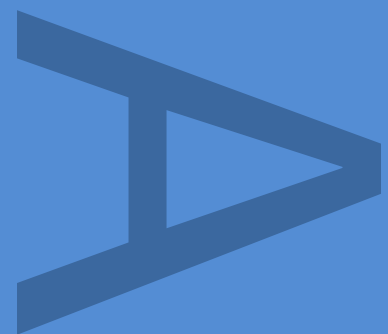


16 North Street, Leighton
Buzzard, Bedfordshire: An
Archaeological Investigation

May 2014



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

16 NORTH STREET, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU7 1EN

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Local Planning Authority: Central Bedfordshire Council

Central National Grid Reference: Bedfordshire SP 9223 2517

Site Code: FLBN13

Planning Reference: CB/13/00725/FULL

Report No. R11515

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May 2014

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ABSTRACT

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation on the site of the former bus depot, car park and garage at 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1EN (NGR SP 9223 2517). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyle Limited in response to a condition placed upon development of the site by the Central Bedfordshire Council.

Two 15m, one 30m and one 40m long trenches were machine excavated and contained modern services, modern pits and foundations. A 20m by 10m area was subsequently machine excavated in the southern area of the site, exposing a series of Saxo-Norman to early medieval ditches and pits. The ditches appear to mark land divisions or boundary plots whilst the pits are likely to relate to refuse disposal associated with the early medieval settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document reports the results of an archaeological investigation undertaken at 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1EN (Figure 1). The evaluation was carried out on the 16th to the 18th September, followed by an open area excavation between the 25th to the 28th of September 2013.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited on behalf of McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the former bus depot, print works and garage into retirement apartments with associated landscaping, gardens, access roads, car parking and services. (Planning References: CB/13/00725/FULL).
- 1.3 The site is located at 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1EN and is centered on Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 9223 2517.
- 1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation within the proposed development area was prepared by Mark Hinman, Matt Lees and Tom Woolhouse of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (2013).
- 1.5 The work reported upon here was designed to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area, and to provide a comprehensive appraisal of the significance of any remains within a local, regional and national context as appropriate. With the exception of modern features, there were no archaeological remains or deposits in Trenches 1, 2, 3 or 4. The open area contained four north-south aligned late Saxon to early medieval ditches, and a small number of broadly contemporary pits.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The underlying geology of the site consists of Woburn Sands, described as 'fine to coarse sand with local seams of Fuller's Earth' (British Geological Survey Sheet 220 (Leighton Buzzard)). This quartz sand was formed in marine environments from the Aptian to the Albian ages, 125.0-100.5 million years ago (BGS online viewer, 2013)
- 2.2 The site is located in the center of Leighton Buzzard on North Street, one of the main thoroughfares of the town). The ground level of the site in the northern trial trench area is c. 91.5m OD (above Ordnance Datum), on sloping, heavily terraced ground which rises to the south where the land has seen less truncation from modern terracing and is situated at a height of c. 93.1m OD.
- 2.3 The deposits of Woburn Sands, a light yellow-orange fine to coarse sand, were present at depths of between c. 89.5m OD and 91.1m OD. In all the trenches this was sealed by modern hardstanding (tarmac, concrete, demolition layers and overburden), associated with the former use of the site as a bus depot and garage. Within the exaction area to the south, the Woburn Sands were present at depths of between c. 92.6m and 91.8m OD and was sealed by modern rubble and garden soil.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological and historical context of the site and its archaeological potential are detailed in a desk-based assessment produced by CgMs Consulting (Collings 2012).
- 3.2 Palaeolithic flint tools including an arrowhead, and animal bones, were recovered from a gravel pit at Bassett Road, to the north-west of the site, in the 19th-early 20th century (HER MBD10722). The only other recorded prehistoric site or find within c. 1km of the site is the find-spot of an Iron Age imported gold stater from Gaul, 300m south-west of the site (HER MBD17). Two undated coins (HER MBD20987 and HER MBD20989) have subsequently been recovered from the same location and it is possible that the three finds are broadly contemporary.
- 3.3 A Roman settlement comprising a small farmstead of 1st- to 3rd-century date has been excavated on the western slope of a small hill to the north-west of the site. Field boundaries and a concentration of pits, ditches and postholes were recorded, along with evidence for iron-working. Finds comprised pottery, roof and floor tile, ironwork and half a rotary quern, along with iron smelting debris (HER EBD485 and HER MBD18872). Two Roman objects are also recorded within 1km of the site; pottery was collected from a site to the south-west (HER MBD819), and coins of 1st- and 2nd-century AD date, including issues of Autonia (mother of Claudius), Faustina and Marcus Aurelius, were found to the south-west of the site (HER MBD9659).
- 3.4 Established in AD 906, the east-west Saxon route known as 'Theedway' crossed the river at Yttingarford, to the west of the site. Subsequent medieval crossings were constructed as the town developed in the 12th and 13th centuries and a bridge was later built in c. AD 1311 (HER MBD11094). A mill lay to the north-west of the site from Saxon times, although two mills recorded at Leighton in the Domesday survey actually refer to two sets of millstones within a single building. Subsequent mills are well documented on the same site from the 15th century until 1965 (HER MBD2629).
- 3.5 Saxon finds, including 5th to 9th century pottery and an annular loomweight, were recovered during the excavation of the aforementioned Roman site (HER EBD485 and HER MBD18872).

- 3.6 The basic 'Y'-shaped street layout of Leighton Buzzard, comprising the High Street, Market Hill, Lake Street and North Street, was probably laid out in the 12th century (Coleman 1996). Church Street and Bridge Street also lay within the central core, the latter leading to the bridging point over the River Ouzel (HER MDB16825). Historically, North Street was generally occupied by smaller and lower-status buildings than those on Lake Street or High Street, or those of an industrial nature (*ibid.*). To the south of the site, Hockliffe Street, formerly known as Jeffs Lane or Gigg Lane, was probably a later addition to the town plan, but was in existence by the 15th century (Coleman 1981).
- 3.7 The medieval stocks lay approximately 100m to the north of the site and are detailed in coroner's rolls dated to AD 1379 (HER MBD11060). A medieval mansion house, the Prebendal House, was located to the south-west of the site and was first documented in the 14th century (HER MBD11056). Medieval gravel pits were located in the vicinity of Friday Street, to the west of the site, and possibly originated as early as 1398, continuing in use from 1611 to 1847 (HER MBD11127). A late medieval tannery lay to the west of the site at Lovell End. The same site or one nearby was still used for the same purpose in the 19th century (HER MBD11086). Medieval ridge and furrow field systems have been recorded to the north-east and south-west of the town (HER EBD2589).
- 3.8 Three archaeological investigations recorded in the HER, to the south of the current site, have found medieval remains. An evaluation at 52-54 Lake Street found medieval ditches aligned parallel to Lake Street, interpreted as boundary or drainage ditches (HER EBD767). An evaluation at 33 Lake Street revealed a large medieval pit, possibly related to sand quarrying (HER EBD810). Archaeological fieldwork at Market Hill revealed a ditch of possible late medieval or early post-medieval date. This was interpreted as a boundary ditch; it contained masonry rubble suggesting the former presence of stone buildings on the site. A stone-lined drain which was considered contemporary with the ditch was also recorded. A pit containing domestic waste and building materials cut the ditch and there was evidence for successive episodes of demolition, levelling and reconstruction. Unstratified finds of medieval pottery were recovered across the site (HER EBD29). Medieval pottery has also been found on land to the south of the site, in the vicinity of Pratt's Quarry (HER EBD644).

- 3.9 The earliest relatively detailed map of Leighton Buzzard is Jeffrey's Map of 1765. The site was then located in an area referred to as 'North End', with built-up areas extending along all the main roads around the town centre, including North Street. The earliest map detailed enough to indicate the layout of individual properties and buildings in the town is the 1841 tithe map. At this time, there were buildings in the north-west and central parts of the development site. There was more extensive building coverage by c. 1900, particularly in the northern half of the site. Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this remained the case throughout much of the 20th century. From at least 1913, there has been a garage/ mechanics on at least part of the site.
- 3.10 An archaeological evaluation comprising five linear trenches (totalling 67m) was carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2011 (Pozorski and Higgs 2011). The trenches were located mainly in the southern part of the site. The most significant feature encountered was a fairly large ditch, interpreted as a property or plot boundary, which contained two sherds of late Saxon to early medieval (11th-13th-century) pottery. Other pits and narrow ditches were either post-medieval or undated and were mainly interpreted as garden features.
- 3.11 In summary, potential for late Saxon and medieval remains was identified in the desk-based assessment, such as the ditch found in the 2011 excavation. Other structures and associated 'backyard' features (e.g. outbuildings, rubbish pits, yard areas, wells) are also likely to exist within the non-truncated southern region of the development area. Any such remains would add to the corpus of information regarding the early development of the town at Leighton Buzzard.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Two 15m, one 30m and one 40m long evaluation trenches were excavated, all measuring 1.8m in width (Figure 2). Trench 1 was located in the north-west corner of the site, orientated east to west. Trench 2 was located in the southern area of the site, orientated east to west. The placement of this trench was modified from the original layout due to its proximity to the residential properties of Maple Mews, to the South. The buildings here were located on an unsecured raised raft, making the original trench position inadvisable. Trench 3 was located in the east area of the site, orientated north to south. Trench 4 was located in the north area of the site and was orientated east to west. One 20m by 10m strip map and sample excavation area on the southern part of the site was also excavated (Figure 2).
- 4.2 The trenches and open area excavation were carried out under archaeological supervision using a 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Overlying concrete in the trenches was loosened with a hydraulic pecker before being removed with a 1m wide toothed bucket. Remaining deposits were removed down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. The stripped surfaces were cleaned as necessary using hand tools in order to define and plan any exposed archaeological features and deposits. The archaeological features were then dug by mattock and trowel. Discrete features were 50% sample excavated whilst linear features were 25% sample excavated. Bulk samples were taken from the archaeological features where appropriate. All excavated spoil was removed from site via lorry transportation.
- 4.3 Heights above ordnance datum (m OD), and the locations of trenches, archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit fitted with real time kinematic (RTK) differential correction, giving three dimensional positional accuracy of 2cm or less.
- 4.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a context number and recorded on individual pre-printed forms. Archaeological events recognized by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.5 High resolution digital photographs were taken throughout the fieldwork and were used to keep a record of the evaluation.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 5.1 The area evaluated by four linear trenches had clearly been truncated during terracing of the landscape. Subsequently, no archaeological features or remains were encountered in these trenches, although all four contained modern debris and/or modern features which were removed where possible. Some of the modern disturbance was left in situ due to the unstable nature of the trenches and the depth to which the modern remains extended.
- 5.2 Trench 1 contained one modern underground disused fuel storage tank [003], aligned north to south. It also contained one modern 'mechanics repair pit' [20], aligned east to west. A large fuel tank [3] was also found within this trench and was left *in situ*. The deposits within the trench comprised modern concrete to a depth of 0.65m and hardcore to a depth of 0.94m.
- 5.3 The deposits within the trench comprised modern concrete to a depth of 0.26m, brick rubble hardcore to 0.63m, a second level of modern concrete to 0.90m and further modern underlay brick rubble layer to 1.22m.
- 5.4 Trench 3 contained one modern 'mechanics repair pit' [21], orientated north to south. The deposits within the trench comprised modern concrete to a depth of 0.15m and brick rubble to a depth of 0.75m.
- 5.5 Trench 4 contained two modern soakaway pits [008] and [17], both aligned east to west. It also contained three modern rubble pits and drainage pits [10], [15] and [18]. The deposits within the trench comprised modern concrete to a depth of 0.15m, tarmac to a depth of 0.20m and brick rubble to a depth of 0.45m (Plate 8).
- 5.6 A sample of the modern features were excavated to ensure they did not mask any earlier remains. Soakaway pit [008] measured 3.0m by 1.7m wide and was not fully excavated due to the content of hydrocarbon residues. Rubble pit [10] measured 2m by 0.80m but was not fully excavated due to the instability of the trench edges and apparent depth of the feature.
- 5.7 Rubble pit [15] and soakaway pit [17] measured 1.4m by 1m and 3.2m by 1.3m respectively and neither was fully excavated due to hydrocarbon residue contamination. A further rubble pit [18] was excavated and measured 1.2m by 1m. No earlier archaeological finds were present as a residual element of any of these excavated modern features and no earlier features were revealed.

- 5.8 The excavation area was located to the south of the trenches on noticeably higher ground and targeted over a previously evaluated area (Archaeological Solutions Ltd 2011, see Collings 2012). The deposits above the natural geological horizon comprised modern demolition rubble [50] to a depth of 0.25m above a former garden soil [51] up to a depth of 0.9m. Four ditches and three pits were revealed in the small 10m by 20m area (Figure 3). The remains of two of the former evaluation trenches were exposed in the open area and had partly truncated the edges of several features. Aside from the pottery and faunal remains, a small amount of iron slag was found throughout the fills of the archaeological features suggestive of some small-scale industrial activity occurring within the vicinity of the excavation area.
- 5.9 Ditch 1 was orientated north to south and four slots were excavated along its exposed length ([32], [36], [38] and [41]). Ditches 2 and 3 were similarly aligned and two slots were excavated in each ([22] and [33]; [27] and [30] respectively). The alignment of ditch 4 varied slightly to a north-northwest to south-southeast orientation. Two slots were also excavated in this feature ([43] and [49]). The ditches are likely to have represented a series of boundary features spanning the Saxo-Norman to medieval period.
- 5.10 Pottery found within the excavated slots in ditch 1 was dated to 11th-14th century and suggest a Saxo-Norman to early medieval date for this feature. A small amount of animal bone was also recovered from this ditch. Where excavated, the ditch displayed moderately sloping sides with a concave base.
- 5.11 The terminals of ditches 2 and 3 formed an entranceway, suggesting they are part of the same phase of boundary activity. Pottery recovered from these features was also dated to the 11th to 14th centuries. Ditch 2 was cut by a later pit [24] at its terminal end. Again, a small amount of animal bone was found during excavations of these two ditches. Where excavated, the profiles of these ditches were comparable to those of ditch 1.
- 5.12 Ditch 4 also yielded pottery dating to the 11th-12th century. The sides of this ditch were noticeably steeper than those of the previous three ditches and the fill was distinctly dark and charcoal-rich suggestive of proximity to an occupation zone. The ditch was seen to cut a pit ([45]) at its northern extent whilst its terminus cut ditch 1 suggesting it was established after this boundary features went out of use.
- 5.13 A single pit [24] was seen to cut ditch 2 and several sherds of broadly contemporary pottery. Two further pits, [45] and [47], were excavated at the northwest corner of the area and contained pottery in keeping with the Saxo-Norman to early medieval material found in the linear ditches.

- 5.14 Pit [24] was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.70m by 0.49m and 0.5m deep. The sides of the pit were steep and the base flat. The pit truncated ditch 2 suggesting it was established post-use of the ditch.
- 5.15 Pit [45] was sub-circular in plan and extended out of the north and west limits of the excavation area. It measured 1.25m by 1.90m and 0.54m deep, with moderately steep sides and a flat base. The pottery was dated to the 12th-15th century and this pit was clearly cut by ditch 1, suggesting an earlier phase of activity predating the establishment of the probable boundary ditch.
- 5.16 Pit [47] was sub-circular in plan and extended out of the west limit of the excavation area adjacent to pit [45]. It measured 0.42m deep and 1.53m by 0.97m in plan. The comparable fill and form of the pit to feature [47] suggests they are likely to be broadly contemporary.

6 SPECIALIST REPORTS

MEDIEVAL POTTERY – *Berni Sudds*

6.1 Quantity

6.1.1 Total sherd count: 104 sherds (41 vessels), weighing 842g.

Total number of contexts producing pottery: 12 contexts.

6.2 Introduction and condition

6.2.1 The pottery recovered from North Street ranges in date from the late 9th to 14th century and is comprised of fabrics and forms typically encountered in the vicinity of Leighton Buzzard and the broader region (Slowikowski 1995, 2013; Brine 1988; Green and Horne 1991). The pottery is in mixed condition. Some abrasion is evident and the assemblage demonstrates a moderately high degree of fragmentation but the majority of sherds are fairly fresh with good preservation of soot and residue deposits.

6.3 Methodology

6.3.1 The material was quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration using sherd count (with fresh breaks discounted), estimated vessel numbers and weight. A ceramic database cataloguing these attributes has been generated using Microsoft Access. The alphanumeric fabric codes conform to the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street, Bedford).

6.4 The pottery

6.4.1 The ware types encountered at North Street are listed below in date order in Table 1.

Bedfordshire Fabric Number	Expansion	Date range	Total SC	Total weight
B01	St Neots-type ware	875 – 1150	64	432
C59	Sandy ware	1000 – 1200	1	3
B09/ C61	Calcareous inclusions	1050 – 1350	2	9
C60	Hertfordshire-type greyware	1150/75 – 1350	8	81
C64?	Orange Gritty	1150 – 1400	27	252
C09	Brill/ Boarstall type ware	1250 – 1400	1	63
C	Non-specific medieval ware	1000 – 1400	1	2

Table 1: Fabric types in date order. SC = Sherd count.

- 6.4.2 By number the majority of the small assemblage recovered dates to the Late Saxon to Early medieval period, comprised predominantly of St Neots-type ware. The latter is a distinctive shelly-ware synonymous with the Jurassic geology of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire region (Hunter 1979). St Neots-type ware ranges in date from the late 9th to 12th century but is most prevalent during the 10th and 11th centuries. Although no kiln sites have been located, the widespread and ubiquitous occurrence of the ware would indicate a number of dispersed production sites. Other early fabrics include Sandy ware (C59), of 11th or 12th century date. An unsourced calcareous ware was also recovered that is very similar in appearance to Early medieval chalky ware identified to the south in Hertfordshire, dating from the mid 11th to mid 12th century, but could represent low fired, leached sherds of the Lyvedon/Stanion tradition (B09) and thus post-date the early 13th century.
- 6.4.3 At some point during the 12th century the early sandy and shelly traditions are replaced by Hertfordshire-type greyware, a wheel thrown grey sandy ware. To the south in Hertfordshire, the nucleus of the greyware industry the date and character of this transition remains imperfectly understood but is thought to have occurred during the latter part of the century (Blackmore and Pearce 2010). More locally this transition has been placed sooner, during the early 12th century, although the dating is not so precise or reliable (Slowikowski 2013). A period of crossover between the traditions can be demonstrated in the region and some vessels from site certainly appear to demonstrate transitional characteristics. The high medieval period is also represented in the assemblage with 27 sherds from the same orange gritty jar (C64?) with a developed rim and a glazed jug from Brill/Boarstall in Buckinghamshire, dating from the mid 13th to 14th century.
- 6.4.4 The range of forms identified is both typical of the period and region, demonstrating a fairly limited range of shapes with little specialisation. The St Neots-type ware is wheel thrown and present as jar and bowl forms. The jars are heavily sooted externally and often have an internal residue, suggesting they were used for the preparation and heating of liquid and food. The bowls have the distinctive pre-conquest inturned or t-shaped rims. The later medieval assemblage is comprised of jar forms and a single jug.

6.5 Distribution and dating

- 6.5.1 The pottery was retrieved from the backfill of discrete and linear features across the site but demonstrates no clear phasing or clustering. The presence of St Neots-type ware indicates a date prior to the mid 12th century and probably much earlier for most features, with the forms certainly suggesting a pre-conquest date for Boundary 2 and Ditch [43]. The occurrence of later material in the ditches would suggest that they were maintained for some time, Boundary 1 remaining open until at least the mid 13th century. The range of forms,

sooting and residue is in keeping with domestic activity, with the pottery likely deposited as rubbish from contemporary households in the vicinity.

6.6 Dating table

Context	Size	Date range	Spot date
23	S	875 – 1150	1050 - 1150
25	S	875 – 1150	875 – 1150
29	S	875 – 1350	1150/75 - 1350
31	S	875 – 1200	1000 - 1150
33	S	875 – 1350	1150/75 - 1350
35	M	875 – 1400	1250 – 1400
39	S	875 – 1350	1150/75 - 1350
40	S	1150/75 – 1350	1150/75 – 1300
42	M	875 – 1350	1150/75 – 1350
44	S	1000 – 1400	1000 – 1400
48	S	875 – 1150	875 – 1150

Table 2: Dating table. S = Small group (1 – 30 sherds), M = Medium group (31-100 sherds).

FAUNAL REMAINS – *Kevin Rielly*

6.7 Introduction

6.7.1 The site consists of two parallel ditches extending the length of the excavation trench with a small drainage ditch (ditch 4) and two pits in the northwest corner of the site adjacent and probably truncating the westernmost of the two boundary ditches (Ditch 1). The eastern boundary ditch is composed of 2 mutually exclusive ditches, each with terminals, comprising ditch 3 to the north and ditch 2 to the south. No bones were found in the pits but small quantities were recovered by hand from sections cut across each of the ditches. This small collection was heavily fragmented and generally in moderate to poor condition.

6.8 Methodology

6.8.1 Each bone was recorded onto an animal bone database using Microsoft Access. This database is divided into various headings, as follows: - species, skeletal part, fragmentation (the proportion of the skeletal part represented), sex, age (a general age if possible, as well as teeth eruption/wear and epiphyses fusion), size and various modifications as butchery, burning, gnawing, preservation, working and pathology. Species could not be assigned to all the bones in these collections. This unidentifiable portion would be recorded according to size class, generally to cattle and sheep-size, these including ribs, fragments of long bone shaft and the majority of vertebrae. Tooth eruption/wear recording uses the method devised by Grant (1982), while the measurements are essentially taken from von den Driesch (1976). Measurable bones essentially include the majority that can be classed as deriving from an adult individual. This includes complete limb bones, mandibles where the adult third molar is in wear and various limb bones with fused intermediate and/or late epiphyses e.g. distal tibia and proximal femur respectively. Age analysis is based on the aforementioned tooth data as well as epiphysis fusion. Approximate ages associated within the sequence of eruption/wear and fusion respectively are taken from Schmid (1972, 75 and 77) and Amorosi (1989, 98 and 99). Additional ages based on the crown heights of adult premolars and molars uses Levine (1982).

6.9 Description of faunal assemblage

6.9.1 All of the bone was recovered by hand from the various cut features, these providing a total of 80 fragments. The state of the bones and the manner of excavation combined to produce a notably fragmented collection and after refitting this total was reduced to just 11 bones. As shown in Table 3, most of these were taken from the western ditch (Ditch 1), with the remainder from the truncating drainage ditch (Ditch 4) and the eastern ditch (Ditches 2 and 3). The general date of these features covers the 9th through to the 14th centuries with some more closely dated deposits.

Feature	Ditch 1			Ditch 2	Ditch 3		Ditch 4
Cut	32	36	41	33	27	30	43
Fill	31	35	40	34	26	29	42
Spot date	C11/12th	C13/14th	C12/13th	C9-14th		C12-14th	C11/12th
Species							
Cattle	1	1		1		2	
Sheep/Goat			3				
Equid			1		1		
Dog							1
Total	1	1	4	1	1	2	1

Table 3: Counts of hand collected animal bone by feature and fill, with date sorted by centuries AD

There is a general spread of cattle, sheep/goat and equid amongst these fills as well as a single dog bone, a skull, from Ditch 4 (see Table 3). All of these various bones clearly derived from adult individuals (see Table 4) i.e. those in excess of 2 years for cattle, sheep/goat and equid and greater than 1 to 2 years for dog. This clear bias towards adults may be related to the aforementioned poor state and heavy fragmentation of most of the bones, the prevailing conditions not being conducive to the survival of the relatively more fragile bones from younger individuals. This being said, it should be pointed out that the cattle limb bones from cut [30] and the equid mandible from cut [41] are remarkably well preserved, though again fragmented. The general range of sizes of these various domesticates can be equated with typical medieval cattle and sheep, medium-sized equids (ponies) and a moderately-sized dog. No butchery marks were noticed on any of these bones, including those in a better condition.

Feature	Cut	Species	Part	Age
Ditch 1	41	S/G	Maxillary teeth(2),humerus	Old Adult, Sub-adult+
		Equid	Mandible	8yrs
	36	Cattle	Mandible	Old adult
	32	Cattle	Metapodial	Adult
Ditch 2	33	Cattle	Mandible	Old adult
Ditch 3	30	Cattle	Femur and Tibia	Both adult
	27	Equid	mandible	12-13yrs
Ditch 4	43	Dog	Skull	Adult

Table 4: Description of the bones found in each ditch section where S/G is sheep/goat.

6.10 Conclusions

- 6.10.1 This rather small and undoubtedly biased assemblage (based on the state of the bones), offers very little information concerning the usage of animals in this locality during the period in question. The age of the domesticates does at least suggest that each species was being kept into old age, suggestive in the case of cattle and sheep, of the importance or just the use of secondary products, as milk, traction and/or wool. The dog presumably would have been kept for guard duties or perhaps as a farm dog with duties relating to the livestock.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 With the exception of the modern remains found within the evaluation trenches no archaeological features or deposits were present in the northern area of the site.
- 7.2 The excavation area in the southern part of the site revealed four north to south orientated ditches and three pits. All relate to phases of late Saxo-Norman to early medieval activity. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered from the ditches and is in keeping with waste disposal relating to domestic activities.
- 7.3 Ditch 1 and the segmented ditches 2 and 3 were likely established as boundary features demarcating individual plots of land. Their shared alignment insinuates a broad contemporaneity although it is not clear if the ditches were constructed simultaneously as a double-ditched feature. The break between ditches 2 and 3 may have been constructed as an entranceway.
- 7.4 The ditches are parallel to North Street and aligned at right angles to the nearby West Street, whose origins lie in the late Saxon period. This alignment suggests the ditches may have marked plots of land extending from West Street. The alignment of the ditches is mimicked by the alignment of a later date sandstone wall (Plate 11), used as part of the foundation of the Maple Mews residential properties, which infers some continuity of land delineation has survived from the early medieval period (possibly as early as the Saxo-Norman period) and into the post medieval periods.
- 7.5 The alignment of ditch 4 was slightly skewed from that of the other three ditches, and in fact cut ditch 1, indicative of a new phase of activity post-dating these boundary features. It is possible that ditch 4 was cut as a drainage feature, although its dark, charcoal-rich fill is interpreted as evidence for occupation activity in the vicinity.
- 7.6 The three pits found within the excavation area may have been associated with refuse disposal, possibly of organic waste that has since deteriorated. The limited iron slag found throughout several of the pits and ditches suggests there may have been some small-scale localized industrial activity within the vicinity, although exposed remains at 16 North Street are unlikely the focus of this activity.
- 7.7 The small assemblage of animal bone recovered represented the remains of domesticated adult species (cow, sheep/goat) and displays no evidence of butchery. This would suggest that a few animals were being retained into old age for secondary products (i.e. milk and wool) rather than being slaughtered for meat products at a younger age (see Reilly, above).

7.8 The pottery assemblage retrieved from the site is mainly composed of sherds of utilitarian wares in keeping with domestic activity and there were no high status wares within the collected material (see Seddon, above). This suggests the residents of this area were not high status.

7.9 The 20th century activity on site has clearly had a negative impact upon any former archaeological remains within the northern area. The terracing of the landscape and subsequent land use in the north of the site has significantly truncated the natural geological horizon and subsequently any archaeological remains that may have existed there previously. However, the shared alignment of the archaeological ditches with the sandstone wall used as a modern property wall foundation suggest an element of continuation that has survived since the Saxo-Norman/early medieval through to the post medieval and modern periods.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 PCA would like to thank CgMs Consulting Limited for McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited for commissioning the work. Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne supervised and excavated the site with the assistance of Mary-Anne Slater. Thanks to Josephine Brown and Jennifer Simonson of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures.

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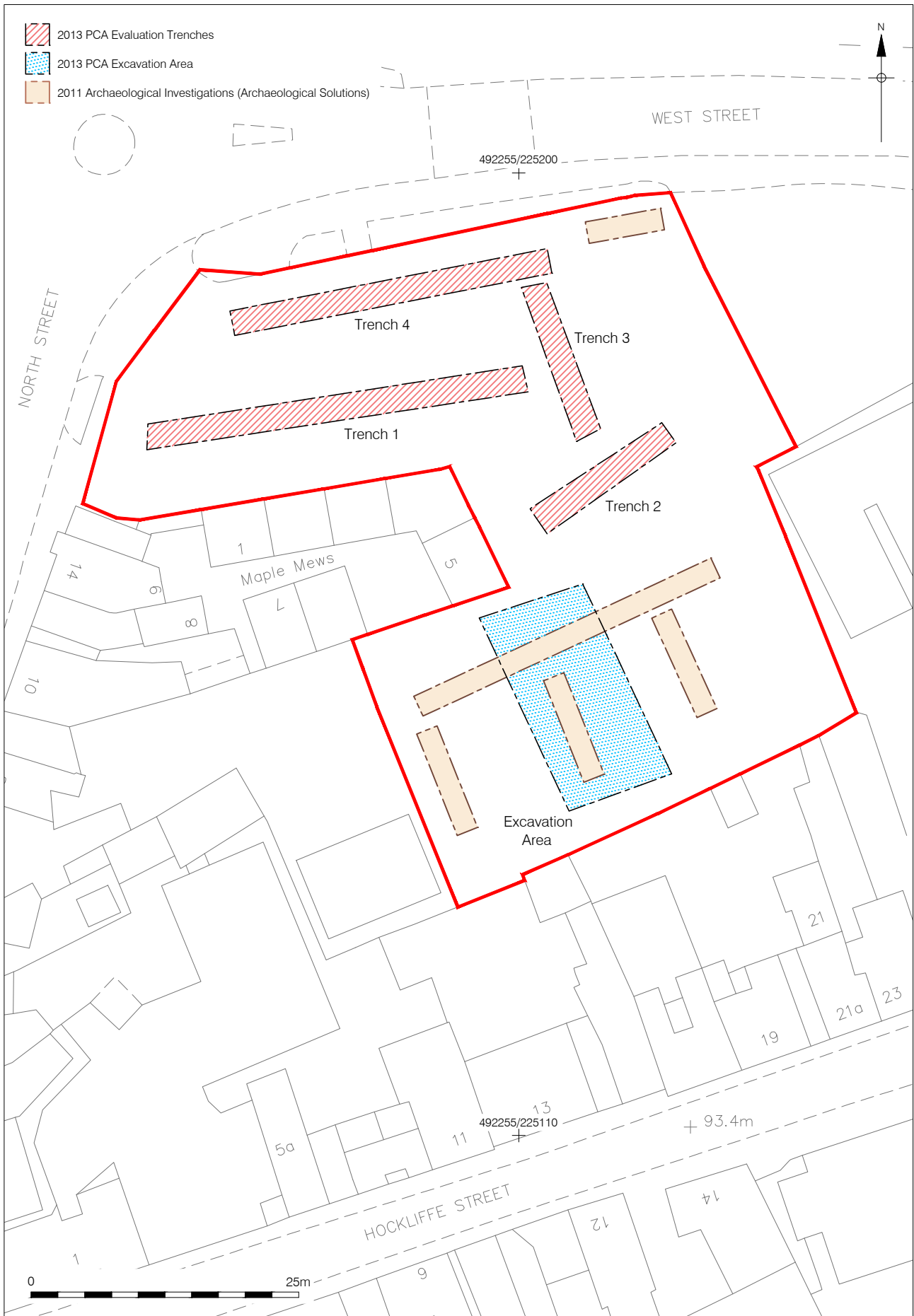


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Figure 1
Site Location
1:12,500 at A4

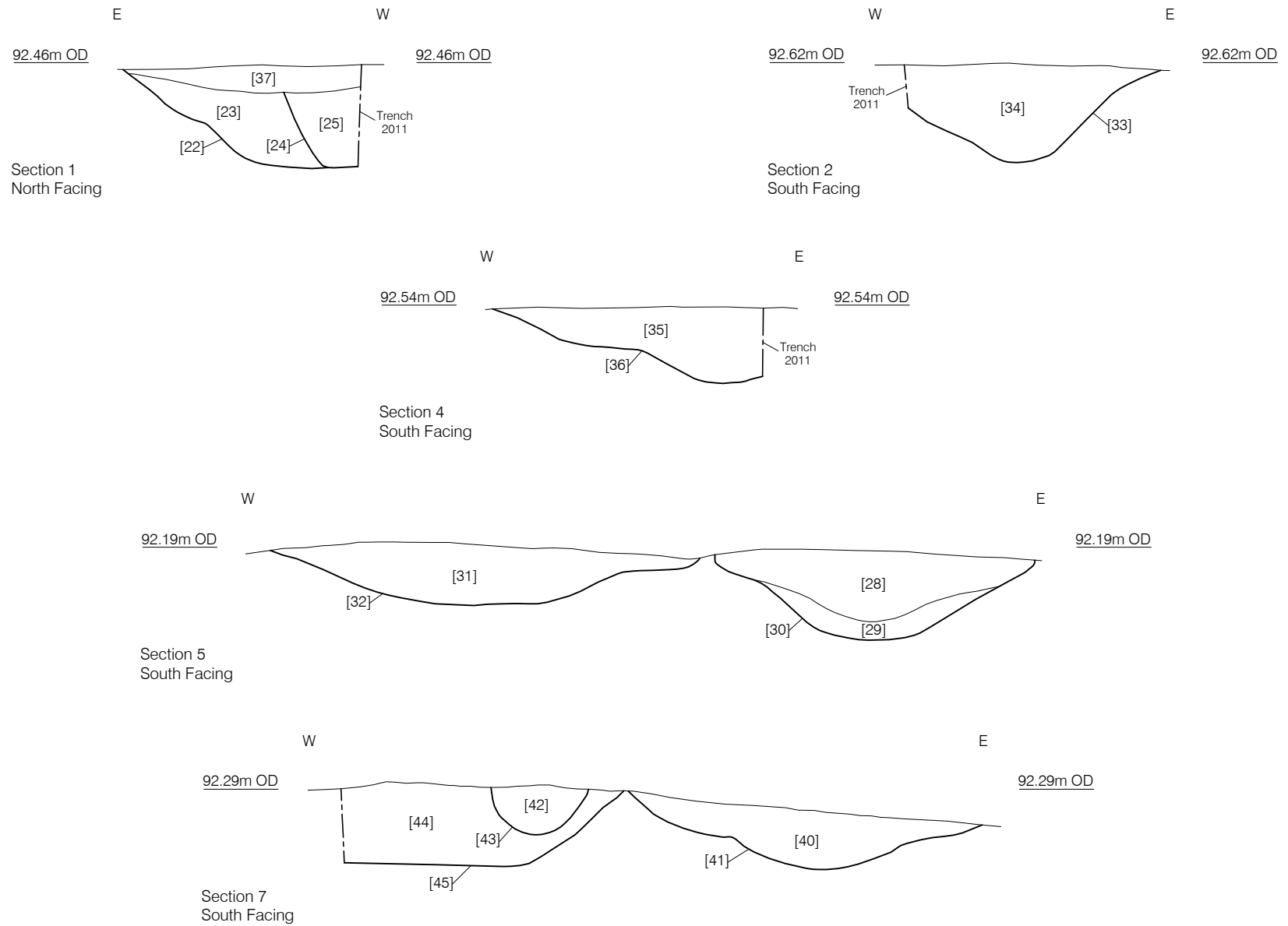


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Figure 2
 Location of Evaluation Trenches and Excavation Area
 1:500 at A4



Figure 3
Plan of Excavated Area
1:125 at A4



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Cut	Type	Tr.	Feature	Group	Description	Finds (g)	Earliest Dates	Latest	Spot Date
1	n/a	Concrete	1,2,3	n/a	n/a	Concrete	x	mod	mod	mod
2	n/a	Hardcore	1	n/a	n/a	Light yellow hardcore	x	1900	1900	1900
3	n/a	Fuel tank	1	n/a	n/a	Underground fuel storage tank	x	1900	1900	1900
4	n/a	Geology	1	n/a	n/a	Light yellow-orange sand	x	1900	1900	1900
5	n/a	Concrete	2	n/a	n/a	Ramp concrete	x	1900	1900	1900
6	n/a	Rubble	2	n/a	n/a	Ramp rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
7	n/a	Rubble	2,3	n/a	n/a	Underlay rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
8	8	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Modern pit	x	1900	1900	1900
9	8	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Contaminated grey sand and rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
10	10	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Modern pit	x	1900	1900	1900
11	10	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Contaminated grey sand and rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
12	10	Pit/Foundation	4	n/a	n/a	Brick wall foundation	x	1900	1900	1900
13	n/a	Tarmac	4	n/a	n/a	Tarmac	x	1900	1900	1900
14	15	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Contaminated grey sand and rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
15	15	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Modern pit	x	1900	1900	1900
16	17	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Contaminated grey sand	x	1900	1900	1900
17	17	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Modern pit	x	1900	1900	1900
18	18	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Modern pit	x	1900	1900	1900

19	18	Pit	4	n/a	n/a	Brick rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
20	20	Mechanics Pit	1	n/a	n/a	Mechanics pit	x	1900	1900	1900
21	21	Mechanics Pit	3	n/a	n/a	Mechanics pit	x	1900	1900	1900
22	22	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 2	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y	875	1150	1050-1150
23	22	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 2	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y	875	1150	1050-1150
24	24	Pit	OA	Pit 1	Pit group 2	Rubbish pit	y	875	1150	875-1150
25	24	Pit	OA	Pit 1	Pit group 2	Rubbish pit	y	875	1150	875-1150
26	27	Ditch	OA	Ditch 3	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y			
27	27	Ditch	OA	Ditch 3	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y			
28	30	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 3	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y			
29	30	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 3	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y	875	1350	1150/75-1350
30	30	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 3	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y			
31	32	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1200	1000-1150
32	32	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1200	1000-1150
33	33	Ditch	OA	Ditch 2	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y	875	1350	875-1350
34	33	Ditch	OA	Ditch 2	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y	875	1350	875-1350
35	36	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1400	1225-1400
36	36	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1400	1225-1400
37	22	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 2	Boundary 2	Boundary ditch	y			
38	38	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1350	1150/75-1350
39	38	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	875	1350	1150/75-1350
40	41	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	1150	1350	1150/75-1300
41	41	Ditch	OA	Ditch 1	Boundary 1	Boundary ditch	y	1150	1350	1150/75-1300
42	43	Ditch	OA	Ditch 4	Drainage ditch 1	Small boundary ditch	y	875	1200	1000-1150
43	43	Ditch	OA	Ditch 4	Drainage ditch 1	Small boundary ditch	y	875	1200	1000-1150

44	45	Pit	OA	Pit 2	Pit group 3	Rubbish pit	y	1000	1400	1000-1400
45	45	Pit	OA	Pit 2	Pit group 3	Rubbish pit	y	1000	1400	1000-1400
46	47	Pit	OA	Pit 3	Pit group 1	Rubbish pit	y	Roman?	Roman?	Roman?
47	47	Pit	OA	Pit 3	Pit group 1	Rubbish pit	y	Roman?	Roman?	Roman?
48	49	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 4	Drainage ditch 1	Small boundary ditch	y	875	1150	875-1150
49	49	Ditch terminus	OA	Ditch 4	Drainage ditch 1	Small boundary ditch	y	875	1150	875-1150
50	n/a	Rubble	OA	n/a	n/a	Mixed rubble	x	1900	1900	1900
51	n/a	Garden soil	OA	n/a	n/a	Dark brown sandy soil	x	1900	1900	1900

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 5: Modern rubble pit [15], Trench 4, looking south



Plate 6: Excavation area, looking north

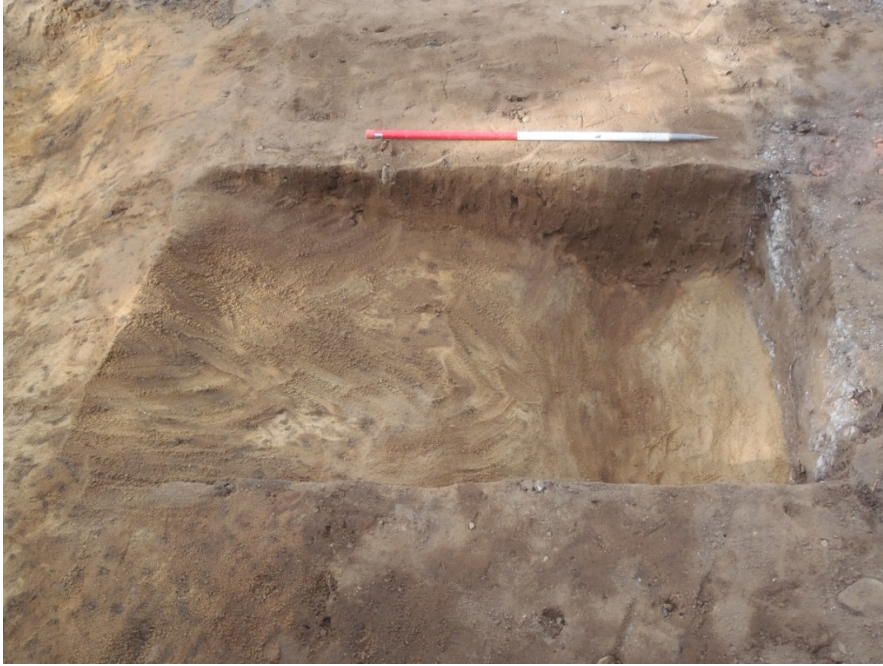


Plate 7: Ditch [36], looking north

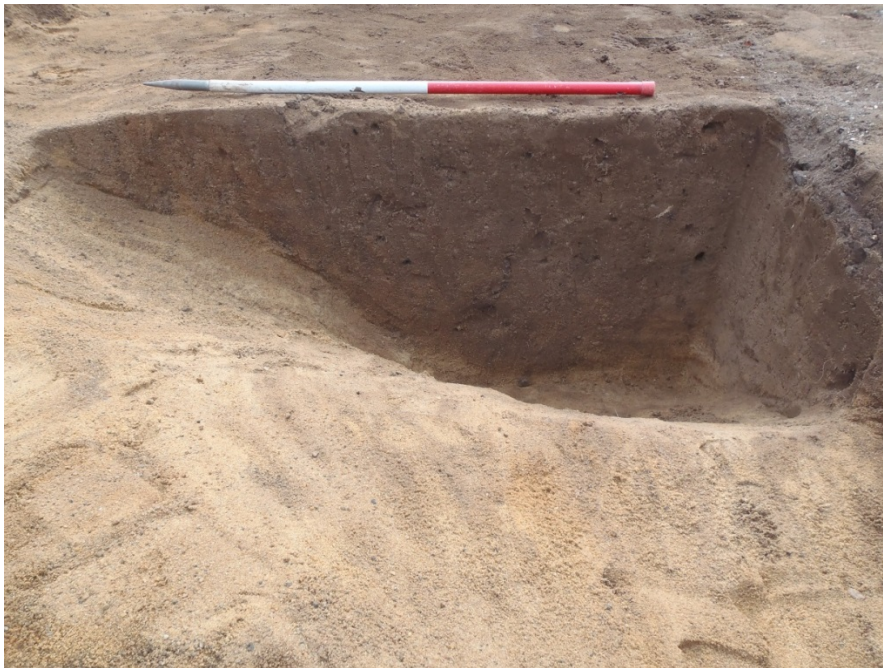


Plate 8: Ditch terminus [22] and pit [24], looking south

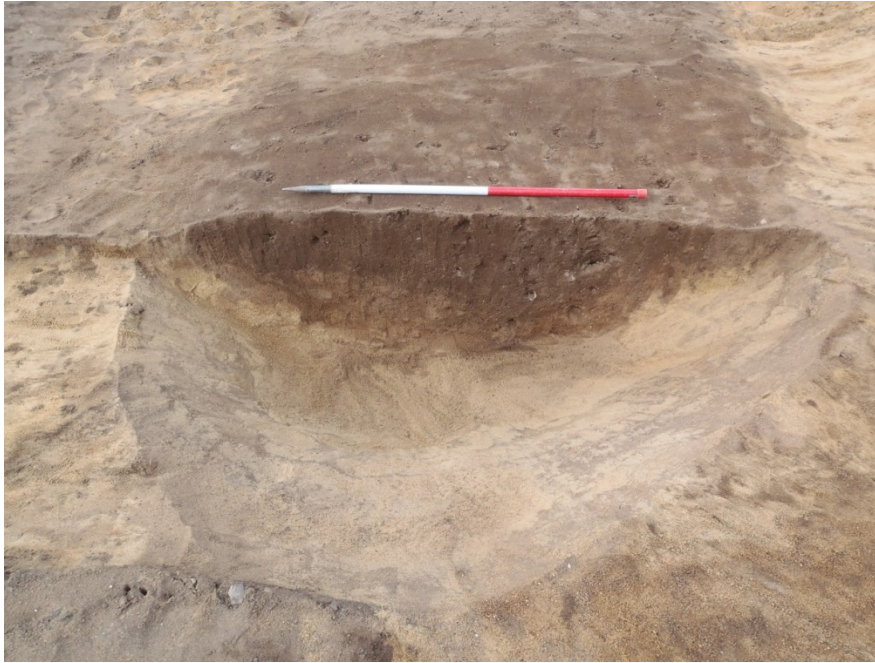


Plate 9: Ditch terminus [30], looking north



Plate 10: Pit [45], ditch [43] and ditch [41], looking north



Plate 11: Old sandstone wall used as foundation for Maple Mews property. The wall shares its alignment with the north-south ditches of Saxo-Norman/early medieval date suggesting a continuation of alignments

TABLE APPENDIX 3: POTTERY REPORT

Context	Period	Context ED	Context	Context	Fabric	Form	DEC	SC	ENV	Comments	Weight (g)
23	MPOT			1050 - 1150	C61/B09			1	1	BS. TOTALLY VESICUALTED SUB-ANGULAR TO ROUNDED CALCAREOUS INCLUSIONS. VERY LITTLE SAND. EMCH FROM HERTS?OR LYVEDEN/STANION LIMESTONE?	5

23	MPOT	875	1150	1050 - 1150	B01			2	2	SMALL BODY SHERDS.	3
25	MPOT	875	1150	875 - 1150	B01			1	1	BS.	13
25	MPOT	875	1150	875 - 1150	B01	JAR		1	1	EVERTED RIM, VERY SLIGHTLY HOLLOWED. FRESH BREAK.	13
25	MPOT	875	1150	875 - 1150	B01			3	3	BS.	6
29	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			1	1	B.	8
29	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	JAR		1	1	BS.	3
29	MPOT			1150/75 - 135 0	C61/B09			1	1	HARD, VESICULATED BS.	4
29	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60			1	1	BS.	7
29	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			2	2	SMALL BODY SHERDS.	3

31	MPOT	875	1150	1000 - 1150	B01			1	1	THICKENED RIM.	2
31	MPOT	875	1150	1000 - 1150	B01			1	1	BS.	4
31	MPOT	1000	1200	1000 - 1150	C59			1	1	B/BS?	3
33	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60			1	1	BS	5
33	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	BOWL		1	1	INTURNED RIM.	14
33	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	JAR		1	1	THICKENED RIM. FRESH BREAKS (3 SHERDS). PITTED.	5
33	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			1	1	FRESH BREAK.	5
33	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			1	1	B AND BS.	7
35	MPOT	875	1150	1250 - 1400	B01			1	1	B.	5
35	MPOT	875	1150	1250 - 1400	B01	JAR		1	1	SHOULDER.	2

35	MPOT	1150	1400	1250 - 1400	C64?	JAR		27	1	RIM AND BODY SHERDS. EVERTED RIM, SLIGHTLY THICKENED. THIN-WALLED, WHEEL THROWN.	252
35	MPOT	1250	1400	1250 - 1400	C09	JUG	STAB	1	1	RIM/ TOP OF STAB-DECORATED HANDLE. FRESH BREAK.	63
39	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60			1	1	BS. SMALL. SHER/LOCAL VARIANT?	1
39	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			1	1		1

40	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60	JAR		1	1	LONG NECK, THICKENED, BEADED RIM. EARLY/ TRANSITIONAL? FAIRLY CRUDE, SOME COARSE GRITS, SIMILAR TO DENHAM.	29
40	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60			2	2	B/BS. ?C60.	14
40	MPOT	1150	1350	1150/75 - 135 0	C60			1	1	WHEEL THROWN, THIN-WALLED BODY SHERD.	9
42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			2	2	BASE SHERDS, SAGGING.	16

42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	JAR		1	1	FRESH BREAK. EVERTED, THICKENED RIM. HEAVILY SOOTED.	44
42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	JAR		1	1	EVERTED RIM, VERY SLIGHTLY HOLLOWED.	11
42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	BOWL		1	1	INTURNED RIM.	5

42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01			28	0	BS AND B. SOME FRESH BREAKS. INT RES/ EXT SOOTING. B/BS OF JAR AND BOWL FORMS THIS CONTEXT.	192
42	MPOT	1000	1200	1150/75 - 135 0	C60	JAR		1	1	RIM, EVERTED RIM, SQUARED.	16
42	MPOT	875	1150	1150/75 - 135 0	B01	BOWL		1	1	FRESH BREAKS (4 SHERDS). CLASSIC INTURNED RIM.	32
44	MPOT	1000	1400	1000 - 1400	C			1	1	?C59.	2
48	MPOT	875	1150	875 - 1150	B01			10	1	BS.	38

APPENDIX 4: FAUNAL REMAINS REPORT TABLE

Bone number	Context	Species	Bone	Bone part	Fragment count	Proportion	Side	Age	D/Post fusion	Comments
32625	26	EQU	MAN	S	1	3	L	A		27:15: P2-M2 PLUS A LOOSE I (BROKEN OCCLUSAL)
32626	29	BOS	FEM	S	1	2	R	A		30:3: SD1/2, ?WITH TIBIA BN32627
32627	29	BOS	TIB	DIS	1	4	R	A	F	30: 10, ?WITH FEM BN32626
32628	31	BOS	MTT	DIS	1	1		A	F	32: 2
32629	34	BOS	MAN	S	1	2	R	A		33: 6: M1-3
32630	35	BOS	MAN	S	1	3	L	A		36: 7: P3-M3
32631	40	OVCA	MXT	W	2	5	L	A		41: 2: ?SAME MAX M1-2W
32632	40	OVCA	HUM	S	1	2	R			41: 1: SD1/2
32633	40	EQU	MAN	POS	1	4	R	A		41: 20: P2-M3-MOST AR
32634	42	CAN	SKL	VEN	1	2	B	A		43: 15: L/R MAX, R T/TCND

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-159648

Project details

Project name	16 NORTH STREET, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU7 1EN AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Short description of the project	This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation on the site of the former bus depot, car park and garage at 16 North Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1EN. Two 15m, one 30m and one 40m long trenches were machine excavated and contained modern services, pits and foundations. A 20m by 10m area was subsequently machine excavated in the southern area of the site, exposing a series of medieval ditches and pits, which were excavated by hand.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2013 End: 30-10-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FLBN13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	AS 1371 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD BEDFORD 16 NORTH STREET, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDFORDSHIRE
Postcode	LU7 1EN
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 9223 2517 51 0 51 55 01 N 000 39 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 89.54m Max: 92.62m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project design originator	Mark Hinman

Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Construction/housing
Name of sponsor/funding body	McCarthy and Stone Retirement Lifestyles Ltd

Project archives

Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Bedfordshire Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedfordshire Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Entered by	Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	2 October 2013

PCA

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