

**THE OLD MEETING HOUSE, MEETING HOUSE LANE,  
BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
DESK-BASED IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
& ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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DESK-BASED IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
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Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (field work & report) Hannah Tweedie (desk-based research)	
NGR: TL 24532 34058	Report No. 3587
District: North Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1328
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3878
Signed:	Date: July 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](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)

[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)

Registered Number: 4702122



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire.</i>		
<p><i>In May 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment, and in July 2010 conducted an archaeological evaluation at The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 24563 34065). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned to support a proposed planning application for the change of use and conversion of former offices to residential use, the demolition of existing offices and the erection of two 3-bedroom and three 2-bedroom dwellings on the site.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic core of the town of Baldock and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96 which records the presence of Bronze/Iron Age, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The Iron Age and Roman settlements are of national importance and much of the Roman settlement at Baldock is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (27913). The Roman settlement has extensive cemeteries around its periphery.</i></p> <p><i>The impact assessment indicated a high potential for remains of a Quaker burial ground to be present on the site, as well as Roman and medieval archaeology. In the event the evaluation revealed an inhumation burial possibly associated with the identified burial ground, another possible grave and an undated, probably modern gully.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3878</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1328</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Desk-Based Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96</i>		
Current land use	<i>Disused offices and a car park</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential conversion and construction of new dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Undated inhumation burial, undated possible grave pit, modern gully</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>North Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Baldock</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG7 5BP</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 650m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 24352 34058</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>63.00/63.50m</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski, Gareth Barlow</i>		
Funded by	<i>Nutwood Developments</i>		
Full title	<i>The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Desk-Based Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z., Tweedie, H.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3587</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2010</i>		

## **THE OLD MEETING HOUSE, MEETING HOUSE LANE, BALDOCK, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED IMPACT ASSESSMENT & ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In May 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and in July 2010 conducted an archaeological evaluation at The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 24563 34065). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Nutwood Developments, to support a proposed planning application for the change of use and conversion of former offices to residential use, the demolition of existing offices and the erection of two 3-bedroom and three 2-bedroom dwellings on the site.*

*The site lies within the historic core of the town of Baldock and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 21 which records the presence of Bronze/Iron Age, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The Iron Age and Roman settlements are of national importance and much of the Roman settlement at Baldock is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (27913). The Roman settlement has extensive cemeteries around its periphery.*

*The impact assessment indicated a high potential for remains of Quaker burial ground to be present on the site, as well as the Roman and medieval archaeology. In the event the evaluation revealed an inhumation burial possibly associated with the identified burial ground, another possible grave and an undated, probably modern gully.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and in July 2010 conducted an archaeological evaluation at The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 24563 34065; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Nutwood Developments, to support a proposed planning application for the change of use and conversion of former offices to residential use, the demolition of existing offices and the erection of two 3-bedroom and three 2-bedroom dwellings on the site. The proposed development has been subject to changes (see Addendum for further details).

1.2 The programme was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 26/02/2010), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 05/05/2010) and

approved by HCC HEU. It conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2008), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

- 1.3 The principal objectives of the archaeological impact assessment were:
- to determine the location, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of the site's historic environment from documentary sources;
  - to include a comprehensive appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests aiming to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site;
  - to provide (in conjunction with the evaluation) a predictive model of the archaeological remains present and likely to be present on the site, and an appraisal of their significance;
  - to assess any previous impacts on the site and the impact on any potential archaeological remains by the current proposed development; and
  - to provide sufficient information to enable the formation of a suitable management/investigation strategy for the site's historic environment in the light of the current planning proposal

1.4 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, including environmental remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.5 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) 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) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment.

1.6 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our

knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located to the north of the centre of the town of Baldock, which is situated within the district of North Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The larger settlement of Letchworth lies c. 1km to the west beyond the A1 (M) motorway. To the north, south and east Baldock is largely surrounded by open countryside with the small villages of Bygrave, Wallington and Weston a short distance away in each direction.

2.2 The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No.96, as identified on the Local Plan, which broadly identifies the potential for evidence of settlement in the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods in the town of Baldock. The site is situated on the north-western side of Meeting House Lane. The site is currently occupied by the Old Meeting House which has been in use as commercial offices, with a 1980s office block present in its northern part (Fig. 2). The remainder of the site is currently used for car parking.

## **3 METHODOLOGY (DESK BASED RESEARCH)**

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within Hertfordshire comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HCC HER). Significant entries within an approximate 250km radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

### **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

The principal sources for this type of evidence were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4-9.

### **3.3 Secondary sources**

The principal sources of secondary material were Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies, as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

### **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

## **4 THE EVIDENCE (DESK-BASED RESEARCH)**

### **4.1 Topography, Geology & Soils**

4.1.1 The site is located close to the centre of Baldock (Fig. 1), and to the west of the Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Baldock which is designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27913). Baldock is set at the very far north-eastern extent of the Chiltern Hills, whilst the Weston Hills lie 1.2km to the south-east. The site is situated on Upper Cretaceous Middle Chalk characteristic of the Chiltern Hills (BGS 1978). No detailed geotechnical information for the site was available at the time of writing. The site lies in a gently sloping depression in the landscape at a height of c. 63m AOD.

4.1.2 The soils on the site remained undefined given that it lies within the urban area of Baldock (SSEW 1983). However, soils present within the site are likely to comprise soils of the Upton 1 Association, which are based upon chalk, and are described as shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk. Other soils in the area are of the Swaffham Prior Association and are comprised of well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble.

### **4.2 Archaeological & Historical Background**

#### *Prehistoric*

4.2.1 Baldock is situated on the Icknield Way, which is generally accepted to have been an important prehistoric routeway and later a major Anglo-Saxon route between Wessex and East Anglia. Despite this position, few prehistoric finds have been recorded in Baldock compared with finds from the Romano-British and later periods. A single Palaeolithic struck flint tool was recovered during excavations at Walls Field (HER 217) and a Neolithic flint tool assemblage including an arrow head, knife and scraper was recovered from the line of the Icknield Way (HER 358). Bronze Age activity in the area is indicated by the presence of three ring-ditched barrows to the immediate north-east of Baldock along the line of the Icknield Way (HER 2386, 2430 & 2431), whilst recent excavations prompted by the construction of the Baldock bypass in 2003 – 2004 revealed a cluster of seven Bronze Age barrows and a



round house, the barrows appearing to have been re-used during the late Iron Age and the early Romano-British periods. (Phillips *et al* 2009). A Bronze Age cremation was also found during ground works for the Tesco c. 750m to the south of the site (HER 10077) supporting the hypothesis that the local landscape was subject to extensive ritual activity from the Bronze Age onwards.

4.2.2 Significant activity from the later Iron Age is recorded across the central and southern section of the town, coinciding with the later location of Romano-British occupation. The majority of the late Iron Age discoveries comprise burials, in many cases cremations with assemblages of pottery grave goods (HER 0482, 0483, 4280). A less common form of burial in the Iron Age was a high status grave often described as a 'Chieftain's burial', an example of which was recorded to the east of the High Street (HER 1868). This comprised a cremation with extensive grave goods including a bronze cauldron, a pair of fire dogs, bronze dishes, wooden buckets, an amphora and pig bones, and dated to c. 50 BC (Stead & Rigby 1986).

### *Romano-British*

4.2.3 Extensive excavation has occurred in and around Baldock, focussed on the areas of Walls Field and Clothall Road and has produced evidence of a substantial Roman settlement of over 30 ha (Burleigh 1982; Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthew 2008; HER 0008) which was well established by the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, but was probably initially occupied from about 100BC (HER 0106, 1081 & 1843). The Romano-British settlement lay at the crossroads of two important Roman roads and the prehistoric Icknield Way (HER 4626 & 4685) which gave direct communication with the towns of Durocubrivis (Dunstable) to the south-west, Verulamium (St Albans) to the south, Braughing to the south-east, and Durovigutum (Godmanchester) to the north (The Viatores, 1964). Interestingly, excavations of the Roman town have revealed an exceptionally large number of burials including 21 separate formal cemeteries (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthew 2008). Zoning and migration of activity has been identified within the town, with burials generally occurring only outside the settlement area (HER 0481, 0485, 1066, 1067, 1080, 4270 & 6082),

4.2.4 Other Romano-British finds from the area date from the 1st century through to the 4th century, the number of coins recovered indicates the Roman town's status as an important market for the region (HER 0447, 0487, 0529, 0622, 1055-60, 1062-5, 1079 & 1256). Further evidence of extensive Romano-British settlement within Baldock includes the Romano-Celtic temple and associated buildings noted to the south of the site at Baker's Close (HER 770). In the immediate vicinity of the site a number of Romano-British remains have been recorded, including some later Iron Age or early Roman burial vessels recorded along the route of Icknield Way, including two Gallo-Belgic platters, one campanulate cup (both dating from 10-65 AD) and a bowl with cordons (probably Claudian in date) (HER 483). To the east of the site an area of Roman occupation was recorded in Orchard Road, including a series of truncated ditches, several pits and three wells (HER 10986). Two

burials were also recorded; a burial of probable late Roman date which was contained within the upper fill of a sub-circular well (HER 10987) and an assemblage of a skull and 'further' bones which were recorded within the fill of a large pit (HER 12002)

### *Anglo-Saxon*

4.2.6 There is little archaeological evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period in Baldock, although it is now thought that sub-Roman activity continued within the Roman town until as late as the 6<sup>th</sup> century (Burleigh & Fitzpatrick-Matthews 2008). The lack of an Anglo-Saxon presence, however, is not unexpected as many small Roman towns or even large settlements exhibit evidence of discontinuous habitation after the 4<sup>th</sup> century and often total abandonment by the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Consistent with the theory of decline and abandonment, there are no known Anglo-Saxon find-spots from the area surrounding the site.

### *Medieval*

4.2.7 At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Baldock formed part of the manor of Weston, which was assessed as a relatively large holding comprising approximately 1,200 acres of arable land (Page 1912). While the manor of Weston was relatively populous with 300 – 400 inhabitants, there is no evidence to show that Baldock existed as a separate entity in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It is thought that the town came into existence in c. 1140 when the Knights Templar were granted land here (Williamson 2000). The name Baldock is believed to be a corruption of *Baghadad*, referring to the crusading orders links with the Middle East. The medieval settlement was established at the junction of the Icknield Way and the Great North Road, the latter of which was altered slightly with a dog-leg to form the High Street (Crellin 1995), however the site remained to the north of the probable extent of the medieval settlement (Thompson 2002).

4.2.8 In a survey of the possessions of the Knights Templar undertaken in 1185, the 12<sup>th</sup> century town was estimated to cover a total area of c.150 acres (Page 1912; Crellin 1995). In 1189 Richard I confirmed a grant to the Templars giving the right to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. To this end a double market place was designated along High Street and Whitehorse Street, accounting for the exceptional width of these streets today (HER 10871). Few archaeological features of medieval date have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. St Mary's Church is of 13<sup>th</sup> century origin and lies to the south of the site (HER 4062). Archaeological evaluations to the north and east of the site have revealed medieval activity including medieval pits and possible medieval boundary ditches (HER 11423, 11821, 12704, 13167).

### *Post-medieval & later*

4.2.9 In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Baldock was described as being in a state of decay, in common with many settlements at this time (Crellin 1996).

However, Baldock flourished with the introduction of coach travel in the 17<sup>th</sup> century during which the Great North Road from London, to the east of the site, became an important route (HER 11197). The town remained as a relatively small, nucleated settlement, with open or garden land located immediately to the rear of properties fronting the High Street (HER 10872). Extant post-medieval structures include Wynne's Almshouses on the High Street, which were built for six tenants in 1621 (HER 11198), the Manor House/Brewery House at No. 21 High Street (HER 12866), and the house at No. 14A High Street (HER 13672).

4.2.10 Passing trade declined and the coaching houses suffered a recession following the opening of the Royston & Hitchin Railway through Baldock railway station in the 1850s (Thompson 2002; Rider 1982, 22). Baldock did not suffer wholesale decline in the early modern period, however, as the brewing and malting industries of late 18<sup>th</sup> century proved to be of great resilience and continued working into the 20<sup>th</sup> century (HERs 5339, 5340, 5343 & 5442), long after the loss of the industry in many nearby towns. A new Garden City at Letchworth was founded in 1903, offering many opportunities for work nearby, whilst the Kayser-Bondor factory, c.750m to the south, was established in 1924 originally for Kosmos, a photographic materials manufacturer (HER 9910).

### 4.3 The Site

4.3.1 Baldock played a significant role in the development of Quakerism. In 1655 George Fox visited Baldock, he recounts in his diaries that he was taken to the bedside of a sick Baptist woman whose relatives believed she was about to die, he recorded that "*the Lord raised her uppe so that she was well to the astonishment of the towne and country*" (Hine 1929). He is also recorded to have effected the conversion of two men who had been fighting at the George and Dragon Public House (Branch Johnson 1957). Thereafter the George and Dragon Public House was a frequent resort for travelling Quakers. The Quaker community refused to swear an oath of allegiance to Charles II in 1660 and as a result their meeting place was broken up and 17 members including Thomas Baldock and Thomas Butt were arrested and imprisoned in Hertford (Hine 1929). Despite this persecution many people remained true to their beliefs and Pepys in 1661 marvelled at the persistence and pluck of the Quaker community in Baldock, noting that in 1661 their numbers continued to increase.

4.3.2 During Charles II's reign various legislations sought to discourage non-conformity to the Church of England, including the Corporation Act of 1661 which required municipal officeholders to swear allegiance, the Act of Uniformity 1662 which made the use of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer compulsory and the Conventicle Act of 1664 which prohibited religious assemblies of more than five people other than under the auspices of the Church of England. It was not until 1672 when the Declaration of Indulgence allowed for a measure of freedom of worship, and caused a spate of chapel building. The Society of Friends in Baldock had been gathering in the home of William Burns, but in 1696 acquired a building for a meeting house and

1000 square yards of land for a burial ground (Butler 1999). The building was adapted with panelled rooms on two floors but no loft.

4.3.3 The Quaker Meeting House was rebuilt c. 1750 incorporating some parts of the original structure. The new building comprised a timber frame with roughcast render, and a later external staircase which gave access to the upper floor (Butler 1999). Although the Quakers were numerous in Baldock in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, their numbers declined in the 19<sup>th</sup> century until in 1849 there was only 1 Quaker remaining in the town (Baldock Museum 2001). Directories for Baldock continue to list the Quaker Meeting House until 1882 but do not mention the times of any services, suggesting that few, if any, took place. In 1881 the congregation of the Primitive Methodist church used the Quaker Meeting House whilst their own chapel was repaired supporting the hypothesis that few services took place (*ibid.*). In 1909 the meeting was discontinued and by 1925 the building was in poor condition. Although a scheme of restoration was drawn up for the building, it was not carried out as there were no Quakers within the town to use the building. In 1950 the benches from the meeting house were moved to Hammersmith, London for a new meeting house there, and the meeting house was used as offices (Butler 1999). The meeting house stood to the rear of a burial ground which was kept as such until 1908 when the gravestones were recorded and the area turned into a yard, which was later used for carparking. The oldest gravestones recorded dated to 1816, although it is likely that older graves would not have had gravestones (HER 16221). The existing office block in the northern part of the site dates to the 1980s, though there are no records of any archaeological investigations during its development.

#### 4.4 Cartographic Sources

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1880* (Fig. 4)

4.4.1 The earliest cartographic source to depict the site in any detail is the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey map. It shows the Meeting house fronting onto Meeting House Lane with an adjoining burial ground which appears to be surrounded by a variety of deciduous and coniferous trees. The area to the north of the site remains undeveloped with buildings present along both sides of Norton Street, including the Bull's Head Public House, Brewery and the Primitive Methodist Chapel.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898* (Fig.5)

4.4.2 The second edition of the Ordnance Survey map shows few changes to the area. The Friends Meeting House remains unchanged although a new building has been constructed to its immediate east. The area to the north of the site has become increasingly developed, the footpaths have been formalised and an additional road now connects Orchard Road with Bygrave Lane (formerly known as Deadman's Lane). The burial ground at the Friends Meeting House is no longer marked on the map, although this is presumably due to issues of scale as it is marked on later cartographic sources.

*Ordnance Survey Map, 1922 (Fig.6)*

4.4.3 The 1922 Ordnance Survey Map continues to show the increasing development of the area around the site. A number of dwellings have been constructed along the Icknield Way (formerly known as Bygrave Lane) and the area to the north-east of the site including Football Close is now more fully developed. The site itself remains unchanged and the burial ground is once again marked on this cartographic source suggesting its absence from the previous source was simply an accidental omission or due to lack of available space.

*Ordnance Survey Map, 1937 (Fig.7)*

4.4.4 The 1937 Ordnance Survey map does not depict any significant changes to the site. The area to the north-west of the site appears to have been largely cleared of the dwellings which were previously located there.

*Ordnance Survey Map, 1960 (Fig.8)*

4.4.5 The next available cartographic source depicting the area of the site was the 1960 Ordnance Survey map. The smaller scale of this map means that less detail is depicted. Few changes to the area are evident, the building of the former meeting house continues to be depicted although it is no longer marked as such and the burial ground is no longer marked.

## **4.5 Constraints**

**4.5.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)** – The site does not incorporate any scheduled ancient monuments although it lies (some distance) to the east of the Iron Age settlement and Roman town of Baldock which is designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27913).

**4.5.2 Areas of Archaeological Significance** – The site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96, as identified on the Local Plan, and which demarcates the Iron Age, Roman and medieval town of Baldock.

**4.5.3 Listed Buildings** – The Old Friends Meeting House, Meeting House Lane is Grade II Listed as of particular architectural or historical significance.

**4.5.4 Conservation Areas (CA)** – The site is not located within Baldock's Conservation Area, which is focussed around the historic core of the medieval town.

**4.5.5 Historic Parks & Gardens** – The site does not lie within a designated historic park and garden.

## 4.6 Previous Ground Disturbance

4.6.1 The development of the site prior to the construction of the Friends Meeting House is not well documented by cartographic or documentary sources, although it is known that a building, the predecessor of the current building has been in existence since before 1696. No record of the removal of burials from the burial ground has been found during the desk-based research suggesting a likelihood that internments could be encountered during the building works. The construction of the existing 1980s office block in the northern part of the site may likely have truncated any remains present in this area.

## 5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 Three trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 10). The trench locations were approved by HCC HEU. Trenches 1 and 2 measured 5 x 1.60m and Trench 3 measured 8 x 1.60m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Figs. 10-12, DP 3)

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 4): NE end, NW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 63.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1000	Modern tarmac surface of a car park.
0.07 – 0.13m	L1001	Earlier tarmac surface.
0.13 – 0.21m	L1002	Levelling layer. Pale yellowish brown, friable, silty sand.
0.21 – 0.27m	L1003	Made ground. Pale grey, firm, clayey silt.
0.27 – 0.50m	L1004	Made ground. Dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt.
0.50m +	L1005	Natural white, compact, chalk.

*Description:* Trench 1 contained an inhumation burial Grave Cut F1008 and Skeleton SK1. It also contained a possible another possible Grave Cut F1006.

F1008 (1.60 x 0.45+ x 0.94m) was a single inhumation burial, rectangular in plan with rounded ends, orientated north-east/south-west along the south-eastern side of the trench (DP 5-6). It had vertical sides and flattish base. The

grave was located in part of the trench characterised by significant modern truncation; as a result only a part of the burial survived. The grave contained an incomplete ?female skeleton, SK1, in extended and possibly supine position with the head (the skull was not recovered) at the south-eastern end. The bones present included: left collar and shoulder bones, some ribs and vertebrae, coccyx, left pelvis and right leg and foot bones. Due to truncation of the grave, positions of the skeletal elements were uncertain and definitely not genuine in a few cases. The body must have been placed on wooden boards or within a coffin as scarce remains of decomposed timber were found below the skeleton. The backfill of the grave, L1009, was a mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt with some white chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from the grave and it therefore remains undated. The depth of the grave (0.94m) suggests that the grave is unlikely to be Romano-British in date (Romano-British inhumations generally had only shallow graves), and is therefore more likely to relate to the Quaker burial ground which is known from cartographic sources to have been located at the site.

F1006 (0.15+ x 0.85+ x 0.65m+) was a probably rectangular pit located in the north-eastern end of Trench 1. It had vertical sides and was probably orientated north-east/south-west. Its fill, L1007, was a pale to mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt with white chalk flecks. No finds were recovered from the feature. F1006 may have been an inhumation burial similar to F1008.

### Trench 2 (Figs. 10 - 12, DP 9)

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 10): NE end, SE facing</i>		
0.00 = 63.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Modern tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.10 – 0.15m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Tr. 1.
0.15 – 0.47m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.47m +	L1005	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 11): SW end, SE facing</i>		
0.00 = 63.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Modern tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.10 – 0.13m	L1002	Levelling layer. As above, Tr. 1.
0.13 – 0.89m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.89m +	L1005	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

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

### Trench 3 (Figs. 10 - 12, DP 13)

<i>Sample section 3 (DP 14): W side, SE facing</i>		
0.00 = 63.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Modern tarmac. As above, Tr. 1.
0.09 – 0.19m	L1012	Levelling layer. Dark grey, compact, gravel.

0.19 – 0.45m	L1013	CBM rubble with yellow, loose, sand.
0.45 – 0.66m	L1004	Made ground. As above, Tr. 1.
0.66m +	L1005	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* Trench 3 contained an undated gully F1010.

F1010 (1.60+ x 0.35 x 0.22m) was a linear feature located in the north-eastern end of the trench. It had vertical sides and flattish base. Its single fill, L1011, was a pale yellowish brown, firm, clayey silt with chalk. No finds were recovered. F1010, due to its characteristics, may have been a modern feature related to demarcation within the site.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The presence of modern services and a soakway within Trench 1 hindered the excavation of the trench. The significant modern truncation caused a late discovery of the burial. Although the grave was previously damaged it has been recorded and left *in situ*. It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds within Trenches 2 and 3.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Tarmac L1000, a modern surface of the car park (0.07 – 0.12m thick). It overlies several levelling layers and deposit of made ground L1004. It was present throughout the site at c. 0.13 – 0.45m below existing and it was 0.20 – 0.75m thick. L1004 comprised a dark greyish brown, firm, clayey silt.

8.2 The natural chalk, L1005, was present at 0.45 – 0.90m below existing ground level and comprised a white, compact, chalk.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Bronze/Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains are known widely from Baldock and relate to prehistoric and Roman settlements of national importance. The site is also located within the medieval core of Baldock and in the vicinity of a purported post-medieval/early modern Quaker burial ground.

9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed an inhumation burial, another possible grave and undated, possibly modern gully. The burial remains undated as no finds were revealed from the grave or deposits present within the trench. The inhumation burial may have been a part of extensive Roman cemeteries known from around the settlement of that time located to the east of the site. The burial may also have been of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date in



connection with the Quaker cemetery located adjacent to the Meeting House. The site retains a potential for archaeological remains in the area to the north and north-west of the Meeting House. Car parking only is proposed in this area as part of the current development. Only the undated, likely modern gully was present in the area of the proposed new residential dwellings.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at North Hertfordshire Museums. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Rupert Price of Nutwood Developments for funding the works and for his assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr David Dance and also Ms Gae Parry of Barker Parry.

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 Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

SMR	NGR TL	Description
<b>Iron Age / Roman (800 BC – AD 410)</b>		
483	243 341	Late Iron Age Vessels, Icknield Way, Baldock; Burial vessels comprising two Gallo-Belgic platters (10-65AD), one campanulate cup (10-65AD) and one bowl with cordons (probably Claudian)
1078	245 342	'Building foundations of Roman character' found by Mr C M Crickmer, the Letchworth architect
1080	245 339	Roman-British Occupation, High Street; Three small urns, one beaker and a ditch found during construction of a house in the High Street, in November 1934. The ditch measured 8ft 6in in width, 3ft 6in in depth and 5ft at the base. Fill was black earth with chalk nodules, bones, oyster shells and pottery sherds
10986	2445 3402	Roman Occupation, 2-24 Orchard Road; A series of truncated ditches, several pits, and three wells; the pottery dated from the 2nd to the 4th century A. The pits and wells, close to the linear ditches, appear to have occupied the rear of enclosed properties occupied in the 2nd-3rd centuries. Two of the wells contained human remains in their fills, with late Roman pottery; this possibly indicates that this part of the settlement was largely abandoned by the 4th century.
10987	2445 3402	A burial of probable late Roman date contained in the upper fill of a sub-circular well that formed part of Roman occupation on the periphery of the settlement at Baldock. It was orientated NE/SW with head to NE, and lay in a supine position with the left arm flexed across the pelvis and the right arm laid across the chest. The bone was well preserved and a corroded iron object was found by the individual's chest. Other finds from the upper fill of the well included mainly 2nd-4th cent.
11423	2454 3407	Roman & Medieval Occupation, 33 Whitehorse Street; Evaluation identified Roman and medieval pits, and post-medieval activity including a 19C wall foundation, 4 pits and a posthole. About 30 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered and post-medieval finds (tile, bricks, clay pipe and pottery). Excavation in January 2000 investigated features identified during the evaluation, notably F1017, a large medieval pit, and F1067, a late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch. Further features were also identified, including pits of possible Romano-British and medieval date, and several undated post holes
12002	2445 3403	Skull and 'further' bones were observed within the fill of a large pit. No evidence of a grave cut was visible.
12704	2446 3414	Evaluation on north side of Football Close revealed two Roman ditches containing large amounts of pottery and animal bone, two pits, another pit or ditch, and a possible well. The pottery was relatively unabraded. Further work uncovered deep pits and a ditch, consistently 3rd-4th century, as well as pits and two ditches which were 12th to 15 <sup>th</sup> century
12759	2432 3424	Fieldwalking along the north side of the railway line, between the sewage pumping station and North Road, recovered two areas of Romano-British pottery, with some medieval sherds. All were heavily abraded. Post-medieval material was found across the whole survey area but may have arrived when the area was used as allotments
13444	24548 33920	Evaluation found part of a ditch on an area of land behind High Street & Whitehorse Street, Baldock. It had been recut along much the same line. In the primary fill of the recut were three small abraded sherds of Roman pottery and a burnt fragment of Roman brick. The ditch and its recut appear to be 'boundary ditches located away from the centre of domestic activity in Baldock during this period'. A single posthole, undated, was also seen.
13476	24500 34075	Monitoring of a trench recorded a feature beneath the subsoil; this was a pit or ditch cut into the natural chalk, and yielded a Roman

		copper alloy and silver brooch.
15295	24535 34115	Evaluation of open land at the east end of Orchard Road uncovered features and finds from the late Iron Age to the end of the Roman period: a substantial ditch, first dug in the late Iron Age and kept clean until the 2nd century; several minor ditches and pits; a probable wall foundation; a buried Roman land surface; and a robbed-out wall over a late Roman ditch. The large ditch may possibly be a roadside ditch, or one side of an enclosure; the earlier wall foundation may represent a large Roman building by the road leading NW out of the Roman town, and the pits also suggest domestic occupation. The finds ranged from the 1st century BC to the end of the Roman period.
<b>Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)</b>		
4062	243 339	St Mary's Church, Baldock; Church with 13th century origins, 14th century nave, aisles, north and south chapel, West tower and south porch and 15th century turret, windows and nave clerestorey. The north porch was added in 1836; the spire is 19th century. Features include a 13th century double piscina in the chancel, a 14th century piscina and sedilia in the south chapel, octagonal 13th century font and fine 18th and 19th century wall tablets
11423	2454 3407	Roman & Medieval Occupation, 33 Whitehorse Street; Evaluation identified Roman and medieval pits, and post-medieval activity including a 19 <sup>th</sup> century wall foundation, 4 pits and a posthole. About 30 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered and post-medieval finds (tile, bricks, clay pipe and pottery). Excavation in January 2000 investigated features identified during the evaluation, notably F1017, a large medieval pit, and F1067, a late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch. Further features were also identified, including pits of possible Romano-British and medieval date, and several undated post holes
11821	2450 3404	Monitoring and recording of groundworks during redevelopment recorded archaeological features in the western half of the site; much of the rest was covered by disturbed modern overburden. The features comprised a ditch of probable late medieval date which contained three sherds of late medieval pottery, tile, animal bone and oyster, and undated pits and postholes.
12704	2446 3414	Evaluation on the north side of Football Close revealed two Roman ditches containing large amounts of pottery and animal bone, two pits, another pit or ditch, and a possible well. The pottery was relatively unabraded. Further work uncovered deep pits and a ditch, consistently 3rd-4th century, as well as pits and two ditches which were 12th to 15 <sup>th</sup> century
13167	24331 34088	Monitoring of groundworks on the site of Darton Coachworks, on the east side of Church Street, uncovered a length of ditch running parallel with the Icknield Way. There were no finds, but it may represent a medieval boundary between the Church Street properties. The only other feature was a pit containing a few sherds of 18th-19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery, and worn roof tile fragments which may be late medieval
<b>Post-medieval onwards (AD 1540-present)</b>		
5441	2433 3399	Site of former brewery possibly dated to c.1840/50. The main building of yellow brick, three floors with fourth floor in the roof, red brick arcade arches and window heads. Wing has 2 floors 2 large arcaded bays and 2 large windows on 1st floor. The roof is of slate. Engine house also yellow brick, single floor, yellow brick square chimney. A third building, also yellow brick, arcaded to 1st floor with red brick buttresses and window heads, also slate roof. Site has been totally demolished, now occupied by flats and houses
5622	2450 3426	Railway bridge with brick piers and iron girder through, height 14ft 6in; rebuilt in 1923. Remains in good condition.
6336	24 33	Cage or lock-up, built by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor in 1787 'on a piece of ground in Middle Row' bought for the

		purpose. It measured 8' 9" by 9', and was sold by the churchwardens and overseers to William Dear, victualler. The plot is shown on the 1850 tithe map.
10886	2457 3410	The Old White Horse lies close to the core of the medieval town of Baldock, and stands on the site of an earlier White Horse inn. The earliest reference is in a deed dated 1635 referring to a messuage called the Crowne, which abutted the White Horse. Evaluation of an area NW of the existing pub buildings in 1997 established that post-medieval levelling deposits covered all the western half of the site, to at least 1.2m depth. In the eastern half the footprint of the new building was excavated, and again, any earlier activity was truncated by works carried out in the 18th century. These appear to be predominantly due to the construction of extensive drainage systems for the inn, and involved a total reduction of the rear of the site. This probably took place after the fire of 1720, and formed part of a major renovation and modernizing of the inn. Structural elements of the timber framed barn on the development site were also photographed prior to its demolition
10926	243 340	Part of Parish Workhouse, Butlers Yard, Orchard Road, Baldock; A mid-17 <sup>th</sup> century building, two surviving 19 century cottages. Building 1 has substantial 17 <sup>th</sup> century roof surviving and is related to the street frontages and townscape of Whitehorse Street. This was part of the parish workhouse's property in Womack's Yard, but was probably not the main building.
11199	2444 3390	George and Dragon Inn, 2 Hitchin Street; The present building has an early 19C front of red brick with slightly projecting 3-storey centre between 2-storey wings, roof parapets and a hipped tiled roof; a dummy window in the centre of each floor. The additional wing on the left is 20 <sup>th</sup> century. The earliest record dates to 1591; from 1692 rent was paid to the rector for ground taken from the churchyard to increase stabling. It was visited by George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, in 1655 and thereafter it was favoured by travelling Quakers. It was bought by John Pryor, the Baldock brewer, in 1777; it was not the leading coaching inn of Baldock until after the closure of the White Horse in the 1860s. The George & Dragon was closed and boarded up early in 1998 and an attempt made to sell it for housing, but after local protest it was renovated and reopened in August 1999. Before the present churchyard gate was put up c1870 the inn stables ran along the street frontage here.
11820	2448 3405	Four structures, comprising a mid-17 <sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building (Building 1), two Victorian terraced cottages (Building 2, the surviving part of a row of six), and two 20 <sup>th</sup> century industrial structures (Buildings 3 & 4) were recorded prior to re-development (only Building 1 to be retained). In the mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century Building 1 was included in a property listed as being part of four houses owned by the Trustees of the Alms Houses Charities, and earlier records indicate that the property was leased by the Trustees to establish Baldock Workhouse in April 1759. However, given its structure the building is unlikely to have been used as the workhouse. The two storey structure has a steep pitched tiled roof with gable ends and a carriageway through at ground floor level, a brick lower storey and rendered upper storey. Only the upper storey has windows, and therefore may have been inhabited while the lower may have been used for storage or industrial purposes. The roof is well-preserved, of butt-purlin construction with secondary joists. It seems to have been originally timber-framed, but below the first floor the evidence is obscured by external brickwork of 18C or 19C date, and internal partitioning. Original beams are present in the void over the carriageway.
11989	2445 3397	Site of Oliver's Brewery; The Baldock Brewery may have originated in a brewhouse and malthouse attached to the Sun inn, and owned in

		the 1730s by William Noy. By c.1800 it was owned by the Penn family. No. 13 Whitehorse Street was the brewery house. The brewery was rebuilt during the 1840s by George Oliver, expanding to include the grounds of no 13 which was still shown as a farm on the 1850 tithe map. From 1875-1881 it was known as the Baldock Brewery. It remained in use until 1881 when it was auctioned off and not used for brewing again. Remains of walls, cobble and brick floors and cellars survive. Possible related remains have been noted behind 7-9 Sun Street.
11996	2447 3397	Brewers House; A smart town house with an 18th or early 19th century brick front concealing an earlier structure, the brewers' house belonging to Oliver's or Baldock Brewery
12003	2445 3401	19 <sup>th</sup> century garden features; The remains of walls which appear to be too slight to bear significant loads and have shallow foundation trenches were uncovered. Also a semi circular brick feature and an 'arc' of bricks. No finds were reported and the features are interpreted as 19 <sup>th</sup> century gardening or landscaping activity
12004	2448 3400	Wesleyan Methodist Chapel; The church opened in 1853 replacing the original premises, a house in Park Street. It was extended in 1864 to accommodate a Sunday School. The building is red brick dressed with stucco in Tudor style with a gabled front and an octagonal tower at each end, capped with small cupolas. There was no burial ground. An evaluation trench uncovered part of the original north west wall of the chapel
12006	2446 3400	Post-Medieval Farmyard; A group of features interpreted as the remnants of a farmyard were found below the north west wall of the Methodist chapel. These consisted of a crushed tile floor, robbed out walls, postholes and a metalled surface which was possibly a pathway for the farm. The suggested date of the site is the 17th-18 <sup>th</sup> century, although no dating evidence was recovered. The 'farmyard' was one of two behind Orchard Road, and may have been connected with the Baldock Brewery [
12007	2446 3402	19 <sup>th</sup> century outhouses and soakaway; Evidence of 19 <sup>th</sup> century development possibly relating to the brewery or a line of cottages along Orchard Road. The remains of footings and pipe trenches for outhouses appeared to drain into a brick built soakaway by a ceramic pipe. Also building debris (tiles, bricks and mortar) and remains of drains
13167	24331 34088	Monitoring of groundworks on the site of Darton Coachworks, on the east side of Church Street, uncovered a length of ditch running parallel with the Icknield Way. There were no finds, but it may represent a medieval boundary between the Church Street properties. The only other feature was a pit containing a few sherds of 18th-19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery, and worn roof tile fragments which may be late medieval
13474	24450 33950	Post-Medieval occupation behind 5-7 Sun Street; Monitoring of footings for extensions in the yard behind 7-9 Sun Street noted only post-medieval levels over chalk natural; much of the yard had been occupied by a series of barns, possibly part of the brewery to the NE. A cobbled surface, two wells (at least one of which predated the cobbled surface), apparent brick footings, and a possible hearth built of peg tile were recorded but not closely dated
15749	24374 33961	A 16th century or earlier house. It dates to the 15th century; a timber-framed and plastered house, three-storey front range and a long low brick wing, one storey above the gateway. The stair is in a short west wing, jettied; the chimney stack is a later insertion.
15750	24371 33978	3 Church Street; A 17th century house, altered in the 18th century. It was renovated in the 20th century in Queen Anne style.
15751	24515 33869	Holford House was built c.1720-30; about a hundred years later it was enlarged to the north by building over a side entrance; c1936

		additions and alterations were made by the architects Richardson and Gill. In 1971 it was converted to offices and the original staircase sold. The original three-storey elevation was of five bays and of brick, the remaining walls being timber-framed
15755	24441 33873	A row of houses at the corner of Hitchin Street (Nos 1-5) and Bell Lane, jettied towards both streets; built in the 17th century. Further examination suggests they are probably 16th century
15756	24419 33858	Listed as an 18th century house, judging from the brick front, this is a timber-framed house built c1500; it was originally jettied. A chimney-stack at the west end also serves a jettied south wing; both are probably of the early 17th century. In the front range a staircase and chimney-stack were inserted in the middle and E bay respectively in the early 18th century. Either then or in the early 19th century, when it received ground-floor bay windows, the house was refronted and the jetty underbuilt
15759	24443 33940	3-5 Sun Street; Listed as a 19th century timber-framed house with a red brick front (no.3), and a 17th-century timber-framed house (no.5), these two were originally the open hall (no.3) and the crosswing (no.5) of a 15th century house
15760	24546 33988	Listed as a late 18th century house of chequered blue and red brick with red brick dressings, with an inserted 19th century shop front, Oak House consists of three parts: a possible early 16th century Wealden house (central open hall and two storey bays, jettied at first floor level) at the rearmost; a late 16th century block (possibly a parlour); and the front, which was rebuilt in the early 18th century.
16221	TL 24365 34065	Friends Meeting House; Early Quaker meeting house now in commercial use; with its own burial ground. Despite raids and arrests of Baldock Quakers in 1660, Pepys recorded the presence of many Quakers in the town in the 1670s. The Meeting House off Church Street survives, in commercial use. It dates to the late 17th or early 18th century, and so may have been built soon after the Toleration Act was passed in 1689. It is single-storey, timber-framed under a tiled roof, with colour-washed plaster and pargetting. Between the building and Church Street was its burial ground; in 1908 the oldest date on the gravestones was recorded as 1816 (older burials would not have had gravestones). The Burial Ground is shown on surrounded by trees. The building was used as the Meeting House until after 1945, but was eventually sold to S G Street, printers. The burial ground is now used for parking.
16248	24300 34113	Foundations and a well, shown on 19th century maps

## APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Description	Scale	Location
1880	First Edition Ordnance Survey VII.8	25"	HALS
1898	Second Edition Ordnance Survey VII.8	25"	HALS
1922	Ordnance Survey Map VII.8	25"	HALS
1937	Ordnance Survey Map Herts Sheet VII.8	25"	HALS
1960	Ordnance Survey Map, TL 23 SW	25"	HALS

## APPENDIX 3      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo, Skeleton)
Context Sheets	14
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	9
Site photographs colour slides	9
Digital Photographs	14



## APPENDIX 4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> North Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b> Baldock	<b>Parish:</b> Baldock
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Nutwood Developments Ltd
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Conversion of former offices to residential use, the demolition of existing offices and the erection of two 3 bedroom and three 2 bedroom dwellings on the site.
<b>Present land use:</b>	Disused offices and a car park
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.650m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 29m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 24532 34058
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1328
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Desk-based Impact Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	15-16/07/2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	North Herts Museums
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In May 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) prepared an archaeological desk-based impact assessment and in July 2010 conducted an archaeological evaluation at The Old Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Baldock, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 24563 34065). The programme of archaeological work was commissioned to support a proposed planning application for the change of use and conversion of former offices to residential use, the demolition of existing offices and the erection of two 3 bedroom and three 2 bedroom dwellings on the site.</p> <p>The site lies within the historic core of the town of Baldock and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 96 which records the presence of Bronze/Iron Age, Roman and medieval archaeological remains. The Iron Age and Roman settlements are of national importance and much of the Roman settlement at Baldock is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (27913). The Roman settlement has extensive cemeteries around its periphery.</p> <p>The impact assessment indicated a high potential for remains of a Quaker burial ground to be present on the site, as well as the Roman and medieval archaeology. In the event the evaluation revealed an inhumation burial of unknown date, another undated possible grave pit and an undated, probably modern gully.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> July 2010

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1*  
The site and Meeting House Lane. View W.



*DP 2*  
N part of the site with location of Trench 1. View NW.



*DP 3*  
Trench 1. View SW



*DP 4*  
Trench 1, NE end. Sample section. View SE



*DP 5*  
F1108 and Skeleton 1. View SE.



*DP 6*  
F1108 and Skeleton 1. View SW



*DP 7*  
Excavation of Trench 2. View NNE



*DP 8*  
Trench 2. View S



*DP 9* Trench 2. View NE.



*DP 10* Trench 2, NE end. Sample section. View NW.



*DP 11*  
Trench 2, SW end. Sample section. View  
NW



*DP 12*  
The site with Trench 3. View SW



*DP 13*  
Trench 3. View SW.



*DP 14*  
Trench 3, W side. Sample section. View  
NW.



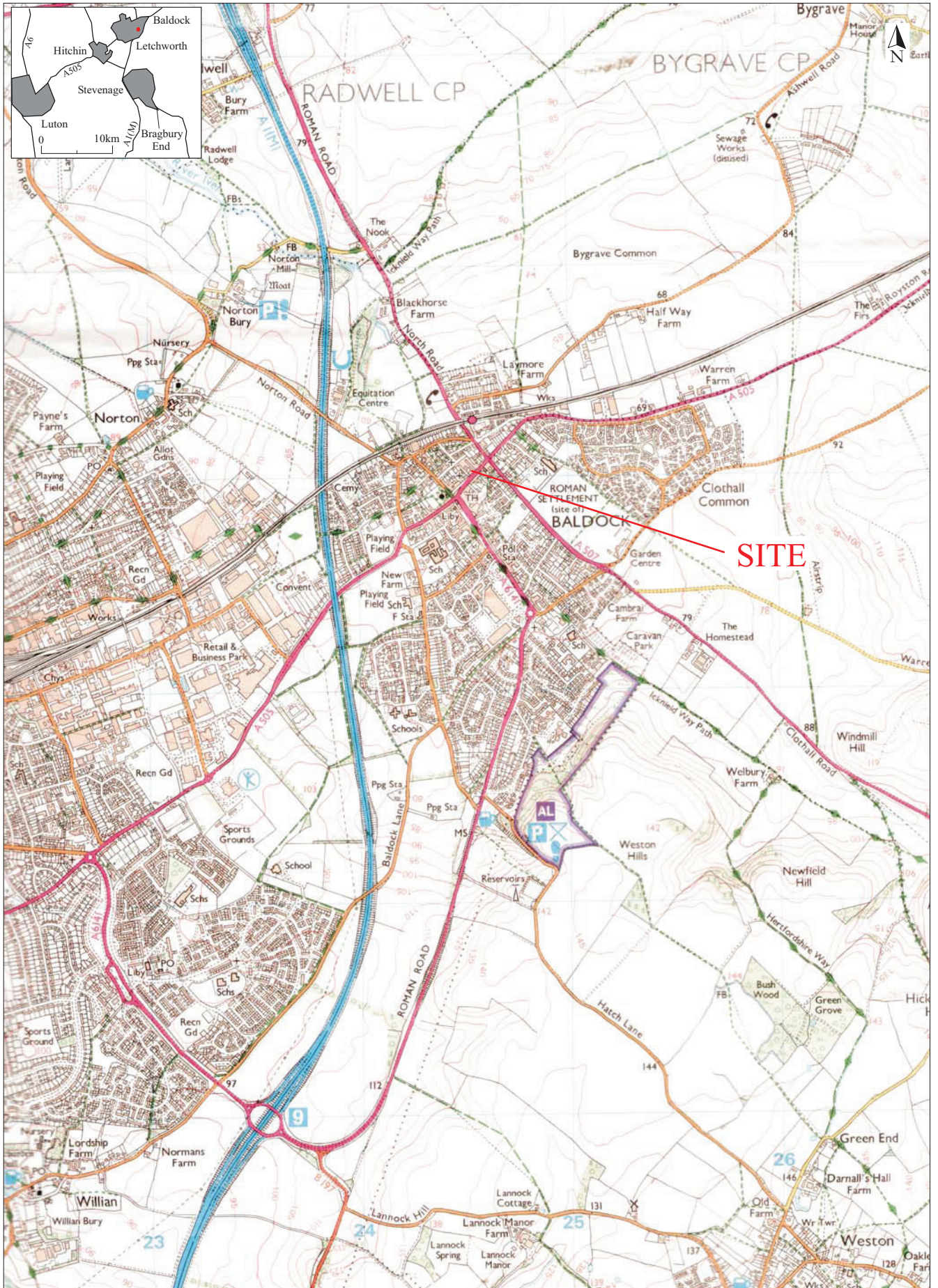
*DP 15* Trench 1 NE end, F1006. View NE.



*DP16* Trench 3 F1010



DP17 Trench 1 Section of F1008. View SE



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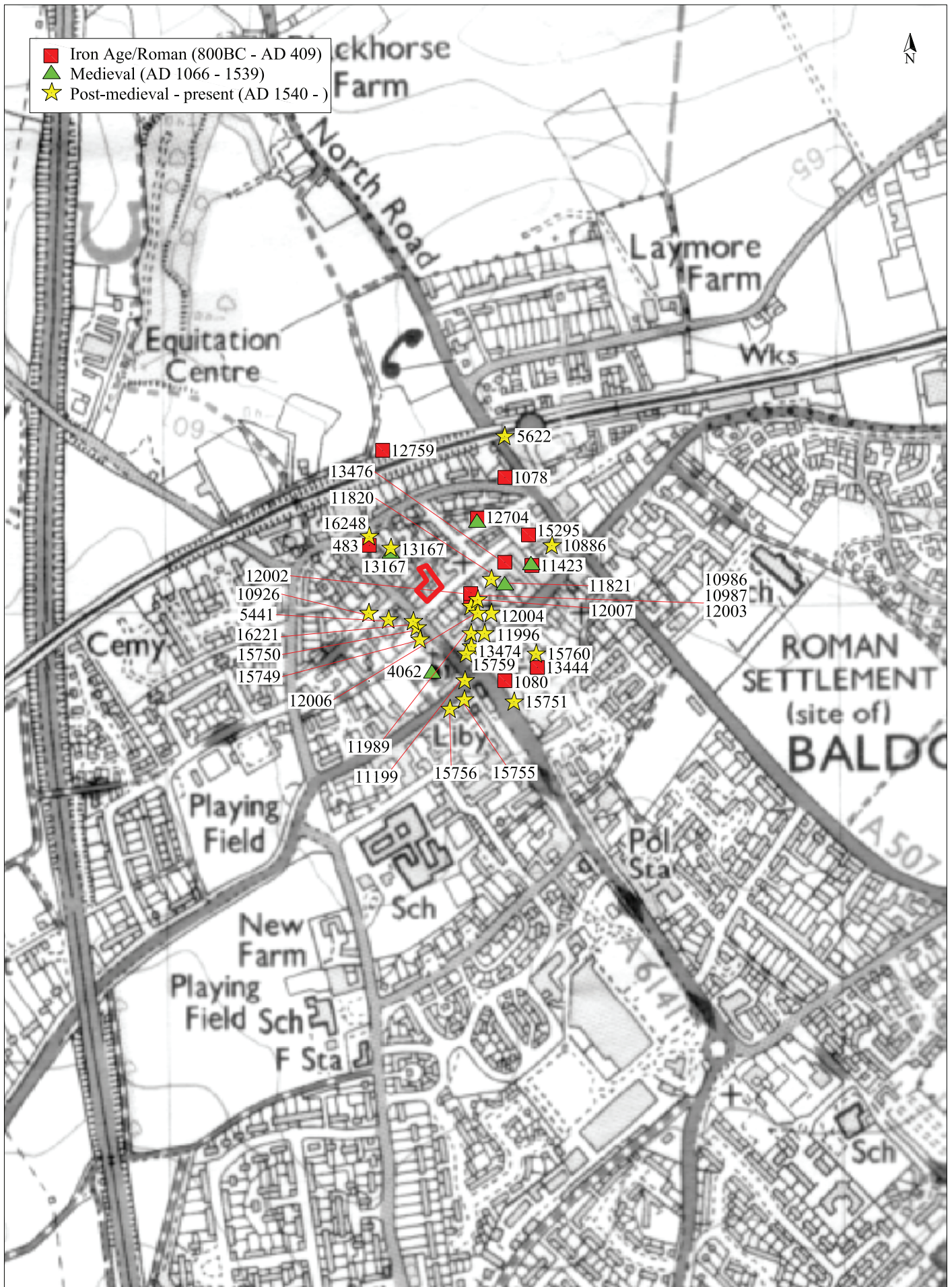
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0  30m

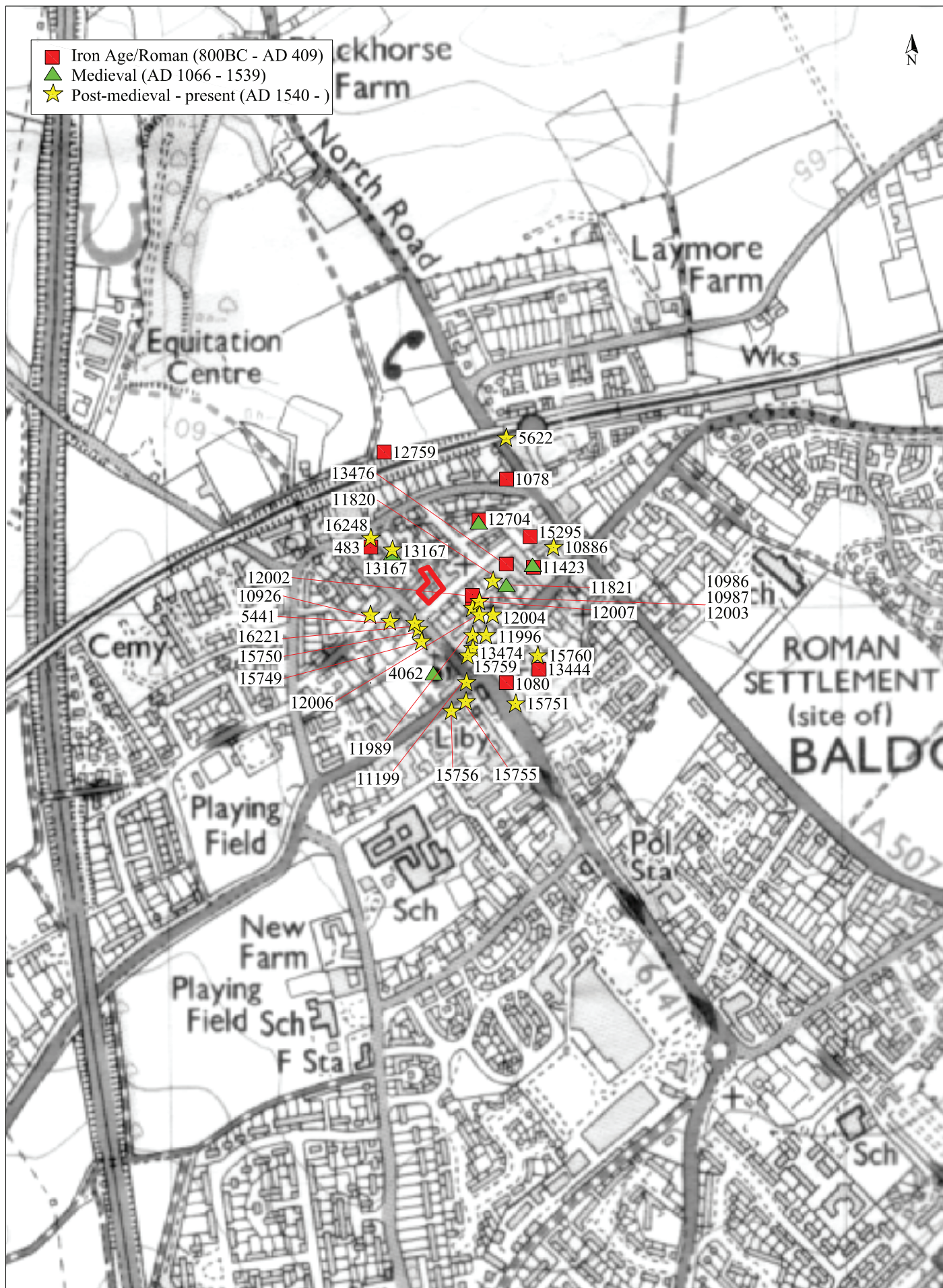
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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4



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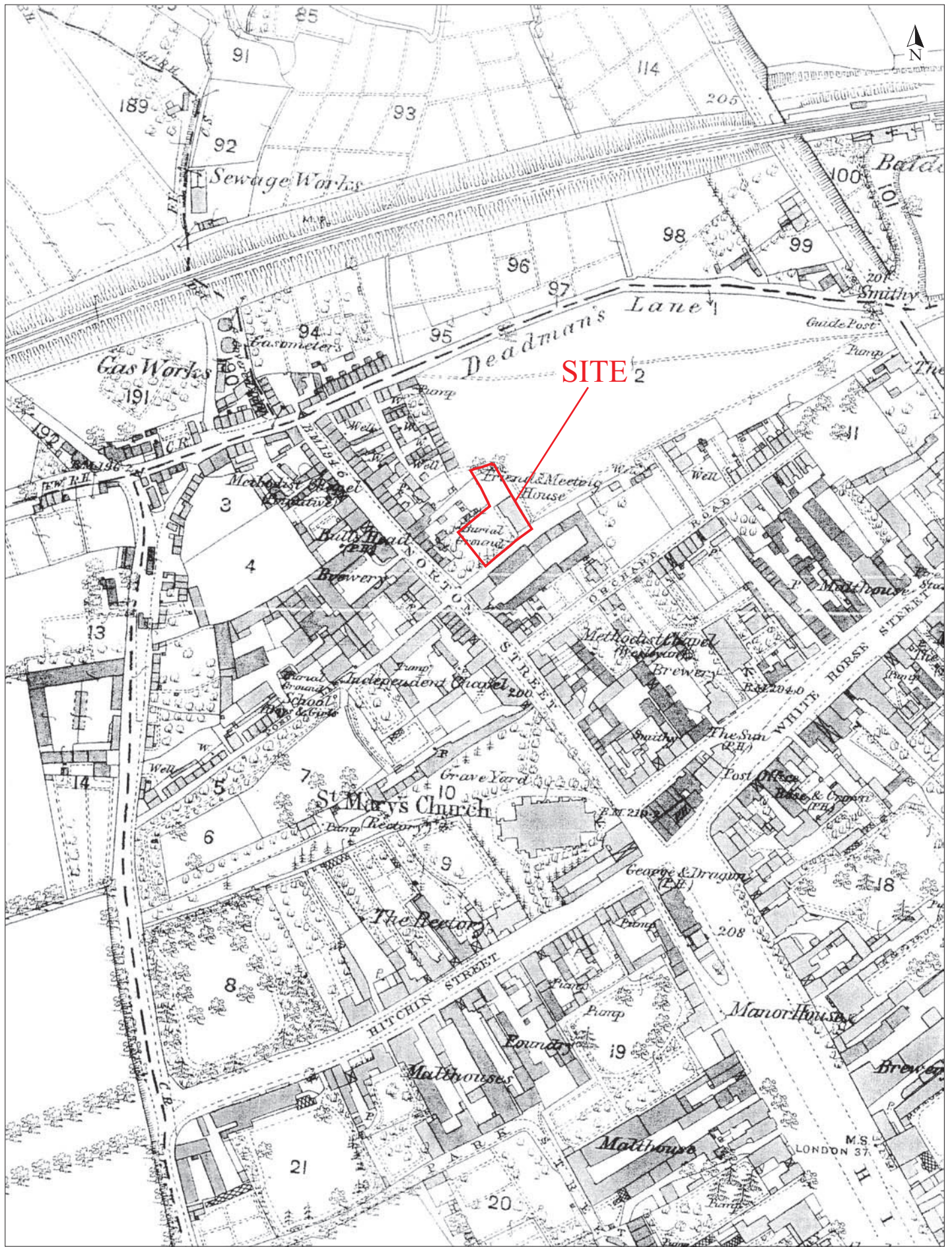
Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 3 HER data**  
 Scale 1:7,500 at A4





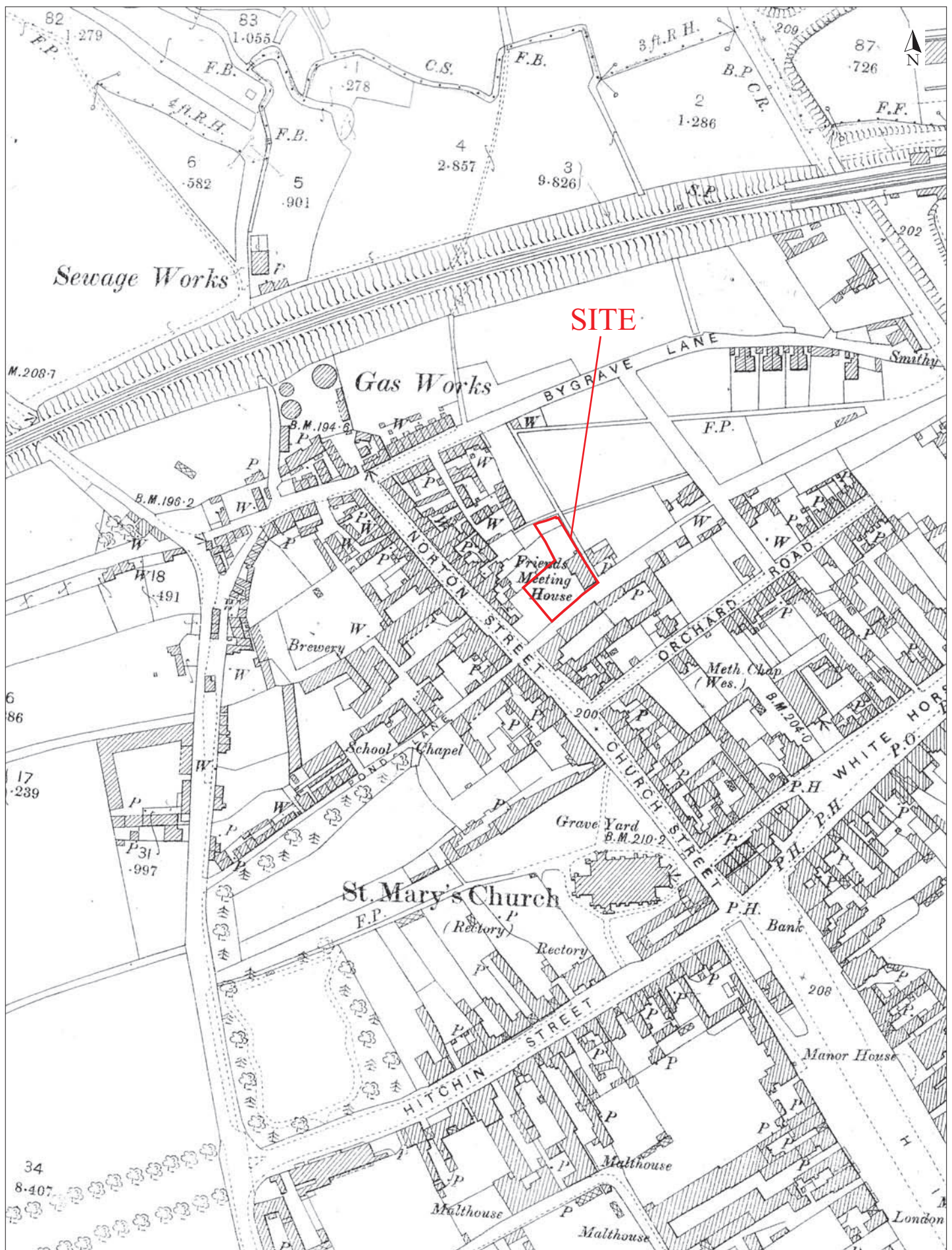
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**Fig. 3 HER data**  
 Scale 1:7,500 at A4



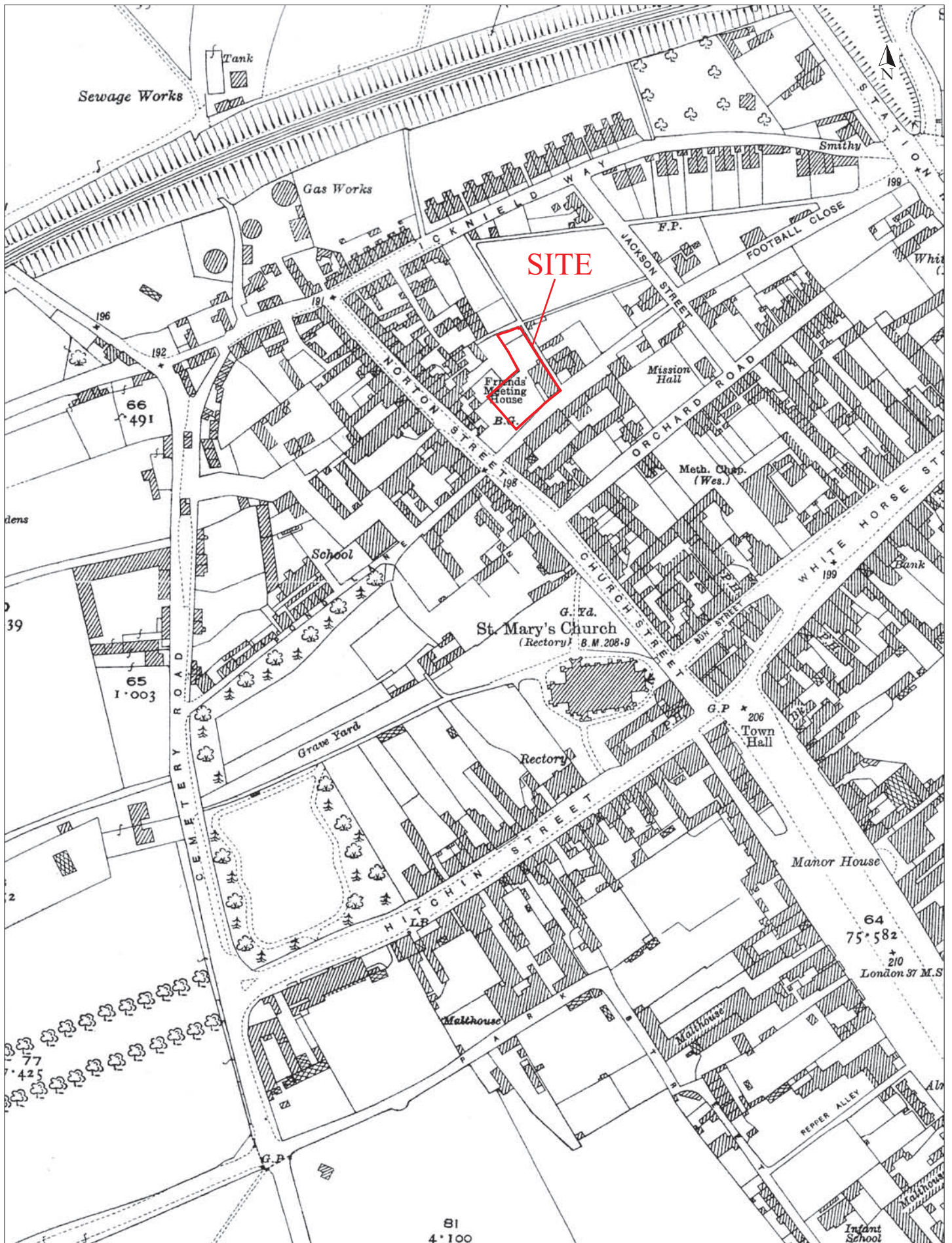
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**Fig. 4 OS map, 1880**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



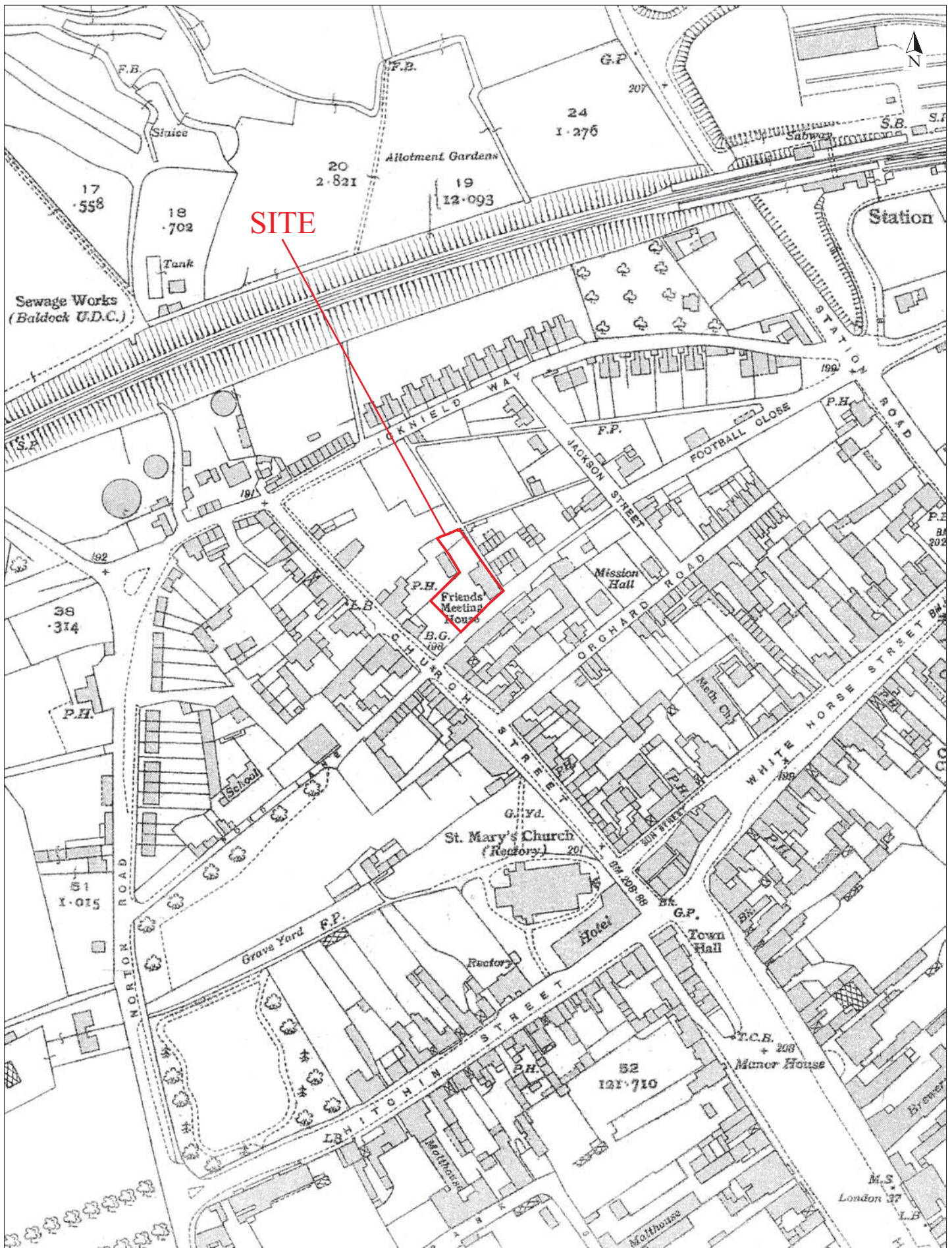
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**Fig. 5 OS map, 1898**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



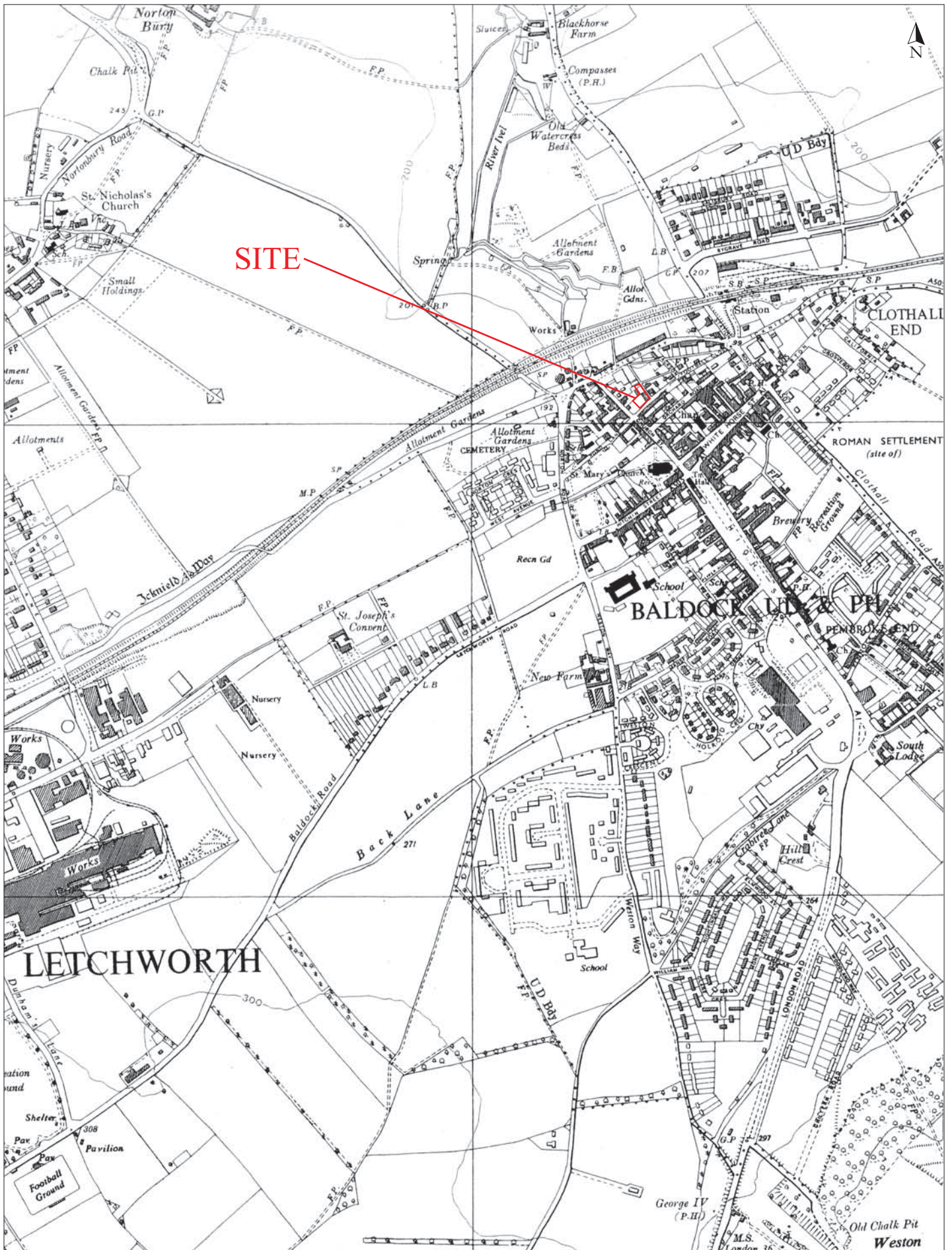
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**Fig. 6 OS map, 1922**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



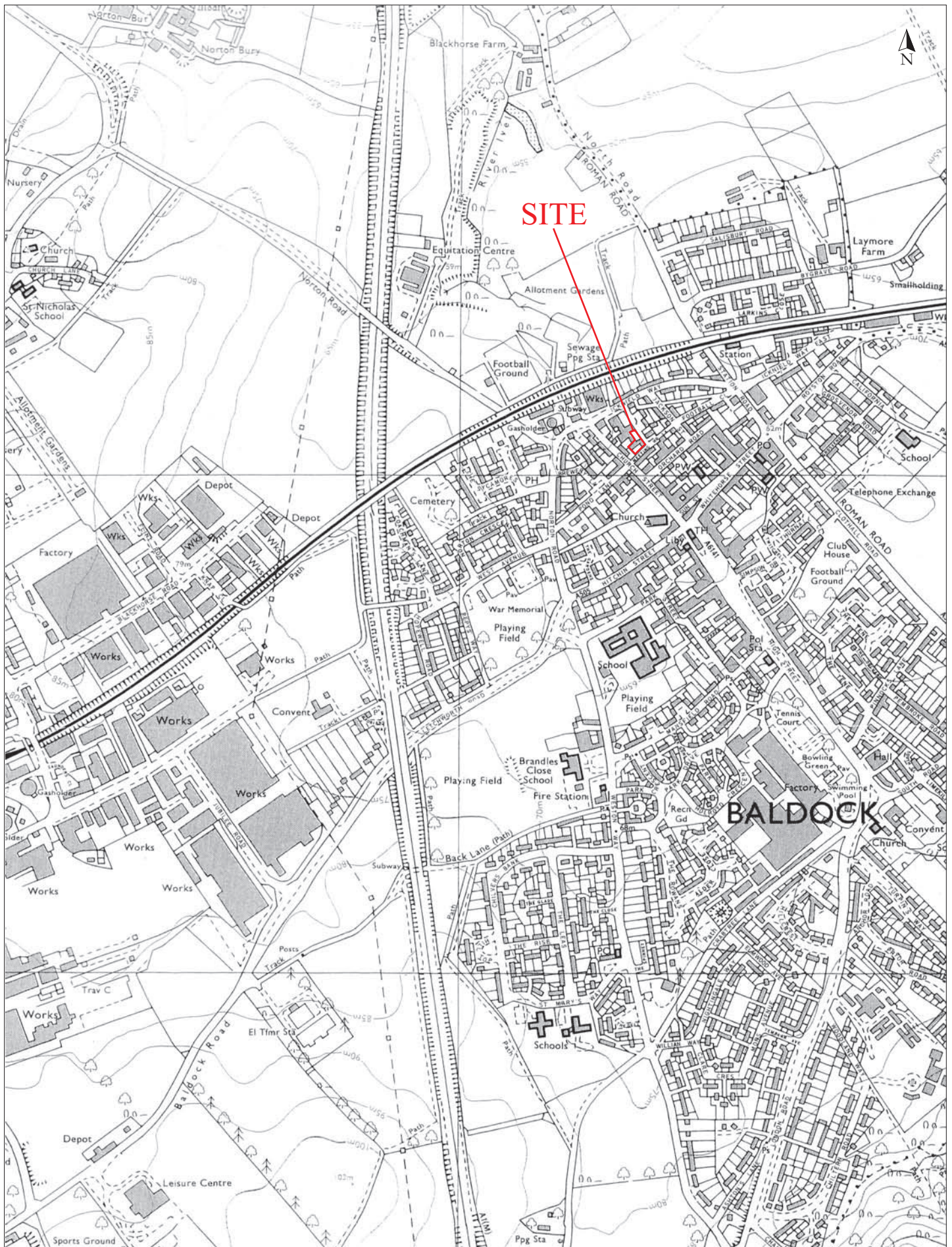
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**Fig. 7 OS map, 1937**  
 Scale 25 inch to 1 mile at A4



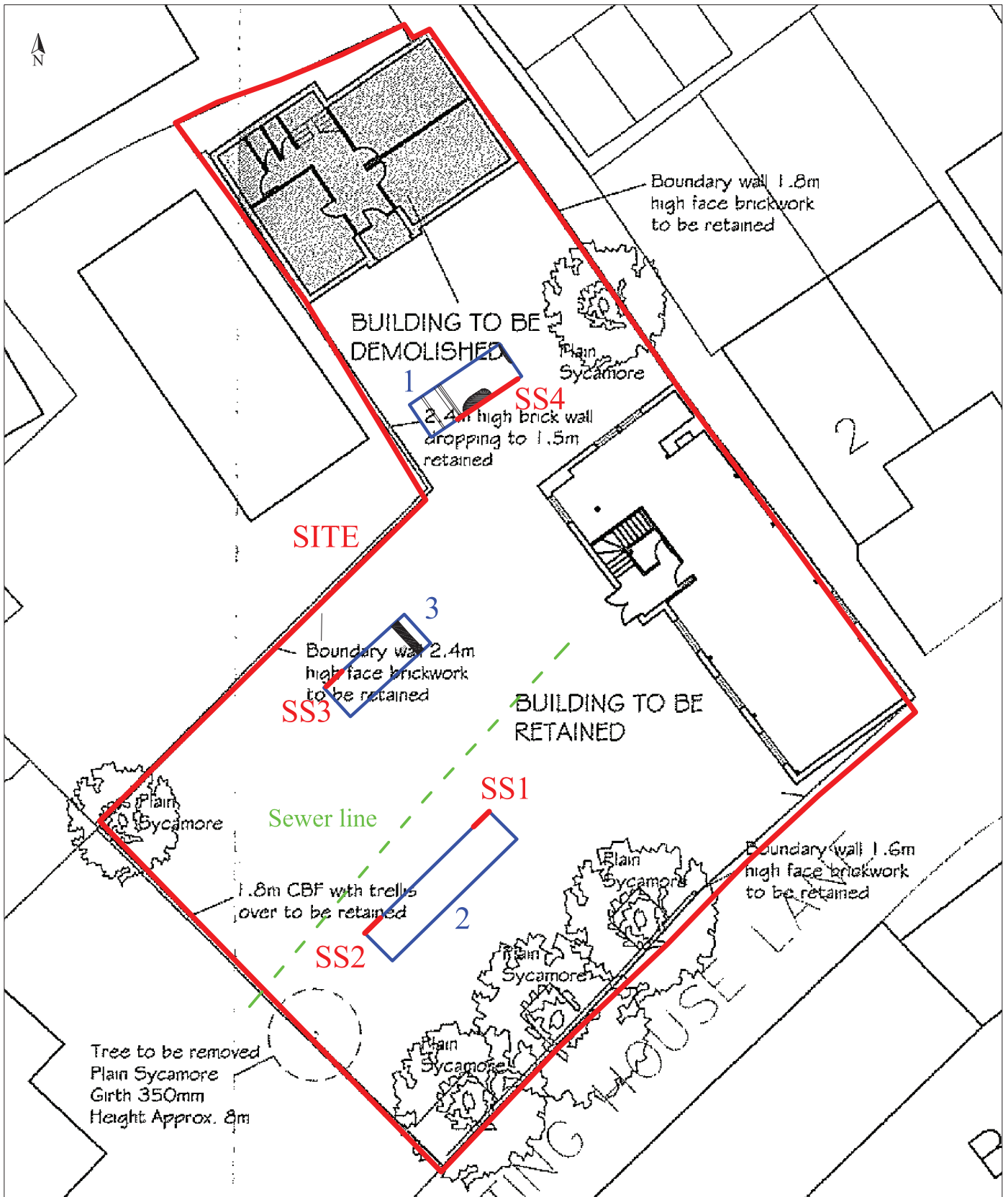
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**Fig. 8 OS map, 1960**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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**Fig. 9 OS map, 1986**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



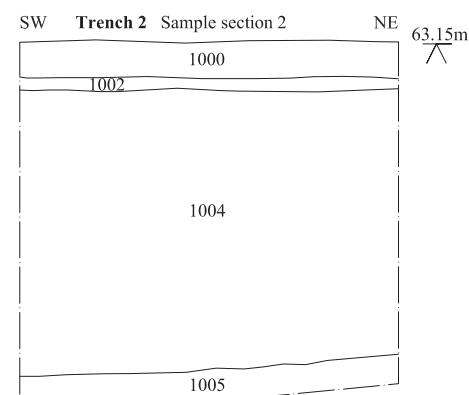
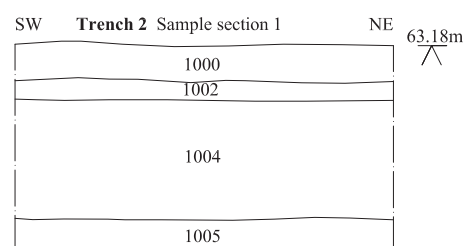
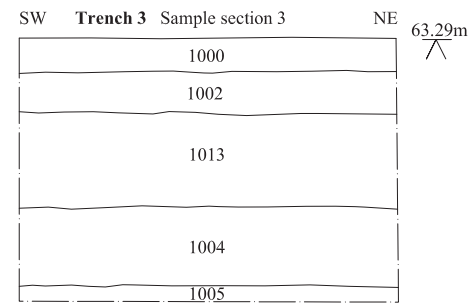
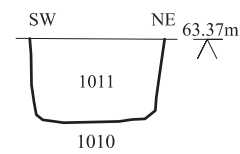
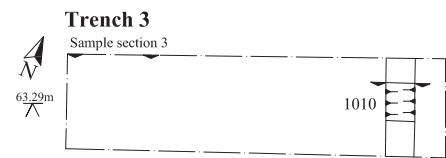
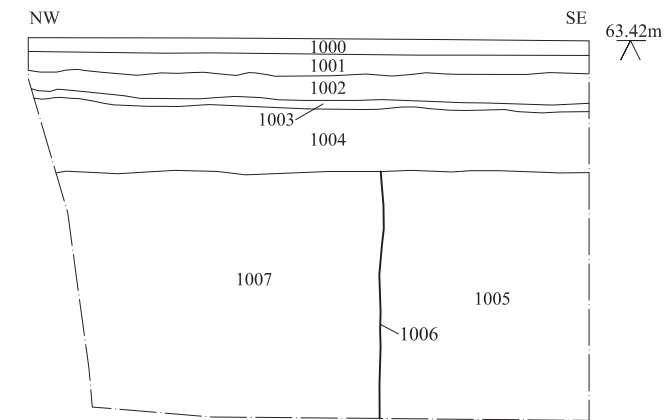
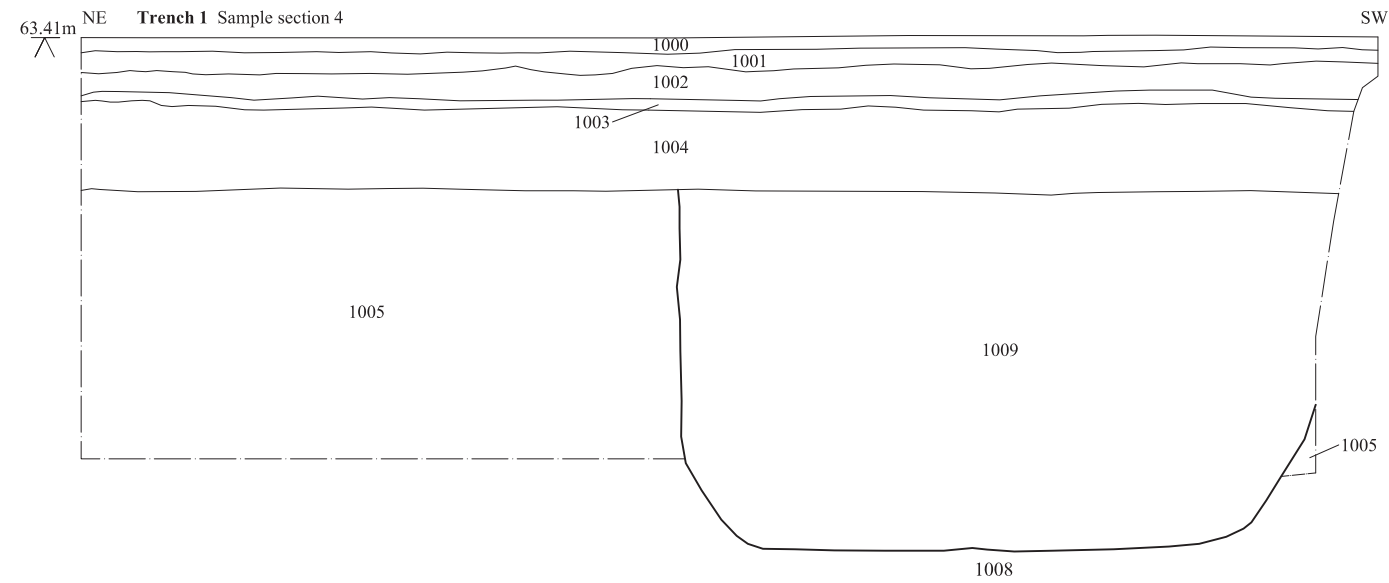
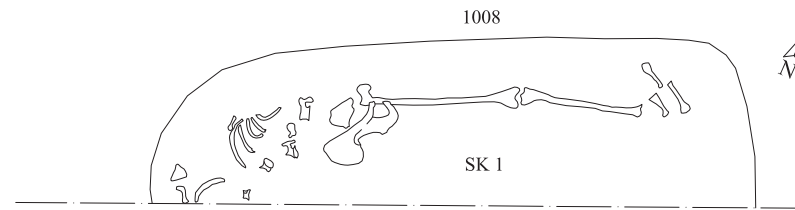
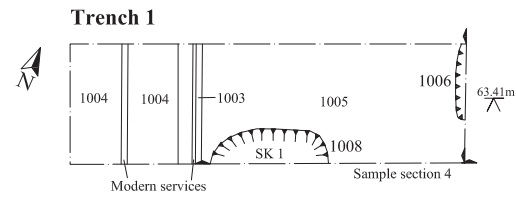
0 25m

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**Fig. 10 Trench & sample section location plan**

Scale 1:250 at A4

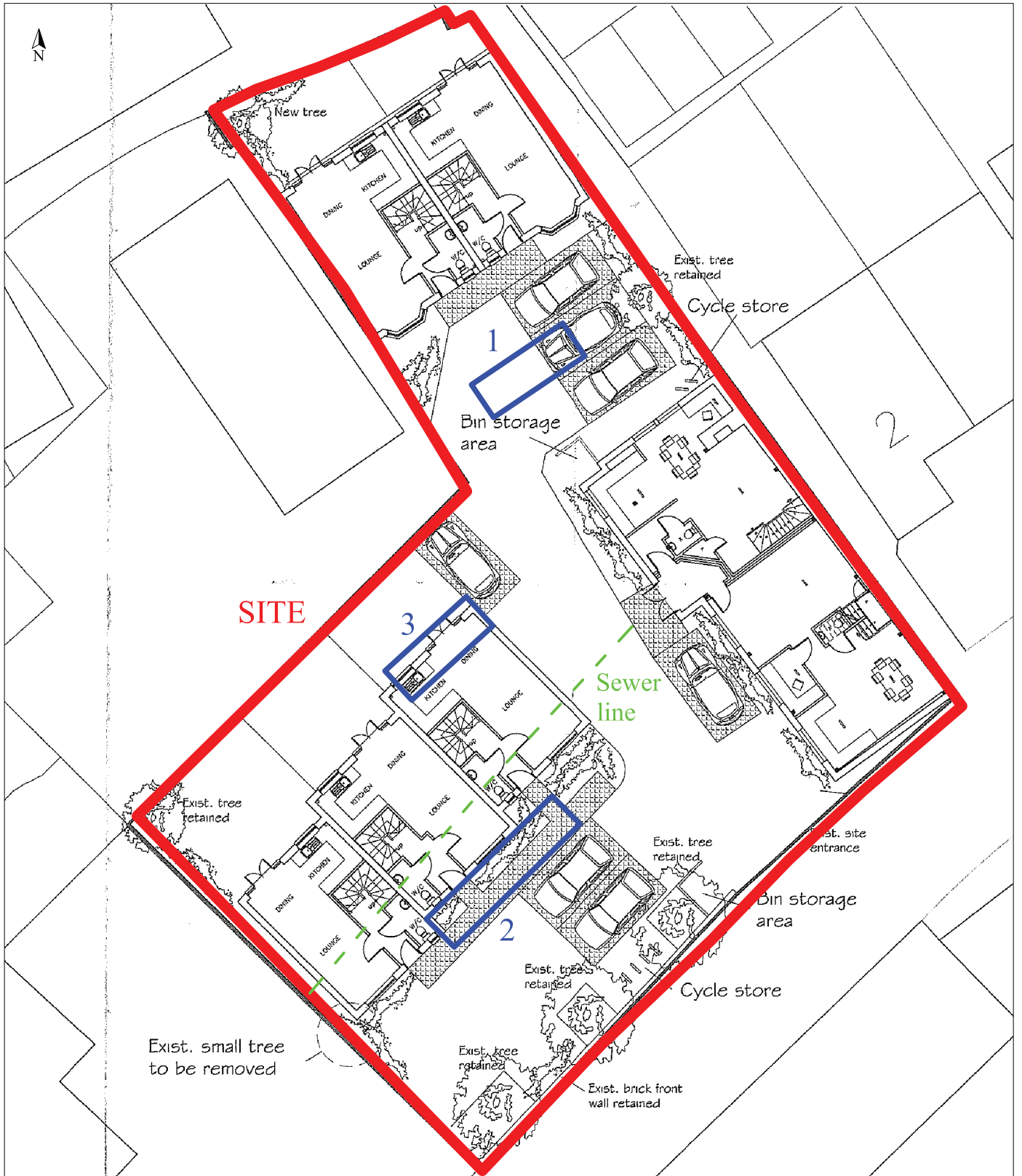




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**Fig. 11 Plans and sections**

Scale Trench plans 1:100, sections & skeleton 1:20 at A3



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**Fig.12 Proposed development plan**  
 Scale 1:250 at A4