

13 Hillside Gardens Chipping Barnet



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

24th March 2003

Client Name: Banner Homes

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: JN 1713

Planning Ref N^o: APP/N5090/A/02/1089148

NGR: TQ 242 960

Client Name: Banner Homes

Client Ref No:

Document Title: 13 Hillside gardens, Chipping Barnet

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: TQ 242 960

Planning Reference: APP/N5090/A/02/1089148

OA Job Number: JN 1713

Site Code: HDG 03

Invoice Code: HDG EV

Receiving Museum:

Museum Accession No:

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Document File Location U:\OAUEvals\HDG03.doc
Graphics File Location \\server10\voaupubs1_AtoH\H_codes\HDGEV*Hillside
Gardens, Barnet*AH*17.03.03

Illustrated by Amy Tiffany Hemingway

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SUMMARY

In March 2003 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 13 Hillside Gardens Barnet, which comprised the excavation of three trenches on behalf of Banner Homes. The evaluation did not reveal any evidence for archaeological remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March 2003 OA carried out a field evaluation at 13 Hillside gardens (TQ 242 960) on behalf of Banner Homes in respect of an archaeological condition attached to planning permission for the construction of four new dwellings with associated garaging and access (Planning Application No. APP/N5059/A/02/1089148). The work was implemented in accordance with a brief outlining the requirements of the evaluation set by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (English Heritage) and an approved written scheme of investigation agreed with the same (OA 2003b). The development site is situated at TQ 242 960 and is 70 m² in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on London Clay and Stanmore Gravel at approximately 126 m above OD (BGS Solid and Drift Edition 256, 1994). The site is situated in a residential garden setting.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 In February 2003 OA undertook an archaeological desk based assessment of the development area and this document should be referred to for a detailed account of the archaeological and historical background of the site (OA 2003a). A brief outline of the results of this assessment is presented below.

1.3.2 No direct evidence of archaeological features or deposits dating from any period has previously been identified from within the area of the site itself, although, known sites and findspots within a wider study area of the site do indicate a moderate potential for archaeological deposits to be discovered dating from the later prehistoric, Roman and later medieval periods.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.

2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches located across the site as shown in figure 2. The turf and topsoil down to undisturbed natural deposits was removed by a 3 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and, where appropriate, any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features, where located are planned, and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features are photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Where finds are recovered by hand during the course of the excavation they are generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest are given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits were considered to be of environmental significance and therefore no samples were taken for analysis.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented by trench.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located in a residential garden to the west of the core urban centre of Barnet. The underlying geology of the site is London Clay interspersed with bands of Stanmore Gravel and sand.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 The soil sequence across the site comprised an imported topsoil horizon which overlay (particularly in Trenches 2 and 3) a Made Ground deposit of gravel. The Made Ground sealed the natural London Clay and Stanmore Gravel.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north western corner of the garden. The trench was sited on the highest point of the site (Fig. 2). The trench sloped from approximately *c.* 125.5 m OD at the north-western end to *c.* 124.5 m OD at the south-eastern end.
- 5.1.2 The base of the soil sequence was composed of the London Clay natural with bands of Stanmore Gravel. This natural deposit was *c.* 0.65 m below ground surface (BGL). The upper part of the natural horizon was much disturbed by tree roots many of which were still present in the ground.
- 5.1.3 The natural was overlain by a layer of dark grey, sandy silt that contained a high proportion of river pebbles and flints (101). This deposit was up to 0.3 m thick and was probably associated with the landscaping of the garden during the time of the construction of number 13 Hillside Gardens.
- 5.1.4 The uppermost deposit was a layer of topsoil (100) up to 0.4 m thick. This was a good quality silty loam that contained a substantial proportion of sand and humic material. This context contained modern material probably dating to the construction of the house.
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features/deposits or finds were recorded or recovered.

Trench 2

- 5.1.6 Trench 2 was located in the north eastern corner of the garden (Fig. 2). The trench was orientated NW to SE and was 15 m in length. Trench 2 was sited on a slope in the garden with the north-western end at *c.* 126.98 m OD sloping down to the south-eastern end at *c.* 126.21 m OD. Trench 2 was up to 1.2 m deep.
- 5.1.7 The base of the soil sequence was composed of the London Clay natural with bands of Stanmore Gravel. This natural deposit was *c.* 1.2 m below ground surface (BGL). The upper part of the natural horizon was much disturbed by tree roots many of which were still present in the ground.
- 5.1.8 Above the natural horizon was a thick layer (up to 0.8 m) of made ground (201). This deposit was composed of loose, pale grey to dark orange, sandy gravel similar in composition to the natural Stanmore Gravel. This deposit was thickest at the south-eastern end of the trench, where the slope was most pronounced and closest to the old tennis court. This horizon of made ground was certainly derived from the upcast created during the landscaping and construction of the tennis court (Fig 2).
- 5.1.9 The top of the sequence of deposits in Trench 2 was composed of a topsoil (200) up to 0.4 m thick. The presence of the made ground below this deposit would indicate that (as seen elsewhere on the site) this topsoil was an import, brought in specifically for landscaping and gardening purposes. This deposit contained a number of modern pottery sherds.

- 5.1.10 A single feature was observed cutting the entire sequence of deposits in Trench 2. This feature was a roughly square pit (202) that contained a loose, wet dark brown loam (203). The top of the pit was 1 m wide with its base measuring 0.3 m wide. The pit was V-shaped with a rounded base. This feature contained a single fragment of tile, and its form is consistent with soak-away type features.

Trench 3

- 5.1.11 Trench 3 was located in the flat area of land to the west of the tennis court (Fig 2). The trench was orientated east-west and was 12 m in length. The siting of the trench was slightly hampered by the presence of large *in-situ* tree stumps.
- 5.1.12 The base of the soil sequence was composed of the London Clay natural with bands of Stanmore Gravel (302). This natural deposit ranged from *c.* 0.80 m below ground surface at the western end of the trench, to 1.20 m below ground surface at its eastern extent. This variation in the depth at which natural was revealed was due to the presence of Made Ground deposited at its eastern extent associated with the construction of the tennis court.
- 5.1.13 Above the natural horizon was a layer of Made Ground 301 that was thick and more apparent at the eastern end of the trench. This deposit was composed of loose, grey to orange, sandy gravel similar in composition to the natural Stanmore Gravel.
- 5.1.14 The top of the sequence of deposits in Trench 3 was composed of topsoil (300) up to 0.75 m thick. This part of the garden appears to have been extensively landscaped being the only flat part of the site and surrounded by raised flower beds and shrubbery. No archaeological features/deposits were recorded.

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 All of the finds recovered from the site were from topsoil contexts. The artefacts comprised pottery and glass sherds all of which were of twentieth century date.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The trenches were located in order to provide a good sample of the available area of the site and to examine those areas that would be subject to impact from the foundations of the proposed structures.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed no features of archaeological significance. The land in which the evaluation was located had been heavily landscaped both for the construction of number 13 Hillside gardens and probably for the adjoining properties. Further landscaping resulting from the construction of the tennis court was also evident in the soil profiles recorded in the trenches. Where exposed the

natural geology was seen to be heavily disturbed by the roots of large trees and shrubs and the presence of two *in-situ* tree stumps may suggest that the area contained more trees in the recent past.

- 6.2.2 No evidence of plough scars or marks were observed in the natural and no plough derived subsoil was encountered during the evaluation. The evaluation therefore indicates that the site had not been occupied prior to the construction of the present dwelling. The historic maps show this part of Chipping Barnet to have been in medieval open fields, though any archaeological evidence of agricultural activity could have been removed during the extensive landscaping of the site.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context	Type	Width	Thickness	Comment
1	100	Dep	N/A	0.4m	Topsoil
1	101	Dep	N/A	0.3m	Made Gound
1	102	Dep	N/A	N/A	Natural
1	103	Dep	N/A	N/A	Natural
2	200	Dep	N/A	0.4m	Topsoil
2	201	Dep	N/A	0.8m	Made Gound
2	202	Cut	1.2m	1.2m	Soak away
2	203	Dep	1.2m	1.2m	Fill of Pit
2	204	Dep	N/A	N/A	Natural
3	300	Dep	N/A	0.8m	Topsoil
3	301	Dep	N/A	1.1m	Made Gound
3	302	Dep	N/A	N/A	Natural

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

BGS 1994, *Geological Survey of Great Britain, North London*, Sheet 256, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 Series

OAU 1992, *Fieldwork Manual* (1st edition, Wilkinson, D, 1992)

OA 2003a, *Hillside Gardens, Chipping Barnet: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment Report*, Unpublished Report for Banner Homes

OA 2003b, *Hillside Gardens, Chipping Barnet: Written Scheme of Investigation*

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation, Excavation, Watching Brief, Building Recording, Survey,
Geoarchaeological Evaluation, Fieldwalking, Other

2) LOCATION

Borough: **Barnet**

Site address: **13 Hillside Gardens**

Site Name: **13 Hillside Gardens** Site Code: **HDG03**

Nat. grid Refs: **TQ 242 960** centre of site: **TQ 242 960**

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: **Daniel Dodds** Project manager: **Steve Weaver**

Funded by: **Banner Homes**

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started **11 March 2003** Date finished: **13 March 2003**

Fieldwork previously notified? **YES/NO**

Fieldwork will continue? **YES/NO/NOT KNOWN**

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon (pre-AD 1066),
Medieval (AD 1066-1485), Post-Medieval, Unknown, **None**

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

7) NATURAL

Type: **London Clay and Stanmore Gravel**

Height above Ordnance datum: **c.125 m OD**

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

PLans x 3	PHotos	Ngtives x 1f ilm
SLides x1 film	COrrrespondence	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)
BULk finds x 1 box	SMall finds	SOil samples
OTHer		

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location:
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: YES/NO

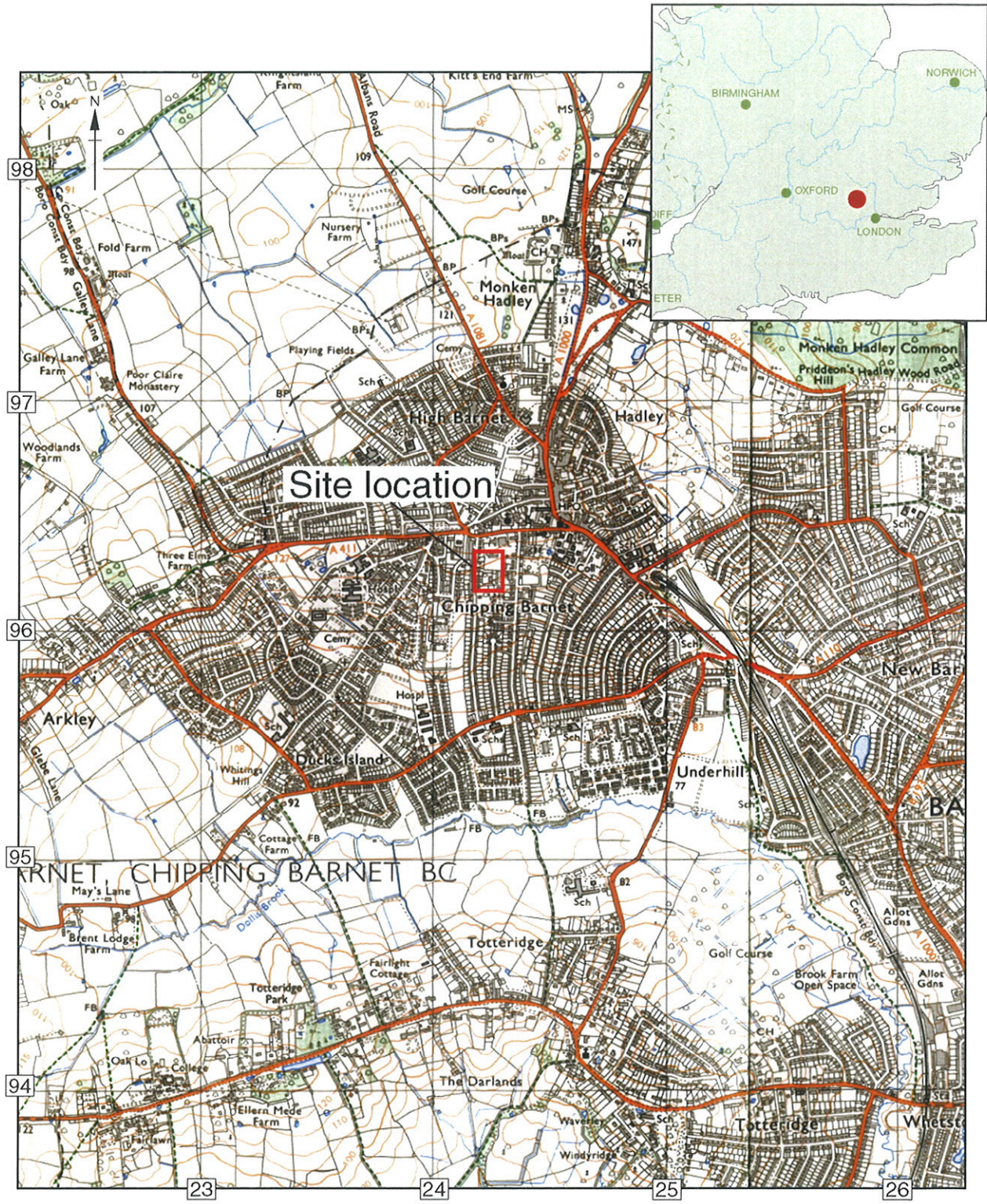
10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 2 Bibliography and references

SIGNED: 

DATE: 27/3/03

NAME: STEVEN WEBSTER



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Figure 1: Site location

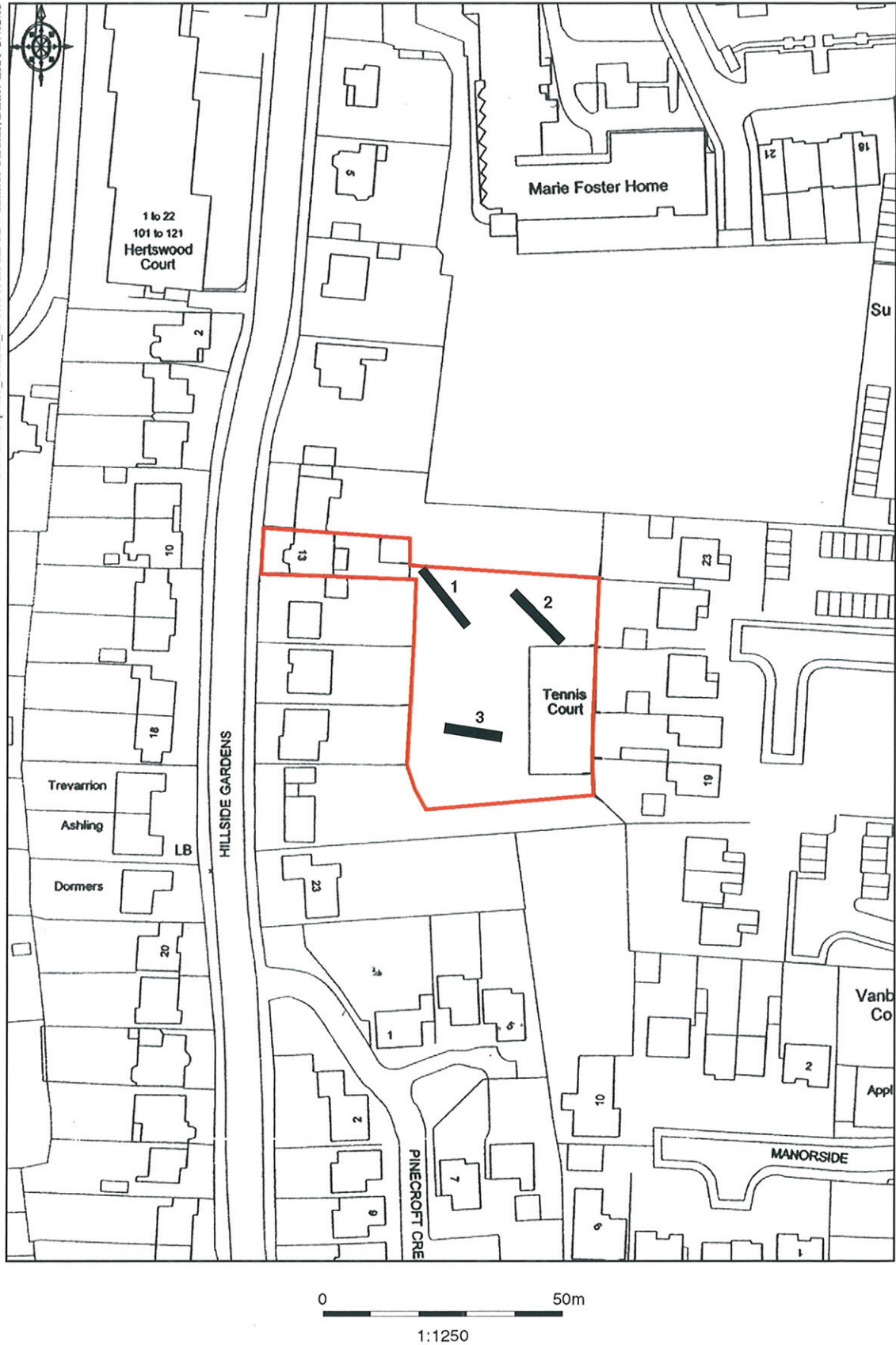


Figure 2: Trench locations



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