



WEBSTER ESTATES LTD

**LAND AT NETHERFIELD LANE,
STANSTEAD ABBOTTS,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT REPORT

AUGUST 2022

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AUGUST 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by the client Webster Estates Ltd to undertake an excavation of a series of test pits on the site of Netherfield Lane in Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, SG12 8HD, NGR: TL 39029 11504.

The archaeological work was undertaken between the 17th and 27th June 2022 and comprised the excavation of ten test pits. Excepting a single archaeological feature, an undated ditch, the majority of deposits encountered during the excavation were geomorphological origin. The stratigraphically earliest deposits observed were a series of layers of flints and gravel, which likely represent alluvium related to a flooding event associated with the nearby River Lea. Overlying the potentially alluvial deposits were a series of colluvial layers which appear to have accumulated over an extended period and contained a range of artefactual remains of varying date. Across most of the site this was overlain by a topsoil deposit which yielded a considerable artefactual assemblage.

The artefactual material recovered from these deposits, the retrieval of which was optimised by sieving, is of particular interest. Numerous struck flints – including cores, blades, scrapers and debitage flakes – were recovered that are indicative of a relatively broad date range of between the Mesolithic and Neolithic. These finds may relate to a significant Mesolithic lithic working site that was excavated approximately 50m to the north. A notable paucity of Roman and medieval finds was also recovered, which alludes to the peripheral character of the site during this period.

The bulk of the artefactual assemblage, nevertheless, was of post-medieval and modern date. The post-medieval objects recovered provide a glimpse into the domestic lives of occupants living around the site, possibly of those in the nearby Almshouses. The primary benefit of the assemblage, however, is in the insight it offers into the use of the site during the later 19th century and early to mid-20th centuries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks the client Webster Estates Ltd for commissioning the project, along with Nicolas Fuselli for his support and cooperation during the venture. Also, WA thank Dick Dixon and Robert Bennett for their background research and local knowledge of the village. A warm thank you to the volunteers and the spirit of community engagement that helped so much with the project. The volunteers assisted enormously with all aspects of the groundworks, from digging the test pits through to combing the site with metal detectors and the cleaning of the finds. Without their help and immense enthusiasm, the project would not likely have gotten underway.

The project was supervised by Peter Clarke and Christian Burgess. The report was written by Peter Clarke, Christian Burgess and Liam Podbury. The figures were produced by Kathren Henry. The finds assessment was coordinated by Luke Harris and specialist assessments were completed by Andrew Peachey, Andrew A.S. Newton, Pete Thompson, Ruth Beveridge, Julie Curl and John Summers. The project was managed by John Craven and the report edited by Andrew Peachey.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 Between the 17th and 27th of June 2022, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook a series of archaeological test pits at the Land of Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire, SG12 8HD. The site is centred on NGR: TL 39029 11504. The work was commissioned by the Client who has a planning application (3/20/0502/OUT) under consideration for residential housing on a former employment site, which currently consists of various buildings and hard standing that are adjacent to the investigation area. The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Advisory Service (HHEAS), archaeological advisors to East Hertfordshire District Council, have stated that archaeological investigation or mitigation would not be required as part of planning consent for these development proposals. The project is a community excavation that gives local volunteers an opportunity to take part in a professionally led investigation.

1.2 Project Documentation

- 1.2.1 While there was no requirement for archaeological work, the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Advisory Service (HHEAS) was notified of the investigation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological test pits (WA 2022). This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological test pitting.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (WA 2021).

1.1.1 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2021a) and the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2021b).

2.2 The Test Pits

2.2.1 The archaeological investigations comprised of the excavation of ten test pits, measuring approximately 2.00m by 2.00m. TP 1 and 4, however, were not fully excavated due to time constraints. The test pits were placed in a random array across the grassy and hitherto undeveloped area of site, in order to provide a reasonable coverage. The test pits were located with due regard to the location of known services and taking into consideration any ecological and arboricultural constraints. No test pits were located in the concreted and developed area of the site.

2.2.2 The general aims of the test pit investigation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent, and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes; and
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 The specific aims of the test pit investigation were to:

- allow volunteers in the local community to engage and partake in the archaeological excavation process; and
- provide visitors in the local area with the opportunity to visit an archaeological excavation.

2.2.4 Using a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision, the turf/vegetation was removed from each of the test pits. In order to facilitate hand-excavation by the volunteers, the topsoil was also mechanically removed within TP 3, 8, 9, and 10. The removed topsoil deposits were placed in separate piles and hand sieved at a later stage. The excavation of each test pit was carried out by the volunteers and supervised by WA staff, with all and deposits being inspected and excavated by hand. Three test pits (TP 5, 8, 10) were excavated to the level of the natural substrate, while the remaining test pits (TP 2, 3, 6, 7) were excavated to the maximum safe depth of 1.20m below ground level. Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh was undertaken by the volunteers and spoil heaps were placed adjacent to each test pit. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2021). On completion the test pits were to be reinstated by replacing the excavated material; this was done.

2.3 Site Archive

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011) and *A standard guide to best practice for archaeological archiving in Europe* (Perrin *et al* 2014). The archive likewise follows all guidance outlined within the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards* (Hertfordshire Association of Museums 2018). The archive will be deposited with the Ware Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Hertfordshire HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier BE10311.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-509138.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The Site is located c.500m to the southeast of the historic core the village of Stanstead Abbots, c.3.00km northeast of the town of Hoddesdon, and c.6.50km to the east of the town of Hertford. It is situated within the district of East Hertfordshire, within the county of Hertfordshire.
- 3.1.2 The Site represents an irregular plot of land, approximately 2ha hectares in size. To the immediate west of the Site lies Netherfield Lane, along which lies a public bridleway. To the north and west of the Site lies the B181 Roydon Road and residential dwellings located along Royton Road, including Grade II* listed Baish Almshouses (NHLE 1078739). A public footpath is also located along the northern boundary of the Site. The various buildings that are proposed for redevelopments lie immediately to the south-west of the investigation area and also front onto Netherfield Lane. The investigation area largely comprises undeveloped rough grassland. The south-eastern section of the investigation area was, until its recent clearance by the Client, comprised overgrown vegetation and woodland covert.
- 3.1.3 The village of Stanstead Abbots is situated within the Lea Valley and on the eastern bank of the River Lea. The River Lea Navigation flows roughly southwards 700m to the west of the Site, with the New River 100m further westwards. The Stanstead Mill Stream also flows southwards 600m to the west of the Site, whilst Abbots Lake is situated only 150m beyond the Site's western boundary. The Site is situated upon a variable relief consistent with its location within the Lea Valley. A spot height of 32m AOD lies along Roydon Road and just beyond the north-western corner of the Site. The western boundary of the site fronting Netherfield Lane is located at c. 30m AOD, with the Site's relief rising eastwards to 45m AOD along its eastern boundary.
- 3.1.4 The underlying solid geology is mapped as chalk with flints of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in warm chalk seas (BGS 2022). The superficial deposits in the area consist of sand and gravel of Kempton Park Gravel Member and the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup, formed up to three million years ago during the Quaternary Period in a river setting. Located to the northeast of site there is an area of alluvial deposit made up of clay, silt, sand, and gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a river setting (BGS 2022).

3.1.5 The natural substrate was not encountered within the majority of test pits, but was observed within TP 5, TP 8, and TP 10. In TP 5 the natural substrate **(1011)** comprised a friable pale-yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small flints throughout. In TP 8 the natural substrate **(1015)** comprised a firm, pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout. In TP 10 the natural substrate **(1016)** comprised a firm pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout. These observed deposits are all broadly consistent with the mapped geologies noted above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 The following summary is derived from the desk-based assessment for the site (Higgs 2021). Information on known archaeological sites and finds spots was derived from a search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) in July 2021 (request No. 73/21). The search radius extended 1.00km from the centre of the Site.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** The Lea Valley was favourable for early exploitation and occupation from the Palaeolithic period onwards, with a number of notable occupation sites in the vicinity of Stanstead Abbots (Seddon & Bryant 1999). A Mesolithic working floor was found behind Nos. 68 – 71 Roydon Road, which stands 60m to the north-west of the Site (HER 4022). It was discovered during the construction of a swimming pool in 1971 and artefacts recovered consisted of over 1,300 flints of early to middle Mesolithic date including an axe scraper blades and microliths, which were located in, out and around a shallow depression that was edged with possible stake holes and interpreted as a temporary shelter. A semi butchered piglet skeleton was also found with the struck flint but was the later dated to the 9th century AD and deemed intrusive. The flint was in the upper part of a layer of riverine sand, covered by a thin layer of peat which partially incorporated the pig bones. A small test pit was excavated in 2019 on the opposing side of Roydon road, which revealed Mesolithic flint debitage and Iron Age pottery, as well as medieval and post-medieval pottery (Bennett 2022).

3.2.3 An evaluation at Sanville Gardens, which lies on Hoddesdon Road and 950m to the west of the Site, uncovered residual struck flints of Mesolithic and Neolithic date; yet there were no dated prehistoric features (HER 12821). An evaluation at No. 24 Cappell Lane revealed late Mesolithic peat formation on the edge of a flood plain (HER 15230), whilst another evaluation at St Margaret's Farm revealed Neolithic and later peat formation, with a decline in tree cover (HER 15630). A prehistoric pit of

sub-circular shape was also discovered during excavations at St Margaret's Farm (HER 9715). Its fill contained flint flakes, burnt flint and other struck flints. No other prehistoric activity was found, indicating limited and localised occupation.

Evidence for the occupation of the Stanstead Abbots area in the later prehistoric period is attested by two cropmarks of circular enclosure, which probably represent the ploughed-down remains of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age round barrow, yet both are located almost 1km from the Site (HERs 7626 & 7640). Furthermore, investigations at Chapelfields, which stands 700m to the north-north-west of the Site, revealed Roman tile, parts of a late Iron Age (or early Bronze Age) pot, and edible snail shell, residual in much later pits (HER 30961).

3.2.4 Romano-British: Evidence for the Romano-British occupation of Stanstead Abbots is limited, other than antiquarian evidence for the re-use of Roman tile in the construction of the chancel at the Church of St James, which stands at Stanstead Bury and 1.00km to the south-east of the Site (Seddon & Bryant 1999). However, within the vicinity of the Site, Romano-British remains are limited to a single Roman cremation associated with a fragment of a colour coated beaker, which were excavated in 1971 during the construction of the housing estate 700m to the north-north-west (HER 1755), yet appears to be either an isolated feature or perhaps on the periphery of an area of Roman activity that has not yet been revealed.

3.2.5 Anglo-Saxon: Evidence of Saxon occupation in Hertfordshire in general is scarce, yet the aforementioned investigations at Chapelfields, which stands 700m to the north-north-west of the Site, revealed a group of intercutting pits, and post holes, with 10th - 12th century pottery, burnt waste, and environmental data (HER 30958). Such archaeological evidence is consistent with documentary sources, which suggest a Saxon origin for the place-name Stanstead Abbots. Stanstead is judged to derive from the Old English for a 'stoney place' (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). The village of Stanstead Abbots is judged to occupy a causeway across the flood plain of the River Lea, which developed from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (HER 2645).

3.2.6 Medieval: The earliest known reference to Stanstead Abbots comprises Domesday Book, which in 1086 refers to a large manor at Stanestede (Williams & Martin 1992). The manor included a mill, land for 16 ploughs, extensive woodland, and boasted a sizeable population, including a priest suggestive of a church, and a reeve. The reference to seven 'burgesses' or town merchants also indicates by the late 11th century a settlement within the manor of Stanstead had urban or 'borough' status

(Seddon & Bryant 1999). The place-name element Abbots was not referenced until 1318 (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938), by which time the manor was held by the Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross.

- 3.2.7 The medieval village of Stanstead Abbots (HER 2645) developed along the course of the High Street and the northern extent of Roydon Road. The Extensive Urban Survey (Seddon & Bryant 1999) maintains that the probable extent of medieval town did not extend southwards of the junction of Roydon Road with Marsh Lane, which lies 350m to the north-west of the Site. Within the medieval settlement stood a mill, which is judged to have stood on the site of the subsequent Grade II listed Stanstead Mill on Roydon Road, which dates to 1865 (HER 5810).
- 3.2.8 The High Street is occupied by a significant number of medieval listed buildings, including the Grade II* listed Red Lion Inn at No. 1 High Street (HER 10278), as well as Nos. 3 and 77 High Street (HERs 10284 & 10285). Grade II listed Abbots House at No. 37 Roydon Road is a late medieval open hall house (HER 10283), whilst Grade II listed Nos. 16 – 20 Roydon Road originated as a late medieval house, now three properties (HER 10286).
- 3.2.9 The Grade II* listed Stanstead Bury, which stands 1km to the south-east of the Site, is a 15th century open hall house, much aggrandised by Edward Baesh in the 16th century (HER 4021). It is surrounded by the registered park and garden of Stanstead Bury (HER 7340), whilst cropmarks in the field to the south of Stanstead Bury's Church of St James have in the past been assumed to represent a deserted medieval village (HER 1018).
- 3.2.10 Further medieval evidence is attested by the aforementioned evaluation at Sanville Gardens, which lies 950m to the west of the Site and uncovered medieval pits and ditches (HER 12820). A ditch and a recut containing medieval pottery, tile and oyster shell were also found during an evaluation to the north of the Clock House at St Margarets (HER 30360), close to the site of a country house that burnt down in the late 18th century (HER 15765).
- 3.2.11 **Post-medieval:** The manor of Stanstead Abbots remained with the Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross until 1531, when it was acquired by Henry VIII (Page 1971). It was held by the crown until 1559 when it was granted to the local dignitary Edward Baesh (1507 - 87), who was General surveyor for the Victuals of the Navy Royal and the Marine Affairs (*ibid.*; EHDC 2014). The Grade II* listed Baesh Almshouses, which stand at Nos. 79, 83 & 87 Roydon Road and only 10m beyond the northern boundary

of the Site, were constructed under the terms of Sir Edward Baesh's will in 1653 (HER 10277). They were established for the use of six poor women 'of civil and religious conversation' belonging to the parish. The Grade II* listed Clock School at No. 9 Cappell Lane was a free grammar school founded in 1635, also by Sir Edward Baesh (HER 10228).

3.2.12 The historic core of Stanstead Abbots incorporates a large number of post-medieval and later historic buildings. These include a number of Grade II listed building houses situated along the High Street, including the Lord Louis, Black Bull Inn, and Rose and Crown Inn (HERs 10221, 10222 & 10279). The post-medieval period is also represented by the site of the village animal pound on common land at Cat's Hill, which stands 300m to the east of the Site (HER 30327), a Grade II listed 17th century barn at Coldharbour Farm on Roydon Road (HER 18845), and Ryegate Farm, which formerly stood and Netherfield Lane until its demolition in the early 21st century (HER 31021).

3.2.13 A large number of early 18th century standing buildings survive within Stanstead Abbots, and which attest to the late post-medieval development of the area following the construction of the New River and subsequent River Lea Navigation Canal. These include the Grade II listed Thele House (HER 18492), the Grade II listed Colne Cottages (HER 30494), and Grade II listed Holmwood Cottages (HER 30495), all of which stands to the north-west of the Site along Roydon Road.

3.2.14 Maltings were a notable feature of Stanstead Abbots, with the production of malt for brewing beer being its primary post-medieval and early modern industry (Seddon & Bryant 1999). Three Grade II listed maltings associated with French and Jupp's are recorded on Roydon Road (HERs 5395, 5396 & 5397), whilst a former mid 19th century malthouse also stood at Abbots House on Roydon Road (HER 10280). As noted previously, the site of workers' cottages, known as Poppy Cottage, which comprised small cottages around a yard containing a communal pump on the Roydon Road/Marsh Lane until their demolition in 1934, were found during the evaluation at No. 67 Roydon Road (HER 12153).

3.2.15 The early modern period also witnessed the expansion of Stanstead Abbots, particularly following the establishment of St Margarets railway station, which was built 1843 on the Hertford branch of the LNER (HER 5534). The former Countess of Huntingdon's Connection (Methodist) chapel was built in 1809 at No. 19 Cappell Lane (HER 10281), whilst the Grade II* listed Church of St Andrew was built in 1881

800m to the north-north-west of the Site (HER 10231). Similarly, the Grade II listed Netherfield House, which stands on Roydon Road and only 40m to the east of the Site, is a Victorian villa estate, built in 1860 on the site of an older property (HER 31313).

- 3.2.16 **The Site:** The HER database does not record any modern remains within the vicinity of the Site, yet the partial development of the Site is known to date from the mid 20th century. Both historic cartographic sources and local history sources (SALHS Websters of Stanstead Abbots website) reveal that the former Works buildings in the southwestern section of the Site was occupied by a T-shaped building from at least 1960 onwards. The T-shaped structure is known to have comprised an old egg-packing station likely built from 1946 onwards, yet possibly originated as a barracks for Women's Land Army staff during World War II (Mr. Nicolas Fuselli *pers. comm.*).
- 3.2.17 The principal development of the south-western adjacent plot dates from 1970 onwards, when the former egg-packing station was purchased by David Webster of David Webster Ltd and subject to extensive enlargement and development in 1970 – 71. The new premises gave scope to create purpose-built machinery and vehicles to transport and erect lengthy, cumbersome lighting columns around the country.
- 3.2.18 As a result, Websters of Netherfield Lane was once the biggest employer in Stanstead Abbots, employing 200 local workers. However, in June 2005, David Webster Ltd was acquired by ETDE, a subsidiary of the French construction giant, Bouygues, leading to the vacation of the Works after 2006. The structures within the south-western section of the Site were later occupied by the subsidiary Weblight Ltd, which went into liquidation in 2019, and thus now stand vacant.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The test pitting investigation was conducted in June 2022, with eight test pits excavated across the site (Plate 1; Fig.3). The investigation was initially planned to comprise ten test pits, but TP 1 and 4 were not excavated due to time constraints. The test pits were placed in a random grid array and were excavated by volunteers under the supervision of suitably experienced archaeologists. All deposits, both machine and hand excavated, were sieved for finds.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 **Test Pit 1 (Fig.3)** was situated in the far north-western corner of the Site, near the junction between Roydon Road and Netherfield Lane (Plate 2). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. As noted above, the test pit was not fully excavated due to time constraints. The only deposit observed within the test pit was topsoil (**1000**); a 0.32m thick layer of dark-greyish brown clayey sand. Within TP 1 the topsoil (**1000**) yielded thirty-eight sherds (224g) of pottery indicative of a 19th to early 20th century date, ceramic building material (2544g), animal bone (20g), iron nails (21; 153g), copper alloy horse harness gear (3; 150g), coal (5; 48g); clay pipe (11; 27g), slate (7; 66g), glass (12; 91g), and struck flint (11; 21g).

5.2.2 **Test Pit 2 (Fig 3 & 4)** was situated near the western edge of the Site, near Netherfield Lane (Plate 3). It measured 2.10m in length and 1.90m in width. The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered within the test pit was flint/gravel layer (**1003**), which comprised very frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and gravel within a matrix of mid greyish brown silt. No artefactual remains were recovered from the deposit. This was overlain by a 0.30m thick colluvial layer (**1005**) of pale-greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small subrounded flints and charcoal flecks. The deposit yielded a small assemblage of ceramic building material (35g) and three struck flints (22g). This was in turn overlain by a further 0.60m thick layer of colluvium (**1001**) which consisted of mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints. Within TP 2 colluvial layer (**1001**) yielded three sherds (23g) of mid 18th to 19th century pottery, ceramic building material (718g), an iron nail (16g), clay pipe (3; 11g), coal (1; 5g), glass (3; 8g), burnt flint (1; 21g) and a single copper alloy radiate or nummus 'minim' (SF14) of uncertain emperor dating to the period AD 260-409. Overlying the colluvial layer was a 0.20m thick layer of topsoil (**1000**), the composition of which is described above. Within TP

2 topsoil (**1000**) was found in association with fifty-eight sherds of pottery indicative of a 19th to early 20th century date, ceramic building material (1851g), animal bone (45g), a bone scale plate (SF74; 1g), a copper alloy escutcheon (SF93; 4g), iron nails (2; 13g), struck flint (3; 10g), burnt flint (3; 11g), clay pipe (5; 10g), slag (1; 34g), coal (10; 43g), shale (1; 1g), slate (1; 1g), and an assemblage of glass fragments (33; 174g).

5.2.3 **Test Pit 3 (Fig.3 & 5)** was situated in the north-western corner of the Site, around 30m west of the Almhouses along Roydon Road (Plate 4). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. The stratigraphically earliest layer observed within the test pit was flint/gravel layer (**1006**). It was comprised of very frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and gravel within a matrix of greyish-brown clayey silt. Three struck flint elements (29g) and a burnt flint fragment (13g) were recovered from the deposit. This was overlain by a 0.25m thick clay layer (**1004**), which consisted of dark brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small sub-rounded and rounded flints. This layer likewise yielded a single struck flint (1g) and two burnt flints (22g). Overlying this deposit was flint/gravel layer (**1003**) at approximately 0.08m thick, the composition of which is detailed above. Recovered from the deposit was a single sherd (1g) of late 12th to mid 14th century pottery, ceramic building material (63g), struck flint (3; 10g), burnt flint (6; 60g) and a George III farthing dating to between 1760 and 1820 (SF1). This was overlain by a 0.59m thick colluvial layer (**1002**), which comprised mid-greyish yellow sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. The deposit yielded six sherds (54g) of late 12th to mid 14th century pottery, ceramic building material (18g), animal bone (12g), lavastone (3; 123g), struck flint (3; 66g), burnt flint (21; 375g) and a Dutch 5 cents coin from 1943 (SF2). Sealing the test pit was 0.35m thick deposit of topsoil (**1000**), which is described above. Within TP 3 topsoil (**1000**) yielded three sherds (9g) of pottery indicative of a late 18th to 19th century date, ceramic building material (92g), struck flint (4; 8g), burnt flint (6; 160g), clay pipe (2; 3g), coal (2; 5g), and glass (5; 85g).

5.2.4 **Test Pit 4 (Fig.3)** was situated in the southwestern corner of the Site, alongside Netherfield Lane (Plate 5). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. Due to time constraints, the test pit was not excavated further than removal of the turf, which exposed topsoil (**1000**).

5.2.5 **Test Pit 5 (Fig.3 & 6)** was situated towards the west of the Site (Plate 6 and 7). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. The natural substrate (**1011**) was

observed in this area and comprised a pale yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small flints. Overlying the natural substrate was a 0.58m thick layer of colluvium (**1001**), the composition of which is described above. Within TP 5 colluvial layer (**1001**) yielded three sherds (21g) of mid 17th to 18th century pottery, ceramic building material (493g), animal bone (42g), burnt flint (2; 44g) and struck flint (5; 82g). Topsoil (**1000**) sealed the test pit and yielded thirty-two sherds (143g) of 19th to early 20th century pottery, ceramic building material (1786g), an iron buckle (SF72; 42g), clay pipe (3; 7g), struck flint (4; 33g), burnt flint (1; 9g), coal (1; 3g), and clinker (2; 14g).

5.2.6 Underlying the colluvial layer (**1001**) and cutting into the natural geology (**1011**), a single archaeological feature was identified that potentially represents ditch [**1007**]. It was, however, postulated during the excavation that the feature may represent an infilled hollow or depression. The potential ditch, which had a relatively V-shaped profile, was aligned on a broad north-east to south-west alignment. Within the test pit it measured 1.60m in length and 1.08m in width, cutting into the geology to a depth of 0.32m. A single layer (**1010**) of mid greyish brown silt, with very frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints infilled the feature. An assemblage of nine struck flints (125g), burnt flint (1; 5g) and coal (1; 2g) was recovered from the deposit.

5.2.7 **Test Pit 6 (Fig.3 & 7)** was situated near the centre of the Site (Plate 8). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered in this area was flint/gravel layer (**1013**) which was comprised of frequent small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and gravel within a matrix of dark-reddish brown silty clay. The deposit was devoid of artefactual remains. This was overlain by a 0.78m thick deposit of colluvium (**1001**), which is described above. Within TP 6 colluvial layer (**1001**) yielded eleven sherds (72g) of pottery indicative of a late 18th to 19th century date, ceramic building material (583g), slate (1; 6g), coal (1; 2g), struck flint (1; 5g) and burnt flint (1; 4g). Topsoil (**1001**) sealed the test pit in this area, and yielded twenty-five sherds (99g) of late 18th to 19th century pottery, ceramic building material (4505g), a lead seal (SF13; 5g), a copper alloy candle holder (SF73; 40g), iron nails (5; 55g), coal (3; 8g), glass (1; 3g), clay pipe (3; 7g) and struck flint (2; 8g).

5.2.8 **Test Pit 7 (Fig.8)** was situated in the centrally within the Site, to the east of the Almshouses (Plate 9). The test pit was moved approximately 5.00m to the south of

its original planned location in order to avoid a suspected drain running from the extant Almhouses. It measured 2.00m in length and 2.00m in width. The stratigraphically earliest deposit encountered within the test pit was flint/gravel layer **(1014)**, which consisted of frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and gravel set within a matrix of dark-reddish brown silty sand. The deposit was devoid of datable artefactual evidence. This was overlain by colluvial layer **(1001)**, which was 1.09m thick and is described in detail above. Within TP 7 colluvial layer **(1001)** yielded three sherds of 17th to 18th century pottery, ceramic building material (583g), and clay pipe (3; 6g). Overlying this deposit was a 0.10m thick layer of made ground **(1012)**, which comprised mid-brownish grey sandy silt, with frequent small to medium rounded and sub-rounded flints. The deposit was devoid of artefactual material and may be the same layer as made ground **(1009)** within TP 9 and TP 10. The made ground deposit and the test pit was sealed by topsoil **(1000)**, which was found in association with forty-two sherds (320g) of late 18th to 19th century pottery, ceramic building material (2437g), clay pipe (3; 10g), glass (7; 39g), iron nails (5; 104g), a lead weight (SF15; 22g), a copper alloy strap end (SF20; 1g), a copper alloy button (SF88; 1g), a Edward VII penny from 1907 (SF22; 9g), and a George VI threepence from 1942 (SF21; 6g).

5.2.9 **Test Pit 8 (Fig.3 & 9)** was situated in the eastern portion of the Site (Plate 10). It measured 2.10m in length and 2.00m in width. The natural substrate **(1015)** in this area comprised pale greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small sub-rounded flints. This was overlain by a 0.22m thick deposit of made ground **(1012)**, the composition of which is described above. Within this area made ground **(1012)** yielded nine sherds (63g) of late 18th to mid 19th century pottery, ceramic building material (1610g), an iron nail (5g), glass (4; 136g), struck flint (1; 3g), burnt flint (2; 7g), and clay pipe (4; 8g). As elsewhere, this was overlain by topsoil **(1000)** and yielded a small assemblage of ceramic building material (687g).

5.2.10 **Test Pit 9 (Fig.3 & 10)** was situated towards the centre of the Site, on the eastern edge of the Works (Plate 11). It measured 2.10m in length and 2.14m in width. This test pit was not fully excavated due to time constraints, instead a machine slot was used to confirm the underlying stratigraphy. The stratigraphically earliest deposit observed was colluvial layer **(1001)**, which is detailed above and was devoid of artefacts in this area. This was overlain by a 0.09m thick made ground deposit **(1009)** which appears to be the same as made ground **(1012)** within TP 7 and TP 8. The deposit consisted of mid orangey brown sandy gravel, with frequent small and

medium sub-angular flints. It was devoid of artefactual material. Sealing the test pit was a 0.17m thick layer of disturbed or imported topsoil (**1008**), which consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay sand with occasional small sub-angular flints and frequent small fragments of modern brick debris. It yielded ceramic building material (126g), struck flint (1; 6g) and clay pipe (1; 2g).

5.2.11 **Test Pit 10 (Fig.3 & 11)** was the southernmost test pit excavated during the excavation and was located on the eastern side of the Works (Plate 12). It measured 2.00m in length and 2.90m in width. This test pit was not fully excavated due to time constraints, instead a machine slot was excavated to investigate the underlying stratigraphy. The natural substrate (**1016**) in this area comprised pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints. The natural substrate was overlain by the aforementioned made ground deposit (**1009**), which was 0.11m thick and was found to yield ceramic building material (23g). This was in turn overlain by the disturbed or imported topsoil (**1008**), which did not contain any artefactual material.

5.2.12 **The Metal Detecting Survey:** While the test pits were being excavated, the Site was extensively metal detected by some of the volunteers (Plate 19). This yielded a large amount of metal finds (see Table 1). All metal detected finds were recovered from the topsoil (**1000**) or as unstratified remains, and were GPS-located. The south-eastern area of the Site, where TP 9 and 10 were located, was not metal detected due to overgrown vegetation.

5.2.13 Notably, during the excavation of TP 8, a small brick structure was discovered to its immediate east. This comprised of a semi-circular brick structure, arranged in a herringbone formation, measuring c.1.6m in length and 0.5m in width (see Plate 13). This was bordered on its eastern edge by a single skin of red frogged bricks, stamped with LBC (London Brick Company). This likely represented the remnants of a wide step that was attached to a small building or outhouse, likely dating from the late 20th century.

6 FINDS ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A range of artefacts weighing a total 24594g were recovered during the investigation. The artefacts were recovered from eleven contexts **(1000) (1001) (1002) (1003) (1004) (1005) (1006) (1008) (1009) (1010) (1012)** and as unstratified material.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).

6.2.2 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and for its potential to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

6.2.3 The finds assessment was compiled by Luke Harris. Quantification of finds by context, for both investigations, is provided in Table 1.

Feature	Context	TP	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000	MD	Topsoil	19th-early 20th C	4	39	38		Coin - George V Farthing - 1927 (SF3) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1945 (SF4) Coin - Edward VII Halfpenny - 1908 (SF5) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1943 (SF6) Coin - George VI Threepence - 1943 (SF7) Cu Alloy Mount (SF8) Coin - George V Farthing - 1928 (SF9) Coin - Victoria Penny - 1860-95 (SF10) Coin - George VI Penny - 1948 (SF11) Coin - George VI Threepence - 1943 (SF12) Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1933 (SF16) Coin - George V Farthing - 1924 (SF17) Coin - George VI Farthing - 1942 (SF18) Coin - George VI Farthing - 1937 (SF19) Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1932 (SF23) Coin - Elizabeth II Penny - 1992 (SF24) Cu Alloy Brooch (SF25) Cu Alloy Button (SF26) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1937 (SF27) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1940 (SF28) Coin - George VI Penny - 1939 (SF29) Coin - George V Sixpence - 1934 (SF30) Coin - Worn (SF31) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1937 (SF32) Cu Alloy Button (SF33) Coin - George V Penny - 1917 (SF34) Cu Alloy Buckle Plate (SF35) Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1944 (SF36) Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1930 (SF37)	1	3
										1	5
										1	5
										1	5
										1	6
										1	7
										1	3
										1	4
										1	9
										1	6
										1	5
										1	3
										1	2
										1	3
										1	5
										1	4
										1	4
										1	6
										1	5
										1	5
										1	9
										1	3
										1	6
										1	5
										1	13
										1	9
										1	10
										1	5
										1	5

								Coin - George V Penny - 1917 (SF38)	1	9
								Coin - George V Penny - 1917 (SF39)	1	9
								Coin - George V Penny - 1917 (SF40)	1	9
								Cu Alloy Furniture Knob (SF42)	1	13
								Coin - George II Halfpenny - 1727-60 (SF43)	1	9
								Coin - George V Penny - 1935 (SF44)	1	9
								Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1952 (SF45)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1916 (SF46)	1	9
								Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1942 (SF47)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1936 (SF48)	1	9
								Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1944 (SF49)	1	5
								Cu Alloy Escutcheon (SF50)	1	6
								Coin - George V Penny - 1912 (SF51)	1	9
								Coin - George V Halfpenny (SF52)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1917 (SF53)	1	9
								Coin - George V Sixpence - 1931 (SF54)	1	2
								Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1938 (SF55)	1	5
								Coin - Edward VII Halfpenny - 1908 (SF56)	1	5
								Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1911 (SF57)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1913 (SF58)	1	9
								Coin - George V Penny - 1915 (SF59)	1	9
								Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1917 (SF60)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1919 (SF61)	1	9
								Coin - George V Penny - 1920 (SF62)	1	9
								Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1924 (SF63)	1	5
								Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1929 (SF64)	1	5
								Coin - George V Halfpenny - 1929 (SF65)	1	5
								Coin - George V Penny - 1935 (SF66)	1	9
								Coin - George VI Halfpenny - 1937 (SF67)	1	5
								Coin - George VI Farthing - 1939 (SF68)	1	3
								Sn Dial (SF69)	1	1
								Coin - Worn Halfpenny (SF70)	1	4

		TP 5		19th-early 20th C	32	143	1786		Clay Pipe	2	3
									Coal	2	5
									Glass	5	85
									Fe Buckle (SF72)	1	42
									Clay Pipe	3	7
									S.Flint	4	33
									B.Flint	1	9
									Coal	1	3
		TP 6		Late 18th-19th C	25	99	4505		Clinker	2	14
									Pb Seal (SF13)	1	5
									Cu Alloy Candle Holder (SF73)	1	40
									Fe Nails (SF94)	5	44
									Coal	3	8
									Glass	1	3
									Clay Pipe	3	7
		TP 7		Late 18th-19th C	42	320	2437		S.Flint	2	8
									Pb Weight (SF15)	1	22
									Cu Alloy Strap End (SF20)	1	1
									Coin - George VI Threepence - 1942 (SF21)	1	6
									Coin - Edward VII Penny - 1907 (SF22)	1	9
									Cu Alloy Button (SF88)	1	1
									Fe Nails (SF90)	5	104
									Clay Pipe	3	10
		TP 8					687		Glass	7	39
	1001	TP 2	Layer	Mid 18th-19th C	3	23	718		Coin - Roman (SF14)	1	<1
									Fe Nail (SF89)	1	16
									Clay Pipe	3	11
									Coal	1	5
									Glass	3	8
									B.Flint	1	21
		TP 5		Mid 17th-18th C	3	21	493	42	B.Flint	2	44

		TP 6		Late 18th-19th C	11	72	210		S.Flint	5	82
									Slate	1	6
									Coal	1	2
									S.Flint	1	5
		TP 7		17th-18th C	3	11	583		B.Flint	1	4
									Clay Pipe	3	6
	1002	TP 3	Layer	Late 12th-mid 14th C	6	54	18	12	Coin - Dutch 5 Cents - 1943 (SF2)	1	3
									Lavastone	3	123
									S.Flint	3	66
									B.Flint	21	375
	1003	TP 3	Layer	Late 12th-mid 14th C	1	1	63		Coin - George III Farthing - 1760-1820 (SF1)	1	3
									S.Flint	3	10
									B.Flint	6	60
	1004	TP 3	Layer						S.Flint	1	1
									B.Flint	2	22
	1005	TP 2	Layer				35		S.Flint	3	22
	1006	TP 3	Layer						S.Flint	3	29
									B.Flint	1	13
	1008	TP 2	Topsoil						S.Flint	1	6
		TP 9					126		Clay Pipe	1	2
	1009	TP 10	Layer				23				
1007	1010	TP 5	Fill of Pit						S.Flint	9	125
									B.Flint	1	5
									Coal	1	2
	1012	TP 8	Made Ground	Late 18th-mid 19th C	9	63	1610		Fe Nail	1	5
									Glass	4	136
									S.Flint	1	3
									B.Flint	2	7
									Clay Pipe	4	8
	U/S	MD	Unstratified (Metal Detecting) (SF84)						Fe Horseshoe	1	497
									Fe Cleaver	1	350
									Fe File	1	186

								Fe Shoe Heel	1	56
								Fe Sheet	2	122
								Fe Wing Screw	1	15
								Cu Alloy Mount	1	33
		Unstratified (Metal Detecting) (SF85)						Fe File	1	343
								Fe Nail	1	18
								Fe Ingot	1	25
								Fe Hinge	1	170
								Fe Screw	1	16
		Unstratified	19th-early 20th C	4	37					

Table 1: Concordance of finds from land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots

6.3 The Struck Flint *by Andrew Peachey*

6.3.1 Excavations recovered a total of 60 pieces (571g) of struck flint, principally of blade-based technology, including three cores or associated rejuvenation flakes and two blades (Table 2) that have a currency beginning in the Mesolithic period, although the bulk are most common in the succeeding early Neolithic and maintain a currency throughout the Neolithic period. In addition to the prehistoric flint, low quantities of flakes that are the bi-product of post-medieval wall-dressing in the village were also recovered. The bulk of the assemblage: 61.7% was recovered from the topsoil (**1000**) and subsoil (**1001**), with small groups recovered from underlying layers (**1002**) (**1003**) (**1004**) (**1005**) (**1006**) and pit [1007] (Table 3); with layer (**1006**) notably containing a Mesolithic core rejuvenation flake and pit [1007] containing a blade and nodule trimming flakes that may also be consistent with Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint working.

Date	Struck Flint Type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Mesolithic	Core Rejuvenation Flake	1	26
Mesolithic to Early Neolithic	Core Fragment	1	63
	Blade	2	9
Neolithic	Core	1	79
(Mesolithic?-) Neolithic	Side Scraper	1	6
	Debitage (blade-like flake)	43	247
	Debitage (broad-squat flake)	8	68
Post-Medieval	Wall-dressing Flake	3	73
<i>Total</i>		<i>60</i>	<i>571</i>

Table 2: Quantification of Struck Flint

6.3.2 The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type, patination, colour and condition were also recorded as part of this data set, along with free-text comments. Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988: 48-9). The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005: 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex.

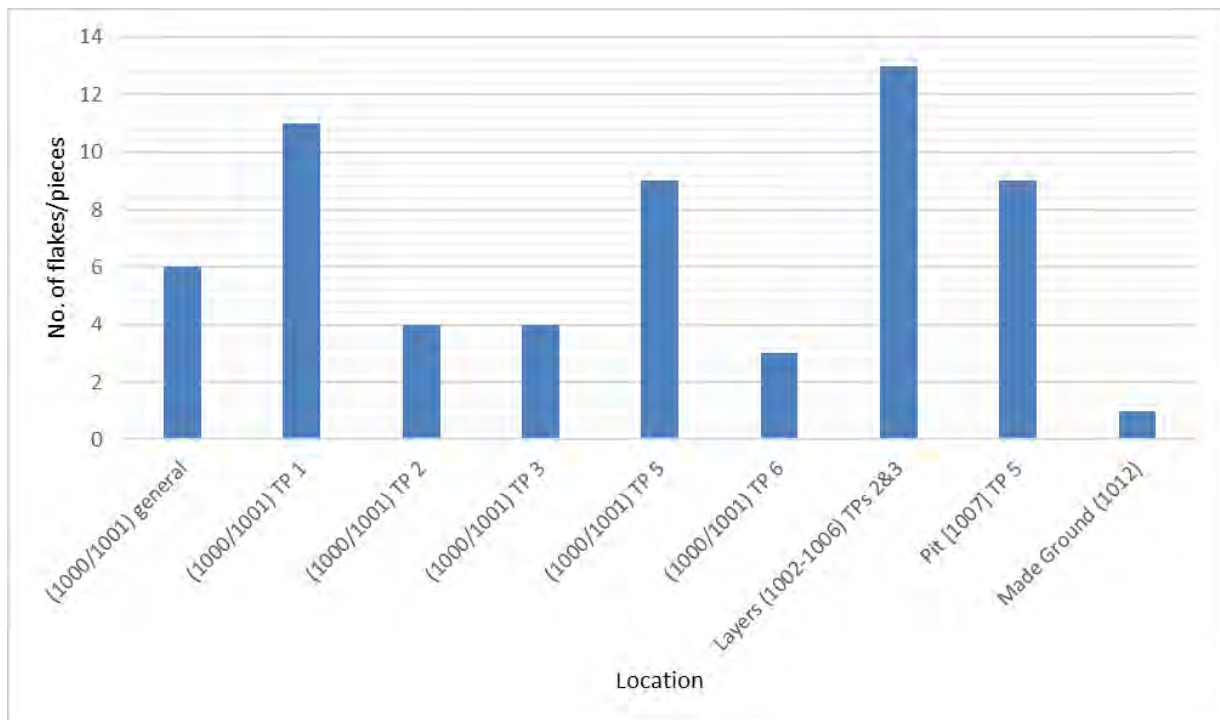


Table 3: Distribution of Struck Flint

6.3.3 The struck flint was manufactured using modest to good quality mid to dark grey flint with a common incidence of cherty/fossiliferous inclusions; with limited cortex remaining extant on a significant proportion of flakes, typically of thin to medium thickness with an off-white, slightly chalky appearance.

6.3.4 Primary evidence for core technology is limited to three pieces, albeit broadly consistent with the small assemblage of debitage flakes present in the assemblage. The ‘earliest’ core technology is represented by a core rejuvenation flake (Fig.A) in layer **(1006)** TP 3, which was removed from a bi-polar blade core characteristic of Mesolithic core reduction strategies. The rejuvenation flake is also blade-like with neat parallel dorsal scars, and was presumably removed as a slightly stepped overhang had developed towards one end, thus via a strike to the opposite end, the face was removed, thus allowing the two existing opposed platforms to continue to be exploited in the same manner. Conversely a core fragment (Fig.B) from layer **(1001)** TP 5 appears to have been removed from a single platform blade core with a sub-pyramidal profile, also removed because of stepped terminations beneath the platform that would interrupt future removals around the platform circumference, but a reduction strategy more typical of the early Neolithic period. Finally, from topsoil **(1000)** a complete but exhausted blade core (Fig.C) was recovered and preserved two extant striking platforms at right angles to one another, indicating

that as one platform became non-viable, the core was rotated to exploit another platform, a technique utilised throughout the Neolithic period, but that becomes more prevalent in the late Neolithic period. Despite this suggested chronological variation/progression, and as intimated, these varying reduction strategies were utilized throughout the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, varying in prevalence throughout that duration. Thus, the limited sample size of these pieces may blur their chronological origins, and it is notable that comparable bi-polar, single and multi-platform blade cores were all present in the well-stratified and dated Mesolithic flint assemblage recovered from Roydon Road, c.50m to the north in 1971 (Gibson 1982: 3: fig.2, a, c, e; fig.3, b); therefore, a Mesolithic origin may be strongly postulated.



Fig.A: Core rejuvenation flake from bi-polar core; layer (1006) TP 3



Fig.B: core fragment from a single platform blade core; layer (1001) TP 1



Fig.C: blade core with two platforms at right angles (one visible); topsoil (1000)

6.3.5 Recognisable flint implements in the assemblage also have a limited presence, comprising two blades and a single scraper. One blade in pit [1007] is elongate with parallel dorsal scars and an abraded striking platform; perhaps more consistent with types produced in the Mesolithic rather than the Neolithic, such as those previously recorded at Stansted Abbots (Gibson 1982: 4; fig.4), while a small blade from layer (1004) TP 3 may be an intentional early Neolithic product or simply a rather regular debitage flake. The only re-touch implement in the assemblage comprises a side scraper from layer (1001) TP 5, formed on a small sub-ovoid tertiary flake with blade-

like dorsal scars, by the application of abrupt retouch to one convex lateral edge; perhaps more typical of Neolithic assemblages in the region but similar to the cores low numbers of comparable scrapers were recorded in the Mesolithic group previously recovered from Stansted Abbots (Gibson 1982: 4: fig.5, a-c).

6.3.6 The debitage flakes, produced as a bi-product of core reduction, exhibit predominantly blade-like proportions with little or no cortex remaining (uncorticated/tertiary flakes), which is not unexpected given the character of the limited cores and implements present. There are no significant concentrations that may identify an area of in situ knapping; although two slightly larger, sub-rectangular flakes with platform preparation in pit **[1007] (1010)** are strong candidates to represent evidence for the trimming of a natural nodule into a prepared core, if not the shaping of a core to create an initial striking platform. Limited small flakes in layer **(1003)** are also very regular and close to true blades and may represent the trimming and maintenance of an existing blade-producing platform, prior to the intended removal of a useful flake. The character, proportions and size of the limited debitage flakes is consistent with that recorded in Mesolithic and early Neolithic assemblages in the region, potentially maintaining a currency on some sites into the late Neolithic period.

6.3.7 In addition to the prehistoric flint, three flakes from topsoil **(1000)**, layer **(1001)** TP 5, and layer **(1002)** TP 3 exhibited characteristics that identified them as the bi-product of post-medieval wall-dressing; either in the construction of buildings or associated boundary walls in the village. These flakes have a noticeable thin butt, with an indented U-shape impact scar, particularly evident on the largest flake in layer **(1002)**, which is a result of the force transferred by the use of a metal hammer as opposed to a stone or antler hammer in the prehistoric period.

6.4 **The Pottery** by Peter Thompson

6.4.1 The archaeological test pitting recovered 243 pottery sherds weighing 1.345kg mainly deriving from six test pits, but also coming from the topsoil (4 sherds) with a further four unstratified. The majority of the pottery was of post-medieval to modern in date but there were also two Romano-British and 16 medieval sherds recovered (Table 4).

Period	Date Range	Sherd Number	Fabric Weight (g)	% of sherds recovered
Roman	1 st century BC-4 th century AD	2	4	0.8
Medieval	12 th -15 th century	16	90	6.6
Post-medieval - modern	16 th -early 20 th century	225	1251	92.6
		243	1345	

Table 4: Quantification of the pottery sherds by period.

- 6.4.2 The sherds were examined and recorded according to the ‘Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology’ (Barclay *et al* 2016), developed in part from the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines. Fabric codes are those used for the Hertfordshire Medieval Pottery type series and the MoLA Post-Roman Pottery type series.
- 6.4.3 The two heavily abraded Romano-British sherds comprised a Southern British Grog Tempered sherd from the topsoil (**1000**) in TP6, and a Nene Valley Colour Coat from topsoil (**1000**) in TP3 (Table 5).
- 6.4.4 The 16 medieval sherds were all coarsewares bar one glazed sherd from topsoil (**1000**) TP7, which was the upper profile of a small round-shouldered jar with a small flat topped beaded rim that was slightly expanded on both sides to almost create a small ‘hammerhead’ shape, the rim was 14cm in diameter. The glaze was a pale green colour and applied to both sides and the fabric an off-white colour with a very fine sandy matrix containing moderate coarse fragments of black and dark red iron ore or clinker. Out of the 15 coarse ware sherds seven were Hertfordshire Grey Wares including a strap handle from topsoil (**1000**) TP2 and two upper body sherds with girth grooves from layer (**1002**) TP3. The remaining medieval coarsewares produced no rims or decoration and do not appear to be from established/known industries, although the three sherds with coarse rounded quartz (MCW5) from layer (**1002**) TP3, may have been early Hertfordshire Grey Ware products.
- 6.4.5 The Post-medieval to modern sherds were typical of what might be expected to be found and mainly comprised red earthenware (PMR, GRE, PMBL – mainly jars, bowls and flowerpot) and factory made white wares (REFW, ENPO, TPW – mainly plates, dishes, bowls and cups). There were also stonewares (LONS, ENGS, SWSG) and Staffordshire wares (STMO, STMBL), along with Mocha type ware (MOCH) forming mugs and bowls.

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
	1000	1x12g PMR	19 th -early 20 th	

		1x6g GRE 1x5g TPW 1x16g MOCH		
Topsoil TP1	1000	1x4g MCW1 2x6g HGW 5x39g PMR 9x133g GRE 2x2g STMO 5x15g REFW 3x4g ENPO 6x14g TPW 3x7g MOCH	19 th -early 20 th	MCW1: pale orange one side, pale grey one side, grey core, fine sandy matrix with few other inclusions but includes red iron ore, possibly an Essex product HGW: reddish-grey surfaces, grey core, common fine and medium sub-rounded to rounded quartz, occasional other inclusions including angular flint and dark iron ore
Topsoil TP2	1000	1x7g MCW2 1x5g MCW3 1x4g HGW 6x21g PMR 4x86g GRE 2x4g PMBL 22x53g REFW 4x4g ENPO 15x21g TPW 4x23g MOCH	19 th -early 20 th	MCW2: dark grey surfaces, outer surface mottled with orange, dark grey core, fine sub-rounded to rounded quartz some grey and some clear with some of the former iron stained to a dark almost black colour MCW3: pale orange almost buff surface, pale grey inner core, fine sub-rounded quartz and moderate fine white calcareous material or voids HGW: strap handle 1.5cm wide, pale grey surfaces TPW: includes brown transfer printing
Topsoil TP3	1000	1x2g NVCC 1x4g STMO 1x3g TPW	Late 18 th -19 th	
Topsoil TP5	1000	1x7g GRE 1x15g PMBL 1x2g SWSG 14x57g REFW 15x62g TPW	19 th -early 20 th	GRE: dull olive-green glaze with very fine oxidized fabric, so looks almost medieval and may be early post-med SWSG: Transfer Printing so second half of 18 th century TPW: brown TPW so 19 th century
Topsoil TP6	1000	1x2g SOB-GT 1x4g PMR 2x9g GRE 5x23g PMBL 1x1g LONS 4x14g SWSG 4x10g REFW 2x4g TPW 3x8g ENPO 2x24g MOCH	Late 18 th -19 th	
Topsoil TP7	1000	1x4g MCW4 1x4g UPG1 4x53g PMR 6x104g GRE 1x19g LONS 1x4g ENGS 15x29g REFW 5x38g TPW 8x65g ENPO	Late 18 th -19 th	MCW4: red-brown surfaces with dark grey core, very fine sandy matrix with occasional small rounded inclusions of red iron ore and small black inclusions that look like charcoal or burnt material UPG1: small jar rim with flat top and small bead almost giving a tiny hammerhead shape, 14cm diam (0.08 reve), off white fabric with very fine sandy matrix with moderate mainly black but occasionally dark red inclusions that look like slag but may be iron rich material 1x1g clay pipe
Layer TP2	1001	1x19g PMBL 1x2g LONS	Mid 18 th -19 th	

		1x2g REFW		
Layer TP5	1001	2x13g PMR 1x8g GRE	Mid 17 th -18 th	
Layer TP6	1001	1x26g PMR 2x13g GRE 1x1g REFW 4x21g ENPO 2x3g TPW 1x8g MOCH	Late 18 th -19 th	
Layer TP7	1001	3x11g GRE	17 th -18 th	
Layer TP3	1002	3x37g MCW5 3x17g HGW	Late 12 th -mid 14 th	MCW5: mottled grey with orange surfaces, grey cores, fine, medium and coarse rounded quartz, sparse to moderate calcareous and voids, rare coarse to very coarse flint, possibly ESHER HGW: x2 girth grooves, pale grey throughout, abundant sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz occasional other inclusions like black iron ore or flint
Layer TP3	1003	1x1g HGW	Late 12 th -mid 14 th	
Made Ground TP8	1012	3x7g PMR 3x13g GRE 1x6g STMBL 2x37g REFW	Late 18 th -mid 19 th	
Unstrat TP6		1x18g SWSG 3x19g TPW	19 th -early 20 th	

Table 5: Quantification of sherds by context

SOB-GT: Southern British Grog Tempered ware 1st century BC to 1st century AD; **NVCC:** Nene Valley Colour Coat Roman; **MCW1:** Medieval Coarseware 1 12th-14th; **MCW2:** Medieval Coarseware 2 12th-14th; **MCW3:** Medieval Coarseware 3 13th-15th; **MCW4:** Medieval Coarseware 4 14th-15th; **MCW5:** Medieval Coarseware 5 11th-12th; **HGW:** Hertfordshire Greyware late 12th-mid 14th; **UPG1:** Unprovenanced Glazed Ware 1 13th-15th; **PMR:** Post-medieval Red Earthenware 16th+; **GRE:** Glazed Red Earthenware late 16th+; **PMBL:** Post-medieval Black Glazed Earthenware 17th-19th; **LONS:** London-type Stoneware late 17th-early 20th; **STMBL:** Staffordshire Marbled Slipware late 17th-18th; **STMO:** Staffordshire type Mottled Slipware late 17th-19th; **SWSG:** Staffordshire type White Stoneware; **ENGS:** English Stoneware 18th to early 20th; **REFW:** Factory made refined white earthenware early 18th+; **ENPO:** English Porcelain 18th+; **TPW:** Transfer Printed Ware mid 18th+; **MOCH:** Mocha type ware late 18th+

6.5 The Ceramic Building Materials *by Andrew Peachey*

6.5.1 Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of 472 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), almost entirely of post medieval and likely 19th century date, albeit including a single fragment of Roman box flue tile (Table 6). The CBM assemblage was almost entirely contained in topsoil/subsoil layers **(1000) (1001)** (Table 7), with only negligible quantities of peg tile recovered from underlying layers **(1002) (1003) (1005)**, potentially re-distributed through ground disturbance or bio-turbation.

Period	CBM type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Roman	Box flue tile	1	108
Post-medieval	Peg tile	439	14739
	Brick	27	2432
	Pantile	5	540
<i>Total</i>		<i>472</i>	<i>17819</i>

Table 6: Quantification of the ceramic building material

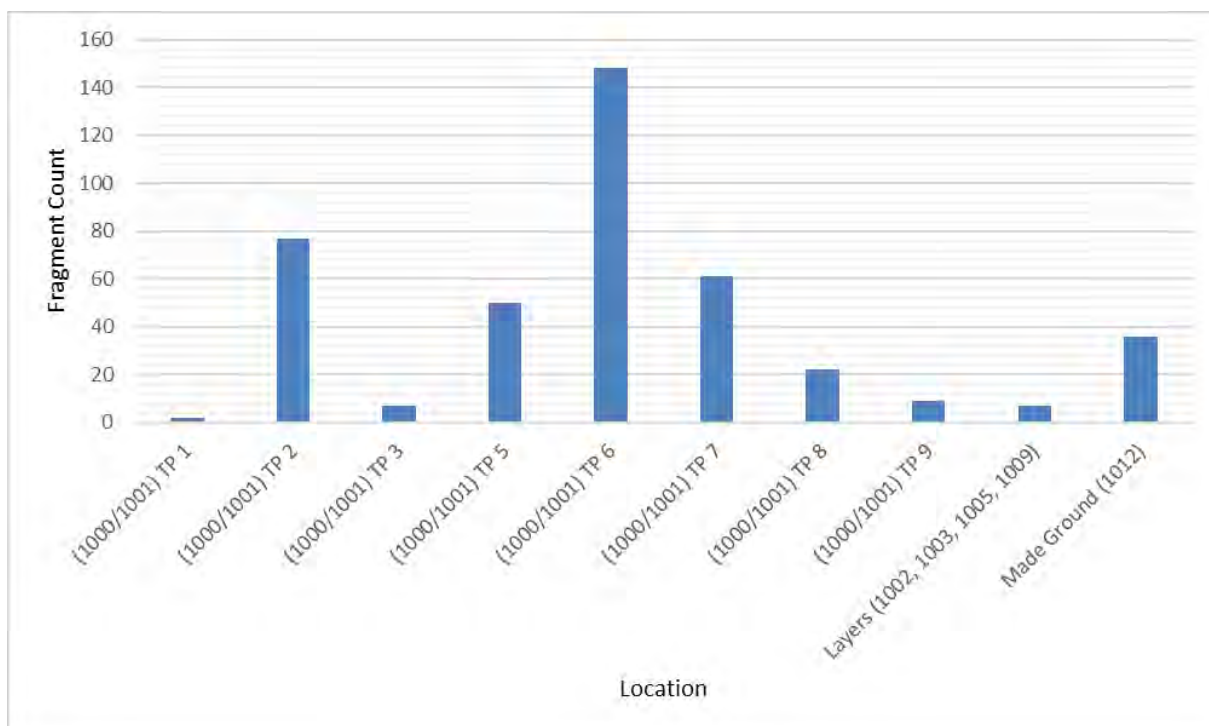


Table 7: Distribution of the ceramic building material by fragment count per location/layer

6.5.2 The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Roman CBM forms were identified using the conventions defined by Brodribb (1987). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

- 6.5.3 Topsoil (**1000**) TP6 contained a single fragment (108g) of Roman box flue tile; a type that comprised a rectangular tubular tile with vents on two opposing sides, and comb key marks on the other opposing sides, to enable the passing of heated air within a hypocaust heating system and to facilitate the adhesion of mortar/plaster respectively. The 20mm thick flat fragment exhibits the right-angled junction of one corner of the tile, with a comb/key mark running parallel to the edge (made with a comb 37mm wide with teeth). The box flue tile was manufactured in a fabric with orange-red surfaces that fade to a dark red-brown core; with inclusions of abundant quartz (generally <0.25mm, occasionally to 1mm) with sparse fine mica and occasional flint (<3mm). There is little evidence for a Roman building of substance in the local area, though the presence of re-used Roman tile in late Saxon pits recorded on Chapelfield Lane (HHER 30961) and the incorporation of Roman 'brick' in St. James Church (HHER 1689) suggests the location of a hitherto uncharacterised structure remains to be located.
- 6.5.4 The bulk of the CBM assemblage was comprised of post-medieval peg tile; potentially produced from the 17th to 19th centuries, although based on the fabric and firing, most likely limited to that manufactured in the 19th century, subsequently scattered as debris into fields in order to improve soil drainage. The fabric of the tiles is orange-red throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally larger), sparse black/dark red iron rich grains (<1mm) and fine mica, and occasional flint (<10mm). The peg tile would have been 12-14mm thick rectangular flat tile with two diamond/square peg holes punched through one end of the tile before firing, leaving a slight lip on the underside of the sanded base (to stop the tile sticking to a former). The peg holes are 15mm wide at the top and taper to the base, and would have allowed the tiles to be hung from pegs attached to lathes that extended between roof beams, with tiles overlapping at their 'ends' to form a watertight roof. Such peg tiles were produced in large quantities in seasonal local kilns throughout the post-medieval period and as such there was little investment in their aesthetics, as evidenced by their slightly warped appearance and knife-trimmed edges.
- 6.5.5 In addition to the peg tile, the assemblage contained limited quantities of 19th to early 20th century brick and pantile. The brick was 70mm thick with a flat base; manufactured in a pale to mid orange fabric with inclusions of sparse angular quartz (<1mm), sparse chalk and flint (generally <3mm, occasionally larger); likely a fairly low-quality type that would have supplemented higher fired and more finely finished

place bricks. The red earthenware pantile exhibits the characteristic shallow s-profile of the roof tiles that superseded peg tiles and remain common in the present (albeit factory manufactured).

6.6 The Metalworking Residues by Andrew A.S. Newton

6.6.1 A single fragment of slag (34g) was recovered from a single context during archaeological investigations at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. The slag was identified on morphological grounds by visual examination.

6.6.2 Visual examination of metalworking residues allows them to be categorised according to morphology, colour, density, and vesicularity. It should be noted, however, that not all slags are diagnostic of a particular metalworking process or part of that process. Slags are also particularly susceptible to morphological and composition alteration by secondary corrosion products.

6.6.3 Reference was made to the National Slag Reference Collection (Dungworth *et al* 2009) where appropriate and to the relevant subject-specific (Bayley *et al* 2008) and regional (e.g. Medlycott 2011) research frameworks.

Context	Feature	Feature type	Quantity	Observations	Type
1000	-	Test Pit	1; 34g	Mid to dark brown in colour with occasional orange brown patches. Surfaces are mostly rough and dull although there are occasional small patches which appear to be vitrified. Dense material but with occasional to moderate small (less than 1mm diam.) air pockets. Some small indications of globular morphology present as surface features. No response to magnet. Possibly furnace slag but cannot be conclusively identified to a process	Unident.

Table 8: Quantification of the metalworking residues

(Key: Tap=tap slag. Furn=furnace slag. Furn.St.=fired clay furnace structure. Ore=iron ore. Fe=iron. Smith=Smithing/refining debris)

6.6.4 The material submitted for examination is clearly derived from a high temperature process and is highly likely to constitute waste material from ironworking. It has limited diagnostic characteristics but could be furnace slag (material accumulated within the furnace, rather than flowing out from the furnace through the tapping arch), however, it cannot be completely ruled out that this material is derived bloom refining or smithing.

6.6.5 The quantity of material recovered is insufficient to demonstrate the presence of ironworking at this location and it was probably imported to the site from elsewhere. Its recovery from the topsoil, which contains artefactual material of a variety of modern dates, means that no clear date can be assigned to the material. It could be contemporary with any of the material present within topsoil **(1000)** but could also feasibly be much earlier.

6.7 **The Metalwork and Small Finds** *by Ruth Beveridge*

6.7.1 A total of 242 artefacts (weighing 3753.5g) was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage comprises 75 items of copper alloy, 48 of iron, 6 of lead, two of silver, one each of aluminium, tin and zinc; 66 of glass, 38 of clay pipe, 3 of lavastone and one of bone. Of the 145 metal artefacts, 121 were allocated individual small finds (SF) numbers; 14 that were unstratified were recorded as bulk under two small finds numbers (SF84 and 85). Apart from 25 artefacts that were recovered from stratified deposits, the majority of the objects recovered are metal detected finds either collected from the topsoil with a geolocation or unstratified. The items are listed by chronological period and material in Table 9.

6.7.2 The condition of the metalwork varies. The ironwork objects exhibit some post-depositional corrosion and fragmentation but retain a higher content of metal, indicative of a relatively recent date for the artefacts. The non-metal items are stable. The artefacts are packed in perforated bags and supported with plastazote foam or in crystal boxes where necessary. They are stored in airtight boxes with humidity control as appropriate.

Methodology

6.7.3 The artefacts have been catalogued directly onto an MS Excel spreadsheet and recorded in accordance with guidelines set out in the CifA Toolkit for Specialist Recording (CifA 2021). They have been examined with the assistance of low powered magnification but without the assistance of radiography. A summary catalogue listing is provided as Table 10.

Roman

6.7.4 Very little evidence for Roman activity has been recorded in Stanstead Abbots, with the suggestion that the village lies on the periphery of a yet unknown area of Roman activity, and this was further borne out in the assemblage discussed here. A single copper alloy radiate or nummus 'minim' (SF14) of uncertain emperor dating to the

period AD 260-409 was collected from layer **(1001)**. Despite the levels of corrosion on the artefact it is possible that it was a contemporary copy of the 'wolf and twins' reverse. 'Minims' are clipped or cut down radiates and nummi of the later 3rd and 4th century AD. These tiny coins continued to circulate after the official withdrawal of Roman administration in c.AD 409, and probably continued to circulate throughout the 5th century AD.

Period	Silver	Copper alloy	Iron	Lead	Other metal	Glass	Clay pipe	Lavastone	Bone	Total
Roman		1								1
Medieval		1								1
Post medieval		6	1	5					1	13
18th & 19th century						66	38			104
Modern	2	66	10	1	3					82
Undated		1	37					3		41
Total	2	75	48	6	3	66	38	3	1	242

Table 9: Breakdown of metalwork and registered artefacts by date and material type

Context	TP	Feature description	SF. No.	Material	Object ID	Object count	Weight (g)	Date	Period
1000	1	Topsoil	75	Copper alloy	Horse & cart harness	3	149.9	c. 20th century	Modern
1000	1	Topsoil	91	Iron	Nails	21	153.5		
1000	1	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	11	26.7		Post-medieval
1000	1	Topsoil		Glass	Bottle & jar	13	91.5		Modern
1000	2	Topsoil	74	Bone	Scale plate	1	1.5		Post-medieval
1000	2	Topsoil	87	Iron	Nails	2	13.4		
1000	2	Topsoil	93	Copper alloy	Escutcheon	1	3.8	c.19th century	Modern
1000	2	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	5	9.8		Post-medieval
1000	2	Topsoil		Glass	Window	24	148.7		Modern
1000	2	Topsoil		Glass	Bottle	9	26.1		Modern
1000	3	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	2	2.9		Post-medieval
1000	3	Topsoil		Glass	Bottle	5	85.8		Modern
1000	5	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	6.4		Post-medieval
1000	6	Topsoil	13	Lead	Seal	1	5		Modern
1000	6	Topsoil	73	Copper alloy	Candlestick	1	40	c. late 15th to early 16th century	Post-medieval
1000	6	Topsoil	94	Iron	Nails	5	43.5		
1000	6	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	7.6		Post-medieval
1000	6	Topsoil		Glass	Bottle	1	3.2		Modern
1000	7	Topsoil	15	Lead	Weight	1	22.1		Post-medieval?
1000	7	Topsoil	21	Copper alloy	Coin	1	6.5	1942	Modern

1000	7	Topsoil	22	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9.2	1907	Modern
1000	7	Topsoil	88	Copper alloy	Button	1	1.6	19th century	Modern
1000	7	Topsoil	90	Iron	Nails	5	103.6		
1000	7	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	10.8		Post-medieval
1000	7	Topsoil		Glass	Bottle/vessel	7	39.5		Modern
1000		Topsoil	3	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.6	1927	Modern
1000		Topsoil	4	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.5	1945	Modern
1000		Topsoil	5	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1908	Modern
1000		Topsoil	6	Copper alloy	Coin	1	4.9	1943	Modern
1000		Topsoil	7	Copper alloy	Coin	1	6.5	1943	Modern
1000		Topsoil	8	Copper alloy	Mount	1	7		Modern
1000		Topsoil	9	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.7	1928	Modern
1000		Topsoil	10	Copper alloy	Coin	1	4.6	1860-95	Modern
1000		Topsoil	11	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9.1	1948	Modern
1000		Topsoil	12	Copper alloy	Coin	1	6.4	1943	Modern
1000		Topsoil	16	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.4	1933	Modern
1000		Topsoil	17	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.6	1924	Modern
1000		Topsoil	18	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.6	1942	Modern
1000		Topsoil	19	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.6	1937	Modern
1000		Topsoil	20	Copper alloy	Strap end	1	0.95		Medieval
1000		Topsoil	23	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1932	Modern
1000		Topsoil	24	Copper alloy	Coin	1	3.5	1992	Modern
1000		Topsoil	25	Copper alloy	Brooch	1	3.8	1930/40s	Modern
1000		Topsoil	26	Copper alloy	Button	1	5.9	1843-1861	Modern
1000		Topsoil	27	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.2	1937	Modern
1000		Topsoil	28	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1940	Modern
1000		Topsoil	29	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9.1	1939	Modern
1000		Topsoil	30	Silver	Coin	1	2.5	1934	Modern
1000		Topsoil	31	Copper alloy	Coin	1	6		
1000		Topsoil	32	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.5	1937	Modern
1000		Topsoil	33	Copper alloy	Button	1	3.1	20th century	Modern
1000		Topsoil	34	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.7	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	35	Copper alloy	Buckle	1	9.8	1950.s	Modern

1000		Topsoil	36	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1944	Modern
1000		Topsoil	37	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.1	1930	Modern
1000		Topsoil	38	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	39	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	40	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	42	Copper alloy	Furniture knob	1	13.2	1750 - 1850	Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	43	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1727-60	Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	44	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.8	1935	Modern
1000		Topsoil	45	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.4	1952	Modern
1000		Topsoil	46	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.6	1916	Modern
1000		Topsoil	47	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.2	1942	Modern
1000		Topsoil	48	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1936	Modern
1000		Topsoil	49	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.5	1944	Modern
1000		Topsoil	50	Copper alloy	Escutcheon	1	5.9		Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	51	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1912	Modern
1000		Topsoil	52	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5	1910-36	Modern
1000		Topsoil	53	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	54	Silver	Coin	1	2.5	1931	Modern
1000		Topsoil	55	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1938	Modern
1000		Topsoil	56	Copper alloy	Coin	1	4.9	1908	Modern
1000		Topsoil	57	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5	1911	Modern
1000		Topsoil	58	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.7	1913	Modern
1000		Topsoil	59	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.7	1915	Modern
1000		Topsoil	60	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1917	Modern
1000		Topsoil	61	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9.2	1919	Modern
1000		Topsoil	62	Copper alloy	Coin	1	8.9	1920	Modern
1000		Topsoil	63	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.4	1924	Modern
1000		Topsoil	64	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.2	1918	Modern
1000		Topsoil	65	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.4	1929	Modern
1000		Topsoil	66	Copper alloy	Coin	1	9.1	1935	Modern
1000		Topsoil	67	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.6	1937	Modern
1000		Topsoil	68	Copper alloy	Coin	1	2.5	1939	Modern
1000		Topsoil	69	Tin	Dial	1	1		Modern

1000		Topsoil	70	Copper alloy	Coin	1	4.4		Modern
1000		Topsoil	71	Copper alloy	Bell	1	23.4	c. 17th -18th century	Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	72	Iron	Buckle	1	42.4		Post-medieval to Modern
1000		Topsoil	76	Lead	Shot	1	23.1	c. 17th -18th century	Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	77	Lead	Shot	1	8.3		Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	78	Lead	Shot	1	18	c. 17th century	Post-medieval
1000		Topsoil	79	Copper alloy	Shot	1	10.4	20th century	Modern
1000		Topsoil	80	Copper alloy	Shot	1	11.3	20th century	Modern
1000		Topsoil	81	Copper alloy	Coin	1	5.3	1943	Modern
1000		Topsoil	82	Lead	Weight	1	31		Post-medieval to Modern
1000		Topsoil	83	Copper alloy	Buckle	1	27.2	20th century	Modern
1000		Topsoil	86	Aluminium?	Sheet	1	12.4	20th century	Modern
1001	2	Layer	89	Iron	Nail	1	15.9		
1001	2	Layer		Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	11		Post-medieval
1001	2	Layer		Glass	Vessel	3	7.7		Modern
1001	7	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	3	6.4		Post-medieval
1001		Layer	14	Copper alloy	Coin	1	0.4		Roman
1002	3	Layer	2	Zinc	Coin	1	2.9	1943	Modern
1002	3	Layer		Lavastone	Quern	3	123.4		Roman to medieval
1003	3	Layer	1	Copper alloy	Coin	1	3.5		Post-medieval
1008	9	Topsoil		Ceramic	Clay pipe	1	1.9		Post-medieval
1012	8	Made Ground	92	Iron	Nail	1	4.8		
1012	8	Made Ground		Ceramic	Clay pipe	4	7.9		Post-medieval
1012	8	Made Ground		Glass	Bottle	4	136.6		Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Copper alloy	Mount	1	33.9	19th - 20th century	Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	Shoe heel	1	55.2	19th century	Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	Wing screw	1	14.9	20th century	Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	Sheet	2	121.2		Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	File	1	186.1	20th century	Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	Cleaver	1	350.5	19th - 20th century	Modern
U/S		MD finds	84	Iron	Horseshoe	1	502	19th - 20th century	Modern



U/S		MD Finds	85	Iron	Hinge	1	170		Modern
U/S		MD Finds	85	Iron	Screw	1	16		Modern
U/S		MD Finds	85	Iron	File	1	343		Post-medieval to Modern
U/S		MD Finds	85	Iron	Nails	1	18		
U/S		MD Finds	85	Iron	Ingot	1	25		

Table 10: Summary of the metalwork and non-metalwork catalogue

6.7.5 Three fragments of lava stone were collected from layer **(1002)** TP 3. Lava stone was used for querns in Britain from the Roman period through to the medieval era. Re-use of Roman querns within later building foundations is not uncommon. It is believed that the majority of the lava querns in Britain are made from Volvic stone extracted from the Mayen quarries of the Eifel Hills of Germany (Crummy 1983: 75). The pieces from Stanstead Abbots do not retain any diagnostic features so their exact date and function cannot be established with certainty.

Medieval

6.7.6 The medieval village of Stanstead Abbots is concentrated around the High Street and the northern extent of Roydon Road. Given that the site investigated during the evaluation lies to the south of Roydon Road it was not anticipated that numbers of artefacts of this date would be encountered.

6.7.7 A single copper alloy object (SF20) was collected from topsoil **(1000)**, that can be identified as a composite strap end dating to between c.1350 and 1400, comparable to examples recovered in London (Egan and Pritchard 1991, 147, fig. 96, no's 696 and 697). Strap ends were used for finishing the ends of straps or girdles, probably to prevent fraying and wear. Microscopic examination of SF20 revealed woven textile fibres held between the copper alloy plates, suggesting this example had been attached to a narrow textile girdle.

Post-medieval

6.7.8 A total of 13 artefacts of post-medieval date (Fig.D) were recovered from the site that potentially relate to the increased occupancy to the north of the site with the construction of the Baesh Almshouses, which were developed under the terms of Sir Edward Baesh's will in 1653.

6.7.9 Household objects recovered from this period include a cast copper alloy candlestick socket (SF73) of c.late 15th to early 16th century (Brownsword 1985, 3, no.3); a decorative copper alloy furniture knob (SF42) and a copper alloy plate escutcheon (SF50) that would have covered a keyhole on a piece of furniture. A fragment of a bone plate handle for a scale-tang knife (SF74), decorated with cross-hatching to assist the grip of the user (MacGregor 1985, 170), provides limited evidence of household implements that may have been used during this period.

6.7.10 During the post-medieval period the area investigated was undeveloped agricultural land and pastoral activities are hinted at by the recovery of a 17th century copper alloy cast pellet bell (SF71), a form commonly used on animal harness, particularly for horses (Margeson 1993, 213). A rectangular iron buckle (SF72) could have been used with either a belt or harness strap. The retrieval of lead shot (SFs76, 77 and 78) and lead fishing weights (SF82) indicate hunting and fishing may also have been pastimes within the vicinity of the site.



Fig.D: Post-medieval objects from left to right: SF73 copper alloy candlestick socket; SF71 copper alloy pellet bell; SF 82 lead fishing weight.

18th and 19th century

6.7.11 Almost half the assemblage recorded (104 artefacts) fall within the late Georgian and Victorian eras. Of interest is a lead cloth seal (SF13) collected from the topsoil of trench 6, with Royal device of crowned cruciform shield motif impressed on outer face; it has a date in the 1800's split either side of the crown. In England, cloth seals were attached to textiles from the late 14th century to early 19th century as a means

of quality regulation and taxation (Egan 1988, 1). It demonstrates that cloth was being traded in the area.

6.7.12 Few coins of 18th or 19th century date were collected, the three that were comprise a George II (1727-60) half penny (SF43), a George III (1760-1820) farthing (SF1) and a Victorian penny bun-head issue (SF10) dating between 1860-95.

6.7.13 Glass was recovered from Test Pits 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8, primarily from the topsoil, and dates from the 19th century onwards; it includes shards of window, as well as fragments of jars and bottles. The bottles include fragments of brown beer bottles; a fragment of dark cobalt blue glass commonly used for poison bottles and soda water bottles from the mid-19th century; as well as a more distinct hexagonal form used for the storage of spices or condiments in the latter part of the 19th century.

6.7.14 In addition to the glass fragments, 38 largely undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragments of 18th to 19th century date were also retrieved from the topsoil across the trenches. Tobacco smoking became very fashionable from the 16th century following its introduction from America. When present, decoration and makers' stamps can assist with the dating of the pipes. Amongst the Stanstead Abbots assemblage a fragment of pipe stem bears the maker's stamp of 'ROMF/ORD' divided between opposing sides. Five makers that include the name 'Romford' are recorded in Essex between the dates of 1722 and 1851 (Oswald 1975: 170).

Modern

6.7.15 A significant proportion of the artefacts recovered from the evaluation are of 20th century date and may well be associated with the use of a T-shaped building believed to have been constructed in the 1940's, first as barracks for the Women's Land Army staff during World War II (Mr. Nicholas Fuselli *pers. comm*, in Higgs 2021, 14) and then as an old egg-packing station; or the later works expansion in the southwestern section of the Site.

6.7.16 The later metalwork includes iron tools such as files (SF84 and 85) and a cleaver (SF84); artefacts pertaining to methods of transport comprising copper alloy fittings from cart or horse harness (SF75) and an iron horseshoe (SF84). Fasteners and fixings from pieces of furniture or chests are evident in the form of copper alloy mounts, one being in the form of a letter 'B' (SF8), a circular copper alloy escutcheon (SF93) and an iron strap hinge (SF85).

6.7.17 Elements from personal attire include an iron shoe heel (SF84), copper alloy livery buttons (SFs26 and 33), military and decorative belt buckles (SFs35 and 83) as well as a 1930s/40's cold enamel painted posy brooch.

6.7.18 A hexagonal tin object with an alpha/numerical scale and two central crossed keys (SF69) was initially thought to be a spinning die for a child's game. However, it is possible it was also a dial for a piece of instrumentation used within the later lighting works.



Fig.E. Copper alloy objects, top row left to right: SF 8 mount 'B'; SF42 furniture knob; SF33 gilded Royal naval button. Centre: SF25 enamelled posy brooch. Bottom row: SF83 military plate belt buckle and SF35 decorative plate belt buckle.

6.7.19 The 20th century numismatics from the site reflect a concentration of lost coins that were minted between 1910 and 1950. A total of 22 coins minted in the 1910's-20's was collected, and 29 coins retrieved that were minted between 1930-49. Few coins were recovered from either side of this span of dates. The latest coin recorded was an Elisabeth II 1992 penny. The most unusual denomination was a square 1943 Dutch 5 cents coin made in zinc; designed by Dutch National Socialist, Nico de Haas, during

the German occupation of the Netherlands. The obverse depicts two Saksan horseheads under a shining sun.



Fig.F: SF2 Dutch zinc 5 cents coin minted 1943.

Uncertain

6.7.20 The remaining iron objects of uncertain date comprise an ingot shaped object (SF85) and 36 nails associated with timber structures or furniture; two of the nails are stratified with SF89 recovered from layer **(1001)** TP2 and SF92 from made ground layer **(1012)** TP8

6.7.21 The nails are hand forged carpentry nails with flat, rectangular, or oval heads. Nails of this type developed little between the Roman and post-medieval period, with standardised, machine-made forms only becoming common in the modern period.

6.7.22 The artefacts have been recorded to an appropriate archive standard. Due to the level of community interest in the site it is recommended that the assemblage is retained for deposition with the archive.

7 ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 The Animal Bone *by Julie Curl*

Methodology

7.1.1 A report 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 where appropriate following Von Den Driesch, 1976, bones suitable for a tooth record following Hillson, 1996 recorded. 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'. Attempts were made, where possible, to refit possible fragments in the same bag and these were included in NISP counts. As this is a small assemblage, information was recorded directly into a table in the appendix.

The Bone Assemblage

7.1.2 A total of 119g of bone, consisting of 11 elements was recovered, with the totals quantified in Table 11 and catalogued in Table 12. Bone was recovered from four test pits, with elements retrieved from deposits **(1000)**, **(1001)**, and **(1002)**. The datable bone is largely of a 19th to early 20th century date, while other bone elements associated with artefactual remains dating to the post-medieval period.

7.1.3 The bone is in good condition, although fragmented from butchering and some wear. No canid gnawing was seen, which might suggest a lack of dogs or scavengers on site or simply that fresh bone waste was rapidly buried. No burning was seen on any of the remains. One piece of bone from topsoil **(1000)** TP2 is a very pale colour from exposure to more intense sunshine for some time.

7.1.4 Cattle were seen from topsoil **(1000)** TP3 with molar fragments and sheep/goat fragments were found in topsoil **(1000)** TP1. A fragment of large rib from either a cattle or equid was seen from topsoil **(1000)** TP2 which had been sawn at both ends

to form a length of 115mm, possibly for use in soups for the marrow.; this bone is pale in colour from exposure to more intense sunshine for a time.

7.1.5 One interesting bone is that of a Turkey humerus from topsoil **(1000)** TP1, which has been chopped at both ends. The turkey humerus is robust and large and suggests it is from a male bird. Turkey was introduced to Britain in the very early 1500s as a luxury bird, but by the 19th to 20th century was more widely available, but still generally for special meals.

Contex	Test pit	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NIS
1000	01	Topso	19 th -20 th	3	20g	Sheep/goat	2
						Bird - Turkey	1
1000	02	Topso	19 th -20 th	1	45g	Cattle/Equid	1
1001	05	Layer	Undated	1	42g	Equid	1
1002	03	Layer	Undated	6	12g	Cattle	5
						Mammal	1

Table 11: Quantification of the faunal remains

Discussion

7.1.6 This is a small assemblage of a fairly recent date range, with the possibility of some Medieval remains. The assemblage is varied, with mostly the main domestic meat mammals and equid. Equid would contribute to meat supplies for people in times of poverty or shortages and for feeding dogs in most periods. The butchering, particularly the quality of the sawing, suggests a later assemblage. The turkey was only introduced in the very early 16th century as a luxury meat.

Context	Test pit	Type	Date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juvenile	Neonatal	Element range	Measurable	Countable	Butchering	Gnaw	Burnt	Comments
1000	01	Topsoil	19 th -20 th	3	20g	Sheep/goat	2	1			upper molars						Low – mid wear
						Bird - Turkey	1	1			humerus		1	chopped			short and robust humerus, probably male from size
1000	02	Topsoil	19 th -20 th	1	45	Cattle/Equid	1				rib			sawn			robust rib, sawn at both ends into 115mm section , pale colour as sun bleached (and unburnt)
1001	05	Layer	Undated	1	42	Equid	1				mandible condyle fragment			chopped			some wear
1002	03	Layer	Undated	6	12	Cattle	5				molar fragments						
						Mammal	1				fragment						

Table 12: Summary catalogue of the animal bone

(Key: NISP=Number of Individual Species elements Present; Measurable following Von Den Driesch 1976; Countable following Davis 1992)

8 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

8.1 The Macrofossil Remains *by John Summers*

Introduction

8.1.1 During the archaeological test pit investigation of land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, four bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken. The aim of the bulk sample investigation was to determine the nature of preservation and distribution of ecofactual macrofossil remains in the deposits at the site.

Methodology

8.1.2 Samples were processed at the WA 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 sorted 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 was available as necessary. 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

8.1.3 The data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 13. Preservation of plant macrofossils was by carbonisation only, with no evidence for anaerobic waterlogging or mineralisation. No shells from terrestrial molluscs were identified, which is in keeping with the local slightly acid free-draining soils (Soilscapes 2022).

8.1.4 Small numbers of carbonised plant macrofossils were recorded in **(1004)**, **(1006)** and **(1001)** in the form of occasional cereal grains and seeds of non-cereal taxa. Identifiable cereal grains included wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.), although none were identifiable to species level. In addition, a single fragmented cotyledon of pea/ bean (large Fabaceae) in **(1001)** represents another element of the mixed arable economy. Non-cereal taxa, which are most likely present as remnants of the arable weed community that were carbonised with cereals and processing by-products, were medium Fabaceae (vetch/ tare type) and wild grasses (Poaceae).

- 8.1.5 Small amounts of wood charcoal were present throughout, generally as small fragments. In **(1004)**, a selection of fragments were fractured to assess the vessel pattern under low magnification, with oak (*Quercus* sp.) and non-oak diffuse porous wood types recognised.
- 8.1.6 Small fragments of coal and clinker were present in deposits **(1006)**, **(1010)** and **(1001)**, which either signify a post-medieval/ modern date or intrusive material from later occupation, such as might work down the stratigraphic profile through cultivation, rooting and earthworm activity.

Conclusions

- 8.1.7 The carbonised plant remains from the site were sparse and quite poorly preserved. This is indicative of scattered background debris from occupation activity in the broad vicinity but does not indicate intensive human activity on the site. Some of the burnt material may have been introduced to soil layers with midden material used as fertiliser.

Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Volume (litres)	Flot (g)	Carbonised cereals			Carbonised non-cereal taxa		Carbonised hazelnut	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				Other remains	
							Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal >2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects		Earthworm
1	1004	-	Layer	TP3	40	1	X	-	Trit (1), NFI (1)	X	Large Poaceae (1)	-	XX	Quercus sp., Diffuse porous	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-
2	1006	-	Layer	TP3	40	1	X	-	Trit (1), Oat (1), NFI (1)	X	Medium Fabaceae (1), Medium Poaceae (1)	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	X	-	Coal (X)
3	1010	1007	Fill of Pit	TP5	40	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	Clinker (X)
4	1001	-	Layer	TP5	40	6	X	-	NFI (2)	X	Large Fabaceae (1), Medium Fabaceae (1)	-	X	-	-	-	XX	-	X	-	-	Coal (X), Clinker (X)

Table 13: Results from the bulk sample light fractions from Netherfield Lane.

Abbreviations: Trit = wheat (*Triticum sp.*); Oat (*Avena sp.*); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Interpretation

- 9.1.1 During the archaeological test pit investigation at the land at Netherfield Lane in Stanstead Abbots, ten test pits were opened and excavated. The investigation covered a total area of 42.5m², which represented c.0.21% of the Site. The purpose of the test pitting was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, and to allow residents from the local community to engage and partake in the archaeological excavation process (Plate 14-21).
- 9.1.2 Excepting a single archaeological feature, hitherto undated ditch **[1007]**, the majority of deposits encountered during the excavation were geomorphological origin. The stratigraphically earliest deposits observed were a series of layers of flints and gravel within a matrix of silt (e.g. **(1003) (1006) (1013) (1014)**), which were encountered more than 1.00m below ground level within the north-western portion of the site. These deposits potentially represent alluvium related to a flooding event associated with the nearby River Lea. These deposits – namely layers **(1003)** and **(1006)** – contained relatively limited artefactual assemblages including Mesolithic to Neolithic struck lithic elements and burnt flint, in addition to potentially intrusive material. Overlying the potentially alluvial deposits were a series of colluvial layers (e.g. **(1001) (1002) (1005)**); a result of the topographical character of the site, with the ground sloping downwards to the west towards the River Lea. Contained within the colluvium, which likely accumulated over an extended period, was a range of artefactual remains of varying date. Except in the south-eastern portion of the site where more disturbance was observed, as evidenced by made ground layers **(1009) (1012)** and disturbed/imported topsoil **(1008)**, the colluvium was directly overlain by a topsoil deposit **(1000)** which yielded a relatively substantial finds assemblage.
- 9.1.3 The artefactual material, the retrieval of which was optimised by sieving, is of particular interest, particularly in relation to activity in the surrounding landscape during prehistory. Numerous struck flints – including cores, blades, scrapers and debitage flakes – were recovered that are indicative of a relatively broad date range of between the Mesolithic and Neolithic. As noted above (see *The Struck Flint*), a more specific Mesolithic origin for these remains must be considered due to the

remains excavated in 1971 approximately 50m to the north (Davies *et al* 1982). The excavations to the north identified a shallow depression associated with 1,300 flints of early to middle Mesolithic date, to the east of which were possible stake holes interpreted as a temporary shelter. The artefactual assemblage recovered was interpreted as a lithic working site; it was speculated that a group of Mesolithic people dug a hollow near a tree, which was subsequently lined with a wind breaking structure, to provide a shelter for their productive activity (*ibid*: 5). Residual struck flints of Mesolithic and Neolithic date were also recovered during an evaluation at Sanville Gardens, approximately 750m to the west (Britchfield *et al* 2005). It is perhaps within the context of these nearby sites that the prehistoric lithic remains are best understood. Although Mesolithic artefacts are relatively uncommon in eastern Hertfordshire (Wright 2003), significant areas of activity have been recorded within the Story, Rib, and Lea valleys at Braughing (Powell 2013), Broxbourne (Warren *et al* 1934), Bishop's Stortford (Gibson 1968), Cuffley (Lee 1978; 1987) and at Stanstead Abbots (Davies *et al* 1982). The presence of Mesolithic activity besides riverbanks and within the valleys of substantial river systems is a persistent feature in Britain and northern Europe.

9.1.4 Comparatively limited quantities of Romano-British and medieval artefactual remains were recovered during the investigation. A single Roman radiate or nummus 'minim' dating to the period AD 260-409 was collected from colluvial layer (**1001**), and a sherd of Nene Valley Coat ware and Roman box flue tile fragment from topsoil (**1000**). The paucity of evidence suggests that the site was situated away from, or on the periphery of, an area of Roman activity that has not yet been revealed in the Stanstead Abbot area. Similarly limited quantities of medieval material evidence were recovered, including a copper alloy strap end and a few sherds of medieval pottery indicative of a 12th to 14th century date. The lack of finds is perhaps unsurprising given the peripheral location of the site; the medieval village of Stanstead Abbots is known to have been focused on the High Street and the northern extent of Roydon Road.

9.1.5 The bulk of the artefactual assemblage recovered during the excavation and metal detecting, however, was of post-medieval and modern date. The objects recovered of post-medieval date provide a glimpse into the domestic lives of occupants living around the site, possibly of those in the Almshouses, with evidence for lighting,

furniture, tools as well as the pastimes they may have engaged in such as hunting and fishing. The retrieval of a pellet bell and iron buckle that may be for harness also points to the pastoral use of the land during this period.

9.1.6 The primary benefit of the assemblage, however, is in the insight it offers into the use of the site during the later 19th century and early to mid-20th centuries. The recovery of 19th century broken glass vessels and clay tobacco pipes reflect smoking, drinking, and eating during breaktimes by workers engaged in arable activities; they also demonstrate that debris was discarded on site. The rise in recovered objects of 20th century date, much of which is coinage, likely relates to the increased use of the land with the construction of the T-shaped building as barracks for the Women's Land Army. Coin loss of 1930's and 40's denominations could be related to casual losses from people crossing the site as they moved to and from the barracks; as could the loss of the personal adornments such as the belt buckles and enamelled posy brooch. Anecdotes from older residents who attended the community project recalled that the green area to the north of the buildings on the site had once been used as a play area for children and it is not hard to imagine that during the eagerness of children's games, small change fell out of pockets, contributing to the coinage found during the evaluation.

9.2 Significance

9.2.1 The principal research insights afforded by the trial pit investigation was the artefactual assemblage recovered. The findings of the excavation have the potential to contribute to a number of questions highlighted within the *East of England Research Framework* (RFN 2021):

- Pal-Meso 13: How can we better understand taphonomy and artefacts in secondary contexts?
- P-Med 13: What can archaeology add to our understanding of well-documented periods?

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit 1

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 0.32m

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.32m+	Finds include pottery, CBM, animal bone, metal objects, struck flint, glass, and clay pipe.

Test Pit 2

Length: 2.10m

Width: 1.90m

Maximum Depth: 1.20m

Minimum Depth: 1.20m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.20m	Finds include pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron objects, struck flint, glass, and clay pipe.
(1001)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.20 – 0.80m	Finds include pottery, slate, CBM, metal objects, struck flint, glass, and clay pipe.
(1005)	Colluvial layer	Firm pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.80 – 1.10m	Finds include CBM and struck flint.
(1003)	Flint/Gravel layer	Firm mid-greyish brown silt layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints and gravel throughout.	1.10m+	No finds recovered.

Test Pit 3

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 1.42m

Minimum Depth: 1.15m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small	0.00 – 0.35m	Finds include pottery, CBM, struck flint, burnt flint, glass, and clay pipe.

		subrounded flints throughout.		
(1002)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-greyish yellow sandy silt, with occasional small subrounded angular flints throughout.	0.35 – 0.94m	Finds include pottery, CBM, animal bone, struck and burnt flint.
(1003)	Flint/Gravel layer	Firm mid-greyish brown silt layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints and gravel throughout.	0.94 – 1.02m	Finds include struck and burnt flint.
(1004)	Clay layer	Firm dark-brownish grey silty clay, with occasional small subrounded and rounded flints throughout.	1.02 – 1.27m	Finds include struck flint.
(1006)	Flint/Gravel layer	Friable greyish-brown clayey silt layer, with frequent small and medium subrounded and subangular flints and gravel throughout.	1.27- 1.42m+	Finds include struck and burnt flint.

Test Pit 4

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 0.08m

Minimum Depth: 0.08m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.08m	No finds recovered.

Test Pit 5

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 1.20m

Minimum Depth: 1.16m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.24m	Finds include pottery, CBM, iron objects, struck flint, and clay pipe.
(1001)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.24 – 0.82m	Finds include pottery, CBM, animal bone, and struck flint.

(1007)	Cut of ditch	Sub-oval shaped pit that measured 1.60m+ in length and 1.08m in width, with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.	0.32m	Ditch with single fill (1010). Possible infilled hollow or depression.
(1010)	Fill of ditch	Firm mid-greyish brown silt layer, with very frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints throughout.	0.32m	Fill of ditch [1007]. Finds include struck and burnt flint.
(1011)	Natural substrate	Friable pale-yellowish brown sandy silt, with occasional small flints throughout.	0.82 – 1.16m+	Possibly same as (1016) in TP10.

Test Pit 6

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 1.08m

Minimum Depth: 1.08m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.24m	Finds include pottery, CBM, animal bone, iron objects, struck flint, glass, and clay pipe.
(1001)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.24 – 1.00m	Finds include pottery, slate, CBM, and struck flint
(1013)	Flint/Gravel layer	Firm dark-reddish brown silty clay, with frequent small and medium subangular and subrounded flints and gravel throughout.	1.00 – 1.08m+	No finds recovered.

Test Pit 7

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 1.60m

Minimum Depth: 1.20m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.34m	Finds include pottery, CBM, iron objects, glass, and clay pipe.
(1012)	Made ground	Firm mid-brownish grey sandy silt, with very frequent small and medium	0.34 – 0.44m	Possibly same as (1009) in TP9 and TP10. No finds recovered.

		rounded and subrounded flints throughout.		
(1001)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.44 – 1.53m	Finds include CBM, struck flint, and clay pipe.
(1014)	Flint/Gravel layer	Firm dark-reddish brown silty sand, with frequent small subangular and subrounded flints and gravel throughout.	1.53 – 1.60m+	No finds recovered.

Test Pit 8

Length: 2.10m

Width: 2.00m

Maximum Depth: 0.45m

Minimum Depth: 0.30m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1000)	Topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown clayey sand, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.00 – 0.17m	Finds include CBM.
(1012)	Made ground	Firm mid-brownish grey sandy silt, with very frequent small and medium rounded and subrounded flints throughout.	0.17 – 0.39m	Possibly same as (1009) in TP9 and TP10. Finds include pottery, CBM, and glass.
(1015)	Natural substrate	Firm pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.39 – 0.45m+	-

Test Pit 9

Length: 2.10m

Width: 2.14m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Minimum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1008)	Disturbed topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown silty clay sand, with occasional small subangular flints and frequent small fragments of modern CBM throughout.	0.00 – 0.17m	Finds include CBM and clay pipe.
(1009)	Made ground	Firm mid-orangey brown sandy gravel, with frequent gravel, and small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.17 – 0.26m	Possibly same as (1012) in TP7 and TP8. No finds recovered.

(1001)	Colluvial layer	Firm mid-reddish brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.26 – 0.52m+	Finds include pottery, slate, CBM, metal objects, struck flint, glass, and clay pipe.
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Test Pit 10

Length: 2.00m

Width: 2.90m

Maximum Depth: 0.52m

Minimum Depth: 0.52m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(1008)	Disturbed topsoil	Firm dark-greyish brown silty clay sand, with occasional small subangular flints and frequent small fragments of modern CBM throughout.	0.00 – 0.30m	No finds recovered.
(1009)	Made ground	Firm mid-orangey brown sandy gravel, with frequent gravel, and small and medium subangular flints throughout.	0.30 – 0.41m	Possibly same as (1012) in TP7 and TP8. Finds include CBM.
(1016)	Natural Substrate	Firm pale-greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small subrounded flints throughout.	0.41 – 0.52m+	Possibly same as (1011) in TP5.

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; General view of the site, looking to the east.



Plate 2; Post excavation view of TP 1, looking to the north



Plate 3; Post view excavation of TP 2, looking to the south



Plate 4; Post view excavation of TP 3, looking to the south



Plate 5; Post excavation view of TP 4, looking to the west.



Plate 6; Post excavation view of TP 5, showing pit [1007], looking to the west.



Plate 7; Post excavation view of TP 5, showing pit **[1007]**, looking to the north.

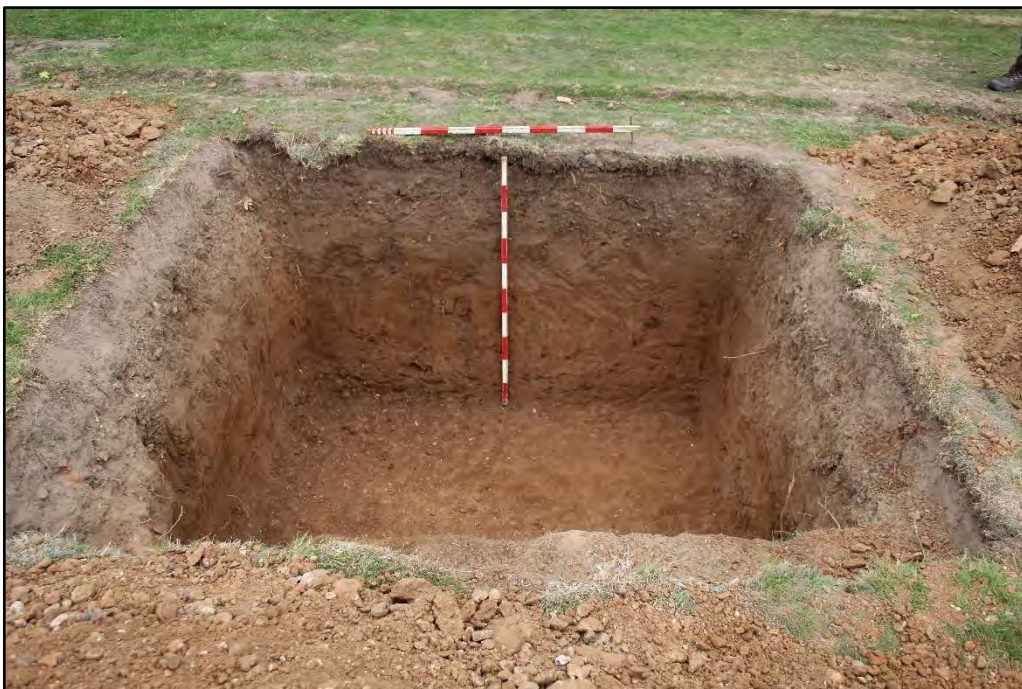


Plate 8; Post excavation view of TP 6, looking to the south.



Plate 9; Post excavation view of TP 7, looking to the south.



Plate 10; Post excavation view of TP 8, looking to the east.



Plate 11; Post excavation view of TP 9, looking to the north.



Plate 12; Post excavation view of TP 10, looking to the north.



Plate 13; Brick step located to the east of TP 8, looking to the east



Plate 14; Volunteers working in TP 3, excavating and sieving colluvial layer (1002).

Plate 15; Volunteers working in TP 3, excavating flint/gravel layer (1003).



Plate 16; Explaining the archaeological recording process to volunteers.





Plate 17; Volunteers working in TP 5 and 6.



Plate 18; Volunteers working in TP 5, sieving colluvial layer **(1002)**.



Plate 19; A volunteer metal detecting the central area of the site.

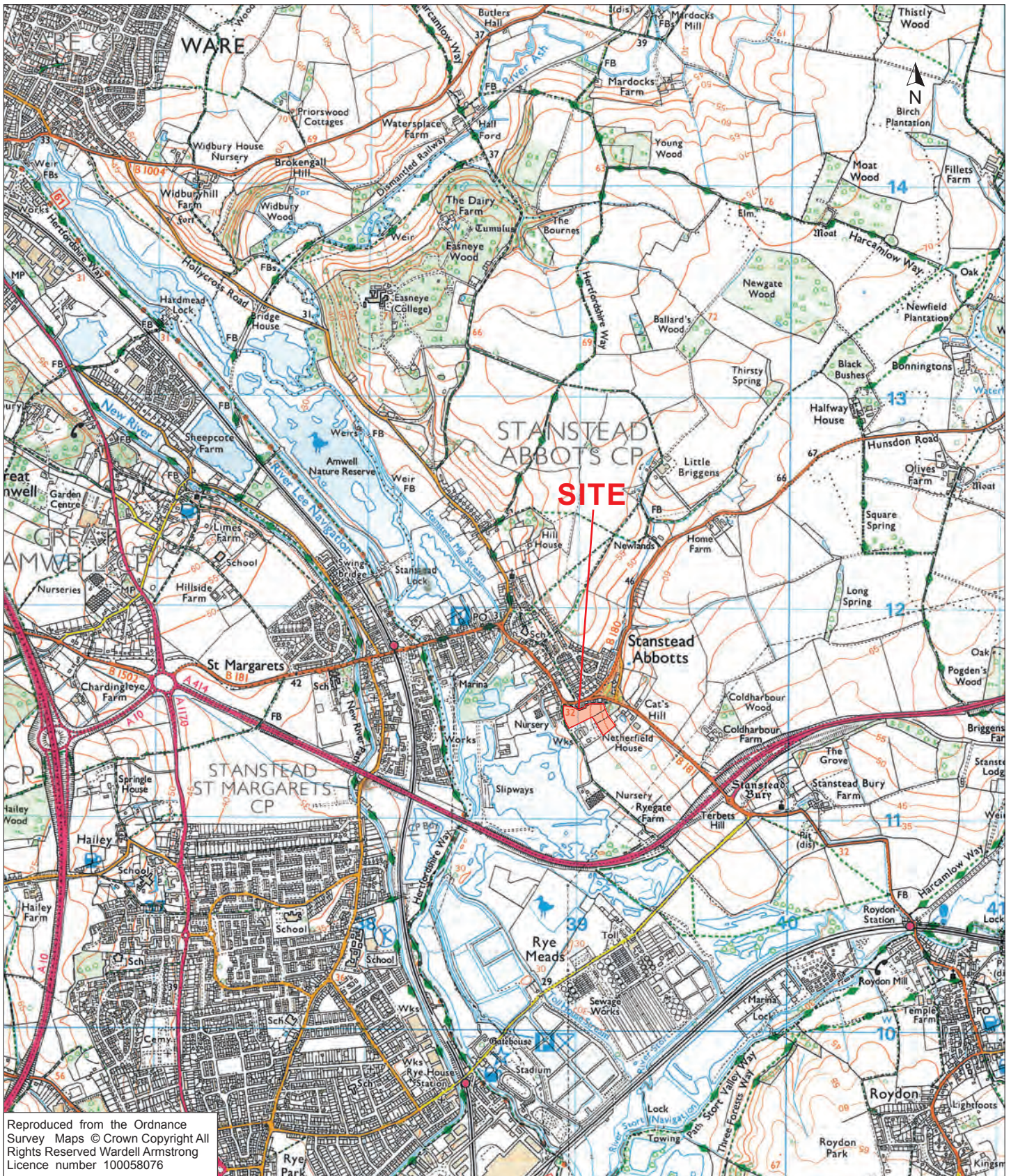


Plate 20; Volunteers taking a well-deserved break from excavating.




Plate 21; A freshly discovered 1945 halfpenny, found with a metal detector.

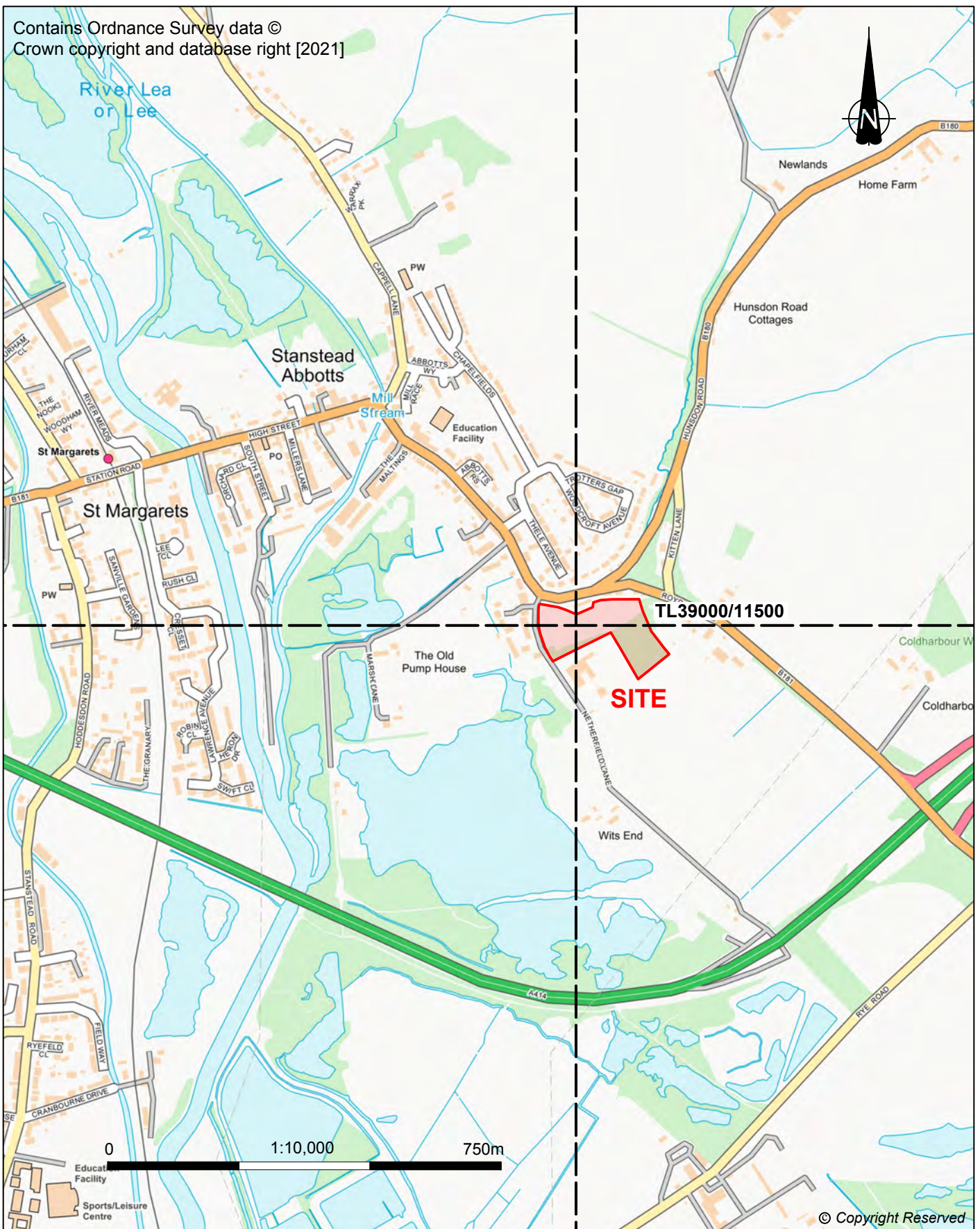
APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



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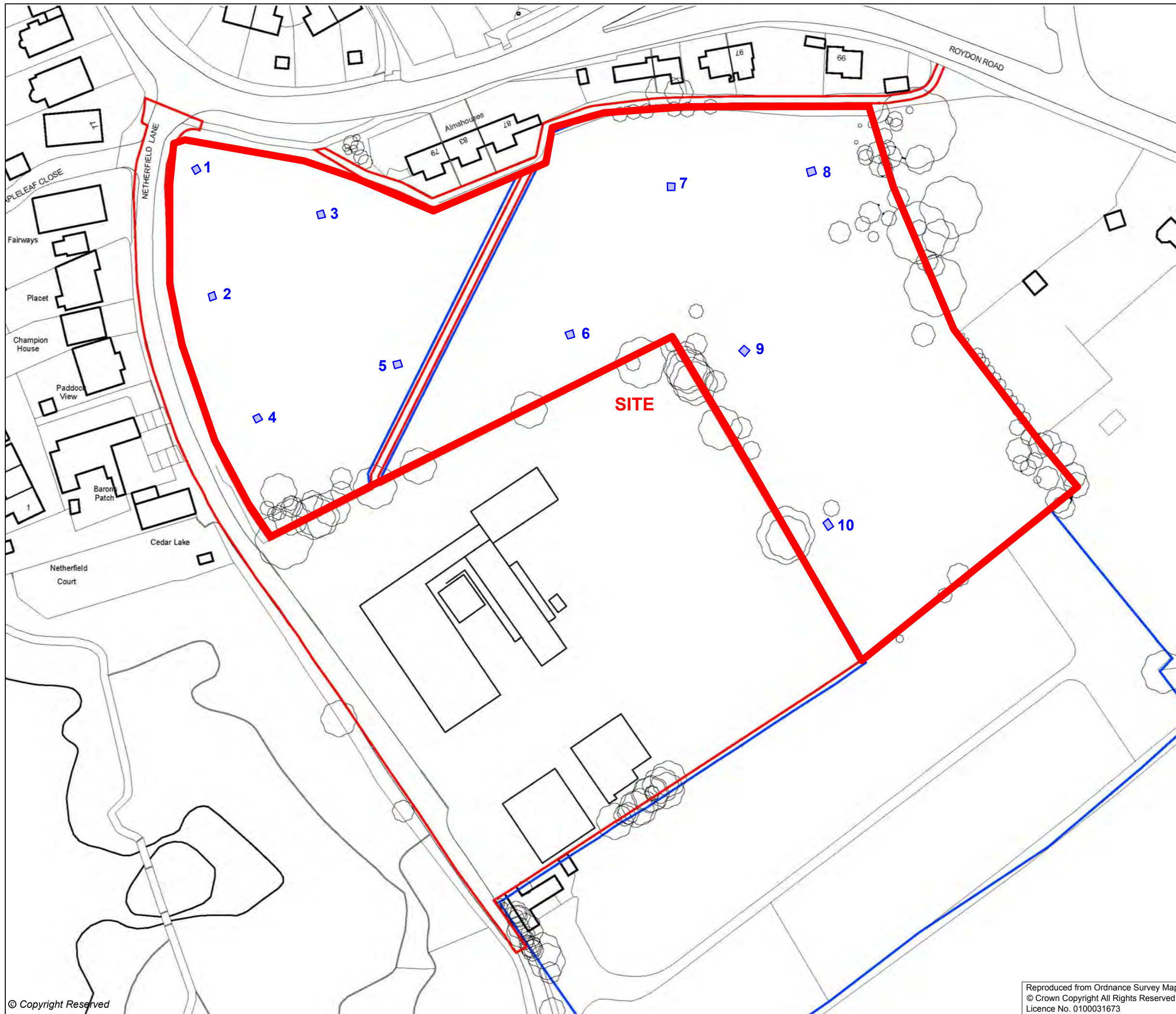
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PROJECT	Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots Hertfordshire		SIZE	A4	SCALE	1:25,000
			DATE	05.07.22		
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 1 Site location plan		DRAWN BY	Kathren	CHECKED BY	PT
			APPROVED BY	RG		
					■ BURY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM	
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CLIENT	Webster Estates Ltd		DRG No.	BE10311/302		REV	A	
PROJECT	Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots Hertfordshire		SIZE	A4		SCALE	1:10,000	
			DATE			05.07.22		
DRAWING TITLE	Figure 2 Detailed site location plan		DRAWN BY	Kathren		CHECKED BY	PT	
			APPROVED BY			RG		
						■ BURY ST EDMUNDS TEL 01284 765210 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM		
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REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
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CLIENT
Webster Estates Ltd


PROJECT
Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots
Hertfordshire

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 3
Test pit location plan

DRG No. BE10311/303 REV A

DRG SIZE A3 SCALE 1:1000 DATE 05.07.22

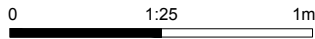
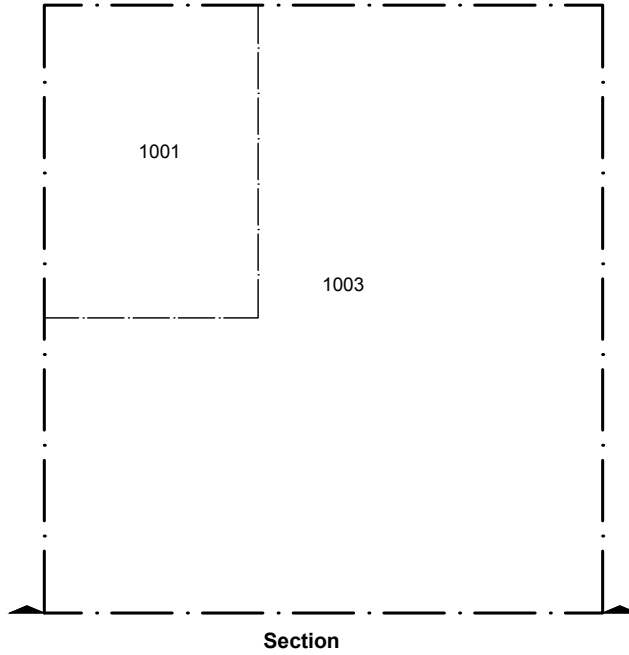
DRAWN BY Kathren CHECKED BY PT APPROVED BY RG


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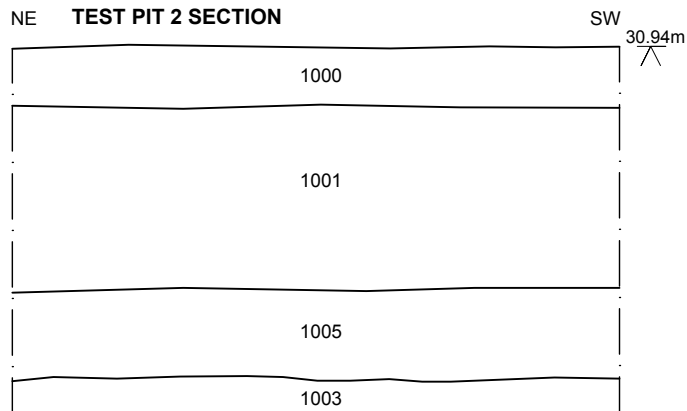
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TEST PIT 2 PLAN



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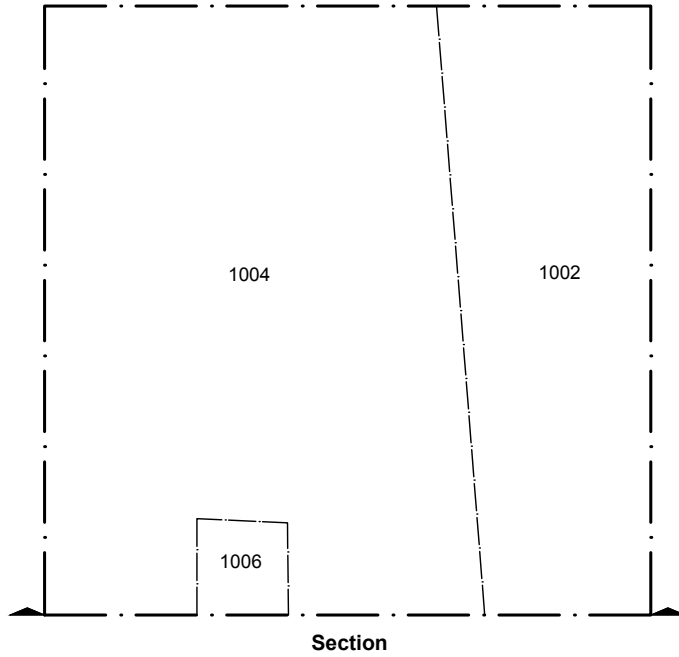


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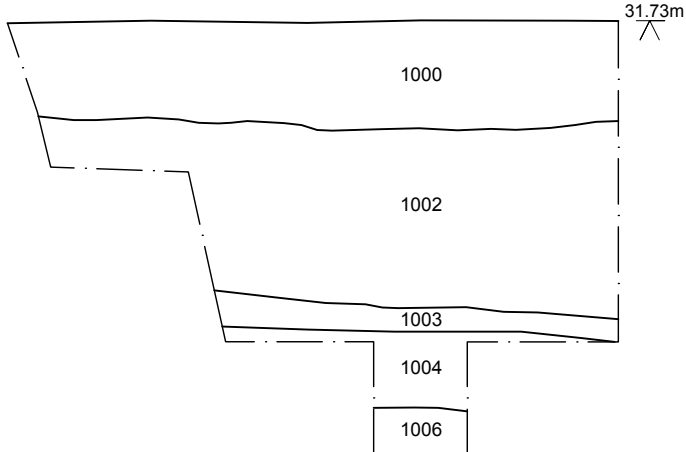


TEST PIT 3 PLAN



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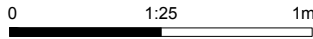
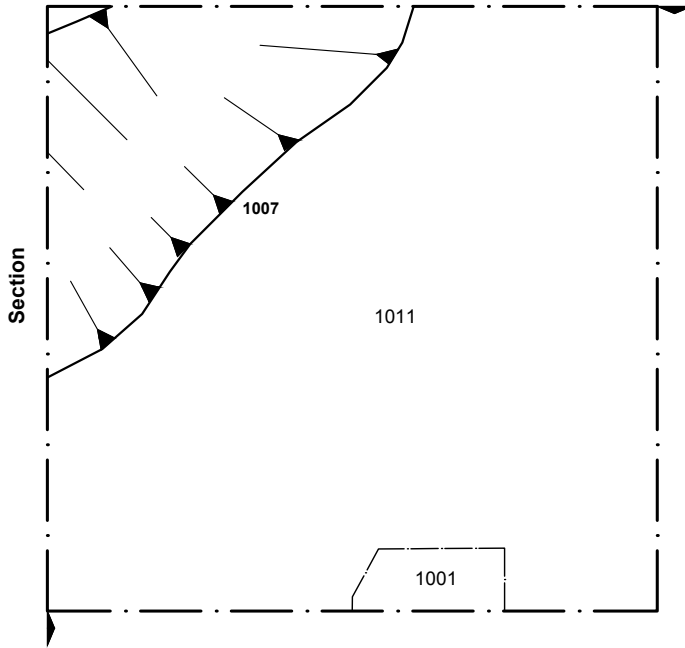


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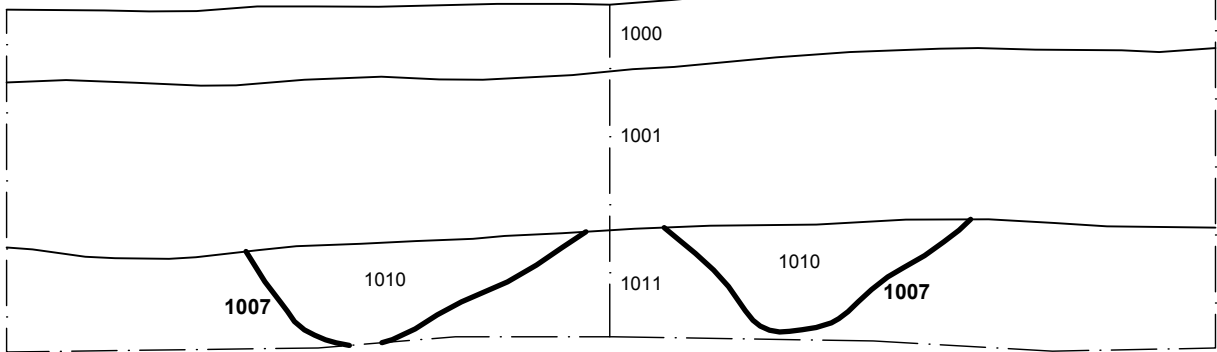
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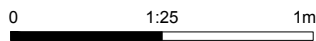
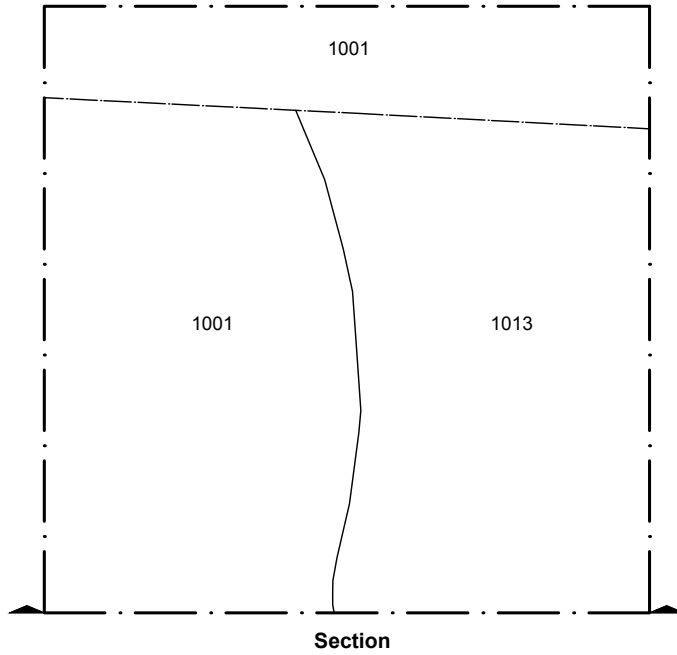
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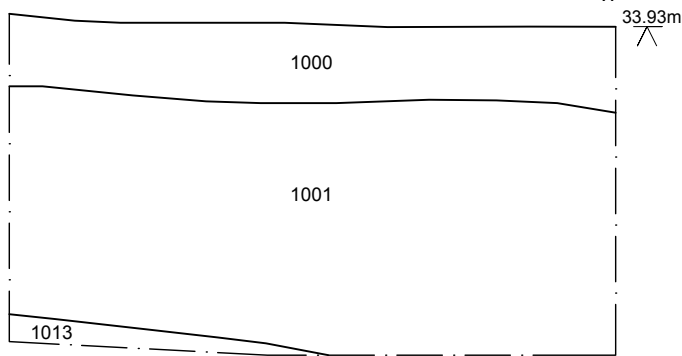
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TEST PIT 6 PLAN



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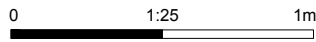
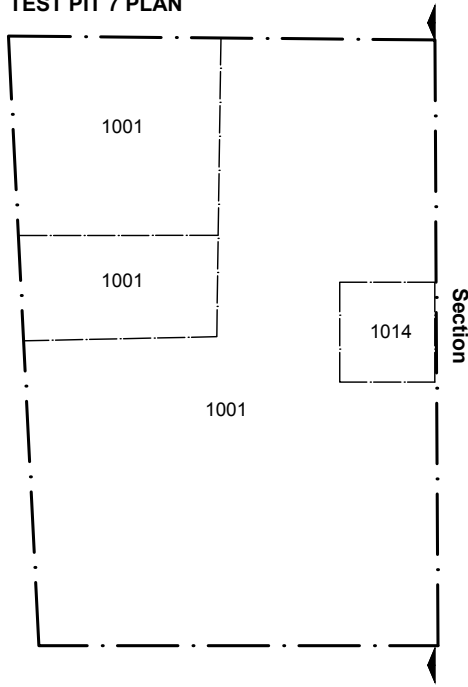


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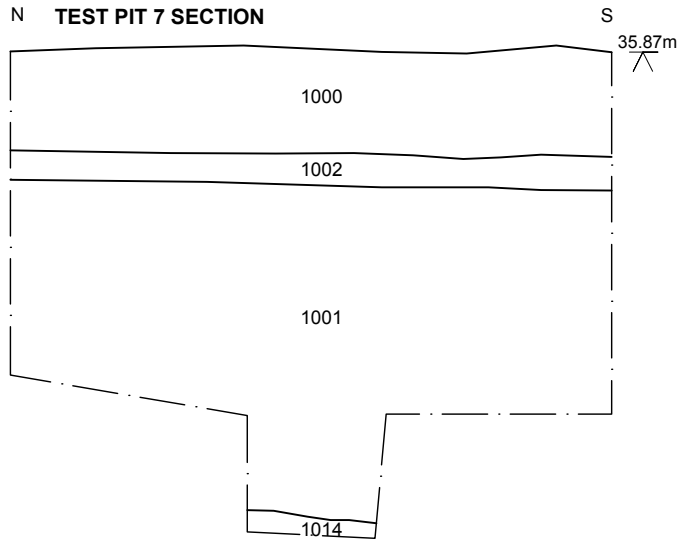
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TEST PIT 7 PLAN



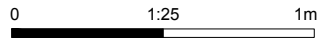
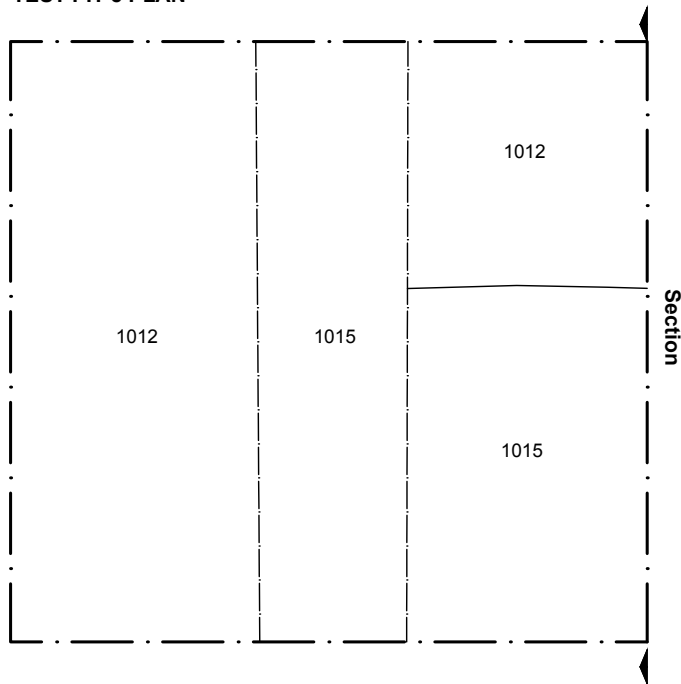
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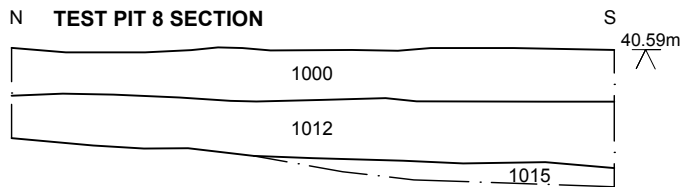
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TEST PIT 8 PLAN



TEST PIT 8 SECTION



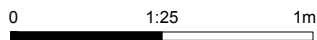
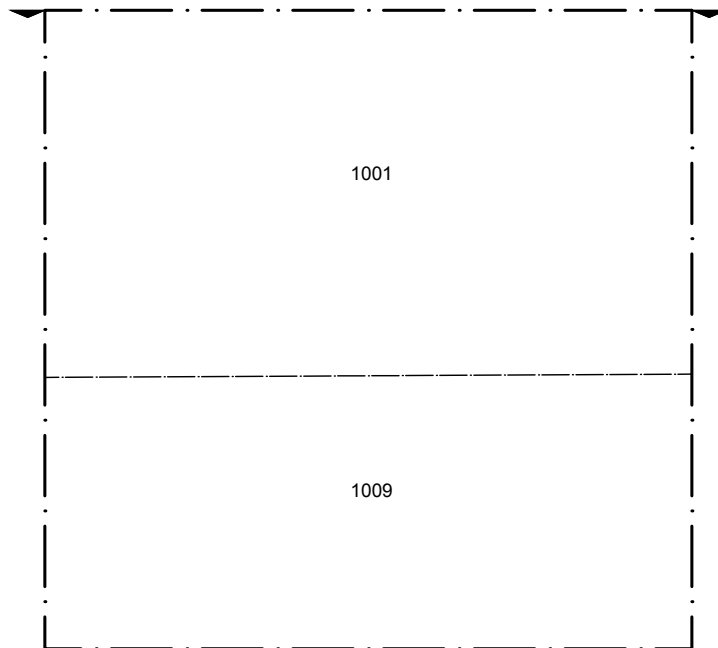
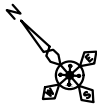
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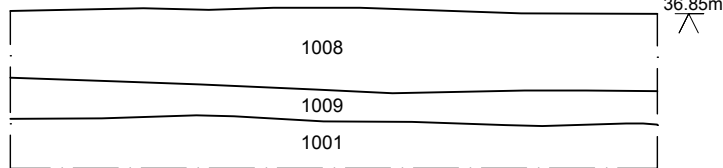
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NW TEST PIT 9 SECTION

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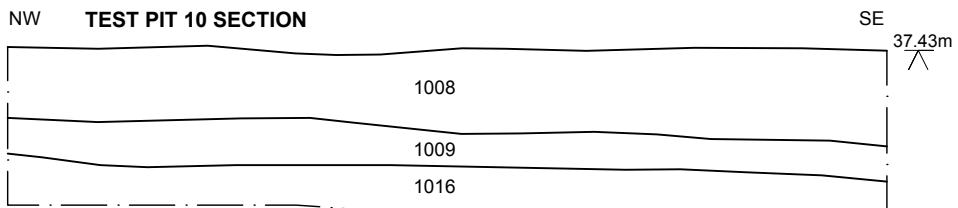
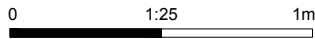
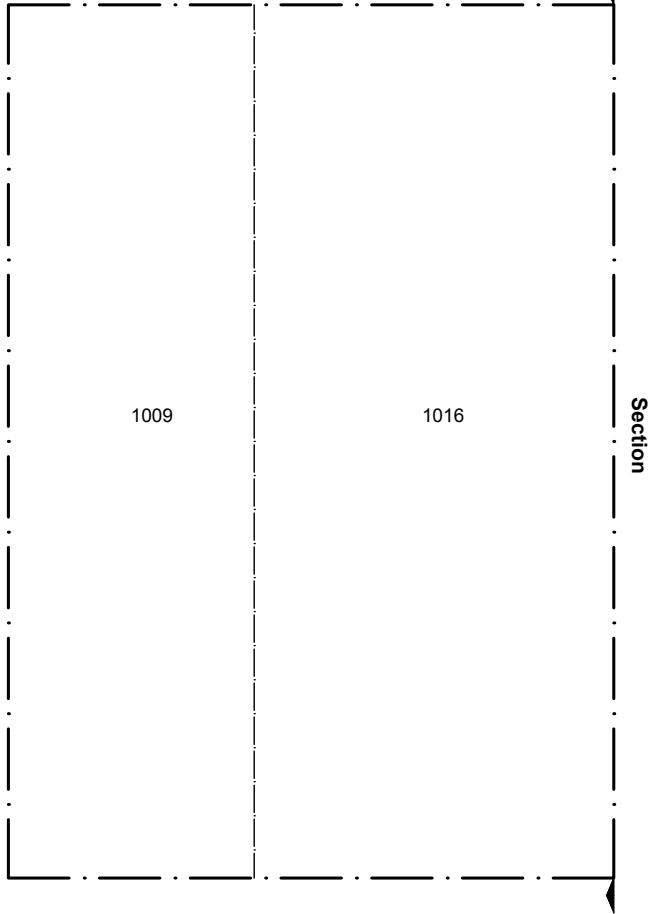


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TEST PIT 10 PLAN



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APPENDIX 4: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	<i>Land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire</i>
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Stanstead Abbots	Parish: Stanstead Abbots
Planning application reference:	3/20/0502/OUT
Client name/address	Webster Estates Ltd
Nature of application:	Residential Development
Present land use:	Vacant
Size of application area: c.2 hectares	Size of area investigated c.42.5m ²
NGR (8 figures):	TL 39029 11504
Site Code:	BE10311
Site director/Organisation:	Wardell Armstrong
Type of work:	Test Pit Excavation
Date of work:	17 th and 27 th June 2022
Location of Curating museum:	Ware Museum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Mesolithic to Neolithic/ Romano-British/ Medieval/ post-medieval/ modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports:	Higgs, K., 2021. <i>Land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Wardell Armstrong LLP</i> -
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>The archaeological work was undertaken between the 17th and 27th June 2022 and comprised the excavation of ten test pits. Excepting a single archaeological feature, an undated ditch, the majority of deposits encountered during the excavation were geomorphological origin. The stratigraphically earliest deposits observed were a series of layers of flints and gravel, which likely represent alluvium related to a flooding event associated with the nearby River Lea. Overlying the potentially alluvial deposits were a series of colluvial layers which appear to have accumulated over an extended period and contained a range of artefactual remains of varying date. Across most of the site this was overlain by a topsoil deposit which yielded a considerable artefactual assemblage.</p> <p>The artefactual material recovered from these deposits, the retrieval of which was optimised by sieving, is of particular interest. Numerous struck flints – including cores, blades, scrapers and debitage flakes – were recovered that are indicative of a relatively broad date range of between the Mesolithic and Neolithic. These finds may relate to a significant Mesolithic lithic working site that was excavated approximately 50m to the north. A notable paucity of Roman and medieval finds was also recovered, which alludes to the peripheral character of the site during this period.</p> <p>The bulk of the artefactual assemblage, nevertheless, was of post-medieval and modern date. The post-medieval objects recovered provide a glimpse into the domestic lives of occupants living around the site, possibly of those in the nearby Almshouses. The primary benefit of the assemblage, however, is in the insight it offers into the use of the site during the later 19th century and early to mid-20th centuries.</p>
Author of summary: Liam Podbury	Date of Summary: August 2022

APPENDIX 5: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Summary for wardella2-509138

OASIS ID (UID)	wardella2-509138
Project Name	Test Pit Excavation at Land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire
Sitename	Land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire
Activity type	Test Pit
Project Identifier(s)	BE10311
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Community partnership
Organisation Responsible for work	
Project Dates	17-Jun-2022 - 27-Jun-2022
Location	Land at Netherfield Lane, Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire NGR : TL 39029 11504 LL : 51.7849299671931, 0.0141603146495 12 Fig : 539029,211504
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hertfordshire District : East Hertfordshire Parish : Stanstead Abbots

Project Methodology	<p>The archaeological investigations comprised of the excavation of ten test pits, measuring approximately 2.00m by 2.00m. TP 1 and 4, however, were not fully excavated due to time constraints. The test pits were placed in a random array across the grassy and hitherto undeveloped area of site, in order to provide a reasonable coverage. The test pits were located with due regard to the location of known services and taking into consideration any ecological and arboricultural constraints. No test pits were located in the concreted and developed area of the site.</p> <p>The general aims of the test pit investigation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent, and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed; •to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces; •to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes; and •to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes. <p>The specific aims of the test pit investigation were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •allow volunteers in the local community to engage and partake in the archaeological excavation process; and •provide visitors in the local area with the opportunity to visit an archaeological excavation. <p>Using a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision, the turf/vegetation was removed from each of the test pits. In order to facilitate hand-excavation by the volunteers, the topsoil was also mechanically removed within TP 3, 8, 9, and 10. The removed topsoil deposits were placed in separate piles and hand sieved at a later stage. The excavation of each test pit was carried out by the volunteers and supervised by WA staff, with all and deposits being inspected and excavated by hand. Three test pits (TP 5, 8, 10) were excavated to the level of the natural substrate, while the remaining test pits (TP 2, 3, 6, 7) were excavated to the maximum safe depth of 1.20m below ground level. Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh was undertaken by the volunteers and spoilheaps were placed adjacent to each test pit. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2021). On completion the test pits were to be reinstated by replacing the excavated material; this was done.</p>
Project Results	
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Ware Museum;

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