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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**THE MANOR HOUSE, 33 HODDESDON ROAD,  
STANSTEAD ST MARGARETS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER ref No. 237/12

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 38045 11535	Report No: 4237
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1560
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3486
Signed:	Date: January 2013

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire</i>		
<i>In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 38045 11535). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Richard Gvero of the Manor House and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new bungalow.</i>			
<i>The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 184, which identifies an area of medieval settlement of the village. The Manor House is situated to the immediate south of parish church and to the south-west of the historic core of Stanstead Abbots. Medieval remains were found nearby to the north of the Clock House at Hoddesdon Road. Therefore the site had potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed sparse residual struck flint and four ditches three of which contained small quantities (one – two sherds) of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Layers suggestive of habitation were also present (L1002, L1003 and L1004).</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	15 - 16/01/2013		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	N	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	Y
<b>P. number</b>	3486	<b>Site code</b>	AS 1560
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 184</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Garden</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>Construction of a bungalow</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>Ditches</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>Sparse residual struck flint and mid 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Stanstead St Margarets</i>
<b>HER/ HER for area</b>	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>SG12 8EG</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>c. 800 m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TL 38045 11535</i>		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	<i>29.80/30.00m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>Mr Richard Gvero</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>4237</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>January 2013</i>		

**THE MANOR HOUSE, 33 HODDESDON ROAD,  
STANSTEAD ST MARGARETS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 38045 11535). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Richard Gvero of The Manor House and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new bungalow.*

*The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 184, which identifies an area of medieval settlement of the village. The Manor House is situated to the immediate south of parish church and to the south-west of the historic core of Stanstead Abbots. Medieval remains were found nearby to the north of the Clock House at Hoddesdon Road. Therefore the site had potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains*

*In the event the evaluation revealed sparse residual struck flint and four ditches, three of which contained small quantities (one – two sherds) of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Layers suggestive of habitation were also present (L1002, L1003 and L1004).*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 38045 11535; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Richard Gvero of The Manor House and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new bungalow (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref.3/09/2099/FP).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 04/12/2012) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains

liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any Saxon, medieval or post-medieval remains associated with the historic core of Stanstead Abbots, and any earlier phases of The Manor House.

### *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 The site is situated in the Lea valley to the south-west of the centre of Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1), fronting Hoddesdon Road to the east. It comprises a rectangular plot with the Manor House in its western part. The majority of the property is occupied by gardens surrounded by a wall. The parish church is located just to the north of the site.

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

3.1 The site lies within the valley of the river Lea, whose present navigable course is 200m to the east. The site is situated on relatively flat land at c.29.80m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is chalk, overlain by floodplain and terrace sands and gravels, with localised alluvium above the gravels closer to the valley floor (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Fladbury 1 association, described as stoneless calcareous clayey soils, variably affected by groundwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3.3 Previous archaeological investigations undertaken at a site nearby (Pozorski 2009) and at St Margarets Farm (Trevarthen 1998, Hounsell *et al* 2002) revealed topsoil and modern made ground overlying alluvial deposits and peat associated with the course of the Lea to the east. The alluvial deposits (marsh clays and gleyed clays) and peat of varying thickness were sealed beneath more recent deposits and overlay the natural terrace gravel to depths of between 1m to 2.1m.

3.4 Pollen and diatom analysis of samples derived from the St Margarets Farm site (Scaife 2002) revealed a dark highly humidified detrital fen peat typical of lowland valleys and of the Lea valley in particular. The lower level of peat was thought to be Late Mesolithic in date.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 The earliest evidence for human activity in the area is represented by occasional discoveries of Palaeolithic worked flint in the Lea valley. Mesolithic communities (dating from c.6500 BC) were itinerant and most finds of the period occur as scattered flint tools discarded during seasonal hunting. However, both the Lea and Stort valleys have produced several important Mesolithic flint knapping sites associated with alluvial deposits. Sites include Rikof's Pit, Broxbourne, c. 5km south of the site, Dobb's Weir, Rye Meads (HER 6660), Roydon Road (HER 4022) and Nazeing.

4.2 The more settled Neolithic communities date to c. 4500BC. Remains are scarce with the flints recovered at Rye Meads (HER 6660) being the only known local example. It is probable that a prehistoric pit containing struck flints recorded during the Phase I evaluation at St Margarets Farm (Trevarthen 1998) (HER 9715) relates to this period.

4.3 Regional studies indicate a marked increase in the exploitation of the landscape during the Bronze Age (c. 2000 BC – 700 BC) for pastoral and arable cultivation. Within the immediate area, there are few signs of occupation, though to the west, air reconnaissance has revealed the presence of a circular enclosure (HER 1449). A bronze spearhead was recovered from the river Lea (HER 607). Excavated Bronze and Iron Age occupation is known from Foxholes Farm at Hertford to the north-west, and at Halfhide Lane and Canada Field to the south west where Late Bronze Age and Iron Age metalworking was found.



4.4 There is no evidence for Iron Age occupation or activity in the immediate area. There is, however, a purported Iron Age settlement at Fishers Green, to the east of Cheshunt, where postholes found in 1954 are thought to indicate the presence of a lake village of this date.

#### *Romano-British*

4.5 During the four centuries of Roman occupation, the landscape, social environment and infrastructure developed considerably, and material culture becomes more visible in the archaeological record with the use of coinage, pottery, buildings of masonry and other durable materials. Roman evidence is limited. *Ermine Street* which linked London, Lincolnshire and York ran north-south c. 4km to the west of the development site. The fragmentary remains of pottery sherds, a cremation burial (HER 1755), several contemporary urns and amphorae (HER 4116) have been found close to the site. Numerous reused Roman bricks are incorporated into the fabric of the nearby church at Stanstead Abbots, and the field adjacent to the church contains Roman building materials and pottery. In addition, cremation urns were also discovered to the south at Hoddesdon (HER 4413).

4.6 A large undated cropmark site, showing an intensive area of enclosures and ditches lies to the south, between the suburban edge of Hoddesdon and the fields either side of the A414 (HER 1411, 1449, 1500, 2756, 2757, 2762, 2763 & 7618-20) (Area of Archaeological Significance 183). Though undated, it may have provided the focus of settlement in the prehistoric or Roman periods. A separate cropmark of rectilinear ditches (HER 7621) to the north west of the study area may also relate to these periods.

#### *Medieval*

4.7 Stanstead St Margaret's (HER 2644) is first referred to as *Thele*, but has also been recorded as *Theele* (13<sup>th</sup> century), *Le Ele* (14<sup>th</sup> century), *Theyle* and *The Yle* (15<sup>th</sup> century) However, at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century it took the alternative name *Pons de Thele*, also written as *Punt de Tyull*, *Pons Tegule*, *Pons Tegeri* and *Pontherigg* (14<sup>th</sup> century) that derived from the bridge over the river Lea. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was known as *St Margaret's Theale* or *Margarthele* owing to St Margaret's Church in the village and the proximity of Stanstead Abbots.

4.8 Stanstead St Margarets was probably originally part of the manor of Hailey within Great Amwell parish and Hertford Hundred, as there is no mention of it in the Domesday Survey. It had acquired a separate parochial status by the 13<sup>th</sup> century with the manor and advowson becoming divided among the co-heirs of a tenant under the Earls of Oxford. By 1276 John de Lovetot and his wife Margaret seem to have acquired the interests of the others with the grant of free warren in their desmene land being granted in 1277. They used this to obtain in 1281 a grant for a weekly market and an annual fair at Thele. The manor passed in 1303 to William de Goldington in whose family it remained until 1423 when it was acquired by Sir Andrew



Ogard whose descendant sold it to William Frankland, a clothmaker from London in 1576.

4.9 The growth of the settlement at Stanstead St Margarets relates to its location on the main Hertford road over the river Lea. A bridge had been constructed by the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. In 1247/1248 the 'men of London' constructed a granary at the settlement in order to store grain bound for London.

4.10 Within the Area of Archaeological Importance 184 are numerous early buildings. These include St Margarets Church (HER 4368), the Red Lion Inn (HER 10278) and late medieval buildings on Roydon Road (HER 10283, HER 10286) and High Street (HER 10284). In addition, medieval tiles have been found in St Margaret's churchyard (HER 4761).

4.11 The earlier archaeological works on the site to the north of The Clock House, Hoddesdon Road (c. 100m to the south-east of the site) conducted by AS (Pozorski 2009) revealed series of ditches likely to have been boundaries delineating a plot of land lying alongside and running back from the road. The ditches were dated to the medieval period (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century). It is possible that these ditches represent a system of crofts running alongside the medieval forerunner of the current Hoddesdon Road. Also medieval and post-medieval pits were identified on the site.

#### *Post-medieval & modern*

4.12 The post medieval period saw the growth of the malting industry in Hertfordshire centring on Ware, Hoddesdon and Stanstead Abbots (Munby 1977). The remnants of this industry survive at Stanstead Lock (HER 5392, HER 5393, HER 5394), Roydon Road (HER 5395, HER 5396, HER 5397, HER 10280), High Street (HER 5398, HER 10271, HER 10273, HER 10274, HER 10276) and on the west bank of the river Lea (HER 5399). In addition, there area also structures associated with the malting process such as the Steam Corn Mill (HER 5810) and a former Granary (HER 10260).

4.13 This concentration of industry provided the wealth to fund other buildings and institutions including the Pumping Stations (HER 5331, HER 5332), Gasworks (HER 10282), St Margarets Railway station (HER 5534), The Clock House former school (HER 10228), St Andrews Church (HER 10231), Baesh Almshouses (HER 10277), Methodist Chapel (HER 10281) together with various pubs (HER 10221, HER 10222, HER 10279) and bridges (HER 5695, HER 7255). In addition, there are post-medieval residences and occupation evidence at Stanstead Lock (HER 5851), Amwell Marsh (HER 10263) and the High Street (HER 6047, HER 10285). The New River, which runs close to the west of the site from its source at Great Amwell, dates from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, when it was constructed by Hugh Myddelton as an ambitious scheme to bring a water supply to the capital.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical 360° mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed bungalow. The location of the trench was slightly altered from the proposed plan to avoid existing trees.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3, DP 2-5)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 11): north end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 29.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.38 – 0.94m	L1001	Made ground. Light to mid brown, friable, silty sand with moderate small stones and occasional CBM fragments and chalk chunks.
0.94 – 1.05m	L1002	Layer of ?burnt material. Dark red, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk chunks.
1.05 – 1.36m	L1003	Mid greyish brown, compact, silty sand with frequent stones and flints.
1.36m +	L1005	Natural light to mid yellow, loose, gravel with flints.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 12): south end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 29.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.84m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.84 – 0.92m	L1004	Dark brown, compact, sandy silt with frequent stones.
0.92m +	L1005	Natural gravel. As above.

*Description:* Four ditches were present within the trench: F1006, F1008, F1010 and F1012. The latter was roughly parallel to Hoddesdon Road whilst the other three ditches were perpendicular to the street. Three of the ditches (F1006, F1010 and F1012) contained a few (one – two) medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery.

F1012 (9+ x 0.85 x 0.37m; DP 8-9) was a ditch revealed along the eastern side of the trench. It was aligned north/south and it was cut by Ditches F1006 and F1010. Its relation to F1008 was unknown although F1008 also may have cut F1012. The latter had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent small

stones. Two sherds of mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (13g) were recovered from the fill.

F1008 (1.70+ x 1.00 x 0.44m; DP 6-8) was a ditch located between F1006 and F1010 and cut by both of them although all three were parallel. F1008 may also have cut F1012 but this is uncertain. F1008 had moderate to steep sides and concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent small stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1006 (1.70+ x 1.65 x 0.30m; DP 6-8) cut Ditch F1008. It had gentle to moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent small stones. One sherd of mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (43g) was recovered from the fill.

Ditch F1010 (1.70+ x 1.40 x 0.34m; DP 6-8) cut F1008. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent small stones. One fragment of mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (12g) was recovered from the fill.

The ditches were partially sealed by L1004 (0.10m thick; DP 12), a layer of dark greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent small stones. The layer was present in the southern part of the trench and contained one sherd of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (8g), struck flint (5g) and animal bone (39g).

In the northern part of the trench two layers which may have been remains of habitation were present (DP 12). L1002 (0.06 – 0.12m thick and present at 0.93m below existing) was a dark red, compact, clayey silt with occasional chalk chunks. This layer may have been a result of a fire located in vicinity. Below was L1003, a mid greyish brown, compact, silty sand with frequent stones and flints. Three fragments of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (25g) were recovered from L1003 as well as struck flint (3g) and animal bone (4g).

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey, soft, sandy silt (0.30 – 0.40m thick). Below was Made Ground L1001, a light to mid brown, friable, silty sand with moderate small stones and occasional CBM fragments and chalk chunks (0.52 – 0.57m thick). Below L1001 were possible habitation layers L1002, L1003 and L1004 (0.10 – 0.40m thick). The natural geology, L1005, was present at 0.90 – 1.40m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, loose, gravel with flints.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the medieval settlement of Stanstead Abbots which is encompassed in the Area of Archaeological Significance No 184. The site is also located to the immediate south of St Margaret's church.

9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed sparse residual struck flint and medieval features. The struck flint is possibly early Neolithic and includes a scraper (Struck Flint Report below). Three ditches perpendicular to Hoddesdon Road (F1006, F1008 and F1010) may represent re-cut boundary ditches relating to land plots. The ditches contained one – two sherds of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Another ditch present within the trench, F1012, was parallel to Hoddesdon Road.

9.3 The remains of habitation were also evident as layers (L1004), in particular those located in the northern end of the trench (L1002 and L1003). The analysis of the environmental samples taken from fills of the ditches as well as from L1003 recorded the dispersed remains of refuse from day-to-day crop processing and food preparation activities (Environmental Samples Report below).

9.4 The results of the evaluation are comparable to the site to the north of The Clock House (Pozorski 2009), opposite on the other side of Hoddesdon Road. Similar dating evidence (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) as well as ditches relating to boundary plots were recorded. The sites benefited from their location on an important route from London to Hertford along the river Lea.

### *Research potential*

9.5 The identification of further medieval remains in Stanstead St. Margarets indicates that this site has the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the layout and development of the settlement in the medieval period. The development of both rural settlements and towns in the eastern counties is identified as an important research subject for the region (Medlycott 2011, 70).

9.6 The medieval habitation evidence and boundary plots recorded at this site, in conjunction with the results of the archaeological work conducted at The Clock House (Pozorski 2009), offer important evidence regarding the nature of land use and the character of the medieval landscape in this part of Hertfordshire. Medlycott (2011, 70) indicates that further work is required in the East of England with regard to medieval field systems, enclosures and roads and trackways. Clearly, the position of the Manor House site adjacent to Hoddesdon Road suggests that it has the potential to reveal patterns of enclosures, possibly representing crofts as were recorded at The Clock House (Pozorski 2009), and their relationship to and alignment with the medieval precursor of the modern Hoddesdon Road.

9.7 The identification of occupation deposits offers the possibility of developing an understanding of the social standing of the occupants of the site. The possible association of these deposits with crofts suggests that habitation is likely to have been of fairly low status. Further investigation of these deposits may provide information relating to research subjects such as the demography of medieval Stanstead St Margarets, social organisation within the settlement, and evidence relating to the medieval economy (Wade 2000, 25; Ayers 2000, 29-30; Medlycott 2011, 69-71). Further work at this site has the potential to reveal structural remains associated with these habitation deposits, thus providing information about the medieval built environment (Medlycott 2011, 70).

9.8 The position of the site adjacent to Hoddesdon Road suggests some potential for evidence relating to the earlier medieval road that followed this route and that further work may contribute to the understanding of medieval infrastructure in eastern England (Medlycott 2011, 71).

9.9 Artefactual evidence and environmental remains have the potential to provide information regarding the economic status of the site and its role in the local economy and to contribute to finds studies.

9.10 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks for the development has been agreed with HCC HEU

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 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 Richard Gvero for funding the project and for his assistance.

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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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER Number	NGR	Description
<b>Prehistoric remains</b>		
607	TL 38 11	Bronze spearhead found in river Lea
1449	TL 3734 1131	Cropmark of a circular enclosure
4022	TL 3885 1156	Excavation of Mesolithic site, 69 & 71 Roydon Road
6660	TL 382 107	Mesolithic/Neolithic flints, Rye Meads, Hoddesdon
9715	TL 3810 1128	Prehistoric pit containing struck flints, St Margarets Farm
<b>Roman remains (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> centuries)</b>		
1755	TL 388 122	Roman cremation burial found behind Stanstead Abbots Church
4116	TL 38 11	Roman urns and amphorae
<b>Medieval period (5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries)</b>		
2644	TL 3800 1163	Stanstead St Margarets village
2645	TL 3882 1199	Medieval settlement at Stanstead St Margarets
4368	TL 3805 1158	St Margaret's Church
4413	TL 3790 1085	Roman cremation urns, Hoddesdon
4761	TL 379 116	Medieval tiles found in churchyard
10278	TL 3862 1192	Red Lion Inn, 1 High Street
10283	TL 3880 1172	Late Medieval Building, Abbots House, 37 Roydon Road
10284	TL 3860 1192	Late Medieval Building, 3 High Street
10286	TL 3884 1172	Late Medieval Building, 16-20 Roydon Road
<b>The post-medieval period (16<sup>th</sup> century to present)</b>		
5331	TL 3760 1233	Pumping Station, Amwell Marsh, Great Amwell
5332	TL 3795 1114	Pumping Station, Adj. To New River, Rye Common
5392	TL 3802 1203	Former Malting, Stanstead Lock, Great Amwell
5393	TL 3800 1208	Former Malting, Stanstead Lock, Great Amwell
5394	TL 3801 1211	Former Maltings, Stanstead Lock, Great Amwell
5395	TL 3864 1178	Former 'No. 3 Malting', Roydon Road
5396	TL 3863 1175	Former 'New House Malting', Roydon Road
5397	TL 3857 1172	Former 'Brown Malting', Roydon Road
5398	TL 3833 1177	Former Malting, R/O 84-90 High Street
5399	TL 3826 1178	Site of former Malting, west bank of river



		Lea
5534	TL 3810 1180	St Margarets Railway station, Great Amwell
5695	TL 3795 1175	Road Bridge, St Margarets Great Amwell/Stanstead
5810	TL 3862 1184	Former Steam Corn Mill, Roydon Road
5851	TL 3807 1216	Stanstead Lock and Cottage, River Lea Navigation
6047	TL 3852 1188	Occupation evidence, 14 High Street
7255	TL 3804 1215	Swing Bridge, Lea Navigation, Stanstead Lock
10221	TL 3844 1185	Lord Louis PH, 36 High Street
10222	TL 3861 1190	Former Black Bull, 2 High Street
10228	TL 3866 1192	The Clock House (Former School), 9 Cappell Lane
10231	TL 3868 1251	St Andrews Church, Cappell Lane
10263	TL 3762 1232	Amwell Marsh Cottage, East of Pumping Station, Amwell Marsh
10271	TL 3858 1183	Site of Maltings, R/O 6-14C, High Street
10273	TL 3856 1182	Site of Maltings, R/O 8-14C, High Street
10274	TL 3865 1182	Site of Maltings, Roydon Road
10276	TL 3828 1185	Site of Maltings, R/O 77 High Street
10277	TL 3901 1153	Baesh Almshouses, 79, 83 & 87 Roydon Road
10279	TL 3829 1182	Site of Rose and Crown Inn, 90 High Street
10280	TL 3875 1171	Site of Maltings, R/O Abbots House, Roydon Road
10282	TL 3793 1207	Site of Gasworks, Durham Close
10285	TL 3829 1184	Timber Framed building, 77 High Street
10459	TL 3807 1127	Farmhouse, St Margarets Farm
10460	TL 3810 1129	Former Granary, St Margarets Farm
10461	TL 3812 1129	17 <sup>th</sup> century Barn, St Margarets Farm
10462	TL 3811 1129	Dovecote, St Margarets Farm
<b>Undated</b>		
1411	TL 375 114	Cropmark of parallel ditches
1500	TL 378 111	Cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure
2756	TL 3775 1115	Cropmark of rectilinear enclosure
2757	TL 3776 1120	Cropmark of two parallel linear ditches
2762	TL 3784 1111	Cropmark of a linear ditch
2783	TL 3770 1108	Cropmarks of two parallel linear ditches and a single linear ditch
7618	TL 37862 11155	Cropmarks of a linear ditch
7619	TL 37880 11248	Cropmarks of linear ditches and an enclosure
7620	TL 37864 11032	Cropmarks of a linear ditch
7621	TL 38278 12477	Cropmarks of rectilinear ditches
10281	TL 3869 1202	Site of Methodists Chapel, 19 Cappell Road



## APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1560, The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road,  
 Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire  
 Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
1001		1	Made Ground			109	45	
1003		1	Layer	Mid 12th-14th C	(3) 25g		4	Str. Flint (1) - 3g
1004		1	Layer	Mid 12th-14th C	(1) 8g		39	Str. Flint (1) - 5g
1006	1007	1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	(1) 43g			
1010	1011	1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	(1) 12g			
1012	1013	1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-14th C	(2) 13g			

## APPENDIX 3 SPECIALISTS REPORTS

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey MfA*

The evaluation recovered two pieces of struck flint (8g) with close affinities to the blade-based technology of the earlier Neolithic. The first comprised an end scraper formed by the application of abrupt retouch to a blade in Layer L1004, and the second comprised a snapped blade or blade-like debitage flake in Layer L1003. Both were formed of medium quality dark grey flint, with sparse fossiliferous inclusions and a thin mottled cortex, suggesting the raw flint was sourced from local surface gravels with relatively little care in selection.

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered eight slightly abraded sherds, weighing 97g, which are all South Hertfordshire-type greywares. The sherds have been quantified in Table 1 below. Fabric 1 from Stanstead Abbots comprising fairly well-sorted medium abundant sub-angular to sub-rounded white, grey or clear quartz with grey surfaces and usually grey cores, equates with the traditional South Hertfordshire-type greyware. The less well-fired coarser fabrics F2 and F3, containing sub-rounded to rounded medium to coarse quartz with occasional angular to sub-angular quartz, and occasional other inclusions are Coarse South Hertfordshire-type greywares. There were two base fragments but no rims or decoration in the assemblage. These greywares date between the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### **Fabric Description**

F1 - SHER: Fairly well-sorted common sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz with rare burnt organics. Grey surfaces, can be slightly micaceous; usually grey cores but occasionally orange-brown

F2 – SHER COAR: sub-rounded to rounded medium to coarse quartz with occasional angular to sub-angular quartz. Grey brown surfaces. Grey core with oxidised margins

F3 – SHER COAR: fine to medium moderate to common sub-rounded to rounded quartz. Rare burnt voids, clay pellets and white calcareous. Fine slightly micaceous surfaces. Orange brown with grey outer surface

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Layer 1003		1x11g SHER 2x12g SHER COAR	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	
Layer 1004		1x9g SHER COAR	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	F3: flat base 0.06-7 BEVE
Ditch 1006	1007	1x39g SHER	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	F1 rounded base Approx 14cm diam 0.08 BEVE
Ditch 1010	1011	2x14g SHER	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1012	1013	1x12g SHER	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

## Bibliography

Blackmore, L. and Pearce, J. 2011 *A dated type series of London medieval pottery: Shelly-sandy ware and the greyware industries* MOLA Monograph 49 Museum of London Archaeology.

## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey MlFA*

A single fragment of late medieval peg tile (109g) was recovered from Made Ground L1001. The flat tile is 12mm thick with traces of a plashed green glaze on the upper surface and a sanded base. The fabric of the peg tile has mid orange-brown surfaces over a mid grey core, with inclusions of common-abundant well-sorted, sub-rounded quartz (0.25-0.5mm), with sparse black iron rich and chalk inclusions (<1mm). The tile has been well-fired and was probably manufactured in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century, although a potential production date in the 13<sup>th</sup> century cannot be discounted.

## The Environmental Samples

*by Dr John Summers*

### Introduction

A total of five 20 litre bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during the evaluation. Four samples were of ditch fills, while Sample 5 was of Layer L1003. The majority of the sampled deposits were spot dated to the mid 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of the identified remains.

### Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were

washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

## Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2.

### *Plant macrofossils*

Charred cereal grains were present in all five bulk sample light fractions. The taxa present were barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/compactum* type) and rye (*Secale cereale*). Wheat and rye were the most common, with only a single barley grain identified from layer L1003.

The only non-cereal taxon was a single specimen of knotgrass family (Polygonaceae indet.). This plant could have grown as an arable weed but it is best not to place too much on the evidence of a single, loosely identified seed.

### *Waterlogged plant remains*

A single waterlogged flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed was recovered from layer L1003. This important fibre/ oil crop could easily have been cultivated on amended local free-draining soils. Flax often survives better in waterlogged deposits than charred assemblages since its processing does not require contact with fire.

### *Terrestrial molluscs*

A very small number of grassland mollusca were present but the numbers are too small to be analytically viable.

### *Contaminants*

Modern roots were present in all samples, along with occasional molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*), seeds, insects and earthworm egg capsules. The low

concentration of burrowing molluscs and earthworm capsules indicates that the effects of bioturbation on the deposits will have been limited.

## Discussion

Although there is limited evidence of arable weeds in the assemblage, it seems likely that the cultivars identified in the deposits were locally grown. The site lies close to a range of soil types, including free-draining acid soils, which would be well suited to the cultivation of flax and rye, and heavier loam and clay soils (Soilscapes 2013), which are well suited to wheat cultivation (e.g. Moffett 2006). The range of crop plants is quite typical for a medieval site (e.g. Straker *et. al* 2007; Ballantyne 2006).

In general the plant remains appear to represent the dispersed remains of refuse from day-to-day crop processing and food preparation activities. This is implied by the low density yet frequent occurrence of cereal remains from the sampled deposits.

## Conclusions and statement of potential

The remains recovered indicate the local cultivation and use of a range of cereals and other crops (flax). Although the concentration of material was low, the frequency with which charred remains were encountered suggests that cereals were in common use at the site. Further excavation and sampling is likely to produce further evidence of the local arable economy. The potential for waterlogged remains should also be considered if further work were undertaken.

The small number of remains from the bulk sample light fractions have been fully recorded and, as such, there is no need for further work on the assemblage.

## References

Ballantyne, R. 2005, 'Plants and seeds', in Mortimer, R., Regan, R. and Lucy, S. *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site*, East Anglian Archaeology 110, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge, 100-112

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn), Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Basel University



Kerney, M.P. 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Moffett, L. 2006, 'The archaeology of medieval food plants', in Woolgar, C.M., Serjeantson, D. and Waldron, T. (eds), *Food in Medieval England: Diet and Nutrition*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 41-55

Soilscapes, 2013, National Soil Resource Institute, Cranfield University, <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> (consulted 21/01/2013)

Straker, V, Campbell, G. and Smith, W. 2007, 'The charred plant macrofossils', in Gerrard, C. and Aston, M. *The Shapwick Project, Somerset. A Rural Landscape Explored*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 25, Leeds, 869-889

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains		
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds		Insects	Earthworm capsules
AS1560	1	1007	1006	Ditch	Mid'12th-14th C	20	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	Helicidae indet.	XX	X	X	X	-	-	-	Indet. carbonised organic (X)
AS1560	2	1009	1008	Ditch	-	20	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	X	-	X	-	-	-	Indet. carbonised organic (X)
AS1560	3	1011	1010	Ditch	Mid'12th-14th C	20	X	-	Trit (1), Rye (1)	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	X	-	-	-	Indet. carbonised organic (X)
AS1560	4	1013	1012	Ditch	Mid'12th-14th C	20	X	-	FTW (1)	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	Indet. carbonised organic (X)
AS1560	5	1003		Layer	Mid'12th-14th C	20	X	-	Hord (1), Trit (1), Rye (1), NFI (2)	Polygonaceae indet. (1)	X	-	X	Cochlicopa sp.	XXX	X	X	X	X	X	X	Waterlogged <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> seed (1), Indet. carbonised organic (X)

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 33 Hoddesden Road, Stanstead Abbots. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ compactum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*), NFI = indeterminate cereal grain.

## APPENDIX 4      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	6 (Context, Sample, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing, Drawing Sheet)
Context Sheets	14
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	7
Site photographs colour slides	7
Digital Photographs	15

## APPENDIX 5 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Stanstead St Margarets
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref 3/09/2099/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr Richard Gvero
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of a single bungalow
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 200m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 17m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 38045 11535
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1560
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	15-16/01/2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In January 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Manor House, 33 Hoddesdon Road, Stanstead St Margarets, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 38045 11535). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Richard Gvero of the Manor House and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a new bungalow.</p> <p>The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 184, which identifies an area of medieval settlement of the village. The Manor House is situated to the immediate south of parish church and to the south-west of the historic core of Stanstead Abbots. Medieval remains were found nearby to the north of the Clock House at Hoddesdon Road. Therefore the site had potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains</p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed four ditches three of which contained small quantities (one – two sherds) of medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Layers suggestive of habitation were also present (L1002, L1003 and L1004).</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> January 2013

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. 33 Hoddesdon Road, St Margarets, Hertfordshire. Looking north-west.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking north-west.



DP 4. Trench 1. Looking south.



DP 5. Trench 1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 6. Ditches F1006, F1008 and F1010. Looking east-north-east.





DP 7. Ditches F1010, F1008 and F1006. Looking west-south-west.



DP 8. Ditches F1006, F1008, F1010 and F1012. Looking north.



DP 9. Ditch F1012. Looking south-south-east.



DP 10. Intersection of Ditches F1010 and F1012. Looking north-west-north.

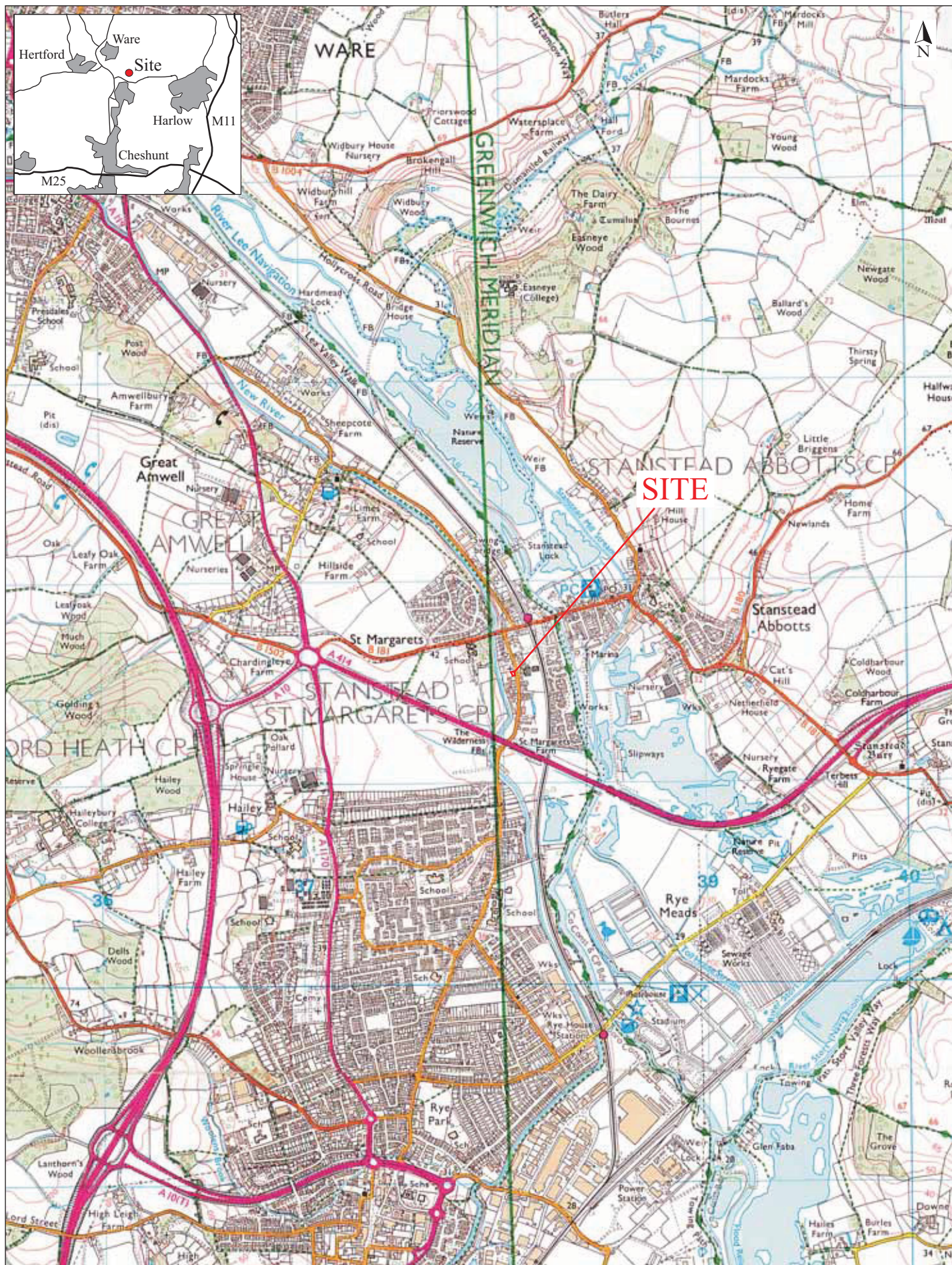


DP 11. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking west-south-west.



DP 12. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west-south-west.

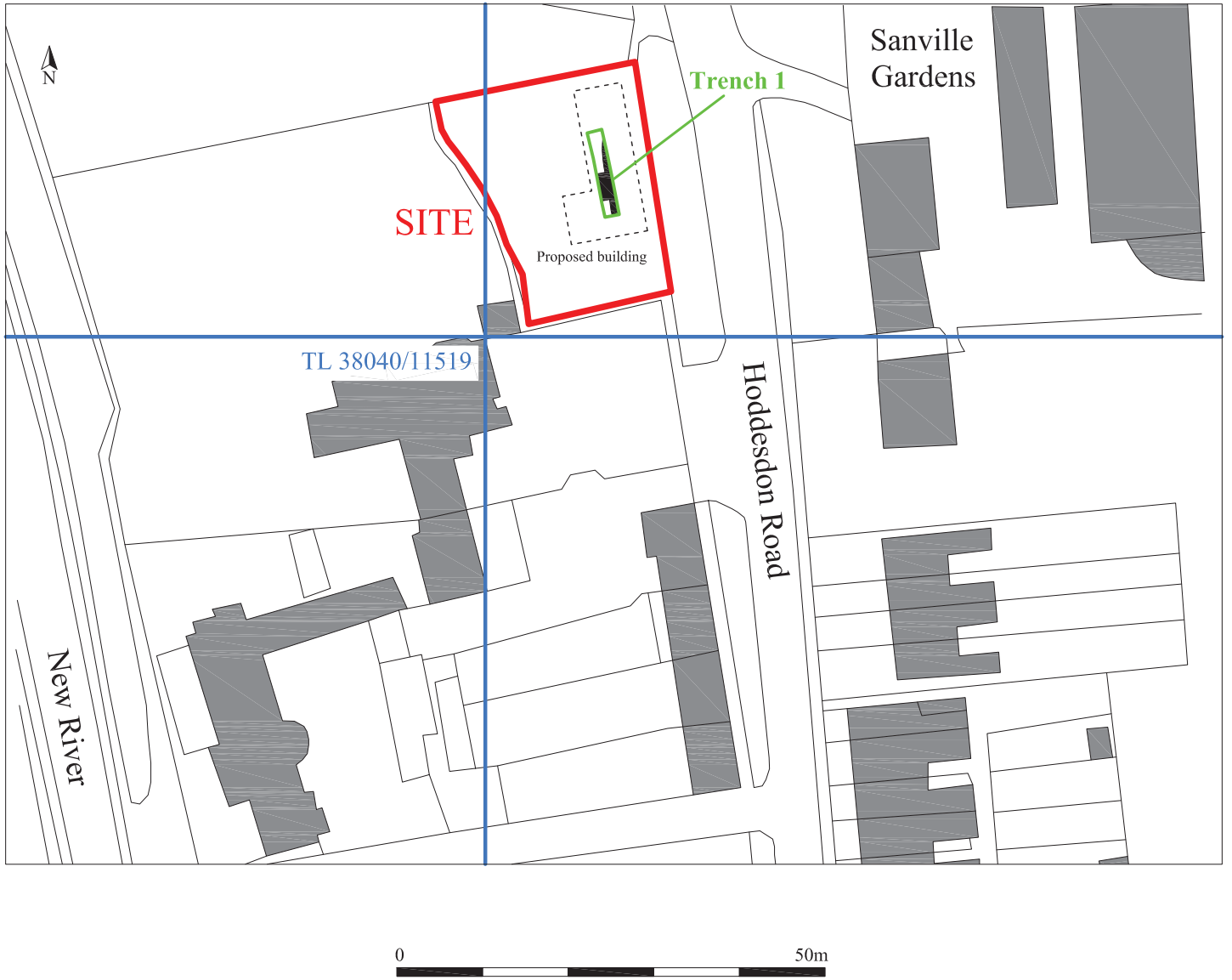




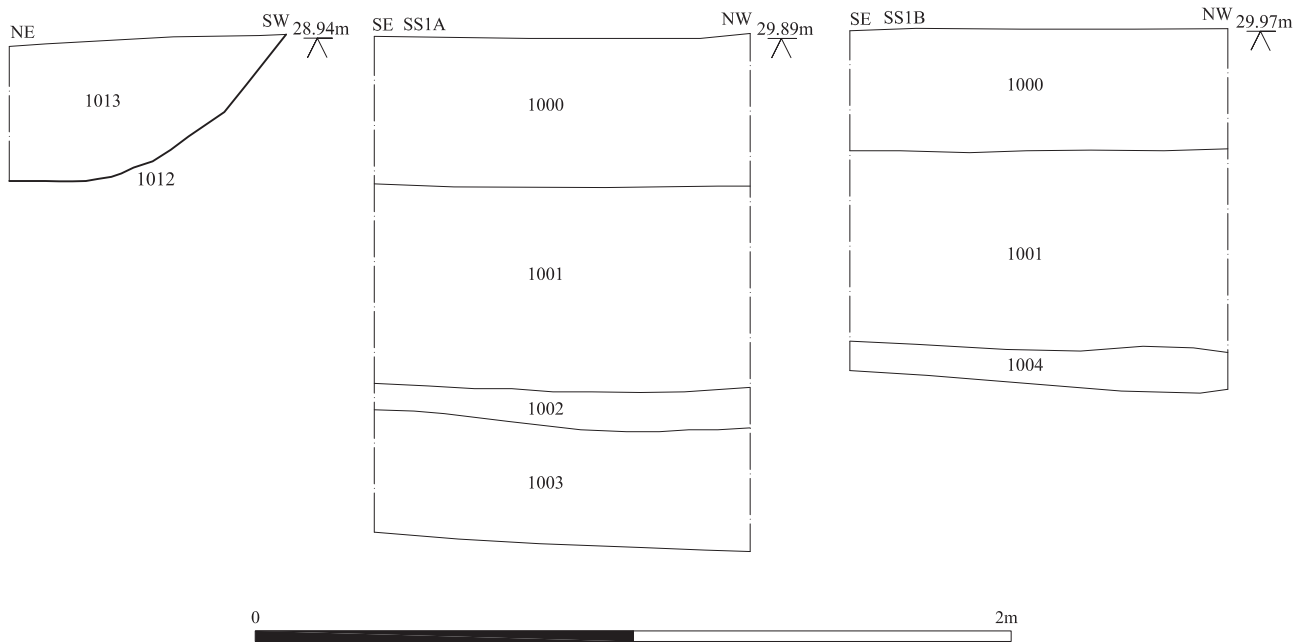
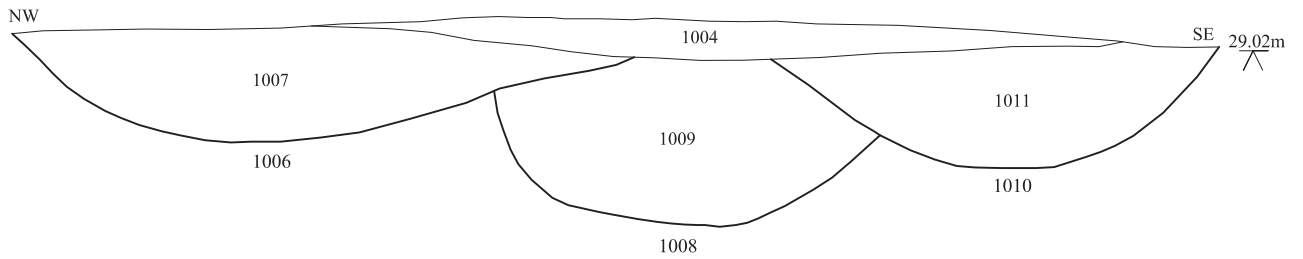
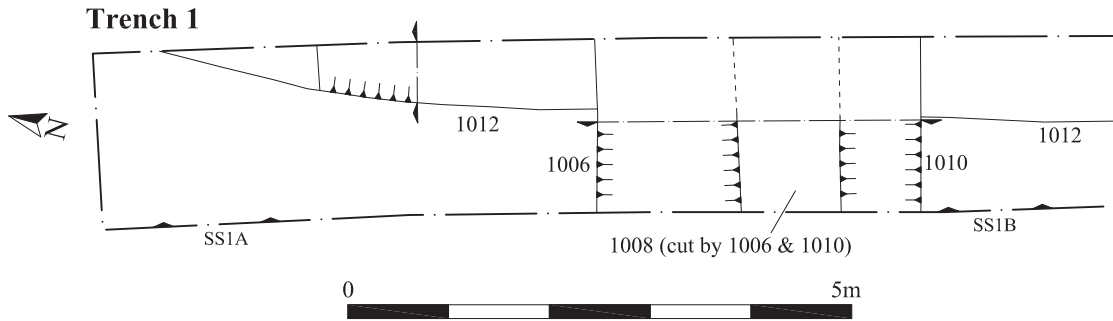
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

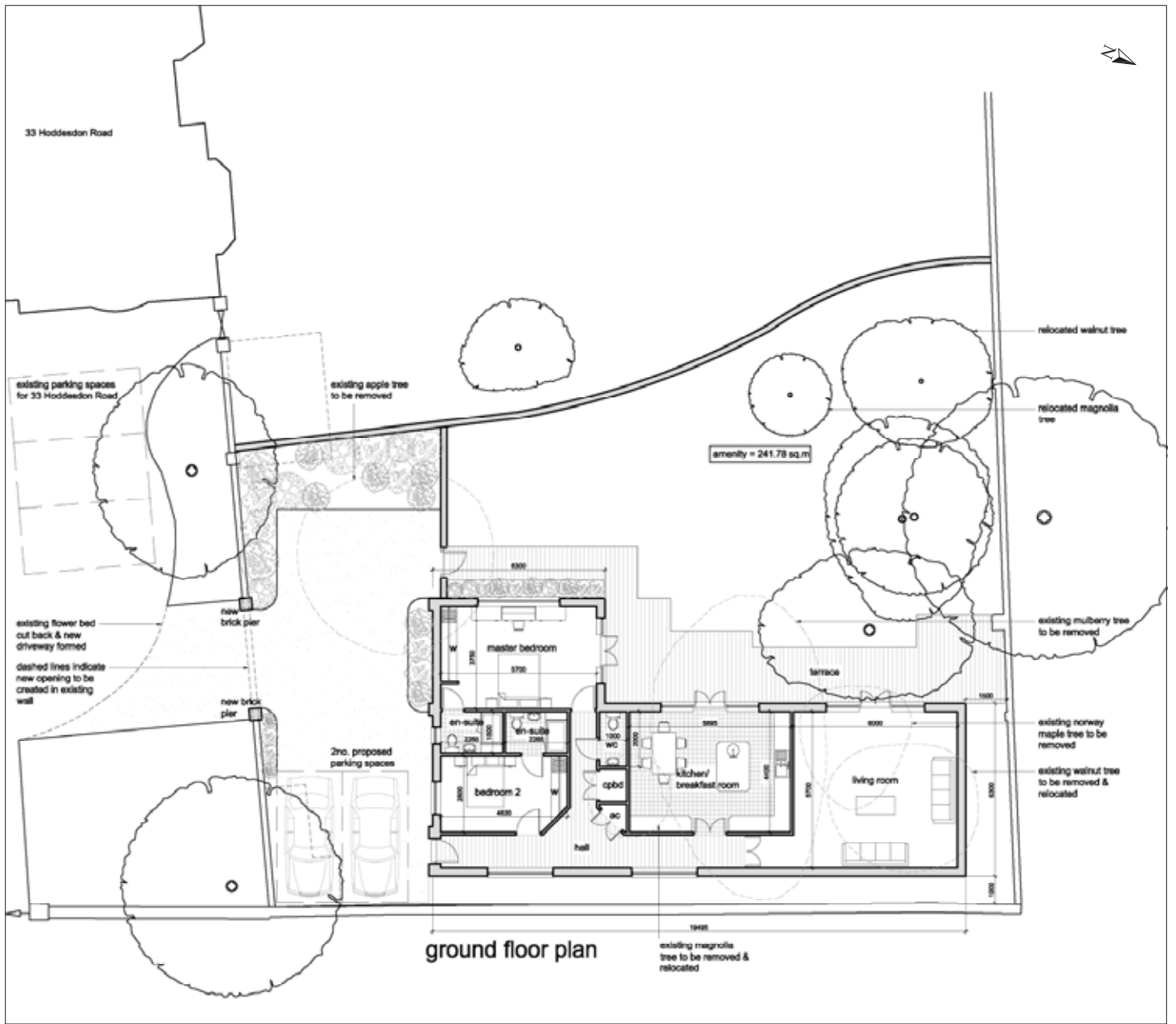




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**Fig. 2 Trench location plan**  
Scale 1:750 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Trench plan & sections**  
 Scale plan at 1:75 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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**Fig. 4 Proposed development plan**

Scale 1:200 at A4