Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge Church Street Welwyn Hertfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2012

Client: Netherdown

OA East Report No: 1365 OASIS No: oxfordar3-125687 NGR: TL 23333 16419



Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch MIfA

With contributions by Carole Fletcher BA AlfA and Chris Faine MA MSc BABAO AlfA

Editor: Rachel Clarke BA MIfA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd MA PIfA

Report Date: May 2012



Report Number:	1365
Site Name:	Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge
HER Event No:	N/A
Date of Works:	25th April 2012
Client Name:	Netherdown
Client Ref:	14246
Planning Ref:	N6/2010/0939/FP
Grid Ref:	TL 23333 16419
Site Code:	XHTCHS 12
Finance Code:	XHTCHS 12
Receiving Body:	Mill Green Museum, Hertfordshire
Accession No:	WEWHM:2012/53
Prepared by: Position: Date:	Rob Atkins Project Officer May 2012
Checked by: Position: Date: Signed:	James Drummond-Murray Senior Project Manager May 2012

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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500 f: 01223 850599 e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Summary

On 25th April 2012 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn, Hertfordshire in advance of a small residential development (TL 23333 16419).

Three evaluation trenches totalling just over 30m in length were excavated within both plots; these revealed modern remains dating from the 19th and 20th centuries.





1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (TL 23333 16419).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by the Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) dated 13th March 2012, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East dated 21st March 2011 (Macaulay 2012). Work at 10 Wendover Lodge was carried out as part of planning application H6/2010/0939/FP whilst work at 11 Wendover Lodge took place preplanning application.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development comprises the demolition of existing buildings at Nos 10 and 11, with the construction of five new dwellings in the plot of No 10 and as yet undetermined number of houses at No 11.
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by HCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East. The evaluation paper archive will be sent to Mill Green Museum and Mill, Mill Green, Hatfield, Herts AL9 5PD. After discussion with curator, Jenny Oxley, it was decided that OA East would dispose of the modern artefacts from the site.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The development area is situated on sloping ground falling towards the River Mimram located *c*.0.5km to the south-east. This slope can be seen within the site the extreme north-eastern corner of No 11 lies at 19.45mOD, falling to 16.04mOD at its south-eastern corner. The north-western corner of No. 10 is at 20.24mOD falling to 16.51mOD at its south-western corner. The eastern half of plot No.10 has been terraced to create a fairly flat grassed area evidenced by a drop of almost one metre beyond its eastern boundary wall.
- 1.2.2 The Drift geology below the site is recorded by the British Geological Survey (1978) as being at the junction of Glacial Gravel (with Bunter Pebbles) and Boulder Clay. The Solid geology below the Drift comprises Upper Chalk. In all three evaluation trenches there was only natural Glacial Gravel uncovered presumably the clay was located on higher ground to the north of the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 This archaeological and historical background is based on Design Brief (HCC 2012), the Specification (Macaulay 2012), supplemented by a 250m radius search around the site by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The Design Brief records



that the site lies in an area of Welwyn which is recorded in the Local Plan as an Area of Archaeological Significance No. 7 (HCC 2012, section 2.1). This relates to a substantial Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and associated burial area at Welwyn as well as the later medieval settlement.

- 1.3.2 The HER records a number of known Roman archaeological sites and find spots close to the application area (Fig. 1). The course of a Roman road aligned north-east to south-west is shown on several Ordnance Survey, modern and the HER's own map as possibly running directly to the north of the site. There is a significant Iron Age/ Roman settlement *c*.0.4km to the south-west straddling this road (not illustrated; Thompson 2000, fig. 2). There is probably an extended cemetery between this settlement and the site (MHT nos 1554, 6522, 9615 and 6185). The extent of this burial ground is uncertain with the nearest known burials in relation to the site being located *c*.100m to the south-west (MHT nos 6522 (Roman mausoleum and sarcophagus) and 9615 (cemetery)). The Extensive Urban Survey for Welwyn records that this burial ground probably extends closer to the site but possibly stops *c*.100m to the south (not illustrated; Thompson 2000, fig. 2). There are Roman industrial remains including a corn-drier recorded 200m and 250m to the south-east (MHT nos 1786 and 1581) and Roman pottery 250m to the south (MHT 4964).
- 1.3.3 The proposed development site lies just over 250m to the north-east of the present 12th century medieval parish church of St Mary The Virgin. It is probable that this church site has far older origins as four Middle Saxon burials, one of which has been carbon dated (C14) to the mid 7th century (MHT 10902), have been found in its grounds. Thompson has suggested that there may have been a Middle Saxon minster church here (*ibid*, 7). A settlement would presumably have revolved around this church and the manor of Welwyn, although some of the parish population would have been scattered around all its other four manors recorded in 1086 Lockleys, Mardley, Frythe and Welches. It is uncertain in which of the manors the development site was located. Welwyn village is recorded as being valued at 1 hide and as the site is more than 250m from the church, it is possible it falls beyond Welwyn's boundaries. The only medieval remains recorded by the HER search were located *c*.240m to the south, where building materials and pottery have been found (MHT 1792).
- 1.3.4 The site is adjacent to an old road called the Great North Road which emerged in the 16th century, from using existing local roads, to provide a reasonable mail route from London to York (Thompson 2000, 10). A milestone (MHT 5068) dated 1835 lies adjacent to the west of the road less than 100m to the south-west of the site. The pre-1850 post-medieval buildings along this road only extended from the town centre as far as the former 18th century Wendover Lodge (MHT 12806), more than 150m to the south of the site. In the 19th century the site lay adjacent to the east of the Lockleys Estate with the Danesbury Estate directly to the north (not illustrated; *ibid*, fig. 7).
- 1.3.5 The 1881 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map shows the site as an area with only trees within it and was more than 100m beyond the nearest house of Welwyn. The Great North road is now called North Street in this map but was later to be renamed Church Street in the 20th century. Field boundaries are aligned perpendicular to North Street to the south and north of the site on this 1st Edition Map. The 2nd Edition (1898) and the 3rd Edition (1923) Ordnance Survey maps still show the site within this large field. The large scale sheet 95 map published in 1932 seems to show that the site was still not built on. The present houses are shown on the 1937 Ordnance Survey Map.



1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Netherdown who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the report was edited by Rachel Clarke. The project was monitored by Andy Instone, Hertfordshire County Planning Archaeologist. Isobel Thompson kindly supplied a copy of her 2000 report on Welwyn and provided a 250m HER search of sites around the site. I am grateful for specialist advice from Carole Fletcher and Chris Faine. The fieldwork was carried out by the author and Helen Stocks-Morgan. Illustrations were drawn by Stuart Ladd.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that the trial trenches should be located within the footprint of the proposed new houses and within any other areas that may be affected by their construction, or by the new introduction of services *etc.* (HCC 2012, section 3.1). Three trenches were proposed within the site (30m in all) and their location was agreed with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Unit. The location of all three trenches were moved by up to *c*.3m to avoid features within the development area a pond (Trench 1), trees *etc.* (Trench 2) and a modern wall (Trench 3).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360°-type excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. No environmental samples were taken as all features proved to be modern.
- 2.2.4 The evaluation took place during extremely wet conditions.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Trench 1

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 was located within the grass lawn on the eastern half of the plot No 10. It was 13.3m long and aligned roughly north-east to south-west on flat land at 17.43m OD (Figs. 2 and 3, Plate 1).
- 3.1.2 Ditch **3** was within the middle of the trench, aligned roughly perpendicular to Church Street, which lay *c*.20m to the north-west of the trench. The ditch was 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep with moderate to steep sides and a concave base. The lower deposit (2) comprised a 0.3m-thick, sterile mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel. The upper deposit (1) was 0.2m thick and consisted of a mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent gravel. Within the fill was a machine-made metal object, a post-medieval floor brick fragment, a sheep metatarsal and a cattle mandible.
- 3.1.3 Two metres to the north-east of ditch **3** was an oval pit or tree bowl **5**, which measured 2.4m by 1.2m in area and was 0.15m deep. It was filled with a dark brownish grey silty sand with frequent gravel (4). Modern artefacts from its fill comprised a 20th century plant pot fragment, two refined white earthenware sherds, a transfer print sherd, a late post-medieval redware sherd (AD 1800+) and a piece of Welsh slate roof tile.

3.2 Trench 2

3.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the north-east of Trench 1, near the eastern plot boundary of No 10 Wendover Lodge at c.17.3mOD (Figs. 2 and 3, Plate 2). It was 7.2m long and aligned roughly north-west to south-east. In the southern half of the trench there was a layer (6) sealing the natural gravel. The layer sloped gradually down to the south where it was 0.5m thick. It was a sterile light to mid brown sandy gravel with only a single iron nail was recovered. On the north side of the trench, the topsoil (11) was 0.3m thick sealing natural gravel whilst the topsoil was 0.44m thick at the southern side where it sealed layer 6. It is likely that the northern half of the trench has been truncated whilst the southern side was built up to achieve a relatively flat grassed back garden, which probably occurred in the 1930s when the existing house had been built.

3.3 Trench 3

- 3.3.1 Trench 3 was within the front garden of No 11 Wendover Lodge. The trench was 10.7m long and aligned roughly north-east to south-west (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Plate 3). Two modern features (8 and 10) were found, cutting the natural gravel. Water service pipe trench 8 was in the south-western half of the trench, heading to a stopcock located in the pathway, next to Church Street to the the north-west. The pipe trench was aligned north to south, it was 0.5m wide, more than 0.6m deep and was vertically sided. It was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (7) which contained three 20th century plant pot fragments and a fragment of modern machine made ceramic roof tile.
- 3.3.2 At the extreme north-eastern side of the trench was a large pit or tree bowl (**10**). It was sub-rounded with a c.2.5m diameter and was 0.2m deep. It had gradual sides and a slightly concave base and was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt with some gravel (9). Artefacts recovered include a machine-made metal object and a machine-made modern frogged brick.



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The evaluation revealed only modern features containing finds dating from 19th and 20th centuries. The earliest feature on site was a probable field boundary ditch aligned perpendicular to Church Street. The present houses at Nos 10 and 11 date to the 1930s. Terracing of the southern garden of No 10 is likely to have occurred in this period.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The evaluation did not find significant archaeological remains.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Hertfordshire County Archaeology Office.



Context	Category	Cut	Trench	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth
1	Fill	3	1	Ditch	Boundary?			
2	Fill	3	1	Ditch	Boundary?			
3	Cut	-	1	Ditch	Boundary?	-	1.8	0.5m
4	Fill	5	1	Pit or tree bole				
5	Cut	5	1	Pit or tree bole		2.4	1.2	0.15m
6	Layer	-	2	Old topsoil or subsoil?		5.5m+	1.8m+	0.5m
7	Fill	8	3	Trench	Water Service			
8	Cut	8	3	Trench	Water Service		0.5	>0.6m
9	Fill	10	3	Pit or tree bole				
10	Cut		3	Pit or tree bole		2.5	1.7+	0.2
11	Layer		1, 2 +3	Topsoil				

APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1978 *Hertford: England and Wales Sheet 239* Solid and Drift Edition

Hertfordshire County Council, 2012 *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: 10 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn* Historic Environment Unit Report dated 13th March 2012 (unpublished)

Macaulay, S., 2012 Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: 10 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn OA East report dated 21st March 2012 (unpublished)

Thompson, I., 2000 *Welwyn, Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report* Hertfordshire County Council (unpublished)



APPENDIX C. HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Nos 10 and 11 Wendover Lodge, Church Street, Welwyn, Herts	
County:Hertfordshire	District: Welwyn Hatfield
Village/Town:Welwyn	Parish:Welwyn
Planning application reference:N6/2010/	0939/FP (No. 10)+ Pre-planning (No. 11)
HER Enquiry reference:WEWHM:2012/5	3
Funding source: Developer	
Nature of application: Demolishing house houses at No 10 and as yet undetermine	
Present land use: Derelict houses	
Size of application area:2395m ²	Size of area investigated: 56.8m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 23333 1	6419
Site code (if applicable): XHTCHS 12	
Site director/Organization: Rob Atkins, O	A East
Type of work Three Evaluation trenches	
Date of work: 25/4/2012 Start:08:00	Finish: 2pm
Location of finds & site archive/Curating Mill Green Museum have agreed to OA E archive will go to the museum (WEWHM	East disposing of the artefacts; site
Related HER nos: N/A	Periods represented: Modern (after AD 1800)
Relevant previous summaries/reports N/A	
	ng just over 30m in length were the two 1930s houses and found 1800 onwards. Date of summary:May 10th 2012
Aution of Summary. NOD Autins	

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APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project D	etails						
OASIS Nun	nber	Oxfordar3-12568	37				
Project Nan	ne	Evaluation at 10	and 11 Wendov	ver Lodge, Church	Street, Welwyn	, Hertfo	ordshire
Project Date	es (field	work) Start	25-04-2012		Finish 24	1-04-20	12
Previous W	'ork (by	OA East)	No		Future Wo	ork No	0
Project Ref	erence	Codes					
Site Code	XHTCH	S12		Planning App.	No.	H6/2	010/0939/FP
HER No.	N/A			Related HER/	OASIS No.	No	
Type of Pro	ject/Teo	chniques Use	d				
Prompt	-	Direction from	n Local Plannin	g Authority - PPS 5	;		
Developmer	nt Type	Urban Resid	ential				
Please sel	lect all	techniques	used:				
Aerial Phot	ography -	interpretation	Grab-Sa	impling	[Rem	ote Operated Vehicle Survey
Aerial Phot	ography -	new	Gravity-0	Core	[× Sam	ple Trenches
Annotated	Sketch		Laser So	canning	[Surv	ey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
Augering			Measure	ed Survey	Γ	Targ	eted Trenches
Dendrochro	onological	Survey	Metal De	etectors	[Test	Pits
Documenta	ary Search	ı	Phospha	ate Survey	C	Торо	ographic Survey
Environme	ntal Samp	bling	Photogra	ammetric Survey	E	Vibro	o-core
Fieldwalkin	g		Photogra	aphic Survey	[Visu	al Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
Geophysica	al Survey		Rectified	d Photography			
List feature typ	bes using		ent Type Thesa			e MDA	A Object type Thesaurus Period
Ditch		Post Mec	ieval 1540 to 190	1 pottery,	CBM +Metal		Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
Pits		Modern 1	901 to Present	pottery	etc.		Modern 1901 to Present
		Select pe	riod				Select period
Project L	ocatio	n					
County	Hertfor	dshire		Site Ac	ldress (inclu	iding p	postcode if possible)

District	Welwyn Hatfield	10 and 11 Wendover Lodge, Church Street
Parish	Welwyn	Welwyn Hartfordshira
HER	Hertfordshire	
Study Area	2395m squared	National Grid Reference TL 23333 16419



Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Instone, Hertfordsh Planning Archaeologist
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay, OA East
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

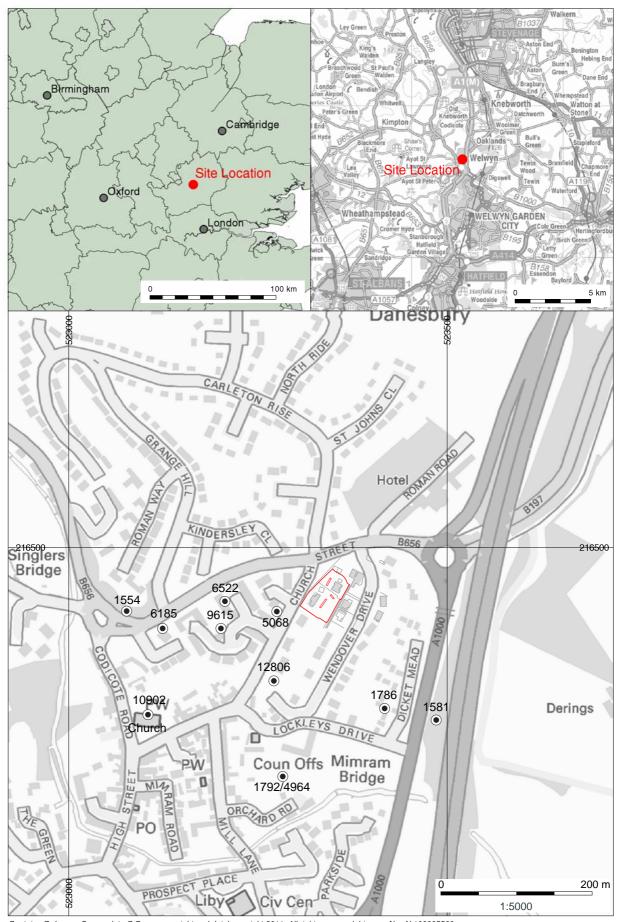
Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
-	OA East	Mill Green Museum, Hertfordshire
-	WEWHM: 2012/53	WEWHM: 2012/53

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones			
Ceramics			
Environmental			
Glass			
Human Bones			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal			
Stratigraphic			
Survey			
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic			
None			
Other			

Notes:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011. All rights reserved. License No. Al 100005569 Figure 1: Site location, development area and trenches (red) with HER data (MHT) records





Report Number 1365





Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 3

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Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House Osney Mead Oxford OX20ES

t:+44(0)1865263800 f:+44(0)1865793496 e:info@oxfordarch.co.uk w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OA North

Mill 3 MoorLane LancasterLA11GF

t: +44(0)1524541000 f: +44(0)1524848606 e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net w:http://thehumanjourney.net

OAEast

15 Trafalgar Way Bar Hill Cambridgeshire CB23 8SQ

t: +44(0)1223 850500 f: +44(0)1223 850599 e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net w:http://thehumanjourney.net



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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