

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent**

**Planning Ref: 09/03525/HOUSE/ARJ**

**NGR TQ 77470 39833**

**Project No. 4563**

**ASE Report No. 2011062  
OASIS id: archaeol6-108622**

**By Sam Whitehead**

**March 2011**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Mr Marcus Boret to undertake an archaeological watching brief on foundation trenching for a garden room extension to the east of the existing property and associated services, and a garage approximately 25m to the west of the house at Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent (NGR 577470 139833). The work was undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010.*

*The trenching revealed a layer of topsoil directly overlying clay natural; no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered and there were no features cutting the upper surface of the clay in any of the areas.*

*The interior of the property was also studied at the time and areas of the buildings historic fabric were photographed. The uncovered fabric confirmed the suggested interpretations put forward in the original report (ASE 2009).*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Mr Marcus Boret to undertake a watching brief on the foundation trenching for an extension on the east side of the existing farmhouse. An interpretive building survey undertaken in 2009 by ASE revealed that the earliest part of the structure probably dates from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The building was listed grade II in 1952.

### **1.2 Location and Geology**

1.2.1 Hartridge Manor lies to the east of Paley Lane, 2.30 miles to the north of Cranbrook Parish church. The main range is aligned north-south, and the original western façade entrance has been re-established after some period of time. The house lies approximately 42 metres above Ordnance Datum on ground which slopes gently towards the east, down to a pair of narrow watercourses.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock of the site is Tunbridge Wells Sand formation with a narrow strip of Interbedded Weald Clay formation below the watercourses to the east (BGS 2011).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The proposed work involved the construction of a garden room on the east side of the existing building, as well as associated service trenches and a garage 25m to the west of the building. The condition for the archaeological watching brief (Planning ref: 10/04027/LBC and 10/04011/HOUSE) was attached to the planning consent by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as Hartridge Manor is a Grade II Listed Building which probably dates from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. The scope of the watching brief also included monitoring of any interventions to the fabric of the historic building, and the recording of any historic fabrics revealed during the course of such works which were not recorded during the initial pre-planning survey (ASE 2009).

1.3.2 The condition stated:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance to the written scheme of investigation (WSI), including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority and the works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.*

*(Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16.)*

## **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Sam Whitehead on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The project was managed by Ron Humphrey (Project Manager). The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of foundation trenches, and a photographic record of the current interior condition of the building itself. The findings relating to the standing building were discussed by Jane Clubb as an addendum to the existing report on the house.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Previous Work**

- 2.2.1 Hartridge Manor was the subject of an Interpretative Historic Building Survey carried out by David Martin and Jane Clubb in 2009. This survey ascertained that the earliest part of the structure probably dated from the 16th century but it is today in a fragmentary state, having been greatly altered in the early 18th century. The 16th-century remains include a now-exposed cellar, indicating that the house extending further to the north than it does today. At a later date this cellar is likely to have been covered by an outshut, which has since been removed. There were many alterations to the internal arrangement in the 18th century, and subsequently extensions have been added to the structure, enlarging the building's footprint.

## **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The aim of this watching brief was to ascertain the quality and quantity of surviving archaeological features, artefacts and ecofacts in the impacted area. Any uncovered features were to be recorded, as was any impact to the standing building itself.
- 3.1.2 The intrusive groundwork undertaken as part of this project was conducted with an archaeologist present to monitor the work for evidence of archaeological remains.
- 3.1.3 All intrusive excavations were done using a mini digger with a bladed bucket to allow easy identification of archaeological features uncovered during the groundworks.
- 3.1.4 The excavations were carried out with the contractors briefed to allow the archaeologist time to investigate any feature or possible feature that may have been uncovered.

3.1.5 Any archaeological features that may have been uncovered in the limits of the intrusive groundworks were to be recorded in line with advice given in PPS5 (the Government's statement on *Archaeology and Planning*).

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	none
Bulk Samples	none
Photographs	54 digital photos
Bulk finds	none
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Foundation trenching (Fig. 2)

4.1.1 The foundation trenches for the new extension were located immediately to the east side of Hartridge Manor, the site of a new garage a short distance to the west and service trenches running northwards from the north-east corner of the building. The total length of trenching observed was approximately 130m, the typical width being around 0.50m. In each area the ground was undisturbed and a simple sequence of topsoil overlying natural clay was observed.

4.1.2 Two contexts were recorded during the excavation. No archaeological features were uncovered. The contexts have been tabulated below.

#### List of recorded contexts

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)
001	Deposit	Topsoil	c. 200
002	Deposit	Natural	-

### 4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The topsoil comprised a firm mid-brown silty-clay which was between 0.10 and 0.20m thick. The natural comprised a firm, slightly sandy yellow clay which overlay a bed of sandstone reached around 1m below the ground surface.

## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 There were no finds recovered from this excavation.

## **6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

- 6.1 No environmental samples were taken in the course of the watching brief on the foundation trenching.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The watching brief undertaken during the excavation of the foundation trenches found no archaeological features or finds. This is in part due to the difficulty in observing features within the narrow confines of these trenches which were too deep and narrow to enter in order to clean the sections. Observations within the building do not contribute further to our understanding of the Manor house which was sufficiently well understood in the initial survey (ASE 2009).

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Due to the lack of evidence for any buried archaeological features or artefacts found inside the impact area of the foundations trenches, it can be concluded that no archaeology was disturbed by the groundworks.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Martin, D. and Clubb, J. 2009 *An Archaeological Interpretative Survey of Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent*. Unpublished ASE Report, Project Ref No. 3801

BGS 2011 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 06.07.2011 [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html),

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Marcus Boret for commissioning the work and Adam Single of Kent County Council for his guidance throughout the project.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code						
Identification Name and Address	Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 2NA					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	577470 139833					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4563					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief √	Standing Structure √	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field √	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 27/09/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr. Marcus Boret					
Project Manager	Ron Humphrey					
Project Supervisor	Sam Whitehead					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern √		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Mr Marcus Boret to undertake an archaeological watching brief on foundation trenching for an extension to the east of the existing property and associated services, and a garage approximately 25m to the west of the house at Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent. The work was undertaken on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010.</i></p> <p><i>The trenching revealed a layer of topsoil directly overlying clay natural; no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered and there were no features cutting the upper surface of the clay in any of the areas.</i></p> <p><i>The interior of the property was also studied at the time and areas of the buildings historic fabric were photographed. The uncovered fabric confirmed the suggested interpretations put forward in the original report (ASE 2009).</i></p>						



**OASIS ID: archaeol6-108622**

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**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was commissioned by Mr Marcus Boret to undertake an archaeological watching brief on foundation trenching for a garden room extension to the east of the existing property and associated services, and a garage approximately 25m to the west of the house at Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent (NGR 577470 139833). The work was undertaken on the 27th September 2010. The trenching revealed a layer of topsoil directly overlying clay natural; no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered and there were no features cutting the upper surface of the clay in any of the areas. The interior of the property was also studied at the time and areas of the buildings historic fabric were photographed. The uncovered fabric confirmed the suggested interpretations put forward in the original report (ASE 2009).
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2010 End: 27-09-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	09/03525/HOUSE/ARJ - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	4563 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FARMHOUSE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS CRANBROOK Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent
Postcode	TN17 2NA
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 77470 39833 51.1296631485 0.536656153539 51 07 46 N 000 32 11 E Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	sam whitehead
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cranbrook Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Survey','Text','Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Cranbrook Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

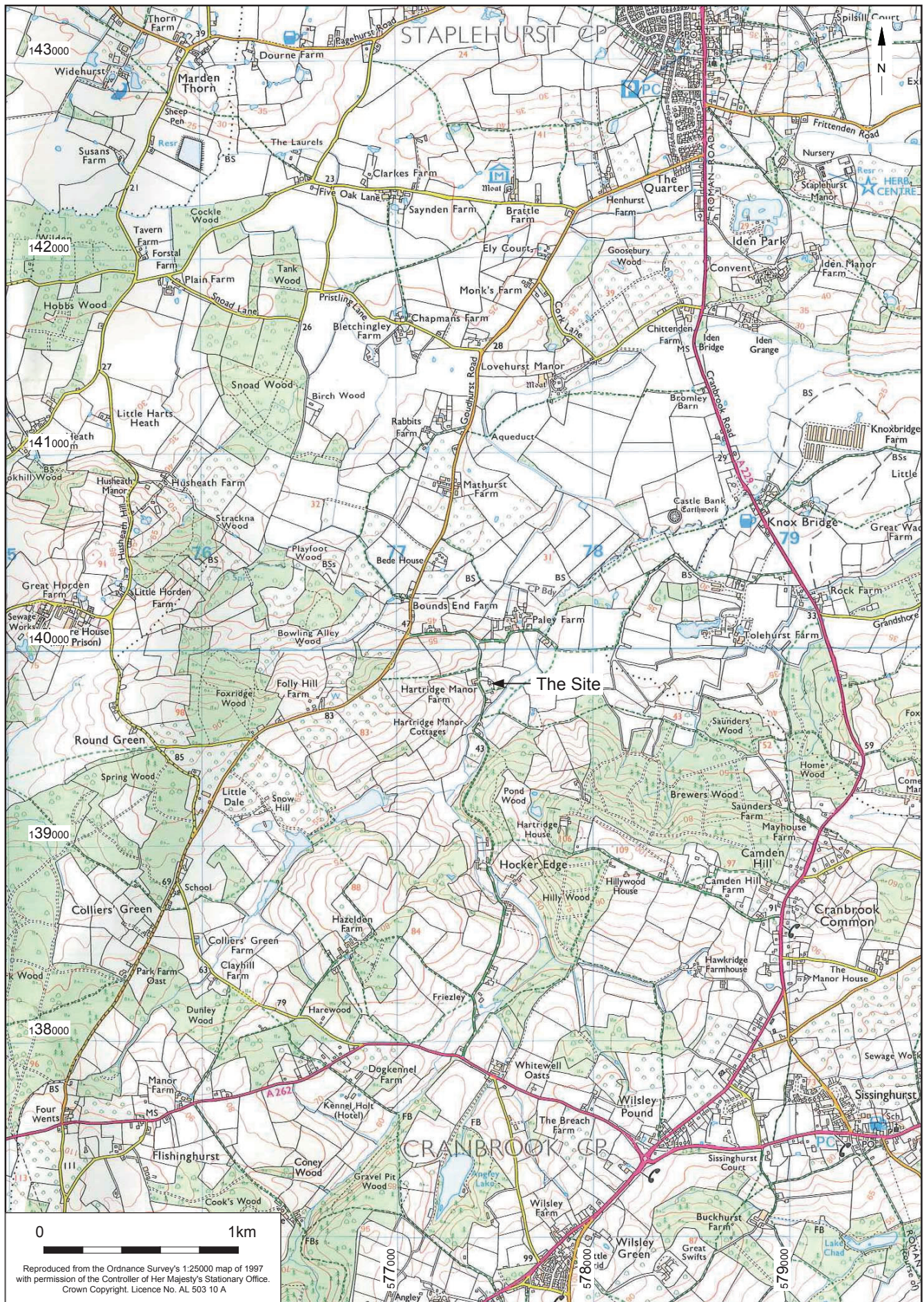
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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent
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© Archaeology South-East		Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4563	Sep 2010	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JFC			

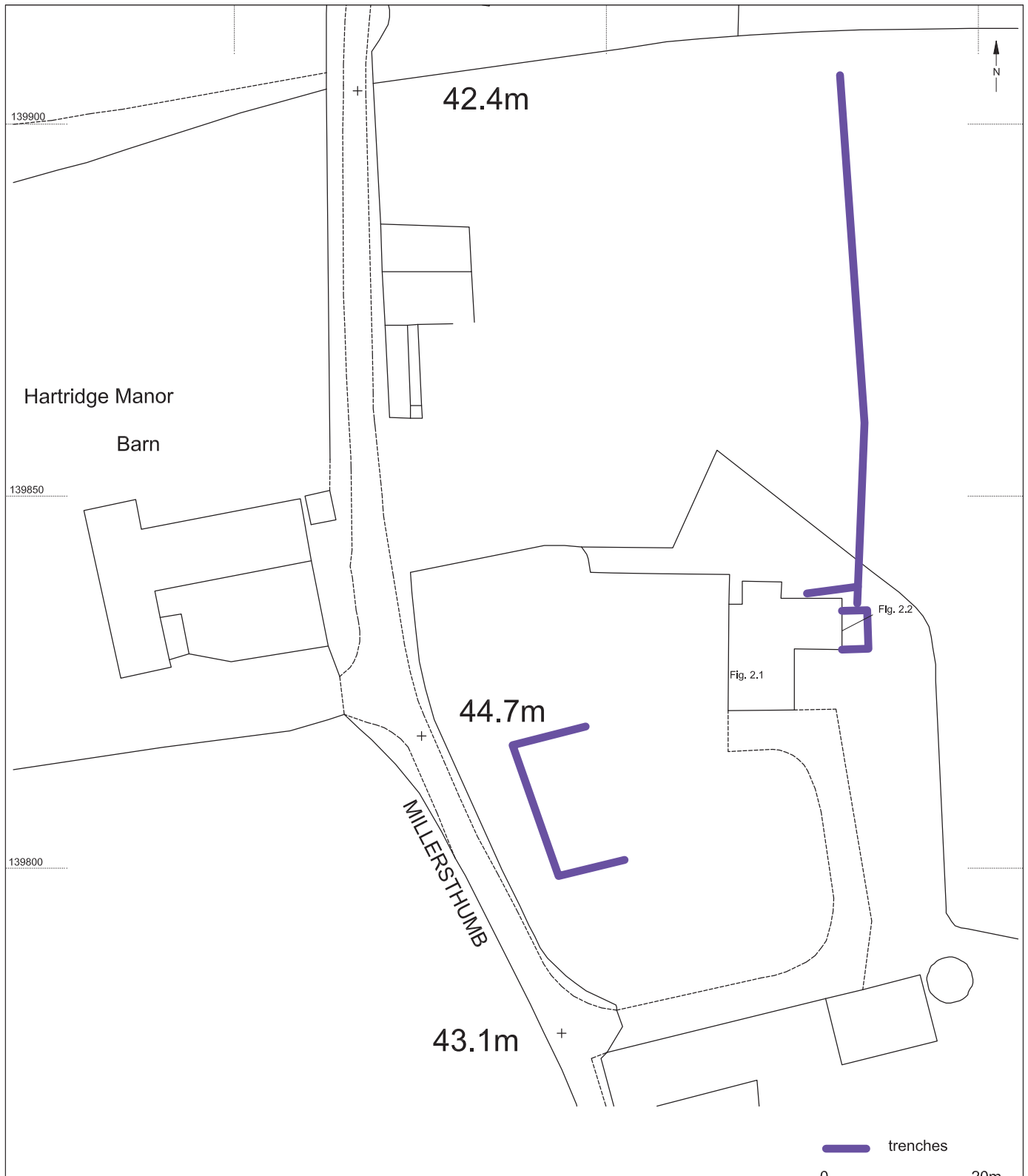
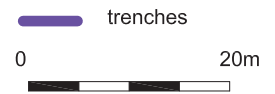


Fig. 2.1: Trenching for garden room



Fig. 2.2: Original S extent of building at SW corner



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© Archaeology South-East		Hartridge Manor, Cranbrook, Kent		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4563	March 2011	Trenched areas in relation to buildings and photographs		
Report Ref: 2011062	Drawn by: LD			

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