
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**PROPOSED EXTENSION, 43 HIGH STREET,
RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD3 1ET****ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE'
INVESTIGATION & MONITORING & RECORDING**

HER Enquiry No. 134/17

Authors: Vinnie Monahan (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)	
NGR: TL 0620 9447	Report No: 5715
District: Three Rivers	Site Code: AS1963
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7314
	Date: 7 January 2019

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Project details			
Project name	Proposed extension, 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1ET		
<p>In October and November 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring by means of 'strip, map & record' at No. 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1ET (NGR TQ 0620 9447; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken prior to and during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. It was also carried out according to the requirements of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor Team (HCC HEAT), and was required in compliance with a planning condition on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (Three Rivers Planning Ref. 17/1302/FUL).</p> <p>Previous archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site is extensive, particularly within the historic core of Rickmansworth. No. 47 High Street, which stands 10m to the west of the site, has been subject to geotechnical test pitting (HER EHT76), which confirmed the presence of river gravels resting on the upper chalk, as well as alluvium in part, all below made ground. A subsequent archaeological evaluation revealed two late medieval ditches and residual 12th - 15th century pottery and later medieval peg tile (HERs 10901 & HT4825). Nos. 10 - 12 High Street, which stand 250m to the north-east, have also been subject to historic building record, monitoring of demolition, and a watching brief (HERs EHT1491, EHT1492, EHT1494), but revealed only limited remains.</p> <p>In the event the excavation of the footprint of the proposed extension ceased at a very early stage in the project due to the presence of a layer of concrete. All excavation ceased, the concrete was left in situ and the construction continued with the concrete slab left intact. Archaeological remains, if present below the concrete, are preserved in situ.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	30, 31 October 2018, 2 November 2018		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
	7314	Site code	AS1963
Type of project	Archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation & monitoring & recording		
Site status	Area of Archaeological Significance No. 12		
Current land use	Resident		
Planned development	Residential extension		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Three Rivers	Rickmansworth
HER for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; enquiry No. 134/17)		
Post code (if known)	WD3 1ET		
Area of site	c. 400m ²		
NGR	TL 0620 9447		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 48m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mr Nathan Hall of Cityscape		
Full title	Proposed extension, 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1ET. Archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation & monitoring & recording		
Authors	Monahan, V., & Higgs, K.		
Report no.	5715		
Date (of report)	January 2019		

PROPOSED EXTENSION, 43 HIGH STREET, RICKMANSWORTH, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD3 1ET ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION & MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In October and November 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring by means of 'strip, map & record' at No. 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1ET (NGR TQ 0620 9447; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken prior to and during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. It was also carried out according to the requirements of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor Team (HCC HEAT), and was required in compliance with a planning condition on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (Three Rivers Planning Ref. 17/1302/FUL).

Previous archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site is extensive, particularly within the historic core of Rickmansworth. No. 47 High Street, which stands 10m to the west of the site, has been subject to geotechnical test pitting (HER EHT76), which confirmed the presence of river gravels resting on the upper chalk, as well as alluvium in part, all below made ground. A subsequent archaeological evaluation revealed two late medieval ditches and residual 12th - 15th century pottery and later medieval peg tile (HERs 10901 & HT4825). Nos. 10 - 12 High Street, which stand 250m to the north-east, have also been subject to historic building record, monitoring of demolition, and a watching brief (HERs EHT1491, EHT1492, EHT1494), but revealed only limited remains.

In the event the excavation of the footprint of the proposed extension ceased at a very early stage in the project due to the presence of a layer of concrete. All excavation ceased, the concrete was left in situ and the construction continued with the concrete slab left intact. Archaeological remains, if present below the concrete, are preserved in situ.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October and November 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring by means of 'strip, map & record' at No. 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1ET (NGR TQ 0620 9447; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken prior to and during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. It was also carried out according to the requirements of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor Team (HCC HEAT), and was required in compliance with a planning condition on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (Three Rivers Planning Ref. 17/1302/FUL).

1.2 The programme of archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with a specification compiled by AS (18th August 2017). It adhered to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2014).

1.3 The requirements of the project were:

- Archaeological evaluation by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the area of the proposed new development, where ground disturbance is proposed, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed.
- The archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the scheme likely to have an impact on any remains
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) 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

2.1 The site is located within the town and parish of Rickmansworth, which lies within the district of Three Rivers and within the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The site lies on the southern frontage of Rickmansworth's High Street, which lies on a roughly west to east alignment through the town. The site is also situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 12, as identified on the Local Plan, which records the medieval and later settlement core of Rickmansworth.

2.2 The site comprises an irregularly shaped plot of land, which covers an approximate area of 400m² (Fig. 2). It is bound to the immediate north by the High Street, and to the east and west by properties comprising Nos. 41 and 45 High Street respectively. To the immediate south of the site is an electricity sub-station and a block of sheltered housing known as Hutchings Lodge. The site comprises the existing building of No 43 High Street, which is a two-storey brick built structure fronting the road, with an associated drive and hardstanding to its west and south. It is proposed to construct a new single storey rear extension to the property.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Rickmansworth is situated in the valley of the River Colne and on the north-western section of the river's floodplain (Fig. 1). The River Colne flows on an approximately east to west alignment almost 250m to the south-east of the site, whilst the Grand Union Canal lies 500m to the south-east. The smaller Town Ditch, however, flows on a roughly east to west alignment to the rear of many High Street properties and only 50m to the south-west of the site. The surrounding relief generally has only a very gently sloping relief down towards the River Colne to the south-east, although land rises more significantly to the north. The site thus has a flat relief at approximately 48m AOD.

3.2 Geologically, the settlement of Rickmansworth is situated on an alluvial sequence comprising silty clays with peaty inclusions (Seddon 1999, 2). The solid geology of the site and the surrounding area comprises Cretaceous

Upper chalk, although gravel extraction has been a feature of the area, resulting in the creation of a series of gravel extraction lakes 150m to the south-east of the site. The site is thus situated upon a drift geology of chalky and gravely river alluvium (BGS 2015), although, given its urban location, soils of the area remain unsurveyed (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Prehistoric remains along the Colne Valley have been well documented, and finds of prehistoric artefacts are widespread, indicating the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains (Seddon 1999). The majority of finds have been focused to the south along the course of the River Colne and in association with known gravel extraction activity. However, a prehistoric worked flint flake was found to the south of Church Street railway station, which is 200m to the north-west of the site (HER 1133), and a struck flint flake, burnt flint and fragments of charcoal and unidentified bone were found during trial excavations on the Town Wharf site, which lies 150m to the south-east (HER 9459). The presence of two residual flint flakes and a piece of burnt flint from the archaeological evaluation at No. 47 High Street, which stands 10m to the west, may suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site.

Romano-British

4.2 During the Romano-British period, the area of the Gade, Chess and Colne valleys formed part of the tribal territory of the *Catuvellanni* (Niblett 1995). Roman Roads, which emanated from *Verulamium* (St Albans), c. 14km to the north-east, were Akeman Street, which followed the Gade valley north-westwards, and Watling Street, which ran northwards from London. Villa sites, notably at Moor Park and Sandy Lodge, on the opposite side of the Colne valley, suggest that the area was predominantly rural in character during the Romano-British period (*ibid.*). Roman remains from within the historic core of Rickmansworth are less notable and are limited to a late 1st century jar rim from Riverside Drive (HER 11688), and to rim sherds found near the parish church to the south-west (HERs 11689 & 11690).

Anglo-Saxon

4.3 Very little evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation of the area has been discovered, and no known archaeological finds or features has been found in any proximity of the site. The historic ecclesiastical parish of Rickmansworth, within which the site lay, appeared in the Domesday Book as *Prichemareworde* and formed part of the land of St Albans church (Morris 1976). In 1086, Rickmansworth was held by the Abbot himself and comprised 15 hides with enough land for 20 ploughs. Rickmansworth, comprising four Frenchmen, 22 villagers and nine smallholders appears to have been a sizable settlement, although the site itself formed part of the manorial land surrounding the settlement.

Medieval

4.4 During the medieval period, the settlement of Rickmansworth was held by the abbey of St Albans and the principal manor was that of the Bury, of which the site formed a major part and which was centred upon Church Street to the south-west (HER 827; Page 1908, 373). Further northwards also lay the medieval manor of Batchworth (HER 834). The earliest settlement at Rickmansworth would have been centred on the High Street and Church Street, and the site is known to lie within both the area of medieval burgages and within the extent of the medieval town (Seddon 1999). Medieval Rickmansworth (HER 15) was reputedly granted a market charter in the reign of Henry III (1216 - 27). The Grade II listed parish Church of St Mary, which was confirmed to the abbey of St Albans by Pope Honorius III in 1219, stands 125m to the south-west of the site (HER 9229).

4.5 'Ancient' ecclesiastical coins with lead and stone coffins were found in 1826 during the rebuilding of St Mary's Church (HER 965), whilst The Priory at No. 40 Church Street is a Grade II listed 16th century house, possibly built as a church house or marriage feast house (HER 9255). As noted previously, the archaeological evaluation at No. 47 High Street, which stands 10m to the west, revealed two late medieval ditches and residual 12th - 15th century pottery and later medieval peg tile (HER 10901). It also revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits near the drainage channel known as the 'Town Ditch', which was regarded as of probable late medieval date. The evaluation suggested that the area seems to have been subject to periodic deposition of alluvial deposits until the late or post-medieval period when it began to be drained; it was then levelled by the early modern period and used for agriculture or horticulture. Late medieval activity nearby was indicated by a possible earlier alignment of the Town Ditch (*ibid.*).

Post-medieval and later

4.6 In 1542, a charter of Henry VIII granted Rickmansworth a market on Saturdays and a fair on the feast of the Assumption, and with this impetus the settlement continued to develop. Post-medieval remains are recorded in proximity to the site, including bridges and a range of 17th century and later extant structures located within the historic core of Rickmansworth. They include the Grade II listed No. 72 High Street, which is a 17th century timber-framed house, divided since at least the earlier 19th century (HER 30853), as well as the late 17th century *Rickmansworth Park* (HER 9595), now the Royal Masonic School for Girls. The High Street also incorporates a number of post-medieval inns, notably The Coach & Horses Inn, The Bell, The Swan and the George Inn (HERs 9258, 9438, 9439 & 9440).

4.7 The town of Rickmansworth continued to develop during the early modern period, and impinged greatly upon the former manorial lands of *Rickmansworth Park* to the north (Seddon 1999). Printing and paper-making were important local industries during the early modern period, as was the brewing and malting industry (HERs 7136, 7137, 7138 & 7139), and were well served by the network of waterways and canals to the south of the site. Early

modern features recorded around the site, however, are dominated by the Grand Union Canal (HER 241), road and railway bridges, although it is noted at Rickmansworth Metropolitan railway station, which lies only 200m to the north-west of the site, was opened in 1887 (HER 5456).

4.8 Historic cartographic sources record the site's location within the historic core of Rickmansworth, occupying a prominent location along the southern frontage of the High Street.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The monitoring encompassed the excavation of the footprint of the extension (Figs. 2 - 3).

5.2 The paving was removed under close archaeological supervision and all excavation was undertaken by hand

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 2 - 3

6.1 Due to site restrictions all excavation was undertaken by hand and not mechanically. The first task comprised the removal of the paviers by hand, and this was observed by an archaeologist. Immediately below the paviers was sand and a layer of concrete.

6.2 Due to the presence of the concrete the mode of construction was reviewed and altered. All excavation ceased, the concrete was left *in situ* and the construction continued with the concrete layer left intact.

6.3 Archaeological remains, if present below the concrete, are preserved *in situ*.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the parameters of the investigation it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies on the southern side of the High Street in the centre of Rickmansworth and comprises the existing building of No 43. It is situated within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 12, as identified on the Local Plan, which records the medieval and later settlement core of Rickmansworth. The Tithe map of 1839 shows this part of the high street including the site to be developed with housing and other buildings. A number of late 16th/17th century and 18th century buildings still survive along the High Street today. An archaeological evaluation at 47 High Street in 1998 revealed two late medieval ditches and residual 12th-15th century pottery and later medieval peg tile (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record HER 10901).

8.2 In the event the excavation of the footprint of the proposed extension ceased at a very early stage in the project due to the presence of a layer of concrete. All excavation ceased, the concrete was left *in situ* and the construction continued with the concrete layer left intact. Archaeological remains, if present below the concrete, are preserved *in situ*.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with Three Rivers Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Nathan Hall of Cityscape for funding the archaeological 'strip, map & sample' investigation and monitoring and recording, and for his assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Simon Wood, HCC Historic Environment Advisor.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-338356

Project details

Project name	43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1ET (SMS/ WB)
Short description of the project	In October and November 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring by means of 'strip, map and record' at No. 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 1ET (NGR TQ 0620 9447; Figs. 1 - 2). The monitoring was undertaken prior to and during the construction of a single-storey rear extension. It was also carried out according to the requirements of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor Team (HCC HEAT), and was required in compliance with a planning condition on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (Three Rivers Planning Ref. 17/1302/FUL). Previous archaeological investigation in the area surrounding the site is extensive, particularly within the historic core of Rickmansworth. No. 47 High Street, which stands 10m to the west of the site, has been subject to geotechnical test pitting (HER EHT76), which confirmed the presence of river gravels resting on the upper chalk, as well as alluvium in part, all below made ground. A subsequent archaeological evaluation revealed two late medieval ditches and residual 12th - 15th century pottery and later medieval peg tile (HERs 10901 and HT4825).
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2018 End: 30-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P7314 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS1963 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE THREE RIVERS RICKMANSWORTH Proposed extension, 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1ET
Postcode	WD3 1ET

Study area 400 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 0620 9447 52.537352059937 -0.434016045147 52 32 14 N 000 26 02 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 40m Max: 40m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator HCC HEU
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions
 Type of sponsor/funding body Mr Nathan Hall of Cityscape
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Nathan Hall of Cityscape

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Three Rivers Museum, Watford
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Three Rivers Museum, Watford
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Proposed extension, 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 1ET. Archaeological 'strip, map and sample' investigation and monitoring and recording
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7314)



1
Site entrance looking south



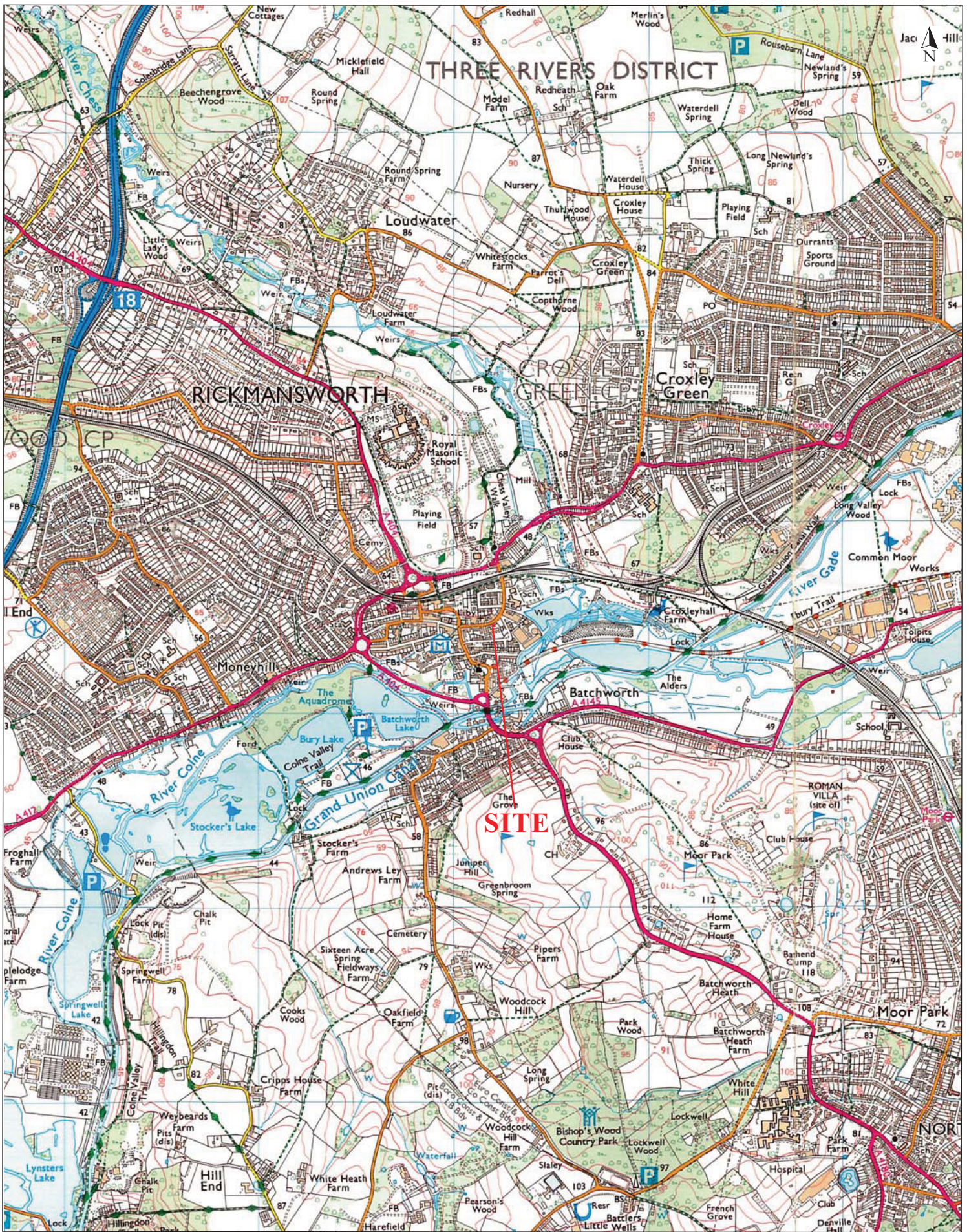
2
General site overview looking east



3
General site overview looking south-east



4
Area of excavation looking east



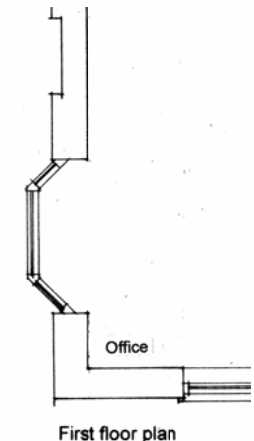
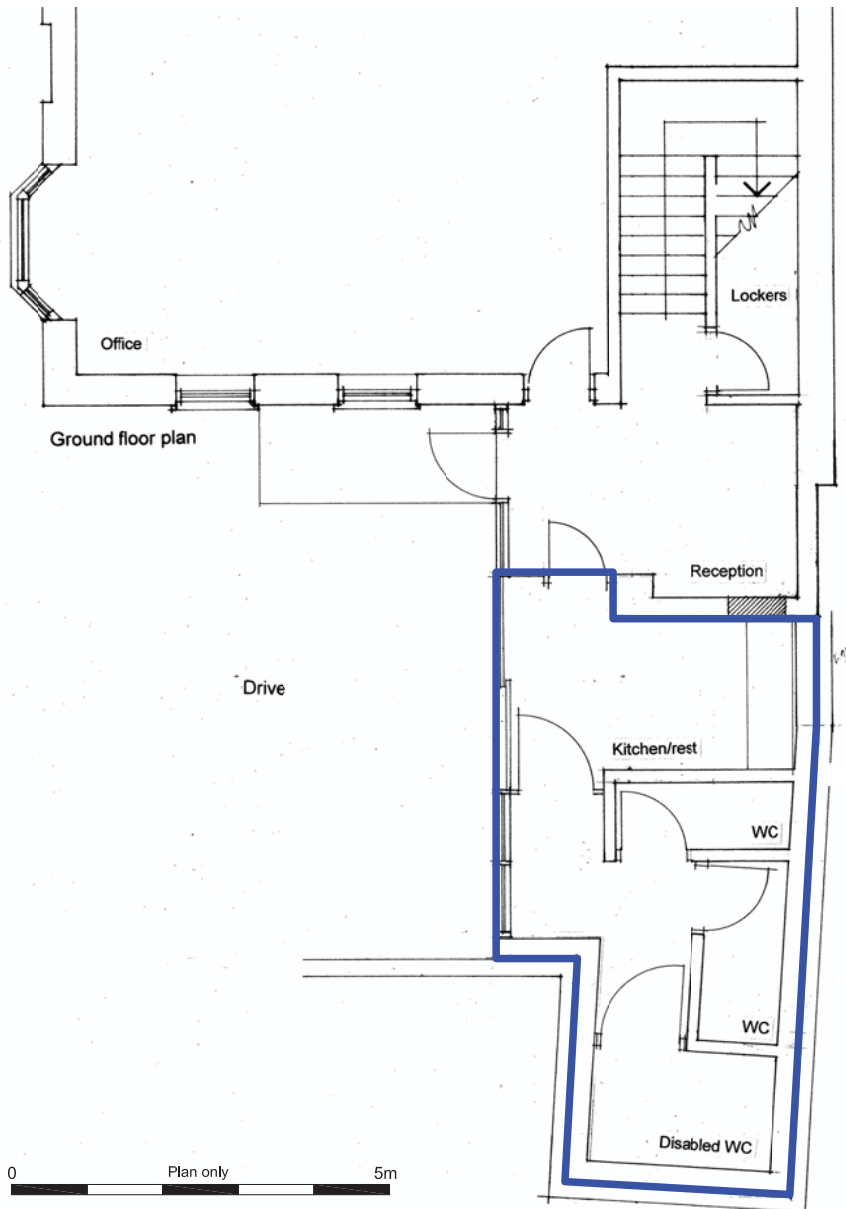
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (P7314)



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<p><i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i></p> <p>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</p> <p>Scale 1:1000 at A4</p> <p>43 High Street, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire (P7314)</p>



— Proposed extension footprint

0 Plan only 5m