

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**9 CASTLE HILL
BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

HER Request Ref. 62/12

Author: Gareth Barlow BSc	
NGR: SP 99354 08438	Report No. 4187
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS1505
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No. 4861
Signed:	Date: November 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.		
<p><i>In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 99354 08438). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey side extension to replace the existing garage (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00310/12/FHA). It was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission.</i></p> <p><i>The side extension was largely contained within the footprint of the existing garage. The excavation of a soakaway was monitored and no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	2 nd October 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P4861	Site code	AS 1505
Type of project	Archaeological Monitoring		
Site status	Area of archaeological importance		
Current land use	Private garden		
Planned development	Side extension		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Dacorum	Berkhamsted
HER/ SMR for area	HCC HER		
Post code (if known)	HP4 1HE		
Area of site	-		
NGR	NGR: SP 99354 08438		
Height AOD (max/ min)	114.90m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Advice from HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Sam Egan		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Spall		
Full title	9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Authors	Barlow, G.		
Report no.	4187		
Date (of report)	November 2012		

9 CASTLE HILL, BERKHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

SUMMARY

In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 99354 08438). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey side extension (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00310/12/FHA). It was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission.

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, Area of Archaeological Significance No.21 as identified in the local plan, which encompasses the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Berkhamsted and earlier occupation along the line of Roman Akeman Street.

The side extension was largely contained within the footprint of the existing garage. The excavation of a soakaway was monitored and no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 1HE(NGR SP 99354 08438; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey side extension (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00310/12/FHA). It was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission.

1.2 The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was conducted in accordance with an advice prepared by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (dated 18/05/2012), approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 The site lies in the historic core of the town of Berkhamsted, on the southern side of Castle Hill. It comprises the residential dwelling of 9 Castle Hill. It is proposed to add a two-storey side extension to replace the existing garage at the property.

2.2 The town of Berkhamsted is located on the northern side of the Bulbourne river valley, a major NW/SE route through the Chilterns. The site is located at c.115mAOD, c.600m to the north of the River Bulbourne.

2.3 The solid geology of the site comprises (Cretaceous) Upper Chalk (BGS 1978). A thin band of (Cretaceous) Lower Chalk is located running NW/SE through Berkhamsted to the south of the site. The soils of the site belong to the Batcombe association (582a) and are described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and seasonal water logging (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance 21 designated on the Dacorum Local Plan. This denotes the historic medieval/post-medieval settlement core of Berkhamsted and earlier occupation along the line of Roman Akeman Street.

3.2 Evidence of Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in Berkhamsted has been identified during archaeological investigations prior to the construction of the A41 King's Langley and Berkhamsted bypass to the south of the town (HERs 11478 & 11479), and within the town itself. Grim's Ditch (HERs 49, 2023 & 11476), a Scheduled Monument (SAM 35348) of late Bronze Age date, comprises a large boundary ditch/trackway and lies on the high ground above the town to the west. A late Bronze Age Italian type bronze brooch and silver pin (MHT 4251) was discovered during excavations at Berkhamsted Castle (MHT 39) c.270m to the south-east of the site (Branigan 1968).

3.3 Iron Age occupation has been recorded at Cow Roast located c.4.6km to the north-north-west of Berkhamsted. By the later Iron Age, an important iron-working industry, focussed on Northchurch situated c.2.1km to the west, had been developed and is thought to have been extended over an area of approximately four square miles. Shaft furnaces of Iron Age date have been discovered at Bridgewater School at Dellfield c.1.6km to the west (HER 13059). A total of four late Iron Age to early Roman cremation burials and two lengths of a late Iron Age ditch were also discovered during the same excavation (Hunn & Thompson 2004).

3.4 An extant linear earthwork (MHT 12242) is situated c.150m to the north-east of the site. It has been suggested that the earthwork is a possible prehistoric triple ditch system. An archaeological excavation in the garden of No. 12 Castle Hill revealed that the earthwork was built using a natural slope and was cut to form an artificial terrace which may served as a boundary or a track edge (Hunn 2009).

3.5 At least two Roman villa sites have been identified within the wider vicinity, including one at Northchurch (HER 1337) c.2km to the north-east and one at Boxmoor (HER 72) located c.5km to the south-west. The presence of the iron working industry ensured continuing activity in the area in the Roman period. The establishment of Akeman Street, located c.600m to the south-west, further assisted in the continuing growth of the settlement. This road follows the line of the modern High Street through Northchurch and Berkhamsted and linked Verulamium (St Albans) to Alcester and Cirencester.

3.6 Romano-British archaeological remains within the environs of the site comprise a small collection of coins (MHT 1336) discovered at Berkhamsted Castle c.270m to the south-east of the site. Two flint and tile walls (MHT 2716) were discovered during an archaeological excavation c.400m to the north-east of the site. Approximately 250m to the south-west of the site, a substantial quantity of 3rd to 4th century pottery and wasters (MHT 6803) was discovered and it has been suggested that this assemblage may represent a possible kiln site (Swan 1984). Evidence of Roman occupation has also been discovered within the vicinity of Berkhamsted Castle c.100m to the south-west of the site (MHT 39) and comprises a large quantity of Roman pottery and oyster shells (MHT 12193) (Hastie 1999).

3.7 Saxon archaeological remains within the wider area are represented by the discovery of several sherds of early to mid Saxon pottery (HER 10725) recovered during archaeological investigations at Chesham Road c.1km to the south (Hunn 2000). Archaeological remains of Saxon date are very limited within the vicinity of the site with the exception of two distinct peat horizons (MHT 12730) discovered during an archaeological evaluation (EHT 4705) at Castle Hill c.400m to the south of the site (Hunn 2003). The lower peat deposit was radiocarbon dated to the later 9th century.

3.8 Medieval archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site comprise the Berkhamsted motte and bailey castle (MHT 39, SAM 20626) situated c.200m to the south-east of the site. The earthwork was most likely built soon after 1066 for Robert, Count of Mortain and half-brother to William I. Berkhamsted Castle is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 27. The site of a watermill named Upper Mill (MHT 7087) is located c.450m to the south-east of the site and is thought to be one of two watermills recorded in Berkhamsted at

the time of the Domesday survey. Evidence of 11th century domestic activity has been discovered at Mill Street (MHT 13125) c.400m to the south-east of the site and archaeological investigations revealed numerous pits, a quern, animal bone and pottery (Hunn & Thompson 2007).

3.9 It is thought that the town of Berkhamsted developed during the 12th and 13th centuries as an undefended settlement or trading centre on an arterial road rather than a fortified town associated with the castle (MHT 39). Merchant activity can be traced in some detail in the 12th century and the production of tiles and bricks seems to have been especially prominent. This would have supplemented the dominant wool trade of the town as well as other trades such as tanners, dyers and bakers (Thompson & Bryant 2005).

3.10 The construction of buildings at Berkhamsted Castle (MHT 39) continued during the 12th and 13th centuries and became associated with a deer park (MHT 6381) c.400m to the north-west. It has been suggested that a north-south aligned ditch (MHT 11777) located c.200m to the south of the site, comprises one of the boundaries of the old park. Edward III and the Black Prince used the castle frequently in the 14th century and in 1360, extensive repairs were undertaken to accommodate King John of France. The castle became outdated and essentially redundant during the late 14th and 15th centuries and was abandoned in 1495. A large quantity of the masonry was robbed out for the construction of Berkhamsted Place (MHT 6563) and various other town buildings.

3.11 A significant quantity of post-medieval archaeological remains is recorded within the vicinity of the site. Structural remains of late medieval to early post-medieval houses (MHT 13127) are located c.400m to the south-east of the site. Berkhamsted Place (MHT 6563) is located c.400m to the north-west of the site and comprises a Tudor mansion constructed by Sir Edward Carey in the early 16th century using masonry taken from Berkhamsted Castle (MHT 39). Other 16th century buildings associated with Berkhamsted Place (MHT 6563) are the farmstead at Castle Hill Farm (MHT 13568) and the six-bay, timber-framed Great Barn (MHT 11390, LB 355427) both located c.450m to the north-west of the site.

3.12 17th century archaeological remains comprise three clay-lined pits associated with a large quantity of animal bone and horn cores (MHT 13126) discovered during archaeological observations on Castle Street (EHT5485) located c.400m to the south-east of the site (Hunn & Thompson 2007). 18th century archaeological remains within the environs of the site include the site of a small pond (MHT 6378) located c.500m to the south of the site.

3.13 The vast majority of the 19th century archaeological remains recorded within the vicinity of the site are associated with the

construction of the Grand Union Canal and the Railway to the south and south-east of the site. The Castle Inn (MHT 17963, LB 355495), situated c.400m to the south-east, was constructed in the mid-19th century to serve the Canal and the new railway line. Two road bridges (MHTs 5232 & 5233), the Canal lock (MHT 7197) and the site of a wharf (MHT 12055) are located c.400m to the south and south-east of the site. The site of the original railway station (MHT 12056), situated c.420m to the south-east, was built in 1838 and was replaced by a new railway station which was constructed in 1872 (MHT 5460) situated c.300m to the south of the site. Two railway bridges (MHTs 5570 & 7153) are located c.300-350m to the south-east of the site.

3.14 A corn mill (MHT 5773), situated c.400m to the south, was constructed in the late 19th century by J G Knowles and Son and the site of a watercress bed (MHT 12194) is located c.200m to the south of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The side extension was largely contained within the footprint of the existing garage. The monitoring and recording encompassed the ground works associated with the excavation of a new soakaway.

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all ground works, inspection of subsoil, make-up layers, and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps for archaeological finds and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The groundworks observed comprised the excavation of a new soakaway for the extension, and the excavation was undertaken using a mini 360° mechanical excavator. The soakaway was 1.20 x 1.00 x 0.65m. A sample section was recorded:

<i>Sample section 1. Northeast facing</i> <i>0.00m = 114.91m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks.
0.10 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Compact, mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks.
0.40 – 0.65m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, white chalk.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the archaeological investigation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks (c.0.10m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a compact, mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks (c.0.30m thick). The natural was a compact, white chalk (0.43m below the present day ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, Area of Archaeological Significance No.21 as identified in the local plan, which encompasses the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Berkhamsted and earlier occupation along the line of Roman Akeman Street. In the event no archaeological finds or features were present but the groundworks were limited in their extent.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Dacorum Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Spall for funding the monitoring. AS is grateful to Messrs Nick Wood and James Reynolds of Blackwood Architects for commissioning the project and for their assistance

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Mrs Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit, and the assistance of the HCC Historic Environment Record.

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www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

HER No	NGR SP	Description
Bronze Age		
4251	SP 995 082	A later Bronze Age bronze brooch and silver pin were found during excavation at Berkhamsted Castle, probably in 1905.
Roman		
1336	SP 9952 0822	Roman coins found at Berkhamsted Castle were recorded by Stukeley in 1724.
2716	SP 996 087	Two Roman flint and tile walls were discovered by David Neal during the excavation of a gas pipe line in 1970.
6803	SP 992 083	A substantial collection of pottery, sherds of about 60 vessels including wasters, was discovered in a builders' trench during construction of garage in 1956.
12193	SP 9930 0840	Roman occupation, Castle Hill, Berkhamsted. 'When land was being cleared for the construction of the Castle Hill estate during the 1930s, many oyster shells, light pottery and other Roman remains were found'.
Late Saxon		
12730	SP 9926 0807	Evaluation at Castle Mill recorded two distinct horizons of peat. The lower peat deposit was radiocarbon dated to the later 9 th century AD.
Medieval		
MHT39	SP 995 082	Berkhamsted Motte & Bailey Castle. This earthwork castle was probably built soon after 1066 for Robert, Count of Mortain, William's half brother.
6381	SP 990 086	Late 13 th century park. The earliest reference to a deer park at Berkhamsted is in 1296, when it is recorded in the ownership of the Earl of Cornwall.
7087	SP 9942 0800	Site of Upper Mill, Mill Street. Upper and Lower Mills may be assumed to be the two watermills recorded here in Domesday.
11517	SP 9950 0820	A large Herts Greyware storage jar with thumb applied band decoration, possibly an underfired waster.
11777	SP 9934 0826	A north-south ditch was observed during the cutting of footings for a new house. It lies on the possible line of the 'Old Park' boundary. In the fill were three medieval pottery sherds.
13125	SP 9944 0800	Medieval domestic activity, Mill Street/Castle Street, Berkhamsted. Pits, a quern, animal bone, and pottery dating to AD 1050-1350 suggest domestic rubbish accumulating from the period when the Castle was built.
Post-medieval		
5232	SP 9922 0804	Road bridge carrying Lower Kings Road over the Grand Union Canal, alongside Lock 53 [7197].
5233	SP 9948 0806	Road bridge over Grand Union Canal. Flat. Steel girders and built up trough.

5460	SP 9935 0815	1872 station on the London & NW Railway, replacing the original 1838 station on a new site.
5570	SP 9955 0806	Railway bridge south of station.
5773	SP 9925 0806	Corn mill built 1895 by J G Knowles and Son, who operated until c.1948.
6378	SP 9935 0795	Observation during development on the west side of Mill Street noted the apparent site of a small pond, with 18 th - 19 th century backfill.
6563	SP 9908 0870	Berkhamsted Place, Castle Hill, Berkhamsted. In 1580 the manor of Berkhamsted was leased to Sir Edward Carey, who built himself a Tudor mansion on higher ground north-west of the Castle using flint and stone from the Castle itself.
7153	SP 9939 0814	A railway bridge, brick built, with iron girders and a brick parapet.
7197	SP 9919 0804	Canal lock, east gate dated 1851, the west gate 1872.
11390	SP 9908 0877	The Great Barn, Castle Hill Farm, Berkhamsted. A large timber-framed weatherboarded 6-bay barn, probably dating to the 16th century. Grade II* LB 355427.
12055	SP 9929 0808	Site of wharf, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted.
12056	SP 9951 0807	Site of original railway station (1838).
12194	SP 9938 0826	Site of watercress bed, Brownlow Road, Berkhamsted.
13126	SP 9945 0802	Three clay-lined pits and associated with large amounts of animal bone. At least one contained horn cores.
13127	SP 9945 0800	Late medieval to 19 th century houses on west side of Castle Street.
13568	SP 9908 0877	Castle Hill Farm was the home farm of the Berkhamsted Place estate [6563].
17963	SP 9946 0805	Castle Inn, Mill Street, Berkhamsted. Public house built c.1840. Grade II LB 355495.
Undated		
12242	SP 9942 0853	Extant linear earthwork running SSW - NNE for approximately 340m. Possible historic trackway, or a prehistoric triple ditch system; it appears to be blocking a dry valley, and the standing earthworks are large.

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	2
Context Sheets	2
Site drawings A1	
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	
Site photographs b/w	3
Site photographs colour slides	3
Digital Photographs	2

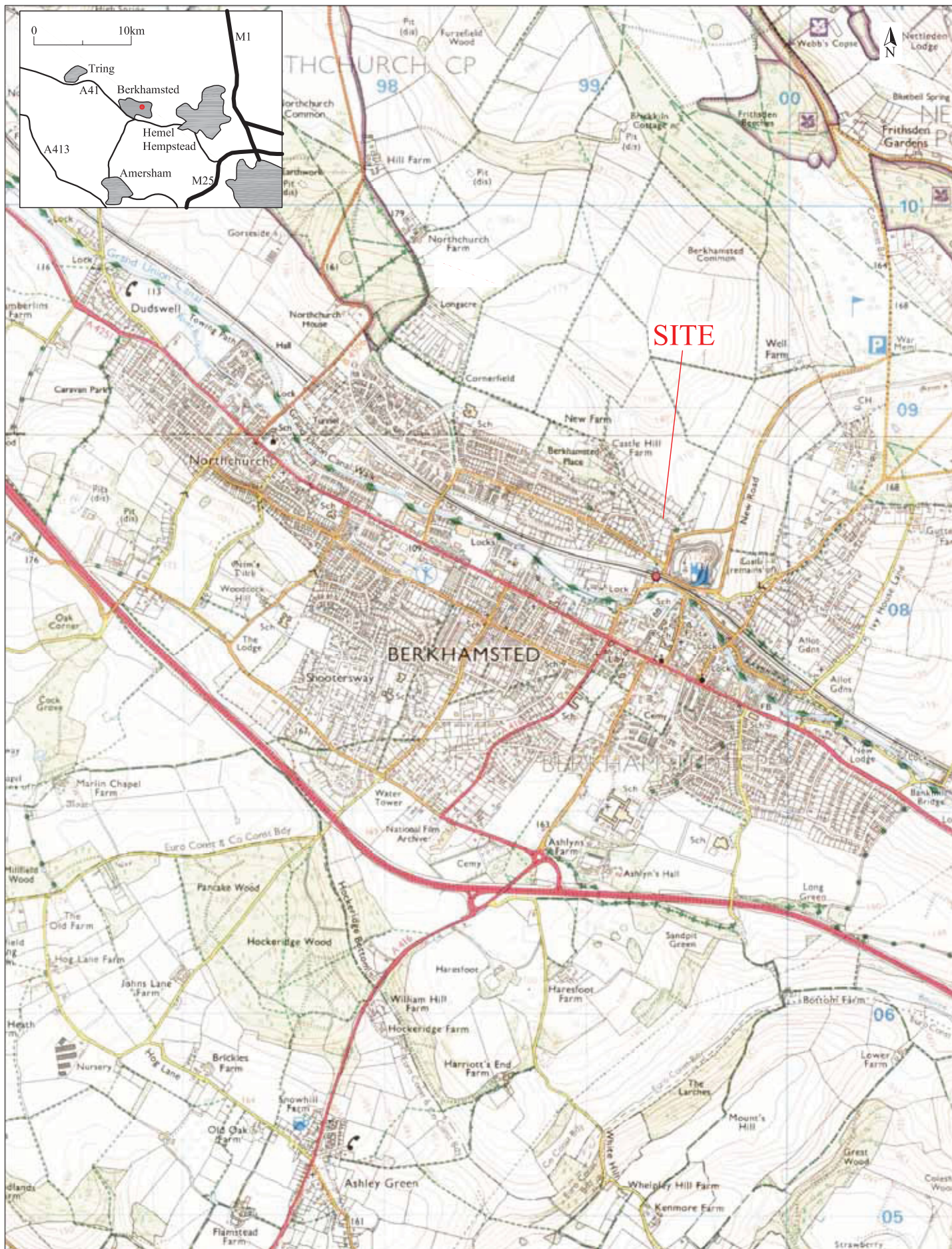
APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
County: Herts	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Parish: Berkhamsted
Planning application reference:	4/00310/12
Client name/address/tel:	Mr & Mrs Spall, 9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted.
Nature of application:	Construction of a domestic extension
Present land use:	Garden
Size of application area: c. 250m ²	Size of area investigated c. 250m ²
NGR (8 figures):	SP 99354 08438
Site Code:	AS1505
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording
Date of work:	2 nd October 2012
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Dacorum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out archaeological monitoring at 9 Castle Hill, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 99354 08438). The monitoring was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a two storey side extension to replace the existing garage (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/00310/12/FHA). It was undertaken in compliance with an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission.</i></p> <p><i>The side extension was largely contained within the footprint of the existing garage. The excavation of a soakaway was monitored and no archaeological features or finds were present</i></p>
Author of summary: Gareth Barlow	Date of Summary: November 2012

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

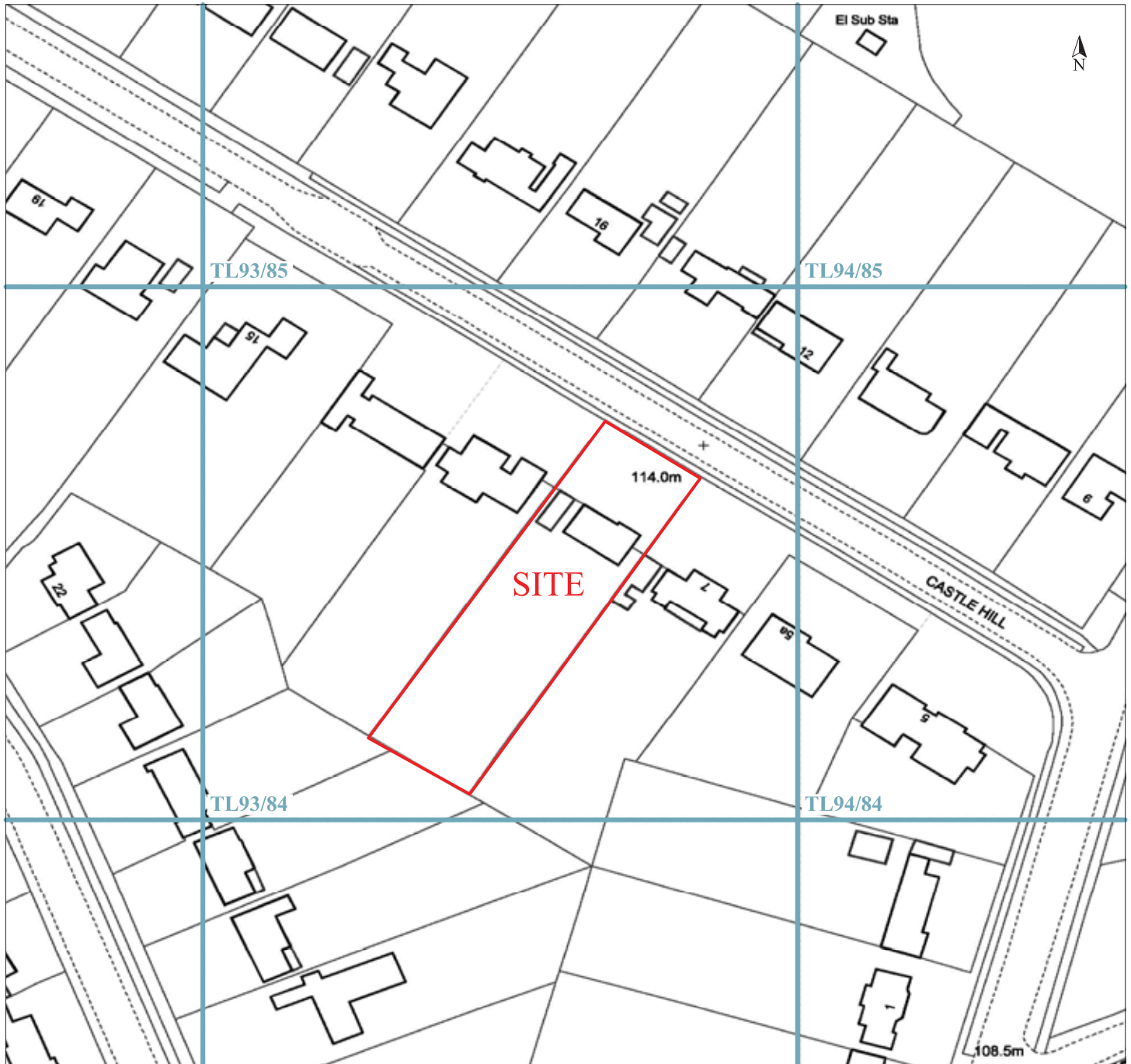


1
Sample section 1. Looking southwest.



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25000 at A4



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0 50m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4

