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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND REAR OF THE SARACEN'S HEAD,  
45 HIGH STREET SOUTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Version IV – 17/09/2012**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (Fieldwork and Report) Megan Stoakley MA PlfA (Research) Antony Mustchin MSc (Editor)	
NGR: TL 0207 2173	Report No: 4098
District: SW Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS 1509
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB  
Tel 01992 558170**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
Tel 01284 765210**

e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Land rear of the Saracen's Head, 45 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In June 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel, 45 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0207 2173). The archaeological evaluation (Stage 2) was preceded by a geophysical survey of the site (Stage 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Seabrook Architects on behalf of Sterling Developments (London) Ltd and undertaken in support of a planning application to construct a new development of residential units.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated on the northern side of High Street South which follows the course of Roman Watling Street, and close to its junction with a Roman road that followed the course of the ancient Icknield Way. This area was the location of the Roman settlement of Durocbrivis. The northern part of the site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the Stage 2 evaluation revealed a 19<sup>th</sup>-century wall foundation constructed of reused stone (M1016), possibly from the medieval priory. It also revealed possible remains of a former (19<sup>th</sup> century) stable block (M1014 &amp; M1015), a possible 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch or foundation trench (F1025), one undated pit (F1018) and an area of made ground.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	25-29/06/2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y
P. number	4733	Site code	AS 1509
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within the area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car park, garaging and a vacant undeveloped plot</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Wall foundation (19<sup>th</sup> century) with reused (possibly medieval) stone blocks, 19<sup>th</sup> century wall and bricked surface, a possible 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch or foundation trench, one undated pit and an area of made ground.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Re-used stone, possibly from the medieval priory</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>SW Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Dunstable</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bedfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>LU6 3RZ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1500m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 0207 2173</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>144.20/146</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Central Bedfordshire Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Sterling Developments (London) Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land rear of the Saracen's Head, 45 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z. and Stoakley, M. (Editor: Mustchin, A.)</i>		
Report no.	<i>4098</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2012 (Revised September 2012)</i>		

# LAND REAR OF THE SARACEN'S HEAD, 45 HIGH STREET SOUTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In June 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel, 45 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0207 2173). The archaeological evaluation (Stage 2) was preceded by a geophysical survey of the site (Stage 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Seabrook Architects on behalf of Sterling Developments (London) Ltd and was undertaken in support of a planning application to construct a new development of residential units.*

*The site is situated on the northern side of High Street South which follows the course of Roman Watling Street and close to the junction of a Roman road that followed the course of the ancient Icknield Way. This area was the location of the Roman settlement of Durocobravis. The northern part of the site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the Stage 2 evaluation revealed a 19<sup>th</sup>-century wall foundation constructed of reused stone (M1016), possibly from the medieval priory. It also revealed possible remains of a former (19<sup>th</sup> century) stable block (M1014 & M1015), a possible 19<sup>th</sup> century ditch or foundation trench (F1025), one undated pit (F1018) and an area of made ground.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In June 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation on land at the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel, 45 High Street South, Dunstable, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0207 2173; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Seabrook Architects on behalf of Sterling Developments (London) Ltd and undertaken in support a planning application to construct a new development of residential units. An historic environment assessment has been prepared (MoLAS 2011).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC; dated 29/11/2011) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 01/03/2012) and approved by CBC. 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 evaluation aimed to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions, and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

1.4 The project was executed in two stages. Stage 1 comprised a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey conducted by Stratascan Ltd (Biggs 2012). The survey was commissioned by AS in order to determine the likely survival of significant structural remains or voids at the site, and to inform the targeting of appropriate trial trench locations (Stage 2). The results of the survey were discussed with CBC prior to the commencement of Stage 2. The second stage of the project comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation, the results of which are presented herein. The conclusions of this report (Section 9.6) take both stages of the evaluation into account.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Dunstable is a market town and civil parish located in the southern part of Bedfordshire. Houghton Regis is located c. 2.5km to the north, Totternhoe c. 4.5km to the west, Caddington c. 6km to the south-east and Edlesborough c. 6km to the south-west. The town is centred on the crossroads of the A5 (Watling Street) and the A505 (Icknield Way). The principal watercourses in the area are the River Ouzel located c. 4.5km to the west of the site, and the River Lea, c. 5km to the north-east.

2.2 The site comprises land to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel (Figs. 1 and 2). It is bounded by Priory Gardens to the north-east, Wood Street to the south-east, High Street South and the Saracen's Hotel to the south-west and the grounds of 43 High Street South to the north. The site measures approximately 1500m<sup>2</sup> and includes an area of hard standing/ car park, modern garages and an undeveloped area of cleared trees and scrub to the north-east. The northern part of the site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter.

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

3.1 Dunstable is surrounded by open country to the south, west and north-west. The site lies at a height of c. 145m above ordnance datum (AOD). The ground slopes gently upwards towards the east, and the land directly north of the Saracen's Head hotel appears to have been truncated and levelled, lying c. 0.5-0.8m lower than the central and eastern parts of the site.

The solid geology comprises the Holywell Nodular and New Pit Chalk Formations of the Late Cretaceous period (British Geological Survey 1978). An earlier (1983) archaeological investigation conducted by the Manshead Archaeological Society, recorded chalk in the north-eastern part of the site at c. 0.3m below modern surface level (Molina-Burguera and Fuldain 2011, 5). The soils of the site remain unsurveyed. Soils of the Coombe 1 (511f) and Batcombe (582a) associations lie to the south-east of the site and soils of the Upton 1 (342a) lie to the north-east (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 A scatter of Neolithic implements (HER 1444) was recorded c. 245m to the north of the site. The Icknield Way (HER 353) passes c. 175m to the south of the site; this ancient trackway followed the chalk escarpment that includes the Berkshire Downs and Chiltern Hills. An archaeological investigation at Priory Middle School, c. 160m to the east of the site (HER 13357), recorded an Iron Age ditch, prehistoric pottery and postholes (Molina-Burguera and Fuldain 2011, 6-7).

## *Romano-British*

4.2 During the Roman period the minor settlement of *Durocobravis* (HER 135) was located at Dunstable. It was centred on the crossroads of Watling Street (HER 5508), the main Roman military highway from *Londinium* (London) following the course of High Street South, and the Roman road that followed the course of the Icknield Way (HER 353) (Molina-Burguera and Fuldain 2011, 7).

4.3 Roman archaeology has been widely recorded in the Dunstable area and includes timber building foundations, roof-tile fragments, cobbled lanes, ditches, wells and pits. Excavations at Friary Fields, c. 250m to the south-west of the site, recorded ditches, wells, ovens, pits and a cemetery (Gardner and Murray 2001). Numerous find spots of coins and pottery are also known (HERs 11284, 11273, 11280, 17800 and 16077). An archaeological investigation c. 175m to the north-west of the site revealed a length of metalled road thought to comprise the Roman surfacing of the Icknield Way. A cinerary urn, three probable hut structures, pits and wells are recorded (HERs 11270 and 11272; Gardner 2004). Ditches and finds of Roman date have also been recorded c. 100m north-east of the site (HER 11281, 13357 and EBD 235; Pixley and Gregson 2005).

4.4 The approximate extent of the Roman settlement encompasses the area of the proposed development which is located on the eastern side of Watling Street. An earlier archaeological evaluation (Matthews 1984, 7) recovered a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman coin from garden soil in the north-east of the site.

## *Medieval*

4.5 Dunstable is not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086. Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered during excavations at Chapel Walk c. 160m to the west of the site (HER 11280).

4.6 The late medieval town of Dunstable (HER 16986) flourished under Henry I (c. 1068 - 1135) and Dunstable was established as a market-place. Henry built a royal residence called Kingsbury, located at the site of the Old Palace Lodge and the Norman King public house, c. 200m to the north-east of the site (HER 148).

4.7 In 1132 the Priory of St Peter (HER 131) was founded by Augustinian Canons at Dunstable under the patronage of Henry I. The monastic complex was centred on the Priory church and comprised dormitories, an infirmary, stables, workshops, a bakehouse, brewery and a buttery. A hostel for pilgrims and travellers was also built (HER 131), its location now marked by the 18<sup>th</sup> century 'Priory House' (33 High Street South; HER 6311), c. 45m to the north-west of the site.

4.8 Numerous archaeological investigations have been conducted within the Priory precinct (EBDs 187, 193 and 235 and WBs 198 and 230; Bolderson

2002). Two burial grounds (HERs 11281 and 16173) and a significant quantity of building material have been recorded. An archaeological evaluation conducted in the north-eastern section of the site revealed the remains of a large monastic building (Matthews 1984). The building contained four underground rooms or cellars to a depth of c. 1.8-2.4m. It has been suggested that the building recorded was part of the *Cellarium*, comprising the Outer Parlour, bakehouse and brewhouse, as three small ovens and a fireplace were discovered (*ibid.* 10-11).

4.9 Thirteenth century archaeology was recorded during an evaluation at Ashton St Peter's School on Church Street (HER 16986, EBD110), located c. 100m to the south of the site. The site of a Dominican Friary (HER 141) is situated c. 200m to the south-west. Previous archaeological excavations have revealed the foundations of the Priory church (founded 1259), as well as recording architectural fragments, floor tiles, painted glass and human remains (Clark and Maul 1989). The Dunstable swan brooch was discovered in 1965 in an area believed to be the friary kitchens. A medieval malt drying kiln (HER 11273) was recorded during excavations on St Mary's Street c. 350m to the west of the site.

#### *Post-medieval*

4.10 Refuse and quarrying pits, ditches and numerous pottery find spots (HERs 131, 16986, 15822 and 17801, and EBD 187) have been discovered c. 50-200m to the south-east of the site. Excavations at 3 Wellington Terrace (HER 15813) and Chapel Walk (HER 11280; Warren 1992), located c. 160-350m to the west, revealed post-medieval finds including 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century structural remains and a significant quantity of 'Churchwarden' clay pipes and pottery. A Quaker burial ground (HER 1445) is located c. 200m to the west of the site. A large 'hoard' of mid-16<sup>th</sup> to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century gold and silver coins (HER 3207) was reported by antiquarians beneath the floor of the former stable block to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel (HER 6259) in the south-west corner of the site, though few details of the hoard survive in modern records. It has been suggested that the 'hoard' was hidden by parliamentarian troops stationed in the town during the Civil War (Page 1912, 349), though this conclusion remains tentative.

4.11 In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the town became a posting place for coaches travelling between London and Chester (Molina-Burguera and Fuldain 2011, 8). A large number of coaching houses were constructed during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century including the Grey House located c. 40m to the south of the site (HER 4548) and the Saracen's Head Hotel (HER 6259). The latter comprised an amalgamation of three cottages and became a posting house designated for the wealthier tradesmen. The inn had stables and barns to the rear, depicted on historic cartographic sources (Fig. 3).

#### *Ground Penetrating Radar Survey*

4.12 A GPR survey was carried out by Stratascan Ltd (Biggs 2012) over approximately 1200m<sup>2</sup> of land at the rear of The Saracen's Head hotel. The



survey identified a number of anomalies which may relate to former structural remains and fragmented structural remains of possible archaeological origin (Biggs 2012, 3). Of particular interest were two areas of varied responses in the north-east of the site (GPR survey area 2, within the SAM boundary). (Biggs 2012, 10). The survey also highlighted the likely presence of an infilled structural feature in this part of the site, possibly relating to the former Priory bakehouse or brewhouse; previously excavated by Manshead Archaeological Society (Matthews 1984).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trial trenches (TT1 and TT2) were excavated using a mechanical 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Any undifferentiated overburden was mechanically removed under close archaeological supervision. Subsequent investigation (within TT1) was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds. For safety reasons TT2 was entirely machine excavated.

5.2 TT1 (9 x 1.80m) was located within the rear car park of the Saracen's Head hotel, while TT2 (2 x 2m) was located within the vacant undeveloped plot to the north-east (Fig. 2 and 5). TT1 was oriented north-west/ south-east within the footprint of proposed residential development, and targeted GPR 'hotspots' potentially indicative of robbed out structural remains (Biggs 2012, fig. 12; Fig. 5). TT2 was similarly placed within the proposed development footprint, just south-west of the SAM boundary, in an area of high energy geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Biggs 2012, figs. 10; Fig. 5). These anomalies were targeted as they fell within the area of greatest potential ground disturbance associated with the proposed development of the site. The location of TT1 was also influenced by the need to maintain access to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel. The south-eastern end of the trench was stepped due to the significant depth of the excavation and the partial presence of masonry remains directly below the modern tarmac and sand surface.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trial Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 4, DP 2-10)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 7): north-west end, facing south-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 144.28m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Modern car park surface. Black, compact, tarmac.
0.06 – 0.12m	L1001	Pale yellow, compact, sand.
0.12 – 0.16m	L1002	Earlier surface. Black, compact, tarmac.
0.16 – 0.24m	L1003	Dark orangey yellow, compact, sand with gravel and occasional CBM fragments.
0.24 – 0.30m	L1004	Light grey, compact, silty sand with some yellow sand, moderate charcoal flecks and occasional CBM fragments.
0.30 – 0.55m	L1005	White, compact, chalk with occasional CBM fragments.
0.55 – 0.70m	L1006	Mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and CBM fragments.
0.70 – 0.77m	L1007	White, compact, chalk.
0.77 – 0.82m	L1008	Light grey, compact, silty clay with moderate chalk chunks.
0.82 – 0.95m	L1009	Mid grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.95 – 1.10m	L1010	Mid to dark grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks.
1.10 – 1.23m	L1011	Mid yellowish brown, compact, silty clay with moderate chalk chunks and occasional small stones.
1.23 – 1.36m	L1012	Dark brown, friable, sandy silt with frequent flint and small stones.
1.36m+	L1019	Fill of Pit F1018. Dark brown, friable, sandy silt.
1.36m+	F1018	Cut of pit truncating L1013 and containing L1019. Oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base.
1.36m+	L1013	Natural white, compact, chalk.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 8): central part, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 144.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Tarmac. As above.
0.06 – 0.08m	L1001	Sand. As above.
0.08 – 0.14m	L1002	Tarmac. As above.
0.14 – 0.20m	M1014	Brick floor or yard surface.
0.20 – 0.60m	M1015	Brick wall.
0.60 – 0.81m	L1017	Fill of F1025. White, compact, chalk with occasional CBM. It contained 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (18g) and a clay pipe fragment (4g).
0.60 – 0.81m	F1025	Possible shallow ditch or foundation trench truncating L1006 and containing L1017. The visible NW edge of this feature was steep with a flattish base. Full extent not visible in plan.
0.60 – 0.70m	L1006	Mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and CBM. It contained CBM (333g), glass (403g), one Fe fragment (18g) and animal bone (45g).
0.81 – 1.34m	L1010	Clayey silt. As above.
1.28 – 1.35m	L1012	Dark brown, friable, sandy silt with frequent flint and small stones.
1.34m+	L1013	Natural chalk. As above.

*Description: TT1 contained five archaeological features: Floor/ Yard Surface M1014, Wall M1015, Wall Foundation M1016, Pit F1018 and possible Ditch/ Foundation Trench F1025.<sup>1</sup>*

Brick Floor/ Yard Surface M1014 (7.00+ x 1.80m+; DP 2 and 8) was encountered at 0.10 – 0.15m below existing ground level, immediately beneath modern Tarmac L1002 and Sand L1003. It was present within the majority of the trench excepting the south-eastern end. This surface was constructed of unbounded dark red frogged bricks (215 x 100 x 68mm) lain frog down. M1014 sealed Wall M1015 (Sample Section 1B; Fig. 4), though it was impossible to determine whether or not the two were bonded together. The GPR survey results gave little indication of this layer.

Wall M1015 (7.00+ x 0.40m; DPs. 8 and 10) was recorded within the south-western section of Trench 1 (Sample Section 1B). It was present c. 0.20m below existing ground level and was sealed by Brick Floor/ Yard Surface M1014. The wall was constructed of mid to dark red bricks (220 x 110 x 70mm) with an irregular and uneven finish, bonded with light yellow sandy mortar. M1015 overlay F1025 a possible ditch or foundation which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (18g). The GPR survey results gave little indication of Wall M1015. Interpretation of radar anomalies in this area of the site did not show any strong evidence of structural remains (Biggs 2012, fig. 16).

Linear Wall Foundation M1016 (1.80+ 0.26 x 0.25m; DP 4 and 5) was aligned north-east/ south-west and ran between the baulks in the south-eastern end of

<sup>1</sup> DP 8 (Sample Section 1B) appears to depict a dark 'area' in the lower part of the profile towards the north-western edge (below Layer L1006). This anomaly (within Layer L1010) resulted from part of the section collapsing during cleaning.

the trench. Each end of M1016 appeared to extend beyond the limits of the excavation. The wall foundation was sealed by modern Sand L1003 (M1014 was not present in the far south-eastern area of the trench), and comprised a single course of five roughly cubical blocks (c. 250 x 250 x 200mm) of light green, fine grained limestone (Appendix 3). The blocks were bonded with light yellow sandy mortar with small chalk and limestone inclusions. Some of the stones appeared scorched, beneath the mortar, possibly indicating a former use elsewhere. One, retained for detailed description, measures 250 x 180 x 160mm and is crudely faced, displaying (tentative) saw marks on one face (Appendix 3). The stones directly overlay F1025 a possible ditch or foundation trench which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (below). Faint traces of bricks bonded in to the top of Wall Foundation M1016 were visible in the south-western section of the trench. It is possible that the stones forming M1016 were reused from the medieval priory (Appendix 3).

GPR timeslice plots at depths of 76-89cm and 81-94cm showed high energy returns immediately to the west of Wall Foundation M1016 (Biggs 2012, fig. 11 and 12; Fig. 5), though these were not directly relatable to the archaeology encountered.

F1025 was a possible ditch or foundation trench observed in Sample Section 1B. The full extent of F1025 was not visible within TT1 though that part recorded in Sample Section 1B was shallow with a steep side and flattish base. Its fill, L1017, comprised re-deposited chalk and it contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (18g), CBM (322g) and a clay pipe fragment (4g). F1025 truncated Layers L1006 and L1010. The compact nature of L1017 suggests that it may have comprised foundation material. It underlay Wall Foundation M1016 and partially underlay brick Wall M1015.

Oval Pit F1018 (0.54+ x 0.52+ x 0.11m; DP 6) was located in the north-western part of TT1. No strong indication of this feature was given by the forerunning GPR survey (Biggs 2012). Pit F1018 had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1019, was a dark brown, friable, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this material. F1018 truncated Natural L1013 at the base of the trench and its fill was sealed by Layer L1012.

### **Trial Trench 2** (Figs. 2 and 4, DP 11 and 12)

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 11): north-western side, south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 145.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1020	Modern made ground. Mixed topsoil (dark grey, loose, silty sand).
0.43 – 0.89m	L1021	White, loose, chalk with moderate CBM fragments.
0.89 – 1.12m	L1022	Dark yellow, loose, sand.
1.12 – 1.40+m	L1024	Dark brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate CBM, 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (231g) and glass (270g).
1.50m +	L1013	Natural chalk. As above, TT 1.

*Description: TT2 contained a succession of post-medieval layers, the lowest of which was L1024, a dark brown, friable, sandy silt, containing mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (231g) and glass (270g). L1024 overlay the natural Chalk L1013.*

The earliest made ground deposit encountered within TT2 (L1024) yielded mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (231g; see Appendix 3) and modern glass bottle fragments; L1024 also included moderate CBM. This layer sealed Natural L013. L1024 was sealed by a further (potential) made ground deposit (L1022), which was sealed in turn by L1021, a loose layer of apparently redeposited natural chalk with moderate CBM. The latest material encountered was mixed Topsoil L1020. Compositionally similar (albeit much earlier) deposits were reported by Matthews (1984) from the far north-eastern corner of the site (within the SAM boundary; see Section 9, Discussion).

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds within TT1. However, it did not prove possible to safely access TT2; all layers encountered within TT2 were mechanically-excavated and recorded in section.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site stratigraphy was characterised by the presence of substantial deposits of made ground. These included layers of re-deposited chalk, for example, L1005, L1017 and L1021. Some contained CBM fragments. The made ground was 1 to 1.20m thick.

8.2 The natural geology, L1013, was present at c. 1.30m below existing surface level and comprised a white, compact, chalk.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological features encountered within TT1 are tabulated below:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
TT1	M1014	Brick floor/ yard surface	19 <sup>th</sup> century
	M1015	Brick wall	19 <sup>th</sup> century
	M1016	Wall foundation with re-used stone	Post-medieval / modern
	F1018	Pit	Undated
	F1025	Possible ditch or foundation trench	19 <sup>th</sup> century

9.2 The site had potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. The site lies adjacent to Roman Watling Street and within the Roman settlement of *Durocobravis*. The northern part of the site lies within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter.

9.2 Both TT1 and TT2 contained numerous made ground deposits. The deposits were post-medieval (19<sup>th</sup> century) and modern in date; 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in possible Ditch or Foundation Trench F1025, midway down the stratigraphic profile (Sample Section 1B). F1025 underlay Wall Foundation M1016 and partially underlay Wall M1015.

9.3 The stone used to construct Wall Foundation M1016 was a very fine grained limestone (likely Totternhoe stone; see Appendix 3). The quarrying industry at Totternhoe, c. 3.2km to the west of Dunstable, reached its peak in the Middle Ages with the boom in monastic building projects (Curran 2005, 1, 15). The first historical record of a quarry at Totternhoe appears in a charter of Henry I, wherein it is granted to Dunstable Priory (after Curran 2005, 18). The 1983 excavation by Manshead Archaeological Society in the far north-east of the site, within the SAM boundary, recorded a wealth of structural evidence including the supposed outer wall of the monastic site, which had been faced with Totternhoe stone on both sides (Matthews 1984, 2ff). It is possible that the stone forming M1016 was robbed/ reused masonry originally from the medieval Priory. M1016 directly overlay possible Ditch or Foundation Trench F1025 which contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The Stage 1 GPR survey (Biggs 2012) gave no indication of Wall Foundation M1016 (see section 6, above).

9.4 The stage 2 evaluation identified a 19<sup>th</sup> century Wall foundation (M1015), possibly forming the southern wall of a stable block to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel, identified on contemporary cartographic sources (Fig. 3). No strong indication of this wall was given by the Stage 1 GPR survey (Biggs 2012). Like Wall Foundation M1016, M1015 directly overlay possible Ditch or Foundation Trench F1025. Brick Floor M1014, sealing M1015, was possibly the floor of the stables or may have represented a later yard surface.

9.5 TT2 within the north-eastern area of the site contained made ground deposits, similar to those encountered within TT1, sealing Natural L1013. The basal layer encountered within TT2, L1024, yielded a single sherd of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and bottle glass. Comparable layers of 'earth and chalk' were recorded 'backfilling' *cellar 2*, excavated by Manshead Archaeological Society, some 20m to the north-east (see Matthews 1984, 4, fig. 8), though much of this material appears to have significantly predated the deposition of L1024.

9.6 In addition to those anomalies targeted by TT1 and TT2, the Stage 1 GPR survey indicated a high potential for structural remains immediately to the south and south-east of TT1 (Biggs 2012; fig. 16). Included was 'a focussed area of interest of possible archaeological origin', producing a variety of GPR responses (*ibid.* fig. 16). Similar responses were encountered

a short distance to the south of TT2, immediately within the SAM boundary, while rectilinear responses possibly relating to buried structural remains were encountered in the far north-east of the site (*ibid.* fig.17). These may relate to the Priory precinct.

9.7 The central area of the site, beneath and directly to the east/ south-east of the extant garages (between TT1 and TT2), also has high potential for further archaeological remains. Excepting the modern garages, this part of the site was undeveloped in the post-medieval and early modern periods with no outbuildings depicted on the cartographic sources.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

SMR	NGR SP	Description
<b>Neolithic</b>		
1444	TL 02 22	Neolithic implements. A record of Neolithic implements found in fields to the north of the Icknield Way between Dunstable and Leagrave.
<b>Iron Age</b>		
353	TL 0230 2190	Icknield Way (Viatores Road 168). The line of a route running through the county, thought to be at least early Iron Age in date and possibly Neolithic. It does not appear to have been metalled during the Roman period, and may have been a "service road" connecting villas and settlements to Watling Street at this time. It seems to have been formalised as a road in the medieval period. The suggested line has been traced from 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> century maps. The line crosses Watling Street at Dunstable. The exact course is not always clear but at some points green lanes and aggers are visible. A possible section of the road was identified during archaeological evaluations on West St, Dunstable.
13357 (EBD193)		Priory Middle School, Britain St, Dunstable. Excavations by MAS between 1992 and 2003 recorded two ditches of which one was thought to be medieval due to the presence of finds and the other was of late Iron Age date. A medieval trackway was also present which ran over the earlier ditch and headed towards the Priory, as well as a medieval structure. Also recorded were a row of post holes and post pads which are thought to represent an original and replaced boundary line, which is first seen on a map of 1822. A road running parallel to the present High Street was thought to be a back lane of post medieval date. Evidence for another fence line is also seen in lines of postholes uncovered. The site also produced evidence for a Holloway, which although it produced medieval sherds, has been dated by the prehistoric pottery found in the lower fills. A possible structure was also identified by lines of flints deliberately set on end and flint filled postholes which probably dates to prehistoric times. Two probable ditches running parallel to each and three early post WWII rubbish pits were recorded. A road was also visible and had a properly metalled surface over cart ruts of a probably 12 <sup>th</sup> century date. The road continued in use up to at least the Victorian era and was associated with the postholes which probably form a fence. One ditch was probably cut by a Roman ditch and the other possibly of a medieval date. A third ditch is dated to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD and is cut by the medieval trackway. At the northern end of the ditch a grave was present which contained a skeleton of a probable late Roman date. A large amount of finds from the topsoil ranged from modern to late Iron Age in date.
<b>Roman</b>		
11284		Friary Field, Dunstable. Excavations by MAS in 1965 revealed Roman finds scattered throughout the surface layers and medieval features, and ditches and a well of Roman date appeared beneath the medieval levels. Many finds from a variety of features (pits, ditches, wells, possible buildings) attest to the density of Roman



		<p>of Watling Street and the Icknield Way. The extent of the Roman settlement is not known but remains have been found in the other quadrants of the town as well. An archaeological investigation by the Manshead Archaeological society of Dunstable in 1964 revealed a length of metalled road, thought to be the Roman surface of the Icknield Way, along with extensive evidence of Roman occupation to the north. The latter included a cinerary urn, three probable hut structures, pits and 13 wells, with occasional inhumations within. Six of the wells contained only Roman material, while the others contained mixed Roman and 12th/13th century pottery, revealing that they remained open until the Medieval period. The quantity of Roman material found in wells and later contexts in the town has been interpreted to indicate the high level generally scattered over the area in the early medieval period.</p> <p>Further excavations in 2000-2001 uncovered scattered evidence for activity dating to the second half of the 1st century AD, possibly part of the initial settlement layout which was abandoned at an early date for unknown reasons.</p>
11277	TL 018 216	<p>Cross Street and Chapel Alley – Roman pit. Features identified as "refuse pits" by W.G Smith were discovered during the execution of drainage works in 1901, in Cross street and Chancel Abbey. Smith's description suggests that these were actually ditches, probably boundary ditches which had been used for the dumping of domestic refuse - oyster shells animal bone and pottery.</p>
11273	TL 017 217	<p>St Mary's Street. Archaeological investigation by MAS revealed a cess pit and a Roman well with a large quantity of complete pots and 9 Roman coins. The pots in the cess pit gave a good dating sequence (AD 130 – 160). The coins included a silver Denarius of Vitellius minted in Rome in AD 69. The eight coins from the well show that it was in use into the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The investigation also recorded a malt drying kiln, the 4<sup>th</sup> found in the south-west quadrant indicating a prosperous brewing industry in the town during the 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The most surprising find was a large tile kiln and 2 glazed jugs in a cess pit, also known as kiln wasters. Normally kilns are sited near the source of the raw materials i.e. clay and wood for firing.</p>
11274	TL 018 219	<p>Roman well, 17 High St North. Discovered in cellar during demolition of shop in centre of Dunstable, on Watling street. Excavated to 41' 6" before water reached. 2' 10" diameter, unlined. Spiralling hand and foot holes to below water level. At 32' slots built in sides to take timbers for platform. Cellar floor was 8' 6" below road level, i.e total depth to water = 50'. Fill contained occupation of Roman and early medieval date. Latest pot was yellow or green glazed ware - one sherd at lowest level, therefore well not filled in before 14th century. Very little building tile found, supporting evidence that Dunstable had been in the main a town of timber construction.</p>
1998	TL 025 218	<p>Roman coins, Englands Lane. Traces of a ditch were observed near Englands Lane, thought to be the remains either of a Roman fortification or a medieval town ditch. A number of Roman coins were reportedly found in or near the ditch.</p>

11272	TL 020 219	Kingsbury, Church St. Brass medal, or coin which appears Roman, found in garden at Kingsbury.
7099	TL 018 219	A section of the Roman Watling St was exposed in front of Dunstable Town Hall, 8" deep, during drainage works in 1901.
17800	TL 019 218	Roman to post medieval finds and features were excavated during trial trenching at 21-23 High Street South in Dunstable. At 21-23 High Street South in Dunstable surface finds of Roman to post medieval pottery shreds were collected prior to trial trenching. The trenches revealed a possible beam slot on a NW-SE orientation possibly of Roman date, a Roman surface, and 3 18th to 19th century rubbish pits. A large number of finds were also recovered from these features.
16077	TL 017 219	Roman/Medieval Occupation, 23-27 High Street North. At 23-27 High Street North in Dunstable evidence has been recovered for the occupation of the site from the Roman and Medieval periods. The excavations uncovered 2 wells or cess pits and a post hole, all of which are probably of a Roman or medieval date.
5508		Watling Street. Route of Roman road known as Watling Street from Kensworth to Potsgrove.
<b>Medieval</b>		
11281		Priory Meadow. Watching brief by R Hagen in 1970 recorded a medieval burial ground (at least 18 burials) and some remains of buildings of the Priory period (c.1132-1540). The natural chalk surface was cut by a substantial ditch sealed by dark soil containing early Roman pots (Camulodum 65 AD – 2 <sup>nd</sup> century), a native style bowl and large storage jar (probably early), also early mortarium, Samian and some undistinguished coarse grey wares. The discovery of this palisade ditch of possible defensive proportions is indicative that Dunstable was on the site of the present town centre.
WB230		Dunstable Priory. 3 test pits were excavated by BCCAS in 1995 in advance of water/sewage works. Medieval to post-medieval/modern stratigraphy and a possible medieval cellar were recorded.
PHD1050		Priory House, Dunstable. Watching brief and building recording by AA in 2004-5 during alterations recorded details of its medieval core.
14965 (EBD55)		Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church St, Dunstable. Evaluation by HN in 2007 revealed an undated linear feature as well as a ditch, a pit and a post hole. Medieval artefacts were recovered from the pit.
16173	TL 022 219	2 Priory Road, Dunstable. Evaluation by MAS in 1993 recorded 18 certain and several probable, but destroyed, burials aligned W-E, of Christian practice. Early burials are associated with the Priory and date to the 12 <sup>th</sup> century. All the graves are associated with the Priory and it is thought that within this area they were probably only burying people over a 100 year period. A time at which large parts of the Priory were still being constructed. To the north of grave 44 a parallel ditch was uncovered which has been interpreted as one of the boundary markers for the cemetery.
	TL 0207 2173	Saracen's Head garden. Excavation by MAS in 1983 recorded disturbed garden soil overlying the natural chalk at c.0.3m below ground level. A test pit along the north-

		eastern edge of the site recorded possible monastic structures comprising four cellars containing three small ovens and a fire place. These were transformed into a lime kiln after the Dissolution of the Monasteries.
15822 (EBD193)	TL 022 218	Evaluation by AA in 2005 recorded the presence of archaeological remains sealed below a significant depth of colluvium and modern make up layers. This also recorded a furrow, probably from the medieval period, which was filled with post-medieval finds suggesting that it was used for dumping from nearby houses or the adjacent 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century road. There were 2 other ditches found near to the furrow, that probably represent field boundaries (undated)
17801 (EBD502)		The White Swan pub, 91 High St South. Excavations by MAS in 2005 revealed only medieval and post-medieval finds and features (pits and ditches) and a modern well and rubbish pit. The lack of Roman finds was interpreted as suggesting that the area was neither cultivated nor occupied during this period.
17723		A reference in 1269 AD to a Simon le Tylere of Dunstable has been found. About a mile to the east of the town on the top of the Downs is a disturbed area which is obviously the site of ancient clay pits. This is at Skimpot, an abbreviation of 'St Mary's pottery'. These ancient pits are probably the source for the afore-mentioned kilns.
131  131 (EBD235)  (EBD187)	TL 021 218	<p>The Augustinian Priory of St Peter was founded by Henry I at Christmas 1131-1132. The conventual church was built in the second half of the 12th century (see HER132). The Priory was dissolved in 1540. The church survives, but most of the other buildings have been demolished. The remains of the gatehouse survive to the south west of the church, and comprise carriage and pedestrian entrances. An 18th century building called the Priory stands on the site of the priory guesthouse. Part of the Hospitium, dating from c.1300, survived into the 20th century as the ground floor of a factory on the High Street but was subsequently demolished. Much of the rest of the priory area is now under grass, in which low earthworks show the locations of priory buildings.</p> <p>Priory Gardens, High Street, Dunstable. Watching brief by MAS in 2006 revealed evidence only to confirm the long history of the site as a cultivated garden. Residual Roman sherds indicate that this area was probably occupied, or cultivated in the Roman period.</p> <p>Land adjacent to Montpellier House, High St Street, Dunstable. Evaluation by ASC in 2002 revealed only evidence of post-medieval quarrying activities on the site.</p>
134	TL 018 218	Eleanor Cross. The site of an Eleanor cross. The crosses were built to commemorate Eleanor, the wife of Edward I, who died at Hadby, near Lincoln, in 1290. Her body was taken to London in procession over several days, and crosses were built in the places where the procession rested. They rested in Dunstable on 12 <sup>th</sup> December 1290.
16986	TL 018 218	Dunstable medieval town. Dunstable has its origins mainly in the 12th century when after 1100AD Henry I began to develop the settlement as a market Town. The parish boundaries to the N and E are straightish and form rectangular areas containing the burgage plots. They are thought to have been boundaries when the town was

<p>(EBD110)</p> <p>(EBD67)</p> <p>(EBD47)</p>		<p>created out of the land of Houghton Regis, the irregular SW side appears to follow the furlong boundaries with Kensworth. Excavations of a variety of types have occurred within the Town, mainly between 1998 and 2005. A watching brief for a pipeline only produced medieval and post medieval finds. When the Millennium Clock was being constructed medieval remains were found in the form of a flint surface, which had a distinct lack of ruts, possibly due to the presence of stalls, above this was another flint layer of medieval date. Another watching brief took place at 26 Burr Street which produced modern features and 3 sherds of medieval pottery. Trial excavations at Ashton St Peters Junior School in 2000 revealed features of a Roman and high Medieval date. The excavations showed that the land was mainly used from the early to post medieval periods, activity had occurred on site from the Iron Age and Roman period but there was no Saxon evidence to allow for the continuation of the settlement. The main activity was from the 11th to 13th century and indicated domestic use, with quarry pits seen in 1 trench. Medieval activity was mainly associated to the rear of the burgage plots but no structural evidence was recovered. Expansion of the Magistrates Court on Kingsway, which is located near to the Roman Road of Watling Street and the prehistoric route way called Icknield Way, required archaeological investigations to be carried out. No remains were found due to heavy ground disturbance, which is believed to be associated with the construction of the Magistrates Court. Limited work also took place at 77B High Street South where a medieval ditch was uncovered, and a 65-75 High Street South a watching brief recovered several pit like features and pieces of worked stone.</p> <p>Ashton St Peter's Lower School, Church St, Dunstable. Evaluation by OA in 2004 produced evidence of a possible Roman pit and a significant period of activity from c.11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries with the scale and shape of the excavated features indicating domestic use and possible quarrying. These features have survived within the site despite a considerable period of later post-med activity.</p> <p>88-84 High Street South, Dunstable. Watching brief by ASC in 2007 revealed two cellars of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date, as well as possible ditch terminus or pit of unknown date.</p> <p>65-75 High Street South, Dunstable. Watching brief by ASC between 2005-7 revealed several pit-like features and pieces of Totternhoe clunch stone. Other than this, no archaeological features were observed and no artefacts recovered.</p>
17735	TL 022 214	<p>Medieval oven/kiln. At 158 High Street South in Dunstable 2 features were excavated. The earliest, a small circular oven or kiln, was cut by the second which was also of a probable medieval date and most likely the stokehole for another oven or kiln outside the limits of the excavation. The heat marks of the first feature suggested that the structure was not subjected to high levels of heat, and as such was probably an oven as opposed to a kiln. At some point in the medieval period the main fill of the</p>

		second (deeper) feature had subsided and the depression had been filled by heavily burnt and fused peg tile from a destroyed kiln. This second feature had clearly been subjected to higher levels of heat and was therefore interpreted as a kiln. Foundation trenches to the east of the site revealed the filled-in cellar of an earlier, possibly, medieval building.
148	TL 021 219	King's Palace. The site of a house or palace belonging to the King. Documents refer to Henry I having built the house, and spending Christmas there in 1123 and 1132. The lands attached to the house were granted by Henry to the Augustinian Priory of Dunstable when he founded it in 1131/2, but the Charter specifies that he retained the house and garden. King John gave the house to the Priory in 1204. By the time of the Dissolution, the house had become a farmhouse and is later referred to by the name Kingsbury. The house was restored in the early 20th century, and its barn converted for use as the town museum. In 1934 it was sold and divided up into the Old Palace Lodge (which became a hotel in 1960), Kingsbury Stables (which became the Norman King public house in 1961) and Kingsbury Court.
141	TL 019 216	Dominican Friary. The site of a Dominican Friary, founded in 1259 and dissolved in 1539. The buildings lie to the south of the High street in Dunstable. Excavations and observations of ground disturbance have taken place on the site since the 1830s. Before the 1970s, parts of buildings had been located along with burials. In the 1970s extensive work located the church, identified a boundary wall and ditch to the north of the church which could represent the precinct boundary, and confirmed the existence of what appears to be an elaborate monastic garden. The buildings are generally well-preserved, with walls surviving to as high as 1m. It has been suggested that at the Dissolution, the interior furnishings were removed and the roof taken off. The vaulting collapsed and the walls were removed down to ground level, but not down to floor level which was lower than the external ground level in places. Finds included architectural fragments, floor tiles, painted glass and human remains. The Dunstable Swan brooch (now in the British Museum) was found in 1965, during local society excavations on an area believed to be the kitchens and guest house. Roman burials and other activity have also been recorded in the area.
1362	TL 022 219	Medieval seal. A 12th century seal depicting the martyrdom of St Katherine, possibly found near the site of the demolished choir of the priory church. The material is not stated.
11280	TL 018 216	Medieval occupation, Chapel Walk. 1973 excavation - site 1; Mass of Medieval and Post Medieval features. Number of handmade Saxon pots. Shell-gritted, probably derived from 10th/11th century St. Neots; glazed pot probably Brill. Use of cess-pits, probably shows that buildings based on Watting Street. Some were probably toilets inside timber huts. Indiscriminate scatter of post-holes and various features. Small round oven of edged tile, dressed Totternhoe stone; rammed chalk floor subsided over Roman Well. 2 malt drying ovens, early one of chalk and

		Totternhoe stone, replaced by tile example. Post holes and Totternhoe stone plinths represent large timber building, probably large aisled barn extending into neighbouring field; lasted into 18th century. 18th century rubble roadway; moved S in 19th century where its extension survived in existing lane leading to barns of corn-chandles demolished in 1960s. Some of the material undoubtedly belongs to earliest founding of Dunstable. Use of land for cess pits suggests houses on highway, with large areas of open space behind. Late 13th and 14th century open spaces taken up with large timber structures, malt kilns and houses. Little evidence of 16th/17th century contraction of Dunstable post-dissolution.
15008		Kingsbury Court, Church Street. Excavations by MAS in 1988 on the site thought to be the location of Henry I's palace, but archaeological evidence disproved this theory as the site did not contain evidence of such a structure. The excavations mainly produced evidence for the conversion of a farm to a Georgian townhouse. A wall runs over the eroded top of a pit and the floor was built over half of a drain which cut the wall. This indicates at least 3 phases of use and re-modelling interspersed with at least 1 phase of dereliction.
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
15813	TL 021 216	3 Wellington Terrace. Excavations in 1991 produced evidence for a modern glasshouse with a tile floor, above this feature the soil contained a 1916 penny. The traces of any older boundaries were not very substantial as only a thin line of stone and post-medieval peg tile fragments were present to indicate a wall core. Near to this wall were a post pad and several post holes of an unknown date, along with a possible palisade trench to the west. Also recorded were arrow of small stake holes and a rubbish deposit dating to the 1850s. The pit contained a number of clay pipes of a 'Churchwarden' type, pottery with blue transfer and a hand-painted tea service. The finds suggested that the rubbish was associated with a wealthy household and a large amount of animal bones were also present. In total the site only produced a tiny amount of Roman and medieval pottery.
3542	TL 017 217	Police HQ, West St. Two tile kilns were excavated in 1974-5. No datable pottery was found during the excavations, but tile fragments similar to found elsewhere in Dunstable were recovered. A name of "Tile Kiln Close" is recorded in an indenture of 1707. The document conveys land for the building of a "Church House" on land at the north of Tile Kiln Close, abutting Butts Lane to the north and St Mary Overs to the south; Tile Kiln Close is not named on the 1840 Tithe Map, but Butts Lane and St Mary's Close are shown in the vicinity of the Old Baptist Chapel. The tile kilns would therefore seem to have gone out of use by 1707.
4548	TL 020 216	Grey House Hotel, 59 High St, Dunstable. Former 18 <sup>th</sup> century farmstead and inn. Converted into Straw Bonnet and Hat Factory in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, and current house and hotel are in the Dunstable conservation area.
6069	TL 020 217	47 and 47a High St South. C18 or early C19 cottage with modern shop front. 2 storeys, 3 sash windows. Colour washed brick, old tiled roof. 2 first floor arched panels.



		Plain door surround. Recent back addition. Nos. 47, 47A, 49 and 49A form a group with No 45, which is of local interest.
6259	TL 020 217	Saracen's Head Hotel, 45 High Street South. Hotel, former Inn of 18th century origin, replacing 14th century original. "It had generally been thought that the present Saracen's head dated from the 14th century. But recent (2004) re-examination of deeds indicated that it was in fact created out of three cottages which are known to have been in existence by 1751. There had been a much earlier Saracen's Head nearer the cross-roads but this had ceased to be an Inn about 1785. The name was probably transferred to the new Inn about this time, when it was referred to as such in the Manor Court records c.1785. It was described as a 'brick, timber and slate' building. A description which continued until after 1830. Sometime in the late 19th century it was given an 18th century façade which has remained more or less unchanged until the present time."
1445	TL 018 217	Quaker Burial Ground. A Society of Friends (Quaker) burial ground with its origins in the 17th century. 16 burials are known to have been made there.
3207	TL 020 217	Post-medieval coins, High Street South. A find of gold and silver coins made at an unspecified date. The coins were recorded as gold and silver, dating from the reigns of Edward VI (1547-1553) to Charles I (1625-1649). No other details recorded.
6311	TL 019 217	Grade II* listed. C18, cement rendered C19. Mansard Welsh slate roof. 2 storeys and attics. 4 round-headed windows with archivolt and keyblocks. Door surround of architrave, consoles and pediment. Parapet. Original garden front of good design. Red brick, stone dressings and in-and-out quoins. Ground floor windows in architraves, let floor windows in eared archivolt. Pedimented Roman Doric doorway. Molded cornice, parapet with stone coping. Pedimented slight central projection. On site of Priory Guesthouse. Reputed to contain C13 vaulted room.
<b>Undated</b>		
(EBD564)		Rear of 17 High St, Dunstable. Watching brief by ASC in 2004 revealed that the only surviving pre-modern ground layers may be restricted to the south-east of the brick foundation found in one of the test pits.
(WB198)		Dunstable Priory. A salvage excavation was carried out by BCCAS in 1991 in association with building work. No further information available.

## APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS BY FEATURE

### AS1509, Saracen's Head, Dunstable

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1006		1	Layer			333	45	Glass (1) - 403g Fe. Frag (1) - 18g
1017	1025	1	Fill	Early 19th C	(3) 18g	322		Clay Pipe - 4g
	1016		Wall					W. Stone (1) - approx. 11500g
	1024	2	Layer	Mid-late 19th C	(1) 231g			Glass (1) - 270g

## APPENDIX 3 SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

### The Pottery

Peter Thompson

Layer L1024 (TT2) contained a glossy brown salt glazed stoneware bottle, probably an ink bottle, inscribed with DOULTON LAMBETH and the number 17 above the name. The neck of the bottle is broken off but the body measures 8cm in height and the diameter of the flat base is 5cm. John Doulton served as an apprenticeship to John Dwight at his Fulham pottery and in 1815 set up in partnership to form his own pottery on Lambeth High Street. In 1853 the company traded as Dalton & Company. The stamp arrangement with the capitalized DOULTON above LAMBETH stylistically most closely matches examples on brown and cream-glazed stoneware dated between c. 1858 and 1910. A bottle with a similar London maker stamp was found at Bedford and was not thought to be local to the region (Baker and Baker *et al.* 1979, 222). The example from the Saracen's Head site has a slight inturn at the angle between the body and base which is not similar to published examples from Bedford.

Possible Ditch or Foundation Trench F1025 L1017 contained two white earthenware sherds with blue "willow pattern" decoration from the same plate. They have a pearl ware glaze which was an effect introduced c. 1779 by Josiah Wedgwood, designed to emulate the blue and white of delftware and porcelain. The stipple and line effect among the willow pattern decoration would suit a date of c. 1810 to 1860. The remaining sherd is an unglazed factory made white earthenware of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

### References

Baker, D., Baker, E., Hassall, and Simco, A. 1979, *Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977*, Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal Volume 13 pp. 7-240

### KEY:

ENGS: English Stoneware 18<sup>th</sup> century+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18<sup>th</sup> century+

RWE: Refined white earthenware late 18<sup>th</sup> century+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Fill	L1017	2 x 11g TPW 1 x 4g RWE	19 <sup>th</sup> century	Ring base to plate or shallow bowl
Layer	L1024	1 x 226g ENGS	Mid to Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Bottle inscribed with '17 DOULTON LAMBETH'

## **The Worked Stone**

*Andrew Peachey*

A single large sub-rectangular piece of worked stone (c.11.5kg) was recovered from 19th century Wall Foundation M1016, TT1. It comprised a fine grained limestone, likely Totternhoe stone, which was extensively used in the medieval Dunstable Priory (located a short distance to the north; see Section 9.3, above). The stone has maximum dimensions of 250 x 180 x 160mm and displays some damage. It is dressed and faced on three sides but is otherwise roughly cut. Possible saw marks are evident on the largest face, though these may be of modern origin. Lime mortar covers a large proportion of the stone, likely resulting from its most recent use as part of Wall Foundation M1016.

## **The Animal Bone**

*Dr Julia E. M. Cussans*

A single animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations to the rear of the Saracen's Head hotel, Dunstable. The bone came from layer L1006 and was well preserved with no signs of gnawing and little abrasion. The bone was a distal and shaft portion of a sheep/ goat tibia. The proximal end was missing and it is not known if this was fused or not at the time the animal died; the distal epiphysis is fused. A single cut mark was observed on the posterior of the shaft towards the proximal end. The bone appears to have come from a relatively slender individual. No pathologies or other modifications were noted.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Saracen's Head, High Street South, Dunstable, Beds. Looking north.



DP 2. Trench 1 during excavation. Floor/yard surface M1014. Looking south.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking south-east.



DP 4. Wall M1016. Looking north-east.



DP 5. Wall M1016. Looking south-east.



DP 6. Pit F1018. Looking south-east.



DP 7. Trench 1, north-west end. Sample section 1A. Looking north-east.



DP 8. Trench 1, central part. Sample section 1B with Wall M1015. Looking south-west.



DP 9. Trench 1, general view. Looking north.



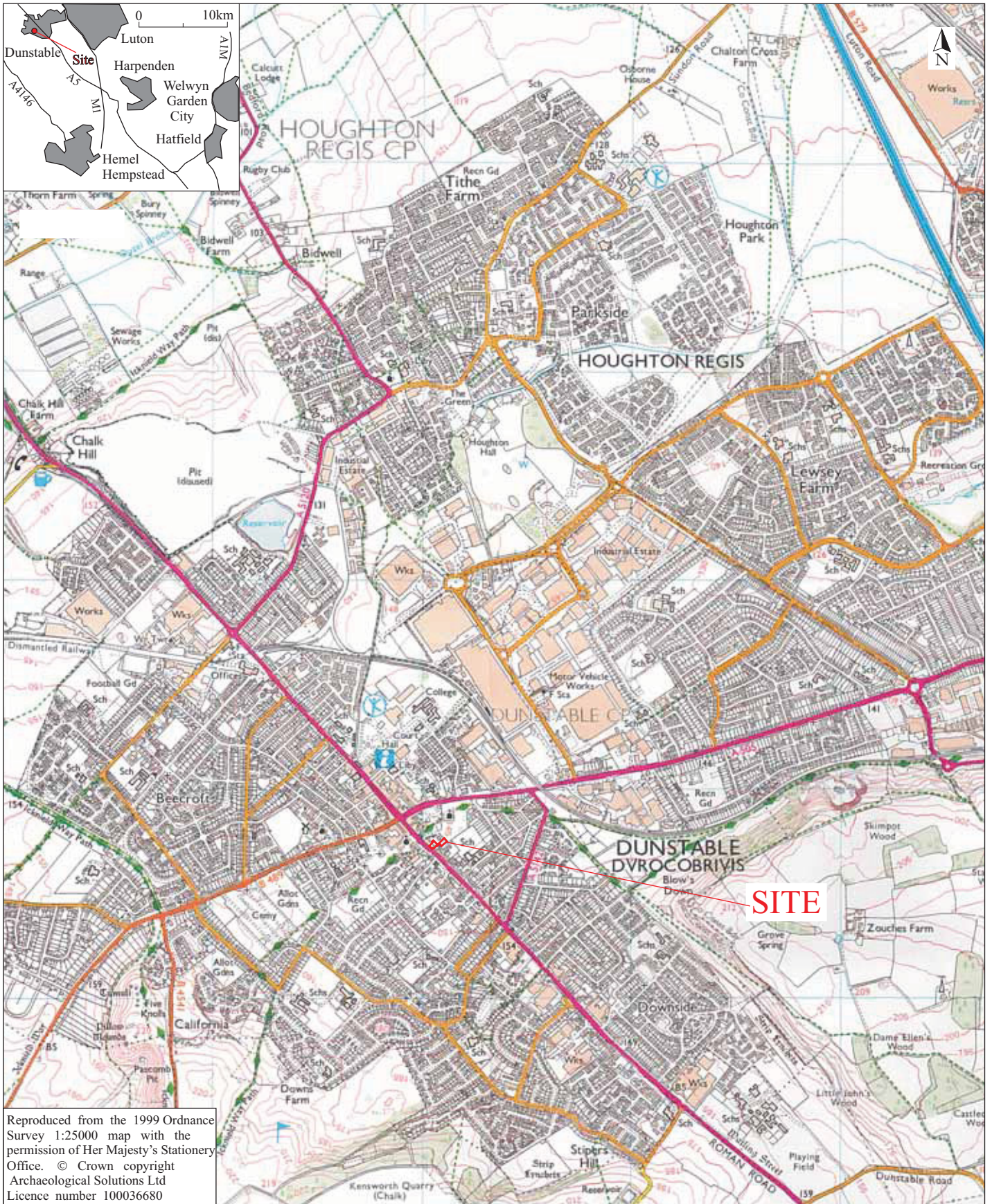
DP 10. Trench 1, general view. Looking south.



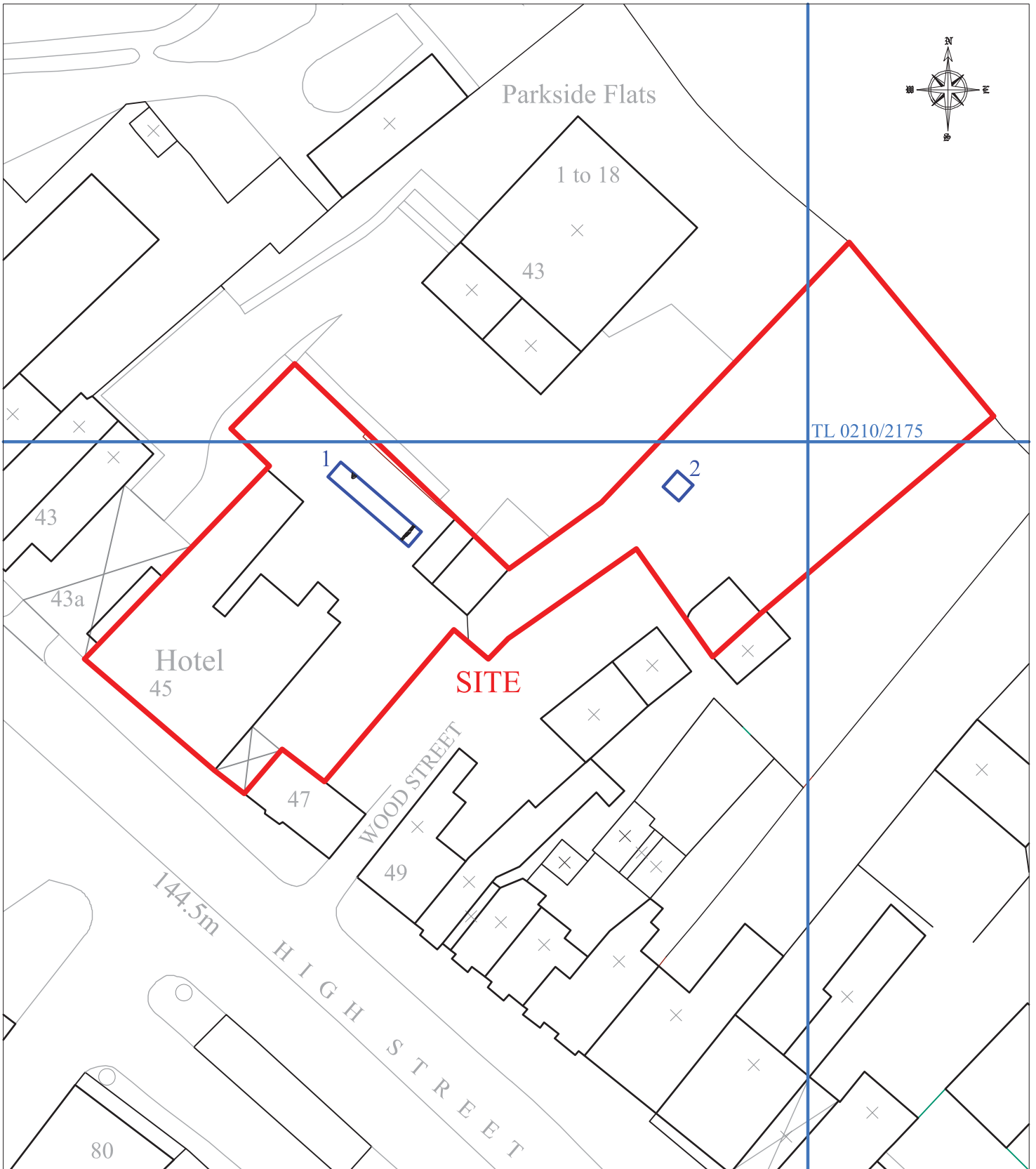
DP 11. Pit 1. Section 1. Looking north-west.



DP 12. Pit 1, general view. Looking north.



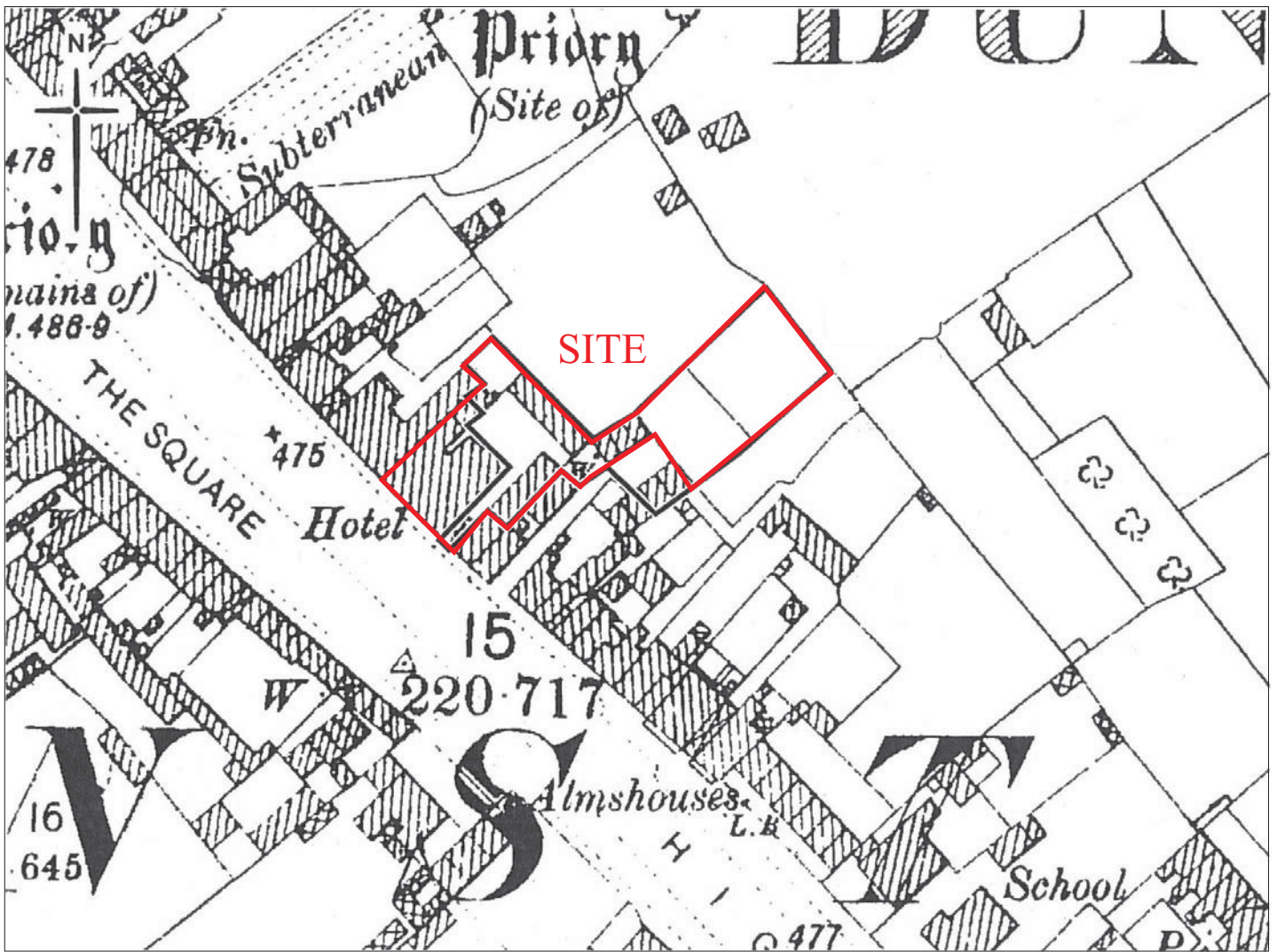
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 25m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4

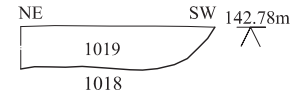
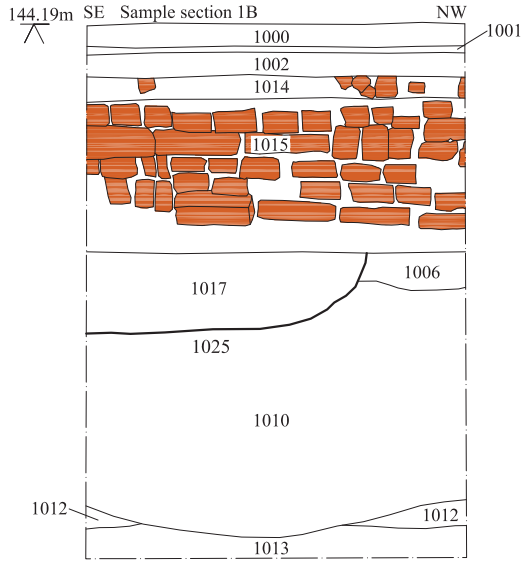
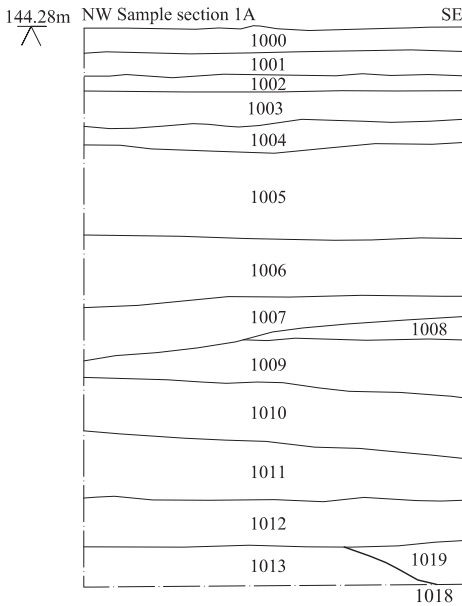
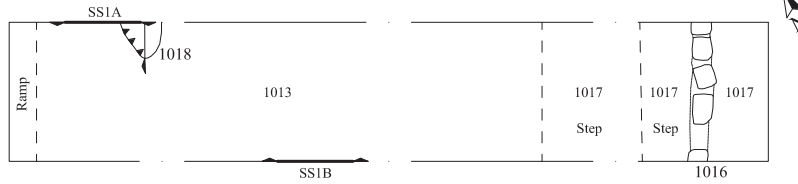




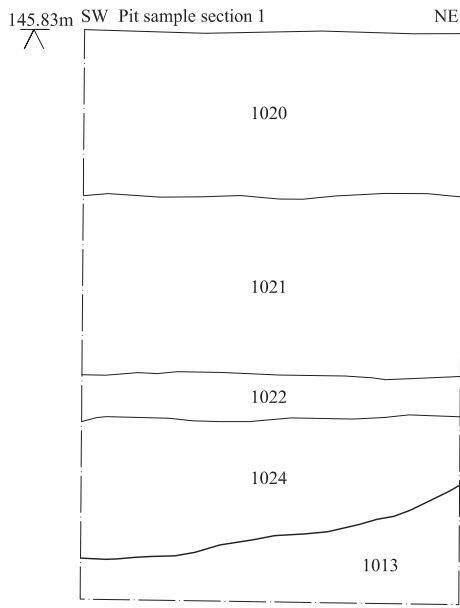
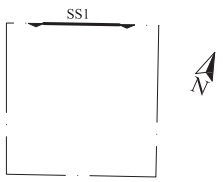
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Fig. 3 OS 3rd edition, 1924  
Not to scale

**Trench 1**



**Test Pit 1**



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**Fig. 4 Plans and sections**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

