
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**8 EARNING STREET, GODMANCHESTER,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

CHER No. 3529

Authors:	Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork & report) Peter Thompson MA (Research)	
NGR: TL 2480 7026		Report No: 3746
District: Huntingdonshire		Site Code: AS 1385
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA		Project No: P4055
Signed:		Date: February 2011

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire		
<p>In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring & recording at 8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2480 7026). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the side of an existing building (CCC CAPCA 1000331FUL).</p> <p>The site is immediately south of the Roman town of Duroviguto (CHER 00857) and 180m north of a roadside settlement (CHER 01453A). Ermine Street ran within 50m to the west (CHER 01543b) along which Roman inhumations were interred (CHER 10376). Next door to the site at Number 6, Roman strata was identified at the level of the building foundations (CB15608,) and other Roman finds have been made within approximately 100m (CHER 01541, 01544, 02633, 05561, CB14808). The medieval town ditch re-cut from the Saxo-Norman period is some 50m north of the site (CHER 02631) and a blacksmiths was located approximately 80m to the west (CHER 02650).</p> <p>The monitoring revealed both Roman and post-medieval finds. An unexcavated feature, present below the level of construction, contained a fragment of Gaulish amphorae, suggesting the presence of undisturbed Roman features at a depth of c.1.1m.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	3 Feb 2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	4055	Site code	AS1385
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Garden		
Planned development	Rear extension to existing domestic dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	Roman feature		
Significant finds (+dates)	Roman pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire	Godmanchester
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire HER (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.21m ²		
NGR	TL 2480 7026		
Height AOD (max/ min)	10.5m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council CAPCA (Daniel McConnell)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	A Dyson		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Oldwood		
Full title	8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Authors	Dyson, A. & Thompson P.		
Report no.	3746		
Date (of report)	February 2011		

8 EARNING STREET, GODMANCHESTER, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2480 7026). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the side of an existing building (CCC CAPCA 1000331FUL).

The site is immediately south of the Roman town of Duroviguto (CHER 00857) and 180m north of a roadside settlement (CHER 01453A). Ermine Street ran within 50m to the west (CHER 01543b) along which Roman inhumations were interred (CHER 10376). Next door to the site at Number 6, Roman strata was identified at the level of the building foundations (CB15608,) and other Roman finds have been made within approximately 100m (CHER 01541, 01544, 02633, 05561, CB14808). The medieval town ditch re-cut from the Saxo-Norman period is some 50m north of the site (CHER 02631) and a blacksmiths was located approximately 80m to the west (CHER 02650).

The monitoring revealed Roman and post-medieval finds. An unexcavated cut feature, below the construction level, contained a fragment of Gaulish amphorae, suggesting the presence of undisturbed Roman features at a depth of c.1.1m.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2011 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 8 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2480 7026; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for an extension to the side of the existing dwelling (Planning Ref. 1000331FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, Cambridgeshire County Council (CAPCA) (dated 05/05/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 27/08/2010).

1.3 The site lies within the historic core of Godmanchester and close to the route of a major Roman Road. The monitoring aimed to identify and record any archaeological remains or ground disturbance encountered during the construction works.

Planning policy context

1.4 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 (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 Godmanchester is located 2km south of Huntingdon and is divided from it by the River Great Ouse. The site is in the rear (south) garden of a house fronting Earning Street (north). There are houses and gardens on either side with an open tarmac/concrete yard to the south which is accessed from London Road to the west.

3 METHODOLOGY (DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT)

3.1 Archaeological databases

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) database was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by, or relate to, the development.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 Godmanchester spreads across the first and second terrace gravels of the river with alluvium deposited in the flood plain (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003). The site is at 10.5m AOD on the river terrace south of the Great Ouse. The soil of the immediate area is brown loam over clayey soil with Oxford Clay underlying all of the above.

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 Prehistoric finds ranging between the Mesolithic and the Iron Age have been made in the area. In particular Neolithic occupation is known from

the gravel terraces of the River Great Ouse at Rectory Farm 1km to the east of Godmanchester, which includes a large 'horned' enclosure and associated cursus (Gibson and Murray, 2003). Bronze Age ring ditches were also located here. Iron Age roundhouses have been excavated beneath Roman Godmanchester and at the Roman settlement to the east (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003). Undated ring ditches were identified adjacent to Ermine Street through geophysical survey (CHER MCB 17522), and Neolithic to Bronze Age features and flints were found 300m to the south of the site (CHER 11241c). Iron Age pottery was also recovered during excavations at New Street some 100m to the north (CHER 08947A).

4.2.2 The Roman settlement of Godmanchester, the *Duroviguto* (CHER 00857) of the 7th century Ravenna Cosmograph, developed on a gravel spur to the south of the ford where the stretch of Ermine Street to Royston crossed the river Ouse (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003). The Roman town has military origins with two short-lived forts and was also located where Ermine Street (CHER CB15034 & 01543b, Thompson et al 2011) and the Via Devana between Colchester and Chester join, whilst a third military road led to Sandy (CHER 04458). A Roman villa site is located at Cow Lane/Rectory Farm to the east of Godmanchester (CHER MCB18473).

4.2.3 Excavations at Godmanchester have identified buildings mainly indicating agricultural connections, and a baker's and a metalworker's workshops were found (Kirby and Oosterhuizen 2000). In the second century a *mansio*, aisled barn and a temple were built and pottery kilns have been located to the north of the town (Kirby and Oosterhuizen 2000). In the third century a basilica and an arcaded market place were added and the walls were begun. Inhumation cemeteries were established outside the town walls to the north and south close to Ermine Street, including thirteen burials excavated 120m to the west of the site (CHER 10376). By the late 4th century settlement retracted, with buildings such as the *mansio* and basilica demolished, and a build up of rubbish shows that there was less traffic along Ermine Street (Kirby and Oosterhuizen 2000 and Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003). The town was probably abandoned at some point in the 5th century.

4.2.4 At 6 Earning Street, next door to the site, excavation found preserved Roman strata including animal bone, oyster shell and pottery at the level of the building foundations (CHER CB15608). Belgic and Roman pottery was found a little further west at 14 London Street (CHER 05561). A timber framed building was excavated at 5 New Street some 100m to the north (CHER 01541) and Roman rubbish pits were located at 20-28 London Road (CHER CB14808). A roadside settlement was situated along Ermine Street beginning some 180m south of the South Gate, where 2nd century wine amphora was produced (CHER CB15619, 01453a & 02633).

Anglo-Saxon 410-1066

4.2.5 At the Unigate site approximately 100m north-east of the site late 4th-5th century boundary fences and late Roman pottery and coins were found. An

Anglo-Saxon *grubenhauser* and wattle-lined well were also excavated (CHER 01544). EARLY Saxon occupation was also found near the mansion over 300m to the north (CHER 01536). At the Cardinal Distribution Park site more *grubenhauser*, ditched enclosures, field systems and droeways were identified (Gibson and Murray 2003, 156). Likewise, after the Rectory Farm Roman villa fell out of use an Early Saxon cemetery appeared, which was probably the burial site for a *grubenhauser* settlement identified along the river terraces (Gibson and Murray 2003).

4.2.6 In the 9th century Godmanchester was subjected to attacks by the Danes occupying Huntingdon and in 879 became part of Guthrum's East Anglian kingdom. It was recaptured by Edward the Elder in 917, and may have formed a double burgh with Huntingdon to guard Danish encroachment along the river. Late Saxon remains have also been found in Godmanchester including remains of buildings around the Roman *mansio* site, and a Saxo-Norman defensive ditch (below) re-cut into the Roman one (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003).

Medieval 1066-1539

4.2.7 Godmanchester is recorded in the Domesday survey as *Godmundcestre* which may derive from Guthrums fort, the fort element coming from *caster* for Roman fort (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003). At this time the population is estimated at around 450. The medieval town was built over the Roman one, and in 1212 it was granted a charter by King John whilst in 1279 there were 500 tenements. The tenants of Godmanchester were accepted as freemen who enjoyed some privileges, including exemption from toll and the right to hold court. By c.1300, the manor at Godmanchester was three times that paid to William the Conqueror and comprised some 2500 acres of land, 85 acres of pasture, 378 messuages and 199 crofts. In addition, there were headlands, river meadows, one smithy and one place for 'manufacture' (Godmanchester Urban Survey 2003).

4.2.8 Ermine Street continued in use until the medieval period (CHER 01543b) and a medieval black smith's was excavated approximately 80m west of the site (CHER 02650). The 10th-12th century medieval town ditch re-cut in the 14th century is located some 50m to the north at the The Gables (CHER 02631), whilst at 21 Earning Street, some 200m to the north, a Roman and a medieval ditch were found (CHER 11977). Medieval agricultural features and post-medieval pits were identified 100m away at 5 New Street (CHER 01541a).

5 METHODOLOGY (MONITORING & RECORDING)

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all ground works, inspection of subsoil, make-up layers, and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The groundworks comprised the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension, and were undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator. The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of between 1.10m and 1.50m with a width of 0.45m. The excavation was carried out to the depth of the natural clay silt and not beyond.

6.2 The stratigraphy along the entire length of the trench was recorded (Fig.3), and the results of which are tabulated below.

<i>Sample section (DP2)</i> <i>West-southwest end of trench, North-northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 10.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Gravel over pale grey concrete.
0.29 – 1.08m	L1001	Silt Layer. Compact, dark greenish grey silt with frequent small stones.
1.08 – 1.50m	L1002	Silt Layer. Compact, very dark grey silt with frequent small stones.
1.50m+	L1003	Natural deposit. Compact, pale orange yellow clay silt.

6.3 Silt layer L1001 contained both post-medieval (17th-18th century), and Roman (late 2nd-4th century) pottery. The latter comprised a rim fragment of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Roman Pottery Report below).

6.4 F1004 was visible in the ENE/WSW aligned foundation trench. Its shape in plan is unknown. Its sides were gently sloping. It contained three fills. Its basal fill was a friable, pale yellow orange sand and gravel. Above was L1006, a compact, blue grey clay silt. Uppermost was L1007, a friable, pale yellow orange sand and gravel. F1004 contained no finds but is thought to be modern.

6.5 F1008 was a feature which cut the natural geological deposit within the NNW/SSE foundation trench (Fig.3). It remained unexcavated due to its occurrence at a depth below the construction level. It was overlain by Silt Layer L1001, and its fill, L1009, was a compact, blue green silty clay. A sherd of early Roman pottery was present on the surface.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The current ground surface (L1000) consisted of a gravel overlying pale grey concrete (0.29 - 0.38m thick). L1001 overlay L1001, a compact, dark greenish grey silt with frequent small stones (0.82m thick). Beneath L1001 was L1002, a compact, very dark grey silt with frequent small stones (0.30 - 0.42m thick). At the base of the sequence was the natural deposit, L1003, a compact, pale orangey yellow clay silt.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The only feature disturbed by the groundworks was modern. Below the construction level, an unexcavated feature (F1008) suggests the presence of Roman archaeology at a depth of c.1.10m.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Store in accordance with their requirements. 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.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr & Mrs Oldwood for funding the monitoring, and Campbell Rees Associates for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the building contractor, Mr Tim Smith.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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WEB SITES

Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey: Godmanchester. Draft Report 03/04/2003

Heritage Gateway

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS BY FEATURE

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)
	1001	Layer	Post-medieval	(3) 235g	
1008	1009	Unexcavated feature	Early Roman		125

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

ROMAN POTTERY

Andrew Peachey

The monitoring recovered two fragments (171g) of Roman pottery in a well-preserved condition. Cut F1008 (L1009) contained a body sherd (125g) of Gaulish amphorae (Tomber and Dore 1998, 95: GAL AM2) that probably formed part of an early Roman Haltern 70 amphorae, manufactured in the Rhône Valley and used to import *defructum* (cooking wine) or olives. Layer L1001 contained a rim fragment of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 118) from a plain rim dish that may have been produced from the late 2nd-4th centuries AD (Perrin 1999, 101: vessels 231-5). Although of very limited quantity, the occurrence of these fabric and form types is consistent with settlement in and around Godmanchester in the Roman period. The town had an early military character which later developed into a significant civilian centre located on the River Ouse and Ermine Street, therefore would have had good trade links and a high level of consumption including amphorae and their products, and fine ware pottery.

Bibliography

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POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Peter Thompson

The monitoring recovered two slight to moderately abraded rim sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 168g from layer L1001. The first is an everted rim (35g) approximately 20cm in diameter from a small jar or bowl with internal brown/clear glaze and external brown glaze tinged with green. The second is a flanged rim (133g) to a pancheon or deep bowl with internal brown glaze. These are of 17th-18th century date.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
WSW facing section, ENE end of trench. Gravel fills of F1004 are visible. Looking ENE.



2
NNW facing section, WSW end of trench. Looking SSE.



3
Post excavation photo. Looking NNW.



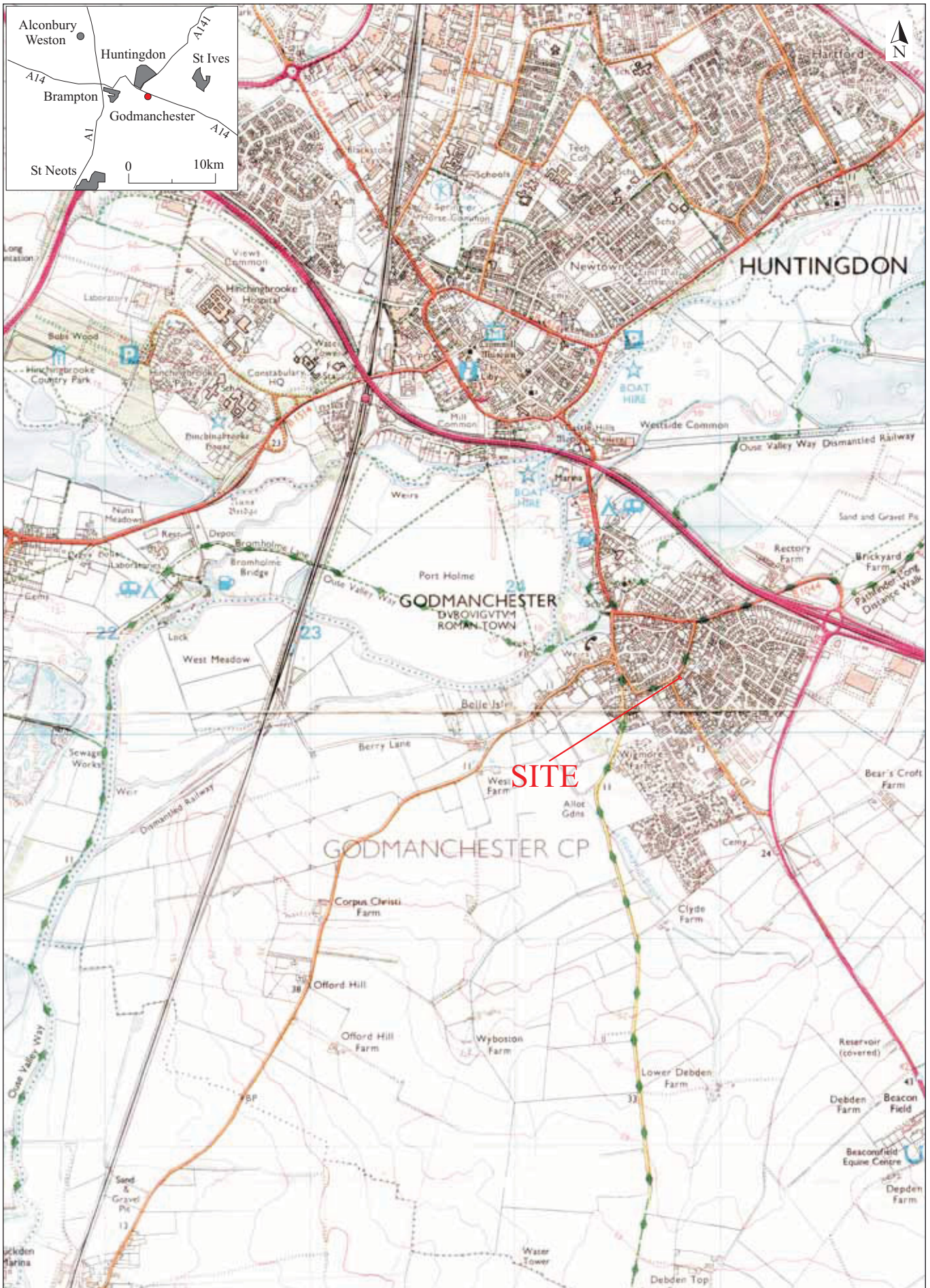
4
Post excavation photo. Looking WSW.



5
General photo. Looking NNW.

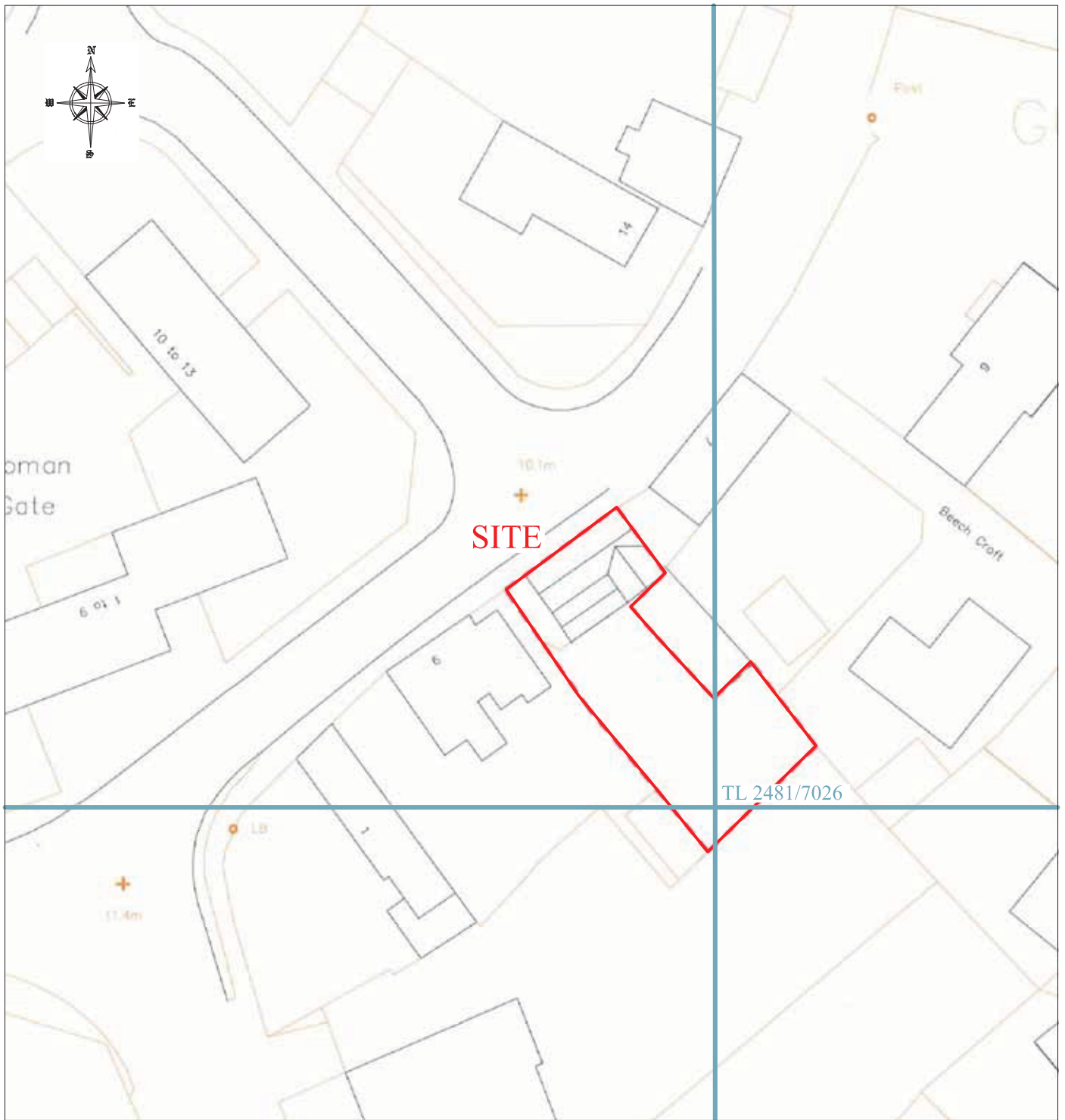


6
General shot. Looking WSW.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4

