



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Gardener's Cottage

The Lordship

Much Hadham

Hertfordshire



### Quality Check

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## Summary

Between June 2018 and May 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. A total of three foundation trenches, two service trenches, five planters and seven postholes were excavated to facilitate the construction of a new extension and associated landscaping. A post-medieval wall was exposed within one of the footing trenches which appears to be a return for the existing western boundary wall. Despite the archaeological significance of the area, no further features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Between June 2018 and May 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Nicola Chambers, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay-Jones 2017), and approved by Alison Tinniswood, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Hertfordshire County Council. The relevant planning application reference is 3/17/1479/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The site is located in the village and civil parish of Much Hadham, in the administrative district of East Hertfordshire. It lies at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 42837 19906 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The site is bounded on all sides by the grounds of the Lordship (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The bedrock geology of the site is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations (undifferentiated), which is overlain by superficial deposits of diamicton (sediment formed from dryland erosion) from the Lowestoft Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### *Proposed Development*

The development comprised a single-storey extension, the relocation of the summerhouse, and the removal of the existing (metal) shed, which was replaced with a timber shed. A timber acoustic fence was put up, the existing wall was increased in height and associated landscaping was undertaken (Fig. 3).

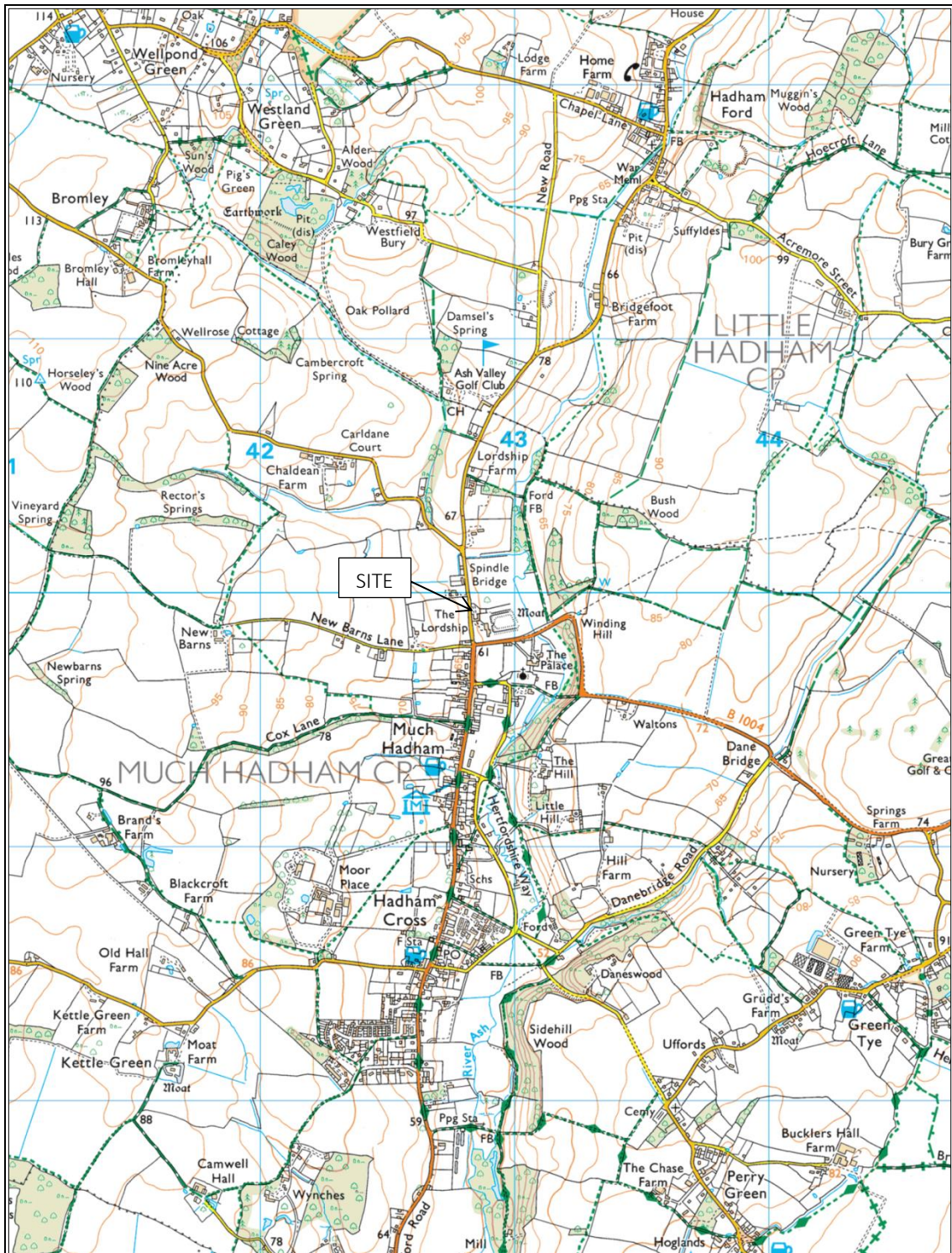


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

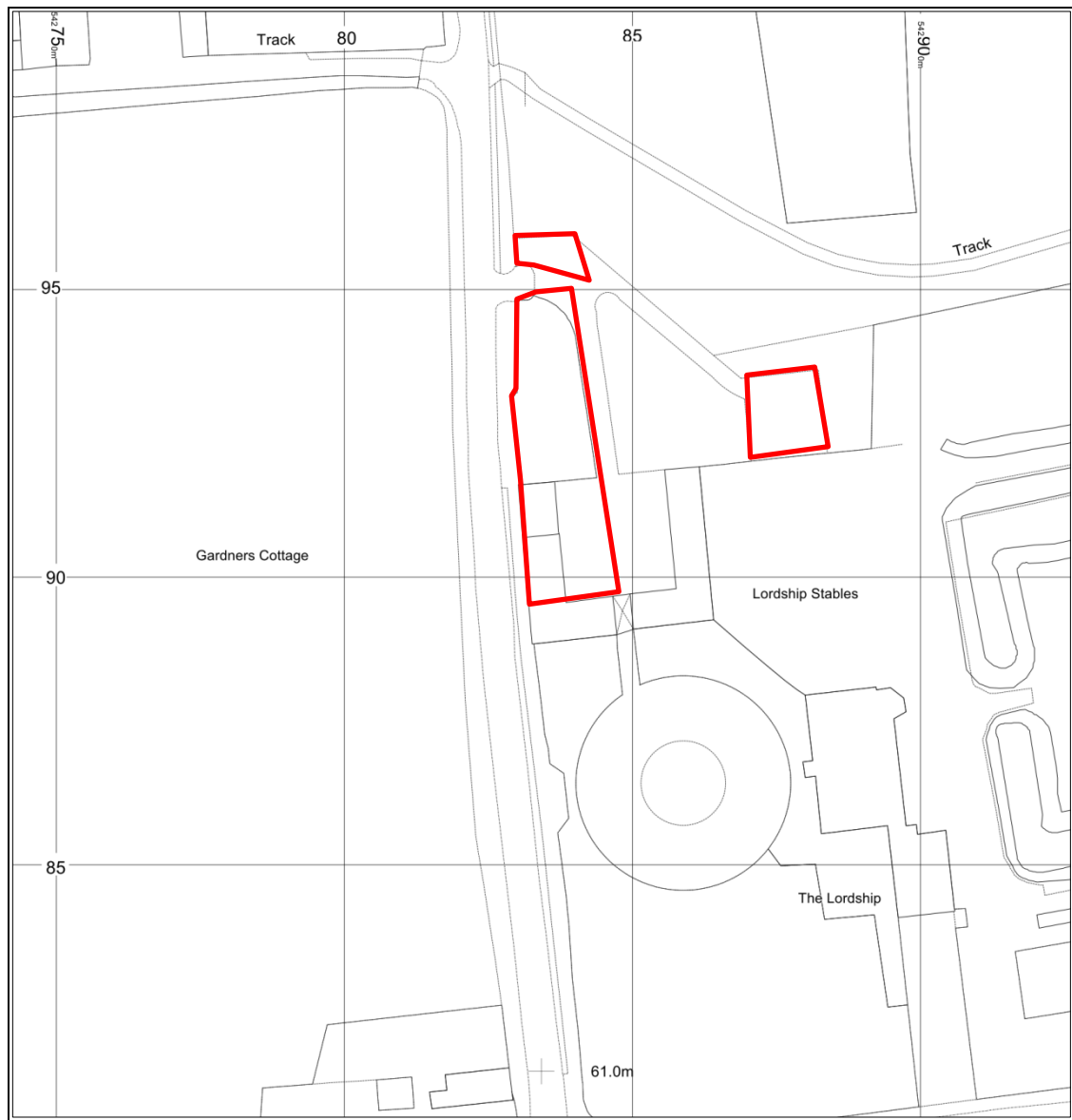


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)



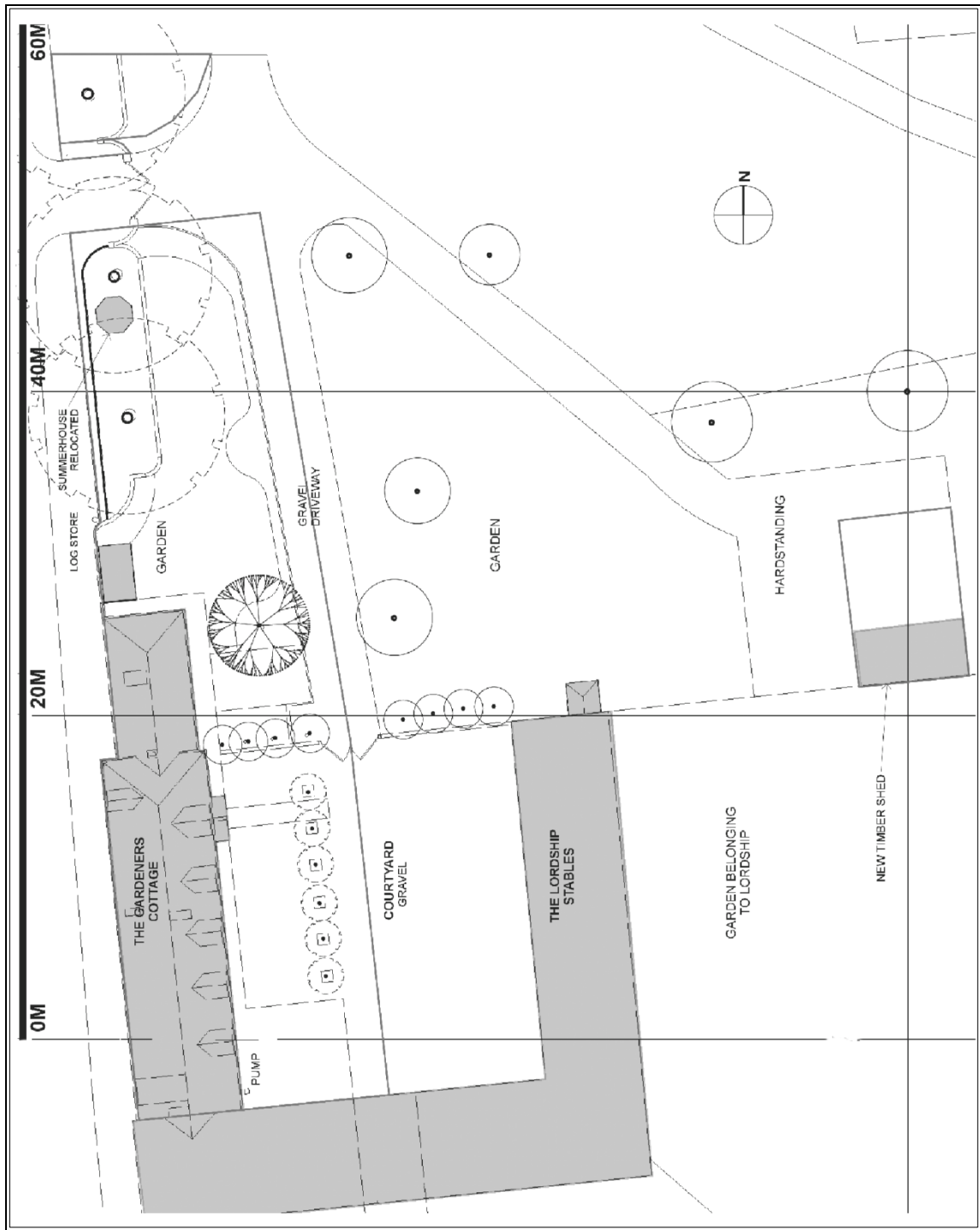


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:400)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Barclay-Jones 2017) 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, and
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

### 2.2 *Methods*

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

- Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the development, including all ground reduction, service trenches, foundations and landscaping

### 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 English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)





### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Much Hadham is an attractive village, described by Pevsner as “..visually probably the most successful village in the county”. The name is probably derived from ‘heath homestead’ – Old English *haeth* + ham, with the affix of *mycel* (‘great’) (Mills 1991: 152). It is a prosperous village, strung out along a main road. The village's prosperity is in part probably due to the manor having been bequeathed to the Bishops of London by Ethelfleda, widow of Edmund the Elder, the Saxon king (940-946) and a grandson of Alfred the Great (The Hadhams).

The site falls within both the Much Hadham Conservation Area and an Area of Archaeological Significance (147), which covers the historic medieval core of the village, and it is adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Lordship moated site (HER 1995). The grounds of The Lordship have also been recognised as a Locally Important Historic Park and Garden.

This section has been compiled with information from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; with a 500m search radius; search ref: 148/17), reliable online sources, and KDK's own library.

#### 3.2 *Prehistoric - Saxon* (before 600BC – AD1066)

There is little definite evidence of occupation or activity within the vicinity of the development area prior to the Saxon period. Although it is believed that the area used to be the centre of a major Roman pottery industry, with extensive kilns excavated in the area (The Hadhams). However, there is no evidence in the HER for this occurring within the village. To the north-west of the development area there is the supposed line of a Roman road (HER 4682), which is thought to be part of a road between Braughing and Harlow, and in the vicinity of that a Roman brooch has been found (HER 24886). This is the extent of known pre-Saxon activity within the village.

At the time of King Edward, the village was held by the Bishopric of London, and was clearly a prosperous settlement as it had an estimated worth of £24 (Williams & Martin 2002: 371). This, at least, demonstrates the presence of a late Saxon settlement.

#### 3.3 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

At the time of the Domesday Survey 1086, the settlement was still held by the Bishop of London, and there is further evidence of its prosperity; the holding was assessed at 7 ½ hides, which included land for 22 ½ ploughs, as well as a mill and woodland for 200 pigs (Williams & Martin 2002: 371). A priest and a knight are also mentioned, and the whole is assessed as being worth £20 (*ibid.*).

The manor house for Much Hadham was The Palace (HER 2771), which is situated to the southeast of the development area. It was the site of one of the residences belonging to the Bishop of London from the 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The buildings still remain (although altered), and are Grade II\* listed. The Palace is adjacent to St Andrew's, the Grade I listed medieval parish church (HER 4347), which is probably of 12<sup>th</sup> century origin. The standing chancel in the church dates to around 1220, although much of the rest of the church has been added, altered and restored at later periods. It has an unusually large nave and aisles, which could be attributed to the influence or presence of the Bishop of London (The Hadhams). The church has also benefitted from the residence of sculptor Henry Moore in the area, as two corbels in its west doorway are his work.



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To the north of The Palace and immediately to the south-east of the development area lies the medieval moated site (now dry and landscaped) at The Lordship (HER 1995), which still has substantial retaining banks. This is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) (NHLE 1012346; HER 1995) and is considered to be in excellent condition, with its well-preserved and unusually high outer banks.

#### 3.4 *Post-medieval - Modern (1500 – present)*

Directly adjacent to the development site is The Lordship (HER 12267), a notable Georgian residence that succeeded earlier Tudor and medieval houses. It was owned by William Morris in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is now a Grade II listed building. The stable block of The Lordship (HER 12268) is an 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick building, with two wings that partially enclose a small courtyard. The block is Grade II\* listed, and the Gardener's Cottage is in one of the wings.

Old Lordship Farm (HER 11122) is to the north of the stable block, and is a post-medieval farmstead with a 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, although both the house and farm were transformed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was the home farm of the Lordship, and is Grade II listed.

The Palace remained in the ownership of the church for a long time, but was in use as a private lunatic asylum for a large part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before becoming a private residence in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The current house dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and later (with alterations and additions) and was divided into several properties in the 1950s.

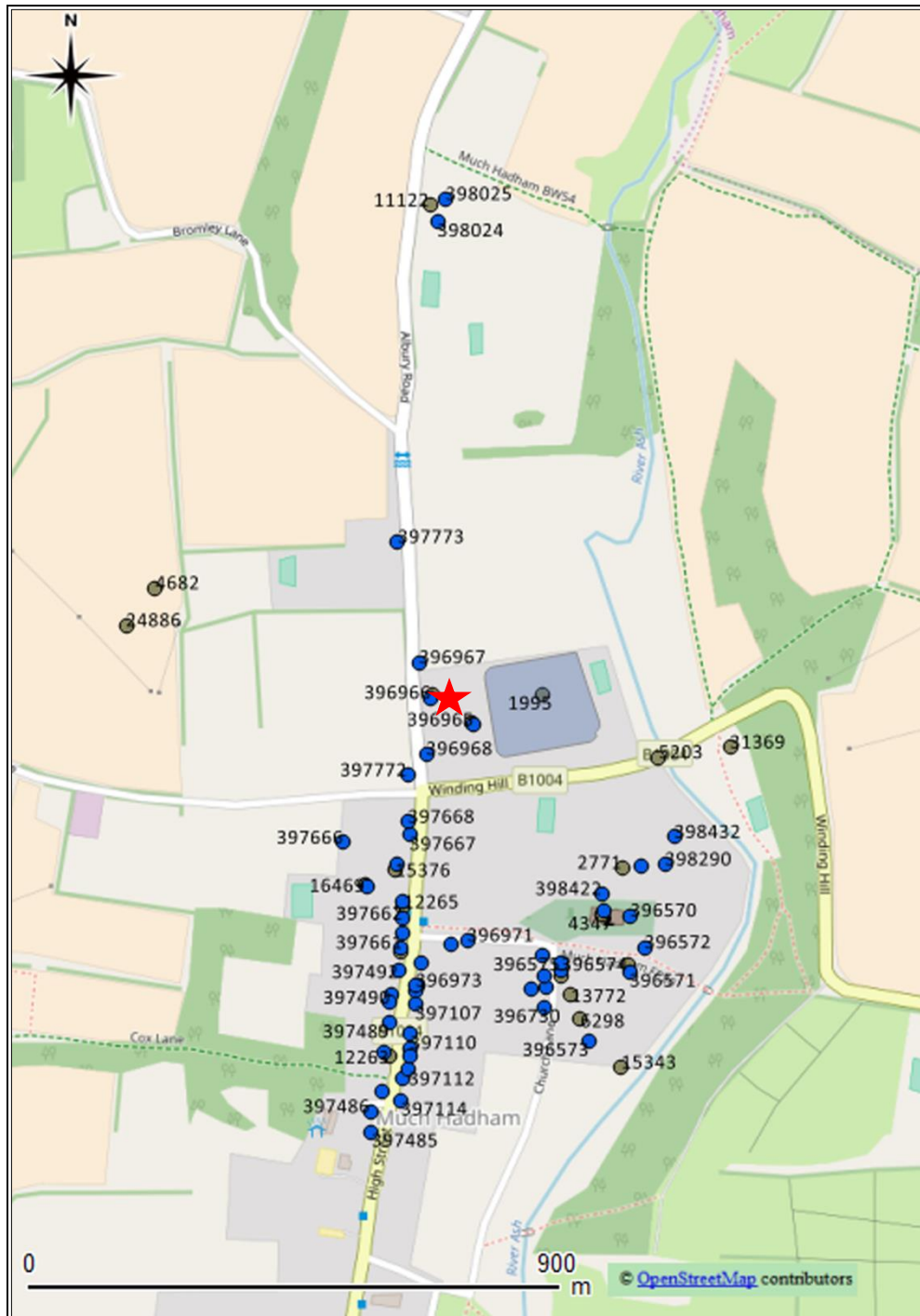


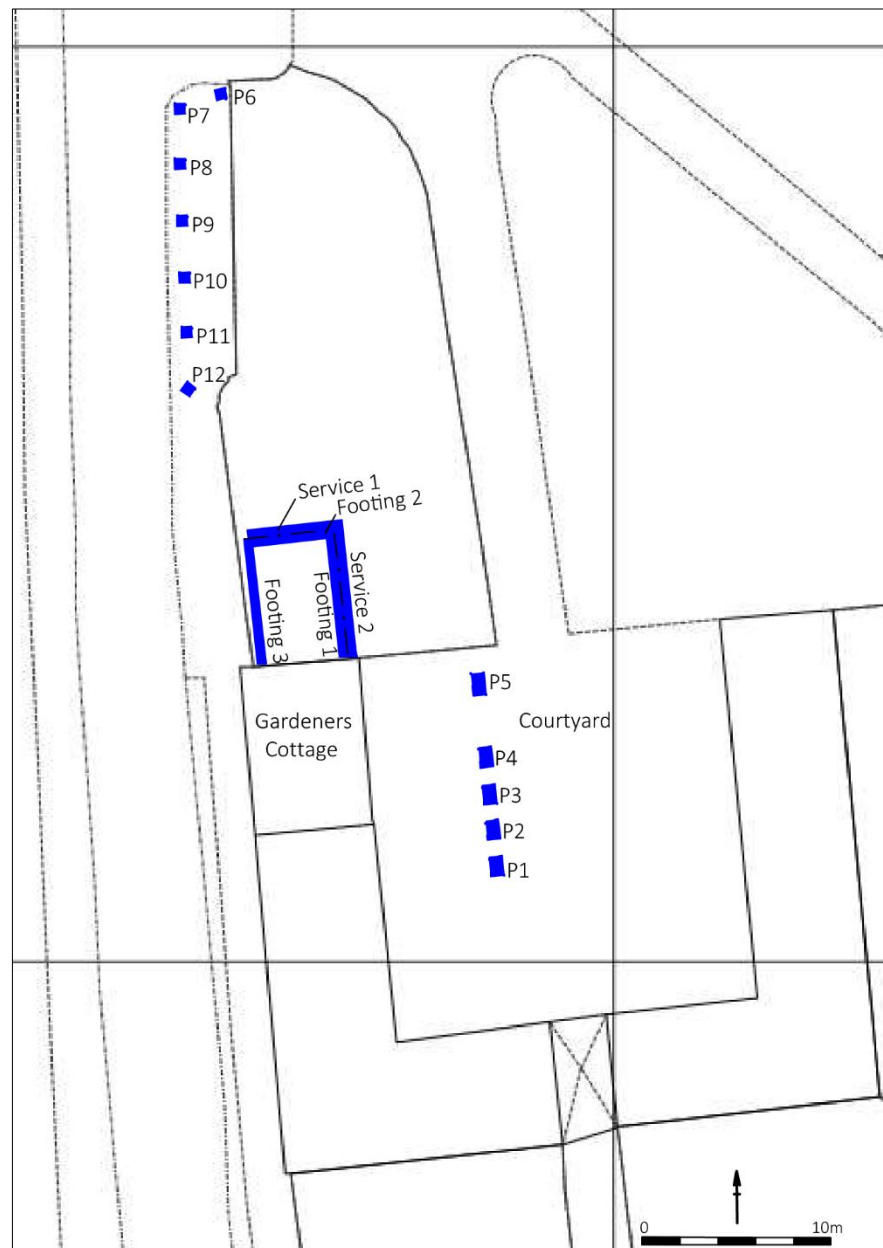
Figure 4: HER data plan; site marked with a star(scale 1: 12,000):



## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

The programme of works included the construction of a single-storey extension to the north of the existing cottage and area landscaping. This required the excavation of three footing trenches, two service trenches, five pits for new planters and seven postholes for a new fence to the east and north of the property, respectively (Fig. 5). Most of the works were achieved using a 2.5 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.60m toothless ditching bucket. The planters and postholes were dug by hand. The excavation of the footing and service trenches were conducted under constant archaeological supervision; however, the Archaeological Advisor agreed that the excavation of the planter pits need not be done under archaeological supervision. A site visit was made the following day to inspect and record the pits.



**Figure 5:** Plan of excavation areas (scale 1:400)



## *Description*

### *Foundation Trenches and Services*

The foundations for the single storey extension were excavated to the north of the existing cottage and comprised three footing trenches and two service trenches (Fig. 5; Plates 1-9). The footings comprised two north-south orientated trenches (measuring 6.70 x 0.50 x <1.45 m (L X W X D)) and one east-west orientated trench (measuring 4.88 x 0.50 x <1.45 m (L X W X D)). The ground level within the footings was also reduced by 0.45m. The service trenches abutted footing Trenches 1 and 2.

The stratigraphy of the footing trenches comprised (Fig. 6):

- Topsoil (05): Mid-greyish brown, clayey silty sand with occasional rounded stones and angular flint throughout. This layer was very friable and reached a depth of 0.11m.
- Subsoil (06): A mid-greyish brown similar to the topsoil but composed of sandy clay. The subsoil was fairly malleable and contained occasional sub-angular stones and angular flints throughout. This layer was 0.30m deep.
- Made ground (07): This layer was situated adjacent to the cottage and beneath the retaining wall. It comprised a mixture of subsoil (006) and basalt and contained frequent gravel and building detritus. It reached a depth of >1.10m.
- Natural (09): A dark brownish orange, friable and soft sandy clay which contained occasional angular flints throughout. Chalk was also noted within this layer.

### Wall [08]

An east-west orientated brick wall [08] was located within Trench 2, to the north of the main building (Fig. 7; Plates 8-9). The wall was at least two bricks wide and constructed of handmade made with bricks measuring 22.5 x 5.5 x 10.5cm, which were well-puddled with Spanish and had occasional stone inclusions. They were set in a white, hard, lime mortar that also contained small stones. Seven courses of brick were visible, which reached a depth of 0.50m. A total of 4.88m of the wall was visible within the trench. Some collapse was evident to the east of the footing trench.

The material and construction methods were identical to the boundary wall to the west and are contemporary. Wall [08] is depicted on the 1838 Tithe map (Fig. 8).



**Plate 1:** Ground reduction between the footing trenches



**Plate 2:** Footing 2, looking west



**Plate 3:** Footing 3, looking north

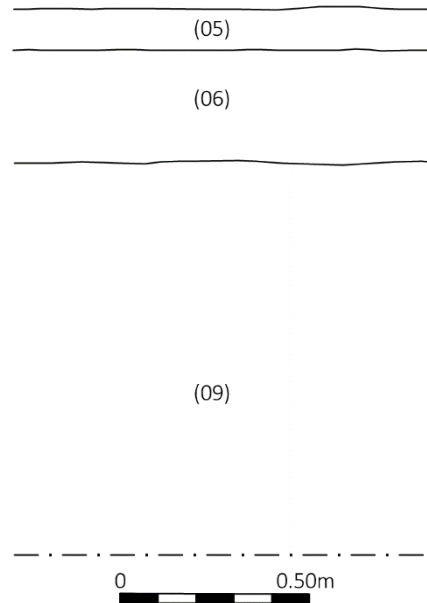


**Plate 4:** Service 1, looking east





**Plate 5:** Footing stratigraphy, looking north



**Figure 6:** Representative stratigraphy of footings (scale 1:20)



**Plate 6:** West wall foundation, looking west



**Plate 7:** West wall foundation showing return, Looking northwest



**Plate 8:** Wall [08], looking east



**Plate 9:** Wall [08] foundation





Figure 7: Footing trenches showing Wall [08] (scale 1:100)

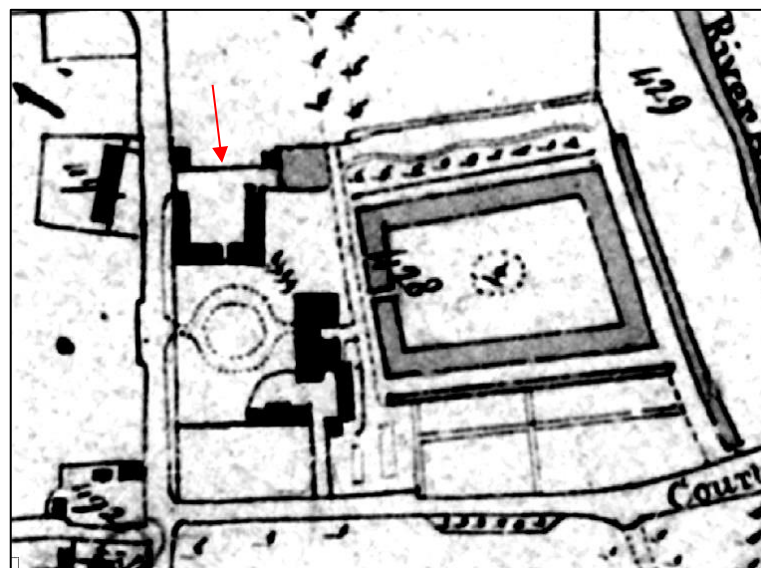


Figure 8: 1838 Tithe Map, showing wall [08]



### *Landscaping*

A total of 12 pits were excavated (Fig. 5; Plates 10-15). Six of these were designated as planter pits (P1-5) and situated within the courtyard to the east of the Gardener's Cottage. Each planter pit was between 1.05-1.20m in length x 0.70m in width and dug to a depth of c.0.50m. The natural geology was not reached within any of these pits. A new perimeter fence was constructed along the north-western border of the site, parallel to the main road. The postholes (P6-12) were dug at regular intervals and measured 0.60 x 0.60m in size and dug to a depth of 0.65m. Again, the natural geology was not reached in any of these postholes and no finds, features or deposits were encountered within P1-12.

The stratigraphy encountered was as follows (Figs 9-10):

- Gravel (01): A layer of shingle 0.10m deep that covered the entire courtyard to the east of the cottage
- Builders sand (02): Dark brownish orange sand situated beneath gravel (01); 0.18m deep.
- Disturbed topsoil (03): A dark orangey brown, loose silty sand which contained a moderate number of rounded and sub-angular stones and occasional sub-angular flint nodules <50mm. Contained tile and brick debris. It reached a depth of 0.20m.
- Heavily bioturbated topsoil (04): Located where the postholes were dug in an area dominated by trees and vegetation. It comprised a loose, dark greyish brown sandy silty loam, which contained frequent rooting (especially P10), and occasional round and sub-angular stones. The base of this layer was not reached, but it exceeded 0.65m in depth.



**Plate 10:** Planters P1-5, looking northwest



**Plate 11:** P1, looking southwest





Plate 12: P1 stratigraphy, looking northwest

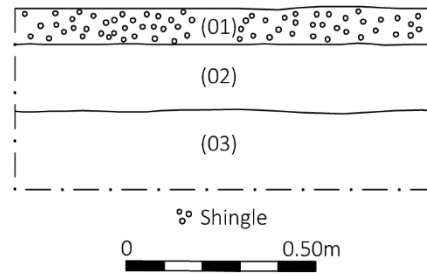


Figure 9: Representative stratigraphy of planter area (scale 1:20)



Plate 13: Postholes P6-12, looking south



Plate 14: P6, looking east- southeast



Plate 15: P9 stratigraphy, looking west

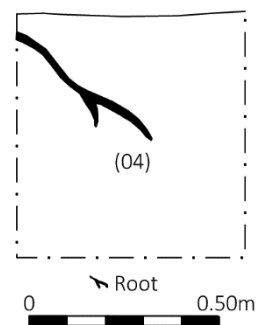


Figure 10: Representative stratigraphy near postholes (scale 1:20)



## 5 Conclusions

Gardener's Cottage is located adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Lordships moated site, and it formed part of the curtilage of the manor as the cottage forms one of the wings of the 18<sup>th</sup> century stable block. The site falls within both the Conservation Area and an Area of Archaeological Significance (147), which covers the historic medieval core of the village. The work undertaken on the site included the excavation of footing trenches for a new one storey extension, the installation of a new fence to the north of the cottage and a set of new planters within the courtyard to the west.

A section of the surviving wall that formed part of the western boundary of the site was removed prior to the construction of the extension; though much of the wall has been preserved *in situ*. The foundation of this wall is, in places, considerable, as it was 12 courses, or 1.10m deep. The depth may suggest that the post-medieval ground was terraced in this area. Where the foundations were at their shallowest, the brickwork had been underpinned with hard stony cement. A large hole had been made in recent times for the installation of a gas pipe and it had been repointed with cement above the modern ground level. The excavation of the footing and service trenches exposed more of this boundary wall. Wall [08] was observed within Footing 2 and is shown on the Tithe map to be a boundary wall which spans the width of the modern garden. As the masonry ties into the boundary wall to the west and appears to have been built using identical materials and construction methods it was a return for the existing western boundary wall.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits that predated the post-medieval period were encountered during this investigation. A possible explanation for this is that the trenches fell between widely dispersed features or more sensitive archaeological remains were destroyed through post-medieval and modern activities (i.e., the construction of the wall). Yet, as the ground reduction undertaken during this project was only 0.45m in depth this may not have been deep enough to expose the archaeological horizon, as it did not even reveal the natural geology. Consequently, archaeological features may remain buried underneath the courtyard to the east and the boundary to the north. At this time, none of the research aims for this project can be addressed.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Nicola Chambers for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson of Hertfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council for monitoring the project. We would also like to thank the staff at Sulve Ltd who undertook the groundworks and to Mr and Mrs Chambers and their family for their hospitality on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc MCI(f)A and Chris Martin-Taylor BSc. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc ACI(f)A, and edited by Derek Watson PhD.



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## 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. Specialist reports

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Much Hadham Forge Museum.



## 8 References

### *Standards & Specifications*

Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers

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<http://www.thehadhams.com/much-hadham/a-brief-history-of-much-hadham>

Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation*. London: Penguin





## Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	P1 looking SW
2		X	P1 stratigraphy looking SW
3	X	X	P2 looking WNW
4	X	X	P3 looking WNW
5	X	X	P4 looking W
6	X	X	P5 looking W
7	X	X	P6 looking E
8	X	X	P7 looking W
9	X	X	P8 looking S
10	X	X	P9 looking S
11	X	X	P10 looking S
12	X	X	P11 looking S
13	X	X	P12 looking S
14		X	P9 Stratigraphy looking W
15	X	X	Area 2 looking S
16	X	X	Area 1 looking NW
17		X	Area 1 looking NW
18		X	Wall in section looking north
19		X	Wall [08] looking west
20		X	Wall [08] looking east
21	X	X	Overview of existing boundary wall looking west
22		X	Overview of existing boundary wall looking northwest
23	X	X	Footing 3 looking north
24	X	X	Area of ground reduction looking northeast
25		X	Area of ground reduction looking northeast
26		X	Stratigraphy to the west (footing 3) looking west
27	X	X	Footing 2 looking west
28		X	Service 1 looking east
29		X	Service 2 looking south



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
<b>Project Name &amp; Address</b>	Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire	<b>Project Site Code</b>	324/MHG
<b>OASIS reference</b>	kdkarcha1-296407	<b>Event/Accession no</b>	TBC
<b>OS reference</b>	TL 42837 19906	<b>Study area size</b>	40.31 sq m
<b>Project Type</b>	Observation and Recording	<b>Height (mAOD)</b>	Approx. 61.0
<b>Short Description</b>	Between June 2018 and May 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. A total of three foundation trenches, two service trenches, five planters and seven postholes were excavated to facilitate the construction of a new extension and associated landscaping. A post-medieval wall was exposed within one of the footing trenches which appears to be a return for the existing western boundary wall. Despite the archaeological significance of the area, no further features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.		
<b>Previous work</b>	None	<b>Site status</b>	Within Conservation Area and Area of Archaeological Significance 147
<b>Planning proposal</b>	Construction of single-storey extension, relocation of summerhouse, replacement of existing shed with new (timber) one, erection of timber acoustic fence, increase in height of garden wall, and associated landscaping	<b>Current land use</b>	Garden
<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	East Herts Council	<b>Planning application ref.</b>	3/17/1479/FUL
<b>Monument type</b>	Wall	<b>Monument period</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Significant finds</b>	-	<b>Future work</b>	No
PROJECT CREATORS			
<b>Organisation</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
<b>Project Brief originator</b>	Alison Tinniswood	<b>Project Design originator</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd
<b>Project Manager</b>	Karin Kaye	<b>Director/Supervisor</b>	Laura Dodd
<b>Sponsor/funding body</b>	Nicola chambers		
PROJECT DATE			
<b>Start date</b>	04.06.2018	<b>End date</b>	18.05.2021
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)</b>	
<b>Physical</b>	Much Hadham Forge Museum	None	
<b>Paper</b>		WSI, Report, fieldwork forms, B&W photographs	
<b>Digital</b>		All digital files and photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
<b>Title</b>	Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording: Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire		
<b>Serial title &amp; volume</b>	324/MHG/2.1		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Laura Dodd MSc MCifA		
<b>Page no's</b>	23	<b>Date</b>	09.12.2022



### Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Much Hadham	Parish: Much Hadham
Planning application reference: 3/17/1479/FUL	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Nicola Chambers. Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6HN	
Nature of application: Construction of single-storey extension, relocation of summerhouse, replacement of existing shed with new (timber) one, erection of timber acoustic fence, increase in height of garden wall, and associated landscaping	
Present land use: Garden	
Size of application area: 40.31sq m	Size of area investigated: 40.31sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 42837 19906	Site code: 324/MHG
Site director: Laura Dodd	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Observation and Recording	
Date of Work: Start: 04.06.2018	Finish: 18.05.2021
Curating museum: Much Hadham Forge Museum	
Related HER no's:-	Periods represented: Post medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None	
Summary of fieldwork results: Between June 2018 and May 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Gardener's Cottage, The Lordship, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. A total of three foundation trenches, two service trenches, five planters and seven postholes were excavated to facilitate the construction of a new extension and associated landscaping. A post-medieval wall was exposed within one of the footing trenches which appears to be a return for the existing western boundary wall. Despite the archaeological significance of the area, no further features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.	
Author: Laura Dodd MSc MCifA	Date: 09.12.2022