



KDK Archaeology Ltd

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Fairfield
Chapel Lane
Long Marston
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording at Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in order to fulfil a planning condition for the construction of single storey front and rear extensions. Five footing trenches were excavated and no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during this project. The soil profile had been truncated but sub-soils were present. Consequently, the absence of archaeological features and artefacts within the footing trenches may indicate that any surviving archaeological remains are diffusely distributed within the immediate area of the development site, and that it may have been outside the area of core settlement.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Partridge, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2019), and approved by the Archaeological Advisor (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET)), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/00760/19/FHA.

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 to the south-west of the heart of the village of Long Marston, which is located within the civil parish of Tring Rural Parish Council and the administrative district of Dacorum, at National Grid Reference SP 89509 15646 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site lies on the north side of Chapel Lane, the sites southern boundary, with all of the other boundaries formed by contiguous private residences (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (undifferentiated), which comprises sandstone, mudstone and siltstone deposited during the Cretaceous Period approximately 94 to 113 million years ago; no superficial deposits have been recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is situated at an elevation of c. 87m AOD.

Development

The development consisted of a single storey front and rear extensions (Fig.3).

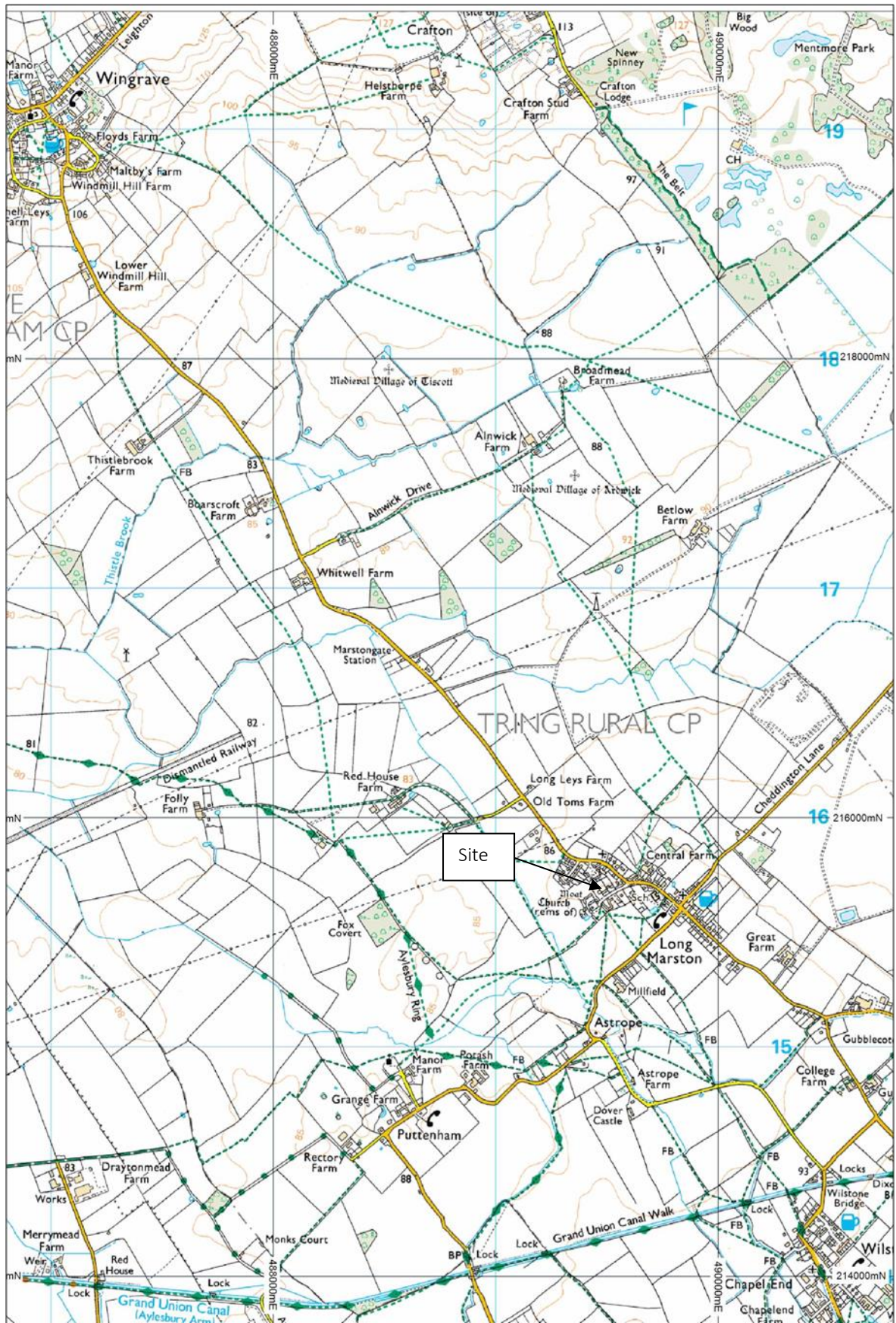


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

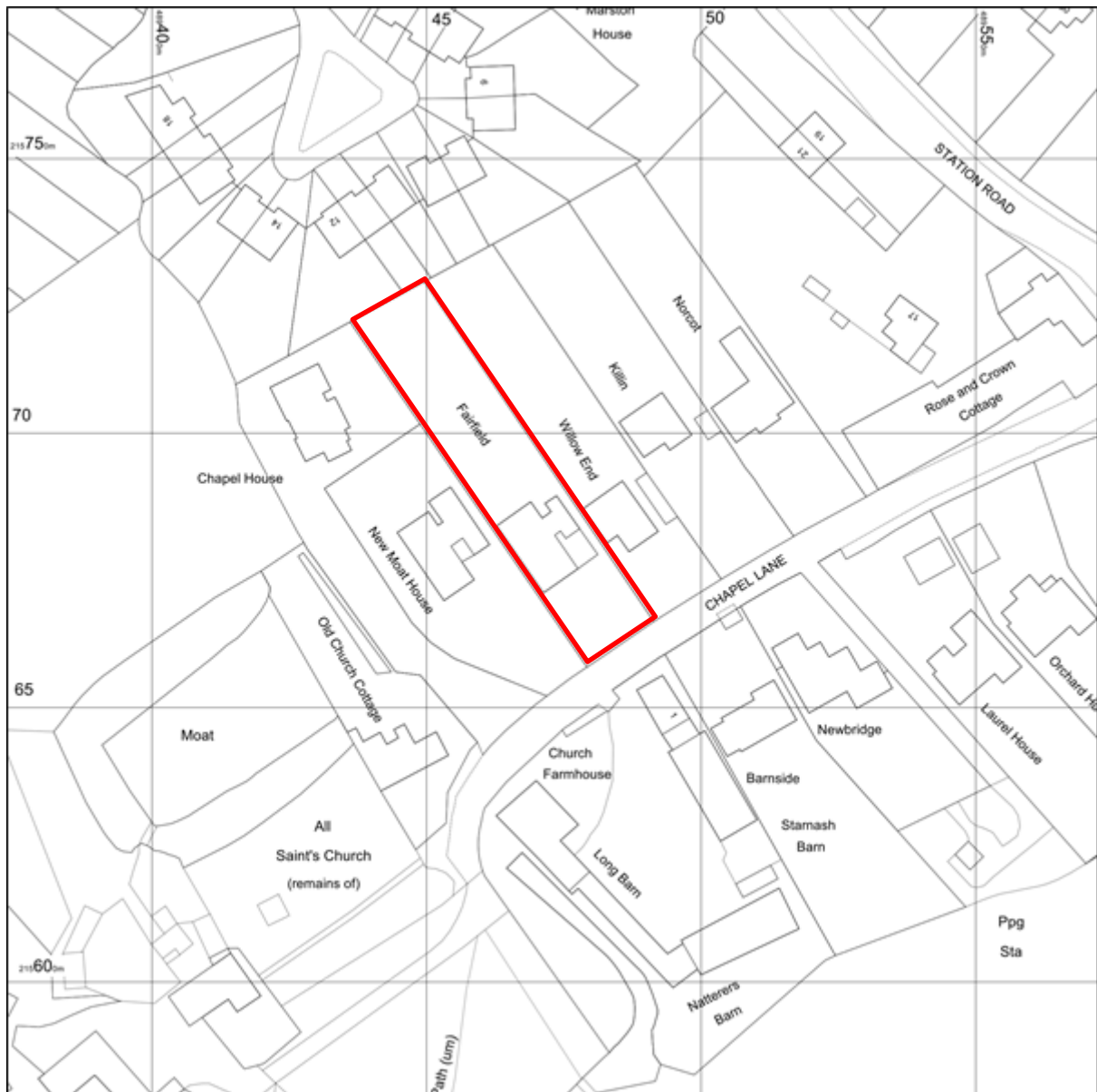


Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:1,250)

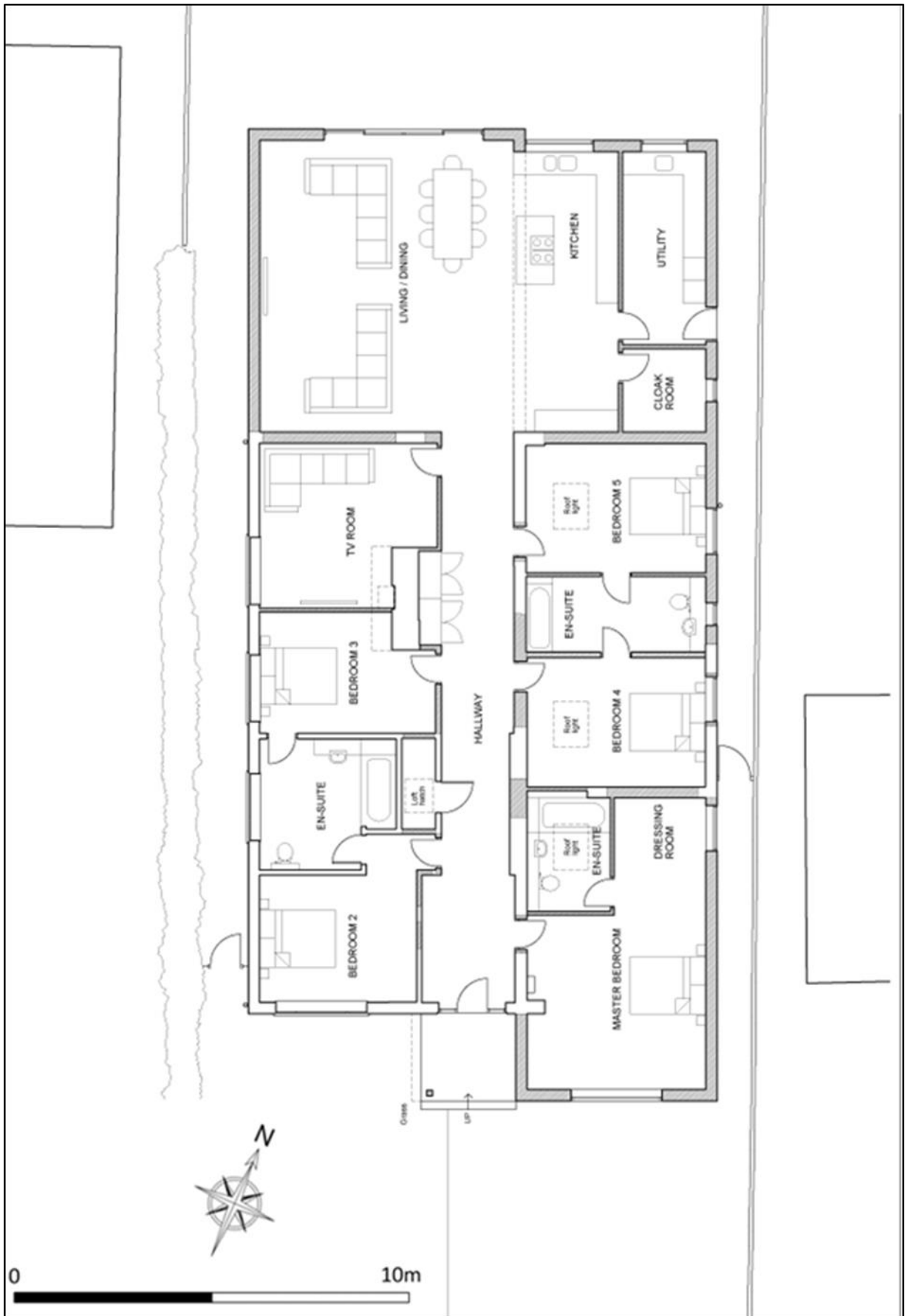


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

The methods used were as follows:

- Groundworks or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

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 The village of Long Marston (HER 2056) is situated in the Vale of Aylesbury, northwest of Tring. Evidence for human settlement or activity near the development site is scant prior to the end of the Saxon period. Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a secondary settlement; it is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The earliest reference to Long Marston dates from the 13th century with its manor described as consisting of half a knight's fee, held of the honour of Berkhamsted. Subsequently, it was held by the honour of Leicester in the 15th century; in the 17th century by the manor of Tring; in the 19th century by the Earls of Bridgewater; and then by the Rothschild family. In the 1851 census, the settlement was classified as a hamlet with 56 households and it has remained a predominantly arable farming community.

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. 'Marston' is a common name for a settlement (Mills 1991: 224), though 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.

The following section has been compiled from information from the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER; with a 500m search radius), Historic England and other reliable internet sources, and KDK's own library. The HER data, with a 1km search radius, is shown in Fig. 4.

Prehistoric (before 600BC)

The nearest prehistoric finds in the parish (Palaeolithic to Iron Age) have predominantly been found in the northern part of Tring (Hunns 2000: 2), though a Neolithic polished stone adze (HER 11486) was found approximately 460m south of the development site in Long Marston.

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

No remains dating from the Iron Age have been found locally. The only evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is indicated by a pit containing residual (2nd - 3rd century) Roman pottery at 3 Chapel Lane (HER 11805), which is situated c. 100m east of the development site.

Saxon (c450-1066)

Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring, the earliest mention of which 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). It is possible that Tring was a major mid-late Saxon royal estate which gave its name to the hundred in which it lies, resulting in the prevention of its constituent villages/hamlets from developing into separate parishes as they formed part of a large secular estate.

Medieval (1066-1500)

The earliest reference to Long Marston (Merschtone, or Merston; VCH) 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 also held of the honour of Berkhamsted, a large estate in the Tring Hundred, which at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 was 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, and in 17th century by the manor of Tring (VCH).

The development site is within the medieval core of Long Marston, and lies near (c. 60m) a rectangular moat and infill (HER 2611, 10795, EHT4426), the remains of a Grade II* (List Entry No 1078012) 15th century church tower (HER 4374), and a fragment of a medieval chapel of ease (Old Church of All Saints) demolished in 1883. The long, linear plots with properties along both sides of Chapel Lane are reminiscent of medieval burgage or tenement plots and interventions at 3 Chapel Lane have recovered stratified 12-14th century pottery, other domestic refuse, and structural debris (HHER 11805, EHT5125). The site of manor of Long Marston (11803) is presumed to be nearby and is documented from the 13th century, when Euphemia, widow of John Bassett, was granted land in Merston by Alice Bassett.

The 15th century open hall house of some quality, disguised in later brick casing (Grade II, List Entry No 1077976) at Little Farm, 16 Station Road (HER 30625), and the Medieval timber-framed farmhouse and later barns are situated on the village outskirts.

Extensive areas of ridge and furrow survive to the south (HER MHT6165), northwest (HER MHT6081), and northeast-east (HER MHT13737, MHT18446, 2623) of the development site, highlighting the rural nature of the settlement.

Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

A number of Grade II listed buildings/structures in the village date to the 16th century, including: Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane (HER 30624; List Entry No 1075158); the timber-framed red brick Post Office, 44 Station Road (it also served as a chapel; HER 18152; List Entry No 1342255); the Rose and Crown Cottage, Station Road (HER 13748, EHT1192, List Entry No 1342256); the timber and thatch Old Thatch, 9 Station Road (HER 17126; List Entry No 1051665); and the Church Farm, Chapel Lane (HER 17129 List Entry No 1268138) and its barn (List Entry No 1342231). Old Church Farm (HER 31241) on Chapel Lane is a post-medieval farmstead that was previously known as Chapel Farm until the 20th century.

Loxley Farm (Grade II, List Entry No 1078013, HER 17128) and gatehouse (Grade II, List Entry No 1068887) is located near the eastern end of Chapel Lane, and the 16th century farmstead was partly destroyed by fire in 1917. Evaluation via strip, map and record (EHT8239) at Loxley Farm revealed some post medieval features and remains. The placename *Lokesley mede* was documented in 1447, and is probably derived from *Locc's leah* (a woodland clearing of a man called Locc).

Structures and sites dating to the 19th century include: Central Farm (HER 17127), Station Road; the site of a Smithy (HER 30942) on Station Road that was detailed on later 19th century maps; and an archaeological evaluation (EHT4735) at New Moat House, Chapel Lane revealed 19th century and later features, and roof tile fragments. The 19th and early 20th century bottle dump (HER 11804, EHT5125) at 3 Chapel Lane contained predominantly glass bottles, but stoneware bottles were also present; the latter were of a type used for ginger beer and soft drinks, so it is possible this waste was from the Rodwell factory in Tring). Post-medieval features discovered at the New Moat House (HER 12760, EHT4735) comprised buried soil horizons and 19th century land drains; the only finds were peg tile, which might be later medieval but are more likely post-medieval.

The ecclesiastical parish of Long Marston was created in 1867 from parts of the neighbouring parishes of Tring, Marsworth (in Buckinghamshire) and Drayton Beauchamp. In 1894 it combined with Wilstone to form Tring Rural civil parish, whereas before that Tring included



the hamlets of Wilstone and Long Marston (VCH). Long Marston parish fields were enclosed in 1805 (VCH).

The Anglican Church of All Saints, Station Road (HER 17215, Grade II, List Entry No 1077004) was built in 1882-3 on land given by Sir Nathaniel Mayer de Rothschild. Elements and furnishings from the Old Church of All Saints (HER 17215) were incorporated into the new church, with the earliest dating from the 12th century.

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 red brick with white Baptist chapel (HHER 12851; EHT5452) was built in 1869 on Cheddington Lane, and remained in use until modern times.

Modern (1900-present)

Long Marston largely remained a farming community and changes during the 20th century caused by improved transportation infrastructure and increased car ownership, led to a decline in the number of services available in the settlement, including the conversion of the local Post Office to a residential building, and a decrease in the number of stores. Moreover, while historically there were four public houses, now only the Queens Head remains. The village also hosts a primary school, which was built after the original (19th century) school was bombed during World War II. The current school, built in 1951, has gradually grown and extended with the village and its population.

To the west of the development site stands a prominent War Memorial (Grade II, List Entry No 1410497, HER 18151), which is a stone Celtic cross, that stands c. 5.8m tall on a plinth with a three-tiered base, and bears some carved decoration.

Archaeological investigations within the HER search area that yielded no archaeological remains, some due to area truncation, include: the watching briefs at the sports field, Station Road (EHT1171); 3 Chapel Lane (EHT5125); Marston Place, Chapel Lane (EHT8437); land adjacent to 27 Tring Road (EHT4754); and 12 Church View (EHT4900). No archaeological remains were discovered during monitoring at Barnside, Chapel Lane (EHT8356); or the strip, map & sample at Nash Cottage, 25 Cheddington Lane (EHT7930).

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

No site specific data is held in the HER. However, it is worth re-stating that the development site is within the medieval core of Long Marston, and lies near (c. 60m) a rectangular moat and infill (HER 2611, 10795, EHT4426), the remains of a Grade II* (List Entry No 1078012) 15th century church tower (HER 4374), and a fragment of a medieval chapel of ease (Old Church of All Saints) demolished in 1883.

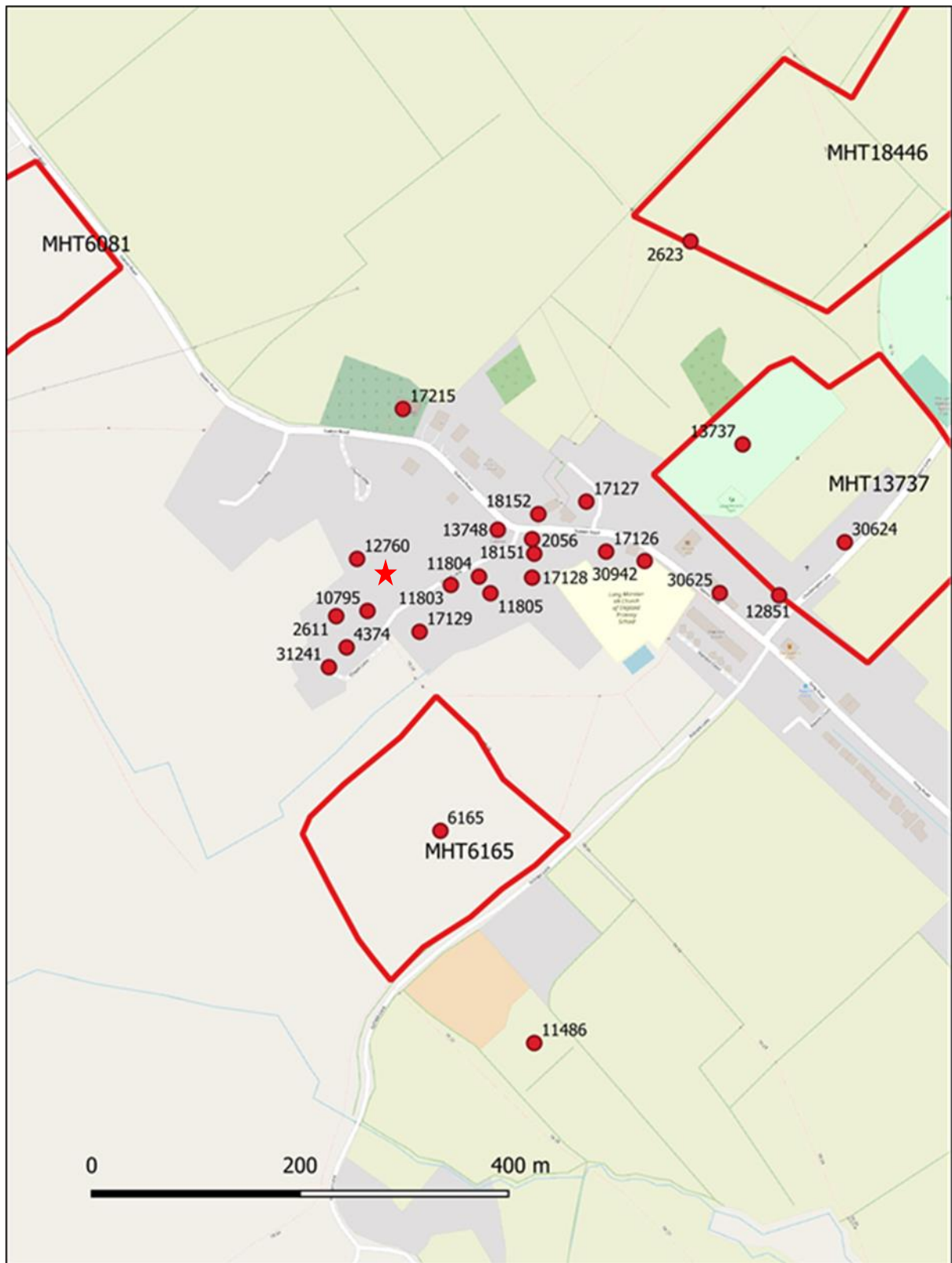


Figure 4: HER data plan (development site = red star)(scale as shown)



4 Results

Introduction

In July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording in the footprint of the development site (Fig. 5). Service trenches, particularly for water supply, were encountered during the excavation of the footing trenches.

Description

A total of 28.78sq metres were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The footing trenches were excavated by a 1.65 tonne mechanical digger fitted with a 0.65m wide toothless trenching bucket, though a toothed bucket was occasionally utilised for excavating more compact areas within the development footprint. The footing trenches were variable in length (Fig. 5), whereas all were 0.65m wide x 1m deep.

The stratigraphy of the site comprised (Figs 6-10; Plates 1-10):

Topsoil (100 & 300): heavily bioturbated, mid greyish brown, silty clay (0.18-0.23m deep).

Subsoil 1 (101): dark brownish grey clay, with inclusions of (<10mm) stones (0.65m deep).

Subsoil 2 (202, 302, 401 & 501): dark grey silty clay, with rooting (0.33-0.78m deep).

Made-ground (201, 301, & 500): these deposits varied across the site, ranging from 1) sand and bricks (201); 2) light greyish clay with modern broken bricks and building refuse (301); and 3) silty clay with modern house bricks and broken hard-core (500). The depth ranged from 0.13 to 0.38m.

Some of the area investigated was topped with concrete slabs/hardstanding (200, 400) that were c. 0.05m deep.

The natural geology (102, 203, 402 & 502) comprised light grey, silty clay of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation. This context (303) was only partially exposed at the base Trench 3.

On completion of this investigation, no archaeological features were discovered, and no finds of archaeological significance were found either on-site or in any of the spoil removed during the excavations.

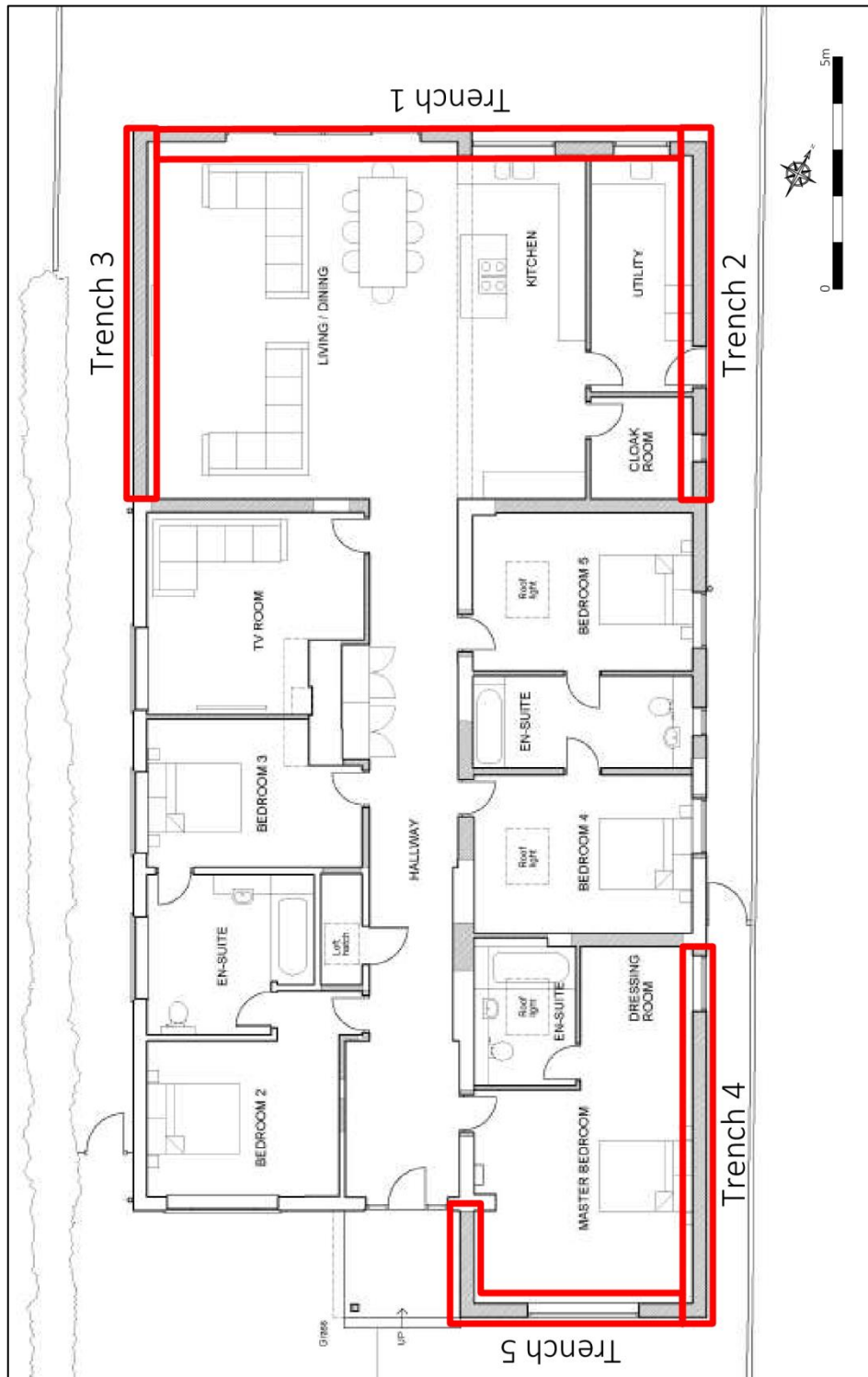


Figure 5: Development site footing trenches (scale 1:150)

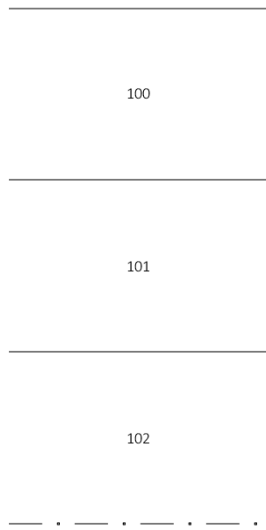


Figure 6: Trench 1 stratigraphy

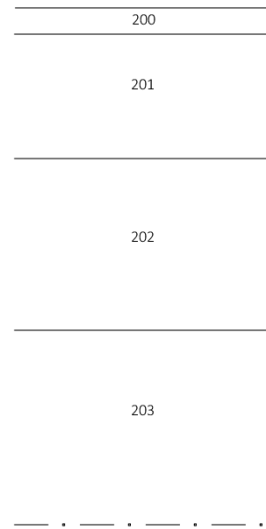


Figure 7: Trench 2 stratigraphy

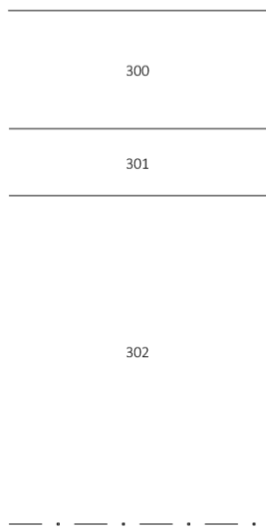


Figure 8: Trench 3 stratigraphy



Figure 9: Trench 4 stratigraphy



Figure 10: Trench 5 stratigraphy



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1, stratigraphy



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking southeast



Plate 4: Trench 2, stratigraphy



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking southeast



Plate 6: Trench 3, stratigraphy



Plate 7: Trench 4, looking northwest



Plate 8: Trench 4 stratigraphy



Plate 9: Trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 10: Trench 5 stratigraphy



5 Conclusions

The stratigraphy revealed within the development area includes topsoil in Trenches 1 & 3, with two different subsoils in Trenches 1-5, which overlaid the natural geology. No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during this project.

As topsoil was absent in most of the trenches, and in Trench 3 it overlaid made-ground, this demonstrates extensive truncation within the development site that most likely occurred during the construction of the adjacent house. However, the presence of subsoils within the development footprint demonstrates that the disturbance to the soil profile was relatively superficial. Thus the absence of archaeological features and artefacts within the footing trenches may not be a consequence of modern soil truncation, rather it indicates that such remains, regardless of the proximity of locally significant medieval structures, are diffusely distributed within the immediate area of the development site, and that it may have been outside the area of core settlement/activity.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Mr & Mrs Partridge for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart of HHET for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Alison Tinniswood of HHET for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD, 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 photos

7.2 As no archaeological remains were revealed during the course of the fieldwork, the archive will not be accepted by Dacorum Heritage Trust. The electronic report and photos will be uploaded to OASIS and any physical archive will be retained by KDK Archaeology.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- 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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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 453/LMC			Site Name: Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire
Digital	B&W	View	Subject
1	x	NE	Trench 1 view
2	x	SE	Trench 1 stratigraphy
3	x	SE	Trench 2 view
4	x	SW	Trench 2 stratigraphy
5	x	SW	Trench 2 stratigraphy
6	x	NE	Trench 2 stratigraphy
7	x	SE	Trench 3 view
8	x	SE	Trench 3 view
9	x	NW	Trench 4 view
10	x	NW	Trench 4 view
11	x	NW	Trench 4 view
12	x	NW	Trench 4 view
13	x	NE	Trench 4 stratigraphy
14	x	SE	Trench 5 stratigraphy
15	x	NE	Trench 5 view
16	x	NW	Trench 5 view
17	x	NW	Trench 5 view



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	453/LMC
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-358090	Event/Accession no	n/a
OS reference	SP 8950 1564	Study area size	28.78sq m
Project Type	Observation, Investigation & Recording	Height (mAOD)	87
Short Description	In July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording at Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in advance of planning permission for the construction of a single storey front and rear extensions. Five footing trenches were excavated and no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during this project. The soil profile had been truncated but sub-soils were present. Consequently, the absence of archaeological features and artefacts within the footing trenches probably indicates that such remains are diffusely distributed within the immediate area of the development site, and that it may have been outside the area of core settlement.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Single storey front and rear extensions	Current land use	Residential
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	4/00760/19/FHA
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	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Barney King
Sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Partridge		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	30/07/2019	End date	01/08/2019
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	KDK Archaeology OASIS	None	
Paper		Report, Photos, Fieldwork sheets	
Digital		Report, Photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	453/LMC/2		
Author(s)	Derek Watson PhD		
Page no's	23	Date	16/09/2019



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum Borough Council	
Village/Town: Long Marston	Parish: Tring Rural Parish Council	
Planning application reference: 4/00760/19/FHA		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Mr & Mrs Partridge, Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston		
Nature of application: The development consists of single storey front and rear extensions		
Present land use: Residential		
Size of application area:		Size of area investigated:
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 8950 1564	Site code: 453/LMC	
Site director: David Kaye BA ACIfA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Observation, Investigation & Recording		
Date of Work:	Start: 30/07/2019	Finish: 01/08/2019
Curating museum: KDK Archaeology/ OASIS		
Related HER no's: None		Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>In July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation & Recording at Fairfield, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Hertfordshire, in advance of planning permission for the construction of a single storey front and rear extensions. Five footing trenches were excavated and no archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during this project. The soil profile had been truncated but sub-soils were present. Consequently, the absence of archaeological features and artefacts within the footing trenches probably indicates that such remains are diffusely distributed within the immediate area of the development site, and that it may have been outside the area of core settlement.</p>		
Author: Derek Watson PhD		Date: 16/09/2019