

# ADAM'S YARD, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD' AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire		
<p>In March 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map &amp; record' and archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 32577 12677). The programme was commissioned by Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of six flats, two houses and an extension to the public library.</p> <p>The site is located within the historic core of the town of Hertford and within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No. 172 as identified on the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. This includes the area of late Saxon defended settlement, the Saxon and medieval town of Hertford and its royal castle.</p> <p>In the event the programme revealed evidence of 19<sup>th</sup>-century occupation: truncation which may have been the remains of a basement of a malt house, a possible malt kiln and the remains of two buildings. It also revealed a late-18<sup>th</sup>- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wall and residual medieval pottery sherds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	3847	Site code	AS 1290
Type of project	Archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' and archaeological monitoring and recording		
Site status	Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 172		
Current land use	Rear yard		
Planned development	Construction of 6 No. flats, 2 No. houses and extension to the public library.		
Main features (+dates)	Late-18 <sup>th</sup> - to mid-19 <sup>th</sup> -century wall, two 19 <sup>th</sup> -century buildings, 19 <sup>th</sup> -century possible malt kiln		
Significant finds (+dates)	Late 12 <sup>th</sup> - to 13 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery (residual)		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Hertford
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 375 m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 32577 12677		
Height AOD (min/max)	38.70/39.00m		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd		
Full title	Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire; An Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map & Record' and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	3537		
Date (of report)	June 2011		

## **ADAM'S YARD, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION VIA 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD' AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In March 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' and archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 32577 12677). The programme was commissioned by Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of six flats, two houses and an extension to the public library.*

*The site is located within the historic core of the town of Hertford and within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No. 172 as identified on the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. This includes the area of late Saxon defended settlement, the Saxon and medieval town of Hertford and its royal castle.*

*In the event, the programme revealed evidence of 19<sup>th</sup>-century occupation: truncation which may have been the remains of a basement of a malt house, a possible malt kiln and the remains of two buildings. It also revealed a late-18<sup>th</sup>- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wall and residual medieval pottery sherds.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' and archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 32577 12677; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme was commissioned by Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of six flats, two houses and an extension to the public library (East Hertfordshire District Planning Ref. 3/10/0090/FP).

1.2 The programme was undertaken in accordance with advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 15/03/10) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (revised 2008), *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 project objectives were:

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 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 The Adam's Yard site is located within the historic core of Hertford, the county town of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). Hertford Castle is situated 120m to the south-west of the site, while the town's market place is located 100m to the south-east.

2.2 The site forms part of Adam's Yard, which runs north-westwards from Maidenhead Street (Fig. 2). Adam's Yard comprises a narrow former tenement plot of land extending from the rear of Maidenhead Street to the southern bank of the River Lea. The site lies towards the centre of Adam's Yard, bound to the north and east by the new library and residential buildings,

and to the west and south by property boundaries. It comprises an area of c.375m<sup>2</sup> and is currently not occupied by any standing structure.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The River Lea runs through the settlement of Hertford and the town lies close to the confluence of the River Lea and four of its tributaries; the Ash, Beane, Rib and Mimram rivers (Fig. 1). The site lies within the floor of the valley of the Lea and only 80m to the south of its current course between Millbridge and Folly Bridge. Situated at approximately 39m AOD, the site has a relatively flat relief, which has been subject to previous development and levelling. The site is thus characterised by its overwhelmingly urban character, in an area dominated by commercial and residential properties.

3.2 Local geological conditions of the site are therefore characterised by floodplains and river terrace gravels, overlying the glaciofluvial drift geology created by glacial and river action (Kiln & Partridge 1994). The soils of the site are dominated by those of the Ludford association, which are described as deep, well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, which are locally flinty and in places overlie gravel (SSEW 1983). It is also noted that such soils of the Ludford association are at slight risk of water erosion. Geotechnical trial pits excavated to the immediate north and east of the site confirmed the presence of alluvium and natural sand/gravel deposits, which were overlain by variable quantities of made ground (Crank, Murray & Prosser 2002).

3.3 An archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken at Dolphin Yard, to the immediate north and east of the site, revealed recent demolition layers and overburden overlying a dark, largely sterile 'abandonment' layer thought to signify a contraction in fortune of the town (Wotherspoon, Prosser & Crank 2002). Underlying the 'abandonment' layer and late Saxon – high medieval deposits lay the natural riverine gravels and alluvial deposits. In contrast, an archaeological evaluation for a footbridge over the River Lea, 60m to the north-west, revealed a layer of peat indicative of a period of regression resulting in the marshy conditions ideal for peat formation, as well as a layer of alluvial silty clay c. 1.19m in depth (Hounsell & Murray 2002).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously prepared for the site (Doyle 2008). In summary:

*The site lies within the historic core of Hertford, within Area of Archaeological Significance No 172 as set out on the Local Plan. This includes the area of late Saxon defended settlement, the Saxon and medieval town of Hertford and its royal castle. The settlement in Hertford since early times has depended on the ease of fording the strategic River Lea. Little evidence of Romano-British settlement has been recovered in Hertford, despite the character of the region as a whole, with a major settlement at Verulamium. Traces of settlement have been discovered in St Andrew's Street (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>*

centuries), Millbridge (including urned cremation dated c. AD40 – 65) and Maidenhead Street.

Hertford was a place of some importance by the later 7<sup>th</sup> century. The Northumbrian historian Bede recorded the convening of two important church synods at Herutford in 673 and Hæthfelth in 675 by Archbishop Theodore (Higham 1994). The River Lea became the dividing boundary between the Danish and West Saxon-controlled areas of England in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. During the subsequent reconquest of the Danelaw by King Edward the Elder (899-925) the nucleus of the modern town may have been founded. At the time two defended burhs were established at the southern and northern approaches to the river crossing in 912 AD and 914 AD. The site of a possible Anglo-Saxon royal manor has been identified at the site of Old Cross, c. 125m north-west of the site. Evidence of an inner moat to a possible Saxon castle has been found at The Wash, but nothing has been found of the mint believed to have existed in Hertford by the 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> centuries. At Millbridge to the immediate north of the site, a waterlogged cess pit and a drainage ditch dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> century have been recorded.

An archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by HAT (now AS) at Dolphin Yard, to the immediate north and east of the site, revealed features of late Saxon – high medieval date. These comprised pits, ditches and postholes of 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century date, typical of those associated with ‘back-yard’ activity. The work at Dolphin Yard suggested a late Saxon – high medieval exploitation of the area, with intensification in the late Saxon – early medieval period and a post-medieval abandonment of the area, which likely incorporated Adam’s Yard (Hounsell & Murray 2002; Wotherspoon, Prosser & Crank 2002).

After the Norman Conquest a motte and bailey fortification was constructed at the western edge of the town. Hertford Castle, located c. 175m south-west of the site, is the only known Scheduled Ancient Monument within the settlement of Hertford and was first documented in 1141. The site was particularly favoured by the king and court in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. By the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Hertford Castle had become strategically redundant. The town lost most of its substance though the economic viability was maintained to some degree. With the construction of the Lea Navigation in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the town was once again made accessible for transportation, and a number of wharves, maltings and small industries grew up as a result.

The site lies within both the conjectured extent of Hertford’s southern burh and its medieval burgages, close to the site of St Nicholas Church and in an area of Hertford once dominated by buildings associated with the malting and brewing industries. A building in the western section of the site, now demolished, comprised a former malthouse and was depicted in the town’s plan of 1881.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The site had already been piled, and deep ground beams for the proposed development excavated, prior the implementation of the programme of archaeological work. Following this, a review meeting was held on site with the client, HCC HEU and AS (15/03/2010). The excavated ground beams revealed a substantial layer of overburden (likely comprising 19<sup>th</sup>-century and more modern demolition material). On this basis, in addition to recording of the excavated ground beam trenches in the southern part of Building Plot A, and detailed monitoring during the remainder of the proposed groundworks in Building Plot B, HCC advised that a small area adjacent to the north of the excavated foundation trenches in Building Plot A should be stripped under close archaeological supervision and subject to a programme of 'strip, map & record' in order to establish the nature and date of the lower deposits, and whether they overlie any earlier stratigraphy/ negative features.

5.2 The project therefore comprised the 'strip, map & sample' investigation of the northern and western parts of the site (the northern part of Building Plot A, and the whole of Building Plot B, respectively), and monitoring and recording of sections of foundation trenches excavated in the southern part of Building Plot A (Fig. 2). The excavation was limited to the depth required by the development (1.60 - 1.75m below existing ground level).

5.3 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

5.4 Monitoring and recording was carried out on the following dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Archaeological works</b>
11/03/10	Recording of previously-excavated foundation trenches in southern part of Building Plot A.
18/03/10	Monitoring of machining/ recording of deposits in northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map and record').
19/03/11	Completed recording foundation trenches in southern part of Building Plot A.
26/03/11	Monitoring of stripping/ recording of deposits in Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record').
28/03/11	Completed recording deposits in Building Plot B.



## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Foundation trenches within southern part of Building Plot A

(Figs. 2 - 4, DPs 1-8)

<i>Southern part of Building Plot A</i> <i>Northern foundation trench, Sample Section 3 (DP 2): East part, NNW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.67m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Modern made ground. Mixed, loose CBM rubble with sand and other redeposited materials.
0.07 – 0.36m	L1020	Dark greyish-yellow, loose sand with CBM fragments.
0.36 – 0.43m	L1021	Layer of compacted CBM fragments mixed with grey clayey silt.
0.43m +	L1011	Dark blackish-grey, compact clayey silt with moderate gravel and occasional CBM fragments.

<i>Southern part of Building Plot A</i> <i>Northern foundation trench, Sample Section 3 (DP 2): West part, NNW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.07 – 0.36m	L1025	Layer of compacted CBM rubble.
0.36 – 0.43m	L1001	Modern layer of yellow, loose, sand with gravel.
0.43m +	L1011	Clayey silt. As above.

<i>Southern part of Building Plot A</i> <i>Southern foundation trench, Sample Section 1 (DP 3): East part, NNW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.10 – 0.22m	M1009	Concrete floor.
0.22 – 0.32m	L1010	Basal layer. Dark yellow sand with CBM fragments.
0.32 – 0.86m	L1011	Clayey silt. As above.
0.86 +	L1012	Natural dark yellow, loose gravel with sand.

<i>Southern part of Building Plot A</i> <i>Southern foundation trench, Sample Section 1 (DP 3): West part, NNW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.07 – 0.36m	L1001	Sand with gravel. As above.
0.36 – 0.43m	L1002	White, compact chalk.
0.43m +	L1011	Clayey silt. As above.

<i>Southern part of Building Plot A</i>		
<i>Western foundation trench, Sample Section 2 (DPs 5-6): Central part, WSW-facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.76m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Modern made ground. As above.
0.30 – 0.36m	L1017	White, compact chalk.
0.36 – 0.60m	L1001	Sand with gravel. As above.
0.60m +	L1011	Clayey silt. As above.

*Description: The foundation trenches in the southern half of Building Plot A revealed remains of a late-18<sup>th</sup>- mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wall (M1028), the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century building (Walls M1003, M1004 and M1026 and Floor M1005) and a modern concrete floor (M1009).*

M1028 was a wall located in the south-eastern part of Building Plot A, visible in the southern foundation trench (DP 4). It was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west and measured 3.10m x 0.40m. The wall was constructed of light red and yellow bricks (220 x 105 x 65mm) bonded with a dark grey mortar with chalk. Four courses of bricks survived, revealing English Garden Wall bond, but it contained only two courses of stretchers between the headers. The wall was located overlying Layer L1011 and was overlain by L1000. M1028 may have dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

M1003 was a wall located in the very south-eastern corner of the site (DP 3; Figs. 3 & 4 Sample Section 1), adjacent to the wall of a new building to the east of the site. It was probably aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was 0.40m high by 0.54m wide. M1003 was constructed of pale red bricks (230 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a light grey mortar with chalk. The wall was located above L1011 and below modern Layer L1000 (0.12m below existing). M1003 was likely part of the same structure as Walls M1004 and M1026 and Floor M1005 (see below).

M1004 was a wall aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and located 4m to the west of M1003 within the southern foundation trench (DP 3; Figs. 3 & 4 Sample Section 1). It was probably the same feature as M1026, located in the northern foundation trench (DP 2; Figs. 3 & 4 Sample Section 3). Wall M1004 (=M1026) was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was located running down the length of the former yard, parallel to M1003, and combined creating the ground-plan of a rectangular structure. M1004 (=M1026) was constructed from the same materials as M1003 and measured 10+ x 0.60 x 0.54m.

M1005 (2.30 x 0.25m) was identified within the southern foundation trench and was located in the area in between Walls M1003 and M1004 (=M1026) (Fig.4 Sample Section 1). It was probably a floor surface associated with these walls. The floor was adjacent to M1004. It was constructed of two courses of red bricks (230 x 110 x 70mm), with some single bricks below the lower course. The bricks were bonded with a mid grey mortar.

The entire structure, comprising Walls M1003 and M1004 (=M1026) and Floor M1005, may date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century based on the brickwork. It survived just below Made Ground L1000, and likely lay just below the former yard surface which was removed prior to the current development.

A modern concrete slab or floor (M1009) was located next to Wall M1003 (DP 3; Fig.4 Sample Section 1). The floor was composed of a dark grey concrete and measured 1.20 x 0.10m. It may represent an alteration to the floor of the conjectured building.

### **Building Plot B: area of 'strip, map & sample'**

(Figs. 2 - 4; DPs 13-18)

<i>Building Plot B</i> <i>Sample Section 6 (DPs 14-15): East side, WSW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.78m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.90m	L1053	Modern made ground. Light brown, compact, silty sand with CBM fragments.
0.90 – 1.50m	L1052	Dark blackish-grey, compact clayey silt.
1.50m +	L1051	Natural dark-yellow, loose gravel with sand.

<i>Building Plot B</i> <i>Sample Section 7 (DP 16): West side, northern part, ENE-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1053	Modern made ground. Mixed grey and yellow sand and CBM rubble.
0.10 – 0.55m	L1054	Yellowish-brown, loose sand.
0.55 – 0.92m	L1055	Dark grey, compact, silty clay with CBM fragments.
0.92 – 1.50m	L1056	Mid brown, compact sand.
1.50m +	L1057	Dark grey, compact sandy silt.

<i>Building Plot B</i> <i>Sample Section 5 (DP 17): West side, southern part, ENE-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1043	Modern made ground. Yellowish-grey, loose sand with CBM rubble.
0.20 – 0.60m	L1044	Dark grey, compact sandy silt.
0.60 – 1.00m	L1045	Yellowish- and greyish-brown, compact silty sand.
1.00 – 1.62m	L1046	Mid to dark grey, compact clayey silt.
1.62m +	L1047	Creamy white, compact chalk.

<i>Building Plot B</i> <i>Sample Section 4 (DP 18): South side, NNW-facing</i> <i>0.00 = 38.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 1.00m	L1030	Made ground. Yellowish-brown, sandy silt.

1.00 – 1.42m	L1035	Mid brown, compact silty clay with frequent CBM fragments.
1.42m+	L1039	Dark blackish-grey, compact sandy silt.

*Description: The ‘strip, map & sample’ investigation of Building Plot B revealed the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century building (Walls M1032 and M1036)*

M1032 was an existing wall of the yard outbuildings which had been partially-demolished during the development (Figs. 3 & 4 Sample Section 4). It was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, running perpendicular to Maidenhead Street, in the central part of the overall development site. It was part of the same structure as Wall M1036 (DP 17), which ran parallel to it 5.4m to the south-west, and also had its continuation in the extant building to the south of the site. The walls were both 0.60m wide and reached 1.25m below existing ground level. Both walls were constructed of pale red bricks (230 x 110 x 70mm) bonded with a light grey mortar with chalk. Both the walls had been heavily-truncated during the current development but were clearly part of the same structure aligned down the length of the former yard.

**Northern part of Building Plot A: area of ‘strip, map and sample’**  
(Fig. 3; DPs 9 - 12)

*Description: The ‘strip, map and sample’ investigation in the northern part of Building Plot A revealed a possible 19<sup>th</sup>-century malt kiln (M1061). Residual medieval pottery sherds were recovered from Layer L1027.*

M1061 was a masonry structure which may have been a malt kiln (DP 11). It was located on the west side of the stripped area in the northern part of Building Plot A (Fig. 3). M1061 had been heavily-truncated during previous groundworks on the site and the surviving structure was less than 50% complete. It collapsed shortly after it had been revealed. M1061 was constructed on a circular plan, had a pyramid-shaped roof and measured 1.50m tall by 0.70m wide. It was made of red bricks (210 x 105 x 65mm) bonded with a light grey mortar with chalk. It was situated on a solid concrete base, M1062 (c. 0.30m deep), located on top of the natural gravel (L1012)

Within the stripped northern part of Building Plot A, below modern Made Ground L1030, was a layer of dark brownish-grey, compact, clayey silt (L1027). It was an irregular deposit located above the natural gravel (L1012) and Gravel Layer L1060, at c.1.00m below existing ground level. L1027 produced two sherds of late-12<sup>th</sup>- to 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, comprising a single sherd in a shelly fabric similar to St Neots ware and a South Hertfordshire Grey Ware jar rim (Thompson, Appendix 2). Given the level of truncation on the site and the lack of archaeological features, the potsherds are likely to be residual.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds, excepting that the site had been piled before the investigation commenced.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern deposits related to the current groundworks and recent demolition. The deposits were c. 0.15 – 0.30m deep and were predominantly comprised of CBM rubble. The site had been affected by significant truncation in the modern period and this was reflected in the presence of substantial deposits of made ground, for example L1053, and several layers containing building materials. The earliest deposits located above the natural geology, L1011 and L1046, were also of early modern/ modern date and comprised dark grey, compact, clayey silt with gravel and were c. 0.60m thick.

8.2 The natural deposits were present at 0.80 – 1.50m below existing ground level (depending on the level of truncation), and comprised a dark yellow, loose, gravel with sand (L1012) and mid to dark, loose, sand (L1051). Within the north-eastern part of the site, at the level of the natural geology, a white, compact chalk, L1029, was present. It was likely related to truncation rather than being a natural deposit. Within the northern and central parts of the site, the natural gravel and chalk were contaminated, resulting in a dark bluish-grey colouring of the deposits (DPs 9-10).

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It lies within the historic core of the town of Hertford and within Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No. 172 as identified in the East Hertfordshire Local Plan. This includes the area of the late Saxon defended settlement at Hertford, the Saxon and medieval town and its royal castle. The site also had potential for post-medieval remains.

9.2 The late-12<sup>th</sup>- to 13<sup>th</sup>-century 'high' medieval sherds recovered from L1027 may be residual as the deposit was located within the area of significant modern truncation. The finds correspond with those recovered during the excavations to the immediate north and east of the site. The layers L1011 and L1046 may correspond with an 'abandonment' layer revealed at Dolphin Yard (Hounsell & Murray 2002; Wotherspoon, Prosser & Crank 2002).

9.3 The project revealed evidence of 19<sup>th</sup>-century occupation of the site, with the earliest feature, Wall M1028, dating to late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The function of the wall remains unknown. Two later buildings located alongside each other and within the yard were also recorded. The building

located within Building Plot B (Walls M1032 and M1036) corresponds with a building depicted on the 1838 OS map. The building was later rebuilt and was recently demolished prior to the current development.

9.4 The remains of the second building present on the site were revealed within the southern part of Building Plot A. The building was composed of Walls M1003 and M1004 (=M1026) and probably Floor M1005. The structure is shown on cartographic sources dating between 1881 and 1928.

9.5 The north-eastern part of the site was probably affected by the construction of a basement or similar structure. No masonry remains of that possible structure were identified; however, that part of the site contained an area of deep truncation of roughly rectangular shape. The layer of chalk, L1029, may have been the floor of the basement. The latter may have served the neighbouring malt house located at Dolphin Yard. A possible malt kiln (M1061) recorded within the north-eastern part of the site was probably a part of this local malting industry. The function of the possible kiln is uncertain as it had relatively small dimensions and it could not be properly examined due to its collapse. Malt houses are widely recorded in the area and were an important part of Hertford's post-medieval/ early modern economy.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Matthew Nash of Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd for funding the project and for his assistance, and DPK Design (in particular Mr Darren Pedder) for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance, input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER	NGR TL	Description
<b>Prehistoric (to AD 43)</b>		
4106	3250 1255	Iron Age bronze stater found in Hertford
<b>Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)</b>		
1400	3256 1261	Roman pottery sherds from Maidenhead Street
9881	3245 1263	Roman occupation at Millbridge comprising a circular enclosure and an urned cremation dated c. AD40 - 65
<b>Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)</b>		
2121	325 128	Early Viking iron sword found when the River Lea was being dredged guard and through to be 10 <sup>th</sup> century in date
6428	3272 1266	Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence on Market Street comprising a late Saxon building, a shaft furnace & 28 pits and several ovens, dated to 900 - 1200 AD
6528	3257 1259	Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation at the Green Dragon Hotel on Parliament Square
9828	3266 1261	Southern Anglo-Saxon burh
9830	3239 1270	Northern Anglo-Saxon burh
9832	3272 1271	Ditch, possibly eastern defences of southern interpreted as part of the eastern defences of the 10 <sup>th</sup> century southern burh
9885	3246 1264	Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation evidence at Millbridge including a waterlogged cess pit and a drainage ditch dating to the 10 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> century
9886	3274 1270	Late Saxon and medieval occupation on Railway Street comprising the foundations for the north and west walls of two buildings
9897	3245 1274	Site of possible Anglo-Saxon royal manor
12038	3257 1271	Late Saxon and medieval features at Dolphin Yard consisted of pits, ditches and post holes dated to 10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
12141	3254 1256	Possible remains of Hertford castle inner moat at The Wash
<b>Medieval (AD 1066 - 1500)</b>		
2	325- 125-	Medieval and later town of Hertford built in 912 – 13 by King Edward the Elder as two defended settlements or 'burhs'
77	3250 1249	Medieval castle at Hertford first documented in 1141
1402	3275 1271	Saxon and medieval pottery sherds from the Turks Head inn
2987	3245 1268	Site of medieval market cross, which appears to have been pulled down in c. 1610
2998	3246 1269	Site of medieval St Mary the Less church first documented in 1218, when the vicar was John de Aiete
2999	3284 1286	Site of medieval St John's church
4000	3256 1263	Approximate site of medieval St Nicholas' church first documented in 1269

4003	3275 1262	Approximate site of a gaol in Hertford dating to the late 12 <sup>th</sup> century
6426	3269 1273	Medieval occupation evidence at Bircherley Green dating from the 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
6427	3272 1271	Medieval occupation evidence from Railway Street dating from the 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century
6526	3251 1260	Medieval castle inner ditch revealed at Hertford Civic Hall
6527	3258 1254	Medieval occupation revealed at Parliament Square
9479	327 128	Original site of Dicker Mill established by at least the late 12 <sup>th</sup> century and possibly connected with the Benedictine priory of St Mary Monk
9808	3266 1256	Medieval building forming Salisbury Arms, Fore Street
9814	3249 1270	Former medieval cross-wing house at Old Cross
9831	3250 1268	Medieval and post-medieval borough Hertford is recorded as a Royal Borough in the Domesday Book
9834	3262 1252	Probable former medieval cross-wing building at Parliament Square dating from the late 15 <sup>th</sup> century
9835	3240 1269	Medieval occupation on St Andrew's Street comprising several post-holes and pits
9836	3243 1265	Medieval building in St Andrew's Street, which may represent the remains of a 15 <sup>th</sup> century open hall house
9838	3239 1261	Medieval occupation evidence on St Andrew's Street
9840	3242 1264	Late-medieval timber-framed building on St Andrew's Street
9842	3238 1263	Late-medieval timber-framed building on St Andrew's Street
9845	3262 1267	Possible former medieval open hall house on Bull Plain
9862	3236 1262	Late medieval timber-framed building on St Andrew's Street
9888	3263 1259	Medieval occupation evidence on Honey Lane
9891	2616 2665	Evidence of late medieval occupation on Bull Plain including four cess pits dating to the 14 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> century
9892	3265 1259	Site of medieval cemetery on the Market Place
9896	3266 1271	Evidence of medieval and post-medieval cultivation, to the rear of Bull Plain
12047	3252 1269	Two lines of wooden revetments found with quantities of animal bone, oyster shell and pottery dating to the 12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> centuries at Barber's Yard
13054	32437 12490	Bridge over the River Lea giving access from gatehouse to St Andrew's church
13479	32670 12748	Green Street is known to have been occupied previously by a row of terraced houses and revealed evidence of a brick-walled cellar
<b>Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1750)</b>		
2990	3281 1270	Friends' meeting house on Railway Street, which dates to 1670
4008	3268 1246	Probable manorial site at Bayley Hall was referred to as a manor house in 1621, yet the present house was built c. 1700
4884	3270 1255	Probable 16 <sup>th</sup> century well in Church Street
5202	3259 1274	Road bridge at Folly at the north end of Bull Plain, which until 1738 was a footbridge only
6529	3258 1260	16 <sup>th</sup> century occupation evidence on Maidenhead Street
9803	3260 1274	Former 15 <sup>th</sup> century hall house, Lombard House, on Bull Plain
9807	3269 1250	Former 15 <sup>th</sup> century open hall house on Church Street
9846	3262 1247	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house on Castle Street
9848	3260 1247	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building on Castle Street

9849	3262 1248	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building on Castle Street and Parliament Square
9851	3270 1253	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> - early 17 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed building on Church Street
9853	3272 1250	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house on Church Street, the east wing of which was built in 1812 as 'The Green Coat School'
9854	3268 1256	Site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Swan Inn, Fore Street
9855	3264 1261	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed and jettied building on Market Place
9856	3269 1260	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building at Market Place
9857	3247 1267	16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building at Old Cross
9858	3247 1267	Early 16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed house at Old Cross
9860	3248 1268	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building at Old Cross
9861	3240 1265	Possible former hall house and 16 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building on St Andrew's Street
9865	3255 1261	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> century possible former cross-wing house on The Wash
9866	3255 1262	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> – early 17 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed and plastered houses at The Wash
9889	3264 1259	Post-medieval buildings and occupation on Honey Lane built following a period of disuse from the 14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> century
9916	3261 1250	17 <sup>th</sup> century building of Firkin Public House on Parliament Square
9917	3269 1261	17 <sup>th</sup> century White Hart Inn on Salisbury Square
9945	3257 1259	Former 17 <sup>th</sup> century Green Dragon Hotel mentioned in the 1621 borough survey
10005	3262 1261	Site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Rose Inn/Old Coffee House on Maidenhead Street
10008	3244 1270	Site of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century Ship Inn Public House
10009	3277 1260	Site of the Chequer Inn/Talbot Arms mentioned in the 1621 borough survey
10010	3276 1262	The Cross Keys Inn on Fore Street was listed in 1756 as having beds for 6 men and stabling for 40 horses
10011	3264 1258	Site of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century King's/Queen's Arms on the Market Place
10013	3259 1262	Site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Maidenhead Inn on Maidenhead Street
10064	3249 1266	Site of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century Woolpack Public House on Mill Bridge
10067	3275 1259	Site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Red Lion Inn on Fore Street
10068	3273 1258	Approximate site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Falcon Inn on Fore Street
10069	3272 1258	Approximate site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Angel Inn
10121	3277 1270	Approximate site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Bridewell/borough gaol on Railway Street
10135	3262 1263	Site of the Glove & Dolphin Inn on Maidenhead Street mentioned in the 1621 borough survey
12039	3262 1280	Small structure called 'Brays Folly' on Folly Island was first documented in a 1732 lease
12335	3237 1277	Timber-framed bakery, on Cowbridge demolished in a redevelopment of the Cowbridge area after the opening of the railway station in 1858
12871	3238 1280	Human leg bones uncovered to the rear of 14 Cowbridge relating to the Nonconformist church
13056	32597 12530	t Parliament Square was formed in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century when a row of 17 <sup>th</sup> century cottages was demolished

13084	32650 12577	17 <sup>th</sup> century tenement block along Fore Street and Market Place
13163	32408 12595	Two linear features, possible boundaries, and post-medieval made ground on riverbank at St Andrew's Street
13298	32495 12733	Old Cross House is an 18 <sup>th</sup> century red brick house
13299	32343 12640	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century houses on St Andrew's Street used in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century as offices of Simson Pimm envelope factory
13551	32622 12462	Apparently 18 <sup>th</sup> century brick house on Castle Street, which was extended in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Early modern (AD 1750 – 1900)</b>		
5373	3263 1275	Site of former malting on Green Street
5374	3258 1266	Former malting behind Bull Plain not clearly identifiable on the 1847 tithe map
5375	3255 1282	Site of malting at McMullen's Brewery
5376	3253 1274	Former malting at Old Cross
5381	3275 1273	Former malting on Railway Street/Bircheley Street said to have been used as barracks in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
5382	3244 1263	Former malting on St Andrew's Street
5444	3246 1284	Hertford Brewery on Hartham Lane comprises a large block of red brick buildings built by McMullen in 1891
5790	3250 1262	Site of town mill on Mill Bridge dates to 1871
7250	3251 1265	Mill Bridge built with stone piers, concrete girder with stone balustrade parapet
9784	3253 1280	Site of former maltings on Hartham Lane
9785	3253 1281	Site of former maltings on Hartham Lane
9789	3258 1278	Iron and brass foundry on Folly Island, which was operated by the Isaac family from c. 1840 into the 20 <sup>th</sup> century
9918	3267 1259	18 <sup>th</sup> century building of Shire Hall on Fore Street constructed between 1769 and 1771 by James Adam
9929	3275 1262	The Corn Exchange and public hall on Fore Street were built in 1857 - 59 on the site of the old Butchers' market
9930	3237 1276	18 <sup>th</sup> century United Reformed Church site dates from 1862
9933	3254 1266	19 <sup>th</sup> century Seed Warehouse
10004	3270 1257	19 <sup>th</sup> century building, former site of Turk's Head Inn or Coffee House on Fore Street
10019	3263 1279	Site of clay pipe factory, The Barge on Folly Island known to have existed in 1846
10021	3253 1270	Site of 19 <sup>th</sup> century wharf off Nicholas Lane on Old Cross
10063	3255 1252	Site of 18 <sup>th</sup> century bell foundry on Parliament Square
11408	3271 1253	Remains of a brick built cellar between Church Street and Bell Lane
11430	3260 1256	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - early 19 <sup>th</sup> century shop with dwelling above at Parliament Square
11788	3271 1253	A soakaway containing 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery found at Church Street
12706	3277 1267	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century and later urban outbuildings at 32 - 36 Railway Street building
13121	32780 12597	The Fore Street Post Office was designed in 1890 by H Johnson, for the Hertford Poors Estate charity
13168	32635 12450	Former police station, built 1881, on Queen's Road
13287	32378 12799	14 Cowbridge dates to c. 1860 – 70 and was built to advertise its owner's skills

<b>Modern (AD 1901 - present)</b>		
5654	3255 1292	The 1902 waterworks pumping station on Hartham Lane stands on the site of the 1708 waterworks and malt and corn mills
<b>Undated</b>		
10003	3264 1258	Undated inhumation burials from a cellar in Market Place possible associated with burials from the nearby Saxon cemetery
11782	3254 1268	Channel or leat revetted with wooden planks and square timber uprights found at Maidenhead Yard
12794	3260 1286	Two trenches on the west side of Folly Island found deep alluvial sediments suggesting a riverbank environment (
12841	3263 1247	Made ground, over natural glacial sands and gravels recovered at 17 Castle Street

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

### The Pottery

*by Peter Thompson*

The investigation recovered two slightly abraded sherds weighing 55g. One thick-walled body sherd with internal girth grooves, weighing 32g, is in a shelly fabric similar to St Neots-type ware, and can be classed as a 'Developed' type. The second sherd, weighing 23g, is a South Hertfordshire Grey ware jar rim. The combination of sherds would suit a late-12<sup>th</sup>- to 13<sup>th</sup>-century date.

## APPENDIX 3 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	63
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	4
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	64

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Hertford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Hertfordshire District Planning Ref. 3/10/0090/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of 6 No. flats, 2 No. houses and extension to the public library.
<b>Present land use:</b>	Rear yard
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.375m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 375m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 32577 12677
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1290
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological investigation via 'strip, map & record' and archaeological monitoring and recording
<b>Dates of work:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2010: Recording of foundation trenches in southern part of Building Plot A 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2010: Monitoring of machining/ recording of deposits in northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map and record'). 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010: Completed recording foundation trenches in southern part of Building Plot A. 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2010: Monitoring of stripping/ recording of deposits in Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'). 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2010: Completed recording deposits in Building Plot B.
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Late 12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> century, 19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<i>In March 2010, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological investigation via 'strip, map &amp; record' and archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Adam's Yard, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 32577 12677). The programme was commissioned by Atlantic (Hertford) Ltd, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of six flats, two houses and an extension to the public library.</i>  <i>The programme revealed evidence of 19<sup>th</sup>-century occupation: truncation which may have been the remains of a basement of a malt house, a possible malt kiln and the remains of two buildings. It also revealed a late-18<sup>th</sup>- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century wall and residual medieval pottery sherds.</i>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> April 2010



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Adam's Yard, Hertford. View SSE from north end of site.



DP 2. Southern part of Building Plot A, northern foundation trench (Sample Section 3). View SSE.



DP 3. Southern part of Building Plot A, southern foundation trench (Sample Section 1). View SE.



DP 4. Southern part of Building Plot A, southern foundation trench. Wall M1028. View NE.



DP 5. Southern part of Building Plot A, western foundation trench (southern part) (Sample Section 2). View SE.



DP 6. Southern part of Building Plot A, western foundation trench (southern part) (Sample Section 2). View ENE.



DP 7. Southern part of Building Plot A, south central foundation trench. View ENE.



DP 8. Southern part of Building Plot A, eastern foundation trench. View NNW.



DP 9. Northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map & record'). View NNE.



DP 10. Northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map & record'). View SE.



DP 11. Northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map and record'), west side. Remains of possible Malt Kiln M1061. View W.



DP 12. Northern part of Building Plot A (area of 'strip, map and record'), north side. View NNW.





DP 13. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'). View N from south end.



DP 14. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'), south-west-facing section (Sample Section 6), northern part. View ENE.



DP 15. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'), south-west-facing section (Sample Section 6), southern part. View ENE.



DP 16. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'), north-east-facing section (Sample Section 7), northern part. View WSW.



DP 17. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'), north-east-facing section (Sample Section 5), southern part. View WSW.



DP 18. Building Plot B (area of 'strip, map and record'), north-west-facing section (Sample Section 4). View SSE.





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**Fig. 1 Site Location Plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



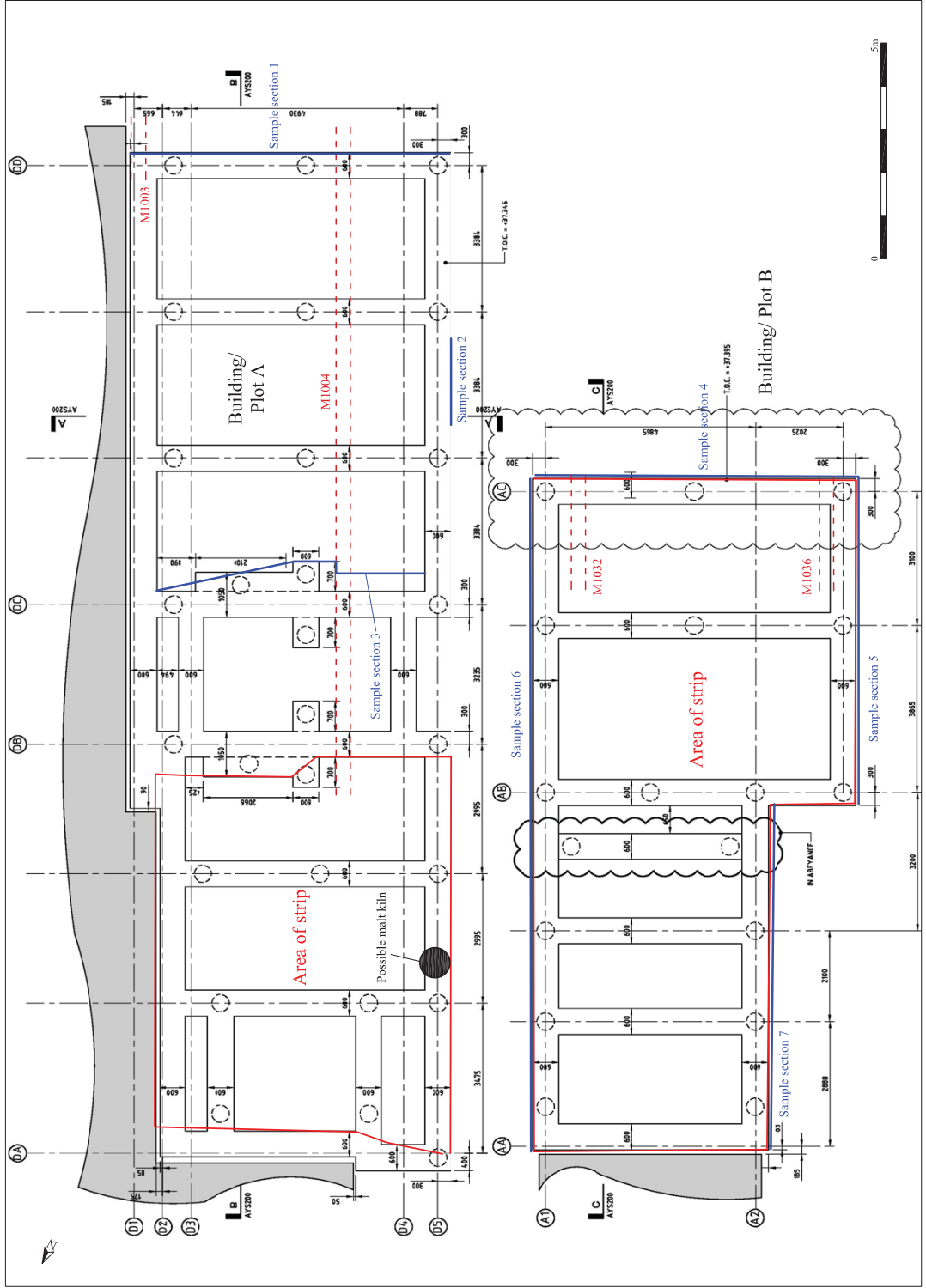


TL3260/1270

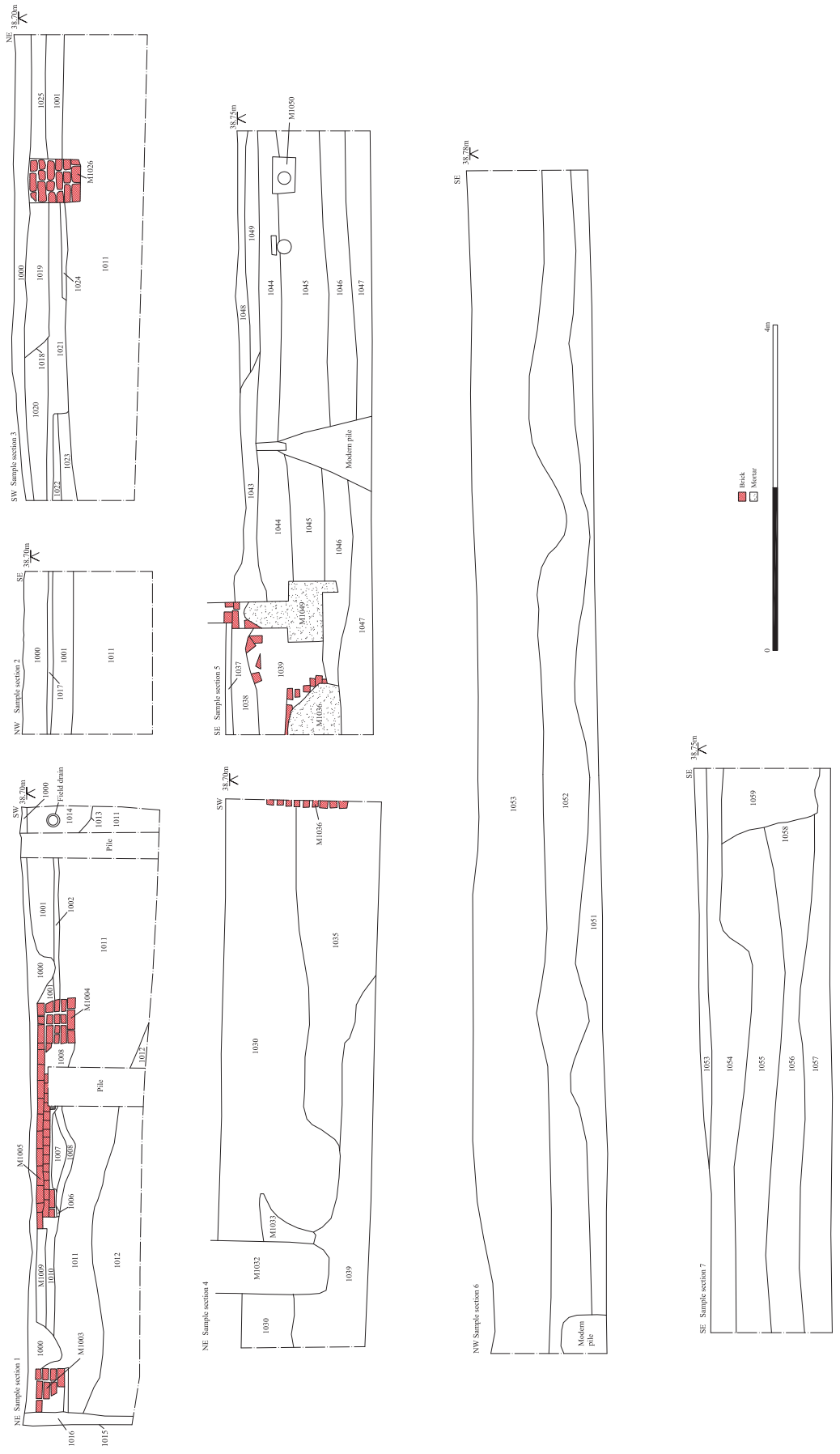
SITE

0 50m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location</b>
Scale: 1: 1000 at A4

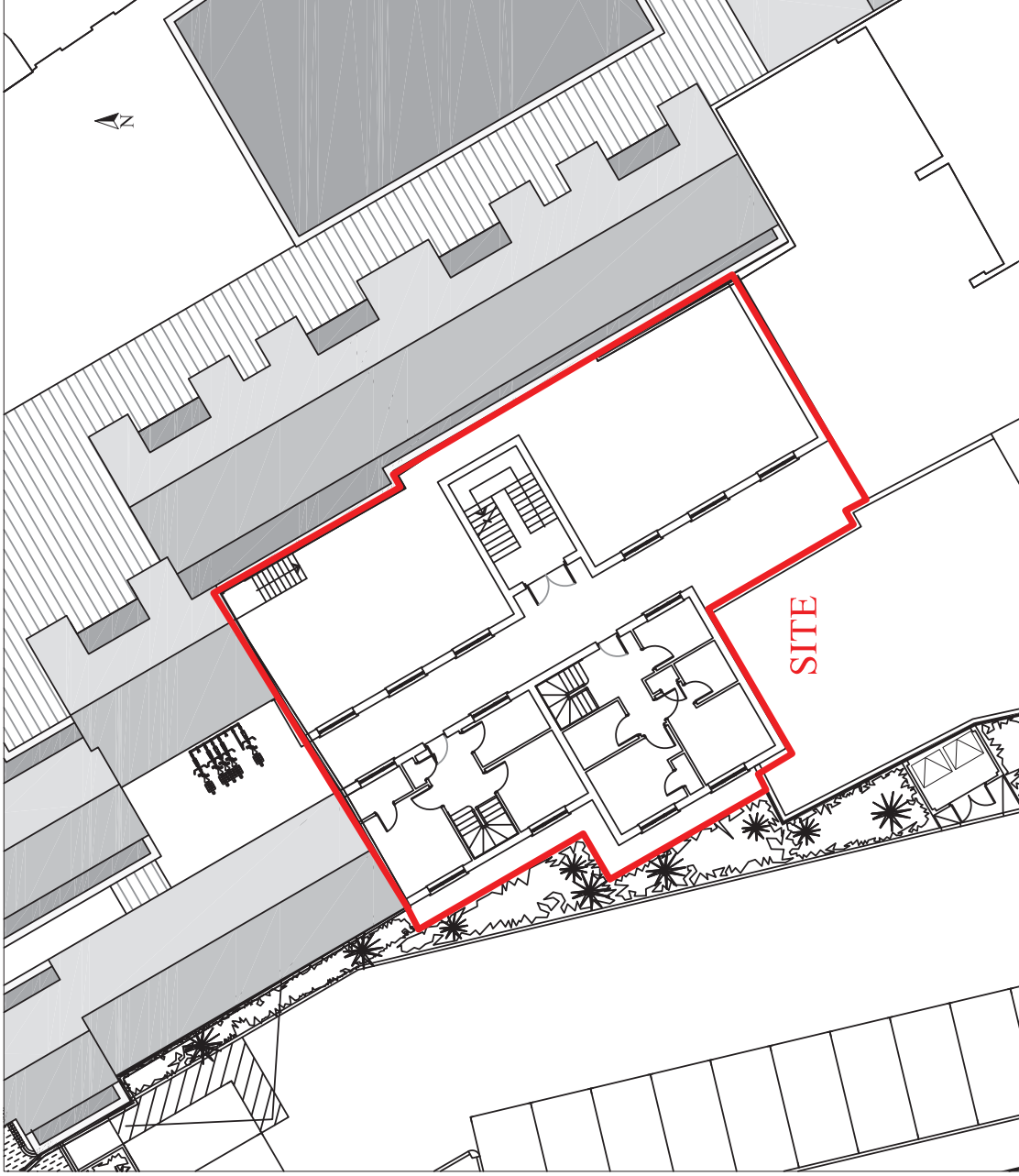


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**Fig. 3 Area of watching brief**  
 Scale 1:100 at A3



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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:50 at A3





0 15m

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**Fig. 5 Proposed development plan**

Scale 1:250 at A4