



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION & RECORDING REPORT:
THISTLEDOWN COTTAGE
CHURCH ROAD
MAULDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE

on behalf of Aragon Land and Planning Ltd



NGR: TL 0603 3812

Derek Watson PhD

KDK:047/MCR/2

November 2014

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Site Data

<i>KDK project code:</i>	047/MCR		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Kdkarcha1-173324	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2014.17
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Maulden		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Maulden		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0603 3812		
<i>Present use:</i>	Domestic dwelling		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Front, side and rear extensions		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/13/03838/FULL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Francis Caldwell Aragon Land and Planning Ltd The Old Coalhouse 28a Rosamond Road Bedford MK40 3SS		
<i>Client:</i>	Mark Lavery Thistledown Cottage Church Road Maulden Bedfordshire		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Francis Caldwell		

Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Derek Watson	<i>Date:</i>	15 th September 2014
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>	David Kaye BA AIFA	<i>Date:</i>	11 th November 2014
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

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



Summary

Several monitoring visits were made between 11th March and 7th August 2014 to monitor extensions to the front, side and rear of the house at Thistledown, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire in order to meet the requirements of the local planning authority, Central Bedfordshire Council. Observations made during the building excavations indicate that the site had been truncated, probably in the late 20th century, prior to the construction of the extant house. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted.

1 Introduction

1.1 During monitoring visits made between 11th March-7th August 2014 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of observation and recording of Thistledown, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Francis Cauldwell of Aragon Land and Planning Ltd, acting on behalf of Mark Lavery, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye 2014), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Team (CBCAT), archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/13/03838/FULL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project 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

The site is located in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire, in the village and parish of Maulden. It is situated immediately west of Maulden Grange at a height of approximately 95mOD, and at National Grid Reference TL 0603 3812 (Fig. 1)

Description

The site as a whole is irregular in shape and bounded by fields on all sides except the east, where Maulden Grange and its associated grounds are located. It is accessed by a narrow track to the south off Church Lane (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The solid geology of the area is from the Woburn Sands Formation overlain by clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Oadby Member (CBC 2014).

Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of extensions to the front, side and rear of the house, and over the garage (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1: 1250)

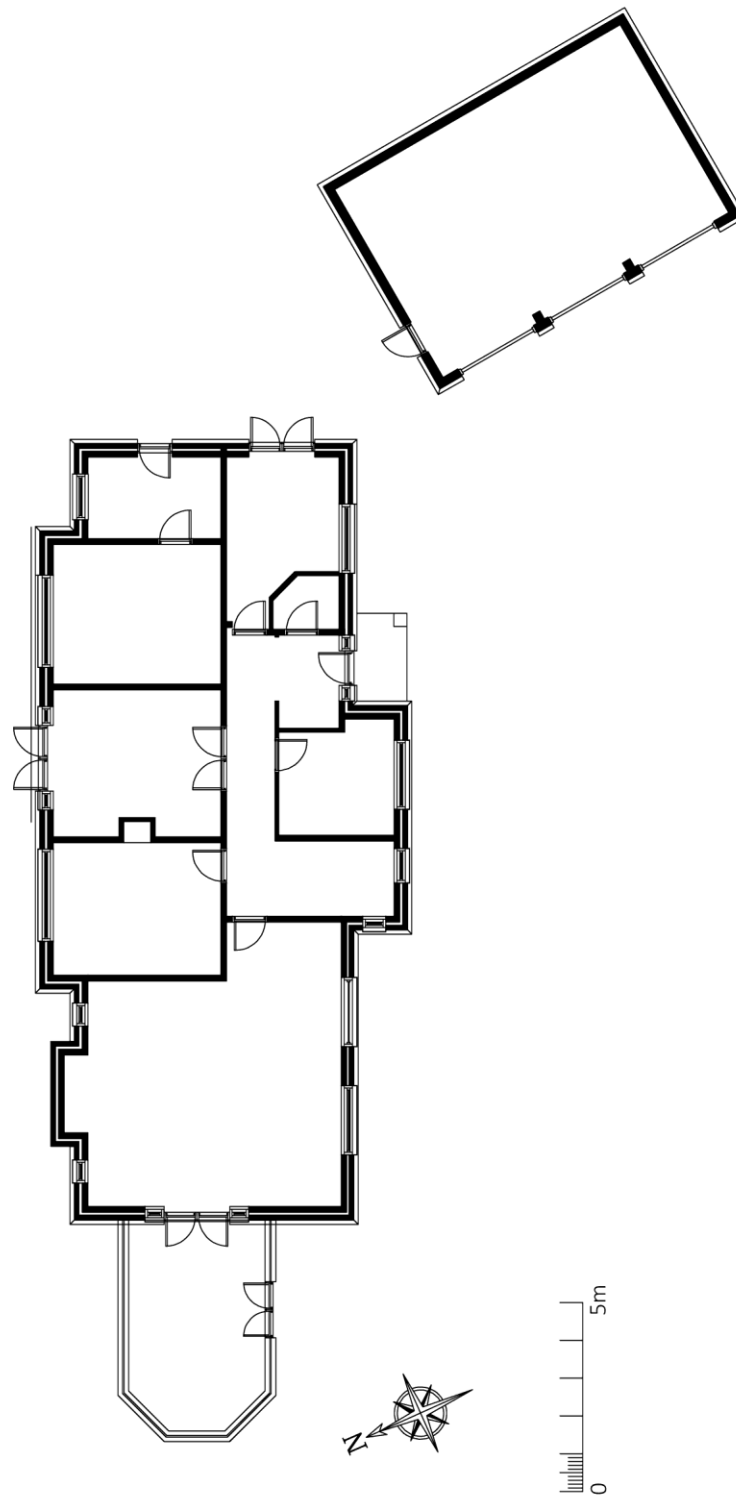


Figure 3: Existing buildings (scale 1: 200)

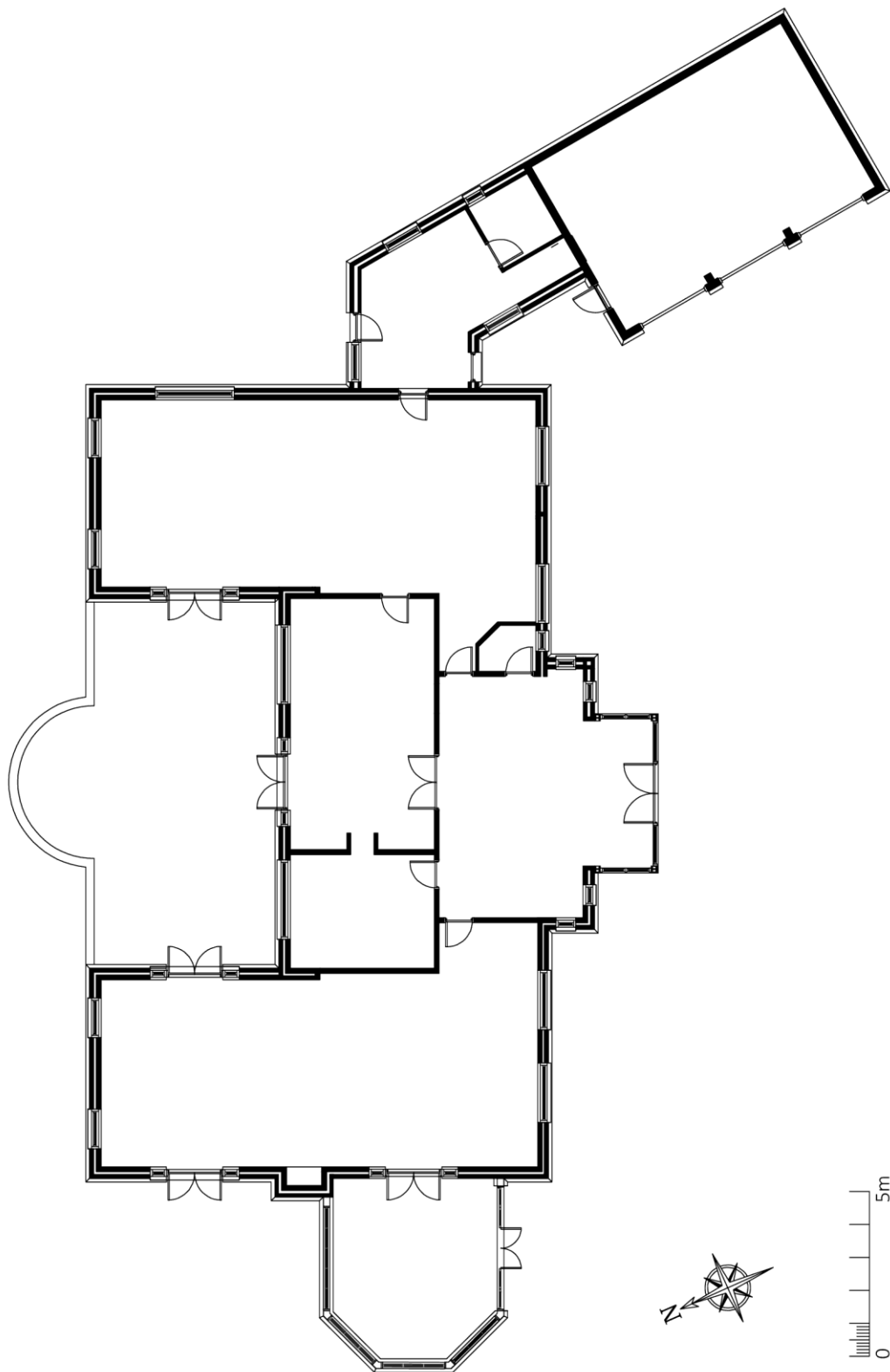
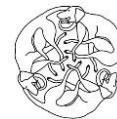


Figure 4: Proposed development (scale 1: 200)



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
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

In addition general research aims set out *inter alia* by Wade (2000, 24-25), Oake (2007, 14), Medlycott (2011, 70), and Edgeworth (2007, 121-123) that may be relevant to the site include:

- The origin and development of rural Maulden in Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval periods
- Examination of settlement diversity and characterisation of settlement forms

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 or remains will be done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.
- If significant archaeological deposits are encountered the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists will be notified and a timetable for the adequate investigation and recording of these features will be agreed.
- Construction works must not re-commence until the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists are content that the archaeological work has been completed satisfactorily

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)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006,2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 There is little archaeological evidence for settlement activity in Maulden prior to the late Saxon period when there were several vills held by sokemen who were able to sell or give their landholdings freely. The extreme social and economic change following the Norman Conquest is evident in the reduced number of landholders for the five estates listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and the reduced value of each of these.

The village appears to have developed as a polyfocal settlement with the oldest part quite possibly focussed on the church and occupying the areas to the south and west and underlying Ampthill Road, George Street and Church Road. Secondary areas of settlement comprised Duck End, Moor End and Water End, all of which overlook the River Flit. Green End and Hall End occupy the areas to the east of the parish below Maulden Wood.

This section has been compiled with information from Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the internet and KDK's own library.

Pre-medieval (to 410AD)

The earliest evidence for activity within a 500m radius of the site is a Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 9811) found to the west of Silsoe Road.

Medieval (410-1500)

The medieval settlement of Maulden is known only from the late pre-Conquest period and documentary evidence. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records five manors, most of which had been held by men who were free to buy and sell their land. The largest of the estates was a 5 hide estate held by the Countess Judith who had granted it to Elstow Priory. This estate had decreased in value consistently since the King Edward's reign when it had been held by Thegn Aethelwald, from £7 to £4 to 100s, despite having woodland for 100 pigs and a mill as well as arable land and pasture (Williams & Martin 2002: 583). The other manors include a 3-hide estate held by Hugh Bolbec of Walter Giffard, Earl of Oxford; half a virgate held by Hugh de Beauchamp and half a virgate held by a reeve of King William (ibid: 568, 572, 587). The fifth landholding consisted of 25 acres stolen by John de les Roche and later acquired by Nigel d'Aubigny (ibid: 575).

The manor held by Elstow Priory was located to the north of the church and northwest of Thistledown Cottage. It is now represented by a series of earthworks (HER 1178). The proximity of the church (HER 1091) to the manor house would suggest that the church may have been built by the priory or tenant of the manor. Within the churchyard is the remains of a stone cross and a mausoleum (HER 8931, 222 & 13778 respectively).

Hugh Bolbec's manor was located around Bolebec and King's Farms on the north west edge of the village. There is a well preserved medieval moated site at Bolebec Farm (HER 221). A second moated site is known at The Grange (HER 4925) to the southeast of Thistledown Cottage.

Evidence for medieval farming practices in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks is known at various locations in the village (HER 4445) including to the east of the development site. Ancient woodland (HER 13232) has survived in Maulden Wood also to the east of Thistledown Cottage.



Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

Post-medieval development of the village is apparent in the number of surviving buildings that were built from the 17th century onwards, such as HER 3752, 3753, 3747, 3780 & 13785 between the church and Thistledown Cottage. One of the most significant of these is The George Inn, which dates from the 16th century with later additions (HER 15312). Trial trenching took place to the rear of the building in 2013 revealing a late medieval-post-medieval ditch and post-medieval pits and ditches (HER EBD1133).

3.2 ***The Known Archaeology & History of the Site***

No specific information regarding the archaeology of the site is available or is recorded in the HER or other available sources.



4 Results

Introduction

Site visits were undertaken between March and August 2014 to monitor various aspects of the building project (Fig. 3). The ground reduction was carried out with a toothless grading bucket, and the trenches excavated with toothed buckets of varying sizes, due to the solid nature of the ground. There were a considerable number of services encountered during the digging of the footings and these were dealt with accordingly.

Geological Test Pits (Plates 1-2)

Two geological test pits were excavated prior to construction commencing (Fig. 5). Test Pit 1 measured 1.5m square, 0.3m deep, and was situated c. 6.3m northwest of the garage (Plate 1). The topsoil was c. 0.25m in depth and overlay chalky, gault clay. Test Pit 2 was excavated c. 9.8m northeast of the main building and measured 1.5 x 1.8 m and overlay slightly sandy clay (Plate 2). In both test pits, no subsoil was evident and the topsoil directly overlay the natural geology.

Groundworks (Plates 3-6)

The groundworks consisted of a combination of ground reduction, footings trenches and the excavation of a soakaway. To the rear of the house the ground was reduced by up to x m cutting into the slope of the garden, through the topsoil and into the underlying clay (Plates 3-4). This was the largest single area of excavation covering approximately x sq. m.

A total of x m of foundation trenches were excavated with widths varying from c. 0.60m-0.90m, and up to 1.66m in depth. The stratigraphy found across the impacted area is relatively homogeneous (Plates 3-6) and comprises shallow topsoil varying between 0.12-0.21m, modern made-ground c. 0.19-0.62m in depth, overlying a sandy, gault clay natural geology. The foundations in the northwest part of the rear extension consisted of piles 0.22m in diameter and 4-4.8m in depth, joined by a ring-beam which was excavated c. 1.20m into the clay.

The soak away was located to the northwest of the house (Fig. 5), and measures 2.3m x 2.1m by 1.5m deep. Under a thin layer of topsoil was made-ground consisting largely of redeposited natural clay, to a depth of 1.5m, containing building plastic and brick fragments.

Front extension – Entrance Lobby and Porch

A total of five piles, 0.30m diameter x 7m deep, were excavated at the front of the existing house entrance as support for the emplacement of a new entrance lobby and porch (Fig. 5).

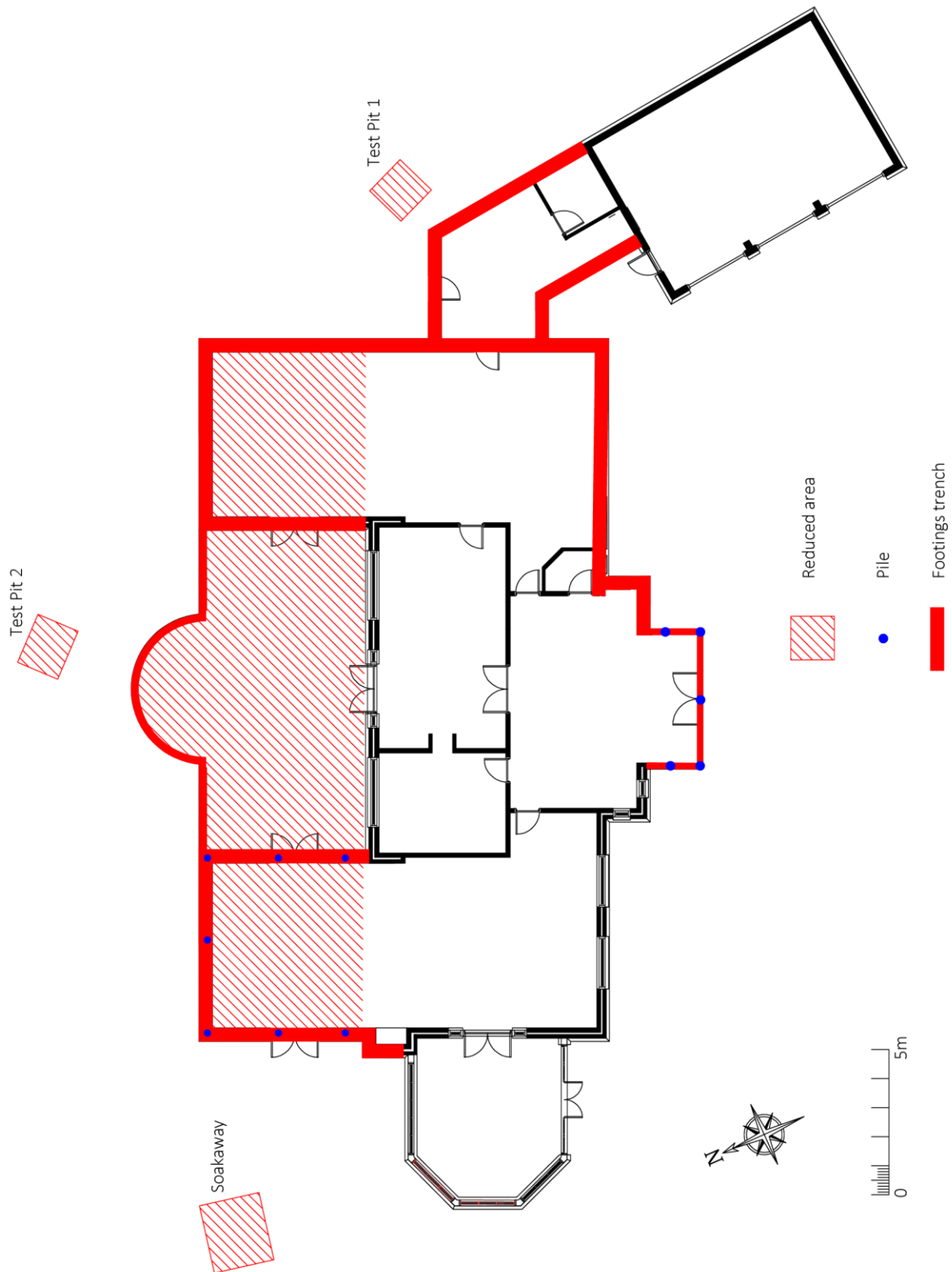


Figure 5: Excavated areas (scale 1: 200)



Plate 1: Geological test pit 1



Plate 2: Geological test pit 2



Plate 3: Ground reduction, facing NM



Plate 4: Stratigraphy in ground reduced area, facing NE



Plate 5: Footing trenches at rear of house, facing NW



Plate 6: Trenches between main building garage, facing SE



5 Conclusions

No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were found during the excavation of the extension footings at the rear, south and front of Thistledown Cottage. The land around the current structure has been considerably landscaped, with some areas being truncated to form a level platform, mainly behind the building, whilst others have had to have been made up, notably the front.

The absence of archaeological remains, if any were present, may be due to the extensive truncation of the stratigraphy underlying the site in the late 20th century, prior to the construction of the Thistledown Cottage, or simply that the area is outside concentrated settlement from any period.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Francis Caldwell for commissioning this report on behalf of Mark Lavery and 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 Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; the staff of Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeological Team (CBCAT), for their assistance in the historic research and J. M. Contractors Ltd.

The fieldwork was carried out by Lydia Breeze-Chilcott BA MSc. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD, and edited by David Kaye BA AlFA.



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. 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
- Brickley M & McKinley J I 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.
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- 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*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* Reading: Institute for Archaeologists
- 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
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009)*.
- Kaye D 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Observing and Recording: Thistledown Cottage, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire*. 047/MCR/1.2. KDK Archaeology Ltd.
- 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

Books and Historical Sources

- Mills A D 1991 *A Dictionary of English Place Names* Oxford University Press: Oxford
- Williams A & Martin G H 1992 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* Penguin Group: London



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 047/MCR			Site Name: Thistledown Cottage, Church Rd, Maulden, Bedfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Geological test pit 1
2	x	x	Geological test pit 2
3	x	x	Footing trench
4	x	x	Stratigraphy of reduced area at rear of building, facing NW
5	x	x	Detail of Stratigraphy of reduced area at rear of building, facing NE
6	x	x	Thistledown Cottage, front elevation, facing N
7	x	x	Footing trench, reduced area, facing NE
8	x	x	Footing trench, reduced area, facing NE
9	x	x	Footing trench, reduced area, facing NE
10	x	x	General view of footing trenches, facing NE
11	x	x	Footing trench, facing SE
12	x	x	Pile foundations & south footings at front of house, facing NW
13	x	x	Footing trench for retaining wall, facing NW
14	x	x	General view of footing trenches and pile foundations at rear of house, facing SE
15	x	x	General view of footing trenches, facing NE
16	x	x	General view of footing trenches, facing NE
17	x	x	Eastern footings, facing E
18	x	x	Northeast footings at rear of house, facing NE
19	x	x	General view of footings between SE of house garage, facing SE
20	x	x	General view of footings between SE of house garage, facing SE



Appendix 2: KDK OASIS Sheet

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	047/MCR Thistledown Cottage, Maulden	OASIS reference:	Kdkarcha1-173324
Short Description:	<i>Several monitoring visits were made between 11th March and 7th August 2014 to monitor extensions to the front, side and rear of the house at Thistledown, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire in order to meet the requirements of the local planning authority, Central Bedfordshire Council. Observations made during the building excavations indicate that the site had been truncated, probably in the late 20th century, prior to the construction of the extant house. No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted.</i>		
Project Type:	Archaeological Observation & Recording		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Dwelling and garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	N/A
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0603 3812
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Thistledown Cottage, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.165 sq. nm	Height OD: (metres)	95mOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Martin Oake, CBC	Project design originator:	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Kaye	Director/Supervisor:	David Kaye
Sponsor / funding body:	Mark Lavery, Thistledown Cottage, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	11 th March	End date:	7 th August 2014
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum	None	
Paper:		WSI, field record sheets, architect's drawings, reports etc	
Digital:		Digital CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Observation & Recording Report: Thistledown Cottage, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 047/MCR/2		
Author(s):	Derek Watson		
Page nos	19	Date:	15 th Sept 2014