



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land adjacent to Paynters House

2 Bury Lane

Datchworth

Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In March 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a single trench Archaeological Evaluation at the land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance and is situated within small medieval settlement at Painters Green on Bury Lane. Several post-medieval listed building still stand within this part of the village. Although there was potential for buried archaeological remains within the development area, no finds, features or deposits of historical significance were observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 In March 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at the land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Charles Houston, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by KDK (Watson 2020), and approved by Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), East Hertfordshire District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 3/19/0808/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation 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 development site is within the village and civil parish of Datchworth and the administrative district East Hertfordshire District Council, at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2711 1898 (Fig. 1).

Description

The development site is located to the rear of 2 Bury Lane and 8 and 10 Painter's Green and is bounded to the north, west, and south by private residences and to the east by agricultural land (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is composed of the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations (undifferentiated) that were formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. These are overlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits of sand and gravel deposited up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is situated at an elevation of 124m AOD.

Proposed Development

The development calls for the erection of a two storey, four bedroom dwelling, with attached double garage (Fig. 3).

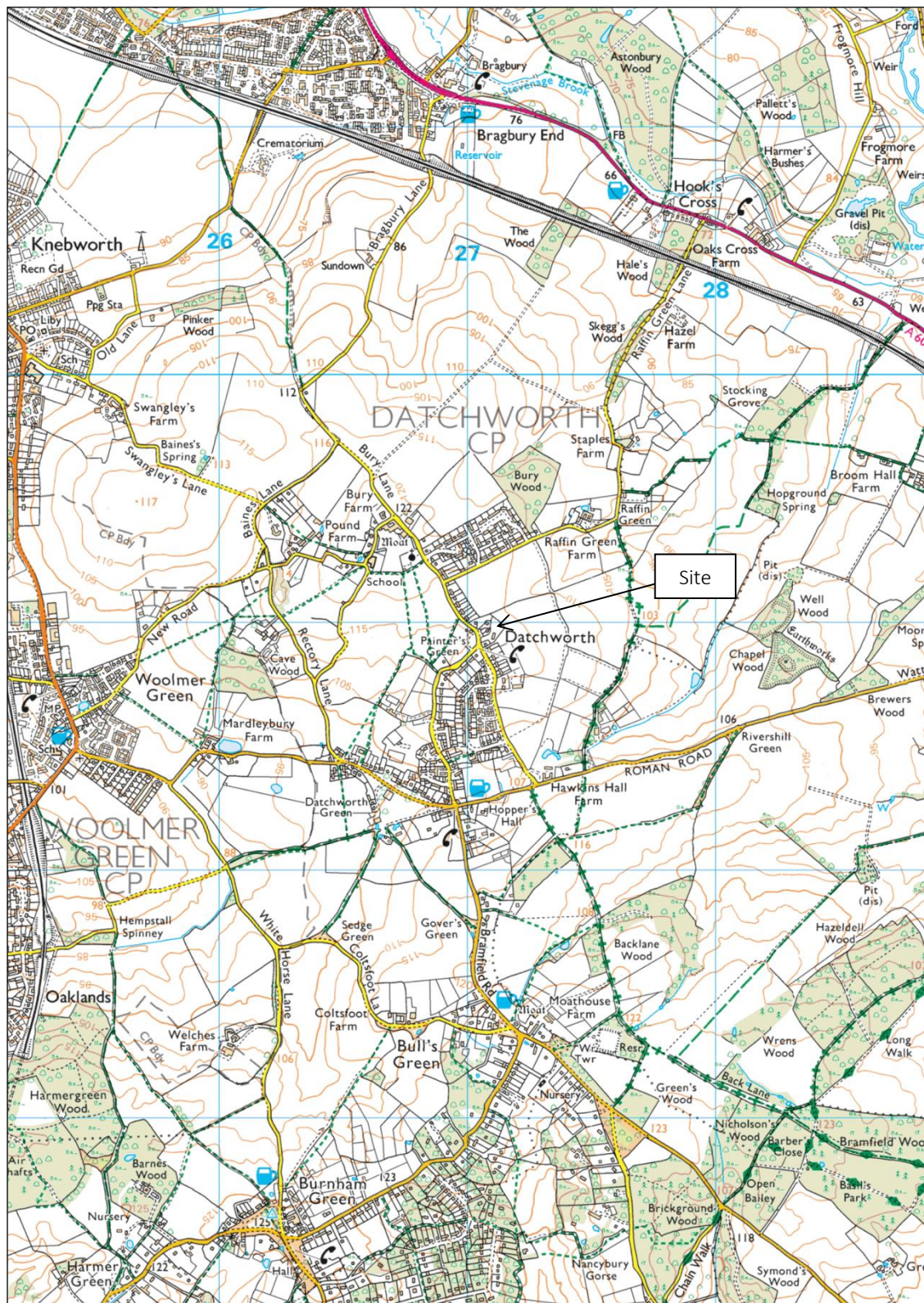
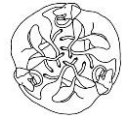


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

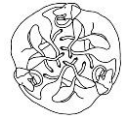


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2020) 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

This is the first part of a staged investigation whereby the results of this stage would be assessed to determine the need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation. The methods used were as follows:

- The excavation of one trench, approximately 1.8 x 15m in size, across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

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 Datchworth developed along the Roman road of Verulamium to Braughing and has four entries in the Domesday Survey 1086. However, the earliest known activity in the area dates to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. The village's name derives from *Decewrthe* or *Daceuorde* meaning 'enclosure [farm] of a man called Dæcca' (Mills 1991: 103).

This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), reliable internet sources and KDK's own library. As the focus of this review concerns potential sub-surface remains the numerous listed buildings within the HER search area have, predominantly, been omitted as the present development will not impact any of these heritage assets. Distances expressed below are in relation to the development site. The HER data, with a 1km search radius (search reference 147/19), is shown in Fig. 5.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

The earliest known period of activity in the search area dates to the Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. The cropmark of a ring ditch (HER 10991), 870m southeast of the development, may represent the ploughed-out remains of a prehistoric round barrow. Similar cropmarks (HER 16434) have also been identified 1200m southwest near Datchworth Green.

Late Bronze Age/Iron Age Remains were discovered at Great Humphrey Field, Raffin Green (HER 6312), 1km northeast, consisting of a shallow depression, possibly a pit, containing a large quantity of late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, a Bronze Age chisel and a pin were found in the plough-soil.

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC - AD43)

Evidence for late Iron Age activity is recorded approximately 1100m northeast of the development site in the form of a polygonal, trapezoidal enclosure (HER 1898), measuring 100m x 90m, tapering to 40m, with a north-west facing entrance but no internal features. Archaeological investigations of the enclosure ditch in 1997 produced late Iron Age pottery and other 'lovely Belgic rubbish', but no Roman finds; though a deep pit, possibly a shaft, found along the line of the enclosure ditch contained Roman tile in its upper fill. A decorated bronze La Tene type mirror was found to the east of the development site at Great Humphrey field, Raffin Green (HER 6280) in the plough-soil in 1979 by the farmer. A search in 1980 recovered the handle from the topsoil. In southeast England these mirrors all appear to date to the 1st century BC. Excavation of plough-soil, near the find spot of (HER 6280) uncovered a cremation burial (HER 6313) in a shallow pit, accompanied by two late Iron Age pots which had been plough-damaged. It is assumed that the mirror had been carried out of the grave by the plough. No container for the bones was apparent; the remains were of a human adult, of uncertain sex but possibly female. Two gold staters (HER 9983), one of Cunobelin, the other 'said to be much earlier', were also found at Great Humphreys by metal detector on arable land c. 1997. Great Humphrey was also the site of a late Iron Age & Roman ditch with infant skeletons (HER 6309). This substantial ditch, which had late Iron Age material in its lowest fill, and nine late Roman infant skeletons above, was sealed by late Roman material (late 3rd - 4th century).

A late Iron Age/early Roman enclosure and other features were documented on Swangley's Farm, Knebworth (HER 30819), c. 1100m northwest. The enclosure contained a small amount of late Iron Age and 1st century pottery, and ditches apparently forming internal subdivisions.



The nearest probable late Iron Age remains to the development were found c. 430m northwest at All Saints Churchyard (HER 12774). Sherds of a potentially Iron Age shell-tempered jar, and fragments of Roman imbrex tile were found unstratified in the corner of the present churchyard, alongside a medieval ditch (HER 1140).

3.4 **Roman** (AD43 - c.450)

The nearest feature from this period is the Roman Road from Verulamium to Braughing (HER 4615; EHT5467) situated c. 650m south of the development. The road is Viatores' route 21A, which runs from the basilica at Verulamium, north-east to Welwyn and then east to join Ermine Street south of Braughing. The site of a mound (HER 13552), now ploughed flat, is situated north of the road and though it is believed to be too large to be a Bronze Age barrow, it could either be a Roman burial mound or a windmill mound.

A find spot of probable Roman coins is situated south of Farrins Farm (HER 1602), c. 950m southwest of the development site.

Other Roman remains were found near or among the cluster of Iron Age site to the northeast. A bronze cockerel, measuring 62mm high, was found in a late Roman context in the top fill of a substantial late Iron Age ditch (HER 6309), and stylistically dated to the 2nd century. An early Romano-British cemetery (HER 6590) was discovered at Rivers Field, Watton-at-Stone, and included 'one burial in a butt beaker... with a Hofheim 57 flagon', which may have also produced twenty 1st century urns.

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

The earliest known mention of Datchworth appears in an Anglo-Saxon charter dated AD969 when King Edgar gave 4 hides and 1 virgate of land to St Peter's Church Westminster, 1 hide of which was leased to Aelfric Black (Page 1912; Williams & Martin 2002: 370, 375). Two smaller estates of 2½ virgates and ½ a virgate were held by 3 sokemen of King Edward and Aelfstar, man of Asmaer of Bennington respectively (Williams & Martin 2002: 387, 389). Such polyfocal settlement is not unusual in Hertfordshire, and is reflected in the small hamlets, such as Painters Green (HER 13537) or Datchworth Green (HER 31412).

Unfortunately no remains from this period are listed in the HER search area.

3.6 **Medieval** (1066 - 1500)

The Domesday Survey of 1086 contains four entries for Datchworth, which was in the Broadwater Hundred. A total of 4 ¼ hides were held by the Abbots of Westminster, who held the overlordship of Datchworth until the 16th century, with 2½ virgates held by knights of Geoffrey de Bec, and a ½ virgate was held by Robert of Peter de Valognes (Page 1912; Williams & Martin 2002: 370, 375, 387, 389). The smaller portions were probably absorbed by the manor held by the Abbots of Westminster, though the bishopric was abolished in 1556, and in 1554 Datchworth was granted to the Bishop of London and his successors (Page 1912).

The manor of Datchworth has had a succession of manor houses, on different sites on the hilltop at Bury Farm (HER 4232; EHT7642, EHT8276), situated c. 500m northwest of the development. Debris from what appears to have been a substantial medieval house is known from the southwest corner of the present churchyard, and the house known as The Bury (HER12772; see below) was erected in the 18th century and succeeded a timber-framed house which stood north of the churchyard wall. Bury Farm (HER 1140; EHT4736, EHT5187, EHT4737, EHT7887) is reputed to have a double moat, although the evidence is debatable and the full extent and plan of the moated site remain unclear. Rook (2004) records a ditch



containing 12th -13th century pottery on more or less the same alignment as the earthwork, in the southwest corner of the churchyard and though this ditch was too small to have been part of a moat it does confirm medieval occupation within the vicinity of the parish church.

The Church of All Saints (HER 4355; Grade II*, List Entry No. 1341457; EHT4736, EHT4737, EHT7887, EHT7642) dates from the late 12th or early 13th century, with a late 13th century north aisle and a late 14th century tower. It was altered 1824-5 and restored in 1869-70, when the tower was raised and the spire added; further restorations took place in 1886 and 1901. The site was part of the land granted to Westminster Abbey by the Saxon King Edgar in 969, and it is therefore likely that the current church had a Saxon predecessor. Both the church and the nearby manor house were apparently surrounded by a moat.

Hawkins Hall Farm House (HER 15791; Grade II, List Entry No. 1372099) on Hawkins Hall Lane, dates from the 15th century, though the farmstead is largely later 19th century. Possible village earthworks (HER 6308) are situated west of Hawkins Hall and these consist of slight traces of ridge and furrow, a large rectangular terrace, a slight linear bank, and possible house platforms dating from the medieval to post-medieval periods.

Datchworth Green (HER 31412) is a registered village green, and the hamlet around this common land is typical of Hertfordshire's dispersed settlement. Medieval pits and ditches have been found on the south side of the Datchworth Green, beside the Roman road (HER 31411).

Painters Green on Bury Lane (HER 13537) is a remnant of a small medieval settlement, also typical of the many small places in Hertfordshire called End or Green, and this one is associated with the family of John le Peynter, recorded in the Lay Subsidy Rolls in 1294.

A Scheduled Monument (11523/1012054) situated c. 1100m southeast of the development consists of two different earthworks. A possible moated site at Well Wood, Watton-at-Stone (HER 1780) forms a sub-circular enclosure with a well-defined bank and ditch on the east. Early medieval pottery was found as a surface scatter, and included a Caen-stone mortar that probably dates from the 13th century. Field walking has also produced 13th -15th century pottery. The earthwork is Scheduled as a moat and though it is enclosed by a large ditch cut into chalk it seems unlikely that it ever contained water. The other component of the monument is the Earthwork and Site of a Medieval Chapel, Chapel Wood (HER 1987). This is a triangular enclosure with an entrance in the eastern side with a smaller internal sub-rectangular enclosure. In the 1970s Welwyn Archaeological Society carried out excavations in Chapel Wood that revealed foundations measuring 8m x 5.5m, possibly of a medieval chapel. Fragments of stained glass and moulded window stones were also found in the debris. The chapel was endowed and built by Henry fitz Ailwin in 1212, first Lord Mayor of London, as the chapel of the hermitage of Watton.

A deserted medieval settlement is known at Mardleybury, Woolmer Green where a Holloway, three possible house platforms near the pond, a faint linear depression which could be a dry stream bed or possibly a 'back lane', and traces of possible ridge & furrow were recorded in 190 (HER 6310, 10938). Mardley, a manor of 9 households in 1086 [HER 10938] was one of the two main manors of Welwyn, and Mardleybury [HER 10890], south of the earthworks, is the later manor house. Finds of 12th - 13th century pottery and 're-used' Roman tile (HER 12775) were also discovered nearby.

3.7 *Post-medieval* (1500 - 1900)

Datchworth remained predominantly agricultural in the post-medieval period as in 1838 a land survey was conducted for the purposes of valuation for the Tithe Award and over 1500



acres of arable land and 200 acres of pasture were documented (DPC 2016). Most of the Grade II listed buildings in the settlement, or nearby, date to this period.

Bury Farm (HER 11114; Grade II, List entry 1089125) is timber-framed and weather-boarded and the oldest part was built in the late 17th or early 18th century. It stands north of the site of The Bury (HER 12772; EHT7642) an early 18th century house that replaced the medieval manor house in a slightly different position and burnt down in 1870.

The Victorian village school of All Saints' School on Hollybush Lane (HER 17536; EHT5187) is situated near the church; the east side of the present churchyard was known at the beginning of the 19th century as Town Green (HER 12773).

At 14 Bury Lane, adjacent to the development site, stands a timber-framed house now called Innisfree (HER 13541; Grade II, List Entry No. 1341458), which was built in the 16th century house, altered c.1700 and extended in the 20th century.

Other post-medieval fixtures include a whipping Post on Datchworth Green (HER 2744; Grade II 1341459), an apparently 17th century post fitted with handcuffs, last used on 27 July 1665 when two vagabonds were flogged; and a wellhead gear at Mardleybury, Woolmer Green (HER 7251; Grade II, List Entry No. 1372125). The site of a supposed post-medieval turnpike post at the parish boundary was situated south of Mardleybury, Woolmer Green/Datchworth (HER 10885).

Cropmarks of a chalk pit & field boundaries are situated at Bragbury Lane (HER 17104), and other cropmarks of a post-medieval gravel pit, and linear features of unknown date are located at Woolmer Green/Knebworth (HER 18553; EHT4274).

3.8 **Modern** (1900 - present)

The only entry for this period is the Datchworth War Memorial (HER 31033; Grade II, List Entry No. 1431439), which was erected in 1919.

Undated heritage assets within the HER search area include common land at Painter's Geen (HER 12646), the cropmark of a historic trackway at Bragbury Lane (HER 17102) and cropmarks of possible ditches (HER 18395).

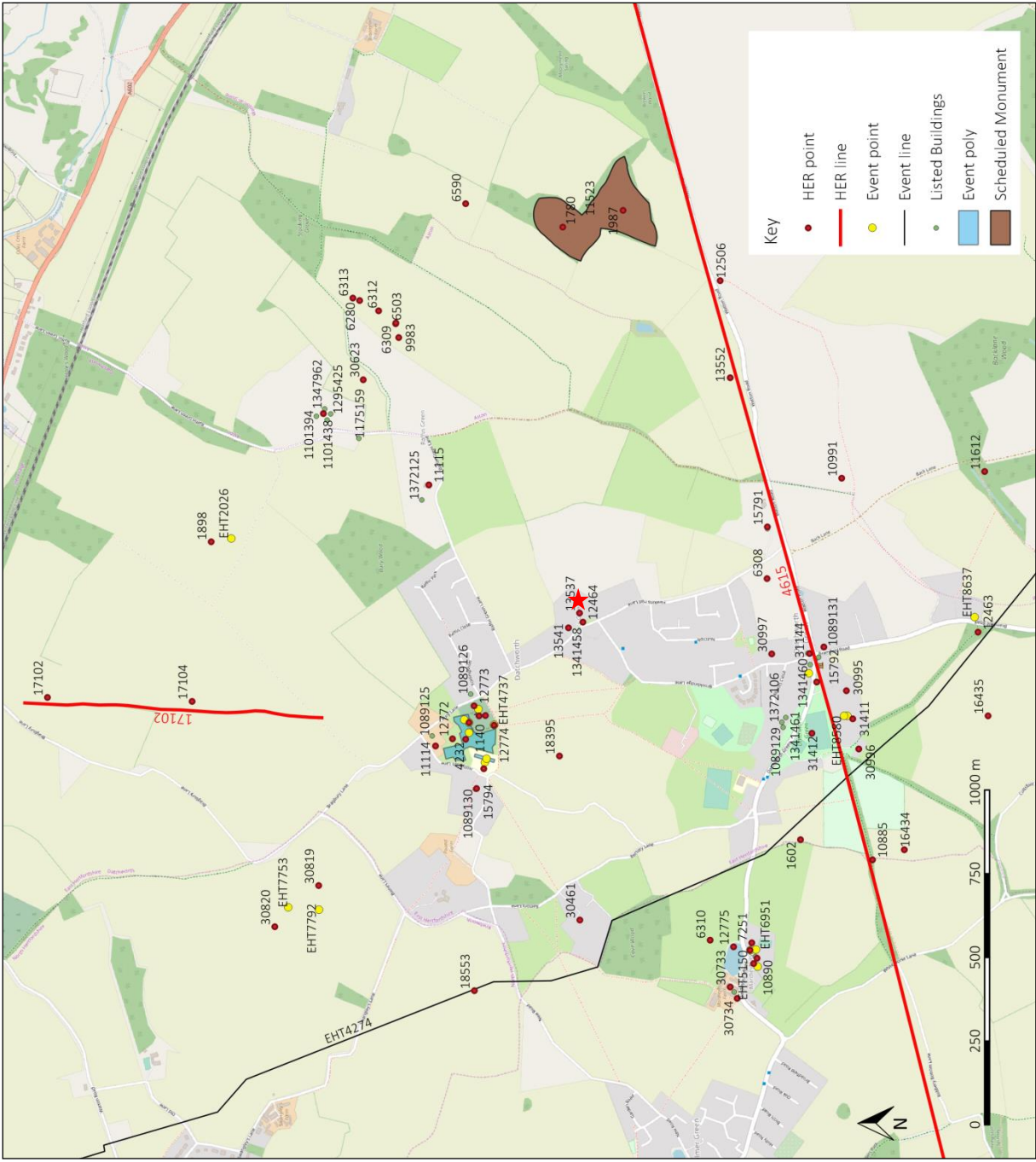


Figure 4: HER data plan (scale 1:14000). Site marked with star



4 Results

A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development using a 3 tonne machine fitted with a 1.50m toothless ditching bucket. It was relocated slightly further to the southeast from the proposed plan in the WSI to avoid a suspected modern service.

The trench was orientated north northwest - south southeast, measured 15.30m long and 1.9m wide and the natural strata was reached at 0.37m below modern ground level (Figs. 5&6; Plates 1&2). A sondage was excavated to the north northwest of the trench to a depth of 0.76m. The stratigraphy comprised:

- Topsoil (100): Mid brown, sticky and malleable silty clay. Occasional small angular stones and frequent rooting were observed within this layer. The topsoil measured 0.27m in depth.
- Subsoil (101): Mid orangey brown malleable and sticky silty clay. Contained occasional angular stones and rooting. This layer measured 0.13m in depth.
- Natural geology (102): Mottled orange and grey firm silty clay. Contained lenses of rounded and angular stones in places as well as occasional angular flints. The geology became slightly siltier to the south southeast where the stones occurred.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during this investigation.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south southeast



Plate 2: Trench stratigraphy, looking west southwest

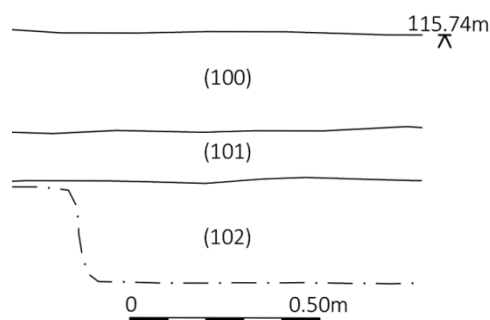


Figure 5: Trench 1 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

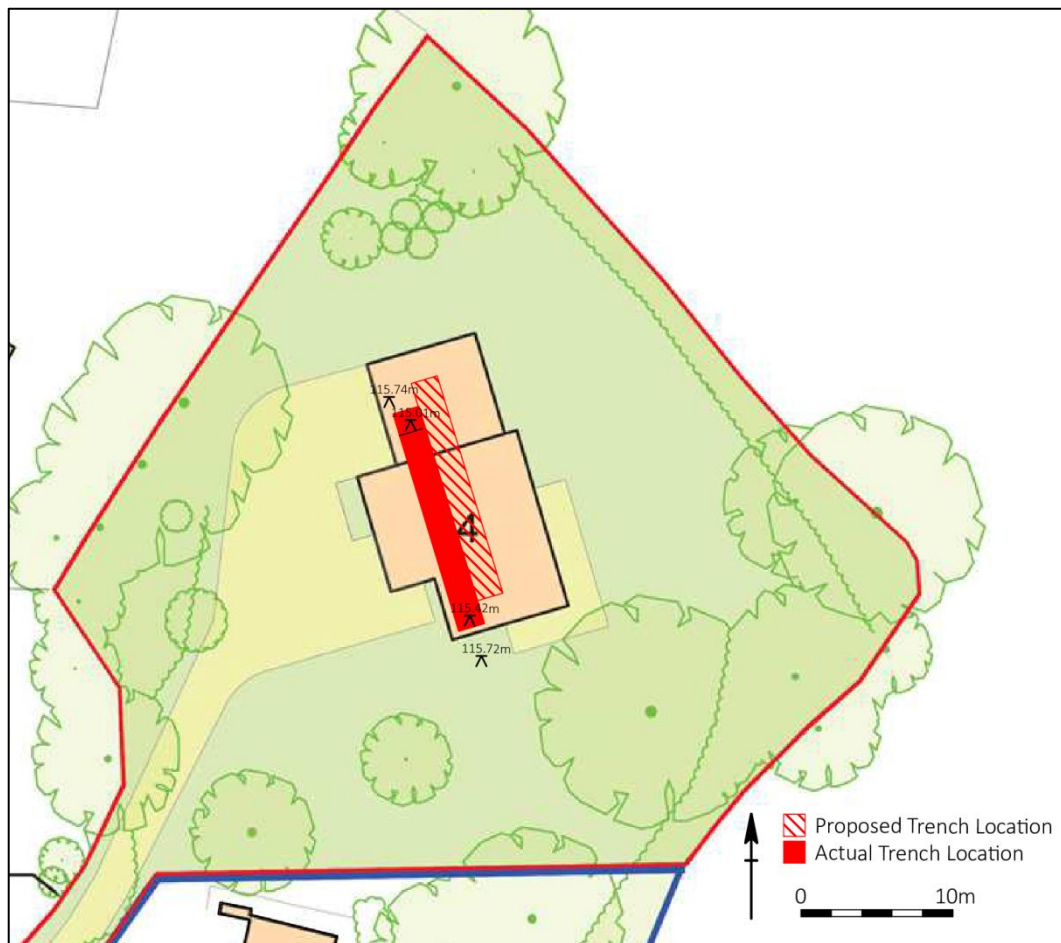


Figure 6: Trench location plan (scale 1:500)



5 Conclusions

No archaeological cut features, finds or deposits within this evaluation. The natural strata was very high on the site; however, there was no evidence to indicate that truncation had taken place on the site. The ground appeared undisturbed with exception to a few known services which ran through the site.

Although Datchworth shows archaeological potential, previous find spots and known features such as cropmarks and historic buildings are widely diffused and appear in small pockets around the village. The site is located within the small medieval settlement at Painters Green and a number of post-medieval listed buildings are still standing in close proximity to the development area. It is possible that the absence of any features on the site may be because the trench fell between widely dispersed features, or that activity on the site has been minimal or had little or no impact on the site stratigraphy.

Due to the lack of archaeological material on the site, it has not been possible to advance the stated local or regional research aims on this occasion.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Charles Houston for commissioning this report and to his family for their hospitality on site. Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart 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. Finally we would like to thank Wilsons of Wallington for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Trench recording sheet
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs

7.2 As no features or finds were discovered, the archiving will be limited to uploading the electronic data to the Archaeological Data Service.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	Digital	View	Subject
1	X	SSE	Trench 1
2	X	WSW	Trench stratigraphy



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	507/DBL
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-381822	Event/Accession no	TBC
OS reference	TL 2711 1898	Study area size	29.07sq m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	Approx. 116
Short Description	<p>In March 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a single trench Archaeological Evaluation at the land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.</p> <p>The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance and is situated within small medieval settlement at Painters Green on Bury Lane. Several post-medieval listed building still stand within this part of the village. Although there was potential for buried archaeological remains within the development area, no finds, features or deposits of historical significance were observed.</p>		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of one, two storey, four bedroom dwelling, with attached double garage	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	East Hertfordshire District Council	Planning application ref.	3/19/0808/FUL
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	Charles Houston		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	10.03.2020	End date	10.03.2020
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Hertford Museum	-	
Paper		WSI, Report, Site records	
Digital		All digital photographs and fieldwork forms will be uploaded to ADS	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	507/DBL/2.1		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA		
Page no's	20	Date	11.03.2020



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Datchworth	Parish: Datchworth
Planning application reference: 3/19/0808/FUL	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Charles Houston, Neen Sollars House, Neen Sollars, Kidderminster, DY14 0AH	
Nature of application: Erection of one, two storey, four bedroom dwelling, with attached double garage	
Present land use: Garden	
Size of application area: 29.07sqm	Size of area investigated: 29.07sqm
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 2711 1898	Site code: 507/DBL
Site director: Laura Dodd	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Evaluation	
Date of Work: Start: 10.03.2020	Finish: 10.03.2020
Curating museum: Hertford Museum	
Related HER no's: N/A	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None	
Summary of fieldwork results: In March 2020 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a single trench Archaeological Evaluation at the land adjacent to Paynters House, 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth, Hertfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Significance and is situated within small medieval settlement at Painters Green on Bury Lane. Several post-medieval listed building still stand within this part of the village. Although there was potential for buried archaeological remains within the development area, no finds, features or deposits of historical significance were observed.	
Author: Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA	Date: 11.03.2020