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'FANCY HALL'
7 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts.

HN1366

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

'FANCY HALL' 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts.

Project ref.: HN1366 Planning ref.: 3/17/1210/LBC HER enquiry no.: 91/17

Historic Building Record & Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Ian Middleton

b

Peri Horsley BA MA PCIfA & Helen Ashworth BA (Hons) ACIfA

Report no. 1175

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The cover photograph shows the front of 7 Church Street, looking north.

Acknowledgements

The building record for this project was carried out by David Hillelson and Jenny Heinzelmann and the archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Daniel Phillips. The report text was prepared by Peri Horsley, the illustrations were prepared by Helen Ashworth and Peri Horsley, and the report was edited by Helen Ashworth.

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Summary

Site name and address:	7 Church Street, Buntingfo	ord Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire District:		North Hertfordshire	
Village/town:	Buntingford	Parish:	Buntingford	
Planning reference:	3/17/1210/LBC	NGR:	TL 36260 29600	
Client name and address:	Ian Middleton, Fancy Hall, 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS			
Nature of work:	Refurbishment of listed building	Former use:	House	
Site Status:	Listed building; Area of Archaeological Significance No. 45 (AAS45)	Reason for investigation:	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF	
Position in planning process:	As a condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority	
Size of affected area:	100m ²	Size of area investigated:	100m ²	
Site Code:	HN1366	HER consultation:	91/17	
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson	
Project type, methods etc	HBR, O/R	Archive Recipient:	HBR: Hertfordshire Archives Monitoring: Hertford Museum	
Start of work	21/09/2017	Finish of work	15/01/2018	
Related HER Nos:	HHER 31325	Periods represented:	Post Medieval	
Oasis UID	heritage1-290574	Significant finds:	None	
Monument types:	Listed Building (House)			
Physical archive:	None			
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a			

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning consent for the repairs to the roof and windows, new drainage and internal reordering of 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to create a record of those elements of the building that were subject to alteration, and to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of no. 7 Church Street and to the origins and development of the settlement of Buntingford from the prehistoric period onwards.

The original house was constructed in brick, as a two storey townhouse with attics, in the late 18th century. A single storey extension was added to the east elevation of the original house in the mid-19th century, providing a new entrance into the building, which replaced the former central doorway in the south elevation. A modern two-storey extension was added to the north elevation in the 1980s, possibly replacing an earlier lean-to extension.

The house was originally divided into two rooms on the ground and first floors, with the ground floor rooms separated by a lobby leading from the original front door to a doorway in the north elevation. Traces of the former partitions survive in floorboards and ceilings.

No evidence for an earlier core to the existing building was found or for an earlier building on the site. No evidence for activity pre-dating the late 18th century was noted.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf *Ian Middleton*, as part of a programme of historic building recording and archaeological investigation carried for the proposed repairs and renovations of 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 Listed building consent for the development (refs. 3/17/1210/LBC) was granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) subject to a standard archaeological condition (Condition 2), issued on the advice of the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Hertfordshire County Council and in accordance with the then Department of Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 1.3 In line with this conditions, and with current professional practice as defined in the Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment published by English Heritage (now Historic England), and Standard and Guidance documents published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), the programme of work on the present site has formed an incremental process that has included two stages of field investigation, followed by analysis and report preparation, leading to the publication of the findings and the deposition of the project archive with approved repositories.
- 1.4 No.7 Church Street is situated in the core of the town, on the northern side of the street, c.60m to the east of its junction with High Street, centred on NGR TL 36260 29600. The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no.45* (AAS45), as identified in the District Local Plan. This includes the historic core of the medieval town of Buntingford.
- 1.5 The proposed works to the house include repairs to the roof and windows, new drainage and internal reordering.
- 1.6 The present document presents the data collected in the course of the archaeological fieldwork, and the conclusions that can be drawn from it. Together with the deposition of the building record archive with Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies, deposition of the archaeological monitoring records with Hertford Museum, and publication at an appropriate level, it completes the process described in the approved Project Design and will allow Condition 2 of the listed building consent to be discharged by the LPA.

Archaeological & Historical Background 2.

- The site lies within the historic core of Buntingford. The medieval settlement was established along the line of the Roman Road known as Ermine Street, which is followed by the High Street (HER 9271). There are known archaeological remains within the town and around its periphery, dating from the prehistoric period onwards.
- In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, the overview set out below has been drawn from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), National Monument Record (NMR), the Heritage Network's own records and other sources.
- A study area of 500m radius from the site centre has been used; the recorded entries have been listed in chronological order.
 - Buntingford was not established until the medieval period, although evidence for earlier activity has been recorded from the vicinity of the town, including a Neolithic axe (HER 219) and a Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 220). Neolithic pits (HER 31106) were found to the north of Hare Street Road, 400m to the east of the site.
 - Aerial photographs have also revealed cropmarks of enclosures and linear ditches of possible prehistoric or Iron Age date (HER 1106/1109/10714). The line of Ermine Street, a major Roman route between London and Lincoln, runs along the present High Street. Roman occupation in the area is hinted at by 19th century discoveries of coins and pottery at Alswick Hall Farm (HER 1346) and the identification of a linear feature, containing pottery dating to the 2nd century AD, during archaeological monitoring on the line of the Buntingford By-pass (HER 2257).
 - There is a lot of recently identified archaeological activity on the outskirts of the town, just outside of the study area, but indicative of the importance of settlement in the area from the prehistoric onwards.
 - Prehistoric flints, from the north of the town (HER 30409), indicate persistent use of higher ground overlooking the river Rib. Archaeological investigation has revealed evidence for late Iron Age and Roman activity in fields around Buntingford. This includes the remains of a late Iron Age enclosure (HER 16661), partially masked by the line of Ermine Street, found to the south of St Francis Close, and two ditched enclosures of late Iron Age and early Roman date (HER 18325), revealed during trial trenching between The Causeway and Hare Street Road, to the east of the present study area. Unpublished research suggests Romano-British settlement activity to the south-east of the town. Roman building material found at and in St Bartholomew's Church (HER 30366), to the east of the site, suggests the presence of a large Roman building in the vicinity.
 - During archaeological work at land north of the Park Farm Industrial Estate on the northern edge of Buntingford, an Iron Age ditch system (HER 30410), associated with the line of Ermine Street (HER 30411), has been identified. The presence of post-holes (HER 30412) indicates Iron Age occupation. Further evidence of Iron Age activity lies 300m to the south-east (HER 30413), where a ring ditch and post-hole were identified.
 - Evidence of Romano-British activity in the core of Buntingford has been recovered in the form of residual Romano-British pottery found by the Heritage Network in 2008, during evaluation of a site between 82 and 84 High Street (HER 13744). More significantly, stratified Romano-British pottery was discovered in a heavily truncated pit during an evaluation at 59 High Street (HER 18141).

- Buntingford is located at the point where Ermine Street crossed Hare Street Road and forded the River Rib. The name is thought to mean the 'Ford of the people of Bunta' (Gover et al 1938, 182), but no evidence for Saxon occupation at Buntingford has, so far, been discovered (Seddon 1999, 2). A hamlet appears to have been first established in the late 12th century, possibly by the Knights Templar, who held lands in this area at the time and may have 'planted' the town to take advantage of the favourable trading location (Seddon 1999, 2).
- Buntingford is not named as a settlement in its own right in the lay subsidy returns of the early 14th century, suggesting that it was included in the returns for the local parishes, most probably Layston (ibid).
- There is limited evidence for industry in medieval Buntingford, though it appears that cloth-working was carried out (Seddon 1999, 9). Two dyers are recorded in the town in 1355 and field names, including 'Madorfield' (madder was used as a dye) and 'Teyntorfield' (tentors were stretching frames used by cloth makers) appears in 15th century records (ibid). Documentary evidence from the mid-15th century suggests that a variety of trades were practiced in the town, including malting, iron smithing, skinning, barking, tailoring and carpentry.
- Between the 15th and 18th centuries, a number of inns were established to cater for passing travellers along Ermine Street, contributing significantly to the economy of the town. Possibly the earliest inn is the 'Black Bull' at 16 High Street (HER 10100), which was recorded in 1434. The present building is thought to date to the 16th century, or earlier. At least eight other inns were established along the High Street, including the possible 'Kings Head Inn' at 18 High Street (HER 10118), the former 'Bell Inn' at 42-43 High Street (HER 10103), the former 'George and Dragon Inn' at 34 High Street (HER 10102) and the 'Crown Public House' at 17 High Street (HER 10107).
- No.7 Church Street is a Grade II listed building (HER 31325 / NHLE 1347992), dating from the late 18th century. It is a townhouse in Regency Gothic style. The listing description reads:
 - House. Late C18. Yellow brick front painted white, slated gambrel roof. A 2-storeys and attic house facing S, set back from street. A, tall picturesque Regency Gothic style, 2-cell, single-pile house with entrance into a lean-to roofed single- storey part n S end. Attic dormer behind parapet in middle, 2 windows to each floor, and horizontal oval window with metal fret between upper windows. Recessed sash windows with ogee arches and intersecting glazing bars in window heads. 6-panel door to right with elegant doorcase of fluted half-columns and full entablature breaking forward over capitals.
- The HER record for the building adds:
 - Church Street is comparatively narrow, and the house is tightly placed in the row of buildings in small plots along the north side of the street. It is set back to provide space for a small front garden. There is little space behind the house, as shown on the 1838 tithe map (DSA4/65/2) and the 1878 OS map; these plots were confined by what was the White House garden (HER31192). Church Street is named Great Lane on the 1878 map.
- The majority of the historic buildings in Buntingford are post-medieval, although a number have been dated to the late medieval period. There are medieval buildings in close proximity to the site, such as nos 41-43 High Street; it is likely that many of the

properties with the town core have their origins in the medieval period, as burgage plots. There are 90 listed buildings within 500m of the site, all Grade II, with the exception of almshouses (HER 159780), 210m to the SSW, and nos.41 and 43 High Street (HER 159788), 95m to the SW, which are Grade II*. The Church of St Peter (HER 159778), the only Grade I structure within the study area, lies 260m to the SSW.

3. Archaeological Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The present site, centred on NGR TL 36260 29600, lies in the core of the village, on the north side of Church Street, to the east of the junction between Church Street and High Street. It is bounded to the west by no. 5 Church Street, to the east by nos. 9 and 11 Church Street, to the north by grounds of The White House and to the south by the Church Street itself. It is located on a gentle east facing slope, at approximately 91m AOD, above the River Rib which flows north south approximately 130m to the east.
- 3.2 Locally the soils belong to the Melford Association (5710), which follows the line of the valley of the River Rib. These soils are described as *Deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils* (SSEW 1983).
- 3.3 The underlying geology consists of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation And Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) Chalk. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (NERC 2017). At that period the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas.
- 3.4 The chalk is overlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits, Mid Pleistocene Sand And Gravel, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, when the environment was dominated by ice age conditions (NERC 2017).

METHODOLOGY

- 3.5 The building recording involved making a record of those elements of the historic structure that were proposed for alteration in their present condition and undertaking additional recording, as appropriate, during the course of the alteration works to record any previously hidden details.
- 3.6 The archaeological fieldwork involved the monitoring of groundworks associated with the internal re-ordering.
- 3.7 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's work schedule. Two site visits were made to record the buildings and a further four visits to inspect and monitor the excavation of services and monitor the ground reduction.
 - 3.8 All groundworks were undertaken by hand.
- 3.9 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on pro-forma sheets, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10.
- 3.10 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts both visually and using a metal-detector.
- 3.11 All work was carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation, CIfA and ALGAO standards, and the approved Project Design.

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

3.12 No. 7 Church Street is brick-built dwelling, of two storeys and attic, with a single storey extension on its eastern elevation and a two-storey extension to its northern elevation. It is set slightly back from the street, and from its neighbouring properties.

Exterior elevations

- 3.13 North (rear) elevation: this is occupied by a modern two storey extension, added in the 1980s, which obscures the north elevation to the original building (Figure 2).
- 3.14 East elevation: is rendered, with a step in the brickwork at eaves height (Figure 2, Plate 1). It is possible that the bricks go from a double to single skin at this level. There is a further step in the brickwork just above the top of the extension's sloping roof.
- 3.15 South (front) elevation: this is painted, though it is clear that the brickwork is in Flemish bond. The elevation is occupied by four ogee-headed window openings, two at ground floor level and two at first floor level (Figure 3, Plate 1). The lower two windows have stone cills, which may have been dropped at some point in time. A leaded oval window sits between the first floor windows and a modern dormer has been inserted above the eaves. It is possible that there was originally a central doorway in this elevation but the evidence is inconclusive. The present main entrance is through the single storey extension to the east, with a door-case of probable 19th century origin, though the door itself is modern.
- 3.16 The west elevation was obscured entirely by the adjacent property (Figure 3).

Ground Floor (Figure 4)

Dining room

- 3.17 The dining room is located in the eastern extension and provides access to the ground floor of the building from the front and rear of the property. The main entrance comprises a modern panelled door at the western side of the south elevation (Plate 2). To the east of the doorway the elevation was built of lime rendered brick.
- 3.18 The east elevation is plastered, with a simple shallow skirting, which may be original.
- 3.19 The north elevation had a modern glazed door at the western side, with a modern three-light window to the east (Plate 3). A passageway, formed of modern quarry tiles bonded with cement mortar, ran between the two doorways. To the east of this, the floor was of concrete.
- 3.20 The modern plastered wall of the west elevation has a glazed door to the living room at its southern end.
- *3.21* The ceiling is of modern plaster.

Living Room

- 3.22 The living room is located to the west of the dining room and is accessed through a modern glazed door, offset to the south in the east elevation (Plate 4). The east elevation has exposed framing of narrow scantling with diagonal primary bracing extending downwards from the middle The studwork and bracing has been cut to accommodate the later doorway from the dining room. A little niche just to the north of the door is likely to be modern whimsy, as is the moulded cornice (Plate 5a) and decorative skirting (Plate 5b).
- 3.23 The south elevation has two ogee-headed sash windows to east and west (Plate 6). The bottom sash and beading have been replaced, though the top sash appears to be original in

both. Bricks laid in lime mortar with lime plaster are exposed beneath the windowsill. There is a simple wooden skirting along the southern elevation, with a break in the middle, 1.15m (45") in width. Sounding of the plaster, in line with the break, indicates a change of materials. It is likely that this break in the skirting would have been occupied by a doorway.

- 3.23.1 Remains of a similar moulded cornice to that observed in the east elevation survives immediately to the east of the eastern window. Remains of a dado rail survive on either side of the windows, and possible traces of a dado rail can be seen between the windows, up to the break.
- 3.24 The west elevation has horsehair-reinforced lime plaster over timber-framing and riven laths (Plates 7 & 8). It is evident that the plaster is of interior grade, while the exposed studwork appears to belong to the adjacent property to the west. The elevation has a moulded dado rail and skirting, but no cornice survives. This wall is probably of 18th century date, with 3" studs pegged into the cross-rails.
- 3.25 The far west end of the north elevation has an alcove next to a chimney, with a built-in cupboard in the lower half (Plate 9). The cupboard may have been truncated and have originally reached to ceiling height. Behind the cupboard the wall has artex covering over plaster. The rest of the elevation has an added modern brick skin, laid in stretcher bond.
 - 3.25.1 A modern cast iron stove sits immediately to the east of the cupboard, its flue runs into a modern stepped brick hood, which is supported by a wooden frame resting on a brick pier to the west end and a wooden brace to the east.
 - 3.25.2 A doorway, with a wooden lintel above, is located to the east of the chimney and gives access to the rear extension. An earlier lintel is visible behind the present one.
 - 3.25.3 To the east of the doorway an original chimney has been encased in modern brick with a modern timber bressumer crossing the opening and a modern stone hearth, possibly in an original location (Plate 10). The hearthstone appears to be framed in part in original timber.
 - 3.25.4 An alcove to the east of the chimney, with an ogee arch reflecting the windows, has been shelved and framed with modern materials.
- 3.26 The flooring in the western half of the room consists of apparently original 10" planks, running north to south, to 96" (2.44m) from the east elevation. Beyond this point, the floor has been replaced using $5\frac{1}{2}$ " planking.
- 3.27 The ceiling is plastered with original horsehair-reinforced plaster. The shadow of a former partition can be seen in line with the western edge of the doorway leading into the kitchen. A further shadow can be seen just to the east of the doorway but is obscured by a modern composite wooden beam (Plate 11). The evidence from the floor and ceiling strongly suggest a central corridor running from a front door to a back door.

Kitchen

3.28 The kitchen is located in the modern northern extension. Its south elevation forms the original north exterior to the house, visible behind the timber framing of the modern structure, and which consists of brickwork laid in Flemish bond (Plate 12). A central shallow archheaded doorway leads south into the living room. The narrow wooden planking of the living room extends through the doorway to a distance of 1.7m, terminating in an apse and flanked by crudely-laid concrete (Plate 13). The function of this arrangement is unclear but it is possible that it accommodated a stair turret, giving access to the upper floor. A staircase could also have been accommodated on the east side of the east chimney though no evidence for this survives apart from a change in the floorboards to the east of the hearth.

First Floor (Figure 4)

Bedroom 1

- 3.29 This is accessed via a staircase located in the north-western corner of the kitchen (Figure 4). Local information suggests that a 'ramshackle extension' previously existed against the north elevation and was demolished c.1986 (Ian Middleton, pers. com.). This possibly accommodated a staircase. At the head of the stairs, a step up leads into a small lobby created with a partition, using modern timber and a modern boarded, ledged and braced door.
- 3.30 The south elevation of the first floor room (Bedroom 1) is plastered, with a simple square skirting, and is occupied by three window openings (Plate 14). Two ogee-headed sash windows, similar to those on the ground floor, are located at the eastern and western ends of the elevation. As with the ground floor windows, the lower sashes have been replaced. They flank an oval Regency window in the centre of the elevation. This has been mounted on a horizontal axis, but was possibly intended to be vertical. It has an orange stained-glass centre decoration with an etched spiral design (adapted to fit the space) set in a sunburst mount with leaded tracery (Plate 15). The frame to this window is of machined timber and the whole appears to be a later addition, although possibly set in an original opening.
- 3.31 The east elevation has exposed framing with primary bracing, as noted in the same elevation downstairs, and clearly defined nail holes to support laths which have been stripped away (Plate 16).
- 3.32 The north-western corner of the room has been partitioned to create a lobby at the top of the stairs. A doorway, with a modern boarded door below a transom light, sits at an angle in the partition, giving access to the lobby. To the east of the door is a cupboard, with a modern boarded and braced door (Plate 17). This hides the chimney, which is square and shows no evidence for a fireplace.
 - 3.32.1 Beyond the cupboard is a blocked opening which would formerly have been an access for the stairs into the attic. The staircase has since been turned, to open out into the modern extension to the north and so is no longer in the bedroom itself.
 - 3.32.2 A cupboard, which has apparently been remodelled, sits below the stairs to the east of the former doorway (Plate 18).
 - 3.32.3 The chimney and fireplace that lie immediately to the east also appear to have been remodelled, with a raised hearthstone and a new frame to the fireplace in modern brick, with an ogee-arched opening to reflect those of the windows (see Plate 17).

- 3.32.4 To the east of the fireplace is a doorway, which may formerly have been a window opening and possibly later gave access to a no longer extant staircase (Plate 19). This is occupied by a two-panel softwood door.
- 3.33 The floor in this room consists of floorboards, varying between 8" and 9" in width, running E-W.
- 3.34 The ceiling is of lime plaster, with a beam crossing the room from north to south just inside the western edge of the oval window. The beam has rectangular mortice holes on 14½" centres and meets a point on the north elevation where an upright has been removed, exposing sawn laths (see Plate 17). A shadow on the floorboards shows the line of this partition crossing the room and there is also a break in the skirting at this point.

Second Floor (Figure 5)

Bedroom 2

- 3.35 Bedroom 2 is located on the second floor, in the former attic, and is accessed via a staircase rising up against the north elevation (Plate 20). Usable space has been created through the construction of a Mansard roof, which has had a ceiling inserted at the level of the change of slope.
- 3.36 The north elevation has two areas of slight variance which mark the rise of the east and west chimneys. A hole in the plaster over the staircase exposes regular wide laths and what appears to be straw used as insulation (Plate 21).
- 3.37 The east elevation is of plaster over laths, with brick behind.
- 3.38 The south elevation is formed of horsehair reinforced lime plaster over laths. There is a central dormer window with a modern three-light casement and central quarter light (Plate 22).
- 3.39 The west elevation is of plaster over laths.
- 3.40 A plain square skirting goes all the way around the room.
- 3.41 The ceiling is in cement based plaster, over regular wide laths.
- 3.42 The floor is, for the most part, formed of modern 4½" planking. Earlier planks, between 7" 10" in width, survive on the site of a former cupboard in the south-west corner of the room (see Plate 22).
- 3.43 A hole in the ceiling gives access to the roof space, which confirms timber-framing to the west and brick to the east (Plates 23 & 24). The roof is formed of sawn rafter pairs meeting at a ridge plate. The roof has been felted.

MONITORING AND RECORDING OF GROUNDWORKS

3.44 The proposed repair and refurbishment of 7 Church Street, Buntingford included both external and internal groundworks. The external works comprised the excavation of a trench for a gas pipe and a French drain at the front of the house and the excavation of a French drain at the rear of the house. The internal works involved ground reduction within the footprint of the kitchen. The proposed French drain to the rear of the house used existing service runs, so was not monitored.

External works

3.45 The trench for the gas pipe and the French drain at the front of the property was excavated by hand. It ran along the eastern boundary, on a north-west to south-east alignment

and measured 2.8m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.40m in depth (Figure 5, Plate 25). The eastern section revealed the brick foundations to the neighbouring house, while the western section revealed a very dry, friable dark greyish brown silty clay garden soil with frequent rooting and tile, red brick and glass fragments (Figure 6, Section A).

3.46 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in this area.

Internal works

- 3.47 Ground reduction within the kitchen covered an area with a maximum length of 5m and a maximum width of 2.7m (Figure 5). This area was reduced by 0.33m, revealing a general stratigraphic sequence comprising concrete, 0.15m thick, above a layer of light greyish brown loose silty clay, 0.08m thick, with frequent brick fragments (Figure 6, Section B, Plate 26). This overlay the natural reddish brown firm sandy silty clay with occasional small flints and chalk fragments.
- 3.48 The ground reduction exposed part of the brick foundation to the original north wall of the house, which stepped out by approximately 0.10m at a depth of approximately 0.20m below the modern concrete floor surface. No evidence for a foundation trench was observed and the brickwork continued below the impact depth of the ground reduction.
- 3.49 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed during the ground reduction.

4. Discussion

Research aims: Historic Building Record

- 4.5 The regional research agenda for Eastern England notes the importance of post-medieval and modern structures (Medlycott 2011). The aim of the building recording was to make a detailed record of those elements of the historic structure that were proposed for alteration in their present condition, to undertake additional recording, as appropriate in the course of the alteration works, to record any previously hidden details, and to undertake additional research, as appropriate, to place the site in its local and regional archaeological and historical context.
- 4.6 It was considered that such recording had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origin and development of no.7 Church Street, its setting and its context currently and historically.

Research Aims: Archaeological Monitoring

- 4.7 The aim of the programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks was to identify and record any below ground archaeological remains that were threatened by the development, to consider their location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Medlycott 2011), and provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them.
- 4.8 It was considered that such investigation has the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics, and, in particular, to an increased understanding of:
 - the origins and development of Buntingford from the prehistoric period onwards;
 - activity close to the line of Ermine Street in the Roman and post-Roman periods;
 - the development of medieval and post-medieval Buntingford.

Collected Data

Historic Building Record

- 4.9 No. 7 Church Street is a Grade II listed building (NHLE ref. 1347992) which has been dated to the late 18th century. It is described as "a small townhouse... in tall and picturesque Regency Gothic style...". The house is of two storeys and an attic, with a 19th century single storey extension to the east and a modern two storey extension to the rear.
- 4.10 The survey revealed the original building is likely to have undergone a number of alterations in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The house originally appears to have been accessed through the centre of the south elevation, leading into a passage running between the front and rear of the building. A break in the skirting, measuring 1.15m in width, between the window openings on the south elevation to the living room, and a similar break in the dado rail, marks the likely location of the original front door.
- 4.11 A change in the floorboards was noted in the living room, from apparently original 10" planks to 5½" planks. This change appears to coincide with the eastern edge of the suggested passageway (Figure 4). Shadows of former partitions were also observed on the ceiling of the living room on either side of the doorway in the north elevation (Plate 11).
- 4.12 The ground and first floors were apparently originally partitioned into two rooms, with each room having a fireplace. The ground floor rooms appear to have been of equal width and

separated by the passageway, while the first floor rooms were of unequal width, with the eastern room being the larger. The partition, which appears to coincide with the western edge of the passageway on the ground floor, is marked by a surviving beam, with regular mortice holes on the underside. This runs across the ceiling to meet a point on the north elevation where an upright has been removed (Plate 17).

- 4.13 The southern timber brace and several of the timber studs to the east elevation of the living room have been cut to allow for the insertion of a doorway from the eastern extension. This undoubtedly occurred when the eastern extension was constructed in the 19th century.
- 4.14 Original horsehair reinforced plaster survived in a number of locations, including the west elevation and the ceiling to the living room. The plaster in all the rooms had been applied over laths.
- 4.15 The staircase to the attic was altered in the 1980s, when the rear extension and existing staircase were constructed.
- 4.16 No evidence for an earlier core was observed during the course of the historic building recording and it appears that the house was built with brick front and rear elevations and timber-framed side elevations, in the late 18th century.

Groundworks

- 4.17 The groundworks for the drainage and gas trench in the front garden did not extend to the natural substrate and revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The proposed drainage in the rear garden utilised existing services and was not monitored.
- 4.18 Ground reduction within the northern extension revealed a loose greyish brown silty clay, 0.08m in depth, below the modern concrete. This overlay the natural substrate of firm reddish brown sandy silty clay.
- 4.19 The foundations for the original rear elevation to the building were exposed in the ground reduction, stepping out from the wall line and continuing below the impact depth of the groundworks.
- 4.20 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed in the course of the groundworks and no evidence for an earlier building on the site was noted.

Conclusions

- 4.21 It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of no. 7 Church Street and to the origins and development of the settlement of Buntingford from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 4.22 Examination of the structure of the present house confirms that it is of late 18th century date with a single storey extension added to the east elevation in the mid-19th century. A modern two-storey extension was added to the north elevation in the 1980s, probably replacing an earlier lean-to extension.
- 4.23 The house was originally divided into two rooms on the ground and first floors, with the ground floor rooms separated by a passageway, leading from a front door in the middle of the southern elevation to a doorway in the north elevation. Traces of the former partitions survive in the floors and ceilings. Each of the principal rooms was provided with a fireplace.
- 4.24 The groundworks showed evidence for modern ground disturbance, but revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds.

Confidence Rating

4.25 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of both historic structural features and potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work that was less than *High*.

5. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
01/09/2017	DJH/JH	6	Building record
21/09/2017	DRP	2	Site walkover and monitor & record hand excavation of gas trench at the front of the house
12/10/2017	DRP	1	Inspect and record removed concrete floor of kitchen
20/11/2017	DRP	2	Inspect and record reduced floor of kitchen.
15/01/2018	DRP	1	Inspect and record ground reduction to natural in kitchen

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Oasis: http://oasis.ac.uk (Accessed 26 June 2019)

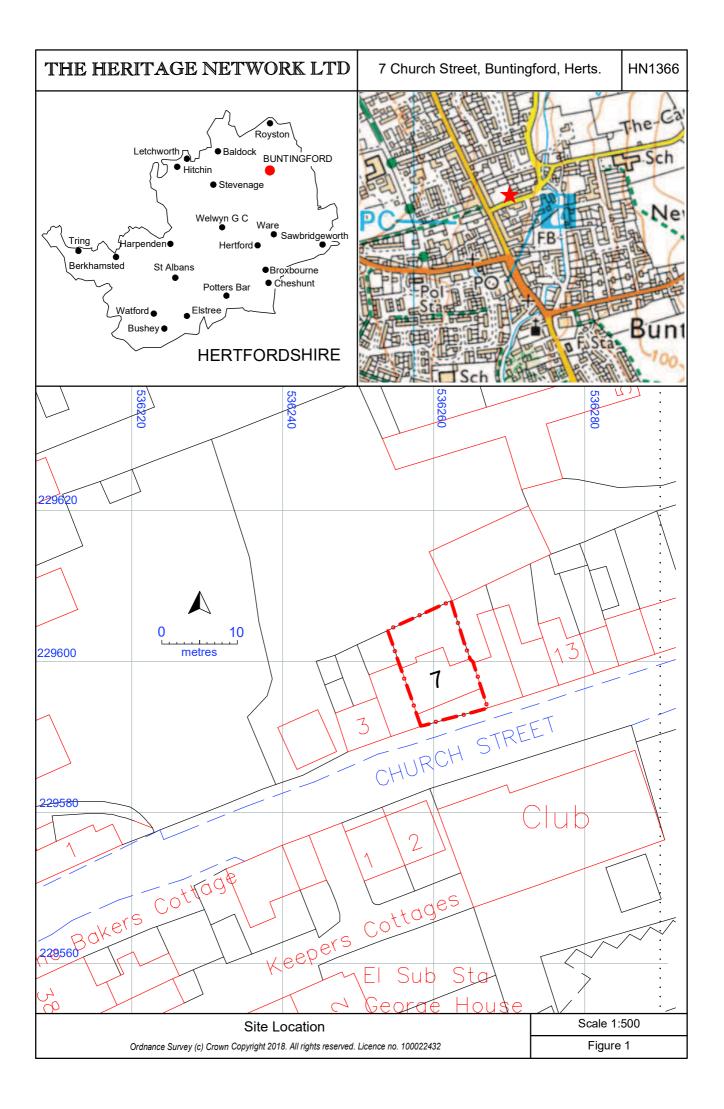
7. Illustrations

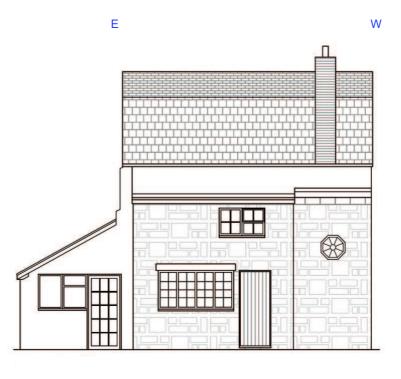
Figure 1	
Figure 2	
Figure 3	South and west exterior elevations
Figure 4	
Figure 5	Plan showing groundworks
Figure 6	
Plate 1	South and east exterior elevation, looking N
Plate 2	Dining room, south elevation, looking S
Plate 3	
Plate 4	Living Room, east elevation, looking E
Plate 5a	
Plate 5b	
Plate 6	Living Room, south elevation, looking SE
Plate 7	Living Room, west elevation, looking W
Plate 8	Exposed studwork in W elevation of living room, looking W
Plate 9	Living room, W end of N elevation, looking N
Plate 10	Living Room. N elevation, looking NE
Plate 11	Living room, shadow of former partition on ceiling, looking S
Plate 12	
Plate 13	
Plate 14	Bedroom 1, south elevation, looking SW
Plate 15	Bedroom 1, detail of Regency window, looking S
Plate 16	
Plate 17	
Plate 18	Bedroom 1, N elevation, cupboard under stairs, looking W
Plate 19	Bedroom 1, N elevation, eastern doorway, looking N
Plate 20	Bedroom 2, N & E elevations & staircase, looking NE
Plate 21	Bedroom 2, N elevation, exposed laths & straw insulation, looking N
Plate 22	Bedroom 2, S & W elevations, looking SW
Plate 23	Roof space, showing exposed timber framing, looking W
Plate 24	
Plate 25	
Plate 26	Kitchen ground reduction, looking E



Building Record & Archaeological Monitoring

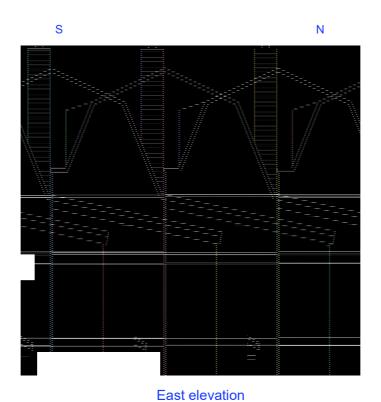
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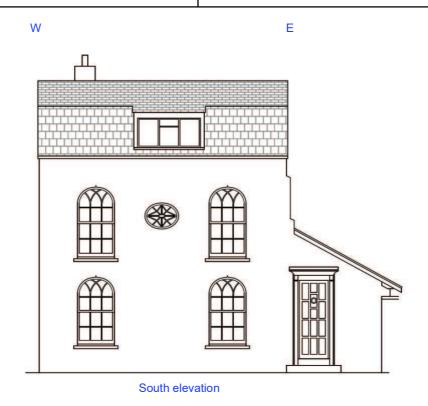
North elevation

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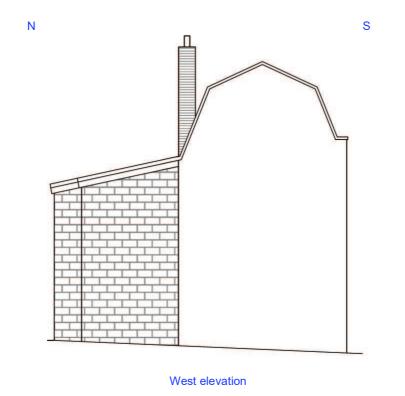


North and east exterior elevations

Scale 1:100







South and west exterior elevations

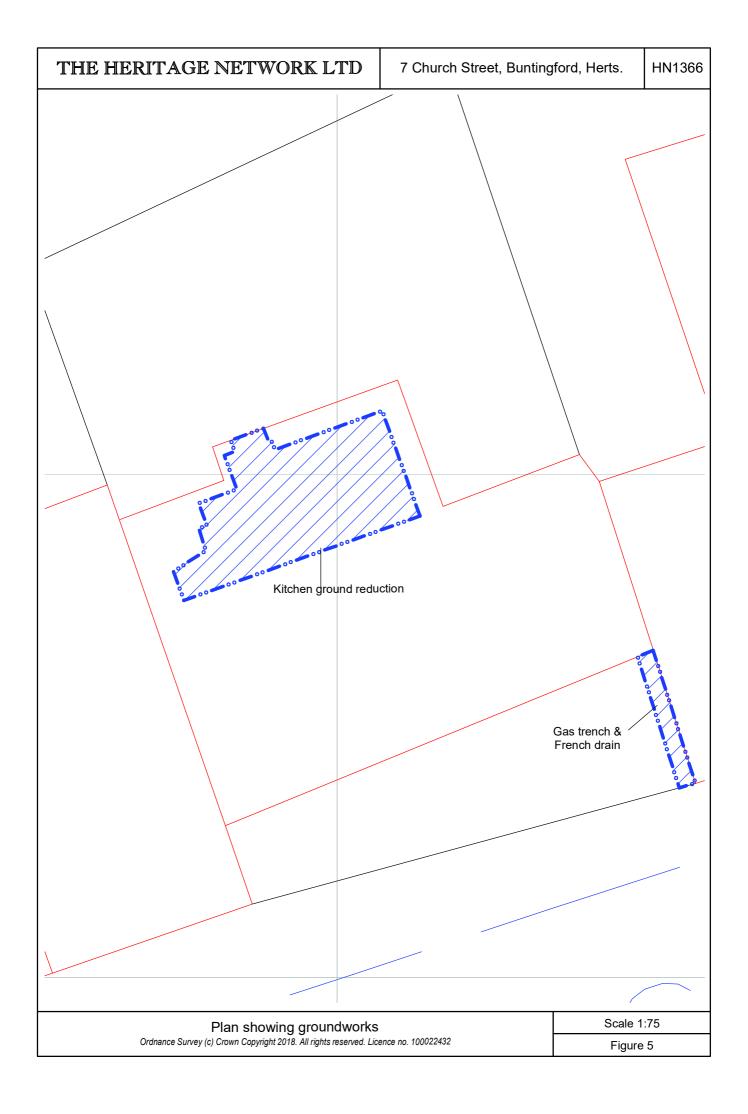




Plate 01 - South and east exterior elevation, looking N



Plate 02 - Dining room, south elevation, looking S

(c) The Heritage Network Ltd



Plate 03 - Dining room, north elevation, looking N



Plate 04 - Living Room, east elevation, looking E

HN1366: 'Fancy Hall', 7 Church Street, Buntingford



Plate 05a - Cornice in east elevation, looking E



Plate 05b - Skirting in east elevation, looking E

(c) The Heritage Network Ltd



Plate 06 - Living room, south elevation, looking SE



Plate 07 - Living room, west elevation, looking W



Plate 08 - Detail of exposed studwork in W elevation of living room, looking W



Plate 09 - Living room, W end of N elevation, looking N



Plate 10 - Living room, north elevation, looking NE



Plate 11 - Living room, shadow of former partition on ceiling, looking S



Plate 12 - Kitchen, S elevation, looking S



Plate 13 - Kitchen, doorway in S elevation, looking S

(c) The Heritage Network Ltd



Plate 14 - Bedroom 1, south elevation, looking SW



Plate 15 - Bedroom 1, detail of Regency window, looking S



Plate 16 - Bedroom 1, east elevation, looking NE



Plate 17 - Bedroom 1, north elevation, looking ENE



Plate 18 - Bedroom 1, N elevation, cupboard under the stairs, looking W



Plate 19 - Bedroom 1, N elevation, eastern doorway, looking N

(c) The Heritage Network Ltd



Plate 20 - Bedroom 2, N & E elevations & staircase, looking NE



Plate 21 - Bedroom 2, N elevation, exposed laths & staw insulation, looking N



Plate 22 - Bedroom 2, S & W elevations, looking WSW



Plate 23 - Roof space, showing exposed timber-framing, looking W

HN1366: 'Fancy Hall', 7 Church Street, Buntingford



Plate 24 - Roof space, showing exposed brickwork, looking E



Plate 25 - Gas trench and drain, looking NE

(c) The Heritage Network Ltd

HN1366: 'Fancy Hall', 7 Church Street, Buntingford



Plate 26 - Kitchen ground reduction, looking E

Appendix 1

Digital Photolog

Frame	Element	Elevation	Facing	Detail
HN1366_001	Exterior	S	N	View
HN1366 002	Exterior	S	N	View
HN1366 003	Exterior	S	N	View
HN1366 004	Exterior	S	N	View including adjacent properties
HN1366 005	Exterior	S	N	View including adjacent properties
HN1366_006	Interior	S	S	Dining Room
HN1366 007	Interior	N	N	Dining Room
HN1366 008	Interior	W	W	Living Room
HN1366_009	Interior	W	W	Living Room: detail of plaster
HN1366_010	Interior	S	S	Living Room
HN1366 011	Interior	S	SE	Living Room
HN1366_012	Interior	S	S	Living Room
HN1366 013	Interior	N	NE	Living Room
HN1366_014	Interior	N	N	Living Room
HN1366_015	Interior	Е	Е	Living Room: cornice
HN1366_016	Interior	Е	Е	Living Room: skirting
HN1366_017	Interior	n/a	S	Living Room: ceiling
HN1366_018	Interior	S	S	Kitchen: general
HN1366_019	Interior	S	S	Kitchen: door from Living Room & floor
HN1366 020	Interior	Е	Е	First Floor: Bedroom 1
HN1366_021	Interior	N	N	First Floor: Bedroom 1
HN1366_022	Interior	W	W	First Floor: Bedroom 1
HN1366_023	Interior	S	S	First Floor: Bedroom 1
HN1366 024	Interior	S	S	First Floor: Bedroom 1, central window
HN1366 025	Interior	N	N	First Floor: Bedroom 1, E door: detail
HN1366_026	Interior	N	NW	First Floor: Bedroom 1, underside of staircase
HN1366_027	Interior	W	W	Second Floor: Bedroom 2, general view
HN1366 028	Interior	E & N	NE	Second Floor: Bedroom 2, part of E & N
				elevations
HN1366_029	Interior	N	N	Second Floor: Bedroom 2, detail of lath exposed
HN1366_030	Interior	n/a	Е	Roofspace
HN1366_031	Interior	n/a	W	Roofspace
HN1366_032	Interior	n/a	W	Roofspace



Building Record & Archaeological Monitoring

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HN1366_HBR001



HN1366_HBR002



HN1366_HBR003



HN1366_HBR004



HN1366_HBR005



HN1366_HBR006



HN1366_HBR007



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HN1366_HBR029



HN1366_HBR030



HN1366_HBR031



HN1366_HBR032

Appendix 2

OASIS Data Entry

	OASIS ID: heritage1-290574
	Project details
Project name	'Fancy Hall', 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts.
	In response to a condition on the planning consent for the repairs to the roof and windows, new drainage and internal reordering of 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to create a record of those elements of the building that were subject to alteration, and to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.
	It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of no. 7 Church Street and to the origins and development of the settlement of Buntingford from the prehistoric period onwards.
Short description of the project	The original house was constructed in brick, as a two storey townhouse with attics, in the late 18th century. A single storey extension was added to the east elevation of the original house in the mid-19th century, providing a new entrance into the building, which replaced the former central doorway in the south elevation. A modern two-storey extension was added to the north elevation in the 1980s, possibly replacing an earlier lean-to extension.
	The house was originally divided into two rooms on the ground and first floors, with the ground floor rooms separated by a lobby leading from the original front door to a doorway in the north elevation. Traces of the former partitions survive in floorboards and ceilings.
	No evidence for an earlier core to the existing building was found or for an earlier building on the site. No evidence for activity pre-dating the late 18th century was noted.
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2017 End: 01-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN1366 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	1347992 - NHLE No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	HOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

	Project location
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BUNTINGFORD Fancy Hall, 7 Church Street
Postcode	SG9 9AS
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 36260 29600 51.947733179925 -0.017186441259 51 56 51 N 000 01 01 W Point
	Project creators
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	David Hillelson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
	Project archives
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary","Photograph","Report","Section"
	Project bibliography
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	'Fancy Hall', 7 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Horsley, P.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.1175
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 Booklet, Green Cover, Comb Bound, 16 text pages, 6 figures, 26 plates, 2 appendices

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- A DARLI CHURYING BROWN FRANCE SILTY UM
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DIRECTLY KNID THE BRU CARDEN YARD
- DEP SUCCESSO A INSPECTION MIT AFTER CONCINETE
RALLOWER AND THEN A MONIFERING ON REMOVE
OF MARK IP

Recorder(s): Date: 21917 Sheet 2 of 2

Site Name: Frey Hore, 7 Church	ST, HN ref:	1366
Emmer FERD HERRS	Site Code:	
Recorder(s): Arrive time: 14.30	Return travel:	1 hc
Date: 12 Depart time: 15 · 20	Total hours:	
Reported to: Posi	tion: SITTE FROM	many
Purpose of visit: OR INSPRETED WIT ON I	ensur Flo	en
Photograph film no		
Staff on site:		12
Observations: ALLIND on 5.1% AT 14.	30 TO Com	ME MB
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		al records:
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	Sketch sl	
	Context	form(s)
	A4 Scale	dwng(s)
	A3 Scale	dwng(s)
Weather: INO OCAS	Photogra	phs L

Site Name:	FANCY MALL	, 7 chies	n St,	HN ref:	1366
	BurnerRoss	HILLIS		Site Code:	
Recorder(s):	ORP.	Arrive time:	09.30	Return travel:	1 hs
Date:	20117	Depart time:	11.00	Total hours:	
Reported to:	PENDY		Position		CEMAN
Purpose of vis	it: OF INST	lection of	Leurnige	Floen.	
Photograph fil	m no .—				
Staff on site:	DEP				
Observations:					
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Weather:	1000 DOWN			Photogr	aphs

Site Name:	Town	MALL	7	Churry	51.	HN ref:	1366
	Jume		Site Code:				
Observations:							

Observations	5.								
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Recorder(s): Date: 20(1/17 Sheet 2 of Z

Site Name:	7 annen	or, Burneyen	10 Tracy	HN ref:	14N1366 -
	HALL			Site Code:	
Recorder(s):	ORP		11.30	Return travel:	inr.
Date:	15 1/18	Depart time:	12.15	Total hours:	
Reported to:	Amorrae		Position	: Ferranan	3
Purpose of vis		stected visit	- an we	MIEN Klack	
Photograph fil	m no				
Staff on site:	192P				
Observations:	AMUED ON	SIDE M	conjunct	12/13	
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				Sheet	1 of 1
				Addition	nal records:
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		AMERICA TO LEA			
					le dwng(s)
Weather:	INDOON			Photogr	raphs \sim

SITE CODE	Site N Lengt	h \ . 2	MANDE	M Sr, Width O	Sub-division Men Sub- 35— Bucket Size	Map/F Depth	Plan	PLOT No	
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Jepsoll/ Overburd	en	100	E COLUMN TO THE REAL PROPERTY.						
Colour Jane	C. 160/13/7	Compo	sition JRL Y, w F	-7 Or	1, FRANCI	Brive, C	Depth	>0.4.	
Colour	_	Compo	sition	_			Depth	_	
Natural									
Colour		Compo	sition	_			Depth		
Observations (circl		norizon	Root activity A. Burrows	Structure Services	Contamination Flooding	Unstable	Mod truncation Plough mark	Other: Land drain	
Sketch Plan and S	action (includ	lo all dim	onsions nort	h arrow and	lovels: remembe	ar to annotate	2)		
Sketch Flan and S	ection (melac		crure			3	es L		400000000000000000000000000000000000000
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Discussion and int	erpretation								
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Contexts							19976		
Finds /									
Plan no.	4			Photo (b/w)	X			Signature	000
Section no.				Photo (colou				Date 1 C	12
Levelled	Located	5	Samples	<			CO-Trypt-SV	Checked	1.3
Weather conditions	24/	arke						Cont.	

SITE CODE	Site Name 7	cone	of ST,	Sub-division		/Plan	PLOT No	
	Dunny	can		KIRM	Depth		1 2	
1360	207/4-1	•	20					
	Machine Type ,	Home		Bucket Size	_			
	NEMBEN				Visibility (cir	cle) CPoor	Moderate	Good
Topsoil/ Overburden	Composi					Dent	4	
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Subseit OB	Composit	tion	7		200	Dept	h	
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Observations (circle)	7.		Structure	Contamination		Mod truncation	Other:	************
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