



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Paradise Fields

St Albans Road

Hemel Hempstead

Hertfordshire



Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc	<i>Version</i>	561/HHP/2.1	<i>Date</i>	07.10.2021
<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	561`/HHP/2.1	<i>Date</i>	26.10.2021
<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	

© KDK Archaeology Ltd 2021 No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort has been made to provide as complete and as accurate a report as possible. However, KDK Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies, or omissions contained in this document.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
KDK Archaeology Licence No. 100053538

Unit 3 Leighton Road Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1LA
Tel: 01525 385443
Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk
Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk





CONTENTS

Summary 3

1. Introduction 3

2. Aims & Methods 7

3. Archaeological & Historical Background 9

4. Results..... 12

5. Conclusions..... 19

6. Acknowledgements..... 20

7. Archive 21

8. References..... 22

Appendices:

1. Photograph List 24

2. OASIS and Site Data..... 25

3. Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet 26

Figures:

1. General location 4

2. Site location 5

3. Proposed development 6

4. Trench layout..... 8

5. HER data plan 11

6. Representative stratigraphy in Trench 3..... 12

7. Trench plan and levels 18

Plates:

1. Representative stratigraphy in Trench 3, view NNW 13

2. Trench 1, view SSE 13

3. Trench 2, view WNW 14

4. Trench 3, view WSW 14

5. Trench 4, view NNW 15

6. Trench 5, view SSW 15

7. Trench 6, view NE..... 16

8. Trench 7, view SSE 16

9. Trench 8, view ESE 17

10. Trench 9, view SSW 17



Summary

In October 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Nine trenches were excavated prior to the development of 58 apartments and associated amenities. No archaeological finds or features were identified during the project, most likely due to the distance of the site from any areas of significant pre-modern activity.

1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Dacorum Borough Council, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2020), and approved by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 20/02519/MFA.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in order to inform development proposals. This evaluation forms the first stage of an archaeological assessment of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The development site at Paradise Fields is situated in the town and civil parish of Hemel Hempstead and the administrative district of Dacorum Borough Council at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0604 0671 (Fig. 1).

The site is roughly rectangular in shape, with an area of approximately 1 hectare (240m in length x 45m in width). It is located to the north of the St Albans Road (A414) and south of central Hemel Hempstead. It abuts Paradise Fields Open Land to the north which has large open fields and belts of woodland and structural planting; to the east is a residential development at Turners Hill; and to the west, the Wood Lane industrial estate (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formations (undifferentiated). The north-eastern corner of the site appears to include superficial deposits of the Clay-with-flints Formation, which consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The excavation of seven test trenches in the development area revealed the stratigraphy to be broadly comprised of sandy clay ($\leq 0.30\text{m}$) overlying chalk gravel (Oakland Site Investigation 2020). The site tapers from c.124m AOD at the eastern end to c.110m AOD the western end.

Proposed Development

The proposed development entails the construction of 58 apartments, external amenity spaces and communal garden/play areas (Fig. 3).

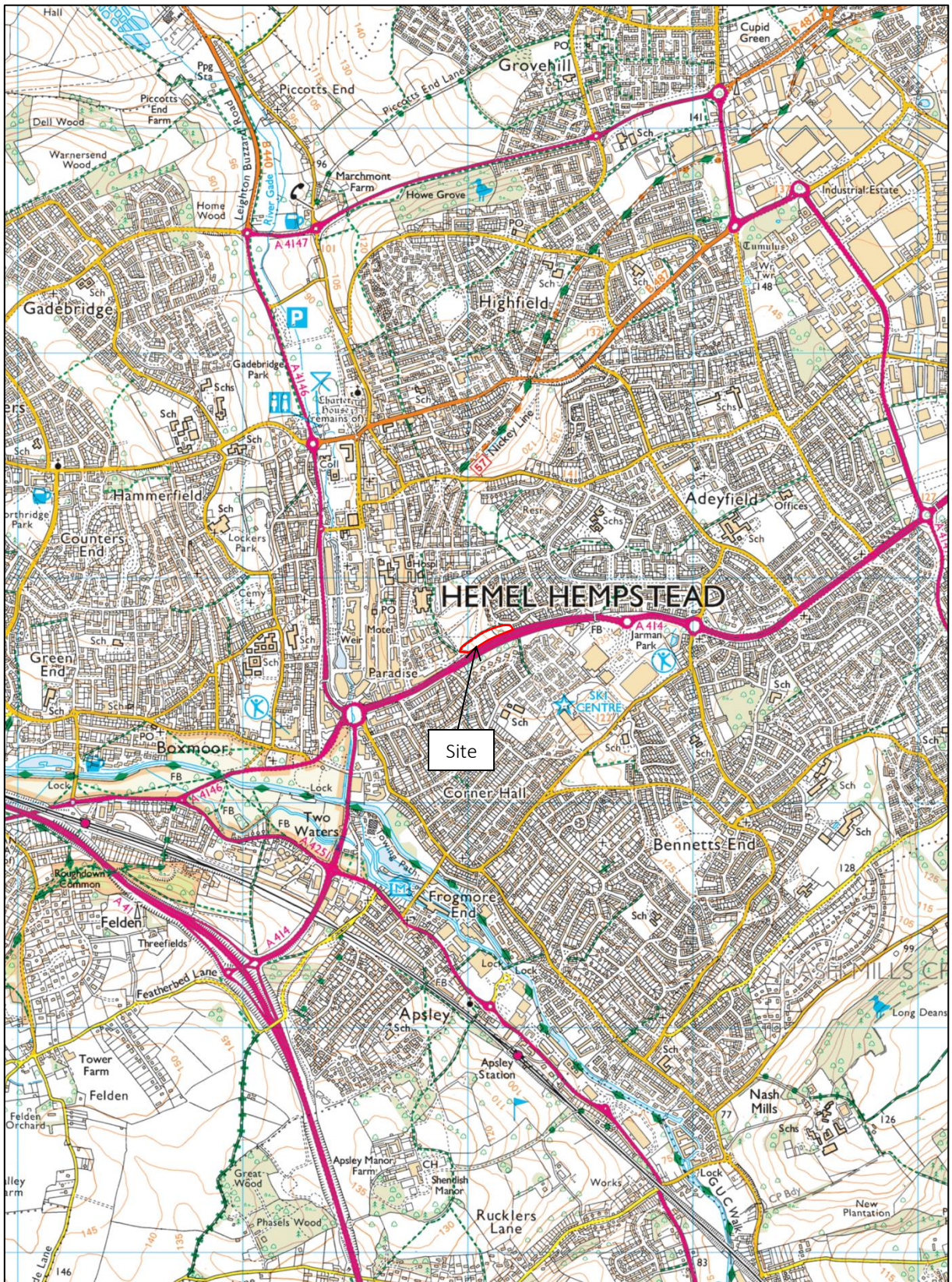


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

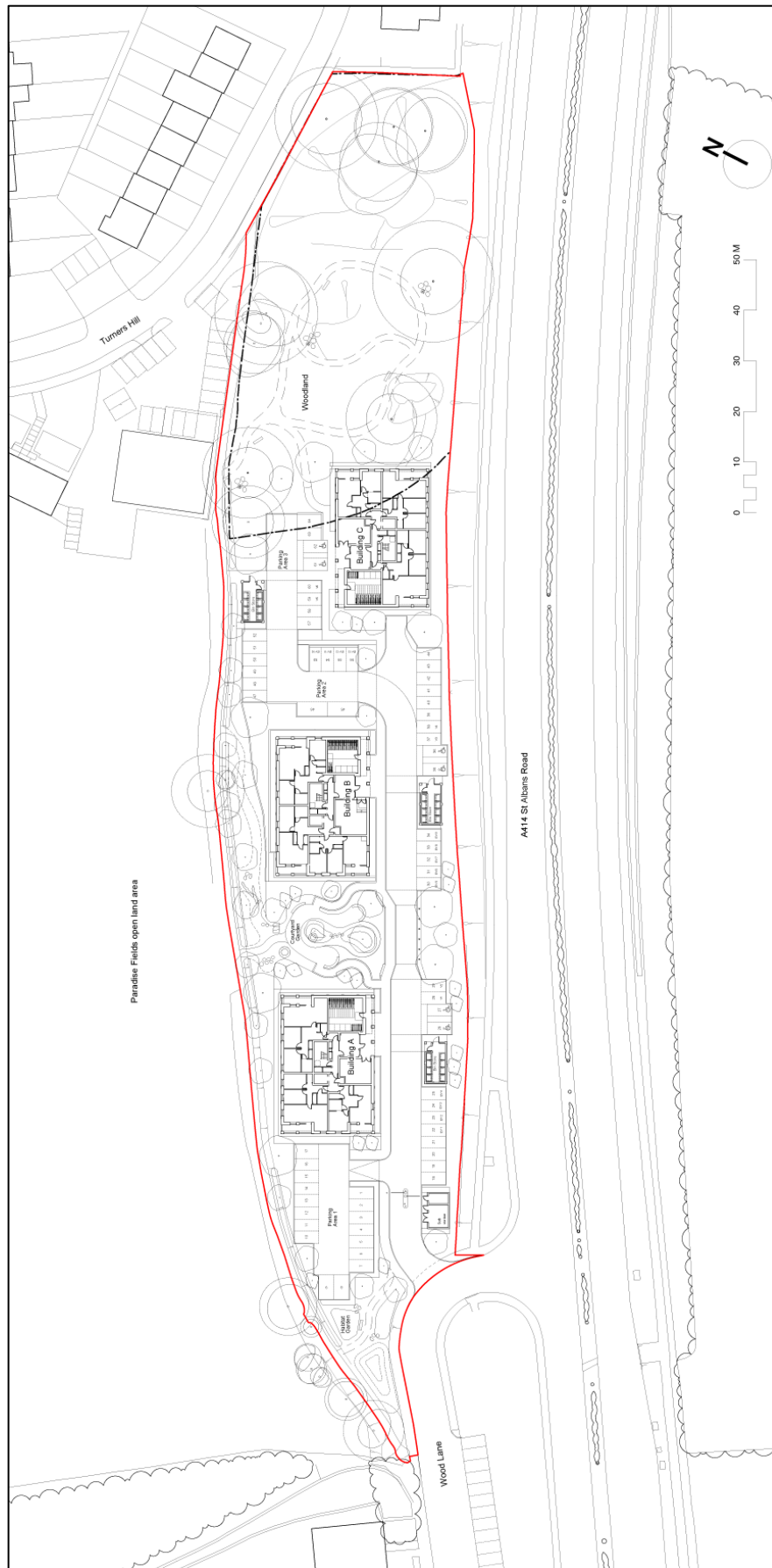


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

In line with the requirements of the Brief (DBC 2020), the aims of the 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 fieldwork represented Stage One of the methods described in Section 2.3 of the approved WSI (Watson 2020). In line with the requirements of the Brief (DBC 2020), the methods used were as follows:

- An archaeological field evaluation. The site as a whole is c.10393 m², though just over half of it is wooded or contains a root protection area and therefore unsuitable for trenching. Nine 25m x 1.8m trenches were proposed in the southwestern and central part of the site. These were excavated with a width of 2m to ensure that the required surface area was achieved. This was equivalent to 3.8% of the whole site and 8.2% of the accessible area.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2020)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019)
- Current Historic England guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)
- Data Protection Act 2018

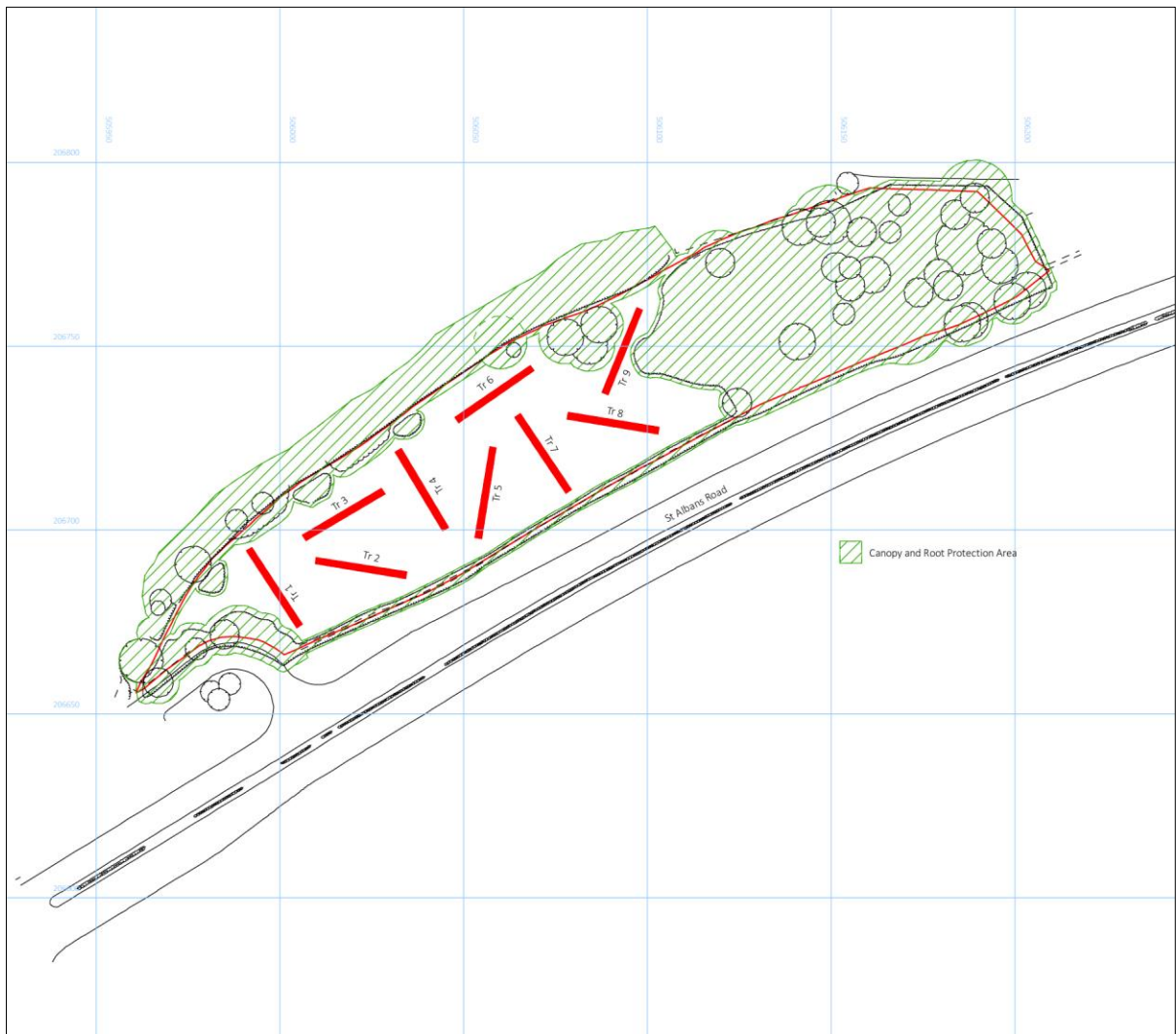


Figure 4: Trench layout (scale 1:2000)



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Hemel Hempstead is largely a new town, constructed after the Second World War to house those displaced by the devastation caused to London during the Blitz. However, it appears to have its origins in the medieval period as the new town surrounds a core dating to at least the Saxon period. Nearby Roman remains indicate that there was earlier settlement in the area, and available evidence suggests that hamlets and villa complexes of this period were liberally scattered throughout the area. Prior to this there is evidence for prehistoric use of the landscape extending back to the Palaeolithic with finds of stone tools at quarries throughout Hemel Hempstead. The development site is situated outside of the Hemel Hempstead Conservation Area which encompasses the Old Town that is positioned just above the floodplain of the Gade.

The toponym means 'Homestead in Haemele', which derives from the Old English for *hām-stede* + *hamol*: homestead in the broken country (KEPN 2020). The valley of the river Gade runs through its centre from north to south and the valley of the river Bulbourne passes to the south west, forming part of the parish boundary. The District encompasses spurs of the Chiltern Hills and has a subsoil of chalk.

This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; Enquiry Number 124/20), reliable internet sources, and KDK's own library. The HER data, with a 500m search radius, is shown in Fig. 5. A number of Listed Buildings (Grade II-II*, dating to the 17th-18th century), other post-medieval structures, and sites of now demolished buildings/structures are listed in the HER. As none of these will be impacted by the development most have been excluded from the following summary.

3.2 *Prehistoric (before 600BC) & Iron Age (600BC - AD43)*

Palaeolithic flints have been found at various sites around Hemel Hempstead (e.g. HER 540, 541 1303 & 2276), particularly in Leverstock Green, which are likely to be at least 200,000 years old. Bronze Age finds and a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age occupation site (HER 584, 585 and 9203) are clustered to the northwest of the development, though these are beyond the HER search area.

3.3 *Roman (AD43 - c.450)*

By the Roman period, clear evidence emerges of occupation in the general vicinity, particularly to the northwest and southwest beyond the HER search area, with two important Roman villa sites at Gadebridge Park (HER 88; Scheduled Monument 27881) and Boxmoor House (HER 72; Scheduled Monument 1015488). Numerous other finds from this period have been found locally, but all were located outside of the HER search area.

3.4 *Saxon (c.450 - 1066)*

The earliest documentary evidence for the town dates to AD 705 when a portion of land at Hamaele was granted by Offa, King of the East Saxons to Wealdhere, Bishop of London (Whitelock 1996: 502). In the late Saxon period Hemel Hempstead was part of the domain of the Kings of Mercia, however it may have later become part of the Danelaw. Evidence for this comes from its location in the Dacorun hundred; *Dacorun* is Latin for 'of the Danes' (Hunns 2000:3). A stone coffin discovered in 1808 in Hemel Hempstead churchyard purportedly contained the remains of Offa, King of Mercia (Page 1908).

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



3.5 **Medieval** (1066 - 1500)

Hemel Hempstead was assessed in the Domesday Survey at 10 hides, with land for 30 ploughs, 4 mills, meadow for 4 ploughs, pasture for livestock and woodland for 1,200 pigs (Williams & Martin 2002: 379). There is no mention of a priest, although it is likely that a settlement of this size would have had a focal point for worship. Prior to the Conquest, the manor was held by two brothers who were Earl Leofwine's men; after the Norman Conquest it was held by the Count of Mortain (Page 1908; Williams & Martin 2002: 379). The settlement had a recorded population of 23 households putting it in the largest 40% of settlements recorded in Domesday (Powell-Smith 2020). The settlement never attained borough status in the medieval period and it was not until 1539 that the town received a charter of incorporation (Page 1908).

No remains dating to this period have been documented within the HER search area.

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

Originally a fairly small agricultural settlement, Hemel Hempstead expanded rapidly following the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1536-1541). In 1593, Henry VIII granted a 'Bailiwick' charter to Hemel Hempstead, awarding the town borough status and permitting the townspeople to annually elect a bailiff. A weekly market and an annual fair were also granted at this time (Hunns 2000: 5). Oliver Cromwell granted a further three annual fairs to Hemel Hempstead in 1656 following a petition from the townspeople, but these were discontinued after the Restoration in 1660 (*ibid*: 6). The markets and courts made the town a regional economic hub, and by the mid-17th century the town had become one of the most prosperous settlements in the area (*ibid.*).

A diverse range of heritage assets are listed in the HER for this period, such as a drinking fountain & lamp standard (HER 5671), built 1835 by Joseph Cranstone that stands outside Boxmoor Hall, St John's Road. The industrial heritage has largely been replaced by later structures; Marlowes shopping centre is on the site of as the Boxmoor Ironworks (HER 7103) and the Dacorum College of Further Education is on the site of the former waterworks and public baths (HER 7105). A 19th century tannery and a maltings once stood at Corner Hall (HER 7108; HER 7110). The Grand Union Canal (HER 241), opened in 1805 as the Grand Junction Canal, the longest barge canal in the country, with its bridge (HER 5243), milepost (HER 7211), and lock; and finally, the age of the railway, represented by the site of the Hemel Hempstead railway station at Adeyfield Road (HER 5465), and the 'The Nicky Line', Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead Railway (HER 9809) that was closed in 1947.

The nearest HER monuments to the development site are the site of Wood Farm (HER 30117), a post-medieval farmstead with probable medieval origins that disappeared with the construction of Hemel Hempstead New Town in the mid-20th century; and the site of a chalk pit and kiln at Handleys Dell (HER 7104), which is adjacent to the development site on the west though the area is now occupied by an industrial estate. A study of cartographic evidence dating from the 18th to 20th centuries indicates that the development site has remained as 'open fields' until the present day, despite encroachment from the New Town (Mellen 2020).

3.7 **Modern** (1900 - present)

By the mid-20th century Hemel Hempstead had practically developed into three distinct areas: the Old Town to the north; Apsley which had evolved as an industrial suburb, owing to the 19th century paper mills; and Boxmoor which became a white collar commuter suburb, focused around the railway station (Hunns 2000: 20). Modern Hemel Hempstead grew as a direct result of the National Government's 1947 decision to move people out of the 'overcrowded' capital after WWII, to a 'New Town', which required the construction of 12 000 houses, accompanying



factories, roads, public buildings and schools, which was to be finished by 1965 (Allies & Morrison 2012: 15; Hunns 2000: 20).

The heritage assets dated to this period are a letter box (HER 5311) on Midland Road Wall; the Hemel Hempstead War Memorial, St John's Road/Station Road (Grade II, List Entry No. 1436994; HER 31176); and the Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens (HER 9579) along the river Gade.

The archaeological interventions within the HER search area (EHT8702, EHT8487, EHT8327) were either archaeologically sterile or revealed only late post-medieval remains.

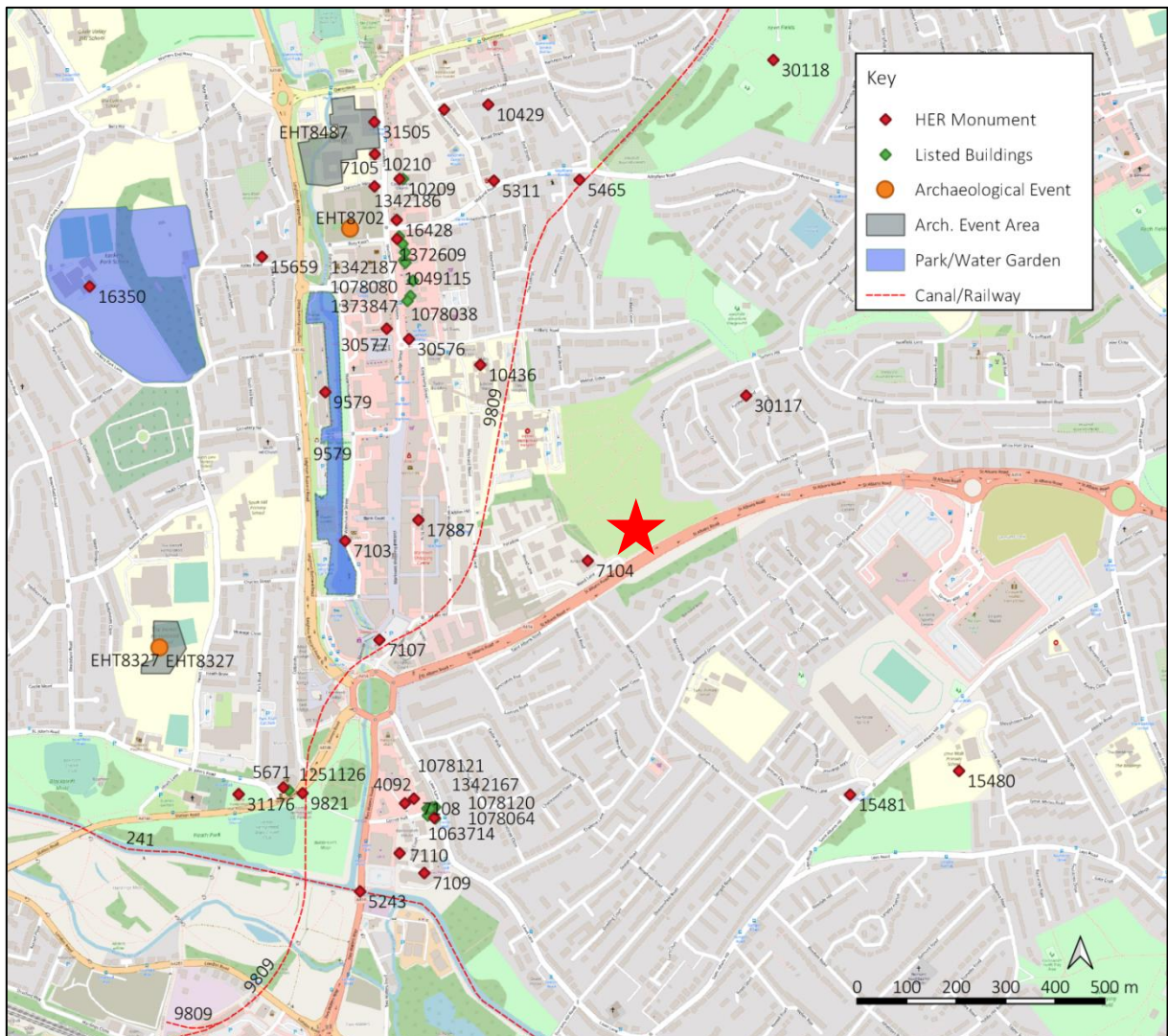


Figure 5: HER data plan (scale as shown; site marked with red star)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the WSI (Watson 2020) nine evaluation trenches were excavated at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The trenches were located onto the proposed footprints of three new buildings in the south-western half of the site, with the north-eastern half occupied by woodland. All trenches were 25m long, 2m wide and between 0.21 and 0.5m deep, although Trench 9 had a 1.1m sondage at the NNE end. The excavations were completed using an 8 tonne tracked excavator fitted with 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

The stratigraphy was consistent across the site with a layer of dark brownish grey clayey loam topsoil over a narrow layer of mid brownish grey sandy clay subsoil containing nodular chalk inclusions. The natural chalk was reached in all trenches and contained lenses of brownish grey clay, often forming palaeochannels. The clay lenses were more common at the southwest end of the site, further downhill. A representative stratigraphy was taken in Trench 3, where the topsoil (301) and subsoil (302) both measured 12cm deep each, 10cm of the natural chalk (303) was also exposed (Fig. 6, Plate 1).

4.2 Trenches (Fig. 7, Plates 2 – 10)

The trenches contained no features or finds of any archaeological significance. A number of natural features were initially identified in Trenches 4 - 8 in the form of large patches of brownish orange clay with irregular but clean edges. After investigation by hand excavation, these were determined to be palaeochannels or natural occurrences of clay with flints formations filling voids between layers of chalk bedrock.

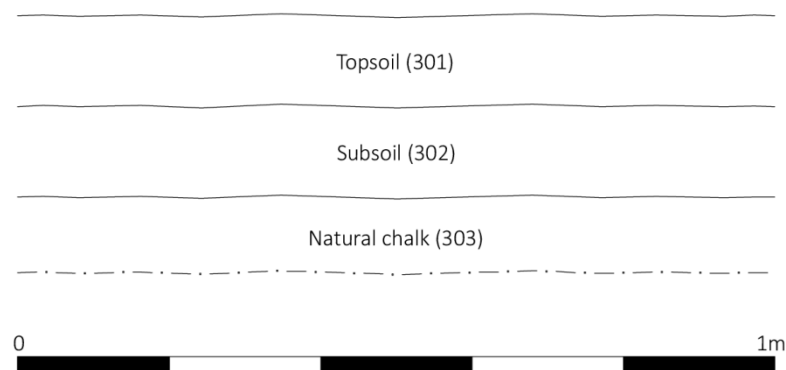


Figure 6: Representative stratigraphy in Trench 3 (scale 1:10)



Plate 1: Representative stratigraphy in Trench 3, view NNW



Plate 2: Trench 1, view SSE



Plate 3: Trench 2, view WNW



Plate 4: Trench 3, view WSW



Plate 5: Trench 4, view NNW



Plate 6: Trench 5, view SSW



Plate 7: Trench 6, view NE



Plate 8: Trench 7, view SSE



Plate 9: Trench 8, view ESE



Plate 10: Trench 9, view SSW

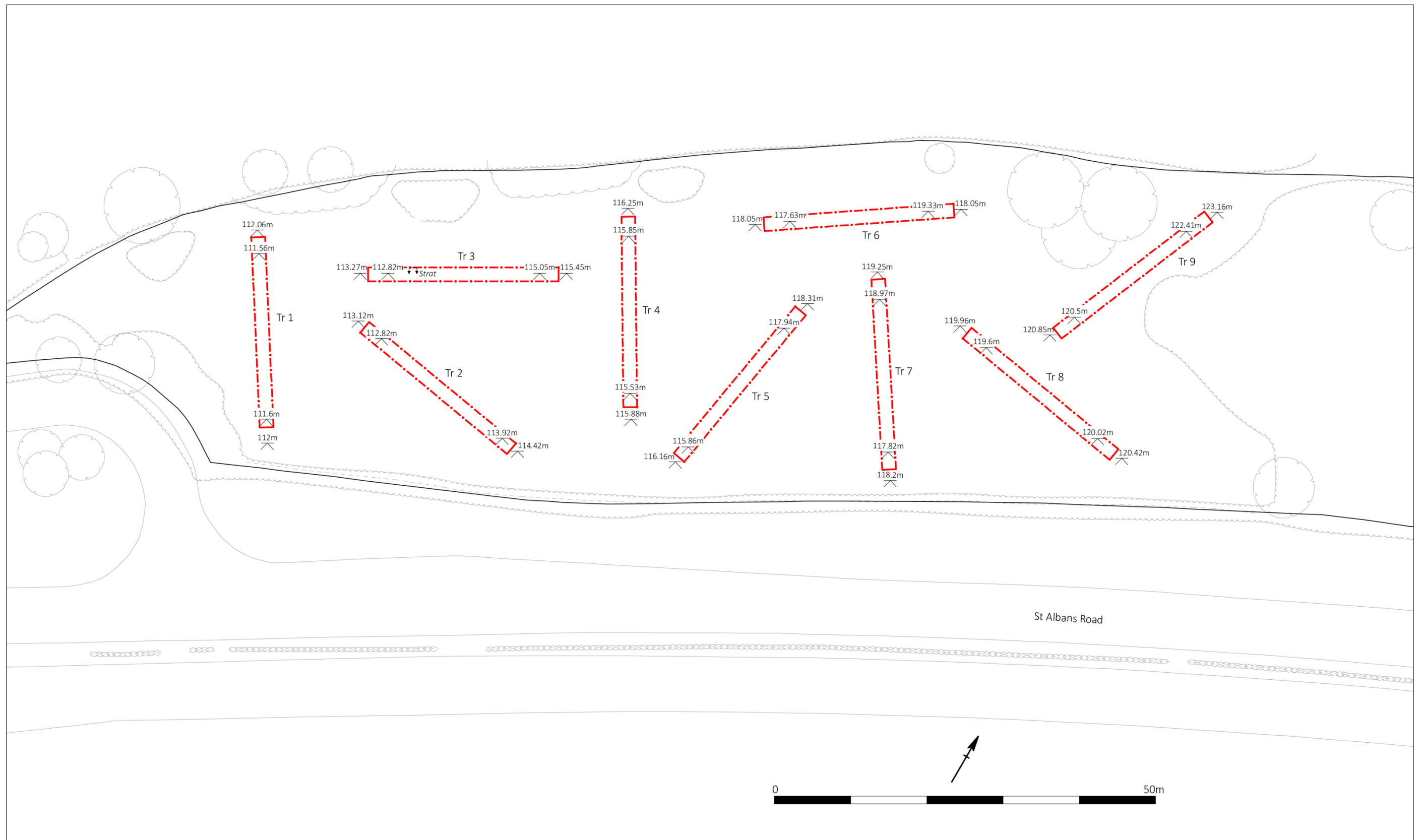


Figure 7: Trench plan and levels (scale 1:500)

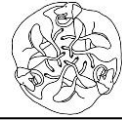


5 Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire comprised the excavation of nine 25m long trenches. The trenches were located within the proposed development area of three new buildings. They contained no finds or features of archaeological significance.

Despite the presence of archaeological sites at Hemel Hempstead Old Town and throughout the Gade and Bulbourne Valleys, there is little record of any notable activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site, save for a post-medieval chalk pit to the southwest. Cartographic evidence suggests that the site has been 'open fields' since at least the 18th century and the lack of features identified during this project gives no reason to suppose otherwise. Indeed, it is likely that this has been the case for much longer.

It is possible that the site is situated between widely dispersed features or simply that no human occupation has taken place at any point in time on this land. It is also probable that some level of ground truncation or natural erosion has taken place at some point in the recent past, perhaps during the construction of the main road immediately to the south, this might explain the frequently shallow depth of the topsoil and subsoil found in the trenches.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Ian Johnson for commissioning this report on behalf of Dacorum Borough Council. 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 Historic Environment Team for monitoring the project.

Special thanks go to Charlie Boden for operating the machine and for other assistance during the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc and Florian Weber MA PCIfA. The report was written by Chris Martin-Taylor, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Monitoring sheets
5. Site drawings
6. Client's site plans
7. List of photographs
8. Specialist reports
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Museum.



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.
- CifA 2019 *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CifA 2020 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CifA 2020 *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- DBC 2020 *Scope of Services for Archaeological Evaluation*. Planning Ref: 20/02519/MFA Dacorum Borough Council
- EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage.
- EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation*. London: English Heritage.
- Ferguson L. M. & Murray D. M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Manchester: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1.
- Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- HE 2015 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. London: Historic England.
- SMA 1995 *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive - the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists.
- Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).
- Watson D. 2020 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation; Stage 1: Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire*. KDK library reference: 561/HHP/2
- Watkinson D. & Neal V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*. Hertford & London: Rescue.

Secondary Sources

- Allies & Morrison (Urban Practitioners) 2012 *Hemel Hempstead. Major land use study*. Dacorum Borough Council
- British Geological Society (BGS): <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed: 23.11.2020)
- Brown N. & Glazebrooke J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8



-
- Hunns, T. 2000 *Hemel Hempstead Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire
- KEPN 2020 *Hemel Hempstead*. Key to English Place Names: <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Hertfordshire/Hemel%20Hempstead> (Accessed: 24.11.2020)
- Medlycott M. (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Re-visited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24
- Mellen, C. 2020 Paradise Fields Hemel Hempstead. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. L-P: Archaeology, unpublished report, LP3439L-DBA-v1.2
- Page, W. 1908 Parishes: Hemel Hempstead. *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 2*. Ed. William Page. London: Victoria County History, 1908. 215-230. *British History Online*. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol2/pp215-230> (Accessed: 24.11.2020)
- Powell-Smith, A. 2020 *Hemel Hempstead* <https://opendomesday.org/place/TL0506/hemel-hempstead/> (Accessed: 24.11.2020)
- Whitelock, D 1996 *English Historical Documents 500-1042 2nd Ed* London: Routledge
- Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. London: Penguin



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 561/HHP				Site Name: Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Shot	View	JPEG	RAW	Subject
1	NNE	x	x	Trench 9
2	SSW	x	x	Trench 9
3	ESE	x	x	Stratigraphy 9
4	ESE	x	x	Trench 8
5	WNW	x	x	Trench 8
6	NNE	x	x	Stratigraphy 8
7	SSE	x	x	Trench 7
8	NNW	x	x	Trench 7
9	ENE	x	x	Stratigraphy 7
10	NE	x	x	Trench 6
11	NNW	x	x	Trench 6
12	NW	x	x	Stratigraphy 6
13	NNE	x	x	Trench 5
14	SSW	x	x	Trench 5
15	ESE	x	x	Stratigraphy 5
16	NNW	x	x	Trench 4
17	SSE	x	x	Trench 4
18	WSW	x	x	Stratigraphy 4
19	WSW	x	x	Trench 3
20	ENE	x	x	Trench 3
21	NNW	x	x	Stratigraphy 3
22	WNW	x	x	Trench 2
23	ESE	x	x	Trench 2
24	NNE	x	x	Stratigraphy 2
25	NNW	x	x	Trench 1
26	SSE	x	x	Trench 1
27	ENE	x	x	Stratigraphy 1



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	561/HHP
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-409316	Event/Accession no	N/A
OS reference	TL 0604 0671	Study area size	450m ²
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	c110m-c124m
Short Description	In October 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Nine trenches were excavated prior to the development of 58 apartments and associated amenities. No archaeological finds or features were identified during the project, most likely due to the distance of the site from any areas of significant pre-modern activity.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	The proposed development entails the construction of 58 apartments, external amenity spaces and communal garden/play areas.	Current land use	Unused field
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	20/02519/MFA
Monument type	N/A	Monument period	N/A
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Dacorum Borough Council	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc
Sponsor/funding body	Dacorum Borough Council		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	04.10.2021	End date	05.10.2021
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Dacorum Museum	None	
Paper		Report, WSI, site records, photographs	
Digital		CD ROM, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	561/HHP/2		
Author(s)	Chris Martin-Taylor BSc		
Page no's	26	Date	07.10.2021



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum
Village/Town: Hemel Hempstead	Parish: Hemel Hempstead
Planning application reference: 20/02519/MFA	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Dacorum Borough Council	
Nature of application:	The proposed development entails the construction of 58 apartments, external amenity spaces and communal garden/play areas.
Present land use:	Unused field
Size of application area: c.10393 m ²	Size of area investigated: 450m ²
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 0604 0671	Site code: 561/HHP
Site director: Chris Martin-Taylor BSc	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Archaeological Evaluation	
Date of Work:	Start: 04.10.2021 Finish: 05.10.2021
Curating museum: Dacorum Museum	
Related HER no's: N/A	Periods represented: N/A
Relevant previous summaries/reports: N/A	
Summary of fieldwork results: In October 2021 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Paradise Fields, St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Nine trenches were excavated prior to the development of 58 apartments and associated amenities. No archaeological finds or features were identified during the project, most likely due to the distance of the site from any areas of significant pre-modern activity.	
Author: Chris Martin-Taylor BSc	Date: 07.10.2021