



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Edgehill
Church Road
Maulden
Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	
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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25000)



Summary

In April 2015, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire as part of the pre-planning process.

Before the present house was built between 1960 and 1972, this had been an open field before becoming allotments c.1901. Despite its proximity to St Mary's Church and Maulden Grange, the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological activity. The results of the evaluation coupled with the cartographic evidence and the site stratigraphy would suggest that there is a low potential for archaeological survival in the development area.

1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by William Penny on behalf of Duncan Beechener and Jennifer Taylor, was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (107/MCR/1.2), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/15/01127/OUT.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in order to inform development proposals.

1.3 *The Site*

Location & Description

The site is located in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire, in the village and parish of Maulden. It is situated on the eastern side of the village, away from the main settlement centre, at a height of approximately 80m OD, and at National Grid Reference TL 05499 38499 (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology of the site is formed from the Woburn Sands Formation, which is sandstone, and is overlain by clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Oadby Member (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Development Proposals

The development proposals consist of the erection of two detached dwellings to the west of the main house (Fig. 3).

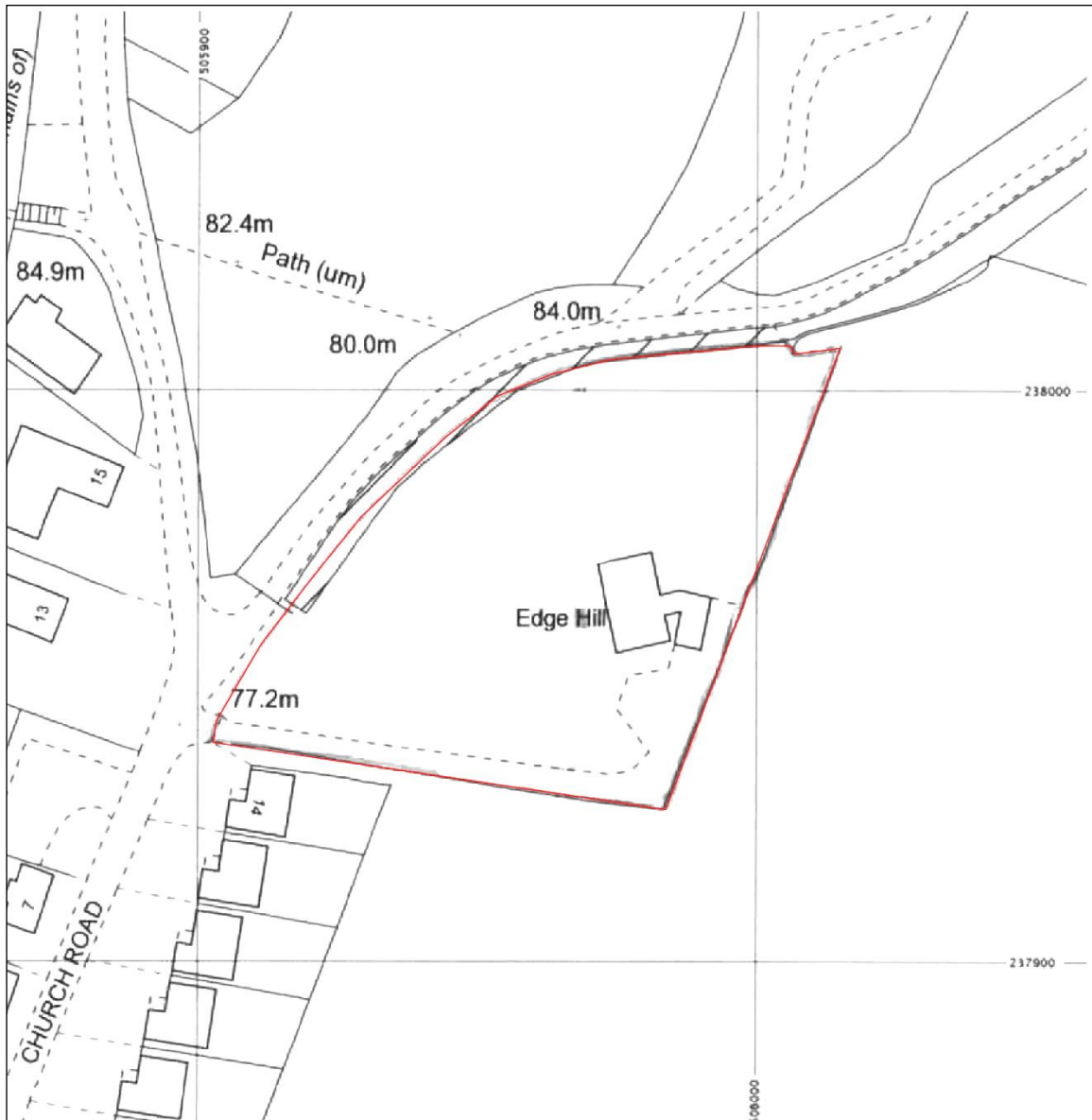


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

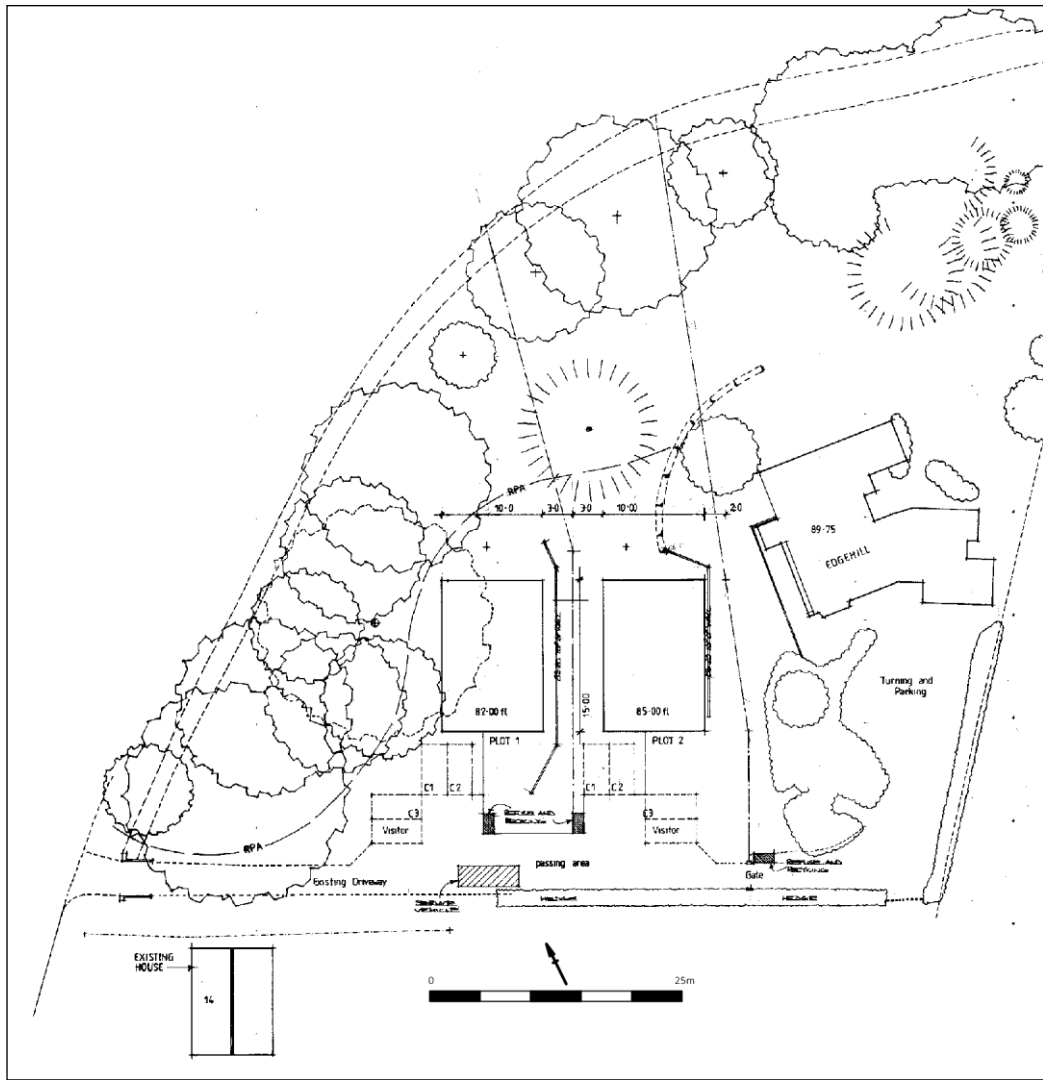


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:750)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this evaluation as defined in the approved WSI (107/MCR/1.2) 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.

Additional research aims, as set out by Wade (2000: 24-25), Oake (2007: 14), Medlycott (2011: 70), and Edgeworth (2007: 121-123) included:

- 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:

- Trial trenching of 60m²
- There was a contingency of 30m² of additional trenching, which was unused.
- The trenches were a minimum of 2m in width and were excavated under archaeological supervision using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket (Fig. 4).

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- 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 (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)

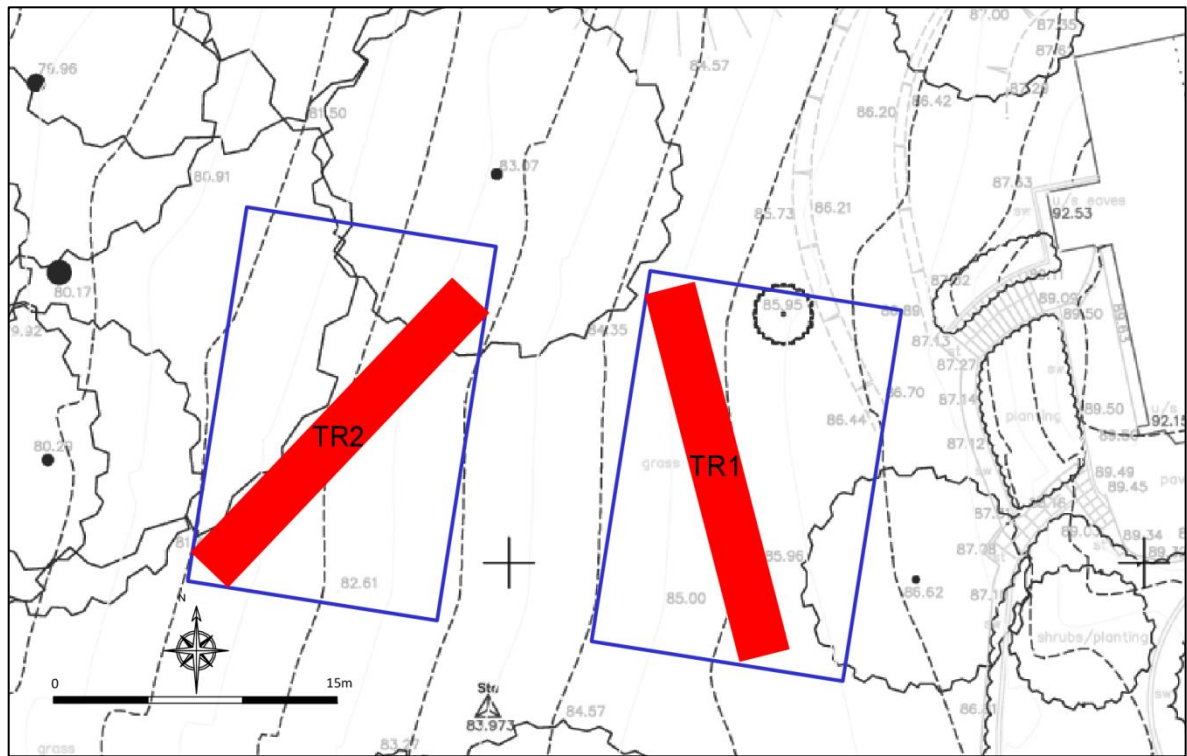


Figure 4: Trench location plan (scale 1:300)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The village of Maulden appears to have developed as a polyfocal settlement with the oldest part 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 search having a 500m radius), the internet and KDK's own library.

Pre-medieval (before 600BC - 1066)

There is no evidence for any pre-medieval activity within the search radius.

Medieval (1066-1500)

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 the proposed development site. 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).

Evidence for medieval farming practices in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks is known at various locations in the village (HER 4445).

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, although they are mainly clustered in the western part of the village, away from the proposed development area. One of the most significant of these is The George Inn, which dates from the 16th century with later additions (DBD 702). Trial trenching took place to the rear of the building in 2013 revealing a late medieval to post-medieval ditch, and post-medieval pits and ditches (HER EBD1133).

Modern (1900-present)

Although the village continued to flourish into modern times, there are no notable features from this period within the search area.

3.2 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

There is very little evidence of site usage at Edgehill on early mapping and in the literature, with the majority of historical sites being located at the nearby St Mary's Church to the northwest, the old rectory to the northeast, and the Maulden Lower School to the southwest.



The 1881 Ordnance Survey map depicts the site as an open field with a cart track going through it (Fig. 5). In the 1901 Ordnance Survey map, the property that is to become Edgehill is labelled as 'allotments' and continued to be used as such until the early 1970s when Edgehill was built (<https://www.old-maps.co.uk>).

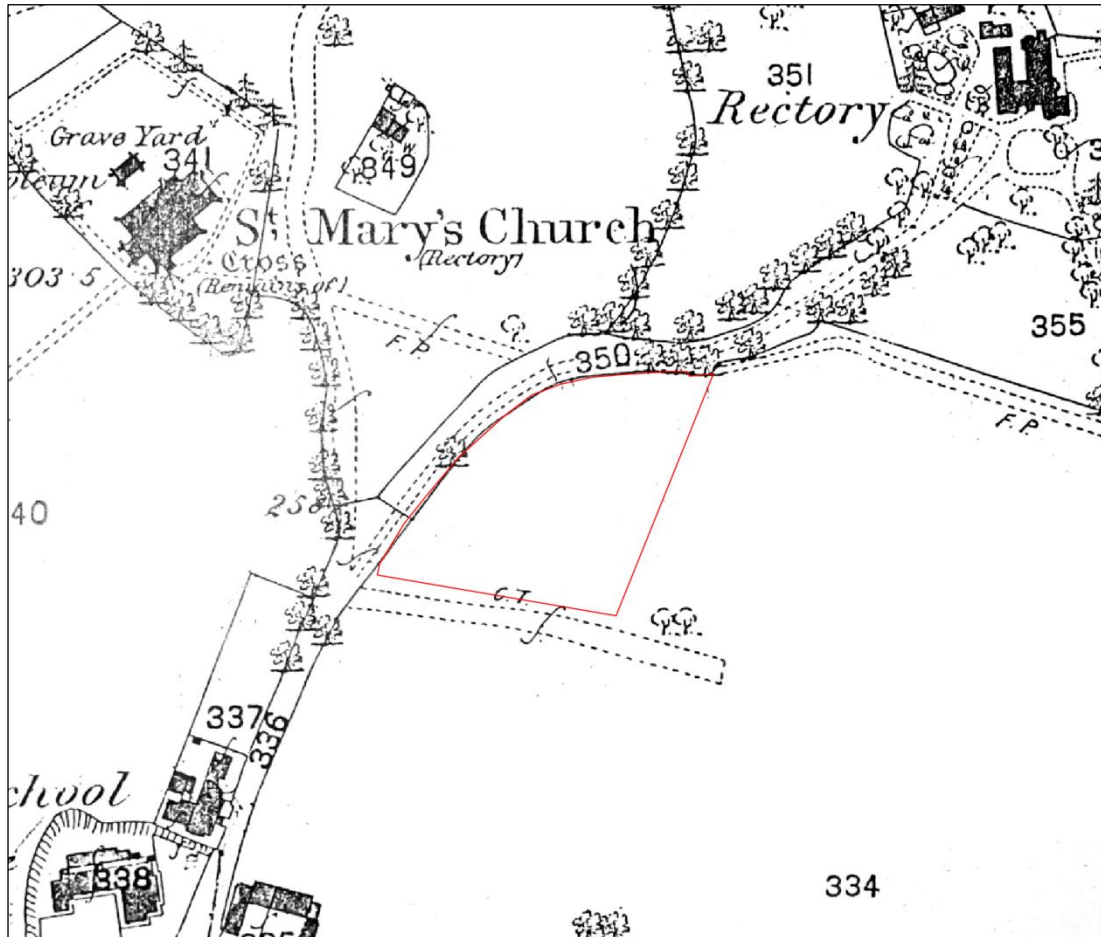


Figure 5: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey Map (scale 1:2500)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

Two trenches were excavated to the west of the property within the footprints of the proposed buildings. Each trench was excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.22m toothless ditching bucket.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4 & 5, Plates 1 & 2)

Trench 1 was located closest to the existing house and was orientated north northwest to south southeast. It was 15m long, 2m wide and a maximum of 0.39m deep. The overall trench stratigraphy (Figure 5, Plate 2) comprised:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
(100)	Topsoil	0.26	Mid grey brown, moderately firm silty sand. Occasional chalk and ceramic building material (CBM) flecks.
(101)	Natural	0.09	Light to mid mottled brown orange and yellow beige, loose silty sand. Occasional small to medium sandstone inclusions.

No archaeological features were located in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4 & 6, Plates 3 & 4)

Trench 2 was located downhill to the west of Trench 1. The trench was 15m long, 2m wide and a maximum of 0.61m deep, and orientated southwest to northeast. The overall trench stratigraphy (Figure 6, Plate 4) comprised:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
(200)	Topsoil	0.26	Mid grey brown, moderately firm silty sand. Occasional chalk and ceramic building material (CBM) flecks.
(201)	Natural	0.16	Light to mid mottled brown orange and yellow beige, loose silty sand. Occasional small to medium sandstone inclusions.

Two slots were excavated in Trench 2; Slot 1 was excavated through a narrow linear feature orientated northwest to southeast through the width of the trench, and Slot 2 was placed through a mottled area to the northeast end of the trench.

Slot 1, which was 1.41m long, 0.46m wide and 0.20m deep that the narrow linear feature was a service trench.

Slot 2, which was 1.18m long, 0.53m wide and 0.20m deep, was against the northwest facing section, 5.63m from the northeast end of the trench. The mottled area was shown to be the interface between (200) and (201).

No archaeological features or finds were observed in this trench.

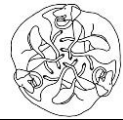


Plate 1: Trench 1, facing north northwest, with 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy, east northeast facing section, with 1 x 1m scale.

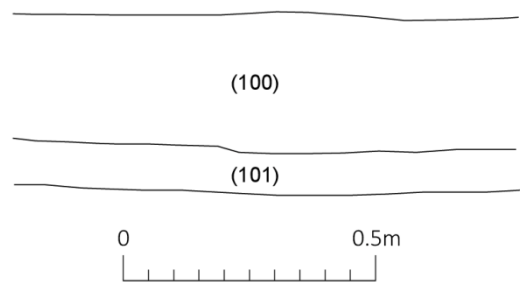


Figure 6: Representative stratigraphy of Trench 1 (scale 1:15).



Plate 3: Trench 2, facing southwest, with 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 4: Trench 2 stratigraphy, southeast facing section, with 2 x 1m scales.

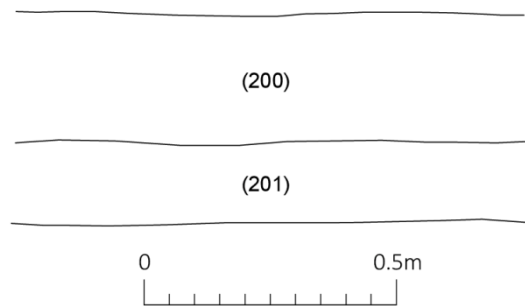


Figure 7: Representative stratigraphy of Trench 2 (scale 1:15).



Plate 5: Slot 1, facing northeast, with 1 x 1m scale.



Plate 6: Slot 2, facing southwest, with 1 x 1m scale.



5 Conclusions

This evaluation was carried out in the garden to the west of the existing building on the property. Cartographic evidence shows that before the present house was built between 1960 and 1972, this had been an open field before becoming allotments c.1901.

The general stratigraphy of the site to the west of the existing building comprises a layer of topsoil overlying the natural. The general topography of the area shows a steady incline towards the house to the northeast, although the depth of the topsoil does not appear to change dramatically because of this. The lack of subsoil in the area suggests that the site has been heavily disturbed or truncated.

The evaluation revealed a service trench in Trench 2; however no archaeological features were located within the evaluation area. This is likely to be due to the nature of activity in the area, as revealed in previous Ordnance Survey maps.

Despite its proximity to medieval buildings such as the St Mary's Church and the Maulden Grange, the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological activity. The evaluation coupled with the cartographic evidence and the site stratigraphy would suggest that there is a low potential for archaeological survival in the development area.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to William Penny for commissioning this report on behalf of Duncan Beechener & Jennifer Taylor. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents. The project was monitored by Hannah Firth of the Central Bedfordshire Council, whose help is gratefully acknowledged.

Thanks are also due to Peter Wilson, the machine driver, for his help on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc AICfA and Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA. The report was written by Jessica Bertrand, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Trench recording sheets
4. Client's site plans
5. List of photographs
6. B/W prints & negatives
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.11).



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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Books and Historical Sources

- 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
- Medlycott M. (Ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Re-visited: e revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24
- Williams A. & Martin G. H. 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation*. London: Penguin



Online Sources

British Geological Society: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (Accessed: 20th March 2015)

Old-Maps 2015: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/> (Accessed: 24th April 2015)

Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 107/MCR			Site Name: Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Overall shot, Trench 1, facing NNW, with 2 x 1m scales
2	✓	✓	Stratigraphy Trench 1, ENE facing section, with 1 x 1m scale
3	✓	✓	Overall shot, Trench 2, facing SW, with 2 x 1m scales
4	✓	✓	Stratigraphy Trench 2, SE facing section, with 2 x 1m scales
5	-	✓	Overall shot Trench 2, facing NE, no scale
6	-	✓	Overall shot Trench 1, facing E, no scale
7	-	✓	Test slot 2, Trench 2, facing NW, with 1 x 1m scale
8	-	✓	Test slot 2, Trench 2, facing SW, with 1 x 1m scale
9	-	✓	Test slot 1, Trench 2, facing NE, with 1 x 1m scale



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	107/MCR
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-203706	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2015.11
OS reference	TL 05499 38499	Study area size (sq. m.)	5414.17
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	83.973
Short Description	<p>In April 2015, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire as part of the pre-planning process.</p> <p>Despite its proximity to medieval buildings such as the St Mary's Church and the Maulden Grange, the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological activity. The evaluation coupled with the cartographic evidence and the site stratigraphy would suggest that there is a low potential for archaeological survival in the development area.</p>		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of two dwellings	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council	Planning application ref.	CB/15/01127/OUT
Monument type	None	Monument period	N/A
Significant finds	N/A	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	N/A	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	K. Kaye	Director/Supervisor	C. Summerfield-Hill
Sponsor/funding body	Duncan Beechener & Jennifer Taylor		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	21/4/2015	End date	21/4/2015
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.11)	None.	
Paper		WSI, report, site records, B&W photographs.	
Digital		CD containing digital photographs.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: Edgehill, Church Road, Maulden.		
Serial title & volume	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 107/MCR/2		
Author(s)	Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA		
Page no's	20	Date	24/4/2015