

**LAND AT 28 & 28A HIGH STREET, PUCKERIDGE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE SG11 1RN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

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HERTFORDSHIRE SG11 1RN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER Enquiry No: 18/12

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
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| NGR: TL 38585 23370   | Report No. 4087   |
| District: East Hertfordshire  | Site Code: AS1504 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA  | Project No. 4743  |
| Signed:   | Date: June 2012   |

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

|   |   |                     |         |
|---|---|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Project details</b>  |   |                     |         |
| Project name  | <i>Land at 28 &amp; 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN. Archaeological Evaluation.</i> |                     |         |
| <p><i>In May and June 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at 28 &amp; 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (TL 38585 23370; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of two detached dwellings (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/10/2123/FP).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed a levelling layer of post-medieval brick and tiles (L1003) below a layer of made ground (L1001). L1003 appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site, and the latter was evidently disturbed.</i></p> |   |                     |         |
| Project dates (fieldwork)   | 31/05/12 – 01/06/12   |                     |         |
| Previous work (Y/N/?)   | No  | Future work (Y/N/?) | TBC     |
| P. number   | P4743   | Site code           | AS1491  |
| Type of project   | Archaeological evaluation   |                     |         |
| Site status   | Area of Archaeological Significance 94 (AAS 94)   |                     |         |
| Current land use  | Garden. Scrub & outbuilding   |                     |         |
| Planned development   | Demolition of an outbuilding and construction of 2 detached dwellings                                   |                     |         |
| Main features (+dates)  | Levelling layer   |                     |         |
| Significant finds (+dates)  | Post-medieval CBM   |                     |         |
| <b>Project location</b>   |   |                     |         |
| County/ District/ Parish  | Hertfordshire   | East Hertfordshire  | Standon |
| HER/ SMR for area   | Hertfordshire HER   |                     |         |
| Post code (if known)  | SG11 1RN  |                     |         |
| Area of site  | c. 540m <sup>2</sup>  |                     |         |
| NGR   | TL 38585 23370  |                     |         |
| Height AOD (max/ min)   | c. 75m AOD  |                     |         |
| <b>Project creators</b>   |   |                     |         |
| Brief issued by   | Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU)  |                     |         |
| PO/Supervisor   | Archaeological Solutions Ltd  |                     |         |
| Funded by   | John Parkins & Esta Dennis  |                     |         |
| Full Title  | Land at 28 & 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN. Archaeological Evaluation.            |                     |         |
| Authors   | Smith., L. & Stoakley, M.   |                     |         |
| Report No.  | 4087  |                     |         |
| Date of report  | June 2012   |                     |         |

## **LAND AT 28 & 28A HIGH STREET, PUCKERIDGE, HERTFORDSHIRE SG11 1RN**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In May and June 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at 28 & 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (TL 38585 23370; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of two detached dwellings (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/10/2123/FP).*

*The site lies within the historic core of the town of Puckeridge, within the area designated as Area of Archaeological Significance 94 on the Local Plan. This designates the presence of a significant Iron Age/Roman settlement including the Scheduled Monument of the Roman town at Braughing, extensive late Iron Age and Roman settlement and burial and the course of Roman Ermine Street which shadows the High Street) and also the medieval and later village of Puckeridge.*

*The Iron Age settlement (c. 20 BC – AD 40) consisted of many dispersed occupation areas forming a large trading centre. The Roman centre seems to have been informal, without a planned road grid or large public buildings, centred to the north of Puckeridge on Wickham Hill. With the volume of traffic passing along Stane Street and Ermine Street (which converge less than 200m east of the White Hart) and the evidence for production, it is likely the Roman settlement served as a market centre. There is little evidence of post-Roman activity in Puckeridge until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the village began to rapidly grow in prosperity; it later became an important coaching stop on the London to Cambridge Road, with numerous inns.*

*The site lies to the rear (west) of 28 High Street, which is a Grade II listed building of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, within the historic medieval/post-medieval core of the village of Puckeridge. The street frontage building may have succeeded earlier (medieval) structures, and it possible that contemporary associated buildings or 'back-yard' features such as refuse pits, property boundaries or industrial features may be present at the rear of the plot. The site also has the potential for earlier (late Iron Age and Roman) activity; 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery sherds have been recovered from the garden of 13a High Street, some 65m to the north east (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 13220).*

*In the event the evaluation revealed a levelling layer of post-medieval brick and tiles (L1003) below a layer of made ground (L1001). L1003 appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site, and the latter was evidently disturbed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and June 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at 28 & 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (TL 38585 23370; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of two detached dwellings (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/10/2123/FP).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Alison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012) and approved by HCC HEU. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was 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.

### *Planning context*

1.4 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.

1.5 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 Puckeridge is a village situated in the East Hertfordshire District of the county of Hertfordshire. It is situated c.11.7km to the west of Bishop Stortford. Much Hadham is c.6.7km to the south-east, Standon is c.1.4km to the south-west and Braughing is c.2.7km to the north-east. The A10 runs north-south to the west of Puckeridge and the A120 runs west-east to the south of the town. The River Rib runs on a roughly north-south course c.600m to the east of the High Street and several tributaries run a west-east course c.250m – 1km to the south-west of the site.

2.2 The site is located on land to the rear of Nos. 28 and 28a High Street in the northern part of the town. Huntsman Close is located c.5m to the south and Park Lane is situated c.20m to the south-west. The site is irregular in plan with trees and scrubland/brambles. An outbuilding is located in the south-east corner of the site. The property at No. 28 and two outbuildings are located directly east of the site. The site comprises a total area of c.537.2m<sup>2</sup>.

## **3 THE EVIDENCE**

### **3.1 Topography, geology and soils**

3.1.1 The site is located within the valley of the River Rib which is orientated north/south c.600m to the east of the site. The site lies on a gradual slope at a height of c.75m AOD.

3.1.2 The solid geology of the site comprises (Cretaceous) Upper Chalk which contains pockets of London Clay (BGS 1978). A watching brief conducted at 13-15 Buntingford Road c.300m to the north of the site recorded the natural clay to depths of 0.15m – 0.18m (Brook 2008). The London Clay is overlain by Melford type chalky till (571o) and is described as deep and well-drained fine loam (SSEW 1983).

### **3.2 Archaeological and historical background**

#### *Mesolithic - Neolithic*

3.2.1 Mesolithic flints (HHER 606) were discovered c.550m to the south-west of the site on Station Road. Neolithic flint implements comprising three arrowheads and two flakes (HHER 2112) were discovered c.600m to the north-east of the site.



## *Iron Age*

3.2.3 The site is close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the late Iron Age/early Roman town at Braughing/Puckeridge (SAM 75, AAS 94). The latter is centred on Wickham Hill c.750m to the north-east of the site. A significant quantity of late Iron Age archaeological remains have been discovered within the environs of the site and in the wider area.

3.2.4 Evidence of late Iron Age occupation was discovered during excavations c.500m to the north of the site at Skeleton Green (HHER 2281). The excavations uncovered a phase of building dated to c.15 BC – 40 AD (Stead 1970). The structural remains comprised timber buildings represented by floors of flint and gravel. A large quantity of 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery was discovered as well as a bone spindle, coins and inscribed issues (Potter 1971).

3.2.5 An archaeological evaluation at the former Buffalo's Head car park c.400m to the south of the site revealed a ditch containing a significant quantity of late Iron Age pottery (HHER 12814). The ditch ran roughly parallel to Ermine Street (Williamson 2005). An assemblage of 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery (HHER 13220) was discovered in the rear garden of 13A High Street c.65m to the north-east of the site.

## *Romano-British*

3.2.6 The Roman town at Braughing was centred at Wickham Hill to the north-east of the site (SAM 75, AAS 94). Traffic would have been passed along Stane Street (the modern B1368) and Ermine Street, the Roman road from London to York (the modern Buntingford Road).

3.2.7 A late Iron Age/early Roman occupation site was located c.500m to the north of the site (HHER 2281). A second phase of building overlying the remains of late Iron Age structures (above) was excavated and comprised rectangular timber buildings of sill-beam type dated to c.43-65 AD (Potter 1971). The excavation also revealed evidence of foreign trade with the discovery of a *Terra rubra* plate with a graffito reading 'GRAECUS' or 'Greek' (*Ibid*). The site appears to have been abandoned towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Partridge 1981).

3.2.8 Archaeological excavations c.250m – 400m to the north-east of the site revealed extensive evidence for Roman settlement, including a Roman road flanked by timber buildings which would have fronted Ermine Street and numerous ditches containing a large quantity of pottery, coins, bronze pins as well as iron and bone objects (HHERs 2595, 1903 & 1389) (Partridge 1971, Barr & Gillam 1961). An archaeological excavation at 11 Buntingford Road c.300m to the north of the site revealed two pits and a ditch (HHER 6434) with pottery dating to c.60 – 100 AD (Borrill 1984). Cropmarks of rectangular buildings (HHERs 2562 & 6183), likely of Roman date, are located c.500m to the east of the site while Samian ware sherds (HHER 526) were found adjacent to the London-Braughing Road c.500m to the north-east. Abraded



Roman pottery (HHER 9870) was also discovered during an archaeological evaluation c.200m to the south-west of the site (Murray 1995).

3.2.9 A cremation cemetery of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date (HHER 17559) comprising 52 burials was located c.500m to the north of the site at Skeleton Green, north of Mentley Lane East (Partridge 1975). In July 2011 archaeological excavations at Skeleton Green revealed a large early Roman burial cemetery with associated boundary ditches, pits and post-holes (PCA Ltd 2012). Over 200 cremations and 60 inhumations were excavated along with over 400 vessels and other artefacts such as hobnails and shale bracelets (*Ibid*). A later Romano-British cremation cemetery (HHER 4219) (3<sup>rd</sup> to early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD) comprising 104 burials was located c.450m to the north of the site (Partridge 1981).

#### *Saxon - Medieval*

3.2.10 An Anglo-Saxon brooch fragment (HHER 9244) was found c.500m to the south of the site. Puckeridge is not mentioned in the Domesday survey but it is likely that a settlement was in existence during the late 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. A large moated enclosure (HHER 11633) is recorded c.200m to the east of the site.

3.2.11 The village developed rapidly in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and in 1314, an annual market and fair were granted to Puckeridge (Page 1912). The number of travellers and merchants to the village increased and during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and inns and taverns were built to accommodate the travellers. Possible evidence of the village's use as a market/fairground area was discovered c.450m to the south of the site (HHER 9246) comprising a large quantity of 14<sup>th</sup> century artefacts found by metal detectorists. The Black Death in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century had a significant impact but the village quickly recovered and continued to thrive due to its location on a coaching route between London and Cambridge. The latter prompted urban development along the main thoroughfare of the village (the modern High Street) in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Post-medieval*

3.2.12 Development along the High Street continued into the 16<sup>th</sup> century and included residential dwellings (HHERs 12273 & 12274) c.100 - 200m to the south of the site and two inns (HHERs 12272 & 12275) c.10 - 150m to the east and south-east of the site respectively. The latter building (HHER 12275) comprises the Crown and Falcon Inn and it is recorded that Samuel Pepys stayed at this inn for a short period. An archaeological evaluation conducted to the west of the High Street opposite the Crown and Falcon Inn (HHER 12275) c.200m to the south-west revealed two pits and a ditch containing a large quantity of animal bone as well as clay pipe and tile fragments (HHER 9870) (Murray 1995). A flint and brick-built tile kiln and associated well were recorded during archaeological excavations at Skeleton Green c.500m to the north (PCA Ltd). Historical sources refer to the presence of this kiln in 'Tile Kiln Field' from 1516 onwards (*Ibid*).

3.2.13 A number of charities were established in Puckeridge in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which gave grants of land that enabled further expansion of the village along the modern Station Road and the High Street. The Grade II Listed residential property at No. 28 High Street (HHER 17923) is adjacent to the east of the site and comprises a two-storey, timber-framed house. It is possible that the current building may have succeeded earlier buildings on or close to the site.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches measured 7m (Trench 1) and 10m (Trench 2) long x 1.60m wide.

4.2 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 by a metal detector.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| <i>Sample section: east side, west facing</i><br><i>0.00 = 75.64m AOD</i> |       |   |
|---|-------|---|
| 0.00 – 0.42m  | L1000 | Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM and modern finds                |
| 0.42 – 0.74m  | L1001 | Made Ground. Mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM.                          |
| 0.74m +   | L1002 | Natural. Mid yellowish brown, loose, slightly silty sand with frequent angular flint and gravel |

*Description: A layer of post-medieval CBM (L1003) was encountered at the south end of Trench 1.*

L1003 was a layer of post-medieval CBM (brick and tile) which was also observed in Trench 2. It was c.14m (length, by 2.84m+ (width) and 0.36m+ (depth), and appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site.

## **Trench 2** (Figs. 2 & 3)

|   |       |                             |
|---|-------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Sample section: east end, south facing</i><br><i>0.00 = 75.37m AOD</i> |       |                             |
| 0.00 – 0.40m  | L1000 | Topsoil. As above Tr.1      |
| 0.40 – 0.86m  | L1001 | Made Ground. As above Tr.1. |
| 0.86m +   | L1002 | Natural. As above Tr.1 .    |

*Description: A layer of post-medieval CBM (L1003) was encountered at the western end of Trench 2.*

L1003 was a layer of post-medieval CBM (brick and tile) which was also observed in Trench 1. It was c.14m (length, by 2.84m+ (width) and 0.36m+ (depth), and appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site.

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey brown, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM and modern finds (0.40 – 0.42m thick). It overlay Made Ground L1001, a mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM. (0.32 – 0.46m thick).

7.2 The natural sand and gravel, L1002, was present at 0.74 – 0.86m below existing ground level and comprised a mid yellowish brown, loose, slightly silty sand with frequent angular flint and gravel

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology.

8.2 The site lies within the historic core of the town of Puckeridge, within the area designated as Area of Archaeological Significance 94 on the Local Plan. This designates the presence of a significant Iron Age/Roman settlement including the Scheduled Monument of the Roman town at Braughing, extensive late Iron Age and Roman settlement and burial and the course of Roman Ermine Street which shadows the High Street) and also the medieval and later village of Puckeridge.

8.3 The Iron Age settlement (c. 20 BC – AD 40) consisted of many dispersed occupation areas forming a large trading centre. The Roman centre

seems to have been informal, without a planned road grid or large public buildings, centred to the north of Puckeridge on Wickham Hill. With the volume of traffic passing along Stane Street and Ermine Street (which converge less than 200m east of the White Hart) and the evidence for production, it is likely the Roman settlement served as a market centre. There is little evidence of post-Roman activity in Puckeridge until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the village began to rapidly grow in prosperity; it later became an important coaching stop on the London to Cambridge Road, with numerous inns.

8.4 The site lies to the rear (west) of 28 High Street, which is a Grade II listed building of 17<sup>th</sup> century date, within the historic medieval/post-medieval core of the village of Puckeridge. The street frontage building may have succeeded earlier (medieval) structures, and it possible that contemporary associated buildings or 'back-yard' features such as refuse pits, property boundaries or industrial features may be present at the rear of the plot. The site also had the potential for earlier (late Iron Age and Roman) activity; 1<sup>st</sup> century pottery sherds have been recovered from the garden of 13a High Street, some 65m to the north east (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 13220).

8.5 In the event the evaluation revealed a levelling layer of post-medieval brick and tiles (L1003) below a layer of made ground (L1001). L1003 appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site, and the site was evidently disturbed.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr John Parkins Ms Esta Dennis for commissioning the project and for their kind assistance.

AS would like to thank Dr Isobel Thompson of Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record for the help and advice.

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

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<http://www.historicaldirectories.org>

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

<http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>

[www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)

- 'Skeleton Green Re-Visited: Excavations at Mentley Lane, Puckeridge (PCA Ltd 2012)



## APPENDIX 1

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (HER)

A search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) was carried out for a 500m radius of the site. The data has been tabulated in the following table and relevant entries are discussed in Section 3.

| HER                   | NGR TL       | Description  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Iron Age</b>       |              |  |
| 2188                  | TL 3864 2386 | Excavations in advance of road construction revealed timber buildings represented by floors of flint and gravel, with partial rebuilding, covering the period 15 BC to 40 AD. Between c.43-65 AD these were replaced with rectangular timber buildings of sill-beam type. The site was abandoned for a period at the end of the 1st century before a small enclosed cemetery [17559] was laid out. A small amount of first-century pottery was recovered from a water main trench along the road in July 2001. The late Iron Age settlement yielded a bone spindle, one of several late Iron Age bone objects from Braughing which may be imported goods. It also had evidence for the presence of foreign traders, notably a graffito reading GRAECVS ('Greek') scratched onto a terra rubra plate. Finds also included a Gallo-Belgic E stater, several British bronze coins of LX (north of the Thames) type, five potin coins, and inscribed issues including Gaulish types. |
| 12814                 | TL 3847 2302 | Evaluation of the Buffalo's Head car park found a ditch approximately parallel to Ermine Street, adjacent. The ditch contained a single sherd of medieval pottery, and cut a layer containing 83g of late Iron Age pottery. More late Iron Age pottery came from a layer cut by an undated pit. A post-medieval gully was also found.  |
| 13220                 | TL 3863 2342 | An assemblage of 1st century pottery was found in a hole dug in the rear garden of 13A High Street, Puckeridge, in 2006. It is a very small garden, and was almost entirely taken up by the hole. The pottery was about 1.5m down.   |
| <b>Romano-British</b> |              |  |
| 526                   | TL 387 234   | Three Samian sherds of a south Gaulish form 29, c.50-70 AD, and a central Gaulish form 18/31 marked Biragillus, c.100 AD, found at the London-Braughing road.  |
| 1389                  | TL 3881 2355 | Roman road flanked by timber buildings. A section cut through the Roman road seen in cropmarks [2595] found the road metalling to be 2' 6" thick and 20' wide, bounded by ditches. The ditches contained late Iron Age/early Roman platters and storage jars, Samian and Castor ware, a coin of Tetricus, two bronze pins, a piece of sheet bronze and a scrap of leather. A second trench at TL 3880 2354 revealed a 'pebble road beneath Ermine Street which consisted of a flint and sandy gravel, (and was) resurfaced with a layer of gravel and chalk mortar'. An area 50 yards west of the 1961 excavation was examined in 1970, exposing the road surface and the land north of it. It appeared that the 1961  |



|       |              |   |
|-------|--------------|---|
|       |              | section was at a point where the road crossed a stream; on the slightly higher ground natural gravel was close enough to the surface to be used as the foundation level. The date of its layout was in the mid 1st century AD. Occupation north of the road included pits and signs of timber buildings, with slight evidence for metal working. This occupation, and the Roman road, was cut by parallel ditches and a possible palisade slot which may have been much later field boundaries. Construction of the B1368 in the early 1970s has removed Ermine Street's surface and side ditches at this point.  |
| 1903  | TL 388 237   | Excavations in 1971-2 revealed a succession of Roman timber buildings, mostly fronting onto each side of Ermine Street. Some of the structures had been much modified at various times. Others had been periodically replaced. By the 3rdC a line of strip buildings were set up over the timber structures and associated with the manufacture of iron, bronze and bone objects. The evidence east of the road suggests that this occupation began in the early 1st century.   |
| 2562  | TL 387 234   | Cropmarks of three single-ditched rectangular enclosures; dimensions approx. 30m x 20m; 25m x 20m; 10m x 40m. No visible entrances. No internal features. Apparently the foundations of buildings, probably of Roman date.  |
| 2595  | TL 389 236   | Cropmarks of a Roman road junction on the known alignment of Ermine Street. Ermine Street's surface and side ditches have been removed just to the north by the construction of the B1368 in the early 1970s, when it was well recorded.  |
| 4219  | TL 3855 2379 | Later Roman cremation cemetery, of which 104 burials were recovered. Cemetery B, one of two found on either side of the roundabout found during the construction of the Puckeridge by-pass in 1972. The cemetery could only be recorded when the construction machinery was not in use; few burials were recovered without damage. The cemetery limits could not be ascertained. These burials were less rich in grave goods than those of Cemetery A north of the roundabout, and those found at the Skeleton Green site [17559] to the NE, 'though there are one or two exceptionally fine vessels'; and they appeared 'to belong to a later period than the other two cemeteries, perhaps to the third, or even early fourth century AD'; but some may be as early as the mid 2nd century. |
| 6183  | TL 390 236   | Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure; dimensions approx. 50m x 20m. North-west facing entrance. Linear ditches [4050, 4054] and a small circular enclosure [4077] are nearby. Apparently a rectangular building; possibly of Romano-British date.   |
| 6434  | TL 3866 2358 | Excavation of a small area revealed two pits and part of a large ditch, the latter being the earlier feature. The pottery date range was c.60-100 AD. Overlying the excavated features were the probable remains of occupation floors or land surfaces of the later Roman period.   |
| 17559 | TL 3862 2385 | 52 largely 2nd century cremation burials within rectangular enclosures, succeeded by a few later inhumations. Towards   |

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|                      |              | the end of the 1st century AD a small cemetery enclosed by a bank and ditch was laid out on the abandoned site of late Iron Age and early Roman occupation [2188] on the west side of Ermine Street. The cemetery was enlarged shortly afterwards (c.110 AD), taking in more ground to the north within new enclosure ditches. About AD 140 the western and northern sides of the second enclosure were replaced by a much larger ditch and a small space partially enclosed at the NW corner for several rich Antoine cremations. The cemetery became redundant c.200 AD but at some time about a century or so later five inhumations were placed within the original part, disturbing some of the oldest cremations. In all, 52 cremations were found (Partridge 1975).                                    |
| <b>Saxon</b>         |              |   |
| 9244                 | TL 3860 2290 | Part of an Anglo-Saxon brooch, from a hillside south of Standon.  |
| <b>Medieval</b>      |              |   |
| 9246                 | TL 3865 2295 | Metal detector finds dating to the medieval period, and particularly to the 14th century. The hillside is described as 'alive with activity', and the range and nature of the finds may indicate fairground or market use of the area. The hill is also a possible beacon site.   |
| 11633                | TL 3876 2339 | Medieval moat, or possibly a post-medieval ornamental pond; now infilled. OS 1st edition maps show two arms of a moat (or a large two-armed ornamental pond), enclosed by the stream now known as the Puckeridge Tributary, which joins the River Rib. In 1878-9, the north-west arm measured approx. 85m and the north-east approx. 45m. The 25" map suggests that the north-eastern arm terminates at the original causewayed entrance to the moat, which coincides with the course of the old road from Puckeridge to Braughing. The moat is now infilled, and the platform largely built over. Sherds of a post-medieval glazed redware platter (possibly Metropolitan ware), a clay pipe fragment and piece of roof tile have recently been recovered from TL 3879 2340, on the east side of the stream. |
| <b>Post-medieval</b> |              |   |
| 5038                 | TL 3861 2343 | Milestone made of stone. Turnpike Minute Book 1742 notes a resolution to erect stones 'from Wadesmill to Royston on the northern road'. The milestone is now half buried in the pavement. Outside no 16 High Street, in good condition in April 2000, though badly sunken. W: 0.32 x D: 0.32 x visible H: 0.35cm. Metal plate, raised letters, mostly readable: "LONDON / 27 / WARE / 6 / BUNTINGFORD".   |
| 9441                 | TL 3852 2353 | Limekiln in the NE corner of a small brickfield, shown on the 1879 OS map. The Puckeridge bypass now runs across the brickfield; the NGR is for the site of the lime kiln itself. The kiln survives, and as a bat roost is a designated wildlife site.  |
| 9870                 | TL 3850 2330 | Two pits and a ditch were recorded during evaluation of the caravan site behind the High Street, before construction of housing. They were apparently post-medieval. Associated finds included 36 fragments of animal bone, a single clay pipe and occasional flint, tile, brick and glass, and a single  |

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|       |              | fragment of Roman pottery. Three more abraded Roman sherds were unstratified elsewhere in the area. In the 1870s this area was a field behind the High Street properties. It remained open land until it was laid out as the caravan park c.1970.  |
| 12271 | TL 3865 2346 | The Grange, 3 High Street, Puckeridge. A late medieval open hall. The plan indicates that it was an inn by the late 17th century when two wings and galleries were added to the southern part of the building. The north east of these has a large fireplace and was probably the kitchen. A deed dated 1727 records The Grange which was 'heretofore the Crown'. The upper floor had three bedrooms with fireplaces as well as attic bedrooms. A two storey range to the south was added c1800 and is dated by a moulded lintel in the ground floor room to the north. A chimney stack has been rebuilt in brick. The present rendering and fenestration is 19th century in date as are the staircases. The southeast wing was also refurbished with bargeboards and the bay window renewed. LB 161074.   |
| 12272 | TL 3862 2340 | Thorpe House, 19 High Street, Puckeridge. Built c1500, the plan suggests this was originally an inn on a restricted site. Open hall between two cross wings. The wing to the south incorporates a high waggon entrance leading to the yard and a cross passage leading to the inn. A floor and chimney stack were inserted into the hall in the late 16th century and a wing was added to the east. The hall was heightened c.1700 and the chimney stack was rebuilt in brick with a fireplace in the chamber above the hall. LB 161078.   |
| 12273 | TL 3861 2334 | 30-32 High Street, Puckeridge. Built during the late 16th century as a three cell house with an internal chimney stack and a lobby entrance. Two storeys with a continuous jetty to the east (street side). In 'recent years' it has been completely gutted of all but structural partitions. Now a six bay house. LB 161096.  |
| 12274 | TL 3859 2324 | 52 High Street, Puckeridge. A late medieval Wealden house. The upper room to the north extended over the cross passage. During the late 16th century a floor was inserted in the hall and jettied to give a flush front. A chimney stack was also inserted backing on to the cross passage and may have been originally of timber. The wing to the south west was a 17th century kitchen. A two storey range was added parallel to the house in the early 19th century perhaps as a dining room. Refurbishment has allowed further study of this building, and identified the unusual survival of its original dwarf levelling wall of flint cobbles and clay tiles, supporting the ground sill on sloping ground. This is an example of an urban version of the Wealden house, well built by successful merchants but adapted to a constricted town setting; the recessed hall has been converted to a continuous jetty. It may have had a ground-floor shop, although evidence for it has not survived. LB 161103. |
| 12275 | TL 3863 2328 | The Crown & Falcon Inn, 33 High Street, Puckeridge. A 16th century building with 18th century windows to the rear. It was restored during the 19th century. Two storeys.   |

|       |              |   |
|-------|--------------|---|
|       |              | Probably built as an inn since it incorporates a wide vehicle entrance; it is otherwise an orthodox three cell house with a continuous jetty on the west (street) side. LB 161080.  |
| 12650 | TL 3855 2342 | A few post-medieval pits and ditches were recorded in 2003 on land for new houses behind 18-24 High Street. They contained post-medieval tile, animal bone, iron fragments and clay pipe fragments.   |
| 17360 | TL 3859 2325 | 18th century house, apparently the Crown & Falcon PH in the 19th century, with brewery buildings lining the yard behind. The long irregular row of buildings lining the south side of the yard behind no.50 is labelled on the 1897-1901 OS map as 'Brewery'. Most of these buildings already appear on the 1878-1879 OS map, and appear to be the buildings labelled 'Crown & Falcon (PH)'. The house on the street dates to the 18th century. It is a two-storey timber-framed and plastered building on a plinth, three bays wide, the south side weather-boarded, and with a two-storey rear wing. At its north end is a high carriage entrance into the yard. The house was re-fronted in the early 19th century, when the front was raised and given a small parapet, and this part of the roof slated. The result is a symmetrical appearance with projecting cornices, Gothic windows, and a decorative doorcase with pilasters, entablature, frieze, hood and brackets, approached up five steps. The carriage arch has a similar hood. The buildings all appear to survive, with additions at the far end of the yard. These are now approached from Tollsworth Way. LB 161102. |
| 17501 | TL 3860 2327 | 46 High Street, Puckeridge. No.46 is an early 19th century house, two storeys high and three bays wide, in grey gault brick with a slate roof. Three steps lead up to a central panelled door under a round arch, with a painted tympanum. The property is shown on with a rear projection, and a sizable rear yard extending behind no.48. In this yard 25m behind the house was an open-fronted shed or carriage house, reached from the High Street by a gated side passage on the north side of the house. An evaluation trench along this passage revealed a layer of crushed chalk with large flint cobbles and brick and tile fragments, possibly the surface of the passage. LB 161100.   |
| 17513 | TL 3864 2332 | Site of Iron Foundry, High Street, Puckeridge. The foundry was built between 1879 and 1897 on the east side of Puckeridge High Street; it is named Iron Foundry on the 1923 map. It was apparently kept by Charles Day, and made plough shares. The site was cleared in the mid 20th century.   |
| 17514 | TL 3867 2328 | Site of post-medieval wall, 9 Park Lane, Puckeridge. A brick wall found in a trial trench in Park Lane was late 19th or early 20th century in date. It may relate to a building on the street frontage shown on the 1878-79 & 1897-1901 OS maps, or the building behind it, first shown on 1897-1901 OS map; by 1923 the front building had been demolished. This is said to have been the site of an iron foundry, set up by the cousin of Charles Day the proprietor of a foundry [17513] in the High Street  |
| 17923 | TL 3860 2337 | 28 High Street, Puckeridge. No.28 is a two-storey timber-   |

|                |              |  |
|----------------|--------------|--|
|                |              | framed house built in the early 17th century, altered and updated in the 18th and 19th centuries. It stands on a plinth of painted brick. The original part of the house consists of a hall with a taller two-storey crosswing on the south side. Behind the north end is a one and a half storey rear wing, with lean-to additions. The street front was updated in the 19th century, with a shop front and two doors, one for the shop and one with a small hood on brackets. The 1879 OS map shows the building with the same property boundary as now, the garden filled with orchard trees. To the south was an open space on the north side of the stream. |
| <b>Unknown</b> |              |  |
| 4050           | TL 3900 2364 | Cropmark of a linear feature aligned NW-SE. Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure [6183]; linear ditches [4054] and a small circular enclosure [4077] are nearby.   |
| 4054           | TL 3904 2346 | Cropmarks of linear ditches haphazardly arranged; some may be parts of enclosures. Another linear ditch [4050], a rectangular enclosure [6183] and a small circular enclosure [4077] are nearby.   |
| 4077           | TL 3904 2353 | Cropmark of a small circular single-ditched enclosure, touching linear ditches [4054]. A rectangular enclosure [6183] and another linear ditch [4050] lie to the north.  |

## APPENDIX 2          CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

| <b>Records</b>                 | <b>Number</b>   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Brief                          | Y   |
| Specification                  | Y   |
| Registers                      | 5 (Context, Drawing, Drawing sheet, Photo, Digital Photo) |
| Context Sheets                 | 4   |
| Site drawings A1               | 0   |
| Site drawings A3               | 1   |
| Site drawings A4               | 0   |
| Site photographs b/w           | 5   |
| Site photographs colour slides | 5   |
| Digital Photographs            | 5   |

## APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Site name and address:</b>                            | 28 & 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire   |
| <b>County:</b> Herts                                     | <b>District:</b> East Herts   |
| <b>Village/Town:</b>                                     | <b>Parish:</b> Standon  |
| <b>Planning application reference:</b>                   | EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/10/2123/FP  |
| <b>Client name/address/tel:</b>                          | Mr John Parkins and Ms Esta Dennis  |
| <b>Nature of application:</b>                            | Construction of 2 dwellings   |
| <b>Present land use:</b>                                 | Garden  |
| <b>Size of application area:</b><br>c. 540m <sup>2</sup> | <b>Size of area investigated</b><br>c.30m <sup>2</sup>  |
| <b>NGR (8 figures):</b>                                  | TL 3858 2337  |
| <b>Site Code:</b>  | AS 1504   |
| <b>Site director/Organization:</b>                       | Archaeological Solutions Ltd  |
| <b>Type of work:</b>                                     | Trial trench evaluation   |
| <b>Date of work:</b>                                     | 31/05/2012  |
| <b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>                | Hertford Museum   |
| <b>Related SMR Nos:</b>                                  | <b>Periods represented:</b> Post-medieval   |
| <b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>            | -   |
| <b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>                     | <p><i>In May and June 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at 28 &amp; 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (TL 38585 23370; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the erection of two detached dwellings (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/10/2123/FP).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed a levelling layer of post-medieval brick and tiles (L1003) below a layer of made ground (L1001). L1003 appeared to be a levelling deposit which reduced the natural slope of the site, and the latter was evidently disturbed.</i></p> |
| <b>Author of summary:</b><br>L Smith                     | <b>Date of Summary:</b><br>June 2012  |



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1  
*General shot of Trench 1 taken from the north*



DP 2  
*General shot of Trench 2 taken from the west*

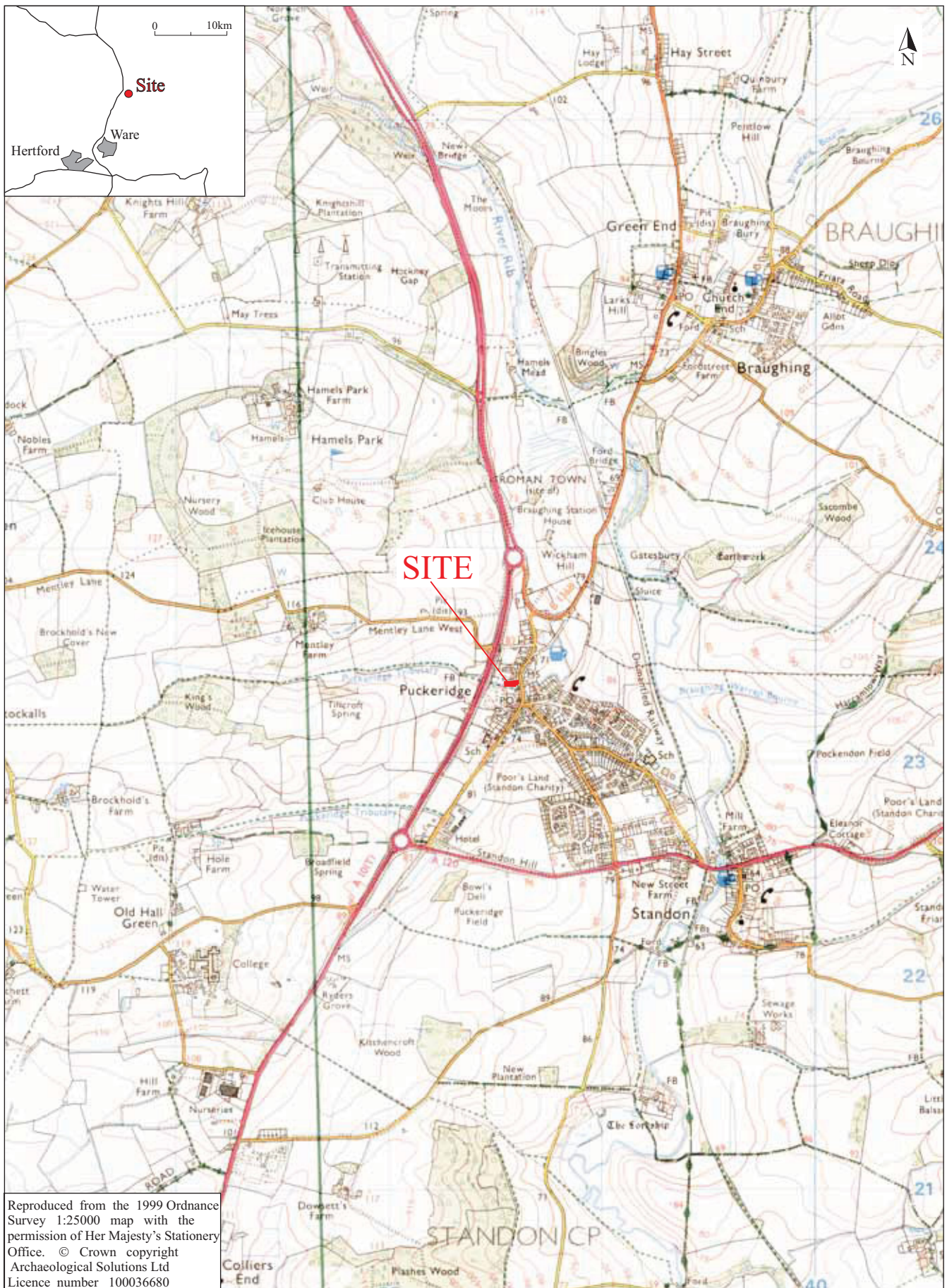


DP 3  
*Sample section at south end of Trench 1 taken from the west*

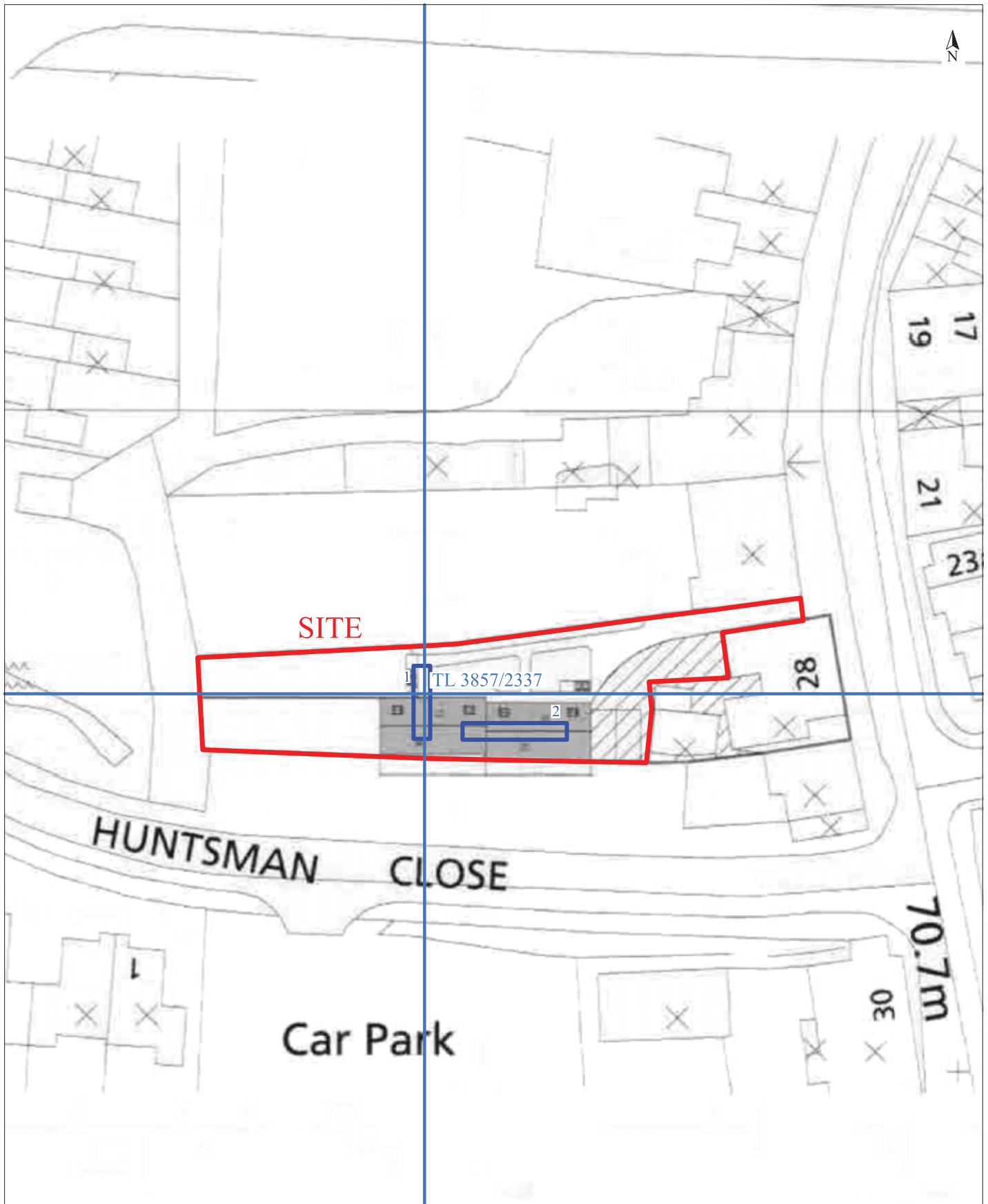


DP 4  
*Sample section at east end of Trench 2 taken from the south*





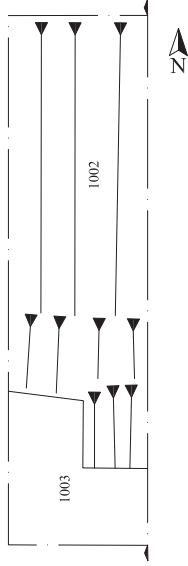
|  |
|--|
| <p><i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i></p> <p><b>Fig. 1 Site location plan</b></p> <p>Scale 1:25,000 at A4</p> |
|--|



0 25m

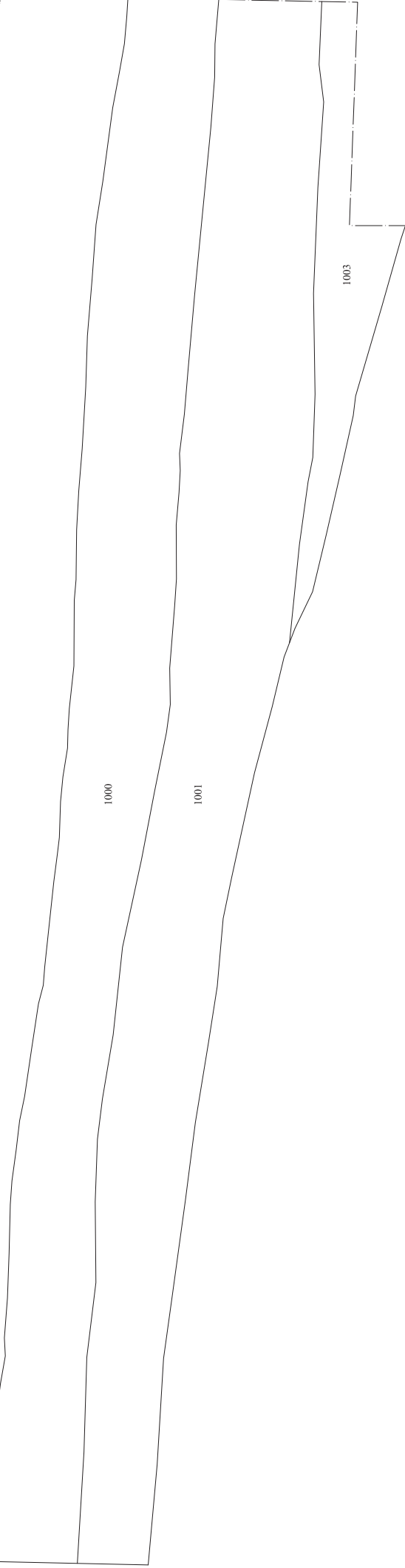
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan  
Scale 1:500 at A4

Trench 1

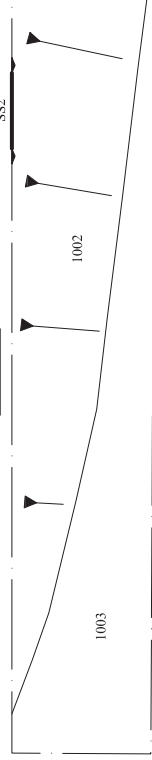


75.64m N

S



Trench 2



75.37m W Sample section 2

