

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE EXCAVATION:
TANGLEWOOD
FRITHSDEN COPSE
POTTEN END
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0075 0956

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Robertson



Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc AIFA

September 2013

ASC: 1570/FCT/2



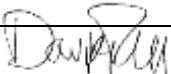
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	FCT	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1570
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-136036	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	tbc
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Potten End		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Nettleden with Potten End		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0075 0956		
<i>Extent of excavation:</i>	c.180 sq.m		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new dwelling and garage		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	4/01426/13/DRC		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	23/09/13		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Tempietto Architects The Studio 9 London Road Aston Clinton Bucks HP22 5HG		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs Robertson Tanglewood Frithsden Copse Potten End Berkhamsted Herts HP4 2RQ		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Andy Robertson		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill	<i>Date:</i>	24/09/13
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	25 Sept 2013

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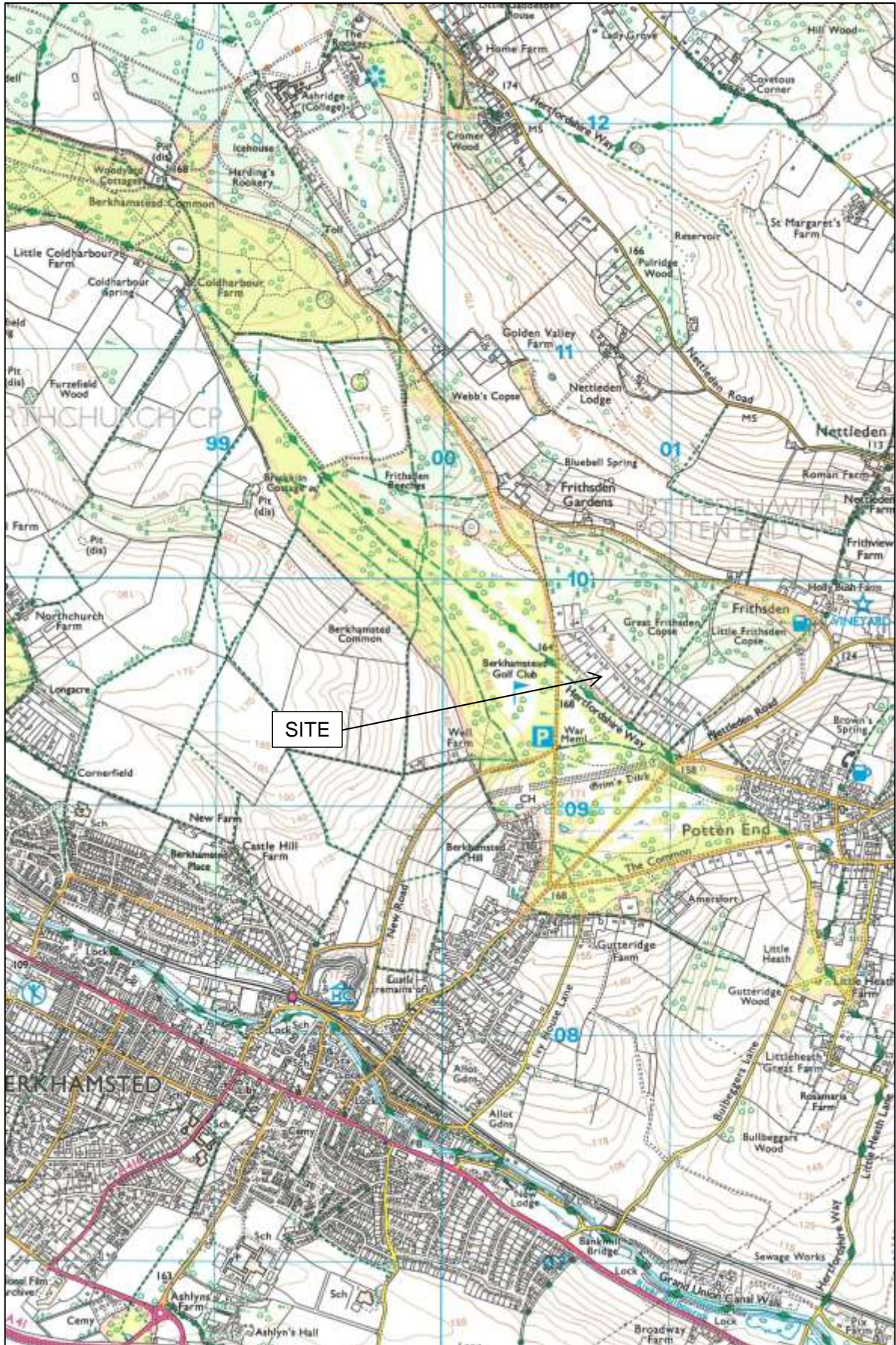


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In September 2013 an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire, prior the demolition of the current house and the construction of a replacement house and detached garage. The stratigraphy comprised turf overlying the natural clay strata. A rectangular feature was present at the northwest side of the excavation area. This was interpreted to be part of an infilled modern pond and was not of archaeological significance. No other significant archaeological artefacts, features or deposits were present and the impact of the development on buried heritage assets is assessed as low.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a strip, map and sample excavation at Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Mr & Mrs Robertson*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by *ASC Ltd* (Rouse 2013), and approved by the *Historic Environment Unit* (HEU) of *Hertfordshire County Council* (HCC) archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 4/01426/13/DRC.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This excavation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), 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*

The proposed development is located in Potten End, in the administrative district of Dacorum, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It comprises a rectangular plot, to the west of the village and on the southern side of Frithsden Copse and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 0075 0956 (Fig. 2). The site is surrounded by residential development, apart from to the south west, where the site is bordered by Berkhamsted Common (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Topography & Geology*

The soils of the site belong to the Hornbeam 2 Association, which are characterised as *Deep fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some well drained fine loamy and fine silty over clayey and clayey soils. Some soils very flinty.* (Soil Survey 1983, 582c). The underlying geology comprises Clay with Flints over Upper Chalk (BGS, Sheet 238).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing house and garage, and the construction of a new house and garage, on a different location within the plot (Fig. 3).

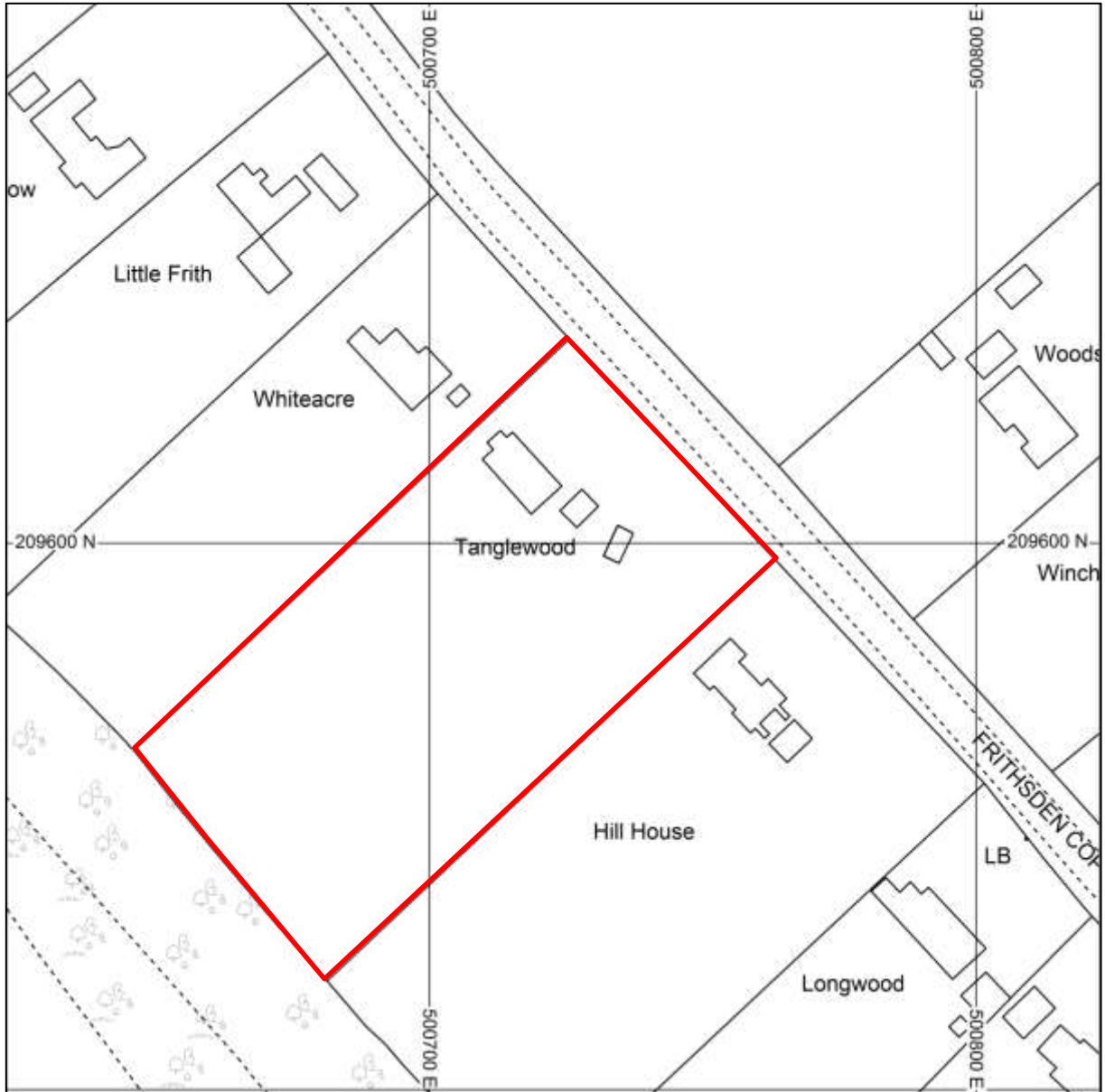


Figure 2: Site plan (Scale 1:1250)

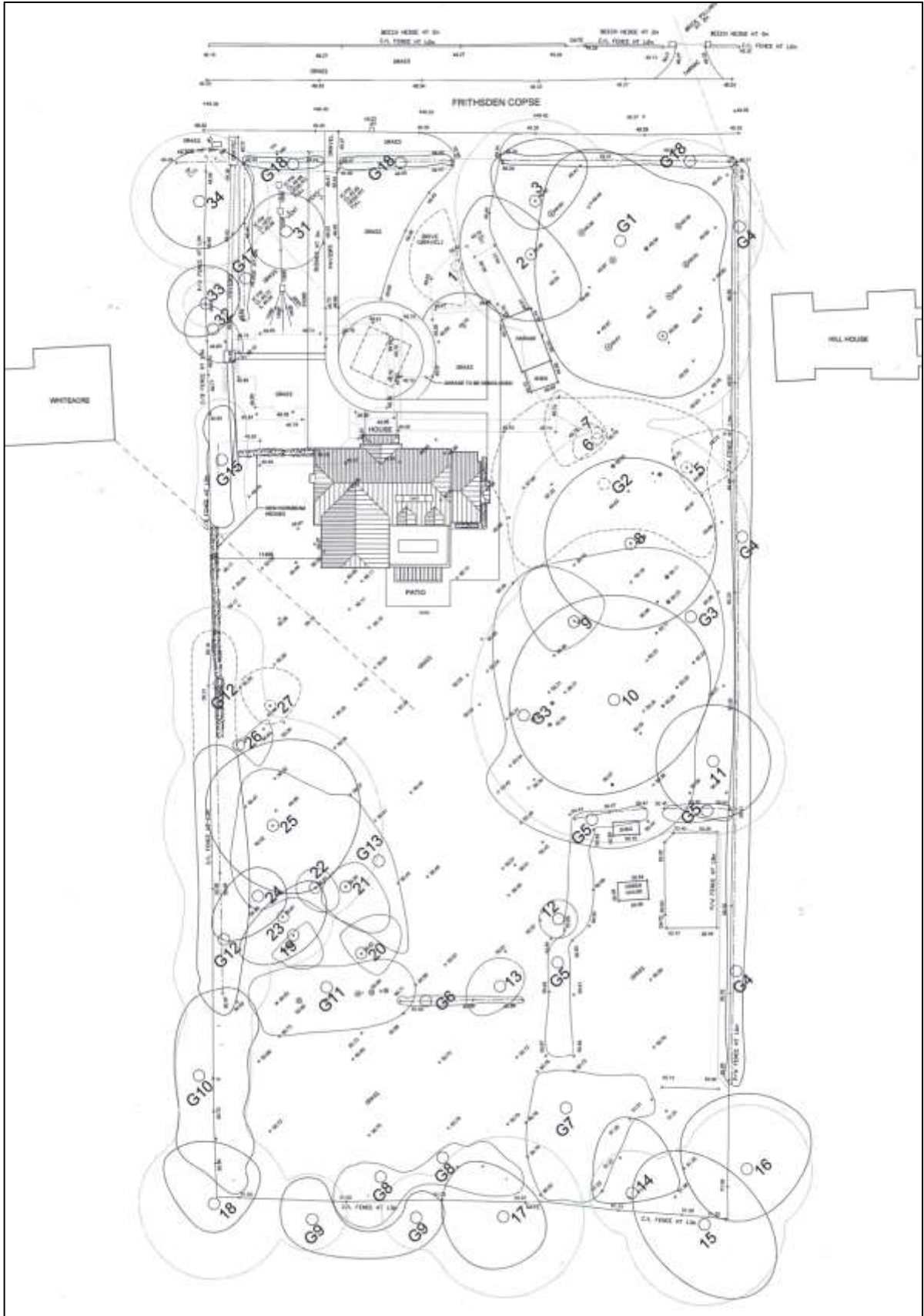


Figure 3: Proposed development (*not to scale*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design, the aims of the excavation were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme 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 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.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008), 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 project design, which described:

- Stripping of the footprint of the proposed development to the archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision.
- The archaeological investigation and recording of any remains encountered.

2.4 Constraints

The project was carried out in good conditions, with full co-operation of the client and contractor and no constraints were encountered.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development 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 from the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER: Search No. 189/12), and other readily available sources, including ASC's own library.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Information for this period is derived from random finds in the form of a Neolithic flint axe from Berkhamsted Common (HER229), and a neolithic flint scraper (HER230). Two round barrows have been identified within Great Frithsden Copse, c.0.5km to the north of the development site (HER6959, 6980). These are thought to be of probable Bronze Age date, but their proximity to the Roman remains detailed below means that a later date for the barrows cannot be ruled out.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

There are earthworks in the area of Berkhamsted golf course which may belong to this period, including a c.0.5km long dyke (SMR 0318); and, c.0.5km to the south of the development site, a late prehistoric boundary known as 'Grims Ditch' (HER49). This suggests that the Chiltern plateau probably had an open aspect in this period and possibly was characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

On Berkhamsted golf course are the well preserved earthworks and foundations of a Roman building which is assumed to be that of a villa type settlement (HER1337). The remains of an enclosure that is thought to be related to a Romano-British temple is located on the practice range (HER7374). Cultivation terraces (referred to as lynchets) are known from the north facing slope in Frithsden Copse but their date has not been established with any certainty (HER247). It has been suggested that there was an area of Late Iron Age and Roman occupation, centred c.0.9km to the south west of the proposed development. This is likely to have covered approximately 390ha, and probably consisted of a series of discrete settlements (HER9178).

3.5 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

In this period, as for subsequent periods the area of Frithsden Copse lay on the edge of the manor of Berkhamsted in the parish of Berkhamsted St Peters. According to the Domesday Book survey it belonged to Edmer, a thane of King Harold (Morris 1976, section 15.1).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The name Frithsden is a compound name derived from 'denu' and 'fyrhde' meaning 'valley belonging to the wood or wooded country' (Gover *et al* 1970, 28). As one might expect from the character of the terrain there are other 'denes' in the locality, such as Nettleden and Gaddesden (Little and Great). There is no mention of it in

Domesday Book and, if it existed, it would have been included under the entry for Berkhamsted (Morris 1976). The earliest use of the term *Frith* occurs in an *Inquisition post-mortem* of 1272 where there was mention of a certain wood called *Del Frith* covering 763 acres and 1 rod (Cobb 1883, 18). The same wood called *le Frithe* was recorded in a manorial survey of 1356 with the same acreage (PRO SC 11. 271). The earliest references to the place name *Frithsden* comes from late 13th century charters (Gover *et al* 1970, 28). These refer a *Frithesdene*, and in the early 15th century to *Freseden* (*ibid*). The HER records a circular enclosure c.0.85km to the north east of the development site, thought to be the remains of a stock enclosure dating to this period (HER6747).

3.7 **Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

In an early 17th document recording the bounds of the manor of Berkhamsted there is a specific mention of its boundary proceeding along *Friidsen valley* (PRO E 315 365). A decade or so later a further survey of 1618 states ‘*There is also one Great Comon or wast ground of pasture and wood called the ffryth & one other greate wastgrounde called Barkhamstead Heath and one other little wastgrounde called The Little Heath*’ (Cobb 1883, 136 quoting Landsdowne MS 805, fol. 25-65 in the British Library). This is confirmed by a map of c.1638 reproduced by Falvey (2001, 143). The Frith was, therefore, an integral part of the common waste of the manor and, as such, was jealousy guarded by some sections of the local population (Falvey 1999).

The earliest readily available map of the development site is the Dury and Andrews map of Hertfordshire, dated to 1766. This shows that the site was covered by trees at this point. The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1882 shows that little had changed by the end of the 19th century.

3.8 **Modern** (1900-present)

The development site remained undeveloped and covered in woodland until the middle of the 20th century, when Frithsden Copse was constructed. Initially development was confined to the south side of the road, but by the 1980s, houses had been constructed on the northern side of the road.

4. Stratigraphic Report

4.1 *Site Stripping*

An area of 180 sq. m (Fig. 1; Plate 1) was mechanically stripped of turf under close archaeological supervision, as described in the project design. The stratigraphy comprised c.0.1m of turf over the natural strata which consisted of light orange brown, clay with moderate small stones and flint inclusions.

4.2 *Sampling Strategy*

A rectangular feature was partly revealed at the northwest edge of the area (Plate 2). It contained soft mid brown clay with small rounded stones and natural flint inclusion. A section was excavated across this feature and it was seen to be c.0.05m deep. No artefacts were present and this feature is interpreted as an infilled modern pond.

No significant archaeological features were revealed within the stripped area and no artefacts of archaeological significance were noted in the spoil removed during stripping. With the agreement of the AA no further archaeological works were undertaken on the site.



Plate 1: Strip, map & sample excavation area (*scales 2×1m*)



Plate 2: Rectangular pond feature at the northwest edge of the site (*scale 1m*)

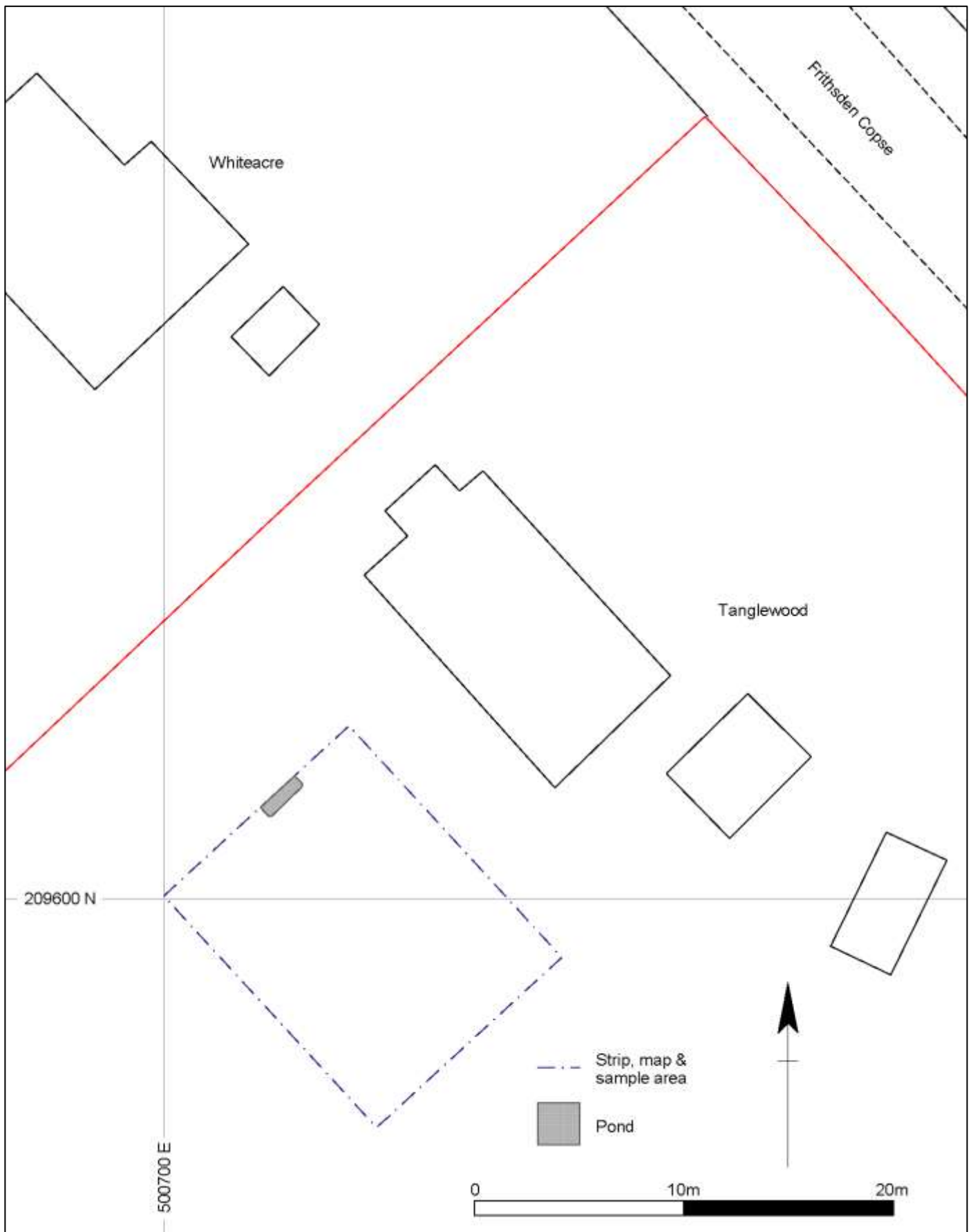


Figure 4: Plan of strip, map & sample area (scale 1:250)

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The development site possessed moderate potential for the presence of heritage assets as evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation activity has been identified in the surrounding area.

The excavation revealed that the stratigraphy comprised turf overlying the natural clay strata. At the southwest edge of the area, a rectangular feature, interpreted as an infilled pond was partly exposed. This is a modern feature and is not archaeologically significant. No other significant archaeological artefacts, features or deposits were present and the impact of the development on buried heritage assets is low.

5.2 *Confidence Rating*

The excavation was carried out in good conditions and with the full co-operation of the client and building contractor. A high confidence rating is applied to the results of the excavation.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Robertson. The writer is grateful to Andy Robertson and Chris Higenbottam of *Tempietto Architects* for their assistance. The project was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Kate Batt of the *Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council*. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson MA PhD FSA MIfA for providing access to the HER data.

The project was managed for *ASC Ltd* by Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA and the fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSC AIFA. The report was prepared by Carina Summerfield-Hill and edited by David Fell BA MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
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 *Dacorum Heritage Trust*.

8 References

Standards & Specifications

- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*. English Heritage.
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008*).
- Rouse C 2013 Project Design: Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire. **ASC:1570/FCT/1**

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Cobb, J. W., 1883: *Two Lectures on the History and Antiquities of Berkhamsted*. 2nd edition. Nicholas and Sons, London
- Falvey, H. 1999: 'Most riotous, routous and unlawful' behaviour: enclosure and unrest in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, 1618-1642. Unpublished MA (Corpus Christi College).
- Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. and Stenton, F. M. 1970: *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place-Name Society **15**. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.
- Morris, J. 1976: *Domesday Book Hertfordshire*. History from the Sources. Phillimore. Chichester.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpden).

Appendix 1: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire		SITE NO/CODE: 1570/FCT	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	√	√	Strip, map & sample excavation area, looking S (<i>scale 2x1m</i>)
2		√	Pond feature, looking SW (<i>scale 1m</i>)
3		√	Pond feature, looking SE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
4		√	Pond feature, looking NE (<i>scale 1m</i>)
5	√	√	Strip, map & sample excavation area, looking E
6		√	Strip, map & sample excavation area, looking NE
7		√	Strip, map & sample excavation area, looking E

Appendix 2: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-136036
Short Description:	In September 2013 an archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire, prior the demolition of the current house and the construction of a replacement house and detached garage. The stratigraphy comprised turf overlying the natural clay strata. A rectangular feature was present at the northwest side of the excavation area. This was interpreted to be part of an infilled modern pond and was not of archaeological significance. No other significant archaeological artefacts, features or deposits were present and the impact of the development on buried heritage assets is assessed as low.		
Project Type:	Strip, map & sample excavation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	House and garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	N/A	Monument period:	N/A
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0075 0956
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire, HP 4 2RQ		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.180 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	c.165m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Kate Batt BSc (HCC)	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA AIFA (ASC)
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA (ASC)	Supervisor:	Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc AIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Robertson		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	23/09/13	End date:	23/09/13
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorun Heritage Trust	None	
Paper:		Brief, pd, report, site records, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital:		CD with all digital files including digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Strip, Map & Sample Excavation: Tanglewood, Frithsden Copse, Potten End, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1570/FCT/2		
Author(s):	Carina Summerfield-Hill BA MSc AIFA		
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