – 0.59m	1004	Make-up. As above.
0.59 – 0.70m	1005	Make-up / garden soil. As above.
0.70 – 0.80m	1006	Make-up. As above.
0.80 – 0.93m	1007	Buried soil horizon. As above.
0.93 – 1.10m	1008	Buried soil horizon / feature fill. Dark brown silt with chalk.
1.10m+	1001	Natural subsoil. As above.

Description:

A Roman ditch (F1014) and possible structural remains (F1012, L1009 and F1010) were present within Trench 1.

The 1.10m wide ditch (F1014) ran across the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base and was on average 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill of mid-brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles (L1015), which was sealed by a buried plough soil horizon (L1007). F1014 yielded pottery dated as early to late 2nd century AD, CBM including fragments of tegula, a small quantity of animal bone (91g), iron nails and piece of slag.

The structural remains consisted of a possible wall slot (F1012) that was aligned north-west to south-east across the trench. This slot had moderately sloping sides and

a flat base. It was on average 0.40m wide and 0.21m deep and contained a uniform fill of orangey brown clay silt (L1013). Finds from this feature included late 1st to mid 2nd century AD pottery, CBM, animal bone, a fragment of glass and three iron nails. A rammed chalk floor or yard surface (F1009 (=L1017)) was located 0.70m to the north-east of the slot. This was laid within a construction cut (F1016) that ran parallel to the slot. The surface (F1009) itself was very compact and worn, and included occasional flint cobbles within it. Only a limited part of F1009 was exposed due to its position immediately south-west of the retained modern concrete path that divided Trench 1. However it was not located in the portion of the trench that lay to the north-east of the modern path. Early to mid 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from this floor layer.

An isolated oval pit or posthole (F1010) was located at the south-west end of the trench. This had vertical sides with a flat base and was 0.54m long by 0.39m wide and 0.30m deep. F1010 contained a single fill of orangey brown silty clay (L1011). It yielded three sherds of early to mid 2nd century AD pottery.

All of the above archaeological features were sealed by a layer of light brown silty loam (L1007) that probably represented a buried plough soil and contained late 2nd century AD pottery, a quantity of Roman CBM dominated by fragments of tegulae and a small amount of animal bone.

7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 8)

<i>Sample section: South-east end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 52.83 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.70m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.70m+	1001	Natural subsoil. As above

<i>Sample section: North-west end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 54.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.44m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.44m+	1001	Natural subsoil. As above

Description:

A pit or root hollow (F1018) was located in the north-west end of the trench. It was oval in shape (0.74m by 0.50m) and was 0.40m deep. The sides sloped inward to a rounded base and the single fill was dark brown clayey silt (L1019). No finds were recovered F1018, although 13 sherds (89g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil (L1000).

7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 9: DP 4)

<i>Sample section: South-west corner, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 53.99m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.49m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.49m+	1001	Natural gravel. Flint gravel.

<i>Sample section: South-east end, north-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 53.55m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.60m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.60m+	1001	Natural gravel. As above

Description:

A probable well (F1024) was partially present in the north-eastern end of the north-east to south-west arm of the trench. The well extended beyond the excavated limits of the trench so only a minimum length of 3.20m and width of 1.60m was exposed. The excavation of its backfills was limited to 0.94m due to the excessive depth and unstable nature of the fill. Surrounding the top of the near vertical shaft was a slight erosion cone.

Down the north-eastern side of the exposed part of the well was a 0.15m wide fill that consisted of orange mottled, dark greyish brown sandy silt (L1025); it contained no finds. Deposited against this fill, toward the excavation limit within the well, was a fill of clay and chalk (L1026). Only the uppermost 0.20m of this was exposed and two iron nails were recovered from it. Together these deposits are likely to represent backfill, but it is possible that they formed part of the lining. A 0.76m thick backfill deposit of mid-orange brown clay silt (L1027) was dumped into the well, over fills L1025 and L1026. This contained domestic waste such as mid 2nd century AD pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. Over this was a 0.37m thick dump of mid-greyish brown clayey silt (L1028) that also contained pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone. It also yielded two iron nails (SF 9) Domestic waste was also abundant within the final backfill in the well, which was a 0.27m thick dump of dark grey brown clayey silt (L1029). This domestic waste from L1029 comprised early 2nd century AD pottery, CBM, animal bone and a fragment of quernstone (SF 10)

7.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 9)

<i>Sample section: North-east end, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 54.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	1001	Natural subsoil. As above

<i>Sample section: South-west end, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 54.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.46m	1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.46m+	1001	Natural subsoil. As above

Description:

Two linear features were present with Trench 4. Both of these were probably associated with the terracing or landscaping of the modern gardens at the site.

Linear feature F1020 was aligned north-east to south-west against the north-western side of the trench. It had straight sides, a flat base and was 0.80m long, a minimum of 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled with light greyish brown silt (L1021) that contained many plastic bags.

Running parallel to F1020, against the opposite side of the trench, was another linear feature (F1022) of similar dimensions. This was filled with mid-grey brown clayey silt (L1023) that also contained a plastic bag. F1022 contained a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and small quantity of CBM.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8.2 The locations of Trenches 2 and 3 had to be partially altered due to the presence of a pond and a hedgerow which made placing them in their original locations impossible.

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 The deposit model across the site varied from the north-western half to the south-eastern half.

9.2 In the north-western half of the site the topsoil (L1000), dark greyish brown silty soil, varied in depth from 0.34m to 0.70m. Here, in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, the topsoil was over the natural gravel or natural subsoil of light orange brown / dark reddish brown, silty clay with lenses of poorly sorted flint gravel (L1001). The archaeological features described above are cut into the natural layers.

9.3 In Trench 1, in the south-east part of the site, the topsoil was on average 0.12m deep and here it sealed the uppermost of a number of modern ground make-up layers. North-east of the concrete path that divided the trench, the topsoil was over a 0.05m thick deposit of light yellowish brown builders sand (L1002). This was over a layer of light greyish brown silty soil (L1003) that had an average depth of 0.20m. Make-up layer L1004 was located across the entire trench, and south-west of the concrete path it was immediately below the topsoil (L1000) but north-east of the path it was below layer L1003. L1004 was composed of light orange brown sandy silt with an averaged depth of 0.25m. Under layer L1004 was a 0.11m thick make-up layer of light brownish grey ashy silt (L1005). The earliest make-up layer was gravelly light orange brown sandy silt (L1006) that was on average 0.11m thick. The make-up layers (L1002, 1003, L1004, L1005 and L1006) were all associated with the construction of Nos 21 and 23 School Lane and the levelling of the front gardens.

9.4 The make-up layer L1006 in Trench 1 was over a buried soil horizon of light brown silty loam (L1007). This layer was deeper at the south-west end of the trench where it was 0.32m and it narrowed to 0.12m toward the opposite end. It probably represented a late and/or post-Roman plough soil and contained pottery from the late 2nd century AD and Roman ceramic building material. Under this buried plough soil

in the extreme north-east end of the trench was a 0.20m thick layer or fill that consisted of dark brown silt with chalk inclusions (L1008). In the remaining part of the trench, the buried plough soil L1007 sealed the archaeological features as described above (see 7.1).

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Summary of the archaeology

10.1.1 Significant archaeological remains relating to the Roman settlement at Welwyn were revealed in Trenches 1 and 3.

10.1.2 A probable well (F1024) was located in Trench 3 and in Trench 1 structural remains were present. These consisted of a beam slot (F1012) and a chalk floor surface (L1009). Also in Trench 1 a ditch (F1014) ran parallel to the beam slot and this may have formed part of a plot boundary. On the opposite side of the ditch, a small pit or posthole (F1010) was located.

10.1.3 At the south end of the site, the archaeological remains were very well preserved. Elsewhere, possibly due to modern truncation, there was little archaeology present within the trenches. Therefore the extent of the archaeological remains was not fully determined and it is likely that features are located across the site but that they are better preserved toward the School Lane frontage.

10.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

10.2.1 The desk-based assessment stated that the site lay within an area of high potential for surviving late Iron Age and Roman archaeology; it was located close to known late Iron Age burials and it was within the Roman settlement. Immediately to the north was the Roman road from *Verulamium* to *Camulodunum* (HER 4619) and excavations adjacent to the site, at Nos. 17-19 School Lane (HER 1693), found Roman features including a large ditch and rubbish pits, principally of early 2nd century date.

10.2.2 The features revealed by the evaluation are typical of those associated with Roman settlement. The north-west to south-east aligned ditch in Trench 1 may have been an early to mid-2nd century AD boundary to a plot that contained a timber building with a rammed chalk floor. The boundary ditch was perpendicular to the ditch, also dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD, located in the excavations at Nos. 17-19 School Lane. Therefore it is possible that both boundary ditches were part of a planned early to mid-2nd century settlement layout.

10.2.3 Although there was a limited number of archaeological features within the remaining trenches, the well in Trench 3 does suggest that the settlement did extent toward the centre of the site. This is likely given the evidence from the excavation at No. 17 School Lane where the archaeological features were well preserved in the northern half of the site.

10.3 Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

10.3.1 The revealed natural was drift geology of glacial river gravels and clayey soils.

10.3.2 Archaeological deposits were better preserved downhill in the southern part of the site. The ground here appears to have been built up to form a level area for the construction of the houses with access from School Lane, and this has preserved the post-Roman plough soil which sealed the Roman features.

10.4 Preservation of the archaeology

10.4.1 The desk-based assessment suggested that there had been little disturbance to the site prior to the mid-20th century. The cartographic evidence suggests the site was used for agriculture until the post-war semi-detached houses were built.

10.4.2 South of Nos. 21-23 School Lane the present ground level has been built up to form a flat area for the construction of the mid-20th century houses with access from School Lane. This has actually preserved the Roman or post-Roman plough soil (L1007) that sealed the early to mid-2nd century Roman features. Preservation of the timber building is exceptional as a floor layer (L1009) is preserved as well as the beam slot for the wall.

10.4.3 If archaeological features were present in the northern half of the site then they were not as well preserved; unlike the excavation at the adjacent site of Nos 17-19 School Lane, a site with a similar land use history, where the preservation was better in the northern half. It is likely that, to the rear of the houses, the garden areas have been terraced into the slope of the hill leaving the topsoil directly over the natural subsoil or gravel.

10.4.4 Given that the south of the site has been built up it is possible that the foundations of mid-20th century buildings have not completely destroyed all of the archaeology beneath them.

10.5 Finds and environmental evidence

10.5.1 The pottery recovered from the structural remains and the boundary ditch in Trench 1 provides a relatively tight date range between the late 1st to mid-2nd century AD, with the majority of the assemblage being dated to the early to mid-2nd century AD. The fill (L1013) of the wall slot (F1012) contained pottery from the late 1st to mid-2nd century and the associated floor surface (L1009) contained early to mid 2nd century pottery. This would suggest that the building dated to the first half of the 2nd century AD. The boundary ditch (F1014) also contained early 2nd century pottery, as did the pit (F1010), so these are likely to be contemporary with the building.

10.5.2 The backfills (L1026, L1027, L1028 and L1029) within the well (F1024) in Trench 3 also contained pottery that ranged from the late 1st to mid-2nd century. It is possible that the well was filled up at this time and therefore could be earlier than the features in Trench 1, or it may be possible that it was just filled later with material derived from 2nd century activity.

10.5.3 The remaining assemblage is characteristic of domestic waste. Ceramic building material, animal bone and iron nails were common, with a glass fragment coming from the fill (L1013) of the wall slot (F1012) in Trench 1 and a fragment of quern coming from the uppermost backfill (L1029) of the well (F1024) in Trench 3.

10.5.4 The buried plough soil (L1007) in Trench 1 contained pottery of late 2nd century date. It is possible that this layer has its origins as a Roman plough soil that formed following the decline of the Roman settlement at the site.

10.6 Research potential

10.6.1 The site has the potential to inform on the nature, possible extent and decline of the 2nd century Roman settlement at Welwyn. The evaluation has confirmed that 2nd century Roman remains survive at the site and, south of the mid-20th century buildings, these are very well preserved.

10.6.2 Due to the exceptional preservation in the south part of the site, further excavation could determine the extent and layout of the possible plots defined by the ditches and the form and functions of the buildings within them.

10.6.3 The evidence indicates that this site has the potential to inform on research topics for Eastern England relating to Roman small towns and/or rural settlements as identified by Going and Plouviez (2000, 21-22). Comparison with the evidence recovered from the adjacent 17-19 School Lane site may inform on issues such as shifting settlement patterns within towns (see Going and Plouviez 2000, 21).

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Mill Green Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (700,000 BC – AD 43)</i>		
158	2330 1589	Whilst road works took place on Welwyn Road in 1906, three late Iron Age Chieftain burials were discovered. Cremation urns were excavated with accompanying grave goods.
1790	232 160	The cutting of a new road in 1906 led to the discovery of a bronze handle within a Roman cremation cemetery.
1791	23 16	In 1742 the Society of Antiquaries were shown 'two urns containing bones and a bronze fibula from the side of an unspecified chalk pit at Welwyn. From the description, they were cremation urns, which could have been Late Iron Age or Roman.
2782	232 161	Antiquarian findings of two handaxes, one re-touched flake, ten flakes and one miscellaneous flint, from various locations near the mill.
9267	2255 1585	Excavations in 1993 at the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital found a substantial east-west ditch, c2m wide and 1.35m deep, which may be a Late Iron Age boundary or enclosure ditch. The finds comprised of a considerable amount of Iron Age pottery, well-preserved animal bone and building materials. Further work revealed large post-holes of uncertain date and possibly a Middle Iron Age ditch.
10392	2317 1615	Palaeolithic hand axe from garden of 23 Mill Lane (The Old Rectory). See also [2782].
<i>Roman (AD 43 – 410)</i>		
1554	232 160	A large Roman cremation cemetery excavated in several stages but destroyed by road works and building at The Grange. A substantial amount of Roman pottery and vessels had been found in early 20 th century. Four hundred vessels, representing 100 cremations were excavated in 1967 in the building of a bypass. The burials date from the beginning of the Roman period until the 3 rd century although a few 3 rd -4 th century burials were present. The burials may relate to similar discoveries at Welwyn hall (6522, 9615) possibly all part of the same cemetery.
1555	2308 1633	In the early 1900's a number of Roman building materials were found when the garden was laid behind house called The Grange. It has been suggested it could be a crematorium for the cemetery (1554) but due to the 100m distance from the cemetery, it is unlikely.

1556	2287 1627	In 1906 a large quantity of Roman tile and brick with foundations of a corner were found when a croquet lawn was laid at the Manor House. Later excavations showed foundations of a gateway or tower. Due to the amount of finds on site, it is expected that there was more than one building between the house and the croquet lawn.
1557	2317 1594	A small circular hearth or furnace made of broken Roman brick, set in clay, was found in the rear gardens of 15-17 Broomfield Road in 1931. On the floor of the kiln was wood ash, and at the entrance, nails, fragments of pottery and a piece of samian ware. Scattered potsherds and building materials were found in the vicinity.
1558	2310 1625	The churchyard has seen far quantities of Roman pottery and one Roman Coin of Titus. The Roman road from <i>Verulamium</i> to Braughing and Colchester [4619] runs through the south side of the churchyard.
1567	2304 1630	A finely-preserved silver of Hadrian was found at Guessens in 1908, and a brass of Gratian in the same grounds the following year. The Gratian coin was minted at Arles, AD 321-37.
1693	2291 1604	Roman pottery has been found in the back garden of no. 17 School Lane including late 1st century mortarium stamped SOLLIVS. A follis of Constantine the Great (306-337) has also been recorded. Excavation in 2003 found pits, post holes and ditches which were of late 1 st /early 2 nd century date.
1787	2279 1617	In 1961, a coin hoard was found with 210 coins being found in total. Apart from three silver denarii and a Julia Domna, they were silver or silver-washed antoniniani mostly of Postumus and Victorinus, 3rd century.
1790	232 160	The cutting of a new road found a number of large perfect pots with some containing half burnt bones indicating a Roman cremation cemetery site. Other finds surrounding the pots include jewellery and some Roman coins.
2303	2270 1590	Three Roman burials were found during building work in School lane in 1990. These are thought to have been part of the cemetery, adjacent to the Roman road, south west of the Roman settlement at Welwyn. See [7311], and [12073] for other burials across the road.
6087	2285 1621	A Roman coin hoard was found in the Manor House (previously the rectory) in 1900. A brass of Decentius (AD 351-340) and 40 middle and third brasses of various dates were found including coins of Emperors Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Antoninus Pius, Tetricus, Carausius and Constantine the Great.
6181	2283 1606	The base of a T-shaped Roman corn drier was found here with a scatter of pottery with a few coins, both unstratified.
6185	2320 1638	In the development of two tennis courts in 1907 at Mrytle Hall, (known as the The Hall) two Roman cremation urns were found but both were broken and not recovered. Belonged to the extensive cemetery called the Welwyn Grange. See [7311], [2303] and [12073] for other burials across the road.

6418	229 161	A timber framed well was found under the garage of No.9 The Green. It contained destruction debris from a building with several 3 rd century coins. Above this was a deposit of 4 th century coins. In 1972 a triple Roman vase was also found in the garden of No.9. This may relate to the finds at No.17 School Lane [1693].
6501	2278 1625	A series of trial trenching in 1973-4 revealed Roman rubbish pits containing Roman 1 st and 2 nd century finds. Pottery included a mortarium stamped ALBINUS. Eight coins were found in the dark soil over the pits.
7310	2256 1582	Trenches in the rear garden of 59 School Lane uncovered sections of the Roman road from St Albans to Colchester [4619]. The surface was cobbled and rutted. The road has been seen in several places in the vicinity.
7311	2270 1592	Evidence of the Roman road from St Albans to Colchester [4619] in the form of ditches (but no metalling) in the allotments known as 'School Close'.
9064	2293 1613	In July 1958 the line of the Roman road was crossed by a trench for a water-main in the grounds of the Manor House, Welwyn. This is the Viatores' road 21A, from <i>Verulamium</i> to Welwyn and Braughing (see [4619]).
9605	2300 1618	'A clear section of the road metalling was observed in November 1958, in the east bank of a small island in the river Mimram at Welwyn. The metalling is in direct line with other sightings of this road, Viatores road 21A from <i>Verulamium</i> to Welwyn and Braughing (see [9604, 4619]).
11407	2284 1628	Roman features were found at this West Manor, Ellesfield. Thirteen features were found including three construction slots, five post holes, four pits and a possible well. Most finds were secondary deposits and were native coarse wares; also one piece of amphora and one sherd of samian ware. Other finds including building material and animal bone.
12073	22700 15928	Site of a Roman cemetery. Two skeletons were found at Hawbush Close, cremation urns seem to overlie the burials which are 1 st and 2 nd centuries. Late Iron age pot surrounded the burials. More skeletons were found in 2006, and occupation debris including decorated samian sherds in nearby stratified layers. See [2303] for more burials south of the Roman road.
Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)		
2843	2308 1622	The coins were found 'in the course of road works where the Great North Road passes through Welwyn' in August 1912, and declared treasure trove. The hoard consisted of coins of Edward the Martyr, Eadgar (retained by the BM) and 2 probable Eadgar with the date of the deposit being c978.
4165	23 16	An Anglo-Saxon penny of Edward the Confessor, in good condition, was found at Welwyn in the 18C.
4964	2330 1620	Roman tile and pottery fragments have been collected on the allotments near to Lockleys Drive (as have medieval scraps

		[1792]), but sewer pipes have crossed here without exposing major structures or occupation debris.
10902	2311 1629	An electricity substation built near to St Mary's Churchyard discovered several burials. Four were buried in shallow graves and due to the lack of grave good, were assumed to be Christian. Five more were excavated in the Grange in 1986, yielding radiocarbon dates of 670AD. They appear to be unaccompanied burials. The standing church [4327] lies over the Roman road from <i>Verulamium</i> to Braughing and Colchester, and the Saxon churchyard and possible church may have been entirely to the north of the medieval layout.
Medieval (AD 1066 – 1550)		
4327	2310 1627	The medieval parish church of Welwyn stands over the Roman road, on the hill above the river crossing. The standing building has a late 13C chancel, four late 13C bays in the nave S arcade, on new bases; and a chancel arch with 15 century screen, but very little original character remains. It has been suggested that a Saxon church was built to the north side of the medieval structure due to the finding of a Saxon churchyard [10902] although no structural evidence for this has been found.
1792	2330 1620	Some medieval building materials have been found in the allotments south side of Lockley's Drive. Some Roman finds have been noted (4964) but it is suggested they are rubbish deposits as major sewer works have not disturbed any structures.
10855	2317 1614	This was the site of the moated manorial site, the Old Rectory probably dating to the 13-14 th centuries. Welwyn Rectory was one of the original manors of Welwyn, and the Old Rectory [10840] stands on the manorial site.
10860	2309 1618	Site of The Forge, High St. John Thebregge was granted a licence to build a forge here in 1443, on the corner of the High Street and Mimram Walk. The property continued to be known as Forge House until c1780.
Post-medieval (AD 1550 – 1900)		
5073	2306 1631	A milestone dating to 1725, with 25 miles to London engraved on is standing against the wall of a house called Guessens (HER 10826).
5074	2301 1643	A milestone dating to 1725, with 25 miles to London engraved on is sited on Codicote Road.
5112	2306 1611	The site of a brick road bridge built in 1834 by McAdam during improvements to The Great North Road, carrying the pre1927 line of the road.
7037	2300 1625	On the 1837 Welwyn tithe map is 'Old Tanyard' on the east bank of the river Mimram, behind the buildings along the Codicote Road. It was the property of Henry Hynes Clinton of Guessens [10826], and the site is now part of the Guessens grounds. It is unknown if the tanyard was still in operation at this time.
7038	2311 1601	Site of a gasworks, identified from the 1897 OS map. The gasworks were set up in 1860 as a private enterprise by G E Dering of Lockleys, supplying street lighting etc, to Welwyn, Codicote, Digswell, and Tewin Water.

7039	233 160	Site of a gravel pit, identified from the 1887 OS map. It was disturbed in 1906 in road works.
7040	2322 1610	Former corn mill, the remains of which are the weir and the mill house. The mill house (18 th century) is red brick, 2 storeys but there is no water wheel. There was a watermill recorded in 1086 and this is assumed to be its predecessor.
7055	2315 1580	Site of a fire station, identified from the 1897 OS map. The buildings have been demolished and replaced by a modern house
9999	2301 1610	Site of Welwyn Brewery. The first record of the Welwyn Brewery is dated 1833, when George Cass, coal and corn merchant, was in charge.
10825	2314 1627	The site of a church house and parish work house. It is a two-storey timber framed building from the mid 15th-16th century, under a half hipped roof of old tiles, and with an 18C lean-to.
10826	2305 1629	This is an original timber-framed house 17C or earlier. It was originally a farm and named Guessens after 14 century Stephen de Gessing mentioned in the deeds.
10828	2317 1619	This is the site of Ebenezer Strict Baptist church built 1834. The chapel is 'plain, discreet Late Georgian' of two storeys, brick, painted stucco, and slate roof. This was a break away group from the Bethel Independent Chapel, Hobbs Hill [10829].
10829	2306 1600	This is the former Bethel Independent Chapel in Hobbs Hill.
10830	2313 1625	Site of Parish cage or lock up on the site of the War Memorial, in the churchyard at the west end of Church Street.
10831	2305 1624	This inn was originally the Swan, mentioned in court rolls in 1352, and was renamed the Wellington in 1816. The building has some visible timber framing, but was modernised c1725. The timber framing is probably early 17th century. The Swan was not as important a coaching inn as the White Hart [10842] but was often the meeting place of the Welwyn Turnpike Trust.
10832	2307 1622	This was a House and Bakers Shop at No.3 High Street. Behind the early 19 century frontage is a 17 century or earlier timber frame. This building was part of the Boar's Head, bought by the owners of the Swan next door by the mid 17C [10831], and then became a bakery in 1776.
10837	2314 1559	The Union Workhouse, London Rd opened in 1830, is shown on the 1884 1st edition OS 6-inch map. The Isolation Hospital [10841] appears to have been built as part of the workhouse facilities.
10838	2310 1579	Site of St Mary's School, London Rd. This was a National school, opened in 1858 with accommodation for 90 boys, 70 girls and 60 infants. It had moved from smaller premises in School Lane.
10840	2316 1616	Site of the Old Rectory, 21-25 Mill Lane. It constituted Welwyn rectory until Dr Edward Young moved to Guessens [10826] in 1749. The present building, then, is on the site of the medieval rectory, which was moated [10855] and also a manorial site.
10842	2308 1605	The White Hart, Prospect Place was Welwyn's main coaching inn during the 18 th century. The building is 18 th century but some earlier timberwork is suspected, with the earliest reference to the

		White Hart being in 1681. See also [10843] for no.6 Prospect Place.
10843	2310 1605	Former courthouse and meeting rooms built c 1756. To the left is the carriage entrance to the White Hart [10842], which still occupies part of no.6 Prospect Place.
10844	2317 1628	Site of The Rose and Crown inn which is 17 th century timber framed, of two storeys, and a brick and plastered 17 century rear central wing. The earliest definite reference was in 1747, although a Rose was mentioned in 1633. See also the barn or coach house [10845].
10845	2316 1630	Coach House for the Rose and Crown inn is an early 17 th century red brick building on the north side of the car park.
10846	2306 1626	Ivy Cottage, 1 Forge Lane is an early 17 th century framed building with an 18 th century rear. Used as a private day and boarding school from 1851 (possibly 1820's) until 1900.
10847	2315 1631	Site of Dr Young's Free School probably built in 1714. It provided education for only four boys and was situated in Carleton Almshouse, no.4 Church Street [10825], at the corner of the churchyard.
10848	2321 1616	This was the former assembly rooms now divided into no.32 Mill Lane, built in 1752, and nos.2, 4, and 6 Orchard Road, a rear wing added in 1765.
10849	2329 1617	The original Welwyn sewage works were constructed in the late 1860s on the bank of the river Mimram below the water mill. Part of the works covered the site of the bowling green behind Welwyn Assembly Rooms [10848].
10856	2322 1630	Former Chequers public house on 28 Church St. The structure is 17C and probably earlier, timber-framed, with an external 17 th century chimney but its earliest appearance in records dates to 1721, when it was owned by William Oakley.
10857	2321 1618	The White Horse, set back from the road and adjacent to the 18 century Assembly Rooms [10848], is a small 17th century timber-framed inn building with only one bed and stabling for 11 horses.
10858	2320 1622	This was the site of the former Vine inn on 18 Church Street built in 1713.
10859	2315 1624	This was the site of the Holly Hall, a house with 17 th century framing and 18 th century red brick casing. It was originally called the New House in 1663 but changed to Holly Hall by 1732.
10889	2315 1621	Evaluation in advance of the building of Holly Hall Court, in the grounds of Holly Hall [10859] located no significant features other than three features dating to the 17th to 19 th centuries. They suggested industrial activity, possibly connected with the blacksmith's forge documented on the site in the 18C. Residual potsherds included medieval and two sherds of grass-tempered Anglo-Saxon pottery, but no features.
10981	2332 1613	Site of Maltings. The Welwyn tithe map (1837) shows a field here called Malting Mead, with a building in it on the riverbank. A draft deed dated 1891 refers to a malting yard belonging to Welwyn Mill [7040].

10989	2313 1583	A blacksmith's shop and stable stood on Welwyn Hill until 1850, when the Steamer public house was built (which was named for the new Great Northern Railway). The smithy is shown on a map of the parish dated 1823.
<i>Modern (AD 1900 – present)</i>		
6902	2294 1643	A World War Two gun emplacement. Although the concrete base is partly buried, the stainless steel pintle is in typically first-class condition
10860	2309 1618	Site of the Black Horse Beerhouse, High St previously The Forge blacksmith workshop (see medieval record under same number).

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1837	Welwyn Tithe Map	-	HALS
1898	OS. 2 nd Edition. Herts Sheet XXVIII.3	25": 1 mile	HALS
1923	OS Herts Sheet XXVIII.3	25": 1 mile	HALS
1937	OS Herts Sheet XXVIII.3	25": 1 mile	HALS

APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS 1082: 21-25 School Lane, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (P. 2984)

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000		2	Topsoil	Post-Medieval	(13), 89g			
1004		1	Layer	Post-Medieval	(5), 88g			
1006		1	Layer	Mid 2nd C AD	(23), 174	244	13	
1007		1	Layer	Late 2nd C AD	(67), 1101	2654	26	
1009		1	Floor Layer	Early-Mid 2nd C AD	(3), 107g			
1010	1011	1	Pit Fill	Early-Mid 2nd C AD	(3), 72g	104		
1012	1013	1	Wall Slot Fill	Late 1st-Mid 2nd C AD	(41), 363g	313	124	SF1: Glass (1), 5g SF2: Fe Nail (1), 1g SF3: Fe Nail (1), 2g SF4: Fe Nail (1), 6g
1014	1015	1	Ditch Fill	Early 2nd C AD	(58), 574g	93	91	SF5: Fe Nail (1), 10g SF6: Fe Nail (1), 6g Slag (1), 33g
1017		1	Floor Layer	Early-Late 2nd C AD	(25), 170g	378	151	Oyster Shell (1), 8g
1022	1023	4	Linear Feature Fill	Post-Medieval	(1), 7g	26		
1024	1026	3	Well Fill	Mid 2nd C AD	(47), 691g	1389	391	Fe Nails (2), 29g SF7: Fe Nail (1), 14g SF8: Fe Nail (1), 21g Fe Nail (1), 17g
	1027	3		Late 1st-Early 2nd C AD	(30), 492g	404	270	SF9: Fe Nails (2), 26g SF10: Quernstone (1), 386g
	1028	3		Early 2nd C AD	(14), 205g	2625	26	
	1029	3						

APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced a total of 322 sherds (4207g) of pottery, of which five sherds (35g) are post-medieval and the remainder Roman. The stratified Roman pottery includes several well-preserved, small groups with high diagnostic potential that all encompass a date range ranging from the late 1st century AD to the late 2nd century AD. The post-medieval sherds comprise small body sherds of glazed red earthen ware and tin glazed cream ware that are present in Topsoil L1000, Layer L1004 and Linear F1022 L1023 and are not discussed further here. Also present in these post-medieval contexts are 13 sherds (152g) of residual, non-diagnostic Roman pottery consistent with that in the stratified Roman features. The pottery was recorded by sherd count, weight and R.EVE with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and all those recorded are listed below.

Fabric Descriptions

LGF SA: La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28)

LEZ SA2: Lezoux samian Ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 31)

KOL CC: Cologne colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 57)

CNG CC: Central Gaulish colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 51)

LON MD: London mica-dusted ware (Davies et al 1994, 136: LOMI-1244)

HGW RE C: Highgate Wood reduced ware C (Tomber & Dore 1998, 136)

HAD RE1: Hadham reduced ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 152)

GRS: Miscellaneous sand-tempered grey wares. Probably the products of the Verulamium kilns although other local/regional kilns such as those at Hadham may be represented

GRF: Fine Grey Ware, imitating Terra Nigra. The core is dark grey, the margins mid grey-brown and the surfaces are slipped black and burnished (exterior only) to a high gloss. Inclusions are limited to common well-sorted, fine quartz (<0.2mm) with occasional larger grains (<0.5mm). The fabric is very hard with a slightly irregular fracture.

BSW: Black-surfaced/Romanizing grey wares (Going 1987, 9)

BB2: Black-burnished ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 131)

HAR SH: Harrold shell-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 115)

SOB GT: Southern British grog-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214)

VER WH: Verulamium region white ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 154)

VER WH (M): Verulamium region white ware mortaria (Tomber & Dore 1998, 154)

VER WS: Verulamium region white-slipped ware (Seeley & Drummond-Murray 2005, 109)

VER WS (M): Verulamium region white-slipped ware mortaria (Seeley & Drummond-Murray 2005, 109)

UNS OX1: Fine oxidised ware. Orange surfaces (5YR 5/6) and margins with a poorly defined core in darker oxidised or reduced tones. Inclusions are dominated by fine quartz and iron rich grains (<0.2mm) with common mica and sparse larger quartz grains (0.3-0.6mm). A moderately hard fabric with a slightly powdery feel. Possibly an early Hadham product, or from Verulamium.

UNS OX2: As GRS but oxidised.

BAT AM2: Baetican (late) amphorae 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 85)

Commentary

The largest group of pottery present in the assemblage is from Well F1024 and comprises 90 sherds (1360g) recovered from L1027, L1028 & L1029. The most common fabrics in the group are GRS, BSW, BB2 and SOB GT, which encompass the common utilitarian Roman vessel types. GRS includes a reed rim bowl (Wilson

1984, vessel 2453) in L1027 and several burnished lattice cordons from jars in all three fills. BSW and BB2 include plain rim dishes and SOB GT appears to be limited to storage jar fragments including a vessel with a plain everted rim (Wilson 1984, vessel 2329). Importantly each of the contexts includes diagnostic fine ware vessels that define the chronology of the feature. L1027 contains a KOL CC bag-shaped beaker with roughcast decoration that combined with the other fabrics and vessels in the context, including LEZ SA2, defines a date in the mid 2nd century AD. L1028 contains a large fragment from a GRF carinated bowl with concave sides comparable to examples from Colchester (Symonds & Wade 1999: Cam.327). This is an exceptionally highly finished and fine vessel that imitates continental 'Gallo-Belgic' imports including Terra Nigra and was probably not produced after the late 1st century. However the remaining fabrics in L1028, including LEZ SA2, VER WH and BB2 suggest that this vessel may be a long-lived survival into the early 2nd century AD. L1029 contains the least pottery of the three fills of Well F1024 but also defines a date in the early 2nd century AD.

Pit F1010, wall slot F1012 and boundary ditch F1014 contained a similar range of utilitarian coarse wares accompanied by equally diagnostic fine wares that define a date range comparable to that of Well F1024. Pit F1010 (L1011) includes a LON MD shallow dish with flaring sides and a slightly in-turned rim comparable to example from Moorgate, London (Seeley & Drummond-Murray 2005, 124: P136-7) produced in the early-mid 2nd century AD, as well as the only sherd of amphorae in the assemblage (BAT AM2). Wall slot F1012 (L1013) includes a HGW RE C poppy head beaker also comparable to examples from the City of London (Davies *et al* 1994, 84: 426) and produced from the late 1st-mid 2nd century AD. Ditch F1014 (L1015) includes three samian ware vessels: a LGF SA Form 30 bowl with no surviving decoration with a LEZ SA2 Form 18 platter and Form 33 cup that define a date in the early 2nd century AD.

Further significant groups are present in four Layers: L1006, L1009, L1017 and most notably L1007. Layer L1007 produced a total of 65 sherds (1084g) including a minimum of 16 vessels, of which three are in samian ware (LEZ SA2). The samian ware vessels comprise a Form 33 cup and Form 37 and Curle 11 bowls, which combined with the range of coarse ware vessels in the context including an UNS OX1 hemispherical bowl with flange and small bead (Wilson 1984, vessel 2418) define a date in the late 2nd century AD. Possibly reflecting this fractionally later date is the additional presence of HAD RE1 and HAR SH in Layer L1007. The remaining layers produced a much lower degree of diagnostic pottery but include a VER WH reed rim bowl (Wilson 1984, vessel 2455) in L1006, a VER WS (M) mortaria (Wilson 1984, vessel 2683) in Layer L1009 while the pottery from Layer L1017 incorporates a further fragment of samian ware (LEZ SA2).

Overall the Roman pottery in this assemblage represents a series of very well-preserved, stratified groups from the late 1st century AD to the late 2nd century AD that reflect an area with a high degree of access to and consumption of a range of imported and regional fine wares, coupled with the significant quantities of the type of utilitarian coarse wares that are associated with Roman domestic occupation. The assemblage also mirrors the good state of preservation, several fabrics and forms, and a chronology encompassing the first half of the 2nd century AD previously recorded at 17-19 School Lane (Peachey *forthcoming*).

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced a total of 56 fragments (8120g) of CBM, of which a single fragment (27g) was post-medieval and the remainder Roman. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. All Roman CBM was identified using the conventions defined by Brodrigg (1987). The single post-medieval fragment in the assemblage comprises an abraded fragment of peg tile in an oxidised, coarse sand-tempered fabric in Linear F1022 L1023 and is not discussed further here.

The Roman CBM is present in a single fabric, which is a hard, oxidised red (2.5YR4/8-5YR4/6) fabric with inclusions of common, poorly sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm) and sparse mica (<0.3mm). The fabric has an irregular fracture and a finely abrasive texture. The CBM is in a moderately abraded condition but has been substantially fragmented with few extant flanges on the tegulae present and no extant dimensions on any form except thickness. The forms that could be defined comprise tegulae (25-30mm thick) and imbrex (20mm thick) roof tile with an unidentified type of brick/tile (35-40mm thick), probably a type of *bessalis* brick.

The only concentrations of Roman CBM in the assemblage are in Layer L1007 (15 fragments, 2574g) and Well F1024 (L1027, L1028 and L1029) (27 fragments, 4473g).

In both cases the CBM is dominated by fragments of tegulae accompanied by very sparse fragments of imbrex and unidentified brick. The remaining features to contain CBM: Layers L1006, L1017, wall slot F1012 (L1013) and ditch F1014 (L1015) all contain sparse fragments of tegula.

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The Animal Bone

Carina Phillips

Introduction

79 fragments of animal bone were recovered from eight contexts, all spot dated to the Roman period. The bone is of moderate preservation. The hand recovery technique used may be biased towards the recovery of larger bones, possibly resulting in an under-representation of small bones and small species, particularly bird and fish.

Method

Bones were identified and recorded to species and element when possible. The category sheep/goat has been used unless it was possible to clearly identify the species sheep (*Ovis sp.*) or goat (*Capra sp.*). Tooth wear for cattle, sheep and pig were recorded using the method of Grant (1982). Measurements were taken when viable following the methods of Jones *et al* (1976) and von den Driesch (1976), and are contained in the site archive. When available the fusion state of identifiable bones was also recorded and ages were assessed following Silver (1969). Fragments unidentifiable to a particular species were recorded under the categories of ‘large sized’, consisting of cattle (*Bos sp.*), large deer and horse (*Equus sp.*) sized fragments and ‘small sized’ consisting of sheep/goat, small deer, pig (*Sus sp.*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*) sized bone fragments. All other unidentifiable bone fragments were recorded as such. Evidence of burning, sawing, chopping, knife-cutting and gnawing was also recorded, as was smashed bone. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) of a species was calculated from most frequent left or right skeletal element (minimum number of elements).

Results and Discussion

	NISP	Chopped	Cut	Smashed	Gnawed	Burnt
Sheep/goat	14	1	1	1	1	0
Cattle	5	1	0	1	0	0
Dog	1	0	1	0	0	0
Horse	1	0	0	0	0	0
Pig	1	0	0	0	0	0
Large sized	24	0	0	6	1	0
Small sized	15	0	0	1	1	0
Unidentifiable	18	0	0	0	0	1
Total	79	2	2	9	3	1

The number of animal bone fragments/specimens (NISP)

Only 29% of the assemblage (22 fragments) was identifiable to species. Sheep/goat, cattle, pig, horse and dog were all identified in the assemblage. No wild species are present. 49% could only be classed by size, this is related to fragmentation. It was not possible to estimate age at death for any of mandibles present in this assemblage due to incompleteness.

Butchery marks were observed in small numbers; most notable is the cut mark on the dog humerus from L1027. The cut mark is positioned on the posterior proximal shaft which is suggestive of filleting, as therefore suggests use of dog meat. The utilisation of the carcasses of this species has been indicated at other Roman sites through butchery marks, although the removal of the skin is more commonly observed. Dog meat could have been used to feed other dogs or perhaps even people. However if practice followed modern British trends then dog flesh would not have been consumed. This relates to the close relationship people have with the species (i.e. pets) and perhaps the view that the dog eats impure foods, being a scavenger and predator (Simmons 1994:251).

Potential

The small amount of identifiable bone in the evaluation assemblage has restricted detailed consideration of the use of animals on the site. This may also be a hindering factor if further excavation produces a small fragmented animal bone assemblage. As possible with the evaluation assemblage, an indication of the species present in the assemblage will be possible. The recovery of further dog bones in particular may allow further consideration of the butchery and utilisation of this species after death in the Roman period.

Shell

A single oyster shell was hand recovered from L1017.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Fill L1015 in ditch F1014, Trench 1. Looking south-west.



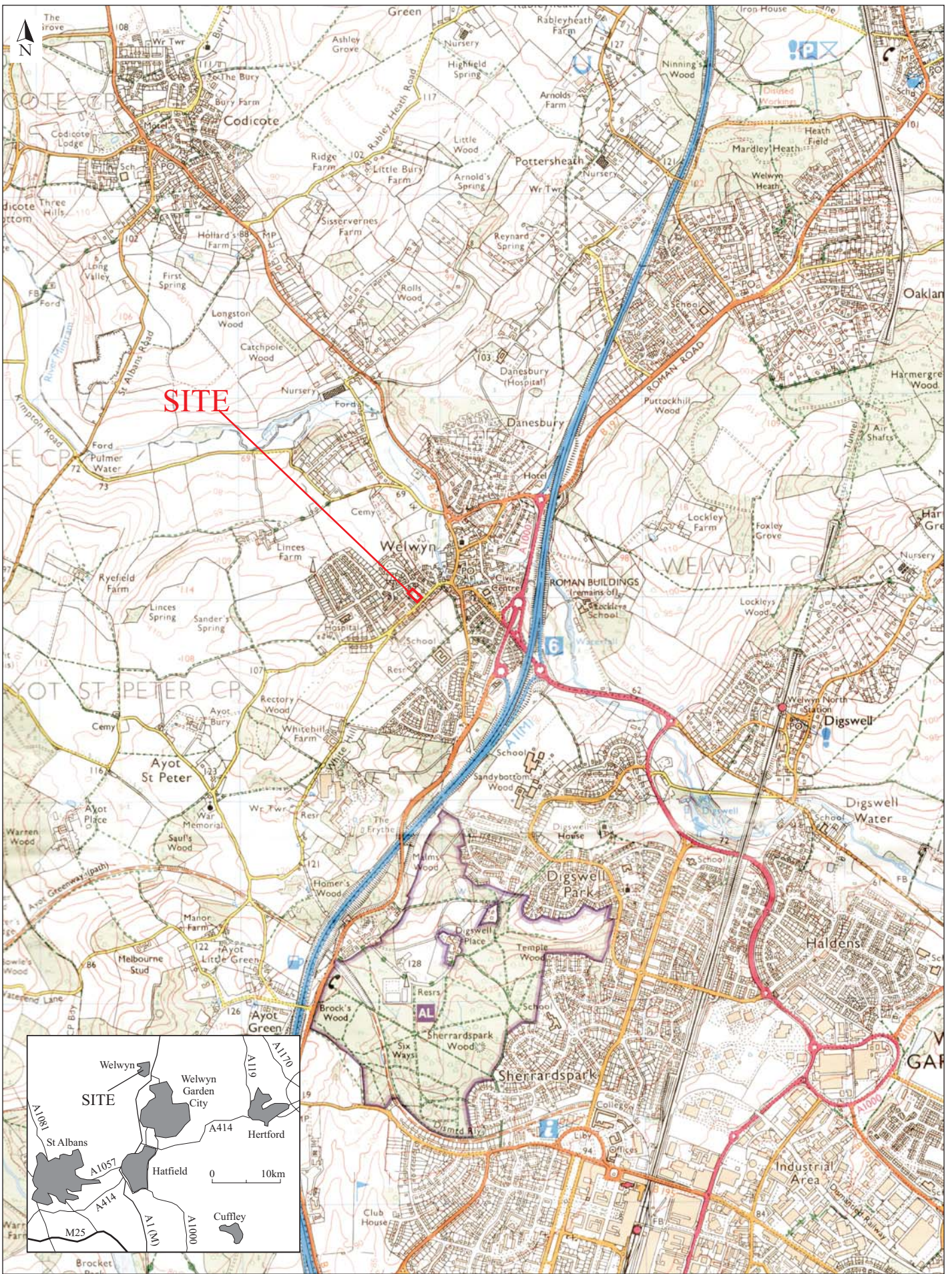
DP 2. Section through chalk floor L1009, Trench 1. Looking north-east.



DP 3. View of Trench 1 showing chalk floor in foreground. Looking south-west.

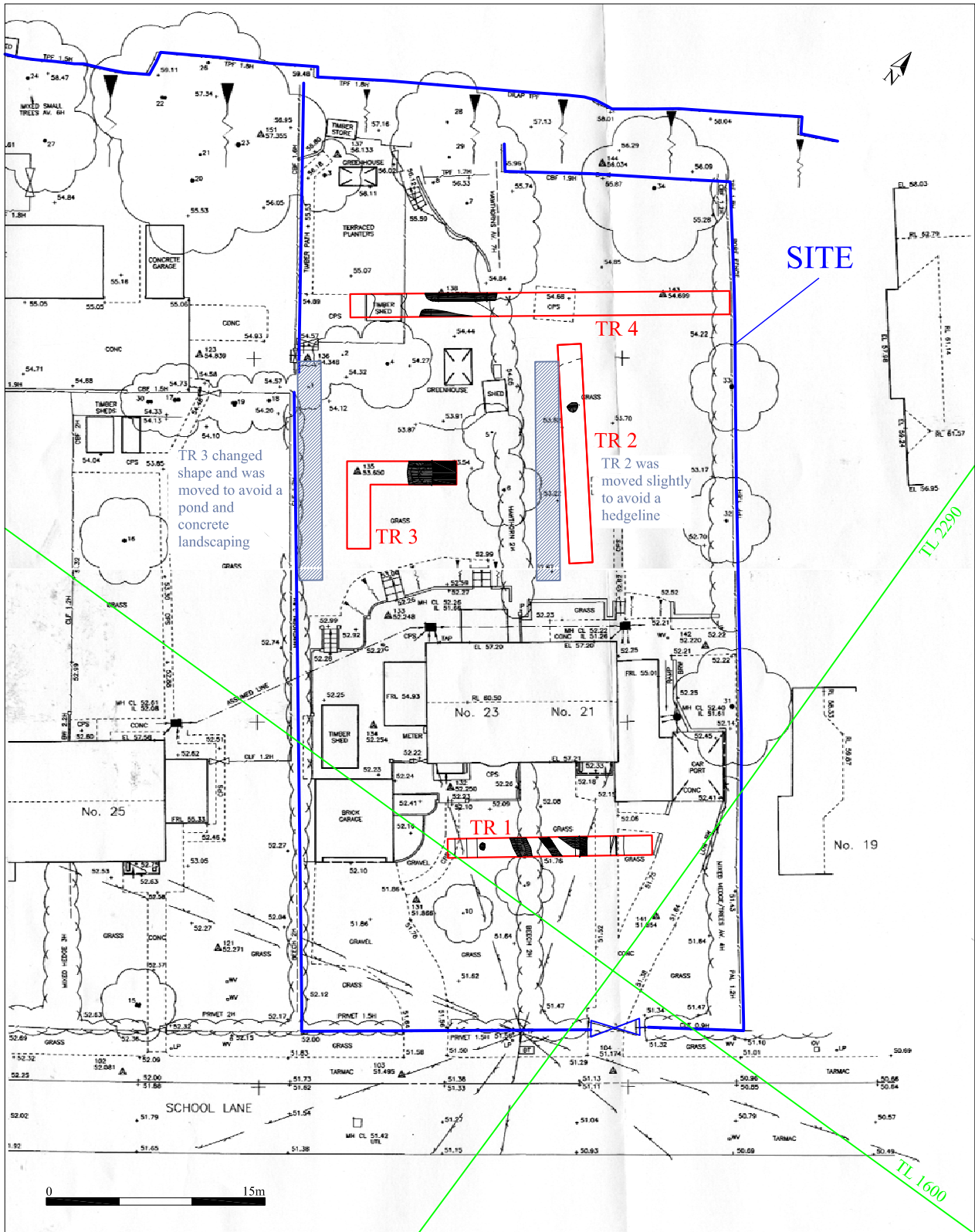


DP 4. Backfills in well F1024, Trench 3. Looking north-east.

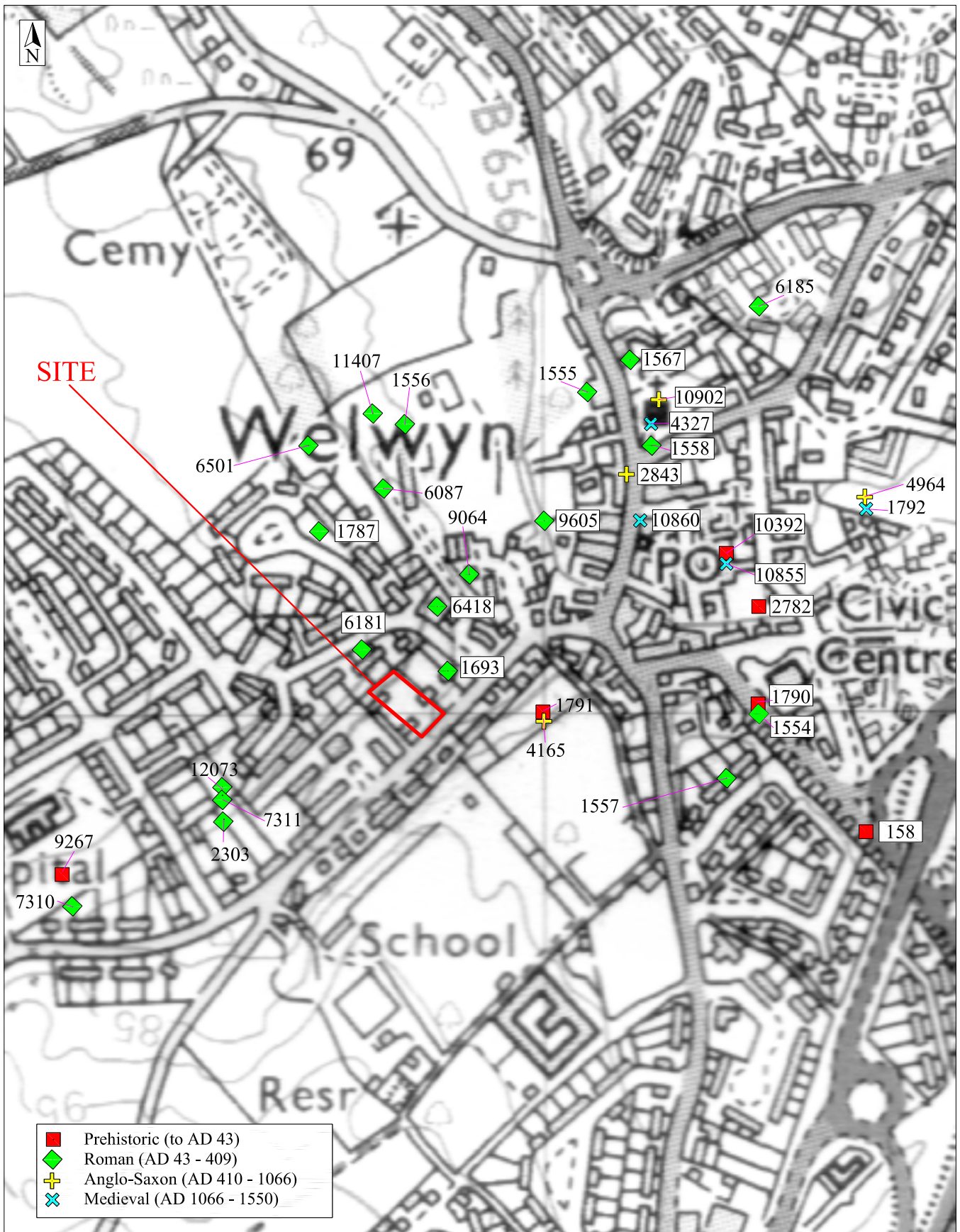


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

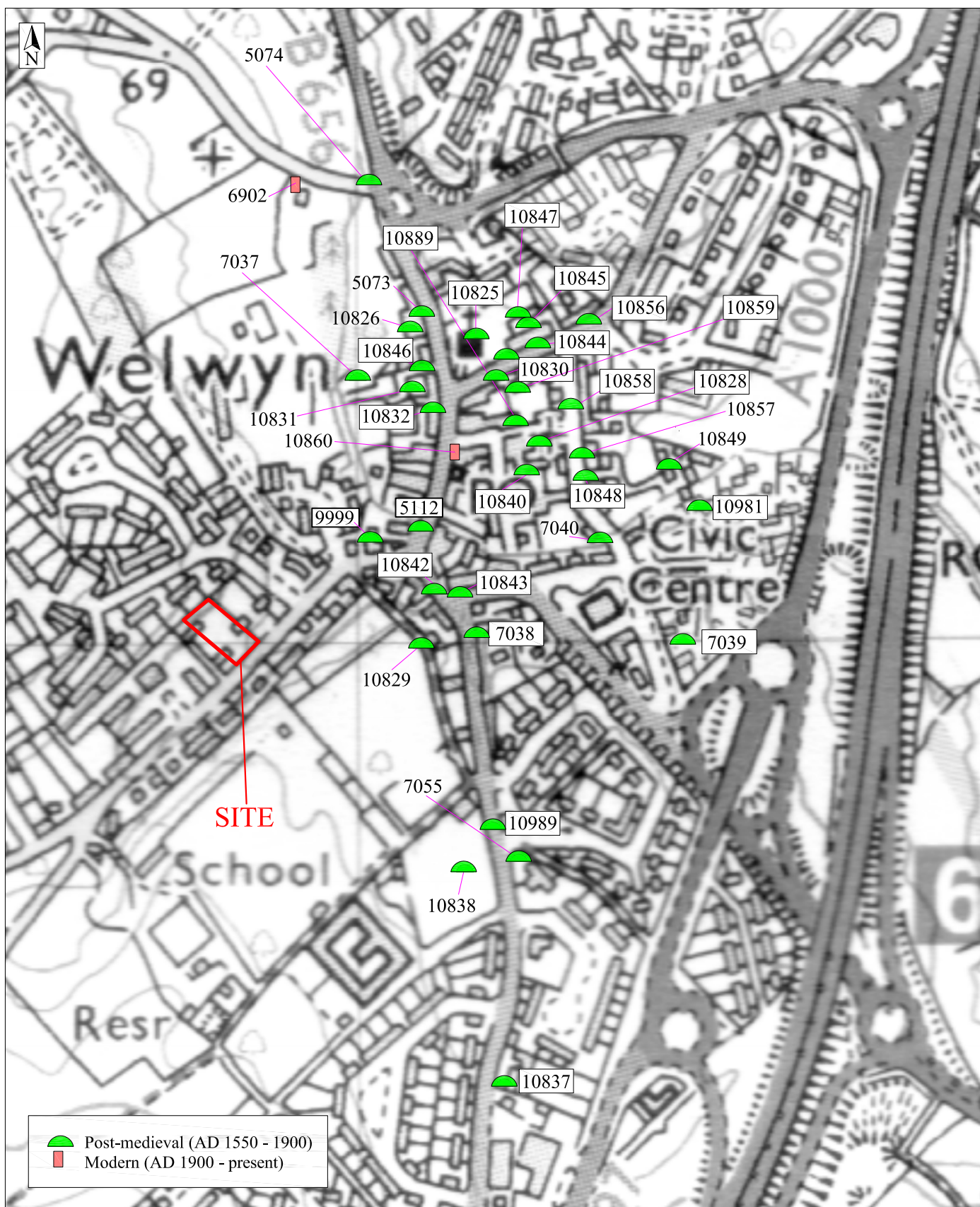


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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:400 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER data
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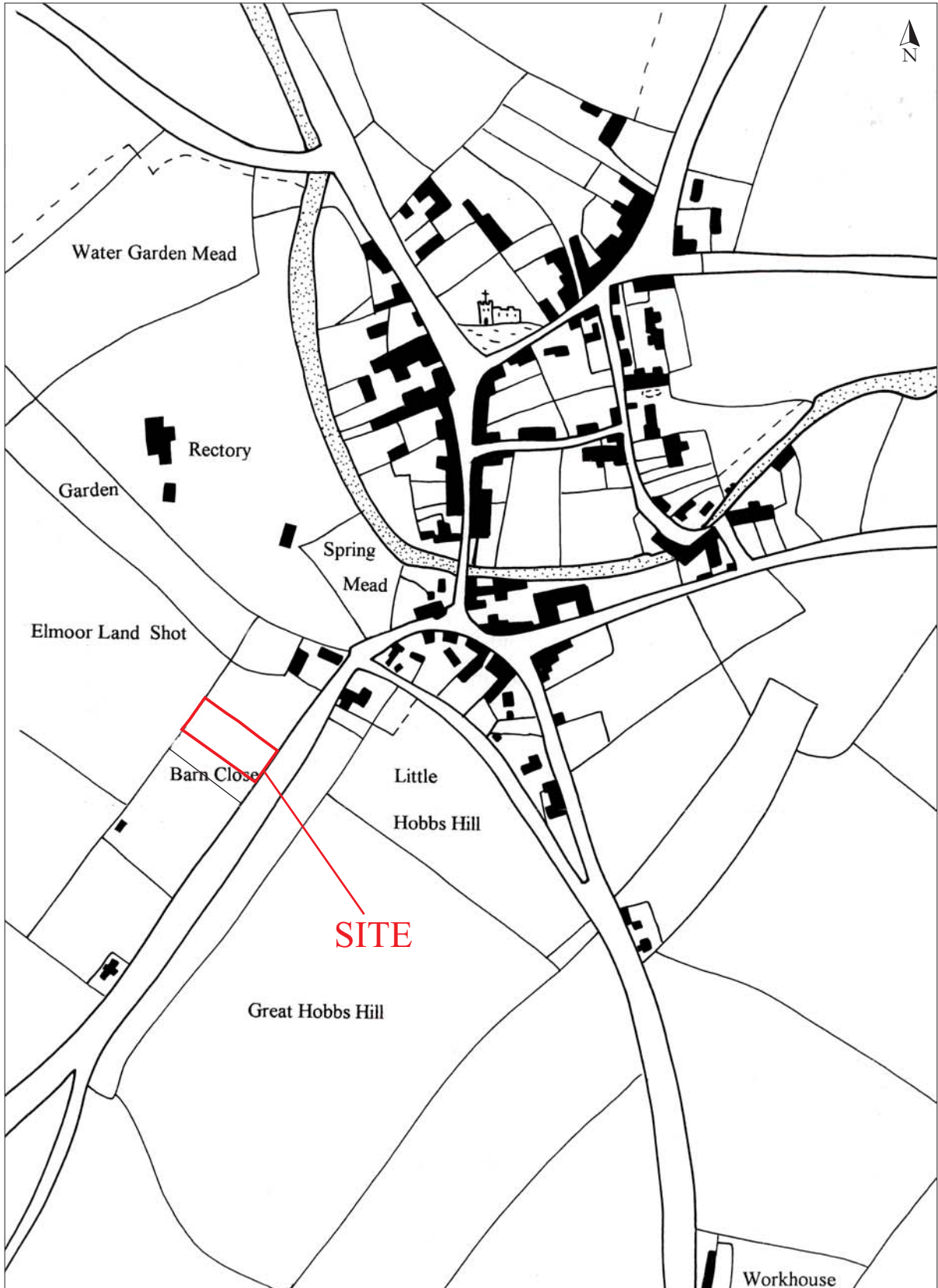


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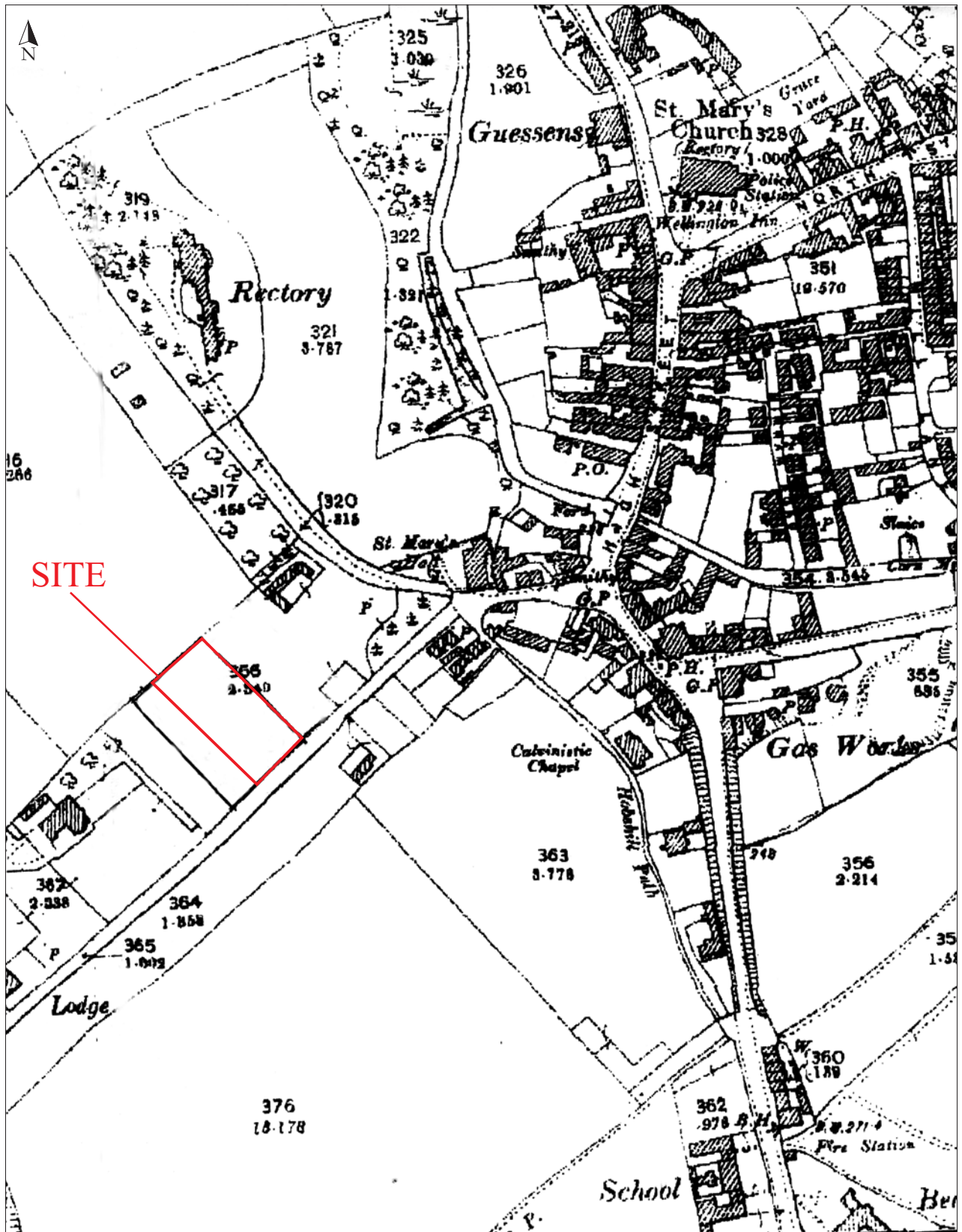
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Fig. 3a HER data

Scale 1:5000 at A4

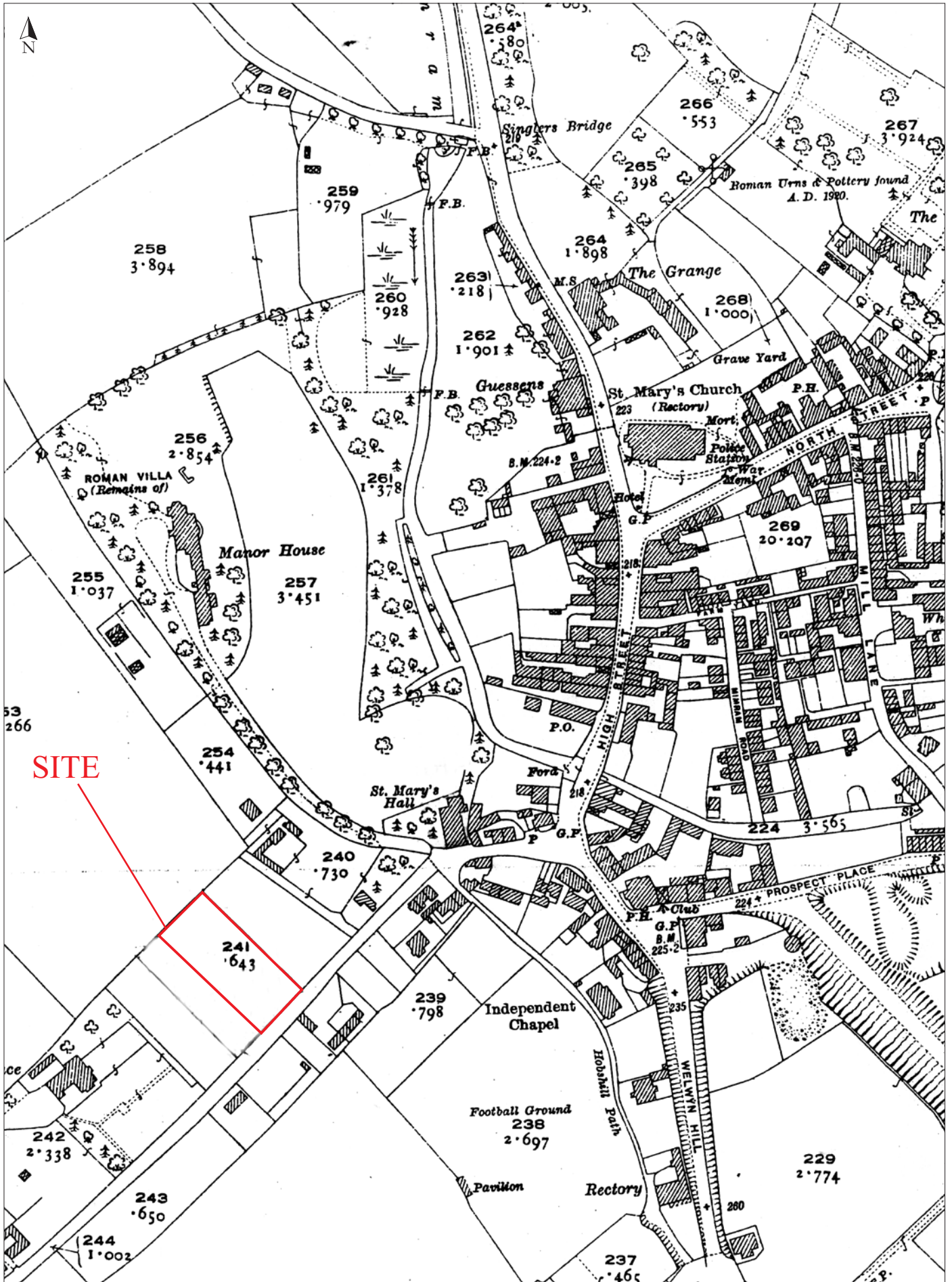


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Fig. 4 Tithe map, 1837
Not to scale



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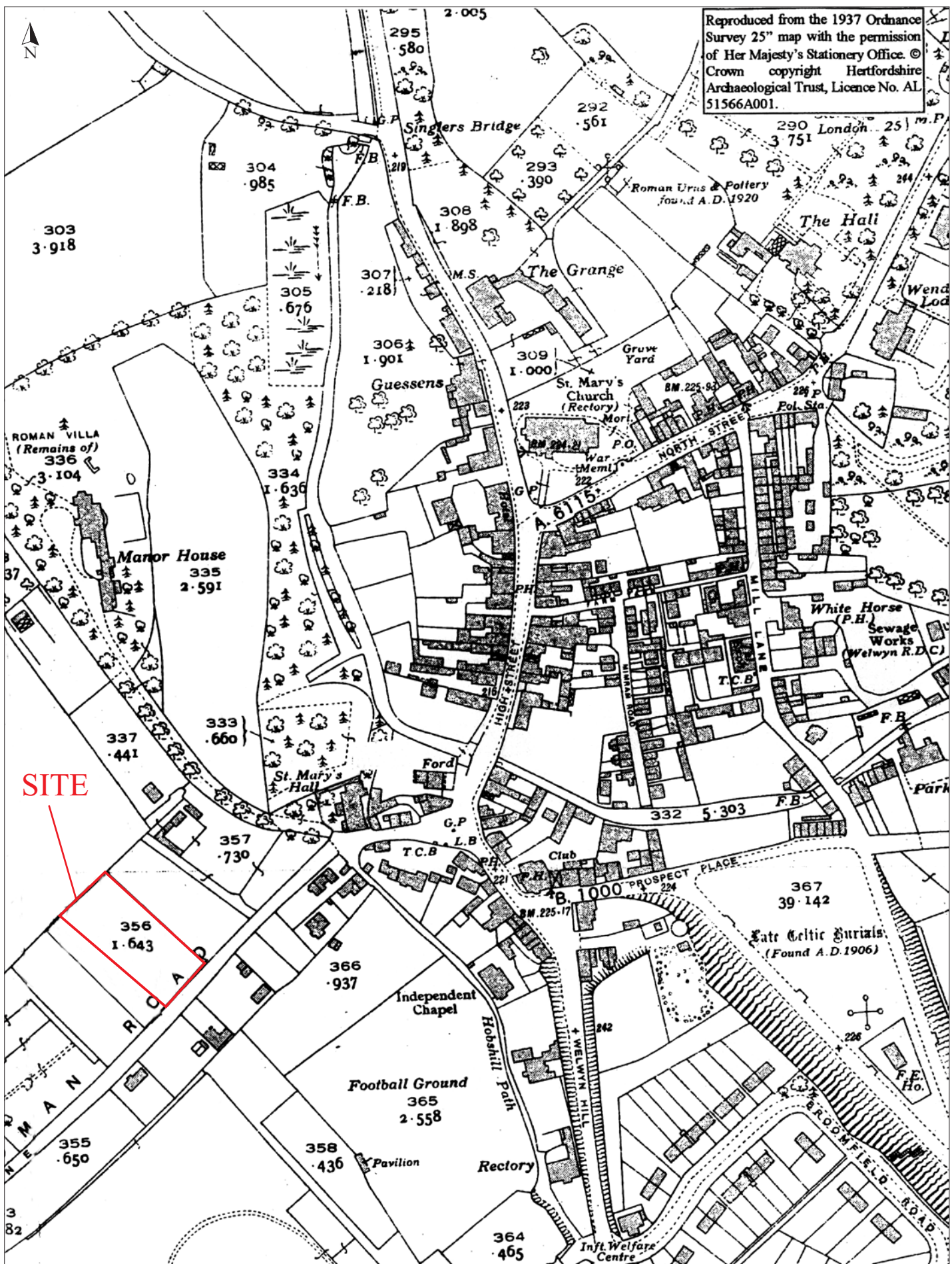
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 Fig. 5 2nd edition OS map, 1898
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile



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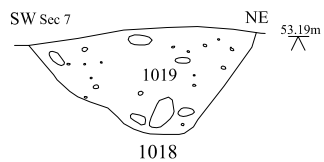
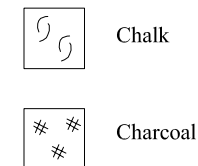
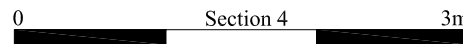
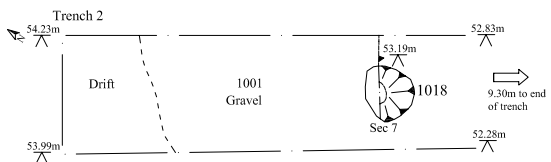
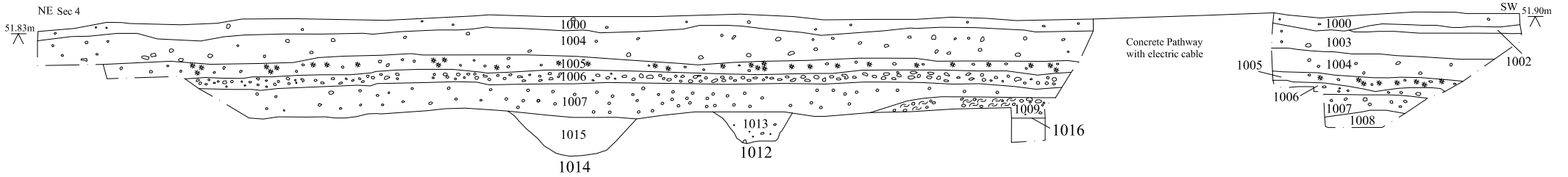
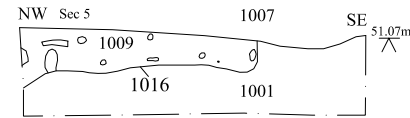
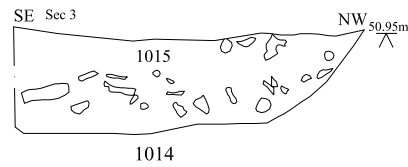
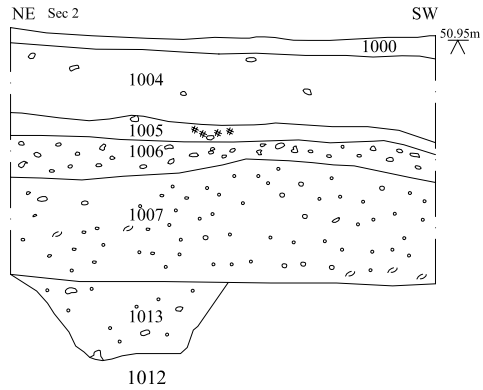
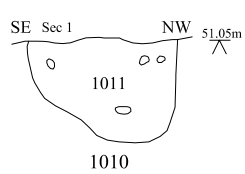
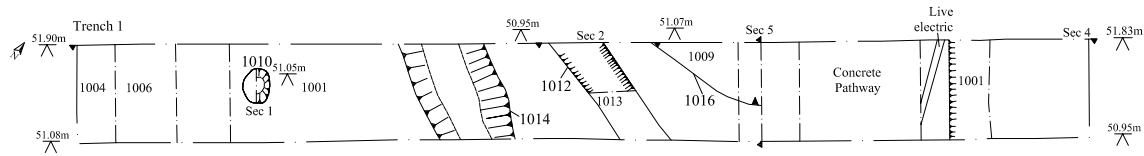
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 Fig. 6 OS map, 1923
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile

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SITE

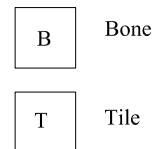
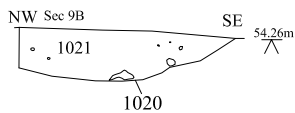
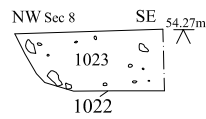
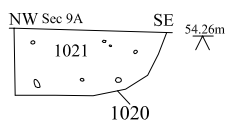
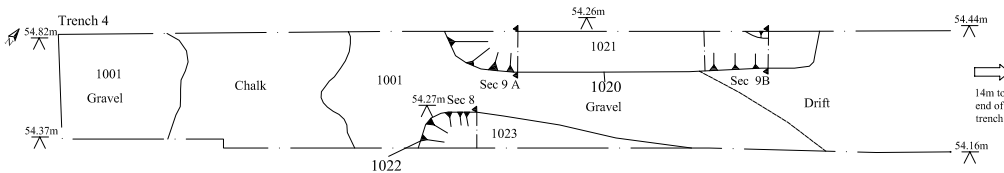
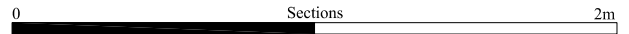
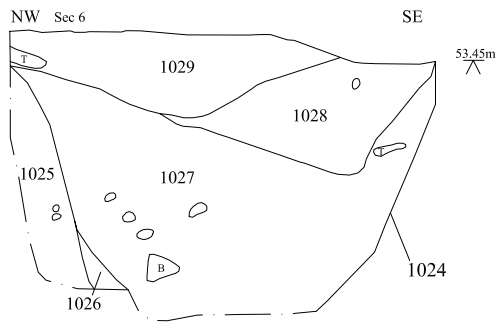
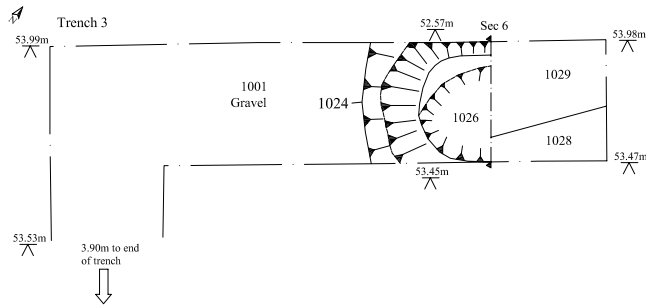
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 Fig. 7 OS map, 1937
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile



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Fig. 8 Plans and sections

Scale Plans at 1:100, all sections at 1:25, except section 4 at 1:50



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Fig. 9 Plans and sections

Scale Plans at 1:100, sections at 1:25