

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
NORTH CAR PARK
HATFIELD HOUSE
HATFIELD
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 2368 0844

on behalf of Gascoyne Cecil Estates



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February 2011

ASC: 1332/HHN/2



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<i>Village/Town:</i>	Hatfield		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Hatfield		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 2368 0844		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	4775 sq. m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Car park		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Removal of hard surfaces: creation of knot garden		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	N/a		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Welwyn Hatfield District		
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<i>Client:</i>	Gascoyne Cecil Estates Hatfield Park Estate Office Hatfield Herts AL9 5NQ		
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Between March 2011- January 2012 a watching brief was carried out at the North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, during the construction of a fountain in the centre and knot gardens along the east and west sides of the north car park. The works revealed a series of made-ground deposits containing frequent quantities of building debris and a number of structural foundations. The deposits are thought to have been primarily brought to the area to form the surface of the court, when the site was extended in the second half of the 19th century. A further explanation is that the structural debris and foundations may have derived from the temporary buildings that were erected in the North Court during the Second World War, when Hatfield House was a military hospital. Or that the deposits and structural foundations are related to the former garden layout of the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2011 - January 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Gascoyne Cecil Estates, and was carried out according a archaeological mitigation strategy prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2010), and approved by the local planning authority (LPA), Welwyn Hatfield District.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

Hatfield House is located to the east of Hatfield, in the civil parish of the same name, and the administrative district of Welwyn Hatfield, Hertfordshire. The North Car Park covers an area $72.8 \times 65.6\text{m}$ to the immediate north of the house, centred on NGR TL 2368 0844 (Fig. 1). The site is located on a north-facing slope, falling from 54.9 – 52.7m AOD, and is covered with tarmac (Fig. 2). It is walled to the west, east and north, with the main vehicular access through two gates to the north, and other vehicular and pedestrian access to the east and west. The north entrance to the house is reached from the car park by a broad flight of steps. A number of manholes, mostly along the south side of the site, indicate the presence of buried services, and there are a several concrete settings for temporary buildings or marquees set in the tarmac surface.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

Soils in the site area will have been modified, but are likely to have belonged originally to the Windsor association, described as 'slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils, mostly with brown subsoils' (Soil Survey 1983, 712c). The underlying geology comprises Reading Beds (BGS sheet 239).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises relocation of the car park, removal of much of the present tarmac surface, and the creation of a knot garden and grassed area within the walled area (Fig. 4).

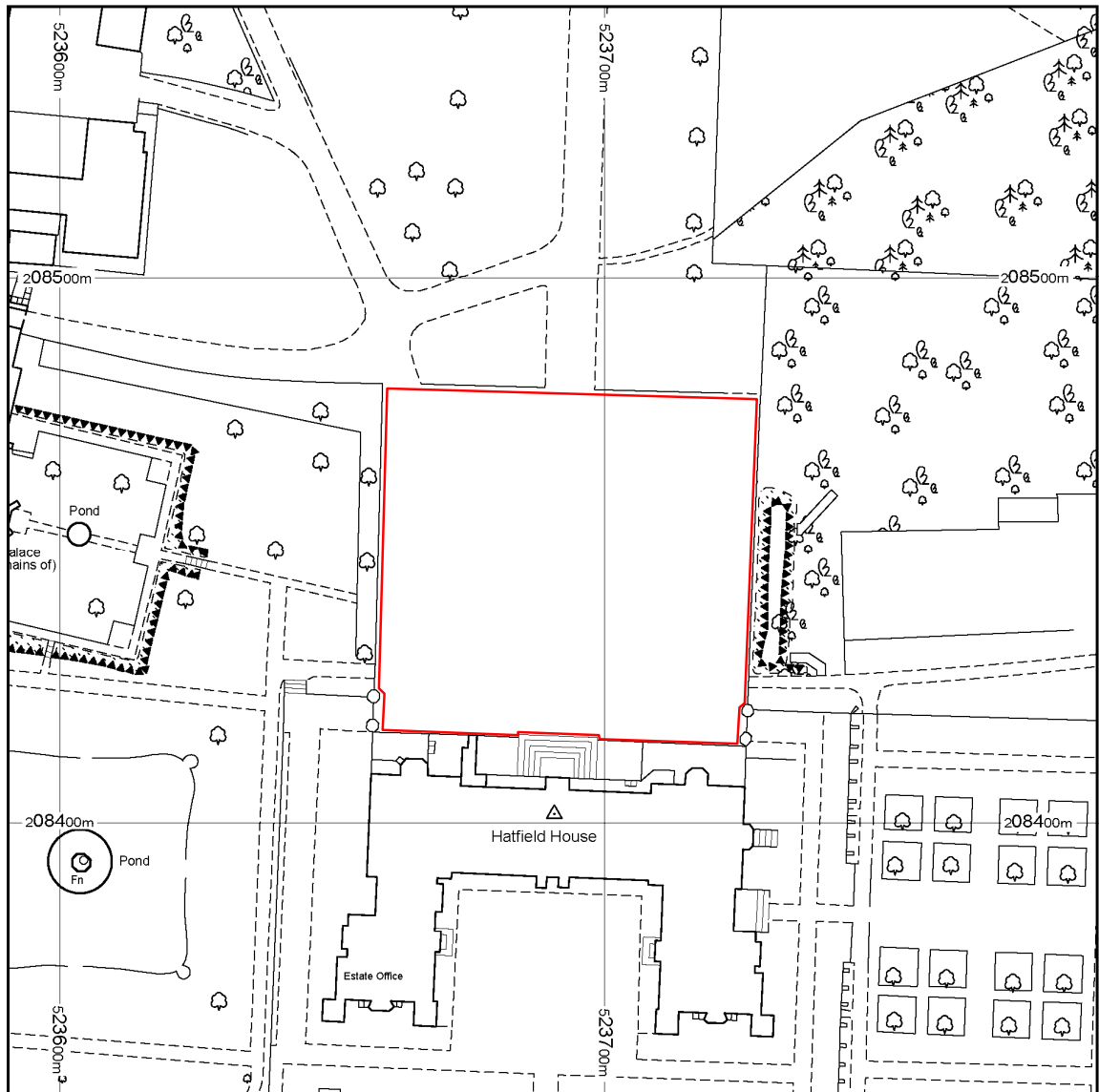


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

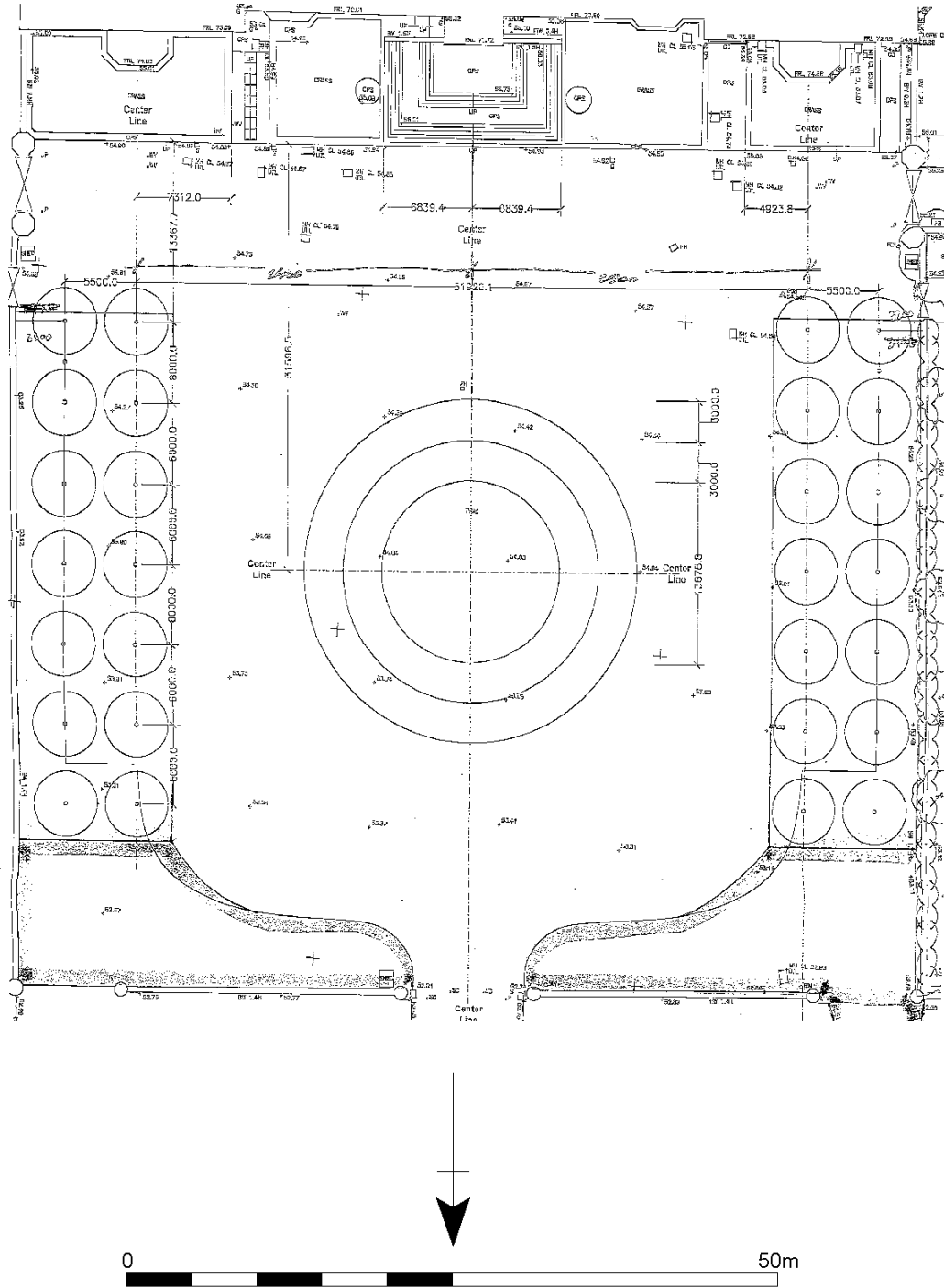


Figure 3: Proposed Development (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the archaeological mitigation strategy (Section 3.2), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development likely to have an impact upon archaeological deposits.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the watching brief in their local and regional context.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the mitigation strategy, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the archaeological mitigation strategy (Section 3.3), which required:

- Watching brief to be undertaken by an experienced archaeologist during the removal of the surface and sub-base of the North Car Park.

2.4 Constraints

The works were carried out in line with the archaeological mitigation strategy and with full co-operation of the client. As a result no constraints were encountered.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 General

The following section provides a summary of the readily available historical background to the site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information provided by the Hatfield Extensive Urban Survey (Thompson 2002), the Hatfield House archivist (Harcourt Williams 2010), an initial site visit undertaken by the writer, and ASC's reference collection.

3.2 Archaeology and Early History (before 1480)

Little is known of the prehistoric period around Hatfield. Although prehistoric flints have been found in the Lee valley to the north and at Howe Dell to the south-west (Thompson 2002, 2), and the truncated remains of a Bronze Age landscape have been recognised 3km to the west at Hatfield Aerodrome (*ibid.*), no evidence of this period is recorded from Hatfield Park.

In the Iron Age and Roman periods the Hertfordshire landscape is an organised one, consisting of native farmsteads sometimes giving way, in the Roman period, to Romanised farms or villas. Again, little information is available for the landscape around Hatfield. Evidence of Iron Age and Roman activity has been recorded at Hatfield Aerodrome, Roman pottery sherds have been found at Howe Dell, and a possible Roman building is recorded between the Great North Road and Park Street, 0.4km from the site (Thompson 2002, 3). Roman coins have been found at two locations in Old Hatfield (*ibid.*, HER 1849, 2933).

Evidence for Saxon activity in the Hatfield area is also sparse. The Domesday Survey (1086) reveals a lack of settlement and the presence of extensive woodland across south-west Hertfordshire, including the Hatfield area. Early Saxon pottery has been recorded to the west of the site at Hatfield Aerodrome (Thompson 2002, 3), probably indicating some form of settlement there. Domesday also records that Hatfield was a very large estate, granted c.970 to the Benedictine monastery at Ely, as a source of timber and related materials for the construction of the abbey (Morris 1976).

In 1107 the monastery at Ely became a bishopric. Hatfield was then renamed *Bishops Hatfield*, to distinguish it from Hatfield Broadoak in Essex (Thompson 2002, 4). The township, which grew up on the slope west of the parish church, took some time to develop. In 1226 the Bishop of Ely was granted a weekly market and annual fair (Page 1971, 99). The Great Park and Middle Park (Millwards) were first recorded in 1277. The bishop's manor stood next to the church. When it was surveyed in 1396, the demesne was leased to tenant farmers, and the house itself was in a poor condition.

3.3 The Old Palace (1480-1607)

The Old Palace at Hatfield was built by John Morton c.1480 to replace the manor house, and was originally the Palace of the Bishops of Ely. From c.1514 Henry VIII's farrier, Hannibal Zenzano, became lessee of the palace, and Henry began to use it as if it was his own (Page 1971, 92). Princess Mary resided at Hatfield with a household appropriate to her station as Princess Royal until Henry's divorce from Katherine of

Aragon in 1533. In December of that year the household at Hatfield was reduced, and the infant Princess Elizabeth was lodged there (*ibid.*). Shortly after Mary's household was dissolved, and she remained at Hatfield as lady in waiting to Elizabeth. The following year Elizabeth was moved to Hunsdon House.

In 1538 the manor of Hatfield was conveyed to Henry by Thomas, Bishop of Ely. Elizabeth and Prince Edward both appear to have spent much of their childhood at Hatfield. On Henry's death Elizabeth was removed from Hatfield, but returned in 1548. In 1550 the estate was conveyed to Elizabeth with the consent of the Privy Council. With the accession of Mary, Elizabeth was again removed from Hatfield, but was allowed to return in 1555 under the supervision of Sir Thomas Pope. In 1558 she received the news of her sister's death there. Elizabeth maintained Hatfield as a royal palace throughout her reign, and was a frequent visitor. After her death it was granted in dower to Anne of Denmark in 1603, but was exchanged by King James for Theobalds at Cheshunt in 1607, passing to the earl of Salisbury.

The remains of the Old Palace are c.70m west of the site. It is a Grade I listed building (Images of England ref. 158407). Much of the palace, built round a central court, was demolished by the earl, leaving the west wing which survives today. This was used as stables until the 20th century. The present garden layout to the east of the palace gives some idea of the extent of the palace and its surrounding enclosure, shown on a plan of 1608.

3.4 ***Hatfield House: the first phase*** (1607-1780)

Having acquired Hatfield, Lord Salisbury set about demolishing most of the Palace and building the present house, which was designed by Robert Lyminge, with input from Thomas Wilson and possibly Inigo Jones (Page 1971, 93). When the House was built, between 1607 and 1612, it was surrounded by walled gardens and courts. Evidence for this is provided by numerous references in written documents, and is supported by two plans, neither very detailed. It is not known whether they show the House as it was actually built, or whether they reflect designs which were considered but rejected.

The first plan (CPM Supp. 21) dates from about 1610. It shows parterres on the east and west sides of the House and inner and outer courts on the south. It does not show the position of the gate on the north side, which existed according to written records.

The second (HA1/21) is of uncertain date, but was probably made some time between 1610 and 1620. Although buildings are not marked on it, it appears to show the walls surrounding the outer boundaries of the gardens. In spite of being unfinished and unimpressive to look at, it is actually extremely accurate in its mapping of field boundaries and roads.

Written records suggest that there was a terrace on the north side of the House. There was a north court with a gate leading out into the park. Robert Lyminge, the architect, writes (probably in 1609):

“The bricklayers ... are in hand with the foundations of the gates in the court on the north side of the house”. (BHH 32. SP Dom. Jac. 58/9).

Measurements of work completed by 12 November 1610 (BHH 55-57, 60. Accounts 9/24) include the following references:

For the mayne waule that bareth the tarres one the north side of the house
Contayning 5 per: ½. 10 fout at £2:6 the per: the sume is£12/14/8

The 2 round houses on the northe Court with the pining up Contayneth 5 per: 67
fout at £2:6: the per: the sume is£12/9/0

More in the north side of the house one great gat going out of the stabell Court in
to the parcke being wrought with 2 pillasters arcatrave frese and Cornishe with a
perement and 2 peddestales with fier baules and a paremede one the tope all being
valued.....£6/13/4

For all the fence wales in the north court and so to the pidgin house with the
underpining of the rayles in the same Court all which Contayneth 28 per: ¾, 49
fout, at £1:6 the per: the sume is£37/12/2

Of smauler drayne in the beare seller in the pasttre the sculler and another drayne
in the beare seller and in the kichine and in the wine seller and 2 draynes uppone
the tarres one the north sid of the house all which Con: in lenthe 31 per: 7 fout, at
12d the per: the sume is£1/11/5

In 1611 the agent's accounts (Accounts 160/1) list a payment of £62/6/0 made on 10
July "to laborers and Carters uppon a bill for worke done in the North Courte and
makinge the tarras in the North walke frome the first of June till the last of the same."

The same accounts include a payment of £4/4/6 on 6 August 1611 "To laborers and
Carters uppon a bill assig: 31 Julie 1611 for carriage of gravell for the North Courte
walke."

Finally, William Woode the carpenter submitted a bill for work done up to 14
December 1611 (Bills 58):

Wm Woode the Carpenter his byll for worke done by him at Hatfeild howse for
the use of the right Hoble the Earle of Salisbury Lo: heigh Trear of England from
the 14th December 1610 untill the 14th December 1611 vizt:

For the makinge of the great gates on the North syde of the howse£6/0/0

For the makinge of 8 great doers in the brick walles fyve of them in the kytchen
garden, one goeing out of the old Corte into the Nurcerye of trees, and one
goeing into the parke out of the North Corte, and one in the East garden at the
end of the longe walke at 10s a peece£4/0/0

For the makeinge sawinge & frameinge and fynishinge the great gates in the
valley in the North walke£16/0/0

In 1695 John Bassill, a bricklayer, claimed payment for "making a gateway in the
court on the north side of the house" (SFP 3/22. Bills 367).

The above references indicate that there was a gate in the North Court, presumably on
the far side away from the House. Nothing suggests that there was a gatehouse or any
other buildings in the court. No doubt the House was served by numerous workshops,
laundries and outbuildings, but they seem to have been situated to the north-west,
where they remained in the later 18th century when the North Court was landscaped.

The formal gardens around the House fell into decay during the middle years of the
18th century, when the property belonged to the sixth earl of Salisbury. He inherited
the estate in 1728 and died in 1780. For much of this time Hatfield was abandoned,

while the Earl lived as a recluse in north Hertfordshire at Quickwood. By the time that his son, the seventh earl (afterwards first marquess) of Salisbury succeeded to the estates in 1780, walled formal gardens were in any case out of fashion.

Dury and Andrews' map of Hertfordshire was published in 1766, shortly before the death of the sixth earl and before the walls and courts were removed from around the House. Since the map covers the whole county, individual properties were not necessarily surveyed in detail, and the House itself is clearly not accurately shown. It is uncertain how far this depiction of the walled North Court can be relied on.

A drawing of about 1770 by Samuel H. Grimm shows a terrace with a stone balustrade on the North Front. Documents indicate that this balustrade was put up in 1650, using stone from the demolished royal palace at Theobalds. The balustrade and steps are similar to those which still survive on the North Front at Cranborne.

3.5 *Hatfield House: the second phase* (1780-1823)

Upon inheriting the property in 1780, the seventh earl landscaped the gardens on the three sides of the House, retaining only a formal parterre in the West Garden. This was the era of Capability Brown: although he was not employed at Hatfield, the gardens were landscaped in his style, with parkland extending right up to the House. It was written at the time "His Lordship has with much taste and judgment, removed the walls with which the House was heretofore surrounded". The absence of any walls or outbuildings on any side of the House except the west is confirmed by number of prints, drawings and maps.

The terrace and balustrade had been removed by 1781 when the House was painted by William Tomkins for the new (seventh) earl. Another similar view from a different perspective, by I.P. Malcolm, was published as a print in 1805.

James Crow's map of Hatfield Park (CPM Supp. 64) was made in 1785. Though only a few years later than Tomkins' painting, this map presents a very different picture and certainly is reliable. It shows steps up to the north door of the House, and a curving carriage drive around it.

3.6 *Hatfield House: the third phase* (1823-present)

Soon after the second marquess succeeded his father in 1823 he began to restore the Elizabethan/Jacobean character of Hatfield, both inside and outside the House. With the revival of interest in history stimulated by the popularity of the novels of Sir Walter Scott, this too was in accord with the fashion of the time. In his attempt to recapture the appearance of the garden in Jacobean times, the second marquess reintroduced brick walls, terraces and a formal parterre in the East Garden. Using ornamental bricks made in the estate's own brickworks, he put up the characteristic open brickwork walls which are associated with the House today.

A book of plans cataloguing the family's Hertfordshire estates was made for the second marquess in 1824, a year after he had inherited those estates. On the plan showing the House and its surroundings the same carriage drive and landscaped garden is shown as in 1785. A similar layout is shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition (Old Series) one-inch map, published in c.1834, but probably surveyed some time earlier. The marquess was soon to change this completely.

In 1842 the second marquess was elected a Knight of the Garter. He was visited at Hatfield in 1846 by the Queen and Prince Consort, in whose honour new park entrance gates of elaborate French metalwork were erected (Page 1971, 93).

A watercolour dated 1844 of a carriage arriving in the North Court shows the open brickwork walls which the second marquess had probably put up about ten years earlier. The cast iron gates on the east and west sides of the Court were erected for the Queen's visit in 1846. At this date the North Court was only about half the size that it is today.

Robert, the third marquess, surpassed the political career of his father, serving as Secretary of State for India, Foreign Secretary, First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister on several occasions. Consequently, during the second half of the 19th century Hatfield House hosted frequent visits by the royal household, British and foreign dignitaries. In order to accommodate this, the North Court was enlarged. William Butterfield, writing in 1908, describes work which was undertaken by the third marquess in 1869:

“The open space on the North Front was about half its present size, and was enclosed by an open worked brick wall like the one now there, and at the N.W. corner between the Laundry Drying Ground and what is now the N.W. entrance to the North Front, was a rough enclosed yard with sheds, &c., for soot, ashes, and firewood. All this was swept away and the North Front enclosure made to its present size. The surplus earth was used for raising the hollow in the North Avenue 5 or 6 feet. A tramway was laid down the Avenue for this purpose, formed of wooden frames with a strip of iron for the wheels of the tip waggons to run upon.”

Excavations made in recent years in the North Court have revealed that quantities of building debris were brought, probably at this time, to form a basis for the surface of the court (pers. comm. A. Downs). The enlarged North Court is shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" map of 1879. The dimensions and layout shown are the same as they are today. A photograph of the House, taken in c.1880 from the north-west corner of the North Court shows the area much as it is today. The surface of the court appears to be gravel: the terracotta lamp standards, holding gas lamps, were put up in 1874.

There appear to have been few changes to the North Court between the late 19th and the mid 20th centuries. During the Second World War Hatfield House was used by the army as a military hospital. At this time, various temporary buildings were erected in the North Court. A contemporary photograph records the existence of two of them: there may have been others.

In the second half of the 20th century, Hatfield House and gardens were opened to the public, and the North Court became the main visitors' car park. It is likely that the present tarmac surface was laid at this time. During this period the court has also been used for various functions, and small concrete pads have been set into the tarmac to support marquees and temporary structures. A number of underground services have been installed, primarily on the south side of the court: plans of these have not been made available.

4. Results

4.1 Introduction

The project was centred on the northern side of Hatfield House, within the former North Car Park. In April 2011 a fountain base and associated services were excavated. In December 2011- January 2012 excavations at the eastern and western side of the site were carried out to accommodate a knot garden and grassed areas. A total of nine site visits were made, the details of which are presented in Appendix 1.

The general site stratigraphy comprised a series of made-ground deposits (details of which are described below), while the natural stratum was not encountered.

4.2 Fountain base and associated services (Fig. 4; Plates 1-2)

The fountain base was located in the central part of the site and comprised a large circular area, a 27m in diameter (Plate 1), excavated to a depth of c.0.45m. The stratigraphy of the area comprised c.0.1m of tarmac, over 0.05m-0.1m of orange sand. Below this was 0.1-0.15m of dark grey rubble with modern inclusions. This overlay between 0.1m and 0.15m of mixed mid grey clay. Excavation stopped at a layer of mixed orange sandy clay with occasional modern inclusions (Plate 2).

Two service trenches were also excavated in connection with the fountain base, one on the southern side and one on the eastern side. A small rectangular trench was also excavated at the eastern end of the eastern service trench, to locate an existing service. The stratigraphy observed within this trench was similar to that seen within the fountain base.

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.3 Knot Garden and Grassed Area – Eastern Side (Fig. 4 & 5; Plates 3-7)

A rectangular area measuring c.570 sq m for the knot garden was initially excavated to a depth of c.0.6m max. The stratigraphy comprised a number of made-ground deposits above a made-ground deposit of mid orange brown soft gravelly clay with frequent flecks/fragments of orange brick and scattered flecks of charcoal into which further deposits have been dumped. These concentrations contained various quantities of post-medieval brick and tile. The largest measured c.5×7m and consisted of a dark grey organic looking deposit containing fragments of brick and tile. To the north of this was a deposit measuring c.5.6×2.4m, containing mortared brick and sandstone rubble (Plate 3). Towards the northern end of the site were the remains of a square brick built feature, in the centre of which was a square hole. The feature measured c.0.6×0.6m and was constructed of late 18th/early 19th century reddish orange bricks bonded with white lime mortar.

Two north-south trenches (Tr 1 & 2) were excavated into the reduced area (Plate 4). Both encountered buried services at their southern ends.

Trench 1, towards the eastern side of the area contained deposits of lime mortar and a brick structure. The structure comprised red, unfrosted bricks, bonded with white lime mortar. Each brick measured c.230mm long and 100mm wide (Plate 5). The square brick built feature (see above) was at least six brick courses (c.0.46m) in height (Plate 6).

Trench 2, towards the western side of the area, revealed no significant features. The dark organic deposit (see above) was, however, visible along the eastern section of Trench 2 to a depth of *c.*0.5m.

The grassed area towards the northern end of the site measured *c.*245 sq m. It was initially reduced to a depth of *c.*0.5m exposing mid orange brown soft gravelly clay, as seen in the knot garden area. A further trench (Tr 3) was excavated into the reduced area, orientated E-W. The trench measured *c.*25m long, *c.*1.85m wide and *c.*0.55m deep. No significant archaeological finds or features were observed (Plate 7).

4.4 ***Knot Garden and Grassed Area – Western Side*** (Fig. 4 & 5; Plates 8-15)

The same process was also carried out at the western side of the site. The knot garden area was initially reduced to a depth of *c.*0.65m exposing redeposited mid reddish orange gravelly/gritty clay. At the southern end of the area a square brick lined feature was noted measuring *c.*0.8×0.8m. It was constructed of modern yellow and red bricks with no mortar. One sherd of white 20th century pottery was also uncovered from this area. This feature was deemed to be of little significance (Plate 8).

Two north-south trenches (Tr 4 & 5) were excavated into the reduced area. Both trenches revealed a number of made-ground deposits (Plate 9-11). The most interesting of these was a concentration of dark black/brown friable silty clay material at the southern end of trench 5. It contained flecks of tile, charcoal, slate, a clay pipe stem, animal bone, glass and a post-medieval pottery sherd (Plate 10). A deposit of light beige/yellow gravelly sand with chalk, brick and tile inclusion was also noted at the southern end of trench 4. At the northern end of trenches 4 and 5 was a deposit of dark black/brown soft clay with frequent sub-angular stones, brick and tile fragments. A number of service pipes were present in trench 4. Overall the trenches revealed no significant archaeological finds or features.

Midway along the western side of the reduced area a structural feature was observed in section. It was constructed of flint nodules bonded with white lime mortar. It measured *c.*1.15m wide, and *c.*0.5m (Plate 12).

The grassed area north of the western knot garden was initially reduced to a depth of *c.*0.5m exposing mid orange brown gravelly/gritty clay. A trench (Tr 6) was excavated into the reduced area, orientated E-W (Plate 13). A brick wall, orientated E-W, was visible along the northern side of the trench. It was *c.*0.22m wide, and exposed to three brick courses, *c.*0.25m in height. It was constructed of dark reddish brown, unfrosted, bricks bonded with lime mortar. Each measured *c.*220mm long, *c.*110m wide and *c.*50mm deep (Plate 14). At the western end of the trench a D-shaped brick wall footing was also uncovered. The wall was *c.*0.25m wide and was constructed of brick and lime mortar (Plate 15). A number of made-ground deposits were also exposed containing mortar, flints, and burnt material. Three service pipes were also present extending across the trench causing some ground disturbance.



Plate 1: Fountain base, looking NW



Plate 2: Stratigraphy of fountain base, looking W (scale 2×1m)

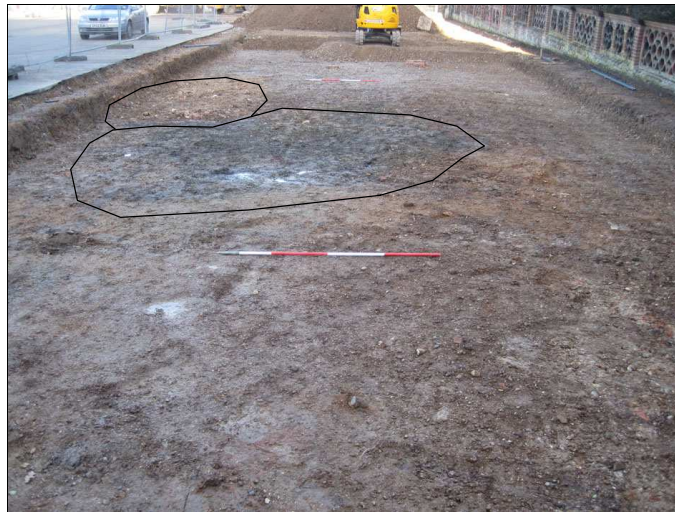


Plate 3: Knot garden (east): reduced area with dark organic and brick and brick and rubble deposits highlighted, looking N (*scale scale 2x2m*)

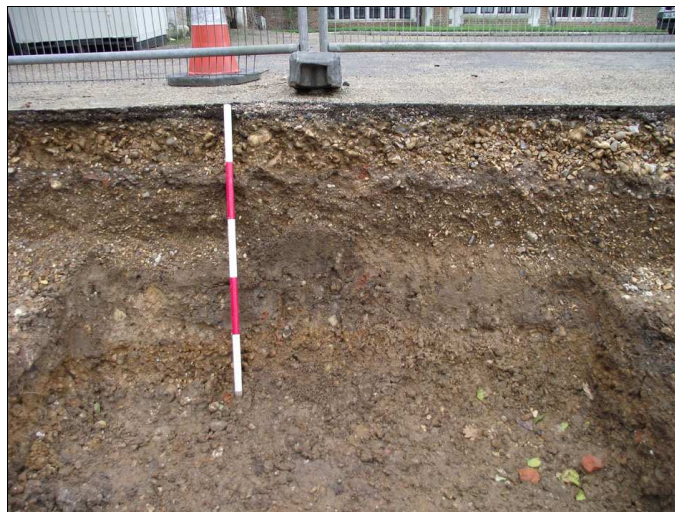


Plate 4: Knot garden (east): trench 1 stratigraphy, looking S (*scale 1m*)

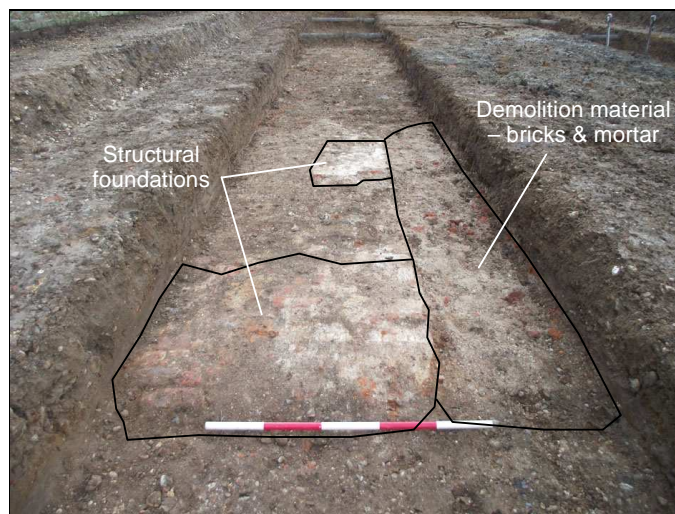


Plate 5: Knot garden (east): structural foundations/surface in trench 1, looking S (*scale 1m*)



Plate 6: Knot garden (east): square structural feature, looking W (scale 500mm)



Plate 7: Knot garden (east): trench 3, looking W (scale 1m)



Plate 8: Knot garden (west): square brick lined feature, looking S (*scale 1m*)



Plate 9: Knot garden (west): trench 4 showing a number of made-ground deposits, looking N (*scale 1m*)



Plate 10: Knot garden (west): southern end of trench 5 with dark made-ground deposit, looking N (*scale 1m*)



Plate 11: Knot garden (west): stratigraphy of trench 4, looking E (*scale 1m*)



Plate 12: Knot garden (west): possible flint wall, looking W (*scale 2×1m*)



Plate 13: Grass area (west): trench 6, looking W



Plate 14: Grass area (west): trench 6, brick wall, looking N (*scale 250mm*)



Plate 15: Grass area (west): trench 6, d-shaped wall, looking N (*scale 1m & 500mm*)

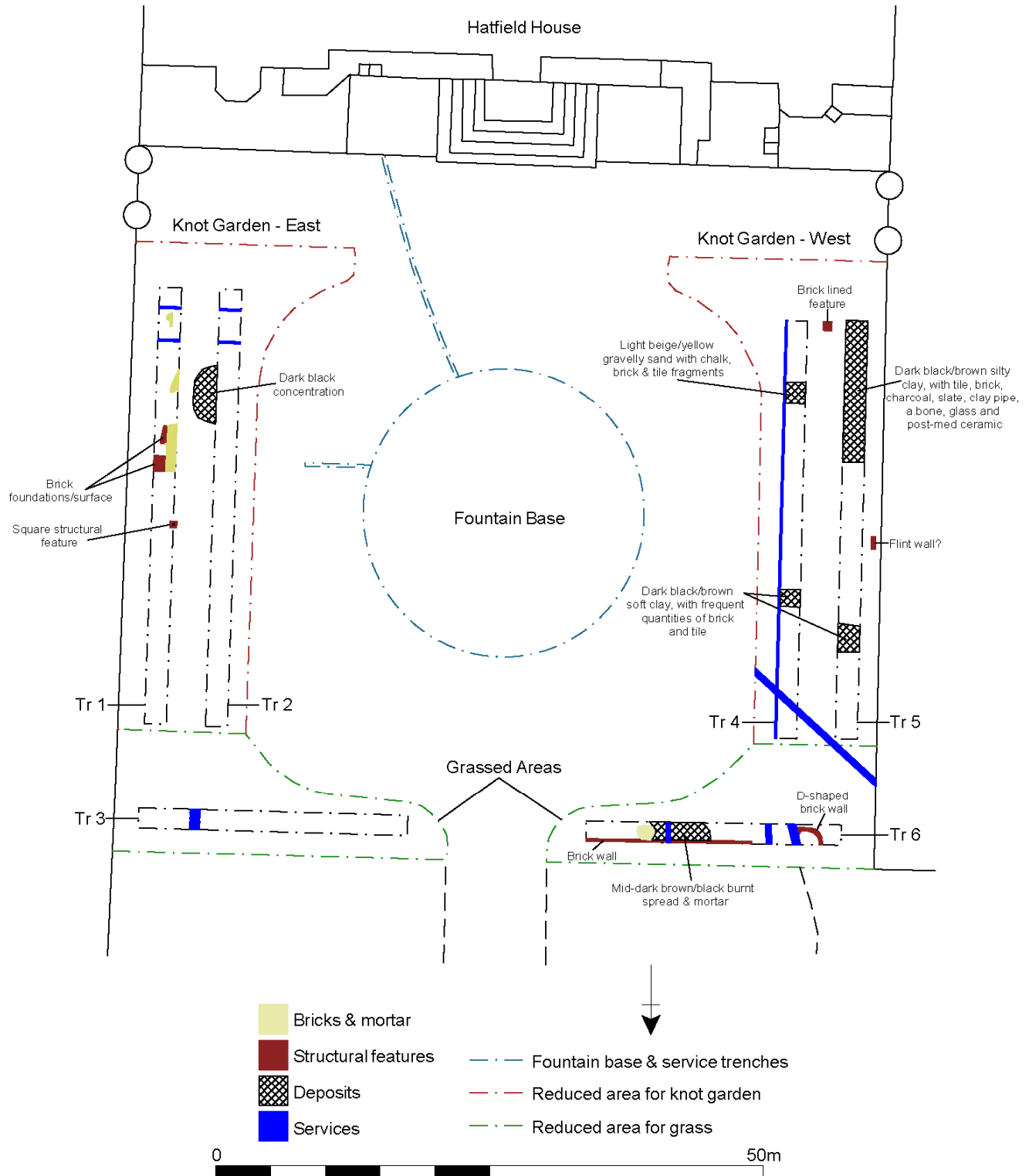


Figure 4: Site plan showing archaeological observations (scale 1:500)

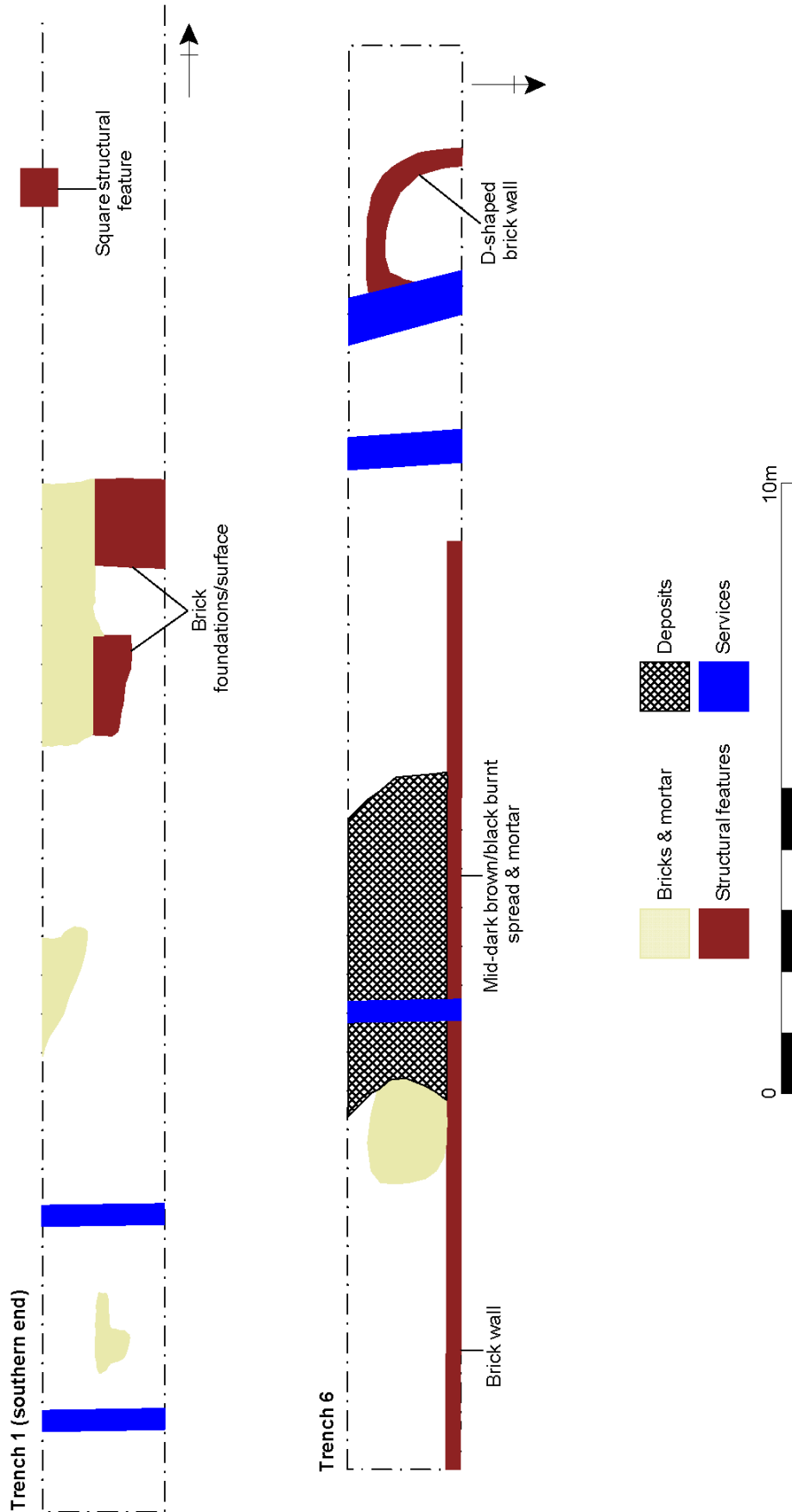


Figure 5: Plan of trenches 1 (southern end) & trench 6 (scale 1:100)

5. Conclusions

5.1 The excavations in the North Car Park have revealed a series of made-ground deposits containing frequent quantities of post-medieval building debris, along with a number of structural features in trenches 1 and 6. The deposits are believed to have been brought to the area to form the surface of the court, when the area was extended in the second half of the 19th century. Structural debris and features may have also derived from the temporary buildings that were erected in the North Court during the Second World War, when Hatfield House was a military hospital. A further possibility is that some of the deposits and structural features may be related to the former garden layout of the site.

5.2 Overall nothing of major archaeological significance was observed in the excavated areas. While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the development cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features were present on the site.

5.3 *Confidence Rating*

The works were carried out in line with the mitigation strategy, in good site conditions and with full co-operation of the client and ground workers. Therefore, the results are given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Gascoyne Cecil Estates. The writer is grateful to Anthony Downs for his assistance. The project was monitored by Andy Instone of *Hertfordshire County Council* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due site ground workers.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA, Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc and Dr Jonathan Hunn MIFA. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Site record drawings
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Welwyn Hatfield Museum (WEWHM.2012.1)

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Zeeprat, R 2010 *Heritage Statement and Archaeological Mitigation Strategy for North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire*. ASC:1332/HHN/1.

Secondary Sources

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- Harcourt Williams, R 2010 *Note on the History of Hatfield House North Front*. Unpub. briefing note: Hatfield House Library.
- Page, W (ed.) 1971 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire*, vol. 3. Dawsons of Pall Mall (London).
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Thompson, I 2002 *Hatfield: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire County Council.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Table

Date	Time (including travel)		Initials	Observations
	Start	Finish		
11/03/11	13:30	16:30	CR	Site meeting with Jonathan Williams
15/03/11	10:00	12:30	CR	Observed excavation of fountain base and recorded stratigraphy
16/03/11	10:45	14:00	CR	Inspected remainder of fountain base and stratigraphy and observed the beginning of service trenches
05/12/11	9:00	12:00	CSH	Observed the initial ground stripping of the eastern side of the site
09/12/11	10:30	13:45	JRH	Observed the stripped area on the eastern side of the site and recorded stratigraphy comprised of a series of made-ground deposits
14/12/11	10:00	14:00	CSH	Observed the partial excavation of Trenches 1 & 2 on the eastern side of site. A number of structural features and mortar concentrations were recorded in Trench 1. Nothing of significance was noted in Trench 2.
20/12/11	10:00	13:30	CSH	Observed the remaining excavation of Trenches 1 & 2. Nothing of significance was uncovered. I also observed the initial ground reduction of the western side of the site revealing again made-ground deposits and a modern brick lined feature that contained 20 th century pottery sherd.
12/01/12	9:00	12:45	CSH	Recorded the excavated Trench 3, on the eastern side of the site and recorded stratigraphy. I also recorded two further trenches, 4 & 5, on the western side of the site. These trenches revealed a series of made-ground deposits and a possible flint wall
25/01/12	7:25	11:35	JRH	Observed trench 6, on the western side of the site. The trench revealed a brick wall orientated N-S, a D-shaped brick wall and a series of made-ground deposits.

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1332/HHN
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		√	Excavation of fountain base, looking NW (15/03/11)
2		√	Excavation of fountain base, looking NW (15/03/11)
3		√	View from roof of Hatfield House, looking N (15/03/11)
4		√	View from roof of Hatfield House, looking S (15/03/11)
5		√	Chimney detail on roof of Hatfield House (15/03/11)
6		√	Chimneys on roof of Hatfield House (15/03/11)
7		√	Stratigraphy of fountain base, looking W (scale 2x1m) (15/03/11)
8		√	Fountain base trench, detail, looking N (scale 2x1m) (15/03/11)
9		√	Fountain base trench, detail, looking NW (scale 2x1m) (15/03/11)
10		√	Fountain base, looking NW (16/03/11)
11		√	Service trench, looking SE (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
12		√	Service trench, detail, looking SE (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
13		√	Service trench, looking NE (scale 1m) (16/03/11)
14		√	Service trench, detail E (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
15		√	Service trench, looking W (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
16		√	Service trench, detail, looking E (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
17		√	Service trench, detail, looking S (scale 2x1m) (16/03/11)
18		√	General shot, tree within the site area
19		√	General shot, tree within the site area
20		√	Knot garden, east side: stratigraphy of reduced area, looking W (scale 2x1m) (05/03/11)
21		√	Knot garden, east side: excavation of reduced area, looking NE (05/03/11)
22		√	Knot garden, east side: excavation of reduced area, looking NE (05/12/11)
23		√	Knot garden, east side: reduced area, eastern side of site, looking SW (scale 2x2m) (09/12/11)
24		√	Knot garden, east side: black concentration in reduced area, looking N (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
25		√	Knot garden, east side: black concentration in reduced area, looking NW (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
26		√	Knot garden, east side: black concentration in reduced area, looking E (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
27		√	Knot garden, east side: rubble concentration in reduced area, looking W (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
28		√	Knot garden, east side: rubble concentration in reduced area, looking N (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
29		√	Knot garden, east side: square brick feature, looking E (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
30		√	Knot garden, east side: square brick feature, looking E (scale 2m) (09/12/11)
31	√	√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, looking S (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
32	√	√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, brick foundations, looking S (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
33		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, detail of brick foundation, looking S (scale 500mm) (14/12/11)
34		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, mortar concentration, looking S (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
35		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, mortar concentration, looking S (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
36		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, square brick feature, looking W (scale 500mm) (14/12/11)

SITE NAME: North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1332/HHN
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
37	√	√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, square brick feature, looking W (scale 500mm) (14/12/11)
38		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, square brick feature, looking W (scale 500mm) (14/12/11)
39		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, square brick feature, looking W (scale 500mm) (14/12/11)
40	√	√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, stratigraphy, looking E (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
41		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, stratigraphy, looking S (scale 1m) (14/12/11)
42		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1 and 2, looking NW (14/12/11)
43		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1 and 2, looking NW (14/12/11)
44		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 2, looking N (14/12/11)
45		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 2 and 1, looking NE (14/12/11)
46	√x2	√	Knot garden, east side: trench 2 and 1, fully excavated, looking NE (20/12/11)
47		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 1, fully excavated, looking S (20/12/11)
48		√	Knot garden, east side: trench 2, fully excavated, looking S (20/12/11)
49		√	Knot garden, east side: general shot, looking SE (20/12/11)
50		√	Knot garden, east side: general shot, looking NW (20/12/11)
51	√	√	Knot garden, west side: reduced area stratigraphy, looking E (scale 1m) (20/12/11)
52		√	Knot garden, west side: excavation of reduced area, looking NW (20/12/11)
53		√	Knot garden, west side: excavation of reduced area, looking N (20/12/11)
54		√	Knot garden, west side: excavation of reduced area, looking N (20/12/11)
55		√	Knot garden, west side: brick lined feature, looking S (scale 1m) (20/12/11)
56	√	√	Grass area, east side: trench 3, looking W (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
57	√	√	Grass area, east side: trench 3, stratigraphy, looking S (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
58	√	√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, looking N (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
59	√	√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, stratigraphy, looking E (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
60		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, stratigraphy, looking W (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
61	√	√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, looking N (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
62	√	√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, stratigraphy, looking W (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
63		√	Knot garden, west side: general shot, looking NE (12/01/12)
64		√	Knot garden, west side: general shot, looking NE (12/01/12)
65		√	Structural feature, looking W (scale 1m) (12/01/12)
66		√	General shot of site (western side), looking NW (25/01/12)
67		√	General shot of site (eastern side), looking NE (25/01/12)
68		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4 & 5 (25/01/12)
69		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 5 stratigraphy, looking W (scale 2x2m) (25/01/12)
70		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 5 deposit at southern end, looking W (scale 2m) (25/01/12)
71		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, deposit at southern end, looking W (scale 2x2m) (25/01/12)
72		√	Knot garden, west side: trench 4, deposit at southern end, looking NW (scale 2x2m) (25/01/12)
73	√	√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, looking W (25/01/12)

SITE NAME: North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1332/HHN
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
74	√	√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, D-shaped brick wall, looking NW (scale 2x2m) (25/01/12)
75		√	grass area, west side: trench 6, D-shaped wall, looking N (scale 2m) (25/01/12)
76		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, looking W (scale 2m) (25/01/12)
77		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, eastern end, mortar deposit, looking N (scale 2m) (25/01/12)
78		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, burnt spread, looking N (scale 1m) (25/01/12)
79		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, looking NE (scale 2x2m) (25/01/12)
80		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, N-S brick wall, looking W (scale 250mm) (25/01/12)
81		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6, N-S brick wall, looking N (scale 250mm) (25/01/12)
82		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6. D-shaped brick wall, looking E (scale 1m & 500mm) (25/01/12)
83		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6. D-shaped brick wall, looking E (scale 1m & 500mm) (25/01/12)
84		√	Grass area, west side: trench 6. D-shaped brick wall, looking N (scale 1m & 500mm) (25/01/12)
85		√	General shot of Hatfield House
86		√	General shot of gardens
87		√	General shot of Hatfield House
88		√	General shot of north car park, looking E
89		√	Shot 1910 photograph of Hatfield House
90		√	Shot of 1910 photograph of Hatfield House

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-116922
Short Description:	Between March 2011- January 2012 a watching brief was carried out at the North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, during the construction of a fountain in the centre and knot gardens along the east and west sides of the north car park. The works revealed a series of made-ground deposits containing frequent quantities of building debris and a number of structural foundations. The deposits are thought to have been primarily brought to the area to form the surface of the court, when the site was extended in the second half of the 19 th century. A further explanation is that the structural debris and foundations may have derived from the temporary buildings that were erected in the North Court during the Second World War, when Hatfield House was a military hospital. Or that the deposits and structural foundations are related to the former garden layout of the site.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	-
Current land use:	Car Park	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	House	Monument period:	17 th century on the site of an 15 th century palace
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 2368 0844
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	4775 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	54.9 – 52.7m AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Andy Instone	Heritage statement & arch mitigation strategy originator:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA	Supervisors:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA and Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc
Sponsor / funding body:	Gascoyne Cecil Estates		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	11/03/11	End date:	25/01/12
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Welwyn Hatfield Museum (WEWHM.2012.1)	None	
Paper:		Mitigation strategy, report, site records, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: North Car Park, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1332/HHN		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc		
Page nos	31	Date:	16/02/12