



# HPS

Professional Archaeological Services



## Archaeological Evaluation Report

Hockets, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UA

25 March 2021





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## Summary

*This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation in conjunction with the erection of a new garage and store on land to the south of Hockets, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UA (the Project Site). The new structure will comprise a steel framed garage and store, with steel wall panels and roof, measuring 12 m x 6 m.*

*The programme of work was required due to the proximity of the Project Site to the Scheduled Monument (SM) known as the Medieval rural settlement of Quemerford (National Heritage List for England ref. 1017056) and has been advised in consultation with Mike Cepak, Assistant Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service who has commented that, due to the proximity of the site to the SM, a programme of archaeological investigation should be carried out in the form of a pre determination trench evaluation (Consultee Response M. Cepak 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020).*

*The results of the trench evaluation were negative.*

*A single trench measuring 7.5 m (l) x 1.8 m (w) to a depth of 0.32 m was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new garage. The results suggest that the topsoil had been imported to return the plot to pasture, most likely at some point within the last 50 years. Remnants of a truncated yard surface were evident beneath the topsoil layer. This corresponds to observations made by Canham in 1998, who observed that the land adjacent to Hockets had been levelled and disturbed by previous construction.*

*No evidence of activity relating to the Medieval settlement of Quemerford was identified, and no archaeological features or significant layers or deposits were identified within the trench.*

*No finds were recovered from the spoil, which was monitored throughout.*

## Acknowledgements

*HPS would like to thank Mr & Mrs Powell for commissioning the archaeological evaluation and Adrian Sarkar of APS Groundworks for operating the digger. HPS are also grateful to Mike Cepak, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service Assistant County Archaeologist, for his help and advice throughout.*



# 1. Introduction

## Project Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation in conjunction with the erection of a new garage and store on land to the south of Hockets, Quemerford, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UA (hereafter referred to as the Project Site).
- 1.2. The new structure will comprise a steel framed garage and store, with steel wall panels and roof, measuring 12 m x 6 m.
- 1.3. The programme of work was required due to the proximity of the Project Site to the Scheduled Monument (SM) known as the Medieval rural settlement of Quemerford (National Heritage List for England ref. 1017056), described as follows –  
  
*"The Scheduled Monument, which falls into two areas, includes the remains of part of a medieval settlement located to the south of Quemerford Farm and either side of a track, the origins of which may be contemporary with the settlement. The monument includes upstanding earthworks, buried archaeological deposits, and relict features of the historic landscape such as hedgerows. The medieval rural settlement at Quemerford Farm is well preserved and is a good example of its class within this region"* (Consultee Response H. Beamish 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020).
- 1.4. The proposal to schedule Quemerford Medieval settlement was put forward in 1998. At the time the then County Archaeologist Roy Canham advised that land adjacent to Hockets had been examined and was considered to have been levelled and disturbed by previous construction and hence was recommended to be excluded from the scheduling (Consultee Letter R. Canham 1998).
- 1.5. The programme of work has been advised in consultation with Mike Cepak, Assistant Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service who has commented that, due to the proximity of the site to the SM, a programme of archaeological investigation should be carried out in the form of a pre determination trench evaluation (Consultee Response M. Cepak 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020).



1.6. Due to the small scale of the development, a single trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new garage.

1.7. This project was completed under reference HPS-388/21.



Figure 1 General Project Site location with red line boundary centred on SU 00942 69809 / 400942, 169809

### Location, Topography and Geology

1.8. The Project Site is located on the outskirts of Calne, within the south eastern suburb of Quemerford. The land is accessed from a private lane, leading north off the A4 Quemerford Road. To the north of the plot is the dwelling known as Hockets; the former agricultural building was converted to a private dwelling c. 2003.

1.9. Geologically the site is defined by Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Mudstone. A sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. No Superficial deposits are recorded for the Project Site. The site borders a deposit of Cretaceous Lower Greensand - Sandstone, to the southeast.

1.10. The proposed development area is located at c. 81 m aOD, on land that slopes gently to the northwest, towards a tributary of River's Brook.



## 2. Archaeological & Historic Background

- 2.1. The information presented here is derived from sources including Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (Know Your Place), Historic England National Monuments Record database (PastScape), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and surviving cartographic resources, along with other published or documentary sources.
- 2.2. The Project Site is located within the centre of a Medieval settlement, which was identified by earthworks to the east and west.
- 2.3. The earliest available cartographic evidence for the Project Site at the time of writing was the Andrew's and Drury's map of 1773. Land within the red line boundary appears to have been developed by this time, with what appears to be two large buildings, likely preserved in the barn conversion known as Hockets and converted garden office.
- 2.4. In 1842 the Tithe Apportionment recorded that the land was in the ownership of Henry Petty Fitzmaurice, the Marquis of Lansdowne. The Project Site was located on land to the south of agricultural outbuildings occupied by Isaac Sumner. Plot 618 was recorded as arable land in Quemerford Common. It is noted that land to the north of the agricultural buildings was named Hockett's, giving the name to the residential barn conversion that occupies the modern-day site.
- 2.5. The accompanying Tithe Map of 1843 clearly depicts the L shaped barn and smaller rectangular barn to the north of the site. The Project site is located within the enclosed plot to the south (plot 618).
- 2.6. Very little change occurred on the Project Site until plans to convert the larger agricultural building to a private dwelling (Hockets) were approved in 2003 (A & J Whinney, Quemerford Farm Wiltshire Planning Reference N/03/00066/COU).
- 2.7. In 2013 planning permission was granted for the conversion of the outbuilding to the west of Hockets in order to create a garden office (Wiltshire Planning Application Reference N/13/01796/FUL).
- 2.8. In 2020 permission was granted for the construction of a single storey side extension to Hockets (Wiltshire Planning Reference 20/06470/FUL).



### 3. Aims and Objectives

#### General aims

3.1. The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the CIfA' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2020), were:

- To provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- To inform the scope and nature of any further archaeological work, if required or to a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

#### General objectives

3.2. In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

### 4. Methodology

4.1. All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (HPS 2021).

4.2. Due to the small scale of the development a single trench was excavated measuring 7.5 m (l) x 1.8 m (w) to the depth of the natural subsoil deposit. The trench was orientated northwest / southeast across the plot of the proposed new garage and store.

4.3. The trench was set out using hand tapes and no significant alterations were made to the original location of the trench, although the length was reduced due to onsite restraints. The





coverage of the site was still deemed sufficient to assess the archaeological potential of the Project Site.



Figure 2 Trench plan (7.5 m (l) x 1.8 m (w)). Southeast terminal located at NGR SU 00946 69808 / 400946, 169808

#### Service location and other constraints

4.4. There were no constraints in relation to below/above-ground services or ecological and environmental matters.

#### Excavation methods

4.5. The trench was excavated by using a 1 ton machine equipped with a 0.9 m toothless grading bucket. Machine excavation was carried out under constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist.

4.6. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits of approximately 200 mm until the archaeological horizon was exposed.

4.7. All spoil was visually scanned and metal detected for the purposes of finds retrieval.



## Recording

- 4.8. All archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Heritage Planning Services LTD pro forma recording system.
- 4.9. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.

## 5. Results

- 5.1. A single trench was excavated by machine, to a depth of 0.32 m below ground level.
- 5.2. Excavation revealed a topsoil layer (100) to a depth of 200 mm, sealing a clay layer (103) with compacted red brick and charcoal, overlaying the natural clay subsoil (104).
- 5.3. A cut [102] was identified to the northwest of the trench. The linear was orientated NNE – SSW and was backfilled with a clean clay deposit (101). The cut was seen to truncate layer (103) and is interpreted as a modern service trench.

## Finds

- 5.4. Crushed modern brick was identified throughout layer (103). The material is interpreted as the remnant of a compacted Modern agricultural surface / yard. The material was not retained.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The results suggest that the topsoil had been imported to return the plot to pasture, most likely at some point within the last 50 years. Remnants of a truncated yard surface were evident beneath the topsoil layer. This corresponds to observations made by Canham in 1998, who observed that the land adjacent to Hockets had been levelled and disturbed by previous construction.



- 6.2. No evidence of activity relating to the Medieval settlement of Quemerford was identified, and no archaeological features or significant layers or deposits were identified within the trench.
- 6.3. No finds were recovered from the spoil, which was monitored throughout.

## 7. Oasis

- 7.1. An OASIS online record has been created with key fields completed. The record will be completed at the end of the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant records.

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## 10. Appendices

### Appendix 1 Trench Summary

Trench 1		Dimensions: 7.5 m (l) x 1.8 m (w) x 0.35 m (d)		NGR: Southeast terminal SU 00946 69808 / 400946, 169808		Height aOD: Southeast terminal c. 81 m aOD	
Context	Interpretation	Fill of / by	Description	Extent	Date		
100	Topsoil	-	Modern topsoil (imported)	Throughout Trench	Modern		
101	Mixed clay fill	102	Fill of modern service trench [103]. Clean clay comprising mixed light yellowish brown and light grey deposits. Compacted in modern cut, sealed by (100)	Northwest terminal	Modern		
102	Cut	101	Modern service trench measuring 0.3 m (w) x > 2 m (l). Crossing trench SSW-NNE at NW terminal	Northwest terminal	Modern		
103	Layer	-	Truncated remnant of yard surface. Red brick throughout.	Seen throughout trench. Cut by [102]	19 <sup>th</sup> century - Mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century (?)		
104	Deposit	-	Natural soft silty clay subsoil. Mid yellowish brown	Seen throughout trench	Natural		





Appendix 2 Photographs



Photo 1 Southeast facing view of Trench 1. Scales 1 x 2 m & 1 x 1 m.



Photo 2 Northwest facing view of Trench 1. Scales 1 x 2 m & 1 x 1 m.





*Photo 3 Southwest facing section. Scales 1 x 1 m & 1 x 0.3 m*





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