



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land adj. Rose Cottage

Chapel Lane

Akeley

Buckinghamshire



### Quality Check

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## Summary

*In March 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at the Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire in order to fulfil Condition 17 of Planning Consent for the construction of a bungalow on the site. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development which revealed three features of late post-medieval/ modern date. The features included; two possible plough marks, and a small pit containing a high proportion of bottles.*

### 1 Introduction

1.1 In March 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs R Phillips, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Dodd 2018), and approved by Phil Markham, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Aylesbury Vale District Council. The relevant planning application reference is 16/03461/APP.

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in order to fulfil Condition 17 of planning consent. The relevant planning application reference is 16/03461/APP.

#### 1.3 *The Site*

##### *Location*

Akeley is a village and civil parish in the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale. The village is on the Towcester Road (A413) approximately 3 miles north of Buckingham. The development site is located at National Grid Reference 16/03461/APP (Fig. 1).

##### *Description*

Chapel Lane is located to the northeast of the village just off the A413. The development site is situated to the south of Chapel Lane and throughout the last century has been used as allotments and private gardens. It is currently bounded on the north and east by open fields and by residential dwellings to the west (Fig. 2)

##### *Geology & Topography*

The bedrock geology is predominantly sedimentary, formed of sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Kellaways Formation with superficial deposits of Till Mid Pleistocene Diamicton (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site lies at approximately 114m AOD.

##### *Proposed Development*

The development comprises the erection of a two bedroomed bungalow (Fig. 3).

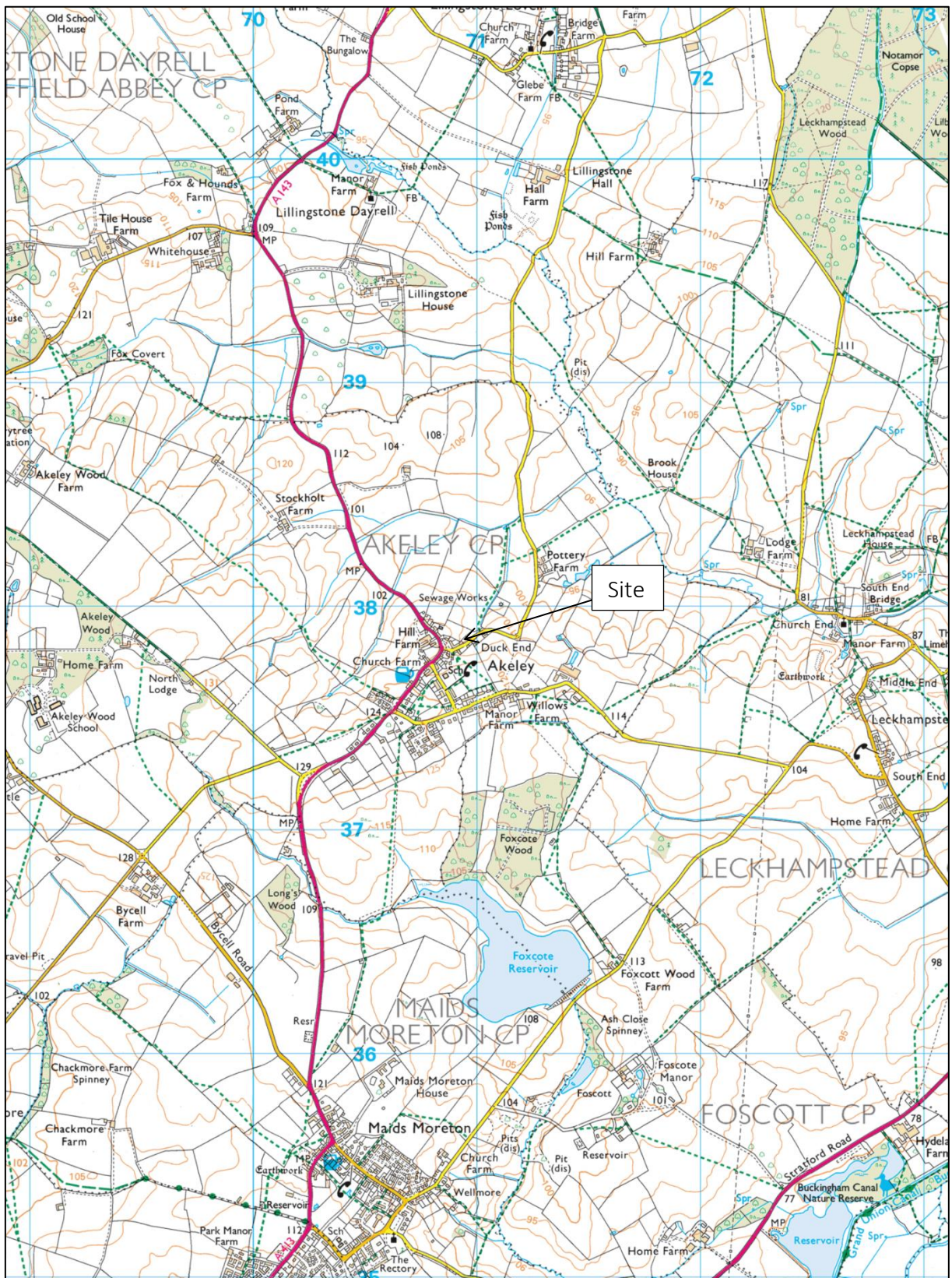
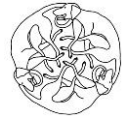


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

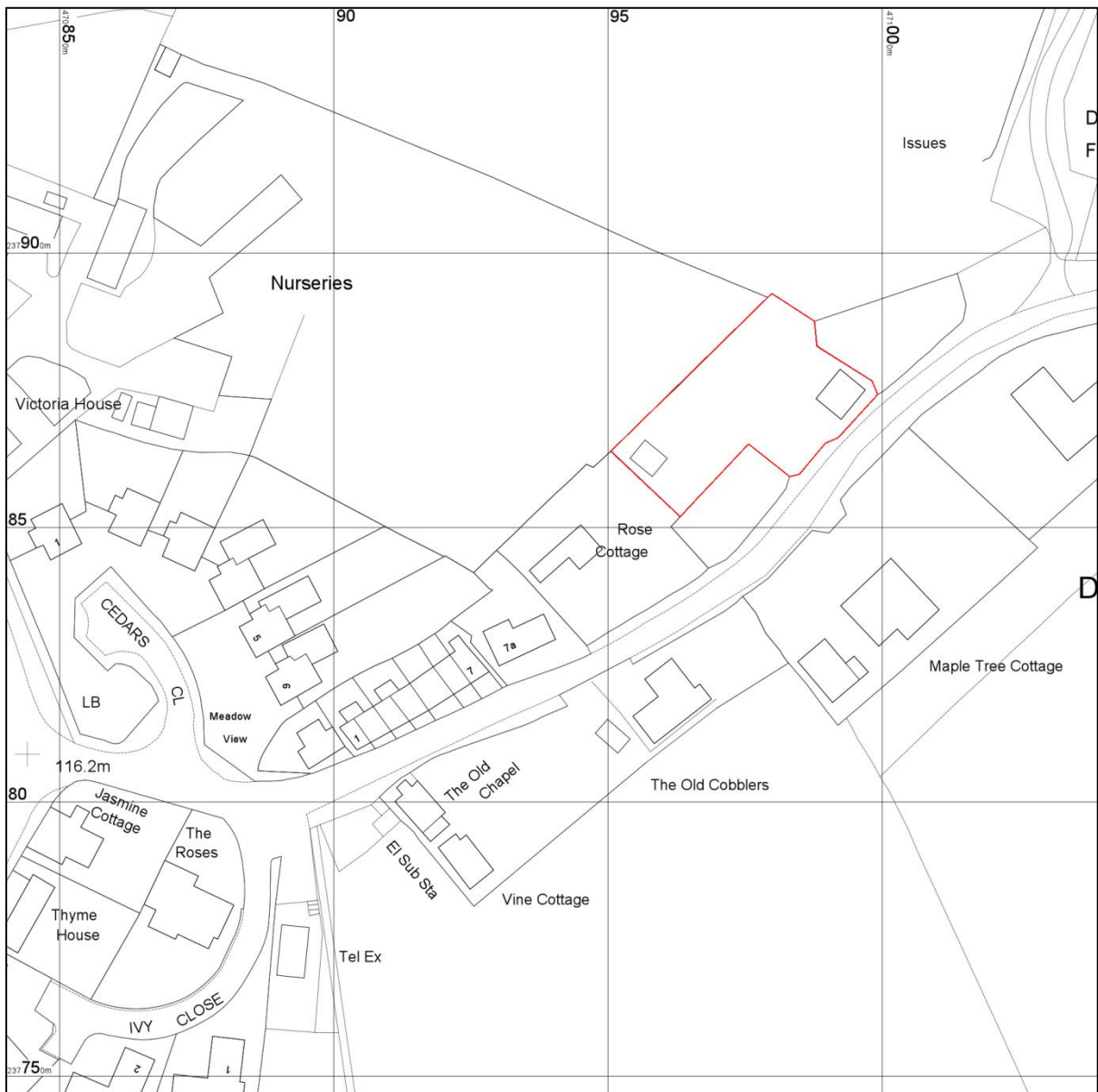


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

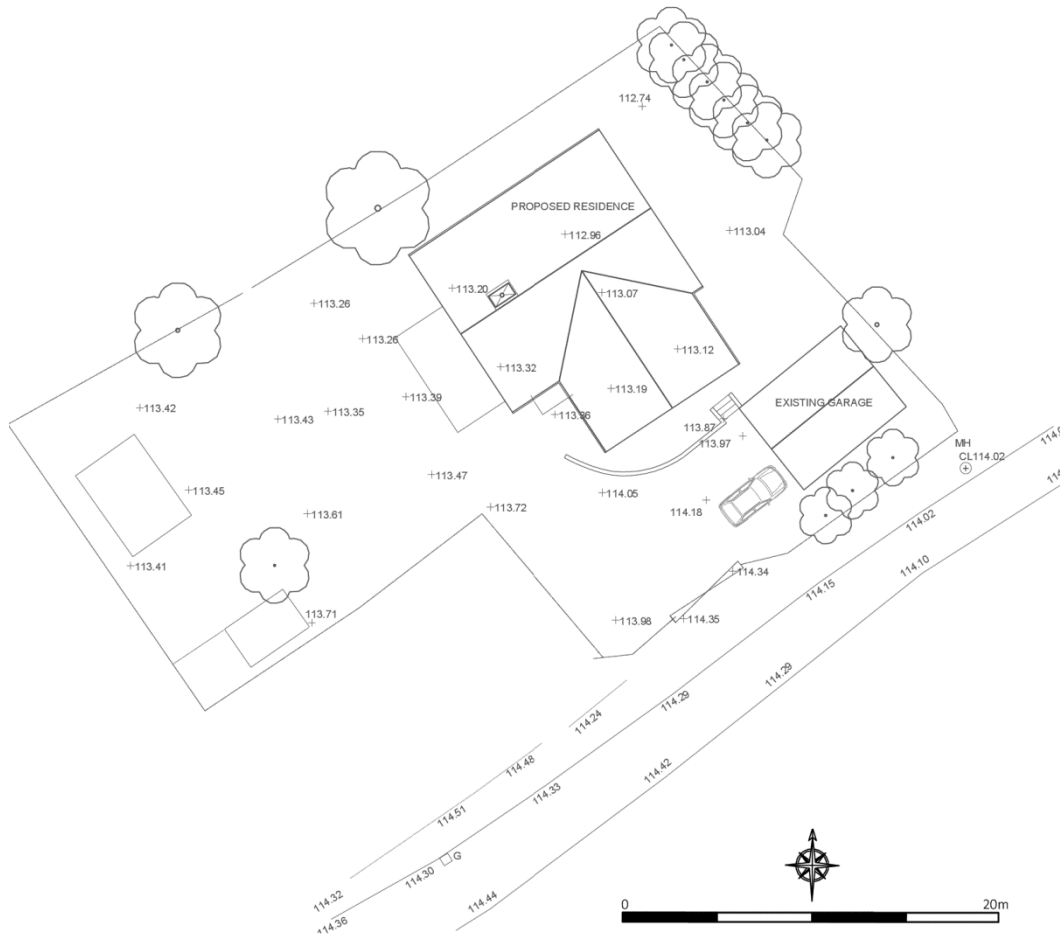


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:400)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Dodd 2018) 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*

In line with the requirements of the Brief, this is the first part of a staged investigation whereby the results of this stage will be assessed to determine the need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation. The methods used were as follows:

- The excavation of a single 16m trench, 2.1m wide.

The location and the trench size were altered due to the presence of building detritus and building materials on the intended trench location. There was also a wall to the south east which had to be avoided. To allow safe access for both personnel and equipment the trench was shorter and wider than the trench proposed in the initial WSI (Fig. 4).

### 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)



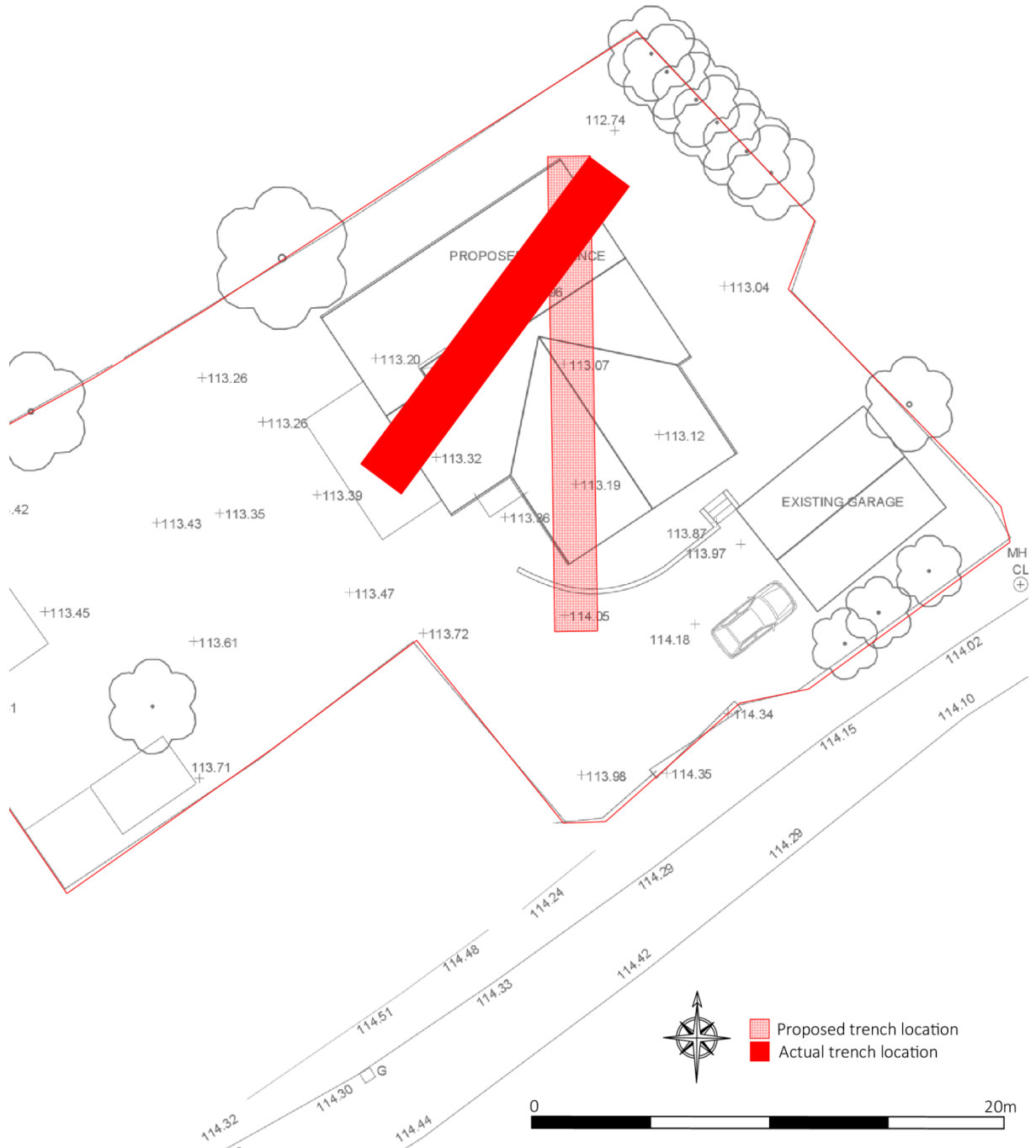


Figure 4: Trench location plan (scale 1:250)



### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Akeley village was designated as a Conservation Area in 2008 by Aylesbury Vale District Council which is centred on the core of the medieval settlement (HER 0852700000). The development site lies immediately to the east of the Conservation Area. The modern village of Akeley is built along the main road, intermingled with a number of listed buildings.

The village was one of the medieval settlements targeted by the Whittlewood Project. The project was run by the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester and the purpose of the exercise was to investigate and explain the origins and survival of contrasting patterns of nucleated villages and dispersed settlements within the Whittlewood area. The investigations occurred during 2000-2005 and a total of 44 test pits were excavated throughout the village. The results indicated that the village was founded between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries and after the Domesday Survey the village underwent rapid expansion. In addition, the presence of Roman, Iron Age and prehistoric finds suggest that human occupation within Akeley pre-dated the Saxon period (Dyer et al. 2005; Jones 2002).

This section has been compiled with information from the Victoria County History (Page 1927), the Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record, KDK's own library and other reliable online sources.

#### 3.2 *Prehistoric- Iron Age* (Before 600BC - AD43)

The earliest activity within the area is represented by a series of finds recovered from around the village. A number of Bronze Age artefacts comprising four spearheads and three axe heads were discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 00191000, HER 19101000, HER 0019102000 and HER 0019103000). Late Iron Age gold and silver coins have since been recovered from metal detecting exercises (MBC31651 and MBC31652 respectively).

In addition a wide spread of Iron Age pottery observed during the Whittlewood Project was observed at Manor Farm and Willows Farm although it is unclear whether these finds represent settlement or agricultural activity (HER 0971200000 and HER 0971300000 respectively). Iron Age pottery was also recovered from Rose Cottage, the land adjacent to the development site (HER 0971700000).

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

A minor Roman road known as Margary Road 162 is believed to cross through the western part of the village, connecting Akeman Street at Fleet Marston to the south and Thornborough to the north (HER 0203400000). A geophysical survey located the remains of flanking ditches associated with the road, along with its junction at Akeman Street (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2009). Although there is very a lack of conclusive evidence to suggest that a Roman settlement existed within the village, pottery dating from this period has been recovered from a field-walking exercise field north of Duck End northeast of the development site (HER 0678900000) and during the Whittlewood Project test pitting (HER 0970900000 and HER 0971000000). These scattered finds may indicate the presence of a number of small farmsteads close to the road. Furthermore, it has been suggested that the village grew up around the earlier Romano British occupation site within, or very close to, the churchyard (HER 0260200000; Dyer et al. 2005). To the south of the village, in Foscot, a Roman villa was excavated and the addition of high status burials observed at Thornborough indicates the presence of aristocratic families living within the Upper Ouse Valley (AVDC 2007).



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

The word Akeley derives from the Anglo-Saxon meaning 'oak wood' or 'clearing' century (Mills 1991) and it is believed that the village was established sometime between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the Conquest of 1066 the manor was held by Ælfric son of Goding and was valued at 60s (Williams & Martin 1992). At this time the village probably consisted of a series of small dispersed farmsteads separated by areas of woodland and arable pasture land.

A test pit was dug at Hillberry, Livingstone Road at the foot of the churchyard bank uncovered a possible 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman or Saxon enclosed settlement. (HER 0970800000) The boundary of the churchyard is defined by a stone bank which appears to have been timber riveted. This married with the stratified finds and construction technique indicate a pre-medieval date (Jones 2001). Grogged pottery was recovered from the base of several postholes and further Saxon pottery has been recorded during the Whittlewood Project providing evidence for a potential dispersed settlement pattern (HER 09715000 and HER 0971600000; Dyer et al 2005).

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

After the Norman Conquest Akeley became part of Whittlewood, a Royal hunting forest. At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, Robert de Noyers held the lands at Akeley (or 'Achelei'), as a subtenant of Walter Giffard, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Buckingham. The land was assessed at 3 hides and was valued 40s (Williams & Martin 1992). Akeley was a small settlement comprising a number of farmsteads separated by areas of woodland for pigs with the historical core of the village being focused on a small square southwest of the churchyard. The village experienced a rapid expansion after 1100 and by 1279 the village's population had tripled since the time of the Survey. In 1150 the Manor and church were gifted by Sir Walter to the Priory of the Faith at Longueville (AVDC 2007)

Medieval settlement remains were observed during an archaeological evaluation carried out at Broadlands, Leckhamstead Road in 2002. The exercise uncovered possible 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century remains comprising a wall footing, paved area, a cobbled surface overlain by stone paving and three possible post settings (HER 0806100000). Probable medieval housing platforms observed from aerial photographs (HER 0259500000) were also observed within the village but have since been built on. There are a further two platforms located 300m south southeast of the site of St James' church (HER 0281600000).

An evaluation was undertaken at the Land to the rear of the Roses, approximately 200m southwest of the development site. The remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement and property boundaries including ditches and pits dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century were observed (HER 0971100000).

Many of the test pits dug during the Whittlewood Project contained medieval pottery. The test pits were located at; Akeley Primary School (HER 0969800000), The Leys (HER 0970000000, HER 0970100000, HER 0970200000, HER 0970300000, HER 0970400000, HER 0971400000 & HER 0971600000), Artwood (HER 0970500000), Verandale (HER 0970600000), Hillberry (HER 0970700000), The Nursery, Lillingstone Road (HER 0970900000 & HER 0971000000), Behind the Roses (HER 0971100000) and at The Piece, Willows Farm (HER 0971800000).

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

The village has retained some of its post-medieval characteristics with listed and historical buildings mingled amongst modern residential developments. The village no longer benefits



from the presence of a church as it was demolished in 1982. The Church of St James the Apostle was first mentioned in 1164. There is no visible trace of the original building as the church was completely rebuilt in 1656 (HER 0124301000) and again in 1854 (HER 0124300000). The foundations of the later church can still be seen within the medieval burial ground which was still accepting burials (HER 0124300001). There was also a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel within the village (HER 0978800000). This was converted into a residential property in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The majority of the listed and historical buildings within the village are farmhouses. Many of these are 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, however, there are earlier buildings still surviving. The earliest of these is believed to be Manor Farmhouse which is a late 15<sup>th</sup> century or early 16<sup>th</sup> century timber framed building (HER 0492100001). Two pubs existed in the village in the post medieval period; the first, 'The Old Greyhound' was a late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building which ceased trading in the 1960s and is now a residential property (HER 0967000000). Anecdotal evidence suggests that the pub also had an in house bakery (Spink 1999). The second public house, the 'Bull and Butcher' still trades (HER 0966700000). The building is mostly 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> century but still retains features of the late 16<sup>th</sup> / early 17<sup>th</sup> century and is said to have once had a grocery shop attached (*ibid*).

The village was predominantly agricultural, as is evident from the number of farmhouses and the presence of ridge and furrow to the north, east and west of the village. A watching brief undertaken in 2006 uncovered a field boundary ditch and ridge and furrow immediately south of the village hall (HER 0943500000). The main road running through Akeley benefitted the area greatly within the post-medieval period, as it brought traffic, and therefore trade through the village. Cottage industries, such as lace-making played an important part in the economic and commercial prosperity of the village. A large school was set up to teach children how to make pillow lace and within the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Akeley was an important lace-making centre (AVDC 2007). A brick and tile works and pottery kiln also existed within the village which used locally sourced clay to produce goods (HER 0417400000). Locally produced decorative tiles are still visible on many of the houses within the village and local pottery has been discovered beneath the house foundations of Rose Cottage, immediately west of the development area, as a means to prevent rising damp (HER 0475100000). During an Archaeological Watching Brief at Rose Cottage in 2011 three sherds of late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered but no other finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed (HER 0716200000).

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

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the village was still dominated by agricultural activity and since 1919 the Akeley and District Horticultural Society held an annual flower show at the village hall. Along the High Street, as well as the public houses, was a butchers shop with adjacent slaughter house, two coal merchants and a carpenter, school and a post office, but there was little expansion before the 1950s (AVDC 2007; Spink 1999).

During World War I Akeley lost nine men and a Celtic cross within a wheel was erected to commemorate those who died in action. The cross stands within the church yard (HER 0731900000).

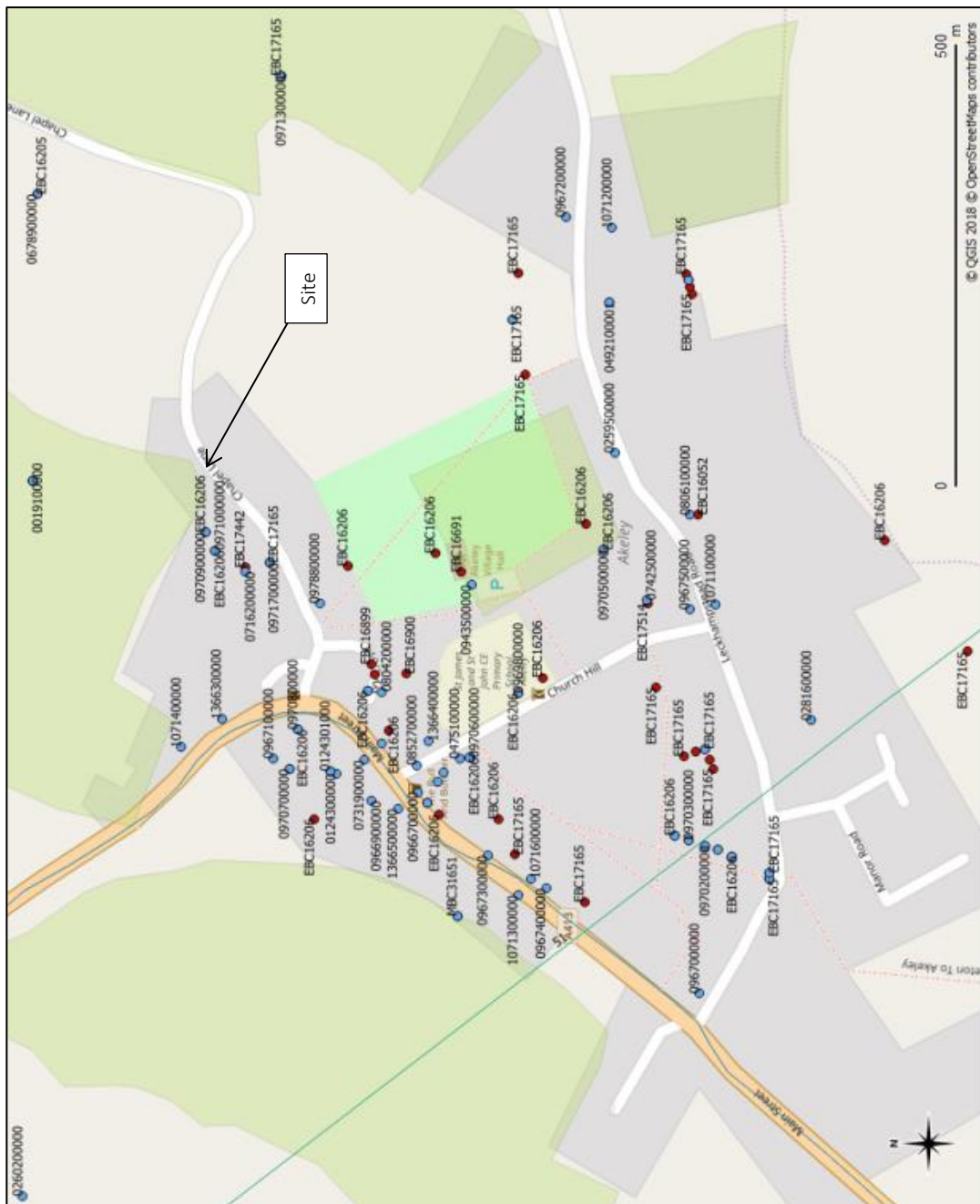


Figure 5: HER data plan: blue dots = monuments; red dots = events (scale 1:7500).



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the new building using a 2.5 tonne machine fitted with a 1m toothless ditching bucket. The trench was orientated north northeast- south southwest and measured 16.2m in length, 2.10m in width and was up to 0.90m deep (Figs. 6-7; Plates 1-2). A sondage was excavated to the north northeast of the trench. The stratigraphy of the site comprised:

- Topsoil **(01)**. Dark greyish brown clayey silt between 0.20m and 0.60m in depth.
- Allotment topsoil **(02)**. Dark greyish brown worked clayey silt containing a high proportion of well-rotted manure and straw 0.30m deep. Contained brick and modern building detritus. This was observed to the north northeast end of the trench.
- Subsoil **(03)**. Mid greyish brown soft clayey silt which reached a depth of 0.16m. Clay pipe, iron pieces, animal bone and pottery were within this layer.
- Natural **(04)**. A light yellowish orange firm silty clay

### 4.2 Features

The features observed within this evaluation were all late post-medieval/modern. Towards the southwestern end of the trench were two linear features **[05]** and **[07]** which appeared to be plough marks (Figs. 9-10; Plates 5-8). These features cut through the subsoil, were orientated southeast-northwest and ran parallel to each other. They appeared to be backfilled with identical fills containing late post-medieval/modern material.

Pit **[09]** was also modern. It was densely packed with wine, beer, Codd, Torpedo and medicine bottles along with other modern material such as plastic, pottery and iron objects (Figs. 11-12; Plates 7-8).

**Context Table**

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
05	Cut	L: >1.11m W: 0.28m D: 0.11m	Narrow, shallow linear U-shaped feature orientated SE-NW. Believed to be a plough mark. Filled by (06). Continues beyond the limit of excavation to the southeast.
06	Fill	L: >1.11m W: 0.28m D: 0.11m	Fill of [05]. Light brown grey clayey silt containing a high proportion of charcoal and occasional angular stones. Post med/modern finds recovered including CBM, porcelain and Bone.
07	Cut	L: >2.20m W: 0.35m D: 0.15m	Narrow, shallow linear U-shaped feature orientated SE-NW. Believed to be a plough mark. Filled by (08). Continues beyond the limit of excavation.
08	Fill	L: >2.20m W: 0.35m D: 0.15m	Fill of [07]. Light brown grey clayey silt containing a high proportion of charcoal and occasional angular stones. Post med/modern finds recovered including CBM, clay pipe, slag and porcelain. Bone also recovered. Identical to (06).
09	Cut	L: 0.48m W: 0.71m D: 0.27m	Irregular shaped pit with steep sides and an irregular base. Filled with 20th century bottles. Contained fill (10).
10	Fill	L: 0.48m W: 0.71m D: 0.27m	Fill of [09]. Dark brownish grey fairly firm slightly silty clay. The fill contained a moderate number of stones and was full of modern glass bottles. Also pot, metal, plastic, shell and rubber were observed.



Plate 1: Overview of trench looking north northeast

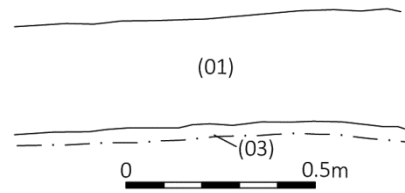


Figure 6: Representative stratigraphy to the southwest of the trench (scale 1:20)



Plate 2: Stratigraphy. Northeast end of trench, looking southeast

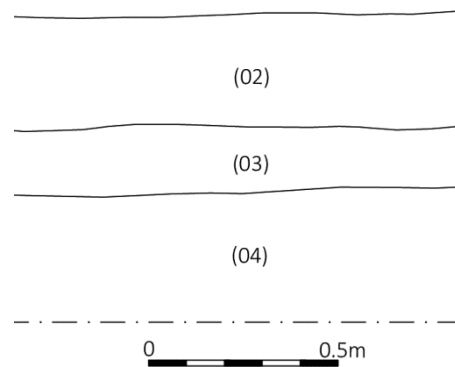


Figure 7: Representative stratigraphy to the northeast of the trench (scale 1:20)



Plate 3: Feature [05] looking southwest



Plate 4: Northwest facing section of [05]



**Plate 5:** Feature [07] looking southwest



**Plate 6:** Northwest facing section of [07]

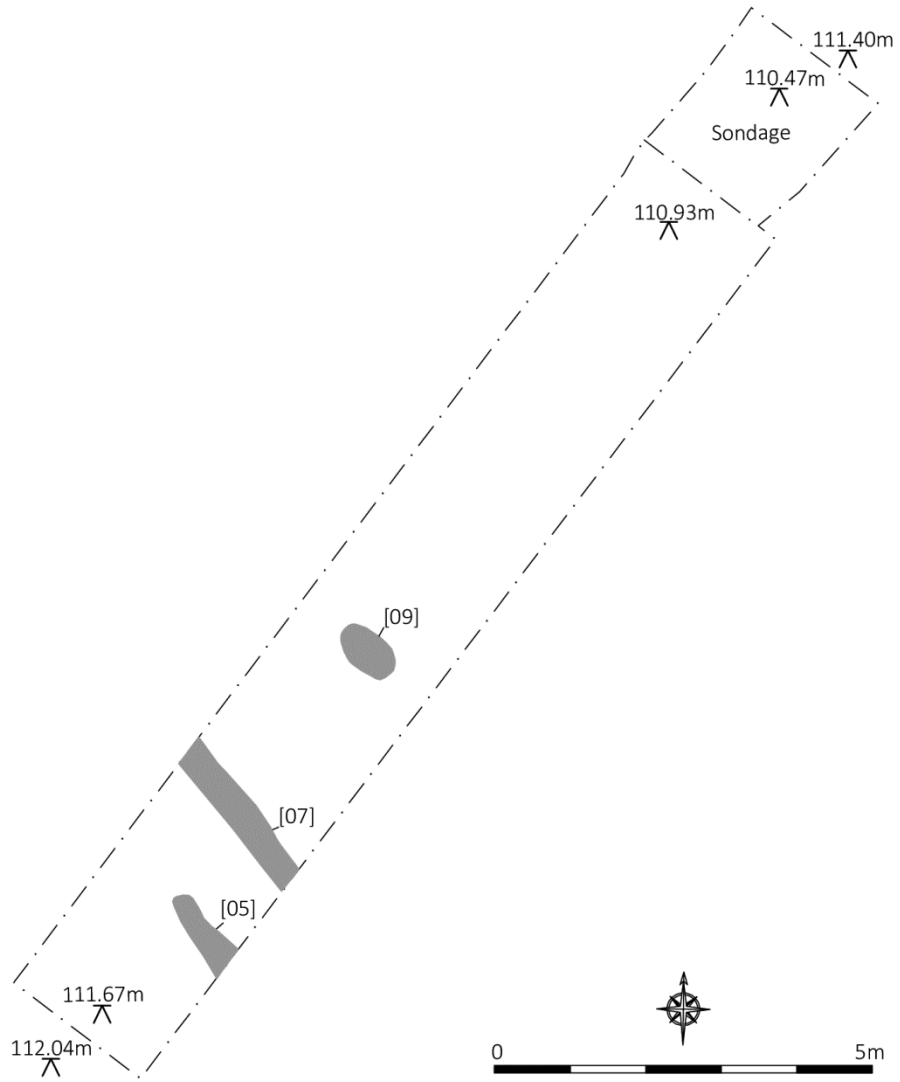


**Plate 7:** Pit [09] looking southwest



**Plate 8:** Example of bottles found in pit [09]





**Figure 8:** Trench plan showing archaeological features (scale 1:100)

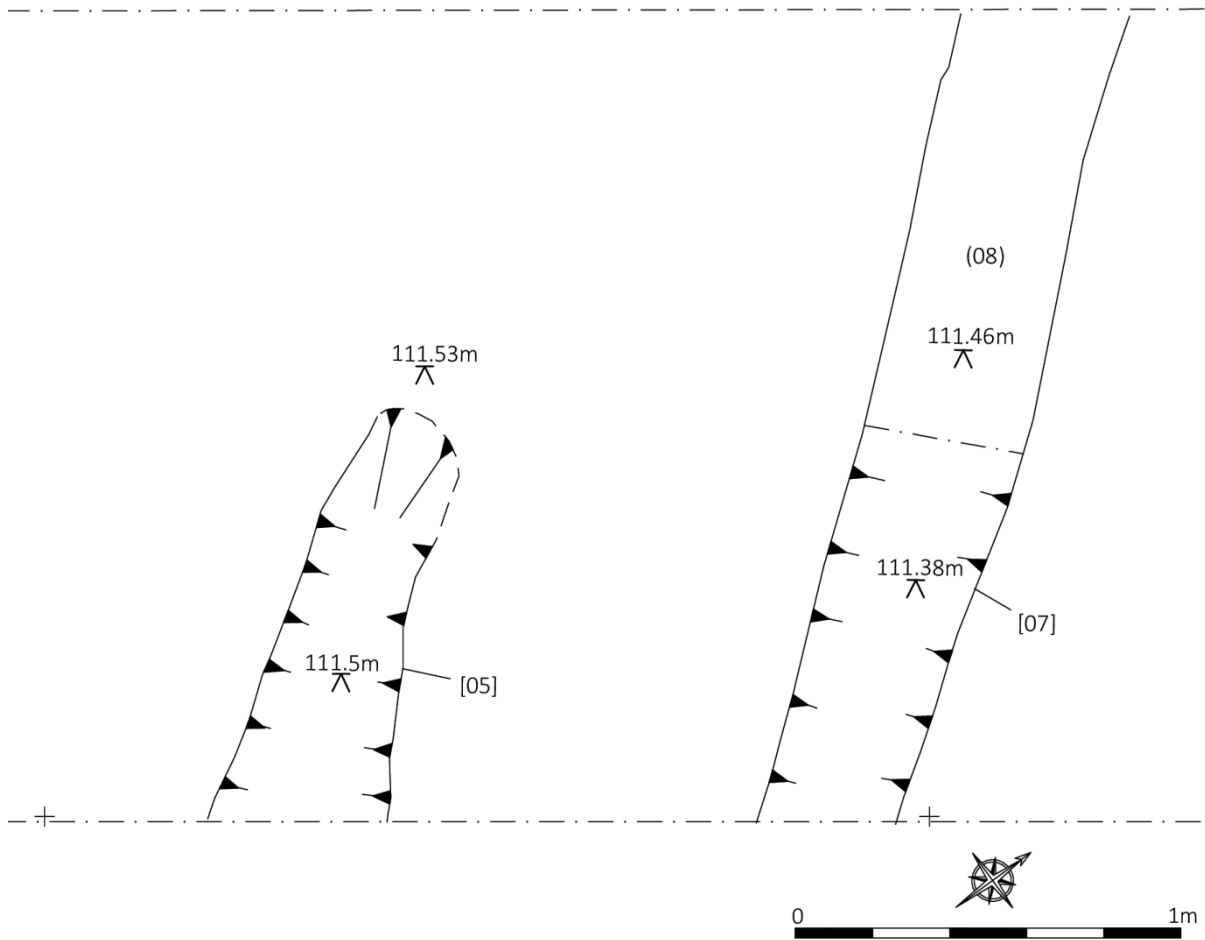


Figure 9: Plan of possible plough marks (scale 1:20)

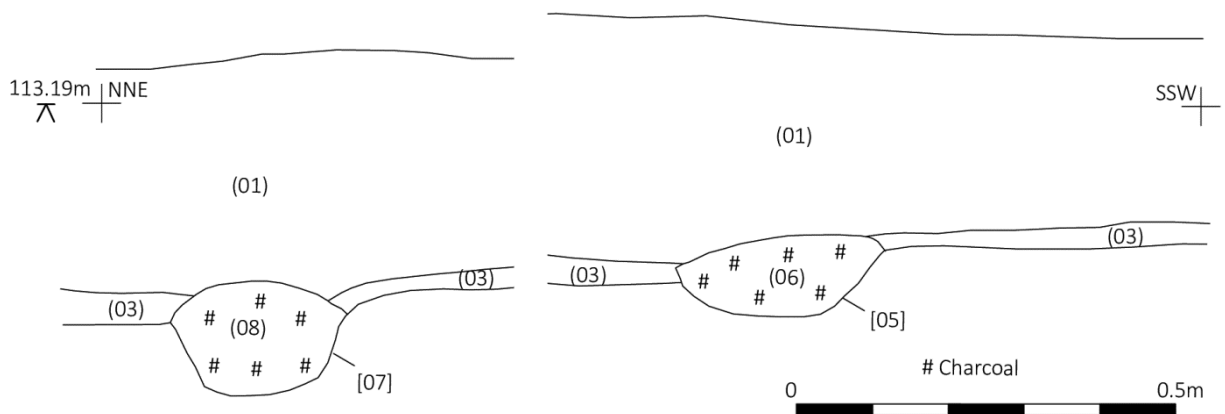


Figure 10: West northwest facing section of possible plough marks [07] and [05] (scale 1:10)

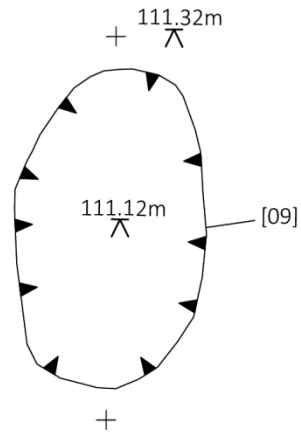


Figure 11: Plan of pit [09] (scale 1:20)

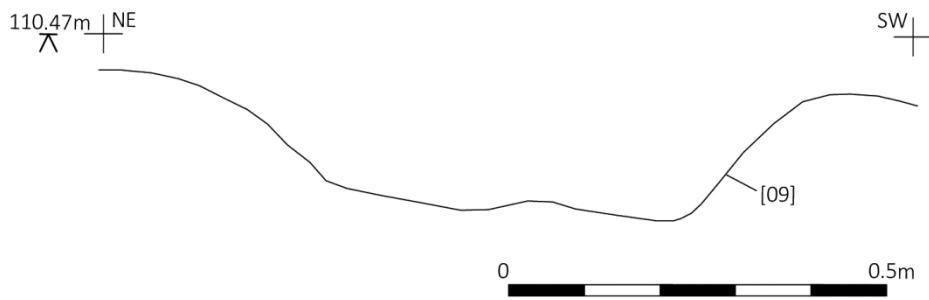


Figure 12: Northwest facing profile of pit [09]



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## 5 Conclusions

Akeley is believed to have been dominated by a number of small farmsteads, perhaps dating from the Iron Age through to the modern periods and scattered finds dating from as far back as the Iron Age have been found in close proximity to the site. Throughout the centuries the village was predominantly agricultural with the main settlement spreading along the main road to the southwest of the excavation site. The material found within the possible plough marks towards the southwest end of the trench implies that ploughing has taken place on the site at least within the last two centuries. The site does not appear to have been extensively ploughed and the scars do not seem to have penetrated too deeply into the natural geology. The intensive manuring evidenced in the trench is recent and associated with the use of this part of the site as an allotment for the present owner.

Although the obvious truncation observed within this exercise may have impacted on more delicate archaeological material, it is possible that archaeological features may have survived elsewhere on the site.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Mr and Mrs Phillips for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Julia Wise of Buckinghamshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Phil Markham of Aylesbury Vale County Council for monitoring the project. We would also like to thank Rod Phillips for his hospitality on site and to the machine driver, Heath Copas.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA and Rebecca Bradford BSc. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIIfA.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (Accession number applied for).



## 8 References

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## Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Overall trench shot looking north northeast
2	X	X	Full ex [05] looking southwest
3	X	X	Full ex [05] northwest facing section
4	X	X	Full ex [07] northwest facing section
5	X	X	Full ex [07] looking southwest
6	X	X	Full ex bottle pit [09] looking southwest
7	-	X	Stratigraphy looking southeast
8	-	X	Example of bottles found in [09]



## Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context number		Pottery		Animal bone		CBM		Fe objects		Glass		Other		
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	Object	No.	Gms
03	-	4	47	2	15	-	-	2	23	-	-	Clay pipe	1	1.5
06	05	3	4	3	3.5	2	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
08	07	7	12	3	1	5	88	-	-	3	25	Clay pipe Slag	1 1	2 19
10	09	31	1060	-	-	-	-	3	262	265	7211	Plastic Shell Rubber	1 2 7	1.5 9.5 20
<b>Total</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>7236</b>			



## Appendix 3: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	362/ACL
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-309033	Event/Accession no	Applied for
OS reference	SP 70996 37838	Study area size	34.59
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	c.114
Short Description	<i>In March 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at the Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire as a condition of the planning consent in advance of the construction of a bungalow on the site. A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed development which revealed three features of a late post-medieval/ modern date. The features included; two possible plough marks, and a small pit containing a high proportion of bottles.</i>		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of a two bedroomed bungalow	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Aylesbury Vale District Council	Planning application ref.	16/03461/APP
Monument type	Two gullies and a small pit	Monument period	Post Medieval/Modern
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service (BCAS)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Karin Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs R Phillips		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19.03.2018	End date	19.03.2018
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Glass bottles, Iron, pottery, animal bone, shell, CBM, plastic, rubber, clay pipe and slag	
Paper		Evaluation report, WSI, site records, photographs	
Digital		Fieldwork forms, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land adj. Rose Cottage, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume	362/ACL/2.1		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA		
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