
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND AT HILLDYKE ROAD, WHEATHAMPSTEAD,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
(TRIAL TRENCHING AND METAL DETECTOR SURVEY)**

Authors:	Gareth Barlow MSc (Fieldwork and report) Antony RR Mustchin MSc (Editor)	
Illustrations:	Kathren Henry	
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District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1631	
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4447	
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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

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

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Land at Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead, St Albans</i>	
<p><i>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1807 1322). The evaluation was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, and was undertaken in support of the promotion of a site for residential development.</i></p> <p><i>In the event only Trial Trench 4 contained features. Ditch F1003 and Pits F1005 and F1007 were recorded. None of the features contained finds, and it was thought on site that Ditch F1003 and Pit F1007 may be natural features. Pit F1005 may have represented part of a shallow, curvilinear gully (possibly structural) mostly obscured by the edge of excavation. This Colluvium, L1009, was present in Trench 11 and may obscure archaeological features. However, only three features were recorded (in Trench 4) and two were thought to be possibly natural. None of the features contained finds, and no finds were recorded during the metal detecting survey. The metal detecting survey did not reveal metal finds. Three struck flints of possible late Neolithic / early Bronze Age date were found during the survey.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		October 2012	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		DBA	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		P4820	Site code
Type of project		An Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		Green belt, Archaeological Priority Area	
Current land use		Agricultural (arable)	
Planned development		Residential	
Main features (+dates)		Undated ditch and two undated pits	
Significant finds (+dates)		Late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age date: 3 x struck flints ?Prehistoric: pit/ possible gully (F1005)	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Hertfordshire	St Albans
HER/ SMR for area		Hertfordshire County Council HER	
Post code (if known)		-	
Area of site		c. 3.54 ha.	
NGR		TL 1807 1322	
Height AOD (min/max)		c. 100/115m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Advice from SADC	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Gareth Barlow	
Funded by		Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd	
Full title		Land at Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Barlow, G.	
Report no.		4427	
Date (of report)		October 2013 (Revised 12/11/2013)	

LAND AT HILLDYKE ROAD, WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (TRIAL TRENCHING AND METAL DETECTOR SURVEY)

SUMMARY

In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1807 1322). The evaluation was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, and was undertaken in support of the promotion of a site for residential development.

The site is adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a late Iron Age 'enclosed oppidum'. Therefore the site is within an area with a high potential to contain archaeological remains associated with an extramural settlement or the oppidum. Subsequently settlement at Wheathampstead shifted towards away from the oppidum towards the crossing of the River Lea. In the Roman period settlement appears to have been focussed in the Wick Avenue area overlooking the river to the north-west of the site, before clustering around the river crossing in the medieval and post-medieval periods. In the medieval and post-medieval periods the site appears to have remained as agricultural land, first as part of Wheathampstead common and from at least the 19th century as part of Beech Hyde Farm.

In the event only Trial Trench 4 contained features. Ditch F1003 and Pits F1005 and F1007 were recorded. None of the features contained finds, and it was thought on site that Ditch F1003 and Pit F1007 may be natural features. Pit F1005 may have represented part of a shallow, curvilinear gully (possibly structural) mostly obscured by the edge of excavation. Colluvium, L1009, was present in Trench 11 and may obscure archaeological features. However, only three features were recorded (in Trench 4) and two were thought to be possibly natural. None of the features contained finds, and no finds were recorded during the metal detecting survey. The metal detecting survey did not reveal metal finds. Three struck flints of possible late Neolithic / early Bronze Age date were found during the survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hilldyke Road, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1807 1322; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd, and was undertaken in support of the promotion of a site for residential development. An archaeological desk-based assessment had been undertaken (Peachey 2001).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by The District Archaeological Officer of St Albans District Council (SADC DAO), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 29/04/2013) and approved by SADC DAO. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological*

Field Evaluation (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation provides for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site. It also considered the site within its wider archaeological context. The likely extent, nature, condition and importance of the archaeology is described. The context and potential impact of future development proposals for the sites are examined as necessary and areas of significant previous ground disturbance identified.

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 assessment site comprises an approximately rectangular plot of farmland on the southern edge of Wheathampstead. It extends to some 8.74 acres (3.54ha). The site is bordered and accessed by Dyke Lane to the east, and enclosed on its northern and western sides by residential development along Hill Dyke Road. The southern side of the site opens on to arable agricultural land. The site currently comprises arable agricultural land (cereal crop) and is categorised as Green Belt land.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on the crest of the southern side of the valley of the River Lea, sloping down from c. 115m AOD at its western side to c. 100m at its eastern side. The solid geology of the assessment site comprises the Upper Cretaceous chalk overlain by clay-with-flints and capped with chalky soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken (Peachey 2001). In summary:

The assessment site is adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a late Iron Age 'enclosed oppidum'. Therefore the assessment site is within an area with a high potential to contain archaeological remains associated with an extramural settlement or the oppidum itself. Cropmarks have suggested the presence of a later Neolithic Barrow c. 150m to the east (HER 7959) and a possible macula (barrow) c. 500m to the south-east (HER 7947). Cropmark evidence also suggests that a ploughed-down Bronze Age round barrow may be situated c. 50m to the south of the site (HER 7956), but as with the previous cropmarks this interpretation has not been confirmed by archaeological investigations, and these features may be associated with the subsequent Iron Age landscape.

In the late Iron Age, the establishment of an 'enclosed oppidum' – a fortified administrative centre – identified Wheathampstead as an important settlement in the tribal landscape of Britain. The oppidum comprises an earthwork enclosure on higher ground between the Devil's Dyke and the Slad (HER 48/SAM HT24), and is situated on land adjacent to the east of the site and the modern village of Wheathampstead. Cropmarks exist within the earthwork suggesting internal features but only very limited archaeological investigation has taken place. Therefore, interpretation of the nature of occupation within the oppidum remains tentative. Sparse quantities of pottery recovered from within the oppidum suggest it was occupied from the early 1st century BC (Thompson 2002, 3). A late Iron Age ditch and burial has been recorded c. 500m to the north-west of the site (HER 9795) and late Iron Age pottery c. 300m to the south (HER 17295) suggesting occupation and activity on the land surrounding the oppidum.

Subsequently settlement at Wheathampstead shifted towards away from the oppidum towards the crossing of the River Lea. In the Roman period settlement appears to have been focussed in the Wick Avenue area overlooking the river to the north-west of the assessment site, before clustering around the river crossing in the medieval and post-medieval periods. In the medieval and post-medieval periods the assessment site appears to have remained as agricultural land, first as part of Wheathampstead common and from at least the 19th century as part of Beech Hyde Farm.

Previous ground disturbance to the assessment site appears limited to agricultural processes, principally the effects of modern deep ploughing. The assessment site is being promoted for residential development and although no detailed designs have

been submitted, any development of this scale will have a significant impact on archaeological remains, if present.

5 METHODOLOGY (METAL DETECTOR SURVEY)

5.1 A metal detector survey was undertaken across the site in order to characterise the presence of any objects within the ploughsoil.

6 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

6.1 The advice from SADC required trial trenching of the site in order to clarify the significance of any below-ground heritage assets. A 2% sample of the c. 3.84ha site was required. Eleven trenches, each measuring 40 x 1.8m, were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2).

6.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were carefully examined for archaeological features. Identified features were cleaned by hand. 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.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (METAL DETECTOR SURVEY)

7.1 The metal detecting survey did not reveal metal finds. A struck flint was found during the survey.

8 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (TRIAL TRENCHING)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 – 3)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 114.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid orange grey brown, friable, sandy clay with frequent small – medium sub-angular and rounded flint.
0.23m +	L1002	Natural. Mixed patches of mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional angular flint and rounded chalk, and slightly darker mid orange brown, firm, silty sand with frequent sub-angular and rounded flint and occasional flint nodules.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 115.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.25m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description Trench 1 contained a discrete area of burnt material containing calcined flint (L1010; Fig. 3). L1010 was excavated and planned (no section drawing was made).

L1010 comprised firm, mid orange/ reddish brown to grey sandy clay/ silt and charcoal (<5mm; c. 25%) with frequent sub-angular and rounded (calcined) flint (c. 45%). L1010 was interleaved with Natural L1002 in the western half of the trench. L1010 contained no finds. This deposit was interpreted as burnt-out plant material, possibly associated with stubble burning or similar. Such activity may have been associated with Neolithic, Iron Age or post-Roman clearance.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> <i>S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 114.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark orange brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium sub-angular and rounded flint.
0.33m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> <i>N end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 115.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>W end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 114.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 113.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 – 3; DPs 1 – 4)

<i>Sample section 4A</i> <i>W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 114.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 112.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description. Trench 4 contained Ditch F1003 and Pits F1005 and F1007. None of the features contained finds, and it was thought on site that Ditch F1003 and Pit F1007 may be natural.

Ditch F1003 was linear (2.25+ x 0.80 x 0.29m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds. The may be a ditch or a natural periglacial feature.

Pit F1005 was oval in plan (3.90 x 1.15 x 0.08m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid orange brown, firm, sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds. It is possible that F1005 represented the partial remains of a broad, sub-circular gully, greatly obscured by the edge of excavation (Simon West *pers. comm.*). If so, this feature may have represented the remains of an ephemeral/ temporary (possibly seasonal) structure of unknown date (*ibid.*) mostly surviving to the north of Trial Trench 4.

Pit F1007 was sub-circular (0.50 x 0.48 x 0.10m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a light greyish brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds. This feature was possibly a root hollow.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 5A</i> <i>W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 112.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 5B</i> <i>E end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 111.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 6A</i> <i>N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 112.02m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.29m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.2.
0.29m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 6B</i> <i>S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 111.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 7A</i> <i>W end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 111.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 7B</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 110.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 8A</i> <i>W end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 109.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 8B</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 107.94m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 9A</i> <i>N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 108.66m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 9B</i> <i>S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 108.77m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 10A</i> <i>W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 107.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 10B</i> <i>E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 105.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.2.
0.68m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 11A</i> <i>S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 1.20m+	L1009	Colluvium. Pale orange brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium sub-angular and rounded flint.

<i>Sample section 11B</i> <i>N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 104.66m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m +	L1009	Colluvium. As above.

Description Colluvium L1009 was present in the southern end of the trench and may have obscured further archaeological features/ deposits. Although trial trenching only encountered three features in total (Trench 4), two of which were thought to be naturally occurring, this does not necessarily have a bearing on the potential survival of further features/ contexts below L1009.

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

9.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds, excepting in Trench 11 which contained colluvium (L1009).

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

10.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid orange grey brown, friable, sandy clay with frequent small – medium sub-angular and rounded flint (0.20-0.30m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a dark orange brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium sub-angular and rounded flint (0.05 – 0.36m thick).

10.2 The natural, L1002, was present at 0.21 – 0.68m below existing ground level excepting in Trench 11 (1.20m+). It comprised mixed patches of mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional angular flint and rounded chalk, and slightly darker mid orange brown, firm, silty sand with frequent sub-angular and rounded flint and occasional flint nodules.

11 DISCUSSION

11.1 In the event only Trial Trench 4 contained features. Ditch F1003 and Pits F1005 and F1007 were recorded (Fig. 3; DPs 2-4). None of these features contained finds and it is thought that Ditch F1003 and Pit F1007 may have been naturally occurring. It is possible that broad, shallow Pit F1005 represented the partial remains of a sub-circular gully, greatly obscured by the edge of excavation

(Simon West *pers. comm.*). This feature may relate to the existence of a circular structure in this part of the site. Such a structure may have been ephemeral and/ or seasonal in nature, thus accounting for the lack of finds from Fill L1006. A possibly structural 'gully arc' (F.126) was also identified within the late Iron Age settlement at Foxholes Farm, Hertford (Partridge 1989, 31), c. 16.5km east of the current site. This feature was similarly devoid of finds, only yielding sparse animal bone (Partridge 1989, 52).

11.2 A 'patch' of burnt material (L1010) was identified in the western half of Trial Trench 1 (Fig. 3; not photographed). This material, containing moderate charcoal (<5mm) and frequent calcined flint), was interleaved with Natural L1002 and was interpreted on site as representing burnt plant material. L1010 may have resulted from burning associated with landscape clearance during the prehistoric or post-Roman period. However, the apparently isolated nature of this material might suggest a more discrete formation process. L1010 contained no finds.

11.3 Colluvium, L1009, was present in Trial Trench 11 and may have overlain/ obscured further *in situ* archaeological/ palaeoenvironmental features and/ or deposits. A sondage excavated through L1009 in the southern end of Trench 11 did not reach the base of this deposit. It is possible that L1009 represented colluvial build up within a shallow valley. Although trial trenching only identified three features in total (Trench 4), two of which (F1003 and F1007) may have been naturally occurring, this does not necessarily have a bearing on the potential survival of further features/ contexts beneath L1009.

11.4 The calcareous nature of the on-site geology would favour the survival of terrestrial molluscs (see Summers, Appendix 2). Molluscs comprise good palaeoenvironmental indicators, 'with the ability to provide proxy data regarding past vegetation habitats' (*ibid.*). As such, column sampling of Colluvium L1009 as part of any future archaeological work at this site has the potential to retrieve data relating to surface conditions during the accumulation of this material. Charred plant remains, if present, also have the potential to inform regarding past land use/ economy in the immediate area (*ibid.*). The interpretation of any such data would, however, depend on the retrieval of associated, datable material. Bulk sampling of any archaeological fills/ layers encountered beneath L1009 also has the potential to retrieve animal bone and/ or charred plant remains relating to past economy and/ or environment (*ibid.*). The local geology would not however favour the survival of pollen (*ibid.*).

11.5 The metal detecting survey did not reveal metal finds. Three struck flints of possible late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age date were found during the survey.

12 CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE POTENTIAL

12.1 The site occupies an area of considerable archaeological potential, particularly for Iron Age evidence associated with the nearby oppidum and/ or its extramural settlement. The desk based assessment (Peachey 2001) identified several cropmarks/ earthworks (including the oppidum) within c. 500m of the site dating between the later Neolithic and late Iron Age (HERs 7947, 7956, 7959 and HER 48/ SAM HT24). The cropmarks have not been subject to archaeological

investigation however and may also be of Iron Age date (*ibid.*). A late Iron Age ditch and burial (HER 9795) have been recorded c. 500m to the south of the site and Iron Age pottery, suggestive of settlement activity, was found c. 300m to the south (HER17295). The struck flints and Pit/ possible Gully F1005 recorded during the evaluation/ metal detector survey add to this corpus of known, local prehistoric activity. F1005 may represent part of a circular structure, possibly part of an extramural settlement surrounding the Iron Age oppidum. There also remains a possibility that Colluvium L1009 (Trench 11) contains/ seals further archaeological features/ contexts. A targeted programme of environmental sampling (outlined by Summers, Appendix 2), as part of any future archaeological investigation at the site, has the potential to retrieve palaeoeconomic/ environmental evidence from such material, if present.

13 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

13.1 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 Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd for funding the project and for their assistance, in particular Mr Nigel Agg.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Simon West of St Albans District Council.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other
-	1000	Topsoil	-	-	Struck flint (3) - 33g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MIfA

Three flakes (33g) of struck flint were recovered from Topsoil L1000 in a slightly patinated and rolled condition, suggesting they have been subject to soil movement and weathering. The flakes are entirely hard-hammer struck with rippled dorsal scars and slightly irregular profiles. They include a single side scraper with abrupt retouch along the entirety of one lateral edge. These characteristics suggest the flint originated in the later Neolithic or early Bronze Age, but the low quantity of flakes limits any conclusions.

Future archaeological/ palaeoenvironmental potential and sampling strategy

Dr John Summers

The trial trenching identified Colluvium L1009 in Trench 11 (south-east corner of the site). This material may have represented hill wash, possible from buried agricultural soils (up-slope; to the west). This material was not sampled during the evaluation although, based on the calcareous nature of the site's solid and drift geology, has good potential for the survival of animal bone and terrestrial mollusc shell. The latter are a good palaeoenvironmental indicator, with the ability to provide proxy data regarding past vegetation habitats. As such, column sampling of L1010 as part of any future archaeological work has the potential to inform regarding surface conditions in the immediate area during the deposition of this material, especially if associated with datable artefacts.

It is possible that L1010, the base of which was not identified during the trial trench evaluation, sealed further, *in situ* archaeological features/ deposits. Bulk sampling of any such features/ deposits has the potential to recover charred plant remains associated with past land use/ economy and/or palaeoenvironment. Preservation of animal bone, if present, would again be expected. The geology of the site would not favour the survival of pollen.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1: Trench 4, post-excavation (looking west)



DP 2: F1003, Trench 4 (looking north-west)



DP 3: F1005, Trench 4 (looking west)



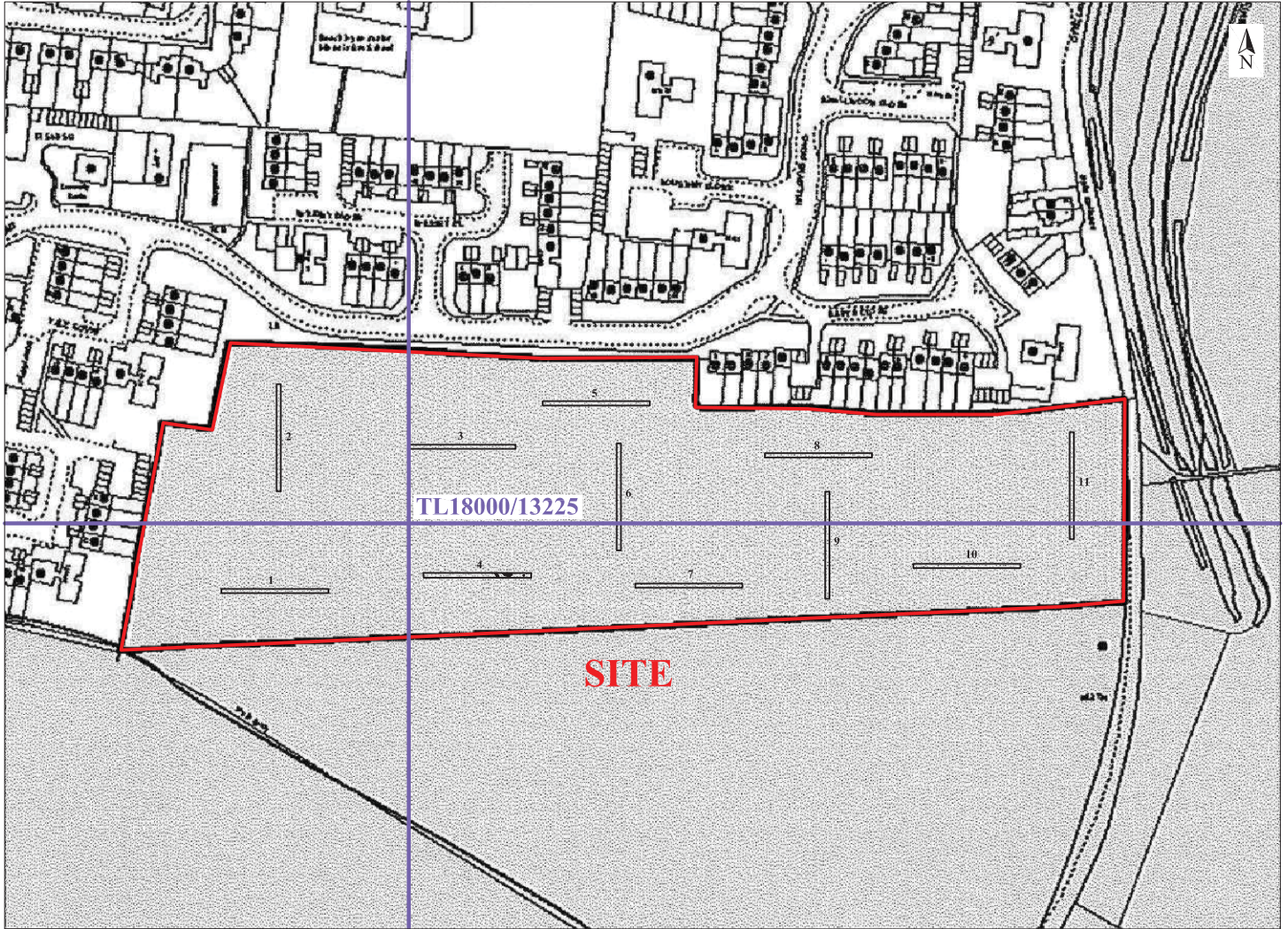
DP 4: F1007, Trench 4 (looking west)



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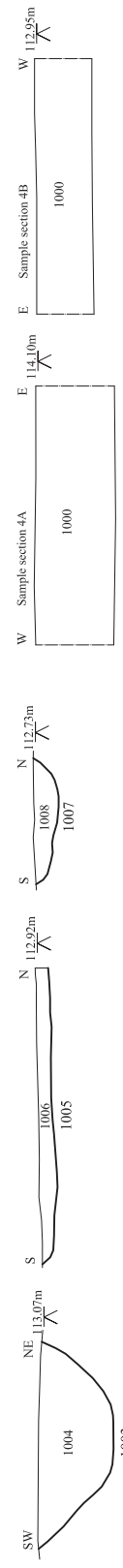
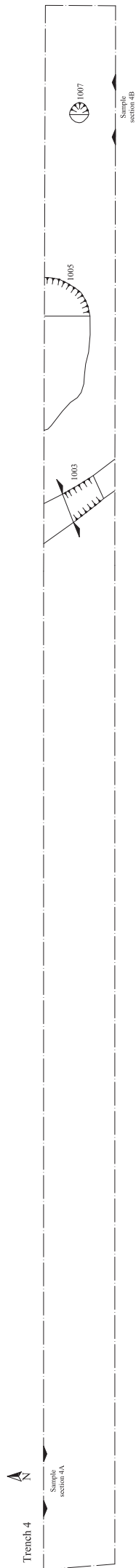
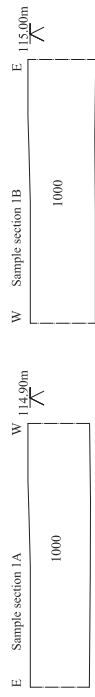
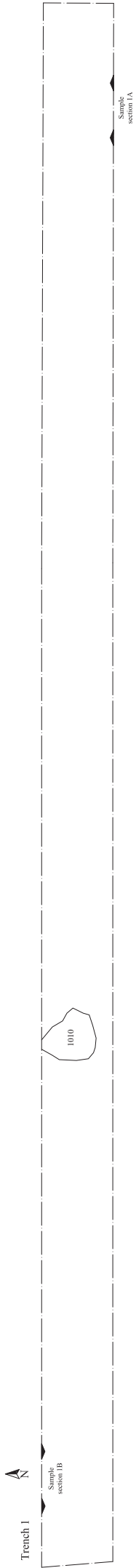
Fig. 1 Site location plan
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 150m

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



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Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3