

VSSM18



**City Centre Opportunity Site South (CCOS South), Victoria Street, St
Albans**

Archaeological Excavation

Prepared on behalf of St Albans City & District Council

VSSM18

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**Archaeological Excavation City Centre Opportunity Site South (CCOS South), Victoria Street, St Albans:
Assessment and Archive Report**

Report V1

Client: St Albans City & District Council

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Grid Reference: NGR TL 14969 07215

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Parish: Central Area St Albans

Council: St Albans City & District Council

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CCOS SOUTH, VICTORIA STREET, ST ALBANS

Archaeological Excavation

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological excavation at the site of the proposed City Centre Opportunity Site South, Victoria Street, St Albans. The excavation was undertaken between 30th August – 4th September 2018. The work was commissioned by St Albans City & District Council in response to Conditions 23 & 24 of planning permission granted for application No. 5/2017/1060. The investigation revealed evidence for foundation levels of late-nineteenth century buildings located on the street front adjacent to the former police station on Victoria Street. This document outlines the results of the excavation.

1 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning consent has been granted for the demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of the site consisting of commercial and office floorspace, 86 residential units, associated works, access, parking and landscaping within the Development Area (DA; 5/2017/1060). Planning consent was granted subject to conditions requiring a scheme of archaeological work.

Prior to intrusive archaeological fieldwork, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Millward 2015) and a Heritage Statement (Montagu Evans, 2017) defined the archaeological background of the site. A brief was prepared by the Simon West (2018), the St Albans City and District Council Archaeologist (DCA) outlining the archaeological works need to fulfil planning conditions.

Headland Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation of the Development Area between July 30th and August 3rd, 2018. A subsequent evaluation report was submitted to the client in August 2018 (James 2018).

The DCA determined, following archaeological evaluation of the site, that a programme of archaeological mitigation was required in an area located on the street front adjacent to the former police station on Victoria Street (Illus 1).

St Albans City & District Council commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to undertake the archaeological fieldwork and produce a report of the results. The remit of the archaeological investigation was outlined in a 'Written Scheme of Investigation' (WSI) designed by Headland Archaeology (2018) and agreed with the DCA before the start of fieldwork.

This document is the 'Assessment and Archive Report', providing an assessment of the results from the excavation, the revised research objectives, and proposals based on these results.

1.2 1.2 *Site Description*

The DA is 0.6ha in size and bounded by Bricket Road to the east, Victoria Street to the south and Civic Close to the North. Existing buildings within the DA are NHS buildings in the north. The Police station in the south-east and car-parking areas. The site earmarked for archaeological mitigation is located in the south-east of the DA, centred on NGR TL 14890 07226 (Illus 1). The site is approximately 5m². It is located upon a former

disabled carpark and bounded by the Victoria Street pedestrian footpath to the south, an access road to St Albans Magistrates Court rear car park to the west and the former police station building to the north. The site slopes from the south (113.6m OD) to the north (112.9m OD).

The site boundaries are constrained by the close proximity of live services. Water services are located to the immediate north and east, underground high voltage electricity cables to the south and west, and British Telecom cables to the north-west.

The underlying solid geology comprises of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk> accessed 28/08/18).

1.3 1.3 Archaeological Background

Prior to intrusive archaeological fieldwork, the archaeological background was defined by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Millward 2015) and a Heritage Statement (Montagu Evans 2017). An archaeological evaluation was subsequently undertaken by Headland Archaeology in August 2018 (James 2018). The following is a synthesis of the archaeological findings from the aforementioned documents.

Prehistory

There are no known prehistoric assets within the vicinity of the DA.

Romano-British

The DA is located external to the town walls of Roman Verulamium. Recent service works at the west of Victoria Street revealed several features of possible Roman date (West 2017), however there is no secure evidence of Roman activity within the DA.

Medieval

The DA lies within the medieval town boundary, Tonman Ditch or Monks Ditch, approximately 75m to the east (HHER Monument 637). It is approximately 110 metres north-west of St Peters Street, the medieval town's main thoroughfare.

The site is bounded by pedestrian footpaths associated with Victoria Street to the south. Victoria Street was previously named Shropshire's Lane or 'Butts' Lane, originating from the archery butts that was situated within Tonman Ditch. Shropshire Lane was renamed 'Victoria Street' in 1877 in honor of Queen Victoria after the Abbey Parish Church was designated a Cathedral by royal Charter, conferring city status upon St Albans.

The lane now known as Victoria Street laid upon the boundary of the medieval city. Medieval burgrave plots have been identified on St Peters Street, 50m west of the DA. Plots located on this east side of St Albans town were long, stretching back from the street frontage to Tonman Ditch in the west.

A range of medieval settlement and 'rear yard activity' dated from the twelfth to fifteenth century has been identified within the area of the medieval city including the area of Chequer Street (150m south-west of the DA) and Gentles Yard (250m west).

Post-medieval to Modern

During the post-medieval period, the DA formed part of the wider 'townscape'. The DA is shown as part of the 'Town Backsides' on Hare's 1634 Map of St Albans (Millward 2015, Fig 4). Buildings fronting Victoria Street are depicted at the location of the site, within the DA's southwest quadrant, on Andrew and Wren's 1766 plan of St Albans (Illus 4-A). These buildings were no longer apparent on the 1840 Tithe Map and 1st edition 1879 OS map. Instead, they depict buildings to the immediate north of the site (Illus 4-B and 4-C).

At the time of the 2nd edition 1898 OS Map these buildings were no longer apparent, however, buildings fronting Victoria Street were depicted at the location of the site (Illus 4-D).

20m east of the site is a small rectangular plot marking the previous location of a 'Quakers' burial ground. This plot is presently maintained as a small public garden. To the immediate west of the site is a Grade II listed building comprised of two early 18th-century cottages (NHL1174646).

Millward (2015, 3) noted that a possible tomb or burial was stated to have been identified during construction of the police station to the immediate north of the site during the 1960s. No other record of this feature, its date or origin has been made.

Archaeological evaluation in Trench 1 of the DA identified the foundation level and fragmentary remains of the lowest course of a wall (James 2018). The wall was interpreted to possibly correspond with a building depicted on Andrew and Wren's 1766 plan of St Albans (Illus 4-A).

1.4 1.4 Objectives

The aim of this project was to preserve by record any archaeological remains encountered and to obtain useful information concerning their character, date, function, status and level of preservation.

The local and regional research contexts were provided by St. Albans Urban Archaeological Assessment (2005) and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011). Specific research aims were identified prior to the commencement of fieldwork and were based on the results of the trial trenching evaluation. These include:

- Medieval Urban Settlement: 'Many towns retain their high medieval planned layout of market-place and burgage plots, but much remains to be understood about these places before this layout occurs' (Medlycott 2011, 70).

The national research context for the site is informed by Historic England's A Thematic Research Strategy for the Urban Historic Environment (2015).

1.5 1.5 Fieldwork Methodology

The methodology followed was outlined in the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2018) and designed to meet the requirements of the project brief (West 2018). The excavation areas were identified and advised by the DCA.

Stripping of overburden layers was undertaken using an 8-tonne tracked excavator, equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, until archaeological features or natural geological substrate were observed. This took place on 30th August 2018.

An open area excavation of approximately 5m² was excavated from 30th August to 4th September 2018. The area of excavation was moved 0.50m south and the north-eastern limit of excavation (L.O.E) reduced by 0.80m according to the original plan due to the proximity to water services to the immediate north of the L.O.E. The southern L.O.E was moved 0.50m south within the carpark to compensate for this loss.

The east L.O.E was reduced by 0.10m due to the proximity to water services to the immediate east of the site. Further extension of the southern L.O.E to allow full excavation of notable structures [10031, 10027] was not possible. This was due to the proximity of underground high voltage electrical services to the immediate south of the site and a void beneath the public footpath that was noted from the south-east L.O.E. Any further extension of the excavation and removal of concrete deposits encasing structure [10042]

and supporting the current ground level to the south and east of the site could potentially have destabilised the pedestrian footpath fronting Victoria Street. Full excavation of structure [10042] was therefore, not possible.

All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the code of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and in line with the approved WSI (Headland 2018).

2 2. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

2.1 2.1 Summary

Archaeological remains comprised evidence for late nineteenth century buildings. This included an initial late nineteenth century structure with a subsequent late nineteenth century extension or adjoining building. The buildings were demolished in the early 1960's for construction of a police station.

The remains have been divided into three provisional phases:

- 1) late nineteenth century
- 2) late nineteenth – mid twentieth century
- 3) Modern: 1960s to present

These phases are based on an assessment of the contextual, finds, and environmental evidence. Each of these phases will be discussed in turn, with Illustrations 5 – 9b accompanying these.

All references to finds and environmental data derive from the finds and environmental reports reproduced in Section 3 and Appendix 2-3.

The overburden comprised of demolition layers, concrete, paving and tarmac. Finds within demolition layers included slate, construction building material and an iron grate associated with the Phase 2, late nineteenth century structure.

2.2 2.2 Archaeological Remains

2.2.1 Phase 1 Late nineteenth century (Illus 6)

Coal store [10031]

Phase 1 is comprised of a late nineteenth century coal storage structure [10031]. The structure was 0.92m below ground level (BGL). It was 1.04m wide, 0.50m in height and projected 0.28m out of the south-west L.O.E (Illus 5 and 6).

[10031] comprised the remains of two walls [10043, 10044] abutting a blackened brick floor [10031]. The bricks from floor surface [10031] were 223 x 111 x 65mm in dimension and consisted of an orange fabric. They were frogged and had no makers mark. The floor was constructed upon an 0.08m deep aggregate and sand sub-base layer (10041) in cut [10030]. A single fill composed of demolition debris (10039) was located within the structure (Illus 6b). Small find SF 1, a small clamp of unidentified use was recovered from (10039).

The structure likely formed a coal storage at the rear of a building fronting Victoria Street. No building was shown at this location on the 1879 1:2,500 OS Map (Illus 4-C), however the 1898 1:2,500 (Illus 4-D) OS Map clearly illustrates the building at this location. This first phase of building was constructed between 1879 and 1989. It was demolished in preparation for construction of the Police station that commenced in 1963.

2.2.2 Phase 2 Late nineteenth – mid twentieth century (Illus 6)

Oven [10042] in east L.O.E (Illus 8)

The remains of a heat effected brick floor [10042] and abutting walls [10008, 10023, 10037] projected out of the east L.O.E (Illus 8-A). The oven structure measured 1.40m length and 1.08m in width, at a depth of 1.09m BGL. Concrete (10018, 10038) abutted walls [10008, 10037]. These formed packing deposits that supported the structural foundations.

Walls [10008 and 10037] (Illus 8-E and 8-F) also evidenced heat damage. Wall [10023] was not heat damaged, It is likely that that this wall had been lined. Circular markings on the brick floor [10042] evidenced oxidisation from heated metal (Illus 8-C).

The oven structure contained two fills (10045, 10021). A black fill (10045) was sampled at its base. It had visibly stained the base of walls [10023 and 10037] and was contemporary with the structure.

64 small fragments of pantile, a glass bead, 14 sherds of vessel glass, six sherds of window glass and 174 small fragments of metal were recovered from (10045). Most of the metal sherds had an iron content and originated from a metal sheet or flat object (Section 3.3). 64g of vitrified fuel ash slag fragments and magnetic residues typical of a domestic hearth or oven used for industrial activity were also retrieved from (10045).

The secondary fill (10021) was composed of demolition material. A collection of 19 pieces of Iron (SF 2), that probably comprised a grate or oven structure were recovered from backfill (10021). Additional finds recovered were a sherd of window glass, 2 sherds of pantile, one of which had half a peg hole and 1 sherd of slate.

[10042] was an oven used for industrial activity. It was contemporary with [10027] and associated with the rear building shown on the 1898 (Illus 4-A) OS Map. The buildings was demolished in preparation for construction of the Police station that commenced in 1963.

Foundation [10028] and brickwork footings [10019, 10022, 10027] in south-east corner (Illus 7)

Contemporary with the oven were the remains of the concrete foundations [10028] and brickwork footings [10019, 10022, 10027] that projected from the south L.O.E (Illus 7-A). The foundation cut [10033] truncated nineteenth century structure [20031] (Illus 6-A). The concrete and brickwork [10019] abutted this structure (Illus 6-B).

The brickwork footings [10027, 10019] formed a corner foundation positioned upon concrete [10028]. [10027] was 0.83m in width and formed the footings of a load bearing wall. Wall [10022] extended north-east from [10027] and formed the upper courses of wall [10037], joining these two contemporary structures (Illus 7-B, 8-A). Packing deposits of concrete (10038), aggregates (10032) and re-deposited geological substrate (10024) secured the structure foundations.

4g of linoleum and wood fragments were retrieved from backfill (10026). Linoleum was first produced in the late 19th-century (Kaldewei 2000). The linoleum evidences remnants of the building's floor surface.

The bricks from [10022] and [10027] were composed of a dark red fabric, 230 x 105 x 67mm. They were machine-made, frogged bricks with no maker's marks.

The features formed the foundations of a late nineteenth century building that adjoined or extended the rear of an earlier nineteenth century building [10031] that fronted onto Victoria

Street. It is shown as the rear building on the 1898 (Illus 4-A) and 1939 OS Maps. It was constructed between 1879 and 1989 and was demolished in preparation for construction of the Police station that commenced in 1963.

Foundation and footings [10017] in centre and northwest corner (Illus 9)

An angular construction cut [10013, 10014, 10016], basal remains of red brick and lime mortar footings (10015) and compacted lime mortar foundation [10017] form the remains of a structure that protruded from the north L.O.E and extended into the centre of the site (Illus 9-A). A plain rounded steel reinforcement rod (SF 3, Illus 9-B) protruded from the east of [10017], it formed a foundation anchor, connected to wall [10022].

Originally recorded during trial trenching of the DA, the compacted lime mortar foundation [10017] was evidenced to extend northwards, within cut [10014] (James 2018), only the basal remains (10015) of the northern element of this structure survived at the time of excavation.

The structure does not correspond buildings depicted on Andrew and Wren's 1776 Plan of St Albans (Illus 4, A). It does correspond to the two buildings depicted on the 1840 St Peter's parish Tythe map (Illus 4, B) and 1879 1st edition OS Map (Illus 4, C). This structure also corresponds to the rear of the western building depicted on the 1898 (Illus 4-A) and 1939 OS Maps.

Whilst map evidence suggests that this structure could have mid-eighteenth century origins, the use of steel re-enforcement did not come into practice until the late nineteenth century. It is likely that these foundations were the base of a crude, rear yard structure associated with the late nineteenth century buildings.

2.2.3 Phase 3 Modern: 1960s to present (Illus 6)

Re-deposited packing (10025, 10040)

Structural packing deposits were disturbed and re-deposited during demolition of the eighteenth and nineteenth century structures. These were located in the south-east (10025) and north-west (10040) corners of the site.

Brick manhole [10011] with concrete casing in north L.O.E (Illus 6)

A modern brick manhole [10011] encased by cement (10010) was located at the north L.O.E of the site (Illus 3). Cut [10012] for the manhole truncated the eighteenth century features (10015) to the west and (10038) to the east. After construction of the concrete casing the cut was backfilled with sand (10009, 10035) and demolition debris (10007). Finds of CBM, lime, concrete and slate were recorded in fill (10007). It is likely that these originated from the demolished nineteenth century structures [10017, 10027]. The manhole was constructed as part of the 1960's Police station works.

Demolition make-up layer (10004)

The site was covered by demolition material (10004) that formed a make-up layer beneath the modern ground surface (10001, 10002, 10003) and concrete levelling layers (10036, 10006). Frequent CBM and slate were recorded in (10004) which was composed of demolition material from the nineteenth century buildings demolished in preparation for construction of the Police station that commenced in 1963.

3 3. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE DATA

3.1 3.1 Introduction

For the following discussion, the datasets recovered during the investigations have been divided into three main classes: contextual; artefactual; and ecofactual.

- **Contextual** data relate to the identification of individual events such as the digging of a ditch, its primary infilling *etc.* These have been recorded as context records during the open area excavation. All contexts have a detailed record sheet, many have a plan and section drawing, along with photographs.
- **Artefactual** data comprise manmade objects recovered during the open area excavation. These have been divided for ease of discussion into different materials *e.g.* pottery, flint, metal *etc.* (including registered artefacts and bulk finds, such as industrial residues).
- **Ecofactual** data comprise natural materials found within excavated layers and fills. These are able to yield information on the nature of past human activity and its environmental setting. They include animal bones and information obtained from environmental samples (*e.g.* plant remains).

Contextual data are discussed first in the following sections, as they have provided the framework for the preceding summary of results and the subsequent dataset discussions. The methodological approach taken with each dataset is discussed, followed by sections dealing with quantification, provenance (spatial and chronological) and also condition. All these factors are important in deciding the potential of the material for analysis.

3.2 3.2 Contextual Data

Quantity of records

Table 1 presents a breakdown of the total quantity and type of contextual records from the project. These comprise the written description/interpretation of a feature (context sheets), a map-like drawing showing the location and inter-relationship between features, including digital mapping (a plan), a profile drawing through a feature and its fills (section), and photographs.

Table 1: Quantity and type of contextual records

	Contexts	Plans	Sections	Photographs
Excavation	45	2	1	112
Evaluation	22	0	0	17

Nature of the recorded remains

The archaeological remains identified comprised Late 19th Century buildings.

Survival and condition of remains encountered

The survival of archaeological features was good across the site. Made ground and road/pavement layers were recorded between 0 and 0.12m deep in the north of the site and 0 and 0.68m in the south of the site, sealing archaeological features.

Potential and recommendations

The potential for this dataset to contribute to research aims is low. Further detail on this is provided in Section 4.

3.3 3.3 Artefactual Data

The finds assemblage numbered 111 sherds (c 58kg) of brick and tile, 20 iron finds, 175 pieces of unidentified metal, 63g of other building material, 33 sherds of worked stone, 4g of linoleum fragments and 64g of industrial waste. These were found in 10 separate features. All the finds are modern. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 2 and a complete catalogue is given in Appendix 2.

Feature	Iron	Metal	Glass	Building Material	Stone	CBM	CBM	Other	Ind Waste	Spot date
-	Count	Count	Count	Wgt (g)	Count	Count	Wgt (g)	Wgt(g)	Wgt (g)	-
layer (10004)	-	-	-	-	5	1	27	-	-	Mod
foundation [10013]	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mod?
backfill (10021)	19	-	1	-	1	2	61	-	-	Mod
wall [10022]	-	-	-	-	-	4	10,420	-	-	Mod
wall [10023]	-	-	-	-	-	1	c 24,000	-	-	Mod
backfill (10026)	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	-	Mod
structure [10027]	-	-	-	-	-	4	10,977	-	-	Mod
floor surface (10031)	-	-	-	-	-	4	12,178	-	-	Mod?
backfill (10039)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mod?
oven structure [10042]	-	174	21	63	25	95	78	-	64	Mod
Total	20	175	22	63	33	111	c 57,741	4	64	-

Table 2. Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating

Methodology

The report includes both hand-collected finds and those from sample retents. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (CifA 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

Metalwork

The metalwork assemblage amounts to 20 pieces of iron and 175 pieces of unidentified metal. The iron finds include a curved rod (SF 3), which likely anchored the concrete from foundation [10013] (10017) and a collection of 19 pieces of varying size and function (SF 2), probably comprising a grate or oven structure, from backfill (10021).

The unidentified metal comprises a small clamp from backfill (10039) and a total of 174 small fragments of a metal sheet or flat object from oven structure [10042] (10045). Most of the sherds are magnetic, and thus have an iron content, while others are possibly comprised of tin or aluminium.

Glass

There were 22 sherds of glass. Most were found in oven structure [10042] (10045) and comprised a glass bead, 14 sherds of vessel glass and six sherds of window glass. The glass bead was a small translucent white seed bead which cannot be closely dated. There was also a sherd of window glass from backfill (10021).

Coarse stone

A total of 33 sherds of slate tile were retrieved from oven structure [10042] (10045) and demolition backfill (10004, 10021, 10026). They appear to be worked, though are fragmentary and only one bears any traces of nail or peg holes characteristic of roof slate. Some have mortar adhering to them. The slates may be the remains of roofing or drain capping material.

Ceramic building material

The ceramic building material assemblage comprises 111 sherds (about 58kg) of brick and tile. A small selection of complete bricks were sampled from wall [10022], structure [10027] and floor surface (10031). The bricks from [10022, 10027] were of the same type, a dark red fabric, 230 x 105 x 67mm, machine-made and frogged but with no maker's marks. They are of probable 19th or 20th-century date and were probably constructed at the same time. The bricks from floor [10031] are different, an orange fabric and slightly shorter and wider at, 223 x 111 x 65mm. Again, they are frogged but have no maker's mark and their method of manufacture is not clear. Again, they cannot be closely dated, and could date from the late 18th century onwards. A small sample of wall was also retrieved from wall [10023], comprising orange bricks bound by mortar, though details of the form of these bricks is not clear.

A modern brown-glazed sherd of wall tile was retrieved from demolition backfill (10004). There were also 66 sherds of pantile, mostly very small sherds, from demolition backfill (10045, 10021) of oven structure [10042].

Other building material

A total of 15 sherds (63g) of abraded mortar fragments were retrieved from oven structure [10042] (10045). They are likely to relate to the fragments of brick and pantile retrieved from the same feature.

Linoleum

A total of 4g of linoleum and wood fragments were retrieved from demolition backfill (10026). The fragments are dark red in colour. Linoleum was first produced in the late 19th-century (Kaldewei 2000) and thus the finds must be later than this date.

Industrial waste

A total of 64g of vitrified slag fragments and magnetic residues were retrieved from sampling of oven structure [10042] (10045). The vitrified fragments are typically, light and vesicular, characteristic of fuel ash slag. Fuel ash slags can be created by burning in the presence of siliceous material and can be created in domestic hearths or ovens during industrial activity.

The majority of the magnetic residue consists of magnetised gravels, with a small amount of probably hammerscale. Hammerscale is created during smithing or smelting, though, here, they were found in such small amounts that they do not suggest industrial activity in the immediate vicinity. The magnetised gravel indicates no more than burning activity on site.

Discussion

The finds retrieved are all modern in date. Most probably relate to a modern structure and its subsequent demolition within the targeted area.

Recommendations for further work

The modern date and nature of the finds means the assemblage is of limited value, and no further work is currently recommended. However, if further work is to be carried out, then the finds should be re-evaluated in this light.

Recommendations for archive

As it stands, the archive is of no further archaeological value and if no further work is undertaken on the site, it is recommended the finds be discarded. The archive has been prepared in accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of Hertfordshire Museums (Paul 2018).

3.4 3.4 Ecofactual Data

Introduction

One bulk sediment sample was extracted during archaeological excavation work on Victoria Street, St Albans. The site contained remains of mid to late nineteenth century buildings. The sample was taken from the fill (10045) of brick structure [10042]. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains and to determine the potential of the material for indicating the character and significance of the fill.

Method

The sample was subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250 µm sieve and once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. All samples were scanned using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100. Identifications, where provided, were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers et al. (2006) and Zohary et al. (2012) nomenclature for wild taxa follows Stace (1997).

Faunal remains were examined by eye or under low magnification and, as far as possible, identified to species and skeletal element, with reference to Schmid (1972), and Hillson (1992), and any marks of butchery were noted.

Results

Results of the assessment are presented in Appendix 3.

The sample contained roots, occasional cinders, tin foil and several fragments of linoleum adhering to wood. A single, small (<1g), fragment of indeterminate animal bone was recovered from the fill. The bone was heavily fragmented and lacked diagnostic features required for identification.

Scientific dating potential of the remains

No material suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating was recovered.

Discussion & Recommendations

The sample contained no environmental remains and no further work is recommended.

3.5 3.5 Discussion

Evaluation works at this site established that the site did not have the scope to meet research objectives identified in the WSI, including those specific to St Albans (Headland Archaeology 2018; St Albans City & District Council 2007).

Revised research objectives identified during evaluation works at this site suggested that further investigation may contribute to research on material culture studies of the modern period in an urban context (James 2018; Medleycott 2011, 78). Identification of a domestic oven used for industrial activity may provide a limited contribution to future research of the modern period however, the research potential of the site as a whole remains low and no further work is recommended.

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Appendix 1 Context Register

Context	Type	Description
10001	Layer	Tarmac
10002	Deposit	Kerbstones
10003	Layer	Paving Slabs
10004	Layer	Demolition backfill
10005	Layer	Demolition backfill
10006	Layer	Concrete
10007	Layer	Backfill
10008	Wall	Oven/Furnace N/S wall
10009	Fill	Backfill. Fill of [10012]
10010	Fill	Cement. Fill of [10012]
10011	Fill	Manhole. Fill of [10012]
10012	Cut	Cut of Manhole
10013	Cut	Concrete foundation cut
10014	Cut	Structure foundation cut
10015	Fill	Foundation deposit. Fill of [10016]
10016	Cut	Structure foundation cut
10017	Fill	Foundation. Fill of [10013]
10018	layer	Concrete
10019	Wall	N/S brick wall
10020	Cut	Structure foundation cut
10021	Fill	Demolition backfill
10022	Wall	North/South Brick wall foundation
10023	Wall	East/West Brick wall foundation
10024	Deposit	Packing
10025	Deposit	Demolition backfill
10026	Fill	Demolition backfill
10027	Wall	Brick wall foundation - East/West
10028	Fill	Concrete foundation. Fill of [10033]
10029	Deposit	Re-deposited geological substrate
10030	Cut	Structure foundation cut
10031	Surface	Brick floor surface
10032	Deposit	Packing. Fill of [10033]
10033	Cut	Structure foundation cut
10034	Layer	Geological substrate
10035	Fill	Backfill. Fill of [10012]
10036	Layer	Concrete
10037	Wall	Oven/Furnace structural brick wall N/S
10038	Fill	Backfill. Fill of [10020]
10039	Fill	Demolition backfill
10040	Layer	Re-deposited geological substrate/Demolition layer
10041	Fill	Foundation deposit. Fill of [10030]
10042	Surface	Oven/Furnace Brick floor surface
10043	Wall	Brick wall. Abuts [10031]
10044	Wall	Brick wall. Abuts [10031]
10045	Fill	Fill of Structure [10042]

Appendix 2 Finds catalogue

Context	SF	Sample	Qty	Wgt (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot Date
10004	-	-	1	27	CBM	wall tile	brown glazed, bottom stamped 'MADE' -? and has a stamped circle surrounded by '10'	Mod
10004	-	-	5	330	Stone	tile	thin fragments of slate, some mortar attached	-
10017	3	-	1	-	Iron	rod	curved rod with tapering end	Mod?
10021	-	-	1	3	Glass	window	starting to laminate	-
10021	-	-	2	61	CBM	pantile	one sherd has half a peg hole	-
10021	-	-	1	27	Stone	tile	thin fragment of slate	-
10021	2	-	19	-	Iron	structure	assortment of plates, two rectangular-shaped grates, rods and bars which comprise structural remnants of a possible furnace or oven	Mod
10022	-	-	4	10420	CBM	brick	complete to nearly complete, dark red fabric, same fabric as in (10027) and (10045), frogs present, L 227-234mm x W 102-109mm x H 64-66mm	Mod
10023	-	-	1	c24000	CBM	brick wall fragment	roughly eight bricks bound by mortar	Mod
10026	-	-	2	10	Stone	tile	thin fragments of slate, some sooting	-
10026	-	-	-	4	Other	linoleum	small fragments of dark red linoleum and wood	m19th+
10027	-	-	4	10977	CBM	brick	complete to nearly complete, dark red fabric, same fabric as in (10022) and (10045), frogs present, L 227-231mm x W 104mm x H 65-75mm	Mod
10031	-	-	4	12178	CBM	brick	complete to nearly complete, red fabric, frogs present, L 218-228mm x W 109-113 x	Mod

							H 62-68mm	
10039	1	-	1	9	Metal	clamp	small square bracket with attached screw	Mod
10045	-	1	6	7	Glass	window	-	-
10045	-	1	14	1	Glass	vessel?	very thin glass	-
10045	-	1	24	0	Metal	fragments	very small fragments of possible tin or aluminium? non-magnetic	-
10045	-	1	150	54	Metal	fragments	very small fragments of a metal sheet or object, magnetic	-
10045	-	1	15	63	Building Material	mortar?	abraded fragments, some brick attached	-
10045	-	1	-	44	Industrial Waste	slag	light vesicular fragments, vitrified	-
10045	-	1	-	20	Industrial Waste	mag res	possible hammerscale	-
10045	-	1	25	12	Stone	tile	thin fragments of slate, some mortar attached	-
10045	-	1	64	50	CBM	pantile	fragments	-
10045	-	1	17	18	CBM	brick	fragments, dark red fabric	-
10045	-	1	14	10	CBM	brick/tile?	vitrified fragments of possible CBM?	-
10045	-	1	1	0	Glass	bead	translucent white seed bead, diam 4mm	-

Appendix 3 Environmental sample results

Context			10026
Sample			1
Context type			Fill of [10042]
Sample Vol (l)			
Retent Vol (l)			0.7
Flot Vol (ml)			1
Sufficient for AMS?			N
Animal Remains			
Unburnt bone	Mammal	Qty	+

Key: + = rare (0–5), ++ = occasional (6–15), +++ = common (15–50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)
 ch = charred, w/l = waterlogged, u = uncharred
 NB charcoal over 10mm is sufficient for identification and AMS dating

Appendix 4 OASIS Form

4.1 OASIS ID: headland4-371784	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Victoria Street St Albans: Archaeological Mitigation
Short description of the project	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an archaeological excavation at the site of the proposed City Centre Opportunity Site South, Victoria Street, St Albans. The work was commissioned by St Albans City and District Council in response to Conditions 23 and 24 of planning permission granted for application No. 5/2017/1060. The investigation revealed evidence for foundation levels of late-nineteenth century buildings located on the street front adjacent to the former police station on Victoria Street.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2018 End: 04-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	VSSM18 – Site code
Any associated project reference codes	VST18 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NAIL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE ST ALBANS ST ALBANS Land at Victoria Street, St Albans

Postcode	AL1 3JT
Study area	0.01 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 14969 07215 51.751351909268 -0.334297388634 51 45 04 N 000 20 03 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 113m Max: 113m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Headland Archaeology Ltd
Project design originator	Caitriona Gleeson
Project director/manager	Michael Tierney
Project supervisor	Tamsin Scott
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive ID	VSt18
Digital Archive recipient	Verulamium Museum
Digital Archive ID	VST18
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Verulamium Museum
Paper Archive ID	VST18
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Matrices","Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Excavation City Centre opportunity Site South (CCOS South), Victoria Street, St Albans: Assessment and Archive report

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Scott, T.
Other bibliographic details	VSSM18
Other bibliographic details	VST18
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Headland Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire
Description	PDF Grey Literature report

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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ILLUS 7 A WEST FACING PHOTOGRAPH OF STRUCTURE [10027] **B** SOUTH FACING PHOTOGRAPH OF STRUCTURE [10027]

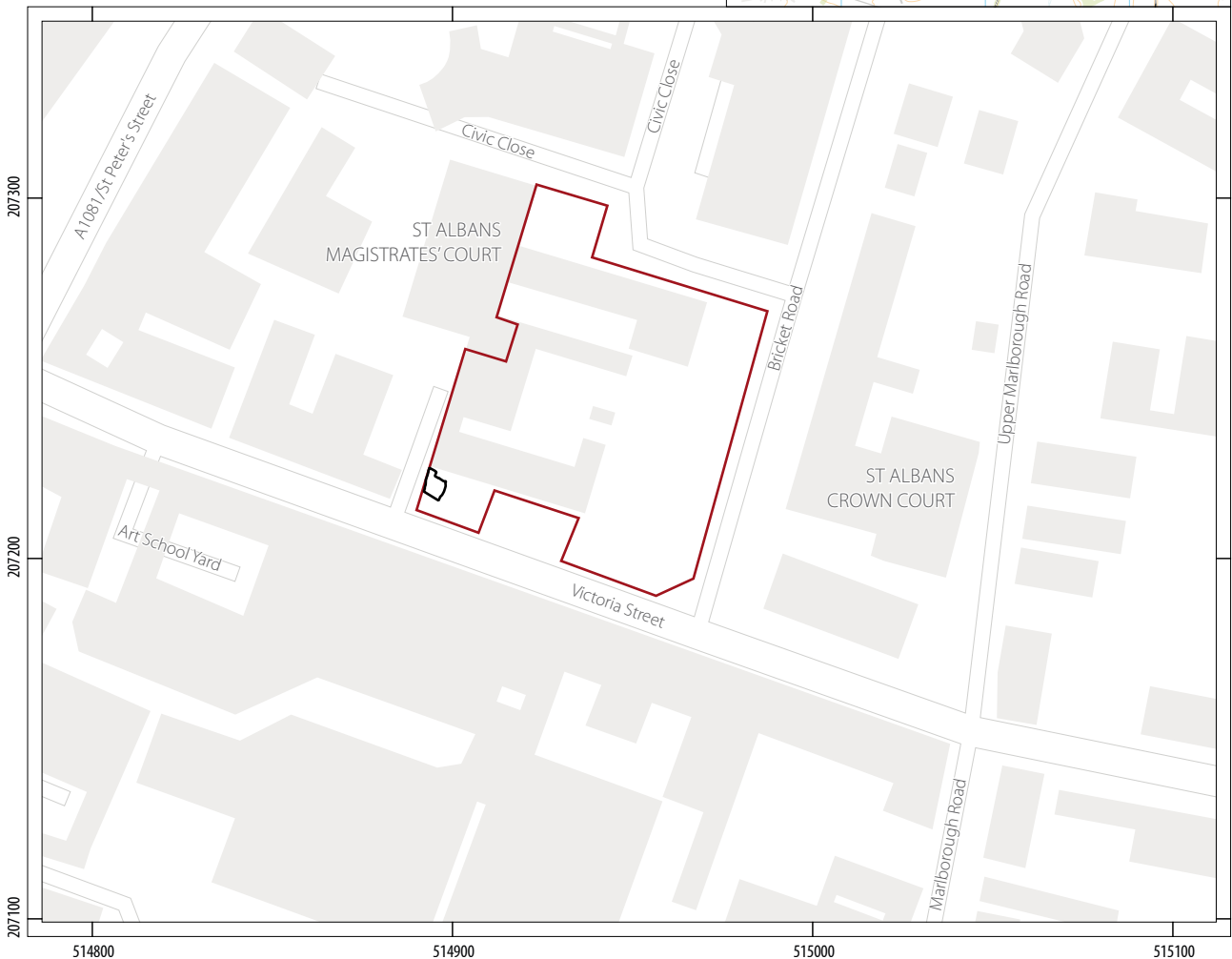
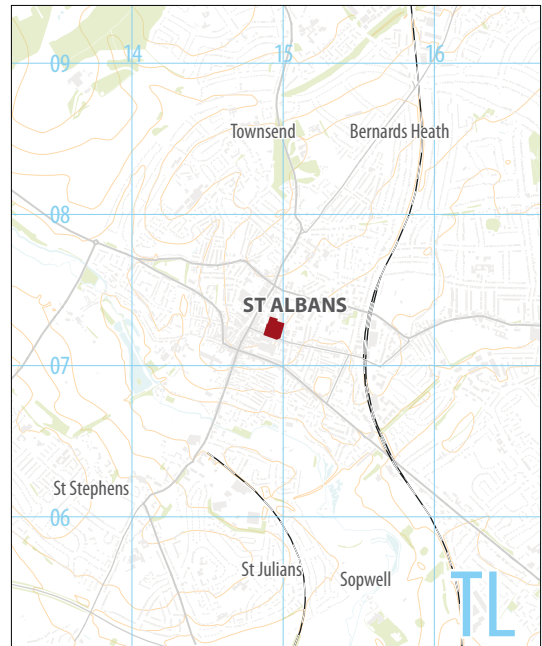
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ILLUS 9 A NORTH FACING PHOTOGRAPH OF STRUCTURE [10017] FOUNDATIONS **B** SOUTH FACING PHOTOGRAPH OF STEEL RE-ENFORCEMENT OF STRUCTURE [10017]

Land adjacent to
Victoria street
St Albans
Hertfordshire



0 200km
1:12,500,000 @ A4

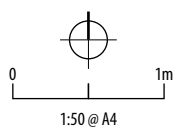
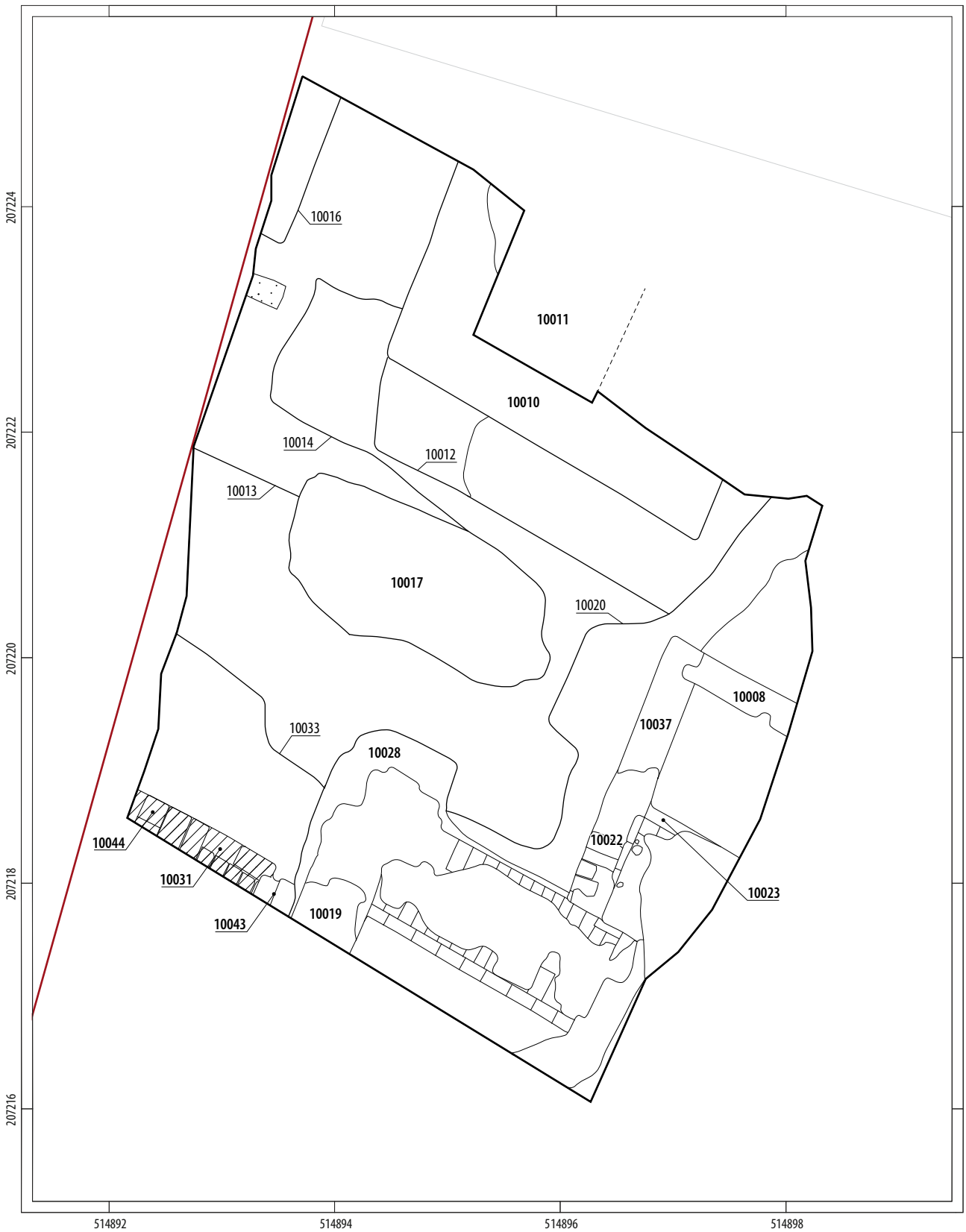


0 20m
1:1,000 @ A4

development boundary
 trench location



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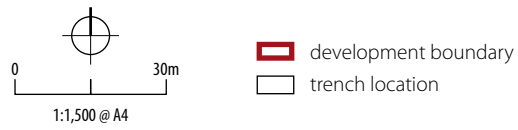
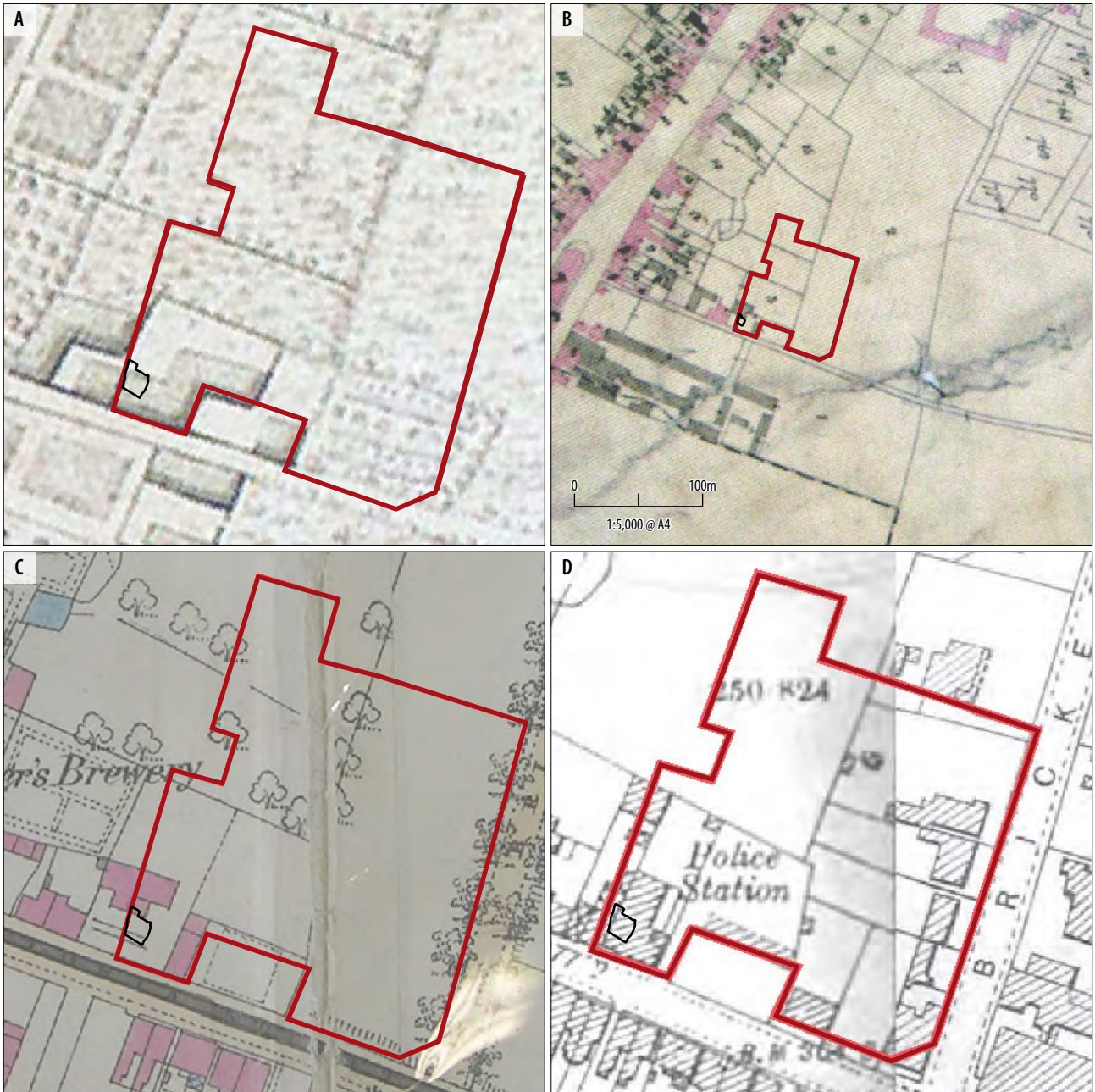


- development boundary
- trench location
- blackened brick
- lime

ILLUS 2 Site plan



ILLUS 3 North-east facing working shot of site

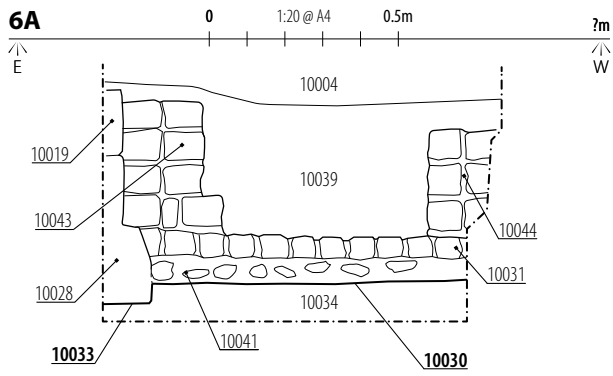


ILLUS 4 Site shown on historic maps of the area **A** Andrew and Wren's Plan of St Albans, 1766 **B** St Peter's Parish Tithe Map, 1840 **C** 1st edition OS 1:2,500 Map, 1879 **D** 2nd edition OS 1:2,500 Map, 1898



- development boundary
- trench location
- phase 1
- phase 2
- phase 3 (modern)

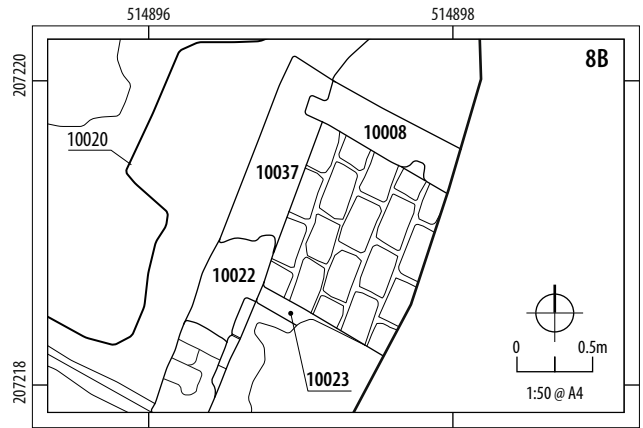
ILLUS 5 Phase plan



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ILLUS 9 A North facing photograph of Structure [10017] foundations **B** South facing photograph of steel re-enforcement of Structure [10017]



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