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**EXTENSION TO 47 CANNONS CLOSE,  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD,  
HERTFORSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Matt Adams & Gary Brogan BSc	
NGR: TL 4928 2200	Report No: 3262
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1187
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P3338
Signed:	Date: March 2009

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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>Extension to 47 Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
<p><i>Between January and February 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological monitoring and recording programme at 47 Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (TL 4928 2200). The programme was undertaken in accordance with planning condition (Planning Ref. 3/1122/08/FP) applied to extension to residential dwelling at the site.</i></p> <p><i>The groundworks were observed on two separate days, and despite the potential for Roman remains at the site, no archaeological features were present. However, four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a buried topsoil layer suggesting that there is a potential for Roman remains in the vicinity.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>26<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3338</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1187</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance No. 113</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential dwelling</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension to existing building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>X4 sherds of Roman pottery</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Bishop's Stortford</i>
SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 4928 2200</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>c. 67m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Matt Adams</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mrs Carol Hampton</i>		
<b>Bibliography</b>			
Full title	<i>Extension to 47 Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Matt Adams &amp; Gary Brogan</i>		
Report no.	<i>3262</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2009</i>		

**EXTENSION TO 47 CANNONS CLOSE,  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

***SUMMARY***

*Between January and February 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 47 Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (TL 4928 2200). The work was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition attached to a proposed extension to a residential dwelling (Planning Ref. 3/1122/08/FP).*

*The groundworks were observed on two separate days, and despite the potential for Roman remains at the site, no archaeological features were present. However, four sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a buried topsoil layer suggesting that there is a potential for Roman remains in the vicinity.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January and February 2009, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at 47 Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (TL 4928 2200) (Figs. 1 and 2). The programme was undertaken in accordance with a planning condition for archaeological investigation (Planning Ref. 3/1122/08/FP) during the construction of a new single-storey side and rear extension to a residential dwelling at the site.

1.2 The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the design brief for archaeological monitoring and recording issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU, A Tinniswood, dated 13/10.2008), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 25/11/2008). The project conformed to the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2001), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- to ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by development programme,
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.



## **Planning policy context**

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located in mature gardens located to the rear of an established bungalow. The ground level in the area immediately to the rear of the bungalow has been made up to accommodate a shed/outbuilding that had recently been demolished.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOIL**

3.1 The topography of Bishop's Stortford is undulating and slopes away towards the River Stort, which flows on an approximate north to south orientation at *c.* 58m AOD. Situated above the flood plain on the eastern side of the river valley, and *c.* 400m from the River Stort, the site is approximately 67m AOD. The proposed development is relatively flat and the adjacent land slopes gently towards the River Stort.

3.2 The settlement of Bishop's Stortford is situated on a cusp of two different solid geologies comprising both Lower Eocene Reading Beds, comprising a complex of vertically and laterally varying gravels, sands, silts and clays, to the north and Eocene London Clay to the south, upon which the site lies (McDonald 1997; BGS 1978). Along the River Stort is a narrow strip of Cretaceous Upper Chalk. Overlying the solid geology of Reading Beds, London Clay and Cretaceous Upper Chalk is mainly later drift geology of Boulder Clay, although the river valley of the Stort contains river terrace gravels of a younger age.

3.3 As with the geology, the town of Bishop's Stortford lies across the junction between different soil types. The majority of the East Hertfordshire district and most of Bishop's Stortford lie on soils of the Hanslope association, which are described as slowly permeable, calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-

calcareous clayey soils, all of which are at slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). Such soils of the Hanslope association generally lie on a chalky till geology and are used in agriculture for winter cereals with some other arable crops and grassland. The areas of Bishop's Stortford within the valley of the River Stort, which could include the site, comprise soils of the Melford association, described as deep, well-drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils (SSEW 1983). Such soils of the Melford association also generally lie on drift geology of chalky till; their common agricultural use is the growing of cereals, sugar beet and other arable crops.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The town of Bishop's Stortford became established in the valley of the river Stort and grew into a large medieval and post-medieval settlement. Elements of preceding Romano-British settlement have been excavated over a number of years to the north of the later town centre. The settlement grew up at the fording point of the river Stort by Roman Stane Street, which follows the line of the A120 to the west and east of the town, and led from the contemporary settlement of Braughing and Colchester. The detailed development of the town has been set out in the extensive urban survey (Hunns 2000).

4.2 The site is located within an area designated on the local plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance (No. 113). This encompasses the Cannons Close housing estate and Grange Paddocks sports fields to the west of the railway, reflecting the assumed extent of Romano-British occupation of the area. Finds from the area have included Roman coins, cremation burials and a stone coffin.

4.3 Excavations carried out by HAT (now AS) in the late 1990s at Legion's Way revealed the course of Roman Stane Street and associated occupation. An evaluation carried out by HAT in 2001 at Grange Paddocks revealed evidence of three phases of Romano-British fields/enclosures and evidence for cemetery with burials of pre and post 2<sup>nd</sup> century date (Crank *et al* 2001). The brief also notes that a recent archaeological evaluation at the Waggon & Horses PH revealed further evidence of Roman occupation.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5.2 The monitoring and recording encompassed the groundworks associated with the construction of the extension and associated services (Fig. 3). All foundation trenches were on average 0.60m wide and were excavated to a depth of between 1.0m and 1.35m. Service trenches were between 0.30 to 0.40m wide and utilised existing trenches. The excavation of a small drainage shaft (1.00m x 1.00m x 1.20m) was observed in the northern end of the extension, within the proposed kitchen. Visits

were made to monitor the groundworks on the 26<sup>th</sup> January and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and sample sections have been recorded at locations where there was the greatest fluctuation within the deposit model.

5.3 All groundworks were excavated by machine and by hand in areas where the machine could not access.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### 6.1 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 1 Fig. 4 DP 1

Sample section, north-west facing 0.00 = 67.40m AOD	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Made Ground. Light brownish sandy gravel.
0.40 – 1.20m+	L1001. Buried Topsoil. Humic light brown grey sandy silt.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### 6.2 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 2 Fig. 4 DP2

Sample section, south-east facing 0.00 = 67.70m AOD	
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000. Made Ground. As above. Sample Section 1.
0.28 – 0.50m	L1001. Buried Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.50 – 1.00m+	L1002. Natural Clay. Light orange-brown silty clay.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### 6.3 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 3 Fig. 4 DP3

Sample section, north-east facing 0.00 = 67.67m AOD	
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000. Made Ground. As above. Sample Section 1.
0.25 – 0.70m	L1001. Buried Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.70 – 1.15m+	L1002. Natural Clay. As above Sample Section 2.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### 6.4 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 4 Fig. 4 DP4

Sample section, north-east facing 0.00 = 67.70m AOD	
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000. Made Ground. As above. Sample Section 1.
0.42 – 0.92m	L1001. Buried Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.92 – 1.35m+	L1002. Natural Clay. As above Sample Section 2.

*Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The ground surface across the part of the site affected by the extension was loose light brownish yellow sandy gravel (L1000) This layer was on average 0.34m thick and represented modern ground make-up.

8.2 Layer L1000 had been dumped directly on top of humic light brown grey sandy silt (L1001). This layer was on average 0.48m thick and probably represented a recent buried garden soil. Layer L1001 did contain plastic (not retained), modern CBM (66g), a clay pipe stem (4g) and four sherds of Roman pottery (32g). Layer L1001 was the same level as the soil visible in the remainder of the garden away from where the made ground layer L1000 was deposited.

8.3 Natural light orange-brown silty clay (L1002) was located below L1001 in Sample Sections 2, 3 and 4. Here it was on average 0.70m below modern ground level. Sample Section 1 was 1.20m deep but the natural clay was not located.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Despite the potential for Roman remains, no archaeological features were present. The groundworks associated with the extension were not extensive and limited the opportunity to examine the underlying deposits. The ground level has recently been built up with gravel and this buried a previous garden soil, which did however contain some sherds of Roman pottery suggesting that there may be Roman remains in the vicinity.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Bishop's Stortford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency in accordance with the UK Institute for *Conservation's Conservation Guideline No. 2* and other relevant documents. 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 Mrs Carol Hampton for funding the works and for her kind assistance.

AS also would like to thank staff at the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record, for their assistance, as well as the staff at the Hertford Record Office.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of HCC Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1

### CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	Pot date	CBM (g)	Other
1001	Buried topsoil	Modern	(4), 32g	Roman	66	Clay Pipe Stem (1), 4g Plastic (not retained)

## APPENDIX 2

### FINDS REPORTS

#### **The Roman Pottery**

*Andrew Peachey*

A total of four sherds (32g) of slightly abraded Roman pottery were recovered from L1001. Three of the sherds (30g) are in Wattisfield reduced ware, while the remaining single sherd (2g) is in a ubiquitous Roman sandy grey ware. The Wattisfield reduced ware sherds are thin-walled and include a basal fragment with a devolved foot ring which probably formed part of a beaker or flagon.

#### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

A single fragment (59g) of modern CBM was recovered from L1001. The fragment is in a relatively fresh condition and probably formed part of a pan tile used for roofing.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1. Sample Section 1, looking southeast.*



*DP 2. Sample Section 2, looking northwest.*

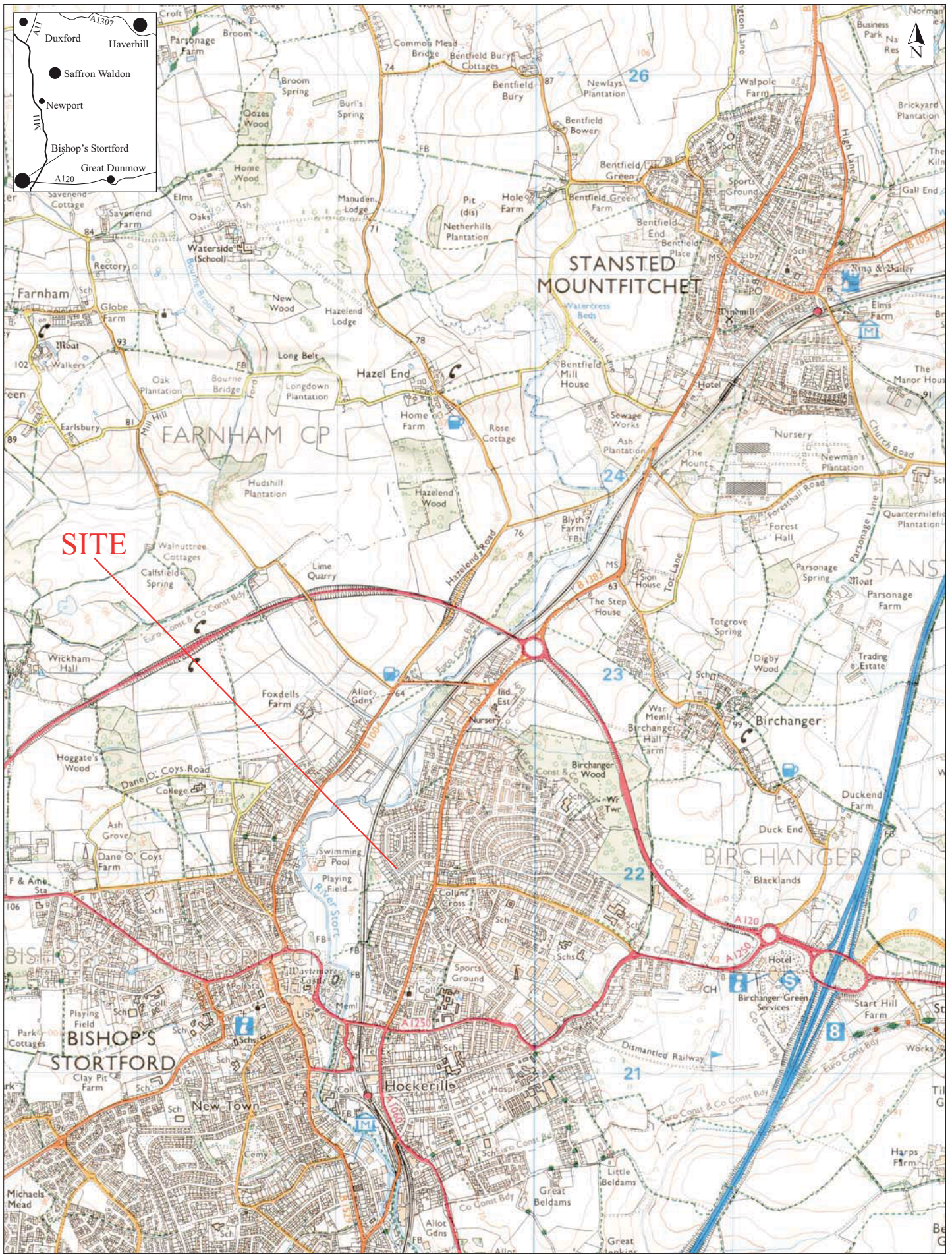


*DP 3. Sample Section 3, looking southwest.*



*DP 4. Sample Section 4, looking southwest.*

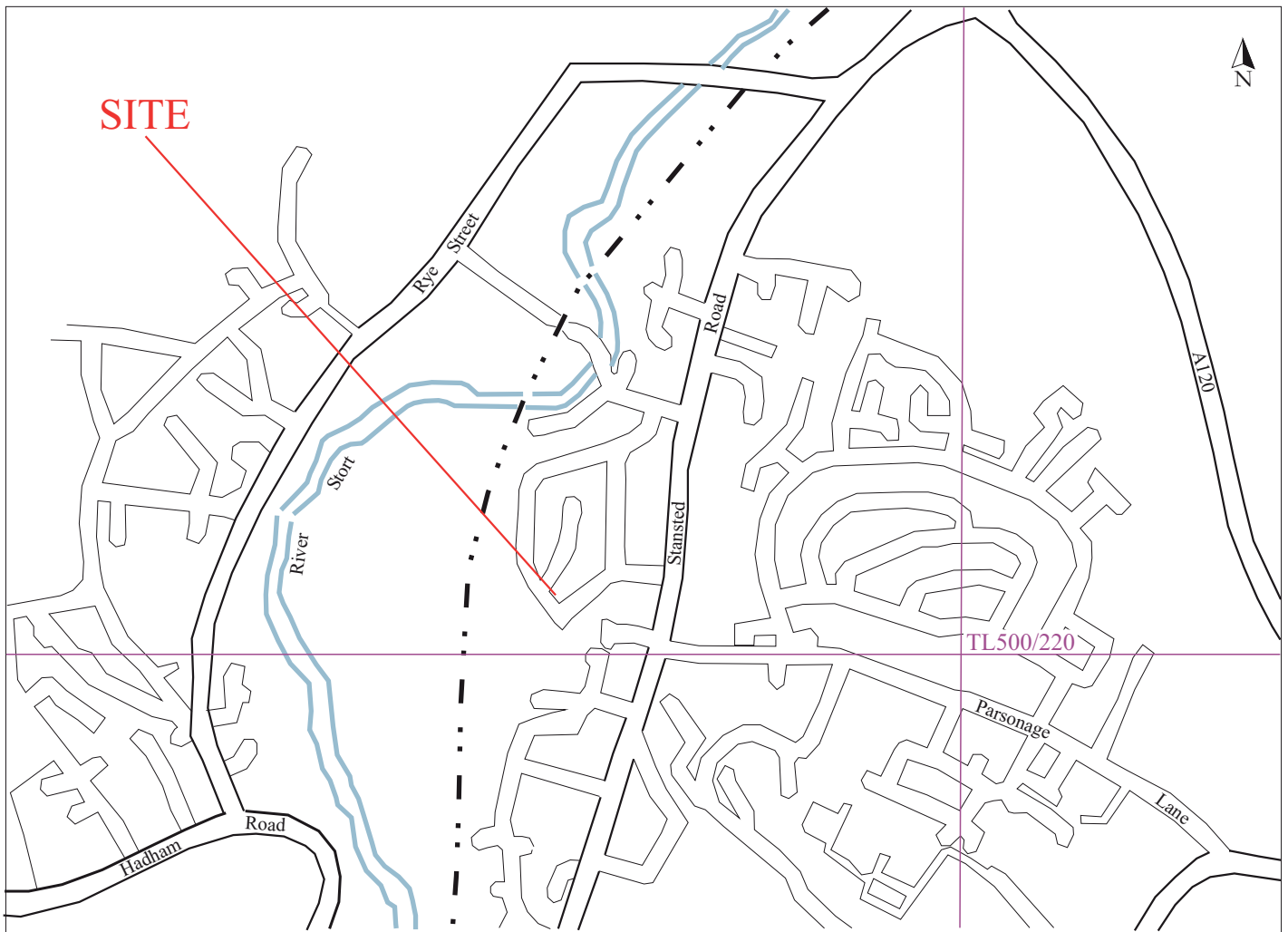




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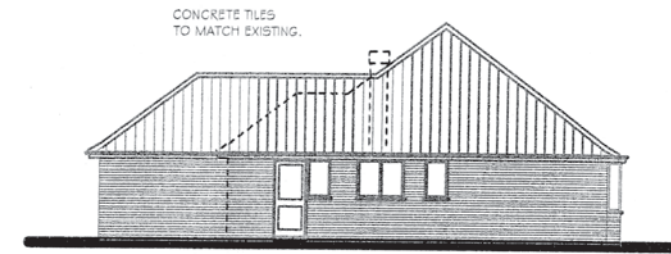
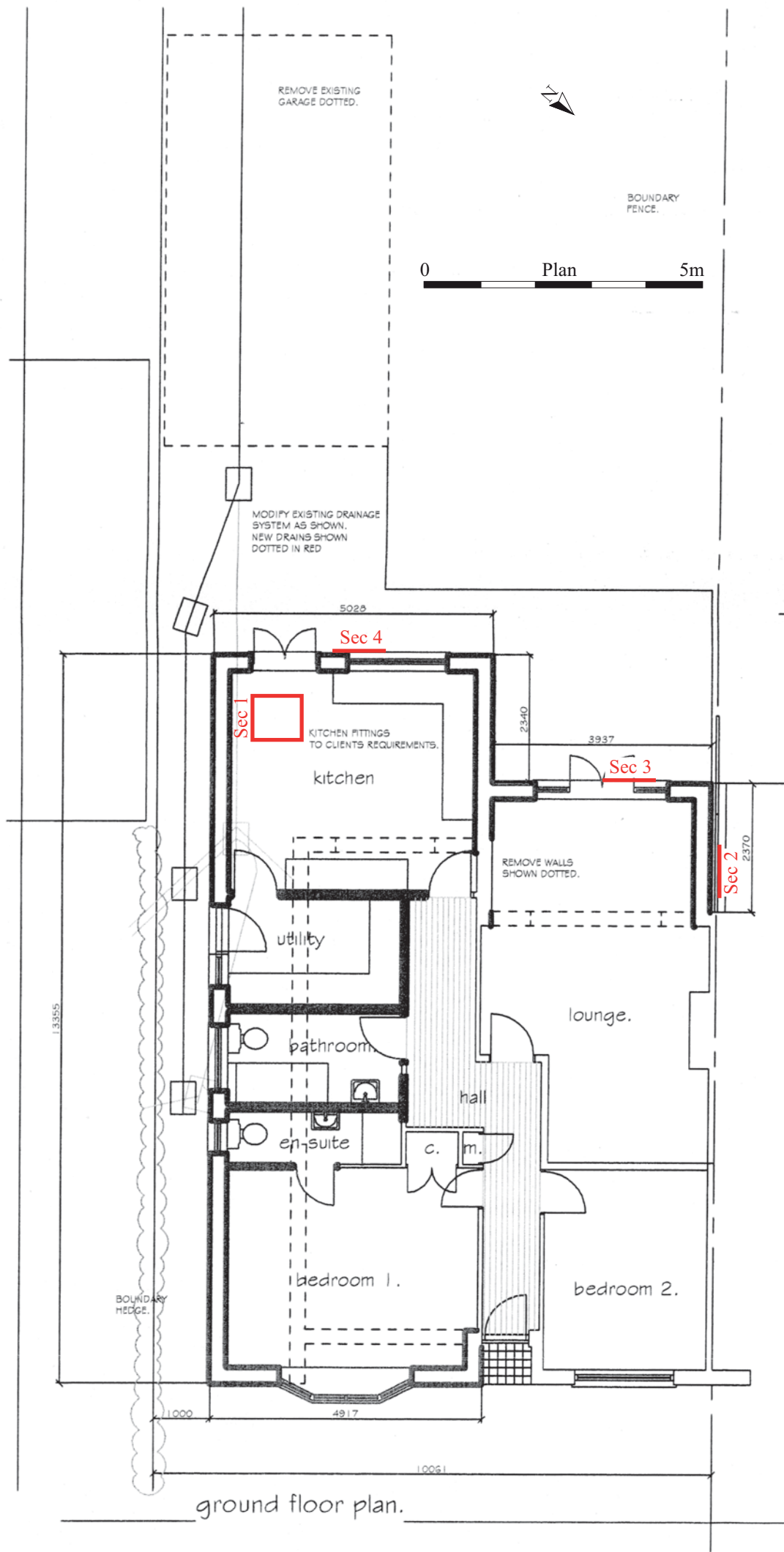
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



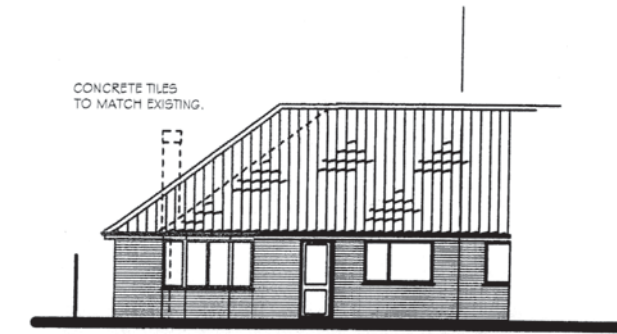


0 100m

*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:15000 at A4



flank elevation.



front elevation.



rear elevation.

0 Elevations 10m

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**Fig. 3 Section location plan**  
 Scale Plan 1:100, elevations 1:200 at A3