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**GARAGE SITE, CHAPELFIELDS, STANSTEAD ABBOTTS,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT**

HER request No. 268/13

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NGR: TL 3873 1212	Report No: 4669		
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1678		
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation at the Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 3873 1212). The project was commissioned by Bugler Developments Ltd in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the residential redevelopment of the site (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/1360/FP). The 'strip, map and sample' investigation was followed by a supplemental programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, also conducted by AS (dated 17/06/2014 and 17/07/2014).</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area, incorporating the medieval and later settlement of Stanstead Abbots. The Parish Church of St Andrew's – situated immediately to the north-west of the site – dates from 1881 and replaced an earlier church on the same site. The immediate environs also include the location of a post-medieval farmstead on Chapell Lane, approximately 110m to the south-west. Earlier evidence includes a Roman cremation burial found some 32m away to the north-east of the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the project encountered a large cluster of (mostly) intercutting pits and postholes. Several of the features forming this cluster contained dumps of redeposited burnt material/ charcoal-rich middens. Postholes cut into the base of the largest pit suggested the presence of an earlier, timber structure. Four pits yielded late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) pottery. Five sherds of residual prehistoric pottery were also found.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>09/04/2014-17/04/2014 ('strip, map and sample'); 17/06/2014 and 17/07/2014 (monitoring and recording)</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5600</i>	Site code	<i>AS1678</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological 'strip, map and sample'/ monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance 185</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garages and hardstanding</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential - construction of six flats, on-site parking and landscaped amenity space</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> C AD</i>	<i>Pits</i>	
	<i>Undated</i>	<i>Putative structural remains (postholes)</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Prehistoric</i>	<i>Pottery</i>	
	<i>10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> C AD</i>	<i>Pottery</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Stanstead Abbots</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.13ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3873 1212</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>42m/ 32m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow and James Fairclough (fieldwork); Antony R.R. Mustchin (post-excavation)</i>		
Funded by	<i>Bugler Developments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Research Archive Report</i>		
Authors	<i>Antony R.R. Mustchin</i>		
Report no.	<i>4669</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (Revised 18/02/2015)</i>		

## **GARAGE SITE, CHAPELFIELDS, STANSTEAD ABBOTTS, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation at the Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 3873 1212; Figs. 1-2). The project was commissioned by Bugler Developments Ltd in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the residential redevelopment of the site (East Hertfordshire District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/1360/FP). The 'strip, map and sample' investigation was followed by a supplemental programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, also conducted by AS (dated 17/06/2014 and 17/07/2014).*

*The site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area, incorporating the medieval and later settlement of Stanstead Abbots. The Parish Church of St Andrew's – situated immediately to the north-west of the site – dates from 1881 and replaced an earlier church on the same site. The immediate environs also include the location of a post-medieval farmstead on Chapell Lane, approximately 110m to the south-west. Earlier evidence includes a Roman cremation burial found some 32m away to the north-east of the site.*

*In the event the project encountered a large cluster of (mostly) intercutting pits and postholes. Several of the features forming this cluster contained dumps of redeposited burnt material/ charcoal-rich middens, notably Pit F1023. Postholes cut into the base of Pit F1023 hinted at some form of earlier, timber structure at this location. The fills of this pit consistently yielded late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) pottery. Three other features contained pottery of the same date, while five sherds of residual prehistoric pottery were also found. A single, undated feature was present towards the north-eastern edge of excavation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **The Site**

The village of Stanstead Abbots is located on the eastern edge of Hertfordshire, some 3.2km south-west of the historic town of Ware (Fig. 1). The village of St Margarets sits c. 1km to the west and the hamlet of Rye Meads is c. 1.7km to the south.

The site is located at the northern end of Chapelfields, which runs roughly N-S through the northern part of the historic core of Stanstead Abbots (Figs. 1). It comprises a stepped, rectangular plot extending to approximately 0.13ha, incorporating an existing split-level garage block with tarmac and concrete hardstanding (Plates 1-2; Fig. 2). The site adjoins Cappell Lane to the north, beyond which lies Green Belt land. The boundary of the Stanstead Abbots Conservation

Area is present immediately to the north-west. The site is bounded by Chapelfields and associated residential development on all other sides. Beyond Chapelfields to the east lies further Green Belt, part of which is included in Lee Valley Regional Park.

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

The site occupies a south-west facing slope at approximately 115-121m AOD, within a gently undulating topography of small valleys and watercourses, typical of East Herts (Fig. 1). The navigable River Lee passes c. 600m to the west. The soils of the area are of the Fladbury 1 Association, defined as 'stoneless clayey soils, in places calcareous, variably affected by groundwater' (SSEW 1983, 19). These soils are suitable for stock rearing and the cultivation of cereals (where the risk of flooding is slight; *ibid.*). The area's solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Clay (BGS 1978) overlain by the riverine gravels of the Lea valley.

Previous archaeological investigation at No. 24 Cappell Lane, some 150m to the east of the site, revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits and peat overlying the riverine gravels (HHER 15230; Williams 2006). The formation of the peat was dated to the late Mesolithic period (c. 8300-4300 BC), while one alluvial layer yielded post-medieval pottery (*ibid.*). The alluvium was sealed by the existing topsoil (*ibid.*).

### **Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 1)**

#### *Prehistoric*

The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 185, as designated on the Local Plan, mainly relating to the medieval settlement of Stanstead Abbots and its 12<sup>th</sup> century church. Early prehistoric activity is also known in the area. Indeed, the site's favorable situation on the light, fertile soils of the Lea valley presupposes habitation since the prehistoric period.

#### *Romano-British*

Romano-British evidence in the area is limited, although Ermine Street, which linked London, Lincolnshire and York, passes c. 5km to the west of the site. The fabric of St James' Church, c. 1.6km to the south-east, also includes numerous re-used Roman tiles (HHER 4367). The site's immediate environs include the find spot of a Roman cremation burial some 32m to the north-east (HHER 1755). It comprised a small pit containing 'calcined bones, charcoal, several nails and fragments of a burnt colour-coated beaker' (*ibid.*).

#### *Anglo-Saxon and medieval*

The existing village of Stanstead Abbots occupies a causeway across the flood plain of the River Lea, and is thought to have Anglo-Saxon origins (HHER 2645). The 1086 Domesday Survey records two estates, seven burgesses, a mill, meadowland, pasture and woods (Morris 1976). The manor was retained by the Crown until 1559, after which it passed through a succession of owners. The medieval period is attested by the original mill at Stanstead Mill, the Red Lion Inn (a late medieval open

hall house), and No. 3 High Street, which is a jettied, timber-framed and roughcast structure of at least 16<sup>th</sup> century date (HHERs 5810, 10278 and 10284).

### *Post-medieval*

The Grade II\* listed Parish Church of St Andrew's – situated immediately to the north-west of the site – dates from 1881 and replaced an earlier church on the same site (depicted on the 1840 tithe map (HHER 10231)). A large number of extant post-medieval and early modern structures are also present in the village (Appendix 2), although most are located some distance from the current site. The exception is Hill House, a c. 1800 two-storey construction located some 180m to the north (HHER 15995). The site, historically comprising agricultural land until the c. 1973 construction of Chapelfields, may have belonged to Hill House.

## **RESULTS**

### **The 'Strip, Map and Sample' Investigation**

#### *Introduction*

The 'strip, map and sample' investigation encountered a large cluster of features towards the western corner of the site (Fig. 3), four of which yielded late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) pottery; bar the modern period, this was the only chronological phase of on-site activity identified (Table 1). However, five sherds of residual prehistoric pottery were also found, suggesting earlier activity somewhere in the near vicinity. The fills of several features, including large Pit F1023, comprised tips of redeposited burnt material/ charcoal-rich middens. No evidence of *in situ* burning was recorded. Postholes cut into the base of Pit F1023 hinted at some form of earlier, timber structure at this location, further evidence for which may have been removed through truncation by later features and/ or modern services (Fig. 3). A single, undated feature (F1006) was present towards the north-eastern edge of excavation (Fig. 3).

<b>Chronological Phase</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Date Range</b>
1	Late Anglo-Saxon to medieval	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> century AD

*Table 1: Chronological phasing*

The encountered strata comprised modern hardstanding (L1000) above a series of construction and made ground deposits (L1001, L1002 and L1003), probably associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Chapelfields, which in turn sealed the natural drift geology. Bar the addition of Topsoil L2000, the subsequent programme of monitoring corroborated this general stratigraphic sequence (Fig. 6; Appendix 3); no additional features or finds were encountered.

## The clustered features

### Introduction

The clustered features comprised a total of 23 pits and postholes, 20 of which were intercutting (Plate 3; Figs. 3-4). Only four pits (F1023, F1024, F1080 and F1082) yielded securely stratified, datable pottery, comprising 16 late Anglo-Saxon/medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century) sherds weighing 58g. The bulk of this modest assemblage (by sherd count and weight) was contained by large Pit F1023 (Table 2). In addition, the fills of Pits F1023 and F1082 (Fig. 3) contained a small number of residual prehistoric sherds and a modest assemblage of probable Roman tegula roof time (most likely reused; see Peachey, below). Similar tile fragments were yielded by Pits F1024 and F1089 (*ibid.*). Based on their primary stratigraphic relationships (Table 2), five features (F1057, F1059, F1089, F1093 and F1104) were seen to precede the dated pits, while only one feature (F1096) was stratigraphically later. With the exception of Postholes F1049, F1051, F1099 and F1101, which appeared to cut the base of dated Pit F1023, the remaining clustered features could not be tied into this sequence.

Feature	Context	Plan/ profile (dimensions)	Fill	Primary Stratigraphic Relationships	Finds
Pit 1011	1012	sub-circular/ steep sides, flat base (0.72 x 0.57 x 0.25m)	Firm, dark orange/ black silty sand with moderate charcoal	cut L1010; sealed by L1009	-
Pit 1013	1014	Circular/ moderately steep sloping sides, flat base (0.90+ x 0.52+ x 0.23m)	Firm, light orange/ yellow silty sand	Cut L1010; cut by F1015	-
Pit 1015	1016	Sub-oval/ moderately steep sides, concave base (0.82+ x 0.60 x 0.36m)	Compact, mid orange/ yellow silty sand	Cut L1014 (F1013); cut by F1017	-
Pit 1017	1018	Sub-circular/ near vertical sides, flat base (1.30 x 1.62 x 0.49m)	Firm, dark yellow orange silty sand	Cut L1016 (F1015); Cut by F1021	-
Pit 1021	1022	Sub-circular/ steep to near vertical sides, flat base (1.12+ x 1.39+ x 0.50m)	Compact, mid yellow orange silty sand	Cut L1018 (F1017); sealed by L1009	-
Pit 1023	1067 (Primary)	Rectangular/ vertical sides, flat base (2.20+ x 2.00 x 0.55m)	Compact, mottled, mid orange red/ brown clay sand with occasional charcoal flecks	Cut L1090 (F1089); cut by F1096	-
	1064		Compact, dark grey/ black clay sand with frequent charcoal		-
	1065		Firm, dark orange brown (with lenses of light brown orange) silty sand with moderate charcoal fragments and flecks		-
	1066		Compact, mid orange brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks		-
	1068		Firm, mid brown grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks		-
	1069		Compact, mid orange red/ mid brown clay sand with moderate charcoal flecks		-
	1070		Compact, mid yellow/ brown clay sand with moderate		Prehistoric pottery (68g), 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C



			charcoal flecks		pottery (18g), burnt flint (123g), calcined bone (7g)
	1071		Compact, dark brown red clay sand		-
	1072		Compact, mid brown grey clay with frequent rounded flint		-
	1073		Firm, light blue grey, silty sand		10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2g)
	1079		Friable, dark orange red sand		-
	1086		Firm, light brown grey fired/ burnt clay		-
	1075		Firm, very dark grey silty sand		CBM (468g)
	1076		Firm, light blue grey silty sand		-
	1077		Firm, dark grey silty sand		Prehistoric pottery (22g), 10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (10g), animal bone (20g)
	1078 (Uppermost)		Compact, mid yellow brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks		10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (7g), animal bone (138g), snail shell (8g)
	1074 (Uppermost)		Firm, very dark brown grey silty sand with frequent charcoal		-
Pit 1024	1025	Sub-oval/ gentle sloping sides, concave base (0.72 x 0.58 x 0.14m)	Firm, very dark grey orange sandy silt with frequent charcoal fragments and flecks	Cut L1058 (F1057); sealed by L1009	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pot (11g); CBM (6g); animal bone (177g)
Pit 1036	1037	Sub-circular/ moderately sloping sides, uneven base (1.20+ x 0.90 x 0.43m)	Firm, mid reddish brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks and medium sub- rounded flints	Cut L1010; cut by F1038	-
Pit 1038	1039 (Primary)	Sub-circular/ moderately sloping sides, uneven base (1.50+ x 0.90+ x 0.32m)	Fairly grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks	Cut L1037 (F1038); cut by modern services	-
	1040 (Uppermost)		Firm, light grey/ white clay		-
Posthole 1041	1042	Sub-circular/ steep sides, uneven base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.42m)	Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with frequent charcoal fragments	Cut L1010; sealed by L1009	-
Pit 1049	1050	Circular/ steep sides, concave base (0.20+ x 0.27 x 0.15m)	Compact, mid brown/ grey silty sand with occasional small rounded flint	Within the base of F1023 (cut L1010)	-
Pit 1051	1052	Circular/ gently sloping sides, concave base (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.10m)	Compact, mid grey brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal and CBM flecks	Within the base of F1023 (cut L1010)	-
Pit 1057	1058	Semi-circular, steep sides, uneven base (1.80+ x 0.60+ x 0.57m)	Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional charcoal fragments and medium sub- rounded flint	Cut L1060 (F1059) and L1090 (F1089); cut by F1024	-
Pit 1059	1060 (Primary)	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, flat base (1.60+ x 1.00 x 0.35m)	Firm, mid yellow brown silty sand with white/ yellow sandy mottles	Cut L1010; cut by F1057	-
	1061 (Uppermost)		Friable, mid to dark red under-fired CBM with frequent charcoal fragments		-
Posthole 1062	1063	Circular, moderately steep sides, concave base (0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10m)	Compact, light brown grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks	Not recorded	-

Posthole 1080	1081	Sub-oval, vertical sides, concave base (0.40 x 0.30 x 0.55m)	Firm, mid grey brown very silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional small/ moderate medium sub-rounded and rounded flint	Cut L1084 (F1082); Sealed by L1009	10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (2g)
Pit 1082	1083 (Primary)	Sub-rectangular, vertical sides, flat base (2.00+ x 0.90+ x 0.28m)	Firm, mixed lenses of mid grey brown and light orange brown silty sand with frequent medium and large fragments of poorly fired CBM, Frequent charcoal flecks and occasional charcoal fragments	Cut L1010; cut by F1080	Prehistoric pottery (15g), CBM (553g), burnt flint (4g)
	1084 (Uppermost)		Very firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional to moderate small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint		10 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> C pottery (8g), animal bone (3g)
Pit 1089	1095 (Primary)	Sub-circular, unknown sides, flat base (1.40+ x 1.00 x 0.22m)	Compact, dark brown grey clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Cut L1094 (F1093); cut by F1023, F1057, F1093 and F1104	-
	1090 (Uppermost)		Firm, mid orange brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecks		CBM (26g), animal bone (19g), snail shell (6g)
Pit 1093	1094	Sub-circular, moderately sloping sides, uneven base (0.50+ x 0.30+ x 0.35m)	Firm, mixed red/ purple/ orange/ grey brown/ black clay with frequent charcoal flecks and moderate CBM	Cut L1010; cut by F1089	-
Pit 1096	1097 (Primary)	Circular, moderate sloping sides, concave base (0.23 x ? x 0.11m)	Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt	Cut L1078 (F1023); sealed by L1009	-
	1098 (Uppermost)		Firm, light orange brown silty sand		-
Posthole 1099	1100	Sub-oval, vertical sides, flat base (0.52 x 0.40 x 0.21m)	Firm, mid yellow brown clay sand with occasional small sub-rounded flint	Within the base of F1023 (cut L1010)	-
Posthole 1101	1102	Sub-oval, vertical sides, flat base (0.40 x 0.34 x 0.12m)	Firm, mid yellow brown clay sand with occasional small sub-angular flint	Within the base of F1023 (cut L1010)	-
Pit 1104	1091	Oval, moderately sloping sides, flat base (0.65 x 0.50 x 0.10m)	Firm, dark red/ purple clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Cut L1090 (F1089); sealed by L1009	-
	1092		Friable, mid orange crumbled CBM with moderate charcoal flecks		-

Table 2: The clustered features

The clustered pits varied considerably in size and shape. They ranged in depth between 0.10m and 0.57m (mean = 0.30m) and in diameter between 0.20+m and 2.20+m<sup>1</sup>. The postholes ranged in depth between 0.10m and 0.55m (mean = 0.28m) and in diameter between 0.20m and 0.52m (mean = 0.38m). No correlation was apparent between these parameters.

### Phase 1: Late Anglo-Saxon to medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD)

Four of the clustered pits (F1023, F1024, F1080 and F1082; Table 2) were spot dated to the late Anglo-Saxon/ early medieval period (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century). The largest of these, Pit 1023, was rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base (2.20+ x 2.00 x 0.55m). It contained a series of 17 fills, nine of which included occasional to frequent charcoal flecks and/ or fragments (Table 2). The recorded sections through this feature portray a complex process of infilling, including

<sup>1</sup> Due to their intercutting nature, no calculation of mean pit diameter was possible

numerous small tips of burnt material (Plates 4-6; Fig. 4). An environmental sample of Fill L1077 contained abundant charcoal fragments (>2mm), predominantly of oak (*Quercus* sp.); charred cereals and other plant remains from this feature were scarce (see Summers, below). It appears that following its abandonment, Pit F1023 was infilled with predominantly charcoal-rich material, possibly from a nearby domestic or industrial hearth, oven or similar feature(s). No evidence of *in-situ* burning was recorded. The distribution of postholes cut into the base of Pit F1023 suggests an earlier, possibly structural function (see below).

Finds from Pit F1023 include 11 sherds (37g) of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD pottery in an abraded to highly abraded condition (see Thompson, below). Much of this material was recovered from the feature's upper reaches. Based on its condition, it is unlikely that the pottery was found in its primary depositional context. Four sherds (90g) of residual prehistoric (early Bronze Age or late Iron Age) pottery were also found in Fills L1070 and L1077 (see Peachey, below). Other finds from Pit F1023 include 468g of CBM from Fill L1075 and 173g of animal bone. The latter mostly comprises large mammal (cattle or horse) sized fragments and includes some butchered elements and several calcined skull fragments from Fill L1070 (see Cussans, below).

Phase 1 Pits F1024, F1080 and F1082 were smaller than F1023 and contained fewer fills (Table 2; Plates 7-9; Figs. 3-4). The fills of Pits F1024 and F1082 were compositionally similar to those of F1023, however, and it is likely that they also represented burnt waste from a nearby domestic or industrial feature(s). Once again, there was no evidence of *in situ* burning. Finds from these features included five sherds (21g) of 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, also in an abraded condition (see Thompson, below).

#### Putative structural evidence

Postholes F1049, F1051, F1099 and F1101 comprised a sub-square arrangement of similar features which appeared to cut the base of Phase 1 Pit F1023. If genuine, the stratigraphic relationship of these features with F1023 would suggest that they were also functionally related to the latter. It is possible, given the regularity of their layout (Fig. 3), that the postholes were structural, perhaps supporting the timber uprights of a small shelter or pen. The size and layout of these postholes, the comparatively small area of Pit F1023 and the late date of the pottery from the fills of the latter would not suggest that these features comprised a sunken-featured building (SFB). Such structures have average measurements of 3 x 4m and are more common in the early to middle Anglo-Saxon Period (Tipper 2004). A 'late Saxon' SFB (2109) at The Old Bell, Marham (Newton 2012, 339, fig. 6) was closer to Pit F1023 in size and shape, however. All four postholes were devoid of finds.

#### The remaining clustered features

The remaining clustered features comprised 14 pits and a single posthole (Table 2). Only the uppermost fill of Pit F1089 (L1090) yielded finds of any description, comprising CBM (26g), animal bone (19g) and terrestrial mollusc shell (6g). As such, the primary function of these features is difficult to determine. Their largely intercutting nature does not suggest targeted quarrying of the natural sand (L1005/L1010), although viable, and none was deep enough to encounter the underlying

geology. However, the fills of several features (e.g. F1011, F1057, F1059, F1089 and F1093; Table 2; Plate 10) comprised redeposited burnt material, compositionally similar to the fills of Pit F1023, suggesting that they were infilled in a similar fashion and were broadly contemporary to the dated features.

#### *Pit F1006*

Undated Pit F1006 was irregular in plan and profile (0.90 x 0.80 x 0.32m; Plate 11; Figs. 3-4). Its single fill (L1007) comprised homogenous, firm, mid grey/ blue sandy clay and was devoid of finds. It is possible that this feature was natural in origin, possibly a small tree throw.

### **The Archaeological Monitoring and Recording**

The supplemental programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by AS on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June and the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2014. The excavation of foundation and service trenches was conducted under close archaeological supervision and a record of encountered strata made; no additional archaeological features or finds were present. The recorded sample sections, numbered 8-12 (Figs. 5-6), closely resembled those recorded by the 'strip, map and sample' investigation, comprising a series of made ground deposits – probably associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of Chapelfields – overlying the natural geology. Summary tables of recorded contexts are presented in Appendix 3.

### **SPECIALIST REPORTS**

#### **The Prehistoric Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

Excavations recovered a total of 5 sherds (105g) of slightly abraded prehistoric pottery, comprising body sherds probably derived from a single vessel. The sherds were distributed in late Anglo-Saxon/ medieval Pits F1023 (L1070 and L1077) and F1082 (L1083) (Table 3)

The pottery occurs entirely in a single handmade fabric, with orange external surfaces, fading to a mid grey core and dark grey internal surfaces. The fabric has inclusions of sparse grog (0.5-2.5mm) and linear organic inclusions/ voids (2-4mm), probably representing chopped grass. It is probably that this fabric was produced in the late Iron Age; however similar fabrics were also produced in the early Bronze Age so without further form or decorative evidence conclusions remain tentative.

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Fill</b>	<b>Sherd Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Pit 1023	1070	3	68
	1077	1	22
Pit 1082	1083	1	15

*Table 3: Quantification of prehistoric pottery*

## The Early Medieval Pottery

*Peter Thompson*

The investigation recovered 16 late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval sherds (58g) from four features (Table 4). The group is in poor condition comprising small sherds ranging from abraded to heavily abraded, with no diagnostic elements present such as rims or decoration. The early medieval pottery is in two fabrics/ wares. Twelve sherds (46g) are in St Neots type ware dated mainly between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, which was the main ceramic type of this period excavated at Hertford. The remaining 4 sherds (12g), in an abundant medium quartz fabric with calcitic, and sometimes burnt organic inclusions, match the description of Early Medieval Sandy ware (EMS) which was the other major fabric present at Hertford. EMS is thought to have commenced in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century and continued in use into the post-Conquest period (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 178).

### KEY:

SNEOT: St Neots type ware late 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD

EMS: Early medieval sandy ware 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD

Feature	Context	Quantity/ weight	Date	Comment
Pit F1023	1070	3 (18g) SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	SNEOT: abraded
	1073	1 (2g) EMS	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	Abraded
	1077	3 (10g) EMS	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	EMS: Abraded
	1078	4 (7g) SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	Highly abraded
Pit F1024	1026	2 (11g) SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	Abraded
Posthole F1080	1081	2 (2g) SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	Highly abraded a little coarser than the other St Neots sherds
Pit F1082	1084	1 (8g) SNEOT	10 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> C	Abraded

*Table 4: Quantification of early medieval pottery*

## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

The investigation recovered a total of 40 fragments (1053g) of very poorly preserved CBM. The bulk of the CBM was contained in late Anglo-Saxon/ medieval Pits F1023 and F1082, with isolated small fragments also present in Pits F1024 and F1089. The CBM occurs entirely in a single orange-red fabric, with inclusions of common-abundant well-sorted quartz (generally <0.5mm, occasionally to 1mm), sparse black iron rich grains (<0.5mm), fine mica and occasional flint (<10mm). Diagnostic attributes appear absent, although the fragments are almost all c. 25mm thick. Thus the fabric and thickness are consistent with Roman tile, in particular tegula roof tile. However, the highly abraded and fragmented condition of the fragments, seemingly exacerbated by being repeatedly heated, strongly suggests a subsequent secondary or tertiary reuse of fragments in the superstructure or plates within an oven or hearth in the Saxo-Norman period.

## The Animal Bone

*Dr Julia E.M. Cussans*

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the 'strip, map and sample' investigation at Chapelfields. The 24 bones/ bone fragments came from a mix of pit

deposits (Table 5). Overall the bone was rated as having ok or good preservation on a scale from very poor to excellent. However, despite the good condition of the bone very few of the pieces could be identified to species. The only identified species were cattle and pig. The majority of the remaining bones could only be assigned as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. The cattle bones included some butchery and a pathological first phalanx with slight exostosis on the distal articulation. The pig bones included a lower canine belonging to a male animal. The large mammal bones included some calcined skull fragments from L1070 (Phase 1 Pit F1023) and some butchered bones. There was little else of note about this small assemblage.

Context	Feature	Description	Cattle	Pig	Large Mammal	Medium mammal	Total
1026	-	Unstratified	4				4
1070	1023	Pit			6	1	7
1077					1	1	2
1078				1	2		3
1084	1082	Pit			2		2
1090	1089	Pit		1	4	1	6
		<i>Total</i>	4	2	15	3	24

Table 5: Animal bones quantified by context

## The Shell

*Dr Julia E.M. Cussans*

A small quantity of terrestrial snail shell belonging to the 'Roman' edible snail *Helix pomatia* was recovered from two deposits during the 'strip, map and sample' investigation at Chapelfields. These remains consisted of one countable (apex intact) shell and four fragments from L1078 (Phase 1 Pit F1023) and six fragments from L1090 (Pit F1089). This species is thought to have been introduced by the Romans as a food resource, but their use on this site is uncertain. Live specimens were also present at the site so there is a small chance the shells were modern intrusions, although the snail's burrowing habits only extend to a few inches in loose soil for the laying of eggs and hibernation (Kerney 1999, 206). The snails also have a poor ability to disperse so are likely to have been present at the site for some time; the shells may simply be natural inclusions in the archaeological deposits. If they had been used as a food resource it is thought that they would have been present in greater concentrations.

## The Environmental Samples

*Dr John Summers*

### Introduction

Eleven bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological analysis were taken and processed during the 'strip, map and sample' investigation at Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots. The sampled features predominantly date to the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century. This report presents the results from the analysis of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the remains in relation to the site's medieval diet and economy.

## Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified using 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.

In the first instance a 50% sub-sample of all samples >10 litres from spot-dateable or significant deposits were processed. Further processing was conditional on the identification of sufficient material of archaeobotanical potential (minimum of approximately 30 identifiable items from a whole sample), which resulted in samples 2 (L1025), 10 (L1079) and 14 (L1083) being fully processed.

## Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 6.

### Plant macrofossils

Charred plant macrofossils were recovered from six of the eleven processed samples. Cereal remains were recorded in five of these, with free-threshing type wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*) being the most numerous. Small numbers of oat grains (*Avena* sp.) were present within three of the samples and hulled barley grains (*Hordeum* sp.) were recorded in two deposits. Other edible taxa included horse bean (*Vicia faba* var. *minor*) in pit Fill L1083 (F1082) and large legume (Fabaceae) in pit Fill L1077 (F1076), along with apple (*Malus* cf. *domestica*) in L1083 and a probable apple pip in L1084 (F1082).

In addition to these edible plants were a number of other wild plant taxa. Many of these are likely to have grown as arable weeds amongst the cereal and pulse crops listed above. These include mouse-ear (*Cerastium* sp.), bedstraws (*Galium* spp.), medium legumes (Fabaceae), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), probable narrow-fruited cornsalad (*Valerianella dentata*) and wild grasses (Poaceae). Taxa such as stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), common spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and blinks (*Montia fontana*) indicate heavier soils with some wetness. These may reflect wheat cultivation on the heavy, fertile but slowly permeable soils which exist to the east of Stanstead Abbots (Soilscapes 2014).

Only sample 2 of pit Fill L1025 (F1024) was sufficiently rich to enable numerical analysis. In this sample, cereal grains were the dominant class of material (78%), with the remainder represented by the seeds of probable weed taxa. Wheat grains, including numerous free-threshing type grains, dominated the identified cereal remains (88%), with oat and barley accounting for the remaining 12% (6% each). No chaff was recorded, although in free-threshing cereals, this is often removed at an early stage of processing, which may have been carried out away from the site.

However, the dominance of cereal grain over non-cereal taxa suggests that the material originated as cleaned product from a late processing stage (i.e. fine sieving).

### Charcoal

Charcoal >2mm was present in a number of the bulk sample light fractions and was recorded as abundant in Fills L1025, L1077 and L1083. A sub-sample of pieces from the larger samples was fractured on the transverse plane to assess species representation and diversity. The majority of fragments were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.), with a small number of diffuse-porous wood fragments present in L1021 and L1077. The predominance of oak indicates that this is likely to have been preferentially selected as fuel wood. The associated plant macrofossils suggest a domestic origin for the material and it is possible that oak was locally abundant, allowing its routine use for fuel in domestic hearths.

### Terrestrial molluscs

A small number of terrestrial molluscs of dry to damp grassland were present in the deposits. Although the assemblage was too small for detailed analysis, the impression is that the excavated features were surrounded by grassland habitats.

### Contaminants

Modern rootlets and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) were present within many of the samples. However, the concentrations were low and do not imply significant biological disturbance of the deposits.

### *Discussion*

The archaeobotanical remains from Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots are indicative of debris from domestic occupation, incorporating fuel debris and the remains of routine cereal processing and food preparation. Only pit Fill L1025 (L1024) contained an appreciable number of remains, which represent the product of fine-sieving that probably became carbonised during final processing or food preparation activities. The range of cereals and other cultivars from the site (i.e. *Vicia faba* var. *minor* and *Malus domestica*) are quite typical of medieval archaeobotanical assemblages (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Carruthers 2008; Straker *et al.* 2007; Moffett 2006; Greig 1996) and reflect a relatively diverse plant-based economy. It appears that some cereals are likely to have been cultivated on the fertile, heavy soils to the east of Stanstead Abbots, as indicated by weeds of heavy and wet soils. Cultivation of bread wheat on such soils, to which it is well adapted, was common during the medieval period (e.g. Moffett 2006).

The samples from Large Phase 1 Pit F1023 contained too few remains to provide any further insight into its use or role on the site.



## *Conclusions*

The charred plant remains from Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots have provided a useful insight into the medieval diet and economy of the site, and the local cultivation of cereals. A predominantly wheat-based economy appears to have existed, supplemented by other cereals (oats and barley), horse bean and apple, although the actual medieval diet is likely to have been considerably more diverse than this narrow insight (e.g. Greig 1996; Carruthers 2008, 34.17-34.19). The sampled features at the site appear to have predominantly received debris from nearby domestic occupation.

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
1	1022	1021	Pit fill	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Quercus sp., Diffuse porous	X	Oxychilus sp.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1025	1024	Pit fill	10th-12th C	20	20	100%	XX	-	HB (1), Hord (2), FTW (29), Trit (14), Oat (2), cf. Oat (1), NFI (35)	X	-	XXX	Quercus sp.	X	Trichia hispida group, Vitrea sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-	Monocot culm (X)
3	1026	1024	Pit fill	10th-12th C	20	10	50%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	Discus rotundatus, Vitrea sp.	X	-	-	-	-	-	
4	1037	1036	Pit fill	-	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	X	Cochlicopa sp., Trichia hispida group	X	-	-	-	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)
9	1086	1023	Pit fill	10th-12th C	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
10	1079	1023	Pit fill	10th-12th C	20	20	100%	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	
11	1077	1076	Pit fill	10th-12th C	10	10	100%	X	-	HB (1), Oat (1)	X	2	XXX	Quercus sp., Diffuse porous	X	Carychium sp.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	1081	1080	Posthole fill	10th-12th C	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	Trichia hispida group	XX	-	-	-	-	-	

13	1084	1082	Pit fill	10th-12th C	10	10	100%	X	-	FTW (2)	X	cf. <i>Malus</i> sp. (1), <i>Montia fontana</i> (1), <i>Galium</i> sp. (1), Small Fabaceae (1), <i>Anthemis cotula</i> (1), cf. <i>Valerianella dentata</i> (1), cf. <i>Milium effusum</i> (1), Small Poaceae (1)	-	X	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	X	<i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	Indet. Carb (XX), Fuel ash slag (X)
14	1083	1082	Pit fill	10th-12th C	20	20	100%	X	-	Oat (1), NFI (2)	X	<i>Vicia faba</i> (1), Large Fabaceae (1), <i>Malus</i> cf. <i>domestica</i> (3)	-	XXX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	XX	<i>Helicella</i> <i>itala</i> , <i>Trichia</i> <i>hispidata</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	X	X	-	-	-	Indet. Carb (X)
15	1090	1089	Pit fill	-	20	10	50%	X	-	FTW (5), Trit (3), NFI (2)	X	<i>Galium</i> sp. (1), Small Poaceae (1)	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	X	<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)

Table 6: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain)

## DISCUSSION

Based on previous findings in the vicinity, the Chapelfields site had greatest potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. A single Romano-British find spot – a cremation burial (HHER 1755) – is also recorded nearby. In the event, however, only a single phase of activity was encountered, dating to the late Anglo-Saxon/ early medieval period (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD). The Phase 1 evidence comprised four pits (F1023, F1024, F1080 and F1082), which formed part of a larger, clustered/ intercutting complex of features (Fig. 3). Several of these, including the dated pits, contained fills of redeposited burnt (charcoal-rich) material, suggesting backfilling with hearth waste or similar. It is likely, based on this uniformity of fills, that the clustered features were all broadly contemporary. Their primary functions were, however, more difficult to determine, especially since most lacked artefacts. Although the deliberate cutting of pits for the disposal of ash, spent charcoal and similar cannot be ruled out, the largest feature encountered, Pit F1023, may have originally formed part of a putative structure.

The base of rectangular Pit F1023 was cut by four postholes (F1049, F1051, F1099 and F1101) which conformed to a roughly square layout within the excavated part of this feature; the north-western extent of F1023 was truncated by the line of a modern sewer (Fig. 3). It is possible that the postholes housed timber uprights associated with a pen or small shelter. It is not thought, however, that these features represented an Anglo-Saxon sunken featured building (SFB); the exposed part of F1023 measured just c. 4.5m<sup>2</sup>. Three small Saxo-Norman structures excavated at Beckenham, Kent were also considered atypical of SFBs (Harward *et al.* 2003). These comprised, shallow sub-circular pits, each with paired postholes cut into their base (*ibid.* 172-3). Unlike the current site, however, Structure 1 at Beckenham also included numerous stakeholes. It was suggested that the Beckenham pits may have been 'roofed storage features' (*ibid.* 176-7) and a similar interpretation seems reasonable for the Chapelfields structure.

Irrespective of primary function, the clustered pits at Chapelfields had largely been utilised for the disposal of burnt, charcoal-rich material; some of the smaller features containing one or two fills (e.g. Pit F1011) may have been excavated for this purpose. Regional examples of burnt material within cut features are known from various sites including The Old Bell, Marham (Newton 2012, 343). The primary fill of Saxo-Norman Pit F2045 at this site comprised a bed of large burnt flints within an ash/ charcoal matrix. Although *in situ* burning as part of an 'industrial process' was suggested, the surrounding substrate showed no signs of heat exposure and it remains possible that the fill was redeposited (*ibid.*). A fragment of weathered hearth bottom was also found within a 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century AD pit at Football Close, Baldock although little additional burnt material was present in this case (Nicholson with Peachey 2008).

The majority of charcoal examined from the current site was oak (*Quercus* sp.), suggesting that this species had been specifically selected as a fuelwood (see Summers, above). The process for which this fuel was required remains obscure, however. Like Marham (Newton 2012, 343), the tips may have derived from an industrial process of unknown character, although a domestic source such as a hearth or bread oven is equally possible. The environmental remains from the site,

although few, were indicative of domestic occupation (see Summers, above), while the faunal assemblage contained identifiable fragments of domestic species, including pig and cattle (see Cussans, above). Bone from Pit F1023 also included calcined skull fragments from a large (cattle or horse sized) mammal (*ibid.*). It is possible, however, that the burnt material derived from multiple sources, perhaps repeatedly cleaned out over an extended period.

A modest assemblage of probable Roman tegula roof tile was recovered from the fills of clustered Pits F1023, F1024, F1082 and F1089. Although largely undiagnostic, the generally uniform thickness of the fragments (c. 25mm) suggests a Roman date, while their abraded and fragmented state – apparently as a result of repeated heating – suggests possible reuse in the plates or superstructure of a Saxo-Norman oven or hearth. Several of the clustered features contained dumps of redeposited burnt material from the cleaning out of domestic/ industrial features, and it is conceivable that reused Roman CBM was introduced in the same way. The reuse of Roman tiles in early medieval hearths, for example, is a common occurrence and has been noted at various sites including Flixborough in Lincolnshire and West Stow in north-west Suffolk (Wastling 2009; West 1985).

Other early finds from the site comprise a small quantity of residual prehistoric (early Bronze Age or late Iron Age) pottery, attesting to at least a low level of early settlement activity somewhere in the immediate vicinity. Such evidence is in keeping with the site's favorable location on the light, fertile soils of the Lea valley (an attractive settlement landscape close to a navigable waterway).

## CONCLUSIONS

The Phase 1 evidence from Chapelfields makes a useful contribution to our understanding of the early development of Stanstead Abbots. A possible Anglo-Saxon origin for the modern village (HHER 2645) is upheld. Although the datable Phase 1 pottery assemblage is consistently Saxo-Norman in date, large Pit F1023 and its associated postholes may have performed a different (possibly structural) function prior to subsequent infilling with redeposited domestic or industrial waste. Although not typical of an SFB, F1023 may have represented the footprint of a covered store or similar, the use of which could have predated the pottery from its fills. Residual prehistoric pottery and reused Roman CBM from the site also attests earlier settlement activity in this part of the Lee Valley, evidence for which has been previously lacking.

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## APPENDIX 1            CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other
1024	1026	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(2) 11g	6	177	
1023	1070	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(3) 18g	468	15	Burnt Flint - 123g Calcined Bone - 7g
			EBA/ LIA	(3) 68g			
	1073	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(1) 2g			
	1075	Pit fill					20
	1077	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(3) 10g			
			EBA/ LIA	(1) 22g			
	1078	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(4) 7g		138	Snail Shell - 8g
1080	1081	Posthole fill	10th-12th C	(2) 2g			
1082	1083	Pit fill	EBA/ LIA	(1) 15g	553		Burnt Flint - 4g
	1084	Pit fill	10th-12th C	(1) 8g			
1089	1090	Pit fill			26	19	Snail Shell - 6g



## APPENDIX 2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DATA

The following sites lie within a 350m radius of the site (HHER request No. 268/13).

HHER	NGR (TL)	Description
<b>Prehistoric</b>		
15230	38655 12031	An evaluation trench on the edge of the river Lea flood plain, on the west side of Cappell Lane, uncovered a stratigraphic sequence of layers of alluvium overlying peat which sealed the natural river gravels. Pollen analysis and radiocarbon sampling date the formation of the peat to the late Mesolithic
<b>Romano-British</b>		
1755	387 121	A cremation burial found in 1971 on 'a new housing estate behind Stanstead Abbots church', comprised a small pit containing 'calcined bones, charcoal, several nails and fragments of a burnt colour-coated beaker
<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>		
2645	3882 1199	Village and parish of Stanstead Abbots lining a causeway across the flood plain of the river Lea
<b>Medieval</b>		
5810	3864 1185	Stanstead Mill is a 1865 steam mill on the site of a watermill which may have had medieval origins
10278	38622 11929	The Red Lion Inn is a late medieval open hall house with crosswings, the open hall replaced later and the house converted into an inn
10284	3860 1192	No. 3 High Street is a jettied, timber-framed and roughcast structure of at least 16th century date (and may be earlier) on a narrow, angled town site
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
6047	3852 1188	No.14 High Street is shown on the 1880 OS map <1> as two properties on the south side of the High Street. Behind were outbuildings shared with the property to the east, in comparatively short plots backing onto an orchard
10222	3861 1190	The first reference to the Black Bull was in 1756, when it had two beds and stabling for six horses
10228	3866 1192	The Clock School, free grammar school founded in 1635; a private house since 1913
10231	3868 1215	The Church of St Andrew was built by T F Buxton of Easneye manor to a design by Alfred Waterhouse and was consecrated in 1881
10271	3858 1183	Post-medieval maltings behind Nos. 6 – 14c High Street demolished in the late 19th century
10273	3856 1182	Post-medieval maltings behind Nos. 8 – 14c High Street demolished in the late 19th century
10274	3865 1182	Early 19th century maltings on Roydon Road demolished between 1921 and 1938
10281	3869 1202	Countess of Huntingdon's Connection chapel, built in 1809
12020	38490 12335	A substantial stone-floored structure, probably of industrial (perhaps brewing or malting) or agricultural origin, discovered in the rear garden of No. 90 Cappell Lane
13418	38542 11930	A brick-built drain, possibly 16th century in date, seen beneath 'The Cottage' at the rear of Stanstead Hall [18493] (Stanstead House, 15 High Street) in 1991
15995	38765 12291	Hill House dates to c.1800, a two-storey and attics house with double pile plan in yellow brick with stucco features, and a slate roof behind parapets
17459	38530 11905	No. 21 High Street is a 17th century house with 18th century rear range
18493	38560 11923	Stanstead Hall is a tall square house with three storeys and basement, dated by rainwater heads inscribed 'MP 1752'
18761	38645 12055	Farmstead on Cappell Lane demolished in the mid 19th century
30278	3859 1236	Warrax House is a possibly early 19th century house, now divided into separate properties

## APPENDIX 3            CONTEXT RECORD (ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING)

**07/06/2014**

*Project Officer: Gareth Barlow*

Context No.	Description	
2000	Topsoil:	Friable, dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional, small to medium rounded flint
2001	Made ground:	Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional, small to medium sub-angular and angular chalk, and sub-angular and sub-rounded flint
2002	Made ground:	Firm, mid brown grey clay sand with moderate, small angular and rounded flint
2003	Made ground:	Firm, dark brown grey silty sand with occasional, small to medium rounded flint
2004	Natural:	Firm, light orange brown silty sand with occasional, small to medium angular and rounded flint
2005	Tarmac:	-
2006	Hardcore:	Compact, crushed yellow/ grey concrete
2007	Concrete:	-
2008	Tarmac:	-
2009	Concrete:	-
2010	Made ground:	Friable, mid brown/ orange coarse sand with moderate to frequent, small to medium rounded flint
2011	Possible buried soil:	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand with moderate, small to medium rounded flint

**07/07/2014**

*Project Officer: James Fairclough*

Context No.	Description	
3000	Made ground:	Firm, mid orange/ yellow brown silty sand with moderate, small angular and sub-rounded flint
3001	Made ground:	Firm, mid green grey sand
3002	Made ground:	Firm, mid brown grey silty sand with frequent chalk and occasional, small angular flint
3003	Redeposited chalk:	Friable, light grey/ white silty chalk with occasional, small angular flint
3004	Natural:	Compact, mid green grey/ orange brown sand (some clay in places)

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b> Stanstead Abbots	<b>Parish:</b> Stanstead Abbots
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/1360/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Bugler Developments Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Redevelopment: construction of six flats, on-site parking and landscaped amenity space
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garages and car parking
<b>Size of application area:</b> 0.13ha	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 0.13ha
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 3873 1212
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1678
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological 'Strip, Map and Sample' Investigation/ Monitoring and Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	09/04/2014-17/04/2014; 17/06/2014; 17/07/2014
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford Museum
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Early Bronze Age/ late Iron Age and late Anglo-Saxon/ early medieval
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation at the Garage Site, Chapelfields, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR TL 3873 1212). This was followed by a supplemental programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, also conducted by AS (dated 17/06/2014 and 17/07/2014).</i></p> <p><i>The project encountered a large cluster of (mostly) intercutting pits and postholes. Several of the features forming this cluster contained dumps of redeposited burnt material/ charcoal-rich middens. Postholes cut into the base of the largest pit suggested the presence of an earlier, timber structure. Four pits yielded late Anglo-Saxon to early medieval (10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD) pottery. Five sherds of residual prehistoric (early Bronze Age or late Iron Age) pottery were also found.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Antony R.R. Mustchin	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2014

## PLATES



*Plate 1: Lower site area (during stripping), looking NNE*



*Plate 2: Upper site area (pre-excavation), looking WNW*



*Plate 3: Clustered features (pre-excavation), looking SSE*



*Plate 4: Pit F1023 (foreground/ left; pre-excavation), looking NNW*



*Plate 5: Pit F1023 (mid-excavation), looking NNW*



*Plate 6: Pit F1023 (post-excavation), looking WNW*



*Plate 7: Pit F1024 (mid-excavation), looking NNW*



*Plate 8: Pit F1080 (post-excavation), looking NE*





*Plate 9: Pit F1082 (post-excavation), looking S*



*Plate 10: Pit F1011 (post-excavation), looking S*

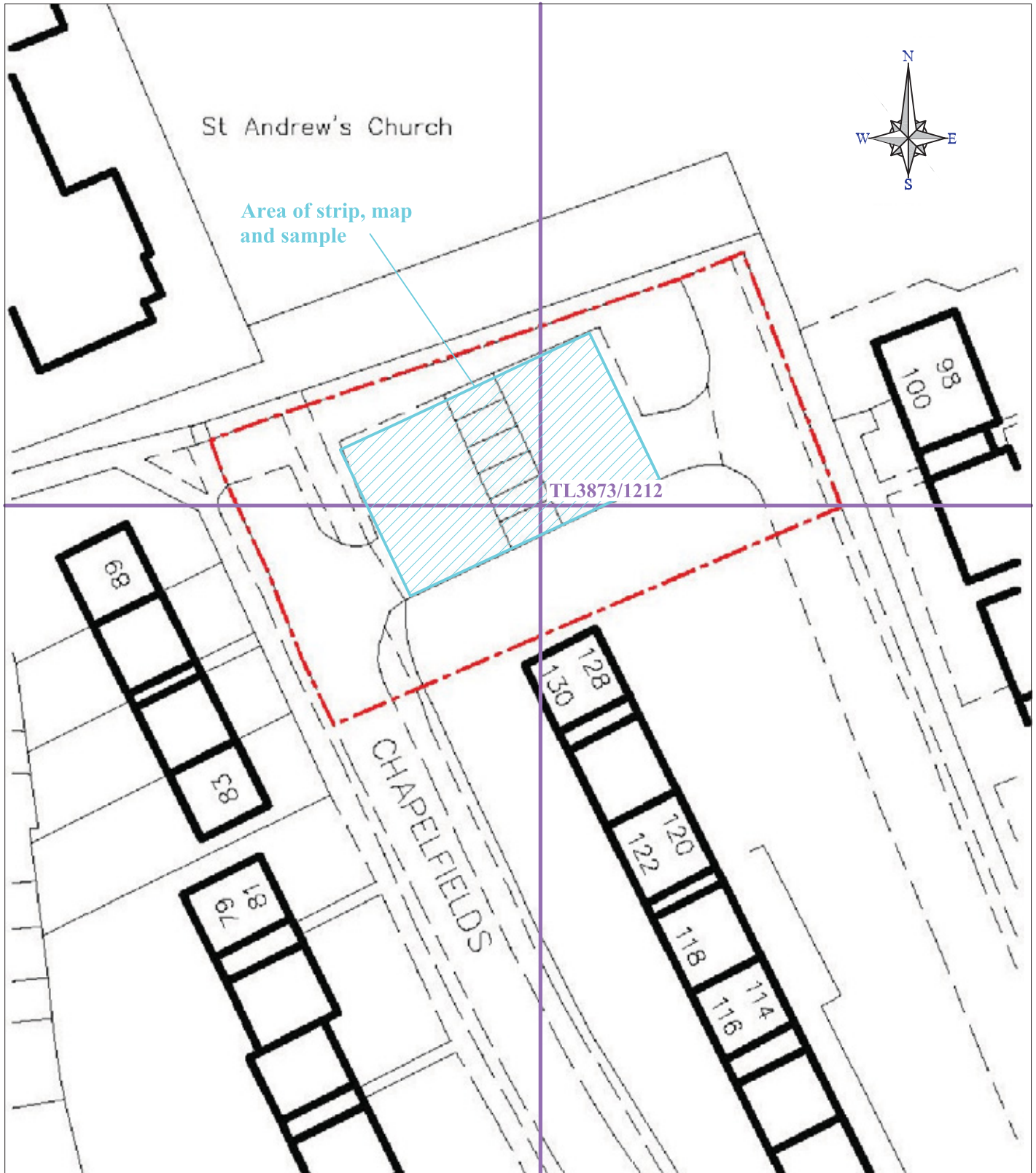


*Plate 11: Pit F1006 (post-excavation), looking NNW*



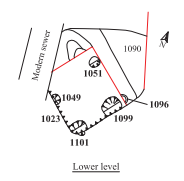
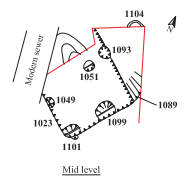
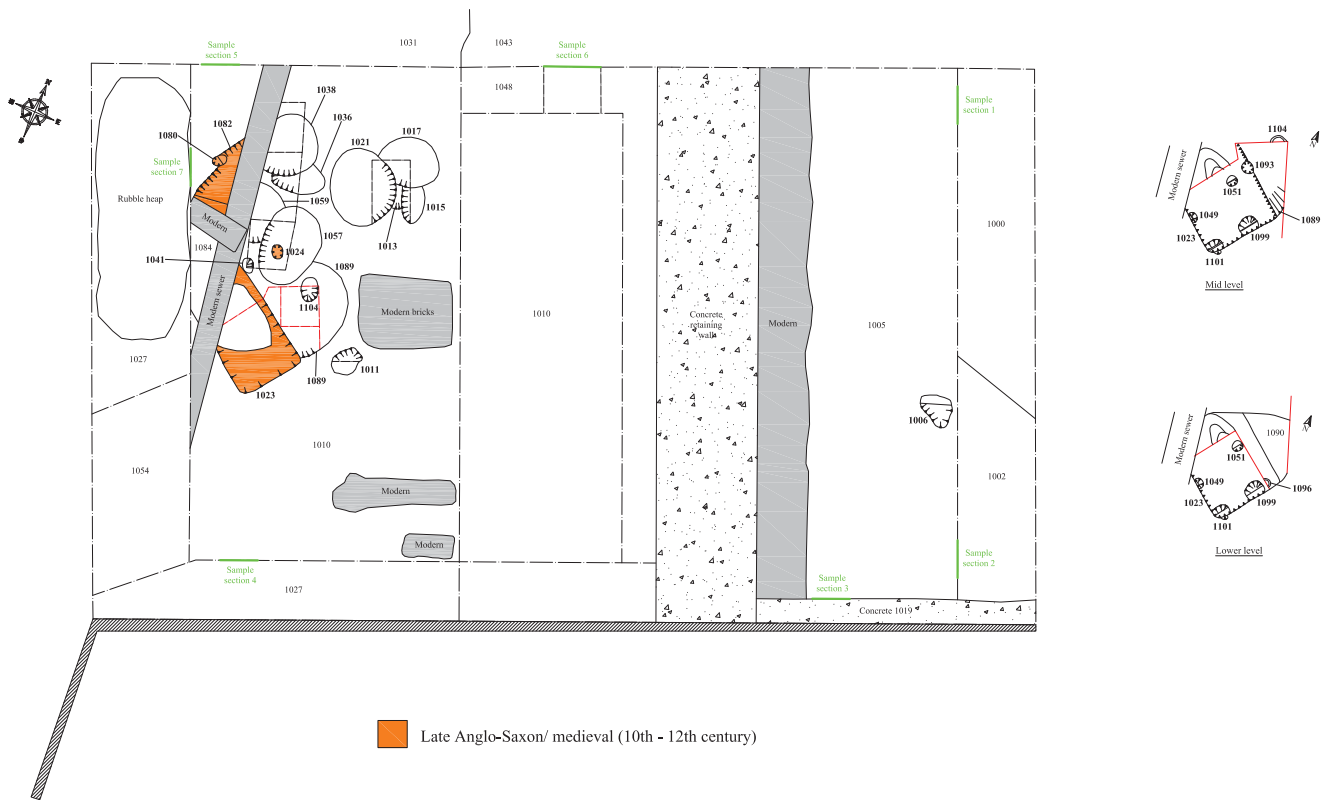
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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

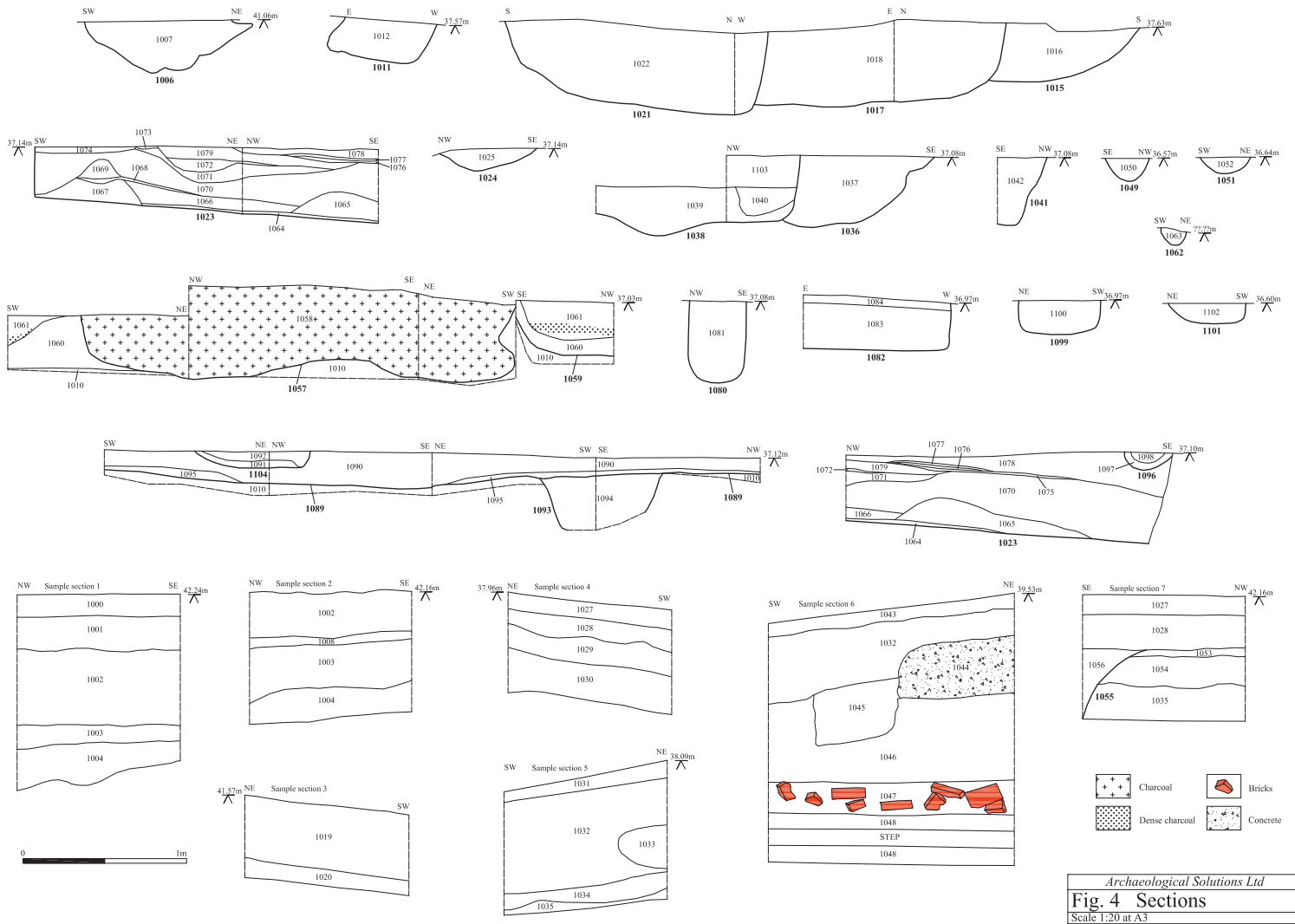


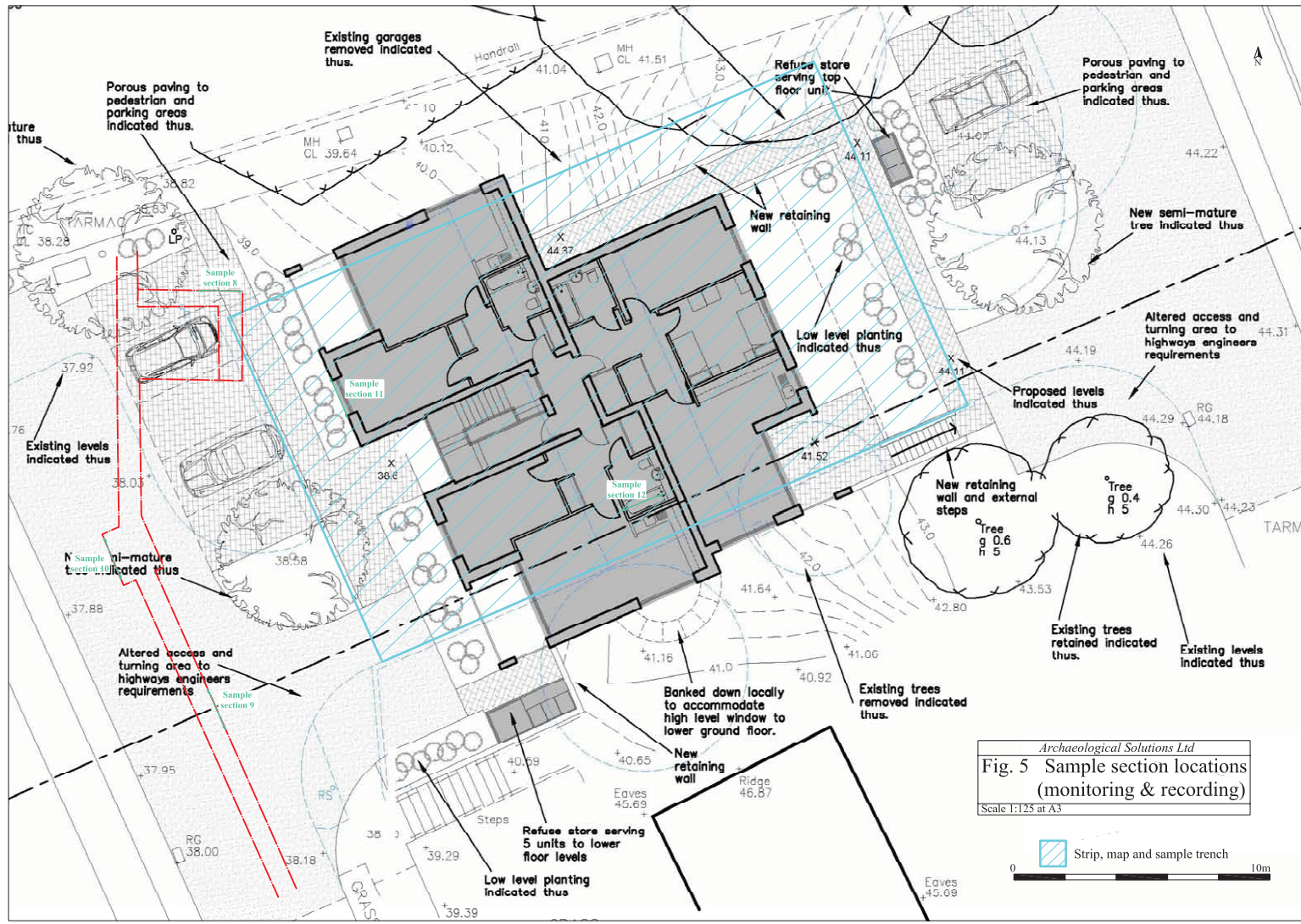
0 25m

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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4

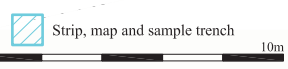


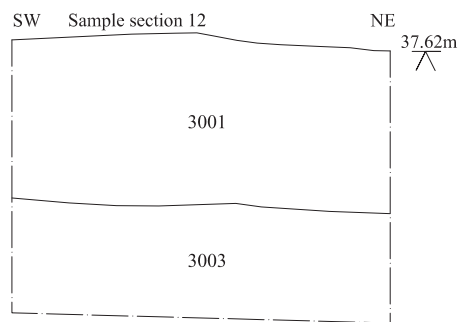
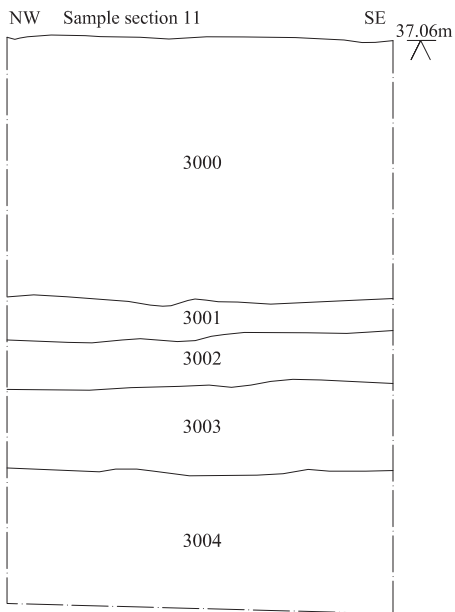
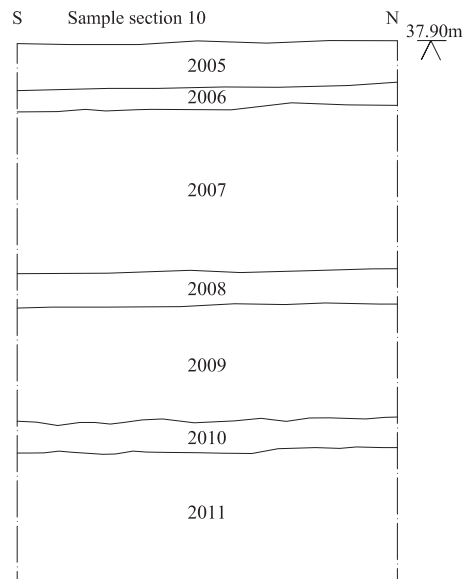
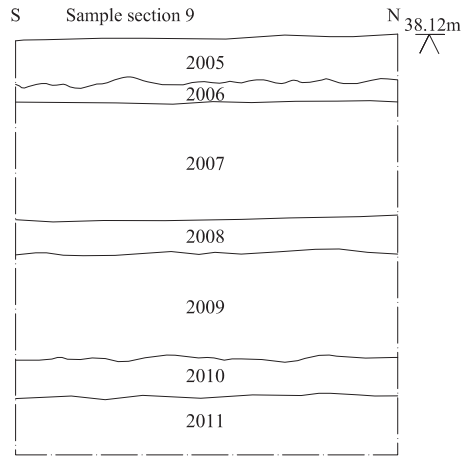
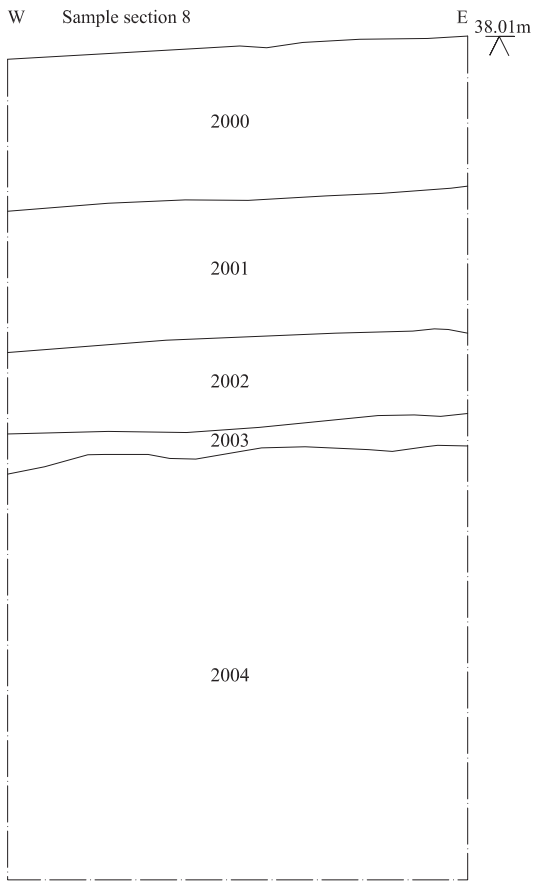
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**Fig. 3 Trench plan**  
 Scale 1:100 at A3





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**Fig. 5 Sample section locations (monitoring & recording)**  
 Scale 1:125 at A3





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**Fig. 6 Sections (monitoring & recording)**

Scale 1:20 at A4