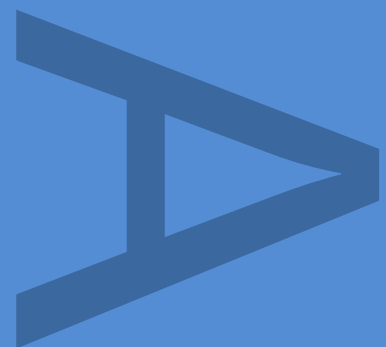


**Land at 124 High Street,
Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42
7BN:
An Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation**

January 2015




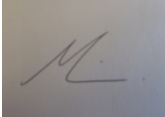
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11971**

LAND AT 124 HIGH STREET, KEMPSTON,
BEDFORDSHIRE, MK42 7BN

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3843
Report Number	R11971

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Matthew Jones		January 2015
Graphics Prepared by:	Adela Murray Brown		January 2015
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		January 2015
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		January 2015

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN: An

Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	Bedford Borough Council
Planning Reference:	13/00916/EXT
Central National Grid Reference:	TL 0224 4728
Site Code:	BHSK15
Report No.	R11971
Written and researched by:	Matthew Jones Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager:	Taleyna Fletcher
Commissioning Client:	Mr & Mrs P J Austin
Contractor:	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd Central Office The Granary Rectory Farm Brewery Road Pampisford Cambridgeshire CB22 3EN
Tel:	01223 845522
E-mail:	mhinman@pre-construct.com
Website:	www.pre-construct.com

©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
January 2015

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	8
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	12
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	13
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	19
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	22
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	23
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	16
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	17
FIGURE 3 SECTIONS	18
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-EAST	19
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-EAST SHOWING PITS [006] AND [008]	20
PLATE 3: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-EAST SHOWING PIT [008]	20
PLATE 4: TRENCH 1, VIEW NORTH-WEST SHOWING DITCH [010]	21
PLATE 5: TRENCH 2, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	21

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN (NGR TL 0224 4728) on the 26th January 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P J Austin in response to an archaeological Brief written by Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Councils Historic Environment Team (BBCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified two pits and a ditch located in Trench 1. These features were sealed by layers of garden soil, and topsoil. None of these features provided any dating evidence and were disturbed by modern horticultural activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0224 4728) on the 26th January 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P J Austin in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the erection of a new bungalow and garage to the rear of the existing dwelling along with associated services and, parking and access (Planning Reference 15/00916/EXT).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Fletcher 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Geoff Saunders (Saunders 2014) Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Councils Historic Environment Team (BBCHET).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of two 15m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Bedford Museum (BEDFM2015.02).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The underlying drift geology of the area generally comprises sands and gravels of the Felmersham Member (First Terrace) of the Ouse Valley Formation (British Geological Survey, 1991; Website 1).
- 2.1.2 The underlying bedrock of the site is Kellaways Clay Member – Mudstone, however, it is located on a narrow spur, with Oolitic Limestone to the immediate north and Kellaways sand member – sandstone and siltstone to the immediate south (British Geological Survey, 1991; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The site comprises an area of approximately 750m². It is located on the north side of the western end of Kempston High Street. The site is situated at an elevation of approximately c.28m OD (above Ordnance Datum). The River Great Ouse is located 0.3km north of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The proposed development is located in an area that holds archaeological interest, within the historic core of the settlement at Kempston (HER17019).
- 3.1.2 The proposed development is located to the south of the Biddenham Loop (Luke, 2008) an area of known archaeological interest. This has seen activity from the Paleolithic through to the modern day, with the focus of the archaeological evidence dating from the Neolithic to the early 4th Century AD.

3.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age

- 3.2.1 A number of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints were discovered near Hillgrounds Road (HER15459), to the east of the development area.
- 3.2.2 An archaeological field evaluation undertaken at the Cutler Hammer Sports Ground immediately to the west produced evidence of Bronze Age ring ditches, a late Iron Age/early Romano-British farmstead and a system of Roman boundary ditches that may be associated with further settlement to the north (HER17731).
- 3.2.3 A length of ditch 90m in length was discovered off Hillgrounds Road aligned north-east to south-west (HER 1475). This has been interpreted as a cursus monument, this had a beaker vessel deposited at the south-west end and a crouched inhumation at the north-east end.

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

- 3.3.1 A cemetery of late Iron Age to early Roman date was identified, in 1890, on the northern side of the Bedford to Kempston Road (HER 256). The cemetery produced a large number of pottery vessels.
- 3.3.2 A hoard of late 4th century Roman silver coins were discovered to the east of the development site, off Hillgrounds Road (HER 1191). The coins dated from 360 to 388AD.

3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 3.4.1 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery dating from between the 5th to 7th centuries was discovered to the south of the Bedford to Kempston Road (HER 258). The cemetery has 156 recorded burials but this figure could well be as high as 300 as many graves could not be distinguished due to intercutting. The graves contained a rich variety of grave goods, with pottery, iron knives, swords and shield bosses found.
- 3.4.2 On the opposite side of the High Street the remains of an early medieval cemetery have been identified (HER16110).

3.5 Late Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 3.5.1 Medieval settlement activity was discovered to the east of the site, off Elstow Road. This had occupational activity from 15th century through to 1801 (HER 11556).
- 3.5.2 A site between located to the north of the proposed development area produced evidence for dense occupation with a wide range of finds dating from the Palaeolithic through to the medieval period (HER 14853).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 2 trial trenches, distributed across the site but avoiding standing buildings (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 3-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated.

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while 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. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

5.1.2 The evaluation identified two pits and one ditch, all of uncertain date. The archaeological deposits were sealed by layers of topsoil (001) and garden soils (002) and (003).

5.2 Trench 1 (Plate 1; Figure 2)

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained two pits and one ditch.

5.2.2 Pit [006] was identified at the western end of the trench (Plate 2). It was 2.10m long, 0.92m+ wide and 0.14m deep with shallow sides sloping to a concave base. It had a single fill (005) of grey brown silt clay, with rare flint inclusions.

5.2.3 Pit [008] was located in the centre of Trench 1 (Plate 3). It was 0.9m long, 0.56m wide and 0.22m in depth with moderate to steep sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single fill of grey brown silt clay, with occasional flint inclusions.

5.2.4 Ditch [010] was located at the eastern end of Trench 1 (Plate 4), aligned northwest to southeast. The ditch was 1.98m wide, and 0.68m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The ditch contained two fills; an upper deposit (009) a pale grey-white silty sand 0.22m deep. The lower deposit (011) consisted of a grey brown silt clay, with common large rounded stones located on the base of the ditch.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2-3		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 13.0m	Level of Natural (m OD): 10.56-10.84m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SE End	NW End	
Topsoil	(001)	0.2m	0.32m	

Subsoil	(002)	0.6m	0.54m
Subsoil	(003)	-	0.42m
Natural	(004)	0.9m+	1.06m+
Summary Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. The trench contained two pits and one ditch, all of uncertain date.			

5.3 Trench 2 (Plate 5; Figure 2)

5.3.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-3	Plate 5	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 16.0m	Level of Natural (m OD):11.30-11.36m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(001)	0.34m	0.34m
Subsoil	(002)	0.26m	0.16m
Natural	(004)	0.64m+	0.64m+
Summary Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site. There were no archaeological features in the trench.			

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The evaluation identified two undated pits [006] and [008] Trench 1. Neither of these features produced any finds or dating evidence.
- 6.1.2 Trench 1 also contained an undated ditch [010] in the eastern end of the trench. This also contained no dating evidence. This feature had large rounded stones located on the base of the ditch. These stones appear to have been rounded by water-action over time, which could suggest this was a drainage ditch.
- 6.1.3 All the features were sealed by deposits of garden soils (002) and (003) these deposits were associated with horticultural activity and as a result may have truncated some archaeology.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features of uncertain date, but with Iron Age, Romano-British and Saxon activity in the area it is likely these features reflect that date.
- 6.2.2 Trench 1 was the focus of the archaeological features, where the natural gravels started to drop off towards the River Great Ouse. None of these features produced any datable finds, and so may be part of possible agricultural field systems and associated pits.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr & Mrs P J Austin for commissioning the work and Chiltern Hire for the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Geoff Saunders Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Councils Historic Environment Team (BBCHET) for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Printed Sources

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8

English Heritage (2006) Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide

Fletcher, T. (2015) Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire.

Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 3

Luke, M. (ed.) 2008 Life in the Loop: Investigation of a Prehistoric and Romano-British Landscape at Biddenham Loop, Bedfordshire. East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 125

Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Oake, M. (et al) 2007 Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9

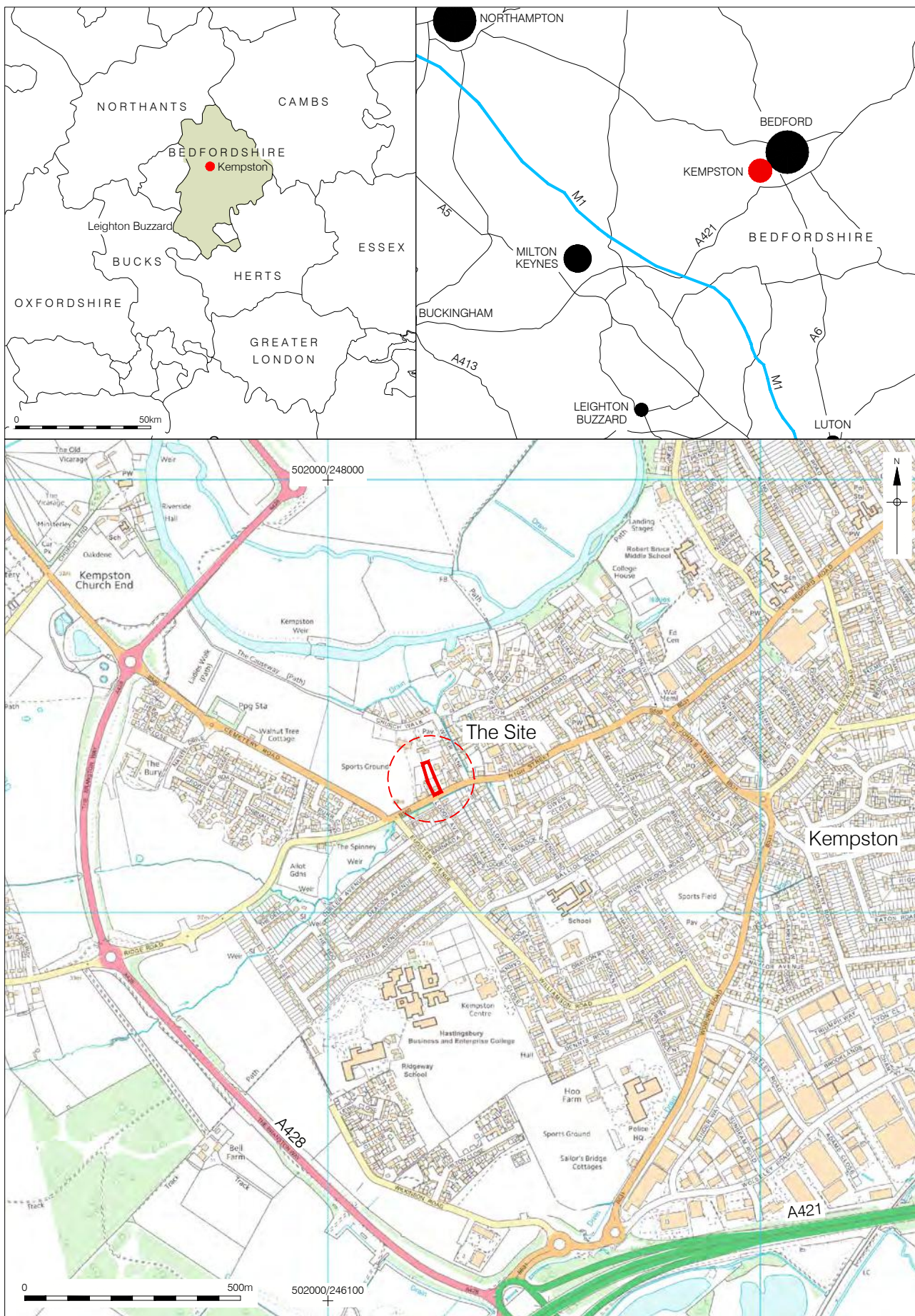
Saunders, G. 2014 Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire

8.2 Websites

- 1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed

23/01/15

- 2) <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>. Date accessed 23/01/15



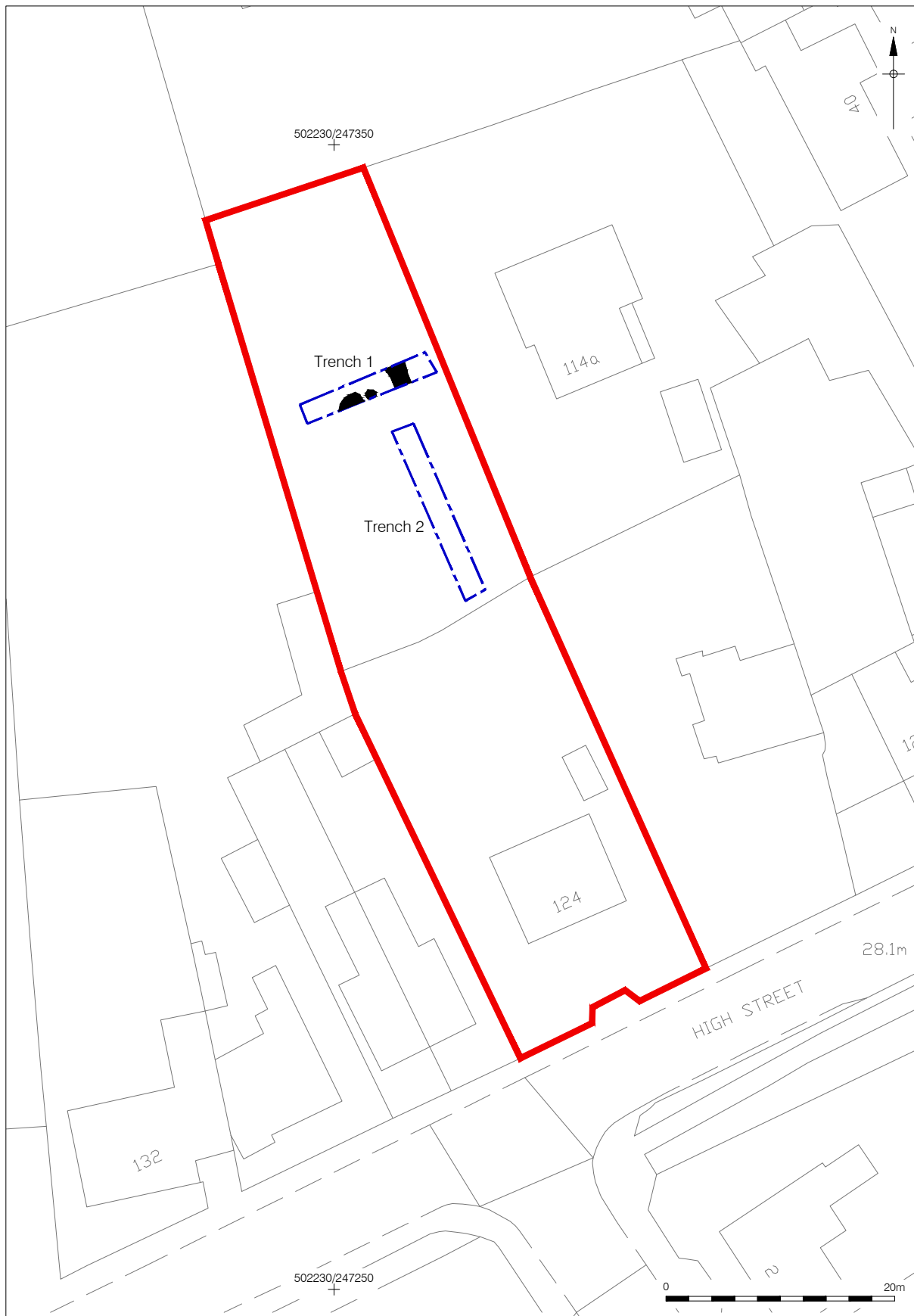
© Crown copyright 2013. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309

© Crown copyright 2011. All rights reserved. License number 36110309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015

02/10/13 MR; updated 03/02/2015 AMB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 500,000 & 1:12,500 at A4



© Crown copyright 2011. All rights reserved. License number 36110309
 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
 03/02/2015 AMB

Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location and Trench Plan
 1:500 at A4

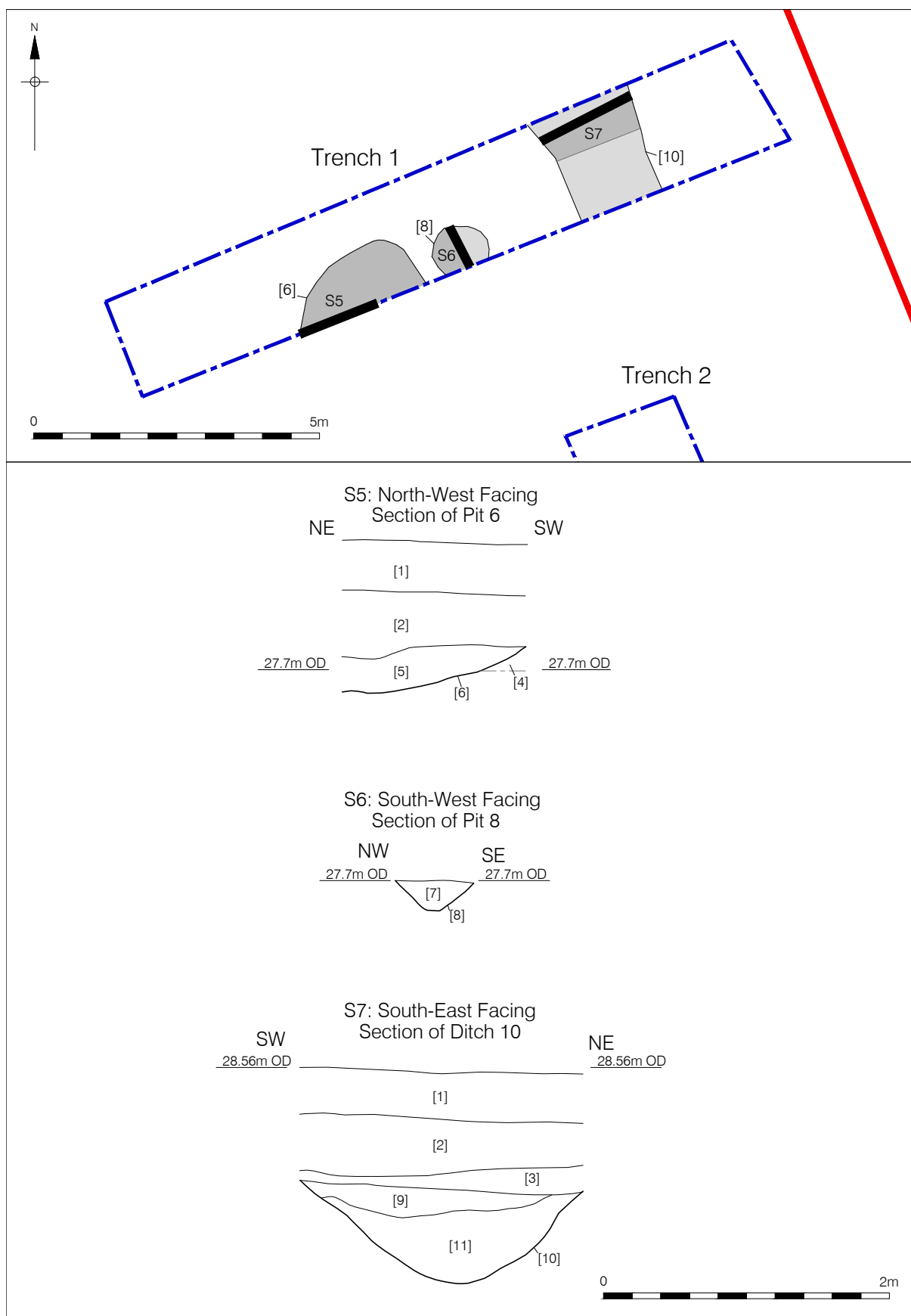


Figure 3
Sections 5-7
Plan 1:100; Sections 1:40 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, view north-east showing Pits [006] and [008]



Plate 3: Trench 1, view north-east showing Pit [008]



Plate 4: Trench 1, view north-west showing Ditch [010]



Plate 5: Trench 2, view south-east

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
001	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1,2
002	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1,2
003	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1
004	-	Layer	Natural	Natural	1,2
005	-	Fill	Pit	Fill of [006]	1
006	-	Cut	Pit	Shallow Pit	1
007	-	Fill	Pit	Fill of [008]	1
008	-	Cut	Pit	Shallow Pit	1
009	-	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [010]	1
010	-	Cut	Ditch	Drainage Ditch	1
011	-	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [010]	1

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-202116

Project details

Project name Land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN (NGR TL 0224 4728) on the 26th January 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P J Austin in response to an archaeological Brief written by Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Councils Historic Environment Team (BBCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The evaluation identified two pits and a ditch located in Trench 1. These features were sealed by layers of garden soil, and topsoil. None of the features provided any dating evidence and were disturbed by modern horticultural activity.

Project dates Start: 26-01-2015 End: 26-01-2015

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes BHSK15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Methods & "Sample Trenches" techniques

Development type Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD KEMPSTON Land at 124 High Street,
Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN

Postcode MK42 7BN

Study area 750.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 0224 4728 52.1139601798 -0.506738572837 52 06 50 N 000 30 24
W Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation

Project brief Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher
director/manager

Project supervisor Matthew Jones

Type of Private owner
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Mr and Mrs P J Austin
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Bedfordshire Museum
recipient

Digital Archive ID BHSK15

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 available

Paper Archive Bedfordshire Museum
 recipient

Paper Archive ID BHSK15

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished
 available Text"

Project
 bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at 124 High Street, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK42 7BN: An
 Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Jones, M

Other bibliographic R11971
 details

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology

Place of issue or Pampisford
 publication

Description A4 bound report including test, figures and plates

URL www.oasis.ac.uk

Entered by Matt Jones (MJones@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 30 January 2015

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

