



HERITAGE NETWORK



THE OLD DAIRY
Moor Hall Farm
Ardeley, Herts.
(HN448)

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

THE OLD DAIRY Moor Hall Farm, Ardeley, Herts.

HN448

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Mr & Mrs Ian Denchfield

by

Karin Semmelmann, MA PIFA

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12 ROYSTON ROAD, BALDOCK, HERTS. SG7 6NT
TEL: (01462) 893288 FAX: (01462) 893562

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Karin Semmelmann. The report was written and the illustrations prepared by Karin Semmelmann. It was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mr & Mrs Ian Denchfield, owners; the staff of Chiswell Pools Ltd, contractor; and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, HCC for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	The Old Dairy, Moor Hall Farm, Ardeley, Herts.		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	East Herts.
Village/town:	Ardeley	Parish:	Ardeley
Planning reference:	3/03/0283	NGR:	TL 3253 2685
Client name and address:	Mr & Mrs Ian Denchfield, as above		
Nature of work:	Swimming pool	Present land use:	Garden
Size of affected area:	c.80m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.80m ²
Site Code:	HN448	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring & recording	Curating Museum:	Hertford Museum
Start of work	27/11/2003	Finish of work	09/12/2003
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	n/a
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the construction of a swimming pool to the rear of The Old Dairy, Moor Hall Farm, Ardeley, Herts, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to monitor the construction groundworks.

Despite its proximity to possible medieval earthworks, groundworks on the site revealed no features.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *Chiswell Pools Ltd* on behalf of *Ian Denchfield Esq*, as part of a programme of archaeological work associated with proposed development at The Old Dairy, Moor Hall Farm, Ardeley, Herts. The planning permission for the development (ref. 3/03/0283), granted by the East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC), was 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 work followed the *Design Brief for Archaeological Observation and Recording* issued by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to EHDC (ref. JS 04/11/2003).

1.2 The site is located 50m north north-east of Moor Hall and 25m east of the converted buildings which formed Moor Hall Farm, centred on NGR TL 3253 2685. The development proposes the construction of an open-air swimming pool together with a chalet, associated services and landscaping (Fig.1).

1.3 The site lies near to the site of a medieval moated complex, the extent of which is not fully known. A number of ponds in the immediate vicinity of the development may form the vestigial remains of this complex. There was considered by the planning authority to be potential for the development to disturb archaeological remains associated with it.

1.4 The aim of the monitoring programme has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which may have been 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), and subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

2. Fieldwork

Initial Ground reduction

2.1 The ground reduction was undertaken with a JCB mini-digger fitted with a 0.75m toothless bucket. The ground was reduced by approximately 0.28m to reveal the subsoil, which was dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with gravel. No archaeological features were observed, but a number of artefacts were retrieved. These included a part-glazed fragment of possibly medieval floor tile, a sherd of glazed post-medieval pottery and 2 pieces of 19th or 20th century glazed pottery.

Trenches

2.2 Three trenches were dug by a JCB mini-digger with a 0.60m toothed bucket and were 0.60m deep at the northern end and 0.80m deep at the southern end (Fig. 2).

2.3 A post-medieval pot sherd, a fragment of clay pipe stem and some pieces of post-medieval brick/tile were unearthed but not kept. No features were revealed.

Secondary ground reduction

2.4 The area within the trenches was reduced to the same depth as the trenches, revealing only a levelling deposit at the southern end of the pool. As the machine had disturbed the southern end of this feature, its full extent could not be assessed. It was 0.50m wide, 0.06m deep and at least 1.30m long. Two large fragments of 18th/19th century pottery were present in the deposit.

Final ground reduction

2.5 The pool was reduced to its final depth, which was approximately 1.10m at the southern end and 2.0m at the northern end. No archaeology was observed.

3. Discussion & Conclusion

3.1 The only feature revealed during the groundworks was a levelling deposit containing two large late 18th or early 19th century pottery fragments.

3.2 Despite the proximity of the medieval moated complex, there was no evidence to suggest that the study area may ever have been part of it.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
27/11/03	KS	2	Site meeting
01/12/03	KS	4	Monitor vegetation strip
02/12/03	KS	7	Monitor trenches
03/12/03	KS	8	Monitor ground reduction
04/12/03	KS	6	Monitor ground reduction
05/12/03	KS	7	Monitor ground reduction
08/12/03	KS	2	Inspect ground reduction
09/12/03	KS	2	Inspect ground reduction

5. Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site layout

Figure 3 Groundworks





