

**ROOKS NEST FARM, HIGH STREET,  
WALKERN, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ROOKS NEST FARM, HIGH STREET,  
WALKERN, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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NGR: TL 2873 2582	Report No: 2180
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1008
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P2143
Signed:	Date: May 2007

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire.</i>		
Project description			
<p><i>Between July and November 2006 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the construction of a new residential development on the site of Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2873 2582, planning ref: 3/03/1371). The archaeological monitoring and recording was commissioned by Leach Homes Ltd.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located within the village of Walkern, Hertfordshire, situated about one mile east of Stevenage. It is bounded by residential developments to its north and south, and by the High Street to the east. The site lies in Area of Archaeological Significance 29, which broadly refers to the medieval settlement of Walkern. Roman exploitation of the area was also intensive.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of 17 new dwellings. Site visits were conducted to monitor these works on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Revealed on the site were former compacted chalk surfaces and associated occupation layers or former surfaces. It is likely that these features were associated with the post-medieval farm buildings which stood on the site until July 2006. The site contained extensive modern and post-medieval made ground.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P 2861</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1008</i>
Type of project	<i>Watching Brief</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of Archaeological Significance 29</i>		
Current land use	<i>Farm yard</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Former yard surface</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Post medieval</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Walkern</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 2873 2582</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>90.80m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC CAO</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Binns, A., Hallybone, C. &amp; Williamson, I.</i>		
Funded by	<i>Leach Homes Ltd.</i>		
<b>Bibliography</b>			
Full title	<i>Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Harris, P. &amp; Hallybone, C.</i>		
Report no.	<i>2180</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2007</i>		

# **ROOKS NEST FARM, HIGH STREET, WALKERN, HERTFORDSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

### ***SUMMARY***

*Between July and November 2006 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the construction of a new residential development on the site of Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2873 2582, planning ref: 3/03/1371). The archaeological monitoring and recording was commissioned by Leach Homes Ltd.*

*The site is located within the village of Walkern, Hertfordshire, situated about one mile east of Stevenage. The site lies in Area of Archaeological Significance 29, which broadly refers to the medieval settlement of Walkern. Roman exploitation was also intensive locally with remains at Church End Common, Walkern (SMR 9354), a cinerary urn (SMR 11221), 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery jar and a coin of Domitian (SMR 11706); Roman pottery and building materials (SMR 11221) and a pennanular brooch (SMR 11384) have all been identified. The site is bounded by residential developments to its north and south, and by the High Street to the east.*

*The monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of 17 new dwellings. Site visits were conducted to monitor these works on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Revealed on the site were former compacted chalk surfaces and occupation layers (Test Pit 2 L1003, L1004, L1013 & L1014). It is likely that these features are associated with the post-medieval farm buildings which stood on the site until July 2006. The site contained extensive modern and post-medieval made ground.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Between July and November 2006 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the construction of new residential developments on the site of Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2873 2582, planning ref: 3/03/1371) (Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was commissioned by Leach Homes Ltd.

1.2 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with a brief compiled by Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO, dated 23/10/03), and a specification was prepared by AS (dated 3/11/03). The monitoring and recording also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (both revised 1999), and ALGEO's *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect archaeological remains;
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- To secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the publication of the project results, if appropriate;
- To secure the conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site is located within the village of Walkern, Hertfordshire, situated about one mile east of Stevenage. The proposed development of 17 dwellings is located on a plot of land once occupied by Rooks Nest Farm. The site is bounded by residential developments to its north and south and by the High Street on its east.

2.2 Rooks Nest farm comprised tightly spaced barns, stables and chicken houses (Fig.2). The structures were demolished and the site cleared prior to the start of the monitoring of groundworks in July 2006.

2.3 The site lies at *c.* 85m AOD within the valley of the river Beane, with land rising quite rapidly to both the east and west. Walkern is located on a bed of plateau drift (clay and chalky clay), beneath the deep fine loamy clayey soils, with slowly permeable subsoils, of the Hornbeam 2 associations (SSEW 1983). Localised deposits of gravel and alluvium occur close to the river Beane.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The area surrounding Walkern is seen to have been intensively exploited in the Roman period. Remains have been found at Church End Common, Walkern, (SMR 9354), a cinerary urn (SMR 1529), 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery jar and coin of Domitian (SMR 1706). Roman pottery and building materials (SMR 11221) and a pennanular brooch (SMR 11384) have also been identified. Many of the undated cropmarks of linear ditches (SMR 2911) and enclosures (SMR 4499, 11223, 11697, 11698) may date to this period.

3.2 Walkern's Saxon wooden church was replaced by a flint church between the years 1042 and 1066 (SMR 2909). The place-name of Walkern probably derives from the Old English meaning a house for washing cloth, suggesting the presence of an early fulling mill on the river Beane.

3.3 A number of 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses, including Walkern Place, Rooks Nest and Bridgefoot Farm are known. The 17<sup>th</sup> century was a period of development for Walkern whilst retaining its rural character. Later industrial activity is attested by the erection of a maltings (SMR 5401) and a brewery (SMR 5450) in *c.* 1790.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

4.2 The monitoring encompassed groundworks associated with the excavation of service trenches, and the ground reduction and foundation trenches for the new development. Site visits were undertaken to monitor these works at various dates between 26/07/06 and 28/11/06.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### 5.1 Construction of Access Road Site Visit 7/09/06

Ground reduction work was undertaken in the southern extent of the site to enable the construction of an access road which ran the full length of the site (Fig. 3, DP 1-2). The groundworks revealed a bipartite stratigraphy as summarised in the Tables below:

Sample section: 0.00 = 50.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Made ground. Mid yellowish, greyish brown, silt clay with frequent CBM fragments <200mm.
0.50m+	L1001	Natural. Mid orange-brown firm and cohesive clay with gravel seams (clast supported, sub-round flint gravel clasts <100mm).

Sample section: western side site 0.00 = 55.30m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

A second area of topsoil was stripped at the south-eastern entrance of the site for the contractor's cabins. The stratigraphy was as shown:

Sample section: east entrance to site 0.00 = 50.70m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1012	Disturbed topsoil. Mid grey-brown, firm, silt clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel clasts <50mm, CBM fragments <150mm and modern scrap metal fragments.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

The ground reduction for the access road undertaken in the south of the site also traversed an area of undisturbed grass paddock in the north-western corner of the site revealing a stratigraphy comprising:

Sample section: 0.00 = 53.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1012.	Disturbed topsoil. As above.
0.40m+	L1001	Natural clay with a gravel seam. As above.

The ground reduction conducted during the construction of the access road revealed no archaeological features or finds.

## 5.2 Excavation of Test Pits

### Site Visit 4/10/06

Two large test pits were excavated to assess the ground for contaminants (Fig.3). Test Pit 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site and measured 5m x 3m. Test Pit 2 was located in the central area of the site within Plot 8 of the proposed development, and it measured 4m x 5m.

<i>Test pit 1</i> <i>Fig. 3, DP 4</i>		
0.00 – 0.60m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.60 – 1.30m	L1001	Natural clay with a gravel seam. As above.
1.30 – 1.80m+	L1002	Natural clay. Bluish grey firm clay.

<i>Test pit 2 Fig. 3, DP 5</i> <i>0.00 = 50.80m AOD (centre of site)</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.25 – 0.33m	L1003	Chalk surface. White compacted chalk layer.
0.33 – 0.39m	L1004	Layer. Black friable silty sand with CBM and straw.
0.39 – 0.70m	L1013	Chalk surface. Pale off white compact chalk.
0.70 – 0.90m	L1014	Layer. Black friable silty sand with CBM and straw.
0.90 – 1.80m+	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Test Pit 1 revealed no archaeological features or finds. Test Pit 2 revealed a series of possible surfaces relating to the former farm. Two compacted chalk surfaces (L1003 & L1013) with alternate layers of black silty sand (L1004 & L1014) were recorded. L1004 and L1014 contained straw and CBM and were likely occupational layers.

## 5.3 Foundation Trenches - Plots 1 -4

### Site Visit 15/11/06

The excavation of foundation trenches for House Plots 1 to 4 (Fig.3, DP6) was monitored on 15/11/06 and recorded in five representative sample sections. The stratigraphic sequence comprised a layer of modern made ground L1006, above Terram sheeting L1007, which overlay natural clay L1001. Sample Section 1, the most south-westerly section, revealed a second deposit of made ground, black sandy clay (L1005). It overlay L1006.



Sample section 1 (Fig.3 DP 7) 0.00 = 50.37m AOD (western extent of footings between plot 1 and 2)		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1005	Made ground. Dark blackish brown, firm sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal.
0.12 – 0.42m	L1006	Made ground. Light reddish orange, friable silty sand with frequent CBM and flint gravel, and moderate large flint nodules (50-200mm).
0.42 – 0.43m	L1007	Sheeting. Terram.
0.43m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 2 (Fig.3 DP 8) 0.00 = 50.40m AOD (north eastern footings for the garage of plot 2)		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1006	Made ground. As above.
0.25 – 0.26m	L1007	Sheeting. As above.
0.26m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 3: (Fig.3 DP 9) 0.00 = 50.45m AOD (northern corner of plot 2 footings)		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1006	Made ground. As above.
0.25 – 0.33m	L1007	Sheeting. As above.
0.33 – 0.39m	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 4 (Fig.3 DP 10) 0.00 = 50.60m AOD (centre of northern footings between plots 2 and 3)		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1006	Made ground. As above.
0.30 – 0.31m	L1007	Sheeting. As above.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

Sample section 5 (Fig.3 DP 11) 0.00 = 50.37m AOD (centre of footings between plot 1 and 2)		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1006	Made ground. As above.
0.40 – 0.41m	L1007	Sheeting. As above.
0.41m+	L1001	Natural. As above.

The excavation of foundation trenches for Plots 1-4 revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Plots 5 and 11 overlay an area of previous development. They were observed at the same time as the monitoring of Plots 1 – 4. No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### **5.4 Foundation Trenches – Plots 6-10 Site Visit 28/11/06**

The excavation of foundation trenches for Housing Plots 6 to 10 was monitored on 28/11/06 and recorded in nine representative sample sections (Fig. 3, DP 12).

The stratigraphic sequence uncovered within the northern sections comprised a layer of modern made ground L1006, above made ground L1005. The latter overlay a layer

of compacted chalk L1003, which in turn overlay made ground L1008. The natural clay was only reached by the mechanical excavation of the footings in the western trenches.

Sample section 6 (Fig.3 DP 13)		
0.00 = 51.15m AOD (western extent of footings for plot 8)		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.06 – 0.23m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.23 – 0.40m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.40 – 0.70m+	L1008	Made ground. Dark blackish green, firm sandy clay containing frequent brick and charcoal

Sample section 7 (Fig.3 DP 14)		
0.00 = 51.13m AOD (western end of footings between plots 7 and 8)		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.09 – 0.36m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.36 – 0.70m+	L1008	Made ground. As above.

Sample section 8 (Fig. 3 DP 15)		
0.00 = 51.10m AOD (west central area of footings between plots 7 and 8)		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.10 – 0.18m	L1009	Surface/ layer. Dark brownish black, compact tar and charcoal with frequent CBM.
0.18 – 0.38m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.38 – 0.70m+	L1015	Made ground. Mid dark greenish grey friable sand with charcoal

Sample section 9 (Fig.3 DP 16)		
0.00 = 51.10m AOD (southern end of the western extent of footings for plot 7)		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.12 – 0.31m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.31 – 0.44m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.44 – 0.73m+	L1008	Made ground. As above.

Sample section 10		
0.00 = 51.00m AOD (east central area of footings between plots 7 and 8)		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.12 – 0.22m	L1010	Surface/ layer. Compact mixture of dark black tar and charcoal, and off white compacted chalk, with frequent CBM.
0.22 – 0.81m+	L1015	Made ground. As above.

Sample section 11 (Fig.3 DP 17)		
0.00 = 50.89m AOD (eastern end of footings between plots 7 and 8)		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.24 – 0.69m	L1011	Made ground. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay, containing occasional chalk nodules and redeposited natural clay L1002.
0.69m+	L1001	Natural clay and gravel. As above.

Sample section 12 (Fig.3 DP 18)		
0.00 = 51.18m AOD (western end of footings between plots 8 and 9)		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.12 – 0.20m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.20 – 0.31m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.31 – 0.68m+	L1008	Made ground. As above.

Sample section 13 (Fig.3 DP 19)		
0.00 = 51.15m AOD (centre of footings between plots 8 and 9)		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.14 – 0.23m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.23 – 0.35m	L1008	Made ground. As above.
0.35 – 0.63m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.63 – 0.77m	L1011	Made ground. As above.

Sample section 14 (Fig. 3 DP 20)		
0.00 = 51.08m AOD (northern end of the western extent of footings for plot 7)		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
0.27 – 0.49m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.49 – 0.67m	L1003	Chalk surface. As above.
0.67 – 0.87m+	L1008	Made ground. As above.

The former chalk surface (L1003) which was visible in Test Pit 2 (Section 5.2 above) was clearly visible in this area of the site during the excavation of the foundation trenches. L1003 was a crushed and compacted chalk floor with layers and lenses of darker clay material which contained charcoal. Sometimes three or more layers or lenses of darker material were deposited between the layers of chalk surface. For the majority of this area the natural deposits were not encountered due to the depth of made ground.

## **6 RECORD OF SITE VISITS**

### **6.1 Site visit 26/07/06**

Observation of preliminary operations on the site being carried out prior to the beginning of any groundwork relevant to the monitoring of archaeological remains.

### **6.2 Site visit 07/09/06**

Observation of ground reduction for the formation level of the access roads. It revealed a simple bipartite stratigraphy comprising made/disturbed ground overlying the natural clay.

### **6.3 Site visit 04/10/06**

The groundworks monitored comprised two areas of remediation to remove contaminated ground. One was excavated on the north-eastern corner of the site in an area formerly occupied by farm buildings (Test Pit 1) and the other was near the centre of the site in an area formerly occupied by barns (Test Pit 2).

#### **6.4 Site visit 15/11/06**

The excavation of footings for Housing Plots 1 - 4 were monitored. Plots 5 and 11 were also monitored. Sample sections were recorded within five areas of the excavation (Fig. 3).

#### **6.5 Site visit 28/11/06**

The excavation of footings for House Plots 6 - 10 was monitored. Sample sections were recorded within nine areas of the excavation (Fig. 3).

### **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

### **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The deposit model varied greatly across the site and in many areas the natural clays (L1001 & L1002) were not reached by the excavation. Within the southern sector of the site and Test Pit 1, located in the north-eastern corner of the site, a bipartite stratigraphy of made ground L1000, a mid yellow/greyish brown, friable sandy silt, with frequent CBM and rubble, overlay L1001, a natural mid orange-brown firm and cohesive, clay with moderate gravel seams (clast supported, sub-round flint gravel, clasts <100mm).

8.2 In the north-western sector of the site a deposit of disturbed topsoil comprised a mid grey-brown, firm, silt clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel clasts <50mm, CBM fragments <150mm and modern scrap metal fragments, overlay the natural clay L1001.

8.3 The stratigraphic sequence uncovered during the excavation of the footings for House Plots 1 – 4 in the eastern sector of the site comprised a layer of modern light reddish orange, friable silty sand made ground, L1006, above Terram sheeting, L1007. The latter overlay the natural clay L1001. Within the most south-westerly section (Sample Section 1) a deposit of black sandy clay made ground L1005 overlay L1006.

8.4 In the centre of the site the stratigraphy comprised a layer of modern made ground L1006, above made ground L1005. The latter overlay a rammed surface of off-white chalk L1003, which in turn overlay a dark blackish green, firm sandy clay made ground L1008. Test Pit 1 situated in the centre of the site contained two chalk surfaces L1003 and L1013. Each overlay black silty sand layers L1004 and L1014.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Revealed on the site were former compacted chalk surfaces L1003 and L1013 and associated occupation layers L1004, L1009, L1010. It is likely that these features were associated with the post-medieval farm buildings which stood on the site until July 2006.

9.2 The stratigraphy of the site included post-medieval and modern layers of made ground (L1000, L1005, L1006, L1008, L1011) All finds within these contexts were post-medieval or modern in date.

## **10 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

10.1 The archive will be deposited with Hertford Museum. It will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2* and other relevant reference documents. Archive records, with an inventory, as well as any donated finds from the site, are to be deposited at Hertford Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Leach Homes Ltd for commissioning this program of archaeological monitoring and recording.

AS is also grateful for the advice and input of the Hertfordshire County Council County Archaeology Office (HCC CAO).

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Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Sheet 6: Soils of South-East England*. (Scale 1:250 000), Harpenden

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. Harpenden

## Appendix 1 Sites and Monuments Record summary sheet

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire.
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b>
<b>Village/Town:</b> Walkern	<b>Parish:</b>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	3/03/1371
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Leach Homes Ltd., Hamels Mansion, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9NF.
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Residential
<b>Present land use:</b>	Former farm land
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 2873 2582
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1008
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions
<b>Type of work:</b>	Monitoring and recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	26/07/06, 07/09/06, 04/10/06, 15/11/06, 28/11/06.
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	-
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>Between July and November 2006 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the construction of new residential developments on the site of Rooks Nest Farm, High Street, Walkern, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2873 2582, planning ref: 3/03/1371).. The archaeological monitoring was commissioned by Leach Homes Ltd.</p> <p>The site is located within the village of Walkern, Hertfordshire, situated about one mile east of Stevenage. The site lies in Area of Archaeological Significance 29, which broadly refers to the medieval settlement of Walkern. Roman exploitation was also intensive locally with remains at Church End Common, Walkern (SMR 9354), a cinerary urn (SMR 11221), 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery jar and a coin of Domitian (SMR 11706); Roman pottery and building materials (SMR 11221) and a pennanular brooch (SMR 11384) have all been identified. The site is bounded by residential developments to its north and south and by the High Street on its east.</p> <p>The monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of 17 new dwellings at the site. Site visits were conducted to monitor these works on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 4<sup>th</sup> October, 15<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Revealed on the site were former compacted chalk surfaces and associated occupation layers. It is likely that these features were associated with the post-medieval farm buildings which stood on the site until July 2006. The site contained extensive modern and post-medieval made ground.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> P. Harris	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 14/03/07

## Appendix 2 Concordance of Contexts

Fill/Layer	Description
L1000	Made ground. Mid yellow/greyish brown, friable sandy silt, with frequent CBM and rubble
L1001	Natural. Mid orange-brown firm and cohesive, clay with moderate gravel seams (clast supported, sub-round flint gravel, clasts <100mm).
L1002	Natural. Mid blue-grey, firm and cohesive, clay with occasional sub-round flint gravel clasts <100mm).
L1003	Compacted chalk surface. Pale off-white, compact, chalk.
L1004	Dark black, friable, silty sand, with occasional CBM fragments <150mm and straw.
L1005	Made ground. Dark blackish brown, firm sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal.
L1006	Made ground. Light reddish orange, friable silty sand with frequent CBM and flint gravel and moderate large flint nodules(50-200mm)
L1007	Sheeting. Terram.
L1008	Made ground. Dark blackish green, firm sandy clay containing frequent brick and charcoal.
L1009	Levelling layer. Dark brownish black, compact tar and charcoal with frequent CBM.
L1010	Levelling layer. Compact mixture of dark black tar and charcoal, and off white chalk, with frequent CBM.
L1011	Made ground. Mid brownish orange, compact sandy clay, containing occasional chalk nodules and redeposited natural clay L1002.
L1012	Disturbed topsoil. Mid grey-brown, firm, silt clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel clasts <50mm, CBM fragments <150mm and modern scrap metal fragments.
L1013	Rammed chalk surface. Pale off-white, compact, chalk.
L1014	Dark black, friable, silty sand, with occasional CBM fragments <150mm and straw.
L1015	Made ground. Mid to dark greenish grey friable sand with charcoal.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1*

*Stripped area for access road*



*DP 2*

*Stripped area for access road and site hut*



*DP 3*

*Test Pits 1 and 2 excavated 04/10/06*



*DP 4*

*Test Pit 1 excavated 04/10/06*



*DP 5*

*Test Pit 2 excavated 04/10/06*



*DP 6*

*Foundation trenches for house plots 1 - 4, facing north-east*



*DP 7*

*Sample Section 1, south-east facing section*



*DP 8*

*Sample Section 2, north facing section*



*DP 9*

*Sample Section 3, south-east facing section*



*DP 10*

*Sample Section 4, south-west facing section*



*DP 11*

*Sample Section 5, south-west facing section*



*DP 12*

*Foundation trenches for house plots 6 – 10, facing south-east showing chalk surface L1003*



*DP 13*

*Sample Section 6, east facing section*



*DP 14*

*Sample Section 7, west facing section*



*DP 15*

*Sample Section 8, south facing section*



*DP 16*

*Sample Section 9, east facing section*



*DP 17*

*Sample Section 11, south facing section*



*DP 18*

*Sample Section 12, south facing section*



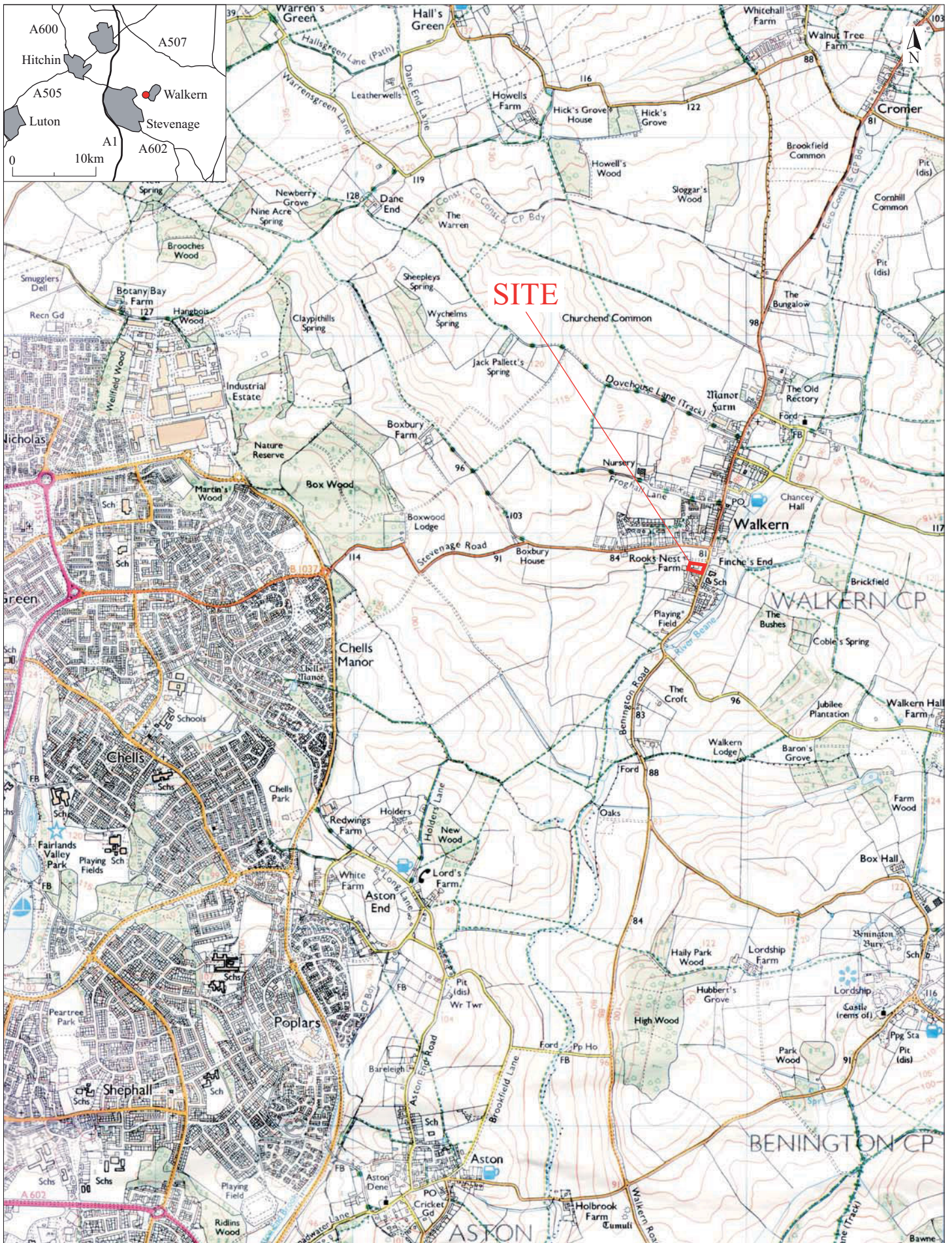
*DP 19*

*Sample Section 13, south facing section*



*DP 20*

*Sample Section 14, east facing section*



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000



- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <span style="color: green;">▣</span> Construction of access road - Ground reduction | 07/09/06 |
| <span style="color: red;">▣</span> Excavation of test pits 1 and 2                  | 04/10/06 |
| <span style="color: orange;">▣</span> Excavation of foundation trenches - plots 1-4 | 15/11/06 |
| <span style="color: blue;">▣</span> Excavation of foundation trenches - plots 6-10  | 28/11/06 |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> Sample sections                                  |          |

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**Fig. 3 Watching brief on proposed development plan**

Scale 1:400 at A4