ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

ADEYFIELD FREE CHURCH, LEVERSTOCK GREEN ROAD, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTFORDSHIRE HP2 4HL

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

HER Enquiry No. 238/19

Authors: Gareth Barlow & Joseph Locke (F Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Backgrou	
NGR: 507732 207116	Report No: 5785
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS1982
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6541
	Date: 18 March 2019

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Project details	ET							
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January and March 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the demolition of Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL (NGR 507732 207116; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00518/13/MFA).. The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT)

The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes the archaeological significance of the area, which is known to have been intensively occupied in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with areas of Archaeological Significance recorded to the east. The site of post-medieval Coxpond Farm also lay nearby (HER 18729) adjacent to Leverstock Green

The principal research aims were to identify any further evidence of the known late prehistoric and Roman landscape, or evidence of the Coxpond Farm complex.

The evaluation revealed $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century pits, a brick wall and services only.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January and March 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the demolition of Adevfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL (NGR 507732 207116; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00518/13/MFA). The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT)

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice from HCC HEAT, and a specification prepared by AS (dated 15th January 2016) and approved by ECC HEA. 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).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 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 nonrenewable 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 listed heritage (i.e. designated assets 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 heritage of demonstrably non-designated assets 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 within the town of Hemel Hempstead, which lies within the district of Dacorum and the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It lies within the New Town of Hemel Hempstead and 2km to the east of the modern town centre, while the historic core, which is centred on the High Street, is located 2.5km to the site's west-northwest. The site also lies along the northern frontage of the A414 St Albans Road, which comprises the main arterial road eastwards out of Hemel Hempstead.

2.2 The site comprises an irregularly shaped plot of land, which covers an area of 3,333m² (Fig. 2). It was until recently occupied by the Adeyfield Free Church and associated car park. It is proposed to demolish the modern church building and construct a new development of 14 houses.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The Hemel Hempstead area is characterised by a varied, rolling landscape of valleys typical of the Dacorum district (Fig. 1). The River Gade runs on a roughly north to south alignment through the town centre of Hemel Hempstead and joins the course of the River Bourne approximately *c*. 2.8km to the south-west of the site. The site occupied a relatively flat relief at 125m AOD, with the surrounding relief rising eastwards away from the valleys of the River Gade and River Bourne.

3.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Upper Cretaceous chalk (BGS 2015), overlain by peri-glacial gravels and sub-alluvium in the valley floor (BGS 1978; DBC 2004). Soils of the Hemel Hempstead area beyond the valley of the River Gade comprise those of the Batcombe Association, which are described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 The area around Hemel Hempstead has revealed evidence for human activity from the prehistoric period onwards. The upland clay and chalklands, along with the river valleys, have been exploited since at least the Neolithic period and substantial Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence has been discovered along the route of the A41 Kings Langley and Berkhamsted bypasses to the south of the town. Prehistoric flints have been recovered from the area and the Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Highfield Tumulus, lies 1.7km to the north of the site. Remains linked to Bronze Age settlements have been identified in the Adeyfield area, whilst features dating to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and Romano-British periods were found at Wood Lane End, which is described as an important "transitional site (Hunns 2000). Despite the potential for such finds, no prehistoric remains have been found in the vicinity of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 In the Romano-British period, the Hemel Hempstead area appears to have been a rural hinterland to the west of *Verulamium* (St. Albans) occupied by several high-status villas including examples at Gadebridge, Boxmoor and Kings Langley. The Gadebridge villa (HER 88) was revealed in 1962 *c*. 3.2km to the north-west in Gadebridge Park, and comprised a corridor villa with a timber antecedent and bath house, dating from the 1st - mid 4th centuries AD. Two coin hoards (HER 518 and 1867) have also been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the villa. A SAM Romano-Celtic temple complex was recorded at Wood Lane End approximately 3km to the north of the site. However, no Romano-British remains are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

Anglo-Saxon

4.3 Hemel Hempstead is one of the earliest settlements in Hertfordshire mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter, where it is initially recorded as *Haemele*, probably meaning 'Haemele's homestead' (Thompson 2002, 3; Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1970). It is likely that this early settlement was part of lands owned by Heamele, Bishop of Mercia in the 8th century (Hastie 1997, 8). By the time of the Domesday Book, the place name had evolved into *Hamelamestede* (Williams & Martin 2002). However, despite the place name and early documentary evidence for a settlement at Hemel Hempstead, no Saxon evidence for this settlement has yet been recorded.

Medieval

4.4 During the medieval period, settlement at Hemel Hempstead developed into a small hamlet between mills at the Bury and Piccotts End on the banks of the River Gade in an extensive agricultural estate owned by the monastic college of the Bon Hommes at Ashridge until the Dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. The manorial complex that included the mill at the Bury (HER 7099), the manor house of the Hemel Hempstead estate (HER 10433) and a medieval barn (HER 10434) are located to the north-west. The medieval settlement of Hemel Hempstead developed on the northern side of this complex. Within the vicinity of the site, however, medieval remains are limited to a long cross silver penny od Henry III found at No. 87 Leverstock Green Road and 200m to the south-east (HER 11648 - MHT11648).

Post-medieval and later

4.5 Hemel Hempstead prospered in the post-medieval period, notably due to the corn trade, and numerous buildings from the 16th - 18th centuries survive to the north along the High Street. The site continued to lie beyond the extent of the town until the modern period (Thompson 2002, 14). The HER database reveals that the Grade II listed Little Coxpond Farmhouse, which is a 16th century timber-framed house, apparently once a small farmhouse, stands 200m to the north of the site on Leverstock Green Road (HER 18730 - MHT18730). The site of post-medieval Coxpond Farm also lay 240m to the north-west of the site (HER 18729 - MHT18729). It is shown on the later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps as a substantial post-medieval farmstead on Leverstock Green Road, yet by 1947, the farm had gone, evidently making way for the development of Hemel Hempstead.

4.6 Hemel Hempstead grew dramatically during the early modern period and during the 18th - 19th centuries, the Marlowes area to the west began to be developed, probably due to improved water management and a lowering of the water table (Thompson 2002). In contrast, the character of modern Hemel Hempstead remained relatively unaltered until the post-war period when, in 1946, 7,930 acres including Hemel Hempstead were designated for the construction of a New Town to provide greater residential and industrial capacity in the satellite settlements around London. A master plan was drawn up by the architect and landscape designer Mr. G. A. Jellicoe in 1947 (modified in 1951) and building work began in 1949.

The Site

4.7 The site lies within the Adeyfield area of Hemel Hempstead, which formed part of the New Town development dating from 1947 onwards. Post-World War II cartographic evidence dating from 1948 depict the expansion of Hemel Hempstead and the creation of Adeyfield along Adeyfield Road and over 500m to the north-west of the site. Similarly, by 1948, residential dwellings had been established along Ranelagh Road to the immediate west of the site, yet the site itself remained an undeveloped plot of land at the junction of St Albans Road and Leverstock Green Road (Hastie 1997).

4.8 Relatively little is known about the history of the site and no documents concerning the site could be found in the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS). The Adeyfield Free Church website reveals that the church has its origins in 1949 the Hertfordshire Congregational Union, jointly with the Alexandra Road Congregational church, accepted a site for a new church on the corner of Leverstock Green Road and St Albans Road. The existing church was designed by Mr H. Holland as a dual-purpose hall. The foundation stone was laid on 23rd May 1953 and the new building was formally opened and

dedicated on 9th January 1954, with its first minister being Rev. Frank W. Hewis.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 HCC advice required the excavation of trial trenches to evaluate the presence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed development. A 3 - 4% sample of the 3333m2 site was required, further to demolition of the church building. Four trenches each up to 21m x 1.6m were excavated (Fig. 2).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 3 - 4

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

	Δ.		
Sample section 1A			
0.00 = 134.78m A	AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional –	
		moderate medium – large sub rounded and sub angular flint	
0.33 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate –	
		frequent medium – large sub rounded and sub angular flint	
0.51m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Mixed patches of firm, pale yellow brown	
		clay with moderate – large flint, and firm, mid orange brown	
		sandy silt with medium – large flint sub rounded flint	

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 7	1B	
0.00 = 133.56m	AOD	
0.00 – 0.17m	L1003	Topsoil. Firm, mid orange grey brown sandy silt with
		occasional –moderate, medium – large sub rounded and sub
		angular flint
0.17 – 0.32m	L1004	Made Ground. Firm, pale mid orange brown silty sand with
		frequent small - medium sub rounded and sub angular flint
0.32 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, now buried
0.45 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained two 20th-century pits, F1021 and F1023. Each contained CBM, concrete and plastic.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample section 2	A	
0.00 = 134.47m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.49m	L1005	Made Ground. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent sub rounded and sub angular flint
0.49m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section 2 0.00 = 134.22m A		
0.00 – 0.02m	L1006	Tarmac
0.02 – 0.30m	L1007	Made Ground. Compact, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate sub rounded and sub angular flint
0.30 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.43 – 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.57m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained Pits F1008 and F1010, and Wall F1012. All of 19th or 20th century date.

Pit F1008 was sub circular in plan (0.95 x 0.31 x 0.11m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1009) was a compact, dark grey brown silty clay and it contained 19^{th} and 20^{th} century brick and tile.

Pit F1010 was not defined in plan $(3.00+ \times 0.70+ \times 0.70m+)$. It had irregular sides and its base was unseen. Its basal fill (L1011) was a compact, mid yellow brown silty clay and it contained 19th and 20th century brick and tile. Its fill (L1016) was a compact, dark grey brown silty clay. Its fill (L1017) was a loose, mid reddish yellow. Its upper fill (L1018) was a compact, mid grey brown silty clay.

Wall M1012 was linear (1.80+ x 0.25 x 0.20m+). It was composed of two parallel courses of bricks, 0.09m wide, with the void filled with concrete. It was constructed of yellow frogged bricks, stamped `London'. Its foundation cut, F1013, had vertical sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1014, was a dark grey brown silty clay. M10013 cut Made Ground L1005.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample section 3	A	
0.00 = 133.98m A	AOD	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1020	Made Ground. Compact, mid brown orange silty clay with
		frequent medium to large flint nodules and 20th C brick, metal,
		plastic and concrete.
0.41 – 0.53m	L1019	Made Ground. Compact, dark brown grey silty clay with
		crushed tarmac debris.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section 3	В	
0.00 = 133.44m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.8m	L1020	Made Ground. As above.
0.8m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained a 19tj or 20th century soakaway.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample section 4	A	
0.00 = 133.28m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.2m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.2 – 1.0m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
1.0m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Sample section 4	В	
0.00 = 132.89m A	OD	
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.12 – 0.94m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.94m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained a modern service.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional to moderate medium to large sub rounded and sub angular flint. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent medium to large sub rounded and sub angular flint.

8.2 In Trenches 1, 2 and 3 made ground layers were present above the topsoil-subsoil-natural sequence (L1004, L1005 and L1007). In Trench 3, the topsoil and subsoil were truncated, and made ground (L1019 and L1020), overlay natural L1002.

8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural, L1002, was a firm mixed pale yellow brown clay to mid orange brown sandy silt with medium to large flint sub rounded flint encountered 0.49 - 1.0m below the current ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes the archaeological significance of the area, which is known to have been intensively occupied in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with areas of Archaeological Significance recorded to the east. The site of post-medieval Coxpond Farm also lay nearby (HER 18729) adjacent to Leverstock Green

9.2 The principal research aims were to identify any further evidence of the known late prehistoric and Roman landscape, or evidence of the Coxpond Farm complex.

9.3 The evaluation revealed $19^{th} - 20^{th}$ century pits, a brick wall and services only.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Savoy Estates for funding the works and for all their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT)

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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

APPENDIX 1 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and	Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel
address:	Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Parish: Hemel Hempstead
Planning application	
reference:	Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00518/13/MFA
Client name/address	Savoy Estates
Nature of application:	Residential
Present land use:	Former church
	Size of area investigated c. 150m ²
Size of application area: c. 3333m ²	
NGR (8 figures):	507732 207116
Site Code:	AS 1982
Site Code:	
director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological evaluation
Date of work:	29 – 31 January, 1 March 2019
Location of Curating	Dacorum
museum:	Dacorum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: none
Relevant previous	None
summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork	
results:	In January and March 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the demolition of Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL (NGR 507732 207116; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00518/13/MFA). The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT) The evaluation revealed 19 th – 20 th century pits, a brick wall and services only.
Author of summary:	Date of Summary:
J Locke	March 2019

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-346098

Project details

Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL (TT)
In January and March 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation following the demolition of Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL (NGR 507732 207116; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00518/13/MFA) The evaluation was undertaken based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT) The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) notes the archaeological significance of the area, which is known to have been intensively occupied in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with areas of Archaeological Significance recorded to the east. The site of post-medieval Coxpond Farm also lay nearby (HER 18729) adjacent to Leverstock Green The principal research aims were to identify any further evidence of the known late prehistoric and Roman landscape, or evidence of the Coxpond Farm complex. The evaluation revealed 19th - 20th century pits, a brick wall and services only.
Start: 29-01-2019 End: 01-03-2019
Not known / Not known
P6541 - Contracting Unit No.
AS1982 - Sitecode
Field evaluation
Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Other 15 - Other
NONE None
NONE None
"Targeted Trenches"
Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Planning condition
Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Cou	ntrv

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

England

3/18/2019

OASIS FORM - Print view

Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL
Postcode	HP2 4HL
Study area	3333 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0773 0711 51.751849426398 -0.439167223225 51 45 06 N 000 26 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 134m Max: 134m

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	Savoy Estates
Name of sponsor/funding body	Savoy Estates

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dacorum Heritage Trust
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	Adeyfield Free Church, Leverstock Green Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4HL. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Higgs, K
Other bibliographic details	5785
Date	2019
lssuer or publisher	Archaeological Solutions
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Hollie Wesson (admin@ascontracts.co.uk) Entered on 18 March 2019



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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P6541)



Trench 1 looking south-west



3 Pit F1008 in Trench 2



Pit F1010 in Trench 2



Trench 2 looking north-west

2



Pit F1010 in Trench 2



Wall M1012 in Trench 2



Trench 3 looking south-east



10 Trench 4 looking south-east



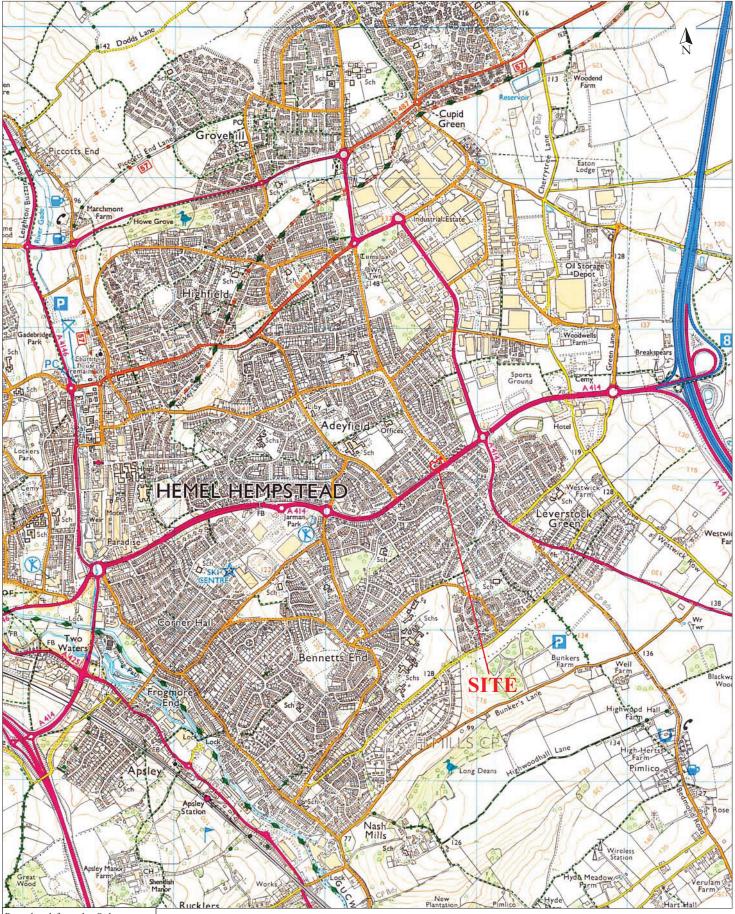
Soakaway in Trench 3



9 Sample section 3A in Trench 3



11 Sample section 4A in Trench 4



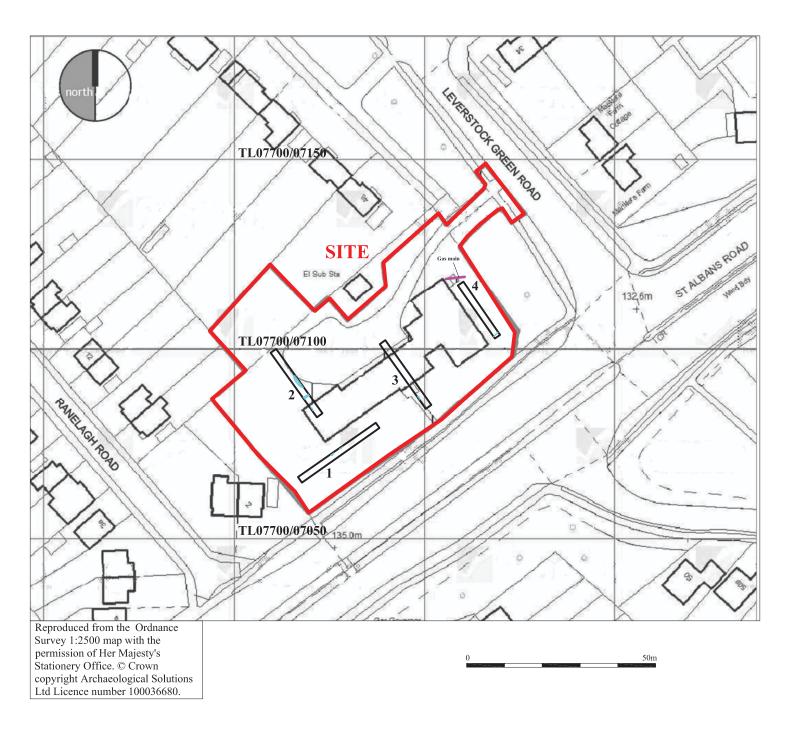
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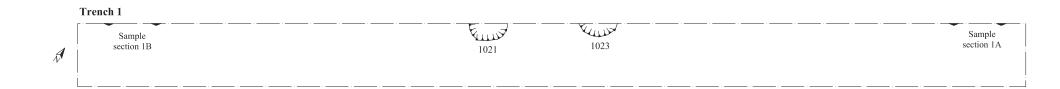
 Fig. 1 Site location plan

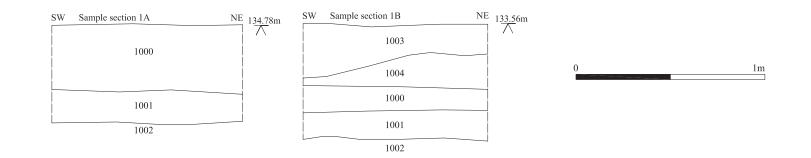
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

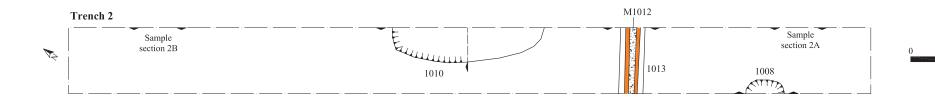
 Adeyfield Church, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (P6541)

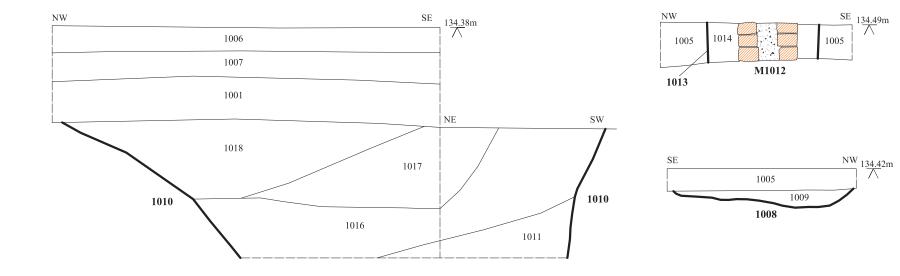


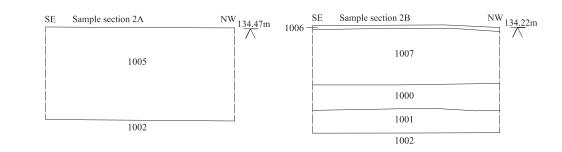
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan	
Scale 1:1000 at A4	
Adeyfield Church, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (P6541)	











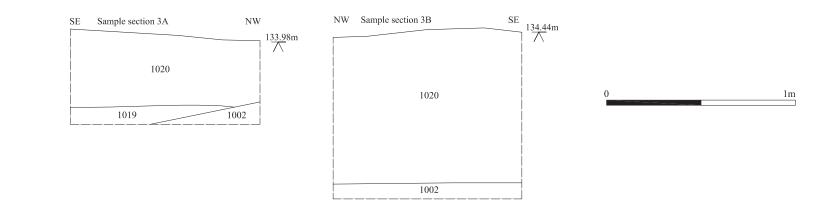
Plan only



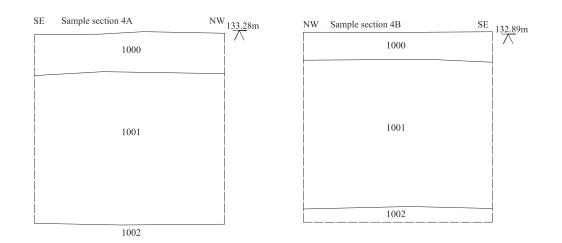
Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3 Adeyfield Church, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (P6541)



Sample section 3A







Plan only

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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3 Adeyfield Church, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (P6541)