

HERITAGE NETWORK



PEACE CLOSE Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts.

HN482

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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

PEACE CLOSE Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts.

HN482

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Aldwyck Housing Association
by
Geoff Saunders, BA AIFA

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The cover photo shows a view of the site looking south

Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Stephen Masih, Kyle Smart Associates; Jeremy Young and Darren Hart, VE Parrot Oakley) Ltd; Tom Doig; and Jonathan Smith, County Planning Archaeologist, County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire				
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	Broxbourne		
Village/town:	Cheshunt	Parish:	Cheshunt		
Planning reference:	7/01/0136	NGR:	TL 3454 0273		
Client name and address:	Aldwyck Housing Ass	ociation, Aldwyck House, Upp	er George St., Luton		
Nature of work:	New Housing	Present land use:	Public open space		
Size of affected area:	$c.600m^2$	Size of area investigated:	$c.600m^2$		
Site Code:	HN482	Other reference:	n/a		
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson		
Type of work:	Monitoring	Archive location:	Lowewood Museum		
Start of work	16/02/2005	Finish of work	31/08/2005		
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Roman, Post-medieval		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a				

HN482/report

Land adjacent to Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt

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Synopsis: In response to an archaeological condition on the planning permission for new housing on land at Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The monitoring and recording of the groundworks revealed evidence for the former northern and western wings of Cheshunt Great House which were demolished in the early 19th century. Only the footings of these wings survive, and no evidence of internal floor levels or decoration were observed.

Evidence of earlier activity on the site was recovered in the form of two joining bodysherds of unstratified Romano-British pottery.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Kyle Smart Associates* on behalf of the *Aldwyck Housing Association*, as part of a programme of archaeological work associated with construction works on land at Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts. The planning permission for the development (ref. 7/01/1036), granted by the Broxbourne Borough Council (BBC), has been 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 archaeological work was defined in discussion with the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to BBC, and follows the requirements of the model *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* issued by that office. A full specification of the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated July 2004.
- 1.2 The study area is located on the north side of Goffs Lane on land which was, for the most part, previously open space. It is centred on NGR TL 2454 0273. The development proposed the construction of 4 bungalows in two blocks, with provision for car-parking and associated landscaping (see Figure 2).
- 1.3 The site lies within an 'Area of Archaeological Significance' (AAS6) designated in the Broxbourne Borough Local Plan. This defines the site and curtilage of Cheshunt Great House, a moated medieval house of which the basement to the east wing survives. Another medieval moated site exists to the south, and the site lies adjacent to a Roman crossroads.
- 1.4 An archaeological evaluation, carried out by the Heritage Network in Spring 2002, established that there was a considerable depth of made ground surrounding the listed ruins of Cheshunt Great House, and the former moat which surrounded it. It was considered that the proposed development might impinge on structural remains associated with the house, but that these were located at a sufficient depth to allow the effect to be mitigated by foundation design, and a programme of archaeological monitoring.
- 1.5 The aim of the present project has been 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 in accordance with current regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.
- 1.6 The present report is intended to set the site in its archaeological and historical context, and complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The site, which has been built up, is on relatively level ground to the west of the river Lea, between the 35 and 40m contours. On the south side of Goffs Lane the land gradually slopes away.
- 2.2 The solid geology in the vicinity of the site is recorded as London Clay, with localised outcrops of Reading Beds, Woolwich Beds and Upper Chalk (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979). Archaeological fieldwork to the south of the site recorded the underlying geology as consisting of river terrace gravels sealed by alluvial clay (Foundations Archaeology 2000).

METHODOLOGY

- 2.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. Several site visits were made to monitor ground reduction across the site, excavation of footings, and excavation of service trenches.
 - 2.4 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.
- 2.5 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.6 The groundworks included the reduction of the ground level across the site, further ground reduction within the footprint of the proposed buildings, the excavation of footing trenches for the new buildings, and the excavation of associated services.

Ground reduction

- 2.7 Due to its uneven nature the ground level was reduced across the site by between 0.40m and 1.50m. The topsoil, which consisted of a friable, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clay, was removed across the whole site. Beneath the topsoil multiple layers of silty clay overburden were observed. This overburden was probably deposited during the construction of the surrounding housing development in the early 1970s.
- 2.8 The ground reduction revealed several features, a brick drain [01] similar to drain [206] observed in Trench 2 during the evaluation, the opening to an arched brick culvert [02], and the footings of a substantial brick wall [03].
- 2.9 Brick drain [01] was observed in the centre of the site running on an east west alignment. The drain, which only survived for a length of approximately 1.0m, was constructed of red brick with a tile base. It measured a total of 0.3m in width by 0.15m in depth. The bricks, which were not frogged, each

measured 190 x 110 x 60mm (7.5 x 4.5 x 2.5 inches), they have been dated to the early/mid 19th century.

- 2.10 The rectangular entrance to an arched brick culvert [02] was observed in the centre of the site. The entrance measured 0.8m long by 0.5m wide, but the full depth of the structure was not reached. The arched culvert, constructed of red bricks, was observed running from the entrance on its west side on an east west alignment. The bricks, which were not frogged, each measured 220 x 110 x 60mm (8.5 x 4.5 x 2.5 inches), and have been dated to the mid 18^{th} century. The culvert aligns with brick drain [01] to the east, and it is possible that the drain originally flowed into the culvert.
- 2.11 Brick wall footing [03] was observed in the south-west corner of the site. The footing formed the corner of a structure with a separate probable lean-to footing on the eastern side. The main wall footing measured approximately 0.7m in width, the lean-to footing was only 0.3m in width. The footings of the main structure and the lean-to were both constructed of unfrogged red brick bonded with a sandy mortar. Due to the strength of the mortar bonding the footings together it was not possible to retrieve an intact brick, the fragments recovered have been dated to the early to mid 18th century.
- 2.12 Further ground reduction to the south of the new buildings revealed a narrow wall footing [11] running on a north-west south-east alignment. The wall which measured 0.35m in width, was constructed of unfrogged red brick and survived to a depth of only course. The bricks measured $110 \times 50mm$ (4.5 x 2 inches), but the full length of the bricks is unknown as none were intact. The sandy mortar and the bricks are similar to those found in wall [03].
- 2.13 No further archaeological features or deposits, and no artefacts predating the 19th/20th centuries, were observed during the ground reduction.

Footings Trenches

- 2.14 The footings trenches for the two new buildings measured approximately 0.6m wide, with a maximum depth of approximately 0.8m. The footings trenches revealed further brick footings and culverts which are likely to be associated with Cheshunt Great House.
- 2.15 The stratigraphy in the footings trenches consisted of approximately 0.25m of modern levelling material deposited after the ground reduction, over a layer of dark greyish brown, silty clay, with frequent small stones, chalk and charcoal fragments, and modern pieces of wood and rope. This layer gets thinner towards Goffs Lane and does not appear at the southern limit of the footings. Beneath this lay a greyish brown clay with large patches of sandy mortared CBM rubble. The CBM patches in this layer become less frequent towards the Goffs Lane frontage. Beneath this, in the base of the footings on the southern half of the site, patches of burnt material [14] were noted. These included charcoal, peg tile, burnt flint, and large pieces of burnt decayed timber, which were not removed. Peg tile recovered from the material is handmade and is of 16th/17th century date.
- 2.16 Arched brick culvert [04] was observed in the northernmost footings trench, running on a northwest south-east alignment. The culvert measured 0.5m wide by 0.5m deep, and was constructed of

unfrogged red bricks bonded with lime mortar. The base of the culvert was formed by a course of bricks two courses wide by one course deep. The bricks measured approximately $220 \times 100 \times 60 \text{mm}$ (8.5 x 4.5 x 2.5 inches), and have been dated to the early 18^{th} century. The culvert is likely to be associated with the former northern wing of the Great House.

- 2.17 Wall footing [05] was observed in the north-west corner of the new footings trenches running on an north-east south-west alignment. The full width of the footing was not observed within the trench, but it was greater in depth than 0.3m and extended below the base of the trench. The footing consisted of brick rubble with large patches of chalky lime mortar. Although no intact bricks were present, two fragments were collected and have been dated to the late 17th century. These fragments have most likely been reused from an earlier wall and as such do not give the date of the footing.
- 2.18 Wall footing [06] was observed in the new footings of the northernmost building running approximately east west. The footing consisted of layers of brick rubble alternating with thick layers of sandy gravelly mortar and measured 0.5m wide by 0.33m deep. A single partially intact brick was recovered from the footing. It is not frogged and measures 106 x 45mm (8.25 x 1.75 inches). The brick which is likely to have been reused from an earlier structure has been dated to the late 16th century.
- 2.19 Wall footing [07] was observed on the western side of the new footings of the southernmost building running on a north-east south-west alignment. The footing was constructed of red brick bonded with a sandy mortar, and measured 1.15m in width, but only the very top of the footing was visible in the base of the trench. The footing contained a narrow cavity filled with clay which ran along it offset from the centre. The bricks and mortar used are identical to those used in wall [03] observed during the ground reduction stage.
- 2.20 Wall footing [08] was observed in the western half of the new footing trenches for the southernmost building running on an north-west south-east alignment. The footing was constructed of red brick bonded with a sandy mortar, and measured 0.7m wide by approximately 0.55m deep. The footing aligns with wall [03] observed during the ground reduction, and the bricks and mortar are also identical to this footing.
- 2.21 Wall footing [09] was observed in the southern footing trench of the southernmost building. The footing had been heavily disturbed by a modern concrete encased storm drain, but appeared to form two walls. One of these ran on a north-west south-east alignment, and measured 0.8m in width. The wall was constructed of red bricks and sandy mortar identical with wall footing [03] observed during the ground reduction. The second wall footing abutted the first on its south-west side and was aligned north-east south-west. Very little survived of the footing, only small fragments of brick rubble and sandy mortar, and it measured 0.45m in width.
- 2.22 Arched brick culvert [10] was observed in the west side of the footings for the southernmost building running on an east west alignment. The culvert measured 0.5m wide by 0.46m high, and was constructed of unfrogged red bricks. The base of the culvert was of compacted clay and was clean with no silt or organic build up, suggesting that it was regularly flushed out. The culvert is a continuation of

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[02] observed during the ground reduction stage of work and is probably associated with the former southern wing of the Great House.

Service trenches

- 2.23 With the exception of two trenches, the services for the new development ran down the east side of the new buildings parallel with and within 1.2m of the new footings trenches.
- 2.24 The remaining two service trenches were excavated to the south of the new buildings and were connected to the existing trench network. The trenches in this area were excavated to a width of 0.25m and a maximum depth of 1.0m. A single wall footing [012] was observed, and an area of brick rubble and burnt material [013].
- 2.25 The stratigraphy within the service trenches was the same as that observed within the footings trenches.
- 2.26 Wall footing [12] was observed crossing the drainage trench to the south of the new buildings on a north-west south-east alignment. The wall footing measured 0.6m wide and survived to a depth beyond 0.8m. The wall was constructed of unfrogged red brick, the bricks measuring 225 x 100 x 50mm (9 x 4 x 2 inches) and has been dated to the early-mid 18^{th} century. The mortar used is similar to that used in the construction of wall [03] observed during the ground reduction stage.
- 2.27 On the south-west side of wall footing [12] a large deposit of brick rubble and burnt material [13] was observed. The deposit extended along the trench a distance of 4.0m and was greater than 1.0m in depth.
- 2.28 No further archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were observed in the service trenches.

3. Finds Assessment

Finds Concordance

	Pottery		Brick		Tile	
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt		
01			1	1545		
02/10			3	2715		
03			3	1705		
04			1	2075		
05			2	330		
06			2	2180		
11			3	2490		
12			1	2890		
13			2	2090		
14	1	3			5	555
U/S Overburden	1	510				
U/S Footing trenches					1	65
Base of Footings	2	30				
Total	4	543	18	1802 0	6	620

Pottery

- 3.1 A total of 4 sherds of pottery, weighing 543g, was recovered from 1 stratified and 2 unstratified contexts during the present investigation.
- 3.2 A single small, heavily abraded, undiagnostic bodysherd of highly micaceous pottery was recovered from burnt deposit (14). The size and undiagnostic nature of the sherd mean that its date is unclear, although several fragments of $16^{th}/17^{th}$ century peg tile were recovered from the same context.
- 3.3 Two joining bodysherds of Romano-British greyware were recovered unstratified from the base of the footings trench for the southernmost building. The sherds, which were heavily sooted, probably date to the 2^{nd} century AD.
- 3.4 An intact stoneware bottle was recovered from the spoil during the ground reduction. This bottle makes up 94% of the assemblage by weight. The bottle is late 19th/20th century in date, the neck is stamped 'Holdsworth', and 'Waltham Cross' is stamped round the base. The potter's stamp on the rear of the bottle is 'Bourne Denby', signifying that the bottle was produced at Joseph Bourne's pottery at Denby.

Recommendations

3.5 Due to the small size of the assemblage no further work is proposed on the pottery.

Brick

- *3.6* A total of 18 fragments of brick, weighing 18020g, was recovered from 9 stratified contexts during the present investigation. The assemblage ranges in date from the late 16th century to the mid 19th century, the majority of bricks recovered being of early to mid 18th century date.
- 3.7 The earliest brick is of the late 16th century and was recovered from wall footing [06], which was constructed of brick rubble. The brick is poorly made and is likely to have been re-used from an earlier structure. Late 17th century brick was recovered from wall footing [05] which was constructed in a similar way to [06]. These footings may represent the remains of the two storey northern wing of the Great House added by the Dacres family in the 17th century.
- 3.8 Brick from the early to mid 18th century makes up 66% of the assemblage by weight. At this period the house was in the ownership of the Shaw family (Ashworth, 2002), who were responsible for undertaking serious renovation work on the house and encasing it in brick. The brick culverts of a similar date indicate that a new drainage system was constructed at the same time. The location of the footings suggests that they represent the northern and western wings of the house which were demolished in the early 19th century. These footings were not revealed during the 2002 evaluation due to the great depth of overburden on the site.
- 3.9 The latest brick recovered was of early to mid 19th century date and came from a brick lined drain. The drain aligns with an earlier arched brick culvert and it is possible that the brick drain was constructed to enable the earlier culvert to remain in use after the demolition of the western wing of the house it originally served.

Recommendations

3.10 Due to the small size of the assemblage no further work is proposed on the brick.

Tile

- 3.11 A total of 6 fragments of tile, weighing 620g, was recovered from 1 stratified and 1 unstratified context during the present investigation.
- 3.12 Five fragments of burnt peg tile were recovered from burnt deposit (14) observed in the base of the footings trenches for the southernmost building. The tile, which is handmade, is of 16th/17th century date.
- 3.13 A single fragment of 19th/20th century ceramic drain was recovered unstratified from the footings of the northernmost building.

Recommendations

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3.14 Due to the small size of the assemblage no further work is proposed on the tile.

4. Discussion and conclusion

- 4.1 The archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks has revealed the remains of Post-medieval wall footings and drains associated with Cheshunt Great House. The majority of these remains appear to be associated with the renovation of the property in the 18th century.
- 4.2 The core of Cheshunt Great House is believed to have been constructed in c.1450 by John Walsh (Ashworth, 2002). The remains of an earlier moat, within the present enclosure, discovered in 1969, indicate the possibility that an earlier house had occupied the site prior to 1450.
- 4.3 The house was enlarged to the north during the early 17th century by the Dacres family, who also added a two storey wing during the middle of the century. Wall footings [05] and [06] may represent the remains of the northern extension.
- 4.4 The house underwent serious renovation work and was encased in brick whilst in the ownership of the Shaw family during the 18th century (Ashworth, 2002). Wall foundations [03], [07], [08], [09], [11], and [12], all appear to be contemporary with this period. The location of the footings suggests they formed part of the south wing of the house. Brick culverts [02] and [04] are also contemporary with this period and indicate the possibility that a new drainage system was installed in the house as part of the renovation works.
- 4.5 The Romano-British pottery, although unstratified, is indicative of activity in the vicinity of the site at this time. The line of Ermine street originally ran north-south along the western side of the moat.

Conclusion

4.6 The monitoring and recording of the groundworks revealed evidence for northern and western extensions to Cheshunt Great House, which were demolished in the early 19th century. Only the footings of these extensions survive, and no evidence of internal floor levels or decoration was observed. Evidence for earlier activity on the site was recovered in the form of two joining bodysherds of unstratified Romano-British pottery.

5. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments	
16/02/2005	DJH	3	Preliminary Site Meeting	
22/02/2005	GIS	2	Monitor Ground Reduction	
22/02/2005	GIS	5	Monitor Ground Reduction	
23/02/2005	GIS	10	Monitor Ground Reduction	
24/02/2005	GIS	9	Monitor Ground Reduction	
14/03/2005	DGK	8	Monitor Footings Trenches	
18/03/2005	DGK	8	Monitor Footings Trenches	
21/03/2005	GIS	10	Monitor Footings Trenches	
22/03/2005	GIS	10	Monitor Footings Trenches	
23/03/2005	GIS	10	Monitor Footings Trenches	
24/03/2005	GIS	10	Monitor Footings Trenches	
01/04/2005	DGK	4	Monitor Ground Reduction	
08/04/2005	KS	8	Monitor Drainage Trench	
11/04/2005	GIS	6	Monitor Drainage Trench	
13/04/2005	GIS	7	Monitor Drainage Trench	
23/08/2005	GIS	8	Monitor Ground Reduction	
31/08/2005	GIS	7	Monitor Drainage Trench	

6. Bibliography

Ashworth, H. 2002, *Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts.: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Heritage Network Report no.149

Hillelson, D. 2004, *Peace Close, Goffs Lane, Cheshunt, Herts.: Archaeological Project Design.* Heritage Network July 2004

7. Illustrations

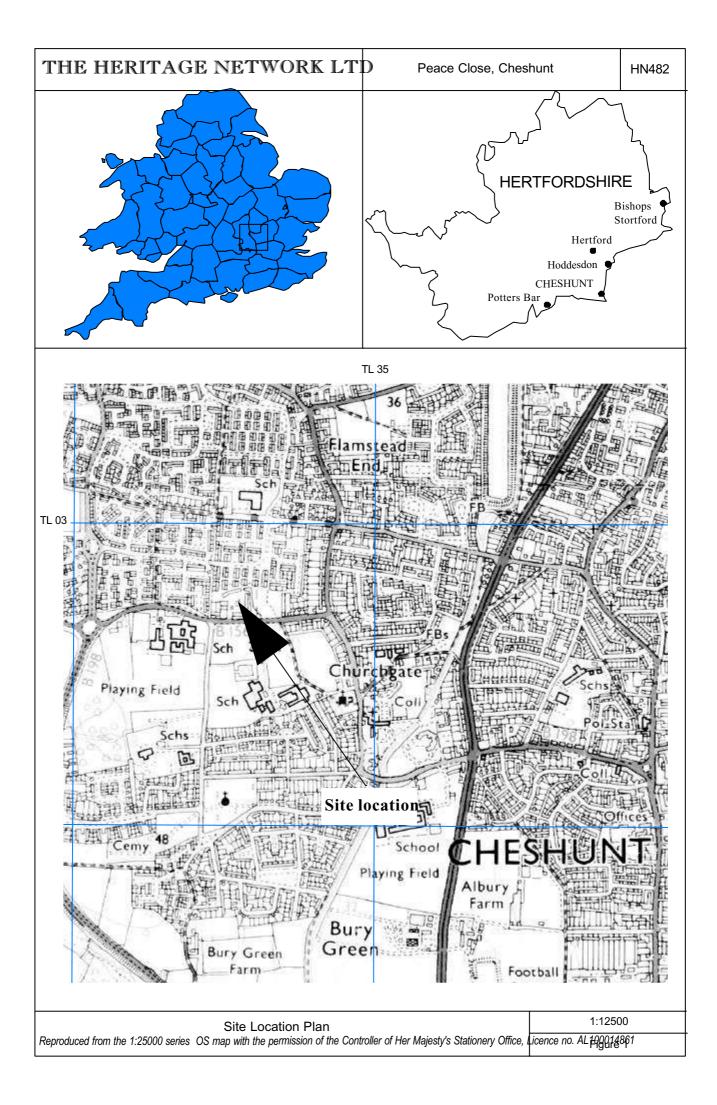
Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Site detail
Figure 4 Overlay of John	Holmes Survey, 1696 (CRO D/EX 859 PI)
Figure 5	Feature profiles

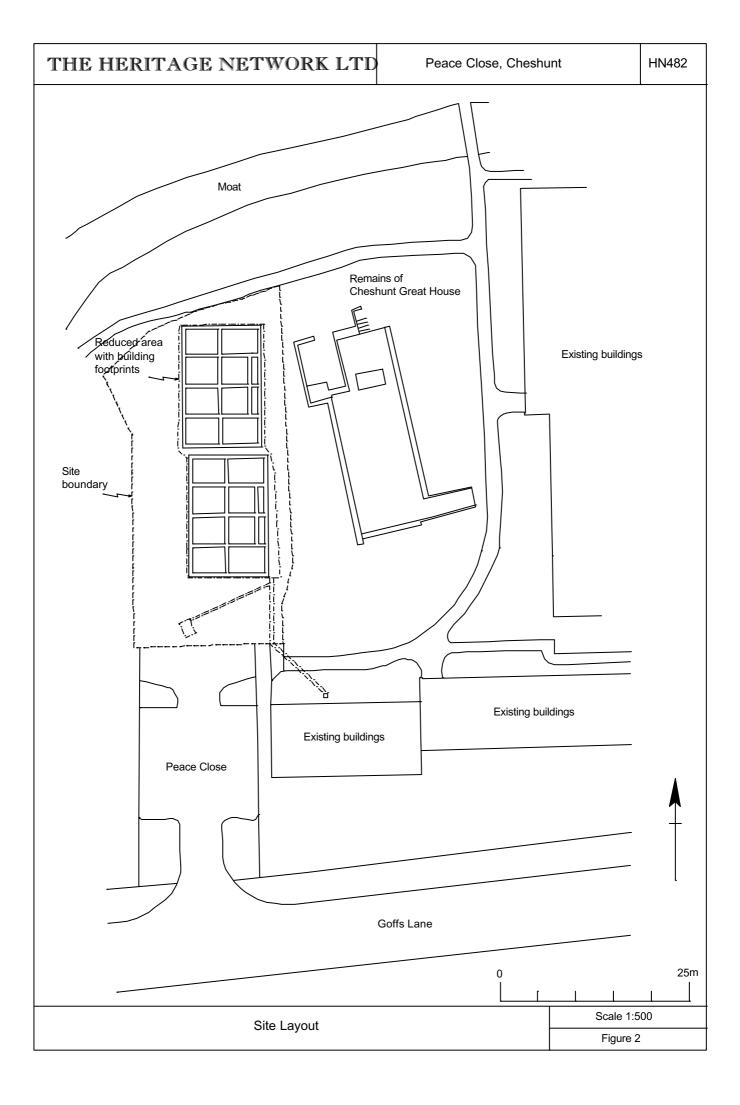
Appendix 1

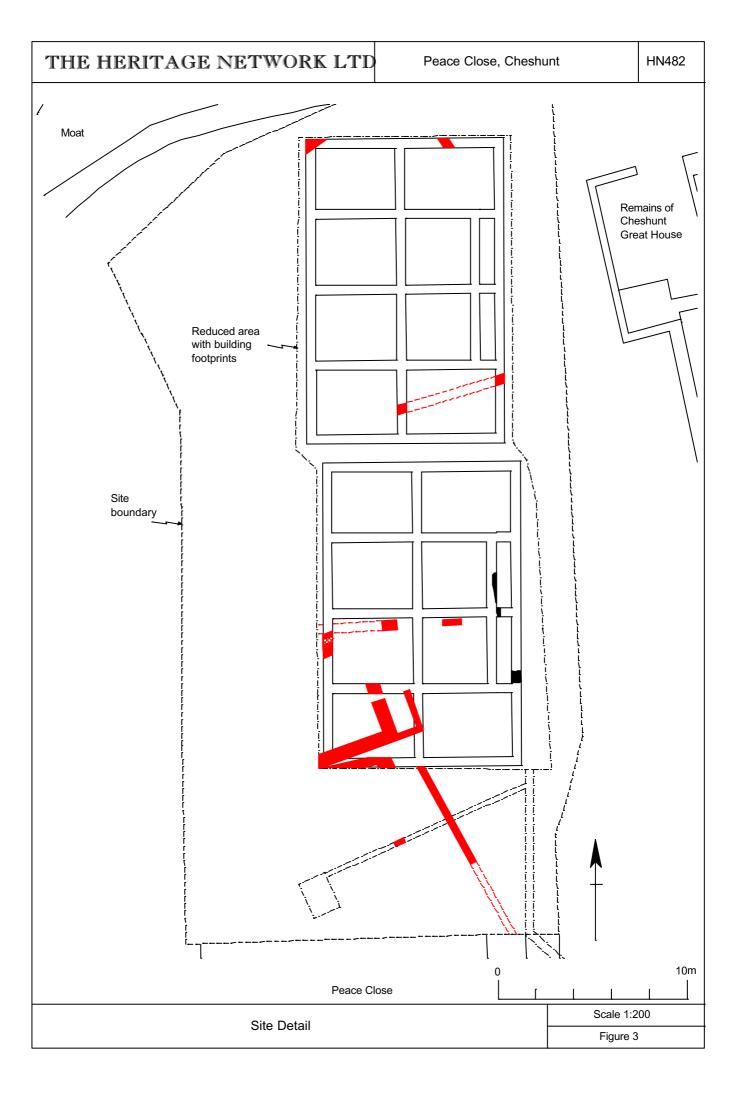
Table of Contexts

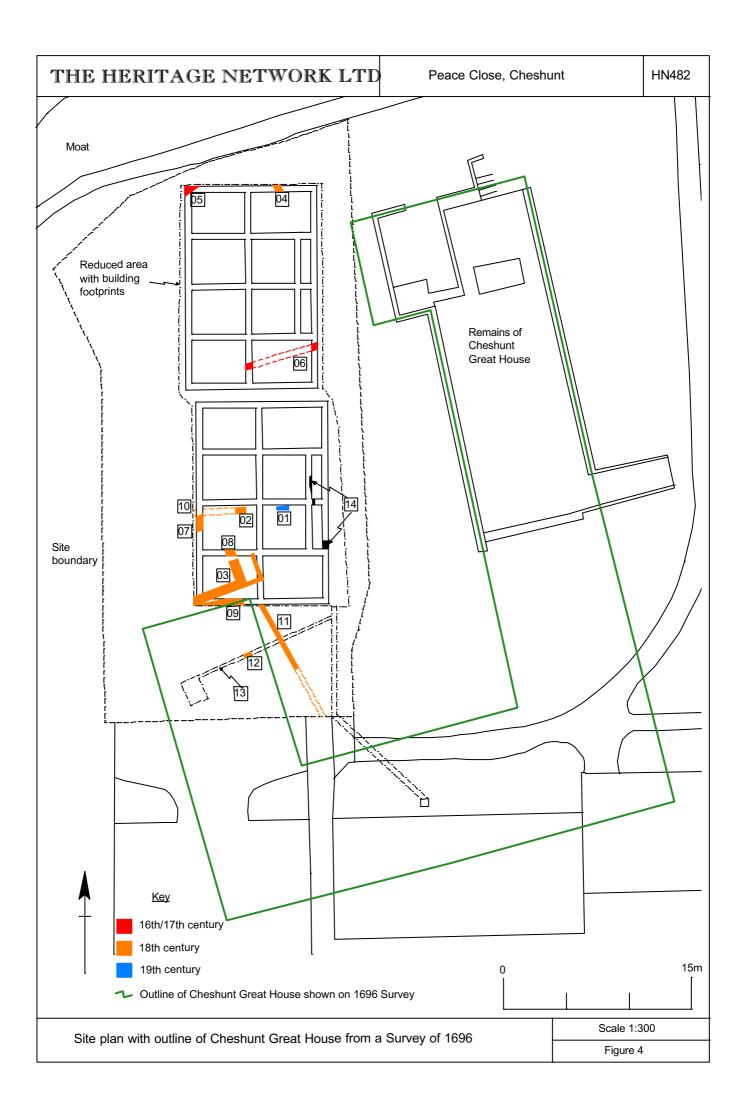
Context	Туре	Description and Interpretation	Dimensions (m)
1	Structure	Brick drain, constructed of early-mid 19 th century brick, aligns with earlier drain [02].	Length: 1.00 Width: 0.30 Depth: 0.15
2	Structure	Rectangular entrance to an arched brick culvert constructed of early 18 th century brick.	Length: 4.20 + Width: 0.50 Depth: 0.50
3	Structure	Substantial brick wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick, bonded with a strong sandy mortar.	
4		Arched brick culvert, constructed of early 18 th century brick bonded with lime mortar.	Length: 0.60 + Width: 0.50 Depth: 0.50
5		Wall footing constructed of late 17 th century brick rubble with large patches of chalky lime mortar.	Length: 1.20 Width: 0.60 + Depth: 0.30 +
6	Structure	Wall footing constructed of alternating layers of late 16 th century brick rubble with layers of sandy gravelly mortar.	Length: 6.00 + Width: 0.50 Depth: 0.33
7	Structure	Substantial brick wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick, bonded with a strong sandy mortar.	Length: 0.60 + Width: 1.15
8	Structure	Substantial brick wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick, bonded with a strong sandy mortar. Aligns with wall footing [03].	Length: 0.50 + Width: 0.70 Depth: 0.55
9	Structure	Substantial brick wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick, bonded with a strong sandy mortar.	Length: 3.5 + Width: 0.8
10	Structure	Arched brick culvert. Continuation of [02].	Length: 4.20 + Width: 0.50 Depth: 0.46
11	Structure	Narrow wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick bonded with a sandy mortar.	Length: 5.5 + Width: 0.35 Depth: 0.05
12	Structure	Substantial brick wall footing, constructed of early to mid 18 th century brick, bonded with a strong sandy mortar.	Length: 0.25 + Width: 0.60 Depth: 0.80
13	Deposit	Deposit of eighteenth century brick rubble and burnt material. Possibly from demolition of the northern and western wings of the house.	Length: 4.0 Width: 0.25 + Depth: 1.0 +
14	Deposit	Deposit of burnt material consisting of charcoal, 16 th /17 th century handmade peg tile, burnt flint, and burnt decayed timber.	Length: 6.00 + Width: 0.50 +

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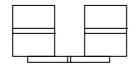




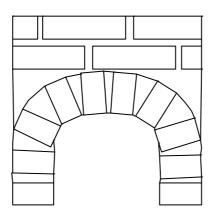




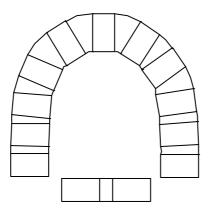
Profile of Brick Drain [01]



Profile of Brick Culvert [02] by Entrance



Profile of Brick Culvert [04]



0				50cms
1				1
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Feature profiles

Scale 1:10

Figure 5