Tottenham House and Estate Below Ground Drainage

Archaeology Statement

Introduction

1.1 This archaeology report has been prepared by BSA Heritage Limited on behalf of the Tottenham House and Estate to support an approval of details for below ground drainage proposals. The areas where replacement and refurbishment of both foul and surface water drainage include beneath the main house itself and in areas to the north as shown by the plan in Appendix 1.

1.2 The site area all lies within the extensive Grade II* 'Tottenham House and Savernake Forest' Registered Park and Garden designation, although the implications for the designated heritage assets are being considered by others.

1.3 This report considers potential archaeological remains which might be affected by the ground disturbance related to forthcoming drainage proposals which are likely to involve the excavation of pipe trenches of approximately a metre's width and down to several metre's depth. Related infrastructure elements may also require excavation, although re-use of existing pipes and structures will be preferred wherever viable.

1.4 The assessment of potential impact is informed by past archaeological investigations and reporting including a 2017 desk based assessment prepared by CgMs and reports on trial trenching by Wessex Archaeology in 2005 and Foundations Archaeology in 2019.[1] The results of archaeological watching briefs on enabling and other works undertaken by Foundations Archaeology in late 2020 through to late 2022 have also informed this report, albeit some have yet to be formally written up.

Archaeological Background

1.5 Past investigations have confirmed a range of activity within the wider park. Indeed, the course of a Roman road is recorded by the Ordnance Survey and Wiltshire Historic Environment Record as running from north west to south east through drainage zones 5, 10, 11 and 13 (Appendix 1). This road course runs broadly from north west and the Roman town of *Cunetio* near Marlborough to south east, towards Winchester.

1.6 Archaeological trial trenching by Wessex Archaeology east of Tottenham House itself identified an area of Roman settlement and pottery kilns to either side of the road's course, but several trenches bisecting the course of the road failed to find remains. Recent monitoring by Foundations Archaeology of works intersecting the course of the road west of the main house has also not recorded any definite road remains.

[1] Smalley H. 2017 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Tottenham House & Estate, Wiltshire (unpublished CgMs report ref. HS/22425), Cheltenham; Wessex Archaeology 2005 Land at Tottenham House, Great Bedwyn, Wiltshire – Archaeological Evaluation Report (unpublished client report ref. 60890.1), Salisbury; Hood A. 2019 Tottenham House, Marlborough, Wiltshire – Archaeological Evaluation: Phase 1 (unpublished Foundations Archaeology client report ref. 1315), Swindon.

1.7 Investigations in the 1960s to the south of Tottenham House recorded a number of Roman pottery kilns and these remains are now scheduled. However, this designated area lies well away from the areas being considered for drainage works. Other investigation suggests the Savernake Forest was a centre for Roman pottery production, with a recent investigation by Foundations Archaeology confirming Roman features within the scheduled area.[2]

1.8 It has been suggested too that a Roman villa may be sited south of the main house and area under consideration given the exposure of a tessellated floor in the 19th century, although no other indication of such a high status structure has come to light since.

1.9 It has also been suggested that there had been an earlier, Iron Age pottery industry in the same area. CgMs's assessment confirms that there is evidence known from the wider study area for Mesolithic through to Iron Age activity and sites, including finds of worked flint, a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and Bronze Age barrow sites. Wessex Archaeology's trial trenching well to the south east of the site identified two areas of Bronze Age occupation focussed on high points.

1.10 Past analysis of aerial photographs has indicated a number of features within the Registered parkland, including possible enclosures These have a morphology which is typical of later prehistoric or Roman enclosures, although they may reflect more recent agricultural activity. As these features have not been tested by fieldwork, their exact nature and date is uncertain, but other cropmarks within the park have been interpreted as an extensive Iron Age and Roman field system. However, these might also be the result of later activity.

1.11 Very little of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date has come to light in past investigation in the area. This may reflect the use of the site and wider Savernake Forest as a hunting domain in these periods. It is likely that settlement was located where villages and hamlets survive to this day, away from the park. The forest itself may not have been heavily wooded, but was probably a mix of heath, copses and wood pasture. Cropmark features running broadly east to west across the line of the Roman road and south of the drainage areas under consideration are thought to reflect a substantial medieval boundary bank, the *Magnum Fossatum*, although there is no surface trace of this now.

1.12 By the late 16th century, the park was the site of Tottenham Lodge which is likely to have lain close to or beneath the current Tottenham House. Formal parkland is likely to have been created from the late 16th century too, with subsequent evolutions, as well as ancillary structures supporting estate activities. During the Second World War, the park was used for the storage of military ordnance.

[2] Hood A. 2020 Tottenham House, Marlborough, Wiltshire – Archaeological Evaluation: Phase 2 (unpublished Foundations Archaeology client report ref. 1348), Swindon

Proximal Fieldwork Results

1.13 Although extensive investigation by Wessex Archaeology was largely located east of Tottenham House, three trenches were opened within the walled kitchen gardens, through which new drainage routes may need to run (Appendix 1, parts of Zone 8 -11). More recently, Foundations Archaeology has investigated trenches to the north and east of the kitchen garden and also monitored a range of ground stripping and extensive service trenching in the area where the current proposals would be located.

1.14 The three Wessex Archaeology trial trenches were located perpendicular to the anticipated line of the Roman road. Although features were found in one trench, including brick walling/surfaces and post-holes, these appeared to be associated with post-medieval garden activities. No features or significant finds came from the other two trenches.

1.15 Foundations Archaeology's initial trenches were located to test the house's ha-ha, which runs in part through Zone 6 of the drainage areas. Although the investigation confirmed the construction and condition of the ha-ha, no finds or features of earlier than post-medieval date came to light.

1.16 Archaeological monitoring during enabling works observed excavation along a considerable length of service trench. However, the most interesting finds were prehistoric flints in an apparent cut feature, but the finds may have been redeposited (A. Hood, pers. comm.). As noted above, although at least one of the service trenches cut the line of the putative Roman road, no evidence for it has been recorded to date and no Roman pottery has been found.

1.17 Extensive archaeological investigations attended the development of a Ground Source Heat Pump network of pipes largely south west of the areas now under consideration. Phased geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed the remains of later post-medieval clay extraction which were subsequently archaeologically excavated ahead of their destruction by the pipelaying. However, other than these remains, likely related to construction of the current Tottenham House, there was no indication of significant archaeology.

1.18 Other finds made during recent monitoring have been limited to post-medieval and likely recent features including the remains of red brick walls and drainage which are probably related to greenhouses and other horticultural and estate activity indicated on 19th century and later maps. Work within the main house's northern courtyard revealed evidence of truncation and also remains of 19th century coal bunkers.

Other Sources

1.19 The earliest detailed maps of the park date to the early 18th century. Price's map of 1716 does appear to show the line of the *Magnum Fossatum* as the Estate boundary. Later maps suggest that areas where drainage may run included the walled kitchen gardens, ha-ha and areas of both deciduous and coniferous woodland.

Impact Assessment & Conclusions

1.20 This review of existing archaeological information confirms that, although the exact location and nature of new drainage elements required beneath and north of Tottenham House have not all been defined, there is a considerable body of information available to inform an understanding of the site's archaeological potential.

1.21 Known sites and remains within the wider park indicate that there is potential for features and finds dating from the prehistoric period, with particular potential for late prehistoric or Roman remains, as indicated by linear cropmark features. However, investigations closest to and within the areas which might be affected cast doubt on the survival of a Roman road's fabric and do not indicate any related remains. Roman activity appears to be concentrated to the south and east of the areas under consideration.

1.22 The line of a possibly medieval boundary, the *Magnum Fossatum*, would also have lain to the south. Park related post-medieval features and Second World War activity may have lain in the drainage zone areas, but most likely remains would rate as of lower significance. An exception would be any remains related to the predecessor of Tottenham House.

1.23 It is also the case that known activity is likely to have denuded any sub-surface archaeological remains that did lie in the areas which would be affected. Construction of the extant Tottenham House would have disturbed any earlier remains in its footprint. Indeed, recent monitoring in the North Courtyard supports this. There is also cartographic evidence that much of the area was previously wooded and the roots of trees would have damaged the integrity of any archaeological deposits.

1.24 The current and forthcoming detailed drainage proposals will seek to minimise new disturbance to the ground surface. Where possible, existing pipework will be re-used, with new linings a possible solution. The detention basin north of the house which will take surface water already exists, but will need to be altered and enhanced through limited additional excavation.

1.25 It is the case that some new excavation below Tottenham House and on the main pipe heading north east to the surface water basin will be required. It is likely that a trench a metre wide will need to be cut where this is necessary. A metre wide trench represents both a relatively low level of impact, but also an adequate size to be monitored through a watching brief.

1.26 Given the absence of any definite significant remains which would be affected by the proposed and anticipated requirements to upgrade the below ground drainage at Tottenham House, it is concluded that any further archaeological requirement could be secured during the determination of the application.

1.27 As below ground drainage details for the wider area become available, these could be considered by the scheme archaeologist and discussed with the Wiltshire Council archaeology officer. Where the excavation of trenches for replacement pipes is judged to cross previously undisturbed ground beyond the main house, a watching brief may be required during trench excavation. It is unlikely that any monitoring will be required within the main house's footprint. The approach to the watching brief will accord with a suitable Written Scheme of Investigation.

Appendix 1: Drainage Zones Plan

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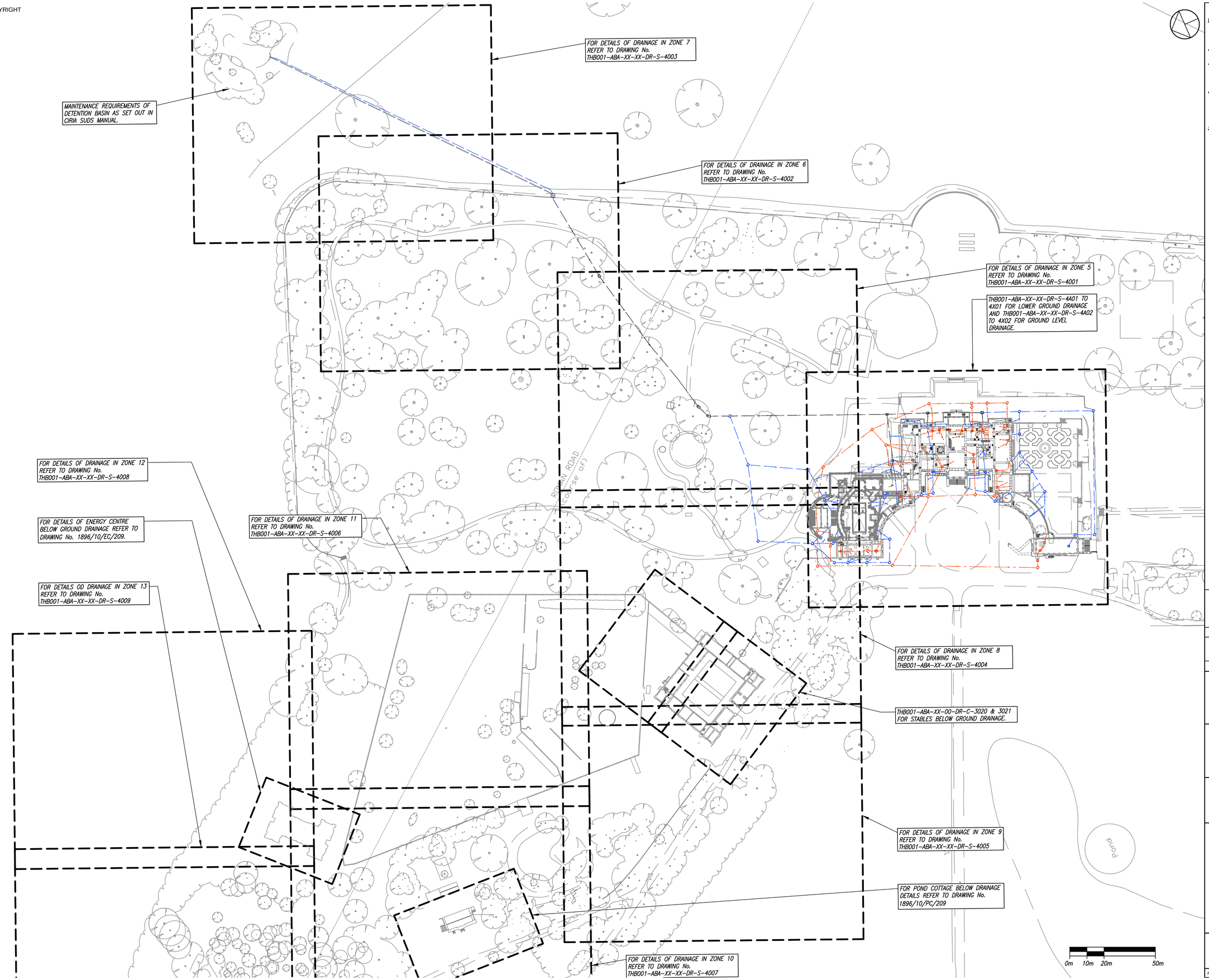

notes

1. THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ALL RELEVANT ARCHITECT'S AND ENGINEER'S DRAWINGS AND THE SPECIFICATION.
2. DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING.
3. FOR EXISTING DRAINAGE DRAWINGS FOR THE MAIN HOUSE REFER TO DRAWING No's 1896/10/MH3100 TO MH3400.
4. THE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON:

   SURVEY BY ON CENTRE SURVEYS LTD. ISSUED SEPT,19
5. KEY

- ASSUMED FOUL WATER.
- EXISTING FOUL WATER.
- ASSUMED SURFACE WATER.
- EXISTING SURFACE WATER.
- ASSUMED COMBINED.
- EXISTING COMBINED.
- ROCKER PIPE.
- RUN GRUBBED OUT.
- PROPOSED SURFACE WATER.
- PROPOSED FOUL DRAINAGE.
- RISING MAIN.

C	26.04.23	ISSUED FOR TENDER. DRAINAGE FROM NORTHERN WING TO SITE SYSTEM AMENDED. MINOR UPDATES MADE TO SOME PIPE SIZES AND NOTES.	RM
B	03.04.23	ISSUED FOR CONDITION DISCHARGE.	RM
A	03.04.23	ISSUED FOR TENDER. OVERALL PLAN UPDATED. NOTED ADDED AND AMENDED.	RM
	28.02.20	ISSUED FOR TENDER.	DR

job
TOTTENHAM HOUSE, WILTSHIRE

title
PROPOSED BELOW GROUND DRAINAGE OVERALL SITE PLAN

drawn: SP
checked: DR
date: JAN'20
scale (original - A1): 1:1000

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