



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

The Marlborough Club
Cottonmill Lane
St Albans
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	Florian Weber MA PCIfA	<i>Version</i>	622/SAM/2.1	<i>Date</i>	22.09.2021
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Unit 3 Leighton Road Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1LA
Tel: 01525 385443
Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk
Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk





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Summary

In September 2021, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. A total of twenty two, one by one meter test pits were excavated across the site as a first stage of an archaeological assessment of the site.. Thirteen pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from the test pits, of which eleven were possibly debitage and two partly broken scrapers.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2021, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Limited and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2021), and approved by Simon West, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), St Albans City & District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 5/2021/0715.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021), as Condition 15 & 16 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site (Ref. 5/21/0715).

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The development site is situated near the southern edge of the city of St Albans, which is in the administrative district St Albans City and District Council. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 1540 0569 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is located approximately 1.5km south of St Albans city centre, and can be accessed from Cottonmill Lane, via Old Oak. The site is bounded to the west by the rear gardens of residential properties that front onto Cottonmill Lane, to the north and east by a wooded area and the River Ver, and to the south by an open field (Figs. 2 & 3).

Geology & Topography

A recent ground investigation of the development site encountered a limited thickness of topsoil/made-ground overlying River Terrace Deposits with the underlying chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations only revealed at the southernmost part of the site (Goodsell 2021). The site is situated at an approximate elevation of 71m AOD.

Proposed Development

The development required the demolition of an existing community building, the construction of a single storey community pavilion with associated facilities, landscaping, re-arrangement of car parking arrangements, and a new pump track and cycle facilities (Fig. 4).

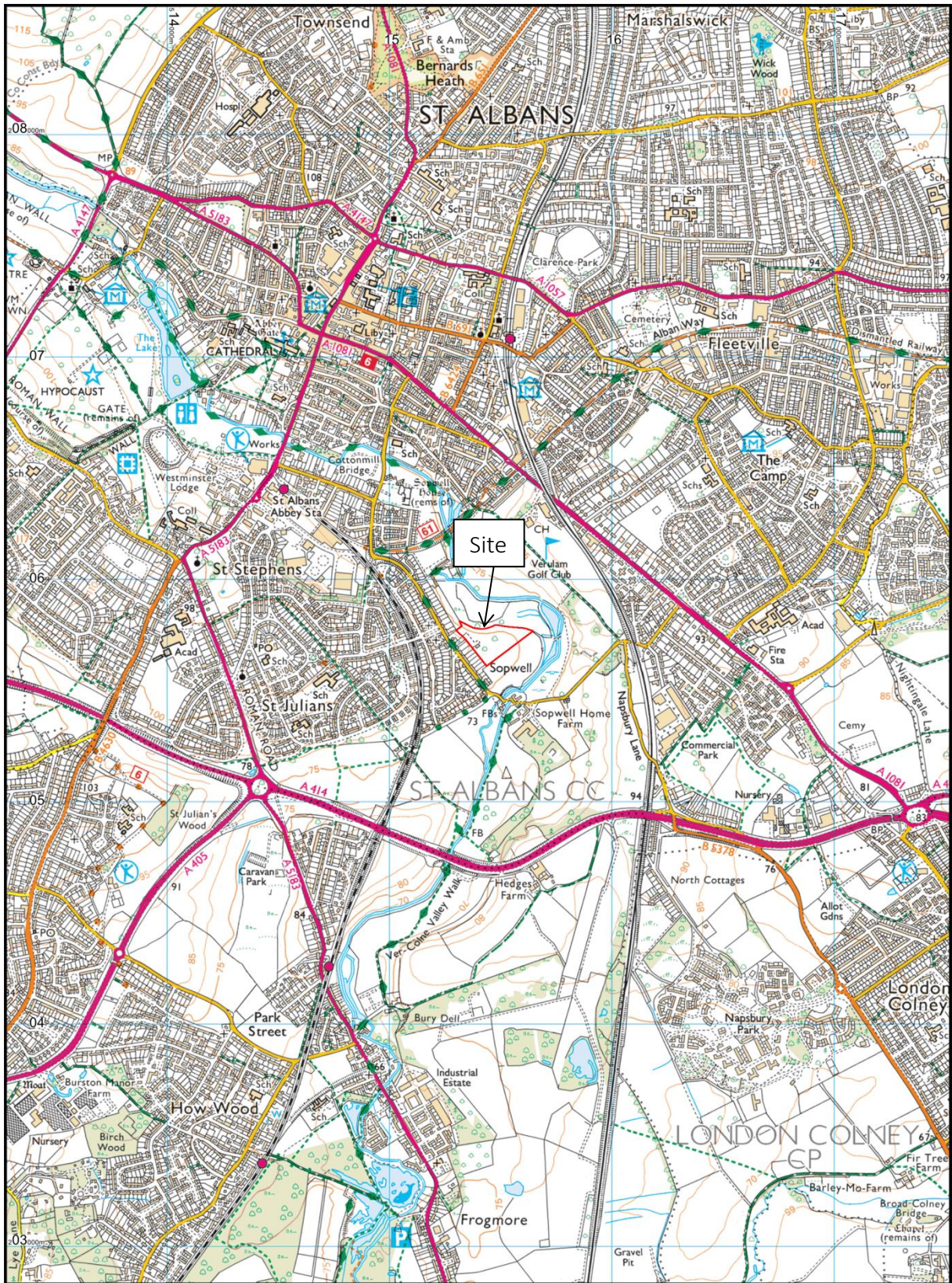


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

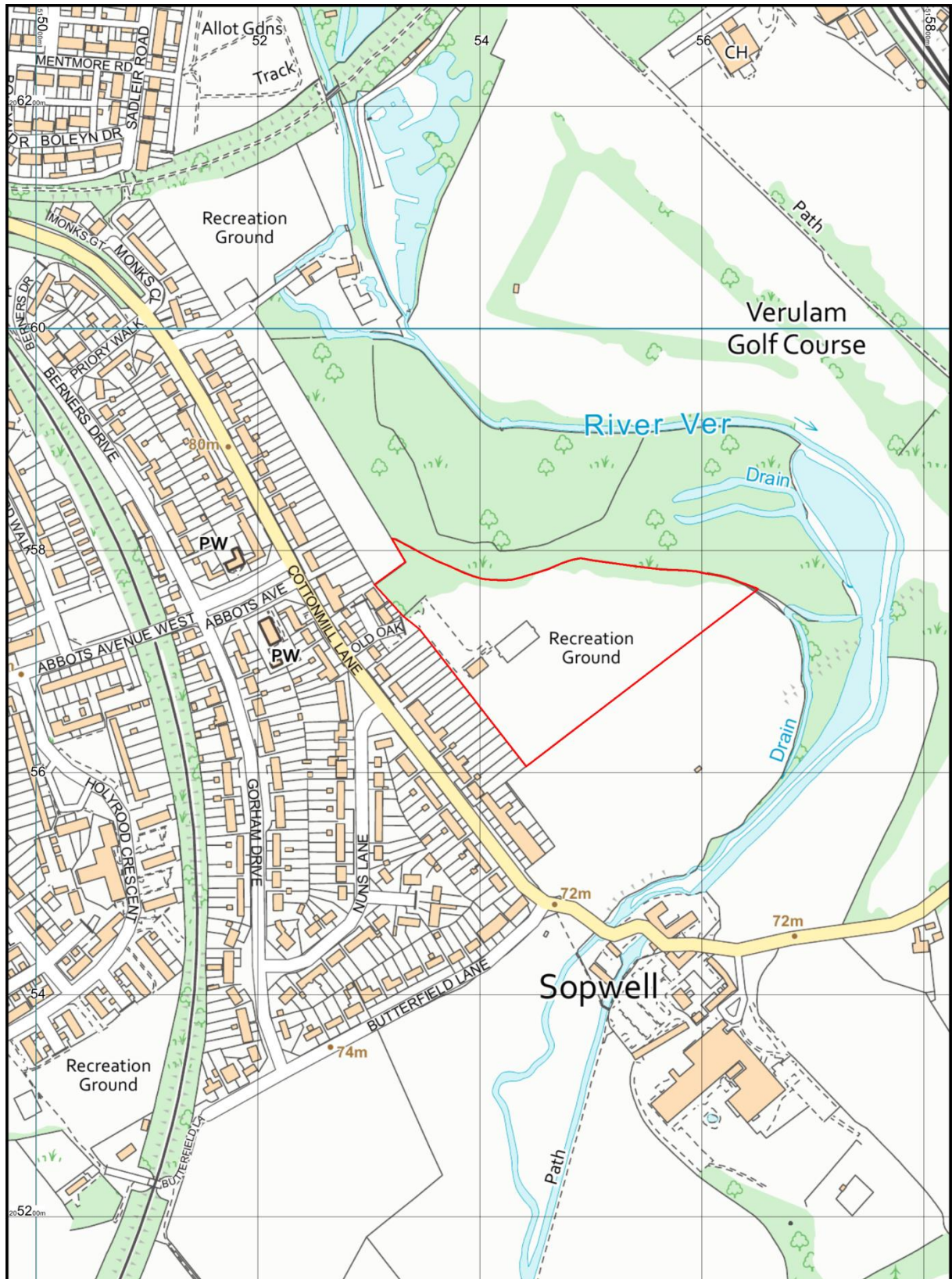


Figure 2: Site location (site outlined in red, scale 1:5000)

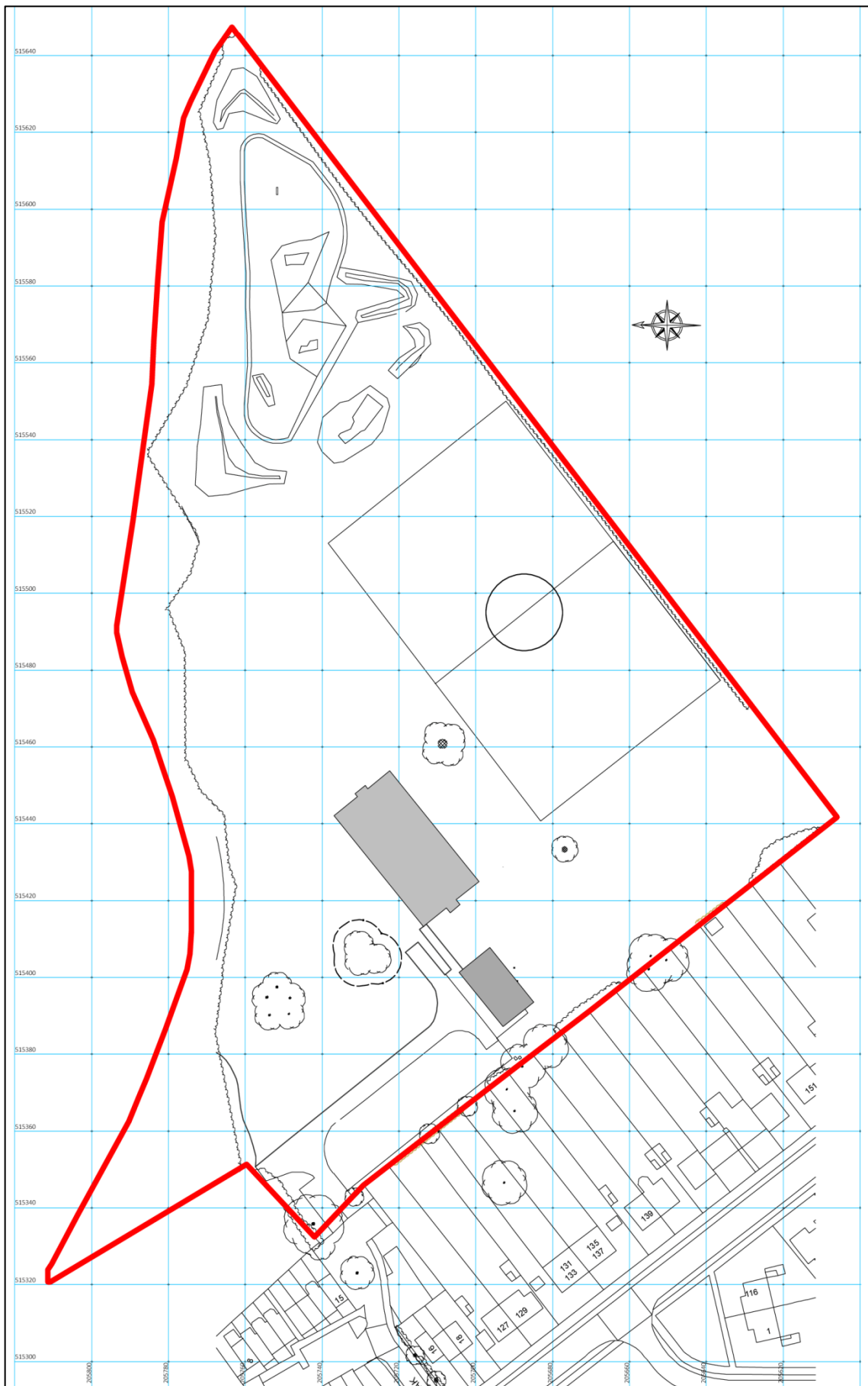


Figure 3: Site layout (scale 1:1500)

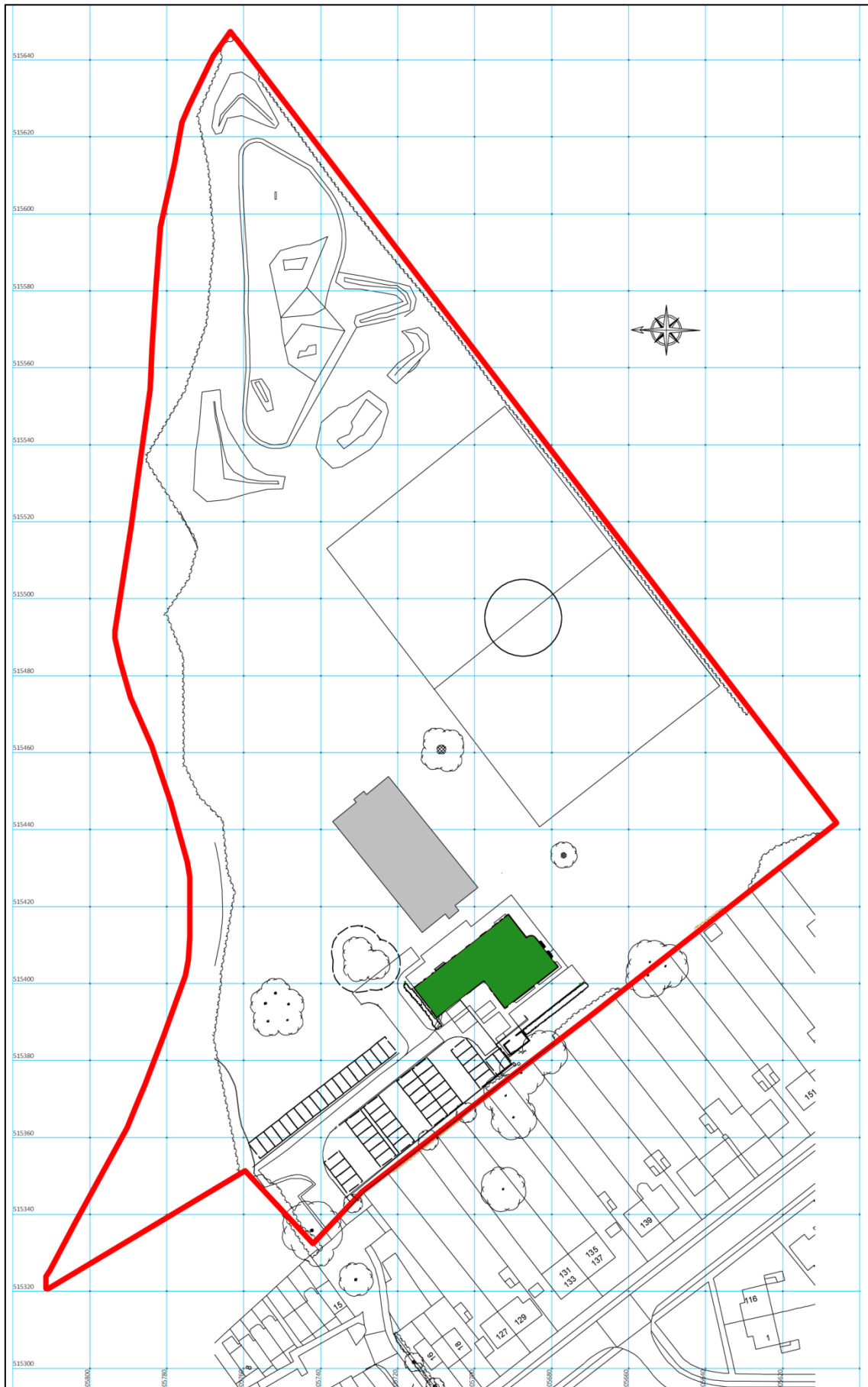


Figure 4: Proposed development (proposed development in green, scale 1:1500)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2021) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity, particularly prehistoric activity, within the development area

2.2 Methods

The methods used were as follows:

- Stage One: An archaeological field evaluation of the site consisting of 25no 1m² test pits (Fig. 5).
- Stage Two: An appraisal of the results of the evaluation and their significance with regard to the proposed development. This in turn may lead to the definition of a programme of investigation and recording of archaeological remains which will be destroyed by the development.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2020a)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)

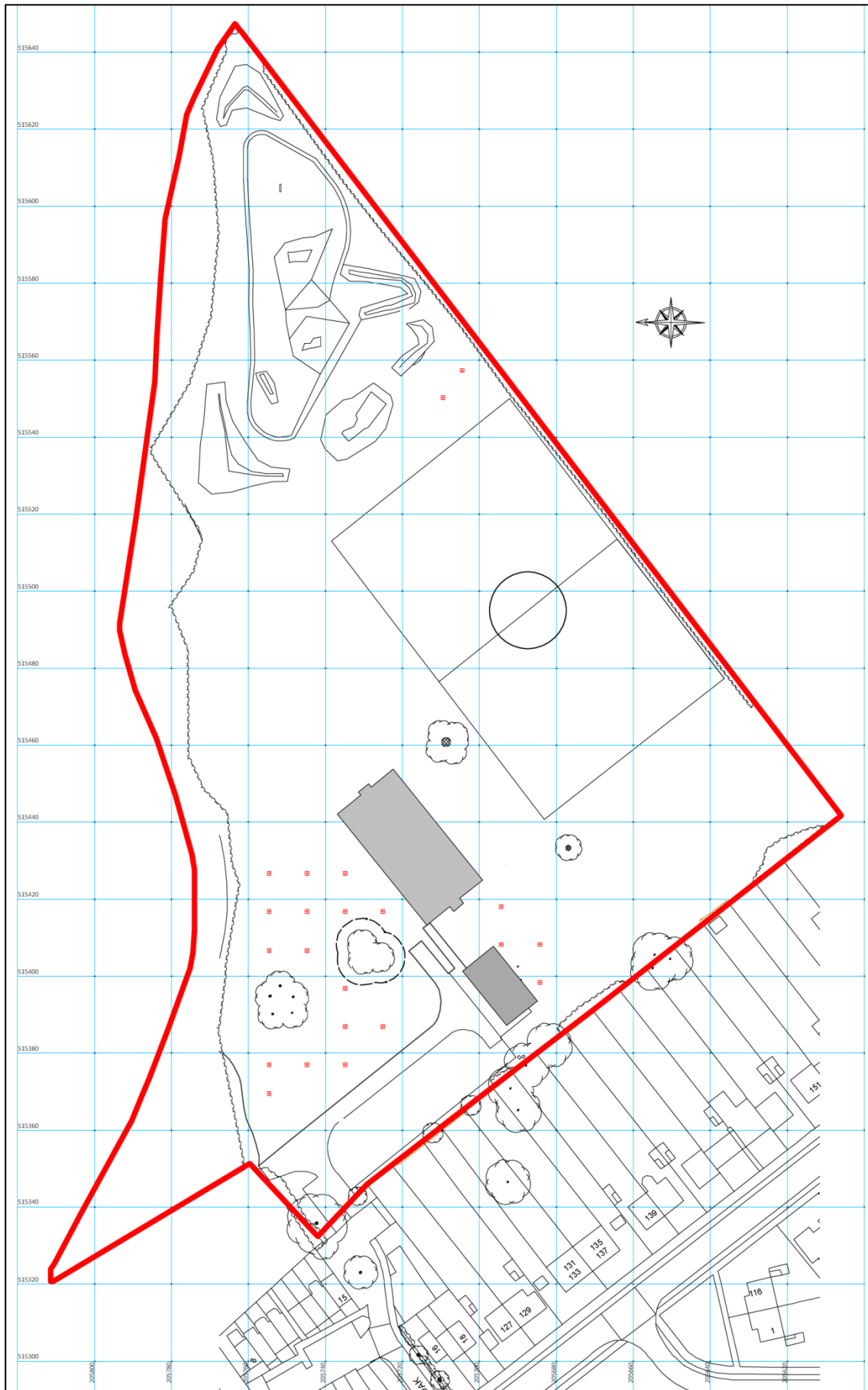
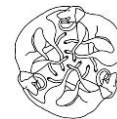


Figure 5: Test pit location (test pits marked in red, scale 1:1500)



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The beginnings of the modern city of St Albans can be traced to the establishment of the Saxon period abbey, but the history of settlement along the banks of the River Ver stretches much further back in time. By the Late Iron Age, St Albans was an important settlement, with evidence of a large population, political and ritual significance and links with a wider landscape of sites and features. During the Roman period, *Verulamium*, as it was called, became the third largest Roman city in Britain, straddling Watling Street, the main road from London to Chester. The abbey, founded on the execution site of Alban, England's first Christian martyr, was a rich and powerful landowner until the Dissolution. St Albans was the site of two battles during the Wars of the Roses and was held by Parliamentarians throughout the Civil War. In the 18th and 19th centuries it was remained an important regional market and manufacturing centre.

The development site is situated adjacent to the River Ver, near the southern edge of St Albans. It is located north of the Sopwell Conservation Area (SACDC 2011) and southeast of the St Albans Area of Archaeological Significance (612).

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources, including the National Heritage List for England, the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER Ref. No. 77/21), previous KDK Archaeology reports, and KDK's own library. The HER data, within an 800m radius of the development, is shown in Fig.5.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

The earliest evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the town of St Albans is represented by flint artefacts found in the valley of the River Ver, which includes three Palaeolithic flint tools found in the area excavated for the lakes in Verulamium Park (HER 590). Although the only recorded remains from this period within the HER search area is a Palaeolithic 'stone implement' found c. 400m northeast of the proposed development site at Cunningham Hill (HER 595), the location of the site as well as the more recent discovery of prehistoric stone tools by the District Archaeologist (S. West pers. comm) suggest the site may have been of considerably local importance to prehistoric society.

3.3 *Iron Age (600BC - AD43), Roman (AD43 - c.450), & Saxon (c.450 - 1066)*

Despite the importance of St Albans during these periods, including significant Iron Age settlements at Prae Wood and Gorhambury (Neal *et al.* 1990; Wheeler & Wheeler 1936), the Roman city of *Verulamium*, the large settlement listed in the Domesday Book 1086, and the St Albans Abbey and Church, no remains, except for a possible Roman road (see below), from these periods are listed in the HER search area.

3.4 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

At the time of the Domesday Survey, St Albans was already a large settlement. Not including the monks in residence at the abbey, there were 91 households in the manor, with 16 ploughlands and woodland for 1,000 pigs. Three mills were located on the River Ver and there was a fishery (www.opendomesday.org).

The most important monuments from this period are the Benedictine Priory of St Mary (Sopwell Priory; HER 14611) and the post-medieval mansions known as Sopwell House or Lee Hall (HER 14603) at northwestern edge of HER search area. The remains of the priory are not visible on the ground, although excavations (EHT6486) between 1962 and 1966 established that the foundations, floors and other evidence of the conventual buildings survive beneath the standing ruins of Sopwell House.



The priory, dedicated to St Mary of Sopwell, was built c. 1140 by the Benedictine abbot of St Albans Abbey, Geoffrey de Gorham a cell of St Albans Abbey. The monuments include the original church of the 12th century nunnery (HER 14546) as well as a later medieval church (HER 14547). 150 large fragments of carved monastic masonry was discovered during roadworks along the London Road in St Albans in 1901 (EHT6472).

The course of a medieval highway from St Albans to Barnet & London (HER 14632), with a road section exposed in the Verulam Golf Course (HER 9528), was assumed by the Viatores to be Roman road ('route 167'; HER 9526), but a Roman date has never been proven.

Medieval pottery, dating from the 12th - 16th centuries, was found at the edge of the artificial lake at Verulam Angling Club Lake (HER 9895). The only other remains from this period comprises two areas of possible ridge and furrow at Verulam Golf Course (HER 9894), c. 500m northeast of the development, and the grassmarks of eroded ridge and furrow at New Barnes, c. 400m southwest.

3.5 *Post-medieval* (1500 - 1900)

In 1539, St Albans abbey was dissolved and most of the monastic buildings were torn down. The church was purchased by the townspeople and was used as a parish church until it became a cathedral in 1877 (<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/the-history-of-st-albans-cathedral>). Despite the loss of the abbey, St Albans was still a large and significant place. It was granted a charter in 1553, which included the right to hold twice weekly markets, and gradually developed a number of industries, including straw hat manufacturing. It also remained an important transportation hub (Page 1908: 477-483). St Albans prospered as a stopping point on the journey from London to the northwest.

The post-medieval mansions known as Sopwell House (Manor) or Lee Hall (Scheduled Monument NHLE: 1019137) are situated on the site of Sopwell Nunnery where Sir Richard Lee built his first (HER 14603) and second (HER 14604) houses; the surrounding land was enclosed and turned into a deer park and gardens (HER 4087). A 16th century boundary wall, known as Sir Richard Lee's Boundary Wall, containing fragments of medieval masonry salvaged from the abbey after the Dissolution, was recorded along the London Road (HER 14640) at the northern edge of HER search area.

New Barnes or Sopwell House (HER 9499), which lies c. 300m southwest of the development, was originally a late 16th century house called New Barnes House, built in the vicinity of St Albans after the sale of abbey land at the Dissolution. The remains of an early 19th century landscape park (HER 9890), associated with New Barnes or Sopwell House extends across much of the eastern/south-eastern parts of the HER search area. Sopwell Home Farm (HER 30426), a farmstead at Sopwell House stands between the house (HER 9499) and New Barnes Mill [5805] on the river Ver. A small post-medieval farmstead, known as Sopwell Barns and Little Sopwell Farm (HER 30427) is also situated nearby. Another local mill, Sopwell Mill on Cottonmill Lane (HER 5765) is a 17th century watermill, with medieval origins, which was rebuilt in the 19th century.

The site of post-medieval gravel pits on Verulam Golf Course (HER 7064) identified from the 1897 OS map are situated c. 250m east of the development.

The age of the railway is represented by the Hatfield-St Albans Branch of The Great Northern Railway (HER 9628), a small branch line which ran from the Great Northern station at Hatfield (HER 5525) to connect with the LNWR branch to Watford Junction at St Albans Abbey station Holywell Hill (HER 5467). The associated monuments include the site of the now demolished



London Road Railway Station (HER 5474), built 1865, on Great Northern branch line to Hatfield and two railway bridges on Milehouse Lane (HER 5582) and London Road (HER 5583)

3.6 **Modern** (1900 - present)

No monuments from this period are listed within the HER search area.

A Watching brief undertaken at Verulam Golf Course (EHT6607), on the opposite side of the river to the development site, encountered no archaeological remains.

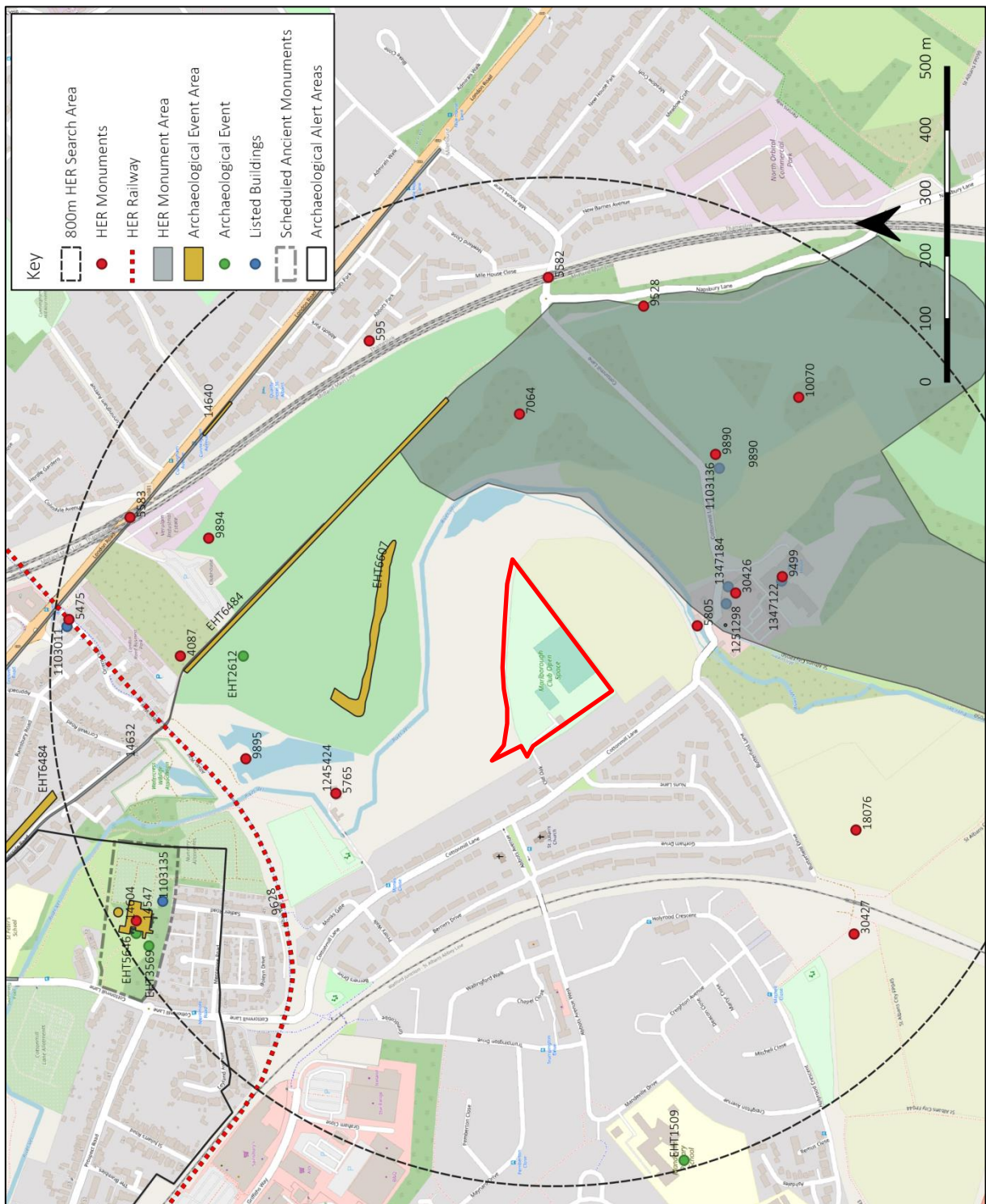


Figure 6: HER data plan (development site outlined in red; scale as shown)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the WSI (Watson 2021) twenty-two test pits were hand excavated at The Marlborough Club. The test pits can be divided in three groups; TP 1-4 were within the proposed development area, TP 5–20 on the green between the parking area and the basketball court and TP 21 & 22 between the football ground and the BMX tracks. All test pits were 1 x 1 meter and excavated in 10cm spits by hand.

The stratigraphy of the test pits was fairly uniform, with topsoil overlying the mid brownish grey gravelly silty sand subsoil and made ground with the mottled brownish orange gravelly clayey sand natural substratum underlying it. Generally, the disturbed subsoil in test pits 1-10 was post-medieval/modern made ground for levelling the area around the former clubhouse and pavilion. The subsoil contained post-medieval/modern metal, CBM and pottery finds, as well as flint debitage and tools.

4.2 Test pits 1-4 (Fig. 7)

The test pits 1-4 (Plates 1 & 2) were located within the compound for the new development and had a depth between 0.27-0.45m. Due to the demolition of the former Pavilion, the topsoil was only undisturbed in test pit 4. Post-medieval and modern finds were dominating in this area, including nails, blue white pottery, a sixpence coin from 1953 and part of a plough. A struck piece of flint was recovered from the spoil heap in test pit 3 and debitage from test pit 4, both probably Neolithic-Bronze Age in date.

4.3 Test pits 5-20 (Figs. 6 & 8)

The pits 5 -12 and 15 - 19 (Fig. 5, Plate 5-6) contained demolition material in the subsoil, which probably was from the former clubhouse. Test pit 5 was disturbed by a modern cut, possibly a footing trench from the demolished clubhouse in the 1980s. The depth was between 0.24m and 0.45m. A possible flint core fragment was recovered from pit 12 and a flake from pit 13. Both were probably Neolithic-Bronze Age in date.

The test pits 13, 14 and 20 (Fig 5, Plates 3 & 4) were located on slope above the river Ver and contained Post-medieval/modern rubbish. Only test pit 20 had a piece of possible early Post-medieval pottery in it. The natural substratum had a brown orange colour and a gravelly sandy composition which suggests it may once part of the floodplain. The test pits on the “plateau” had a mottled brownish orange gravelly clayey sand natural substratum. Pits 18 and 19 had a flint blade and flake respectively.

4.4 Test pits 21-22 (Figs. 6, 9)

Test pits 12 and 22 were located between the football ground and the BMX track, northeast of the compound (Fig. 5, Plate 7 & 8). They were both 0.30m deep. No archaeological finds or features were present in these two test pits, but a gravelly paleochannel crossed the WNW corner of pit 21.

4.5 Topsoil

The unstratified surface finds (topsoil) yielded the most interesting flints which consisted of a Mesolithic blade fragment and a possibly later Bronze Age scraper.

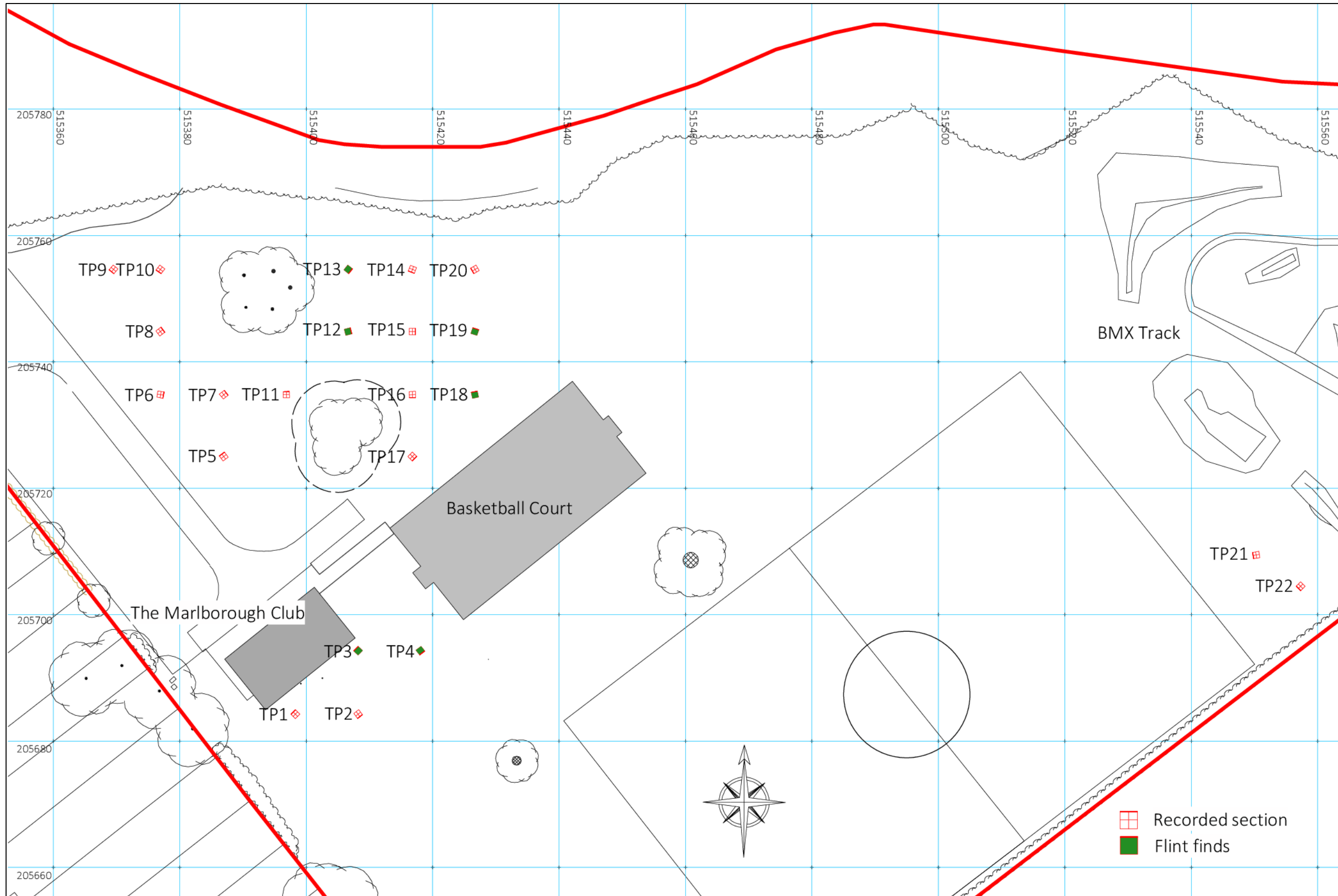


Figure 7: Flint location (Pits with flint in green, recorded section in red.; scale 1:600)



Plate 1: Test pit 3, overall photo, NW view



Plate 2: Test pit 3, stratigraphy, NW view



Plate 3: Test pit 14, overall photo, SSW view



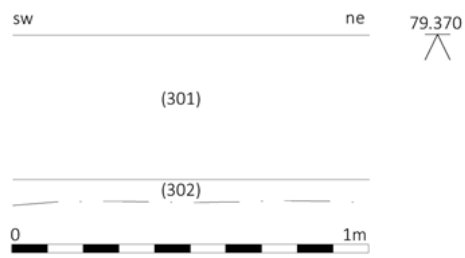
Plate 4: Test pit 14, stratigraphy, SSW view



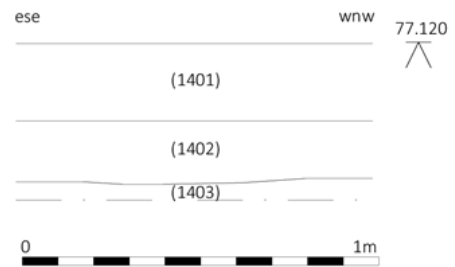
Plate 5: Test pit 19, overall photo, NNE view



Plate 6: Test pit 19, stratigraphy, NNE view



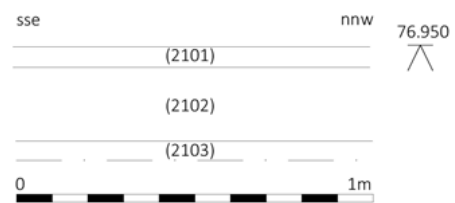
Test Pit 3



Test Pit 14



Test Pit 19



Test Pit 21



Plate 7: Test pit 21, overall photo, WSW view



Plate 8: Test pit 21, stratigraphy, WSW view

Figure 8: Stratigraphy of test pits 3, 14, 19, 21 (scale 1:20)



5 Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire comprised the excavation of twenty-two test pits. The test pits were located within footprint of the proposed new pavilion and on the green in the north and northeast of the area. Post-medieval and modern rubbish together with demolition material was concentrated within the area of the former clubhouse and pavilion where it was used for levelling the area.

Whilst the HER clearly illustrates there are archaeological features within 1km of the site dating back as far as prehistory, only 13 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the test pits. While most of them were considered debitage, at least three could be identified as scrapers, dating back to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age period. The absence of archaeological features and the relatively scarcity of finds suggests volatile pre-historic human activities in the area, which might be in correlation with the wide floodplain of the River Ver.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to The Environment Partnership (TEP) Limited for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart of HBSMR for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; the staff of the HHER for their assistance in the historic research and to Simon West, District Archaeologist (DA) St Albans City and District Council for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc, Florian Weber MA PCIfA and Barney King PCIfA. The report was written by Florian Weber MA PCIfA, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
1. Written Scheme of Investigation
 2. Initial report
 3. Monitoring sheets
 4. Site drawings
 5. Client's site plans
 6. List of photographs
 7. B/W prints & negatives
 8. Specialist reports
 9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with the St Albans Museum.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Wheeler R. E. M. & Wheeler T. V. 1936 *Verulamium: A Belgic and Two Roman Cities*. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquities London.



Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	Subject
1	TP 2 overall, facing SE
2	TP 2 strat, facing SE
3	TP 1 overall, facing NW
4	TP 1 strat, facing NW
5	TP 3 overall, facing NW
6	TP 3 strat, facing NW
7	TP 4 overall, facing SSE
8	TP 4 strat, facing SSE
9	TP 21 overall, facing WSW
10	TP 21 strat, facing WSW
11	TP 22 overall, facing SW
12	TP 22 strat, facing SW
13	TP 19 overall, facing NNE
14	TP 19 strat, facing NNE
15	TP 18 overall, facing NNE
16	TP 18 overall, facing NNE
17	TP 18 strat, facing NNE
18	TP 20 overall, facing SSW
19	TP 20 strat, facing SSW
20	TP 14 overall, facing SSW
21	TP 14 strat, facing SSW
22	TP 16 overall, facing S
23	TP 16 strat, facing S
24	TP 17 overall, facing SE
25	TP 17 strat, facing SE
26	TP 15 overall, facing E
27	TP 15 strat, facing E
28	TP 13 overall, facing ESE
29	TP 13 strat, facing ESE
30	TP 11 overall, facing N
31	TP 11 strat, facing N
32	TP 12 overall, facing ENE
33	TP 12 strat, facing ENE
34	TP 10 strat, facing SW
35	TP 10 overall, facing SW
36	TP 9 overall, facing SW
37	TP 9 strat, facing SW
38	TP 8 overall, facing NE



39	TP 8 strat, facing NE
40	TP 5 overall, facing SW
41	TP 5 strat, facing SW



Appendix 2: Context Register

Cxt no	Type	Description
101	Layer	Topsoil
102	Layer	Subsoil
103	Layer	Natural
201	Layer	Topsoil
202	Layer	Subsoil
203	Layer	Natural
301	Deposit	Made ground
302	Layer	Natural
401	Layer	Topsoil
402	Layer	Subsoil
403	Layer	Natural
501	Layer	Topsoil
502	Layer	Subsoil
503	Layer	Natural
601	Layer	Topsoil
602	Layer	Subsoil
603	Layer	Natural
701	Layer	Topsoil
702	Layer	Subsoil
703	Layer	Natural
801	Layer	Topsoil
802	Layer	Subsoil
803	Layer	Natural
901	Layer	Topsoil
902	Layer	Subsoil
903	Layer	Natural
1001	Layer	Topsoil
1002	Layer	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Natural
1101	Layer	Topsoil
1102	Layer	Subsoil
1103	Layer	Natural
1201	Layer	Topsoil
1202	Layer	Subsoil
1203	Layer	Natural
1301	Layer	Topsoil
1302	Layer	Subsoil
1303	Layer	Natural
1401	Layer	Topsoil
1402	Layer	Subsoil



1403	Layer	Natural
1501	Layer	Topsoil
1502	Layer	Subsoil
1503	Layer	Natural
1601	Layer	Topsoil
1602	Layer	Subsoil
1603	Layer	Natural
1701	Layer	Topsoil
1702	Layer	Subsoil
1703	Layer	Natural
1801	Layer	Topsoil
1802	Layer	Subsoil
1803	Layer	Natural
1901	Layer	Topsoil
1902	Layer	Subsoil
1903	Layer	Natural
2001	Layer	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Subsoil
2003	Layer	Natural
2101	Layer	Topsoil
2102	Layer	Subsoil
2103	Layer	Natural
2201	Layer	Topsoil
2202	Layer	Subsoil
2203	Layer	Natural



Appendix 3: Specialist Reports

Archaeological test pit investigation at The Marlborough Club, St Albans

Lynden Cooper

Introduction

A small collection of worked flints and unworked flints are reported from the test pit excavations. The worked material was examined using a low power video magnifier and classified and quantified by individual context. Descriptions followed standard, accepted British lithic terminology. The results with contextual concordances are catalogued in the table. The material is assessed for its significance with recommendations for any further work that may be necessary in order for that material to achieve its full research potential.

Quantity and quality of material

Nine worked and four unworked (natural) flints were analysed. The material was generally of semi-translucent grey-brown flint with a pitted cortex, raw material that is likely derived from a secondary context (glacial till or fluvial deposits). There were no diagnostic tool or technological types. However, the single tool was a scraper with a possible additional notch. It is crudely worked with a straight-retouched scraping edge and is possibly later Bronze Age. The remaining debitage is mostly of a flake-based technology produced by hard hammer percussion and a general Neolithic-Bronze Age date is suggested. However, a notable find is a small blade fragment which has a slight bloom of patina (contrasting with the remaining collection which is not patinated). It has dorsal scars suggestive of bladelet technology. The piece is most probably Mesolithic.

Table: Breakdown of collection by context number

Context	Type	Comment
topsoil	Blade fragment (proximal)	Bladelet technology ie Mesolithic. NB modified edge is damage rather than retouch
topsoil	Scraper	Straight retouched, crude. Possible notch. Hard stone percussion
302	Flake segment	Distal part of large flake with contact fracture suggesting deliberate segmentation
402	Natural	Starch-fractured, pseudo-flake
402	Flake 2ry	
1202	Shatter	Possible core fragment
1302	Flake 1ry	
1502	Natural	Potlid
1802	Blade 2y	Not prismatic blade technology
1802	Flake 1ry	Natural?
1902	Flake 2ry	
2002	Natural	Fossil shell
2002	Natural	Potlid



Appendix 3: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Herts	Project Site Code	622/SAM
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-502054	Event/Accession no	TBC
OS reference	TL 1540 0569	Study area size	220m ²
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	71m
Short Description	In September 2021, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. A total of twenty two, one by one meter test pits have been excavated as a first stage of an archaeological assessment of the site. Four test pits were located within the proposed development area and two between the BMX tracks and the football field. Sixteen test pits were excavated on the green between the parking area, the demolished clubhouse and the basketball field. Thirteen pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from the test pits, of which eleven were possibly debitage and two party broken scrapers.		
Previous work	None	Site status	N/A
Planning proposal	The development requires the demolition of an existing community building, the construction of a single storey community pavilion with associated facilities, landscaping, re-arrangement of car parking arrangements, and a new pump track and cycle facilities	Current land use	Community Building/Sports Centre
Local Planning Authority	St Albans City & District Council	Planning application ref.	5/21/0715
Monument type	N/A	Monument period	N/A
Significant finds	Pre-historic flint tools	Future work	unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIFA	Director/Supervisor	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc
Sponsor/funding body	The Environment Partnership (TEP) Limited		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	10.09.2021	End date	20.09.2021
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	St Albans Museum	Flint debitage and flint tools	
Paper		Report, WSI, site records, photographs	
Digital		CD ROM, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	622/SAM/2.2		



Author(s)	Florian Weber MA PCIFA		
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Appendix 4: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans
Village/Town: St Albans	Parish: Unparished
Planning application reference: 5/21/0715	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: The Environment Partnership (TEP) Limited Genesis Centre Birchwood Science Park Warrington, WA3 7BH	
Nature of application: Planning Consent	
Present land use: Community Building/Sports Centre	
Size of application area: 220m ²	Size of area investigated: 220m ²
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 1540 0569	Site code: 622 SAM
Site director: David Kaye BA ACIfA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation	
Date of Work: Start: 10.09.2021	Finish: 20.09.2021
Curating museum: St Albans Museum	
Related HER no's:	Periods represented: Pre-historic, Post-medieval, modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: N/A	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The archaeological evaluation at The Marlborough Club, Cottonmill Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire comprised the excavation of twenty two test pits. The test pits were located within footprint of the proposed new pavilion and on the green in the north and northeast of the area. Post-medieval and modern rubbish together with demolition material was concentrated within the area of the former clubhouse and pavilion where it was used for levelling the area.</p> <p>Whilst there are clearly archaeological features within the vicinity of the site dating back as far as prehistory, only 13 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the test pits. While most of them were considered debitage, at least three could be identified as scrapers, dating back to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age period. The absence of archaeological features and the relatively scarcity of finds suggests volatile pre-historic human activities in the area, which might be in correlation with the wide floodplain of the River Ver.</p>	
Author: Florian Weber MA PCIfA	Date: