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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**THE BAKEHOUSE, 41 PEMBROKE ROAD,  
BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

HER Request Ref: 304/14

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton	
NGR: TL 2499 3347	Report No: 4794
District: North Herts	Site Code: AS1739
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P5885
Signed:	Date: 18 February 2015

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 BACKGROUND EVIDENCE**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

#### **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### **APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET**

**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Project description: <i>During February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire.</i>			
<i>With the exception of a small piece of early modern (c. 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century) unbonded brickwork, no archaeological features were recorded during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No evidence associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement activity previously recorded in this area was identified. Modern disturbance was noted but this would appear to be directly related to the extant house at 41 Pembroke Road and/or to the various phases of extension and redevelopment it has been subject to.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>10<sup>th</sup> February 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P5885</i>	Site code	<i>AS1739</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Rear of residential property</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grassland</i>		
Planned development	<i>Domestic extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern and early modern disturbance</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Herts</i>	<i>North Herts</i>	<i>Baldock</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>20m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2499 3347</i>		
Height AOD(max/ min)	<i>c.75m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s	<i>Andrew A. S. Newton</i>		
Funded by	<i>Rebecca Sunderland</i>		
<b>Bibliography</b>			
Full title	<i>The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Newton, A. A. S.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4794</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2015</i>		

# THE BAKEHOUSE, 41 PEMBROKE ROAD, BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### **SUMMARY**

*During February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire.*

*With the exception of a small piece of early modern (c. 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century) unbonded brickwork, no archaeological features were recorded during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No evidence associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement activity previously recorded in this area was identified. Modern disturbance was noted but this would appear to be directly related to the extant house at 41 Pembroke Road and/or to the various phases of extension and redevelopment it has been subject to.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 2499 3347, Figs. 1-2) The work was commissioned by Mrs Rebecca Sunderland in response to a condition associated with the proposed extension to the rear of the existing domestic residence (NHDC Planning Ref. 14/02440/1HH).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (NHDC Planning Ref. 14/02440/1HH), and in accordance with advice from Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014, and approved by HCC HEU. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and also the relevant sections of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The main project objectives were archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks, the provision of an adequately detailed project report, and the dissemination and publication of the project

### *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 lies close to the corner of Pembroke Road and South Road, in the small town of Baldock in north Hertfordshire. Pembroke Road is a residential street running north-west to south-east between South Road and Pinnocks Lane. It runs broadly parallel with, and lies approximately 100m north-east of Baldock High Street.

2.2 The site subject to archaeological monitoring and recording comprised a small area to the rear of 41 Pembroke Road, directly adjoining the extant dwelling. Prior to the commencement of groundworks it had comprised a small paved patio area.

### **3 BACKGROUND EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

3.1.1 The site is located in a generally level area at or close to the 75m contour. Baldock lies at the foot of the Weston Hills which rise steeply to the south and south-east of the town. The geology of the area comprises upper cretaceous chalk of the White Chalk subgroup which is of Cenomanian Age to Maastrichtian Age and is described as chalk with flints, with discrete marl seams, nodular chalk, sponge-rich and flint seams throughout. The local soils are of the Swaffham Prior Association; these are characterised as loamy, well drained soils overlying chalk (SSEW 1983).

#### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

3.2.1 Baldock is situated just to the south of the Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway between Wessex and East Anglia. Chance finds of prehistoric artefacts include a Palaeolithic flint implement (HER 217) and a Bronze Age scraper (HER 16252) found at Walls Field, approximately 500m to the north of the current site. Aerial photographs indicate the positions of two possible plough-raised Bronze Age round barrows (HSMR 2310 and 2328) to the south of Cambrai Farm which itself lies to the south-east of the present site. Excavation in advance of the Clothall Common development, which lies approximately 500m to the north-east of Pembroke Road has identified fairly extensive activity of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. I

3.2.2 A major settlement at Baldock developed in the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. The area of Iron Age and Roman settlement is defined as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, although the nucleus of the Iron Age 'town' appears to have been slightly to the west of this. It has been argued that the settlement formed the core of a minor oppidum, a regionally important settlement, set within a territory marked by boundary earthworks. A series of linear dykes has been identified in the landscape in the vicinity of Baldock, defining an area of approximately 12km<sup>2</sup> (Burleigh 1995). The settlement appears to have covered an area of at least 20 ha either side of the Clothall Road. Evidence of Iron Age occupation in the vicinity of the site includes the Chieftain's Burial at the Tene, on the opposite side of the High Street (HER 1868), a cremation cemetery on South Road (HER 4280), a variety of features and deposits in the Clothall (HER 6173, 9994, 17431), High Street (HER 11880, 11883), Pinnocks Late (HER 9924) and Roman Lane (HER 12859) areas. Finds of pottery (HER 106 and HER 9940) have been made at Homelands and Providence Court and an Iron Age spearhead was recovered from The Park (HER 175).

3.2.3 The roman town of Baldock developed from the late Iron Age settlement, possibly due to its strategic importance although there is no evidence for a military fort prior to the establishment of the town (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 282). Extensive excavation in and around Baldock, particularly of the Walls Field and Clothall Road area has produced evidence



for a substantial Roman settlement of over 30ha (Burleigh 1982; Burleigh and Fitzpatrick-Matthew 2008; HAT 1995; HER 0008, 13190). Roman archaeology has been recorded across Baldock but in the vicinity of the site this includes finds of coins at 33-39 Clothall Road (HER 529, 1055, 1056, 1057) and Wall Field (HER 1063), Clothall Road (HER 1065) and London Road (HER 2270), pottery from London Road (HER 1069) and Clothall Road (HER 1065). Clothall Road is also the location on an early Roman cemetery (HER 13191) and human remains, in the form of inhumations, have also been identified at Pinnocks Lane (HER 1073) and Kayser Bondor/Tesco (HER 482) and, in the form of a cremation, at the Convent of Providence (HER 4279). A Roman temple and other buildings are recorded at Bakers Close (HER 770) and a variety of features have been recorded in the High Street (e.g, HER 11876, 11878) and Wallington Road (HER 488) areas. The routes of the Roman roads from Baldock to Braughing (HER 4190) and Baldock to Rush Green (HER 4635) pass nearby.

3.2.4 An archaeological evaluation (Ashworth and Saunders 2004; HER 12754) conducted on land to the immediate east of the current site and which formerly comprised part of the property of 41 Pembroke Road identified boundary features and postholes. Although no direct evidence of occupation was recorded the finds assemblages suggested domestic activity in the vicinity. A programme of archaeological monitoring at this site identified features thought to be consistent with the presence of a later Iron Age or Romano-British farmstead (Saunders 2006).

3.2.5 There is little archaeological evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period in Baldock, although it is now thought that sub-Roman activity continued within the Roman town until as late as the 6<sup>th</sup> century (Burleigh and Fitzpatrick-Matthews, 2008). The lack of an Anglo-Saxon presence is however not unexpected as many small Roman towns or even large settlements exhibit evidence of discontinuous habitation after the 4<sup>th</sup> century and often total abandonment by the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.6 At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) Baldock was part of Weston Manor, assessed as a relatively large holding comprising approximately 1,200 acres of arable land. While Weston Manor was quite populous there has so far been no evidence to show that Baldock existed as an entity in its own right in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It is in fact more likely that the town came into existence between 1138 and 1148 when the lord of Weston Manor, the earl of Pembroke, Gilbert de Clare, granted 10 librates (land to the value of £10) to the Knights Templar. It is worth noting that the medieval settlement appears to have deliberately avoided the area of the Roman settlement and burial grounds (HER 0008). This area became known as Walls Field. Excavations prompted by the construction of the Baldock bypass recorded a series of medieval features including a rectangular enclosure containing a cemetery which on the basis of documentary evidence is almost certainly all that remains of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Hospital of St Mary Magdalene, some distance to the north-east of the town. In the immediate vicinity of the



current site known medieval archaeology includes features recorded to the rear of 33-39B High Street (HER 11879).

3.2.6 By the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the town was described as being in a state of decay, in common with many settlements at this time. The town flourished due to coach travel on the Great North Road in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and due to the malting and brewing industries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Passing trade declined and the coaching houses suffered a recession following the opening of Baldock railway station in the 1850s (HER 5531, 5621 & 5622). Baldock did not suffer wholesale decline however, as the brewing and malting industries proved to be resilient and continued working into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, long after the loss of the industry in many nearby towns. Baldock remained a relatively small nucleated settlement until the encroachment of modern housing developments

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

4.2 The monitoring and recording carried out in February 2015 was conducted on the small-scale groundworks associated with the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of the new extension to the existing dwelling (Fig. 3). A site visit was undertaken to monitor these minor works on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## **5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

5.1 A 3m length of foundation trench (width 0.5-0.7m) was excavated at the north-eastern edge of the new extension. A 0.6 x 0.6m foundation pad was excavated 2m to the south-west of this immediately adjacent to the wall separating the property from the covered alleyway which allows access to the site from Pembroke Road and separates this property from the adjacent house.

5.2 Three sample sections were recorded to demonstrate the deposits and stratigraphy that were present.

*Sample Section 1: DP 3*

<i>Sample Section 1.</i> <i>North-East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.24m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.09m	L1000	Sand and concrete mix levelling layer for patio
0.09-0.30m	L1001	Mid to dark grey firm silty clay with occasional brick fragments and chalk flecks
0.30-0.40m	M1002	Early modern unbonded red bricks capping a metal pipe
0.40-0.98m	L1003	Mid to dark grey firm silty clay with occasional brick fragments and chalk flecks. Indistinguishable from L1001
0.98-1.00m+	L1004	Light grey to white compact chalk

*Sample Section 2: DP 4*

<i>Sample Section 2.</i> <i>North-East facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.29m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.09m	L1000	Sand and concrete mix levelling layer for patio. As SS1
0.09-0.12m	L1005	Light grey compact cement/concrete rubble levelling layer
0.12-0.97m	L1001	Mid to dark grey firm silty clay with occasional brick fragments and chalk flecks. As SS1
0.40-0.98m+	L1004	Light grey to white compact chalk. As SS1

*Sample Section 3: DP 7*

<i>Sample Section 3.</i> <i>South-West facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.21m AOD</i>		
0.00-0.09m	L1000	Sand and concrete mix levelling layer for patio. As SS1
0.09-0.23m	L1006	Black soft silky organic material
0.23-0.77m	L1001	Mid to dark grey firm silty clay with occasional brick fragments and chalk flecks. As SS1
0.77-0.81m+	L1004	Light grey to white compact chalk. As SS1

5.3 With the exception of the early modern (c. 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century) unbonded brick capping of the metal service pipe, no archaeological features were recorded. The site appears to have been subject to fairly widespread but not particularly deep modern disturbance associated with the landscaping of the yard/garden (DPs 5 & 6).

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 Across the majority of the site, the upper-most deposit was the sand and concrete mix levelling layer (L1000) for the patio that formerly existed within the area of the new extension. Immediately beneath this were localised deposits of different kinds (L1005, L1006); these are likely to represent further levelling or infill layers. Beneath these layers was L1001, a mid to dark grey silty clay subsoil which appears to have been subject to some disturbance due to the presence of occasional brick flecks and fragments within it. No clear construction cut was observed for M1002 and this was completely surrounded by material indistinguishable from L1001. In anticipation of a construction cut for this, the material stratigraphically beneath M1002 has been recorded as L1003. Stratified beneath L1001/L1003 was L1004, the natural light grey to which compact chalk.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 With the exception of the early modern (c. 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century) unbonded brick capping of the metal service pipe, archaeological features were recorded during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No evidence associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement activity previously recorded in this area (Ashworth and Saunders 2004; Saunders 2006) was identified. Modern disturbance was noted but this would appear to be directly related to the extant house at 41 Pembroke Road and/or to the various phases of extension and redevelopment it has been subject to.

## **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site with North Hertfordshire Museums Service. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mrs Rebecca Sunderland for commissioning and funding the programme of archaeological works, and for her kind assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the building contractor, Mr Justin Ramsey.

AS would also like to thank Andy Instone of HCC HEU for his advice and input, and the assistance of the HCC Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> North Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b> Baldock	<b>Parish:</b> Baldock
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	14/02440/1HH
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mrs Rebecca Sunderland 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Extension to existing dwelling
<b>Present land use:</b>	Patio
<b>Size of application area:</b> 20m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c.3m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 2499 3347
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1739
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Limited
<b>Type of work:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date of work:</b>	February 2015
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	North Hertfordshire Museums
<b>Related HER Nos:</b> 12754	<b>Periods represented:</b> No finds recovered
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	HER 12754
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	During February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Bakehouse, 41 Pembroke Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire. With the exception of a small piece of early modern (c. 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century) unbonded brickwork, no archaeological features were recorded during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording. No evidence associated with the Iron Age or Romano-British settlement activity previously recorded in this area was identified. Modern disturbance was noted but this would appear to be directly related to the extant house at 41 Pembroke Road and/or to the various phases of extension and redevelopment it has been subject to.
<b>Author of summary:</b> A. A. S. Newton	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 18/2/15



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Area of groundworks prior to excavation. View south-west



DP 2. Area of groundworks prior to excavation. View north-east





DP 3. Sample Section 1. View south-west



DP 4. Sample Section 2. View south-west





DP 5. Foundation Trench. View north-west



DP 6. Foundation Trench. View south-east





DP 7. Sample Section 3. View north-east

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General shot of trench containing sample sections 1  
and 2 looking north-west



2  
Sample section 1 looking south-west

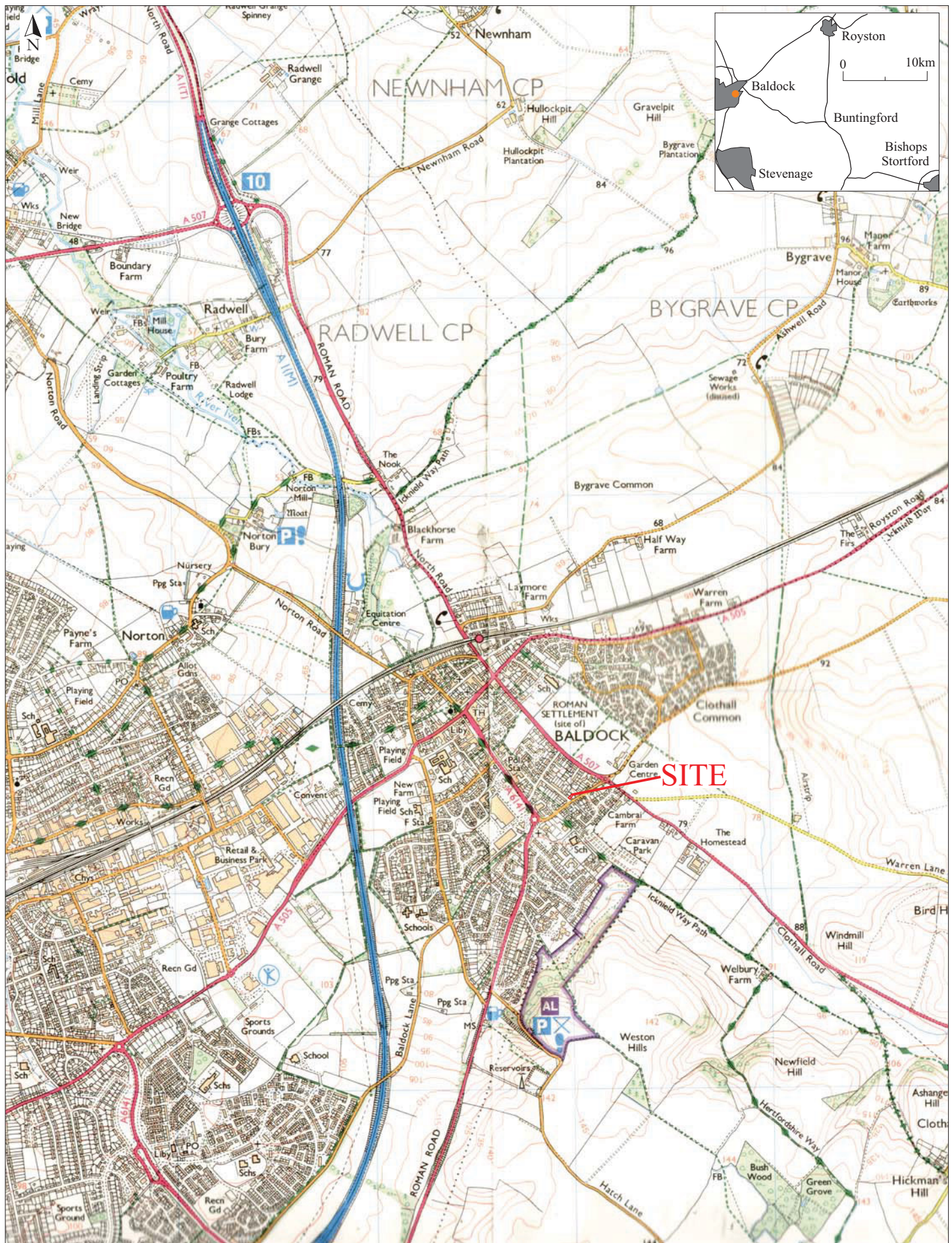


3  
Sample section 2 looking south-west



4  
Sample section 3 looking north-east

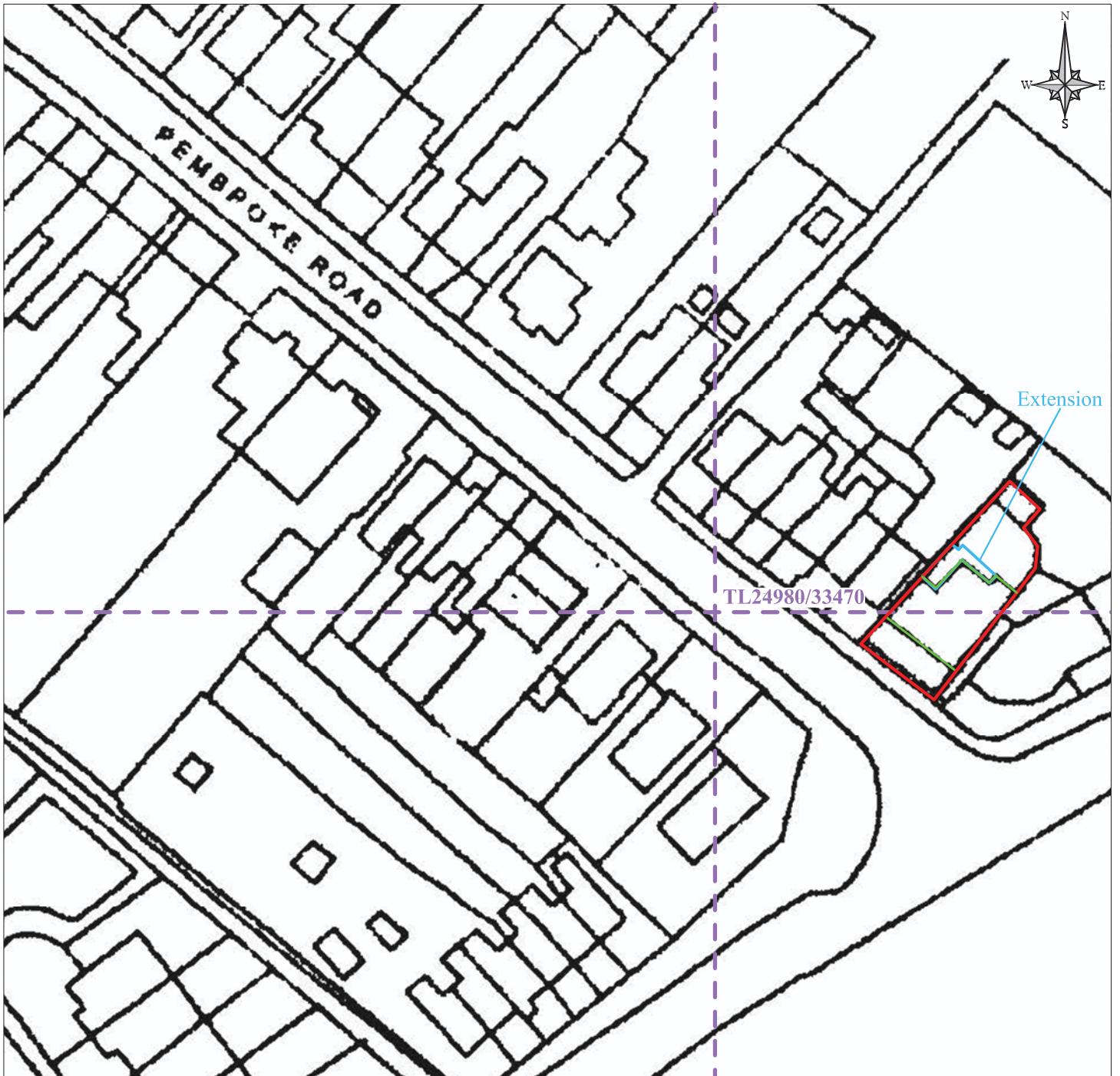




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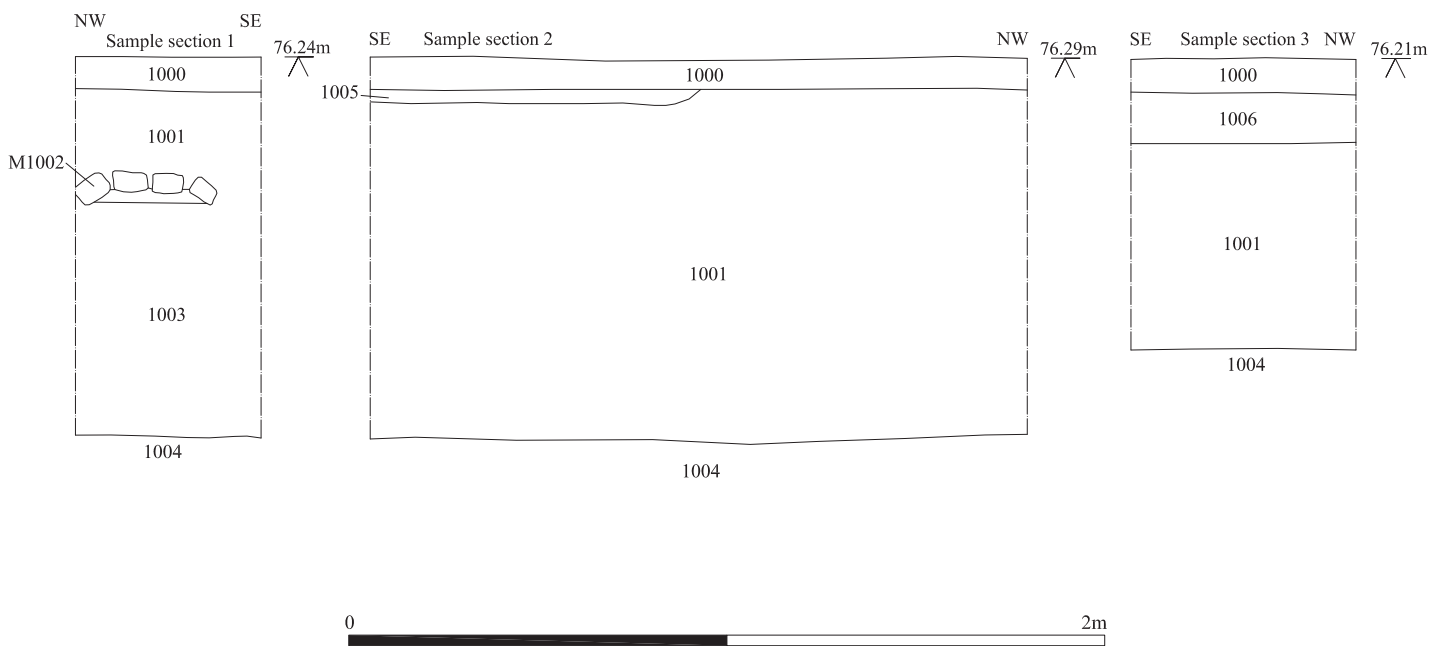
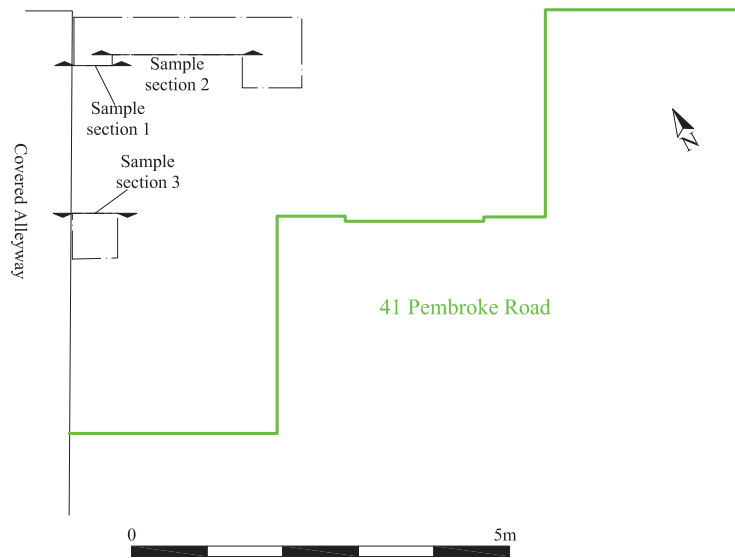
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan  
Scale 1:600 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Plan and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3