LAND TO THE REAR OF THE GRANGE, 3 CODICOTE ROAD, WELWYN, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil PIFA		
NGR: TL 23149 16233	Report No. 3621	
District: Welwyn Hatfield	Site Code: AS 1272	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3871	
Signed:	Date: August 2010	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details						
Project name	Land to the rear of The Grange, 3 Codicote Rd,					
	Welwyn, Hertfordshire. Archaeological monitoring					
	and recording	ng				
Project summary						
In August 2010, Archaeo						
archaeological monitoring a					xcavatioi	n of drainage
runs at The Grange, 3 Codi						
Despite the site's location						
recovery of Romano-British						
no archaeological features						
to be associated with the	use or cons	tructio	n or the	surroun	aing 17"	718" century
buildings.	0th A 004	^				
Project dates (fieldwork)	9 th Aug 2010		ا علم میرد ا	\/\N\/\O\	l A I	
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y D2500	Site	re work (Y/IN/?)	N AS127	n
P. number	P3580				_	2
Type of project	Archaeologi					, 7
Site status	Within Area		naeologi	icai Signi	ricance i\	10. /
Current land use	Rear garder					
Planned development	New drainag	ge				
Main features (+dates)	-					
Significant finds (+dates)	-					
Project location	· .					
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire			n Hatfield	Wel	wyn
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire	e HEF	2			
Post code (if known)	AL6 9LY					
Area of site	c. 500m ²					
NGR	TL 2310 1633					
Height AOD (min/max) 68m AOD						
Project creators						
Brief issued by	HCC HEU					
Project supervisor/s (PO)	A. A. S. Newton					
Funded by	A.E. Bullock Ltd					
Full title	Land to the rear of The Grange, 3 Codicote Rd,					
	Welwyn, He		lshire.	Archaeo	logical n	nonitoring
	and recording					
Authors	Andrew A. S. Newton					
Report no.	3621					
Date (of report)	August 2010					
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LAND TO THE REAR OF THE GRANGE, 3 CODICOTE ROAD, WELWYN, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the excavation of drainage runs at The Grange, 3 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Despite the site's location within an area of archaeological significance and the recovery of Romano-British building materials during a trial trench evaluation close by, no archaeological features or finds were present. The deposits recorded all appeared to be associated with the use or construction of the surrounding 17th/18th century buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording via 'strip, map & record' associated with the excavation of drainage runs at The Grange, 3 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (Welwyn Hatfield Planning Refs. N6/2009/1160/LB, NP/2009/1159/FP & N6/2009/1158/FP), to comply with a condition of planning requiring a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by ertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU, dated 31/07/09), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18th August 2009), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:
 - Initial clearance of overburden under archaeological observation
 - Monitoring of all groundworks
 - Mitigation by a programme of archaeological recording if archaeological remains are present.

Planning policy context

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010) is the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment. PPS5 states that those

parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 Welwyn is a village lying in the heart of Hertfordshire, straddling the river Mimram (Fig. 1). The High Street crosses the river and extends north to St Mary's Church where Codicote Road continues to the north. The village is now encircled by modern roads including the A1(M) to the east. Other villages in the area include Oaklands and Digswell, while Welwyn Garden City dominates the area to the south-east.
- 2.2 The Grange is situated on the eastern side of Codicote Road, which runs northwards from the High Street in the centre of the village (Fig. 2). St. Mary's church lies a short distance to the south, and otherwise the surrounding landscape is occupied by residential and commercial properties that form the northern margins of the centre of Welwyn.
- 2.3 The area in which groundworks were conducted was located adjacent to a range of outbuildings to the rear (east) of the main house. These outbuildings were subject to a programme of historic building recording, conducted by AS, in February 2010. This identified that the outbuildings comprised five distinct structural elements. The westernmost unit preserves substantial 17th century fabric, while a second area may be of even greater age, though has been extensively remodelled and potentially rebuilt in the past. The two historic ranges were refurbished and connected with a third unit in the latter half of the 18th century when the main house was constructed. A storage range and former stable at the southern end were probably added in the early 19th century (Prosser *et al* 2010).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The settlement at Welwyn is located on glacial river gravels at approximately 67m AOD. The site lies at *c*.68m AOD on the eastern side of the river Mimram, which is situated *c*.100m to the west, with the river valley rising at a moderate gradient to the east. The presence of the river Mimram has resulted in minor deposition of Thames alluvium, but the river has been

fordable for most of its recorded history and there is little evidence of a substantial flood plain. Soils of the area are predominantly of the Hornbeam 2 Association, consisting of a plateau drift of deep fine loamy over clayey soils, though the village core also features Marlow Association soil, which is well-drained (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983). Although the area now has a suburban character, much woodland and grassland remains intact around the residential areas.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The alluvial soils along the margins of the river Mimram have provided evidence for early human activity in the form of Palaeolithic stone tools (Thompson 2002, 2), including a flint hand axe c.200m to the south (HER 10392) and a group of struck flint including two axes and debitage c.250m to the south (HER 2782). There is little other evidence for any prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the site.
- 4.2 Late Iron Age occupation began in the Welwyn area in the 1st century BC with scattered farmsteads on the higher ground, predominantly in the area now occupied by Welwyn Garden City *c*.2km to the south, while a higher status settlement may also have been located at Welches Farm *c*.3km to the north-east (Thompson 2002, 3). However, late Iron Age cremations found *c*.350m to the south (HER 1790 & 1791) suggest that Welwyn may have been of greater importance than the settlement evidence has so far revealed.
- 4.3 Welwyn emerges as a distinct settlement shortly after the Roman Conquest in AD43, centred on the crossing of the river Mimram by the new Roman road linking Verulamium (St. Albans) to Braughing and Colchester. The well-preserved metalled surfaces of the road have previously been exposed during archaeological investigations c.200m to the south-west (HER 9604 & 9605). Roman Welwyn comprised of a small and compact settlement centred on this road, largely on the western side of the river Mimram. The settlement was probably an estate village serving the villa at Lockleys/Dicket Mead. Based on the current evidence for occupation (HER 1556, 1693, 1787, 6087, 6181, 6418, 6501 and 11407) the extent of the settlement has been defined (Thompson 2002). The site is just beyond the north-eastern corner of this proposed extent, on a narrow strip of land between the proposed area of occupation and a large cemetery situated to the north-east of the settlement (see below). During the laying of a new lawn to the rear of the Grange in the 1900s quantities of Roman CBM, flint and mortar, possibly associated with a building were recovered (HER 1555).
- 4.4 Cemeteries of unknown extent are located on School Lane and Prospect Place in Welwyn, but it is the large scale of the 'Welwyn Grange' cemetery (HER1554, 6185, 6522 and 9615), adjacent to the east of the site that has raised questions about the status and scale of Roman settlement at Welwyn. It is speculated that the cemetery held hundreds, possibly thousands of graves. The full extent of the cemetery is unknown and although limits have

been proposed (Thompson 2002), it would not be unexpected if more graves were discovered in the close vicinity.

- 4.5 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Welwyn in the archaeological record is scarce but includes burials in St. Mary's churchyard, which was once much large and encompassed the area of the electricity substation and The Grange to the north of the existing churchyard (HER 10902). These burials have yielded radio-carbon dates averaging AD670, and with an absence of grave goods are presumed to be Christian. Therefore the location of potential Anglo-Saxon church is presumed to be in the vicinity, probably on the northern side of the 13th century church (HER 4327). Further archaeological evidence for the importance or prosperity of Anglo-Saxon Welwyn is a coin hoard deposited in *c*.AD978 recorded *c*.120m to the south (HER 2843), while a further Anglo-Saxon penny of Edward the Confessor was recorded *c*.350m to the south (HER 4165).
- 4.6 The medieval village of Welwyn developed along the High Street, the western side of Codicote Road and the southern side of Church Street, always to the south of the modern site. The village probably derived some prosperity from its location on the Great North Road and included a forge (HER 10860) and watermill (HER 7040), while further medieval building materials have been recorded *c*.300m to the south-east (HER 1792). Inns are attested from the 14th century, though there is no mention of a local market, and so the settlement remained modest.
- 4.7 The fortunes of Welwyn improved in the 16th century, with the establishment of the Great North Road leading to a significant increase in commercial and coach traffic through the town, as evidenced by the number of inns and coaching houses in the vicinity (HER 10831, 10841, 10844, 10845, 10857 and 10858). Codicote Road formed a branch road of the Great North Road, joining the main route at the junction of the High Street and Church Road, however, the areas bordering Codicote Road (to the north of the church) remained largely undeveloped, with the exception of Guessens, 6 Codicote Road (HER 10826), a 17th century house built on the site of a medieval farm.
- 4.8 In the 18th century, the rector of Welwyn, Dr. Young attempted to turn Welwyn into a fashionable spa town. By the time of his death in 1765, his enterprise had failed leaving Welwyn as a settlement with a few interesting buildings such as the Assembly Rooms (HER 10848) but still a village.
- 4.9 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by AS in early 2010 on the eastern part of the site where a new detached dwelling was proposed as part of a separate planning application (Pozorski & Peachey 2010). This revealed layers of made ground associated with redevelopment of the site, containing a residual Roman brick fragment and a Roman tile fragment. No archaeological features were identified.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.
- 5.2 The principal element monitored was the excavation of drainage runs within the courtyard lying between the main house at The Grange and the outbuildings that lie to its rear (to the east). Little else in the way of intrusive groundworks were proposed by way of the proposed development, and this had been confirmed to HCC HEU by the client prior to the start of the monitoring.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The excavated drainage run comprised a length of trench running for 19m along the face of the extant outbuildings, with short lengths of trench leading to the buildings themselves. A second length of trench which connected with this first length ran for 17m in a south-westerly direction to an inspection chamber located close to the south-eastern corner of The Grange itself (DPs 1 & 2; Fig. 3). Sample sections, measuring 1m in width, were recorded at intervals along the lengths of the drainage trenches to indicate the stratigraphy that was present.

Sample Section 1	Sample Section 1 (Fig. 4; DP 3)		
North-east facing	North-east facing section		
0.00= 67.98m AC)D		
0.00-0.16m	L2000	Topsoil. Mid grey firm slightly clayey silt with frequent	
		rooting.	
0.16m +	L2001	Mid grey brown firm clayey silt with moderate small	
		stones.	

Sample Section 2 (Fig. 4; DP 4)			
South-west facing	South-west facing section		
0.00= 67.97m AC	DD		
0.00-0.12m	L2000	Topsoil. As above	
0.18m +	L2002	Made ground. Light grey brown compact slightly clayey silt with frequent small stone, moderate modern CBM and occasional animal bone and oyster shell	

Sample Section 3 South-west facing 0.00= 67.97m AC	section	DP 5)
0.00-0.22m L2000 Topsoil. As above		
0.22m +	L2002	Made ground. As above, slightly darker in colour

Sample Section 4 (Fig. 4; DP 6)			
North-east facing	North-east facing section		
0.00= 67.98m AOD			
0.00-0.27m	L2000	Topsoil. As above	
0.27-0.65m L2002 Made ground. As above			
0.65m +	L2003	Natural clay. Orange brown firm/plastic clay	

Sample Section 5 (Fig. 4; DP 7) South facing section 0.00= 67.95m AOD		
0.00-0.13m	L2004	Former yard surface. Cobbled surface set in compact clayey silt bedding layer
0.13-0.28m	L2005	Former yard surface. Grey/white degraded concrete with occasional pieces of modern CBM set in to it.
0.65m +	L2006	?redeposited/mixed natural. Orange brown firm silty clay. Modern ceramic service pipe set in to this deposit but no discernible cut.

Sample Section 6 (Fig. 4; DP 8)			
South facing sec	South facing section		
0.00= 67.94m AOD			
0.00-0.19m	L2004	Former yard surface. As above	
0.19-0.32m	L2007	Possible levelling layer. Mid grey brown loose gritty silt	
		with moderate modern CBM and occasional slate	
0.32-0.50m	L2005	Former yard surface. As above	
0.50-0.92m	L2008	?Subsoil. Mid to dark grey brown firm clayey silt	
0.92m +	L2006	?redeposited/mixed natural. As above	

6.2 No archaeological features or finds were identified. The recorded deposits appear to be mostly man-made and of recent date, being directly associated with the construction of the adjacent outbuildings, former surfaces of the courtyard between the main house of The Grange and the outbuildings and the levelling layers associated with these surfaces.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Along the eastern side of the site, the uppermost deposit was clayey silt topsoil L2000. A short distance to the west, this topsoil gave way to the

cobbled surface L2004. At the most northerly point of the excavated drainage runs (SS1), L2000 overlay subsoil L2001. For the remaining length of the broadly north to south aligned arm of the trench made ground L2002 lay directly beneath L2000. L2002 contained quantities of tile and brick identical to that used in the construction of the extant outbuildings and must, therefore, have been broadly contemporary with these buildings. Where the excavation of the trench reached sufficient depth (SS4) natural clay L2003 was observed to lie beneath L2002.

8.2 The east to west aligned portion of the drainage trench revealed a stratigraphy of cobbled surface L2004, which had become overgrown with grass, overlying a degraded former concrete yard surface, L2005. Further to the west a possible levelling layer (L2007) appeared beneath L2004 and above L2005. To the east, L2005 overlay an orange brown silty clay (L2006) which was very similar in colour to the natural clay but differed quite significantly in composition. To the west, L2008 a mid to dark grey brown silty clay, very similar in composition to L2006, was stratified between the two; this pattern of deposits was typical for the majority of the east to west aligned arm of the drainage trench.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The deposit model differed significantly from that recorded during the archaeological trial trench evaluation conducted to the south-east (Pozorski & Peachey 2010). This may have been anticipated given the differing characters of the locations in which the two sets of work were undertaken.
- 9.2 The trial trench evaluation revealed small quantities of Romano-British CBM. No such finds were recovered during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. It is likely that any deposits predating the laying of the yard surfaces and the made ground containing material consistent with the construction and possibly use of the 17th/18th century outbuildings was removed as these deposits all appear to directly overlie naturally occurring deposits.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank A. E. Bullock Ltd for their cooperation and funding the project, in particular Mr Chris Bullock for his assistance. AS is also grateful to John Barratt (Architect).

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone and MS Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

Pozorski, Z. and Peachey, A. 2010 Land to the rear of The Grange, 3 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire; an archaeological trial trench evaluation, Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report no. 3470

Prosser, L., Smith, L., Peachey, A. & Henry, K. 2010, *The Grange, 3 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording*, Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report no. 3484

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	1
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Site drawings A1	-
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Site photographs colour slides	-
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APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	The Grange, 3 Codicote Rd, Welwyn
County: Herts	District: Welwyn Hatfield
Village/Town: Welwyn	Parish: Welwyn
Planning application	N6/2009/1160/LB, NP/2009/1159/FP & N6/2009/1158/FP
reference:	
Client name/address/tel:	A.E. Bullock Ltd
Nature of application:	Drainage conversion of outbuildings
Present land use:	Yard to rear of building
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated
c. 500m ²	36m length of drainage run
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2310 1633
Site Code:	AS1272
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Date of work:	9 th August 2010
Location of finds/Curating	Mill Green Museum
museum:	
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented:
Relevant previous	Pozorski, Z. and Peachey, A. 2010 Land to the rear of The Grange, 3
summaries/reports: -	Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire; an archaeological trial trench
	evaluation, Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report no. 3470
	Durana I Curith I Danahari A 9 Hanni K 2040 The Curinia
	Prosser, L., Smith, L., Peachey, A. & Henry, K. 2010, <i>The Grange, 3 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording,</i>
	Archaeological Solutions Ltd unpublished report no. 3484
	Archaeological Solutions Eta unpublished report no. 5404
Summary of fieldwork	In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a
results:	programme of archaeological monitoring and recording associated with
	the excavation of drainage runs at The Grange, 3 Codicote Road,
	Welwyn, Hertfordshire.
	Despite the site's location within an area of archaeological significance
	and the recovery of Romano-British building materials during a trial
	trench evaluation close by, no archaeological features or finds were
	present. The deposits recorded all appeared to be associated with the
	use or construction of the surrounding buildings.
Author of summary:	Date of Summary:
A. A. S. Newton	August 2010

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1 Excavation of drainage trench. View southeast



DP 3
Sample Section 1. View south-west



DP 5 Sample Section 3. View north-east



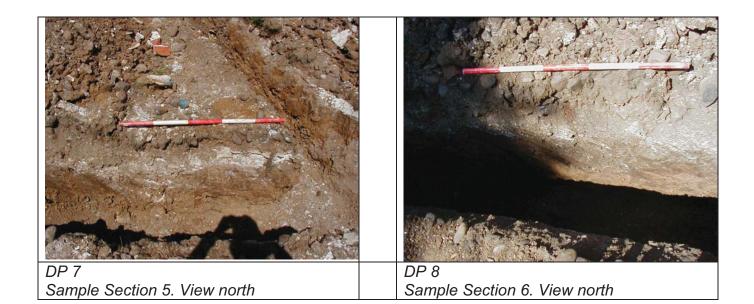
DP 2
General view of area of excavation. View north

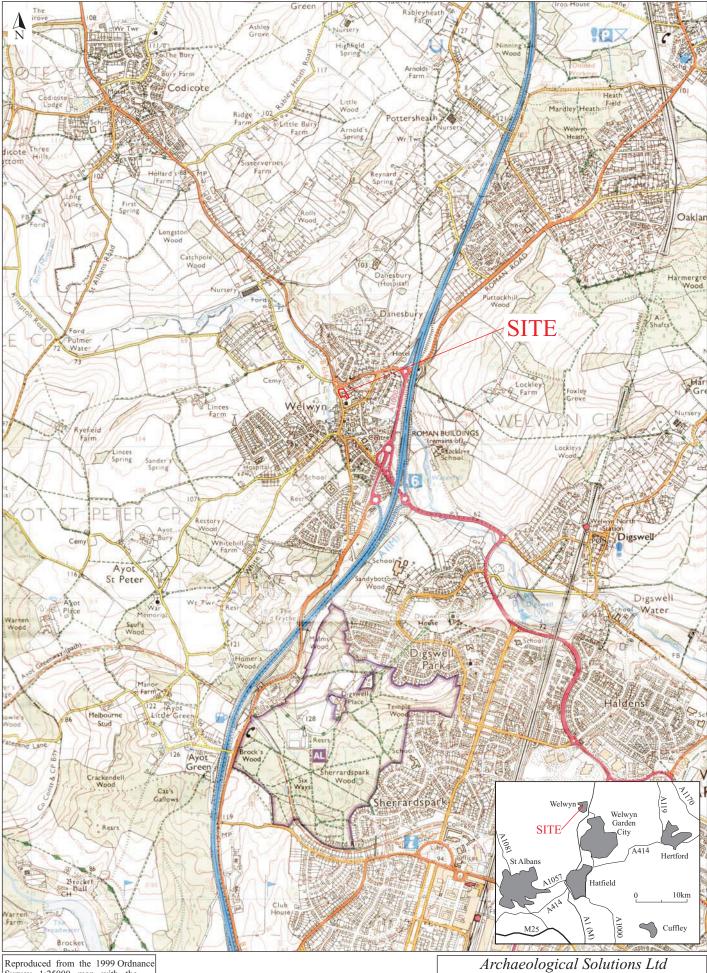


DP 4
Sample Section 2. View north-east



DP 6 Sample Section 4. View south-west

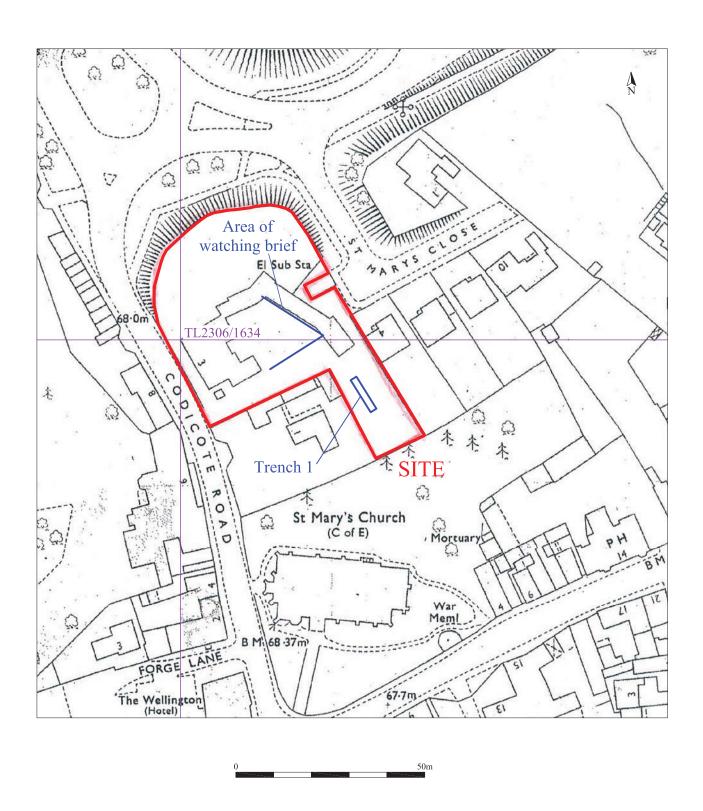




Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Fig. Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Det Scale 1:1000 at A4 Detailed site location

