

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton,
Tring, Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Muddin

Site Code: RWT12/195

(SP 9418 1032)

Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Steve Cannon

by Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code RWT 12/195

January 2013

Summary

Site name: Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: SP 9418 1032

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd January 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Munding

Site code: RWT 12/195

Area of site: 56 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered during the groundworks.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dacorum Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 29.01.13 Steve Preston ✓ 23.01.13
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Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 12/195

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 6HF (SP 9418 1032) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben Danks, of Danks Badnell LLP, Kings Stables, 3-4 Osbourne Mews, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 3DE on behalf of their client, Mr Steve Cannon, the owner at the site address.

Planning permission (4/01616/12/FHA) has been gained from Dacorum Borough Council for the remodelling of the existing dwelling. The development entails a single storey conversion of the garage for a new extension on the southern side of the house. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to the potential of archaeological deposits being damaged or destroyed during groundworks for the new foundations for the extension.

These works are in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kate Batt, Archaeological Advisor, for Hertfordshire County Council, advisor to the Borough Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 22nd January 2013 and the site code is RWT 12/195.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Dacorum Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Hemp Lane which is the eastern road leading out of Wigginton (Figs 1 and 2). Wigginton itself, lies *c.*2m to the south-east of Tring separated by the modern A41 Bypass. Wigginton is situated at the top of the Bulbourne River Valley, with Hemp Lane, rapidly descending downhill to the east. The underlying geology is clay-with-flints overlying deeper deposits of chalk (BGS 1946).

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological significance as specified by Dacorum Borough Council's local plan (Policy 118). To summarize, the historic core of Wigginton to the east has late Saxon origins and is documented as a manorial settlement in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The manor site is thought to be in the vicinity of The Orchard to the west of the current site (Fig. 2), with several buildings of late medieval and early post-medieval date present at Hemp Lane's western extent. A number of finds are recorded for the local area in the Hertfordshire HER with Roman finds noted on this side of the valley. Another entry notes that prehistoric pits have also been recorded during trial trenching at the northern end of the village, probably reflecting prehistoric occupation.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve the examination of the foundation trenches, areas of ground reduction and the digging of deep service trenches as necessary.

Results

The watching brief was concerned with two components of the groundworks: monitoring of an area of overburden removal in the vicinity of the existing driveway, and monitoring of the footing trench. There was no deep ground reduction nor digging of service trenches.

The footing trench was 0.6m wide and dug into the natural geology to a depth of 0.97m (Figs 3 and 4). The stratigraphy revealed comprised topsoil, which was 0.17m deep directly overlying clay-with-flints natural geology. The shallowness of the soil and a lack of an obvious subsoil suggests some landscaping had taken place presumably associated with construction of the current dwelling. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Overburden removal for the area of the former driveway where the shorter front foundation trench would be located, comprised removal only of the topsoil to expose the natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Conclusion

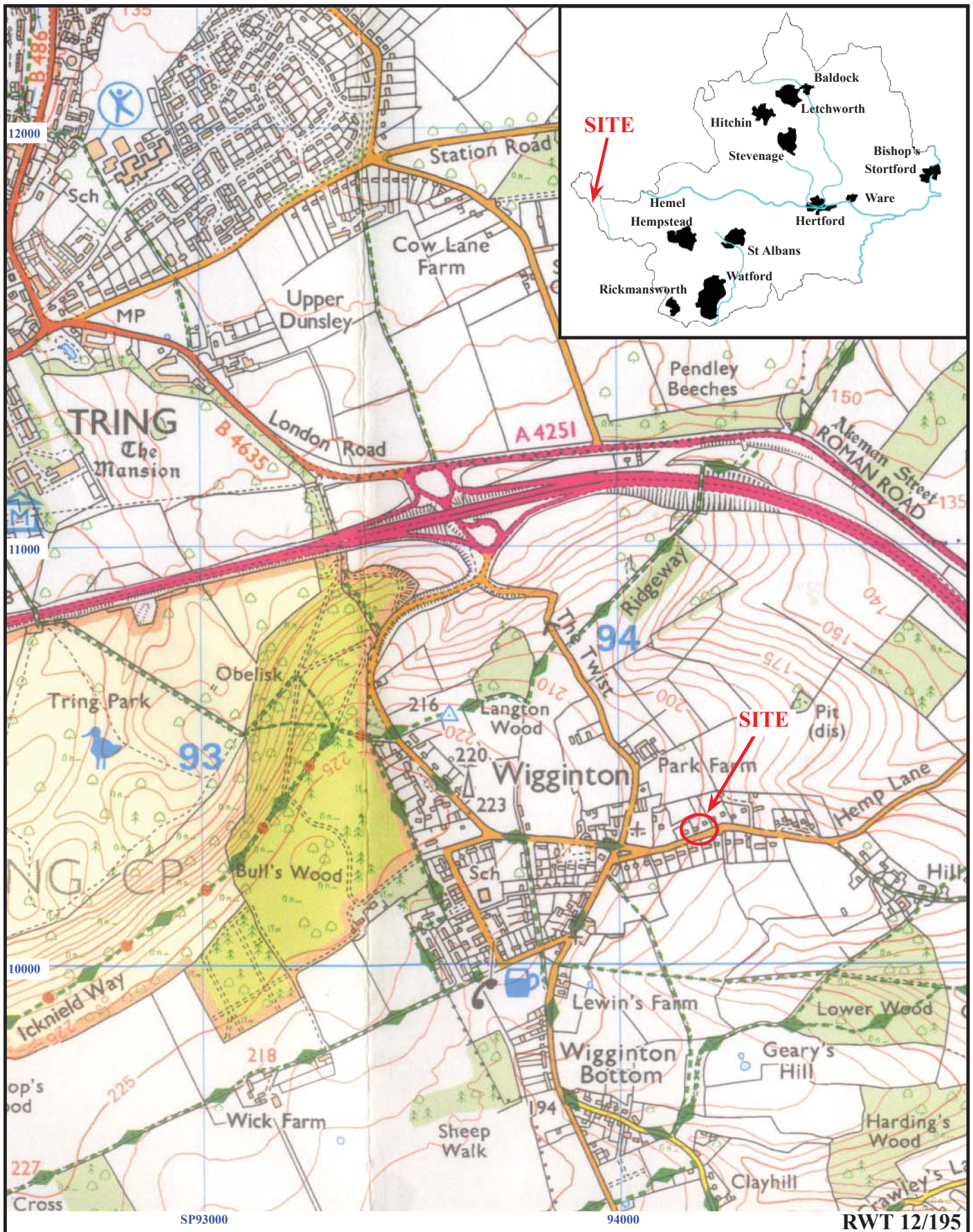
No archaeological deposits were encountered during the area stripped of overburden nor in the footing trench and no artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

References

BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Darcorum	
Village/Town: Wigginton	Parish: Wigginton	
Planning application reference: 4/01616/12/FHA		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Mr Steve Cannon, Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 6HF		
Nature of application: Small scale (extension)		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: 56 sq m	Size of area investigated: 8 sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9418 1032		
Site code (if applicable): RWT12/195		
Site director/Organization: Andy Mundin/ Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd		
Type of work: Watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 22/1/2013	Finish: 22/1/2013
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: The archive will be deposited with Darcorum Museum.		
Related HER Nos: None	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results: Foundation trenches for a new extension were excavated to the west of the existing house. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.		
Author of summary: Andrew Mundin		Date of summary: 23/1/2013



**Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring
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Figure 1. Location of site within Wigginton, in its relation to Tring and Hertfordshire.

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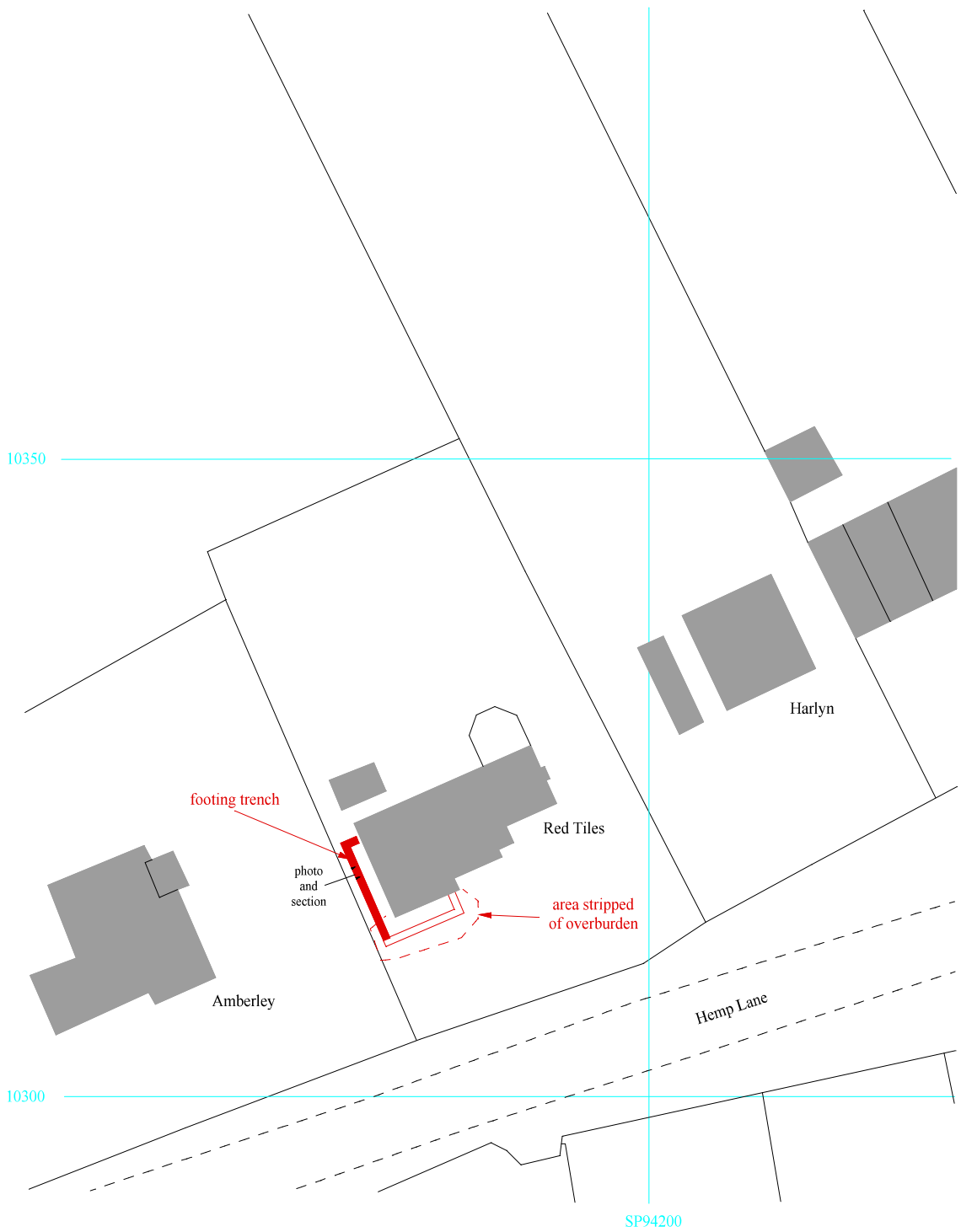
RWT 12/195



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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hemp Lane.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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NW

202.1 maOD

Topsoil

Natural geology (clay with flints)

base of footing

RWT 12/195

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Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Footing section, looking west, Scale: 1m.

RWT 12/195

**Red Tiles, Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Tring,
Hertfordshire, 2013**
Archaeological watching brief

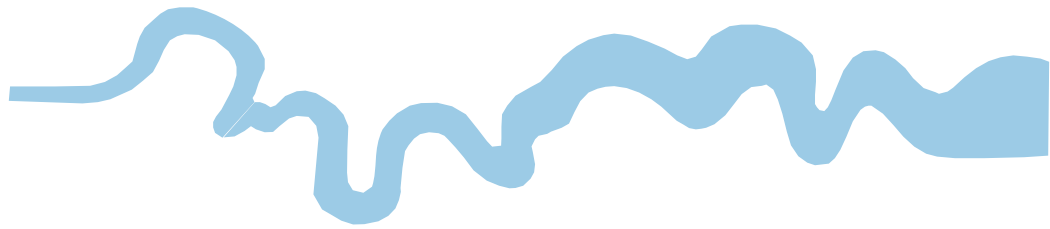
Plate 1.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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