

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
OF GROUNDWORKS AT GLEBE  
HOUSE, WALDEN ROAD,  
HADSTOCK, ESSEX**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PCA REPORT NO: 11472**

**JULY 2013**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks at Glebe House, Walden  
Road, Hadstock, Essex. CB21 4NX**

**Written and Researched by** Adam Garwood

**Site Code:** HDGH13

**Planning Application No.:** UTT/1873/11/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** NGR TL 5582 4474

**Project Manager:** Mark Hinman

**Commissioning Client:** Simon Boxall

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FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2 DETAILED SITE LOCATION

## ABSTRACT

*Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by the clients agent Simon Boxall to undertake a programme archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new triple garage at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex. As the proposed development site lies within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core of Hadstock and adjacent to the 11<sup>th</sup> century church of St Botolphs, detailed archaeological monitoring was required as a condition of the planning permission UTT/1873/11/FUL. The archaeological monitoring of the garage footprint was undertaken on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013. This revealed a considerable deposit of later post-medieval made ground and a small length of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century wall, both thought have a direct association with the use and disuse of Glebe Farm, a post medieval small holding which formerly occupied the site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report details the methodology and results of a programme of archaeological monitoring carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex (Figures 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by Simon Boxall on behalf of the clients.
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (Hinman & Woolhouse, 2013) and in response to an Archaeological Brief issued by Essex County Council, Place Services (Havis, 2013). The fieldwork was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 and was managed for PCA by Mark Hinman and supervised by Adam Garwood.
- 1.3 Glebe House is located along the southern side of the village of Hadstock and adjacent to the parish church of St Botolphs at NGR TL 5582 4474. Hadstock lies within Uttlesford District in north-west Essex and is situated approximately 10km north-east of Saffron Walden and close to the county boundary with Cambridgeshire. The site of the church is a high point within the village with an elevation of c. 80m OD.
- 1.4 The archaeological monitoring works at Glebe House was carried out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 and focused upon the excavation of the entire footprint of a proposed new triple garage (planning ref. UTT/1873/11/FUL).

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1 The underlying geology of the immediate area is Pit Chalk Formation, a chalk sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 89 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain by superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, comprising sand and gravels which were formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey on Line).
- 2.2 The site was located in an area of un-built land to the north-east of Glebe House, to the south west of the 11th century late Saxon parish church of St Botolphs Hadstock and immediately adjacent to the churchyard. Glebe House occupies an elevated position above the level of the roadside (Walden Road) to the west, while the site of the new garage, is sited to the east of the ramped road access from Walden Road and rises, progressively, in a gradual slope, from north to south. The church and the northern end of the site lie at a height of c. 80m OD.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The following archaeological background is largely taken from the Essex County Council, Place Services, Archaeological Brief for archaeological monitoring at Glebe House (Havis, 2012).
- 3.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development site lies within a sensitive area within the historic settlement at Hadstock. The development lies immediately to the south west of the Church of St Botolph (HER 36058) of which the nave and north transept are thought to be Anglo Saxon in date. It is possible that this church was the minster church built by Canute after the battle of Assundun in 1016 and it is very probable that the church would have formed the focus for settlement in the late Anglo Saxon period and throughout the medieval period. Accordingly there is a particular potential for discovering Anglo Saxon and later occupation close to the church. With this in mind, a series of earthworks, interpreted as being indicative of a deserted settlement (HER 46541), survive to the east of the church.
- 3.3 Ordnance Survey mapping from the later 19th century show that the present site was formerly occupied by a small farm holding, Glebe Farm. The farmhouse was located in the same position as the present Glebe House, while farm buildings were sited to the north and against the churchyard wall. The development area is shown on the map crossed by a diagonal path leading to the Rectory (to the south) and an east-west aligned boundary.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 Archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the footprint for a new garage at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex was carried out on the 23/07/2013.
- 4.2 All aspects of the monitoring were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008), as well as the Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Field techniques and guidance are detailed within the PCA fieldwork induction manual (Taylor and Brown 2009).
- 4.3 Machine stripping was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was inspected and cleaned by hand immediately after excavation and any archaeological deposits or negative features were planned and photographed



## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The excavated footprint measured 7.5m east-west and 10.8m north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m at the northern end and up to 1.2m at the southern end, as it terraced into the slope. Excavation of the over-site revealed an insubstantial covering of modern topsoil, measuring between 0.10-0.15m, overlying a considerable deposit of made ground. The made ground varied in character across the footprint, comprising lenses of yellow sand, up to 0.25m thick, at the northern end and mixed deposits of grey/brown clayey soils and re-deposited chalk and clay to the south. This made ground included a moderate amount of general house and building debris, such as fragmented and broken post-medieval brick, grey slate, ash and charcoal. All of this material was later post-medieval and probably, given the character of the building materials, later 19th century or early 20th century in date.
- 5.2 Excavation into the sloping ground to the south revealed that the made ground appeared to be contained within natural hollow or terrace, although the base and sides were not identified as the natural underlying chalk subsoil was not reached. The made ground did however become increasingly chalkier toward the southern baulk, suggesting that the edge of the feature may not have been much deeper or further south.
- 5.3 No archaeological features or evidence of activity in the form of residual artefacts (pottery or other) were identified within the area of the building footprint, apart from a flint and brick wall foundation located along the southern excavation limit.
- 5.4 This wall was aligned east-west and measured c.4.4m in length, 0.26m (1 brick width) in width and butt ended c. 2.8m from the eastern baulk. The relationship between the wall foundation and the made ground was unclear, though it was overlain by later waste deposit of similar character, suggesting a gradual re-landscaping of the area.
- 5.5 Examination of the wall foundation revealed it was mainly constructed using large flint nodules set in a sandy lime mortar, but also incorporated red, frogged, half bricks measuring 100mm x 60-65mm. These bricks were handmade bricks and typical of an 18th-19th century date.
- 5.6 Though the function of the wall was not immediately clear, there was no evidence to suggest that it formed part of a free standing structure such as a building, but may have been a retaining or boundary wall which formed part of the terracing of the land in this area. As the site of Glebe House and the development area was formerly part of Glebe Farm, it seems very probable that this wall is directly associated with the farm and is likely to have been one of the farm boundaries depicted on the later 19<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping. The presence of building debris and the made ground in this area may be a consequence of the demolition of nearby farm buildings belonging to Glebe Farm (which appears to have remained as a working farm until just after the Great War, 1914-18) and the sites subsequent re-landscaping in preparation for its change to domestic use (Glebe Cottage and latterly Glebe House).

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the footprint for a new free-standing garage at Glebe House uncovered no evidence of archaeological activity predating the later post-medieval period. If Anglo-Saxon or medieval occupation had existed in this area it seems likely that it would have been destroyed by landscaping activities associated with the sites later use, in the post medieval period, as Glebe Farm.
- 6.2 The evidence of this later disturbance was encountered in the form of a considerable depth of made ground/landscaping deposits which contained building and general debris typical of a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date range. These deposits appeared to infill a hollow or terraced area that extended across and beyond the footprint of the proposed garages. Situated at the top of the access ramp from the roadside (Walden Road), this terraced area may have been created to accommodate a pair of farm buildings, formerly built along the northern side of the property and against the churchyard wall. A later 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> century flint and brick wall foundation uncovered along the southern side of the excavated area appears to have been a retaining or boundary wall which formed part of the terracing of the land in this area and it is likely one of the boundaries depicted on the later 19<sup>th</sup> century OS map of Glebe Farm. Following the farms disuse after the 1914-18 war the site was redeveloped for domestic use (Glebe Cottage) and the existing farm buildings along the northern boundary were demolished. The presence of the building debris and made ground in this area were probably a consequence of this demolition and the sites subsequent re-landscaping in preparation for its change to domestic use.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology is grateful to Simon Boxall for commissioning the project and to Richard Havis of Essex County Council Place Services for their assistance and advice. The report was written by Adam Garwood and the illustrations prepared by Mark Roughly.

## REFERENCES

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 14, ALGAO, Gressenhall

Hinman M. and Woolhouse, T. 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring of Groundworks at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, Cambridge

Havis, R. 2013 *Brief For Archaeological Excavation And Monitoring of Groundworks at Glebe House, Hadstock* (ECC Typescript)

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

Taylor, G. and Brown, J. 2009 *Fieldwork Induction Manual*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd, London

## APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1 Site during excavation, looking W



Plate 2 Depth of made ground along southern excavation boundary, looking S



Plate 3 Post-medieval E-W wall foundation, looking E

**APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY**

OASIS ID: preconst1-155621

**Project details**

Project name	Glebe House, Walden Road, Hadstock, Essex
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned to undertake a programme archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new triple garage at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex. As the proposed development site lies within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core of Hadstock and adjacent to the 11th century church, detailed archaeological monitoring was required as a condition of the planning permission UTT/1873/11/FUL. The archaeological monitoring of the garage footprint revealed a considerable deposit of later post-medieval made ground and a small length of 18th to 19th century wall, both thought have a direct association with the use and disuse of Glebe Farm, a post medieval small holding which formerly occupied the site .
Project dates	Start: 23-07-2013 End: 23-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HDGH13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	DEMOLITION DEBRIS Post Medieval
Monument type	DEMOLITION DEBRIS Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD HADSTOCK Glebe House
Postcode	CB21 4NX
Study area	81.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 55820 44740 52 0 52 04 43 N 000 16 26 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation		Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project originator	brief	Essex County Council
Project originator	design	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager		Mark Hinman
Project supervisor		Adam Garwood
Type of sponsor/funding body		Private Client

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**Project archives**

Physical Exists?	Archive	No
Digital available	Media	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Exists?	Archive	No

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garwood, A.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	pre-construct archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	Grey Report

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Entered by	adam garwood (agarwood@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	24 July 2013



### APPENDIX 3: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Glebe House, Walden Road, Hadstock, Essex	
Parish: Hadstock	District: Uttlesford District Council
NGR: TL 5582 4474	Site Code: HDGH13
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Team: Adam Garwood Pre-Construct Archaeology
Date of Work: 23/07/2013	Size of Area Investigated: 81m <sup>2</sup>
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: No finds	Funding source: client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos.: 36058/46541
Final Report: Yes	
Periods Represented: Later Post-medieval-Modern (20 <sup>th</sup> century)	
<p>Summary of Fieldwork Results:</p> <p>Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by the clients agent Simon Boxall to undertake a programme archaeological monitoring during the construction of a new triple garage at Glebe House, Hadstock, Essex. As the proposed development site lies within the Anglo-Saxon and medieval core of Hadstock and adjacent to the 11th century church of St Botolphs, detailed archaeological monitoring was required as a condition of the planning permission UTT/1873/11/FUL. The archaeological monitoring of the garage footprint was undertaken on 23rd July 2013. This revealed a considerable deposit of later post-medieval made ground and a small length of 18th to 19th century wall, both thought have a direct association with the use and disuse of Glebe Farm, a post medieval small holding which formerly occupied the site.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: Adam Garwood	Date of Summary: 24/07/2013

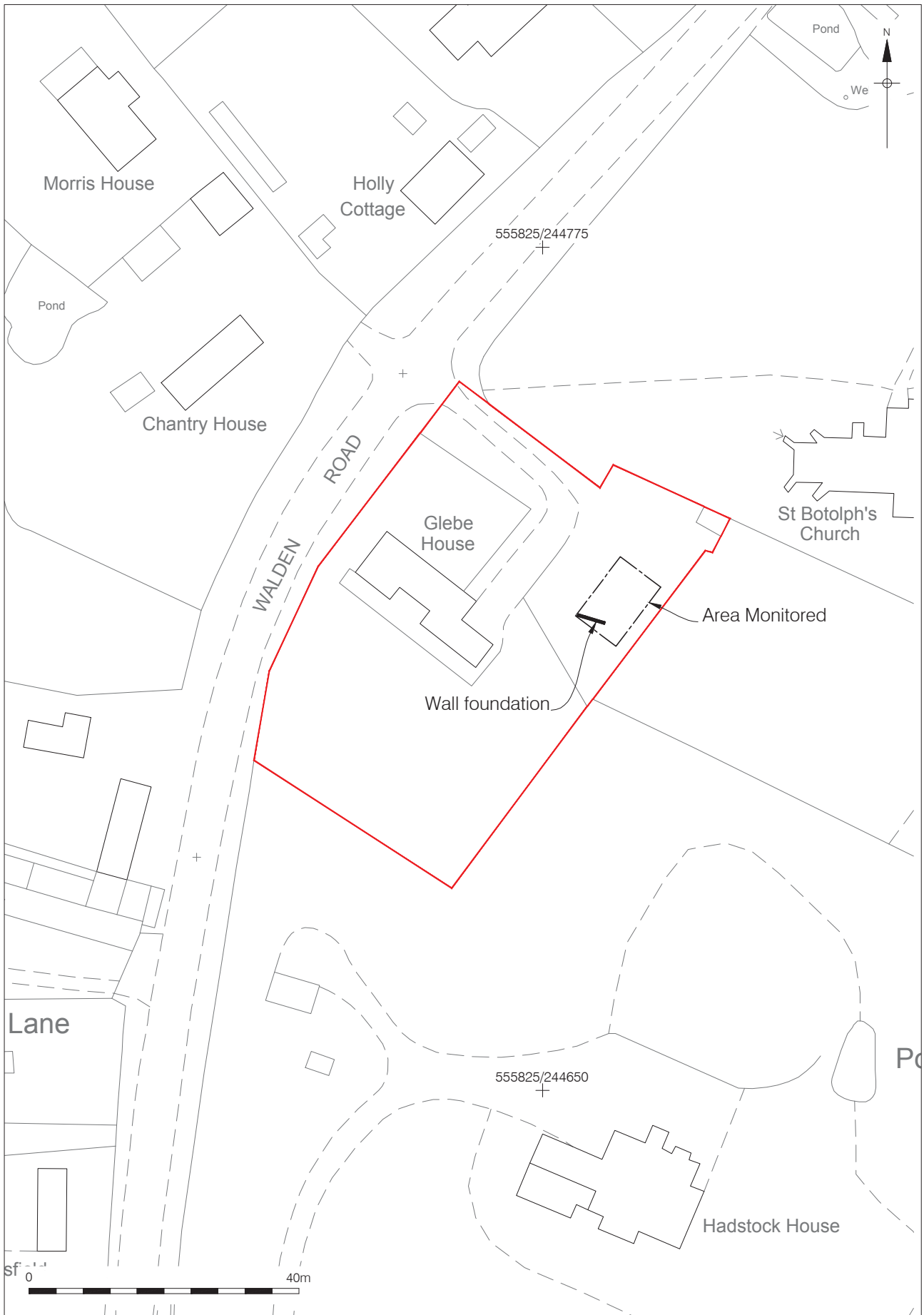


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location showing Area Monitored  
1:800 at A4

# PCA

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