

**74 HIGH STREET, STEVENAGE, HERTS.**

HN519

Report No. 302

|                                    |  |                                   |                    |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Site name and address:</b>      | 74 High Street, Stevenage, Hertfordshire                                 |                                   |                    |
| <b>County:</b>                     | Hertfordshire  | <b>District:</b>                  | Stevenage Borough  |
| <b>Village/town:</b>               | Stevenage  | <b>Parish:</b>                    | Stevenage          |
| <b>Planning reference:</b>         | 2/04/0072  | <b>NGR:</b>                       | TL 23314 25123     |
| <b>Client name and address:</b>    | Andersen Wood Property Partners LLP, Fontley, Halls Green, Weston, Herts |                                   |                    |
| <b>Nature of work:</b>             | New Bin Store  | <b>Present land use:</b>          | Yard area          |
| <b>Size of affected area:</b>      | c.15m <sup>2</sup>   | <b>Size of area investigated:</b> | c.15m <sup>2</sup> |
| <b>Site Code:</b>                  | HN519  | <b>Other reference:</b>           | n/a                |
| <b>Organisation:</b>               | Heritage Network   | <b>Site Director:</b>             | David Hillelson    |
| <b>Type of work:</b>               | Monitoring   | <b>Curating Museum:</b>           | Stevenage Museum   |
| <b>Start of work</b>               | 04/08/2005   | <b>Finish of work</b>             | 04/08/2005         |
| <b>Related SMR Nos:</b>            | n/a  | <b>Periods represented:</b>       | n/a                |
| <b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> | n/a  |                                   |                    |

**Narrative:**

In order to meet the requirements of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for development work at 74 High Street, Stevenage, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to monitor the groundworks associated with the construction of a new bin store at the rear of the building.

The site, centred on NGR TL 23314 25123, lies at the rear of the property, at the junction of Drapers Way, with Primett Road. The development proposes an extension to the rear elevation of the existing building, consisting of a new walled area.

The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance no.2* (AAS2), which defines the core of Stevenage Old Town in the District Local Plan. Evidence for Roman and Medieval settlement activity has been recorded along the High Street.

A single site visit was made to inspect ground reduction and excavation of three underpinning pads for the new wall. All groundwork was undertaken by hand.

The footprint of the new store was reduced by 0.20m, through a topsoil of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) fine silt, disturbed by root activity associated with the adjacent tree to the west. Three square pad footings, each measuring 0.60 x 0.60m and 0.60m deep, were also excavated along the line of the new wall. The overburden was not breached during any of the groundworks and no archaeological features were disturbed by the works.

The spoil from the ground reduction was inspected and artefacts including modern pottery, CBM, and modern glass, were observed. This material is not unusual on urban sites, has no archaeological value and was not collected.

In conclusion, the archaeological monitoring of the development revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. The groundworks did not penetrate the overburden on the site, and thus any potential archaeological remains remain undisturbed by the development.

**Illustrations:**

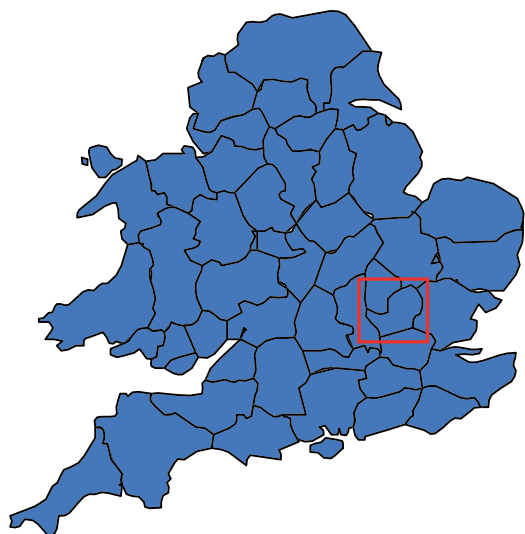
- Figure 1                      Site location  
Figure 2                      Location of groundworks

Geoff Saunders  
December 2005

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

74 High Street, Stevenage

HN519

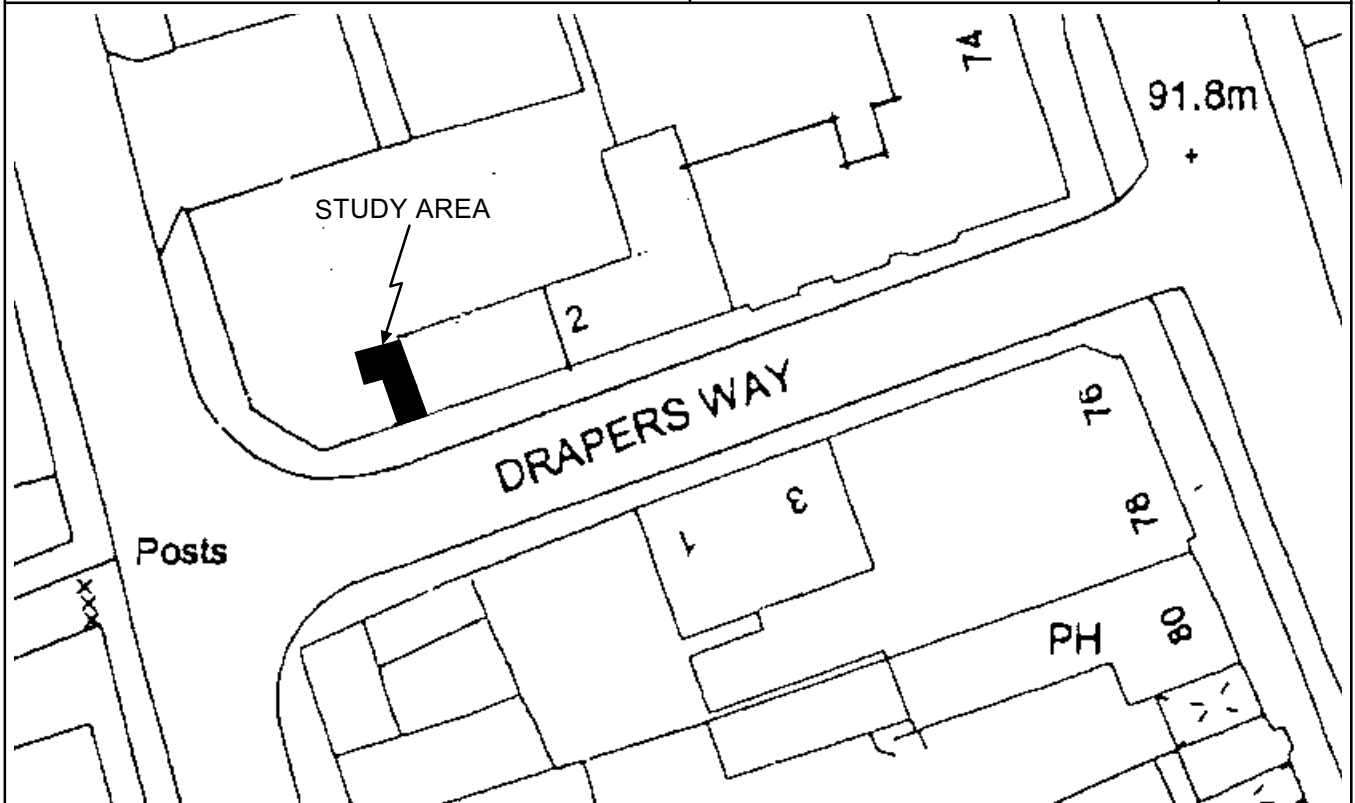


Site Location

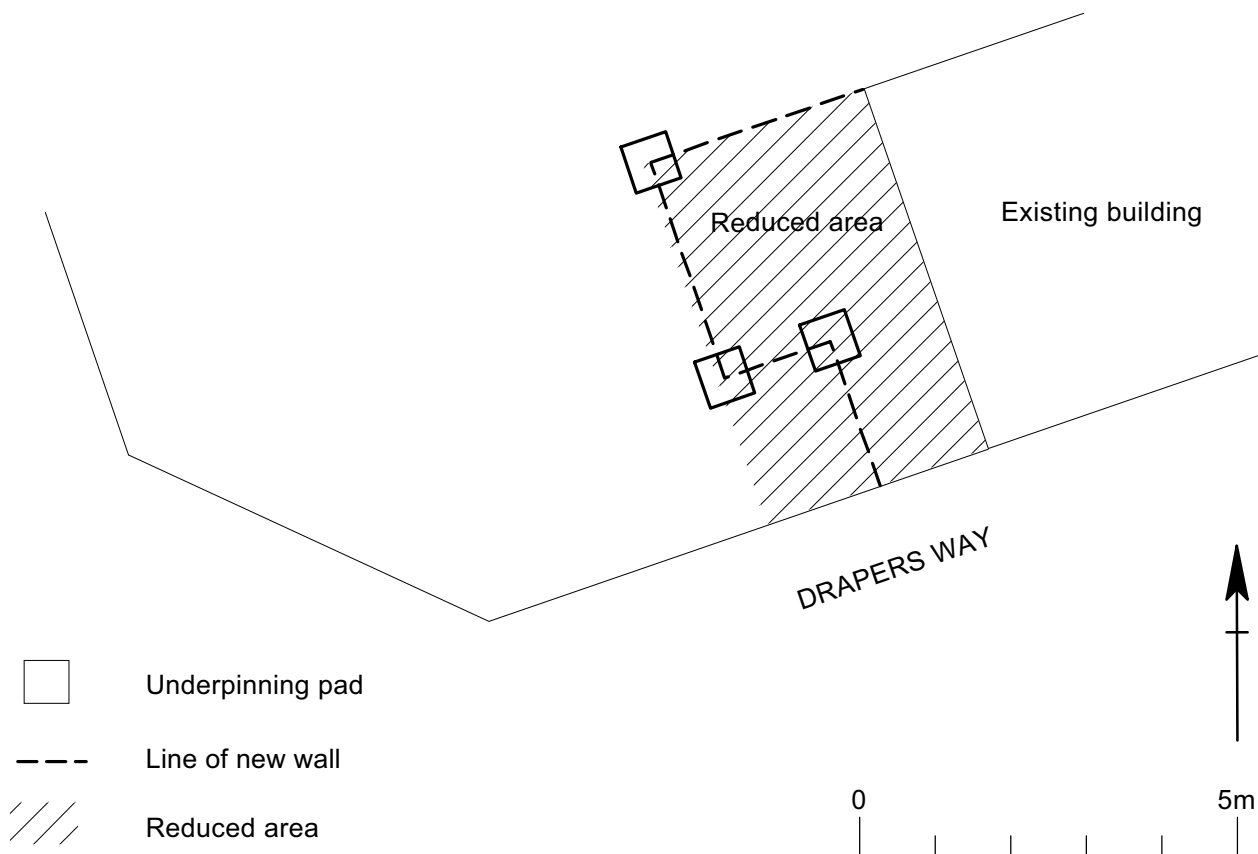
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Figure 1



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Site Layout

Scales 1:500, 1:100

Figure 2