



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

A & V Buildings
GlaxoSmithKline
Priory Street
Ware
Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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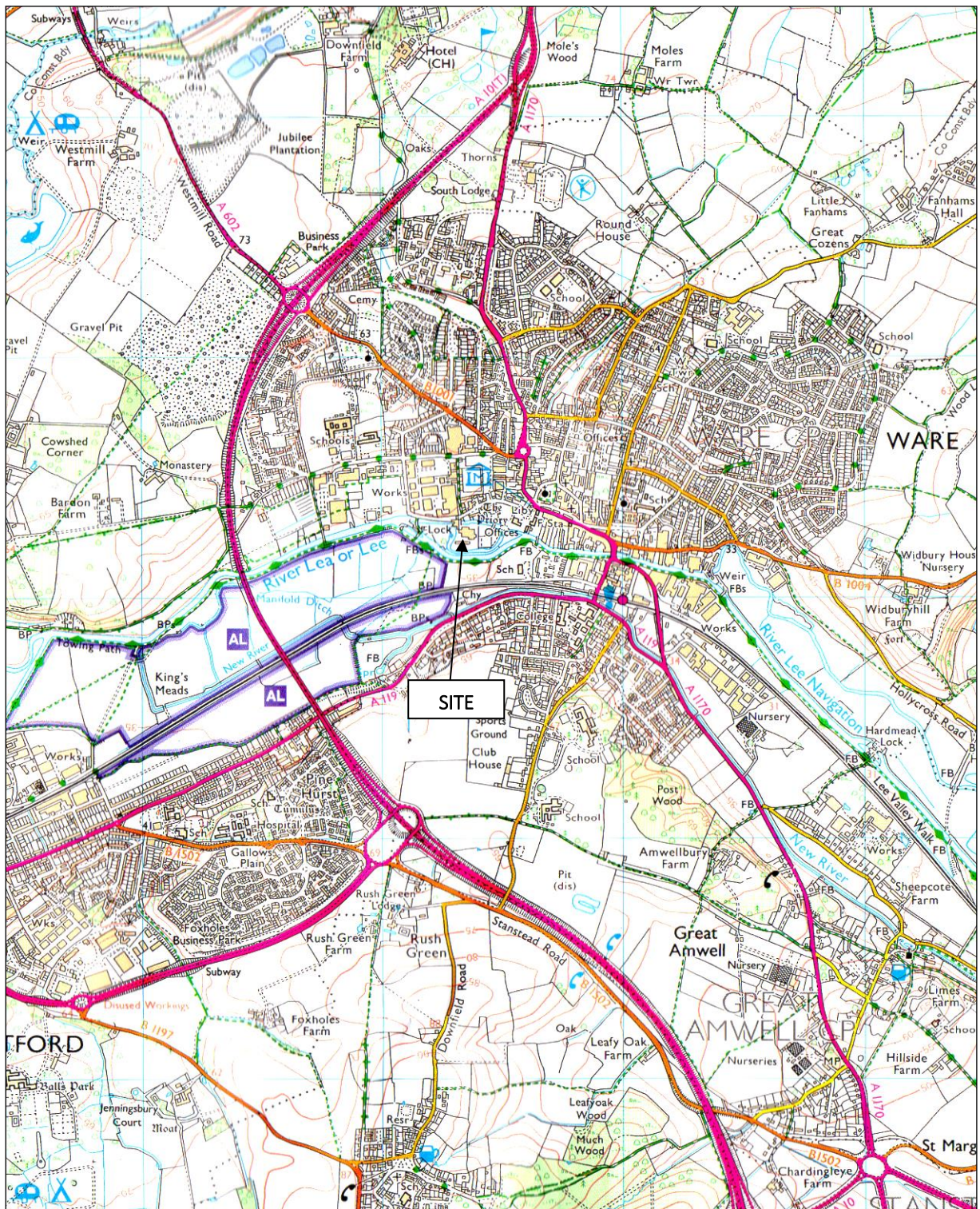


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In September 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the excavation for a new pump/tank chamber at the A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. The lower part of a pottery vessel dating from the mid 1st – late 2nd century was discovered unstratified within the natural peaty clay and next to a gravel deposit. It is not thought to have been a deliberate deposit rather that it sunk through the peat by natural means during particularly wet periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the excavation for a new pump chamber at the A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Scitech on behalf of GSK, Ware and was carried out according to KDK's Observation & Recording Method Statement.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been undertaken at the request of GlaxoSmithKline to complement the archaeological investigations carried out on neighbouring A Building.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

Ware is approximately 3 miles northeast of the county town of Hertford and lies within the administrative area of East Herts District Council. The GSK complex is located to the west of the medieval core of Ware at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 35109 14495 (Fig. 1). The main complex is bounded by Priory Street and the River Lea to the south, Harris's Lane to the west, Buryfield Way to the east and by Park Road to the north.

Description

The site is situated to the south of Priory Road, adjacent to Ware Lock and to the west of A Building (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The local soils of this part of the complex is typically constituted of topsoil overlying clay and iron-depleted upper subsoil, which in turn overlies clay-enriched lower subsoil, and then weathered brickearth. More complicated soil structures have been identified in very localised areas elsewhere in the main complex. However, in this particular location there are additional overlying alluvial deposits.

Development

The development comprised the excavation of a pump chamber associated with a new pure water plant room (Fig. 3).

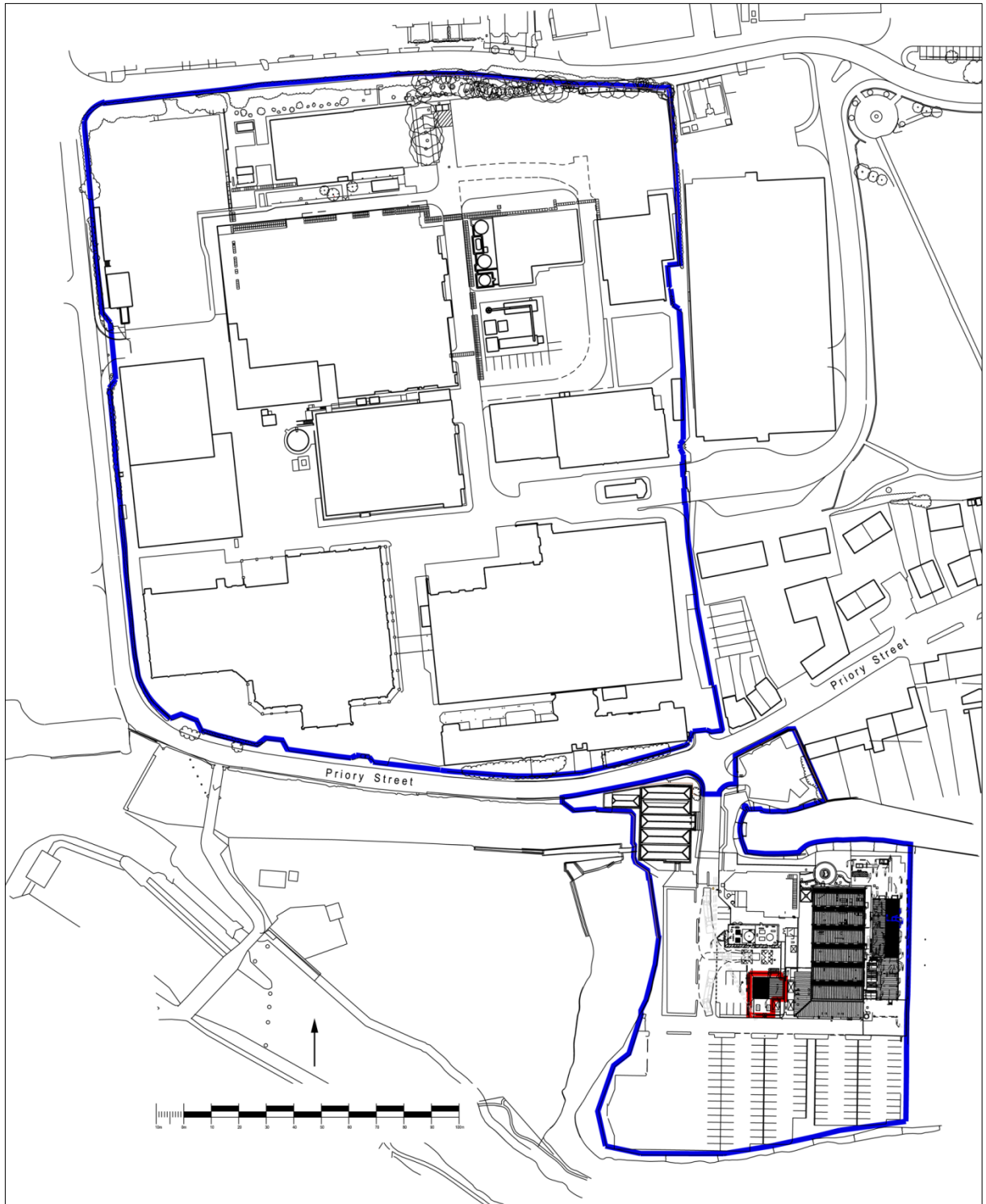


Figure 2: Site layout (scale as shown)

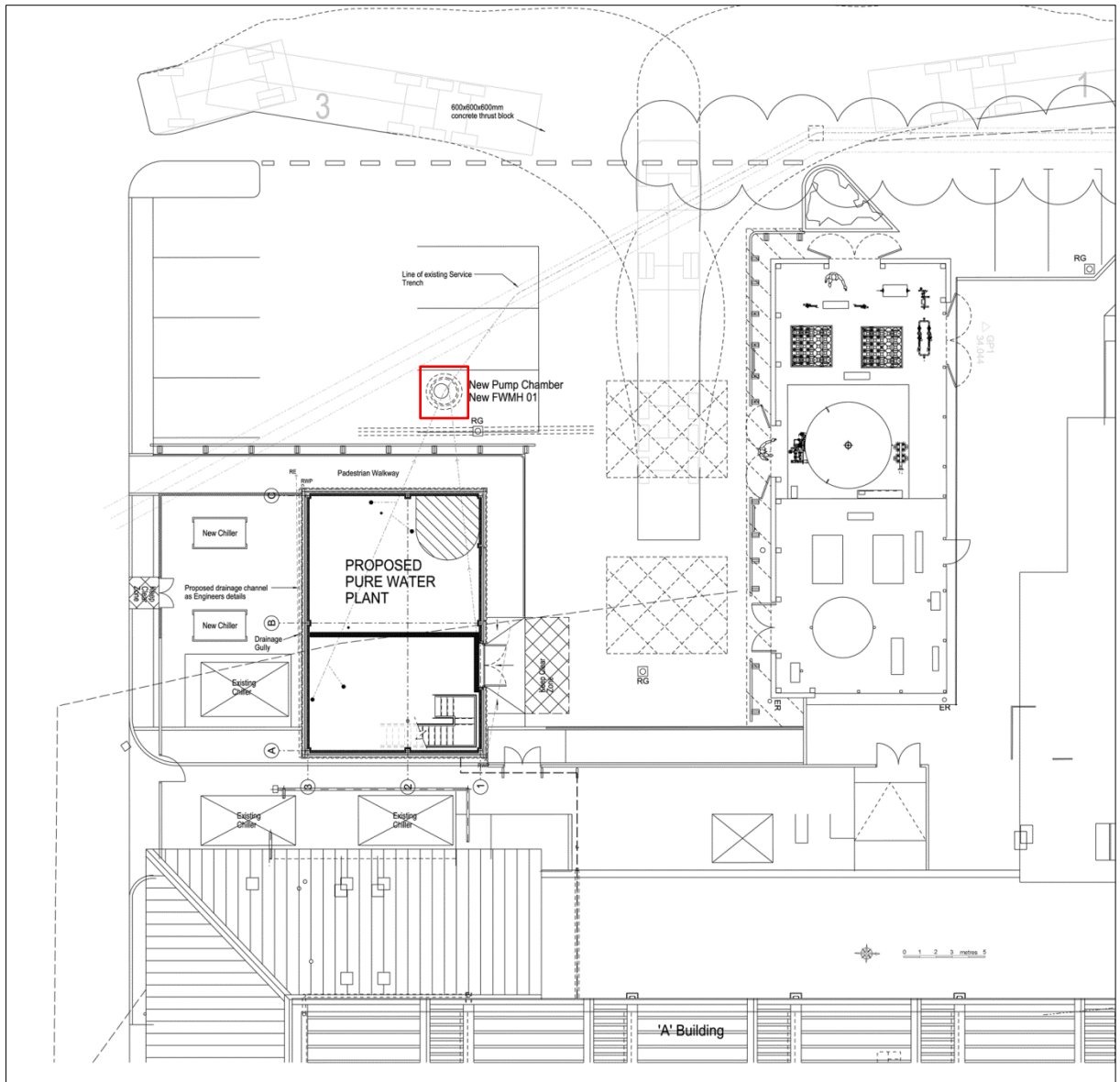


Figure 3: Development location (not to scale)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project 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*

The works were done were done under 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 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

The earliest documented recovery of Roman remains in Ware is that of four stone coffins and a Roman coin, which were found in Buryfields in 1802. Two more burials were found in 1831, when Ware Lock was being constructed on the Lea Navigation Channel (Mylne 1832). Settlement evidence was encountered in 1899, when the site was first being developed as Allen & Hanbury's factory (Andrews 1900). Further finds were encountered in the 1940s and in the following decade a section was excavated across the Roman Ermine Street in Broadmead, south of Ware Lock (Holmes 1955).

The potential significance of the archaeological remains became clear in the 1970s, when the core of a Roman town was excavated within the main GSK complex by the East Herts Archaeological Society (EHAS). Roman roadside settlement was recorded, and subsequent excavation on the south bank of the Lea revealed a possible wharf (Petchey & Collier 2004-5; Kiln & Partridge 1995). Almost two decades later trial trenching by Hertfordshire Archaeology Unit (HAT) in the area that became the security gate and car park at Millside revealed further evidence for Roman buildings, in the form of compacted gravel and chalk yard surfaces (Cooper-Read 1992). The significance of these features is in their location. They are situated approximately 50m east of the supposed route of Ermine Street, whereas the buildings and surfaces associated with the known roadside settlement only reached c.25m from the edge of the road. Therefore there is a possibility that they may be related to more wharf development.

In 1976 four inhumations, one in a lead-lined wooden coffin, were recovered by EHAS during redevelopment work at Allen & Hanbury's on the northern part of the site and 300m north of the lock (Frere 1977: 401). This was followed by series of excavations between 1976 and 1979 about 100m east of the burials, across and immediately west of Ermine Street. During this period, discoveries of Roman date included a sequence of timber-framed buildings fronting Ermine Street, cobbled yards, a well, evidence of ironworking and pottery-making, several infant burials and one adult inhumation, and a road-side shrine. The excavations illustrated that the construction of the military road, soon after conquest, was superseded by a larger civilian road which attracted a ribbon development of at least 300m along its length north of the river Lea.

Watching briefs were undertaken on the groundworks for the building construction and the associated services. When the Priory Lane entrance to the GSK site was being developed in the early 1980s, the Hart Archaeological Unit (HAU) had only a limited opportunity to excavate and record during their watching brief. However, the earlier military road was observed to the west of the civilian road, with evidence for a continuation of the roadside settlement in the form of chalk floor surfaces, two wells and a possible furnace, along with a few rubbish pits. A pre-Roman ditch underlying Ermine Street was also noted (Frere 1985, 293). Further evidence of Iron Age occupation has since been found beneath medieval levels in Ware (Partridge 1981: 32), suggesting the presence of an extensive Iron Age settlement on the north side of the Lea valley.

In 1987 and 1988 the Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) carried out two investigations on the S Building, in the southwest corner of the main complex. The discoveries included 4 ditches, two of which may have formed part of an enclosure, and 4 inhumations, which suggest the presence of a cemetery in the southwest corner of the site. These have remained unreported until now.

An excavation undertaken in 1989 by HAT on the site of the present restaurant produced evidence for the development of Ware from the prehistoric period until the end of the Roman settlement. Roman buildings were revealed, as was further evidence for the construction and



development of Ermine Street. Several infant burials, the first on the site, were also discovered along the roadside and within one of the buildings. A subsequent excavation in 2003 on the same site and the development of Building N10 to the south of the restaurant allowed the Roman road to be examined in more detail, as well as revealing a prehistoric ditch beneath Ermine Street (Humphrey 1990; O'Brien 2004).

Between 1993 and 1997 HAT undertook a series of evaluations, excavations and watching briefs as part of the Access Project, which impacted the eastern side of the main complex. The project comprised three elements: the diversion of Park Road to create a new access point, the provision of a new security gate on the east side of the complex, and the construction of a multi-storey car park and access road on the former football pitch and part of the adjacent land known as Buryfields. Although the finds included a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, the excavations principally revealed several areas of the Roman settlement, including a section of ribbon development immediately adjacent to Ermine Street. This included evidence of possible structures and 'back yard' features relating to plots of land fronting Ermine Street, and part of a 3rd or 4th century inhumation cemetery. The full extent of the cemetery was never established, though 15 grave cuts and 13 articulated skeletons were recorded. (Zeepvat & Walker, unpublished).

In contrast to the archaeologically rich investigations of previous years, the watching briefs carried out in 2006 and 2010 on the northeast and north sides of M Building by Archaeological Solutions and ASC respectively revealed no archaeological remains (Hallybone 2006, Cuthbert & Kaye 2010).

A programme of excavations along the northern part of the main complex and beneath the X3 Building was undertaken by archaeological Services and Consultancy between 2009 and 2012. The first which followed the demolition of U Building, revealed four Bronze Age cremations and a possible pond barrow, along with a possible medieval boundary or drainage ditch and a post-built structure of unknown date (Kaye 2009). Evidence for prehistoric settlement in the form of two round houses was revealed the following year on the P8 site, which lay east of U Building. The round houses were located between the Bronze Age barrow and the Roman settlement that developed alongside Ermine Street, but may not have been on the outer fringe of an Iron Age settlement as a prehistoric track was revealed beneath Ermine Street during the 2012 excavations (Kaye & Kaye forthcoming).

In contrast to the wealth of archaeological material found on the production site, the Research and Development site to the west of Harris Lane has produced relatively little archaeological material. Trial trenching prior to the construction of the Amenity Building produced evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of a ditch and a Bronze Age pit (Murray 1993, 1994). A few other undatable features and a post-medieval ditch were also revealed, but the main characteristic of the area was the silting and build-up of the ground level to form a level building platform, possibly for the 19th century brickworks on the site. The development of the Stability Chamber in 2011 was found to impact on the post-medieval barge cut that served the former brickworks, but otherwise the area consisted of made ground (Kaye 2011).

More recently in 2014 geophysics, evaluation and excavation was carried out at the Lock Keepers Cottage Island, Priory Street during the construction of a mini hydro-electric generator and trout hatchery. Here a series of well-preserved Roman timbers were found that are believed to have formed a caissoned bridge abutment and/or quayside, set into what was once marshland. A series of probable post-medieval cut features were also found (Kaye in progress).



In 2014-2015, archaeological monitoring was carried out during the construction of new facilities in the A Building, GSK, Priory Street. However, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed (Estella 2016).

3.2 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

The three closest excavations to the proposed development take the form of an evaluation at Millside, some rescue archaeology during the construction of the southern extension to N12, and an open area excavation during the re-routing of the river Lea at Ware Lock.

Of the three, the Millside evaluation is the most useful in terms of providing an indication of the likely density of archaeology and the local stratigraphy. Six trenches were excavated in the then proposed development area. Three were blank, but the two within the visitors' car park and the one closest to where A Building is now situated contained archaeology.

Trenches 5 and 6 were located in the car park and had substantial Roman remains *in situ* at a depth of 1.1-1.2m below existing ground level. They consisted of gravel and chalk surfaces. Trench 2 contained a ditch orientated roughly east-west and an adjacent line of post holes which probably represented a fence line. Second century pottery was recovered from these features. No domestic refuse was recovered from these trenches, suggesting the area may have had a more industrial or commercial focus.

The material overlying the archaeological features consisted of peat and silty alluvial deposits which were noted at depths up to 2.3m below the existing ground level.

The rescue excavation at southern side of N12 was approximately 125m northwest of the proposed development. But although the development straddled Ermine Street, only a limited amount of excavation and recording were possible. However, the earlier military road appeared to lie to the west of the civilian road, at this point, with some overlap from the more substantial civilian road. More chalk surfaces were noted, indicating a continuation of settlement close to the river. Two wells were recorded to the east of the road, though both were dug out by the contractor's excavator. Evidence of metal working, and a possible furnace, were also noted, along with a few rubbish pits, and a pre-Roman ditch which underlay Ermine Street (Frere 1985, 293).

Further to the west, when Ware Lock was being constructed on the Lea Navigation, two inhumations and a number of other Roman finds were recovered (Mylne 1832). Excavations on the south bank of the Lea in 1974 recorded chalk building foundations, probably from the early fourth century. An un-urned cremation was noted immediately adjacent to Ermine Street in a layer presumed to be a footpath. Trial trenches excavated by EHAS adjacent to the lock in 1976 produced evidence of piles and timber framing, possibly forming part of a river frontage (Partridge 1979).



4 Results

Introduction

A rectangular pit measuring 2.20 x 2.40m was excavated using a 14 tonne excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

Description

The pit had been excavated to a depth of 0.85m and partially shuttered on arrival. The stratigraphy that remained exposed showed that the upper 0.55m comprised modern materials, which overlay clay, except at the northern end of the pit, which had a layer of naturally deposited gravel. The excavation of the pit was monitored to a depth of 1.85m at which depth the remains of a pot was revealed along the eastern wall of the pit. There was no apparent cut for the pot, which was deeply embedded in the peat.

This section of the pit was reduced to a depth of 2.20m under archaeological supervision and the pit as a whole was further reduced the following day to a depth of 3.0m but no further features or finds were observed.

The pot

The pot remains consisted of nine joining sherds of BSW (black surfaced/Romanising grey) weighing 358g in total. They were all from the very lower half of a jar and included the whole base of the vessel. As no rim sherds were found the vessel can only be dated by fabric analysis

The sherds display little abrasion and their principle components are abundant ill-sorted quartz alongside sparse burnt out organics and rare flint. This fabric is normally dated from the mid/late 1st to late 2nd century or possibly slightly later (this type of fabric was at its most popular up to the early/mid 2nd century). The presence of sparse organics rather than grog within this fabric, may indicate that the vessel is dated to the earlier part of the mid 1st/late 2nd century date range.



Plate 1: North facing section of the pit prior to shuttering



Plate 2: West facing section of the pit prior to shuttering

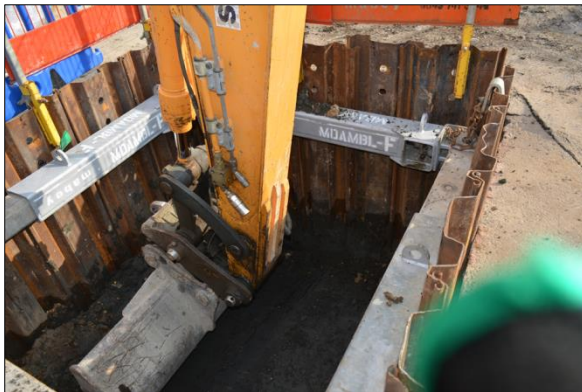


Plate 3: Working shot



Plate 4: 1.85m depth



Plate 5: Close up of peat with pottery



Plate 6: Close up of peat with pottery



5 Conclusions

It is known that the area now occupied by the GSK complex has been actively utilised since the Mesolithic period and formed part of a Romano-British riverside settlement. The environmental development of the riverside has also been recently investigated and an early Roman bridge abutment and quayside discovered some 70m to the west of the present development site. The discovery of an almost complete pottery vessel was therefore not unexpected other than it was found unstratified at some depth within the peat.

The proximity to the gravel layer could suggest that the pot may have been lost, discarded or deposited at the river's edge and subsumed into the peat by natural transformation processes. There is nothing to suggest that this may have been a ritual deposit, although riparian offerings are well known before and during the Roman period.

Whilst a Roman gravel surface was recorded in the vicinity prior to the construction of Millside Security, immediately adjacent to the south of the pit, no evidence of settled habitation was noted during this project. However, as the excavation was of a very limited nature, little can be concluded as to the general density of Roman or any other occupation on this part of the GSK site.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Craig Wallace of Scitech for commissioning this report on behalf of GlaxoSmithKline. Thanks are also due to Andy Fawcett for the pottery analysis and Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Karin Kaye MA MClfA. The report was written by Karin Kaye, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Ware Museum.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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Online Sources

British Geological Service: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 17/11/2016)



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 237/WAV			Site Name: A & V Building, GSK, Ware, Hertfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	North facing section of the pit prior to shuttering
2	x	x	West facing section of the pit prior to shuttering
3	x		Corner of the pit
4	x		Working shot
5	x		1.85m depth
6	x		1.85m depth
7	x		Close up of peat with pottery
8	x		Close up of peat with pottery
9	x		Close up of peat with pottery



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	A&V Building, GSK, Ware, Herts.	Project Site Code	237/WAV
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-269770	Event/Accession no	tbc
OS reference	TL 35341 14260	Study area size	5sq m
Project Type	Observation & Recording	Height (mAOD)	33mAOD
Short Description	In September 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the excavation for a new pump/tank chamber at the A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. The lower part of a pottery vessel dating from the mid 1 st –late 2 nd century was discovered unstratified within the natural peaty clay and next to a gravel deposit. It is not thought to have been a deliberate deposit rather that it made its way to the place of discovery by natural means during particularly wet periods.		
Previous work	Yes	Site status	-
Planning proposal	Excavation of a tank pit	Current land use	Car park
Local Planning Authority	East Herts.	Planning application ref.	
Monument type	-	Monument period	Roman
Significant finds	Pottery	Future work	Yes
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	N/A
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA
Sponsor/funding body	GlaxoSmithKline		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	13 th September 2016	End date	13 th September 2016
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Ware Museum	Pottery fragments	
Paper		Fieldwork sheets, photographs, report	
Digital		Report, architects drawings, photogrpahs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Observation & Recording: A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	DK Archaeology 237/WAV/1		
Author(s)	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA		
Page no's	18	Date	16.11.2016



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware,		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts	
Village/Town: Ware	Parish: Ware	
Planning application reference: N/A		
Client's name, address, & tel. no: GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire		
Nature of application: Installation of a tank		
Present land use: Car park		
Size of application area: 5 sq m	Size of area investigated: 5sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 35341 14260	Site code: 237/WAV	
Site director: Karin Kaye MA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd	
Type of work: Observation & Recording		
Date of Work	Start: 13.09.2016	Finish: 13.09.2016
Curating museum: Ware Museum		
Related HER no's:	Periods represented: Late Iron Age/Roman	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Estela, E. 2016 <i>Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: A Building, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire</i> . KDK Archaeology 025/WBA/2		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>In September 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the excavation for a new pump/tank chamber at the A & V Buildings, GlaxoSmithKline, Priory Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. The lower part of a pottery vessel dating from the mid 1st –late 2nd century was discovered unstratified within the natural peaty clay and next to a gravel deposit. It is not thought to have been a deliberate deposit rather that it made its way to the place of discovery by natural means during particularly wet periods.</p>		
Author: Karin Kaye MA MCiFA	Date: 16 th November 2016	