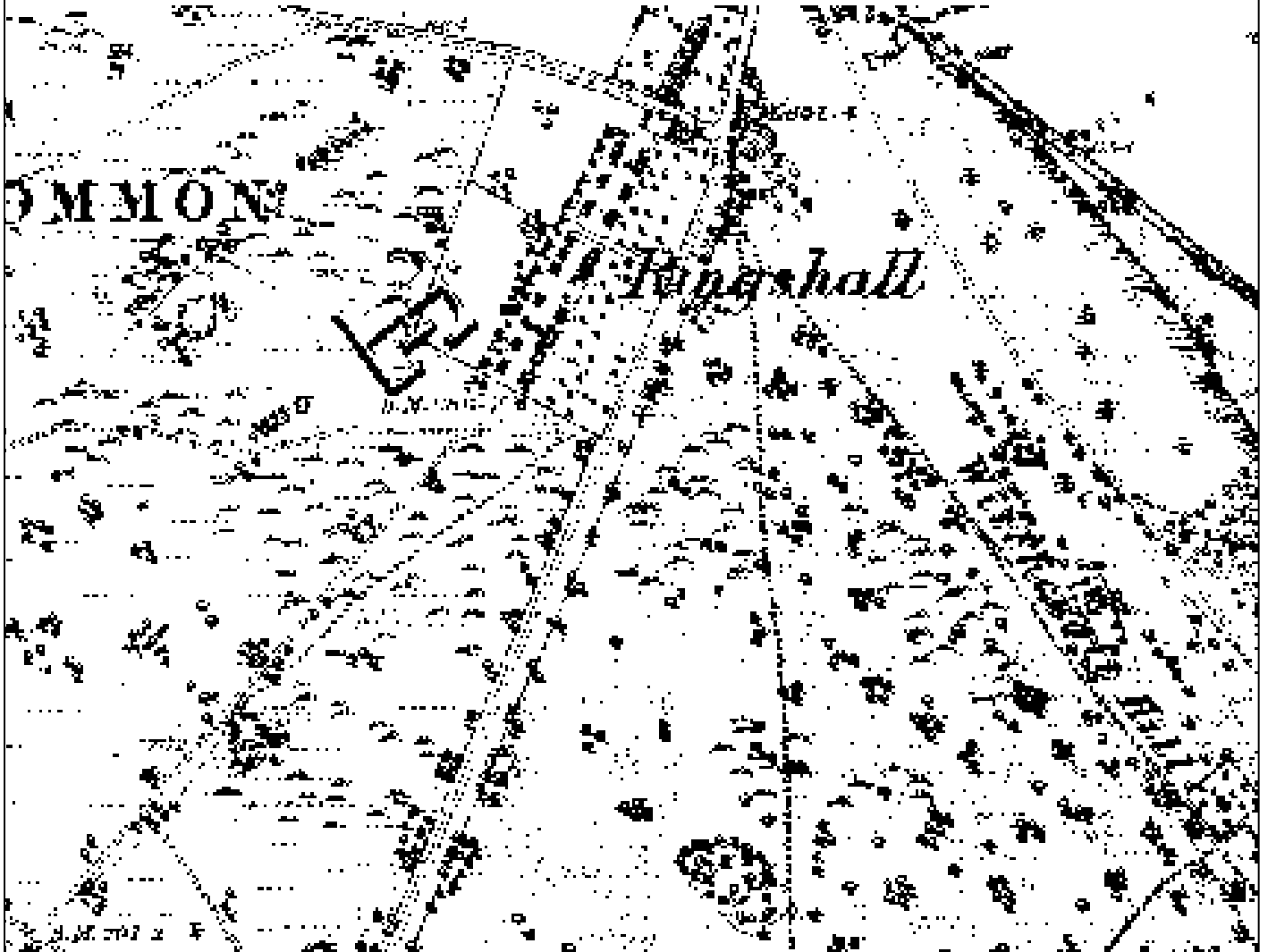


HERITAGE NETWORK



'WINDRUSH' Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden

HN484

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

‘WINDRUSH’ Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, Herts.

HN484

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of John Atkins Esq

by

Geoff Saunders, BA

Report No. 246

August 2004

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The cover illustration is taken from the 1884 edition of the Ordnance Survey

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders and David Kaye. Illustrations for the report were prepared by Geoff Saunders, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to John Atkins, Esq; Simon Boobyer, Brunton Boobyer Partnership, Chartered Architects; and Kate Batt, Historic Environment Advisor, County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	‘Windrush’, Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Dacorum
Village/town:	Little Gaddesden	Parish:	Little Gaddesden
Planning reference:	4/1188/04	NGR:	SP 98384 13905
Client name and address:	John Atkins Esq, address as above		
Nature of work:	Rear extension	Present land use:	Garden
Size of affected area:	c.200m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.16m ²
Site Code:	HN484	Other reference:	N/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Evaluation	Archive location:	Dacorum Heritage Trust
Start of work	28 th July 2004	Finish of work	28 th July 2004
Related SMR Nos.:	N/a	Periods represented:	N/a
Previous summaries/reports:	N/a		

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct a new extension to the rear of ‘Windrush’, Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, the Heritage Network was commissioned by John Atkins Esq to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

A single trench measuring c.1.6 x 10m was excavated. Although the site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance no.28, which defines a landscape containing several earthwork enclosures and linear ditches dating to the Roman and medieval periods, the trench contained no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *John Atkins, Esq*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed extension to ‘Windrush’, Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, Herts. The determination of the planning application for the development by the Dacorum Borough Council (DBC), has been referred back to the applicants for further information on the archaeological potential of the site. This is in accordance with the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required investigation was set out in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* dated 27 June 2004 prepared by the County Archaeological Office (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as adviser to the planning authority. A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network’s approved Project Design dated July 2004.

1.2 The site lies on the edge of the National Trust’s Ashridge Estate, approximately 500m to the south of the hamlet of Ringshall, and 1km north-west of Little Gaddesden, centred on NGR SP 98384 13905. The property is bounded by the B4506 to the west, Alderton Drive to the south, a paddock adjacent to Thatched Cottage to the east, and Blue Cottage to the north. The proposed extension will be added to the northern elevation of the existing house and covers an area of approximately 200m².

1.3 The study area lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no.28, as designated in the DBC District Local Plan. This defines an archaeological landscape containing a number of earthwork enclosures and linear ditches which date to the Roman and medieval periods. On this basis, there was considered to be a good potential for the discovery of archaeological remains within the study area.

1.4 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any such remains which are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional archaeological and historical context for such remains, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), if they were discovered.

1.5 The present report has been prepared in order to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies at c.205m AOD, on ground which slopes gently from northwest to southeast within the northern Chilterns.

2.2 The underlying geology consists of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) slightly sandy clay-with-flints, with frequent reddish mottling.

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and IFA standards.

2.4 A single trench was triangulated from known points using fibreglass tape measures.

2.5 The trench was opened using a 3-tonne tracked 360° mini-digger fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision (see Figure 2). Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The trench was machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

2.6 The trench was cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.7 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:10.

RESULTS

The trial trench was located inside the footprint of the proposed new extension and was aligned north to south (see Figures 2 & 3). The trench measured 2 x 10.2m and was 0.65m in depth.

2.8 The stratigraphy consisted of a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt topsoil overlying a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly clayey sand subsoil. Below this was the natural geology of dark yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly sandy clay-with-flints which is common throughout the Chilterns.

2.9 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were recovered from the trench.

3. Discussion

3.1 In the course of the present evaluation, no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were identified.

3.2 The fieldwork demonstrates that the natural clay-with-flints lies approximately 0.5-0.55m below the present ground surface. The nature of the overburden indicates that this is undisturbed ground. In addition, the lack of unstratified artefacts suggests that there is no archaeological activity in the immediate vicinity.

Conclusions

3.3 The archaeological evaluation of the site suggests that any human activity in the vicinity in the past was ephemeral, leaving little or no surviving physical evidence.

3.4 On the basis of these findings, it is considered the overall risk that the proposed development will encounter or disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be Very Low.

CONFIDENCE RATING

3.5 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

3.6 There are no other circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the present evaluation which is less than High.

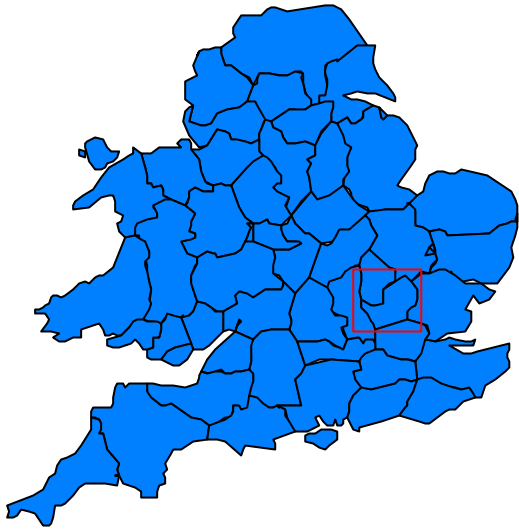
4. Bibliography

Batt, K. 2004, *Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Windrush, Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire*. Hertfordshire County Council.

Hillelson, D. 2004. *‘Windrush’, Alderton Drive, Little Gaddesden, Herts. Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network, July 2004.

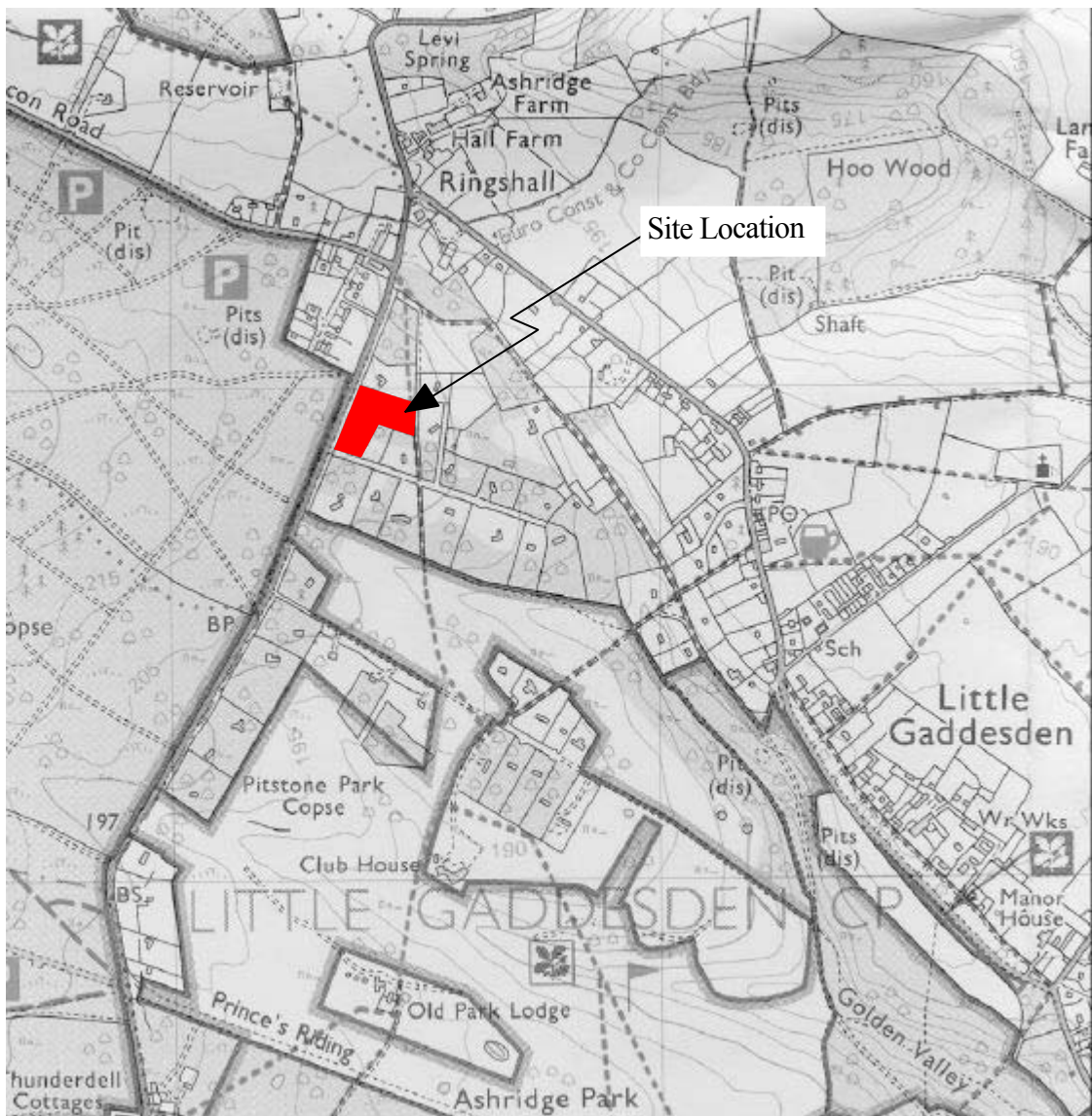
5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Trench section



SP 14

SP 13

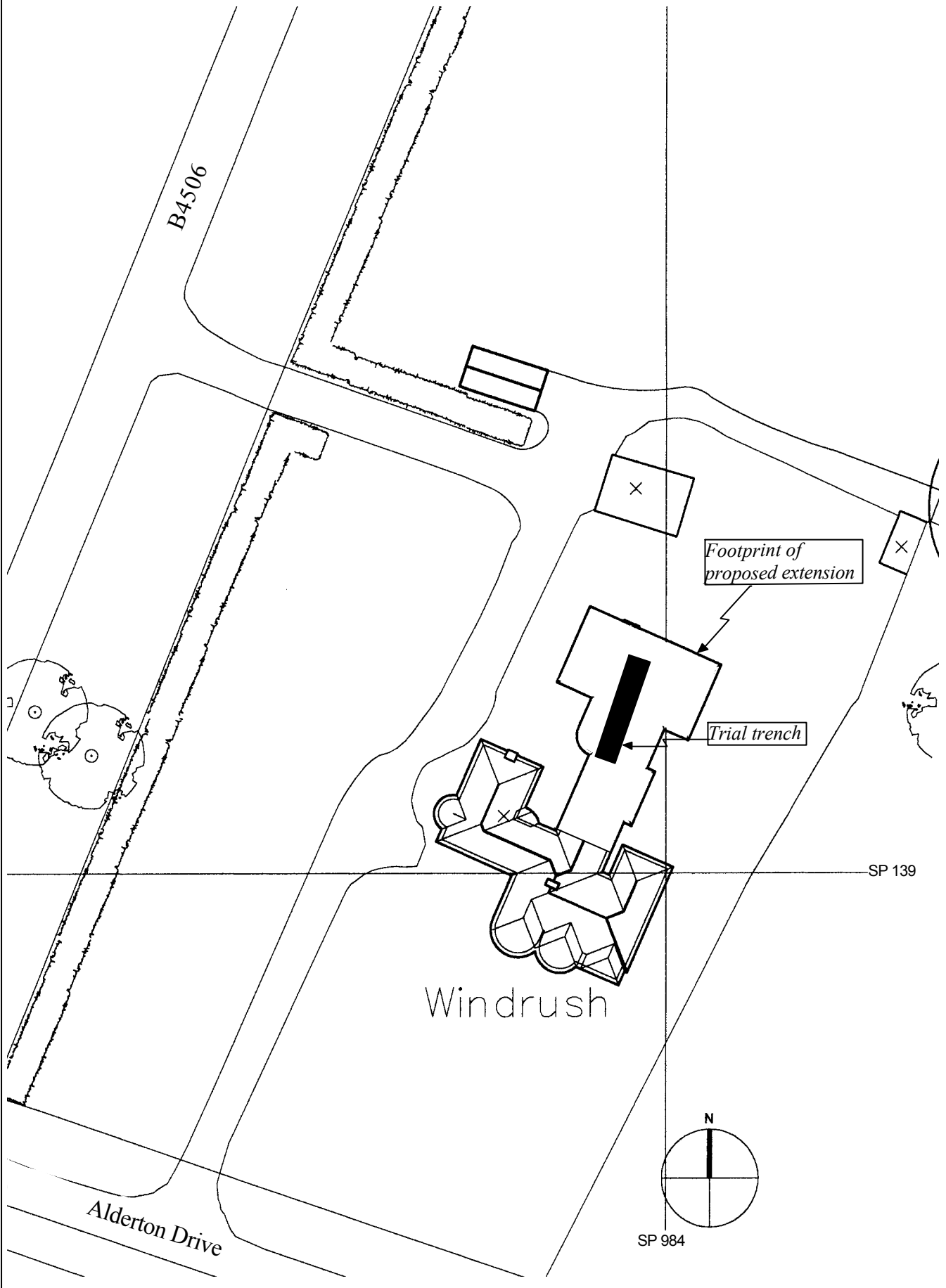


SP 98

SP 99

Site Location

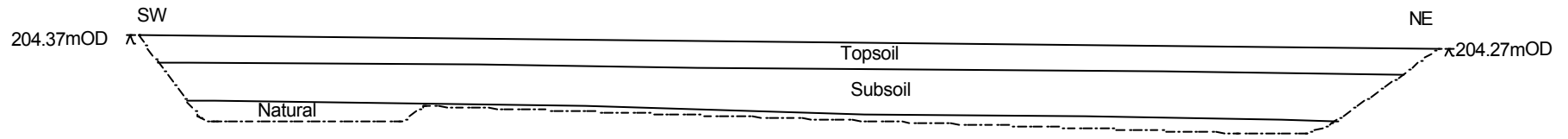
Scale 1:15000



Site Layout

Scale 1:500

Figure 2



Trench Section

Scale 1:50

Figure 3