



# **Archaeological observation and recording at Marston Place, Long Marston Tring, Hertfordshire June 2017**

Report No. 17/79

Author: Ian Fisher

Illustrators: Amir Bassir  
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Marston Place, Long Marston  
Tring, Hertfordshire  
June 2017**

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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No: molanort1-288609</b>	
Project title	Archaeological observation and recording at Marston Place, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire		
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of the patio, extension and garden room, as well as associated services at Marston Place, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire. The observed works comprised the removal of an existing conservatory and the excavation of foundation trenches. No archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed.		
Project type	Archaeological observation and recording		
Previous work	None		
Current land use	Drive, conservatory and garden		
Future work	None		
Monument type and period	pre 19th century domestic / agricultural residence		
Significant finds	None		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
County	Hertfordshire		
Site address	Marston Place, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Tring		
Easting Northing	SP 89395 15583		
Area (sq m/ha)			
Height aOD	c 90m aOD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
Organisation	MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)		
Project brief originator			
Project Design originator	MOLA		
Director/Supervisor	Ian Fisher (MOLA)		
Project Manager	Amir Bassir (MOLA)		
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Lorimer		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
Start date	06/04/2017		
End date	06/04/2017		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contents</b>	
Physical	Lowewood Museum Planning Ref: 7/01834/16/FHA	Watching brief forms	
Paper			
Digital		Client report PDF	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		Unpublished client report	
Title	Archaeological observation and recording at Marston Place, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire		
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# **Archaeological observation and recording at Marston Place, Long Marston Tring, Hertfordshire**

## **Abstract**

*A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of the patio, extension and garden room, as well as associated services at Marston Place, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire. The observed works comprised the removal of an existing conservatory and the excavation of foundation trenches. No archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Lorimer to carry out a programme of archaeological observation and recording at Marston Place, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire (NGR SP 89395 15583, Fig 1). Planning consent has been granted by Dacorum Borough Council for the removal of an existing conservatory and the erection of a two storey extension to the house and a Garden Room (Fig 2). This consent was subject to a condition for the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. This document was produced by MOLA and approved by the Local Planning Authority (4/01834/16/FHA).

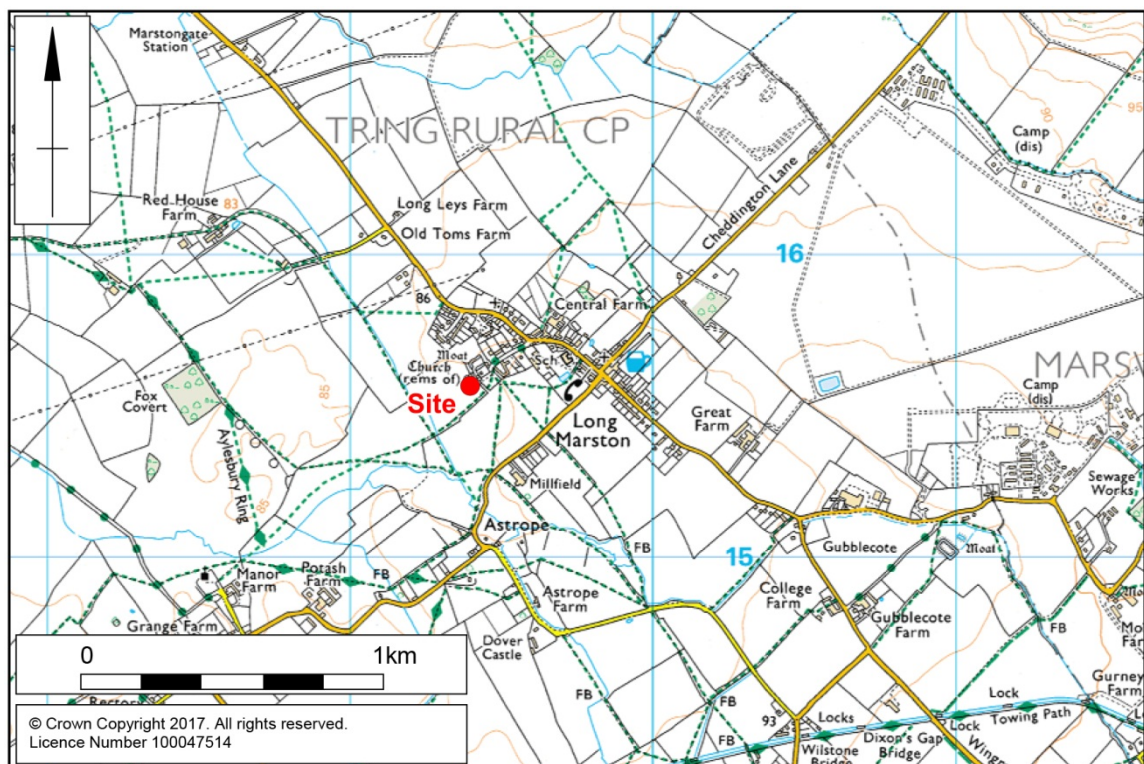
MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation. This report has been prepared in accordance with the current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), the *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014b) and the Historic England (HE) procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015).

## 2 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Location and geology

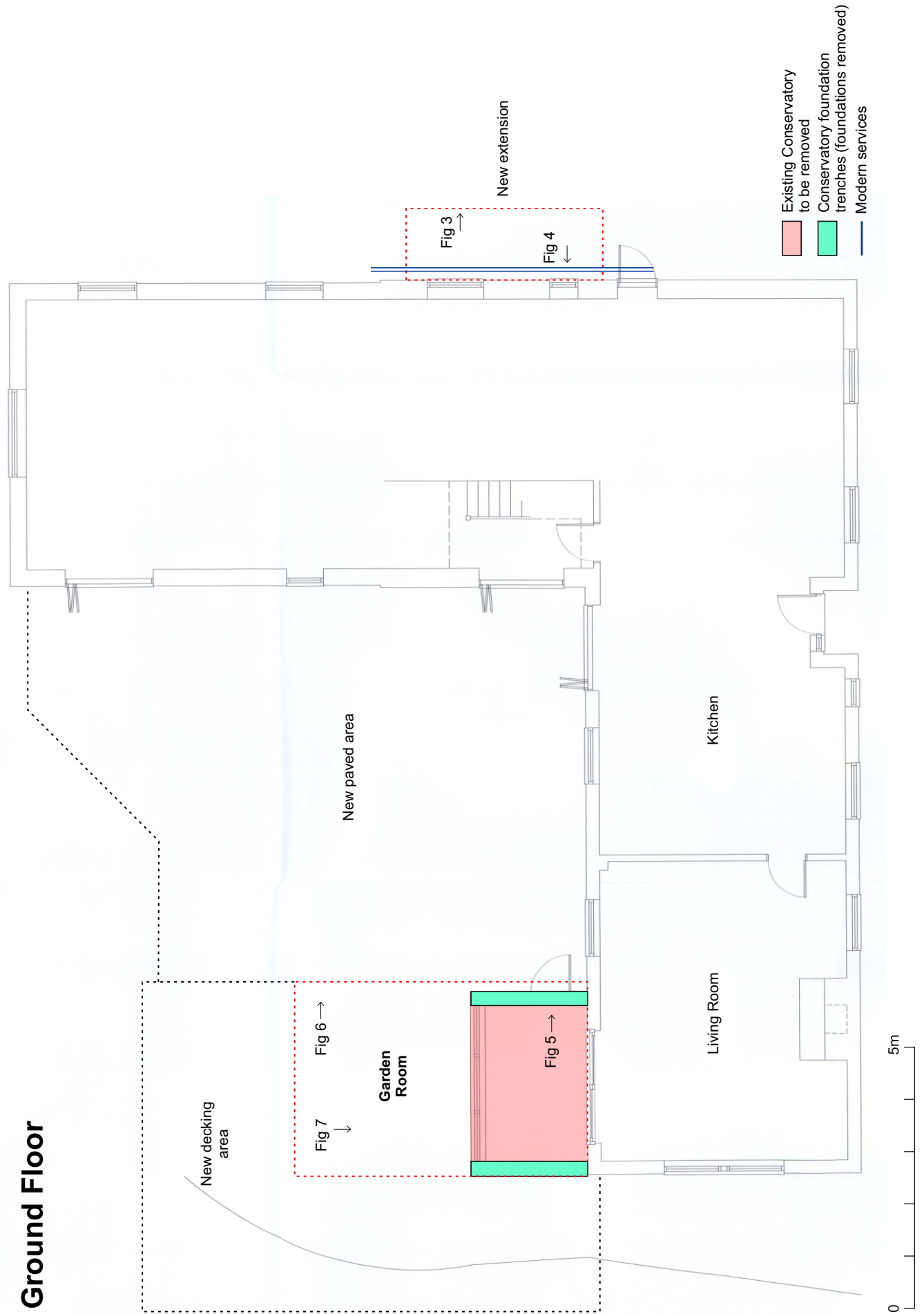
The village of Long Marston is located in west Hertfordshire in the Vale of Aylesbury. It is approximately 6km to the north-east of Aylesbury and 4km to the north west of Tring. The village lies at the intersection of Tring Road, Cheddington Lane, and Astrope Lane, with most of the development taking a linear form along Tring Road. The village is surrounded in all directions by enclosed agricultural fields. Marston Place is at the north-west side of the village at the end of Chapel Lane.

The site is situated at c90m aOD and the underlying geology comprises Lower Cretaceous Chalk of the Gault and Upper Greensand Formations and Late Cretaceous Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded in the immediate area of the village (BGS 2017).



Site location Fig 1

# Ground Floor



Scale 1:100

Fig 2



## 2.2 Historical background

*Long Marston is one of a number of nucleated settlements in Tring which never became parishes in their own right with a parish church. Tring appears to have been a major mid-late Saxon royal estate which gave its name to the hundred in which it lies, and its constituent villages were prevented from developing into separate parishes 'by the fact that they continued to form part of a large secular estate' (Rowe and Williamson 2013).*

Historic maps of the village do not show any obvious evidence of planned development in the settlement's history, rather it appears a nucleated amalgamation of farmsteads. Marston Place is referred to as *Chapel Farm* on Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century. The farm is located adjacent to the site of the former All Saint's Church and associated graveyard. To the west of the former church is a moated building platform. The moat is fed by a small brook which flows around the farm and is directed around the property boundary at the west, south and east. The church, a medieval chapel of ease, of which only the 15th-century tower survives, was demolished in 1893 and many of the elements and ornamentation were incorporated into its replacement, the new Church of All Saints, a short distance to the north.

The current house, Marston Place, represents a surviving portion of a once larger building that comprised a curvilinear plan and had flanking perpendicular wings at its southern end, a form which survived until the mid 20th century. The buildings are located at the north-eastern edge of a semi-rectangular field which is bound at its west and south sides by a stream. A pond at the south side of the house is visible on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of 1878 (not reproduced).

Ordnance Survey maps of 1980 (not reproduced), show that by this date a small portion of the building had been demolished to allow access from the eastern side of the house to the buildings as the west, thus separating the open-fronted curving range from the main house. This gap was enlarged by the 1990s and the flanking ranges at the south of the house were demolished. The house was subsequently expanded with the addition of a perpendicular range at the west and a small conservatory.

## 2.3 Archaeological background

A search of the Historic Environment Record for Hertfordshire (HER) was undertaken as part of the Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA 2017). The following background is drawn from relevant records within a 500m radius of the site. The HER results are summarised below, and reproduced in Tables 1 and 2, and depicted in Fig 3.

### Prehistoric

A single prehistoric find comprising a Neolithic polished stone adze [HER11486] is recorded within the search area.

### Medieval

The village of Long Marston [HER2056] is considered to be an Area of Archaeological Significance. The site lies within the western edge of the village Conservation Area (Fig 3).

Medieval built remains within the search area comprise the 15th-century tower of the former All Saints Church [HER4374]; Little Farm, a medieval timber-framed farmhouse [HER30625]; and Old Church Cottage [HER107795] which is adjacent to remains of All Saints Church.

Earthwork remains within the search area include the medieval moat at Chapel Farm, a short distance to the north-east of the site [HHER2611]. Traces of ridge and furrow are noted in several of the fields around the village and represent fragmentary survival of the former open field system [HHER6081, 6165, 13737]. The moat has been largely infilled [HHER10795] and the raised central area contains a tile scatter relating to a former building.

The manor of Long Marston is documented from the 13th century [11803]. The manorial centre has not been confirmed but likely relates to the moat and medieval chapel.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Old Church Cottage in 1997 [EHT4426] in advance of the construction of an extension to the house. This work established that the relationship between the moat and the property had been removed by the construction of a previous extension to the house. A number of finds were recovered including glass bottles, ceramic building material, earthenware and china, and leather. This domestic waste was confirmed as dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Hunn 1997).

A single pit containing residual South Hertfordshire grey ware pot was recorded during works at 3 Chapel Lane [HHER11805, EHT5125].

A single pit containing a deliberately buried, perforated South Herts greyware vessel (mid-12th-14th century) was recorded in the driveway of the western plot during development. Eight (three unstratified) other medieval greyware sherds and oyster shell were also found, together with a few fragments of possibly medieval tile, and animal bone. Large quantities of shell are said to have been found when a pond was excavated nearby at Norcott, Chapel Lane. Three (one unstratified) 2nd-3rd century Roman sherds suggest activity nearby (Hunn 2002).

### **Post-medieval and 20th century**

The village contains a number of post-medieval (AD 1501-1900) buildings. Rose and Crown Cottage [HHER13748], Old Thatch [17126], and the Post Office [HHER18152] are 16th-century buildings on Station Road. Loxley Farm [HHER17128] on Chapel Lane was a post-medieval farmstead destroyed by fire in 1917 and rebuilt. Old Church Farm on Chapel Lane is a post-medieval farmstead formerly known as Chapel Farm [HHER31241]. Marston Place was formerly part of this farmstead. A former medieval smithy was located on Station Road but was demolished in the mid-20th century [HHER30942].

Central Farm, on Station Road at the north side of the village, is a late 19th-century farmstead, formerly a courtyard plan with associated pond and orchards [HHER17127]. A War Memorial, erected in 1921, is located at the centre of the village [HHER18151].

A 19th and 20th-century bottle dump was uncovered during works adjacent to Chapel Lane [HHER11804, EHT5125]. This included glass and stoneware bottles and it is hypothesised that they originate from the Rodwell Factory in Tring.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2004 at New Moat House, Chapel Lane, and revealed buried soil horizons along with 19th-century land drains [HHER12760, EHT4735]. A single tile peg was recovered which may be late of post-medieval in date (Densem 2004).

Historic Building Recording was carried in 2008 at the Rose and Crown and confirmed the building's 16th-century origins with 17th-century additions [EHT1192]. The 16th-century cross-wing is described as three bays, one and half-storey, timber-framed and plaster lined to resemble ashlar. The hall and service range are dated to the 17th century with a 19th-century lean-to at the north.

### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the observation and recording works are to:

- mitigate the impact of the development through preservation by record;
- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- recover, where possible, palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Specific research objectives were to be drawn from national and regional research frameworks documents (Brown and Glazebrook 200; Glazebrook 1997; Medlycott 2011) as relevant depending upon the results of the works.

However, the results of the Watching Brief were negative, and so no research agenda aims or objectives were able to be met.

### 4 METHODOLOGY

The existing conservatory was removed prior to the archaeological works commencing. A mini digger was used to remove the concrete foundations of the former conservatory and to excavate the foundation trenches for the new Garden Room and two-storey extension under constant archaeological supervision.

### 5 THE EXCAVATED EVIDENCE

#### **Two storey extension**

The two-storey extension is located on the north-west side of the house. The foundation trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and measured 0.7m wide. The observed stratigraphy in the excavated area comprised a tarmac layer, 0.05m thick, overlying hardcore, 0.25m thick. There was no topsoil or subsoil. It is assumed that this was removed for the construction of the drive way (Fig 3). The natural geology comprised of compact mid – dark grey clay.

No archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed. Two modern services were observed parallel to the house (Fig 4).

#### **Garden Room**

The Garden Room will replace the former conservatory on the south-west side of the house. The former conservatory foundations were removed and extended south-west for the footprint of the new Garden Room. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and measured 0.7m wide. In the area of the former conservatory, the observed stratigraphy consisted of a tiled floor, 0.10m thick, and 0.30m of hardcore / rubble which contained modern brick, tile, plastic pipe and string. No topsoil or subsoil was observed (Figs 5 and 7).

The area outside the former conservatory is lawn with the stratigraphy comprising of 0.60m of mid grey-black silty clay topsoil. The topsoil contained frequent modern rubble / rubbish. No subsoil was observed, which suggests the area has been landscaped, supported by the observation of modern rubble and rubbish in the topsoil. The natural geology comprised of compact mid – dark grey clay (Fig 6).

## 6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological works occurred within the western edge of the village Conservation Area. The absence of subsoil and the observation of truncated topsoil confirm that the area has been subject to modern landscaping relating to the construction of a driveway and conservatory. This work did not reveal any archaeological features and no archaeological finds were recovered.



Extension foundation trench section, looking north-west Fig 3





Extension – modern services, looking south-east Fig 4



Conservatory foundation trench section, looking north-west Fig 5





Garden Room foundation trench section, looking north-west Fig 6



General shot of former conservatory, looking north-east Fig 7

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**Appendix I: Context inventory**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Artefacts</b>
001	Topsoil	Firm mid grey black silty clay moderate building rubble / rubbish	0.60 – 0.70m deep	-
002	Natural	Mid - dark grey clay	-	-



**Appendix II: Table 1: List of monuments taken from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record**

HER ID	Name	Description	Period	NGR
11486	Polished Stone Adze, Off Astrope Lane, Astrope, Tring Rural	Polished stone adze, probably dolerite, taken to Buckinghamshire County Museum for identification	Neolithic - 4500 BC to 2501 BC	SP 8960 1523
2611	Moated Site, Long Marston, Tring	Medieval moat at Chapel Farm and the remains of the medieval chapel	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 8941 1564
4374	Tower of Old Church of All Saints, Long Marston, Tring (G II* Listed)	15th century church tower, the remaining fragment of a medieval chapel of ease demolished in 1883	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 8942 1561
6081	Ridge and Furrow, Red House Farm, Tring Rural	Upstanding traces of medieval fields, Ridge and furrow, which probably originally formed part of a large medieval open field system	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 886 159
6165	Ridge and Furrow, SW of Long Marston, Tring	Ridge and furrow, which probably once formed part of a large medieval open field system around Long Marston	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 895 154
10795	Moat Infill, Old Church Cottage, Long Marston, Tring	Old Church Cottage is adjacent to [2611], a medieval moat, and [4374], the partly demolished chapel of All Saints, and next to the infilled north-east arm of the moat. In 1877 <2> the north-east arm still extended past the cottage, and the final infilling took place after 1972, when this arm was s still traceable on OS maps but was 'probably no more than a boggy reed-filled depression'.	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 8944 1564
11805	Medieval Pit and Residual Roman Sherds, 3 Chapel Lane, Long Marston	Pit containing a South Herts grey ware pot	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 8955 1566
30625	Little Farm, 16 Station Road, Long Marston (G II Listed)	Medieval timber-framed farmhouse and later barns on the village outskirts	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 89778 15662
13737	Ridge and Furrow, Recreation Ground, Station Road, Long Marston	Surveying before levelling of the sports field identified seven ridges and associated furrows, parallel to its long sides and covering the entire field.	Medieval – AD 1066 to 1500	SP 89942 15743
11803	Manor of Long Marston, Tring	The manor of Long Marston is documented from the 13th century. The site of the manorial centre is uncertain, although it may relate to the moat [2611] adjacent to the medieval chapel [4374].	Medieval to Post medieval – AD 1066 to 1900	SP 8952 1567
2056	Village of Long Marston, Tring	Hamlet in the Vale of Aylesbury beyond Tring and the Chiltern scarp. The name Long Marston is thought to derive from 'mersc tun'	Medieval to Post medieval – AD 1066 to 1900	SP 896 157

		(marsh farm). Its origins are difficult to pinpoint as it formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a secondary settlement. An Area of Archaeological Significance		
<b>12851</b>	Baptist Chapel, Cheddington Lane, Long Marston	A two-storey 19th century chapel of red brick with white brick decorative pilasters under a slate roof.	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 8983 1566
<b>12760</b>	Post-medieval Features, New Moat House, Long Marston	Buried soil horizons and 19th century land drains were revealed on the site of a new house NW of New Moat House; the only finds were peg tile, which might be late medieval but are more likely post-medieval	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 8943 1569
<b>13748</b>	Rose & Crown Cottage, Station Road, Long Marston (G II Listed)	Prior to 1907 was the Rose & Crown inn, a 16th century house altered in the 17th century	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89565 15723
<b>17126</b>	Old Thatch, 9 Station Road, Long Marston (G II Listed)	16th century timber and thatch house, reduced in size in the late 19th century	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89669 15702
<b>17128</b>	Loxley Farm, Chapel Lane, Long Marston (G II Listed)	Post-medieval farmstead part destroyed by fire in 1917; the 16th century house and gatehouse survive	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89598 15677
<b>17129</b>	Church Farm, Chapel Lane, Long Marston (G II Listed)	Post-medieval farmstead with 16th century barn, the farmhouse rebuilt in the earlier 19th century	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89490 15625
<b>17215</b>	Church of All Saints, Station Road, Long Marston (G II Listed)	1882-3 Anglican church, which incorporates much material from Long Marston's medieval chapel, and other buildings	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89474 15839
<b>18152</b>	The Post Office, 44 Station Road, Long Marston	16th century house, cased in red brick in the late 18th century	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89604 15738
<b>30942</b>	Site of Post-medieval Smithy, Station Road, Long Marston	Smithy shown on later 19th century maps, in a building demolished in the mid-20th century	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89706 15693
<b>31241</b>	Old Church Farm, Chapel Lane, Long Marston	Post-medieval farmstead known as Chapel Farm until the 20th century; not to be confused with Church Farm nearby	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 89403 15591
<b>11804</b>	Late Post-medieval Bottle Dump, 3 Chapel Lane, Long Marston	19th and early 20th century bottle dump, next to Chapel Lane. Mainly glass bottles, but stoneware bottles also present, of a type used for ginger beer and soft drinks. It is possible this waste was from the Rodwell factory in Tring	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 8954 1567
<b>17127</b>	Central Farm, Station Road,	Large post-medieval farmstead	Post medieval – AD 1501 to 1900	SP 8965

	Long Marston			1575
<b>18151</b>	Long Marston War Memorial, Station Road, Long Marston (G II Listed)	1921 war memorial in village centre	Twentieth Century - AD 1901 to 2000	SP 89598 15714

### Appendix III: List of events taken from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

HER ID	Archaeological events	Contractor	Author	Date
<b>EHT4426</b>	Report on a watching brief at Old Church Cottage, Long Marston RNO 366	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Hunn, J R,	1997
<b>EHT4900</b>	12 Church View, Long Marston, Herts: an archaeological watching brief RNO 794	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Hunn, J R,	2000
<b>EHT5125</b>	3 Chapel Lane, Long Marston, nr Tring, Hertfordshire: an archaeological watching brief RNO 1096	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Hunn, J R,	2002
<b>EHT4735</b>	Evaluation at New Moat House, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, 2004 RNO 235	The Heritage Network	Densem, R,	2004
<b>EHT5452</b>	Building recording of the Baptist Chapel, Cheddington Lane, Long Marston RNO 1683	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Semmelmann, K,	2005
<b>EHT1171</b>	Watching brief: sports field, Station Road, Long Marston RNO 2068	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Rouse, C,	2006
<b>EHT1192</b>	Building recording and watching brief at Rose & Crown Cottage, Long Marston RNO 2096	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd	Semmelmann, K,	2008

## Appendix IV: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet

<b>Site name and address:</b>		
Marston Place, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Tring		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> Tring	
<b>Village/Town:</b> Long Marston	<b>Parish:</b>	
<b>Planning application reference:</b> 7/01834/16/FHA		
<b>HER Enquiry reference:</b>		
<b>Funding source:</b> Private		
Nature of application: Refurbishment and extension to current house		
<b>Present land use:</b> Residential		
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	
<b>NGR</b> (to 8 figures minimum): SP 89395 11583		
<b>Site code</b> (if applicable): -		
<b>Site director/Organization:</b> MOLA		
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological observation and recording		
<b>Date of work:</b>	Start: April 2017	Finish: April 2017
<b>Location of finds &amp; site archive/Curating museum:</b> Lowewood Museum		
<b>Related HER Nos:</b> -	<b>Periods represented:</b> 15th century - modern	
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports</b>		
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>A programme of archaeological observation and recording was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of the patio, extension and garden room, as well as associated services at Marston Place, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire. The observed works comprised the removal of an existing conservatory and the excavation of foundation trenches. No archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed.</i>		
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ian Fisher		<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2017

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