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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND AT STATION ROAD, ASHWELL, HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

HER Enquiry No. 33/18

Authors: Joseph Locke (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: NGR TL 2730 3980	Report No: 5747
District: North Herts	Site Code: AS1978
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7756
	Date: 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

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**APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire		
<p><i>In January 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2730 3980; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for a residential development of 9 dwellings on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NHDC Planning Ref. TBC), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018) and it revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed features within three of the four trenches and the features were diverse comprising a pit, a post hole and linears (ditches and a gully). The profiles of the features were often irregular, for example, Ditch F1009, and the features contained no finds. At least some of the features may have formed naturally.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	3, 4, 8 January 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7756	Site code	AS 1978
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Vacant		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Pit, post hole, linears		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
	Hertfordshire	North Herts	Ashwell
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	0.6ha.		
NGR	TL 2730 3980		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.55m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Oakbridge Bespoke Homes		
Full title	Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Locke, J.		
Report no.	5747		
Date (of report)	January 2019		

# LAND AT STATION ROAD, ASHWELL, HERTFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In January 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2730 3980; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for a residential development of 9 dwellings on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NHDC Planning Ref. TBC), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).*

*The site is within an Area of Archaeological Significance designated on the NHDC Local Plan. This encompasses the historic late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval village core of Ashwell and the fields to its south and east where earlier archaeological remains are known. The development of the settlement at Ashwell is discussed in detail by Thompson (2002). A high density of cropmarks of earlier activity in these areas indicate the likely presence of Bronze Age barrows and later prehistoric/Romano-British settlement enclosures. Ashwell may also have been a Roman religious site, associated with its springs, and the route of Ashwell Street close by to the south likely dates to the Roman period (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 4692), and continued in use in the medieval period. A significant late Neolithic henge monument was also investigated less than 60m to the south east in advance of a housing development, one of only two such monuments in Hertfordshire.*

*A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018) and it revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The evaluation revealed features within three of the four trenches and the features were diverse comprising a pit, a post hole and linears (ditches and a gully). The profiles of the features were often irregular, for example, Ditch F1009, and the features contained no finds. At least some of the features may have formed naturally.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2730 3980; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for a residential development of 9 new dwellings on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NHDC Planning Ref. TBC), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 A geophysical survey had already been undertaken (Costa, B., 2018).

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by HCC HEAT, and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018) and approved by HCC HEAT. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The objectives of the evaluation were

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains (and palaeoenvironmental 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.
- 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.
- The project report will provide for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site. It will also consider the site within the wider archaeological context. The likely extent, nature, condition and importance of the archaeology will be described. The context of the development proposal for the site will also be examined. The evaluation will provide a predictive model of any archaeological remains likely to be present on the site as a whole, and include an assessment of their significance.

#### *Planning Policy Context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) 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 on the western side of Station Road and north of Ashwell Street in the eastern part of the historic village of Ashwell. It is a field under grass, extending to some 0.6ha.

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

3.1 The village of Ashwell is situated at the base of the Chiltern Hills and lies more or less at the source of the River Rhee, which flows northwards into the River Cam (Fig. 1; Thompson 2002). The northern half of the parish is situated on low-lying clay and was originally marshy due to the emergence of several streams at the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. The southern half of the parish forms part of the scarp of the Chilterns, rising to c. 90m AOD. The site itself lies on relatively flat ground at 55m AOD, with the surrounding relief rising to the south.

3.2 The solid geology of the Ashwell area comprises Lower and Middle Triassic chalk (BGS 2015), overlain by drift deposits of boulder clay and clays. Soils of the area comprise those of the Swaffham Prior Association, which are described as well-drained, calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble with some similar shallow soils and non-calcareous soils in parts (SSEW 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistoric*

4.1 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance identified on the NHDC Local Plan, which encompasses the historic core of the village and its fields to the south and east. A high number of cropmarks in the fields surrounding the village likely represent late Neolithic to Bronze Age barrows

and later prehistoric settlement enclosures ((HERs 2468, 2469, 4717, 6113 & 7687). A late Neolithic Class II henge monument has been investigated only 60m to the south-east of the site, and is deemed to be one of only three monuments of this type known from the county (HER 30533). Multi-period finds, including prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval objects, are also known from above the source of the River Rhee to the west of the site (HER 6979).

### *Romano-British*

4.2 During the Romano-British period, Ashwell lay in the Roman hinterland in the shadow of a large religious and domestic settlement at Baldock, which lies c. 7.5km to the south. The *Ashwell Extensive Urban Survey* (EUS; Thompson 2002) suggests that the course of Ashwell Street, which lies south-west to north-eastwards only 150m to the south of the site, may date to the Roman period (HER 4692). However, Roman finds from Ashwell are relatively limited and include a number of very worn coins found to the east of Ashwell Springs (HER 4848), and three further Roman coins found with 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery sherds found with a metal detector to the south of the High Street (HER 2973).

4.3 Recent archaeological investigations have revealed further Romano-British evidence. The terminals of two parallel ditches were found during groundwork on Station Road and 100m to the east-south-east of the site (HER 11397). Another substantial curving Roman ditch, apparently part of a boundary or enclosure ditch, was found at Moules Yard (HER 13707). Within the grounds of No. 22 Lucas Lane a length of ditch with a terminus at the north end was recorded (HER 17600). It contained a base sherd of 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman pottery, and fragments of animal bone including a jaw bone and possibly all from a horse.

### *Anglo-Saxon & medieval*

4.4 Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Ashwell, which derives from the name 'ash spring' (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). Although no Anglo-Saxon findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the site, early occupation is attested by two sunken-floored buildings (SFB) located along the county boundary at Ruddery End (Thompson 2002). Residential, commercial and agricultural development extended throughout the medieval period, with Ashwell being an important market town by the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, but fell into decline following the Black Death. Ashwell Street, which lies 100m to the south, was certainly established by the medieval period (HER 4692), while ridge and furrow is evident to the north-west of No. 22 Lucas Lane (HER 12778) and along Green Lane (HER 13670). Further medieval activity is attested by the Grade II\* listed Foresters Cottages (HER 13485) and a bronzeworker's hoard found to the south of the High Street (HER2549).



## *Post-medieval and later*

4.5 Post-medieval development of Ashwell witnessed the emergence of new coaching routes and the introduction of new agricultural practices within farms such as the original Whitby Farm, whose name was transferred to a different farm in the 20th century (HER 17701) and the present Whitby Farm that called *Waller's Farm* in the 19th century (HER 17702). Ashwell contains a large number of Grade II listed building dating from the post-medieval and early modern periods, including Nos. 14 and 34 Lucas Lane, which lie to the west of the site and date to the 18th and late 17th century respectively (IoE Nos. 1175177 & 1102714). Post-medieval industry is attested by cropmark of a windmill to the south of Ashwell (HER 4457), the site of Fordham's windmill (HER 11356) and 19th century lime kilns also to the south (HER 11359).

4.6 Ashwell declined in significance during the 19th century and was undoubtedly over-shadowed by neighbouring Baldock and Royston. Many of the village's buildings were destroyed by a fire in 1850. Ashwell witnessed a resurgence in fortune following the arrival of the railway, with the former station situated to the south-east of the village, only a year later (Thompson 2002).

## **5 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION**

5.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018), in summary:

*The survey on land at Station Road, Ashwell, identified no features of likely archaeological origin.*

*Magnetic contrast in the survey data was reasonable, but there was a significant amount of magnetic interference from buildings in the SW and beyond the NE boundary, as well as from fence lines. These might well have obscured weaker responses derived from possible features of archaeological origin.*

## **6 METHODOLOGY**

6.1 Following the geophysical survey the evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. The brief required a 5% sample of the development area to be investigated by trenching. Four trenches each 40m x 1.80m were excavated (Fig. 2). A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018) and it revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin so the trenching was not guided by this survey

6.2 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. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

## 7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 54.93m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown clayey silt with sparse chalk flecks and gravel
0.15 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid grey brown grey clayey silt
0.55m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, pale yellow white chalk.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 54.16m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.15 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained undated Pit F1011 and undated Post Hole F1013.*

Pit F1011 was sub circular in plan (1.11 x 0.58 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a friable, mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel. It contained no finds. F1011 was cut by Post Hole F1013.

Post Hole F1013 was circular in plan (0.32 x 0.21m). It had steep to near vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel. It contained no finds. F1013 cut Pit F1011.

### Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 55.66m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.51m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 54.86m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.81m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.81m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 2 contained undated Ditch F1009.*

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (>2.00+ x 1.21 x 0.21m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1010, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel and chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

### Trench 3 Fig. 2

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 56.96m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 - 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.65m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 56.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29 – 0.81m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.81m +	L1002	Natural. As above

*Description: Trench 3 contained no features or finds.*

### Trench 4 Fig. 2 - 3

Sample Section 4A 0.00 = 57.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark yellow brown clayey silt
0.15 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid grey brown grey clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded flints and chalk flecks.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, pale yellow white chalk.

Sample Section 4B 0.00 = 55.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.16 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.35m +	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: Trench 4 contained Ditches F1003 and F1007, Gully F1015, and ?Tree Hollow F1005. None of the features contained finds.*

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (>10.00+ x 0.65 x 0.16m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and its base was undulating and also flattish. Its fill, L1004, was a friable, light grey brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel and chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

?Tree Hollow F1005 was elongated in plan (>10.00+ x 0.65 x 0.16m). It had steep to moderately sloping sides and its base was undulating and irregular.

Its fill, L1006, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small gravel and chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (>5.70+ x 2.00+ x 0.18m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep near vertical sides and flattish base. Its fill, L1008, was a friable, mid – dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

Gully F1015 was linear in plan (2.40 x 0.45+ x 0.07m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, mid – dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small gravel and chalk flecks. It contained no finds.

## 8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000 a friable, dark grey brown clayey silt with sparse chalk flecks and gravel. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, mid grey brown clayey silt. At the base of the sequence were the natural deposits (L1002), a compact, pale yellow white chalk (0.35 – 0.81m below the present day ground surface.

## 10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	1011	Pit	-
	1013	Post Hole	-
2	1009	Ditch	-
4	1003	Ditch	-
	1005	?Tree Hollow	-
	1007	Ditch	-
	1015	Gully	-

10.2 The site is within an Area of Archaeological Significance designated on the NHDC Local Plan. This encompasses the historic late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval village core of Ashwell and the fields to its south and east where earlier archaeological remains are known. The development of the settlement at Ashwell is discussed in detail by Thompson (2002). A high density of cropmarks of earlier activity in these areas indicate the likely presence of Bronze Age barrows and later prehistoric/Romano-British

settlement enclosures. Ashwell may also have been a Roman religious site, associated with its springs, and the route of Ashwell Street close by to the south likely dates to the Roman period (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 4692), and continued in use in the medieval period. A significant late Neolithic henge monument was also investigated less than 60m to the south east in advance of a housing development, one of only two such monuments in Hertfordshire.

10.3 The geophysical survey (Costa, B., 2018) revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin.

10.4 The evaluation revealed features within three of the four trenches and the features were diverse comprising a pit, a post hole and linears (ditches and a gully). The profiles of the features were often irregular, for example, Ditch F1009, and the features contained no finds. At least some of the features may have formed naturally. Smallscale environmental sampling recorded an absence of carbonised remains indicating that it was not receiving debris from domestic or agricultural processing activities.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at North Hertfordshire Museums. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client, Oakbridge Bespoke Homes Ltd, for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Michael Clifton)

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

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**Web resources**

[www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)

## APPENDIX 1      SPECIALIST REPORT

### The Environmental Samples

*Dr John Summers*

#### *Introduction*

During the archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, a single bulk soil sample was taken and processed from undated deposit L1004A. The sample was taken in order to assess the potential preservation of carbonised plant macrofossils and other macroscopic palaeoenvironmental remains in deposits at the site.

#### *Methods*

The sample was processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fraction was washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fraction was sieved to 1mm. The dried light fraction was sorted under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. 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 fraction are presented in Table 1. No carbonised plant macrofossils or charcoal were identified within the bulk sample light fraction. A small range of mollusc shells were present, including grassland and ground litter taxa. The presence of small fragments of coal suggests a later medieval or post-medieval date, although this is circumstantial.

#### *Conclusions*

The absence of carbonised remains within the sampled deposit indicates that it was not receiving debris from domestic or agricultural processing activities.

## References

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



Table 1: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Station Road, Ashwell.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
						Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
AS1978	1	1004A	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	XX	-	-	-	Coal (X)

## APPENDIX 2

## CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	16
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	3
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	22

**APPENDIX 3            HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire</i>
<b>County:</b> <i>Hertfordshire</i>	<b>District:</b> <i>North Herts</i>
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Ashwell</i>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	<i>NHDC Planning Ref. TBC</i>
<b>Client name/address</b>	<i>Oakbridge Bespoke Homes</i>
<b>Nature of application:</b>	<i>Residential</i>
<b>Present land use:</b>	<i>Vacant</i>
<b>Size of application area:</b> <i>c. 300m<sup>2</sup></i>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> <i>c. 6000m<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>TL 2730 3980</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>AS 1978</i>
<b>Organisation:</b>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Type of work:</b>	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>
<b>Date of work:</b>	<i>3, 4, 8 January 2019</i>
<b>Location of Curating museum:</b>	<i>North Herts</i>
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> <i>none</i>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	<i>None</i>

<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p>	<p><i>In January 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2730 3980; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for a residential development of 9 dwellings on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NHDC Planning Ref. TBC), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).</i></p> <p><i>A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018) and it revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation features within three of the four trenches and the features were diverse comprising a pit, a post hole and linears (ditches and a gully). The profiles of the features were often irregular, for example, Ditch F1009, and the features contained no finds. At least some of the features may have formed naturally.</i></p>
<p><b>Author of summary:</b> J Locke</p>	<p><i>Date of Summary:</i> January 2019</p>

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: archaeol7-337468**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Station Road Ashwell (TT)
Short description of the project	In January 2019 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2730 3980; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for a residential development of 9 dwellings on land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (NHDC Planning Ref. TBC), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT). A geophysical survey was undertaken (Costa, B., 2018) and it revealed no anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The evaluation revealed features within three of the four trenches and the features were diverse comprising a pit, a post hole and linears (ditches and a gully). The profiles of the features were often irregular, for example, Ditch F1009, and the features contained no finds. At least some of the features may have formed naturally.
Project dates	Start: 03-01-2019 End: 10-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7756 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS1978 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT AND POSTHOLES Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE ASHWELL Land at Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire

Postcode SG75LR  
 Study area 0.6 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 2730 3980 52.041528220743 -0.143704928577 52 02 29 N 000 08 37 W Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 55m Max: 55m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Project brief originator HCC HEU  
 Project design originator Jon Murray  
 Project director/manager Jon Murray  
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Oakbridge Bespoke Homes  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Oakbridge Bespoke Homes

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient North Hertfordshire Museums Service  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient North Hertfordshire Museums Service  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Locke, J  
 Other bibliographic details 5747  
 Date 2019  
 Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds  
 Entered by Hollie Wesson (admin@ascontract.co.uk)

Entered on 16 January 2019

# OASIS:

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Trench 1 looking north-east



2  
Post Hole F1013 and Pit F1011 in Trench 1



3  
Trench 2 looking north-east



4  
Ditch F1009 in Trench 2





5  
Trench 3 looking south-east



6  
Trench 4 looking north-east



7  
Ditch F1003A in Trench 4



8  
Ditch F1003B in Trench 4



9  
Ditch F1007 in Trench 4



10  
Pit F1005 and Ditch F1003C in Trench 4

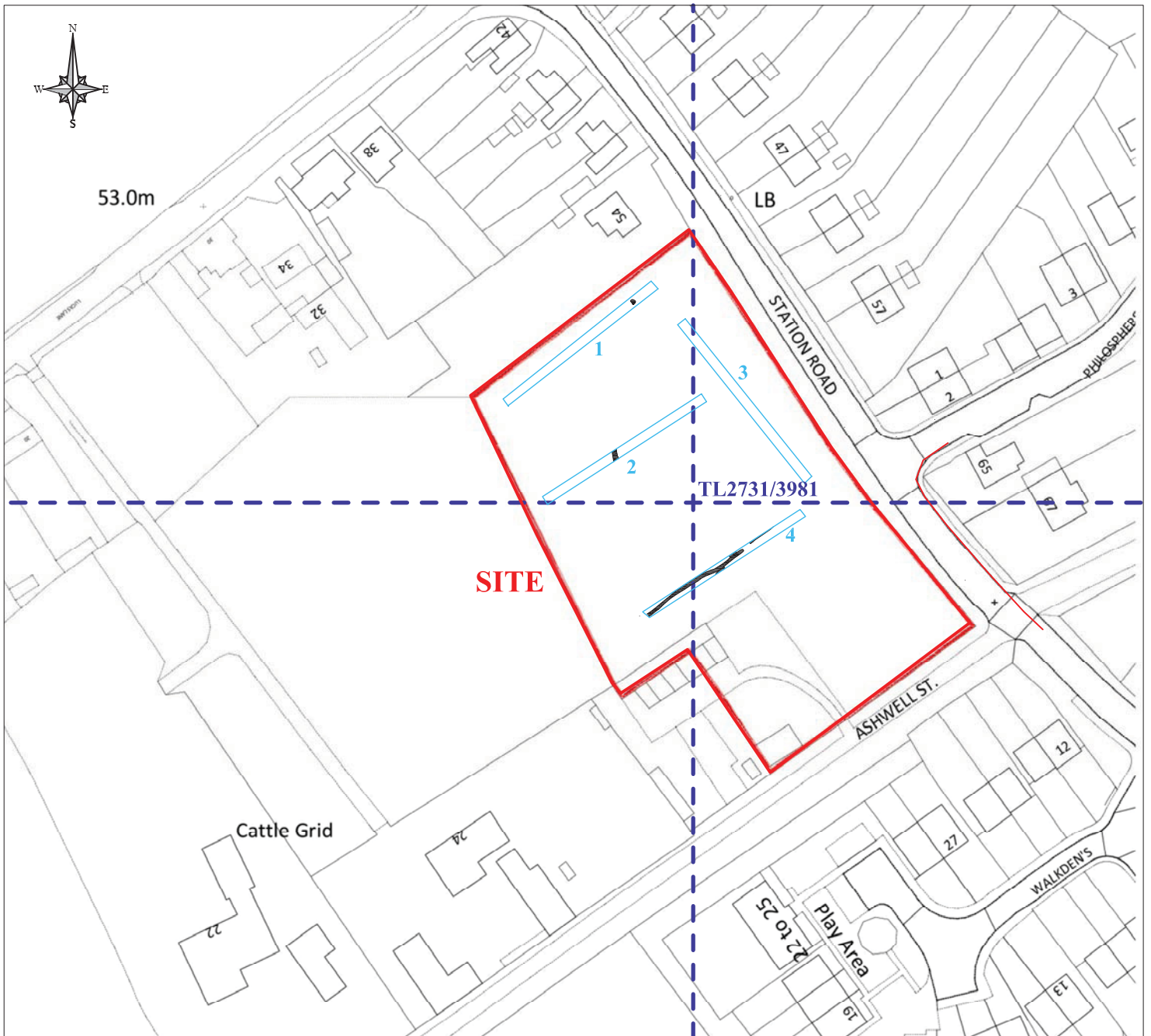


11  
Gully F1015 and Ditch F1003D in Trench 4



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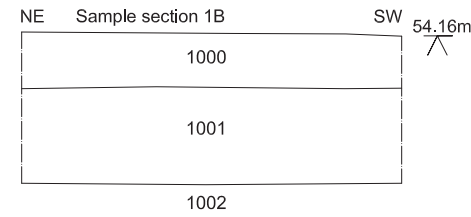
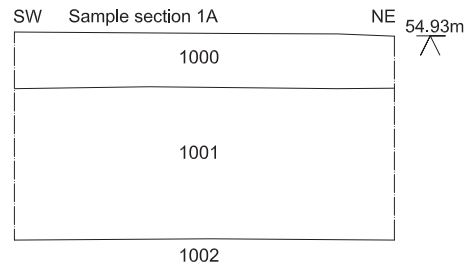
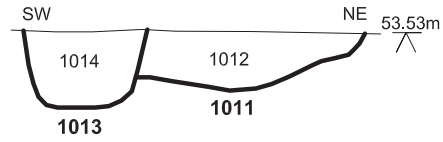
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Station Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire (P7756)



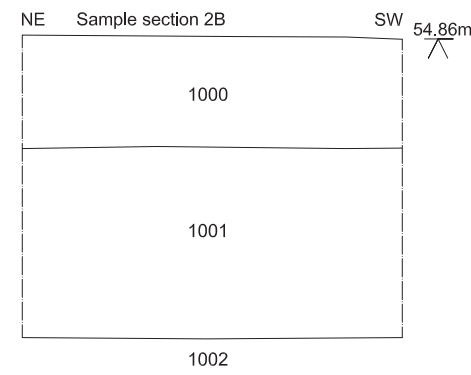
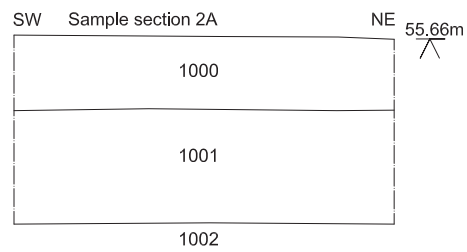
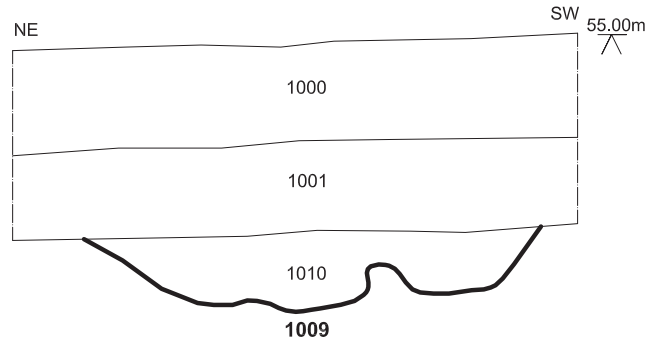
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:1250 at A4
Station Road, Ashwell (P7756)

0 Plans only 5m

Trench 1

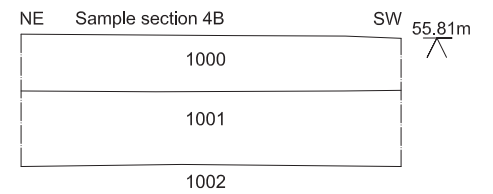
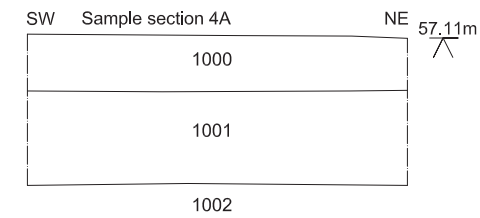
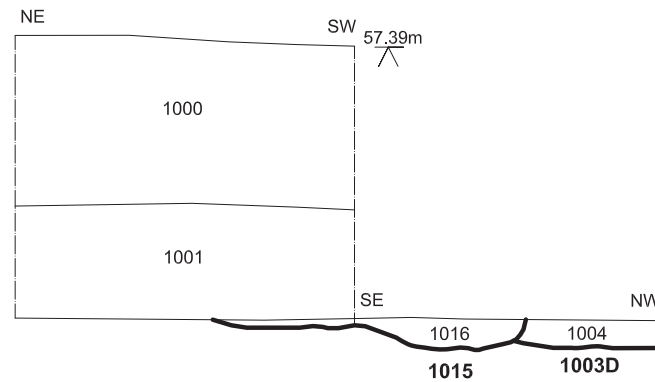
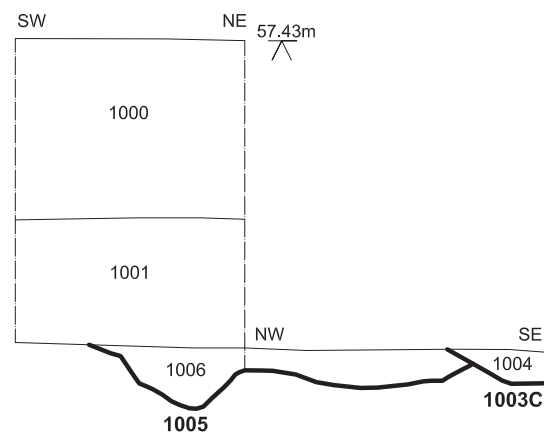
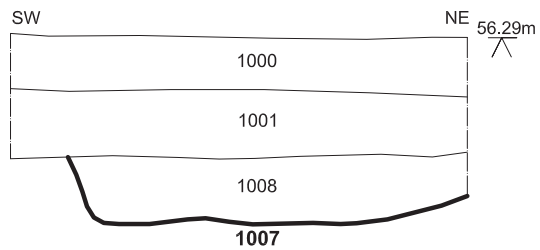
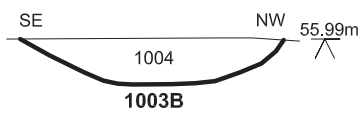
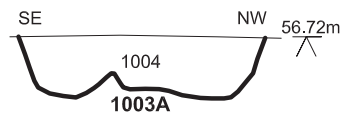
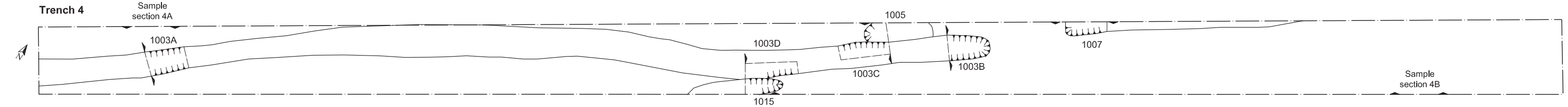


Trench 2



0 Sections only 1m

Trench 4



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

Station Road, Ashwell (P7756)