
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BROMLEY HALL FARM, BROMLEY LANE,
MUCH HADHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION
AND MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 4149 2125	Report No: 4861
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1730
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5953
Signed:	Date: 27 May 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In January and February 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring & recording at Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4149 2125). The monitoring was commissioned by Chaldean Estates Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing barns.</i></p> <p><i>Bromley Hall is a medieval manorial site, with documentary references dating from the 15th century. Extensive earlier activity is also known in the area, with a series of Roman tile and pottery kilns on an industrial scale dating from the later 1st – 4th century AD. Pottery scatters and cropmarks identified in the area surrounding the site suggest numerous kiln sites, settlement and agricultural activity. A Roman road also passes nearby. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to significant modern truncation related to the construction of farm buildings in the 20th century and archaeological remains, if present, are likely to have been removed.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	08/01 – 20/02/2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5953	Site code	AS 1730
Type of project	<i>Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Sample' Investigation and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Farm barns</i>		
Planned development	<i>2 detached dwellings and detached garages</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Much Hadham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG11 1NY</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.2000m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4149 2125</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>106/109m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Chaldean Estates Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. Archaeological 'Strip, Map & Sample' Investigation and Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4861</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2015</i>		

BROMLEY HALL FARM, BROMLEY LANE, MUCH HADHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January and February 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring & recording at Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4149 2125). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing barns.

Bromley Hall is a medieval manorial site, with documentary references dating from the 15th century. Extensive earlier activity is also known in the area, with a series of Roman tile and pottery kilns on an industrial scale dating from the later 1st – 4th century AD. Pottery scatters and cropmarks identified in the area surrounding the site suggest numerous kiln sites, settlement and agricultural activity. A Roman road also passes nearby. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to significant modern truncation related to the construction of farm buildings in the 20th century and archaeological remains, if present, are likely to have been removed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January and February 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring & recording at Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4149 2125; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Chaldean Estates Ltd in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing barns (East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/2067/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to the requirements of advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 10/01/2014), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 03/09/2014), and approved by HCC HEU. The monitoring conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological*

Watching Brief (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- Archaeological investigation by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the area of the proposed new development, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed;
- The archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the scheme likely to have an impact on any remains;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

Planning policy context

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

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the

historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located c.1.5km south-east of Standon and c.1.5km north-west of Much Hadham in Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It is situated on the south western side of Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, adjacent and to the south of Bromley Farm and Bromley Lodge (Fig. 1-2). Until recently the site comprised a series of large modern (20th century) barns, outbuildings and hardstanding.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies within the predominantly rural area of eastern Hertfordshire, which is characterised by fairly extensive woodland within an undulating terrain. The site lies at c.108m AOD, with land falling to the east towards Caley Wood and a small watercourse running south-east to Much Hadham. The local soils are of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable clayey soils with no prominently mottled subsurface horizon at or above 40cm depth (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Calcareous pelosols have a calcareous subsurface horizon and no clay-enriched subsoil. The underlying geology of the area is Eocene Clay of the Lambeth Group surrounded by Palaeocene Clay of the same group (British Geological Survey 1978).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The earliest prehistoric remains found in the area comprise a Neolithic jadeite axe head found near Bromley Hall Farm (HER 2115), and cropmarks of a possible ring ditch in the same area, which may indicate the presence of a Bronze Age burial (HER 7392). A substantial bank and ditch, which is probably a late Iron Age linear dyke, is situated to the east of the site in Caley Wood (HER 122). Cropmarks of a double ditched enclosure located in the vicinity of Bromley Hall Farm may also be indicative of Iron Age settlement, but could equally be Romano-British or later (HER 16716).

4.2 An extensive area of Romano-British pottery and tile kilns is focused around Bromley Hall Farm and Pig's Green, which form part of the Hadham pottery industry. Large-scale evidence was found at Bromley Hall Farm, when ploughing of pasture revealed evidence of kilns and occupation (HER 1398). Subsequent excavations over a large area uncovered five pottery kilns of both, horizontal and updraught types, tile kilns, a timber building and a road. The kilns were mainly of 3rd - 4th century AD date, with one dating from the

late 1st century. Three more probable kilns have been identified by geophysical survey approximately 200m to the north-west (HER 11444).

4.3 The site lies close to Roman road which extends from the contemporary settlement at Braughing to the kiln complex. The road, sometimes referred to as the Braughing to Harlow road, is shown by aerial photography to derive from the direction of Braughing to the north-west having crossed the major Roman Road of Stane Street, and it passes within 100m of the site (HER 2865).

4.4 Further evidence of the pottery and tile industry was recorded when field walking and limited excavation at Barley Hill to the north-east identified a small pottery kiln (HER 6829). It was dated to the 4th century by Hadham ware and 'Romano-Saxon' wares.

4.5 Several Roman pottery sherds were found on the site of The Hatch, Pig's Green, c.550m north-west during the digging of a cess pit in 2009 (HER 2760), and further Roman sherds are believed to have been found when foundations were previously dug at The Hatch. Possible late Roman pottery was found in the ditches of the probable late Iron Age earthwork at Westland Green (HER 1391), and more 2nd - 3rd century AD pottery was recovered from Caley Wood (HHER 11920). Roman sherds including a 4th century jar are also known from Pig's Green (HER 1392). Large amounts of Roman pottery have also been recorded across the three fields west and south-west of Caley Wood with more known from beyond, indicating that these kilns covered a wide area whose limits have not yet been identified.

4.6 Bromley Hall is a medieval manorial site, with documentary references dating from the 15th century. Other buildings at Bromley Hall Farm date to the 17th and 18th century (HER 9454 & 12970). Chancery records of 1575 refer to the Iron Age linear earthwork as '*Calies Castle*', but there is no indication that the site was re-used in the medieval period, despite the finding of the handle of a Hertfordshire Grey Ware jug nearby (HERs 122 & 797). A possible moat is located to the south-east at Westfield Farm (HHER 6404). Cropmarks have been identified in the area of Bromley Hall Farm including linear ditches and a multiple ditched trackway, some of which are thought to represent a medieval field system (HERs 7393, 10307 & 16715).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The initial stage of the project comprised the monitoring of demolition of the farm buildings, in particular the lifting of the concrete floors and removal of foundations. The ground within and around the proposed dwellings was levelled mostly using the demolished materials. Later the excavation of the foundation trenches for two houses and garages, and the service trenches were monitored (Fig. 3).

5.2 The archaeological investigation 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 The deposits located within area of excavation were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 8)</i> <i>West house, east foundation trench, facing west-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 108.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Modern made ground. Light grey, loose, clayey silt with CBM rubble.
0.20m+	L1001	Natural. Dark orange yellow, loose, gravel with silty sand.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 10)</i> <i>East house, east foundation trench, facing west-south-west</i> <i>0.00 = 108.21m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.23 – 0.39m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid brown, friable, sandy silt.
0.39m+	L1003	Natural. Yellow, compact, clay.

Description No archaeological features or finds were identified.

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 area of monitoring was commonly overlain by modern Made Ground L1000, consisting of a light grey, loose, clayey silt with CBM rubble (0.10 – 0.30m thick). This deposit contained materials from recently the demolished barn. In the eastern part of the site and below the made ground, Subsoil L1002 (0.15 – 0.20m thick) was a mid brown, friable, sandy silt.

8.2 The natural clay, L1003, was present at 0.37 – 1.30m below existing ground level and consisted of yellow, compact, clay. In the western part of the site the clay was overlain with a dark orange yellow, loose, gravel with silty sand (L1001; 0.40 – 1m thick)

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Bromley Hall is a medieval manorial site, with documentary references dating from the 15th century. Extensive earlier activity is also known in the area, with a series of Roman tile and pottery kilns on an industrial scale dating from the later 1st – 4th century AD. Pottery scatters and cropmarks identified in the area surrounding the site suggest numerous kiln sites, settlement and agricultural activity. A Roman road also passes nearby. The site had a potential for Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

9.2 In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to significant modern truncation related to the construction of farm buildings in the 20th century and archaeological remains, if present, are likely to have been removed.

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 would like to thank Chaldean Estates Ltd for funding the project (in particular Mr John Neville and Ms Anne Peacock for assistance) and Mr John Clarke of Hox Design for his 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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Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

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

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric		
122	4220 2146	Substantial bank and ditch, probably a late Iron Age linear dyke which was later called 'Calies Castle'
Romano-British		
1391	421 216	A quantity of late Roman pottery found in the ditches of the probable late Iron Age earthwork at Westland Green
1392	4189 2210	Roman sherds including a 4th century jar from Pig's Green
1398	418 214	Extensive remains of a major Roman pottery industry at Bromley Hall Farm found by Hazzledine Warren in 1951. The discovery was followed by excavations revealing a flint floor, a road, and 4th century pottery and flue tiles. In 1964 ploughing of the pasture revealed evidence of kilns and occupation, and subsequent excavations over a large area uncovered five pottery kilns of both horizontal and updraught types, tile kilns, a timber building and a road. The kilns are mainly of 3rd-4th century date, with one kiln of late 1st century date. For other kilns of the Hadham industry, see [6805, 1155, 6829]. Large amounts of Roman pottery have been recorded across the three fields west and south-west of Caley Wood and more are known beyond. The Hadham kiln industry evidently covered a much larger area than hitherto appreciated, and its limits have not yet been discovered
2760	4192 2173	Roman and medieval pottery found in digging a cesspit at The Hatch. Probably associated with pottery/tile manufacturing to the south. In 2009, during demolition and rebuilding of extensions, large quantities of Roman pottery were observed in the spoil from the foundation trenches. Nothing was seen in foundation trenches at the rear of the house
2865	4130 2243	Roman road at Horse Cross heading south-eastwards from Stane Street, possibly part of a Roman route to Harlow
6829	4190 2165	Field walking and limited excavation at Barley Hill in 1969 revealed a small, oval, clay lined pottery kiln with a short clay lined flue, and signs of rebuilding and multiple relinings and refloorings. It was dated to the 4th century by Hadham ware and 'Romano-Saxon' wares
11444	4170 2170	A geophysical survey carried out in 1998 noted four anomalies in Joan's Field, Bromley Hall Farm. Two were interpreted as possible tile kilns, a third is either a dump of pottery wasters or a pottery kiln, and the fourth anomaly (small ditches) is either part of a trackway or foundations of a small building. The site is next to a Roman road, and there are several sites associated with pottery and tile production in the vicinity

11920	4203 2161	Romano-British pottery and tile kiln near Caley Wood
Medieval		
797	421 214	'Calies Castle', a medieval name for a much older earthwork
6404	4235 2153	A possible moat at Westfield Farm, which was a medieval manor
Post-medieval & later		
12199	42364 21512	Westfield is a 16th century open hall house with possible medieval origins, given major renovation in the 17th century including a brick brewhouse, and a formal approach
12200	4235 2152	Possibly 19th century timber-framed granary on brick piers, once part of Westfield Farm
12201	4240 2155	Post-medieval farmstead at Westfield Farm, with buildings on both sides of the road until the mid 20th century
13136	41587 21603	Hazelwood is an early 20th century house on the site of an earlier one
13284	41954 21745	The Hatch is an early 17 th century timber-framed cottage with lobby-entry plan, possibly originally an open hall
30728	42197 21669	Pair of post-medieval cottages and outbuilding at Pig's Green, demolished in the early 20th century
Undated		
12486	41645 21750	Registered common land at Blind Lane Green
16716	41850 21570	Very early crop growth in an otherwise bare field at Pig's Green shows anomalies which may be a buried double-ditched enclosure. This lies immediately south of [6829], one of the Roman kilns known in this area
30727	41974 21777	Pig's Green is Registered common land

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Context, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	4
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	24

APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire
County: Herts	District: East Herts
Village/Town:	Parish: Much Hadham
Planning application reference:	East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/2067/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Chaldean Estates Ltd
Nature of application:	Construction of 2 dwellings with detached garages
Present land use:	Former farmyard
Size of application area: c.2000m ²	Size of area investigated c.200m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 4149 2125
Site Code:	AS 1730
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring & recording
Date of work:	01-02/2015
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Bishop's Stortford
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In January and February 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring & recording at Bromley Hall Farm, Bromley Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4149 2125). The monitoring was commissioned in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings following demolition of existing barns.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to significant modern truncation related to the construction of farm buildings in the 20th century and archaeological remains, if present, are likely to have been removed.</i></p>
Author of summary: Z Pozorski	Date of Summary: May 2015

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Sample section 1 looking north-east



2
Sample section 2 looking north-east



3
View of service trench looking south-west



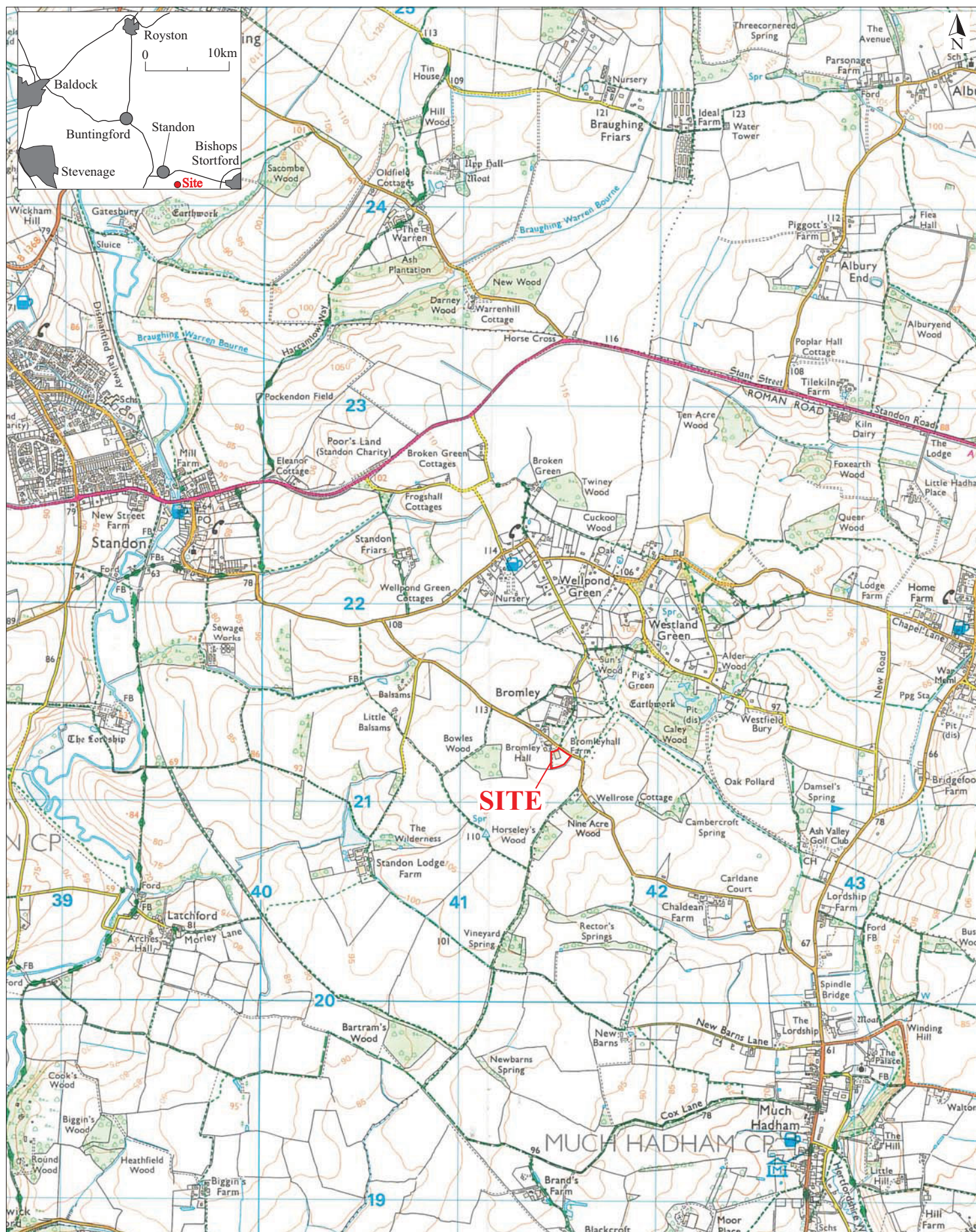
4
View of footings looking south-east



5
Pre-excavation view of site looking north-west

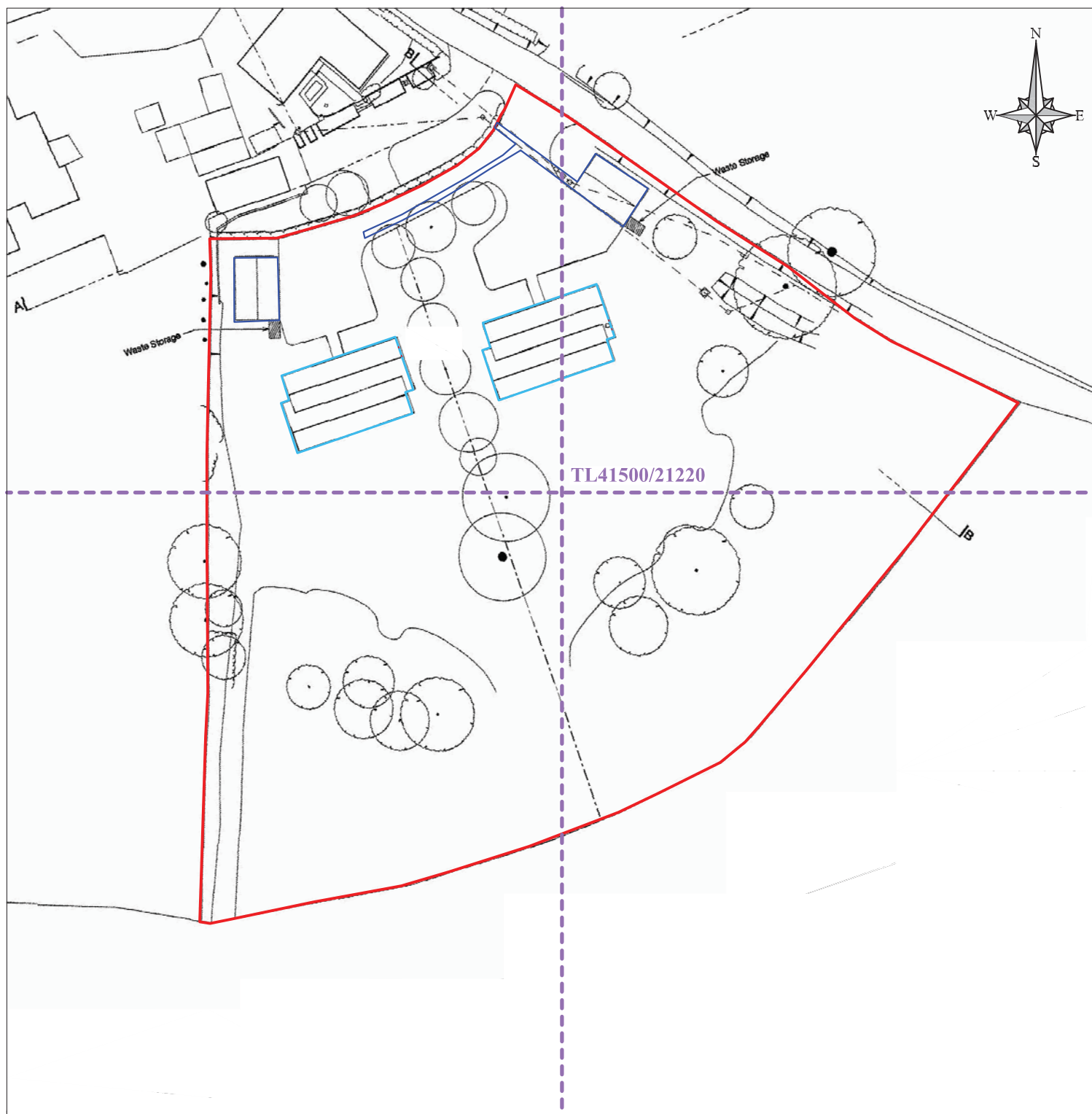


6
Pre excavation view of site looking north-east



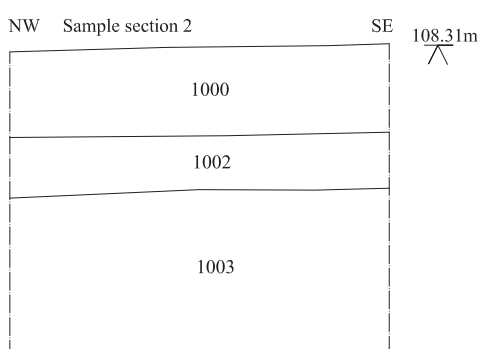
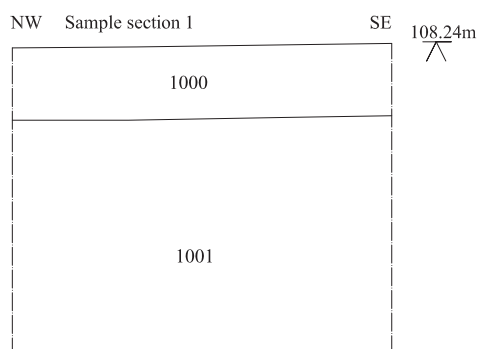
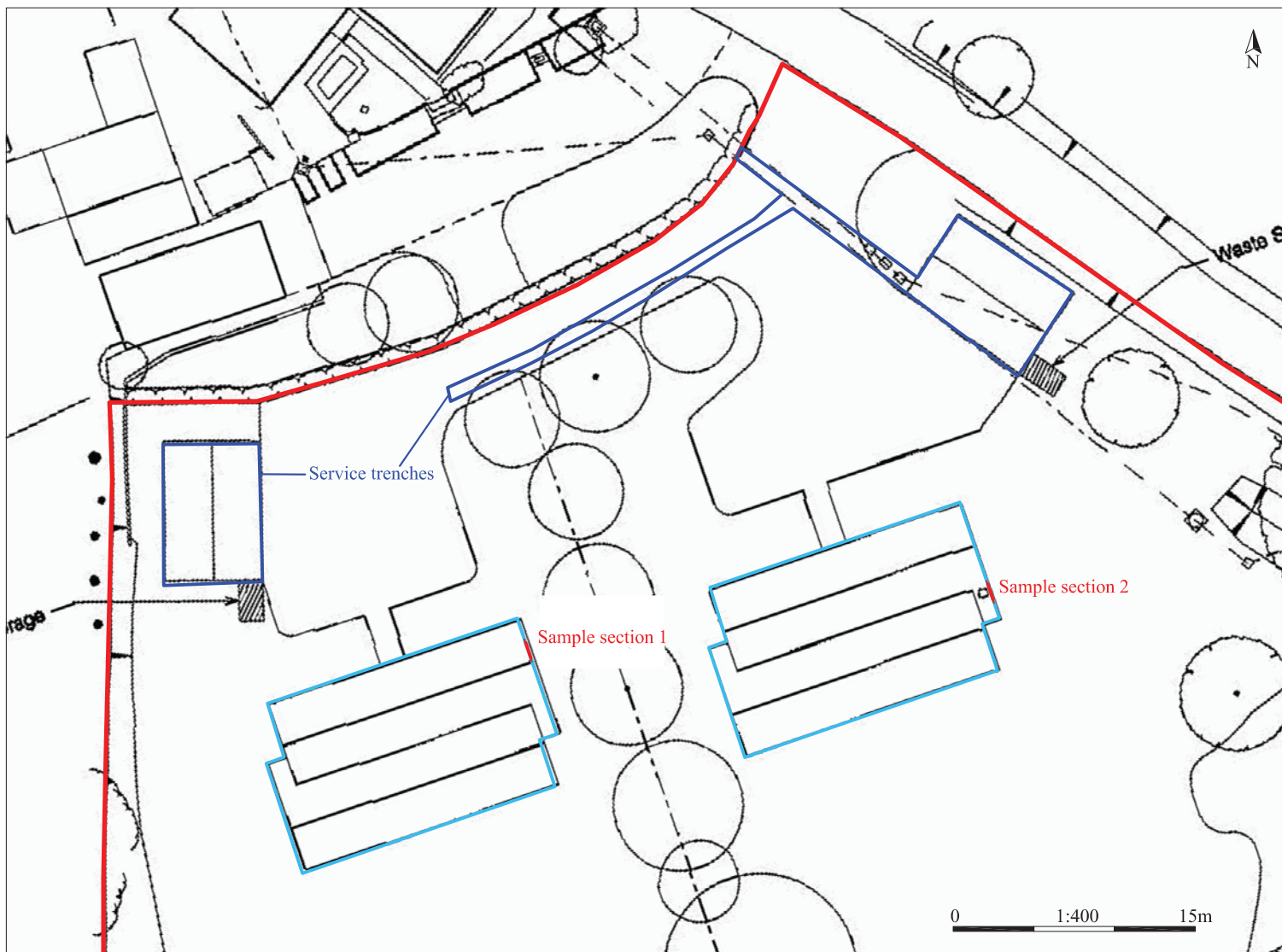
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Site name (P number)



0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4
Bromley Hall Farm, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (P5953)



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Fig. 3 Site plan and sections

Scale 1:400 and 1:20 at A4

Bromley Hall Farm, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (P5953)