

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD:  
LAND AT MOAT FARM HOUSE, KETTLE GREEN ROAD, MUCH HADHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 3/14/1494/FP  
NGR: TL 4156 1811  
AAL Site Code: MUHA 14  
HER Enquiry Reference: 337/14OASIS  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-210012



Report prepared for  
Ms G Roberts

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number AAL2015061

July 2015



Allenarchaeology



## Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Site Location and Description.....	2
3.0 Planning Background.....	2
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background .....	2
5.0 Methodology .....	3
6.0 Results .....	4
Phase 1: Natural Deposits .....	4
Phase 2: Modern features and deposits .....	4
7.0 Discussion and Conclusions.....	5
8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology.....	5
9.0 Acknowledgements .....	5
10.0 References.....	5

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Context Summary List .....	6
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### List of Plates

Plate 1: General view of site after machine stripping, looking southwest.....	4
Plate 2: Ditch [102] looking southeast. 1m scale .....	5

### List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red .....	7
Figure 2: Plan of site showing excavation area (red line) and location of proposed building (grey).....	8
Figure 3: Detailed plan and section of ditch [102] .....	9

### Document Control

Element:	Name:	Date:
Report prepared by:	Tobin Rayner MSc (Hons)	23/07/2015
Illustrations prepared by:	Tobin Rayner MSc (Hons)	23/04/2015
Report edited by:	Natasha Powers BSc MSc MCIfA MCMI	24/07/2015
Report reviewed by:	Mark Allen BSc (Hons) MCIfA	24/07/2015
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*Cover photo: General view of site, looking north*

## **Executive Summary**

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Ms G Roberts to undertake a programme of archaeological strip, map and record for the erection of a proposed stable block and access at land adjacent to Moat Farm House, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.
- The proposed development is within an Area of Archaeological Significance (No.149), lying adjacent to the known medieval and later farmstead and moated site of Moat Farm, next to Kettle Green and just west of the historic village core of Much Hadham. Roman finds have also been recovered on farmland nearby and Much Hadham was a known pottery production site in the Roman period.
- The works revealed natural geology below a modern topsoil. A single northwest to southeast aligned ditch was recorded, which produced a small assemblage of modern pottery.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Ms Gillian Roberts to undertake a programme of archaeological strip, map and record for the erection of a proposed stable block and access at land adjacent to Moat Farm House, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation*' (ClfA 2014a) and '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (ClfA 2014b), the regional guidelines in '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*' (Medlycott 2011) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2015). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice were also followed.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 The village of Much Hadham is situated in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire, approximately 14km northeast of Hertford and 8km west of Bishops Stortford. The site is situated on agricultural land to the south of Much Hadham and west of Hadham Cross, adjacent to the hamlet of Kettle Green. The plot of land lies immediately to the south of an existing barn at Moat House Farm. The location of the proposed stables is centred on NGR TL 4156 1810.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises bedrock deposits of Thanet Sand and Lambeth Group clay, silt and sand, overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to East Hertfordshire District Council for the '*Erection of stable block and access*' (Planning Application Reference 3/14/1494/FP).
- 3.2 Planning permission was granted subject to conditions, including the archaeological investigation via 'strip, map and record' of all areas of the development where groundworks, including levelling or ground reduction had an impact, effectively 'preserving the archaeology by record'. This approach is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012) and the Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide.

## **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 A full search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter HHER) was requested for an area extending 500m from the centre of the site (Search Reference 337/14).
- 4.2 The proposed development lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance (No.149), which has been identified by the local plan. The site lies adjacent to a known medieval and later farmstead and moated site of Moat Farm adjacent to Kettle Green, just west of the historic village of Much Hadham.

- 4.3 Roman activity is represented by a hoard of Roman coins dated between 32BC and AD 210 recovered in 1990 on farmland near Much Hadham (HHER 7176). A Roman lamp was recovered from a spot described as 'near Much Hadham' (HHER 2772). Much Hadham is a known pottery production site, producing red slip wares and grey wares from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD onwards, expanding significantly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD (<http://potsherd.net/atlas/Ware/HARS.html>).
- 4.4 In the Domesday Survey of 1086, the manorial estate is referred to as *Haedham* suggesting a Saxon place name origin meaning 'Hadda's farm or settlement'. Much Hadham is recorded as a large settlement, with a mill and mixed woodland, pasture and cultivated fields all owned by the Bishop of London (Williams and Martin 1992, 371). Kettle Green itself has been documented from 1404 as *Ketwelgrene* (Gover *et al.* 1938).
- 4.5 A moated site, which is believed to date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century, lies within the nearby farmland (HHER 1997). The proposed new stable block will lie c.40m to the southwest of this moat, while the access track will join an existing track that passes to the west of the moat, and follows the route from Moat Farm to Camwell Hall. Another undated nearby track, known as Chase Way (HHER 17746), exists today as a double-ditched and hedged, stone trackway.
- 4.6 The earliest surviving elements of Moat Farm (HHER 12168) date to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, although the original farm house and platform may have been built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A previous building survey has been undertaken (Wilcox 2002), whilst a watching brief in the farm yard revealed only 19<sup>th</sup> century rubbish layers (Doel 1999). The former barn and dairy immediately north of the farm house are listed and of 17<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> century date (HHER 12168).
- 4.7 Cropmarks indicating a possible pit and enclosures (HHER 16705) have been noted near the known extent of the moated farmstead, while cropmarks resulting from post-enclosure era field systems have been noted west of Kettle Green Farm (HHER 16707). The cropmark of an undated trackway is also known from north of Blakes Bushes near the farm (HHER 16703).

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The scheme of 'Strip, Map and Record' comprised the removal of topsoil and overburden across the proposed development area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, and monitored and controlled at all times by an experienced field archaeologist, acting in accordance with the contents of the project specification. Soil was removed in spits of no more than 0.1m in thickness to the first archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 5.2 Once the strip was complete, archaeological features were accurately planned and a sufficient sample of them were excavated to enable the full characterisation of the nature of the archaeological resource. Spoil heaps were also examined visually and with a metal detector for any archaeological material. All artefacts identified on site were collected, with the exception of obviously modern finds.
- 5.3 Accurate scale drawings of any archaeological features/deposits and/or a 'natural' profile were produced in plan and section at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. A base plan was also produced, at an appropriate scale, to map any archaeological features.

- 5.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded by full colour photography, with an identification number board, appropriate scales and a directional arrow. General site shots were also taken to show the location of the groundworks.
- 5.5 Standard AAL context recording sheets were used to record all context information (e.g. deposits, archaeological features, stratigraphic relationships). Number in square brackets represent cut features (e.g. ditch [102]).

## 6.0 Results

### *Phase 1: Natural Deposits*

- 6.1 The earliest deposit recorded across the whole of the site was a firm, light yellowish brown clay with occasional flint, chalk and sand patches, 103, and represents the underlying natural geology (Plate 1).



*Plate 1: General view of site after machine stripping, looking southwest*

### *Phase 2: Modern features and deposits*

- 6.2 Located in the northwest corner of the site was a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature [102]. Measuring at least 13m long x 1.73m wide x 0.5m deep this flat bottomed ditch contained a single light grey clayey silt fill, 101 (Plate 2). Several sherds of modern pottery were recorded within the fill. The feature became increasingly diffuse to the southeast.



*Plate 2: Ditch [102] looking southeast. 1m scale*

6.3 Topsoil, 100, was recorded across the whole site and sealed ditch [102].

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

7.1 The archaeological works exposed a single linear feature, running northwest to southeast across the site, which produced a small group of modern pottery. It does not appear on any historic mapping of the area, suggesting that it may be a small and ephemeral boundary/drainage feature, in use for only a short period of time.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

8.1 The programme of archaeological strip, map and record methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the works. It has indicated that the development will have a negligible impact upon the local archaeological resource.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

9.1 AAL would like to thank Ms G Roberts for this commission and for her cooperation during the fieldwork.

## **10.0 References**

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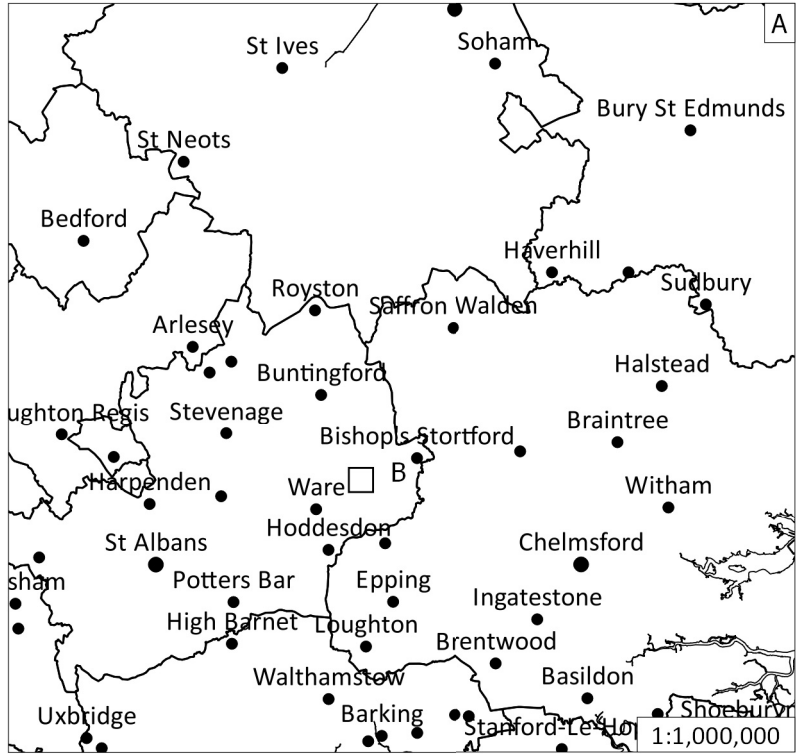
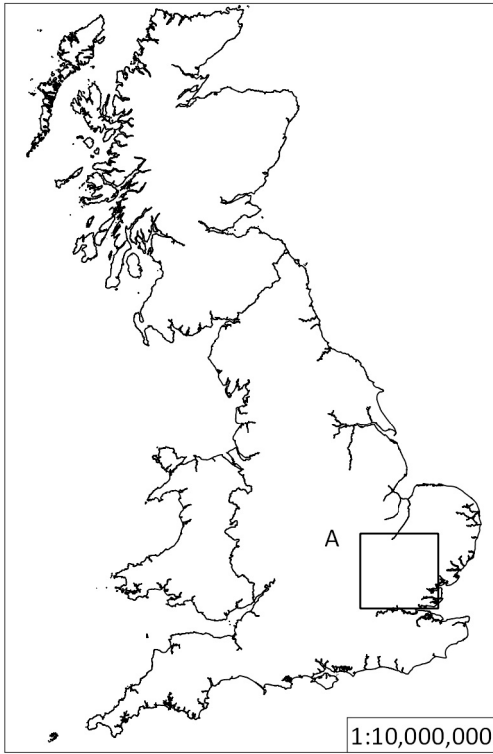
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*Appendix 1: Context Summary List*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
100	Layer	Firm, mid brown sandy clay with occasional flint and chalk inclusions, seals 101	Topsoil
101	Layer	Firm, light grey clayey silt with occasional large flint and chalk fragments, 0.5m deep, sealed by 100, fills [102]	Silting of ditch [102]
102	Cut	Northeast-southwest linear feature with moderately sloping sides and flat base, c. 13m x 1.73m x 0.5m deep, filled by 101 cuts 103	Field boundary /drainage ditch
103	Layer	Firm, light yellowish brown clay with occasional flint, chalk and sand patches, cut by [102]	Natural geology



**Figure 1:** Site location outlined in red

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Site Code MUHA 15

Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

Drawn by T Rayner

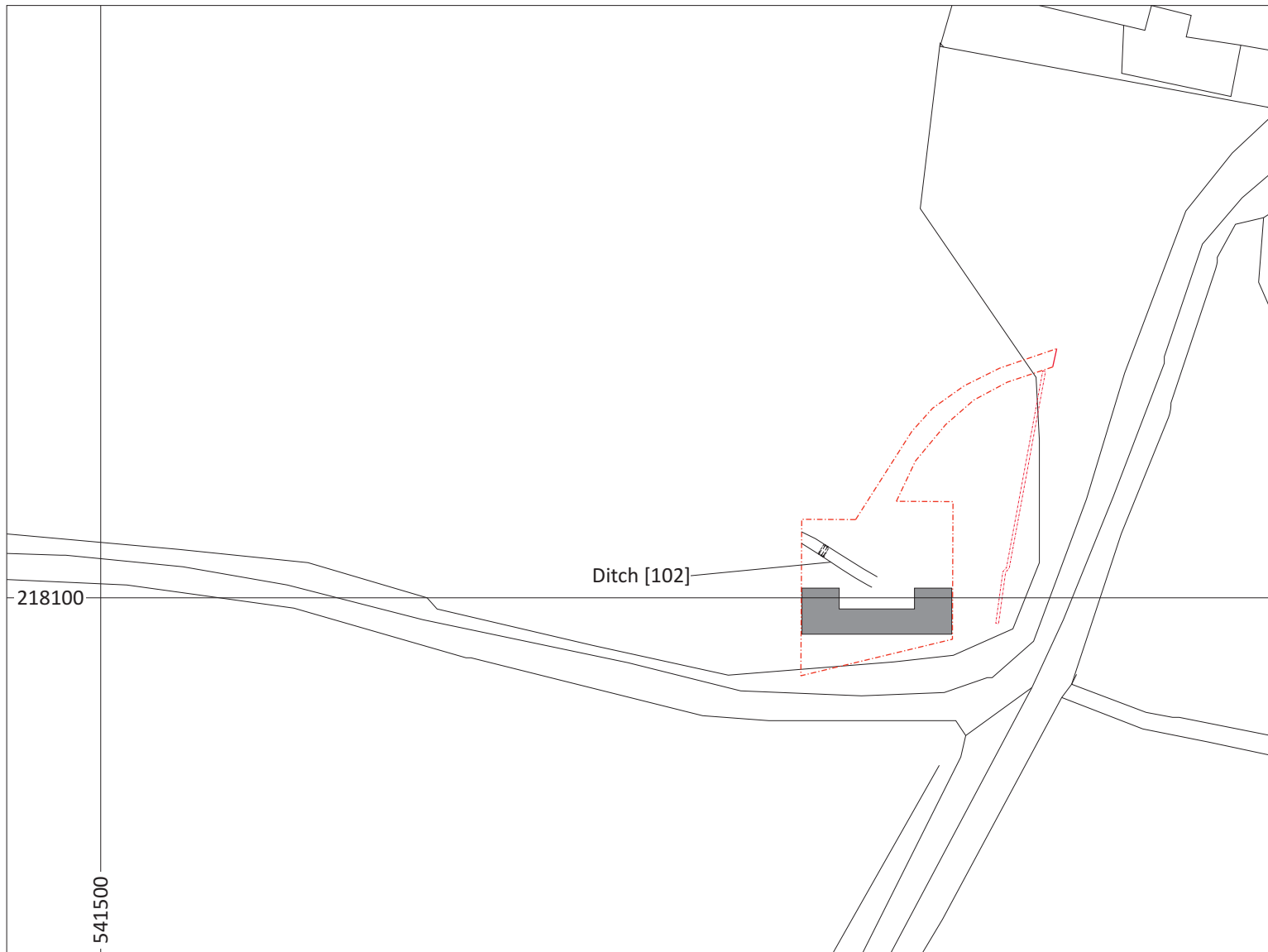
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Ditch [102]

218100

541500

**Figure 2:** Plan of site showing excavation area (red line) and location of proposed building (grey)



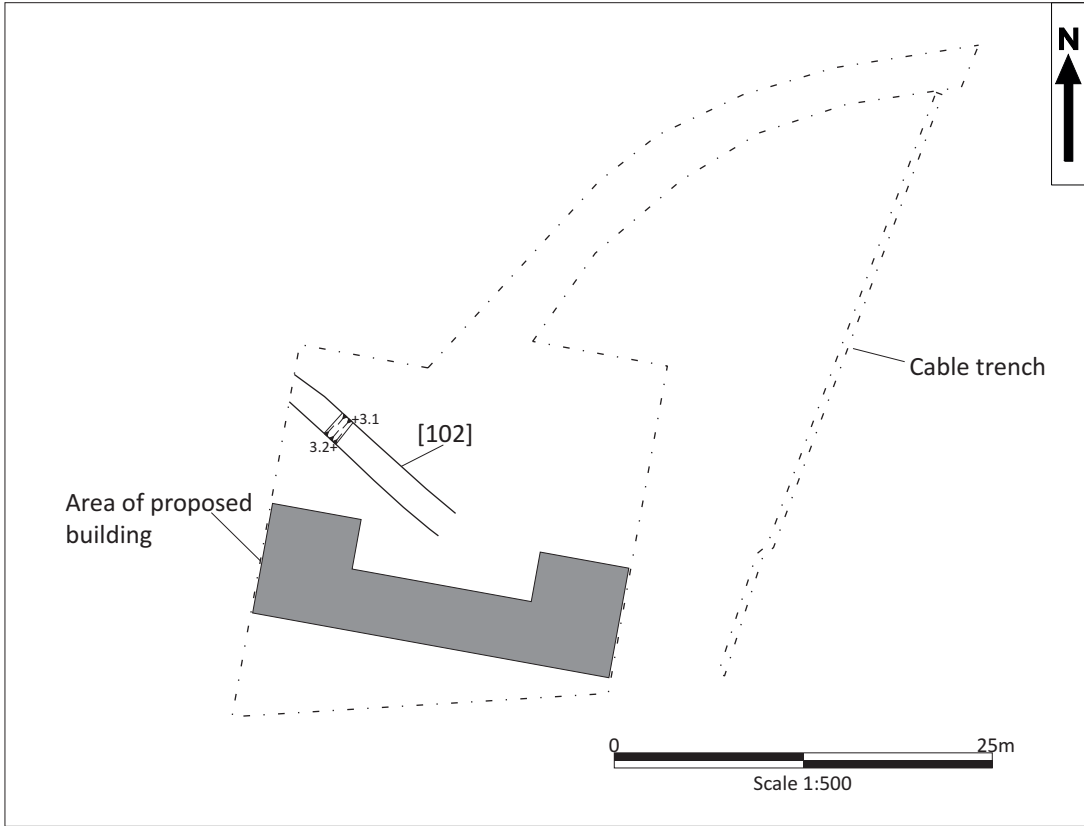
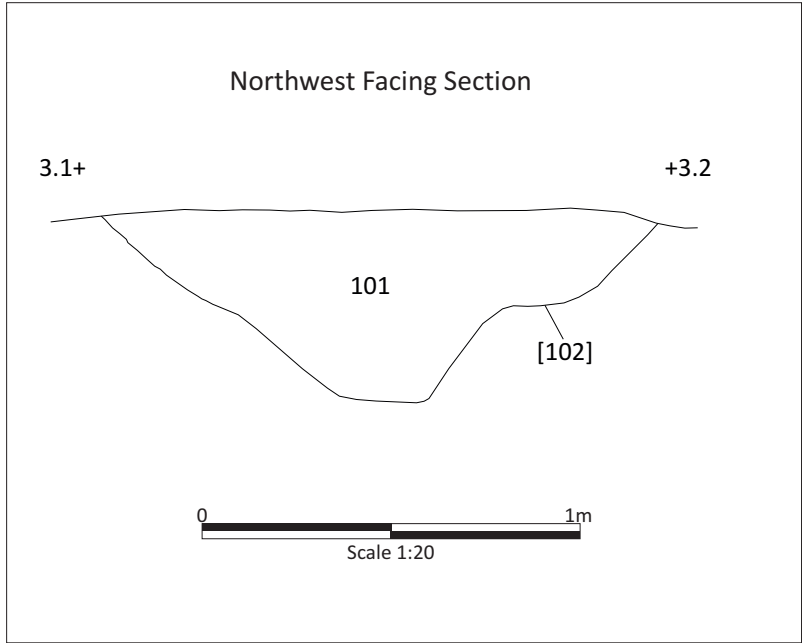
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**Figure 3:** Detailed site plan and section of ditch [102]



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East Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 1BH

**Southampton**  
International House  
Southampton International Business Park  
George Curl Way  
Southampton  
SO18 2RZ

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1522 685356  
Email: [info@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2545  
Email: [birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:birmingham@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 800 610 2550  
Email: [cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:cambridge@allenarchaeology.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0) 800 610 2555  
Email: [southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:southampton@allenarchaeology.co.uk)