

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
101 HEMP LANE
WIGGINTON
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9402 1023

on behalf of Mr & Mrs Storey



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

May 2008

ASC: 1071/WHL/2

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	WHL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1071
<i>OASIS ref:</i>		<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Wigginton		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Wigginton		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9402 1023		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.19m x c.6m		
<i>Present use:</i>	House and garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Two-storey side extension		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	4/1882/07		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Dacorum District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	12 th & 14 th May 2008		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Shapland and Shapland 62 Greenway Chesham Buckinghamshire HP5 2BX		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr & Mrs Storey 101 Hemp Lane Wigginton Hertfordshire HP23 6HE		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Nigel Shapland		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	28 th May 2008
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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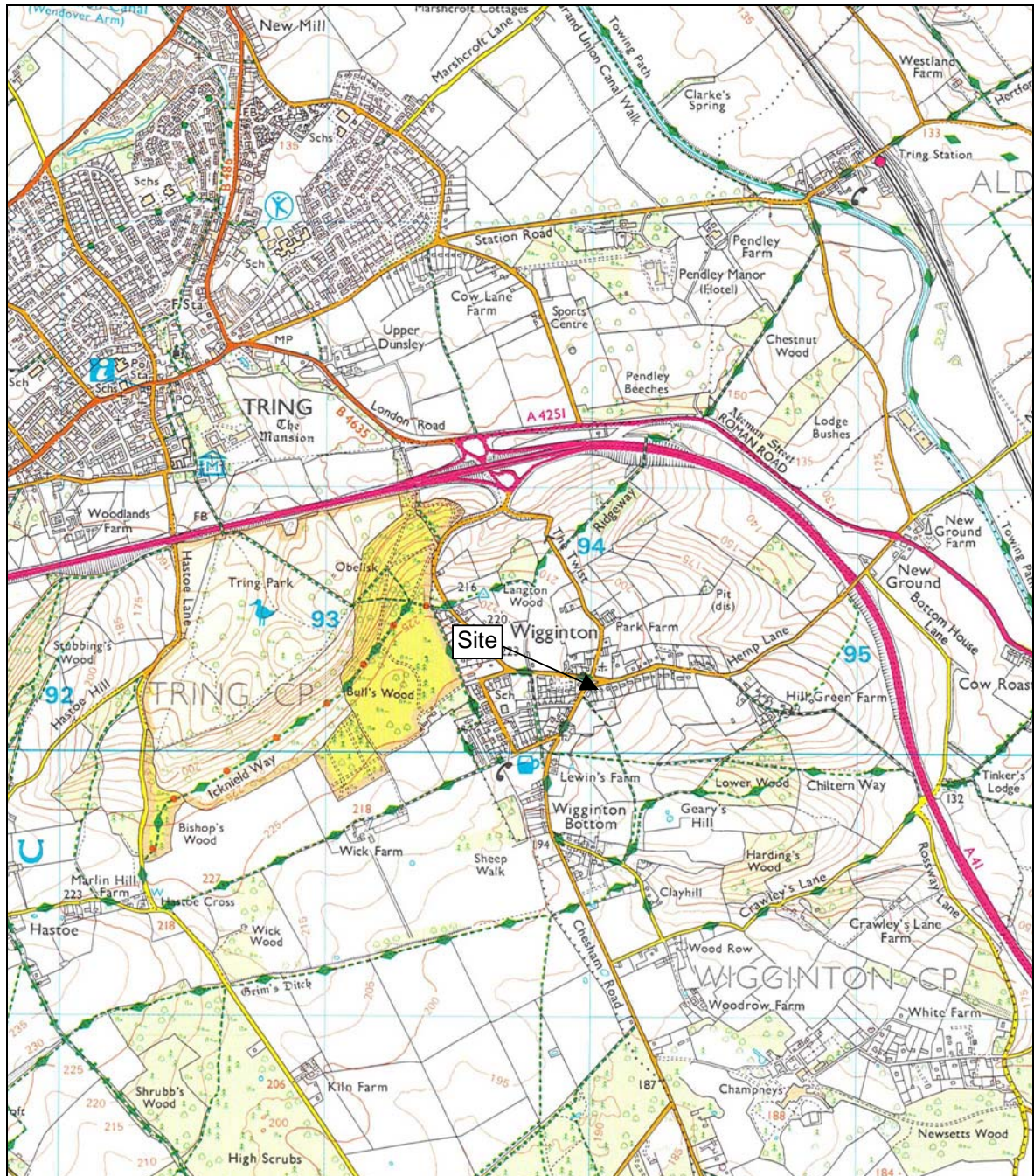


Figure 1: General location (*scale 1:25,000*)

Summary

During May 2008, ASC carried out an archaeological watching brief at 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire, during the construction of a side extension to the property. No archaeological finds or features were observed within either the footing trenches or the drainage runs. This does not rule out the existence of individual, isolated features, away from the development, but it is unlikely that the development will have any impact on the preservation of any such features.

1. Introduction

1.1 In May 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Mr and Mrs Storey*, and was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), by the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*, acting on the advice of their archaeological advisor (AA), *the Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2008). The relevant planning application reference is 4/2104/07.

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 assessment was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA AIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

1.5 *The Site*

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in Wigginton, in the administrative district of Dacorum, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It comprises a rectangular shaped plot of land in the centre of the village, on the south side of Hemp Lane and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 9402 1023 (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the Batcombe Association, which consist of *Fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal water logging. Variably flinty*" (Soil Survey

1983, 582a). This overlies a geological base of clay with flints (BGS, Sheet 238). The site is flat and lies at a height of c.208m OD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the construction of a two storey side extension (Fig. 3).

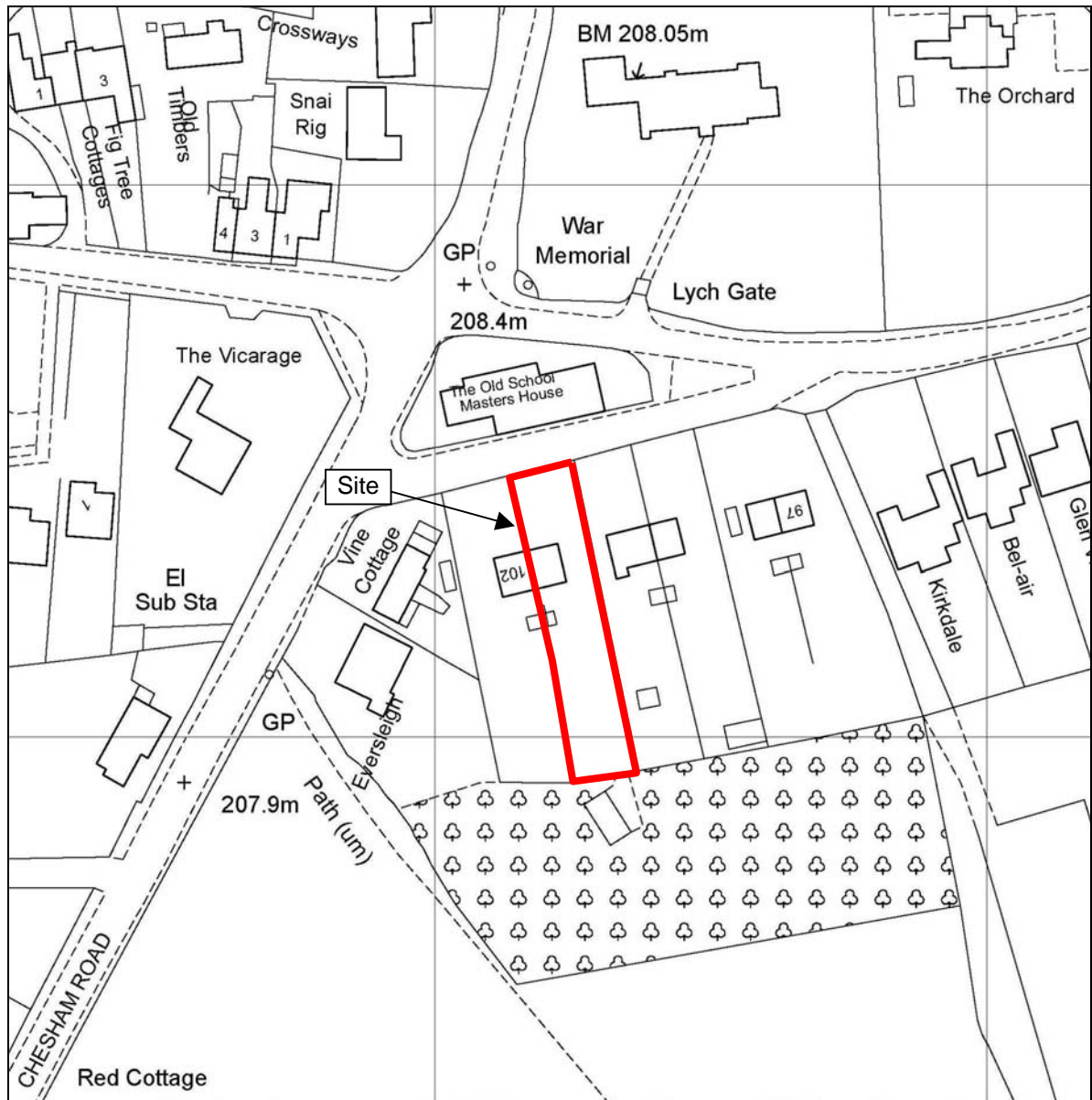


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

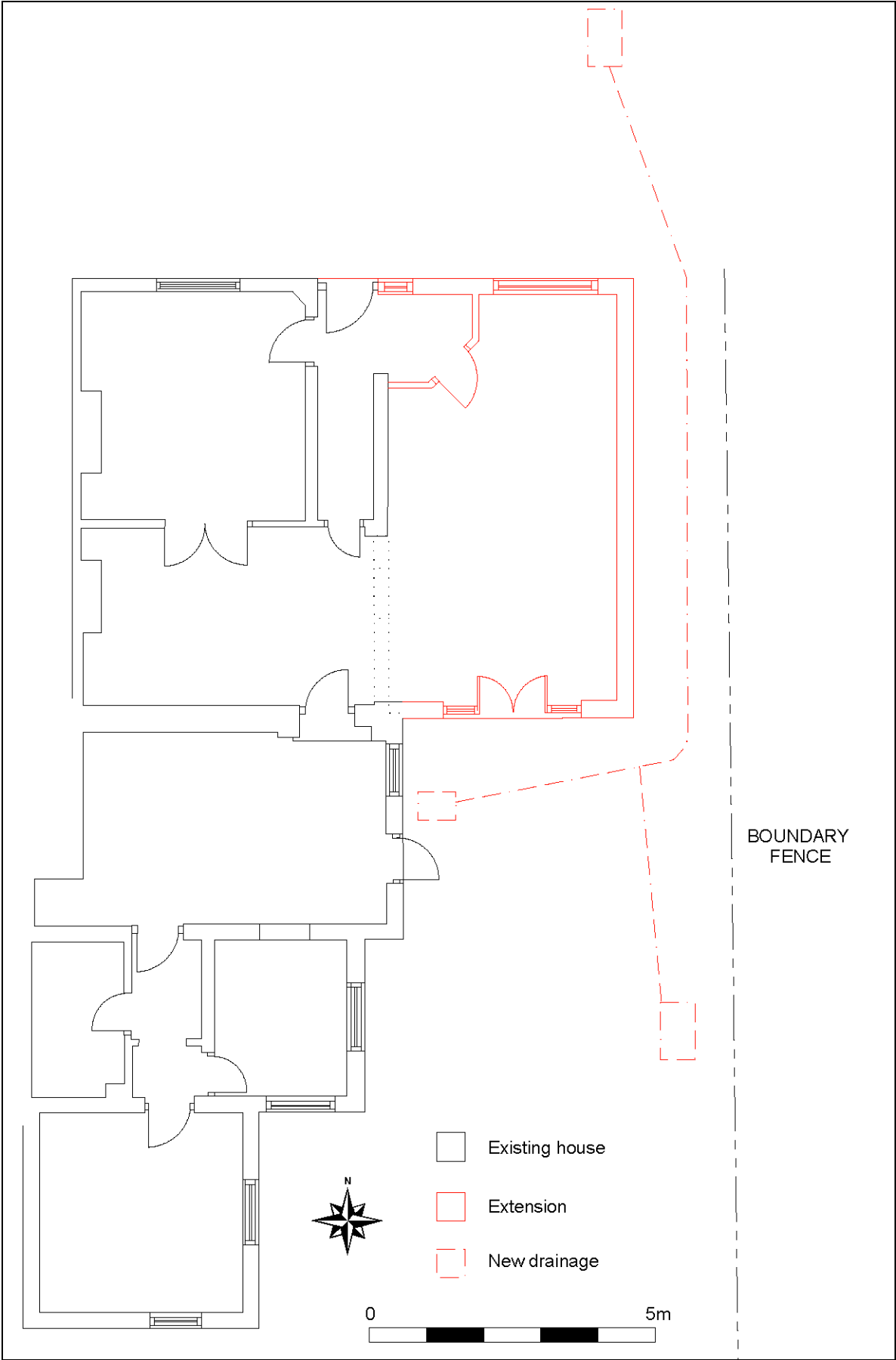


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of the project 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 methods to be adopted for this project were:

- Soil and over-burden 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
- Examination for spoil heaps for any archaeological material
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving, and publication

2.4 Constraints

The excavation of a small area, c.1m x c.1m, in the northeastern corner of the footing trench was not observed, due to time constraints.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 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.

This section has been compiled with information from readily available sources.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC)

Little is known of early prehistoric settlement in the area. Environmental evidence suggests that the Chilterns themselves were largely covered with deciduous woodland in the sixth to fourth millennia BC (Holgate 1995, 3). Early prehistoric activity may have been limited to the river valleys. Excavations in advance of the A41 Berkhamsted bypass revealed activity from the Neolithic period onwards at Bottom House Lane (McDonald 1995, 121). The boundary earthwork known as Grims Ditch, dated to the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age, lies to the south of Wigginton. Tring lies on the route of the *Ickniel Way*, generally recognised as a trackway of prehistoric date, following the Chiltern scarp.

3.3 ***Iron Age*** (600BC-AD43)

Little is known of Iron Age activity in Wigginton. Iron production sites and furnaces for smelting iron ore have been found at Tring. Late Iron Age coins and a probable gold torc, also of late Iron Age date, have also been found in the Tring area. Early Iron Age pottery has also been found to the east of Brook Street, Tring, in association with a late Roman coin.

3.4 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period, the area fell within the *civitas* (tribal territory) of the *Catuvellauni*, with its administrative centre at *Verulamium* (St Albans). The Roman road from St Albans to Alchester (Oxon), now known as *Akeman Street* (now the A4251) runs c.2km to the east of the site. The nearest major Roman settlement to the site was at Cow Roast, 3km to the south-east. Little is known of the settlement, though it was evidently associated with the metal-working industry (Zeepvat 1997).

3.5 ***Saxon*** (c.450-1066)

There is no Saxon activity in Wigginton, though documentary sources, and excavations in the area suggest a continuity from the early post-Roman period. In the late Saxon period, up to the Danish wars of the 9th century, west Hertfordshire fell within the kingdom of Mercia (Gover *et al* 1970). During those wars much of Hertfordshire was annexed by the Danes, so much so that the western hundred of the county was known as *Dacorum*, the 'Danish hundred' (*ibid.*).

3.6 ***Medieval*** (1066-1500)

The present parish probably originated from a late Saxon estate which became incorporated into the holding of Robert, Count of Mortain (Page 1908, 314). It is difficult to trace the development of Wigginton after the Domesday Survey of 1086 because the holding was merged with that of Tring. It was not until the mid 18th century that it became a separate parish.

3.7 ***Post-Medieval and Modern (1500-present)***

The medieval village was centred on the church of St Bartholomew, which is situated on the north side of Hemp Lane, opposite the site. It is not known when Hemp Lane was laid out, but the route is shown on Dury and Andrews map of Hertfordshire (1766). The map shows buildings on the south side of Hemp Lane, at the approximate location of the site, but the present houses date from the Victorian period or the early 20th century. The present house is shown on the 1924 edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch scale map.

4. Results

4.1 *Footing Trenches*

The extension to 101 Hemp Lane was situated to the east of the property (Fig. 3), and the footprint of the building measured 8m x 4.5m. The footing trenches of the extension were 0.8m wide and c.1m deep. The topsoil had already been removed, and the underlying stratigraphy was the same across the site, comprising 0.4m of mixed dark brown/black subsoil containing occasional brick and tile fragments, over 0.6m of orange silty sandy clay with occasional to moderate large flint and chalk nodules (Plates 1 & 2).

A modern foul sewer drain was uncovered in the southern and middle arms of the footing trenches (Fig. 4), and the foundations of the current house were observed where the footing trenches butted up against the current house, in particular in the north western corner of the excavation, adjacent to the current front door (Plate 3).

No archaeological finds or features were observed with the footing trenches.

4.2 *Drainage*

The drainage run was c.0.4m wide, and the depth varied from 1.5m at the northern end of the site, to 0.4m at the southern end. The stratigraphy within the drainage run was the same as that described above.

A soakaway was excavated to the south of the development (Fig. 3, Plate 5), in an area where a tree had previously been located. The stratigraphy observed was similar to that described above. The drainage run from the building to the new soakaway was not excavated below subsoil level.

No archaeological finds or features were observed within an of the drainage runs on the development site.

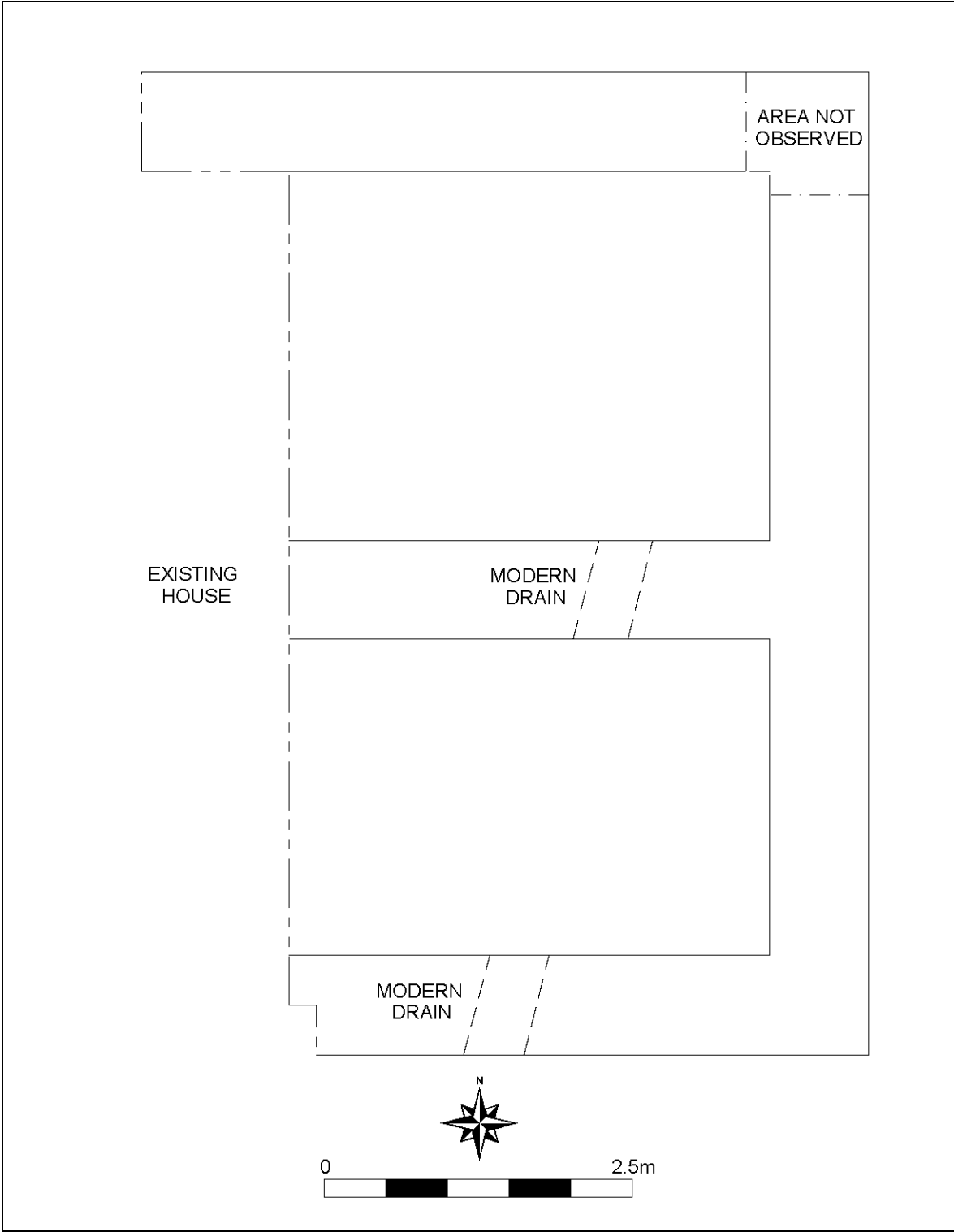


Figure 4: Footing trenches (*scale 1:50*)



Plate 1: Southernmost footing trench, looking east, 1m scale



Plate 2: Middle footing trench, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 3: Foundations of existing house outside front door, looking south, 1m scale



Plate 4: New manhole to north of development, looking north, 2m scale



Plate 5: Soakaway to southeast of development, looking northeast, 2m scale

5. Conclusions

5.1 Both the footing trench and the drainage runs were cut into undisturbed ground, implying that the present house represents the first human occupation on the site. However, although no archaeological finds or features were observed during the watching brief, this does not rule out the possibility of the existence of individual, isolated features, located away from the development, but it is unlikely that the development will have any significant impact on such features.

5.3 *Confidence Rating*

The watching brief was undertaken in largely dry and sunny conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. Therefore, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the project.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Nigel Shapland of *Shapland and Shapland*, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Storey. The writer is grateful to Mrs Storey and Glen Bryant for their assistance. The project was monitored by Kate Batt of *Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann BA MA AIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Site record drawings
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 Dacorum Heritage Trust.

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).
- Fell, D 2008 *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire* ASC/1071/WHL/1
- 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)*.

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Gover, JEB, Mawer A & Stenton FM 1970 *The Place-Names of Hertfordshire*. English Place-Name Soc. **40** (Cambridge).
- Holgate R 1995 'Early prehistoric settlement of the Chilterns' in Holgate R (ed.), *Chilterns Archaeology. A Handbook for the next Decade*, 3-17.
- McDonald, T 1995 'The A41 project, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust' in Holgate (ed.), 120-124.
- Page W (ed) 1908 *The Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire*. **2**. Dawsons of Pall Mall
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Zeepvat R J 1997 *The Roman Settlement at Cow Roast, Hertfordshire: Updated Project Design & Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire Arch. Trust. 1997.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

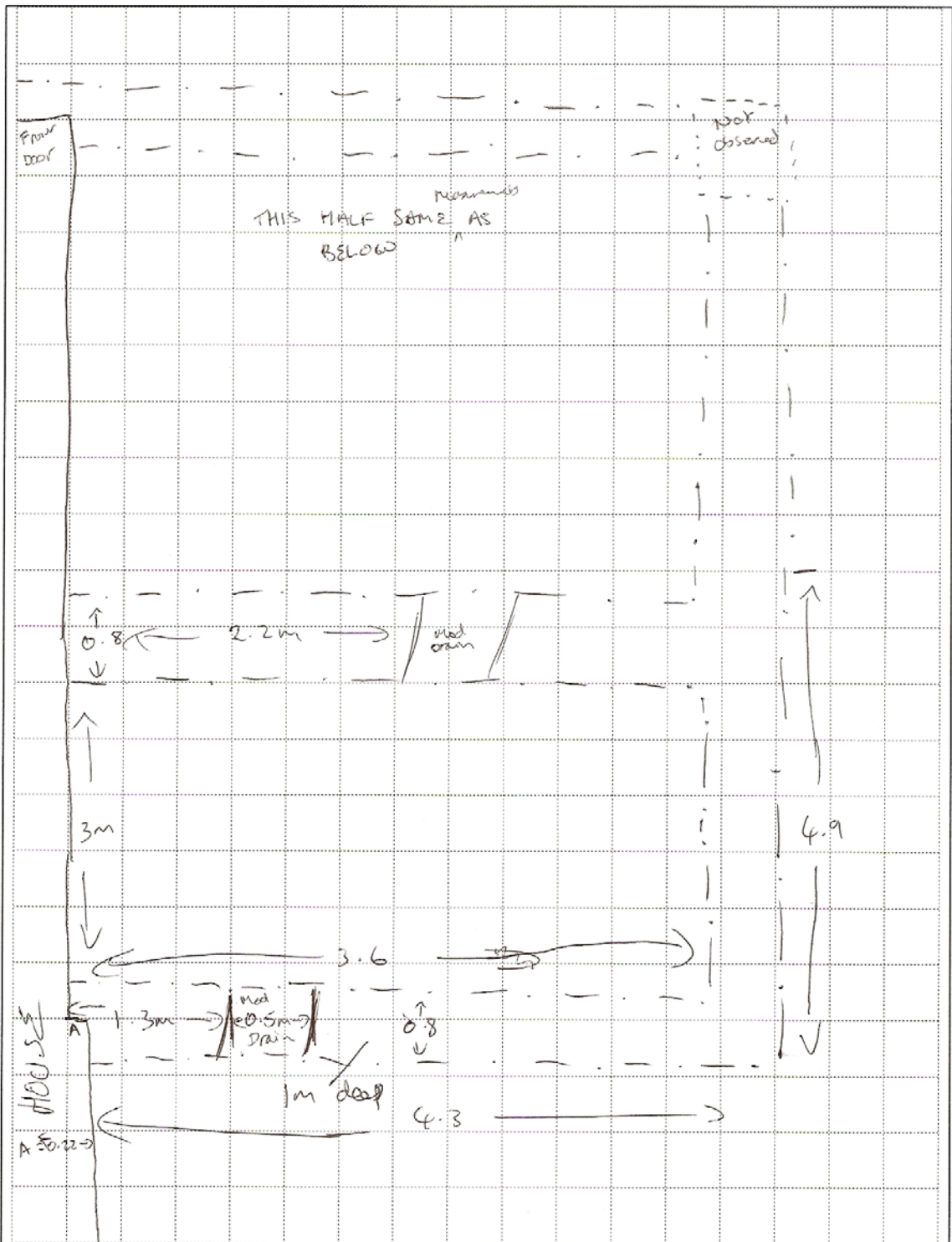
Project: 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton		Project No/Code: 1071 / WHL	Sheet: 2 of 2
		Date of visit: 13/05/08	
Client/Developer Mr & Mrs Storen			
Contact: Nigel Shapland		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 7.20	Finish: 3.15	
Completed by: CR			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services ✓	Roads	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sunny / overcast, breezy, dry			
Observations:			
Observed excavation of drainage run to W of S of extension. Strat as yesterday - 0.4m mixed d brown / black subsoil over orange clay with ^{large} flints. Depth varied from N-S between 1.5m 1.5m - 0.4m Trenches 0.4m wide			
Soakaway excavated to S of development, in area where tree was removed from. Strat similar to above. No archaeological finds or features. Run from building to soakaway did not go below subsoil.			
Comments:			
May dig further soakaway at front of development, but will speak to building inspector first. Will ring to let us know.			



A.S.C. LTD

SKETCH SHEET

Site Name: 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton	Site Code: 1071 / WHL	Orientation:
Context:		



RECORDING NOTES

Recorded by: CR	Date: 12/05/08	Digitised by:	Date:	Sheet number: of
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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1071/WHL
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Southern arm of footing trench with sewer pipe, looking west, 1m scale
2	✓	✓	As above, detail
3	✓	✓	Southern arm of footing trench with sewer pipe, looking east, 1m scale
4	✓	✓	Middle arm of footing trench, looking west, 1m scale
5	✓	✓	Eastern arm of the footing trench, looking north, 1m scale
6	✓	✓	Middle arm of footing trench with sewer pipe, looking east, 1m scale
7	✓	✓	Foundations of current house outside front door, looking south, 1m scale
8	✓	✓	Northern arm of footing trench with current foundations, looking west, 1m scale
9	✓	✓	Footings after concreting, looking south
10	✓	✓	Manhole in driveway, looking north, 2m scale
11	✓	✓	Drainage run for manhole, looking southeast, 2m scale
12	✓	✓	Drainage run adjacent to footings, looking north, 2m scale
13	✓	✓	Soakaway, looking northeast, 2m scale
14	✓	✓	Soakaway and drainage run to development, looking northeast, 2m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire		
Short Description:	During May 2008, ASC carried out an archaeological watching brief at 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire, during the construction of a side extension to the property. No archaeological finds or features were observed within either the footing trenches or the drainage runs. This does not rule out the existence of individual, isolated features, away from the development, but it is unlikely that the development will have any impact on the preservation of any such features.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Watching Brief		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	-
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	-
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	-		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9402 1023
District:	Dacorum	Parish:	Wigginton
Site address: (with postcode if known)	101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	c.19m x c.6m	Height OD: (metres)	c.208
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	-	Project design originator:	D. Fell
Project Manager:	K. Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	C.Rouse
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr & Mrs Storey		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	12/05/08	End date:	14/05/08
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust	-	
Paper:		Archive box	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 101 Hemp Lane, Wigginton, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1071/WHR/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-21	Date:	28/05/08