



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY REPORT:

**31 LUTON ROAD/2A HOWARD CLOSE
WILSTEAD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of

on behalf of JRT Architectural Design Ltd

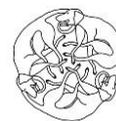
NGR: 506425 243222

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KDK:063/WLR/2

December 2014

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Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	063/WLR		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	kdkarcha1-181743	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2014.44
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Wilstead		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Wilshamstead		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	506425 243222		
<i>Present use:</i>	Two dwellings		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Bedford Borough Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	12/01424/FUL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	11 th - 20 th November 2014		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	JRT Architectural Design Ltd. Capability House, Building 31, Room 136, Wrest Park Enterprise Centre, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. MK45 4HR.		
<i>Client:</i>	Blakeney Developments Ltd. Capability House, Building 31, Room 127, Wrest Park Enterprise Centre, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. MK45 4HR.		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Jeremy Tilston		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Alex Thompson BSc AlFA & David Kaye BA AlFA	<i>Date:</i>	November 2014
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	Karin Kaye MA MlFA	<i>Date:</i>	December 2014
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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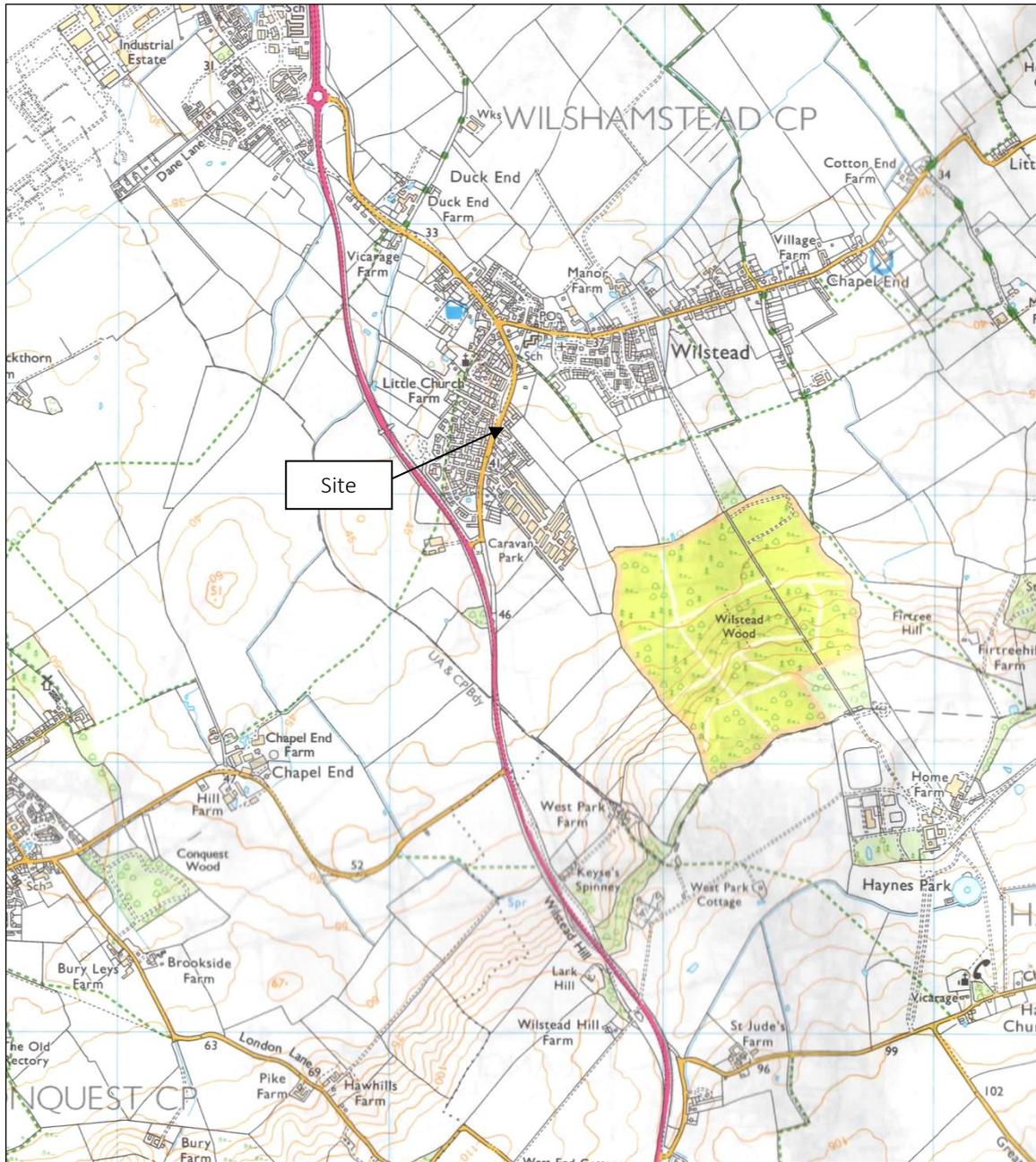


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In November 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief and trial trench evaluation at 31 Luton Road/ 2a Howard Close, Wilstead, Bedfordshire, on behalf of Blakeney Developments Ltd. Both elements of the works showed that the site had been heavily truncated, levelled and generally disturbed since its redevelopment in the 1990s from agricultural land. No archaeological features or finds were made.

1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording and Evaluation at 31 Luton Road/2a Howard Close, Wilstead, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by JRT Architectural Design Ltd on behalf of Blakeney Developments Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye 2014), and approved by the Bedford Borough Archaeology Team's archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Bedford Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 12/01424/FUL.

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 development site is located on the eastern side of Luton Road, on the southern edge of Wilstead, which is situated within the administrative district of Bedford Borough and the parish of Wilshamstead. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 506425 243222 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is roughly rectangular and is bounded to the west by Luton Road, to the south by Howard Close and private properties to the north and southeast. The area immediately to the east of the site is arable land (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The underlying geology of the area typically comprises pale grey clays of the Stewartby and Weymouth Members of the Oxford Clay Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is relatively level at approximately 40.5mAOD.

Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing two dwellings which had been used as a care home, and the construction of six new houses (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:1000)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 *Introduction*

The objectives of the project, in line with the requirements of the brief, were:

- To investigate the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the proposed development site
- To establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present on the proposed development site

In addition general research aims set out *inter alia* by Oake et al (2007), Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott (2011) that may be relevant to the site included:

- Land use and settlement patterns in the Iron Age
- Social organisation in the early, mid and late Iron Age
- Social and economic development from the Iron Age to the Roman period
- The origin and development of rural settlement
- The relationship between the settlement and its hinterland
- Evidence for Scandinavian influence on settlement pattern and economy

2.2 *Methodology*

The requirements of the brief were as follows:

- A total of 5% (4% plus 1% contingency) of the development area was to be investigated by archaeological trial trenching with the contingency being held in reserve to examine areas in more detail if required (Fig. 4). Trenches were to be located in areas unlikely to be disturbed by the removal of existing footings (Fig. 5)
- Machine stripping of the trenches, was to be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under direct archaeological supervision. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was to be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- Machine stripping for top-soil/modern overburden removal would only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Officer to deepen the trenches by this method. Occasional small deeper sample sondages within an area devoid of archaeological remains, to check machining levels and to investigate the potential for the presence of buried deposits, were acceptable.
- A watching brief was maintained on all ground works associated with demolition of the former buildings and the swimming pool area.

2.3 *Constraints*

The removal of the footings and other structures associated with the former care home resulted in considerable disturbance to the surrounding geology. Consequently there was a need to abandon the excavation of some of the trenches and excavate an additional trench in an undisturbed area of the site (Fig 6).

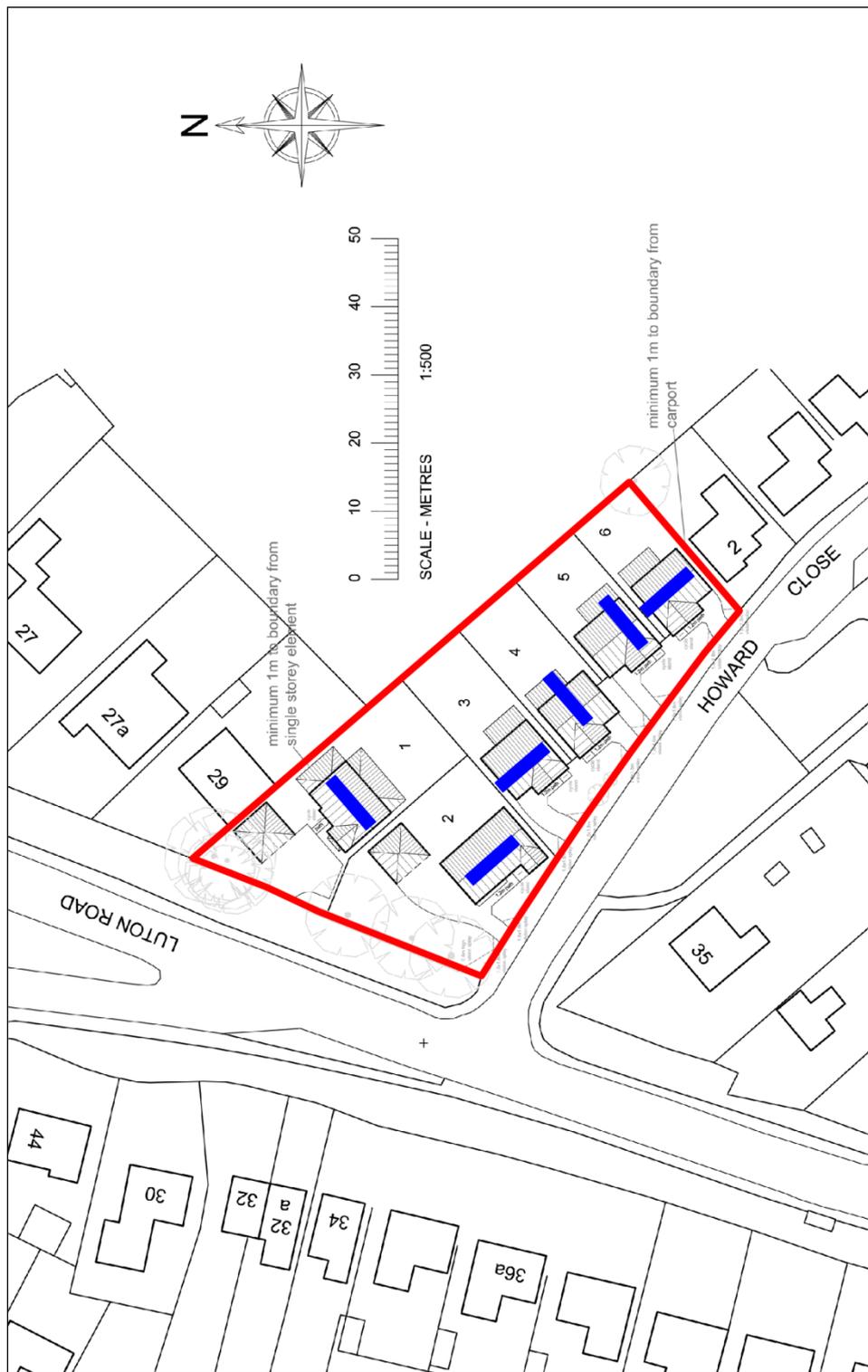


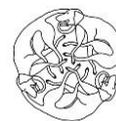
Figure 4: Proposed trench location plan (scale 1:1000)



Figure 5: Proposed trenches in relation to former building outlined in green (scale 1:1000)



Figure 6: Actual trench locations (scale 1:1000)



3 Results

Between 11th and the 13th of November, a watching brief was maintained on the removal of the footings of the former care home, which included extensive concrete rafts in the western, north-western and south-eastern areas of the site. An indoor swimming pool was also taken out (Plate 1). These were removed by a 21 tonne excavator fitted with various toothed buckets. The area was also graded. Almost the entire area was found to have been extensively truncated, levelled and landscaped.

Mainly on the western side, the underlying natural encountered was a stiff mid yellowish brown clay with up to 50mm, angular/ sub-angular flints. On the eastern part of the site the natural changed to a blueish-grey, gault, Oxford clay. Within the footprint of the former swimming pool, the clay overlay natural gravels.

No archaeological features or layers were present in any of the development area and no archaeological finds were made.

Trench 1 was located as per the proposed layout, at the southern side of the site (Plate 2). It was orientated approximately NW-SE, and measured 10m by 1.8m by 0.15m deep (Fig 6). The natural geology comprised stiff, mottled blueish-grey and mid greyish-brown clay though there was heavy modern disturbance, with ceramic building material, blocks of concrete and plastic pipe impressed into it. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the trench

Trench 2 was also located as per the proposed layout, immediately to the northeast of Trench 1, orientated NE-SW. (Fig 6, Plate 3). It measured 6.3m by 1.8m wide and was 0.35m deep. Further heavy disturbance was noted within the trench which was probably the result of footings being grubbed out during demolition of care home, and the resultant holes being back-filled with modern material. No archaeological deposits were encountered within the trench.

Once it became apparent that demolition of the care home had significantly disturbed the underlying geology, it was agreed with Bedford Borough Archaeology Team's archaeological advisor to abandon the remaining four proposed trenches and excavate as large a trench as possible outside the footprint of the building in an area undisturbed by that development, in order to sample an area as close to the intended 4% of the site as possible.

Trench 3 was located parallel to the eastern boundary in an area that had formerly been the gardens of the care home (Plate 4). It measured 18.75m by 1.8m and was 0.35m deep. Its length was limited by the presence of modern services. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of topsoil overlying undisturbed natural geology. No archaeological features were noted.

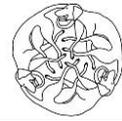


Plate 1: Swimming pool area, facing southeast



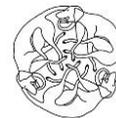
Plate 2: Trench 1, facing west



Plate 3: Trench 2, facing north



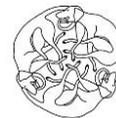
Plate 4: Trench 3, facing east



4 Conclusions

The ground over most of the site has been heavily modified, truncated and disturbed, so it is not possible to judge with absolute certainty whether there had previously been any archaeological remains within the site, or whether the site had no archaeological features present. However, the lack of any finds on the site area does suggest there may not have been any previous occupation or use of the site prior to its development from agricultural use in the 1990s.

As no archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during either the watching brief or evaluation elements of the fieldwork it has not been possible to add any further information to the existing body of evidence which may have helped answer the questions posed as the aims of the project.



5 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Jeremy Tilston of JRT Architectural Design Ltd for commissioning this report on behalf of Blakeney Developments Ltd. His assistance in providing the drawings which have been used as a basis for the plans in this report is also duly acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents. The fieldwork was carried out by Derek Watson, David Kaye and Karin Kaye. The report was written by Alex Thompson and David Kaye edited by Karin Kaye.

6 References

Kaye, K, 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: 31 Luton Road/ 2A Howard Close, Wilstead Bedfordshire*

Saunders, G 2014 *Brief for a Programme of Field Evaluation at 31 Luton Road/2a Howard Close, Wilstead, Bedfordshire* Bedford Borough Council Archaeology Team



Appendix 1: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	31 Luton Road/2a Howard Close, Wilstead	OASIS reference:	kdkarcha1-181743
Short Description:	<i>In November 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a watching brief and trial trench evaluation at 31 Luton Road/ 2a Howard Close, Wilstead, Bedfordshire, on behalf of Blakeney Developments Ltd. Both elements of the works showed that the site had been heavily truncated, levelled and generally disturbed since its redevelopment in the 1990s from agricultural land. No archaeological features or finds were made.</i>		
Project Type:	Evaluation and watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Housing	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	506425 243222
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	31 Luton Road/ 2a Howard Close, Wilstead		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	2445 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	40.5mAOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Bedford Borough Council	Project design originator:	KDK Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Kaye MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Karin Kaye and David Kaye
Sponsor / funding body:	JRT Architectural Design Ltd. Capability House, Building 31, Room 136, Wrest Park Enterprise Centre, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. MK45 4HR.		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	11 th November 2014	End date:	20 th November 2014
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2014.44)	Paperwork	
Paper:			
Digital:		Photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Summary Report: 31 Luton Road/2a Howard Close Wilstead Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 063/WLR/2		
Author(s):	Alex Thompson and David Kaye		
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