
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED NEW CAR PORT & STORE/WORKSHOP,
THE STABLES, JENNINGSBURY, LONDON ROAD,
HERTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Author: Sophie Unger MA (Background) Lisa Smith BA (Fieldwork)	
NGR: TL 34135 11910	Report No. 3170
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS1159
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3242
Signed:	Date: Sept 2008

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>		
<p><i>In August 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of a proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3414 1188). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the proposed development. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (Planning Ref: 3/2311/04/FP). The site was situated on the platform of a medieval moated enclosure, so there was the potential for medieval manorial remains.</i></p> <p><i>Despite this potential, the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>1st - 2nd September 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3242</i>	Site code	<i>AS1159</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance</i>		
Current land use	<i>Concrete car parking</i>		
Planned development	<i>Single storey rear and part two storey rear extensions and associated landscaping</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Hertford</i>
SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>96m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3414 1188</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>c.65m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HEU HCC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr C Abbiss</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological monitoring and recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Unger, S, Newton, A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3170</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2008</i>		

PROPOSED NEW CAR PORT AND STORE/WORKSHOP, THE STABLES, JENNINGSBURY, LONDON ROAD, HERTFORD HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In August 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of a proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3414 1188). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the proposed development. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (Planning Ref: 3/2311/04/FP). The site was situated on the platform of a medieval moated enclosure, so there was the potential for medieval manorial remains.

Despite this potential, the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2008, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at the proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3414 1188, Figs 1 – 2). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the proposed development. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (Planning Ref: 3/2311/04/FP).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was undertaken according to a specification prepared by AS (dated 28/07/2008), and a brief issued by Hertfordshire Environment Unit Hertfordshire County Council (HEU HCC; dated 28/07/2008). It also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 1999) and guidance document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project, as set out in the brief and specification, 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 the 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The Stables are part of the now converted set of farm buildings formally known as Jenningsbury Farm, situated *c.* 2km to the south-east of Hertford's historic core, within the district of East Hertfordshire (Fig.1). The site lies within the parishes of Hertford All Saints with St John's. The settlement of Hertford Heath lies approximately 1km south-east of Jenningsbury Farm and Great Amwell *c.* 2.5km to the east, whilst the south-easternmost extent of Hertford lies within 500m of the farm. To the west lies the estate of Balls Park, a former country house and estate.

2.2 As the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) notes, the site lies close to Area of Archaeological Significance 173, designated on the EHDC Local Plan, encompassing the moated medieval manorial site of Jenningsbury. The site lies immediately to the south of the former Jenningsbury farm complex and within the moat which surrounds it. To the north east of the farm runs the B1197 Hertford to Hertford Heath road. Undeveloped farm land surrounds the Farm to the north, south and east. The Balls Park estate is situated to the west of the site. The current land use is as concrete car parking.

2.3 The site lies at a surface elevation of approximately 65m AOD, gently rising to the south-west. The solid geology comprises Eocene London Clay overlain by a drift alluvial layer created by glacial and river action (BGS 1978). The soils of the area are of the Hanslope association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils, and which are at slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). Soils of the Hanslope association are used in agriculture for winter cereals with some other arable crops and grassland.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (c. 750,000 BC – 43 AD)

3.1 Hertford's strategic position at the confluence and fording point of the rivers Lea, Beane and Mimram has ensured a long and sustained occupation of the local area. The lighter gravels and fertile alluvial plains have long attracted settlement, and it is likely that the area was successively cleared and settled permanently from the Mesolithic period (c. 8300-4300 BC) onwards. Evidence of early prehistoric activity has been found near to Hertford including the discovery of a Palaeolithic handaxe at All Saints Church with the gravels of the River Lea also yielding evidence of early activity. The recovery of a broken Mesolithic tranchet axe with a scatter of blades and core fragments indicate transient activity took place at Foxholes Farm, c. 400m north-east of the site. Flints and Neolithic pottery from shaft pits and other features at Foxholes suggest habitation, and whilst small and ephemeral, represent the largest assemblage of the late Neolithic period onwards yet recovered in East Hertfordshire (Partridge 1989, 8). To the south-east of Foxholes Farm, and only 500m from the site, a Neolithic flint axe has been found near Hertford Heath (HER 233), whilst a reputed site of Roman material and a Neolithic handaxe has been identified along Ermine Street, 600m from the site. A polished flint Neolithic axe was found in an arable field between Jenningsbury Farm and Balls Park, only 250m west of the site (HER 11613). Later prehistoric activity is also well represented in the area. In Hertford Heath, an important late Iron Age Welwyn-type 'Chieftain's burial' (c. 40 – 50 AD) was discovered in 1956 on a housing estate development at Prior's Wood, c. 400m west of the site (HER 86). A late Iron Age and Romano-British cemetery was also found to the north of Trinity Road, Hertford Heath surrounding the 'Chieftain's burial', and dated from 35 – 65 BC to AD 100 (HER 1403), whilst bronze hoards and evidence of bronze manufacturing was found in 1977 – 78 in Prior's Wood (HER 6438). Two late Iron Age gold bracelets were found, 400m north-east of the site, in an area of woodland near Little Amwell (HER 172).

Romano-British (AD 43- 410)

3.2 Hertfordshire was as a wealthy and populous area during the Romano-British period. Much of this evidence has come from Ware, which has been partially excavated over a number of years, revealing a prosperous and extensive settlement centred on Ermine Street (HER 4668). At Foxholes Farm, 650m to the north-west, excavation prior to gravel extraction in the 1970s produced an extensive area of Roman occupation dating from the 2nd to the later 4th century AD (HER 10027). Corn-drying structures, with minor industrial activity and part of a rectilinear field system hinted at exploitation from dispersed farmsteads or hamlets, although settlement remained concentrated in the gravel valleys of Hertfordshire.

3.3 The late Iron Age and Romano-British cemetery found to the north of Trinity Road dated from 35 – 65 BC to AD 100 (HER 1403, as above), whilst a reputed site of Roman material and a Neolithic handaxe was found along Ermine Street (HER 1404, as above). A puddingstone upper stone of a Romano-British quern with an undamaged handle socket was discovered less than 500m from the site (HER 170).

Such groups, associated with farmsteads are small scale and fairly common, augment the evidence from Foxholes Farm for dispersed and localised occupation. Ermine Street lies c. 750m south-east of the site (HER 4668).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 – 1550)

3.4 Despite the dearth of Anglo-Saxon finds in Hertfordshire, the town of Hertford emerges into the historical record at an early date. The Northumbrian historian Bede (d. 735) recorded the convening of two important church synods at *Herutford* in 673 and *Hæthfelth* in 675 by Archbishop Theodore. The foundation of the town was secured when King Edward the Elder (899-925) established two defended *burhs* at the southern and northern approaches to the river crossing in 912AD and 914AD. A 10th century sword was found in the river Lea, but the extent of the *burhs* remains a matter of some conjecture. No Anglo-Saxon evidence, however, exists in any proximity to the site.

3.5 The Domesday Book of 1086 mentions neither the parish of St John's nor that of Hertford Heath. In Hertford Hundred, however, the Domesday Book records that Geoffrey holds Hailey himself, possibly a reference to Haileybury to the south-east, and which answers for two hides and land for two ploughs (Morris 1976). An important probable homestead of medieval date (almost adjacent to the medieval Balls Park Estate HER 4010) was Jenningsbury Farm which was encompassed by its own water-filled moat, which is still complete except for the north side that has been filled in (HER 2011). The existing farmhouse on the site is late 16th to early 17th century in date (HER 13559). The manorial place name of Jenningsbury, of which the site forms a large proportion, was first recorded as *Juvenales* in 1303, when it was held as one knight's fee by Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke (Page 1912). Variants of the name in the 14th century also included *Juvenelesbury*, *Juvenaldesbury*, *Juvenalesbury*, *Jovenaldesbury*, *Gevenelisbury* and *Jenaldesbury*, whilst the manor was also documented as *Genaldesbury* and *Genaldesbury al* in the 15th century, *Jenevallesbury* in the 16th and *Jeningesbury* in the 17th century (Gover *et al* 1938). The family of *Juvenal*, however, first held land at Brickendon and Hoddesdon in 1228. Medieval pottery comprising seven sherds of coarse dark red gritty ware, nine sherds of grey gritty ware, and six buff sherds from the base of a jug were found in Balls Wood, at a location approximately 500m south of the site (HER 4736).

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1550-present)

3.6 The historic building listing for Jenningsbury Farm records it as a late 16th – early 17th century structure, later altered and extended during the early 20th century (Images of England website, IoE number 461368, HER 13559). The barns to the south of the farmhouse are a 19th century planned layout. That the farm formed part of the large Balls Park estate by 1830 is proven by the Hertfordshire Easter Session 1805 case papers between Captain John Townshend, R.N. and the churchwardens and overseers of St John's (Refs. D/EL/4464; D/EL4464/1 – 9). In addition to 120 acres of arable and pasture land '*within the paling of Balls Park*', the case papers also refer to '*a farm called Jenningsbury Farm consisting of a farmhouse and outhouses with 313 acres of arable and pasture land lately let on lease to Thomas Wellare at the yearly rent of £320*'.

4 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Dury and Andrews' Map, 1766 (Figure 4)

4.1 The Dury and Andrews' Map depicts Jenningsbury farm and its associated out buildings situated directly to the east of the main house on the Balls Park Estate. It also records Lady Townsend as being owner and occupier of the estate at this time. The site lies within the farm complex and within the course of the medieval moat. The moat is not shown on this map but was almost certainly present at this time.

Tithe Map of All Saints and St John's, 1847(Figure 5)

4.2 The medieval moat is depicted on the Tithe Map of All Saints and St John's of 1847 encompassing the Jenningsbury Farm to the east, west and south. By 1847 a complex of outbuildings surrounding a square courtyard had been constructed to the south of the main farm house

Auction Sale Plan of Balls Park Estate, 1901 (Figure 6)

4.3 There were no changes depicted on the site in fifty four years between the Tithe Map (1847) and the auction sale for Balls Park Estate.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The groundworks were monitored under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. They comprised 300mm ground reduction across the whole site and the excavation of foundation trenches (Fig.7). All trenches were 0.50m in width and up to 1.26m in depth. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, scale drawings and photographs as appropriate.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Site Visit: 1 September 2008

6.1.1 An existing concrete raft (L1000) was removed across the area of the proposed new development revealing Preparation Layer L1001. The foundations of a cow shed consisting of numerous large concrete blocks (0.50m x 0.50m x 0.50m) were visible across the site and were also removed. This series of modern intrusion had had considerable impact on the underlying deposits (DP 1 and 2).

6.1.2 Sixteen piles, 0.23m in diameter, had also been driven along the eastern and western extents of the site creating considerable disturbance. The piles could not be effectively monitored, although the process was.

6.2 Site Visit 2 September 2008

6.2.1 A second site visit was undertaken to monitor the excavation of trench footings along the northern and southern end of the development to record the remaining stratigraphy and assess the impact of modern intrusion. No archaeological remains were present.

6.2.2 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 1 Fig 7 DP 3

<i>Sample section 1: North facing</i> <i>0.00 = 65.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Concrete slab.
0.15 – 0.30m	L1001	Preparation layer. Mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent rounded pebbles, angular gravel, CBM and concrete.
0.30 – 0.47m	L1002	Made Ground. Mid greyish black silty clay with frequent CBM, concrete and angular gravel.
0.47 – 0.76m	L1003	Layer. Mixed mid bluish grey silty clay with patches of yellowish brown silty clay, occasional mortar flecks and CBM
0.76 – 1.26m+	L1004	Natural. Mid yellowish brown clay.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present

6.2.3 Description of Deposits: Sample Section 2 Fig 7 DP 4

<i>Sample section 2: South facing</i> <i>0.00 = 65.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Concrete slab. As above Sample Section 1
0.16 – 0.28m	L1001	Preparation layer. As above Sample Section 1
0.28 – 0.60m	L1002	Made Ground. As above Sample Section 1
0.60 – 0.85m	L1003	Layer. As above Sample Section 1
0.85 – 1.12m+	L1004	Natural. As above Sample Section 1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 With the exception of the modern intrusions, it is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 A concrete slab (L1000) and its associated preparation layer (L1001) were seen up to 0.30m below the ground surface across the entire site of the proposed new development. After the removal of L1000 and L1001, substantial concrete foundations relating to footings for a cow shed were encountered indicating considerable modern disturbance.

8.2 A layer (L1002) of mid greyish black silty clay with frequent CBM fragments, concrete and angular gravel was identified as made ground. It was seen up to 0.60m below the ground surface.

8.3 Following the removal of L1002 a layer of mixed mid bluish grey silty clay with patches of yellowish brown silty clay, occasional mortar flecks and fragments of CBM was encountered (L1003). The latter overlay the natural (L1004) at a depth of between 0.76m and 0.85m. The natural was a mid yellowish brown clay and was seen in the base of all excavated trenches.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The investigation undertaken during the construction of a new car port at The Stables, Jenningsbury, revealed no archaeological features or finds. A large amount of modern disturbance across the site indicated that any potential evidence had previously been destroyed.

9.2 Two layers (L1002 and L1003) seen in undisturbed pockets across the site may represent the build up of material associated with farm activity.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr C Abbiss for his input during this project.

AS would also like to acknowledge the advice and input of Alison Tinniswood at Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER). The locations of the sites are shown in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Sections 3 and 4.2.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (700,000 BC – AD 43)</i>		
86	3520 1135	Late Iron Age Welwyn-type ‘Chieftain’s burial (<i>c.</i> 40 – 50 AD) discovered in 1956 on a housing estate development at Prior’s Wood
172	35 12	Two late Iron Age gold bracelets found in an area of woodland near Little Amwell
233	35 11	Neolithic flint axe found near Hertford Heath
1403	352 113	Late Iron Age and Romano-British cemetery found to the north of Trinity Road, Hertford Heath surrounded the ‘Chieftain’s burial, and dated from 35 – 65 BC to AD 100
1404	348 112	Reputed site of Roman material and a Neolithic handaxe found along Ermine Street
6438	3538 1144	Bronze hoards and evidence of bronze manufacturing was found in 1977 – 78 in Prior’s Wood, thought to date to the later Bronze Age
11613	3390 1190	A polished flint Neolithic axe found in an arable field between Jenningsbury and Balls park
<i>Roman (AD 43 – 410)</i>		
170	35 11	A puddingstone upper stone of a Romano-British quern with an undamaged handle socket
4668	3480 1000	Supposed line of Roman Ermine Street
10027	3380 1250	Excavation at Foxholes Farm prior to gravel extraction in the 1970s produced an extensive area of Roman occupation dating from the 2 nd to the later 4 th century AD
<i>Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 410 – 1550)</i>		
2011	341 119	The waterfilled homestead moat at Jenningsbury Farm is complete except for the north side, which has been filled in
4010	3349 1199	Balls Park was named after Simon de Ball who owned the site in 1298, although the present house was built by Sir John Harrison in <i>c.</i> 1640
4736	342 110	Medieval pottery comprising seven sherds of coarse dark red gritty ware, nine sherds of grey gritty ware and six buff sherds from the base of a jug
12375	3527 1106	Registered common land at Hertford Heath
12376	3488 1164	Registered common land at War Memorial Green beside Hertford Heath
<i>Post-medieval and modern (1500 – present)</i>		
7247	347 1189	Site of clay pits and brick kiln to west of Ermine Street and identified from the 1847 Tithe map
7316	3365 1193	Balls Park early 18 th century formal gardens and park of 25ha. Reworked in the early 20 th century

10264	3526 1093	The water tower at Haileybury was built in 1899 for the New River Company, on London Road, Hertford Heath
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APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Map	Scale	Location
1766	A topographical map of Hertford-shire; Dury & Andrews's map	-	HALS
1847	Tithe map of All Saints and St John's	-	HALS
1901	Auction sale plan of the Ball's Park Estate	-	HALS

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire.
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts
Village/Town: Hertford Heath	Parish: Hertford
Planning application reference:	3/2311/04/FP
Client name/address/tel:	Mr C Abiss
Nature of application:	New car port and storage facilities
Present land use:	Concrete car parking
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated: 96m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 3414 1188
Site Code:	AS1159
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	1 st to 2 nd September 2008
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford Museum
Related SMR Nos: 2011, 13559	Periods represented: -
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In August 2008 Archaeological Solutions Limited conducted archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of a proposed new car port and store/workshop, The Stables, Jenningsbury, London Road, Hertford, Hertfordshire (TL 3414 1188). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks for the proposed development. It was undertaken to comply with a planning condition requiring a programme of archaeological work (Planning Ref: 3/2311/04/FP). The site was situated on the platform of a medieval moated enclosure, so there was the potential for medieval manorial remains.</p> <p>Despite this potential, the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
Author of summary: Newton, A. A. S	Date of Summary: 25 th September 2008

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1 General Site Shot, view south-east.



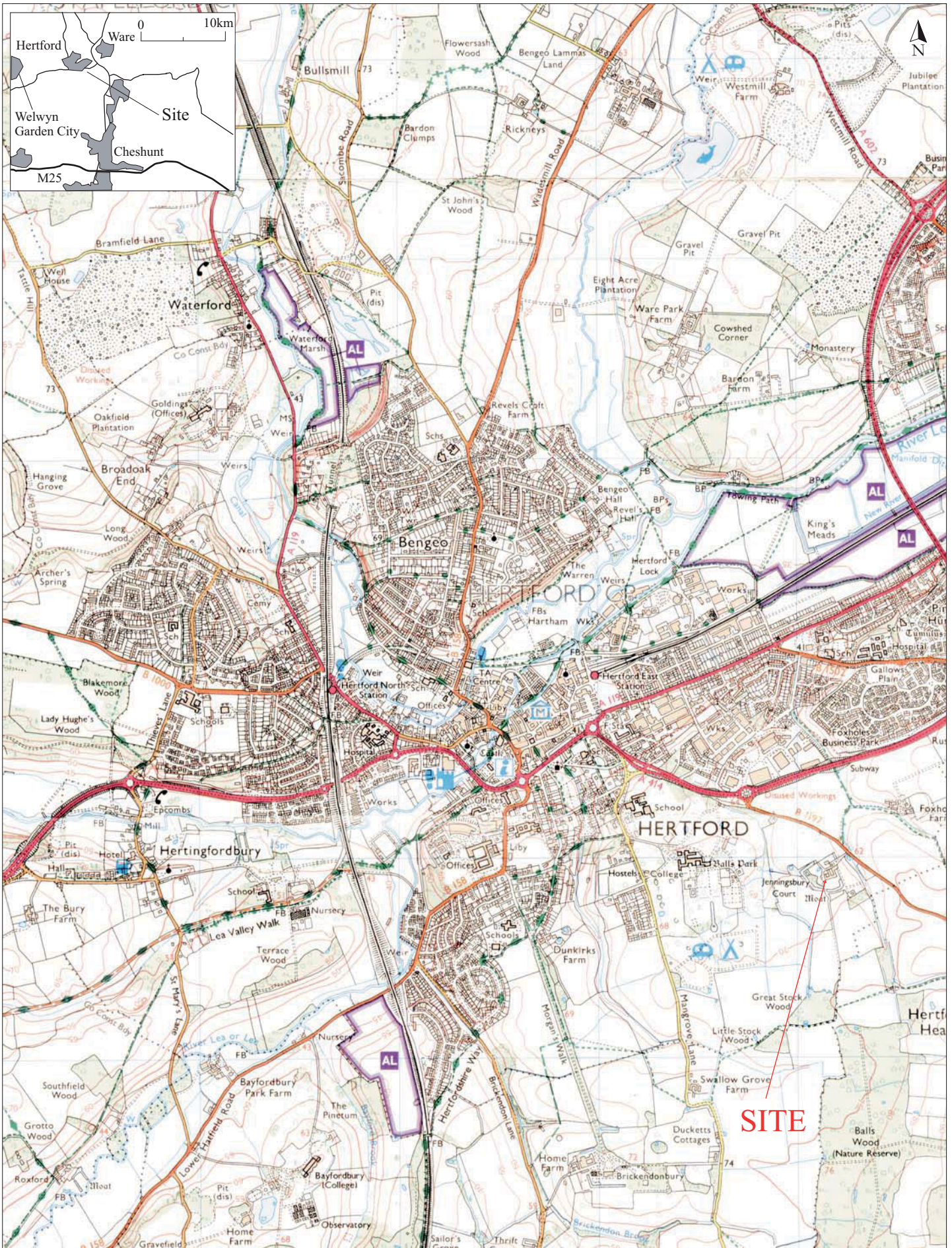
2 General site shot, view south-east.



3 Sample Section 1, view north.

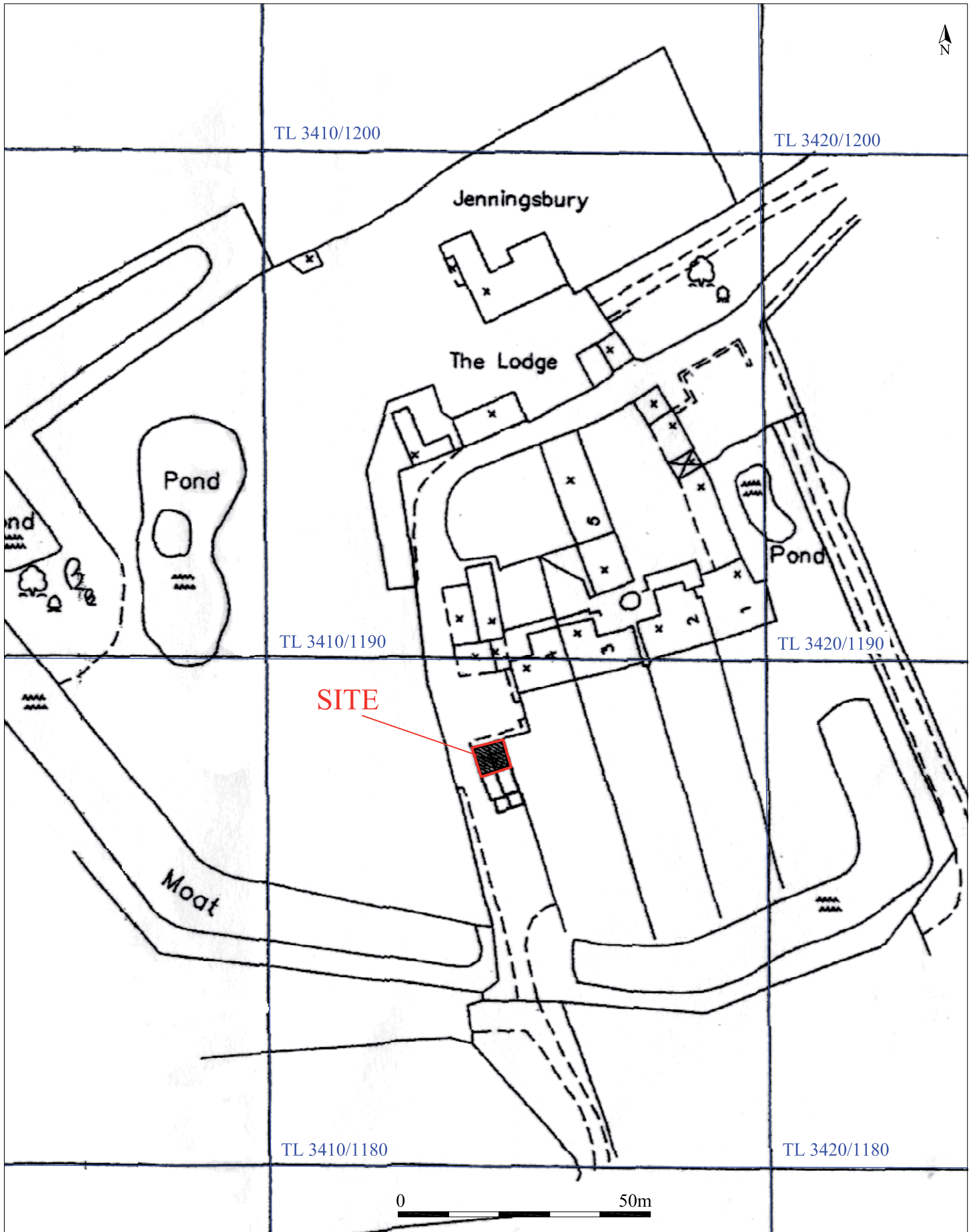


4 Sample Section 2, view south.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:12,500



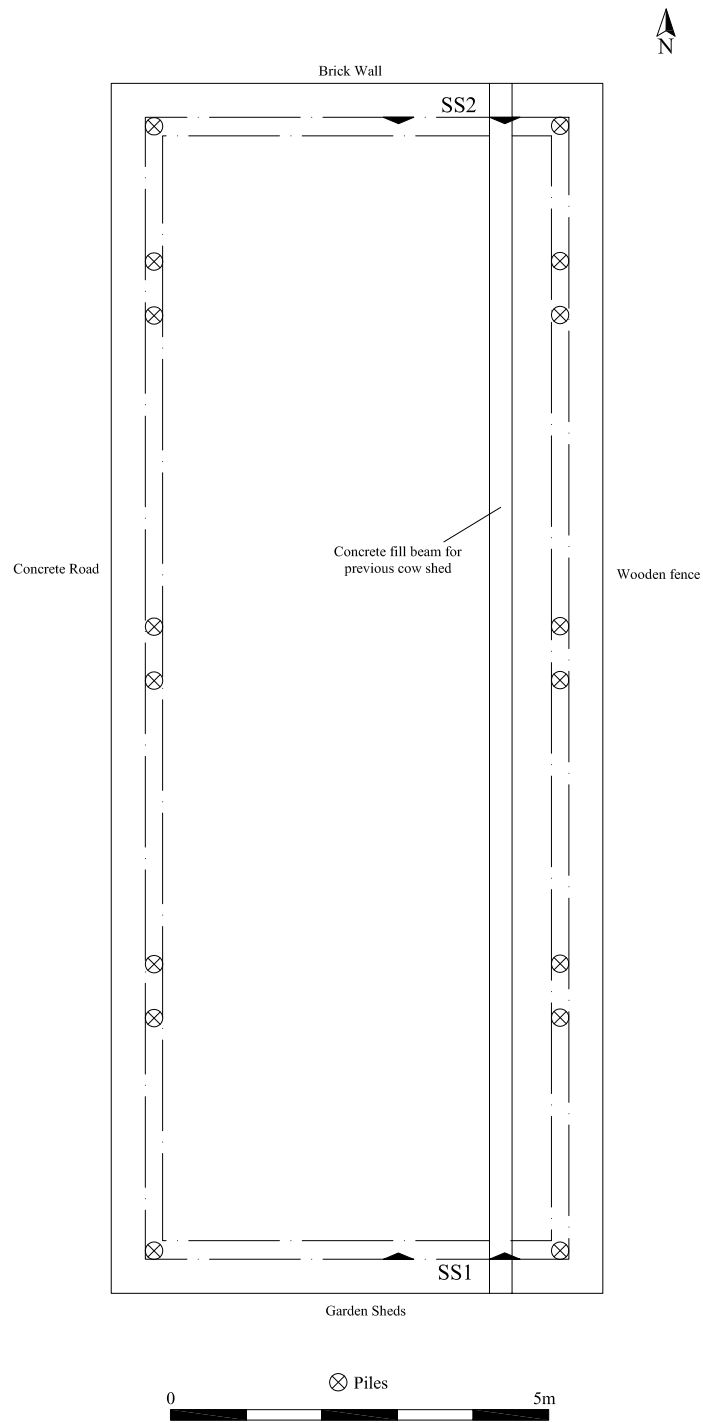
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Fig. 4 Dury & Andrews' map, 1766
Not to scale



<p><i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i></p> <p>Fig. 5 Tithe map of All Saints & St John's, 1847</p> <p>Not to scale</p>



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Fig. 6 Auction sale plan of Balls Park Estate, 1901
Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 7 Watching brief area plan
Scale 1:100 at A4