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HN1172

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

FOURWAYS Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire

Project ref.: HN1172 Planning ref: 3/14/1635/FP HER enquiry ref: 239/14

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Mr T Ramraj

by

Daniel Phillips, BA (Hons) ACIfA

Report no. 917

March 2015

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The cover photograph shows the site and Town End Farm, looking north-east

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Daniel Phillips and Robin Densem. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Phillips, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mr T Ramraj, Fourways; Phil Sadler and Wayne Walters, contractors, and Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Team, Hertfordshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LP		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Herts
Village/town:	Standon	Parish:	Standon
Planning reference:	3/12/1897/FP	NGR:	TL 39667 22550
Client name and address:	Mr T Ramraj, Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1LP		
Nature of work:	New porch and	Former land use:	Garden & Driveway
	extensions to existing		
	property		
Site status:	Archaeological area	Reason for investigation:	Planning Condition (NPPF)
	of significance 96		
	(AAS96)		
Position in planning process:	Post-determination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.162m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.40.45m ²
Site Code:	HN1172	Site code	N/A
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	12/01/2015	Finish of work	19/01/2015
Related HER Nos:	10043	Periods represented:	Post-medieval; modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-196685	Significant finds:	Tile
Monument types:	Post-medieval surface, wall		
Physical archive:	Tile		
Previous summaries/reports:	N/A		

Synopsis:

In response to a planning condition on the construction of extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the origins and development of Standon, particularly with association to the listed late medieval Town End Farmhouse, in whose former grounds the site is located.

The monitoring programme included an extension at the rear of the property, and a new porch and drainage run at the front. Groundworks included ground reduction and trenching.

The excavations revealed a large quantity of modern made-ground spread across the site, arising from the construction of the existing house in the 1970s. Nevertheless, two features were observed: a compacted chalk surface representing a possible post-medieval working or floor surface within the area of the new extension to the north of the property; and, an un-mortared cobbled wall foundation within the area of the new porch to the south of the property.

No features, finds or deposits dating from earlier than the post-medieval period were encountered in the course of the project.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Mr T Ramraj, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of development at Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The planning permission for the development (ref: 3/14/0379/FP) was granted by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The extent of the work required was set out in correspondence from the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as archaeological adviser to EHDC (ref.: KAT/14/1635-1). This defined the need for a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development, followed by appropriate mitigation, if required, analysis of the data recovered and the production of a report. A full specification for the investigation is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated December 2014 (Turner 2014).
- 1.3 The present site is located to the north of the historic High Street, c.50m to the east of where the A120 crosses the River Rib. The study area consists of a modern house bounded by Town Farm House to the south and east, 'Shiralee', to the north, and Mill End to the west (Figure 1). The site lies within *Area of Archaeological Significance* no. 96, identified in the District Plan as the medieval settlement of Standon.
- 1.4 The present development has entailed the construction of a porch to the front and an extension to the rear of the property. New drainage was also added.
- 1.5 This report presents the data collected in the course of the archaeological fieldwork, and the conclusions that can be drawn from it. Together with the deposition of the project archive with Hertford Museum, it completes the process described in the approved Project Design and will allow Condition 3 of the planning consent to be discharged, subject to the agreement of the LPA.

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The site lies in the centre of Standon village, within the former grounds of Town End Farm and on low ground within the valley of the River Rib, which flows c.50m to the west.
 - 2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Hanslope Association (411d) and are described as:
 - 'Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion' (SSEW 1983).
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology consists of chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by glacially deposited diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).
- 2.4 The geology of the river valley also consists of chalk overlain by head deposits of clay, silt and gravel, formed by material accumulated by down slope movements.

METHODOLOGY

- 2.5 The fieldwork involved a series of site visits to observe the groundworks for the new development. This included ground reduction, footing trenches and a drainage run.
- 2.6 The excavations were undertaken under supervision, using a tracked 360° excavator, fitted with both toothed and toothless ditching buckets, as required.
- 2.7 All potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.
- 2.8 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on pro-forma sheets, at scales of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10.
- 2.9 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.
- 2.10 All recording work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both CIfA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

- 2.11 The monitoring programme on the groundworks for the present project was divided into three principal areas, Plots 1-3, which consisted of a new extension to the rear of the property, a porch at the front, and a drainage run (Figure 2).
- 2.12 All orientations are given in relation to site north, which follows the front to back axis of the present house (see Figure 2).

Plot 1 - Rear extension

- 2.13 A new one and two storey extension was added at the rear of the property, on the north side of site. The work involved ground reduction followed by footing trenches.
- 2.14 Due to the topography at the rear of the property being heavily sloped, a general ground reduction was required in order to level the site prior to construction. This process removed

the existing patio and a portion of the back garden. It covered an area measuring approximately 4.4m x 6.5m (Plate 1).

- 2.15 The ground reduction revealed a stratigraphic sequence of a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sticky silty clay grassed topsoil, with occasional rooting, 0.2m thick (Figure 3). Below this was a compact white (10YR 8/1) chalk layer (101), 0.15m thick. This material was clearly re-deposited and only observed in section along the south facing wall of the reduced area, measuring 4.4m in length (Plate 2).
- 2.16 The chalk surface overlay a thin layer (102) of friable black (10YR 2/1) silty sand, which contained frequent charcoal fragments (Plate 3). It measured 0.05m thick and 4.4m long and was only observed in section. Below this a subsoil was encountered, which consisted of a sticky dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with rare angular flint fragments. This ranged from between 0.5 and 0.6m thick. Finally, the natural horizon was revealed, which consisted of a sticky yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty, sandy clay >0.1m thick.
- 2.17 At the east end of the area a modern intervention was revealed, which cut through both the layers (101/102) and into the subsoil. It consisted of a dump of sticky brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay containing plastic, metal, cement asbestos, glass and concrete fragments.
- 2.18 Three connected footing trenches were then excavated along the perimeter of the reduced area, extending out from the existing building (Plate 4). These measured 0.7m wide by 1m deep. They revealed more modern overburden, 0.7m thick, over the natural.

Plot 2 – New Porch

- 2.19 A porch was added to the front of the property, on its southern side. Work involved the excavation of footing trenches (Plate 5). These small footing trenches were all connected and covered an area approximately 4.3m by 2.5m. The trenches were 0.5m wide and excavated to a depth of between 0.95-1.05m.
- 2.20 The trenches revealed approximately 0.55m of heavily mixed made-ground, formed of three identifiable layers (201-203). These dumped deposits were formed of firm very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy clay with moderate rooting and chalk fragments and rare red brick fragments (Plate 6). A tile fragment was found within the lowest deposit (203).
- 2.21 Below this, a subsoil (206) was revealed, which consisted of a friable dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) clayey sand with moderate sub-angular gravel, 0.1m thick. This sealed the natural, of loose yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand (207), including very frequent sub-angular gravel.
- 2.22 Within one of the footing trenches, and cut through both (206) and (207), was a foundation trench [204]. This feature, only observed in section, had steep straight sides and a flattish base (Figure 4). It was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 0.35m wide by 0.35m deep. The cut contained a wall foundation (205), which consisted of a mixture of sub-angular and rounded un-mortared flint cobbles, laid in a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand matrix.

Plot 3 - Drainage

2.23 A single drainage run was excavated along the front of the property, to the south of Plot 2 (Plate 7). This linear trench, orientated east-west and parallel to the house, measured 10.5m long by 0.3m wide by 0.4m deep. It revealed only an overburden layer formed of loose very

dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) sandy silt with moderate rooting and rare red brick and tile fragments.

ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

2.24 The artefact assemblage consisted of a single fragment of tile from Context 203.

Ceramic Building Material

2.25 A single fragment of post-medieval tile, weighing 60g was recovered from a stratified context. The material was abraded and undiagnostic.

Recommendations

2.26 This type of material is commonly found on urban sites in Hertfordshire and is of low archaeological significance. On this basis, no further work is recommended on this assemblage and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

3. Discussion

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

- 3.1 The present site forms a modern domestic plot located on the eastern side of Mill End, close to the junction with Stortford Road (A120). The site is located within *Area of Archaeological Significance 96* (AAS96), identified in the District Plan as the medieval settlement of Standon. The River Rib runs 60m to the west. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for the area is described as 'built up/urban', which covers the High Street to the south and extends westwards along the A120.
- 3.2 An overview of the archaeological and historical context for the site is set out below, drawn from the Hertfordshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER), our own records and other sources. The study area covers a radius of 500m from the centre of the site.
- 3.3 The Rib valley has acted for a focus for archaeological activity from the prehistoric period onwards. There are a number of prehistoric findspots around the study area, including a Late Bronze Age/Early Roman copper alloy mount, 310m north-east of the site (HER 29804) and a Late Iron Age gold quarter stater (HER 25965), 145m to the south-west.
- 3.4 The line of the Roman road, Ermine Street, lies 1.3km to the west of the site. This has also acted as focus for settlement, which has joined up with the medieval core of Standon over time. Two Roman coins (HER 1509) were discovered in a garden, 90m to the north in Mill End, during the 19th century. Cropmarks of a ditched rectilinear enclosure, 500m to the north of the site, may be associated with Iron Age and Roman settlement remains (HER 16793).
- 3.5 The name of the village may have its origins in the Anglo-Saxon word for 'Stoney Hill', but there are currently no known remains dating from this period within the study area, with the possible exception of the earliest parts of St Mary's Church.
- 3.6 The village is referred to in the Domesday Book as the manorial holding of 'Standone'. Standon had a comparatively large population at the time of the Domesday Survey; within Hertfordshire, only Ware, Hertford and St Albans were larger at that time. The medieval and later village (HER 2675) concentrates around the parish church (HER 4366), 280m to the south of the site. The earliest parts of St Mary's Church are early 13th century stylistically, but it probably has Saxon origins.
- 3.7 The site of a medieval bridge chapel 'Our Lady Bridge' (HER 2766), was situated on an earlier bridge across the River Rib, 70m to the west of the site. The bridge (HER 5148) has been rebuilt several times during the post-medieval period and originally dates at least to the medieval period.
- 3.8 There are 38 listed buildings within the study area, the majority of which are Grade II post-medieval structures located along the Mill End, the High Street and Hadham Road to the south. There are two structures graded as II*: an early 18th Century house at 59 High Street, 240m to the south of the site (Listed Building 161114), and a former 17th century manorial courthouse and school at 7-16 Knights Court, 340m to the south (listed Building 161049). St Mary's Church, 280m to the south of the site (Listed Building 161115), is the only Grade I building within the study area.
- *3.9* Fourways is situated adjacent to Town End Farmhouse (HER 10043; Listed Building 161136). This building dates from the late medieval period with alterations during the 18th and 19th centuries.

- 3.10 Cartographic evidence shows that the current site was part of the grounds of Town End Farm (HER 30662). On the 1839 Tithe Map, an outbuilding is shown immediately north of the footprint of the present house (Figure 5), and the later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show a number of small outbuildings beneath the present footprint, and a range of farm buildings extending to the north (Figure 6).
- *3.11* The Falcon Inn (HER 10037), a Grade II listed building, was built in the 17th century, 30m to the south-east of the site. Also close to the site, 45m to the east, no.4 Stortford Road, was a later 19th century house and blacksmith workshop (HER 13431). A planned post-medieval farmstead (HER 11147) was located 135m to the north of the site.
- 3.12 Activity in Standon during the post-medieval period was dominated by mills associated with the river. This was probably a continuation of these industries from the medieval period.
- 3.13 The site of The Old Mill (HER 5809) lies 70m to the north-west of the site on the eastern bank of the river. It is thought the 19th century mill was built on the site of an earlier medieval manorial mill.
- 3.14 An early 20th century steam-powered corn mill (HER 5808), was located on the western bank of the River Rib, 110m to the west. It was built to match The Old Mill (HER 5809) across the river.
- 3.15 The site of Standon railway station (HER 5540) lies 145m to the west of the site, on the other side of the River Rib. The site of a post-medieval smock mill (HER 4755) lies 430m to the south. Another mill, a post-medieval paper mill (HER 5766), is situated on the river Rib, 430m to the south-west of the site. This is possibly also the site of a late Saxon and medieval watermill. An associated post-medieval paper-drying house (HER 9487) was located on the other side of the road, 500m to the south-west.
- *3.16* An 18th century outbuilding of Standon workhouse, converted into almshouses in the mid-19th century, lies 380m to the south of the site (HER 10029). Some 17th century cottages on Papermill Lane were also converted into almshouses (HER 10030).
- 3.17 A non-conformist chapel (HER 9488) was located on Kents Lane, 370m to the west of the site, it appears to have been demolished by the 1840s.
- 3.18 490m to the north-west of the site lie undated linear cropmarks identified in aerial photographs (HER 2564). Further similar linear cropmaks (HER 4107) have been identified close by, 450m from the site to the north.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- *3.19* The aims of the investigation have been:
 - to identify any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development and establish their location, depth, extent, date, character and condition;
 - to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality, in relation to the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011);
 - to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development is adopted.
- 3.20 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the settlement of Standon and activity within the River Rib valley from the

prehistoric period onwards. There was considered to be a high likelihood of encountering remains relating to the post-medieval structures associated with the adjacent Town Farm House

COLLECTED DATA

- 3.21 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the archaeological monitoring revealed a large degree of disturbed ground concentrated around the existing building. This material contained modern debris including brick, tile, glass and concrete.
- 3.22 At the rear of the property and within Plot 1, a thin, grass covered topsoil overlay a compacted chalk surface (101), which extended across the entire width of the exposed area. This in turn overlay a thin, charcoal rich surface (102), which also extended across the width of the plot. These deposits overlay a subsoil, and the natural horizon was also revealed during excavation of the footing trenches.
- 3.23 At the front of the property and within Plot 2, a wall foundation (205), consisting of unmortared cobbled flints was revealed. Its construction trench [204], was observed to cut through the subsoil and into the natural. The foundation was then sealed by bands of modern dumped deposits (201-203).
- 3.24 The drainage trench at the front of the property did not penetrate deep enough to expose any potential archaeological features or deposits and only revealed more disturbed ground.

CONCLUSIONS

- 3.25 It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the origins and development of Standon, particularly with association to the listed building of Town End Farmhouse, on whose former ground the site is located.
- 3.26 The monitoring of the groundworks revealed a large quantity of disturbed ground and modern overburden. This material is probably associated with the construction of the present dwelling, which dates to the 1970s.
- 3.27 The compacted chalk surface (101) revealed within Plot 1 under the back garden, is likely to represent a post-medieval floor or working surface connected with Town End Farm., although no dating evidence was revealed. The extension lies on or close to the footprint of an outbuilding shown on the 1839 Tithe Map (Figure 5), and a later range of buildings shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1878 and 1897 (Figure 6).
- 3.28 The flint cobbled wall foundation (205), revealed within Plot 2 at the front of the property, represents the base of an earlier structure of unknown date. A group of outbuildings adjacent to Town End Farm House is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1878 and 1897 (Figure 6).
- 3.29 No artefacts, features or deposits dating from earlier than the post-medieval period were encountered in the course of this project.

Confidence Rating

3.30 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are 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
12/01/15	DRP	3	Pre-start meeting, monitoring ground reduction for Plot 1
13/01/15	DRP	7	Monitoring footings for Plot 1 (rear extension)
15/01/15	RGD	4	Monitoring footings for Plot 2 (front porch)
16/01/15	RGD	6	Monitoring footings for Plot 2 (front porch)
19/01/15	DRP	3	Monitoring Plot 3 (drainage trench)

5. Bibliography

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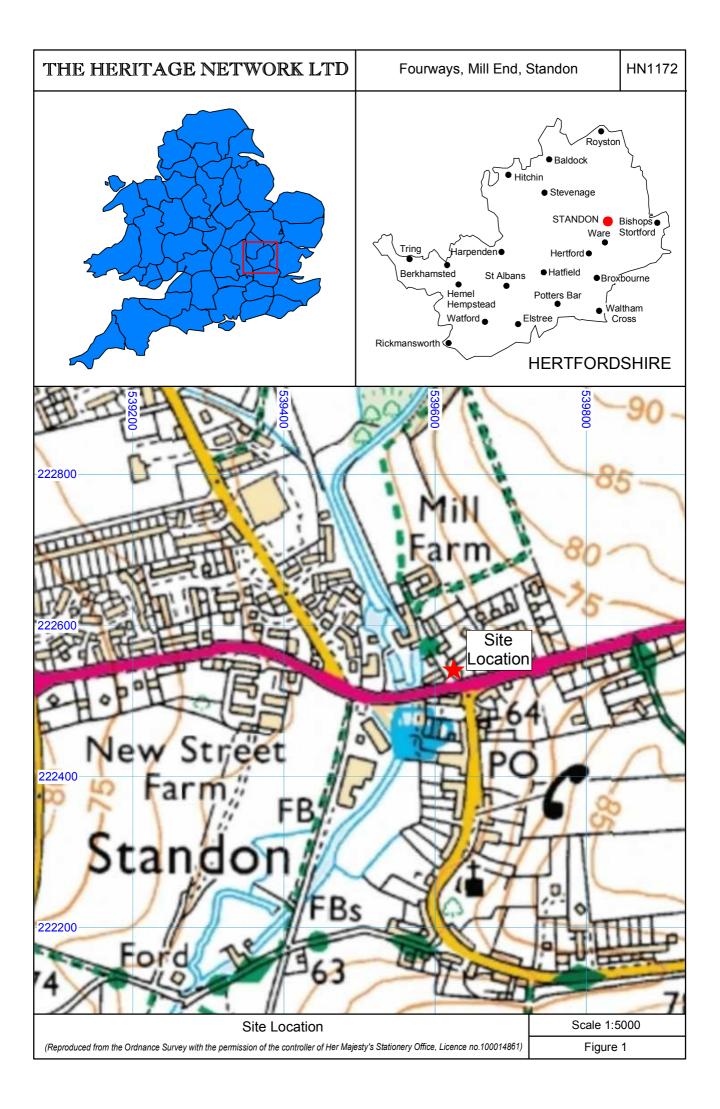
Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24

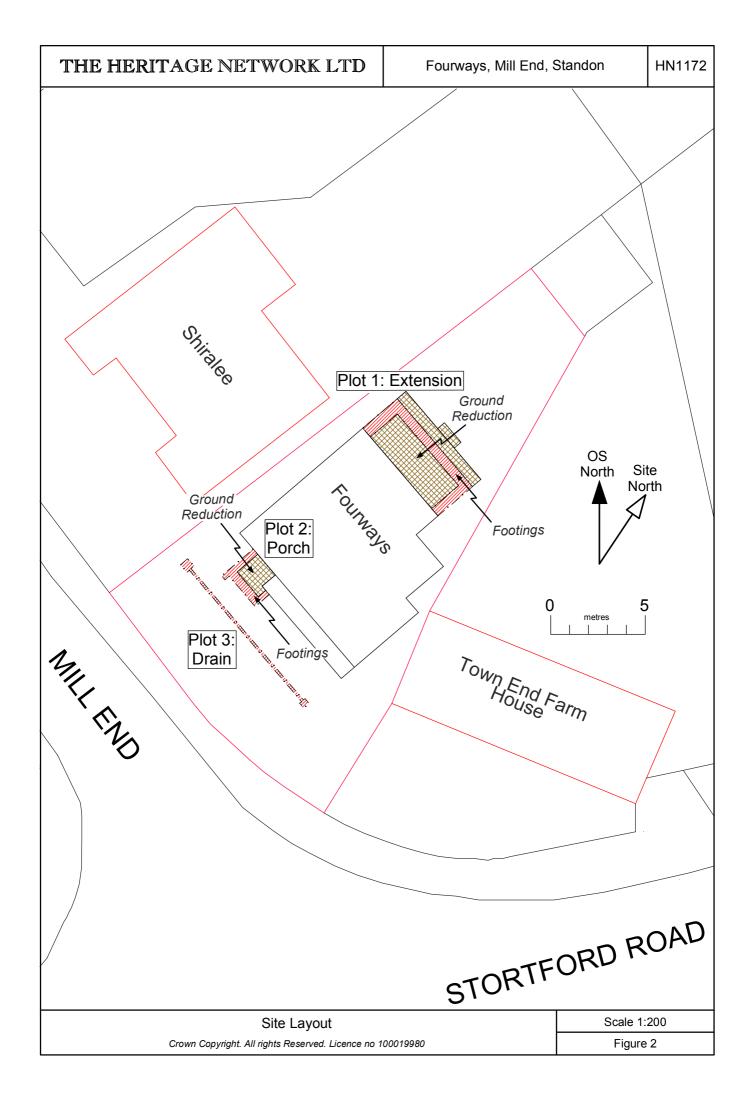
Smith, J.T. 1993 *Hertfordshire Houses: Selective Inventory*. London: Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

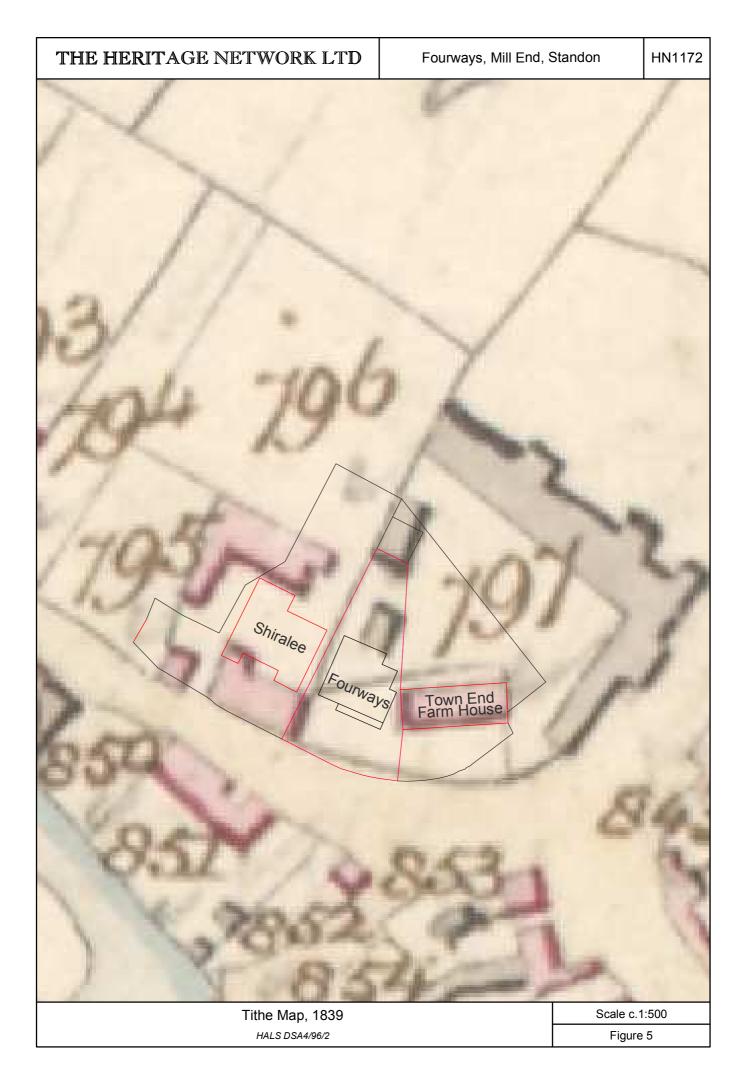
6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Plot 1: section
Figure 4	Plot 2: section
Figure 5	
Figure 6	Ordnance Survey map, 1897
Plate 1	
Plate 2	Stratigraphy in Plot 1, looking N
Plate 3	Charcoal layer (102) beneath (101), looking N
Plate 4	Indicative footing trench within Plot 1, looking NE
Plate 5	
Plate 6	Section on footing trench, Plot 2, looking NE
Plate 7	Drainage trench, looking SE

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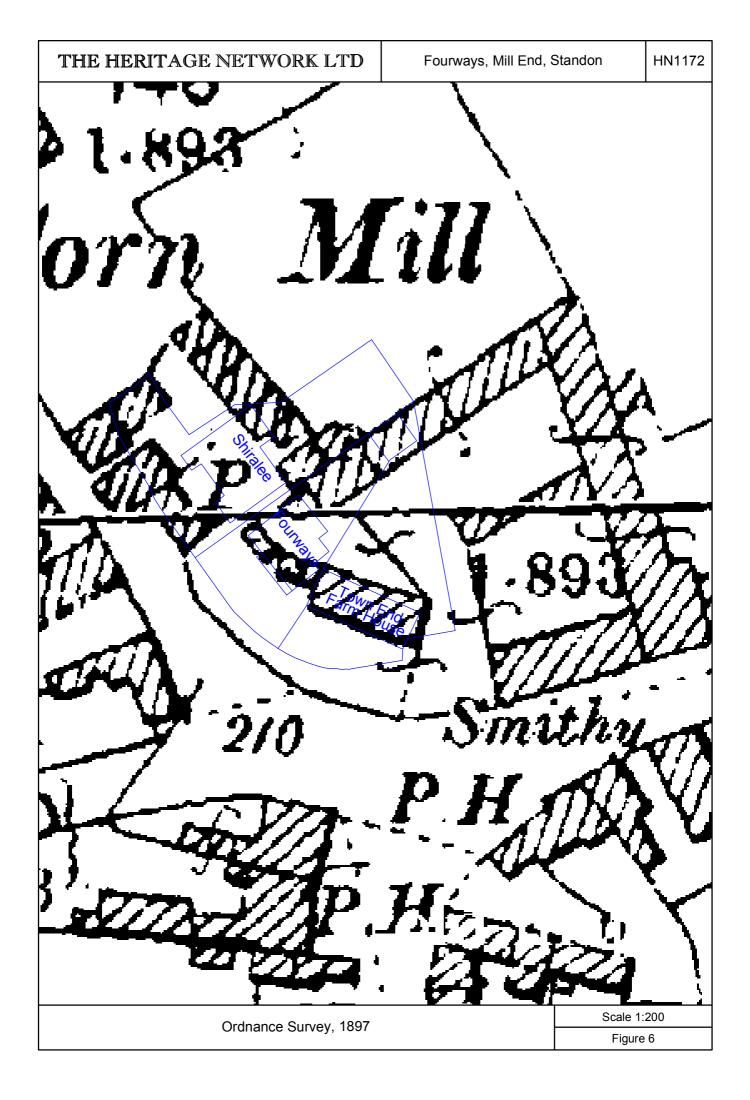




Plate 1: General ground reduction for Plot 1, looking south



Plate 2: Stratigraphy in Plot 1, showing chalk surface (101), looking north



Plate 3: Charcoal layer (102) beneath (101), on right hand side, looking north



Plate 4: Indicative footing trench within plot 1, looking northwest

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Plate 5: Plot 2: New front porch, looking northwest



Plate 6: Section on footing trench, Plot 2, looking northeast



Plate 7: Drainage trench, looking southeast

Appendix 1OASIS Data form

OASIS ID: heritage1-196685		
Project details		
Fourways, Mill End, Standon		
In response to a planning condition on the construction of extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.		
It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the origins and development of Standon, particularly with association to the listed late medieval Town End Farmhouse, in whose former grounds the site is located.		
The monitoring programme included an extension at the rear of the property, and a new porch and drainage run at the front. Groundworks included ground reduction and trenching.		
The excavations revealed a large quantity of modern made-ground spread across the site, arising from the construction of the existing house in the 1970s. Nevertheless, two features were observed: a compacted chalk surface representing a possible post-medieval working or floor surface within the area of the new extension to the north of the property; and, an un-mortared cobbled wall foundation within the area of the new porch to the south of the property.		
No features, finds or deposits dating from earlier than the post-medieval period were encountered in the course of the project.		
Start: 12-01-2015 End: 19-01-2015		
No / Not known		
HN1172 - Contracting Unit No.		
Recording project		
Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)		
Residential 1 - General Residential		
WALL Uncertain		
CHALK SURFACE Post Medieval		
TILE Post Medieval		
"'Watching Brief"		
National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF		
England		
HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE STANDON Fourways, Mill End		
SG11 1LP		
462.00 Square metres		
TL 39637 22550 51.8835410071 0.0290628540907 51 53 00 N 000 01 44 E Point		

Project creators		
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network	
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)	
Project design originator	Chris Turner	
Project director/manager	David Hillelson	
Project supervisor	Daniel Phillips	
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner	
Project archives		
Physical Archive recipient	Hertford Museum.	
Physical Contents	None	
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum	
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"	
Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum	
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Report"	
Project bibliography	1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)	
Title	Fourways, Mill End, Standon, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring Report	
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Phillips, D.	
Other bibliographic details	Report No 917	
Date	2015	
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network	
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City	
Description	A4 booklet, green cover, comb bound, 12 text pages, 6 figures, 7 plates	