

HERITAGE NETWORK



44 GREEN END
Braughing, Hertfordshire

(HN590)

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

44 GREEN END

Braughing, Herts.

HN590

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Simon Rowe

by

Geoff Saunders, BA AIFA

Report no.351

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders. 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 Simon Rowe, Client; Roy Rowe, Architect; and Alison Tinniswood, County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire County Council for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	44 Green End, Braughing, Herts.		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Hertfordshire
Village/town:	Braughing	Parish:	Braughing
Planning reference:	3/05/2413	NGR:	TL 39408 25368
Client name and address:	Simon Rowe, address as above		
Nature of work:	Extension and garage	Former land use:	Garden
Site status:	AAS60	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.35m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.34m ²
Site Code:	HN590	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Archaeological monitoring	Archive recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	27/04/2006	Finish of work	28/04/2006
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Victorian/Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-14849	Significant finds:	No significant finds
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

In response to a condition on the planning permission for development works at 44 Green End, Braughing, Herts., the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

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

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Simon Rowe Esq*, as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at 44 Green End, Braughing, Herts.

1.2 The investigation was a requirement of the planning consent for the development granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) (ref. 3/05/2413), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* prepared by the County Archaeology Office (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to the EHDC (ref. AT 10/03/2006). A full specification of the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated April 2006.

1.3 The site is located on the east side of the B1368 leading north from Braughing, centred on NGR TL 39408 25368. The development proposed the construction of two small extensions to the existing house, and a new garage in the garden to the rear.

1.4 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no.60 (AAS60), as designated in the District Local Plan, which defines the medieval core of Braughing. It is adjacent to the glebe lands of Braughing Bury lies and lies within the precinct of Braughing Minster. On this basis there was considered by the planning authority to be a moderate risk that features and deposits dating to the medieval period may have been encountered during the development.

1.5 The aim of the present project has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which were uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would 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 describes the findings of the monitoring programme, and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Hertford Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies immediately to the north of the village centre. To the west the land rises to Larks Hill, to the east it falls towards the River Quin. The geology was reasonably consistent across the site and consisted of firm, dark yellowish brown, sandy clay with flints.

METHODOLOGY

2.2 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. Two site visits were made to monitor the ground reduction and inspect the footings and foundation pads.

2.3 The machining was undertaken using a tracked 360⁰ excavator variously fitted with a 500mm toothed bucket and a 1000mm toothless bucket, as required.

2.4 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.5 The project 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 within the footprint of the new garage, the excavation of the footing trenches, and the excavation of the foundation pads for the new extension.

Ground reduction

2.7 The new garage was located in the centre of the garden. At this point the ground had been terraced, with a step down to the eastern half of the garden. The new garage straddles this terrace. The ground level was reduced by approximately 0.70m in the raised part of the terrace.

2.8 The ground reduction revealed that this part of the terrace had been built up using a friable, very dark greyish brown, slightly clayey silt. A modern plastic toy shovel was observed at a depth of approximately 0.70m below the existing surface indicating that the terrace is modern in origin.

2.9 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the modern period were revealed during the ground reduction.

Footings trenches

2.10 Three strip footings were excavated for the new garage, the trenches measured 0.50m in width. The two westernmost trenches were excavated to a total depth of 1.20m, the eastern trench was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.

2.11 The stratigraphy in the trenches consisted of a layer of friable, very dark greyish brown, slightly silty clay over a layer of friable, brown, clayey silt. Beneath this lay the natural geology of firm, dark yellowish brown, sandy clay with flints.

2.12 No archaeological features, or deposits were observed and no artefacts demonstrably predating the late post-medieval period were recovered.

Foundation Pads

2.13 Two foundation pads were excavated for the proposed new extension on the northern half of the east face of the house. The pads measured 0.65m square and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m.

2.14 The stratigraphy in the foundation pads consisted of a modern layer of brick paving over a layer of mixed concrete and brick rubble. Beneath this lay the natural geology of firm, dark yellowish brown, sandy clay with flints. It appears that previous ground reduction and levelling have taken place, possibly prior to the laying of the existing patio area.

2.15 No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the modern period were revealed in the foundation pads.

2.16 A further two foundation pads were planned for a second extension on the southern half of the east face of the building. These have not yet been excavated as construction of the second extension may no longer occur. One of the proposed pads abuts the existing property which has been already underpinned. The second proposed pad would be located close to an existing service trench.

Drainage and Soakaways

2.17 The development used existing drainage and soakaways.

Finds Concordance

2.18 During the course of the investigation, artefacts, including pottery, and peg tile dating to the 18th/19th century, were observed in the overburden. In the context of the present site and given their unstratified nature, these types of artefact have no archaeological significance and, although their presence was noted, they were not collected.

3. Discussion and conclusion

3.1 Despite the site's location within an area of potential archaeological activity, the monitoring of the groundworks associated with the new development revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts demonstrably predating the 18th/19th centuries.

3.2 The artefacts observed in the overburden give no indication of any activity on the site predating the 18th/19th centuries.

Conclusion

3.3 Despite the proximity of the site to prehistoric, Roman, and medieval remains, the fieldwork revealed no significant archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts.

3.4 Two foundation pads for the second extension have not yet been excavated. The proposed location of the pads is in ground likely to have previously been disturbed. This combined with the results of the fieldwork to date, indicates a low probability that they will encounter significant archaeological remains.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
27/04/2006	GIS	5	Monitoring ground reduction, footings trenches, and foundation pads
28/04/2006	GIS	3	Inspect and record footings trenches and foundation pads

5. Bibliography

Hillelson, D. 2006, *44 Green End, Braughing, Herts.: Archaeological Project Design*. Heritage Network

Tinniswood, A. 2006, *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring & Recording 44 Green End, Braughing*. Hertfordshire County Council

6. Illustrations

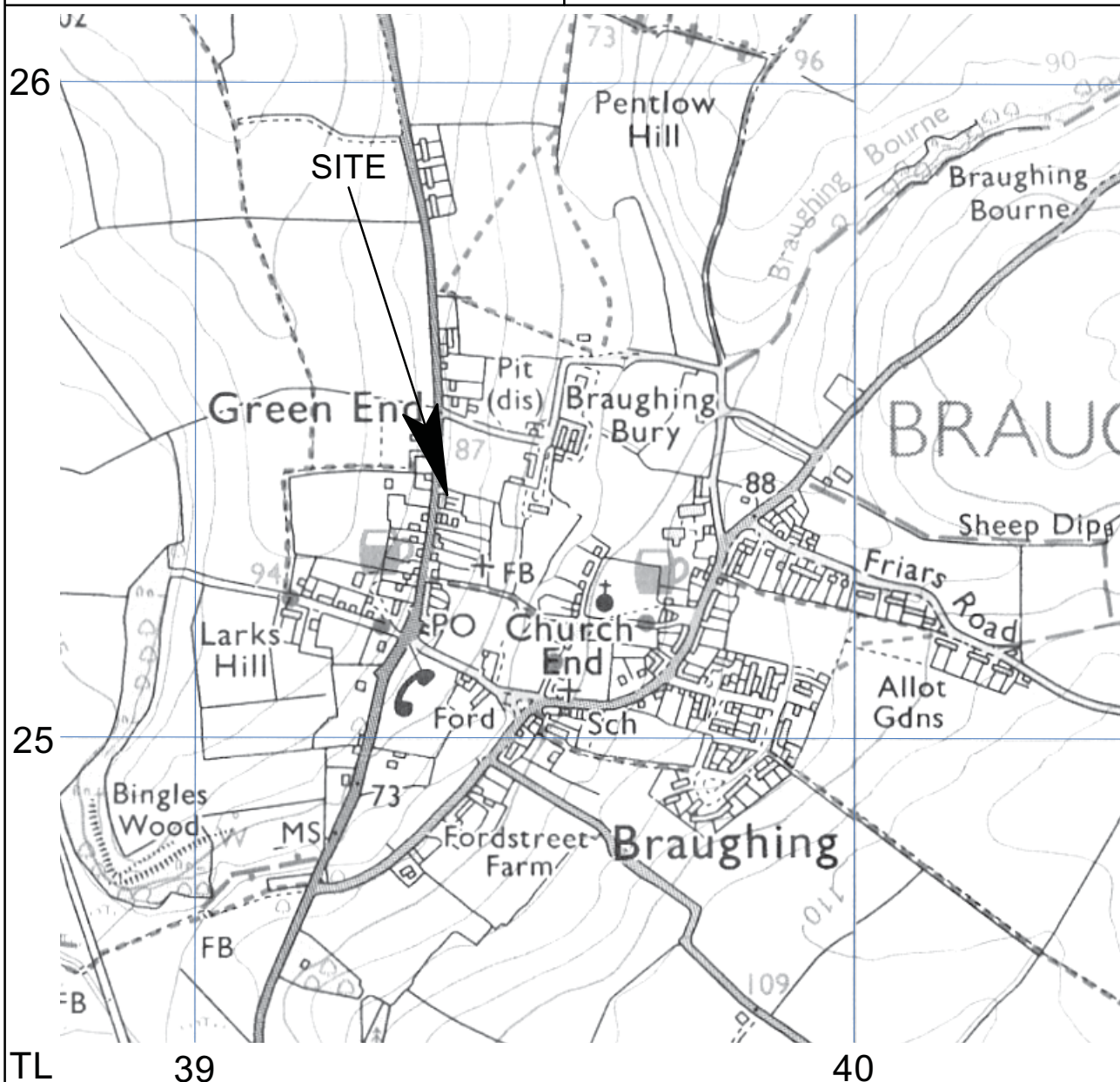
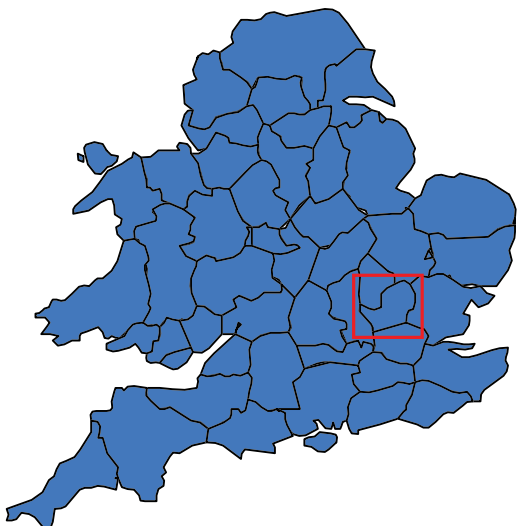
Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site layout

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44 Green End, Braughing

HN590



Site Location

Scale 1:10000

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Figure 1

