



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Wilstone Farm Shop
Lower Icknield Way
Wilstone Green
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In May 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation and Recording at Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent. A previous programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out revealing modern layers overlying probable post-medieval ditches. The results from the ground works during this second stage of investigation suggests that the area probably had been disturbed during the 20th century when most of the buildings related to the farm house were lost.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation of Wilstone Farm Shop Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Simon Jones of BSA Chesters Ltd, on behalf of Simon Mead, and was carried out according to a Method Statement for a Watching Brief prepared by KDK (KDK 2016), and approved by Hertfordshire County Council, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/03073/15/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 & Description

The site is located in the administrative district of Dacorum, the civil parish of Tring Rural and the county of Hertfordshire. It is situated at National Grid Reference SP 90733 13620 (Fig. 1).

Description

The development area is set within agricultural land, except to the northwest where it is bounded by the Lower Icknield Way, providing access to the site (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is a grey chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and the Welton Chalk Formation, which is overlaid by a mixed deposit comprised by sand, clay and gravel (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Topographically the site lies on a fairly level ground at a height of c.97m AOD.

Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of a restructuring and expansion of the Farm Shop site, and new buildings and structures in the field to the north east of the shop, within the curtilage of the north barn, a Grade II Listed Building (Fig. 3).

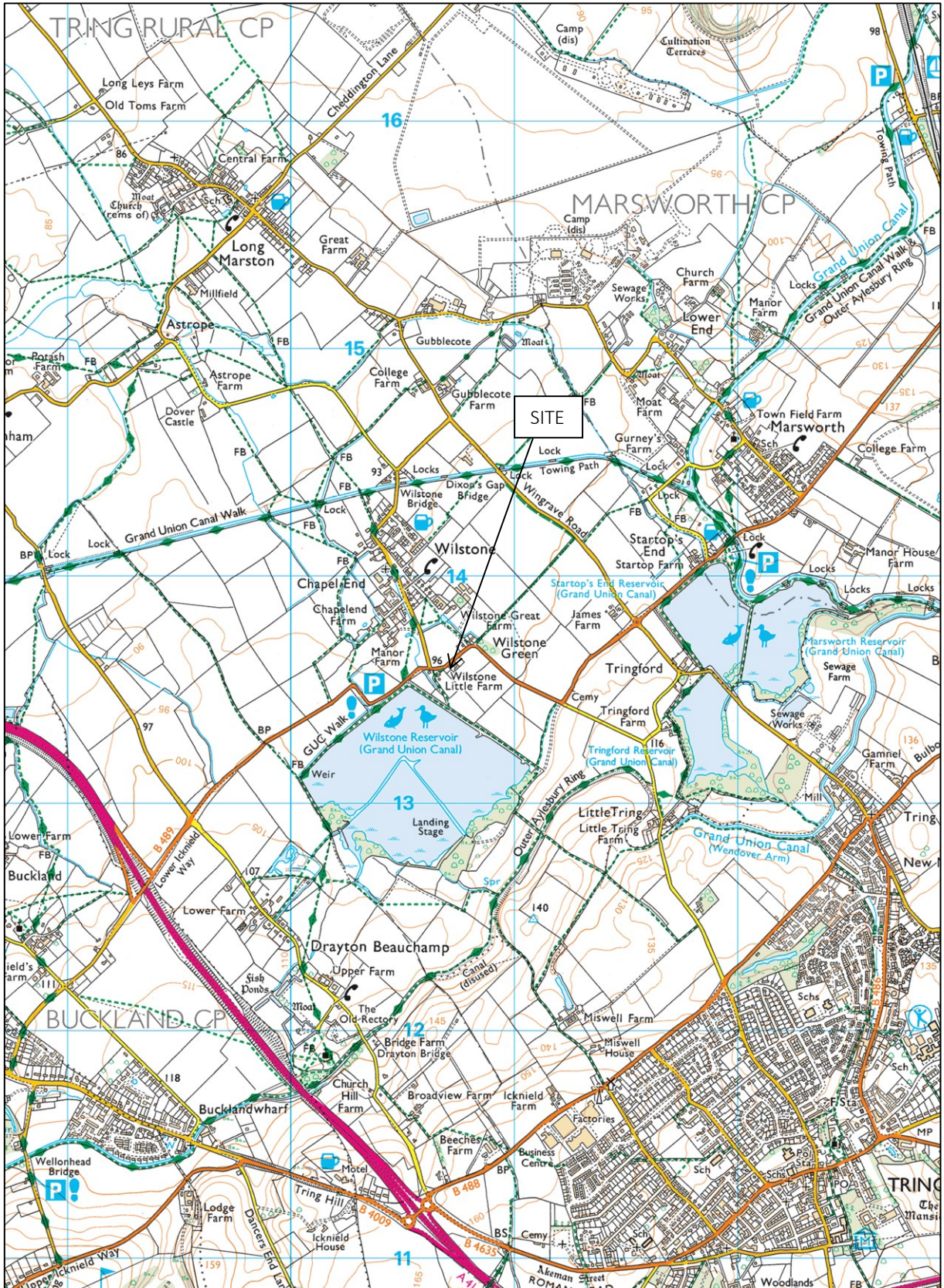


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

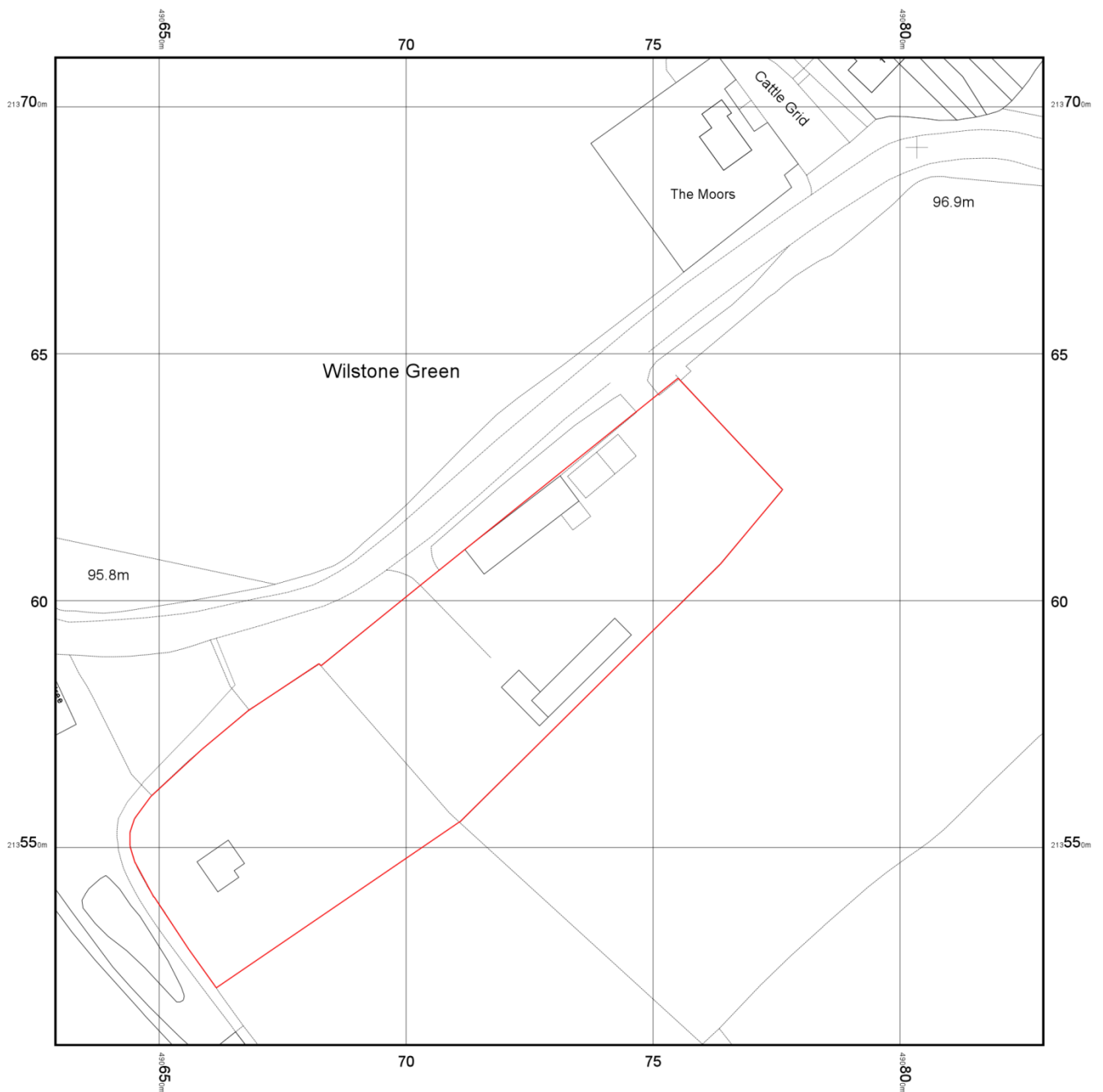


Figure 2: Site layout (scale 1:750)

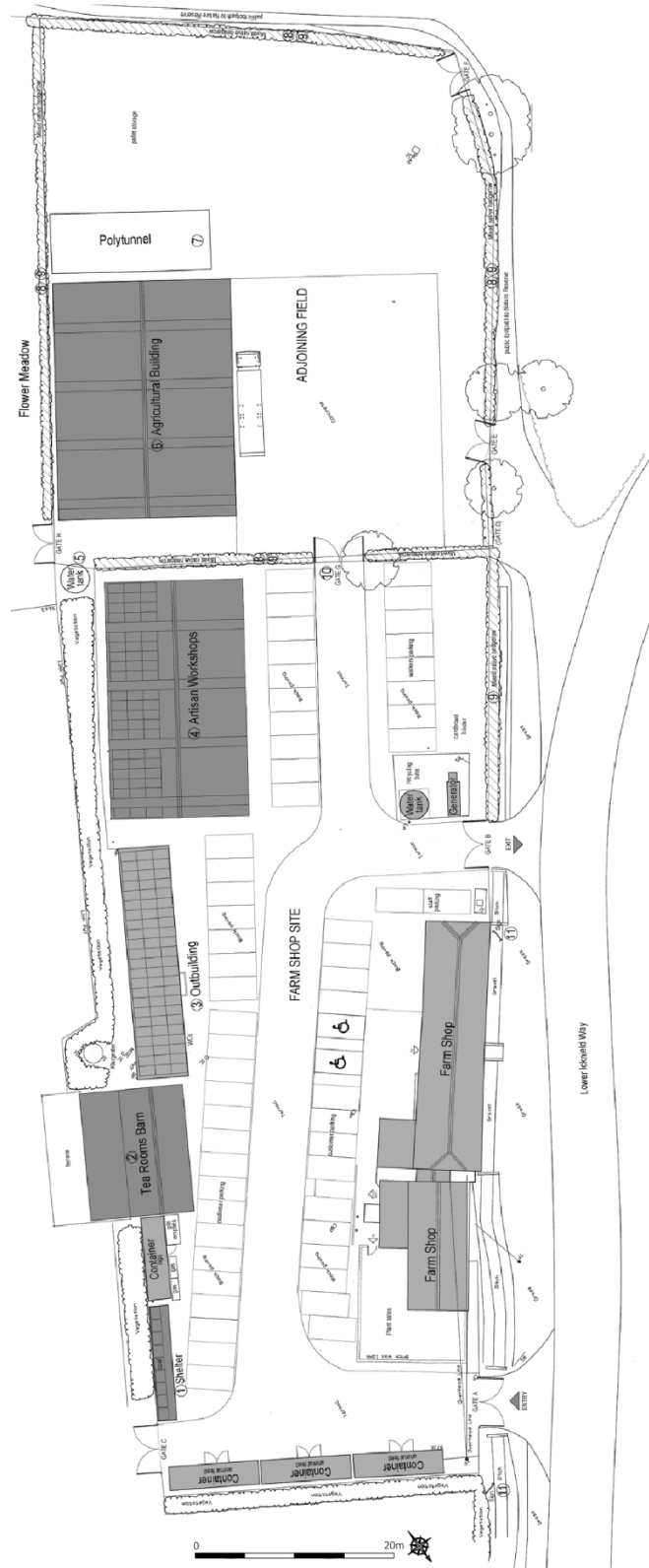


Figure 3: Proposed development plan (scale 1:750)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved Method Statement 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 landscapes.
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

2.2 *Methods*

The methods used were as follows:

- All ground reduction was monitored by an experienced archaeologist

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 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 The village of Wilstone has origins from the medieval period and formed part of the manor and parish of Tring (Tring situated some 2.7km away to the southeast). The Victoria County History (Page 1908) describes Wilstone as a hamlet of formerly greater size, and with medieval origins. Today it is a small historical village, and the proposed development site is located within Area of Archaeological Significance 13, being in close proximity to the medieval core of the village.

This section has been compiled with information from Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Office (HER ref. no.220) Victoria County History and reliable internet sources.

3.2 ***Prehistoric to Iron Age*** (before 600BC – AD43)

There is no archaeological evidence of human presence in the area of Wilstone prior to the Iron Age. From this period the most relevant site is a Belgic settlement found during an evaluation in 1993 at the north of Lower Icknield Way (Macdonald, 1993). Iron Age pottery was also recovered at the south of the site in the 1970's (HER 13459).

There is a group of cropmarks near Wingrave Road at the south east of Wilstone that probably belong to the same period. Here three trackways (HER 7967) and a regular enclosure with eight internal pits and a small polygonal enclosure attached to the northwest are thought to form part of an Iron Age settlement (HER 7968).

Cropmarks of further possible Iron Age activity have also been found c.420m east of the development, consisting of a linear ditch aligned east - west (HER 1954) cutting through an enclosure ditch (HER 2545), along with a field boundary (HER 7970), and a double-ditched trackway (HER 1977).

3.3 ***Roman*** (AD43 - c.450)

Evidence for a Roman presence in Wilstone is limited. Aside from Roman pottery discovered on the western side of Wilstone reservoir, c.836m to the southwest of the development site, no other evidence for Roman occupation is present (HER 1524). The nearest major Roman roadway in the area is Akeman Street some 4.2 km to the southeast of Wilstone, partially under the course of the A4251 (HER 4595).

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

There is currently no archaeological or historical evidence for Saxon activity in the area.

3.5 ***Medieval*** (1066 - 1500)

The village of Wilstone is thought to have its origins in the medieval period with the earlier part of the settlement focused around Chapel End, c.370m northwest of the development site.

Chapel End lane leads to a series of extensive medieval earthworks, c.565 northwest of the development site. Here a possible moated site is present surrounded by ridge and furrow, along with possible trackways and small enclosures (HER 2538).

Wilstone first appears in 1220 as 'Wivelestone(e)', although there is a possibility that the village may indeed be the unnamed outlying vill of Tring that is referred to in the Domesday



Survey of 1086 as having 8 villagers (Grover, Mawer, Allen & Stenton 1938; Williams & Martin 2002; HER 4435).

The sub-manor of Wilstone was part of Tring, and the chapel would have been dependant on Tring Parish Church. Wilstone was one of number of nucleated settlements in Tring that never became a parish in their own right with a parish church. Tring is believed to have been a major mid-late Saxon royal estate, and as such its constituent villages were withheld from developing into separate parishes and rather formed part of a large secular estate (HER 4435).

Further medieval activity in the village can be found on the site of a post-medieval farmhouse, Wilstone Great Farm, c.455m north northwest of the development site. The farmhouse was demolished in the 1890s but was thought to have had medieval origins. An archaeological evaluation revealed medieval pottery dating to the 11th to 13th century, and the presence of ridge and furrow can be seen in the adjacent fields (HER 10796, 10091, 10092).

An extensive area of preserved medieval ridge and furrow is also present to the west of the village, c.1km northwest of the development site (HER 16168), with smaller concentrations scattered around the village: c.530m north northwest of the site (HER 16171), c.800m to the southwest (HER 17264), c.655m to the west (HER 17266), c.1.1km to the east northeast (HER 18449), and c.750m to the northwest (HER 18721).

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

By the 16th century Wilstone was wealthier than the surrounding villages of Puttenham, Wiggington and Aldbury. The construction of the Grand Union Canal and the Wilstone Reservoir (HER 18631) in the late 18th century further increased employment and new trades, and the village remained a self-contained rural settlement into the 20th century. However, with the decline of the canal trade the population shrank (HER 4435).

The 1766 map of the village naming it 'Wilstern Green' depicts it prior to its decline. The triangular green is lined with buildings aside from the SW corner with Chapel End on the west side. This village layout is typical of settlement patterns in Hertfordshire, with buildings around a triangular area of common land, known as the Green, and routes coming out at the corners.

In 1894 the hamlet of Wilstone was joined with the ecclesiastical parish of Long Marston, forming the civil parish of Tring Rural (Page 1908). It was not until the later 19th century that the village got its own church, the Church of St Cross, situated within the village 200m to the north (HER 11424).

A number of post-medieval listed building exist within the village, including a late 15th century timber-framed house at 13 Tring Road (HER 15962); the Half Moon public house on Tring Road, a 17th century timber framed building (HER 13394); and Chapelend Farm, 7 Chapel End Lane, a 18th century farmhouse with 16th century timber-framed wings (HER 18720).

3.7 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

Wilstone Farm Shop was formerly known as Wilstone Little Farm (HER 16093), a post-medieval farmstead. The first edition Ordnance Survey map (1882-92) shows the site consisted of the farm and several small groups of houses including workers' cottages to the west. Today, all that remains of the farmstead is the mid 17th century north barn, as the cottages are no longer standing and the 18th century south barn was destroyed by fire in the



1990s. A large farmhouse to the west of the barns, and a barn to the east were also lost before the 1970s.



4 Results

Introduction

An area at the western end of the site and the excavation of an associated trench were monitored during the course of this project (Fig 3). The groundworks were undertaken by an 8 tonne machine fitted with a 1.50m toothless bucket.

Groundworks (Fig.3: Plates 1-3)

The top soil of an area of 24m length and 18m width, located at the southwest of the site, was reduced 0.10m depth (Fig 3. Plates 1-2). The stratigraphy revealed during the works was similar to which was recorded during a previous archaeological evaluation (Dodd 2016). It comprised a dark brown topsoil, overlying light brown subsoil. Several linear features appeared in the subsoil containing plastic and other modern rubble inclusions, and were probably related to modern groundworks in the area (Plate 4).

The trench, which was aligned northeast to southwest, was located at the southwest corner of the reduced area. It measured 23 x 2 x 0.10m and revealed a dark brown top soil above a layer with modern rubble inclusions.

The finds were modern CBM (Ceramic Building Material), modern pottery, glass and metal. None of them were retained.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted.



Plate 1: Ground reduction general view facing north (2m scale)



Plate 2: Ground reduction general view facing west (2m scale)



Plate 3: Trench facing southwest (2m scale)



Plate 4: Modern earthworks facing northwest (2m scale)

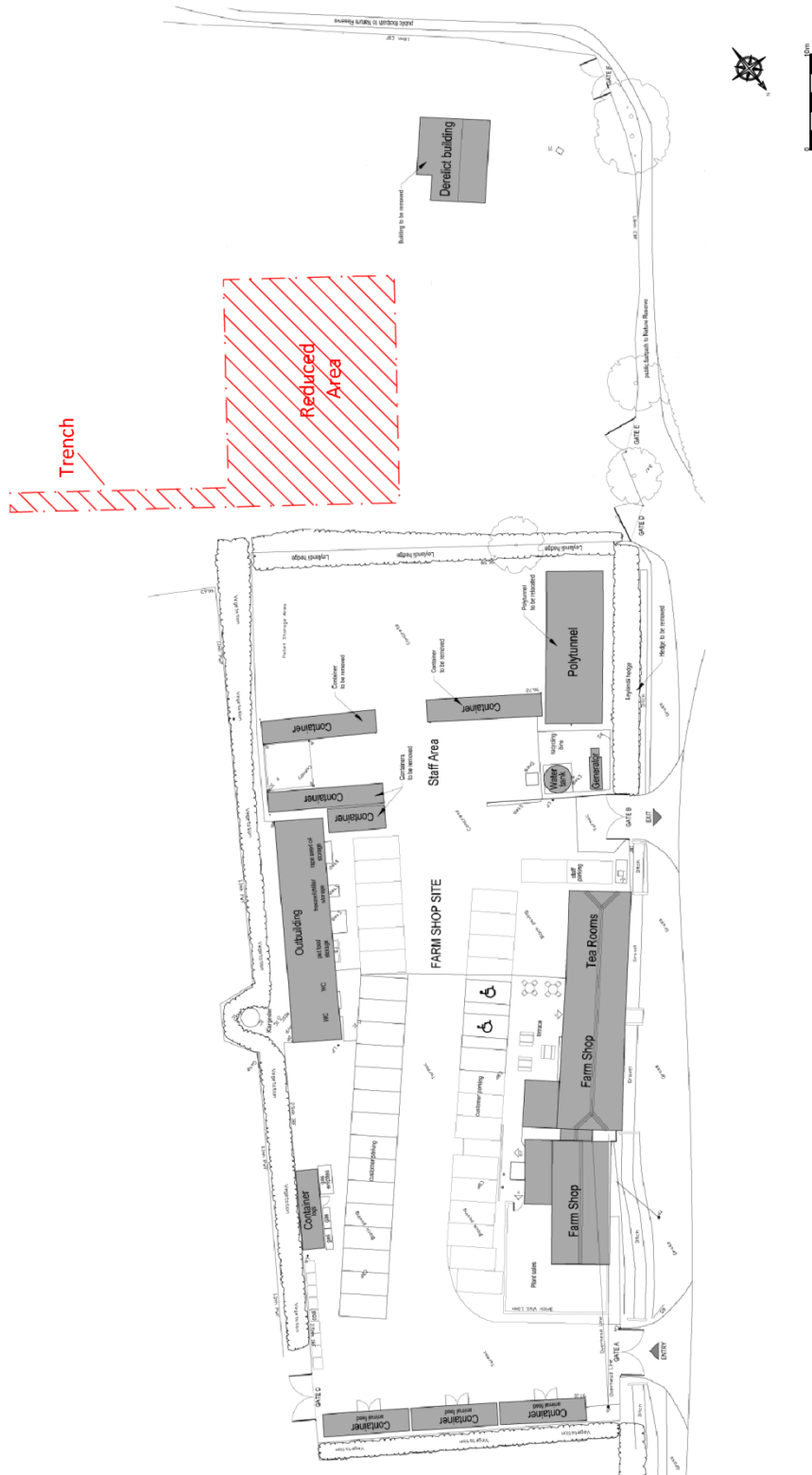


Figure 4: Plan of reduced area and trench (scale 1:750)



5 Conclusions

The principal object of the archaeological monitoring within the development area was to locate and record the possible remains of the missing buildings and agricultural features associated to the post-medieval farmstead.

The absence of archaeological remains in the upper layers was possibly because the site had been truncated during the 20th century when most of the post-medieval buildings seemed to have been demolished and the levelling layers were deposited in the area. The debris found on the topsoil, namely modern pottery, glass and small metal finds, is indicative of earlier 20th century site usage.

The works during this stage did not reach the natural geology where it is possible that remains related to the farm, such as the two ditches revealed during the evaluation may have survived.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Simon Jones for commissioning this report on behalf of Simon Mead. Thanks are also due to Isobel Thompson and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council for providing historic environment records and monitoring the project respectively.

Thanks are also due to Simon Mead for his assistance during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was carried out by Eva Estela and Tim Lewis. The report was written by Eva Estela and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIFA



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. Specialist reports
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The electronic archive will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service.



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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Dodd, L. 2016 *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Wilstone Farm Shop, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire*. KDK Archaeology Ltd.: KDK:181/WFS.

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Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).

Watkinson D. & Neal V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*. Hertford & London: Rescue

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

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Ground reduction general view facing north (2m scale)
2	X	X	Ground reduction general view facing west (2m scale)
3		X	Ground reduction general view facing northeast (2m scale)
4	X	X	Trench facing southwest (2m scale)
5		X	Ground reduction with modern earthworks facing NW (2m scale)



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire.	Project Site Code	216/WFS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-251158	Event/Accession no	-
OS reference	SP 90733 13620	Study area size	6840m
Project Type	Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	97.10m
Short Description	In May 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation and Recording at Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent. A previous programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out revealing modern layers overlying probable post-medieval ditches. The results from the ground works during this second stage of investigation suggests that the area probably had been disturbed during the 20th century when most of the buildings related to the farm house were lost.		
Previous work	Evaluation	Site status	Site of Grade " listed buildings
Planning proposal	Restructuring and expansion of the Farm Shop site. New buildings and structures within the curtilage of Grade II Listed Building.	Current land use	Commercial and open field
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	4/03073/15/FUL
Monument type	None	Monument period	Modern
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator		Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Eva Estela
Sponsor/funding body	Simon Mead		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	13.05.16	End date	16.05.16
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	-	-	
Paper	KDK Archaeology	Report, WSI, site records, photographs	
Digital		Report, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation & Recording: Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire.		
Serial title & volume	216/WFS		
Author(s)	Eva Estela		
Page no.s	21	Date	17.05.16



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green.			
County: Hertfordshire		District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Wilstone Green		Parish: Tring Rural	
Planning application reference: 4/03073/15/FUL			
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Simon Mead Wilstone Farm Shop Lower Icknield Way Wilstone Green Hertfordshire			
Nature of application: Restructuring and expansion of the Farm Shop site. Construction of new buildings and structures within the curtilage of Grade II Listed Building			
Present land use: Farm shop and open field.			
Size of application area: 6840m		Size of area investigated: 484.07m	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP90733 13620		Site code: 216/WFS	
Site director: Eva Estela		Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Observation and Recording			
DATE OF WORK:		Start: 13.05.16	Finish: 16.05.16
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust			
Related HER no's:		Periods represented: Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dodd, L. 2016 <i>Archaeological Evaluation Report: Wilstone Farm Shop, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire</i> .KDK Archaeology Ltd.: KDK:181/WFS. - McDonald, T 1993 <i>Wilstone Pipeline: Evaluation</i>. Report No. 87. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Reports 			
Summary of fieldwork results:			
<p>In May 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation and Recording at Wilstone Farm Shop, Lower Icknield Way, Wilstone Green, Hertfordshire, as a condition of planning consent. A previous programme of archaeological evaluation was carried out revealing modern layers overlying probable post-medieval ditches. The results from the ground works during this second stage of investigation suggests that the area probably had been disturbed during the 20th century when most of the buildings related to the farm house were lost.</p>			
Author: Eva Estela		Date: 17.05.16	