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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD****RYE STREET / FARNHAM ROAD,  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE****ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

HER Enquiry No. 332/17

Author: Thomas Muir (fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.)	
NGR: TL 4923 2289	Report No: 5550
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1936
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6418
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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>		<i>Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire</i>	
<i>In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2HE (NGR TL 4923 2289; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 30 residential dwellings, a new access and landscaping (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/16/0452/FUL). It was carried out based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEAT).</i>			
<i>The site was subject to a geophysical survey (Diggons, Summers, Bescoby &amp; Cussans 2018). The gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies (1 - 4), all of which are likely to be modern in origin. A large area of magnetic interference (5) may have obscured weaker anomalies of archaeological origin in the northern and eastern areas of the survey.</i>			
<i>The archaeological features recorded during the trial trenching were present in the northern sector of the site. They were most dense in Trenches 3 (7 features) and 4 (4 features). Some of the features were possibly natural. The features largely comprised ditches, and some pits were also present. One ditch may correlate with a boundary on the Tithe map of 1839, with other potentially parallel or perpendicular land divisions in the northern half of the site possibly also related to the late post-medieval agricultural landscape, which was transformed by the expansion of fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</i>			
<i>Findings were sparse and the dated finds comprised post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM from Ditches F1029 (Trench 2) and F1006 (Trench 4)</i>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>		<i>6 – 12 March 2018</i>	
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>		<i>Y</i>	<b>Future work</b>
			<i>TBC</i>
<b>P. number</b>		<i>7293</i>	<b>Site code</b>
			<i>AS 1936</i>
<b>Type of project</b>		<i>Archaeological trial trench evaluation</i>	
<b>Site status</b>		<i>-</i>	
<b>Current land use</b>		<i>Rough pasture</i>	
<b>Planned development</b>		<i>Residential development</i>	
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>		<i>Ditches, pits</i>	
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>		<i>None</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>		<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>
			<i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
<b>HER for area</b>		<i>Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; enquiry No. 332/17)</i>	
<b>Post code (if known)</b>		<i>CM23 2HE</i>	
<b>Area of site</b>		<i>c. 1.45 ha.</i>	
<b>NGR</b>		<i>TL 4923 2289</i>	
<b>Height AOD (max/ min)</b>		<i>c.70m AOD</i>	
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>		<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>	
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>		<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>	
<b>Funded by</b>		<i>Bellis Homes Limited</i>	
<b>Full title</b>		<i>Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>	
<b>Authors</b>		<i>Muir, T &amp; Higgs, K.</i>	
<b>Report no.</b>		<i>5550</i>	
<b>Date (of report)</b>		<i>February 2018</i>	



# **RYE STREET/FARNHAM ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2HE (NGR TL 4923 2289; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 30 residential dwellings, a new access and landscaping (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/16/0452/FUL). It was carried out based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEAT).*

*The site is located primarily within a post-medieval landscape focussed on mineral extraction for brickfields, gravel and chalk, with several farmsteads also in close vicinity. Significant Roman activity is located to the south around the former major route of Stane Street but is somewhat detached from the site.*

*The site was subject to a geophysical survey (Diggons, Summers, Bescoby & Cussans 2018). The gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies (1 - 4), all of which are likely to be modern in origin. A large area of magnetic interference (5) may have obscured weaker anomalies of archaeological origin in the northern and eastern areas of the survey.*

*The archaeological features recorded during the trial trenching were present in the northern sector of the site. They were most dense in Trenches 3 (7 features) and 4 (4 features). Some of the features were possibly natural. The features largely comprised ditches, and some pits were also present. One ditch may correlate with a boundary on the Tithe map of 1839, with other potentially parallel or perpendicular land divisions in the northern half of the site possibly also related to the late post-medieval agricultural landscape, which was transformed by the expansion of fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Finds were sparse and the dated finds comprised post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM from Ditches F1029 (Trench 2) and F1006 (Trench 4)*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2HE (NGR TL 4923 2289; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 30

residential dwellings, a new access and landscaping (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/16/0452/FUL). It was carried out based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 A geophysical survey was previously undertaken in February 2018 (Diggons, Summers, Bescoby & Cussans 2018).

1.3 The evaluation adhered to the advice of HCC HEAT and a specification compiled by AS (dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018), and approved by HCC HEAT. It was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

1.4 The principal objectives for 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 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 is located just beyond the northern extent of the town and parish of Bishop's Stortford, which lies in the district of East Hertfordshire and on the eastern edge of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The county boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex lies 600m to the north of the site, whilst the A120 Bishop's Stortford bypass lies on a roughly west to east alignment 450m to the north. The Essex town of Stansted Mountfitchet lies 3km to the north-east, and the Hertfordshire village of Farnham lies 2km to the north-west. The site is situated immediately to the west of the junction between Farnham Road and Rye Street, which forms its easternmost corner.

2.2 The site lies on the south-western frontage of Farnham Road, which runs on a south-east to north-western alignment between the northern extent of Bishop's Stortford and Farnham. It is also located along the north-western frontage of the B1004 Rye Street, which extends north-eastwards out of Bishop's Stortford. The site comprises an L-shaped plot of land extending to an area of c.1.45 hectares (Fig. 2). It is currently laid to rough pasture but has previously been subject to arable cultivation. It is proposed to erect a new development of 30 dwellings on the site.

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

3.1 The topography of Bishop's Stortford is somewhat undulating and slopes away towards the River Stort, which flows on an approximate north-east to south-western orientation 250m to the east of the site. A smaller watercourse, known as the Bourne Brook, lies along the south-western boundary of the site. Situated on the western side of the river valley, the site has a gently sloping relief which declines from 75m AOD in its northern section down to 65m AOD in its southernmost corner.

3.2 The site lies upon a solid geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 2015). Superficial deposits are mixed and include glaciofluvial deposits, Lowestoft formation diamicton and a mix of clay, sand, silt and gravel, all dating to the Quaternary period. Bishop's Stortford also lies across the junction of a number of different soil types. However, the site lies upon soils of the Melford association. They are described as Melford as deep well drained fine loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils (SSEW 1983).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 The site is located within an area of multi-period activity dating from the early prehistoric to the Roman periods. The earliest prehistoric evidence comprises an Acheulian flint handaxe found in brickearth by the side of a ditch a short distance from the River Stort and north of Bishop's Stortford (HER 1091). Recent archaeological investigations to the immediate north of the site have revealed evidence of Neolithic flint scatters, a Bronze Age ring ditch and associated features, Iron Age storage pits and further evidence of Saxon settlement, however, the results are yet to be published (OAE report forthcoming).

4.2 As noted previously, archaeological investigations undertaken in association with the development of 'Bishop's Stortford North', and in the future the 'Eastern Neighbourhood' to the immediate north of the site included the aforementioned 2012 evaluation (Fletcher 2013). It revealed extensive late Iron Age and Roman activity in the form of an assemblage of early Neolithic worked flints was also found across a ridge included flakes, blades, and a retouched arrowhead (HER 18776). Furthermore, a circular ditch with possible bank and central post, radiocarbon dated to the early to mid 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC and early Bronze Age period, was also found (HER 18775). The work also revealed Bronze Age – early Iron Age ditches, pits, two large storage pits, a fenceline, and possibly contemporary trackway (HER 18777; Fletcher 2012) and a pit containing pottery of probable middle Iron Age date (HER 31374).

### *Romano-British*

4.3 The earliest major settlement at Bishop's Stortford dates from the Romano-British period, and was located at the point where Stane Street, the Roman road from Braughing to Colchester, crossed the River Stort and south of the site (HER 4681). Sections of Stane Street were excavated ahead of development in 1997, which revealed a probable early date c. 50 AD for the first phase of the road and a second constructional phase during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century when the settlement probably developed (HER 513). Romano-British remains have been recovered from the area surrounding the site, mainly comprising Roman pottery found during dredging of the river, just north-west of the known Roman settlement (HER 2141). A coin of Antoninus Pius was also found in 1959 to the south-west of The Grange, which stands to the south (HER 2143).

### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.4 The Roman settlement at Bishop's Stortford had fallen into disuse by the 5<sup>th</sup> century, along with the *Stane Street* river crossing. The present town was probably established adjacent to the fording point along the River Stort, in the area of North Street, High Street and Market Street (Orton 1976). Relatively little is known of the Saxon town. The Domesday Book of 1086

refers to the town as *Storteford*, likely to have derived from a reference to the River Stort (Gover *et al.* 1938). On the eastern bank of the river opposite the town stood Waytemore Castle, which is variously attributed to Edward the Elder in the 10<sup>th</sup> century or William I following the Conquest in the later 11<sup>th</sup> century (Page 1912). The Anglo-Saxon period in the vicinity of the site is a shallow feature containing 42 sherds of Saxon pottery found to the east of the site on the bank of the river (HER 18779).

### *Medieval*

4.5 Following the Conquest, the manor of Stortford was sold by William I to William, Bishop of London, and remained in the possession of successive Bishops of London until 1868 (Page 1912). The town's present name Bishop's Stortford resulted from this ecclesiastical association, with the Bishops owning land and a palace at Much Hadham. From the medieval period onwards, Bishop's Stortford developed into a thriving commercial centre, attested by the large numbers of inns in the town and the presence of a fair three times a year (BSDLHS 1973). From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, a successful tanning and leather industry developed rapidly in Bishop's Stortford, centred on Water Lane. However, the medieval period in the vicinity of the site is not represented by any finds or features.

### *Post-medieval and later*

4.6 Perhaps the most important event in the later history of Bishop's Stortford was the opening of the Stort Navigation in 1769, linking Bishop's Stortford with London via the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Lea Navigation. This provided a further incentive to commercial development, leading to an increase in brewing and malting, which became the town's most important industries during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The northern section of the town, which includes the site, however, remained dominated by agricultural properties, such as the 19<sup>th</sup> century Foxdells Farm (HER 15328). Industrial activity is also attested by brickgrounds and gravel pits (HERs 6858, 6860 & 18778), whilst a 19<sup>th</sup> century racecourse is recorded at Hazelend Road (HER 18661). The 20<sup>th</sup> century is also represented by a spigot mortar base on Rye Street (HER 6947), pillbox on Cannons Mill Lane (HER 6948) and a culvert with WWI graffiti at Bourne Brook (HER 18745).

### *The site*

4.7 The site has been subject to a previous archaeological desk-based assessment, which investigated the history and previous development of the site (Cussans 2016). It revealed that the site lies primarily within a post-medieval landscape focussed on mineral extraction for brickfields, gravel and chalk, with several farmsteads also in close vicinity. Historic cartographic sources confirm the site's location beyond the northern extent of Bishop's Stortford. In 1839, the tithe map depicts the site as part of two arable fields known as *Brick Kiln Field* and *Four Acres*. It also lay along the south-western frontage of Farnham Road, which is clearly depicted on Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1879. However, the site itself remained undeveloped even



as late as 1966.

*Previous Archaeological Investigation*

4.8 The site itself has been subject to recent archaeological investigation in the form of a geophysical survey undertaken in February 2018 (Diggons, Summers, Bescoby & Cussans 2018). The gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies (1-4), all of which are likely to be modern in origin. A large area of magnetic interference (5) may have obscured weaker anomalies of archaeological origin in the northern and eastern areas of the survey.

**5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 HCC HEAT advice required the excavation of trial trenches to evaluate the presence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development. A c.5% sample of the site was trenched. Eleven trenches: six 40m x 1.8m (Trenches 1, 3 - 4, 7 - 8, and 11); four 20m x 1.8m (Trenches 2, 5 - 6 and 10); and one 30m x 1.8m (Trench 9) were excavated (Fig. 3 - 5)

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

**6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

**Trench 1** (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 70.19m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular flint.
0.37 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, dark orange brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular flint.
0.40m +	L1001	Natural deposits. Firm, mid brown orange clay gravel with frequent small sub-angular flint.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 71.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.16 – 0.30m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. Compact, light grey yellow chalky clay with moderate small sub-angular flint.
0.30 – 0.64m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular flint.
0.64 - 0.85m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.85m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## **Trench 2** (Figs. 3 - 6)

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 68.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.13 – 0.79m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. As above, Trench 1
0.79 – 1.15m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.15 – 1.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.34m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 70.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.17 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.48m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 2 contained Pit F1026 and undated Ditch F1029. F1026 contained post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM.*

Pit F1026 was sub-circular in plan (2.80 x 1.80+ x 0.81m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It was cut by Ditch F1029. Its lower fill, L1027, was a firm, dark grey yellow silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints. It contained CBM (1g) and a Fe fragment (7g). Its upper and principal fill, F1028, was friable, mid orange brown silty clay with frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1029 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.70 x 0.60m), orientated SE/NW. It had steep sides and a concave base. It cut Pit F1026. Its fill, L1030, was firm, mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

**Trench 3** (Figs. 3 - 6)

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 68.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1005	Hardcore.
0.38 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.60m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 67.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1005	Hardcore.
0.33 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.51 +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 3 contained Pits F1008, F1012, F1014 and F1018; and Ditches F1010 and F1016. None contained finds, and F1016 was possibly a natural feature.*

Pit F1008 was sub-circular in plan (2.30 x 1.10+ x 0.38m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It cut Ditch F1010. Its fill, L1009, was firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1012 was sub-circular in plan (0.60+ x 1.02 x 0.22m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1014 was sub-circular in plan (0.70+ x 1.54 x 0.32m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1018 was sub-circular in plan (0.60+ x 1.10 x 0.42m). It had irregular moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (6.50+ x 0.50 x 0.25m), orientated NW/SE. It was cut by Pit F1008. Its fill, F1011, was firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (4.50+ x 1.10 x 0.30m), orientated NW/SE. It had irregular moderate to steeply sloping sides and an uneven, concave base. Its fill, L1017, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with occasional moderate sub-angular flint. It contained no finds and was possibly a natural feature.



**Trench 4** (Figs. 3 – 5 & 7)

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 68.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B 0.00 = 66.78m AOD		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.45m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 4 contained Ditches F1006, F1020 and F1022, and Pit F1024. The latter contained burnt flint, and Ditch F1006 contained post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM.*

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.10 x 0.23m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was firm, mid grey brown gravelly silt with moderate small sub-angular flint. It contained some CBM (46g) and a Fe nail (13g).

Ditch F1020 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.46 x 0.18m), orientated SW/NE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1022 was linear in plan (2.00 + x 1.23 x 0.46m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was cut by Pit F1024. Its fill, L1023, was firm, mid red brown clay silt with moderate small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1024 was sub-oval in plan (2.00 x 2.30 x 0.53m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It cut Ditch F1022. Its fill, L1025, was firm, mid red brown clay silt with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained burnt flint 7g).

**Trench 5** (Figs. 3 - 5)

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 66.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.16m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 65.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 6** (Figs. 3 – 5 & 7)

Sample section 6A 0.00 = 66.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.35 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 6B 0.00 = 66.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 6 contained Ditches F1031 and F1033. Neither feature contained finds, and both were possibly natural features.*

Ditch F1031 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.00 x 0.50m), orientated NW/SE. It had irregular moderately sloping sides and an uneven concave base. Its fill, L1032, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds and was possibly a natural feature.

Ditch F1033 was an irregular linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.50 x 0.30m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderate sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds and was possibly a natural feature.

### **Trench 7** (Figs. 3 – 5 & 8)

Sample section 7A 0.00 = 64.68m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.26 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 7B 0.00 = 65.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.48m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 7 contained Pit F1035 and Ditch F1037. Neither contained finds.*

Pit F1035 was sub-circular in plan (1.00 x 0.88 x 0.21m). It had irregular gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1037 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.48 x 0.30m), orientated SE/NW. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was firm, mid red brown silty clay with frequent small and large sub-rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

### **Trench 8** (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 8A 0.00 = 64.59m AOD		
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.05 – 0.16m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. As above, Trench 1
0.16 – 0.44m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.44 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.53m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 8B 0.00 = 63.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.42 – 1.01m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.01m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 9** (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 9A 0.00 = 64.54m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.34 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.49m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 9B 0.00 = 62.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.33 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 10** (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 10A 0.00 = 63.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.28 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.43m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 10B 0.00 = 62.06m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.09 – 0.30m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.58m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.58 – 0.88m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.88m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

### **Trench 11** (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 11A 0.00 = 62.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. As above, Trench 1
0.14 – 0.63m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.63 – 1.15m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.15m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 11B 0.00 = 61.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.04 – 0.94m	L1004	Re-deposited Clay. As above, Trench 1
0.94 – 1.50m	L1003	Buried Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.50 – 1.94m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
1.94m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

*Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular flint (0.04 – 0.45m thick). L1000 generally overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, dark orange brown clay sand with occasional small sub-angular flint (0.03 – 0.59m thick).

8.2 In some areas of the site, L1000 overlay Re-deposited clay L1004, a compact, light grey yellow chalky clay with moderate small sub-angular flint (0.11 – 0.90m thick). L1004 overlay buried Topsoil L1003, a firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular flint (0.28 – 0.56m thick). L1003 equalled Topsoil L1000 and overlay Subsoil L1001.

8.3 At the base of the stratigraphy the natural, L1002 was a firm, mid brown orange clay gravel with frequent small sub-angular flint (0.16 - 1.94m below the current day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
2	F1026	Pit	-
	F1029	Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
3	F1008	Pit	-
	F1010	Ditch	-
	F1012	Pit	-
	F1014	Pit	-
	F1016	Ditch or natural	-
	F1018	Pit	-
4	F1006	Ditch	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM
	F1020	Ditch	-
	F1022	Ditch	-
	F1024	Pit	-
6	F1031	Ditch or natural	-
	F1033	Ditch or natural	-
7	F1035	Pit	-
	F1037	Ditch	-

9.2 The archaeological features were present in the northern sector of the site. They were most dense in Trenches 3 (7 features) and 4 (4 features). Some of the features were possibly natural. The features largely comprised

ditches, and some pits were also present. Ditch F1006 (Trench 4) may correspond with a field boundary on the Tithe map of 1839 (Cussans 2016: Fig. 6) though this boundary is absent on all subsequent Ordnance Survey maps suggesting that it was a remnant of an earlier agricultural landscape. Other ditches in the northern half of the site (Trenches 2 - 4 and 6 - 7) may represent parallel or perpendicular boundaries which, if contemporary, may also represent former agricultural enclosures and field boundaries that were removed prior to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century as land holdings were expanded. Finds were sparse and the dated finds comprised post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM from Ditches F1029 (Trench 2) and F1006 (Trench 4), which are consistent with the movement of ploughsoil or the in-filling of ditches in the late post-medieval to early modern periods.

9.3 The site was subject to a geophysical survey undertaken (Diggons, Summers, Bescoby & Cussans 2018). The gradiometer survey identified a number of anomalies (1 - 4), all of which are likely to be modern in origin. A large area of magnetic interference (5) may have obscured weaker anomalies of archaeological origin in the northern and eastern areas of the survey.

9.4 The trial trench evaluation generally accords with the geophysical survey in that both exercises recorded relatively recent remains, but the geophysical survey was hampered by modern interferences.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Bishop's Stortford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Bellis Homes Limited for funding the archaeological trial trench evaluation, in particular Mr. Tom Whitaker for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Dr. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Simon Wood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEAT).

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## APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1006	1007		4	Fill of Ditch				46		Fe Frag (nail)	1	13
1024	1025		4	Fill of Pit						B.Flnt		7
1026	1027		2	Basal Fill of Quarry Pit				1		Fe Frag	1	7

## **APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORT**

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

A total of four, small highly-abraded fragments (47g) of post-medieval peg tile were recovered from Ditch Fill F1006 Layer L1007 and Quarry Pit F1026 L1027. The red, sand-tempered peg tile was likely produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries but is too poorly-preserved for further comment on technological traits.

### APPENDIX 3      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	39
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	4
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	51

**APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire</i>
<b>County:</b> <i>Hertfordshire</i>	<b>District:</b> <i>East Herts</i>
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	<i>EHDC Planning Ref. 3/16/0452/FUL</i>
<b>Client name/address</b>	<i>Bellis Homes Ltd</i>
<b>Nature of application:</b>	<i>Residential</i>
<b>Present land use:</b>	<i>Agricultural</i>
<b>Size of application area:</b> <i>1.45ha</i>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> <i>c.630m<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>TL 4923 2289</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>AS 1936</i>
<b>Site director/Organisation:</b>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Type of work:</b>	<i>Archaeological trial trench evaluation</i>
<b>Date of work:</b>	<b>6 – 12 March 2018</b>
<b>Location of Curating museum:</b>	<i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> <i>Modern</i>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In March 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Rye Street/Farnham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 2HE (NGR TL 4923 2289; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 30 residential dwellings, a new access and landscaping (EHDC Planning Approval Ref. 3/16/0452/FUL). It was also carried out based on the advice of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological features recorded during the trial trenching were present in the northern sector of the site. They were most dense in Trenches 3 (7 features) and 4 (4 features). Some of the features were possibly natural. The features largely comprised ditches, and some pits were also present. One ditch may correlate with a boundary on the Tithe map of 1839, with other potentially parallel or perpendicular land divisions in the northern half of the site possibly also related to the late post-medieval agricultural landscape, which was transformed by the expansion of fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</i></p> <p><i> Finds were sparse and the dated finds comprised post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) CBM from Ditches F1029 (Trench 2) and F1006 (Trench 4)</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> <i>Muir, T.</i>	<b>Date of Summary:</b> <i>March 2018</i>

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1 looking north-east



2  
Sample section 1b in Trench 1



3  
Trench 2 looking north-east



4  
Sample section 2B in Trench 2





5  
Pit 1026 in Trench 2



6  
Pit 1026 and Ditch 1029 in Trench 2



7  
Trench 3 looking south-east



8  
Sample section 3A in Trench 3



9  
Pit 1008 in Trench 3



10  
Pit 1008 and Ditch 1010 in Trench 3





11  
Ditch 1010 in Trench 3



12  
Pit 1012 in Trench 3



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Pit 1014 in Trench 3



14  
Ditch 1016 in Trench 3



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Pit 1018 in Trench 3



16  
Trench 4 looking north-west





17  
Sample section 4B in Trench 4



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Ditch 1006 in Trench 4



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Ditch 1020 in Trench 4



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Ditch 1022 in Trench 4



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Pit 1024 in Trench 4



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Trench 5 looking south-east





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Sample section 5B in Trench 5



24  
Trench 6 looking south-west



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Sample section 6A in Trench 6



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Ditch 1031 in Trench 6



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Ditch 1033 in Trench 6



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Sample section 7B in Trench 7



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Trench 7 looking south-west





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Trench 8 looking south-west



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Sample section 8B in Trench 8



32  
Trench 9 looking south-east



33  
Sample section 9A in Trench 9





34  
Trench 10 looking south-east



35  
Sample section 10A in Trench 10

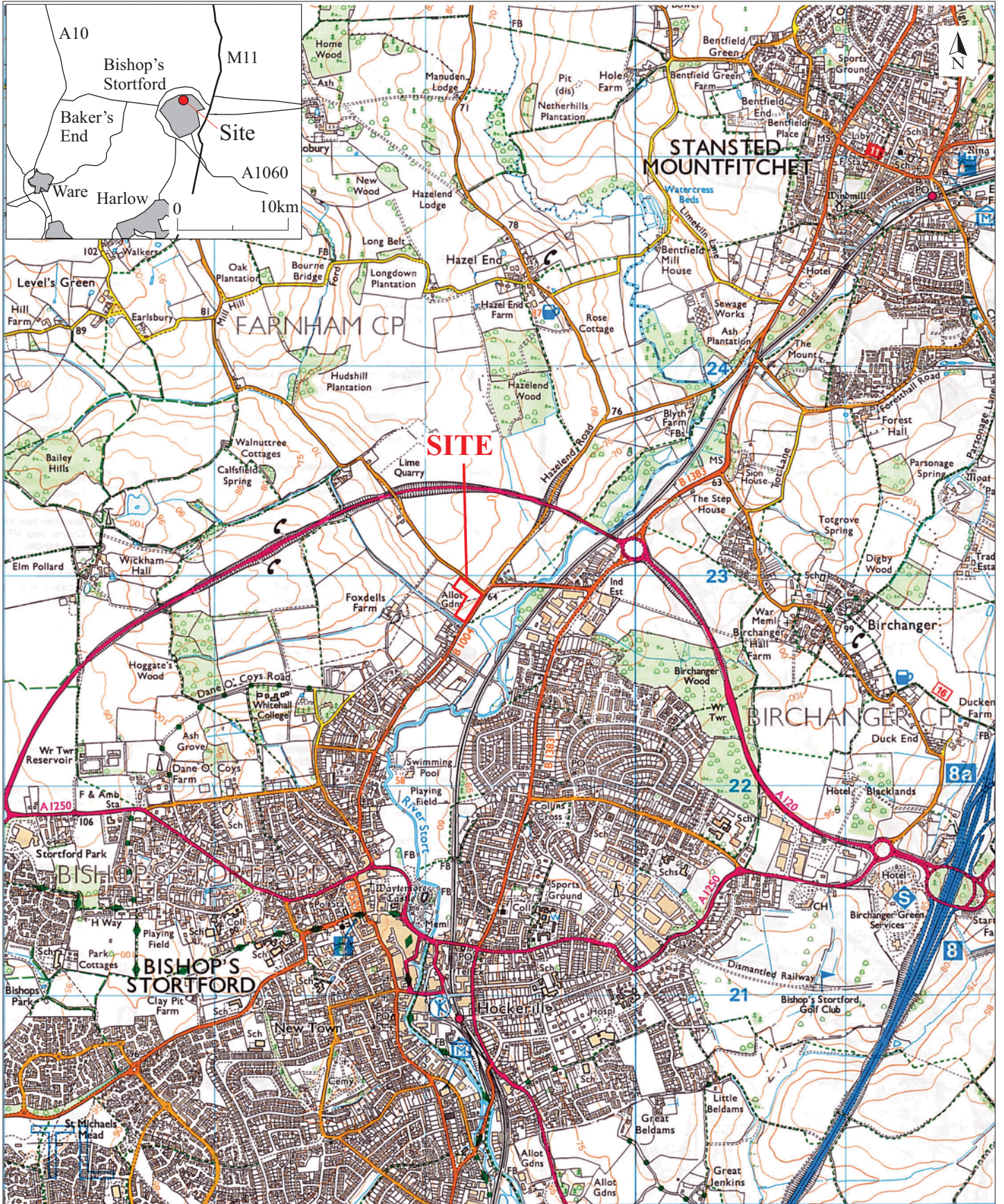


36  
Trench 11 looking south-west



37  
Sample section 11B in Trench 11

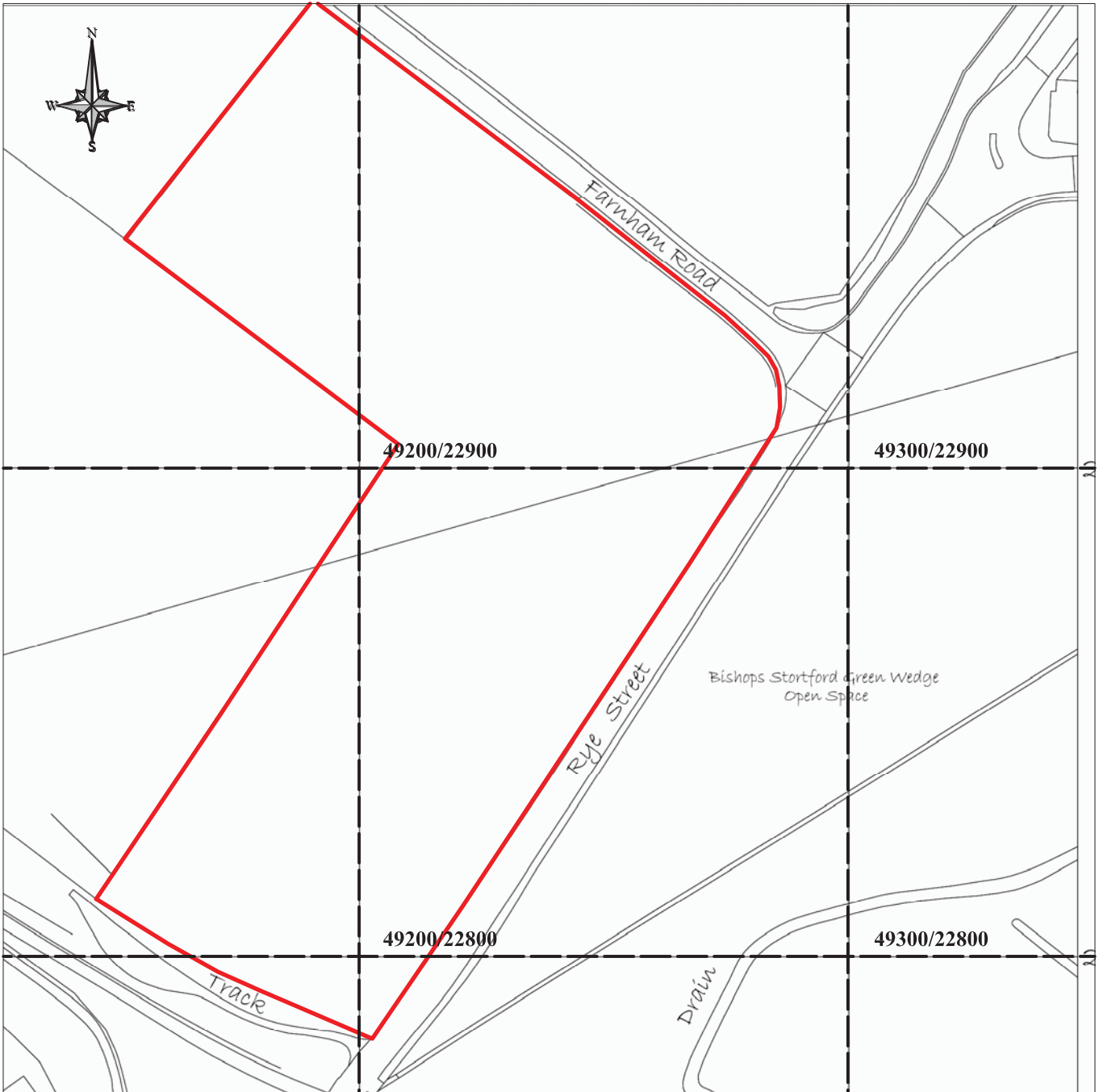




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Herts (P6418)

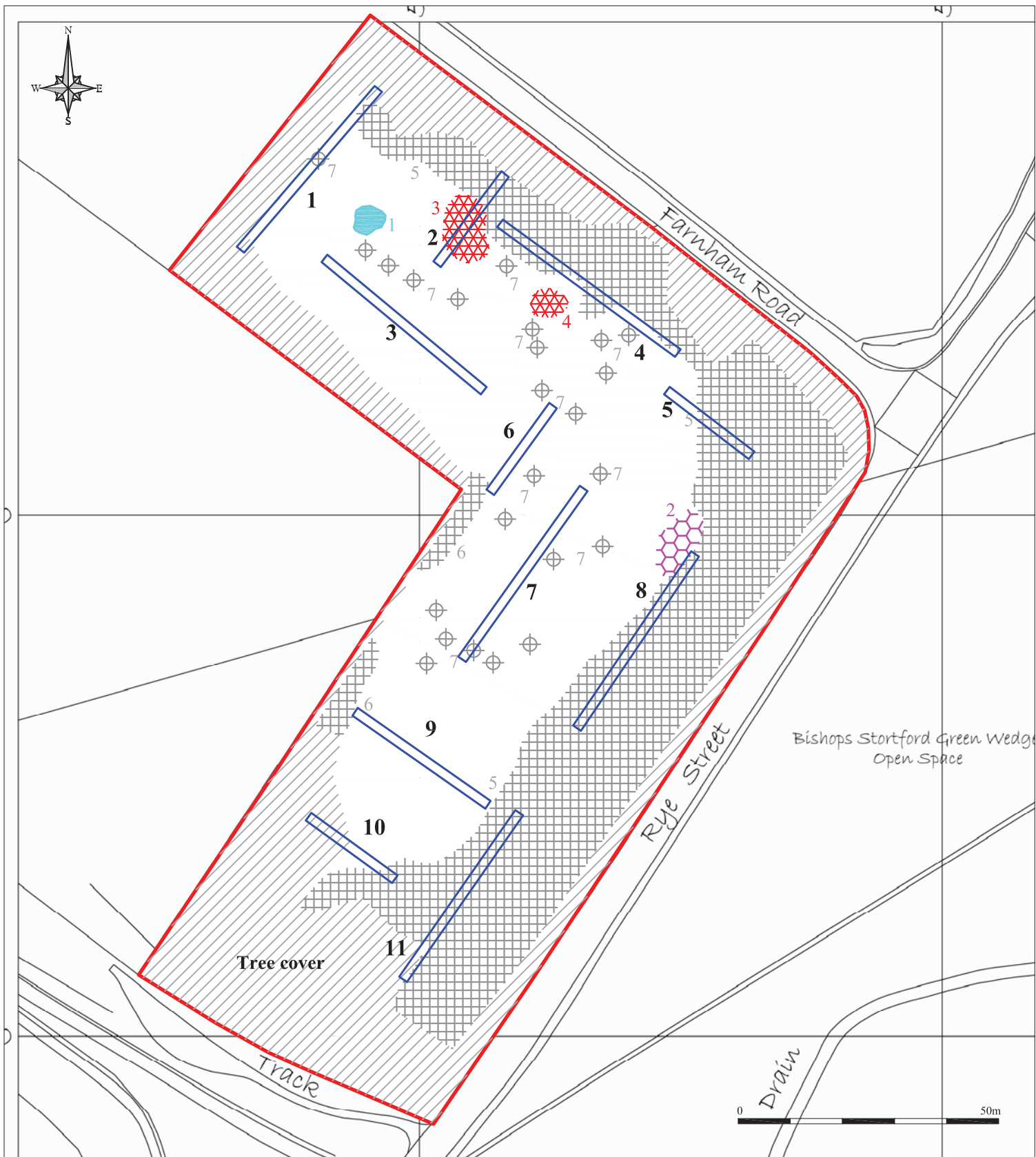




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<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:1250 at A4
Rye Street, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire (P6418)



**KEY**

- Negative anomaly, of probable modern origin
- Positive anomaly - former location of electricity pole
- Positive anomaly - probable ferrous object
- Magnetic interference
- + Magnetic Spike- probable ferrous object
- Unsurveyable area

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**Fig. 3 Geophysical survey plan**

Scale 1:1000 at A4  
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)

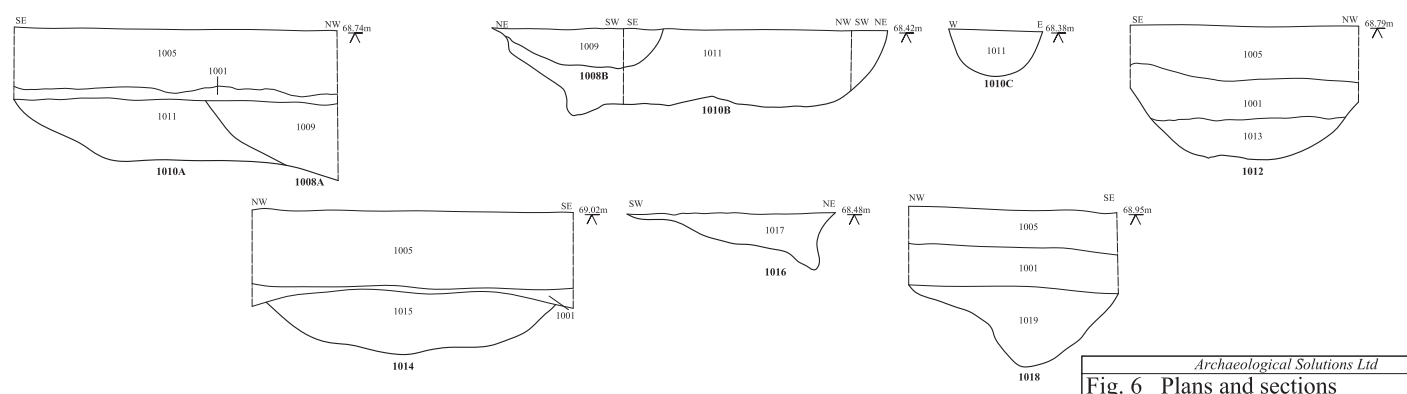
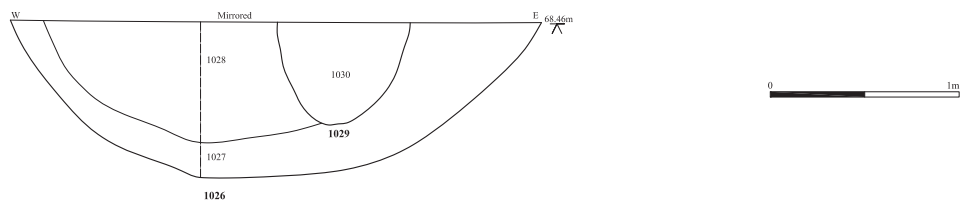
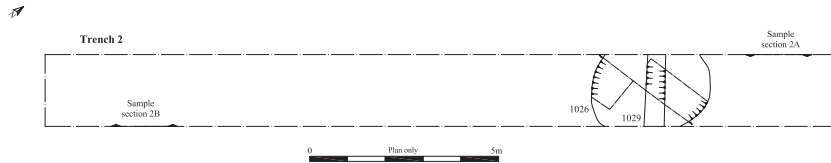


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**Fig. 4 Topographical plan**  
Scale 1:1000 at A4  
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)





<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 5 Proposed Development</b>
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)

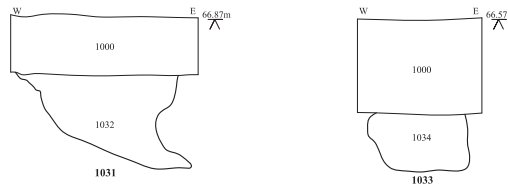
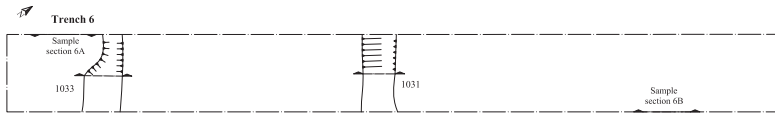
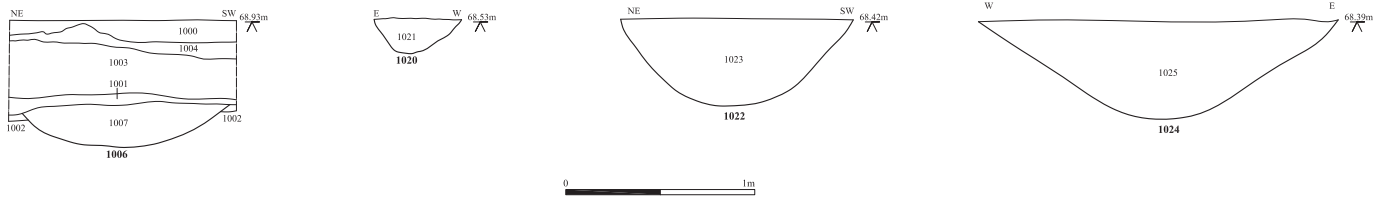
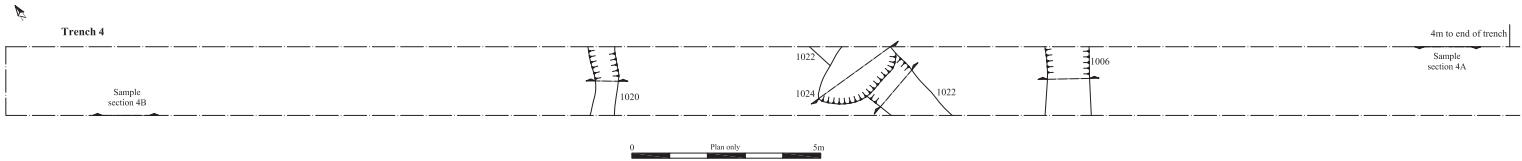


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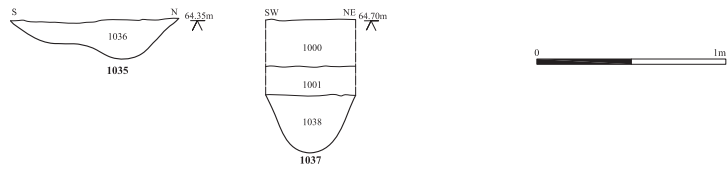
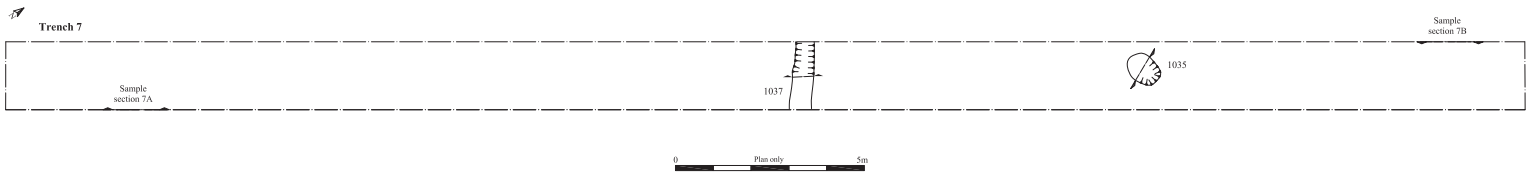
**Fig. 6 Plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 7 Plans and sections</b>
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 8 Plans and sections</b>
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford (P6418)