

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
2, CHESHAM ROAD,
BERKHAMSTED,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 4992 2076

on behalf of Mr and Mrs I. Cunningham



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March 2008

ASC: 1036/BCR/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	BCR	<i>Project no:</i>	1036
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Pending	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	N/A
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Berkhamsted		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 4992 2076		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.350 sq.m. overall		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Rear extensions		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum Borough Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/01432/07/FHA		
<i>Client:</i>	Ian Cunningham 2 Chesham Road Berkhamsted Hertfordshire HP4 3AA		
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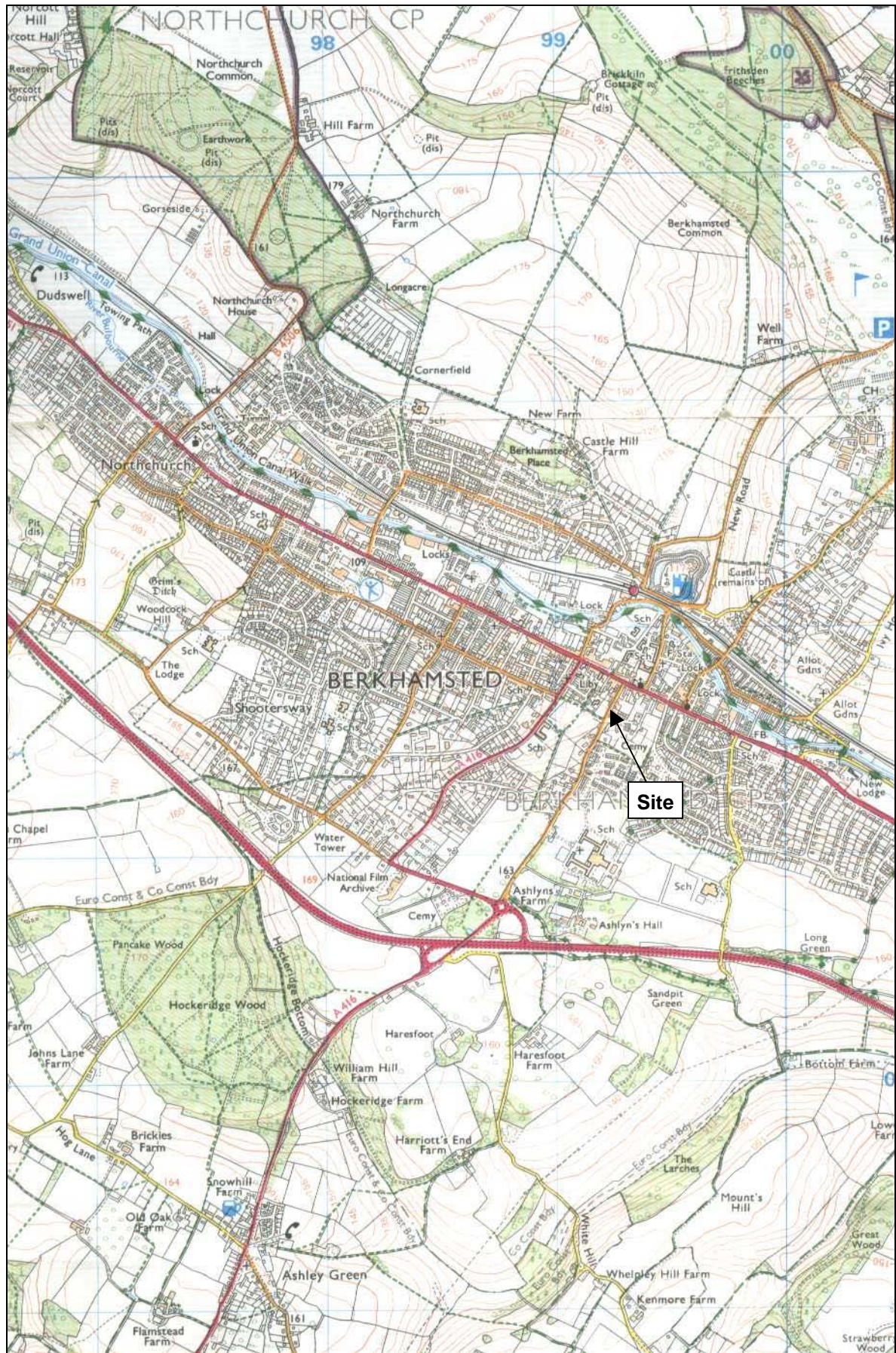


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In the spring of 2008 a watching brief was carried out at 2 Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, during the construction of an extension (13 x 5m) to the rear of the existing property. During the course of excavating the foundations three brick-built structures and six pits were exposed. The structures consisted of a privy, a drain and sunken building dating to the late 19th/early 20th century. Two of the pits contained medieval shards, two contained post-medieval material while the remaining two pits are undated. The results are consistent with the post-Conquest land use of the area.

1. Introduction

1.1 In late February/early March 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 2, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mr I. Cunningham and was carried out according to a brief (Batt 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit*, and a project design prepared by ASC. The relevant planning application reference is 4/01432/07/FHA.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

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 Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *Management*

The project was carried out under the overall direction of **Jonathan Hunn** BA PHD MIFA, an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects in England. Jonathan holds a first degree in Archaeology and History from the University College of North Wales (Bangor), and a PhD from the University of Southampton (Dept of Geography). Jonathan has held managerial posts with *English Heritage*, *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust*, *Oxford Archaeological Unit* and *Tempvs Reparatvm Ltd*, and has acted as archaeological consultant for *Hertfordshire County Council* and *English Heritage*.

1.5 *The Site*

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated on the east side of the town of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, at NGR SP 4992 2076 (Fig. 1). The site lies on the west side of Chesham Road, and bounded by the road on one side and by Cavalier Court to the north and west and Elvyne Hall to the east. Access to the site is from Chesham Road (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies within the valley of the river Bulbourne with the terrain sloping from approximately north to south (c.112m AOD). The unmodified soils of the area belong to the *Coombe Complex* (Avery 1964, 96) which is derived from '*Flinty and Chalky Head over chalk*'. The surface texture is '*flinty or pebbly clay loam or loam, locally clay*'. The drainage is classified as 'Free' and the subsoil is described as a '*brown, friable and flinty or pebbly, generally becoming stiffer and redder with depth, but locally passing to loose gravel*' (ibid).

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposal is for a replacement single storey rear extension (13m x 5m) and partial ground and first floor rear extension (Fig. 3). In addition, there will be some landscaping of the courtyard area, the construction of a new retaining wall adjacent to Elvyne Hall and ramp up from the rear garden.

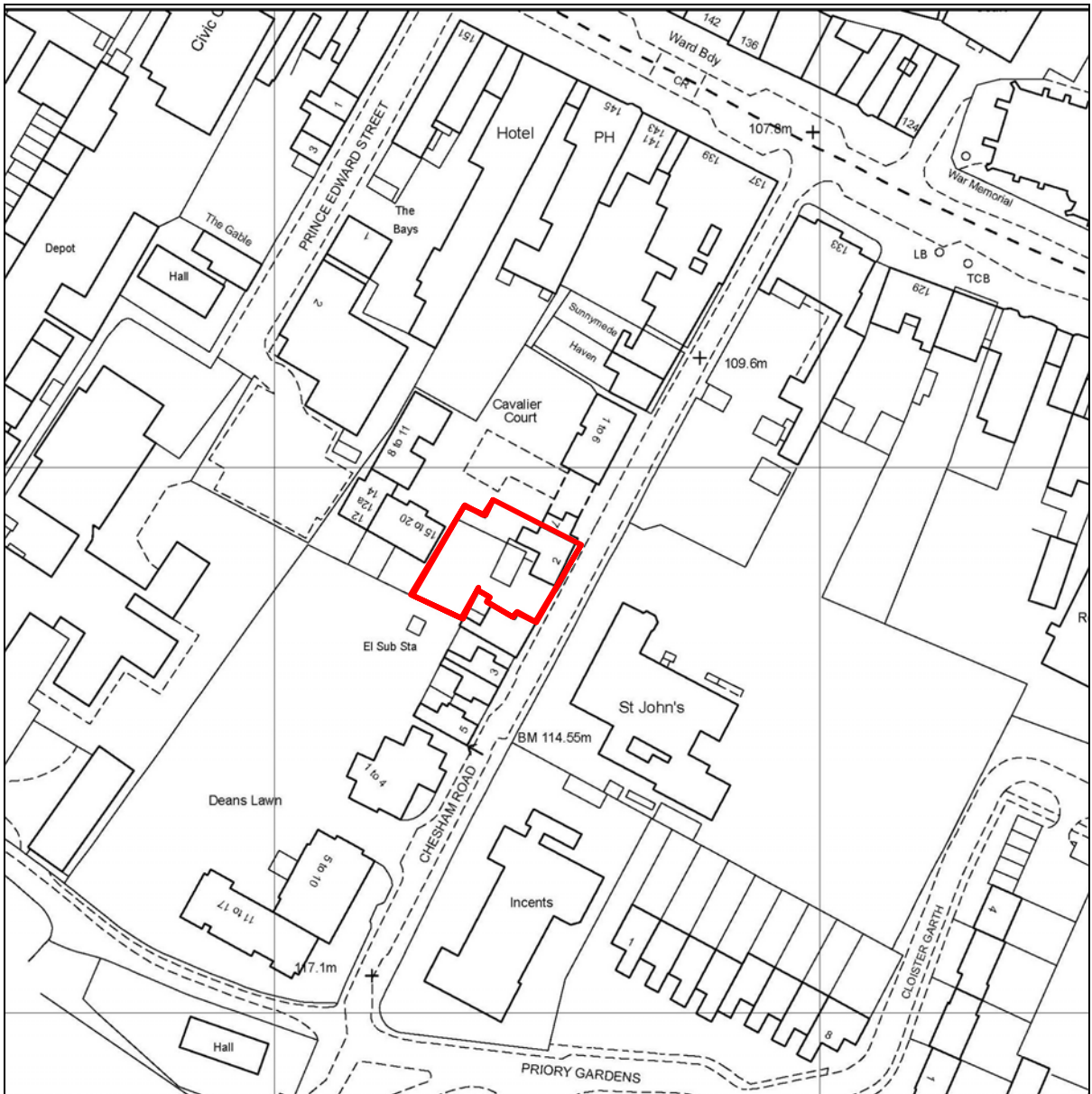


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

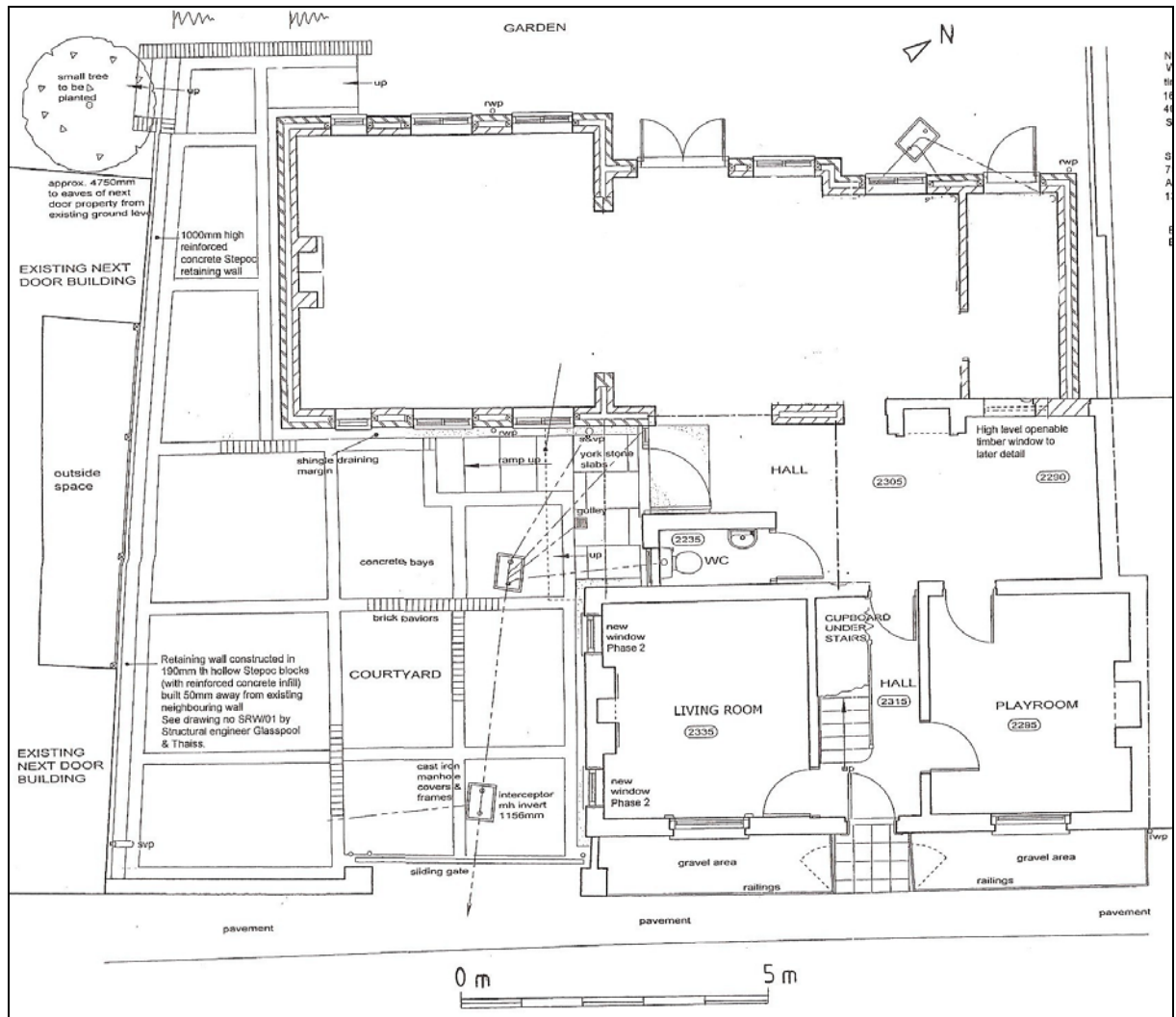


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale as indicated)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains
- 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.

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, which required:

- Soil and overburden stripping under archaeological supervision
- Inspection of sub-soil deposits for archaeological features
- The rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits
- Sub-soil stripping under archaeological supervision
- Examination of any service and foundation trenches and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits
- Rapid examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication

2.4 Constraints

There were no constraints in the implementation of current methods of archaeological monitoring and recording.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

SMR = Sites & Monuments Record

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.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Few prehistoric sites and artefacts are known from the Berkhamsted area and evidence for this period is limited to a small number of isolated finds. A late Bronze Age brooch has been found c.400m north of the site at Berkhamsted Castle (SMR 4251) and a neolithic axe head was recovered on the edge of the plateau c.1.1km to the north (SMR 4252). Further unprovenanced early prehistoric flint artefacts have been found west of Berkhamstead, at Meadway in Northchurch (SMR 6368) and to the north, at Berkhamsted Common (SMR 0229; 0230).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

A number of Iron Age (late prehistoric) artefacts have also been found in the area. Gold staters (coins) have been recorded west of the site at Ashlyns (SMR 4856) and Meadway (SMR 6070). A bronze coin of Addedomaros from Lower King's Road (SMR 6075) c.400m west of the site and a brooch from Berkhamsted Castle (SMR0178) c.400m north of the site. A variety of unprovenanced coins have also been recorded in the town centre. There is evidence for late Iron Age iron smelting at Dellfield (SMR 4904) c.1.6km north west of the site.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The Bulbourne valley was an area of considerable importance during the late Iron Age and Roman periods and a number of sites of these periods are known in the area (Branigan 1987, 135-6). There is evidence for dispersed occupation along the length of the upper Bulbourne valley (Morris and Wainwright 1995, 68-75).

A major Roman Road, now known as *Akeman Street* passed through the valley and linked *Verulamium* (St Albans) with *Corinium* (Cirencester). The road followed the approximate course of Berkhamsted High Street c.300m south of the site.

There is a degree of concordance between late Iron Age 'sites' and Roman sites and an important site of these periods was situated at Cow Roast c.4km northwest of the site (Zeepvat 1997).

The closest Roman occupation site to the development area was situated 1.2 km to the north (SMR 2716) while further sites have been recorded 1.1 km to the west (SMR 6421) and 1.3 km to the west (SMR 6437). A fourth possible site was found on Berkhamsted High Street (SMR 7369). There is evidence for industrial activity in the form of shaft furnaces at Dellfield c 1.5 km to the northwest of the site (SMR 4904) and a pottery kiln in Bridgewater road (SMR 6083). Another concentration of pottery has also been recorded further along Bridgewater Road (SMR 6071) and may indicate the presence of another kiln.

The remaining evidence for Roman activity in the area comprises random coin loss. For example, several Roman coins came from the castle (SMR 1336), a gold coin from Meadway (SMR 6070), one from Dellfield (SMR 6076), and one from Swingate Lane (SMR 6080).

Further afield there are Roman villas or buildings on the Springwood estate (SMR 1859; 182), Dudswell Rise (SMR 1334), Boswick Lane (SMR 4860). Another villa site was located on the plateau, on the golf course (SMR 1337), though technically in St Peter's parish. There has also been a recent discovery of industrial activity near the junction of New Road, Northchurch (SP 9734 0883).

3.5 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The town of Great Berkhamsted, to give its formal title, is known to have been in existence in the late Anglo-Saxon period and it is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle for the year 1066 (Garmonsway 1955, 200). Almost a century earlier the name appears in the Will of Aelgifu in his bequest of lands (Sawyer 1968, 415, no. 1484).

The location of the Anglo-Saxon settlement has never been precisely defined. The earliest physical evidence survives in the form architectural detail in the church of St Mary, 'North Berkhamsted', i.e. the 'North church' (SMR 4447; Smith 1973, 11). In addition, only Northchurch was a rectory manor and may have been a minster church (Doggett and Hunn 1985, 22). A quantity of early/middle Saxon pottery has been recorded 60m to the southwest of the site at Dean's Lawn and suggests that a settlement may have been established by the 7th and 8th centuries (Hunn 2000).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Berkhamsted is mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086) where it is recorded as *Berchhastede* (Morris 1976, 15.1). It was recorded as a *burhium* (borough) whose burgesses paid £4 from tolls and held half a hide of land. The number of burgesses was fifty two, although this has been questioned (Doggett and Hunn 1985, 22). However, if this was accurate then it would make the borough second only after Hertford with 146 burgesses but third after St Albans whose 46 burgesses paid £11.14s from tolls.

The Domesday survey mentions two mills (Morris, 1976, 15.1) and by the end of the 13th century the accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall mentions four mills: '*molendinii castri*' (Castle mill) worth 10/- per annum; '*molendinii de Synek*' (uncertain) worth 8/8 per annum; '*molendinii de Banck mulle*' (Bank mill) worth 6/- per annum. There is also mention of '*molendini du North*' (North mill) (Camden 1942). In a foot not in the same article it states that '*In 1272, when Earl Richard died, there were apparently, three water-mills in the manor of Berkhamsted (worth £4) and two water-mills in the borough (worth £6 13s 4d)*' referring to P.R.O Chan. Inq. p.m Hen III, file 42, no.13. In a survey of the manor in 1357 there is mention of two water mills called '*eastemulle* and '*Sischemulle*' and 1 other called '*northmulle*' (PRO SVC 11 271). By 1437/8 there are references to '*le Eastemill*', '*le castelmyll alias le Newemill*' and '*Bankmyll*'. There is also mention to '*le Northmil mede*' which suggests that there is a possibility that some mills may have been referred to by different names. In 1849 Lower Mill was an alternative name for Bank Mill and Upper Mill was probably an alternative name for Castle mill (HALS 56485).

The site is situated 500m south of Berkhamsted Castle, which was probably built in the late 11th century following the Norman Conquest (Remfry 1998). The castle is not mentioned directly in Domesday survey but there is a reference to a *'fossarius'* or ditcher, who was in effect an overseer or engineer responsible for the excavation of the defensive ditches and moats (Morris 1976, 15.1). At the time of the Domesday survey the castle belonged to William the Conqueror's half brother the Count of Mortain and became Crown property following the Count's abortive insurrection in the early 12th century. Thereafter, it developed from a simple motte and bailey castle into a substantial concentrically defended seat of royal authority. The castle has been associated with such national figures as Thomas a Beckett in the 12th century and Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century. The castle was, in effect, a royal palace in the 14th century and held such dignitaries as the King John of France prisoner. It was a favourite residence of the Black Prince who enjoyed hunting in the adjoining deer park. The castle remained a royal residence up until the end of the 15th century when the Countess Cecily died there in 1495.

The precise limits of the medieval borough have never been satisfactorily established. It is possible that the late Anglo-Saxon 'burgh' lay towards what is now called Northchurch. However, there is a mention of land called *'Oldeburgh'* in the vicinity of the old Post Office on the High Street, c.1 km west-north-west, which might also indicate an earlier settlement focus. According to the *Extensive Urban Survey Project* (Thompson & Bryant 2005) the assessment site lies close to the historic core of the medieval settlement. The core of the town was in existence by the 12th/13th century and was centered along the axis of Akeman Street (the old A41) to the west and east of St Peters Church and possibly to the north along Castle Street towards the castle. The town comprised the High Street, a market place (now occupied by development backing onto Back Lane), Castle Street, Water Lane and Mill Street, Raven's Lane and Chesham Road (formerly Elvenway). Other street names that have not been preserved (*Benethenstrete, Striche Lane, Bouestrete, Le Corour Strete and Froggemorlane*). Those ending in 'street' are almost certainly to be small 'alleyway' type features leading off the High Street towards the castle (Doggett & Hunn 1985, 32).

Whatever the precise origins of the town, on present evidence it seems that Berkhamsted developed in the 12th and 13th centuries as an undefended trading center on an important highway. This is similar to the development of such places as Baldock and Royston (Herts) and Amersham and Stony Stratford (Bucks). There is no evidence that the town was ever defended, at least in the formal sense of the word, however, it is possible that it was at least physically defined at some point in its history. There is a grant of land in c.1225 which mentions a *magnum fossatum*, or 'great ditch' (Jenkins 1950, 47, 334). This recalls a similar reference to the *'Tonman ditch'*, also known as the *'Monk's ditch'* (Hunn 1981, 2), which defined St Albans in the 13/14th century, and there is no reason to believe that Berkhamsted was not also similarly defined in the medieval period.

It is not known when the town's market was first established but the Domesday evidence suggests a pre-Conquest date (Doggett & Hunn 1985, 27-28). Topographical and documentary evidence indicates that the market lay to the west of the parish church. This area is now known as Middle Row, lying between the High Street to the south and Back Lane to the north. It is uncertain when Middle Row first became built up. This would have taken place over a long period, the market stalls becoming semi-

permanent and then being replaced by shops and tenements. In the late 13th century stalls are mentioned but by the mid-14th century only 'shops' are referred to (*ibid.*). Nevertheless, their stated dimensions are such that it is probable that the two terms were interchangeable in the medieval period. It seems that the name 'le Shopperowe' is a probable reference to what became known as Middle Row or Back Lane (*ibid.*)

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

The development of the town was driven by the needs of a growing population. While the basic infrastructure was retained there was growth away from the main thoroughfare of the town along the various side roads that developed during this period. In 1524, 129 taxpayers were recorded in the two parishes comprising Berkhamsted and Northchurch (NA: E.179 120/19). In 1563 there were 183 families recorded for the same area. In 1676 there were 831 adults over the age of 16 (Munby 1964). At the beginning of the 19th century there was a population of 522 families, made up of 2,425 individuals. By the middle of the 19th century the population had reached 4778, and by the end of the century in 1901 the figure stood at 8055 (Page 1914, 236).

The north side of the town was radically altered by the construction of the Grand Junction Canal in 1798 (Faulkner 1987, 6). The London to Birmingham Railway was constructed in 1836-7 (Cockman 1983, 9), cutting through the natural marshy area between the castle and the High Street. A railway station was built in 1875, replacing the first station just to the east of Castle Street (Hastie 1999, 32).

The second half of the 19th century saw a major increase in the growth of the town (Hastie 1999, 67-73). Gas was first used in Berkhamsted in 1849; the gas works were located in Water Lane. They were moved to Billet Lane in 1906 and closed in 1959 (*ibid.*). Piped water was introduced in 1864: the water was obtained from a borehole in the town and pumped to reservoirs on Kingshill and Green Lane. Mains drainage was laid in 1898, and a telephone company was established. A proposal for the provision of electricity in the same year was rejected and it was not until the 1920s that a supply was established (*ibid.*).

3.8 **Modern** (1900-present)

At the beginning of the century new dwellings were constructed along Shrublands Road, Cross Oak Road and Queens Road (Hastie 1999, 67-73). The First World War brought about a decline in population between 1911 and 1921. Council houses first appeared in the 1920s in Swing Gate Lane and Gossams End. Between the wars (1919-39) development began on extensions to Ashlyns Road, Greenway, George Street, Shrublands Road, West Road, Anglefield, Kingsdale and Crossways. Some three hundred council houses were built on the Durrants estate in the late 1940s and early 1950s (de Lisle 2007, 32-33). By 1960 the population had reached about 12,000, excluding Northchurch, and by the end of the century it stood at just under 20,000.

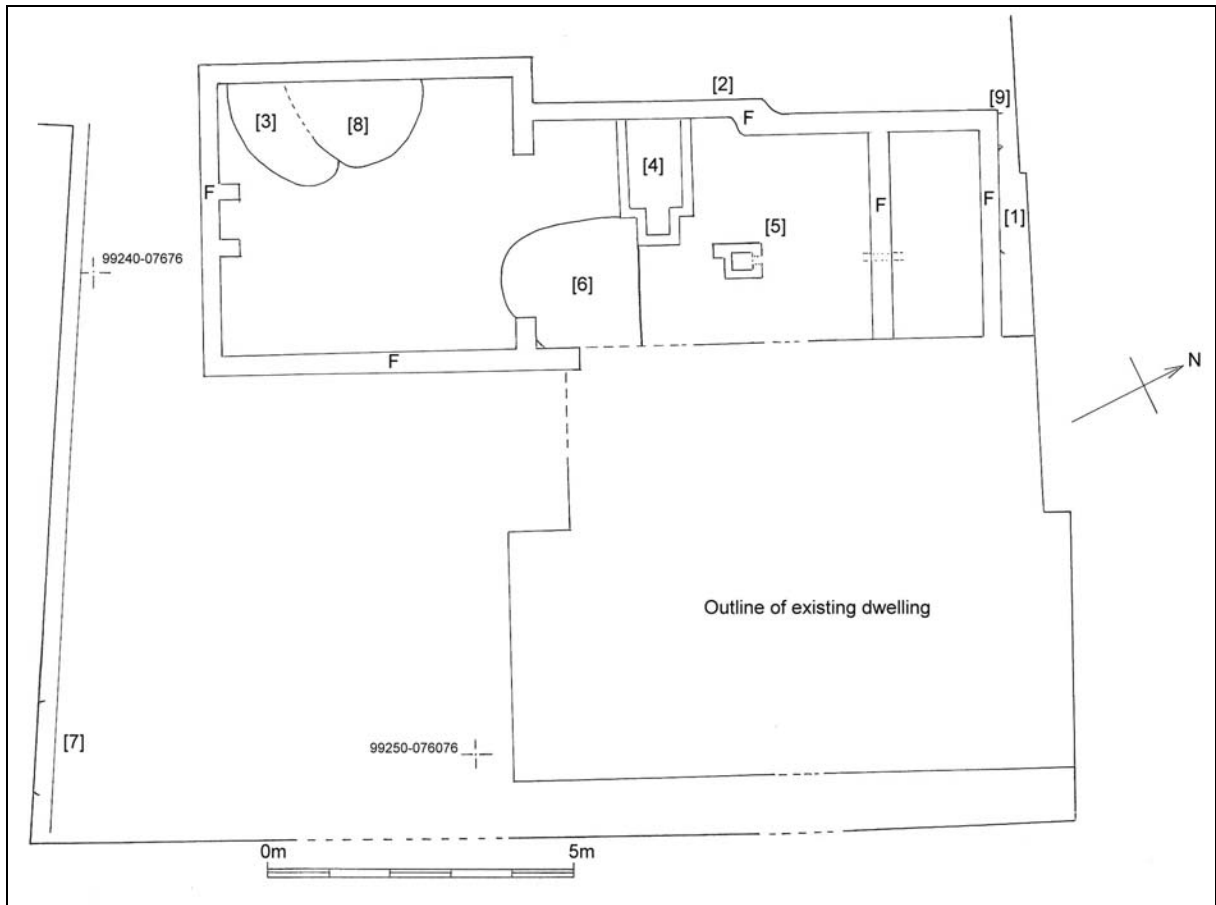


Figure 4: Location plan of archaeological features (F = foundation cuts)

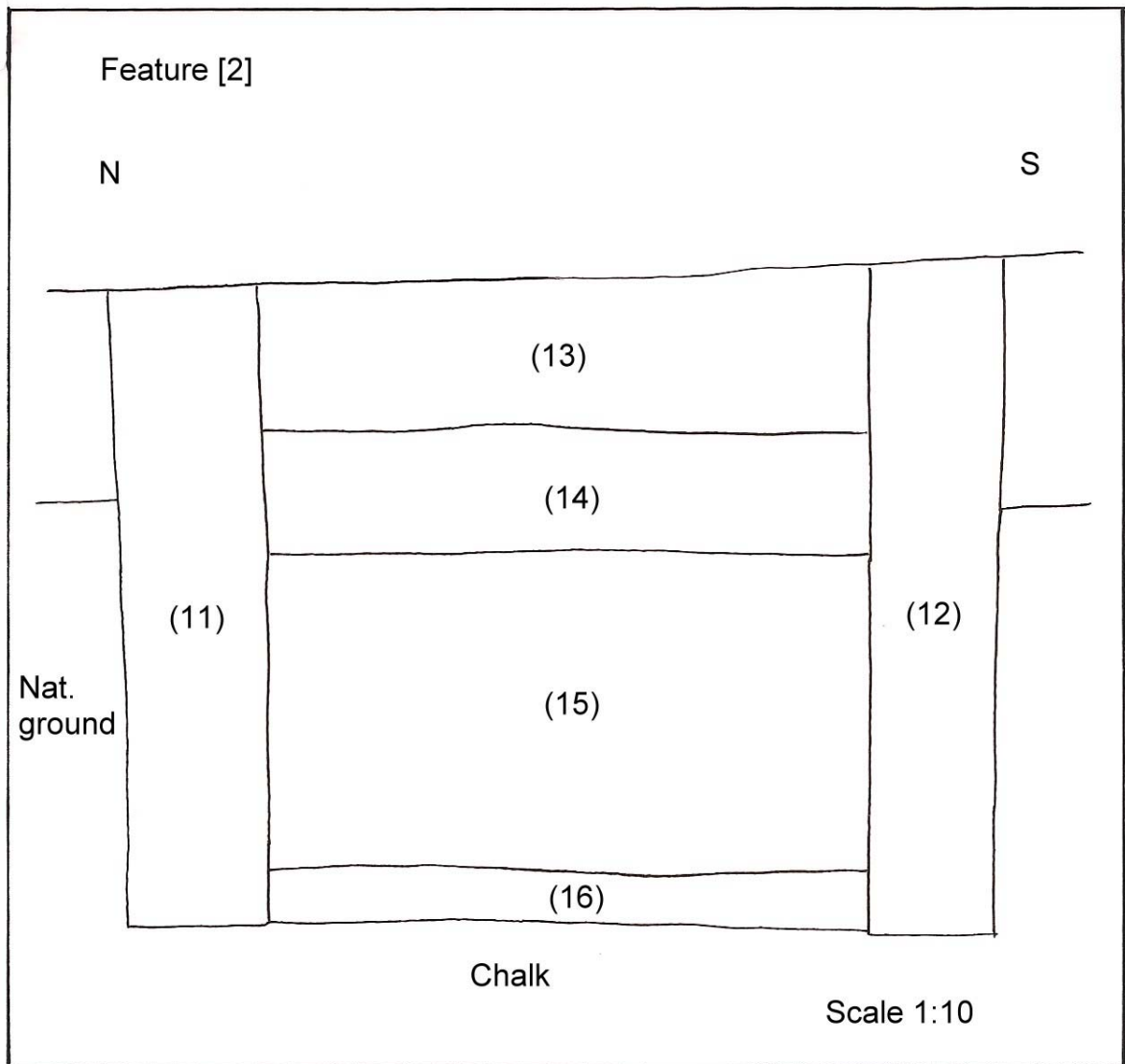


Figure 5: Section through Feature [2] the 'privy'

4. Results

4.1 During the course of the project five visits were made to the site (four half days and one full day). The following features were identified. These are described in numerical order, based on the monitoring sheets reproduced in Appendix 1.

4.2 *Feature 1*

This was observed in the northernmost foundation trench where it had just been exposed on its south facing side (Fig. 4; Plate 4; Appendix 1, sheet 3). This consisted of a pit 1.7m wide, which was just clipped by the footing so that its depth was not established. It was filled by dark greyish brown, mortary clay with occasional flecks of chalk and tile. The feature runs underneath the existing boundary wall and is not dated. Adjacent to this lay a small pit or post-hole F9 (see below).

4.3 *Feature 2*

On the western side of the main N-S foundation trench the footings of a brick built structure were identified (Fig. 4; Plates 3 and 7; Appendix 1, sheets 3 and 3a). The structure was defined by two walls (contexts 18-19), which were 220mm wide and 0.7m deep. Wall (18) butted onto the footings of the rear extension to the house, the one, which supported the timber building (see frontispiece). This wall was built of a variety of bricks amongst which were machine made 'frogged' bricks. These were dark reddish brown (225 x 110 x 65mm) bonded with lime mortar. The walls were mostly 220mm wide but in one part they were 0.310mm wide. The east-west wall (18) was of similar build and it together with wall (19) defined an internal space 2.9m wide. Both these walls were placed within what appeared to be a foundation cut which was filled by greyish brown clay with flints and occasional tile fragments (22). Above this layer was a deposit of very dark brown soil some 0.7m deep (21). This contained many complete domestic ceramic containers and bottles (Plate 15). This layer was cut by a modern intrusion (20), possibly the foundation of the modern paved patio, which consisted of a loose mortary mix.

4.4 *Feature 3*

This was a pit located in the southwestern corner of the new extension and had originally been considered a much larger feature. On closer examination this proved to be two pits (F.8). Pit [3] was about 1.2m in diameter and filled with a mix chalk and dark grey clay containing the occasional medieval shard (Fig. 4; Plates 8, 11-12; Appendix 1, sheets 4, 4a and 5a)

4.5 *Feature 4*

This was a rectangular brick built structure [F. 4] situated midway on the western side of the new extension (Fig. 4; Plates 6 and 9; Appendix 1, sheets 3a, 5, 5a). Its precise relationship to the original extension of no. 2 was not established with any certainty. However, the character of the bricks suggests that it may possibly have been contemporary. The feature had an overall measurement of 2.1 x 1.11 x 0.9m deep. Its internal measurement was 1.5 x 0.88m with an extension on its eastern side of 0.38m x 0.5m. It had 2 sloping bricks (each 220 x 110 x 65mm) and composed of a reddish brown fabric and clearly 'frogged'. The structure went down onto the natural chalk strata and it was contained four fills. The primary fill (16) was about 0.08m deep and

consisted of dark brown, granular silt containing animal bones and a mass of blue medicine bottles (Plates 13-14). Above this was a greyish brown mix of sand and ash some 0.5m thick and containing the occasional fragment of tile and slate. Above this was a reddish brown ashy layer some 0.22m thick (14). The uppermost layer(13) was a greyish-brown ashy layer containing occasional fragments of tile. The finds suggest a late 19th century date.

4.6 ***Feature 5***

This was an early drain associated with the present house (Fig. 4; Plate 5; Appendix 1, sheets 5 and 5a). It had an overall dimension of 0.6 x 0.67m with an internal silt trap that measured 0.34 x 0.44 x 0.17m deep (3 brick courses). The lip of the drainage pipe was only 0.08m above the floor of the silt trap. The pipe was 0.18m wide and drained to the north. Its floor was made of square yellowish bricks 0.16 x 0.16m.

4.7 ***Feature 6***

This looked like a large intrusion or pit of some sort. It was situated to the east of the brick privy and measured 2.3m E-W and 2.2m N-S (Fig. 4; Plate 11; Appendix 1, sheets 5 and 5a). It was filled with dark grey chalky deposit containing brick, tile and willow patterned pottery.

4.8 ***Feature 7***

This was situated on the southern boundary with Elvyne Hall and recorded by Alex Thompson (Fig. 4; Plates 1-2). It was 1.45m wide by 0.5m deep and cut down into the natural chalk. It was filled by reddish brown, flinty clay and seemingly devoid of any finds.

4.9 ***Feature 8***

This was a pit situated at the SW corner of the new extension and which may post-date pit [3] but this is by no means certain. It measured 1.7m in diameter and was filled by a mix of chalk and dark brown clay containing occasional medieval pottery and tile fragments (Fig. 4; Plates 8, 11-12; Appendix 1, sheets 4, 5 and 5a).

4.10 ***Feature 9***

This was a small pit or post-hole situated at the NW corner of the new extension (Fig. 4; Plate 4; Appendix 1, sheet 3). It was 0.3m deep and 0.5m wide, though possibly more. It was filled by a dark greyish brown soil with fragments of brick, tile and chalk.

4.11 ***Foundation Details***

Foundations of the existing house were no more than 0.5m deep with the lowest course of bricks set on edge (Plate 5). By contrast, the boundary wall of the property which post-dates no. 2 is 0.6m deep

4.12 ***Cable Trench***

An 11m length of electric cable trench was observed crossing the lawn to the south of an E-W bank (Appendix 1, sheet 2a). It was 0.25m wide and 0.6m deep. The upper 0.55m was a very dark grey, rich organic soil. Finds from this horizon consisted of mostly 19th and early 20th century shards of pottery.

4.13 ***Soakaway Pit***

This was approximately 1 x 1.7m and situated some 10.5m from the edge of the existing house to the east. It was apparently, 1.8m deep and on examination had medieval shards present below the topsoil. These were not associated with any obvious features. Medieval shards and iron slag came from this area (24).



Plate 1: Stratigraphy on the edge of the southern boundary with Elvyne Hall



Plate 2: Pit (F.7) on southern boundary



Plate 3: Southern wall (F.18) belonging to sunken building (F.2)



Plate 4: Northernmost foundation adjacent to boundary wall



Plate 5: Detail of foundation of existing house on west side



Plate 6: Section through 'privy' (F.4)



Plate 7: Detail of the fill within the sunken building (F.2)



Plate 8: Southern end of N-S foundation trench showing pit cuts in section (F.3 & F.8)



Plate 9: Detail of privy (F.4) in plan looking east



Plate 10: Detail of drain (F.5) in plan looking north



Plate 11: Cleaning up across top fills of pits (F.3 & F.8) looking north



Plate 12: Pits F3 & F8 looking east



Plate 13: Bottle collection from context 16



Plate 14: The types of bottle recovered



Plate 15: Domestic vessels from context 21 (F.2)



Plate 16: Medieval shards and tile fragments from Features 3 and 8 (context 23)

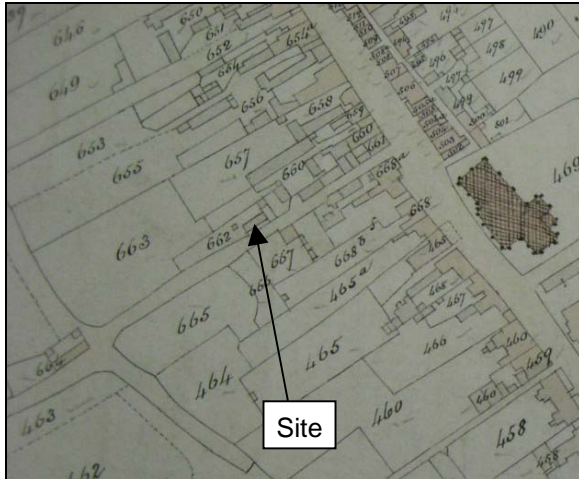


Figure 6: Extract from Tithe Apportionment map of 1839

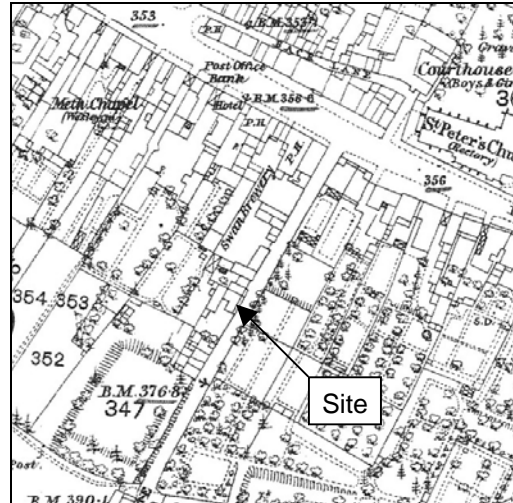


Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1877

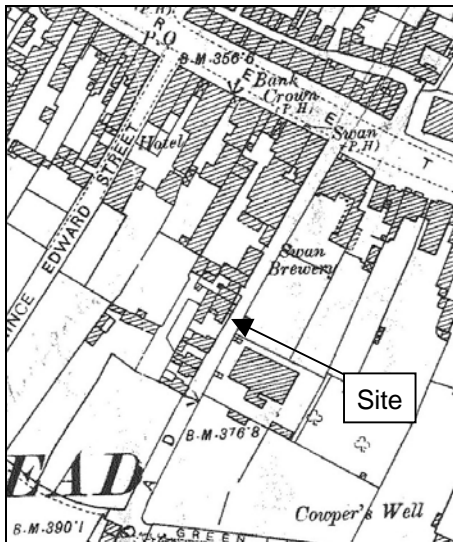


Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1898

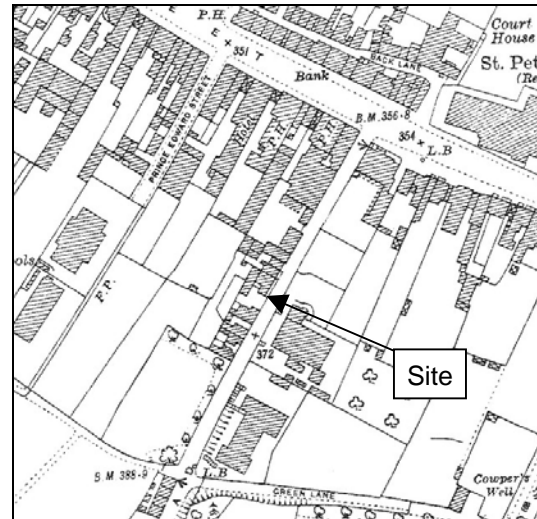


Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1925

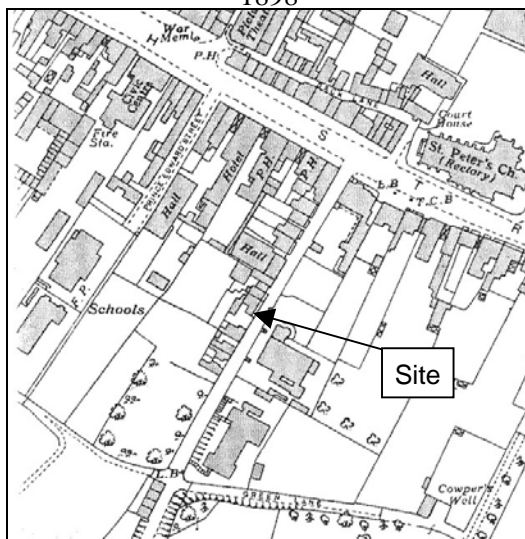


Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1938

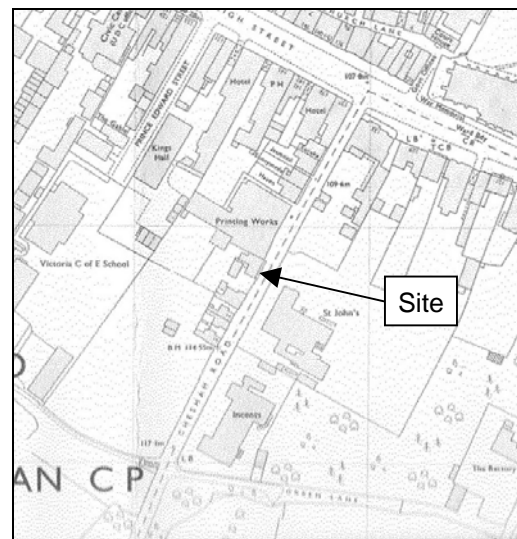


Figure 11: Extract from Ordnance Survey map of 1972

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The evidence for medieval settlement on the site is slight. However, the presence of activity in the form of pits suggests that occupation evidence exists in the vicinity, if not close by. Only two features, [F3 and F8], contained 13th/14th century pottery, though Pits [1] and [7] could be even earlier. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that the area observed was less than 65 square metres. There is other, as yet, unspecified pre-modern activity in the area as indicated by the medieval shards recovered from the soakaway pit to the west of the present house.
- 5.2 The post-medieval evidence looks fairly sparse until the 19th century. This is supported by the evidence of the Tithe Apportionment survey of 1839. At that date the present house did not exist (Fig. 7). The most likely pre-existing structure was in Tithe Apportionment no. 662. At the time of the 1851 census only two families are recorded as living in Grubbs Lane, the earlier name for Chesham Road (Goose 1996, 142). By 1877 the present house is shown (Fig. 8). It is also possible to identify that the ‘sunken building’ [F2] existed at that date. There is no sign of the ‘privy,’ which must have lain within the rectangular structure that abutted the rear of 2 Chesham Road. There is no evidence that the house ever had a well. This is not entirely surprising since the building post-dates the introduction of piped water to the town in 1864 (Hastie 1999, 67-73). The brick privy is more likely to be contemporary with the house, though its relationship to the adjoining ‘out house’ is not entirely clear. The excavation of the north-south foundation of new extension destroyed the physical relationship between these two elements. The physical character of the F4 (privy) suggests that the smaller brick extension on the east side may have been the location of the seat and possibly a chute of some sort. There is a problem with this interpretation since it was the usual practice to keep an ‘earth closet’ as free of liquid contaminants as possible. This practice greatly assisted the process of breaking down human waste through the promotion of bacteriological activity. The presence of ash rich deposits within the brick lined chamber suggests that these were used to mask the odours. However, there was no obvious evidence for the presence of human coprolites or excrement. The natural chalk at the base of the ‘privy’ was devoid of any obvious signs of staining. The structure seems too elaborate to be a mere ‘soakaway’ for household liquids and would have been superfluous if it was contemporary with the brick drain [F.5]. However, this is by no means certain as the drain could have post-dated the ‘privy’. Mains drainage only became available in 1898 (*ibid.*). Due to the destruction of its western side it is difficult know whether the ‘privy’ was intended to be emptied from time to time. How long it remained in use is difficult to say. The blue ‘poison’ bottles date to between 1875-95, though their deposition could, of course, be later. Given the urban context of the house it is reasonable to infer that the ‘privy’ was superseded by a water closet in the Edwardian period.
- 5.3 The plans of 2 Chesham Road appear to be remarkably consistent between 1878 and 1938 (Figs. 8-11). However, there appears to be a slight modification to the adjoining out-house at its northern end by 1938. By 1972 the western side of the house had been partly extended and the external rectangular range modified or rebuilt (Fig. 11). There is little doubt that there have been some changes to the boundaries of the property, particularly in the 20th century. This is not always easy to distinguish from the

cartographic sources. Even the modern Ordnance Survey mapping still shows the now vanished east-west boundary within the confines of the present property (Fig. 2).

- 5.4 Within the footprint of the existing house and its new extension few structures or floor surfaces are likely to survive. Those that will survive will be the pits that were identified [1, 3, 6-9] during the course of the development. The new landscaped area is also likely to truncate though not destroy earlier evidence for human activity in the form of pits etc. What can be stated with a reasonable degree of confidence is that the present development has added to our knowledge of the area rather than having destroyed it.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Ian Cunningham, the owner of the property. The writer is grateful to Alex Thompson for his assistance and to the on-site cooperation of the Rayments, the builders (Carl, Bob, Jason and Callum). The project was monitored by Kate Batt of the HEU on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Dr Andy Richmond for kindly identifying the glass bottles.

The project was managed for ASC by the author. Fieldwork was carried out by the author and Alex Thompson. The report was prepared by Jonathan R. Hunn and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

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. Finds
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 the Dacorum Heritage Trust

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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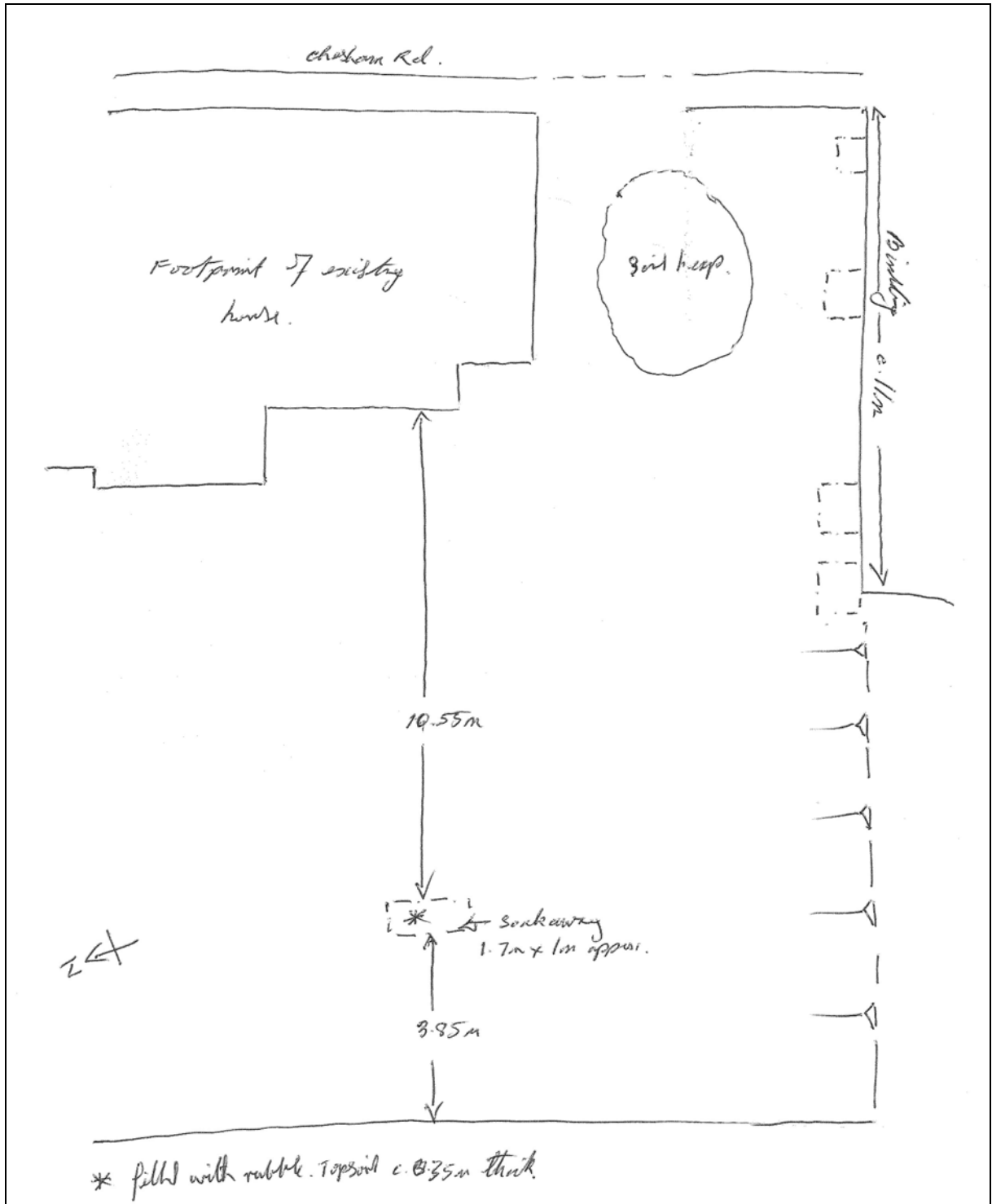
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Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 2, Chesham Road Berkhamsted		Project No/Code: 10361 BCR		Sheet: 1 of 5		
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 19/2/08				
Contact: Carl @/o South E.W Rayments		Phone: 01462-864422				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1.15	Finish:				
Completed by: JRA						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry, Sunny & cold.						
Observations: Observed the E-W Section on the South Side of the Site. The area of the former wooden building has been demolished. The ground is not clear enough to judge whether there is anything present. The Section adjacent to Chesham Road is c. 1.2 m deep and composed of 0.5m top soil over a yellowish-brown subsoil 0.25m thick which is over a chalky loam clay - 0.35m +. This area immediately to the north for 2m or so is all a chalky nature. The adjacent foundations are v. shallow and rest directly on the chalk. No signs of anything pre-dating the 19 th .						
Comments: Borehole not obtained but about 1.8m deep into chalk.						

For sketch plan, use reverse

©ASC, 2003

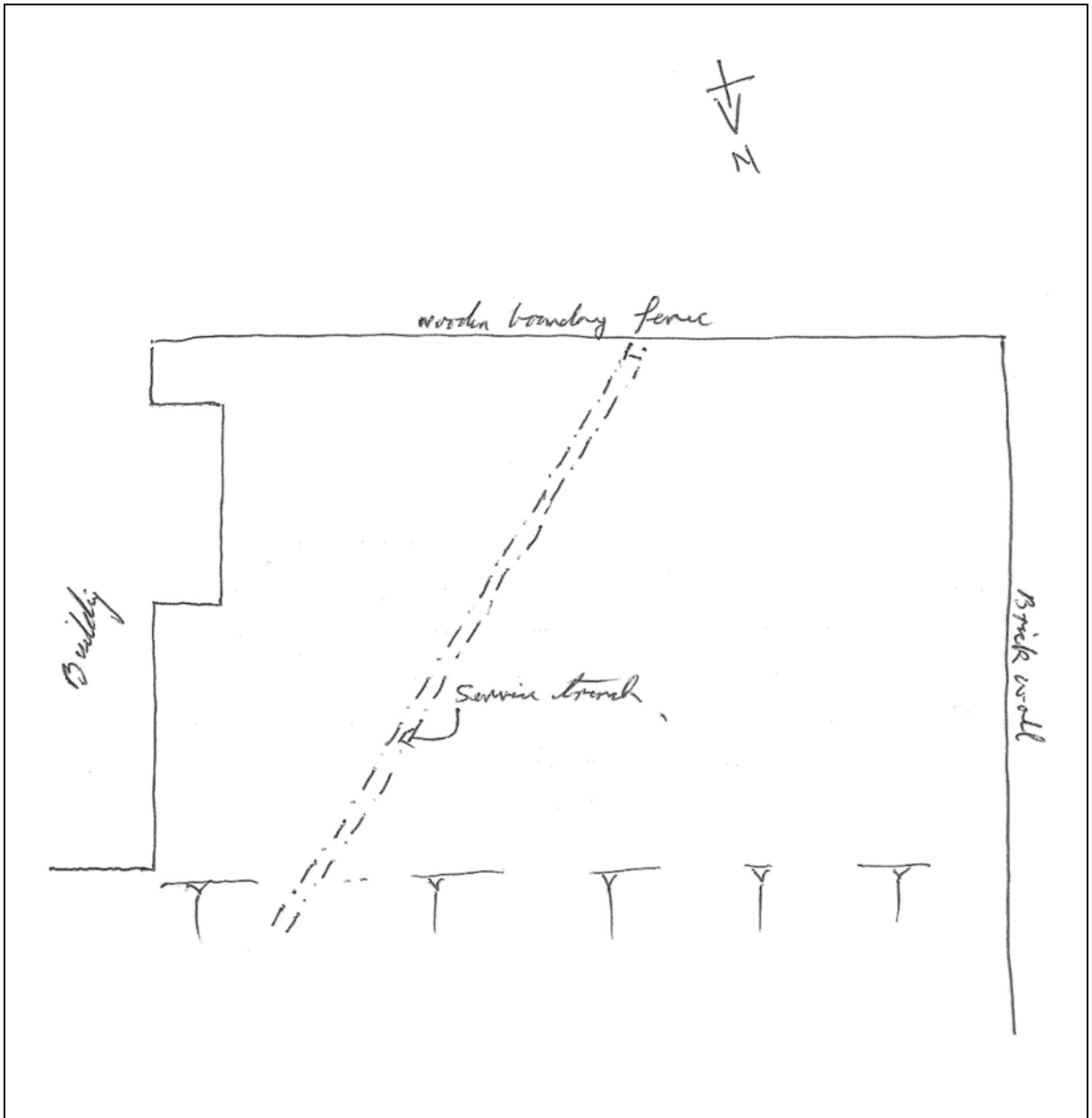




A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 2, Chesham Rd Berkhamsted		Project No/Code: 10361BCR	Sheet: 2 of 5
Client/Developer Mr I. Cunningham		Date of visit: 22/2/08	
Contact: Carl South c/o		Phone: 01442-864422	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 2.30 am	Finish:	
Completed by: JRH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
		Quarrying	Pipelines
		Other (specify):	
Site & weather conditions: Dull and cold.			
Observations: Observed a 11m length of service trench (0.25m wide by about 0.6m deep). The upper 0.55m was a v. dark grey crumbly loam containing mostly C19 & early C20 shards of pottery. This deep top-soil probably an indication of garden soil enhancement over several generations. Surprisingly clear of anything pre-dating the C19 - certainly no worked flint present.			
Comments:			



A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 2, Chesham Rd Berkhamsted		Project No/Code: 1036 1 BCR		Sheet: 3 of 5		
Client/Developer Iain Cunningham		Date of visit: 28/2/08				
Contact: Carl South		Phone: 01442-864422				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel): Start: 8.55		Finish:				
Completed by: JRH						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dull, overcast & dry.						
Observations: Observed the footings on the north side, immediately adjacent to the boundary wall of Cavalier court. This foundation was 3.8m long x 0.75m wide x c.1m deep. The foundation of the house were no more than 0.5m deep and that of the boundary wall 0.6m deep. The bricks at the base are on edge (100mm wide x 50mm thick). The pit on the boundary was 1.4m from the rear wall of no. 2. It was 1.7m wide max and just clipped the footing so that its depth was not established. It was filled by a dark greyish brown mortaring clay (Mca 10 yr 1/2) with one flake of chalk & tile. At the western end of the foundation was another pit or post-hole 0.3m deep beneath wall footing x 0.5m wide (possibly more). Filled by a dark greyish brown soil with fragments of bricks, tile & chalk - no fossils. The footings of the old rear 'extension' was built of a variety of bricks amongst which were frogged bricks.						
Comments: mud bricks - dark reddish brown (225mm x 110 x 65 mm) finished with lime mortar. The walls were roughly 220mm wide but one part was 310mm wide. A wall projected from the N-S wall which was of similar build (butted on to it). On the South side there was alot of dark soil with fragments of 19 bottles & ceramics - priory?						

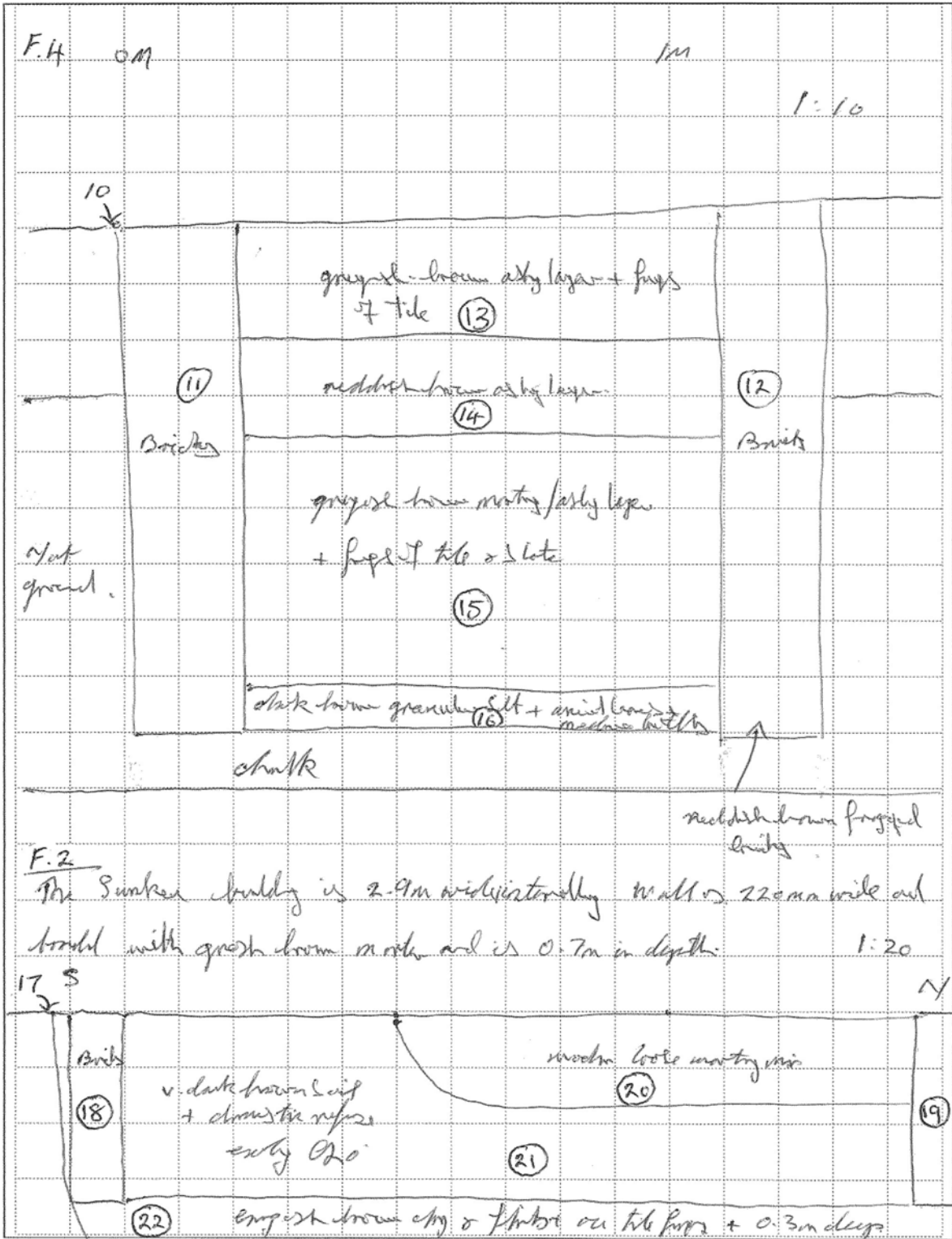
For sketch plan, use reverse

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SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: 2, Chesham Rd	Site Code: 1036/BCR	Orientation: N ←
Context: Footings 2 and 4		



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: JPH	Date: 28/2/08	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: 3a of
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A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: 2, Chesham Rd, Berkhamsted		Project No/Code: 1036 1 BCR	Sheet: 4 of 5
		Date of visit: 3/3/08	
Client/Developer Ian Cunningham			
Contact: Carl Smith		Phone: 01442-864422	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 11.00am	Finish:	
Completed by: JRH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry and Sunny			
Observations: Observed all the first footings on South side of the new build. The ground slopes up from the N to S from c. 1.5 to c. 1.7m - the trenches are 0.75m wide and cut down onto the natural chalk except on the west side where a large pit cuts down. The section on the east side of the western N-S foundation is quite hard to discern. on the W side the pit is cut from quite high up. It was c. 3.8m wide and 1.5m+ deep. The fill consisted a dark brown and orange brown clay containing one flint and chalk. Some grey tile roted and oyster shell. No other finds. Shallow 220mm brick footing (2 courses) observed 0.8m from South end of corner (inner) of foundation			
Comments: Ground reduction may indicate the nature of the large pit-like feature. On closer inspection much clay was seen. NB clay rot shows on the eastern N-S section of new build.			

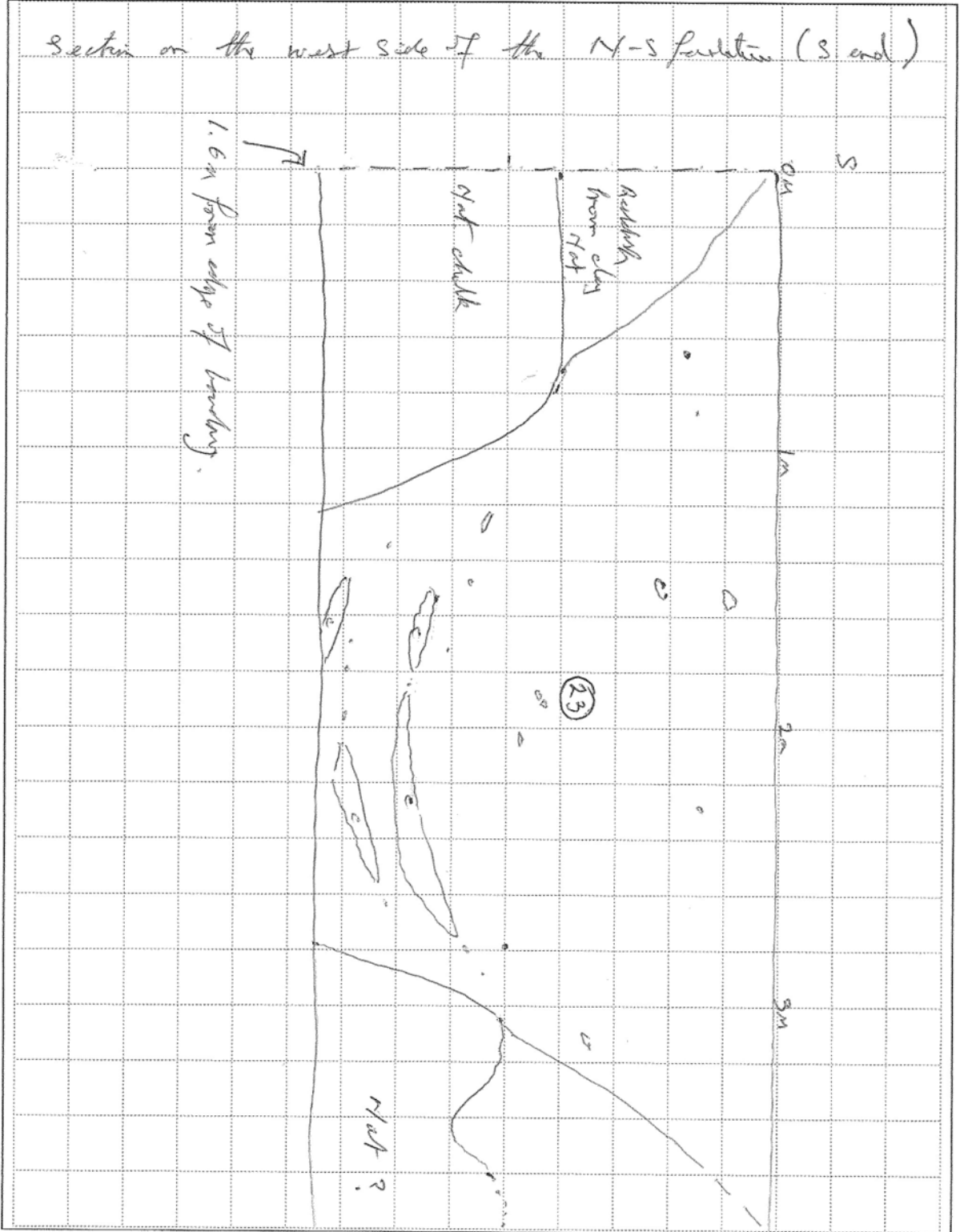
For sketch plan, use reverse

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SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: 2, Chesham Rd.	Site Code: 1036/BCR	Orientation: ↓ N
Context: Long pit? F. 3 & 8 1:100		



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: JRA	Date: 3/3/08	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: 4a of
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A.S.C. LTD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: No.2 Chesham Rd Berkhamsted		Project No/Code: 1036 1 BCR	Sheet: 5 of 5
Client/Developer Ian Cunningham		Date of visit: 4/3/08	
Contact: East South		Phone: 01442 - 864422	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1.20	Finish: 3pm.	
Completed by: JRH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry and Sunny.			
Observations: <p>Observed the ground reduction within the building by about 0.6m or so. This revealed the extent of the 'paving' a brick lined soakaway, a large pit [6] and the extent of pit [3]. Feature [4] was a brick-lined 'paving' with an over- (measured) of 2.10 x 1.11 x 1.80m deep. Its internal measurements are 1.5 x 0.88m with an extension on its eastern side 0.35 x 0.5m. It had 2 sloping bricks (220 x 110 x 65 mm) of reddish brown fabric & frogged. [5] was 0.6 x 0.67m with an internal silt trap 0.34 x 0.44m and 0.17m deep (3 covered) the lip of the clay pipe was only 0.08m above brick base. The pipe was 0.18m wide and drained to the north. The floor was made of square yellowish bricks 0.16 x 0.16m. [6] Pit 2.3m E-W x 2.2m N-S filled by a dark grey chalky deposit cont one brick, tile and without further pottery. [3] Pit c. 1.2m dia and filled with a mix of chalk and dark brown clay cont one medieval pottery (hand cleaned but not excavated). [8] Pit c. 1.7m dia</p>			
Comments: filled with a similar fill to [3] but v. little chalk cont one med pot + tile frag.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

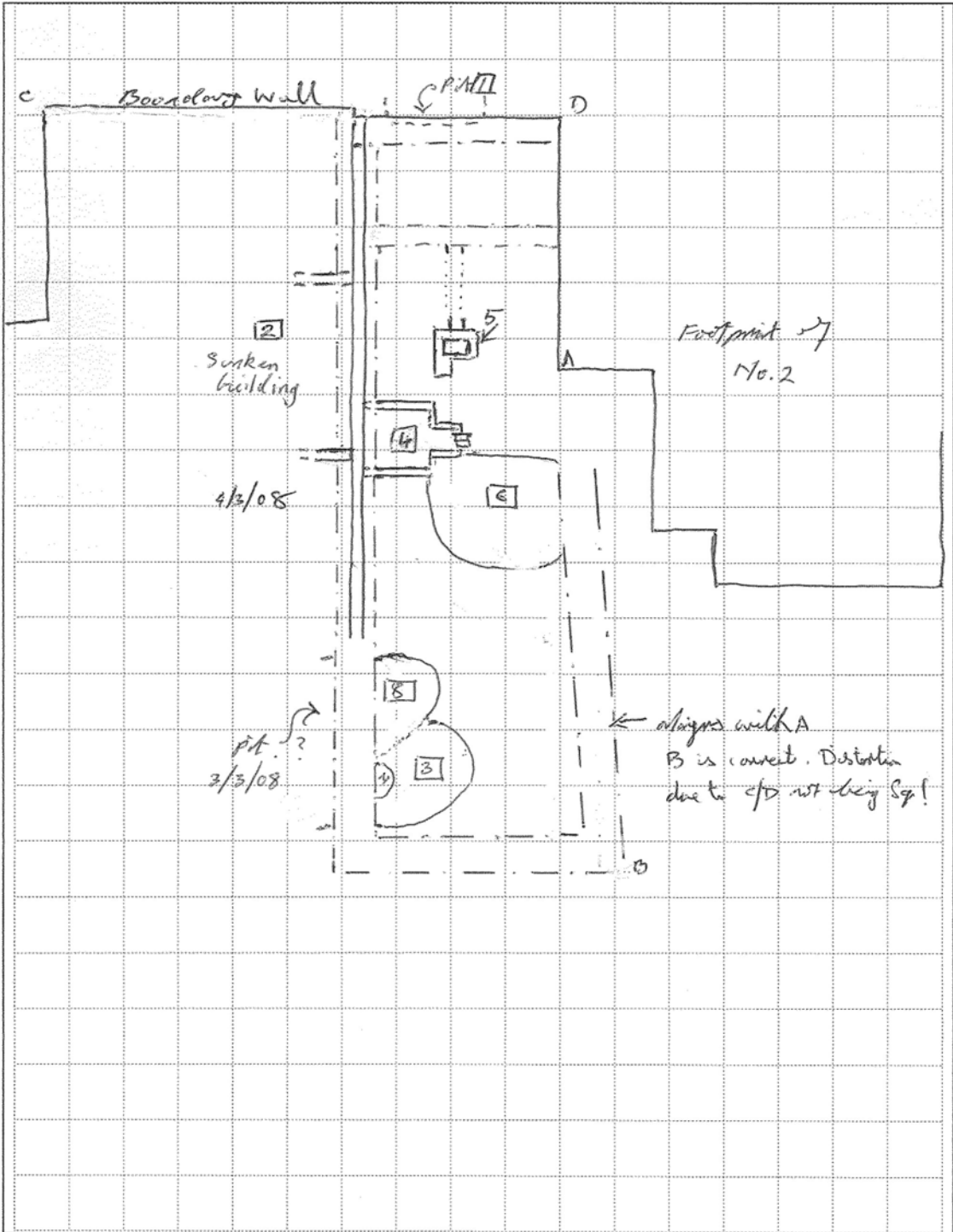
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A.S.C. LTD

SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: <i>No. 2 Chesham Rd</i>	Site Code: <i>1036 / BCR</i>	Orientation:
Context: <i>basement Site Sketch</i>	<i>1:100</i>	



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: <i>JRA</i>	Date: <i>28/2/08</i>	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: <i>5a</i>
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- 4/3/08

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 2, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted			SITE NO/CODE: 1036/BCR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	yes	3879	View of wooden buildings prior to demolition in January 2008.
2		4140	Ground works underway 19/2/08
3		4141	View east of southern boundary adjacent to Elveyne Hall
4		4142	Detail of the above
5	yes	4143	Stratigraphy of the southern boundary
6		4144	Working shot
7		4145	ditto
8	yes	4156	Electric service trench looking south 22/2/08
9		4158	Detail of the above
10		4159	Working view looking east
11		4173	Northern end of the site – foundation under excavation 28/2/08
12	yes	4174	Detail of E-W brick wall
13		4175	Detail of bonding of the above
14		4178	Stratigraphy of E-W wall adjacent to Elveyne Hall
15		4177	Northern-most foundation adjacent to boundary wall
16		4179	View of foundations at northern end of the site
17		4180	Detail of foundations of existing house
18		4181	Detail of ground beneath boundary wall looking north
19		4182	General view of 2 nd E-W foundation from the north
20		4183	Working view of main N-S foundation looking south
21		4184	Location of Feature 4 or 'privy' looking east
22	yes	4185	Detail of section through privy looking east
23		4186	Western side of N-S foundation trench with Feature 2 in section
24	yes	4187	Detail of 'sunken building' Feature 2
25		4188	Detail of fills in Feature 2.
26	yes	4203	Southern end of N-S foundation trench showing pit cuts (F.3 & 8) in section
27		4204	Oblique view of ditto
28		4205	Detail of west side of pit cut area (F.3 & 8)
29		4206	SE oblique view of western side of ditto
30		4207	Oblique view looking north of west side of pit cut area
31		4208	SW corner of trench foundation
32		4209	Southern end of foundation trench looking northwards
33		4210	Detail of southern end of foundation beside boundary
34		4211	General view of eastern N-S foundation trench
35		4212	Detail of ditto (E face)
36	yes	4243	Overall view of reduced level looking north 4/3/08
37		4244	View of F.4 and F.5 looking east
38		4245	Detail of F.4 in plan looking east
39		4246	Detail of F.5 in plan looking north
40		4247	Vertical view of feature 5 (drain)
41		4248	Alex cleaning top fills of pits (F.3 and F.8) looking north
42		4249	Features 3 & 8 looking west
43		4249	Features 3 & 8 looking east

Appendix 3: Finds Report

Only four contexts contained artefacts worthy of note (16,21,23 and 24):

Context 16

Finds from context 16 were derived from the primary fill F.4 (the privy) (Plates 13-14), and comprised over a hundred small blue octagonal bottles ranging in size from 71mm x 19mm to 102mm x 26mm. There was also a round-bodied variety but these were much less common (Plate 14). Dr A. Richmond commented as follows:

The bottles are indeed poison – or perhaps medicine bottles dated to 1875-1895. They are certainly not earlier than 1860, prior to which they will have been free-blown and not mould blown. These have nice ‘applied’ lips – i.e. added after the body of the bottle was made. The body sections were formed in two-piece moulds. Applied lips were superseded with machine-moulded lips in about 1890.

Poison bottles used angular shapes to warn poorly sighted people of the dangerous contents. They also favoured use of blue, and to a lesser extent, green glass.

Context 21

A variety of bottles and jars made of stoneware and glass were recovered from the fill of F2 (the sunken building). These mostly post-date 1890 and probably belong to the Edwardian period (Plate 15).

Context 23

Finds were derived from the cleaning surfaces of Pits 3 and 8. This consisted of two fragments of clay peg tile (Plate 16) and 8 body shards of Hertfordshire Grey ware (13th/14th centuries) weighing 50g.

Context 24

Finds were derived from the area of the soakaway, from the subsoil beneath it. They consisted of one piece of iron slag (54g) and four shards of Hertfordshire Grey Ware. One was a fragment of base and one was a rim fragment (14th/14th century).

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	2, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted		
Short Description:	<i>In the spring of 2008 a watching brief was carried out at 2 Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, during the construction of an extension (13 x 5m) to the rear of the existing property. During the course of excavating the foundations three brick-built structures and six pits were exposed. The structures consisted of a privy, a drain and sunken building dating to the late 19th/early 20th century. Two of the pits contained medieval shards, two contained post-medieval material while the remaining two pits are undated. The results are consistent with the post-Conquest land use of the area.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	none	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none
Current land use:	residential	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	no
Monument type:	Pits, domestic brick features	Monument period:	Medieval, late 19 th / early 20 th C.
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pottery, poison bottles, stoneware vessels		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	
District:	Dacorum	Parish:	St Peters
Site address: (with postcode if known)	2 Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3AA		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	65m	Height OD: (metres)	c. 112m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Kate Batt, HCC	Project design originator:	C. Barclay, ASC
Project Manager:	Dr J. Hunn, ASC	Director/Supervisor:	Dr J. Hunn, ASC
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr I. Cunningham		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	19/2/08	End date:	4/3/08
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	Pottery, glass, bone, slag, tile fragments	
Paper:	yes		
Digital:	yes		
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 2 Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Report series, ref. 1036/BCR/2		
Author(s):	Jonathan Hunn BE PhD MIFA		