

HADHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HS2

CHURCH END

LITTLE HADHAM

HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

August 2009

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**HADHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HS2
CHURCH END
LITTLE HADHAM
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Client: Mr David Collins of Hadham Leisure Ltd

Planning ref.: 3/1994/06/FP

Grid reference: TL 44870 22925

Dates of fieldwork: 15/6/09 to 18/6/09

Site code: LHCE 09

ECC FAU project number: 2059

Oasis reference: essexcou1-63683

SUMMARY

A small amount of Roman and post-medieval pottery and a larger amount of later prehistoric worked flint were found during archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new industrial unit at Hadham Industrial Estate, Church End, Little Hadham. The artefacts complement Bronze Age and Iron Age features and finds which were found during a previous phase of archaeological monitoring to the immediate south-west. The report concludes that the two sets of evidence mark the broad location of a Bronze Age/Iron Age settlement site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a new industrial unit on the northern edge of Hadham Industrial Estate, Church End, Little Hadham was monitored by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) for the possible uncovering of archaeological remains on behalf of David Collins of Hadham Leisure Ltd. The archaeological work was recommended by the Hertfordshire County Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) and was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological brief, a written scheme of investigation and an archaeological condition placed on planning consent (CHEU 2009; ECC FAU 2009).

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, the County Historic Environment Unit, the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, and Bishop's Stortford Museum as part of the project archive. A digital copy of the report will form part of the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeological Data Service.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

The site lies on the northern edge of Hadham Industrial Estate at Church End, Little Hadham and overlooks arable farmland and the valley of the River Ash (Fig. 1). The nearest town is Bishop's Stortford, 4km to the east.

The surface geology consists of glacial deposits of brownish yellow clay till and brownish yellow silt-sand and gravel, beneath dark greyish brown topsoil. The line of demarcation between the two deposits lies 50m north of the industrial unit site. The soil derived from the silt-sand and gravel is freer-draining and easier to cultivate than that of the clay till.

2.2 Archaeology

The site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 105, as identified in the East Hertfordshire District Local Plan. The following information is from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

Church End and nearby Hadham Hall have medieval origins, and the church of St Cecilia dates from the 12th century. Half a kilometre to the north-east is a windmill mound of probable medieval or post-medieval origin. The A120, to the south, follows the line of Stane Street, a Roman road which may have begun as an Iron Age trackway. The remains of an

Early Iron Age to Roman farmstead have been found at Hadham Hall (HHER 2838). Archaeological monitoring of groundworks immediately south-west of the site in 1999 found Roman pot sherds and building material, pieces of burnt and worked flint and two ditch terminals containing Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery (HHER 10790).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the archaeological monitoring was to preserve by record any archaeological remains uncovered by the topsoil stripping. The site was considered to have potential for furthering understanding of former settlement in the Little Hadham area.

4.0 METHOD

The majority of the site was stripped by a tracked excavator with a large toothless bucket. The exception to this was a 14m wide section running across the middle of the site below electricity cables, which had to be stripped by bulldozer for safety reasons (Fig. 2). The monitoring excluded the southern third of the site because it had been previously stripped and truncated, probably during the construction of one of the nearby existing industrial units. At the time of the fieldwork it was occupied by a large bund.

The archaeological monitoring of the site was supplemented by two further pieces of work not covered by the archaeological condition: the stripping of a 250m long haul road, and a site for the disposal of spoil. The haul road was stripped by tracked excavator and the soil disposal site by a combination of bulldozer and tracked excavator. The footprint of the industrial unit site was 0.69ha, the haul road 0.1ha, and the spoil disposal site 1.1ha.

The quality of the topsoil stripping was, for archaeological purposes, variable. The areas stripped by bulldozer were very poor, whereas those stripped by tracked excavator varied from middling to good. The stripped surfaces and spoil heaps were visually inspected for archaeological features and surface finds.

The monitoring was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and the Association of Local Government Officers' Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (IFA 1999; Gurney 2003). The ECC FAU is a registered archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The ECC FAU uses its own recording system to record all

archaeological deposits and features (ECC FAU 2006). Further details of the recording strategy and method can be found in the written scheme of investigation (ECC FAU 2009).

The areas of topsoil stripping were mapped by using a directional GPS with on-board map-based software. The error margin of the GPS varies, but is always less than 0.2m.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The monitoring found a small amount of pottery and worked flint, but no archaeological deposits or features. The finds comprised three pieces of Roman and late medieval/post-medieval pottery and forty-one pieces of later prehistoric flint. The pot sherds came from the haul road and the spoil disposal area (findspots 1 and 8), and most of the worked flint from the haul road and industrial unit site (findspots 1, 7 and 10). The spoil disposal site (findspot 8) produced comparatively few finds.

6.0 FINDS, by Joyce Compton

Finds were recovered from five contexts, all of which represent unstratified material. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context; full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

6.1 Pottery

Three sherds of pottery, weighing 28g, were recorded. A jar rim sherd (8g) from findspot 1 is Roman and derives from the local Hadham kilns. Vessels in oxidised fabrics were made from the 2nd century onwards, but most commonly date to the later Roman period.

Two sherds (20g) of post-Roman pottery have been examined by Helen Walker, as follows: The sherd from findspot 1 comprises Frechen stoneware, probably from the neck of a Bellarmine jug, showing a typical mottled-brown salt glaze. This type of pottery was imported from Rhineland Germany during the later 16th and 17th centuries. The sherd from findspot 8 is in an abraded, hard, sandy fabric, and is probably late medieval or post-medieval in date.

6.2 Worked and burnt flints, by Hazel Martingell

A total of forty-one pieces of worked flint was studied. The flints had all been disturbed from their original point of deposition by contractor's machine-stripping. Present are a scraper on a flake, two retouched flakes, one blade-flake, which may have been hafted for use as a

knife, five cores and fragments of cores, twenty-seven flakes, two blocks, two fragments and one burnt flake. Full details are provided in the catalogue in Appendix 2.

This is an interesting collection of artefacts. The concentration of pieces suggests a flint tool-manufacturing area. Cobbles of dark flint were used, off which large flakes were struck and trimmed for specific uses and were then removed from the site. The single diagnostic artefact is the scraper (findspot 10) (Fig. 3). This is most likely to be Bronze Age, or perhaps Late Bronze Age, based on the criteria of the oblique-angled and un-retouched platform, the irregular shape of the flake and the irregular but clear scraper-edge retouch. The ventral surface is patinated, suggesting chalk in the soil on which it was originally placed.

The remaining flakes are difficult to date. They are well-knapped and, despite their irregular profiles, most of them are likely to be later prehistoric (c.1500-50BC). It is also possible that some may be trimming flakes from the production of flint blocks for use in the medieval buildings in the vicinity, such as the church and Hadham Hall.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The topsoil stripping has revealed no archaeological remains apart from pieces of pottery and worked flint.

The pieces of worked flint complement the ditches and prehistoric finds which were found during the previous phase of archaeological monitoring to the immediate south-west (HHER 10790). The remains found by both sites are scattered and fragmentary, but are nevertheless sufficient to indicate that settlement activity was occurring across the northern end of Church End, Little Hadham during the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is likely that the soil of the silt-sand and gravel, where most of the worked flint was found, was attractive to prehistoric farmers and settlers since it is comparatively easy to cultivate and light and free draining.

The pottery probably relates to the dispersing of farmyard midden heaps during manuring. Two of the sherds are post-medieval and are probably derived from one of the nearby farms, possibly Church End Farm to the immediate south. The Roman pot sherd complements the Roman artefacts which were discovered during the earlier phase of monitoring, and may indicate that the remains of a Roman farmstead or villa are present somewhere in the vicinity.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Hadham Industrial Estate lies within an area of thinly scattered later prehistoric and Roman settlement remains. Most of the remains are associated with the area of silt sand and gravel.

The finds types are similar to those collected during previous work in the vicinity. No further work is required on any of the material and all of the finds should be retained.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ECC FAU thanks David Collins of Hadham Leisure Ltd and Trevor Martin of C.J. Pryor (Contracts) Ltd for their cooperation and assistance.

The monitoring was carried out by Mark Germany and the surveying by Andrew Lewsey. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael and were analysed by Joyce Compton, Helen Walker and Hazel Martingell. The project was managed by Patrick Allen, and was monitored by Alison Tinniswood of the CHEU. Figures 1 and 2 were drawn by Andrew Lewsey and figure 3 by Hazel Martingell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHEU	2009	<i>Hadham Water, Church End, Little Hadham. Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>
ECC FAU	2006	<i>Site Recording Manual (Version 2)</i>
ECC FAU	2009	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. Hadham Industrial Estate HS2, Church End Little Hadham. ECC FAU WSI 2059</i>
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14</i>
IFA	1999	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Institute of Field Archaeologists</i>

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

No.	Category	Area	Description	Date
1	Artefacts	Haul road	Unstratified finds	-
2	Topsoil	Haul road and spoil disposal area	Dark greyish brown firm/plastic clay with occasional small to large pieces of flint and infrequent flecks and small pieces of chalk	Modern
3	Natural	Haul road and spoil disposal area	Brownish yellow firm/plastic clay with occasional gravel and pieces of flint and infrequent flecks and small pieces of chalk.	Glacial
4	Natural	Haul road	Brownish yellow friable silt sand with occasional gravel. Haul road	Glacial
5	Natural	Industrial unit site	Brownish yellow silt sand with frequent gravel	Glacial
6	Topsoil	Industrial unit site	Dark Greyish brown friable silt clay sand with occasional gravel	Modern
7	Artefacts	Industrial unit site	Unstratified finds from central area stripped by bulldozer	-
8	Artefacts	Spoil disposal area	Unstratified finds. Same as 11	-
9	Artefacts	Industrial unit site	Number allocated for unstratified finds from northern section stripped by tracked excavator. No finds discovered	-
10	Artefacts	Industrial unit site	Unstratified finds from southern section stripped by tracked excavator	-
11	Artefacts	Spoil disposal area	Unstratified finds. Same as 8	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	u/s	21	496	Flint lumps and flakes	- Later 16th to 17th C Roman
		1	16	Pottery; body sherd; Frechen stoneware from neck of bellarmine with mottled salt-glaze	
		1	8	Pottery; jar rim sherd, Hadham oxidised ware	
7	u/s	6	126	Flint lumps and flakes	-
8	u/s	2	8	Flint flakes	- Late medieval/ post med.
		1	4	Pottery; base sherd, abraded unglazed, hard sandy fabric	
10	u/s	9	184	Flint lumps and flakes	- -
		1	16	Burnt flint	
11	u/s	2	32	Flints	-

Flint catalogue

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	u/s	21	496	Blade-flake (?knife), tertiary, tiny amount of cortex, brown-stained Flake, tertiary Seven flakes, secondary, c.40mm Four flakes, secondary, larger than above Two flakes, tertiary Three flakes, secondary Flake, primary Core for flakes Core for blades, fragment	
7	u/s	6	126	Flake, large, tertiary Three flakes, secondary Flake, tertiary, with ventral retouch around three-quarters of edge Core, single platform	
8	u/s	2	8	Blade fragment, secondary, edge damaged Retouched flake, tertiary, retouch along right ventral edge	
10	u/s	10	200	Flake, burnt Flake, secondary, small, brown-stained Fragment, tertiary Scraper, end on flake, slightly patinated ventral surface Three flakes, secondary, large Blade core Two waste blocks	LBA LBA
11	u/s	2	32	Flake, primary Core fragment, rough, secondary	LBA

Pottery data

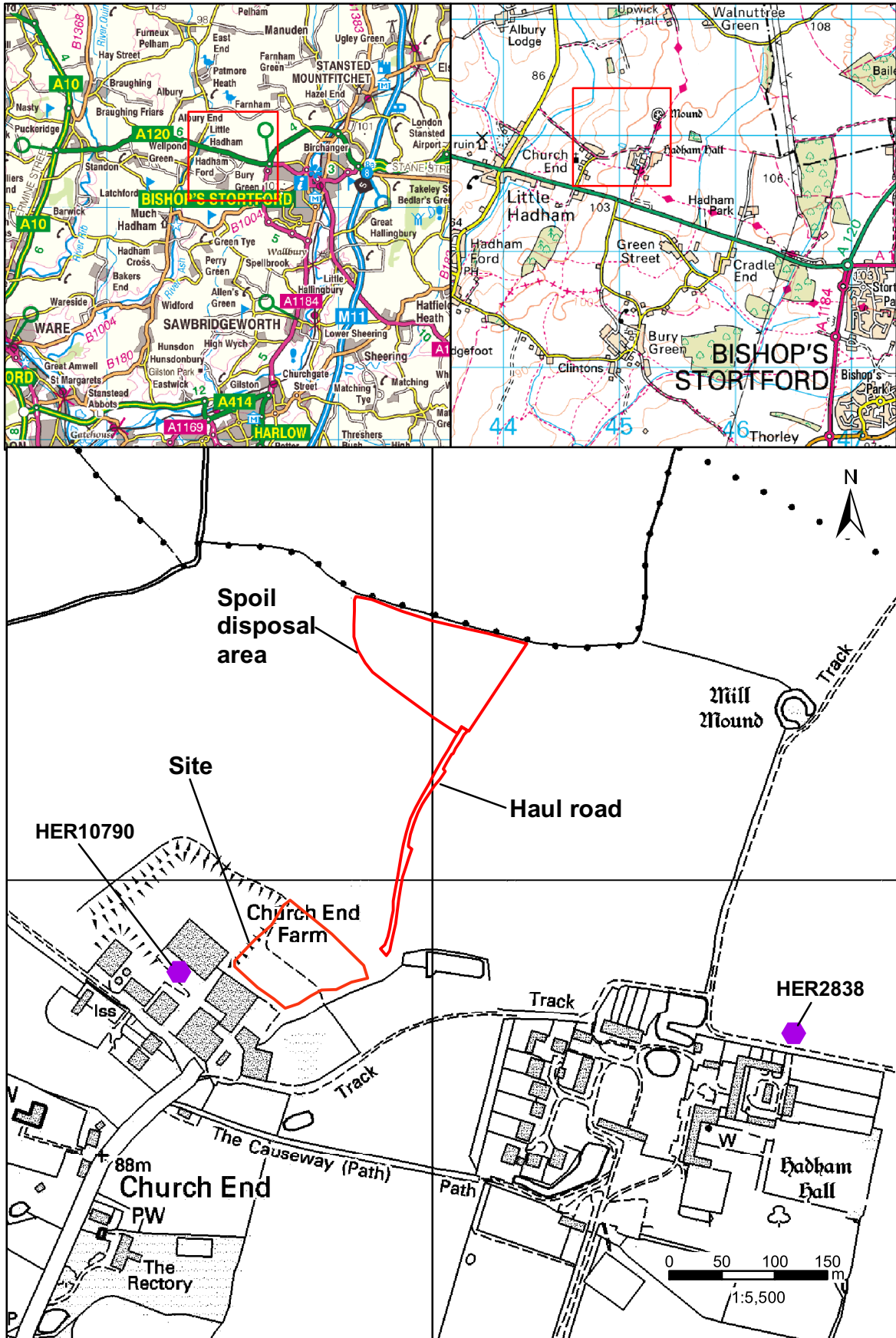
Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	u/s	1	16	Frechen stoneware sherd from neck of bellermine with mottled salt-glaze	later 16th to 17th C
8	u/s	1	4	Abraded unglazed sherd in hard sandy fabric	late med to post-med
		2	20		

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

- 2 Copies of the client report
- 1 Copy of the written scheme of investigation
- 1 Finds report and table
- 1 Worked flint report and table
- 1 Pottery report and table
- 1 Context register
- 11 Context sheets
- 1 Photo register
- 1 Computer disc of digital files and photographs

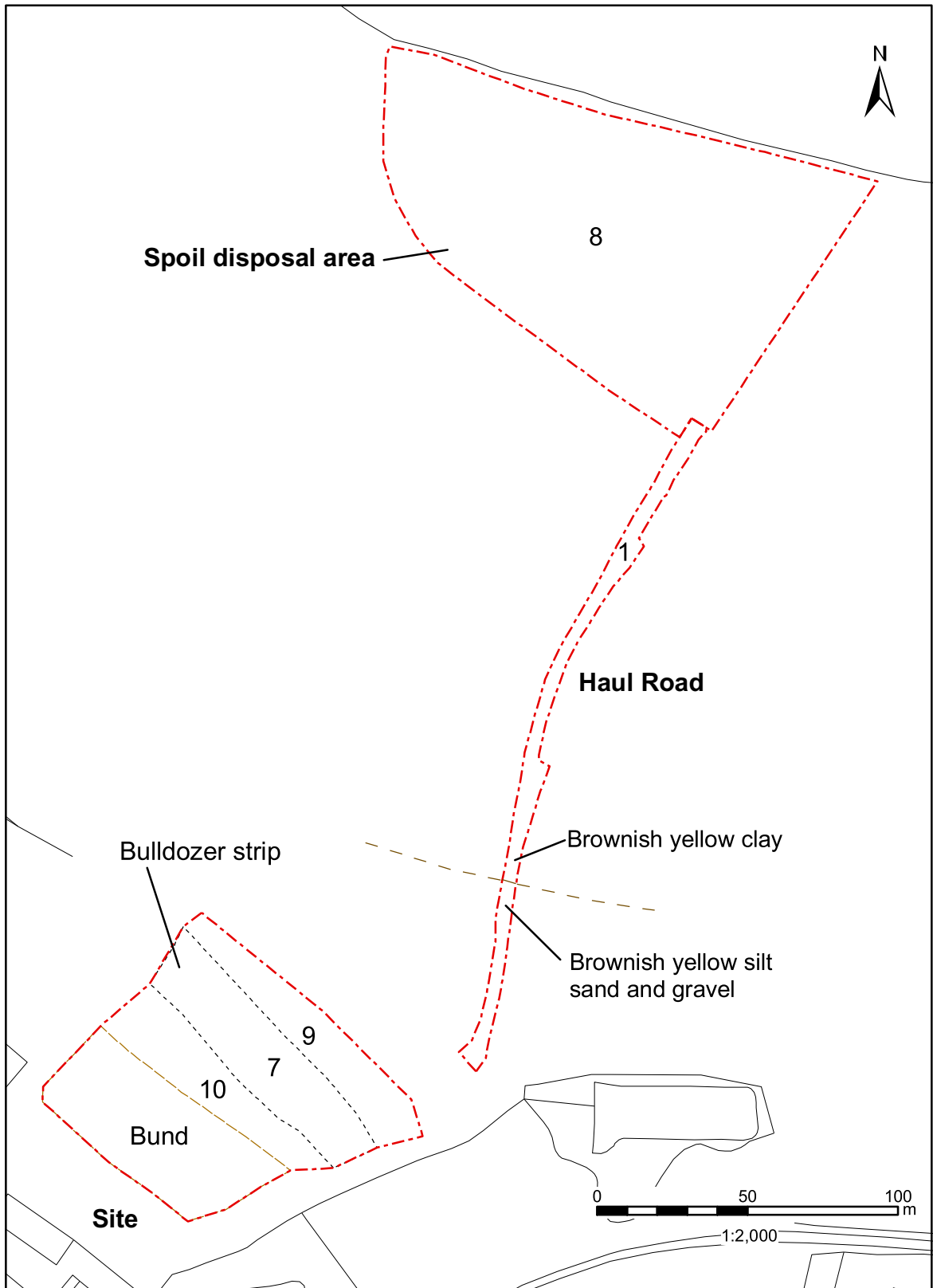
APPENDIX 4: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name and address: Hadham Industrial Estate HS2, Church End, Little Hadham		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Little Hadham	Parish:	
Planning application reference:		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: David Collins of Hadham Leisure Ltd		
Nature of application: New industrial unit adjoining Hadham Industrial Estate		
Present land use: Arable		
Size of application area: 0.7ha	Size of area investigated: 1.9ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 44870 22925		
Site code: LHCE 09		
Site director/Organization: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit		
Type of work: Archaeological monitoring and recording		
Date of work	Start: 15/6/09	Finish: 18/6/09
Location of finds/Curating museum: Bishop's Stortford		
Related SMR Nos: 10790	Periods represented: Prehistoric	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>A small amount of Roman and post-medieval pottery and a larger amount of later prehistoric worked flint (1500 to 50 BC) were found during archaeological monitoring of ground works for a new industrial unit at Hadham Industrial Estate, Church End, Little Hadham. The artefacts complement Bronze Age and Iron Age features and finds which were found during a previous phase of archaeological monitoring to the immediate south-west (HER 10790). It is possible that the two sets of evidence indicate the location of a Bronze Age/Iron Age settlement site.</p>		
Author of summary: Mark Germany	Date of summary: August 2009	



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Fig.1. Site location



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Fig.2. Locations of unstratified finds

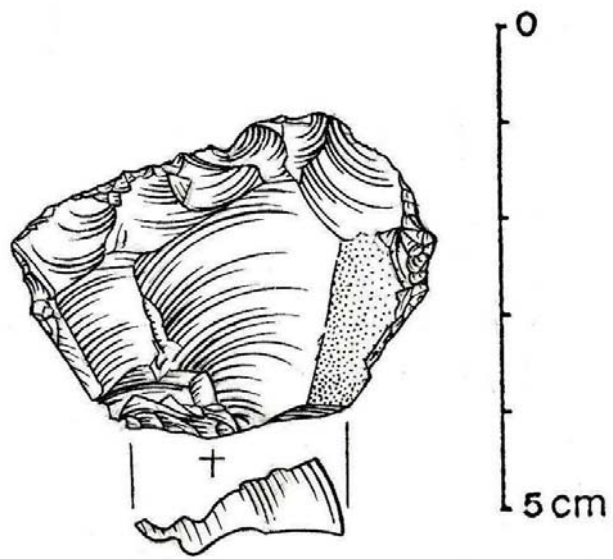


Fig. 3 Bronze Age scraper



Plate 1. Haul road. Looking south



Plate 2. Industrial unit site. Central section stripped by bulldozer. Looking south-west



Plate 3. Industrial unit site. Looking east



Plate 4. Spoil disposal site. Looking north