

**PROPOSED SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, GREASE
INTERCEPTOR AND ASSOCIATED DRAINAGE,
THE COCK INN PUBLIC HOUSE, CHURCH LANE,
SARRATT, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TQ 03983 98442	Report No.3490
District: Three Rivers	Site Code: AS 1273
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3581
Signed:	Date: February 2010

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ

Tel 01992 558170

Fax 01992 553359

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk

www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk

Registered Number: 4702122



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant, Grease Interceptor and Associated Drainage, The Cock Inn Public House, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In January and February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of The Cock Inn public house, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire (TQ 03983 98442). The monitoring was commissioned by Hall & Woodhouse Limited in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the installation of a sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies on the edge of Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No.7 as identified on Three Rivers Local Plan. AAS No. 7 encompasses an area in which prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have been located. The Roman and medieval remains were revealed within Holy Cross church and its yard which are located in close proximity to the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit/soakway.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>28th, 29th January and 5th February 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3581</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1273</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>On the edge of Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7</i>		
Current land use	<i>Car park and green area</i>		
Planned development	<i>Installation of sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pit/soakway</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Three Rivers</i>	<i>Sarratt</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>WD3 6HH</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TQ 03983 98442</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>114 – 115m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hall & Woodhouse Limited</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant, Grease Interceptor and Associated Drainage, The Cock Inn Public House, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3490</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>Feb 2010</i>		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In January and February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of The Cock Inn public house, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire (TQ 03983 98442). The monitoring was commissioned by Hall & Woodhouse Limited in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the installation of a sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage.

The site lies on the edge of Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No.7 as identified on Three Rivers Local Plan. AAS No. 7 encompasses an area in which prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have been located. The Roman and medieval remains were revealed within Holy Cross church and its yard which are located in close proximity to the site.

In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit/soakway.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January and February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of The Cock Inn public house, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire (TQ 03983 98442; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Hall & Woodhouse Limited in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the installation of a sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage (Three Rivers District Planning Ref. 09/0440/FUL). The monitoring was carried out during all ground reduction works on the site, specifically the groundworks for the sewage treatment plant, new grease trap and associated drainage.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a requirement of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 28/07/2009), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for 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* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording 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 the development programme;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required; and
- 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 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 situated to the immediate south of the village of Sarratt, Three Rivers district, and in the south-western corner of the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The settlement of Sarratt lies approximately 5km to the west of Watford, c.3.5km to the north of Rickmansworth and c.3.5km to the southwest of Kings Langley. The smaller settlements of Chenies lies 3km to the west-southwest and Chipperfield c. 2.5km to the north.

2.2 The site is located on the eastern side of Church Lane and comprises a grassed area and a car park which serves the public house. The Cock Inn PH occupies the southern part of the site, and is located opposite the Holy Cross Church yard which lies to the west of Church Lane. The site is surrounded by open land comprising farmland and pasture.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The settlement of Sarratt is situated on a ridge of relatively flat land, which slopes significantly on all sides to form a naturally undulating relief, especially to the west, where the ground slopes down to the bed of the River Chess. The site lies c. 500m to the northeast of the River Chess. The site lies on a slight slope, downwards the south-east, and at a height of 115m AOD.

3.2 Sarratt is situated in an area to the south of the Chiltern Hills, which is dominated by a solid geology of Upper Chalk dating from the Upper Cretaceous period. Overlying the solid geology of Upper Chalk in the surrounding area is a drift geology of gravel deposits along an early course of the River Thames, which is in turn also overlaid by a clayey plateau drift and palaeo-argillic brown soils formed in a thin loamy superficial drift.

3.3 The site also lies on soils of the Marlow Association which lie on the plateau and river terrace drift (SSEW 1983). Soils of the Marlow Association are described as well drained, fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils, and include some coarse and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Such Marlow Association soils are generally used in agriculture for cereals and short term grassland, as well as coniferous woodland on slopes, although the land use of the site is thought to have been a residential garden rather than agricultural in nature.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 The settlement of Sarratt is surrounded by open fields and bordered to the south by the River Chess and the Chess Valley. Despite the ridge location of Sarratt, there are no known prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is likely that prehistoric activity would have been concentrated in the lower lying gravel areas close to the Colne Valley and to the south of Sarratt. Nevertheless, a possible late Iron Age or Roman cemetery may be represented by the discovery of urns, an iron key, a bronze ring and bronze brooches found during the 19th century in the churchyard at Church End, located to the west of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 In addition to the evidence for a late Iron Age or Roman cemetery found during the 19th century in the churchyard at Church End, the Hertfordshire HER records that Roman brick and tile are built into the fabric of Holy Cross Church, and were found during restoration by Sir G. G. Scott in 1865 – 66 (HER 4157).

4.3 The Chess valley is known to have contained a number of villas in the Romano-British period, and Branigan (1985) records the presence of a

Roman villa in Sarratt. To the north of Sarratt Bottom Farm, which is in the valley of the River Chess, the ground rises gradually to form a field known as Church Field. The site in Church Field comprised the remains of a building, which produced Romano-British finds of coins, pottery, brick and tile. Its excavation in 1907 by Mr. Peter Clutterbuck revealed a rectangular structure measuring 10.7 x 16.8m, and further evidence of buildings was revealed in a geophysical survey in 1975 (Scott 1993).

4.4 The Roman road, from Verulamium to Silchester, is known to have passed through Sarratt's precursor and became a drovers' road in later centuries.

Anglo-Saxon

4.5 The settlement of Sarratt is thought to date to AD 700, located on a ridge surrounded by forest of the Chess valley. The place name for Sarratt may have derived from the Scandinavian *swyra* meaning 'neck, col, or a prominent short ridge', later evolving during the Anglo-Saxon period into *Syre*; an Old English word. In 796, the manor of *Syre*, along with others in the south and west of the county, were granted to the abbot of St Albans Abbey by King Offa (Rollinson 1990).

Medieval

4.6 During the medieval period Sarratt was variously known as *Syreth*, *Sareth*, *Siret*, *Saret*, *Sereth* and later *Sarrett* (Gover et al. 1970). The Anglo-Saxon grant of Sarratt manor to the Abbey of St Albans was confirmed in 1199 by King John (Rollinson 1990, 8), but by the middle of the 12th century Sarratt had been given by Abbot Robert de Gorham, without the consent of St Albans Abbey, to his brother Ralph (Page 1908). The small church of the Holy Cross, which lies almost to the south-west of the site, is a small cruciform building mostly dating from the 12th century (HER 4381).

4.7 The Hertfordshire HER also documents that the medieval manorial site of Micklefield Green, which lies 700m to the east of the site, was documented in 1515 (HER 890), whilst the 13th – 14th century cultivation terraces or 'strip lynchets' surviving at Goldingtons Park, c. 600m to the north-west, are some of the best examples in Hertfordshire.

The Site

4.8 The site is located in the hamlet of Church End which lies to the southeast of Sarratt. Church End is believed to be the original focus of settlement in the area. The Cock Inn public house is a Grade II Listed building of mid to late 18th century date and constructed of red brick with a hipped tile roof and a central entrance (HER 13217).

4.8 In January 2007 AS carried out an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) on land at Green Farm, c. 400m to the north of the site (Doyle & Williamson 2007). It revealed 18th – 19th century remains.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for a new sewage treatment plant (c. 4.5 x 9m) with associated drainage (Figs. 2 - 3).

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 Two sample sections were recorded:

<i>Trench for sewage treatment plant, W side.</i>		
<i>Sample section 1, facing E (DP 4)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 115.06m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark, greyish brown, soft, sandy silt.
0.40 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. Light brown, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural. Mid yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

<i>Drainage trench, S side. Sample section 2, facing N (DP 6)</i>		
<i>0.00 = 115.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.40 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.70m+	L1002	Natural gravel. As above.

Description The only archaeological feature to be revealed was a pit, F1004. The latter was an oval feature (1.80 x 1 x 0.60m; DP6) located within the drainage trench to the east of the proposed sewage treatment plant. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1003, was a dark blackish / orange, friable, sandy silt and it contained modern debris including plastic sheet, plastic bottles and glass. F1004 may have been a soakaway.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark, greyish brown, soft, sandy silt (0.35-0.40m thick). Below L1000, Subsoil L1001 was a light brown, friable, sandy silt with frequent gravel (0.30 – 0.40m thick). The natural geology was encountered at c. 0.70 – 0.80m below the existing ground surface, and it was a light to mid yellow, loose, sandy gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology. Roman building remains have been found in nearby Holy Cross church. The latter is of medieval origin. In addition Bronze Age remains have been revealed locally.

9.2 Despite the potential for archaeological remains, in the event the monitoring revealed only a modern pit, likely a soakway. No finds were recovered during the monitoring.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the Three Rivers Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Hall & Woodhouse Limited for their co-operation and funding of this project, in particular Mr. Mark Hill.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Peter Matthews of Peter Matthews & Associates

AS would also like to acknowledge Mr Terry White of the main contractor for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr. Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (HER)

HER	NGR TQ	<i>Description</i>
Romano-British (AD 43 to 410)		
4157	0389 9840	Roman bricks and tiles built into the fabric of Holy Cross Church, and found during restoration by Sir G. G. Scott in 1865 - 66
Medieval (1150 to 1500)		
890	048 984	Medieval manorial site of Micklefield Green as documented in 1515
894	048 984	Numerous skeleton revealed in 19 th century during construction of the south porch
4381	0388 9840	Small Church of Holy Cross mostly dating from the 12 th century. The chancel was enlarged in the 13 th and 14 th centuries and the tower is 15 th century in date
Post-medieval (1500 to 1900)		
4158	0392 9837	Post-medieval almshouses dating to c. 1550 are no longer extant
4159	0447 9920	Green End Farm is a late 17 th century farmhouse, at the south-eastern end of Sarratt Green. The farmstead is shown on late 19 th century OS mapping, with extensive orchards
5500	039 984	Wall postbox in a cottage wall, dating to 1861 - 71
5688	042 995	Wellhead gear on The Green consisting of a cast wheel 5ft in diameter with an iron frame, possibly early 19 th century in date
7145	0458 9999	Site of former gravel pit on Bottom Lane, identified from the 1897 OS map
13217	03983 8442	The Cock Inn Public House; A two-storey mid to late 18C building of red brick, now whitewashed, with a hipped tiled roof and central entrance. The gabled porch is later. At each end is an external chimney-stack; at one end is a weatherboarded link to an outbuilding, also weatherboarded. At the rear is a catslide over a lean-to addition, and a two-storey 20C extension.
Modern (1900 to present)		
10587	0437 9918	World War II air raid siren based at the Village Hall
10588	0460 9984	A minimum of thirteen World War II concrete anti-tank obstacles or tank traps on the roadside at Bottom Lane, adjacent to the junction with Red Lane
Undated		
4139	0488 9997	Cropmarks of a possible single ditched circular enclosure
4140	0480 9992	Cropmarks of a possible single ditched circular enclosure
11645	0441 9923	The parish tithe map of 1840 shows a hachured feature to the south-east end of The Green, on the triangular portion in front of Green End Farm. It is unclear whether the drawing represents an upstanding mound or quarry pit
12440	0464 0000	Registered common land known as Commonwood Common

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	0
Specification	1
Registers	3 (Context, Digital Photo, Drawing)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	24

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	<i>Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant, Grease Interceptor and Associated Drainage, The Cock Inn Public House, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire</i>
County: Hertfordshire	District: Three Rivers
Village/Town:	Parish: Sarratt
Planning application reference:	Three Rivers District Planning Ref. 09/0440/FUL
Client name/address/tel:	Hall & Woodhouse Ltd
Nature of application:	<i>Installation of sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage.</i>
Present land use:	Grassed area and car park
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated:
NGR (8 figures):	TQ 0398 9844
Site Code:	AS 1273
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
Date of work:	28, 29 Jan, 5 Feb
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Three Rivers
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In January and February 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording at the site of The Cock Inn public house, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire (TQ 03983 98442). The monitoring was commissioned by Hall & Woodhouse Limited in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the installation of a sewage treatment plant, grease interceptor and associated drainage.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies on the edge of Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS) No.7 as identified on Three Rivers Local Plan. AAS No. 7 encompasses an area in which prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains have been located. The Roman and medieval remains were revealed within Holy Cross church and its yard which are located in close proximity to the site.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed a modern pit/soakway.</i></p>
Author of summary: Zbigniew Pozorski	Date of Summary: Feb 2010

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The Cock Inn public house, Church Lane, Sarratt, Hertfordshire. View SE.



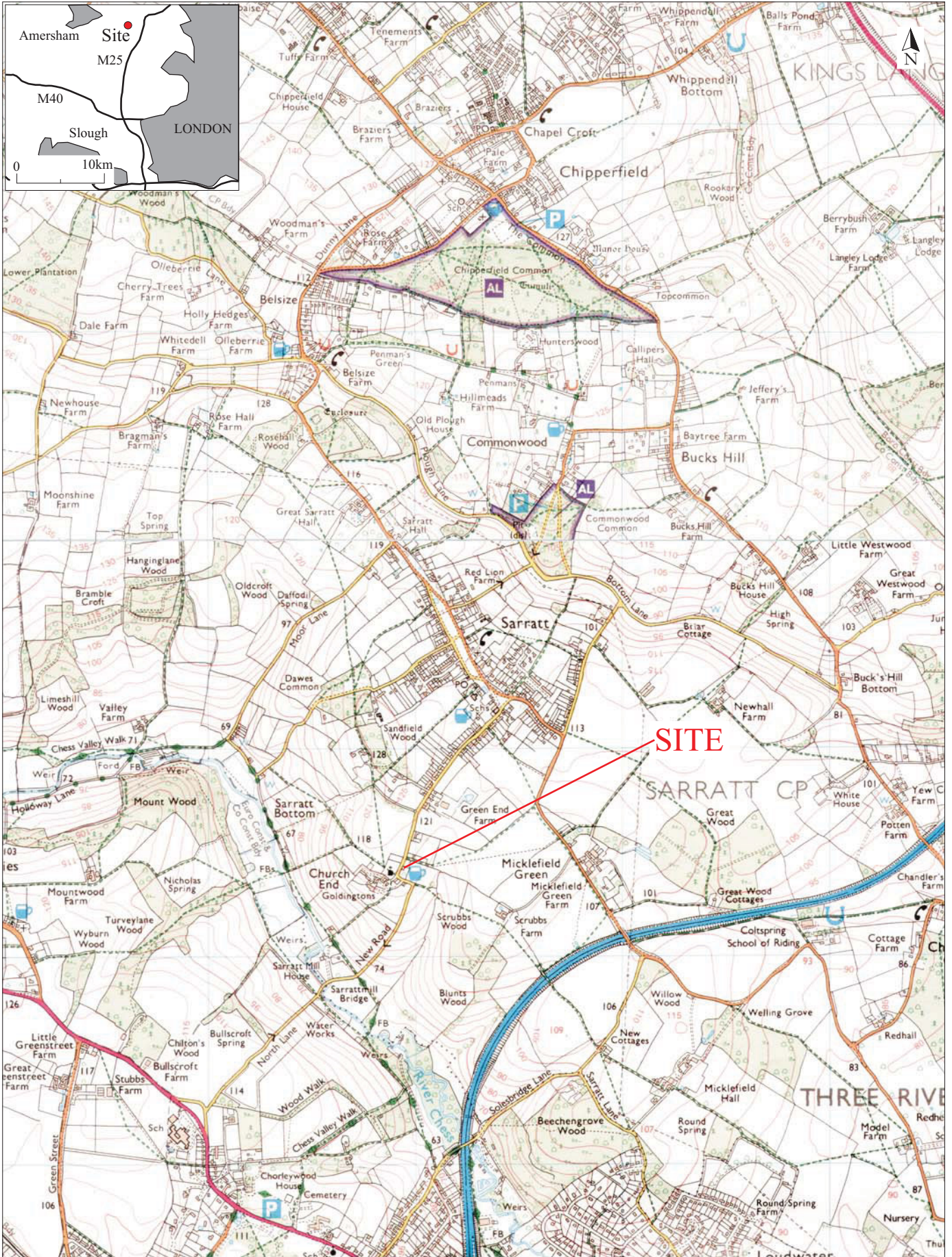
DP 2. The area of groundworks. View N.



DP 3. The trench for sewage treatment plant. View NW.

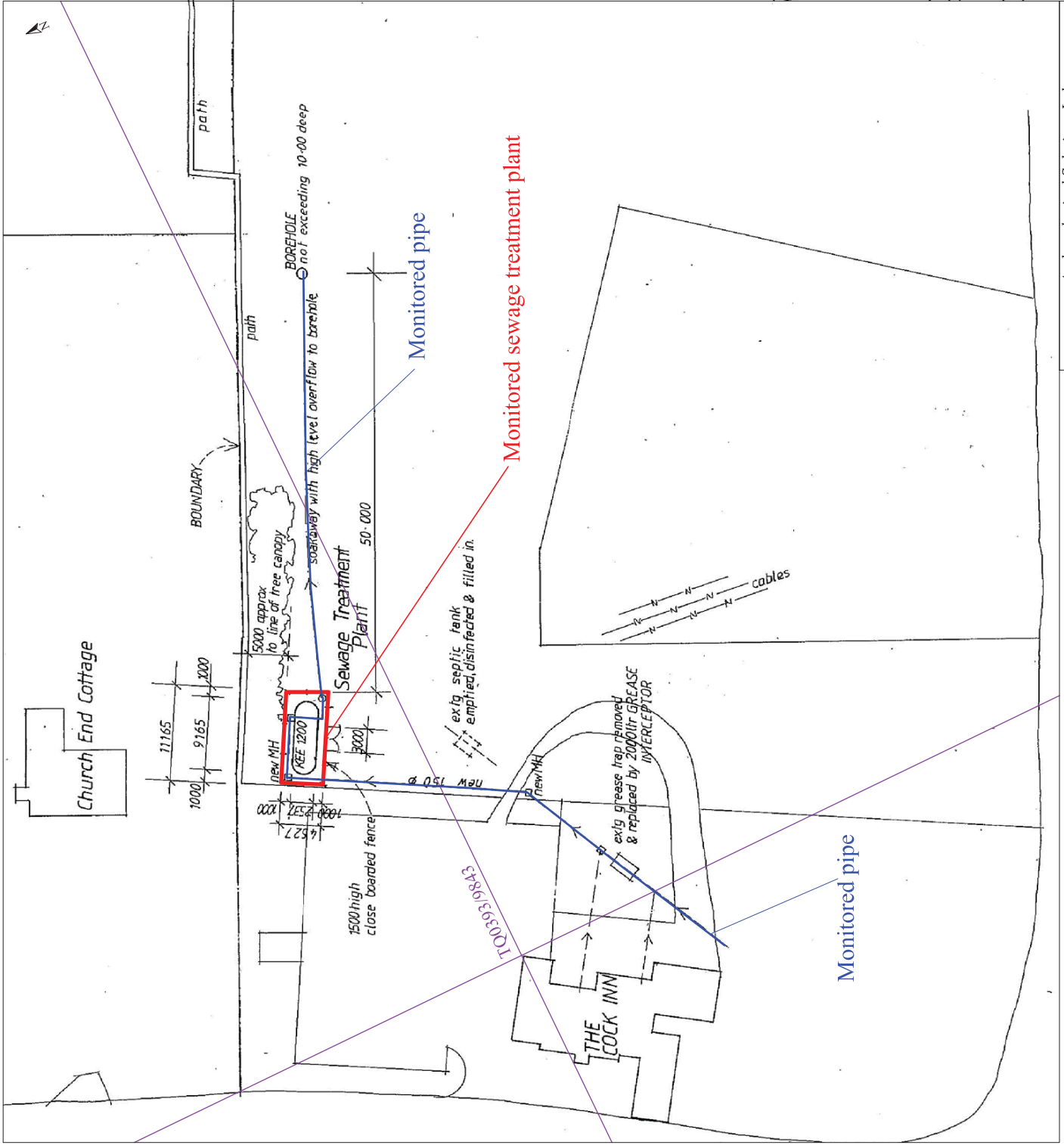


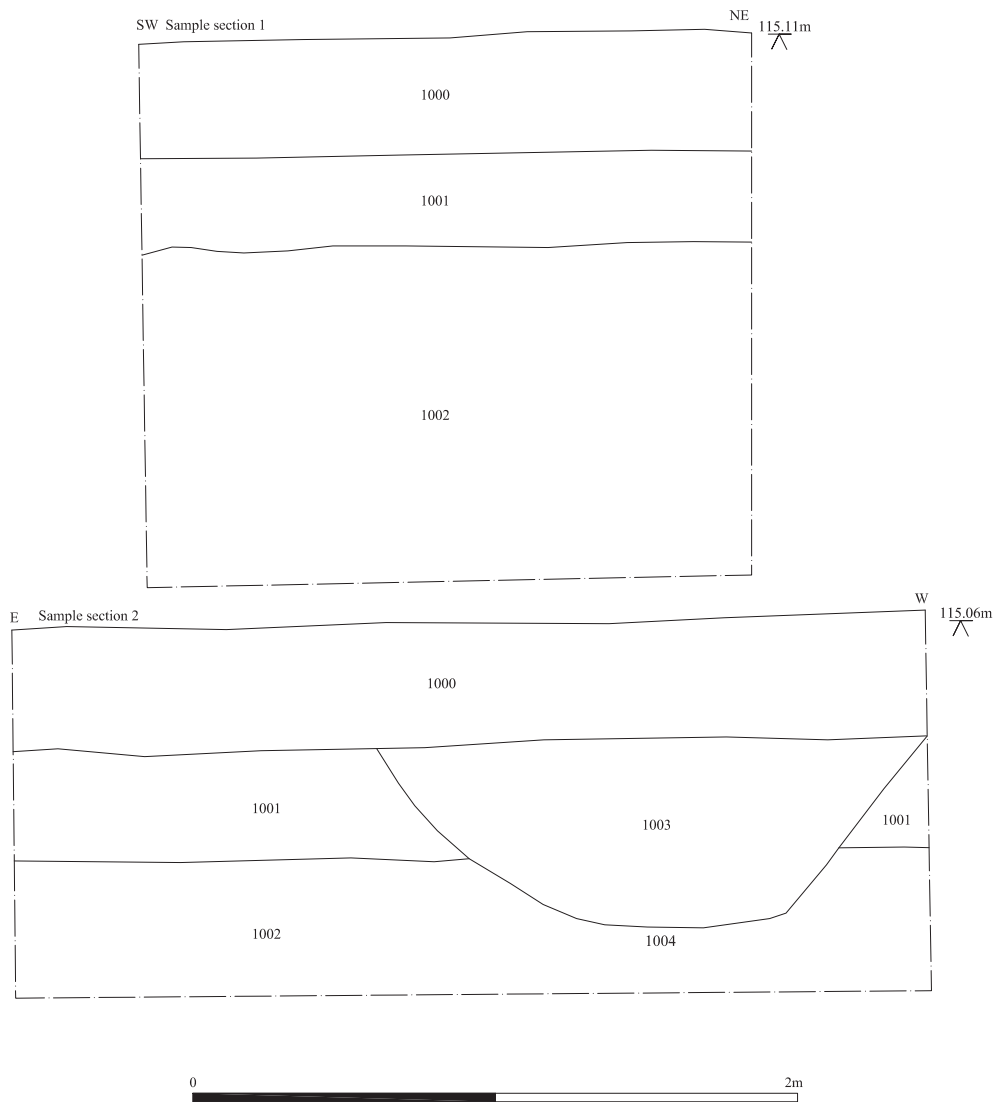
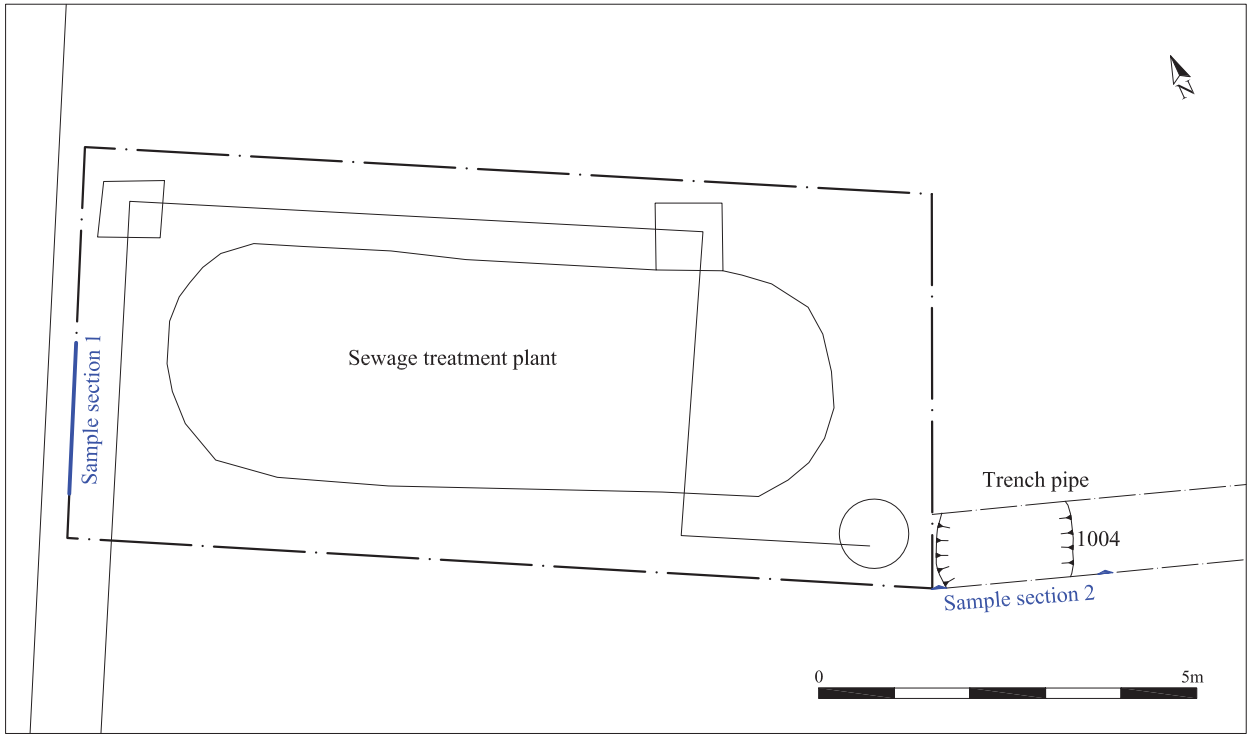
DP 4. The trench for sewage treatment plant, W side. Sample section 1. View W.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections

Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:25 at A4