

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND EAST OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD, PUCKERIDGE,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report) | |
| NGR: TL 38403 22880 | Report No: 5165 |
| District: East Hertfordshire | Site Code: AS1821 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA | Project No: 6659 |
| Signed: | Date: 13 July 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

**PI House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5AF
Tel 01462 850483**

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

**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 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS***
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS***
- 3 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE***
- 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET***

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

| | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Project details | | | |
| Project name | | <i>Land East of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire</i> | |
| <p><i>In July 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land east of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 2285). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition on appeal approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/14/1627/OP; Appeal APP/J1915/W/15/3016566) based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>Not all the trenches contained features. The features were located northern (Trenches 2 – 5) and south-eastern sectors of the site, and between one and three features were recorded within the trenches.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 2 contained the two recorded pits (F1008 and F1010) but neither contained any finds. F1012, within Trench 2, was an irregular linear which also contained no finds. F1006 (Trench 4) was possibly a natural feature. All the remaining features were undated ditches. The latter are not present on the OS maps and it is probable that they predate 1878 when the OS first surveyed the site.</i></p> <p><i>Ditch F1004 (Trench 4) contained a struck flint. The latter was not diagnostic and may have origins at any point in the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods. Ditch F1018 (Trench 10) contained two fragments of abraded Roman CBM. The latter was likely derived from a box flue tile though a fragment of tegula roof tile cannot be discounted.</i></p> | | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | | 4 – 11 July 2016 | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | | N | Future work TBC |
| P. number | | 6659 | Site code AS1821 |
| Type of project | | Trial Trench Evaluation | |
| Site status | | - | |
| Current land use | | Agricultural | |
| Planned development | | Residential | |
| Main features (+dates) | | Undated pits and ditches. | |
| Significant finds (+dates) | | - | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | | Hertfordshire | East Hertfordshire Standon |
| HER/ SMR for area | | Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record | |
| Post code (if known) | | - | |
| Area of site | | 1.8ha | |
| NGR | | TL 38403 22880 | |
| Height AOD (max/ min) | | c.76-79m AOD | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | | Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team | |
| Project supervisor/s | | Z Pozorski, T Muir | |
| Funded by | | Mears New Homes | |
| Full title | | Land East of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation | |
| Authors | | Muir, T. | |
| Report no. | | 5165 | |
| Date (of report) | | July 2016 | |

**LAND EAST OF CAMBRIDGE ROAD,
PUCKERIDGE, HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land east of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 2285). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition on appeal approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/14/1627/OP; Appeal APP/J1915/W/15/3016566), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

The site lies adjacent to Area of Archaeological Significance 94, designated on the EHDC Local Plan, which includes the medieval village of Puckeridge and nationally important preceding late Iron Age/Romano-British settlements at Braughing/Puckeridge.

The line of the Roman road of Ermine Street is immediately adjacent to the site, increasing the potential for roadside remains. Investigations by AS to the immediate north at the Buffalo's Head recorded evidence of Iron Age occupation (HER 12814).

Not all the trenches contained features. The features were located northern (Trenches 2 – 5) and south-eastern sectors of the site, and between one and three features were recorded within the trenches.

Trench 2 contained the two recorded pits (F1008 and F1010) but neither contained any finds. F1012, within Trench 2, was an irregular linear which also contained no finds. F1006 (Trench 4) was possibly a natural feature. All the remaining features were undated ditches. The latter are not present on the OS maps and it is probable that they predate 1878 when the OS first surveyed the site.

Ditch F1004 (Trench 4) contained a struck flint. The latter was not diagnostic and may have origins at any point in the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods. Ditch F1018 (Trench 10) contained two fragments of abraded Roman CBM. The latter was likely derived from a box flue tile though a fragment of tegula roof tile cannot be discounted.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land east of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 38403 22880; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to a planning appeal approval for the construction of a residential development (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/14/1627/OP; Appeal APP/J1915/W/15/3016566), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT) (Fig.6).

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to requirements of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31/03/2016) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 A magnetic gradiometer survey required as the initial stage proved not to be possible due to vegetation conditions on the site, and therefore the sampling strategy for the trial trenching was increased from 5% to 6%.

Objectives

1.4 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any remains relating to the area of prehistoric and Roman occupation. It was also important to understand the level of truncation

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 is located to the south west of the modern village of Puckeridge, on the eastern side of Cambridge Road. It comprises open land, and the field extends to some 1.8ha, On its eastern edge, the site borders a small tributary of the River Rib, which is located approximately 1km to the east.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOPLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The village is located on fairly low lying ground between the River Nid to the east and two tributary streams running towards it. The site lies at between 76 and 79m AOD. The solid geology is Seaford Chalk Formation with overlying chalky till. The covering soils are part of the Melford association characterised as deep well-drained loamy over clayey deposits (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3.2 The site was visited in May and found to be overgrown with knee length and above vegetation including grasses, saplings and trees, which prevented a geophysical survey from being carried out (Summers 2016).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Early prehistoric finds are scarce in the Puckeridge area, although it is likely that the course of the river Rib was exploited from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Mesolithic flints and Neolithic arrowheads have been found in proximity to the river (HER 606, HER 2112). Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a ditch immediately north of the site, during the archaeological evaluation of the Buffalo's Head car park by Archaeological Solutions (HER 12814).

4.2 The site lies close to the line of Roman Ermine Street (Buntingford Road), a major road running from London to York which passed through the late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement of Braughing/Puckeridge (HER

2281, HER 9271, HER 1903). The town is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 75, AAS 94) centred on Wickham Hill to the north of Puckeridge. Major Iron Age and Roman cemeteries are also known from the area (HER 4219, 17559), while Stane Street (the modern B1368) was another important Roman road in the area. Roman finds from Puckeridge include a rounded rectangular sheet of lead with cursive writing inscriptions, as well as a complete Samian dish. The evaluation at the former Buffalo's Head also revealed that the aforementioned Iron Age ditch ran parallel to Ermine Street.

4.3 Although Anglo-Saxon remains are generally scarce in Hertfordshire, it has been suggested that settlement at Puckeridge continued into the 5th century. Part of an Anglo-Saxon brooch was found on the 'Poor's Land' less to the north-east of the site (HER 9244).

4.4 Puckeridge is not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, but it is likely that a settlement was in existence during the late 11th - 12th centuries. The village developed rapidly in the 13th century and in 1314, an annual market and fair were granted. The Black Death in the mid 14th century had a significant impact but the village quickly recovered and continued to thrive due to its location on a coaching route between London and Cambridge. However, medieval finds from the area surrounding the site are essentially limited to metal detector finds from the Poor's Lands (HER 9246), and No. 52 High Street, which is a late medieval urban Wealden house (HER 12274).

4.5 Roman Ermine Street had developed as a significant coaching route by the post-medieval period, and by the 17th century, many inns lay along the course of the High Street as depicted by Dury & Andrews in 1766, including the former Buffalo's Head (HER 30523), and Nos. 54 – 60 High Street (HER 30521). Post-medieval features comprising two pits and a ditch were recorded during the evaluation of the caravan site (HER 9870).

5 METHOD OF WORK

5.1 A magnetic gradiometer survey proved not to be possible due to vegetation conditions on the site, and therefore the sampling strategy for the trial trenching was increased from 5% to 6%, on advice from HCC. Fifteen trenches were excavated (Fig.2).

5.2 The topsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|--|-------|---|
| <i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 73.80m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.15m | L1000 | Topsoil. Friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent roots. |
| 0.15 – 0.67m | L1001 | Subsoil. Compact, dark-mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small stones and flints, occasional CBM fragments. |
| 0.67m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. Friable, dark and light grey sand and gravel. |

| | | |
|--|-------|---|
| <i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 73.40m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.28m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above |
| 0.28 – 0.72m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above. |
| 0.72m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. Compact, mid brownish grey and brown gravel and silt. |

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 2A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 74.85m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.37m | L1000 | Topsoil. As Above, Trench 1A |
| 0.37 – 0.54m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.54m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1B |

| | | |
|---|-------|--|
| <i>Sample section 2B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast</i> <i>0.00 = 75.25m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.33m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.33 – 0.61m | L1016 | Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown clay silt. |
| 0.61m + | L1017 | Natural deposits. Compact, pale yellow brown silt. |

Description: Trench 2 contained a two undated Pits F1008 and F1010, and an undated irregular linear feature, F1012.

Pit F1008 was a sub circular (2.80 x 0.96+ x 0.18m) with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1009) was a compact, pale-mid brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F1010 was sub-circular (1.00+ x 0.50+ x 0.38m) with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1011) was a friable, orange brown silt with frequent rounded and sub-rounded gravel. It contained no finds.

F1012 was an irregular linear feature (1.00+ x 0.66 x 0.39m), with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1013) was a friable, orange brown silt with frequent rounded and sub-rounded gravel. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.70m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.30m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.30 – 0.51m | L1016 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 2B |
| 0.51m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 74.56m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.21m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.21 – 0.55m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.55m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1B |

Description: Trench 3 contained undated Ditch F1014.

Ditch F1014 was linear (1.80+ x 1.30 x 0.11m), orientated northeast / southwest, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1015) was a firm, mid grey orange clay silt. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| <i>Sample section 4A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 74.06m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.36m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.36 – 0.53m+ | L1005 | Fill of F1004. Compact, pale yellow brown sandy silt with moderate small stones. |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 4B</i> <i>Southeast end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 74.86m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.30m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.30 – 0.51m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.51m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 4 contained Ditch F1004 and an undated curvilinear feature, F1006, of possible natural origin.

Ditch F1004 was linear (8.00+ x 1.80+ x 0.72+m), orientated N / S, with a

moderate sloping northwest side. The base was not reached. Its fill (L1005) was a compact, pale yellow brown sandy silt, with moderate small stones. It contained a struck flint (9g).

F1006 was a curvilinear feature (6.00+ x 0.60+ x 0.26m) of possible natural origin. It had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1007) was a compact, pale yellow brown sandy silt that contained no finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 5A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest end</i> <i>0.00 = 76.80m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00– 0.16m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.16 – 0.45m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.45m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 5B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast end</i> <i>0.00 = 74.03m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.17m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.17 – 0.38m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.38m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 5 contained undated Ditch F1022.

Ditch F1022 was linear (1.00+ x 2.45 x 0.30m), orientated NE / SW, with moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its lower fill (L1023) was a friable, mid brown silt with occasional sub-angular flints and rounded chalk. Its upper fill (L1026) was a friable, pale brown silt with frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint. Neither fill contained any finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 6A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.12m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.25m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.25 – 0.58m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.58m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 6B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 77.89m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.20m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.20 – 0.49m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.49m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 7A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 77.10m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.21m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.21– 0.43m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.43m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 7B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.20m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.17m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.17 – 0.40m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.40m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 8A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.81m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.11m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.11 – 0.29m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.29m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 8B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.98m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.25m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.25 – 0.51m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.51m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 9A</i> <i>Northeast end northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 75.71m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.16m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.16 – 0.40m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.40m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 9B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 75.24m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.31m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.31 – 0.64m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.64m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1B |

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 10 (Figs. 2 & 3)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 10A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 77.62m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.22m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.22– 0.56m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.56m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 10B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 75.40m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.14m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.14 – 0.41m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.41m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 10 contained undated Ditches F1018 and F1020.

Ditch F1018 was linear (1.80 x 1.60 x 0.31m), orientated northeast / southwest, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1019) was a compact, mid brown sandy silt, with moderate small stones. It contained two fragments of highly abraded Roman CBM (55g).

Ditch F1020 was linear (1.80+ x 0.53 x 0.11m), orientated northeast / southwest, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1021) was a firm, pale-mid brown sandy silt, with frequent small stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 11A</i> <i>East northeast end, west northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.63m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.20m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.20 – 0.41m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.41m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 11B</i> <i>West southwest end, east southeast end</i> <i>0.00 = 80.35m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.25m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.25m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 12A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest end</i> <i>0.00 = 80.64m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.25m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.25m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 12B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.01m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.23m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.23 – 0.56m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.56m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1B |

Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 13 (Figs. 2 & 5)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 13A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.73m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.23m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.23 – 0.53m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.53m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 13B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 77.30m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.19m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.19 – 0.43m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.43m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 13 contained undated Ditch F1024.

Ditch F1024 was linear (8.80+ x 1.70+ x 0.25m), orientate northeast / southwest, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1025) was a firm, mid brownish grey silty clay, with moderate small sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 14A</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 78.02m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.25m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.25 – 0.59m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.59m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 14B</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 76.75m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.22m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.22 – 0.45m | L1001 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.45m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1A |

Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 15A</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.81m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.27m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.27m+ | L1003 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1B |

| | | |
|---|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample section 15B</i> <i>Southwest end, southeast facing</i> <i>0.00 = 79.40m AOD</i> | | |
| 0.00 – 0.19m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above, Trench 1A |
| 0.19 – 0.32m | L1016 | Subsoil. As above, Trench 2B |
| 0.32m+ | L1017 | Natural deposits. As above, Trench 2B |

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the areas of the site examined, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt, with frequent roots (0.11 – 0.37m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a compact, dark-mid grey brown sandy silt, with frequent small stones and flints, occasional CBM fragments (0.17 – 0.52m thick), which was present across

most of the site excepting Trenches 2B and 15B. Here the Subsoil L1016 comprised a firm, mid orange brown clay silt (0.13 – 0.23m thick).

8.2 The natural geology (L1002) comprises friable, dark and light grey sand and gravel with areas of (L1017) compact, pale yellow brown silt (0.25 – 0.72m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

| Trench | Context | Description | Date |
|--------|---------|------------------|------|
| 2 | F1008 | Pit | - |
| | F1010 | Pit | - |
| | F1012 | Irregular linear | - |
| 3 | F1014 | Ditch | - |
| 4 | F1004 | Ditch | - |
| | F1006 | Possibly natural | - |
| 5 | F1022 | Ditch | - |
| 10 | F1018 | Ditch | - |
| | F1020 | Ditch | - |
| 13 | F1024 | Ditch | - |

9.2 The site lies adjacent to Area of Archaeological Significance 94, designated on the EHDC Local Plan, which includes the medieval village of Puckeridge and nationally important preceding late Iron Age/Romano-British settlements at Braughing/Puckeridge.

9.3 The line of the Roman road of Ermine Street is immediately adjacent to the site, increasing the potential for roadside remains. Investigations by AS to the immediate north at the Buffalo's Head recorded evidence of Iron Age occupation (HER 12814).

9.4 Not all the trenches contained features. The features were located northern (Trenches 2 – 5) and south-eastern (Trenches 9 – 13) sectors of the site, and between one and three features were recorded within the trenches.

9.5 Trench 2 contained the two recorded pits (F1008 and F1010) but neither contained any finds. F1012, within Trench 2, was an irregular linear which also contained no finds. F1006 (Trench 4) was possibly a natural feature. All the remaining features were undated ditches. Ditches F1018 and F1020 (Trench 10) and Ditch F1022 (Trench 5) had a common alignment (NE/SW), and likewise Ditch F1014 (Trench 3) and Ditch F1024 (Trench 13) (NNE/SSW).

9.6 The 1883, 1899, 1925 and 1950 six inch (scale 1:10560) Ordnance Survey maps show no ditches or other features present on the site, nor do the features appear to align with surrounding field boundaries. This suggests that

the ditches excavated during the archaeological evaluation pre-date 1878 when the site was first surveyed (OS maps XXII 1883 and 1999 & XXII.NW 1925 and 1950).

9.7 Ditch F1004 (Trench 4) contained a struck flint. The latter was not diagnostic and may have origins at any point in the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods. Ditch F1018 (Trench 10) contained two fragments of abraded Roman CBM. The latter was likely derived from a box flue tile though a fragment of tegula roof tile cannot be discounted.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Hertford Museum in accordance with their requirements. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client, Mears New Homes, for funding the project and for their assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

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 Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading

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

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

Summers, J., 2016 *Land East of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire Geophysical Survey* Archaeological Solutions Report No. 5116

APPENDIX 1 Concordance of Finds

AS1821, P6659, Land East of Cambridge Rd, Puckeridge, Herts

| Feature | Context | Segment | Trench | Description | Spot Date (Pot Only) | Pot Qty | Pottery (g) | CBM (g) | A.Bone (g) | Other Material | Other Qty | Other (g) |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1004 | 1005 | | 4 | Fill of Ditch | | | | | | S.Flnt | 1 | 9g |
| 1018 | 1019 | | 10 | Fill of Ditch | | | | 55g | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX 2

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Ditch F1004 contained an un-corticated debitage flake (9g) of dark grey flint, in an un-patinated condition. The flake has a broad platform, rippled ventral face, and dorsal scars that suggest it was produced as part of systematic reduction by the removal of similar flakes; however this flake is not particularly diagnostic and may have origins at any point in the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

Ditch F1018 contained two fragments (55g) of highly abraded Roman CBM. The CBM was manufactured in an orange fabric with inclusions of common quartz sparse, sparse red iron rich grains (both 0.25-0.5mm), and occasional flint (<3mm). The CBM is comprised of 10mm thick flat tile, most likely part of an un-keyed side of a box flue tile, although the body of a thin tegula roof tile cannot be discounted.

APPENDIX 3**CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

| Records | Number |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Brief | N |
| Specification | Y |
| Registers | 4 (Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing) |
| Context Sheets | 20 |
| Site drawings A1 | 0 |
| Site drawings A3 | 1 |
| Site drawings A4 | 0 |
| Site photographs b/w | 8 |
| Site photographs colour slides | 8 |
| Digital Photographs | 20 |

APPENDIX 4

HER SUMMARY SHEET

| | |
|---|--|
| Site name and address: | Cambridge Road, Puckeridge |
| County: Herts | District: East Herts |
| Village/Town: | Parish: Standon |
| Planning application reference: | East Herts DC Planning Refs. 3/14/1627/OP; Appeal APP/J1915/W/15/3016566) |
| Client name/address/tel: | |
| Nature of application: | Residential |
| Present land use: | Agricultural |
| Size of application area: 1.8ha | Size of area investigated 1080m2 |
| NGR (8 figures): | TL 38403 22880 |
| Site Code: | AS 1821 |
| Site director/Organization | Archaeological Solutions Ltd |
| Type of work: | Trial trench evaluation |
| Date of work: | 4 – 11 July |
| Location of finds/Curating museum: | Hertford |
| Related HER Nos: | Periods represented: prehistoric and Roman |
| Relevant previous summaries/reports: - | - |
| Summary of fieldwork results: | <p><i>In July 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land east of Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 2285). The evaluation was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed residential development, based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>Not all the trenches contained features. The features were located northern (Trenches 2 – 5) and south-eastern sectors of the site, and between one and three features were recorded within the trenches. Trench 2 contained the two recorded pits (F1008 and F1010) but neither contained any finds. F1012, within Trench 2, was an irregular linear which also contained no finds. F1006 (Trench 4) was possibly a natural feature. All the remaining features were undated ditches. The latter are not present on the OS maps and it is probable that they predate 1878 when the OS first surveyed the site.</i></p> <p><i>Ditch F1004 (Trench 4) contained a struck flint. The latter was not diagnostic and may have origins at any point in the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods. Ditch F1018 (Trench 10) contained two fragments of abraded Roman CBM. The latter was likely derived from a box flue tile, though a fragment of tegula roof tile cannot be discounted.</i></p> |
| Author of summary: Thomas Muir | Date of Summary: July 2016 |

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F1007 in Trench 2 looking north-west



2
F1010 in Trench 2 looking south-east



3
F1012 in Trench 2 looking south-east



4
Post-excavation view of Trench 2 looking north-east



5
F1014 in Trench 3 looking north-east



6
Sample Section 3A in Trench 3 looking north-east



7
Post-excavation view of Trench 3 looking south-east



8
F1004 in Trench 4 looking north-west



9
F1006 in Trench 4 looking south-west



10
Sample section 8A in Trench 8 looking north-west



11
F1018 in Trench 10 looking south-west



12
F1020 in Trench 10 looking south-west



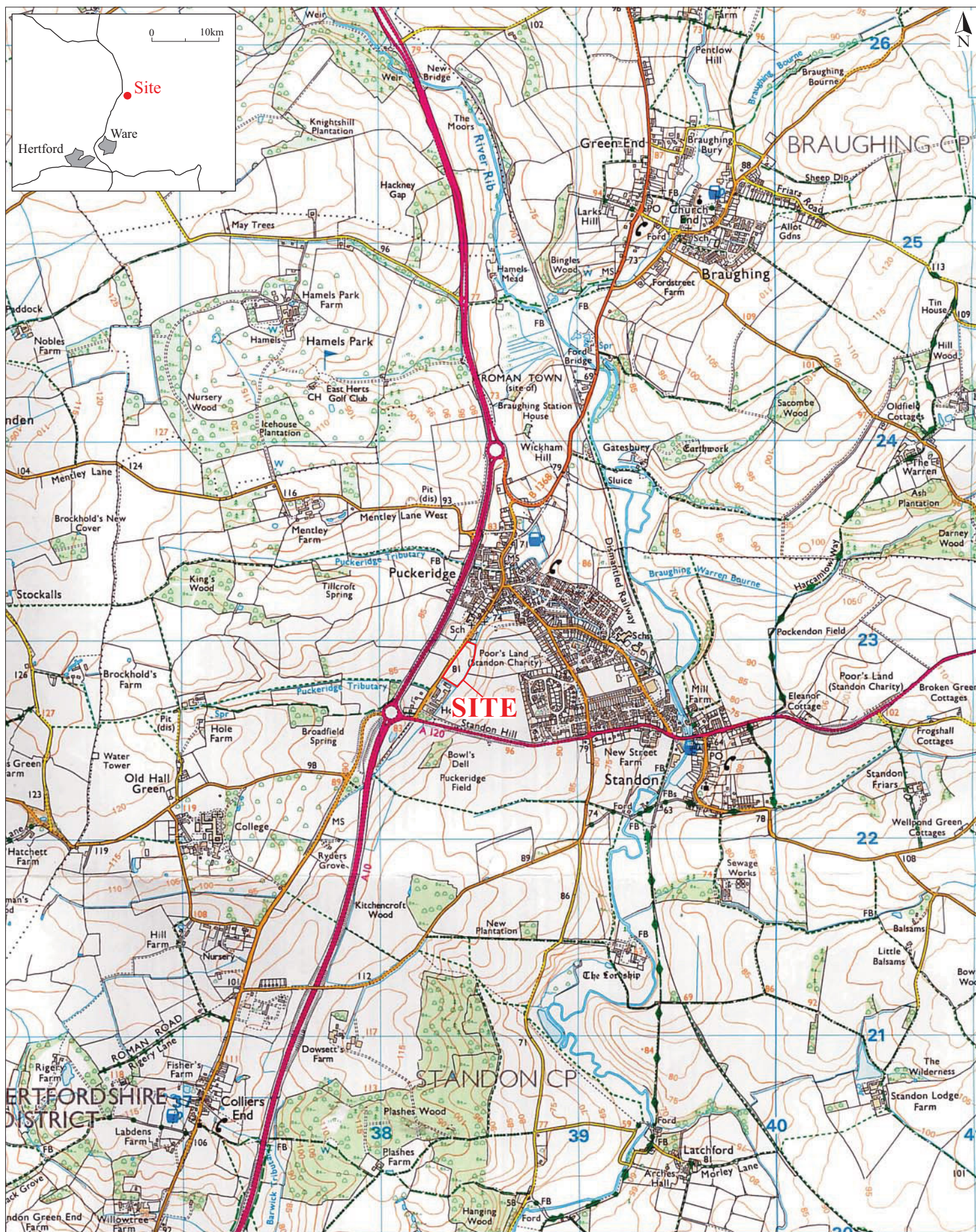
13
Post-excavation view of Trench 10 looking south-east



14
F1024 in trench 13 looking north-east



15
Post-excavation view of Trench 13 looking north-east



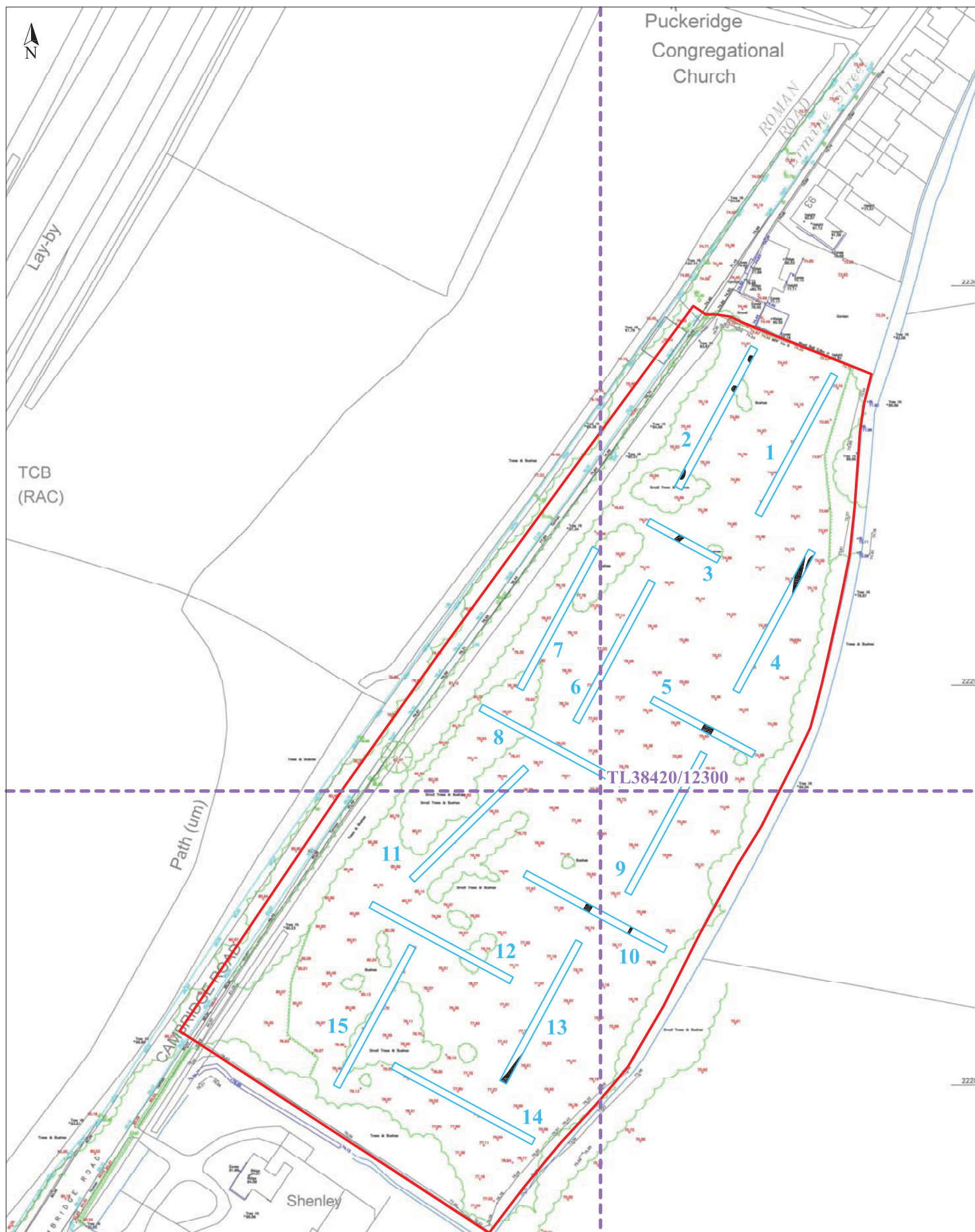
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd

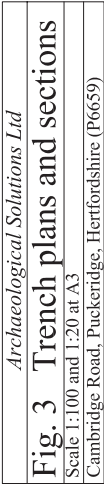
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (P6659)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4
 Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (P6659)

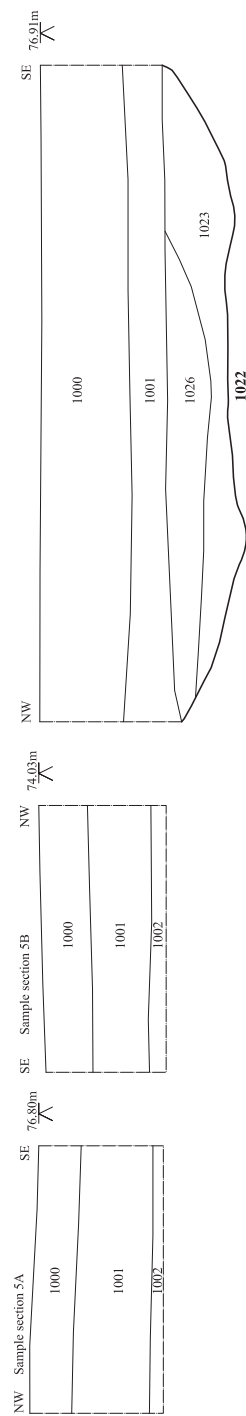
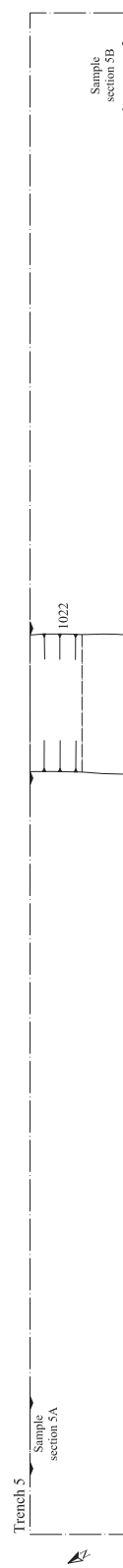
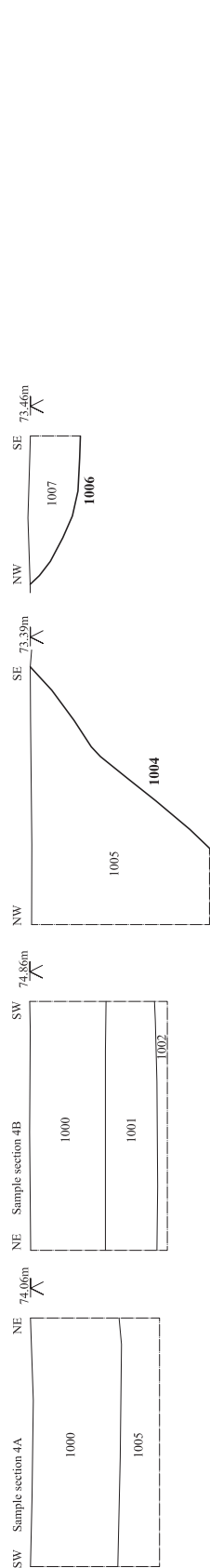
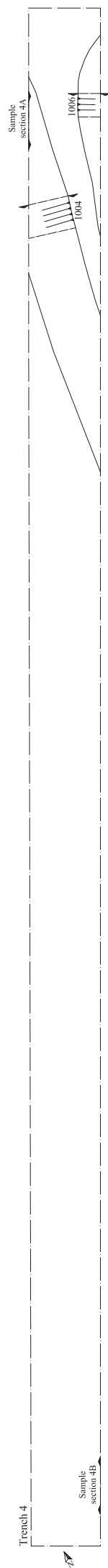


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Cambridge Road, Puckeringidge, Hertfordshire (P6659)

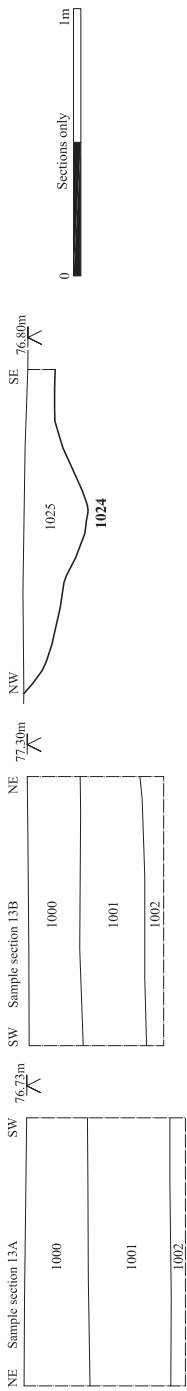
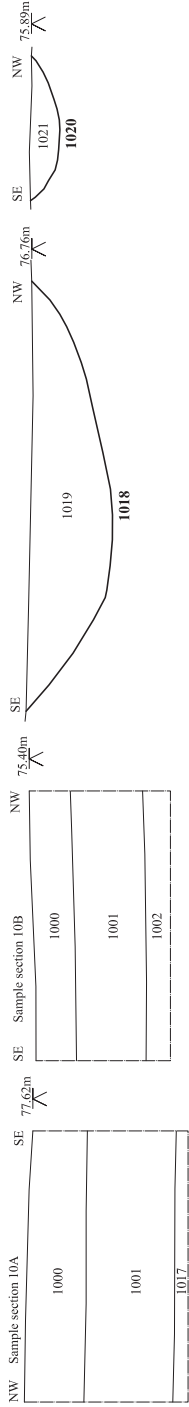
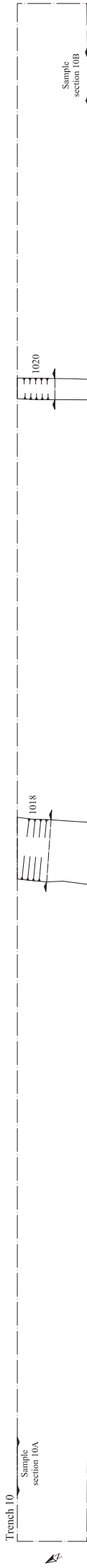


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Cambridge Road, Puckertidge, Hertfordshire (P6659)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (P6659)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 6 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4

Cambridge Road, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (P6659)