



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Alwick Farm House

Alwick Drive

Long Marston

Tring

Hertfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire, as condition of site development. Four evaluation trenches, were excavated covering c.178.45sqm, but no archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed. As the site lay between two Deserted Medieval Villages and within a mediaeval farmstead, the absence of any archaeological remains suggests that it was situated between widely dispersed features.

1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire. The project was commissioned by Paul Russell, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye & Watson 2019), and approved by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team (HHET), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Dacorum Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 4/01840/18/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 10 of the Planning Consent as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The site is located approximately 1500m north of the village of Long Marston, within the civil parish of Tring Rural Council and the administrative district of Dacorum, at National Grid Reference 489180 217595 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site lies on the north side of Alnwick Drive, with Alnwick Farm House and associated farm buildings adjacent to the east and south east. The farm itself is set within wide agricultural landscape of arable fields (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation, which comprises sandstone, mudstone and siltstone deposited during the Cretaceous Period approximately 94 to 113 million years ago. No superficial deposits have been recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of the demolition of two agricultural buildings and the construction of a five-bedroom dwelling (Fig. 3).

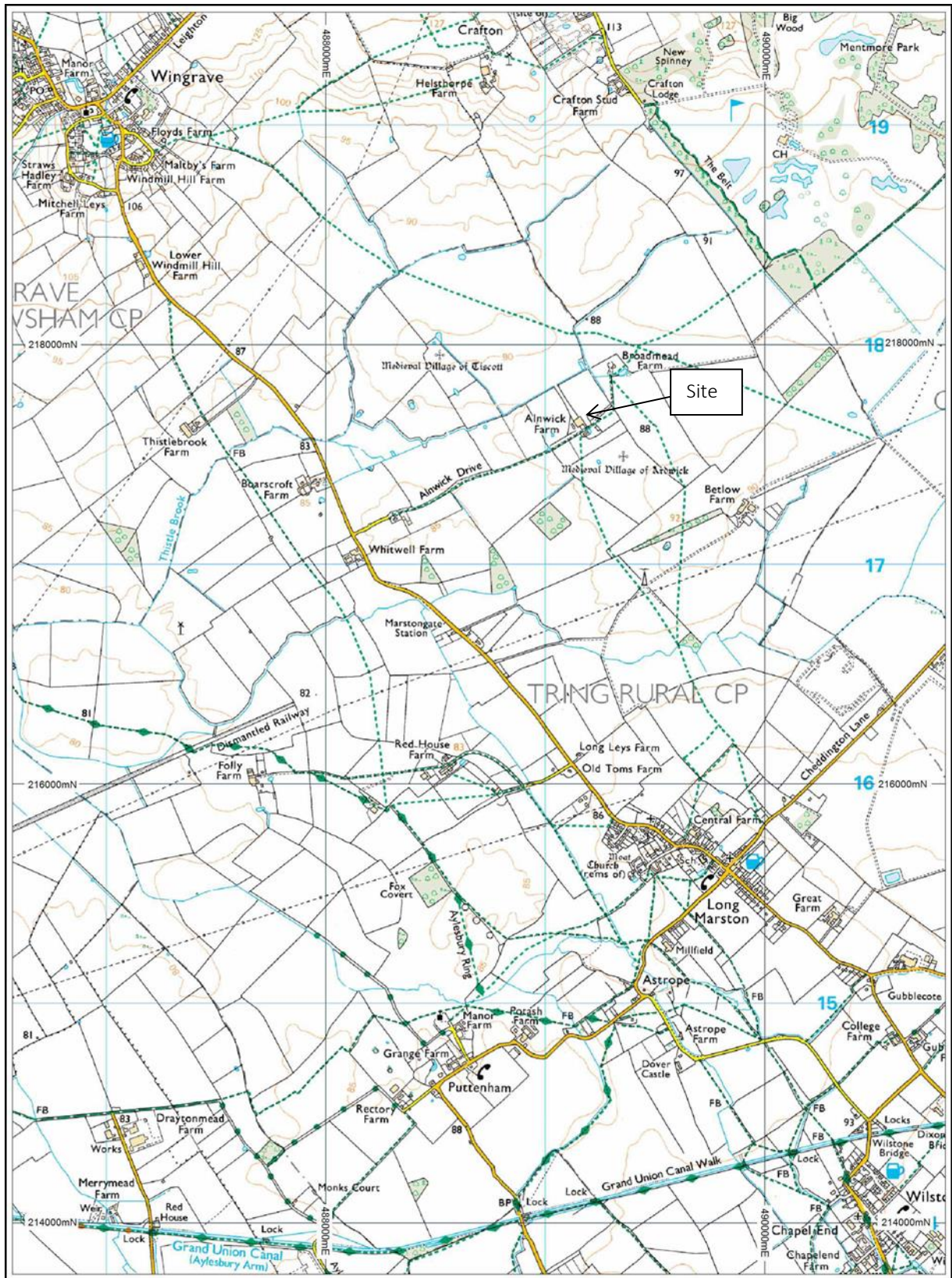


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

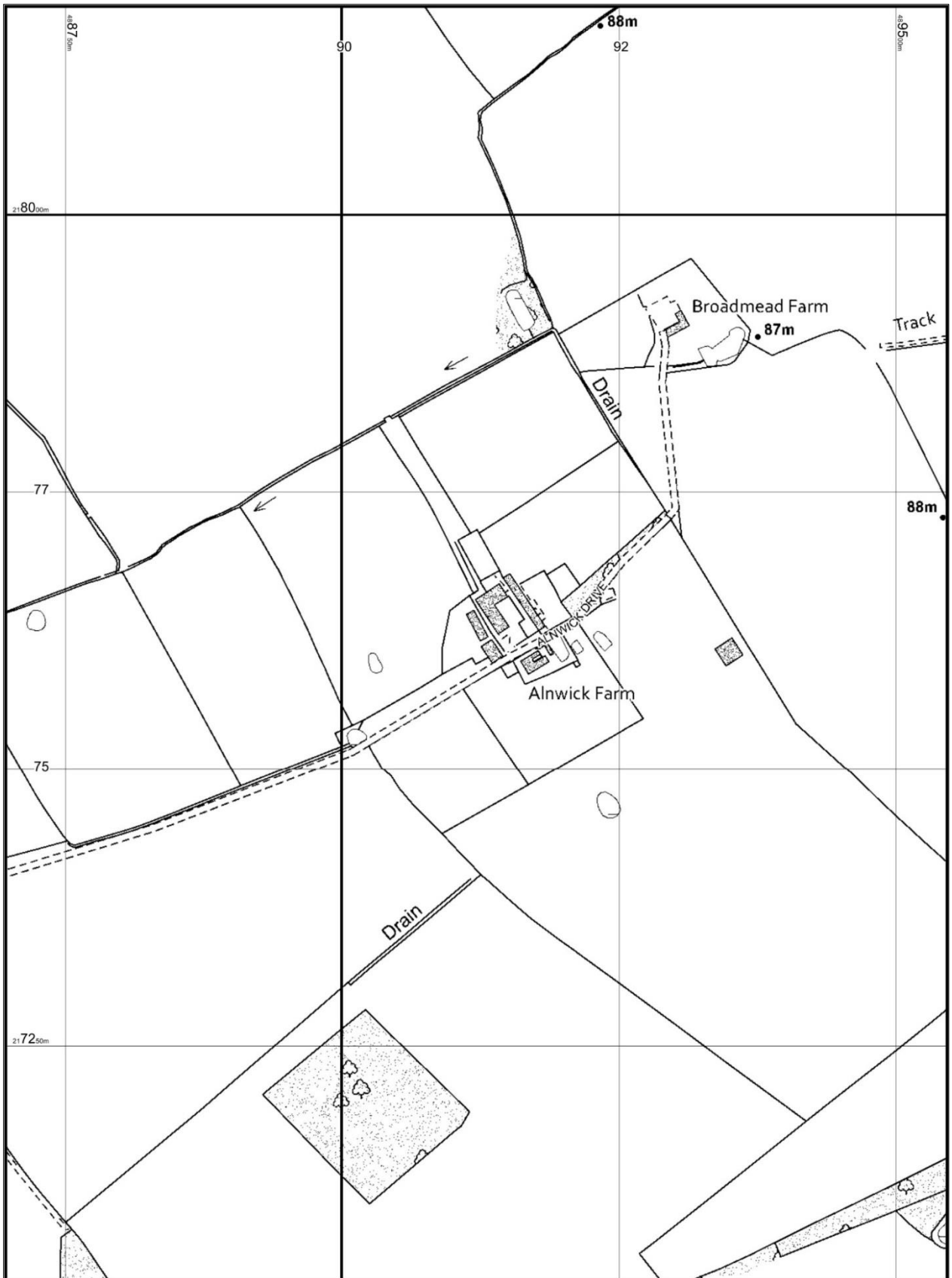


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:5000)

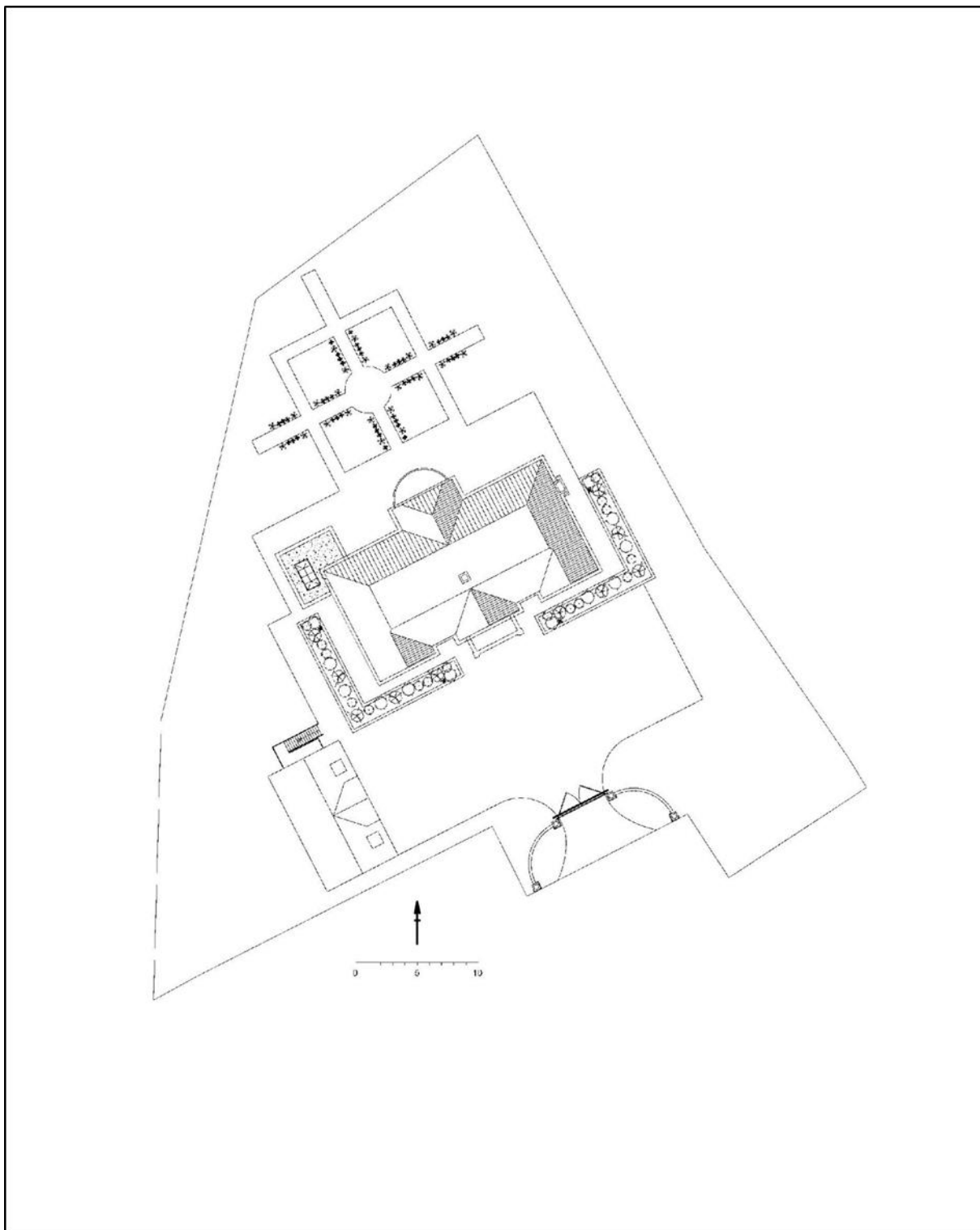


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale: 1:500)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Kaye & Watson 2019) 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.

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:

- Prior to demolition on the site, trial trenching was undertaken, which comprised the excavation of four archaeological evaluation trenches mainly within the footprint of the most heavily affected areas (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)

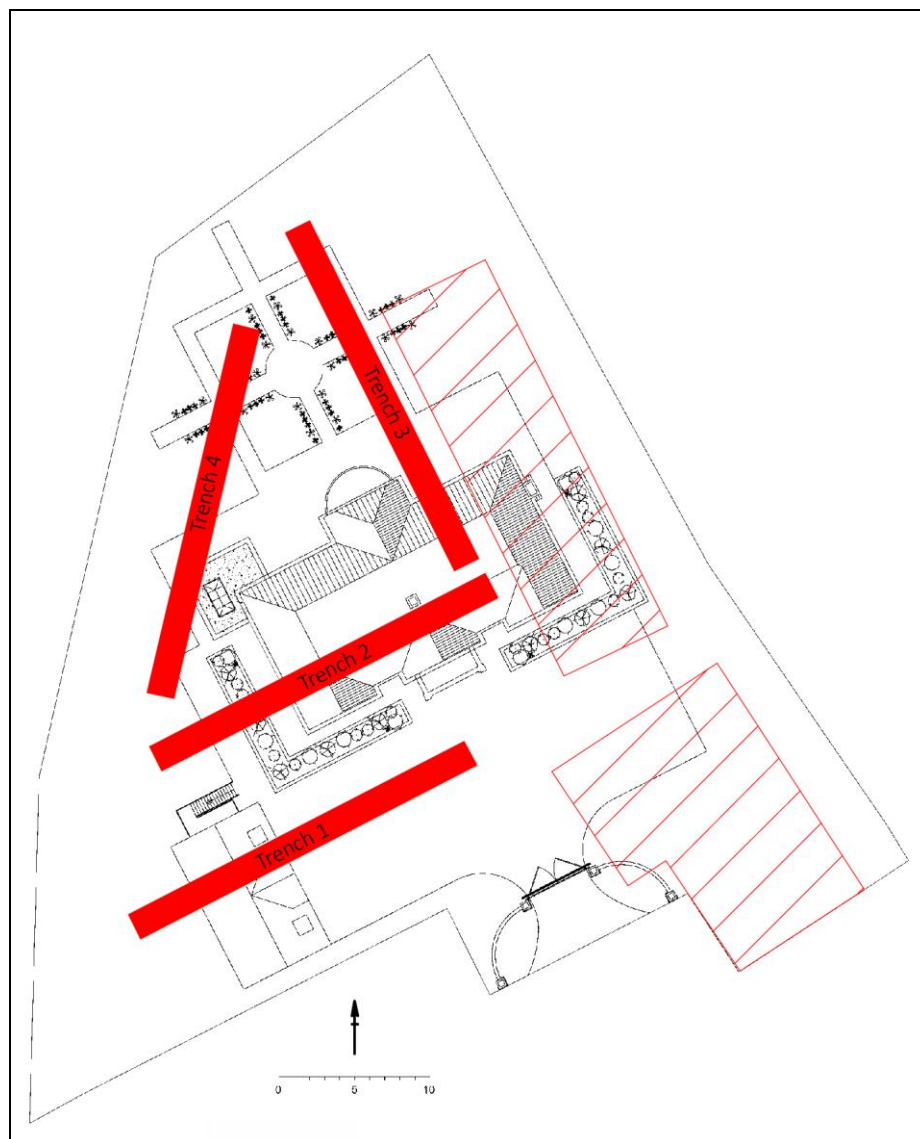
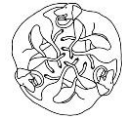


Figure 4: Proposed trench plan. Extant buildings shaded red (scale 1:500)



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The development site at Alnwick Farm is situated c.2km northwest of the village of Long Marston (HER 2056), northwest of Tring.

The name Long Marston is thought to derive from *mersc tun* (marsh farm) though its origins in this instance are difficult to pinpoint as it formed part of the manor of Tring and was probably only a hamlet. 'Marston' is a common name for a settlement (Mills 1991: 224), though the prefix 'Long' refers to its linear layout along the road to Tring. It is a village constituted by farmsteads, with several situated among private housing; an unusual characteristic in Hertfordshire. Alnwick Farm lies within a landscape of Deserted Medieval Villages; Aldwick and Tiscott. Tiscott is known to date from the Saxon period and Aldwick is first mentioned in the early 13th century. Evidence for archaeological remains earlier than the Saxon period are scant, but include a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age round barrow.

The following section has been compiled from information from the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record covering a radius of 1km (HER 62/19), Historic England and other reliable internet sources, and KDK's own library. The location of HER data is shown in Fig. 5.

Prehistoric (before 600BC)

The only remains from this period date to the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age and consist of a possible round barrow (HER 17272). A possible mound, denoted by soil-marks, is situated nearby but is undated.

Iron Age (600BC - AD43) to Roman (AD43 - c.450)

No remains from these periods are listed in the HER search area.

Saxon (c.450 - 1066)

Long Marston formed part of the manor of Tring, the earliest mention of which is in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is recorded as 39 hides held by Engelric. It was one of five closely spaced settlements along with Miswell, Wiggington, Dunsley and Pendley (Hunns 2000: 3); though Long Marston is not differentiated in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 1992). It is possible that Tring was a major mid-late Saxon royal estate which gave its name to the hundred in which it lies, resulting in the prevention of its constituent villages/hamlets from developing into separate parishes as they formed part of a large secular estate. No remains from this period are listed in the HER.

Medieval (1066 - 1500)

The earliest reference to Long Marston (Merschtone, or Merston; VCH) dates from the 13th century with its manor described as consisting of half a knight's fee, held of the honour of Berkhamsted. Many of the local manors, such as Pendley, were also held of the honour of Berkhamsted, a large estate in the Tring Hundred, which at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 was recorded as under the lordship of the Count of Mortain (Williams & Martin 1992: 378). In the 15th century, Long Marston was held by the honour of Leicester, and in 17th century by the manor of Tring (VCH).

The most significant local archaeological remains are the Deserted Medieval Settlements of Aldwick (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1005238; HER 1820), adjacent to Alnwick Farm (HER 30684), and of Tiscott (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1005247; HER 83) c. 650m northwest of



the development. The Aldwick site (HER 1820) has been documented by aerial photos and LiDaR, which show earthworks of a sunken way with house platforms on the western side, south of Alnwick Farm, with ponds and what appears to be a northern boundary bank to the northeast of the farmstead. The Tiscott site (HER 83) was discovered from aerial photographs, and the site comprises earthworks of a sunken road and house platforms, and although features to the east of the Scheduled area are now ploughed out, ridge and furrow to southwest survives. In the Domesday Survey of 1086, the settlement at Tiscott is listed as in the lands of Robert d'Oilly, and held of him by Ralph Basset. It was valued at 4 hides, with 12 ½ households (Williams & Martin 1992: 381).

To the east of the Alnwick Farm is Betlow Farm, which dates from at least the 15th century. The farmhouse at Betlow Farm (Grade II, List Entry No 1077975; HER 15959) was built in the 15th century as an open hall house, and altered subsequently particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is possible that it was originally the manor house of Betlow; alternatively it was a tenement carved out of the manor. The site of post-medieval agricultural buildings, demolished in the 20th century, is situated north of the railway line and northeast of Betlow Farm. The place name, Betlow, is Saxon and appears to mean 'Betta's grave'. A circular chalky patch is visible on recent photomapping, and LIDAR coverage appears to show the remnant of a mound with a hole in it, the mark is about 25m across, which may be a Saxon burial mound. This is c. 600m north of the present farmstead, but it is not certain that this is the site of a burial. An area of cropmarks of plough-raised building platforms and ridge and furrow (HER 999) belonging to the putative abandoned settlement of Betlow is situated to the southwest of the extant farmstead. A building recording watching brief (EHT7923), and building assessment (EHT7725), and a Strip, map and Record and Watching Brief (EHT7924) were all undertaken at Betlow Farm, though none record any significant findings.

The putative site of a medieval chapel (HER 12990) is situated c. 900m northeast of Alnwick Farm. However, the actual site of the chapel is unknown, but it was presumably a manorial chapel and may have stood near the post-medieval Tiscott farmhouse (see below). Extensive cropmarks indicative of medieval field systems (ridge & furrow) have been documented c. 750m north (HER 17272), c. 950m (HER 18444) and c. 300m (HER 6112) northwest, c. 450m southeast (HER 30682), and c. 300m southwest (HER 17271) of Alnwick farm. Further ridge & furrow is located c. 1.1km to the southwest (HER 17195, 17270) near Boarscroft, covering an area of c.6.5ha. An extensive area of ridge and furrow (HER 6064) is also located at the southern edge of the HER search area.

Post-medieval (1500 - 1900)

Long Marston remained a predominantly agricultural settlement, and most of the heritage assets listed in the HER for this period are farmsteads.

Broadmead Farm (HER 30683) is northeast of the development and situated adjacent to the county boundary, is shown on the later 19th century OS maps as a substantial farmstead with a large farmhouse, barns and other buildings around a rectangular yard, ponds, and orchards. The farmstead had medieval origins, as it is first documented in as 'la Brodemede' in 1409.

Tiscott Farm (HER 12990) is shown on 19th century OS maps, but had disappeared by 1908. A small farmhouse stood immediately northwest of the surviving small pond, at the north end of the abandoned settlement of Tiscott. According to the Scheduled Monument details, there was a chapel here until 1651, 'and tombstones were found forming a bridge over the brook'. The site of the chapel is not known, but it was presumably a manorial chapel and may have stood near the farmhouse.



The remaining post-medieval heritage assets include a brick pillar box (HER 5295) that still stands at the now demolished Marston Gate Station; the site of Marston Gate Railway Station (HER 5549), and the disused railway line between Cheddington and Aylesbury (HER 12983).

Modern (1900 - present)

No heritage assets dating to this period are listed within the HER search area.

3.2 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

The development site, Alnwick Farm (HER 30684), is depicted on later 19th century OS maps as 'Aldwick Farm'. It is shown with a substantial house and a pond on the south side of the access track, and ranges of barns and other farm buildings on the north side around a large rectangular yard. Little change is shown on the 1925 map, but by 1980 the spelling had been changed to Alnwick, and many of the post-medieval farm buildings were replaced by large new structures; the long eastern range survived. 'Aldwick' means the old dairy farm, and is documented from 1288. The site is located within an Area of Archaeological Significance (no. 11) and is directly adjacent to the nationally important Scheduled area of Ardwick medieval village (HER 1820).

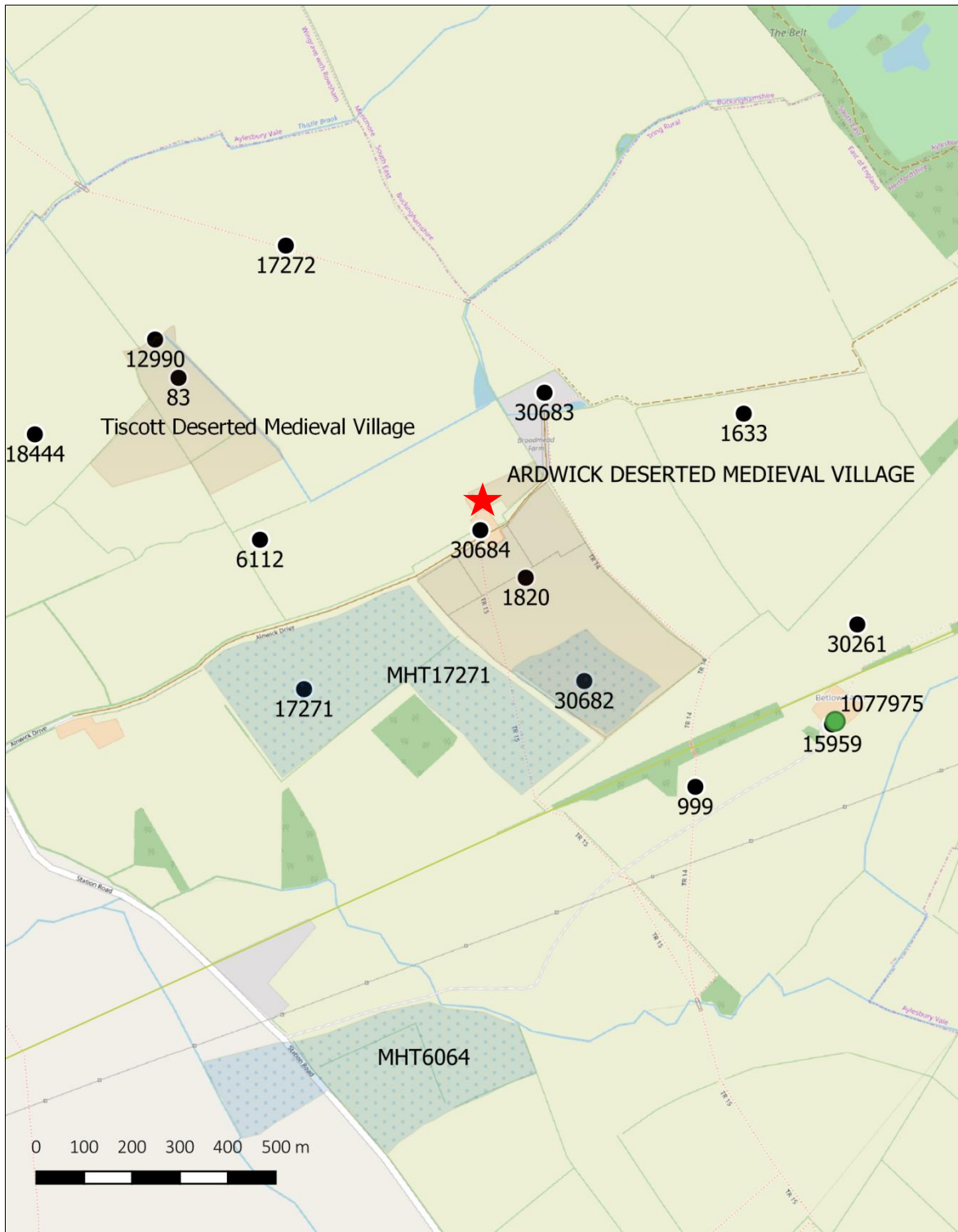


Figure 5: HER data plan; red star = development site (scale as shown)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

A total of c. 178.45sq metres were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The four trenches were 25m long x 1.7-1.9m wide x 0.24-0.58m deep. The excavation was carried out using a 1 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.75m wide toothless ditching bucket.

The stratigraphy of the site comprised (Figures 1-6; Plates 1-10):

- Topsoil (100, 200, 300, & 400): Dark greyish brown, silty clay, 0.06-0.16m deep.
- Subsoil (101, 201, 301, & 401): Light greyish brown silty clay, with occasional sub-rounded stones, 0.06-0.12 deep.
- Natural (102, 202, 302, & 402): Light greyish brown silty clay; occasional sub-rounded stones were present in the exposure in Trench 4.
- Made-ground (103 & 203): Tarmac and brick, with sub-rounded pebbles, 0.38-0.40m deep.

4.2 Description

No archaeological features were discovered, and no finds of archaeological significance were found. A 'strip' of modern made-ground was revealed in the centre of Trench 1 (1.7m x 0.93m) and on the south-western edge of Trench (c. 2.5m long x 0.88m wide). The foundations of a previously removed modern wall and fence, running most of the length of the trench, were documented in Trench 3.

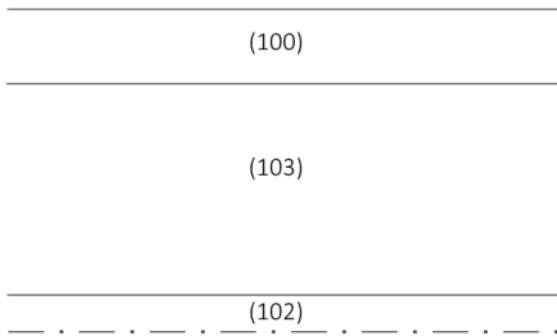


Figure 6: Stratigraphic profile 1 of Trench 1

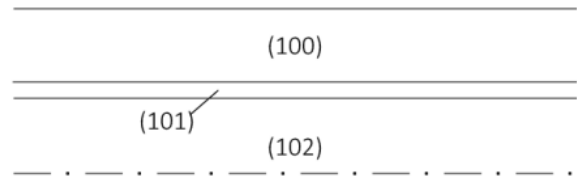


Figure 7: Stratigraphic profile 2 of Trench 1

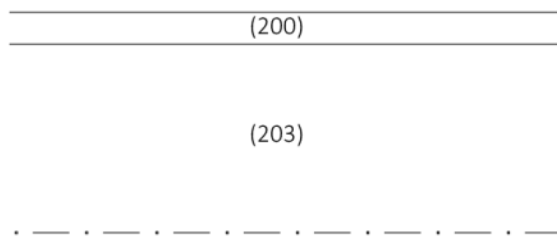


Figure 8: Stratigraphic profile 1 of Trench 2



Figure 9: Stratigraphic profile 2 of Trench 2

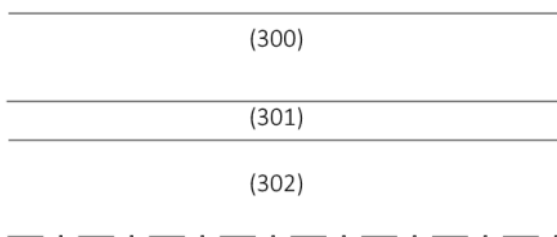


Figure 10: Stratigraphic profile of Trench 3

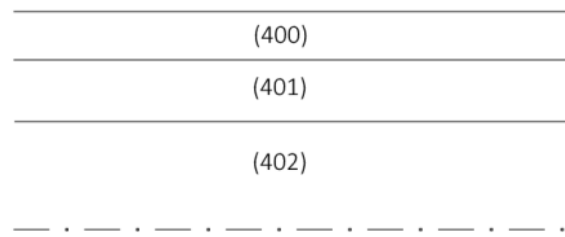


Figure 11: Stratigraphic profile of Trench 4



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking southwest



Plate 2: Trench 1, stratigraphy



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking southwest



Plate 4: Trench 2, stratigraphy 2



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking northwest



Plate 6: Trench 3, stratigraphy



Plate 9: Trench 4, looking southwest



Plate 8: Trench 4, stratigraphy



5 Conclusions

Despite the proximity of the site to areas of high archaeological significance, the evaluation trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts. The general stratigraphy of the site comprised topsoil and subsoil documented in all four trenches overlying the local natural geology. Small areas of modern made-ground were found in Trenches 1 and 2, and the remains of a fence/post-line in Trench 3. These stratigraphic profiles indicate that the ground had not been extensively disturbed, and only small-scale truncations had impacted the stratigraphy within the footprint of the development. The absence of any archaeological remains suggests that the development site was situated between widely dispersed features.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Paul Russell for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Rebekah Hart and Simon Wood of Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team for providing historic environment records and monitoring the project respectively.

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King and Sam Pryor BSc. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCifA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Trench recording sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 In accordance with Dacorum Heritage Trust policy, as no features or finds were revealed, the report will be uploaded to OASIS and the archive will be retained by KDK Archaeology Ltd.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

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

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British Geological Society (BGS): <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Brown N. & Glazebrooke J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8

Medlycott M. (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Re-visited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. London: Penguin



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 480/LMA			Site Name: Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire
Shot	B&W	View	Subject
1	223/3	WSW	Overview of trench 1 WSW facing. 2 x 1m scales
2		WSW	Overview of trench 1 WSW facing, no board. 2 x 1m scales
3	223/2	WSW	Overview of trench 2. 2 x 1m scales
4		WSW	Overview of trench 2, no board. 2 x 1m scales
5		SSE	ENE end stratigraphy trench 1 (A). 1 x 1m scale
6		SSE	ENE end stratigraphy trench 1 (A). 1 x 1m scale
7		NNW	WSW end stratigraphy trench 1 (B). 1 x 1m scale
8		NNW	WSW end stratigraphy trench 1 (B). 1 x 1m scale
9		NNW	WSW end stratigraphy trench 1 (B). 1 x 1m scale
10		SSE	ENE end stratigraphy of trench 2 (A). 1 x 1m scale
11		SSE	ENE end stratigraphy of trench 2 (A). 1 x 1m scale
12		SSE	ENE end stratigraphy of trench 2 (A). 1 x 1m scale
13		SSE	WSW end stratigraphy of trench 2 (B). 1 x 1m scale
14		SSE	WSW end stratigraphy of trench 2 (B). 1 x 1m scale
15		SSE	WSW end stratigraphy of trench 2 (B). 1 x 1m scale
16		SSE	WSW end stratigraphy of trench 2 (B). 1 x 1m scale
17		SSE	WSW end stratigraphy of trench 2 (B). 1 x 1m scale
18	223/4-5	NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing. 2 x 1m scales
19		NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing. 2 x 1m scales
20		NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing. 2 x 1m scales
21		NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing. 2 x 1m scales
22		NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing, no board. 2 x 1m scales
23		NW	Overview of trench 3 NW facing, no board. 2 x 1m scales
24		NE	SW facing stratigraphy of trench 3. 1 m 1 m scale
25		NE	SW facing stratigraphy of trench 3. 1 m 1 m scale
26		NE	SW facing stratigraphy of trench 3. 1 m 1 m scale
27	223/6	SW	Overview of trench 4 SW facing. 2 x 1m scales
28		SW	Overview of trench 4 SW facing, no board. 2 x 1m scales
29		NW	SE facing stratigraphy of trench 4. 1 x 1m scale



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire	Project Site Code	480/LMA
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-360766	Event/Accession no	N/A
OS reference	489180 217595	Study area size	178.45 sq. metres
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	84
Short Description	In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire, as condition of site development. Four evaluation trenches, were excavated covering c.178.45sqm, but no archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed. As the site lay between two Deserted Medieval Villages and within a mediaeval farmstead, the absence of any archaeological remains suggests that it was situated between widely dispersed features.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Demolition of two agricultural buildings and construction of five bedroom dwelling	Current land use	Waste land
Local Planning Authority	Dacorum Borough Council	Planning application ref.	4/01840/18/FUL
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator		Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIFA	Director/Supervisor	Barney king
Sponsor/funding body	Paul Russell, Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	22/10/2019	End date	24/10/2019
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical		None	
Paper	KDK Archaeology Ltd. Leighton Buzzard	WSI, report, site records, B&W photographs	
Digital	OASIS	Report & photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire		
Serial title & volume	480/LMA/2		
Author(s)	Derek Watson PhD		
Page nos	21	Date	11/11/2019



Appendix 3: Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record Sheet

Site name and address: Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire	
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum Borough Council
Village/Town: Long Marston	Parish: Tring Rural
Planning application reference: 4/01840/18/FUL	
Client's name, address, & tel. no: Paul Russell, Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire	
Nature of application: Demolition of two agricultural buildings and construction of five bedroom dwelling	
Present land use: Waste land	
Size of application area: c. 2287.42	Size of area investigated: 178.45sq. m
NGR (to 8 figures): 489180 217595	Site code: 480/LMA
Site director: David Kaye BA ACIfA	Organization: KDK Archaeology Ltd
Type of work: Evaluation	
Date of Work: Start: 22/10/2019	Finish: 24/10/2019
Curating museum: Dacorum Heritage Trust (No deposition made as DHT does not accept negative reports)	
Related HER nos: None	Periods represented: None
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>In October 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Alnwick Farm House, Alnwick Drive, Long Marston, Tring, Hertfordshire, as condition of site development. Four evaluation trenches, were excavated covering c.178.45sqm, but no archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed. As the site lay between two Deserted Medieval Villages and within a mediaeval farmstead, the absence of any archaeological remains suggests that it was situated between widely dispersed features.</p>	
Author: Derek Watson PhD	Date: 11/11/2019