



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Report

Land at Millfield Lane  
Bury Green  
Little Hadham  
Hertfordshire

DRAFT



**Quality Check**

<i>Author</i>	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	456/BGM/2.1	<i>Date</i>	21.08.2019
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Unit 3 Leighton Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1LA

Tel: 01525 385443

Email: [office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk)

Website: [www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk)





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## Summary

Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook Strip, Map and Sample excavation at Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire prior to the construction of a stable block on the site. The works revealed a single, undated, ditch with no finds that may have been used for drainage.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Strip, Map and Sample excavation of Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Newman Property Group, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by KDK (Watson 2019), and approved by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), East Hertfordshire District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 3/18/2664/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, Condition 4 of Planning Consent.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The hamlet of Bury Green, Little Hadham is located to the south-east of the Village of Little Hadham itself, within the civil parish of Little Hadham, and the administrative district of East Hertfordshire District Council (Fig. 1). It is situated at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 44860 21810.

#### *Description*

The development site lies adjacent to Millfield Lane, which runs to the west and south, and it is bounded to the east and north by open fields (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The solid geology of the area is the London Clay Formation: clay, silt, and sand deposited approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial deposits have been recorded. The development site is situated at an elevation of c. 103m AOD.

#### *Proposed Development*

Change of use of land from agricultural to sui generis (Equestrian) use. Erection of stable block comprising 6 stables, tack room and hay store (Fig. 3).



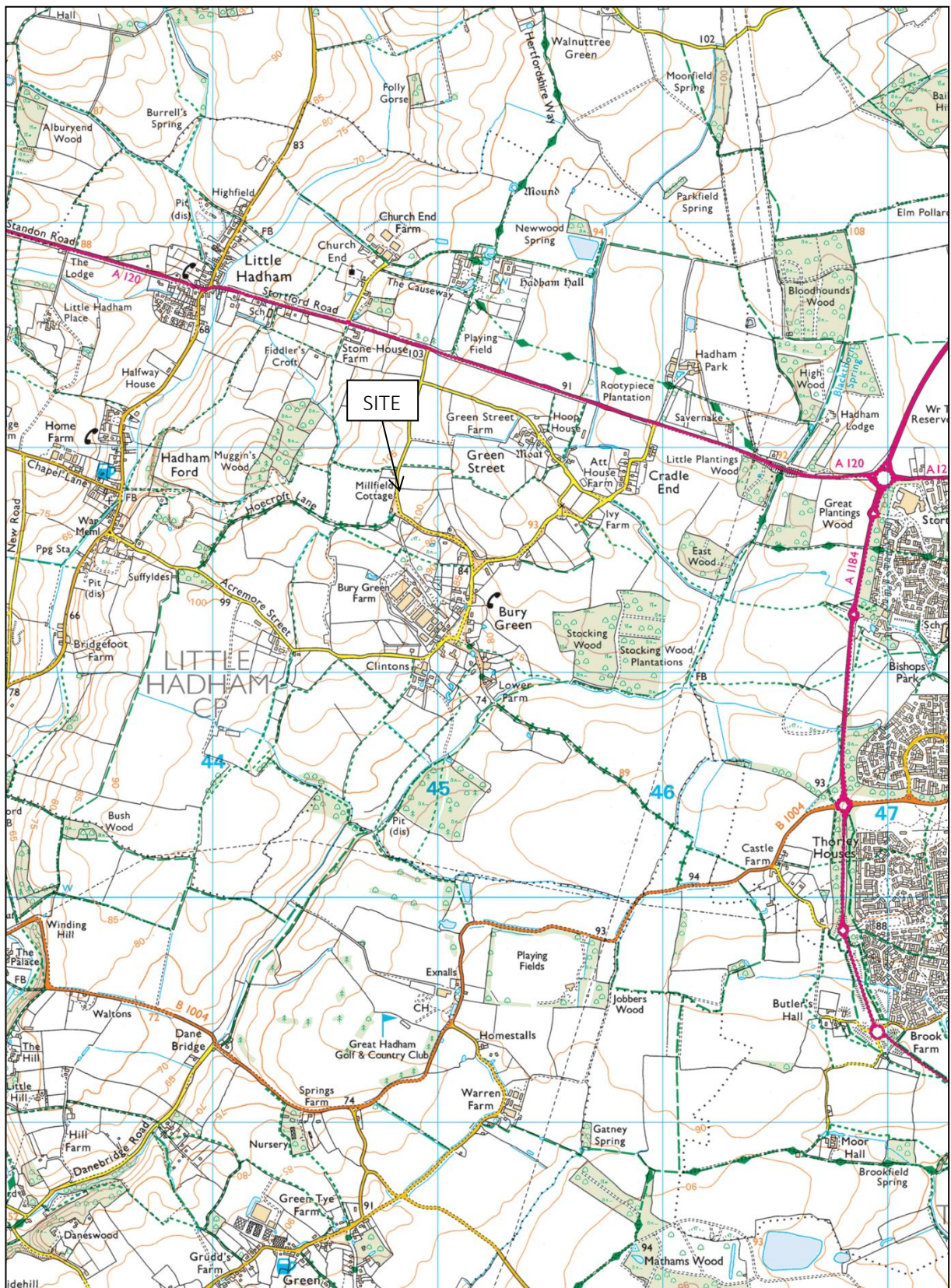


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

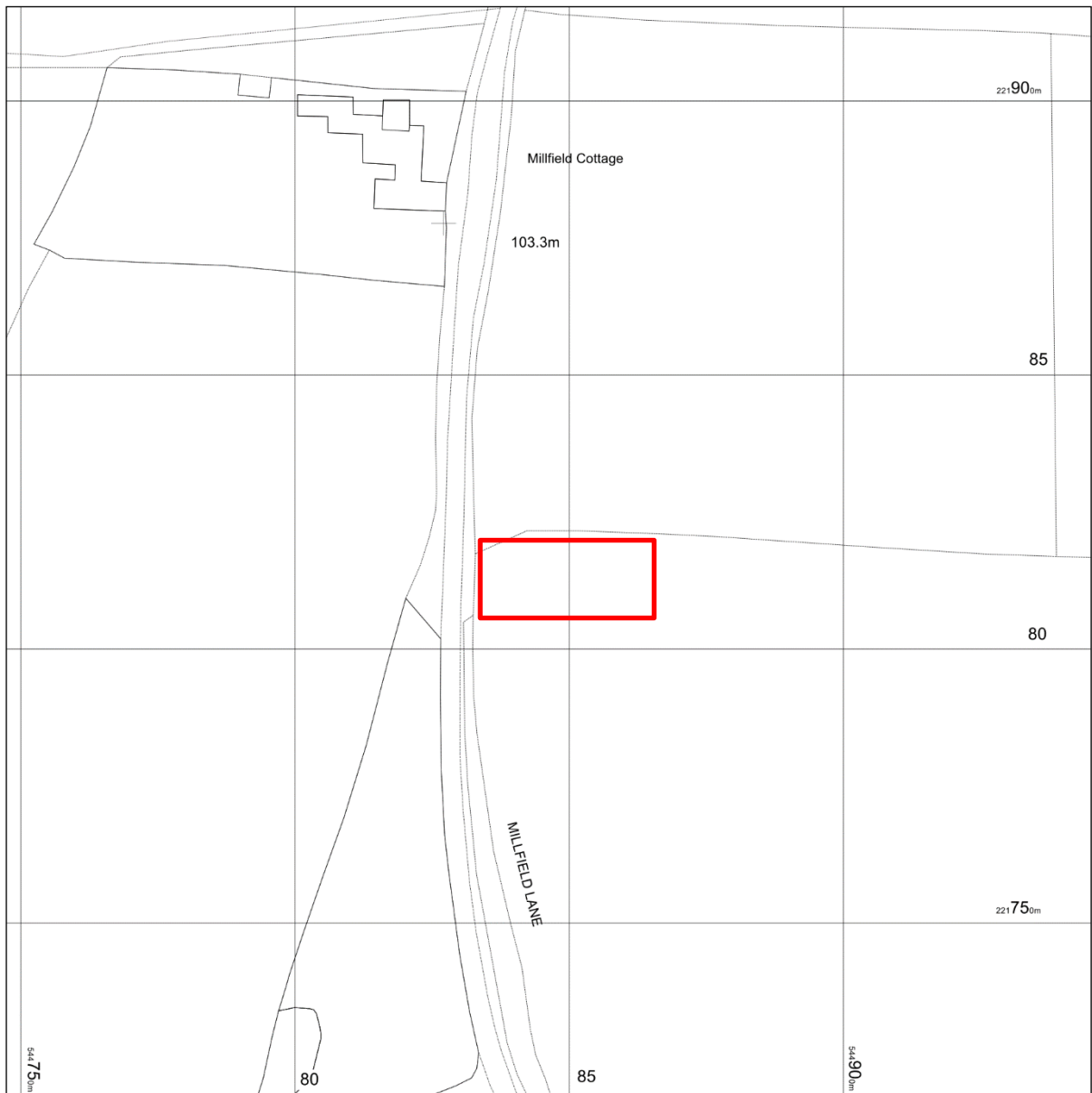


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

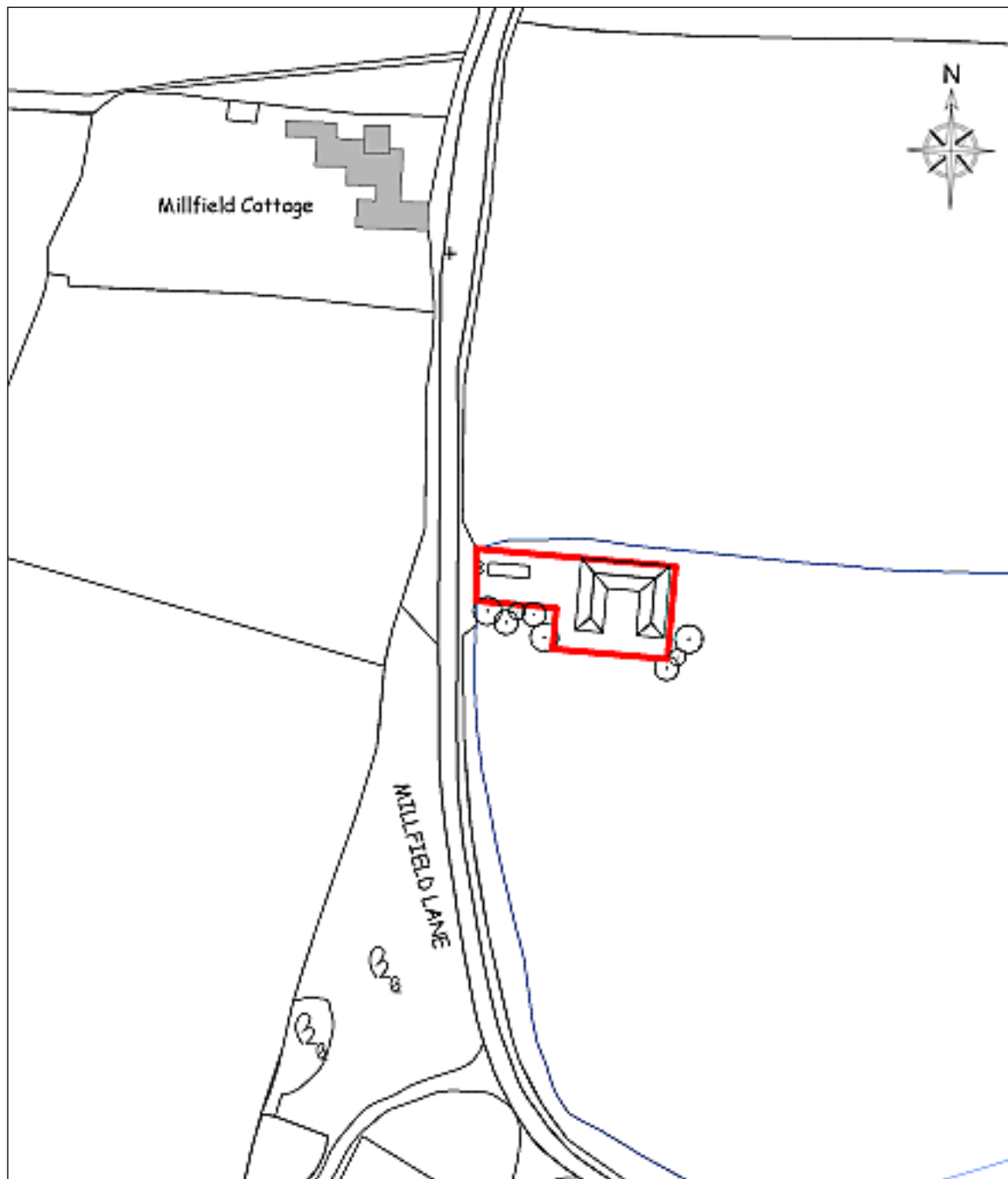


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:1250)



## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2019) 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 of the brief, the methods used were as follows:

- Continuous monitoring of site stripping to the archaeological horizon or the natural geology.

### 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)

### 2.4 *Constraints*

An area of c.2256 sq. m was stripped of the topsoil and into the subsoil prior to informing KDK of the works. The area was subsequently reduced to the required level under constant and continuous archaeological supervision.

In addition, as known live services are situated at the western end of the site, near the fence line, the strip map area did not extend into this part of the site.





### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The hamlet of Bury Green most likely has Saxon origins, though the proposed development site is located northwest of the main settlement in an area that has produced extensive evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation. The modern hamlet is within a Conservation Area (EHDC nd) and the development site is in an Area of Archaeological Significance.

This section has been compiled with information from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record with a 1km search radius (HHER Ref; 04/19), KDK's own library, Historic England and other reputable online sources. The monuments and events in the HER data are shown in Fig. 4.

#### 3.2 *Undated*

The HHER data notes that Bury Green is surrounded by 'ancient irregular fields' to the south, the east, and further to the west.

The registered common lands of Bury Green Common (HHER 12517) and Millfield Common (HHER 12515) are both undated, but are likely to have been established as part of the Saxon or early medieval landscape. Bury Green Common appears as it is today on the 1879 Ordnance Survey (OS) map. Millfield Common is documented as 'le Mellefeld' in 1347, although it may have been northwest of its current location (Gover *et al.* 1938: 179). Undated commons also exist at Green Street and Cradle End (HHER 12516). Other undated local features comprise the cropmark of a linear ditch discovered at Church End (HHER 4387), and the linear and sub-circular features on the south side of Acremore Street (HHER 13434).

#### 3.3 *Prehistoric (before 600BC – AD43)*

There is no direct evidence for any prehistoric settlement within the HER search radius, but cropmark evidence suggests that there were at least three late Neolithic/early Bronze Age burial mounds situated c. 600m southeast of the development site. One of the mounds is a 27m diameter (HHER 7548), ploughed-down 'round barrow' that is intersected by an undated linear ditch (HHER 9075) c.90m long; most likely representing a field boundary. A larger cropmark (HHER 2177), c.36m in diameter, has no visible internal features, nor an obvious entrance. Further to the south of Bury Green, a circular cropmark, c.25m in diameter, is believed to be the ploughed-out remains of a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age round barrow (HHER 7545). Immediately to the north of this feature is an undated linear feature. Other prehistoric evidence includes a bronze blade fragment (HER 9339), probably dating from the Bronze Age, found west of Green Street Farm, just to the northeast of the development site.

#### 3.4 *Iron Age (600BC - AD43) to Roman (AD43 - c. 450)*

The development site is within an Area of Archaeological Significance (No 431), which contains substantial evidence of settlement activity, and particularly that of (Late) Iron Age and Romano-British date. Cropmarks of an incomplete rectangular enclosure (HER 12080), with Roman and medieval finds, has been documented to the north of Millfield Cottage. Geophysical surveys (EHT8422) in the fields on each side of Millfield Lane, just north of the cottage, revealed anomalies which appear to show enclosures, trackways, and a ring ditch which may be a roundhouse. These may represent a Late Iron Age and Roman farmstead (HER 31424). Nearly 200 finds of Late Iron Age and Roman date have been made from field walking and metal detecting in these fields, including coins, possible toilet implements, pottery, and



lead weights (HER 9338). Roman pottery has also been found (in 1953) less than 200 metres to the north-east of the proposed development site (HER 1397).

A Middle Iron Age site (HHER30910; EHT4450) was discovered c. 300m north of the Roman road Stane Street (4680), the Roman highway from Braughing to Bishop's Stortford that runs to the north of Bury Green, and the remains comprise a possible ditched enclosure, various cut features, with finds including pottery and other objects (e.g. a possible loomweight and a well-worn comb made from part of an animal skull).

A late Iron Age settlement dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD was also discovered during archaeological fieldwork a few dozen metres north of site (HHER30910). The site of a Roman tile kiln (HHER4046) excavated by teachers and pupils of Hadham Hall School in the 1960s, is situated to the west of these sites.

Roman activity in the area was also revealed c. 550m southeast of the development site during an archaeological evaluation at Bury Green Farm. This consisted of the truncated base of a Roman pit (HHER 12848) with potsherds dated from the late 1<sup>st</sup> – early 2<sup>nd</sup> century (Turner 2005). Roman pottery, between Green Street Farm & Millfield Cottage, Little Hadham was found in 1953. Late Iron Age and Roman finds comprising a piece of unabraded box-flue tile, pottery, and some Roman coins were discovered adjacent to Acremore Street (HER 9337).

### 3.5 *Saxon* (c. 450 - 1066)

Little Hadham is mentioned three times in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 2002), and although Bury Green itself is not mentioned, it can be surmised that one of the estates mentioned may have formed part of what was to eventually become the modern hamlet. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records two manors in the late Saxon period: one was assessed at 2 hides and was held by William of the Bishop of Ely; and the second was held by the Abbot of Ely and was assessed at 4 hides (Williams & Martin 2002: 371-2, 375). This documentary evidence notwithstanding, there has been no archaeological confirmation of Saxon occupation/activity in the area.

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

Bury Green is a typical small East Hertfordshire hamlet centred on a common (Rowe & Williamson 2013: Fig. 3). The name Bury Green is of medieval origin, with 'Bury' in this case originating from the verb '*burh*' meaning 'manorial' (Gover *et al.* 1938: 179 & 243). Bury Green was recorded as 'le Beregrene' in 1369, and 'Berygrene' in 1413 (*ibid.*). Bury Green had two main manorial sites; Clintons (HHER 2823), and The Bury (HHER 11623). The Bury, also known as 'the berey', was presumably the landholding at Bury Green, which was detached in the early medieval period from the capital manor of Little Hadham and given to the abbey of Ely (Gibson *et al.* 2000).

Local heritage assets dating to this period are varied and include a medieval moated farmstead at Green Street Farm (HHER2825) and the 13<sup>th</sup> century deer park at Hadham Hall (HER 9967). Other medieval assets in Bury Green include the Clintons (HER 12190; Grade II\*, List Entry No 1290634), a two-storey timber-framed and plastered manor house dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and Bury Green Farmhouse, which retains some late medieval features (HHER 12188; Grade II, List Entry No 1221150; Smith 1993: 119).

### 3.7 *Post-medieval* (1500 - 1900)

Post-medieval field boundaries, in the form of soil marks, have been documented near Bury Green (HHER 10312, HHER 10309 and HHER 10311). A number of post-medieval buildings remain in the study area. The medieval farmstead at Clintons (HER 12192), near the south-eastern edge of the HER search area, was extended in the post-medieval period to include



other buildings, such as the c. 17/18<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed Brewhouse (Grade II, List Entry No 1221146); the timber-framed and weather boarded c. 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century Granary (Grade II, List Entry No 1221149); the timber-framed and weather boarded c. 17<sup>th</sup> century Top Barn (Grade II, List Entry No 1221147); and the timber-framed and weather boarded c. 17<sup>th</sup> century Corn Barn, with a c. 18/19<sup>th</sup> century implement shed (Grade II, List Entry No 1221148).

Similarly, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, a barn and stable range (HER 13771; List Entry No 1221144) were added to Bury Green Farm, and the 1844 Tithe map and 1879 OS map depict a large complex north of the manor house.

Just north of the proposed development site is Millfield Cottage, a 17<sup>th</sup> century dwelling (Grade II, List Entry No 1210875). Geophysical survey in the field immediately north of Millfield Cottage revealed a broad regular ring ditch with a diameter of about 30m, and a cross mark in the centre. This may represent the remains of a post mill (HER 31423) that would have been set on timber crosstrees which could be moved elsewhere leaving nothing visible behind. This is likely to be the 'mill' of the road name.

On the 1844 Tithe map, Bury Green is shown with its triangular Millfield Common entered by lanes at the corners and buildings along the edges. The 1879 Ordnance Survey (OS) map also shows orchards, a pub, and several small cottages.

### 3.8 **Modern** (1900 - present)

A prominent 20<sup>th</sup> century addition to the local heritage assets is the K6 Telephone Kiosk (Grade II, List Entry No 1288699) designed 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

The brewhouse at Clintons is now used as stores and an office, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations were made to the house at The Bury. A room linking the north wing to the granary was also added, and the barn and stable range is now a private house.

In 1956, Bury Green Farm was bought by the pharmaceutical company now known as GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings were partly demolished and converted c.2008. An electricity substation was added to the site in 2011.

Archaeological investigations, which revealed no remains, and building recording projects undertaken in the area comprise EHT1175, EHT1240, EHT5185, EHT8025, EHT5450, EHT8397, EHT8410, EHT7904, and EHT7798. A watching brief (EHT5588) at Little Hamstead revealed archaeological remains, but these were not excavated as they were situated below the development impact level.

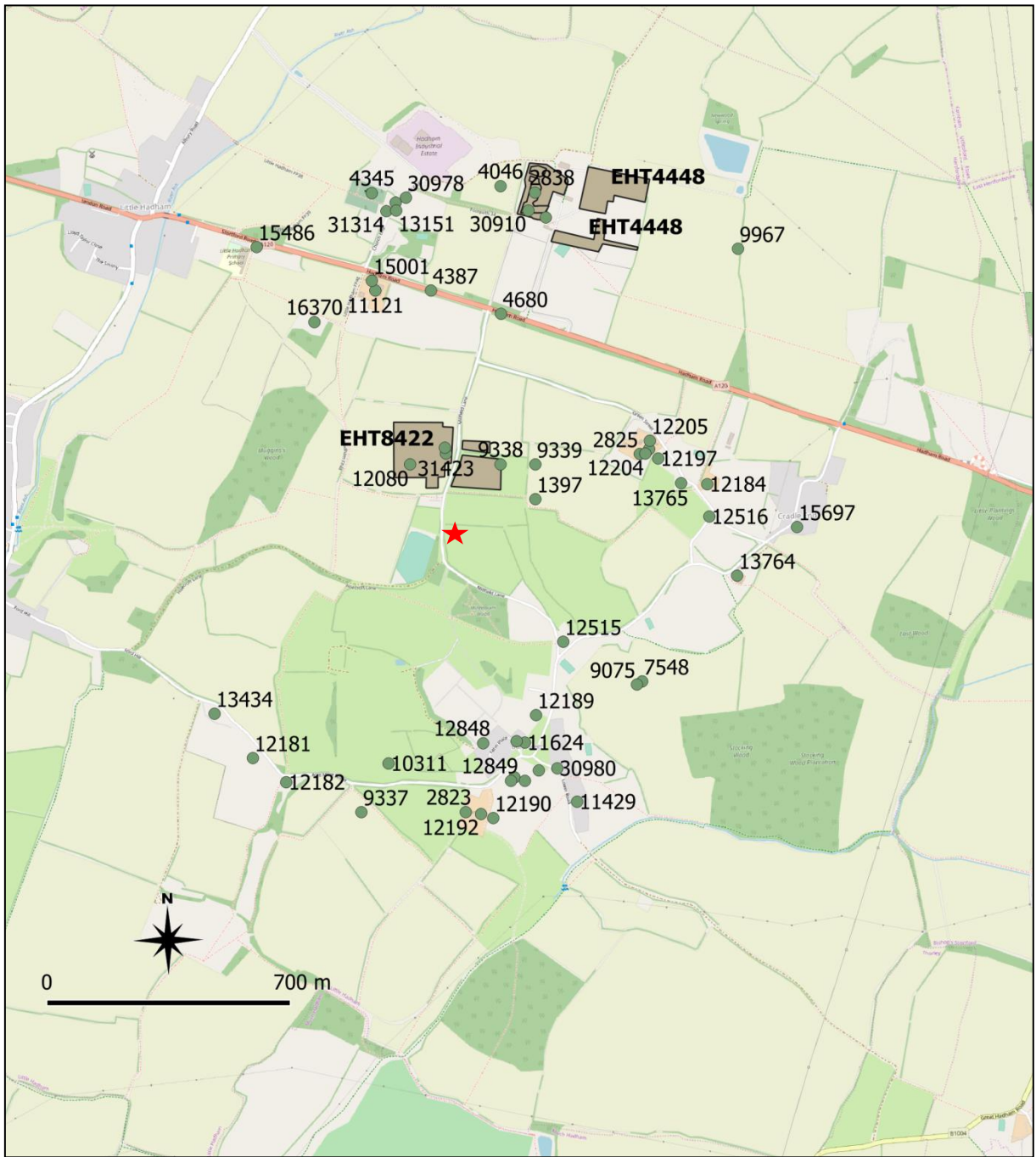


Figure 4: HER data plan; red star=development site (scale 1:1500)



## 4 Results

### 4.1 *Site Stripping*

As discussed in Section 2.4, an area of c.2256 sq. m was initially stripped of topsoil and some of its subsoil without archaeological supervision. Subsequently, a smaller area, c.670sq m, was mechanically stripped of subsoil to expose the natural geology. This was conducted under close archaeological supervision, as required in the brief (Fig. 5; Plate 1-2, 4-5).

The general site stratigraphy comprised (Fig. 6; Plates 3 & 6):

Topsoil (001) - dark greyish brown, friable silty clay. This layer was 0.25m in depth.

Subsoil (002) - mid-greyish brown, friable silty clay, with moderate sub-angular stones (<20mm) and sub-angular chalk (<10mm). This layer was 0.2m in depth.

The underlying natural strata (007) comprised light brownish yellow and reddish/yellowish brown, firm, clay with frequent inclusions of sub-angular flint (<100mm) and chalk (<50mm).

### 4.2 *Sampling Strategy*

On completion of the site strip, a single ditch was revealed. Following consultation with the AA, it was agreed that subsequent excavation would follow the sampling strategy outlined in the brief.

A single ditch, orientated northwest-southeast, was located near the southern side of the stripped area. This feature was more than 35m in length, 0.73m in width, and 0.2-0.27m in depth. In profile it had >45-degree sides, and a U-shaped base. Two slots were excavated into the ditch; [003] filled by (004) and [005] filled by (006). The fills (005, 006) comprised fairly soft, but friable, mid-yellowish brown, silty clay, with moderate inclusions of sub-angular chalk (<10mm) and occasional sub-angular flint (<20mm). No archaeological artefacts were recovered (Fig. 5-6; Plate 5, 7-9), and so it has not been possible to date this feature.





**Plate 1:** Initial topsoil strip, looking SE (scale 2x1m)



**Plate 2:** Initial topsoil strip, looking NW (scale 2x1m)



**Plate 3:** Initial topsoil strip, stratigraphy, looking SW (scale 1m)



**Plate 4:** Strip, map and sample area to the natural, looking SE (scale 2m)



**Plate 5:** Strip, map and sample area with single ditch, looking NW (scale 2m)



**Plate 6:** Stratigraphy of strip, map and sample area to the natural, looking West (scale 1m)





**Plate 7:** General shot of ditch, looking NW (scale 2x1m)



**Plate 8:** Ditch slot [103], looking NW (scale 1m)



**Plate 9:** Ditch slot [105], looking NW (scale 1m)

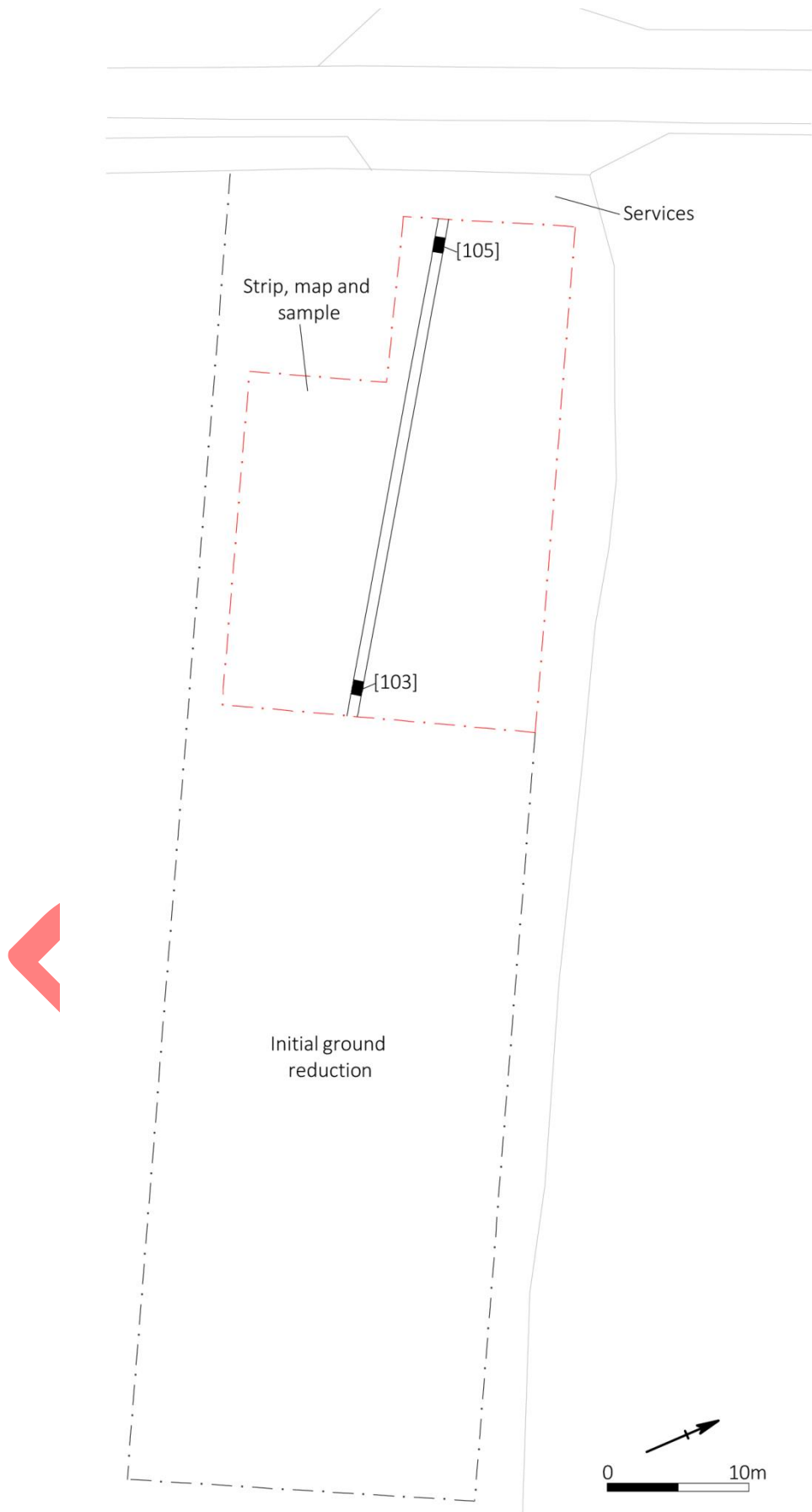


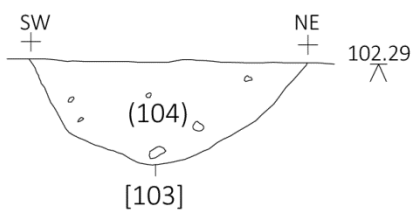
Figure 5: Archaeology plan (scale 1:450)



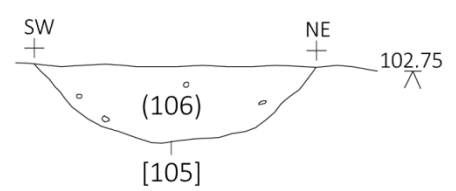
General Site Stratigraphy

Topsoil	(001)
Subsoil	(002)
Natural	(007)

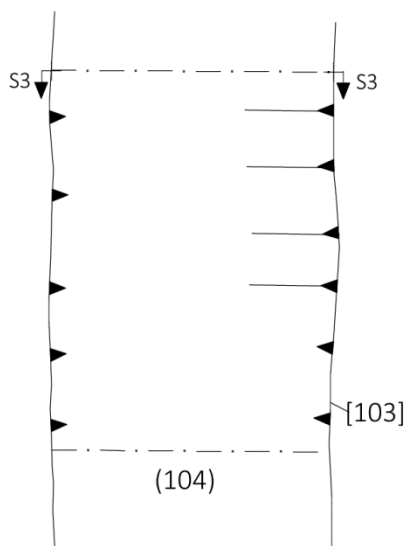
S3: Ditch [103]



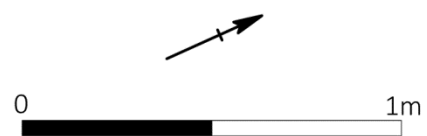
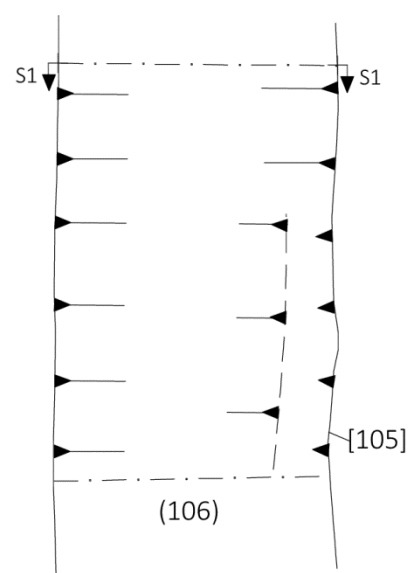
S1: Ditch [105]



P4: Ditch [103]



P2: Ditch [105]



**Figure 6:** Sections and plan (scale 1:20)



## 5 Conclusions

The development site is situated northwest of the main settlement of Bury Green, which likely has Saxon origins, and it is within an Area of Archaeological Significance that has substantial evidence of settlement activity dating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

The investigations have demonstrated that limited archaeological remains exists within the development area, as the only discovery was a single undated ditch, with no finds, which may have been used for drainage. Given the development site's proximity to known archaeological remains it is possible that it is located beyond the limit of settlement activity, or that the remains are more widely dispersed than hitherto suspected. Consequently, the development will not impact any heritage assets of archaeological interest.

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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Richard Newman of Newman Property Group for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Office for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; and to Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET) for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King and Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill, 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. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bishop's Stortford Museum.

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## 8 References

### **Standards & Specifications**

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## Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

### Context Register

Context	Type	Dimensions (m)	Description
001	Deposit	0.25m D	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, friable silty clay.
002	Deposit	0.2m D	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, silty clay, friable with moderate sub-angular stones less than 20mm and sub-angular chalk <10mm.
003	Cut	0.73m (W) >1m (L) 0.27m (D)	Ditch: orientated NW-SE, with >45-degree sides and a U-shaped base. Same as Ditch [005].
004	Fill	0.73m (W) >1m (L) 0.27m (D)	Fill of Ditch [003]: naturally silted consisting of mid yellowish brown, silty clay, fairly soft but friable with moderate sub-angular chalk less than 10mm and occasional sub-angular flint less than 20mm, with no finds.
005	Cut	0.73m (W) >1m (L) 0.2m (D)	Ditch: orientated NW-SE, with >45-degree sides and a U-shaped base. Same as Ditch [003].
006	Fill	0.73m (W) >1m (L) 0.2m (D)	Fill of Ditch [005]: naturally silted consisting of mid yellowish brown, silty clay, fairly soft but friable with moderate sub-angular chalk less than 10mm and occasional sub-angular flint less than 20mm, with no finds.
007	Deposit	>0.15m (D)	Natural: light brownish yellow and reddish/yellowish brown, firm clay with frequent sub-angular flint <100mm and chalk <50mm.

### Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:10	Ditch [105]
1	3	1:10	Ditch [103]

### Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	2	1:20	Ditch [105]
1	4	1:20	Ditch [103]



## Appendix 2: Photograph List

Digital	B&W	View	Subject
1		SE	Initial ground reduction
2		NE	Initial ground reduction
3		NW	Initial ground reduction
4		NE	Initial ground reduction, stratigraphy
5		SW	Initial ground reduction, stratigraphy
6		SW	Strip, map and sample area
7	1	SE	Strip, map and sample area
8	2	NW	Strip, map and sample area, ditch
9	3	NW	Strip, map and sample area, ditch
10	4	NW	Ditch [103]
11		NW	Ditch [103]
12	5	NW	Ditch [103]
13		NW	Ditch [103]
14		NW	Strip, map and sample, stratigraphy
15		SW	Initial ground reduction, stratigraphy

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## Appendix 3: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	456/BGM
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-348796	Event/Accession no	TBC
OS reference	TL 4860 21810	Study area size	670 sq. m
Project Type	Strip, Map and Sample	Height (mAOD)	103.3
Short Description	Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook Strip, Map and Sample excavation at Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire prior to the construction of a stable block on the site. The works revealed a single, undated, ditch with no finds that may have been used for drainage.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of stable block comprising 6 stables, tack room and hay store.	Current land use	Agricultural
Local Planning Authority	East Hertfordshire District Council	Planning application ref.	3/18/2664/FUL
Monument type	Ditch	Monument period	Unknown
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Alison Tinniswood (HHET)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Richard Newman – Newman Property Group		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	17.07.19	End date	20.08.19
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bishop's Stortford Museum	None	
Paper		WSI, report, site records, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		All digital records onto a CD, report downloads to oasis	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	456/BGM/2		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
Page nos	23	Date	21.08.19



#### Appendix 4: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Bury Green	Parish: Little Hadham	
Planning application reference: 3/18/2664/FUL		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Richard Newman		
Nature of application: Erection of stable block		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: 670 sq. m	Size of area investigated: 670 sq. m	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 4860 21810	Site code: 456/BGM	
Site director: Carina Summerfield-Hill	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Strip, Map and Sample		
Date of Work:	Start: 17.07.19	Finish: 20.08.19
Curating museum: Bishop's Stortford Museum		
Related HER nos: n/a	Periods represented: possible post-medieval/modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results:		
<p>Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook Strip, Map and Sample excavation at Land at Millfield Lane, Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire prior to the construction of a stable block on the site. The works revealed a single, undated, ditch with no finds that may have been used for drainage.</p>		
Author: Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA	Date: 21.08.19	

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