

**LONDON ROAD CEMETERY EXTENSION
LONDON ROAD
ST ALBANS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

March 2008

**LONDON ROAD CEMETERY EXTENSION
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ST ALBANS**

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

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**LONDON ROAD CEMETERY EXTENSION
LONDON ROAD, ST ALBANS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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SUMMARY

Client: St Albans City & District Council

NGR: TL 172 052

Site Code: LRC08

Project No: 1866

Date of Fieldwork: February 2008

Oasis Accession Number: Essexcou1 - 38791

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land to the rear of London Road Cemetery, St Albans, in advance of a planned extension to the cemetery. Although the site lies within no known area of archaeological significance, the evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological features and deposits, albeit in small numbers, in some parts of the proposed development area.

The earliest remains may have been Roman, consisting of a single large pit that produced residual prehistoric material and a single second century pottery sherd. Later or undated features included several ditches and possibly some small, isolated post-holes. In addition, post-medieval ceramic field drains were encountered throughout the development area. The degree of preservation noted across the site was good, with little or no evidence for truncation or re-working of the underlying natural geology, and the evaluation is deemed to have sufficiently characterised the date, character, extent and significance of those features present within the site, which is deemed to be low. The localised nature of the archaeological remains, coupled with their relatively minor significance, suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the archaeological record.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

In February 2008, the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of St Albans City & District Council, in response to a potential application for development at London Road Cemetery, St Albans. A pre-determination evaluation was required by the District Archaeology Office (DAO) in order to help inform the Local Planning Authority as to the archaeological potential of the site. The requirement for archaeological evaluation follows guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16: Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990).

This work was carried out in accordance with a brief produced by St Albans District Archaeology Office (DAO 2008) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2008).

1.2 Report and Archive

Copies of this report will be supplied to St Albans City District Council and DAO, Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record. A version will be uploaded to the Online Access Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The project archive, including two copies of the report, will be deposited at St Albans Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

London Road Cemetery is situated off the modern A1081, immediately north of its junction with the A414, on the outskirts of St Albans. It sits on a flat plateau with two river channels, the Colne and Ver, both situated c.2km to the west and south-east respectively. The 2.16 hectare site, which is currently under rough pasture, lies immediately adjacent to the current north-eastern boundary of the cemetery, surrounded by open fields, and is in turn bounded to the north-east by Nightingale Lane (see Figure 1). The underlying geology consists of glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation, capping the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following archaeological information is derived from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) and the Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (DAO 2008).

The archaeologically designated site of Knight's Wood (AS.R.39: Knight's Wood, Tyttenhanger; Roman and medieval occupation site), lies some 870m to the north-east, while surrounding this are Sites and Monument Record (SMR) entries relating to earthworks (SMR 7979), Roman tile and medieval pottery finds (SMR 9195), evidence for Prehistoric occupation (SMR 9219) and an unknown cropmark (SMR 9218). These features are located in a very similar landscape to the proposed cemetery extension.

Although there are no known archaeological remains within the development area itself, it is suggested that the plot lies within a large-scale field system possibly centred on a Roman or medieval site (DAO 2008), while the nearby rivers are also likely to have provided a focus for human activity at any period. Accordingly, the potential exists for the discovery of additional, as yet unknown, features during the course of the investigation.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The main aim of the evaluation is to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, and significance of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. Additionally, it will endeavour to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains across the area and to evaluate their significance against the impacts of the proposed development, in order to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be developed.

3.1 Objectives

Where the results allow, the evaluation will aim to provide a comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence and aim to highlight research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site in line with Glazebrook (1997) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000).

4.0 METHODS

The archaeological investigation initially comprised the excavation of fifteen 40 x 1.5m trenches, totalling 900 square metres. These were targeted to provide a general coverage of

the investigation area and are shown in figure 1. No significant changes took place to the trench layout during the fieldwork stage of the evaluation, although Trench 11 could not be fully excavated and several small extensions were made to other trenches, with agreement from the District Archaeological Officer, to help determine the nature and extent of a number of the features encountered.

All fieldwork methods and recording conformed to the codes of practice and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and adhered to regional guidelines (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU recording and excavation methods were used.

Topsoil, subsoil and other overburden was stripped using a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. All surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to ensure that any features present were visible and spoil heaps were examined for archaeological material. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated using hand tools and finds were collected and bagged by context. The trench locations were set-out using a Trimble Geo-XT GPS receiver, while the trench extensions were taped in through measurement off existing boundaries and trenches. Levels were taken relative to Ordnance Datum and features and deposits were recorded using pro forma site recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. A full photographic record was maintained throughout the investigation.

5.0 RESULTS

The following description of the fieldwork results is supplemented by further information on the excavated features and deposits presented in Appendix 1.

The evaluation identified a number of isolated archaeological features within Trenches 1, 2, 5, 7, and 14 (Fig. 2), cut into the natural (superficial) geology which occurred at c.83-84 mOD.

Many of the features investigated turned out to be either natural seams or depressions within the geology or disturbances caused by bioturbation, decay or uprooting of small trees or bushes. Several of these features (5, 7, 20, 24, 31 & 33) were given a context number during fieldwork and these are also shown in green in Figure 2, along with the remaining un-contexted natural features. Similarly, while features 1, 3, 9 and 11 in Trench 15 and cut 35 in Trench 14 were interpreted as either small pits or post-holes and a gully respectively, they were ambiguous and ultimately unconvincing as being of archaeological interest and it remains likely that these were also natural/ non-archaeological features.

A large, isolated, possibly Roman pit (26) was located within Trench 7 (see figure 3 and plate 1). It had few fills and was very poorly dated. The first fill (27) was suggestive of edge erosion, from which a single small abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered. Following this initial event were two subsequent fills, 28 and 39, which contained a single sherd of prehistoric pottery together with burnt flint and several flint pieces, and a sherd of 2nd Century Verulamium Region white ware respectively. Both the latter fills are likely to represent backfilling episodes as they contained large fragments of flint nodules and gravels that were randomly positioned. The latest fill within the pit was 40, a light-brown clay silt, which simply filled the hollow left at the top of the pit.

In Trench 2, a ditch (16) was identified which produced a late post-medieval/ early modern brick fragment (Plate 3). Its alignment continued south-west into Trench 1, as ditch 45, and north-east to Trench 3 (unexcavated). This ditch-line would appear to intersect at right-angles with a now-removed boundary depicted on the 1883 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and therefore most probably represents the line of another boundary removed prior to 1883. In Trench 5 and 14, two further ditches (13 – see plate 2, and 22) were discovered. Both were aligned north-south but remain undated, with the latter of the two producing only a single piece of un-diagnostic burnt flint. There was some indication that an associated bank (15) survived below the subsoil on the eastern edge of 13. Ditches 13 and 22 were not encountered in any other trench and ditch 22 had clearly been cut by a land drain of probable early to mid-18th century date (see below), which does strongly suggest that they are late-17th or early-18th century in origin, although a Medieval or earlier date cannot be ruled out completely.

All of the archaeological features investigated were consistently overlain by a subsoil layer that reached a maximum depth of 0.15m in the south-east corner of the site. The layer was in turn cut by a series of field drains (e.g. context 29) containing ceramic horseshoe tiles of probable early to mid-18th century date, which were broadly aligned north-east/south-west. Both the subsoil layer and the drainage cuts were then sealed by a cultivated topsoil horizon, between 0.30 and 0.40m-thick.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

Very small groups of finds were recovered from a total of six contexts, across three of the excavated trenches. In addition, a small amount of unstratified material was collected from the topsoil. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

6.1 Prehistoric pottery

Prehistoric pottery, amounting to six sherds, weighing 14g, was recovered from fills 27 and 28 of pit 26 (Trench 7). The sherds are small and abraded and are likely to be residual in this feature. Nick Lavender has examined the pottery, as follows:

Fill 28 produced five sherds in a quartz, flint and sand-tempered fabric and is of Middle Iron Age date. The single sherd from fill 27 is flint-tempered and not closely datable within the prehistoric period.

6.2 Roman pottery

A rim sherd (weight 18g) from a reeded-rimmed bowl was recovered from fill (39) of pit (26) (Trench 7). Unsurprisingly, this is in Verulamium Region white ware and is a very common form in this fabric during the 2nd century AD (Davies *et al* 1994, 47 and fig.38). The sherd is not particularly abraded.

6.3 Modern pottery

Three sherds of modern pottery, weighing 14g and including a flowerpot rim, were found in the topsoil. One piece, from a plate, has brown transfer-printing which was more-commonly produced during the 20th century.

6.4 Brick and tile

Three instances of brick and tile were recorded. Un-diagnostic, post-medieval roof tile fragments were found in the topsoil and the corner from a brick of post-medieval/ early modern date was recovered from the fill of ditch 16 (Trench 2). A section from a ceramic land drain (41) was retrieved from Trench 7. This was hand-moulded into a horseshoe shape with a flat, flanged base. The drain section is roughly made, with many large burnt flint and pebble inclusions, and measures a nominal 11" long by 2½" deep. Horseshoe-shaped land drains very often rested on sole plates, but those with a flanged base are considered to be fore-runners of the class and therefore the earliest type of post-medieval land drain (Stuyt *et al* 2005, 1). It is probable that this example dates to the first half of the 18th century.

6.5 Worked and burnt flints

The flints were examined briefly by Tony Blowers. A natural piece was recovered from the topsoil and three burnt flints were also noted in the assemblage. A catalogue for the flints from pit 26 (Trench 7) can be found in Appendix 2. All nine pieces are heavily abraded which

suggests they are residual and therefore they provide little information other than that there was flintwork present in the landscape when pit 26 was backfilled.

6.6 Comments on the Assemblage

The groups of finds are too small for meaningful deductions to be made, although most of the material is either recent or undated. Finds of prehistoric and Roman date are confined to pit 26 in Trench 7 and, even then, quantities are too small for anything other than noting their presence. All of the finds should be retained, although the post-medieval/ early modern brick fragment could be discarded at the archiving stage. The land drain should probably be retained for its intrinsic value. The modern finds from the topsoil have already been discarded following recording.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, the site as a whole has produced very little in the way of datable material and care must be taken in extrapolating too heavily on the basis of the relatively small number of features exposed. However, it appears that there is little evidence for settlement on the site itself and only a slim indication of a possible large-scale field system centred on the nearby Roman or Medieval site at Knights Wood.

The evaluation identified a small number of features, widely dispersed across the site. The remains included a large, poorly dated pit (26) located in the central area of the site, a post-medieval(?) north-east/south-west ditch (16/45) that ran through trenches 1, 2 and 3, and two broadly north-south orientated ditches (22 & 13) encountered in Trenches 5 and 14 that remained undated and were not seen in any of the adjacent trenches. Interpretation of all the remaining features and deposits discovered and shown on the site plan, in Figure 2, are questionable and ultimately they are unlikely to represent archaeological features.

Overall, the evaluation suggests that activity in this part of the district was minimal, both in prehistory and in later periods. The discovery of the large, possibly Roman pit suggests that low-key contemporary remains may survive nearby; however, it is also possible that the feature is later in date and all finds recovered were residual. While it is also possible that the ditches encountered signified the presence of an earlier field system, this remains unproven, hindered in part by the fact that no finds were recovered. Consequently, it is unclear from the features exposed when the area began to be sub-divided and farmed, but given that they do not appear to “fit” well with the field system shown on the 1st Edition OS map, it is possible that the ditches exposed in trenches 5 and 14 are elements of an earlier, possibly medieval

field system. Further credence is given to this by virtue of the fact that the ditch (22) in Trench 14 is cut by one of the land drains containing ceramic horseshoe tiles, which have provisionally been dated to the first half of the 18th century. The presence of the brick fragment at the base of the ditch (16) in Trench 2 is most likely explained through deliberate backfilling prior to a period of reorganisation/ opening up of the landscape to create larger fields. As is to be expected given the location, subsequent activity takes the form of a sequence of subsoil overlain by agriculturally generated topsoil, providing the basis for the modern landscape.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Overall, the archaeological potential of the site as a whole appears limited, with archaeological remains surviving only in isolation and, where present, were poorly dated. Consequently, beyond highlighting several phases of agricultural activity/ reorganisation between the early – mid-18th century and the date of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1883), the results of the evaluation are insufficient to provide a detailed account of the site's development in relation to more general activity in, and the topography of the surrounding area over time.

The evidence suggests that this small area never played a significant role in the settlement and development of the immediate landscape, quite probably having remained in agricultural use since the Roman period or earlier, with perhaps some periods of woodland/ scrub regeneration to account for the various root boles encountered. The general topography suggests that surrounding area could have provided a general route along higher ground, accessing two nearby rivers, which may explain why a small amount of prehistoric and Roman material was recovered from the site, but human activity/ exploitation of the landscape does not appear to have left many tangible markers prior to the laying out of elements of a possible medieval field system seen in trenches 5 and 14, and the more coherent evidence for agricultural activity beginning in the 18th century, possibly as a result of Enclosure?

The extension to the cemetery is unlikely to cause significant disturbance to the archaeological record, either because archaeological deposits are not present, or because they are not extensive and have been sufficiently investigated and characterised as part of this exercise.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit thanks St Albans City & District Council for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Tony Blowers, John Hewitt, Rachel Brazil, and Vicki Williams carried out the fieldwork under the supervision of Matthew Pocock. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael, and the finds report was prepared by Joyce Compton, with specialist input by Tony Blowers. The main report text was written by Matthew Pocock with digital illustrations produced by Andrew Lewsey and editing by Adrian Scruby. Adrian Scruby managed the project and Simon West monitored the investigation on behalf of SAC & DC.

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APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

Context Table

Context Number	Type	Description	Trench	Width	Depth	Date
1	Cut	Sub circular in plan. West end of trench 15. Sides are gradual and slightly concave. Base is concave. Small pit/post hole. Unknown date.	15	0.76m	0.26m	
2	Fill	Single fill of 1. Medium yellowish brown silty clay.	15	0.76m	0.26m	
3	Cut	Sub circular in plan. Sides are gradual. Concave base.	15	0.86m	0.18m	
4	Fill	Single fill of 3. Medium yellowish brown silty clay.	15	0.86m	0.18m	
5	Cut	Natural? Irregular shape in plan. Sides irregular. Base flat. Edges extremely diffused. Possibly created by shrubs/root action.	15	Unknown	0.12m	
6	Fill	Single fill of 5. Medium greyish brown silty clay.	15	Unknown	0.12m	
7	Cut	Natural? Irregular shape in plan. BOS at top is imperceptible as is BOS at base. Base is flat. Edges extremely diffused. Possibly created by shrubs/root action.	15	0.55m	0.08m	
8	Fill	Single fill of 5. Medium yellowish brown silty clay. Most likely a result of a series of natural events.	15	0.55m	0.08m	
9	Cut	Post hole/stake hole. Sub circular in plan and has gradual concave sides with slight V shaped base.	15	0.51m	0.14m	
10	Fill	Single fill of 9. Medium yellowish brown silty clay. Natural silting.	15	0.51m	0.14m	
11	Cut	Post hole. Circular in plan. Located at south end of trench 15. Steep sides with a concave base.	15	0.69m	0.24m	
12	Fill	Single fill of 11. Light yellowish grey brown silty clay.	15	0.69m	0.24m	
13	Cut	Ditch. Linear with gradual sides and concave base. Possible boundary marker.	5	1.40m	0.38m	
14	Fill	Single fill of 13. Greyish mid. Brown clayey silt. Possible back fill and bank erosion.	5	1.40m	0.38m	
15	Layer	Orangey mid. Brown gravelly clay. Remains of bank material on eastern side of ditch.	5	0.90m	0.14m	
16	Cut	Ditch. Linear with steep sides and uneven base. Possible boundary marker. Date unknown.	2	0.83m	0.26m	

*London Road Cemetery Extension, London Road, St Albans
Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching
Prepared for St Albans City District Council*

Context Number	Type	Description	Trench	Width	Depth	Date
17	Fill	Single fill of 16. Light brown clayey silt. Natural silting.	2	0.83m	0.26m	Modern
18	Cut	Gully? Curving linear in plan with gradual sides and concave. (possible large root channel)	2	0.60m	0.12m	
19	Fill	Single fill of 18. Mid. Brown clayey silt. Natural silting poss. Root action.	2	0.60m	0.12m	
20	Cut	Natural? Irregular shape in plan with gradual sides and rough flat base. Heavy root action.	10	2.00m	0.08m	
21	Fill	Single fill of 20. Greyish orangey brown clayey silt. Natural silting	10	2.00m	0.08m	
22	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with gradual sides and concave base. Boundary marker of unknown date.	14	1.20m	0.47m	
23	Fill	Fill of 22. Greyish mid brown clayey silt. Natural silting after back filling.	14	0.65m	0.20m	
24	Cut	Natural root feature (bush/tree hole).	14	0.46m	0.10m	
25	Fill	Fill of 24.	14	0.46m	0.10m	
26	Cut	Pit. Oval in plan possibly more than one pit. Edge to north steep, edge to south gradual 45 deg. Sealed with thin layer of sub soil.	7	6.68m	1.20m+	
27	Fill	Fill of 26. Possible side erosion collapse? Produced prehistoric pottery.	7	0.66m	0.16m	Prehistoric
28	Fill	Fill of 26. Dark brown clay silt sand. Backfill.	7	5.70m	0.62m+	Prehistoric
29	Cut	Gully. Field drain. Object, ceramic drain.	7	0.30m	0.50m	
30	Fill	Fill of 29. Backfill of field drain.	7	0.30m	0.50m	
31	Cut	Post hole. Irregular shape in plan with irregular sides and a base with a concave dent in the centre. Post pipe or shrub bowl?	14	0.43m	0.13m	
32	Fill	Single fill of 31. Mid to light yellow/grey brown silty clay. Natural silting.	14	0.43m	0.13m	
33	Cut	Unknown feature. Irregular ovoid shape in plan with irregular sides and flat base. Possibly a shrub/tree bowl.	14	0.29m	0.09m	
34	Fill	Fill of 33. Mid. Brown with light brown patches clayey silt. Heavily disturbed by root and insect action. Natural.	14	0.29m	0.09m	
35	Cut	Gully? Linear shape in plan with steep sides (60 deg.) and a concave base. Edge definition is very poor. Could be shallow gully or animal burrow.	14	0.36m	0.17m	

*London Road Cemetery Extension, London Road, St Albans
Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching
Prepared for St Albans City District Council*

Context Number	Type	Description	Trench	Width	Depth	Date
36	Fill	Fill of 35. Light yellowy brown with dark grey patches clayey silt. Heavily damaged by root/insect/leaching action. Natural silting.	14	0.36m	0.17m	
37	Cut	Natural feature. Irregular shape in plan with extremely diffused edges and concave base.	14	0.44m	0.12m	
38	Fill	Fill of 37. Medium yellowish greyish brown silty clay. Natural silting.	14	0.44m	0.12m	
39	Fill	Fill of 26. Mid. Dark brown clay silt (loam)	7	4.74m		Roman
40	Fill	Fill of 26. Light brown clay silt. Latest fill within [26].	7	1.24m	0.20m	
41	Object	Fill of 29. Ceramic drain - retained for dating.	7			Post-med
42	Cut	Gully. Rectangular shape in plan with steep sides and uneven concave base.	3	0.52m	0.21m	
43	Fill	Fill of 42. Mid. Yellow brown sandy gravel. Poss. Natural silting.	3	0.52m	0.06m	
44	Fill	Fill of 42. Mid. Brown clayey silt. Top fill.	3	0.46m	0.15m	
45	Cut	Ditch. Rectangular shape in plan with gradual sides and concave base.	1	0.52m	0.034m	
46	Fill	Fill of 45. Mid grey brown clay. Natural silting.	1	0.19m	0.34m	
47	Fill	Fill of 45. Light grey brown silty clay. Truncated by [48]. Small flint flake found top of fill poss. Plough disturbance.	1	0.29m	0.34m	
48	Cut	Shallow ditch. U-shaped feature with gradual sides and concave base. Cuts feature [45]. Unknown use.	1	0.58m	0.18m	
49	Fill	Fill of 48. Light/med. Grey brown clayey silt.	1	0.58m	0.18m	
50	Fill	Fill of 22. Greyish mid brown clayey silt, back filling.	14	1.10m	0.48m	

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Finds Catalogue

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
Topsoil		1 3 3	32 150 14	Natural flint lump Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; white earthenware plate sherds, one a rim, one with brown transfer-printing; flowerpot rim sherd (Discarded)	- Post med. Modern
17	16	1 1	18 148	Burnt flint Brick fragment	Early Modern
27	26	1	6	Pottery; body sherd	Prehistoric
28	26	9 1 5	134 1 8	Flint lumps, blades and flakes Burnt flint Pottery; body sherds and crumbs	- - Prehistoric
39	26	3	18	Pottery; reeded-rim bowl sherd, Verulamium Region white ware	2nd C
41	29	1	1025	Ceramic land drain section, length 280mm, depth 60mm	Post med.
50	22	1	20	Burnt flint	-

Flint catalogue

Context	Feature	Description	Date
28	26	Blade, secondary Blade, tertiary Core Naturally fractured piece Blade fragment, tertiary, patinated Two flakes, tertiary Two flakes, secondary	Later Neo

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME; LONDON ROAD CEMETERY EXTENSION, LONDON ROAD ST ALBANS

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for the archaeological investigation
- 1.2 Written scheme of investigation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Analytical Reports
 - 2.2.1 Finds Report
- 2.3 Catalogues
 - 2.3.1 Context Finds Record
 - 2.3.2 Finds Catalogue

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Index
- 3.2 Context Record Sheets 1-50
- 3.3 Photographic Register
- 3.4 CD (Digital photos and archive data)
- 3.5 Miscellaneous maps, plans and sketch sections

N.B. The finds occupy less than one box.

APPENDIX 4: HHER SUMMARY

SITE NAME/ADDRESS: London Road Cemetery, London Road, St Albans	
CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER 1866	
OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER Essexcou1 - 38791	
PARISH:	DISTRICT: St Albans
NGR: TL 172 052	SITE CODE: LRC08
TYPE OF WORK: Evaluation (Trial Trenching)	SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP: M.Pocock of ECC FAU
DATE OF WORK: February 2008	SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED: 2.16ha
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM: St Albans Museum	FUNDING SOURCE: St Albans City & District Council
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED. No	RELATED HER Nos.
FINAL REPORT: A4 Grey Literature	
PERIODS REPRESENTED: Prehistoric(?), Roman(?), post-medieval and Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land to the rear of London Road Cemetery, St Albans, in advance of a planned extension to the cemetery. Although the site lies within no known area of archaeological significance, the evaluation demonstrated the presence of archaeological features and deposits, albeit in small numbers, in some parts of the proposed development area.</p> <p>The earliest remains may have been Roman, consisting of a single large pit that produced residual prehistoric material and a single second century pottery sherd. Later or undated features included several ditches and possibly some small, isolated post-holes. In addition, post-medieval ceramic field drains were encountered throughout the development area. The degree of preservation noted across the site was good, with little or no evidence for truncation or re-working of the underlying natural geology, and the evaluation is deemed to have sufficiently characterised the date, character, extent and significance of those features present within the site, which is deemed to be low. The localised nature of the archaeological remains, coupled with their relatively minor significance, suggests that development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the archaeological record.</p>	
PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS: None	
AUTHOR OF SUMMARY: Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	DATE OF SUMMARY: March 2008



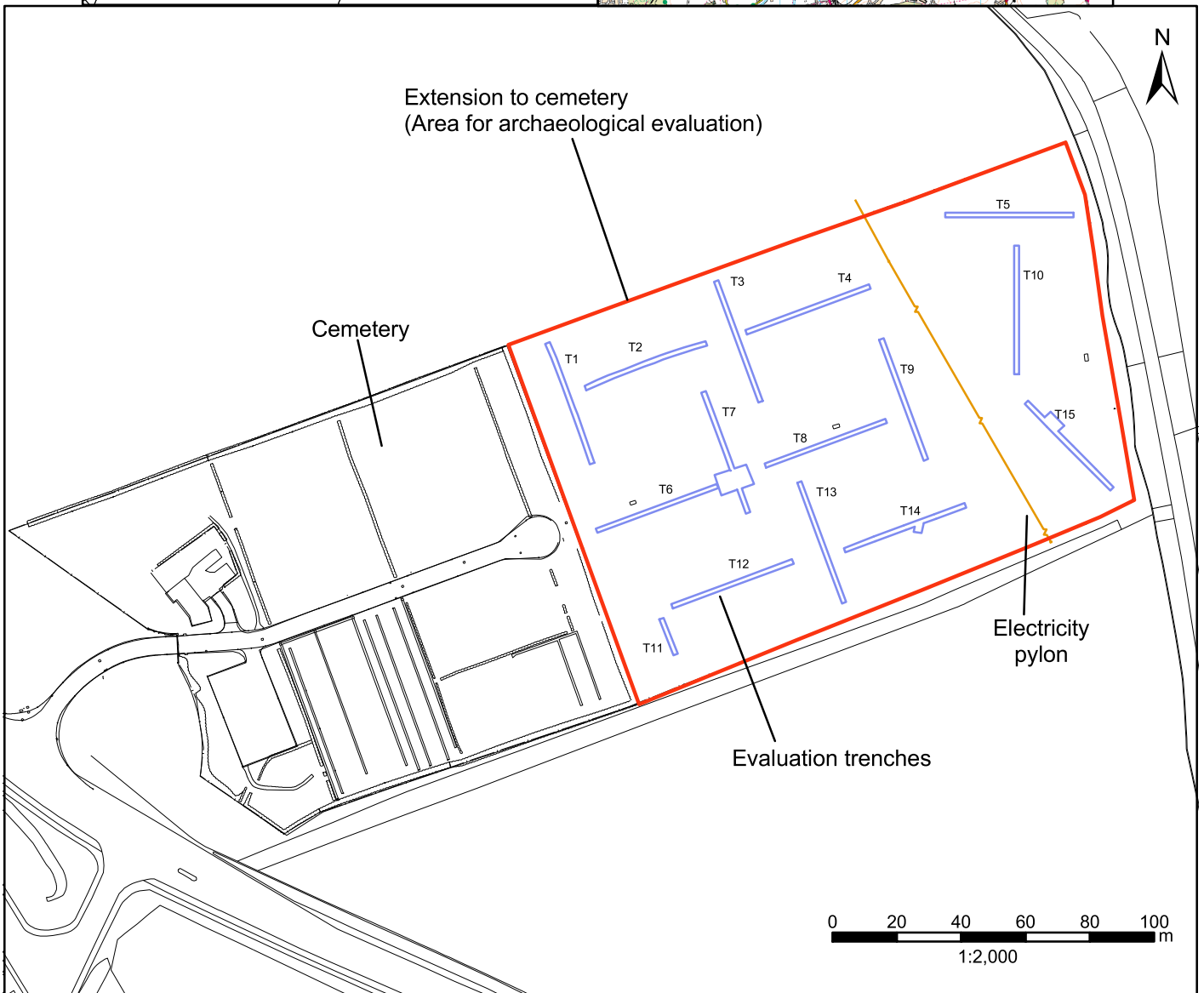
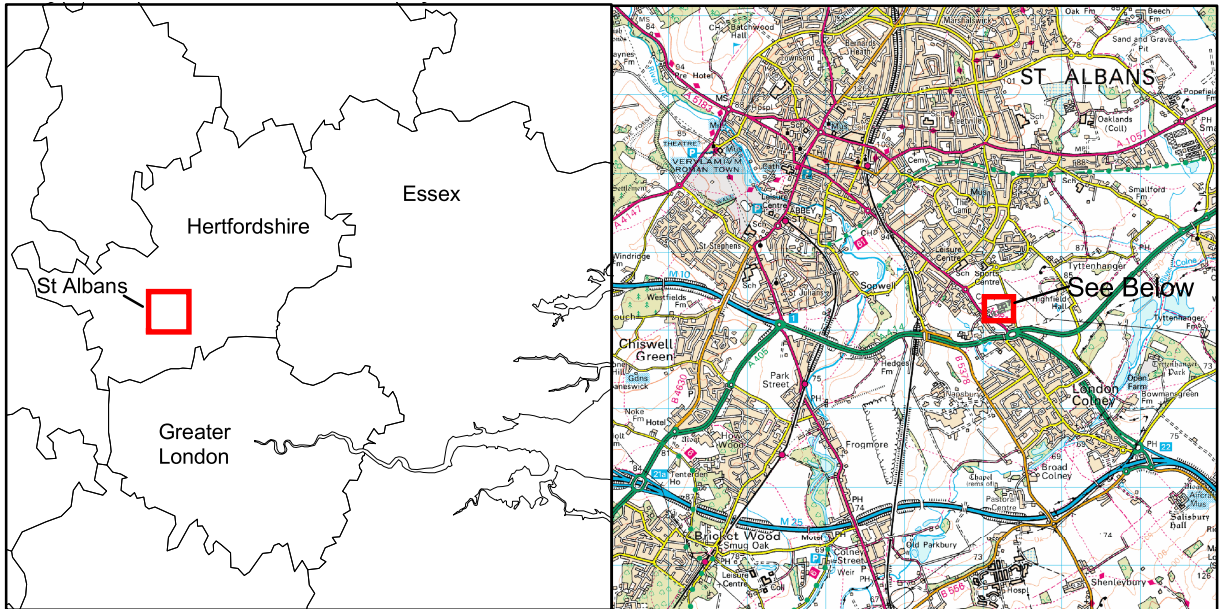
Plate 1. Pit (26)



Plate 2. Ditch (13)



Plate 3. Ditch (16)



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Fig.1. Site location



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Fig.2. Trench plan

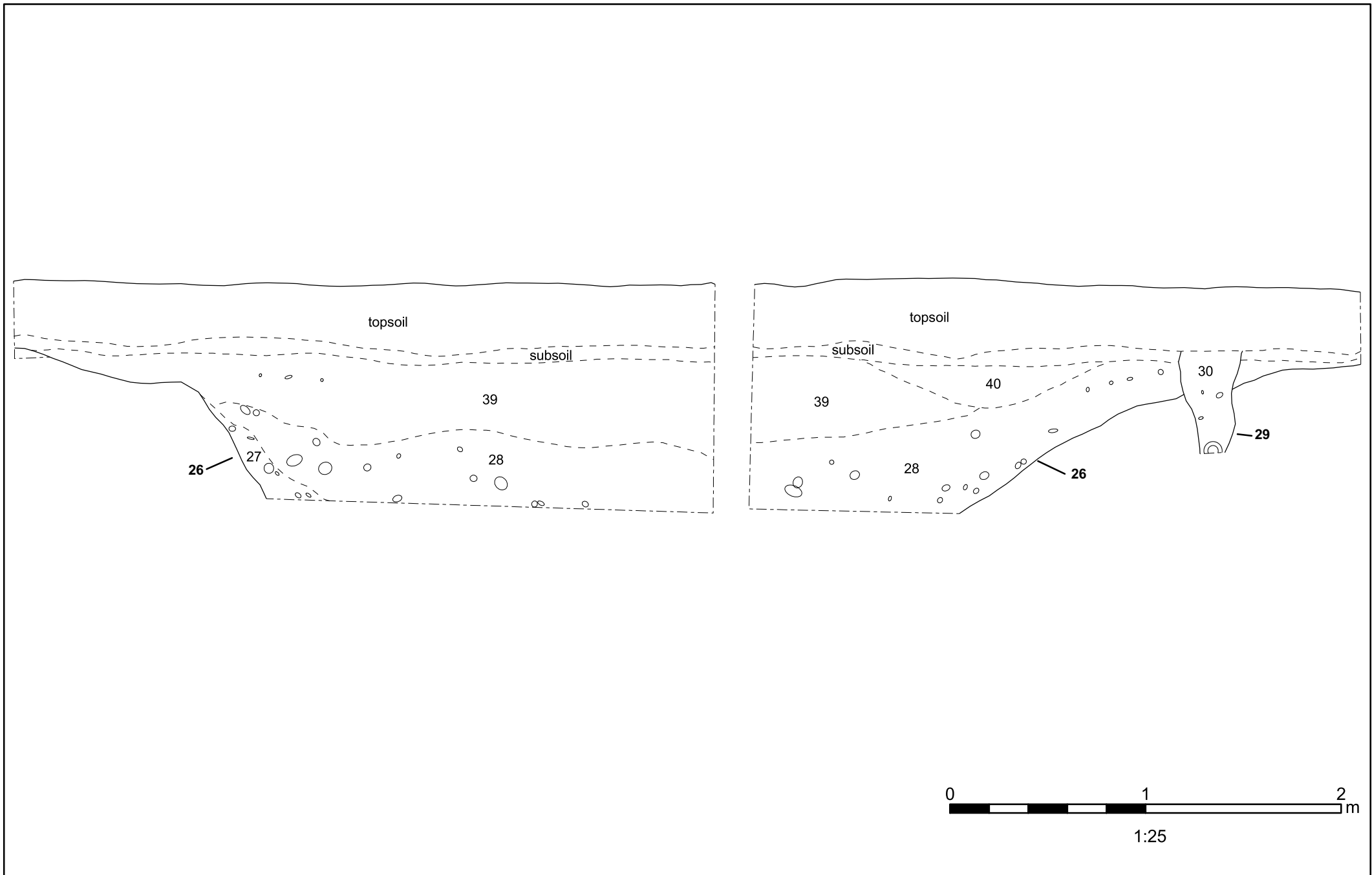


Fig.3. Section across Pit 26