

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
3 SOUTH PARK GARDENS
BERKHAMSTED
HERTFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Mrs Hilary Gardener



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& Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA**

January 2007

ASC: 882/BSP/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	BSP	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	882
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9896 0836		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Rear and side extensions to existing house		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/02337/06		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	22 nd January 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Mrs Hilary Gardener 3 South Park Gardens Berkhamsted Hertfordshire HP4 1JA		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mrs Hilary Gardener		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Jonathan Hunn	<i>Date:</i>	24/01/2007
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a watching brief at 3 South Park Gardens, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 9896 0836: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mrs Hilary Gardener, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2007), in response to a planning condition placed on the site on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Archaeology Office of *Hertfordshire County Council*. The relevant planning application reference is 4/02337/06.
- 1.2 The planning proposal for the site comprises an extension to the existing building, and a watching brief was required in view of the site's potential for producing archaeological remains. Berkhamsted is an area of considerable archaeological and historical importance (Birtchnell 1960; HCC 2004; Page (ed), 1908) and this has been recognised by *Hertfordshire County Council* by the designation of much of the town as an *Area of Archaeological Importance*. The site has the potential to reveal evidence of a variety of periods, but the focus of interest was considered to lie in the Roman and medieval periods.

2 Results

- 2.1 One visit was made to the site, during which the excavation of the footing trenches was observed. The extension measured 4m x 9.2m. The ground within the area to be extended had already been reduced by 0.3m, but was too churned up for anything to be seen. The footings were c.0.5m wide x 1.5m deep below the reduced ground level (Plate 2). The topsoil varied between 0.25m and 0.3m in depth. Below this was a yellowish brown flinty clay mixed with chalk fragments, and below that was the natural pure chalk (Plate 1).
- 2.2 Apart from an existing brick filled soakaway situated at the southern end of the extension, no pre-modern archaeological finds or features were observed, and it is unlikely that significant archaeological remains were present on the site.

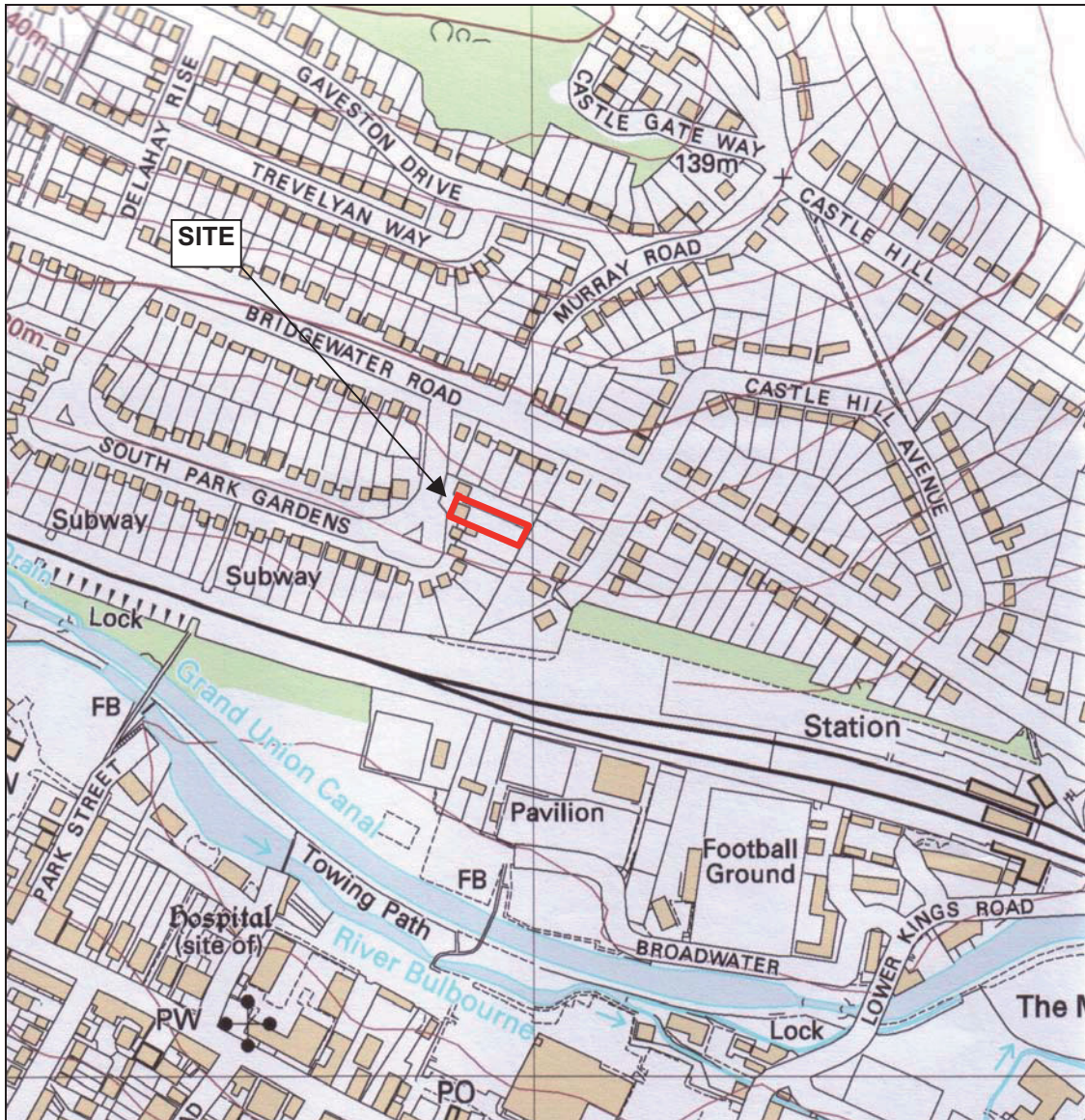


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:5000)

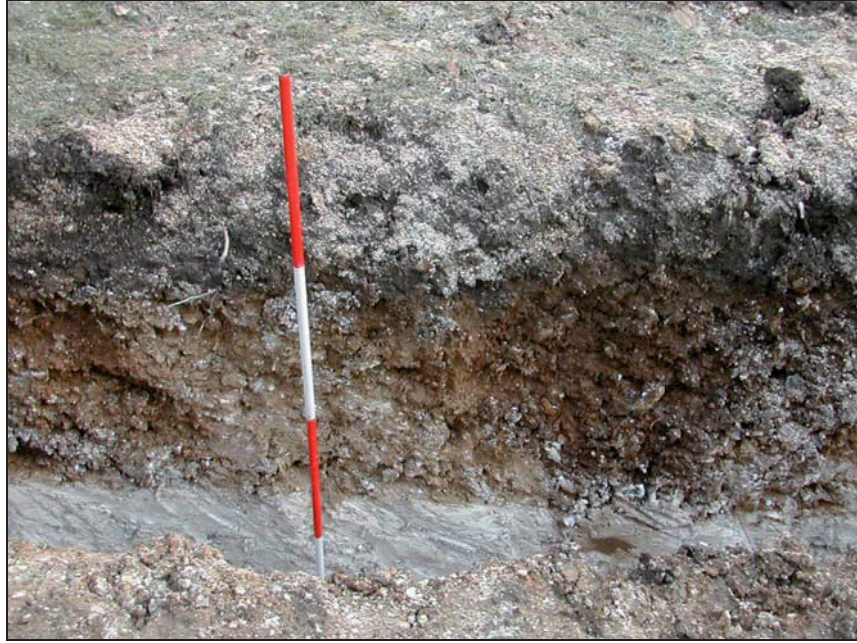


Plate 1: Detail of west facing section of footing trench



Plate 2: South eastern view of footing trench

3. References

Birtchnell P C., 1960 *A Short History of Berkhamsted*. Clunbury Press

HCC 2004 *Berkhamsted: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment*. Hertfordshire County Council

Page W, 1908 *The Victoria History of the County of Berkhamsted*. Dawsons of Pall Mall

Rouse C, 2007 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 3 South Park Gardens, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire* ASC/882/BSP/1