

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND RAPID DESK-
BASED ASSESSMENT:
MARGARET HOUSE, CHURCH END, BARLEY,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Mr Thomas Kelly



**Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA
& Karin Semmelmann MA PIFA**

June 2005

ASC: 677/BCE/02

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	BCE	<i>Project no:</i>	677
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Barley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Barley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 4020 3843		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.475 sq m		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Residential home and grounds		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Two storey extension		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	North Herts District		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	1/05/0531		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr Thomas Kelly Beech Hill Nursing Home 47 Beech Hill Hadley Wood Hertfordshire EN4 0JW		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Justin Cain (Pinders Ltd)		
<i>Telephone</i>	01908 350500	<i>Fax:</i>	01908 350501

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Nicholas A Crank	<i>Date:</i>	24 th June 2005
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	6
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	7
4. Results	15
5. Conclusions	17
6. Acknowledgements	18
7. Archive	18
8. References.....	19

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables.....	20
2. Specialist Reports	21
3. SMR Summary Sheet	22

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan	5
3. Proposed development and trench location	6
4. Norden's plan 1597	11
5. Enclosure plan 1813	11
6. Undated (post 1829) map	12
7. Tithe map 1843	12
8. Ordnance Survey 25" map 1898.....	13
9. Ordnance Survey 25" map 1921	13
10. Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1981	14

Plates:

Cover: Margaret House & St Mary of Antioch's Church

1. Trench 1, solution hollow [103]	16
2. Trench 2.....	16
3. Trench 2, east facing section	16
4. Trench 2, gully [203].....	16



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

Summary

In May 2005, an archaeological rapid desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation were undertaken on land at Margaret House, Church End, Barley, Hertfordshire, prior to the construction of a two-storey extension. The desk-based assessment found that no archaeological evidence was known from this site, despite its proximity to the medieval church. Although Margaret House, which was formerly the Rectory, has been listed by the DoE as a 19th-century structure, the cartographic evidence indicates that it pre-dates the 19th century and that buildings stood on the site in the late 16th century. Some of the unstratified building debris found in Trench 2 appeared to be locally made, 18th century or earlier brick and could have been associated with Margaret House or another nearby property.

The trial-trench evaluation also revealed a small, post-medieval drainage gully, orientated SW-NE and considerable levelling deposits, probably as a result of landscaping and the provision of services.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a rapid desk-based assessment and trial-trench evaluation at *Margaret House, Church End, Barley, Hertfordshire* (NGR TL 4020 3843: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Pinders Limited on behalf of their client Mr Thomas Kelly, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Crank 2005), and a brief (Smith 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *North Hertfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office*. The relevant planning application reference is 1/05/0531.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16)*, in response to proposals for the construction of a two-storey extension to the existing residential home.

1.3 *Location and Description*

The site is located on the south side of Church End road on the eastern edge of the village of Barley (Fig. 1). The north-western part of the site is occupied by the substantial building of St. Margaret's residential home, the remainder is laid to grass with some mature trees along the boundary. The site is bounded on the east by a residential garden, to the south by paddocked fields and to the west by the churchyard of St Margaret's Church.

1.4 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies at the junction of two soil associations: Hanslope (411d), described as 'Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils'; and Swaffham Prior (511e), described as 'Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble' (Soil Survey 1983). The underlying drift geology is Chalky Till over Chalk. The site occupies level ground at an elevation of c.95m AOD

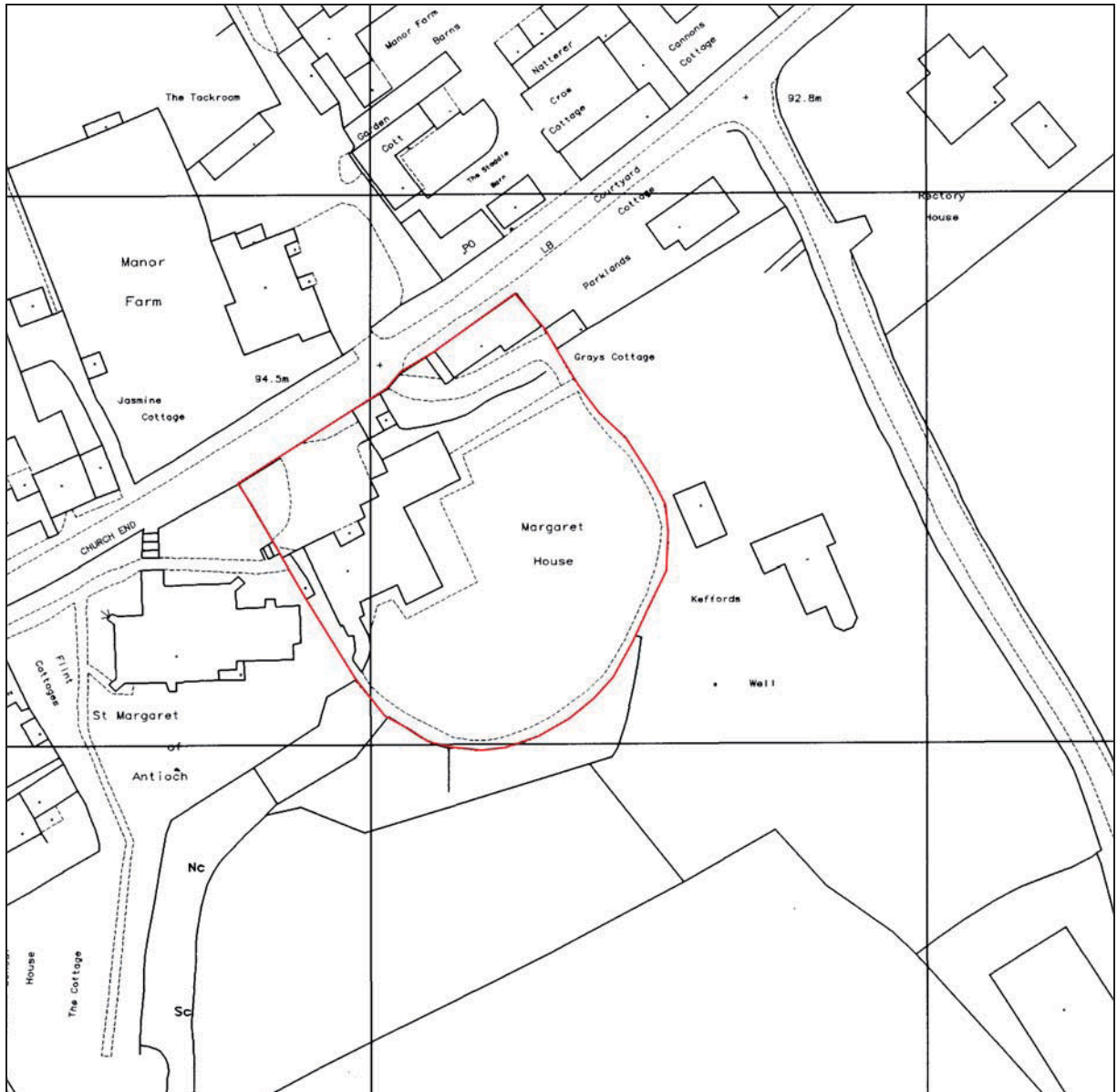


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

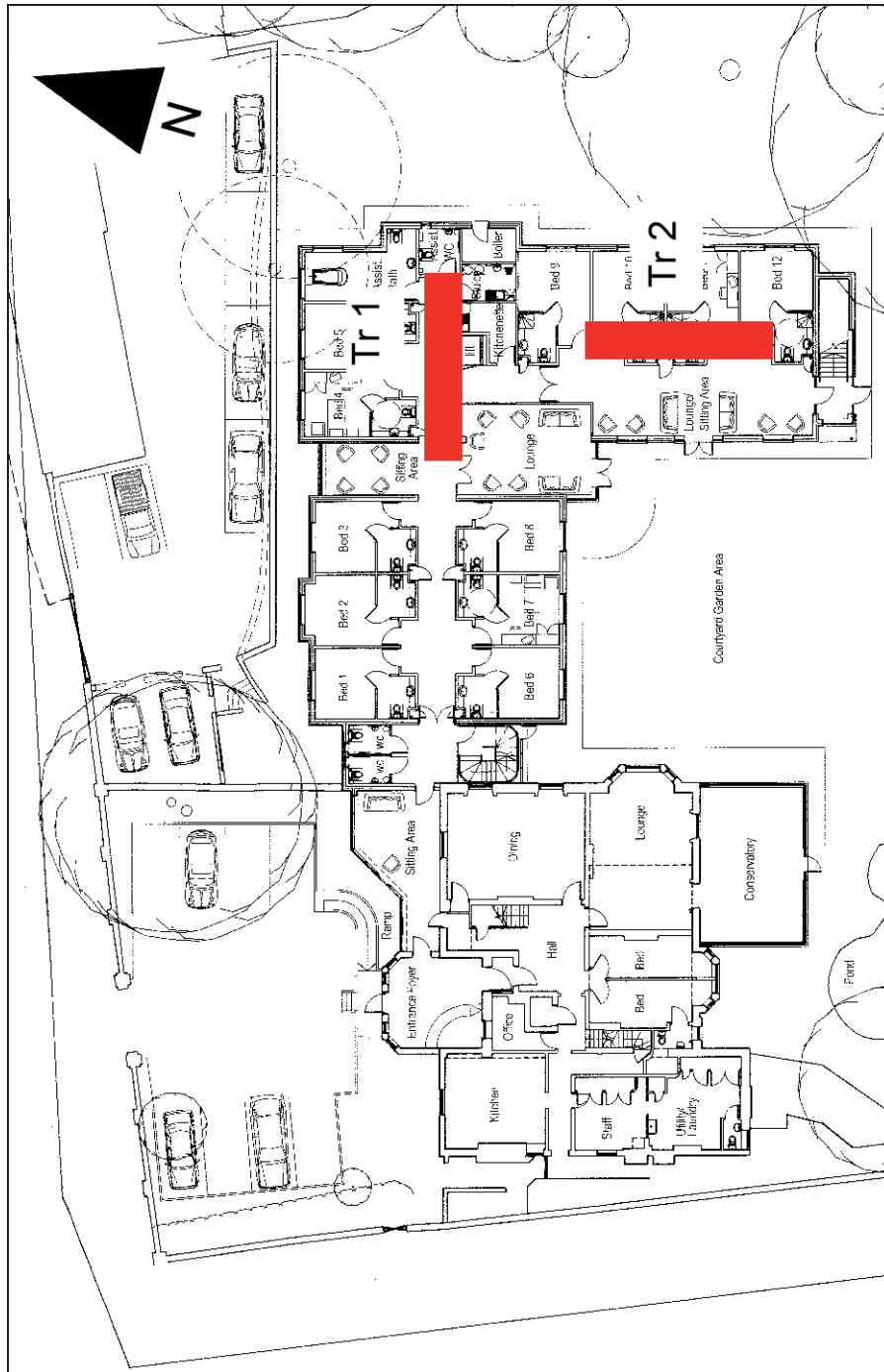


Figure 3: Proposed development and trench layout (scale 1:400)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To carry out a comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will highlight any regional research agendas relevant to any further investigation of the site.
- For the assessment to provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains likely to be present on the site and include an assessment of their significance.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the requirements of the *Brief*, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000a), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH1991; EH 1995), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 4), which required:

- the cutting of two 10m x 2m trial trenches in the footprint of the extension (Fig. 3).
- That the desk-based assessment would consult, verify and assess any relevant information from the following: The County HER; Geotechnical information from within or in the vicinity of the site; Cartographic, pictorial and documentary evidence; Information held at the District Council, e.g. plans of previous developments and old building control records.
- That the assessment would consider the archaeological impact of current and past land uses. This would draw upon information available from landowners, occupants, tenants and the LPA.
- That the assessment would also consider the archaeological significance of any of the following that may be present within the study area: standing structures and landscape features.

3 Archaeological & Historical Evidence

The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS 67), centred on the village of Barley. The village, like many settlements in the region, is pre-Conquest in date, though its precise origins remain uncertain. Therefore the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The following background is based on a search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) for sites within a 0.5km radius of the study site.

4.1 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

3.1.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

The important prehistoric route of the Icknield Way follows the northern boundary of the county and parish. However, evidence for pre-Iron Age activity within the study area is limited to two findspots and a number of undated cropmark sites. The findspots are that of a Neolithic flint axehead (HER 228) at Shaftenhoe End on the southeast edge of the study area; and a hoard of Bronze Age axeheads and other similarly dated detector finds on the northeastern edge of the study area (HER 11218). The cropmarks are evenly distributed in the fields surrounding the village and include a ring-ditch and probable enclosure ditches some of which may be related to the Iron Age farmstead in Aldwick Field (below 3.1.2).

3.1.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

An important early Iron Age farmstead was excavated in 1959 c.500m from the study site on the northwestern edge of the village (HER 176). Described as covering an area of at least 8 hectares the site revealed evidence of a ditched enclosure and a possible '4-poster' granary, in addition to 3 child burials, iron-working evidence and pre-Belgic pottery. Some pottery evidence for occupation of the site in the early Roman period was also recovered.

3.1.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

Roman discoveries within the study area are limited to findspots of pottery (HER 4030, 10791) and the slight evidence of continuity noted above (3.1.2). To the west of the village two Romano-British cemeteries were discovered in c.1955.

3.1.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

Despite the village's probable Saxon origins, no sites of this period are recorded in the study area, with the exception of a scatter of Saxo-Norman pottery found in a field to the northwest of the village (HER 4032). The place name has been interpreted as being derived from OE *byrgen*, or 'burial-place' which with the 'leah' element would translate as 'a clearing marked by the presence of a heathen burial place' (Gover *et al* 1970, 174). Alternatively it

has been seen as Beora's Ley, Beora being a Saxon personal name. The Domesday survey records it as Berlai.

3.1.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

The Domesday survey (1086) records six manors within the parish, one of these, *Hoares*, lying at the heart of the present study area (Wilkerson 1974, 4). The site of *Hoares* (Manor Farm) is now occupied by a Grade II listed 16th century timber-framed house. Opposite, the Grade II* listed parish church of St Margaret has post-Conquest origins and contains some late 13th century fabric. An evaluation and watching brief undertaken in 1999 c.300m west of the study site revealed medieval features and pottery (HER 10785), in addition to earlier residual and unstratified material.

3.1.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

A number of post-medieval listed buildings of both agricultural and domestic origin are present within the study area including those at Manor Farm opposite the study site (HER 10892, above 3.1.5). Also of note is the early 16th century Grade II* listed 'Town House' to the west of Manor Farm.

3.2 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

3.2.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

No remains of this period are known from the site.

3.2.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

No remains of this period are known from the site.

3.2.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

No remains of this period are known from the site.

3.2.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

No remains of this period are known from the site.

3.2.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

No remains of this period are known from the site.

3.2.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

Both the cartographic evidence (below 3.3.1) and Pevsner (1977) indicate that the former rectory, now known as Margaret House, has pre-19th century origins. The DOE listing description overlooks this information, suggesting the house is a purely 19th-century construction, rather than the remodelling it appears to be.

3.3 *Cartographic Evidence*

3.3.1 Norden's survey of 1597 (Fig. 4) constitutes a rare early cartographic source. This substantial map gives detailed coverage of the entire village of Barley showing the shape of fields and plots and their ownership, in addition to elevations of many of the buildings. The area of the study site is shown to be divided into three unequal strips, the westernmost pair of which are shown to be occupied by structures, probably houses. The area is marked as 'Rectory'.

The clear mis-orientation of the adjacent parish church should suggest caution in transposing this information to the present day.

- 3.3.2 The next available detailed source is the enclosure map of 1813 (Fig. 5). This shows an L-shaped structure in the position of Margaret House, in addition to three smaller structures that may have been outbuildings. The plot is marked 'Rector' and now extends eastwards to Shaftenhoe End Road. A later (and undated) map shows a similar layout with the outbuildings present (Fig. 7). By the time of the 1843 tithe map the 1830's alterations can be seen in the plan of the house, and the outbuildings have disappeared.
- 3.3.3 The Ordnance Survey edition of 1898 (Fig. 8) shows little change from the tithe map, although the layout of the plot has been reorganised to the plan we see today and on the 1921 edition (Fig. 9). By 1981 (Fig. 10) the layout remains unchanged although the house itself has clearly been extended to the northeast, giving the current plan (Fig. 2).



Figure 4: Norden's 1597 Plan (Not to scale)



Figure 5: Enclosure Map 1813 (Not to scale)



Figure 6: Undated (post 1829) Map (*Not to Scale*)

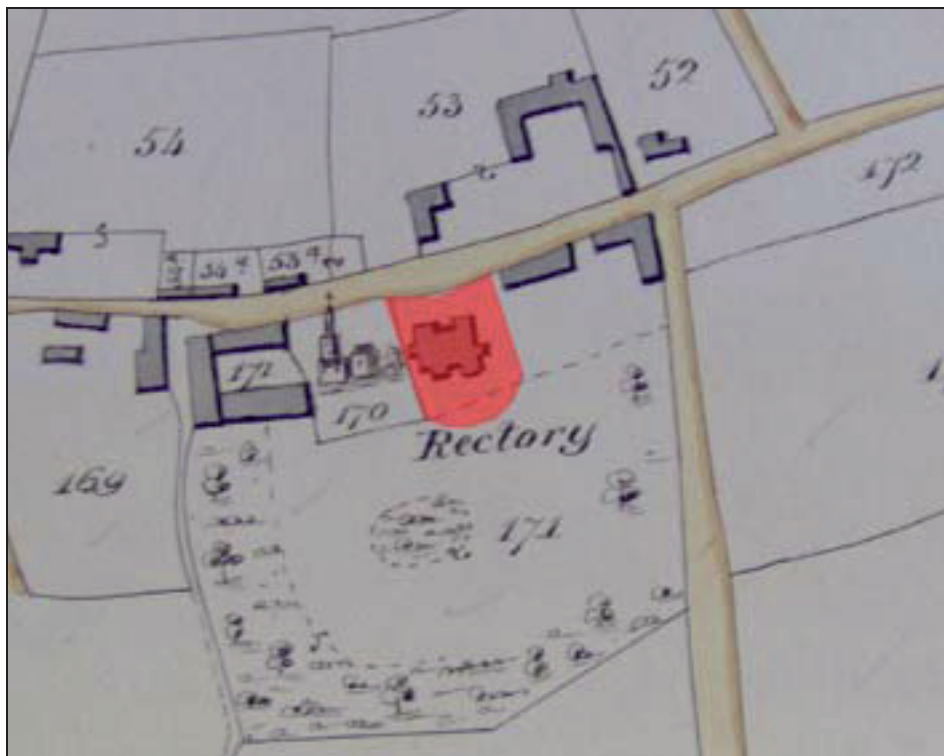


Figure 7: Tithe Map 1843 (*Not to scale*)

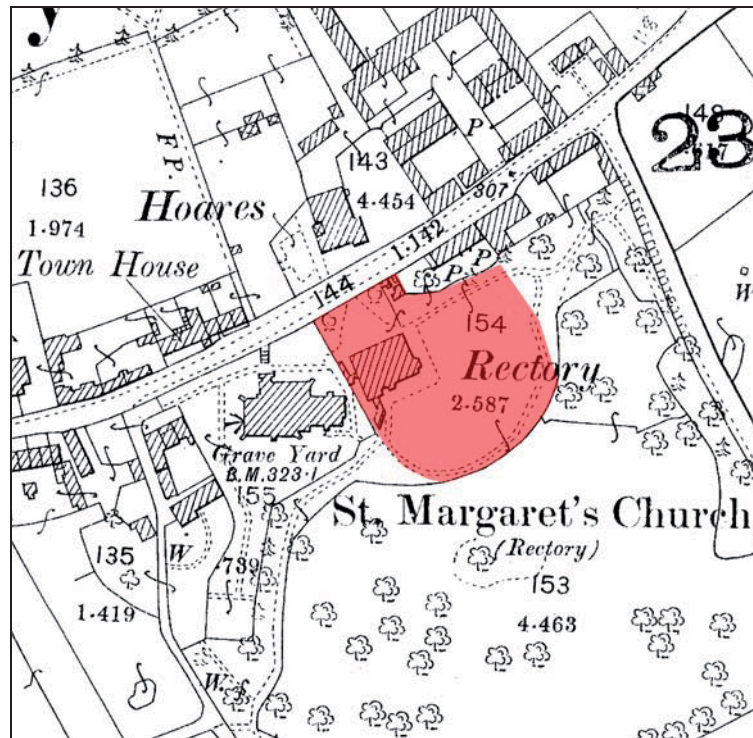


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey 25in Map 1898 (Not scaled)

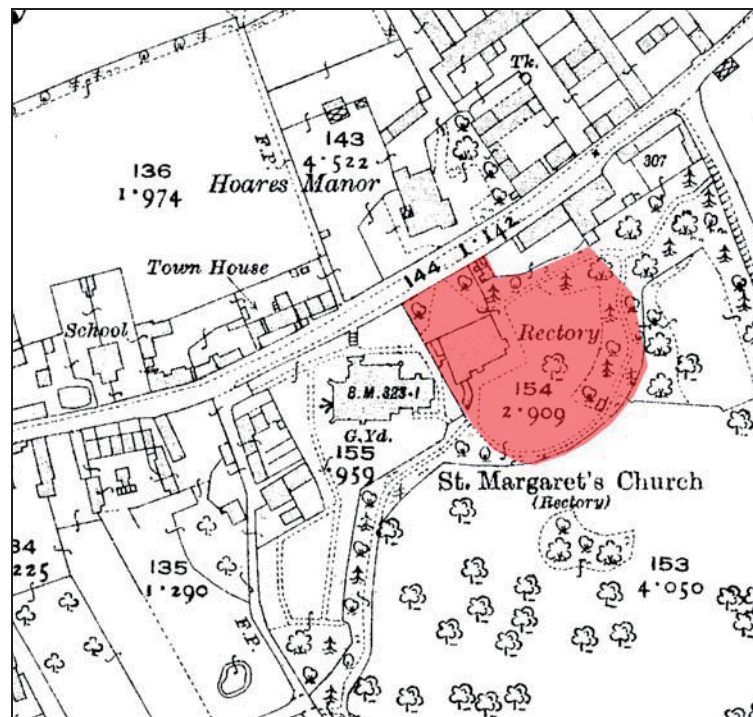


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey 25in Map 1921 (Not scaled)

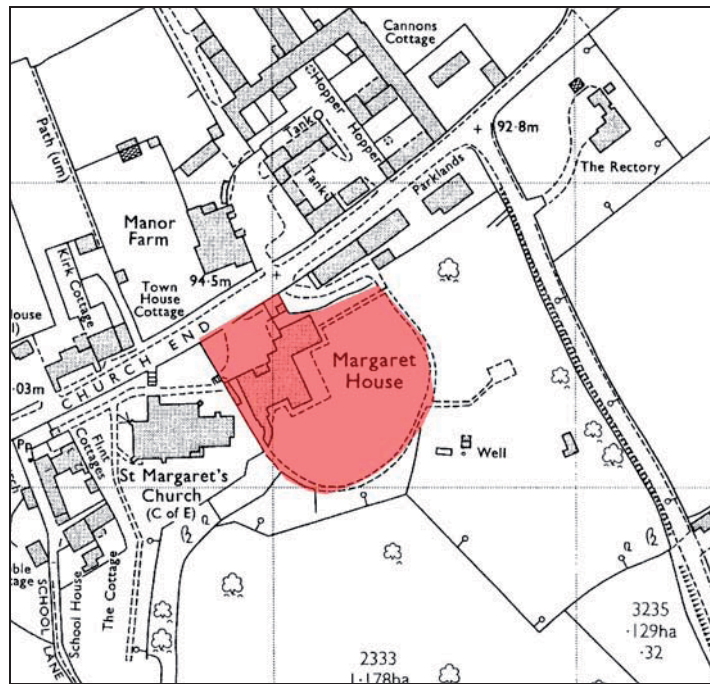


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map 1981 (Not scaled)

4 Results

- 4.1 Two trenches were excavated using a wheeled JCB fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless bucket operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.2 Natural drift deposits were reached in both trenches, which consisted of light grey-brown clay over chalk. The stratigraphy in the two trenches consisted of mid brown loam topsoil between 0.20 and 0.62m deep over grey-brown clay subsoil. Both trenches contained levelling layers consisting combinations of post-medieval building debris, chalk, gravel and cobbles.

4.3 *Trench 1*

Trench 1 contained a layer of building debris, gravel, chalk and cobbles approximately 4.20m long x 0.30m thick and 0.62m below the ground surface. Two solution hollows were encountered approximately 1.20m and 1.80m wide. The western one [103] was excavated, but it was found to contain no dateable artefacts. Environmental samples were taken from the feature, but visual inspection failed to reveal any trace of waterlogged or carbonised material. The eastern solution hollow was not investigated.

4.4 *Trench 2*

The southern end of the easternmost solution hollow observed in Trench 1 was noted in the northern end of Trench 2. Levelling layers, c.0.16-0.27m deep, were intermittently present in this trench. A gully [203], 0.30m wide and orientated south-west – north-east was revealed approximately 7.85m from the northern trench end. It was 0.12m deep and was filled with mid-grey silty clay [204] containing early post-medieval brick and tile.



Plate 1: Trench 1, Solution Hollow [103]



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 2, east facing section



Plate 4: Trench 2, Gully [303]

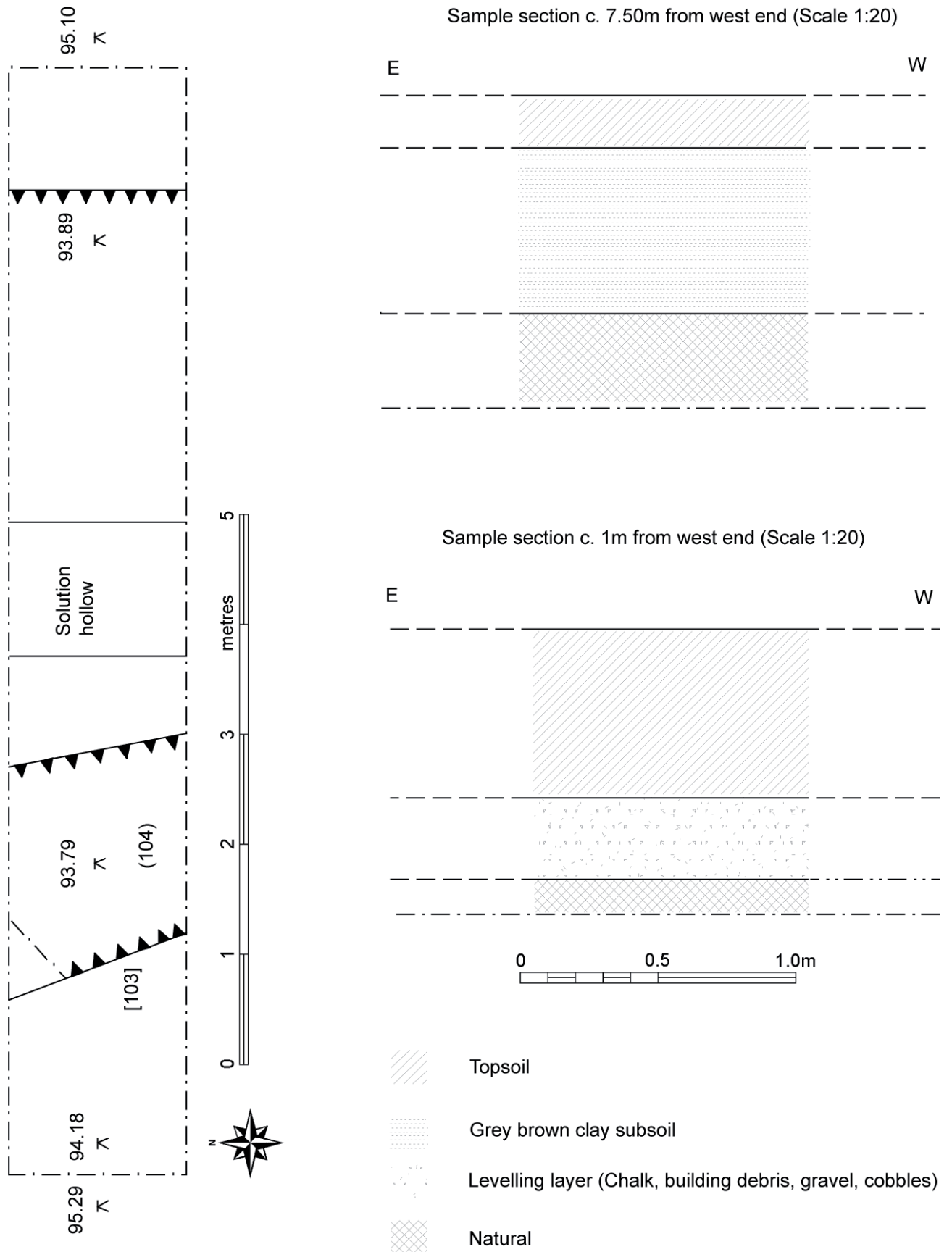


Figure 12: Trench 1: plan & sections (scales as shown)

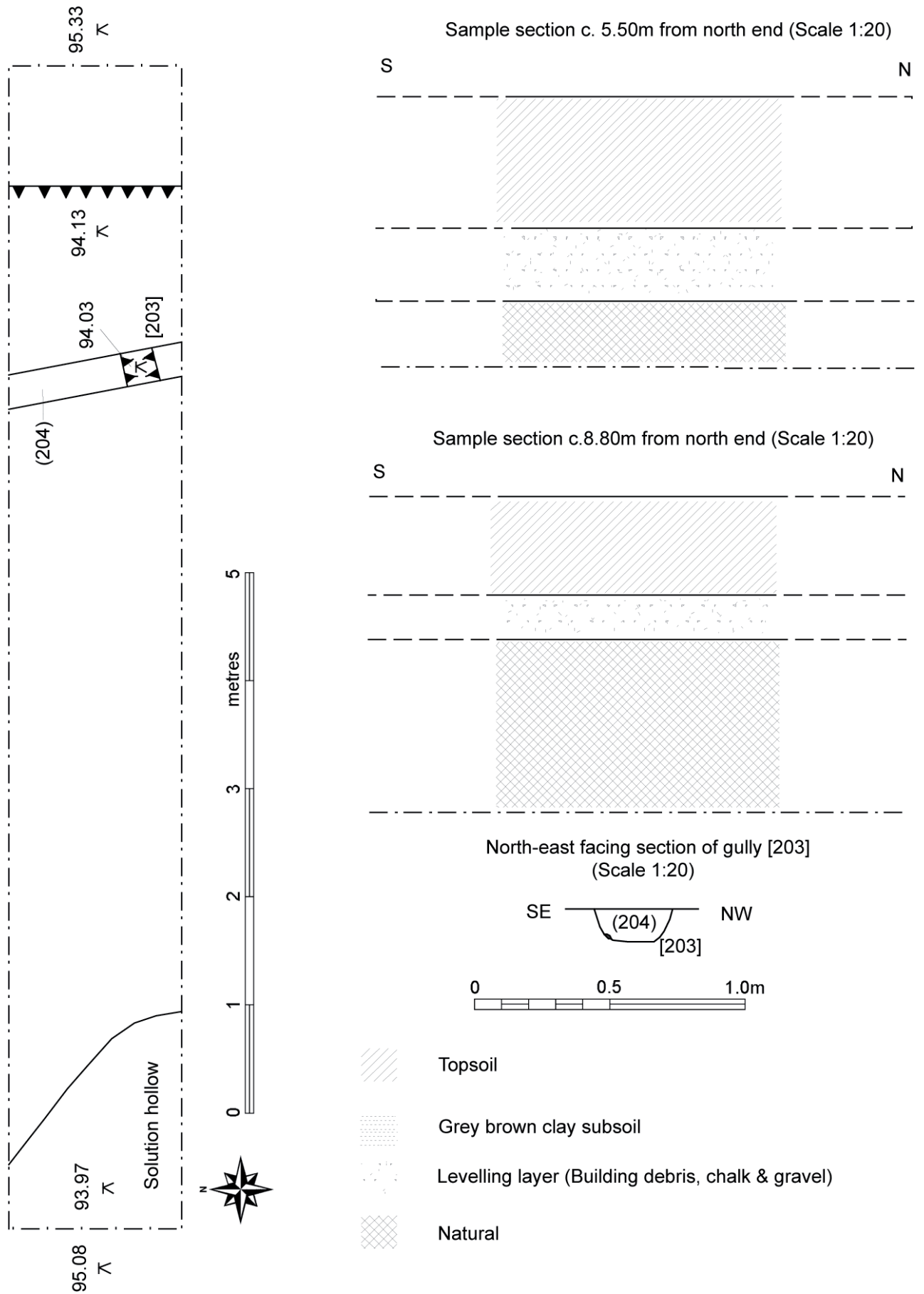


Figure 13: Trench 2: plan & sections (scales as shown)

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The evaluation trenches both revealed evidence for fairly extensive ground disturbance in the form of levelling deposits consisting of combinations of gravel, cobbles, chalk and building debris. Much of this may have been due to modern landscaping and the provision of services. The safety of the elderly residents is another consideration, and it was reported that another area of the lawn had been levelled last year.
- 5.2 Some of the unstratified building debris recovered from Trench 2 appeared to be 18th century or possibly slightly earlier and locally made. Although there was no evidence for redundant foundations in either of the trenches, it is quite possible that this material is from a building on or very close to the site, and could corroborate Pevsner's hypothesis that Margaret House predates the 19th century, at least in part.
- 5.3 A single archaeological feature was revealed in the evaluation trenches. This was a small drainage gully [203], orientated south-west to north-east, containing early post-medieval building debris. Whether this was associated with an earlier building on the site remains unclear.
- 5.4 Although no direct evidence in the form of footings trenches or similar was revealed in the two evaluation trenches for earlier structures on the site, the cartographic material indicates that the site has seen several episodes of building, demolition and landscaping. This was further corroborated by the levelling layers in the trenches. It is possible that further post-medieval features could have survived subsequent remodelling and may be encountered during future groundworks.
- 5.5 ***Confidence Rating***
- The work was carried out under good weather conditions and the results can thus be given a high confidence rating.

6. Acknowledgements

ASC would like to express its thanks to Justin Cain of Pinders for commissioning the evaluation; Jonathan Smith, Development Control Archaeologist with *Hertfordshire County Council Archaeological Service* for his input and advice; and the staff of both the County Archaeology Office, Hertfordshire and the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Library for their help in the execution of this project.

The fieldwork was undertaken for *ASC Ltd* by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA, assisted by Karin Semmelman MA PIFA. The report was prepared by Nicholas A Crank, Nigel Wilson and Karin Semmelmann, and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA 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. List of photographs/slides
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. Original specialist reports and supporting information
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with North Hertfordshire Museums Services.

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 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Secondary Sources

Gover, JEB, Mawer, A & Stenton, F.M. 1970 *The Place Names of Hertfordshire* Cambridge University Press (Cambridge)

Pevsner, N 1977 *The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire* Penguin (London)

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Maps

HALS 25213-25222 *Norden's Plan 1597*

HALS D/P14 29/8 *Enclosure Map 1813*

HALS D/P14 3/6 *Undated (post 1829) Map*

HALS DSA4/13/2 *Tithe Map 1843*


Ordnance Survey 1898 Sheet number V.14 HALS


Ordnance Survey 1921 Sheet number V.14 HALS

Ordnance Survey 1981 Sheet number TL 4038 HALS

NB: HALS = Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Library, Hertford

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1					
		Max Dimensions			
		Width	1.60	Length	10.0
		Depth	1.0	Level (top)	95.29OD
		NGR Co-ordinates			
		E 4018 3852	W 4026 3857		
Orientation		E-W			
Reason for Trench		Investigate northern end of footprint of the proposed extension			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Thickness (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
101	Layer	Mid brown loam	0.62m	0	
102	Layer	Grey brown clay	0.61m	0.20m	
103	Nat feature	Solution hollow	0.20m	1.0m	
104	Fill	Grey brown clay. Fill of 103	0.20m	1.0m	
105	Natural	Chalk		1.0m	

Trench 2							
		Max Dimensions					
		Length	10.90	Width	1.60	Depth	1.10
		Levels					
		Trench base north		93.97m OD			
		Trench top north		95.08m OD			
		Trench base south		94.13m OD			
		Trench top south		95.33m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		N	4025 3849	S	4030 3840		
		Orientation		N-S			
Reason for Trench		Investigate southern end of footprint					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)		
201	Layer	Mid brown loam	1.60m	0.49m	0		
202	Layer	Light brown clay	1.60m	0.65m	0.49m		
203	Cut	SW-NE orientated gully	0.30m	0.12m	1.10m		
204	Fill	Mid grey silty clay. Fill of 203	0.30m	0.12m	1.10m		
205	Natural	Chalk			1.10m		

Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Margaret House Church End Barley, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Barley		Parish: Barley
Planning application reference: 1/05/0531		
Client name, address, & tel. no: Mr Thomas Kelly Beech Hill Nursing Home 47 Beech Hill Hadley Wood Hertfordshire EN4 0JW		
Nature of application: Two storey extension to the east of the present building		
Present land use: Residential gardens		
Size of application area: n/a		Size of area investigated: n/a
NGR (to 8 figures): 4020 3843		Site code: 677/BCE
Site director/Organization: Bob Zeepvat / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 7 th June 2005	Finish: 7 th June 2005
Curating museum: North Herts. Museums Services		
Related SMR nos:		Periods represented: Post-medieval/modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports		
Summary of fieldwork results: In June 2005 ASC carried out an evaluation in the garden of St. Margaret's House in response to a planning application for a two-storey extension to the east of the existing building. Two 10m trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed extension. Trench 1, which lay north of Trench 2 and was orientated E-W, contained two solution hollows and a levelling layer of cobbles, building debris and chalk. Levelling layers and the southern end of a solution hollow encountered in Trench 1 were also present in Trench 2. Some of the unstratified building debris in this trench appeared to be locally made, 18 th century or earlier and was possibly associated with earlier building phases of St. Margaret's House or another nearby structure. A small drainage gully was encountered at the southern end of the trench. It was orientated SW-NE and contained post-medieval building debris.		
Author: Karin Semmelmann		Date: 17 th June 2005