Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS:
STAGE 2: PRELIMINARY TARGETED FIELD EVALUATION
MARCHMONT FARM, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
LOCAL ALLOCATION 1

NGR: TL 056 094

on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council

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October 2013

ASC: 1605/DHI/LA1/2r

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Site Data

ASC project code:	DHI	*ASC project no:*	1605
OASIS ref:	155723	*Event/Accession no:*	tba
County:	Hertfordshire		
Village/Town:	Hemel Hempstead		
Civil Parish:	Hemel Hempstead		
National Grid Reference	TL 056 094		
Extent of site:	*c.*28 hectares		
Present use:	Arable fields and set aside		
Planning proposal:	Housing development		
Local Planning Authority:	Dacorum Borough Council		
Planning application ref:	Pre-planning		
Date of fieldwork:	27th and 28th August 2013		
Client:	Dacorum Borough Council Civic Centre Marlowes Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire HP1 1HH		
Contact name:	John Chapman		

Internal Quality Check

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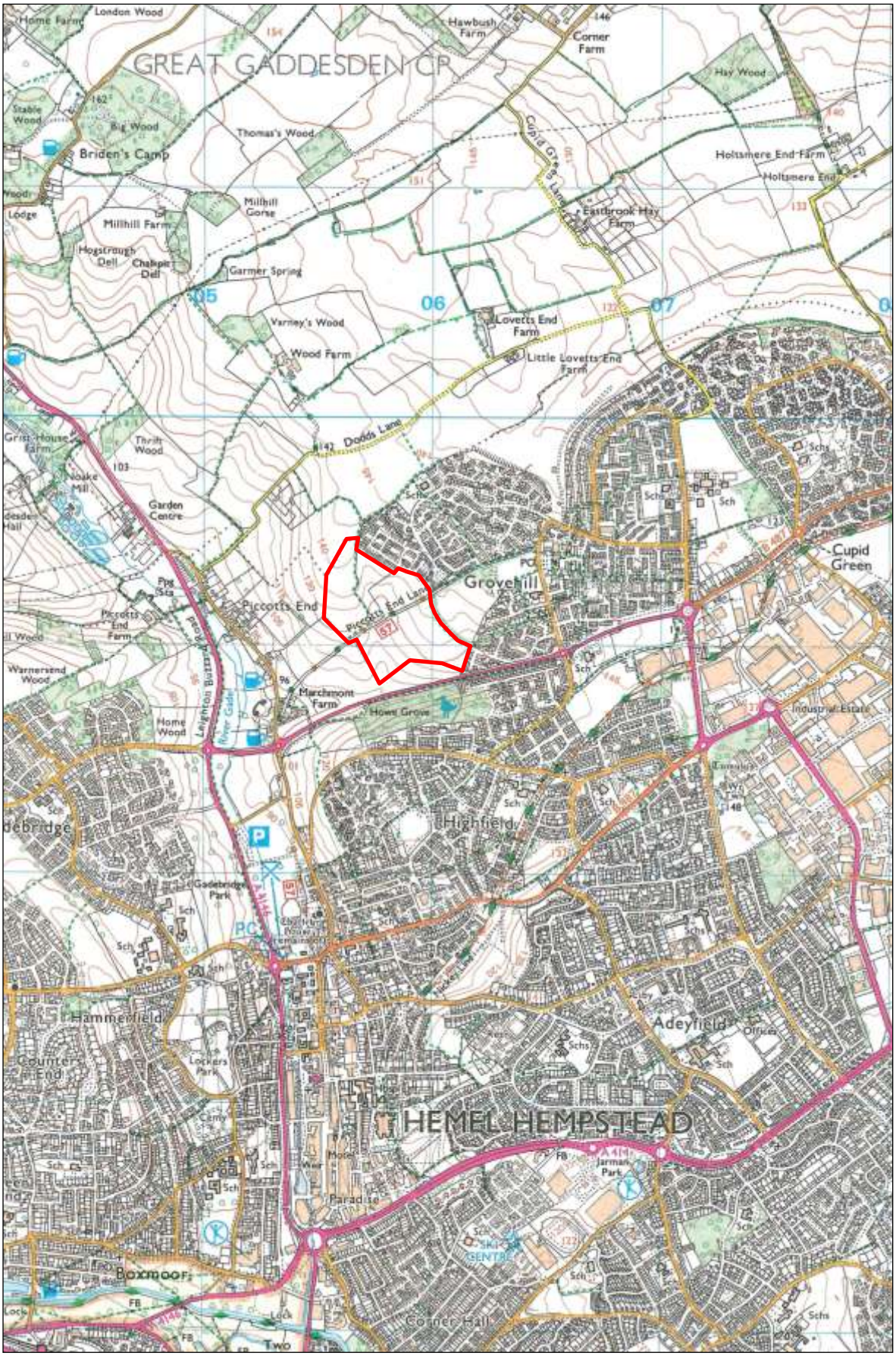

Figure 1: General location *(Scale 1:25,000)*

Summary

In August 2013 a preliminary targeted field evaluation was undertaken of land at Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (LA1). Sixteen trial trenches were excavated in order to test a number of magnetic anomalies identified during a geophysical survey. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches and no features which could be related to geophysical anomalies were present. The natural soil sequence was recorded in all the trenches and no modern disturbance was observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In August 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a preliminary targeted evaluation at Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Dacorum Borough Council*, and was carried out according to a written scheme of investigation prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2013) following compilation of an initial desk-based assessment (Hunn 2013) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013), and approved by the *Historic Environment Unit* of *Hertfordshire County Council*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Dacorum Borough Council*.

1.2 ***Planning Background***

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), in order to inform proposals for the development of the site.

1.3 ***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 Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated north of Hemel Hempstead town centre, in the administrative district of Dacorum, Hertfordshire and is centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference TL 056 094 (Fig. 1). It comprises an irregular shaped area of *c.*28 ha and is subdivided into two areas; the development area of 19ha to the east and a western, secondary area of 9.1ha (Fig. 2) where tree planting may take place. It is bisected by a minor road named *Piccotts End Lane* and is bounded to the east by the Grovehill housing development and to the south by the A4147 road. Open fields lie to the west and north. The area currently comprises arable fields and set aside.

1.3.2 *Geology and Topography*

The soils of the site are of two different associations, both derived from plateau drift. The northern two-thirds of the site is covered by soils assigned to the Batcombe Association (Soil Survey 1983, 582a), described as a '*gleyed brown earth'* which is '*flinty silt loam or loam, locally clay loam'*. The drift geology comprises a '*yellow-brown, friable and normally flinty, passing to stiff yellow-*

red mottled clay' (Avery 1964, map sheet 238). The soils at the south of the site are of the Coombe 1 Association, which are derived from chalky drift and chalk and are described as '*well drained calcareous fine silty soils, deep in valley bottoms, shallow to chalk on valley sides in places. Slight risk of water erosion'* (Soil Survey 1983, 511f). The solid geology is Upper Chalk (BGS, Sheet 238).

The land lies at the top of the valley of the river Gade, which flows *c.*1km west of the site. The A4147 Hemel Hempstead Link Road follows the base of a dry valley and a further valley has been noted aligned from north to south, through the centre of the site (Plate 1).

The land descends to the west and south, from *c.*140m OD to *c.*105m OD, towards the River Gade. The area is sub-divided into a number of land parcels, which are demarcated by a variety of boundary types (hedges, wire and wooden fences and lynchets). Access is from the south, off the A4147, and from Piccotts End Lane in the centre of the assessment site.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The site is identified by the local planning authority as suitable for housing development comprising construction of approximately 300 new homes, associated infrastructure and services.

1.4 *Archaeological and Historic Background*

The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies that may be archaeological in origin (Stratscan 2013) but no definite archaeological features or artefacts have been recorded from the site. A possible ancient lynchet on the northern side of the area and study of historic mapping indicates that the land has been in agricultural use since the medieval period and probably earlier.

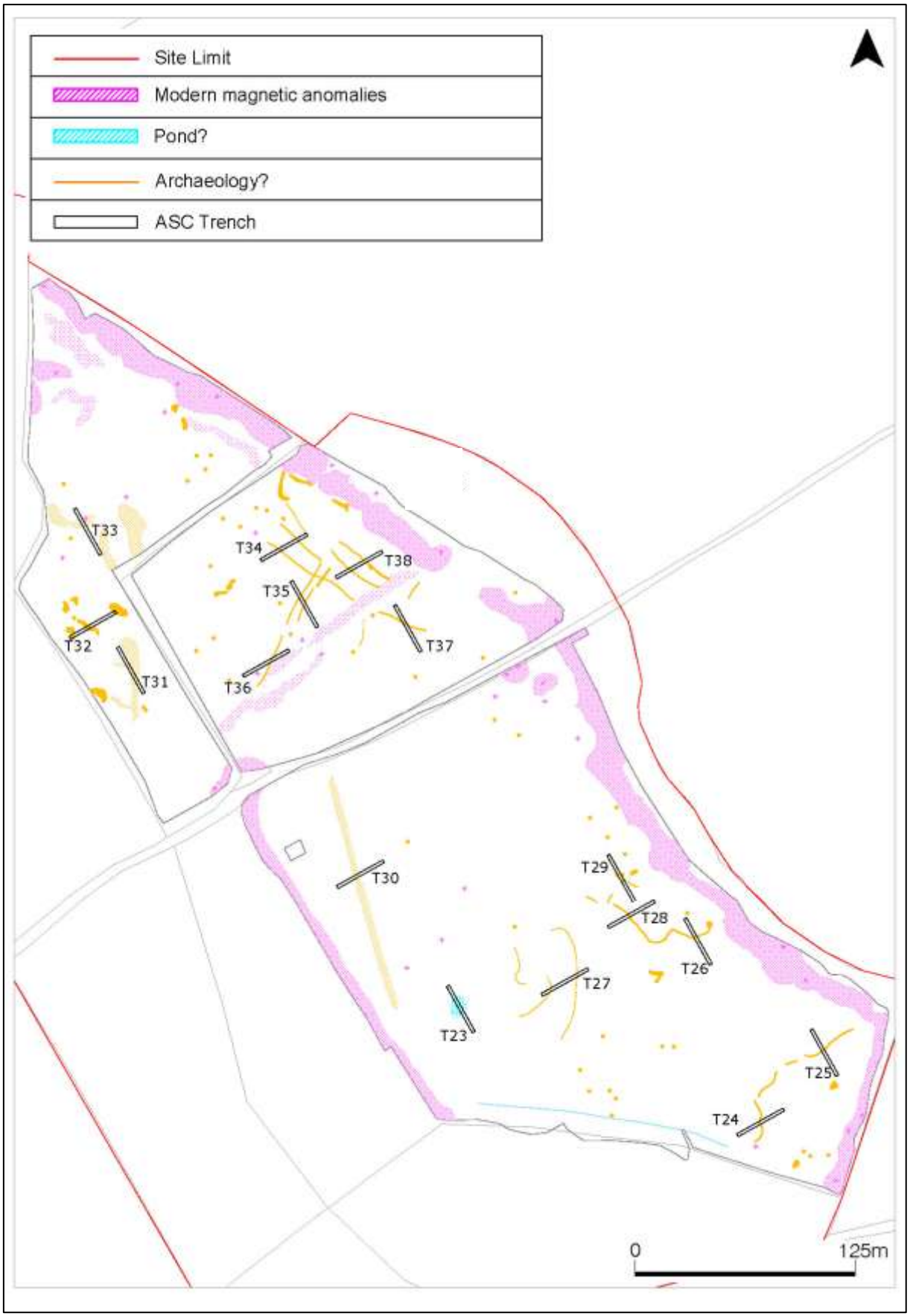

Figure 2: Site plan with interpretive plot of the results of the geophysical survey and trial trench location *(Scale 1:3,000)*

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To test the results of the geophysical survey
- To provide a baseline assessment of the type, date, quality and extent of heritage assets present on the site.

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2009), 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 project design, which proposed:

- The excavation of trial trenches comprising a maximum 0.5% sample
- The trenches were positioned in order to test a number of magnetic anomalies revealed in the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013).

2.4 *Constraints*

It was not possible to contact the tenants of the fields where Trenches 22 and 39 were to be excavated and consequently these trenches could not be opened. No other constraints were encountered and the fieldwork was undertaken as specified in the written scheme of investigation.

3 Results

3.1 *Introduction*

This section provides a summary of the results of the preliminary evaluation in Local Allocation Area LA1. Trenches are numbered in sequence with other areas in the Local Assessments evaluation project and the trenches forming the subject of this report are numbered 22-39. The trenches were located in order to test anomalies detected during the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013) while also providing as wide a sample as possible of the site. Full descriptions, in tabulated form, are provided in Appendix 1.

3.2 Sixteen trenches were excavated (Fig. 2) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket operating under continuous archaeological supervision. The turf and topsoil were separated and each trench cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was made. Spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector.

3.3 *Results*

The trenches were *c.*300 – 400mm deep. The upper part of their profiles comprised turf and loose mid brown silty clay which was generally *c.*100 – 200mm thick. The underlying subsoil was a lighter greyish brown in colour and frequently no clear distinction between topsoil and subsoil was present.

The underlying natural strata varied across the site and comprised greyish brown silty clay or chalk. Some zoning of the geology was recognised, notably above the 125m contour in the southeast part of the site, where natural chalk was exposed (*eg.* Trenches 24 and 25). The clay is predominant on the side of the dry valley (section 1.3.2) in the west part of the site (*eg.* Trench 31) and indicates the possible presence of colluvial deposits within the valley in the south central part of the site.

No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches and the archaeological potential of the site, as indicated by the geophysical survey was not realised. No modern service runs were present and, within the areas of the trenches, the soils and underlying strata are undisturbed.

3.4 *Confidence Rating*

The fieldwork was undertaken in dry and sunny weather conditions. With the exception of Trenches 22 and 39 which could not be excavated (section 2.4) no significant constraints were encountered and a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the fieldwork.

Plate 1: View across the site from Piccotts End Lane with the dry valley in the centre

Plate 2: View looking west towards Marchmont Farm across the south part of the site

4. Conclusions

4.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches and the archaeological potential of the site, as indicated by the geophysical survey was not realised. The natural soil sequence was similar across the site and comprised turf and loose mid brown silty clay topsoil over greyish brown subsoil.

4.2 The underlying natural strata comprises clay and chalk. Natural chalk was exposed on the higher ground in the southeast part of the site and clay was exposed on the side of the dry valley in the west part of the site. The latter indicates the possible presence of colluvial deposits within the valley in the south central part of the site.

4.3 Significant archaeological features were not observed during the fieldwork. This evaluation comprised only a sub 0.5% sample of the site and, in line with the NPPF, a further, more intensive phase of evaluation may be required, prior to the commencement of development.

4.4 The framework for the management of heritage issues in the planning system is currently set out in the Town & Country Planning Act and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, acting on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC).

4.5 The Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan 1991-2011 (adopted 2004) contains the following heritage related policy:

- **Archaeology: Policy 118**: Important Archaeological Remains. This policy provides general policy guidance on archaeology and also lists the Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Significance within the borough. Policy 118 is relevant because it refers to the settings of the defined sites, as well as the sites themselves.

The Dacorum Core Strategy is the principal document in the Council's Local Planning Framework. A public examination into the draft Core Strategy has taken place, the inspectors report has been received and the strategy was adopted on 25 September 2013.

The following Core Strategy policy is relevant.

- **Policy CS27**: Quality of the Historic Environment. This policy states that: 'Features of known or potential archaeological interest will be surveyed, recorded and wherever possible retained'.

5. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by John Chapman on behalf of *Dacorum Borough Council*. Thanks are also due to Mr Trevor Fitt, Estates Manager of the *Homes and Communities Agency* for arranging access to the land. The co-operation of the tenant farmers Mr Bob Fidderman and Mr Colin Poole is also gratefully acknowledged. The project was monitored by Mrs Kate Batt of the *Historic Environment Unit* of *Hertfordshire County Council* acted as curatorial monitor on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for *ASC Ltd* by David Fell BA MA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD FSA MI*f*A and David Fell. The report was prepared by David Fell and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MI*f*A.

6. Archive

6.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

6.2 The archive will be deposited with the *Dacorum Heritage Trust*.

7. 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).

IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct.*

IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents *(Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2009).*

Zeepvat R J, 2013 *Dacorum Local Allocations Development Plan: LA1: Land at Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead. Project design for Stage 2 targetted field evaluation.* Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd document no. **1605/DHI/3**

Secondary Sources

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

Hunn J R, 2013 *Archaeological Assessment: Stage 1 Desk-Based Assessment. Land at Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire*. Archaeological Services & Consultancy report no **1605/DHI/LA1**

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

Stratascan, 2013 *Geophysical Survey: Dacorum Area, Hertfordshire*. Stratascan

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 23

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350m

Levels	
Trench top NW	126.00m OD
Trench base NW	125.70m OD
Trench top SE	125.00m OD
Trench base SE	124.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 05915 09001	**SE**	05983 09019
Orientation		Northwest - Southeast	
Reason for Trench		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
232	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	200	-
231	Layer	Light greyish brown silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	150	200
230	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay with freq flint & chalk flecks. BandS of chalk in centre & south end. Natural stratum	-	-	350

Trench 24

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	250mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	123.00m OD
Trench base NE	122.75m OD
Trench top SW	123.00m OD
Trench base SW	122.75m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 06093 08938	**SW**	TL 06075 08931
Orientation		Northeast - Southwest	
Reason for Trench		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
242	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Turf and topsoil	-	100	-
241	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay with occ. Chalk flecks. Natural subsoil	-	150	100
240	Layer	Fairly homogenous white chalk with occ. Patches of orangy brown clay containing flint nodules. Natural stratum	-	-	250

Trench 25

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350m

Levels	
Trench top NW	124m OD
Trench base NW	124m OD
Trench top SE	120m OD
Trench base SE	120m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 06108 08969	**SE**	TL 06120 08955

Orientation	Northwest - Southeast
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
252	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf		100	-
251	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay with occ. Chalk flecks. Natural subsoil		250	250
250	Layer	Homogenous chalk. Natural stratum		-	350

Trench 26

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	300mm

Levels	
Trench top NW	127.00m OD
Trench base NW	126.70m OD
Trench top SE	127.00m OD
Trench base SE	126.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 06050 09060	**SE**	TL 06067 09048

Orientation	Northwest - Southeast
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
262	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
261	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay with occ. chalk flecks. Natural subsoil	-	200	100
260	Layer	Variable bands of chalk & mid orange clay. Natural stratum	-	-	300

Trench 27

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	129.00m OD
Trench base NE	128.65m OD
Trench top SW	127.00m OD
Trench base SW	126.65m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05983 09019	**SW**	TL 05967 09010

Orientation	Northeast - Southwest
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
272	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
271	Layer	Chalk with patches of light grey brown silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	250	100
270	Layer	Chalk with patches of orangy brown clay with flint nodules. Natural stratum.	-	-	350

Trench 28

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	135.00m OD
Trench base NE	135.65m OD
Trench top SW	131.00m OD
Trench base SW	130.65m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 06040 09065	**SW**	TL 06027 09058

Orientation	Northeast - Southwest
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
282	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
281	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay with occ. chalk flecks. Natural subsoil	-	250	100
280	Layer	Variable bands of chalk & mid and bright orange clay. Natural stratum	-	-	350

Trench 29

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	400m

Levels	
Trench top NW	130.00m OD
Trench base NW	129.60m OD
Trench top SE	129.00m OD
Trench base SE	128.60m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 06040 09065	**SE**	TL 06028 09068
Orientation		Northwest - Southeast	
Reason for Trench		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
292	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
291	Layer	Light grey brown silty clay with occ. Chalk flecks. Natural subsoil	-	300	100
290	Layer	Chalk with patches of orangy brown clay with flint nodules. Natural stratum	-	-	400

Trench 30

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	300mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	131.00m OD
Trench base NE	130.70m OD
Trench top SW	122.00m OD
Trench base SW	121.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05866 09084	**SW**	TL 05848 09072
Orientation		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	
Reason for Trench		Northeast - Southwest	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
302	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	
301	Layer	Light greyish brown silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	200	100
300	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay with freq flint & chalk flecks. Band of chalk at west end. Natural stratum	-	-	300

Trench 31

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350mm

Levels	
Trench top NW*	124.00m OD
Trench base NW	123.65m OD
Trench top SE	122.50m OD
Trench base SE	122.15m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 05727 09206	**SE**	TL 05738 09189

Orientation	Northwest - Southeast
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
312	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
311	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	250	100
310	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Natural stratum	-	-	350

Trench 32

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	300m

Levels	
Trench top NE	124.00m OD
Trench base NE	123.70m OD
Trench top SW	128.00m OD
Trench base SW	127.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05725 09220	**SW**	TL 05710 09213

Orientation	Northeast - Southwest
Reason for Trench	Testing anomaly from geophysical survey

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
322	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
321	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	200	100
320	Layer	Orangy grey silty clay with chalk flecks. Chalk at W end	-	-	300

Trench 33

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6mm	**Depth**	400mm

Levels	
Trench top NW	131.00m OD
Trench base NW	130.60m OD
Trench top SE	130.00m OD
Trench base SE	129.60m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 05705 09280	**SE**	TL 05716 09260
Orientation		Northwest - Southeast	
Reason for Trench		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
332	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
331	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	300	100
330	Layer	Brownish orange clay with patch of clay in the centre. Natural stratum	-	-	400

Trench 34

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350m

Levels	
Trench top NE	134.00m OD
Trench base NE	133.65m OD
Trench top SW	129.00m OD
Trench base SE	128.65m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05786 09252	**SW**	05804 -09260
Orientation		Northeast - Southwest	
Reason for Trench		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
342	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
341	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	200	100
340	Layer	Chalk with occ patches of greyish brown silty clay	-	-	300

Trench 35

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	300mm

Levels	
Trench top NW	126.00m OD
Trench base NW	125.70m OD
Trench top SE	127.00m OD
Trench base SE	126.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 05816 09236	**SE**	TL 05830 09223
Orientation		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	
Reason for Trench		Northwest - Southeast	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
352	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	100	-
351	Layer	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	200	100
350	Layer	Orangy brown silty clay (SE) & chalk (NW). Natural stratum	-	-	300

Trench 36

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	125.00m OD
Trench base NE	124.65m OD
Trench top SW	123.00m OD
Trench base SW	122.65m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05807 09207	**SW**	05789 09195
Orientation		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	
Reason for Trench		Northeast - Southwest	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
362	Layer	Loose mid brown silty clay. Topsoil and turf	-	150	-
361	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	200	150
360	Layer	Chalk at W end, orangy brown silty clay with freq chalk & flint inclusions at E. Natural stratum	-	-	350

Trench 37

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	350mm

Levels	
Trench top NW	130.00m OD
Trench base NW	129.65m OD
Trench top SE	132.00m OD
Trench base SE	131.65m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NW	TL 05878 09223	**SE**	TL 05888 09205
Orientation		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	
Reason for Trench		Northwest - Southeast	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
372	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay. Merges with underlying subsoil. Turf and topsoil.	-	80	-
371	Layer	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Natural subsoil	-	270	80
370	Layer	Mixed natural chalk flecks and greyish brown silty clay. Natural stratum	-	-	350

Trench 38

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	20m	**Width**	1.6m	**Depth**	300mm

Levels	
Trench top NE	132.00m OD
Trench base NE	131.70m OD
Trench top SW	131.00m OD
Trench base SW	130.70m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
NE	TL 05852 09259	**SW**	TL 05836 09251
Orientation		Testing anomaly from geophysical survey	
Reason for Trench		Northeast - Southwest	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
382	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay. Merges with underlying subsoil. Turf and topsoil.	-	150	-
381	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay. Merges with overlying topsoil. Natural subsoil.	-	150	150
380	Layer	Mixed natural chalk flecks and greyish brown silty clay. Solution hollow 7m from west end. Natural stratum.	-	-	300

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead LA1			**SITE NO/CODE: 1605/BHI**
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓		Trench 33
2	✓		Trench 33
3	✓		Trench 32
4	✓		Trench 32
5	✓		Trench 31
6	✓		Trench 31
7	✓		Trench 33 after backfilling
8	✓		View looking south towards Trench 32
9	✓		View over Trench 33 looking east
10	✓		Trench 32 after backfilling
11	✓		Trench 31 after backfilling
12	✓		Trench 36
13	✓		Trench 36
14	✓		Trench 35
15	✓		Trench 35
16	✓		Trench 34
17	✓		Trench 34
18	✓		View looking south towards Trenches 35 and 36
19	✓		View looking west towards Trench 38
20	✓		Trench 38
21	✓		Trench 38
22	✓		View looking west across the south part of the site to Marchmont Farm
23	✓		View looking west across the south part of the site to Marchmont Farm
24	✓		View looking west across the south part of the site to Marchmont Farm
25	✓		Trench 30
26	✓		Trench 30
27	✓		Trench 23
28	✓		Trench 23
29	✓		Trench 27
30	✓		Trench 27
31	✓		View from Piccotts End Lane with the dry valley in the centre
32	✓		View from Piccotts End Lane with the dry valley in the centre
33	✓		View from Piccotts End Lane with the dry valley in the centre
34	✓		Trench 24
35	✓		Trench 24
36	✓		Trench 25
37	✓		Trench 25
38	✓		Trench 29
39	✓		Trench 29
40	✓		Trench 28
41	✓		Trench 28
42	✓		Trench 26
43	✓		Trench 26
44	✓		Trench 37

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Dacorum Local Allocations LA1	OASIS reference:	155723
Short Description:	In August 2013 a preliminary targeted field evaluation was undertaken of land at Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (LA1). Sixteen trial trenches were excavated in order to test a number of magnetic anomalies identified during a geophysical survey. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trenches and no features which could be related geophysical anomalies were present. The natural soil sequence was recorded in all the trenches and no modern disturbance was observed.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Agricultural/set aside	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Hertfordshire	OS reference: (	TL 056 094
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Marchmont Farm, Piccotts End, Hemel Hempstead		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	28 ha	Height OD: (metres)	110-140m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Herts C C	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	J R Hunn
Sponsor / funding body:	Dacorum Borough Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	27 Aug 2013	End date:	28 Aug 2013
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Paper:			
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Assessments: Stage 2: Preliminary Targeted Field Evaluation, Marchmont Farm, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (Local Allocation 1)		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1605/DHI/LA1/1		
Author(s):	David Fell		
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