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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PROPOSED OUTBUILDING/ GAMES ROOM, THE OLD  
SCHOOL HOUSE, THE STREET, FURNEUX PELHAM,  
BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

HER Enquiry No. 317/15

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Illustrations:	Thomas Light	
NGR: TL 43185 27880	Report No: 5090	
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS1820	
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 6587	
Signed:	Date: 13 April 2016 Revised: 17/02/2017	

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*Trial trench evaluations*  
*Geophysical surveys*  
*Archaeological monitoring and recording*  
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Proposed outbuilding/ games room, The Old School House, the Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0LH</i>		
<i>In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old School House, The Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was required during the groundworks associated with the construction of an outbuilding adjacent to the residential property. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition which required a programme of archaeological work.</i>			
<i>The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 65 as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. The Area includes the historic medieval core of Furneux Pelham village with its medieval parish church of St Mary, and listed buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date including White Lion House. Investigations at the latter, adjacent site, in 2009 revealed archaeology of Roman, medieval and later date including significant quantities of medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) Hertfordshire greyware pottery. The quantity of the pottery is suggestive of the presence of a kiln in the vicinity.</i>			
<i>In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	30 & 31/3/2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	6587	Site code	AS1820
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance No.65</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>New outbuilding</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pit</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Furneux Pelham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG9 0LH</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.30m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 43185 27880</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 100-105m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Andrew Newton and Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Steve Hogg</i>		
Full title	<i>The Old School House, The Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0LH. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Andrew Newton, Zbigniew Pozorski and Lauren Wilson</i>		
Report no.	<i>5090</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>13 April 2016 (Revised 17/02/2017)</i>		

## **PROPOSED OUTBUILDING/ GAMES ROOM, THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, THE STREET, FURNEUX PELHAM, BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old School House, The Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was required during the groundworks associated with the construction of an outbuilding adjacent to the residential property. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition which required a programme of archaeological work.*

*The site is within Area of Archaeological Significance No.65 as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. The Area includes the historic medieval core of Furneux Pelham village with its medieval parish church of St Mary, and listed buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century date including White Lion House. Investigations at the latter, adjacent site, in 2009 revealed archaeology of Roman, medieval and later date including significant quantities of medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) Hertfordshire greyware pottery. The quantity of the pottery is suggestive of the presence of a kiln in the vicinity.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old School House, The Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 43185 27880; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was required during the groundworks associated with the construction of an outbuilding adjacent to the residential property. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition which required a programme of archaeological work (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/15/0836/HH).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (28<sup>th</sup> May 2015), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016) and approved by HCC HEA and the LPA. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the project were:

- the detailed archaeological monitoring of all groundworks associated with the scheme, with the excavation and recording of any significant remains, and analysis of the results with provision for report and/or publication of the results and the production of an archive.

## **Planning Policy Context**

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

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

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 Furneux Pelham is located c. 7km north-west of Bishop's Stortford; c. 2.7km west of the county border with Essex. The village comprises scattered development along the main road; The Street. The site lies within the core of Furneux Pelham, on the southern side of The Street, directly west of the Church of England Primary School. It comprises the rear garden area of the residential plot of The Old School House and it is proposed to build a detached outbuilding/ games room.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 Furneux Pelham lies at c. 100m AOD on a ridge of high ground on the west side of the River Ash valley.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Upper Cretaceous Chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk formation (British Geological Survey 1978). The site lies on the transition between soils of the Melford association, described as deep, well-drained, fine loamy over clayey soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils, and soils of the Hanslope association, described as slowly

permeable calcareous clayey soils with slight risk of water erosion (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Prehistoric to Roman**

4.1 Two antiquarian finds, a stone axe and a late Bronze Age bronze hoard, have been discovered in the parish although their exact locations are unknown (HHER 549, 550). No finds of Roman date have been discovered in Furneux Pelham. Braughing which was a substantial Roman town is close by. The St Mary's Church guide suggests that antiquarians did find Roman pottery and bones in Furneux Pelham but the finds have since been lost (Cameron & Cunliffe 1969, 15).

### **Anglo-Saxon**

4.2 Furneux Pelham was within the Hundred of Edwinstree, an administrative division which was probably first established in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. The name Pelham probably reflects the granting of an estate to an individual named *Peolla*. It is thought that an Anglo-Saxon church may have been located on Violet Lane, Furneux Pelham, though the archaeological evidence for this is insubstantial (Cameron & Cunliffe 1969, 15).

### **Medieval**

4.3 The settlement first appears in the Domesday Book as 'Peleham' and was centred on the parish church and the meeting of two main thoroughfares; The Causeway and The Street. The manor house was located to the west on higher ground above the village core (HHER 2663). The house is late 16<sup>th</sup> century constructed of brick in an L-shape and was later altered in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century (HHER 4522). Evidence of medieval occupation in the area surrounding the site includes a ditch running parallel to The Street, recorded during groundworks associated with the school entrance and it may have formed an earlier plot boundary. It contained unabraded medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery, animal bone, oyster shells, daub and fragments of tile and iron (HHER 15561). Groundworks for an extension to the west side of the Old School House property were monitored in 2012, revealing a pit with 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> century finds, including pottery, a copper alloy dress pin and animal bone. The pit cut a ditch and another or ditch terminus (HER 30760).

4.4 Investigations on adjacent site of White Lion House in 2009 revealed archaeology of Roman, medieval and later date including significant quantities of medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) Hertfordshire greyware pottery sherds. The quantity of the pottery is suggestive of the presence of a kiln in the vicinity.

### **Post-Medieval**

4.5 Many of the houses in the village are post-medieval. One of the earliest is Yew Tree Inn which is recorded on an 1878 OS map and probably dates from the

16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century (HHER 15214). The school house is present on the same map, and is of Victorian design.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The principal elements monitored were the mechanically-excavated foundation trenches for the new outbuilding (games room) (Figs. 2-3).

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.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

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

<i>Sample section 1</i> 0.00 = 103.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1002	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, loose and soft, silt.
0.11 – 0.43m	L1003	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay with occasional CBM fragments.
0.11 – 1.20m+	L1004	Natural yellowish grey, firm, silty clay.

<i>Sample section 2</i> 0.00 = 103.88m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1007	Cement base for former patio. Modern light yellowish grey, compact, sandy concrete.
0.13 – 0.52m	L1002	Topsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.52 – 1.40m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 3</i> 0.00 = 103.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1002	Topsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.47 – 1.20m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 4</i> 0.00 = 103.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1002	Topsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.37 – 1.20m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

<i>Sample section 5</i> 0.00 = 103.92m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1002	Topsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.25 – 0.54m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.54 – 1.40m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.



<i>Sample section 6</i> <i>0.00 = 103.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1002	Topsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.26 – 0.39m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, S.S.1.
0.39m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above, S.S.1.

*Description: A modern pit (F1000) and a modern drainage system (soakaway and drain runs) were recorded.*

Pit F1000 was unobservable in plan (2.90 x ? x 1.00m+). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1001) comprised mid grey brown, firm, clayey silt. It contained modern (19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (4 sherds; 164g) and glass bottles (4; 951g). Pit F1000 cut Subsoil L1003 and its fill was stratigraphically sealed by Topsoil L1002 (Fig. 3).

## **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 L1002, a dark, greyish brown, soft silt (0.25 – 0.50m thick). In general L1002 directly overlay the natural geology deposit of L1004 which consisted of yellowish grey, firm, silty clay. Locally layer of subsoil (L1003, 0.30m thick) divided the above.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It is within Area of Archaeological Significance 65 as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. The Area includes the historic medieval core of Furneux Pelham village with its medieval parish church of St Mary, and listed buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.

9.2 In the event a modern pit (F1000) was revealed. No indication of any previous development of the site was identified except modern drainage. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place and no residual finds were recovered.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr Steve Hogg of the Old School House for funding the works and Mr Alex Doyle of Woodgrove Developments for assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

## APPENDIX 1            CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date (Pottery)	Pottery (Qty)	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other Material	Other (Qty)	Other (g)
1000	1001	Pit fill	19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> C	4	164	-	-	Glass bottles	4	951

## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORT

### The Pottery

Peter Thompson

#### Introduction

The archaeological monitoring recovered four lightly abraded sherds of early modern to modern pottery from L1001.

#### Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001; Table 1). Fabric codes and dating are those used by the Museum of London.

#### Key:

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

ENPO: English Porcelain mid 18<sup>th</sup>+

MOCH: Mocha type ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

ENGS: English stoneware 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
1000	1001	1x17g TPW 1x15g ENPO 1x27g MOCH 1x104g ENGS	19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup>	ENGS: jug strap handle

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

#### References

Neal, G., 2005 *Encyclopedia of British Transfer-Printed Pottery Patterns 1790-1930* London

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, 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*.

### APPENDIX 3            CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing)
Context Sheets	10
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	8
Site photographs colour slides	8
Digital Photographs	20

**APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Proposed outbuilding/games room, The Old School House, the Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0LH
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b> Furneux Pelham	<b>Parish:</b> Furneux Pelham
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	(EHDC Planning Ref. 3/15/0836/HH).
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr Steve Hogg
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of an outbuilding
<b>Present land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 30m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 30m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 43185 27880
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1820
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	30/3-31/3/2016
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at The Old School House, The Street, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The monitoring was required during the groundworks associated with the construction of an outbuilding adjacent to the residential property.  In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit.
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 13 April 2016 (Revised 17/02/2017)

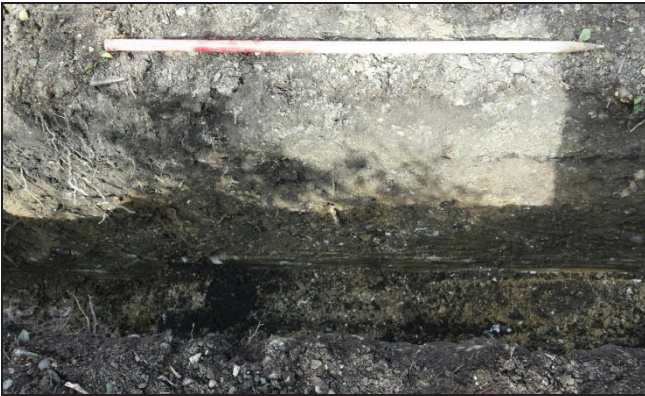
## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. General view of excavation. View E



DP 2. Modern rubbish pit F1000. View N



DP 3. Sample Section 1. View N



DP 4. Sample Section 2. View W.



DP 5. Sample Section 3. View E.

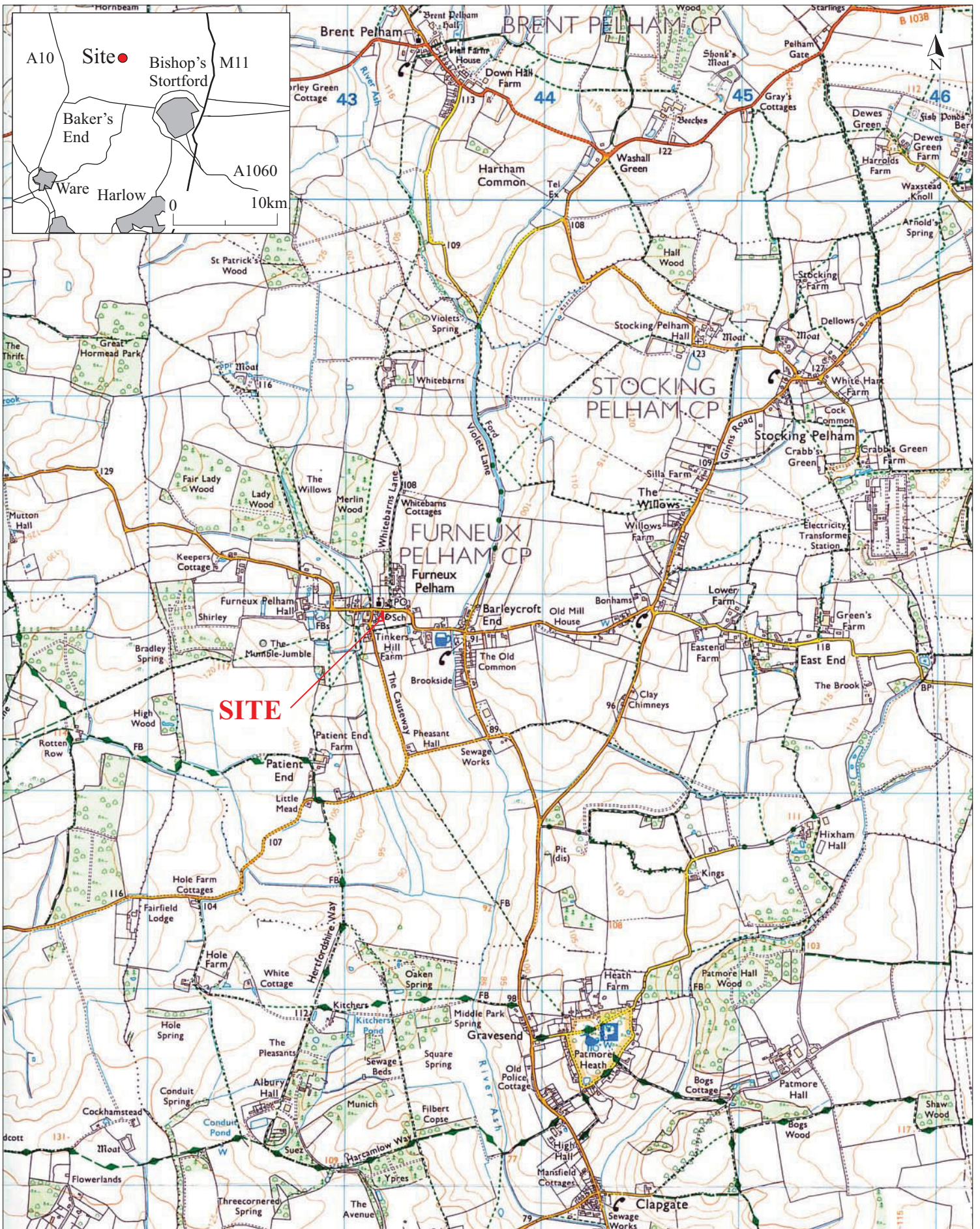


DP 6. Sample Section 4. View S



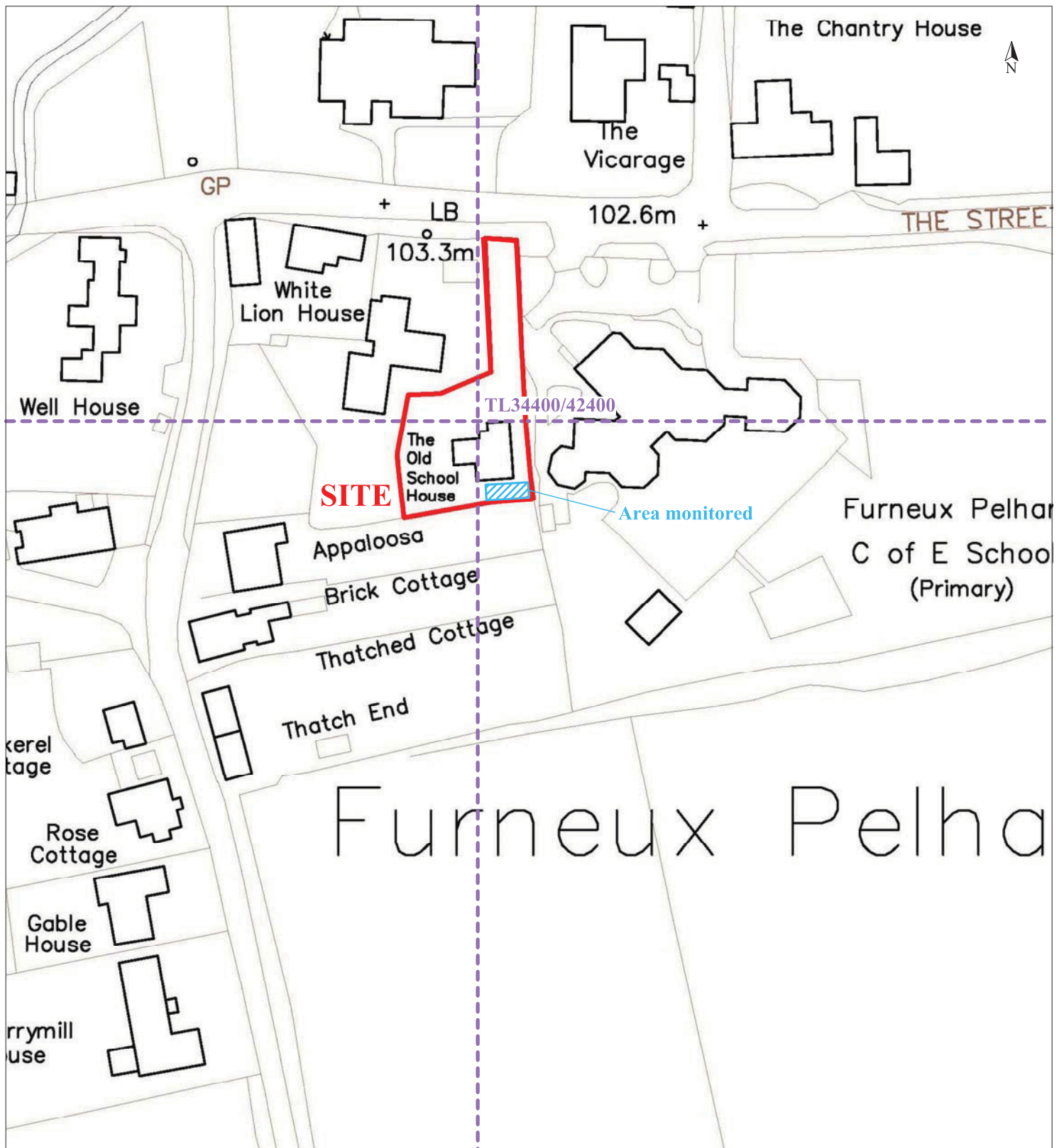
DP 7. Sample Section 5. View S.



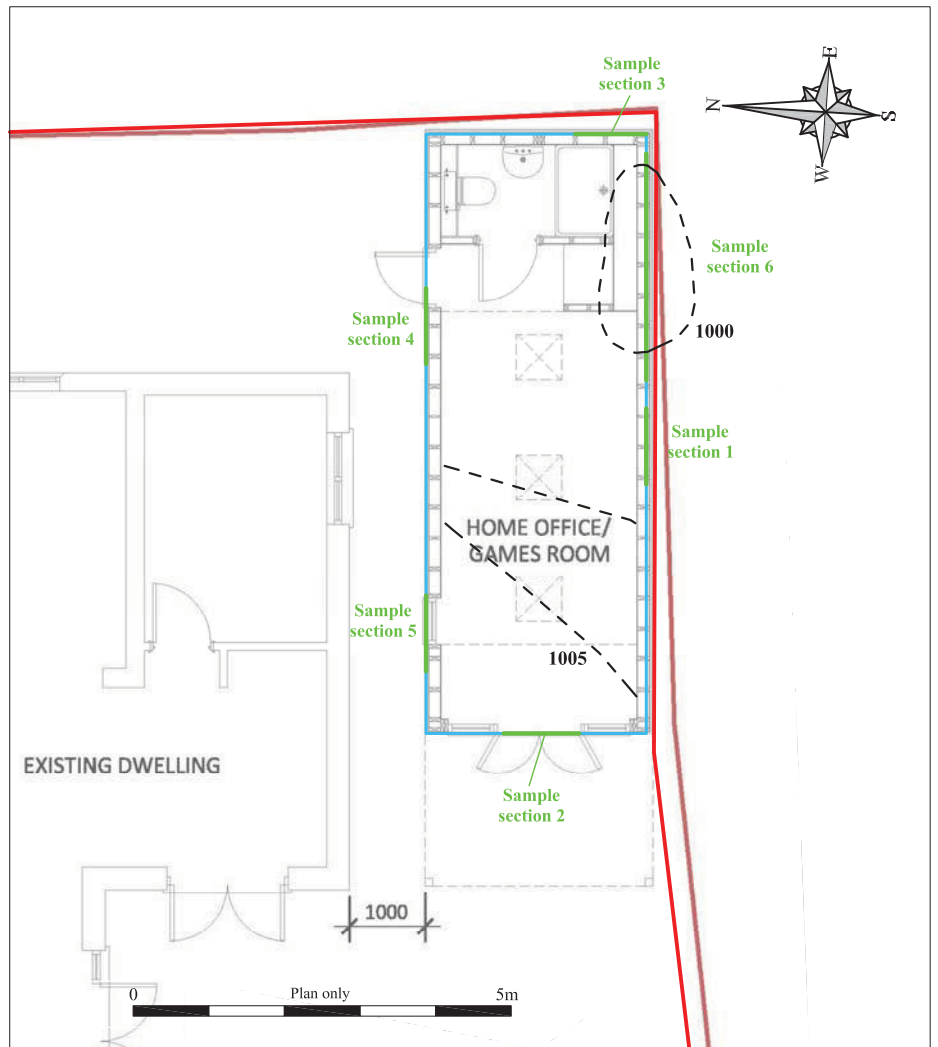
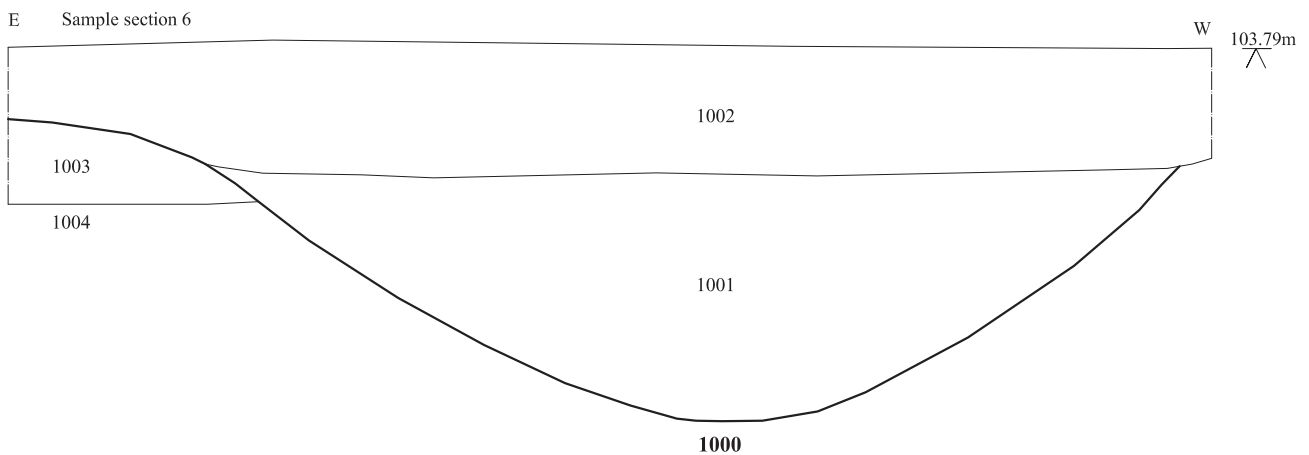
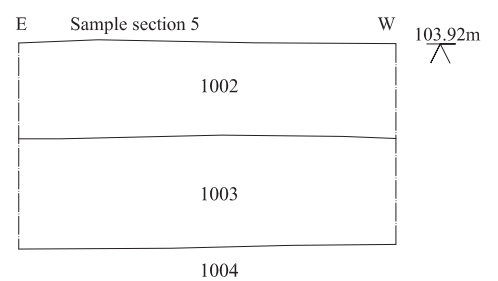
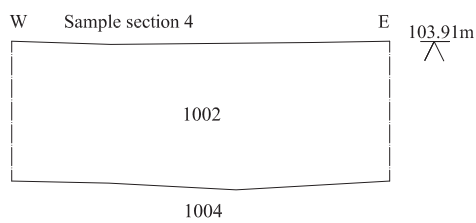
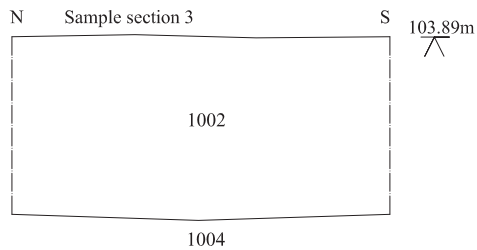
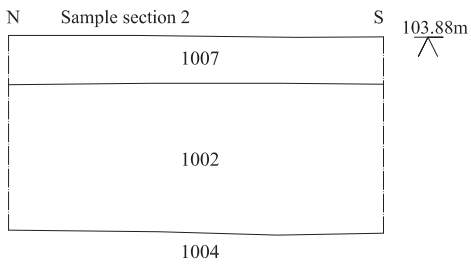
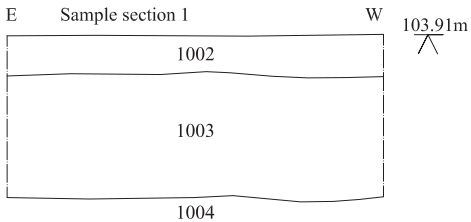


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Old School House, Furneux Pelham, Herts (P6587)



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4  
 Old School House, Furneux Pelham, Herts (P6587)



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**Fig. 3 Sample sections and location plan**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4  
 Old School House, Furneux Pelham, Herts (P6587)