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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**WOODHALL PH, 17 HIGH ROAD, STAPLEFORD,  
HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE SG14 3NW**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

HER Enquiry No. 116/17

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NGR: TL 3104 1723		Report No: 5440
District: East Hertfordshire		Site Code: AS1903
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA		Project No: 7259
		Date: 19 September 2017 Revised: 06/11/2017

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford, Hertford, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford. The evaluation was necessary to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition (Number 2) on approval for conversion of the restaurant/pub/hotel to provide 3no new dwellings and for the construction of 4no new dwellings, demolition of outbuildings, construction of a new cartlodge, new vehicular accesses from High Road, associated off-street parking, garden amenity space, landscaping and associated development.</i></p> <p><i>The site had potential for buried remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Stapleford, and for remains of the earlier structures which pre-date the existing public house.</i></p> <p><i>The project encountered 20 features, distributed evenly between Trial Trenches 1 and 2. The majority were pits and postholes. Trench 2 also contained a section of ditch (F1016). Finds from these features comprise 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and/or 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building materials. A single, residual sherd of South Hertfordshire greyware, of late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from Ditch F1016.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 3 contained a peat deposit containing abundant waterlogged plant material. This context appears to represent the organic, waterlogged fill of a channel or natural depression, located close to a broadly parallel stream.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	September 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work	TBC
P. number	7259	Site code	AS 1903
Type of project	Archaeological trial trench evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Former public house/restaurant		
Planned development	Conversion to residential and construction of new dwellings		
Main features (+dates)	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century: Postholes, pits, ditch		
Significant finds (+dates)	Undated: Peat deposit late 12 <sup>th</sup> to mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century: Pottery 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century: Pottery; CBM		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	Stapleford
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	SG14 3NW		
Area of site	c. 2500m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 3104 1723		
Height AOD (min/max)	50m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	M Lennon & Co Ltd		
Full title	Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford, Hertford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Edwards, N. & Wilson, L.		
Report no.	5440		
Date (of report)	19 September 2017 (Revised 06/11/2017)		

## **WOODHALL ARMS PH, 17 HIGH ROAD, STAPLEFORD, HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford (NGR TL 3104 1723). The evaluation was required to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition (Number 2) on approval for conversion of the restaurant/pub/hotel to provide 3no new dwellings and construction of 4no new dwellings, demolition of outbuildings, construction of a new cartlodge, new vehicular accesses from High Road, associated off-street parking, garden amenity space, landscaping and associated development (EHDC Approval Ref. 3/17/0552/FUL) which requires a programme of archaeological work.*

*The site contains the former Woodhall Arms PH and outbuildings/car park. It lies on the former medieval High Road from Hertford to Stevenage. The building is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1880, largely in its current form, as The Woodhall Arms. Outbuildings, including a 'Brewery' are depicted to the north and east. The Tithe map of 1850 shows an earlier building and range of outbuildings which appear to have preceded the current structure, their form suggesting a similar function, but their date is not known. The name of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century public house relates to nearby Woodhall Park to the north east and may be part of improvements to the Woodhall estate at this time.*

*The site had a potential for buried remains associated with the post-medieval and medieval settlement of Stapleford, and for remains of the earlier structures which pre-date the current building.*

*The project encountered 20 features, distributed evenly between Trial Trenches 1 and 2. The majority were pits and postholes. Trench 2 also contained a section of ditch (F1016). Finds from these features comprise 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and/or 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building materials. A single, residual sherd of South Hertfordshire greyware, of late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from Ditch F1016.*

*Trench 3 contained a peat deposit containing abundant waterlogged plant material. This context appears to represent the organic, waterlogged fill of a channel or natural depression, located close to a broadly parallel stream.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford (NGR TL 3104 1723; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition (Number 2) on approval for

conversion of the restaurant/pub/hotel to provide 3no new dwellings and construction of 4no new dwellings, demolition of outbuildings, construction of a new cartlodge, new vehicular accesses from High Road, associated off-street parking, garden amenity space, landscaping and associated development (EHDC Approval Ref. 3/17/0552/FUL). The evaluation was necessary based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HCC HEA).

1.2 An historic building recording report has also been prepared pursuant to the condition (Wilson and Prosser 2017).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HCC HEA), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017). It adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 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. In particular it was important to establish the presence or absence of any further evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the medieval route of High Road. It was also 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.

## **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 former medieval High Road from Hertford to Stevenage in the village of Stapleford (Figs. 1 – 2). It contains the former Woodhall Arms PH and outbuildings/ car park. The medieval settlement of Stapleford with its 12<sup>th</sup> century parish church is identified as an Area of Archaeological Significance (128) on the EHDC Local Plan.

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

3.1 Stapleford lies on the western side of the River Beane valley with the smaller tributary of the Stapleford Marsh/Brook forming the eastern border of the site. The surrounding area is gently undulating and the land rises to the west of Stapleford to a height of 100m AOD, within 1.3km towards Branfield Woods.

3.2 The underlying geology is the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, formed in the Cretaceous period (British Geological Survey 1978). The overlying soils are freely draining, slightly acidic and loamy soils, on the border of a loamy and clayey floodplain soil associated with the Stapleford Marsh to the east.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Prehistory**

4.1 To the north-east, at a distance of c.920m, a cropmark possibly representing the ploughed-out remains of a round barrow are recorded. The ring ditch looks more similar to a macula of unknown function (HHER 7584). To the south-west is another sub-circular enclosure (HHER 7593) representing the ploughed-out remains of a round barrow located c.870m towards Row Wood.

4.2 The local landscape also records undated features such as enclosure, ditches and pits which may be of prehistoric date (HHER 7413, 16937, 18419, 7592, 7594, 7585, 4557, 7602 & 7605).



## Medieval

4.3 The manorial centre of the late medieval manor or Patchendon lies c. 380m to the north of Stapleford. The earliest record is in 1376 when it was held by the owner of Waterford Hall, but from the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was held as part of the manor of Woodhall in Watton. The site of the manor house is a farmhouse of the same name in the vicinity but the exact location is postulated (HHER 1992). The church of St Mary dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (HHER 4357).

## Post-Medieval

4.4 Stapleford forms a small estate village, attached to Woodhall Park. Its name means a ford marked by a post or staple, named as such in 1593, the current bridge is the latest in a series of bridges (HHER 5178). The village's original core was possibly located to the east of the River Beane around the parish church when Woodhall Park was a deer park (HHER 4439).

4.5 By the 18<sup>th</sup> century the park had been landscaped and the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw major changes (HHER 7344). It has been suggested that the building of the public house might have been part of this modernisation, as an earlier building stood on the site (cf. Wilson and Prosser 2017, 6). The 1839 tithe map shows the village with very few buildings; the church and two houses (one of them the Rectory) on the east bank, and properties at intervals along 530m of the main road. These buildings were surrounded by fields. The 1881 OS map shows little change, but more detail of what was evidently an estate village. At the north end of the village on the main road was the Woodhall Arms (HHER 30329) and brewery, and near the south end was Stapleford Place (HHER 15597). The only other properties were five rows of estate cottages with gardens, four on the west side of the road and one on the east south of Stapleford Place.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The advice from Hertfordshire County Council required the excavation of trial trenches to evaluate the presence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development. A c. 5% sample was proposed to be subject to trenching, focussing on the new build elements (four new dwellings, cart lodges, parking etc). Two trenches of 20m x 1.8m were excavated, and one trench of 10m x 1.8m (Fig. 3).

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

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:



**Trench 1** (Figs. 2 - 5)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 48.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Tarmac
0.06 – 0.41m	L1045	Made Ground. Pale grey silty clay with frequent small – medium angular and sub-angular flint
0.41 – 0.53m	L1046	Made Ground. Dark grey brown silty clay with frequent stones
0.53 – 0.76	L1047	Rubble. CBM and gravel with mid 19 <sup>th</sup> to early 20 <sup>th</sup> C pottery
0.76 – 0.92m	L1048	Made Ground. Dark grey brown silty sand with frequent 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
0.92m+	L1049	Alluvial clay. Pale grey brown silty clay

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 48.65m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Tarmac
0.05 – 0.25m	L1050	Made Ground. Orange brown sand and gravel
0.25 - 0.52m	L1047	Rubble. As above
0.52 - 0.61m	L1051	Made Ground. Chalk
0.61 – 0.75m	L1048	Made Ground. As above
0.75m+	L1052	Made Ground. Dark orange brown sandy silt and gravel
	L1003	Natural. Yellow / orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel

*Description: Trench 1 contained Pits F1024 and F1026, and six postholes (F1028, F1030, F1032, F1034, F1036, F1038, F1040 and F1042). Posthole F1028 contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.*

Two pits were present and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F1024	L1025	Sub-circular. Gently sloping sides, flattish base ? x 0.41 x 0.11m	Friable, mid orange brown silty sand	-
F1026	L1027	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base ? x 0.42 x 0.33m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-

Eight postholes were present and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F1028	L1029	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base 0.45 x 0.51 x 0.20m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
F1030	L1031	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base 0.30 x 0.61 x 0.34m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1032	L1033	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen 0.25 x 0.30m+	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1034	L1035	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen 0.21 x 0.15 x 0.30m+	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1036	L1037	Circular. Steep sides, base unseen	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-

		0.21 x 0.30m+		
F1038	L1039	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen 0.25 x 0.15 x 0.10m+	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1040	L1041	Circular. Steep sides, base unseen 0.21 x ?m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1042	L1043	Sub-circular. Steep sides, base unseen 0.32 x 0.15+ x 70m+	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-

## Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 5)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 48.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac
0.04 – 0.32m	L1001	Levelling layer
0.32 – 0.78m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM
0.78m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 48.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Tarmac
0.05 – 0.26m	L1001	Levelling layer. As above
0.26 – 0.76m	L1002	Subsoil. As above
0.76m+	L1003	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 2 contained Ditch F1016, Pits F1004, F1006 and F1008, and six postholes (F1010, F1012, F1014, F1018, F1020 and F1022)*

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (4.00+ x 0.45 x 0.19m), orientated north-east / south-west. It had steep - moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1017) was a friable mid grey brown silty sand. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherd (6; 28g), CBM (194g), animal bone (19g).

Three pits were present and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F1004	L1005	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base 0.65 x 0.60 x 0.21m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
F1006	L1007	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base 0.20+ x 0.48 x 0.24m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-
F1008	L1009	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base 0.60 x 0.42 x 0.24m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C

Six postholes were present and are tabulated below:

Cut	Fill	Profile	Fill	Spot Date
F1010	L1011	Sub-circular. Vertical sides, flattish base 0.30 x 0.24 x 0.22m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
F1012	L1013	Sub-circular. Steep sides, flattish base 0.41 x 0.45 x 0.19m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Cut F1016
F1014	L1015	Sub-circular. Moderately sloping sides, flattish base 0.40 x 0.43 x 0.29m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C Cut F1016
F1018	L1019	Sub-circular. Steep sides, concave base 0.31 x 0.22 x 0.15m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Cut by F1020
F1020	L1021	Sub-circular. Steep sides, shallow concave base 0.41 x 0.38 x 0.35m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Cut F1018
F1022	L1023	Sub-circular. Steep – moderately sloping sides, flattish base 0.30+ x 0.25 x 0.08m	Friable, mid grey brown silty sand	-

### Trench 3 (Figs. 2 – 4 & 6)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 47.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Tarmac
0.04 – 0.19m	L1001	Levelling layer
0.19 – 0.58m	L1002	Subsoil
0.58 – 1.08m	L1053	Dark brown silty clay
1.08 – 1.73m	L1049	Alluvial clay
1.73m+	L1054	Peat.

*Description: Trench 3 contained a deposit of peat, L1054 (see Appendix 2).*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds. Trench 3 did fill with water but the trench was examined prior to this event.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost were Tarmac and made ground deposits (L1000 – L1001, L1045 – L1048, and L1050 - L1052) (0.19 - 0.92m thick). Below the made ground was Subsoil L1002, comprising mid grey brown silty clay with occasional CBM (0.46 – 0.50m thick).

8.2 In Trenches 1 and 2, Subsoil L1002 overlay the natural, L1003, constituting yellow/ orange brown sandy clay with moderate gravel. The natural, L1003, was present c.0.70 – 0.80m below the present day ground surface.

8.3 In Trench 3, the subsoil overlay alluvial clays (L1053 and L1049) and peat (L1054). The latter was augered to a depth of c.1.50m.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1024	Pit	-
	F1026	Pit	-
	F1028	Posthole	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1030	Posthole	-
	F1032	Posthole	-
	F1034	Posthole	-
	F1036	Posthole	-
	F1038	Posthole	-
	F1040	Posthole	-
	F1042	Posthole	-
2	F1004	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1006	Pit	-
	F1008	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1010	Posthole	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1012	Posthole	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
	F1014	Posthole	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1016	Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C Residual medieval (12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C) sherd
	F1018	Posthole	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
	F1020	Posthole	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
	F1022	Posthole	-
3	L1054	Peat	-

9.2 The site had a potential for buried remains associated with the post-medieval and medieval settlement of Stapleford, and for remains of earlier structures which pre-date the Woodhall Arms PH building.

9.3 Trench 1 and 2 towards the High Road frontage of the site each contained numerous features: Trench 1 (10) and Trench 2 (10). The majority of these were discrete (pits and postholes). Just one linear feature, Ditch F1016 (Trench 2) was encountered. The form and fills of the features was similar and they appeared to be broadly contemporary. The dating evidence supports this suggestion as the dated features contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and/ or 19<sup>th</sup> century CBM. Ditch F1016 (Trench 2) also contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery in addition to a residual medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherd.

9.4 At the back of the site (south-east area) Trench 3 contained a peat deposit, L1054, comprising dark grey organic silt with abundant waterlogged plant material (see Appendix 2). The material appears to represent the organic, waterlogged fill of a channel or natural depression, located close to a broadly parallel stream.

9.5 The site is marked as a 'Brewery' on the 1880 OS map (Fig. 8) and its layout appears similar to the present day. However, a range of buildings is shown in the

easternmost corner of the site (also shown on later editions (Figs. 9 – 11)), close to the eastern end of Trench 1, which has since been demolished (at some point after 1973 (Fig. 11)). The tithe map of 1839 also shows a building in the eastern corner of the site, albeit smaller, while another building is shown to the south-west of the main range (Fig. 7). This area is also depicted as an enclosed area, possibly a yard, on the OS maps of 1880 and 1898 (Figs. 8 – 9), but appears more opened out on later editions. Based on this evidence, encountered archaeology in Trench 2 of the evaluation may well be associated with the building depicted on the tithe map, and/or subsequent ‘yard’ activity associated with the former brewery. Features in Trench 1 are also likely to have resulted from activity within a yard area or similar; the trench was not located within the footprint(s) of former buildings in the north of the site.

## 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 M Lennon & Co Ltd for funding the project and for their assistance. AS would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Barry Lennon and Mr David Robins.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team.

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## APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pottery Only)	Pottery (Qty)	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other Material	Other (Qty)	Other (g)
1004	1005		2	Fill of pit	18th-19th C	5	59	337		Clay Pipes Fe Frag.	3 1	17 23
1008	1009		2	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	2	5	185		Glass Fe Frag.	2 1	20 13
1010	1011		2	Fill of Posthole	18th-19th C	1	7	8		Fe Frag.	1	13
1012	1013		2	Fill of Pit				11				
1014	1015		2	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	3	7	10	1	Clay Pipe	1	4
1016	1017		2	Fill of Ditch	18th-19th C (residual 12-14th C sherd)	6	28	194	19			
1018	1019		2	Fill of Posthole				94				
1020	1021		2	Fill of Posthole				7		Clay Pipe	2	5
1028	1029		1	Fill of Posthole	18th-19th C	2	25	21				
	1047		1	Rubble Layer	Mid 19th-Early 20th	22	1433	979		Glass	17	247
	1048		1	Layer				668		Fe Frags.	4	18

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

*Peter Thompson*

The archaeological trial trench evaluation recovered 41 sherds weighing 1.221 kg from six features and a layer. All of the pottery was early modern to modern in date except for a residual small abraded body sherd of South Hertfordshire greyware Ditch F1016 (L1017). The sherds are quantified by context below. Fabric dates provided in the Key cover the full range within which those wares were produced. The spot dates (Table 1) are refined dates within those fabric ranges, based on evidence including manufacture, form, and glaze, as well as associations with other datable materials.

### Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes are those used for the Suffolk County Council pottery type series which is also appropriate for Hertfordshire.

### KEY:

SHER (3.20): South Hertfordshire greyware late 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 14<sup>th</sup>

PMRE (8.01): Post-medieval red earthenware 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

GRE (8.50): Glazed red earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

TGE (6.30): Tin Glazed Earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

LONS (8.21): London type stoneware late 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1004	1005	3x48g GRE 1x7g PMRE 1x1g TGE	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Pit 1008	1009	2x4g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Posthole 1010	1011	1x6g ENGS	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Pit 1014	1015	2x5g GRE 1x1g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Ditch 1016	1017	1x1g SHER 4x15g PMRE 1x9g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Posthole 1028	1029	2x25g GRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	
Layer	1047	22x1099g modern	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup>	Includes ginger stoneware ginger beer bottle with NORWICH mark on it. Also factory made white earthenware (8.03, 8.53) and porcelain (8.30), and white slipped glazed red earthenware (8.50)

*Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context*



## Reference

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

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 50 fragments (2514g) of 19<sup>th</sup> century (Victorian) CBM including sewer pipe (Table 2), in a highly abraded and fragmented condition that is best-regarded as rubble.

The fragments were recorded by fragment count and weight per context, with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

CBM type	Date	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg tile	19 <sup>th</sup> century	35	368
Soft red brick		13	1167
Sewer pipe		2	979
<i>Total</i>		<i>50</i>	<i>2514</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The CBM was manufactured in a red-orange fabric typical of the industries that supplied Hertfordshire and operated in Eastern England, utilizing medium quartz sand temper (0.1-0.5mm) that also included occasional flint and iron ore/stone (<2mm), resulting in hard-fired products with an abrasive feel. The peg tile are 12mm thick with a medium sanded base, while no extant dimension or technological traits remained extant on the 'red' brick; though there is no indication of any medieval or early post-medieval material. Small fragments of peg tile were contained in Pits F1004, F1008, F1012, F1014, Postholes F1010, F1028 and Ditch F1016; and small fragments of red brick in Pits F1004, F1008, Postholes F1018, F1020, Ditch F1016 and Layer L1048. Fragments of salt-glazed white earthen ware sewer pipe were also contained in Rubble Layer L1047. There is no indication that any of the limited material is directly related to a structure in the vicinity.

## The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

### Introduction

During the evaluation at the Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, six bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

A further sample (No. 8) was taken from peat deposit L1054. This was not processed by flotation due to the inherent problems of this method for analysing bulk samples from highly organic deposits such as peat. The material was examined to understand the nature of the deposit and its preservation.

## Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

## Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3. Carbonised cereal remains were well represented across all samples, being most abundant in L1017. Species represented were hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum* type), oat (*Avena* sp.). A pulse seed (Fabaceae) in L1013 also indicates the inclusion of pulses in the diet. The only potential arable weed was in the form of cleavers (*Galium aparine*) in L1013 and no chaff was recorded, suggesting the presence of predominantly clean grain rather than crop processing by-products. The charcoal assemblage showed a mixed selection of wood types, including oak (*Quercus* sp.), and non-oak ring and diffuse porous woods.

### Peat deposit L1054

Peat deposit L1054 was represented by a dark grey organic silt containing abundant waterlogged plant material, in the form of stems from a range of plants, including large rushes. The material itself appears to represent the organic, waterlogged fill of a channel or natural depression encountered within Trench 3. The latter is adjacent to a stream.

## References

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A., 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S., 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn), Laboratory of Palinology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Kerney, M.P., 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D., 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Sample number	Context	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
					Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
2	1007	10	10	100%	X	-	Rye (X)	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)
3	1009	20	10	50%	X	-	NFI (X)	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-
4	1013	10	10	100%	X	-	NFI (X)	X	Diffuse porous, <i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-
5	1015	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	Diffuse porous	X	<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	X	-	X	-	-	-
6	1017	20	10	50%	XX	-	HB (X), FTW (XX), Oat (X)	-	Diffuse porous, <i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	Small mammal bone (X)
7	1011	10	10	100%	X	-	Rye (X)	-	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	X	-	X	-	X	-

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from the Woodhall Arms, Stapleford. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); Oat (*Avena* sp.); Rye (*Secale cereale*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

### APPENDIX 3            CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	55
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	3
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	32

## APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford, Herts
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b> Stapleford	<b>Parish:</b> Stapleford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	EHDC Approval Ref. 3/17/0552/FUL
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	M Lennon & Co Ltd/London, N18 3BH
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Conversion to residential and construction of new dwellings
<b>Present land use:</b>	Former public house
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.90m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 2500m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 3104 1723
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1903
<b>Site director/Organisation:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	September 2017
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	Wilson, L. and Prosser, L., 2017, Former Woodhall Arms Public House, 17 High Road, Stapleford, Hertfordshire; Historic building recording, Archaeological Solutions Ltd Report No. 5462
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In September 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Woodhall Arms PH, 17 High Road, Stapleford. The site had potential for buried remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Stapleford, and for remains of the earlier structures which pre-date the existing public house.</p> <p>The project encountered pits, postholes and a single ditch of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A single ditch of the same date was also present. Finds comprise 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and/or 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic building materials. A single, residual sherd of South Hertfordshire greyware, of late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered.</p> <p>An undated peat deposit containing abundant waterlogged plant material was also present in the south-east of the site, close to a broadly parallel stream.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Edwards, N. and Mustchin, A.R.R.	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 19 September 2017 (Revised: 06/11/2017)

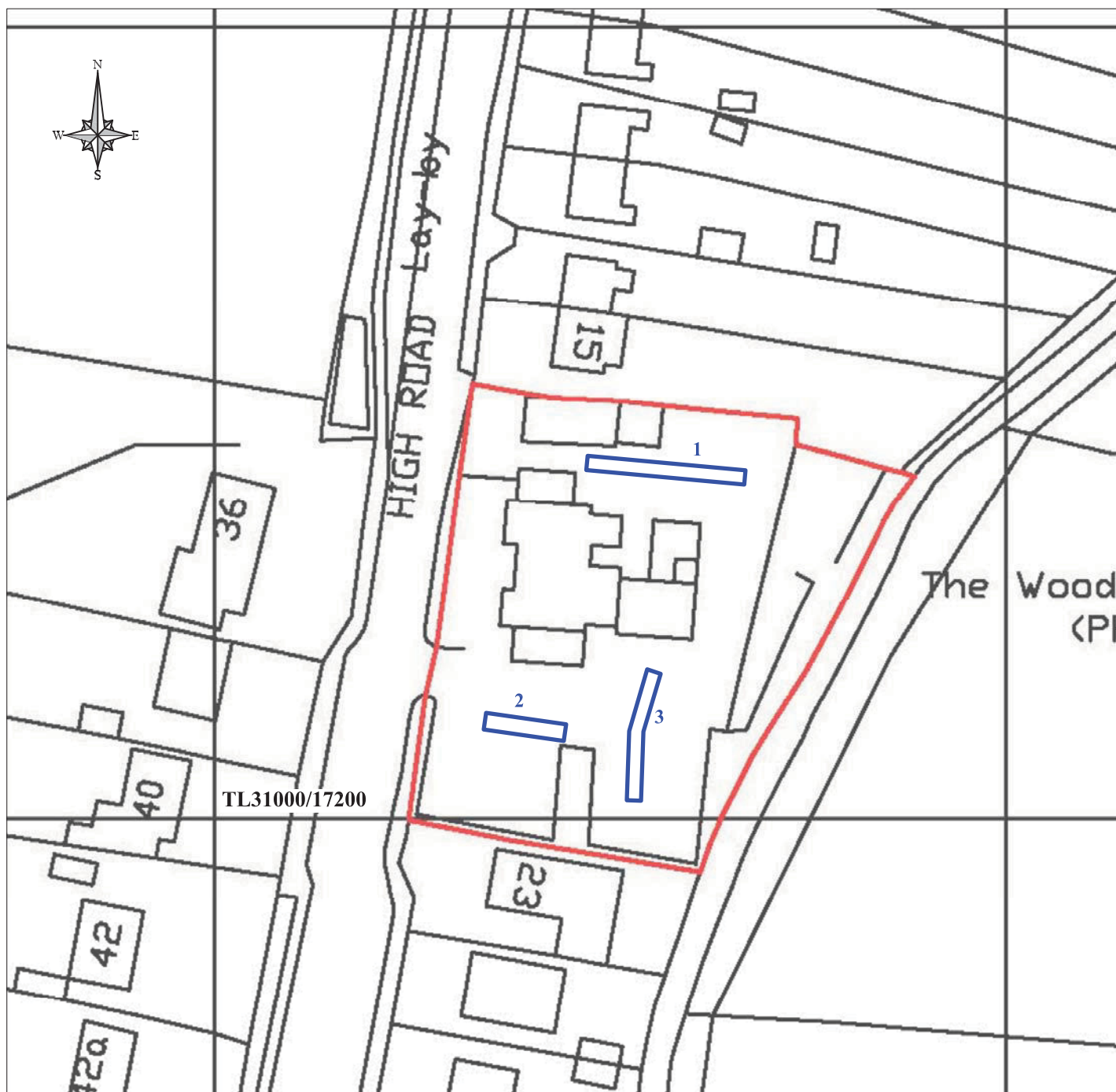




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Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)





0 50m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:750 at A4
Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)







0

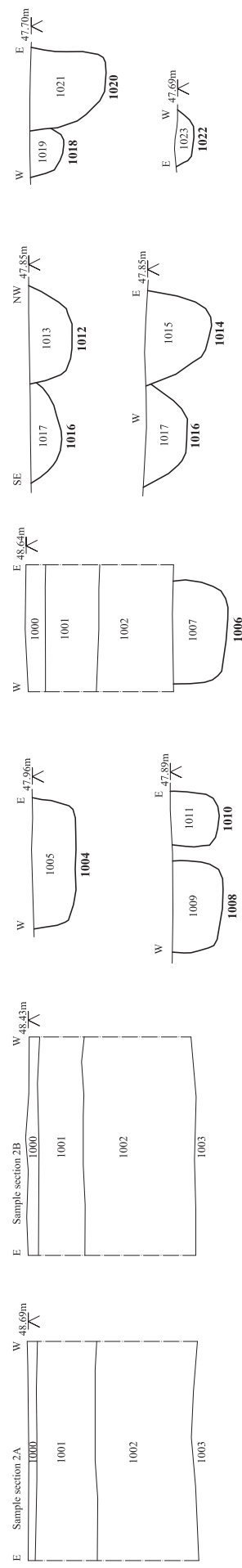
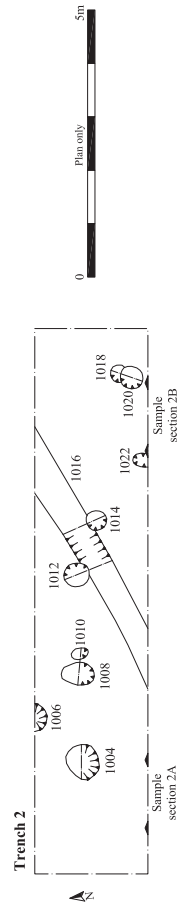
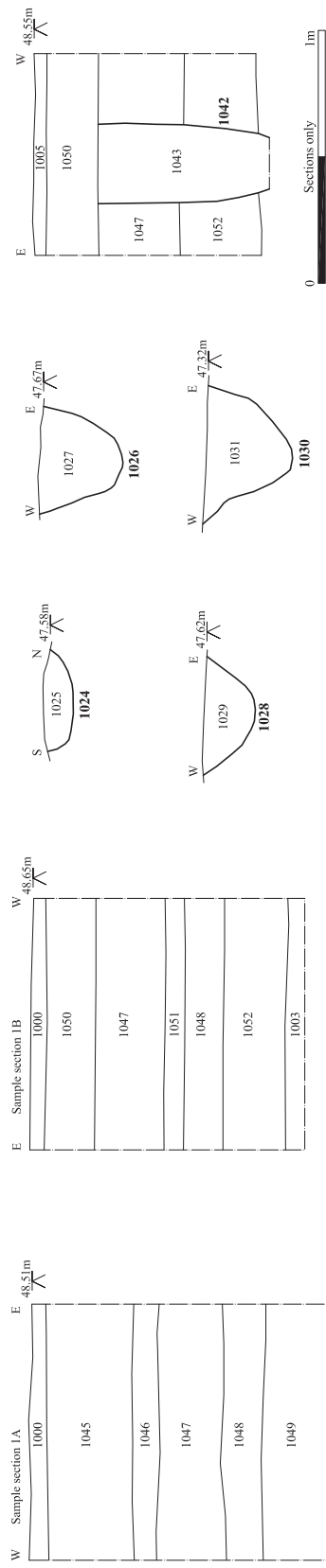
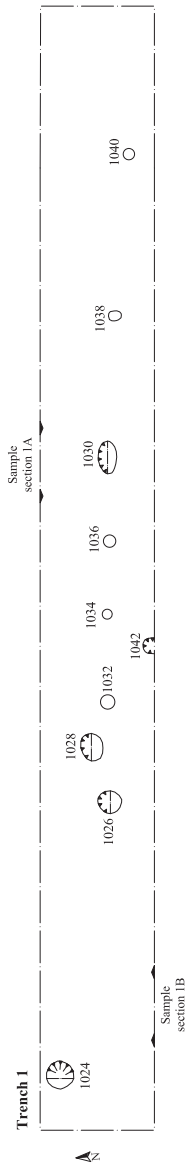
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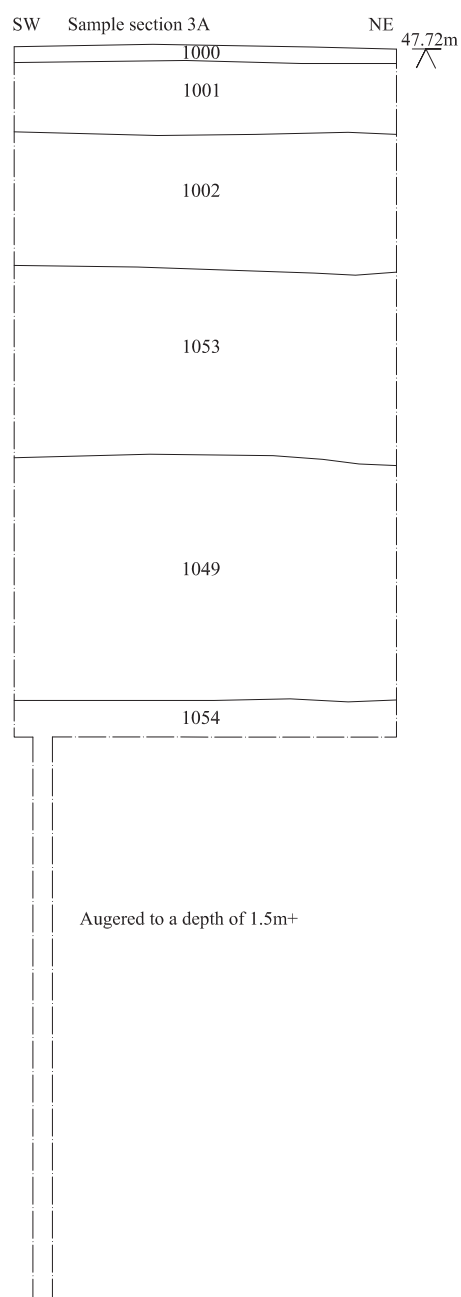
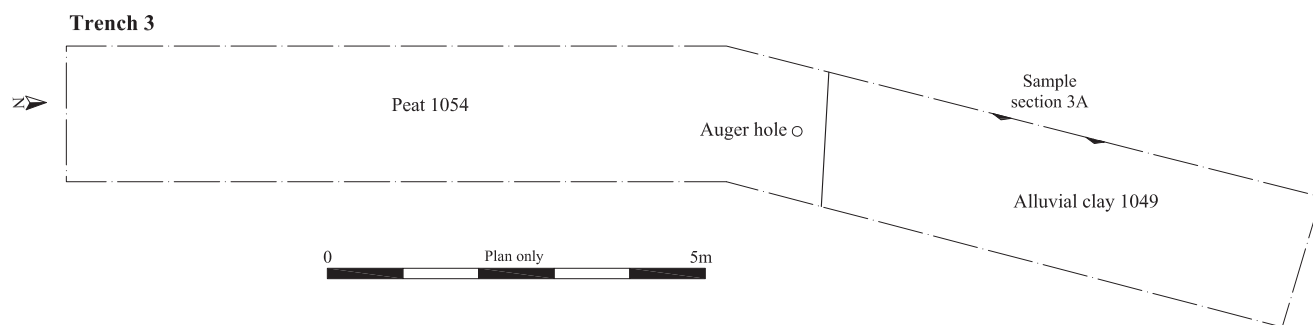
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**Fig. 4 Proposed development**

Scale 1:400 at A4

Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)





<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 6 Trench 3</b>
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)



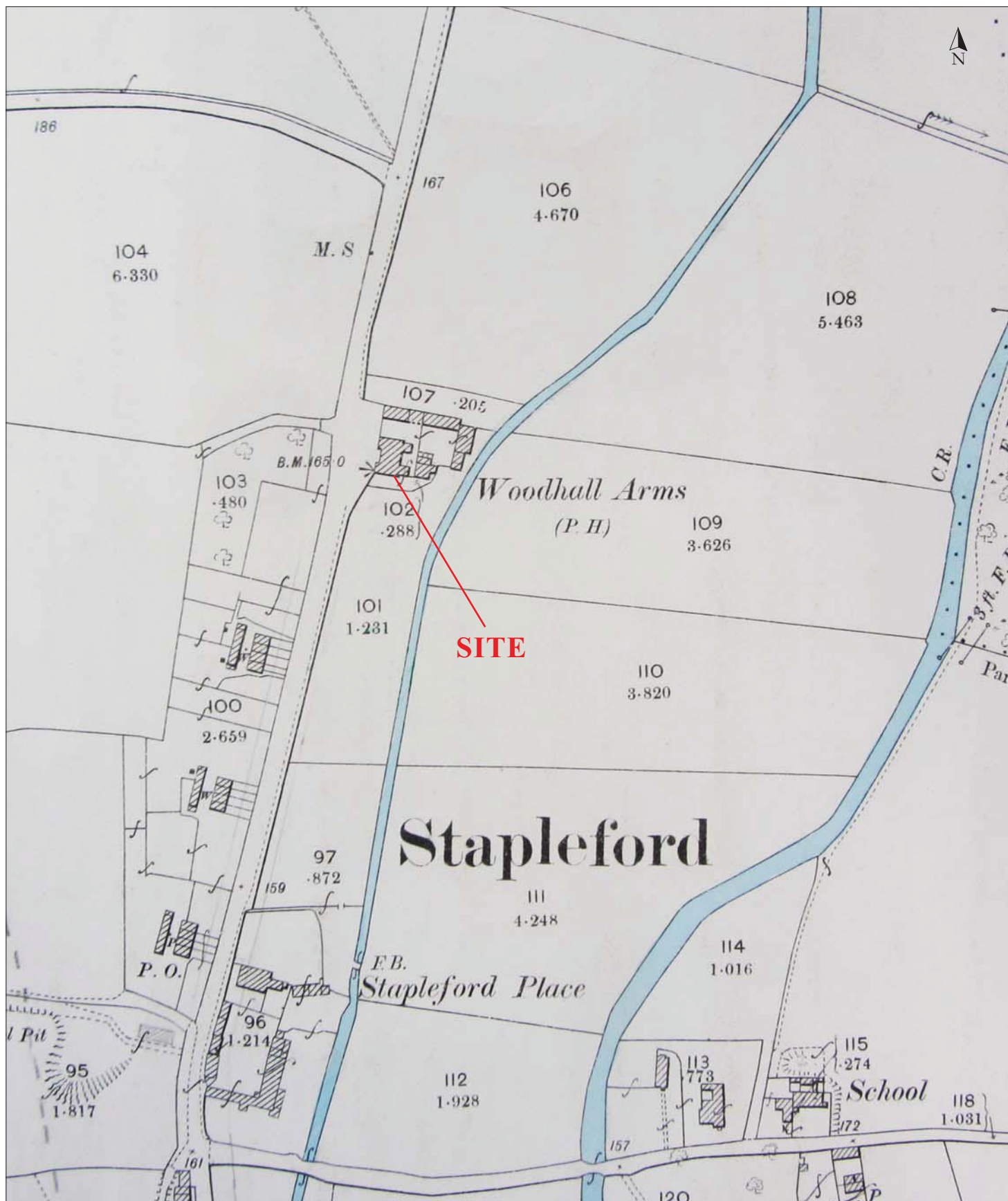


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 7 Tithe map, 1839</b>
Not to scale
The Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)



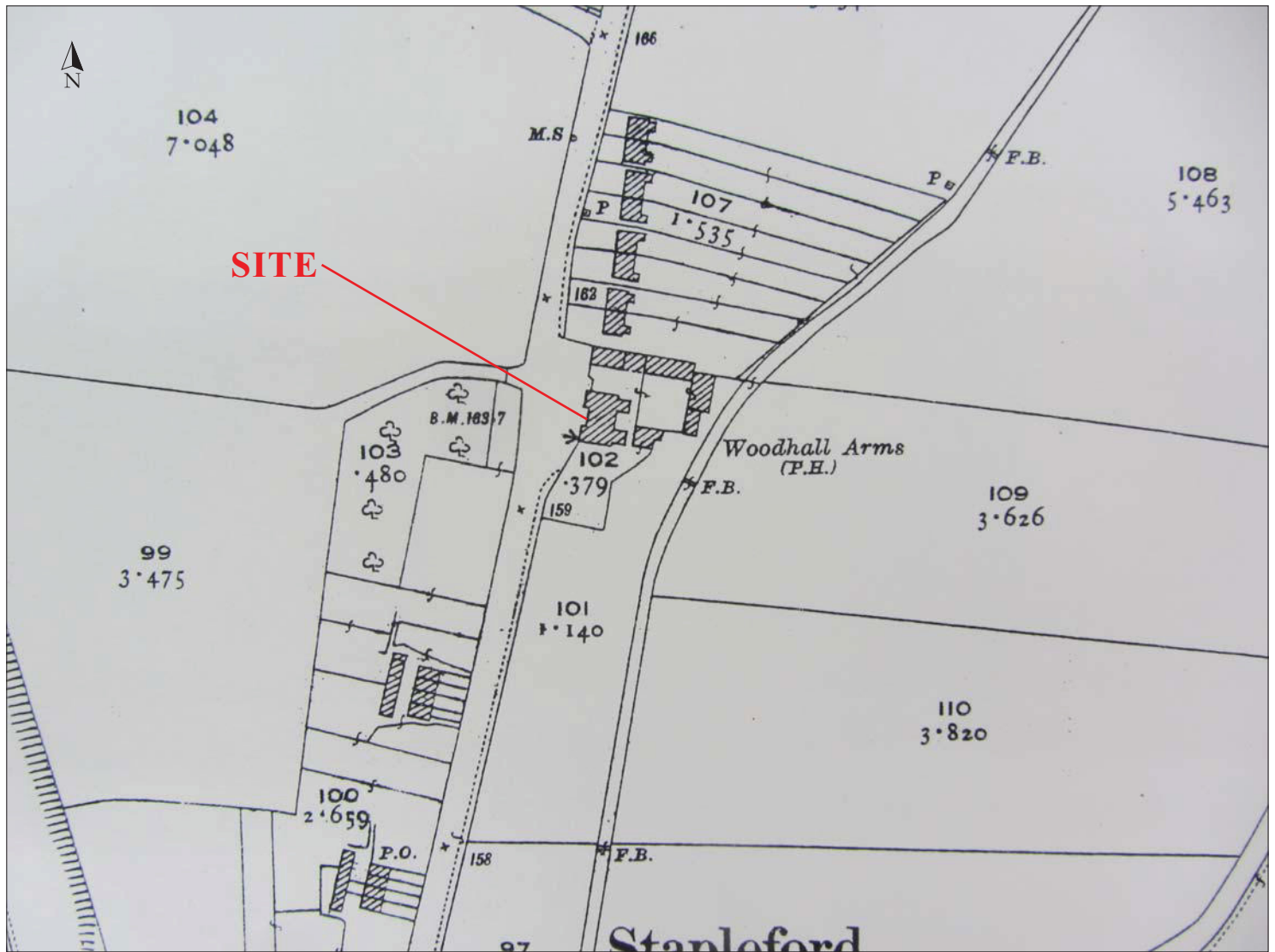


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Fig. 8 OS map, 1880</b>
Not to scale
The Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)

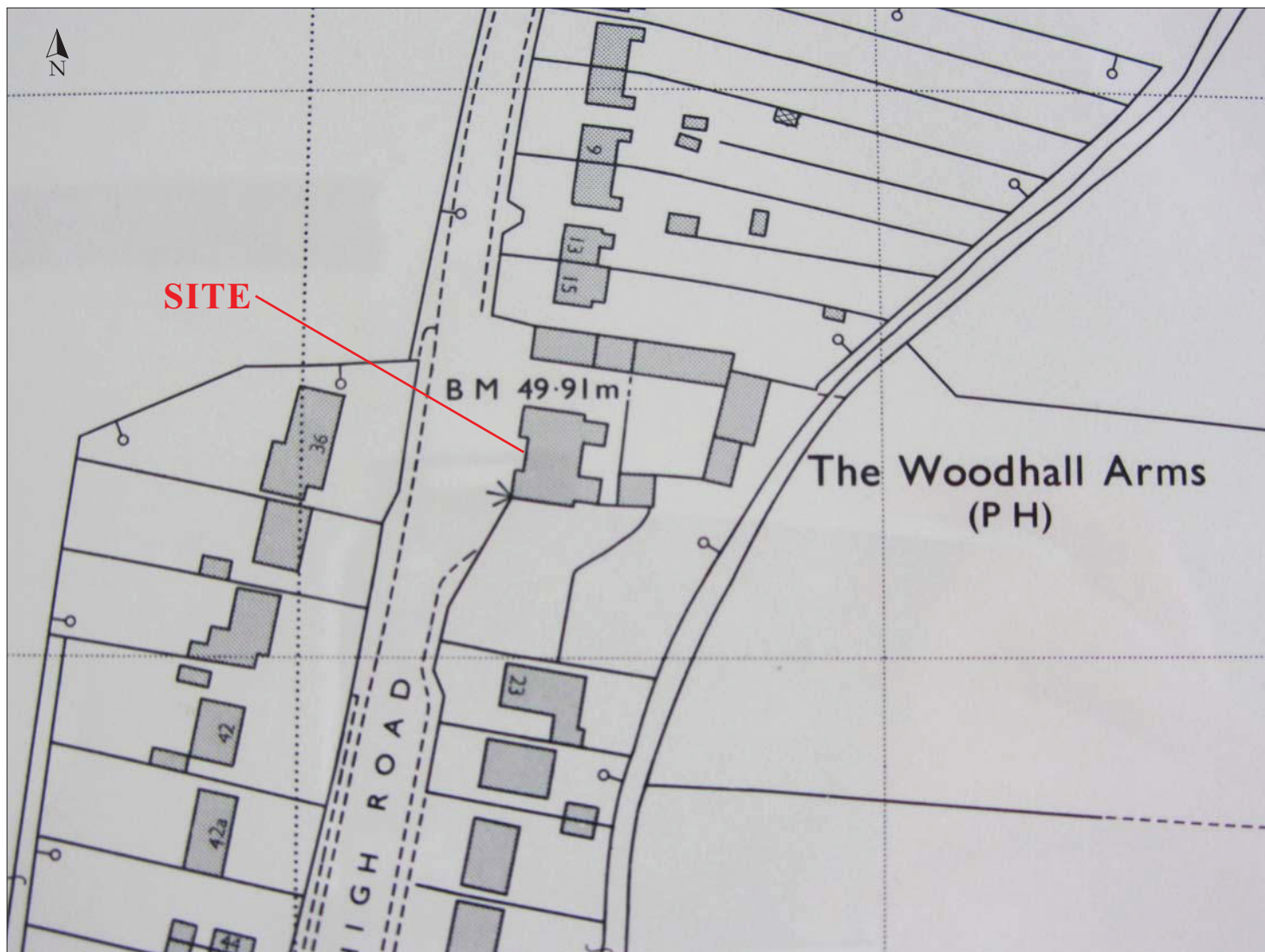


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Fig. 9 OS map, 1898</b>
Not to scale
The Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)





<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 10 OS map, 1923</b>
Not to scale
The Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)



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<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 11 OS map, 1973</b>
Not to scale
The Woodhall Arms, Stapleford, Hertfordshire (P7259)