

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
BRYNFIELD NURSERY
GOFFS LANE
GOFFS OAK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 3252 0301

on behalf of Thompson Landscape Ltd.



J Richards BA PIFA and N Wilson HND AIFA

February 2008

ASC: 919/GOB/02

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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	GOB	<i>ASC project no:</i>	919
<i>OASIS ref:</i>		<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	N/A
<i>County:</i>	Hertfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Goffs Oak		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Unparished		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 3252 0301		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	10735 sq. m.		
<i>Present use:</i>	Plant nursery		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of bungalow and other works		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	7/0108/07		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Broxbourne Borough Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	17 th September 2007 (Phase 1) 31 st January 2008 (Phase 2)		
<i>Client:</i>	Thompson Landscape Ltd. 610 Goffs Lane Goffs Oak Hertfordshire EN7 5EP		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Anthony Thompson		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	J Richards BA PIFA	<i>Date:</i>	27 th February 2008
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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Cover: Garden Centre shop building

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

Summary

In September 2007 and January 2008 ASC carried out two phases of an archaeological evaluation at Brynfield Nursery, Goff's Oak, Hertfordshire. This work was required as a condition of planning consent for refurbishment of the existing greenhouses and the construction of a new dwelling. A relict field system is known from the area of the development site and the evaluation was intended to investigate the potential survival of the relict field boundaries. A single north-south aligned ditch was observed during the course of the evaluation. This probably relates to a field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2007 and January 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Lane, Goff's Oak, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Thompson Landscape Ltd, and was carried out according to a brief (Instone 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Broxbourne Borough Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the *Historic Environment Unit* of *Hertfordshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Barclay 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 7/0108/07.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation 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 lies within the village of Goffs Oak in the administrative district of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). It is situated to the east of the centre of Goffs Oak, on the north side of the B156 road and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 3252 0301 (Fig. 2). A number of glasshouses currently occupy the east side of the site and much of the west side is open land.

Access to the site was from the B156 road, which runs along the south side of the site. Due to the site being a working garden centre access may be slightly hindered by the existing greenhouses (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils in the area of the site comprise the Windsor Association, consisting of “*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*”. Underlying these is a geological base of Tertiary clay (Soil Survey 1983, 712c). The site is flat, and lies at a height of c.92.9m OD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposal is for the refurbishment of the existing greenhouses, the construction of a two storey office block on the footprint of one of the existing greenhouses and the construction of a bungalow (Fig. 3).

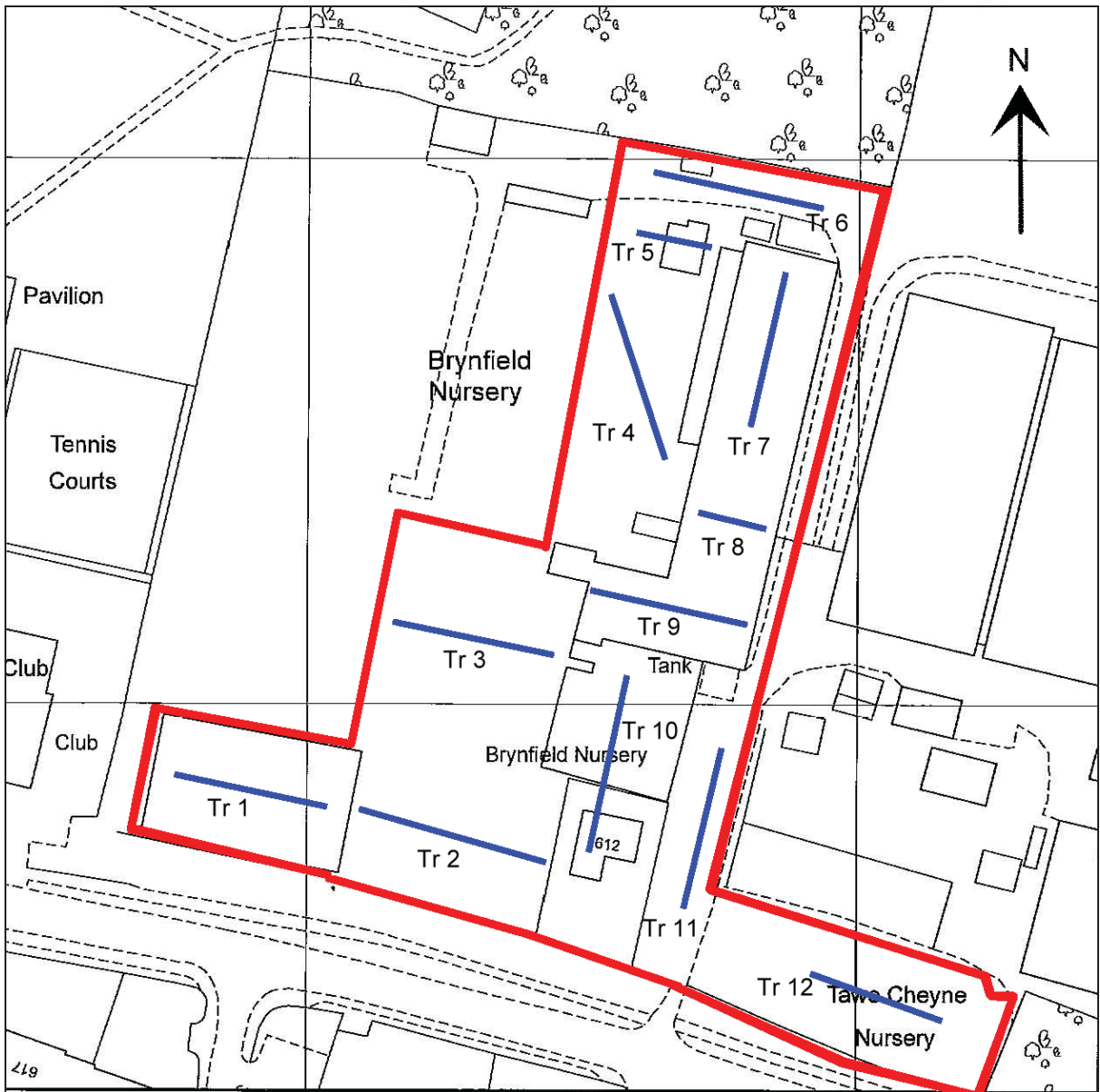


Figure 2: Site plan, original proposed trench plan shown in blue (Scale 1:1250)

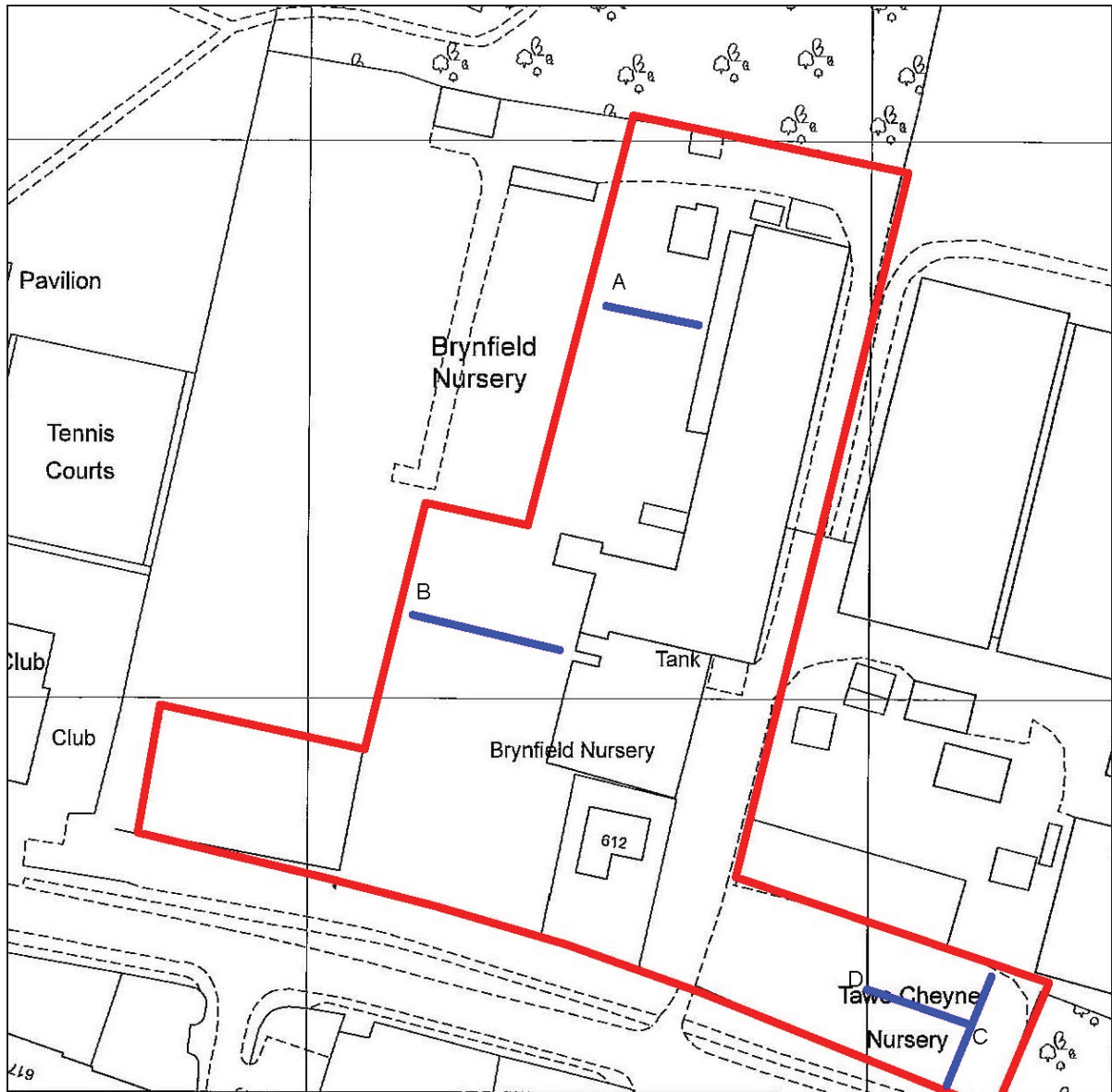


Figure 3: Actual trench locations (Scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the brief (Section 3), 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.
- To provide a predictive model of the archaeological remains likely to be present on the site and assess 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 4), which required:

- Trial trenching within the proposed development area. Trench locations are shown on Figure 4.
- Sufficient sampling will be undertaken to allow for an accurate assessment of the sites potential, with special attention to the area of Darks Moat.

2.4 *Constraints*

Six of the trench locations indicated in the project design (Barclay 2007) were within the footprint of buildings which are being retained as part of the development. Two other trenches could not be excavated due to the need to maintain access to the carpark and to the rear of the business premises (Plates 1-2). With the agreement of the Archaeological Advisor, four trenches were excavated, two to the west of the existing glass houses and two in the southeast of the site in the area of a proposed new dwelling.

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 been designated as an *Area of Archaeological Significance* by the local authority. The site had the potential to reveal archaeological remains from a variety of periods, and the main focus of interest was likely to lie in the Bronze Age and medieval periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the project design (Barclay 2007).

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

The area was of considerable significance during the late Bronze Age and the site may provide significant potential for the study of Bronze Age remains. The Bronze Age landscape of the Lea Valley is recognised as being of national importance.

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

No remains of Iron Age date are known from the immediate area of the site.

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

During the Roman period communications in the region were dominated by a major Roman road now known as *Ermine Street* (the modern A10). This passed c.4 km to the east of the site, and linked *Londinium* with a settlement at Ware. Goffs Lane is postulated to follow the course of a further Roman road, and a variety of Roman sites and artefacts have been recorded in the surrounding area.

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

No Saxon remains are known from the immediate area of the site.

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

The pattern of medieval settlement in this area is not understood in detail, but the settlement of Goffs Oak may date from this period. A medieval moated site known as Dark's Moat lies within the evaluation site (Fig. 4).

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

The 1882 edition Ordnance Survey map shows the site largely as open ground, away from the main areas of settlement. The site probably remained open ground until the development of the existing nursery, during the 20th century.

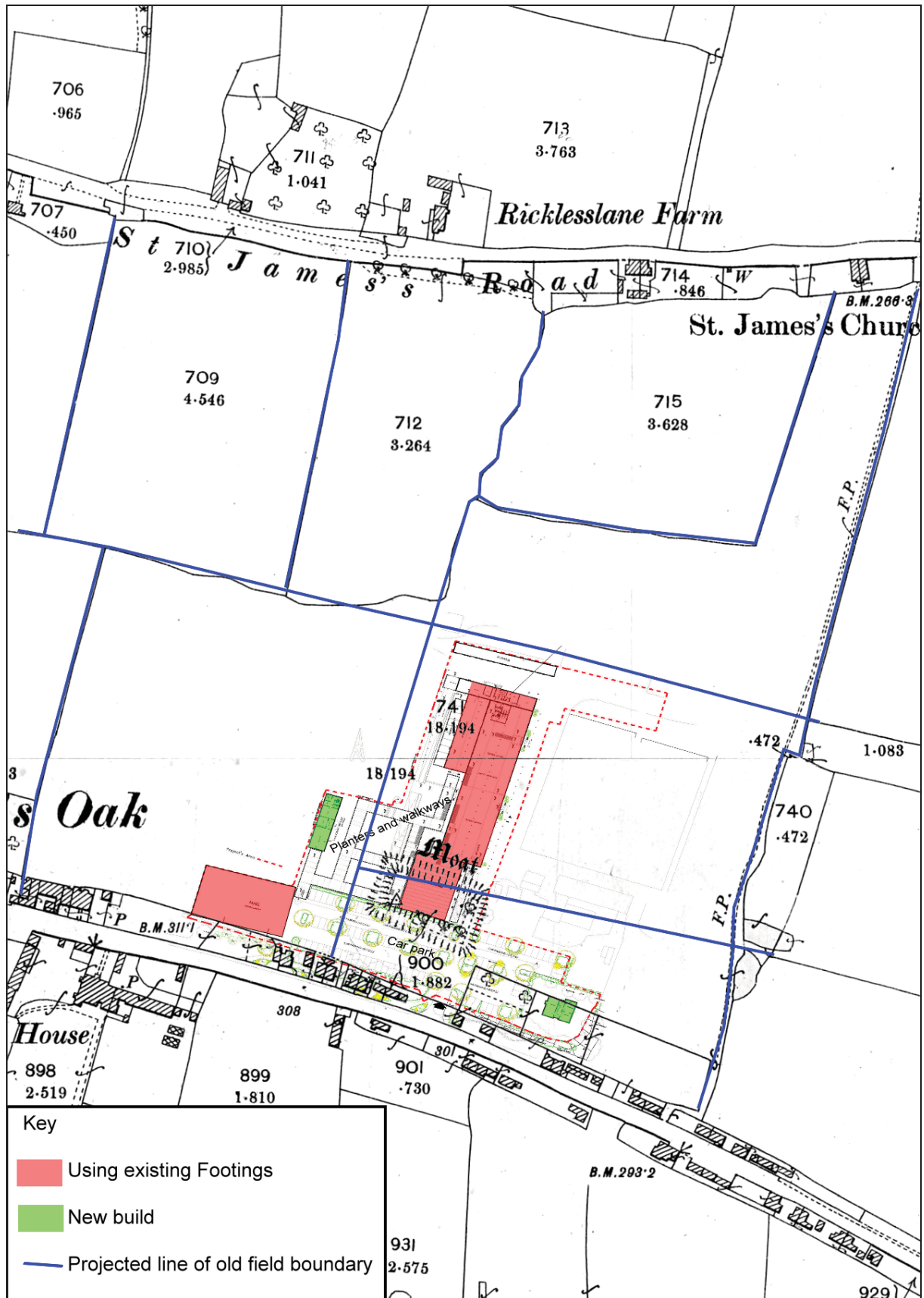


Figure 4: Development plan, with relict field boundaries overlain (based on Bryant, Perry & Williamson 2005, fig. 3)

4 Results

4.1 General

Four trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket 1.60m wide. The locations of these are shown in Figure 3. The natural strata varied across the site from light yellowish brown clay to mid orange clay.

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench A (Plate 3)

A deposit of made ground up to 0.50m thick overlay grey-brown silt 0.50-0.70m thick. The natural strata was a yellow orange stoney clay. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

4.3 Trench B (Plate 4)

A layer of made ground up to 0.40m thick overlay 0.40 to 0.60m of greenish blue clay. The natural strata was a yellow brown clay. No archaeological features were observed within this trench. Modern services, including a blue plastic drain, were observed within the trench.

4.4 Trench C (Fig. 5: Plates 5-6)

A layer of tarmac hardstanding 0.30m thick overlay a mid grey-brown silty clay subsoil 0.30m thick. A shallow gully was observed within this trench. It was on an east-west alignment and was 1.20m wide and 0.25m deep with a steep sided profile. It was filled with mid brown grey clay containing modern glass fragments. The natural substrata was a mid orange-brown clay.

4.5 Trench D (Fig. 6: Plates 7-8)

A layer of tarmac hardstanding 0.20m thick overlay a make up layer of brick fragments and sandy gravel 0.25m thick. This overlay dark brown silty clay soil 0.30m thick, which may represent a buried topsoil. A deposit of mid brown clay subsoil, 0.10m thick, was below this. A 2.20m wide ditch on a north-south alignment was observed within this trench, this was 0.33m deep and had a concave base. It was filled with dark brown clay with a 0.07m thick lens of charcoal-rich soil against its eastern edge. The natural substrata was mid orange clay.



Plate 1: Trench A from west



Plate 2: Trench B from west



Plate 3: Trench C from south



Plate 4: Trench D from west



Plate 5: Section of Ditch in Trench D

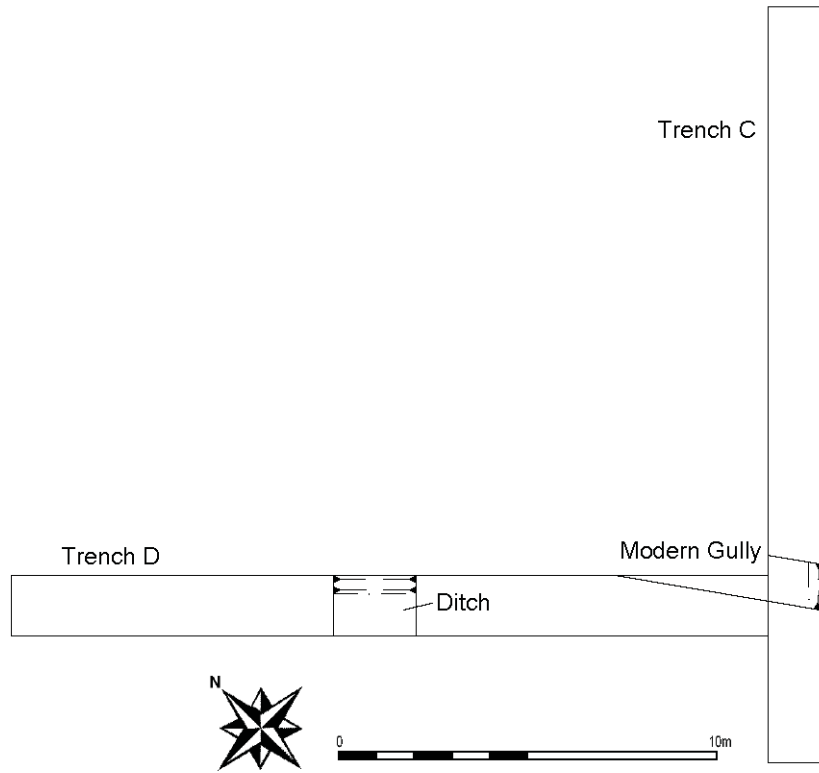


Figure 5: Plan of Trenches C and D (Scale 1:200)

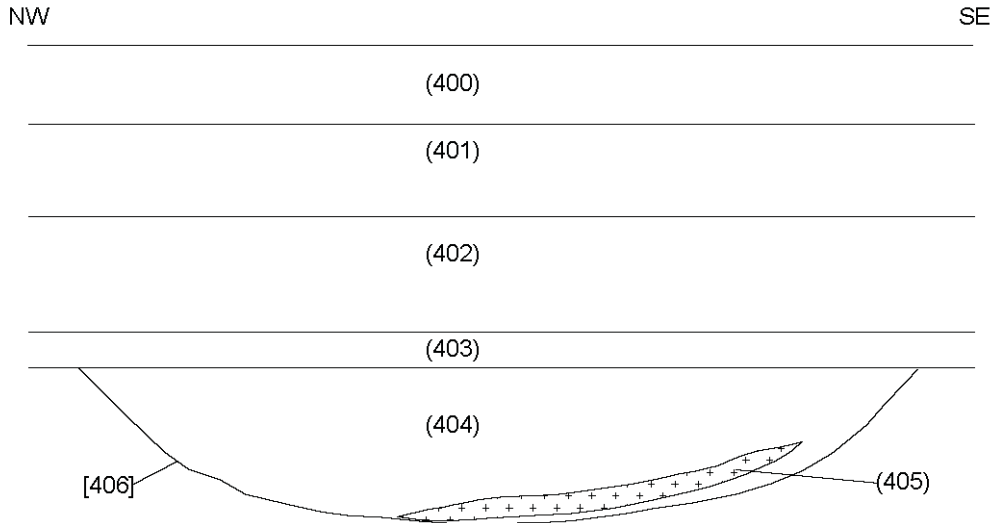


Figure 6: Section of Ditch [406] (Scale 1:20)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Two trenches were opened to the west of the existing garden centre buildings in Phase One. A further two trenches were opened in the southeast of the site in the location of the proposed new bungalow in Phase Two.
- 5.2 A single feature was observed in Trench D. This was a ditch 2.20m wide and 0.40m deep. Its alignment corresponds with a field boundary shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (see Fig. 4).
- 5.3 Although the presence of further individual archaeological features outside the evaluation trenches cannot be entirely ruled out, there are unlikely to be large numbers of archaeological features of any date. The archaeological impact of this development is considered to be low.
- 5.4 In light of the current understanding of the co-axial field system in the area of Brynfield Nursery it seems unlikely that the development is likely to interfere with any surviving ditches. The two new proposed buildings are well away from the projected ditch alignments, and the planters and walkways will be a revamping of the current layout.
- 5.5 *Confidence Rating*
A high confidence rating is attached to the results of this evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Thompson Landscapes Ltd.* The writer is grateful to Andrew Thompson and Quintin Struckman for their assistance. The project was monitored by Andy Instone on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA. Fieldwork for Phase 1 was carried out by Nigel Wilson, Zoe Clarke and Phase 2 fieldwork was carried out by Jenny Richards and Ralph Brown. The report was prepared by Nigel Wilson and Jenny Richards and edited by Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
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 *Broxbourne Museum*

8. References

Standards & Specifications

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Barclay, C. 2007 *Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Lane, Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire* (ASC Report 919/GOB/1)

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*. English Heritage (London).

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)*.

Instone A 2007 *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* Historic Environment Unit Hertfordshire County Council


Secondary Sources


BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.


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


Bryant, Perry & Williamson 2005, *A relict landscape in south-east Hertfordshire: archaeological and topographic investigations in the Wormley area*. Landscape History 27

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench A						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	10.0	Width	1.5	Depth	0.75
	Levels					
	Trench base east		92.15m OD			
	Trench top east		92.90m OD			
	Trench base west		92.15m OD			
	Trench top west		92.90m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	East	TL 32565 03065	West	TL 32555 03067		
	Orientation		East - West			
Reason for Trench		Evaluate area to the west of the sales area				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
100	Layer	Makeup material	-	500	0-500	
101	Layer	Grey brown silt	-	200	500-700	
102	Layer	Yellowish orange clay with stones, natural	-	-	>700	

Trench B						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	15.0	Width	1.5	Depth	0.8
	Levels					
	Trench base east		92.10m OD			
	Trench top east		92.90m OD			
	Trench base west		92.10m OD			
	Trench top west		92.90m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	East	TL 32533 03011	West	TL 32518 03014		
	Orientation		East - West			
Reason for Trench		Evaluate area to the west of the sales area				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
200	Layer	Makeup material	-	400	0-400	
201	Layer	Greenish blue clay, subsoil	-	200	400-600	
202	Layer	Yellowish brown clay, natural	-	-	>600	

Trench C						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	20m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.62m
	Levels					
	Trench base northeast			92.42m OD		
	Trench top northeast			92.90m OD		
	Trench base southwest			92.29m OD		
	Trench top southwest			92.69m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	Northeast	532623 202950		Southwest	532614 202931	
	Orientation			Northeast-Southwest		
Reason for Trench			Evaluate area of proposed new bungalow			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
300	Layer	Tarmac, hardstanding	-	300	-	
301	Layer	Subsoil, mid grey brown silty clay	-	320	300	
302	Layer	mid brown orange silty clay, natural	-	-	620	
303	Fill	Fill of shallow ditch	1200	250	620	
304	Cut	Cut of shallow ditch	1200	250	620	

Trench D						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	20m	Width	1.60m	Depth	0.95m
	Levels					
	Trench base northwest			92.28m OD		
	Trench top northwest			93.11m OD		
	Trench base southeast			92.20m OD		
	Trench top southeast			92.84m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	Northwest	532600 202947		Southeast	202940	
	Orientation			Northwest-Southeast		
Reason for Trench			Evaluate area of proposed new bungalow			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
400	Layer	Tarmac, hardstanding	-	200	-	
401	Layer	Made ground, brick fragments and gravel	-	250	200	
402	Layer	Dark brown silty clay, buried topsoil	-	300	450	
403	Layer	mid brown clay, subsoil	-	100	750	
404	Fill	Dark brown clay	2200	330	850	
405	Fill	Lens of charcoal rich soil	1200	70	1180	
406	Cut	Cut of ditch with concave base	2200	400	850	
406	Layer	mid orange gravelly clay, Natural	-	-	850	

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Oak			SITE NO/CODE: 919/GOB
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 1 inside greenhouse
2	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 2
3	✓	✓	Trench B. Post excavation
4	✓	✓	Trench A. Post excavation
5	✓	✓	Access route across proposed west end of Trench 4
6	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 5
7	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 6
8	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 7
9	✓	✓	Proposed locations of Trenches 7 & 8
10	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 9
11	✓	✓	Shot of proposed development board
12	✓	✓	Proposed location of Trench 11
13	✓	✓	Trench C from south
14	✓	✓	Trench C from north
15	✓	✓	Section of modern Gully in Trench C
16	✓	✓	Trench D from west
17	✓	✓	Trench D from east
18	✓	✓	Section of Ditch in Trench D

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form (OASIS ref: **)

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Oak		
Short Description:	In September 2007 and January 2008 ASC carried out two phases of an archaeological evaluation at Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire. This work was required as a condition of planning consent for refurbishment of the existing greenhouses and the construction of a new dwelling. A relict field system is known from the area of the development site and the evaluation was intended to investigate the potential survival of the relict field boundaries. A single north-south aligned ditch was observed during the course of the evaluation. This probably relates to a field boundary shown on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	Area of Archaeological Significance 8	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	HER ref:
Current land use:	Garden Centre	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	Moated Site Field System	Monument period:	Medieval Late Bronze Age
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference:	TL 3252 0301
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Lane, Goffs Oak, Waltham Cross EN7 5EP		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	10735 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	93.0
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Hertfordshire County Council	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn BA PHD MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Nigel Wilson and Jenny Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Thompson Landscapes		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17 th September 2007	End date:	31 st January 2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	N/A	None	
Paper:	Broxbourne Museum	Site Records, Project Design, Report, Black & White photographs and negatives	
Digital:	Broxbourne Museum	CD containing: Documents, Digital Images, and Drawings	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation:, Brynfield Nursery, Goffs Lane, Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 919/GOB/2		
Author(s):	Jenny Richards BA PIFA and Nigel Wilson HND AIFA		
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