

1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane Tring, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
PEP Project
Management Ltd

on behalf of
Mr P Robinson

CA Project: 660812
CA Report: 17249

December 2017



1 THE GROVE,
MARSHCROFT LANE
TRING,
HERTFORDSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 660812
CA Report: 17249

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SUMMARY

Project Name: 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane
Location: Tring, Hertfordshire
NGR: 493343 212417
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 12-25 April 2017
Planning Reference: 4/01495/16/FHA
Location of Archive: Dacorum Heritage Trust
Site Code: GML 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single and two-storey rear extension at 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire. The groundworks comprised the excavation of foundation trenches and followed the demolition of a conservatory, a single-storey side extension and outbuilding.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material or biological evidence was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire (centred at 493343 212417; Fig. 1). The watching brief which was commissioned by PEP Project Management Ltd on behalf of Mr P Robinson was undertaken to fulfil a condition (conditions 3 and 4) attached to a planning consent (Planning ref: 4/01495/16/FHA), granted by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) for the demolition of a conservatory, a single-storey side extension and outbuilding and the construction of a single and two-storey rear extension at the property.
- 1.2 The scope of the watching brief was agreed during discussions between CA and Alison Tiniswood, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA). The scope of the project was formalised in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016). The WSI was approved by DBC, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of Alison Tiniswood, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI and advised by *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2016).

The site

- 1.4 The development area comprises a broadly rectangular plot comprising 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, situated at the eastern edge of Tring, Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The site comprises the existing residential property and associated garden. It is bounded by Marshcroft Lane to the north, residential properties fronting Marshcroft Lane to the east and west, and gardens associated with residential properties fronting Grove Road to the south. The site lies at approximately 131m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.5 The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and Zig Zag Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) chalk of the Cretaceous Period. This

was overlain by Head Deposits comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, superficial deposits formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is limited evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British settlement within Tring; recorded evidence for activity during these periods largely comprises dispersed remains and findspots. Two Beaker burials, indicative of Early Bronze Age activity, were found in the Grove Estate in c.1763 (HER 620). An Early Bronze Age stone bracer was found on the western edge of Tring (HER 1766) and postholes of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age date were recorded to the west of Tring at Tring Hill. Whilst fieldwork within the Bulbourne Valley to the east of Tring has revealed evidence for Iron Age settlement, there is no similar evidence recorded within Tring itself.
- 2.2 The route of the former Roman road, known as Akeman Street (the A4251), which ran from St Albans (*Verulamium*) to Cirencester (*Corinium*), passes to the south of Tring, approximately 1.6km to the south of the site. Additionally, the projected line of the former Roman road between Tring and Dunstable passes through or close to the site.
- 2.3 Notably, the site lies immediately adjacent to Area of Archaeological Significance Number 6 as stated in the DBC Local Plan (2004). This area contains a cropmark of a large ditched enclosure of unknown date (HER 2557).
- 2.4 Archaeological fieldwork prior to the construction of the A41 bypass on the western edge of Tring, revealed eighteen early Anglo-Saxon burials, although no evidence for associated settlement was found.
- 2.5 The Church of St Peter and St Paul (HER 4382) was first established in 1214, approximately 1.5km to the southwest of the site. It is likely that this formed the focus of the medieval settlement core and served as a focus for activity during the medieval period.
- 2.6 The 1878-1888 Ordnance Survey Map shows that two farmsteads/dwellings, known as 'Tring-grove' and 'Grove Place,' had been constructed on plots adjoining the site

by that date but the main area of settlement remained concentrated in the vicinity of the church. Subsequent cartographic evidence indicates that numbers 1 to 6 The Grove were erected between 1899 and 1924, on the site of earlier buildings associated with the former Tring Grove Farm, which lay on the other side of Marshcroft Lane.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). Groundworks, following the demolition of an existing conservatory and associated with the construction of a side extension, outbuilding and rear extension (Figs. 2 and 3) comprising a total area of 13.1m² were monitored.

4.2 Features and deposits were investigated and recorded in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefactual or biological evidence was recovered.

4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. The site archive will be deposited with the Dacorum Heritage Trust. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.



5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate (102), consisting of a light orange/yellow silty clay, was revealed across the entire investigation area at an average depth of 1m below present ground level. This was overlain by a made ground layer consisting of a light yellow/orange firm silty clay (101), averaging 0.65m in thickness; which was in turn sealed by 0.35m of modern made-ground (100), associated with the construction of the existing property. The watching brief comprised monitoring the excavation of foundation trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. No archaeological remains or deposits were revealed; details of the deposits encountered are presented in Appendix A and shown on Figure 3.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual or biological evidence was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains of any description, including stray artefactual material. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that in-situ remains are not present within the site and surrounding area. However, the area investigated was fairly restricted in size, comprising foundation trenches and there had been previous modern development within the footprint of the area investigated. Accordingly, it is possible that archaeological remains are present elsewhere in the surrounding area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Callum Ruse. The report was written by Simon Sworn. The illustrations were prepared by Charlie Patman. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.



9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 22 May 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

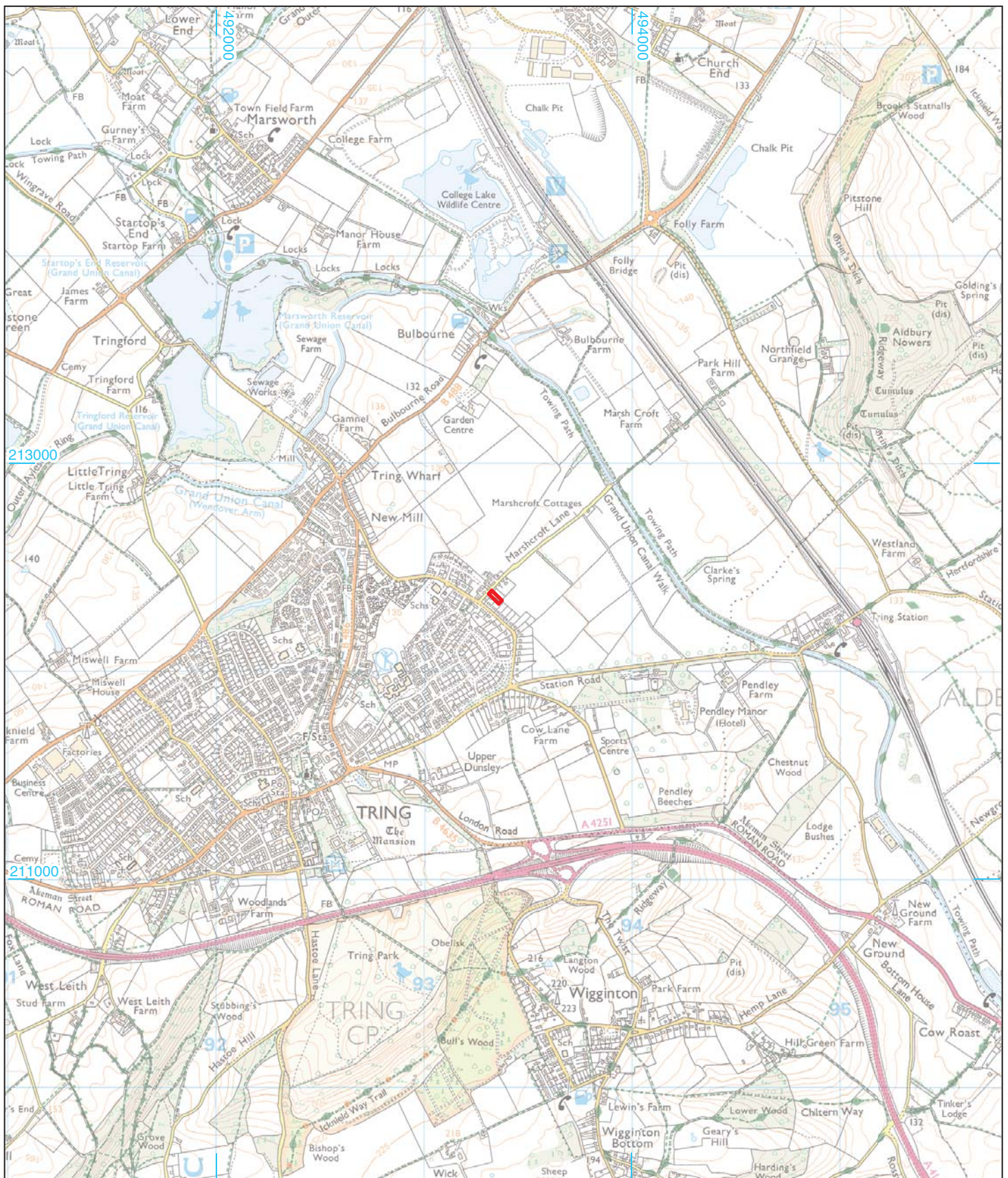
Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Made ground	Modern hardstanding/ hard-core material	0.35	modern
101	Layer	Made ground	Light yellow orange firm silty clay	0.65	
102	Layer	Natural	Light orange yellow firm silty clay		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of a conservatory, a single-storey side extension and outbuilding and the construction of a single and two-storey rear extension at 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material or biological evidence was recovered.	
Project dates	12 – 25 April 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	758m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SP 93343 12417	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Callum Ruse	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	None
Paper	Dacorum Heritage Trust	Trench sheets, registers
Digital	Dacorum Heritage Trust	Database, digital photos, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17249		

APPENDIX C: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Tring		Parish: Tring
Planning application reference: : 4/01495/16/FHA		
HER Enquiry reference: N/A		
Funding source: Private		
Nature of application: Residential extension comprising single-storey side extension and outbuilding		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: 13.1m ²		Size of area investigated: 13.1m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 493343 21241		
Site code (if applicable): GML 16		
Site director/Organization: Cotswold Archaeology		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 12 th April 2017	Finish: 25 th April 2017
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single and two-storey rear extension at 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire. The groundworks comprised the excavation of foundation trenches and followed the demolition of a conservatory, a single-storey side extension and outbuilding.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material or biological evidence was recovered.</p>		
Author of summary: SS		Date of summary: 6.09.2017



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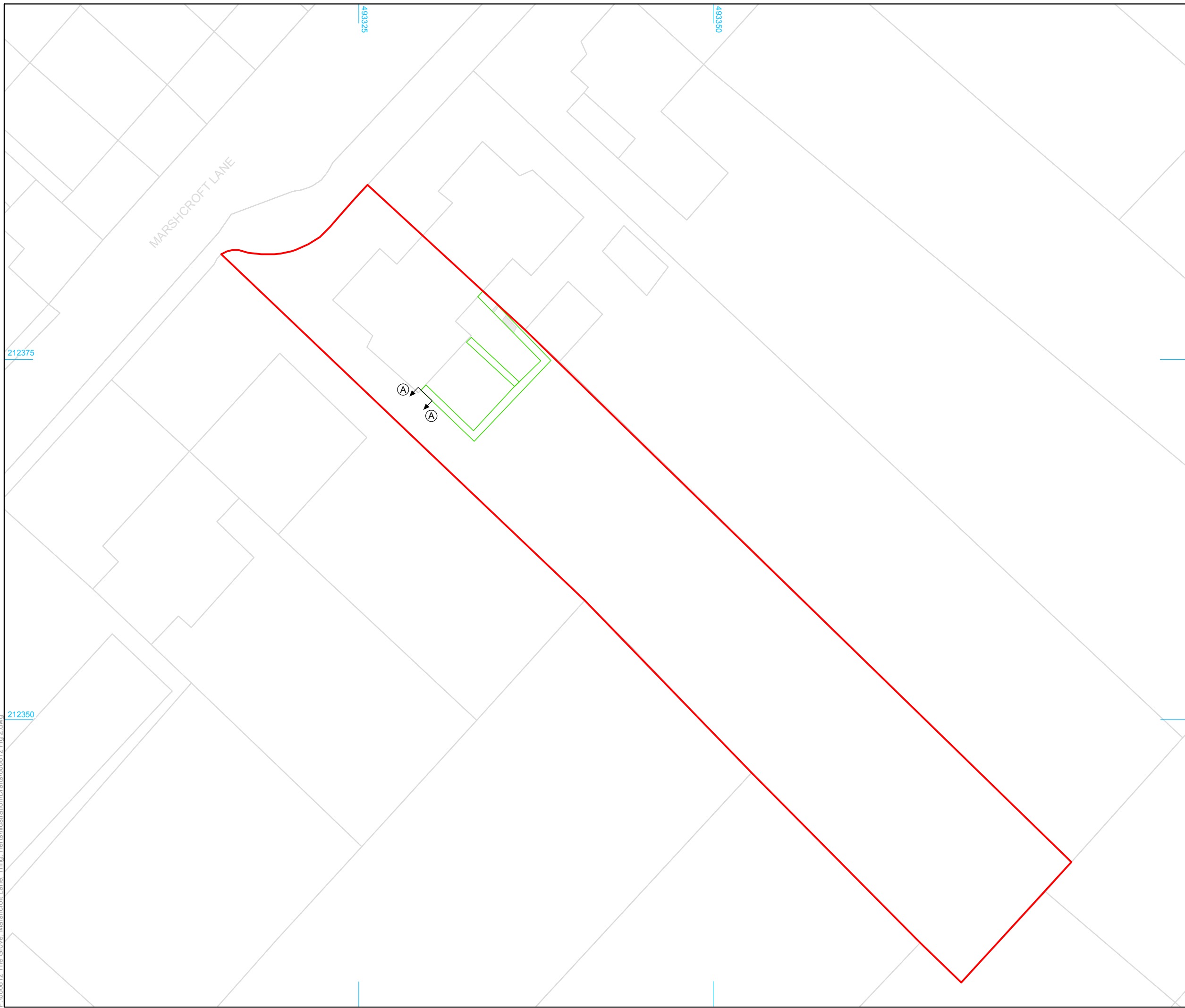
PROJECT TITLE
 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring,
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	660812	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/05/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- watching brief area
- modern (services/disturbance)
- B ↕ B section location



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PROJECT TITLE
 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Watching brief location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	660812	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/05/2017	2
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:250	

P:\660812 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring, Herts\Illustration\Drafts\660812 Fig 2.dwg



General view of area prior to works, facing north-east



General view of deposits, facing east

General view of area and deposits



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PROJECT TITLE

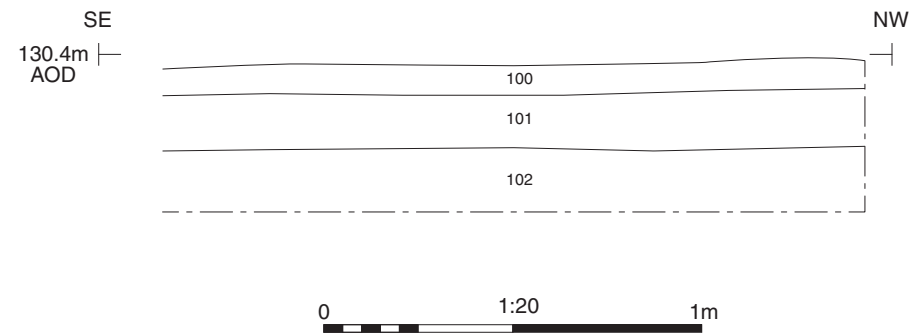
1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring,
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	660812	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/05/2017	3
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	N/A	

Section AA



General view of deposits, looking south-west (scale 1m)



General view of deposits, looking south-east


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PROJECT TITLE
 1 The Grove, Marshcroft Lane, Tring,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Section and photographs

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	660812	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/12/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:20	4

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