



# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
LAND TO THE REAR OF  
THE BUNGALOW  
HIGH STREET, LUDGERSHALL  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 6599 1755

*on behalf of Miss H Cox*



David Fell BA MA MIFA

July 2010

ASC: /1312/LHS/2r



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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LHS	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1312
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-78057	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	AYBCM:2010.118
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Ludgershall		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Ludgershall		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 6599 1755		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.1640 m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Former farm building		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of farm building and construction of a bungalow		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	09/01508/APP		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	July 2010		
<i>Client:</i>	Miss H Cox The Bungalow High Street Ludgershall Buckinghamshire HP18 9PD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Miss H Cox		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	David Fell	<i>Date:</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2010
<i>Revisions:</i>	David Fell	<i>Date:</i>	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2010
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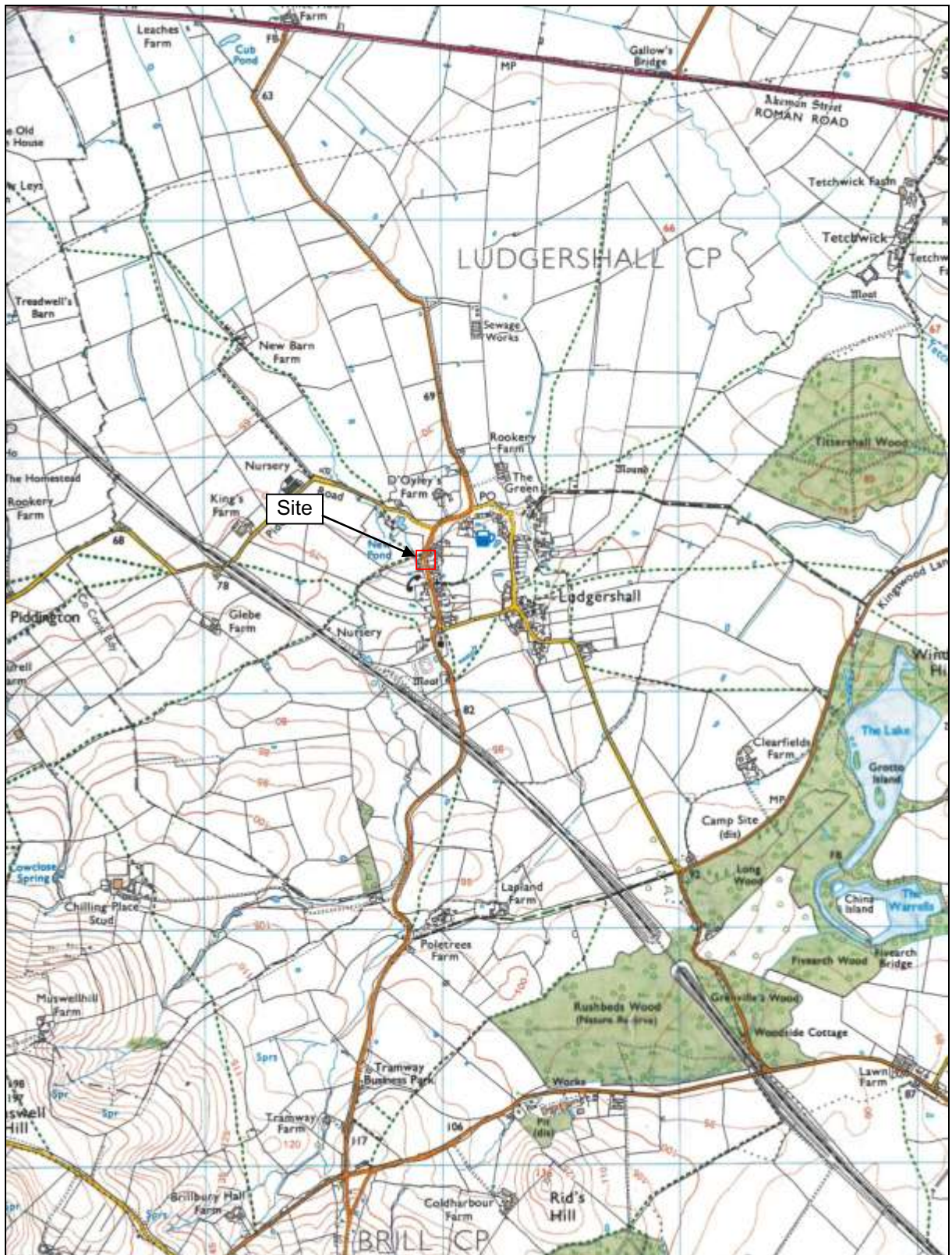


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In July 2010 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of The Bungalow, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire in advance of the construction of a house. A single evaluation trench was excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. The development is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains and the archaeological impact of the development is considered to be low.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at The Bungalow, High Street, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Miss Helena Cox, and was carried out according to a *brief* (Beckley 2009) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *the Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Summerfield-Hill 2010). The relevant planning application reference is 09/01508/APP.

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

#### 1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

#### 1.4 *The Site*

##### 1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in Ludgershall in the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). It lies in the west part of the village, on the east side of the High Street and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: SP 6599 1755 (Fig. 2).

The site comprises an irregular shaped plot of land of *c.*1640 sq m to the rear of 'The Bungalow' and 'The Old White Hart'. It is occupied by a number of agricultural buildings. Until recently the site of the proposed new building was occupied by a timber outhouse. Access to the site is via a driveway from the High Street to the west.

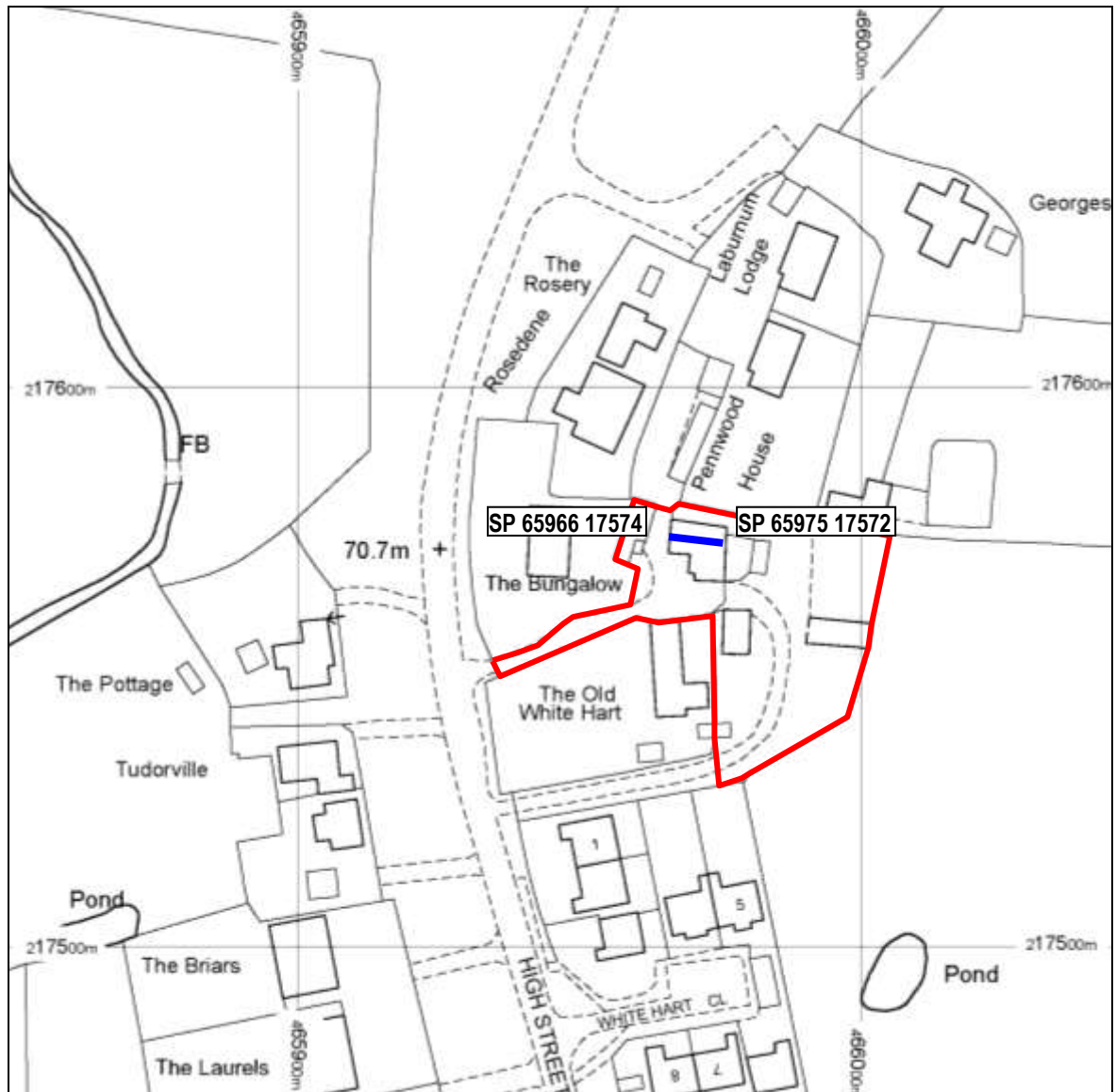
##### 1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soil profile within the footprint of the proposed new building had been truncated and did not survive (section 4.2.3). The natural soils of the area in general comprise the *Evesham 2 Association* described as *slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils* (Soil Survey 1983, Sheet 6, 411b). The underlying

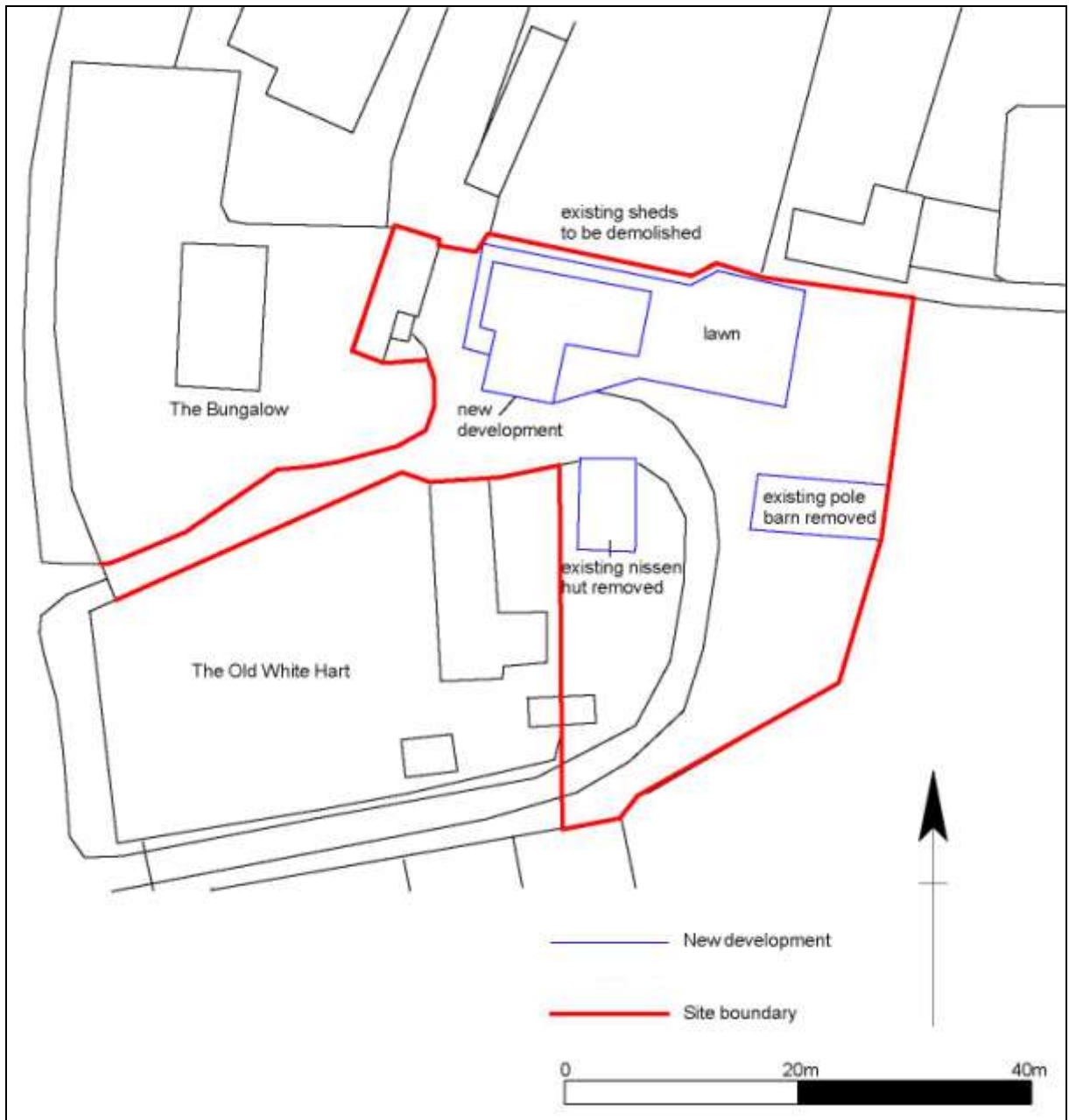
natural strata comprises *Oxford Clay* (BGS, Sheet 237). The development site is flat and lies at an elevation of *c.70.7m OD*.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development entails the demolition of an outhouse and the construction of a bungalow (Fig. 3).



**Figure 2:** Site plan with trench location shown in blue (Scale 1:1250)



**Figure 3:** Plan of the Proposed Development (*scale as shown*)



## **2. Aims and Methods**

### **2.1 Aims**

As described in the project design (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To contribute to the understanding of the origins and development of the village of Ludgershall by establishing the chronology, form and function of archaeological remains affected by development.
- To establish the extent, character, date and state of preservation of burial and important archaeological remains following for which further specific research objectives may be defined.
- To interpret the results in terms of the documented history and historical topography of the medieval settlement in Ludgershall.

### **2.2 Standards**

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

### **2.3 Methods**

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3), which required:

- 10m of trial trenching across the footprint of the new house (Fig. 3).

### **2.4 Constraints**

No constraints were encountered and the trial trench was excavated as specified in the *brief*.

### 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

#### 3.1 Introduction

Ludgershall is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest (Page 1927, 68-73) and the landscape of Ludgershall is considered to be of national importance. The site had the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods but the focus of interest was considered to lie in the medieval period.

This section has been compiled with information from Buckinghamshire *Historic Environment Record* (HER), the *Brief* (Beckley 2009) and ASC's in-house library.

#### 3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 Little is known of Ludgershall during the prehistoric periods. During the Roman period the area was within the civitas territory of the *Catuvellauni*. The village lies *c.*2.5km south of a major Roman road (Copeland 2009; Farley 2010), now known as *Akeman Street*, which linked the small town of *Alchester* with Fleet Marston and the civitas capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans).

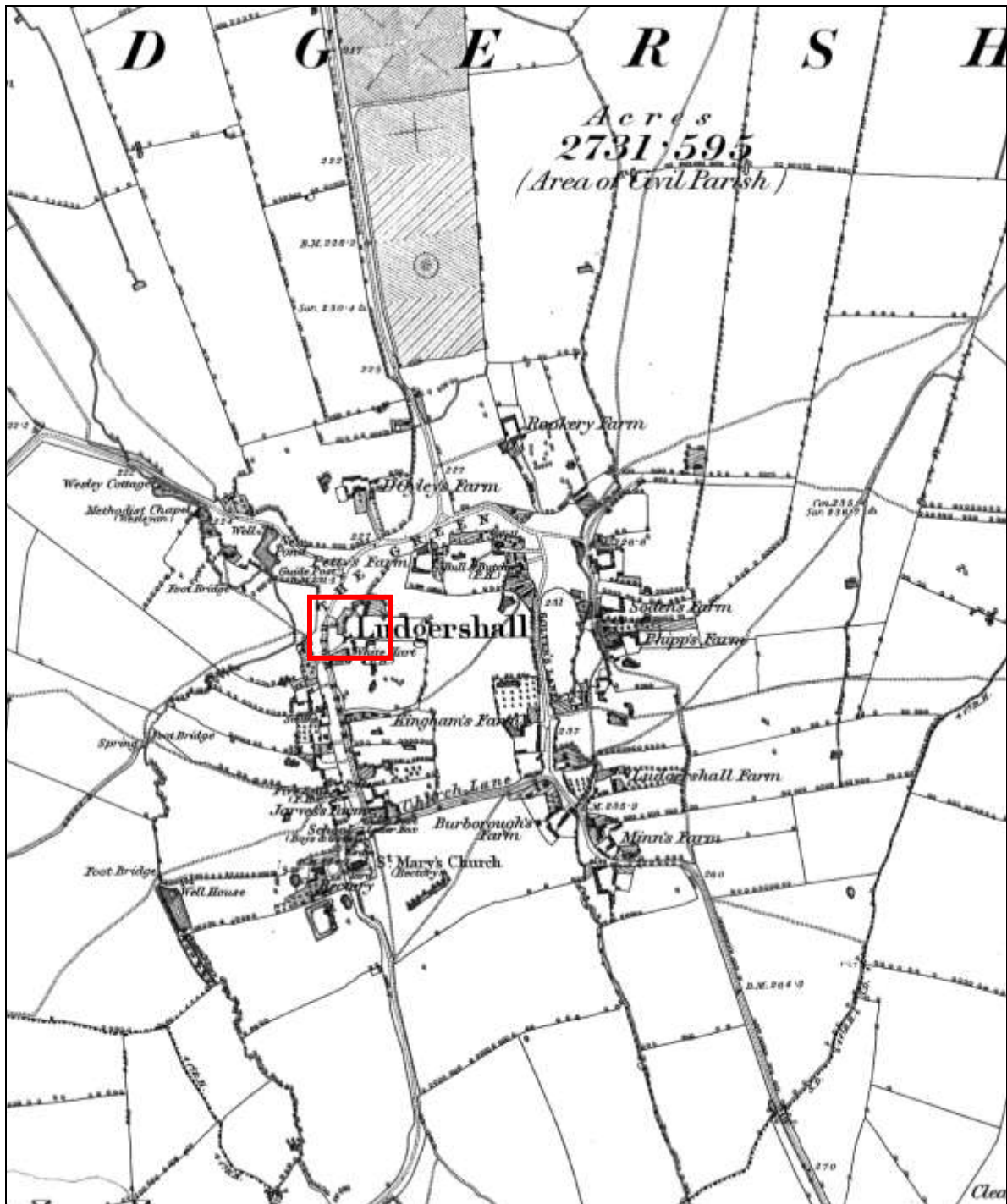
3.2.2 Evidence for Roman activity in the parish of Ludgershall is restricted to the discovery of a 4<sup>th</sup> century coin *c.*400m north of the development site (HER FBC46) and a single sherd of pottery *c.*150m north (HER FBC 306).

3.2.3 Ludgershall may have originated during the Saxon period but little is known of the early history of the village. At the time of the *Domesday survey* (1086) Ludgershall comprised part of Ashendon Hundred and was held by the *Bishop of Coutances and William fitzManni* (Williams and Martin 2003).

3.2.4 The medieval village developed around a U-shaped green, with the church and manor at its south-western corner (Taylor-Moore & Dyer 2007). A moated site is situated *c.*400m east of the development site (HER 0033) and earthworks indicating the presence of medieval settlement at present at a number of locations in the village (HER 02134, 02331, 02332, 06755-57). Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips have been recorded *c.*100m to the east of the development site (HER 02366). The medieval landscape of Ludgershall is considered to be of national importance due to the survival of the open field system and earthworks within the village (Beckley 2009, 2). The open fields were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1777.

3.2.5 During the late medieval period, pottery manufacturing was a significant industry in Ludgershall and in the neighbouring villages of Brill and Boarstall (Saunders 2000).

3.2.6 A number of 17<sup>th</sup> century cottages are situated along the High Street. The former White Hart Inn, which is situated adjacent to the development site, also dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



**Figure 4:** Extract from the 1880 edition Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 scale map

- 5.2.7 The development site is shown on the 1880 edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4). Two buildings are shown on the site of the existing sheds and the area to the rear, including the site of the proposed building is shown as open land. The same layout is shown on the 1920 edition map.
- 3.2.8 The configuration of the site changed during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and the 1952 edition map shows a rectangular building on the site of the proposed development. The remainder of the plot was open land indicating that the buildings now occupying the site are modern and date from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation. Full descriptions, in tabulated form, are provided in Appendix 1.

4.1.2 The trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Following excavation the trench was cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was made. The spoil heap was scanned with a metal detector.

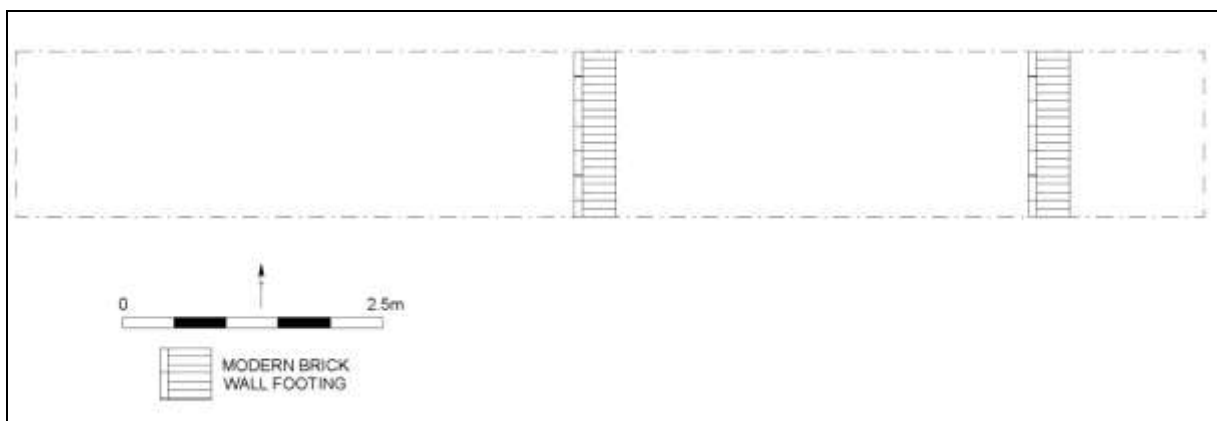
### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 The trench was situated in the north part of the development site and was aligned from east to west. A modern timber outbuilding had recently been demolished (*pers comm.* H Cox; section 3.2.8) and the removal of the remaining debris (101) from this building was monitored by an archaeologist.

4.2.2 Two brick wall footings were present in the trench (Figure 5). They were aligned from north to south and had been set into the underlying natural strata (100). These bricks are interpreted as the footings of the walls of the recently demolished outbuilding. They are modern and are not of archaeological significance.

4.2.3 The underlying natural strata (100) was revealed at a depth of *c.*300mm. The natural soil profile did not survive and it is likely that the natural soils were removed during the construction of the outbuilding during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2.4 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were present in the trench.



**Figure 5:** Plan of the trial trench



**Plate 1:** View of the evaluation trench looking west

## 5. Conclusions

5.1 An archaeological trial trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed building but no significant archaeological features were present in the trench. The natural soil profile did not survive and it is likely that the soils were truncated during the construction of an outbuilding which was built at this location during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (section 3.2.8). It is likely that any archaeological remains which may have been present were destroyed during these works.

5.2 Significant archaeological features were not revealed during the evaluation. While the occasional existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trench cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features are present on the development site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains and the archaeological impact of the development is likely to be low.

### 5.3 *Confidence rating*

The work was undertaken in dry and sunny weather conditions and full co-operation was received from the client and machining contractor. Accordingly, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.

## 6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Miss Helena Cox for commissioning this evaluation. Eliza Alqassar BA MA PgCert AIfA, of the *Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service* acted as curatorial monitor.

The project was managed for *ASC Ltd* by David Fell BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork was led by David Fell assisted by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIfA. The report was prepared by David Fell and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIfA.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. Original specialist reports and supporting information
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Buckinghamshire County Museum*: Accession no: 2010.118

## 8. References

### *Standards & Specifications*


- Beckley, R 2009 *Brief for an Archaeological Excavation: Land to the rear of the Bungalow, High Street, Ludgershall*. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Summerfield-Hill C, 2010 *Land to the Rear of The Bungalow, High Street, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire. Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd document no. 1312/LHS/1

### *Secondary Sources*

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Copeland M, 2009 *Akeman Street. Moving through Iron Age and Roman Landscapes*. The History Press
- Farley M, 2010 *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society
- Page W, 1927 *The Victoria History of the County of Buckinghamshire*. 4
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden)*.
- Tyler-Moor K & Dyer C, 2007 *Medieval Buckinghamshire (1066-1540)*. Solent Thames Research Framework
- Williams A & Martin G H (eds) 2003 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*. Penguin



## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

<b>Trench 1</b>						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	11.5m	<b>Width</b>	1.6m	<b>Depth</b>	c.300mm
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench top W</b>			70.72m OD		
	<b>Trench base W</b>			70.45m OD		
	<b>Trench top E</b>			71.15m OD		
	<b>Trench base E</b>			70.49m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>E</b>	SP 65975 17572		<b>W</b>	SP 65966 17574	
	<b>Orientation</b>			E-W		
<b>Reason for Trench</b>			Evaluation of footprint of new building			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>		<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>
101	Layer	Unconsolidated rubble. Modern building debris. Cut by two modern brick wall footings		1.6	c.300	-
100	Layer	Homogenous bluish grey clay. Natural strata		1.6	-	c.300

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: The Bungalow, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1312/LHS
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	View of the trench looking east
2	✓	✓	View of the trench looking west
3	✓	✓	General view of the development site
4	✓	✓	General view of the development site

## Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	The Bungalow, High St, Ludgershall	OASIS reference:	archaeol2-78057
Short Description:	In July 2010 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of The Bungalow, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire in advance of the construction of a house. A single evaluation trench was excavated but no significant archaeological features were present. The development is unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains and the archaeological impact of the development is considered to be low.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	Disused buildings	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	no
Monument type:	none	Monument period:	none
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 6599 1755
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	The Bungalow, High Street, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9PD		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.1640 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	70,7m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	BCAS	Project design originator:	ASC Ltd
Project Manager:	David Fell BA MA MifA	Director/Supervisor:	David Fell BA MA MifA
Sponsor / funding body:	Miss Helena Cox		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	20 July 2010	End date:	29 July 2010
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Bucks Co Museum 1010.118)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	None	None	
Paper:	Site records	Pd, report, site records, maps, plans	
Digital:	Digital archive	CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: land to the rear of The Bungalow, High Street, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1312/LHS/2		
Author(s):	David Fell BA MA MifA		
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