

**BRIGGENS ESTATE, STANSTEAD ABBOTTS,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*On behalf of:*

***Tarmac Trading Ltd***

Authors: Vincent Monahan (Fieldwork) Samuel Thomelius (Fieldwork and report) Liam Podbury (Research and report)	
NGR: TL 5400 2120	Report No: 5998
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 2020
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P8147
	Date: 27 February 2020; Revised 5 March 2020

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

*Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments*  
*Historic building recording and appraisals*  
*Trial trench evaluations*  
*Geophysical surveys*  
*Archaeological monitoring and recording*  
*Archaeological excavations*  
*Post excavation analysis*  
*Promotion and outreach*  
*Specialist analysis*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PI House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,  
Bedfordshire SG17 5AF  
01462 850483**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ  
01284 765210**

**e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)**



**[twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS](https://twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS)**



**[www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions](https://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions)**



## **CONTENTS**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
  - 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
  - 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
  - 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
  - 5 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**
  - 6 METHODOLOGY**
  - 7 RESULTS**
  - 8 CONFIDENCE RATING**
  - 9 DEPOSIT MODEL**
  - 10 DISCUSSION**
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **APPENDICES**

- 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS**
- 3 CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**
- 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>		<i>Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire</i>	
<p><i>In January and February of 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 5400 2120; Figs. 1 - 2). The site is promoted for mineral development under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. The site has been appraised by the County Council and has been identified as a preferred Area of Extraction under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Sparse archaeological features were present in Trenches 20 (1), 22 (3), 23 (2) and 25 (1). The two features in Trench 23 (Post Hole F1141 and Layer L1143) contained post-medieval and modern finds. The other features were undated except ?Pit F1158 (Trench 20) which contained 25 sherds of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pit also contained a copper alloy brooch. Trench 25 overlay linear anomalies which were not visible in the trench, and Trench 24 overlay a cropmark (AP_09) which was also not detected in the trench.</i></p> <p><i>Six archaeological features were present in Trench 19, all ditches. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; four sherds of Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (602g). This trench overlay a linear ditch (AP_03).</i></p> <p><i>Fifteen archaeological features were present in Trench 3. In this north-eastern sector of the site, features were also present in Trenches 5 (4), 6 (2), 7 (1), and 9 (6). Trench 3 overlay a possible enclosure (AP_02), and Trench 6 overlay linear cropmarks (AP_01). The geophysical survey recorded numerous anomalies in this north-eastern sector. The features are diverse comprising ditches and gullies (19), post holes (6) and pits (3). Very few (5) of the features contained finds and the dating evidence was sparse (mostly one or two sherds of Roman pottery). Ditch F1137 (Trench 6) contained four sherds of Roman pottery. Associated finds were sparse and comprise animal bone and fired clay.</i></p> <p><i>The greatest concentration of archaeological features was present in Trenches 14 (10), 15 (13) and 16 (11), in the south-east corner of the site. The trenches overlay cropmarks (AP_04) and geophysical anomalies comprising enclosures, linears and discrete features. The recorded features comprise ditches and gullies (28), and pits (6). Many of the features contained dating evidence, which consistently comprises Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> century; and 1<sup>st</sup> century) pottery. Frequently 10 or more sherds are present, and Ditches F1014 (Tr. 14) and F1074 (Trench 15) contained 32 and 35 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, fired clay and shell.</i></p> <p><i>The site as a whole identified low-level archaeological remains, often truncated and with abraded pottery. This evidence is consistent with what would be expected in the wider hinterland of a rural Roman agricultural-based landscape. The abraded and highly fragmentary Roman pottery, which is common in the surrounding area and extensively paralleled, is consistent with this interpretation</i></p>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>	13/01/20 – 14/02/20		
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>	N	<b>Future work</b>	TBC
<b>P. number</b>	8147	<b>Site code</b>	AS 2020
<b>Type of project</b>	Archaeological evaluation		
<b>Site status</b>	Within Area of Archaeological Significance		
<b>Current land use</b>	Agricultural		
<b>Planned development</b>	Extraction		
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>	Ditches, pits, post holes		
<b>Significant finds (+dates)</b>	Roman (mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C) assemblages		
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>	Hertfordshire	East Herts	Stanstead Abbots
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>	Hertfordshire HER		
<b>Post code (if known)</b>	SG12 8PT		
<b>Area of site</b>	187ha with 112ha. Proposed for extraction		
<b>NGR</b>	TL 5400 2120		
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>	c.62m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team		
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>	Archaeological Solutions		
<b>Funded by</b>	Tarmac Trading Ltd		
<b>Full title</b>	Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
<b>Authors</b>	Monahan, V., Podbury, L., & Thomelius, S.		
<b>Report no.</b>	5998		
<b>Date (of report)</b>	February 2020; revised March 2020		



# BRIGGENS ESTATE, STANSTEAD ABBOTTS, HERTFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In January and February of 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 5400 2120; Figs. 1 - 2). The site is promoted for mineral development under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. The site has been appraised by the County Council and has been identified as a preferred Area of Extraction under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan.*

*Sparse archaeological features were present in Trenches 20 (1), 22 (3), 23 (2) and 25 (1). The two features in Trench 23 (Post Hole F1141 and Layer L1143) contained post-medieval and modern finds. The other features were undated except Pit F1158 (Trench 20) which contained 25 sherds of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pit also contained a copper alloy brooch. Trench 25 overlay linear anomalies which were not visible in the trench, and Trench 24 overlay a cropmark (AP\_09) which was also not detected in the trench.*

*Six archaeological features were present in Trench 19, all ditches. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; four sherds of Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (602g). This trench overlay a linear ditch (AP\_03).*

*Fifteen archaeological features were present in Trench 3. In this north-eastern sector of the site, features were also present in Trenches 5 (4), 6 (2), 7 (1), and 9 (6). Trench 3 overlay a possible enclosure (AP\_02), and Trench 6 overlay linear cropmarks (AP\_01). The geophysical survey recorded numerous anomalies in this north-eastern sector. The features are diverse comprising ditches and gullies (19), post holes (6) and pits (3). Very few (5) of the features contained finds and the dating evidence was sparse (mostly one or two sherds of Roman pottery). Ditch F1137 (Trench 6) contained four sherds of Roman pottery. Associated finds were sparse and comprise animal bone and fired clay.*

*The greatest concentration of archaeological features was present in Trenches 14 (10), 15 (13) and 16 (11), in the south-east corner of the site. The trenches overlay cropmarks (AP\_04) and geophysical anomalies comprising enclosures, linears and discrete features. The recorded features comprise ditches and gullies (28), and pits (6). Many of the features contained dating evidence, which consistently comprises Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> century; and 1<sup>st</sup> century) pottery. Frequently 10 or more sherds are present, and Ditches F1014 (Tr. 14) and F1074 (Trench 15) contained 32 and 35 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, fired clay and shell.*

*The site as a whole identified low-level archaeological remains, often truncated and containing abraded pottery. This evidence is consistent with what would be expected in the wider hinterland of a rural Roman agricultural-based landscape. The abraded and highly fragmentary Roman pottery, which is common in the surrounding area and extensively paralleled, is consistent with this interpretation*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January and February of 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 5400 2120; Figs. 1 - 2). The site is promoted for mineral development under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. The site has been appraised by the County Council and has been identified as a preferred Area of Extraction under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan.

1.2 The proposed quarry boundary encompasses an area of c.187ha, with a proposed mineral extraction area (divided into two separate blocks) of c.112ha. An archaeological desk-based assessment (Coates and Richmond 2018), geophysical survey (Barlett 2018) and assessment of aerial imagery (Air Photo Services 2019) have been undertaken.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a scheme of archaeological works agreed with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT) by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. To understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment; and
- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

## *Planning Policy Context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The Briggens Estate lies to the east of the settlement of Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire and is centred on NGR TL 5400 2120. The northern boundary is defined by Hunsdon Road (B180) and properties adjoining it, including Home Farm and Olive's Farm, which define the northern-eastern corner of the site. Lord's Wood (an area of Ancient Woodland) defines the eastern limit, along with Pogden's Wood, and a variety of field boundaries. The A414 marks the southern extent, with the Royden Road (B181) and adjoining properties defining the western limit. The Preferred Area excludes Coldharbour Farm and its associated buildings, and the adjacent Coldharbour Wood

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The underlying solid geology is London Clay formed in deep seas c.50 million years ago, with areas of Thanet Sands and undifferentiated sedimentary bedrocks of the Lambeth Formation to the north-east. Above this has formed a complex geology of chalky till, sands and gravels, and silt sand clays, deposited by meltwater c.2 million years ago under ice age conditions. The western edge of the site comprises older, pre-glacial sands and gravels of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup, which were deposited in river and estuary levees, c.3 million years ago.

3.2 The central and north-eastern part of the site form a generally flat plateau c.65 to 67m AOD, with land gentling dropping downslope on the eastern, southern and western sides to c.50m AOD. A stream valley lies on the western edge with a small dry valley to the west which descends to Hunsdon Brook, beyond the site boundary.

3.3 The site is divided by hedges and field drains into large agricultural fields under a predominantly arable regime, although areas of improved grass are present. Two woodland copses, Long Spring and Square Spring, lie in the central area. A bridleway traverses the eastern half of the site, in a north-south direction, circumnavigating Square Spring, where it is joined by a public footpath.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *4.1 The Regional Context and the Surrounds of the Assessment Area*

4.1.1 An archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd (Coates and Richmond 2018), and the archaeological and historical background described below is a summary of its findings. The assessment also provided an analysis of the cartographic evidence. A total of 99 HER records have been identified within a 500m search radius of the assessment area. These include both monument sites and the sites of and two Registered Park and Gardens. Bordering the assessment area to the east is the Scheduled Monument of Hunsdon Brook Fishponds. The Hunsdon Brook Fishponds are a group of four Tudor fishponds, created for Henry VIII between 1525 and 1534. Defined by four large earthwork dams, with quarries, building platform and hollow way, they are situated approximately 490m south-west of Hunsdon House. The nearest Conservation Area is Stanstead Abbots, c.250m to the west.

#### Prehistory

4.1.2 The earliest archaeological evidence within the landscape surrounding the site is of Mesolithic date (c.8,500 to 3,500BC). Up to 1300 worked flints, thought to be associated with a line of stake holes were identified during construction work in Stanstead Abbots in the early 1970s (HER 4022). The finds may represent a small temporary hunting shelter where tool making took place. There is little evidence of Neolithic date (3,500 to 2,000BC) apart from a scatter of flints recovered during fieldwalking (HER 17984). A number of suggested burial barrows of late Neolithic and early Bronze Age date (c.3,000 to 1,000BC) are however suggested for the area, having been recorded as circular cropmarks. Many have been identified to the north and north-east of the site (HER 1605, 2150, 2590, 2591, 2592, 7507 and 7626), with only one located to the south-west (HER 7640). Until investigated, these enigmatic cropmarks remain undated and uncharacterised. Throughout Britain the Iron Age (1,000BC to AD43) represents a time when farming settlements became more widely established and human groups created a substantial reduction in the level of woodland cover, with the creation of fields for pasture and arable. The only evidence of such activity in the search area has been the recovery of late Iron Age (and Roman) pottery sherds

discovered in Stanstead Abbots (HER 30961). A 10m diameter circular cropmark to the north of the site (HER 7633) has also been interpreted as an Iron Age enclosure. It is likely many of the other undated cropmarks in the area are of Iron Age date.

### Romano-British

4.1.3 The Roman period (43 to 410AD) equates with an increase in the material record from a time when existing settlements expanded in size and number. The most notable evidence for Roman activity in the area relates to the aforementioned farmstead to the west of Olive's Farm (HER 1902). An urned cremation of Roman date is also recorded as having been found during the construction of a housing estate in Stanstead Abbots in 1971, although its exact location is not recorded (HER 1755). An early 20<sup>th</sup> century reference to St James churchyard describes that many Roman cinerary urns were unearthed during grave digging (HER 30958). More recently, excavations at Chapelfields in Stanstead Abbots identified pottery and tile of Roman date (HER 30961). Fieldwalking in a field south of St. James Church recovered 10kg of Roman pottery sherds together with a quantity of building debris (HER 17984).

### Saxon and Medieval

4.1.4 Our understanding of the post-Roman Anglo-Saxon period (410 to 1066AD) is far from clear, and there are few records of Saxon activity in the vicinity of the site. Stanstead Abbots (o.e Stanstede) is first recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, suggesting it has Saxon origins. Excavations at Chapelfields identified a possible structure containing hearth debris and artefacts dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century AD date (HER 30958). This could relate to the original settlement. A 9<sup>th</sup> century pig burial is also recorded as having been found when the aforementioned Mesolithic shelter excavations took place (HER 4022).

4.1.5 The Domesday Survey records Stanstede in the Hundred of Braughing, belonging to Ranulph (Ilgers Brother), Geoffrey de Mandeville and Geoffrey de Bec. It covered an area for 16 *ploughs* (c.1,920 acres) and 16 *ploughs* of meadow, with enough woodland to sustain 100 pigs, a mill and 30 households (Williams *et al* 2002).

4.1.6 The area was likely still heavily wooded during the medieval period (1067-1559AD) and there are records of several deer parks in the area, including one at Hunsdon (HER 6551). Another deer park has been suggested as the predecessor to the post-Medieval landscape park at Briggens (HER 6725) (Rowe 2009). A rectilinear cropmark, south of Stanstead Bury Church, has been interpreted as the remains of a possible deserted medieval village (HER 1018), but no homestead platforms are visible and later photo mapping suggests the enclosure is more likely of Prehistoric origin.

4.1.7 The Grade 1 Listed St. James Church in Stanstead Bury (HER 10866), is of medieval date, and is first mentioned in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval moated sites are also recorded at Olive's Farm (HER 2015) and Stanstead Bury (HER 10192); the former bordering the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Grade II\* Listed open hall-

house of Olive's Farm (HER 4841). To the north of the suggested moat at Stanstead Bury, is Stanstead Bury House, another 15<sup>th</sup> century hall-house, Listed Grade II\* (HER 4021). Stanstead Bury lies within a 25ha landscaped park and garden with terraced lawns and gardens (HER 7340), beyond which lies the park. The current layout is thought to be close to that recorded in 1781. Buildings with late medieval features in the study area include Abbots House (HER 10283) and 16-20 Roydon Road (HER 10286), both Grade II listed.

4.1.8 Further medieval activity is represented by the three aforementioned well fishponds in the valley of Hunsdon Brook (HER 6188). Two of the ponds are dry; the third is waterfilled. They are almost certainly associated with the Manor of Hunsdon, and they are known locally as the 'King's Fishponds'. Royal building accounts from 1525-34 detail expenditure on fishponds, which are likely to be these.

### Post-medieval

4.1.9 The post-medieval period (AD1560 onwards) is characterised by the development of the landscaped parks and gardens at Stanstead Bury (HER 7340) and Briggens (HER 9564) to the south, together with the growth of the village of Stanstead Abbots, to the west. A sub-rectangular pond (HER 10191) and icehouse (HER 11723) are associated with Stanstead Bury House, whilst at Briggens Park is a mansion house (now hotel) (HER 12170), kitchen garden walls, sundial and gates (HER 159966), west terrace walls, steps and seat (HER 1559964), the main gates (HER 159962), a former stable block (HER 155965) and the gate lodge (HER 1559961). These are all Listed Grade II. To the west of the house is Juicy Brook, a canalised part of the Hunsdon Brook with its associated engine house (HER 12766).

### Undated

4.1.10 Several undated features, predominantly cropmarks and areas of ridge and furrow, are also known in the area. Until investigated the exact date and function of the many cropmark sites remains unknown.

## 4.2 *Within the Assessment Area*

4.2.1 The Roman remains close to Olive's Farm (HER 1902) are outside the area for proposed quarrying. Indeed, the site's boundary has been carefully designed so as to avoid this archaeological site. It is however mentioned here in order to provide suitable landscape context for the Roman period. In 1966 a pottery kiln was discovered and excavated in a field to the west of Olive's Farm (HER 1902). In 1969 further buildings were identified in the same field, including flint walls, chalk floors and an elaborate heating system of flues and underground stoke-holes. Finds included pottery sherds of a globular amphora, decorated Samian ware and a Castor Ware hunt cup. A bone pin, brooch inlaid with enamel and a Bronze Medusa head in low relief were amongst the other finds. A deposit of carbonised grain may suggest the structure was a corn-drying oven rather than a kiln, but discoveries suggest that the site probably represents the remains of a Romano-British farmstead.

4.2.2 There are 11 HER records within the boundary of the assessment area. There is no recorded Saxon archaeology within the assessment area, but a scatter of medieval period pottery is recorded to the west of Long Spring woods (HER 6190). The assemblage includes a 13<sup>th</sup> century thumb-impressed jug with slash impressions. The observation of 'surface irregularities' recorded in 1968 led to suggestions of a 'vanished settlement'. The exact location of which is unknown and remains unsubstantiated.

4.2.3 An extant post-medieval farmstead with a 17<sup>th</sup> century barn, largely rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is also situated within the assessment area; the 1840 tithe map shows a single building on the plot, consisting of a long rectangular structure with wagon porch facing into a yard with a pond at the corner of Coldharbour Wood. The remaining records within the assessment area are represented by a variety of cropmarks (HER 1682301). The record relates to the ploughed-down remains of ridge and furrow to the north-west of Pogden's Wood. These have been dated to the medieval period but are more likely to be associated with the post-medieval farming, immediately prior to enclosure.

4.2.4 All other cropmarks are of unknown date (HER 2148, 7512, 7628, 7635, 7636, 7637, 7638, 16689, 16690 and 16823). The majority have been designated by the Council as 'Areas of Archaeological Significance'. In most cases they appear to relate to a series of former field systems, enclosures and tracks. The cropmark near Pogden's Wood (HER 2148) is recorded as a series of enclosures with boundaries radiating from it. This could indicate the presence of a former farmstead. Until investigated, all the cropmarks remain largely undated and uncharacterised.

## **5 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS**

### **5.1 Assessment of Aerial Imagery**

5.1.1 An assessment of aerial imagery has been undertaken (Air Photo Services, 2019), and the results are summarised: Fig. 2a.

### **5.2 Geophysical Survey**

5.2.1 A geophysical survey has been completed (Bartlett, 2018). In summary:

*The survey has produced findings which are generally consistent with the HER record, and which confirm the presence of a number of archaeological sites at locations previously identified as of potential archaeological concern.*

*The most clearly defined findings are a group of rectilinear enclosures and related features suggesting the presence of settlement remains corresponding to the Roman HER site [1] in field 4. There are similarly distinctive groups of more curvilinear ditches and enclosures corresponding to HER sites 11 and 12 in fields 5 and 6. These strongly suggest the presence here of prehistoric settlements, together with (incompletely detected) associated field systems and enclosures.*

Various weak magnetic anomalies are visible in the north-west of the evaluation area in fields 1 and 2, but the findings here are less well defined (and there is stronger background magnetic activity) than in the fields to the east. A possibility remains that eroded traces of enclosures and related features have been detected in fields 1-2, but only a few of the features marked in the interpretation (e.g. A, C) are sufficiently distinct to be identified with any confidence.

## 6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 Twenty five trenches of 50m x 1.8m were opened in order to gain a broad understanding of the archaeological character of the site. The trenches targeted 'features' identified by aerial assessment and geophysical survey, and also 'blank' areas across the site.

6.2 The topsoil and subsoil 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.

## 7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

7.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 Fig. 2

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 68.74m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate to frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. Firm, pale yellow brown clay with moderate small to large sub-rounded and round flint and gravel.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 68.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

*Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological finds or features.*



## Trench 2 Fig. 2

Sample section 2A 0.00 = 65.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 66.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

*Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

## Trench 3 Figs. 2 – 3

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 68.19m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 68.82m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

*Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches and Gullies F1079, F1081, F1086, F1088, F1090, F1092, F1094, F1100, F1107, F1109 and F1112; Pit F1083; and Post Holes F1098, F1102 and F1104; and Land Drain F1114. Post Hole F1104, and Ditches F1107 and F1109 contained Roman pottery and the field drain contained two post-medieval sherds.*

Ditch F1079 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.47+ x 0.26m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1080, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1079 was cut by Ditch F1081.

Ditch F1081 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.61 x 0.23m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1082, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with moderate small and medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1081 cut Ditch F1079.

Gully F1086 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.14m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1087, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Gully F1086 cut Ditch F1090, and was parallel to Gullies F1088 and F1112.

Gully F1088 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.45 x 0.15m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1089, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional medium to large angular and sub-

angular flint. It contained no finds. Gully F1088 cut Ditch F1090, and was parallel to Gullies F1086 and F1112.

Ditch F1090 was linear in plan (7.00+ x 0.52 x 0.28m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1091, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1090 was cut by parallel Gullies F1086, F1088 and F1112.

Ditch F1092 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.91 x 0.18m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1093, was a firm, light brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained animal bone (61g). Ditch F1092 was cut by Ditch F1094.

Ditch F1094 was linear in plan (6.00+ x 0.48 x 0.22m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1095, was a friable, dark brown grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1094 cut Ditch F1092.

Ditch F1100 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.66 x 0.25m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1101, was a friable, mid yellow grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded chalk and occasional small sub-angular and rounded flint and gravel. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1107 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.95+ x 0.51m+), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1108, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (1; 27g), and fired clay (1; 2g). Ditch F1107 was re-cut by Ditch F1109.

Ditch F1109 was linear in plan (1.80m x 1.71m x 0.55m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1110, was a firm, light yellow grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. Its upper fill, L1111, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (2; 14g), and animal bone (20g). Ditch F1109 was a re-cut of Ditch F1107.

Gully F1112 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.40 x 0.15m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1113, was a firm, mid grey silty clay with moderate small to medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Gully F1112 cut Ditch F1090, and was parallel to Gullies F1086 and F1088.

Modern Drain F1114 was linear in plan (3.00 x 0.43 x 0.47m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1115, was a firm, light yellow brown clayey silt. It contained post-medieval pottery (2; 9g) and fired clay (3; 10g).

Pit F1083 was sub-circular in plan (0.95+ x 1.17 x 0.38m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its basal fill, L1084, was a friable, light green yellow brown

silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Its upper and principal fill, L1085, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay. It also contained no finds.

Post Hole F1098 was sub-circular in plan (0.25 x 0.24 x 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1099, was a firm, light grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1102 was sub-circular in plan (0.34 x 0.35 x 0.12m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1103, was a firm, dark grey / black silty clay. It contained animal bone (2g).

Post Hole F1104 was sub-circular in plan (0.32 x 0.33 x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1105, was a firm, dark grey / black silty clay. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (1; 11g), and burnt flint (60g).

#### **Trench 4** Fig. 2

Sample section 4A 0.00 = 69.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.
Sample section 4B 0.00 = 69.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

*Description: Trench 4 contained No archaeological finds or features.*

#### **Trench 5** Figs. 2 – 3

Sample section 5A 0.00 = 64.73m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1078	Natural gravel. Friable, mid yellow brown silt sand with frequent small to large sub-rounded and round flint and gravel.

Sample section 5B 0.00 = 65.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, light yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel.
0.44m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

*Description: Trench 5 contained Ditches F1133, F1139 and F1145; and Post Hole F1131. Trench 5 was in an area of natural gravel (L1078) with a large number of geological features. The trench also contained a modern service. Only Ditch F1145 contained finds; Roman pottery.*

Ditch F1133 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.50 x 0.40m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1134, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular and rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1139 was linear in plan (1.80 x 1.15 x 0.21m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1140, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded gravel. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1145 was linear in plan (1.80 x 2.66 x 0.58m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1146, was friable, dark brown grey sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (1; 5g), CBM (10g) and fired clay (1; 9g). Upper fill, L1147, was a friable, light brown grey sandy clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (1; 6g), and fired clay (1; 37g).

Post Hole F1131 was circular in plan (0.40 x 0.40 x 0.11m). It had moderate to gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1132, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

#### **Trench 6** Figs. 2 - 4

Sample section 6A 0.00 = 66.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

Sample section 6B 0.00 = 66.09m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.22 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT5.
0.40m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

*Description: Trench 6 contained Ditches F1135 and F1137. The latter contained Roman pottery. The trench was located in an area of natural gravel (L1078) with a large number of geological features. Four geological features were present in Trench 6; two layers were numbered, L1148 and L1151, and recorded.*

Ditch F1135 was sinuous in plan (1.80+ x 0.70 x 0.22m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1136, was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1137 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.46 x 0.36m), orientated NNE/SSW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1138, was a firm, light brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular gravel. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (4; 11g).

Layer L1148 was irregular in plan (1.80+ x 21.80 x 0.48m). It infilled a 'feature' with irregular sides and an irregular base. It was a firm, mid yellow brown clayey silt with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds, and the layer likely infilled a natural depression.

Layer L1151 was irregular in plan (1.80 x 4.10 x 0.10m). It infilled a 'feature' with irregular sides and an irregular base. It was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds and the layer likely infilled a natural depression. Layer L1151 was cut by Ditch F1137.

**Trench 7** Figs. 2 & 4

Sample section 7A 0.00 = 64.93m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT5.
0.53m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

Sample section 7B 0.00 = 65.31m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.38m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

*Description: Trench 7 contained Pit F1128. The trench was located in an area of natural gravel (L1078) with a large number of geological features.*

Pit F1128 was sub-circular in plan (0.70+ x 0.90 x 0.32m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1130, was a firm mid brown grey silty gravel with frequent small angular and sub-angular flint. Upper fill, L1129, was a firm, dark brown black silty gravel with frequent small angular and sub-angular flint. It contained an iron fragment (8g).

**Trench 8** Fig. 2

Sample section 8A 0.00 = 63.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT 5.
0.37m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

Sample section 8B 0.00 = 62.65m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

*Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological finds or features. Trench 8 was located in an area of natural gravel, L1078, with a large number of geological features.*

## Trench 9 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample section 9A 0.00 = 63.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT5.
0.54m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

Sample section 9B 0.00 = 63.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT5.
0.52m+	L1078	Natural gravel. As TT 5.

*Description: Trench 9 contained Ditches F1116, F1120 and F1124; Post Holes F1118 and F1126; and Pit F1122. Only Post Hole F1126 contained finds; CBM.*

Ditch F1116 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.76 x 0.52m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1117, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint and gravel. It contained no finds

Ditch F1120 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.11 x 0.20m), orientated NE/SW. It had gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1121 was a friable, mid brown grey sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint and gravel. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1124 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.50 x 0.60m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1125, was a firm, pale grey brown sand gravel, medium to large sub-rounded. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1118 was sub circular in plan (0.48 x 0.42 x 0.26m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1119, was a friable, dark brown grey sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds

Post Hole F1126 was sub circular in plan (0.55 x 0.42 x 0.26m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1127, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint and gravel. It contained CBM (10g).

Pit F1122 was sub-circular in plan (0.97 x 1.10 x 0.34m). It had irregular and moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1123, was a friable, dark grey brown sandy clay with frequent small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds

**Trench 10** Fig. 2

Sample section 10A 0.00 = 67.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 10B 0.00 = 66.67m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 10 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

**Trench 11** Fig. 2

Sample section 11A 0.00 = 65.66m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.
Sample section 11B 0.00 = 65.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.22m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

**Trench 12** Fig. 2

Sample section 12A 0.00 = 67.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 12B 0.00 = 66.35m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

**Trench 13** Fig. 2

Sample section 13A 0.00 = 64.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 13B 0.00 = 63.21m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT 5.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

#### **Trench 14** Figs. 2 & 5

Sample section 14A 0.00 = 60.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 14B 0.00 = 59.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 14 contained Ditches F1005, F1007, F1009, F1012, F1014, F1037, F1039, F1041 and F1043; and Pit F1003. The majority of the features contained finds consisting of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay.*

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.31m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained animal bone (2g). Ditch F1005 cut Pit F1003.

Pit F1003 was sub-circular in plan (1.50+ x 1.00+ x 0.14m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay with moderate small to large sub-angular and rounded flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (8;144g), and animal bone (10g). Pit F1003 was cut by Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.35m+ x 0.23m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (5; 33g). Ditch F1007 was cut by Ditch F1009.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.21m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1011, was a firm, pale grey yellow silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. Upper fill, L1010, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (6; 22g). Ditch F1009 cut Ditch F1007.



Ditch F1012 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.64 x 0.26m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (1; 8g).

Ditch F1014 was ?curvilinear in plan (10.00+ x 0.70 x 0.31m), broadly orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1015, was a firm, dark grey clayey silt with occasional irregular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (32; 144g), animal bone (91g), burnt bone (2g), fired clay (4; 16g) and shell (100g). It was cut by Ditch F1039 and may equate to Ditch F1037.

Ditch F1037 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 1.66+ x 0.62m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel and occasional small sub-rounded chalk. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (14; 133g), and animal bone (180g). Ditch F1037 was cut by Ditches F1039 and F1041, and may equate to Ditch F1014.

Ditch F1039 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 0.54 x 0.20), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1040, was a firm, light grey yellow clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel and occasional small sub-rounded chalk. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (14; 133g), and animal bone (180g). Ditch F1039 cut Ditches F1037 and F1027.

Ditch F1041 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 1.20 x 0.38m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1042, was a firm, mid orange grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular and rounded flint and gravel. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (12; 76g), and animal bone (152g). Ditch F1041 cut Ditches F1037 and F1043.

Ditch F1043 was linear in plan (2.50 x 1.18 x 0.28m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1044, was a firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and rounded flint and gravel. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (11; 68g), CBM (5g) and animal bone (35g). Ditch F1043 was cut by Ditch F1041 and a land drain.

## Trench 15 Figs. 2 & 6

Sample section 15A 0.00 = 61.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 15B 0.00 = 60.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT 5.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 15 contained Ditches F1016, F1026, F1047, F1050, F1053, F1055 and F1059, Layer L1052, and Pits F1045 and F1057. Two land drains traversed the trench. Like Trench 14, the majority of the features contained finds consisting of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay.*

Ditch F1016 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.40m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1017, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained animal bone (17g).

Ditch F1026 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60+ x 0.37m), orientated E/W. It had a moderately sloping side and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1027, was a firm, mid red grey brown silty clay. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (8; 83g), animal bone (85g), and fired clay (4; 25g). Ditch was cut by a land drain.

Ditch F1047 was linear in plan (4.00+ x 0.84 x 0.50m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1048, was a firm, light grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. Upper and principal fill, L1049, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (10; 100g), animal bone (666g) and fired clay (7; 56g). Ditch F1047 cut Ditch F1050 and Pit F1045.

Ditch F1050 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.30 x 0.40m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1051, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained animal bone (8g), fired clay (1; 5g) and shell (34g). Ditch cut Pit F1045 and Layer F1052; and was cut by Ditch F1047. Ditches F1050 and F1016 may be part of a possible drove way.

Ditch F1053 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.57 x 0.22m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1054, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. F1053 cut Layer F1052 and was cut by a land drain. Feature F1053 was parallel to F1055.

Ditch F1055 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.24+ x 0.20m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1056, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small to large angular and sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (4; 37g), CBM (31g), animal bone (86g) and shell (5g). F1055 was parallel to F1053, and cut by Gully F1059.

Gully F1059 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.22 x 0.06m), orientated E/W. It had shallow moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1060, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small to medium rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Gully F1059 cut F1055.

Layer L1052 (1.80 x 2.69+ x 0.15m) was located between Ditches F1050 and F1053 and was cut by these features. It was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small to medium angular and sub-angular flint, and may represent a sub-soil horizon.

Pit F1045 was ?sub circular in plan (0.30+ x 1.34+ x 0.31m). It had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1046, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Pit F1045 was cut by Ditches F1047 and F1050.

Pit F1057 was sub-circular in plan (0.78 x 1.56 x 0.26m). It had moderately sloping sides and a slightly irregular base. Its fill, L1058, was a firm, light brown grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (15; 211g), and animal bone (17g).

Ditch F1070 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.86 x 0.19m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1071, was a firm, light grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained animal bone (3g), and cut Ditch F1072.

Ditch F1072 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.75 x 0.45m), orientated E/W. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1073, was a firm, light yellow grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (2; 8g), and animal bone (4g). F1072 was cut by Ditch F1070.

Ditch F1074 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.75 x 0.45m), orientated E/W. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1075, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with frequent medium – large sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (35; 956g), animal bone (184g) and fired clay (3; 83g). F1074 was cut by Ditch F1076.

Ditch F1076 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.86 x 0.19m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1077, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. F1076 cut Ditch F1074.

## Trench 16 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample section 16A 0.00 = 58.23m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 16B 0.00 = 57.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 16 contained Ditches F1018, F1020, F1022, F1024, F1028, F1030, F1033, F1035, and F1068; and Pits F1061, F1064, F1066. Land drains traversed the trench. Like Trench 14, the majority of the features contained finds consisting of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay.*

Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.00+ x 0.70m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small to medium rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (8; 283g), and animal bone (70g). Ditch F1018 was cut by Ditches F1020 and F1022.

Ditch F1020 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.39m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a narrow concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (4; 22g), animal bone (10g) and fired clay (3; 32g). Ditch F1020 cut Ditch F1018.

Ditch F1022 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.90 x 0.20m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderate to gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1022 cut Ditch F1018.

Ditch F1024 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.19m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1025, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1028 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.34+ x 0.23m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm, mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1028 cut Ditch F1030 and was cut by a land drain.

Ditch F1030 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.77+ x 0.50m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1031, was a firm mid yellow brown silty clay with occasional small chalk flecks. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (9; 533g), animal bone (29g) and fired clay (1; 2g). Upper fill, L1032, was a firm mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small rounded and sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (6; 80g), burnt bone

(8g) and fired clay (2; 18g). Ditch F1030 was cut by Ditch F1028 and by a land drain.

Ditch F1033 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.55+ x 0.35m), oriented NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, pale red brown silty clay with occasional small rounded chalk. It contained no finds. Ditch F1033 was re-cut by Ditch F1035.

Ditch F1035 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.47 x 0.28m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was a friable, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small angular and sub-angular flint. It contained Roman pottery (1; 2g), animal bone (4g) and fired clay (2; 3g). Ditch F1035 was a re-cut of Ditch F1033.

Ditch F1068 was curvilinear in plan (4.00+ x 0.35 x 0.17m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1069, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1068 was cut by Pit F1066.

Pit F1061 was sub-circular in plan (0.90+ x 1.07+ x 0.23m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its basal fill, L1062, was a firm, dark yellow brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flint. Upper fill, L1063, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (4; 14g), animal bone (4g) and fired clay (1; 40g). Pit F1061 was cut by Pit F1064.

Pit F1064 was sub-circular in plan (0.30+ x 0.73m x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1065, was a firm, dark brown grey silty clay. It contained no finds. Pit F1064 cut Pits F1061 and F1066.

Pit F1066 was sub-oval in plan (0.70+ x 1.17+ x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1067, was a firm, mid brown grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (3; 21g), animal bone (26g), and fired clay (1; 76g). Pit F1067 was cut by Pit F1064 and a land drain.

**Trench 17** Fig. 2

Sample section 17A 0.00 = 58.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 17B 0.00 = 58.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 17 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

## Trench 18 Fig. 2

Sample section 18A 0.00 = 62.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 18B 0.00 = 61.75m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 18 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

## Trench 19 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample section 19A 0.00 = 62.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 19B 0.00 = 61.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 19 contained Ditches F1162, F1164, F1166, F1168, F1170 and F1172. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; Roman pottery.*

Ditch F1162 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.70 x 0.45m), oriented N/S. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1163, was a firm, mid brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1164 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.96 x 0.51m), oriented N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1165, was a friable, pale yellow grey silty clay with occasional small to large angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1164 was re-cut by Ditch F1172.

Ditch F1166 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.58 x 0.70m), oriented N/S. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1167, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small to large angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1168 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.49 x 0.57m), oriented N/S. It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1169, was a friable, mid brown grey silty clay with frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, and occasional chalk flecks. It contained no finds. Ditch F1168 was re-cut by Ditch F1170.

Ditch F1170 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.38 x 0.35m), oriented N/S. It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1171, was a friable, dark brown grey silty clay with frequent small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded flint; and small chalk flecks. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (4; 14g), and animal bone (602g). Ditch F1170 re-cut Ditch F1168.

Ditch F1172 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.04 x 0.22m), oriented N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1173, was a friable, pale yellow grey silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flint; and moderate small chalk flecks. It contained no finds. Ditch F1172 re-cut Ditch F1164.

## **Trench 20** Figs. 2 & 8

Sample section 20A 0.00 = 65.21m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 20B 0.00 = 63.97m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As TT 5.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 20 contained large ?Pit F1158 and it contained Roman pottery.*

?Pit F1158 was not defined in plan due to its size (1.80+ x 13.50 x 0.53m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It was investigated by means of three test pits. Its basal fill, L1161, was a friable, mid red grey silty clay with frequent small to medium sub-rounded flint and gravel; and frequent small to medium chalk fleck. It contained Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (2; 13g), animal bone (44g), a cu. alloy brooch (6g; SF1) and fired clay (2; 25g). Secondary fill, L1160, was a friable, dark brown grey clayey silt with moderate small to large rounded and sub-angular flint and gravel; and occasional small chalk flecks. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (25; 243g), animal bone (40g) and fired clay (8; 58g). Upper fill, L1159, was a firm, mid grey silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel. It contained Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> C) pottery (8; 153g), animal bone (9g) and slag (81g).

## Trench 21 Fig. 2

Sample section 21A 0.00 = 56.24m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 21B 0.00 = 56.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 21 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

## Trench 22 Figs. 2 & 8

Sample section 22A 0.00 = 62.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 22B 0.00 = 63.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 22 contained Ditches F1152, F1154 and F1156. None of the features contained finds.*

Ditch F1152 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.82 x 0.36m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1153, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1154 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.39m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1155, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with moderate small to medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1154 cut Ditch F1156.

Ditch F1156 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.39m), orientated E/W. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1157, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small to medium angular and sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1156 was cut by Ditch F1154.



### Trench 23 Figs. 2 & 9

Sample section 23A 0.00 = 59.07m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 23B 0.00 = 58.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 23 contained Layer L1143 and a modern post hole, F1141. L1143 contained post-medieval pottery.*

Layer L1143 (1.80+ x 3.40 x 0.18m) was a friable, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flint, and occasional small rounded chalk. It contained post-medieval pottery (1; 7g) and CBM (49g).

Post Hole F1141 was circular in plan (0.30 x 0.30 x 0.35m). It had near vertical sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1142, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flint. It contained plastic at the base of the feature.

### Trench 24 Fig. 2

Sample section 24A 0.00 = 61.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 24B 0.00 = 63.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 24 contained no archaeological finds or features.*

### Trench 25 Fig. 2

Sample section 25A 0.00 = 64.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

Sample section 25B 0.00 = 65.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural clay. As TT 1.

*Description: Trench 25 contained undated Pit F1149.*

Pit F1149 was sub-circular in plan (0.80+ x 1.44 x 0.74m). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1150, was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent small to large angular and sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

## 8 CONFIDENCE RATING

8.1 The trenches were opened in dry conditions and this allowed for the positive identification of features and their accurate surveying. The archaeological features were excavated during a wet and rainy period in January and February which resulted in several trenches flooding. The latter inhibited the ability to be able to identify and excavate features, although it is felt that with the initial good conditions the recognition of archaeological features was not impacted.

## 9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate to frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel (0.22 – 0.36m thick). Beneath Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a firm, light yellow brown silty clay with moderate to frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and gravel (0.13 – 0.29m thick). Below Subsoil L1001 were the natural deposits, L1003 and L1078.

9.2 In Trenches 1 - 4 and 10 - 25 the natural clay, L1003, was present. It was a firm, pale yellow brown clay with moderate small to large sub-rounded and round flint and gravel. In Trenches 5 - 9 the natural gravel, L1078, was present. It was a friable, mid yellow brown silt sand with frequent small to large sub-rounded and round flint and gravel. The natural gravel deposits were present in the north-western sector of the site, and they contained areas of silt.

## 10 DISCUSSION

10.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
3	F1079	Ditch	-
	F1081	Ditch	-
	F1083	Pit	-
	F1086	Gully	-
	F1088	Gully	-
	F1090	Ditch	-
	F1092	Ditch	-
	F1094	Ditch	-
	F1098	Post Hole	-
	F1100	Ditch	-
	F1102	Post Hole	-
	F1104	Post Hole	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1107	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1109	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C

	F1112	Gully	-
	F1114	Land Drain	Post-medieval
5	F1131	Post Hole	-
	F1133	Ditch	-
	F1139	Ditch	-
	F1145	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
6	F1135	Ditch	-
	F1137	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	L1148	Natural Layer	-
	L1151	Natural Layer	-
7	F1128	Pit	-
9	F1116	Ditch	-
	F1118	Post Hole	-
	F1120	Ditch	-
	F1122	Pit	-
	F1124	Ditch	-
	F1126	Post hole	-
14	F1003	Pit	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1005	Ditch	-
	F1007	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1009	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1012	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1014	Ditch	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1037	Ditch	-
	F1039	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1041	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1043	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
15	F1016	Ditch	-
	F1026	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1045	Pit	-
	F1047	Ditch	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1050	Ditch	-
	L1052	Natural Layer	-
	F1053	Ditch	-
	F1055	Ditch	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1057	Pit	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1059	Gully	-
	F1070	Ditch	-
	F1072	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1074	Ditch	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
F1076	Ditch	-	
16	F1018	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1020	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1022	Ditch	-
	F1024	Ditch	-
	F1028	Ditch	-
	F1030	Ditch	1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1033	Ditch	-
	F1035	Ditch	Roman
	F1061	Pit	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1064	Pit	-
	F1066	Pit	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
	F1068	Ditch	-
19	F1162	Ditch	-
	F1164	Ditch	-
	F1166	Ditch	-
	F1168	Ditch	-
	F1170	Ditch	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C

	F1172	Ditch	-
20	F1158	?Pit	Mid – late 1 <sup>st</sup> C
22	F1152	Ditch	-
	F1154	Ditch	-
	F1156	Ditch	-
23	F1141	Post Hole	Modern
	L1143	Layer	Post-medieval
25	F1149	Pit	-

10.2 The most notable Roman archaeology in the area relates to the farmstead to the west of Olive's Farm (HER 1902); the farmstead lies outside of the site and will not be impacted upon. An urned cremation of Roman date is also recorded as having been found during the construction of a housing estate in Stanstead Abbots in 1971, although its exact location is not recorded (HER 1755). An early 20<sup>th</sup> century reference to St. James' churchyard describes that many Roman cinerary urns were unearthed during grave digging (HER 30958). More recently, excavations at Chapelfields in Stanstead Abbots identified pottery and tile of Roman date (HER 30961). Fieldwalking in a field south of St. James Church recovered 10kg of Roman pottery sherds together with a quantity of building debris (HER 17984).

10.3 When considering the relatively substantial Roman activity in the area surrounding the assessment site, the archaeology identified is comparatively limited in significance and scale. The site as a whole identified low-level archaeological remains, often truncated and containing abraded pottery. The evidence is consistent with what would be expected in the wider hinterland of a rural Roman agricultural-based landscape. The abraded and highly fragmentary Roman pottery, which is common in the surrounding area and extensively paralleled, is consistent with this interpretation

10.4 Sparse archaeological features were present in Trenches 20 (1), 22 (3), 23 (2) and 25 (1). The two features in Trench 23 (Post Hole F1141 and Layer L1143) contained post-medieval and modern finds. The other features were undated except ?Pit F1158 (Trench 20) which contained 25 sherds of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pit also contained a copper alloy brooch. Trench 25 overlay linear anomalies which were not visible in the trench, and Trench 24 overlay a cropmark (AP\_09) which was also not detected in the trench.

10.5 Six archaeological features were present in Trench 19, all ditches. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; four sherds of Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (602g). This trench overlay a linear ditch (AP\_03).

10.6 Fifteen archaeological features were present in Trench 3. In this north-eastern sector of the site, features were also present in Trenches 5 (4), 6 (2), 7 (1), and 9 (6). Trench 3 overlay a possible enclosure (AP\_02), and Trench 6 overlay linear cropmarks (AP\_01). The geophysical survey recorded numerous anomalies in this north-eastern sector. The features are diverse comprising ditches and gullies (19), post holes (6) and pits (3). Very few (5) of the features contained finds and the dating evidence was sparse (mostly one or two sherds of

Roman pottery). Ditch F1137 (Trench 6) contained four sherds of Roman pottery. Associated finds were sparse and comprise animal bone and fired clay.

10.7 The greatest concentration of archaeological features was present in Trenches 14 (10), 15 (13) and 16 (11), in the south-east corner of the site. The trenches overlay cropmarks (AP\_04) and geophysical anomalies comprising enclosures, linears and discrete features. The recorded features comprise ditches and gullies (28), and pits (6). Many of the features contained dating evidence, which consistently comprises Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> century; and 1<sup>st</sup> century) pottery. Frequently 10 or more sherds are present, and Ditches F1014 (Tr. 14) and F1074 (Trench 15) contained 32 and 35 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, fired clay and shell.

10.8 The artefact assemblages that were sparsely distributed in the ditches and pits forms a homogenous group consistent with domestic activity of limited status in the near vicinity, and dating to the post-Roman Conquest mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The majority of the pottery comprises 'Belgic' grog-tempered and shell-tempered coarse wares. It includes common types of necked bowl and storage jar; supplemented by rare Samian ware from south Gaul, and a fine grey devolved Gallo-Belgic platter. The chronology of the pottery is supported by the find of a copper alloy Colchester-type brooch; a type that declined sharply after c.AD80. This dating evidence suggests that the site has the potential to contribute to the Iron Age/Romano-British transition period and the processes of Romanisation, which are identified as research subjects for the region (Medlycott 2011, 31, 47). Roman domestic activity is evidenced by a small assemblage of heavily-butchered animal bone, principally cattle and sheep. The bone exhibits a variety of working, by-products and meat functions. The mandible of a probable wild boar may indicate hunting in the local landscape. Deposits dated to the early Roman period produced only a low density of carbonised grains that might have been discarded from crop processing, but fragments of lava stone mill stone recovered from the topsoil may be associated with domestic processing.

10.9 The sparse distribution of archaeological features and artefacts likely reflects the location of the enclosures and associated features, extending c.300-500m to the west and south-west of a farmstead recorded at Olives Farm (HER 1902). The latter included a corn drier, and represents occupation that continued throughout the Roman period. Thus the enclosures within the current site may represent dispersed rural settlement, even minor farmsteads, adjacent to more substantial occupation of greater longevity. The form of farms and the possibility that farmsteads in this region were deliberately planned are identified as research subjects and this site might contribute to an understanding of these subjects. Similarly, the relationship between field size/shape and agricultural regime is identified as an research subject (Medlycott 2011, 47). The absence of pottery post-dating the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD or any Roman CBM is conspicuous, and suggests the current activity and site was part of a relatively marginal rural landscape.

10.10 A magnetic gradiometer survey of elements of the site was carried out by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in 2018, with Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 15 and 16

located within survey Fields 1 - 3 (north) and 6 (south-east). In the north of the site (survey Fields 1 - 3, Trenches 1, 5 - 7 and 9), few anomalies of likely archaeological origin were identified, with trenches targeting features identified by aerial photography. The evaluation trenches in this area identified eight ditches, two of which contained 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD pottery, three undated post holes and two undated pits. This is indicative of low-level activity and, as such, the absence of archaeological anomalies in the magnetic survey is likely to be a good representation of the sub-surface remains. In the south-east (Survey Field 6, Trenches 14 - 16) the area of curvilinear ditched enclosures identified in the survey corresponds with numerous features containing 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD pottery. A number of the features in the evaluation trenches align with the survey data and are likely to represent enclosures and boundaries of 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD date. Based on the correlation of magnetic anomalies and excavated archaeological features, it can be seen that the survey in the SE was successful in detecting the nature, form and extent of archaeological remains, while in the north, the limited number of magnetic anomalies appears to be reflective of the sparse, largely undated archaeological remains.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited following the gaining of the transfer of title.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Tarmac Trading Ltd for funding the evaluation and for all their assistance (in particular Mr Mike Pendock), and also Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd for commissioning the works and for all their assistance (in particular Dr Andy Richmond).

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone, Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Air Photo Services, 2019. *Land at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Assessment of Aerial Imagery.*

Bartlett A.D.H. 2018. *Land at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Geophysical Survey.*

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978 *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology): London.* BGS, Mansfield

Chartered Institute of Archaeologists, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA, Reading)

Coates, G & Richmond, A. 2018. *Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*, Phoenix Consulting Archaeological Consultancy, Doc Ref: PC273a

Gurney, D., 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 14

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, ALGAO East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983. *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* (SSEW, Harpenden)

Williams, A & Martin G H 2002 '*Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*'

Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

AS2022 - P8147 Briggens Estate, Olives Farm, Stanstead Abbotts

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1000	1000			Topsoil						Millstone	1	336
1001	1001			Subsoil				271		Cu Sheet	1	1
1003	1004		14	Fill of Pit	Mid-Late 1st C AD	8	144		10			
1005	1006		14	Fill of Ditch					2			
1007	1008		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	5	33					
1009	1010		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	6	22					
1012	1013		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	1	8					
1014	1015		14	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 1st C AD	32	144		91	B.Bone F.Clay Shell	4	2 16 100
1016	1017		15	Fill of Ditch					17			
1018	1019		16	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	8	283		70			
1020	1021		16	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	4	22		10	F.Clay	3	32
1026	1027		15	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	8	83		85	F.Clay	4	25
1030	1031		16	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	9	533		29	F.Clay	1	2
	1032		16	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	6	80			B.Bone F.Clay	2	8 18
1035	1036		16	Fill of Ditch	Roman	1	2		4	F.Clay	2	3
1039	1040		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	14	133		180			
1041	1042		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	12	76		152			
1043	1044		14	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	11	68	5	35			
1047	1049		15	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 1st C AD	10	100		666	F.Clay	7	56
1050	1051		15	Fill of Ditch					8	F.Clay Shell	1	5 34
1055	1056		15	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 1st C AD	4	37	31	86	Shell		5
1057	1058		15	Fill of Pit	Mid-Late 1st C AD	15	211		17			
1061	1063		16	Fill of Pit	Mid-Late 1st C AD	4	14		4	F.Clay	1	40
1066	1067		16	Fill of Pit	Mid-Late 1st C AD	3	21		26	F.Clay	1	76
1070	1071		15	Fill of Ditch					3			
1072	1073		15	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	2	8		4			
1074	1075		15	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 1st C AD	35	956		184	F.Clay	3	83
1092	1093		3	Fill of Ditch					61			
1102	1103		3	Fill of Post Hole					2			
1104	1105		3	Fill of Post Hole	1st C AD	1	11			B.Flint		60
1107	1108		3	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	1	27			F.Clay	1	2
1109	1111		3	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	2	14		20			



1114	1115		3	Fill of Field Drain	Post-Medieval	2	9			F.Clay	3	10
1126	1127		9	Fill of Post Hole				10				
1128	1129		7	Fill of Pit						Fe Frag	1	8
1137	1138		6	Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	4	11					
	1143		23	Layer	Post-Medieval	1	7	49				
1145	1146	A	5	Basal Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	1	5		10	F.Clay	1	9
	1147		5	Upper Fill of Ditch	1st C AD	1	6			F.Clay	1	37
1158	1159	C	20	Upper Fill of Feature	Mid-Late 1st C AD	8	153		9	Slag		81
	1160	A B	20	Middle Fill of ?Pit	Mid-Late 1st C AD	9	56		32	F.Clay	1	6
					Mid-Late 1st C AD	16	187		4	F.Clay	7	52
1161	B	20	Basal Fill of ?Pit	1st C AD	2	13		44	Cu Alloy Brooch (SF1) F.Clay	1 2	6 25	
1170	1171		19	Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 1st C AD	4	14		602			
U/S	U/S			Unstratified	1st C AD	1	2					

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 252 sherds (3493g) of pottery, in a moderately to highly fragmented condition, and almost entirely comprising fabric and form types typical of the latter half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. The bulk of the assemblage comprises 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares and as diagnostic sherds are very limited it cannot be discounted that some do not continue from the pre-Roman late Iron Age into the Roman Conquest period, where they are supplemented by small quantities of fine reduced ware and a single sherd of Samian ware from south Gaul. The pottery was primarily sparsely distributed in ditches and pits in Trenches 14 - 16 and 20, and may represent detritus from domestic occupation of limited status in the near vicinity.

#### *Methodology*

The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), with fabrics analysed at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive; in line with the 'standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (Barclay *et al* 2016), developed from the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Where possible, fabric types have been cross-referenced with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pottery fabrics are described below, and quantified in Table 1.

#### *Fabric Descriptions*

LGF SA	La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 28).
SOB GT	Southern British ('Belgic') grog-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214), wheel made, with common grog-temper (generally 0.25-1.5mm).
ROB SH	Romano-British shell-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115); with inclusions of common, poorly-sorted shell (0.5-8mm). Slow wheel-made.
GRS1	Sandy grey ware. Mid grey throughout. Inclusions comprise common well-sorted quartz, sparse iron ore (0.1-0.25mm), and sparse fine mica. A hard fabric with a slightly abrasive to powdery feel. Wheel made.

Fabric	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
LGF SA	1	3	-
SOB GT	166	2941	0.62
ROB SH	21	217	-
GRS1	62	321	0.05
Post-medieval red earthen ware	1	7	-
Post-medieval stone ware	1	4	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>3493</i>	<i>0.67</i>

Table 1: Quantification Roman pottery by fabric group

#### *Discussion by fabric group*

A single sherd of Samian ware from south Gaul (LGF SA) was contained in Pit F1003 (Trench 14), and found in association with a SOB GT bowl. The body sherd exhibits part of a zone of moulded decoration that suggests it is

derived from a Dr.29 bowl imported in the latter half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD; however, the in-filled scroll decoration is too abraded to allow it to be identified with a specific potter or workshop.

The bulk of the pottery comprises 'Belgic' grog-tempered coarse wares (SOB GT) that appear fairly consistent in terms of being wheel-made and the coarseness of temper, even taking into account the presence of large bowls or storage jars. Diagnostic sherds are rare and typically highly fragmented, therefore assigning forms is problematic. Pit F1003 (Trench 14) contained part of bowl with an exaggerated neck with a ridge at the base (Thompson 1982: type D1-2), and further everted bead rims from Ditches F1041 (Trench 14) and F1074 (Trench 15) are likely from similar vessel types. Ditch F1074 also contained the fragmentary remains of a storage jar with a robust everted bead rim and combed body. Ditch F1030 (Trench 16) contained small fragments of a further storage jar with a down-turned angular bead rim. All of these vessel types were common throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD in the region, and they are extensively paralleled at domestic occupation sites such as Foxholes Farm, Hertford (Partridge 1989) and Skeleton Green, Braughing (Partridge 1981). In this instance the limited association with Samian ware and grey wares suggests a post-Roman Conquest date. In addition to the grog-tempered coarse wares, there is a small quantity of fairly coarse shell-tempered ware (ROB SH) that appears to have been finished on a slow wheel, and likely forms a related component of the 'Belgic' ceramic style. There are no diagnostic sherds present in ROB SH, and a source remains unclear although kilns to the west around Baldock, and towards Bedfordshire and the fen-edge appear the most likely candidates.

A largely post-Roman chronology appears confirmed by the common incidence, albeit in small quantities of a sandy grey ware (GRS1), which despite an apparent lack of surface treatment equates to a relatively fine silty fabric. Pit F1057 contained part of a neatly-tooled platter in GRS1, which is a devolved Gallo-Belgic type with an up-turned tip to the rim and a small footring. It is characteristic of types with a currency in the latter half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, possibly extending into the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. There are no other diagnostic sherds in GRS1, but thin walled body sherds in Ditch F1014 (Trench 14) and ?Pit F1158 (Trench 20) may be derived from early Roman beakers.

### *Bibliography*

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D., & Wood, I. 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Medieval Pottery Research

Partridge, C. 1981 *Skeleton Green: a late Iron Age and Romano-British site*. Britannia Monograph Series No. 2

Partridge, C. 1989 *Foxholes Farm: A Multi-Period Gravel Site*. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust, Hertford.

Thompson, I. 1982 *Grog-Tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England*. BAR 108

Tomber, R. & Dore, J. 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection*. Museum of London, London

Webster, P. 1996 *Roman Samian Pottery in Britain*; CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13.

## **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 45 fragments (497g) of fired clay, likely representing the highly fragmented remnants of daub or hearth lining of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD date, and 24 small fragments (376g) of post-medieval peg tile.

The fired clay was manufactured in a pale-mid orange fabric with inclusions of sparse-common rounded chalk and occasional flint (both generally 0.25-3mm, occasionally to 10mm), and for this type of material was relatively hard, suggesting it was either well sun-dried or exposed to a limited heat source. The fired clay did not preserve any extant surfaces, edges or diagnostic traits that might suggest if formed part of objects such as loom weights or kiln bars, therefore it appears more likely it represents the crumbled remains of daub or hearth lining that may have been associated with domestic occupation in the near vicinity. Small fragments of fired clay were sparsely distributed in Ditches F1014 (Tr.14), F1020 (Tr.9), F1026 (Tr.9), F1030 (Tr.16), F1035 (Tr.16), F1047 (Tr.15), F1050 (Tr.15), F1074 (Tr.15), F1107 (Tr.3) and F1145 (Tr.5); Pits F1061 (Tr.16) and F1066 (Tr. 16); Drain F1114 (Tr.3) and ?Pit F1158 (Tr.20).

Isolated small fragments of post-medieval peg tile were contained in Ditches F1043 (Tr.14), F1055 (Tr.15) and F1145 (Tr.5); Post Hole F1126 (Tr.9) and Layer L1143 (Tr.23). A small quantity of comparable material collected from Subsoil L1001. The peg tile was manufactured in a well-fired red fabric tempered with common medium sand, likely from local kilns in the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. However; it has likely been re-distributed by agricultural processes and disturbance and does not appear associated with any structure in the vicinity.

## The Small Finds

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation recovered three metal finds, of which only one from ?Pit F1158 (SF1; Tr.20) could be positively identified. It comprises a Colchester type two-piece copper alloy brooch that dates to the mid 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, and is consistent with the early Roman pottery it is associated with.

Feature	Context	Material	Weight (g)	Dimensions/Description
	Subsoil L1001	Cu	1	Sheet. Small fragment of bent/curved sheet (1mm thick); possibly part of a fitting or dress accessory.
Pit F1128	L1129	Fe	8	Miscellaneous. Small rounded lump, only slightly magnetic, probably slag or similar waste rather than a cast or forged object.
?Pit F1158	L1161 Seg.B	Cu alloy (leaded bronze)	6	SF1: Colchester type two-piece brooch (bow is 42mm long with a depth of 12mm; arm is 18mm wide and 6mm thick, including spring). The bow has a central rib along its length, the crossbar is plain and semi-cylindrical (open to the reverse), with a pierced upper lug at its centre to hold the missing chord of the spring. The lower lug is affixed to part of the spring, most of which has been broken. The catch plate is solid and the pin missing. The Colchester type two-piece brooch was common in the eastern counties in the mid 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD, declining sharply after c.AD80.

Table 2: Small Finds

## The Millstone

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation recovered a fragment (336g) of a rotary millstone from Topsoil L1000. It was manufactured from mid grey lavastone, imported from the Rhineland region of Germany. The fragment increases slightly in thickness from 30-35mm (inner to outer?) but no edges are extant. There are faint traces of furrows on the upper surface and the base appears to be slightly rough, suggesting this may have been a bedstone (or lower millstone). However the fragment is highly abraded with chipped surfaces and rolled edges suggesting it has been re-deposited in the topsoil and subject to significant re-deposition via ploughing. Millstones in this material were imported from the Roman to post-medieval periods.

## The Animal Bone

*Julie Curl*

### Methodology

The summary assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible ages were estimated along with any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Measurements were considered following Von Den Driesch, 1976, but few remains were sufficiently complete to allow metrical data to be collected. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal', 'bird' or 'small mammal'.

The results were input into an Excel database for quantification and analysis. A summary catalogue and a table of measurements is included with this report and a full catalogue (with additional counts) of the faunal remains is available in the digital archive.

### The bone assemblage

*Quantification, provenance and preservation*

A total of 2471g of animal and bird bone, consisting of 169 elements, was recovered from this work, which is quantified in Table 3.

Feature Type	Total weight	Total count
Ditch	1717g	126
Feature	695g	28
Pit	57g	13
Post hole	2g	2
Total	2471g	169

**Table 3.** Quantification of the faunal remains by feature type, count of elements and weights.

The remains are in good condition, although fragmented, heavily at times, from butchering.

Gnawed bone was seen in the Ditch Fills F1170 L1171 and F1026 L1027, with canid gnawing seen on secondary meat waste bones, suggesting that prime meat waste bones were made available for domestic or working dogs and dumped with general waste.

Invertebrate (insect, isopod, mollusc) damage was seen on several bones from ditch fills, suggesting this waste was left exposed or only lightly covered for a time in milder weather (when invertebrates are active) before being fully buried.

Some iron colouring and deposits were seen on the surfaces of some bone from ditch fills, suggesting natural iron in the sediments rather than any evidence of iron working.

### Species range and modifications and other observations

Four species were identified in this assemblage, which are quantified in Table 4.

Sum of NISP	Species					
Type	Cattle	Equid	Mammal	Pig	Sheep/goat	Total
Ditch	33	7	76	2	9	127
Feature	8		19		1	28
Pit	1		8		3	12
Posthole			2			2
Total	42	7	105	2	13	169

**Table 4.** Quantification of the faunal remains by feature number, species and NISP.

**Cattle** were seen in nine fills. Many were in small numbers or with heavily fragmented bones. one larger group of adult cattle bones was recorded, with fourteen elements from the Ditch Fill F1047 L1049, with incomplete pieces of a scapula, humerus, calcaneus, vertebra, jaw and skull fragments and an isolated tooth, with most of the bone butchered; such a cluster of bones suggesting the whole animal was processed and consumed.

**Sheep/goat**, which appear to be predominately or entirely sheep, were seen from six deposits. A femur head and metacarpal fragment, along with two molars, were seen in the Ditch Fill F1041 L1042, with the femur slightly charred suggesting burning during cooking. Other sheep/goat remains included both primary and secondary waste, with all the ovicaprid remains from adult animals.

**Pig/boar** were found in the Ditch Fill F1041 L1042, with a juvenile mandible with the deciduous pre-molar in wear.

**Equid** remains were found in a single deposit, with fragments of a metacarpal from Ditch Fill F1043 L1044.

### Butchering and elements present

Skinning of cattle and sheep was evident from small cuts on extremities. Main meat elements were mainly seen with the cattle and sheep, with heavy chops from preparation of cuts of meat.

Elements present included heads and lower limbs, which suggests skinning waste or poorer cuts of meat. Main meat bearing bones were seen with the cattle and sheep.

## Discussion and conclusions

This is a small assemblage that is derived from the primary and secondary waste from the main domestic stock animals. Cattle and sheep appear to have provided the bulk of the meat. Cattle are likely to have been used as traction animals (carts and ploughs) during the Roman period and the adult sheep would have provided a supply of fleeces, dung and lanolin and they would have been the preferred animal for milk in the Roman period. The porcine mandible may have been from a Wild Boar and may suggest some hunting. The condition of the equid bone was quite poor, suggesting this was probably re-deposited.

## The Mollusc Asemblage

*Julie Curl*

### *Methodology*

The molluscs were identified to species using a variety of reference material. Shells were catalogued by species and where appropriate, counts were made of the number of individual species present (NISP), counts of top and base shells and an estimate of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Bivalve shells are known to be used as painter's palettes and the remains are examined for any traces of pigments. Shells are also examined for any cut marks that would confirm their use for food from the prising apart of the shells or removal of meat with a knife.

## Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 139g of shell, consisting of 4 pieces, was recovered from this site, which is quantified in Table 5. All of the shell was recovered from ditch fills, with two producing pottery of a Roman (1<sup>st</sup> C AD) date.

Context	TT	Type	Feature	Date	Ctxt Qty	Weight	F	M	L	Foss	Species	NISP
1015	14	Ditch	1014	1st C AD	1	100				1	Exogyra Oyster	1
1051	15	Ditch	1050	Undated	2	34		2			Oyster	2
1056	15	Ditch	1055	1st C AD	1	5				1	Fossil Oyster	1

**Table 5.** Quantification of the mollusc assemblage.

The shell is in good condition with mostly complete or reasonably larger shells, although some fragmentation has occurred.

The marine shells in this assemblage show some damage to surfaces from worms, barnacles and sponges, which indicates that these are from a natural marine environment and not farmed shells. One shell shows a probable cut mark that shows the oysters had been collected for food.

Two contexts produced fossilised shell remains, representing residual fossils in the soil that are likely to have been disturbed when gravel, chalk or clay was quarried and used for building materials.



## The mollusc assemblage

The only non-fossil species were the marine **Common Oyster** (*Ostrea edulis*), with two shells found in the Ditch Fill F1050 1051 (Trench 15). These oyster shells were both top shells, which might suggest they were kept for use, perhaps for use as a dish.

Two fossil shells were produced. A reasonably complete example of **Exogyra**, a fossil oyster, was recovered from the Ditch Fill F1014 L1015 (Trench 14); this oyster was common in east Anglia (and beyond) in the Cretaceous period and through to the more recent Eocene. A fragment of **fossilised oyster** was seen in the Ditch Fill F1055 L1056 and this is likely to be of a similar date to the other fossil shell.

## Discussion and conclusions

The Marine Oysters in the assemblage were most likely to be from food use, although these dish-like shells may have been collected for practical or decorative use.

The complete fossil shell may have been a collected curiosity piece, but these fossils are regularly disturbed in local soils during quarrying and movement of building material and perhaps most likely to be a naturally occurring piece.

## Bibliography (for bone/shell reports)

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Guidelines for best practice*. English Heritage.

Davis, S. 1992. *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. English Heritage AML report 71/92

Hillson, S. 1992. *Mammal bones and teeth*. The Institute of Archaeology, University College, London.

Janus, H. 1982. *The Illustrated Guide to Molluscs*. Harold Starke Limited.

Teeble, N. 1966. *British Bivalve shells: Handbook for identification*. British Museum (Natural History), London.

Von Den Driesch, A. 1976. *A guide to the measurements of animal bones from archaeological sites*. Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Cambridge Mass., Harvard University.

Winder, J.M. 2011. *Oyster shells from archaeological sites. A brief guide to basic processing and recording*.

**Tables 6 and 7.**

6 Summary catalogue of the animal bone.

7 Catalogue of the mollusc assemblage.

**Table 6**

Catalogue of the animal bone recovered from AS2022

Listed in context order.

A full catalogue (with additional counts) is available as an Excel file in the digital archive.

**Key:**

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Age – ad = adult, juv = juvenile (older than 1 month)

Ctxt	Seg	TT	FNo	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Element range	Butchering	Comments
1004		14	1003	Pit	3	10	Mammal	2					
1006		14	1005	Ditch	3	2	Mammal	3				1 chopped	
1015		14	1014	Ditch	1	2	Sheep/goat	1	1		femur head		charred on one side
1015		14	1014	Ditch	13	91	Sheep/goat	3	3		Lower molars, metacarpal frag		slender sheep
1015		14	1014	Ditch			Mammal	10				butchering	
1017		15	1016	Ditch	1	17	Cattle	1	1		lower molar 1		
1019		16	1018	Ditch	12	70	Cattle	2		2	Dp4 in wear and M1		
1019		16	1018	Ditch			Mammal	10					
1021		16	1020	Ditch	5	10	Mammal	5					
1027		16	1026	Ditch	15	85	Sheep/goat	4	4		2 upper molars. Humerus, scapula	chopped	gnawed humerus
1027		16	1026	Ditch			Mammal	11				butchering	iron rich sediment and invertebrate damage

1031		16	1030	Ditch	5	29	Mammal	5				2 chopped	
1032		16	1030	Ditch	1	8	Mammal	1					burnt black
1036		16	1035	Ditch	2	4	Mammal	2					
1040		14	1039	Ditch	8	180	Cattle	8	8		scapula fragments	chopped, cut	
1042		14	1041	Ditch	7	152	Pig	2		2	mandible with Dp4		low wear on teeth
1042		14	1041	Ditch			Mammal	6					
1044		14	1043	Ditch	7	35	Equid	7	7		metacarpal shaft fragments		invertebrate damage
1049		15	1047	Ditch	29	666	Cattle	14	14		lower molar, scapula, humerus frags, calcaneus fragment, vertebra, jaw fragments, skull frags	cut, chopped	
1049		15	1047	Ditch			Mammal	15				butchering	probably cattle fragments, but none fitted
1051		15	1050	Ditch	1	8	Mammal	1					
1056		15	1055	Ditch	1	86	Cattle	1	1		articular end of scapula	chopped	
1058		15	1057	Pit	7	17	Sheep/goat	1	1		incomplete metacarpal		
1058		15	1057	Pit			Mammal	6					
1063		16	1061	Pit	2	4	Sheep/goat	2	2		upper molar and premolar 4		
1067		16	1066	Pit	1	26	Cattle	1	1		upper molar 2		
1071		15	1070	Ditch	2	3	Mammal	2				1 cut	
1073		15	1072	Ditch	1	4	Mammal	1					
1075		15	1074	Ditch	8	184	Cattle	4	4		tibia, ulna, radius and scapula frags	cut, chopped	
1075		15	1074	Ditch			Sheep/goat	1	1		tibia shaft		
1075		15	1074	Ditch			Mammal	3					
1093		3	1092	Ditch	3	61	Cattle	3	3		metatarsal shaft fragment and	chopped	



## The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

### Introduction

During the archaeological evaluation on the Briggens Estate, 31 bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The aim of the exercise was to determine the preservation and distribution of environmental archaeological remains.

### Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

### Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 8. Preservation of plant remains was by carbonisation only, with no evidence of anaerobic waterlogging or mineralisation.

Carbonised plant macrofossils were relatively sparse. The greatest concentration of remains came from features in Trenches 3 and 7 in the northern part of the site, which were predominantly undated, with the exception of 1<sup>st</sup> century Ditch Fill L1111 (F1109). These remains constituted carbonised cereal grains of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.). A single free-threshing type wheat rachis internode was present in Pit Fill L1129 (F1128) and a single pea/ bean (large Fabaceae) cotyledon was present in Gully Fill L1087 (F1086). The predominance of free-threshing type wheat throughout these samples suggests that these remains were predominantly post-Roman in origin. These samples also produced the greatest concentration of charcoal, which was generally present in low densities and probably deposited as fuel debris from domestic activity. The low densities of carbonised cereal remains are also likely to be domestic in origin, deposited as background scatters of carbonised debris from domestic activity in the near vicinity.

Mollusc remains were common in deposits from Trenches 14, 15, 16, 19 and 20 in the southern portion of the site, but not in other areas of the site. Taxa included a range of grassland taxa (e.g. *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia* sp.) and those more characteristic of taller, damper vegetation (e.g. *Carychium* sp., *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus* sp., *Trichia hispida* group and *Vitrea* sp.). The latter group was more common. Also frequently encountered were *Anisus leucostoma* and *Lymnaea truncatula*, which are likely to indicate seasonal waterlogging of open features, predominantly ditches.

### *Conclusions*

Carbonised remains from occupation activity on the site were sparse within the sampled deposits. This is especially true of the features dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century, which produced very few identifiable remains. The samples containing greater numbers of identifiable specimens all included free-threshing type wheat and, although not conclusive, it is likely that these remains are post-Roman in origin.

### *References*

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Jacomet, S. 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn), Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Basel University

Kerney, M.P. 1999, *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Harley Books, Colchester

Kerney, M.P. and Cameron, R.A.D. 1979, *A Field Guide to Land Snails of Britain and North-West Europe*, Collins, London

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)		% processed	Flot (g)	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs	Molluscs					Contaminants					Other remains
						Volume processed (litres)	Volume taken (litres)			Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes		Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules					
1	1004	1003	Fill of Pit	14	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
2	1008	1007	Fill of Ditch	14	1st C AD	40	20	50%	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-	-			
3	1015	1014	Fill of Ditch	14	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	30	75%	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	X	-	-	-				
4	1017	1016	Fill of Ditch	15	-	40	20	50%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	XX	-	-	-	-	-	Bird bone (X)			

5	1019	1018	Fill of Ditch	16	1st C AD	40	30	75%	8	-	-	-	X	<i>Galium</i> sp. (1)	-	-	-	XX	<i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
6	1031	1030	Fill of Ditch	16	1st C AD	40	20	50%	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
7	1049	1047	Fill of Ditch	15	Mid-Late 1st C AD	20	10	50%	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp., <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
8	1054	1053	Fill of Ditch	15	-	20	10	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Trichia hispida</i> group, <i>Vertigo</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
9	1075	1074	Fill of Ditch	15	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Anisus leucostoma</i> , <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
10	1085	1083	Fill of Pit	3	-	40	20	50%	3	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-



11	1084	1083	Fill of Pit	3	-	20	10	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-
12	1087	1086	Fill of Gully	3	-	10	10	100%	2	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (2), Oat (1), NFI (3)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), Medium Fabaceae (1)	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-
13	1089	1088	Fill of Gully	3	-	10	10	100%	2	X	-	FTW (2), Trit (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-
14	1091	1090	Fill of Ditch	3	-	10	10	100%	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	X	-	-	-	-
15	1103	1102	Fill of Posthole	3	-	20	10	50%	6	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	XX	Diffuse porous	-	-	X	-	-	-	Burnt bone (X)
16	1103	1102	Fill of Posthole	3	-	20	10	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-
17	1111	1109	Fill of Ditch	3	1st C AD	40	20	50%	6	X	X	FTW (1), Trit (2), Hord (1), Oat (1), NFI (2), FTW rachis (1)	-	-	-	X	-	XX	<i>Discus rotundatus,</i> <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	X	-	-
18	1113	1112	Fill of Gully	3	-	10	10	100%	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	X	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-
19	1125	1124	Fill of Ditch	9	-	40	20	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-
20	1129	1128	Fill of Pit	7	-	40	20	50%	9	X	-	FTW (1), Trit (2), Hord (1), Oat (1), NFI (2), FTW rachis (1)	-	-	-	XX	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-
21	1136	1135	Fill of Ditch	6	-	20	10	50%	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-
22	1140	1139	Fill of Ditch	5	-	40	20	50%	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-

23	1138	1137	Fill of Ditch	6	1st C AD	40	20	50%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-	-
24	1150	1149	Fill of Pit	25	-	40	20	50%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	-
25	1155	1154	Fill of Ditch	22	-	40	20	50%	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	Coal (X)
26	1153	1152	Fill of Ditch	22	-	40	20	50%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	-	-	-	-	-
27	1160	1158	Middle Fill of ?Pit	20	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
28	1160B	1158	Middle Fill of ?Pit	20	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-
29	1159	1158	Upper Fill of ?Pit	20	Mid-Late 1st C AD	40	20	50%	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Vallonia</i> sp.	XX	-	-	-	-	-



### APPENDIX 3      CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	174
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	19
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	150

**APPENDIX 4 HER SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire</i>
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Stanstead Abbots
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	
<b>Client name/address</b>	Tarmac
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Extraction
<b>Present land use:</b>	Agricultural
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 112ha	<b>Size of area investigated</b> c. 2250m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 5400 2120
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 2022
<b>Site director/Organisation:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	13/01/20 – 14/02/20
<b>Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, post-medieval, undated
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	<p>Air Photo Services, 2019. <i>Land at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Assessment of Aerial Imagery.</i></p> <p>Bartlett A.D.H. 2018. <i>Land at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Geophysical Survey.</i></p> <p>Coates, G &amp; Richmond, A. 2018. <i>Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment</i>, Phoenix Consulting Archaeological Consultancy, Doc Ref: PC273a</p>

<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p>	<p>Sparse archaeological features were present in Trenches 20 (1), 22 (3), 23 (2) and 25 (1). The two features in Trench 23 (Post Hole F1141 and Layer L1143) contained post-medieval and modern finds. The other features were undated except Pit F1158 (Trench 20) which contained 25 sherds of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pit also contained a copper alloy brooch. Trench 25 overlay linear anomalies which were not visible in the trench, and Trench 24 overlay a cropmark (AP_09) which was also not detected in the trench.</p> <p>Six archaeological features were present in Trench 19, all ditches. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; four sherds of Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (602g). This trench overlay a linear ditch (AP_03).</p> <p>Fifteen archaeological features were present in Trench 3. In this north-eastern sector of the site, features were also present in Trenches 5 (4), 6 (2), 7 (1), and 9 (6). Trench 3 overlay a possible enclosure (AP_02), and Trench 6 overlay linear cropmarks (AP_01). The geophysical survey recorded numerous anomalies in this north-eastern sector. The features are diverse comprising ditches and gullies (19), post holes (6) and pits (3). Very few (5) of the features contained finds and the dating evidence was sparse (mostly one or two sherds of Roman pottery). Ditch F1137 (Trench 6) contained four sherds of Roman pottery. Associated finds were sparse and comprise animal bone and fired clay.</p> <p>The greatest concentration of archaeological features was present in Trenches 14 (10), 15 (13) and 16 (11), in the south-east corner of the site. The trenches overlay cropmarks (AP_04) and geophysical anomalies comprising enclosures, linears and discrete features. The recorded features comprise ditches and gullies (28), and pits (6). Many of the features contained dating evidence, which consistently comprises Roman (mid – late 1<sup>st</sup> century; and 1<sup>st</sup> century) pottery. Frequently 10 or more sherds are present, and Ditches F1014 (Tr. 14) and F1074 (Trench 15) contained 32 and 35 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, fired clay and shell.</p>
<p><b>Author of summary:</b> Samuel Thomelius</p>	<p><b>Date of Summary:</b> February 2020</p>

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-386786**

### Project details

Project name	Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (TT)
Short description of the project	In January and February of 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 5400 2120; Figs. 1 - 2). The site is promoted for mineral development under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. The site has been appraised by the County Council and has been identified as a preferred Area of Extraction under the emerging Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan. Sparse archaeological features were present in Trenches 20 (1), 22 (3), 23 (2) and 25 (1). The two features in Trench 23 (Post Hole F1141 and Layer L1143) contained post-medieval and modern finds. The other features were undated except ?Pit F1158 (Trench 20) which contained 25 sherds of Roman pottery, animal bone and fired clay. The pit also contained a copper alloy brooch. Trench 25 overlay linear anomalies which were not visible in the trench, and Trench 24 overlay a cropmark (AP_09) which was also not detected in the trench. Six archaeological features were present in Trench 19, all ditches. Only Ditch F1170 contained finds; four sherds of Roman pottery (14g) and animal bone (602g). This trench overlay a linear ditch (AP_03).
Project dates	Start: 13-01-2020 End: 14-02-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8147 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS2020 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	POST HOLE Roman
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	ASSEMBLAGES Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE STANSTEAD ABBOTS Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire TT  
 Postcode SG12 8PT  
 Study area 112 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 5400 2120 51.867619062854 0.237005394872 51 52 03 N 000 14 13 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 62m Max: 62m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
 Project brief originator HCC HEU  
 Project design originator Jon Murray  
 Project director/manager Jon Murray  
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Hertford Museum  
 Physical Contents "Metal","other","Animal Bones","Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive recipient Hertford Museum  
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","other"  
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Hertford Museum  
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Monahan, V  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Podbury, L  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Thomelius, S  
 Other bibliographic details 5998  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or Hollie Wesson



publisher

Place of issue or  
publication Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Hollie Wesson (info@ascontracts.co.uk)

Entered on 28 February 2020

## OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8147)



1  
General site overview



2  
General site overview



3  
Trench 3 looking north



4  
Sample section 3A looking east



5  
Sample section 3B looking west



6  
Ditches F1079 and F1081 in Trench 3 looking south-west





7  
Pit F1083 in Trench 3 looking south-west



8  
Gullies F1086, F1088 and Ditch F1090B in Trench 3 looking west



9  
Ditch F1090A in Trench 3 looking south-east



10  
Ditch F1090C and Gully F1112 in Trench 3 looking north-west



11  
Ditches F1092 and F1094 in Trench 3 looking north-west



12  
Post Hole F1098 in Trench 3 looking north-west





13  
Ditch F1100 in Trench 3 looking north-east



14  
Post Hole F1102 in Trench 3 looking south-east



15  
Post Hole F1104 in Trench 3 looking south-east



16  
Ditches F1107 and F1109 in Trench 3 looking south-west





17  
Gully F1112 in Trench 3 looking east



18  
Drain F1114 in Trench 3 looking west



19  
Trench 5 looking north-east



20  
Sample section 5A looking north-west





21  
Sample section 5B looking south-east



22  
Post Hole F1131 in Trench 5 looking north-east



23  
Ditch F1133 in Trench 5 looking south-east



24  
Ditch F1139 in Trench 5 looking south-east



25  
Ditch F1145 in Trench 5 looking south-east



26  
Trench 6 looking north-west





27  
Sample section 6A looking north-east



28  
Sample section 6B looking south-west



29  
Layer L1148 in Test Pit A in Trench 6 looking north-east



30  
Layer L1148 in Test Pit B in Trench 6 looking north-east



31  
Layer L1148 in Test Pit C in Trench 6 looking north-east



32  
Ditch F1135 in Trench 6 looking north





33  
Ditch F1137 in Trench 6 looking south-west



34  
Ditch F1137 and Layer L1151 in Trench 6 looking south-west



35  
Trench 7 looking west



36  
Sample section 7A looking north





37  
Sample section 7B looking south



38  
Pit F1128 in Trench 7 looking south



39  
Trench 9 looking north-west



40  
Sample section 9A looking north-east



41  
Sample section 9B looking south-west



42  
Ditch F1116 in Trench 9 looking south-west





43  
Post Hole F1118 in Trench 9 looking south-west



44  
Ditch F1120 in Trench 9 looking south-west



45  
Pit F1122 in Trench 9 looking north-east



46  
Ditch F1124 in Trench 9 looking north-east



47  
Post Hole F1126 in Trench 9 looking south-east



48  
Trench 14 looking east

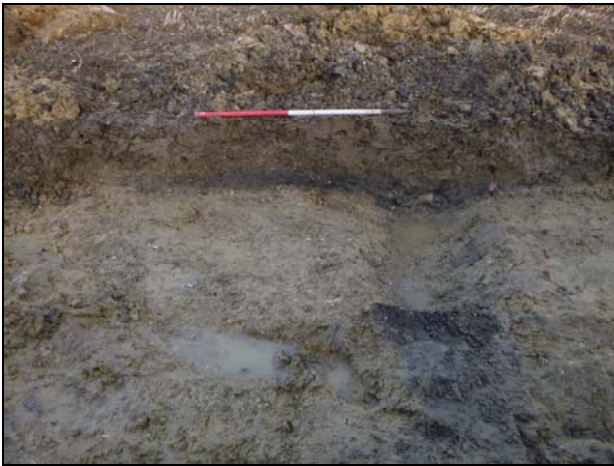




49  
Sample section 14A looking north



50  
Sample section 14B looking south



51  
Pit F1003 and Ditch F1005 in Trench 14 looking north



52  
Ditches F1007 and F1009 in Trench 14 looking north



53  
Ditch F1012 in Trench 14 looking north-west



54  
Ditch F1014 in Trench 14 looking south-west



55  
Ditches F1037, F1039, F1041 and F1043 in Trench 14 looking south-east



56  
Trench 15 looking north





57  
Sample section 15A looking east



58  
Sample section 15B looking west



59  
Ditch F1016 in Trench 15 looking south-east



60  
Ditch F1026 in Trench 15 looking west





61  
Pit F1045 and Ditches F1047 and F1050 and Layer L1052 in Trench 15 looking east



62  
Ditches F1053 and F1055, and Gully F1059 and Layer L1052 in Trench 15 looking east



63  
Pit F1057 in Trench 15 looking south-east



64  
Ditches F1070 and F1072 in Trench 15 looking west



65  
Ditches F1074 and F1076 in Trench 15 looking west



66  
Trench 16 looking north





67  
Sample section 16A looking east



68  
Sample section 16B looking west



69  
Ditches F1018, F1020 and F1022 in Trench 16 looking east



70  
Ditch F1024 in Trench 16 looking south-east



71  
Ditches F1028 and F1030 in Trench 16 looking south-east



72  
Ditches F1033 and F1035 in Trench 16 looking west





73  
Pits F1061, F1064, F1066, and Ditch F1068 in  
Trench 16 looking east



74  
Trench 19 looking west



75  
Sample section 19A looking north



76  
Sample section 19B looking south



77  
Ditch F1162 in Trench 19 looking north



78  
Ditches F1164 and F1172 in Trench 19 looking  
south





79  
Ditch F1166 in Trench 19 looking north



80  
Ditches F1168 and F1170 in Trench 19 looking south



81  
Trench 20 looking south



82  
Sample section 20A looking west



83  
Sample section 20B looking east



84  
Pit F1158A in Trench 20 looking west





85  
Pit F1158B in Trench 20 looking west



86  
Pit F1158C in Trench 20 looking west



87  
Trench 22 looking north



88  
Sample section 22A looking east





89  
Sample section 22B looking west



90  
Ditch F1152 in Trench 22 looking north-west



91  
Ditches F1154 and F1156 in Trench 22 looking east



92  
Trench 23 looking west



93  
Sample section 23A looking south



94  
Sample section 23B looking north





95  
Post Hole F1141 in Trench 23 looking east



96  
Layer L1143 in Trench 23 looking south



97  
Trench 25 looking east



98  
Sample section 25A looking north

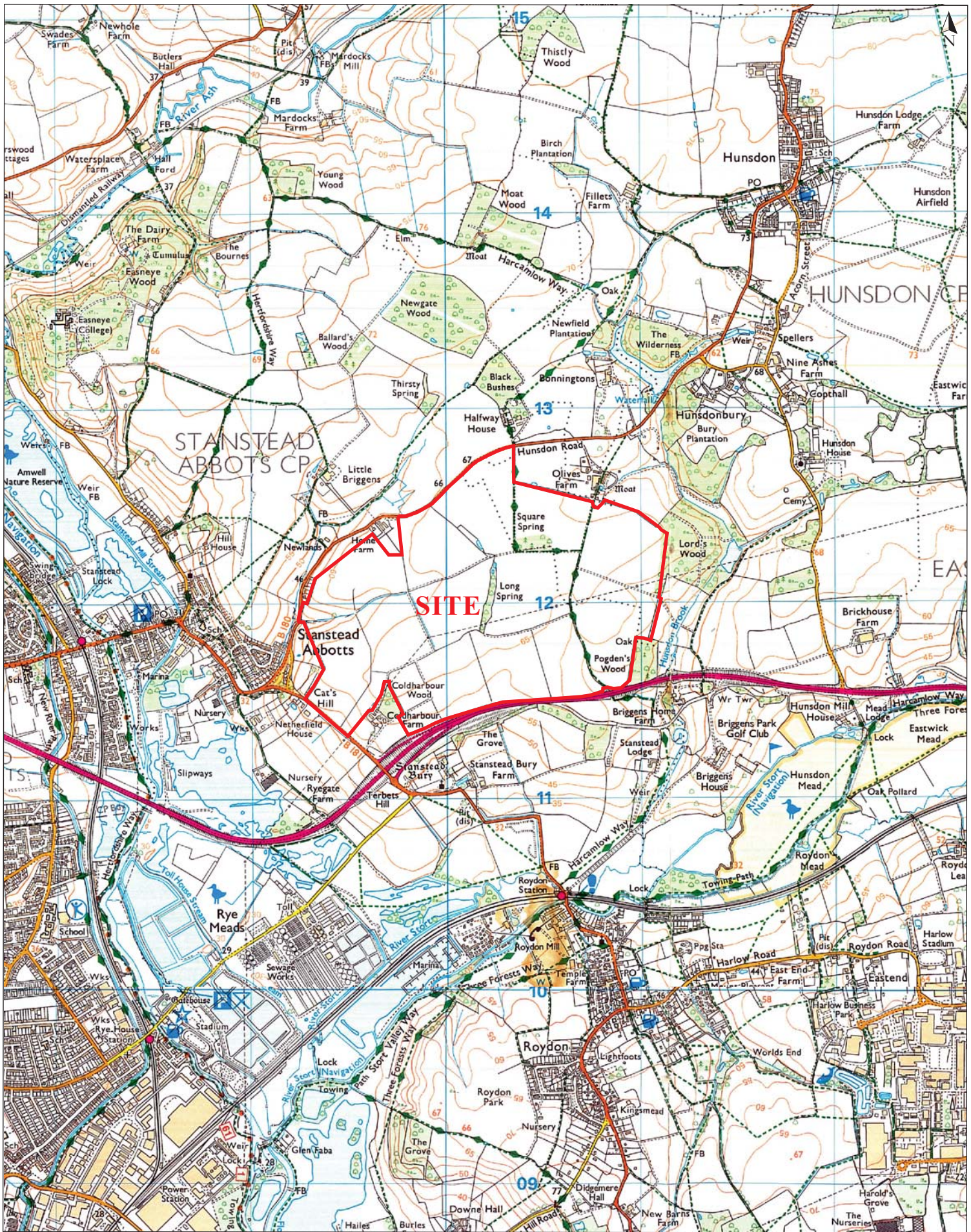


99  
Sample section 25B looking south



100  
Pit F1149 in Trench 25 looking south

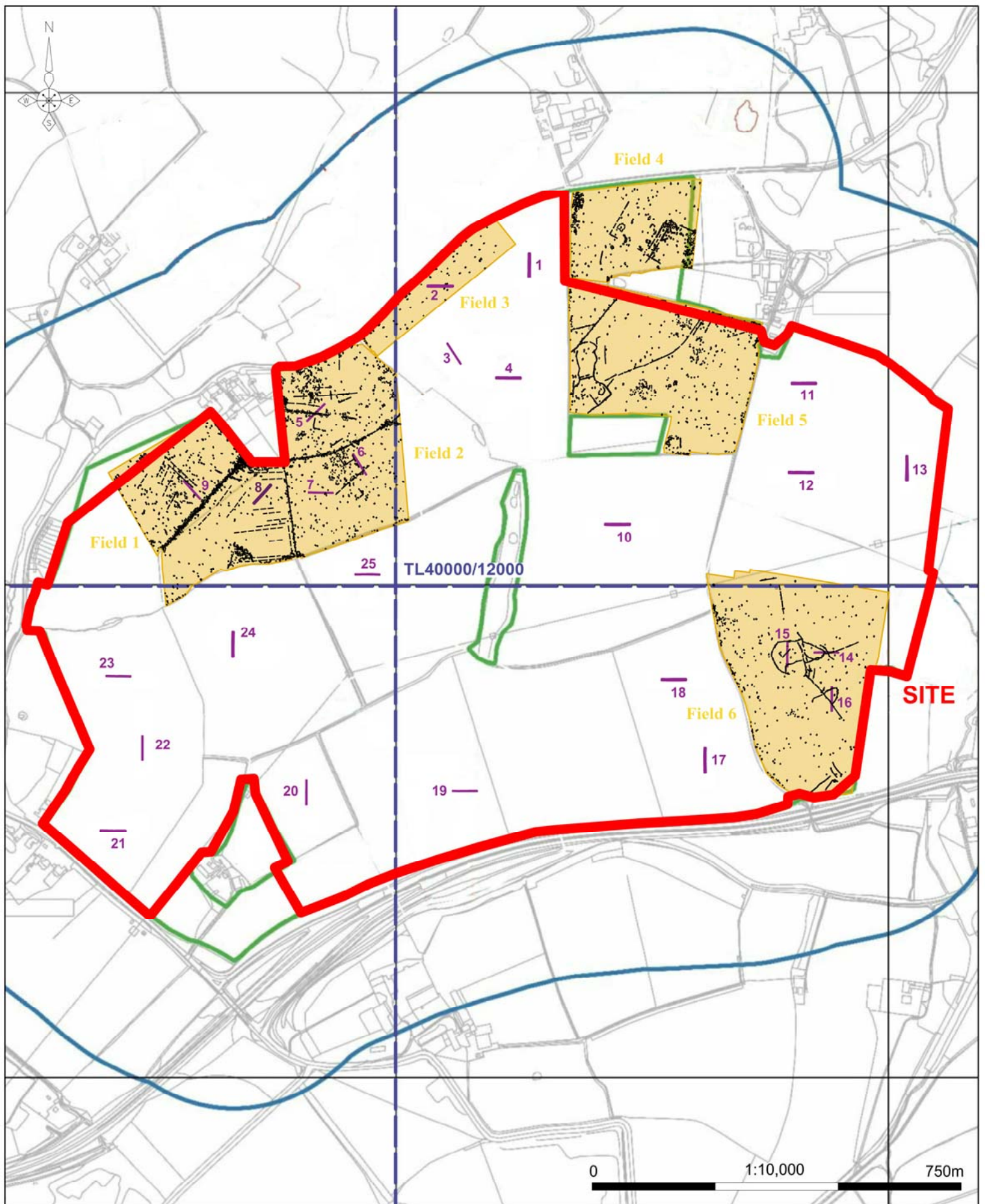




Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)





Areas of geophysical survey (Fields 1 - 6)

Contains Ordnance Survey data  
Crown copyright and database right [2019]

*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*  
**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4  
 Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)



Contains Ordnance Survey data  
Crown copyright and database right [2019]

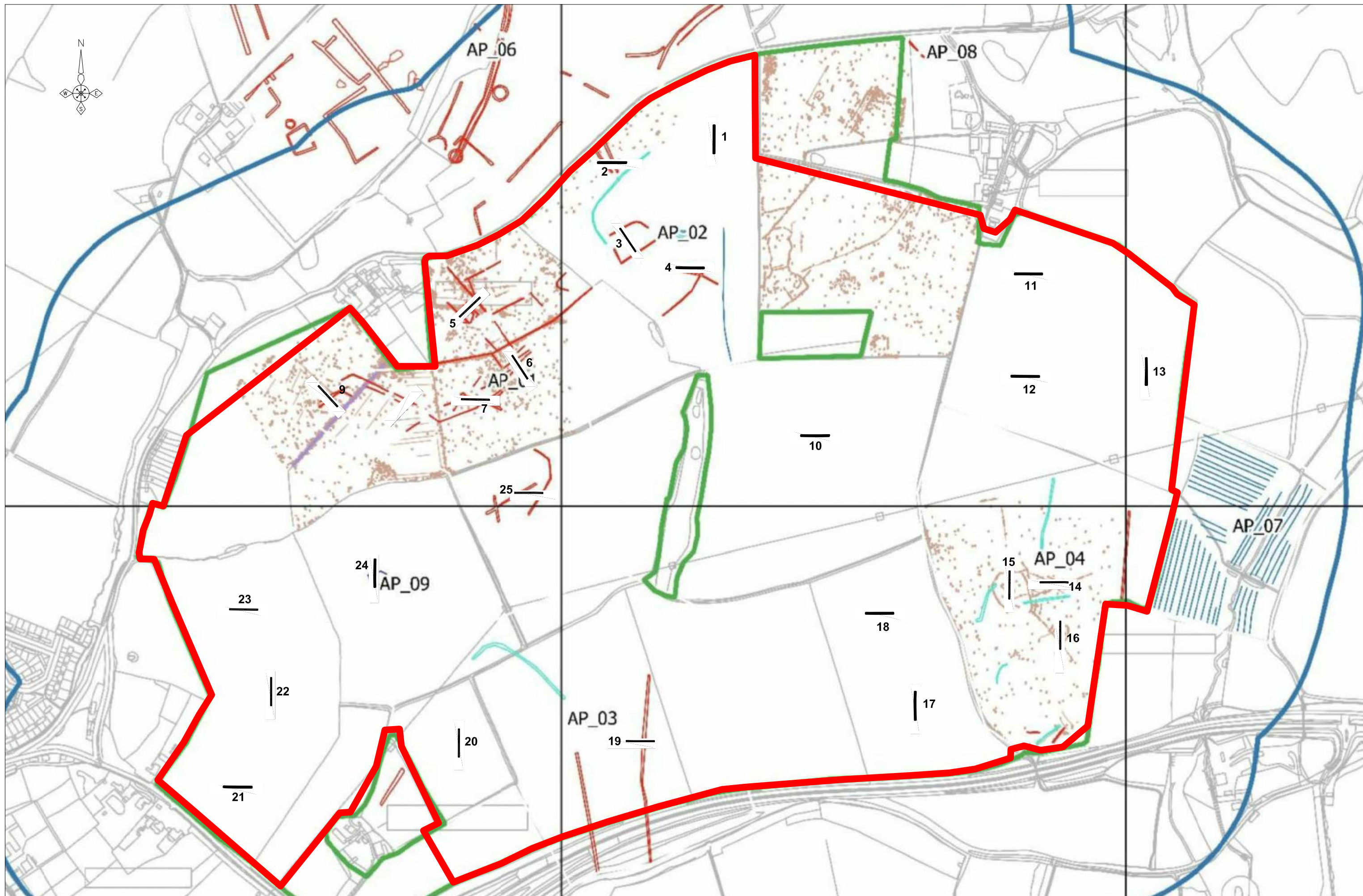
*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*

## Fig. 2b Eastern area of geophysics

Scale 1:2500 at A4

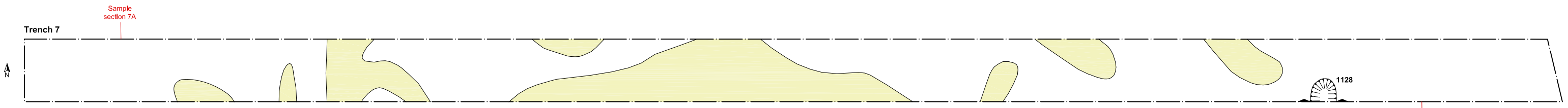
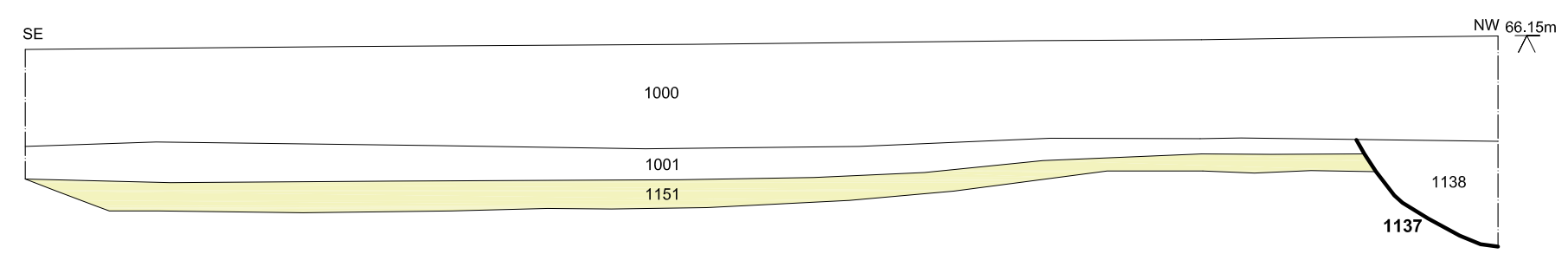
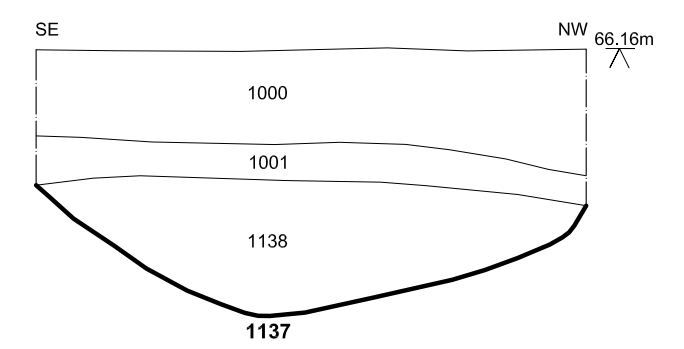
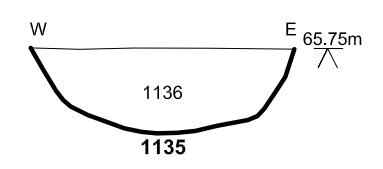
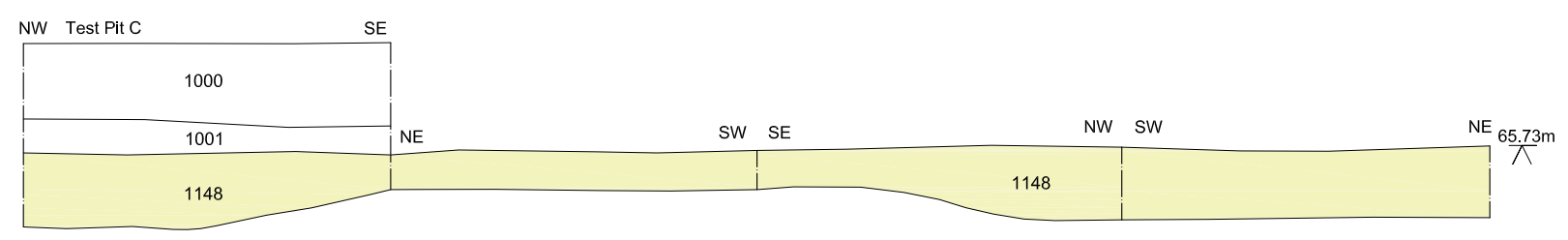
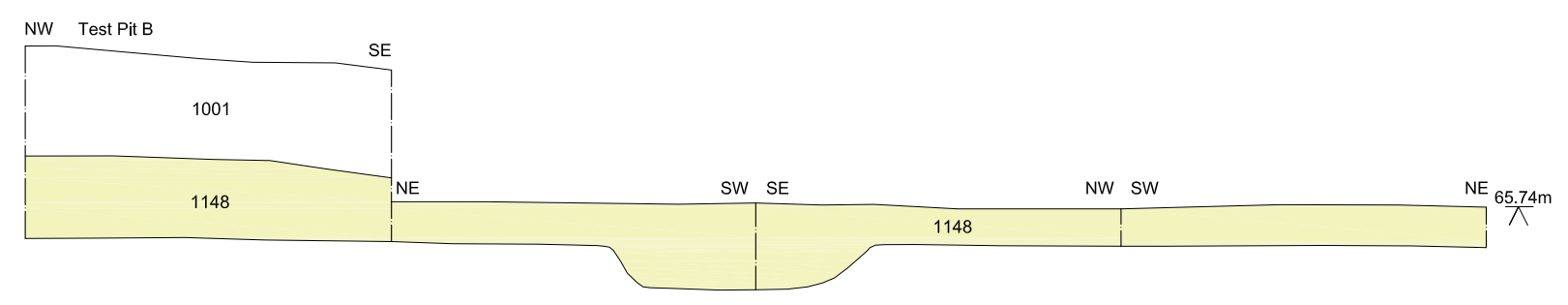
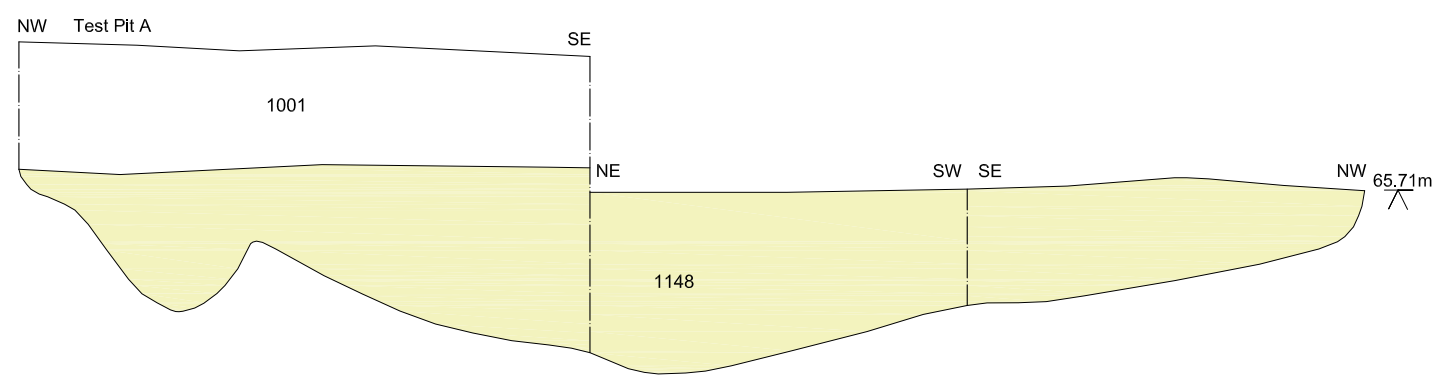
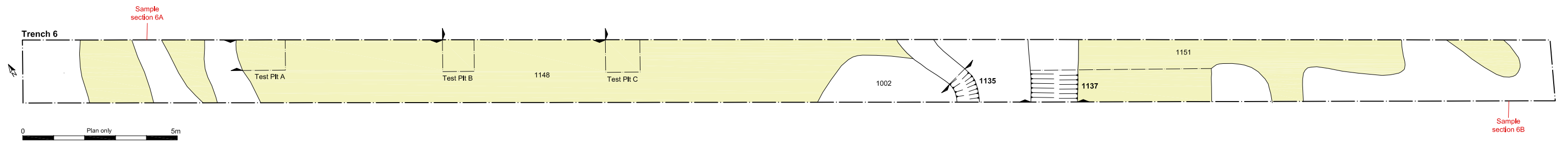
Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)



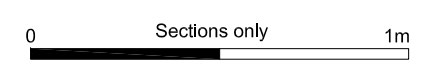
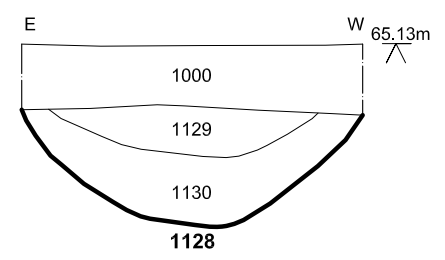








Geological feature

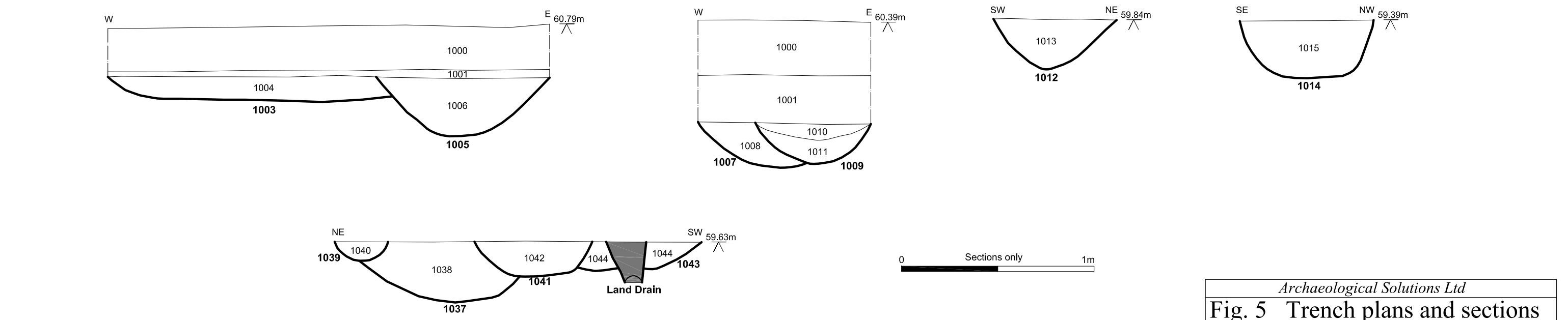
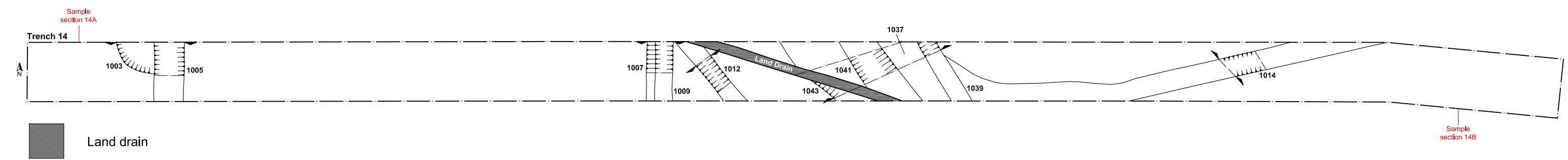
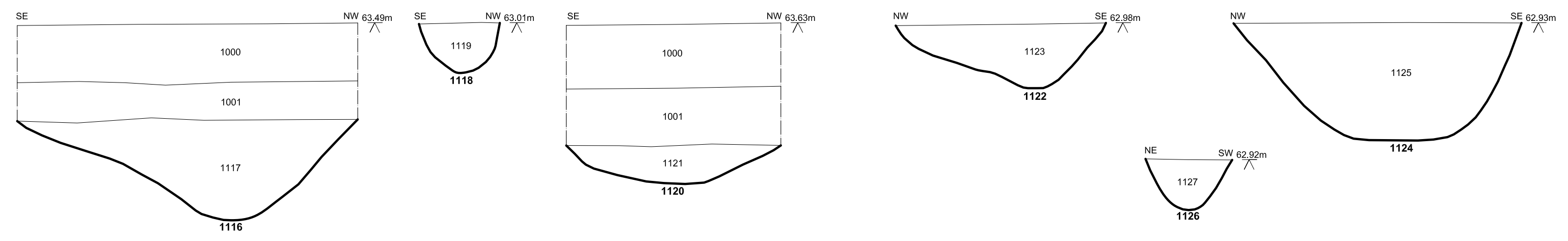
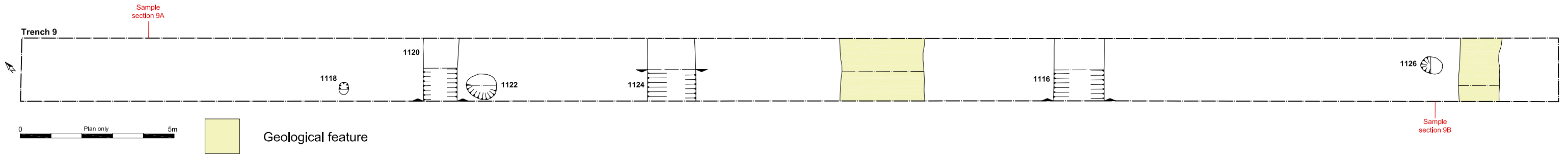


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

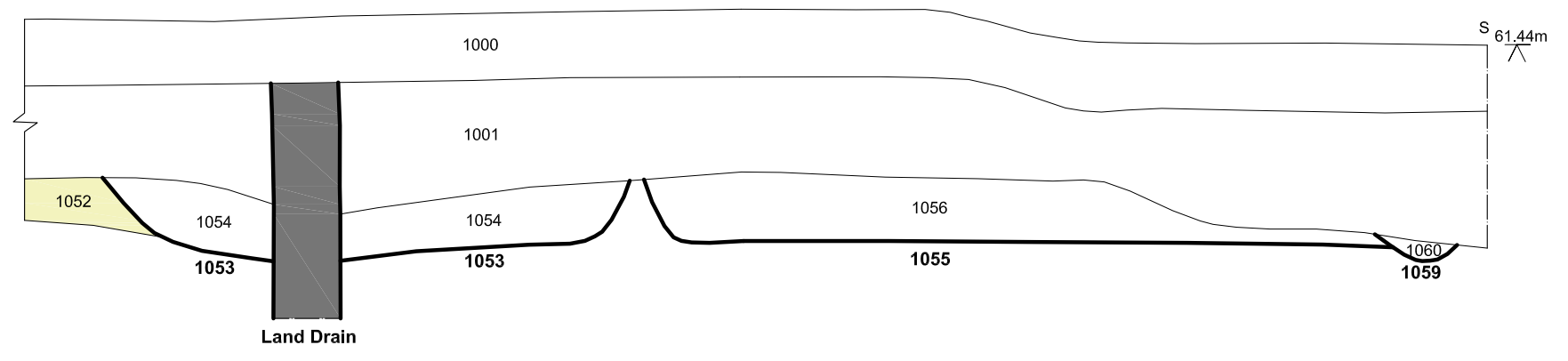
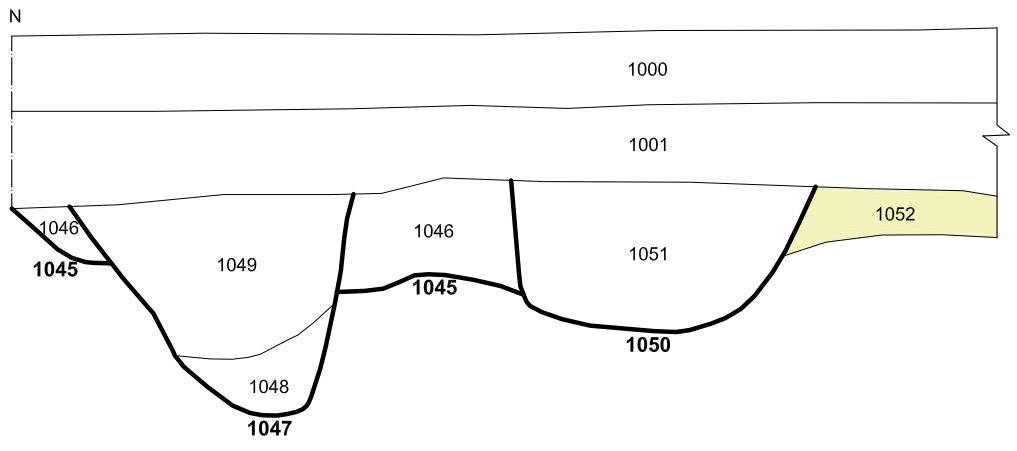
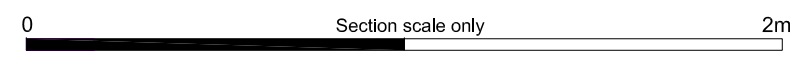
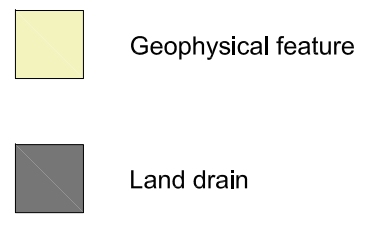
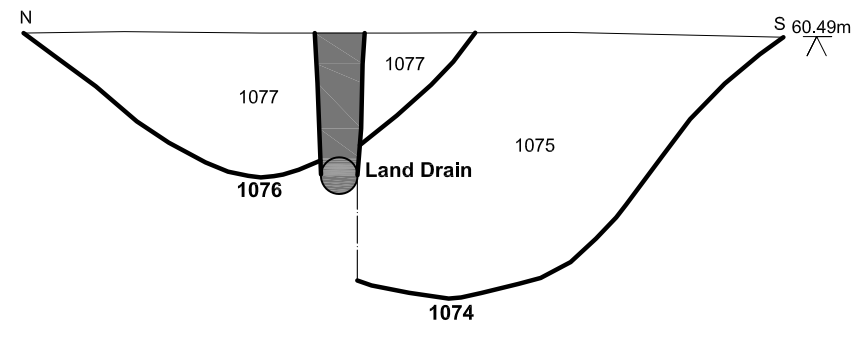
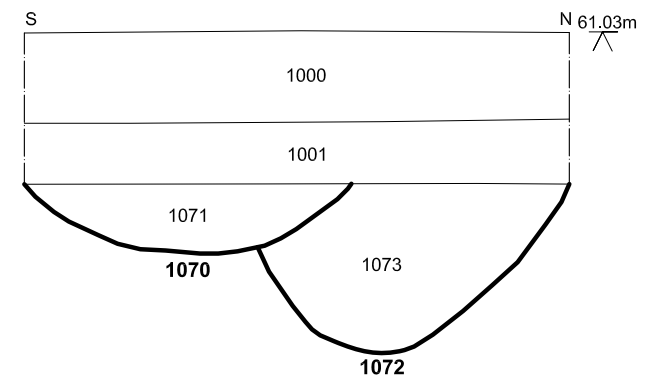
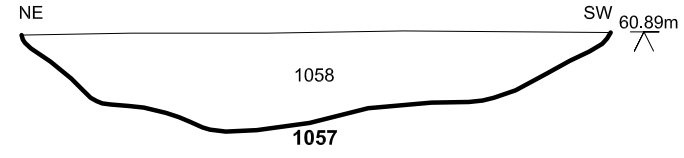
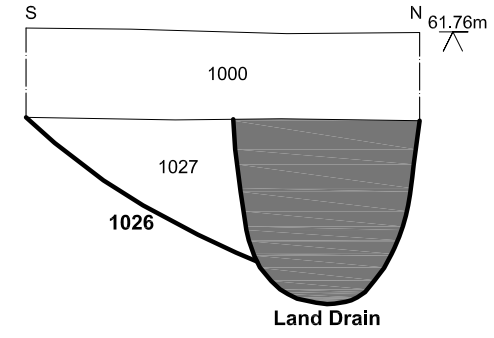
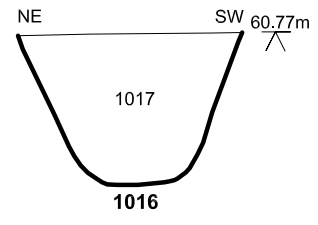
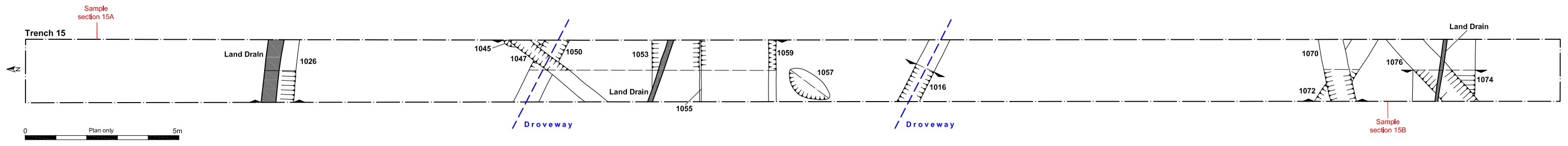
**Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections**

Scale - Plans 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3

Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale - Plans 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3  
 Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)

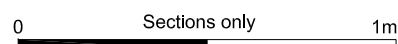
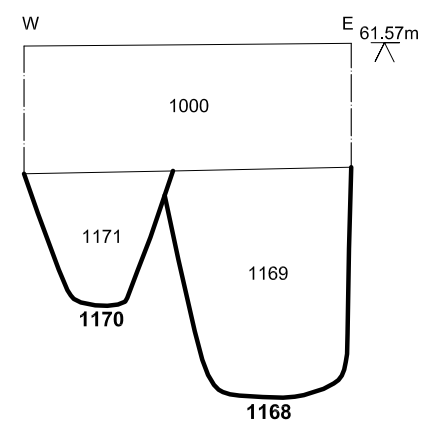
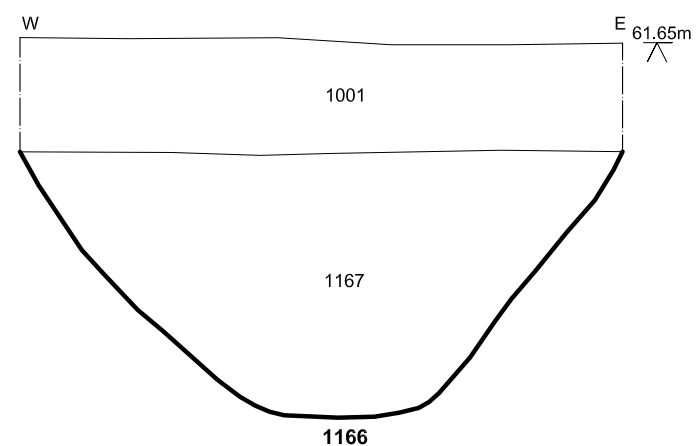
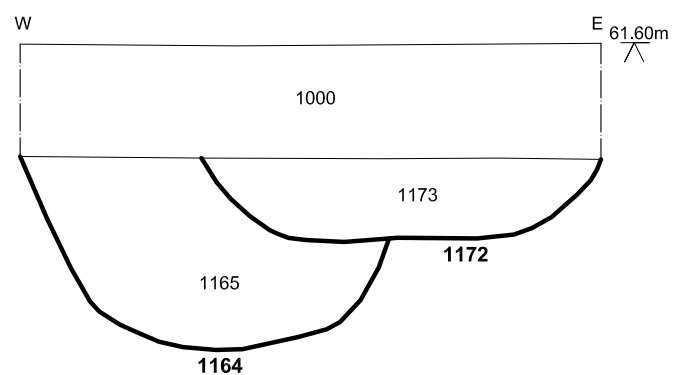
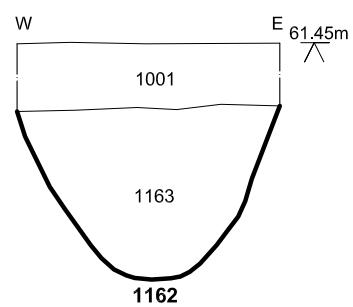
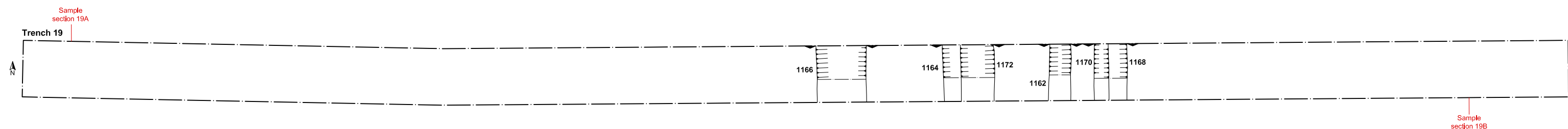
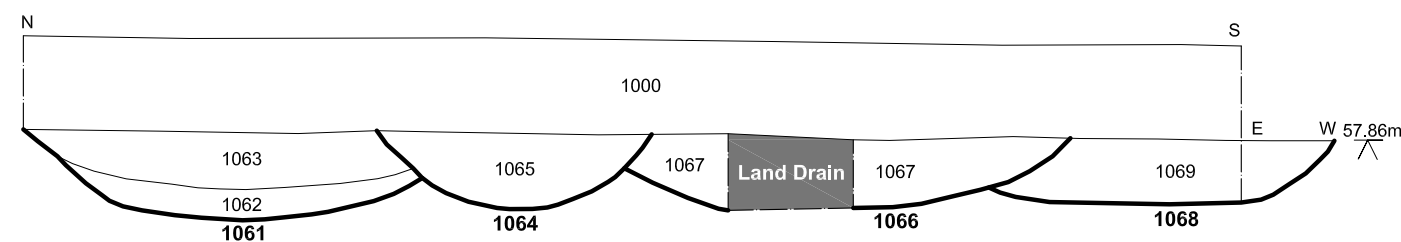
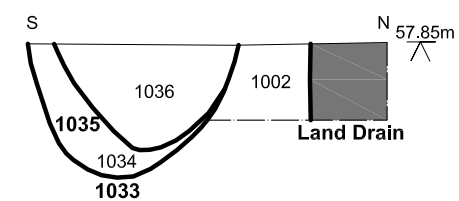
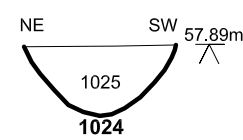
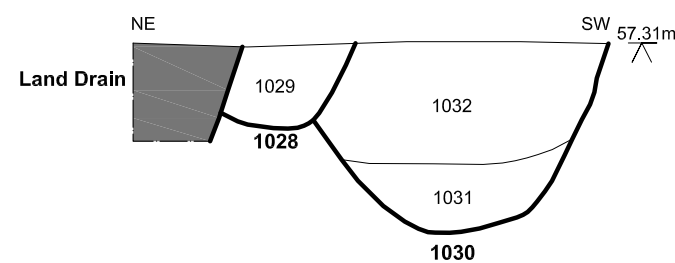
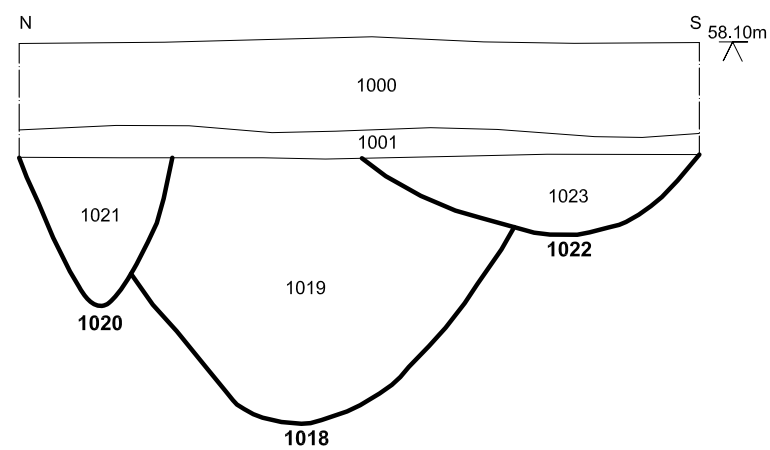
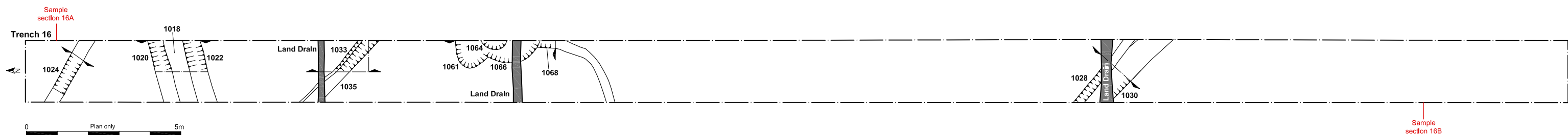


*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*

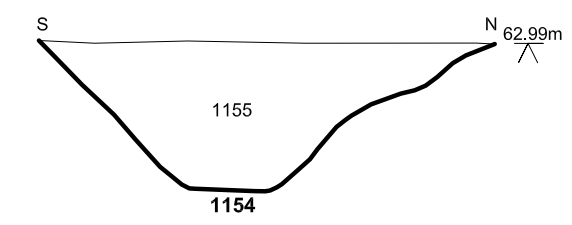
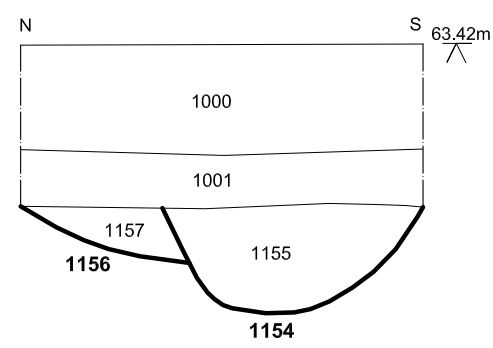
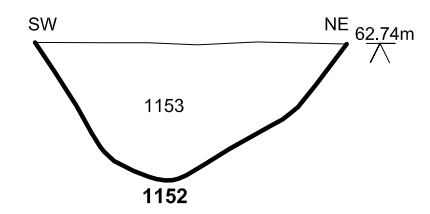
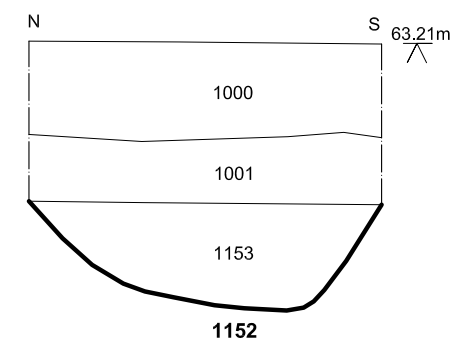
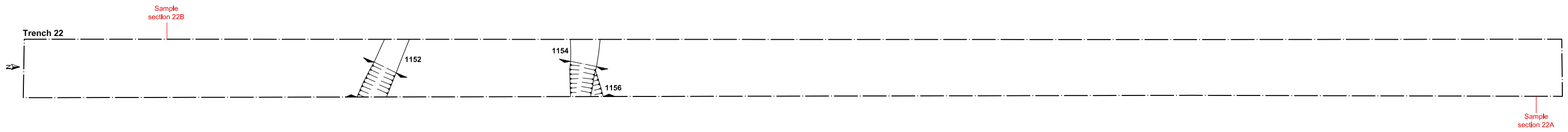
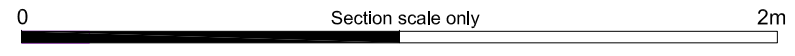
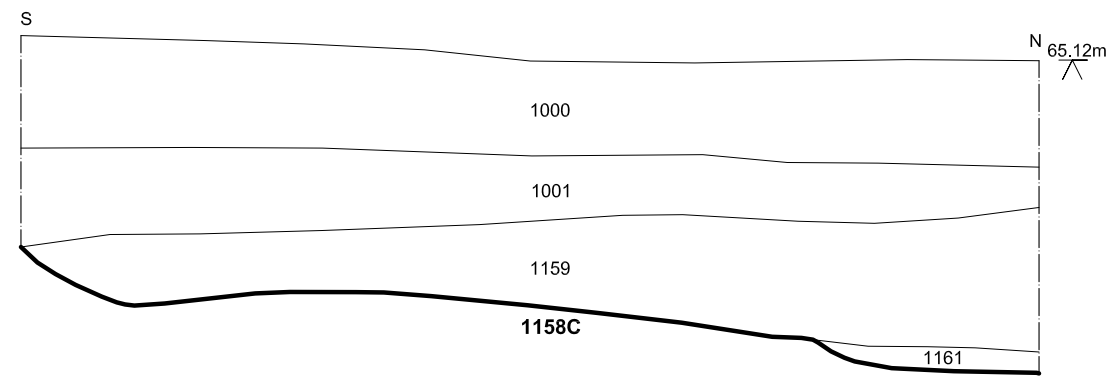
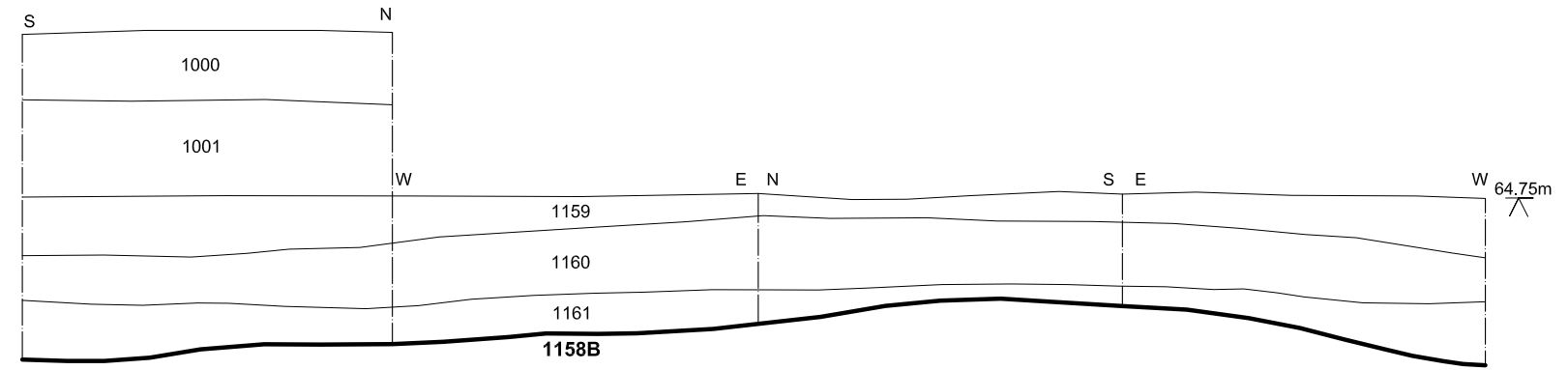
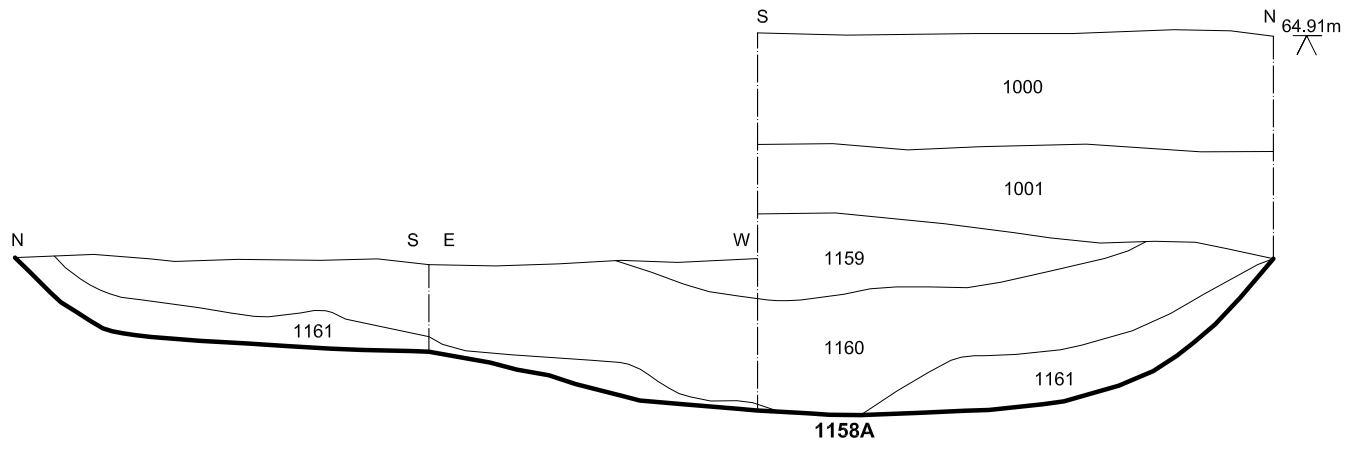
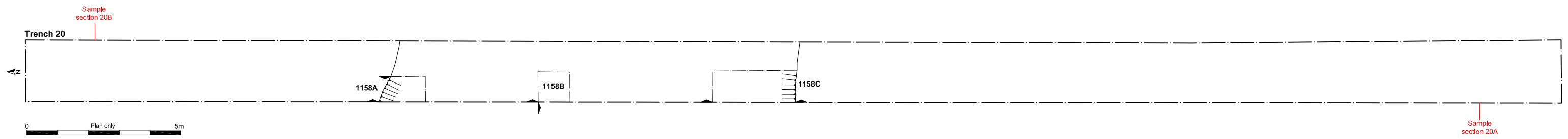
**Fig. 6 Trench plan and sections**

Scale - Plan 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3

Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale - Plans 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3  
 Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)

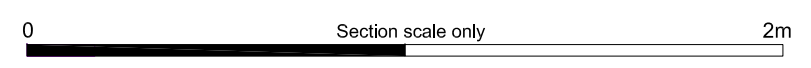
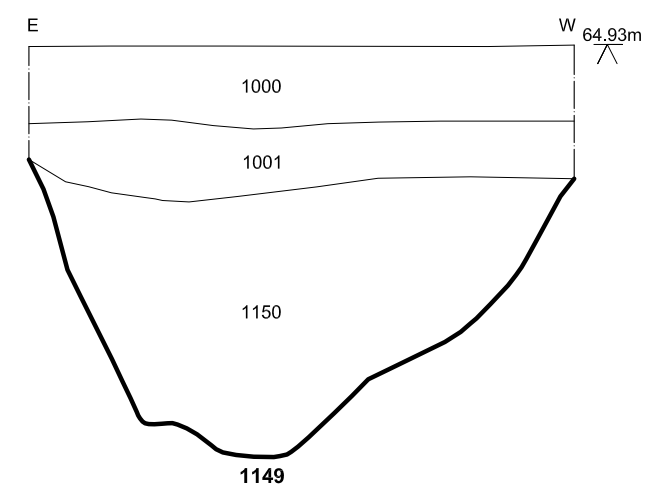
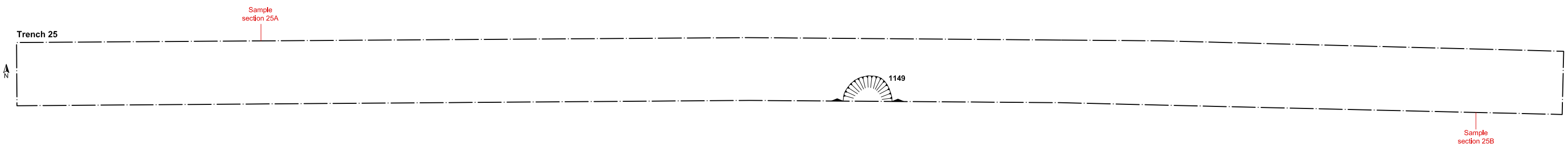
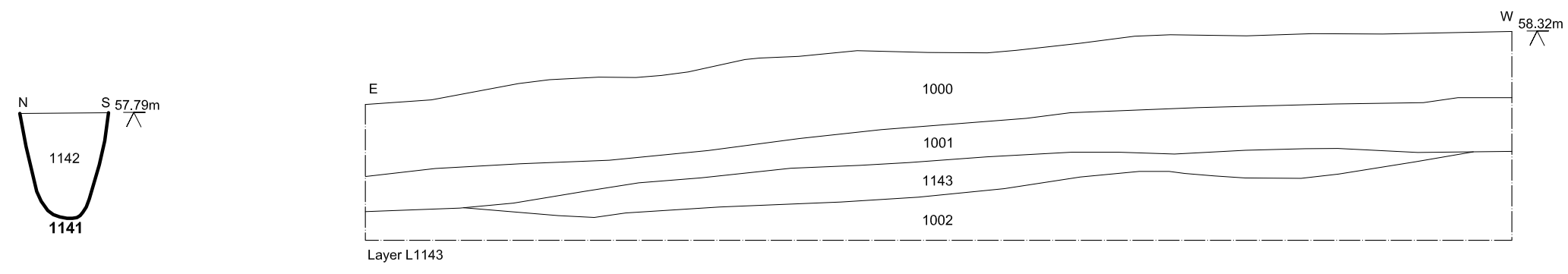
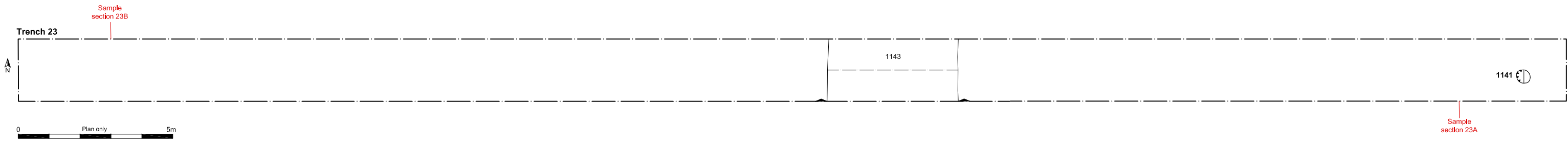


Archaeological Solutions Ltd

**Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections**

Scale - Plans 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3

Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

**Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections**

Scale - Plans 1:125; sections 1:20 at A3

Briggens Estate, Stanstead Abbots (P8147)