

**87 WARWICK ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**87 WARWICK ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

Authors: Kate Doyle BA (background) Iain Williamson BA AIFA (fieldwork)	
NGR: TL 4997 2112	Report No.: 2095
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1016
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No.: P2777
Signed:	Date: Sept. 2006

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>87 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire</i>		
Project description			
<i>During September 2006, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks prior to the construction of a two storey residential extension at 87 Warwick Rd, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4997 2112). The programme of archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jackson-Cole of 87 Warwick Rd in response to a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO)).</i>			
<i>The proposed development site lies to the east of the historic core of Bishop's Stortford on land rising from the valley of the River Stort. The core of Roman occupation and subsequent Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement lie some distance to west of the proposed development site; although, prehistoric finds and a Roman stone coffin are known to have been found in the vicinity of Dunmow Rd.</i>			
<i>The programme of monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological horizons, features or artefacts. The stratigraphic sequence recorded minimal disturbance associated with the construction and extension of the existing property of the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2006</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>2777</i>	Site code	<i>AS1016</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring &amp; recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Residential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential house and garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Two storey residential extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Herts.</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
HER/ SMR for area			
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 4997 2112</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c. 80m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Iain Williamson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Jackson-Cole</i>		
Full title	<i>87 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire; archaeological monitoring &amp; recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Doyle, K, Williamson, I.</i>		
Report no.	<i>2095</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2006</i>		

# **87 WARWICK ROAD, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

## **SUMMARY**

*During September 2006, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks prior to the construction of a two storey residential extension at 87 Warwick Rd, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4997 2112). The programme of archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jackson-Cole of 87 Warwick Rd in response to a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO)).*

*The proposed development site lies to the east of the historic core of Bishop's Stortford on land rising from the valley of the River Stort. The core of Roman occupation and subsequent Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement lie some distance to west of the proposed development site; although, prehistoric finds and a Roman stone coffin are known to have been found in the vicinity of Dunmow Rd.*

*The programme of monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological horizons, features or artefacts. The stratigraphic sequence recorded minimal disturbance associated with the construction and extension of the existing property of the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 During September 2006, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks prior to the construction of a two storey residential extension at 87 Warwick Rd, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4997 2112) (Figs.1-2). The programme of archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jackson-Cole of 87 Warwick Rd in response to a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO)).

1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by HCC CAO (dated 11/07/2006) and a specification compiled by AS (dated 28/07/2006). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999) and the relevant requirements contained in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the project were set out in the specification, with the primary aim being to carry out archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains; with the archaeological excavation and recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The development area is located at the north-eastern end of Warwick Rd, at its junction with Dunmow Rd (Fig. 1), within the Hockerill area of Bishop's Stortford, to the east of the town centre. The proposed development site comprises a large 19<sup>th</sup> century house with garden and driveway. Located on the northern side of Warwick Rd, the site is bounded to the north and east by Dunmow Rd with residential housing beyond. On the southern side of Warwick Rd is the Herts. and Essex Community Hospital, with the land to the west of the proposed development site occupied by a 20<sup>th</sup> century garage and car showroom.

2.2 The site occupies relatively flat ground at an elevation of c.80m AOD.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The proposed development site lies to the east of the historic core of Bishop's Stortford on land rising eastwards from the valley of the River Stort.

3.2 By comparison with the nearby Lea Valley to the south-west, few finds of prehistoric date have been found in the immediate vicinity of Bishop's Stortford and the corresponding section of the Stort Valley (Hunns 2000). A possible prehistoric occupation site at 109 – 119 Dunmow Road, comprising a scatter of ditch and pit features was revealed during an excavation, and a destroyed Neolithic monument comprising a hearth and associated worked flints has also been identified. Evidence of Bronze Age to Iron Age activity in the Bishop's Stortford area is also sparse, although large scale excavations to the south of the town in the area around Thorley in 1994 (McDonald 1995) revealed substantial evidence for Bronze Age and Iron Age activity in the Stort Valley.

3.3 The earliest 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. The centre of Romano-British occupation in Bishop's Stortford appears to have been in the area of the Cannons Close housing estate from which was revealed buildings, rubbish pits, burials and large quantities of pottery and finds from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (Hunns 2000). The current evidence suggests that the Romano-British occupation at Bishop's Stortford was a small roadside urban settlement in the form of a ribbon development along both sides of Stane Street between Cannon Close and Grange Paddocks, and mainly found to the north of the town. The brief notes that a Roman stone coffin has been found in the vicinity of Dunmow Rd.

3.4 By the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Bishop's Stortford was probably established adjacent to the fording point along the River Stort with settlement during the Anglo-Saxon period being located in the area of North Street, High Street and Market Street (Orton 1976). Little is known of the Anglo-Saxon settlement and there are scarce archaeological remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in any proximity to the assessment site. Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, Edith the Fair was effectively dispossessed of her Bishop's Stortford lands and William I sold the manor

to William, Bishop of London, who bought several estates from the new King and retained the manor until 1868 (Page 1912, 296). Bishop's Stortford's Waytemore Castle was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a motte and bailey castle, in a defensive position close to the ford of the River Stort.

3.5 In the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, the settlement of Bishop's Stortford became a pawn in the disputes between King John and the Pope (Bishop's Stortford official town website). The King seized the town from the Bishop and ordered the destruction of Waytemore Castle in 1208, barely six years later the King had to finance the rebuilding of the castle. Medieval Bishop's Stortford is known to have been a borough by around 1306 - 1336 and during the 14<sup>th</sup> century sent members to Parliament. Throughout the medieval period, Bishop's Stortford developed into a thriving commercial centre, attested by a large number of inns in the town. From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, a successful tanning and leather industry developed rapidly, centred on Water Lane, whilst medieval court rolls contain references to the surnames of Skinner and Tanner.

3.6 A significant event for the town during the post-medieval period was the opening of the Stort Navigation in 1769, which linked Bishop's Stortford with London via the Lea Navigation. This provided a direct link to the markets of London and as a result, the prosperity of the town in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was fuelled by the brewing and malting industry. The Toyota garage to the west of and adjacent to the assessment site was from 1886 the location of the Fox Brewery which was taken over by the Benskins brewery in 1915.

3.7 The 18<sup>th</sup> century also brought massive growth and transformation in the economy of Bishop's Stortford. After 1744, the principal roads into that through Bishop's Stortford were greatly improved by the Essex and Herts Highway Trust. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, connection to the railway laid the foundation for Bishop's Stortford's present importance as both a market town in its own right and as a favoured commuter area for the capital.

## **4 METHOD OF WORK**

4.1 The archaeological monitoring principally focussed on all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. The monitoring programme observed and recorded limited ground reduction at the rear of the existing property in the north-eastern part of the site and the excavation of the footings for the two storey extension.

4.2 All machine excavation was carried out by a 360° mini digger fitted with a 0.60m wide toothed bucket, and was observed and monitored by an Archaeological Project Officer. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Sample sections were observed, photographed and recorded as appropriate; spoil heaps were examined for any artefactual material.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The programme of archaeological works comprised two visits to monitor the topsoil stripping, and the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed extension. The monitoring visits were carried out on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

6.2 The primary intrusive groundworks were the excavation of the foundation trench for the proposed house extension (Fig. 2; Plates 1-4). The foundation trench excavated just to the north of the existing property, measuring 0.60m wide and was excavated into the underlying natural substrate to a maximum depth of 1.10m at its north-eastern extent and 1.20m at its south-western end.

6.3 Two sample sections were recorded along the length of the foundation trench to characterise the stratigraphy of the proposed development area.

### Sample Section 1

<i>North-eastern corner of foundation trench. Northwest facing (Plate 2): 0.00 = c. 80.0m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.05m	L1000. Dark grey, compact, Tarmacadum. C 20 <sup>th</sup> tarmac path surfacing.
0.05 – 0.07m	L1001. Mid orange, compact, coarse building sand. C20 <sup>th</sup> Levelling layer for path.
0.07 – 0.38m	L1002. Dark grey-brown, friable, slightly clayey, sandy silt with occasional sub-round gravel clasts <75mm, sub-angular CBM fragments <150mm and charcoal flecks. C19 <sup>th</sup> Garden soil.
0.38m+	L1004. Mid orange tan, firm, slightly sandy clay, with occasional sub-round and sub-angular flint gravel clasts <100mm. Natural.

### Sample Section 2

<i>South-western side of foundation trench Northwest facing (Plate 3): 0.00 = = c. 80.0m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.05m	L1005. Mid grey, compact, concrete. C20th path.
0.05 – 0.10m	L1006. Mid yellow-orange, compact, ballast with a 40% coarse sand matrix. C20th levelling layer for concrete path.
0.10 – 0.14m	L1007. Dark black-brown, cohesive, sandy silt. C20th made ground.
0.14 – 0.24m	L1008. Mid orange, compact, ballast with a 40% coarse sand matrix. C20th levelling layer.
0.24 – 0.44m	L1002. Dark grey-brown, friable, slightly clayey, sandy silt, C19th garden soil as above.
0.44 – 0.58m	L1003. Mid grey-brown, cohesive, sandy clayey silt, with occasional sub-round gravel clasts <75mm and sub-angular CBM fragments <100mm. Subsoil.
0.58m+	L1004. Natural clay as above.



## *Description*

6.4 No archaeological features or artefacts were present within the impact area. The foundation trench revealed a common stratigraphy which was truncated by several Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic drains and a water pipe which fed into the rear of the existing house and the adjacent property (Plate 1). The service trenches for the pipes were all cut from the existing ground surface and backfilled with a mixed dark brown and orange-tan, sandy silt and clay deposit comprising redeposited natural clay and topsoil.

6.5 A small area of topsoil (2.0m x 2.5m) was stripped by mini-digger at the rear of the existing property (Fig. 2) to a depth of 0.20-0.40m below the existing ground surface. The ground reduction did not completely remove the topsoil horizon within that part of the site and did not reveal any archaeological features.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological monitoring and recording at 87 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The foundation trench excavation revealed a basic tripartite sequence of deposits (topsoil, subsoil and natural) which had been disturbed and overlain by made ground and surfacing in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

8.2 The natural clay substrate (L1004) was encountered at a depth of between *c.* 79.62m and 79.42m AOD. At the south-western end of the foundation trench the natural clay was sealed by subsoil, L1003, which thinned gradually towards the north-eastern limits of excavation where the natural was directly sealed by topsoil L1002. It was unclear whether the thinning of subsoil L1003 was a natural phenomenon or 19<sup>th</sup> truncation associated with the construction of the existing house on the site.

8.3 The layers of levelling (L1001, L1006, L1007 and L1008) and path surfaces (L1000 and L1005) which cap the stratigraphic sequence were laid when the existing house was extended in 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Number 87 Warwick Rd lies on the north-eastern side of Bishop's Stortford, some distance from the historic core of Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement.

9.2 Find spots of pre-historic flints and a Roman stone sarcophagus are known from the Dunmow Rd area; however no stratigraphic horizons pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup>

century and no archaeological features or artefacts were present at the proposed development site.

9.3 Small scale disturbance and truncation associated with the construction of the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century house in the form of levelling layers, path surfaces and drainage pipe trenches were present within the stratigraphic sequence. All of the levelling layers and service trenches either overlay or cut the 19<sup>th</sup> garden soil L1002, and did not destroy any possible earlier archaeology.

9.4 No evidence associated with the adjacent Fox Brewery (from 1886 onwards) was present; the existing 19<sup>th</sup> century house on the site is almost certainly contemporary with the brewery.

9.5 It would seem reasonable to surmise that the proposed development area may have comprised open agricultural or natural grassland on the outskirts of Bishop's Stortford, prior to the growth of the town in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, following the arrival of the canal and railway systems.

## **ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Bishop's Stortford Museum. The archive is to be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork, and will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2*. Archive records, with inventory, are to be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at the local museum and in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr. and Mrs Jackson-Cole for commissioning and funding the project and for their assistance.

AS would also like to thank Ms. Alison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire Sites and Monuments Record Office, and acknowledge the assistance and advice of Mr. Jonathan Smith of HCC CAO.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Orton, I. 1976 *The Book of Bishop's Stortford & Sawbridgeworth*. Barracuda Books, Chesham

Page, W. (ed.) 1912 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertford*. Volume III. University of London, Institute of Historical Research (reprinted 1971)

Soils of England and Wales 1983 *Sheet 6 South East England*, 1:250,000 scale map

### **Websites;**

Bishop's Stortford official town website  
<http://www.bishopsstortford.org>

**APPENDIX 1**  
**SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	87 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b> Bishop's Stortford	<b>Parish:</b> Bishop's Stortford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	3/06/0052
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mr & Mrs Jackson Cole
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Two Storey Residential Extension
<b>Present land use:</b>	Residential garden
<b>Size of application area:</b>	
<b>Size of area investigated</b>	
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 4997 2112
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1016
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Iain Williamson, Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological monitoring & recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	September 2006
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Bishop's Stortford Museum
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	
<b>Periods represented:</b>	C19 <sup>th</sup> and C20 <sup>th</sup> only.
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	None
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>During September 2006, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks prior to the construction of a two storey residential extension at 87 Warwick Rd, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 4997 2112). The programme of archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jackson-Cole of 87 Warwick Rd in response to a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO)).</i></p> <p><i>The proposed development site lies to the east of the historic core of Bishop's Stortford on land rising from the valley of the River Stort. The core of Roman occupation and subsequent Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement lie some distance to west of the proposed development site; although, prehistoric finds and a Roman stone coffin are known to have been found in the vicinity of Dunmow Rd.</i></p> <p><i>The programme of monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological horizons, features or artefacts. The stratigraphic sequence recorded minimal disturbance associated with the construction and extension of the existing property of the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b>	Doyle K & Williamson I, BA AIFA
<b>Date of Summary:</b>	September 2006

**APPENCIX 2  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS  
DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVE FORM**

<b>Site Details</b>			
<b>County:</b>	Herts.	<b>Museum:</b>	Bishop's Stortford
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS1016	<b>AS Project Number:</b>	2777
<b>Site Name:</b>	87 Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire		
<b>NGR:</b>	TL 4997 2112	<b>Accession Number:</b>	
<b>Site Type:</b>	Watching Brief	<b>Date of Work:</b>	Sept. 2006
<b>Planning Ref:</b>	3/06/0052	<b>SMR No:</b>	
<b>Related Work:</b>	-		
<b>Brief Description of Documentary Archive:</b>	Field Records, Brief and Specification		
<b>Brief Finds Description (Quantity &amp; Date):</b>	None		
<b>Ownership Form Returned:</b>		<b>Archive Deposited:</b>	

<b>Introduction</b>			
<b>Brief/s</b>		<b>Specification/s</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Present</b>
11-07-2006	Yes	28-07-2006	Yes

<b>A: Reports</b>			
<b>Report Type</b>		<b>Report No</b>	<b>Present</b>

<b>B: Primary Site Records</b>			
<b>Total No. of Files:</b>		1	
<b>Total No. of Site Drawing Sheets:</b>		1	
<b>Location of A4 Files (Tick)</b>		<b>Finds Room:</b>	<b>Corridor:</b>
<b>Material</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Details</b>	
<b>Site Notes</b>	Yes	2 Monitoring and Recording Forms	
<b>Context Register</b>	-		
<b>Context Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Levels Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Site Drawings</b>			
<b>Plan/Section Register</b>	-		
<b>Plan Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Section Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Combined Plan/Section Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Other Site Drawings</b>	1 Sheet		
<b>Digital Plans</b>			
<b>Plans</b>	-		
<b>Data</b>	-		

<b>C: Finds Data</b>	
<b>Small Finds Register</b>	-

<b>Finds Concordance</b>	-		
<b>Finds Box List</b>	-		
<b>X-Rays</b>	-		
<b>Conservation Photo Plates</b>	-		
<b>Conservation Lab Sheets</b>	-		
<b>Other Finds Information (Give Details)</b>	-		
<b>Specialist Finds Reports</b>			
<b>Material</b>	<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Report Present</b>	<b>Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)</b>

<b>D: Site Photographs</b>				
<b>Photographic Register Present</b>			<b>Digital Photo Register Present</b>	Yes
<b>Black &amp; White 35mm</b>				
<b>Film No</b>	<b>Negative Nos</b>	<b>Shot Nos</b>	<b>Contact Sheet Present</b>	<b>Negatives Present</b>
<b>Colour Slides</b>				
<b>Film No</b>	<b>Negative Nos</b>	<b>Shot Nos</b>	<b>Present</b>	
<b>Digital Photos</b>				
<b>Shot Nos</b>	<b>Files Present</b>		<b>Hard Copies Present</b>	
1-11	Yes		Yes	

<b>E: Environmental Data</b>			
<b>Sample Register Present:</b>	-	<b>Sample Sheets Present:</b>	-
<b>Processing Register Present:</b>	-	<b>Sieving Sheets Present:</b>	-
<b>Sample Concordance Present:</b>	-		
<b>Specialist Environmental Reports</b>			
<b>Material</b>	<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Report Present</b>	<b>Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)</b>

<b>F: Documentary Records, Press &amp; Publicity; G: Relevant Correspondence; H: Miscellaneous</b>

## PLATES



Plate 1 North-eastern section of foundation trench. View to the southeast.



Plate 2 Sample Section 1. View to the southeast.



Plate 3      Sample Section 2. View to the southwest.



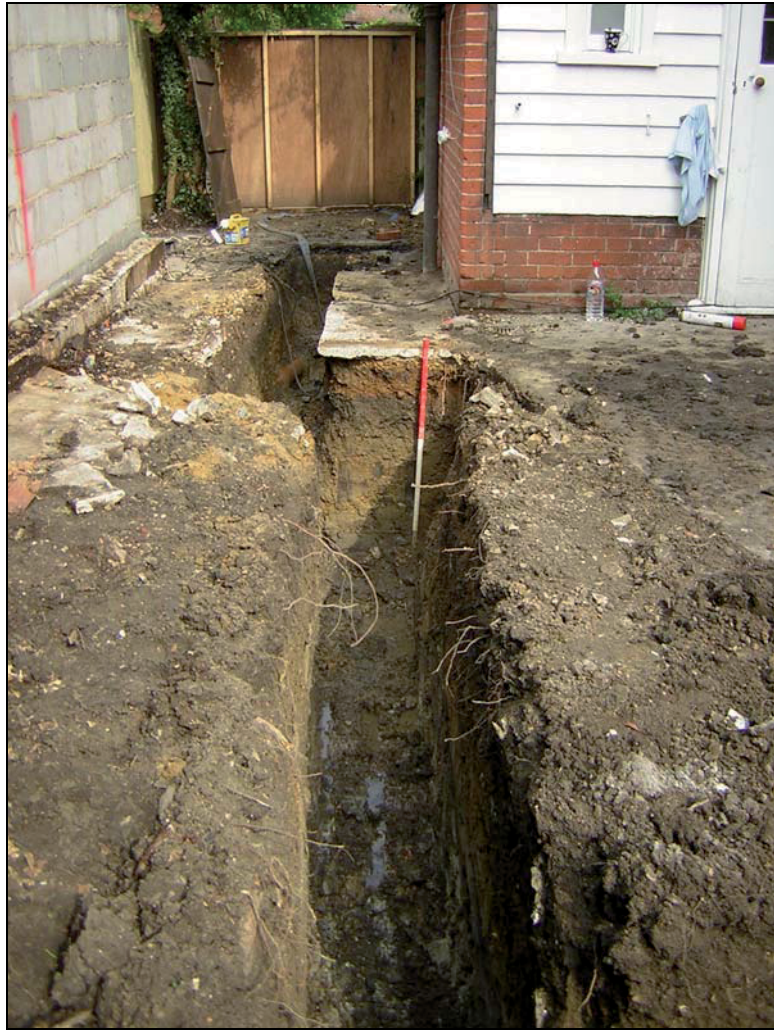
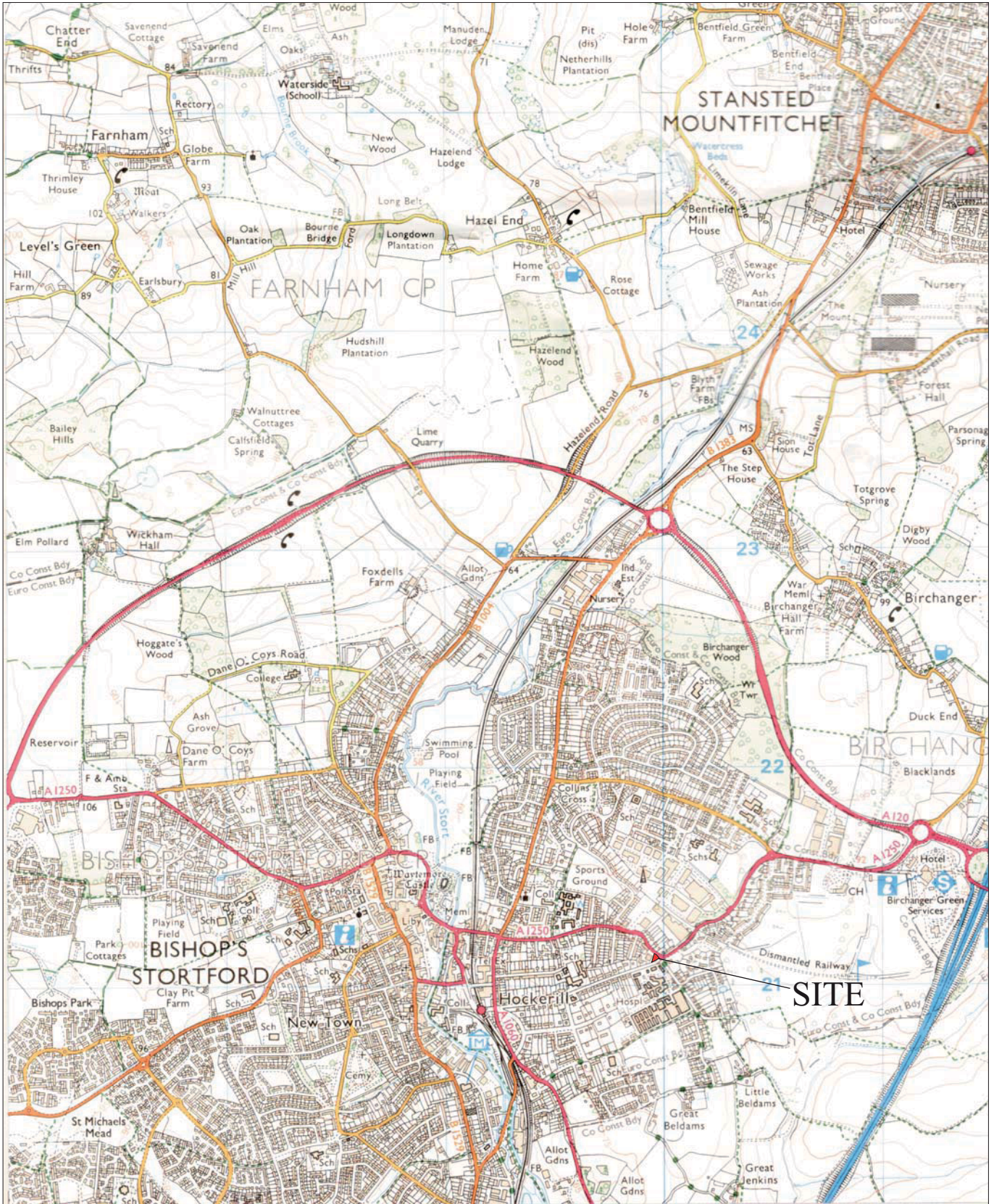


Plate 4      Foundation trench for the proposed extension. View to the northeast.

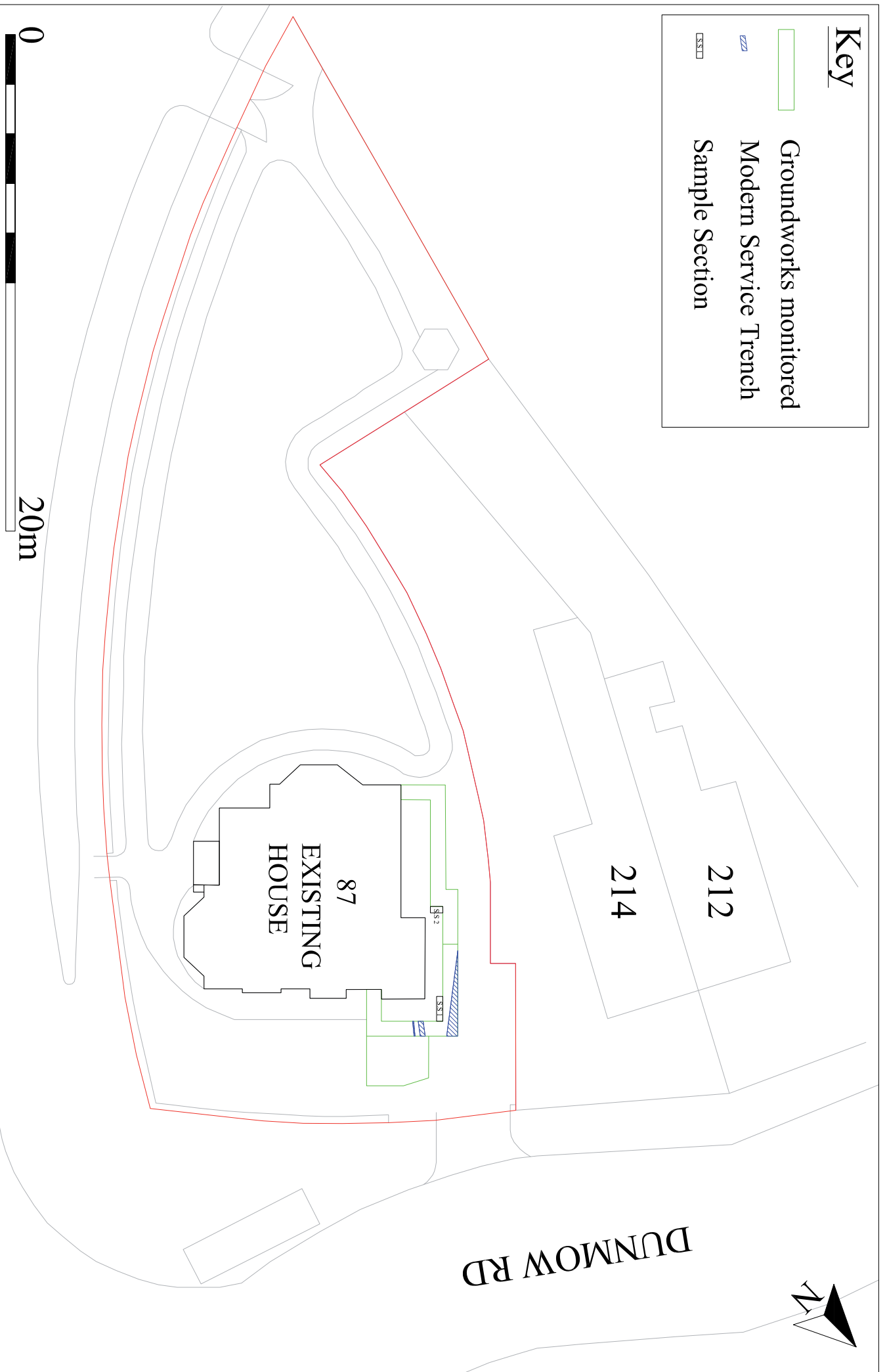


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*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000

# Key

- Groundworks monitored
- Modern Service Trench
- Sample Section



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Fig. 2 Detailed Site Plan

Scale 1:200 @ A4