



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
FRIDAY GROVE, HAWKSHEAD ROAD, NORTH MYMMS,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Neil Bedford



Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA

June 2005

ASC: 688/NFG/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	NFG	<i>Project no:</i>	688
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	North Mymms		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	North Mymms		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 24705 03232		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Pasture		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of house, access, services and landscaping		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Welwyn Hatfield District Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	6/03/1701		
<i>Client:</i>	N.A. Bedford 24 Warrengate Road Hatfield Herts AL9 7TX		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Neil Bedford		
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In June 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an evaluation at Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms. Five trial trenches were opened. No archaeological features were revealed in trenches 1, 2 and 5. Sparse building remains relating to Friday Grove Farm were revealed in trenches 3 and 4. The farm buildings are shown on the 1844 tithe map but it appears to have been demolished prior to the second edition Ordnance Survey map.

1 Introduction

1.1 In June 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out an evaluation at Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms (NGR: TL 24705 03232: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Neil Bedford, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2005), and a brief (Smith 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Welwyn Hatfield District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office. The relevant planning application reference is 6/03/1701.

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 country house in landscaped grounds.

1.3 *Setting*

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located in the administrative district of Welwyn Hatfield, in the civil parish of North Mymms, at NGR TL 24705 03232 (Fig. 1). The site lies on the north side of Hawkshead Road, east of the junction with Blue Bridge Road. It comprises three pasture fields, two of which contain ponds (Fig. 2), covering an area of *c.*7 ha.

1.3.2 *Services, Buildings, Access, Etc*

Access to the site is from Hawkshead Road, through a 3m wide gate. There are no existing buildings on the site, although the area is divided by wire-mesh fencing and hedgerows.

1.3.3 *Geology*

The soils of the area are of the *Windsor Association* (Soil Survey, 1983, 712c) and are described as ‘*slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils mostly with brown subsoils. Some fine loamy over clayey and fine silty over clayey soils and, locally on slopes, clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging.*’ The underlying geology is Tertiary (‘London’) clay.

1.4 *Historical & Archaeological Background*

The site lies within an area of limited archaeological interest, with prehistoric and Roman activity scarce in this clay belt.

North Mymms is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Survey, and so probably has its origins as a settlement in the Saxon period. Medieval sites in the vicinity are few and limited to a moated site at Welham Green (c.2.5km north west), a motte and bailey (c.1.5km south west), and the 13th century church of St. Mary (c.2.5km west).

The landscape to the north of the site was formerly defined by the grounds of Gobions Manor, once home to Sir Thomas More. The four fields that comprise the site itself were part of Friday Grove Farm at the tithe award in 1844. The farm consisted of three buildings located in what appear to be farmyards (Fig. 2). The farm is listed as being owned by Mary King and let to James Holloway. By 1898 the farm buildings have gone and the layout of the site is identical to that on the current Ordnance Survey mapping. The origin and date of Friday Grove Farm is not clear. However, the place name first appears in a document of 1468 as *Fridayesgrove field* (Gover *et al* 1970).



Figure 2: Tithe Map 1844 (*not scaled*)



Figure 3: Site plan and Trench Layout (scale 1:2500)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 2), 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.
- A comprehensive assessment of the regional context within which any revealed archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site.
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains likely to be present on the site and include an assessment of its significance.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of 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 brief (Section 3), which required:

- The cutting of trial trenches within the areas of proposed new buildings, landscaping and access. Locations are shown in Fig. 3.
- Each trial trench will be 1.5-2m wide and up to 40m in length. The sample will be in the region of 5% of the area to be affected by new construction and landscaping.

2.4 Constraints

Trenches 6 and 7 were omitted by agreement with the AA due to their location in a heavily wooded area and a pond respectively.

3 Results

3.1 The following paragraphs provide a summary of the results of the trial trenches. A full description of the trenches with illustrations, is provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 *Results*

No pre-nineteenth century archaeological features were observed within the trial trenches and no pre-nineteenth century material was recovered.

A brick foundation was revealed at the western end of trench 3 and a modern drain cut traversed the western part of the trench. A shallow flint rubble foundation was noted at the northern end of trench 4. Both trenches 3 and 4 contained substantial deposits of demolition rubble.

3.3 A light brownish yellow firm clay was revealed beneath the topsoil and made ground. It was firm and highly plastic and contained patches of natural pebble gravel in trench 5. This deposit is the natural Tertiary ('London') Clay strata.



Plate 1: Brick foundation in Trench 3



Plate 2: Flint foundation in Trench 4

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The evaluation revealed sparse remains of the buildings of Friday Grove farm, demolished in the late nineteenth century. The remains were in trenches 3 and 4 and comprised brick and flint foundations in addition to a probable drainage cut. The trenches also contained substantial layers of demolition rubble overlying the natural clay. The locations of the foundations correlates well with the buildings indicated on the tithe map (Fig. 2). The brick foundation in trench 3 is likely to be the corner of the easternmost structure, possibly the farmhouse. The flint foundation in trench 4 is probably a side wall of the northernmost structure, perhaps a byre or barn.

- 4.2 The remaining trenches contained no archaeological features or artefacts and it is considered unlikely that significant quantities of archaeological remains are present on the site, although the potential presence of occasional isolated remains away from the evaluation trenches should not be entirely excluded.

5. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr Neil Bedford for commissioning the evaluation. Thanks are also due to Mr Jonathan Smith of HCC CAO who acted as curatorial officer.

The fieldwork was undertaken for ASC Ltd by Nicholas A Crank BSc AIFA assisted by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA. The report was prepared by Nicholas A Crank and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. List of photographs
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with Mill Green Museum.

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).

EH 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation*. English Heritage (London).

Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Institute of Field Archaeologists' Paper 1 (Manchester).

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)*.

Rouse, C 2005 *Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASC: 688/NFG/1)

Smith, J 2005 *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms* (Ref: 6/03/1701)

Secondary Sources

Gover, J.E.B, Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 1970 *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*.

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

Maps

Tithe Map (not dated) DSA4/69/2; and Award (1844) DSA4/69/1

Ordnance Survey 1898 25in Map Sheet XL 3

Ordnance Survey 1898 25in Map Sheet XL 4

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables



Trench 1							
Max Dimensions					Orientation		
Length	15m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.42 m	North to south	
NGR Co-ordinates					Reason for Trench		
N	TL 24841 03078	S	TL 24841 03065	General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
100	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark brown clayey loam			--	420	--
101	Natd	Light brownish yellow firm 'London' Clay			--	---	380+



Trench 2							
Max Dimensions					Orientation		
Length	15m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.42 m	Northwest to southeast	
NGR Co-ordinates					Reason for Trench		
NW	TL 24815 03140	SE	TL 24824 03129	General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
200	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark brown clayey loam			--	420	--
201	Natd	Light brownish yellow firm 'London' Clay			--	--	370+



Trench 3							
Max Dimensions					Orientation		
Length	25m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.4m	East to west	
NGR Co-ordinates					Reason for Trench		
E	TL 24751 03168	W	TL 24726 03168	General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
300	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark brown clayey loam			--	200	--
301	Layer	Brick/Tile and flint rubble			--	250	200
302	Natd	Light brownish yellow firm 'London' Clay				--	350+



Trench 4							
Max Dimensions					Orientation		
Length	25m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.47 m	North to south	
NGR Co-ordinates					Reason for Trench		
N	TL 24714 03184	S	TL 24714 03159	General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
400	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark brown clayey loam			--	100	--
401	Layer	Brick/Tile and flint rubble			--	600	700
402	Natd	Light brownish yellow firm 'London' Clay			--	100	800



Trench 5							
Max Dimensions					Orientation		
Length	15m	Width	1.6m	Depth	0.45 m	Northeast to Southwest	
NGR Co-ordinates				Reason for Trench			
NE	TL 24638 03261	SW	TL 24624 03256	General evaluation			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
500	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to dark brown clayey loam			--	100	--
501	Natd	Light brownish yellow firm 'London' Clay with patches of pebble gravel			--	600	700

Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet

Site name and address: Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms, Herts.		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Welwyn Hatfield
Village/Town: North Mymms		Parish: North Mymms
Planning application reference: 6/03/1701		
Client name, address, & tel. no: N.A.Bedford 24 Warrengate Road, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 7TX		
Nature of application: Residential development		
Present land use: Pasture		
Size of application area: 7 ha		Size of area investigated: 152 sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 2470 0323		Site code: 688/NFG
Site director/Organization: Nick Crank / ASC Ltd		
Type of work: Trial trenching		
Date of work:	Start: 15 th June 2005	Finish: 15 th June 2005
Curating museum: Mill Green Museum		
Related SMR nos: None		Periods represented: Modern >C19th
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results: In June 2005 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out an evaluation at Friday Grove, Hawkshead Road, North Mymms. Five trial trenches were opened. No archaeological features were revealed in trenches 1, 2 and 5. Sparse building remains relating to Friday Grove Farm were revealed in trenches 3 and 4. The farm buildings are shown on the 1844 tithe map but it appears to have been demolished prior to the second edition Ordnance Survey map.		
Author: N.A. Crank		Date: 20 th June 2005