

15 White Hart Lane
Godmanchester
Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2011

Client: Nutwood Ventures Limited

OA East 1260

OASIS No: oxfordar3-99740

NGR: TL 2523 7038

15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester

Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

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Report Date: May 2011

Report Number: 1260
Site Name: 15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester
HER Event No: ECB 3457
Date of Works: April 2011
Client Name: Nutwood Ventures Limited
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 1000757 FUL
Grid Ref: TL 2523 7038
Site Code: GODWHL10
Finance Code: GODWHL10
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: GODWHL10
Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Supervisor
Date: April 2010
Checked by: Aileen Connor
Position: Project Manager
Date: 16th May 2011
Signed:

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
2 Aims and Methodology.....	8
2.1 Aims.....	8
2.2 Methodology.....	8
3 Results.....	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Trench 1.....	9
3.3 Finds Summary.....	9
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	9
4.1 Discussion	9
4.2 Significance.....	9
4.3 Recommendations.....	9
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	10
Appendix B. Bibliography	10
Appendix C. OASIS Report Form	11

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map.

Fig. 2 Plan and sections.

Photos

Plate 1 Trench shot, photo taken from the north-east.

Plate 2 Photo of Section 1, showing topsoil and subsoil, taken from the north-west.

Summary

An Evaluation was carried out at 15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester on Monday 18th April by OA East, Grid ref TL 2523 7038. The evaluation consisted of one 10m long trench located within the footprint of a proposed dwelling. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features although a single worked flint object was recovered from the subsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at, 15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester at grid reference TL 2523 7038.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application XXX), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 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 CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the east of the town centre of Godmanchester, within the eastern residential spread of the modern town, at grid reference TL 2523 7038. The development area is at a height of 10.82m AOD, there is a gradual downward slope to the north, however the surrounding area is generally level. The A1198 runs 250m to the east of the site on a north-east, south-west alignment, joining with the A14, which runs 250m to the north of the site on a north-west, south-east alignment.
- 1.2.2 The development site lies on the Second Terrace Deposits (sands/silts/gravels) south-east of the Great Ouse.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The development is situated 300m to the east of the Roman town of *Durovigutum*. Extensive published material is available regarding the development of the town and the long history of archaeological work that has taken place, most notably Green (1977). The brief archaeological background here is largely from that publication along with that provided by Phillips (2007) and Hounsell (2008).
- 1.3.2 The importance of Godmanchester during the Roman period was primarily geographical as it controlled the crossing of the river Great Ouse. Roman forces moving north along the line of Ermine Street had established a legionary fort at Godmanchester within a year of the invasion of AD 43. The fort was abandoned within a few years as the frontier moved north, but an associated civilian settlement or *vicus* survived. During the Flavian period (AD 69-96) the *vicus* expanded and flourished with occupation concentrated along Ermine Street and the cross roads in the town centre.
- 1.3.3 By the Hadrianic period (AD 117-38) a *mansio* and baths were designed and built in the centre of the town, to the north of the cross-roads, on the western side of Ermine Street. These were very large and elaborate buildings reflecting, in both their design and furnishings, the progressive Romanisation of the inhabitants. *Mansiones* were originally connected to the imperial postal service, providing overnight accommodation and fresh horses. This role later expanded to include facilities for other imperial travellers and later served as both a police post and a tax collection centre. The

Godmanchester *mansio* as eventually built was one of the largest in Britain, at over 100 metres long, including stabling. Both *mansio* and baths were substantially built with masonry walls and were half-timbered above the ground floor. Floors were tessellated and walls were of painted plaster (Green 1977).

- 1.3.4 Somewhat later (shortly after c. AD 200) the town centre was redesigned and a formal basilica or town hall was built, in front of the western side of Ermine Street. Godmanchester may have achieved the formal status of *Vicus*, with a legal constitution and rights of self-government (possibly following an edict of Caracalla in AD 214 which granted Roman citizenship to all free-born members of the community).
- 1.3.5 West of the *mansio* and possibly associated with it was a small temple apparently dedicated to a god named Abandinus, not known elsewhere and so possibly a local deity.
- 1.3.6 Evidence for Saxon occupation comes largely from occasional traces of timber buildings and finds of pottery and other objects including a Saxon purse mount (CHER 9770) found at Dovehouse Close and two Saxon coins (*sceattas*) found on Roman Way (MCB16789). The finds would suggest that the earlier settlement was centred on the Roman town but later moved to the south around the south gate (Green 1977, 22-3).
- 1.3.7 A Danish Burh was established at Huntingdon, probably in the late 9th or early 10th century and retaken by Edward the Elder in 971. It is possible that Godmanchester was incorporated into Edward's defences to make a double burh (Green 1977, 27).
- 1.3.8 Elements of the road layout of Godmanchester suggest that there was a Danish settlement here (Green 1977, 28) in the area around West Street.
- 1.3.9 The medieval town expanded to the north along Post Street, and to the south along West Street, London Road and Silver Street. It prospered in the 12th and 13th centuries and reached its height in the 14th century.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like thank Chris Campbell of Nutwood Ventures Limited who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and the illustrator was Gillian Greer, with Jonathan House as the on-site staff. The project was monitored by Daniel McConnell of CCC.

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 all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Jonathan House using measurements from existing buildings and Boundaries.

- 2.2.4 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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 No environmental samples were taken from the site, as no appropriate features were identified during the investigations.
- 2.2.6 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 One trench was excavated, the results are presented and described below.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 ran north-east to south-west and measured 10m in length, the top soil measured 0.21m with 0.37m of subsoil. (Plate 2, Fig 2) A single modern feature was observed at the north-east end of the trench, probably associated with the housing estate.
- 3.2.2 Silty sand was encountered at approximately 0.60m deep, in order to test whether this was natural or may have sealed archaeological features a machine dug slot was excavated into it (Fig. 2, Plates 2). The slot was excavated to 0.4m deep and measured 1m in width, it confirmed that the silty sand deposit was natural and no features were found beneath it.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 Only two artefacts were recovered during the evaluation, both were found within the subsoil, a single fragment of cattle rib and a small worked flint.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were uncovered within the evaluation, the only archaeological evidence was in the form of a single fragment of cattle rib, and a small worked flint, no residual Roman finds were seen, suggesting Roman town, and road network lie a considerable distance from the development area and that even manuring of fields was not taking place here.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The site is of low significance, the small worked flint may be of further significance if further associated finds are recovered within the vicinity of the development area.

4.3 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.58	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	10	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey. 1975. Huntingdon. England and Wales Sheet 187 Drift Edition. 1:50,000. (Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey).

Connor, A. 2010. Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: 15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester.

Green, H.J.M., 1977. Godmanchester. Cambridge

Hounsell, D., 2008. Godmanchester Flood Alleviation Scheme Watching Brief Report. OA East Report 1049.

Phillips, T. 2007. *Roman remains at 8, New Street, Godmanchester; an archaeological evaluation*. CAMARC Report 935.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-99740		
Project Name	15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	18-04-2011	Finish	18-04-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GODWHL10	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB 3457	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Urban Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	None	Flint Implement	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambs	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Hunts	15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester, Cambs, PE29 2DR	
Parish	Godmanchester		
HER	Cambs		
Study Area	360m2	National Grid Reference	TL 2523 7038

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Stores	OA East (Bar Hill)	Cambs County Stores
GODWHL10	GODWHL10	GODWHL10

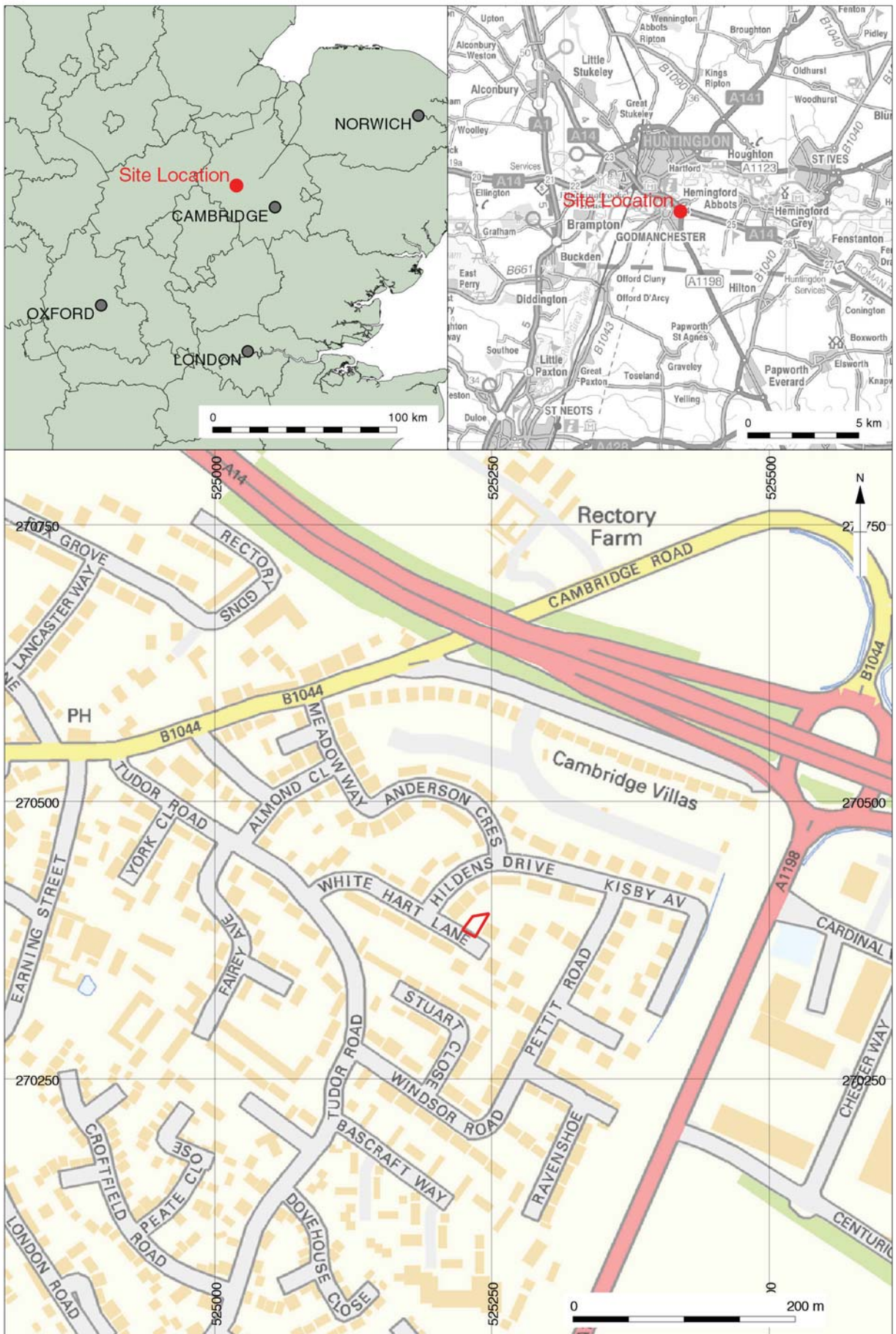
Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

An Evaluation was carried out at 15 White Hart Lane, Godmanchester, Grid ref TL 2523 7038. The evaluation consisted of one trench located within the proposed development area. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features, a single worked flint object was recovered from the subsoil.



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Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined red



Figure 2: Trench plan (section location red, development area purple) and section drawing



Plate 1: Trench shot, photo taken from the north-east



Plate 2: Photo of Section 1, showing topsoil and subsoil, taken from the north-west



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