



KDK Archaeology Ltd

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

27 Broad Street  
Clifton  
Bedfordshire



**Quality Check**

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## Summary

In June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 27 Broad Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire. This was done as a condition of planning permission to build a new extension to the east of the property. This exercise revealed a post-medieval/modern brick built well close to the existing building which is contemporary with the late 19<sup>th</sup> century house.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 27 Broad Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Rob Miller and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye 2014), and approved by Martin Oake, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire. The relevant planning application reference is CB/13/01062/FULL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

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

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The site is located in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire, in the village and parish of Clifton, at National Grid Reference TL 1657 3884 (Fig. 2).

#### *Description*

The development area comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land, situated at the junction of Broad Street and Elm Farm Close (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by Broad Street to the southwest and residential development on all other sides.

#### *Geology & Topography*

The site lies at the height of around 44 metres AOD and is located on a low ridge between the Rivers Ivel and Flit. The land is currently occupied by a single residential dwelling.

The solid geology for the area is formed from Woburn Sands Formation from the Cretaceous period overlain by Quaternary Glaciofluvial sands and gravels (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### *Development*

The development comprises the demolition of rear lean-to, sun-room, single storey out building and greenhouse, followed by the erection of a front porch, one and a half storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and convert two storey linked out building into living accommodation (Fig. 3).



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



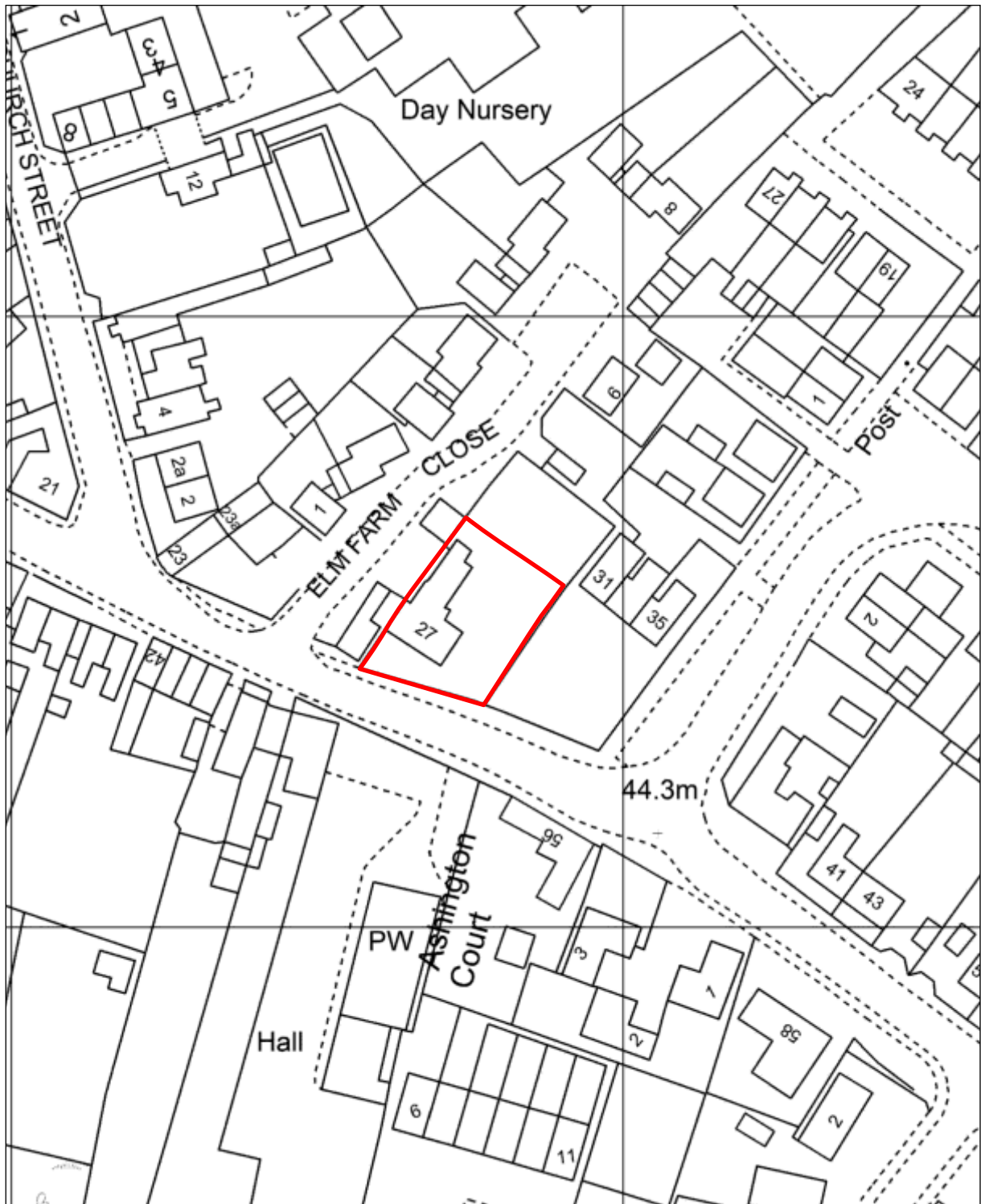


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

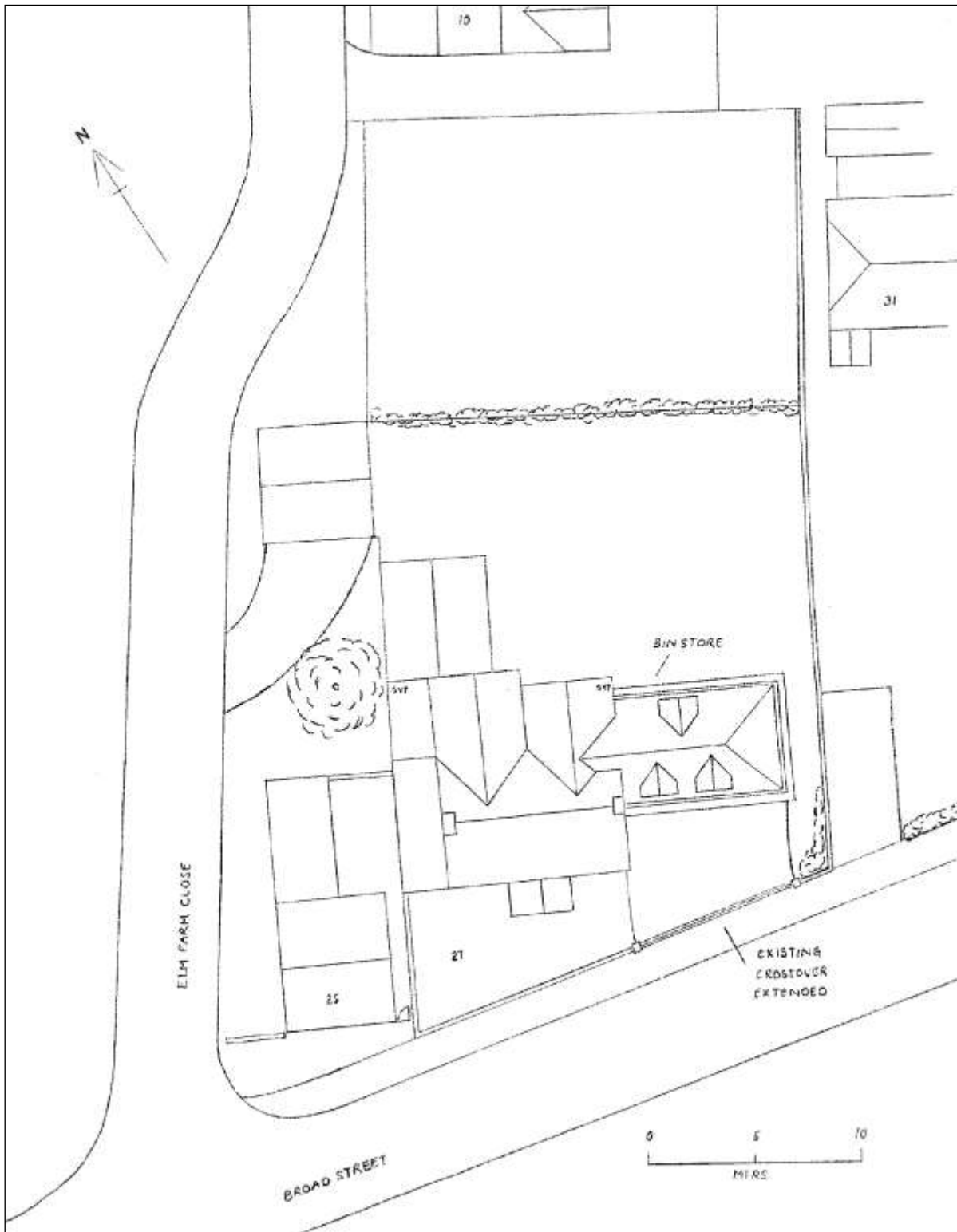


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Kaye 2014) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- Recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

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

- Understanding landscape development and settlement patterns, the relationship between settlement and enclosure in the prehistoric period
- Investigating evidence for the ritual codes underlying the prehistoric period
- Investigating rural Saxon, medieval and post medieval settlements to examine diversity characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear

### 2.2 *Methods*

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

- All ground or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits were done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.
- No significant archaeological deposits were encountered. On completion of the investigation Central Bedfordshire Council were notified.

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)





### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The site lies within the historic core of the village of Clifton (HER 17110), and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The village developed from the Saxon period through to the post-mediaeval period and possibly formed a polyfocal settlement in medieval times.

This section has been compiled with information principally derived from the Historic Environment Record (HER), and the design brief (CBC 2013).

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

Two oval enclosures are recorded from aerial photographs approximately 600m east northeast (HER 15095) and east southeast (HER 15096) of the development site. They measure 118m by 114m and 124m by 119m respectively. A probable Bronze Age burial site was recorded immediately to the southwest of the 15095 barrow (HER 394), which consisted of five inhumations, one with an associated early Bronze Age beaker. Four of the inhumations were adults and the fifth an infant.

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

No specifically Iron Age features are recorded on the HER.

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

The suggested route of a Roman road linking Ermine Street to Watling Street is recorded as being located approximately 300m to the north of the site, though no physical evidence of it has been noted to date (HER 3542).

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

Close to the Bronze Age burials, a small Saxon vessel was found in 1930 (HER 393). The presence of the pot suggests a Saxon burial was sited around the Bronze Age barrow.

#### 3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Clifton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as having possibly three manors. The first had been held of Edward the Confessor by Alwin Duele, and post-conquest by William de Caron of Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln. The manor stayed in the Caron family until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when it was divided amongst the daughters of Hugh de Caron after his death. William de Caron also had a stake in the second manor at Clifton, holding 2 hides of the land of Nigel de Albini. The overlordship later passed to the Barons St Amand and in 1346 was held by Peter de St. Croix, but it is not mentioned after 1359. The third manor belonged to the prior of St John of Jerusalem up to 1303, after which it reverted to the king.

Other medieval features of note include the site of archery butts c.300m west of the site (HER 7791). They take the form of levelled earthworks, though supporting evidence of their existence can be seen on the 1745 Estate map, where Butts Close is marked. Medieval finds recovered by metal detectorists include 2 buckles, one copper alloy (14th Century to 15th Century), and one silver (1350 AD? to 1400 AD), 2 silver coins (1464 AD to 1470 AD, and 1136 AD to 1145 AD), and a silver harness pendant (1272 AD? to 1370 AD) (HER 18354)

An archaeological evaluation at 28 Grange Street (Jones 2012) identified a number of features which may represent medieval and post-medieval occupation of the site.



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

The post medieval heritage assets listed in the HER consists of clay pits marked on the Estate map of 1745 (HER 7643). They are located c. 475m northwest of the site and take the form of levelled earthworks. Gravel pits 500m to the northeast are marked on Ordnance Survey maps as early as 1881 (HER 2525).

Clifton House and grounds are also listed (HER 7039). This is an extant building located 330m north of the development site. Whilst the house is a standing structure, much of the associated parkland has been subsequently developed with modern housing.

A well head dated to 1881 located at the junction of Church Street and Grange Street, 150m northwest of the site (HER 11508). It has subsequently been converted into a war memorial and is grade 2 listed.

3.8 **Modern** (1900-present)

No modern features are listed.



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## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

Six foundation trenches were dug to a depth of between 0.70-1m using a 3 tonne machine fitted with a 0.45m wide toothed bucket. All excavations were undertaken in a single day. The stratigraphy comprised:

- Modern made ground (100). 0.08m in depth. This was a mid-brownish grey, very silty sand which was fairly compacted. Inclusions of sub-angular and rounded stones were present as well as occasional instances of brick, modern glass and concrete pieces.
- Post-medieval made ground (101). 0.36m in depth. Dark greyish brown very silty sand. Contained moderate instances of sub-angular and rounded stones. CBM was also present in small quantities as was porcelain and animal bone.
- Natural geology (102). Dark brownish orange very silty sand. This layer was compact and contained frequent instances of sub angular stones.

Only post medieval and modern finds were observed from the layers of made ground. These were not retained for archiving purposes.

### *Description*

A single feature was observed during this excavation. Well (103) was cut into the post-medieval made ground layer. The feature was constructed using curved red bricks which measured <23x11x7cm in size. The bricks were unmortared and as a result the feature began collapsing shortly after exposure. Internally the well measured 0.83m in diameter and was 0.97m deep (14 courses). The base of the feature was submerged in water and therefore could not be observed. The well had been backfilled with large rounded stones and soil identical to (101). There was no evidence that the well had been capped after it went out of use.



**Plate 1:** Footing 1



**Plate 2:** Footing 2



**Plate 3:** Footing 3



**Plate 4:** Footing 4



Plate 5: Footing 5



Plate 6: Footing 6



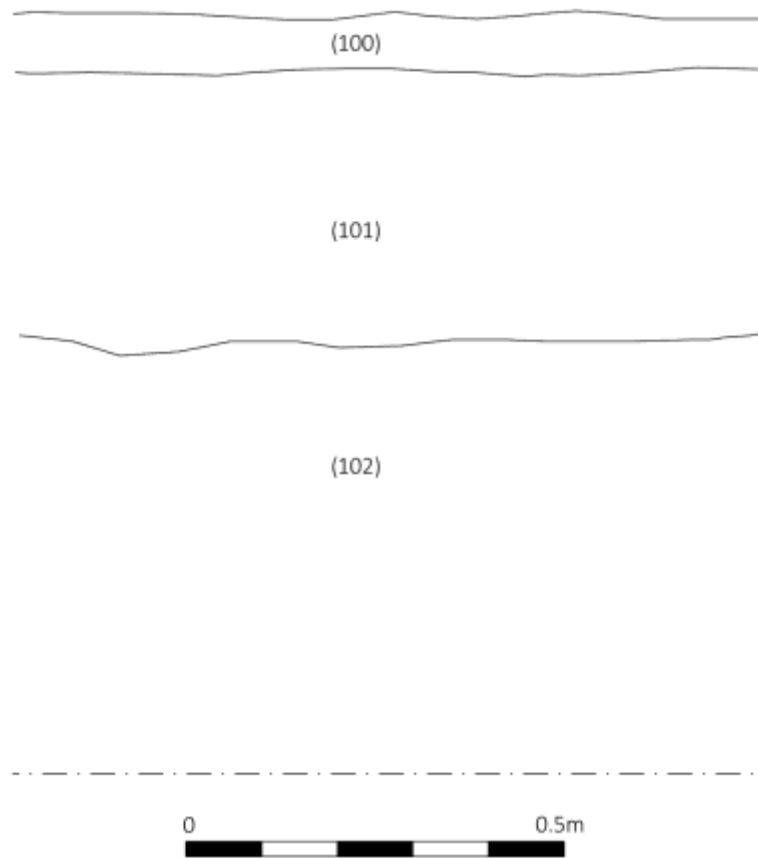
Plate 7: Well (103)



Plate 8: Section of well (103)



Plate 9: Site stratigraphy



**Figure 4:** Representative stratigraphy of site (scale 1:10)



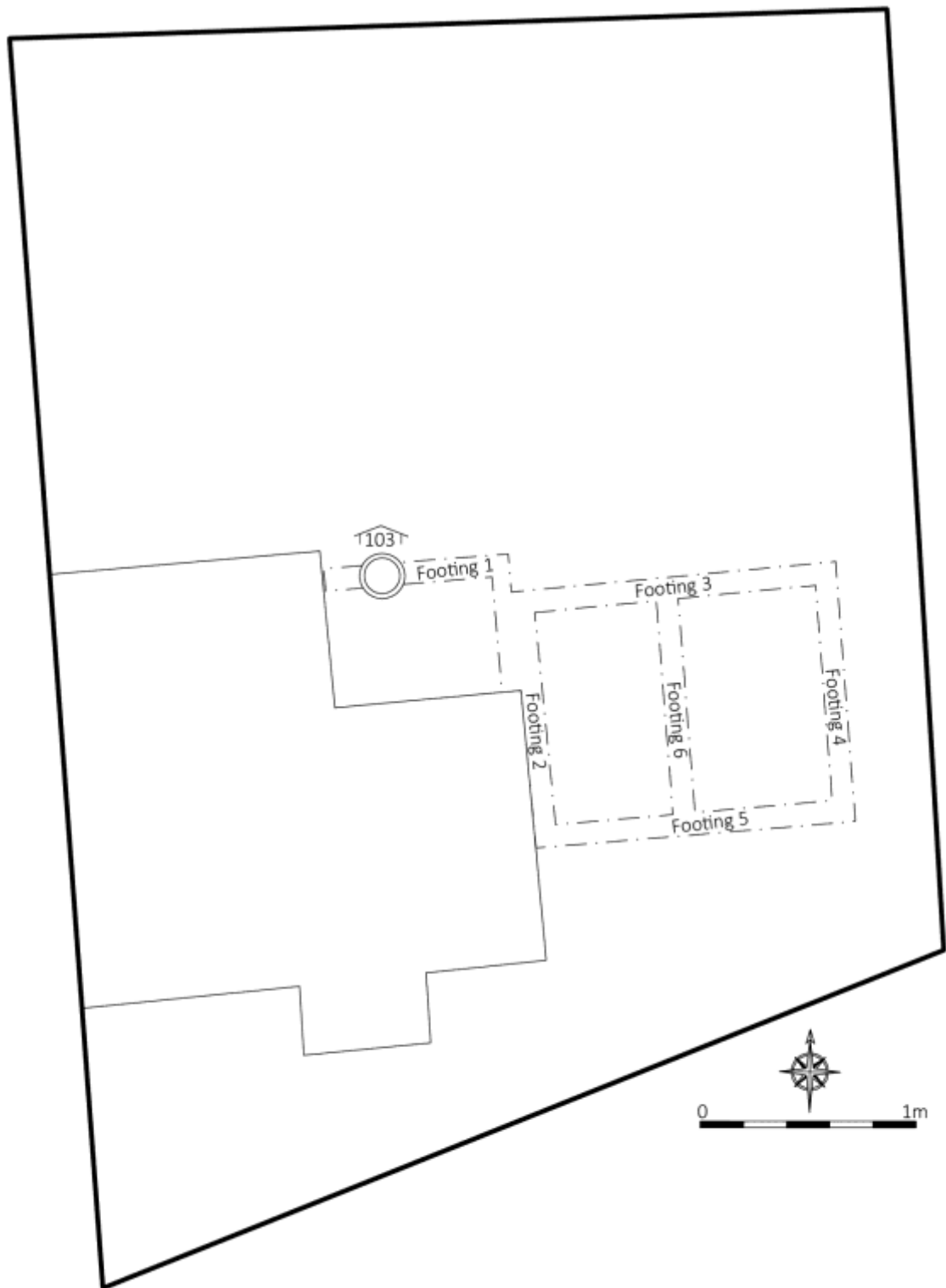


Figure 5: Plan of trenches and well (103) (scale 1:150)



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## 5 Conclusions

This site produced very little of archaeological significance. The well to the northwest of the site was obviously built to service the house alone as it is too small to serve the wider community. It appears to be Victorian/modern in date which coincides with the date of the original building.

It is clear that a large amount of modification has occurred in the house in the past century and this is also reflected in the stratigraphy of below ground excavations. The study area has been highly disturbed meaning that any sensitive archaeological material will have been lost.

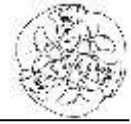


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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Rob Miller for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Martin Oake and Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire County Council monitoring the project. We would also like to thank machine driver John Hillyard and Rob Miller for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIFA.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Monitoring sheets
5. Site drawings
6. Client's site plans
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. Specialist reports
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum BEDFM 2014.03.



## 8 References

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Oake, M et al 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology - Research and Archaeology: resource assessment, research agenda and strategy* Bedfordshire Archaeology 9

Starke, W & Keir, W 2012 *Land at Thorn Green House, Thorn, Dunstable, Bedfordshire: Heritage Asset Assessment*, Albion Archaeology, 2012/92

Wade K (2000) Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural), in Brown and Glazebrook (2000), *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8: 23-26.

Williams, A & Martin GH 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation* London: Penguin

British Geological Society:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>





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**Appendix 1: Photograph List**

Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Well 103 looking southwest
2	x	x	Section of well 103 looking southwest
3	x	x	Footing 1 looking west northwest
4	x	x	Footing 2 looking south southwest
5	x	x	Footing 3 looking southeast
6		x	Stratigraphy looking north northeast
7	x	x	Footing 4 looking southwest
8	x	x	Footing 5 looking northwest
9	x	x	Footing 6 looking southwest
10		x	Existing footings looking north northwest
11	x	x	Overall looking northeast



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	27 Broad Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	039/CBS
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-168661	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2014.03
OS reference	TL 1657 3884	Study area size	18.42sq m
Project Type	Watching brief	Height (mAOD)	44
Short Description	In June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of 27 Broad Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire. This was done as a condition of planning permission to build a new extension to the east of the property. This exercise revealed a post-medieval/modern brick built well close to the existing building which is contemporary with the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century house.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Part demolition then extension of existing building	Current land use	residential
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire	Planning application ref.	CB/13/01062/FULL
Monument type	Well	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	Rob Miller		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19.06.17	End date	19.06.17
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2014.03	-	
Paper		WSI, Report, Fieldwork sheets, B&W photos	
Digital		Fieldwork sheets, Digital photographs, Reports	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation & Recording: 27 Broad Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	039/CBS/2		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc		
Page no's	22	Date	22.06.17