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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**1 MOUNT PLEASANT, ST ALBANS,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 14350 07305	Report No: 5050
District: St Albans	Site Code: MPL16
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6290
Signed:	Date: 18 February 2016

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14350 07305). The evaluation was commissioned by Beechwood Homes, and was undertaken as a pre-planning requirement following a pre-application consultation prior to submission of a planning application to demolish the existing dwelling and construct 7No residential dwellings with associated garaging and landscaping.</i></p> <p><i>A large ?Roman quarry pit (F1011), and an undated ditch (F1009) were recorded in Trench 3. Fourteen sherds of abraded Roman (late 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century) pottery derived from a jar made locally was found within Pit F1011. The undated ditch contained charcoal. Residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found within Made Ground L1001 (Trench 1), L1002 (Trench 1) and Subsoil L1007 (Trench 3). The site contained significant deposits of post-medieval and modern made ground. The evaluation also revealed the remains of a post-medieval (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) building comprising a flint wall located to the front of the existing modern bungalow.</i></p>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	<i>04-09/02/2016</i>		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>N</i>	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b>	<i>Y</i>
<b>P. number</b>	<i>6290</i>	<b>Site code</b>	<i>MPL16</i>
<b>Type of project</b>	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<b>Site status</b>	<i>Within the area of AS.R.25</i>		
<b>Current land use</b>	<i>Two detached dwellings with gardens</i>		
<b>Planned development</b>	<i>Construction of 8 residential dwellings and 2 apartments</i>		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	<i>Roman pit, undated ditch, post-medieval flint wall</i>		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	<i>Residual medieval pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>	<i>St Michael</i>
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	<i>AL3 4QH</i>		
<b>Area of site</b>	<i>c. 2450m<sup>2</sup></i>		
<b>NGR</b>	<i>TL 14350 07305</i>		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	<i>89/92m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	<i>Requirement of SADC</i>		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
<b>Funded by</b>	<i>Beechwood Homes</i>		
<b>Full title</b>	<i>1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<b>Authors</b>	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
<b>Report no.</b>	<i>5050</i>		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	<i>February 2016</i>		

# 1 MOUNT PLEASANT, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14350 07305). The evaluation was commissioned by Beechwood Homes, and was undertaken as a pre-planning requirement following a pre-application consultation prior to submission of a planning application to demolish the existing dwelling and construct 7No residential dwellings with associated garaging and landscaping.*

*The site lies within the area of AS.R.25 as recorded on the St Albans District Council Local Plan. The area encompasses the core of St Albans with Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and medieval town and also Sopwell Nunnery. The site is also located in vicinity of Roman Verulamium. The site had potential for Roman and medieval archaeology, with such remains and later often found during investigations in the area of Hill Street, Portland Street, Kingsbury Avenue, Mount Pleasant and The Lawns.*

*A large ?Roman quarry pit (F1011), and an undated ditch (F1009) were recorded in Trench 3. Fourteen sherds of abraded Roman (late 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century) pottery derived from a jar made locally was found within Pit F1011. The undated ditch contained charcoal. Residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found within Made Ground L1001 (Trench 1), L1002 (Trench 1) and Subsoil L1007 (Trench 3). The site contained significant deposits of post-medieval and modern made ground. The evaluation also revealed the remains of a post-medieval (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) building comprising a flint wall located to the front of the existing modern bungalow.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In February 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14350 07305; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Beechwood Homes, and was undertaken as a pre-planning requirement following a pre-application consultation prior to submission of a planning application to demolish the existing dwelling and construct 7No residential dwellings with associated garaging and landscaping (St Albans Planning Ref. 5/15/PRE0094).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to advice issued by the St Albans City & District Council District Archaeologist (SADC; dated 23/09/2015) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 14/12/2015) and approved by SADC. 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 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 of post-medieval, medieval or earlier date. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

#### *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 on the southern side of Mount Pleasant in the Kingsbury area of St Albans (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the west by Old Garden Court and to the east by the rear of properties fronting Welclose Street. It comprises the existing detached residential dwelling of 1 Mount Pleasant set in a large mature garden plots with trees and hedging. Another dwelling is located in the southern end of the garden.

## 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on the eastern bank of small valley, between 89 and 92m AOD. The valley opens further to south-west towards River Ver which is present c.250m to the south-west.

3.2 St Albans lies on a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous Upper Chalk (British Geological Survey 1978), which is overlain by flinty and chalky drift and possible alluvium associated with the River Ver. The soils of central St Albans are unsurveyed due to the urban nature of the area. Those in the surrounding area are of the Charity 2 Association, which are described as well-drained flinty fine silty soils in valley bottoms and calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). These may be found in the area to the south-west of the city. To the north the soils comprise those of the Hornbeam 3 association, which are deep fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils, while to the south and south-east may be found soils of the Batcombe association; these are described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric occupation of the St Albans area is well attested, particularly along the valley of the River Ver, which provided a rich source of subsistence. The earliest evidence of human activity in the wider area comprises a scatter of worked flints dating to the Mesolithic period. A series of pits, stake holes, pottery and other finds of late Bronze Age date were all found c.300m north-east of the site (HER 14653). A chance find, c.550m north-west of the site, is an O'Connor's Endingen type razor also of Bronze Age date and one of eight found in Britain (HER 6532). An extensive Iron Age settlement, known as *Verlamion*, is known to lie within Prae Wood approximately 600m to the south-west of the site, from which evidence for the minting of Tasciovanus and Cunobelin coins have been found (St Albans Archaeology & History website).

4.2 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, yet 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 is no known fort in the town and the town walls were not built until the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

4.3 The St Albans Urban Archaeological Database and Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record list remains from the area. UAD Monument 1 (UAD M1) is Mount Pleasant, where a Roman cremation cemetery was recorded during works in the 19<sup>th</sup> century centred on Portland Street, and which likely extends further. Investigations at Hill Street have also provided further evidence of burials from this cemetery, along with further activity from the late Roman or early post-Roman periods into medieval times, including structures (UAD Event 28, Museum Code 76.2, 1976). Two wells and a building foundation at The Lawns date to the early Roman period (UAD M4-M6).

4.4 By the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1902). The Kingsbury *burh* was possibly located to the north of the Abbey. Initially thought to be located in the area where the current site is located it is more likely it was located, at least partially, within Roman town and towards later St Michael's village. 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*' (Morris 1976; Page 1902). 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.

4.5 Medieval St Albans took the form recognisable today with settlement moving across the River Ver from the Roman city to the Abbey precincts and extending 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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).

4.6 The 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. 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).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 Two trenches (of the three proposed) were excavated using a mechanical 360° mini excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The machine was small and was all that could access the site through the existing narrow access point to the rear of the existing house. Trench 1 measured 5.75 x 1.70m and it was shortened by 10m due to modern services being present. Trench 2 was not excavated as deposits within its location were 1.60m+ thick and for practical and safety reasons the excavation ceased. Instead two test pits (labelled 2A and 2B) were excavated at both ends of the proposed trench. Trench 3 measured 19 x 1.70m + 6.50 x 1.70m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were 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**

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

**Trench 1** (Figs. 2-4, DP 1-2)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3): north-west end, south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 90.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.79m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM fragments and debris.
0.79 – 1.21m	L1001	Made ground. Light to mid greyish brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate CBM fragments.
1.21 – 1.34m+	L1002	Light brown, compact, sandy silt with occasional chalk chunks and CBM fragments.

*Description: Trench 1 contained the remains of a flint structure: Wall M1003. It contained 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century peg tiles. Modern Made Ground L1001 contained seven abraded medieval sherds, and L1002 contained a medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherd.*

M1003 (DP 3-5) was a wall or foundation of probably a rectangular structure located 15m south of the present Mount Pleasant road. The north-eastern corner of a building was revealed within the trench. The building may have been orientated west-north-west / east-south-east. The joint between the north-west arm (1.12+ x 0.31m) and south-east arm (0.82+ x 0.37m) was not wholly clear although the wider south-east arm may have been tied into the other. The wall was constructed of flint nodules, uncoursed but forming regular straight sides. The flints were bonded with light brownish yellow sandy mortar, and fragments of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century peg tiles were embedded in the wall. The wall was less than 0.10m high and may have been of post-medieval origin.

**Test Pit 2A (Trench 2)** (Figs. 2 - 4, DP 6)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 6): west side, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 91.04m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1004	Topsoil. Mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand.
0.47 – 0.79m	L1005	Made ground. Light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay with frequent large shells and stones.
0.79 – 1.19m	L1006	Buried topsoil. Mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand.
1.19 – 1.40m+	L1007	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, friable, sandy silt.

*Description: No archaeological features were present. A large number of shells were recovered from modern Made Ground L1005.*

**Test Pit 2B (Trench 2)** (Figs. 2 - 4, DP 7)

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 7): west side, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 91.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1004	Topsoil. As above.
0.45 – 0.81m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.81 – 1.20m	L1006	Buried topsoil. As above.
1.20 – 1.62m	L1007	Subsoil. As above.
1.62m+	L1008	Natural mid brownish yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

**Trench 3** (Fig. 2 - 3 & 5, DP 8-11)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 12): north end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 90.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1006	Topsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
0.45 – 1.33m	L1007	Subsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
1.33m+	L1008	Natural gravel. As above, Test Pit 2B.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 13): south corner, west-north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 90.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1006	Topsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
0.44 – 1.02m	L1007	Subsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
1.02m+	L1008	Natural gravel. As above, Test Pit 2B.

<i>Sample section 3C (DP 14): west end, north-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 89.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1006	Topsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
0.38 – 0.87m	L1007	Subsoil. As above, Test Pit 2A.
0.87m+	L1008	Natural gravel. As above, Test Pit 2B.

*Description: Trench 3 contained undated Ditch F1009 and ?Roman Quarry Pit F1011. The later contained 14 sherds of abraded Roman (late 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century) pottery. Residual medieval (mid 12<sup>th</sup> – late 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was also present in Subsoil L1007.*

Ditch F1009 was linear (1+ x 0.60 x 0.18m; DP 15), orientated E/W. It terminated within the northern part of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mixed mid brown and black, friable, sandy silt and charcoal. No finds were present.

?Quarry Pit F1011 was sub rectangular in plan (2.60+ x 1.75+ x 0.38m; DP 16). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a light brownish yellow, compact, clayey silt. It contained abraded Roman (late 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century) pottery (14; 102g) derived from a locally-made jar.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 The factors which may have inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds were related mainly to the limited access to the site, in particular to the rear where Trenches 2 and 3 should have been located. The largest mechanical plant able to operate on the site proved to be insufficient when thick deposits were encountered. This caused Trench 2 to be curtailed. Also the presence of live services inhibited the length of Trench 1.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The northern part of the site (in front of the existing house) was commonly overlain by Topsoil / Made Ground L1000, a mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand (0.70 – 0.80m thick). This deposit contained frequent modern finds. Below L1000 was Made Ground L1001, a light to mid greyish brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate CBM fragments (0.40 – 0.50m thick). Basal deposit, L1002, consisted of a light brown, compact, sandy silt with occasional chalk chunks and CBM fragments. The natural deposits were not encountered in this area.

8.2 To the rear of the house and within Test Pits 2A and 2B, two deposits of modern made ground (L1004 and L1005) overlay Topsoil L1006. The made ground (0.70 – 0.80m thick in total) may have been created to accommodate a tennis court formerly located in the eastern part of the garden. Elsewhere the site was overlain by Topsoil L1006 (0.40 – 0.48m thick), a mid to dark grey, friable, silty sand. Below L1006 was Subsoil L1007 (0.50 – 0.90m thick), a mid greyish brown, friable, sandy silt.

8.3 The natural gravel, L1008, was encountered in the rear garden part of the site and was present at 0.90 – 1.65m below existing ground level. It consisted of a mid brownish yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site lies within the historic area of the core of St Albans with Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and medieval town and also Sopwell Nunnery. It also is located in vicinity of Roman Verulamium. The site had potential for Roman and medieval archaeology and later remains.

9.2 A large ?Roman quarry pit (F1011), and an undated ditch (F1009) were recorded in Trench 3. The latter contained charcoal. Residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery was found within Made Ground L1001 (Trench 1), L1002 (Trench 1) and Subsoil L1007 (Trench 3). The site contained significant deposits of post-medieval and modern made ground.

9.3 The evaluation revealed remains of post-medieval (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) building comprising a flint wall located to the front of the existing modern bungalow. The remains appeared to be well preserved beneath thick post-

medieval layers.

9.4 The SADC District Archaeologist has visited the project during the site works and has confirmed that further archaeological works that will be required can be conditioned on planning approval.

## **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 Beechwood Homes for funding the project, and Mr Sean Harries for his assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the site owners.

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

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**APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

**Concordance of Finds**

**MPL16, P6290, 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, 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)
	1000			Topsoil	19th-20th	1	84		80	Clay Fe. Objects Shell	1	2 261 692
	1001		1	Made Ground	Residual / Med. Sherds	2	20	505	347	Glass	1	344
	1002		1	Layer	Medieval	1	5	521		Fe.Frag Fe.Frag Oyster Shell	1 1 2	8 17 43
	1003			Wall				3561				
	1005		2A	Modern Made Ground						Shell	16	12520
	1007		3	Subsoil	Medieval	7	66					
1011	1012		3	Fill of Pit	Roman	14	102					

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

#### Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered 25 sherds weighing 267g from one feature, one layer, made ground, and the subsoil and topsoil. The pottery is a multi-period assemblage containing Roman, medieval and post-medieval to modern sherds.

#### Methodology

The sherds were analysed in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001, Table 1), as well as the guide lines for the study group of Roman pottery.

#### The Pottery

Pit F1011 (L1012) contained 14 abraded sherds (101g) from a Verulamium white ware single necked inverted bead rim jar, a common form and fabric made locally.

Layer L1002 contained a single lightly abraded sherd of medieval grey ware in keeping with a South Hertfordshire grey ware product (SHER).

The subsoil L1001 contained 7 abraded medieval sherds; three early medieval gritty wares (EMGW) including a jar rim, two early medieval sherds in shelly limestone fabrics (EMCW), and two sherds including a flat topped, everted bowl rim in a fabric consistent with SHER, although the firing is mottled. These would all fit within an 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries date range, with the SHER the latest sherds. The Topsoil L1000 contained a stoneware preserve jar with brown glaze around the rim, of a mid 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century date range.

#### KEY:

VER WH: Verulamium White Ware mid 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

EMGW: Early medieval gritty ware 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

EMCW: Early medieval calcareous ware 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>

SHER: South Hertfordshire Greyware late 12<sup>th</sup> - late 14<sup>th</sup>

STMO: Staffordshire type mottled brown glazed ware mid 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+



Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	1x83g ENGS	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup>	ENGS jar rim
Made Ground	1001	1x3g STMO 1x13g TPW	late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	TPW: 'Willow Pattern' plate
Layer	1002	1x5g SHER	mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	
Subsoil	1007	3x28g EMGW 2x16g EMCW 2x18g SHER	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -late 14 <sup>th</sup>	EMGW: everted jar rim SHER: flat topped everted bowl rim
Pit 1011	1012	14x101g VER WH	Late 1 <sup>st</sup> -2 <sup>nd</sup>	VER WH: all from one bead rim jar

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by feature

## Bibliography

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*.

Turner-Rugg, A. 1995 Medieval Pottery from St Albans Medieval Ceramics Volume 19 p45-64

## The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The trial-trench evaluation recovered a total of 16 fragments (1026g) of CBM, comprised entirely of moderately fragmented post-medieval peg tile, probably manufactured in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Low quantities of peg tile were recovered from Made Ground L1001 and Layer L1002. The peg tile were manufactured in a fabric that is generally red-orange throughout (sometimes with thin reduced cores), with inclusions of moderately-sorted quartz sand (0.1-0.5mm), sparse-occasional flint and iron stone (0.25-3mm). No complete examples of the peg tile were recorded, with only partial dimensions of a thickness of 12-14mm extant. The peg tile had a sanded base and circular peg holes inserted as the tiles dried before firing. It is likely that these tiles were deposited as part of levelling material, after they had been discarded during the construction, repair or demolition of a nearby structure, though they appear relatively freshly broken and are unlikely to

have been re-deposited far. This type of peg tile is consistent with roofing material manufactured in the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries in the St. Albans region.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Trench 1. Looking east.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north-west.



DP 3. Trench 1. Sample section 1A and Wall M1003. Looking north-east.



DP 4. Trench 1, Wall M1003. Looking north-north-east.



DP 5. Trench 1, Wall M1003. Looking west-north-west.



DP 6. Trench 2 (Test Pit 2A). Sample section 2A. Looking west-north-west.





DP 7. Trench 2 (Test Pit 2B). Sample section 2B. Looking west-north-west.



DP 8. Trench 3. Looking north-east.



DP 9. Trench 3. Looking south-west.



DP 10. Trench 3. Looking south-south-west.



DP 11. Trench 3. Looking east-south-east.



DP 12. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking west-north-west.





DP 13. Trench 3, south corner. Sample section 2B. Looking east-south-east.



DP 14. Trench 3, west end. Sample section 3C. Looking south-south-west.

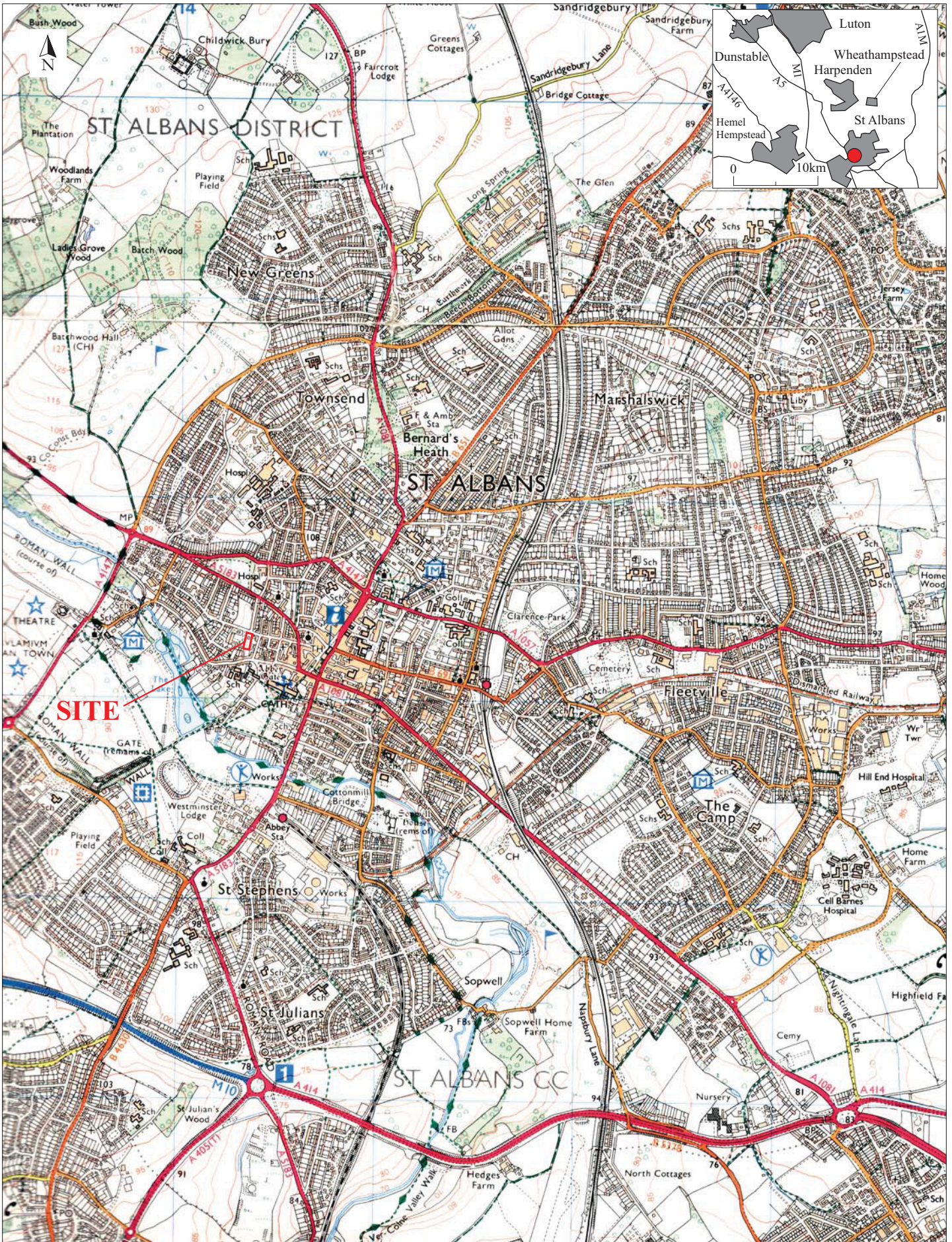


DP 15. Trench 3, Ditch F1009. Looking east-south-east.



DP 16. Trench 3, Pit F1011. Looking south-south-west.

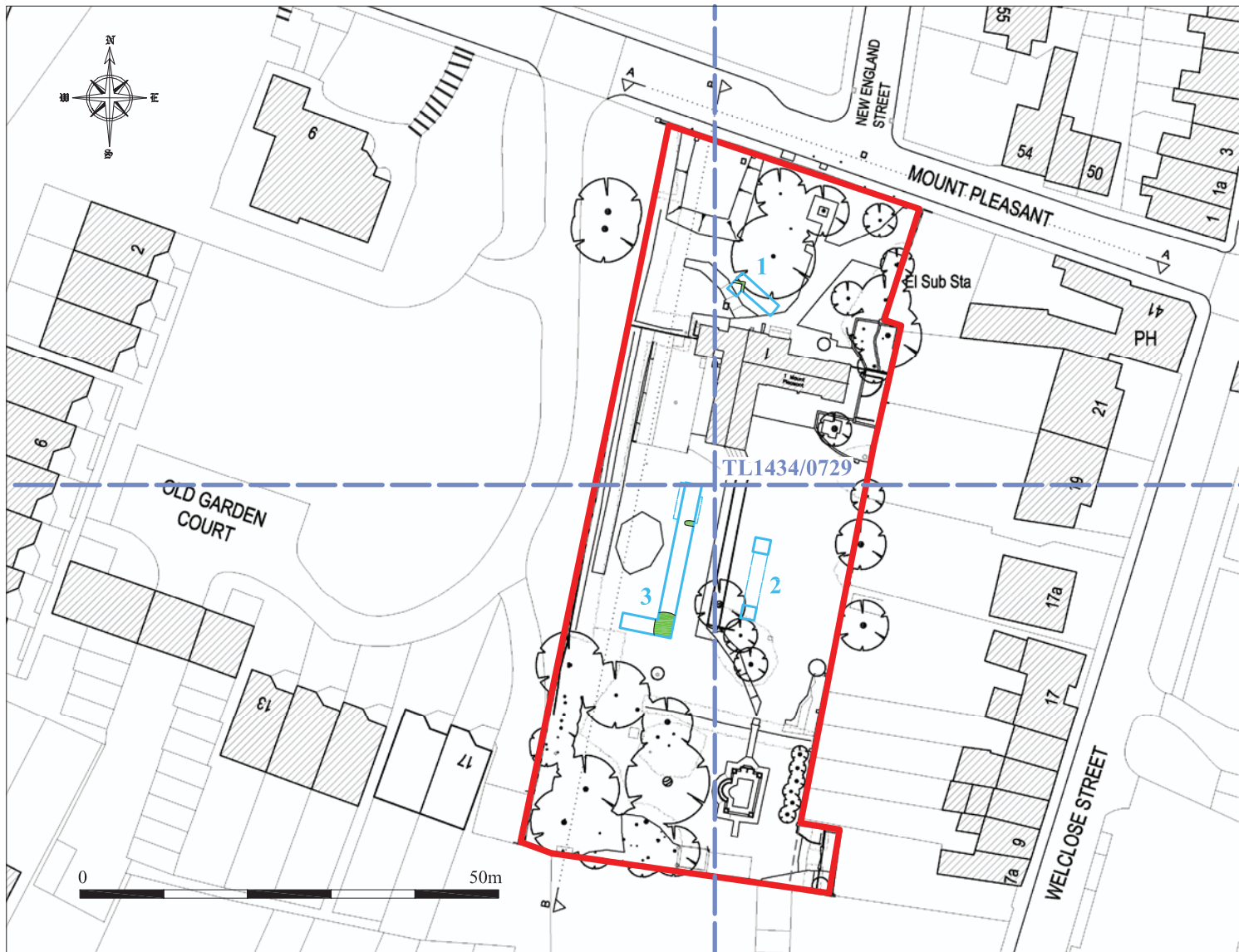




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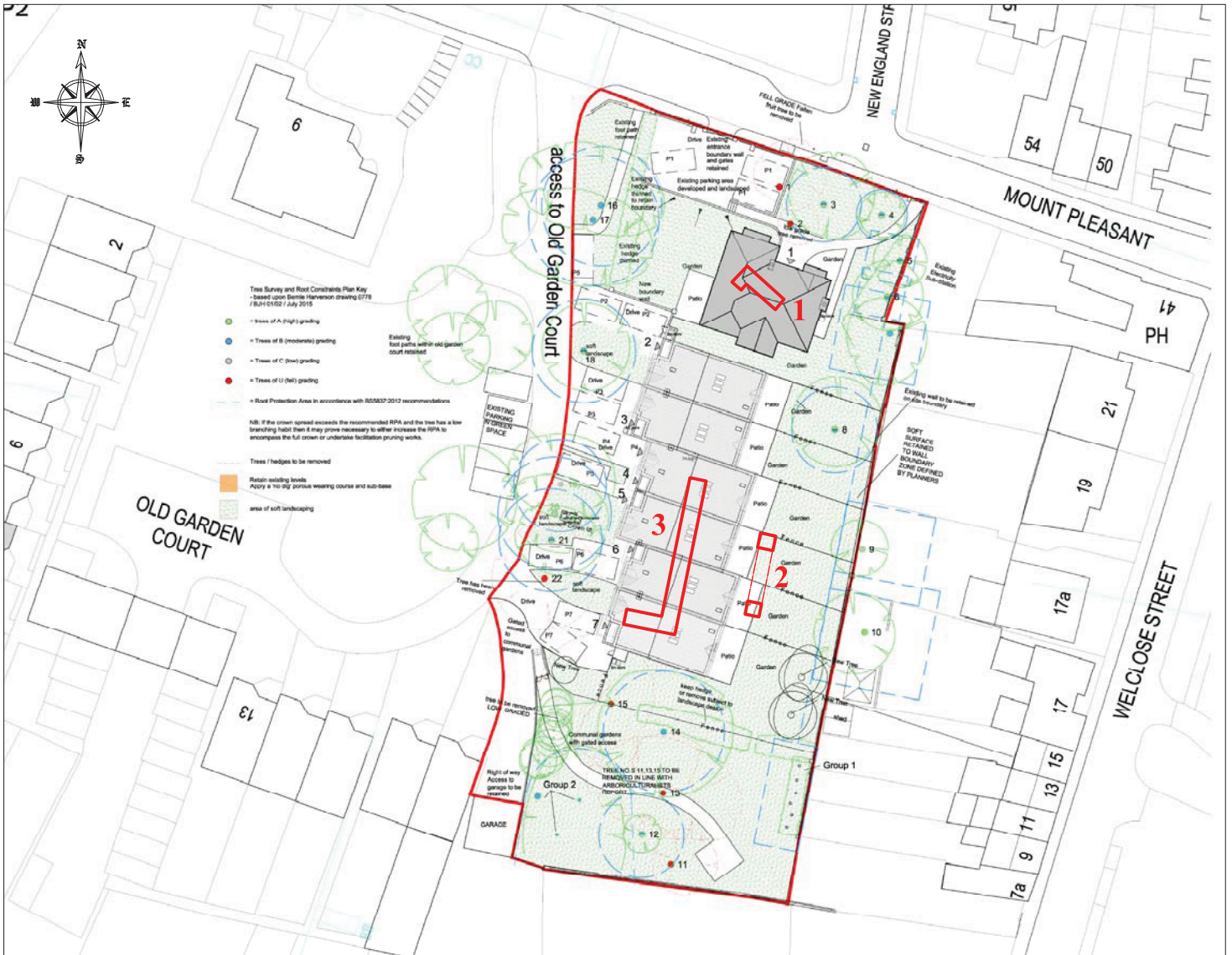
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P6290)





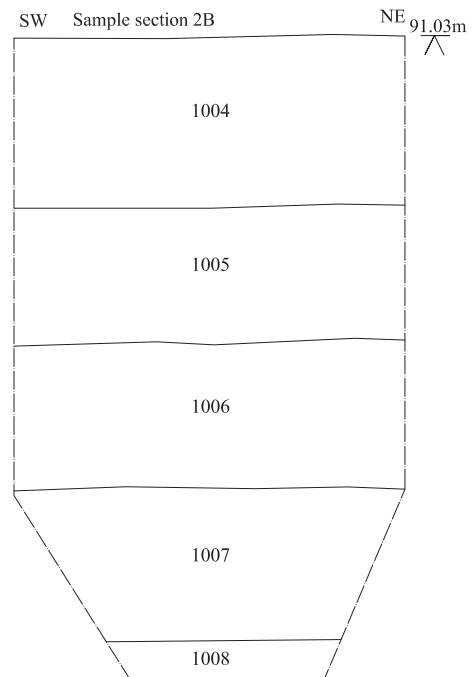
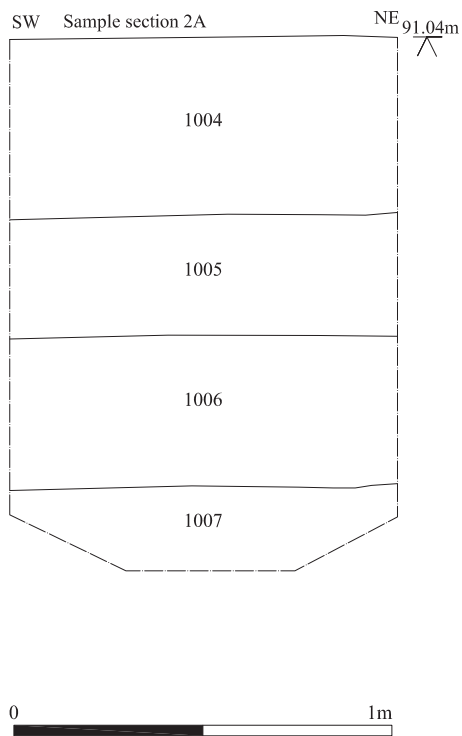
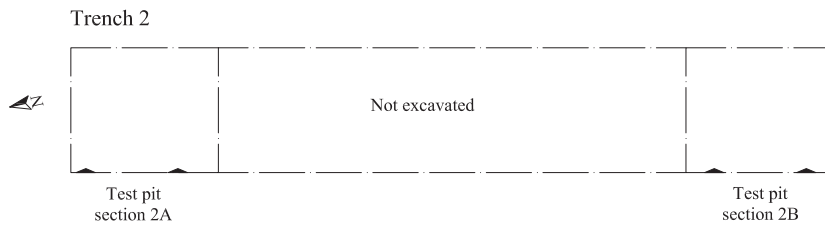
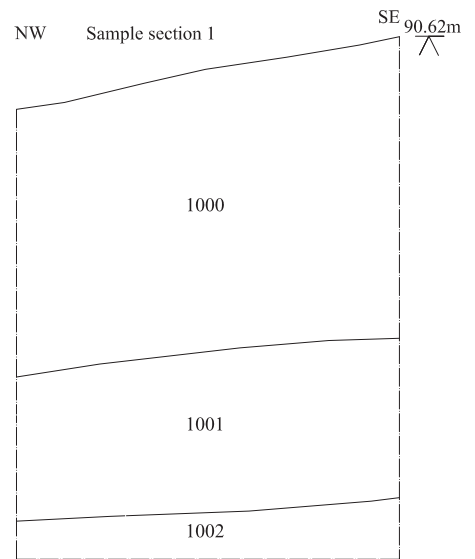
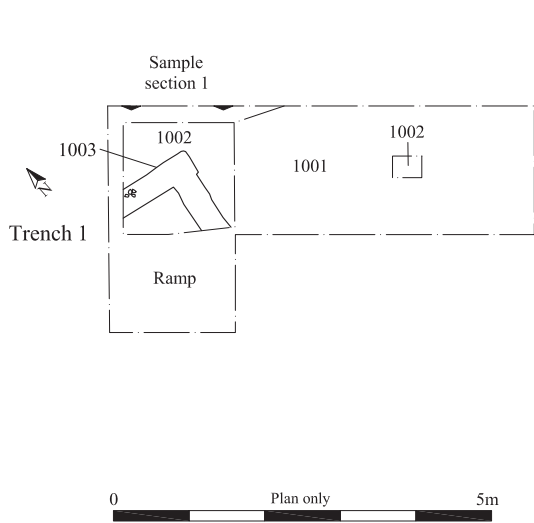
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:750 at A4
1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans, Hertfordshire (P6290)





0 50m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 3 Proposed development plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4  
 1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans (P6290)

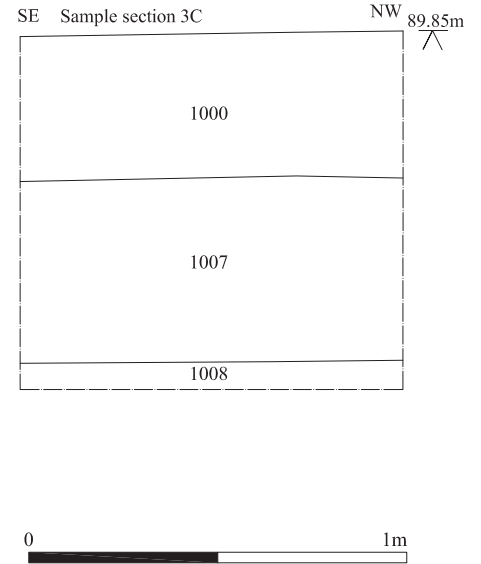
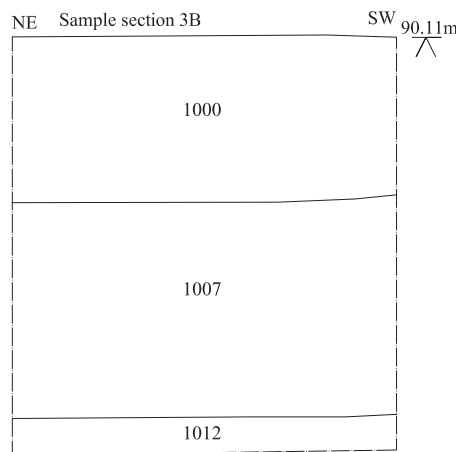
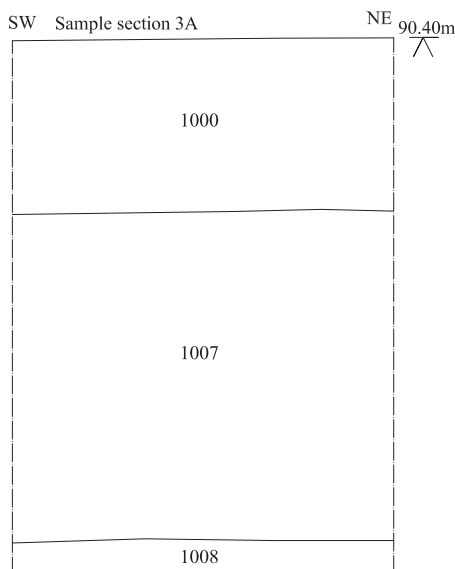
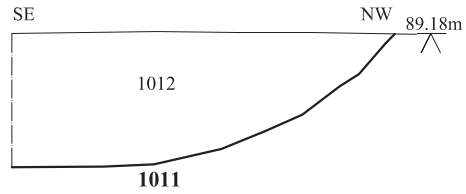
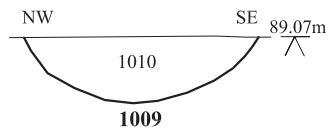
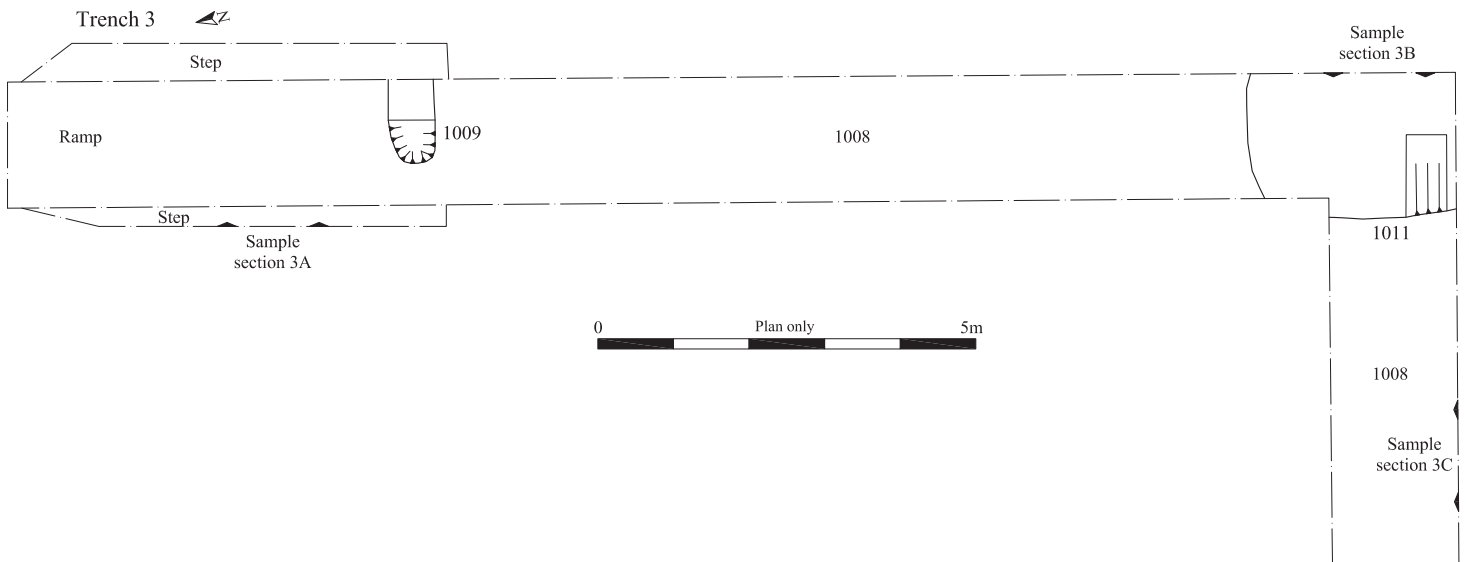


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**Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections**

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3

1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans (P6290)



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<b>Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections</b>
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:50 at A3
1 Mount Pleasant, St Albans (P6290)