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**9 LONDON ROAD, GREAT CHESTERFORD,
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & Report) Peter Thompson (Archaeological Background)	
NGR: TL 50536 42512	Report No: 4926
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: GC59
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No: P5881
Signed:	Date: August 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	9 London Road, Great Chesterfield, Essex		
<p><i>In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to demolish the existing building and construct two replacement dwellings (Planning Ref. UTT/14/1341), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the area of the Roman cemetery lining London road (EHER 4948, 4949) associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. A second walled enclosure was noted to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. It is thought to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD. Trial trenching at 5 London Road to the north has identified a possible Roman quarry (EHER 47068). An archaeological watching brief for an extension to the house immediately to the north-west of Number 9, proved negative (EHER 45213).</i></p> <p><i>In the event Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained Ditches F1003 and F1008, and Flue F1005. The features contained Roman (generally early 2nd - 4th century) pottery, some CBM, animal bone and iron fragments. Residual prehistoric sparse struck flint was found, and also a residual prehistoric sherd of possible Bronze Age / Iron Age date was found within Roman Ditch F1003.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	August 2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P5789	Site code	GC 59
Type of project	An archaeological evaluation		
Site status			
Current land use	Dwelling and associated land plot/garden		
Planned development	Two replacement dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	Two ditches, flue		
Significant finds(+dates)	Sparse residual prehistoric struck flint and pottery, Roman assemblages		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Uttlesford	Great Chesterford
HER/ SMR for area	Essex HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	Approx. 700m ²		
NGR	TL 50536 42512		
Height AOD (max/ min)	Approximately 38m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council HEA		
Project Supervisor	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	JMJ Construction		
Full title	9 London Road, Great Chesterfield, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	4926		
Date (of report)	August 2015		

9 LONDON ROAD, GREAT CHESTERFORD, ESSEX
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to demolish the existing building and construct two replacement dwellings (Planning Ref. UTT/14/1341), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).

The site lies within the area of the Roman cemetery lining London road (EHER 4948, 4949) associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. A second walled enclosure was noted to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. It is thought to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD. Trial trenching at 5 London Road to the north has identified a possible Roman quarry (EHER 47068). An archaeological watching brief for an extension to the house immediately to the north-west of Number 9, proved negative (EHER 45213).

In the event Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained Ditches F1003 and F1008, and Flue F1005. The features contained Roman (generally early 2nd - 4th century) pottery, some CBM, animal bone and iron fragments. Residual prehistoric sparse struck flint was found, and also a residual prehistoric sherd of possible Bronze Age / Iron Age date was found within Roman Ditch F1003.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (NGR TL 50536 42512; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct a replacement dwelling and an additional new dwelling to the rear of the site, following demolition of the existing one (Planning Ref. UTT/14/1341), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).

- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by ECC HEA *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Trenching and Excavation at 9 London Road, Great Chesterford*, dated 23rd July 2014), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 5th August 2015), and approved by ECC HEA. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to investigate the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

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 and 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 Figs.1 & 2

2.1 The site is located on the south-western side of London Road, in the south-western part of Great Chesterford. It comprises a bungalow on the street frontage with garden plot to the rear. It is proposed to demolish the existing bungalow, and replace it with a new dwelling and a second newly constructed dwelling to the rear. The evaluation is required in the areas of the proposed new build dwelling and new drive in the rear of the plot.

3 TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Great Chesterford is located on the north-west boundary between Essex and Cambridgeshire and is 15km south of Cambridge. It lies on well-drained terraces above the River Cam at 37m AOD, and is flanked by chalk hills rising to 90m AOD, with the site located at approximately 38-9m AOD (Great Chesterford Urban Survey 1999).

3.2 The soils of the valley slope are well drained coarse and fine loamy soils with similar shallow calcareous coarse loamy soils over chalk, or chalk rubble in places. On the valley floor peat is present in places caused by flooding. The solid geology comprises Cretaceous Middle Chalk.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 There is quite abundant evidence for prehistoric activity from the Mesolithic onwards within the environs of the town. In particular a Bronze Age barrow is located on the site of the later Roman town as is evidence for Late Iron Age settlement (Great Chesterford Urban Survey 1999). Two prehistoric worked flints were found during removal of topsoil 65m south-east of No. 9 London Road (EHER 13929).

4.2 An early Roman settlement was built just to the north of the modern town of Great Chesterford shortly after the Conquest. A fort was built c. AD 60, possibly in response to the Boudiccan rebellion, and abandoned around the end of the century. The settlement expanded into the area of the abandoned fort, and during the second century reached urban status. It went through a period of decline during the third century before expanding again in the fourth century, culminating in the building of the town walls, making it one of only two walled towns in Essex, the other being Colchester. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 24871).

4.3 The extent of the urban area of Roman Great Chesterford has been well characterised and the locations of five cemeteries and a Roman temple have been identified around its outer margins, along with ribbon development along the main roads, some of it industrial in

nature (www.unlocking-essex.essexcc.gov.uk). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. Antiquarian observations in the 18th century noted a second walled enclosure to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. The enclosure is believed to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD.

4.4 In 1823 several Roman vases were found close to the location of the later railway. In 1934 gravel extraction in the same area found remains of a Roman cemetery containing skeletons and urns. In 1971 more bones were found in the area, and a Roman building is also reported. These finds are given a central grid reference 90m west of No. 9, and are within its assigned polygon that includes No. 9 (EHER 4948). However, an archaeological watching brief for an extension to the house immediately to the north-west of Number 9, found no archaeological remains to be present (EHER 45213). Several skeletons (undated but probably Roman), are also recorded during gravel digging at a central grid reference of 180m east of No. 9, in an area to the rear (north) of houses fronting London Road (EHER 4949). An archaeological evaluation in the area of another putative Roman cemetery centred on Ash Green 225m south-east of No. 9, found no archaeological remains (EHER 13973).

4.5 There was a large settled Anglo-Saxon population at Great Chesterford from the end of the Roman period until at least the 7th century, indicated by evidence from burials. The location of the settlement itself is uncertain, but it may have been the one identified at Hinxton Hall, Cambridgeshire. In the later Saxon period the settlement was probably on the same site as the later medieval (and current) town (www.unlocking-essex.essexcc.gov.uk). A metal pin dated to the Middle Saxon period was found in the same area as the Roman cemetery to the west of No. 9 (EHER 51196).

4.6 Great Chesterford was reasonably prosperous during the medieval period, largely due to the cloth trade. It was also a royal manor. The layout of the tofts within the town, and on its outskirts, are also Midlands in style, with the main dwelling set back from the road. The post-medieval period was a time of decline for Great Chesterford, mainly because of the collapse of the cloth trade. However there was some trade from passing traffic due to the road link with Newmarket and Cambridge, and to the London-Cambridge railway (EHER 40893). The main railway station building was built in the mid 19th century by Francis Thompson (EHER 25374). Great Chesterford is now largely a commuter village for Cambridge.

4.7 Trial trenching at 5 London Road to the north has identified evidence of quarrying which potentially could date to the Roman period, but is probably later (EHER 47068). Only a preponderance of modern finds were present suggesting that the quarry was not fully backfilled

until the 20th century. The absence of prehistoric to medieval finds suggests that either they were all completely quarried out, or that there was no settlement in this area during those periods. Cropmarks of a rectilinear system of paddock enclosures and a trackway have been identified from aerial photographs in an area that reaches to within 220m east of No. 9 (EHER 4866).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trial trenches up to 10m x 1.60m were excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig.3).

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

A DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> <i>0.00m = 100.41m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark – mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint
0.32m +	L1002	Natural. Firm, pale mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional small – medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> <i>0.00m = 100.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.27 - 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small – medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint.
0.35m	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 4)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> 0.00m = 100.28m AOD		
0.00m–0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.32m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> 0.00m = 100.23 AOD		
0.00m–0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.28 - 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.35m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Ditches F1003 and F1008, and ?Flue F1005.

Ditch F1003 was linear (7.00+ x 0.40+ x 0.09m), orientated E/W. It had moderately steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, mid orange grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained Roman pottery (23; 275g), struck flint (3; 20g), burnt flint (1; 31g) and iron fragments (5; 100g). F1003 was cut by F1005 and it was difficult to distinguish the relationship between F1003 and F1008.

Ditch F1008 was linear (4.00+ x 1.25+ x 0.57m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1009, was a mixed very pale yellow brown and mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub angular flint. It contained no finds. Its upper fill, L1010, was a pale mid orange brown, firm, sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained Roman (early 2nd - 4th century) pottery (10; 143g), CBM (698g), animal bone (100g), daub (22g), glass (1g), fired clay (169g) and iron fragments (3; 26g).

?Flue F1005 was linear (1.80+ x 0.50+ x 0.09-0.42m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its basal fill, L1006, was a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained ?Early Iron Age pottery (10; 38g) and an iron fragment (1; 3g). Its upper fill, L1007, was a mottled mid grey brown and mid orange brown, firm, sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint. It contained Roman pottery (1; 4g) and struck flint (1; 5g). F1005 cut Ditches F1003 and F1008.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark – mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint (0.27 - 0.30m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small – medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint (0.08m thick).

8.2 L1001 overlay the natural (L1002), a firm, pale mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional small – medium angular, sub angular and sub rounded flint (at a depth below the current ground surface of between 0.32m and 0.35m).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within the area of the Roman cemetery lining London road (EHER 4948, 4949) associated with the contemporary walled town at Great Chesterford which is a Scheduled Monument (SM 24871). The earlier Roman town was associated with a walled enclosure around the church. A second walled enclosure was noted to the south of Newmarket Road, thought to follow the northern churchyard wall. It is thought to be either a military fortification pre-dating the Roman town, or part of the additional defences constructed in the 4th century AD. Trial trenching at 5 London Road to the north has identified a possible Roman quarry (EHER 47068). An archaeological watching brief for an extension to the house immediately to the north-west of Number 9, proved negative (EHER 45213).

9.2 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. Trench 2 contained Ditches F1003 and F1008, and ?Flue F1005. The features contained Roman (generally early 2nd - 4th century) pottery, some CBM, animal bone and iron fragments.

9.3 Ditch F1008 (L1010) contained four fragments (867g) of Roman tegula roof tile in a moderately abraded condition (CBM Report below). Interestingly the specialist notes, 'the flanged fragment appears partially burnt, therefore the tile may have been incorporated into a nearby structure with a hypocaust heating system, or may have been used to construct the flue or superstructure of a hearth, oven or kiln in the vicinity'. F1005 was interpreted on site as a possible flue and this partially burnt tile supports this suggestion. Also the pottery report (below) notes that sherds from F1005 (L1006) were all over-fired, and again this supports the interpretation of F1005 as a flue. Similarly the carbonised material from flue F1005 appeared to represent the mixed remains of fuel debris and possible kiln product, in the form of clean cereal grain (Environmental Report below).

9.4 Residual prehistoric sparse struck flint was found (Struck Flint report below), and also a residual prehistoric sherd of possible Bronze Age / Iron Age date was found within Roman Ditch F1003.

Research Potential

9.5 The identification of Roman archaeology at this location in Great Chesterford is not unexpected and adds to the ever-growing corpus of information regarding Roman settlement in the area. This suggests that further investigation of the site has the potential to yield further information regarding the character and extent of the Roman town here. Towns, their origins, character, organisation, and extent, are identified as an important research subject for the Roman period in the East Anglian region.

9.6 The presence of a single sherd of Iron Age pottery suggest the possibility that there may be some minor precursory Iron Age evidence present at the site, perhaps adding information to the pre-Roman origins of the settlement.

9.7 The identification of a flue, which may be associated with an oven or furnace, an interpretation supported by the finds evidence recovered from the site, indicates a potential for evidence relating to Roman industrial practices to be present. Medlycott (2011, 48) identifies Roman industry as an important research subject for the East Anglian region.

10 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank JMJ Construction for funding the evaluation, in particular Mrs Helene Butcher for assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team, and staff of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record.

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WEB SITES

(www.unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk) Unlocking Essex's Past – Great Chesterford

APPENDIX 1

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

GC59, P5881, 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1003	1004	FS1 FS2 FS3 A	2	Fill of Ditch	2nd-4th C AD	6	38					
					Late 3rd-4th C AD	4	170			Fe.Frag	1	25
					2nd C AD	8	32			Fe.Frag	1	71
									O.Shell		7	
				Str.Flint		3	20					
		B		Late 1st-Mid 2nd C AD	5	35			B.Flint	1	31	
									Fe.Frag	3	4	
1005	1006		2	Basal Fill of Flue	Roman	10	38			Fe.Frag	1	3
	1007		2	Upper Fill of Flue	Roman	1	4			Str.Flint	1	5
1008	1010		2	Upper Fill of Ditch	Early 2nd-4th C AD	37	625	409	100	Mortar Glass Fe.Frag	1 1 3	22 1 26

APPENDIX 2

SPECIALIST REPORT

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of four debitage flakes of struck flint (25g) as residual material contained in Roman Ditch F1003 and Flue F1005. The flakes comprise a good quality very dark grey raw flint with a smooth white cortex, suggesting the raw material was sourced from local riverine deposits. All the flakes exhibit a fairly regular sub-rectangular profile, preserve a small area of extant cortex (tertiary flakes), and exhibit a pronounced bulb of percussion typical of flakes removed with a hard hammer. These characteristics are most consistent with core reduction techniques employed in the later Neolithic to early Bronze Age, but the regularity of the flakes and the precision of their manufacture (core preparation) suggests a date earlier in the Neolithic should not be discounted.

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 71 sherds (942g) of pottery, almost entirely moderately abraded Roman sherds, but also including a single highly fragmented prehistoric sherd (Table 2). The prehistoric sherd is non-diagnostic but the fabric type is most consistent with the early Iron Age in the region; while the Roman pottery is largely comprised of locally-sourced coarse wares of mixed date, ranging from the late 1st to 4th centuries AD, probably associated with activity associated around the south-western extramural settlement and cemetery, associated with the town to the north

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification, and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Where possible fabric and form types have been cross-referenced with the type-series for Great Chesterford (Martin 2011), which utilises form types after the type series for Chelmsford (Going 1987). Fabrics are also cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998); and samian ware forms reference Webster (1996). The pottery fabrics are described (Table 1) and quantified (Table 2)

Fabric Code	Chelmsford Fabric*	Fabric Description
<i>Prehistoric</i>		
F1	na	Flint-tempered ware; inclusions of common, well-sorted medium calcined flint (0.5-3mm). Handmade, bonfire-fired; probably early Iron Age
<i>Roman</i>		
LEZ SA2	60	Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 32)
BSW	45	Miscellaneous Black-Surfaced Wares
CBLK	Na	Coarse Black Ware
GRS	47	Sandy Grey Ware
HAG	36	Hadham Grey ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 152: HAD RE1)
GROG	53	Grog-tempered reduced ware (Tomber & Dire 1998, 214)

Table 1: Prehistoric and Roman pottery fabric descriptions

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
<i>Prehistoric</i>			
F1	1	2	0.00
<i>Roman</i>			
LEZ SA2	1	2	0.00
BSW	20	162	0.15
CBLK	2	99	0.00
GRS	24	144	0.05
HAG	5	43	0.00
GROG	17	490	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>0.20</i>

Table 2: Quantification of prehistoric and Roman pottery

Commentary

The prehistoric pottery (F1) comprised a single plain sherd in Ditch F1003 (Seg.A), whose relatively fine flint-tempered fabric is most consistent with early Iron Age pottery in the region, although similar fabrics do occur earlier in the Bronze Age

The Roman pottery was sparsely distributed in Ditches F1003 and F1008, and Flue F1005. Ditch F1003 (L1004) contained sherds in every Roman fabric recorded, notably a BSW bead and flange rim dish (type B6.2) characteristic of a date in the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD; however the ditch also included single sherds of early Roman GROG and 2nd century AD LEZ SA2, suggesting an accumulation or re-deposition of earlier material. The bulk of the group was comprised of locally-produced coarse wares (BSW, GRS & CBLK), including some from the Hadham kilns, Herts. (HAG), which are common in the supply pattern to Great Chesterford (Martin 2011, 305). Ditch F1008 (L1010) contained sherds of all the coarse wares (BSW, GRS, CBLK, HAG and GROG), notably a GRS plain rim 'dog' dish (type B1.3) with a broad production span in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, and thick-bodied GROG sherds from a single storage jar. The pottery from Flue F1005 (L1006)

was of intrinsic interest as the BSW sherds were all over-fired or re-fired spalls that had fractured from their original vessel when it had been heated in the oven/kiln chamber, but it was not possible to identify the vessel. The fabric and form types are all comparable to common types recorded previously at Great Chesterford (Martin 2011), and appear consistent with possible occupation evidence in the London Road area, close to the south-western cemetery of the town (Medlycott 2011, 250: sites 135, 139 & 140)

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The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Ditch F1008 (L1010) contained four fragments (867g) of Roman tegula roof tile in a moderately abraded condition. The tile was manufactured in an orange fabric tempered with common medium sand (<0.5mm), and was approximately 25mm thick, with a single flanged fragment present, as well as coarse sanded bases. The flanged fragment appears partially burnt, therefore the tile may have been incorporated into a nearby structure with a hypocaust heating system, or may have been used to construct the flue or superstructure of a hearth, oven or kiln in the vicinity.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

The evaluation at London Road identified a number of features containing Roman pottery and they (F1003, F1005 and F1008) were bulk sampled for environmental archaeological assessment. This

report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

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 and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

All samples >10 litres were 50% sub-sampled for the assessment, with further processing reliant on the presence of significant archaeobotanical remains (>30 items from an entire sample).

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3.

Only sample 3 of L1006 (basal fill of flue F1005) contained carbonised remains. A number of cereal grains were present in this flue deposit, including hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.), along with a small number of knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) seeds. It is possible that these represent remains of the product associated with the kiln/ flue, which, based on present evidence, appears to have been predominantly a clean barley product. The material was not of a great density and does not appear to represent the remains of an accidental destruction of the kiln/ flue product, rather the likely intermixing of material with the fuel residue (see below).

Also within the sample were a large number of charcoal fragments, which appear to all be of the same diffuse porous type. This is likely to represent fuel residue within the flue.

Contaminants

A large number of modern roots were present in the samples, along with a small number of modern seeds and burrowing molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*). Although the roots could have caused some movement of smaller remains within the stratigraphic profile, the rich deposit L1006

Conclusions and statement of potential

The archaeobotanical remains from the ditch fills showed no association with carbonised plant remains, indicating that they were not a focal point for the deposition of carbonised material. The material from flue F1005 was richer and appears to represent the mixed remains of fuel debris and possible kiln product, in the form of clean cereal grain.

References

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

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2nd edn), Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

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

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Flot (ml)	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains			
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Hazelnut shell	Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
GC59	1	1004A	1003	Fill of Ditch	2nd C AD	20	10	50%	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XXX	X	X	-	-	-	-	
GC59	2	1004B	1003	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st-Mid 2nd C AD	20	10	50%	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	-	X	-	-	X	-	
GC59	3	1006	1005	Basal Fill of Flue	Roman	10	10	100%	160	XX	-	HB (XX), Trit (X), Oat (X)	X	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> (X)	-	XXX	Diffuse porous	XX	<i>H. itala</i> , <i>T. hispida</i> gp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XXX	X	X	-	-	-
GC59	4	1010	1008	Upper Fill of Ditch	Early 2nd-4th C AD	40	20	50%	80	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XXX	X	X	-	-	-	

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from London Road, Great Chesterford. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.).

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F1003C and F1005B in Trench 2 looking north-west



2
F1005A in Trench 2 looking south-west



3
F1008 in Trench 2 looking north-west



4
Sample section 1B in trench 1 looking north-west



5
Sample section 2A in Trench 2 looking south-west



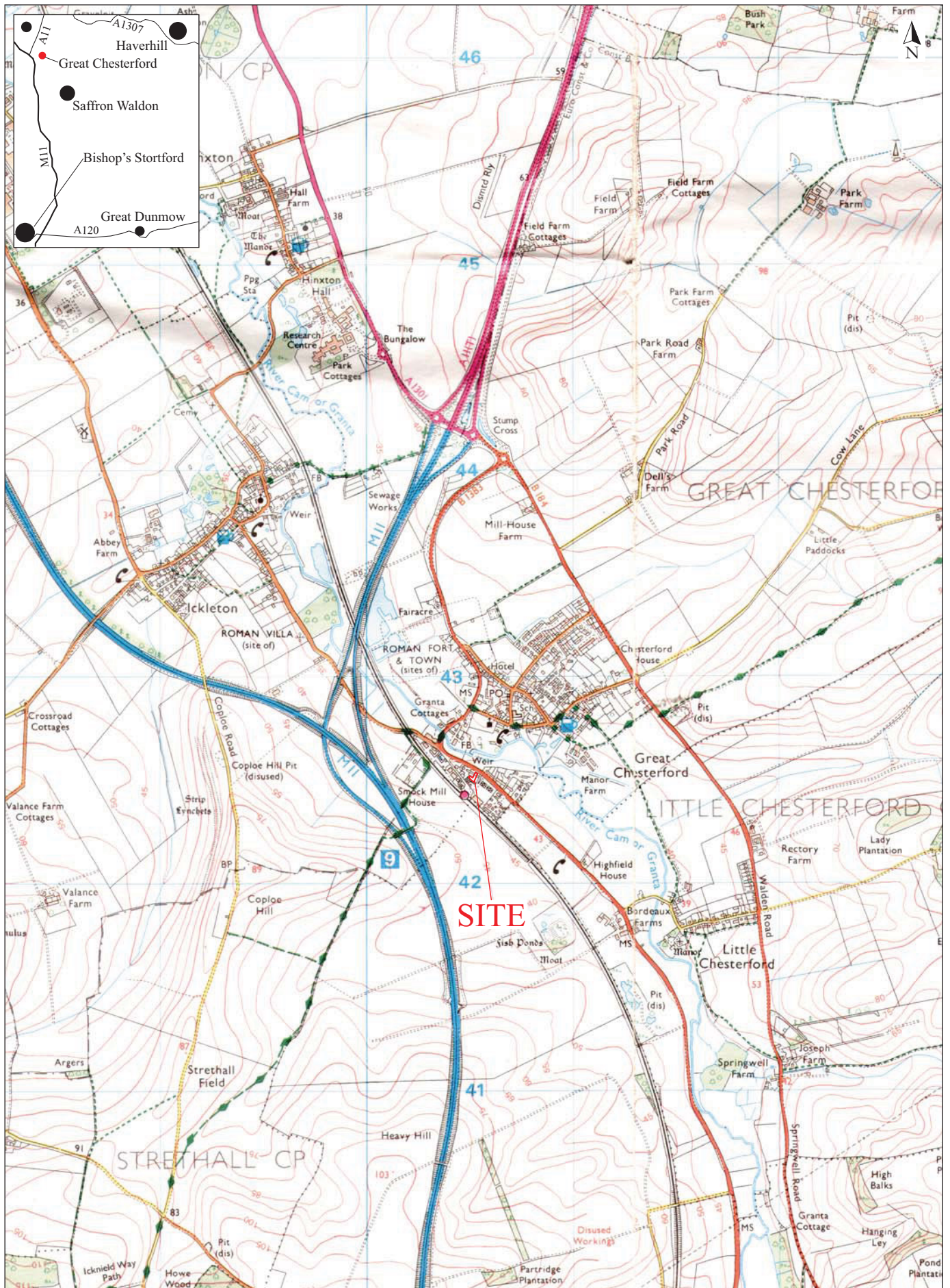
6
Sample section 2B in Trench 2 looking south-west



7
Post-excitation view of Trench 1 looking north-east

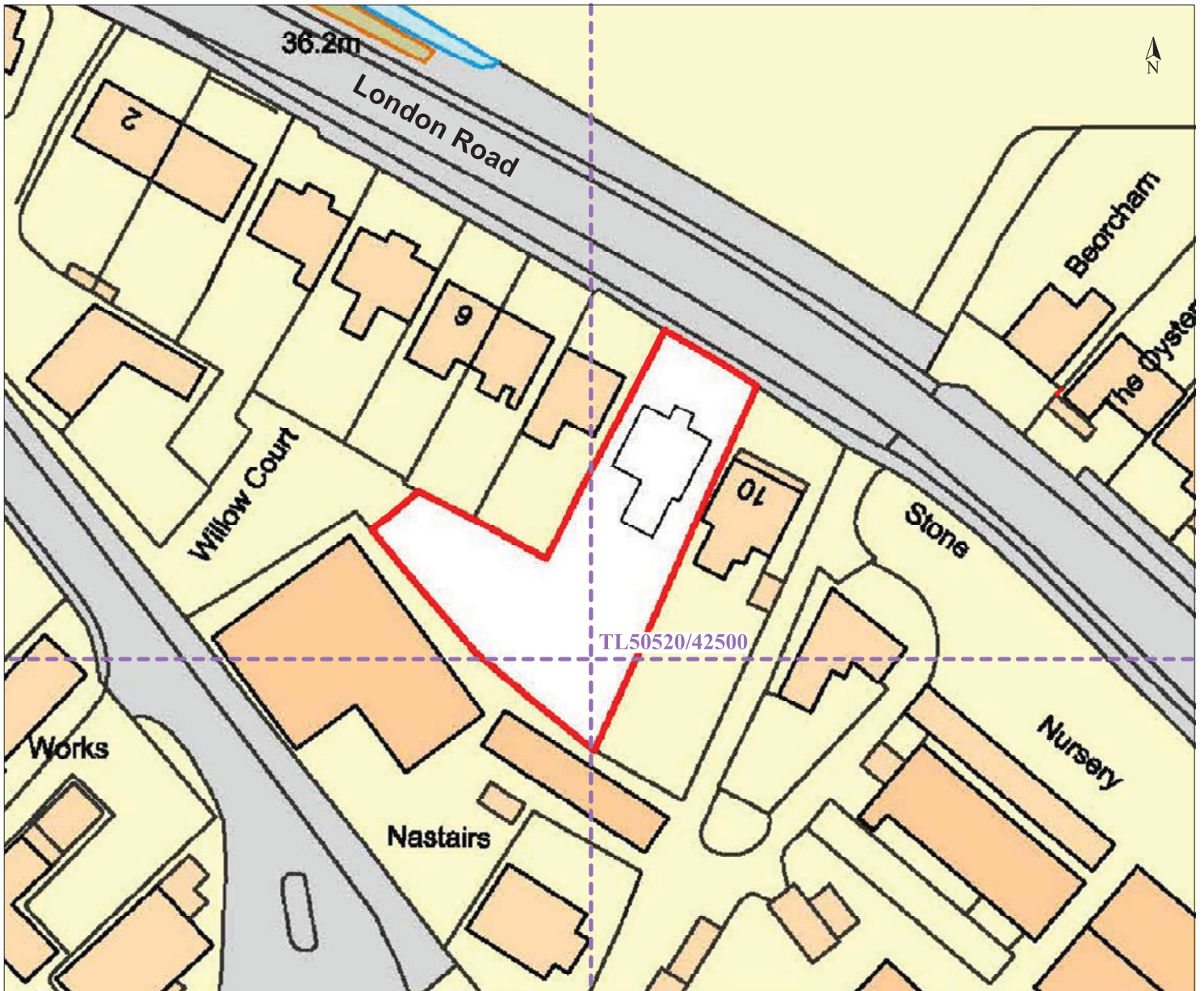


8
Post-excitation view of Trench 2 looking south-east



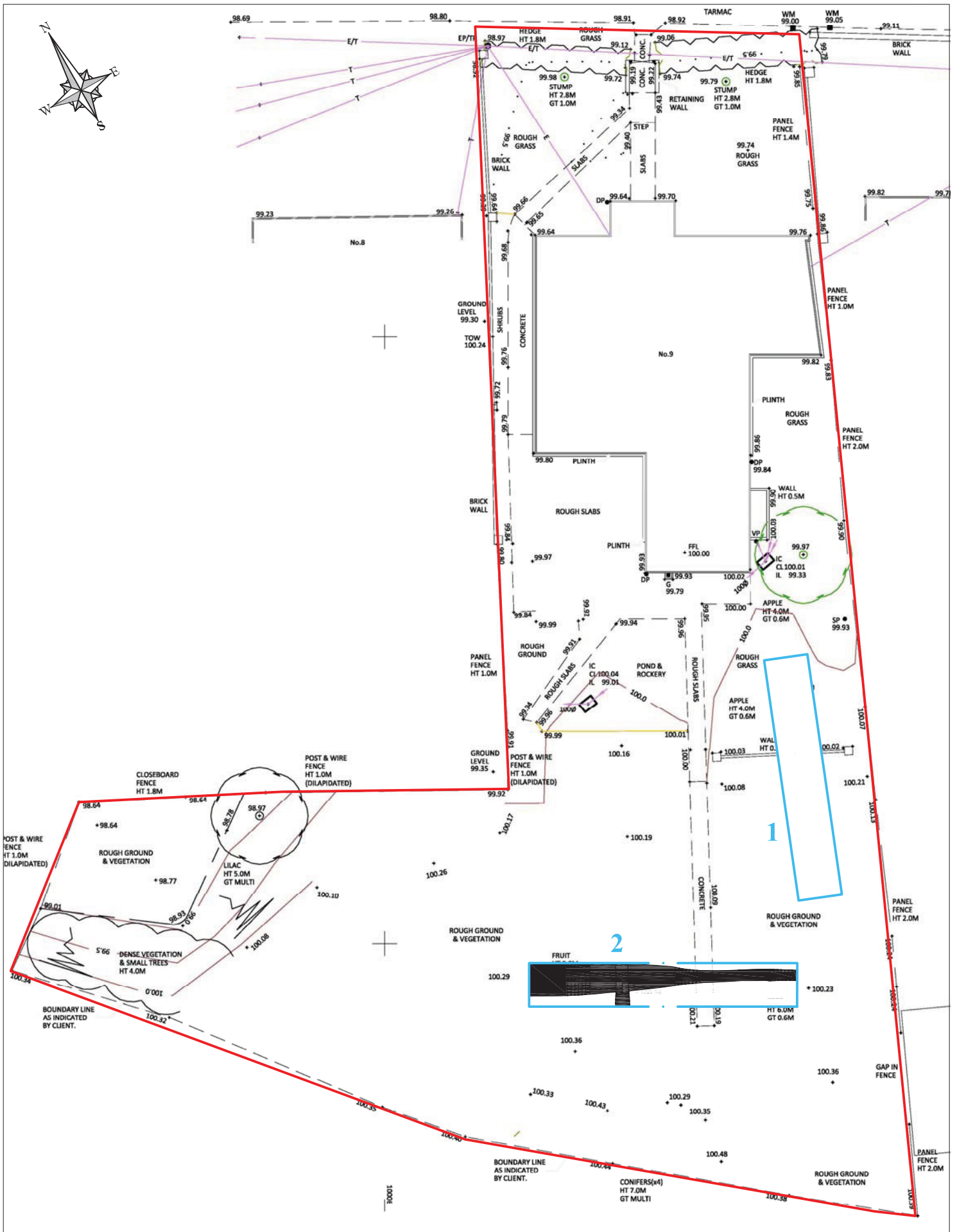
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)



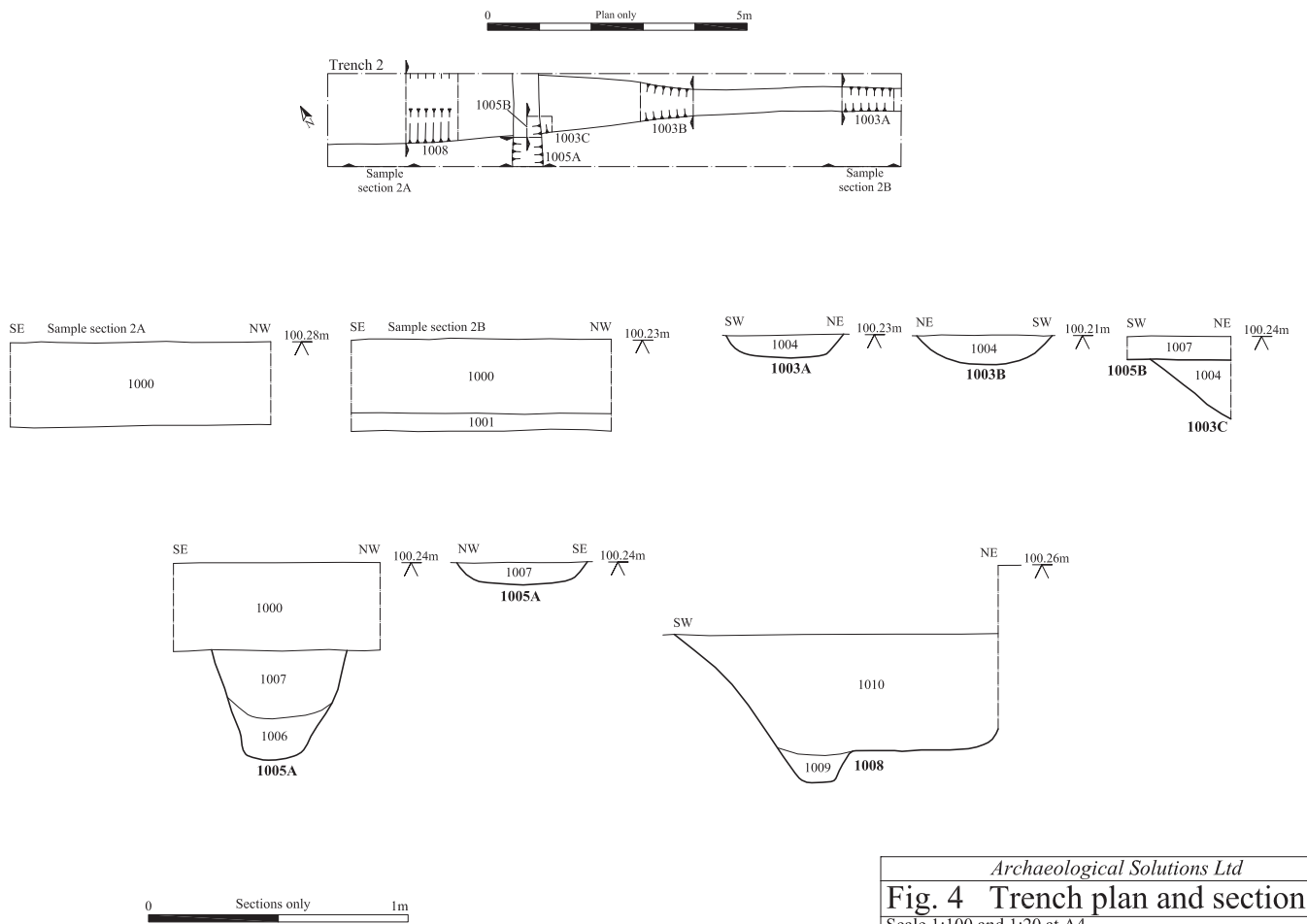
0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4
9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:200 at A4
 9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4
9 London Road, Great Chesterford, Essex (P5881)