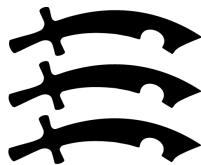


**LAND ADJACENT TO  
VICTORIA TERRACE AND FERNDALE  
HIGH STREET  
MUCH HADHAM  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING AND RECORDING**



**Essex County Council**

**Field Archaeology Unit**

**April 2005**



**LAND ADJACENT TO  
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MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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	ECC FAU
	National Monuments Record

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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**LAND ADJACENT TO  
VICTORIA TERRACE AND FERNDALE  
HIGH STREET, MUCH HADHAM  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**SUMMARY**

**Client:** Stonebond Limited

**NGR:** TL 42745 18662

**Planning Application No:** 3/00/1772

**Site Code:** MHVT04

**Project No:** 960

**Date of Fieldwork:** October 2004 - January 2005

*A planning application was made for residential development on land adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale, High Street, Much Hadham. Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office issued a brief for archaeological investigation, which was to include monitoring of any groundworks and the recording of any archaeological deposits encountered. Observation of the drainage runs and selected ground beam slots recorded that the site had been heavily disturbed by its previous use as a garage. The scope of the monitoring was limited due to the use of piled foundations and the need to build-up much of the site. No archaeological deposits were recorded, and it is likely that the site had been truncated during the construction of the previous buildings.*

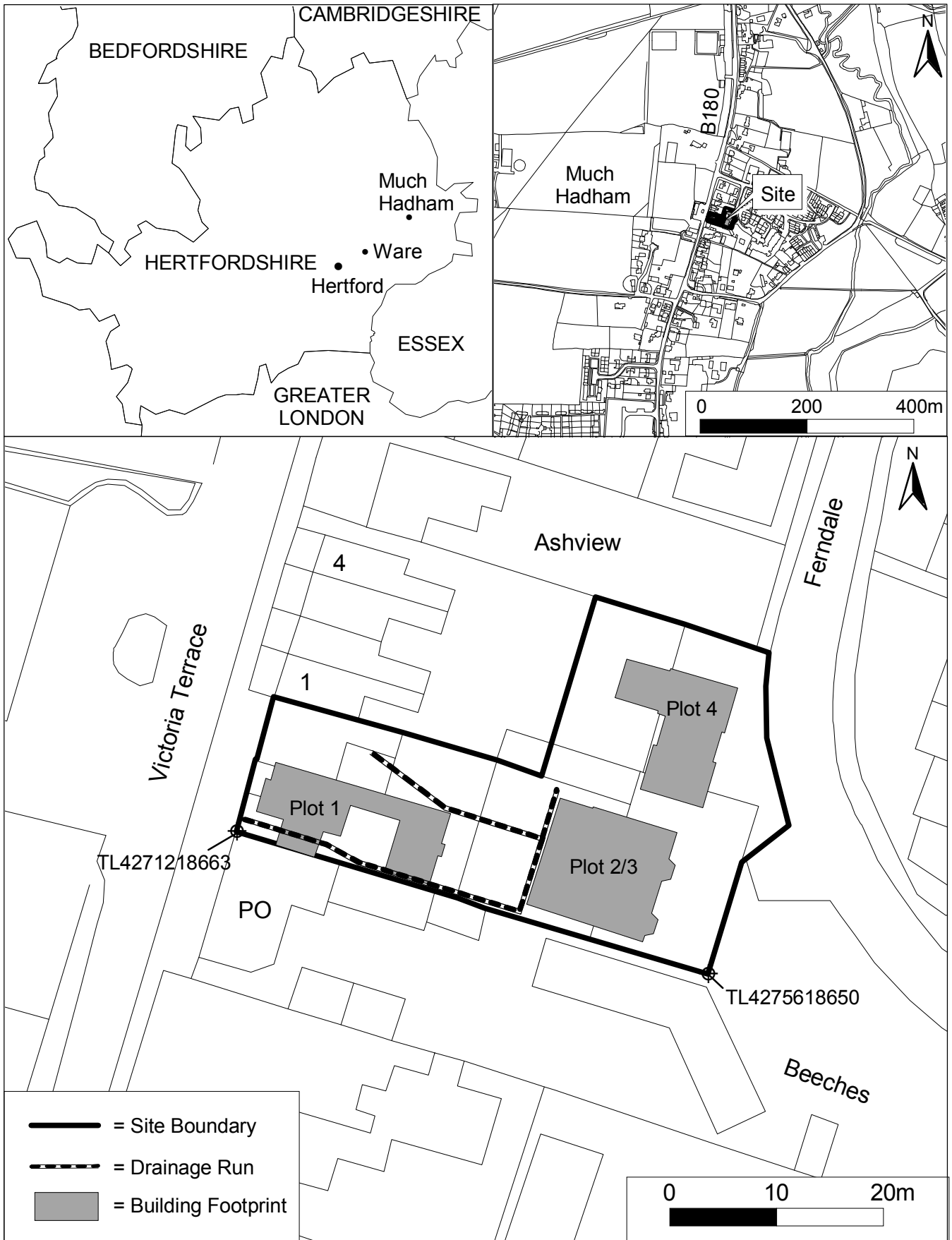


Fig. 1 Location Plan

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in response to a planning enquiry proposing the construction of a new residential development on a brown-field site (Planning ref: 3/00/1772).
- 1.1.2 The Archaeological Brief (Smith 2001) for the works requires that all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains were to be monitored.
- 1.1.3 This report contains the results of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks phase of the new development. The monitoring was designed to determine the presence, nature, date and survival of archaeological remains in the proposed development area.
- 1.1.4 Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out the excavation on behalf of Stonebond Ltd. The project was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Jonathan Smith of Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office (CAO), who also monitored the work.
- 1.1.5 Following completion of the project, the site archive will be deposited with Hertford Museum, while copies of the report will be supplied to the client, the County Archaeological Office, and the National Monuments Record.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location and Topography**

- 2.1.1 The proposed development lies to the east of the High Street, on the site of a former garage. The plot of land is located between Victoria Terrace and Ferndale cul-de-sac (centred on TL 42745 18662), in the village of Much Hadham, near Ware, in the district of East Hertfordshire.

2.1.2 Prior to works commencing, the area had been cleared of structures and any yard material, as a result the remaining overburden was full of building debris and the sub-base material on which the previous garage had been built. This modern build-up layer was c. 0.6m deep.

## **2.2 Geology**

2.2.1 The undisturbed natural geology was of brownish clay bound gravel.

## **2.3 History and Archaeology**

2.3.1 The site lies within an area of Archaeological Significance (No.147) as designated in the Local Plan. The wider area contains a number of Prehistoric and Roman findspots, including a Neolithic hand axe found c. 130m to the east of the site (Smith 2001). The proposed work has the potential to disturb significant deposits.

2.3.2 The village of Much Hadham is mentioned in the Domesday Book, but has Saxon origins, having been bequeathed to the Bishop of London in the mid-10th century (<http://www.thehadhams.com>). The church of St Andrews includes architectural elements dating to the 13th century. The Palace, once home to Edmund Tudor, includes the roof of a 14th century hall. The village contains many medieval and post-medieval timber-framed buildings, the oldest dated to the 15th century.

2.3.3 The site is situated c. 1km to the south of the church. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1883) indicates that, up until the end of the 19th century, this was undeveloped agricultural land that lay between Much Hadham and a further nucleus around Hadham Cross.

## **3 AIMS**

3.1 The aim of monitoring groundworks on the site was to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that would be destroyed by the construction of the new development.

- 3.2 The monitoring was designed to determine the presence/absence and significance of any surviving archaeological features within the areas disturbed by the development and, where present, record these features.

#### **4 METHOD**

- 4.1 The proposed buildings were constructed on piled foundations built from near modern ground level, and as a result, the disturbance to the underlying strata was limited. It was originally intended to monitor the excavation of the ground beam slots, but, it soon became clear that these would not penetrate below the modern overburden that covered the site. Only the foundations for Plot 2/3 were monitored, where the disturbance was deemed to be greatest.
- 4.2 In response to the lack of intrusion and disturbed nature of the site, the most significant element of the monitoring focused on the excavation of the drainage runs.

#### **5 FIELDWORK RESULTS**

- 5.1 The areas monitored are shown on Figure 1. These consisted of the beam slots of Plots 2/3 and Plot 4; and a drainage run from the existing main sewer, along High Street, to service Plots 1 and 2/3.
- 5.2 The beam slots were c. 0.5m wide by c. 0.6m and did not penetrate below the made ground and disturbance caused by the construction and demolition of the former garage buildings. No archaeological deposits were observed.
- 5.3 The drainage run was cut to a depth of c. 1.2m below existing ground level adjacent to the High Street, but became as shallow as 0.5m towards the eastern side of the site. The area to the west of the site had been considerably disturbed by the presence of modern drainage trenches. Along the southern boundary the trench was partially within the construction cut of the neighbouring buildings. Where visible, undisturbed natural sandy gravel was usually located a depth of c. 0.6m below the surface. There was no evidence of a buried topsoil or subsoil and it is likely that the ground has been artificially truncated. No archaeological deposits were recorded.

- 5.4 The ground to the rear of No 1 Victoria Terrace was also seen to be highly disturbed. The sand and gravel natural appeared highly mixed and much siltier. It is unclear whether this was due to man-made disturbance or the dynamic nature of this fluvial deposit. The only pottery recovered from this area was blue-and-white transfer-decorated china, typical of the 19th and early 20th Century.
- 5.5 The ground adjacent to Ferndale was to be artificially built-up so that there was no impact other than the pile holes. With the agreement of Hertfordshire CAO, no further archaeological monitoring was conducted in this area.

## **6 FINDS**

- 6.1 No finds earlier than from the 19th century were observed during the archaeological monitoring, and none was removed from the site.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 No archaeological deposits were uncovered during the monitoring of groundworks on the land adjacent to Victoria Terrace. In part, this may be due to the minimal impact of the development and the limited scope of the watching brief, as the foundations were constructed on piles and the site was not stripped below the level of the modern overburden. However, monitoring of drainage runs towards the western side of the site identified the surface of the natural gravels at a depth of 0.6m, sealed by modern disturbance. In contrast, the lack of development impact on the eastern side of the site means that this area was not investigated.
- 7.2 The monitoring of the drainage runs in the west of the site suggests that this area had been extensively truncated by previous usage, and it is unlikely that any build-up of archaeological deposits has survived above the natural gravels. It is possible that features such as pits and ditches cut into the natural gravels may have survived at a lower level, but even these are likely to have been truncated. It is impossible to assess the survival of archaeological deposits across the east of the site, although the impact of the current development in this area is likely to be minimal.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by Stonebond Ltd. Thanks are due to R A Swann for their cooperation on site. The project was managed by Patrick Allen of ECC FAU and the fieldwork was conducted by Ben Barker and Andrew Robertson. Jonathan Smith of Herts CAO monitored the work.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- D.O.E.            1990    *'Planning Policy Guideline 16: Archaeology and Planning'*
- Smith, J.        2001    *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. Land adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale, Much Hadham.*  
Herts CAO

## APPENDIX 1: INDEX TO THE ARCHIVE

### SITE CODE: MHVT04

File containing:

- 1. Introduction**
  - 1.1 Brief for Monitoring
  - 1.2 WSI for Monitoring
  
- 2. Research Archive**
  - 2.1 Monitoring Report
  
- 3. Site Archive**
  - 3.1 Monitoring Record Sheet
  - 3.2 Photographic Registers
  - 3.3 Site Photographic Record
  - 3.4 Miscellaneous maps and plans

## APPENDIX 2: SITE HOURS

Date	No. Hours	No. Persons	Days
12/10/04	4	1	0.5
25/10/04	7.5	1	1
26/10/04	7.5	1	1
27/10/04	4	1	0.5
26/11/04	4	1	0.5
12/01/05	1.5	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.5</b>		<b>4</b>

### APPENDIX 3: SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: <b>Land Adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.</b>		
County: <b>Hertfordshire</b>	District: <b>East Herts</b>	
Village/Town: <b>Much Hadham</b>	Parish: <b>Much Hadham</b>	
Planning application reference: <b>3/00/1772</b>		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: <b>Stonebond Ltd,</b>		
Nature of application: <b>Residential Development</b>		
Present land use: <b>Garage</b>		
Size of application area: <b>970m<sup>2</sup></b>	Size of area investigated:c. <b>50m<sup>2</sup></b>	
NGR (to 8 figures): <b>TL 42745 18662</b>		
Site code: <b>MHVT04</b>		
Site director/Organization: <b>Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit</b>		
Type of work: <b>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</b>		
Date of work:	Start: <b>25/10/04</b>	Finish: <b>12/01/05</b>
Location of finds/Curating museum: <b>Hertford</b>		
Related SMR Nos: <b>N.A.</b>	Periods represented: <b>N.A.</b>	
Relevant previous summaries: <b>N.A.</b>		
Summary of fieldwork results: <b>A planning application was made for residential development on land adjacent to Victoria Terrace and Ferndale, High Street, Much Hadham. Hertfordshire County Archaeological Office issued a brief for archaeological investigation, which was to include monitoring of any groundworks and the recording of any archaeological deposits encountered. Observation of the drainage runs and selected ground beam slots recorded that the site had been heavily disturbed by its previous use as a garage. The scope of the monitoring was limited due to the use of piled foundations and the need to build-up much of the site. No archaeological deposits were recorded and it is likely that the site had been truncated during the construction of the previous buildings.</b>		
Author of summary: <b>Ben Barker (ECC FAU)</b>	Date of summary: <b>March 2005</b>	