



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report

Nash Cottage
25 Cheddington Lane
Long Marston
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25000)



Summary

In July 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a strip, map and sample evaluation of Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, as part of a planning condition for the development of the site.

Despite the survival of medieval ridge and furrow, and the Grade II listed post-medieval Nash Cottage immediately adjacent to the development site, no archaeological features were revealed. This is likely due to disturbance in the area related to the recently demolished former static caravan and/or a previous above-ground pool reported by the client to have been on this site.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of strip, map and sample evaluation of Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Clifford Atkins, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2014), and approved by Kate Batt, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/02093/14/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 6 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

Long Marston is a small village north of Tring in Hertfordshire, within the administrative district of Dacorum and in the Civil Parish of Tring Rural. It is located approximately 8km east of Aylesbury and 18km north-west of Hemel Hempstead. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 8989 1571 (Fig. 1). Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, is situated c. 120m northeast of the crossroads that sits to the southwest of the village, formed by Station Rd, Ashton Lane, Tring Rd and Cheddington Lane. The development area lies to the northeast of the cottage and is bounded by Cheddington Lane to the front and by a field on the remaining sides (Fig. 2).

Nash Cottage is a Grade II Listed building (HER 30624; English Heritage No. 1075158) dating from the 16th century.

Geology & Topography

Local sedimentary deposits are formed from Pleistocene superficial outwash gravels with permeable calcareous loamy soils (Soil Survey 1983; 342a). The solid geology of the area is Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (undifferentiated) comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is situated at an approximate height of 87m AOD.

Development

The site development comprises the demolition of a static caravan followed by the construction of a new dwelling (Fig. 3).

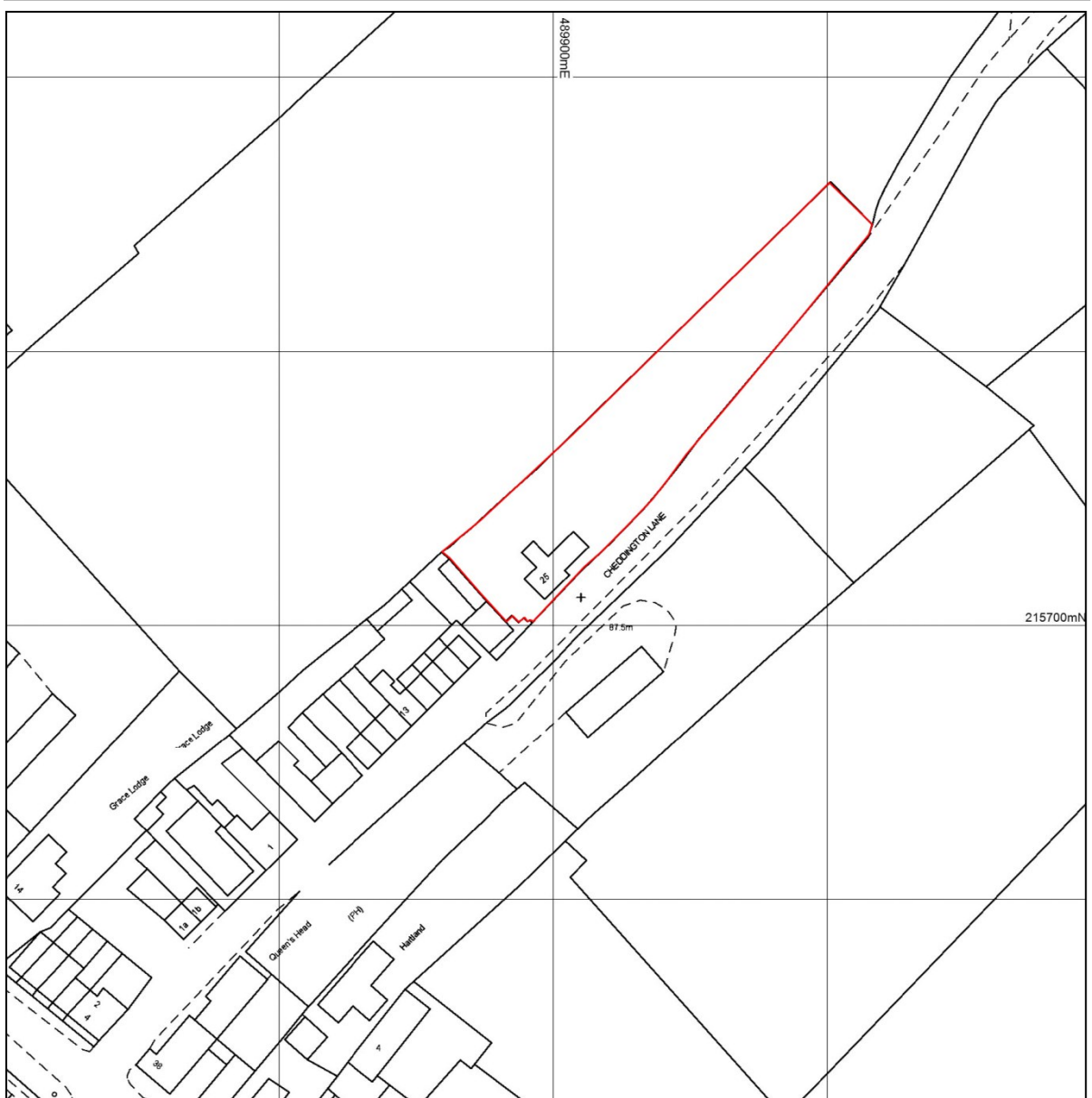


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

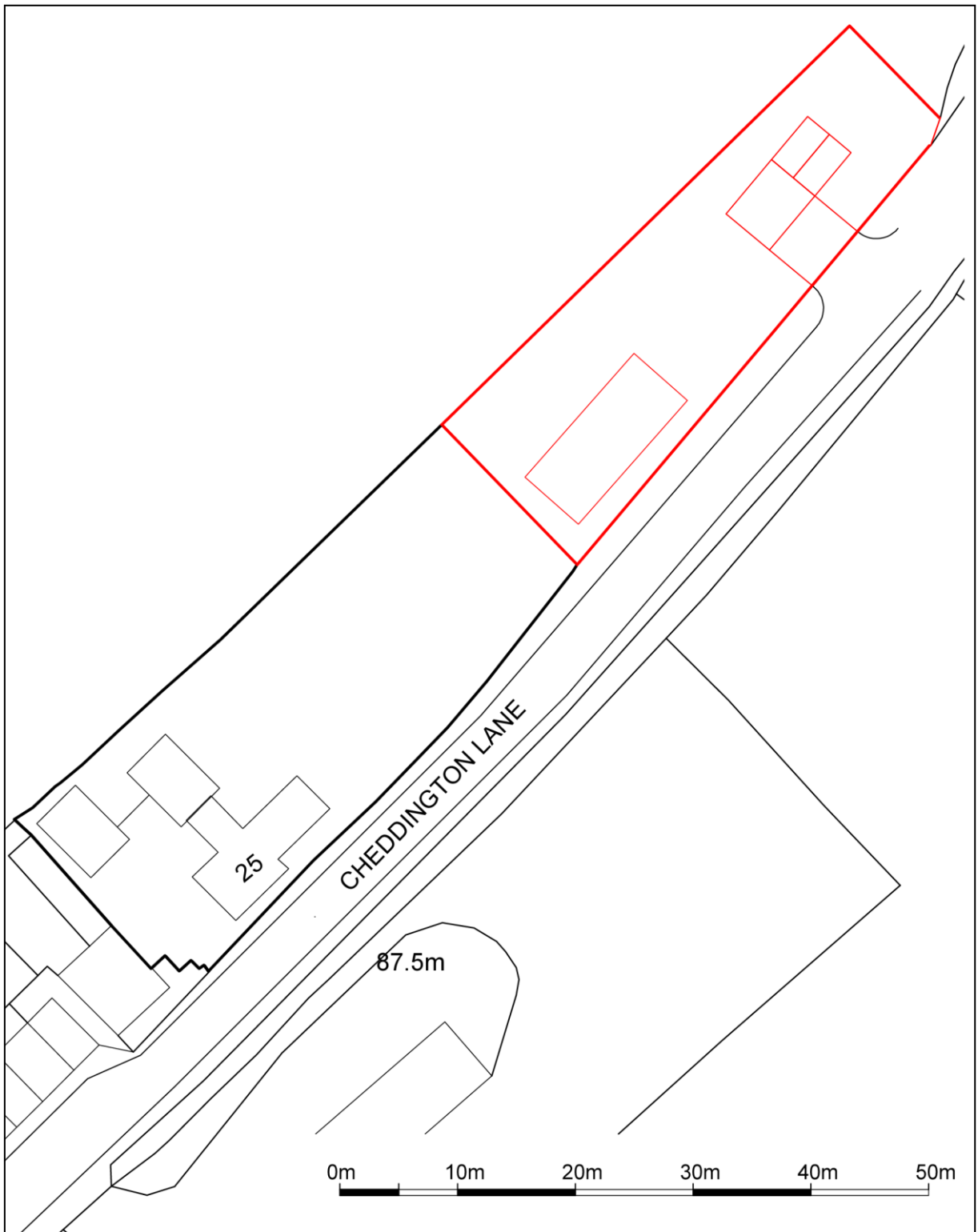


Figure 3: Development area (scale 1:500)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2014) were:

- to establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- to establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements approved in the WSI, the methods used were as follows:

- the continuous observation of the removal of the existing slab, topsoil and subsoil over the footprint of the new buildings, access, and any other areas to be excavated
- the investigation and recording of any archaeological features that were revealed

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2011)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Evidence of human settlement or activity contiguous to the development site is scant prior to the end of the Saxon period. The name Long Marston is thought to derive from 'mersc tun' (marsh farm) though its origins in this instance are difficult to pinpoint as it formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a hamlet (HER 2056). 'Marston' is a common name for a settlement (Mills 1991: 224), but the prefix 'Long' refers to its linear layout along the road to Tring. It is a village constituted by farmsteads, with several situated among private housing; an unusual characteristic in Hertfordshire (HER 2056).

The following section has been compiled from information from the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), reliable internet sources and KDK's own library.

Prehistoric to Iron Age (before 600BC – AD43)

No prehistoric sites or artefacts have been recorded within a 1km radius of the development site in the HER. The nearest indications of human activity during this period are a late Iron Age occupation site (HER 10806), revealed during the evaluation of a trench dug for a pipeline, and early Iron Age pottery (HER 13459) found in a field at Little Farm in the 1970s, both near the village of Wilstone, c. 2km southeast.

Roman (AD43 - c.450)

Three 2nd - 3rd century Roman potsherds were found in a pit; though these were residual as all of the other material and context were medieval (HER 11805). The nearest certain evidence of Roman activity in the general area is provided by the road Akeman Street, though this is situated approximately 6km southeast. Roman pottery was found near where the London and North-Western Railway meets the Icknield Way, and coins have been unearthed at Cowroast Inn (Page 1908) approximately 6.5km to the southeast.

Saxon (c.450 - 1066)

Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a secondary settlement (HER 2056); it is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The earliest mention of Tring is in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is recorded as being of 39 hides and held by Engelric. It was one of five closely spaced settlements along with Miswell, Wiggington, Dunsley and Pendley (Hunns 2000: 3), though Long Marston is not differentiated in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 1992). Tring may have been a major mid-late Saxon royal estate which gave its name to the hundred in which it lies, and its constituent villages/hamlets were prevented from developing into separate parishes 'by the fact that they continued to form part of a large secular estate' (HER 2056).

Medieval (1066-1500)

The earliest reference to Long Marston (Merschtone, Merston: Page 1908, HER 11803) dates from the 13th century with its manor described as consisting of half a knight's fee, held of the honour of Berkhamsted. Many of the local manors, such as Pendley, were held of the honour of Berkhamsted, a large estate in the Tring Hundred, which at the time of the Domesday Survey 1086 is recorded as under the lordship of the Count of Mortain (Williams & Martin 1992: 378). In the 15th century, Long Marston was held by the honour of Leicester (Page 1908).

In the early 13th century, Alice daughter of Adam Bassett (Lord of Weldon) and relict of Thomas de Merston, granted land in Merston to Euphemia, widow of John Bassett, and one of



the witnesses of this conveyance was Ralph, lord of Merston (Page 1908). In the Lay Subsidy of 1307 three individuals were associated with Long Marston. In 1337 the manor was granted by John de Merschtone of Tring to John Bisschop of Luton, chaplain, and John Germayn, rector of Drayton (*ibid.*). Robert Stratford, a parson, granted the manor to Christian Bardolfe for life in 1370, with its remainder given to Sir Roger de Puttenham and Margery his wife (*ibid.*). From then on Long Marston followed the descent of Puttenham until 1628 when it was sold by Thomas Sauders to Sir Arthur Wilmot (*ibid.*). The precise extent of the medieval settlement is not known, nor is the site of the manorial centre (HER 11803).

A number of medieval sites and features are detailed in the HER and are situated within a 500m radius of 25 Cheddington Lane. A rectangular moated site, and infill, measuring 40 x 50 x ≤10m wide, which has been heavily disturbed and truncated, is situated c. 500m to the west (HER 2611 and 10795). The remains of the 15th century Old Church of All Saints church tower are located to its northwest (HER 4374); the chapel was abandoned in 1883. Despite differences in position, according to Page (1908) the site of the manor house is the rectangular piece of ground which lies just to the north of the old church, and is surrounded on three sides by a moat. A pit dating to the late Middle Ages (HER 11805) was excavated in Chapel Lane and found to contain a perforated South Hertfordshire greyware vessel from the mid - 12th - 14th century, medieval tile and animal bone and the three Roman potsherds mentioned previously. Ridge and furrow earthworks to the northwest (c. 300m; with associated trackway and hollow-way), southwest (c. 350m) and west (c. 300m) probably originally formed part of a large medieval open field system around Long Marston (HER 2623, 6165, and 13737).

Post-Medieval (1500 - 1900)

In 1636 a question arose as to whether the inhabitants of Long Marston were bound to contribute to the repair of Tring church and in the ensuing dispute it was determined that as Long Marston was a hamlet of Tring, its inhabitants were so bound (Page 1908). Lordship of the manor of Long Marston changed ownership during this period as in the 17th century it was held by the manor of Tring, in the 19th century by the Earls of Bridgewater and subsequently by the Rothschild family (Page 1908, HER 11803).

Long Marston contains 60 listed properties (English Heritage) including a few within a 500m radius of the development site. Of 15th century date is the timber framed, open hall, Little Farm and its two adjoining barns on Station Road (HE 30625; English Heritage No. 1077976). Buildings dating from the 16th century on Station Road include the Rose & Crown Cottage, which functioned as an inn until c. 1918 (HER 13748; English Heritage No. 1342256); the timber framed Old Thatch house (HER 17126; English Heritage No. 1051665); the Post Office building, later cased in red brick in the 18th century (HER 18152; English Heritage No. 1342255); and on Chapel Lane the south barn at Church Farm, the farmhouse was re-built in the early 19th century (HER 17129; English Heritage No. 1342231); and Loxley Farmhouse and Gatehouse (HER 17128; English Heritage No. 1068887). Central Farm (HER 17127) was a large post-medieval farmstead, though the farm buildings have been converted into housing.

A most notable event in the history of the settlement occurred in 1751, when the village pond was the scene of England's last 'witch-lynching', where Ruth Osborn, the 'witch', was captured and drowned, and her husband died from injuries inflicted by a mob (Healey 1982, Longmarston.org). Despite opposition from his supporters, Thomas Colley, the ringleader, was gibbeted for it that year at Gubblecote Cross, c. 1km to the east (*ibid.*).

In the 1851 census return, Long Marston was classified as a hamlet with 56 households (HER 2056). Employment was predominantly agricultural, although occupations included straw and



hay dealers, two publicans, blacksmith, wheelwright, butcher, baker, grocers, carrier, and carpenter (ibid.).

The Anglican Church of All Saints, Station Road (HER 17215; English Heritage No. 1077004) was built in 1882 - 3 by Carpenter & Ingelow, on land given by Sir Nathaniel Mayer de Rothschild. The hamlet was formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1867 out of portions of the adjoining parishes of Marsworth, Drayton Beauchamp, and Tring, but in 1894 Long Marston and Wilstone, then a hamlet of Tring, were joined to form the civil parish of Tring Rural (Page 1908). Long Marston was a stronghold of the Nonconformists, though little is known about their history. The first recorded registration of a meeting-house took place in 1810, and licences were granted to the Baptists and Wesleyans in 1819 and 1829. A two-storey 19th century Baptist chapel was built in 1869 on Cheddington Lane and was in use until 2002 (HER 12851).

An archaeological monitoring project on a new house northwest of New Moat House (HER 12760) discovered buried soil horizons and 19th century land drains; the only finds were peg tile, which might be late medieval but are more likely post-medieval.

Modern (1900 - present)

Long Marston is mainly a farming community, and changes during the 20th century caused by improved transportation infrastructure and increased car ownership, have led to decline in the number of services available in the settlement and the nearest stores are in now in Wilstone, Wingrave and Tring. Moreover, historically there were four public houses, now only the Queens Head remains. The village also hosts a primary school, Long Marston J. M. I. The school was built after the original school, built during the Victorian era, was bombed during World War II. The current school, built in 1951, has gradually grown and extended with the village and its population.

In the village centre stands a prominent War Memorial (HER 18151; English Heritage No. 1410497) which is a c. 5.8m tall stone Celtic cross. The memorial was paid for by public subscription and unveiled by Lord Rothschild on 7th August 1921.

A bottle-dump (HER 11804) excavated at Chapel Lane contained 19th and early 20th century glass and stoneware bottles, of a type used for ginger beer and soft drinks, possibly waste from the Rodwell factory in Tring.

A total of eight archaeological 'Observation and Recording' and 'Building Recording' projects were undertaken in Long Marston between 1997 and 2008.

3.2 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

Prehistoric to Medieval (before 600BC - 1500)

There is no recorded history of this specific site during these periods.

Post-medieval to Modern (1500 - present)

Nash Cottage is Grade II listed as a 16th century open hall house, and was once divided into two cottages (no's 25 & 27). It is a 1½ storey, 3-cells, internal-chimney plan house facing south onto the road, timber-framed on a plastered brick plinth and with a steep thatched roof. The large chimney, one bay from the west end, was inserted with the upper floor in the hall in the mid-17th century. The south front has three windows, and a tiny dormer. The lean-to south porch was added in the 18th century. There is an entrance into a southwest lean-to under an extension of the thatched roof, with a brick oven projecting under the stair on the south side of the chimney stack. At the east end is an external chimney which may be 19th century



(presumably when the house was divided). Inside, the timber frame is exposed, including the soot-blackened roof timbers. The chimney and stair are at the lower end of the hall, with one step up to the east parlour end.

The house is shown on the 1878 OS map beside the tree-lined lane within a strip of land taken out of the medieval strip fields, and with one outhouse behind. It may have been divided between 1878 and 1898, as the 1899 map shows the plot divided and with a larger outhouse behind the west end of the house. By 1924 this had gone. The 1980 map shows a small rear extension.



4 Stratigraphic Report

4.1 *Site Stripping*

An area of 83m² (Fig. 4, Plate 1) was mechanically stripped of topsoil and overburden under close archaeological supervision. A 2.5 tonne machine fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket was used to remove larger roots in the topsoil, and a 1.2m toothless bucket was used for the remaining stripping of the area. The stratigraphy (Fig. 5, Plate 2) comprised:

- 0.25m topsoil; dark grey brown loose soft clay sand with occasional small subangular stone inclusions. There was substantial rooting throughout.
- 0.20m made ground; mid grey brown firm silty clay with moderate charcoal, medium ceramic building material (CBM), and small subangular stone inclusions. Finds included animal bone, modern glass, modern pottery and modern iron door hinges. Finds were not retained.

The underlying natural strata comprised mid yellow grey firm sandy clay with gravel patches.

4.2 *Sampling Strategy*

On completion of the site strip, no archaeological features were revealed within the stripped area, and no finds of archaeological significance were noted in the spoil removed during stripping. With the agreement of the AA no further archaeological works were undertaken on the site.

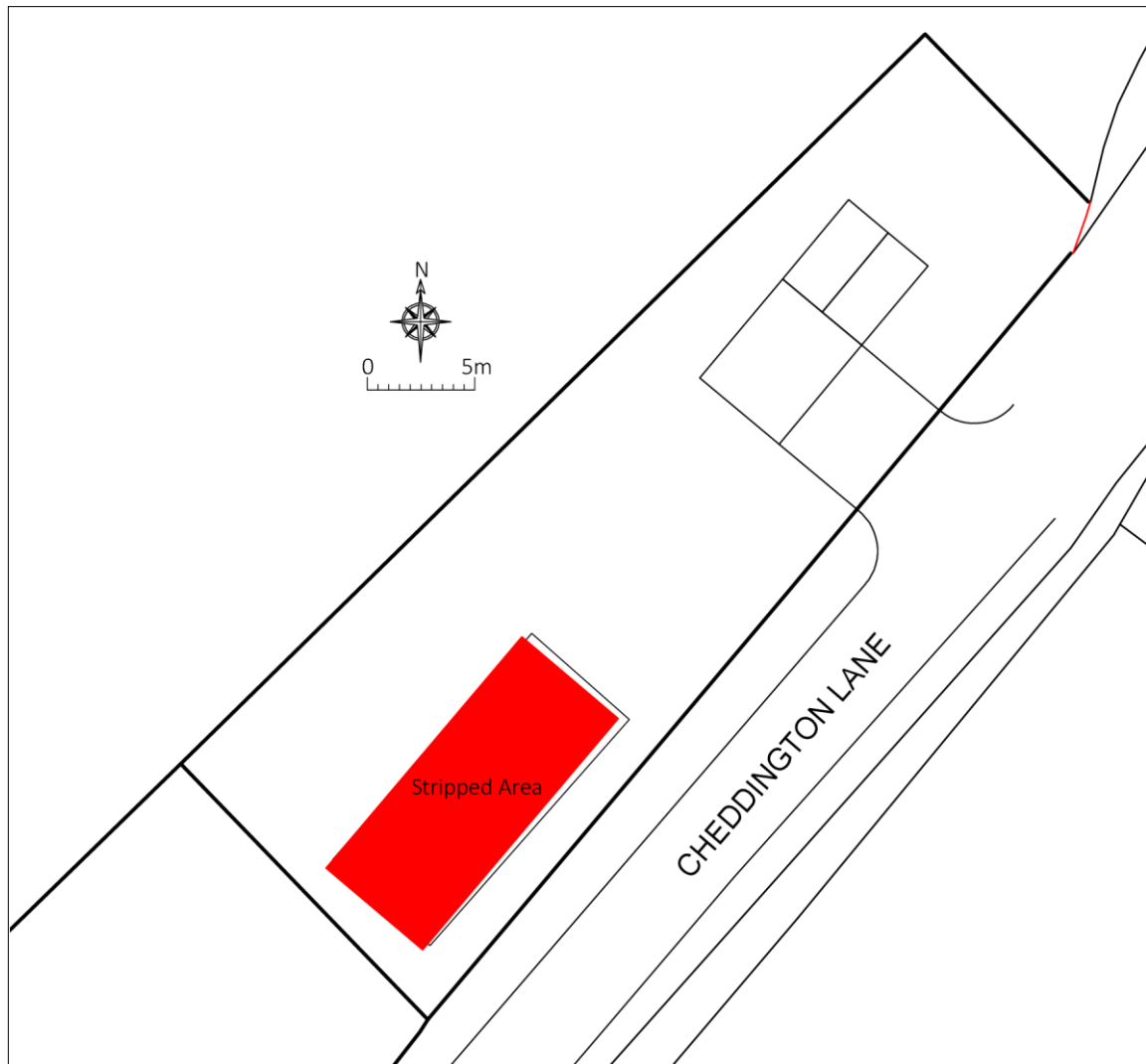


Figure 4: Plan of stripped area (scale 1:350)



Plate 1: Stripped area, facing southwest, with and 1m scales



Plate 2: Site stratigraphy, southeast facing section, with 1m scale

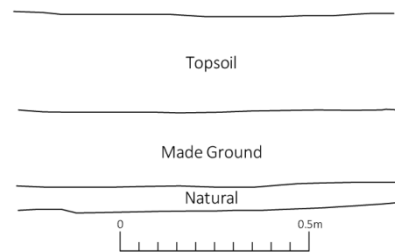


Figure 5: Representative site stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



5 Conclusions

The area that was mechanically stripped under supervision was within the footprints of the proposed dwelling.

The stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil and a layer of made ground containing modern artefacts; this is consistent with the previous use of the area as the site of a static caravan.

While there is a field containing medieval ridge and furrow in the adjacent block to the northwest of the site, and the Grade II listed post-medieval Nash Cottage immediately to the south southwest, on completion of the strip, no archaeological features were exposed. This is most likely related to the recently demolished former static caravan, or an above-ground pool reported by the client to have previously been on this site.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Clifford Atkins for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Dr Isobel Thompson of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents.

Thanks are also due to Alan Whalley Snr and Alan Whalley Jnr from Hands On for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA and Laura Dodd MSc. The report was written by Jessica Bertrand, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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English Heritage: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/> (Accessed: 27th October 2014)

Longmarston.org: <http://www.longmarston.org/2009/01/the-last-witch-hunt/> (Accessed: 27th October 2014)

Page W 1908 *Parishes: Tring with Long Marston*, *A History of the County of Hertford: volume 2*. pp. 281-294. Online Edition: [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43280&strquery=long marston](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43280&strquery=long+marston) (Accessed: 27th October 2014)



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 091/LMC		Site Name: Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Site stratigraphy, southeast facing section, with tile and 1 x 1m scale
2		✓	Site stratigraphy, southeast facing section, with 1 x 1m scale
3	✓	✓	Stripped area, facing southwest, with tile and 2 x 1m scales



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	091/LMC
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-193845	Event/Accession no	TBA
OS reference	SP 8989 1571	Study area size	83 sq. m.
Project Type	Strip, Map and Sample	Height (mAOD)	87m
Short Description	<p>In July 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of strip, map and sample evaluation of Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, as required to fulfil Condition 6 of the Planning Consent.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site included topsoil and a layer of made ground containing modern artefacts; this is consistent with the previous use of the area as the site of a static caravan. While there is a field containing medieval ridge and furrow in the adjacent block to the northwest of the site, and the Grade II listed post-medieval Nash Cottage immediately to the south southwest, on completion of the strip, no archaeological features were exposed. This may be due to the land's removal from the medieval strip before 1878, disturbance in the area related to the recently demolished former static caravan, or a previous above-ground pool reported by the client to have been on this site. There is also a possibility that there are archaeological features in other areas of the development site that were not stripped.</p>		
Previous work	Unknown	Site status	Grade II listed building
Planning proposal	Construction of a new dwelling	Current land use	Residential
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	4/02093/14/FUL
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	D. Kaye BA AICfA	Director/Supervisor	J. Bertrand MA PCIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Clifford Atkins		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	28/7/2015	End date	28/7/2015
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Dacorum Borough Council	None.	
Paper		B&W photos, WSI, report, site records.	
Digital		CDROM containing WSI, report, digital photos.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report: Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	091/LMC/2		
Author(s)	Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA		
Page no's	23	Date	21/10/2015



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum Borough Council	
Village/Town: Long Marston	Parish: Tring Rural	
Planning application reference: 4/02093/14/FUL		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Clifford Atkins, Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, HP23 4QP		
Nature of application: Construction of a new dwelling		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area: 687 sq. m.	Size of area investigated: 83 sq. m.	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 8989 1571	Site code: 091/LMC	
Site director: D. Kaye BA ACIfA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Strip, Map and Sample		
DATE OF WORK:	Start: 28/7/2015	Finish: 28/7/2015
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust		
Related HER no's: HER 30624		Periods represented: Modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>In July 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of strip, map and sample evaluation of Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, as required to fulfil Condition 6 of the Planning Consent.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the site included topsoil and a layer of made ground containing modern artefacts; this is consistent with the previous use of the area as the site of a static caravan.</p> <p>While there is a field containing medieval ridge and furrow in the adjacent block to the northwest of the site, and the Grade II listed post-medieval Nash Cottage immediately to the south southwest, on completion of the strip, no archaeological features were exposed. This may be due to the land's removal from the medieval strip before 1878, disturbance in the area related to the recently demolished former static caravan, or a previous above-ground pool reported by the client to have been on this site. There is also a possibility that there are archaeological features in other areas of the development site that were not stripped.</p>		
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