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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**FINCHES FARM, BENINGTON HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

HER Enquiry No: 179/12

Authors: Kamil Orzechowski (Fieldwork & report) Andrew Peachey MIfA (Research)	
NGR: TL 3050 2330	Report No: 4201
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1545
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5046
Signed:	Date: November 2012

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **APPENDICES**

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER) DATA**
- 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**
- 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Finches Farm, Benington, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording.</i>		
<p><i>In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Finches Farm, Benington (NGR TL 3050 2330; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for an extension to the existing farmhouse (East Herts Planning ref. 3/12/1073/FP).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground reduction and the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with an extension to the Grade II Listed farmhouse building. The extension is on the north side of the farmhouse which is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were present. Post-medieval CBM fragments (324g) were evident within L1004 which directly overlay the natural.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	08/11/12		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	5046	Site code	AS1545
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording		
Site status			
Current land use	Residential property		
Planned development	Extension to existing property		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	Post-medieval CBM		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Herts.	Benington
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record		
Post code (if known)	SG2 7LA		
Area of site	c.70m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 3050 2330		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 114m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Kamil Orzechowski		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Bott		
Full title	Finches Farm, Benington, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.		
Authors	Kamil Orzechowski & Andrew Peachey		
Report no.	4201		
Date (of report)	November 2012		

## **FINCHES FARM, BENINGTON, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Finches Farm, Benington (NGR TL 3050 2330; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for an extension to the existing farmhouse (East Herts Planning ref. 3/12/1073/FP).*

*The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground reduction and the excavation of the footing trenches associated with an extension to the Grade II Listed farmhouse building. The extension is on the north side of the farmhouse which is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition.*

*Finches Farm lies within an area of archaeological potential, within Area of Archaeological Significance No.333 as designated on the local plan, and it comprises an early post-medieval farmstead, known as Garratt's farm until a name change in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farmhouse is Grade II listed. The earliest part of the farmhouse is the southern part, which is timber-framed and dates to the early/mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, with a steep, tiled cat-slide roof. The taller red brick north wing is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition, built to replace the north parlour end of the original house, with a symmetrical grey brick front. No earlier archaeological remains are known from the site, though the house may not be the first building to have occupied the site, suggesting a potential for earlier remains. The Old House on the opposite side of the road dates to the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.*

*No archaeological features were present. Post-medieval CBM fragments (324g) were evident within L1004 which directly overlay the natural.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Finches Farm, Benington (NGR TL 3050 2330; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for an extension to the existing farmhouse (East Herts Planning ref. 3/12/1073/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU, dated 3 October 2012) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 5 October 2012), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and

*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

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

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 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 Benington is a village in East Hertfordshire, c.5km to the east of the centre of Stevenage and c.10km to the north of Hertford. The main road through the village is Town Lane/Whempstead Road which connects the towns of Stevenage and Ware. Finches Farm is situated to the south-west of the core of the village, on the western side of Town Lane/Whempstead Road. Finches Farm is a complex of buildings of which the main farm building, at the northern end of the site, is a Grade II Listed Building.

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

3.1 Benington is situated on a ridge within an undulating landscape above the (Middle) Beane Valley, with the River Beane passing c.1km to the west of the village. Finches Farm is c.114m AOD, on the western side of a small plateau that overlooks the village to the north-west. The solid geology of the area comprises the Upper Chalk, which is often visible on the sides of local rivers. This is overlain by plateau drift of deep clay sub-soils (Hornbeam 2 series) capped with calcareous loam soils (Swaffham Prior series).

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

#### *Prehistoric and Romano-British*

4.1 The only archaeological find pre-dating the Saxon and medieval periods and recorded in the vicinity of the site is an isolated Roman coin of Claudius found in 1939 (HER 1332) c.500m to the south-east in Hebing End.

#### *Anglo-Saxon and Medieval*

4.2 The village has Saxon origins with interpretations of the place name suggesting possible derivations from 'the town of the Beane folk' or a corruption of 'Belinton', which appears in the Domesday Book and is thought to mean the town of 'Bela's' people. Benington was a Saxon lordship held prior to the Norman Conquest by Aelmar of Benington, one of the principal landowners in England at this time, whose name suggests his main residence was within the village, likely close to the church. William the Conqueror granted Aelmar's successor Peter de Valonges 'six and a half hides in the demesne and a park for 'beasts of the chase''. This medieval deer park (HER 6468) is believed to have developed into Benington Park which extends eastwards from Town Lane/Whempstead Road adjacent to the site. However it is possible that there is some confusion between the location of the medieval deer park and the later parks of Benington Park and Benington Lordship. Residual late Saxon St. Neots ware pottery has also been recorded during an archaeological evaluation in the churchyard to the west of the site (HER 12010), but the site appears to have been on the periphery of the historic village and park.

4.3 The Domesday Book records Benington as manorial estates rather than a village (HER 2651), which were held by Peter de Valognes. In the core

of the village adjacent to the Church (HER 4353) Peter de Valonges erected earthwork fortifications (HER 12009), which were replaced by a masonry castle erected in c.1136 by his son Roger (HER 29). Further medieval masonry remains (HER 368), a bronze seal (HER 369) and a late medieval timber-framed house (HER 15670) have been recorded on or adjacent to the village green, close to the church and castle. The church and area of the former castle are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the core of the village is a conservation area.

### *Post-medieval*

4.4 In the post-medieval period the development of the site and its environs remains slightly distinct from that of the village, which included Hall House (HER 12808) and Benington Lordship (HER 12012). Benington Park, formerly a medieval deer park was bought in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Caesars and developed into a country house (HER 13233), park and gardens (HER 12108), which border Town Lane/Whempstead Road adjacent to the east of the site. The landscape surrounding the park and gardens was agricultural and included numerous 17<sup>th</sup> century farms, such as Home Farm (HER 11095) to the north-east, Gosmore Farm (HER 18309) to the south-east, and Garratt's Farm (later Finches Farm).

4.5 The earliest extant component of Garratt's Farm (HER 11096) comprises the early to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century south end, while numerous 18<sup>th</sup> century additions are also identifiable. It is unknown whether an earlier farm was present on the site. The farm house is a Grade II Listed Building, and a further historic complex of buildings belonging to the farm is situated c.130m to the south (HER 16815). The name of the farm was altered to Finches Farm in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and due to its history it is designated as of Archaeological Significance No 333 on the Local Plan.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground reduction and the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with an extension to the Grade II Listed farmhouse building.

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

## **6 RESULTS**

6.1 The ground reduction and the excavation of the foundation trenches was undertaken using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator. A sample section was recorded:



<i>Sample section 1.</i>		
<i>West facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 114.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded flint.
0.16 – 0.26m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark grey brown, firm, sandy silt with frequent small and medium rounded chalk and stones.
0.26 – 0.33m	L1002	Mid yellow grey, firm, silty clay with frequent rounded and sub-rounded chalk.
0.33 – 0.56m	L1003	Pale greenish yellow, firm, clay with sparse small flint.
0.56 – 0.84m	L1004	Dark greenish grey, firm, sandy clay with CBM fragments, moderate chalk flecks and occasional small flints.
0.84m+	L1005	Natural deposits. Mid yellowish green, firm, clay with occasional small chalk and flint.

*Description:* No archaeological features were present. L1004 contained post-medieval CBM (324g).

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded flint (0.16m thick). L1000 overlay L1001, a dark grey brown, firm, silty sand with frequent small and medium rounded chalk and stones (0.10m thick). L1001 overlay L1002, a mid yellow grey, firm, silty clay with frequent rounded and sub-rounded chalk (0.07m thick). L1002 overlay L1003, a pale greenish yellow, firm, clay with sparse small flint (0.23m thick). L1003 overlay L1004, a dark greenish grey sandy clay with frequent CBM fragments, moderate chalk flecks, and occasional small flints (0.28m thick). At the base of the sequence, at a depth of 0.84m, were the natural deposits consisting of compact, mid yellowish green clay with occasional small chalk and flint.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the shallow ground reduction and the excavation of the foundation trenches associated with an extension to the Grade II Listed farmhouse building. The extension is on the north side of the farmhouse which is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition.

9.2 Finches Farm lies within an area of archaeological potential, within Area of Archaeological Significance No.333 as designated on the local plan, and it comprises an early post-medieval farmstead, known as Garratt's farm until a name change in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farmhouse is Grade II listed. The earliest part of the farmhouse is the southern part, which is timber-framed and dates to the early/mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, with a steep, tiled cat-slide roof. The taller red brick north wing is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition, built to replace the north parlour end of the original house, with a symmetrical grey brick front. No earlier archaeological remains are known from the site, though the house may not be the first building to have occupied the site, suggesting a potential for earlier remains. The Old House on the opposite side of the road dates to the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

9.3 No archaeological features were present. Post-medieval CBM fragments (324g) were evident within L1004 which directly overlay the natural.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

The 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 Limited would like to thank Mr and Mrs Bott for commissioning the monitoring and also Mrs Bott for her kind assistance.

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Ms Isobel Thompson of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record for her assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER No	NGR SP	Description
<b>Roman</b>		
1332	TL 3094 2295 (point)	ROMAN COIN, LINGFIELD HOUSE, HEBING END, BENINGTON. Coin of Claudius found in the garden in 1939.
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>		
6468	Centroid TL 31373 23718	MEDIEVAL DEER PARK, BENINGTON PARK, BENINGTON. Benington was the head of a Saxon lordship of some importance which extended apparently into Sacombe, Layston, Ashwell, Hinxworth and Radwell. It was held before 1066 by Aelmar. William the Conqueror granted the lands of Aelmar to Peter de Valognes comprising six and a half hides in the demesne and a park 'for beasts of the chase'. Here Peter or his son built the castle [29]. A park appears on Saxton's 1577 map. It may have evolved into Benington Park [12108]. Significant names in the area are Benington Park (farm); Hailey Park Wood; Park Wood; Park Covert. There is some possibility of confusion between the medieval deer park, and the later parks of Benington Park and Benington Lordship; how they each relate to the medieval park is uncertain. See Rowe (2009) for the extent of the deer park at Benington Park, and the likely origin of the two later parks. The boundaries of the medieval deer park are still discernible in the landscape, filling the NE corner of the parish and in a shallow valley on the boulder clay plateau. Its Saxon owner, Aelmar of Benington, was one of the chief landowners in the county at the Norman conquest, and his name suggests that his main residence was at Benington (presumably adjacent to the church, which he owned). His successor Peter de Valognes, even more powerful, made Benington the caput of his barony, and was probably responsible for the earthworks at the Lordship, the manorial centre next to the church. Either Aelmar or Peter could have laid out the deer park, about a mile to the east. Medieval records largely record incidents of breaking in and stealing deer, including a major event in 1316 involving many men from as far away as Suffolk. This appears to have been due to the unpopularity of the then owner, John de Benstede. By the mid 14th century two parks are recorded, the great park and Hayly Wood west of the Lordship, land now occupied by Lordship Farm. By the late 15th century the Benstedes had given way to Sir William Say, whose accounts refer to a warren and a park keeper. In 1498-9 Sir William built a new lodge and repaired the southern boundary with wooden fencing plastered with clay. On his death in 1529 the manor went to his son-in-law, the

		<p>earl of Essex. A survey for Queen Mary, who held it briefly, referred to the lodge being 'in great decaye'. By 1580 the deer park had been disparked, although when the estate was sold in 1613-14 to Sir Julius Caesar it was again 'a hunting seat and large park of deer'. It was not maintained, but appears on a 1628 estate map. Some of the boundaries shown on this map survive as earthwork banks, public footpaths and other features. For the house, see [13233]; for the post-medieval park and gardens, see [12108].</p>
12010	TL 2970 2354 (point)	<p>RESIDUAL LATE SAXON POTTERY, BENINGTON. A 'small number' of residual sherds of St Neots type shelly ware, dating to the mid 9th/mid 10th centuries, recovered during evaluation.</p>
<b>Medieval</b>		
2651	TL 2985 2364 (point)	<p>BENINGTON VILLAGE. Settlement in Domesday Book at 'Belintone'. -No. Domesday describes manorial estates, not settlements.</p>
29	TL 2975 2368 (point)	<p>BENINGTON CASTLE, BENINGTON. Low, square motte with semi-circular bailey to the NE. On E side of motte are the remains of a flint keep possibly begun c.1136, destroyed 1212, with walls standing 2.5m high. A wide ditch surrounds the motte on the south and east sides; to the north and west it is landscaped. The Gatehouse, in Norman style, of stone and flint, was built in 1832. The remains of earthworks containing medieval pottery were found outside the nearby churchyard [12009]. The original earthworks may have been dug for Peter de Valognes, sheriff in 1086; his son, Roger, probably erected the masonry castle c1136. It passed to Robert fitz Walker on his marriage at the end of the 12th century and was destroyed when he was outlawed in 1212. See NMR for the condition of the remains.</p>
12009	TL 2970 2354 (point)	<p>MEDIEVAL EARTHWORKS, BENINGTON. A deep ditch cut into the chalk was recorded in evaluation in advance of an extension to the churchyard. The ditch, which had formed part of the churchyard's southern boundary, was probably part of the defences of the Norman castle [29]. The lower fill contained Norman and later domestic refuse including meat bones and pottery, and a single large sherd of a Flavian rouletted Samian bowl (form 18R; nothing else on the site was Roman). The pottery ranged from hand-made Norman types to Herts Glazed ware, the overall date being 12th century. A second ditch at right-angles had a similar fill. For a plan of the earthworks here and further around the west side of the castle, see. For residual earlier sherds, see [12010].</p>
4353	TL 2969 2357 (point)	<p>CHURCH OF ST PETER, BENINGTON. Parish church with late 13C or early 14C nave and chancel, c.1330 N chapel and S porch and early 15C W tower before roof raised for 15C clerestorey. Restored in 1889 by John Oldrid Scott. There are burnt Roman tiles in the SW angle of the church porch, possibly transported in other building materials - now plastered over. The rebuilding of the church may be associated with the conveyance of the manor in 1285 to John de Benstede, Keeper of the Great Seal and of the Wardrobe to Edward I; it may not have</p>

		been a complete rebuilding, as the lower walls of the nave may be earlier. Works at the base of the tower in 2006 showed that the masonry at the base of the tower is 1.31m thick, of solidly mortared flint nodules; there was no rubble core. There were signs that it had been refaced in the post-medieval period. A service trench along the entire length of the churchyard path uncovered no human remains, implying that the path has been in this position for many centuries.
368	TL 298 236 (point)	POSSIBLE MEDIEVAL FOUNDATIONS, BENINGTON VILLAGE GREEN. In an orchard on the village green 'massive foundations of what may have been an ecclesiastical building' were found c.1870; the source can exaggerate, but see [369], which may possibly be associated.
369	TL 298 236 (point)	MEDIEVAL BRONZE SEAL, BENINGTON VILLAGE GREEN, BENINGTON. 15th century bronze seal of the Guild of St Nicholas 'found in an orchard on the village green' c.1870. The NGR is approximate. See also [368].
15670	TL 29926 23566 (point)	THE BELL PH, TOWN LANE, BENINGTON. A late medieval timber-framed hall house with a long west crosswing, the hall rebuilt in the mid 17th century as a two-storey house with a red brick chimney and jettied east crosswing; by 1693 it was already an inn. It was altered in the mid 19th century. The asymmetric north front has a gabled and jettied two-storey crosswing at each end; the exterior has basketwork panelled pargetting over a weatherboarded apron, and tiled roofs. In the centre, one bay from the west wing, is the chimney, backing onto the cross passage at the west end, with two service doors into the west crosswing. The 17th century east wing is less deep, with space for a stair. The hall has a large open fireplace, with a wallpainting of c1720 over it, showing a stag hunt in a wooded landscape; also a large early 18th century corner cupboard and the 17th century staircase in the east wing, and other unaltered details.
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
15284	TL 29833 23613 (point)	1-5 CHURCH GREEN, BENINGTON. Originally a 16th century or earlier open hall house, said to have been the parish priest's house until 1636. The oldest element is in the centre, three bays with the hall in the two western bays. In the late 16C two new bays of one and a half storeys were added to the west end in heavy timber framing; the ground floor may have been service rooms. A framed opening in the east gable was possibly an entrance for a ladder from the open hall. In the early 17th century the hall was floored in stages and a one and a half storey crosswing with jettied gable added to the east end. This was the parlour wing, with one room on each floor and a large external rear gable chimney. In the mid 19th century the house was divided, and no.5 built at the west end in matching style but presumably of brick, not timber; the whole range is roughcast to match, with dormer windows in the red tile roofs. The outhouse behind no.1, making an L plan, had a thatched roof but is now roofed with corrugated iron sheet. Monitoring of groundworks for a western extension to the 19th century

		no.5 found nothing but garden soil.
12808	TL 2987 2360 (point)	HALL HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS, THE CROFT, BENINGTON. A simple timber-framed and weatherboarded stable and carriage-house at The Croft was possibly built in the later 17C, incorporating many timbers from an earlier structure which may have been later 16C. In the earlier 20C the west wall was removed and an aisle built, and loft floors added. To the south is another similar building of the later 20C. The house itself is a hall house built in the 16C or earlier, with an east crosswing, inserted floor and alterations of the early 17C, and a late 19C west wing which replaced the original service wing. NGR is for the house and outbuildings; the stable and carriage-house are at NGR TL 29850 23585.
11096	TL 3054 2333 (point)	FINCHES FARM, BENINGTON. In 1878 (and 1898) this was Garratt's Farm; the change of name is 20th century. The oldest part of the farmhouse, the south end, is timber-framed and dates to the early-mid 17th century, a three-cell two-storey and attics house with a central-chimney plan; facing east with a winding stair beside the chimney. In the later 18th century a north wing was built in red brick, the symmetrical front in grey brick with red brick gauged arches. This wing is taller, and replaced the north parlour end of the original house, providing a new entrance hall and two lofty rooms, with chambers and attics above. This new front has central entrance with Doric doorcase, and two large Venetian windows on each floor. The farm buildings include a late 18th century granary, timber-framed and weatherboarded on a tarred red brick plinth. It is a tall single-storey building south of the house, with a door in each end and a central boarded door with a ladder in the west gable. The other farm buildings around the yard to the west, shown on, include a timber-framed barn. This appears to survive, although the layout has been altered and added to. A separate complex, but belonging to the farm, stands 130m to the SE; see [16815].
16815	TL 30600 23207 (point)	POST-MEDIEVAL BRICK BARN, FINCHES FARM, WHEMPSTEAD ROAD, BENINGTON. A group of farm buildings 130m SE of the farmhouse and main yard at Finches Farm [11096]. The main building is an early to mid 17th century barn in red brick, with an attached shelter shed added in the late 18th century. The barn has an unusual composite construction, largely of red brick in irregular bond with weatherboarded tops to each gable and flint panels in the west gable. It is a tall unaisled structure on a tall plinth, 8 bays long, with gabled porches and buttresses added to the west corners. Running south from the SE corner of the barn is the five-bay shelter shed, the west side open to the yard. Its rear wall is of flint with brick piers, lining Whempstead Road. The red brick wall at the south end is a surviving fragment of another 17th century brick barn, shown on the 1878 OS map, but destroyed by fire in the 20th century. These buildings have been restored and new structures added at the south end.
11095	TL 30888	HOME FARM, BENINGTON PARK (BENINGTON PLACE),

	23537 (point)	BENINGTON. Examination of the farm buildings at Benington Park (shown on late 19th century mapping as Benington Place) found that the barn was built in the early 17th century. Unusually, it is of red brick, a long double barn divided into two units. The larger part has an off-centre NW porch, and bays for storing crops before and after threshing. Alterations have removed most of the original roof structure; in the 19th or 20th century an upper floor was inserted at the SW end. The smaller unit, also altered, was not designed for threshing, and it appears to have originally had an upper floor (since replaced). This unit was probably for the storage of crops and animal fodder. In the early 19th century the SE wall of the barn was given recessed panels in good quality gauged brickwork, evidently to improve the view from Benington Park House [13233]. The stable range, on the farther side of the trapezoidal farmyard, appears to have been built in stages in the early to mid 19th century, in yellow stock brick. The brick barn was presumably built by Sir Julius Caesar or another member of the Caesar family, who lived at Benington Park from 1614.
18309	TL 31040 22773 (point)	GOSMORE FARM, HEBING END, BENINGTON. The farmhouse at Gosmore Farm is 'an unusual, large, symmetrical, two-storeys square house' in red brick, three windows on each side, and a large central chimney. It was built in the mid 17th century, the bricks laid in irregular bond. Inside are timber beams and wide fireplaces. To the east the surviving farm buildings were converted into housing in the 1980s. The main timber-framed barn dates to the later 17th century, the frame now exposed with white panel infill and dormer windows. Its lower wings, which project forwards, date to the early 19th century, and the east wing, facing the lane, has a flint rear wall with brick piers. The 1881 OS map shows the farm, unnamed, with the farm buildings ranged around three sides of the yard NE of the house, at the small hamlet called Hebing End and with very little beyond it. Little change had taken place by 1898.
12108	TL 3100 2356 (point)	BENINGTON PARK, PARK & GARDENS, BENINGTON. Benington Park, previously known as Benington Place. The Caesars bought the estate in 1614 and held it until 1743. It originated as a hunting lodge within a deer park; see [6468]. Elaborately landscaped gardens are shown on plans of 1628 and 1743. 'The 1628 map shows a substantial house built in the late Tudor or Jacobean style and a large, square, walled garden to the south. A building at the north end of the NE wall of the garden appears to be two or three storeys high - perhaps a hunting stand or the 17th century park-keeper's lodge. Magnificent earthwork terraces 100m long around three sides of a square survive today on the site of the Jacobean garden and were probably the work of Sir Charles Caesar'. The park has been ploughed since the early 18C but several of the early 18C avenues of trees survive. Mary Caesar built a wilderness and grotto in the 1720s but these have not survived. A pair of late 18C stone urns and an early



		19C stone ornamental structure, possibly once a fountain, are Listed. These are in the garden NE of the house [13233]. For the home farm, see [11095].
12012	TL 2965 2365 (point)	BENINGTON LORDSHIP, BENINGTON. A late 17th century country house, a large square 3-storey double-pile house in red brick, chequered with black headers on the south front. The east entrance and 'Norman' gatehouse (see [29]) were built c.1842 for the Proctor family by James Pulham, of the Pulhamite factory in Broxbourne. The single-storey entrance has Gothick door and windows. The gatehouse is attached at the NE corner, a tall structure with twin flint-faced circular towers, crenelated, and joined by a wall faced in Pulham's Portland Stone Cement to appear to be weathered ashlar. Joined to the gatehouse is a matching wing, two storeys and cellar. The west wing of the house was built c.1906 for the Bott family. For the grounds, see [7318]; for building rubble from earlier building(s), see [12011].
13236	TL 29734 23910 (point)	BENINGTON RECTORY (BENINGTON BURY & PETERSCOURT), WALKERN ROAD, BENINGTON. Benington Rectory was built in 1637 for the rector Nathaniel Dod, according to a datestone on the porch (and an inscription in the church). Originally it was a lobby-entry 2-cell house in red brick with two storeys and attics and central chimney, with a symmetrical front, two-storey porch and two gables. The front has been plastered. The north wing was probably built c1680, extending the front by one gable. In the mid 19C the house was extended in red brick Gothick with stone dressings for the rector Mr Haggard, and the chimneys were rebuilt. The Rectory was sold in 1914 and renamed Peterscourt. In the 1950s it was named The Bury, and divided into two properties in the 1980s. For the grotto, see [13237].
12649	TL 2989 2364 (point)	POST-MEDIEVAL WELL AND OUTBUILDING, POUND COTTAGE, TOWN LANE, BENINGTON. Monitoring during construction of an extension behind no.1 Town Lane, Benington, noted a post-medieval brick-lined well and a wall foundation. They appear to correspond with features on the 1898 OS map, which shows a building and a pump. The building is also on the 1840 tithe map. The only finds were some sherds of post-medieval red ware.
13233	TL 30958 23500 (point)	BENINGTON PARK, TOWN LANE, BENINGTON. An 18th century country house which replaced an earlier one (which itself succeeded a hunting lodge); the estate was owned by the Caesar family until 1743. The building was extended and altered in the later 19th century, and reduced in the 20th. The central block is three bays wide, two storeys and basement, double-pile plan with gable chimneys; at the east end is a large two-storey extension with half-octagonal full height projection at the rear. There is a central pediment with semi-circular window and a square projecting closed porch. For the park and gardens, see [12108]; home farm, [11095]. The estate is named Benington Place on 1878 OS and Bennington Place on 1898 OS. Sir Julius Caesar, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Master of the Rolls to

		James I, bought Benington Lordship from the earls of Essex in 1614, but the Caesar family actually lived at Benington Park.
12011	TL 2969 2354 (point)	18TH-19TH CENTURY DRIVEWAY, BENINGTON. A layer of gravel was observed which corresponded with a driveway towards the church and the Lordship, shown on the tithe map and 1885 OS. This overlay a layer of brick rubble, chalk and mortar across the field south of the churchyard, evaluated prior to an extension. The soft fabric of the hand-made bricks and their size (55-60mm thick) probably indicates that they predate the 1784 brick tax. The layer may represent debris from demolition of the earlier buildings at the Lordship, and alterations to the church.
13237	TL 29770 23900 (point)	GROTTO AT BENINGTON RECTORY, WALKERN ROAD, BENINGTON. An early 19C garden grotto-maze, open to the sky, consisting of winding passages and chambers off with pools and central viewing mound. It is all built of brick-kiln wasters and stucco, covered in ivy, inside an irregular enclosure of high brick walls, and incorporates an 18C red brick structure at the NW corner and the stonework from a mullioned window in the wall by the entrance gate. For the Rectory, see [13236].
13546	TL 29690 23410 (point)	SITE OF CHALK PIT AND LIME KILN, BENINGTON ROAD, BENINGTON. The chalk pit is shown clearly on the 1881 OS map, with the lime kiln marked, and two buildings near the south end of the pit. The pit is at its largest at the south end, but extends haphazardly towards the road and slightly along it. The kiln is not shown on the 1898 map. The pit survives, filled with trees, on modern mapping.
13050	TL 30958 23500 (point)	THE OLD TOWER (VICTORIAN WATER TOWER), WHEMPSTEAD ROAD, BENINGTON. The Old Tower is L-shaped in plan, six storeys high and built of brick. It has a roof terrace with crenellations, original windows, and single-storey extensions at ground level. It stands in trees close to Benington House, and presumably dates to the mid-late 19C (and is not Listed). It was converted into a private house in the 1970s.
16974	TL 30346 23531 (point)	SITE OF METHODIST CHAPEL, TOWN LANE, BENINGTON. A building here is marked 'Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan)' on the 1878 OS map. It was a rectangular building set back from the road, with one narrow end facing Town Lane, and with a garden on the west side. This was an area of small buildings on what looks like waste at the side of the road, some distance east of the village. By 1898 the chapel had been replaced by a pair of semi-detached buildings with the plan of late 19th century byelaw housing, on the chapel site and in the garden. It may have been one of the 'various places of meeting for Protestant Dissenters (which) were certified in Benington between 1810 and 1851'.
<b>Undated</b>		
10339	TL 3091 2398 (point)	GRASSMARKS OF LINEAR FEATURES NORTH OF BENINGTON PARK. Probable field boundaries, seen from the air.

12378	TL 3008 2410 (point)	CABBAGE GREEN AND COLE'S GREEN, OLD SCHOOL GREEN AND DUCK LANE, BENINGTON. Registered common land. Two commons, NGR = approximate centre point for Cabbage Green.
12379	TL 3080 2300 (point)	BURN'S GREEN, BENINGTON. Registered common land. Nine, predominantly linear, sections of common, NGR = approximate centre point.
12380	TL 2982 2362 (point)	CHURCH COMMON, BENINGTON. Registered common land. Six sections of common, NGR = approximate centre point.

## APPENDIX 2      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	Y
Context Sheets	1000 - 1005
Site drawings A1	
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	12

### APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Finches Farm, Benington, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Benington
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Herts Planning ref. 3/12/1073/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr & Mrs Bott, Finches Farm
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Extension
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.70m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c.70m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 3050 2330
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1545
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	08/11/12
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In November 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording at Finches Farm, Benington (NGR TL 3050 2330; Figs. 1 &amp; 2). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for an extension to the existing farmhouse (East Herts Planning ref. 3/12/1073/FP).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground reduction and the excavation of the footing trenches associated with an extension to the Grade II Listed farmhouse building. The extension is on the north side of the farmhouse which is an 18<sup>th</sup> century addition.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were present. Post-medieval CBM fragments (324g) were evident within L1004 which directly overlay the natural.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Kamil Orzechowski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> November 2012

**AS1545, Finches Farm, Benington**

Concordance of finds by  
feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)
1004				Layer			324

**APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORT**

**The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The monitoring recovered a total of 13 fragments (324g) of highly abraded, post-medieval CBM from Layer L1004. The CBM includes three fragments (128g) of peg tile with circular peg holes and sanded bases, while the remainder comprises brick rubble.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

General view of site looking south.



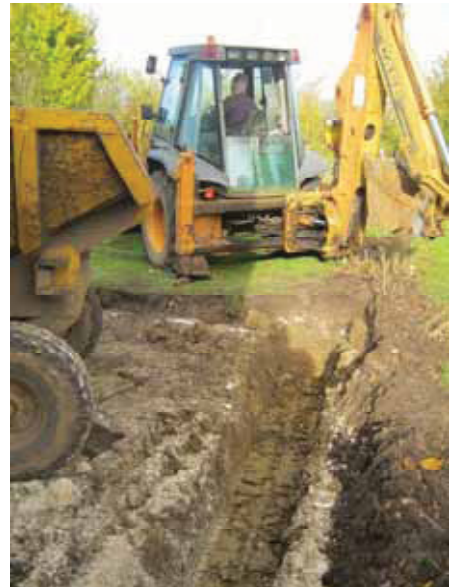
2

General view of site looking southwest.



3

General view of reduced ground level prior to excavation of footing trenches. Looking east.



4

General view. Excavation of footing trenches. Looking north.



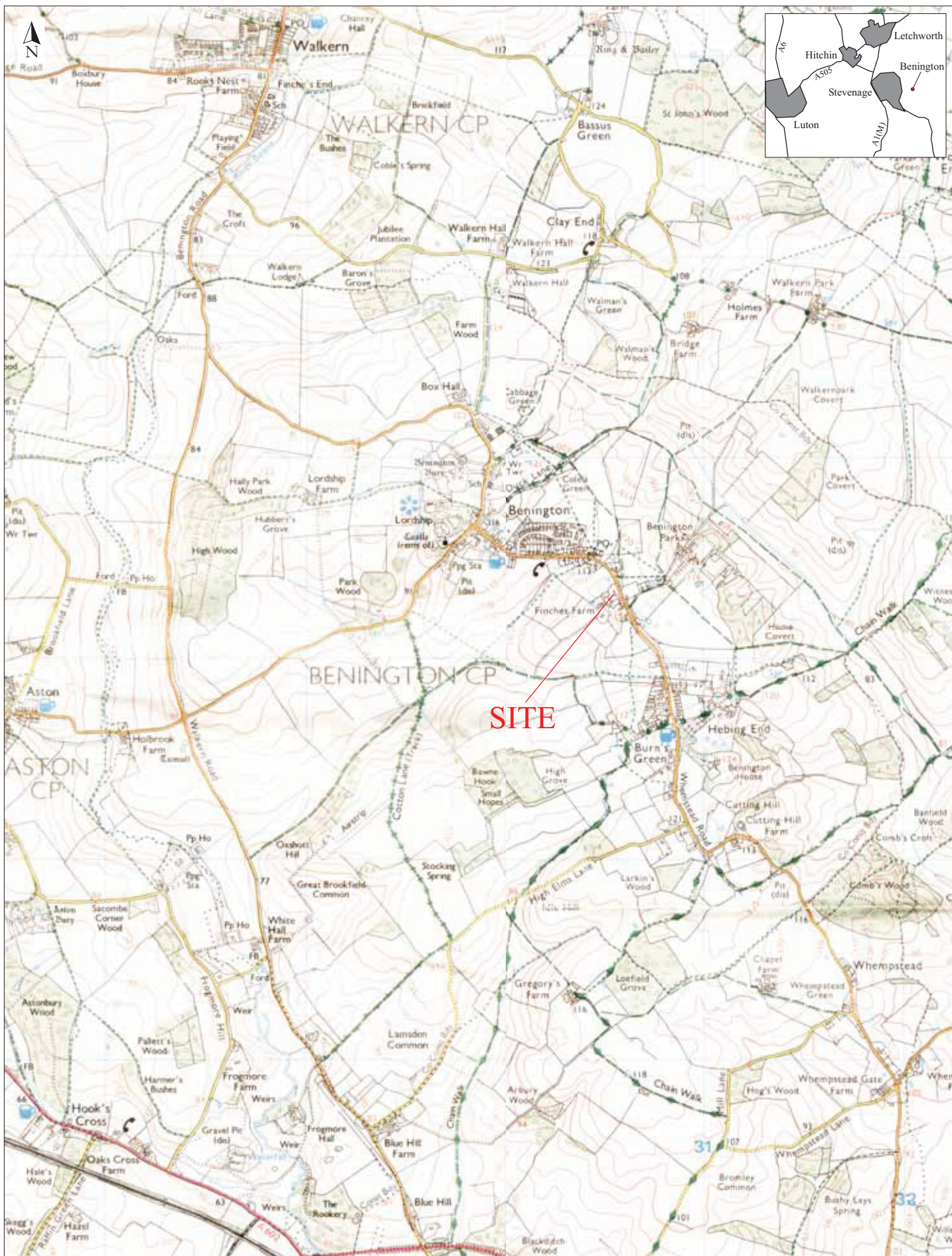
5

Oblique view of footing trench. Looking northeast.



6

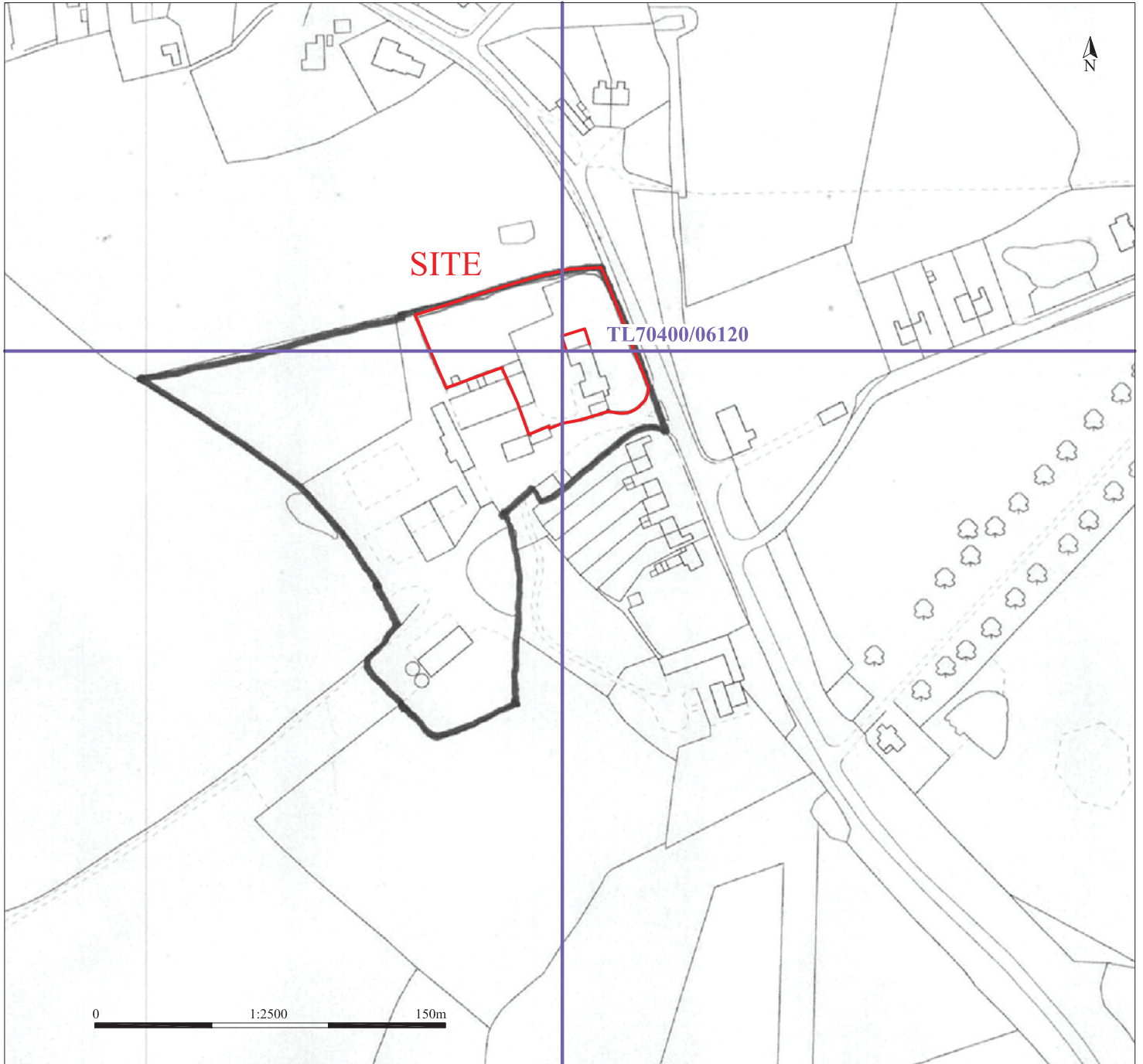
Sample section 1. Looking east.



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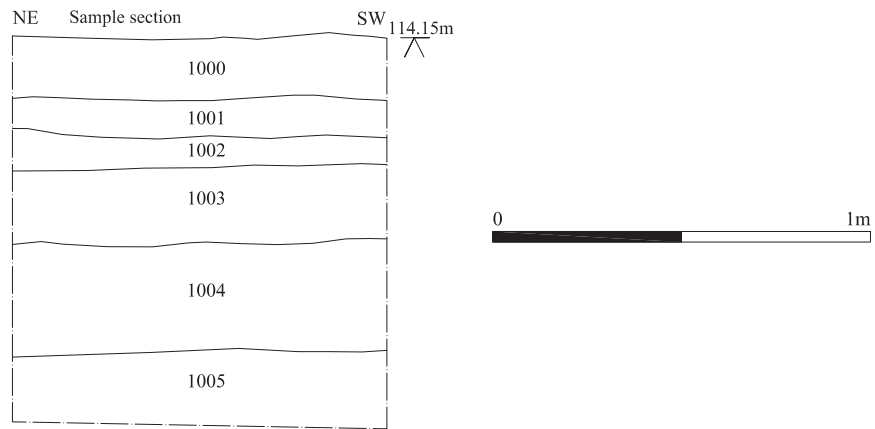
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:2500 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Trench location & sample section**

Scale Plan 1:200, section 1:20 at A4