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# ROBIN HOOD PUBLIC HOUSE, 63 HIGH STREET, WALKERN, HERTFORDSHIRE SG2 7NT

# HISTORIC BUILDING MONITORING AND RECORDING

HER Enquiry No: 91/12

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#### OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details	
Project name	Robin Hood Public House, 63 High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7NT. Monitoring of Building Alterations & Archaeological Monitoring & Recording.

In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of historic building alterations at the Robin Hood Public House, 63 High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7NT (NGR TL 28935 26207). Technical analysis suggests that the building was constructed at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup>, or first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as a fairly modest domestic residence, broadly confirming the list description. It is, unusually for this period, entirely timber-framed, but in quality and form lies at the very end of the timber tradition for domestic houses. Much of the oak appears to have been reused from elsewhere, and has been redeployed with economy. In layout, the building follows the classic 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century form of general symmetry, a central corridor with rooms on either side and continuous outshut to the rear.

Historic records suggest that the house functioned as an unlicensed beer house, but in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this appears to have been formalised with the introduction of durable dressings like match-lined panelling to the ground floor rooms. The first licence was granted in 1953. Modern alterations including the consolidation of the ground floor rooms are also much in evidence.

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Geoff Smith		
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# ROBIN HOOD PUBLIC HOUSE, 63 HIGH STREET, WALKERN, HERTFORDSHIRE SG2 7NT

#### MONITORING OF HISTORIC BUILDING ALTERATIONS

#### SUMMARY

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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of historic building alterations at the Robin Hood Public House, 63 High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7NT (NGR TL 28935 26207; Figs 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned in order to comply with a condition attached to planning consent / listed building consent for the redevelopment of the site. The latter includes a change of use from public house to a family dwelling with part demolition of extensions and provision of parking space, garden and associated landscaping (East Herts Planning Ref: 3/11/2012/FP).
- 1.2 The programme of monitoring of building alterations was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2012) and a specification by AS (dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012), approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings a guide to good recording practice* (2006) as well as the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2008).
- 1.4 The overall aims and objectives of the project were:
  - to monitor interventions into the fabric of the historic structure and to record any features of interest that were exposed,

- to compile a comprehensive and high quality record of the structure identified for alteration, with analysis and interpretation of that structure in conjunction with an associated documentary survey to put the historic building in context,
- to produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to 'preserve by record' the building in its current form prior to alteration.

#### Planning policy context

- 1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.
- 1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

#### 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 – 2)

- 2.1 Walkern is a small village in Hertfordshire located approximately two miles east of Stevenage (Fig. 1) and principally includes development along the north south aligned High Street and extending west along Stevenage Road. The site comprises a long rectangular plot of land on the east side of the High Street and is bounded by Totts Lane to the north, with adjoining properties to the south. It lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No 29 identified on the EHDC Local Plan, which incorporates the medieval extent of the settlement, as well within the Conservation Area.
- 2.2 The assessment structure is located at the western edge of the site and fronts directly on to High Street. It consists of a Grade II listed former public house,

described as a late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century house (Appendix 4) with two rear ranges with an area of concrete immediately to the east.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based archaeological research)

#### Archaeological databases

3.1 The Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area which might contribute to understanding the site. The HER database was searched for all known entries within a 500m radius of the assessment site. Those sites of relevance are described below (Section 4) and tabulated in Appendix 1.

#### Historical & cartographic documents

3.2 The source for maps and primary documentary sources was Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS). Relevant documentation and figures are reproduced as Figs. 3-8.

#### Secondary sources

3.3 Secondary material consulted has been referenced appropriately in the bibliography.

#### Geological/ geotechnical information

3.4 Information was compiled from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983). No detailed geotechnical information for the site was available at the time of writing.

#### Building recording/monitoring

- 3.5 The site was visited on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in order to compile descriptions of the building and undertake the photographic work. The written description, analysis and photographic survey were carried out by Tansy Collins, and labelled plans and elevations provided by the client have been included as Figs. 9 and 11 with an additional cross-section produced by Kathren Henry (Fig. 10).
- 3.6 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Where necessary, architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 9).

#### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is sparse and finds are limited to occasional pits and ditches containing pottery and flint implements (MHT 11537; HER 17583). In the Romano-British period small farm-holdings are recorded along the valley of the river Beane (Going & Hunn 1999).
- 4.2 The origins of the name Walkern likely derives from the Old English *wealcærn*, or a house for washing cloth, suggesting the presence of an early fulling mill on the River Beane (Gover *et al* 1970, 141). It is not recorded until Domesday in 1086 when a manor of Walkern (or *Walchra*; MHT 2656) is mentioned with reference to a priest, suggesting that the nearby church of St Mary's (MHT 2909) may have a Saxon precursor (Mills 1991). The existing church is Grade I listed with an 11<sup>th</sup> century nave, early 12<sup>th</sup> century aisle and later additions. A possible medieval moated site is known at Finches End (MHT 6400).
- 4.3 A 15<sup>th</sup> century hall survives close by (MHT 11163) and 17<sup>th</sup> century and later listed buildings are known, and also 18<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads.
- 4.4 The origins of the assessment structure are unclear though physical analysis has provided some answers (see below). The listing notes a late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century date for the building, although Branch Johnson suggested the building was constructed in *c*.1810 by a local builder named James Spriggins (Branch Johnson 1962, 96), probably related to William Spriggins, who owned nearby properties in 1839 (Fig. 4; Appendix 2). In 1839 the tithe apportionment (Appendix 2) records a cottage and garden owned by John Fairey and assessed at one acre, one rood and 39 perches. At some point after this the house was converted to a public house. The earliest reference to the Robin Hood public house is in 1877 when it was purchased by E.K. and O. Fordham of Fordham Ashwell Brewers and licensed to George Baldock as a beerhouse selling Flowers' ale (Joliffe & Jones 1995).
- 4.5 None of the earlier historic directories or cartographic sources label the building as a public house, though in 1899 a Mr John Phillips was recorded as the licensee (Joliffe & Jones 1995) and in 1937 a Mrs Gertrude Waldock (Kelly's 1937, 274). This lack of reference in the documentary sources may be explained in that the public house did not gain a full license until 1953 (Branch Johnson 1962, 96).
- 4.6 Tracing the form of the building through cartographic sources is often a useful way of understanding the development of a building, however the earliest sources consulted provide little useful information. The Dury & Andrew's map (Fig. 3) of 1766 shows buildings lining both sides of the High Street at this date, but no detail is visible. Similarly Bryant's map (not reproduced) provides little further information and the landscape remains largely unchanged.
- 4.7 It is the tithe map which first depicts the building in any useful detail (Fig. 4) where an L-shaped building is shown with a further extension at the north-east end. The 1884 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows there has been little change within the village since the production of the tithe map but otherwise provides little information on the building itself (Fig. 5). The later OS map dated 1898 is of more use.

4.8 In 1898 (Fig. 6) the plan form of the building is as it is today, though an outbuilding to the rear set in the position of the current south-east range is shown as distinct from the main range. A north-east range is also shown. Both later maps consulted, the 1923 OS map (Fig.7) and the 1973 OS map (Fig. 8) depict the same outline excepting the most recent map which shows the outbuilding connected to the rear of the main range.

#### 5 THE BUILDING

#### **Exterior**

- 5.1 The assessment structure comprises a three-bay range aligned north to south, with the principal west façade fronting directly onto the High Street (Plate 1). It has mixed weatherboarding and render over a timber frame, rising to a pitched roof covered with slate on the west but simple peg-tiles on the east, rear elevation. Brick chimney stacks lie at the north and south ends, to the south this is integral to the building, but the north stack projects in the conventional manner.
- 5.2 The rear side has a continuous outshut with a single-storey range extending to the east at the south end, while a second rear range formerly lay to the north but has recently been demolished and the area made good in modern materials at the junction with the outshut (Plate 2). The lost unit comprised a service range with WCs and stores.
- 5.3 The principal street frontage is of three equal bays with modern weatherboarding at ground floor level and painted render at first floor level. A central entrance is flanked by two bay windows, the latter with modern casements and low hipped roofs covered in asphalt. The doorway is set in a moulded surround with a hood, though the door itself is modern. Three double-hung six-over-six sash windows light the upper floor, all without horns and set in moulded surrounds with little timber sills. These abut the eaves, which overhang slightly but are otherwise unadorned.
- 5.4 The south end abuts an adjoining earlier property, necessitating the construction of the stack at this end within the main structure. The brick appears to be 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.
- 5.5 The north elevation, by contrast fronts onto Totts Lane and on this side the sweep of the roof continues down over the rear outshut. At ground floor level this comprises painted brickwork which rises to an offset at approximately 2m, which is chamfered and tiled to allow water run-off. This appears to have been constructed against pre-existing fabric. The upper area of the building is largely painted and rendered, with the projecting chimney in the centre. This is of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century brickwork, shouldering to a slender stack at upper level where the brickwork is exposed, not painted. The re-entrant angle created by the stack and the north wall to the west has been infilled by a small unit clad in modern weatherboarding. Wall-plates to either side are slightly visible where they protrude through the render. A small two-light casement lights the outshut. Each light has four panes and the windows has a painted timber sill and drip hood.

- 5.6 The rear east elevation mostly comprises the pitch of the roof where it continues down over the outshut. Discrete areas of have been repaired in newer, machine-made tiles. The north end of the wall is of modern materials where the north-east range has been removed and the wall made good, while to the south, a modern door adjoins a two-light casement, each light of two panes.
- 5.7 The final element forms the south-east range which extends to the east as a single storey unit with a pitched roof covered with grey slate and a tile capping course. The walls are all plain rendered. The north side is pierced by two three-light casements abutting the eaves, each light of six panes and with timber sills. A third window formerly lay to the west but has been recently removed and opened up, now temporarily boarded. The east side is plain rendered with a single modern two-light casement with textured glass and a doorway to the north infilled with modern blockwork. The south side is partially visible and is mostly rendered as elsewhere but with a section of weatherboarding to the west.

#### Interior

5.8 At the time of the survey, the planned works were in progress and almost all fixtures and fittings relating to the buildings use as a public house had been removed in a general programme of soft-stripping. In places, new materials such as dry-lining and modern dado boarding were in the process of being installed. Individual spaces and rooms have been given numbers for ease of description and these are shown on Fig. 9.

#### Ground floor

- 5.9 From the street, the main door would originally have opened into a central entrance vestibule or through-corridor, with flanking reception rooms in the outer bays in the classic Georgian domestic style. However, the internal divisions are lost and the space now comprises a single bar area (GF01). A modern partition was, at the time of the survey being constructed to reinstate part of the earlier layout. The whole area retains elements of exposed timberwork, none of which respects any structural division and are mostly cosmetic, and consequently of little historic interest.
- 5.10 The floor throughout is covered with a mix of modern screed cement with an area of thin tiling to the south. In the northern space where these have been removed some parquet floor is exposed, perhaps from the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The east and south walls in this area have been recently covered with the modern dado boarding, but otherwise an earlier dado is visible. This comprises match-lined vertical boarding with upper painted plasterwork over lath and plaster which is attached to the timber-frame. The dado extends within the apron of the bay window which, with presence of a moulded surround confirms that the bay windows are at least early 20<sup>th</sup> century, despite the presence of the modern casements (Plate 3). The chimney breast on the north is constructed of brick, which is partially exposed but mostly painted and in fairly poor condition. A brick and tile 1950s or later surround and hearth are defined by an area of slender bricks or pamments set in a herringbone pattern. In this area the cosmetic timber-work includes a post, set within the area of the bay window with a binding joist above. The east wall was

latterly open to the outshut though has now been infilled with a modern partition, the aperture defined by a large boxed-in joist, probably of steel.

- 5.11 The area to the south retains two boxed-in joists extending east west with posts supporting the southern joist, again all cosmetic. As with the area to the north, a new boarded dado has been applied in places, but sections of the earlier matchlined dado boarding remain visible behind. A small section of the external framing is visible adjoining the bay window in the south-west corner, where two slender studs are visible, clearly bisected by a primary-brace (Plate 4). As before, the casements within the bay window are modern replacements, though the moulded frame survives, truncated, at low level for the insertion of the match-lined dado. The chimney stack to the south is all of exposed brickwork, formerly painted or plastered. No surround or grate survives, though a segmental arch is supported by an iron band in the soffit, in typical 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century style. The brickwork itself is fairly variable with wide lime-mortar joints with a high chalk content. As noted above, the north-west corner has been pushed out with a weatherboarded unit flush with the outer side of the chimney stack, so creating a niche, around which the match-lined boarding continues.
- 5.12 The south-east range is divided into two rooms with a chimney stack shared between the two spaces. There has clearly been some alteration and augmentation at the junction with the main range, where the original outshut has been opened up leaving the staircase enclosed on one side of the west room of this range. During the survey the walls were in the process of being dry-lined with modern plasterboard and little was consequently visible.
- 5.13 Room GF02 occupies the west room of the range. Little of note is visible although the chimney stack projects on the east, its aperture lined-out, while the former window aperture on the north is visible. However, at the west end, the earlier fabric remains exposed where the walls are clad in almost full-height match-lined boarding, which continues around the small enclosed staircase (Plate 5). The doorway giving access to the staircase is of three bead-moulded boards with four slender ledges to the rear, and has been extended at the head to fit the space. The ghosting of earlier strap-hinges are visible, but these have been replaced with modern examples. The south roof pitch is pierced by a modern 'velux' roof light.
- 5.14 To the east, the final room in this range is mostly lined out apart from the east end where the historic wall fabric remains exposed (GF03). These are mostly covered in plain plasterwork apart from one area which was formerly tiled, marking the position of a former bathroom which has recently been removed. The two windows on the north are both of early 20<sup>th</sup> century casement form with scrolled catches. The chimney stack projects on the but the fire place aperture is now lined in modern plasterboard. The only exposed features of interest are two trusses, one lying centrally across the range and the second bisected by the stack at the west end, indicating that the chimney is a later insert. Each truss comprises a slender oak tie-beam with two raking struts rising above the modern ceiling to engage with principal rafters. The tie-beam is side-axed on one face and sawn on the other. The struts are secured to the tie-beams with a single peg, while the soffit of the tie-beam retains mortices for an original studwork partition.

- 5.15 The final space at this level includes the remainder of the outshut to the north, which is now divided into three spaces. A small entrance lobby (GF04) is reached from the rear yard via a modern door with access given on all sides to further rooms and a small door which gives access to a cupboard below the staircase. The door itself is modern but reuses 18<sup>th</sup> century strap hinges with round finials, secured with modern screws.
- 5.16 Rooms GF05 and GF06 were formerly a single space open on the west to the main bar area, but this space has now been divided by a modern partition and ceiled in modern materials, though the lower portion of the east roof pitch is visible. Both spaces are plain with little of interest exposed apart from a small early 20<sup>th</sup> century window on the north in Room GF06. This is of two-light form, each light a bottom-hung casement with four panes. A small hole in the ceiling of Room GF06 allows a view of the roof of the outshut and the timber-framing of the east wall of the main range.
- 5.17 The construction of the outshut is of slender rafters descending from the wall-plate of the main range. A single purlin and the remains of truncated raking struts survive, all altered with the insertion of the modern ceiling, although one member appears to survive entombed in the wall to the south. The pattern of nail marks in the timbers suggests that the outshut was formerly open to the roof and only latterly underdrawn.
- 5.18 This small roof void within the outshut is of particular interest because the outer face of the upper timber-frame remains visible and offers important diagnostic evidence of date and form. The main structure comprises slender, waney and fairly widely-spaced studwork, primary-braced at the outer edges. The corner post and wall-plate are of more substantial scantling, but still of fairly middling quality. One or two assembly marks are visible, but only the principal members including the corner post and primary brace are pegged, the studs simply nailed to the wall-plate. Many of the studs are conspicuous by the presence of a dark yellow ochre paint, but these have clearly been cut up and reused from an earlier member. To the interior face of the walls, early, roughly-split laths are visible. Some fragments of later lathwork also survives on the external face, but these may relate to the use of the void as a cupboard in later times. At the southern end, fragments of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpapers remain from this use.

#### First floor

- 5.19 The staircase has fairly wide treads with projecting nosings and plastered and painted enclosing walls on either side.
- 5.20 At upper level the building is divided at the bay divisions by original partitions, while the central bay has been further divided to accommodate a small corridor adjoining the staircase. Though not original, this sub-division is fairly early. One wall has recently been pierced for the insertion of an *en-suite* bathroom.
- 5.21 The floor of the north room (FF01) is covered in fairly narrow softwood floorboards with a simple skirting around the room. No wallpaper is present at this level and the walls are simply painted over fairly uneven lath and plaster. Where

visible, the plaster has a high chalk content and the laths are wide and riven as seen from within the roof of the outshut. The window on the west is a six-over-six sash set in a moulded surround and with moulded glazing bars and fillet, typical of a date in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century date. A door in the south-east corner is set in an irregular frame with a small staff-moulding, while the door itself is of thin bead-moulded boards. There are four ledges on this side and slender strap hinges with round finials, secured to the jamb with modern screws, and so re-hung. The handle survives, but the latch is lost. The wall-plates are partially visible on the north, east and west with some augmentation. All are now painted, but may be chamfered with run-out stops. The ceiling is of modern plasterboard.

- 5.22 The central room (FF02) is floored with wide softwood boards, which continue under the partition into the corridor on the east (FF02a). In addition, where a floor board has been lifted, slender squared floor joists are visible, widely-set and all consistent with an 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The walls are again fairly uneven and are simply painted over the lath and plaster, apart from the partition on the east. This is constructed of wide bead-moulded boards, while the doorway has a slightly moulded frame. The door itself is thin, of three bead-moulded boards with three ledges to the rear and a single early strap hinge at the bottom, but a modern example at the top. There was clearly a third hinge, indicated by a notch in the frame, though there are no corresponding marks on the door itself. This all suggests the door has been rehung or repositioned. The door retains a good 18<sup>th</sup> century knob and latch. The window on the west is a six-over-six sash as to the north, here with a Fitch patent catch. The ceiling is modern.
- 5.23 The final room to the south (FF03) continues with wide softwood floorboards, and a plain skirting board, while the chimney breast projects into the room on the south side (Plate 6). The walls are plain as elsewhere, while the window is identical to that in the adjoining room.
- 5.24 Of the underlying structure, the wall-plates and tie-beam are all partially visible, some with the yellow ochre coloured paint as seen on the studs of the outer wall. On the east and west, these are chamfered with run-out stops which stop somewhat short of the end of the building but respect a slender binding joist which extends flush with the chimney stack suggesting the presence of original cupboards in the niches flanking the stack. No further trace of these survive, however. The stack is shouldered on the west side and the brickwork is plastered and painted. An attractive, late 19<sup>th</sup> century cast-iron fire surround survives with decorative foliage, flowers, a bird and butterfly. The original grate survives, though the shelf is lost. As elsewhere the ceiling is of modern plasterboard.

#### Roof

5.25 The roof was viewed though a small hatch on the landing, though detailed examination was not possible. It is constructed mostly of oak with some replacement in softwood. As with the external framing, the timber used is waney, with many members retaining bark, though the best quality pieces were clearly reserved for the principal structural elements which are generally squared and pegged (Plate 7). The truss form includes tie-beams with queen posts and collar clasping a single side purlin in each pitch, these crudely scarfed at each bay.

Principal rafters ride over the purlin to a ridge-board at the apex, augmented at each bay division with little yoke-pieces which appear original. There are approximately eight common rafters per bay, as well as secondary intermediate bird-mouthed collars.

5.26 Measurements were taken where possible and are as follow:

Tie-beam Approximately 6" x 6"+ (152mm x 152mm+)

Queen post 2" x 4½" (51mm x 114mm)
Collar 5½" x 2" (140mm x 51mm)
Principal rafter 3" x 3" (76mm x 76mm)

Common rafter 3"-3½" x 2"-3" (76-89mm x 51-76mm)

#### 6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The buildings retains much intrinsic historic interest as an extremely late example of domestic timber-framing, perhaps constructed at the very end of the tradition, because in most respects the timber used was of fairly mean quality, but employed with great economy and efficiency. Despite its apparent flimsiness, it has endured remarkably well, and unusually avoided wholesale replacement with brick. Outside of an urban context, the quality of the framing would be far more consistent with what might be expected in an agricultural building, but given its position is more indicative of social status rather than any alternate function.
- 6.2 The layout is classically late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century; with the house organised around rooms on either side of a central through-corridor, and a rear outshut probably housing a kitchen and other service provision. Characteristics which suggest that this is a late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, rather than a 19<sup>th</sup> century building are the use of oak and the general nailed construction, hand-sawing in preference to machine-cutting and the re-use of so much older timber, which would be incongruous with any later date. Indeed the preference of timber over brick is itself indicative. After 1800 the universal availability of local bricks and the supply of cheap Baltic softwood would have allowed a better-quality house to be constructed. The first floor sash windows confirm the presence of an 18<sup>th</sup> century phase, and so Branch-Johnson's assertion of a rebuild around 1810 can be dismissed.
- 6.3 Survival of some fixtures and fittings also provide supporting diagnostic information. Those early doors which survive have strap hinges of a type which spans the period from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries but are fairly delicate and the doors themselves are thin, roughly made, and with surviving handles and latches indicates which indicate a date anchored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.4 Some features are slightly later, and can be ascribed to the 1810 refurbishment. This suggests the rebuilding of the outshut and the partitioning or redeployment of the central room at upper level, with other small scale changes visible. The south-east range is later 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and is shown as a distinct range on the early OS maps, so may have been extended to meet the main range at a later time, and a recently demolished north-east range which followed the plan of a structure visible on the tithe map.

6.5 At some point after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the house was converted to an ale house to sell Flowers' ale, most probably unlicensed, in the true spirit of the public house, where an occupant would earn a modest income on the side by turning over a single room for the consumption of beer. It is likely that this change of use precipitated the addition of the match-lined boarding throughout most of the ground floor spaces. During later refurbishment, the original ground floor layout was lost with the opening up of the rooms into a single bar space, and further modern additions have seen the introduction of fake timber elements, essentially designed to enhance the pub's rustic credentials, but these were entirely anachronistic as fashions in the 18<sup>th</sup> century did not favour exposed timber-framing.

#### 7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Historic building recording has refined the list description and allowed a more secure dating of the building. A continuing, relatively humble status meant that it was not refurbished at a time when most buildings would be replaced or remodelled, and so stands as an interesting example of the final, low ebb of the domestic timber-framing tradition, before it was abandoned altogether.

#### **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the Hertfordshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and OASIS. The project archive will be lodged with Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) is grateful to Dr Lee Prosser for visiting the site and for providing help and expertise.

AS would also like to thank Mr Geoff Smith for commissioning the project, Dr Isobel Thompson of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record and staff at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

Thanks also go to Ms Alison Tinniswood of HCC HEU for input and advice.

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**Web Resources** (accessed on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012)

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

www.old-maps.co.uk

www.estatesgazette.com

#### APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER). Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.

HER	NGR TL	Description
Bronze Age		<u> </u>
11537	2850 2620	Group of five fragmented tools, including an axe-head, found by detector in the fields bordering Walkern to the west.
Prehistoric U	Indated	
17583	2880 2623	Possible prehistoric ditch, behind 98-100 High Street. Contained prehistoric flints.
Romano-Brit	tish	
1529	288 258	An almost complete cinerary urn, and the neck and handle of a large glass decanter, found on the site of the School at Walkern in 1925.
16240	28950 26278	A large oval pit found during monitoring of groundworks and containing late Iron Age grog-tempered and early Roman sherds, fired clay, and animal bone
Anglo-Saxor	1	•
2909	2928 2657	St Mary's comprises a Grade I listed Anglo-Saxon church with 11 <sup>th</sup> century nave, early 12 <sup>th</sup> century south aisle and later additions
Medieval		
2656	291 265	Domesday Book has an entry for the manorial estate of 'Walchra' and the village of Walkern is thought to date to the medieval period
6400	2878 2620	Supposed moat at Finches End
Post-mediev	al	
4842	2895 2650	Grade II* listed dovehouse at Manor Farm dates to c. 1700
5401	2874 2579	Former malting on the High Street form part of the Victoria or Walkern brewery
5450	2874 2575	The Victoria Works comprise a former brewery of yellow brick with red brick edged buttresses and window heads
10804	2885 2622	98 High Street is a Grade II listed building dating from the early 1700s from behind which an evaluation uncovered post-medieval boundaries and an unusual foundation deposit
11163	2920 2651	Bridgefoot Farm is a 15 <sup>th</sup> century open hall house, with post-medieval farm buildings
11164	28920 26550	Manor Farm is a most-medieval farmstead with good brick farmhouse built <i>c</i> .1700 but with earlier origins
11609	2860 2600	Evaluation north and south of Moors Ley found no archaeological features, but a post-hole, small pit, and a shallow elliptical feature, all undated, were excavated in the area south of the road
13358	29077 26662	Site of College Farm, which was a post-medieval farmstead burnt down in early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, with surviving 18 <sup>th</sup> century granary.
13359	29118 26301	The pound is shown as a square walled enclosure, in the

	T	
		centre of a green which is now the wide junction of Winters Lane with Totts Lane.
13360	2881 2613	Site of 19 <sup>th</sup> century chapel, and surviving graveyard along Froghall Lane.
13361	29042 26576	Independent Chapel on the High Street dates to 1811 and is Grade II Listed.
13362	28960 26230	A 'Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan)' is marked behind the High Street, facing what is now Totts Lane.
13363	28850 25952	Site of post-medieval Finches Farm, but only the house survives.
13364	28687 25875	Rooks Nest is a 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse replacing an earlier house.
13365	29290 26505	Cambridge Cottages are shown running down the east side of the lane now called Bockings, from Church End.
13719	28955 26280	Ancient glebe land along the High Street divided into allotments in early 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
15837	28725 25843	Rooks Nest Farm was largely replaced in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and later 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries, and demolished in 2006.
16241	28920 26315	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> or early 20 <sup>th</sup> century cess pit on the High Street frontage.
17582	2886 2619	Fairview Cottage, 102 High Street. 17 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier timber-framed house. LB 159700.
17716	2889 2622	Robin Hood public house, 63 High Street, Walkern. The Robin Hood is a timber-framed house built in the late 17th or early 18th century. It is two storeys high and three bays wide, facing west onto the High Street, with central door and end chimneys. The front ground floor has canted bay windows either side of the door, with weatherboarding. At the back is an outshot, and two rear wings added later.
Undated	•	
461	2892 2642	A puddingstone quern found in a rockery outside the White Lion in 1955
11223	2853 2612	Cropmark of a curvilinear enclosure or macula to the south of Froghall Lane

# APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Fig.	Title	Source	Date	Scale
1	Site Location	OS Explorer	Modern	1:25,000
2	Detailed site location	Client	Modern	1:500
3	Dury & Andrew's Map of Hertfordshire (Maps 5 & 6)	HALS	1766	-
4	Tithe Map of Walkern	HALS	1839	-
5	Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII (1 <sup>st</sup> ed)	HALS	1884	6": 1 mile
6	Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII.9 (2 <sup>nd</sup> ed)	HALS	1898	1:1250
7	Ordnance Survey Map of Hertfordshire Sheet XIII.9 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ed)	HALS	1923	1:1250
8	Ordnance Survey Map TL 2826 – 2926	HALS	1973	1:2500

# APPENDIX 3 1839 TITHE APPORTIONMENT EXTRACT

(Refs: DSA4/108/1 & DSA4/108/2)

Plot No	Owner Occupier		Description & State of Cultivation	Val	Value			Payable to Rector		
				Α	R	Р	£.	S.	d.	
245	John Warner	Himself & other	Cottage & Orchard	0	3	28	0	6	2	
246	Revd Richard Ward	Thomas Rowlatt	Rowell's Mead (pasture)	3	1	1	0	18	8	
247	Elizabeth Kingsley	Thomas Wollard	Cottage & Garden	0	0	7	-	-	-	
248	William Spriggins	Himself	Cottages & Gardens	0	1	3	0	1	9	
249	John Fairey	Himself	Cottage & Garden	1	1	39	1	1	8	
250	George Moobury	Henry Badolph	Cottage & Garden	1	1	2	0	0	0	
251	James Bullen	James Love & another	Cottage & Garden	0	0	4	-	-	-	
252	John Pearman	William Dearman & other	Orchard	0	1	7	0	2	0	
253	John Pearman	William Dearman & other	Orchard	0	1	25	0	2	9	
254	Revd John Harding	Himself	Shrews (arable)	1	3	27	-	-	-	
255	Elizabeth Kingsley	Herself	Cottage & Garden	0	1	11	0	2	1	
256	Elizabeth Kingsley	Thomas Stockbridge	Arable field	2	1	36	1	2	1	
259	Wade John Debins	George Pearman & other	Cottage & Beer Shop	0	1	8	0	2	0	
260	John Marshall & Thomas Pearman	John Pearman	White Lion Public House	1	1	30	1	2	11	
526	Earl of Essex	Samuel Porter	Cottage & Garden	1	2	24	1	4	3	
527	John Pearman	Daniel Hoopes & others	Cottage & Garden	0	1	10	0	2	0	
528	William Holliday	Himself	Cottage & Garden	0	0	24	-	-	-	
529	William Holliday	Himself	Orchard	0	1	6	0	1	11	
530	Joseph & William Lucus	Thomas Wight	Home Close (pasture)	2	0	20	0	12	9	
531	William Lucus	Himself	Red Lion Public House	2	1	28	0	2	9	
532	George Aylott	Charles	Cottage & Garden	1	1	14	-	-	-	

		Cox & another							
533	John Stringer	James Bissett	Cottage & Garden	0	0	22	0	0	0
534	Ebenezer Andrews	James Aylott	Cottage & Orchards	0	1	31	1	3	8
535	John Rust	Himself	Meadow (pasture)	0	1	37	0	3	2
536	John Rust	Himself	House & Garden	0	0	36	0	1	6
537	James Bray	Himself	House & Garden	1	3	17	1	4	10

#### APPENDIX 4 NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST ENTRY

#### **List Entry Summary**

EHBID: 159682

TL 2826 WALKERN HIGH STREET (east side)

7/4 No 63 (The Robin Hood PH)

-

**GV II** 

House. Late CI7 or early C18. Timber frame roughcast with ground floor at front weatherboarded. Steep pitched roof of old red tiles carried down over rear outshot, but front slope now slated. A 2-storey, 3 windows wide house facing W. Central entrance and end chimneys plan. Large red brick external gable chimney at N; internal gable chimney at S. Symmetrical front with 3 flush box sash windows, moulded architraves and 6/6 panes. Ground floor has 2 large canted bay windows with wooden casements and half-glazed door in moulded surround with frieze and moulded cornice. Floor carried on cross-beams. High-set purlins in roof. One-storey rear wings not of special interest.

Listing NGR: TL2890426223

Source: English Heritage

# APPENDIX 5 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	The Robin Hood PH, 63 High Street, Walkern, Herts SG2 7NT
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Walkern	Parish: Walkern
Planning application	3/11/1319/FP & 3/11/2012/FP
reference:	
Client name/address/tel:	Geoff Smith
Nature of application:	Change of use from public house to domestic.
Present land use:	Former public house
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated:
	-
NGR (8 figures):	TL 2894 2603
Site Code:	AS1514
Site	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
director/Organisation:	
Type of work:	Historic building monitoring and recording
Date of work:	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Location of	-
finds/Curating museum:	
Related SMR Nos: -	Periods represented:
Relevant previous	-
summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	In July 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring of historic building alterations at the Robin Hood Public House, 63 High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire SG2 7NT (NGR TL 28935 26207. Technical analysis suggests that the building was constructed at the end of the 17th, or first half of the 18th century as a fairly modest domestic residence, broadly confirming the list description. It is, unusually for this period, entirely timber-framed, but in quality and form lie at the very end of the timber tradition for domestic houses. Much of the oak appears to have been reused from elsewhere, and has been redeployed with economy. In layout, the building follows the classic 18th/19th century form of general symmetry, a central corridor with rooms on either side and continuous outshut to the rear.  Historic records suggest that the house functioned as an unlicensed beer house, but in the early 20th century, this appears to have been formalised with the introduction of durable dressings like match-lined panelling to the ground floor rooms. The first licence was granted in 1953. Modern alterations, including the consolidation of the ground floor rooms are also much in evidence.
Author of summary: Tansy Collins	Date of Summary: August 2012

# APPENDIX 6 BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details								
	Public Hous	se, 63 High <b>NGR</b> : TL 28935 26027						
Street, Walkern								
County: Hertfordshire			Museum Co			a: HALS	3	
Site Code: AS1514	Project Num		913					
Date of Work:		Related Wor						
Brief/s	T _		Specificatio	n/s				
Date	Prese	nt	Date			Pres	ent	
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Yes		28 <sup>th</sup> June 20	12		Yes		
Site Records (Desc	ription)							
9 sheets A4 notes								
Site Drawings (Give		of Format	s & Size)					
1 sheet A3 drawing f								
Architect's Drawing	•							
2 sheets architects d	rawings	- annotated						
Digital Drawings								
Printouts of Drawin	gs	Printouts	of Data Digital			ital Data	l Data	
			Digital photograph:					
			and drawings on CD					
Reports								
Report No		rt Type	Present				ent	
4128	Histo	ric building	monitoring and	d recoi	rding	Yes		
Site Photographs								
Black & White Conta	ct Prints	1		Colo				
	Negs	Negs	Contacts	Film	No	Negs	Present	
No Type		Present	Present					
	1-15	Yes	Yes	1 1		1-4	Yes	
2 120mm 1-6 Yes Yes								
Photographic Loca			•	ls)				
In report and separa			e folder					
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected								
plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and								
plates printed in rep digitally on CD.	ort. Se	parate print	out of index i	nclude	ed in	archive	folder and	

# **PLATES**



Plate 1 West elevation fronting the High Street, taken from the west (DP 7)



Plate 2 View of the assessment structure after the removal of the north-east range, taken from the east (DP 13)



Plate 3 North end of Room GF01, taken from the south-east (DP 19)



Plate 4 Detail of the primary-braced timber-framing on the west wall of Room GF01 adjoining the south window, taken from the east (DP 18)



Plate 5 West end of the south-east range (Room GF02) showing staircase and match-lined boarding to the main range, taken from the east (DP 26)



Plate 6 Room FF03, taken from the north-east (DP 35)



Plate 7 View of the roof structure over the main range, taken from the south (DP 01)

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**



DP 1 View of the roof structure over the main range, taken from the south



DP 3 North end of the roof over the main range, taken from the south



DP 5
East side of the main range showing primary-braced timber-framing, taken from the south-east



DP 2 View of the roof structure over the main range, taken from the south-east



DP 4
Roof space over the outshut showing the external face of the main range, taken from the north



DP 6
Detail of the primary-braced studwork showing assembly mark (indicated), taken from the east



DP 7 West elevation fronting the High Street, taken from the west



DP 9 Detail of the doorway on the west elevation, taken from the south-west



DP 11
North elevation, taken from the north-east



DP 8
Entrance on the west side, taken from the southwest



DP 10 North elevation, taken from the north-west



DP 12 East elevation showing remaining rear range on the left, taken from the east



**DP 13** 

View of the assessment structure after the removal of the north-east range, taken from the east



**DP 15** 

East elevation of the south-east range, taken from the east



DP 17

South chimney stack in Room GF01, taken from the north



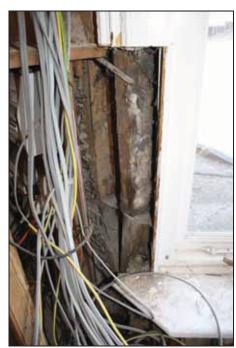
DP 14

North elevation of the south-west range, taken from the east



DP 16

South end of Room GF01, taken from the north



DP 18

Detail of the primary-braced timber-framing on the west wall of Room GF01 adjoining the south window, taken from the east



DP 19

North end of Room GF01, taken from the southeast



DP 21

Recently inserted partition in Room GF01, taken from the north



Two-light casement at the north end of the outshut, taken from the south



Fire place at the north end of Room GF01, taken from the south

DP 20



View of cupboard below staircase, taken from the north-east



DP 24

DP 22

East end of the south-east range (Room GF03) while being dry-lined, taken from the south-west



DP 25

Roof truss in the south-east range (Room GF03), taken from the south-east



DP 27

East room of the south-east range (Room GF02) while being dry-lined, taken from the west



DP 29

Boarded and ledged door in Room FF01, taken from the north-west



DP 26

West end of the south-east range (Room GF02) showing staircase and match-lined boarding to the main range, taken from the east



DP 28

Room FF01, taken from the south-east



DP 30

Strap hinge on the door in Room FF01, taken from the north



DP 31

Corridor on the east side of the building at first floor level (Room FF02a), taken from the north



Strap hinge on the door in Room FF02, taken from the west



DP 35
Room FF03, taken from the north-east



DP 32

Door in Room FF02, taken from the west



Good handle and latch on the door in Room FF02, taken from the west



Fireplace on the south side of Room FF03, taken from the north



DP 37

Window on the west side of Room FF03, taken from the south-east



DP 39

North side of Room FF03 with second doorway recently punched through for an en-suite, taken from the south-west



DP 41

Detail of the strap hinge on the door of Room FF03, taken from the south



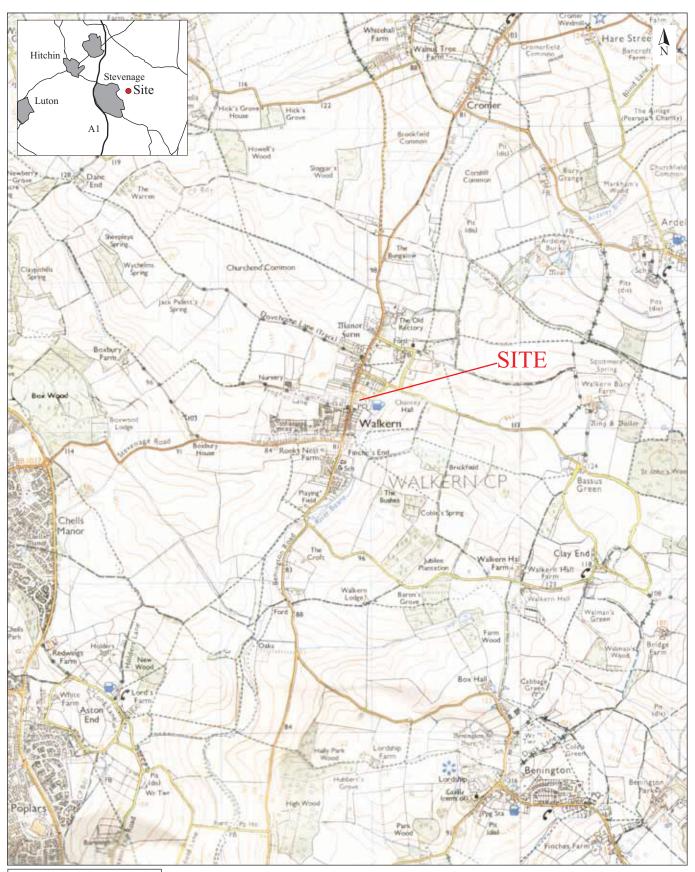
DP 38

Handle on the door in Room FF03, taken from the west



DP 40

Detail of the ceiling joisting in Room FF03, taken from the north-east

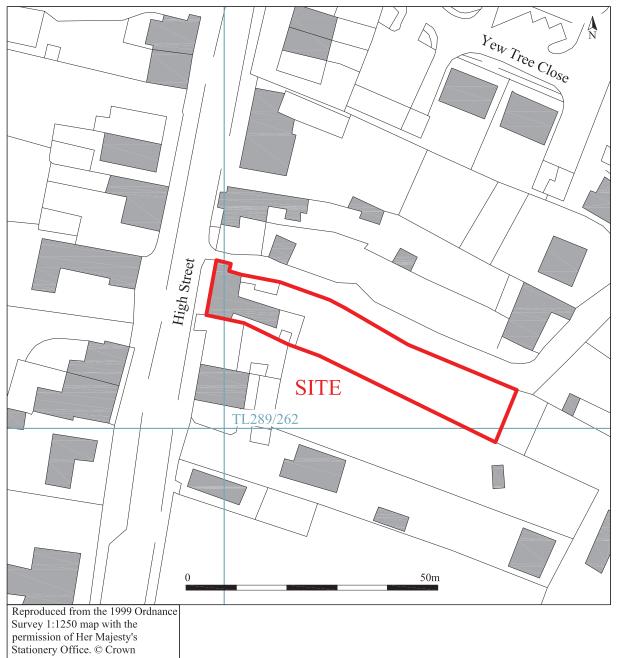


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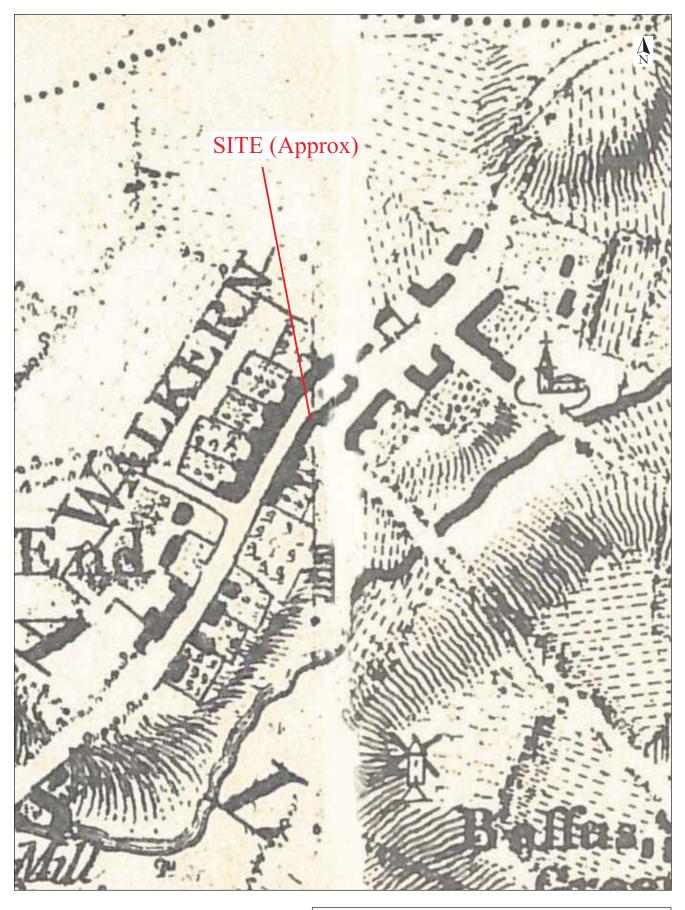
Fig. 1 Site location

Scale 1 : 25,000



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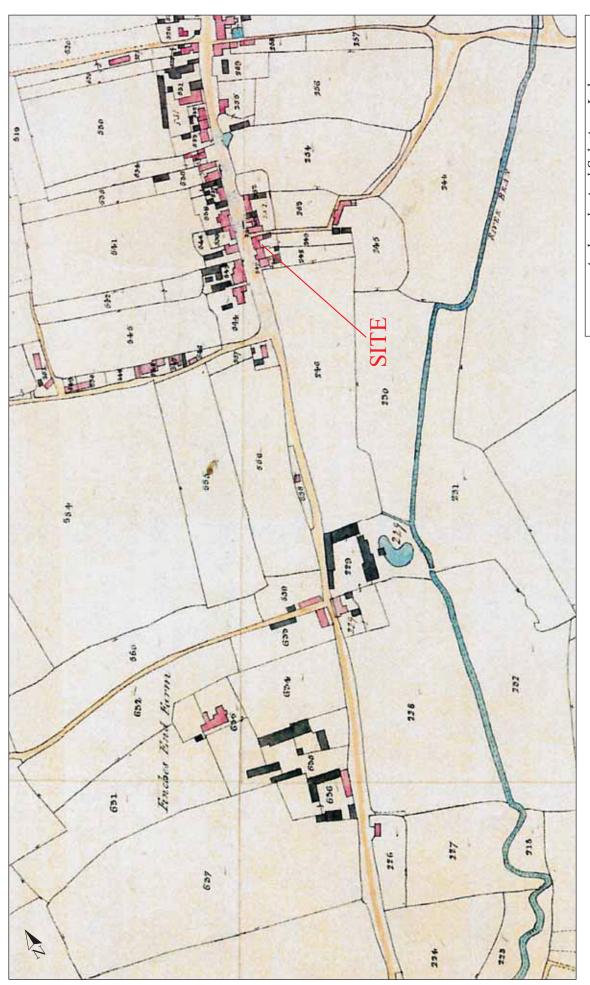
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4



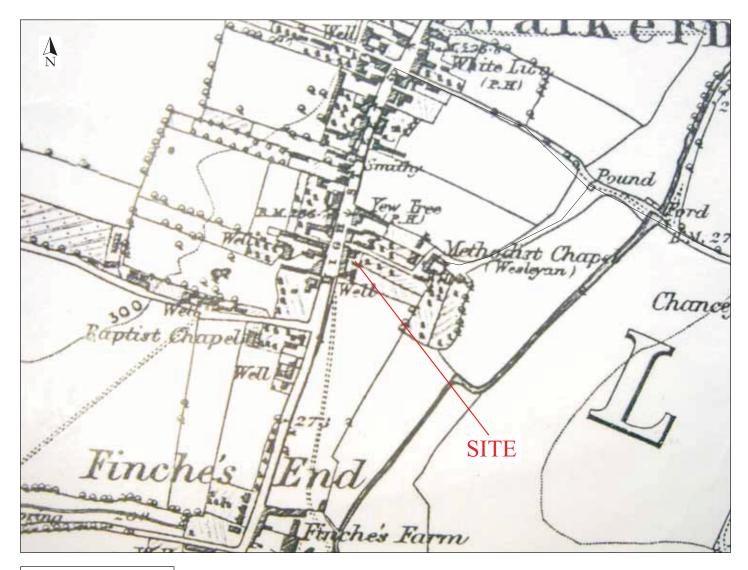
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Fig. 3 Dury & Andrews' map, 1766

Scale unknown

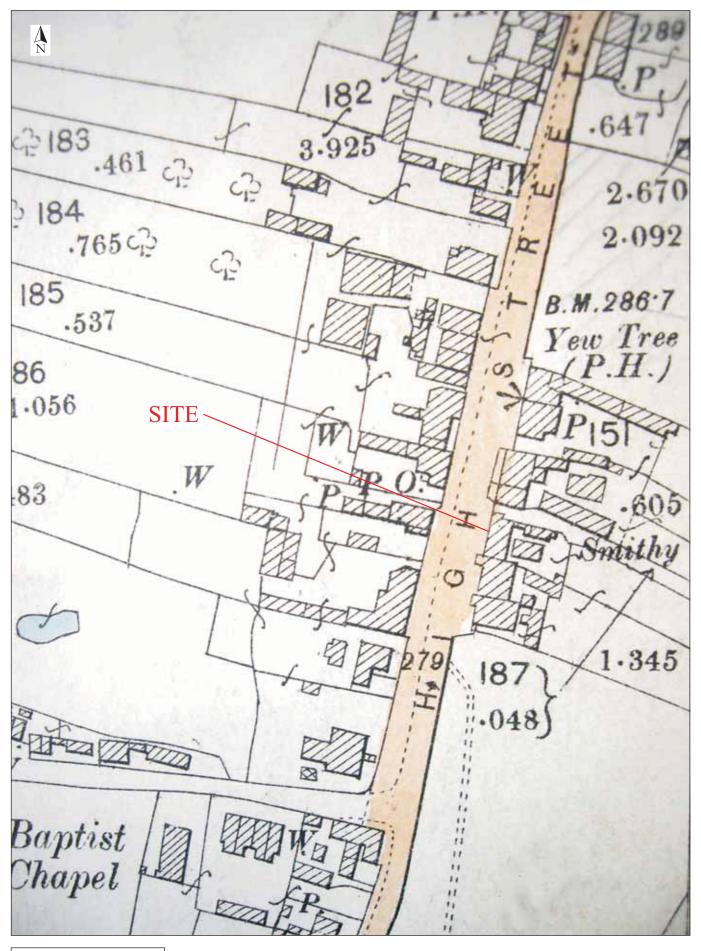


Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 4 Tithe map, 1839 Scale unknown



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Fig. 5 OS map, 1884
Not to scale: reproduced from the 6 inch to 1 mile map

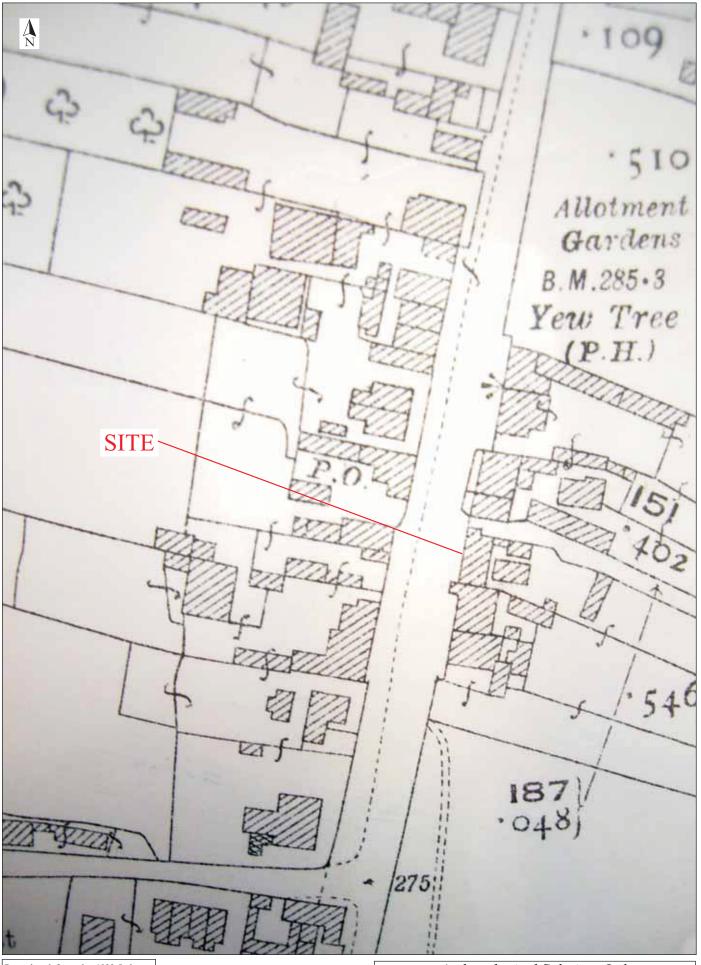


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Fig. 6 OS map, 1898

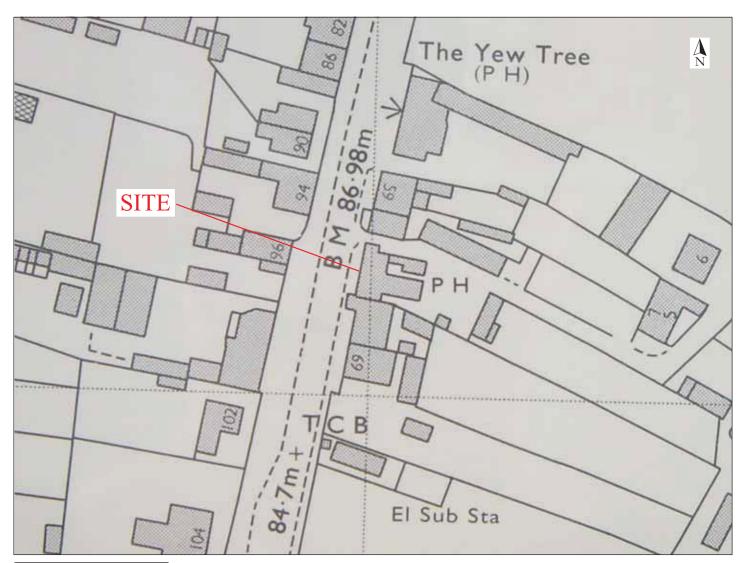
Not to scale: reproduced from the 1:1250 map



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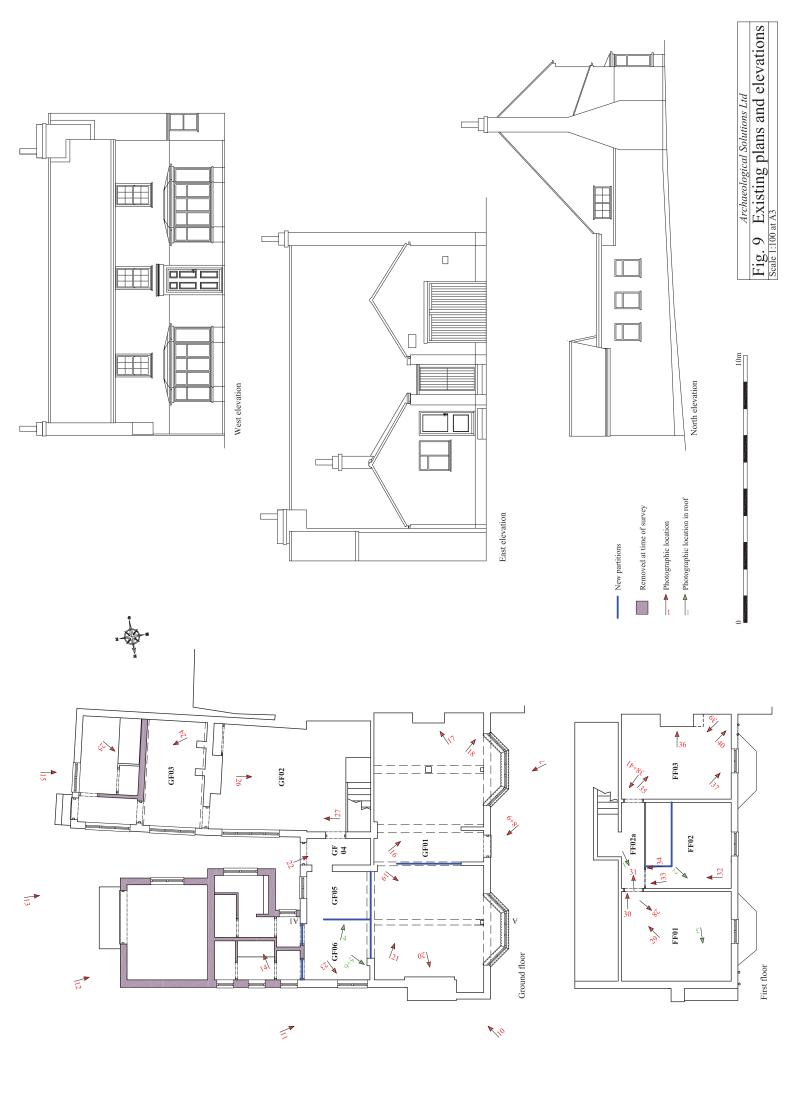
Fig. 7 OS map, 1923
Not to scale: reproduced from the 1:1250 map

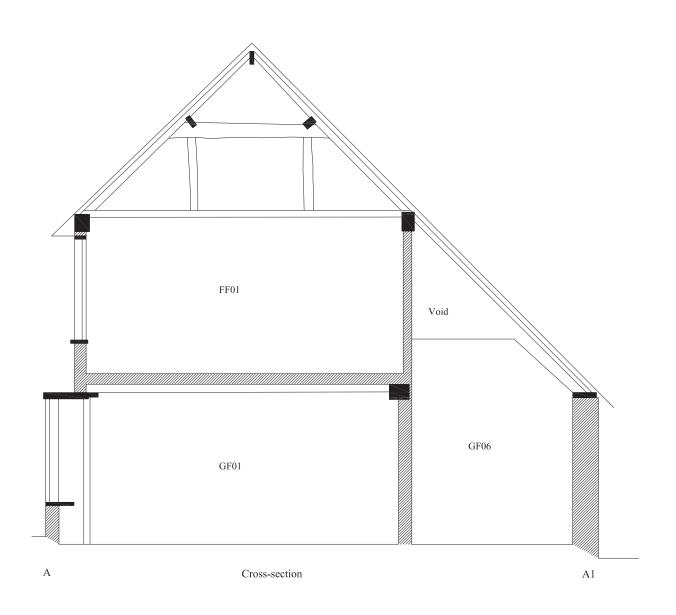


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Fig. 8 OS map, 1973
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Cross section

