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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

THE FORMER JOHN GILPIN, LONDON ROAD, WARE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE SG10 9LX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 36141 13678	Report No: 5288	
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1863	
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6729	
	Date: 19 January 2017 Revised: 10/02/2017	

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>The Former John Gilpin, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG10 9LX</i>		
<i>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former John Gilpin public house, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG10 9LX. The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 10 houses with associated landscaping and parking.</i>			
<i>On the north-western side of the site and at the western end of Trench 1 was a cluster of eight pits (F1005, F1007, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1023 and F1025). Pit F1025 contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM and was stratigraphically early within a sequence of intercutting pits (also including F1019, F1021 and F1023). Pits F1015 and F1017 contained sparse late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery (totalling just four sherds). The fill of Pit F1005 was cut by Pit F1017 and therefore was potentially late Iron Age/ early Roman or earlier in date. Pit F1007 was undated.</i>			
<i>On the eastern side of the site a large ditch (F1011) contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Modern features related to the former public house were present in all four trenches, and undated features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Pit 1007) and 4 (Gully F1009).</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17 – 18 January 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>6729</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>AS 1863</i>
Type of project	<i>Trial trench evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance 177</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former Public House</i>		
Planned development	<i>10 houses, landscaping and car park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late Iron Age/ Roman:</i>	<i>Pits</i>	
	<i>Post-medieval and later:</i>	<i>Pits; ditch; gully</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Late Iron Age/ Roman:</i>	<i>Sparse pottery</i>	
	<i>Post-medieval:</i>	<i>Pottery</i>	
	<i>Late post-medieval/ early modern:</i>	<i>CBM</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Ware</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG10 9LX</i>		
Area of site	<i>388m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 36141 13678</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 34m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Blagg-Newsome, M.</i>		
Funded by	<i>Regenta Development</i>		
Full title	<i>The Former John Gilpin, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG10 9LX. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Blagg-Newsome, M. and Peachey, A.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5288</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>19 January 2017 (Revised: 10/02/2017)</i>		

**THE FORMER JOHN GILPIN, LONDON ROAD, WARE,  
HERTFORDSHIRE SG10 9LX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former John Gilpin public house, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG10 9LX (NGR TL 36141 13678). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 10 houses with associated landscaping and parking (East Herts District Council (EHDC) Planning Ref: 3/16/0315/FUL). The condition was required based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).*

*The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 177 as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. The Area encompasses the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval core of the town, and an extensive prehistoric and Roman settlement to the west, in the vicinity of the Glaxo Smith Kline complex. The development later settlement at Ware is detailed by Bryant et al. (1998). The site lies on the edge of the terrace of the river Lea, and finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been made in the vicinity. It fronts London Road, the route of which is medieval or earlier in date.*

*On the north-western side of the site and at the western end of Trench 1 was a cluster of eight pits (F1005, F1007, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1023 and F1025). Pit F1025 contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM and was stratigraphically early within a sequence of intercutting pits (also including F1019, F1021 and F1023). Pits F1015 and F1017 contained sparse late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery (totalling just four sherds). The fill of Pit F1005 was cut by Pit F1017 and therefore was potentially late Iron Age/ early Roman or earlier in date; it was devoid of finds. Pit F1007 was undated.*

*On the eastern side of the site a large ditch (F1011) contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Modern features related to the former public house were present in all four trenches, and undated features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Pit 1007) and 4 (Gully F1009).*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former John Gilpin public house, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG10 9LX (NGR TL 36141 13678; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of 10 houses with associated landscaping and parking (East Herts District Council (EHDC) Planning Ref: 3/16/0315/FUL). The condition was required based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice issued by HCC HEAT, and a specification (written scheme of investigation) compiled by AS (dated 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016) and approved by HCC HEAT. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It will also be important to understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment; and
- to provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

1.4 The aim of the project report is:

- to identify areas of archaeological potential within the site. It will also consider the site within the wider archaeological context. The likely extent, nature, condition and importance of the archaeology will be described. The context of the development proposal for the site will also be examined. The evaluation will provide a predictive model of any archaeological remains likely to be present on the site as a whole, and include an assessment of their significance.

### **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 lies on the western side of London Road on the southern edge of Ware. It comprises the former John Gilpin public house and associated car park.

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

3.1 The site is situated at c. 34m AOD on relatively level ground at the south-western edge of the floodplain of the River Lea. The principal (slightly meandering) course of the latter passes c. 400m to the north-east. The cut of the New River, a branch added in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, passes adjacent to the site on the opposite side of London Road. The slope of the river valley rises at a moderate gradient to the south and west, from the site towards Great Amwell and Hertford respectively. The former John Gilpin public house is part of a limited, largely residential area on the south side of the river, with the principal urban area of Ware to the north of the Lea.

3.2 The solid geology of the river valley floor comprises the Lewis Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, with no overlying superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 1991). The site lies on the cusp of two soil types, with loamy-clayey floodplain soils extending to the north, giving way to freely draining slightly acid loamy soils to the south (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Lea Valley was favoured in the prehistoric period and has produced substantial evidence (Bryant *et al* 1998, 2), notably from the Glaxo-SmithKline site on the western side of the town, c. 1km to the north-west. A palaeochannel located c.200m to the north was a former channel of the River Lea, active in the late Mesolithic (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) 30976). The area close to the site has produced only limited prehistoric finds, with the precise location antiquarian finds of a Neolithic flint axe and late Bronze Age copper alloy axe uncertain (HERs 2096 and 16413). Recent archaeological investigations at Chadwell Springs Golf Course, c. 800m to the west, have recovered significant quantities of prehistoric flint artefacts (Archaeological Solutions, *in prep*).

4.2 On the north side of the river, a late Iron Age settlement appears to have developed, and though its character remains enigmatic it may have acted as a staging post from the river to an overland route to the important settlement (*oppida*)

at Braughing c. 12km to the north. Subsequently this settlement appears to have developed into a small Roman town that straddled the major road of Ermine Street, with evidence for metal-working and pottery industries, cemeteries and possible wharves and a temple (Bryant *et al.* 1998, 3-4). The site is on south side of the river, beyond the postulated extent of the settlement and c. 800m to the east of the line of Ermine Street. Antiquarian finds of an amphora and a stone coffin and skeleton, were recorded as being found in the area (HERs 2097 and 4114), but the location of their discovery is uncertain and may actually have been from within the Roman settlement.

4.3 The settlement at Ware is rare as it demonstrates some continuity from the Roman to Saxon periods. A post-Roman/ early Saxon settlement, with a shift of focus slightly to the east, retains a core on the northern side of the river. In the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, the late Saxon town expanded into a medieval Borough, but the extent of the town remains on the north side of the river, with the site c. 500m to the south-east of the postulated extent of burgage plots (Bryant *et al.* 1998, 6)

4.4 In the medieval and post-medieval periods Ware prospered in part to its favourable location on pilgrim, coaching and river routes, which led to the development of numerous inns and malting situated on the route towards London to the south and Walsingham, Norfolk to the north-east. The early 17<sup>th</sup> century saw the construction of the New River, adjacent to the north-east of the site, in order to improve the supply of water to London (HER 5999). The Royal Oak Inn and Brook House c. 200m to the north-west contain parts of a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building that would have been located on London Road (HERs 13492 and 17791). Further north-west, 19 Amwell End was also probably an 18<sup>th</sup> century inn (HER 13294), and the Red House c. 200m to the south-east was an inn that survived into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 30817). Maltings, the location of which are recorded on the tithe map of 1839, included those on London Road c. 150m to the north-west, and on Hoe Lane (HER 5402-3), which may have had much earlier foundations. That the landscape around the site remained beyond the extent of the post-medieval town is aptly demonstrated in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century by the construction of Amwell House c. 300m to the north-west (HER 13491) with a ten acre garden on the south-western side of London Road that included a summerhouse and 'Scott's grotto', a shell grotto completed in 1773 c. 500m to the west of the site (HERs 7339 and 9462).

4.5 The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the town expand to an extent that encompassed the site at its southern tip by 1890. Impetus for this expansion was provided by the opening of the railway in 1843, which passes c.250m to the north-east (HER 5535), followed by goods sheds (HER 9370), a pumping station (HER 5329), timber yard (HER 18569) and a barge basin (HER 12022 and 9374) around Station Road to the north, connecting and supplying the rail and water infrastructure. This also included the construction of the road bridge over the New River, immediately to the north-east of the site (HER 5084). Nonetheless; the land to the west of the site around Hoe Lane remained un-developed, with much comprising the ancient Post Wood, until 1864 when the country house of Presdales was built c. 350m to the south-west, subsequently to become Ware Girls' Grammar School, now Presdales School (HER 30816).



4.6 The John Gilpin public house was built in the late 1960s to early 1970s, but late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps demonstrate the presence of earlier buildings on the site. Long narrow ranges extend west from the London Road street front in 1880 (Fig. 3), and these remain extant into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1940 the buildings included two ranges with a small unit attached on the south-east side (Fig. 4), but by 1963 these ranges had been removed (OS map, not reproduced) and by 1973 the site is occupied by the John Gilpin public house (OS map, not reproduced).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches, each 20m x 1.6m, were excavated across the area of proposed development following demolition of the former public house (Figs. 4-6). Trench 3 was only 17m long due to the presence of a live gas service traversing this area.

5.2 Overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a JCB back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually/ visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of finds.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 5-7)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> 0.00m = 33.31m AOD		
0.00 - 0.14m	L1000	Hardcore derived from demolition of The John Gilpin.
0.14 - 0.34m	L1004	Bitumen Layer. Foundation for car park.
0.34 - 0.62m	L1002	Subsoil. Loose, light to mid reddish brown silty sand with moderate small and medium size rounded stones.
0.62m+	L1003	Natural. Friable, light orangish yellow and mid brownish red sandy gravel with frequent small to medium size sub-rounded stones.

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> 0.00m = 33.20m AOD		
0.00 - 0.21m	L1000	Hardcore. As above.
0.21 - 0.40m	L1004	Bitumen Layer. As above.
0.40m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained eight pits (F1005, F1007, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1023 and F1025). Pits F1015 and F1017 contained a few sherds of late Iron Age/ Roman pottery. A modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) feature was also present.*

Pit F1005 was sub-circular in plan (1.18 x 0.72 x 0.20m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a friable mid greyish orange silty gravel. It contained no finds. L1006 was cut by Pit F1017 which contained late Iron Age/ Roman pottery.

Pit F1007 was sub-circular in plan (1.13 x 0.70 x 0.10m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1008, was a friable, mid orange brown sandy silt. It contained animal bone (22g).

Pit F1015 was sub-oval in plan (0.40 x 1.50 x 0.38m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a loose, mid to dark reddish brown silty sand. It contained late Iron Age/ Roman pottery (3; 124g). L1016 was cut by Pit F1025.

Pit F1017 was sub-circular in plan (1.60 x 1.15 x 0.23m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a firm, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained a sherd of Late Iron Age/ Roman pottery (1; 127g) and animal bone (2g). F1017 cut the fill of Pit F1005.

Pit F1019 was sub-oval in plan (0.70 x 0.78 x 0.22m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a firm, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained no finds. F1019 cut the fill of Pit F1021.

Pit F1021 was sub-circular in plan (0.85 x 0.58 x 0.24m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1022, was a firm, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained no finds. Pit F1021 cut the fill of Pit F1023; L1022 was cut by Pit F1019.

Pit F1023 was sub-circular in plan (0.80 x 0.71 x 0.20m). It had steep sides and a shallow, concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a firm, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained burnt bone (40g). F1023 cut the fill of Pit F1025; L1024 was cut by Pit F1021.

Pit F1025 was sub-oval in plan (0.55 x 0.90 x 0.24m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a firm, mid-reddish brown silty sand. It contained no finds. F1025 cut the fill of Pit F1015; L1026 was cut by Pit F1023.

## Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 5-7)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> 0.00m = 33.16m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.57m	L1001	Made Ground. Loose, dark reddish brown silty sand, with moderate small angular stone.
0.57m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> 0.00m = 33.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.16 – 0.47m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.47m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 2 contained only modern disturbance relating to the foundations of the former John Gilpin public house.*

**Trench 3** (Figs. 2, 5-6 and 8)

<i>Sample section 3A:</i> 0.00m = 33.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.15 – 0.67m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.67m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i> 0.00m = 33.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.80m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.80m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 3 contained the remains of a modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) cellar and live electricity cables.*

**Trench 4** (Figs. 2, 5-6 and 8)

<i>Sample section 4A:</i> 0.00m = 33.30m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.66 – 0.79m	L1002	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.79m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 4B:</i> 0.00m = 33.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Hardcore. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.46 – 0.75m	L1002	Made Ground. As above, Trench 2.
0.75m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

*Description: Trench 4 contained undated Gully F1009, post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) Ditch F1011, and modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) Pit F1013. Also present were a modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) soak-away and electrical cables related to the former John Gilpin public house.*

Gully F1009 was curvilinear in plan (1.70 x 0.48 x 0.09m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a friable, mid reddish brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 1.68+ x 0.66m+), orientated east/ west. It had moderately sloping sides; its base was unseen. Its fill, L1012, was a compact, mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (34; 1167g), CBM (5840g), animal bone (415g), glass (<1g), oyster shell (4g) and clay pipe stem fragments (75g).

Pit F1013 was sub-oval in plan (0.90+ x 1.06 x 0.18m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a friable, dark brownish black sandy gravel. It contained CBM (5452g).

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Some modern features and roots were present but it is not felt that these inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost in all trenches was a hardcore layer (L1000), 0.13 – 0.21m thick. Below L1000, was a made ground layer (L1001), 0.36 – 0.46m thick (Trenches 2 and 4). Below L1001 was Subsoil L1002, a loose light to mid reddish brown silty sand (0.13 - 0.67m thick). At the base of the sequence was the natural (L1003), comprising friable, light orange yellow/ mid brownish red sandy gravel, 0.40 – 0.80m below the present day ground surface.

8.2 Below Hardcore L1000 and above Subsoil L1002 in Trench 1 was a layer of bitumen (L1004), 0.19 – 0.20m thick. L1004 was a foundation layer for the car park of the former John Gilpin public house.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	1005	Pit	Cut by F1017. Late Iron Age/ early Roman or earlier
	1007	Pit	-
	1015	Pit	Late Iron Age/ early Roman
	1017	Pit	Late Iron Age/ early Roman
	1019	Pit	Post 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	1021	Pit	Post 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	1023	Pit	Post 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	1025	Pit	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> CBM
4	1009	Gully	-
	1011	Ditch	Post-Medieval (17 <sup>th</sup> century)
	1013	Pit	Modern

9.2 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 177 as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. The Area encompasses the late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval core of the town, and an extensive prehistoric and Roman settlement to the west, in the vicinity of the Glaxo Smith Kline complex. The site lies on the edge of the terrace of the river Lea, and finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been made in the vicinity. It fronts London Road, the route of which is medieval or earlier in date.

9.3 The John Gilpin public house was built in the late 1960s to early 1970s, but late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps demonstrate the presence of earlier buildings on the site. Long narrow ranges extend west from the London Road street front in 1880 (Fig. 3), and these remain extant into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1940 the buildings included two ranges with a small unit attached on the south-east side (Fig. 4), but by 1963 these ranges had been removed (OS map, not reproduced) and by 1973 the site is occupied by the John Gilpin public house (OS map, not reproduced).

9.3 The evaluation encountered a cluster of eight, largely intercutting pits (F1005, F1007, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1023 and F1025) at the western end of Trench 1. Pit F1025 contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM and was stratigraphically early within a sequence of intercutting pits (also including F1019, F1021 and F1023). Pits F1015 and F1017 contained sparse late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery (totalling just four sherds). The fill of Pit F1005 was cut by Pit F1017 and therefore was potentially late Iron Age/ early Roman or earlier in date; it was devoid of finds. Pit F1007 was undated.

9.4 A large ditch (F1011) was present on the eastern side of the site. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Modern features relating to the former public house were present in all four trenches, and undated features were recorded in Trench 1 (Pit F1007) and Gully F1009 (Trench 4).

## Research Potential

9.5 The presence of late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery at this site is suggestive of peripheral activity associated with the settlement of this date which grew up on the opposite side of the river Lea in the vicinity of the current GlaxoSmithKline facility. Potentially this evidence adds to the known distribution of late Iron Age/ early Romano-British activity in Ware, although the function of the three pits which have been assigned a date in this period remains uncertain. This is of significance as Medlycott (2011, 31, 48) identifies towns and settlements of these periods as being important research subjects, with distribution, density, and internal layout important factors in their understanding. However, the recovered sherds were 'slightly abraded' (see *The Iron Age to Roman Pottery*, Appendix 2), possibly suggesting that they had been redeposited within Pits F1015 and F1017. This remains uncertain, however.

9.6 The 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery recovered from Ditch F2011 is of particular interest. It includes metropolitan slipware, a type manufactured in nearby Harlow, Essex and sold mainly in London but also in East Anglia (see *The Post-Medieval Pottery*, Appendix 2). In addition to this fairly local pottery type was Raeren stoneware, originating from Raeren in the Liege area of modern-day Belgium (*ibid.*). This gives an insight into the trade links exploited by the inhabitants of post-medieval Ware, although both of these types of pottery would have been fairly widely available. This pottery, and that which has been assigned a broader date of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, dates the majority of the recorded activity at the current site to the post-medieval and early modern periods. The website pubshistory.com names a licensee for the John Gilpin as early as 1869, substantially predating the current buildings at the site and suggesting that the post-medieval/ early modern activity recorded during the evaluation relates to earlier buildings associated with a hostelry at this location. The

position of the site on the London Road, an important route to and from the capital in the late post-medieval/ early modern period, suggests that a public house or inn here is likely; other such business are known to have operated in close proximity to the site, as outlined above. Ware became an important coaching centre in this period and so a density of contemporary inns may not be unexpected.

9.7 In addition, the 17<sup>th</sup> century saw the construction of the 'New River' in close proximity to the site. There is some possibility that some of the activity recorded within the site relates to its construction or use.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Ware Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Regenta Development Ltd for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Kris De Havilland and Ms Leah Barrett).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team.

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(accessed 19/01/2017)

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)  
(accessed 17/01/2017)

## APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pottery Only)	Pottery (Qty)	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other Material	Other (Qty)	Other (g)
1007	1008	1	Fill of Pit					22			
1011	1012	4	Fill of Ditch	17th C	34	1167	5840	415	Glass Oyster Shell Clay Pipe	1 1 11	<1 4 75
1013	1014	4	Fill of Pit				5452				
1015	1016	1	Fill of Pit	LIA / Roman	3	123					
1017	1018	1	Fill of Pit	LIA / Roman	1	127		2			
1023	1024	1	Fill of Pit						Burnt Bone		40
1025	1026	1	Fill of Pit				43				
			Modern Cellar Wall				5754				



## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### **The Late Iron Age to Roman Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey MCIfA*

The evaluation recovered four sherds (250g) of late Iron Age to Roman pottery on a slightly abraded condition contained in Pits F1015 and F1017. The pottery was entirely comprised of Southern British (Belgic) grog-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 214) and would have formed part of wheel-made large jars or storage jars. A robust everted rim of a storage jar was contained in Pit F1017 (L1018), while the body sherds in Pit F1015 (L1016) have crudely combed external surfaces. Hertfordshire is at the core of the distribution of Belgic grog-tempered pottery (Thompson 1982, 15-16: zone 7), where it is innovated in c.30/20BC, consistent with the development of a late Iron Age settlement at Ware. Previous investigations within the postulated extent of the settlement, on the north side of the River Lea have demonstrated its presence in pre-Roman Conquest Groups; however storage jars in particular maintain a long currency, and continue to be present in pottery groups dated up to the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (Lyne 2004, 15-17). Nonetheless, the technology and firing of the sherds in Pits F1015 and F1017 would appear to be more consistent with a chronology spanning the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC/AD.

#### *References*

Lyne, M., 2004

'Roman Pottery', in O'Brien, L., *Excavations on Roman Ermine Street at the new Restaurant Facility, GlaxoSmithKline, Ware, Hertfordshire*, Archaeological Solutions Ltd Report No. 1720, 11-24

Thompson, I., 1982

*Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*, British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 108 (i-iii) (Oxford, Archaeopress)

Tomber, R. and Dore, J., 1998

*The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection* (London, Museum of London)

### **The Post-Medieval Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The archaeological evaluation recovered 34 post-medieval sherds weighing 1.159kg from Ditch F1011. The assemblage comprises Metropolitan slipware, brown and black glazed red earthenwares, and a base sherd of a Raeren stoneware jug, and fits a 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### *Methodology*

The sherds were analysed and recorded in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001; Table 1). The codes from the Suffolk pottery type series are included in brackets in the key, which are also appropriate for Hertfordshire.

**Key:**RAER (7.13): Raeren stoneware late 15<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup>GRE (6.12): Glazed red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>PMBL (6.11): Post-medieval black glazed ware late 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>METS (6.42): metropolitan slipware 17<sup>th</sup>

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1011	1012	9x311g GRE 1x42g RAER 9x577g METS  15x229g PMBL	17 <sup>th</sup>	GRE: x2 clubbed rims, x1 jar base RAER: jug base METS: x4 rims to bowls and wide dishes PMBL: x1 ?jug rim, x2 jug bases

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

**References**

Davey, W. and Walker, H., 2009

*The Harlow Pottery Industries*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 3

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**The Ceramic Building Materials**

Andrew Peachey MCI(A)

The evaluation recovered a total of 48 fragments (17089g) of late post-medieval/early modern to 20<sup>th</sup> century CBM, including soft red brick and peg tile rubble possibly derived from a former structure on the site; though the bulk was made up of four complete Fletton bricks produced no earlier than the 1920s, continuing to the present day, and probably associated with the existing public house buildings (Table 2).

CBM Type	Date	Frequency	Weight (g)
Soft red brick	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> C	12	3720
Peg tile		32	2163
Fletton brick	E/M 20 <sup>th</sup> C +	4	11206
<i>Total</i>		<i>48</i>	<i>17089</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

Almost all of the late post-medieval to early modern (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> C) CBM was contained in Ditch F1011, with small additional fragments of contemporary peg tile contained in Pit F1025. The CBM was entirely produced in red fabrics tempered with medium sand, probably produced locally. The CBM was highly fragmented, consistent with rubble, possibly peg tile and brick from the demolition of a former structure or representing hardcore used as packing material. Sparse fragments of brick preserved extant dimensions of ?x110x60mm with a smooth base and regular appearance that defines the date of their manufacture.

Two complete bricks were contained in Pit F1013 and two further complete bricks were sampled from the modern Cellar Wall. All four were Fletton Bricks with angular

frogs stamped LBC PHORPRES 4, indicating they are of the type produced by the London Brick Company by the million between the 1920s-1960s, at one point accounting for over a third of the bricks in England, and continuing to be used in the present day alongside subsequently developed perforated bricks.

## **The Animal Bone**

*Mark S. Blagg-Newsome*

A very small animal bone assemblage (497g) was recovered from trial trench excavations at the former John Gilpin public house in Ware, totalling 28 fragments (including the unidentifiable assemblage). Bone preservation was generally poor as rated on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent.

All the bones derived from ditch (415g) and pit (82g) features, with the dateable late Iron Age/ Roman bones from a pit (F1017) and 17<sup>th</sup> century bones solely from a ditch (F1011). Bone abrasion was varied, with those bones recovered from pit features generally displaying some, if not much abrasion, whilst those derived from the later 17<sup>th</sup> century ditch displayed no evidence of abrasion. Fragmentation was generally low with only some fresh breaks. Only 9 fragments could be attributed to specific taxa (32% of the assemblage), with a further 9 identifiable only to large (cattle or horse size) and medium (sheep or pig) mammal size categories. The most prevalent species was chicken (*Gallus gallus*), followed by cattle and sheep/ goat equally, and finally hare (*Lepus sp.*) and a neonatal human represented by a single fragment each (Table 3). Chicken was represented by an ulna, humerus and coracoid, cattle by a maxillary molar and distal humerus, sheep/ goat by a maxilla and mandible, hare by a distal humerus and human by a left distal humerus. The teeth from the sheep/goat mandible and maxilla were not greatly worn, suggesting that they were from young adults. All the bones here, with the exception of the neonatal human humerus, are probably representative of animals killed for food.

Butchery was only present on bones recovered from the 17<sup>th</sup> century ditch, with a cattle humerus displaying indications of a smashed shaft, possibly for marrow extraction. This humerus also displayed evidence of some eburnation on the trochlea, indicating that this might have been an older individual. Several other bones only identified to size categories also displayed evidence of butchery. Two long bones from a large and a medium mammal showed indications of being chopped vertically down the shaft, a large mammal rib displayed evidence of chop and cut marks, and a medium mammal vertebrae had been chopped sagittally, the latter being evidence of secondary butchery practices related to meat production.

The only other point of interest from this assemblage was the presence of a virtually calcined large mammal metapodial from F1023. No other comment can be made about this assemblage at this time.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Cattle	Sheep/ Goat	Hare	Chicken	Human	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Unidentifiable	Total (Not inc. Unid)
1007	1008	Pit	?	1								1
1011	1012	Ditch	C17th	1	2	1	3		4	4	10	15
1017	1018	Pit	LIA/Roman					1				1
1023	1024	Pit	?						1			1
			<b>Total</b>	2	2	1	3	1	5	4	10	18

Table 3: Quantification of bone

### APPENDIX 3            CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	1026
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	3
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	26
Site photographs colour slides	26
Digital Photographs	22

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>The Former John Gilpin, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG10 9LX</i>
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b> Hertford	<b>Parish:</b> Ware
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	<i>3/16/0315/FUL</i>
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	<i>Regenta Development</i>
<b>Nature of application:</b>	<i>Housing</i>
<b>Present land use:</b>	<i>Former Public House</i>
<b>Size of application area:</b> m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>TL 36141 13678</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>AS 1863</i>
<b>Site director/Organization</b>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Type of work:</b>	<i>Trial trench evaluation</i>
<b>Date of work:</b>	<i>17 – 18 January 2017</i>
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	<i>Ware</i>
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the former John Gilpin public house, London Road, Ware, Hertfordshire SG10 9LX (NGR TL 36141 13678).</i></p> <p><i>On the north-western side of the site and at the western end of Trench 1 was a cluster of eight pits (F1005, F1007, F1015, F1017, F1019, F1021, F1023 and F1025). Pit F1025 contained 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM and was stratigraphically early within a sequence of intercutting pits (also including F1019, F1021 and F1023). Pits F1015 and F1017 contained sparse late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery (totalling just four sherds). The fill of Pit F1005 was cut by Pit F1017 and therefore was potentially late Iron Age/ early Roman or earlier in date. Pit F1007 was undated.</i></p> <p><i>On the eastern side of the site a large ditch (F1011) contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery. Modern features related to the former public house were present in all four trenches, and undated features were recorded in Trenches 1 (Pit 1007) and 4 (Gully F1009).</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Mark S. Blagg-Newsome	<b>Date of Summary:</b> January 2017

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
General view of the site before excavation



2  
Trench 1 looking north-west



3  
Pit 1005 in Trench 1



4  
Pit 1007 in Trench 1



5  
Pit 1015 in Trench 1



6  
Pit 1017 in Trench 1



7  
Pits 1021, 1023 and 1025 in Trench 1



8  
Trench 2 looking south-west



9  
Trench 3 looking south-east



10  
Modern cellar foundations in Trench 3





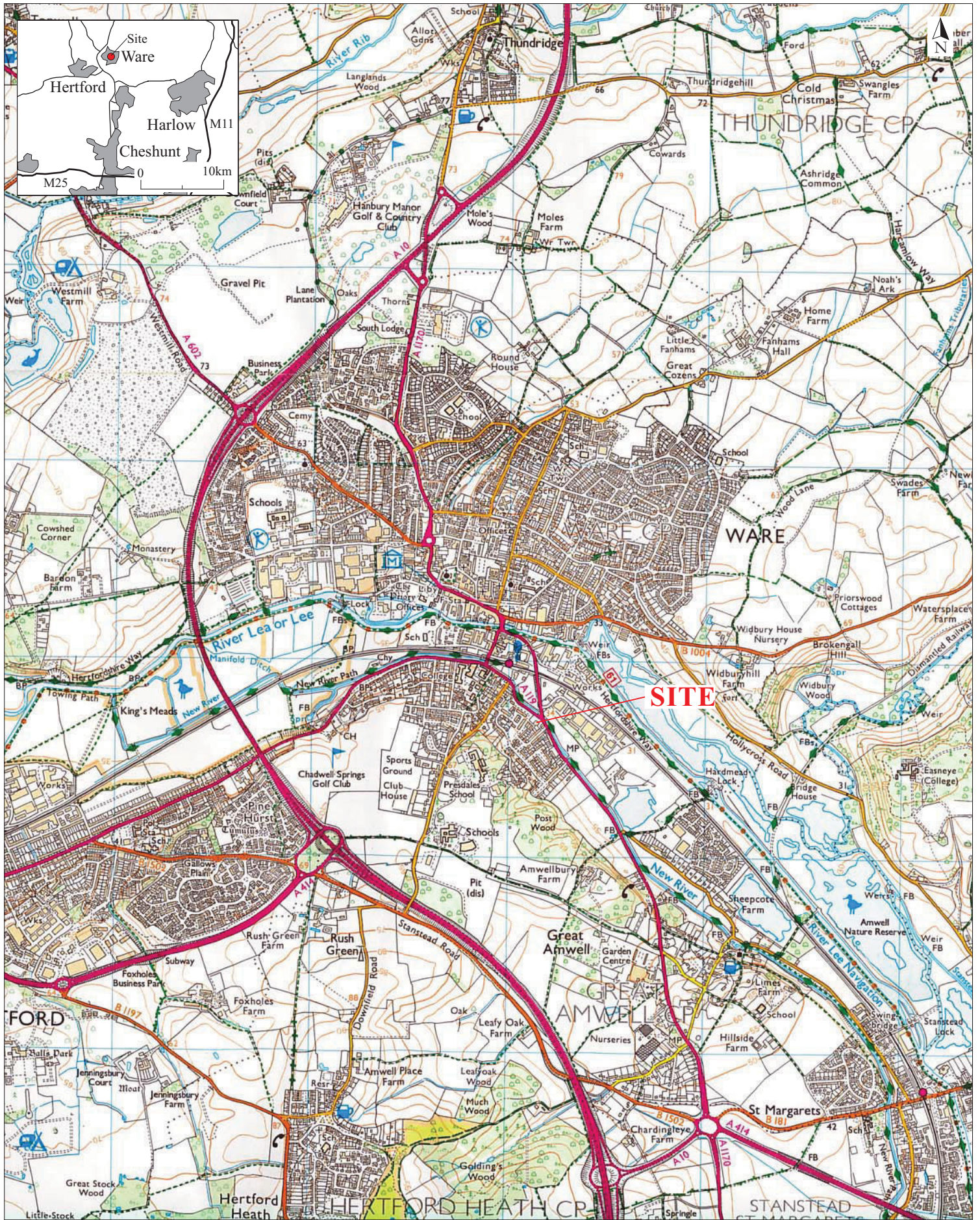
11  
Trench 4 looking north-east



12  
Ditch 1011 in Trench 4

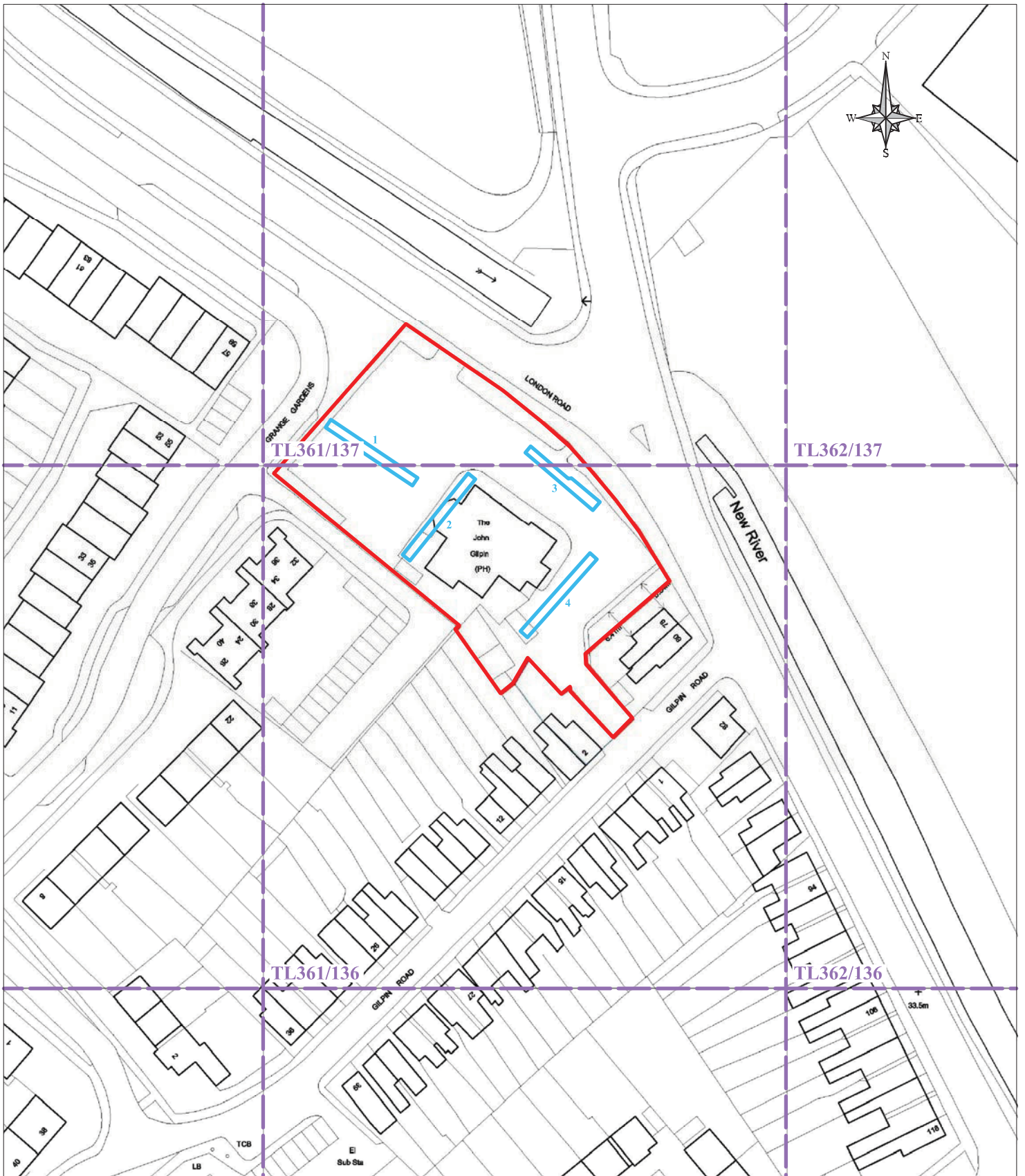


13  
Pit 1013 in Trench 4



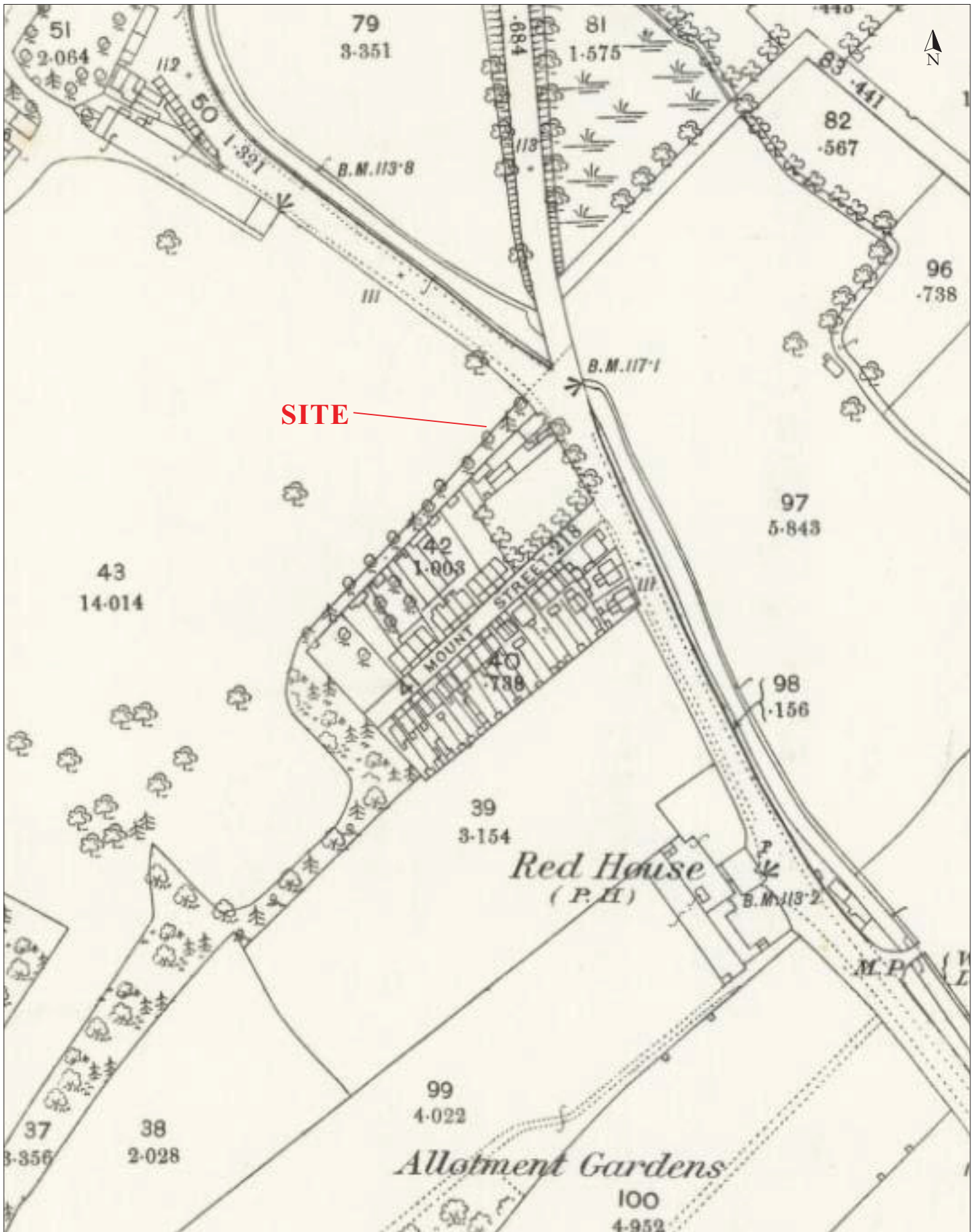
Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)

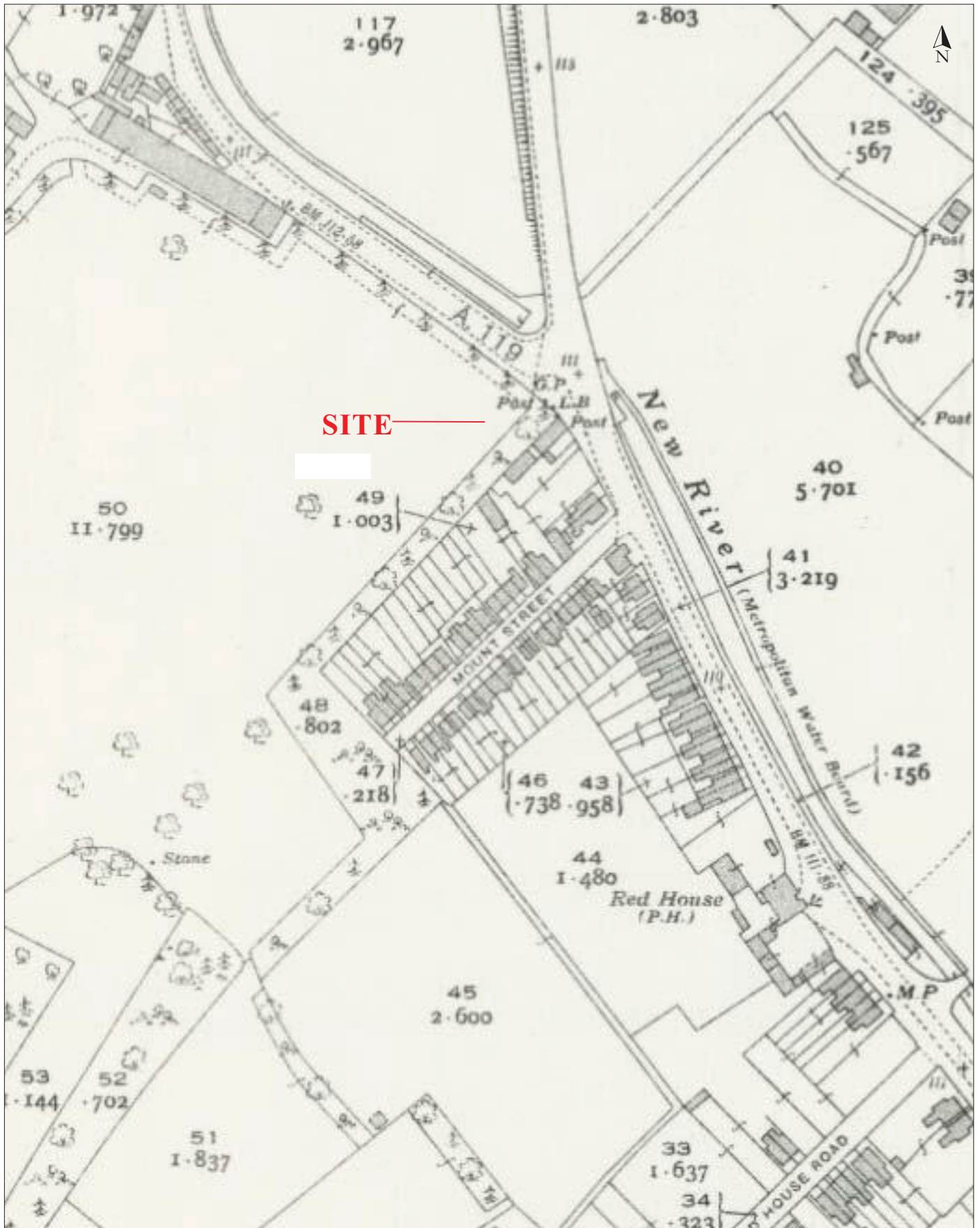


0 75m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4  
 Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Fig. 3 OS map, 1880  
 Not to scale  
 Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4 OS map, 1940</b>
Not to scale
Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)

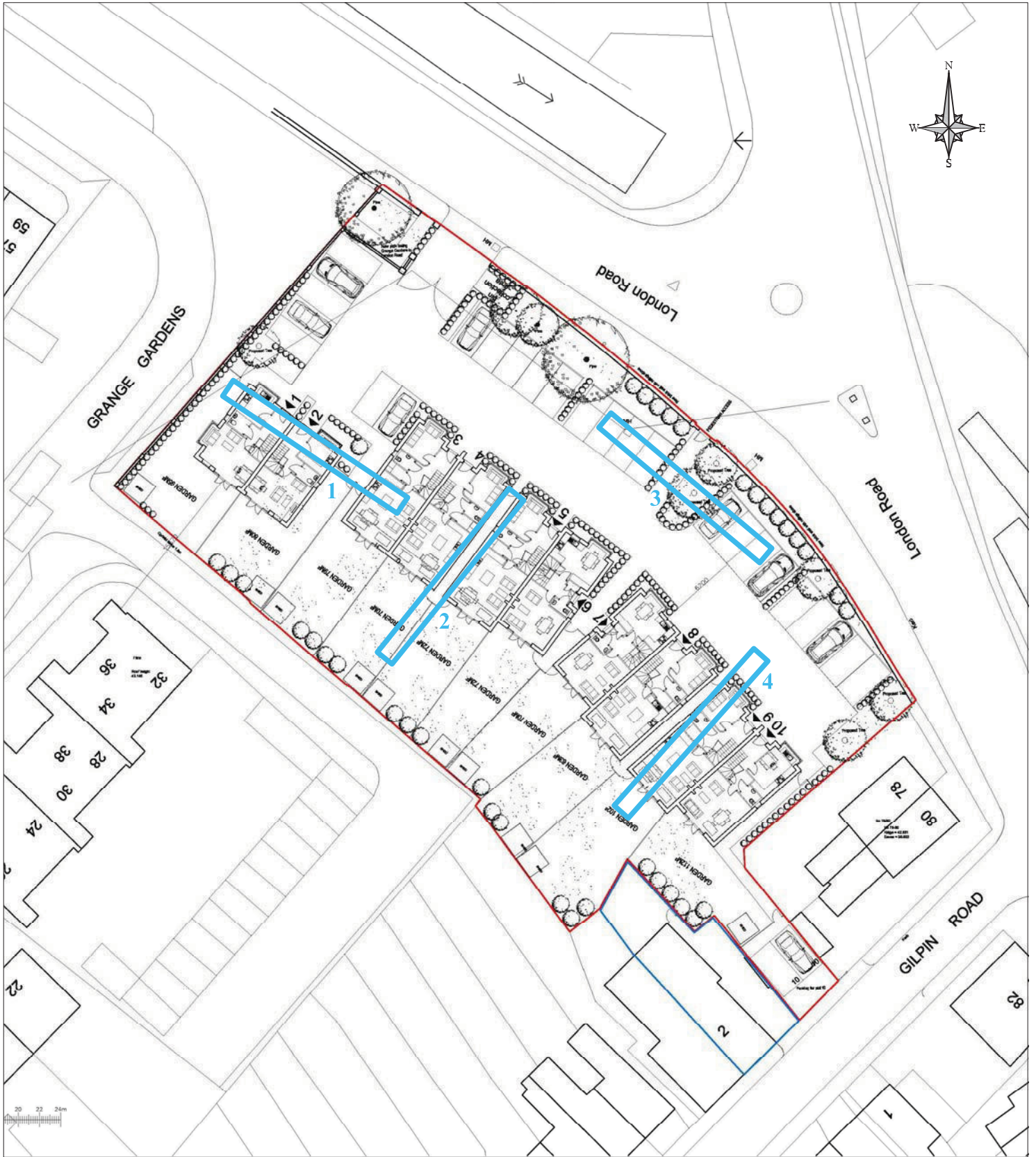


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**Fig. 5 Trench location plan**

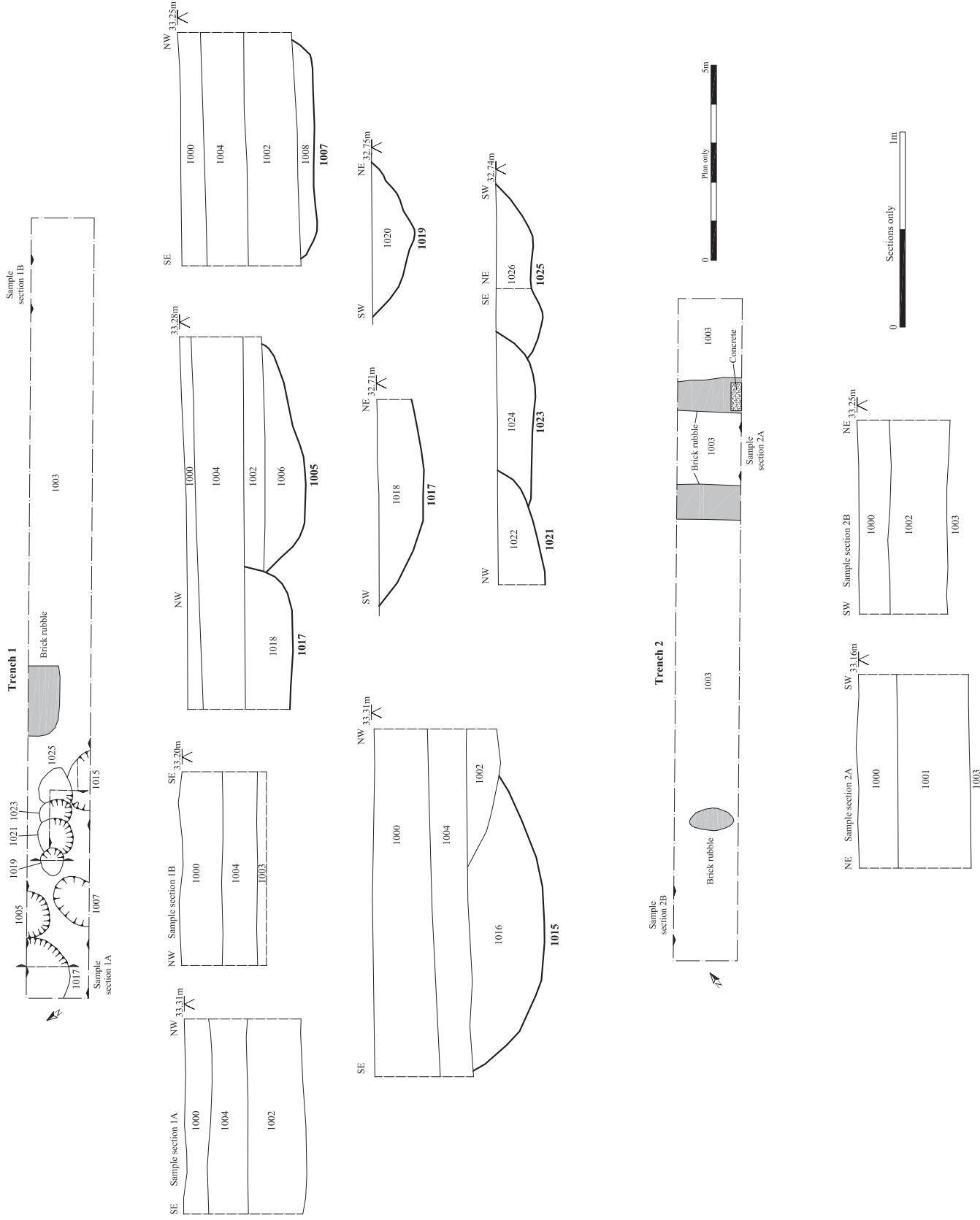
Scale 1:500 at A4

Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)



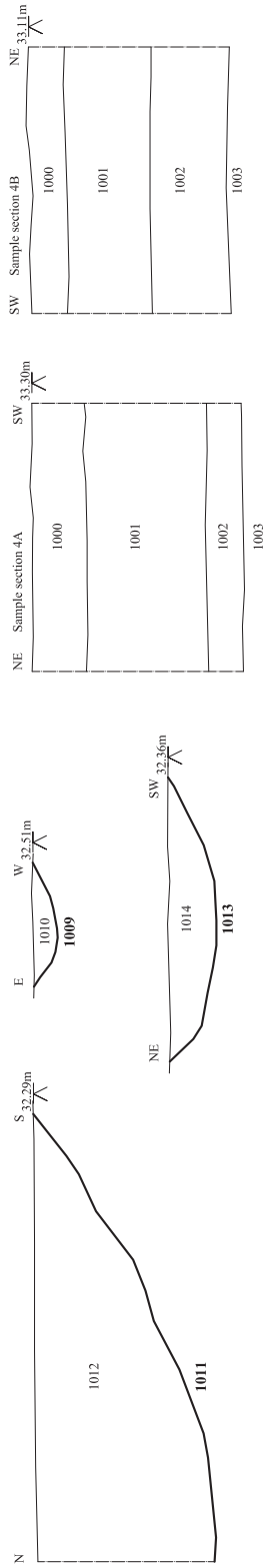
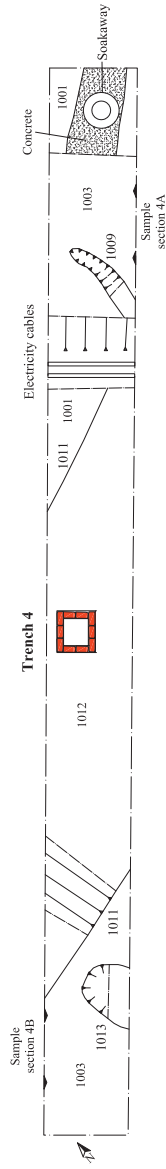
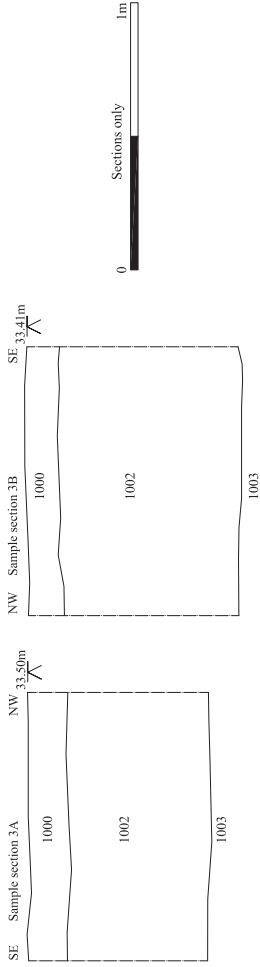
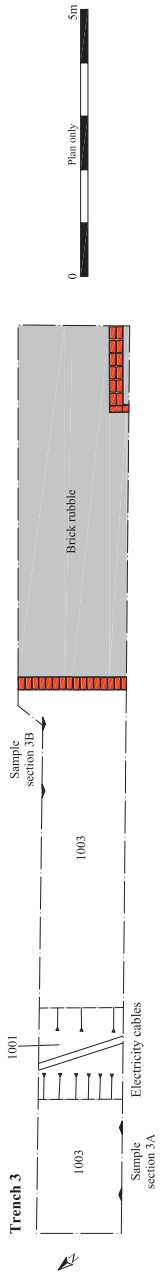
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<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 6 Proposed development</b>
Scale 1:500 at A4
Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)



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**Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3  
 Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)





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**Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3  
 Former John Gilpin PH, Ware, Hertfordshire (P6729)