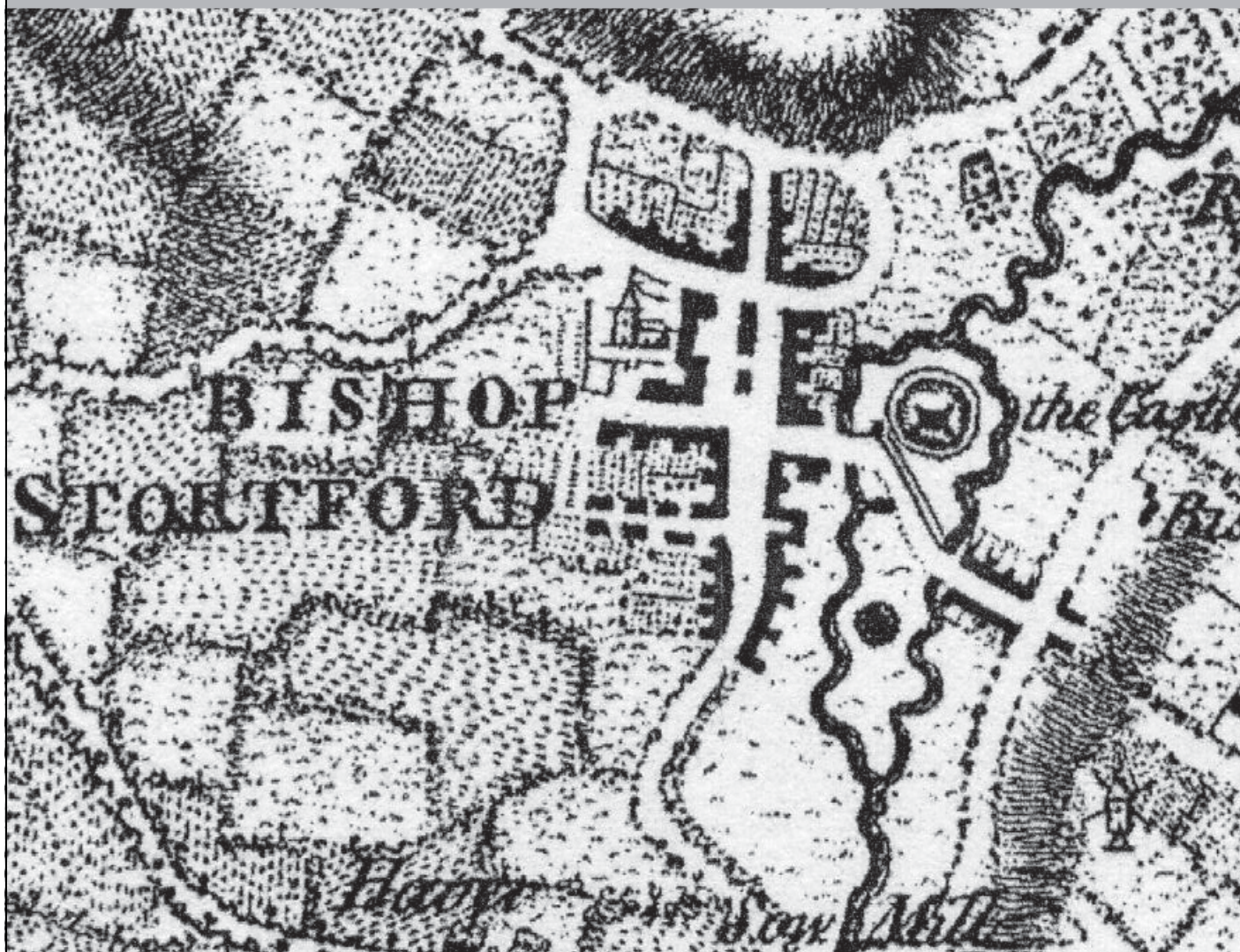


HERITAGE NETWORK



30a CHURCH STREET Bishops Stortford, Herts.

HN494

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation
Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

30a CHURCH STREET
Bishops Stortford, Herts.

HN494

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of Drs Rogers and Hardwick

by

David Kaye BA

Report No.262

November 2004

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out Chris Turner, David Kaye and Abigail Rothwell and the finds assessment was undertaken by Helen Ashworth. Illustrations were prepared by David Kaye and Abigail Rothwell, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Peter Icke, Gould Singleton Architects, the Practice Manager and staff of the Church Street Surgery, and Jonathan Smith, County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	30a Church Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Bishops Stortford	Parish:	Bishops Stortford
Planning reference:	3/04/0749	NGR:	TL 48680 21330
Client name and address:	Drs Rogers & Hardwick, 30a Church Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts		
Nature of work:	Extension	Present land use:	Car Park
Size of affected area:	56 sq m	Size of area investigated:	10 sq m
Site Code:	HN494	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Evaluation	Archive location:	Bishops Stortford Museum
Start of work	13 th October 2004	Finish of work	13 th October 2004
Related SMR Nos.:	n/a	Periods represented:	19 th century
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct an extension to the doctor's surgery at 30a Church Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

One evaluation trench was opened within the footprint of the proposed building. This demonstrated that the site had been significantly terraced, removing much of the archaeological potential. One feature was found which appears to be the butt end of a 19th century ditch. A small number of finds were recovered including animal bone, CBM, and a few pottery fragments. The feature is not considered to be of archaeological significance.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Gould Singleton Architects*, acting on behalf of *Drs. Rogers and Hardwick*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of an extension to the rear of 30a Church Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts. Planning permission for the development (ref.3/04/0749), controlled by the East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), has been granted subject to a standard archaeological condition (Condition 2) 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 has been defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* 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 October 2004.

1.2 The site lies on the eastern side of Church Street, centred on NGR TL 48680 21330. The development proposes the construction of an extension to the rear block of the existing doctors' surgery. The study area currently forms part of an existing car park area.

1.3 Church Street lies in the historic core of Bishops Stortford, within Archaeological Area 114 (AA114) as defined in the District Local Plan. Bishops Stortford is a medieval town, named in the Domesday Survey of 1087, and the site lies close to the parish church of St Michael which is 15th century in origins.

1.4 . The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, 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 c. 71.57m AOD sloping south west to north east between Church Street and Market Square. It currently forms part of the surgery's car park and is almost entirely enclosed by modern buildings and garden walls.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is a reddish brown (2.5YR 5/8) gravel and clay mixture.

2.3 The modern surface of the site consists of tarmac and the makeup layers associated with it.

METHODOLOGY

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

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

2.6 The trench was opened using a tracked 360° mini-digger fitted with a 0.75m 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.

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

Stratigraphy

2.10 The upper stratigraphy was consistent across the site. It consisted of a layer of modern tarmac approximately 0.04m thick laid down for the existing car park. Beneath that was a levelling aggregate approximately 0.14m thick.

Trench 1

2.11 Trench 1 was located in the centre of the footprint of the proposed development area, aligned north west to south east. It was approximately 5m by 2m by 0.36m deep.

2.12 Within the trench there was one linear feature [01] measuring 0.5m long by 0.82m wide by 0.28m deep orientated south west to north east. Its south western end was contained within the trench whilst the north eastern end ran into the trench baulk. It had a u-shaped profile with an uneven base and contained a single, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), predominantly firm clay fill [02]. Pottery, tile, brick and animal bone were recovered from the fill.

Recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)
01	Cut	U-shaped ditch with sloping sides and an uneven base.	Length: 0.5m+ Width: 0.82m Depth: 0.28m
02	Fill	Fill of ditch [01]. 2.5Y 4/2 dark greyish brown. Firm clay with CBM, pottery and animal bone.	Length: 0.5m+ Width: 0.82m Depth: 0.28m

FINDS CONCORDANCE

Ctxt	CBM		Pottery		Shell		An.bone		Comments
	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	
02	615	4	10	2	5	1	35	5	
Total	615	4	10	2	5	1	35	5	

*ARTEFACTS****Ceramic Building Material***

2.13 A total of four pieces of CBM were recovered weighing 615g. This assemblage consisted of two pieces of brick and two fragments of peg tile. CBM was scattered throughout the fill [02] and all appeared to be post-medieval/Victorian.

Recommendations

2.14 Post-medieval/Victorian peg-tile and brick is a common find on urban sites of post-medieval date. On this basis, no further work is proposed on this material.

Pottery

2.15 Two small sherds of pottery were recovered from the ditch fill weighing a total of 10g. Both were glazed and were dated to 18th or 19th centuries.

Recommendations

2.16 Given the small size of the pottery assemblage and its relatively modern nature, no further work is proposed.

ECOFACTS

Animal bone

2.17 A total of 5 pieces of animal bone were recovered weighing 35g. The larger pieces showed signs of domestic butchery.

Recommendations

2.18 Given the size and nature of the assemblage no further work is recommended.

3. Discussion & Conclusion

3.1 It is clear that the present site has seen significant disturbance in the form of the terracing of the natural slope. The ground level in the study area was 1-1.5m lower than the adjacent area to the west. An examination of the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1883 suggests that this terracing took place prior to that date.

3.2 A single truncated feature was identified in the trench. This has been interpreted as the butt end of a 19th century ditch, possibly running parallel to Church Street. However, as only a portion of it was exposed in the evaluation trench it is possible that it is part of a sub-ovoid pit. Whilst it contained a variety of artefacts none of them appear to be associated with the construction of the 20th century surrounding buildings.

3.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds dating earlier than the 19th century were recorded.

CONFIDENCE RATING

3.4 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

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

4. Bibliography

Hillelson D, 2004, *30a Church Street, Bishops Stortford, Herts. Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network

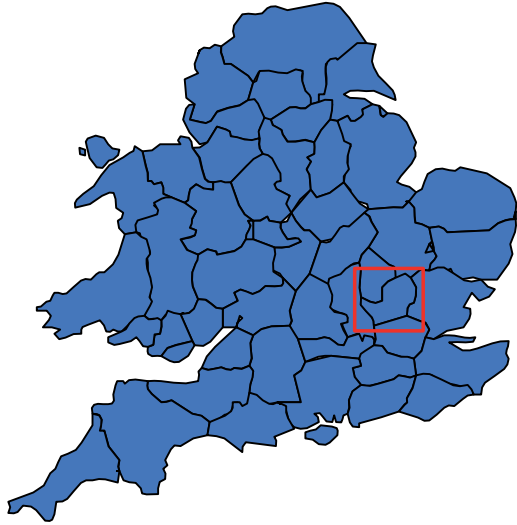
5. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench location
Figure 3	Trench 1 Plan and Section

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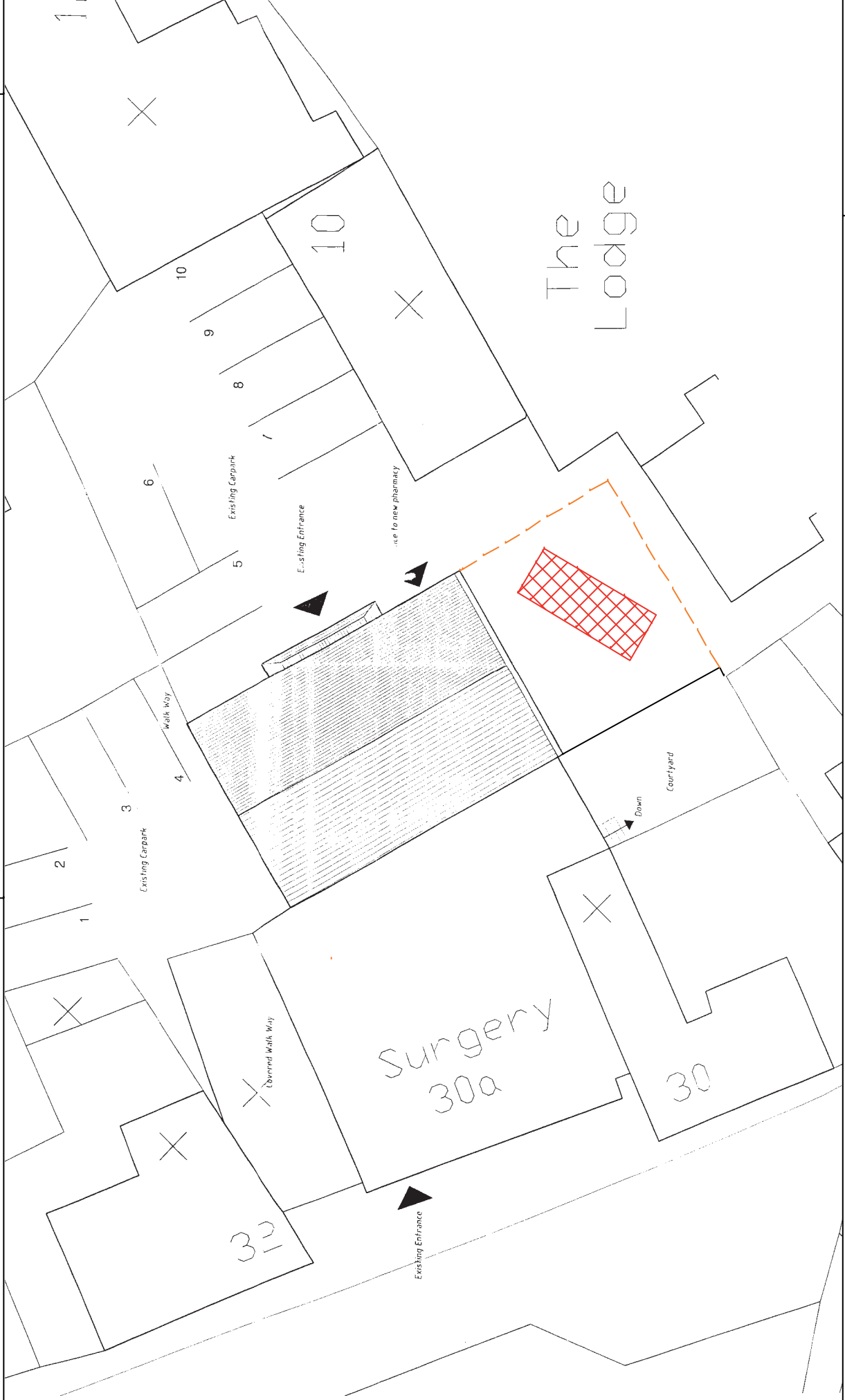


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

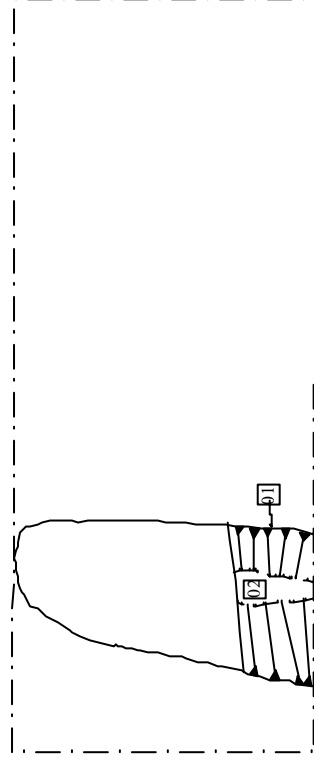
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Figure 1

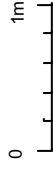
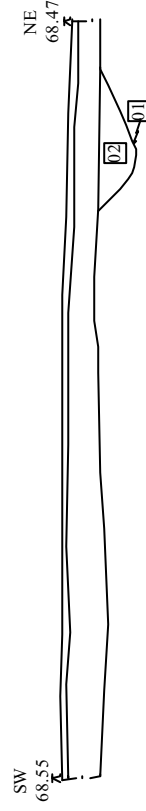


Trench Layout

Plan of Trench 1



South east facing section of Trench 1



Scale 1:50

Figure 3

Trench 1 Plan and Section