

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
LAND AT MANOR FARM
ST JOHNS ROAD
MOGGERHANGER
BEDFORDSHIRE

on behalf of C & P Hall



NGR: TL 1403 4900 David Kaye BA AIFA

KDK: 015/MMF/3 August 2013

5 Leopold Road Linslade Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 2QU Tel: 01525 385443 Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk

Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk



#### Site Data

KDK project code:	015/MMF	ЛЕ					
OASIS ref:	kdkarcha1-1	53854	Event/Accession no:	BEDFM 2013.31			
County:		Bedfordshire					
Village/Town:		Moggerhanger					
Civil Parish:	Civil Parish:		Moggerhanger				
NGR (to 8 figs):		TL 1403 4900					
Present use:		Arable field					
Planning proposal:		Erection of two detached houses					
Local Planning Authorit	ty:	Central Bedfordshire Council					
Planning application re	f/date:	CB/12/03091/PAPC					
Date of fieldwork:		Bedfordshire					
Commissioned by:		James Bailey Alexanders Surveyors Acre House 70c High street Huntingdon PE29 3DJ					
Client:		C & P Hall 39 St Johns Road Moggerhanger Bedfordshire MK44 3RJ					
Contact name:		James Bailey					

# **Quality Check**

Primary Author:	David Kaye BA AIFA	Date:	19.08.2013
Edited/Checked By:	Karin Semmelmann MA MIFA	Date:	20.08.2013
Revisions:		Date:	

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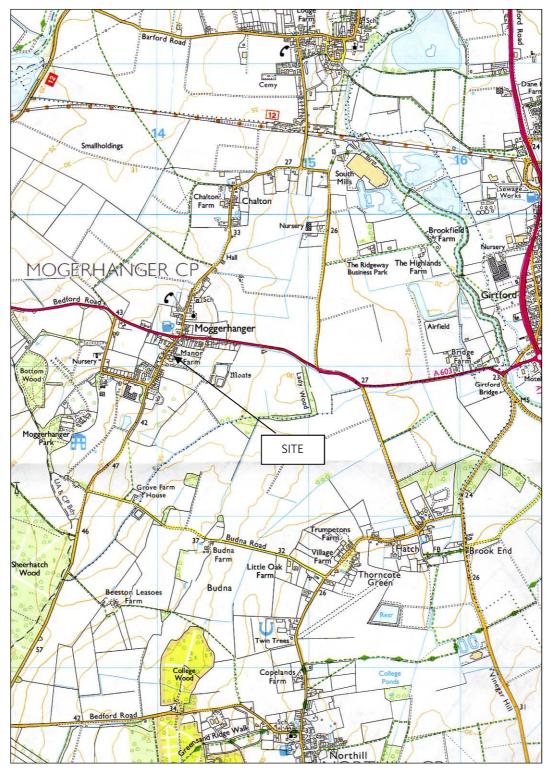


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:1250)



### Summary

In August 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook and archaeological trial trenching at Manor Farm, St John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire. Three trenches totalling 45 linear meters were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site, prior to the submission of a planning application.

No archaeological cut features or deposits were encountered. The natural geology showed signs of significant mole drainage, plough scarring, and the remnant effects of bioturbation. Some medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil, but not retained.

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 In August 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of Manor Farm, St John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by James Bailey of Alexanders Surveyors, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Semmelmann, 2013), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists, who were acting as archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), in Central Bedfordshire. The work was undertaken prior to submission of a formal planning application.

#### 1.2 Planning Background

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) prior to submission of a planning application.

#### 1.3 The Site

#### Location

The site is located at the southern end of the village, on the eastern side of St Johns Road in the civil parish of Moggerhanger at National Grid Reference TL 14037 4900 (Fig. 1). It is situated in the southwest corner of Moggerhanger Farm, which has a number of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings including a Grade II listed farmhouse (DBD2658) and granary (DBD 1901).

#### Description

The proposed development site is a rectangular plot of arable land fronting St Johns Road to the west (Fig. 2).

#### Geology & Topography

The superficial geology comprises glacial till deposits, which is underlain by the Oxford Clay Formation (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). The site is located towards the top of a small knoll in the valley of the River Ivel at approximately 45m AOD.

#### Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of two detached houses (Fig. 2).



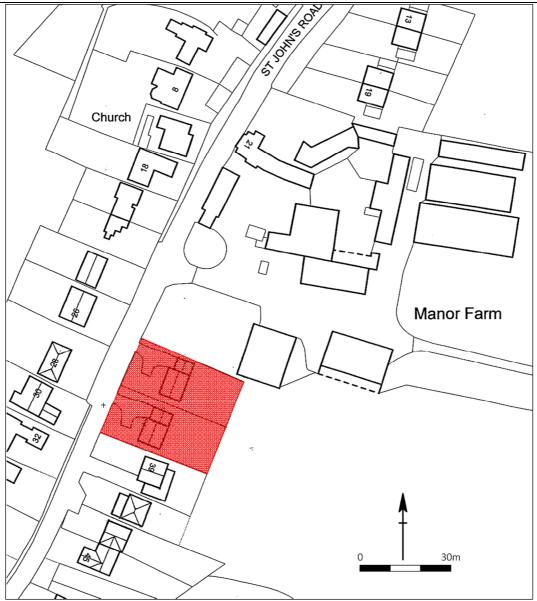


Figure 2: Site location and proposed development plan (scale 1:1250)



#### 2 Aims & Methods

#### 2.1 Aims

The aims of this evaluation as defined in the approved WSI (Semmelmann, 2013), 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
- To obtain information to inform a Heritage Asset Assessment

#### 2.2 Methods

In line with the requirements of the brief, the methods used were as follows:

- Trial trenching was initially be up to a maximum of 100m<sup>2</sup>
- There was to be a contingency of 50m<sup>2</sup> of additional trenching
- The trenches were to be a minimum of 2m in width and were to be excavated under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket

#### 2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- The relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008a) and
- The Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IFA 2010),
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), to English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991)



# 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The name of Moggerhanger, which was first recorded in 1216 as Mogarhangre, derives in part from the Old English *hangar* meaning wood. Whether Mogar or Mogger has its origins in a personal name is unclear. Although the spelling of Moggerhanger with a single g was adopted by the former Rural District Council it is still commonly spelt with two, as is the case here (*cf.* www.bedfordshire.gov.uk).

The present village appears to have its origins in the mid-late Saxon period, but there is evidence for Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity close by. The proposed development site is located within the core of the medieval settlement and may contain evidence for the development of the settlement from the Saxon period onwards

This section has been compiled with information from the Historic Environment Record (HER), the Bedford Borough archive, KDK's library and internet sources such as British History Online.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric (50,000BC to AD42)

The earliest known archaeological features within the study area are a curvilinear enclosure and trackway to the southwest of the site, which are visible as cropmarks [HER 16771]. Further afield a number of Bronze Age ring ditches have been noted north of Bedford Road as well as to the east of the track leading to Willowhill Farm [HER 14031] and near the old railway line in the north-west of the parish, north of Barford Road and south of the River Great Ouse [HER 7810]. The complex of cropmarks north of Bedford Road and east of the track leading to Willowhill Farm also include rectangular enclosures [HER 6091], which may be indicative of Iron Age field systems (*ibid*).

#### 3.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

It is thought that the Willow Hill Farm site may have continued in use in the Roman period as Roman pottery, two quern stones, for grinding corn, a burial and a coin have been found there amongst a complex of linear cropmarks (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk). A belt fitting and two brooches were amongst the Roman finds discovered within the study area to the north-northwest of the site [HER 16191]. A Roman road [HER 738] is thought to run eastwest to the south of the site but excavations in 2007 revealed the road surface some meters south of the conjectured route (Carlyle 2007).

#### 3.4 Saxon (*c.450-1066*)

The present settlement originated in the Saxon period, although the precise date is not known. A 6<sup>th</sup> century cremation urn [HER 423] was found *c*.170m west of the site in 1934, but this was an isolated burial and need not be indicative of settlement within the area. At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) Moggerhanger was part of *Cerlentone* (Chalton), a 10 hide estate held by Hugh de Grentmeisnil's wife, Adeliza. At the time of the Norman Conquest the manor had belonged to Earl Tosti and is thought to have been a berewick, or outlying holding of a royal manor at Potton (Williams & Martin 2002: 585).

# 3.5 Medieval (1066-1500)

Moggerhanger was first documented in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when it was tenanted by Sir Roger de Trumpington who died in 1289 (VCH online). It stayed within the Trumpington family until 1457, when Sir Walter gave it to Maud Enderby in trust for her life, as her son, Richard, was pledged to marry his daughter, Eleanor. Richard Enderby held the manor from 1474 and, after he died only 13 years later, his son, John, transferred ownership to William Gascoigne (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk).



The location of the medieval manor is uncertain, but *c.* 325m to the east of the proposed development site is a moated enclosure, albeit without any evidence for buildings within it [HER 424] that may have been associated with the manor, possibly in the form of fishponds. The present Grade II listed farmhouse [HER 2080] dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Medieval artefacts have been found to the northwest of the proposed development site [HER 16191] and ridge and furrow, which is indicative of medieval farming systems, have been recorded in various locations within the Blunham and Moggerhanger parishes [HER 4495] including Moggerhanger Park [HER 18329, 18330 & 18331] (CBC 2013).

#### 3.6 Post-Medieval - Modern (1500-present)

In 1860 Moggerhanger, which had been part of the parish of Blunham, became a separate ecclesiastical parish. Six years later it became a separate civil parish that included Chalton and South Mills (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk).

The post-medieval entries in the Historic Environment Record are predominantly buildings; the remaining three entries are for Moggerhanger Park [HER 6994], St Johns Churchyard [HER 8939] and the now demolished pound and stocks [HER 9785].

The manor was held by several different families in the post-medieval period and sales particulars survive for the sale of the manor and Manor Farm by Robert Thornton in 1784 [PM1868]. The farm was described as 'consisting of Forty Statute Acres, three Rood, and five Perch, of inclosed Land, and One Hundred and Fifteen computed Acres, two Rood, of Open Field and Common Meadows, making together One Hundred and Fifty-six Acres, one Rood and five Perch; a convenient Farm-House, three Barns, Stables, Cow-houses, Granary, Dovehouse, and other Conveniences; in the Possession of Mr. Richard Savill, on Lease, which expires at Lady-Day, Old Stile [sic], 1788, at a very low Rent of only £70'.

The manor including Manor Farm was again sold by auction [BLARS WG2539] in 1857 but still stayed within the Thornton family. The homestead at this time comprised a hen house, wood house, two barns, an open shed, a cart lodge, a dove house, a cow house, calves' pens, a chaff barn, a granary and a cart-horse stable. The farm had 109 acres, 1 rood 12 poles of which 69 acres, 2 roods were arable. It was let to Thomas Clark.

In 1919 the farm was bought by Mrs Stanton for £1800 (BLARS X825/5). The complex contained a number of new buildings including a timber garage, cow house and barn. The 1927 Valuation recorded the homestead as comprising two yards, each with their own range of buildings. In the first yard were a timber and tile cow shed with tie-ups for eight beasts, loose box and barn, a brick and tile granary, a timber and corrugated iron garage and a brick timber and tile range comprising cart lodge, stable for five horses, harness room and chaff box. The second yard had a timber and tile range comprising a pigstye, hen roost, three bay shelter, seven bay shelter, calf box, five bay shelter and cow shed. In a field were a two bay shelter and three loose boxes (www.bedfordshire.gov.uk).

Historical and cartographic evidence suggests that the proposed development site itself was farmland throughout the post-medieval period and subject to mole drainage, heavy cultivation and deep ploughing in modern times.



#### 4 Results

#### 4.1 Introduction

This evaluation has been required under the terms of *National Planning Policy Framework* (*NPPF*) in order to support proposals for the potential development of the site.

#### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plate 1)

Trench 1 was orientated NW-SE and was 10.2m X 2.4m, and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy of all three trenches was the same, with approximately 0.25m of greyish-brown, silty clay plough soil, overlying the yellowish-orange sandy clay natural geology. The subsoil had been amalgamated due to the depth of the ploughing.

Two mole drains and a tree throw were noted in the trench, all having the same light brown slightly silty, sandy clay fill.

As no archaeological features were noted, and the stratigraphy of the site was very simple, no context numbers were assigned.

## 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Plates 2 & 3)

Trench 2 was the largest of the three trenches excavated, measuring 24.75m X 2.1m, and orientated NE-SW. A mole drain, tree throw, and the probable base of a hedge row were recorded, but no archaeological cut features or deposits. The fills of the features were as consistent with those in Trench 1.

# 4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 3, Plate 4)

Trench 3 was 10.2m X 2.2m and orientated NW-SE. A tree throw and a large modern pit were noted. The fill of the pit was identical to the topsoil, and modern ceramic artefacts were presents. A plough scar also ran the length of the trench.

4.5 No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted within any of the evaluation trenches. However, five medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the spoil heap (Plate 5). All were wheel thrown, mostly course ware, and comprised two pieces of shelly ware, one abraded, sandy ware handle fragment, a black sandy ware body sherd from a large storage vessel, and a small abraded, glazed, undiagnostic body sherd. None were retained.



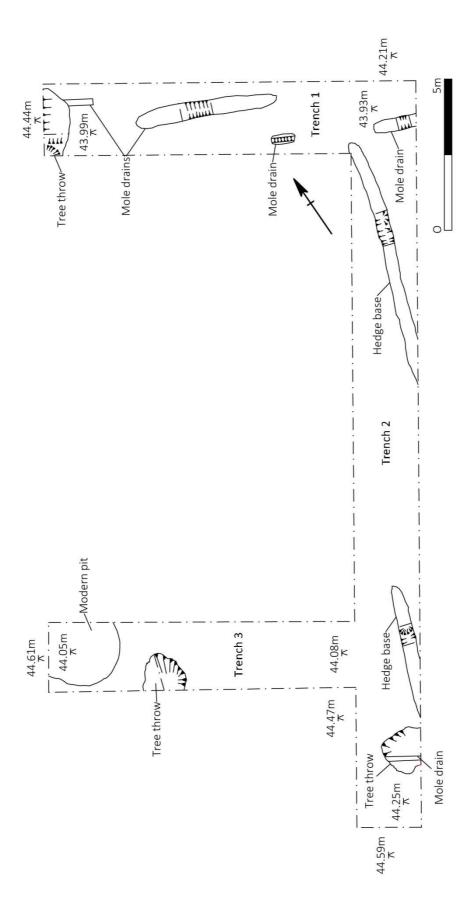


Figure 3: Trench plan (scale 1:125)





Plate 1: Trench 1, facing southeast



Plate 3: Trench 2, facing northeast



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing southwest



Plate 4: Trench 3, facing southeast



Plate 5: Pot sherds from topsoil



#### 5 Conclusions

This site has been heavily affected by mole drainage and tree throws. The fill from all these features is identical suggesting that they are probably contemporary, or near-contemporary, and not at all old. The position of the tree throws suggests there may have once been an orchard on the site, but a non-comprehensive examination of the cartographic evidence does not support this. However, the 1901 map shows the site to be lightly tree covered, if not in a formal layout.

The bases of the hedges are not orientated parallel to the existing road. However, they are on the same alignment as some of earlier buildings on Manor Farm, suggesting the possibility that there may have been a track or pathway which both the buildings and the hedge row respected prior to St John's Road being cut.

The large modern pit in Trench 3 is likely to have been for potato storage. Before the farm had outbuildings that could be used to store crops, large pits were excavated in the ground, filled with potatoes, and then covered with straw and a layer of topsoil (pers. com. Mr. C. Hall).

No archaeological cut features or deposits were noted during the current evaluation, and the only artefacts found were abraded medieval pot sherds recovered from the topsoil. They are unlikely to be associated with archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the site, and were most probably deposited as a result of maturing the fields, or have been transported to the site through ploughing.

#### Heritage Asset Assessment

The proposed development consists of two detached houses and associated access. There is a likihood that the foundations of the buildings will consist of strip footings excavated to a depth of at least one meter, and drainage trenches, whilst of a shallower depth, are also likely to impact on the natural geology.

The mole drains have created channels up to 0.4m wide, at 1.2-1.4m intervals across the site, and whilst evidence of larger archaeological cut features could have survived this in part, any smaller features could have been destroyed. However, as there were no indications of archaeological features in any of the trenches, it is possible that the site lies outside the limits of the built settlement, and that the land has historically been used for agriculture. Therefore, it would appear that there is no surviving archaeology within the study area, to be affected by the proposed development.



# 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to James Bailey of Alexanders Surveyors for commissioning this report on behalf of Mrs & Mrs Hall. Thanks are also due to Mr Chris Hall, Eric Baron of Devonshire Diggers, Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire and Luton HER for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents. The project was monitored by Hannah Firth on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

# 7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
  - 1. Brief
  - 2. Written Scheme of Investigation
  - 3. Initial report
  - 4. Trench recording sheets
  - 5. Site drawings
  - 6. List of photographs
  - 7. B/W prints & negatives
  - 8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with the Bedford Museum.



#### 8 References

#### Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Allen J L & Holt A St J 1986 (with later updates) Health & Safety in Field Archaeology. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers
- Brickley M & McKinley J I 2004 Guidelines *to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.
- EH 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).
- EH 2006 The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. English Heritage (London).
- EH 2008 The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation. London: English Heritage
- EH 2011 Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation London: English Heritage
- Ferguson L M & Murray D M 1997 Archaeological *Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage.* Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1 (Manchester).
- Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- IFA 2008a Standards & Guidance for the Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2009 Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- SMA 1995 Towards an accessible archaeological archive the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. London: Society for Museum Archaeologists
- Walker K 1990 Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London).
- Watkinson D & Neal V 1998 First Aid for Finds Hertford & London: Rescue

# Secondary Sources

- BGS British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology.
- Brown, N & Glazebrooke J 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 Research Agenda and Strategy East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
- Central Bedfordshire Council 2012 Brief for a Programme of archaeological Field Evaluation at Land at Manor Farm, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire.



- Medlycott, M (ed) 2011 Research and Archaeology Re-visited: e revised framework for the East of England East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24
- Oake, M et al 2007 Bedfordshire Archaeology Research and Archaeology: resource assessment, research agenda and strategy Bedfordshire Archaeology 9
- Semmelmann, K 2013 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Manor Farm, Moggerhanger, St. John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire
- Semmelmann, K 2013 Heritage Asset Assessment: Land at Manor Farm, Moggerhanger, St. John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire
- Soil Survey 1983 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend (Harpenden).
- Williams, A & Martin GH 2002 Domesday Book: a complete translation London: Penguin
- Brown, N & Glazebrooke J 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 Research Agenda and Strategy East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
- Williams, A & Martin GH 2002 Domesday Book: a complete translation London: Penguin

#### Online Sources

Bedford Borough website:

www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Mogerhanger

British Geological Society: <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a>

Victoria County History:

www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42421&strquery=Moggerhanger



# Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/C	ODE:		Site Name:		
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
060	Х	Х	Trench 1, facing SE		
061		Х	Trench 1, facing SE		
062		X	Trench 1, facing SE		
063	Χ	Χ	Trench 2, facing NW		
064		Χ	Trench 2, facing NW		
065	Χ	Χ	Trench 2, facing SE		
066		Χ	Trench 2, facing SE		
067	Χ	Χ	Trench 3 facing SE		
068		Х	Trench 3, facing SE		
069	Х	Χ	Trench 1, tree throw, facing NW		
070	Χ	Χ	Trench 1, mole drain, facing NW		
071		Χ	Trench 1, tree throw, facing NW		
072		Χ	Trench 1, tree throw, facing NW		
073		Χ	Trench 1, tree throw, facing NW		
074	Χ	Χ	Trench 1, mole drain, facing NW		
075	Χ	Χ	Trench 1, mole drain, facing NW		
076	Χ	Χ	Trench 2, hedge base, facing NE		
077	Χ	Χ	Trench 2, hedge base, facing NE		
078	Χ	Χ	Trench 2, tree throw, facing NE		
079		Х	Trench 2, tree throw, facing NE		
080	Χ	Х	Trench 3, tree throw, facing NW		
081		X	Trench 3, tree throw, facing NW		
082		Х	Trench 3, tree throw, facing NW		
083	X	X	Trench 3, modern pit, facing NW		
084		Χ	Trench 3, modern pit, facing NW		



# Appendix 2: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS					
Project Name:	Manor Farm, Moggerhanger OASIS reference:			kdkarcha1-153854	
Short Description:	In August 2013 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook and archaeological trial trenching at Manor Farm, St John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire. Three trenches totalling 45 linear meters were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development.  No archaeological cut features or deposits were encountered. The natural geology showed signs of significant mole drainage, plough scarring, the remnant effects of bioturbation.				
Project Type:	Evaluation				
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None	
Current land use:	Agricultural		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	None	
Monument type:	None		Monument period:	None	
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None				
PROJECT LOCATION					
County:	Bedfordshire	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	TL 1403 4900	
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Manor farm, St John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire				
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c. 100 sq. m		DD: (metres)	c. 44.50mAOD	
PROJECT CREATORS					
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd				
Project brief originator:	Central Bedfordshire Council Project		design originator:	KDK Archaeology	
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann Directo		r/Supervisor:	David Kaye	
Sponsor / funding body:	Alexander Surveyors				
PROJECT DATE					
Start date:	13.08.2013 End da		e:	14.08.2013	
PROJECT ARCHIVES					
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	None				
Paper:	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2013.31	Site records, report, drawing			
Digital:	3231.11.2020.02	CD of photos			
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)					
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Manor Farm, St John's Road, Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire				
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 015/MMF/2				
Author(s):	David Kaye				
Page nos	17	Date: 19.08.2013			