

KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

White Hart Farm Crabbs Lane Stocking Pelham Buntingford Hertfordshire

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Quality Check

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Summary

In February 2021 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording at White Hart Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire. The work, which is part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has been undertaken in order to fulfil Condition 3 of Planning Consent. Ground works revealed several layers of made ground overlaying modern drainage services running from a post-medieval well located within the farmhouse. No other archaeological features or finds were encountered. This may be because prior post-medieval and modern development on the site truncated any evidence of human activity in the area, or the site fell between widely dispersed features.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording on White Hart Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by David Featherstone, and was carried out at the request of Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET)), acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), East Herts Council. The relevant planning application reference is 3/18/1446/FUL.

1.2 Planning Background

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 3 of the planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The development site is situated in the village and civil parish of Stocking Pelham in the administrative area of East Herts District Council at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4542 2908 (Fig. 1). The Grade II listed barn (NHLE Ref. 1176596) at White Hart Farm is bounded to the north/northwest by Ginns Road, to the west and south by Crabbs Lane, to the northeast by the associated Farmhouse, and to the east by an open field (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The sedimentary bedrock consists of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations (undifferentiated), which were formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. These are overlain by the Lowestoft Formation: diamicton deposits (a sediment resulting from dry-land erosion) formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritian/home.html). The site is at an elevation of approximately 125m AOD.

Development

The development required the change of use of an agricultural barn to a residential dwelling, with changes to fenestration and door openings, and the demolition of an outbuilding and creation of parking spaces and new access way (Fig. 3).



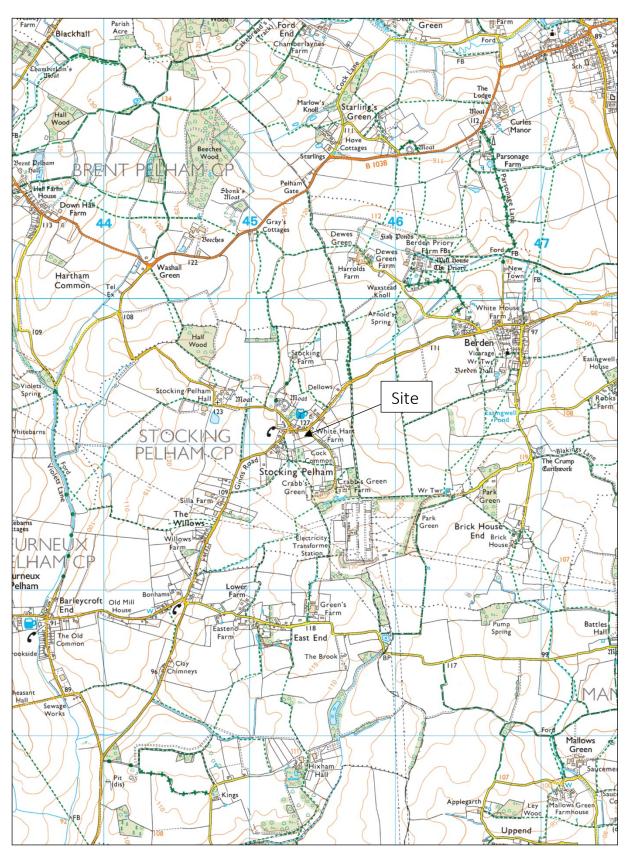


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



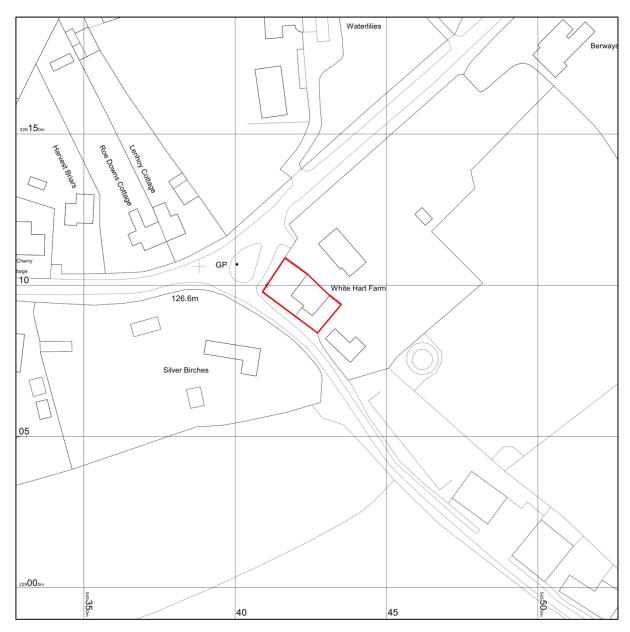


Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:1,250)



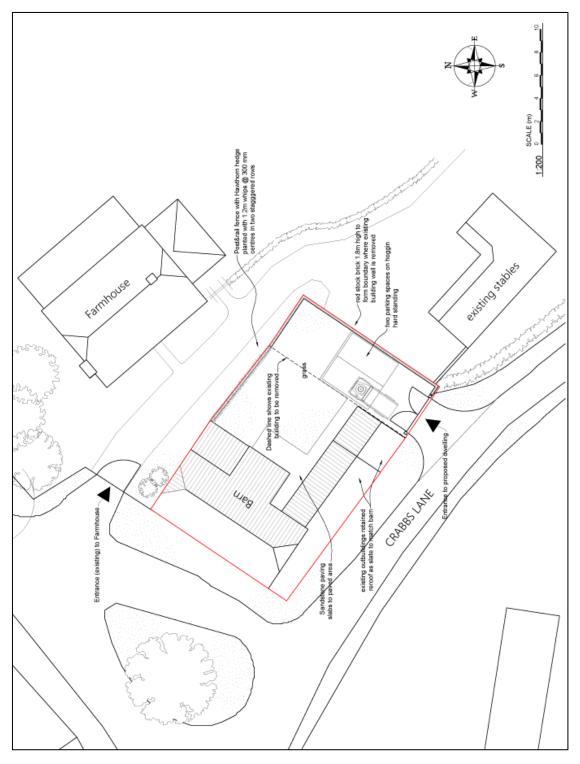


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of this project 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:

• The archaeological monitoring of the drainage trenches and a plot for a new water tank. The ground reduction, which did not exceed a depth of 0.15m, was not monitored or inspected as it covered an area previously monitored and found to have been made ground.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2020)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019)
- 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 Stocking Pelham is a small rural hamlet situated in East Hertfordshire on the border with Essex, *c*. 10 km east of Buntingford and *c*. 11km to the north of Bishops Stortford. The total area is approximately 650 acres, making Stocking Pelham one of the smallest parishes under the auspices of the East Hertfordshire Council. The countryside surrounding the village consists mainly of agricultural land.

The name of Pelham derives from the Old English for 'Homestead or village of a man called Pēola' (name + Ham), with Stocking ('stoccen') meaning 'made of logs' or 'by the tree stumps' (Mills 1991: 255). Stocking Pelham may have been so named due to the construction of some form of defence made of logs and trunks (CGCA 2018: 17).

This section has been compiled with information from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER Ref 112/19), Historic England and other reliable web sites, and KDK's own library. A number of historic houses are listed in the HER within a 1km search radius of the development site, but for clarity only the historic monuments are depicted in Fig. 4.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before 600BC), **Iron Age** (600BC - AD43) and **Roman** (AD43 - c.450)

Little is known of the Stocking Pelham area during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Indeed, the only entry in the HER search area concerns a water-worn ovate Palaeolithic handaxe (HER 1760) that was found *c*. 140m southeast of the development, between the Rivers Ash and Stort, by W H Penning of the Geological Survey in 1872.

3.3 **Saxon** (c.450 - 1066)

In this period, at least, much of the area was apparently heavily wooded with a single wood known as 'Park Wood' that extended *c*. 1.3km from Berden Hall (Berden) to the north-east of Crabb's Green (Bailey 2000). Place-name evidence supports an Anglo-Saxon origin for Stocking Pelham, and contemporary sources record that in the 7th century 'Pela' (Pēola), a Saxon leader based near Crabb's Green, established Stocking Pelham (Bailey 2000; Cherry 1974; Gover et al 1938). It may have been founded *c*. 450m to the north as an observation post to defend against the Danes who had arrived by 689 AD, as the Pelhams were repeatedly under siege until 912 AD when the Danes were finally defeated (Bailey 2000; Cherry 1974).

Despite the toponym and documentary evidence no data is listed within the HER search area for the Saxon period.

3.4 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists only one settlement named Pelham, on land held by the Bishop of London as tenant-in-chief, divided into seven separate manors, each held by a different lord (Williams & Martin 2002 371-2), and with a combined population of 105 households it was in the largest 20% of settlements recorded in Domesday (Opendomesday.org). However, by 1300 there were three adjacent settlements with the name on Hertfordshire's border with Essex: Brent Pelham in the north, Furneux Pelham in the south and Stocking Pelham in the middle.

The medieval layout of the village is still apparent in the three clusters of historic earthworks and features. The medieval church and Stocking Pelham Hall are located to the northwest of the main bulk of the modern village, which has developed between the medieval moated site of the Old Rectory and White Hart Farm, and to the southeast is the hamlet of Crabbs Green.



Crabbs Green (HER 12552) also has Anglo-Saxon origins and the hamlet is associated with the family of John Crabbe, who was first documented in a lay subsidy roll of 1294 (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938). The Green is shown on the 1880 OS map as a rectangular area *c*. 180m x 77m with scattered housing around it and approached by a funnel-shaped lane at the north-eastern corner.

Crabbs Green Farm (HER 10955; EHT 4884, 7604-5) has a Grade II timber-framed farmhouse (List Entry No 1101863) and 17th century timber-framed and weather-boarded barn (List Entry No 1176566). The farmhouse was originally constructed *c*.1500 as simple open hall house with two-storey southern bay. The house was extensively remodelled around 1600 when an upper floor was inserted into the hall, windows were added at both levels to the western elevation, and a central brick chimney stack and stair tower were added to the first floor. In the 17th century the centre of the building was extended to the south with a two-storey bay. No other major alteration took place until the 20th century when the entire northernmost bay and most of the roof was destroyed by fire. The farm is associated with the family of John Crabbe and has earlier medieval origins.

To the south of Crabbs Green farmhouse is a U-shaped ditch, the western arm of which opens into a large pond. These features may be the remnants of a partially surviving moat (HER 11865), which appears to have been infilled in the 17th century when Crabb's Green Farm was enlarged. In 2008 an archaeological evaluation trench (EHT7604) situated east of the 17^{th} century barn, revealed a ditch with a modern fill, but it was on the line of the ditch shown on the 1839 Tithe Map and all later mapping. The ditch was *c*. 1m wide and clearly is not the eastern arm of a medieval moat, but it could follow a boundary established by an older feature, such as a moat.

The 17th century Old Rectory (HER 30693) stands within a medieval moat (HER 1971) with a trapezoidal form, which was drained and partly infilled in the mid-19th century, and restored in the 20th century. The earthwork is c. 240 northwest of the development, and measure 82m N-S x 60m E-W, with water-filled arms measuring c. 8m wide. The moat was last drained in the 1970s, during a murder hunt.

South of Stocking Pelham Hall (HER 11157) is medieval moated site (HER 4520) with 8m wide north and east arms that are water-filled. The 1839 Tithe Map depicts a house in the exact position of the present house (11157) and the fragments of the western and southern arms on the line of a surviving shallow scarp; but the latter were removed during major mid-19th century alterations to the house and farmstead. A pond was added to the eastern arm in the 20th century. A further moated site (HER 4520) is located *c*. 610m northwest of the development. An undated shallow linear earthworks (HER 1639) lies near this moated site (HER 4520), and an extensive area of rectilinear ditches and enclosures (HER 7648) is situated at the northern limit of the HER search area.

The Church of St Mary (HER 4348, Grade II, List Entry No 1347753; BHO 2019) is located northwest of the development near the cluster moated/earthwork sites. It stands beside the road immediately south of Stocking Pelham Hall (HER 11157) and was presumably a manorial foundation. The church is a small simple building of mid-14th century origin, built in flint. The nave was widened towards the south in the 14th -15th century. The large late 14th century west window is distinctive feature, as is the rare and ancient bell, which has been attributed to John Langhorne 1379-1406 (SPPC 2019). The building was extensively restored in the 19th century.



Cropmarks of historic field boundaries and other features (HER 31148) are situated *c*. 250m southwest of Crabbs Green. Most of the cropmarks are from historic (post-medieval) field boundaries shown on 19th century maps, but there are also some fainter features which may be of ditched enclosures, though these are of an unknown date.

3.5 **Post-medieval** (1500 - 1900)

All of the local heritage assets dating to this period are buildings, with most Grade II listed. Stocking Pelham Hall (HER 11157; EHT5193) is a large rambling house enclosed on three sides by the medieval moat (HER 4520). Major changes took place in the mid-19th century, as the 1878 OS map shows only the south barn range and a perpendicular building on the west side of the yard as the only survivors as all the other buildings had been demolished and replaced with an extensive formal layout of new farm buildings west of the house. A surviving barn (List Entry No 1307819) dates from the 17th century. Buildings dating to the 16th, and predominantly the 17th century comprise: the timber-framed and thatched The Cock Inn (HER 12233) that was delisted after a serious fire in 2008; Longcroft (List Entry No 1347751) dates from the 17th century; Cockswood Farm (HER 12234; List Entry No 1176585); Silver Birches (List Entry No 1176548); Stockings Farm (HER 12283; List Entry No 1347750); The Old Rectory (HER 30693; EHT7969; List Entry No 1101864); Willows Cottage (List Entry No 1101866); and The Cottage (List Entry No 1101862). Buildings dating from the 18th century include: Bennills (List Entry No 1101865); Sweetfield Cottage, Crabbs Green (HER 12223; also delisted after a conflagration). The HER also lists the site of Millhill Cottages (HER 30694), shown on the 1839 tithe map as a single house and by the later 19th century as a pair of cottages.

3.6 *Modern* (1900 - present)

No heritage assets are listed in the HER search area for this period.

3.7 Site Specific

The development site is in Area of Archaeological Significance (No 440), which includes the historic farmstead of White Hart Farm (HER 30868). The farm consists of two 18th century buildings: a farmhouse (Grade II, List Entry No 1347752) and the development site, a barn (Grade II, List Entry No 1176596). It is possible that the barn dates from the mid-19th century (BEAMS 2018) though it appears to be the same structure shown on the 1839 Tithe Map, alongside a much larger structure running parallel with the farmhouse, to a (now-infilled) pond to the south-east.



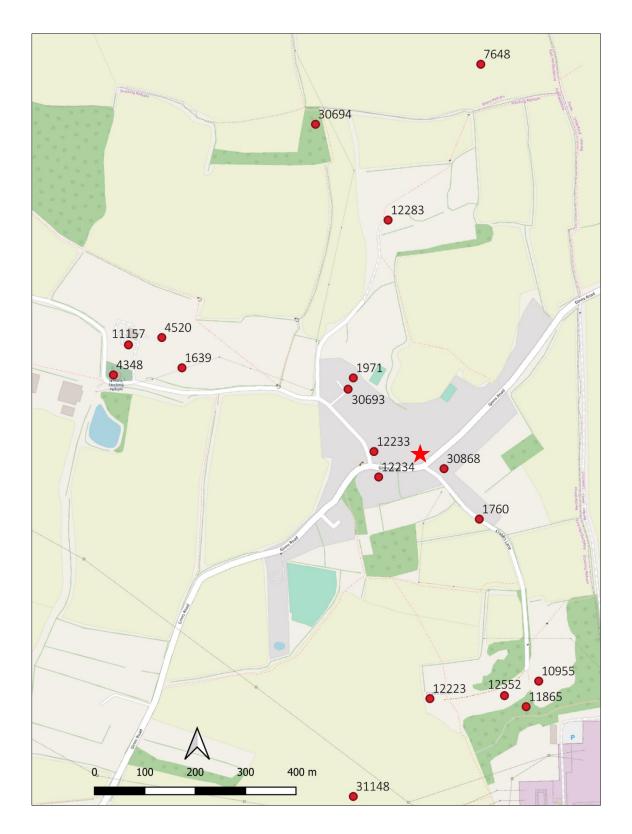


Figure 4: Historic Monuments within 1km radius of the development site marked by a red star (scale 1:7500)



4 Results

4.1 *Introduction*

The project required the excavation of drainage trenches and a plot for a new water tank within the yard of the 18th century barn. All the trenches were 0.5m wide and varied in length between 6m and 20m and in depth between 0.3 and 0.5m (Figure 4, Plates 1-4). They were excavated with a 4-tonne mini digger using a 0.50m toothed bucket. The trenches connected together at the southeast end of the site before redirecting towards the main line on Crabb's Lane. A plot, which two of the trenches joined, was excavated to accommodate a new water tank. The plot, which measured 2.8m in length and width and reached a maximum depth of 3.0m (Plate 5), was excavated using a 10-tonne mini digger using a 1.0m and 0.50m toothed bucket.

4.2 Description

The stratigraphy across the site consisted primarily of an existing surface made up of a thin layer of slate overlaying mixed made-ground deposits with brick, aggregate and concrete inclusions (Figures 5-10, Plate 6-10).

The stratigraphy revealed across the excavated area comprised:

- Layer (001): Thin slate surface. This layer was 0.05m deep.
- Made-ground (002): Mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of miscellaneous modern debris (CBM, chalk, slate). Depth ranged between 0.10-0.30m.
- Made-ground (003): Yellowish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of miscellaneous modern debris (CBM, chalk, slate). Depth ranged from 0.18-0.23m.
- Made-ground (004): Dark blueish grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of miscellaneous modern debris (gravel, concrete, CBM). Depth exceeded 0.30m.
- Natural (005): Mid grey clay with rare small gravel or chalk fleck inclusions. This layer was encountered at a depth of 0.56m and exceeded a depth of >2.50m.

On completion of the fieldwork, no archaeological features, finds, or deposits were revealed within the drainage trenches or the water tank plot, which were dominated by multiple layers of made ground that covered the site. During the excavation of Plot 1, a small section of concrete running northeast to southwest was identified along the northern section. The concrete abutted a brick lined manhole located in the northwest corner of the plot. Due to the amount of drainage and water pipes running through this area of the site, it was determined that both features were part of modern drainage for the farm outbuildings and barn.



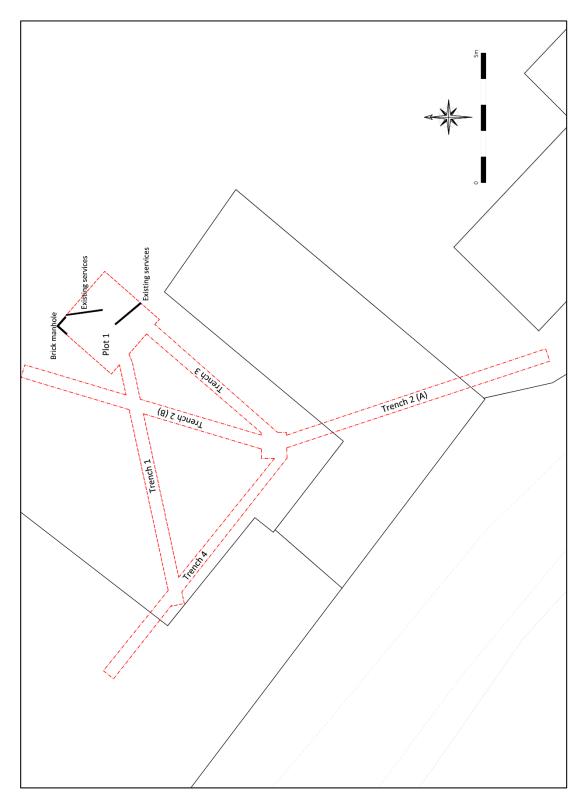


Figure 5: Layout of development site and monitored ground works (scale 1:150).





Plate 1: Trench 1 layout, looking southwest

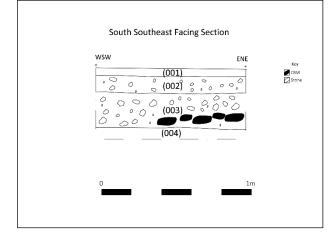


Figure 6: Trench 1 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:10)



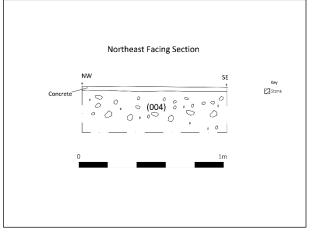
Plate 4: Trench 2 section A, looking southwest



Plate 2: Trench 1 section, looking north



Plate 3: Trench 2 layout A, looking north



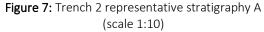






Plate 5: Trench 2 layout B, looking north

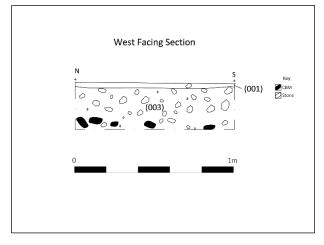


Figure 8: Trench 2 representative stratigraphy B (scale 1:10)



Plate 6: Trench 2 section B, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 3 layout, looking southwest



Plate 8: Trench 3 section, looking northwest

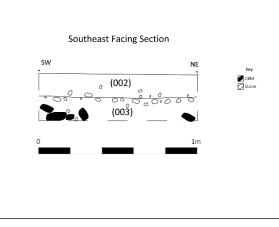


Figure 9: Trench 3 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:10)

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Plate 9: Trench 4 layout, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 4 section, looking southwest

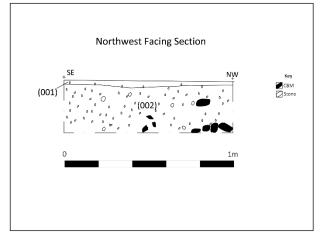


Figure 9: Trench 4 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:10)



Plate 11: Plot 1, looking northeast



Plate 12: Plot 1 section, looking southwest



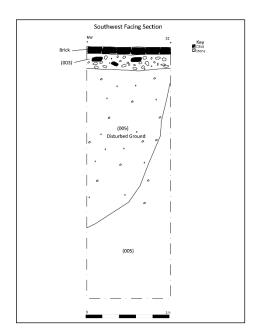


Figure 10: Plot 1 representative stratigraphy A, southwest facing (scale 1:10)

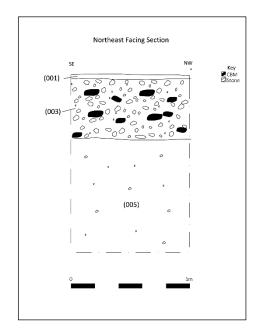


Figure 11: Plot 1 representative stratigraphy B, northeast facing (scale 1:10)



5 Conclusions

Despite the site being a historic farmstead and Grade II Listed barn, within an Area of Archaeological Significance, the excavation of the drainage trenches and plot for the new water tank within the yard of the barn conversion did not reveal any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. The groundworks exposed multiple layers of surface and made-ground, and the natural substrate was only observed within Plot 1. The extensive ground disturbance and lack of top/subsoil may well be due to the construction and later reworking of the of the barn and adjacent outbuildings as well as the installation of services in the 20th century.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Gill Wharmby for commissioning this report on behalf of David Featherstone Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and monitoring the project respectively.

The fieldwork was carried out by Peri Horsley. The report was written by Peri Horsley 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
- 7.2 As Hertford Museum does not accept archives from negative archaeological investigations, the paper archive will retained by KDK Archaeology and the report will be uploaded to ADS.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1		Х	Working Shot -Before Works		
2		Х	Working Shot -Before Works		
3		Х	Working Shot -Before Works		
4		Х	Working Shot -Before Works		
5		Х	TR1-Layout		
6	Х	Х	TR1-Layout		
7	Х	Х	TR1- Stratigraphy		
8		Х	TR1- Stratigraphy		
9		Х	TR1- Stratigraphy		
10		Х	TR1- Stratigraphy		
11		Х	TR1-showing existing service		
12		Х	TR1-showing existing service		
13		Х	Working Shot Plot 1		
14		Х	Working Shot Plot 1		
15		Х	Working Shot Plot 1		
16		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
17		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
18		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
19		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
20	Х	Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
21		Х	Northeast facing section Plot 1		
22		Х	Northeast facing section Plot 1		
23		Х	Northeast facing section Plot 1		
24		Х	South facing section Plot 1		
25		Х	South facing section Plot 1		
26		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
27		Х	Southwest facing section Plot 1		
28		Х	South facing section Plot 1		
29		Х	General Shot of Plot 1		
30		Х	General Shot of Plot 1		
31	Х	Х	Trench 02-Layout (A)		
32		Х	Trench 02-Layout (A)		
33	Х	Х	Northwest facing section Trench 02 (A)		
34	Х	Х	Trench 02-Layout (B)		
35		Х	Trench 02-Layout (B)		
36	Х	Х	East facing section Trench 02 (B)		
37		Х	East facing section Trench 02 (B)		
38		Х	Northwest facing section Trench 02 (A)		
39	Х	Х	Trench 03-Layout		
40		Х	Trench 03-Layout		
41		Х	Trench 03-Layout		
42	Х	Х	Southeast facing section Trench 03		
43		Х	Southeast facing section Trench 03		
44	Х	Х	Trench 04-Layout		
45		Х	Trench 04-Layout		
46	Х	Х	Northeast facing section Trench 04		



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Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
47		Х	Northeast facing section Trench 04		
48		Х	General working shot		
49		Х	General working shot		
50		Х	General working shot		
51		Х	General working shot		



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

Project Name & Address White Hart Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire Project Site Code 500/SPC OASIS reference kdkarcha1-374868 Event/Accession no N/A OS reference TL 4542 2908 Study area size 31.99m2 Project Type Observation and monitoring Height (mAOD) 125m					
OS reference TL 4542 2908 Study area size 31.99m2 Project Type Observation and monitoring Height (mAOD) 125m					
Project Type Observation and monitoring Height (mAOD) 125m					
In February 2021 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation and	d				
Short DescriptionIn February 2021 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording at White Hart Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire. The work, which is part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has been undertaken in order to fulfil Condition 3 of Planning Consent. Ground works found several layers of made ground 					
Previous work None Site status Grade II Listed					
Planning proposal Barn Conversion into Residential Dwelling Current land use Agricultural barn					
Local Planning AuthorityEast Herts CouncilPlanning application ref.3/18/1446/FUL					
Monument type None Monument period None					
Significant finds None Future work No					
PROJECT CREATORS					
Organisation KDK Archaeology Ltd					
Project Brief originator Project Design originator KDK Archaeology Ltd					
Project Manager Karin Kaye MA MCIfA Director/Supervisor Peri Horsley MPhil ACIfA					
Sponsor/funding body David Featherstone					
PROJECT DATE					
Start date 11.02.2021 End date 18.02.21					
PROJECT ARCHIVES					
Location Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)					
Physical -					
Paper KDK Archaeology Report, WSI, Site records, Photographs					
Digital ADS Report					
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)					
TitleArchaeological Monitoring and Observation Report: White Hart Farm, Crabbs Lane, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire					
Serial title & volume KDK Archaeology Ltd 500/SPC/2.1					
Author(s) Peri Horsley BA MPhil ACIfA					
Page no's 27 Date 22.02.2021					



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Whi	te Hart Farm, Crabbs Lai	ne, Stocking Pel	ham		
County: Hertfordshire		District:	East Hertfordshire		
Village/Town: Stocking Pelham		Parish:	Stocking Pelham		
Planning application reference:	3/18/1446/FUL				
Client's name, address, & tel. no:	David Featherstor	ie			
	White Hart Farm				
	Crabbs Lane				
	Stocking Pelham				
	Hertfordshire				
	onversion into Resident	ial Dwelling			
0	ltural barn	1			
Size of application area: 308	m ²	Size of area in	nvestigated: 31.99m ²		
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 4	542 2908	Site code: 50	0/SPC		
	Horsley MPhil ACIfA	Organization	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Type of work: Observation	n and Monitoring				
Date of Work: Start: 1	1.02.2021		Finish: 18.02.2021		
Curating museum: Hertford M	useum				
Related HER no's: 30868	Per	riods represent	ed: Post-Medieval		
Relevant previous summaries/repo	rts: N/A				
Summary of fieldwork results: In February 2021 KDK Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording at White Hart Farm, Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire. The work, which is part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has been undertaken in order to fulfil Condition 3 of Planning Consent. Ground works found several layers of made ground overlaying modern drainage services running from a post-medieval well located within the farmhouse. No other archaeological features or finds were encountered. This may be because prior, post-medieval and modern development on the site truncated any evidence of human activity in the area, or the site fell between widely dispersed features.					
Author: Peri Horlsey BA MPhil	ACIfA	Date:	22.02.2021		