



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

10 Rotten Row

Riseley

Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

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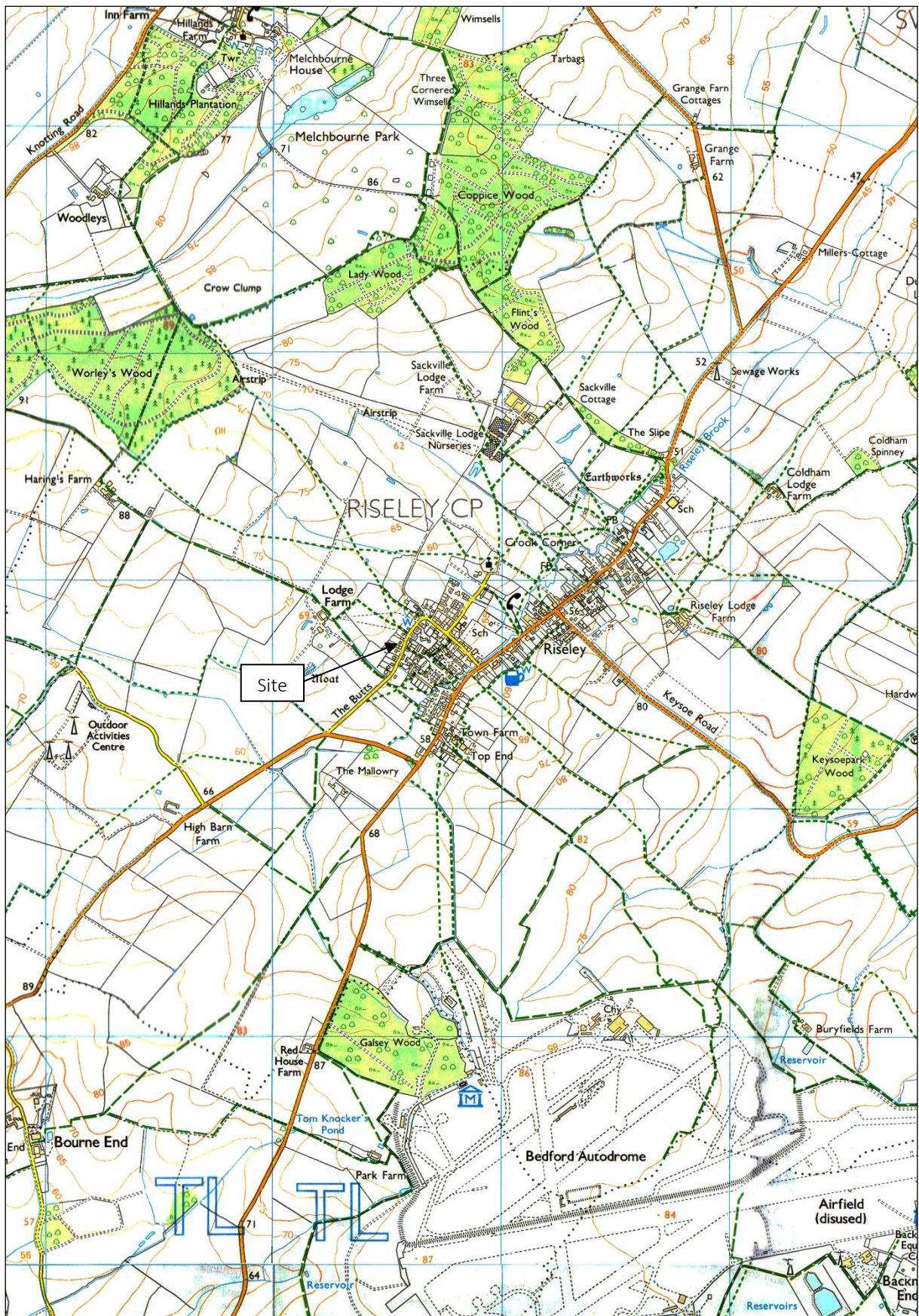


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25000)





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## Summary

In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire as Condition 4 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site. Two site visits were made to monitor ground reduction to the north-west of the existing dwelling. An area totalling 31m<sup>2</sup> was monitored, with the ground being reduced by 0.4m, fully exposing the natural geology. The general stratigraphy of the site comprised 0.3m topsoil overlying the natural grey clay. After stripping the area, only one, non-archaeological feature was uncovered; a rectangular soakaway 1m wide, continuing into the baulk to the north-west.

No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were discovered during this project, which may have been due to the high level of disturbance in the area close to the extant building. Alternatively, it may have been because the site was small and fell between what may be widely dispersed features, or that the development area is located beyond that which has been historically occupied.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Day, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay-Jones 2015), and approved by Geoff Saunders, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Bedford Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 14/01755/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 4 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location & Description*

The site is located on the west side of the town of Riseley, which lies in the civil parish of Riseley, and in the administrative district of Bedford Borough. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 03586 62767 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the north-east and south-west by the neighbouring properties, to the east by the road, and to the west by the garden of the property, and fields behind (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height of approximately 61mAOD.

#### *Geology & Topography*

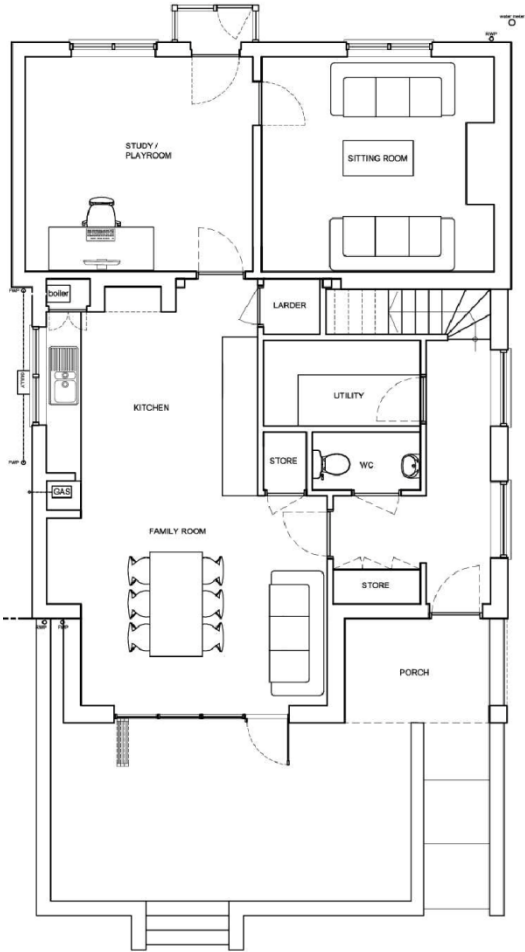
The geology for the site consists of superficial deposits from the Oadby Member, overlying a sedimentary bedrock from the Blisworth Limestone Formation (British Geological Society 2015).

#### *Development*

The proposal was for the demolition of the existing extension, and the construction of a new two-storey rear and side extension, along with the construction of a new front porch and the conversion of the existing garage into an annexe (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site location (scale 1:1250)



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

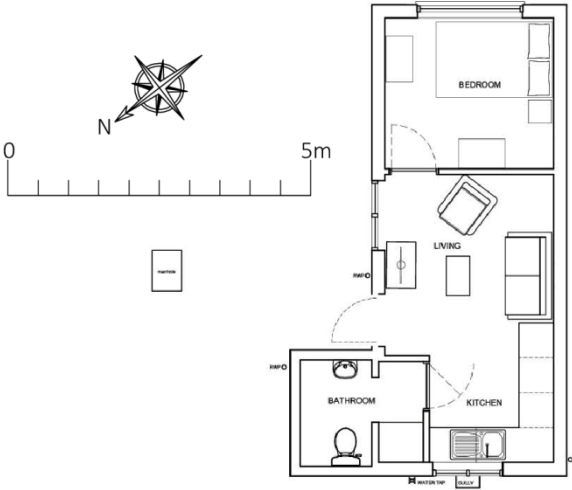


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:125)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Barclay-Jones 2015) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area,
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape, and
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

In addition, the research aims were to consider the aspects of development of the Riseley medieval settlement, and prehistoric archaeology relating to known cropmark sites, their origins, morphology, diversity and ultimate success or failure (Wade 2000: 24-25; Oake 2007: 14; Medlycott 2011: 70).

### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the brief, the methods used were as follows:

- Any groundworks or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)

### 2.4 *Constraints*

Due to a miscommunication, the footings for the south-western side of the extension were not monitored. An area directly adjacent to these footings was monitored, and the section immediately to the south-west was also examined, with no archaeology observed.





### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The settlement of Riseley has Saxon roots with a strong background of prehistoric activity in the form of enclosure cropmarks and also flint work finds. The High Street lies within a Conservation Area that encompasses the historic core of the medieval settlement. The name of the village means 'brushwood clearing', from the Old English *hris* + *leah* (Mills 1991: 273).

This section has been compiled with information from Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (with a 1km search radius - BBHER 009 (2015 - 16)), KDK's own library, and reliable online sources.

#### *Prehistoric - Roman (before 600BC - c.AD450)*

Prehistoric activity is known at Lodge Farm and Dag's Lane to the northwest of Riseley, and to the south in the form of cropmarks which attest to large multi-period settlements with small rectilinear and larger enclosures (MBD 12644, 12647, 14061, 16617, 14014 & 16619). Undated parallel linear cropmarks are also present to the south-west of the village (MBD 12646, 16528 & 16574). Undated circular earthworks at Riseley Lodge Farm may also be prehistoric (MBD 12671). Mesolithic to Neolithic flint work has also been recovered from the parish (MBB 21269 – 75, 21341, 21349 – 50 & 21519 - 21), although much of it was discovered during field-walking, so is unstratified and out of context. The Mesolithic period has also produced a collection of 9 flint blades (MBB 21284), and a microlith (MBB 21341) within the parish.

There is no evidence for Iron Age or Roman activity within the search area.

#### *Saxon (c.450 - 1066)*

The evidence from the Domesday Survey of 1086 suggests that Riseley may have originated as a 10 hide estate in the Anglo-Saxon period. At the time of the Norman Conquest it had already been subdivided into 6 land holdings, of which the largest was a 6 hide estate held by Burgred and 6 of his sokemen (Williams & Martin 2002: 564). Amongst the remaining estates, a 1 hide landholding was a berewick or outlier of the Manor of Keysoe and half a hide was held by Wulfnoth the priest (*ibid*: 571 & 573).

A possible later Saxon or early medieval pit, which lay below ridge and furrow earthworks, is known from the western fringes of Riseley (HER 12659).

#### *Medieval (1066 - 1500)*

The Norman conquest saw the loss of the freedoms held by the numerous sokemen in the area. The Bishop of Coutenance was awarded the largest manor with the Bishop of Lincoln, Hugh de Beauchamp and Osbern FitzRichard amongst the other new landholders in the vill (Williams & Martin 2002: 564, 565, 571, 573, 581 & 583).

One of the most significant features in Riseley is a scheduled moated site (HER 347, SM 1008733) together with associated trackways, fishponds and other earthworks. The north-western arm of the moat forms two parallel fishponds separated by a bank. A third smaller pond is linked to the south-west end of the inner pond. A rectangular enclosure is located to the south-east. A sunken trackway runs from the south-west corner of the moat towards the river, where it divides into three. Pottery dating to from c.900 to the 12<sup>th</sup> century has been recovered from an area south of the moated site at the north-eastern end of High Street (EBD 540). A second moated site, now largely ploughed out (HER 348), is known at Lodge Farm to the west of the village.



The medieval core of Riseley is within the north-west part of the modern village, in the central section of High Street (HER 17089). The present Grade I listed church (HER 1167) dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and probably replaces a Saxon church.

The village was surrounded by infields and outfields, with evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks scattered around the southern side of the village (HER 4475). A windmill once stood south of Town Farm (HER 16616), and The Butts on the north-west side mark the area just outside the village where archery practice would have taken place.

In 2014, Access Cambridge Archaeology excavated a series of nine test pits in gardens around Riseley, which produced large quantities of ceramics that may be indicative of nearby production activity (EBB 927).

#### *Post-medieval (1500-1900)*

Several post-medieval/16<sup>th</sup> century buildings are to be found on the High Street, which lies to the north-east of the development area; including the Old Mill Cottage at Number 82 (HER 4200). The High Street was either mainly developed or redeveloped during the 17<sup>th</sup> century; it is still extensively fronted on both sides by buildings from this period which are now Grade II listed, and the whole of the High Street forms part of the Conservation Area. Further development of the frontage occurred during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries together with new properties also found on Gold Street.

In the wider environs of the village, small bridges were also built to traverse the stream that runs along the northern side of High Street. The village had Moravian, Wesleyan Methodist and Baptist Chapels (MBD 4182, 1312186 and 12618, respectively) (Page 1912); the Methodist chapel is one of the many listed buildings on the High Street, although the Baptist Chapel has since been demolished, as has the 19<sup>th</sup> century workhouse (MBD 12623) and Toll House (MBD 12621).

There are also several Grade II listed buildings on Rotten Row – numbers 2, 8, 15 and 14 - 16 (MBD 1312142, 1321257, 1137787 and 1114860, respectively) - all dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several buildings on Church Lane (to the north-east of the site) and Gold Street, to the east are also dated from this time. Lodge Farm on Rotten Row (MBD 4233) is a 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, which is known to have had prehistoric activity in its vicinity. Just south of Rotten Row, there are earthworks dating from medieval to Victorian times, probably relating to quarrying in the area (MBD 3574). Two post-medieval copper-alloy jettons (MBB 21515 & 21516) have been found in the parish.

#### *Modern (1900 - present)*

There have been housing developments around the edges of the village which have encroached upon former fields; however there is nothing of note for the modern period within the immediate area around the site.

### 3.1 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

#### *Prehistoric - Medieval (before 600BC - 1500)*

There is no cartographic or archaeological evidence pertaining to these time periods specific to this site.

#### *Post-medieval - Modern (1500 - present)*

From 1884, the house at Number 10 was already depicted on the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps as being extant, and was combined with that of the neighbouring property to the south-west. A small building is shown to the north-north-west of the existing dwelling, with a public



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footpath running alongside the north-east extent of the property. By 1901 an additional small building was added to further to the north-north-west, and up until 1984, Number 10 was still illustrated as being a part of the property to the south-west.



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## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

Two site visits were made during the Observation and Recording of this site to monitor ground reduction to the north-west of the existing dwelling. An area totalling 31m<sup>2</sup> was monitored, with the ground being reduced by 0.4m, fully exposing the natural geology (Fig. 4, Plates 1 & 2). All excavation was completed by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The footings of the extension were excavated within the reduced area, however due to a miscommunication, the footings for the south-western side of the extension were excavated before the ground reduction, without supervision. The area directly surrounding these footings was monitored during the subsequent strip, in addition to the examination of the section directly to the south-west (Plate 3).

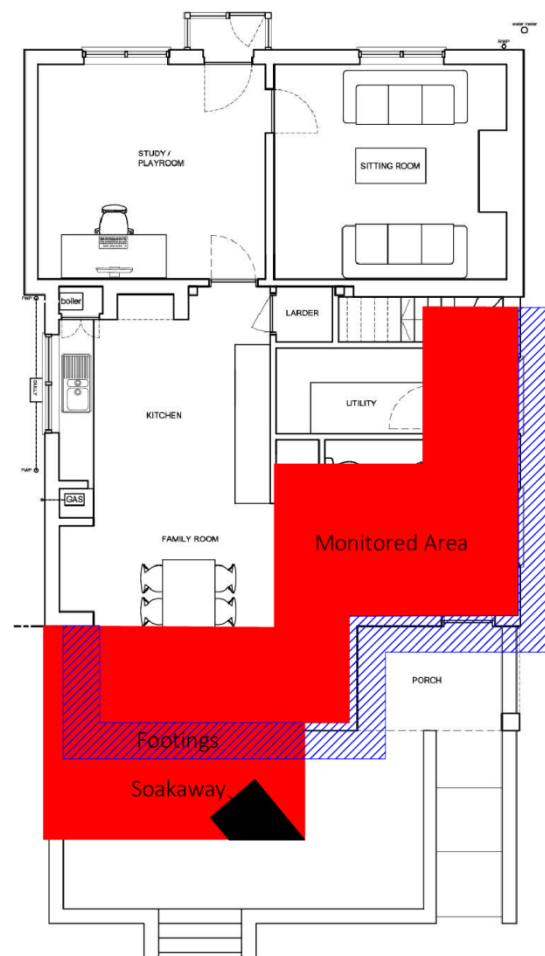
The general stratigraphy of the site comprised 0.3m of dark yellow-brown moderately firm silty clay topsoil with occasional large stones inclusions, overlying the mid yellow-grey firm clay natural geology (Fig. 5, Plate 4). Unstratified finds included large ceramic building materials (CBM) in the form of bricks, as well as animal bone.

### *Description*

After stripping the area, only one, non-archaeological feature was uncovered; a rectangular soakaway 1m wide, and continuing into the baulk to the north-west (Fig. 4, Plate 5). The fill was black, moderately firm, and tacky, and contained finds such as CBM and modern glass bottles.

The ground reduction between the extension footings and the existing building revealed a lot of disturbance caused by many ceramic and plastic services in the area.

No archaeological cut features or deposits were located within the stripped area.



PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

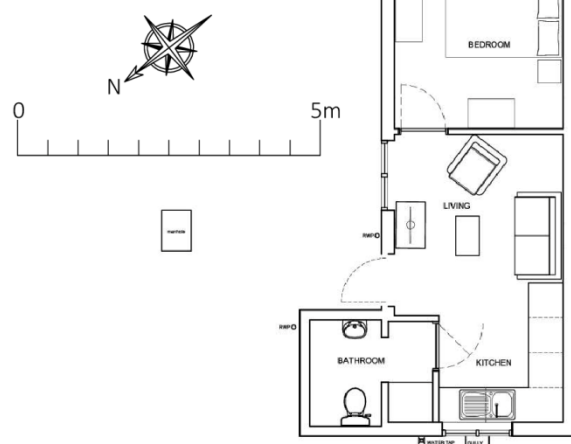
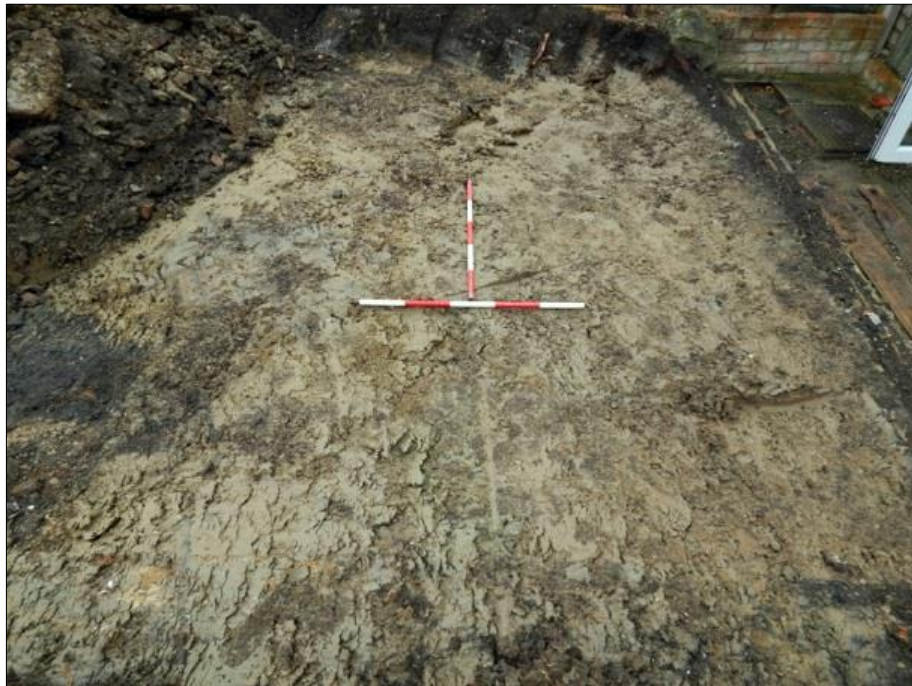


Figure 4: Plan of monitored areas (scale 1:125)



**Plate 1:** North-east area of ground reduction, facing north-east, with 1m scales



**Plate 2:** South-western area of ground reduction, facing north-east, with 1m scales





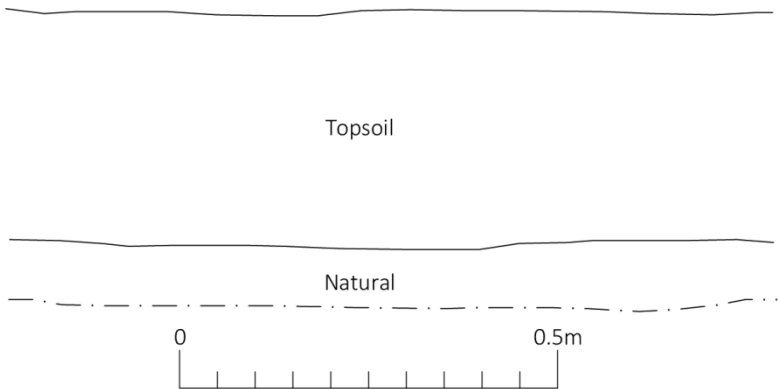
**Plate 3:** Section adjacent to the south-west footings, north-east facing section, with 1m scale



**Plate 4:** Site stratigraphy, south-west facing section, with 1m scale



**Plate 5:** Soakaway, facing north-west, with 1m scale



**Figure 5:** Representative stratigraphy of site (scale 1:10)



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## 5 Conclusions

The stratigraphy of the site is consistent with its known history as a garden related to the extant building. The soakaway located to the northwest of the building is most likely directly related to the numerous ceramic and plastic drainage pipes uncovered during the ground reduction.

No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were discovered during this project. The absence of subsoil suggests that the site has been truncated by an unknown amount which may account for the absence of archaeology. Alternatively, it may have been because the site was small and fell between what may be widely dispersed features, or that the development area is located beyond that which has been historically occupied. ,



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Mr and Mrs Day for commissioning this report, and to Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents, and for monitoring the project. Thanks are also due to Pete McKay and his contractor for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA. The report was written by Jessica Bertrand, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.46).



## 8 References

### ***Standards & Specifications***

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers

Barclay-Jones C. 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording: 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire*. KDK Archaeology Ltd: KDK/144/RRR/1

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CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds, Archiving)*

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Williams A. & Martin G. H. 1992 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Group: London

### **Online Sources**

British Geological Society 2015: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015)

Page W. (Ed.) 1912 '*Parishes: Riseley or Riseley*', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3*. Online version: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp157-161> (Accessed: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015)





## Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 144/RRR			Site Name: 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	NE area of ground reduction, facing NE, with tile and 1m scales
2		✓	NE area of ground reduction, facing NE, with 1m scales
3	✓	✓	Site stratigraphy, SW facing section, with tile and 1m scale
4		✓	Site stratigraphy, SW facing section, with 1m scale
5		✓	Soakaway, facing NW, with tile and 1m scale
6	✓	✓	SW area of ground reduction, facing NE, with tile and 1m scales
7		✓	SW area of ground reduction, facing NE, with 1m scales
8		✓	Section adjacent to the SW footings, NE facing section, with 1m scale



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	144/RRR
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-213864	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2015.46
OS reference	TL 03586 62767	Study area size	31 sq. m.
Project Type	Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	61
Short Description	In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire, as Condition 4 of the Planning Consent for the development of the site. Two site visits were made to monitor ground reduction to the north-west of the existing dwelling. An area totalling 31m <sup>2</sup> was monitored, with the ground being reduced by 0.4m, fully exposing the natural geology. The general stratigraphy of the site comprised 0.3m topsoil overlying the natural grey clay. After stripping the area, only one, non-archaeological feature was uncovered; a rectangular soakaway 1m wide, continuing into the baulk to the north-west. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were discovered during this project, which may have been due to the high level of disturbance in the area close to the extant building. Alternatively, it may have been because the site was small and fell between what may be widely dispersed features, or that the development area is located beyond that which has been historically occupied.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Demolition of current extension, construction of new extension, and conversion of existing garage into annexe.	Current land use	Residential and garden
Local Planning Authority	Bedford Borough Council	Planning application ref.	14/01755/FUL
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	K. Kaye	Director/Supervisor	J. Bertrand
Sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Day		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	21/9/15	End date	28/9/15
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.46)	None	
Paper		WSI, report, B&W photos, site notes	
Digital		CDROM containing WSI, report and digital photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: 10 Rotten Row, Riseley, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK/144/RRR/2		
Author(s)	Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA		
Page no's	21	Date	29/9/15