

**1A STRINGERS LANE,
ASTON,
HERTFORDSHIRE**



PLANNING REF: 3/22/2639/FUL

OASIS ID: independ1-516245

SITECODE: SLAH23

NGR REF: TL 27527 22660

MUSEUM ACCESSION NUMBER: PENDING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of a new dwelling with associated garage at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire. IAC was commissioned by the client to undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the construction.

Trench 1 contained an undated pit while Trench 2 was empty. Trench 3 contained the remains of a modern chicken race from the 1950s. All trenches were backfilled once the documentation work had been completed.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The proposed development entailed the construction of a new dwelling with an associated garage at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire (NGR: TL 27527 22660). The site works were carried out between 23-24 May 2023. IAC was commissioned by the client to undertake the programme of archaeological works, which was linked to a planning condition for the site.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposed development site was located in the village of Aston, a village known for its many Listed Buildings. The site was therefore located within an area of high archaeological potential, as defined by Hertfordshire County Council HER. The proposed development entails the erection of a new detached dwelling with garage. The proposed development site is located in the central parts of the village and is currently undeveloped.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The site enclosed an area of some 1000m² at an average height of ca. 90m AOD. The geology of the site consisted of Lowestoft Formation-Diamicton over Lewes Nodular Chalk Formations and Seaford Chalk Formations (British Geological Survey 2023).

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Planning Permission has been granted (3/22/2639/FUL) for a new development at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire. An archaeological evaluation was therefore required prior to any construction within the site. This condition was mentioned in the planning permission for the site and was in line with standards described in the NPPF 2021.

5 AIMS

5.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- Gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
- Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
- Inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- Inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely, targeted area excavations and/or monitoring) within the ongoing programme of research;
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional, and national, archaeological context.

5.2 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M: *Research and Archaeology Revisited. A revised framework for the East of England* (2011) and the *East of England Regional Research Framework* (2021).

5.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Monuments

3.1 There were total about 50 entries in the local HER-archive for Aston prior to the evaluation. The search area consisted of the village of Aston and parts of the surrounding landscape. A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out in the area in recent years. The village of Aston has a rich cultural inheritance, with several listed buildings from the 16th, 17th and 18th century (MHT2653).

3.2 The house at Aston Park Farm (now No. 2 Stringers Lane) is a two-storey timber-framed hall and cross wing house, but the hall range dates to the 17th century while the cross wing on its east side is older (16th century). The cross wing is the parlour end; at the west end of the hall is a narrow chimney bay.

The ground floor of the hall is cased in red brick. In the early 19th century a new parallel front range was added in yellow brick, with a slate roof. This frontage is three bays wide with central front door within a gabled porch with cusped bargeboard and corner buttresses of Hitch bricks; above are two gables with similar bargeboards. Canted bay windows flank the porch, and the other windows in this frontage have cast iron frames with Gothic pointed heads. The west wing, in painted brick and set back, was added c.1900. 'Unauthorised extensions and alterations' at the house were reported in 2012. The farm buildings include an 18th century timber-framed and weatherboarded barn, with adjoining earlier stable; these are now commercial premises in separate ownership (No. 4-6 Stringers Lane). With them (but west of the house) is an early 19th century granary, a small square timber-framed and weatherboarded structure with a pyramidal slate roof and a boarded door in the middle of the east side. This appears to have been enlarged since the Listing description was written. The farm is shown on the 1881 OS map as Aston Park, near the junction in the village centre with a garden between the house and the main street. The farm buildings lined a divided yard east and south of the house; a large barn stood between the house and Stringers Lane. By 1898 the only change was the addition of small lean-to buildings on the south side of the south range; the complex was then labelled Aston Park Farm. With the division of the property in the 20th century the farm buildings were demolished apart from the south range (MHT17705).

- 3.3 No. 43-45 Benington Road is a timber-framed house on a painted brick sill, with two storeys and attic. The building is probably from the mid- to late 16th century. Upstairs is a room with painted designs on all four walls, dating to the 1600s; 'the survival of an entire room of decoration of this date is unusual' (MHT15747).
- 3.4 A 'Smithy' is marked on the later 19th century OS maps, projecting northwards into the roadway adjacent to the Boot public house. The smithy is an 18th century timber-framed and weatherboarded building, with a single-storey and L plan, with the red brickwork of the hearth visible in the front (west) wall and a short chimney above. To the south, the blacksmith's house is a two-storey building, two-cell cottage built in the early to mid 19th century, with a near-symmetrical front, gable chimneys at each end, and stairs at the rear. The property, which has a garden in front facing the road junction, is now used as offices (MHT17707).
- 3.5 The Boot Public House, New Park Lane is a 17th century timber-framed house, and has been used as a public house from at least the later 19th century. Listed as the Pig & Whistle, the pub is now in commercial use; it is shown on later 19th and earlier 20th century OS-maps as The Boot. It was built in the later 17th century as a two-storey, two-cell house, timber-framed and partly weatherboarded with single-storey parts at each end. It faces directly onto the street at the north end; on its south side is the yard, open to Benington Road. It was still a pub in the 1970s, when it was shown on the OS map as the Pig & Whistle. Lean-to extensions on the south side date to this period (MHT17708).

- 3.6 The Rose & Crown is a two-storey, three-cell, central chimney plan house facing south onto the main street. It is timber-framed on a low plinth, largely roughcast but weatherboarded at each end. Most of the house dates to the 17th century, but the east end is 16th century. Inside is a good deal of exposed heavy timber framing. At the west end is a single-storey weatherboarded stable; a red brick extension has been added at the east end and to the rear. The building was renovated by the brewery owners c.1950. The house, set back from the street, was already the Rose & Crown on later 19th century OS maps. The 1881 map shows that the stable had not yet been built; standing parallel but 10m behind the house was a large barn, 22m long, with a porch, and a well between the barn and the house. Smaller outbuildings stood at the western boundary, running back from the street. By 1898 the stable had been added at the west end of the house, and the barn much reduced to an L plan building. Since then the outbuildings on the west side of the yard have been demolished but the reduced barn survives. This is timber-framed and weatherboarded on a brick sill, and consists of a tall single bay with a lower structure against its west side, both dating to the 17th century. In the 19th century this lower part had been extended to the rear and reroofed in line with the barn (MHT17706).
- 3.7 Aston House was part of a 17th century estate and the house may also have dated from that period. Formerly called Aston Place, its history is obscure, but the house appears to have been built by Samuel Reeve, citizen and grocer of London, when he bought the estate in 1665; 'an Oldfield drawing shows a late 17C house considerably altered in the 18C. It had an unusual arrangement of chimney-stacks flanking the front entrance, apparently for corner fireplaces'. In the 18th century the house was let to tenants. In the 19th century a two-storey flat-roofed extension was added to the right of the porch and a bay window to the left. During the Second World War it was used by the Special Operations Executive as a covert research station (Station XII) for experimental weapons and other devices. Officially a Signals Development Branch of the War Office, it carried out research, development and production until 1941, when it became solely a production centre after 'R & D' was moved to Station IX, at Welwyn. After the War it 'became the base for Stevenage Development Corporation', but was demolished when the Corporation moved out (MHT10246).
- 3.8 The Church of St Mary the Virgin in Broadwater Lane has a nave and chancel from ca 1230. The west tower is late 14th or early 15th century and low-pitched timber roof and new windows late 15th century. Restoration and the north aisle was built in 1850; general restoration and the north vestry and south porch were rebuilt in 1883. The Incorporated Church Building Society archives have plans for the north aisle and vestry are dated 1851-2; until this date the church consisted only of the chancel and nave with south porch and western tower. Close inspection and recording of the east face of the tower in 2004 indicated that although there are repairs, vertical stones in the tower do not represent an earlier phase. The scar of an earlier roof line shows that the tower was built,

probably in the 15th century, against an existing nave which was then re-roofed or rebuilt; it is this 15th century roof which survives (MHT4352).

- 3.9 A site with a number of post-medieval farm buildings are located in Aston Dene. A large barn with a wagon porch, presumably timber-framed, is shown beside Dene Lane on the 1840 tithe map. This formed the west side of a farmstead with another range along the north side, and scattered smaller buildings west of a farmhouse. The 1881 OS map names this house The Rectory, and shows details of the grounds. By 1881 the farm buildings had been demolished and gardens laid out. The 1898 map renames the house Aston Dene, so it was presumably no longer the rectory. Several outbuildings NE of the house survive, as does the pond shown on the tithe map (MHT31221).
- 3.10 Iron Age pottery and animal bones were found in the school sandpit, presumably during its excavation. The original NGR for this location was imprecise, but not far south of the Victorian school in Aston End Road. This has been replaced by a new school north of School Lane, further away (MHT476).
- 3.11 A site of a former school is located in Aston Road. A 'School (Boys & Girls)' is shown here on the 1881 OS-map, facing Aston End Road and well away from the village centre. By 1898 a Parish Room had been added on the south side. These are still shown on the 1923 map but by 1970 the school had been superseded by a new school north of what is now School Lane, and the old site covered with housing (MHT13631).
- 3.12 A site of a former mill is also located in Aston. This was probable a smock mill, described in an auction notice of 23 July 1864 as a tower windmill on a brick octagonal base, c.5.4m in diameter with 3 floors, 2 pairs of stones. Now demolished, not visible at ground level. It does not appear on the 1881 OS map, although there was still a house named Millhouse, presumably where the miller lived. The property is still called Millhouse, but has been rebuilt in a different position at some time in the 20th century. The mill itself is shown on the 1840 tithe map, a circular structure within a rectangular plot west of both the miller's house and outbuildings shown on the 1881 map. These were all within a much larger rectangular plot which in 1840 was still surrounded by strip fields (MHT5981).
- 3.13 A findspot with a Roman coin has been found near Millhouse in 1938 (MHT378).

- 3.14 A roughout for a neolithic handaxe found in Aston in 1971 (MHT375).
- 3.15 Two distinct foci of cropmarks, with many associated small features, have been identified in a field north of Benington Road, which contains other known ring ditches, linear ditches and pits. The 1881 OS map depicts an 'Old Chalk Pit' beside some of these features. This pit also shows slightly as a cropmark (MHT17108).
- 3.16 Further cropmarks of a small circular single-ditched enclosure; The enclosure seems to have a diameter of approximately 12m, no entrance and no internal features. Other ring ditches are known from the immediate vicinity [2304, 2879, 2899, 2970, 4025, 4422, 4431], but often interpreted as a plough-raised barrow (MHT2501).
- 3.17 A middle Acheulian flint handaxe, a flake, and a possible broken axe has been found in Aston, but the exact findspot within Aston parish is unknown (MHT472).
- 3.18 A twelve-sided object, each side pierced with a hole of a different diameter and each edge fitted with a pair of spherical feet has been found in Aston. It is very small, only 4.4cm in diameter, and now incomplete. Made of copper alloy, in 1878 it was compared with another from near Goodrich Castle in south Wales. It came from somewhere within Aston parish; the given NGR is arbitrary, in approximately the centre of the parish. Perhaps this is a measuring gauge. The purpose of these small articles is much debated. They are Roman in date (2nd or 3rd centuries), and about a hundred examples are known, from Wales to Hungary. The greatest number come from Gallo-Roman sites, and some are made of stone, not copper alloy (MHT381).
- 3.19 Cropmarks of a linear ditch and others, possibly making up an enclosure, are known from the west side of the river Beane at Benington Road (MHT17107).
- 3.20 Another ring ditch is known as a cropmark from a small circular single-ditched enclosure with a diameter of approximately 11m. The feature appears to have no entrance and no visible internal features (MHT4432). Two other ring ditches are known nearby [4433, 4483].

- 3.21 Another ring ditch is known as a cropmark from a small circular single-ditched enclosure with a diameter of approximately 11m. The feature appears to have no entrance and no visible internal features (MHT4433). Two other ring ditches are known nearby [4432, 4483].

Events

- 3.22 An assessment of the east face of the tower of St Mary's Church in Aston in January 2004 in advance of restoration works (EHT1294).
- 3.23 A number of air photos were taken of the ring ditches in the fields outside Aston in 1969 (EHT2103), (EHT2104), (EHT2105) and (EHT2106). Further air photos of the ring ditches were taken in 1976 (EHT1859), (EHT2531) (EHT2533) and (EHT2534), and finally in 1995 (EHT2774).
- 3.24 An evaluation trench was opened up in the garden of Aston Park Farm, 2 Stringers Lane in February 2017, but revealed no archaeological finds, features or deposits. Topsoil overlay a thin layer of mortar and clay, above clayey silt subsoil and gravelly sand natural (EHT8269).

7 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trial Trenching

It was suggested that three 10m long and 2m wide machine cut trenches would be excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 30m, totalling 60m², or ca 6% of the ca 1000m² large development area (Appendix 2). The suggested trench locations provided a representative sample coverage.

The location of the trenches were slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance.

The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, cleaning and hand-excavation was required to sample any features exposed. The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets and was minimally intrusive to archaeological remains.

5.2 Metal Detecting

Thorough metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.

5.3 Hand Excavation

All man-made features were investigated. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their origins and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling was sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Descreet exposed features were subject to a minimum of 50% excavation. At least 15% (or a percentage sufficient to achieve information on the character, function and dating) of linear features were hand excavated. Particular attention were given to terminals and intersections, to ascertain stratigraphic and physical relationships.

Structural remains (stake holes, post holes and gullies, as well as masonry foundations or low masonry walls and associated features) were handcleaned and documented in plan/phase, as appropriate to the requirements of the evaluation. The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. Judgement regarding the removal of structural remains (*in situ* wood or masonry), or other special remains or deposits, were led by this consideration, and was made in consultation with the Archaeological Officer from Hertfordshire County Council.

5.4 Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

The site was located in an area of high archaeological potential and had, as such, good conditions for the preservation of faunal/plant remains and/or waterlogged timber in deeper deposits. For this reason viable bulk samples to characterise soil profiles, as well as plant remains/charred plant remains, molluscs, small faunal remains and pollen sequences, were collected from a representative selection of suitable deposits in accordance with the evaluation aims.

Special care was taken to understand the stratigraphy of the site: Where the investigated deposits created in dry or wet conditions, and what can this, in that case, tell us about the development and history of the site? Buried soils and deposits were carefully studied in order to understand the processes behind their creations.

All samples were extracted and recorded in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practise of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and in consultation with the appointed specialist and English Heritage. The appointed Plant Remains and Environmental Samples Expert Val Fryer was also available to assist throughout the project.

5.5 Recording

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced to show all exposed features (including natural features, modern features, etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and sections in the scales 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 were produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied in to trench plans/trench location plans that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads, etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and high-resolution digital photos formed part of the excavation record. Also blank trenches were photographically recorded. A selection of digital photos was used in this report (a maximum of two photos per A4 sheet). The photographic record followed agreed CIfA standards.

8 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 8.1 Trench 1 was 10m long and 2m wide and had a north-south orientation (Plate 1). The Natural consisted of yellow-orange, compact gravel with frequent flint in the northern part of the trench, and white-grey, plastic clay in the southern half. The two pits [104] and [106] were seen cutting into the natural deposits in the central parts of the trench.
- 8.2 Pit [104] was oval in shape, 0.52m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.08m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base. The pit contained the single fill (103) of dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and animal bones (Plate 2).
- 8.3 Pit [106] was oval in shape, 0.48m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.04m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base. The pit contained the single fill (105) of dark brown, soft silty clay. Pit [106] seemed to be younger than pit [104] as it was cutting this pit in the north (Plate 2).
- 8.4 Sealing the two pits [104] and [106] was the up to 0.45m thick subsoil (102) of light brown, soft silty clay. The uppermost deposit in Trench 1 consisted of up to 0.35m thick topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay (101).

Trench 2

- 8.5 Trench 2 was 10m long and 2m wide and had an east-west orientation (Plate 2). The Natural consisted of white-grey, plastic clay. No archaeological features were seen cutting into the natural deposits (Plate 3).

- 8.6 Overlying the Natural was the up to 0.50m thick subsoil (202) of light brown, soft silty clay. The uppermost deposit in Trench 2 consisted of up to 0.45m thick topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay (201).

Trench 3

- 8.7 Trench 3 was 10m long and 2m wide and had an east-west orientation (Plate 3). The Natural consisted of yellow-orange, compact gravel with frequent flint. No archaeological features were seen cutting into the natural deposits (Plate 4).
- 8.8 In the central parts of the trench, however, were the remains of a chicken race (303) and (304) from the 1950s. The remains consisted of a 0.08m thick concrete floor, which was limited on the west side by a 0.15m thick brick wall. The chicken race continued into the northern and southern sections of Trench 3 (Plate 5).
- 8.9 Overlying the remains of the chicken race was the up to 0.10m thick subsoil (302) of light brown, soft silty clay. The uppermost deposit in Trench 3 consisted of up to 0.20m thick topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay (301).

9 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Animal Bones (By Tania Kausmally)

- 9.1 This report documents the animal bones recovered from the single fill (103) in pit [104] in the village of Aston in Hertfordshire. It is understood that no dating evidence was found in any of the three evaluation trenches.
- 9.2 Three fragments of animal bones were recovered and identified according to Schmid (1972). The preservation level of the bones was excellent with minimal evidence of weathering. No cut marks were noted on any of the fragments.
- 9.3 One left mandible was from a sheep with adult dentition P3-M3 present. The wear level according to Grant (1982) was significant at level h-l. The O'Connor (2003) ageing chart suggested this was a mature animal at the time of death.
- 9.4 Two fragments of ribs were also uncovered, both of medium mammal size. A fully fused head was present on one rib while slight lipping was present on the superior portion of the tubercle. This may suggest that this bone, like the mandible, came from a more mature individual.
- 9.5 In conclusion there is evidence of a single mature adult sheep in the pit fill. Due to the very limited number of skeletal elements presents, as well as the lack of dating evidence and further analysis of the site, it was not possible to place the assemblage into a wider context.

Statement of potential

- 9.6 The small size of the assemblage limits the interpretation of the site and does not allow for any reliable comparison with other sites in the region and is therefore of minimal value. Due to the lack of dating evidence, it is not recommended that these bones be archived in the event of further excavations in the area.

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Environmental Samples (By Val Fryer)

- 9.7 An evaluation at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire, undertaken by Independent Archaeology Consultants, recorded two pits of unknown date in Trench 1. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the pit fills, with a total of one being submitted for assessment.
- 9.8 The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover, with the flots being collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve. The flot was air dried prior to scanning under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16. All plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1 below, with nomenclature following Stace (2010) for the plant remains, and Kerney and Cameron (1979) and Macan (1977) for the mollusc shells.
- 9.9 The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

- 9.10 The de-watered assemblage from pit [104] is of note, as it appears to indicate that the feature was once situated within a damp, rough grassland habitat,

areas of which may have used either as pasture or for the disposal of human/animal ordure. Both the plant macrofossils and the limited mollusc assemblage also suggest that the pit was at least occasionally wet, with muddy margins and possible small pools of standing, stagnant water.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

- 9.11 In summary, although the assemblage from the undated pit at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire contained abundant evidence about the nature of the local habitat, indicators for specific on-site activities are extremely sparse. It is assumed that the charred remains within the pit are derived from midden waste, although there is little or nothing to suggest that the feature was being used for the primary deposition of refuse. Instead, it would appear that the material was scattered and/or wind dispersed across a wide area prior to accidental incorporation within the feature fill. Rough grassland conditions appear to have been locally prevalent, although there is some suggestion (in the comparatively low density of tree/shrub macrofossils) that this environment may have seen some degree of management. The pit appears at some point to have been water-filled, with marginal wetland plants colonising the muddy edges of the feature.
- 9.12 Although the assemblage do contain sufficient material for quantification (i.e., 100+ specimens), analysis would probably add very little to the data already contained within this assessment. Therefore, no further work is recommended at this stage. However, a summary of this report should be included within any publication of data from the site.

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Key to Tables

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare w = waterlogged/de-watered tf =
testa fragment b = burnt LF = lower fill

Table 1

Sample No.	1
Context No.	(103)
Feature No.	[104]
Feature type	Pit Fill
Cereals	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x
Wetland/aquatic plants	
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> L.	x
<i>Apium</i> sp.	
Tree/shrub macrofossils	
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	x
Other plant macrofossils	
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx
Charcoal >5mm	xx
Charcoal >10mm	x
Indet. Seeds	
Other remains	
Black porous material	
Bone	x xb
Marine mollusc shell	
Mineralised concretions	x
Small coal frags.	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x
Sample volume (litres)	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

10 DISCUSSION

- 10.1 The Archaeological Evaluation at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire revealed two intercutting pits in Trench 1. The two pits could not be more closely dated, but an environmental sample, containing plant remains, was collected from one of the pit fills. The same fill also contained occasional animal bones.
- 10.2 In Trench 3 the remains of a modern chicken race from the 1950s were uncovered. The chicken race had been built by a relative of the client some 70 years ago.
- 10.3 The results of the archaeological evaluation, therefore, cannot be regarded as being of any greater archaeological importance.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 11.1 Independent Archaeology Consultants would like to thank the client, the site staff, as well as Alison Tinniswood and Daniel Phillips at Hertfordshire County Council, for their kind cooperation during the various stages of this project.

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13 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

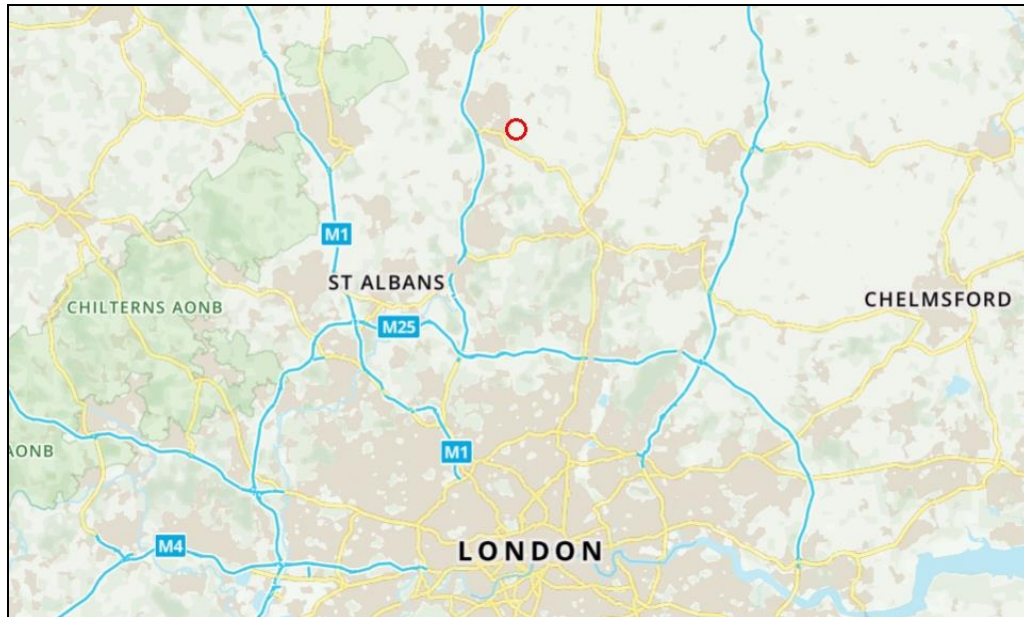
The project report

The primary site records

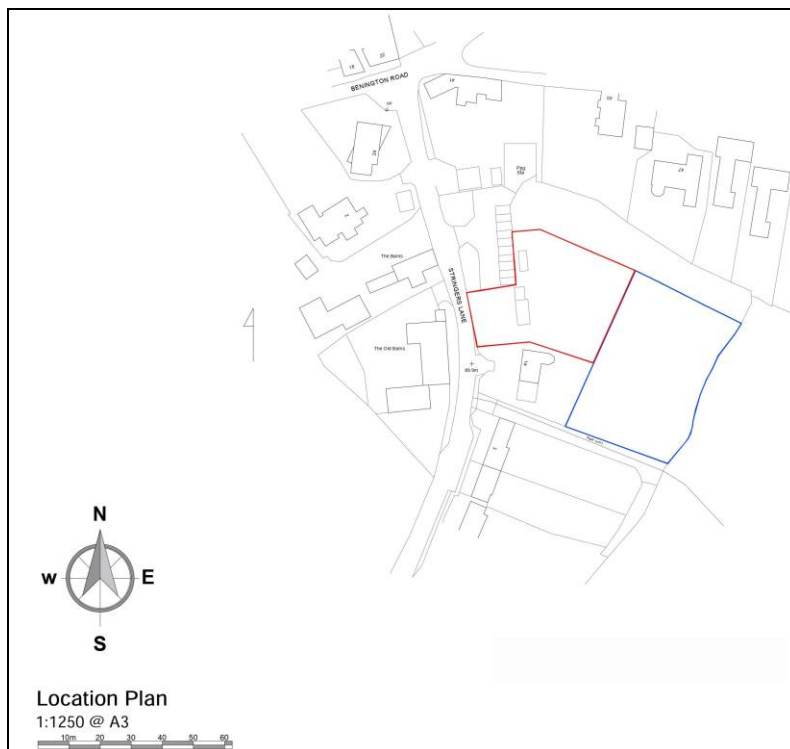
Finds

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants, but will be deposited at Stevenage Museum.

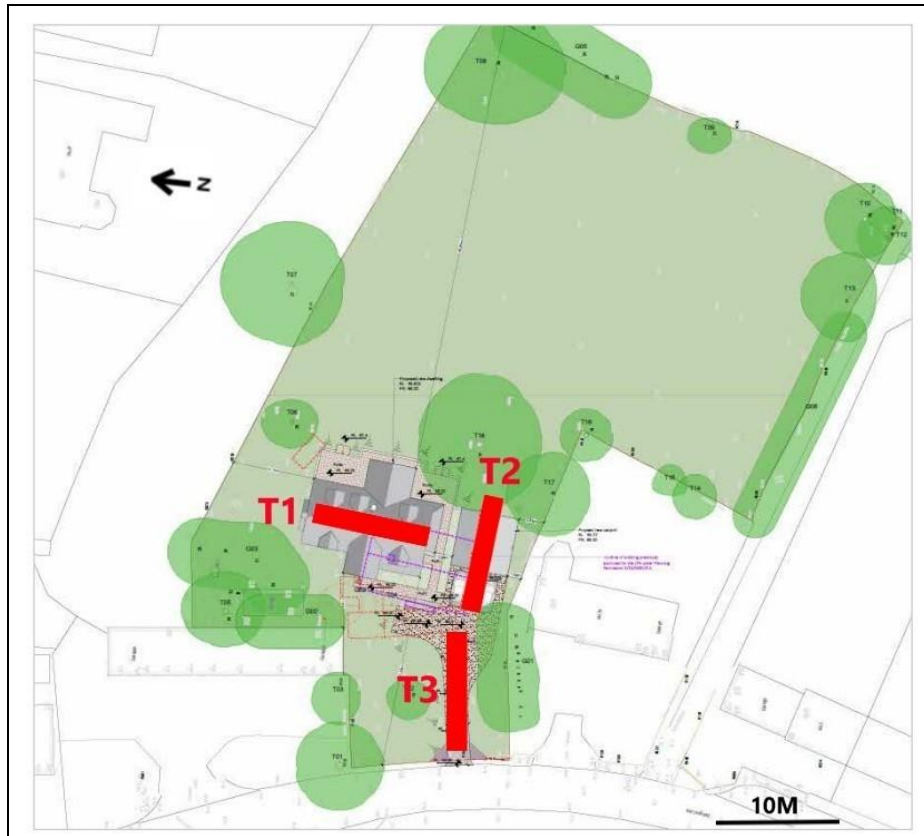
APPENDIX 1. FIGURES



Site Location in England



Site Location in Aston



Trench Locations within the site

APPENDIX 2. COLOUR PLATES



Photo 1: Overview of Trench 1 from south.



Photo 2: Pits [104] and [106] in Trench 1. Photo from east.



Photo 3: Overview of Trench 2 from west.



Photo 4: Overview of Trench 3 from east.



Photo 5: The remains of the chicken race in Trench 3. Photo from south.

APPENDIX 3. OASIS FORM

OASIS ID (UID): independ1-516245

Project Name: Evaluation at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire

Sitename: 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire

Activity type: Evaluation

Project Identifier(s): 1A Stringers Lane, Aston. Hertfordshire

Planning Id: 3/22/2639/FUL

Reason For Investigation: Planning requirement

Organisation responsible for work: Independent Archaeology Consultants

Project Dates: 23-May-2023 - 24-May-2023

NGR: TL 27527 22660

LL: 51.887917926112, -0.148383048258846

12 Fig : 527527,222660

Administrative Areas Country: England

County: Hertfordshire

District: East Hertfordshire

Parish: Aston

Project Methodology: A three trench evaluation at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire. Trench 1 contained two pits of uncertain age.

Project Results: A three trench evaluation at 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire. Two intercutting pits of uncertain age were uncovered in Trench 1.

HER Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD

APPENDIX 4. HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 1A Stringers Lane, Aston, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Stevenage	
Village/Town: Aston	Parish: Aston	
Planning application reference: 3/22/2639/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Nature of application: A new dwelling with associated garage.		
Present land use: Open previously undeveloped land		
Size of application area: 1000m2	Size of area investigated: 60m2	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 27527 22660		
Site code (if applicable): SLAH23		
Contractor: Independent Archaeology Consultants		
Type of work: Archaeological trench evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 23/05/2023	Finish: 24/05/2023
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Stevenage Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Uncertain	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Summary of fieldwork results: Two pits of uncertain date were uncovered in Trench 1.		
Author of summary: Christer Carlsson	Date of summary: 03/06/2023	

APPENDIX 5. CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
Trench 1 (10m x 2m)				
(101)	0.45	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay	(102)	-
(102)	0.35	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.08	Fill of pit [104]. Dark brown, soft silty clay with occasional charcoal and animal bones	[104]	(102)
[104]	0.08	Cut of pit [104]	Natural	(103)
(105)	0.04	Fill of pit [106]. Dark brown, soft silty clay	[106]	(102)
[106]	0.04	Cut of pit [106]	Natural	(105)
Natural	-	White-grey, plastic clay and yellow-orange compact gravel	-	[104] [106]
Trench 2 (10m x 2m)				
(201)	0.48	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay	(202)	-
(202)	0.50	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay	Natural	(201)
Natural	-	White-grey, plastic clay	-	(202)
Trench 3 (10m x 2m)				
(301)	0.20	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay	(302)	-
(302)	0.10	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay	(303) (304)	(301)
(303)	0.15	Brick wall in chicken race	Natural	(302)
(304)	0.08	Concrete floor in chicken race	Natural	(302)
Natural	-	Yellow-orange compact gravel	-	(303) (304)

APPENDIX 6. PLANS AND SECTIONS

