

## FOURWAYS, CANNONS CLOSE, BISHOPS STORTFORD, HERTS.

HN578  
Report No. 340

<b>Site name and address:</b>	'Fourways', Cannons Close, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire		
<b>County:</b>	Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b>	East Hertfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Bishops Stortford	<b>Parish:</b>	Bishops Stortford
<b>Planning reference:</b>	3/05/1826	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 49492 22094
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Mr H. Lay, 'Fourways', Cannons Close, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	House extension & conservatory	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site Status:</b>	AAS113	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.23.8m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.23.8m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN578	<b>Other reference:</b>	n/a
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc...</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Bishop Stortford Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	13/03/06	<b>Finish of work</b>	19/09/06
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	n/a
<b>Oasis UID:</b>	heritage1- 12384	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

**Narrative:**

In order to meet the requirements of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for building work at 'Fourways', Cannons Close, Bishops Stortford, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of a new conservatory and extension.

The site lies on the northern corner of the junction between Stanstead Road and Cannons Close, Bishop's Stortford, and is centred on NGR TL 49492 22094 (Fig. 1). The new development included the extension of the existing house and garage, including the construction of a new conservatory on the northern side of the building.

The site lies 700m to the east of the River Stort, north-east of the historic core of Bishop's Stortford. The site is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No.113, designated in the District Local Plan as an area of Roman activity associated with the remains of a Roman settlement 400m to the west of the site. The remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle (NMR 20628) lie on the western bank of the river, c.800m to the south west.

Five site visits were made to monitor the excavation of footings trenches for the proposed building and a soakaway (Fig. 2). This was carried out with a 360° tracked mini digger fitted with a 450mm toothed bucket and a wheeled JCB fitted with a 600mm bucket. 44m of trenches were excavated to a depth between 1.5 and 1.7m.

The natural geology of the site consists of yellowish brown clay with occasional flint nodules less than 100mm in diameter. Above this is 1-1.2m of yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil which underlies the original topsoil.

The site is situated on ground which slopes away northeast. Up to 1.2m of imported material has been added, predominantly at the rear of the house, to raise and level the garden. The soakaway was located within this area and dug to a depth of 0.75m, thus not impacting on the underlying stratigraphy.

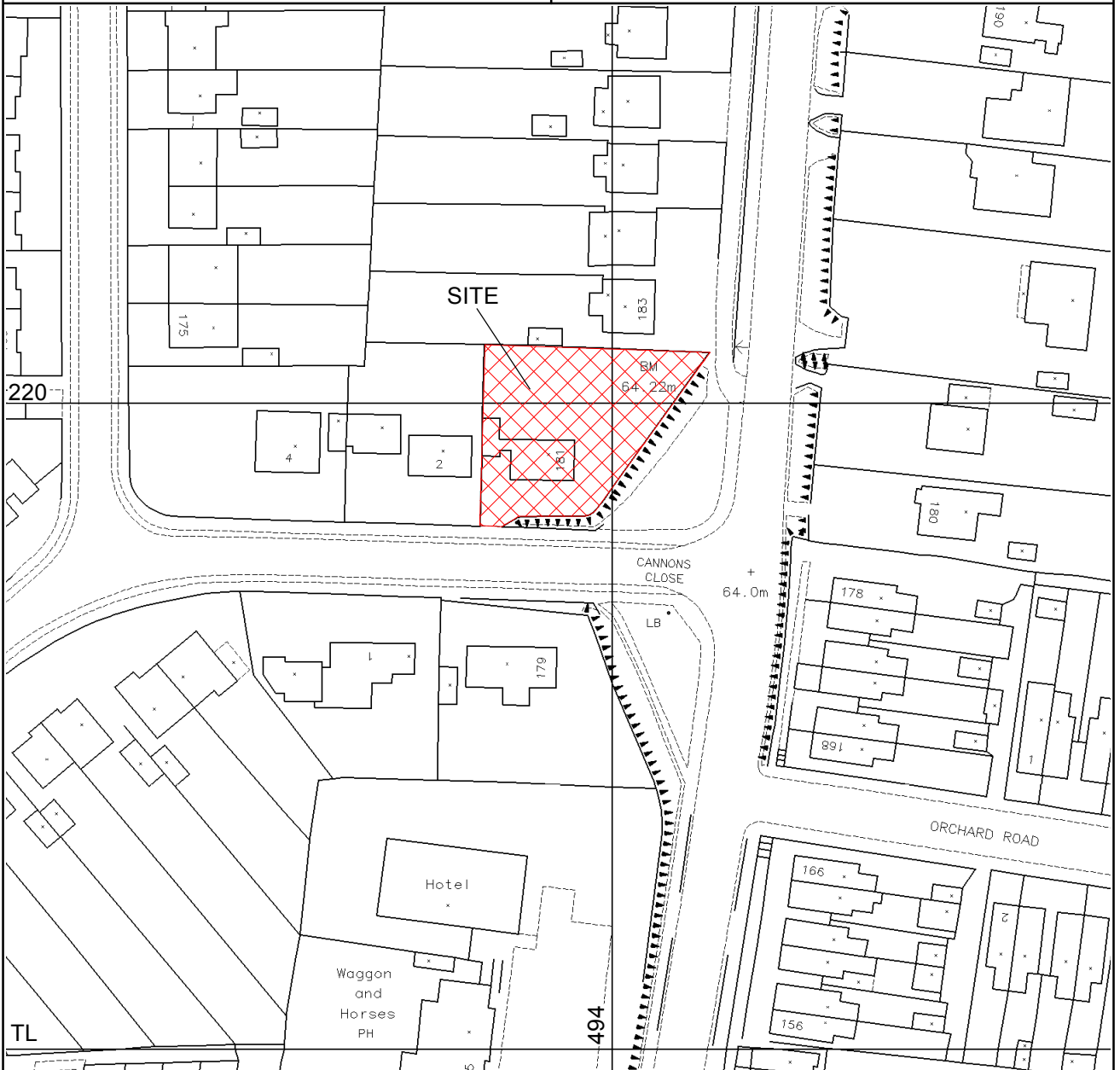
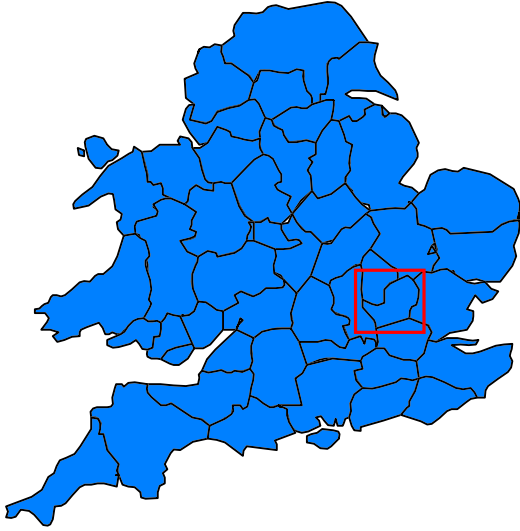
Although the site is within an area of known Roman and medieval activity, no archaeological cut features or deposits were revealed. The only artefacts recovered were from unstratified contexts and consisted of 7 waste flint flakes and 4 pieces of greyware pottery, one of which was Roman in date, the remaining three being either Roman or medieval.

David Kaye BA PIFA, September 2006

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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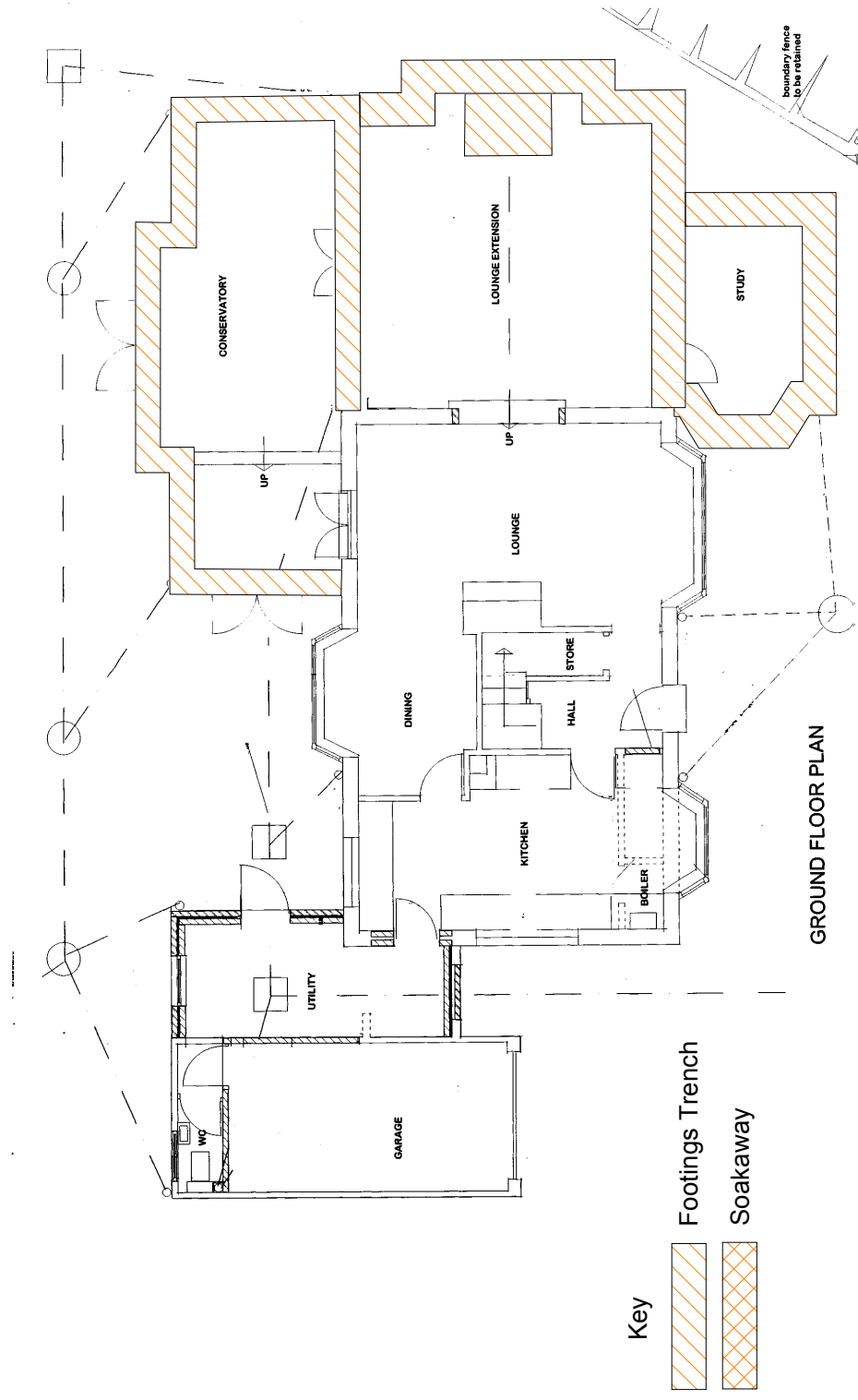
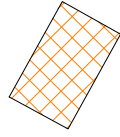


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

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Figure 1



Location of footings trenches and soakaway



Plate 1a: Excavating footings trenches



Plate 1b: Stratigraphy of footings trench