
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED BIOMASS BOILER,
GORHAMBURY HOUSE, GORHAMBURY, ST ALBANS,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 11351 07922	Report No: 5088
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1819
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5443
Signed:	Date: 11 th April 2016

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

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

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

e-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)**
- 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed biomass boiler, Gorhambury House, Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>Between December 2015 and February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Gorhambury House, Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 11351 07922). The monitoring was commissioned by Gorhambury Estates in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed installation of a biomass boiler to provide heat to Gorhambury House, adjacent stable block and two adjacent cottages.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies just outside of St Albans, c.3km north-west of the town centre. The area to the north is identified on the St Albans Local Plan as AS.LP.6 (three enclosures) and AS.R.23 lies to the east (Verulamium). Watling Street crosses the estate north-west/south-east. Gorhambury House is Grade II* listed and dates to 1784 and ruins of its predecessor stand c.250m to south-west. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed a modern brick culvert.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	12/2015 – 02/2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5443	Site code	AS1819
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of archaeological importance</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former Brewhouse and gardens/yards</i>		
Planned development	<i>Installation of biomass boiler and associated pipework</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>	<i>St Albans</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER / St Albans UAD</i>		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 11351 07922</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.124m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>SADC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Andrew Newton</i>		
Funded by	<i>Gorhambury Estates Company</i>		
Full title	<i>Gorhambury House, Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5088</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2016</i>		

PROPOSED BIOMASS BOILER, GORHAMBURY HOUSE, GORHAMBURY, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

Between December 2015 and February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Gorhambury House, Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 11351 07922). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed installation of a biomass boiler to provide heat to Gorhambury House, adjacent stable block and two adjacent cottages.

The site lies just outside of St Albans, c.3km north-west of the town centre. The area to the north is identified on the St Albans Local Plan as AS.LP.6 (three enclosures) and AS.R.23 lies to the east (Verulamium). Watling Street crosses the estate north-west/south-east. Gorhambury House is Grade II listed and dates to 1784 and ruins of its predecessor stand c.250m to south-west. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

In the event the monitoring revealed a modern brick culvert.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between December 2015 and February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at Gorhambury House, Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 11351 07922; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Novapower on behalf of Gorhambury Estates Company in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed installation of a biomass boiler to provide heat to Gorhambury House, adjacent stable block and two adjacent cottages (St Albans Ref. 5/2013/1067).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to advice from St Albans City & District Council District Archaeologist (SADC) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 08/08/2013), and approved by SADC. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies within the Verulam estate, which is centred on the Grade II* listed Gorhambury House (Fig. 1). It is situated approximately 1.5km west of the north-western suburbs of St Albans and c.3km to the north-west of the historic town centre. The site lies in a relatively open area of countryside bounded by the A4147 Hemel Hempstead Road to the south and south-east, the A5183 Redbourn Road to the north-east and the M1 and M10 motorways

to the west. The access to the site is given via an estate road from the south-east which leads to Gorhambury from the A4147 Hemel Hempstead Road.

2.2 It is proposed to install a new biomass boiler heating system at Gorhambury. This involves the installation of the main boiler into an existing outbuilding (brewhouse), and the excavation of service trenches from this to other buildings in the complex (the main house, stable block and swimming pool). The building where the boiler is to be installed is of brick construction with a slate roof and high level ventilation consisting of timber boarding with a central cupola. It has been subject to a previous programme of photographic building recording by AS.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located within a relatively undeveloped and open area of countryside. The surrounding area is agricultural comprising large arable fields and characterised by mixed woodland including Prae Wood 1km to the south-south-west. The River Ver lies 500m to the east of the site, while a series of fish ponds lies 450m to the north.

3.2 The site lies at approximately 90m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping down slightly to the east. The solid geology for the area consists of upper cretaceous chalk overlain by clay with flint drift geology (British Geological Survey 1978). The site also lies upon soils of the Batcombe association described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 The location of St Albans would have been conducive to prehistoric settlement due to its fertile soils and proximity to the River Ver. Neolithic flints have been discovered in the surrounding area of the city with small amounts of Bronze Age material also recovered. St Albans was substantially occupied in the Iron Age period in the area of Prae Wood, which lies 1km to the south-south-west of the site and which is the site of the Iron Age settlement; the precursor to *Verulamium* Roman town. Despite the probable occupation of St Albans throughout the majority of the prehistoric period, few excavations in the surrounding area have yielded remains earlier than the Iron Age. It is likely that earlier archaeology was destroyed by the intense Roman, medieval and post-medieval development of the town which may distort the true picture of the town's early history.

4.2 Prehistoric remains from the vicinity of the site comprise only two sections of a prehistoric earthwork known as Devil's Ditch Dyke, which lies on a west-south-west to east-north-east alignment adjacent to Maynes Farm,

c.1km north-east of the site (HERs 53 & 14607). Although undated, the ditch, bank and counterscarp of Devil's Ditch Dyke is thought to date to the Iron Age, and was possibly associated with the Iron Age settlement within Prae Wood.

Roman

4.3 At its height, the Roman town of *Verulamium* consisted of the third largest settlement in Britain (Pevsner & Cherry 1997). It was founded in AD 50, and reputedly destroyed by Queen Boudicca ten years later. It became one of Britain's largest Roman centres with a forum basilica complex (opened in AD 79), an amphitheatre and public bathhouses all situated to the south-west of modern St Albans, with the important communication route of Watling Street running through the centre. There was no known fort in the town and the town walls were not built until the 2nd century AD. Much of *Verulamium* was destroyed by fire in AD 155. The remains of the town are known from over 80 hectares enclosed within 3rd century city walls. Extensive archaeological work has taken place within *Verulamium* and has revealed numerous remains including Romano-Celtic temples, theatre, kilns, sewers, buildings, timber-framed shops, tiled floors, furnaces, cobbled tracks, roads and city walls (Pevsner & Cherry 1997; Niblett & Thompson 2005).

4.4 Romano-British remains in the area surrounding the site include the original course of Watling Street to the north-west of the Chester Gate and c.1.3km to the east of the site (HERs 4608 & 14625). The section of Watling Street through the Verulam estate remained in use as a main highway until Verulam Road was opened in 1824 and survives well in cropmarks. Possible Roman structures have also been identified c.1km to the east and c.1.3km to the north-east of the site (HERs 4999 & 14540).

Anglo-Saxon

4.5 By the 8th century, the Saxon town of St.Albans/*Verulamium* was known as *Watlingchester* or *Verulamchester* and was described by the historian Bede in AD 730 as containing the '*beautiful church worthy of Alban's martyrdom*' (St Albans Archaeology & History website). The location of the Benedictine Abbey of St Alban was thought to have been the spot where the Christian martyr, Alban was executed in approximately 324 AD. St. Albans Abbey was founded in AD 793 by King Offa of Mercia, although the site lay within the manor of Kingsbury, which belonged to the Saxon kings and was bought by Alfric before he became abbot of St. Albans (Page 1912). The Kingsbury *burh* was possibly located to the north of the Abbey. Although the manor of Kingsbury was not listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, it is thought that the '*pond for fish*' listed in the town of St Albans' entry refers to Alfric's large fishpond known as '*Fischpol*' (Page 1912). St Albans School, a public school which occupies a site to the west of the Abbey and which includes the 14th century Abbey Gateway, was founded in AD 948.

Medieval

4.6 Medieval St Albans soon took the form recognisable today with settlement moving across the River Ver from the Roman city to the Abbey precincts and spreading further away from there up the hill to the north and east. By 1086, the town of St Albans incorporated 10 hides, land for 16 ploughs, a park for woodland beasts and three mills valued at 40s and the town had its population of 500 people. In AD 1077, Paul of Caen, the first Norman Abbot, began rebuilding the Abbey of St Albans (St Albans Archaeology & History website). St. Peter's Street, High Street, Market Place, Holywell Street and Fishpool Street were probably all well established in roughly their present positions by the 11th century. The medieval period also saw the division of the town into four wards, roughly corresponding to the built-up areas of the four modern parishes of St Stephen, St Michael, St Peter and the Abbey of St Alban itself. These were each given a constable of the peace and two chief pledges to maintain order by Abbott Richard de Wallingford (1260 – 1291). By 1327 the boundaries of the borough had been formerly recorded although it is likely that they had already been determined well before then. The Priory was dissolved in 1539 and the Abbey Church became the parish church when it was bought by the local people in 1553 (Page 1912). St Mary de Prae Church was constructed 450m to the south-east of the site as a house for leprous women in 1194, and later became Benedictine nunnery in 1328 (HERs 4075 & 14610). A series of fish ponds lies 450m to the north and are thought to date to the medieval period (HER 2024), as is the course of Back Lane to the south-east (HER 14631).

Post-medieval & modern

4.7 Post-medieval development of the town saw the construction of roads, specifically catering to the coaching trade, as St. Albans formed the first stop on the coaching route north from London. It accounts for town's numerous inns, many dating from Tudor times. A short distance to the south-east of the present site the Kingsbury Brewery was built in 1827 the buildings of which remain virtually unaltered today (HER 5389). Later development saw the steady expansion of various industries such as printing, engineering, clothing and hat manufacture, while the construction of the railway in 1858 allowed an increase in communication and trade. The Abbey Church was granted a Cathedral status and the town received a City charter in 1877. In the inter-war years it became a popular centre for the electronics industry. After the World War II the town expanded significantly as it took a part in the post-War redistribution of population out of London (St Albans Archaeology & History website).

4.8 The Verulam estate consisted of the Saxon and medieval manor of Westwick, but was not significantly developed until the post-medieval period, when the estate was conveyed to Sir Nicholas Bacon in 1560 (Page 1908). Verulam House was built by Sir Francis Bacon approximately 250m to the north of the site, but was demolished by 1663 and is known only from a sketch by Aubrey (HER 9502). Three subsequent notable houses were constructed at Gorhambury, including the extant Grade II* listed Gorhambury House which dates to 1784 (Page 1912). The fish ponds known as the Pondyards located

1.5km to the north-east of the site were developed to ensure a water supply to Old Gorhambury (HER 14613).

4.9 The brewhouse was previously subject to historic photographic recording conducted by AS in 2013 (Smith 2013). Other earlier works within the estate revealed one 17th-18th century pit at Maynes Farm c.1km to the north-east (Pozorski 2011b) and one undated ditch south of the farm (Pozorski 2011a).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored included excavations inside the brewhouse to install the boiler and the excavation of service trenches linking the brewhouse with the main house, stable block and swimming pool (Fig. 3).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Deposits located within area of excavations were recorded in sample sections presented below.

The brewhouse

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 3)</i> <i>Former brewhouse, facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Yellowish brown, compact, clayey silt with frequent small stones and flints.
0.19 – 0.32m	L1001	Greyish brown, friable, clayey silt with frequent small stones and flints.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural mid to dark yellow, compact, clay with frequent flints.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 4)</i> <i>Former brewhouse, facing north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1003	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt.
0.24 – 0.49m	L1001	As above. S.S. 1.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 6)</i> <i>Former brewhouse, facing south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	As above. S.S. 1.
0.16m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

Description: The interior of the former brewhouse contained a 19th century culvert (M1005) and the remains of a floor (M1006 and M1007).

M1005 (1.40+ x 0.30m; DP 5) was a linear structure present just below the existing ground level (below the former floor of the building). It was constructed of red bricks bonded with light grey slightly sandy mortar. The feature was semi-circular in section and was likely a drain running beneath the building and orientated north-west to south-east, located along the building adjacent to the brewhouse. M1005 was likely a drain and was also located as M1014 (Sample Section 14) to the north-west of the brewhouse.

A concrete block (M1006; 1.00 x 0.40m) and an irregular brick surface (M1007; 3.00 x 3.00m) located in the eastern part of the buildings were likely remains of a later floor.

Service trench with link to swimming pool

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 9)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.27 – 0.51m	L1008	Subsoil. Light greyish brown, friable, silty sand.
0.51m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 10)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.55m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.10 – 0.39m	L1008	Subsoil. As above. S.S. 4.
0.39m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 6 (DP 11)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 7 (DP 12)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1009	Topsoil. Light greyish brown, loose, clayey silt.
0.12 – 0.31m	L1008	Subsoil. As above. S.S. 4.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 8 (DP 13)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1009	Topsoil. As above, S.S.7.
0.17m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 9 (DP 14)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 10 (DP 15)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.52m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.15 – 0.32m	L1010	Mid grey, compact, clayey silt.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 11 (DP 16)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 123.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.12 – 1.01m	L1011	Mid grey, loose, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments and debris.
1.01m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 12 (DP 17)</i> <i>Service trench, facing north</i> <i>0.00 = 123.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1009	Topsoil. As above, S.S.7.
0.23m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 13 (DP 18)</i> <i>Service trench, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 123.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1009	Topsoil. As above, S.S.7.
0.07m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

Service trench with link to stable block

<i>Sample section 14 (DP 20)</i> <i>Service trench, facing east-north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.45m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1012	Modern made ground. Crushed concrete and sand.
0.07 – 0.43m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.43 – 0.71m	L1013	Mid brown, compact, clayey silt with frequent stones.
0.71m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 15 (DP 21)</i> <i>Service trench, facing east-north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.20 – 0.46m	L1013	As above, S.S.14.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 16 (DP 22)</i> <i>Service trench, facing west-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.26 – 0.41m	L1013	As above, S.S.14.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

Description: Culvert M1005 (see above) continued within this service trench, labelled M1014 (DP 19-20) and was present at least 6m to the north of the brewhouse.

Service trench with link to the main house

<i>Sample section 17</i> <i>Service trench, facing north-east</i> <i>0.00 = 123.65m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.38 – 0.58m	L1013	As above, S.S.14.
0.58 – 0.83m	L1017	Light greyish brown, friable, sandy clay with occasional CBM fragments.
0.83m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 18 (DP 23)</i> <i>Service trench, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 123.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.21 – 0.56m	L1013	As above, S.S.14.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 19 (DP 24)</i>		
<i>Service trench, facing south-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 123.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1003	Topsoil. As above. S.S. 2.
0.18 – 0.57m	L1013	As above, S.S.14.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1003, a dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt (0.10 – 0.40m thick) and, in the north/central area of the site, by more clayey L1009 (0.07 – 0.25m thick). The topsoil was present either directly over natural clay or above fairly modern made ground (0.20 – 0.80m thick). Subsoil L1008 (0.10 – 0.30m thick) appeared only locally and consisted of a light greyish brown, friable, silty sand.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.10 – 1.00m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, compact, clay with frequent flint.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It is located close to Roman Verulamium and within the medieval and post-medieval Verulam estate. The area of monitoring was situated adjacent to the Grade II* listed Gorhambury House which is of 18th century origin with a predecessor likely in the close vicinity.

9.2 In the event the only archaeological feature was a modern culverted drain which likely served the main house. The monitoring, in general, revealed limited evidence of early modern and modern activity on the site.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at St Albans Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Gorhambury Estates Company for funding the project and Novapower for their assistance (in particular Ms Helen New).

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology)*: London. Mansfield

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014, *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief*. IfA Reading.

Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

Niblett, R. & Thompson, I. 2005, *Alban's Buried Towns: an assessment of St Albans' archaeology up to AD 1610*. Oxbow Books, Oxford

Page, W (ed.) 1912 (rep. 1971), *The Victoria History of the Counties of England; Hertfordshire*, Vol III

Pevsner, N. & Cherry, B. (2nd ed.) 1977, *The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire*. Penguin, Harmondsworth

Pozorski, Z. 2011a, *Gorhambury Estate, St Albans, Hertfordshire. BT Undergrounding Scheme. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. AS unpublished report No. 3868

Pozorski, Z. 2011b, *Maynes Farm, Gorhambury, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*. AS unpublished report No. 3972

Pozorski, Z., 2012, *Proposed Biomass Boiler. Maynes Farm, Gorhambury, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording*, AS unpublished report No. 4164

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

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

HER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric (to AD 43)		
53	1215 0835	Prehistoric earthwork known as Devil's Ditch Dyke, to the north-west of Verulamium, adjacent to Maynes Farm
14607	12177 08357	A 900m length of ditch with bank and counterscarp, part of a larger Devil's Ditch system, thought to date to the Iron Age
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
4608	12641 08373	The vanished stretch of Watling Street from the centre of Verulamium to where the line rejoins the modern road at the parish boundary is shown as a cropmark for approx. 300m of its length and was used until 1826, when it was closed to prevent travellers from avoiding tolls on the new turnpike road leading into St Albans
4999	125 085	Cropmark of a Roman building and column
14540	12557 08596	Possible Roman structure of mortared flints, cut by a gas line trench in the river valley, with three coping stones recorded nearby and which may possibly indicate a Roman funerary enclosure
14625	12606 08488	Watling Street to the north-west of the Chester Gate remained in use as a main highway until Verulam Road was opened in 1824 and survives well in cropmarks
Medieval (AD 1066 – 1500)		
2024	122 088	Fishponds known as the Pondyards possibly extant in 1568, used to supply water to Gorhambury House and enlarged by Sir Francis Bacon c. 1601 as elaborate water gardens to accompany his new house
4075	1275 0825	St Mary de Prae Church and houses for leprous women built by Warin, Abbot of St Albans in 1194, became a Benedictine nunnery in 1328 and dissolved and annexed to St Albans Abbey in 1528
14610	12759 08185	The Benedictine nunnery of St Mary de Prae was founded by Abbot Warin in the late 12 th century, as a hospital for leprous women and was a counterpart to St Julian's on the other side of St Albans, which was to be reserved for men
14631	13159 08109	Course of Back Lane, which is a minor road from Kingsbury Manor along the north-eastern side of the river Ver to The Prae and Prae Mill, mapped in 1634 and thus possible medieval
15337	12370 08370	Medieval aisled barn at Maynes Farm is a Grade II listed timber-framed barn, one of a group apparently commissioned by abbot John Moot in the late 14 th century

Post-medieval & later (1500 – present)		
9502	1239 0878	Verulam House was built by Sir Francis Bacon (Lord Verulam) c. 1610, demolished by 1663, and known only from a sketch by Aubrey with his brief and muddled description
9505	113 078	Gorhambury House. Built on a new site on the Gorhambury estate by the 3rd Viscount Grimston, 1777-84, to replace Sir Nicholas Bacon's house. Designed by Sir Robert Taylor with a large Corinthian portico on a plinth with broad outer staircase and with low wings to side blocks; the N wings were rebuilt on a larger scale in the 19th century and the S wing pulled down. The whole is ashlar-faced. The interior has several magnificent fireplaces by Piranesi; also stained glass from Sir Nicholas Bacon's house
14613	12310 08900	The Pondyards are a complex of square moated islands, built to ensure water supply to Old Gorhambury and of which almost no investigation has taken place since Charlotte Grimston's inspection in 1802
15338	12350 08375	Maynes Farm House dates to the late 17 th century, in red brick with some flint
Undated remains		
1439	1230 0875	Cropmarks of linear features showing very faintly in the field south of the Pondyards
2525	1283 0825	Cropmark of a sinuous linear ditch running alongside the river Ver in a north-west to south-easterly direction
4788	1235 0795	Cropmarks of intersecting linear ditches; one ditch aligned NE-SW, the others NW-SE, and may be part of a field system
4995	121 081	Ditches visible in cropmarks
4996	1252 0804	Cropmark of a single-ditched circular enclosure
4997	125 081	Cropmarks of a series of intersecting linear ditches aligned NW-SE and SW-NE, and possibly associated with further ditches to the south and a ring ditch
6002	127 082	Cropmark of a linear feature aligned NE-SW with an angled bend which realigns the feature in a NW-SE direction
14524	12644 08035	Complex of cropmarks outside the Chester Gate, arranged in strips and with curving outliers, and known only from air photographs
14633	12655 07961	Three circular cropmarks in the area of the Roman cemetery and possible fields outside the Chester Gate
14645	12558 08124	Cropmarks of ditches within the angle of Devil's and New Dykes in a complex landscape, close to Gorhambury
14646	12325 08736	Cropmarks of linear features showing very faintly in a field south of the Pondyards

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	2 (Context, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	7
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	55

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The brewhouse. Looking south.



DP 2. Interior of the brewhouse. Looking east-south-east.



DP 3. Sample section 1. Looking north-east.



DP 4. Sample section 2. Looking south-west.



DP 5. Culvert M1005. Looking south-east.



DP 6. Sample section 3. Looking south-west.



DP 7. Service trench with link to swimming pool. Looking west.



DP 8. Service trench with link to swimming pool. Looking south-west.



DP 9. Sample section 4. Looking north-north-east.



DP 10. Sample section 5. Looking north-north-west.



DP 11 Sample section 6. Looking north-north-west.



DP 12. Sample section 7. Looking north-west.



DP 13. Sample section 8. Looking north-north-west.



DP 14. Sample section 9. Looking north-north-east.



DP 15. Sample section 10. Looking north-north-east.



DP 16. Sample section 11. Looking north.



DP 17. Sample section 12. Looking south.



DP 18. Sample section 13. Looking north.



DP 19. Service trench with link to stable block. Looking north-north-west.



DP 20. Sample section 14 with M1014 (M1005). Looking west-south-west.



DP 21. Sample section 15. Looking west-south-west.



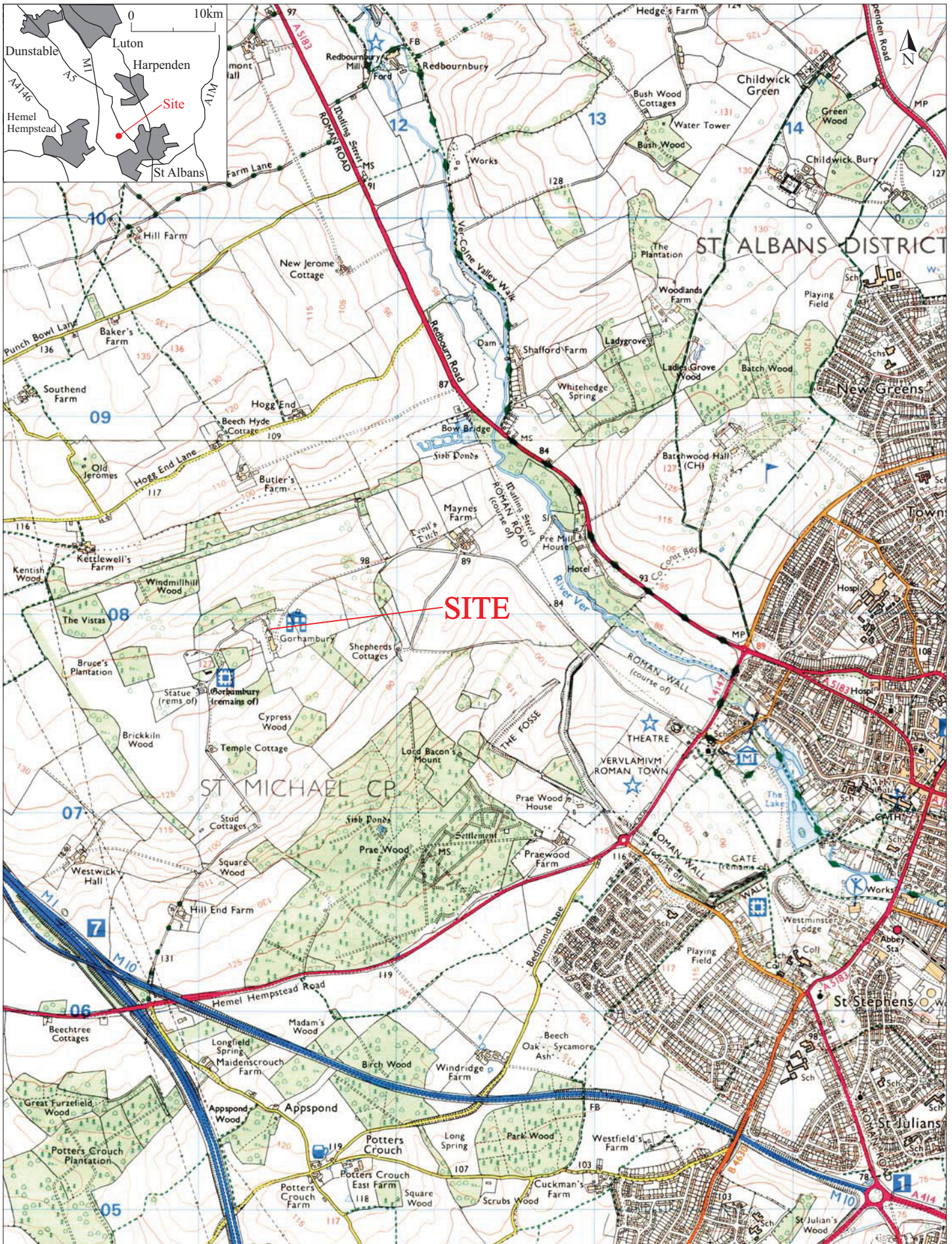
DP 22. Sample section 16. Looking east-north-east.



DP 23. Sample section 18. Looking south-east.

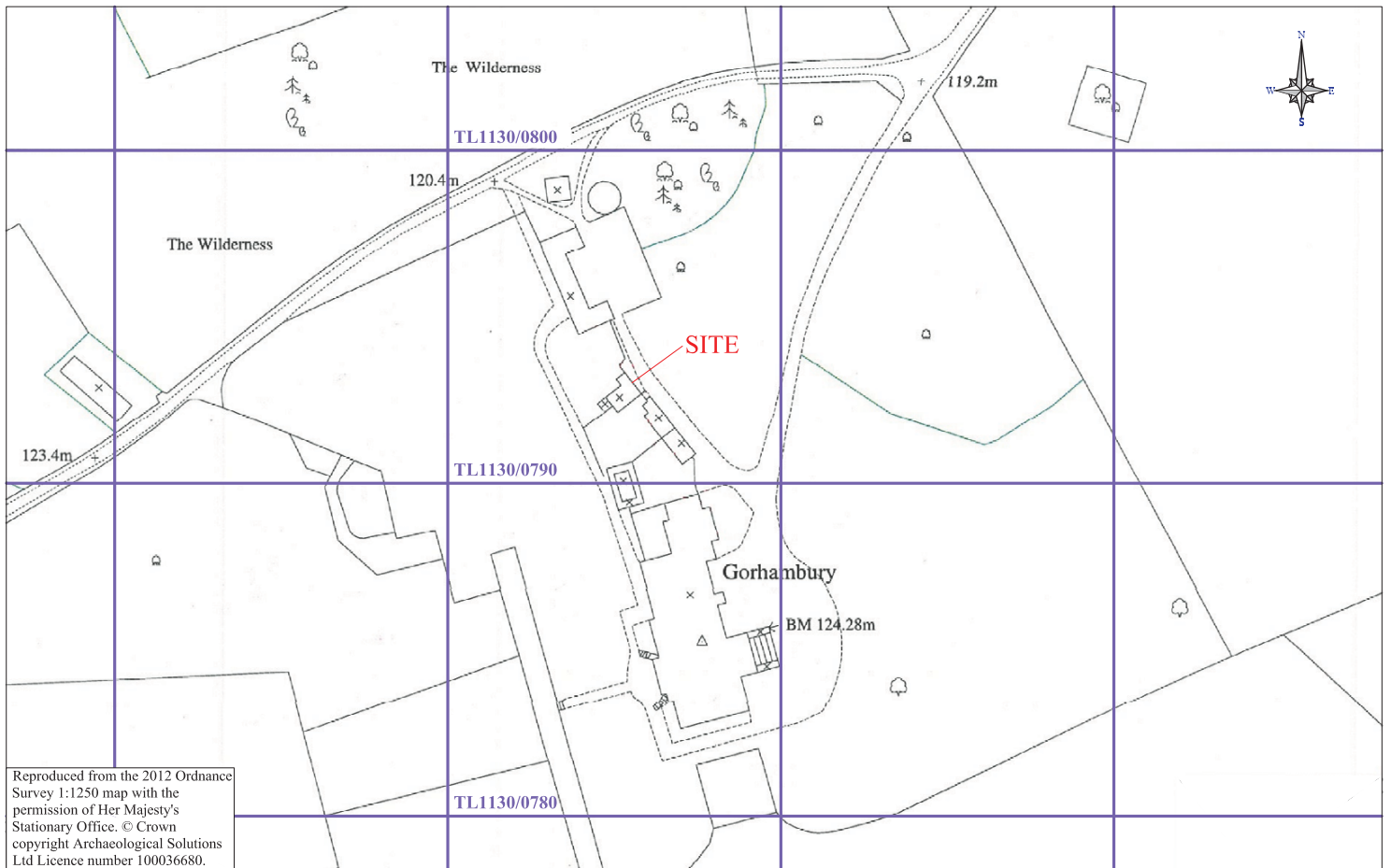


DP 24. Sample section 19. Looking north-east.



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

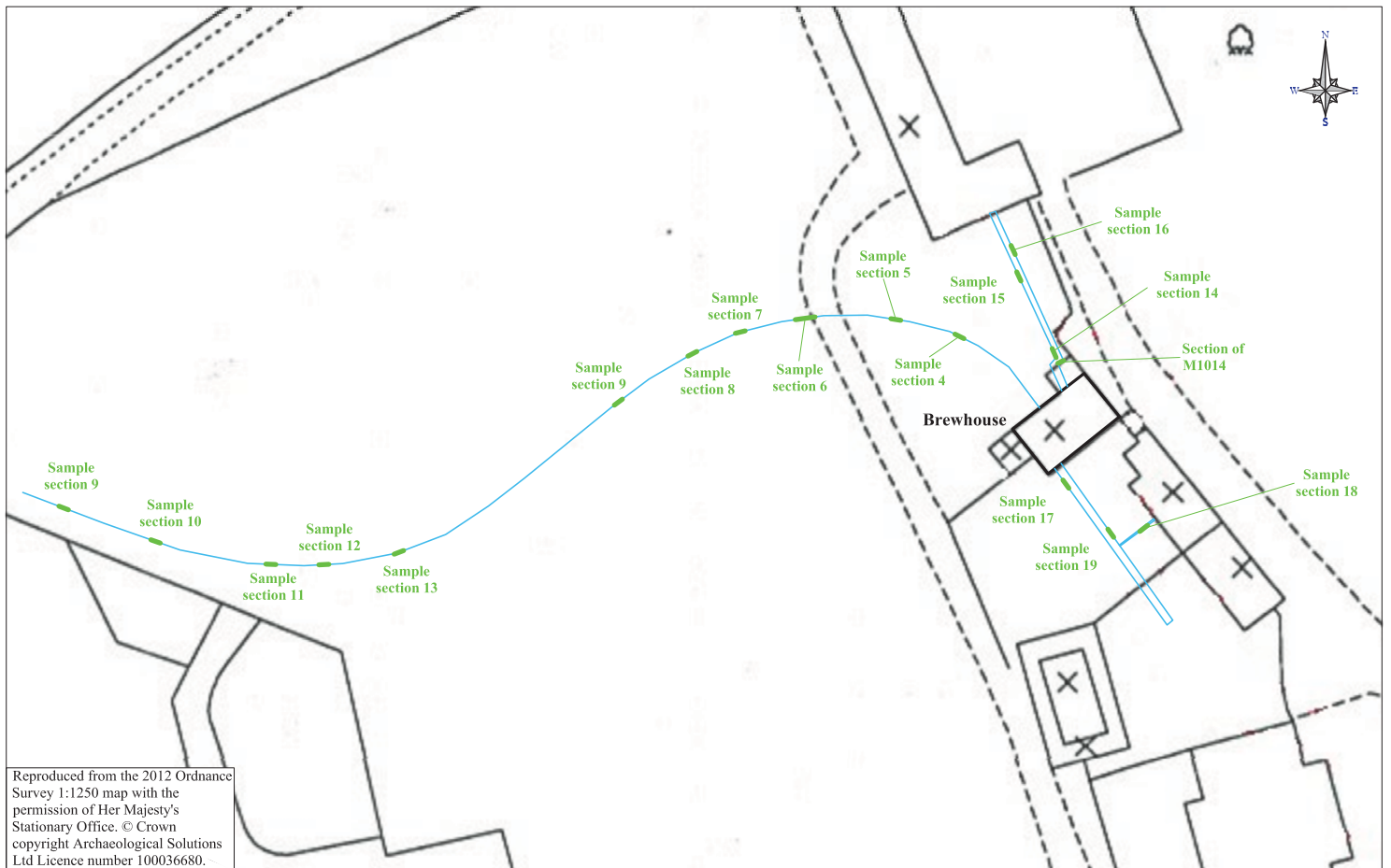
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P5443)



Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1500 at A4
 Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P5443)



Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680.

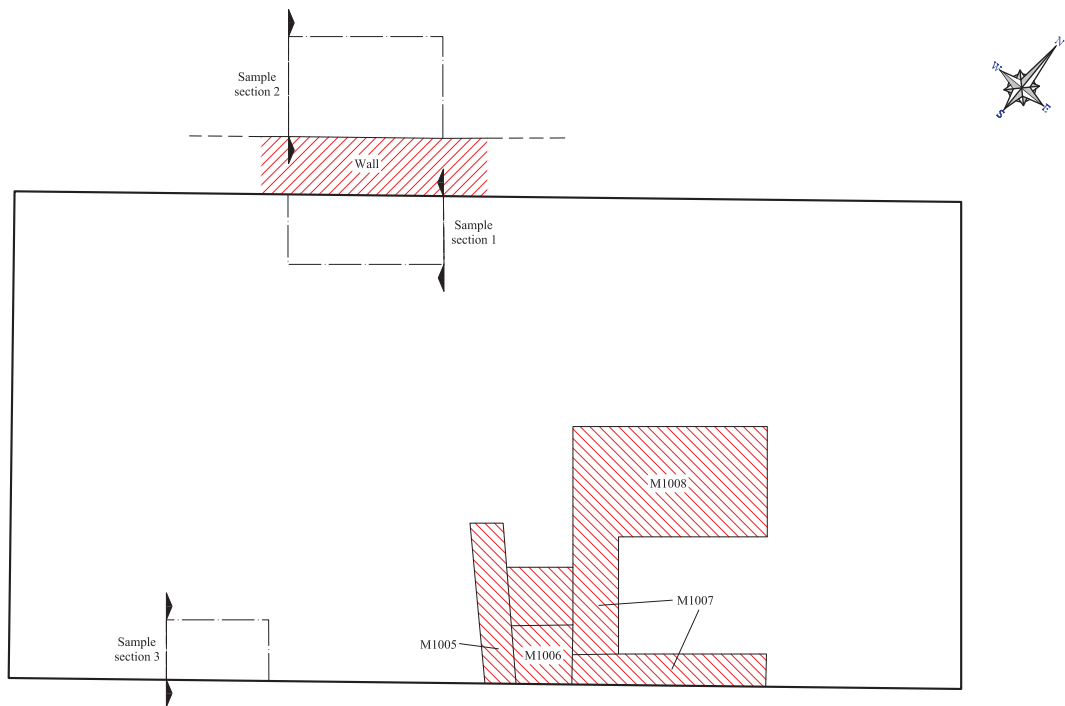
0 25m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

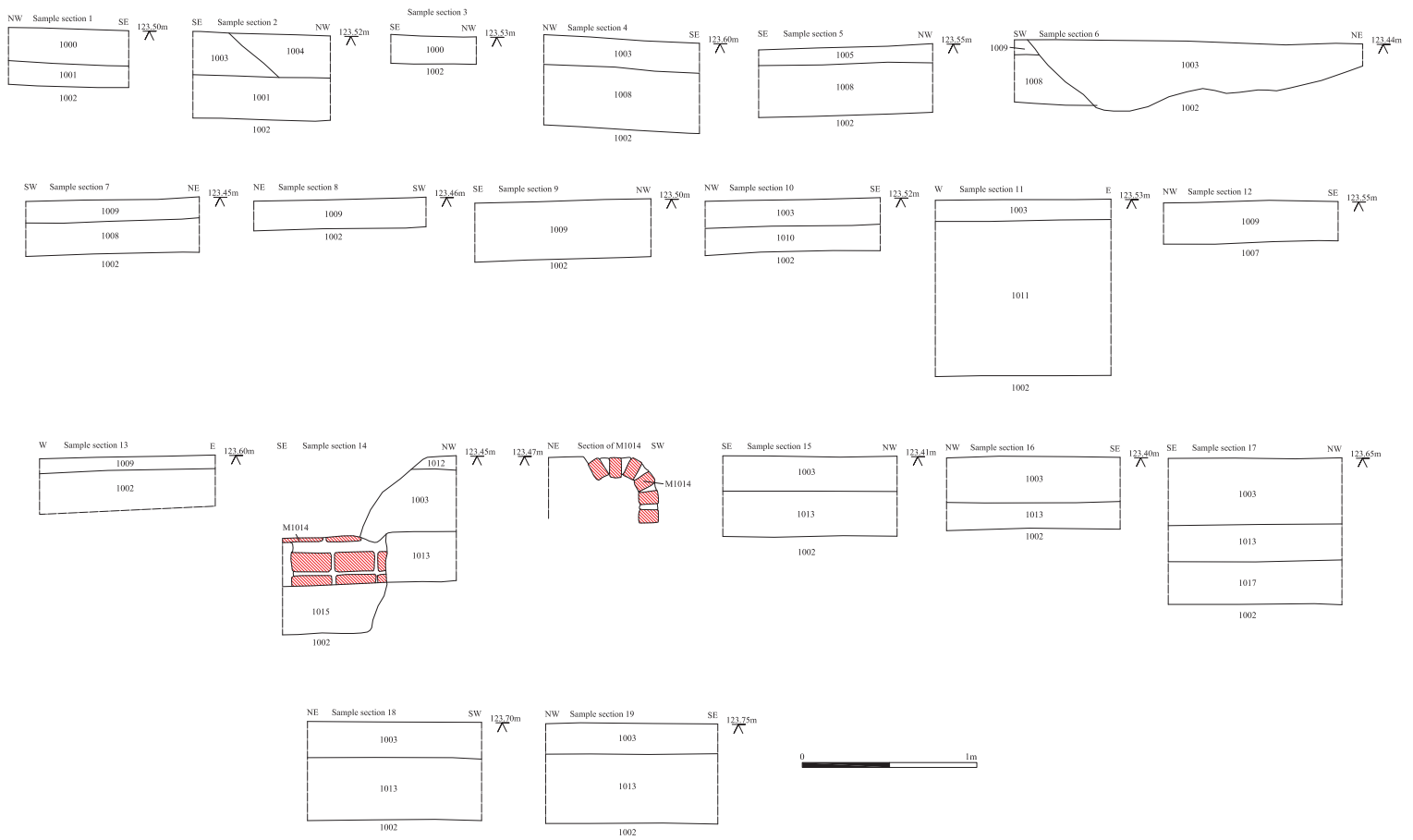
Fig. 3 Sample section locations

Scale 1:500 at A4

Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P5443)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Plan of brewhouse interior
Scale 1:50 at A4
Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P5443)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 5 Sections
Scale 1:20 at A3
Gorhambury, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P5443)