



Archaeological Evaluation Report

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY HQ

For Hertfordshire Constabulary

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY HQ

Client: Hertfordshire Constabulary

Local Authority: Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

NGR: 523540 210808

Planning App: 6/2021/2125/MAJ

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Site Code: LP4540L

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Tables

Table of Plates

Table of Appendices

Abstract

1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Archaeological and Historical Background
4. Aims and Objectives
5. Methodology
6. Results
8. Environmental Sampling
9. Conclusions
10. Archive

Sources Consulted

Figures

Appendices

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location - General

Figure 2 - Site Location - Detail

Figure 3 - Trench Locations

Figure 4 - Plan and Representative Section of Trench 1

Figure 5 - Plan And representative Section of Trench 2

Figure 6 - Plan and representative section of trench 3

Figure 7 - Plan and representative section of trench 4

Figure 8 - Plan and section of pit [404]

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - NW facing Plan of Trench 1

Plate 2 - SW facing Plan of Trench 2

Plate 3 - North facing Representative Section for Trench 3

Plate 4 - Plan of pit [404]

Plate 5 - W facing Plan of Trench 4

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Oasis Form

Appendix 2 - Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet

Abstract

Phase 1 of an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by MOLA. This report has been prepared by Sally Smart and Andrea Kreuzberg of MOLA on behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ.

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the potential extent of archaeological remains on site. Four evaluation trenches were opened; Trenches 1 and 2 in the south of site where a Memorial Garden is to be built; and Trenches 3 and 4 to the east of site where a new Dog Training Unit is to be built.

As a result of the significant modern truncations identified and recorded within the Ground Investigation (GI) test pit locations during a watching brief a week prior, Trenches 5-13 (which were originally planned as part of this phase of works) have been descopeed after consultation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist.

With the exception of one pit that was void of finds, no archaeological features were identified and therefore the archaeological potential is considered to be low.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an Archaeological Evaluation carried out as part of Phase 1 of the proposed scheme at the Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ, for Hertfordshire Constabulary and covers four machine excavated trial trenches.
- 1.2. The site is located on the premises of the Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ on the south western edge of Welwyn Garden City, between Stanborough Park and a sports park, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Figure 1). The National Grid Reference is 523540, 210808.
- 1.3. The proposed scheme at the Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ consists of three phases of archaeological works: Phase 1 consisted of fourteen GI test pits: seven along the haul road, two to the north of the canteen building and five to the south of the canteen building; as well as four evaluation trenches: two in the south of the site where the Memorial Garden will be and two to the east where the Dog Unit is (Figure 3).
- 1.4. The local planning authority is the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
- 1.5. The fieldwork was carried out by Sally Smart and Andrea Kreuzberg of MOLA between 10.10.2022 and 14.10.2022. This report was written by Sally Smart and Andrea Kreuzberg. The project manager was Cornelius Barton.
- 1.6. The site code LP4540L has been assigned by MOLA.
- 1.7. The OASIS ID for the project is lparchae1-510434.
- 1.8. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Rachel Wood of AECOM Ltd (Wood 2022) and the Method Statement was written by Julian Carty of MOLA (Carty 2022).

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

2.1.1. Phase 1 consists of thirteen trial trenches of which four trenches have been excavated. Nine of the trenches have been descoped following a Watching Brief of ground investigation test pits. The application reference is 6/2021/2125/MAJ.

2.1.2. No listed buildings are on the premises of the site.

2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. The site is not in any Archaeological Priority Zone.

2.1.4. The following conditions were attached to the development:

- ◆ The archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching of the proposed development, prior to any development commencing.
- ◆ Such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by this evaluation.
- ◆ These may include:
 - ◆ The preservation of any remains *in situ*, if warranted,
 - ◆ Appropriate archaeological excavation and recording of any remains before any development commences on the site, with provisions for subsequent analysis and publication of results,
 - ◆ Archaeological monitoring of the groundworks of the development (also including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered),
 - ◆ Such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site;

2.1.5. Hertfordshire Constabulary and MOLA have agreed the methodology for these works in the method statement (Carty 2022) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wood 2022). The Written Scheme of Investigation was provided by Rachel Wood of AECOM and the Method Statement was provided by Julian Carty of MOLA.

2.2.GEOLOGY

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey (British Geological Survey 2022) web-based Geology of Britain Viewer indicates that the bedrock geology of the proposed scheme consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk

formation, formed during the Cretaceous period. The superficial geology is recorded as Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup Sand and Gravel formed during the Quaternary period. Immediately to the south west of the proposed scheme in Stanborough Park around the River Lea is an area of Alluvium Clay, Silt Sand and Gravel also formed during the Quaternary period.

2.2.2. The Soils Map indicates that the soils within the proposed scheme consist of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils. Immediately to the north west of the Proposed Scheme, the soils are recorded as slightly acid loamy and clayey with impeded drainage.

2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The site is the Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ with offices and parking. It is situated in the south west of Welwyn Garden City (Figure 1).

2.3.2. The site is bound to the west by Stanborough Road. To the south is Stanborough Park. A railway line is to the east and to the north lies a sports park.

2.3.3. The site is made up of level planes and slopes, with an average height of 81 m OD.

2.4. SITE CONDITIONS

2.4.1. No demolition work had taken place prior to the archaeological evaluation. A new temporary road was put in place parallel to the archaeological works.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1.1. A series of evaluations in 1997 and 1998 excavated part of an Iron Age enclosure ditch to the west of the site at Stanborough School. Further watching briefs and evaluations in 1999, 2004, 2006, 2019, 2020 and 2021 did not record any other signs of archaeology. In 2011 five geophysical test pits were excavated prior to the demolition of Parkway School north of the site containing no signs of archaeology. A geophysical survey east of the site at Sir John Newsom and Creswick Schools showed possible linears and pits but nothing conclusively archaeological. To the north of the site, an evaluation

consisting of 21 trial trenches at Longcroft Lane in 1993 showed no signs of archaeological features.

- 3.1.2. No Desk-Based Assessment covering the area of the proposed scheme has taken place prior to the archaeological works. The information about the archaeological background and previous archaeological investigations has been sourced directly from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Records (HER).
- 3.1.3. Signs of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to modern times have been recorded in a 1km radius around the site.

MESOLITHIC TO BRONZE AGE

- 3.1.1. There are four assets of Mesolithic to Bronzer Age data recorded as find spots in the vicinity of the site. They range from prehistoric worked flints, a Neolithic and a Late Bronze Age axe to a Neolithic flint scraper.

IRON AGE

- 3.1.1. Immediately west of site, a large palisaded enclosure ditch dating to the Late Iron Age was recorded. It appears to have gone out of use by the Early Roman period but there is some continuation of use with the internment of several urned cremations of Early Roman Date.
- 3.1.2. A short distance to the northwest, a Late Iron Age cremation cemetery was recorded. Four cremation groups consisting of urns, bowls, and plates dating to the early 1st century AD, with four La Tene III brooches and fragments of a small metal mirror were observed. It is possible that this cemetery relates to the palisaded settlement described above.

ROMAN

- 3.1.1. An early Roman cremation group is recorded just outside of the ditch of the Late Iron Age palisaded enclosure discussed above. These are thought to date to the 2nd century AD.

EARLY MEDIEVAL TO MEDIEVAL

- 3.1.1. No archaeological evidence relating to the Early Medieval or the Medieval

period exists within the vicinity of the site.

POST MEDIEVAL

- 3.1.1. The manorial site of Woodhall Farm, a 17th century house existing as earthworks and documentary evidence sits to the south east of the site within the medieval deer park which was revived in the later 17th century. At the north eastern end of the deer park and to the north east of the site sits the site of Woodhall Lodge Farm. This Post Medieval farmstead features on the 1880 OS Map as a substantial farmstead at the end of an avenue with ranges of bars around a rectangular yard and with a large pond. It has the same form on the earlier 1838 tithe map.
- 3.1.2. To the north east of the proposed scheme is the site of the brickworks on the Salisbury Estate. These works were the main source of sand and gravel for the construction of the new Garden City. They were also used for earth moving training by RAF Mill Green in the 1940s. They first appear on the 1898 OS Map.
- 3.1.3. The Hatfield Parish Tithe map of 1839 shows the site to be located in agricultural fields owned by the Marquess of Salisbury and tenanted by Frederick and John Farr as well as Charles Townsend. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1884 show little has changed as it remained within open fields.

MODERN

- 3.1.1. Welwyn Garden City is locally listed as it is the world's second garden city, founded in 1920. Distinct commercial, civic and industrial zones are surrounded by housing.
- 3.1.2. The 1925 Ordnance Survey map shows little change from the 19th century maps aside from the loss of some field boundaries. Despite continued growth of Welwyn throughout the 20th century, the boundary of the site remained unchanged until the second half of the century when Welwyn finally reached it. The current Hertfordshire Constabulary Headquarters buildings were largely erected in the 1970s and 1980s.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1. As set out in the method statement the general aims of the evaluation were:

- ◆ Assess the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains;
- ◆ Assess the location, nature, extent, date, condition, state of preservation, significance and complexity of any archaeological remains;
- ◆ assess the likely range, quality, and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- ◆ Inform strategy for any required mitigation via recording, preservation and/or management of identified assets;
- ◆ Interpret the archaeology of the proposed scheme within its local, regional and national archaeological context; and,

4.2. The specific aim of the evaluation was

- ◆ To investigate the presence of any prehistoric activity within the site.

4.3. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

5. Methodology

- 5.1. The scope of the archaeological trial trenching is based on a 4% coverage across the three areas. For stage one this totals 13 trenches. A detailed list of trench sizes and locations can be found in the WSI (Wood 2022).
- 5.2. Four of the original thirteen trenches were excavated (Figure 3). Trenches 1 and 2 kept their original location. Trench 3 had to be moved south by 1 m and slightly to the west due to a car park still being in use and a tree that needed to be avoided by 2.70m. Trench 4 was rotated by 90° degrees (Figure 2). As a result of the significant modern truncations identified and recorded within the GI test pit locations along the Haul Road, Trenches 5-13 were descope after a consultation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist.
- 5.3. The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator with a 2.00m wide toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision and surveyed by GPS.
- 5.4. The present archaeological deposits were cleaned and investigated using appropriate hand tools. They were recorded and drawn according to the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (Spence 1994) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Wood 2022).
- 5.5. For each trench a representative section of 1m length was recorded in a 1:10 scale.
- 5.6. All works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2020).
- 5.7. The trenches were backfilled after they had been signed off by a senior historic environment advisor for Hertfordshire County Council having been provided with pictures via email.

6. Results

6.1. The results below are given trench by trench. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Measurements shall be given in depth Ordnance datum (OD).

TRENCH 1

6.2. The sequence across trench 1 consists of a natural geology (102) consisting of a compact mid-orange brown sandy clay with patches of gravel and was generally encountered at 73.18m OD (Figure 4). This was overlaid by a loose brown silty clay topsoil (101). Signs of occasional bioturbation were observed, but no archaeology was present (Plate 1).



Plate 1 - NW facing Plan of Trench 1. 2m Scale

TRENCH 2

6.2.1. In trench 2 the sequence consists of a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional gravel patches natural (202) directly overlaid by the topsoil (201). The natural was encountered at 73.59m OD (Figure 5). The topsoil consisted of a loose mid greyish brown silty clay. No archaeology was present. (Plate 2)



Plate 2 - SW facing Plan of Trench 2. 2m Scale

TRENCH 3

6.2.2. The natural in trench 3, (303), consisted of a mid orange brown gravelly clay which was overlaid by the subsoil (302). The natural was reached at 79.57m OD (Figure 6). The subsoil was a loose mid-orange brown silty gravel and was overlaid by the topsoil (301), which consisted of a firm dark grey brown silty clay. In parts the topsoil was capped by a gravel road surface (Plate 3). No archaeology was present.

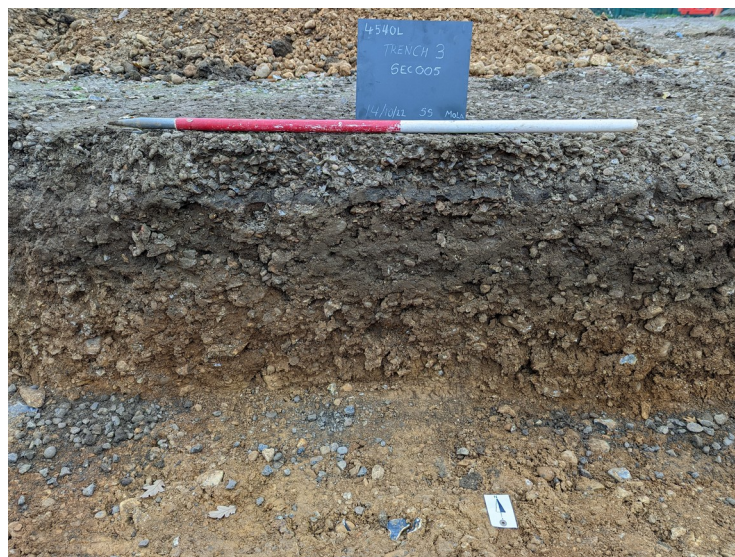


Plate 3 - North facing Representative Section for Trench 3.
1m Scale

TRENCH 4

6.2.3. The natural in trench 4 (403) consisted of loose red-brown silty clay with frequent small stones and was encountered at 79.38m OD (Figure 7). One archaeological feature, a sub-circular pit [404] was cut into the natural (Plate



Plate 4 - Plan of Pit [404]. 1m Scale

4). It measured 1.20m in length, 1.18m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.29m (Figure 8). The natural infill (405) was composed of a soft mid greyish brown sandy clay which contained occasional medium stones. No finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were taken due to an



Plate 5 - W facing Plan of Trench 4. 2m Scale

absence of organic material. the purpose of the pit was unknown. Overlaying the pit was a subsoil (402) consisting of a mid orange-brown sandy clay. A topsoil consisting of a firm brown-grey silty clay with frequent small gravel capped the trench.

7. Finds

7.1.No finds were retained from the four trial trenches. Modern waste such as strips of plastic, modern bricks and concrete was observed within the made ground observed in the trenches, but was not considered worth keeping.

8. Environmental Sampling

8.1.No Environmental Samples were taken because no organic material was present in the natural infill of pit [404].

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. The site of Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ, centered on NGR TL 23076 11373 is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves three phases that included the investigation of thirteen trial trenches in phase 1. Four of these evaluation trenches were excavated, and Trenches 5-13 were descope after a consultation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist after a watching brief of GI test pits.
- 9.2. There were no archaeological features found across trenches one to three. In trench four a single pit was recorded, its fill contained no finds and its purpose was not ascertained. It was not dateable. Due to the undated nature of the feature the pit is considered to be of low archaeological significance.
- 9.3. Across the whole evaluation only a single undated feature was observed therefore the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

10. Archive

10.1. The digital archive is to be deposited by arrangement with the Archaeological Data Service under the site code LP4540L.

10.2. The digital archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Plan Register
- ◆ 1 x Section Register
- ◆ 2 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 12 x Context Sheets
- ◆ 3 x Permatrace Sheets

10.3. The digital archive is to be deposited on the ADS.

10.4. The OASIS number for this project is lparchae1-510434.

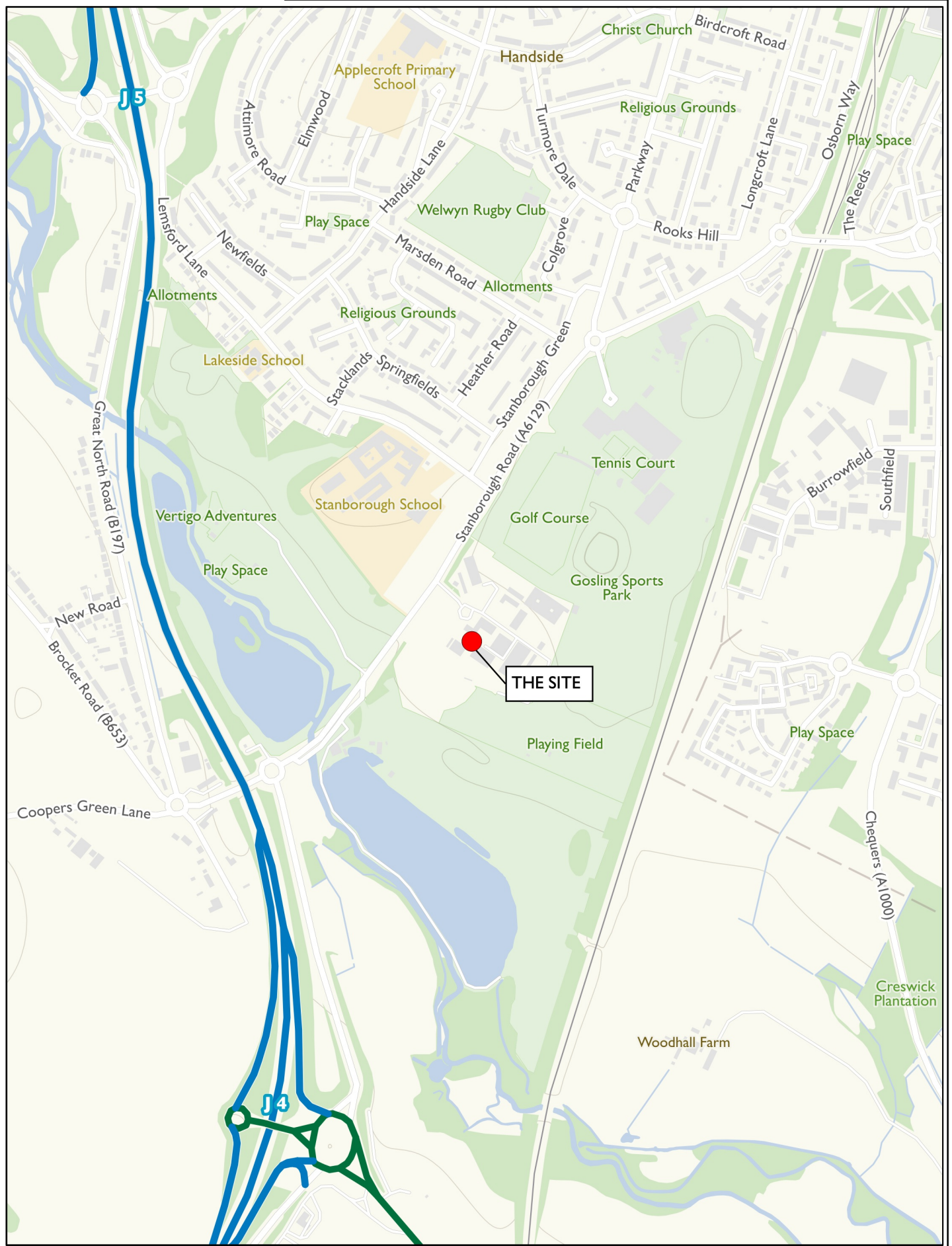
SOURCES CONSULTED

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FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ, Welwyn Garden City

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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DOC REF: LP4540L-AERv1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



THE SITE

PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ, Welwyn Garden City

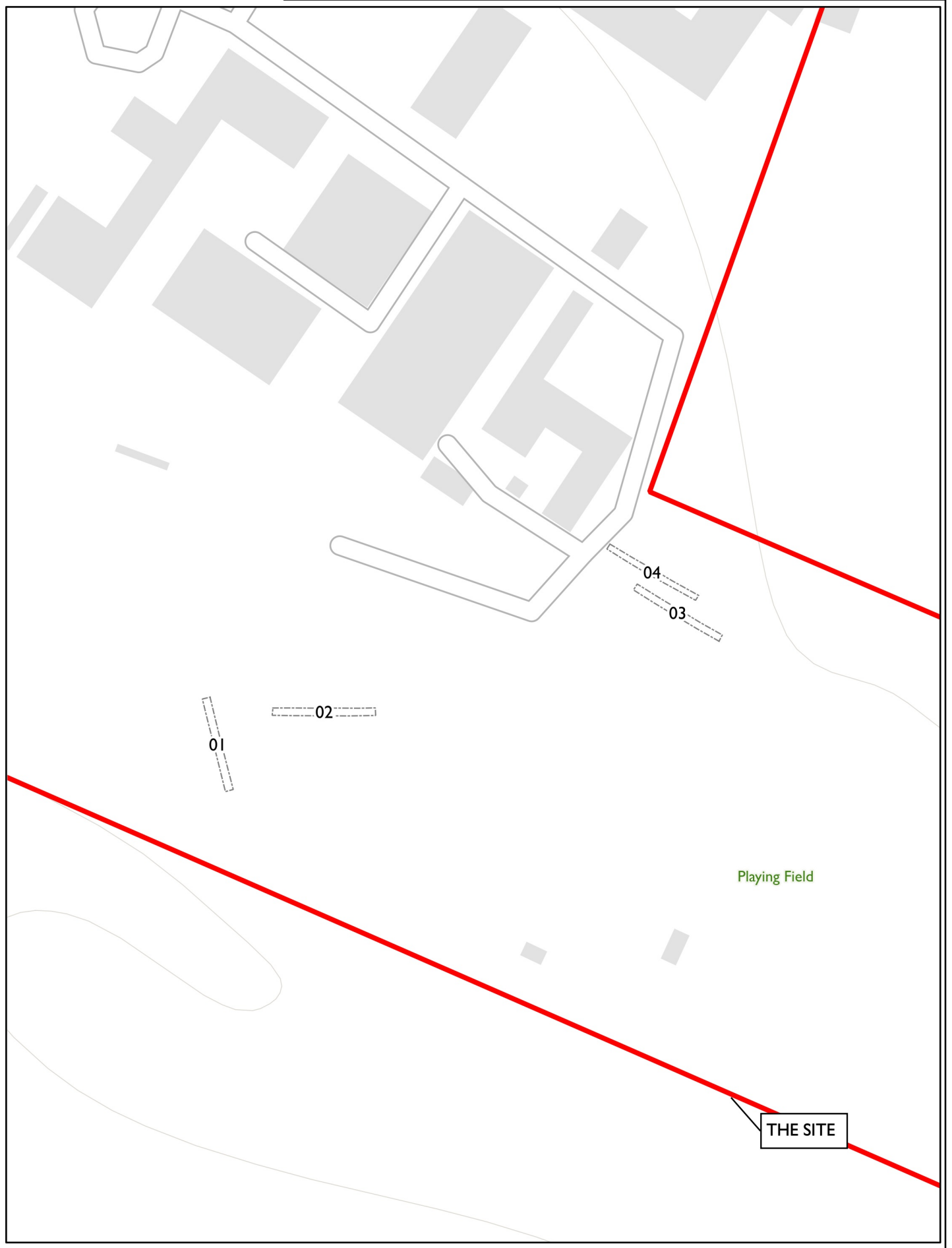
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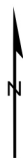
DOC REF: LP4540L-AERv1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Trench Locations



0 75 m



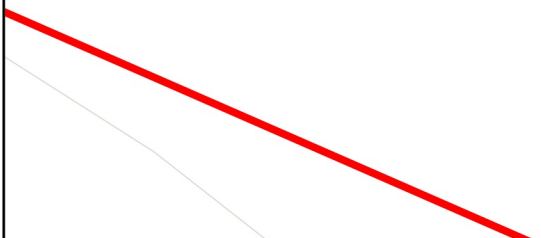
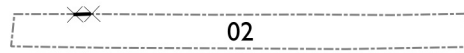
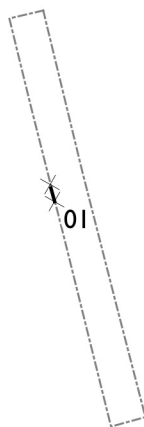
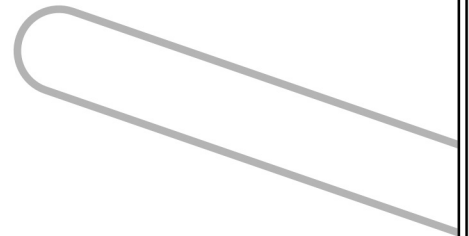
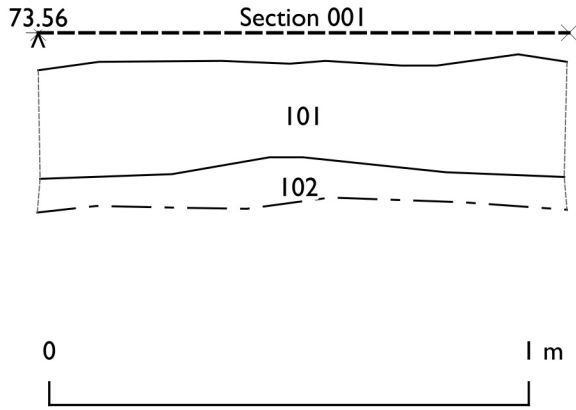
PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ, Welwyn
Garden City

DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

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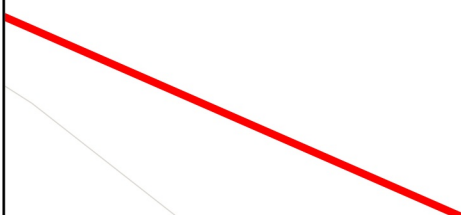
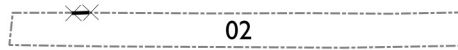
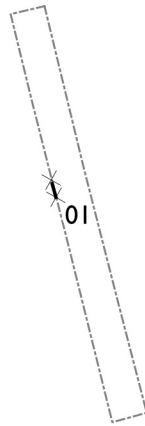
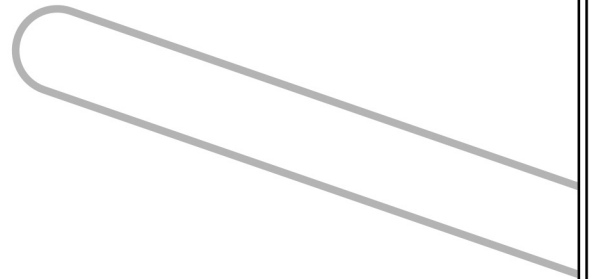
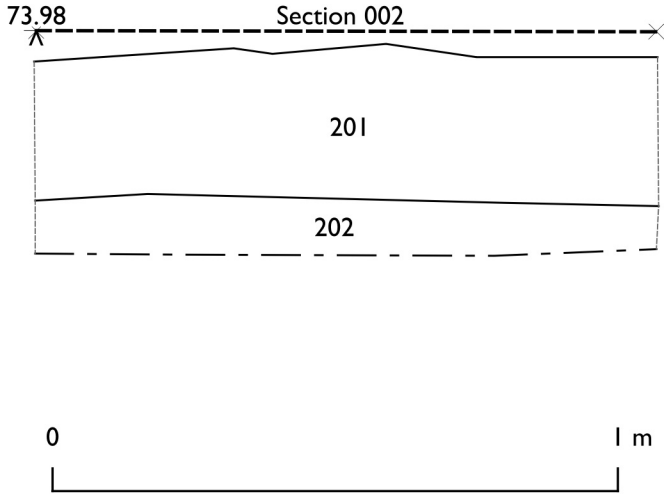
Representative Section 001



PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ

DESCRIPTION // Plan and Representative Section of Trench 01

Representative Section 002

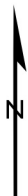
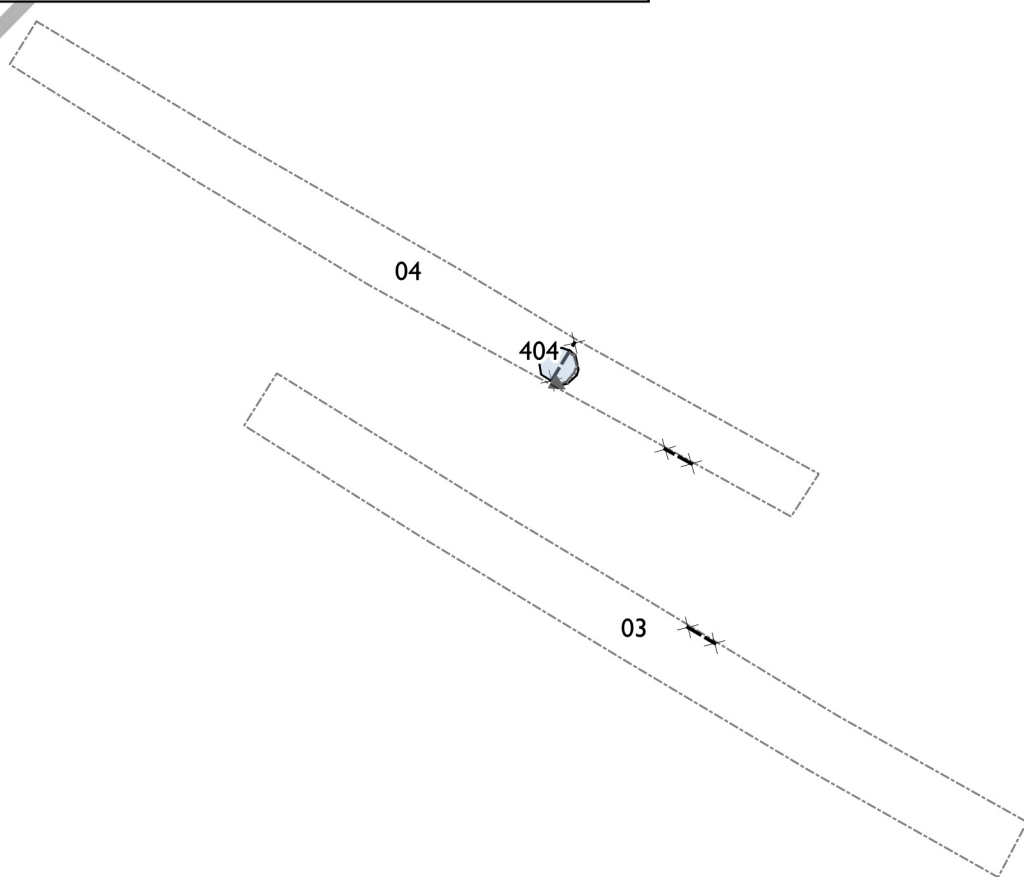
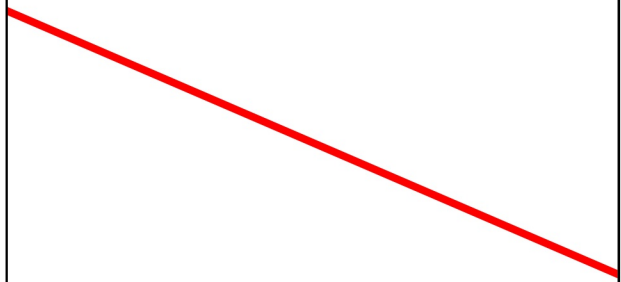
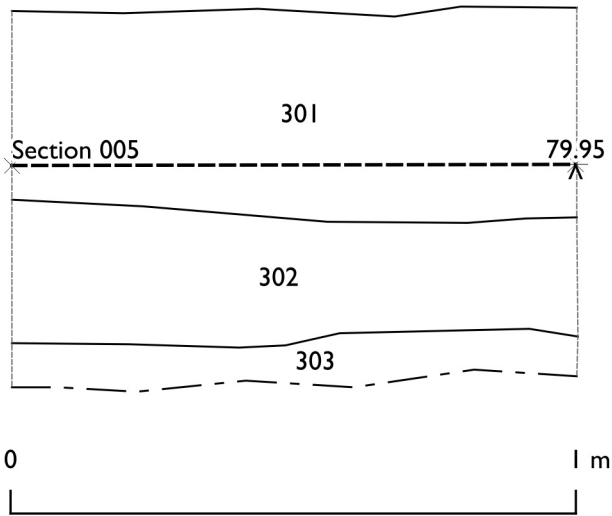


PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ

DESCRIPTION // Plan and Representative Section of Trench 02

FIGURE 6 // Trench 03

Representative Section 005



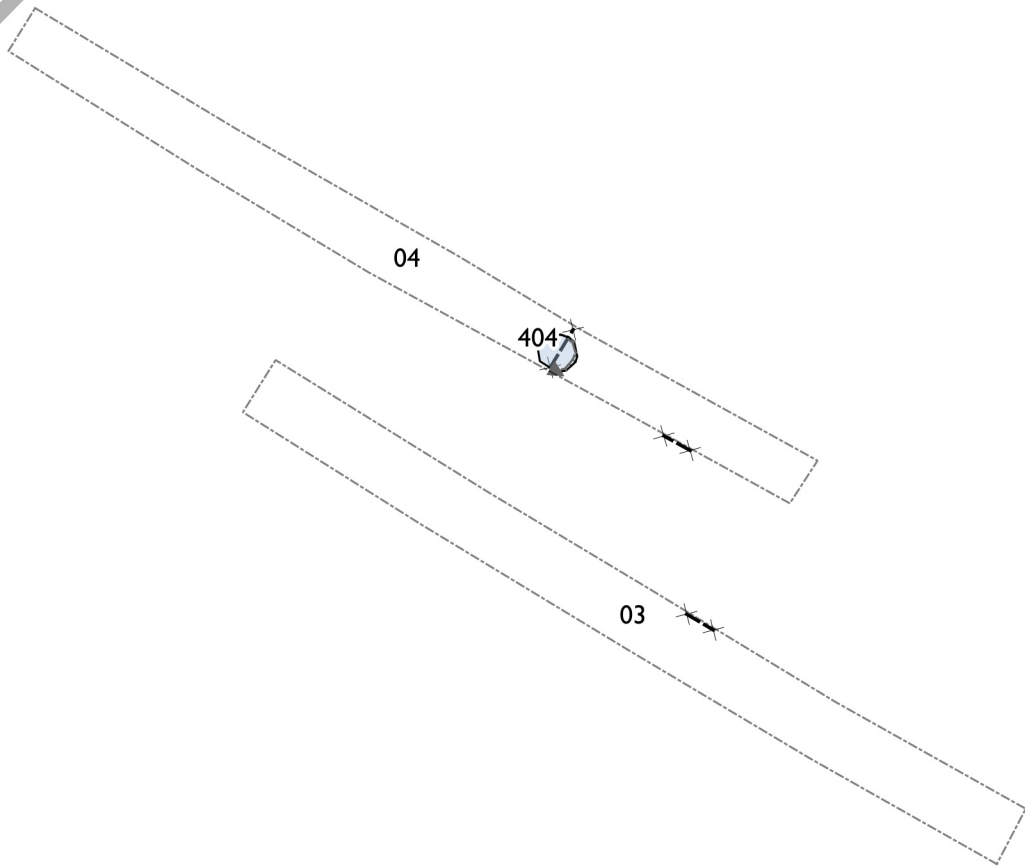
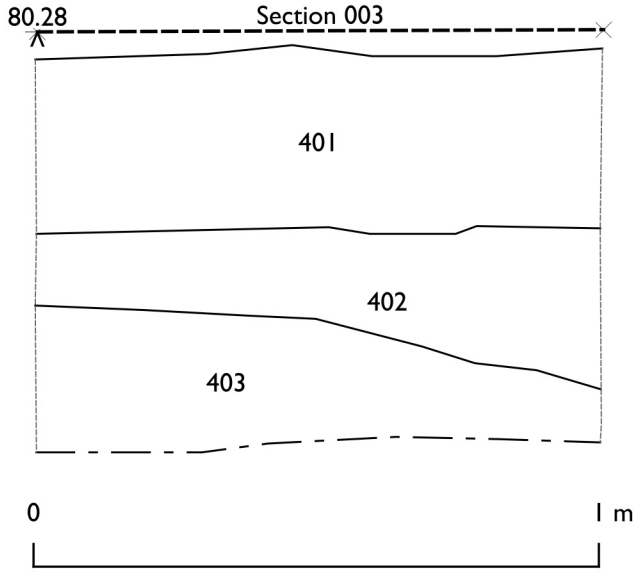
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DESCRIPTION // Plan and Representative Section of Trench 03

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

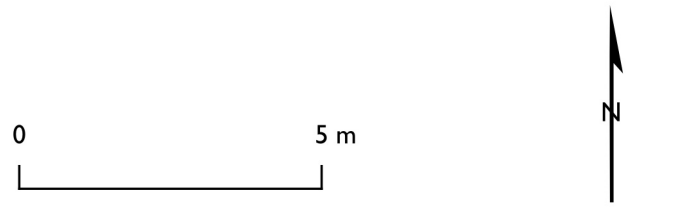
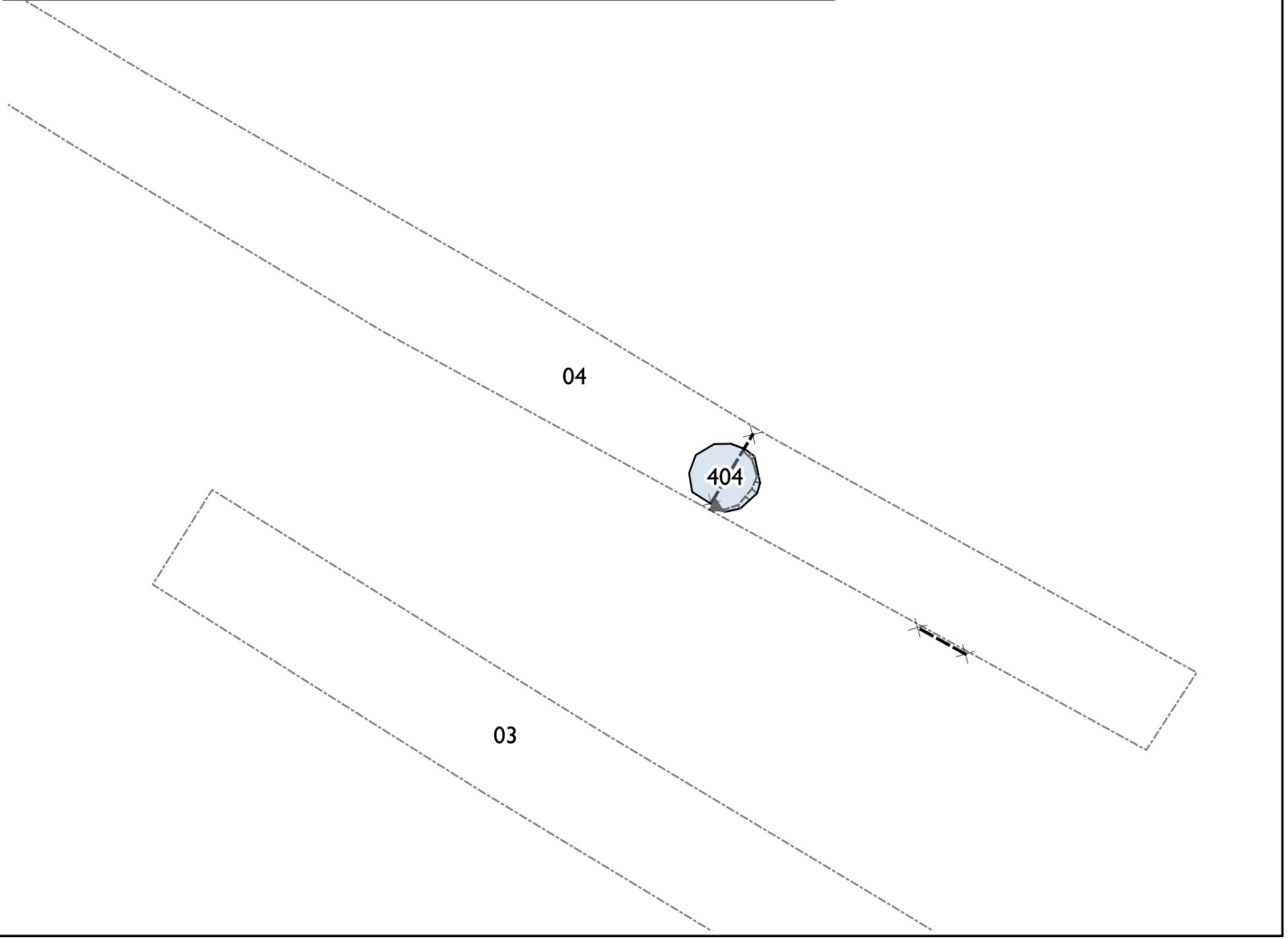
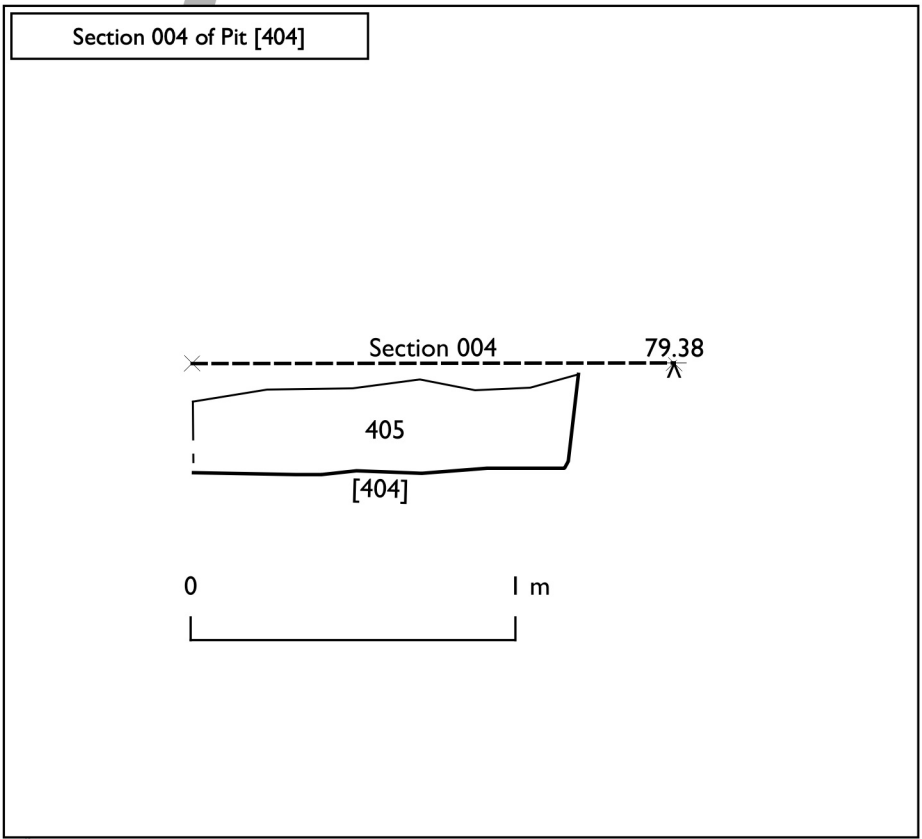
Representative Section 003



PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ

DESCRIPTION // Plan and Representative Section of Trench 04

FIGURE 8 // Plan and Section of Pit [404]



PROJECT // 4540L - Hertfordshire constabulary HQ

DESCRIPTION // Plan and Section of Pit [404]

DOC REF: LP4540L-AER-v5

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

Summary for Iparchae1-510434

OASIS ID (UID)	lparchae1-510434
Project Name	EVALUATION at Herefordshire Constabulary HQ
Sitename	Herefordshire Constabulary HQ
Activity type	EVALUATION
Project Identifier(s)	LP4540L
Planning Id	6/2021/2125/MAJ
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	L P Archaeology
Project Dates	10-Oct-2022 - 14-Oct-2022
Location	Herefordshire Constabulary HQ NGR : TL 23076 11373 LL : 51.7874859160262, -0.217034960705874 12 Fig : 523076,211373
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Hertfordshire District : Welwyn Hatfield Parish : Welwyn Hatfield, unparished area
Project Methodology	<p>The scope of the archaeological trial trenching is based on a 4% coverage across the three areas. For stage one this totals 13 trenches. A detailed list of trench sizes and locations can be found in the WSI (Wood 2022).</p> <p>Four of the original thirteen trenches were excavated. Trenches 1 and 2 kept their original location. Trench 3 had to be moved south by 1 m and slightly to the west due to a car park still being in use and a tree that needed to be avoided by 2.70m. Trench 4 was rotated by 90° degrees (Figure 2). As a result of the significant modern truncations identified and recorded within the GI test pit locations along the Haul Road, Trenches 5-13 were descope after a conversation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator with a 2.00m wide toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision and appropriately surveyed.</p> <p>The present archaeological deposits were cleaned and investigated using appropriate hand tools. They were recorded and drawn according to the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (Spence 1994). For each trench a representative section of 1m length was recorded in a 1:10 scale.</p> <p>The trenches were backfilled after they had been signed off by a senior historic environment advisor for Hertfordshire County Council.</p>

Project Results	<p>Phase 1 of an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by MOLA. This report has been prepared by Sally Smart and Andrea Kreuzberg of MOLA on behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ.</p> <p>The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the potential extent of archaeological remains on site. Four evaluation trenches were opened; Trenches 1 and 2 in the south of site where a Memorial Garden is to be built; and Trenches 3 and 4 to the east of site where a new Dog Training Unit is to be built.</p> <p>As a result of the significant modern truncations identified and recorded within the Ground Investigation (GI) test pit locations during a watching brief a week prior, Trenches 5-13 (which were originally planned as part of this phase of works) have been descoped after consultation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist.</p> <p>With the exception of one pit that was void of finds, no archaeological features were identified and therefore the archaeological potential is considered to be low.</p>
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Andrea, Kreuzberg, Sally, Smart
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

APPENDIX II

APPENDIX

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF		
County: Hertfordshire	District:	
Village/Town: Welwyn Garden City	Parish:	
Planning application reference: 6/2021/2125/MAJ		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Nature of application:		
Present land use: Comercial		
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated:	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 523540 210808		
Site code (if applicable): LP4540		
Contractor:		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 10/10/2022	Finish: 14/10/2022
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: ADS		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented:	
Relevant previous summaries/reports		
Summary of fieldwork results: Phase 1 of an archaeological evaluation was carried out at Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6XF. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by MOLA. This report has been prepared by Sally Smart and Andrea Kreuzberg of MOLA on behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary HQ. The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the potential extent of archaeological remains on site. Four evaluation trenches were opened; Trenches 1 and 2 in the south of site where a Memorial Garden is to be built; and Trenches 3 and 4 to the east of site where a new Dog Training Unit is to be built. As a result of the significant modern truncations identified and recorded within the Ground Investigation (GI) test pit locations during a watching brief a week prior, Trenches 5-13 (which were originally planned as part of this phase of works) have been descoped after consultation between AECOM and the County Archaeologist. With the exception of one pit that was void of finds, no archaeological features		

were identified and therefore the archaeological potential is considered to be low.

Author of summary: Sally Smart

Date of summary: 01/22