



**Brandon Mews
Hill End Lane, St Albans
Hertfordshire**

**Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
and Watching Brief**

for
Kier Partnership Homes Ltd

CA Project: 660005
CA Report: 11335

February 2012

Brandon Mews
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CA Project: 660005
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SUMMARY

Project name:	Brandon Mews, St Albans
Location:	Hertfordshire
NGR:	TL 1762 0698
Type:	Desk-based Assessment and Watching Brief
Date:	27 September to 18 November 2011
Location of archive:	St Albans Museum
Site code:	BMS 11

Between September and November 2011, an archaeological watching brief was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the residential development of a plot of land off Hill End Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire. To set the findings of the watching brief in context, a desk-based assessment of the site was also undertaken. The development, to be known as Brandon Mews, is being undertaken by Kier Partnership Homes Ltd and comprises the construction of twenty-three flats and four houses on the site of a former caravan park.

The desk-based assessment demonstrated that there were no designated sites or known sites of archaeological interest within the development area, other than it being the site of railway sidings and a railway station, Hill End Halt, which were built between 1895 and 1899 to serve the nearby Hill End Asylum, later known as the Hertfordshire County Mental Hospital; the station was destroyed by fire in 1954, shortly after its closure, and only the platform now survives.

The watching brief encountered no evidence for the station buildings or railway sidings, other than layers of cinders and other material across parts of the site; this material may have derived from the ballast and subgrade of the former sidings and the raking out of train fire boxes when the sidings were in use. The still extant platform lies just beyond the northern boundary of the site, at its eastern end. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was found. A broad, linear, clay-filled hollow, probably of natural origin, was identified in the central part of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between September and November 2011, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation at Brandon Mews, Hill End Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire (site centred on NGR: TL 1762 0698; Fig. 1). The project, which was commissioned by Kier Partnership Homes Ltd, consisted of a desk-based assessment and a watching brief carried out during groundworks associated with the residential development of the land. It was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition requested by Simon West, St Albans District Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to St Albans City and District Council.

1.2 The objectives of the archaeological investigation, as outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2011), were as follows:

- The desk-based assessment will assess the known and potential heritage assets of the site and its surrounding area. The results will inform the archaeological watching brief and enable any archaeological features or deposits recorded within the site to be placed within their local and regional context.
- The archaeological watching brief will identify, record and investigate, so far as is reasonably practicable, any archaeological features, deposits or finds revealed during construction works for the new development.
- The results of the desk-based assessment and the watching brief will be set out in a technical report that will present in a clear and coherent manner the results of the project. At an appropriate juncture, the report will be deposited with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as a publicly accessible document.
- A primary archive for the project will be assembled and will be deposited with St Albans Museum where it will be available for future research.

1.3 The desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CA (2011), as approved by Simon West, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008b). The management of the project followed the guidance set out in the English Heritage (EH) procedural documents

Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.4 The site is located on the eastern outskirts of St Albans, c. 3km to the east of the city centre, in a residential area to the south of Hatfield Road (A1057). It occupies a narrow strip of land, c. 0.3ha in extent, between Hill End Lane to the south and a dismantled railway line to the north, which had until recently been the site of a small caravan park. A public right of way, known as the Alban Way, follows the route of the disused railway line. The site is relatively flat and lies at c. 90 m aOD.
- 1.5 The geology of the area comprises Cretaceous rocks of the White Chalk Subgroup, overlain by glacial till (BGS 2012).

2. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Methodology

- 2.1 The study area covers c. 1.5km square, centred on the site, and data was collated from published, archive and other secondary sources of archaeological, historical, geographical, topographical and environmental information relevant to the area of the development.

Archaeological databases and reports

- 2.2 Reference was made to archaeological survey and excavation records from appropriate books and journals and from unpublished archaeological assessment and fieldwork reports held by archaeological contractors, museums and societies. Information from the following sources was reviewed:
- Hertfordshire HER,
 - the National Monuments Record,
 - the Archaeological Data Service,
 - the List of Scheduled Monuments,
 - the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest,
 - Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest,
 - Register of Historic Battlefields.

Historical documents

- 2.3 Relevant documents and papers held at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies and St Albans Museum were reviewed. Particular emphasis was placed on information relating to the St Albans to Hatfield railway line and the station at Hill End Halt.

Cartographic and pictorial documents

- 2.4 A study was made of early maps, prints and paintings, tithe maps, Apportionment and Parish maps (where available), Ordnance Survey maps, fire insurance maps, estate plans and other historical maps and plans held in the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies and St Albans Museum. The following maps were consulted:

- 1826 Map of St Albans
- 1840 Tithe map
- 1879 Ordnance Survey 6" map XXXV 9
- 1895 Plan of the proposed railway alterations
- 1898 Ordnance Survey 6" map XXXV 9
- 1924 Ordnance Survey 6" map XXXV 9
- 1937 Ordnance Survey 6" map XXXV 9

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.5 The Hertfordshire HER contains the records of a number of archaeological sites within the study area, although only one site, that of the former station of Hill End Halt, lies within the development area (Fig. 2). There are no designated sites within or in close proximity to the development area and the site has not been subject to previous archaeological investigation.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.6 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area, other than a scatter of worked flint found during an evaluation of the site of the former Hill End Hospital (13472; Fig. 2, 2; West 1994), and a small assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery and daub that was uncovered during the construction of an air raid shelter off Salisbury Avenue in 1939 (148; Fig. 2, 1). Roman remains, comprising 1st-century pottery found in association with a layer of charcoal, have been found c. 150m to the north of

the site, at Bel View (672; Fig. 2, **3**); it has been suggested that this may be the site of a pottery kiln, but this has not been substantiated.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 2.7 There are no confirmed medieval sites in the area, although there is documentary evidence for a medieval precursor to Beastney's Farm (16806; Fig. 2, **5**), and a medieval moated manor house probably once stood on the site of Beaumont's Farm (13209; Fig. 2, **4**); both farms dated to the post-medieval period and were demolished for housing in the 20th century. The remains of a post-medieval farmstead still survives at Winches Farm, off Kay Walk, c. 500m to the north of the site, where the mid 17th-century timber-framed farmhouse has been converted into offices (16445; Fig. 2, **6**).

Modern

- 2.8 The earliest available maps, the 1826 Map of St Albans and the 1840 Tithe map, show that the site was located within two arable fields, with the site lying predominately within Field 716 and separated from Field 719 at its western end by a hedgerow. Field 716 was known as 'Hut Wood Field' and Field 719 as 'Hither Hatford Road Field'. Chalkdell Wood is shown to the north of the site and Hill End Lane curves slightly further to the south than the later alignment of the road, just clipping the south-eastern extremity of the site and following the edge of a small copse bordering the edge of Field 720.
- 2.9 The setting of the site in 1879 remains largely unchanged, although the Hatfield to St Albans branch line of the Great Northern Railway had been constructed in 1865; this is shown on the 1879 Ordnance Survey map, running along the northern edge of the site. Due to the construction of the railway embankment, the junction between Hill End Lane and Hixberry Lane was shifted to the south of the railway line, so as to provide a convenient bridging point for the railway over the road.
- 2.10 By 1898 the area to the south of the railway line had been substantially altered, with the foundation of the Hill End Asylum, subsequently known as the Hertfordshire County Mental Hospital. To facilitate the construction of the hospital, a spur leading to the hospital complex and a set of sidings had been built in 1895, so that building materials could be taken directly to the construction site; later they were used to carry coal for the hospital's heating furnaces. The sidings are shown on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map to lie within the current site; they are also shown on a plan of

the proposed railway alterations, dated 1895. It was at around this time that Hill End Road was realigned to run parallel and to the south of the railway line, to follow its current route; two rows of houses had been built on the south side of the lane.

- 2.11 The Ordnance Survey map of 1924 shows no notable changes to the setting of the site, other than the construction of the station of Hill End Halt (5474; Fig. 2, **11**) on the south side of the railway line. It was situated at the northern edge of the development area, at its eastern end; the station buildings lay within the site, the still extant platform lay just beyond the site boundary, to the north. The single-story timber station building and platform were opened in 1899 to serve the Hill End Asylum. The building comprised a parcels room, waiting room and office, painted white with green door and window frames, and an iron gent's lavatory. The station was closed in 1951 and was largely destroyed by fire in 1954; only the platform, constructed from engineering bricks and concrete, survives. The site was subsequently used as a car park and then converted into a caravan park, with areas of hard standing and access/service roads.
- 2.12 With the rapid suburban expansion of St Albans in the first half of the 20th century, the area to the north-west of the site is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1937 to largely be covered with housing, with a large brick works occupying the site of the former field to the north of the railway line.
- 2.13 Other modern HER sites in the area include the 19th-century country house, Oaklands (13616; Fig. 2, **7**), a cast iron triangular milestone that probably dates to c. 1822 (5020; Fig. 2, **8**), a vintage letter box (5482; Fig. 2, **9**) and a WWII pill box (6954; Fig. 2, **10**).

3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

Methodology

- 3.1 The watching brief followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2011) and was maintained during intrusive groundworks associated with the excavation of foul and storm drains, foundation trenches for dwellings in the western part of the site, and stripping associated with the laying of a new road across the northern part of the site (Fig. 3). Further observations were made where suitable deposits survived. Non-

archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision.

- 3.2 Archaeological deposits were planned and recorded, so far as was reasonably practicable, in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:250) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the project. There were no finds from the site pre-dating the 19th century and no features or deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental sampling. Spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector to assist in the recovery of metal objects.
- 3.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes; this will be deposited with St Albans Museum once it has been prepared for deposition. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

Fieldwork results

- 3.4 Glacial till, consisting of orange-brown clay, was revealed across the site at different depths below present ground level. This was overlain by between 0.35m and 1.3m of made ground. Trenches were allocated separate blocks of context numbers to aid with cross-referencing deposits across the site. The foundation trenches for flats A, B and C, which were typically 1.8m deep, were allocated 100-199; the foundation trenches for semi-detached houses F2, also 1.8m deep, were allocated 200-299; the storm drain, between 2.5m and 3.5m deep, 300-399; the foundation trenches for semi-detached houses F1, also 1.8m deep, 400-499; the foul drain, averaging 1.4m deep, 500-599; and the road strip, which removed approximately 0.50m, was allocated 600-699.
- 3.5 The deep trenches for drainage works in the central part of the site revealed the presence of a broad hollow (311, 319, 323, 511, 523, 607), probably of natural origin, that was largely filled with sterile, largely stone-free greenish-grey clay. Its general orientation was east to west, curving towards the north at each end (Fig. 3; Fig. 4 Section AA and photo). Trenching typically crossed it obliquely or sufficient only to reveal a partial profile, although reduction of the road area at the northern part of site showed it in plan. Within the site the feature was in excess of 70m long,

based on observations at the west and east ends, and roughly 7m wide and up to 1.2m deep. The profile was roughly Y-shaped, comprising a broad, relatively shallow hollow with a narrow, steep-sided central trough. The basal fill (312, 320, 512, 524) was a brownish-grey clayey silt, with occasional small pebbles. Above this was greenish-grey silty clay (305, 324, 510, 520, 609) succeeded by dark grey, or greenish-grey, clayey silt (306, 325, 509, 519, 608). At the western end the upper fill was mid-greenish-grey clayey silt (326), similar to the secondary fill.

- 3.6 Deposits associated with the railway sidings that had previously occupied the site were encountered at a number of locations, although no evidence was found for the former station building. Two areas of black cinders were observed, on the north (508, 601) and south (203, 404) sides of the site, each extending beyond the limits of the works. Between the two was a swath, approximately 12m wide, of crushed chalk (101, 202, 303, 317, 402, 507, 517, 604; Fig. 4 photos), usually accompanied by an overlying thin band of crushed brick (205, 304, 316, 401, 516, 603). Overlying these were bands of yellow (104, 504) and grey gravel (105, 505), and brown pebbles (106, 506), followed by further industrial-waste (301, 315, 503, 610), usually across the central to northern parts of the site. No topsoil and subsoil deposits were encountered, suggesting the site had been heavily truncated for the construction of the sidings.
- 3.7 The uppermost layers were associated with the caravan park that formerly occupied the site. These generally comprised imported crush (206, 313, 330, 600), rubble deposits (605) and hardcore (107, 309, 314, 329, 522), laid down as a sub-base for concrete hard-standing (502) and asphalt road surfaces (310, 515). Typically, these deposits extended between 0.18m to 0.50m below present ground level onto earlier make-up layers. Associated service trenches (water, gas, electricity) extended further into the underlying deposits and were not generally recorded.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief, although a broad, slightly curvilinear clay-filled hollow was identified at multiple locations in the central part of the site. The irregular, generally Y-shaped profile, the lack of finds and other inclusions and the sterile greenish-grey clay deposits within the feature suggest that it is probably of natural origin.

- 4.2 The topography of the site was generally flat and the absence of topsoil and subsoil deposits suggests that the slope may have been slightly truncated to provide a level site for the sidings when they were constructed in the 1890s. However, the site retains a slight slope at the eastern end, where the ground dips down towards the former route of Hill End Lane, prior to its realignment in the 1860s. No evidence for the former road was seen within the foundation trenches for Flats A to C.
- 4.3 No remains associated with the railway sidings or the station building were encountered, although extensive deposits of cinders and other material recorded across the site may derive from the ballast and subgrade of the former tracks and from the raking out of train fire boxes. When the St Albans to Hatfield railway line was closed in 1951 the sidings were dismantled and the area was used as a car park; it is likely that some of the made ground was laid down to provide a suitable surface. The station building burnt down in 1954 and was subsequently totally demolished.
- 4.4 Construction of the caravan park that occupied the site prior to development appears to have comprised importing hardcore to provide a sub-base for concrete hardstanding and the laying of tarmac access roads and the excavation of service trenches.

5. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Mordue. The report was written by Simon Carlyle and Jeremy Mordue and the illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jeremy Mordue, and prepared for deposition by Vasileios Tsamis. The project was managed for CA by Roland Smith.

6. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 18 January 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Brandon Mews, Hill End Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Watching Brief*

West, S, 1994 *Hill End Hospital, St Albans: an evaluation for Aldwyck Housing Association*, St Albans Museum Service report



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1 (ground level at c. 90.75m aOD west end of trench, 90.15m aOD east end of trench)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Make-up/Crush	-	-	0.28	Modern
101	Layer	Crushed chalk	-	-	0.25	Modern
102	Natural	Orange-brown sandy-clay	-	-	0.20+	
103	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Make-up	-	-	0.32	Modern
104	Layer	Dark orange-yellow sandy gravel. Make-up	-	-	0.05	Modern
105	Layer	Mid-grey clay sand, occasional-moderate small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.08	Modern
106	Layer	Mid-orange-brown sandy-gravel, coarse, with frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones. Make-up.	-	-	0.10	Modern
107	Layer	Mid-orange sandy-gravel. Make-up	-	-	0.09	Modern
108	Layer	Dark grey-brown sandy-silt. Make-up.	-	-	0.04	Modern
109	Layer	Mid-grey-brown clay-silt, with occasional-moderate small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. Possible earthwork associated with old line of Hill End Lane?	-	-	0.31	Post-med?

Area 2 (ground level at c. 91.60m aOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Dark grey-brown mixed deposit with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Make-up.	-	-	0.28	Modern
201	Layer	Yellow sand. Make-up.	-	-	0.11	Modern
202	Layer	Crushed chalk.	-	-	0.12	Modern
203	Layer	Crushed black cinders. Associated with railway sidings?	-	-	0.22	Modern
204	Natural	Orange-brown sandy-clay.	-	-	-	
205	Layer	Crushed brick. Make-up.	-	-	0.11	
206	Layer	Dark grey-brown mixed deposit with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles. Make-up.	-	-	0.25	Modern
207	Layer	Crushed chalk, similar to 202.	-	-	0.02	Modern

Area 3 (ground level at 91.66m aOD west end of trench, 91.00m aOD centre, and 90.43m aOD east end)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Brick rubble and mixed stony crush. Overburden.	-	-	0.50	Modern
301	Layer	Crushed black cinders. Associated with railway sidings?	-	-	0.15	Modern
302	Natural	Orange-brown sandy-clay.	-	-	-	
303	Layer	Crushed chalk.	-	-	0.11	Modern
304	Layer	Crushed brick	-	-	0.12	Modern
305	Fill of 311	Greenish grey silt-clay	-	-	0.60	
306	Fill of 311	Dark grey clay-silt	-	-	0.30	
307	Layer	Yellow-orange gravel hardcore. Make-up.	-	-	0.12	Modern
308	Layer	Black cinders. Make-up.	-	-	0.12	Modern
309	Layer	Yellow-orange gravel hardcore. Make-up.	-	-	0.20	Modern

310	Layer	Asphalt surface.	n/a	n/a	0.20	Modern
311	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear feature, with asymmetrical profile, steep on the S side and moderately sloping on the N side, and flat base. Oriented roughly E-W. Same as 319.	-	1.2+	1.22	
312	Fill of 311	Mid grey-brown clay-silt, with occasional small sub-angular stones.	-	-	0.90	
313	Layer	Crush. Make-up.	-	-	0.20	Modern
314	Layer	Orange-yellow hardcore.	-	-	0.05	Modern
315	Layer	Black hardcore	-	-	0.24	Modern
316	Layer	Crushed brick.	-	-	0.08	Modern
317	Layer	Crushed chalk	-	-	0.08	Modern
318	Layer	Mid-brown sandy silt. Possible old ground surface.	-	-	0.68	
319	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear feature. East side observed, moderately sloping. Oriented roughly E-W. Same as 311.	-	1.0+	0.80+	
320	Fill of 319	Single observed fill of ditch 319. Mid-dark grey clay-silt.	-	-	0.80+	
321	Natural	Same as 302	-	-	-	
322	Natural	Same as 321	-	-	-	
323	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear ditch, S side observed, with moderate slope. Oriented roughly ENE-WSW. Same as 319.	-	1.0+	0.95+	
324	Fill of 323	Mid-green-grey clay silt.	-	-	0.78	
325	Fill of 323	Dark green-grey clay-silt.	-	-	0.25	
326	Fill of 323	Mid-green-grey clay-silt.	-	-	0.25	
327	Layer	Mid-yellow sandy clay. Levelling.	-	-	0.30	
328	Layer	Mid-brownish-grey clay-sand.	-	-	0.15	Modern
329	Layer	Mid-yellow-orange gravelly hardcore. Make-up.	-	-	0.15	Modern
330	Layer	Crush. Overburden.	-	-	0.15	Modern

Area 4 (ground level at c. 91.60m aOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Rubble/crush	-	-	0.50	Modern
401	Layer	Crushed brick	-	-	0.12	Modern
402	Layer	Crushed chalk	-	-	0.20	Modern
403	Natural	Orange-yellow clay.	-	-	-	
404	Layer	Black cinders. Possibly associated with railway sidings.	-	-	0.30	Modern

Area 5 (ground level at c. 91.00m aOD west end of trench, 90.43m aOD east end of trench)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Dark grey-brown crush overburden.	-	-	0.18	Modern
501	Natural	Mid-yellow-orange sandy-clay. Same as 521	-	-		
502	Layer	Concrete hardstanding.	-	-	0.20	Modern
503	Layer	Coarse black pebbles/cinders. Make-up.	-	-	0.20	Modern
504	Layer	Brown silt-sand, with moderate pebbles.	-	-	0.06	Modern
505	Layer	Grey silt-sand with occasional pebbles	-	-	0.04	Modern
506	Layer	Grey-brown coarse silt-sand, with moderate pebbles.	-	-	0.15	Modern

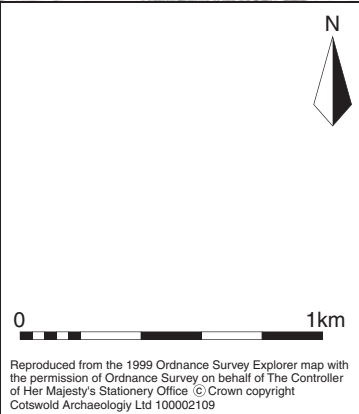
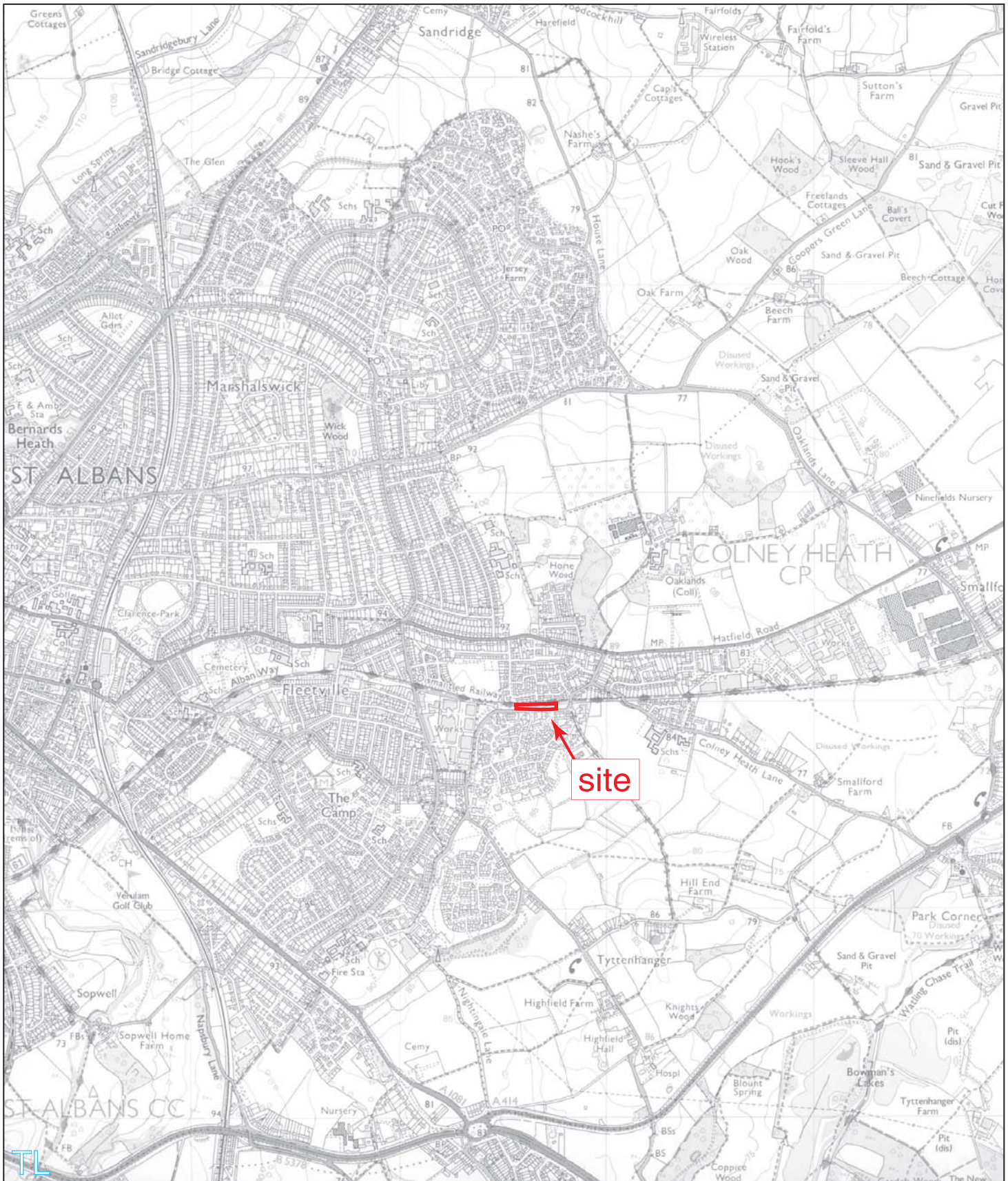
507	Layer	Crushed chalk.	-	-	0.15	Modern
508	Layer	Black cinders.	-	-	0.15	
509	Fill of 511	Dark grey clay-silt	-	-	0.24	
510	Fill of 511	Mid-green-grey clay-silt	-	-	0.20	
511	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear feature, steep sloping N side observed only, with a 'bench' further to N. Oriented roughly E-W. Same as 523.	-	1.0+	0.60	
512	Fill of 511	Mid-brownish-grey silt-clay, with occasional small sub-rounded stones.	-	-	0.50	
513	Layer	Mid-orange-brown sandy-clay gravel overburden.	-	-	0.30	
514	Layer	Mid-orange-brown clay, with occasional small stones. Levelling. Same as 518.	-	-	0.35	
515	Layer	Asphalt, with topside removed.	-	-	0.20	Modern
516	Layer	Crushed brick	-	-	0.08	Modern
517	Layer	Crushed chalk	-	-	0.09	Modern
518	Layer	Brown clay. Levelling. Same as 514.	-	-	0.25	
519	Fill of 523	Dark grey clay-silt.	-	-	0.22	
520	Fill of 523	Mid-greenish grey silt-clay	-	-	0.20	
521	Natural	Mid-orange-yellow sandy clay. Same as 501	-	-	n/k	
522	Layer	Mid-orange-yellow hardcore. Make-up.	-	-	0.16	Modern
523	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear feature, steep sloping E side observed only. Oriented roughly SE-NW. Same as 523.	-	1.0+	0.84	
524	Fill of 523	Mid-brownish-grey clay-silt with occasional small sub-angular stones.	-	-	0.50	

Area 6 (ground level at c. 91.45m aOD)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Crush	-	-	0.20	Modern
601	Layer	Black cinders	-	-	0.32	Modern
602	Natural	Orange clay	-	-	n/k	
603	Layer	Crushed brick	-	-	0.12	Modern
604	Layer	Crushed chalk	-	-	0.10	Modern
605	Layer	Brick rubble	-	-	0.18	Modern
606	Layer	Mid-brown-orange clay-silt	-	-	-	
607	Natural feature	Cut of large curvilinear feature. Seen in plan only	15.0+	11.0+	-	
608	Fill of 607	Dark greenish-grey clay-silt.	-	-	-	
609	Fill of 607	Mid-greenish grey clay-silt	-	-	-	
610	Layer	Black crush. Make-up.	-	-	0.25	Modern

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire
Short description (250 words maximum)	The desk-based assessment demonstrated that there were no designated sites or known sites of archaeological interest within the development area, other than it being the site of railway sidings and a railway station, Hill End Halt, which were built between 1895 and 1899 to serve the nearby Hill End Asylum, later known as the Hertfordshire County Mental Hospital; the station was destroyed by fire in 1954, shortly after its closure, and only the platform now survives. The watching brief encountered no evidence for the station buildings or railway sidings, other than layers of cinders and other material across parts of the site; this material may have derived from the ballast and subgrade of the former sidings and the raking out of train fire boxes when the sidings were in use. The still extant platform lies just beyond the northern boundary of the site, at its eastern end. No other archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was found. A broad, linear, clay-filled hollow, probably of natural origin, was identified in the central part of the site.
Project dates	27 September to 18 November 2011
Project type	Desk-based assessment and watching brief
Previous work	None
Future work	None
Monument type	None
Significant finds	None
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site location	Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.3ha
Site co-ordinates	TL 1762 0698
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)
Project Brief originator	-
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA
Project Manager	Roland Smith (CA)
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Mordue (CA)
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Archive location: St Albans Museum	Accession no. -
Physical	None
Paper	Site archive
Digital (HER)	Report and digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Desk-based Assessment and Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11335	



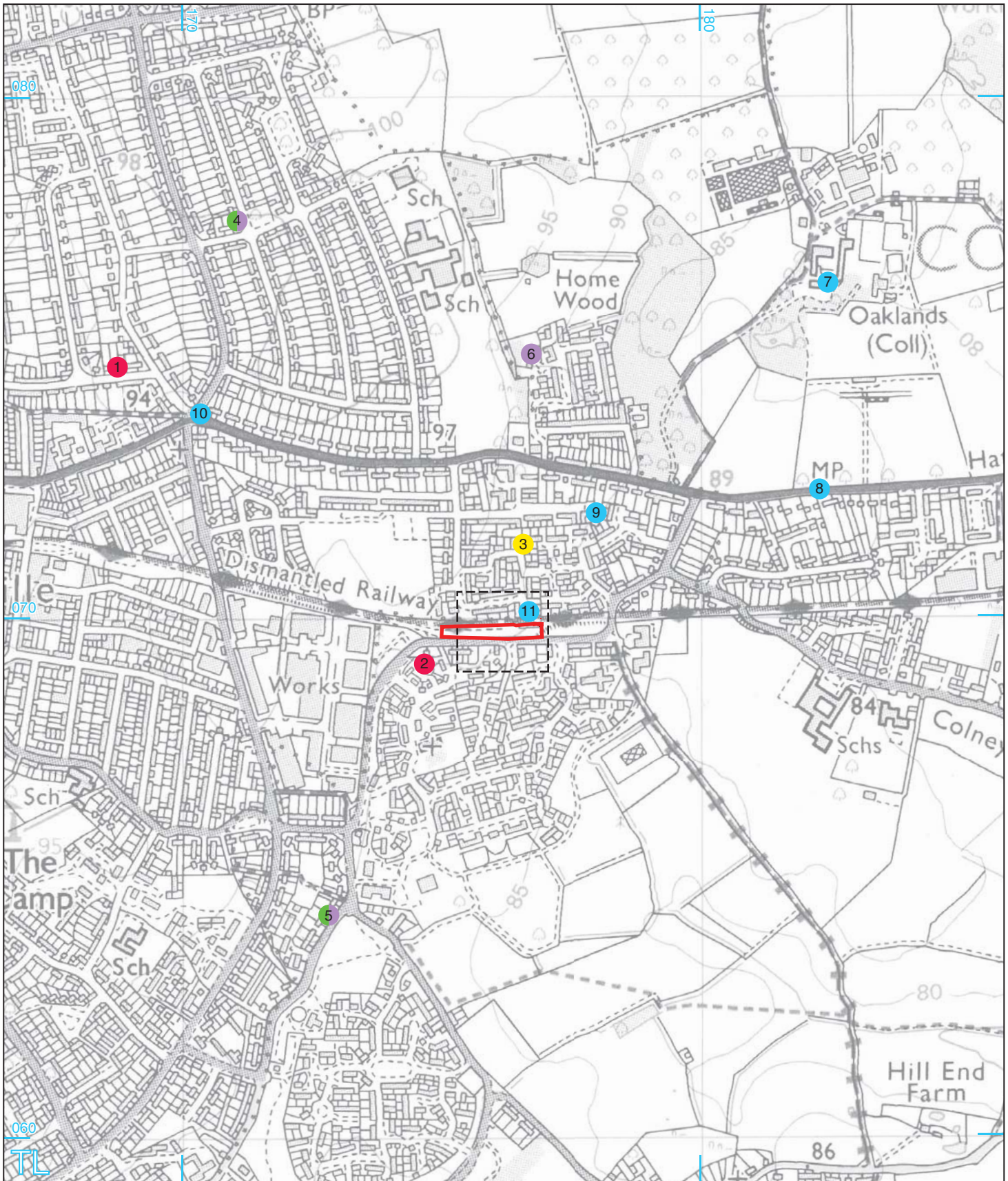
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PROJECT TITLE
 Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	660005	DATE	20-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- site
- prehistoric
- Roman
- medieval
- post-medieval
- modern
- Fig. 3 layout



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PROJECT TITLE
 Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Recorded heritage assets



PROJECT NO. 660005	DATE 20-01-2012	FIGURE NO. 2
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:10,000	

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- ▬ site
- ▬ foundation trenches
- ▬ drainage trenches
- ▬ natural feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Brandon Mews, St Albans, Hertfordshire

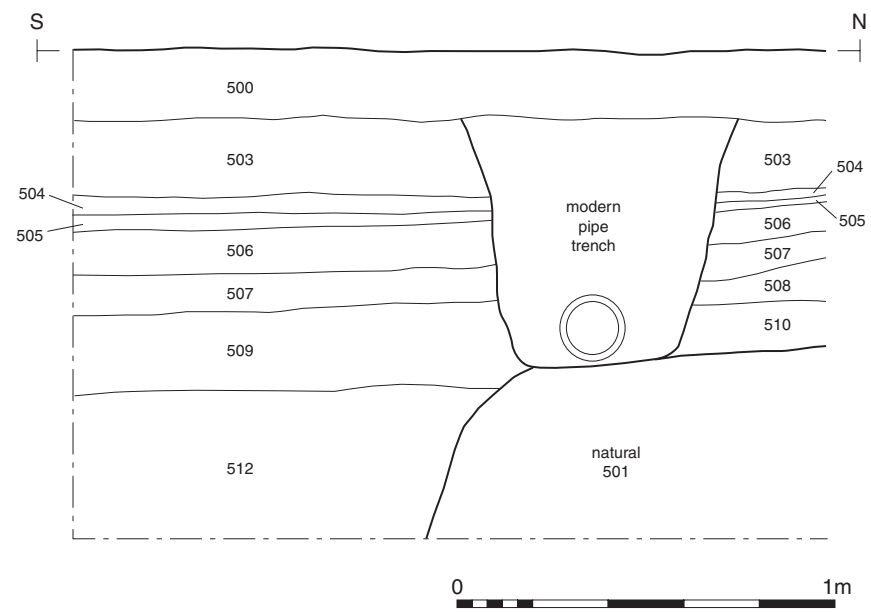
FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO. 660005	DATE 20-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	3
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A3 1:500	

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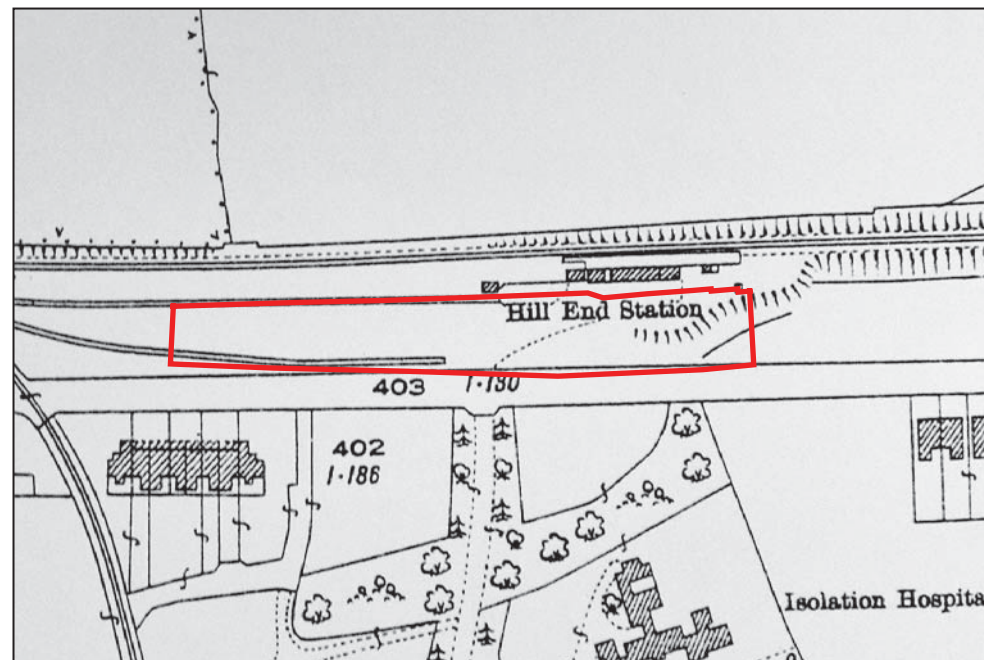
Section AA



The foundation trench for House F2, looking north-west



Drainage trench, showing upper part of feature 607, looking north-east



Extract from the 1924 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1:4000 approx.)