

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
THE ROSES
CHAPEL LANE
AKELEY
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

on behalf of

MK Real Estate Investments Ltd.



Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip

October 2006

ASC: 693/ACL/04

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Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	ACL	<i>Project no:</i>	693
<i>Event No:</i>	-	<i>Accession No:</i>	2005.70
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Akeley		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Akeley		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 7088 3777		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	1.98 Ha		
<i>Present land use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of two detached dwellings and associated access		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	05/00459/APP, 18 th February 2005		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	7 th June – 2 nd August 2006		
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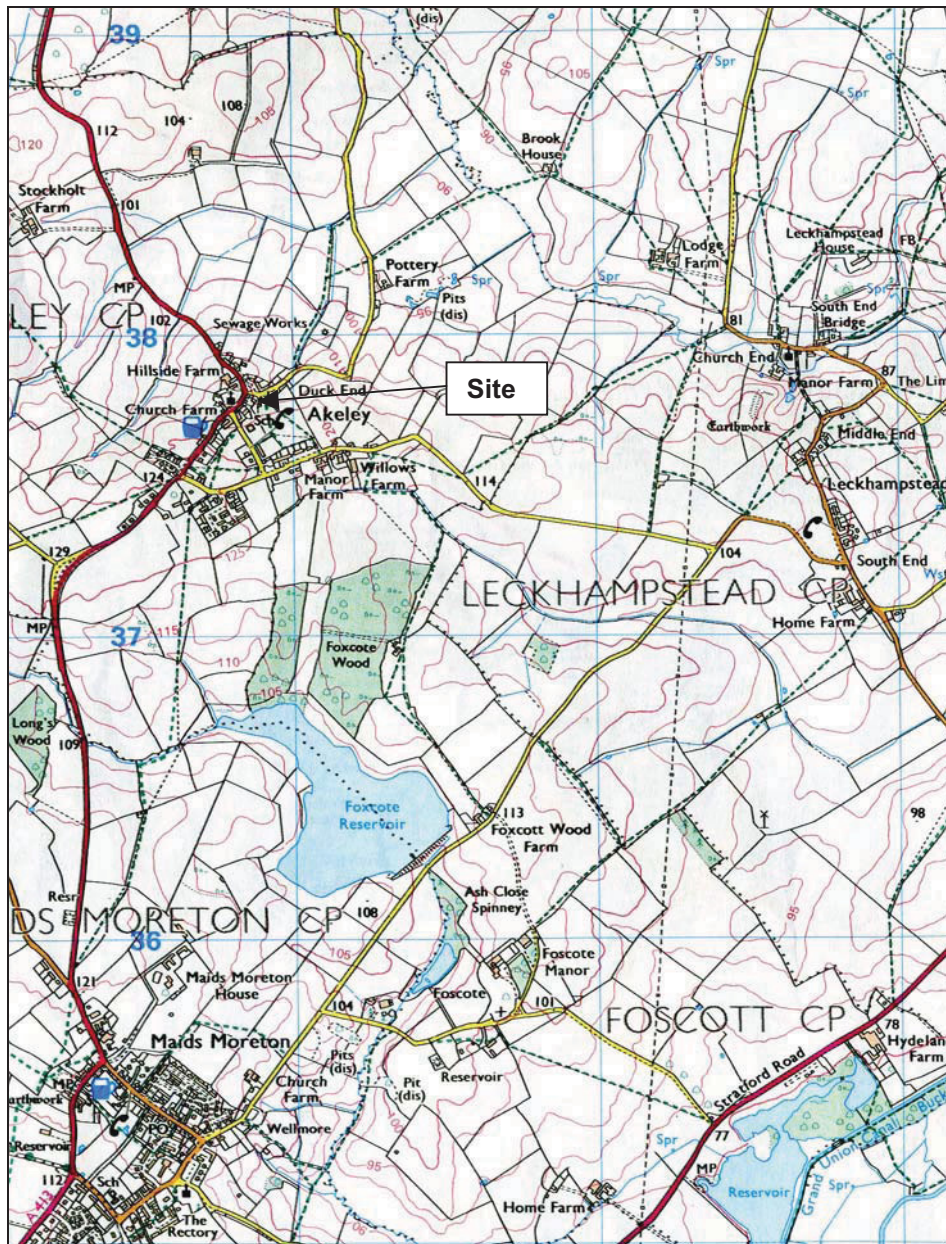


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ASC Ltd in June and July 2006 during trenching to reroute two foul sewers, replacement of a storm drain and excavation of two level platforms and the footings of two houses at the rear of a bungalow called The Roses, Akeley, Buckinghamshire.

An archaeological evaluation at The Roses in 2003 revealed 11th – 14th century archaeological features buried beneath c.1.8m of sediment infilling a deep natural depression (Ivens 2003). A subsequent archaeological “strip and record” excavation by ASC Ltd on the footprint of the developments access road confirmed that the majority of archaeological features were located below the deepest area of overburden in a natural channel/hollow (Hancock 2005). The depth of overburden suggested that rerouting of the sewers, replacement of the storm drain, excavation of level house platforms and footing trenches would not disturb the buried archaeological features.

Archaeological finds or features were not observed during excavation of the trenches for the sewer and drain. However, seven unstratified sherds of 11th- 14th century pottery and an undated infilled pond were discovered during excavation of the footings of the western house plot.

1. Introduction

1.1 In June and July 2006 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC)* carried out a watching brief at the rear of The Roses, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 7088 3777: Fig 2). The project was commissioned by *MK Real Estate Investments Ltd.* and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Semmelman, 2005), and a brief (Radford, 2005) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), David Radford of *Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS)*. The relevant planning application reference is 05/00459/APP.

1.2 *Planning Background*

A program of “strip and record” excavation (Hancock 2005) and a subsequent watching brief were required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, (DOE 1990), in response to proposals for the construction of two houses, an access drive and parking spaces at the rear of The Roses, Akeley (Fig 3). The archaeological work was necessary due to the discovery of medieval archaeological features by earlier evaluation trenching (Ivens 2003). This report summarises previous work and details the results of the watching brief carried out by ASC Ltd during rerouting of two foul sewers and a storm drain, subsequent reduction of ground levels and excavation of the footings of the houses and a boundary wall.

1.3 *Location & Description*

The village of Akeley is located approximately 4km north of Buckingham (Fig.1). The proposed development lies in the rear garden of The Roses, which is a 1950s/1960s bungalow located on the southern side of Chapel Lane in the eastern part of the village. The development area is bounded to the north by Chapel Lane, to the west by the rear gardens of two properties (The Coach House and Lylo) which front Main

Street, to the south by the village school and by a telephony switching station and a recreation ground to the east.

1.4 *Services, Buildings, Access, Etc*

The site was accessed through a driveway at the eastern side of The Roses. Two foul sewers and a storm drain were known to run through the back garden and on past the eastern elevation of The Roses.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The underlying geology of the greater part of Akeley CP consists of Great Oolite limestone beds covered by cornbrash capped by Oxford Clay. Extensive deposits of chalky till, containing isolated deposits of glacial sand and gravel cover the underlying geology across much of the parish (Ivens 2003). The soils of the site belong to the Ragdale Association and are characterised as “slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils, some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils especially on slopes” (Soil Survey 1983 712g).

The topography of the site is characterised by a gentle south-north trending slope although a slight northeast-southwest aligned depression ran parallel with the boundary dividing Lylo from The Roses.

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 6), the aims of the archaeological work were:

- To establish (as far as is practical) the date, plan form and function of the archaeological features affected by development and interpret the results in terms of the documented history and historical topography of Akeley
- To seek to use the results to test and refine the Whittlewood Project model of settlement
- To note the alignment of features in relation to Main Street and any evidence for development of the village plan, the laying out of tenements etc.
- To test the theory that the eastern part of the site lay within an open field and seek to identify any evidence suggesting changes in land use.

2.2 Methods

The results of the “strip and record” (Hancock 2005) suggested that the relatively shallow footings of house plot 2 were unlikely to damage the deeply buried archaeological features lying under the footprint of the house. Consultation with the AA enabled a variation to the requirements of the brief and rather than carry out a “strip and record” on house plot 2 the watching brief was extended to include it. With allowance for the variation agreed with the AA the work was carried out according to ASC’s Project Design (Sections 2.3 and 2.5) and the brief (Section 9c) which required:

- a detailed watching brief - attendance of an archaeologist during all works which may affect archaeological remains.
- presence/absence of archaeological features should be recorded and sufficient work should be done to date, characterise and record any revealed remains in accordance with the project objectives.

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists’ *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to English Heritage’s *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH 1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC’s own *Operations Manual*.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were noted prior to or during the watching brief.

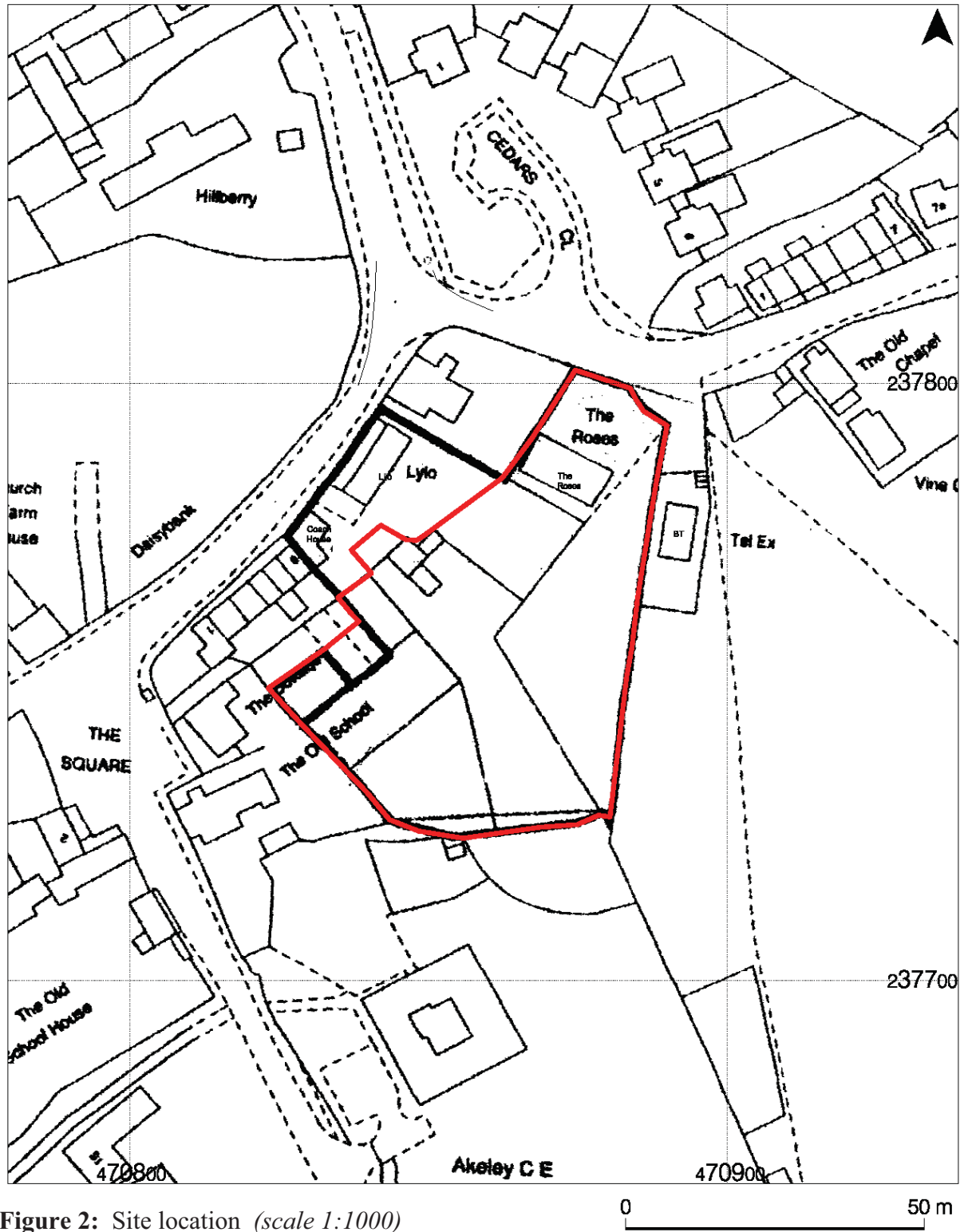


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1000)

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

The site lies at a suggested settlement foci of the “dispersed” medieval village of Akeley. Archaeological evaluation undertaken at the rear of The Roses in 2003 revealed 11th - 12th century medieval features, including a north-south aligned boundary ditch that may have delimited village from agricultural fields. Features interpreted as locating backyard activity within 13th - 14th century tenement plots fronting Main Street were also discovered (Ivens 2003).

A later strip and record excavation at the rear of The Roses (Hancock 2005) confirmed the presence of the boundary ditch and revealed other features of 11th - 12th century date at the base of a deep infilled natural gully. A 14th century pit was also revealed east of the boundary ditch.

3.2 The Whittlewood Project

As an example of a “dispersed” medieval settlement the village is of particular archaeological interest and is included in the *Whittlewood Project* (WP), a research project run by the *University of Leicester*. Excavation of forty-four test pits (University of Leicester, 2001, 2002) and fieldwalking (Jones, 2004) has been undertaken by the WP and the results of this work have enabled the following development model for the village:

- Iron Age activity appears to spread over a wide area from Duck End to Manor Farm, although it may have concentrated towards the eastern part of the village. Whether it represents settlement or simply agricultural exploitation is currently uncertain.
- Romano-British pottery was recovered from a number of locations. The main focus of activity appears to be at the north of the village in the area of Duck End and there is evidence to suggest that the northern line of the churchyard enclosure was established at this date.
- Early-mid Saxon material was recorded at a single location in the village. The findspot was c.250m southwest of the current investigation, close to the crossing of the original course of the main street (east of its current line) with Leckhampstead Road.
- Later Saxon material suggests activity zones to the north of the churchyard and close to the church. The absence of this material from test pits located between these zones implies that this was agricultural land and may suggest a loose confederation of farmsteads forming the core of the medieval village.
- After Domesday Survey (1086), the eastern side of Main Street opposite the church was occupied and expansion of the village occurred along the Leckhampstead Road. Test Pit 23 was excavated in the southwestern corner of the current development site and produced more medieval pottery than any of the other test pits in the village. The presence of the back of tenement plots

within the orchard at the rear of The Roses and a settlement foci at the T junction of Main Street and Chapel Hill was suggested. Some of these areas were subsequently abandoned as the village contracted in the early 14th century.

- The line of Main Street shifted west onto its current course during the post-medieval period, probably to facilitate northward journeys from Buckingham. The route of Main Street and excavation of the cut through Church Hill have influenced the current layout of the village.

The results of the Whittlewood Project are combined with archaeological and historical information gathered from other sources in the following sections:

3.3 Prehistoric (before 43BC)

The Buckinghamshire SMR records that two Bronze Age spearheads and a small socketed axe were found in unspecified locations in Akeley during the 19th century (Ivens 2003; App.1).

3.4 Romano-British (43BC-AD43)

Akeley appears to have been crossed by a minor road, Viatores No. 162, during the Roman period. The road ran north east-south west c. 250m south west of the site. The presence of small scale Romano-British settlement has been suggested by pottery and coin finds in the area of Duck End at the northern periphery of the modern village and a concentration of pot sherds in the vicinity of the former church, c.75m to the west of the present site, may suggest the location of a small farmstead (Ibid. 2003). Four residual RB pot sherds were recovered during the 2005 strip and record (Hancock 2005).

3.5 Anglo-Saxon (c.450-1066)

Two pottery sherds of early-mid Saxon date (AD450-850) were discovered on Leckhampstead Road close to the crossing of the original course of the main street, c.250m south-west of the site (University of Leicester 2002). Two, probably residual, early-mid Saxon pot sherds were recovered during the 2005 strip and record (Hancock 2005). Late 10th century Saxon pottery fragments have been found in the vicinity of the former church.

3.6 Medieval (c.1066-1500)

Akeley is recorded in the Domesday Survey as having been held by Alric, son of Goding prior to the Norman Conquest and indicates that Akeley was heavily wooded at this time (Ivens 2003:8) It was subsequently granted to William Giffard by William the Conqueror, and formed part of a much larger estate.

During the 13th century, Akeley was within Whittlewood Forest. By the early 14th century the extent of the forest was reduced and Akeley no longer lay within it (Ivens 2003:9). Aerial photographs show that ridge and furrow of medieval open field systems was extant around Akeley until the later decades of the 20th century. Southeast to northwest aligned remnants of this open field system are present in the recreation ground c.60m to the east of the present site.

Documentary sources suggest that a church existed at Akeley from at least the 11th century. It is thought to have stood on the site of the modern church, c.75m west of the proposed development, which was constructed in 1854 and demolished in 1980 (Ivens 2003:6).

There appear to have been at least three medieval settlement foci within the bounds of the present village.

- Two groups of house platforms, which are probably of medieval date, and late 12th/13th century occupation evidence have been recorded along Leckhampstead Road, c.200-250 south east of the present site.
- Pottery evidence from the Whittlewood Project test pits suggest that there was medieval occupation at the western end of Leckhampstead Road, c.600m south west of the present site.
- The third focal area was the church. An evaluation at The Roses in 2003 revealed evidence suggesting that 13th - 14th century tenement plots were present in the western part of the site and located an 11th - 12th century north-south aligned boundary ditch that may have delimited the easternmost extent of earlier tenement plots as well as forming a boundary between tenements and the fields beyond (Ivens 2003). The eastern part of the site, which contained poorly preserved remains consisting of possible medieval and post-medieval ditches and a trackway is suggested to have lain in adjacent fields.

The strip and record carried out by ASC Ltd (Hancock 2005) confirmed the presence of the 11th - 12th century boundary ditch located by Ivens (2003) and revealed further 11th - 12th century features. The presence of these features indicated that the hypothesis that medieval tenements fronted Main Street and that open fields lay to the east of the boundary ditch (Ivens 2003) could be correct although definitive structural/agricultural substantiating evidence was not revealed.

3.7 *Post-Medieval and Modern (1500-present)*

Post-medieval artefacts have frequently been found during the Whittlewood Project investigations (University of Leicester 2001, 2002). Cartographic evidence shows that the village layout and the road patterns can be dated to the 1760s (Ivens 2003:9). The Inclosure Map of 1794 shows that the settlement was concentrated at the northern part of the modern village with some dispersed settlement along Leckhampstead Road. Small scale industry in the form of the Akeley Pottery and Brickworks came and went in the late 19th/early 20th century. Perhaps the most dramatic developments occurred in the last quarter of the 20th century with the demolition of St. James's Church and the infilling of a relatively substantial number of sites throughout the centre of the village.

4. Results

4.1 Western sewer

4.1.1 The sewer trench and three pits (Fig 3) either connecting the new sewer pipe to the existing pipe or defining the location of inspection chambers were observed. The sewer trench reached a maximum depth of 1.2m, Pit 1 reached a maximum depth of 2.0m, while Pits 2 and 3 reached maximum depths of 1.3m below ground level.

4.1.2 The observed stratigraphy consisted of:

4.1.2.1 *Pit 1*

- (100) c.0.16m mid greyish brown humic topsoil.
- (101) c.0.14m mid brown clayey silt, subsoil.
- (102) c.1.1m reworked mid yellowish brown/mid brown sandy clay containing 20th century foul sewer and storm drain.
- (103) c.0.6m (sump dug at eastern side of pit) mottled red/grey silty sand containing frequent “pea” gravel, redeposited.

A definitively natural deposit was not revealed.

4.1.2.2 *Sewer Trench and Pits 2 and 3*

Much of pit 3 was dug in the area of the access drive which had been examined by the earlier strip and record (Hancock 2005) and the soils/sediments were consequently disturbed. A vertical sided, flat based, cut feature was observed in the southern wall of pit 3. It was sealed and filled by topsoil and contained fragments of 19th / 20th century willow pattern ceramic. It seems probable that this feature relates to one of the field boundaries removed during creation of the orchard at the rear of The Roses. The observed stratigraphy was otherwise uniform throughout the sewer trench and pits and consisted of:

- (200) c.0.16m mid greyish brown humic topsoil, the depth of this deposit varied and in two areas (201) and (202) were absent with topsoil directly overlying (203).
- (201) c.0.14m mid brown clayey silt, subsoil.
- (202) c.0.5m mid yellowish brown clayey silt, reworked/redeposited natural.
- (203) c.0.5m mid reddish brown clayey sand, natural.

4.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed in pits 1, 2 and 3 or the sewer trench.

4.2 Storm Drain

Much of the storm drain trench (Fig 3) was re-excavated into the western sewer trench after it had been backfilled. The section of the storm drain that diverged from the route of the western sewer trench was excavated into the southern side of the access

drive, an area already examined by the earlier strip and record (Hancock 2005). All of the stratigraphy was as described in Section 4.1.2.2 or was disturbed by the earlier strip and record. No archaeological finds or features were observed during this work.

4.3 Eastern sewer

4.3.1 The sewer trench and four pits (Fig 3) either connecting the new sewer pipe to the existing pipe or defining the location of inspection chambers were observed. The pits and trench grew gradually shallower from *c.*3.4m deep at Pit 4 adjacent to the southern limit of the development area to a depth of *c.*1.5m at Pit 7 on the access drive near the northern boundary.

4.3.2 The observed stratigraphy consisted of:

4.3.2.1 Pit 4

The *c.*0.6m wide trench of the earlier sewer pipe was revealed at the southeastern extent of the pit. The pipe trench was sealed by the subsoil, it ran southwest-northeast and cut through (402) and into (403). It had well defined machine cut vertical sides and was backfilled with a mix of (402) and (403). A ceramic sewer pipe was uncovered at the bottom of the pit at a depth of *c.*3.2m

(400) *c.*0.2m mid greyish brown humic topsoil.

(401) *c.*0.2m mid brown clayey silt, subsoil.

(402) *c.*1.0m mid yellowish orange silty sand, redeposited fill of natural hollow in (404).

(403) *c.*0.4m of mid brown silty clay, redeposited fill of natural hollow in (404).

(404) *c.*1.6m mid greyish brown clay with occasional small limestone inclusions (rising toward the ground surface at the northern, western and eastern sides of the trench, natural till.

4.3.2.2 Southern half of Sewer Trench and Pits 5 and 6

The depths of the superficial deposits (500), (501) and (502) varied although a general trend of thinning towards the northeast (downslope) was apparent. A generalised stratigraphic succession stating the deepest extent of each stratum follows.

(500) *c.*0.4m mid greyish brown humic, topsoil.

(501) *c.*0.6m mid brown clayey silt, subsoil.

(502) *c.*0.5m mid reddish brown sandy clay, reworked natural.

(503) *c.*0.2m occasional lenses of mid reddish orange sandy clay, natural

(504) *c.*0.8m mid greyish brown clay with occasional small limestone inclusions, till.

4.3.2.3 Northern half of Sewer Trench and Pit 7

The superficial deposits at this part of the trench had been removed during the strip and record on the footprint of the access road (Hancock 2005). The undisturbed deposits underlying the layer of disturbed material proved relatively complex and the stratigraphic succession is detailed below.

- (600) *c.*0.3m mid greyish brown clayey silt, redeposited.
- (601) *c.*1.5m (at southeast and northeast of The Roses) light yellowish brown sandy calcareous gravel, glacial deposit or deliberate levelling deposit?
- (602) *c.*1.4m mid reddish orange silty sand, deep glacial deposit either banded within or filling hollows in the surface of (604).
- (603) *c.*1.5m mid greyish brown clay with moderate limestone inclusions, till.

4.3.3 No archaeological finds or features were observed in the trench or inspection chamber pits 4, 5, 6 and 7.

4.4 Boundary Wall

The machine excavation of the footing for a boundary wall (Fig 3) dividing the rear garden of The Roses from the access drive of the development was observed. The footing was relatively shallow and was excavated to a depth of *c.*0.5m through top and subsoil and into a reworked deposit of mid greyish brown sandy clay. No archaeological finds or features were observed in the footing trench or spoil.

4.5 Footing trenches: Plot 1

4.5.1 A level platform was created prior to excavation of the footings (Fig 3). The depth of overburden removed increased from a minimum of *c.*0.1m at the north, adjacent to the access drive, to a maximum of *c.*1.4m at the southeastern corner of the platform. The footing trenches were excavated a further *c.*1.0m into the platform. The natural strata dipped with a southeast-northwest strike. The following stratigraphic profile was evident.

- (700) *c.*0.2m mid greyish brown humic topsoil.
- (701) *c.*0.2m mid brown sandy silt, subsoil.
- (702) *c.*0.5m mid greyish brown sandy clay, reworked natural.
- (703) *c.*0.5m mid reddish brown clayey sand, natural
- (704) *c.*0.5m dark brownish grey clay with moderate limestone inclusions, natural till
- (705) unknown depth of mid grey clay, present across the southeastern corner of Plot 1. Oxford Clay?

4.5.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed in the footing trenches.

4.6 Footing trenches: Plot 2.

4.6.1 A level platform was created prior to excavation of the footings (Fig 3). The depth of overburden removed increased from a minimum of *c.*0.1m at the north, adjacent to the access drive, to a maximum of *c.*1.2m at the southeastern corner of the platform. The footing trenches were excavated a further *c.*1.0m into the platform revealing the presence of an infilled pond (Fig 4) and the stratigraphic profile is described below:

- (800) *c.*0.2m mid greyish brown humic, topsoil.
- (801) *c.*0.2m mid brown sandy silt, subsoil.
- (802) *c.*0.5m mid greyish brown sandy clay, reworked natural.
- (803) *c.*0.2m mottled red/grey sandy gravel, secondary fill of pond in (705).
- (804) *c.*1.0m of mid grey clayey silt, primary fill of pond in (705).
- (805) *c.*0.5m mid reddish orange clayey sand, glacial deposit overlying (705) at the western periphery of the house footings
- (806) *c.*0.4m mid greyish brown clay with moderate limestone inclusions, till.

4.6.2 After consultation with the AA and following agreement by Milton Keynes Real Estate Investments Ltd, 30 litre bulk samples were collected from deposit (803) and also deposit (804) for environmental analysis. Unfortunately dating evidence was not recovered from the fills of the pond and none was discovered during processing of the samples. The environmental assessment (Appendix 3) confirms that this feature was a pond that gradually infilled to eventually become marshy or intermittently waterlogged. Slight evidence of domestic or agricultural activity was identified in the upper marshy fill (803).

4.6.3 Seven sherds of unstratified medieval pottery (Appendix 3) were recovered at the northern part of the plot during excavation of the footings. No archaeological features were observed.

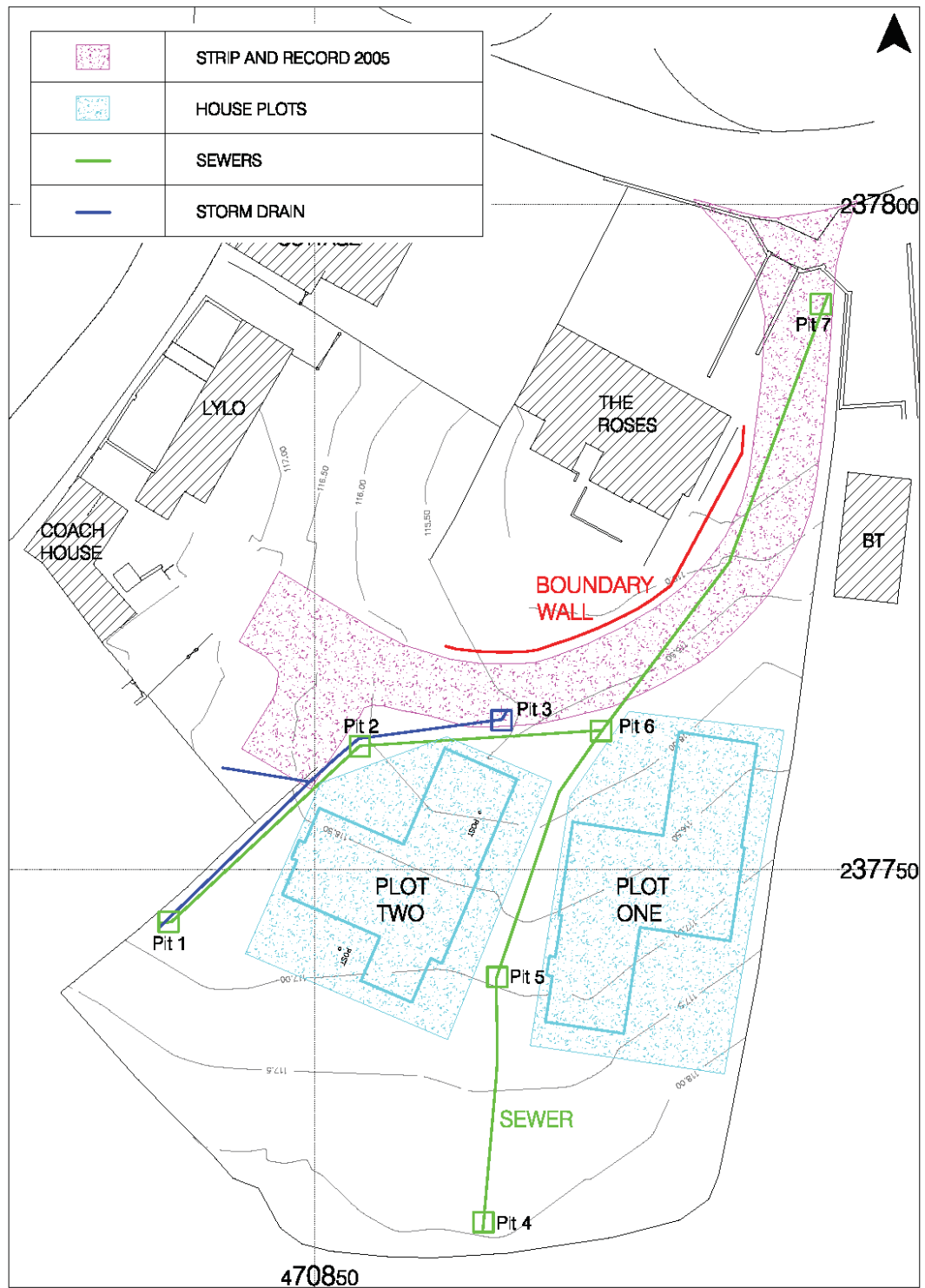


Figure 3: Location of areas examined
(scale 1:500)

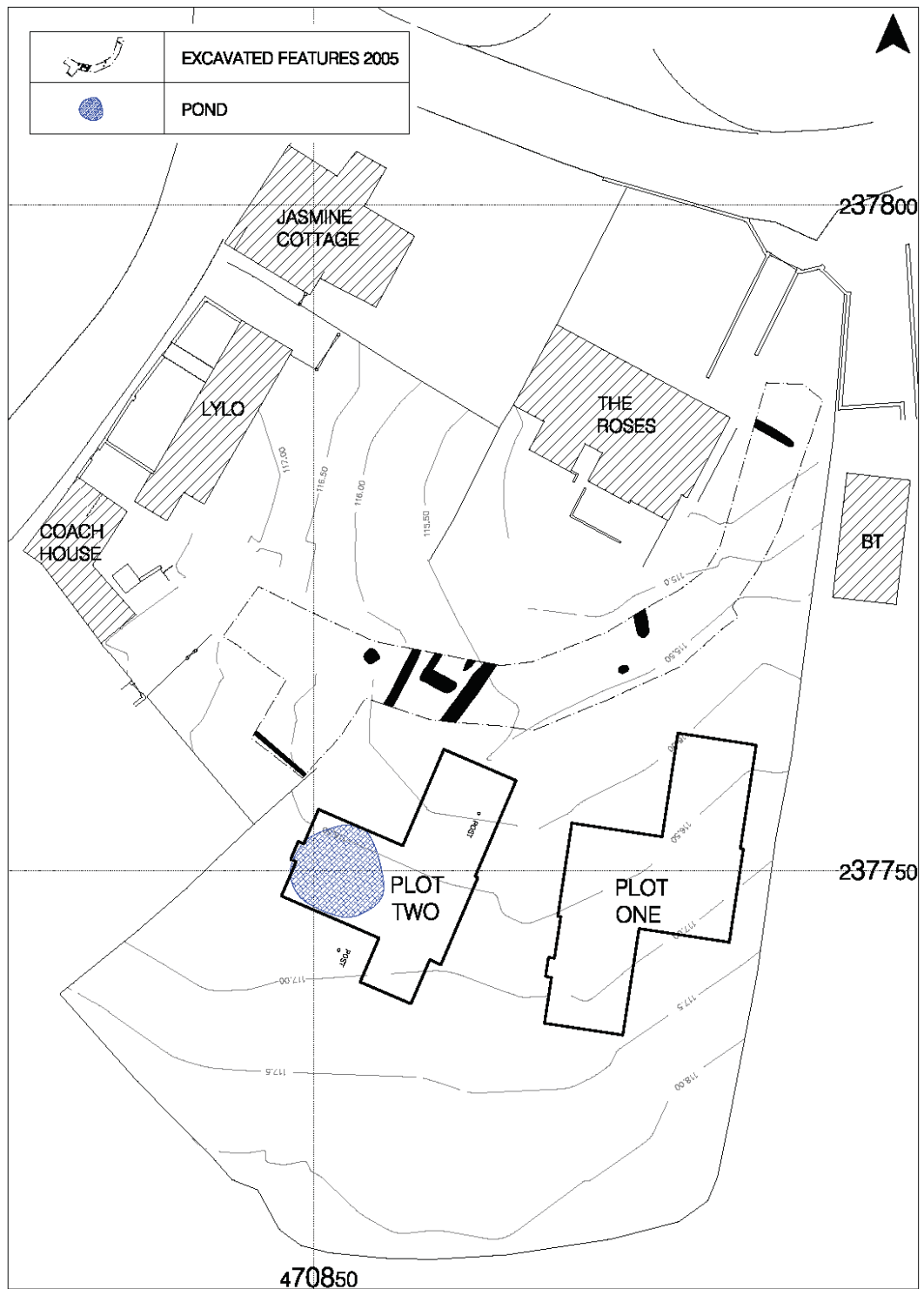


Figure 4: Excavated features (scale 1:500)

0 25 m



Plate 1: Pit 1, facing SW



Plate 2: Western sewer trench, facing WSW



Plate 3: Pit 3 with modern feature under scale, facing SW



Plate 4: Storm drain trench, facing WSW



Plate 5: Pit 4, facing SW



Plate 6: Southern part of eastern sewer trench and Pit 5, facing NW



Plate 7: Northern part of eastern sewer trench, facing WSW



Plate 8: Pit 7, facing ENE



Plate 9: Plot 2 footing showing section through fills (803) and (804) of pond, facing E



Plate 10: Boundary wall footing trench, facing NE



Plate 11: Plot 1 after levelling and excavation of footings, facing SW



Plate 12: Plot 2 after levelling, facing WSW

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The groundwork monitored by ASC during the watching brief showed that top/subsoil and a layer of redeposited sediment overlay a topographically heterogeneous area of relatively complex glacially derived sediments consisting of mid brown calcareous till, reddish orange sand and a yellowish white calcareous gravel.
- 5.2 The natural mid brown calcareous till dipped gradually with a north-south and southeast-northwest strike. The observed natural stratigraphic succession showed that the calcareous till was overlain by reddish orange sand at the northwest and north of the site and this sediment was overlain in turn by yellowish white calcareous gravel adjacent to Chapel Lane.
- 5.3 Archaeological or natural features were not revealed by the groundworks at the eastern side of the development. The absence of features may support the hypothesis that this area was in agricultural use during the medieval period (Ivens 2003) although definitive evidence, *e.g.* buried remnants of ridge and furrow, was not observed.
- 5.4 The overburden was deepest at the western side of the site where it filled a continuation of the natural depression that contained the majority of archaeological features discovered during the earlier strip and record (Hancock 2005). The deepest part of the hollow contained *c.* 1.2m of redeposited mid yellowish/greyish brown sandy clay underlying *c.* 0.3m of top/subsoil. The redeposited sediment lacked evidence of deliberate and discrete episodes of deposition although its depth and unsorted nature suggest post medieval or modern levelling activity.
- 5.5 The watching brief did not identify further archaeological features at the western side of the site although the strip and record (*ibid*) indicated that archaeological features would continue under the footprint of house plot 2. The negative results indicate that the footing and service trenches were not deep enough to disturb buried archaeological remains.
- 5.6 Environmental analyses of the fills of a pond revealed by the footing trenches at house plot 2 suggests that this feature gradually infilled with sediment until it became a marshy or intermittently waterlogged hollow possibly surrounded by scrub (Appendix 3). The fills of the pond were undated and evidence of human activity was absent from its primary waterlogged fill, slight evidence of agricultural or domestic activity was identified within the upper intermittently waterlogged fill.
- 5.7 A focus of 11th – 12th and 14th century medieval activity was identified by a strip and record excavation (Hancock 2005). The relationship and contemporaneity of the archaeological features and the pond are unclear although it and the archaeological features were sealed by a deep layer of redeposited sediment suggesting that a wet marshy area was likely present when the 11th – 12th century ditches and pits were in use. The high ground fronting Main Street remains a likely area of medieval settlement although the marshy area probably delimited the southern extent of the features excavated in 2005 and could suggest that the focus of the excavated medieval features was located toward the junction of Main Street and Chapel Lane.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to John Ferrigno of MK Real Estate Investment Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to David Radford of the County Archaeological Service who monitored the project. Gratitude is expressed to James Rackham for assessing the environmental samples and Paul Blinkhorn for examining the recovered pottery.

The site visits were carried out by the author and the report was edited by B. Zeevat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Reports
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. Artefacts
7. Sample records
8. List of photographs
9. Original specialist reports and supporting information
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. The Accession Number is 2005.70.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

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Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD	
Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 6931ACL	Sheet: (of
AKELEY		Date of visit: 7/6/06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):	Start: 2.15	Finish: 3.30	
Completed by: ASH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:			
GARDEN AND DRIVEWAY OF 'THE ROSES'			
SUNNY, 10T			
Observations:			
TWO CONNECTOR PITS FOR NEW FOUL SEWER OBSERVED.			
(1) NE OF EXISTANT BUNGALOW 'THE ROSES' ON DRIVEWAY C. 2.2 M DEEP AND 2M X 3M			
STRAT: MADEGROUNDS (100) DRIVEWAY RUBBLE C. 0.1 M			
RECORDED SUBSOIL (101) WHITISH YELLOW SILTY CLAY (c. 1.0M)			
NAT (102) MID BROWNISH GREY CLAY (c. 1.1M)			
FOUL SEWER AT BASE OF PIT (1).			
(2) SOUTH OF ROSES IN GARDEN C. 2.4M DEEP 2M X 3M			
TOPSOIL/SUB (200) BROWNISH GREY ORGANIC/DEBRIS C. 2M			
NAT (201) LIGHT BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY CLAY C. 0.8M			
NAT (202) MID ORANGE SANDY SILT C. 0.6M			
NAT (203) MID GREEN SILTY SHALEY CLAY C. 0.8M			
FOUL SEWER NOT YET LOCATED IN (2). GROUNDWORKERS WILL GO DEEPER.			
Comments:			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED.			
FURTHER VISIT ON 8/6/06 TO OBSERVE FURTHER CONNECTOR PIT AND EXPLANATION (CONTINUANCE OF PIT (2)).			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 1		Sheet: 2 of		
AKELEY		Date of visit: 8 / 06 / 06				
Client/Developer						
Contact:				Phone:		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 2.00		Finish: 3.45		
Completed by: ADH						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:						
GARDEN AND DRIVEWAY SUNNY, HOT						
Observations:						
ONE CONNECTOR PIT (3) OBSERVED AT WESTERN BOUNDARY OF GARDEN c. 50M TO SOUTH OF ROSES BUNGALOW						
STRT						
(300) 0.16M GREENISH BROWN (TOPSOIL)						
(301) 0.14M MID BROWN CLAYEY SILT (SUBSOIL)						
(302) 1.4M REINFORCED YELLOWISH BROWN / MID BROWN SANDY CLAY (PIPE TRENCH FILL ?)						
SAME AS (301)? (303) c.0.3M LIGHT BROWNISH YELLOW SANDY CLAY (NAT)						
FOUL SEWER AND STORM DRAIN CUT THROUGH PIT - ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY INSERTION OF PIPES						
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED						
Comments:						
FURTHER VISIT ON 12/06/06 - GROUNDWORKERS WILL START PIPE TRENCH AND CONTINUE LOOKING FOR PIPE IN PIT (2).						

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL	Sheet: 3 of
AKELEY		Date of visit: 13 / 06 / 06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1.30	Finish: 2.40	
Completed by: ASH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:			
GARDEN OF THE ROSES			
HOT, OVERCAST			
Observations:			
CONNECTOR PIT (2) DEEPENED (c. 4.0M)			
AND PIPE LOCATED-INSERTED INTO (203)			
CONNECTOR PIT (3) EXPANDED SLIGHTLY.			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED IN EITHER.			
Comments:			
PIPE TRENCHES START ON 15/6/06.			
VISIT NECESSARY.			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES AKELEY		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL	Sheet: 4 of
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 15/06/06	
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 12.30	Finish: 14.00	
Completed by: AH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: HOT + SUNNY			
Observations:			
PIPE TRENCHES FROM CONNECTOR PITS			
② AND ③ BEING EXCAVATED.			
PIPE TRENCH FROM ② c. 1.0m DEEP			
PIPE TRENCH FROM ③ c. 3.0m DEEP - INSPECTION			
ACCESS ALSO UNDER CONSTRUCTION.			
STRAT AS SHEETS 1 AND 2.			
BASE OF PARTS OF THE PIPE TRENCHES ALREADY BACKFILLED WITH 'PCA GRIT'.			
NO ARCH FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED IN SECTION OR AT PARTS OF TRENCHES WHERE BASE IS VISIBLE.			
Comments:			
PIPE TRENCH FROM ② - WHERE ARCHAEOLOGY MIGHT BE EXPECTED - DOES NOT APPEAR DEEP ENOUGH TO AFFECT ANY FEATURES PRESENT.			
FURTHER VISIT ON 19/6/06.			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1 A C L		Sheet: 5 of	
AKELEY		Date of visit: 20 / 06 / 06			
Client/Developer					
Contact:				Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 10 00		Finish: 11.47	
Completed by: A.H.					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify):					
Site & weather conditions: HOT - INTERMITTENTLY OVERCAST					
Observations:					
ALL PREVIOUS PIPE TRENCHES AND INSPECTION PITS STILL OPEN EXCEPT FROM CONNECTOR/INSPECTION PIT ③ WHICH WAS BACKFILLED.					
NEW INSPECTION PIT OPENED ④ AND SQUARE CUT FEATURE EVIDENT UNDERLYING TOPSOIL IN SOUTHERN PROFILE. FILL CONTAINED 19 th / 20 th century GLASS AND POTTERY.					
NO OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED					
Comments:					
CONTRACTORS BACKFILLING OPEN PIPE TRENCHES AND SOME INSPECTION PITS ON 21/06.					
FURTHER VISIT 22/06					

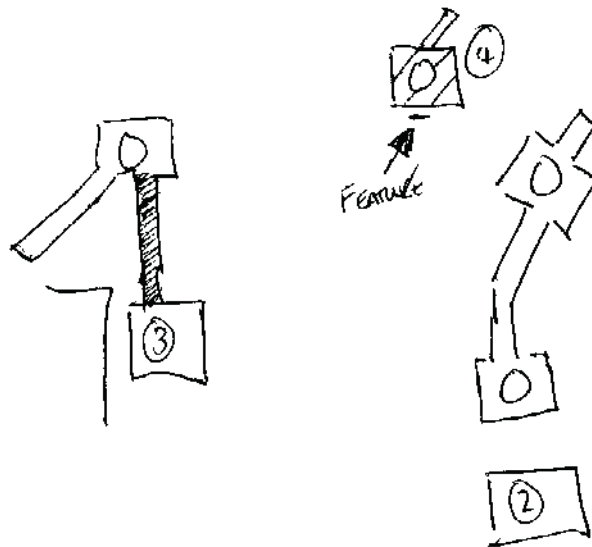
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20/06/06

①

THE
ROSES



 NEW INSPECTION ACCESS OBSERVED

NOT TO SCALE



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL		Sheet: 6 of		
AKELEY		Date of visit: 22/6/06				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 1.00		Finish: 2.00		
Completed by: ACH						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Sunny - HOT						
Observations:						
SOME FURTHER BACKFILLING TAKEN PLACE ON AREAS ALREADY OBSERVED.						
PIPE TRENCH AND INSPECTION PIT OPENED ON DRIVEWAY - AREA EXAMINED DURING 2005 'STRIP AND RECORD' ALL FURTHER PIPE TRENCHING WILL GO THROUGH DRIVEWAY AND ARCH MONITORING UNNECESSARY. DEEP STRATA OF REDDISH SAND UNDERLYING AND YELLOWISH BROWN CLAY NOTED IN INSPECTION PIT - c.3m DEEP. CLAY c.2m THEN SAND BELOW.						
STORM DRAIN REPLACEMENT STARTS MONDAY 26/6						
Comments:						
VISIT NECESSARY 26/6 TO OBSERVE REPLACEMENT STORM DRAIN TRENCH.						

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1ACL	Sheet: 7 of
AKELEY		Date of visit: 26/6/06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 13.00	Finish: 14.00	
Completed by: ADH			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, WARM			
Observations:			
STILL EXCAVATING PIPE TRENCH THROUGH PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED DRIVEWAY.			
PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF WESTERN SIDE OF TRENCH HAS DELAYED WORK PROGRESSING TO THE REROUTING OF STORM DRAIN - WILL START 28/6/06			
NO ARCH FINDS OR FEATURES			
Comments:			
VISIT ON 28/6/06			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 6931ACL		Sheet: 8 of		
AKELEY		Date of visit: 6/7/06				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (Inc. travel):		Start: 13.45		Finish: 16.00		
Completed by:						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST + HOT						
Observations:						
LEVEL PLATFORM CREATED AT DEVELOPMENT PLOT TWO. UPTO 0.07M STRIPPED AT SE CORNER OF PLOT - ONLY c. 0.2M AT NW CORNER.						
NO ARCH FEATURES OBSERVED. ONE RIM SHARD OF GREEN GLAZED POTTERY (MED) (UNSTRAT) FROM AREA OF MADE GROUND/ PIPE TRENCH FILL.						
SUBSOIL STILL REMAINING ON MAJORITY OF PLOT ALTHOUGH INDICATIONS THAT NATURAL VERY NEARLY UNCOVERED AT SE CORNER.						
Comments:						
GROUNDWORK NOT OCCURRING 7/7/06 ∴ NEXT VISIT 10/7/06.						

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 603 1 ACL	Sheet: 9 of
AKELEY		Date of visit: 10/07/06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 11.00	Finish: 14.15	
Completed by: AH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions:			
REAR GARDEN OVERCAST - MILD - INTERMITTENT DRIZZLE			
Observations:			
HALF OF FOOTINGS EXCAVATED ON LEVEL PLATFORM CREATED LAST WEEK. (PLOT 2)			
FOOTINGS DEEPER THAN EXPECTED - AREA OF MID GREY SILT CLAY⁽²⁰⁾ EVIDENT AT BASE OF ONE FOOTING TRENCH. UNDERLIES c.2m OF MOTTLED GREY/BROWN SANDY SILT⁽²⁰⁾			
PRESERVED ORGANICS PRESENT IN GREY SILTY CLAY - APPEARS TO BE INFILL OF POND			
NO ARTEFACTS RECOVERED			
Comments:			
VISIT TOMORROW TO OBSERVE REMAINDER OF FOOTING TRENCHES ON PLOT 2.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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 A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: THE ROSES AKELEY		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL		Sheet: 10 of		
		Date of visit: 11/07/06				
Client/Developer						
Contact:			Phone:			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start:		Finish:		
Completed by: AJH						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY AND HOT						
Observations: REMAINDER OF FOOTINGS ON PLOT 2 OBSERVED MID GREY SILT FILLED FEATURE EXTENDS NORTHWARD THROUGH TWO FURTHER FOOTING TRENCHES. c.10m WIDE IN THE SOUTHERLY FOOTING THEN NARROWS TO c.1m WIDE IN NORTHERLY TRENCH. FILL MACHINE EXCAVATED TO GREYISH BROWN CLAY NATURAL AT WIDEST POINT. CONCAVE PROFILE c. 3.5m DEEP BELOW SURFACE OF TOPSOIL SAMPLE (BULK 30L) TAKEN FROM FILL (203) AND ALSO FILL (204) - APPEARS TO BE INFILLED POND. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS RECOVERED TWO CATTLE BONES RECOVERED FROM SURFACE OF (204)						
Comments: POURING CONCRETE FOOTINGS 12/7/06 THEN REMOVING TOPSOIL/SUBSOIL/DEMOLISHED GREENHOUSES UNTIL 18/07/06 WHEN FURTHER VISIT NECESSARY						
MAXIMUM UNCOVERED EXTENT OF POND (GREY FILL)		N	SP	70862	37754	
		S		70856	37747	
MOTTED FILL EXTENDS FURTHER		E		70860	37748	
3m S 3m W SE		L		70855	37751	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL	Sheet: 11 of
AKELEY		Date of visit:	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 12.00	Finish: 13.30	
Completed by: ADH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY AND V HOT			
Observations: FOOTING FOR BOUNDARY WALL DIVIDING THE ROSES FROM DEVELOPMENT PLOTS 1 AND 2 OBSERVED. FOOTING CUT INTO DISTURBED TOPSOIL AND DEEP OVERBURDEN ALONG ITS ENTIRE LENGTH - NOT DEEPER THAN 0.4m.			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED			
Comments: FURTHER REMOVAL OF TOPSOIL AND SUBSOIL OCCURRING UNTIL 21/07/06 WHEN VISIT NECESSARY.			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES		Project No/Code: 693 1 ACL	Sheet: 12 of
AKELEY		Date of visit: 25/7/06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 9.30	Finish: 10.30	
Completed by:			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Roads <input type="checkbox"/>	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quarrying		Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: SUNNY V. HOT			
Observations: 360 BROKEN DOWN NO PROGRESS ON PLATFORM OF PLOT 1. 360 BEING FIXED TODAY SO WORK COMMENCES AFTERNOON			
Comments: VISIT NECESSARY ON 27/7/06			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES, AKELEY		Project No/Code: 693 / ACL	Sheet: 13 of
		Date of visit: 31/7/06	
Client/Developer			
Contact:		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 13.30	Finish: 15.00	
Completed by: ASH			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST OCC DRIZZLE			
Observations:			
LEVEL PLATFORM FOR PLOT 1 EXCAVATED AND HALF FOOTINGS OF HOUSE PLUG			
C. 1M OF OVERBURDEN REMOVED AT SE CORNER DECREASING NORTHWARDS TO C. 0.1M AT NORTH OF PLATFORM. FOOTINGS C. 1M DEEP			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND OR FEATURES NOTED.			
POSSIBLE GREY SILTY INFILL OF A POND EVIDENT AT SE AND S OF FOOTINGS, NW AREA OF FOOTINGS EXCAVATED THROUGH OVERBURDEN TO NATURAL ORANGE SAND.			
Comments:			
VISIT TOMORROW TO OBSERVE REMAINDER OF FOOTINGS			

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD

Project: THE ROSES AKELEY		Project No/Code: 693 1ACL	Sheet: 14 of 14
		Date of visit: 2/8/06	
Client/Developer: MILTON KEYNES REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT			
Contact: JOHN FERRIGNO		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 10.00	Finish: 11.30	
Completed by: AJH			
Development Type:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Footings	<input type="checkbox"/> Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Levelling
		<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipelines
			<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST, OCCASIONAL DRIZZLE			
Observations: REMAINDER OF FOOTINGS FOR PLOT 1 DUG.			
NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS OR FEATURES OBSERVED			
Comments: NO FURTHER VISITS NECESSARY.			

For sketch plan, use reverse

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Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: The Roses, Akeley, Bucks				SITE NO/CODE: 693/ACL
Shot	B&W	Slide	Digital	Subject
1			✓	Pit 1, facing SW
2			✓	Western sewer trench, facing WSW
3			✓	Pit 3 showing modern feature, facing SW
4			✓	Storm drain trench, facing WSW
5			✓	Pit 4, facing SW
6			✓	Southern part of eastern sewer trench and Pit 5, facing NW
7			✓	Northern part of eastern sewer trench , facing WSW
8			✓	Pit 7, facing ENE
9			✓	Plot 2 footing showing section through alluvial fills (803) and (804), facing E
10			✓	Boundary wall footing trench, facing NE
11			✓	Plot 1 after levelling and excavation of footings, facing SW
12			✓	Plot 2 after levelling, facing WSW

Appendix 3: Specialist Reports

Pottery from the watching brief at the Roses, Akeley, Bucks (Site 693 ACL)

Paul Blinkhorn

A small assemblage of medieval pottery (7 sherds, 88g) was noted. Most are earlier medieval types typical of the region.

The pottery was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992; Zeepvat et al. 1994), as follows:

MC3: *Medieval Shelly ware*, AD1100-1400. 2 sherds, 27g.

MC9: *Brill/Boarstall Ware*. 1200-?1600. 1 sherd, 31g.

MS3: *Medieval Sandy Wares*. Mid 11th – late 14th century. 3 sherds, 25g.

In addition, the following, which is not listed in the Milton Keynes type series, was also noted:

Cotswolds-type ware. c. AD975-1150 (Mellor 1994, 44). 1 sherd, 5g.

The Brill/Boarstall ware sherd is a rim sherd from a glazed jar. Such vessels in that tradition are generally datable to the 14th – 15th centuries.

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Mynard, DC and Zeepvat RJ, 1992 *Great Linford* Bucks Archaeol Soc Monog Ser **3**

Zeepvat, RJ, Roberts, JS and King, NA, 1994 *Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. Excavation and Fieldwork 1966-91* Bucks Archaeol Soc Monog Ser **9**

Environmental Archaeology Assessment: Chapel Lane, Akeley – 693 ACL

Introduction

Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd conducted an evaluation at the site of Chapel Lane, Akeley, Buckinghamshire. Two bulk-soil samples were taken from the fill of a pond feature (126) and submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment (Table 1). The feature was undated although its location and association with other features of medieval date has suggested that it may be medieval.

Table 1: Chapel Lane, Akeley – 693 ACL. Samples taken for environmental assessment

Sample no.	Context	Sample vol. in L.	Sample wt. in kg	Description/Provisional Interpretation	Provisional date
1	127	29	30	Secondary fill of pond	Medieval?
2	128	29	29	Primary fill of pond	Medieval?

Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.25mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 0.5mm mesh for the residue. The residues were dried and the residue of sample 2 was re-floated and the subsequent flots dried. The volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. A total of 58 litres of soil was processed in this way.

The flots of each sample were studied under a low power binocular microscope. For ease of sorting the dry flots were poured through a stack of sieves (6.7mm, 2mm and 1mm). The wet flots were also poured through a 2mm sieve and the entire coarse fraction (>2mm) was assessed and a proportion of the fine fractions (<2mm) were assessed and the abundance of individual components estimated. The presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged. The flots and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the sample were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Table 2.

Table 2. Church Lane – 693 ACL. Environmental finds from processed samples.

Sam ple	Conte xt	Vol. in L.	Resid ue vol. in ml	Flot Vol ml. (wet)	Flot Vol ml. (dry)	Char-coal \$	Woo d *	Mag-netic wt. g.	Char'd grain*	Char'd seed*	Unchar'd Seed*	Insect *	Bone wt g.	Snail */#	Preliminary identifications
1	127	29	1400	50		2/5		1	1	1	3	5	2	1/1	Charred wheat, legume, Anthemis cotula, grass; uncharred common nettle, common chickweed, bramble, cinquefoil, bittersweet?, elder, sedges; frog/toad, mites, Daphnia ephippia, Lymnaea truncatula
2	128	29	100	200	12	1/2	1?	1			5	5	<1	2/1	Uncharred meadow/creeping/bulbous buttercup, common nettle, knotweeds?, dock, plum/bullace/ cherry, wild/dwarf cherry, bramble, cinquefoil, hempenettles?, elder, thistle, sow-thistle, sedges, bittersweet?, frog/toad, Daphnia ephippia, caddis fly larval cases, L. truncatula, Oxychilus sp., Planorbis crista, ostracod, dung beetles, ground beetles, Helophorus

\$ = abundance >2mm/abundance < 2mm; * = abundance: 1=1-10, 2=11-50, 3=51-150, 4=151-250, 5=250+; # = species diversity: 1=1-3, 2=4-10, 3=11-25, 4=26-50, 5=>50

Results

The samples show very little evidence for contamination aside from small numbers of worm capsules accompanied by two live worms (present in sample 1). The two samples yielded environmental evidence only, in the form of plant macrofossils, faunal remains, insects and snails, with no archaeological finds whatsoever (Table 2). The residues consist of iron rich sediment concretions including root pseudomorphs, and small stones

and pebbles, which accounts for the low densities of magnetic concreted sediment and stone recovered from both of the samples (Table 2). The preservation of organics in the primary fill, sample 2, is excellent, while that in the secondary fill is much poorer indicating a less waterlogged burial environment and possibly drier original depositional conditions.

The botanical remains primarily consist of anaerobically preserved herbaceous material including stem fragments (some 'woody'), moss, leaf buds, grass-like leaf fragments and root material.

The fragments of moss and leaf buds are concentrated to the primary fill 128 of the pond feature probably due to preservational differences.

*The suite of weed species are largely consistent in both flots and are dominated by species associated with areas of scrub, wood margins and wet woods such as brambles (*Rubus spp.*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra L.*), species such as wild/dwarf cherry (*Prunus cf. avium/cerasus*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica L.*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media (L.) Vill.*) and bitter-sweet (*Solanum dulcamara L.*) can also be found in damp woods or river/pond edges. Several of the species are also indicative of disturbed or waste ground such as thistles (*Carduus/Cirsium spp.*). The presence of meadow/creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and cinquefoils (*Potentilla spp.*) broadly indicates grassy areas or meadow and bulbous buttercup particularly associated with wet grassland.*

The only charred botanical remains recovered from the flots originate from the secondary fill and consist of a single bread wheat-type grain (*Triticum aestivum sl.*), an abraded legume cotyledon (Fabaceae indet.), a seed of *Anthemis cotula* and a single small grass seed (Poaceae indet.). The fills have provisionally been dated to the medieval period and bread wheat and legumes were certainly cultivated at this period, but the assemblage is too small to confirm the period of activity based on the type of cereals alone, or determine if the assemblage is derived from crop processing or domestic activities.

The snails from the primary fill, 128, are dominated by shells of *Planorbis crista*, a taxa found commonly in small ponds (Macan 1977), but the only shell from the secondary fill is *Lymnaea truncatula*, an aquatic species that tends to inhabit marshes and areas that flood seasonally. The beetles in sample 2 include individuals of the aquatic genus *Helophorus*, there are caddis larval cases and very abundant *Daphnia ephippia* confirming the open water character of the feature during the build up of this deposit. The marked difference in preservation between the primary and secondary fills, accompanied by a very dramatic drop in *Daphnia ephippia* and the aquatic snails suggests that during the formation of the secondary fill the pond was merely marshy or only periodically water filled. The presence of dung beetles in the primary fill suggests grazing animals nearby perhaps indicating that the pond was used for stock.

Discussion

The scarcity of archaeological material in the primary fill suggests that any potential human activity that took place within the locality of the pond had little impact on its immediate environs. The environmental evidence supports the interpretation of the feature as a pond, and possibly adjacent to a woodland margin or an area of scrub, with elder, brambles, plum/bullace and cherry trees growing around and nearby, all of which are species that are potential food resources that could have been collected.

The botanical assemblage indicates that the vegetation growing around the feature remains generally consistent in both samples, with some activity possibly domestic or related to crop processing taking place nearby contemporary with the secondary fill, but the aquatic invertebrate taxa fall off dramatically between the primary and secondary fills and the latter appears likely to have formed during a much dryer period or the pond had filled up sufficiently for it to no longer function.

Conclusion

There was no material of archaeological significance recovered from the fills of the pond. The presence of charred botanical remains does suggest some anthropogenic activity within the vicinity of the feature probably after the pond had ceased to function and was probably an overgrown damp hollow situated within an area of scrub.

The preservation of organic remains in the primary fill is very good with excellent survival of plant and insect microfossils and other invertebrate remains. Further analysis of the environmental remains would characterise

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS						
Project Name:	Watching Brief: The Roses, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Bucks.					
Short Description:	A watching brief on rerouting sewer and drainage pipes plus levelling of platforms and insertion of footing trenches prior to construction of two houses revealed an infilled pond possibly associated with medieval features discovered during earlier work.					
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	DBA	FW	Geophys	Survey	Bldg Rec	Post-Exc
	WB	Strip&Rec	Trenching	Test pits	Exc	Other
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None		Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)		Strip and Rec	
Current land use:	Garden		Future work: (yes / no / unknown)		no	
Monument type:	Pond		Monument period:		-	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Unstrat 11 th – 14 th century Med pot sherds (7)					
PROJECT LOCATION						
County:	Buckinghamshire		OS reference: (to at least 8 figures)		SP 7088 3777	
District:	Akeley		Parish:		Akeley	
Site address: (with postcode if known)	Rear of The Roses, Chaple Lane, Akeley, Bucks.					
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	1.98 ha		Height OD: (metres)		c.116	
PROJECT CREATORS						
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	D Radford		Project design originator:		K Semmelmann	
Project Manager:	D Fell		Director/Supervisor:		A J Hancock	
Sponsor / funding body:	MK Real Estate Investments Ltd					
PROJECT DATE						
Start date:	7/6/06		End date:		2/8/06	
PROJECT ARCHIVES						
	Location (Accession no.)		Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Bucks County Museum (2005.7)		Pottery			
Paper:	As above		Report, clients plans, specialist reports			
Digital:	As above		As above and photographs, illustrations			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)						
Title:	Watching Brief: The Roses, Chapel Lane, Akeley, Bucks.					
Serial title & volume:						
Author(s):	A J Hancock					
Page nos	1-47		Date:10/10/06			

the immediate environment of the feature in more detail at the point when it was filled with water and then its subsequent drying out, although it remains difficult to relate the feature with other, nearby archaeological features identified in the previous evaluation (Hancock 2005).

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