

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**9-10 Akeman Street, Tring,  
Hertfordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: AST17/152**

**(SP 9237 1133)**

**9 and 10 Akeman Street, Tring,  
Hertfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
For Oakman Inns and Restaurants**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AST 17/152

**October 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** 9-10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire

**Grid reference:** SP 9237 1133

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 22nd - 23rd August 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock

**Site code:** AST17/152

**Area of site:** c. 5 sq m

**Summary of results:** The trench did not penetrate below modern made ground layers and therefore no finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded. A modern wall and backfilled culvert were observed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 18.10.17 Steve Preston✓ 18.10.17
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# 9 and 10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 17/152

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 9 and 10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire (SP 92374 11334) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Lawrence Pateman on behalf of Oakman Inns and Restaurants, 81-82 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 6AF.

Planning permission (4/01104/17/FUL) has been gained from Dacorum Borough Council to refurbish a building and construct a new extension at 9 and 10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire (SP9236 1133). The site lies within 'an area of archaeological significance' and a conservation area, while number 10 is also a listed building. The consent is subject to conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation at the site. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. It was determined that this investigation should comprise a building recording on number 10 and a watching brief during any intrusive groundworks. This report deals with the watching brief only: the building recording is reported separately (Elliott 2017).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock on 22nd and 23rd of August 2017 and the site code is AST17/152.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern side of Akeman Street in southern Tring. The site is bounded by private property on the south, east and north and by Akeman Street to the west. This square parcel of land, being used as a yard is *c.* 132m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (BGS 2017). This was not observed on the site.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of the town. Tring has late Saxon origins and is first recorded in Domesday Book of AD1086 (Hunns 2000), yet its name is suggested to be derived from Danish settlement in the 9th century. The entry in Domesday Book suggests a substantial settlement at this time but may also include the returns from several nearby hamlets. The town of Tring flourished in Medieval times. The site lies on one of the main streets of the town, relatively close to the parish church and in an area containing a number of 16th-century (and later) listed buildings. The site lies on north-south aligned Akeman Street but the Roman road of the same name runs on an east-west alignment some distance to the south (Hunns 2000).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was expected to comprise overburden removal and the digging of trenches for foundations and services. The potential and significance of any such deposits located was to be assessed according to research priorities such as those of the Eastern Counties Research Framework (Medlycott and Brown 2008).

Archaeological deposits which were threatened by any groundworks, including digging of foundation trenches were to be excavated and recorded. All foundation trenches were dug under archaeological supervision and all spoil heaps were monitored. Any deposits of archaeological significance were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate tools.

## **Results**

A single trench was dug, measuring approximately 6.7m long 0.6m wide and 1m deep running east to west before turning south for 2m. Below the concrete floor slab, a modern wall (53) 2.3m long was recorded five courses high, running east to west along the northern edge of the foundation trench, sitting on top of only modern made ground. At the corner of the foundation trench a brick arch (52) measuring 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep was uncovered, also below concrete and cutting through only made ground as far as could be seen. The red brickwork matches that of the surrounding buildings and was adjacent to the current drain suggesting it may have been part of an earlier drainage system. Both of these contained modern debris including china and glass which was not retained.

The remainder of the trench showed *c.* 0.8m of made ground, 0.35m of a mid grey brown silty clay and 0.45m of a pale brown grey silty clay made ground. The natural chalk was not revealed in the trench and at the southern tip it was clear that the wall of the adjacent building continued below the level reached here.

## **Conclusion**

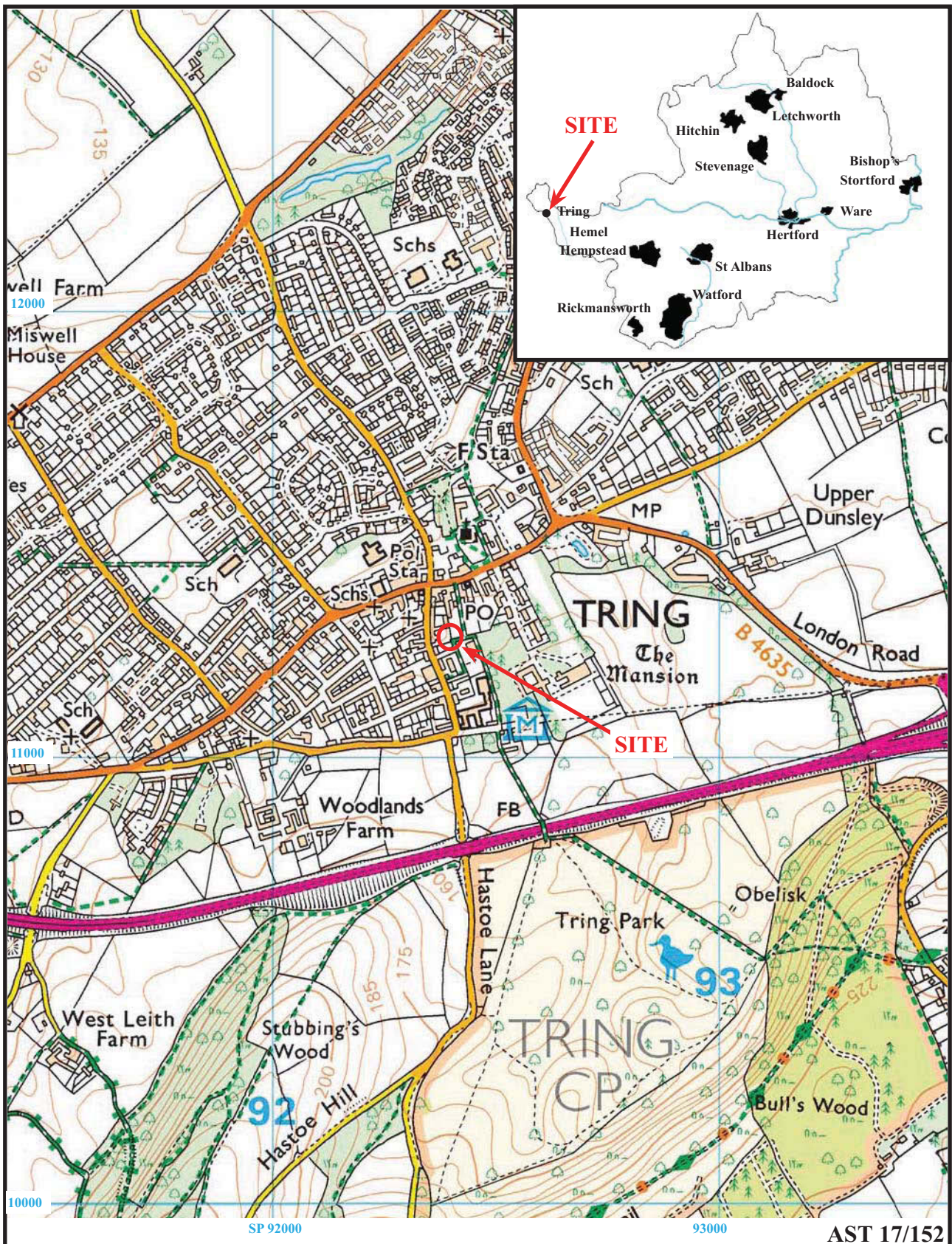
The watching brief on Akeman Street successfully investigated the area of the site that was impacted by the groundworks. The trench did not penetrate below modern made ground layers and therefore no finds or features of archaeological interest were recorded.

## **References**

- BGS, 2017, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home> (consulted 11/09/2017)
- Elliott, G, 2017, '9 and 10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire: building recording', TVAS unpubl rep **17/152b**, Reading
- Hunns, T, 2000, *Tring Extensive Urban Survey assessment report*, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford
- Medlycott, M and Brown, N 2008, *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*, Algae East of England
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

**APPENDIX 3: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name and address:</b> 9-10 Akeman Street, Tring, Hertfordshire		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> Dacorum	
<b>Village/Town:</b> Tring	<b>Parish:</b> Tring	
<b>Planning application reference:</b> 4/01104/17/FUL		
<b>HER Enquiry reference:</b>		
<b>Funding source:</b> Oakman Inns and Restaurants		
<b>Nature of application:</b> Refurbishment and extension		
<b>Present land use:</b> Building		
<b>Size of application area:</b> 500 sq m	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 5 sq m	
<b>NGR (to 8 figures minimum):</b> SP 9237 1133		
<b>Site code (if applicable):</b> AST17/152		
<b>Site director/Organization:</b> Thames Valley Archaeological Services		
Type of work Watching brief		
<b>Date of work:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 22/08/2017	<b>Finish:</b> 23/08/2017
<b>Location of finds &amp; site archive/Curating museum:</b> The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dacorum Heritage Trust or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.		
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b>		
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> The footing trench did not extend below modern made ground layers. A modern wall was observed in section and a culvert of approximately the same date as the buildings was exposed. Only modern finds were observed (not retained).		
<b>Author of summary:</b> Kyle Beaverstock		<b>Date of summary:</b> 12/10/2017



**The Akeman, 9-10 Akeman Street, Tring,  
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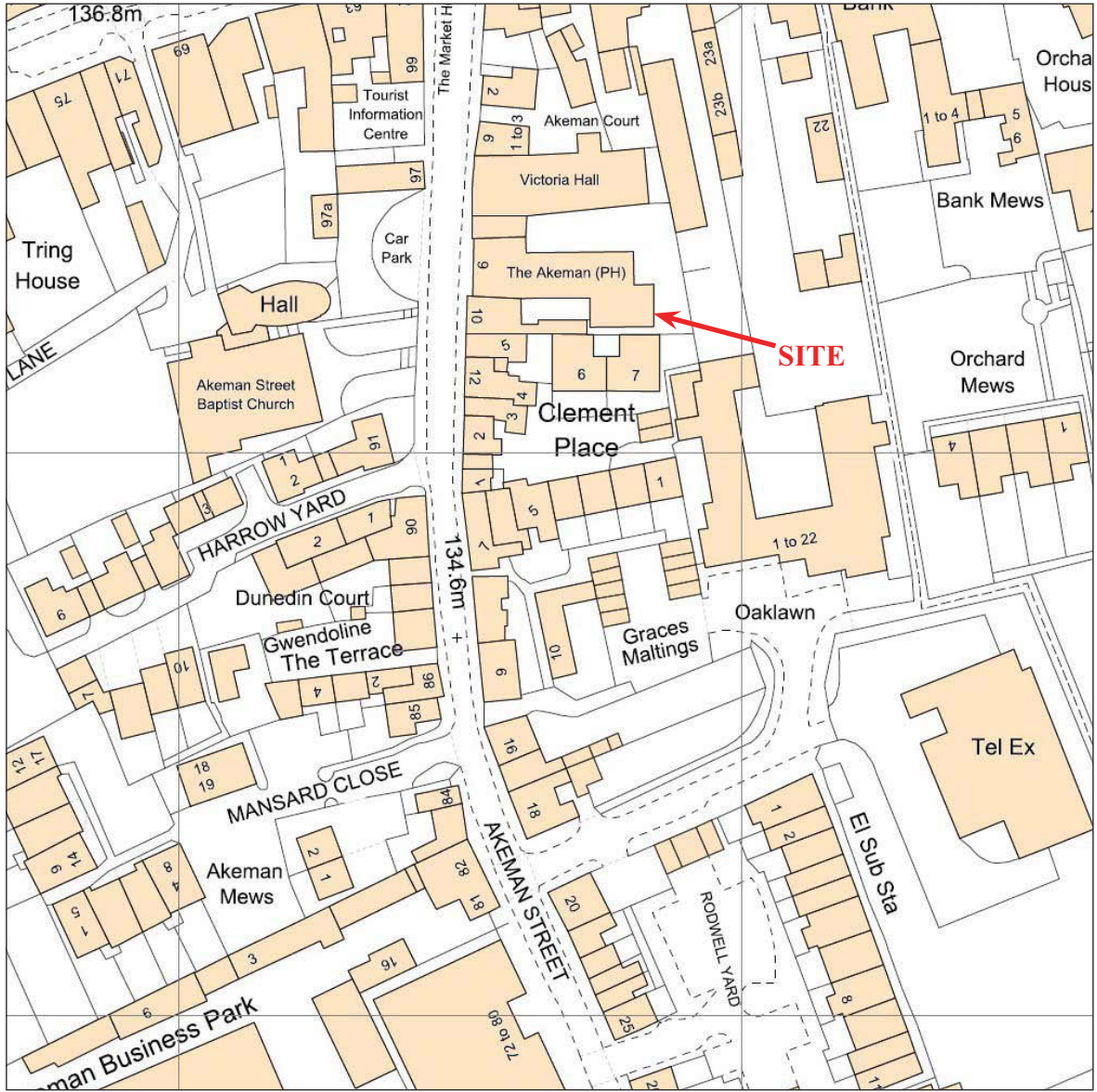
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Figure 1. Location of site within Tring and Hertfordshire.

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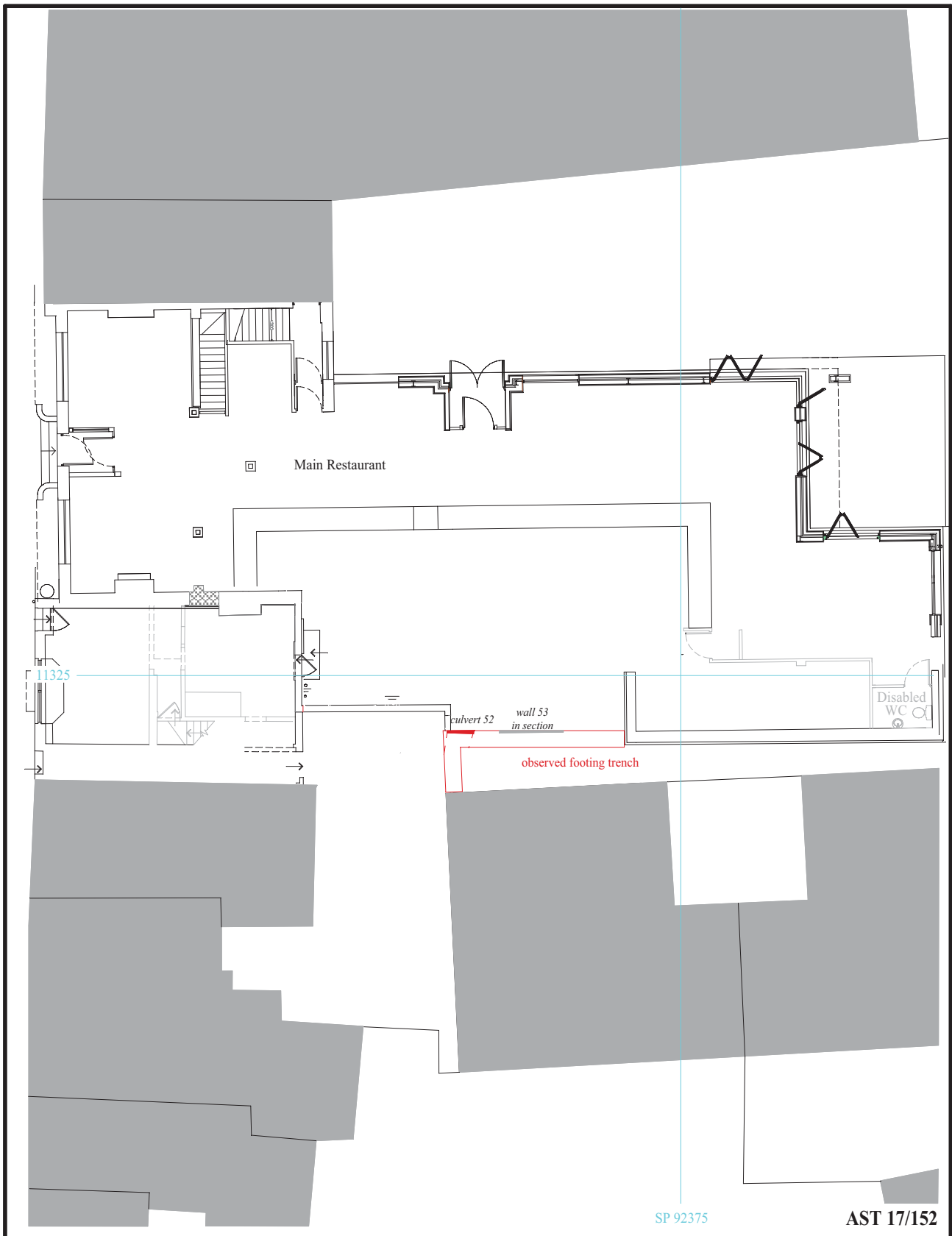
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Hertfordshire, 2017**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Akeman Street.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.

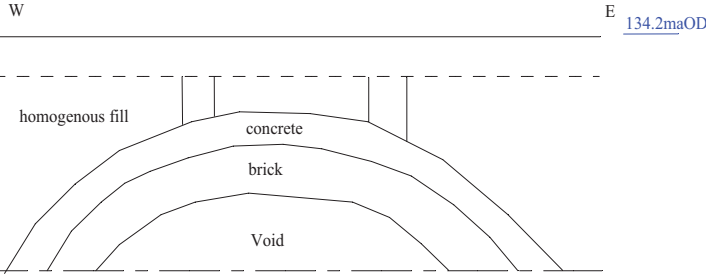


SP 92375

AST 17/152

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Culvert 52



AST 17/152

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Hertfordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Sections.





Plate 1. Culvert 52, looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Wall 53, looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

AST 17/152

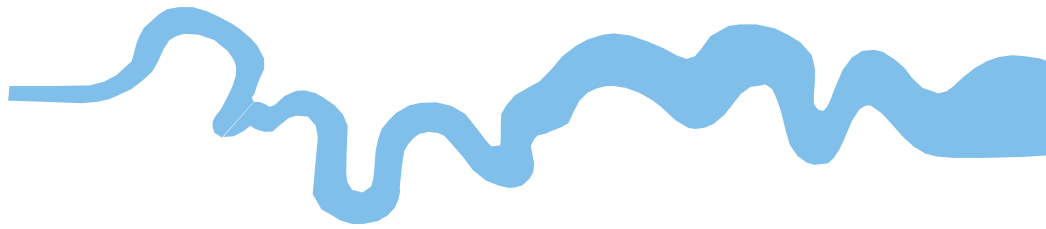
**The Akeman, 9-10 Akeman Street, Tring,  
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**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Plates 1 and 2.

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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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