ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

PROPOSED CAR PARK, 99 WAVERLEY ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton	
NGR: TL 1426 0821	Report No: 4878
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1749
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6193
Signed:	Date: 16 June 2015

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Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
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Project name	*99 Waverley Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire*		
During March 2015, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 99 Waverley Road, St Albans. The monitoring was a requirement of St Albans City & District Council in compliance with a planning condition (No. 3) attached to planning approval for the construction of a new car park extension. *The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required due to the proximity of the site to the Iron Age and Roman ceremonial site at Folly Lane, to the south.* *In the event, a fairly uniform stratigraphy of topsoil overlying natural deposits, with the presence of a subsoil at the western end of the site, and only three archaeological features, was recorded. The three features would appear to have been of modern (in the case of the two gullies) and natural (the tree hollow) origin. No finds were present.*			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*23/03 – 26/03/2015*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*N*
P. number	*6193*	Site code	*AS 1749*
Type of project	*Archaeological Monitoring & Recording*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Former farmyard*		
Planned development	*Construction of new replacement barn*		
Main features (+dates)	*18th – 19th century wall*		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Hertfordshire*	*St Albans*	*St Peter*
HER/ SMR for area	*Hertfordshire HER*		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	*c.1500m²*		
NGR	*TL 1426 0821*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.110m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*St Albans District Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Andrew A. S. Newton*		
Funded by	*Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust*		
Full title	*99 Waverley Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording*		
Authors	*Newton, A. A. S*		
Report no.	*4878*		
Date (of report)	*June 2015*		

PROPOSED CAR PARK, 99 WAVERLEY ROAD, ST ALBANS, HERTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

During March 2015, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 99 Waverley Road, St Albans. The monitoring was a requirement of St Albans City & District Council in compliance with a planning condition (No. 3) attached to planning approval for the construction of a new car park extension.

The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required due to the proximity of the site to the Iron Age and Roman ceremonial site at Folly Lane, to the south.

In the event, a fairly uniform stratigraphy of topsoil overlying natural deposits, with the presence of a subsoil at the western end of the site, and only three archaeological features, was recorded. The three features would appear to have been of modern (in the case of the two gullies) and natural (the tree hollow) origin. No finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During March 2015, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 99 Waverley Road, St Albans (NGR TL 1426 0821; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust and the work was a requirement of St Albans City & District Council in compliance with a planning condition (No. 3) attached to planning approval for the construction of a new car park extension at 99 Waverley Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 5TL (SADC Planning Ref. 5/14/2781).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18/03/2015), 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;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

In particular, the project aimed to:

- fully record archaeological deposits and all associated artefacts in the area affected by the proposed development;
- record and analyze evidence for the past environment of the site revealed during the investigation to the appropriate standard

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 to the west of the medieval core of St Albans. It comprises an existing grassed land parcel adjacent to the south of the NHS Foundation Trust offices on Waverley Road.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at around 110m AOD in a relatively undulating landscape on the western side of the city of St Albans. Land remains relatively flat to the immediate south of the site but rises and falls with to the north, north-west and north-east. The solid geology of the area is upper cretaceous chalk of the white chalk sub-group. As it lies within an urban area, the soils are listed as unsurveyed by the SSEW (1983) but to the north they are listed as the fine silty and fine loamy over clayey soils of the Batcombe Association and in the valley of the river Ver to the south-west are the well-drained flinty fine silty of the Charity 2 association (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within the area designated as AS.R.23 on the Local Plan (the area around Verulamium). It lies on the edge of the internationally significant late Iron Age and Roman ceremonial site excavated at Folly Lane between 1991-93 (Urban Archaeological Database Monuments 530-31, 655; Event 365). Here, a royal burial of early Roman date was interred within a large enclosure above the Roman city at Verulamium. The northern part of the site nearest to the current proposed car park site was only partially investigated as it was not to be affected by housing development at the time. The site also lies adjacent to the line of the medieval route of Everlasting Lane (UAD Mon 629), and the route of the major Roman Verulamium to Colchester road lies some 200m away.

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 comprised soil stripping/ground reduction to the required level for the construction of the car park.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The monitoring and recording identified a fairly uniform stratigraphy of topsoil overlying the naturally occurring sandy clay and gravels. Towards the western part of the site, subsoil was observed stratified between the topsoil and the natural substrate. Four sample sections were recorded to demonstrate the stratigraphy (Fig. 4)

Sample Section 1 (DP 5) *East facing section* *0.00 = 110.48m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey friable sandy silt with moderate rooting and moderate small to medium sub-rounded stones
0.09 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark red brown clayey sandy silt with moderate to frequent sub-rounded stones
0.51 - 0.8m +	L1002	Natural substrate. Moderately loose gravel in light orange brown sandy clay matrix

Sample Section 2 (DP 6) *South-west facing section* *0.00 = 112.04m AOD*		
0.00– 0.77m +	L1000	Topsoil. As above

Sample Section 3 (DP 7) *North-east facing section* *0.00 = 112.53m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.23m +	L1002	Natural substrate. As above

Sample Section 4 (DP 8) *North-east facing section* *0.00 = 112.37m AOD*		
0.00– 0.47m +	L1000	Topsoil. As above

6.2 Three archaeological features were recorded during the programme of monitoring and recording. All of these features were identified in areas where excavation reached to the level of L1002 and were observed to cut this deposit.

6.3 F1003 (6.90 x 0.42 x 0.16m; DPs 9 & 10) was a gully, aligned north-west to south-west. It was linear and plan and appeared to peter out, rather than terminating, at either end. It had steep to moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a dark grey moderately compact slightly clayey silt with frequent small to medium sub-rounded stones. No finds were present.

6.4 F1005 (1.79 x 1.32 x 0.31m; DP 11) was a pit or tree hollow. It was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and flat stepped base. It contained a single fill, L1006, a mid to dark grey firm slightly sandy silt with moderate rooting and very frequent small to medium sub-rounded stones. No finds were present.

6.5 F1007 (8.10 x 0.40 x 0.11m; DP 12) was a gully, positioned on a slightly different north-west to south-west alignment to F1003. It was linear in

plan and, like F1003, appeared to peter out at either end rather than displaying clear terminals. Its single fill, L1008, was a dark grey firm clayey silt with moderate small to medium rounded stones. No finds were present.

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 L1000, a mid grey friable sandy silt with moderate rooting and moderate small to medium sub-rounded stones (0.09 – 0.77m thick). Towards the western end of the site, this was underlain by Subsoil L1001, a dark red brown clayey sandy silt with moderate to frequent sub-rounded stones.

8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was present at between 0.23 and 0.51m below existing ground level and comprised gravel in light orange brown sandy clay matrix.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required due to the proximity of the site to the Iron Age and Roman ceremonial site at Folly Lane, to the south. In the event, only three archaeological features were recorded. These would appear to have been of modern (in the case of the two gullies) and natural (the tree hollow) origin. It is possible that further archaeology may exist in those parts of the site where excavation was not required to the depth of the archaeological horizon but, given the limited evidence present across the majority of the site, this seems unlikely.

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 Service. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Mr Jim Naughton of Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS FT for commissioning the work and for assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of ARJ Construction.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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 1983, *Sheet 6:Soils of South-East England.* (Scale 1:250 000), Harpenden

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

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	6
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	18

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	99 Waverley Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	**District:** St Albans
Village/Town:	**Parish:** St Albans
Planning application reference:	SADC Planning Ref. 5/14/2781
Client name/address/tel:	Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS FT
Nature of application:	Topsoil strip for new car park
Present land use:	Grassed unused land
Size of application area: c.1500m2	**Size of area investigated** c.1500m2
NGR (8 figures):	TL 27845 12295
Site Code:	AS 1708
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Date of work:	23/03 – 26/03/2015
Location of finds/Curating museum:	St Albans
Related SMR Nos:	**Periods represented:** -
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	*During March 2015, Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at 99 Waverley Road, St Albans. The monitoring was a requirement of St Albans City & District Council on a planning condition (No. 3) imposed on approval for the construction of a new car park extension.* *The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was required due to the proximity of the site to the Iron Age and Roman ceremonial site at Folly Lane, to the south.* *In the event, a fairly uniform stratigraphy of topsoil overlying natural deposits, with the presence of a subsoil at the western end of the site, and only three archaeological features, was recorded. The three features would appear to have been of modern (in the case of the two gullies) and natural (the treebole) origin. No finds were present.*
Author of summary: A .Newton	**Date of Summary:** June 2015

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP 1. The site following removal of vegetation but prior to stripping. View south--south-east.

DP 2. Stripping along northern edge of site. View south-east.

DP 3. During stripping of main body of site. View north-west.

DP 4. During stripping in south-eastern part of site. View south-east

DP 5. Sample Section 1. View west

DP 6. Sample Section 2. View north-east

DP 7. Sample Section 3. View south-west

DP 8. Sample Section 4. View south-west

DP 9. F1003. View south-east

DP 10. F1003. View south-east

DP 11. F1005. View north-east

DP 12. F1007. View south-east

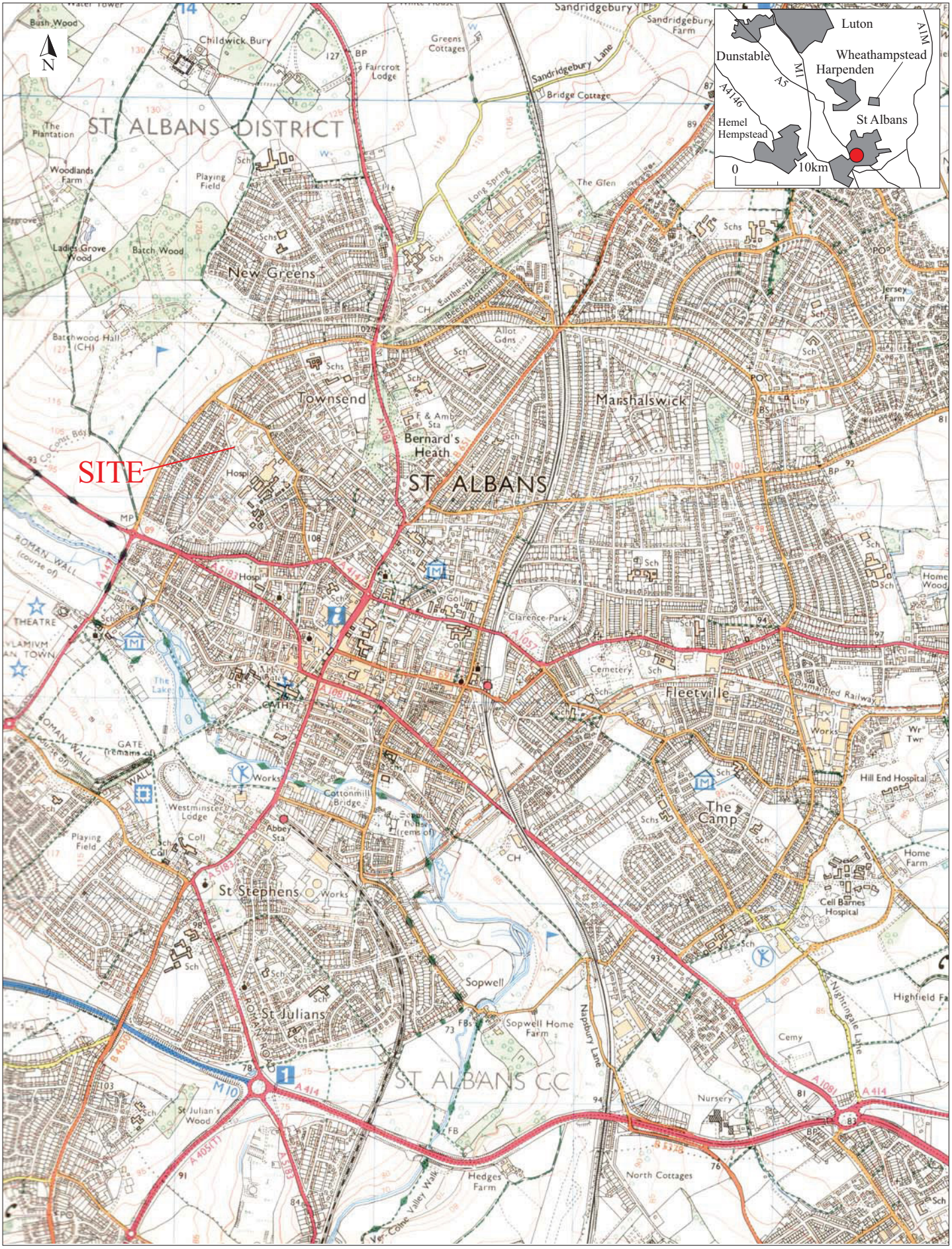

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Waverley Road, St Albans (P6193)

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Waverley Rd, St Albans, Herts (P6193)

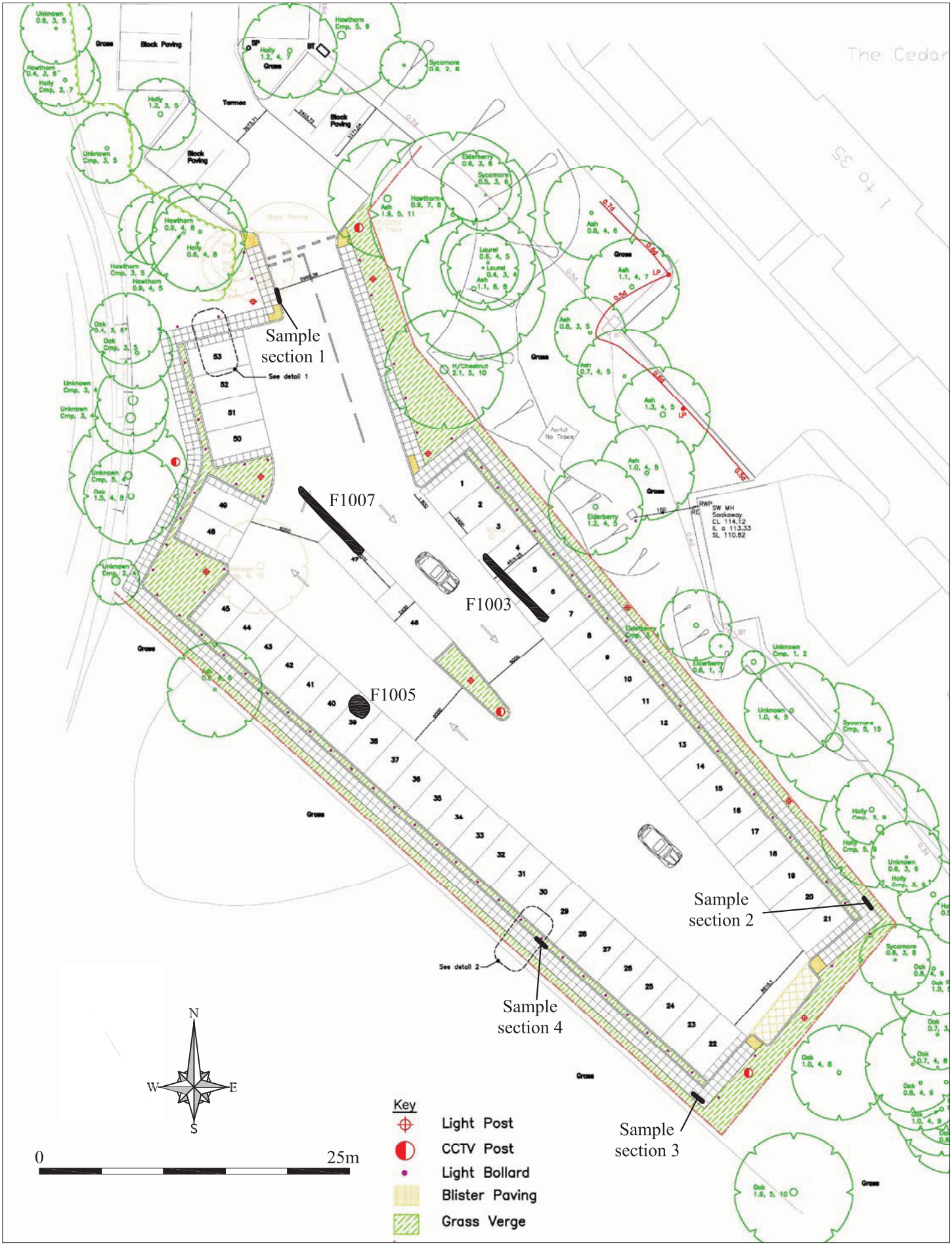

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Fig. 3 Proposed development

Scale 1:1000 at A4

Waverley Rd, St Albans, Herts (P6193)

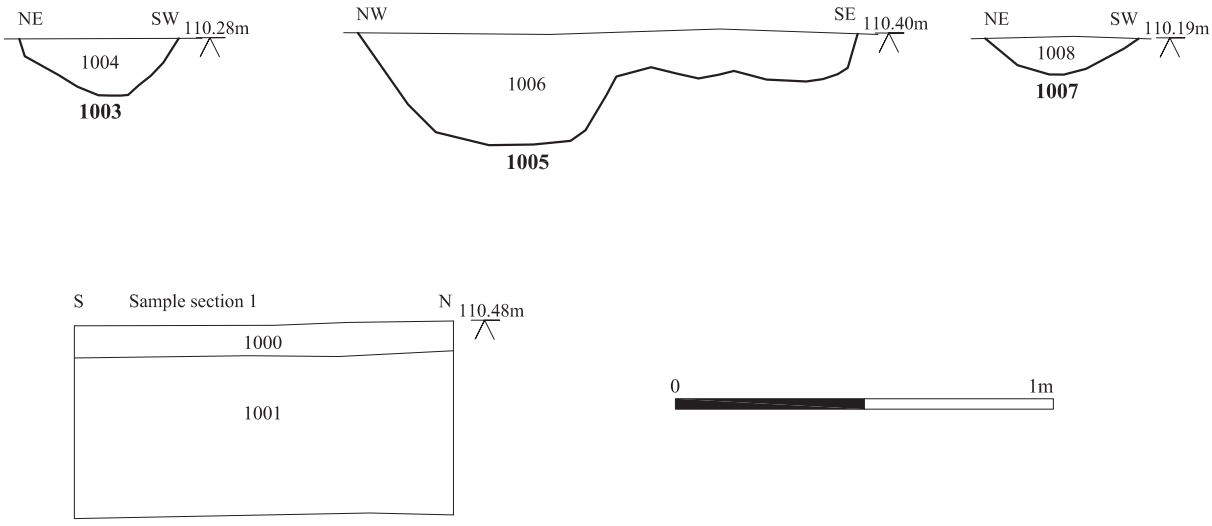

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Fig. 4 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Waverley Rd, St Albans, Herts (P6193)