
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

25 HIGH STREET, PUCKERIDGE,
HERTFORDSHIRE SG11 1RN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

HER Enquiry No. 42/17

Author: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork & report) Lauren Wilson (Research)	
NGR: TL 38633 23360	Report No: 5517
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1927
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7172
	Date: 6 February 2018

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**Project details**

Project name 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN

In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions at the residential property of 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (NGR TL 38633 23360). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/17/0230/HH), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

The monitoring revealed mostly made ground deposits in the area of new extension, as well as occasional brick walls that mark the boundaries of the garden to the north and south. The substantial ground build up may have been related to the demolition of the iron foundry in the middle of the 20th century as well as the preparation of the area for the construction of No. 25. The site stratigraphy was generally disturbed to a depth of c.1m (plastic was found at this depth) and it is possible that archaeological features below this level may have been truncated or removed.

Project dates (fieldwork) 12 / 01 / 18

Previous work (Y/N/?) N Future work N

P. number 7213 Site code AS 1927

Type of project Archaeological monitoring & recording

Site status Within Area of Archaeological Significance No.96

Current land use Dwelling

Planned development Extension

Main features (+dates) None

Significant finds (+dates) None

Project location

County/ District/ Parish Hertfordshire East Herts Standon

HER for area Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

Post code (if known) SG11 1RN

Area of site c.140m²

NGR TL 38633 23360

Height AOD (max/ min) c.70m AOD

Project creators

Brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team

Project supervisor/s (PO) Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Funded by Mr & Mrs Turley-Pound

Full title 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG1 1RN.
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Authors Newton, A.

Report no. 5517

Date (of report) February 2018

25 HIGH STREET, PUCKERIDGE, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions at the residential property of 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (NGR TL 38633 23360). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/17/0230/HH), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

The site lies within the historic core of the town of Puckeridge, within the area identified as Area of Archaeological Significance 96 on the Local Plan. This reflects the presence of a significant Iron Age/Roman settlement including the Scheduled Monument of the Roman town at Braughing, extensive late Iron Age and Roman settlement and burial and the projected course of Roman Ermine Street which shadows High Street) and also the medieval and later village of Puckeridge.

The monitoring revealed mostly made ground deposits in the area of new extension, as well as occasional brick walls that mark the boundaries of the garden to the north and south. The substantial ground build up may have been related to the demolition of the iron foundry in the middle of the 20th century as well as the preparation of the area for the construction of No. 25. The site stratigraphy was generally disturbed to a depth of c.1m (plastic was found at this depth) and it is possible that archaeological features below this level may have been truncated or removed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new ground floor rear extension and front porch at the residential property of 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (NGR TL 38633 23360). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/17/0230/HH), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 The monitoring adhered to the requirements of HCC HEAT, and a specification compiled by AS (dated 5th May 2017). It was also undertaken according to the requirements of the document, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

1.3 The requirements of the project were:

- Archaeological monitoring of the area of the proposed new development, where ground disturbance is proposed, 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 village of Puckeridge is located in the parish of Standon, in East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It is located c.11.7km to the west of Bishop's Stortford. Much Hadham is c.6.7km to the south-east, Standon is c.1.4km to the south-west and Braughing is c.2.7km to the north-east. The A10 runs north/south to the west of Puckeridge, and the A120 runs east/west to the south of the town. The River Rib flows c.600m to the east of High Street.

2.2 No. 25 High St lies in the centre of the village on the east side of High Street. It fronts onto the road and is bordered to the south by No. 25a and to the north by Cannons Court. The dwelling itself is part of a 20th century development, built of brick with prominent dormer windows on both sides and is of little intrinsic interest with a rear garden extending to the west. The garden is enclosed on the north and south, the boundary to the south a fairly high brick wall and that to the north a panel fence. Comparison with historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps does not suggest the southern wall is part of a pre-existing boundary prior to the creation of Cannons Court (Website 1).

2.3 The area of new extension lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 96, as identified in the Local Plan, which contains within it one of the largest concentrations of late Iron Age and Roman archaeology in Hertfordshire, as well as within the medieval core of the village. The projected line of Ermine Street Roman road passes through the garage within the site to the east and so it was possible the excavation of footings here would directly impact the road itself.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is within the Rib Valley with the river c.600m to the east of the site, and the site lies at c.75m AOD on the western side of the valley.

3.2 The solid geology comprises (Cretaceous) Upper Chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by London Clay and soils of the Melford association, described as chalky till, deep and well-drained fine loam.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 Struck flints and burnt stone fragments were found as residual material during the excavation of a Roman cemetery c.800m north of the site. The finds were thought to be mostly Mesolithic or early Neolithic with a few Bronze Age items, and represented knapping waste (HHER 30571).

Iron Age

4.2 Puckeridge is close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the late Iron Age/early Roman town at Braughing/Puckeridge (SAM 75, AAS 94). The latter is centred

on Wickham Hill c.550m to the north-east of the site. A significant quantity of late Iron Age archaeological remains have been recorded within the environs of the site and in the wider area. Excavations to the north of the town revealed timber buildings with evidence of partial rebuilding between 15 BC and 40 AD; they were later replaced before being abandoned at the end of the 1st century (CHER 2188). To the north a ditched enclosure and other features predate the late Roman cemetery 380m to the north of the site (HHER 30572). Within the core of the village an assemblage of 1st century pottery was found at 13a High Street (HHER 13220).

Romano-British

4.3 The Roman town at Braughing was centred at Wickham Hill to the north-east of the site (SAM 75, AAS 94). Traffic would have passed along Stane Street (the modern B1368) and Ermine Street (HHER 9271); the Roman road from London to York (the modern Buntingford Road). The projected line of Ermine Street passes through the site to the east. There are several records of timber buildings fronting Ermine Street to the north (HHER 1903 & 1389).

4.4 A late Iron Age / early Roman occupation site was located c.500m to the north of the site (HHER 2281). A second phase of building overlay the remains of late Iron Age structures (described above) and comprised rectangular timber buildings of sill-beam type construction and dated to c.43-65 AD (Potter 1971). The excavation also revealed evidence of foreign trade with the discovery of a *Terra rubra* plate with a graffito reading 'GRAECUS' or 'Greek' (*Ibid*). The site appears to have been abandoned towards the end of the 1st century AD (Partridge 1981).

4.5 There was a large Roman cemetery c.800m-1km to the north of the site containing 245 cremations and 65 inhumations; the earliest are mid to late 1st century AD, and the two latest are 3rd to 4th century (CHER 18122).

Medieval

4.5 Puckeridge developed rapidly in the 13th century and in 1314 an annual market and fair were granted (HHER 17980). The number of travellers and merchants to the village increased, and during the 14th century inns and taverns were built. Possible evidence of the village's use as a market/fairground was revealed c.400m to the south of the site (HHER 9246) comprising a large quantity of 14th century artefacts found by metal detectorists. The Black Death in the mid-14th century had a significant impact but the village quickly recovered and continued to thrive due to its location on a coaching route between London and Cambridge. The latter prompted urban development along the main thoroughfare of the village (modern High Street) in the 15th century.

Post-medieval

4.6 Development along High Street continued into the 16th century and included residential dwellings (HHERs 12273 & 12274) c.40 - 100m to the south of the site and two inns (HHERs 12272 & 12275) also less than 100m to the south of the site. The latter building (HHER 12275) comprises the Crown and Falcon Inn and it is recorded that Samuel Pepys stayed at this inn for a short period. Following the

pattern of buildings along High Street it is possible the current building on the site succeeded earlier structures and that 'back yard' features, for example, refuse pits may be present. To the south is the site of an iron foundry built between 1879 and 1897 but cleared in the mid 20th century (HHER 17513).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ground reduction across the footprint of the extension and the excavation of the foundations were monitored (Figs. 2 - 3).

5.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks likely to affect archaeological remains, 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 Figs. 2 - 3

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Sample section 1 0.00 = 71.72m AOD		
0.00 - 0.05m	L1000	Made ground. Friable, Mid yellow grey silty sand containing CBM.
0.05 - 0.10m	L1001	Made ground. Friable, Mid blue grey silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones.
0.10 - 0.15m	L1002	Made ground. Compact, Light grey brown concrete.
0.15 - 0.36m	L1003	Made ground. Firm, dark brown grey sandy silt with high proportion of red tile fragments, but no complete examples.
0.36 - 0.51m	L1004	Made ground. Friable, light brown yellow silty sand.
0.51 - 0.66m	L1005	Made ground. Firm, light brown grey silty sand.
0.66 - 0.91m	L1006	Made ground. Firm, Mid brown grey sandy silt with moderate small sub-angular stones.
0.91 - 1.01m	L1007	Made ground. Friable, light brown grey silty sand with occasional rounded stones.
1.01 - 1.39m	L1008	Made ground. Firm, Mid brown grey sandy silt containing metal wire and plastic.
1.39 - 1.52m	L1009	Made ground. Firm, light grey brown sandy silt
1.52 - 1.64m+	L1010	Re-deposited Natural/Made ground. Friable, light brown yellow silty sand with moderate sub-rounded stones.

Sample section 2 0.00 = 71.93m AOD		
0.00 - 0.11m	L1011	Made ground. Firm, light brown grey silty sand.
0.11 - 0.19m	L1012	Made ground. Friable, dark blue grey silty sand.
0.19 - 0.43m	L1013	Made ground. Friable, mid brown grey silty sand.
0.43 - 0.54m	L1004	Made ground. As Above.
0.19 - 0.35m	L1014	Modern Wall. Yellow brick. Two courses visible laid in stretcher bond.
0.35 - 0.53m	L1007	Made ground. As Above.
0.53 - 0.81m	L1008	Made ground. As Above.
0.81 - 0.95m+	L1009	Made ground. As Above.

Sample section 3 0.00 = 71.70m AOD		
0.00 - 0.48m	L1015	Modern wall. Variable coloured Fletton brick, many kiss marks laid in no clear bonding pattern.
0.48 - 0.57m	L1016	Made ground. Firm, dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional sub-angular stones.
0.57 - 0.81m	L1017	Made ground/Demolition layer. Friable, dark brown grey silty sand with high volume of broken tiles, brick and concrete.
0.81 - 1.07m	L1008	Made ground. As Above.
1.07 - 1.15m+	L1010	Re-deposited Natural/Made ground. As Above.

Sample section 4 0.00 = 71.95m AOD		
0.00 - 0.69m	L1018	Modern Wall, possibly over an earlier boundary wall or reusing 19 th century brick. Variable colour from yellow to red bricks laid in Flemish bond in a cement mortar. Foundation brick appears less variable than the upper courses.
0.69 - 0.74m	L1009	Made ground. As Above.
0.74 - 0.75m	L1019	Made ground/wall foundations. Compact mid white yellow chalk.
0.75 - 0.78m+	L1020	Made ground. Firm, dark brown grey sandy silt.

Description: The ground reduction revealed modern made ground deposits. No archaeological features or finds were present.

Wall L1015 comprised the Fletton brick foundation of a garden wall to adjoining No. 25a. The exposed courses are not laid in any bonding pattern and there were two projecting elements of no clear purpose.

The garden wall enclosing the north side of the garden and recorded in Sample Section 4 does not lie on the course of an historic wall visible on historic maps. The majority of the wall is constructed of mainly new 'handmade' bricks but perhaps reusing some 19th century examples, particularly below ground level.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the confines of the monitoring it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording revealed that the garden area of No. 25 had been previously subject to much disturbance and only made ground deposits as well as boundary walls were encountered and recorded. The substantial ground build up may have been related to the demolition of the iron foundry in the middle of the 20th century as well as the preparation of the area for the construction of No. 25. The site stratigraphy was generally disturbed to a depth of c.1m (plastic was found at this depth) and it is possible that archaeological features below this level may have been truncated or removed.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Turley-Pound for commissioning the works and for assistance, Mr Gerry Brady of Brady Construction (London) Ltd and Mr Eddie Spring of AGS Design Ltd for 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 would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Simon Wood, HCC Historic Environment Advisor.

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Potter, Timothy. 1971. Excavations at Braughing, 1971. *Herts Archaeol Review* 4 (autumn 1971), pp.67-8.

Smith, L. & Stoakley, M. 2012 *Land at 28 & 28a High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN: Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Solutions Report 4087

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

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

Websites

1 Old-Maps
<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/>

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	21
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	9

APPENDIX 4

HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	<i>25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN</i>
County: <i>Hertfordshire</i>	District: <i>East Herts</i>
Village/Town:	Parish: <i>Standon</i>
Planning application reference:	<i>EHDC Planning Ref 3/17/0230/HH</i>
Client name/address	<i>Mr & Mrs Turley-Pound, 25 High Street Puckeridge</i>
Nature of application:	<i>Front porch and rear extension</i>
Present land use:	<i>Dwelling</i>
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated <i>c .25m2</i>
NGR (8 figures):	<i>TL 38633 23360</i>
Site Code:	<i>AS 1927</i>
Organisation:	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Type of work:	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>
Date of work:	<i>12/01/218</i>
Location of Curating museum:	<i>Hertford</i>
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented:
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	<i>None</i>
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of extensions at the residential property of 25 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire SG11 1RN (NGR TL 38633 23360). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/17/0230/HH), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed mostly made ground deposits in the area of new extension, as well as occasional brick walls that mark the boundaries of the garden to the north and south. The substantial ground build up may have been related to the demolition of the iron foundry in the middle of the 20th century as well as the preparation of the area for the construction of No. 25. The site stratigraphy was generally disturbed to a depth of c.1m (plastic was found at this depth) and it is possible that archaeological features below this level may have been truncated or removed.</i></p>
Author of summary: <i>Muir, T.</i>	Date of Summary: <i>February 2018</i>

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General view of trench looking west



2
General view of trench looking north-west



3
Sample Section 1 looking west



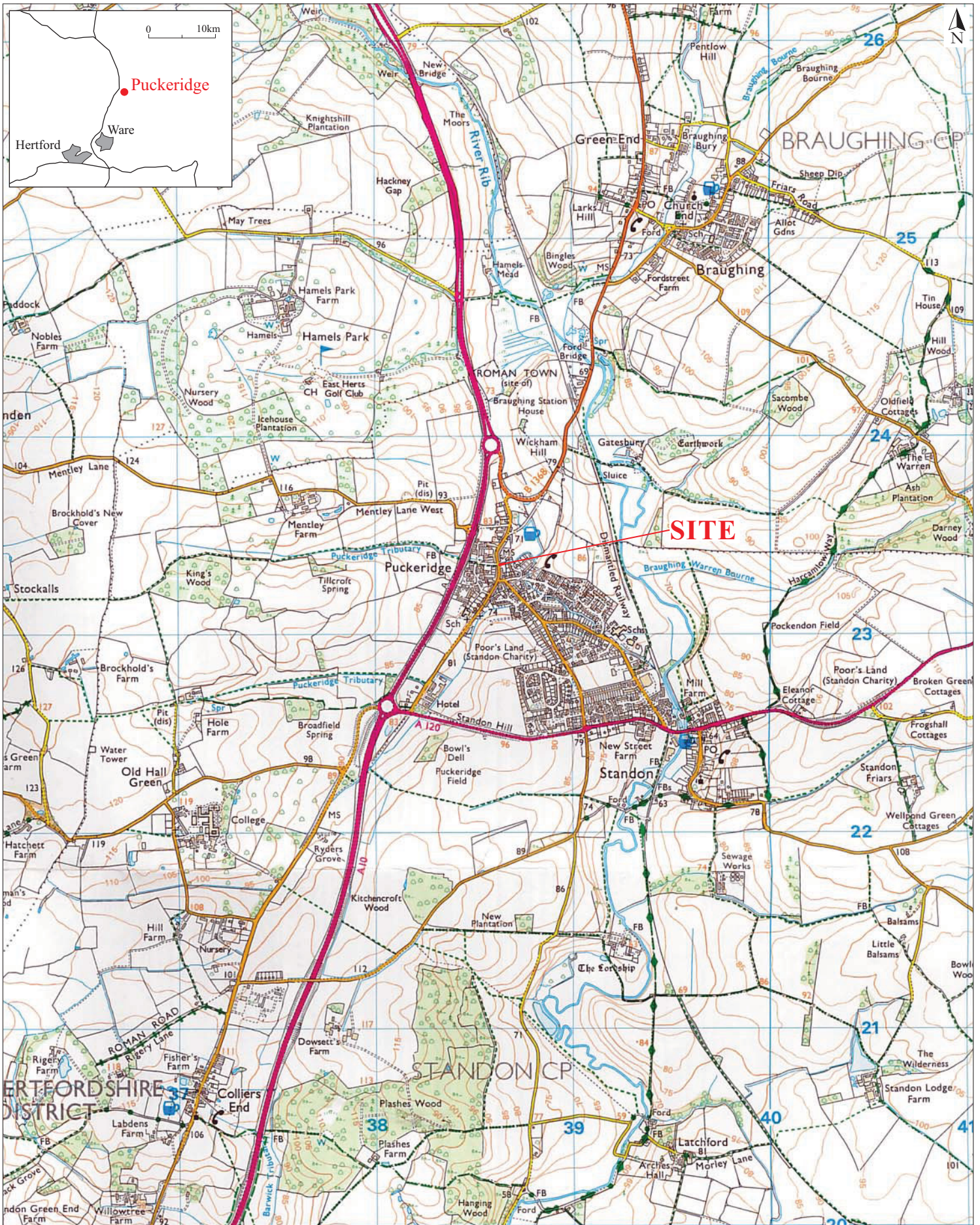
4
Sample Section 2 looking east



5
Sample Section 3 looking south

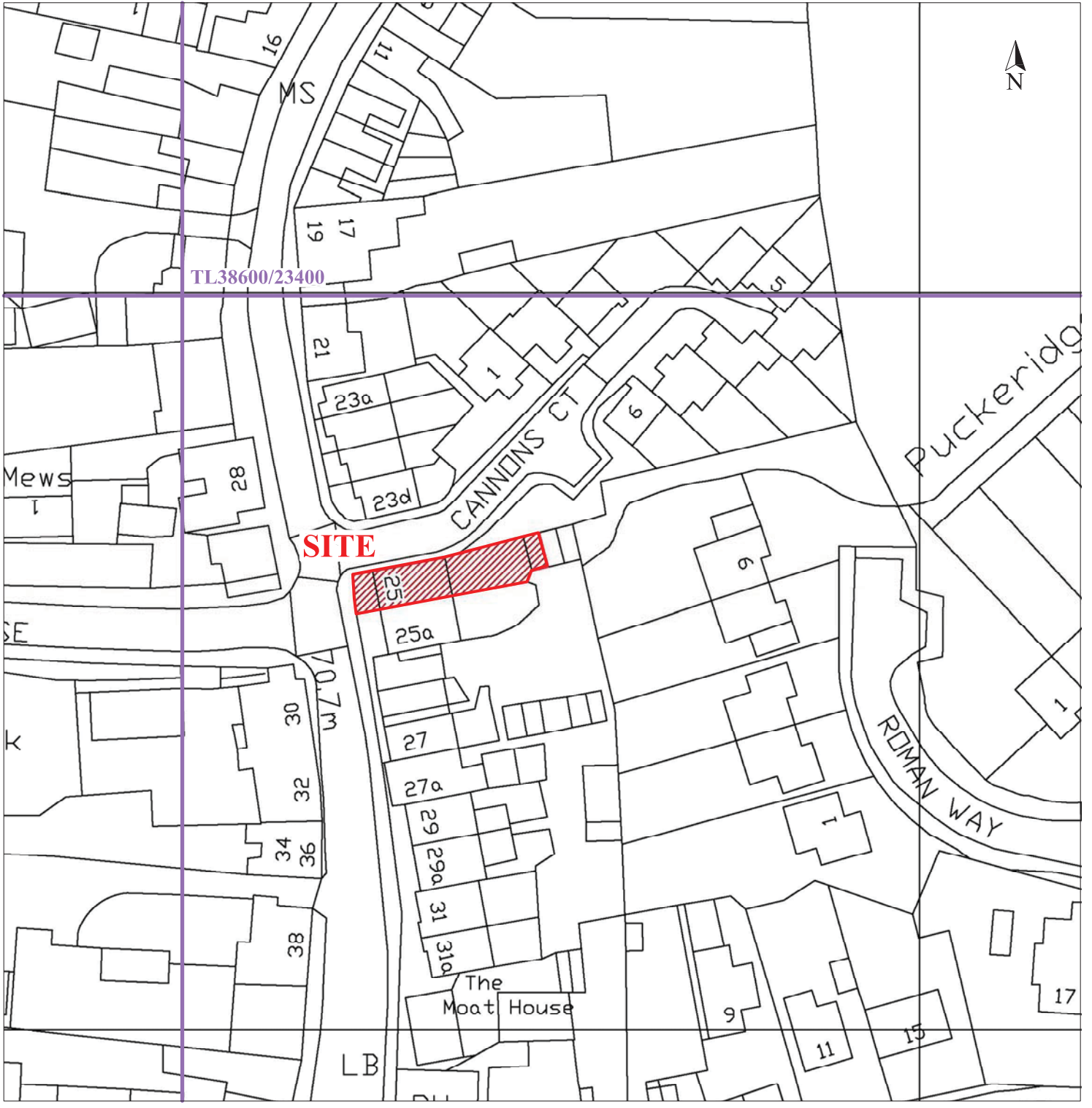


6
Sample Section 4 looking north

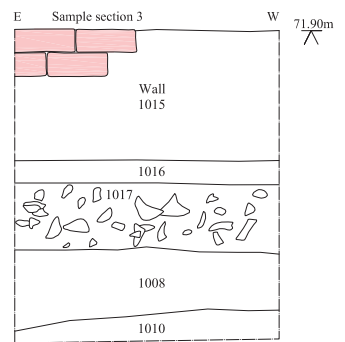
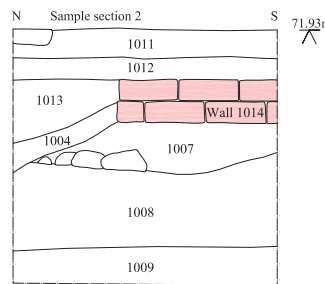
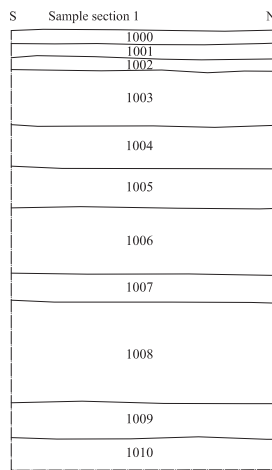
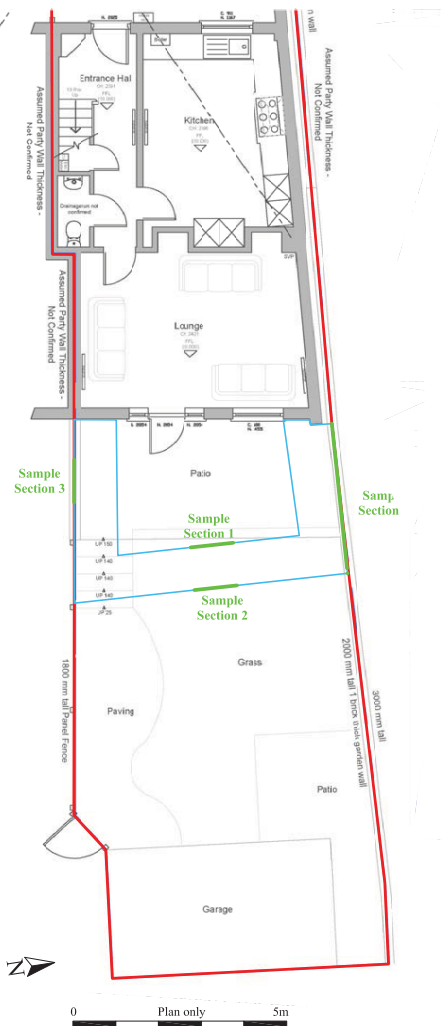


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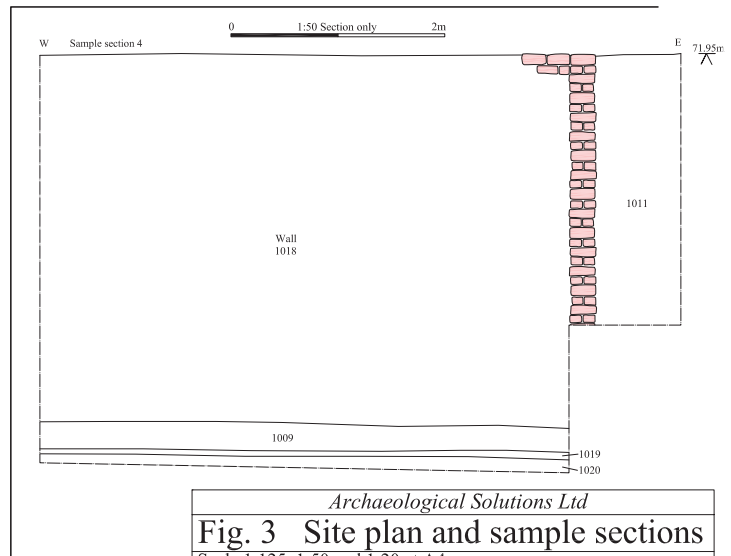
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 High Street, Puckeridge, Hertfordshire (P7172)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4
 High Street, Puckeridge (P7172)



0 1:20 Sections only 1m



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Fig. 3 Site plan and sample sections
 Scale 1:125, 1:50 and 1:20 at A4
 High Street, Puckeridge (P7172)