



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
LAND AT 11 ELM FARM CLOSE,
CLIFTON,
BEDFORDSHIRE**

on behalf of Rob Miller



NGR: TL 1658 3886

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KDK: 040/CEF/2

March 2014

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Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	040/CEF		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	kdkarcha1-168665	<i>Accession Number:</i>	BEDFM 2014.17
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Clifton		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Clifton		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 1658 3886		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of single dwelling		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/13/02779/FULL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	27-28.02.14		
<i>Client:</i>	Rob Miller 100 High Street Henlow Bedfordshire SG16 6AE		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Rob Miller		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	David Kaye BA AIFA	<i>Date:</i>	5.3.14
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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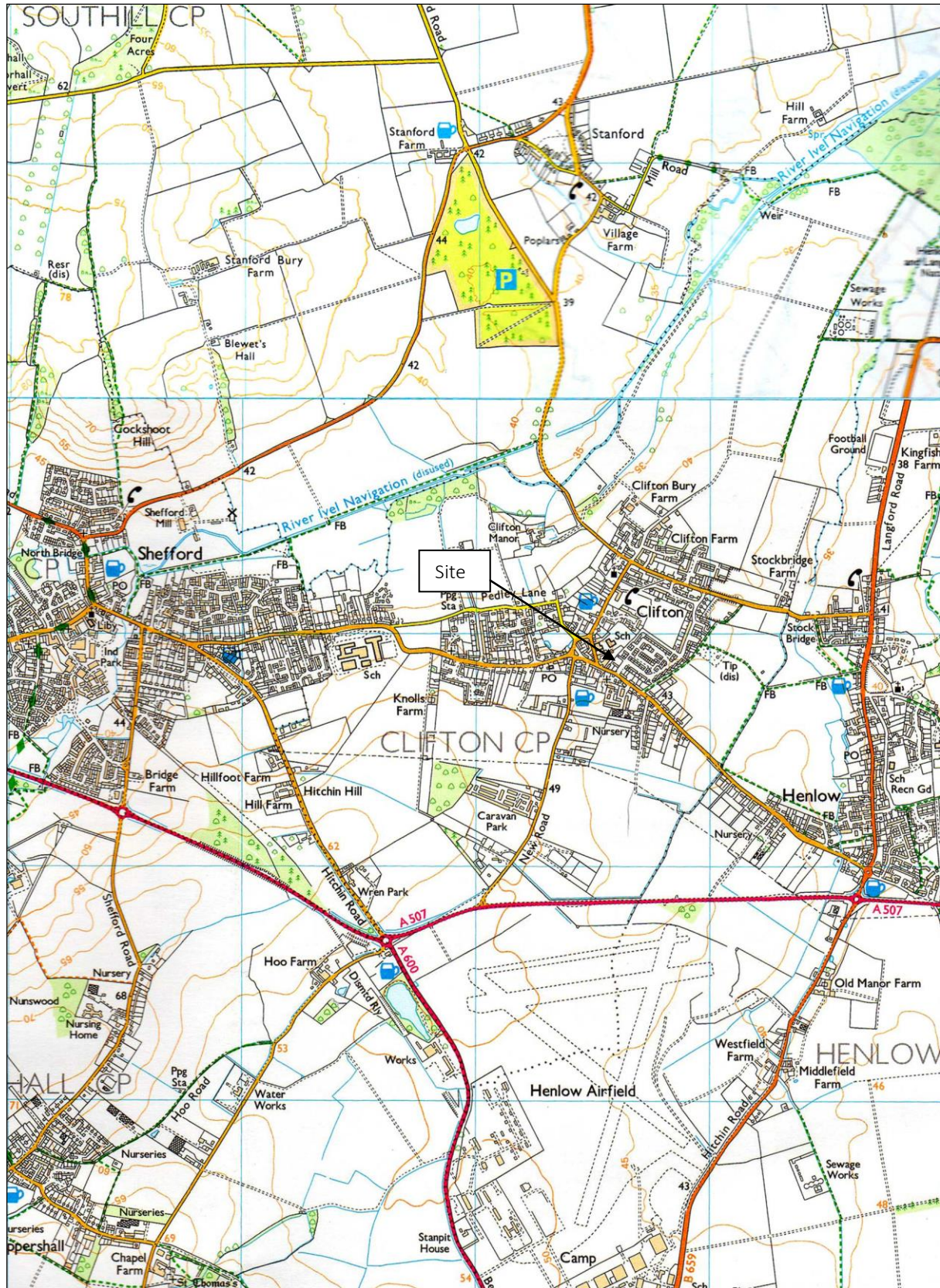


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In February 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook the first stage of a programme of archaeological trial trenching at 11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton, Bedfordshire. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

A pit/butt end of a ditch and a gully containing 10th-12th century pottery were recorded, along with two undated linears, which may represent the remnants of a property boundary. Four 19th or 20th century waste pits were also noted.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of 11 Elm Farm Close, 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 Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Team, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire. The relevant planning application reference is CB/13/02779/FULL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

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

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The site is located in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire, in the village and parish of Clifton, at National Grid Reference TL 1658 3886 (Fig. 1). The development area comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land, situated on the southeast side of Elm Farm Close (Fig. 2).

Proposed Development

The development proposal comprises of the erection of a single three bedroom dwelling with associated access and parking (Fig. 3).

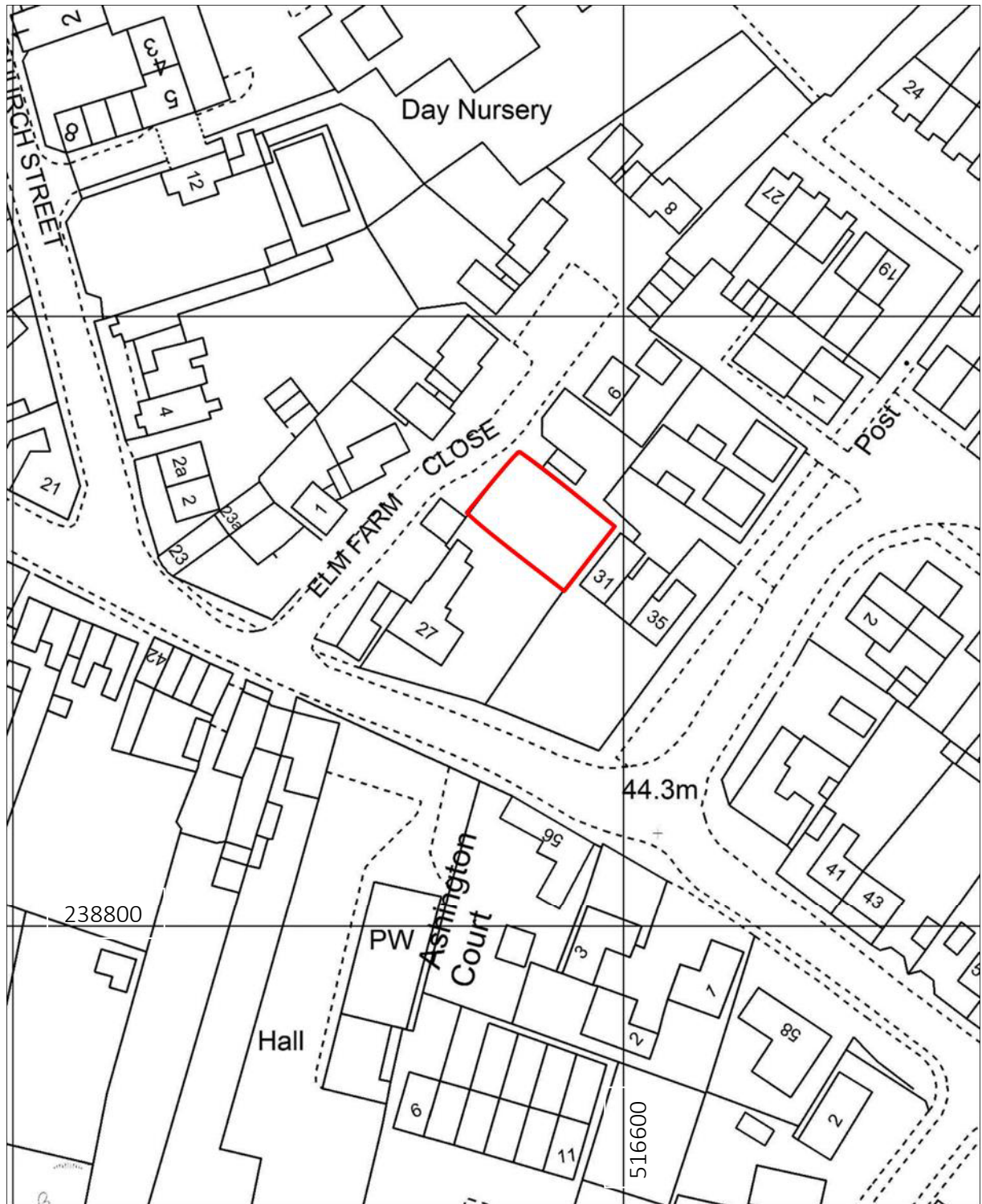


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

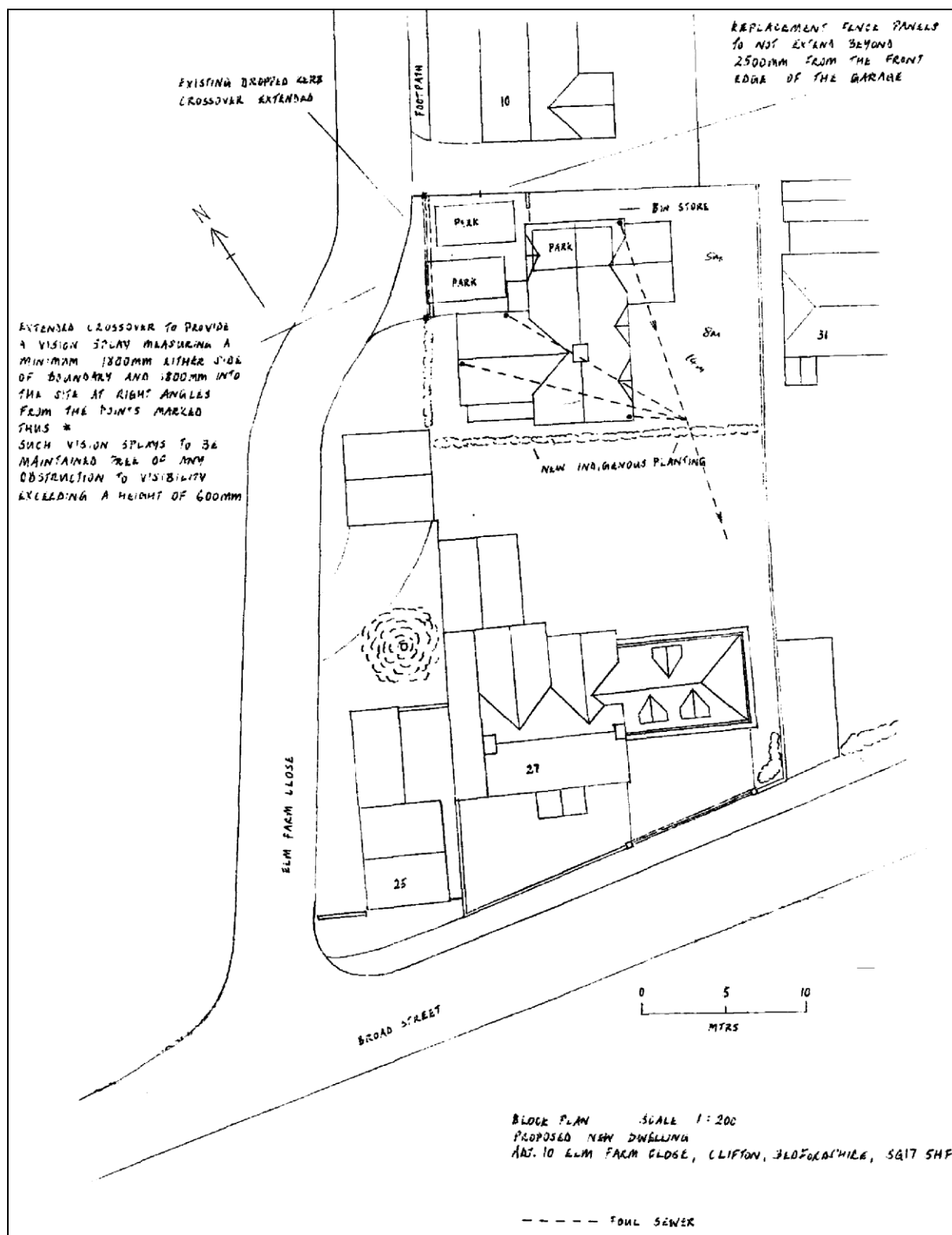


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

- 2.1 The aims of this evaluation 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
 - To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

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

- 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:

- Trial trenching could be up to a maximum of 60m² though in this instance two trenches totalling 55m² were excavated
- There was an unused contingency of 20m² of additional trenching
- The trenches were a minimum of 2m in width and were excavated under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket

The proposed trench layout (Fig. 4) had to be altered due to the presence of trees and a greenhouse. Also, as the trenches were machined to a width of 2.5m, the lineage was reduced to keep the overall sample area within the agreed limits (Fig. 5).

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)

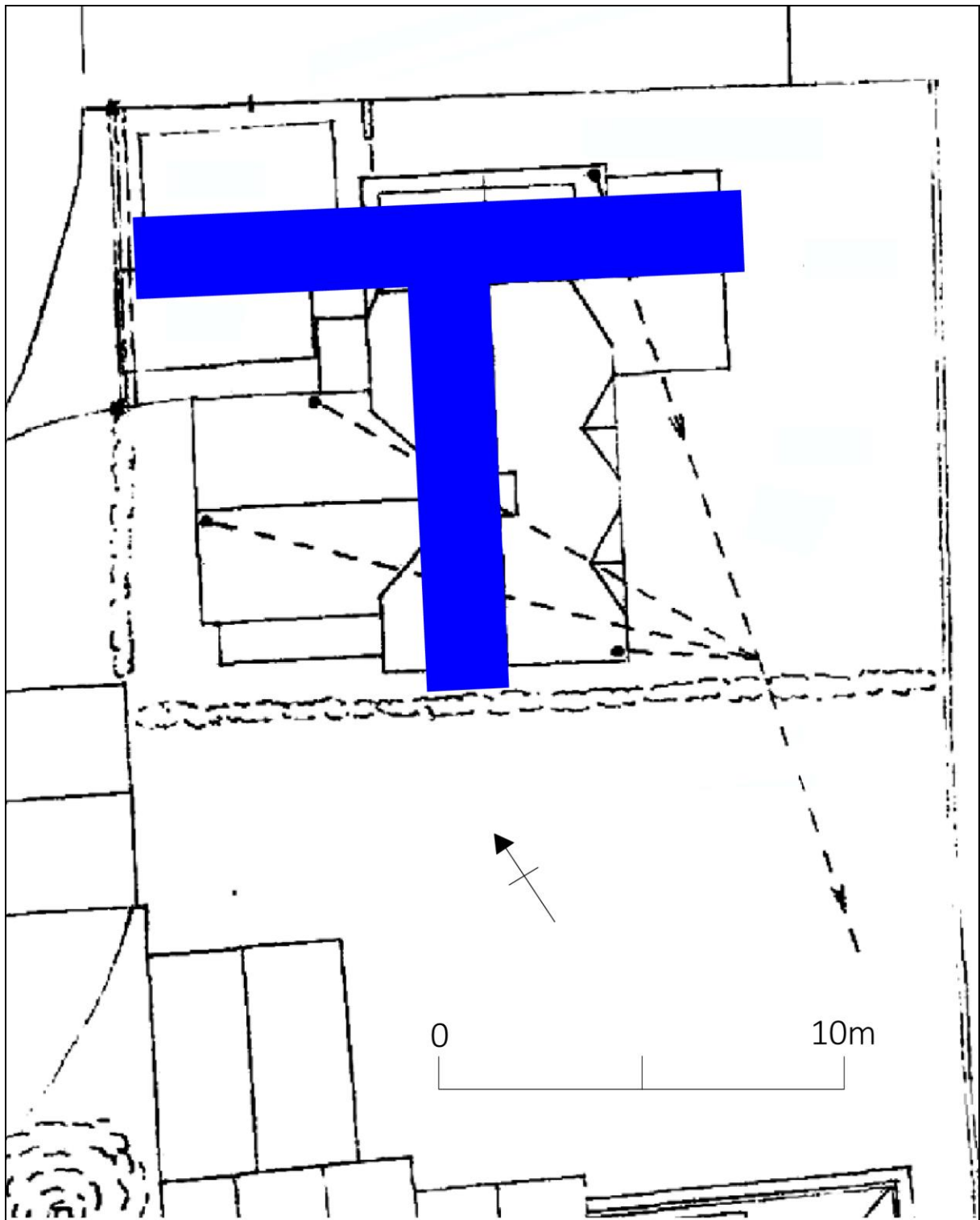


Figure 4: Proposed trench location (scale 1:150)

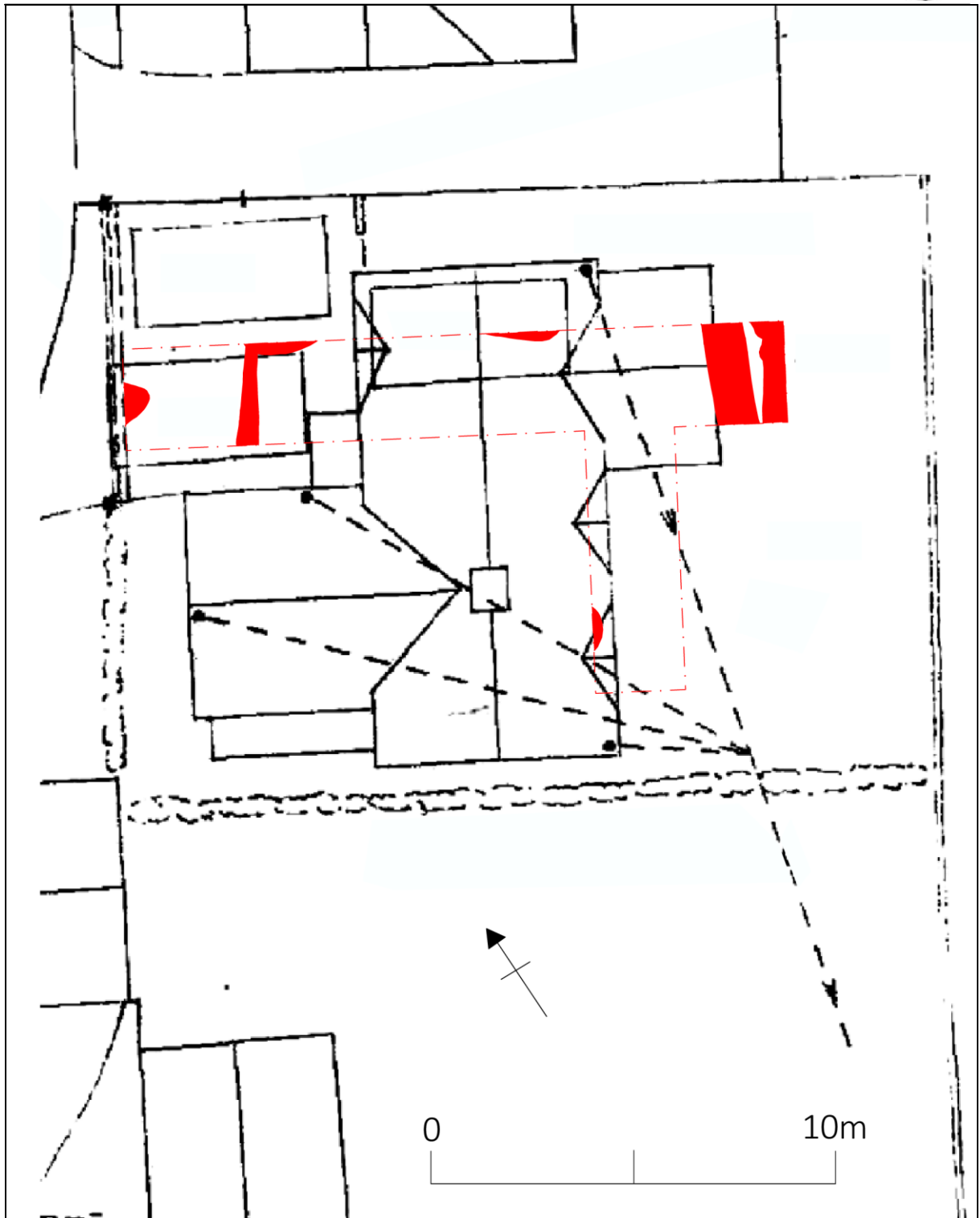


Figure 5: Actual trench location. Archaeology indicated in red (scale 1:150)



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The site lies within the historic core of the village of Clifton (HER 17110), which has several entries in the Domesday Book. The village developed from the Saxon 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), the Community and Living Archive website produced by Bedford and Luton Archive and Local Studies, 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), measuring 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, including one woman, 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). A Roman burial (HER 396) accompanied with a knife, a spur, a pot and marine mollusc shells was recorded in 1848 as having been found on an eminence (possibly a barrow) in the parish (BLARS Community and Living Archive website). At much the same time a Samian vessel was also found by workmen (*ibid*). However, no other Roman or Romano-British finds have been recorded from Clifton.

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 beaker suggests a Saxon burial was sited around Bronze Age barrow.

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

Clifton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as having possibly three manors plus two other land holdings. The first manor 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 13th century, when it was divided amongst the daughters of Hugh de Caron after his death. William de Caron also had a stake in a second manor at Clifton, holding 2 hides of 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. The other two parcels of land were held by Leofwin of Ramsey Abbey and Alwin of Countess Judith. Both were just of one hide. Countess Judith's land was later acquired by Old Warden Abbey, but the history of the Ramsey Abbey holding is unknown after the 1180s (BLARS Community & Living Archive website).



Although a church was known to be in existence by 1202, the present church dates from the early 14th century (*ibid*).

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.

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, an 18th century manor house (HER 6645) with its 19th century landscaped 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.



4 Results

Introduction

The proposed location of the trenches had to be altered due to the presence of trees and a greenhouse. This resulted in Trench 1 being moved 1m southwest and Trench 2 4.7m southeast. As the trenches were excavated 2.5m wide, rather than the minimum 2m required in the brief, Trench 2 was shortened to maintain the necessary overall stipulated excavation area.

The stratigraphy of the site consisted of 0.2m-0.5m of humic topsoil, overlying 0.3-0.5m of subsoil. The natural geology was mixture of clays and flint gravel.

Archaeological features were identified in both trenches (Fig 6).

4.1 Trenches 1 & 2 (Fig. 6, Plates 1, 3-7)

Trench 1 was orientated northwest-southeast and was 16m X 2.5m, and c.0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of dark humic topsoil, overlying 0.45m of light brown sandy clay subsoil. The natural geology was a mixture of yellowish orange sandy clay and gravel with occasional sand patches.

There were seven archaeological features within the trench; two medieval [104] & [106], three modern [110], [114], [116] & [201] and two undated [108] & [112]. Feature [104] extended beyond the limits of the excavation and so was impossible to record fully in plan, or to determine its function (Fig 7, Plate 3). However, it was at least 0.48m wide, and greater than 1.6m long and its sloping base suggested it was greater in depth than the 0.5m reached within the excavated section. Its shape suggests it could have been part of a ditch or pit. Two small fragments of shell tempered pottery were recovered from its single mid brown, silty clay backfill (105). They were assessed as likely to be a version of St Neots ware, dating from 10th/11th to no later than mid-12th century (pers. com. A. Fawcett).

Approximately 2m to the southeast of [104] was a shallow ditch base or gully [106] (Fig. 8, Plate 4). It was orientated NE-SW and appeared to taper towards the NE end, narrowing from 0.54m to 0.3m. It was 0.1m at its deepest point, and was filled with the same mid brown silty clay (107) observed in [104]. Several diagnostic fragments of the same shell tempered pottery were also recovered (Plate 7).

At the northeast end of the trench were two shallow, features [108] and [112]. The larger of the two [108] was straight and 1m wide, with a shallow U-shaped profile up to 0.8m deep. Adjacent to this, though outside of the footprint of the proposed development, was another more irregular linear [112]. It was deeper than [108] at 0.16m, but as its northeast edge ran under the trench balk its full width could not be accurately ascertained. Each feature had the same single fill (109) & (113), which consisted of mid brown grey, silty clay with frequent flint inclusions. The two features together may represent the remnants of a hedge base and an associated drainage ditch, relating to a former property boundary, though there was no evidence of the ditch silting up, and both features appear to have been backfilled.

Linear [112] had been truncated at its northeast end by a probable 19th/20th century rubbish pit [114]. It was one of four identified within the evaluation trenches, though only one was excavated and recorded [110]. The fill was yellowish brown silty clay which was virtually indistinguishable from the subsoil. The line of some of the lower portion of the cut could be seen at the interface of the subsoil and the natural geology, but not at any higher levels.



Artefacts that were either present in the excavated fill or visible in the balk section included brick, brown glazed ceramic sherds, corroded iron fragments, and glass. None were retained.

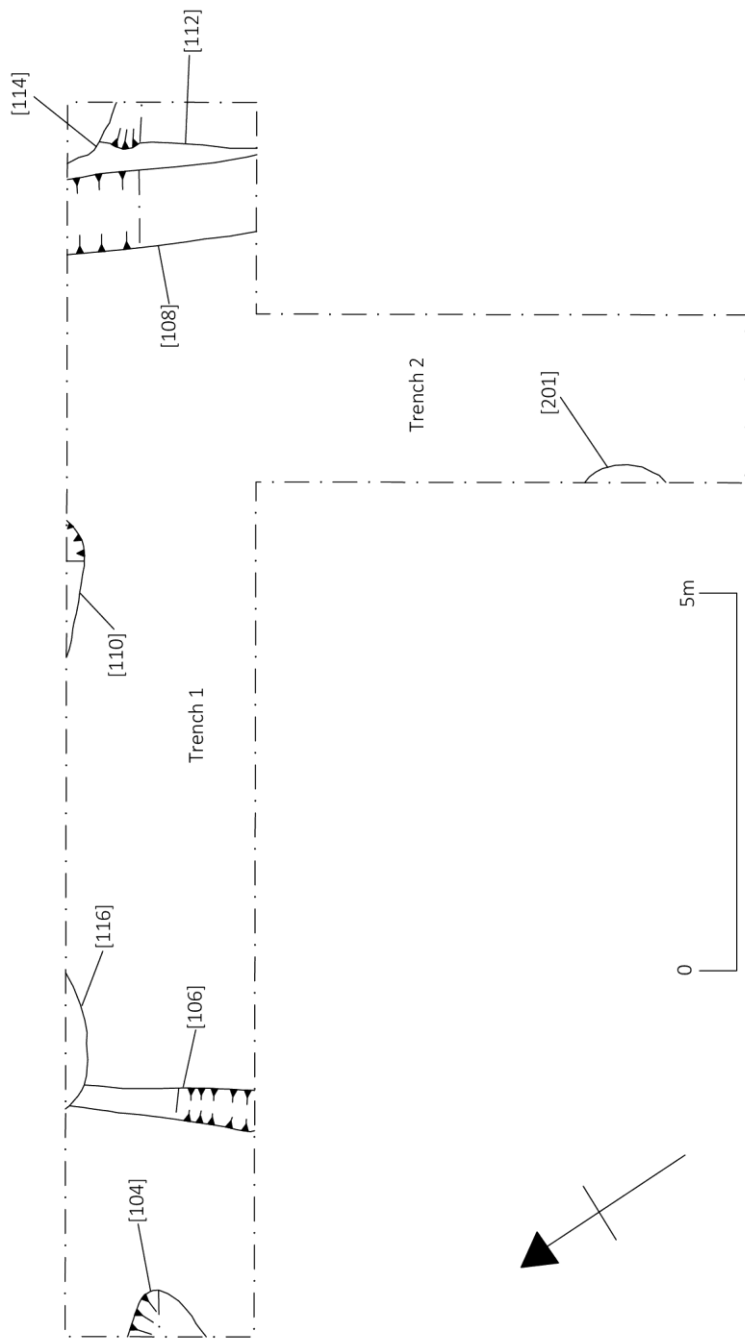


Figure 6: Archaeological features (scale 1:100)

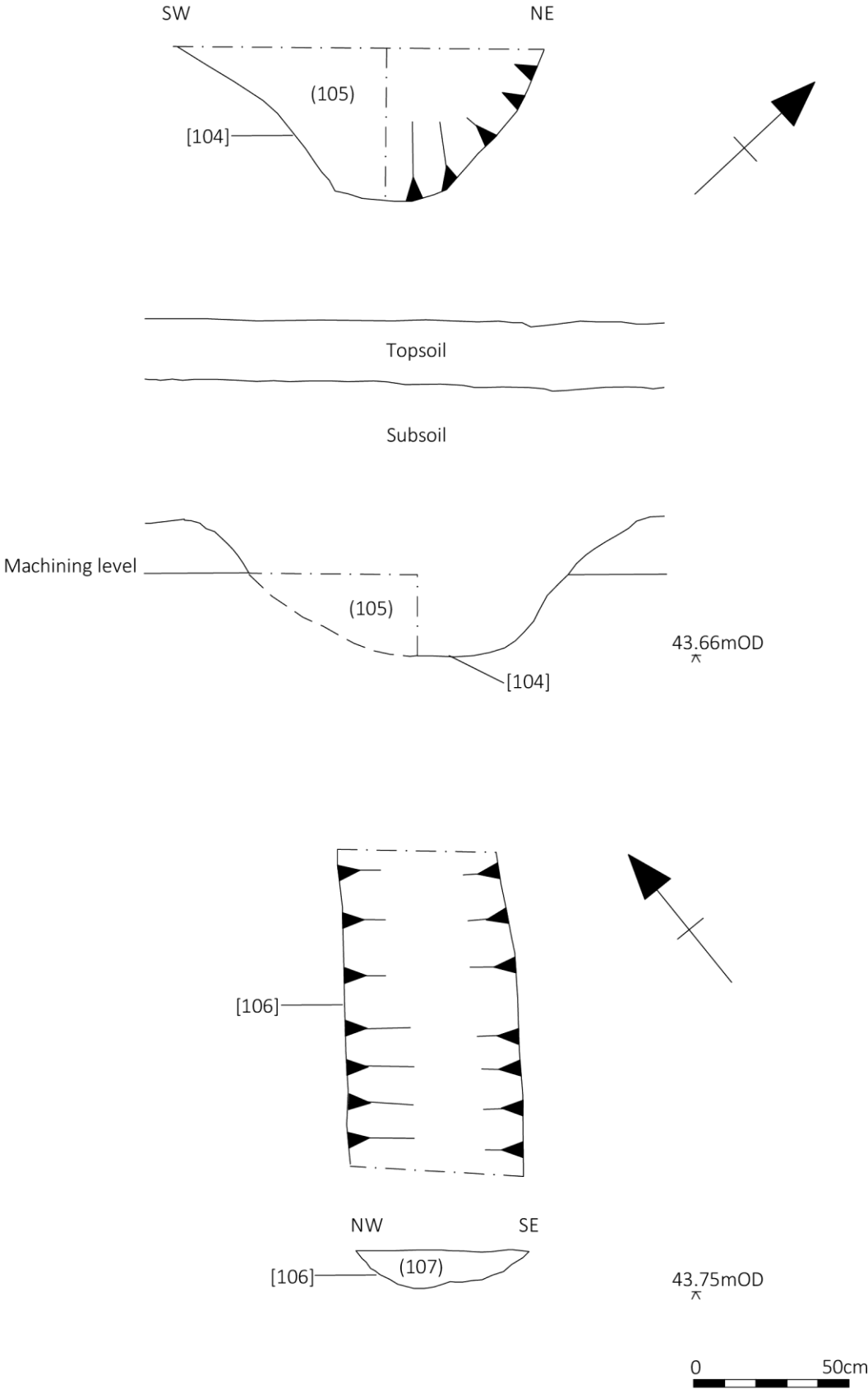


Figure 7: Sections and plans of [104] & [106] (scale 1:20)

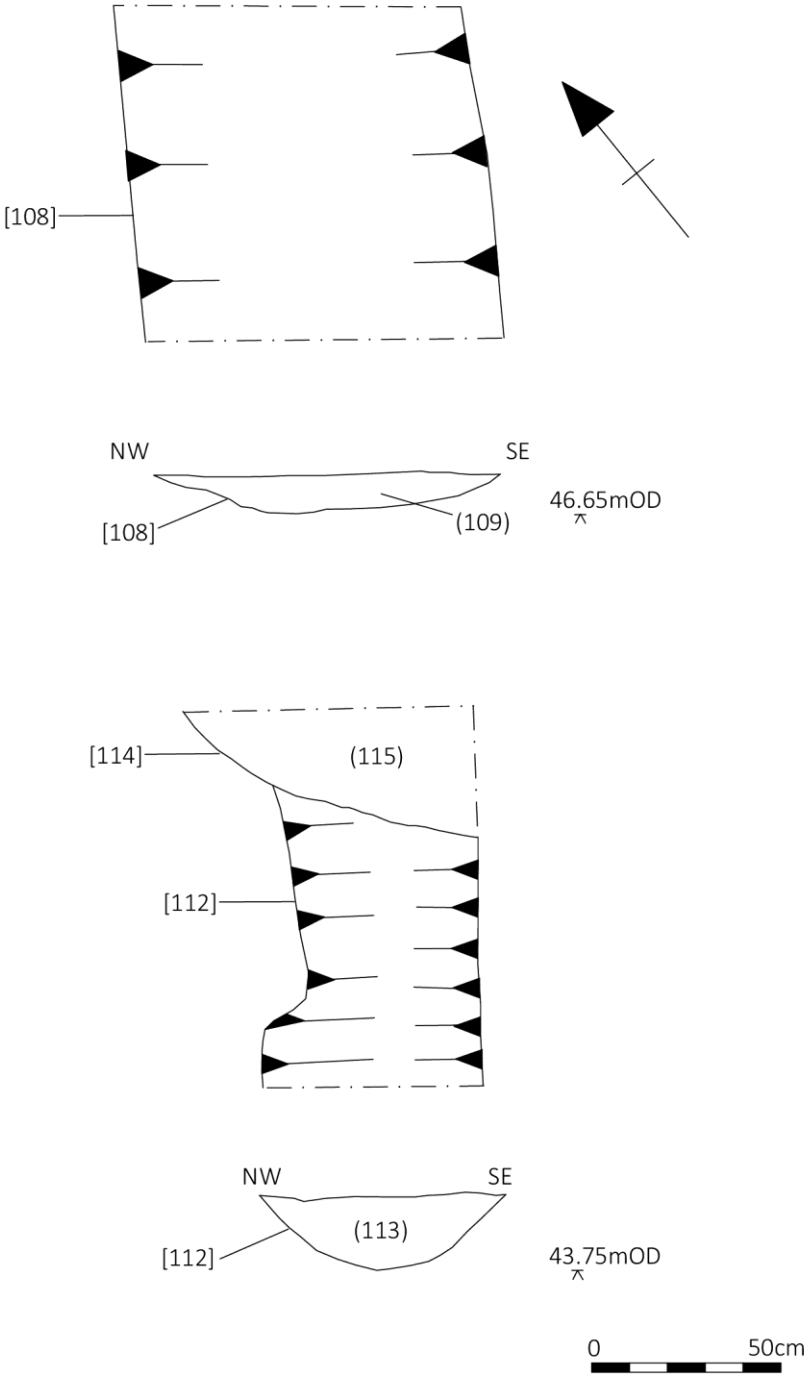


Figure 8: Sections and plans of [108] & [112] (scale 1:20)

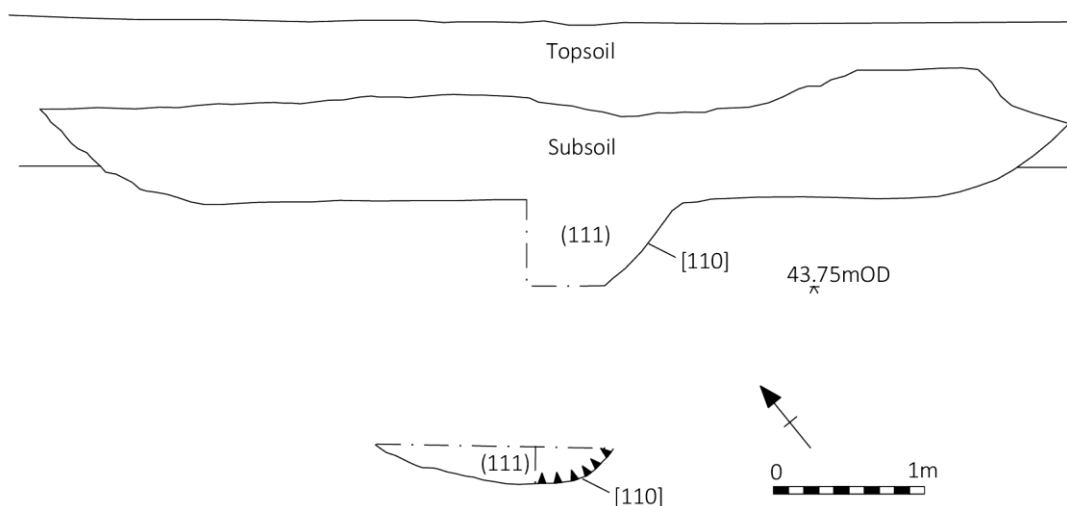


Figure 9: Sections and plans of [110] (scale 1:20)



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing NW



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing NE



Plate 3: Possible pit or ditch [104], facing NW



Plate 4: Ditch base or gully [106], facing NE



Plate 5: Ditch base or gully [108], facing SW



Plate 6: Ditch base or gully [112], truncated by [114], facing NE



Plate 7: Pit [110], facing NE



Plate 8: Pottery recovered from ditch/gully [106]



5 Conclusions

The site has a clear stratigraphy with a prominent depth of subsoil, suggesting it has remained undisturbed for a considerable time, probably for several centuries up to the 19th or 20th century when large waste pits were dug.

The undated linear features at the northeast end of the Trench 1 may be related to a property boundary, though a cursory look at Old Maps Online and the Inclosure Map of Clifton failed to identify anything conclusive.

Apart from the modern waste pits, the only features with any dating evidence in them were the pit/ditch and the shallow gully at the northwest end of the Trench 1. Both contained pottery from a period which the site is not noted for, though the size and density of features would, perhaps suggest the site was not in a densely populated area at the time when the features were in use.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Rob Miller for commissioning this report. His assistance on site and in providing the drawings which have been used as a basis for the plans in this report is also duly acknowledged. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents. The project was monitored by Martin Oake on behalf of CBC. The fieldwork was undertaken by David KaYE AND Lydia Breeze-Chilcott. The illustrations and report were prepared by David Kaye and edited by Karin Kaye.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Trench recording sheets
5. Finds
6. Site drawings
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with 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
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-
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- Wade K (2000) "Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural)," in Brown and Glazebrook (2000), 23-26.
- Williams, A & Martin GH 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation* London: Penguin



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 040/CEF			Site Name: 11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton, Bedfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
001	X	X	Trench 1 facing NW
002	X	X	Trench 2 Facing NE
003	X	X	Pit/ditch [104] facing NW
004	X	X	Gully [106] facing NE
005	X	X	Ditch [108] facing SW
006		X	Ditch [108] facing SW
007	X	X	Pit [010] facing NE
008		X	Pit [010] facing NE
009	X	X	Ditch [012] facing SW
010	X	X	Pit [014] facing NE
011	X	X	Pit [010] facing NE close up

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers		Pottery		Animal Bone	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gm	No.	Gm
107	106	7	111	1	13
105	104	2	12		



Appendix 4: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton Bedfordshire	OASIS reference:	kdkarcha1-168665
Short Description:	<p>In March 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook the first stage of a programme of archaeological trial trenching at 11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton, Bedfordshire. Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site.</p> <p>A pit/butt end of a ditch and a gully containing 10th-12th century pottery were recorded, along with two undated linears which may represent the remnants of a property boundary. Four 19th or 20th century waste pits were also noted.</p>		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	Pit/ditch, ditches,pits	Monument period:	Medieval, undated, modern
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	10 th -mid 12 th pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 1658 3886
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton, Bedfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	55 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	44
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Central Bedfordshire Council	Project design originator:	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Kaye	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye
Sponsor / funding body:	Rob Miller		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	27.02.14	End date:	28.02.14
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2014.17	Pottery sherds & bone fragment	
Paper:		Recording sheets & drawings	
Digital:		CD of photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: Land at 11 Elm Farm Close, Clifton, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 040/CEF		
Author(s):	David Kaye BA AIFA		
Page nos	26	Date:	10.03.2014