



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

The Manor House
Church Walk
Weston Turville
Buckinghamshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In November 2023 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at The Manor House, Church Walk, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire in order to fulfil a planning condition for the development of the site. The initial proposals, which were for the erection of an extension and alterations to the existing staff accommodation building, were modified to simply involve the installation of a new drainage system. Despite the high archaeological potential, no features, finds or deposits were revealed.

1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2023 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at The Manor House, Church Walk, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Charlotte Warner, and was carried at the request of Philip Markham, Buckinghamshire Council Archaeological Service (BCAS), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Buckinghamshire Council Aylesbury Vale Area. The relevant planning application reference is 21/02823/APP.

1.2 *Planning Background*

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

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The proposed development site is situated in the village and civil parish of Weston Turville, within the administrative district of Buckinghamshire Council Aylesbury Vale Area at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 8592 1040 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is located at the northern boundary of the grounds belonging to the 18th century, Grade II* listed Manor House. Also within the grounds is a motte and bailey castle, now a Scheduled Monument (NHLE ref 1006937). These are discussed in more detail in Section 3.8 below. The site is bounded to the north by Bear Brook, to the west/southwest by a stables and a grassy area, and to the east by trees and farmland (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is clay of the Gault and Upper Greensand Formations (undifferentiated), (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). No superficial deposits have been recorded by the BGS, but it was noted during excavations in 1985 that the motte is located on the edge of a gravel spread on which the village has been built (Yeomans 1986: 169). The site lies within the flood plain of the stream bounding the site to the north, at an approximate elevation of 114m AOD.

Development

The former proposals, which were for the erection of an extension and alterations to the existing staff accommodation building, have been modified to the installation of a new drainage system (Fig. 3).

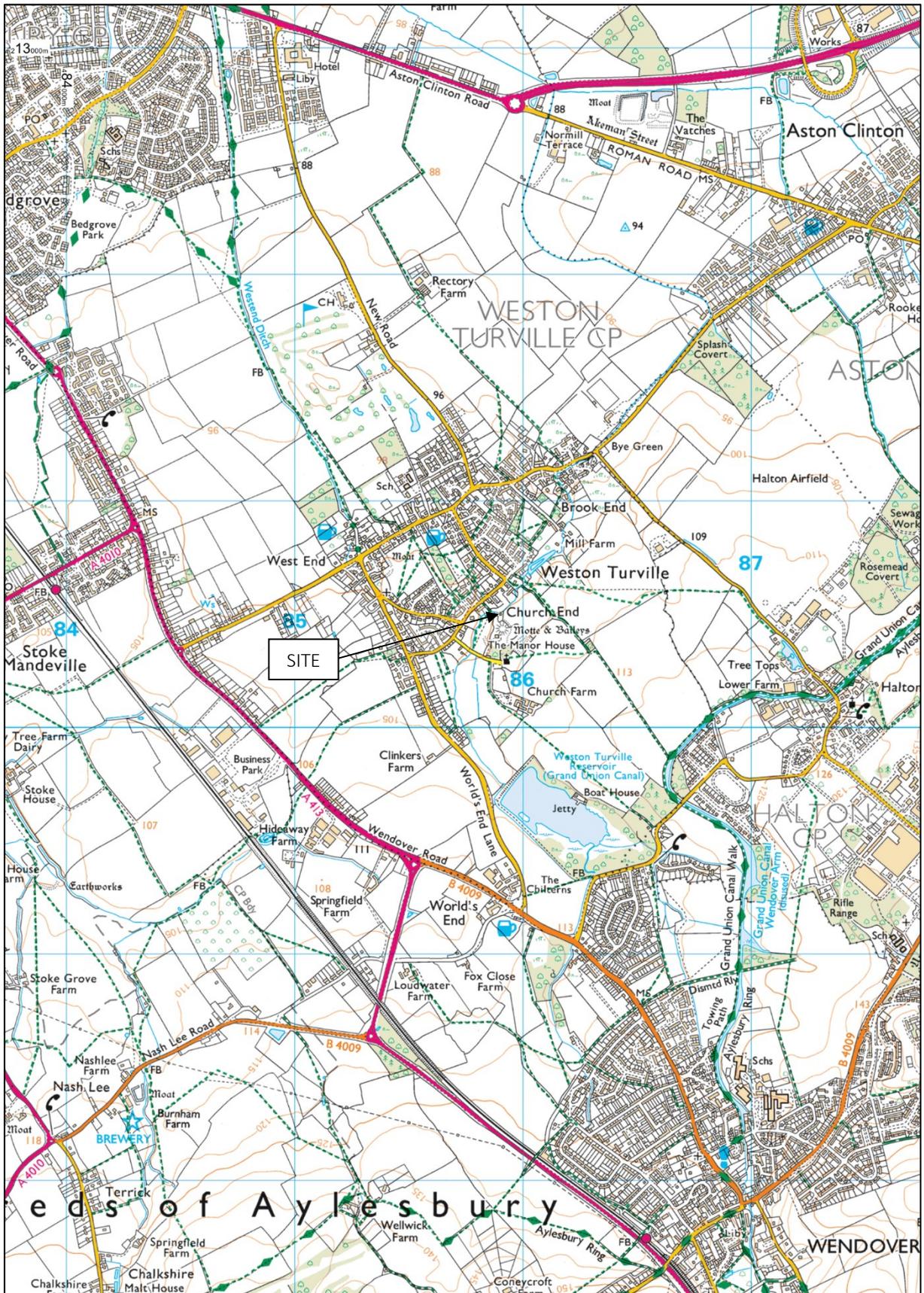


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

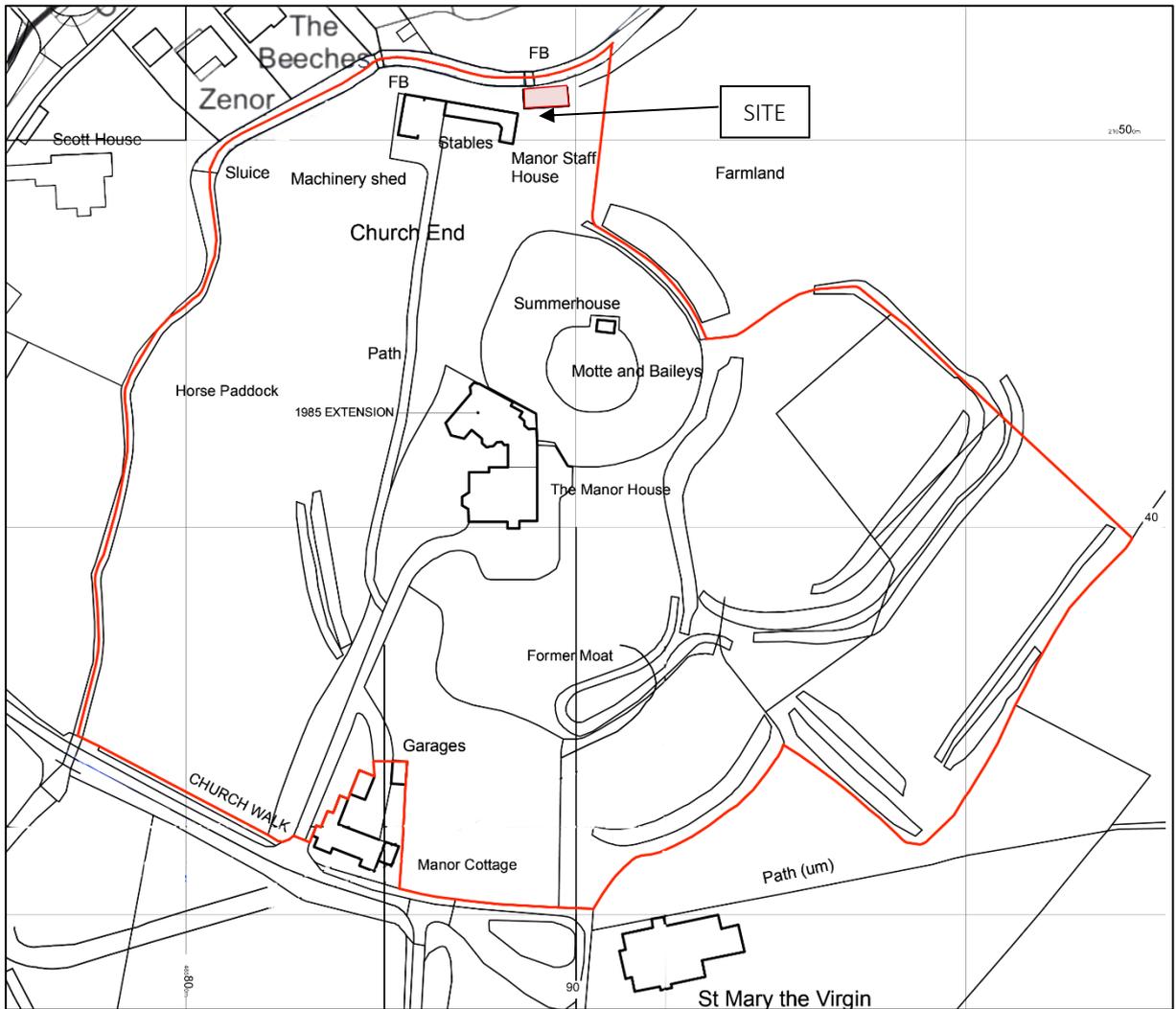


Figure 2: Site layout (scale as shown)

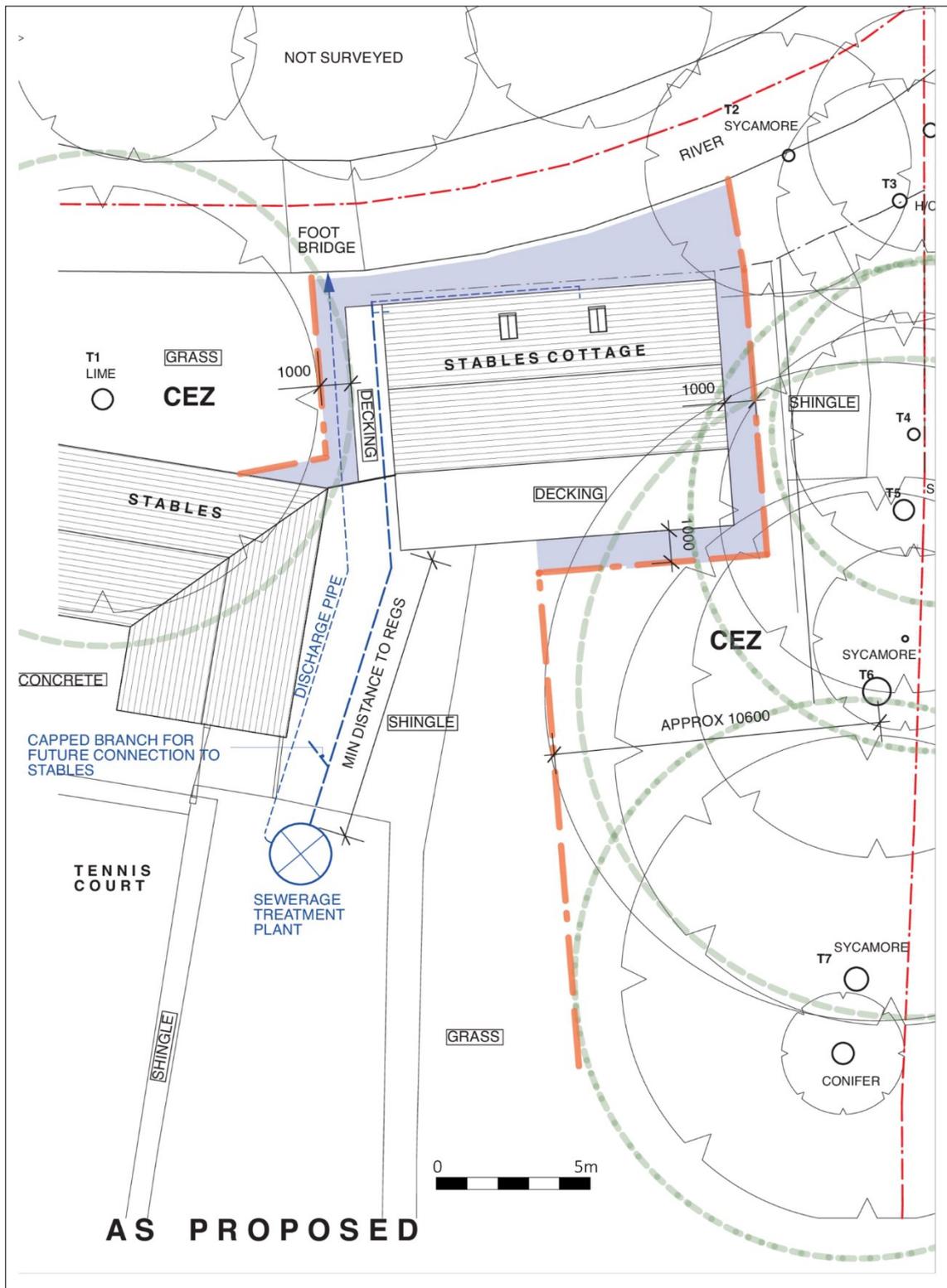


Figure 3: Development plan 1:200



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the project 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*

The methods used were as follows:

- The archaeological monitoring of all groundworks, which consisted of a service trench and Klargestep pit

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2020a)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)
- Data Protection Act 2018



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 Weston Turville lies on the crossing of the Roman Road, Akeman Street, and the Lower Icknield Way (VCH online), yet there are only few remains within the archaeological record to testify to activity within the study area before the late Saxon period. Nonetheless, the discovery of an isolated 2nd century Romano British cremation burial and pottery spanning the entire Saxon period provide particular points of interest in the periods pre-dating the construction of a motte and bailey castle sometime after the Norman Conquest. The castle survived only until 1174, but the site remained an important moated manorial holding, with further moated sites constructed elsewhere in the village in the medieval period.

The medieval watermills recorded in the Domesday Survey continued in use throughout the medieval period; the last only ceased operating in 1938. The settlement remained otherwise rural, with agriculture and duck breeding being the main economic drivers in the early 20th century.

This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Records (Ref:1191), reliable online resources and KDK's own library.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC)

The earliest known evidence for human activity within the study area is a Mesolithic flint discovered during housing development west of the Manor House on the corner of School and Church Lanes (HER 0523700001). Two Neolithic-Bronze Age flint flakes have also been discovered around Burnside (HER 0411700002), to the southwest of the Manor.

3.3 ***Iron Age*** (600BC - AD43)

There is slight evidence for Iron Age activity in the form of a quern fragment found near Church Farm (HER 0105900000) and the late Iron Age-Roman pottery discovered whilst digging out the floor in a house in Church Lane (HER 02489000000)

3.4 ***Roman*** (AD43 - c.450)

Although some Roman artefacts have been discovered within the grounds of the Manor House (HER 0106201000), and close to the church (HER 0294200002 & 0248900000), there is no evidence for a settlement within the study area. Nonetheless, the cremated remains of a woman interred in an amphora were found in the Rectory Gardens by a labourer in the 1850s (HER 0015700000, 0015700001). Accompanying the burial were three Samian pots dating from c.150AD (HER 0015700002), four other pots (HER 0015700003), four bottles (HER 0015700005), bone pins (HER0015700006), a brooch in the shape of a running hare and another in the form of a fly (HER 0015700004), glass beads (HER 0015700009), the remains of a wooden casket (HER 0015700008), the remains of leather shoes or sandals (HER 0015700010) and fragments of a mirror (HER 0015700007).

3.5 ***Saxon*** (c.450 - 1066)

The existence of an early Saxon settlement in the area is indicated by the discovery of early, mid and late Saxon pottery in allotments around Burnside (HER 0411700001). A strap end dating from the 9th or 10th century was discovered in a nearby garden (HER MBC298180). Both finds are c.200msouthwest of the parish church which lies immediately to the south of the Manor. Whether there was continuous or intermittent settlement in the Saxon period has yet to be ascertained, but certainly by the time of the Battle of Hastings several landholdings had been established of which Earl Leofwine held 9½ hides and Godric the Sheriff 3½ hides. Two men of



Godric also held 3½ hides, a man of Earl Tosti held 2 hides and two men of the Bishop of Lisieux held 1½ hides each (Williams & Martin 20021: 396). It was a valuable estate with 4 mills, woodland for 100 pigs and worth £15 during King Edward's reign (*ibid*).

3.6 **Medieval** (1066 - 1500)

Following the Norman Conquest, the landholdings were awarded to the Bishop of Bayeux, whose estates were forfeited following his failed rebellion against William Rufus, the Conqueror's son, in 1088 (Hagerty 1986:179). The estate was held by Simon de Montfort in the early 13th century, but Weston Turville later became part of the Duchy of Lancaster (VCH online).

The late Saxon/early medieval settlement appears to have been focussed close to the south of the present Manor House and church. Medieval and post-medieval pottery has been found on allotments around Burnside, in the same area as early-late Saxon pottery was discovered (HER 0411700001). Possible medieval house platforms along with a possible holloway have been recorded 300m to the northwest of the church (HER 0294200000). Pottery found in association with these platforms were dated to the 14th century (HER 0294200001). Another series of house platforms and holloways was identified along the road to the church (HER 0412700000 & 0412702000).

Weston Turville watermill, a 17th century corn mill on the site of the medieval mill was in use until 1938 (HER 0069200000). This was situated to the north of the Manor House, in close proximity to a moated site at Brook End (HER 00411000000). Pottery dating from the 12-13th century was found nearby (HER 0294202000). Another mill is thought to have been located to the south of the church (HER 0412701000), and a third (HER 0412801000) was located 200m north of the manor where a ford is depicted on the 1799 Enclosure Map (HER 0412800000). Although the watermills to the north of the manor and south of the church have been largely identified by post-medieval bricks, the location of their medieval precursors would undoubtedly have been close by.

A new housing development at the corner of School and Church Lanes revealed considerable quantities of medieval pottery and other finds that may be indicative of a shrunken medieval village (HER 0523700000 & 0523700002).

The church of St Mary dates from the 13th century with a 15th century clerestory and tower (HER DBC 4227). It has been suggested that this was built to replace a chapel that stood within the grounds of the motte and bailey castle (HE R0105600000; Yeomans 1986: 177). The castle is discussed in more detail in Section 3.8 below.

3.7 **Post-medieval** (1500 - 1900)

A number of other buildings survive from the post-medieval period, including the 16th or early 17th century timber framed house at 1 Bates Lane, later divided into two cottages (HER DBC3319). 10 & 12 Church Lane probably dates from the second half of the 16th century and has a 17th century outshut (HER DBC3712). Number 26 School Lane is a 17th century timber framed building, as are numbers 3,4 and 5 Willow End, formerly a cottage and barn (HER DBC2217). The Chequers Inn dates from the 18th or early 19th century but has an earlier wing to the north dating from the 17th century (HER DBC2229). The churchyard gate is thought to have been constructed in the 18th century (HER DBC4132).

The 19th century architect, George Gilbert Scott, who is better known for his neo-gothic buildings, designed the former rectory in the classical style in 1838 (HER DBC3138).



In 1908 the parish of Weston Turville was described as being a mixture of arable and pasture with some 7 acres of woodland. Agriculture and duck breeding were the main sources of income, with some straw plaiting although that was already a dying craft (VCH online).

3.8 *Site specific*

The proposed development is located at the northern end of the grounds belonging to the Manor House, which is distinguished not only by the 18th century Grade II* listed house (HER 0105601001), but also by the remains of a motte and bailey castle (HER 0105600000), now a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1006937). Trial trenching in 1985 was able to ascertain that the mound was constructed by heaping up the clay that had quarried from the ditch in layers that sloped from south to north (Yeomans 1986: 171). The mound is approximately 5m high although it is thought to have been at least 1m higher when first built. The motte ditch is c.9m wide with a stepped base and survives to the east and northeast of the mound, but the northwest was probably protected by the flood plain and a ditch would not have been necessary there. Two postholes discovered between the ditch and the edge of the mound base indicate the presence of either a palisade or a bridge abutment (*ibid*). The ditch appears to have been backfilled in the 13th or 14th century after which a stone structure was built as evidenced in a 2m long wall aligned northeast to southwest with a return at the eastern end survived within the evaluation trench (*ibid*: 173). Two 12th century stone voussoirs were discovered in the ditch along with unworked stone pieces and timber offcuts (HER 0105600003; Yeomans 1986: 176).

The castle was destroyed under king's orders in 1173/4 (Hagerty 1986) after which the site became a moated manor. A further moat was added to the east and another to the southeast. A rectilinear enclosure was formed to the east of this in the 18th century (Yeomans 1986: 169). John de Molyns and his wife Egidia were granted permission to crenellate their manor in 1334 and the stone wall mentioned above is probably part of this crenellated structure (HER 0105601000).

It is not recorded what the fate of this medieval manor was, but the present manor house was constructed in the 18th century and is Grade II* listed (HER 0105601001 & DBC4133). It is described as follows (NHLE 1332909):

Early C18 with later C18 west wing. Plum brick with red brick dressings. Remains of tuck pointing. Old tiled roof with end chimney stacks, heavy bracketted wood eaves cornice, Double pile plan. 3-storeys, front has 5 bays of sash windows with gauged brick segmental arches, C19 glazing pattern. Central 6-panel door with radiating and wreathed fanlight and panelled reveals under restored Doric pterico with panelled soffit, columns and pilasters, entablature with swags and reeding on frieze. Central 1st floor window semicircular arched with C20 radiating fanlight. West wing is brick with low hipped old tiled roof and coved moulded brick eaves cornice. 2-storeys, 1st floor band, west elevation has 3 bays of gothic patterned sash windows under gauged brick arches, semicircular to centre, venetian to side bays. Projecting central porch with canted sides and small Y traceried windows, C20 glazed door with semicircular radiating iron fanlight, Doric pilasters supporting entablature with dentil cornice.

Interior Entrance hall has re-used C17 oak panelling with fluted frieze. C18 panelled arch to staircase hall. C18 wooden staircase with shaped tread ends and turned balusters. LH front room has plain C18 paneling, moulded cornice and wood bolection moulded chimneypiece. LH 1st floor room has early C18 panelled stone chimneypiece with early C19 gothic pattern grate. West wing RH ground floor room has fine late C18 carved wood chimneypiece, frieze with central panel of shepherd and sheep, ceiling with original margin with moulded plaster vine pattern, C20 central panels and boss. 1st floor room above has C18 dentil cornice and floral frieze, marble chimneypiece with enriched moulded cornice, C20 wall panels and ceiling pattern.



The 19th century Manor House Lodge is Grade II listed (HER DBC3482) and is described as follows (NHLE 1118359):

House. Early C19, red and blue brick, one gable now tile hung, tiled roof. 1 storey and attic. West elevation has central projecting gabled porch with stepped brick verge, elliptical arched opening with brick imposts, narrow semicircular arched openings to side walls. Side bays each have 2-light transomed diamond leaded windows with segmental arched head. S. elevation has 2 projecting gables, LH gable tile hung, with 2-light window to each floor, transomed to ground floor and 4 similar windows to recessed central section, all with diamond leaded glazing.

Of interest are the finds discovered in the grounds not directly associated with the medieval manor, which include Roman pottery (HER0106201000) and a 9th century plaited gold finger ring described as 'Viking' (HER 0106200000). Also of interest is the uncertainty of the date the motte and bailey castle was constructed. Although first mentioned in a document of c.1145, it has been suggested it could date from the Norman Conquest and strengthened during the Anarchy period (Hagerty 1986: 181).

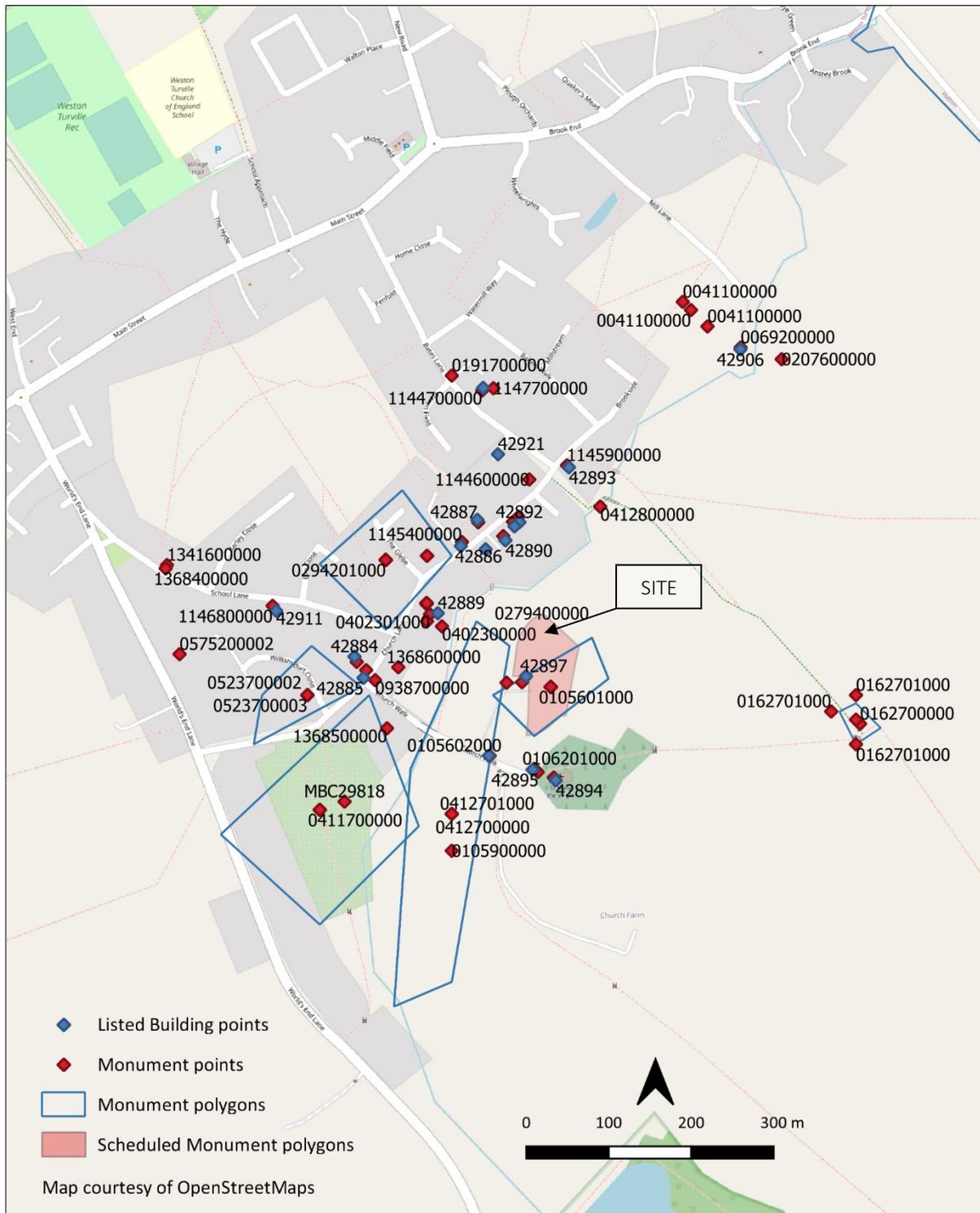


Figure 4: HER data plan (scale 1:7,500)



4 Results

A pit to accommodate a sewage tank and the associated service trench connecting it to the building were excavated using a three-tonne machine, fitted with a 1.40m toothless ditching bucket for the pit and a 0.40m toothless bucket for the services (Fig. 6). The pit measured 2.50 x 2.70m and was 2.90m deep. The service trench, which was 14m long, was only 0.40m deep near the building but fell to 1.50m at the tank (Fig 5). The stratigraphy was uniform across the site (Fig. 6) and comprised:

- Topsoil (100): Dark greyish brown silty clay, friable, small roots and occasional small stones present. This reached a depth of 0.12m.
- Subsoil (101): A 0.24m layer of mid grey clay mixed with occasional broken pieces of modern brick.
- Natural (102): Light/mid grey clay, 1.50m deep over bedrock.

Existing services were encountered at the junction of the service trench and the pit. No archaeological finds, feature or deposits were encountered during this investigation.



Plate 1: South facing overview of pit



Plate 2: North facing overview of service trench



Plate 3: South facing overview of service trench



Plate 4: East facing stratigraphy of service trench



Plate 5: East facing stratigraphy of pit

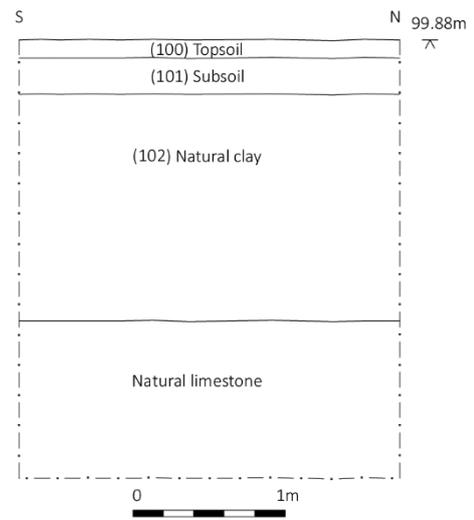


Figure 5: Tank stratigraphy (scale 1:50)

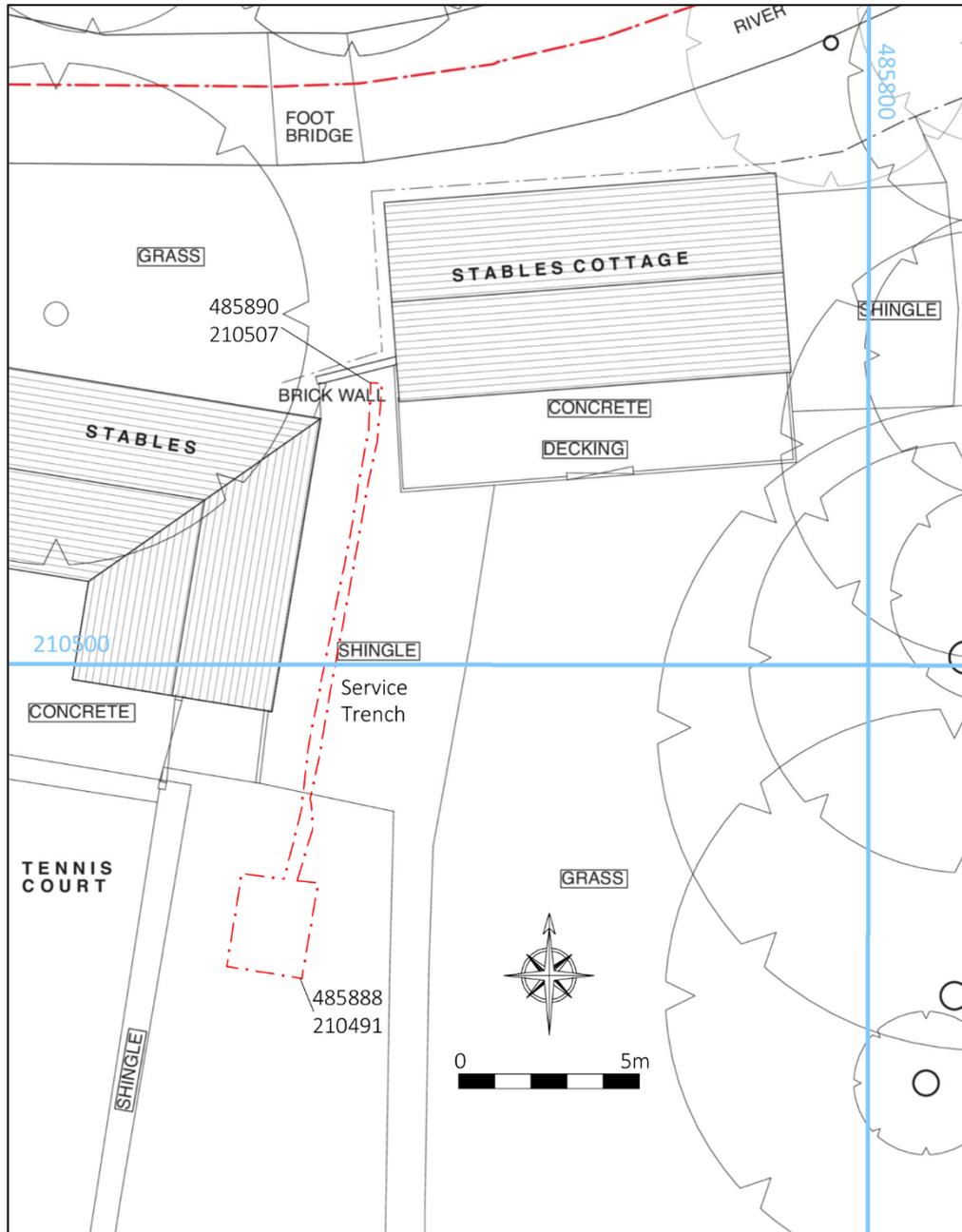


Figure 6: Excavation plan (scale 1:200)



Conclusions

The pit for the Klargester tank and the associated service trench were located immediately south of the river within the curtilage of the motte and bailey. Although the location could suggest a high potential for archaeological remains in the area, no features, finds or deposits were found. This could well be attributed to the proximity of and flooding caused by the river and/or the disturbance resulting from the construction of the stables and the staff accommodation.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Lisa Shell for commissioning this report on behalf of Charlotte Warner. Thanks are also due to Julia Wise of Buckinghamshire County Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Philip Markham of Buckinghamshire Council Archaeological Service (BCAS) for monitoring the project.

Special thanks go to the building contractors for their assistance on site

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King PCIfA. The report was written by Barney King, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise a digital version of the Evaluation Report which will contain the following:

1. List of photographs
2. Site Records
3. OASIS summary report

7.2 The archive will be deposited with OASIS kdkarcha1-502160.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers.

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ClfA 2020b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA 2020c *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Books and Historical Sources

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Online Sources

British Geological Survey: <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	Digital	Subject
1	2380	South facing overview of tank hole
2	2381	South facing overview of tank hole
3	2382	North facing overview of service trench
4	2383	South facing overview of service trench
5	2384	East facing stratigraphy of service trench
6	2385	East facing stratigraphy of service trench
7	2386	East facing stratigraphy of tank hole
8	2387	East facing stratigraphy of tank hole
9	2388	East facing stratigraphy of tank hole
10	2389	East facing stratigraphy of tank hole



Appendix 2: Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	The Manor House, Church Walk Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	632/WTM
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-502160	Event/Accession no	AYBCM: 2022.47
OS reference	SP 8592 1040	Study area size	9940.22m ²
Project Type	Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	114m
Short Description	In November 2023 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at The Manor House, Church Walk, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire in order to fulfil a planning condition for the development of the site. The initial proposals, which were for the erection of an extension and alterations to the existing staff accommodation building, were modified to simply involve the installation of a new drainage system. Despite the high archaeological potential, no features, finds or deposits were revealed.		
Previous work	632/WTM	Site status	Curtilage of Grade II listed building
Planning proposal	Installation of sewage tank and associated services to small dwelling	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Buckinghamshire Council Aylesbury Vale Area	Planning application ref.	21/02823/APP
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
RESEARCH AIMS			
Research framework	Section /Question	Summary of outcome	
N/A	N/A	N/A	
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	BCAS	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	Director/Supervisor	Barney King PCIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Charlotte Warner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	09.11.2023	End date	09.11.2023
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	-	-	
Paper	-	-	
Digital	OASIS	Report	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: The Manor House, Church Walk, Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume	632/WTM.2.1		
Author(s)	Barney King PCIfA		
Page no's	23	Date	14.11.2023