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**THE BLACK LION INN, FISHPOOL STREET,
ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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NGR: TL 13905 07495	Report No: 4321	
District: St Albans	Site Code: BLF 12	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5001	
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OASIS SUMMARY

Project details			
Project name		<i>The Black Lion Inn, Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire</i>	
<p><i>Between 10th of December 2012 and 16th January 2013, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of the former Black Lion Inn, 194-198 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 13905 07495). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the conversion of the inn to three residential dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located just outside the Roman town of Verulamium and numerous Romano-British remains have been found in the vicinity. A possible Romano-British malting oven and a Romano-British well (HHER 14279) were found at the site in 1994. The site also lies within an area designated AS.R.25 on the Local Plan, which encompasses the area of Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon/ medieval town of St Albans and Sopwell Nunnery. The site had high potential for archaeological remains, particularly those of Romano-British and medieval date.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring and recording encountered two 19th century features – a soakaway and large pit – and four undated pits. Previous findings on the site include a Romano-British well, three possible medieval wells, six medieval pits and a Romano-British/ medieval malting oven. The general lack of archaeological remains was thought to relate to the significant, modern truncation of the monitored areas.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>10/12/2012 – 16/01/2013</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>5001</i>	Site code
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>	
Site status		<i>Within area designated as AS.R.25</i>	
Current land use		<i>Former inn with associated car park</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential conversion (3 dwellings)</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>19th century: soakaway; pit Undated: pits (x4)</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Hertfordshire HER/ St Albans UAD</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>AL3 4SB</i>	
Area of site		<i>c. 1650m²</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 13905 07495</i>	
Height AOD (min/max)		<i>80.50/81.50m AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>St Albans City and District Council</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>	
Funded by		<i>Thorne Barton Estates Ltd</i>	
Full title		<i>The Black Lion Inn, Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>	
Authors		<i>Pozorski, Z. & Mustchin, A. R. R.</i>	
Report no.		<i>4321</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>May 2013 (Revised 28/11/2013)</i>	

THE BLACK LION INN, FISHPOOL STREET, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

Between 10th December 2012 and 16th January 2013, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of the former Black Lion Inn, 194-198 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 13905 07495). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the conversion of the inn to three residential dwellings.

The site is located just outside the Roman town of Verulamium and numerous Romano-British remains have been found in the vicinity. A possible Romano-British malting oven and a Romano-British well (HHER 14279) were found at the site in 1994. The site also lies within an area designated AS.R.25 on the Local Plan, which encompasses the area of Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon/ medieval town of St Albans and Sopwell Nunnery. The site had high potential for archaeological remains, particularly those of Romano-British and medieval date.

In the event the monitoring and recording encountered two 19th century features – a soakaway and large pit – and four undated pits. Previous findings on the site include a Romano-British well, three possible medieval wells, six medieval pits and a Romano-British/ medieval malting oven. The general lack of archaeological remains was thought to relate to the significant, modern truncation of the monitored areas.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between 10th December 2012 and 16th January 2013, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of the former Black Lion Inn, 194-198 Fishpool Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 13905 07495). The monitoring and recording was commissioned by Thorne Barton Estates Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the conversion of the inn to three residential dwellings (St Albans Council Planning Ref. 5/11/0661).

1.2 The programme of monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with a requirement of St Albans City and District Council (SADC) (Simon West; District Archaeologist), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 05/09/2012) and approved by SADC. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The objectives of the project 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 Fishpool Street (Fig. 1) is an ancient thoroughfare, forming one of the principal medieval routes into the city from the west, where it skirted the monastic precinct and associated open area around Romeland. Part of the street was probably already developed by the 10th century, with gradual expansion throughout the Middle Ages. The modern street has a picturesque quality, created by a mixture of ancient, timber-framed houses and the Georgian rebuilding or re-facing of earlier structures.

2.2 The site comprises a roughly square plot of land (c. 1650m²) located on the northern side of Fishpool Street at the corner of its junction with Branch Road (Figs. 1-2). The Buildings and car park of the former Black Lion Inn front Fishpool Street in the south-western area of the site.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies between 81.00 and 82.50m AOD. The topography of the immediate area slope gently down towards the River Ver at c. 80.00m AOD. The land rises steadily to the north towards Batchwood Hill (c. 127m AOD), some c. 1.6km distant.

3.2 The solid geology of the site is Upper Chalk laid down during the Turonian-Campanian period of the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 1978). This comprises white, massive-bedded, micritic limestone with courses of modular flints deposited in warm marine conditions, and forms much of the Chiltern Hills (*ibid.*). Later outcrops of the Woolwich and Reading Beds – interbedded sand and red/green mottled clay of the Sparnacian-Palaeocene period of the Palaeogene – are present a short distance to the east.

3.3 The soils of central St Albans are unsurveyed. Those to the south-west of the city are of the Charity 2 Association, described as well-drained fine flinty and silty soils in valley bottoms and calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). To the south and south-east are the soils of the Batcombe Association, described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils. To the north the soils comprise those of the Hornbeam 3 association, which are deep, fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The following chiefly comprises a review of known archaeological features and finds within 150m of the site as recorded in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER¹).

Prehistoric

4.2 No pre-Roman features or finds are known within 150m of the site.

Romano-British

4.3 At its height, the town of *Verulamium* was the third largest settlement in Roman Britain (Pevsner and Cherry 1977). It was founded in AD 50 and reputedly laid waste by Boudicca ten years later. The town subsequently became one of Britain's largest Roman centres with a forum, basilica complex (opened in AD 79),

¹ HHER enquiry number 193/13 (dated 15/11/2013)

amphitheatre and public bathhouses all situated to the south-west of modern St Albans, with Watling Street running through its centre. The remains of the town extend over 80ha. There was no known fort in the town and the settlement was un-walled until the 2nd century AD. Much of *Verulamium* was destroyed by fire in AD 155. Archaeological work within *Verulamium* has revealed extensive remains including Romano-Celtic temples, a theatre, other buildings, kilns, furnaces, sewers, cobbled tracks, roads and sections of the city walls (Niblett and Thompson 2005; Pevsner and Cherry 1977).

4.4 Romano-British remains within 150m of the site include a rubbish pit containing animal bone, pottery and cess (HHER 14723) and further refuse (HHER 14724) at Kingsbury Manor, c. 50m to the north-west. A Romano-British well and other remains are recorded at Kingsbury House (HHER 17625), c. 130m north of the site, while similarly dated building foundations were recorded at Kingsbury Dairy (HHER 14725) c. 150m to the north-west. In 1994 a Romano-British well and possibly contemporary malting oven were excavated within the confines of the current site, to the rear of the former Inn buildings (HHER 14276). Evidence of Roman roads within 150m of the site has been recorded on the Colchester Road (HHER 14358), Everlasting Lane (HHER 14629) and at the St Michael's end of Fishpool Street (HHER 14338).

Anglo-Saxon

4.5 By the 8th century AD, the Saxon town was known as *Watlingchester* or *Verulamchester*. It was described by the historian Bede in AD 730 as containing the 'beautiful church worthy of' Alban's martyrdom (www.salbani.co.uk). The location of the Benedictine Abbey of St Alban was thought to have been the spot where the Christian martyr, Alban was executed in c. AD 324. St Albans Abbey was founded in AD 793 by King Offa of Mercia, although the site lay within the manor of Kingsbury, which belonged to the Saxon kings and was bought by Alfric before he became abbot of St Albans (Page 1912). The Kingsbury *burh* was possibly located to the north of the Abbey. Although the manor of Kingsbury was not listed in Domesday Book, it is thought that the recorded 'pond for fish' refers to Alfric's large fishpond known as 'Fischpol' (Morris 1976; Page 1912). St Albans School, a public school located to the west of the Abbey and including the 14th century Abbey Gateway, was founded in AD 948.

4.6 In 1994, archaeological work at the current site recovered six sherds of 10th to 12th century AD shelly ware (HHER 18809). No other features or finds of this date are recorded within 150m of the site.

Medieval

4.7 By the medieval period the core of settlement had shifted away from the Roman city to the Abbey precincts and further northwards. In AD 1077, Paul of Caen, the first Norman Abbot, began rebuilding the Abbey of St Albans (www.salbani.co.uk). By 1086, the town of St Albans had a population of 500 and incorporated 10 hides, land for 16 ploughs, a park for woodland beasts and three mills valued at 40s. St Peter's Street, High Street, Market Place, Holywell Street and

Fishpool Street were probably all well established in roughly their present positions by the 11th century.

4.8 The medieval period also saw the division of the town into four wards, roughly corresponding to the built-up areas of the four modern parishes of St Stephen, St Michael, St Peter and the Abbey of St Alban itself. Abbott Richard de Wallingford (1260-1291) granted each of these a constable of the peace and two chief pledges to maintain order by. By AD 1327 the boundaries of the borough had been formerly recorded but likely predated this time. The Priory was dissolved in AD1539 and the Abbey Church, now the parish church, was purchased by the people in AD 1553 (Page 1912).

4.9 Kingsbury Mill, c. 100m to the west of the site, is recorded as having medieval origins (HHER 5804). The post-medieval farmstead of Kingsbury Manor (HHER 17703), c. 50m to the north-west, also has medieval (monastic) origins (HHER 14722). The Manor site encompasses a monastic barn (*ibid.*) thought to be one of a group of barns erected by John del la Moot, Abbot of St Albans, in AD 1390. The 'Gonnerstone', one of a pair of boulders positioned on the borough boundary (a short distance to the south-west of the site), is thought to comprise a medieval boundary marker (HHER 14538), while an undated wall at Kingsbury Farm (HHER 14650), c. 100m north-west of the site, may belong to the medieval monastic grange. Closer to the site, a medieval well (HHER 15409) is recorded to the rear on No's 176-8 Fishpool Street, while three 12th to 14th century wells and six pits have been previously excavated within the current site limits (HHER 18809). The latter works also encountered four undated pits (*ibid.*). The current alignments of Everlasting Lane and Back Lane (HHERs 14629 and 14631), both within 150m of the site, are thought to have medieval origins.

Post-medieval and modern

4.10 Post-medieval development of the town saw the construction of roads specifically catering to the coaching trade; St Albans was the first stop on the coaching route north from London. This accounts for town's numerous inns, many of which date from Tudor times. Excavations at Camlet Way/ Branch Road c. 75m north-west of the site revealed a late 17th to early 18th century lime kiln with associated pit (Pozorski 2011; 2012). The buildings of Kingsbury Brewery (HHER 5389), c. 160m to the north-east of the site, date from 1827 and remain virtually unaltered. Later development saw the steady expansion of various industries such as printing, engineering, clothing and hat manufacture, while the construction of the railway in 1858 facilitated further communication and trade. The Abbey Church was granted Cathedral status and the town received its City charter in 1877. During the inter-war years it became a popular centre for the electronics industry. Following World War II the town expanded significantly as it took a part in the post-war redistribution of London's population (www.salbani.co.uk).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Monitored groundworks comprised the foundation trenches for the new boundary and retaining walls and building extension (Fig. 2).

5.2 All groundworks were excavated under close archaeological supervision. Subsoil and natural deposits were examined for archaeological features/ finds and soil profiles were recorded. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Deposits encountered on the site were recorded in four sample sections (tabulated below). The locations of these sample sections are shown on Fig. 3.

Trench for building extension

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4): north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 81.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 43m	L1000	Made ground. Dark brownish grey, loose, sandy silt with moderate CBM fragments.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural white, compact, chalk.

Description: This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench for new eastern boundary wall

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 6): south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 82.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1010	Tarmac. Surface of a car park.
0.07 – 0.30m	L1002	Made ground. Light brown, friable, silty sand.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural chalk. As above.

Description: This trench contained four undated pits (F1003, F1006, F1008 and F1012), recorded in the south-eastern section (Table 1; Fig. 2). These features did not contain datable material. However, it is possible that these pits (at least in part) corresponded to previously excavated medieval features (HHER 18809; Appendix 1). All four pits were cut into Natural L1001.

Trench for new western boundary wall (N)

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 11): north end, north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 82.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1010	Tarmac. As above.
0.07 – 0.54m	L1015	CBM rubble with mid grey, loose, sand.
0.54m+	L1001	Natural chalk. As above.

Description: This trench contained a large pit (F1016) of possible 19th century date and a red brick-lined soakaway (M1018). Pit F1016 (3.00+ x 1.00+ x 0.70+m; DP 11; Figs. 2-3) appeared ovoid in plan with moderately sloping sides; its base was not determined. The single fill of this feature (L1017) comprised loose, light brown sand and CBM rubble (perhaps deliberately placed) of possible 19th century date.

M1018 (present c. 0.40m below current surface level) comprised a poorly preserved, circular structure of red brick construction, measuring 0.85m in diameter (DP 12; Figs. 2-3). This feature was excavated to a depth of c. 1.10m (below current surface level); its base was not determined. No bonding material survived. M1018 may have represented the remains of a 19th century soakaway, perhaps broadly contemporary to adjacent Pit F1016 (see above).

Trench for new western boundary wall (S)

Southernmost trench for new western boundary wall Sample section 4 (DP 13): north end, south-south-east facing 0.00 = 81.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1010	Tarmac. As above.
0.06 – 0.09m	L1024	Dark yellow, loose, sand.
0.09 – 0.29m	L1019	Light to mid brownish grey, loose, sand with frequent CBM fragments.
0.29 – 0.35m	L1020	Mid to dark grey, loose, sand with small stones and chalk.
0.35 – 0.40m	L1021	White, friable, chalk.
0.40 – 0.50m	L1022	Light brown, compact, sandy silt.
0.50 – 0.66m	L1023	Light grey, loose, sand and chalk with stones and occasional bricks fragments.
0.66m +	L1001	Natural chalk. As above.

Description: This trench contained no archaeological features or finds.

Feature No.	Dimensions (m) ²	Sides	Base	Fill	Fill description
F1003	1.37 x ? x 0.76	Steep	Flattish	L1004 ^S	Mixed mid brown and grey, friable, clayey silt
				L1005 ^P	Mixed white, friable, chalk and mid brown, friable, clayey silt
F1006	0.68 x 0.35+ x 0.64	Near-vertical	-	L1007	Dark brown, loose, clayey silt with occasional stones
F1008	1.00 x ? x 0.34	Steep	Flattish	L1009	Light brown, compact, clayey silt.
F1012	1.28 x ? x 0.50	Steep/near-vertical	Flattish/irregular	L1013 ^S	Light brown, compact, clayey silt
				L1014 ^P	Mixed dark brown and grey, compact, clayey silt

Table 1: Pits F1003, F1006, F1008 and F1012. Key: ^P = primary fill; ^S = secondary fill

² Feature dimensions are given as length x width x depth

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Tarmac L1010 (0.05 – 0.08m thick). Below the tarmac, within the western part of the site, numerous layers of made ground were present (0.40 – 0.60m thick in total). Within the eastern part of the site the made ground was less substantial (0.15 – 0.40m thick in total).

8.2 The natural geology (L1001, was present at 0.30 – 0.80m below existing ground level and comprised a white, compact, chalk.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had good potential for archaeological remains, especially those of Romano-British and later date. Previously excavated features within the confines of the site include a Romano-British well (HHER 14276) three possible medieval wells, six medieval pits (HHER 18809) and a Romano-British/ medieval malting oven (HHER 14276). The area immediately around the site has also yielded significant remains (see Section 4). The former Black Lion Inn is situated close to Romano-British *Verulamium* and within the area of Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and medieval town of St Albans and Sopwell Nunnery.

9.2 In the event the monitoring encountered a possible 19th century soakaway and large pit containing building materials. The monitoring also recorded four smaller, undated pits in the eastern part of the site. It is tentatively possible that these pits (at least in part) corresponded to previously excavated medieval features (HHER 18809; Appendix 1). All of the encountered pits were cut into Natural L1001 and were sealed by made ground.

9.3 The monitored areas were characterised by significant truncation which may have resulted in the loss of archaeological evidence. However, it is possible that further archaeological features survive below the encountered made ground (present across the site).

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr Peter MacGregor of Thorne Barton Estates Ltd for commissioning the project, and Synergy Construction & Property Consultants LLP for their assistance.

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APPENDIX 1 HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HHER) DATA

The following comprises a list of all Hertfordshire HER records cited in the text (within 150m of the site) (HHER; enquiry number 193/13 (dated 15/11/2013)).

HHER No	NGR (TL)	Description
Romano-British (AD 43-410)		
14276	13916 07502	<p>A Roman malting oven on the natural chalk bank, and a Roman well, in the yard behind the Black Lion [18810], Fishpool Street.</p> <p>The oven was cut into the bank, at the rear of the yard. 'The bank here was seen to be the natural chalk; it is not clear whether the oven was Roman, or a medieval feature' (for medieval features here see [18809]).</p>
14338	13953 07440	The lowest surface of Fishpool Street, at the St Michael's end, has been seen twice in contractors' trenches. Beneath the modern road surface outside no.133 was a ditch containing 2nd century pottery. As the ditch was later than the lowest levels of road metalling the implication is that Fishpool Street follows the line of a Roman road, at least at this end. A deep ditch seen outside St Michael's Manor in 1979 may be the same feature, although there were no finds.
14358	13946 07637	<p>The Colchester Road, from its junction with the Silchester Road through the NE Gate and up the hill to Folly Lane etc.</p> <p>It includes a large open cobbled area at the south end of Insula XIX. The probable surface of this road, compact gravel layers with flint, was recorded immediately behind no. 21 St Michael's Street [17732] in 2010, running NE beneath the house. For details of roadside features here, see [17733].</p>
14723	13845 07535	<p>Part of a large pit with animal bone and pottery, and some cess, was seen in a builders' trench in 2002; it could be a large cess pit, or debris from leatherworking.</p> <p>Only the top of what is probably a large feature was disturbed. Lower down it may well contain organic, and possibly water logged deposits.</p>
14724	13835 07545	An apparent tip of rubbish, containing a good deal of 1st-late 3rd century pottery and animal bone, and some ceramic building material, was possibly intended to form a bank along the north side of the river.
14725	13854 07585	Part of a Roman masonry building at this position extends northwards and may also extend south under Kingsbury barn [9490]. The walls were of stone rubble and mortar, with 2nd century pottery in the foundation trench. An internal wall divided the structure. The southern room had no clear surface but some tesserae were found, indicating a tessellated floor. The northern room had a cobbled surface and contained pottery dating to the 3rd/4th century. A pit and a well were also found.
17625	13893 07608	A well containing Roman pottery in its fill was revealed in 1964 when a house was built in a field on the west side of Branch Road; more Roman pottery was unstratified in the topsoil around it. This house was demolished in 2011, and evaluation of the plot, now on the south side of Camlet Way, uncovered a build-up of Roman rubbish and a possible hearth, overlain by levelling layers and a gravel surface which was either a floor (inside a building) or a yard (outside). Most of the finds dated to the 2nd century (with some 1st century pottery), and included samian ware, a blue glass vessel handle, a copper alloy pin, and building materials (tegula and imbrex tiles, and bessalis brick).

		This occupation was beside the major Roman road [14358] leading out of Verulamium to the NE.
Medieval (AD 1066-1539)		
14538	13840 07482	<p>Two large boulders, each claimed to be the Gonnerstone on the medieval borough boundary. They lie in the valley outside Kingsbury Mill and in the grounds of Kingsbury Lodge.</p> <p>Their name is a misnomer. This position on the boundary was not a stone but Gunnar's tun or enclosure; it is likely that the stones are glacial erratics, later given a name expressing their assumed function. The place name combines a Scandinavian personal name with an English suffix; the enclosure has not been identified, although it is conceivable that it relates to the ditches [14012] and joining sections of what later became the borough boundary, and which enclose the area of higher ground known since c.1900 as 'Kingsbury'.</p> <p>The stone outside Kingsbury Mill came from the river, and was set up in front of the mill to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee (in 1887 or 1897).</p>
14629	14119 08082	Everlasting Lane is presumably medieval (it is shown on Hare's map), and until the diversion of Watling Street in 1826 continued south across the field west of Branch Road to meet the end of Fishpool Street and St Michael's Street, in the valley bottom. In 1826 Branch Road was built to connect with the new Verulam Road, and the dogleg course of the south end of Everlasting Lane was closed. It was this vanished southern length west of Branch Road that was mistaken by the Viatores for the agger of a Roman road.
14631	13159 08109	A minor road from Kingsbury Manor along the NE side of the river Ver to The Prae and Prae Mill. It was mapped in 1634, so it may be medieval. Its course is fairly clear from old field boundaries.
14650	13829 07571	A short length of flint and mortar wall was seen at Kingsbury Farm [17703] in 1956 <1>. Its exact position was not recorded. Although there was nothing to date it, it was assumed to be medieval, not Roman, and would have been part of the medieval monastic grange; for the monastic barn, see [14722].
14722	13859 07562	<p>Medieval monastic barn in the river valley in Branch Road. One of a group of barns erected probably in the 1390s by John de la Moot, abbot of St Albans, on monastic granges for the collection of their own produce; all had crown-post roofs and reveal evidence of being the work of a single carpenter, or group of carpenters. Kingsbury was acquired by the abbey in the late 10th century and evolved as a monastic manorial estate; John de la Moot is recorded as having built a new barn here, not far from the main abbey gate. The structure is of oak timber framing on a wall base built mainly of flint, with Roman brick and some Totternhoe stone (clunch) rubble, apparently derived from de la Moot's rebuilding work at the abbey and notably the clunch parapet of the Great Gatehouse. The single-frame crown-post roof is half-hipped; the apparently original clay roof tiles and wattle wall cladding survive in part, although the walls have been weather-boarded. Like St Julian's barn [2025] the plan is aisled and of five wide bays with one central porch.</p> <p>A dendrochronological analysis of six samples by English Heritage produced a felling date for the timbers of 1367-92. Two timbers gave a date of 1373-74. Another trace of the medieval grange may</p>

		<p>be represented by a length of wall [14650].</p> <p>The barn, in poor condition, was bought back from the Branch Road Dairy in 2007 by the owners of Kingsbury Manor [17703], who paid for its restoration. It is clear from evaluation in 2011 and earlier test pits that 'both inside and immediately outside, the ground level is some half a metre above that on which the Barn was built'. See [17703] for a possibly medieval yard surface.</p>
15409	13956 07470	<p>Terracing into the hill slope in the garden behind 176-8 Fishpool Street in 1995 cut sideways into a medieval well, which contained medieval pottery and Roman tile.</p>
17703	1387 0754	<p>Kingsbury Farm is shown on later 19th century OS maps as a substantial farmstead in the angle between the river Ver and Branch Road, at the head of St Michael's Street just beyond the bridge. Behind the house were ranges of large farm buildings around two irregular yards. This layout had not altered by the mid 1920s.</p> <p>The large building on the north side of the rear yard is one of the late 14th century monastic barns built by abbot John Moot; see [14722]. Kingsbury Farm was in origin a monastic grange belonging to St Albans Abbey, and was a manorial estate.</p> <p>The present (much restored) house was built c.1700, with two storeys and attics but in irregular form with the eastern half taller than the western half and a one-bay two-storey west extension. The façade has two gables and square dormers, and steps to a door with bracketed cornice hood. The surviving farmstead buildings date mainly to the 18th and 19th centuries, grouped around the medieval barn [14722]. At the main entrance, however, is a red brick wall in English garden wall bond with traces of stone coping; this dates to the late 17th to early 18th century. It has been incorporated within a late 18th century timber-framed and weatherboarded barn, five bays long with central cart entrance and a 19th century bay added at the NE end, and 19th century lean-tos added on the yard side. In the older brick wall is a blocked doorway.</p> <p>In the later 20th century the farm was sold to the Express Dairy and was used for the storage of milk floats, with some alterations. The house, in private occupation, was renamed Kingsbury Manor. In 2007, after the closure of the Dairy, the farm buildings were bought back by the owners.</p> <p>Evaluation across the yard SW of the medieval barn in 2011 found earlier yard surfaces, 'the first of relaid chalk with gravel metaling and below that an earth surface with flint cobbling', and the base of the end wall of a 19th century open-fronted cart shed. Below the earlier yard surface was a trace of a building which had been replaced by the cart shed, possibly part of a cow yard; and a third surface of 'very large flints, close-set and packed with chalk'. This surface lay over the natural sand. It is possible that this earliest surface is medieval.</p>
18809	13915 07495	<p>Terracing of the east side of the rear yard at the Black Lion [18810] in 1994 revealed six medieval pits and three possible wells, also medieval. The bases of at least some of these features should survive. The pottery in them ranged in date from the late 12th to the early 14th centuries, but the work also produced six sherds of 10th-12th century shelly ware.</p>

		<p>Four pits containing no finds were seen in this part of the yard during groundworks in 2012-13.</p> <p>The site is at the medieval borough boundary on the north side of the street; the south side of Fishpool Street appears to have been less densely settled in the medieval period.</p> <p>For a malting oven which might have been medieval instead of Roman, see [14276].</p>
Post-medieval (AD 1539-present)		
5389	140 076	<p>A complex of buildings around a large central yard; flint walls with red brick top floor, window heads, and buttresses. Building 1: three floors, arched windows and lion's head below roof ridge. Building 2: office and garage, one floor, mainly wood. Building 3, the malting: 3 floors with interior all timber except for 3 cast iron columns, 19C type, and kiln of red brick. Building 4: three floors. Building 5: dwelling house used as office in 19C. St Michaels' tithe map of 1840 shows all the buildings. Occupied by Flitton, motor engineers. Exterior in good condition and the site is now used by various companies as offices.</p> <p>The brewery was put up after the opening of Verulam Road and Branch Road in 1826, by Francis Searancke. In 1897 it was sold to Benskins and was closed in 1900. 'Cellars and vaults ran under what is now the adjoining car sales centre'. The business probably had late 17C origins, but moved to these premises when Verulam Road opened. This is 'one of the best preserved brewery sites in the county'.</p>
5804	1380 0748	<p>Water corn mill with 18th century frontage. Built of red brick, it has 3 floors with weatherboarded gables. The interior has possible 17th century woodwork. There is an iron water wheel with a 12ft diameter. Milling gear mostly dismantled. Has since been renovated and is now a milling museum; the internal workings have been replaced.</p> <p>This was originally a medieval mill in the manor of Kingsbury, belonging to the abbey, and may be one of the watermills in St Albans already existing in 1086. The malt mill recorded in 1194 must have been here; it continued to be owned by the abbey until 1539. In 1658 it was 'St Michael's mills formerly a malt mill'.</p>

Photographic Index



DP 1: Frontage of the former Black Lion Inn (looking NE)



DP 2: The site to the rear of the former Black Lion Inn (looking SW)



DP 3: Trench for the new building extension (looking SSW)



DP 4: Sample Section 1 (looking ESE)



DP 5: Trench for new eastern boundary wall (looking NE)



DP 6: Sample Section 2 (looking N)



DP 7: Pit F1003 (looking SE)



DP 8: Pits F1006 (R) and F1008 (L) (looking SE)



DP 9: Pit F1012 (looking SE)



DP 10: Trench for new western boundary wall (N) (looking SW)



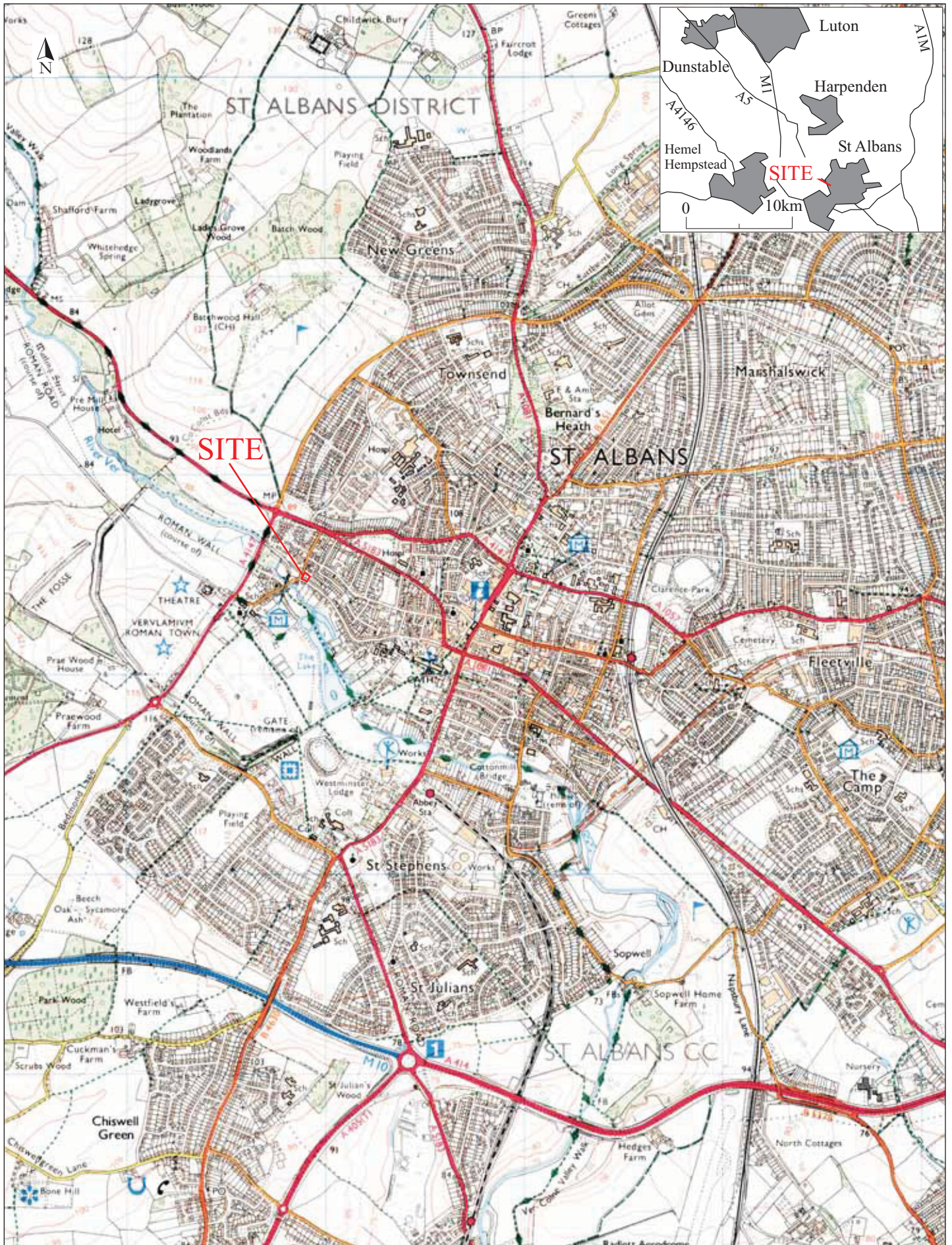
DP 11: Sample Section 3 (looking SE)



DP 12: Soakaway M1018 (looking WSW)

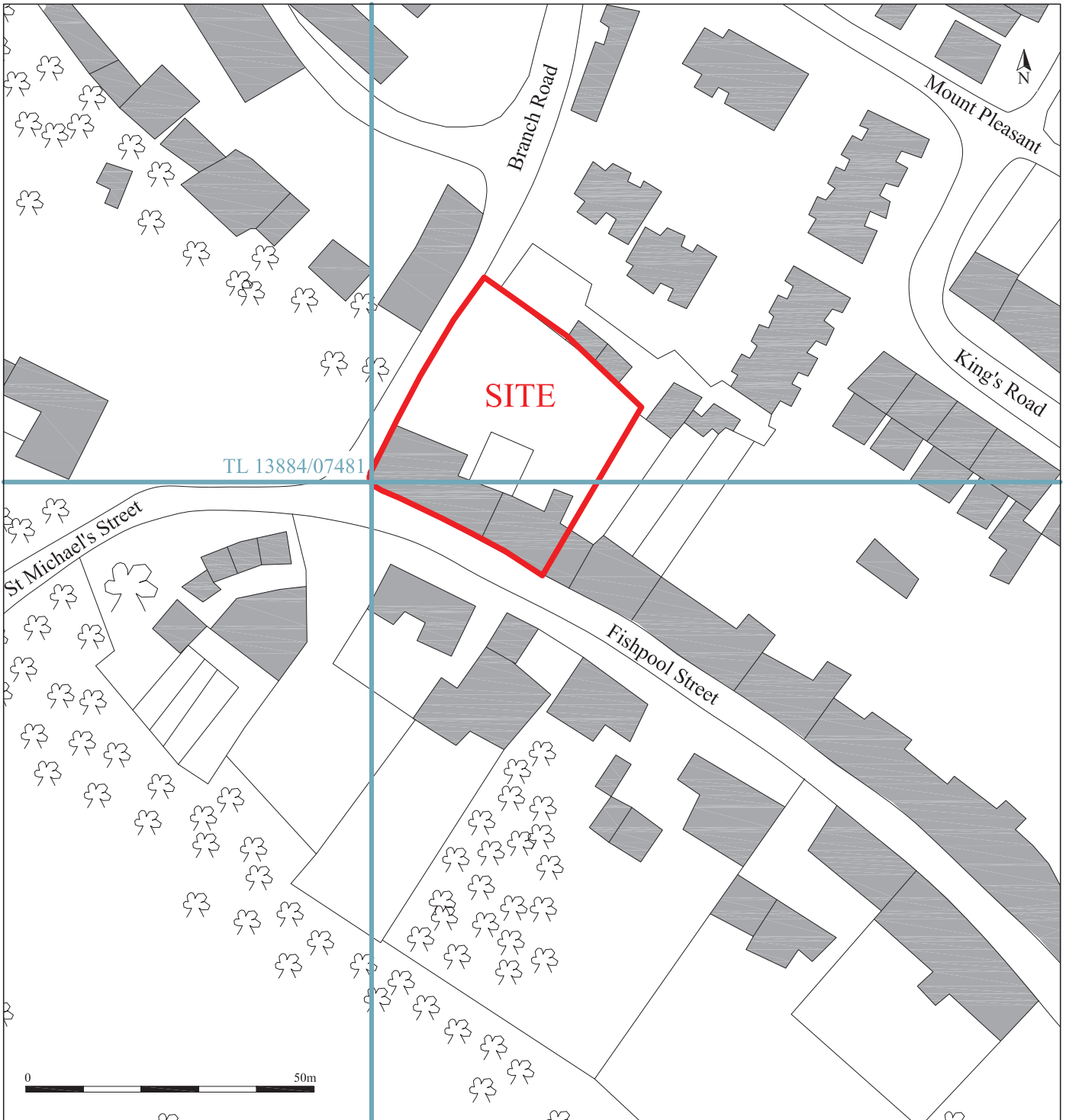


DP 13: Sample Section 4 (looking NNW)

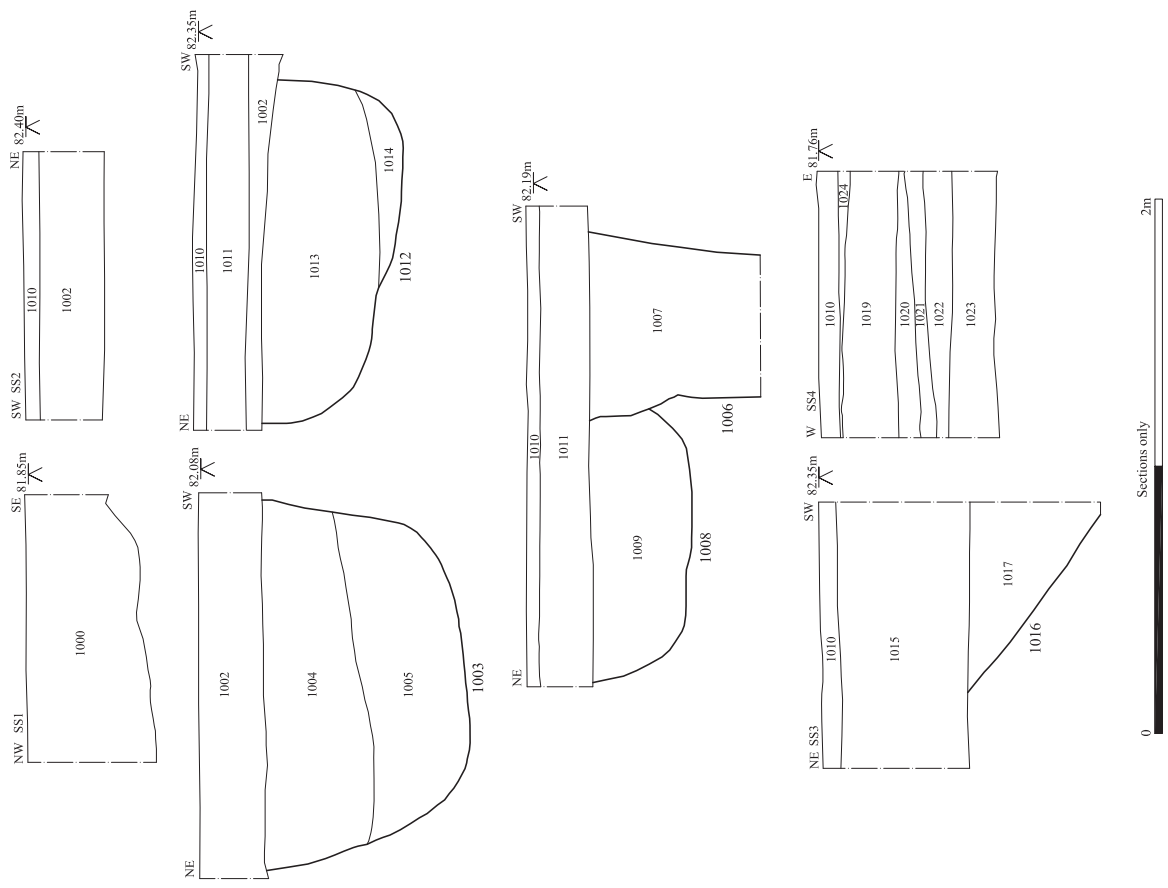


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections
 Scale plan at 1:200 & sections at 1:20 at A4