

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**St. Margaret's Church Graveyard Extension,  
Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andrew Muddin**

**Site Code: HWM 10/54**

**(SU 3749 9910)**

# **St Margaret's Church Graveyard Extension, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
For Pyments of Campden Limited**

by AndrewMundin  
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices  
Ltd

SiteCodeHWM10/54

**September 2010**

## Summary

**Site name:** St Margaret's Church Graveyard Extension, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 3749 9910

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 10th September 2010

**Project manager:** Joanna Pine

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Munding

**Site code:** HWM 10/54

**Area of site:** Site=26 sq m

**Summary of results:** The auger survey identified silt/clay deposits associated with a backfilled feature, representing a continuation of the moat to the north east beyond its current terminal. It is assumed that the moat had been backfilled, during the extensive landscaping of the grounds in the 17th century though no dating evidence to confirm or refute this notion was produced by this fieldwork. Waterlogging had led to the preservation of organic remains in the lower ditch fills.

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

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	Steve Preston✓ 23.09.10

# **St Margaret's Church Graveyard Extension, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Recording Action**

by Andrew Muddin

**Report 10/54**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological auger borehole survey, carried out at St Margaret's Church, Church Road, Hinton Waldrist, Oxfordshire (SU 3749 9910) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Christopher Hobson, of JCCH Architect and Designers, Kirby House, Pury End, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 7NX, on behalf of Pyments of Campden Ltd, Old Station Yard, Station Road, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire GL55 6LB.

Planning permission (HIN/8260/6) has been granted by Vale of White Horse District Council, to extend the graveyard of St Margaret's Church onto land owned by Hinton Manor, which is a Registered Park/Garden (GD2099). The extension has the potential of disturbing the upper deposits of part of a backfilled moat and an archaeological scheme has been requested to determine the position and existence of the moat's presumed continuation within this location.

This evaluation is in accordance with the Department for of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was based on a brief prepared by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County's Archaeological Service and was approved by Mr Paul Smith, County Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was monitored by Mr Coddington and was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 10th September 2010. The site code is HWM 10/54.

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

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the western edge of the current retaining boundary wall for St Margaret's Church (Fig. 2). At present this ground is overgrown and scrub owned by Hinton Manor, separating its grounds from the Church. Hinton Waldrist has a rectangular village plan with the Manor and Church, lying off Church Road, at on its north-western corner. The underlying geology is part of the Limestone and Sand Corallian Beds (BGS 1971). The site lies at approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum topographically lies on a ridge which slopes downhill to the north and northwest out of the village.



## **Archaeological background**

Hinton Waldrist's history is dominated by Hinton Manor House which, though its existing structure mostly dates from the 17th century, contained the site of a Motte and Bailey earthwork, known as *The Mount*. A small excavation in 1939 by H. Gardner and M. Jope, dated the mound and ditch to the 12th century (Coddington 2008). This excavation also uncovered Iron Age pottery. Measurements taken at the time suggest its structure seems to have been more residential, rather than defensive, due its low mound and small tower. The remains of the motte are situated along the existing, water filled moat-pond to the south-west of the Manor (Fig. 2).

A brief history of the owners is also chronicled, which notes that the St Valery family from the 12th century ruled over the two separate estates that existed here, which was noted in the Domesday survey as previously being owned by thegn Odo of Winchester (VCH 1924). This may have included the mill by the Thames at Duxford to the north (Williams and Martin 2002, 159). The castle was thought to be have been owned by the Crown between 1422 and 1624, until it fell into disrepair and was finally abandoned.

Of the existing house, it is thought that it was built for Dr George Owen, Royal Physician to Henry VIII and his children. During the 18th century, the Loder family altered the house making it Gothic revival in style. The gardens were thought to be established in the mid-17th century, including the castle mount as a viewing mount (Coddington 2008). The existing extent of the moat-pond has been recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876, showing at this time the moat did not fully encircle the property. The current graveyard extension works would lie directly over a continuation of the ditch.

The church of St Margaret is thought to be of 13th century origin which has been extensively modified over the years (VCH, 1924). Its position suggests it could respect the moat edge if the latter continued; the unusual alignment of the nave suggests it was positioned outside the moat, parallel to a possible continuation north-eastwards.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence of the moat in the location of the current works. This was originally to comprise a conventional machine dug evaluation trench to find the margins of the top of the moat in plan followed by an auger survey to examine underlying deposits, within minimal disturbance. However, due to the constrained nature of the site due to the presence of protected trees (Pl. 1, narrower trenches associated with the new groundworks were partly utilised instead. The groundworks were excavated with a small

360° mini digger. If deposits associated with the ditch could be identified, then sampling of lower deposits by auger would try to establish their character and chronology.

## **Results**

The auger survey comprised the boring of seven holes. All apart from Borehole 1 were cut from the existing ground level (GL) (Fig. 4). Borehole 1 was drilled through the base of the extension boundary wall trench (Pl. 2) and therefore was the only borehole to be started beneath the existing landscaped overburden. Detailed levels and depth measurements of all deposits in all boreholes is noted in Appendix 1.

### *Auger survey*

#### Borehole 1

This auger point was started 0.77m below existing GL within the base of the new graveyard boundary wall trench. This meant that the topmost soft dark grey brown fill was exposed in the section of the trench to a depth of 0.64m (50). The next layer (51) was a grey brown clayey silt. This was present to a depth of 1.03m below GL. Beneath this was a yellow grey silty clay, noted to a depth of 1.99m (53). Under this was a grey brown silty clay. This reached a depth of 2.42m. At this point, the water table was reached and a waterlogged grey clay (52) was noted. A sample of the latter was taken for the recovery of artefactual or environment material. This fill was then observed to the base of the auger hole to a depth of 3.93m below GL, where natural geology was not reached.

#### Borehole 2

This auger hole was drilled 1m to the east of Borehole 1 starting at GL. Similar deposits were identified within this borehole as previously, which identified deposit 54 to a depth of 1.9m and deposit 53 to a depth of 2.1m before an obstruction halted the auger. No grey clay was identified within this borehole.

#### Borehole 3

This auger hole was drilled 1.5m to the west of Borehole 1 starting at GL. Similar deposits were identified within this borehole as previous, noting deposit 53 at 1.96m. This deposit was sampled within this borehole at a depth of 1.8m (Sample 2). Waterlogged grey clay (52) was noted at 2.64m, but augering stopped once this deposit was identified here.

#### Borehole 4

This hole was drilled next to the existing boundary wall of the graveyard at a height of 99.65m above OD. This is the only auger hole to identify natural sand at a depth of 0.96m from GL. No deposits from the ditch were noted in this borehole.

#### Borehole 5

This hole was abandoned at 0.4m below GL, due to obstruction by tree roots.

#### Borehole 6

This hole was 2m downslope from Borehole 4, and c. 4m from Borehole 1. Its location was slightly restricted by a nearby rubble pile. This hole identified deposit 53 to a depth of 1.57m with grey clay underlying this. This identified deposit 54 to the point at which the watertable was reached at 1.68m. The base of this borehole gave onto clean yellow clay which may be the natural geology (although sand was expected, and noted in Borehole 4, as mapped this could overlie Oxford clay, and the original cutting of the moat may have been taken below sand to clay) and indicate the edge of the moat beginning to rise here.

#### Borehole 7

Borehole 7 was the only nearest hole to the existing moat, c.3m to the west of Borehole 1. Similar stratigraphy was noted here with deposit 53 to a depth of 2.12m and deposit 52 to a depth of 2.47. At 2.61m the watertable was reached.

#### *Other observed elements*

The extension boundary wall trench was observed open after excavation (Pl. 2). It was noted that all exposed sections were devoid of intrusive cuts and consisted of two grey-brown humic, rooty deposits, which contained no archaeological material. No natural geology was uncovered within these trenches, which were excavated to a depth of 0.77m below existing GL.

The excavation of the removal of the surface water drainage pipe, linking between a drain from the existing graveyard and the outlet into the moat, was observed (Fig.3). This pipe was only 0.6m below existing GL, and did not uncover any archaeological deposits (Pls 3 and 4).

## **Finds**

### *Pottery?*

Three small crumbs of fired clay fragments (all much less than 1g) were recovered from Boreholes 1 and 3. Borehole 1 contained two tiny, heavily abraded, pieces of pottery, recovered from Sample 1, deposit 52. These

are orangey brown in colour, with a fine silt temper. Borehole 3 (Sample 2, deposit 53) contained one tiny piece of a black fabric, with no obvious inclusions in a hand lens inspection. The pieces are too small to date.

### *Environmental samples by Joanna Pine*

Two samples were taken from two of the boreholes. Each sample, of 2 litres each, were floated using standard floatation techniques and the 'flots' collected using a 0.25mm mesh. The sample were analysed and the nature of preserved plant material was recorded. The flot debris was examined under a low-powered hand lens at x10 magnification.

Sample 1 from Deposit 52 was taken from the upper waterlogged fill of the ditch. This recovered a moderate to low potential of recognisable remains (less than 1mm), which were generally crumbly and easily breakable making further identification impossible. Due to there size, most seeds were probably weed seeds, though one piece (<3mm) of bark was identified and two broken halves of a small (<2mm) seed casing.

Sample 2 from Deposit 53 was taken from the bottom of the secondary backfilled material above the grey clay. A very small collection of small weed seeds were recovered from this flot. Neither sample contained charred remains.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation identified silt/clay deposits associated with a backfilled feature within five of the boreholes, which can realistically only be an extension of the moat ditch. The full depth of the ditch was not recorded but was more than 3.9m deep. Small fragments of pottery or fired clay were recovered but were much too small to be dated.

It is assumed that the ditch was backfilled, during the extensive landscaping of the grounds in the 17th century. The projected line of the moat can only be extended with any confidence by a further 10m so there is still no certainty on whether the moat fully encircled the manor, nor the precise direction of the moat's continuation.

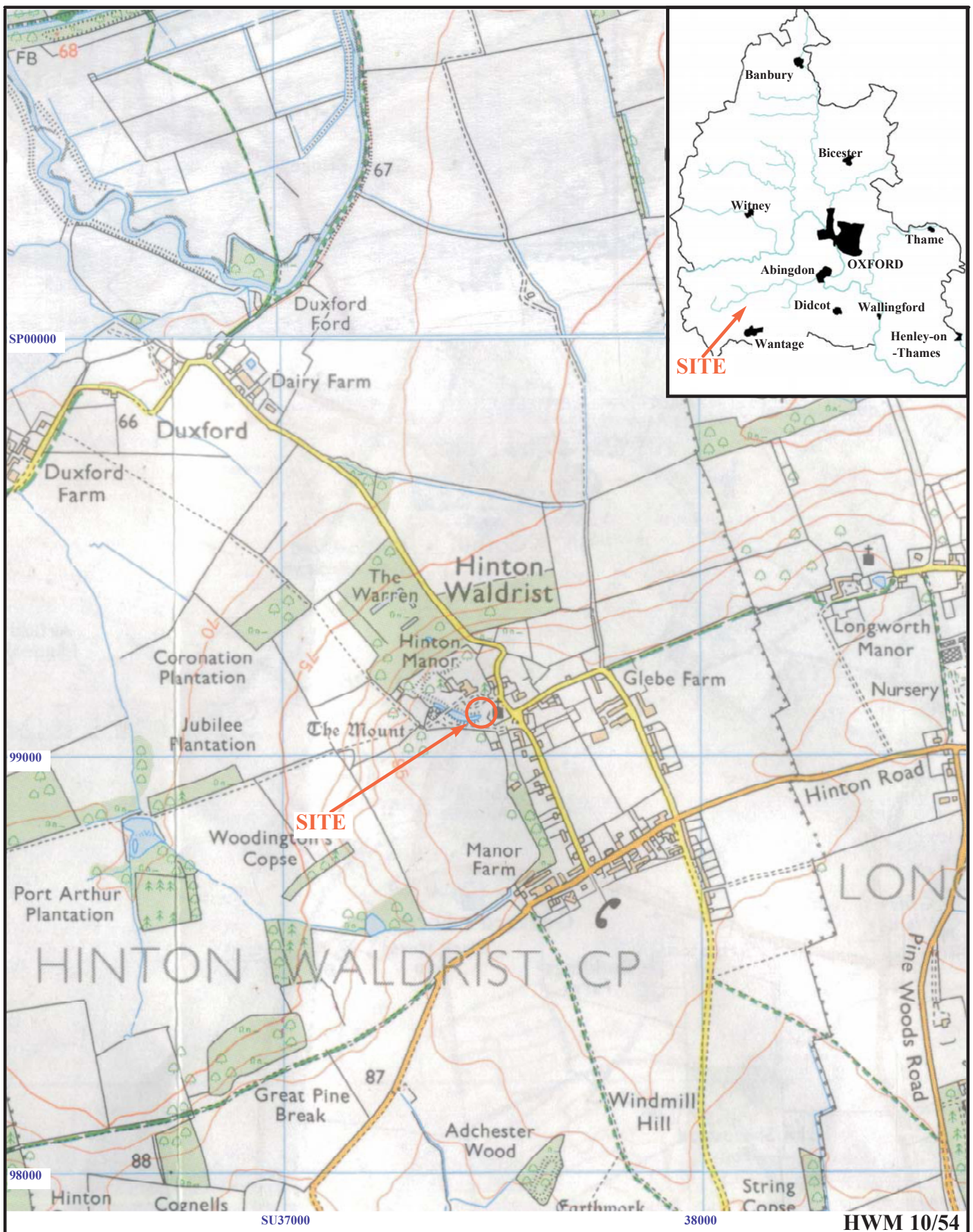
The boundary wall trench was observed, exposing only two humic, rooty deposits, over the top of the backfilled moat. No natural geology was disturbed by the current groundworks. No human remains were uncovered from limited soil disturbance associated with the graveyard.

## References

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63 360, Sheet 253, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coddington, H, 2008, 'Hinton Waldrist Manor Graveyard Extension, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services brief for an archaeological recording action', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service Brief
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- VCH, 1924, 'Parishes: Hinton Waldrist', in *A History of the County of Berkshire: Vol. 4*, 463–66, accessed online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62749>. Date accessed 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010
- William, A and Martin, H, 2002, *Domesday Book: A complete translation*, London

## APPENDIX 1: Auger Descriptions

Auger hole	Depth(m)	Colour	Composition	Inclusions	Elevation
1					
	0.00-0.48	dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	98.5
	0.48-1.03	grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	
	1.03-1.99	yellow grey	Clay	<2% stone	
	1.99-2.42	brown grey <1>	Silty Clay	-	
	2.42-3.93+	grey	Clay	-	
2					
	0.00-0.8	Dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	99.3
	0.8-1.17	Grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	
	1.17-1.9	yellow grey	Clay	<1% stone	
	1-9-2.1+	brown grey	Clay	-	
3					
	0.00-0.7	dark grey brown	Clay Silt	Rooty	99.3
	0.7-1.2	grey brown	Clayey silt	Rooty	
	1.2-1.96	yellow grey <2>	Silty Clay	Rooty	
	1.96-2.2	yellow grey brown	Clay	-	
	2.2-2.64+	grey	Clay	-	
4					
	0.00-0.8	dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	99.65
	0.8-0.96	yellow grey	Silty Clay	<4% stone	
	0.96+	yellow orange	Silty Sand	<5% stone	
5					
	0.00-0.4	dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	V rooty	99.4
		Abandoned			
6					
	0.00-0.79	dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	99.5
	0.79-1.05	grey	Silty Clay	-	
	1.05-1.57	yellow grey	Silty Clay	<1% stone	
	1.57-1.68	grey brown	Clay	-	
	1.68+	yellow grey	Clay	-	
7					
	0.00-0.77	Dark grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	99.2
	0.77-1.42	grey brown	Clayey Silt	Rooty	
	1.42-2.12	yellow grey	Clay	<1%	
	2.12-2.47	light grey brown	Clay	-	
	2.47-2.61+	grey	Clay	-	



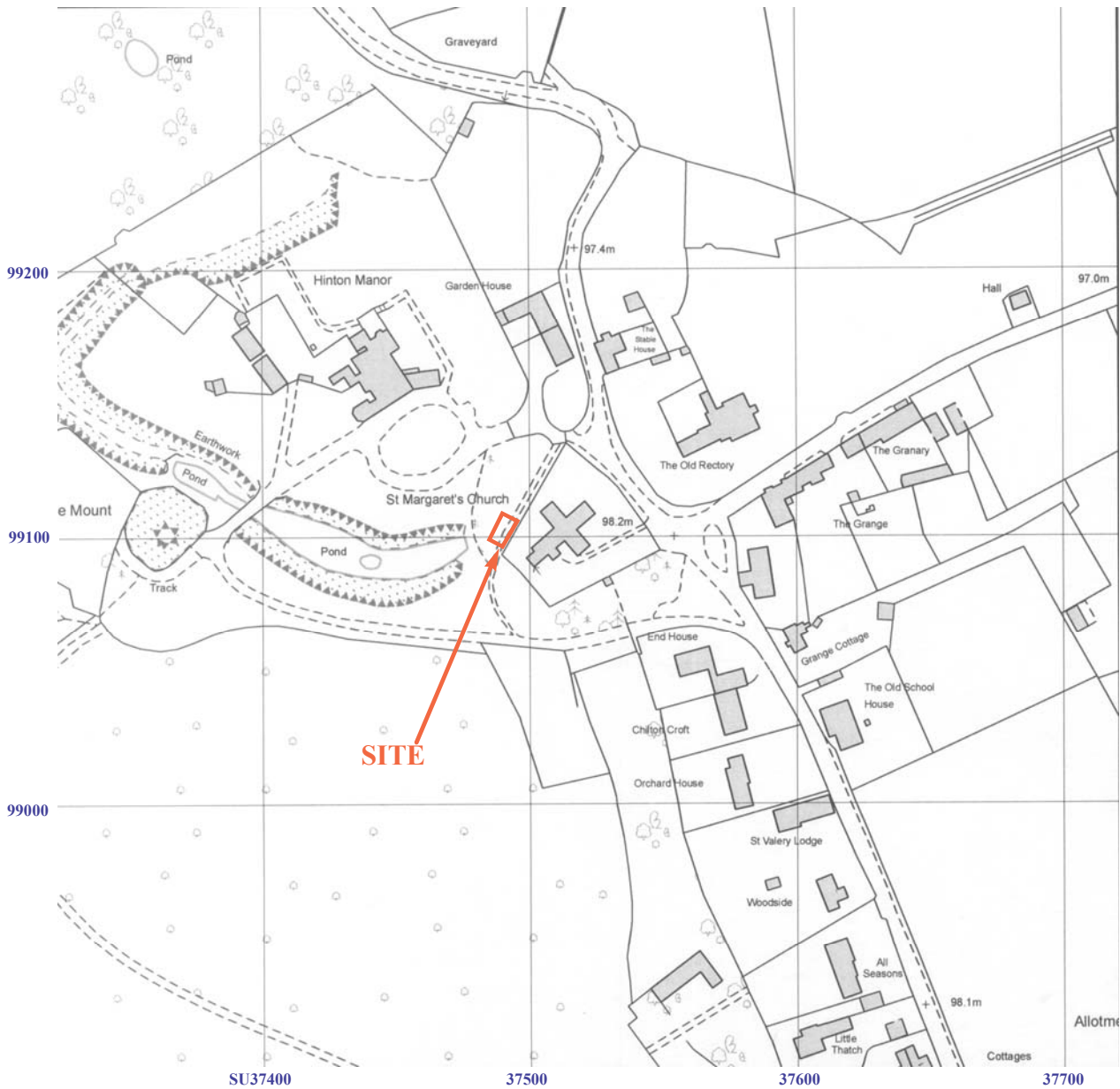
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hinton Waldrist and Oxfordshire.

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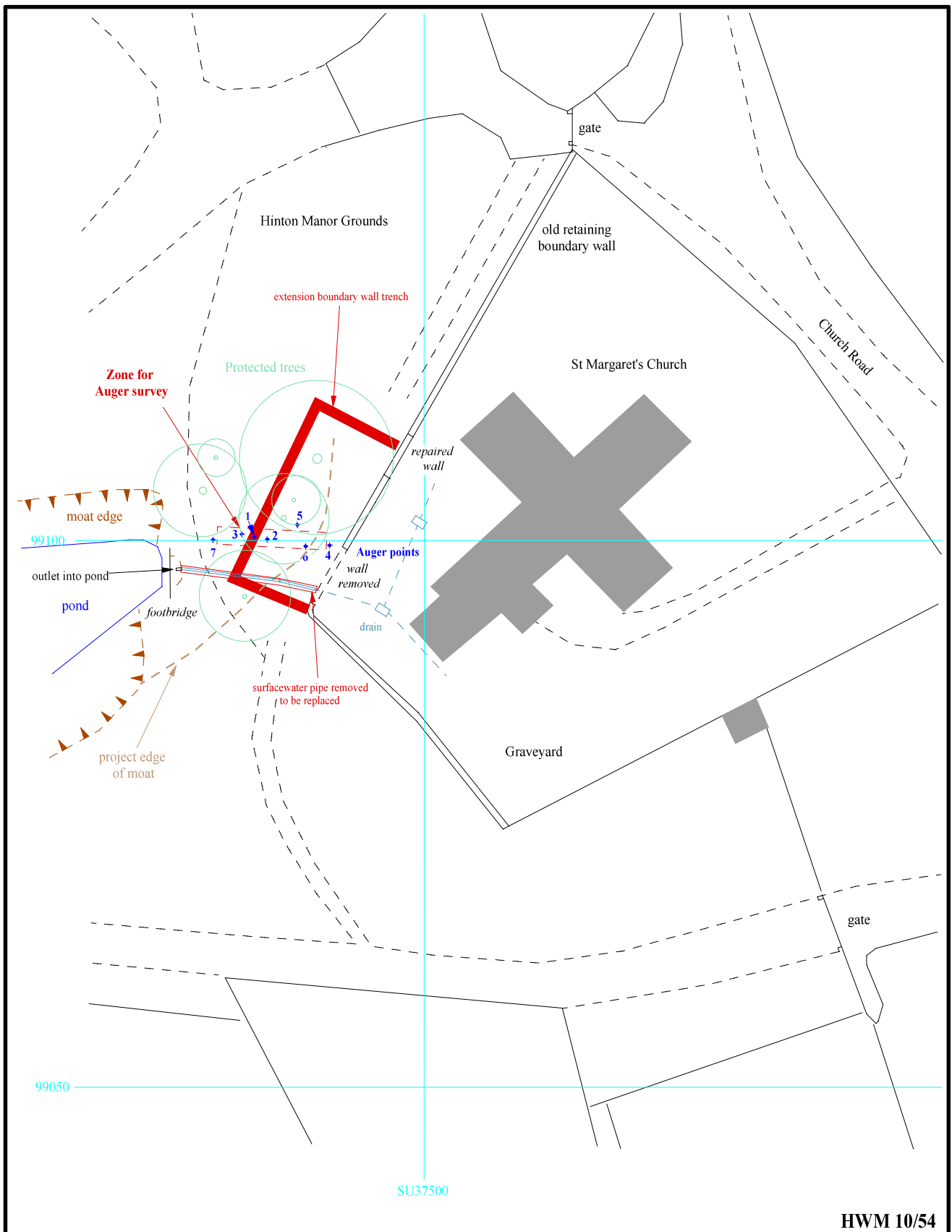
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Figure 2. Detail of site, showing Manor and current extent of existing moat earthwork.

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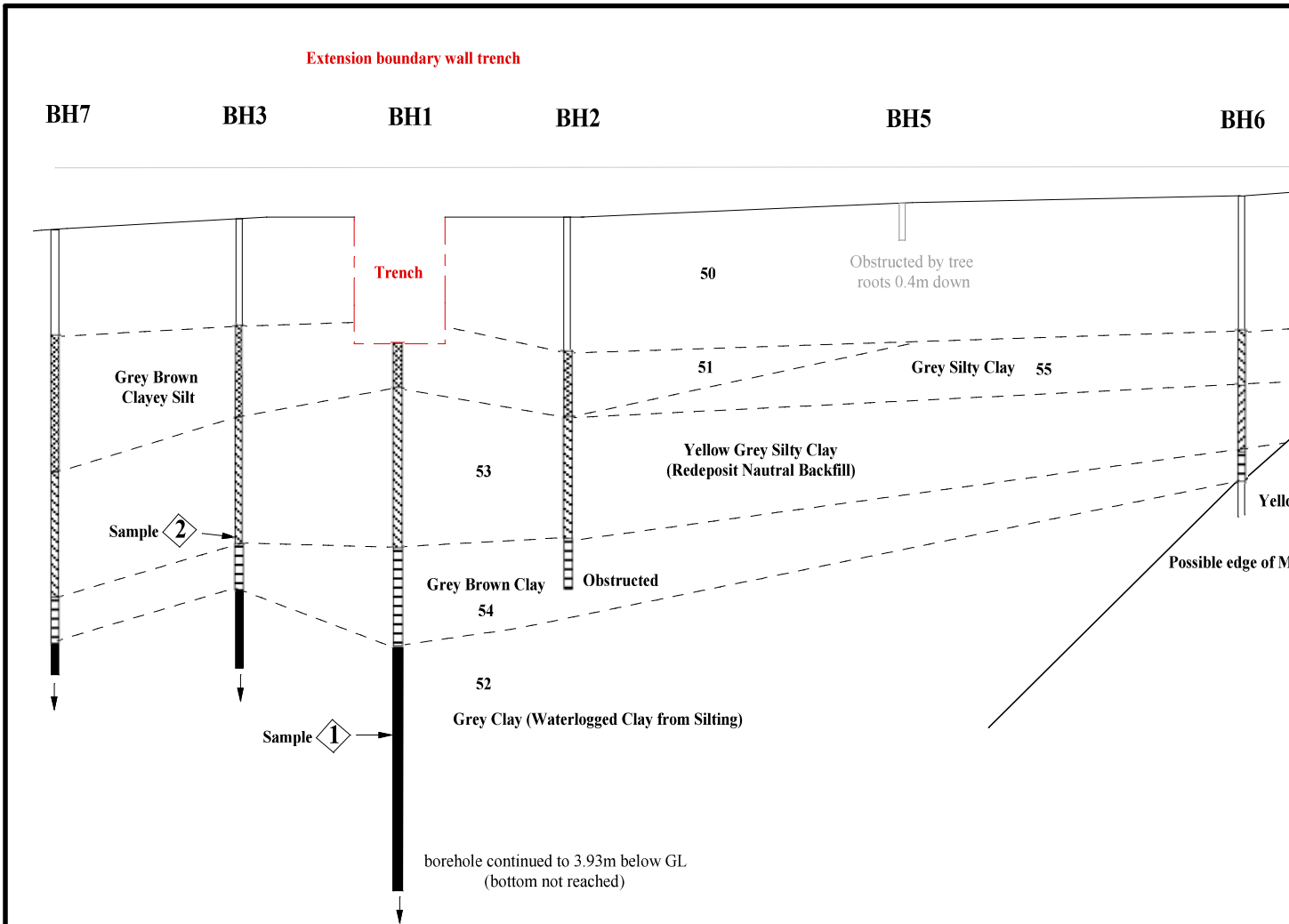


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Figure 3. Location of investigation by augering.



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Figure 4. Cross section of possible section created from auger survey.

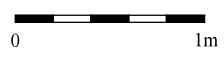




Plate 1. Works, looking north east.



Plate 2. Within Extension Boundary Trench, looking south.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Surface waterpipe trench crossing boundary wall trench, looking east; scale 1m.



Plate 4. Surface water outflow pipe, showing line of removed pipe.

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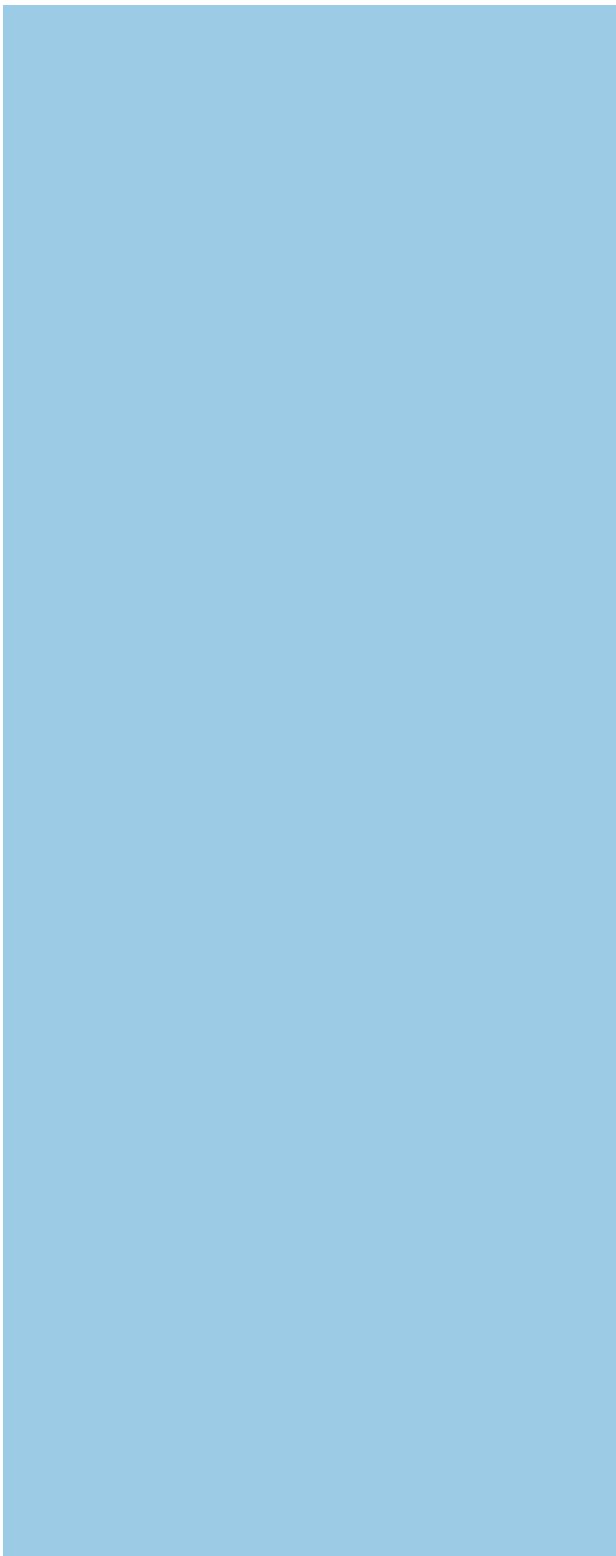
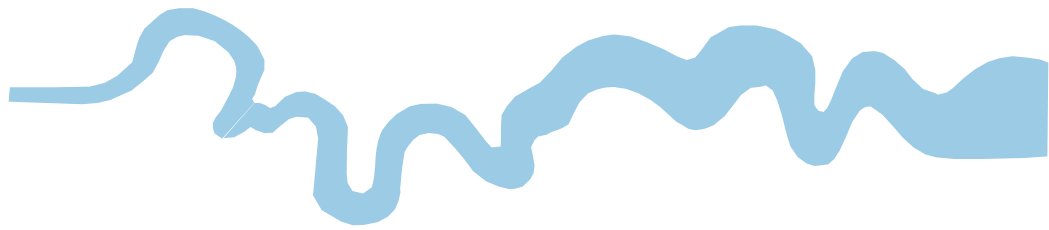
Plates 3 and 4.

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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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