

STOCKBRIGGES, CHURCH END

LITTLE HADHAM

HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

AND RECORDING



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit
September 2008

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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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SUMMARY

Client: Mr Patrick Blair

Planning application: 06/970/FP & 07/2170FP

FAU Project No.: 1861

NGR: TL 44686 22683

Site Code: LHSB08

OASIS ID: essexcou1-41952

Date of Fieldwork: May 2008

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit, on behalf of Mr Patrick Blair, during groundworks for an extension on the south side of an existing house at Stockbriggs, Church End, Little Hadham. The proposed development lies in the centre of the medieval settlement area of Church End, within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 105, as designated in the local plan.

A single trench 0.6m wide was machine-dug for a total length of 15.4m and 1.5m deep.

The machined area was truncated by water pipes running roughly east-west along the south-facing side of the present building. All topsoil had previously been removed down to mid brown clay natural at a depth of 0.45m and replaced with a membrane and a layer of crushed concrete which supported a block paved driveway.

No archaeological remains were exposed during the groundworks, and any previous land surfaces would already have been truncated by construction of the modern driveway.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for an extension on the south side of an existing house at Stockbriggess, Church End, Little Hadham. This work was undertaken by the Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Mr Patrick Blair, the house owner, in response to a design brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU 2008) after the Local Planning Authority had placed a condition on planning consent (06/970/FP & 07/2170/FP).

Report copies will be sent to the applicant, Mr Patrick Blair (including a copy to forward to East Hertfordshire District Council), Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Unit, and the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record. A digital version will be uploaded to the Online Access Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>), and the archive, including two copies of the report, will be deposited at Bishop's Stortford Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Description

The development site is located at Church End, Little Hadham, 150m north of the A120 and 70m to the south-east of St Cecilia's Church (TL 44686 22683) (Fig 1).

Stockbriggess is the southernmost of a pair of semi-detached houses immediately to the north-west of the Rectory and with a frontage to the west on the road running north-south through Church End. The extension measures 8.2 x 3.6m and will be constructed on an area of the driveway.

2.2 Geology

The uppermost drift geology consisted of mid brown glacial clay.

2.3 History and Archaeology

The proposed development lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 105, as designated in the Local Plan. Church End has medieval origins and the church of St Cecilia dates from the 12th century. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1881 shows Stockbriggess as lying in an area of former outbuildings in the grounds of the Rectory. Prehistoric and Roman remains are also known in the area. The A120 to the south of the site follows the line of Stane Street, a Roman road with probable Iron Age origins, while Iron Age remains and a possible prehistoric tumulus have been recorded in the grounds of Hadham Hall.

To the north of St Cecilia's church, a trial-trenching evaluation (Germany 2006) and subsequent monitoring (HHER summary submitted) identified no archaeological features, although a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead was recovered from topsoil. An evaluation trench excavated 40m to the north of the site, in an area of proposed realignment of the east side of the existing road, recovered a small group of late medieval artefacts from a layer of subsoil (Germany 2006). These included a fragment of a Cologne stoneware jug dated to 1525-50 and a late 15th-century iron rowel spur.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project was undertaken in order to record and interpret any archaeological remains exposed by the groundworks for the extension, including artefacts and/or ecofactual material, and to prepare a report on the results, placing them within their local and regional context.

The research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). The specific research objective was to record archaeological evidence that will contribute to further understanding of the date, character and development of medieval and post-medieval settlement at Church End. Archaeological remains of other periods were to be recorded if identified.

4 METHOD

The archaeological work consisted of monitoring machine-excavation of foundation trenches, and service trenches where practicable, with rapid excavation and reporting of any surviving archaeological remains in breaks in the groundworks.

Machine-excavation was carried out under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The removal of modern overburden was undertaken using a toothed bucket, but subsoil layers were cleared using a flat-bladed bucket. The spoil heaps generated were visually scanned and checked with a metal detector.

The groundworks were inspected for archaeological features, deposits and artefacts, and where present these were to be rapidly recorded and excavated, except for obviously modern features (IFA 1999). Standard ECC Field Archaeology Unit methodologies were employed. All stratigraphy was recorded using the Field Archaeology Unit's context recording system. An overall site plan

was drawn at 1:50 and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A full photographic record comprising monochrome negatives and digital images was made.

The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) is a registered archaeological organisation with the IFA and adheres to IFA standards and by-laws, and ALGAO's Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The monitoring was carried out on a single machine-dug foundation trench 0.60m wide 15.40m long and 1.50m deep. The foundation trench had a long east-west arm, with a square section in the middle, and two shorter arms extending northwards at either end.

The mid brown clay natural was encountered at a depth of 0.45m. The land surface above this had been removed during the construction of a modern brick driveway and replaced with a plastic membrane covered by a crushed concrete foundation. The clay deposit remained consistent to the maximum depth of the trench at 1.50m. The monitored area was truncated by modern services running east west along the side of the house. No archaeological remains or artefacts were present either in the trench or in the spoil heaps

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains were exposed during the groundworks for the new extension, not even residual material, despite the site's location in the centre of the medieval settlement at Church End. Any superficial archaeological deposits that might have been present would already have been removed by recent reduction in ground levels for construction of the modern driveway.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Mr Patrick Blair and special thanks are due to him for his assistance throughout the project. The monitoring work was carried out by the author and the illustrations were done by the author and Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Patrick Allen for ECC FAU and was monitored by Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEM on behalf of East Herts District Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown N & Glazebrook J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8
HCC HEU	2008	<i>Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Stockbriggas, Church End, Little Hadham</i>
Germany, M	2006	<i>Roads at Church End, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching</i> . ECC FAU report 1555
Gurney D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14
Institute of Field Archaeologists	1999	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (revised)

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench No	Co-ordinates	Orientation
	TL 44686 22683	

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

SITE NAME: Stockbriggas, Church Road, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for Evaluation
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation

2. Research Archive

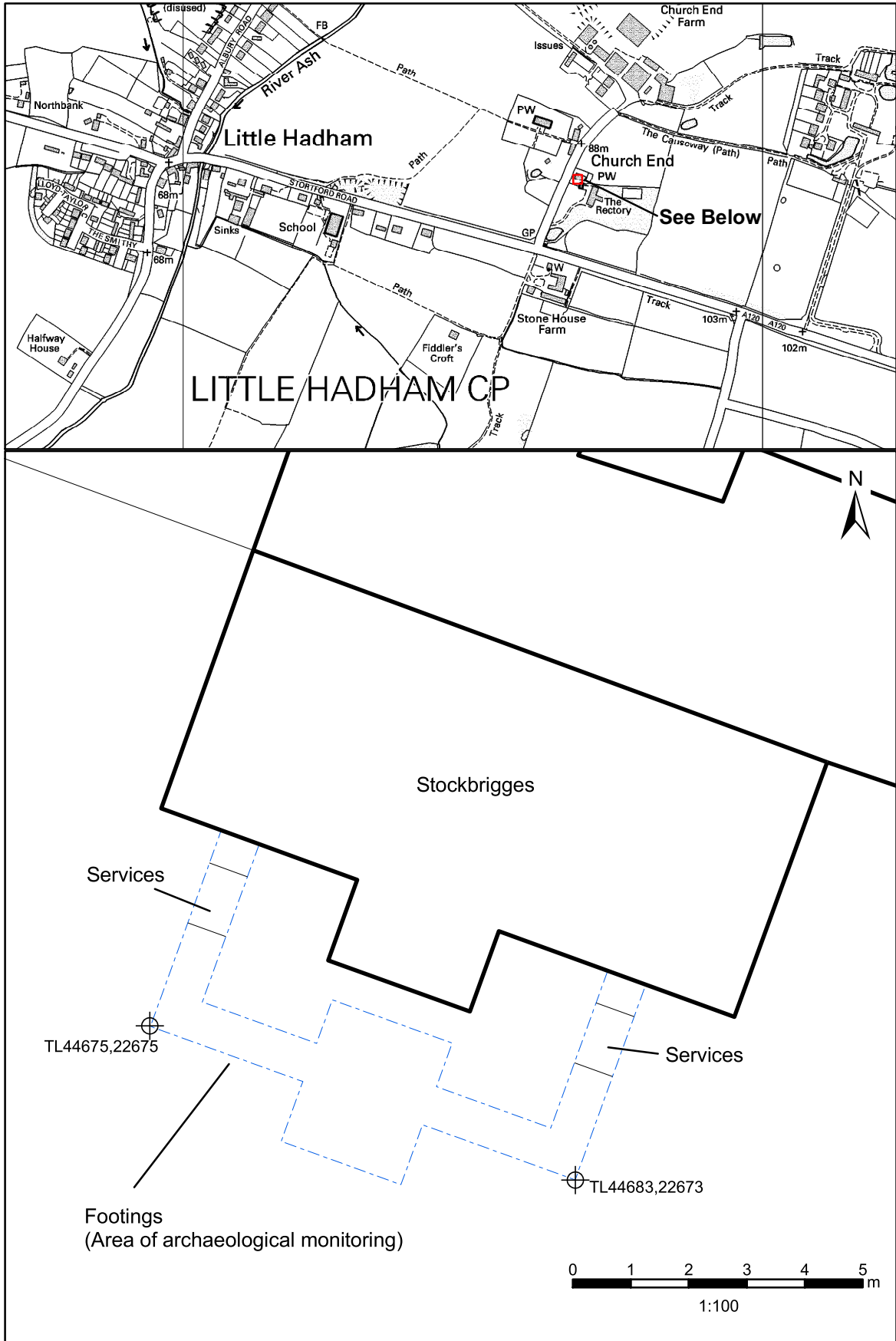
- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 1 Levels Register
- 3.2 1 Photographic Register
- 3.3 1 Permatrace Plan sheet
- 3.4 1 Trench Sheet

APPENDIX 3: HERTS HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Stockbriggess, Church Road, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire	
Parish Little Hadham	District: East Herts
NGR: TL 44686 22683	Site Code: LHSB08
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Tony Blowers, ECC FAU
Date of Work: 9th May 2008	Size of Area Investigated: 10.16 sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Bishop's Stortford	Funding Source: Mr P. Blair (landowner)
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HHER Nos:
Final Report: <i>Herts Archaeol. Summary</i>	OASIS ID: essexcou1-41952
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by ECC FAU, on behalf of Mr Patrick Blair, prior to the proposed extension on the south side of an existing house at Stockbriggess, Church End, Little Hadham. The proposed development lies within the medieval settlement of Church End, near the medieval church of St Cecilia, designated as Area of Archaeological Significance No. 105 in the local plan.</p> <p>A single trench 0.60m wide was machine dug a total of 15.40m long, 1.50m deep.</p> <p>The machined area was truncated by water pipes running roughly east-west along the south facing wall of the present building. All topsoil had previously been removed down to mid brown clay natural at a depth of 0.45m and replaced with a membrane and a layer of crushed concrete which supported a block paved driveway.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were impacted on during the groundworks.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Tony Blowers/ Patrick Allen	Date of Summary: September 2008



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Fig.1. Site location



Plate 1. General view of site facing east



Plate 2. Overview of trench facing east



Plate 3. Overview of trench facing west



Plate 4. West end facing north



Plate 5. West end services



Plate 6. Centre section facing south



Plate 7. Centre section facing north



Plate 8. East end



Plate 9. East end services