



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

26 RUDDS LANE,

HADDENHAM, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(NGR SU 7406 0924)

On behalf of

Mrs V Gregory

February 2010

REPORT FOR Mrs V Gregory
c/o Paul Lambert Associates Ltd
49 Leighton Road
Wing
Nr Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 0NW

PREPARED BY Gwilym Williams

ILLUSTRATION BY Eoin Fitzsimons

FIELDWORK 11th February 2010

REPORT ISSUED 26th February 2010

ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

Site Code HMRL 10
JMHS Project No: 2193
Archive Location Buckinghamshire County Museum
Accession Number Awaited

CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Site Location	1
1.2 Planning Background	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	4
3 STRATEGY	4
3.1 Research Design	4
3.2 Methodology	4
4 RESULTS	6
4.1 Fieldwork Results	6
4.2 Reliability of techniques and results	6
5 FINDS	6
5.1 Finds	6
5.2 Environmental Remains	6
6 DISCUSSION	7
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
APPENDIX 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	9
FIGURES	
Figure 1 Site and Trench Location	2
Figure 2 Trench Plans and Sections	5

Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land at 26 Rudds lane, Haddenham. The evaluation revealed evidence of ridge and furrow, as well as a single undated posthole.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location (Figure 1)

The site is located in the garden of 26 Rudds Lane, Haddenham (NGR SP 7406 0924). The underlying solid geology is Purbeck Limestone close to the junction with Portland Stone formation (mainly limestone). Gravelly clay comprised the drift geology.

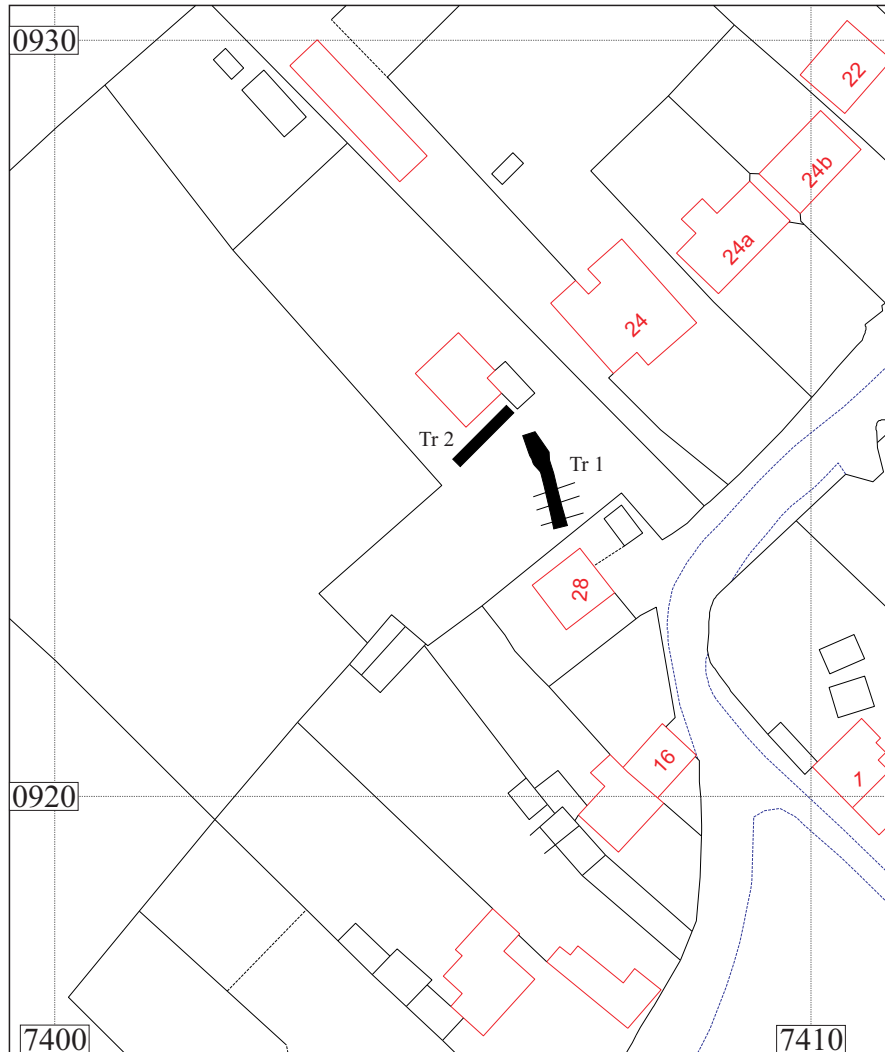
1.2 Planning Background

A planning application for the erection of one detached dwelling on land at 26 Rudds Lane, Haddenham was submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council ref. 09/01997/APP). Due to the site's potential to contain archaeological remains Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) advised that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out to determine the presence/absence of significant archaeological remains. BCAS prepared a *Brief* (BCAS 2010) for such work, in line with PPG16, recommending that the site should be investigated by trenching totalling 23m in length. A Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted and accepted which proposed a suitable methodology to satisfy the requirements of the Brief..

1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological work is considered necessary because it lies within an area of Saxon and medieval settlement. A recent study of Haddenham (Beckley and Green 2008) has been undertaken for the Buckinghamshire Historic Town Project suggesting that Townsend may have been one of a series of green-based settlements along a north-south axis between Church End and Townsend that date to the late Saxon period. Recent excavation at Townsend (No. 5) has produced evidence of 11th to 13th century activity along with some Saxon pottery evidence. The 1820 pre-enclosure parish map records a green at the junction of Rudds Lane and Churchway called 'Cyder Green' suggesting a focus of medieval settlement. The green may have once been quite large with a number of farm settlements surrounding the outer edges. Encroachment onto the green may have occurred at an early date and certainly by the post-medieval period the extent of the green was limited to a small area by Cyder House (BCAS 2010).

There are modest quantities of prehistoric flintwork recovered from the north and west of Haddenham (CAS4401, 4241). Neolithic to Bronze Age flints were found during filedwalking south of St Mary's Church, Church End (CAS4006) (Blake 1984). An Iron Age brooch fibulae (CAS2551) was recovered from a garden off the High Street. These finds indicate prehistoric activity in the area, albeit at a low density. Roman material is also scattered to the north and west again in low densities.



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449



Figure 1. Site location

The fieldwalking at Church End (CAS4006) (ibid.) revealed a number of unstratified Roman pottery sherds.

Beckley and Green (2008) have noted that, “documentary evidence indicates that the original church in Haddenham was a late Saxon Minster with a sizeable estate. However limited excavation within the grounds of the church in 2002 has so far proved little direct evidence to support the presence of an early church. Small quantities of Saxon pottery have been found at three sites in the area immediately surrounding the church indicating a possible focus of activity at Church End. A few sherds of St. Neots type ware have also been found at Church End with a single outlier at Towns End”.

An evaluation at 5 Townsend (CAS9594) revealed significant evidence of 11th to 13th century settlement activity including numerous pits and postholes along with late Saxon to post-medieval pottery (Wallis 2007). A recent evaluation immediately to the rear of 15 Townsend for an extension to the property only found two two post-medieval postholes, covered by a sequence of later garden soils.

The village is distinctive in its extensive use of Witchert in its buildings and boundary walls. The Historic Environment record records a post-medieval well at 12 Townsend (CAS1043401).

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, Haddenham was held by Earl Tostig the brother of Harold. The Domesday Book records that in 1086 it was a settlement of 40 villagers with 16 smallholders and 15 slaves in the hands of Archbishop Lanfranc. At the request of Lanfranc William II Rufus gave the manor to the Priory of Rochester. Later Bishop Ernulph (d.1194) gave the monks of Rochester the church of Haddenham.

In 1294 Edward I granted a charter for a Thursday market to Rochester Priory and a three day fair for the festival of the Assumption; however in 1301 this market was put down as it was found to prejudice the market at Thame. Haddenham remained in the possession of the Priory until the Dissolution, apart from a short time when Edward III had control early in his reign before it passed back to the priory. In May 1539, the Prior of St Andrew’s, Rochester, obtained a licence to alienate the manor to Sir Edward North. Henry VIII confirmed this, but in 1543 he obtained possession from Sir Edward North and his wife. It was then leased out from time to time by the crown until the reign of James I.

James I assigned Haddenham to Henry Prince of Wales in 1611, until his death. The rental income was then paid to Prince Charles from 1617. The town of Haddenham has suffered at least two major fires destroying 30 houses in 1701 and at least 60 in 1760.

The Jeffrey’s map of 1770 shows buildings in Towns End but not on this site that lies within a small enclosure. The 1st edition 1:2,500 OS map of 1879 shows that the site lies within an enclosure to the rear of 28 Rudds Lane and is the same on the 1899 map. By 1921 (OS 1:2,500) a small enclosure to the rear of 28 Rudds Lane has been created within the larger enclosure and the proposed development site is located within this.

The Historic Towns Report for Haddenham (Beckley & Green 2008) highlights the need for more detailed research into the possible Saxon origins of Haddenham, focussing on the small hamlets of Church End, Fort End and Townsend.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To aim to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the study area.

Specific objectives in respect of this evaluation include the requirements

- To establish the potential for Saxon and medieval remains in order to further the research agenda for Haddenham defined in the Town Report (Beckley and Green 2008).

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

In response to a *Brief* issued by BCAS a scheme of investigation was designed by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) and agreed with BCAS and the applicant. The work was carried out by JMHS on 11th February 2010.

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with the BCAS.

The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

3.2 Methodology

Two trenches of 13m and 10m length and 1.6m wide, located within the footprint of the proposed new build, were excavated by a 3-ton excavator using a flat-bladed bucket. Limited hand investigation of revealed archaeological deposits was carried out.. Excavation was taken to the top of revealed archaeological features and the top of the natural.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was produced. The trench was backfilled after recording.

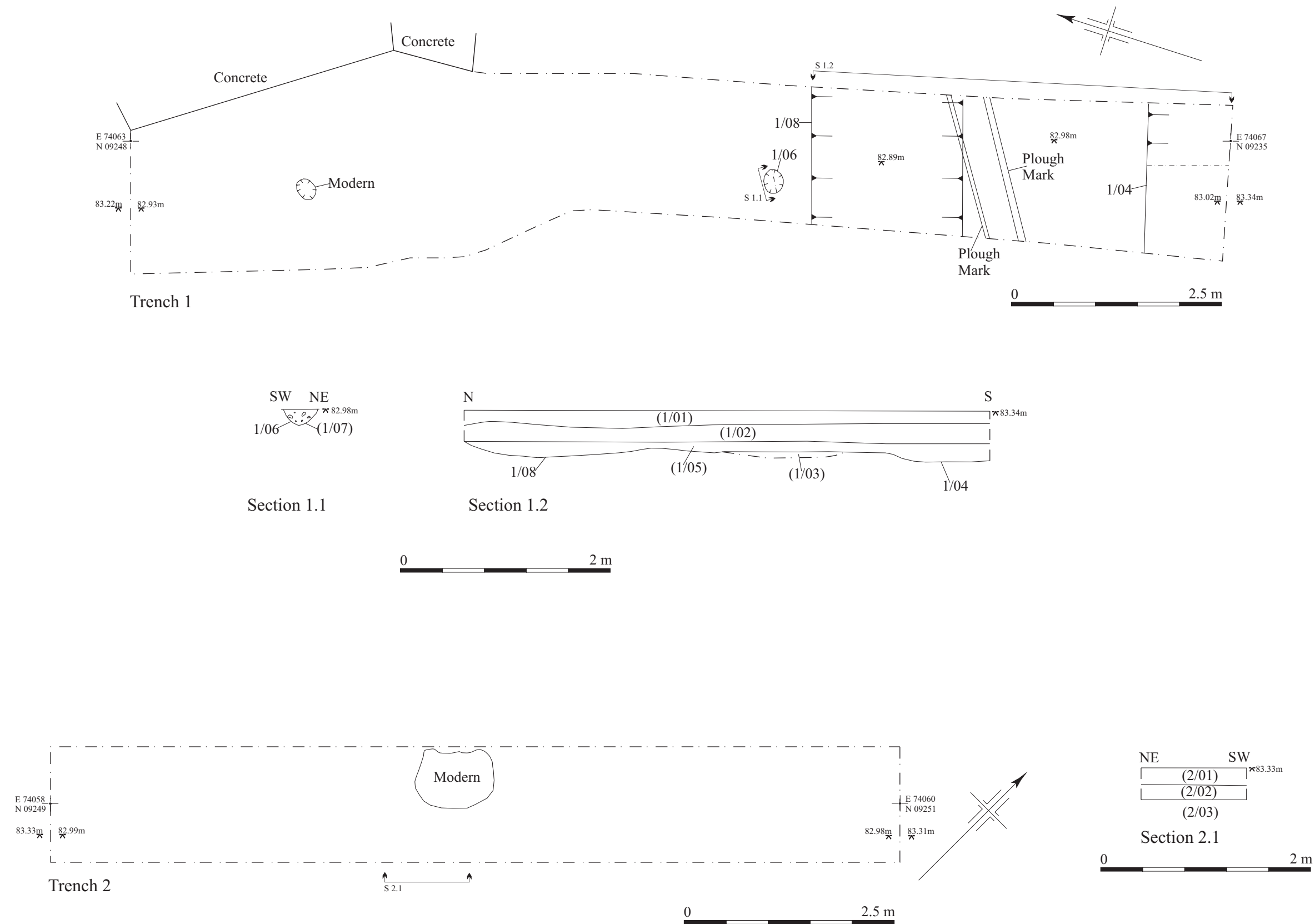


Figure 2. Trench 1 & 2 Plans and sections

4 RESULTS

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [] indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material. CBM is used to describe brick and tile where the precise type of ceramic building material was not apparent.

4.1 Fieldwork results (Fig. 2)

Trench 1 measured 13m long and was oriented north by northwest/south by southeast. The trench was excavated to the top of the gravelly clay natural (1/03), except at the south end, where machine-excitation stopped at the top of (1/05), which was part of some ridge and furrow.

Cut into the natural in the southern part of the trench was a small posthole 1/06, measuring 0.34m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It was filled with pale grey-brown clay silt with charcoal and CBM flecking (1/07). No finds were present in the posthole.

Immediately adjacent and south of the posthole 1/06 was the remains of ridge and furrow. This comprised two parallel furrows 1/08 and 1/04. Only 1/08 was fully exposed in width, measuring 1.8m wide and 0.15m deep; 1/04 extended beyond southern limits of excavation. The furrows were separated by a ridge of natural (1/03) 2.15m wide. Both furrows and the ridge were sealed by a pale grey-brown clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecking (1/05), which was between 0.08m thick over the ridge and 0.17m thick in 1/04. No finds were present in the deposit.

Both posthole and the ridge and furrow were sealed by subsoil (1/02), which was sealed in turn by topsoil (1/01).

Trench 2 measured 10m long and was oriented northeast/southwest. The trench was machined to the natural (2/03), the same as in Trench 1. The natural was sealed by subsoil (2/02). Cut through the subsoil (2/02) into the natural was a modern pit filled with mortar and brick similar to those in the house, 26 Rudds Lane. Topsoil (2/01) sealed the trench. No finds were present in the trench.

4.2 Reliability of Techniques and Results

The evaluation was carried out in good meteorological conditions. The work was monitored by Ruth Beckley for BCAS.

5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

5.1 Finds

No finds were recovered during the work except for material associated with the building of 26 Rudds Lane.

5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken, as the remains revealed were not felt to warrant sampling.

6 DISCUSSION

The evaluation at 26 Rudds Lane revealed an undated posthole and the edge of ridge and furrow. The site lies to the west of the junction of Rudds Lane and Churchway, which has been suggested to be the location of a small medieval settlement focussed on 'Cyder Green'. Work at 5 Townsend (Wallis 2007) to the west of the current site yielded evidence of 11th-13th century activity, in addition to some Saxon pottery, although the main focus for Saxon activity appears to be to the south at Church End (Beckley & Green 2008). Further, more recent, work carried out at 15 Townsend only yielded post-medieval activity (Gilbert 2009).

The site lies on the north side of Rudds Lane, overlooking fields. The ridge and furrow may well be indicative of the proximity of medieval open fields, located between the various dispersed hamlets, which make up Haddenham. The predominance of 'End' affixes to the various parts of the village indicates that Haddenham was not a nucleated settlement. Rudds Lane, which leads onto Churchway, was probably an important historic route (Beckley & Green 2008: 39) leading from Fort End to Cuddington, via the small hamlet at 'Cyder Green' to the east, where a medieval settlement is proposed to have existed (Beckley & Green 2008: 27).

Ridge and furrow has been evidenced from around Haddenham, although "it is not considered to be of national significance" (Green & Kidd 2006: 26), and that "survival of ridge and furrow within the study area is piecemeal" (*ibid*). The evaluation demonstrates that although survival of ridge and furrow as positive archaeological features is not apparent, it can survive as buried archaeology. The implication of this is that it may well have only been in use for a relatively limited period of time, before returning to fallow. The absence of CBM flecking in the ridge and furrow may well be indicative of its being medieval in origin and relatively undisturbed since abandonment.

Beckley & Green (2008: 45, Fig 31) propose that the area in the vicinity of 26 Rudds Lane, where the evaluation took place, was only developed from the 16th century. This may well be corroborated by the presence of apparently short-lived ridge and furrow at 26 Rudds Lane. In the Haddenham Historic Town Assessment Report, Beckley & Green suggest that 'Cyder Green' was potentially a large green "with a number of farm settlements surrounding the outer edges" (2008: 27). The ridge and furrow revealed at Rudds Lane may well be related to a nearby farm, which has yet to be revealed by archaeology. Contemporary encroachment in the post-medieval period onto former open fields would also have led to abandonment of arable land, as well as increased occupation in the vicinity. Evidence from 15 Townside points to such post-medieval encroachment (Gilbert 2009), which may be associated with a farmstead nearby. By the post-medieval period, the open fields, characterised by ridge and furrow, in this part of Haddenham, appear to have become fallow or orchard (Beckley & Green 2008: 8, 26), which is demonstrated as early as Jeffrey's 1770 plan of Haddenham, where the site is shown within a small close, until 1899 (OS 1: 2,500). By 1921 (OS 1:2,500) the site is within a smaller close to the rear of 28 Rudds Lane.

7 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Beckley, R., & Green, D., 2008 Haddenham Historic Towns Urban Survey Report
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/aylesbury_vale.page?

Blake, B, 1984 *Excavations carried out in the area formerly known as 'Behind the Walls' Church End, Haddenham*. Unpublished report

Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service 2010 *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation. 26 Rudds Lane, Haddenham*

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*.

Gilbert, D., 2009 *An Archaeological Evaluation Investigation at Berry Cottage, 15 Townsend, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire* John Moore Heritage Services

Green D., & Kidd S., 2006 *Haddenham Environs Study Historic Environment Assessment* Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service

IFA 1999 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.

Wallis, S., 2007 *5 Townsend, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: An Archaeological Evaluation* Thames Valley Archaeological Services

APPENDIX I

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Interpretation
Trench 1							
1/01	Layer	Loose, dark grey brown, sandy clay humus, 20% gravel	0.15	>1.6	>13	No	Topsoil
1/02	Layer	Moderate dark grey brown sandy silty clay; 8-10% gravel	<0.2	>1.6	>13	No	Subsoil
1/03	Layer	Loose, mid orange brown, sandy clay, 30% gravel	Unk.	>1.6	>13	No	Natural
1/04	Cut	Linear, gentle BoS top & base, side at c. 15° slightly concave, rounded base	0.2	>1.1	>1.6		Furrow
1/05	Layer	Pale grey brown clay silt; occ. charcoal flecking	0.08-0.2	>5	>1.6	No	Ploughsoil
1/06	Cut	Round, sharp BoS at top, gradual at base, straight sides, rounded base	0.15	0.34	0.34		Posthole
1/07	Fill	Moderate, pale, grey brown clay silt, CBM flecking, charcoal 1-2%, small stone 2-3%	0.15	0.34	0.34	No	Posthole fill
1/08	Cut	Linear, gentle BoS top & base, sides at c. 15° slightly concave, rounded base	0.1	1.8	>1.6		Furrow
Trench 2							
2/01	Layer	Loose, dark grey brown, sandy clay humus, 20% gravel	0.14	>1.6	>10	No	Topsoil
2/02	Layer	Moderate dark grey brown sandy silty clay; 8-10% gravel	0.16	>1.6	>10	No	Subsoil
2/03	Layer	Loose, mid orange brown, sandy clay, 30% gravel	Unk.	>1.6	>10	No	Natural