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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**FORMER STABLE YARD, GUESSENS,  
6 CODICOTE ROAD, WELWYN, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 2303 1635	Report No: 3981
District: Welwyn Hatfield	Site Code: AS 1458
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4196
Signed:	Date: December 2011 Amended: January 2012

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Former stable yard, Guessens, 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of the former stable yard, Guessens, 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2303 1635). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a new residential development with integral garage and two new garage blocks.</i>			
<i>The site lies within Welwyn Conservation Area (CA) which is centred on the historic core of the town and the Church of St Mary 100m to the south-east. It is also located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7, which encompasses a substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Welwyn, and the subsequent area of the medieval settlement. The site lies to the immediate north of the Grade II* listed dwelling of Guessens. The site had a potential for Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of a post-medieval possible yard surface and a 19<sup>th</sup> century building.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	08/12/2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y
P. number	4196	Site code	AS 1458
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Welwyn Conservation Area (CA) and Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garages and yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Dwellings with associated garages</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval possible yard surface and 19<sup>th</sup> c. building</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Welwyn Hatfield</i>	<i>Welwyn</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>AL6 9NB</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1800 m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2303 1635</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>67/68m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr. R. G. Fernley</i>		
Full title	<i>Former Stable Yard, Guessens, No. 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z. &amp; Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3981</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2011 (Amended January 2012)</i>		

# FORMER STABLE YARD, GUESSENS, 6 CODICOTE ROAD, WELWYN, HERTFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of the former stable yard, Guessens, Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2303 1635). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a residential development with integral garage and two proposed garage blocks.*

*The site lies within Welwyn Conservation Area (CA), which is centred on the historic core of the town and the Church of St Mary 100m to the south-east. It is also located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7, which encompasses the substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Welwyn, and the subsequent area of the medieval settlement. The site lies to the immediate north of the Grade II\* listed dwelling of Guessens. The site had a potential for Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of a post-medieval possible yard surface and a 19<sup>th</sup> century building.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of the former stable yard at Guessens, 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2303 1635; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Agellus Projects on behalf of Mr. R. G. Fernley and was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new residential development and integral garage and two new proposed garage blocks. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development (Welwyn Hatfield District Council Planning Ref. N6/2010/2896/FP) and the erection of two blocks of three garages following demolition of the existing garage block (Ref. N6/2010/0703/S73B). Evaluation trenching of the proposed new garage blocks will take place at a later date, when access becomes available to this area.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 04/02/2011) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 24/02/2011) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the

document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The archaeological evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any remains relating to the late prehistoric, Roman, medieval or post-medieval use of the site. It was also important to understand the level of truncation/disturbance on the site.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) 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 former stable yard site is located within Welwyn, which lies within the district of Welwyn Hatfield, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The modern new town of Welwyn Garden City lies 2.5km to the south, whilst the large village of Codicote is situated 2.2km to the north-west. Junction 6 of the A1(M) motorway is located 750m to the south-west of the site and Welwyn is now encircled by modern roads including the A1000. The site lies within Welwyn Conservation Area (CA), which is centred on the historic core of the town and the Church of St Mary 100m to the south-east. The site also lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No.7, as identified on the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan, encompassing the substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Welwyn, and the subsequent area of the medieval settlement.

2.2 The site is located along the western frontage of Codicote Road, which runs on a north/south alignment from the High Street in the centre of Welwyn towards Codicote (Fig. 2). The former stable yard forms part of the residential property of Guessens, 6 Codicote Road, which is a Grade II\* listed building of 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date, remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (IoE No. 158575). The site lies to the immediate north of the Grade II\* listed dwelling and fronts directly on to Codicote Road. It is roughly rectangular in plan and

covers an area of approximately 1,800m<sup>2</sup>. The site is currently occupied by a former stable yard associated with Guessens. A garage block was demolished prior to the archaeological evaluation.

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

3.1 The settlement at Welwyn is located on glacial river gravels at approximately 67m AOD (Fig. 1). The site lies at c.68m AOD on the eastern bank of the River Mimram, which is situated c. 40m 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, comprising a plateau drift of deep fine loam over clayey soils, although the village core also features Marlow Association soil, which is well-drained (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

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

All Historic Environment Records (HERs) mentioned in the following text are plotted on Figure 3.

#### *Prehistoric*

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), including a flint hand axe found in the garden of 23 Mill Lane c. 200m to the south (HER 10392). There is little further evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. Scattered Bronze Age finds have been recorded in the Digswell area, approximately 2km to the east, but all other prehistoric periods are poorly represented (Thompson 2002).

#### *Late Iron Age & Romano-British*

4.2 Late Iron Age occupation began in the Welwyn area in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC with scattered farmsteads on the higher ground, predominantly in the area now occupied by Welwyn Garden City, whilst a higher status settlement may also have been located at Welches Farm approximately 3km to the north-east (Thompson 2002, 3). Nonetheless, late Iron Age cremations found to the south suggest that Welwyn may have been of greater importance than the settlement evidence has so far revealed. It emerges as a distinct settlement shortly after the Roman Conquest in AD 43, centred on the crossing of the River Mimram by the new Roman road linking *Verulamium* (St. Albans) to Braughing and Colchester (Viatores route 21A). The Roman road runs on an approximately south-west to north-east route, passing c. 100m to the south of the site. The well-preserved metalled surfaces of the road have previously been exposed during archaeological investigations c. 200m to the south-west (HERs 9604 & 9605).

4.3 Roman Welwyn comprised a small and compact settlement centred on the road, largely on the western side of the River Mimram. Based on the current evidence for occupation (HERs 1556, 6087 & 11407), Thompson (2002) has defined the extent of the settlement. The current site lies just beyond the north-eastern corner of the proposed extent, on a narrow strip of land between the area of Roman occupation and a large cemetery situated to the north-east of the settlement. During the laying of a new lawn to the rear of the Grange in the 1900s, quantities of Roman CBM (ceramic building material), flint and mortar, possibly associated with a building were recovered (HER 1555). The extent of the residential area on the eastern bank of the River Mimram remains uncertain, and may be redefined by new evidence (Thompson 2002).

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 (HERs 1554, 6185, 6522 & 9615), immediately to the east of the current site that has raised questions about the status and scale of Roman settlement at Welwyn. Burials from this cemetery have been discovered since c. 1890 and have continued to be recorded by recent projects during the 1990s. Early excavations by various occupants of the Grange did not properly record the burial groups they discovered, and it is speculated that the cemetery held hundreds, possibly thousands of graves (Andrews 1905, 30; Mayes 1908-9; Kindersley 1922; Westell 1930; Holmes 1951; Rook 1973). In addition to the graves, a mausoleum has also been recorded in the grounds of the cemetery (Rook *et al* 1984; McDonald 1995). The full extent of the cemetery remains unknown and although limits have been proposed (Thompson 2002), there is potential for further graves in the vicinity of the current site.

#### *Anglo-Saxon & medieval*

4.5 Following the collapse of Roman rule, the settlement at Welwyn fell into serious decline, eventually re-emerging in the historical record around AD947 when Æðelgifu bequeathed food rents and cattle from Munden to the minster at 'Welingum', thus demonstrating the existence of an important church at the settlement from at least the later Anglo-Saxon period (Gelling 1979). The name Welwyn is probably derived from the Old English *welig* 'at the willows' (Gover *et al* 1938). Evidence for Anglo-Saxon Welwyn in the archaeological record is scarce but includes a coin hoard deposited in c. AD 978 recorded c. 120m to the south of the site (HER 2843). Burials, which have yielded radio-carbon dates averaging AD 670, are also known from St. Mary's churchyard. The possible location the Anglo-Saxon church (Thompson 2002) also lays to the north-west of the site.

4.6 By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Welwyn had developed into a small 'village' with no less than 42 households (Thompson 2002; Morris 1976). These households were probably scattered amongst four estates, including the manor of Welwyn Rectory (HER 10855) c. 200m to the south, which may have held any of the land forming the Grange that was not part of St. Mary's church or churchyard (HERs 4327 & 10902). The medieval village

of Welwyn developed along the High Street, the western side of Codicote Road and the southern side of Church Street, all to the south-east of the site. The village probably derived some prosperity from its location on the Great North Road and included a forge (HER 10860), whilst further medieval building materials have been recorded to the south-east. Inns are attested from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although there is no mention of a local market, and so the settlement remained modest.

### *Post-medieval & later*

4.7 The fortunes of Welwyn improved in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with the formal 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, 10844, 10845, 10856, 10857 & 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, although the areas bordering Codicote Road (to the north of the church) remained largely undeveloped land. The exception to this was Guessens (HER 10826), a 17<sup>th</sup> century house built on the site of a medieval farm (the location of the current site).

4.8 As the Welwyn Turnpike Trust improved the roads in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Dr Young's Free School (HER 10847). A large number of post-medieval and early modern standing buildings are recorded from nearby the site. The first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the population of Welwyn rise resulting in the gradual infill of the village, as well as the widening of the High Street, but the village did not expand beyond its existing boundaries and Guessens remained on the north-western extent of the settled area (Thompson 2002).

### *The site*

4.9 The historic building listing for Guessens (IoE No. 158575; HER 10826) describes the property as a Grade II\* listed building of 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date, remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The building listing does not cover the former stable yard. A number of documents concerning Guessens are held in the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), although little is revealed about the site itself. The development site comprises the former stable yard to Guessens and presumably consisted of the 'outhouses etc.' mentioned in the 1896 draft agreement for lease of Guessens, which at the time was owned by George Edward Dering of Lockleys, Welwyn, esquire, to Mary E. Barstow of Elstree (HALS Ref. DE/L/5712-5712/1-3). Similarly, the tenancy papers for Guessens over the period 1878-96 do not make any specific reference to an associated stable yard (HALS Ref. DE/L/E4).

4.10 The earliest cartographic sources do not reveal any significant information about the site, as both Dury and Andrews' and Bryant's maps of Hertfordshire, which date to 1766 and 1822 respectively, were drawn at too



small a scale (Figs. 4 & 5). The 1837 parish of Welwyn tithe map is the first cartographic source to depict the site in detail (Fig. 6). The tithe map reveals that the site consisted of a narrow road-side plot of land associated with the Guessens property (#134), although the majority of the site in 1837 appeared undeveloped. At the centre of the site in 1837 stood an L-shaped structure, which was presumably an outbuilding, although it is unknown whether the building was in use as a stable. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1881 Ordnance Survey map depicts the same L-shaped structure occupying the centre of the site. By 1881 it had been enlarged by an extension or secondary building to its immediate north (Fig. 7).

4.11 The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1898, suggests that the site was significantly developed in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 8). By 1898 the L-shaped structure in the centre of the site had been noticeably reduced in size, with only its northern extent and late 19<sup>th</sup> century extension or secondary building represented. A pump had been sited at the southern extent of the site. Sales particulars dated 1919 (Ref. D/ERy/B485; Fig. 9) reveal that the site and Guessens as a whole did not form part of the Danebury Estate, but nevertheless confirm that the L-shaped structure had been reduced in size. By 1923 (Fig. 10), the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map suggests that the majority of the site's roadside frontage had been developed with a long range of small structures, presumably consisting of stables, which remained until at least 1932. However, the 1972 Ordnance Survey map indicates that the stables were redeveloped in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century to form a range of 10 more uniform units (Fig. 12).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were located within the area of the new development. Trench 2 measured 5 x 1.6m and Trench 3 measured 10 x 1.6m. Trench 1 will be excavated during a later phase of the development.

5.2 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 using a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

**Trench 1**

To be excavated at a later date

**Trench 2** (Figs. 13 & 14, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 4): North end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 67.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Yard surface. Dark red and grey, compact, layer of pebbles with silty sand.
0.04 – 0.11m	L1001	Former surface of the yard/levelling layer. Dark grey, compact, layer of pebbles with silty sand.
0.11 – 0.15m	L1002	Former surface of the yard/levelling layer. Dark yellow, compact, layer of pebbles with silty sand.
0.15 – 0.40m	L1003	Made ground. Mid to dark yellow, friable, silty sand with moderate CBM fragments and frequent pebbles.
0.40 – 0.65m	L1006	Made ground. Mid to dark yellow, friable, sandy silt with frequent small pebbles.
0.65m +	L1007	Natural mid to dark tallow, loose, silty gravel.

*Description:* Trench 2 contained the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century wall (M1004).

Wall M1004 (DP 3) was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east (3.50+ x 0.33m) and east-north-east/west-south-west (1.60+ x 0.35m). It formed a rectangular structure with a length of walling extending towards the east-north-east. The wall was of red brick construction (0.220 x 0.110 x 0.06m) bonded by creamy, sandy lime mortar with crushed flint and chalk. The probable interior of the structure contained Layer L1005, a loose CBM rubble of mainly brick fragments.

**Trench 3** (Figs. 13 & 14, DP 5-6)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 7): North end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 67.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Yard surface. As above, Tr. 1.
0.05 – 0.10m	L1002	Former surface of the yard/levelling layer. As above, Tr. 1.
0.10 – 0.55m	L1008	Made ground. Mid grey, loose, clayey silt with frequent CBM.
0.55 – 0.72m	L1006	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.72 – 0.74m	L1009	?Former surface of the yard. Mid to dark grey, compact, silty sand with frequent pebbles.
0.74m +	L1007	Natural gravel. As above, Tr. 2.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 8): South end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 67.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Yard surface. As above, Tr. 1.
0.05 – 0.10m	L1002	Former surface of the yard/levelling layer. As above, Tr. 1.
0.10 – 0.29m	L1010	Made ground. Mixed light brown and grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional CBM and moderate pebbles.
0.29 – 0.41m	L1011	White and red, loose, sandy mortar with CBM fragments.
0.41 – 0.50m	L1006	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.50m +	L1003	Natural gravel. As above.

*Description:* A thin deposit of compacted pebbles (L1009), located above natural gravel, was present within the northern part of the trench.

L1009 was a thin (0.02 – 0.04m) layer of compacted pebbles within a mid to dark grey silty sand matrix. The layer was present within the northern part of the site covering c. 5m<sup>2</sup>. Three fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the layer, and it may represent a former yard surface.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by a modern yard surface (L1000) and earlier surfaces or levelling layers (L1001 and L1002). The deposits comprised layers of compacted small pebbles within a silty sand matrix. These layers were 0.10 – 0.15m thick in total and overlaid localised deposits of modern made ground (L1002, L1003, L1008 and L1010), 0.30 – 0.40m thick). The deposits were loose and contained CBM fragments.

8.2 The lowermost deposit of made ground (L1006) was present throughout the entire site and consisted of mid to dark yellow, friable, sandy silt with frequent small pebbles (0.08 – 0.20m thick).

8.2 The natural geology, L1007, was present at 0.50 – 0.75m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark, loose, silty gravel.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been previously found in the vicinity and relate to the Romano-British settlement at

Welwyn, and the area of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. A Roman cemetery and mausoleum were recorded to the east of the site. The site also lies to the immediate north of the Grade II\* listed dwelling of Guessens, which is of 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier date.

9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed evidence of the post-medieval and modern development of the site. Remains of a possible post-medieval yard surface (L1009, Trench 3) may have been related to the L-shaped building known to have occupied the central part of the site (Figs. 6, 7, 8 & 9).

9.3 The site, which lies on a gentle natural slope, had been levelled by modern made ground. The levelling had buried the remains of earlier structures including the 19<sup>th</sup> century building revealed in Trench 2 (Wall M1004). The structure may have been an extension of the L-shaped building visible on the cartographic sources. The extension is thought to have been erected at some point between 1837 and 1881 (Figs. 6 & 7), and demolished during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

9.4 Trench 1, located in the northern part of the site (Fig. 13), is awaiting excavation. This area does not appear to have been developed in the past.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Agellus Projects for commissioning the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Richard Birbeck and Ms Bonita Davie) and Mr. R. G. Fernley for funding the works.

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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</b>		
10392	2317 1615	Palaeolithic flint hand axe from garden of 23 Mill Lane (The Old Rectory)
<b>Romano-British</b>		
1554	2310 1641	A large Romano-British cemetery at The Grange excavated piecemeal over many years and now presumed destroyed by roadworks and building
1555	2308 1633	In the summer of 1907 or 1908 a new lawn was laid behind the house called The Grange from which a number of Roman tiles (or bricks) were found, together with a large quantity of flints and mortar
1556	2287 1627	In 1906, 'a large quantity of Roman brick and roofing tile' and many small finds were revealed; foundations of a corner were then traced between the lawn and the house' were found at the Manor House
1558	2310 1625	The churchyard of St Mary has for many years past yielded varying quantities of Roman pottery sherds at every burial on the north side of the church and North Street
1567	2304 1630	A finely-preserved silver of Hadrian was found at Guessens in 1908, and a brass of Gratian in the same grounds the following year'
6087	2285 1621	In 1900, when the rector, A C Headlam, reported finding a Roman coin in his garden, the rectory was the Manor House on the west side of the river Mimram.
6185	2320 1638	In 1907 two Roman urns were found in making a tennis-lawn at Myrtle Hall, now known as "The Hall", on a part of the Danesbury estate
6522	2321 1643	Square mausoleum discovered during excavation in advance of road and car park construction at The Hall
9604	2293 1613	In July 1958 the line of a Roman road was crossed by a trench for a water-main in the grounds of the Manor House
9605	2300 1618	A clear section of the Roman road metalling was observed in November 1958, in the east bank of a small island in the River Mimram
9615	232 164	Roman burials survived on the Welwyn Hall site despite redevelopment in the 1970s
11407	2284 1628	Romano-British occupation dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries comprising thirteen features including three construction slots, five post holes, four pits and a possible well from West Manor, Ellesfield
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>		
2843	2308 1622	Probable Saxon coin hoard found 'in the course of roadworks where the Great North Road passes through Welwyn' in August 1912, and declared treasure trove

<b>Medieval</b>		
4327	2310 1627	The medieval parish church of St Mary at Welwyn stands over the Roman road, on the hill above the river crossing
10855	23170 16140	Welwyn Rectory was one of the original manors of Welwyn, and the Old Rectory stands on the medieval manorial site
10902	2311 1629	St Mary's Churchyard once covered a much larger area on its northern side and from which four skeletons in shallow graves dug in the gravel subsoil were recorded when an electricity substation was built in 1970, the lack of grave goods suggesting that they were Christian burials
10860	2309 1618	John Thebregge was granted a licence to build a forge at the Black Hrse Beerhouse in 1443, on the corner of the High Street and Mimram Walk
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
10825	2314 1627	No.4 Church Street stands at the eastern corner of the churchyard, beside the parish workhouse
10826	2305 1629	The original timber-framed house of Guessens, 17C or earlier, was remodelled and enlarged c1730, before it was bought in 1749 by Dr Edward Young (d1765), poet, dramatist, and rector of Welwyn
10831	2305 1624	The Wellington Hotel, has some visible timber framing, but was modernised c1725 and given two long brick ranges with Georgian windows on either side of a central jettied gable
10832	2307 1622	Behind the early 19C frontage of the house and baker's shop at No. 3 High Street is a 17C or earlier timber frame, in red brick casing, with a low slate roof
10840	23165 16160	Nos.21-5 Mill Lane constituted Welwyn rectory until Dr Edward Young moved to Guessens in 1749
10844	2317 1628	The Rose And Crown has a probably 17C timber frame, of two storeys, and a brick and plastered 17C rear central wing with a chimney stack near the north gable
10845	2316 1630	On the north side of the car park behind the Rose & Crown is an earlier 17C red brick coach house building of two storeys
10846	2306 1626	Ivy Cottage at No. 1 Forge Lane has a 17C or earlier timber frame, and 18C rear wing
10847	2315 1631	There is documentary evidence that Dr Young's free school was originally opened in 1714, before his arrival as rector of Welwyn in 1730
10856	2322 1630	The Chequers Public House on 28 Church has a 17C and probably earlier, timber-framed structure, with an external 17C chimney, but its earliest appearance in records dates to 1721, when it was owned by William Oakley
10857	2321 1618	The White Horse Public House, set back from the road and adjacent to the 18C Assembly Rooms, is a 17C timber-framed inn building with a tall 17C chimney stack and 19C details on the roughcast frontage
10858	2320 1622	The Vestry minutes record that the Vine Inn adjourned to the Vine in 1713, and in the 1756 billeting returns it had 11 beds and stabling for 30 horses
10859	2315 1624	Holly Hall house appears to be c1800 from the outside, as this is the date of the front block in painted brick

10889	2315 1621	Evaluation behind Holly Hall on the south side of Church Street, located no significant features other than three features dating to the 17C to 19C, comprising three substantial pits, each recut more than once, and containing large amounts of burnt material, slag, and ceramic building materials, all of which had vitrified
12806	2327 1632	Wendover Lodge was a late 18C house, with two storeys and attics, a stucco front and a pedimented door porch
13406	23070 16335	The Grange is listed as a three storey 18C and early 19C house in red brick, with a rear extension forming an L plan
<b>Early modern</b>		
5073	2306 1631	Milestone, a flattish stone, with mileage from London incised and located outside Guessens
5074	2301 1643	Milestone on the Codicote Road
5112	2306 1611	Road bridge carrying pre-1927 line of the Great North Road over the River Mimram
7037	2300 1625	On the 1837 Welwyn tithe map is 'Old Tanyard' on the east bank of the River Mimram, behind the buildings along the Codicote Road
9999	2301 1610	Site of Welwyn Brewery, although no trace of the brewery was observed during the demolition of buildings behind the Bridge Cottage surgery on the site c. 1995
10828	2317 1619	Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel is 'plain, discreet Late Georgian' of two storeys, brick, painted stucco, and slate roof
10830	2313 1625	Branch Johnson (1967) says that the parish cage or lock-up was on the site of the War Memorial, in the churchyard at the west end of Church Street
<b>Modern</b>		
6902	2294 1643	Spigot Mortar Base sited approx.50 yds along Fulling Mill Lane from the junction with the B656 Codicote Road on a grassy knoll, positioned to cover the nearby road bridge over the River Mimram



## APPENDIX 2      CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Title	Scale	Location
1766	Dury & Andrews's map of Hertfordshire	1 mile : 1.95 inches	AS
1822	Bryant's map of Hertfordshire	7/8 mile : 1 inch	AS
1837	Parish of Welwyn tithe map	-	HALS
1881	Hertfordshire sheet XXVIII.3; 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	25": 1m	HALS
1898	Hertfordshire sheet XXVIII.3; 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	25": 1m	HALS
1919	Danebury Estate sales particulars	25": 1m	HALS
1923	Hertfordshire sheet XXVIII.3; 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	25": 1m	HALS
1937	Hertfordshire sheet XXVIII.3; 4 <sup>th</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map	25": 1m	HALS
1972	Sheet TL 2216 2316; Ordnance Survey map	1:2500	HALS
1999	Ordnance Survey Explorer sheet 182; site location	1:25,000	AS
2011	Detailed site location plan	1:500	Client
2011	Proposed trench location plan on proposed site layout	1:150	AS

### APPENDIX 3      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	5 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Digital Photo, Photo)
Context Sheets	12
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	8

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Former stable yard, Guessens, No. 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> Welwyn Hatfield
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Welwyn
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Welwyn Hatfield District Planning Ref. N6/2010/2896/FP and N6/2010/0703/S73B
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr. R. G. Fernley
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of dwelling with associated garages
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garages and yard
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 1800 m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 24 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 2303 1635
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1458
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	08/12/2011
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Mill Green
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval and modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In December 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation of the former stable yard, Guessens, Codicote Road, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2303 1635). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr. R. G. Fernley and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a residential development with integral garage and two proposed garage blocks.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within Welwyn Conservation Area (CA), which is centred on the historic core of the town and the Church of St Mary 100m to the south-east. It is also located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7, which encompasses the substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement at Welwyn, and the subsequent area of the medieval settlement. The site lies to the immediate north of the Grade II* listed dwelling of Guessens. The site had a potential for Romano-British and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of a post-medieval possible yard surface and a 19<sup>th</sup> century building.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> December 2011 (Amended January 2012)

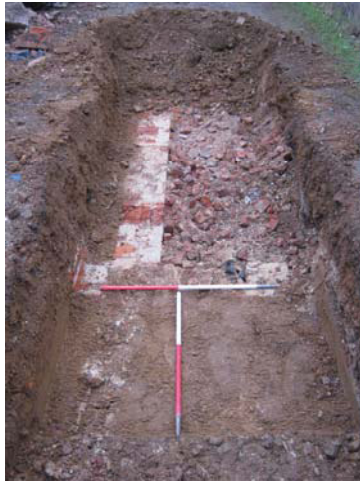
## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. View from Codicote Road. Looking south.



DP 2. Trench 2. Looking south.



DP 3. Trench 2. Looking south-south-east.



DP 4. Trench 2. Sample section 2A. Looking east-north-east.



DP 5. Trench 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 6. Trench 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 7. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking east-north-east.



DP 8. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking west-south-west.

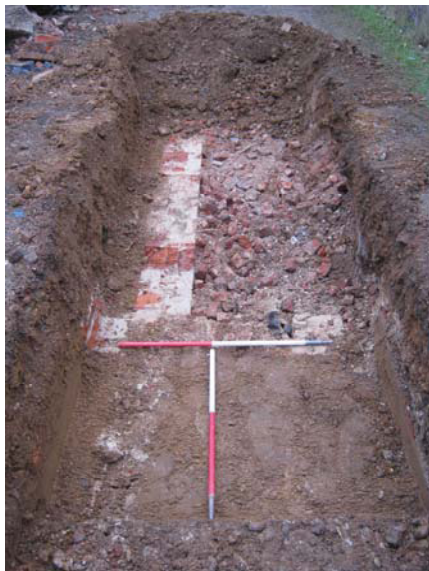
## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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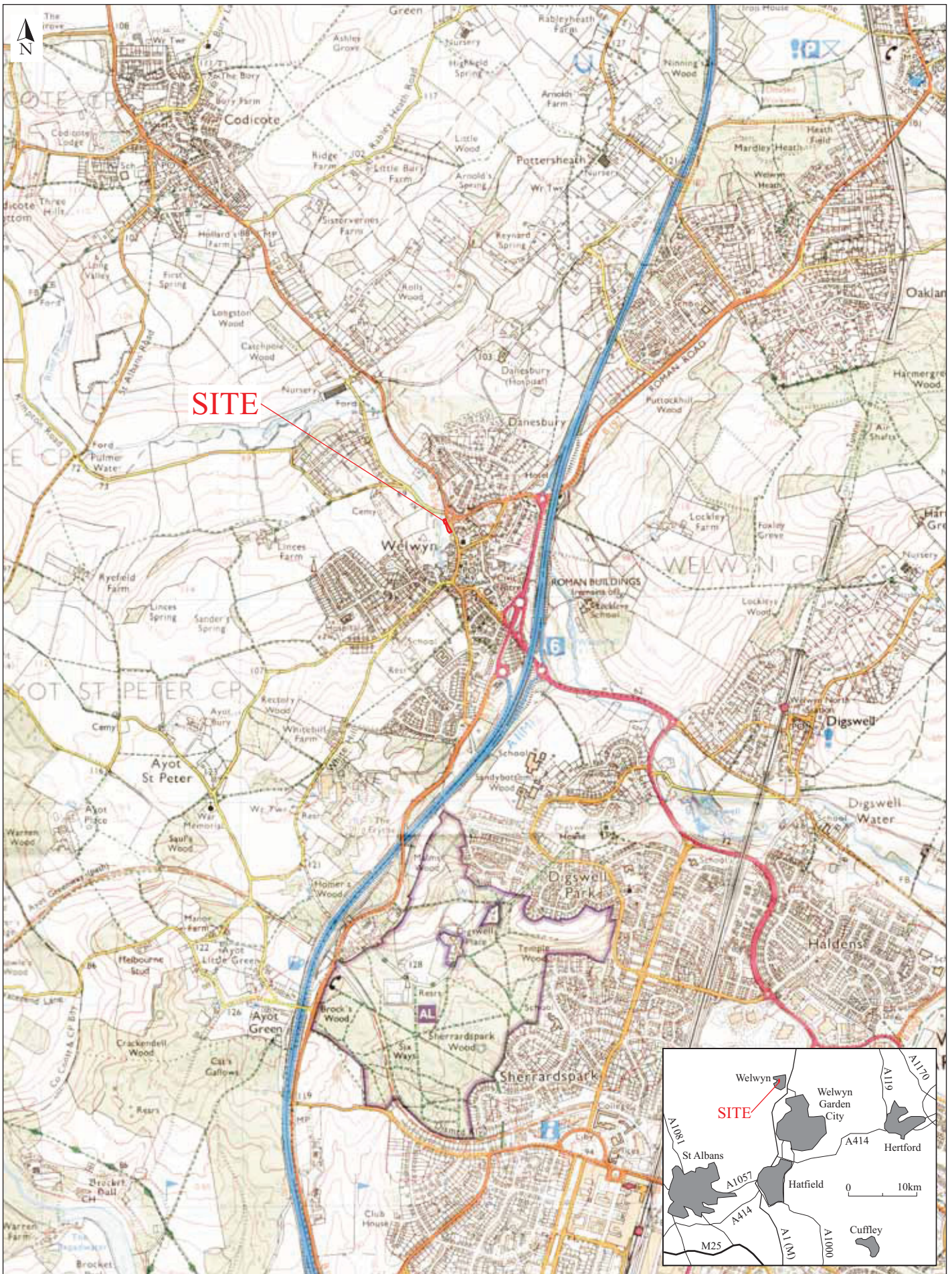
DP 6. Trench 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 7. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking east-north-east.



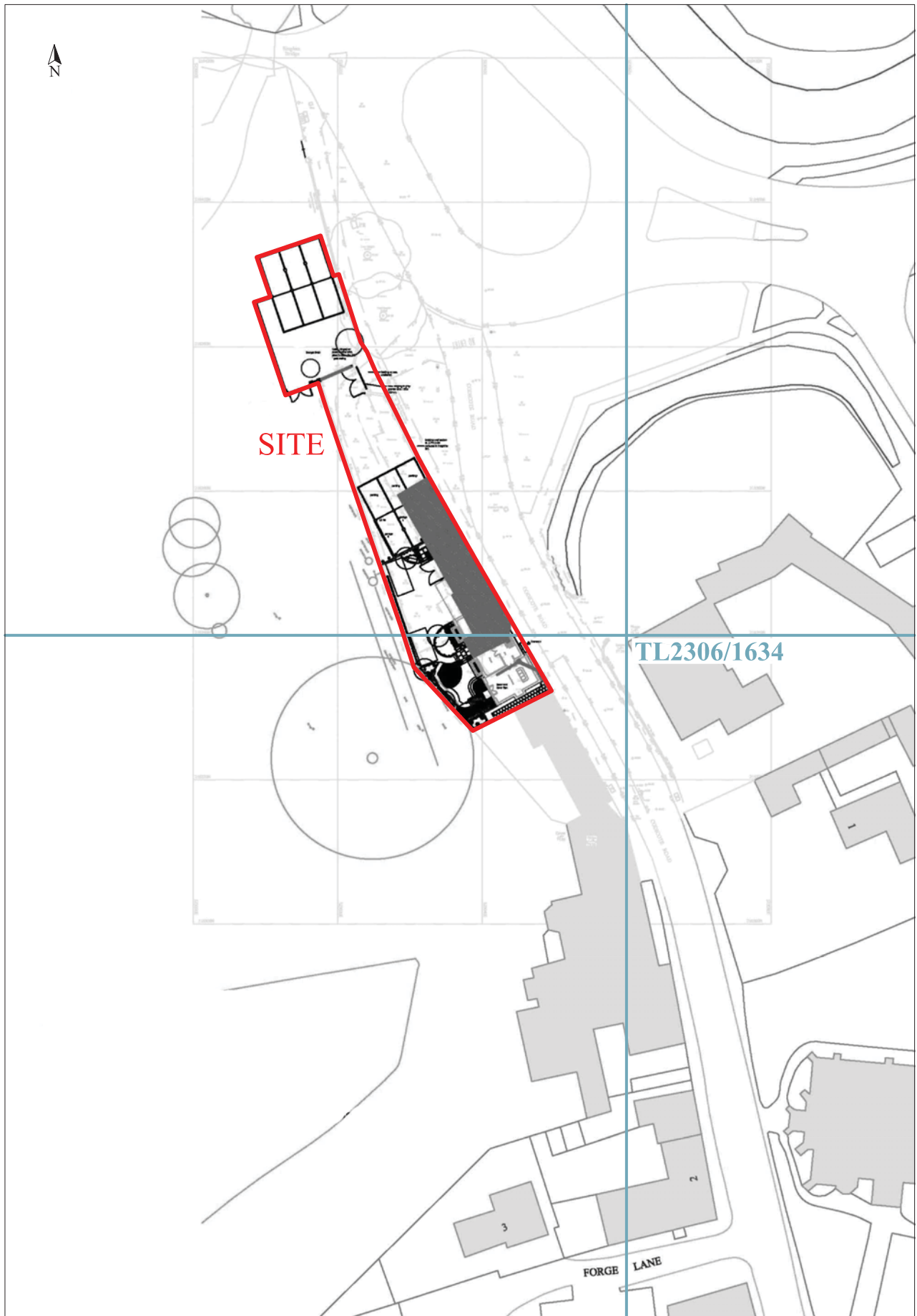
DP 8. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking west-south-west.



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Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



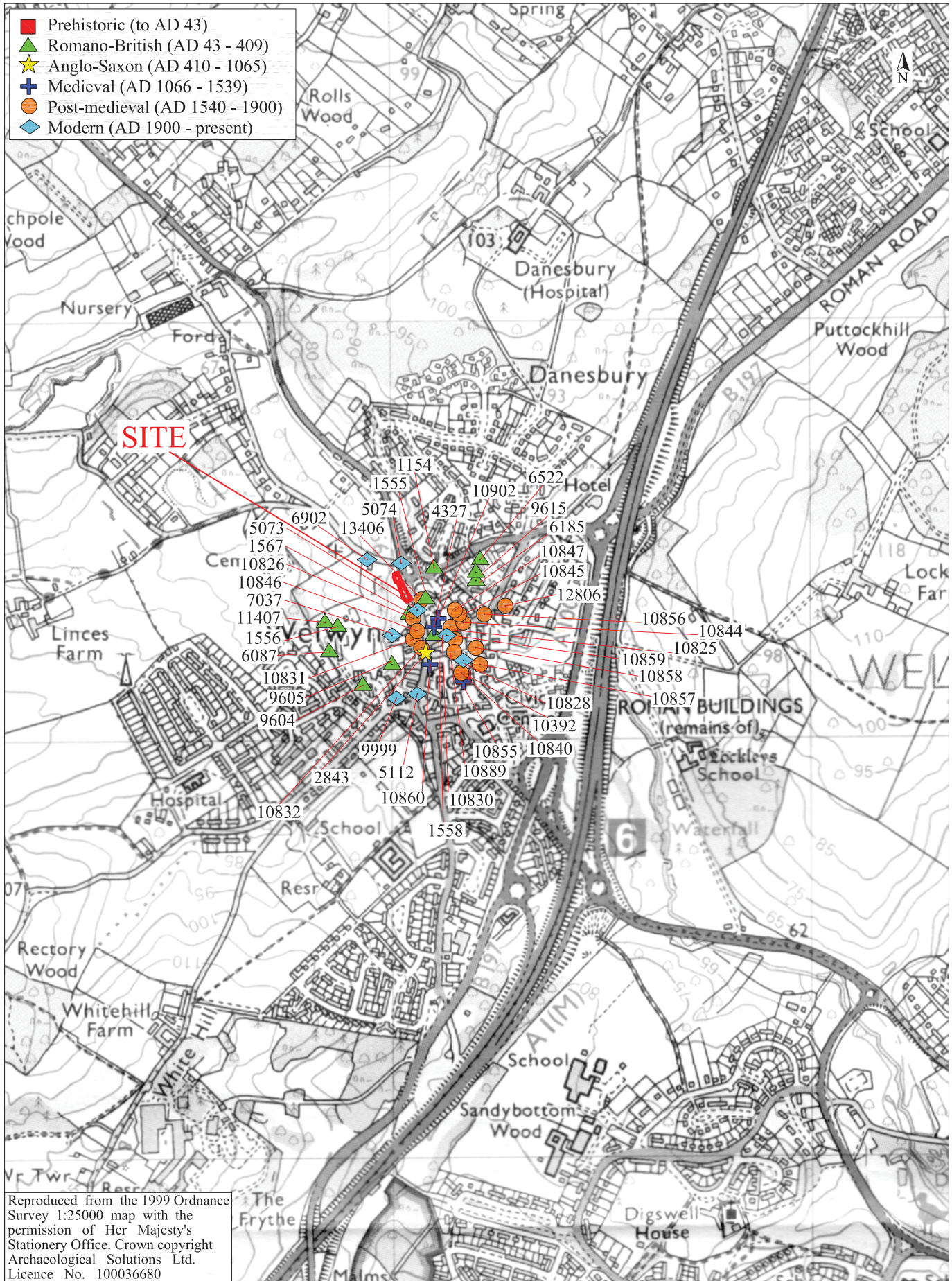


0 50m

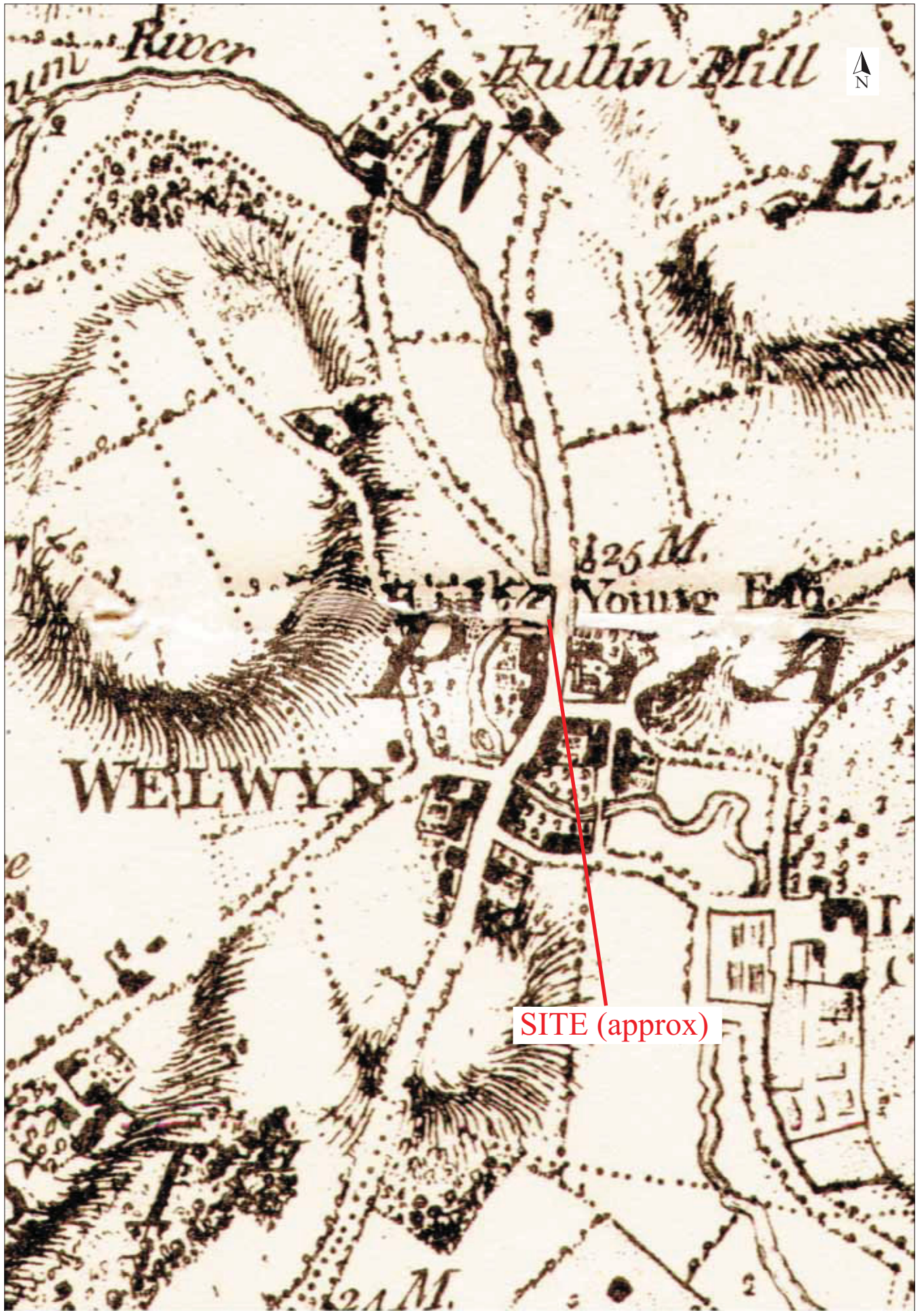
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*

**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

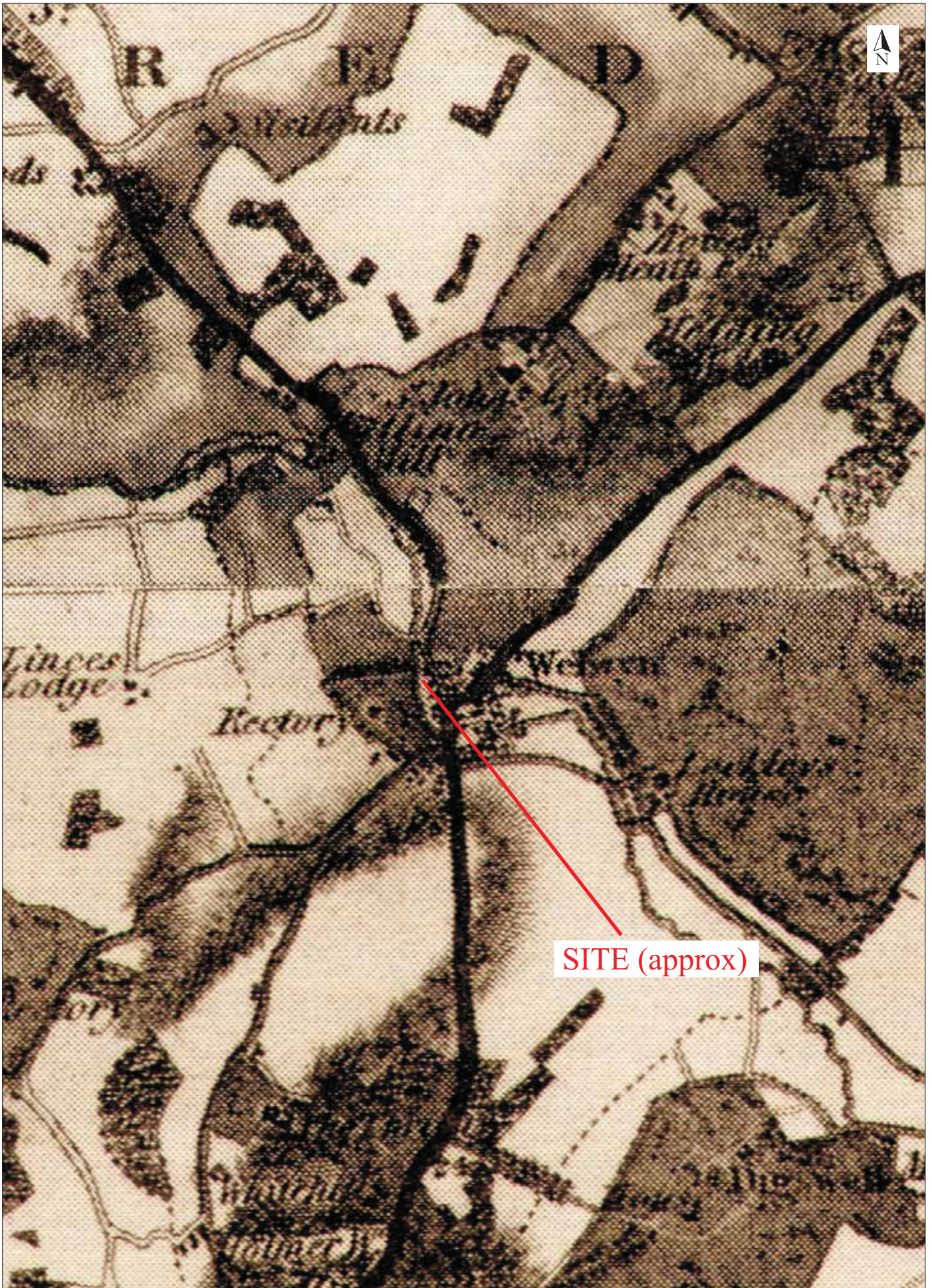
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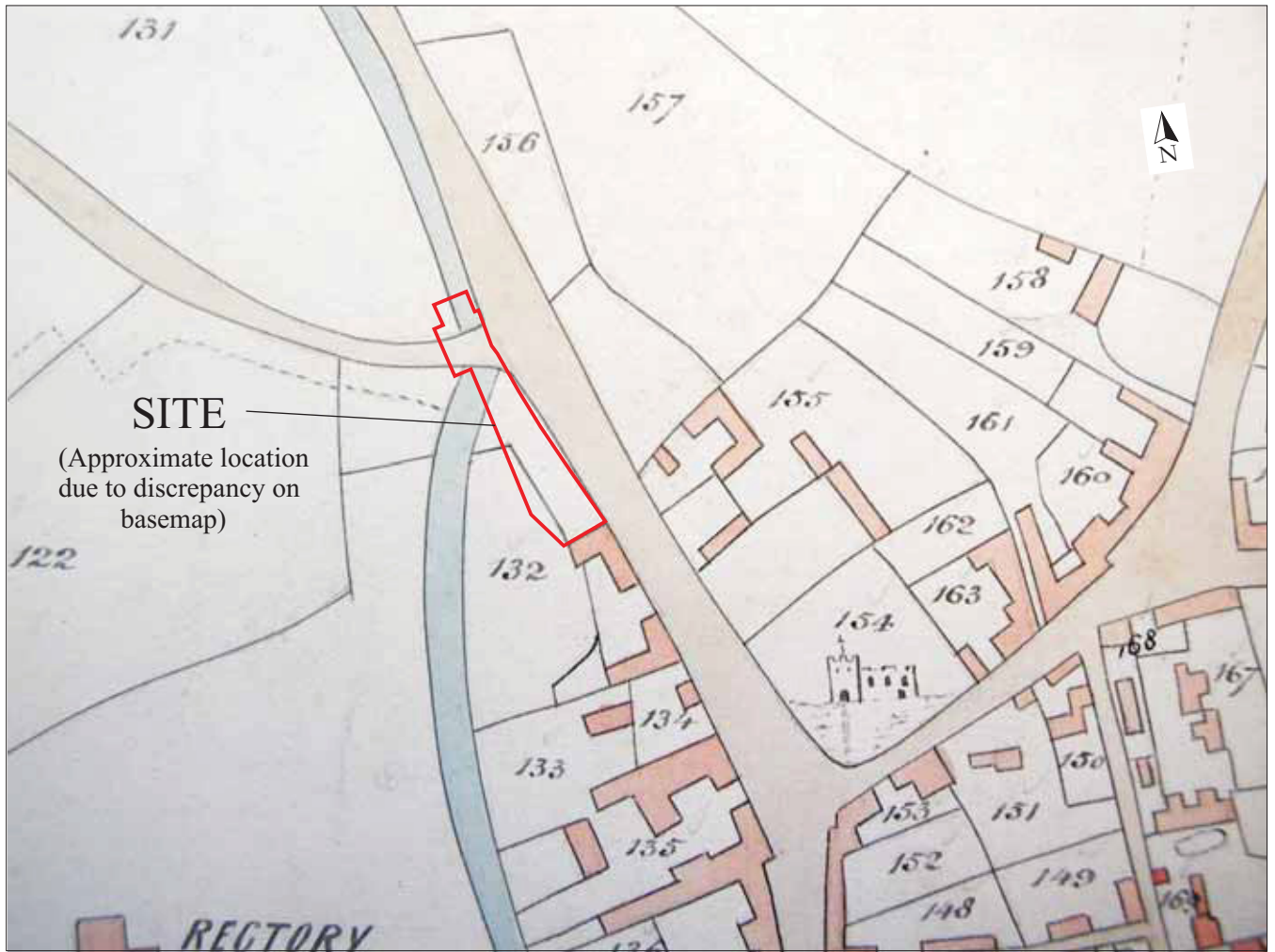
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 3 HER Data**  
 Scale 1:5,000 at A4



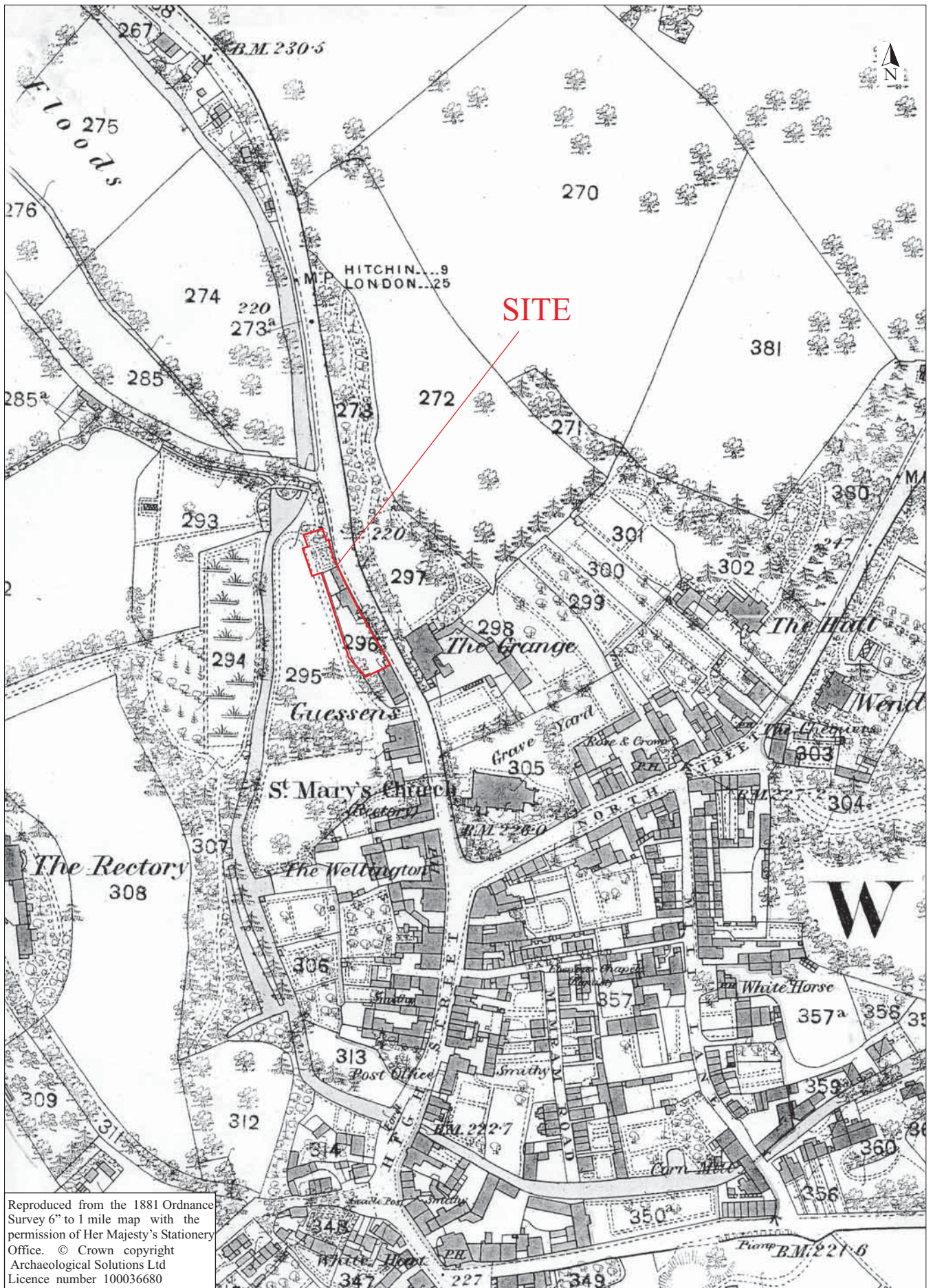
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Fig. 4 Dury & Andrews' map, 1766  
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Fig. 5 Bryant's map, 1822  
Not to scale

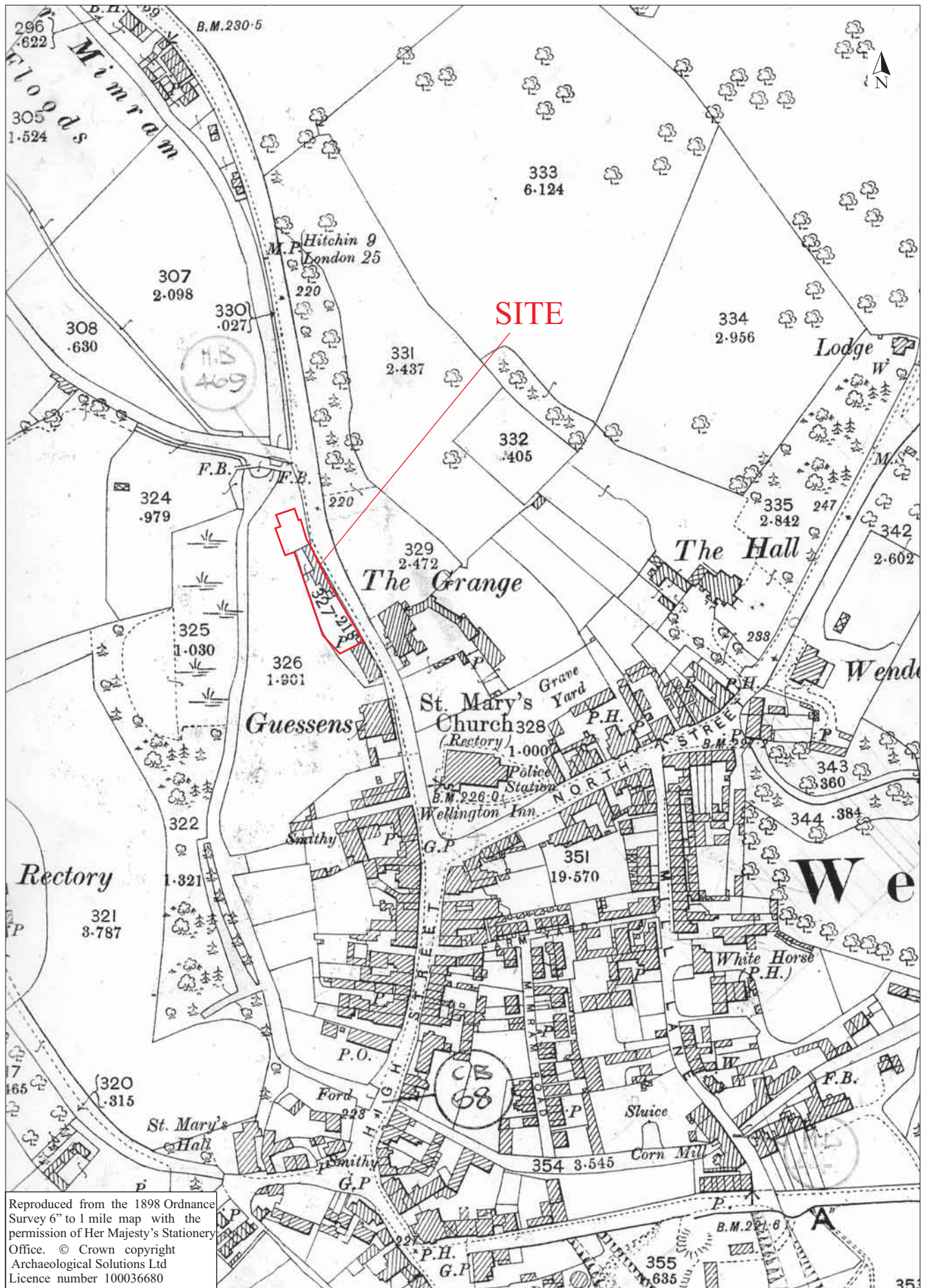


Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Fig. 6 Tithe map, 1837  
Not to scale

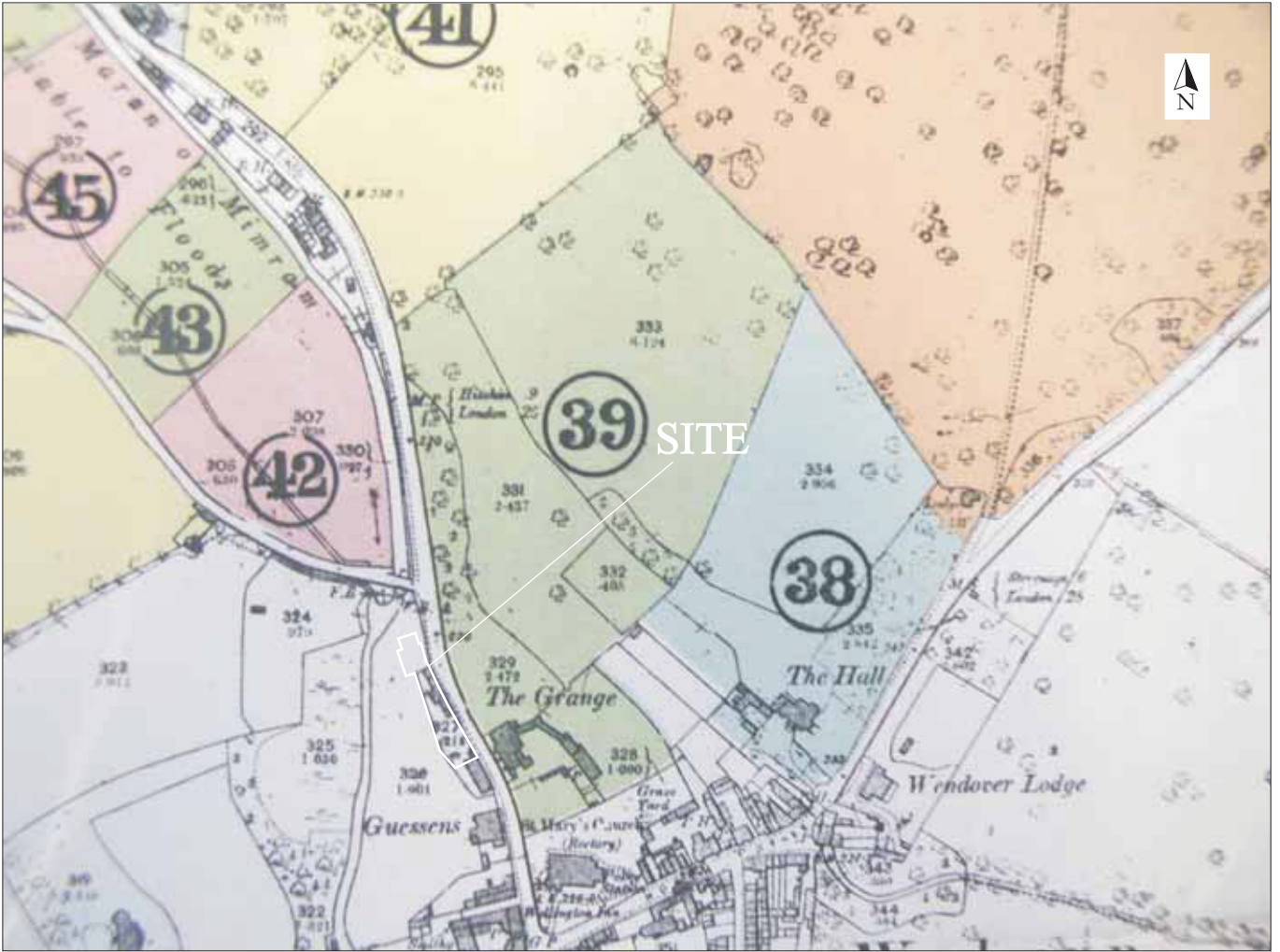


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**Fig. 7 OS map, 1881**  
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4

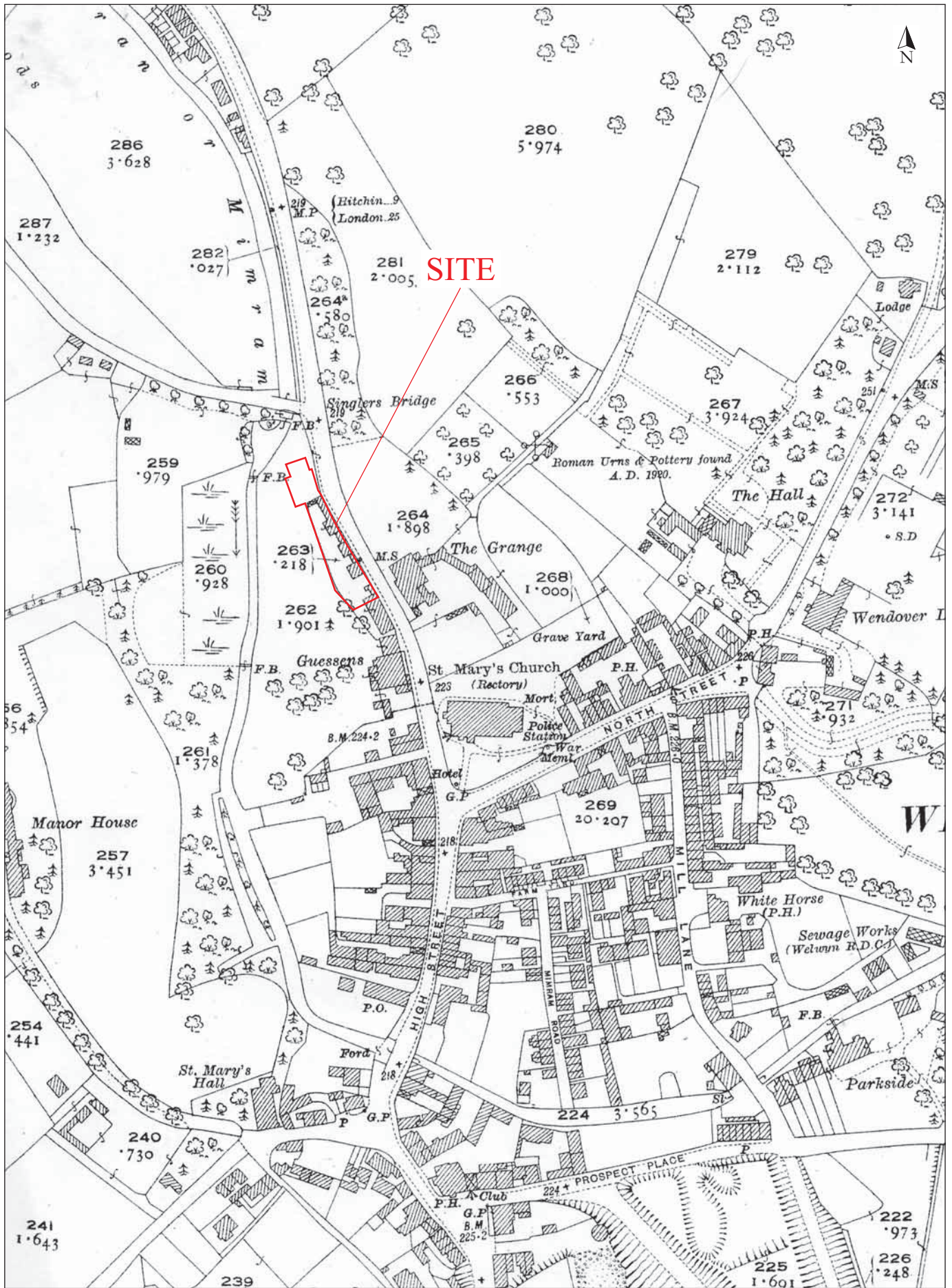


Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 8 OS map, 1898**  
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4



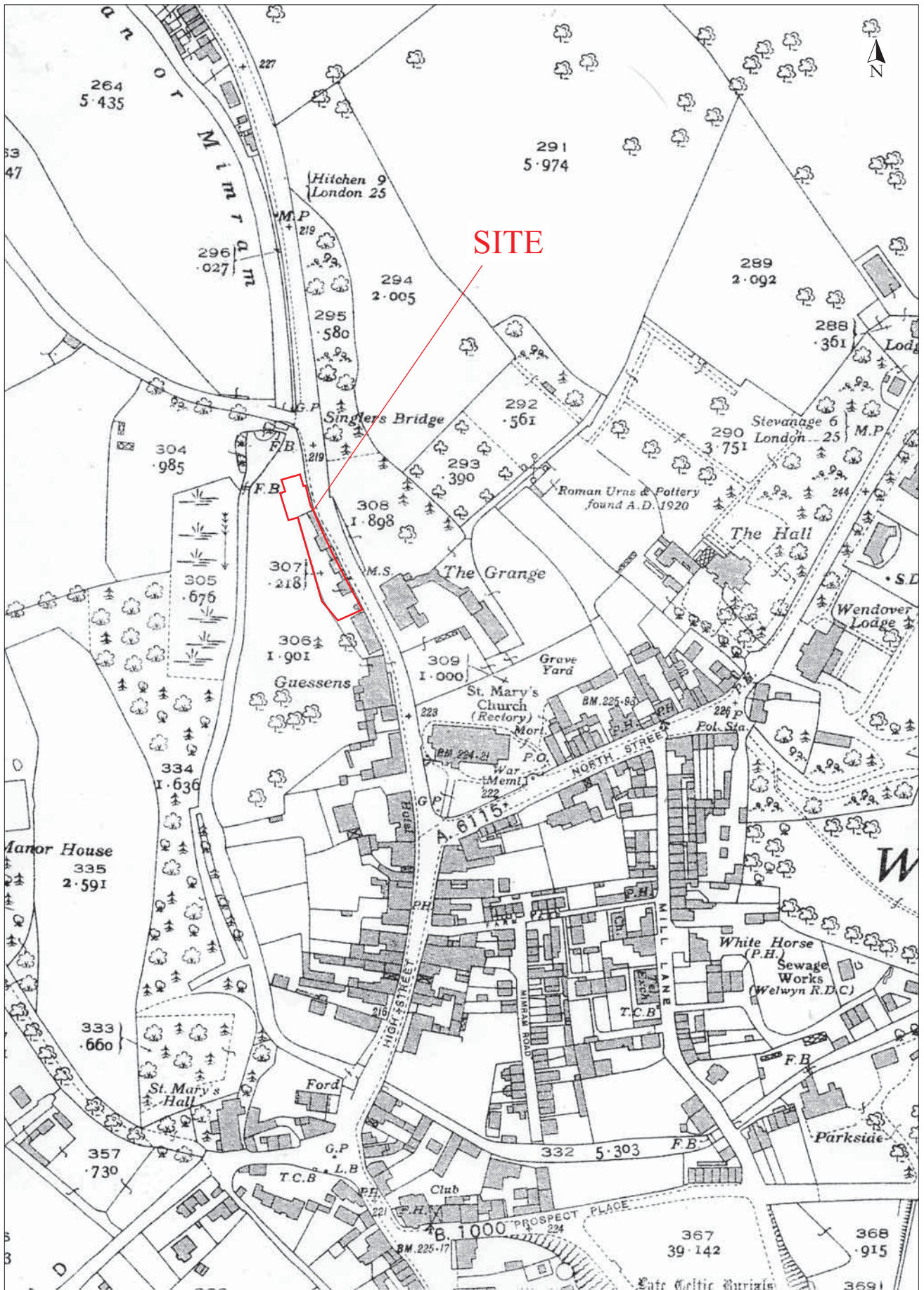
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Fig. 9 Sales particulars, 1919  
Not to scale





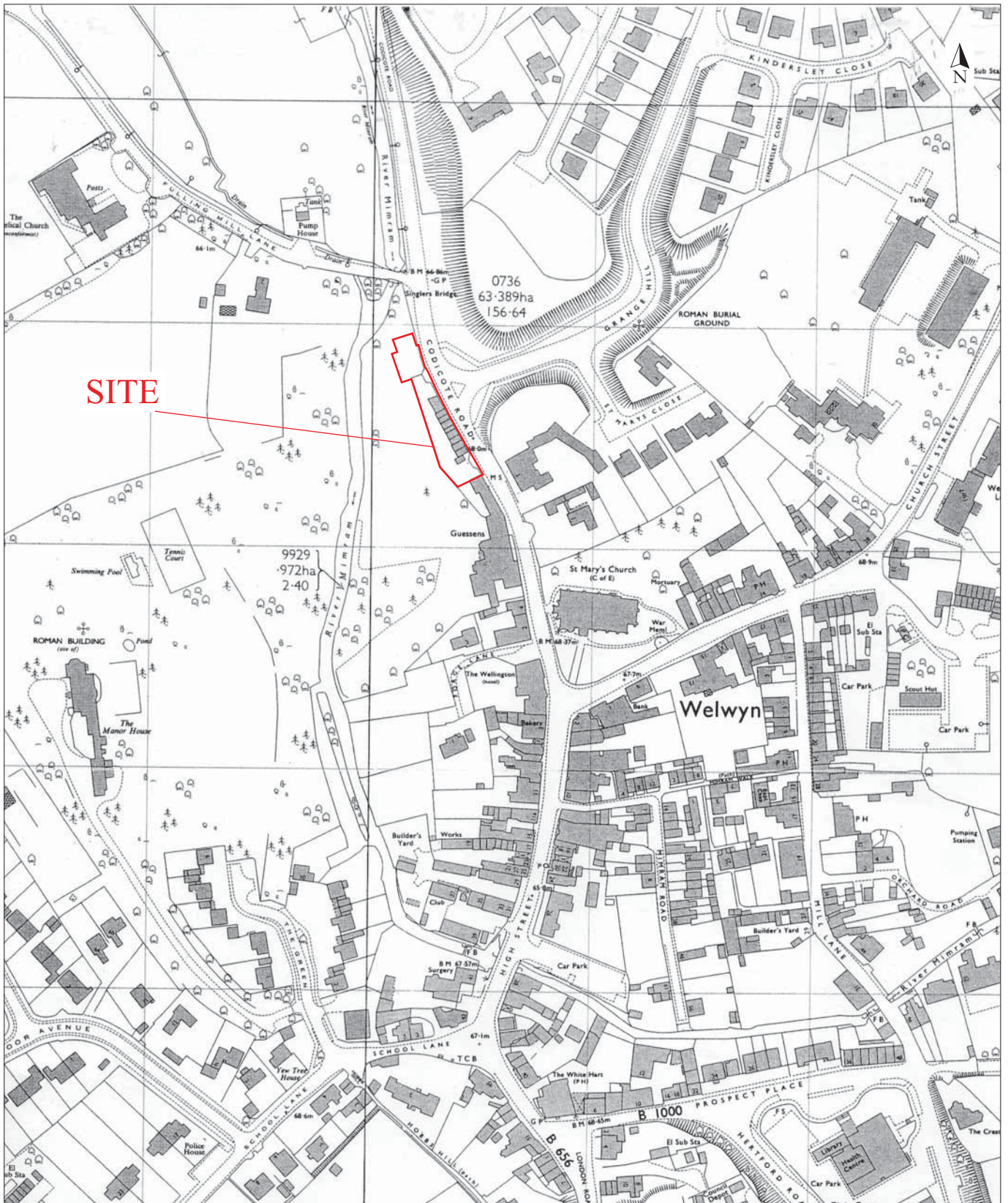
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**Fig. 10 OS map, 1923**  
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4



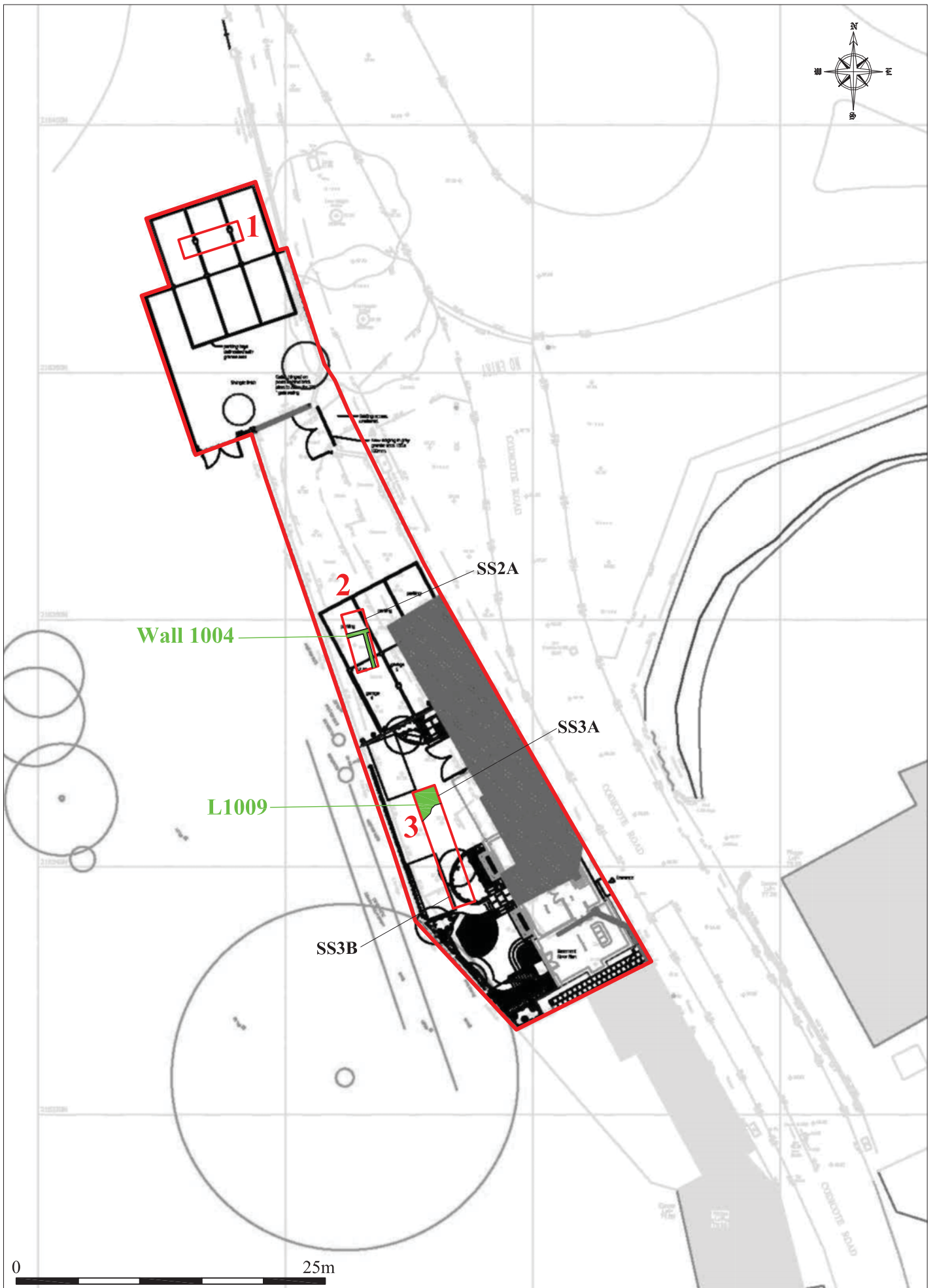
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**Fig. 11 OS map, 1937**  
 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile at A4



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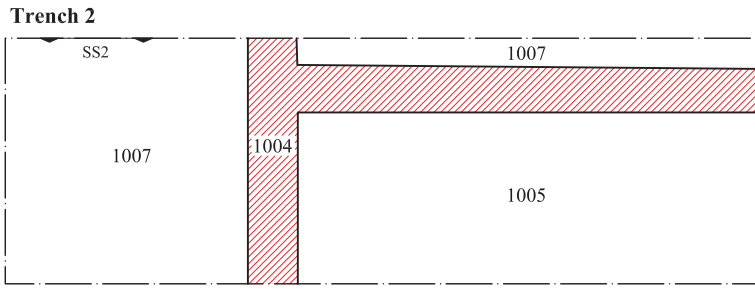
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 12 OS map, 1972**  
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



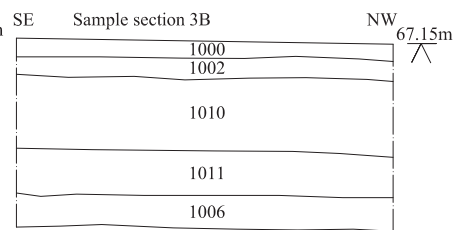
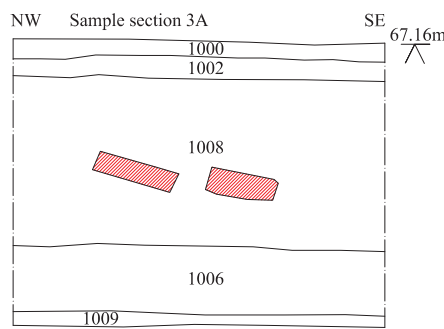
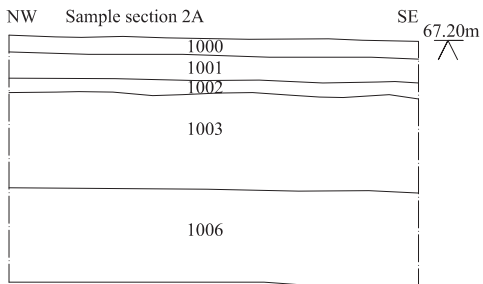
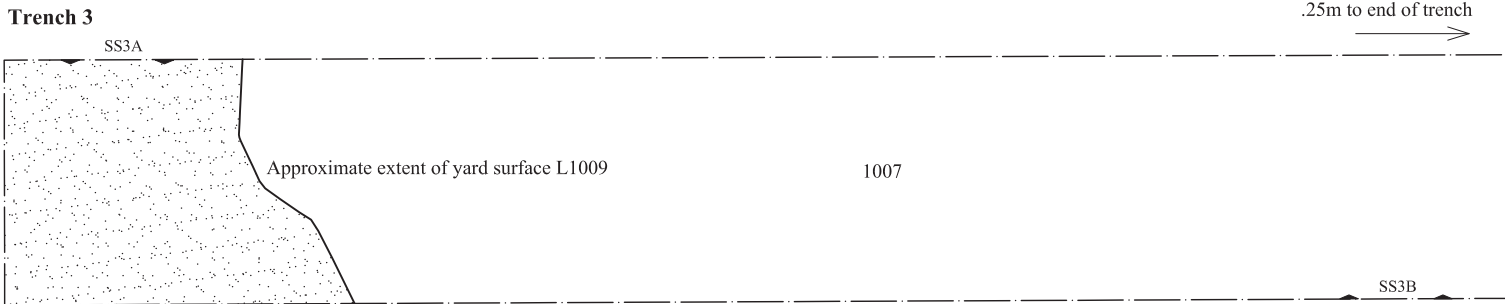
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**Fig. 13** Trench location plan on proposed site layout

Scale 1:400 at A4



0 Plans only 3m



0 Sections only 1m

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**Fig. 14 Trench plan & sections**  
 Scale Plan 1:50, sections 1:20 at A4