



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Former Council Depot  
Queen Street  
Tring  
Hertfordshire



### Quality Check

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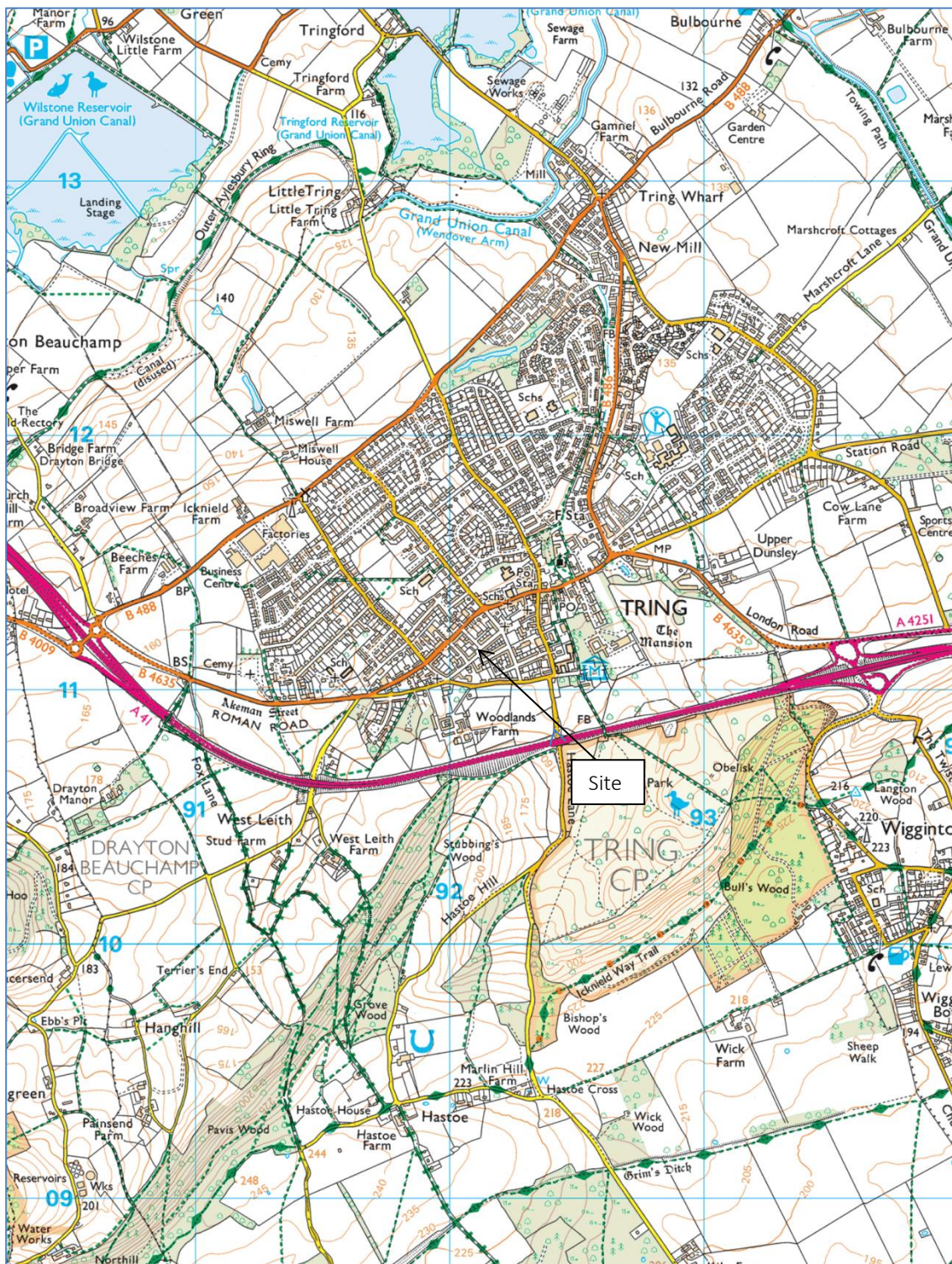


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



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## Summary

*Between November and December 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd (KDK) undertook a programme of archaeological Observation and Recording at the former Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent for the development of the site. The stratigraphy of the site was comprised of a concrete slab above modern made ground overlaying the natural geology. The excavation of the footings revealed three pits and a ditch cutting the natural chalk. No archaeological finds were noted from the fills of these features.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Between November and December 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at the former Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned on behalf of Moldplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay Jones, 2015), and approved by Hertfordshire County Council Natural, Historic & Built Environment Advisory Team (HCCNHBEAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/01155/14/FUL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The site is located in the administrative district of Dacorum, within the civil parish of Tring, in the county of Hertfordshire. It is situated at National Grid Reference SP 92094 11173 (Fig 1).

#### *Description*

The site is located at the corner of Queen Street and King Street, to the south-west of Tring town centre. It is bounded to the north-east by Queen Street and to the south-east by King Street. To the north- and south-west, it is bounded by adjoining properties (Fig. 2). It lies on fairly level ground, at an approximate height of 140m OAD.

#### *Geology & Topography*

The bedrock geology is chalk from the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation. Any overlying deposits are either unrecorded or have been destroyed by urbanisation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### *Proposed Development*

The planning application is for the demolition of the existing depot, and the construction of a new two-storey residential building, comprising 4 two-bedroom flats and a three-bedroom dwelling with associated car-parking, cycle shelter, refuse and recycling area, and fencing and landscaping (Fig. 3).

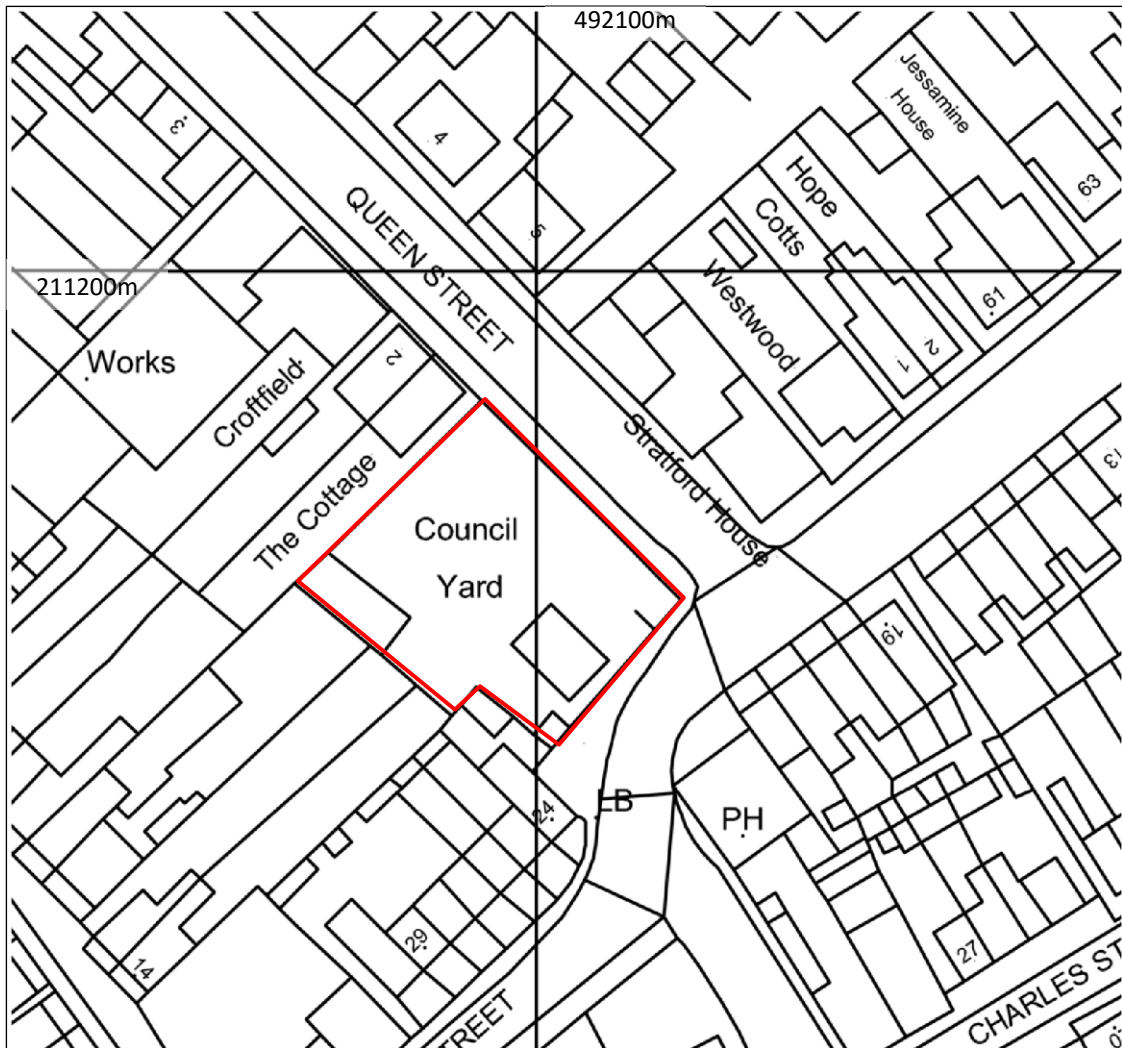
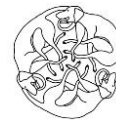


Figure 2: Site location (1:750)



Figure 3: Proposed development (not to scale)



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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
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions
- To ensure that the project findings are placed in their historical and geographical context through appropriate levels of cartographic, documentary and other research, and are then properly disseminated and published.

### 2.2 *Methods*

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

- The archaeological monitoring of the development area was done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.
- If significant archaeological deposits were encountered the Hertfordshire County Council Archaeologists would have been notified and a timetable for the adequate investigation and recording of these features would have been agreed.
- Construction works would not have re-commenced until the Hertfordshire County Council Archaeologists were content that the archaeological work had been completed satisfactorily

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- 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 English Heritage 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)





### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Tring is a small market town in the western part of Hertfordshire. Although there is some evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, Tring appears to have been first settled in the Saxon period. It was fully established by medieval times, when it received the market charter, and trade continued to flourish throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, although it is now mostly known as a commuter town for London.

This section has been compiled with information from KDK's own library, reliable internet sources and data from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record covering a 500m radius of the development site (HER Licence No. 118/15).

3.2 ***Prehistoric and Roman*** (to c.AD 410)

There is no evidence for activity or settlement in the vicinity of the development area within the prehistoric and Roman periods with the exception of Akeman Street (HER 4595), a Roman road which runs to the south of the site partially under the course of the A4251.

3.3 ***Saxon and Medieval*** (c.450-1500)

The earliest mention of Tring is in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is recorded as being of 39 hides and held by Engelric. It was one of five closely spaced settlements along with Miswell, Wiggington, Dunsley and Pendley (Hunns 2000: 3).

By the medieval period, Tring was an established settlement (HER 19), and was granted by Queen Matilda to the abbey of St Saviour in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, Tring was granted a weekly market and an annual fair ([www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)). The church of St Peter and St Paul (HER 4382) dates from this period, and was originally built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century ([www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)), although much of the structure dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and later.

To the north-east of the development area lies the site of the Rectory manor (HER 10408), a sub-manor of Tring with a medieval manor house, originally a long, timber-framed open-hall house, although considerably altered in later times, and now no longer extant. Associated with the site of the manor house are some medieval fish ponds (HER 10409), which were still visible as late as 1900.

There are no Saxon or medieval remains within the immediate vicinity of the site.

3.4 ***Post-Medieval*** (1500-1900)

Tring expanded considerably in the post-medieval period, commercially and spiritually. Several chapels date from this time, including the Baptist Chapel on Frogmore Street (HER 10402; to the north-east of the site), the Ebenezer Chapel on Chapel Street (HER 10405, to the south-west of the site) and the Church of St Martha (HER 10406) on Park Street, which was designed to be a chapel of ease for St Peter and St Paul.

The brewing trade also seems to have expanded during this time; Akeman Street (to the south of the development area) had two maltings (HER 5400; HER 5454), and Brown's Brewery, which was the largest brewery in Tring in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was located on the High Street (HER 5449). Brown, who owned the brewery, also built two public houses to cater to the navvies working on the London-Birmingham Railway. These were the Britannia PH, on Park Road (HER 10411) and the King's Arms (HER 10410), on King Street, directly to the south-east



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of the site. Other public houses were located on the High Street during this period, including the Rose & Crown (HER 10387) and the Bell (HER 10386).

Other industries in Tring during this period included silk-weaving, with a plant being located near Akeman Street (HER 10395) where silk was woven on hand looms. The owners of the weaving plant also owned a silk mill on Brook Street. Akeman Street also had a smithy, dating from at least the 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 10401).

On the outskirts of Tring lies Tring Park (HER 7343), an 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape park and woodland, with 19<sup>th</sup> century formal landscaped gardens. The estate was bought in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century by the Rothschild family. Their estate included Home Farm (originally Town Farm, HER 16077), which lies to the south of the development area, and was a 19<sup>th</sup> century model farmstead.

With the exception of the King's Arms, there is no notable post-medieval activity within the immediate vicinity of the development area.

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

To the south-east of the site lies the Natural History Museum, Tring (HER 10396), which was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a present for Walter (later Lord) Rothschild. It had new wings added in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and remains an important annexe of the Natural History Museum in London.

The Market House (HER 10393), on the High Street, was built in 1901 to replace the former Market House and as a memorial to Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

The monitored groundworks were undertaken in two stages. Firstly the development area was reduced between 0.5 and 1m with a 14 tonne machine fitted with a 1m toothless bucket. In a second stage, 15 trenches were excavated with a 2 tonne machine fitted with a 0.6m toothed bucket.

### 4.2 Ground reduction

The works began by removing the top soil (100) and part of the made ground (101) some of which was contaminated (Plate 1). Once the contaminated material had been removed, a levelling layer of stone was spread across the site. The natural geology was only reached on north-west of the site, where a test trench was excavated into the natural chalk (Fig. 4; Plate 2).

The groundworks during this stage reveal the general stratigraphy of the site as follows:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Structure	0.45m	Modern concrete slab
101	Layer	0.55m	Modern made ground: dark brown moderately firm clay with chalk flecks and occasionally modern ceramic building material
102	Layer		Natural geology: light yellow very firm chalk.

At the northeast boundary of the site, in the made ground there was part of a modern brick paved area and a culvert with a ceramic pipe probably from a 19<sup>th</sup> or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century sewage system (Plates 3 and 4). No archaeologically significant features or finds were discovered.

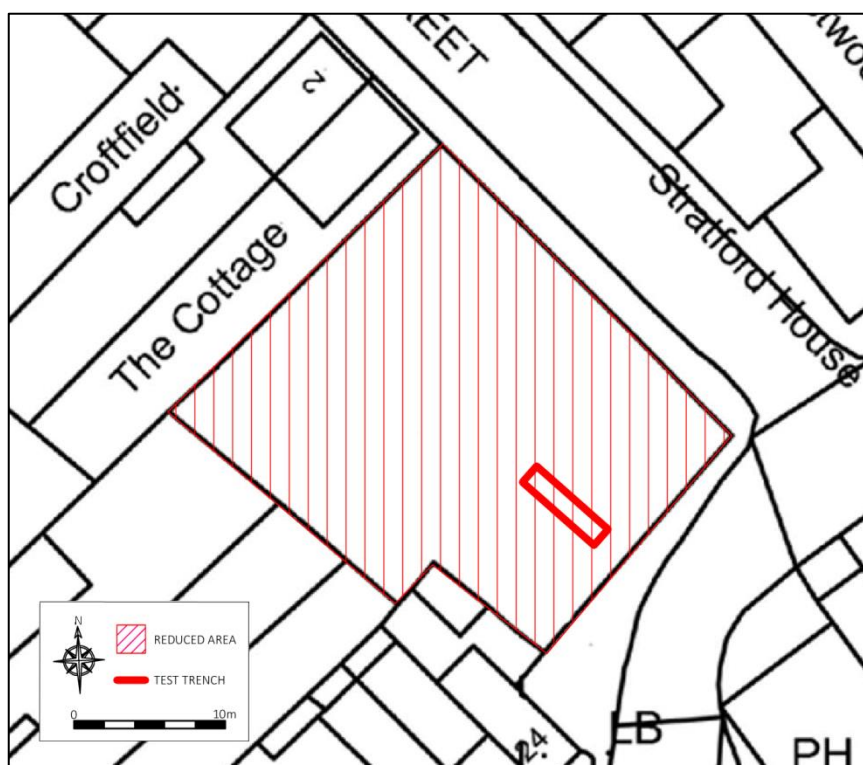


Figure 4: Ground reduction and test trench plan (1:500).



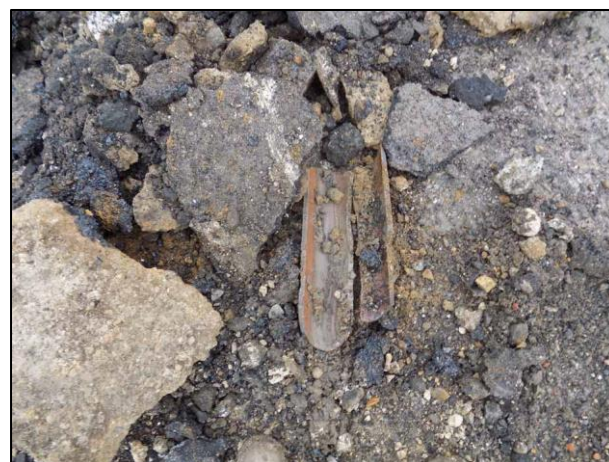
**Plate 1:** Ground reduction, facing SW.



**Plate 2:** Test pit, facing NW.



**Plate 3:** Part of modern culvert.



**Plate 4:** Detail of ceramic pipe from modern sewage system



#### 4.3 Footing trenches

The second stage of the works started with the levelling of the site with a layer of stone before the excavation of the footings. The groundworks comprised 15 trenches that revealed several archaeological features cutting the natural geology (Fig. 5; Plates 5 & 6).

A probable pit [106] was located between Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 6; Plate. 7) filled by (105), a brown silty clay moderately firm with chalk flecks occasional inclusions of rounded stones but no archaeological finds. The section of [106] shows it be an irregular moderately sloped cut measuring 2.5m wide and 0.5m in depth.

Cut [112] was found in the northwest end of Trench 1 (Fig. 6; Plate 9). It had a moderately sloping northwest side that became a steeply sloped at the south-east. The first of two deposits that filled [112] was (111), a dark brown moderately firm silty clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and rounded stones. Below Fill (111) appeared light brown orange moderately firm silty clay, (113). No archaeological finds were recovered from these fills.

The excavation of the Trenches, 1, 4, 5 and 13, revealed a probable ditch [110] going through the site from southwest to northeast (Fig. 5). It was a maximum of 3.4m wide and 0.8m deep, with a moderate southeast side, a near vertical northwest side and a concave base (Figs. 6 and 7; Plate 8). Ditch [110] was filled by an orange brown firm silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and rounded stones without any archaeological finds within it (109).

In Trench 1, the fill of the ditch was disturbed by a small cut [108], probably part of the footings of the previous building. This was filled by dark brown moderately firm clay with inclusions of occasional charcoal (107), similar to the modern made ground deposit (101). No archaeological finds were recovered from this fill.

At the southeast of the site, the excavation of the Trenches 12 and 13 partly revealed a moderately concaved cut [114] which had a maximum width of 1.95m and 0.37m depth (Fig. 6; Plate 10). The fill (113) was a light orange brown moderately firm silty clay with occasionally inclusions of rounded stones. No archaeological finds were present within this fill.

Whilst the tops of all the cut features recorded during this project were located c. 0.5m below the existing site level, no actual levels were taken. However, the relevant approximate values are 148.69mAOD for Pit [106], 142.50mAOD for Ditch [110], 142.06mAOD for Pit [112], and 142.79mAOD for Pit [114]. These values are based on data supplied from a topographical survey of the site.

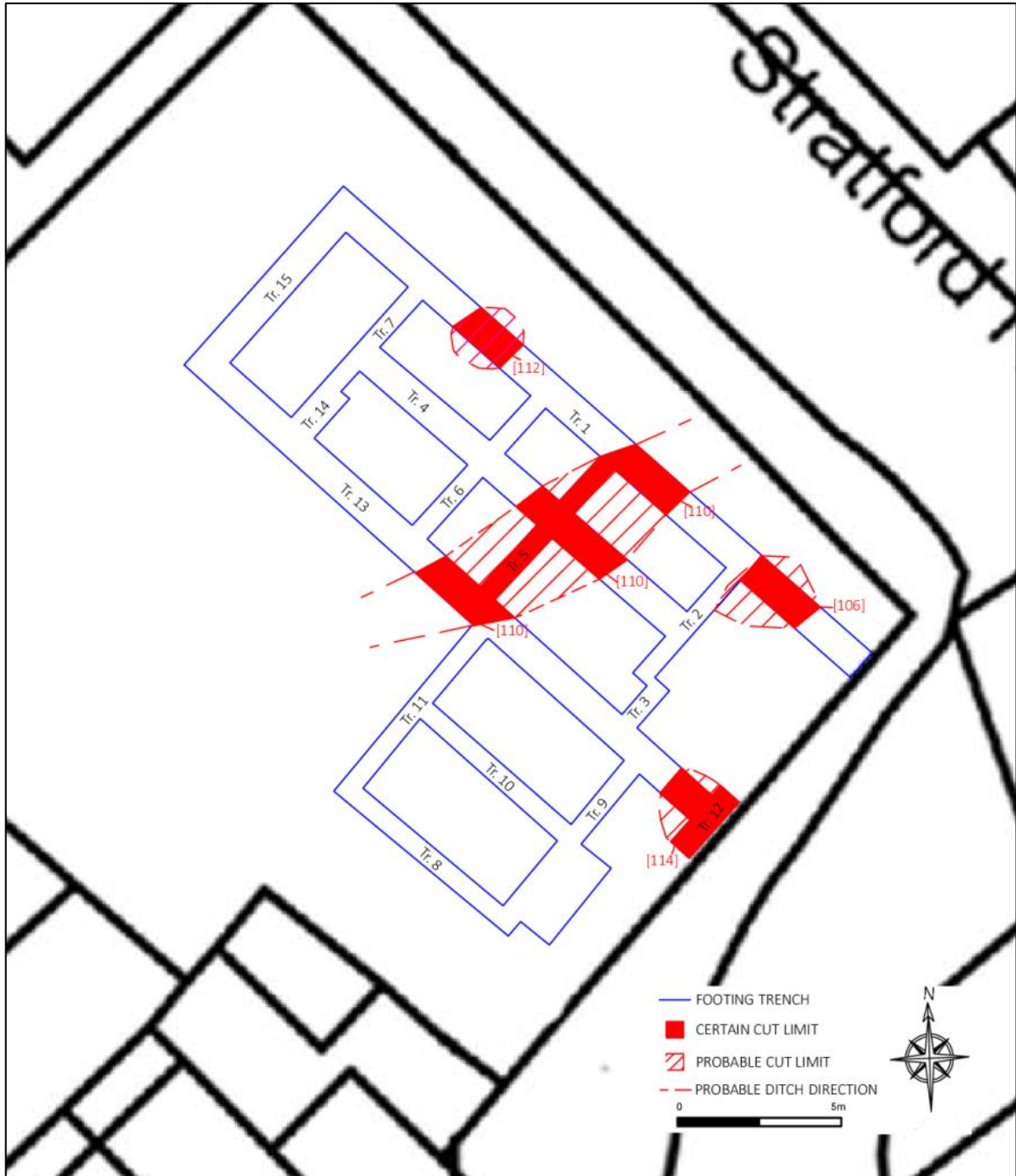
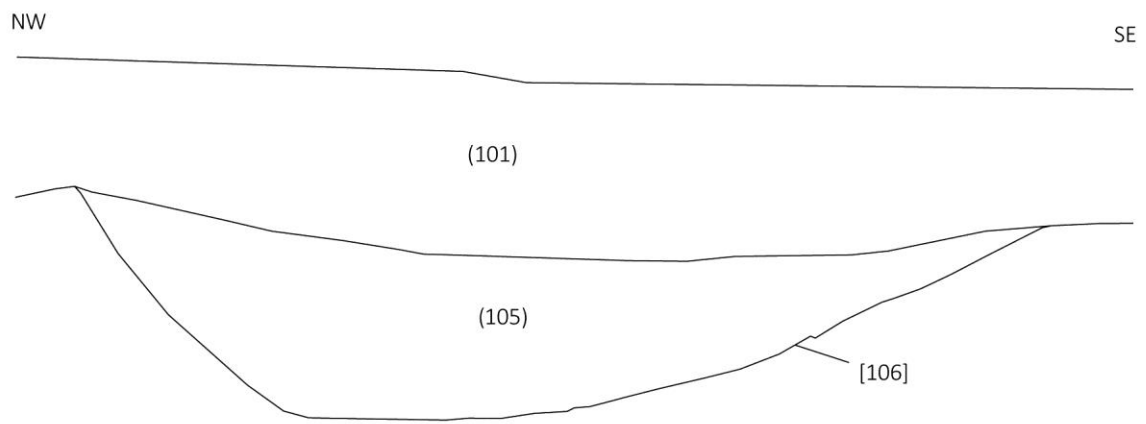


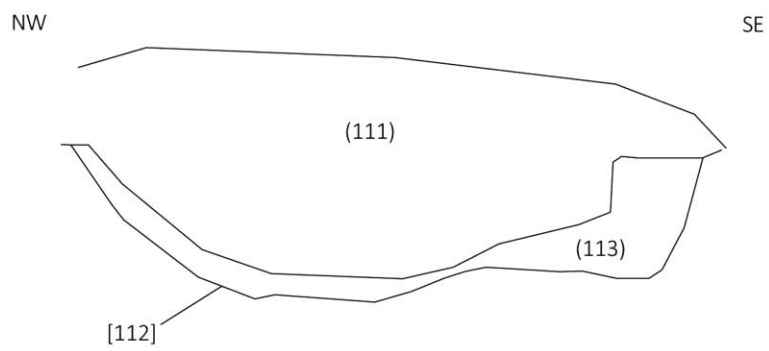
Figure 5: Trench plan with features [106], [110], [112] and [114] (scale 1:200).



Section of cut [106] in Trench 1



Section of cut [112] in Trench 1



Section of cut [114] in Trench 13

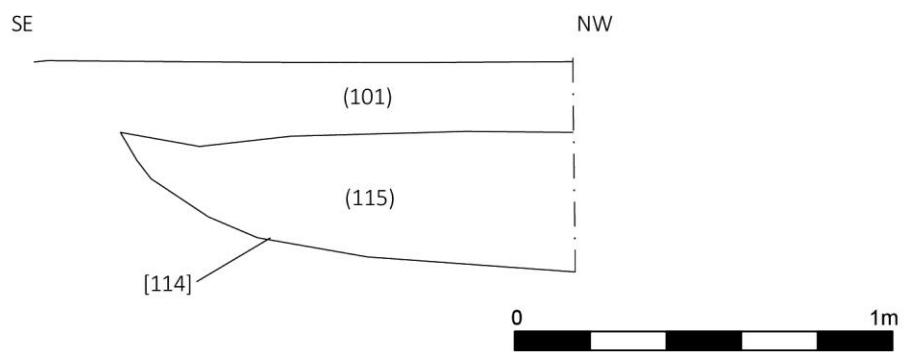
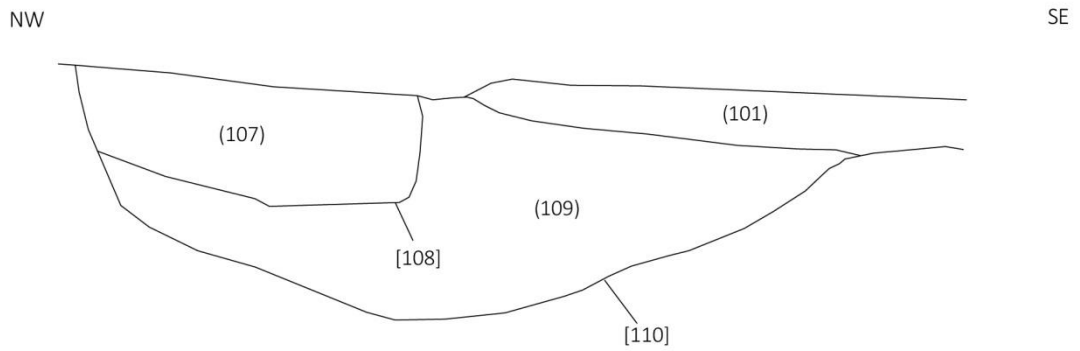


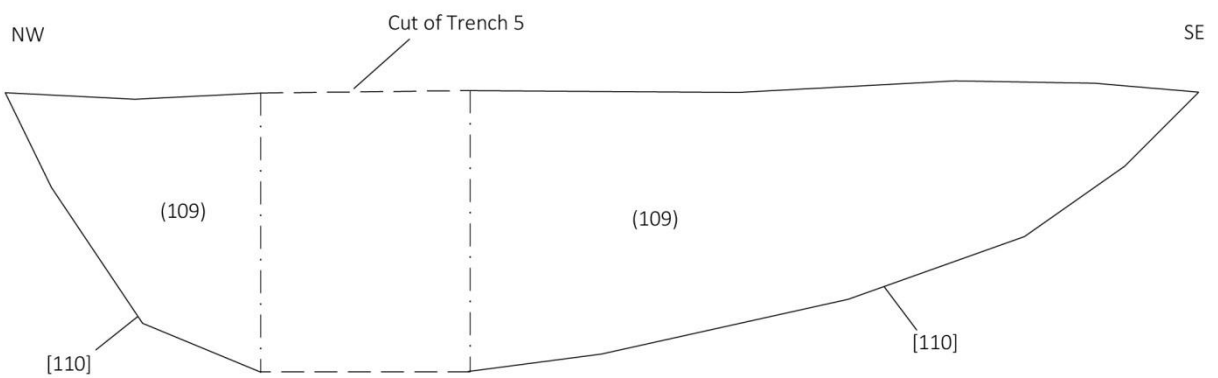
Figure 6: Sections of [106], [112] and [114] (scale 1:20)



Section of cut [110] and [108] in Trench 1



Section of cut [110] in Trench 4



Section of cut [110] in Trench 13

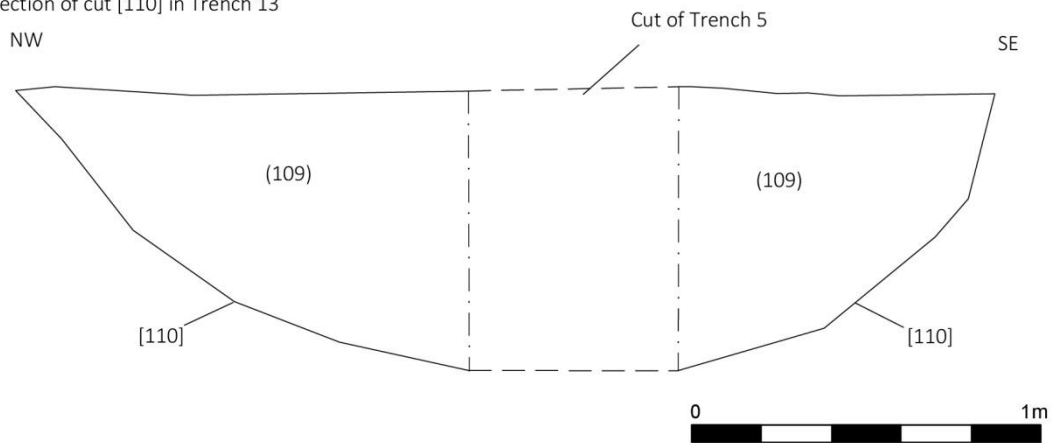


Figure 7: Sections of Ditch [110] in Trenches 1, 4 and 13 (scale 1:20).





**Plate 5:** Footing Trench 4.



**Plate 6:** Footing Trench 5.



**Plate 7:** Section of [106] in Trench 1.



**Plate 8:** Section of [110] in Trench 1.



**Plate 9:** Section of [112] in Trench 1.



**Plate 10:** Section of [114] in Trench 13.



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## 5 Conclusions

The excavation of the footings revealed a Ditch [110] which went through the site from northeast to southwest and was backfilled by (109), which was a sterile deposit. Likewise the fills of the Pits [106] and [114] in the southeast and [112] in the northeast of the site didn't reveal any archaeological finds. This has made it impossible to date these features.

It is likely that the ditch is boundary marker of some kind, probably related to agricultural activity. However, it may be a drainage ditch, though it is quite wide and there was no indication of silting within the fills.

The pits are likely to be for domestic rubbish, or chalk extraction, but no artefacts were recovered from any of the fills.

The features recorded during this project suggest that the site was on the fringes of settlement from the period they relate to. No cut features relating to structures were noted and no artefacts were recovered.

The site seemed to be disturbed by the works related to the modern urbanisation of the area in 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The made ground (101) was probably deposited for levelling the site and this process appears to have truncated the site resulting in the removal of the subsoil.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Matt McCann for commissioning this report on behalf of Modplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd. Thanks are also due to Dr Isobel Thompson of Hertfordshire County Council for providing the Historic Environment Records, and Kate Batt and Alison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire County Council Natural, Historic & Built Environment Advisory Team for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Eva Estela. The report was written by Eva Estela, and edited by David Kaye BA AICIfA.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust



## 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

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Brickley M. & McKinley J. I. 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Technical Paper.

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CifA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CifA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CifA 2014 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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### ***Books and Historical Sources***

Mills A. D. 1991 *A Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford University Press: Oxford

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



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 154/TQS			Site Name: Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire.
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		X	Test Trench, looking NW (1m scale)
2	1	X	Ground reduction
3	2	X	Ground reduction
4	3	X	Ground reduction
5		X	Site stratigraphy, facing SW (1m scale)
6		X	Site stratigraphy, facing SW (1m scale)
7		X	Modern culvert (1m scale)
8		X	Modern culvert (1m scale)
9		X	Brick detail
10		X	Culvert ceramic pipe detail
11	4	X	Ground reduction, facing NE (1m scale).
12	5	X	Ground reduction, facing SE (1m scale)
13		X	Ground reduction, facing E (1m scale)
14		X	Ground reduction, facing NE (1m scale)
15		X	Ground Reduction, facing NE (1m scale).
16		X	Ground Reduction, facing NE (1m scale).
17		X	Ground Reduction, facing S (1m scale).
18		X	Ground Reduction, facing SW (1m scale).
19	6	X	Trench 1, facing SW (1m scale)
20	7	X	Section of cut 106 in trench 1 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
21	8	X	Section of cut 106 in trench 1 without board, facing NE (1m scale)
22	9	X	Section of cut 110 in trench 1 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
23	10	X	Section of cut 110 in trench 1 without board, facing NE (1m scale)
24	11	X	Section of cut 112 in trench 1 with board, facing SW (1m scale)
25	12	X	Section of cut 112 in trench 1 without board, facing SW (1m scale)
26	13	X	Trenches 2 and 3 with board, facing SW (1m scale)
27	14	X	Trenches 2 and 3 without board, facing SW (1m scale)
28	15	X	Trench 4 with board, facing NW (1m scale)
29	16	X	Trench 4 without board, facing NW (1m scale)
30		X	Section of cut 106 in trench 2 with board, facing NW (1m scale)
31		X	Section of cut 106 in trench 2 with board, facing NW (1m scale)
32	17	X	Section of cut 110 in trench 4 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
33	18	X	Section of cut 110 in trench 4 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
34		X	Trench 5 with board, facing NW (1 m scale)
35	19	X	Trench 8 with board, facing SE (1 m scale)
36	20	X	Trench 9 with board , facing NE (1m scale)
37	21	X	Trench 10 with board, facing SE (1m scale)
38	22	X	Trench 11 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
39	23	X	Trench 6 with board, facing SW (1m scale)
40	24	X	Trench 5 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
41	25	X	Section of cut 114 in trench 13 with board, facing SW (1m scale)
42	26	X	Trench 12 with board, facing NE (1m scale)
43	27	X	Trench 13 with board, facing NW (1m scale)
44	28	X	Section of cut 116 in trench 13, with board facing NE (1m scale)
45	29	X	Section of cut 116 in trench 13, without board facing NE (1m scale)
46	30	X	Section of cut 116 in trench 5, with board facing SE (1m scale)
47	31	X	Section of cut 116 in trench 5, without board facing SE (1m scale)
48	32	X	Trench 13 with board , facing SE (1m scale)



SITE NO/CODE: 154/TQS			Site Name: Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire.
49	33	X	Trench 13 without board , facing SE (1m scale)
50	34	X	Trench 1 with board , facing SE (1m scale)
51	35	X	Trench 1 without board , facing SE (1m scale)
52	36	X	Trench 7 with board , facing NE (1m scale)
53	37	X	Trench 7 without board , facing NE (1m scale)
54	38	X	Trench 15 with board , facing SW (1m scale)
55	39	X	Trench 15 without board , facing SW (1m scale)
56	40	X	Trench 14 with board , facing SW (1m scale)
57	41	X	Trench 14 without board , facing SW (1m scale)



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire.	Project Site Code	154/TQS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-219385	Event/Accession no	TBC
OS reference	SP 92094 11173	Study area size	641.09 sqm
Project Type	Archaeological Observation and Recording.	Height (mAOD)	140
Short Description	Between November and December 2015 KDK undertook a programme of archaeological Observation and Recording in Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent for the development of the site. The stratigraphy of the site was comprised of a concrete slab above modern made ground overlaying the natural geology. The excavation of the footings revealed three pits and a ditch cutting the natural chalk. No archaeological finds were noted from the fills of these features.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Demolition of existing depot and construction of two storey residential accommodation.	Current land use	Disused council depot
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	4/01155/14/FUL
Monument type	3 pits and a ditch	Monument period	Unknown
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	D. Kaye BA ACIFA	Director/Supervisor	Eva Estela
Sponsor/funding body	Modplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	25/11/2015	End date	18/12/2015
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Dacorum Heritage Trust	None	
Paper		WSI, report, B&W photographs, and site records	
Digital		CDROM containing report, WSI, and digital photographs.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording: Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	154/TQS/1		
Author(s)	Eva Estela		
Page no's	25	Date	11/01/2016





### Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

<b>Site name and address:</b> Council Depot, Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire.		
County:	Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum
Village/Town:	Tring	Parish: Tring
Planning application reference: 4/01155/14/FUL		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Modplan Building & Refurbishment Contractors Ltd, Calvervale House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5AE		
Nature of application: Demolition of existing depot and construction of two storey residential accommodation		
Present land use: Disused council depot		
Size of application area:	641.09 sqm	Size of area investigated: 641.09 sqm
NGR :	SP 92094 11173	Site code:154/TQS
Site director:	Eva Estela	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Archaeological Observation and Recording		
DATE OF WORK:	Start: 27/11/2015	Finish: 18/12/2015
Curating museum:		
Related HER no's: N/A		Periods represented: Unknown
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
Between November and December 2015 KDK undertook a programme of archaeological Observation and Recording in Queen Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent for the development of the site. The stratigraphy of the site was comprised of a concrete slab above modern made ground overlaying the natural geology. The excavation of the footings revealed three pits and a ditch cutting the natural chalk. No archaeological finds were noted from the fills of these features.		
Author:	Eva Estela	Date: 11/01/2016