

Archaeological Evaluation On Land At Walnut Close Much Hadham Hertfordshire

Grid reference: TL 426 186

Planning Application No: 3/15/1011/FUL
HER no:

Oasis No.: 253659

Prepared for:
Flushgroup

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OASIS SUMMARY

Non-technical summary

This is a report for archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the erection of 2 NO. 2 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS AND 5 NO. 4 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING – LAND AT WALNUT CLOSE, MUCH HADHAM, HERTS, SG10 6AJ.

It has been written in response to archaeological advice written by *A. Tinniswood, East Herts Council* - Historic Environment Advisor Environmental Resource Planning, dated 29th of June 2015.

The results of this evaluation showed that no archaeology will be compromised by the current proposed development

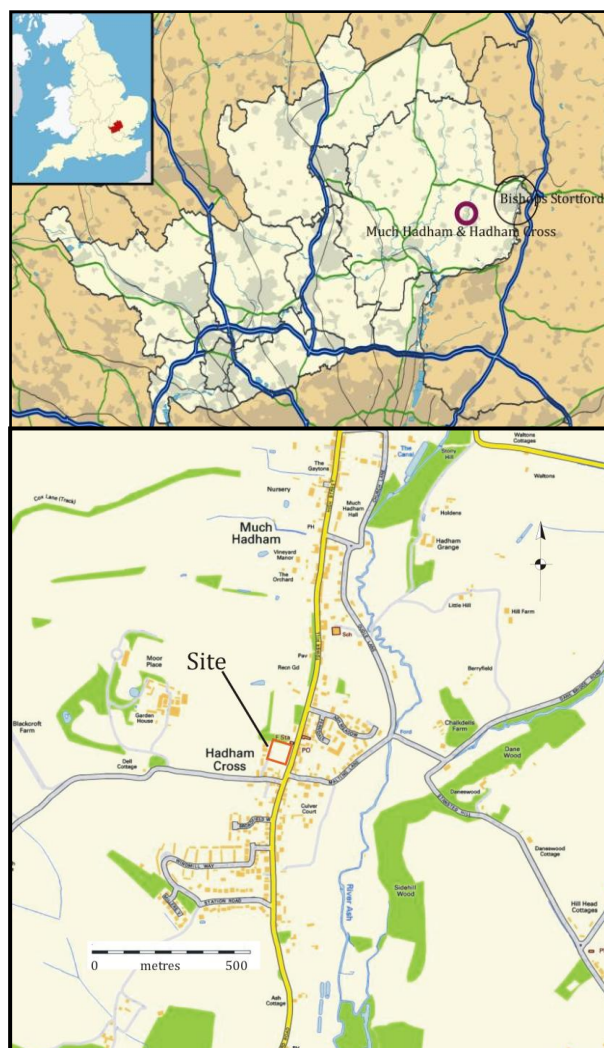
1. Introduction

As part of the planning application process at Walnut Tree Close Much Hadham for the new proposed dwellings, an archaeological evaluation was requested by the East Herts Historic environment Team to ascertain if any below ground historical assets were at risk of damage by the current development. A written scheme of investigation was presented to the Historic Environment Team by Archaeoserv and accepted as part of the archaeological process. The results of the evaluation were inspected by Alison Tinniswood from East Herts Council who passed the project as being a negative result and agreed that the site was sterile from an archaeological perspective.

2. Site Location & Geology

Grid Ref: TL 426 186

2.1 The solid geology of the area is clay, silt and sand of London Clay Formation with clay, silt and sand (Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group; BGS 1990)



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Figure 1. Site location in Much Hadham

2.2 The site is located at Much Hadham, and specifically Hadham Cross, an early medieval cross road within the historic core of Much Hadham and Hadham Cross , in east Hertfordshire. The site is currently uncultivated waste land , which is populated by several trees and will form a new extension to the existing Walnut Close which contains a number of residential properties adjacent to Tower Hill.

3. Planning background

The planning application No., 3/15/1011/FUL was granted by East Herts Council, for the erection of of 2 NO. 2 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS AND 5 NO. 4 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING – LAND AT WALNUT CLOSE, MUCH HADHAM, HERTS, SG10 6AJ

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, the archaeological advice states:

No development shall take place within the proposed development site until the applicant, or their agents, or their successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to the planning authority and approved in writing. This condition will only be considered to be discharged when the planning authority has received and approved an archaeological report of all the required archaeological works, and if appropriate, a commitment to publication has been made. And Specifically:

" A programme of archaeological evaluation (in the form of trial trenches) of the proposed development site (including parking areas, etc.) before any development commences. And such appropriate mitigation measures indicated as necessary by the evaluation. These may include: the preservation of any archaeological remains in situ, if warranted, by amendments to the design of the development if this is feasible; the appropriate archaeological excavation of any remains before any development commences on the site; the archaeological monitoring and recording of the ground works of the development, including foundations, services, landscaping, access, etc. (and also including a contingency for the preservation or further investigation of any remains then encountered); the analysis of the results of the archaeological work, with provisions for the subsequent production of report and an archive, and the publication of the results, as appropriate; such other provisions as may be necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site."

(A.Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council - Historic Environment Advisor Environmental Resource Planning 2016)

These conditions are in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 Archaeological Background

: This application lies in an area of high archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, being situated within the historic settlement core of Much Hadham. As a result, there is a strong possibility that heritage assets of archaeological interest will be encountered at this location. Any groundworks causing significant ground disturbance have potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

A Tinniswood states: *The development site is in Area of Archaeological Significance No 147, as identified in the Local Plan. This includes the historic medieval core of Much Hadham, and Hadham Cross, which also has medieval origins. The site is close to the historic crossroads at Hadham Cross, and has a long association with Yew Tree Farm [Historic Environment Record No 12266]. This is a variant form of a Wealden house, built in the late 15th or early 16th century, with an exposed timber frame and a continuous jetty on the east front. Little survives of its associated farm [HER 30546], but the post-medieval layout is shown on the later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. (A. Tinniswood, East Herts Council - Historic Environment Advisor Environmental Resource Planning 2016)*

4.2 Archaeological Events

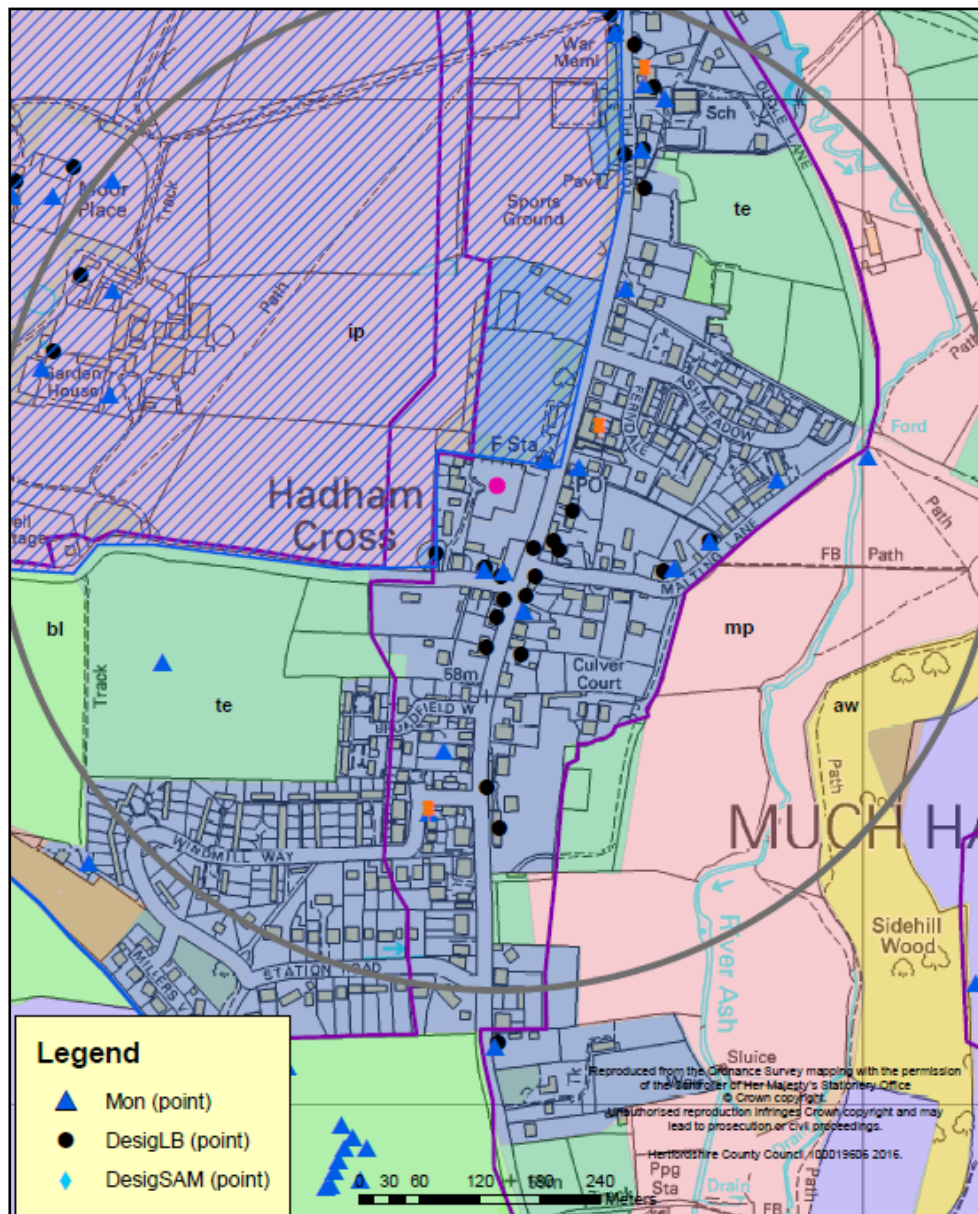
The following interventions have been carried out at Much Hadham:

Seven new sites at Exnalls Farm which included Roman and pre-Roman pottery were discovered during the construction of a new golf course. (Cooper-Reade, H. (1991) Exnalls Farm Golf Course, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation (Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust))

No archaeology was discovered at The High Street during monitoring of a residential development on land adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale. (Barker, B. (2005) 'Land Adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording' Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit)

No archaeology was located at The Henry Moore Foundation Centre Dane Tree House during an evaluation of the site. (Pozorski, Z (2015) 'The Henry Moore Foundation, Dane Tree House, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire: archaeological evaluation and archaeological investigation via "strip, map and record" Archaeological Solutions Ltd)

(ADS - Archaeological Data Service, The University of York)



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Figure 2. The East Herts Historic Environment Records Monuments map of Much Hadham

4.3 Historical Background

The site is close to the historic crossroads at Hadham Cross, and has a long association with Yew Tree Farm [Historic Environment Record No 12266]. This is a variant form of a Wealden house, built in the late 15th or early 16th century, with an exposed timber frame and a continuous jetty on the east front. Little survives of its associated farm [HER 30546], but the post-medieval layout is shown on the later 19th century Ordnance Survey maps.

5. Cartographic Information



Figure 3. The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of Much Hadham (1883)

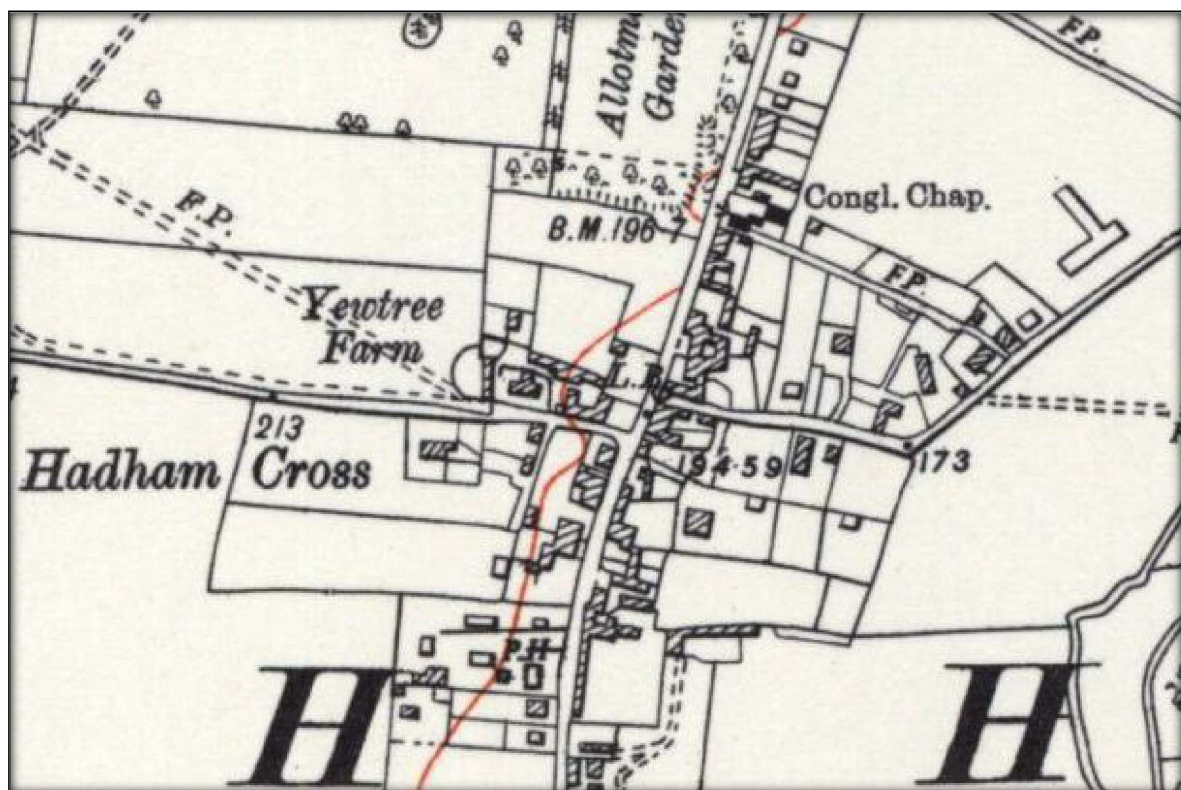


Figure 4. The 1950 edition Ordnance Survey of Much Hadham

6. Archaeological Evaluation

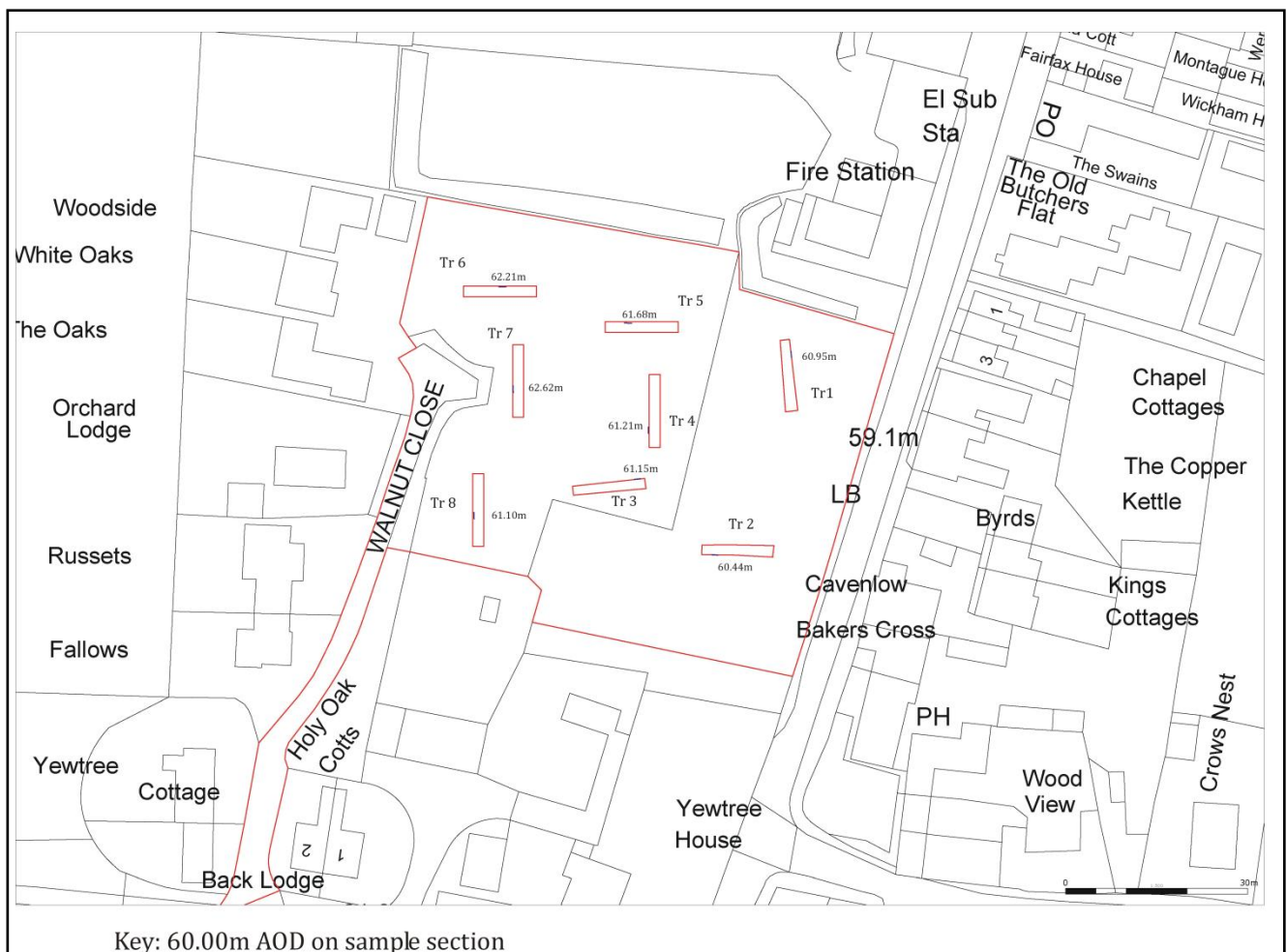
Methodology

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> was initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

This project was carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP 2).

7. Results: Evaluation by Trenching

7.1 Eight evaluation 12m trenches by 1.8m width were opened to target the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. The trenches and the site boundaries were located by georeferencing with a GPS/Total Station machine.



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Figure 5. Geo-referenced trench location plan with AOD levels at section point; covering the footprints of the development

7.2 Trench Descriptions

Introduction and Deposit Model

The site of the development had for some time been waste ground, populated with several trees, some of which had been cleared, being those not subject to a TPO, prior to the evaluation.

All trenches were 12m in length by 1.80m in width. The deposit model was: Top soil, (1000); Subsoil (1001); natural (1002) exposed at horizon. The top soil was a mid-dark brown soil; the subsoil a mid-orangey brown silty sand with occasional small stones; the natural was a mid-orangey brown silty clay with common stones and flint nodules.

Trench 1. was located in the north-east of the site on a north-south alignment; the top soil was 0.24m deep and the subsoil 0.26m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed at 0.50m depth.

Trench 2. was located in the south-east of the site on an east-west alignment; the top soil was 0.20m deep and the subsoil 0.40m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed at 0.60m depth.

Trench 3. was located in the south-east of the site on an east-west alignment; the top soil was 0.19m deep and the subsoil 0.20m deep the natural (1002) was exposed to a depth of 0.20m.

Trench 4. was located in the south of the site on a north-south alignment; the top soil was 0.20m deep and the subsoil 0.20m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed at 0.40m depth.

Trench 5. was located in the north of the site on an east-west alignment; the top soil was 0.05m deep and the subsoil 0.20m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed to a depth of 0.15m.

Trench 6. was located in the south-east of the site on an north-west alignment; the top soil was 0.10m deep and the subsoil 0.25m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed to a depth of 0.15m.

Trench 7. was located in the west of the site on a north-south alignment; the top soil was 0.05m deep and the subsoil 0.30m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed at 0.35m depth.

Trench 8. was located in the south-west of the site on a north-south alignment; the top soil was 0.10m deep and the subsoil 0.20m deep the natural (1002) horizon was exposed to a depth of 0.20m.

7.4 This evaluation did not locate any archaeology or finds.

8. Interpretation and Conclusion

8.1 The eight trenches were located within the development area to sample any evidence for the early foundation of Much Hadham. None of the trenches located any archaeology which was surprising considering the location of the site at a junction of Hadham Cross, with seventeenth century buildings fronting the junction.

8.2 The area under inspection had previously, during the 17th-19th centuries, been part of the formal grounds of Moore Place, prior to that or during this time the area was most likely part of Yew Tree farm to the immediate south and would have probably been used mainly for grazing of livestock. Earlier evidence for occupation being absent suggests that the land had not been previously used over time.

8.3 The results of this evaluation were successful in ensuring no archaeology would be compromised by this development and it is recommended that no further work is necessary in this respect.

8.4 All work was undertaken to Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA) and Museum of London Archaeology Service (Molas) standards.

8.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA and Mr Adam Leigh (Britannia Archaeology) with relevant experience.

8.6 The Post excavation work will be carried out in part by Archaeoserv along with the appropriate specialists that may be appointed for this project.

8.7 A photographic record was compiled, comprising an overview of the site prior to work starting, as well as after completion of the work using high resolution digital images of at least six million pixel resolution, and will be included with any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid interpretation.

9. Health, Safety and Environment

9.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities was carried out during the lifetime of the project.

9.2 All work was carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

9.3 Every care was taken to minimise the environmental impact.

10. Back Filling & Reinstatement

Backfilling of trenches is included in the cost unless otherwise agreed with the client and will be supervised by staff to ensure that the site is left in a satisfactory condition.

11. Monitoring arrangements

Internal monitoring will be the responsibility of Dennis Payne.

12. Archive preparation and deposition

The archive will be presented to the East Herts County Council (The Forge Museum, Much Hadham), to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief.

14. Resources

The evaluation was undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA and Mr Adam Leigh of Britannia Archaeology using standard archaeological field techniques.

15. Insurance statement

Archaeoserv carries an indemnity for public and professional liability with Towergate Insurance for £1,000,000.

16. Copyright

Copyright will remain that of the author. License will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

Ownership

17. Acknowledgements

17.1 Archaeoserv would like to thank Shane Holliday of Fushgroup for commissioning this work.

17.2 Thanks to Mr Adam Leigh who assisted with the project fieldwork.

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HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land at Walnut Tree Close Much Hadham Herts		
County:HERTFORDSHIRE		District: EAST HERTS
Village/Town:		Parish:MUCH HADHAM (HADHAM CROSS)
Planning application reference: 3/15/1011/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference: KAT/15/1011-1		
Funding source:DEVELOPER		
Nature of application:FULL PLANNING CONDITION FOR: 2 NO. 2 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS AND 5 NO. 4 BEDROOMED DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING AND LANDSCAPING		
Present land use: WASTE GROUND		
Size of application area: 3,600M		Size of area investigated: 96 X 1.8M
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 42645 18607		
Site code (if applicable): WMH 16		
Site director/Organization:DENNIS PAYNE: ARCHAEOSERV		
Type of work TRIAL TRENCHING		
Date of work:28/06/16	Start:28/06/16	Finish:29/06/16
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: FORGE MUSEUM MUCH HADHAM		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented: N/A
Relevant previous summaries/reports N/A		
Summary of fieldwork results: THE EIGHT TRENCHES FAILED TO LOCATE ANY ARCHAEOLOGY		

Appendix I : Digital Images



Plate 1. Pre excavation view from the north



Plate 2. Pre excavation view from the east



Plate 3. Trench 1. from the south



Plate 4. Trench 1. sample section 1. from the west



Plate 5. Trench 2 from the east



Plate 6. Trench 2 sample section 2 from the south



Plate 7. Trench 3 from the east



Plate 8. Section 3, Tr 3 from the south



Plate 9. Tr 4. from the south



Plate 10. Sample section 4, Tr4. from the east



Plate 11. Tr 5. from the east



Plate 12. Sample section 5, Tr5. from the east



Plate 13. Tr6. from the east



Plate 14. Sample section 6, Tr 6. from the south



Plate 15. Trench 7. from the south



Plate 16. sample section 7, Tr 7, from the east



Plate 17. Trench 8. from the north



Plate 18. sample section 8. from the east