

Land off Townsend Drive  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire

*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Beechcroft Developments

CA Project: 660720  
CA Report: 16358

July 2016



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## SUMMARY

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Land off Townsend Drive                   |
| <b>Location:</b>            | St Albans, Hertfordshire                  |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | TL 1469 0840                              |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Evaluation                                |
| <b>Date:</b>                | 21-24 June 2016                           |
| <b>Planning Reference:</b>  | St Albans District Council 5/2015/3344    |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with Hertfordshire Museum |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | MCT 16                                    |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The fieldwork was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the residential development of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches.

Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location c. 1.3km north-east of St Albans' Roman town walls. A recent desk-based assessment conducted by Cotswold Archaeology identified the projected alignment of a Roman road, which passes through the development site, running north-west from the Roman town (*Verulamium*) towards Colchester.

No evidence for archaeological remains associated with the postulated line of the Roman road, which is projected to pass through the site, were identified.

Red-brick walls were encountered within the northern and eastern parts of the site (Trenches 2 and 3) which correspond to a building and boundary shown on 20th-century mapping of the site. These structures were demolished in the latter decades of the 20th century.

The evaluation recorded a substantial quarry pit, the backfill of which contained late-medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The evaluation also identified a ditch containing similar late-medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The ditch fits within the general alignment identified for the surrounding field systems depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire (centred on NGR: TL 1469 0840; Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Beechroft Developments Ltd.
- 1.2 A planning application (ref: no. 5/2015/3344) for the residential development of the site has been made to St Albans District Council (SDC; the local planning authority). In his pre-determination advice regarding the site Simon West, St Albans District Council Archaeologist (SADA; the archaeological advisor to SDC) recommended a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.3 The scope of the works, which comprised the excavation of eight trenches, was defined during discussions between CA and Simon West. The discussion was informed by an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by CA (2015).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016). The fieldwork followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

### **The site**

- 1.5 The proposed development area is approximately 1ha in size, located in the north-western part of St Albans. The site comprises the grounds and buildings of the former Marylands Convent and care home (Figs 2-4). It is bounded to the east by Townsend Drive and surrounded on all sides by modern residential developments. The site lies at approximately 118m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lambeth Group clay, silt and sand of the Palaeogene Period overlain by superficial sand and gravel deposits of the Kesgrave Catchment subgroup (BGS 2016). Light brown-orange silty sand was encountered during the evaluation.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in an archaeological desk-based assessment (CA 2015), the results of which are summarised below.

### ***Prehistoric (Pre-AD43)***

2.2 No evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified within the site.

### ***Roman (AD43-AD410)***

2.3 There is no recorded Roman activity within the site; however the wider area is archaeologically rich for this period and there is the potential for the presence of Roman archaeology to survive within the site. The Roman town of *Verulamium* is located c. 1.3km south-west of the site. The town was an important administrative centre for Roman occupation and control of the surrounding area. From *Verulamium*, a number of Roman roads lead off to the north-west and south-east (Watling Street), south-west (Silchester Road), and north-east (Colchester Road). The projected alignment of the Roman road running north-west out of the Roman town towards Colchester crosses through the development site. However, no archaeological evidence for this feature has been recorded within the site or its vicinity. The projected alignment links the section of Roman road recorded at the Folly Lane excavations c. 430m south-west of the site with the linear alignment of field boundaries and roads in the parish of Sandridge, north-east of the site.

2.4 South-west from the site, along this projected alignment of the Colchester Roman road, a late Iron Age/Romano-British ceremonial burial was recorded during excavations at Folly Lane between 1991 and 1992.

2.5 Cemetery sites are located within close proximity to the Roman roads outside the town walls of *Verulamium* (as was the Roman custom) and two are recorded within close proximity to the Folly Lane burial and the Colchester Road. Within the current archaeological record, these burials mark the furthest recorded extent of the Roman cemeteries north-west of *Verulamium*. However, the full extent of the cemeteries is not known and because of the site's location along the probable route of the Colchester road, it would not be unexpected for burials, dating to the Roman period, to be located within the site, although no such evidence has been previously recorded.

- 2.6 Other Roman heritage assets recorded in the local area comprise a coin hoard discovered in 1939 during sewage operations at Beech Bottom Dyke, a holloway leading south-west from the Folly Lane burial site, a Roman building recorded during an evaluation at St Albans City Hospital, and a bath house, located c. 1km south-west of the site, within close proximity to the Colchester road.

#### ***Early medieval and medieval (AD410-1539)***

- 2.7 There is no evidence for medieval remains within the confines of the site. Within the local and wider area activity during this period has been recorded; c. 180m east of the site is Bernard's Heath, the location of the Second Battle of St Albans which took place on the 17th February 1461, during the War of the Roses. Everlasting Lane, a medieval road running c. 410m west of the site, and a medieval ditch, recorded during excavations of a former bus garage. An undated earthwork has been recorded c. 640m north-west of the site. Its origins are unknown; however it is located close to medieval earthworks recorded within Batch Wood, c. 220m to the north. However, its south-west to north-east alignment runs along a footpath leading towards the Roman town and therefore, may have Roman origins.

#### ***Post-medieval (1540-1800)***

- 2.8 There is no recorded post-medieval activity within the site although settlement in the wider environs continued to grow throughout this period.

#### ***Modern (1801-present)***

- 2.9 The 1840 Tithe map of the Parish of St Michael's records the site as Townsend Farm, a large rectangular farm complex. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 depicts the site as 'Marylands', indicating that by this time, the site had been converted into Marylands Convent. The subsequent stages of the convent buildings depicted on OS mapping are from 1939 and shown on 20th and 21st-century aerial photography.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed in the WSI (CA 2016), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally

destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable SADC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trial trenches, each measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide in the locations shown in Figure 2. The locations of the trenches was slightly revised from those shown in the WSI due to on-site constraints. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*; however, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Hertfordshire Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.





## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-10)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and biological evidence are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches.

5.2 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were identified within Trench 1 and only modern features or land drains were identified within Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8.

### ***General Stratigraphy***

5.3 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within all the evaluation trenches. The natural geological substrate, comprising mid brown orange sand and gravels, was reached at a depth of between 0.53m to 1.05m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, measuring on average 0.35m thick. Within Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8, this comprised loose mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent sub rounded stones. Within Trenches 1 and 4, this deposit appears to have been reworked and contained post-medieval building material. This deposit was in turn sealed by topsoil, c. 0.3m thick, except in Trenches 2, 7 and 8 where the subsoil was overlain by a layer of mixed sand and gravel, which was in turn sealed by tarmac or paving slabs.

### ***Medieval to post-medieval (1066-1800)***

#### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2, 5 & 6)***

5.4 Large pit 213 was partially revealed at the south-eastern end of Trench 2 (Fig. 5). It measured in excess of 7m in length and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m without its base being revealed. The single-encountered fill within the pit (214) comprised mixed silty sand with frequent stones, deposited by rapid silting. This deposit contained three fragments of 14th to 19th-century brick or tile.

### ***Modern (1801-present)***

5.5 Directly overlaying the natural substrate was north-east/south-west orientated red-brick wall 207 (Fig. 6). It was partially revealed at the north-western end of the trench for a length of 1.5m. It was constructed of frogged red bricks (L. 220mm, B. 110, D. 70mm), in an English bond, with a light brown yellow mortar. This wall was 0.35m in width, with six courses exposed.

- 5.6 Wall 207 appears to broadly correlate with the position of a wall/boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1960. Directly overlying the natural and abutting wall 207 was a series of deliberately dumped layers 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 210, 211 and 215. These deposits contained modern brick rubble, metal and glass (not retained) and were presumably associated with the construction and extension of the buildings of St Mary's convent from the 1930s onwards.

### **Trench 3 (Figs 2, 7, 8 and 9)**

- 5.7 North-west/south-east orientated wall 305 lay at the south-western end of the trench (Figs. 7 & 8). This wall was recorded for a length of 1.5m. It was 0.24m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.55m. It was constructed of frogged red-bricks (L. 240mm, B. 120mm, D. 70mm), in a Flemish bond with yellow-grey sandy mortar.
- 5.8 Located c. 2m to the north-east was parallel wall 307 (Fig. 7). It was 0.24m wide, constructed of frogged red-brick (L. 240mm, B. 120mm, D. 70mm) in a Flemish bond. Both walls (305 and 307) cut the natural geological substrate 304.
- 5.9 These walls appear to represent external walls for a building depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 and last depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1976 (Fig. 9).
- 5.10 Butting wall 305 was floor surface 308; constructed of red-brick (L. 240mm, B. 120mm, D.70mm), laid in stretcher bond, with no mortar. Directly overlying this was north-west/south-east-orientated drain/culvert 311, constructed from red-brick and flat tile. Both these structures (308 and 311) appear to be broadly contemporary with walls 305 and 307.
- 5.11 Contained within the area defined by walls 305 and 307 and overlying drain 311 and floor surface 308 was a dumped deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt (306). This contained modern glass, pottery, metal, animal bone and ceramic building material (cbm). Butting the western face of wall 305 was modern dumped deposit 310, containing modern glass, brick and pottery (not retained). This was overlain by deposit 309, which was in turn sealed by topsoil 302.

### **Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 10)**

- 5.12 Located at the south-western end of the trench, north-west/south-east orientated ditch 603 cut the subsoil and was sealed by topsoil (Fig. 10). It measured 3.25m

wide and 1.03m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. A total of four fragments of CBM, dating from the 14th to 17th centuries, was recovered from its lowest fill 604. No artefactual material was recovered from the overlying fills 605 and 606.

- 5.13 This feature broadly correlates with the boundary of an area of tree planting depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1924.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was recorded from three deposits (Appendix B). The earliest recorded dateable material consists of tile fragments from deposit 604 which date as early as the later medieval period. A group of pottery, glass and other materials from deposit 306 probably dates to the early 20th century and will not be retained.

### ***Pottery***

- 6.2 Pottery amounting to 15 sherds (453g) was recorded from a single deposit, layer 306. Abraded sherds in a lead-glazed red earthenware and a pale grey-fired stoneware may date to the 17th or 18th centuries but are clearly redeposited. The bulk of the pottery from this deposit comprises large and unabraded sherds in a refined whiteware, some with banded, red-painted decoration and all dating to the later 19th or early 20th centuries. The whitewares include flatwares, bowls and lid forms and a decorative vase with a band of underglaze gold lustre decoration. The base of one vessel features the printed mark referring to Fred Bennett, 200 Holloway Road, London; (possibly the 'china and glass merchant' of this name recorded in the 1881 census). The remaining pottery from this deposit consists of sherds in an unglazed 'flowerpot type' earthenware.

### ***Ceramic Building Material (CBM)***

- 6.3 CBM was recorded from three deposits (Appendix B). Material from ditch 603 (fill 604) comprised four large flat tile fragments occurring in three fabrics, two of which are glazed. One fragment in buff-fired fabric T1 features a single round peg hole close to one edge. The remainder of the fragments are unfeatured, although one was sufficiently complete to preserve its full (160mm) width. The form and thickness of the fragments from ditch fill 604, together with the use of glaze, suggests later medieval or earlier post-medieval dating. Equivalent or later dating is possible for the

small and unfeatured brick or tile fragments from quarry feature 213 (fill 214). A wall tile fragment featuring a bold polychrome design from layer 306 is almost certainly of relatively recent date, no earlier than c. 1930.

### **Other finds**

- 6.4 All the finds in this category are derived from layer 306 and all probably date to the late 19th or earlier 20th centuries. A group of seven copper-alloy shotgun cartridges are of the same 'pinfire' type and are marked 'Eley London; 12 (bore); Gastight'. A glass 'medicine' bottle is of moulded polygonal form. It is of pale greenish coloured glass, with an embossed 'TABLE – SPOONS' measuring guide to one face. A worked bone cutlery handle from this deposit is of simple, plain rectangular form.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

### **Animal Bone**

- 7.1 Thirteen fragments of animal bone (80g) were recovered from layer 306 associated with artefacts dating to the post medieval/modern period. The material was fragmented but well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*). However, as each was represented by only two fragments, no inference can be drawn beyond species identification. Evidence of butchery was seen on the cattle and sheep-size bones. The majority of the bones comprised fragments of ribs, where repeated, small cut marks were observed that are indicative of kitchen or meal waste.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded limited evidence for medieval/post-medieval quarrying activity and has been successful in characterising the development of the site during the 20th century.
- 8.2 Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location c. 1.3km north-east of St Albans' Roman town walls. A recent desk-based assessment conducted by Cotswold Archaeology identified the projected alignment of a Roman road, which passes through the development site, running north-west from the Roman town (*Verulamium*) towards Colchester.

**Roman (AD43-AD410)**

- 8.3 No evidence for archaeological remains associated with the postulated line of the Roman Road, which is projected to pass through the site, were identified.

**Medieval to post-medieval (1066-1800)**

- 8.4 The wide and deep pit (213) identified towards the eastern site boundary (Trench 2), probably represents a quarry pit for clay/sand/gravel extraction, presumably for use in the small scale building/repair within the site or its wider environs. A large amount of redeposited natural was contained within its backfill and is indicative of waste material from quarrying and/or rapid backfilling. However, due to its limited exposure the exact form and nature could not be determined and it remains possible that it may relate to other activities. This large feature is located to the immediate south-east of the postulated alignment of the Roman road (Fig. 9). However, the form and depth of the pit are not indicative of quarrying of the gravel from the road make-up.

**Modern (1801-present)**

- 8.5 Ditch 603 appears to broadly correlate with a boundary first depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1924. This boundary encloses a thin belt of trees within the south-western corner of a larger field. However, the small quantity of dating evidence, comprising 14th to 17th-century CBM recovered from this ditch, may suggest an earlier feature. The ditch corresponds with the general alignment of the surrounding field systems depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 8.6 The red-brick walls and floor surface identified within Trench 3 correspond with the location of a building, first depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 and last depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1976 (Fig. 9). Overlying the red-brick floor surface, drain/culvert 311 is considered to be broadly contemporary with the other features within Trench 3. The overlying and abutting deposits identified within Trench 3, results from the disuse and abandonment of this building.
- 8.7 Wall 207 may relate to a garden wall first depicted on the 1960 Ordnance Survey Map.
- 8.8 Evidence of modern landscaping and truncation within the eastern part of the site, presumably associated with the construction and alteration of the buildings

associated with St Mary's Convent, was evidenced by deposits of made ground within Trench 2, which directly overlay the natural substrate.

- 8.9 The evidence recovered during the current works, coupled with the cartographic record, indicates that the site, particularly the northern extent, underwent intensive periods of reorganisation during the 17th to 20th century with the demolition and reconfiguration of buildings prior to the construction of the buildings associated with St Mary's Convent currently occupying the site.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by Rebecca Pritchard and Alice Amabilino. The report was written by Ralph Brown. The finds report was written by Ed McSloy. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

## 10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 7 June 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. CA Report No. **14502**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Land off Townsend Drive St Albans, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type      | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description  | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) | Trench depth |
|------------|-------------|-----------|---------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 1          | 100         | Layer     |         | Topsoil                | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stone inclusions  | >20   | >1.5  | 0.3   | 0.8m         |
| 1          | 101         | Layer     |         | Mixed subsoil          | Firm mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent stone occasional CBM inclusions                           | >20   | >1.5  | 0.35  | 0.8m         |
| 1          | 102         | Layer     |         | Natural geology        | Loose light brown orange 50:50 sand and gravel 0.01-0.05m diameter sub angular                           | >20   | >1.5  |       | 0.8m         |
| 2          | 200         | Layer     |         | Natural geology        | Loose light brown orange clay sand/sand and gravel   | >20   | >1.5  |       | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 201         | Layer     |         | Tarmac                 | Modern tarmac  | >20   | >1.5  | 0.28  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 202         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Friable light brown yellow silty sand with ~80% modern CBM inclusions                                    | 1.6   | >1.5  | 0.14  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 203         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Soft mid brown grey sandy silt with ~25% modern building material  | 5     | >1.5  | 0.6   | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 204         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Firm light yellow orange sandy silt  | 8     | >1.5  | 0.14  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 205         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Soft dark brown grey sandy silt with ~45% gravel inclusions  | 9     | >1.5  | 0.57  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 206         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with ~20 stones and ~20% modern CBM                                       | 2.5   | >1.5  | 0.3   | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 207         | Structure |         | Wall                   | NE-SW red frogged brick wall in English bond with a sandy light brown yellow mortar. 220x110x70mm bricks | >1.5  | 0.35  | 0.75  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 210         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Soft dark brown grey sandy silt with ~10% gravel inclusions  | 2     | >1.5  | 0.14  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 211         | Fill      | 212     | Modern dump of refuse  | Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with ~15% small-medium stone inclusions                                   | 4     | >1.5  | 0.48  | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 212         | Cut       |         | Landscaping            | Too large to see shape, concave 45° sides, flattish base   | 13    | >1.5  | 1.5   | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 213         | Cut       |         | Quarry/sink hole       | Too large to see shape, straight sides 30° upper half and vertical lower down base not seen              | >7    | >1.5  | 1.1   | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 214         | Fill      | 213     | Rapid silting          | Mixed material of firm mid brown grey to brown orange silty sand with 10% stone 0.01-0.06m diam.         | >1.44 | >1.10 | 1.1   | 1.6m         |
| 2          | 215         | Layer     |         | Made ground            | Loose light grey brown silty sand with 15% stone 0.01-0.06m diam.  | >7    | >1.5  | 0.48  | 1.6m         |

|   |     |           |  |                       |   |       |      |      |       |
|---|-----|-----------|--|-----------------------|---|-------|------|------|-------|
| 3 | 300 | Layer     |  | Tarmac                | Modern tarmac   | 7     | >1.5 | 0.15 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 301 | Layer     |  | Levelling layer       | Loose mid brown yellow sand and gravel  | 7     | >1.5 | 0.12 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 302 | Layer     |  | Topsoil               | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt 5% stone inclusions                              | >13   | >1.5 | 0.35 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 303 | Layer     |  | Made ground           | Loose mid orange brown silty sand 50% small stones and frequent CBM                 | >15.6 | >1.5 | 0.2  | 0.75m |
| 3 | 304 | Layer     |  | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange silty sand gravel patches with 50% gravel inclusions       | >20   | >1.5 |      | 0.75m |
| 3 | 305 | Structure |  | Wall                  | Red frogged bricks in a Flemish bond with mid yellow grey sandy mortar 240x120x70mm | >1.5  | 0.24 | 0.55 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 306 | Layer     |  | Deliberate deposition | Soft dark grey brown sandy silt with 10% small stones                               | 2.8   | >1.5 | 0.64 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 307 | Structure |  | Wall                  | Red frogged bricks in a Flemish bond with mid yellow grey sandy mortar 240x120x70mm | >1.5  | 0.24 |      | 0.75m |
| 3 | 308 | Structure |  | Floor                 | Red brick floor in stretcher bonding and with no mortar 240x120x70                  | >1    | >1   |      | 0.75m |
| 3 | 309 | Layer     |  | Tertiary silting      | Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with 2% small stone inclusions                       | >1.5  | >1.1 | 0.3  | 0.75m |
| 3 | 310 | Layer     |  | Deliberate deposition | Soft dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent modern rubbish and brick              | >1    | >0.6 | 0.26 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 311 | Structure |  | Drain/culvert         | Square tunnel construction out of brick and tile within 312                         | >0.58 | 0.34 | 0.62 | 0.75m |
| 3 | 312 | Group     |  | Farm building         | Farm building structure includes walls 307 and 308 and drain 311                    | 2.8   | >1.5 | 0.55 | 0.75m |
| 4 | 400 | Layer     |  | Topsoil               | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt  | >20   | >1.5 | 0.3  | 0.6m  |
| 4 | 401 | Layer     |  | Subsoil               | Firm mixed mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent stone and occasional CBM       | >20   | >1.5 | 0.3  | 0.6m  |
| 4 | 402 | Layer     |  | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange silty sand gravel patches with 50% gravel inclusions       | >20   | >1.5 |      | 0.6m  |
| 5 | 500 | Layer     |  | Topsoil               | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt  | >16   | >1.5 | 0.3  | 0.53m |
| 5 | 501 | Layer     |  | Subsoil               | loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent stone inclusions and occasional CBM      | >16   | >1.5 | 0.23 | 0.53m |
| 5 | 502 | Layer     |  | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange silty sand gravel patches with 50% gravel inclusions       | >16   | >1.5 |      | 0.53m |
| 6 | 600 | Layer     |  | Topsoil               | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt  | >20   | >1.5 | 0.3  | 0.85m |



|   |     |       |     |                       |  |       |      |      |       |
|---|-----|-------|-----|-----------------------|--|-------|------|------|-------|
| 6 | 601 | Layer |     | Subsoil               | loose mid orange brown sandy silt frequent stone inclusions and occasional CBM | >20   | >1.5 | 0.4  | 0.85m |
| 6 | 602 | Layer |     | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange silty sand gravel patches with 50% gravel inclusions  | >20   | >1.5 |      | 0.85m |
| 6 | 603 | Cut   |     | Ditch                 | NW-SE linear with straight 40° sides and concave base                          | >1    | 3.25 | 1.03 | 0.85m |
| 6 | 604 | Fill  | 603 | Secondary silting     | Firm mid grey brown sandy silt 50% stones sub angular, 0.01-0.05m diameter     | >1    | 2.08 | 0.43 | 0.85m |
| 6 | 605 | Fill  | 603 | Secondary silting     | Loose light yellow brown sandy silt 30% stones sub rounded                     | >1    | 2.62 | 0.3  | 0.85m |
| 6 | 606 | Fill  | 603 | Deliberate deposition | Soft mixed mid yellow brown and dark grey brown sandy silt                     | >1    | 3.25 | 0.34 | 0.85m |
| 7 | 700 | Layer |     | Tarmac                | Modern tarmac  | >20   | >1.5 | 0.12 | 1.18m |
| 7 | 701 | Layer |     | Made ground           | Loose mixed brown yellow and pink brown sand and gravel                        | >20   | >1.5 | 0.35 | 1.18m |
| 7 | 702 | Layer |     | Subsoil               | Loose mid grey brown silty sand 15% stone inclusions sub rounded               | >20   | >1.5 | 0.3  | 1.18m |
| 7 | 703 | Layer |     | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange 50:50 sand and gravel 0.01-0.05m diameter sub angular | >20   | >1.5 |      | 1.18m |
| 8 | 800 | Layer |     | Topsoil               | Friable dark grey brown sandy silt   | >10.5 | >1.5 | 0.35 | 1.00m |
| 8 | 801 | Layer |     | Paving slabs          | Modern 0.6x0.6m concrete paving slab surface                                   | 10    | >1.5 | 0.05 | 1.00m |
| 8 | 802 | Layer |     | Levelling layer       | loose mid brown yellow sand and small angular gravel                           | 10    | >1.5 | 0.25 | 1.00m |
| 8 | 803 | Layer |     | Made ground           | Firm dark green grey sandy silt soft contaminated with diesel frequent CBM     | 10    | >1.5 | 0.5  | 1.00m |
| 8 | 804 | Layer |     | Tarmac                | Modern tarmac  | >2    | >1.5 | 0.22 | 1.00m |
| 8 | 805 | Layer |     | Made ground           | Loose mid orange brown sand and gravel   | >1.3  | >1.5 | 0.2  | 1.00m |
| 8 | 806 | Layer |     | Subsoil               | Loose mid yellow brown silt sand 15% stones                                    | >7    | >1.5 | 0.4  | 1.00m |
| 8 | 807 | Layer |     | Natural geology       | Loose light brown orange 50:50 sand and gravel 0.01-0.05m diameter sub angular | >20   | >1.5 |      | 1.00m |

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Category*        | Description                            | Ct. | Wt.(g) | Spot-date |
|---------|------------------|--|-----|--------|-----------|
| 214     | CBM              | Brick or tile fragments                | 3   | 8      | C14-C19   |
| 306     | Modern pottery   | Refined whitewares                     | 11  | 389    | LC19      |
|         | Modern pottery   | Unglazed earthenwares (flowerpot type) | 2   | 45     |           |
|         | Post-med pottery | Glazed earthenware                     | 1   | 12     |           |
|         | Post-med pottery | Stoneware                              | 1   | 7      |           |
|         | CBM              | Wall tile                              | 1   | 20     |           |
|         | Modern glass     | Moulded blue bottle glass              | 1   | 169    |           |
|         | Worked bone      | Cutlery handle                         | 1   | 17     |           |
|         | Copper alloy     | Shotgun cartridge cases                | 7   | -      |           |
| 604     | CBM              | Flat tile T1                           | 2   | 466    | C14-C17   |
|         | CBM              | Flat tile T2                           | 1   | 191    |           |
|         | CBM              | Flat tile T3                           | 1   | 274    |           |

CBM = ceramic building material

*Roof tile fabrics*

- T1 Buff with pinkish core. Abundant fine quartz with sparse clay pellet and ironstone. Yellow green glaze spot on top edge.
- T2 Orange throughout. Abundant fine quartz with common pale buff clay pellet. Thin clear glaze.
- T3 Orange throughout. Abundant fine quartz with sparse pale buff clay pellet and sparse fine flint. Unglazed.

**APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

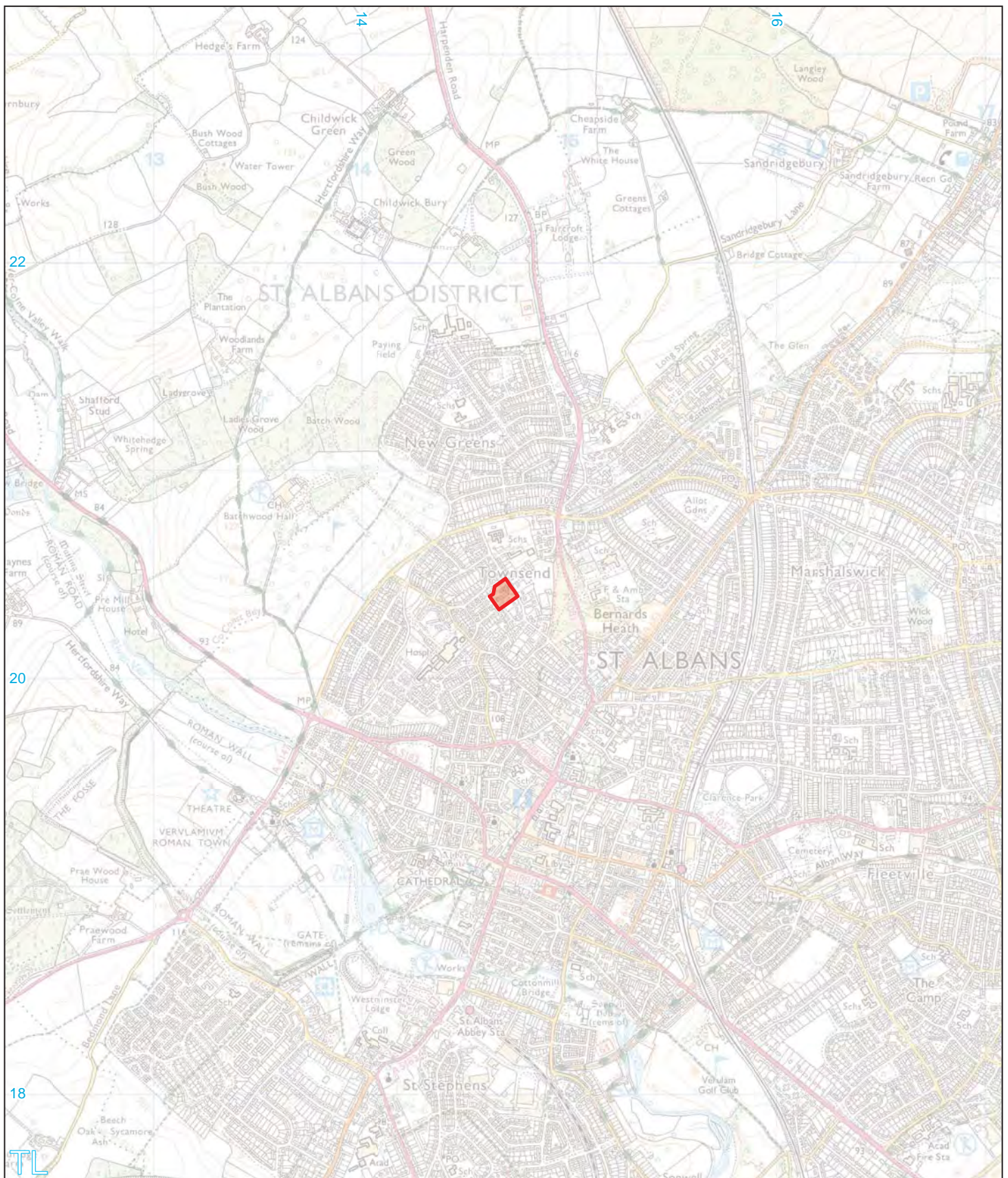
Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

| <b>Fill</b>   | <b>BOS</b> | <b>O/C</b> | <b>LM</b>  | <b>MM</b> | <b>Ind</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>Weight (g)</b> |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 306           | 2          | 2          | 4          | 4         | 1          | 13           | 280               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>1</b>   | <b>13</b>    |                   |
| <b>Weight</b> | <b>116</b> | <b>33</b>  | <b>105</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>280</b>   |                   |

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = sheep-size mammal; Ind - indeterminate

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Project Name  | Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire  |   |
| Short description   | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The fieldwork was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the residential development of the site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches.</p> <p>Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location c. 1.3km north-east of St Albans' Roman town walls. A recent desk-based assessment conducted by Cotswold Archaeology identified the projected alignment of a Roman road, which passes through the development site, running north-west from the Roman town (<i>Verulamium</i>) towards Colchester.</p> <p>No evidence for archaeological remains associated with the postulated line of the Roman road, which is projected to pass through the site, were identified.</p> <p>Red-brick walls were encountered within the northern and eastern parts of the site (Trenches 2 and 3) which correspond to a building and boundary shown on 20th-century mapping of the site. These structures were demolished in the latter decades of the 20th century.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded a substantial quarry pit, the backfill of which contained late-medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The evaluation also identified a ditch containing similar late-medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material. The ditch fits within the general alignment identified for the surrounding field systems depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping.</p> |   |
| Project dates   | 21-24 June 2016  |   |
| Project type  | Archaeological trial trench evaluation   |   |
| Previous work   | Desk-based assessment (CA 2015)  |   |
| Future work   | Unknown  |   |
| PROJECT LOCATION  |  |   |
| Site Location   | Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans, Hertfordshire  |   |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)   | 1ha  |   |
| Site co-ordinates   | TL 1469 0840   |   |
| PROJECT CREATORS  |  |   |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology   |   |
| Project Brief originator  | N/A  |   |
| Project Design (WSI) originator   | Cotswold Archaeology   |   |
| Project Manager   | Stuart Joyce   |   |
| Project Supervisor  | Ralph Brown  |   |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  | Medieval/modern pit and ditch. Modern red-brick walls  |   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  | None   |   |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES  |  |   |
|   | Intended final location of archive   | Content   |
| Physical  | Hertfordshire Museum   | Pottery, glass, bone, metal, CBM                          |
| Paper   |  | WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs |
| Digital   |  | Digital photographs, digital survey data                  |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY  |  |   |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land off Townsend Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>16358</b> |  |   |



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
 Hertfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan



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|                       |                           |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>DRAWN BY</b> LJH   | <b>PROJECT NO.</b> 660720 | <b>FIGURE NO.</b> |
| <b>CHECKED BY</b> LM  | <b>DATE</b> 08-07-2016    |                   |
| <b>APPROVED BY</b> SJ | <b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000  | <b>1</b>          |



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
 Hertfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing  
 archaeological features**

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 CHECKED BY L M DATE 08/07/2016  
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FIGURE NO.

**2**



3



4

3 Site, looking south-east

4 Site, looking north-east



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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 APPROVED BY SJ SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4



5



6

5 Quarry pit 213, looking south-east (1m scale)

6 Wall 207, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

5 & 6





7



8

7 Walls 305, 307 and drain 311, looking north-east (1m scales)

8 Wall 305, drain 311 and floor surface 308, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

7 & 8



- site boundary
- building recorded on 1840 Tithe map (removed)
- building recorded on 19th Century sources (removed)
- building recorded on pre-WWII 20th Century sources (removed)
- building recorded on post-WWII 20th Century sources (removed)
- current extant buildings
- approximate alignment of Roman road
- Fig. 3 → photograph location
- area of green space



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
 Hertfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Composite plan, showing historic  
 mapping and the projected alignment  
 of the Roman road**

PROJECT NO. 660720 DATE 21/07/2016  
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FIGURE NO.

**9**



10

10 Ditch 603, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Townsend Drive, St Albans  
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

10

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