

HERITAGE NETWORK



**25 SANDY LODGE LANE
Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts.**

(HN511)

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

25 SANDY LODGE LANE
Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts.

HN511

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Grovekey Designers and Builders Ltd

by

David Kaye, BA PIFA

Report no. 282

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye and Geoff Saunders under the supervision of Chris Turner. The report was prepared by David Kaye, and it was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mike Rees, Grovekey Designers and Builders Ltd; and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	25 Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Three Rivers
Village/town:	Rickmansworth	Parish:	Rickmansworth
Planning reference:	8/04/0082	NGR:	TQ 08974 93602
Client name and address:	Grovekey Designers and Builders Ltd., 19 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, SG15 6XL		
Nature of work:	House extension	Previous land use:	House and garden
Size of affected area:	75m ²	Size of area investigated:	75m ²
Site Code:	HN511	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring & Recording	Finds location/Museum:	Three Rivers Museum
Start of work	14/1/2005	Finish of work	25/1/2005
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	N/a
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for a house extension at 25 Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Herts., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the builders to monitor the construction groundworks.

Despite the site's location within an area of known archaeological potential, no significant features, deposits, or artefacts were revealed during the groundworks.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Grovekey Designers and Builders Ltd* as part of a programme of archaeological work associated with building development at 25 Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts. The planning permissions for the development (refs. 8/04/0082), granted by the Three Rivers District Council (TRDC), were subject to a standard archaeological condition, in accordance with the provisions of the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The scope of the required work followed the *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* prepared by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to TRDC (ref. JS 30/11/04). A full specification covering the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated January 2005.

1.2 The site, centred on NGR TQ 08974 93602, is located on the northern side of Sandy Lodge Lane, approximately 150m east of its junction with Askew Road (Figure 1). The development proposes extensions to the rear and side elevations of the existing dwelling, and the laying of an extension to the driveway.

1.3 The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no. 15* (AAS15), which defines an area of prehistoric occupation on the gravel terraces of the River Colne in the District Local Plan. Worked flint and Romano-British pottery have been recorded in the vicinity, and the medieval Manor of the More lies in the grounds of the nearby Northwood Preparatory School. A Roman villa (SAM69) is located within 1km to the west.

1.4 The aims of the monitoring programme have been to supervise the development groundworks; to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which may have been uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements to allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed, subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

1.5 The present report describes the findings of the project, and, together with the deposition of the project archive with Three Rivers Museum, is intended to complete the requirements of the planning condition on the development.

2. Fieldwork

Topography and Geology

2.1 The site lies to the north east of Moor Park, on land which overlooks Hampermill Lake and the river Gade beyond. The underlying geology is a mixture of sand and gravel.

Ground reduction

2.2 The area of the extension to the driveway on the southern side of the house, which measured approximately 13 x 5m, was reduced by a depth of 0.30-0.40m (Figure 2). This revealed a layer of dark, greyish brown, sandy silt topsoil, approximately 0.30m thick, overlying the natural gravel and sand. No archaeology was observed.

Footings trenches

2.3 The footings trenches for the house extension measured approximately 0.6m wide by 1.2m deep. These were located on the northeastern and western sides of the present house (Figure 2).

2.4 The stratigraphy revealed in the footings trenches was similar to that observed on the southern side of the existing house, comprising a layer of topsoil, approximately 0.30m thick, over the natural gravel.

2.5 Due to the instability of the ground, the sides of the trenches were prone to collapse. As a result, virtually the entire length had to be shuttered. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trenches.

Service trenches

2.6 Gas, electricity and water services were encountered while digging the footings trenches on the eastern side of the house. Drainage trenches were located within the topsoil and close to the footings. On this basis, it was considered unnecessary to monitor their excavation.

Soakaways

2.7 One soakaway, measuring approximately 2m square by 3m deep, was excavated on the northeastern side of the house (Figure 2). The section showed that the stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil overlying 1.1m of loose gravel, below which was firm, slightly gravelly sand. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Finds concordance

2.8 During the monitoring of the groundworks no artefacts were recovered from either the trenches or the spoil.

3. Discussion & Conclusion

3.1 Despite the site's location in an area of high archaeological potential, the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the new development, revealed no archaeological features or deposits, other than modern services to the east of the house.

Conclusion

3.2 Although there is evidence for Romano-British and Medieval activity in the vicinity, the fieldwork on the present site revealed no evidence for archaeological features or artefacts dateable to these periods. There was no evidence for prehistoric activity, despite the location of the site on a gravel terrace of the river Gade. This may indicate that the present site lay outside the area of activity during these periods.

Confidence Rating

3.3 The conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
14/01/05	GIS	7	Inspect and monitor driveway extension
17/01/05	GIS	5	Monitor soakaway
19/01/05	GIS	10	Monitor footings trenches
21/01/05	DGK	5	Monitor footings trenches
24/01/05	DGK	8	Monitor footings trenches
25/01/05	DGK	5	Monitor footings trenches

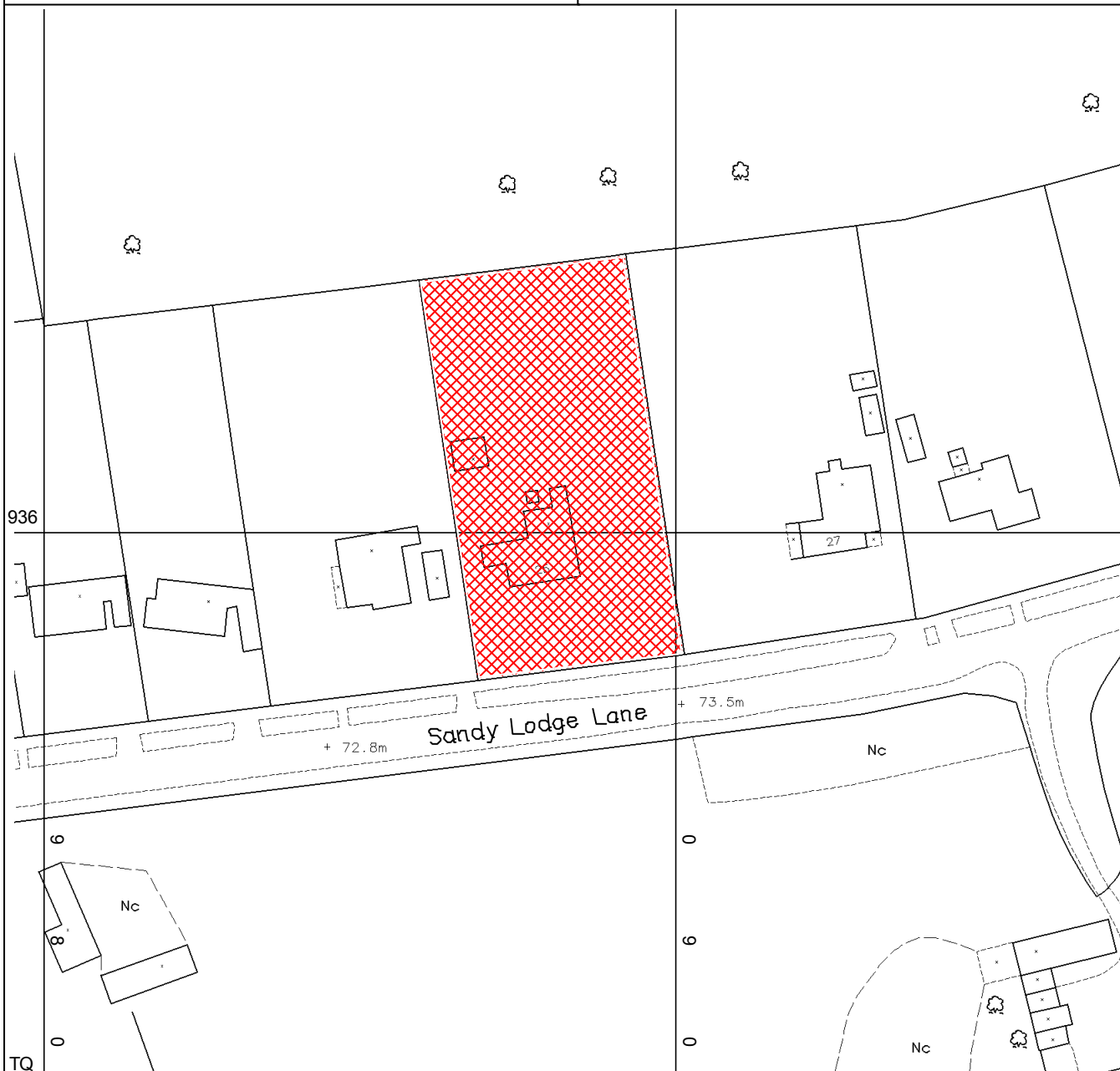
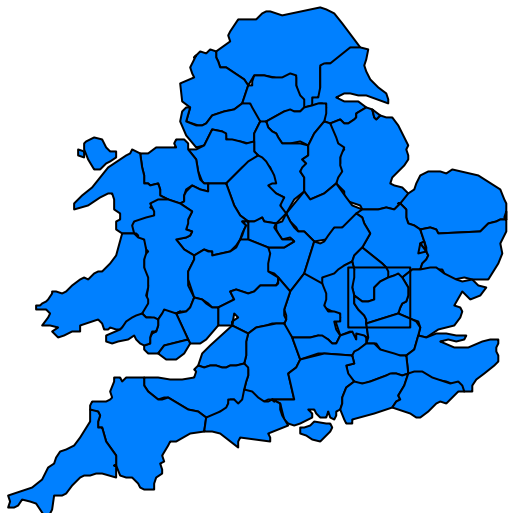
5. Bibliography

Hillelson, D, 2005 *25 Sandy Lodge Lane, Moor Park, Rickmansworth, Herts* . Project Design: Archaeological Monitoring. Heritage Network.

6. Illustrations

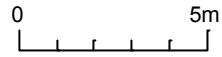
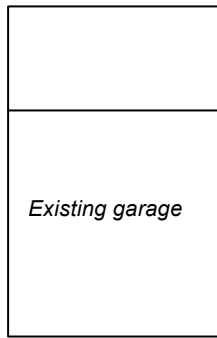
Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2Site layout

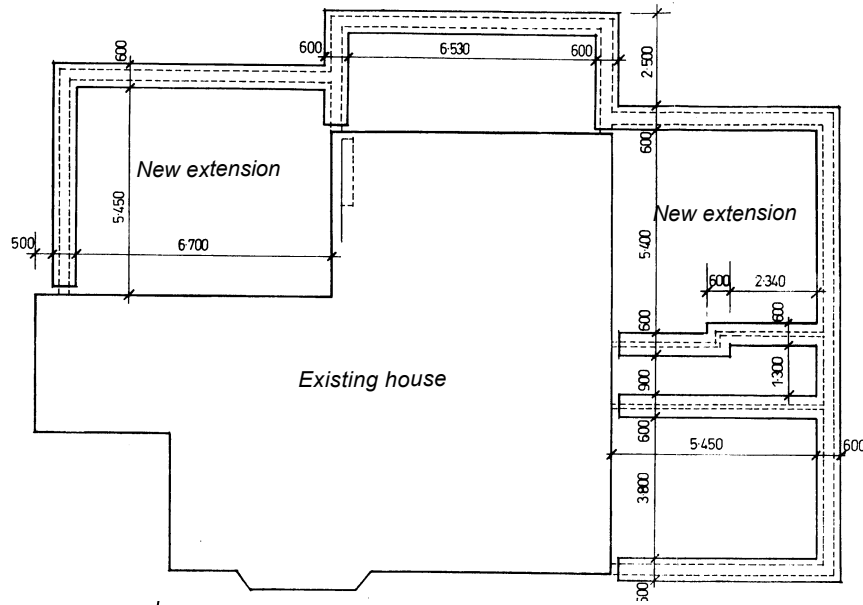


Site Location

Scale 1:1000



Soakaway



New driveway

Site Layout

Scale 1:200

Figure 2