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Interpretation, Design & Display

Land at 143 Trinity Road, Hertford Heath:

Archaeological Strip, Map and Record

Report No. MK001/16

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Oasis	cfaarcha1-236974
Date issued	12 January 2016
Version	1
Planning Application No	3/15/1609/HH
Grid Ref	TL 35119, 11353

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

Land at 143 Trinity Road, Hertford Heath: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record

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1. SUMMARY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological strip map and record on a proposed extension to the rear of 143 Trinity Road, Hertford Heath (centred on TL 35119, 11353). The property lies close to a scheduled Iron-Age cremation cemetery; other remains dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages have also been discovered nearby. The work involved monitoring the foundation trenches down to natural gravels. No archaeology was revealed and the site of the extension appears to have been landscaped during the 1960s when the house was constructed.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological strip map and record on an extension to the rear of 143 Trinity Road, Hertford Heath, undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 4th of January 2015. The work was commissioned Dean Birch.
- 2.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 19th November 2015 covering this programme of works produced by CFA.

2.2 Background

- 2.2.1 The proposed extension (Fig. 1) is located to the rear of 143 Trinity Road which lies within a 1960s terrace. This is part of a housing development constructed between the villages of Little Amwell and Hertford Heath. The land to the west (rear) of the house slopes gently downhill and is currently a garden and disturbed patio area.
- 2.2.2 There is a Scheduled Iron-Age cremation cemetery to the east of the site which excavation has shown contains remains dating to the 1st century BC. Iron-Age gold bracelets have been found to the south of the site and to the north-east a Bronze Age hoard was discovered in 1977. Recent work at 57 Trinity Road did not record any archaeological deposits.
- 2.2.3 Hertfordshire County Council's archaeologists have stated that:

'The proposed development is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 242, as identified in the Local Plan. This includes the site of a later 1st century BC high-status burial - a Welwyn-type 'chieftain' grave first discovered in 1956 when drains were laid for new garages [Scheduled Monument HT74; Historic Environment Record No 84], and excavated further in 1957. The grave contained an amphora, ten pottery vessels, an imported glass bowl, and a range of bronze and iron pieces which appeared to include the rims of chariot wheels and / or a possible bucket, dating to c.30-15 BC. The central burial has late Iron Age and early Roman satellite burials [HER 1403] around it, ranging in date from the later 1st century BC to at least AD 100. Between 1954 and 1957 'urns' were recovered from five different places during cable laying and other work taking place to the north and south of the chieftain grave. The high-status burial therefore remained a ritual focus for at least a century, well into the Roman period. The site of the 'chieftain' grave and its immediate vicinity are a Scheduled Monument. The site of the proposed development lies approximately 50 metres from the western boundary of the Scheduled area'

2.3 Objectives

2.3.1 The objectives of the project 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’.

The general objectives were to:

- Determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from archaeological features;
- Establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site;
- Produce a report which placed any discovered archaeological remains in their local, regional or national context, as appropriate.

3. WORKING METHODS

3.1 General

3.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

3.2 Strip, Map and Record

4.1 The WSI specified that an archaeologically monitored topsoil strip was to be undertaken prior to construction to allow for archaeological investigations and to fully record any remains exposed. In reality the development did not need to strip any topsoil apart from that in the foundation trenches; the central area of the extension which had already been disturbed by an existing patio was to be built up. Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by hand and archaeologically monitored until natural gravels were exposed.

3.3 Excavation and Recording Strategy

3.3.1 Deposits were recorded by means of digital photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (2015) and CFA’s quality manuals. The monitored area and depths of the natural were surveyed using RTK initialised GPS equipment accurate up to 8mm horizontal and 12mm vertical.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 A summary of all contexts is contained in Appendix 1. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report.

4.2 Natural ground and modern feature

- 4.2.1 The western edge of the W foundation trench for the extension lay 3.3m out from the rear wall of the house. It measured 0.6m wide and was the same length as the house (Fig. 1). Excavation revealed turf and topsoil (**1000**) of a varying depth (0.3-0.5m) directly over natural orange-brown gravels (**1001**) (Figs. 2-3). No old cultivation soil/subsoil was identified; occasional pieces of 19th and 20th century ceramic, brick, plastic and glass were noted throughout the topsoil and on the top the gravels. These both suggest that the original ground surface was truncated when the house was built in the 1960s. A small shallow circular feature **1002/3** was identified cut into the gravel but this was modern, containing 20th century fragments of roof tile (Fig. 4) and possibly a rusting paint tin.

Foundation trenches were also excavated along the N and S sides of the proposed extension revealing the gravel natural 0.3m down from the site surface (Figs. 5-6). A large trench containing waste water pipes (probably sewage) was found to run half way across the extension (**1004/5** and **1006/7**); this 1960s service, given the shallow nature of the natural, will have removed any archaeology that may have existed here. Excavation beyond this service ran into disturbed ground from the original construction of the house.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No significant archaeological remains were exposed in the ground cutting works associated with this development.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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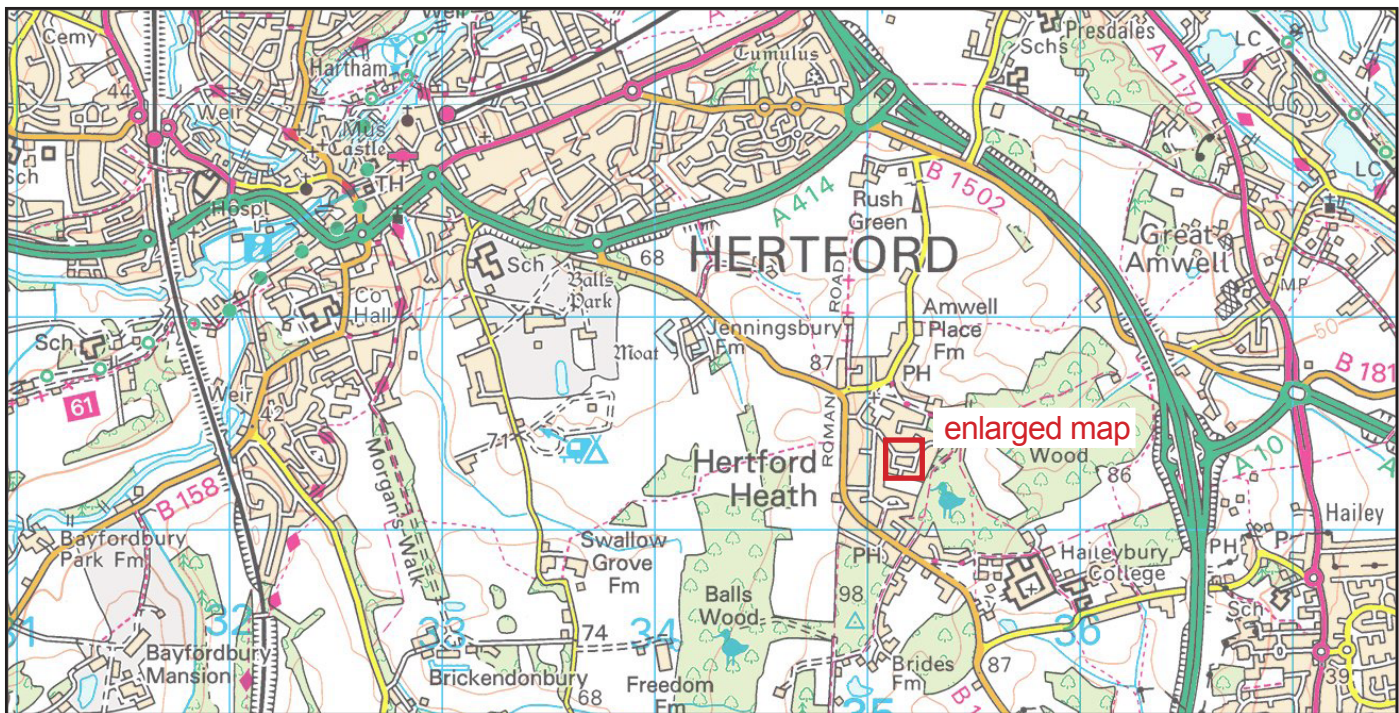
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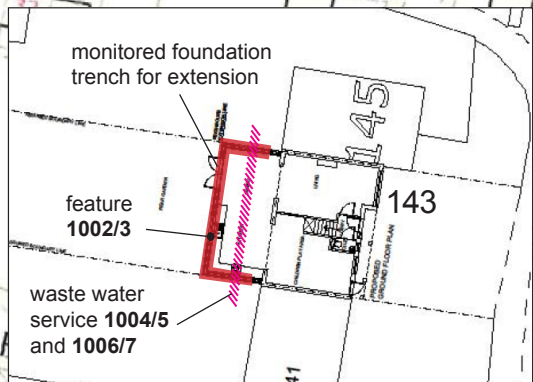
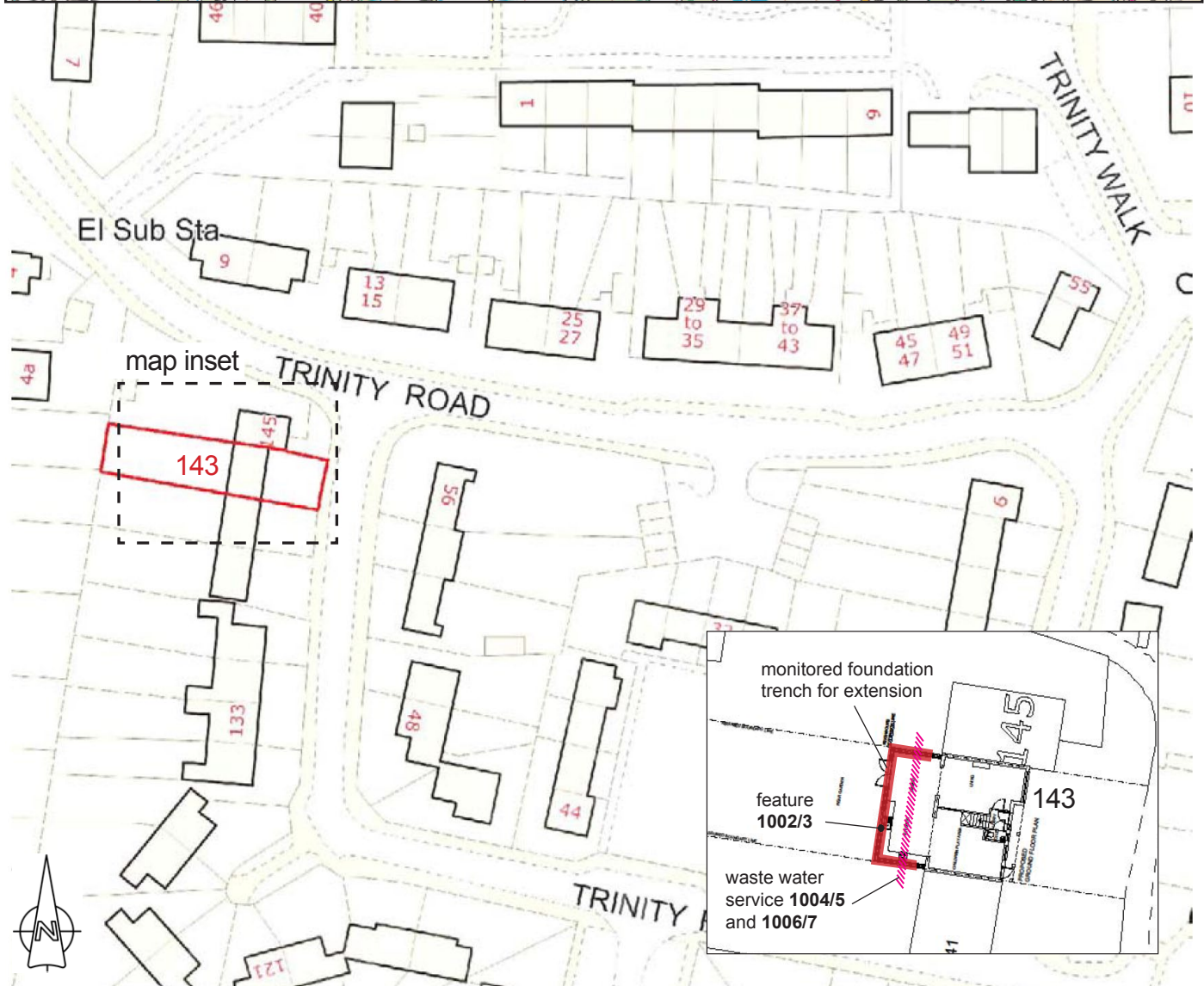
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APPENDIX 1: Summary of Contexts

Context No.	Description	Date
1000	Turf and topsoil, 0.3-0.5m thick. A mid brown silty loam with occasional fragments of flint and small pebbles. Contains 19 th century glazed ceramic and brick fragments as well as 20 th century roof tile, plastic and small frags of glass. Finds not kept.	1960s
1001	Natural gravels, medium compaction. Orange-brown with c. 5% sand and some clay transported by water action. Gravel rounded to angular, 4-5mm dia.	Natural
1002	Cut for small modern circular feature, 0.32m dia and 0.05m deep.	1960s
1003	Fill of 1002. A mid-brown deposit of mixed topsoil and clay containing 20 th century roof tile fragments and a iron container, possibly a rusted paint tin. Finds not kept.	1960s
1004	Cut for large waste water service revealed in S foundation trench. Not investigated as service clearly dates to construction of 1960s terrace.	1960s
1005	Fill of 1004, two large diameter ceramic pipes surrounded by concrete	1960s
1006	Cut for waste water service revealed in N foundation trench. Probably same as 1004. Not investigated as service clearly dates to construction of 1960s terrace.	1960s
1007	Fill of 1006, ceramic pipe surrounded by concrete	1960s



enlarged map



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Fig. 1 Report: MK001/16 Drawn: TB CKD: MR Date: 07/01/16
 Client: Dean Birch



Fig. 2 - Southern end of western foundation trench excavated to natural gravels; modern feature **1002/3** can be seen in centre of shot, view looking SW



Fig. 3 - Northern end of western foundation trench excavated to natural gravels, view looking NE



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Fig. 4 - Southern foundation trench excavated to natural gravels showing waste water service, view looking SE



Fig. 5 - Shot of 20th century roof tile found in modern feature 1002/3



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Fig. 6 - Northern foundation trench excavated to natural gravels showing waste water service, view looking W



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Title:
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