

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: THE OLD GRANGE GREAT KIMBLE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

on behalf of Christopher Hobson Ltd



A Hancock BSc PgDip

August 2005

ASC: 683/KOG/2

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Site Data

ASC site code:	KOG		Project no:		683	
SMR/HER ref:	CAS 0405	CAS 0405		o:	AYBCM 2005.68	
County:	·	Buckingl	Buckinghamshire			
Village/Town:		Kimble	Kimble			
Civil Parish:		Great and	Great and Little Kimble			
NGR (to 8 figs)	:	SP 4820	SP 4820 2057			
Extent of site:		c.75m x d	c.75m x c.75m overall			
Present land us	e:	Residential				
Planning proposal:		Extension to existing buildings				
Local Planning Authority:		Wycombe District Council				
Planning application ref/date:		01/06478	01/06478/FUL			
Client:		Christopher Hobson Ltd (Architects)				
		Kirby House				
		Pury End				
		Northants				
		NN12 7NX				
Contact name:		Christopher Hobson				
Telephone	,		Fax:			

Internal Quality Check

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Revisions:		Date:	
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CONTENTS

Su	mmary5
1.	Introduction
2.	Aims & Methods
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background9
4.	Results
5.	Conclusions
6.	Acknowledgements
7.	Archive
8.	References
Ap	pendices:
1.	Monitoring Sheets
Fig	gures:
1.	General location
2.	Site plan 6
3.	Areas of development
Pla	ites:
	ver:
1.	Area of study extension, looking north
2.	Topsoil strip, looking northeast
3.	Section through footing trench, looking west
4.	Service trench, looking north
5.	Drain access, looking west
6.	Topsoil filled feature, looking south
7.	Drains at southeast of the studio, looking northeast
8.	Site of garden room extension, looking northeast
9.	Garden wall removed, looking southeast
10.	Drains and water pipes, looking east14
11.	Section through footing trench, looking northwest
12.	Deposit of brick rubble, looking northwest

13. Gravel./clinker/brickset path, looking northwest	15
14. Porch extension and wall foundation, looking southwest	15
15. Section through footings, looking southwest	15
16. Service trench and wall foundation looking southwest	15
17. Deposit of sand under planting bed, looking northeast	15
18. Topsoil filled feature, looking southwest	15



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

Summary

A watching brief was carried out at the Old Grange, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire in June and July 2005 during reduction of ground levels and excavation of footings and service trenches for extensions and alterations to the Grade II listed 15th-century house. Brick-set garden features, a brick-set porch and areas of clunch rubble used as a yard surface or levelling / consolidation material were revealed. All these features appeared relatively modern; no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June and July 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at The Old Grange, Great Kimble, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 4820 2057: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by architects Christopher Hobson Ltd on behalf of the owners, and was carried out according to a brief (Kidd 2001) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), Wycombe District Council, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2005). The relevant planning application reference is 01/06478/FUL

1.2 Planning Background

This watching brief has been required as a planning condition under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of a porch on the northeast elevation, a study extending the southeast elevation and a garden room at the north west corner of The Old Grange (Fig. 3).

1.3 Setting

1.3.1 Location & Description

The site is located c.500m to the southwest of Great Kimble in a planning notification area. A 15^{th} -century house, three later outbuildings and gardens form its core. The site is relatively flat and lies at an elevation of c.118m AOD. The remnants of a moat partially surround the site and run northwest to southwest of the buildings (Fig. 2). A railway line passes northwest of the site and the North Buckinghamshire Way is located slightly to the south west.

1.3.2 Access

Access to the site is from the southeast along a gravelled driveway, c.250m in length, which runs off the A4010 Aylesbury Road.

1.3.3 Geology & Topography

The soils of the area are of the *Bignor Association* (Soil Survey, 1983, 572k), described as 'fine loamy soils over sandstone with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse loamy soils and fine loamy and fine silty well drained soils over sandstone. Soils shallow to sandstone in places. Landslips and associated irregular terrain locally'. The underlying geology is characterised as cretaceous sandstone.

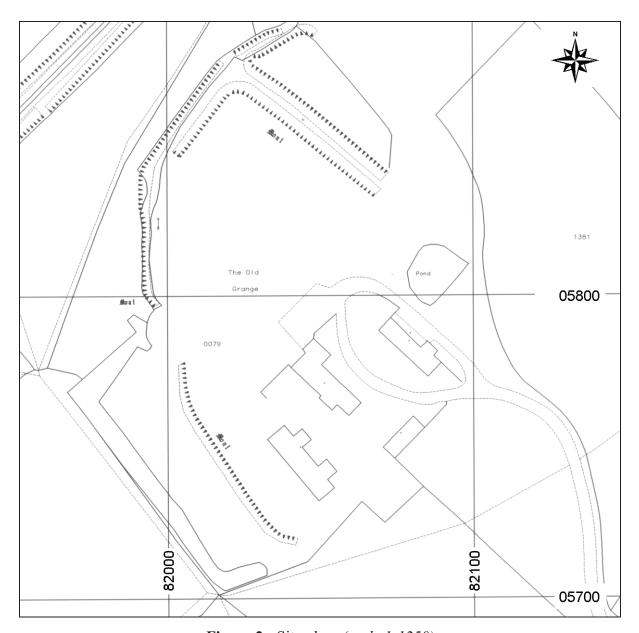


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

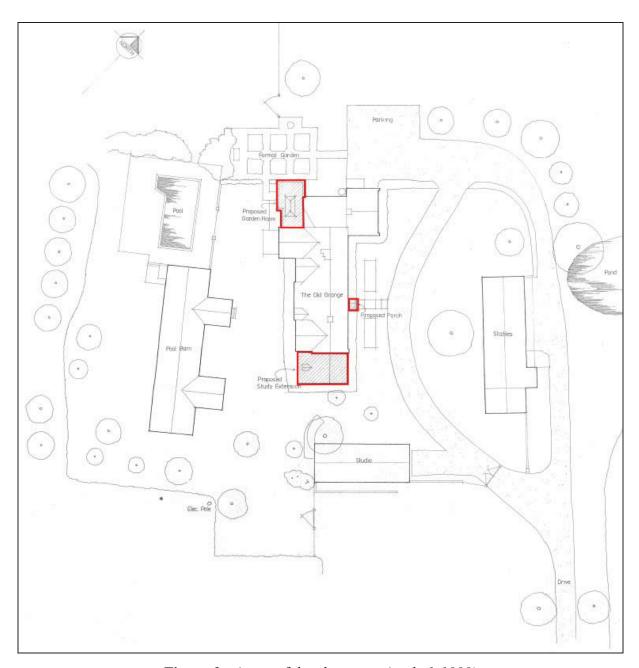


Figure 3: Areas of development (scale 1:1000)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Kidd 2001), the aims of the watching brief were:

• to identify and record any archaeological features revealed by the groundworks, paying particular regard to the potential for medieval remains.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design (Rouse, 2005), to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001). It also conformed to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief, which required:

- reduction of ground level by a suitably equipped machine operating under archaeological supervision to the level of archaeological deposits or the required development level (whichever was encountered first) and careful examination of the stripped surface for archaeological features.
- that sufficient work be done to date, characterise and record any archaeological remains in accordance with the project objectives.
- that if an 'unexpected discovery' (e.g. extensive complex deposits) was made then the County Archaeological Service and developer would be informed. Consideration should be given to preservation *in situ* but if impractical, such discoveries could give rise to a salvage excavation funded from the contingency.

3. Historical & Archaeological Background

Kimble is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest. The site has the potential to reveal evidence from a variety of periods, but the focus is likely to lie in the medieval period. Within the text, the acronym SMR stands for Sites and Monuments Record, while SAM is for Scheduled Ancient Monument.

3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

A Mesolithic flint blade (SMR 5072), is recorded c.500m to the north of the site and a Neolithic flint axe (SMR 0980) was found c.1km to the southwest. The Lower Icknield Way, (SMR 4146) a Neolithic and later trackway, is located northwest of the site. Two SAMs of the Bronze Age exist in the surrounding landscape. Both consist of linear earthworks, probably cross-ridge dykes (SMR 0931, 0932). One lies c.700m to the northeast of the site, the other c.1km to the east of the site.

3.2 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

Sherds of Iron Age pot have been found at one of the SAMs mentioned above (SMR 0931), suggesting continuity of use. Other pot sherds from this period have been recovered $c.1 \, \mathrm{km}$ to the southeast of the site (SMR 0941), and $c.850 \, \mathrm{m}$ to the east of the site (SMR 1035). A coin of *Tasciovanus*, a ruler of the *Catuvelaunii* (SMR 0925) was discovered $c.850 \, \mathrm{m}$ to the northeast of the site, and a silver coin of the *Dobunni* was found $c.150 \, \mathrm{m}$ further northeast of it. Another SAM (SMR 0017) is located $c.1 \, \mathrm{km}$ southeast of the site. This is a probable hillfort, within the boundaries of which Iron Age pottery has been found.

3.3 Romano-British (AD43-c.450)

The Lower Icknield Way remained in use during this period and Romano-British pottery has been recovered from it (SMR 0941). Roman coins have also been found in the area surrounding the site (e.g. SMR 0919). Two SAMs of this period exist within the immediate area: The remains of a villa are situated c.750m northeast of the site (SMR 0901) and a barrow, allegedly dating to the early decades of the Roman period is located at Dial Hill (SMR 0103801) c.500m northeast of the site.

3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

There are comparatively few recorded remains of the Saxon period in the area. A 10^{th} -century strap end, has been found c.1 km to the northeast of the site. A coin of Coenwulf was found c.900 m northeast of the site (SMR 0954), and a burial ground (SMR 2373) is situated c.750 m to the south of the site.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

The earliest phase of the Old Grange was constructed in the 15th century (SMR 0405). It is of architectural significance and is Grade II listed. The SMR suggests that an earlier *c*.12th-century grange, owned by Missenden Abbey, may have existed in the vicinity of the site (*ibid*). Sections of moat are extant northwest and southwest of the house (Fig. 2).

The village of Great Kimble, c.500m to the northeast of the site, is noted in the *Domesday Survey* as being worth £10 in 1086 and £7 prior to the Norman Conquest (Williams and Martin, 1992, 404). Two motte and baileys, both scheduled, are located c.500m northeast of the village (SMR 0954). All Saints Church lies immediately west of one of these monuments. It houses a window dating to c.1300, and a 13^{th} -century chancel arch (Pevsner 1960, 438).

A moated site (SMR 0945), now a scheduled monument, is situated c.150m to the northeast. There is a fishpond (SMR 0946) recorded c.250m to the northeast, and a manor house with a barn (SMR 0947) is located c.450m northeast. Another manor site (SMR 0949) lies c.1km north of the site. A deserted medieval village (SMR 0948) is located c.200m to the east, and a further moated site (SMR 0454) lies c.800m to the southwest.

The exterior of the parish church (SMR 0944), dedicated to St Nicholas, was renovated during the 19th century. However, earlier architecture including 13th-century four-bay arcades and the 14th-century west tower and chancel arch are incorporated (Pevsner 1960, 350).

3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

Alterations to the Old Grange were undertaken during the 16^{th} and succeeding centuries. The northeast elevation, for example, was rebuilt in red brick during the $c.18^{th}$ century. The barn northeast of the house is $c.16^{th}$ century and is said to have been built on the site of a $c.10^{th}$ -century farm called Herdwic. Another larger barn was built southwest of the house in the 18^{th} century: both are now listed (SMR 0405).

A post-medieval site is located c.650m southeast of the Grange (SMR 6192). Cropmarks noted in aerial photographs are interpreted as an enclosure with buildings and a trackway.

3.7 Modern (1900-present)

Examination of OS mapping and aerial photographs shows that a building or wing of the house extending northeast from its northwestern end was demolished during the late 20th century. An outbuilding formerly located south of the studio was also demolished during this period.

A 19th-century fishpond and garden (SMR 6421) are recorded c.400m to the northeast of the site.

4. Results

4.1 Study Extension

Excavation of wall footings and reduction of ground level to receive a concrete sub floor occurred at a c. 5 \times 5m area immediately adjacent to the southeastern elevation of the house (Plate 1).

Removal of c.0.1m of organic topsoil (Plate 3) exposed areas of light greenish-grey clunch rubble ($c.0.30 \times 0.20$ m max), deposited upon a mid grey natural clay (Plate 2). The soil/sediment profiles through the c.1m deep footing trenches (Plate 3) revealed that the natural clay contained frequent very fine chalk or limestone inclusions. A ceramic drain was cut into the clay and ran north-south from the house across the southwestern end of the observed area.

The deposits of clunch contained infrequent fragmentary brick/tile inclusions and may have been used as levelling or consolidation material for a yard area. Excavation of service trenches southeast and southwest of the study extension (Plate 4) confirmed that the clunch rubble extended towards the Studio and the Pool Barn, although it did not appear to extend northeast towards the driveway at the front of the house. A small southwest-northeast aligned ceramic drain and a brick-built drain access point (Plate 5), and a relatively modern topsoil-filled feature cut into the clunch (Plate 7) were revealed by the service trenches. Modern drainage pipes and a brick-built drain were exposed in the service trench at the rear of the studio (Plate 7).

No pre-modern features or artefacts were recovered during site monitoring.

4.2 Garden Room

Excavation of wall footings and reduction of ground level to receive a concrete subfloor were carried out in a $c.10 \times 7m$ area adjoining the house at its northwestern corner (Plate 8).

Removal of a garden wall and paving slabs (Plate 9) revealed a layer of fine light grey gravel that may have formed an earlier yard surface. Two brick-built drain access points, three ceramic drains, water pipes and cabling (Plate 10) were encountered during excavation of footings and removal of the 0.20m thick gravel deposit. Below the gravel lay the same mid grey natural clay described in the previous section (Plate 11).

The footing trench adjacent to the extant formal garden cut a deposit of brick rubble (Plate 12) and an area of fine gravel deposited over clinker that in turn covered brick sets (Plate 13). The brick rubble could represent drainage for a planting bed that existed during an earlier phase of the formal garden, and the gravel/clinker/brick setts may define the route of a pathway that led from the rear of the house. No dating material was recovered from these features.

No pre-modern features or artefacts were recovered during site monitoring.

4.3 Porch

Excavation of wall footings and reduction of ground level to receive a concrete sub floor were carried out over a $c.3m \times 2m$ external area adjacent to the front entrance of the house.

A brick-set path leading to the driveway from the front door was removed. The bricks had rested on a thin (c.50mm) layer of fine light grey gravel and a brick wall foundation running parallel with the front elevation of the house (Plate 14). Underlying this deposit and foundation was the mid grey natural clay. Excavation of the footing trench to a depth of c.1m failed to determine the thickness of the natural clay. Concrete plinths were visible projecting c.0.20m out from under the brick-built wall of the house (Plate 15), suggesting that the wall had been underpinned relatively recently.

Service trenches at the front of the house revealed a probable continuation of the brick-built wall foundation (Plate 16), and a layer of sand that may have acted as drainage for an extant planting bed (Plate 17). A dark organic topsoil-filled feature cut from the surface into the natural was located running out towards the driveway from a corner of the house (Plate 18). A modern plastic plant label was recovered towards the base of the fill of this feature.

No pre-modern finds or features were recovered during site monitoring.



Plate 1: Area of Study Extension, looking north



Plate 2: Topsoil strip, looking northeast



Plate 3: Section through footing trench, looking west



Plate 4: Service trench, looking north



Plate 5: Drain access, looking west



Plate 6: Topsoil filled feature, looking south



Plate 7: Drains at southeast of the studio, looking northeast



Plate 9: Garden wall removed, looking southeast



Plate 8: Site of Garden room extension, looking northeast



Plate 10: Drains and water pipes, looking east



Plate11: Section through footing trench, looking northwest

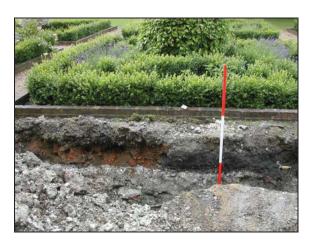


Plate 12: Deposit of brick rubble, looking northwest



Plate 13: Gravel/clinker/brickset path, looking northwest



Plate 15: Section through footings, looking southwest



Plate 17: Deposit of sand under planting bed, looking northeast



Plate 14: Porch extension, and wall foundation, looking southwest



Plate 16: Service trench and wall foundation, looking southwest



Plate 18: Topsoil filled feature, looking southwest

5. Conclusions

- No pre modern artefacts were recovered, and the observed features appeared relatively modern.
- 5.2 Ceramic drains, water pipes, cabling and a yard surface probably date to the late 19th or 20th century.
- 5.2 Evidence of an earlier phase of the formal garden is suggested by a deposit of brick rubble and a possible pathway to the northwest of the house. No dating material was recovered from these features, although the bricks appeared relatively modern.
- 5.2 A possible brick foundation ran parallel with the front elevation of the house and appeared to terminate opposite the front door. This may mark the location of a boundary wall delimiting the entrance of the house. The bricks sat on a layer of concrete and it is probable that the wall was built and demolished during the 20th century.
- 5.3 A deposit of clunch rubble was revealed south of the house. This contained infrequent brick and tile fragments, and almost certainly defines a relatively recent area of made ground.
- 5.4 The groundworks were away from the locations of the buildings demolished in the late 20th century and no evidence of their existence was revealed.
- 5.5 The presence of the sections of moat to northwest and southeast indicate that a building earlier than the current house and outbuildings existed. No evidence of this structure was discovered during the groundworks. The earlier building may lie under the footprint of the current house or away from the focus of the groundworks monitored by this project.

6. Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Christopher Hobson Ltd for commissioning this work. Cordial thanks are also offered to Roger of the groundwork contractors, Gates Builders. The project was monitored for the local authority by staff of the Bucks County Archaeology Service. The watching brief was carried out for ASC by Dr J.R. Hunn PhD MIFA and the author. This document was edited by B. 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 Monitoring Sheets
 - 6. Site record drawings
 - 7. List of photographs
 - 8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. The accession number is AYBCM 2005.68.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- 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).
- Kidd, A. 2001 Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief at The Old Grange, Kimble. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.
- Rouse, C. 2005 The Old Grange, Kimble, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: project design for an archaeological watching brief... Archaeological Services & Consultancy doc. Ref. 683/KOG/1.

Secondary Sources

- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Pevsner, N & Williamson, E. 1960. *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. Penguin Books.
- Williams, A & Martin, G.H (ed.) 1992. *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Alecto Historical Editions (Penguin).

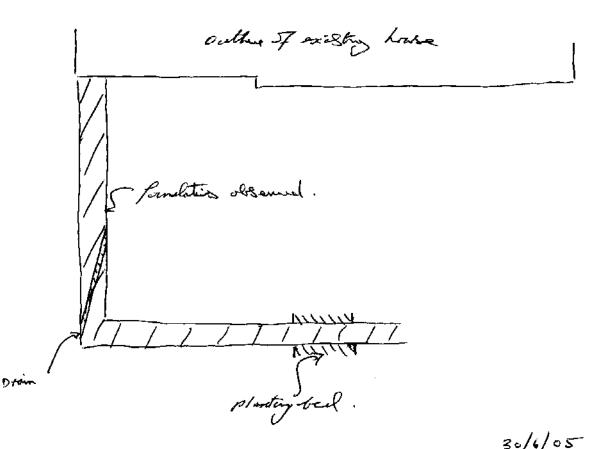
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Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD ARCHA	EOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD
Project: The Old Grange	Project No/Code: Sheet: Of \
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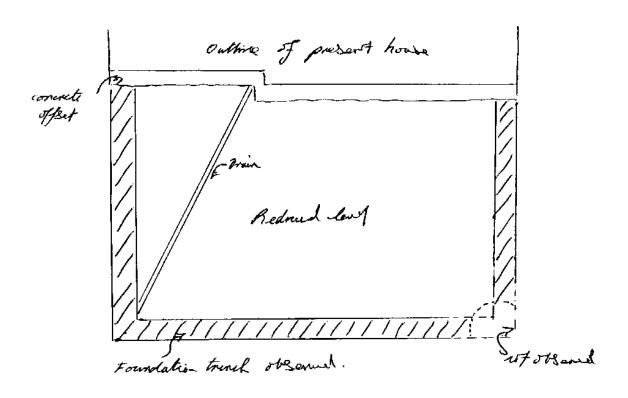


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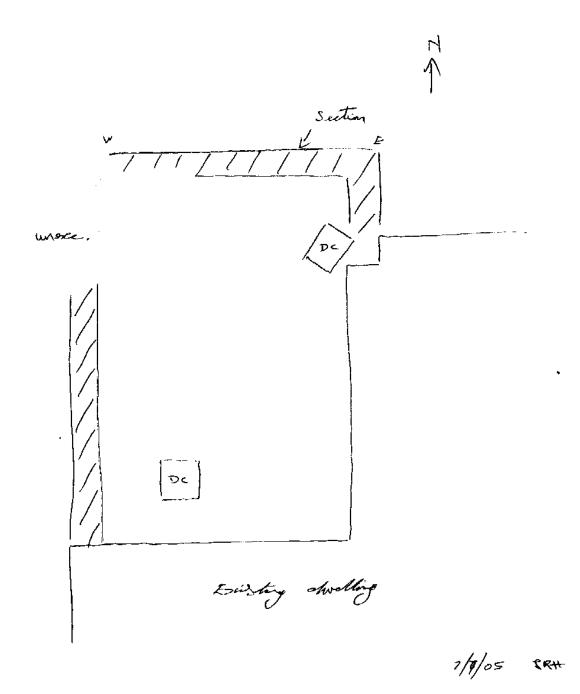


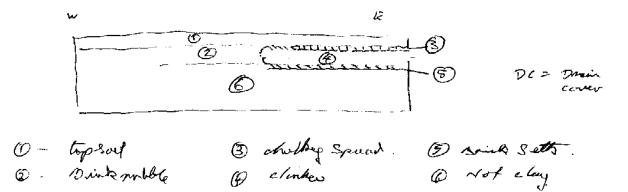
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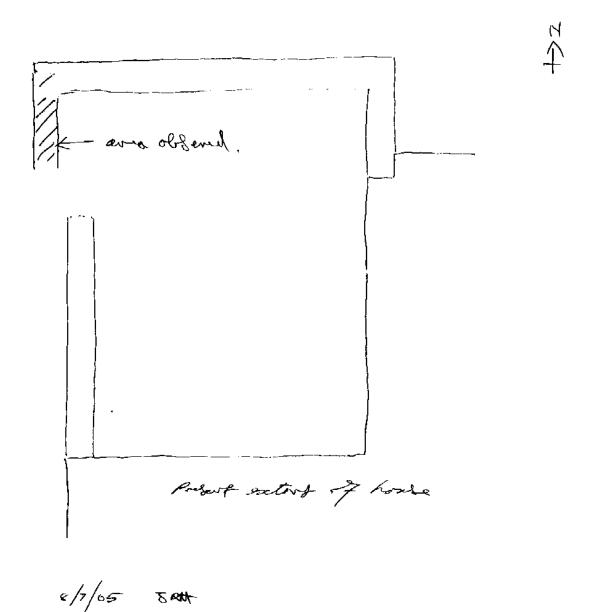




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Client/Developer	-losson	ARCI	ALTECTS	
Contact: ROTAER	GATE MAN	uncer)	Phone:	7 86333134
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Completed by: ASH				
	Developm			
Footings Ser > Roads	Levelling Qua	rrying F	ipelines Other (sp	ecify):
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CONCRETE	Cut INTO	NATU	CAL MID	GREY
MARCEY SILTY				
RETURN VI	SIT NECESSARV	To d	OBSERVE TO	THEE SERVICE
TRENCHES AND				

For sketch plan, use reverse

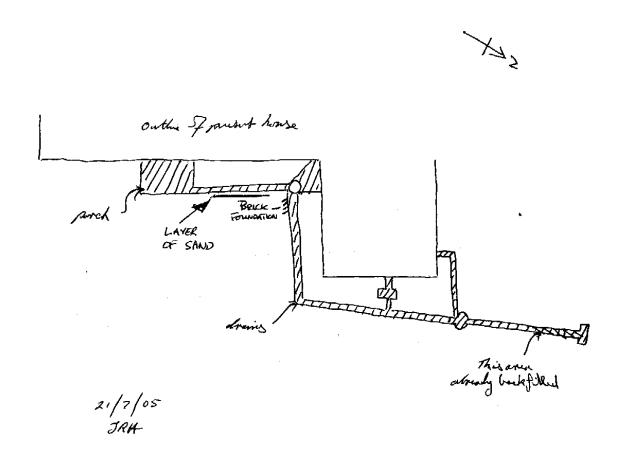
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A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	DLOGIC	AL FIELD MONI	TORING RECORD	
Project: The Old Grange	Project No/Code: Sheet: 7 of			
Great kunkle	Date of	1404	-7 01	
Alta (/Day)	visit:			
Client/Developer C. Hooson Architec	ts.			
Contact: 20GER		Phone: 077	86 533134	
Duration of Visit Start: 9.00		Finish:	G	
Completed by: ASH				
Developm				
Footings Services Roads Levelling Qua	rrying P	ipelines Other (spe	ecify):	
Site & weather conditions:		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
DRY, SUNNY	· ·			
		···		
Observations:	2012 Le.	in No	ETHERN	
AREA SOME DRAINS			•	
READY FOR FLOOR LAYIN				
PORCH BRICKS R	EM ONE	D AT EAS	T of House	
		i		
AND FOOTINGS EXCAUNTED				
OF HOUSE AFFERS TO				
UNDERTINNING (COMPETE)	•	STRAT -	PORCH	
BRICKS AND TOPSOIL THEN	<u> ۱</u>	14RLY LIG	AMT GREY	
SILTY CLAY.				
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	***	
Comments:			<u> </u>	
NO PER MODER	N A	ETEFACTS	0 ?	
FEATURES OBSERVED. NO FLIETHER OBSERVATION				
NECESSARY ON NORTHERN EXTENSION AREA				
ONE ? MORE VI	SIT	TO OBSER	NE SERVICE	
TRENCHES (25/7/05?)				

For sketch plan, use reverse

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A.S.C. LTD ARCHAE	OLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD			
Project: The Old brange	Project No/Code: Sheet: 8 of			
breat Kimble	Date of visit:			
Client/Developer C 11000 And	tuts			
Contact: A veget	Phone: \$7786-333134			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 3.00 pm	Finish: 5.30			
Completed by:				
Developm	ent Type:			
Footings Services Roads Levelling Qua	arrying Pipelines Other (specify):			
Site & weather conditions:	<u> </u>			
Dry & Burn	\			
Observations:	0			
	rting of the Samue truly.			
of between 30-40 in longth	by 0.45 wiel by 0.50 days			
to top 77 the infilled grow				
front entrance west to a				
Most of the soil is farty to				
disturbed marly-clay, about	chalk-like Some friguets If			
but a tile sotul Sant also	late post-medient pothy			
(ned were mith brown glasse); after fragments of home				
and day pipe				
The proch over where the fortigs are don to go is along				
3 m × 2m msi col 12 moleys				
Comments:				
The general has been out distanted with what looked tick Buckers "change" of 3 id. Difficult to interpret from				
Bush a names ent.				
No deffinite Signs of my pre-modern nation or features				
rotel.				



A.S.C. LTD ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD
Project: The Old Grange Project No/Code: Sheet: Q of 1
Great kunhle Date of 1/8/05
Client/Developer C Hobson Architects
Contact: Phone: 077 86333134
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 8 · 30 Finish: 12 · 30
Completed by:
Development Type:
Footings Services Roads Levelling Quarrying Pipelines Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:
DRY OVERCHST
Observations:
ORGENED SERVICE TRENCHES TO
SOUTH OF NEW EXTENSION. MODERN
DRAINS AND CABLING DIDENT DISTRIBUTED
THEORGHOUT TRENCHES.
LAYER OF BAKED? GREY CLAY -
SUB ANGRULAGE RUBBLE WITH
FEW RO TILE INCLUSIONS PROBABLY MADE GROUND.
POSSIBLY SURFACE CONSOLIDATION AT SIDE HOUSE
AND IN FRONT OF BARN.
ONE WONTED OUT AND INFINED
FENTURE NOTES V. DARK ORGAIC FILL
OVERLAIN BY TOPSOIL - NO FINDS - PROBABLY
EGLATIVELY MODERN.
Comments:
NO PRE MODERN APTERACTS OR
FEATURES NOTED EXACT RELATIONSHIP AND
SHAPE NATURE PLAN OF MADE GROUND DIFFICULT
FEATURES NOTED EXACT RELATIONSHIP AND SHAPE NATURO FLAN OF MADE GROUND DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE THRU OBSERVATION OF SERVICE
TRENCHES.
NO FURTHER MONTORING VISITS
NECESSARY

For sketch plan, use reverse

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