



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

8 High Street
Olney
Buckinghamshire



Quality Check

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CONTENTS

Summary	1
1. Introduction	1
2. Aims & Methods	5
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	6
4. Results.....	12
5. Conclusions.....	25
6. Acknowledgements.....	26
7. Archive.....	27
8. References.....	28

Appendices:

1. List of Photographs	30
2. Finds Concordance.....	32
3. Specialist Reports.....	33
4. OASIS and Site Data.....	35

Figures:

1. General location	2
2. Site location.....	3
3. Development plan	4
4. 1900 OS map	10
5. 1925 OS map	10
6. 1960 plan of property ownership in Olney.....	11
7. Trench locations.....	20
8. Trench plans	21
9. Plot 4 feature plans.....	22
10. Plot 2 feature plans.....	23
11. Feature sections.....	24

Plates:

Cover:

1. Trial trench showing typical stratigraphy.....	15
2. Drainage ditch along north boundary of site, facing E.....	15
3. Plots 3 and 4 facing E	15
4. Plot 4, west trench facing N.....	15
5. Plot 4, Pit [103]	15
6. Plot 4, Pit [105]	15
7. Plot 4, middle trench facing E.....	16
8. Plot 4, Pit [107]	16
9. Plot 3, Trench 1, general stratigraphy facing E.....	16
10. Plot 3, Trench 1 facing N.....	16
11. Plot 3, Trench 2, Foundation (122) facing S.....	16
12. Plot 3, brick wall in south trench.....	16
13. Plot 2 overall, facing NE	17
14. Plot 2, general stratigraphy	17
15. Plot 2, Pit [112]	17
16. Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114]	17
17. Plot 2, Pit [116]	17
18. Plot 2, Pit [116] plan.....	17
19. Plot 2, Pit [118]	18



20. Plot 2, Pit [118] plan.....	18
21. Plot 2, Brick wall (121), centre trench facing E.....	18
22. Plot 2, Brick wall (121), east trench facing S.....	18
23. Soakaway, plan facing E.....	18
24. Soakaway, Trench 2 profile.....	18
25. Service trench, facing W	19



Summary

Between June 2015 and February 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. The work monitored the excavation of a series of footing and service trenches. Several medieval and post-medieval pits were observed during the investigations, which took place in an area thought to encompass two medieval burgage plots in the historic core of Olney. The investigations also uncovered evidence of a post-medieval stone building foundation and post-medieval brick boundary and garden walls.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between June 2015 and February 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by AG Morgan Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Summerfield-Hill 2015), and approved by Nick Crank, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Milton Keynes Council. The relevant planning application reference is 13/02596/FUL.

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 town and civil parish of Olney, Buckinghamshire, in the administrative district of Milton Keynes, situated at National Grid Reference SP 88982 51404 (Fig. 1).

Description

The development area consists of a rectangular plot of land to the rear of 8 High Street, Olney, which is a grade II listed building. The High Street is to the west, residential properties to the north and south and to the rear is East Street, which provides access to the site (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology for the site is argillaceous rocks with subordinate sandstone and limestone of the Rutland Formation. The superficial deposits are sand and gravel deposits of the Felmersham Member (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk>). The site is at approximately 50.9m AOD.

Proposed Development

The proposed development entailed the demolition of yard buildings, the erection of three dwellings and the conversion of existing workshops into residential dwellings (Fig. 3).

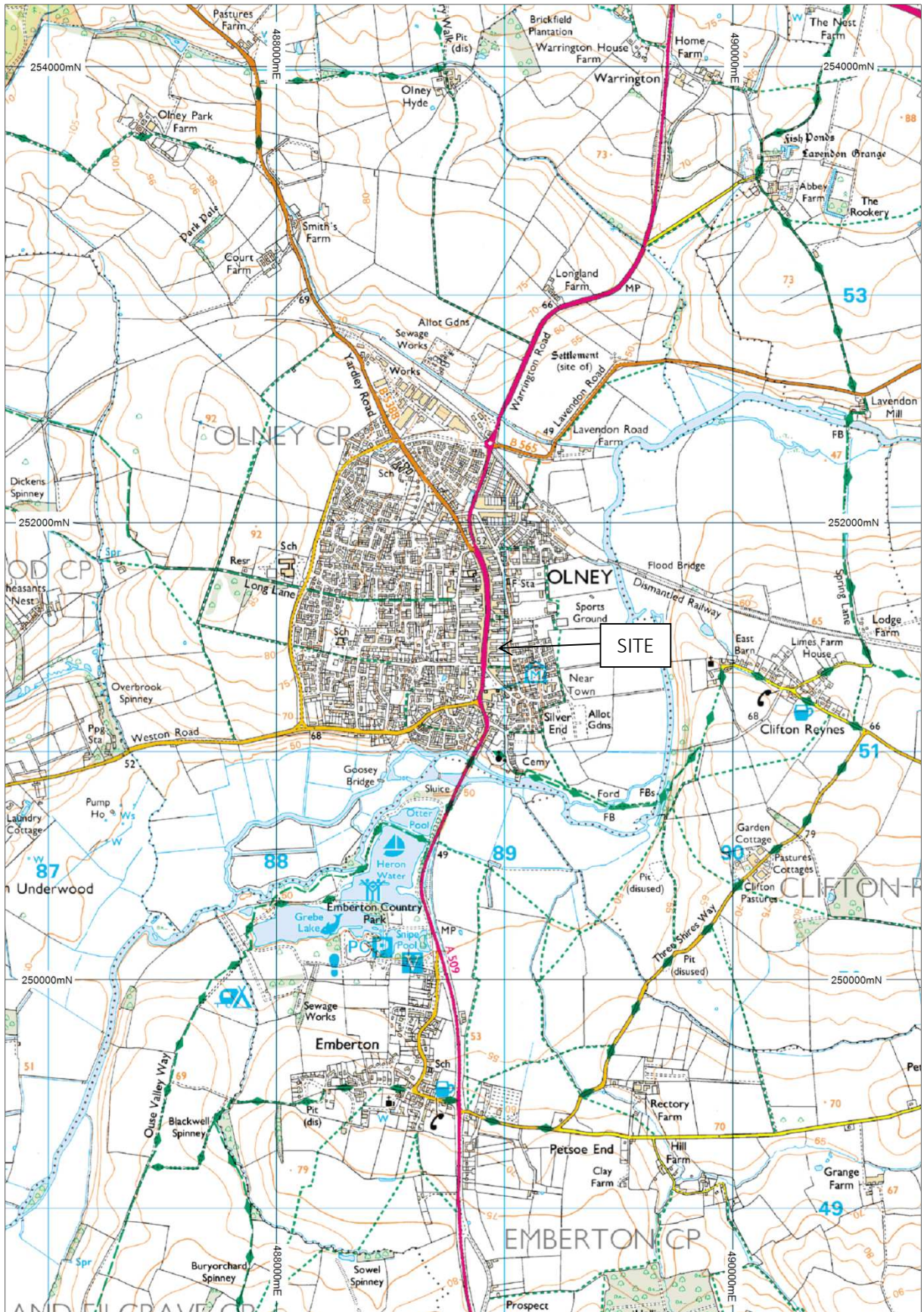


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

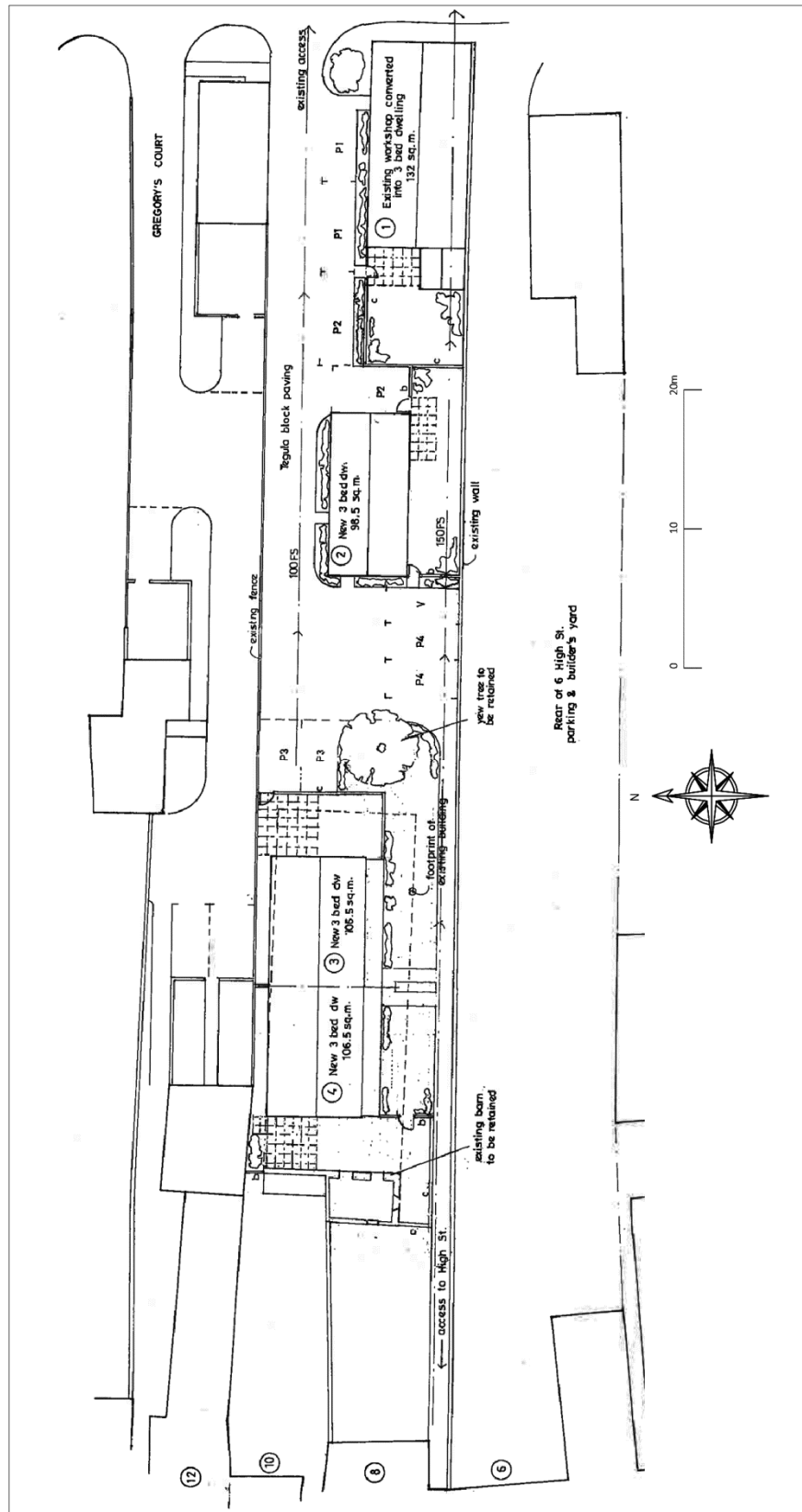


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



2 Aims & Methods

- 2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Summerfield-Hill 2015) 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 landscape
 - To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Research agendas specific to the site area, set out in the Olney Historic Town Assessment are (BCC 2010: 73-74):

Medieval

- Establish the date at which the High Street, East and West Streets and the burgage type plots were laid out
- What do activities in the rear of the 'burgage' plots reveal about the economy of medieval Olney?
- *Post Medieval*
- Is there evidence for amalgamation of burgage or tenement plots in Olney's borough in the post medieval period?

2.2 *Methods*

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

- Archaeological monitoring of all grounds works associated with the new development

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 Olney is one of the earliest documented settlements in Buckinghamshire, with a charter dating back to AD 979. The site itself is situated just north of the market square, on the eastern side of the High Street within the medieval planned borough.

Limited evidence of Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and early-middle Saxon occupation has been revealed during archaeological excavation to at Cowpers Tannery to the south of the town. However, there is clear indication of late Saxon and early medieval occupation pre-dating the establishment of the planned town in the 13th century.

This section has been compiled with information from the Historical Town Assessment Report for Olney (Buckinghamshire County Council 2010), and previous archaeological investigation reports carried out in the area.

3.2 *Prehistoric - Iron Age* (before 600BC-AD43)

There is limited evidence for prehistoric activity within Olney. The main source is Cowper Tannery (HER 7696, OL25) at the southern end of Olney, where Neolithic and Iron Age features and artefacts were found. Further Iron Age activity has also been found at Aspreys (OL37), at the northern end of Olney, where a pit alignment containing a secondary inhumation was excavated.

Outside the town, aerial photography has identified a number of ring ditches that are interpreted as round barrows dating to the late Neolithic – early Bronze Age. The majority of these are situated close to the river Ouse, e.g. Clifton Reynes, 0.5km east of Olney and Ashfurlong, to the north of Olney (HER 199700000, HER 115000000 & HER 140300000). Iron Age activity has been found at Emberton, to the south of Olney, Ashfurlong and Clifton Reynes (HER 151100000, HER 113300000 & HER 128400001; BCC 2010: 30).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

Despite a fairly active Roman presence in the area, there is little evidence to suggest that a Roman settlement existed at Olney itself. Investigations carried out at 106 High Street (HER 855, OL22; South Midlands Archaeology 2004) revealed a Roman water channel/gully and those at 27 East Street uncovered a Roman ditch (HER 855 & 966, OL36; South Midlands Archaeology 2004 & Lisboa, I 2005). Excavations carried out at Cowper Tannery (OL25) produced mainly residual Roman pottery, and a number of artefacts in the form of coins and pottery have been found throughout the town (BCC 2010: 32).

A more established Roman site has been found just beyond the boundaries of the town, at Ashfurlong to the northeast. Here an extensive Roman settlement was identified through aerial photography, which revealed linear features indicative of enclosures, field systems and possibly a road (HER 113309000). Pottery and finds from around the site have primarily been dated to the 2nd-4th centuries AD (HER 113305000). The site has been interpreted as a Roman village or proto-urban settlement, only one of two known in the county and as a result it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM MK 127; BCC 2010: 32).

The site of a Roman villa is located one kilometre to the east of the town at Rines Hill, Newton Blossomville. There is also evidence for a further possible villa at Weston Underwood and a Roman settlement to the south of Olney at Emberton Park (HER 195303000, HER 188600000 & HER 11510100).



The Roman settlements surrounding Olney were connected to an extensive road network, and two principles roads, the Viatores 171 and 175, have been identified by the Viatores, an antiquarian group (Viatores 1964). Viatores 175 was thought to run from Peterborough via Ashfurlong through Olney south to Neport and Fenny Stratford, whilst Viatores 171 was thought to be orientated northeast-southwest to Water Stratford (BCC 2010: 32).

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

Olney is first mentioned as *Ollanega* in AD 979 when King Ethelred granted ten hides of land there to Aelfhere. The name is thought to mean 'Olla's Island', Olla being a 10th century Saxon name (Mawer & Stenton 1925). The town is referred to again in 1016 when Olney was the venue for the Witan, a council summoned by the Anglo-Saxon kings (Page 1927; BCC 2010: 34).

The historical and archaeological evidence for the Saxon period suggests that Olney was a bi-focal settlement with activity at the southern end and possibly at the northern end of the town. At the southern end of the town at Cowper Tannery (HER 7696; OL25), a series of post holes and pottery dating to the middle Saxon period were found. At Rose Court (HER 5495; OL5) a sunken featured building (Grubenhous) and hearth were excavated, and at Limehouse and Tunis Cottage (OL8) late Saxon activity has been uncovered.

At the northern end of the town at Castle End, the triangular island between Wellingborough and Yardley Roads is believed to have been the original site of the parish church. Excavations to the rear of Castle Inn, lying at the southern end of the island, revealed skeletons orientated east-west (Styles 1987). It is thought that they may be linked to an earlier church within the vicinity or that they are Romano-British and connected to the settlement at Ashfurlong. There is a further early Christian association at this end of the town, as a spring known as 'Christian well' is shown on a 19th century tithe map (HER 503202000). A well is referred to in the Olney Charter of AD979, as the 'holy' or 'saint's spring' (BCC 2010: 34).

The Domesday Survey (1086) makes reference to Burgred holding the manor before the Conquest and that it was valued at £12, with one Freeman, who held 1 ½ virgates of land (Morris 1978).

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

Olney was awarded to the Bishop of Coutances after 1066. The parish comprised ten hides with land for ten ploughs, meadow for ten ploughs and woodland for 400 pigs. A mill worth 40s and 200 eels is thought to have been located on the site of the current mill house next to St Peters & St Paul's Church. The population consisted of 24 villagers, five small holders and five slaves (Morris 1978; BCC 2010: 34).

The medieval town layout of Olney had four distinct elements: The church/mill area, the market place, the High Street and the Castle End area. The earliest elements with possible mid-Saxon origins are the church/mill and market area.

In the 13th century the town expanded northwards from the market place and a series of burgage plots were established at right angles on either side of the High Street. It became a borough town, holding a weekly market and annual fair and it is thought that the burgesses collected the market and fair tolls (Page 1927). A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out within the burgage plot areas of Olney. Evidence for the existence of a 12th/13th century medieval plot pre-dating the formally planned medieval burgage tenements was discovered at 1 Cobb Court to the rear of 87 High Street (Wilson 2012). At the rear of The



Old Manse, 51 High Street, a pit containing 11th-13th century pottery was excavated, along with a wall and post-medieval pits (HER 992; Lisboa 2005). Nearer to the historic core of the town at 33 High Street, archaeological features included three cess pits and a medieval rubbish pit and two parallel ditches (HER 779; Lisboa 2003), whilst three intercutting pits dating to the 13th century were found to the rear of 39 High Street (Wilson 2012).

On the opposite side of the High Street, investigation carried out at 24 High Street included a series of 13th century pits containing evidence of animal butchery/animal processing on the site (Wilson, M 2014).

Medieval activity has also been found at The Old Barn, East Street, to the rear of 100/102 High Street, and during the excavation of a gas pipeline in East Street (HER 580, Oxford Arch 2005; HER 550 & 881, Ivens, R. J 2001 & Lisboa, I 2003; HER 862, Byard, A 2005).

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

The town plan for Olney in the post-medieval period was comparable to the medieval town layout. Housing expansion at the southern end of East Street and west of West Street was carried out along with the establishment of a tannery, possibly established in the 18th century (Cowper Tannery). In 1767, the Parliamentary Enclosure Act was set up to divide and enclose the open and common fields within the parish.

Olney was on the Kettering to Newport Pagnell Turnpike, established in 1747, and by 1754 contained 27 inns (Knight 1981).

The lace industry became significant to the town in the 17th century, but by the beginning of the 19th century declined as the production of cheaper manufactured lace in Nottingham reduced the demand for hand-made lace (Sheahan 1861: 578). The industry did, however, continue on a smaller scale in the town and surrounding villages.

In 1872, a railway linking Bedford and Northampton arrived in Olney. This line was located to the north of the town, which made a significant impact upon the town. In particular this development benefited the shoe and boot industry, which had begun to develop in the late 19th century and reached its peak in the 20th century. A further development due to the railway was an increase in housing surrounding the station. Unfortunately, by the mid-20th century the railway had gone into decline and as a result was closed and demolished in 1962 (BCC 2010: 50).

Today Olney is dominated by 18th/19th century buildings of various styles, including Georgian mansions such as the Old Vicarage, Church Street and 10 Bridge Street, and vernacular buildings along the High Street, Weston Street and the Market Place. The High Street and Market Place still remain an active focus for commerce and trade (BCC 2010: 45, 6)

3.7 *Site Specific*

The site lies to the rear of 8 High Street, a grade II listed property described as:

C18 altered. Rendered over defective ashlar, modern pantiled roof, brick stack. Three storeys. Half glazed double doors with wooden lintel, altered C19 shop window on right, later C19 canted bay window on left, tripartite sash windows to first floor outer bays, sash window to centre and three to second floor, all with C19 glazing. (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1158249>)



The northern part of the site is behind 10 High Street, also a Grade II listed building, and was historically associated with that building. It is described as:

OLNEY HIGH STREET SP 8851 1/51 (east side) 3.3.52 No 10 GV II C18 altered, cement rendered with ashlar lines, modern tile roof with modern dormer, brick chimney stack. Two storeys, modern half glazed door on right, two barred sashes to ground floor and two to first floor, the left hand one altered. All openings have keystones (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1125318>).

The site is also within the Olney Conservation Area.

3.2 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

Prior to the mid 20th century, the development site was divided into two adjacent lots, as can be seen on the 1900 and 1925 OS maps (Figs. 4 and 5). By 1960, the property had been consolidated and had assumed its current configuration (Fig. 6).

During World War 1, 8 High Street was the home of Charles Spencelayh, a well-known British painter of domestic genre paintings who was a favourite of Queen Mary. He was believed to have a studio in the back of the house (HER 4524).

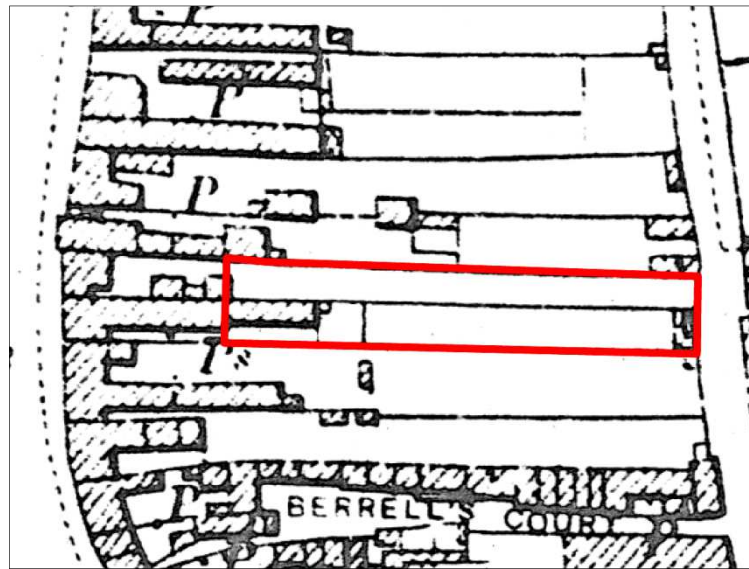


Figure 4: 1900 OS map (scale 1:1250)

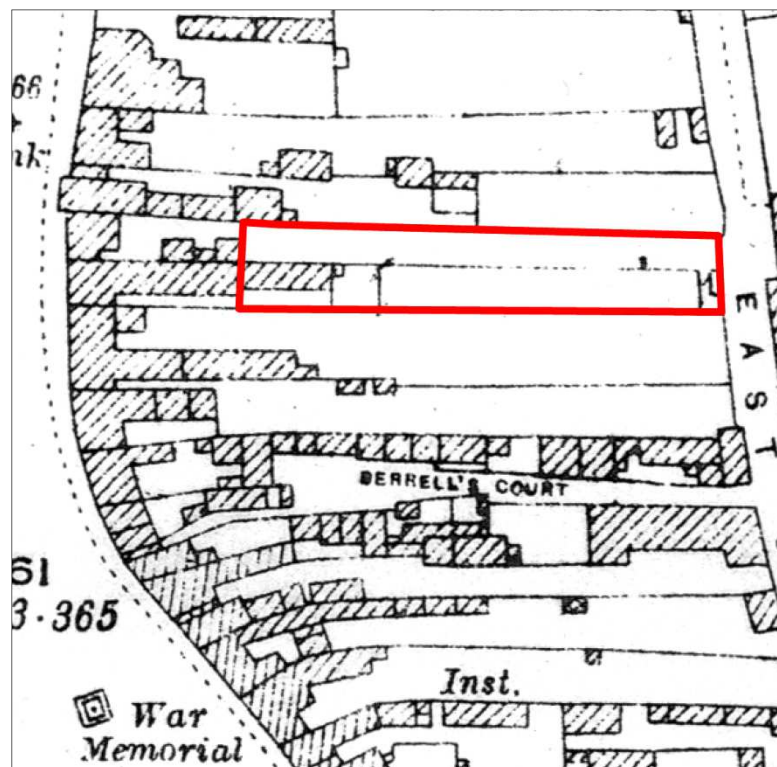


Figure 5: 1925 OS map (scale 1:1250)

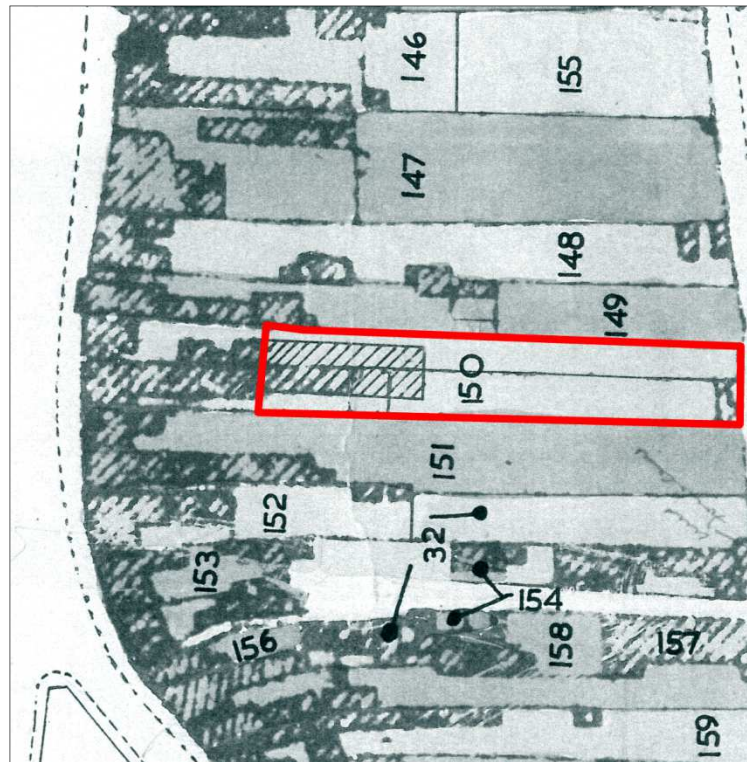


Figure 6: 1960 plan of property ownership in Olney (scale 1:1250)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

Footing trenches for three new buildings and an associated service trench were monitored during the course of multiple site visits. Each phase of work was identified by a plot number allocated by the developer, corresponding to the location and date. Excavation began at the western end of the site, where the first building was located, called Plot 4 in the following text. The second building, Plot 3, is directly to the east of Plot 4, with Plot 2 approximately in the centre of the site. A soakaway and drainage trench was excavated to the southeast of Plot 3. Finally, a service trench was excavated in two phases along the northern boundary of the site. The placement of these trenches is shown in Figure 7.

4.2 Trial trench and drainage trench

Work began in June 2015, with the excavation of a trial trench and drainage trench. The trial trench was placed at the western end of the site, close to the extant building, in order to determine the depth of the surviving wall footings of the previous structure (Plate 1). These were seen to be approximately 0.30m in depth. The drainage trench ran along the northern boundary of the site (Plate 2). The general stratigraphy at the west end of the site was seen to be a layer of concrete forming a solid floor or yard (100), above a layer of made ground containing a mix of topsoil and the natural geology (101), between 0.4 and 0.55m thick. The orange sandy natural (102) was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.6m.

4.3 Plots 3 and 4

Plots 3 and 4 were the location of the westernmost new build at the site. This was a structure containing two semi-detached dwellings. The footings for both dwellings outlined a rectangle, 18.60m long by 8.75m wide, with the long axis running east to west (Plate 3, Fig. 8). A trench roughly bisected the rectangle running north to south, and a final section of trench ran from east to west approximately 4.60m from the south edge of the footings. The trenches measured 0.46-0.60m wide and reached natural at an average depth of 1.10m.

The western half of the footings, Plot 4, consisted of the west trench and the first 9.0m of the north, south and middle trenches (Plate 4). Three pits [103], [105] and [107], were found in this part of the excavations (Fig. 9).

Pit [103] was observed in the west trench, extending into the east section. It was roughly oval in shape and c. 1.80m wide. The part of the feature that extended into the trench was excavated, leaving a north to south section in the trench wall (Fig. 11). The pit had straight sides to the north and south, with some undercutting along the western side. The bottom of the pit was not reached. The pit fill (104) was mid-brown, friable, silty clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal (Plate 5). The pit contained pottery, slag and bone, with a pottery dating to in the 13th century (Appendix 3).

Pit [105] was slightly north of Pit [103], extending into the west wall of the trench. It was a circular bowl-shaped pit, 1.0m across and 0.50m deep, with a slightly concave base (Plate 6, Figs. 9 and 11). The fill (106) was mottled mid-grey brown and brownish orange friable silty clay with lenses of charcoal and ash. No artefacts were recovered from this pit.

The third pit, Pit [107], was seen in the short, east-west interior trench (Plate 7). This was a circular feature with vertical sides and a flat base measuring 0.70m wide by 0.6m deep (Figs.



9 and 11). It extended across the width of the trench and into the unexcavated area to the north and south (Plate 8, Fig. 9). The pit fill, (108), was a mid-grey brown with brownish orange, friable, silty clay with moderate amounts of small, sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained animal bone and pottery dating to the 12th century (Appendix 3).

The trenches in Plot 3 were a continuation of those excavated in Plot 4, and were dug once the concrete footings had been poured in Plot 4 (Plates 9 and 10).

The foundation of an earlier structure was observed in both the centre trench and the south trench of Plot 3 (Fig. 8, Plate 11). This foundation (122) consisted of medium to large sub-angular stones and concrete and measured 0.8m wide. The foundations were excavated to a depth of 0.7m. In the same trench, a brick wall (123) consisting of five courses of 220 x 70mm brick formed the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 8, Plate 12). Both these features are likely to be post-medieval in date and probably related to garden features or out-buildings.

4.4 *Plot 2*

Plot 2 was located approximately 1.1m west of the existing workshop at the eastern end of the site. It consisted of trenches for footings, outlining a rectangular area approximately 5.85 x 11.3m, with the long axis running east to west (Fig. 8, Plate 13). The trenches were 0.60m wide and excavated to an average depth of 1.0m (Plate 14). Three pits were uncovered during excavations at Plot 2 and a brick wall ran across the middle of the plot.

Pit [112] was a circular feature containing a single fill (113) of mid-brown silty clay (Figs. 10 and 11, Plates 15 and 16). The pit contained animal bone and a few sherds of pottery dating to the 12th century (Appendix 3).

Cutting Pit [112] was Pit [114], a large feature in the south-west corner of the trench (Fig. 8, Plate 16). The exposed area was 0.66m wide by 1.2m long, and extended beyond the baulk of the trench to the west, south and north-east (Fig. 10). The full depth of the pit could not be obtained due to physical restrictions and health and safety concerns (Fig. 11). The fill consisted of a mid-dark grey brown silty clay and produced clay pipe stems and CBM, identified as a probable medieval roof tile fragment (Appendix 3).

In the centre of the south trench of Plot 2 was Pit [116], a very large feature measuring 4.4m wide east to west (Fig. 8). The other dimensions of the feature were not found, as it extended beyond the limits of excavation to both the north and south (Fig. 10). A slot was excavated on the west side of the feature, revealing a partial profile (Fig. 11, Plates 17 and 18). The fill (117) consisted of dark brown silty clay containing pottery, tile and an oyster shell fragment. The pottery fragment was identified as Tudor Green Ware, dating to the 15th century (Appendix 3).

The third pit [118] filled the southeast corner of the trench (Fig. 8). It was at least 1.3m wide and 1.9m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m in a slot along the northern edge (Figs. 10 and 11, Plates 19 and 20). The fill (119) was dark brown silty clay that held pottery, tile, bone and glass. The assemblage was probably post-medieval, with a pottery of 16th century date. In the centre of Pit [118] was a small area of degraded mortar, labelled Fill (120).

Running east to west across the centre of the footings was a brick wall (121) built of red brick with blue/grey inner bricks (Fig 8, Plates 21 and 22). The wall was built with lime mortar and survived to 5 courses (0.39m high). It was 0.22m wide with a stepped base to approximately 0.5m wide (Plate).



4.5 Soakaway

Two trenches were excavated southeast of Plot 3, following construction of the new structure (Fig. 8). Trench 1 was a 5.0 x 1.0m soakaway, excavated to a depth of 0.70m (Plates 23 and 24). Trench 2 was a 5.0 x 0.50m drainage trench, running from Plot 3 to Trench 1. It was excavated to a depth of 0.35m.

4.6 Service Trench

A service trench was excavated the length of the development site, from Plots 3 and 4 to the entrance gate off East Lane. It was cut through made ground and was 35.0m long by 0.40m wide by 0.80m deep (Fig. 8, Plate 25). No archaeological features were encountered in the trench.

Context Table

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Structure		Concrete floor/yard
101	Layer		Topsoil
102	Layer		Natural
103	Cut	1.8m w x >0.9m d	Cut of pit in Plot 4
104	Fill	1.8m w x >0.9m d	Fill of pit [103] in Plot 4
105	Cut	1.0m w x 0.5m d	Cut of pit in Plot 4
106	Fill	1.0m w x 0.5m d	Fill of pit [105] in Plot 4
107	Cut	0.7m w x 0.6m d	Cut of pit in Plot 4
108	Fill	0.7m w x 0.6m d	Fill of pit [107] in Plot 4
109	Deposit	0.2m d	Plot 2, hardcore underlying concrete
110	Deposit	0.3m d	Plot 2, made ground
111	Deposit	0.4m d	Plot 2, made ground
112	Cut	0.8m w x >0.3m l x 0.3m d	Cut of pit in Plot 2
113	Fill	0.8m w x >0.3m l x 0.3m d	Fill of pit [112] in Plot 2
114	Cut	>0.66m w x >1.2m l	Cut of pit in Plot 2
115	Fill	>0.66m w x >1.2m l	Fill of pit [114] in Plot 2
116	Cut	4.4m w x >0.6m l x 0.7m d	Cut of pit in Plot 2
117	Fill	.4m w x >0.6m l x 0.7m d	Fill of pit [116] in Plot 2
118	Cut	>1.3m w x 1.9m l x 0.4m d	Cut of pit in Plot 2
119	Fill	>1.3m w x 1.9m l x 0.4m d	Fill of pit [118] in Plot 2
120	Fill	0.36m w x 0.34m l	Fill of pit [118] in Plot 2
121	Structure	0.22m w x 0.39m h	Brick wall in Plot 2
122	Structure	0.8m w x >0.7m d	Stone foundations in Plot 3
123	Structure	>0.4m d	Brick wall in Plot 3



Plate 1: Trial trench showing typical stratigraphy



Plate 2: Drainage ditch along north boundary of site, facing E



Plate 3: Plots 3 and 4 facing E



Plate 4: Plot 4, west trench facing N



Plate 5: Plot 4, Pit [103]



Plate 6: Plot 4, Pit [105]



Plate 7: Plot 4, middle trench facing E



Plate 8 : Plot 4, Pit [107]



Plate 9: Plot 3, Trench 1, general stratigraphy facing E



Plate 10: Plot 3, Trench 1 facing N



Plate 11: Plot 3, Trench 2, Foundation (122) facing S



Plate 12: Plot 3, brick wall in south trench



Plate 13: Plot 2 overall, facing NE



Plate 14: Plot 2, general stratigraphy



Plate 15: Plot 2, Pit [112]



Plate 16: Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114]



Plate 17: Plot 2, Pit [116]



Plate 18: Plot 2, Pit [116] plan



Plate 19: Plot 2, Pit [118]



Plate 20: Plot 2, Pit [118] plan



Plate 21: Plot 2, Brick wall (121), centre trench facing E



Plate 22: Plot 2, Brick wall (121), east trench facing S



Plate 23: Soakaway, plan facing E



Plate 24: Soakaway, Trench 2 profile



Plate 25: Service trench, facing W

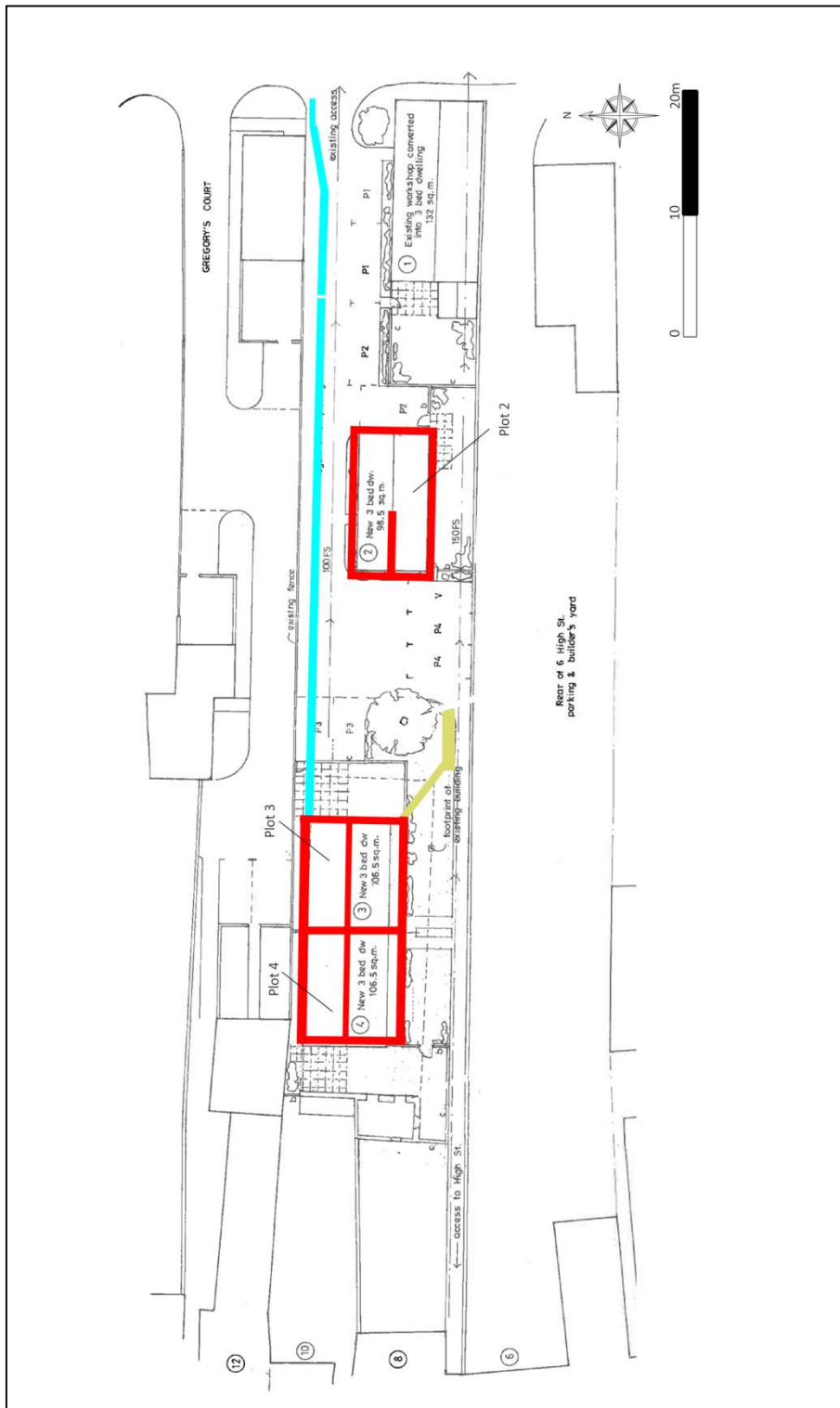


Figure 7: Trench locations (scale as shown)

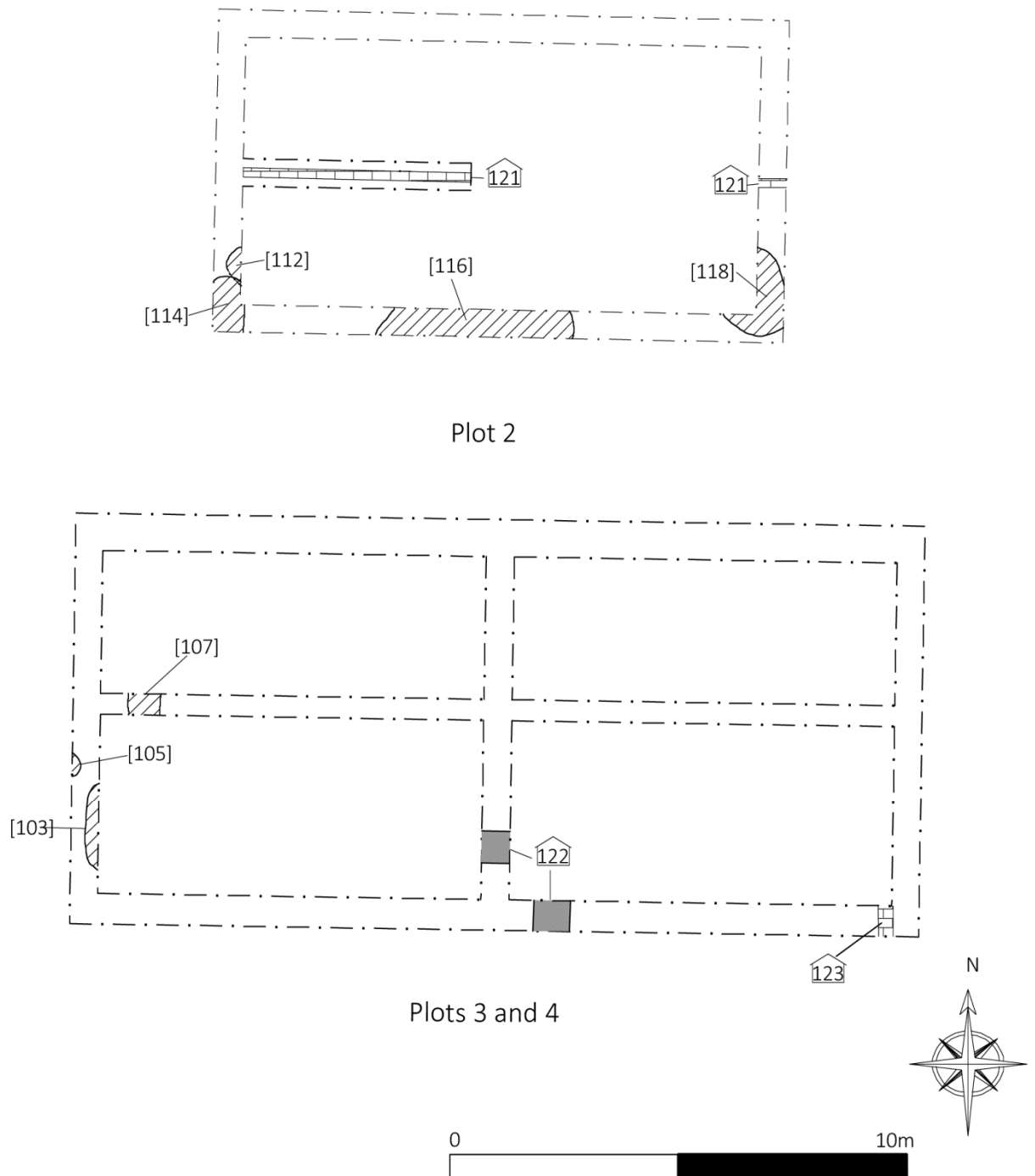


Figure 8: Trench plans (scales 1:150)

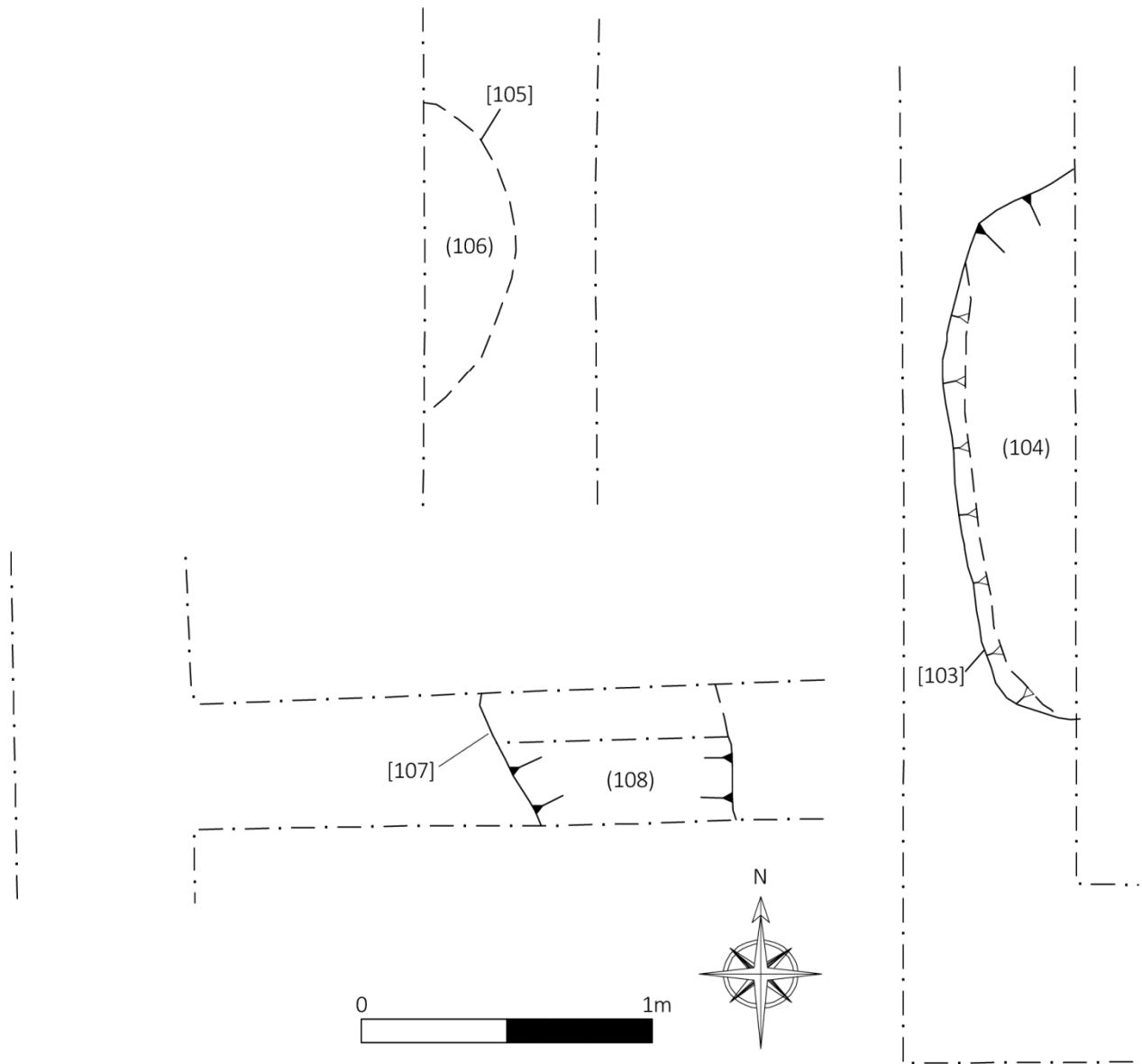


Figure 9: Plot 4 feature plans (scale 1:25)

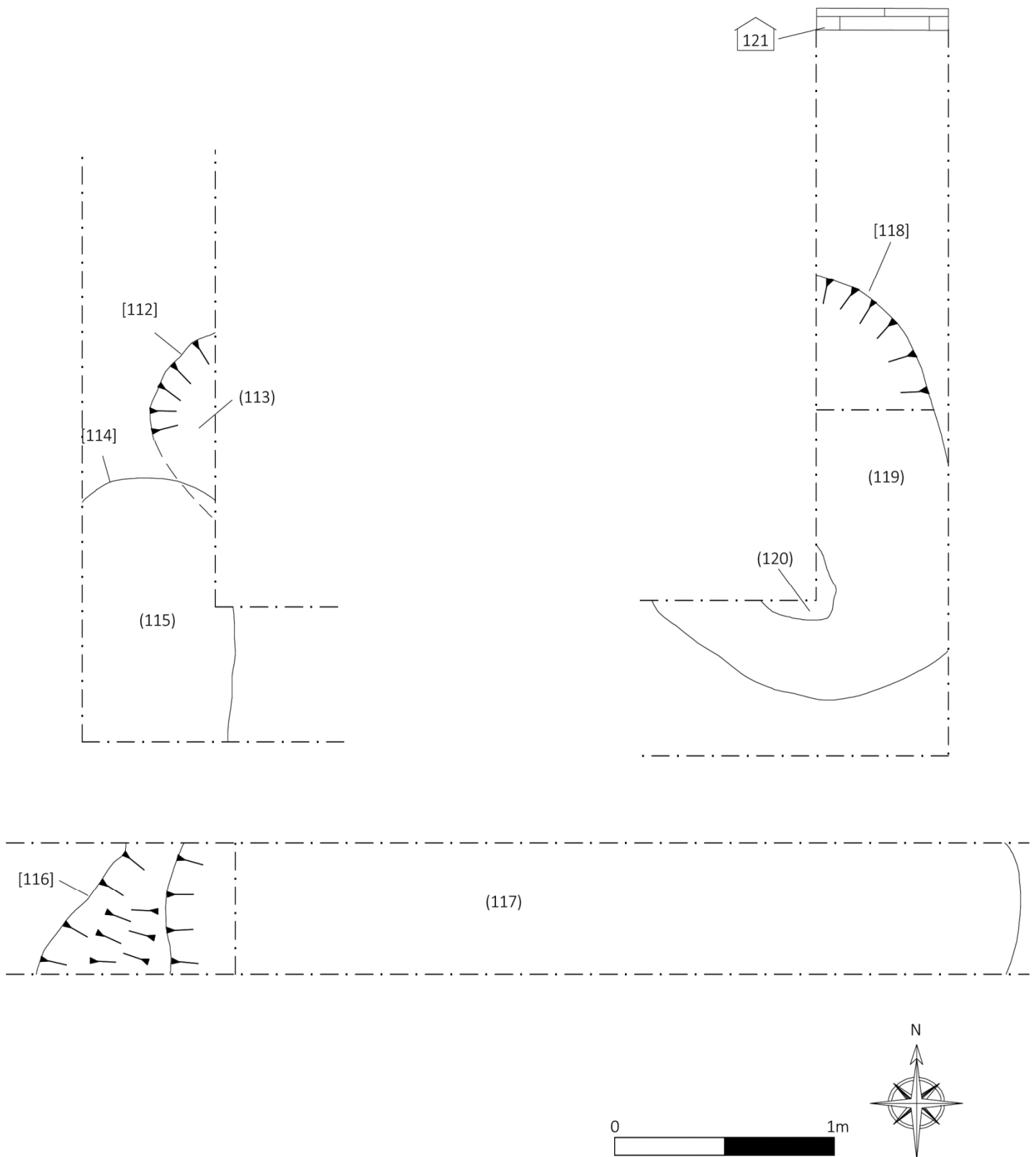


Figure 10: Plot 2 Feature plans (scale 1:25)

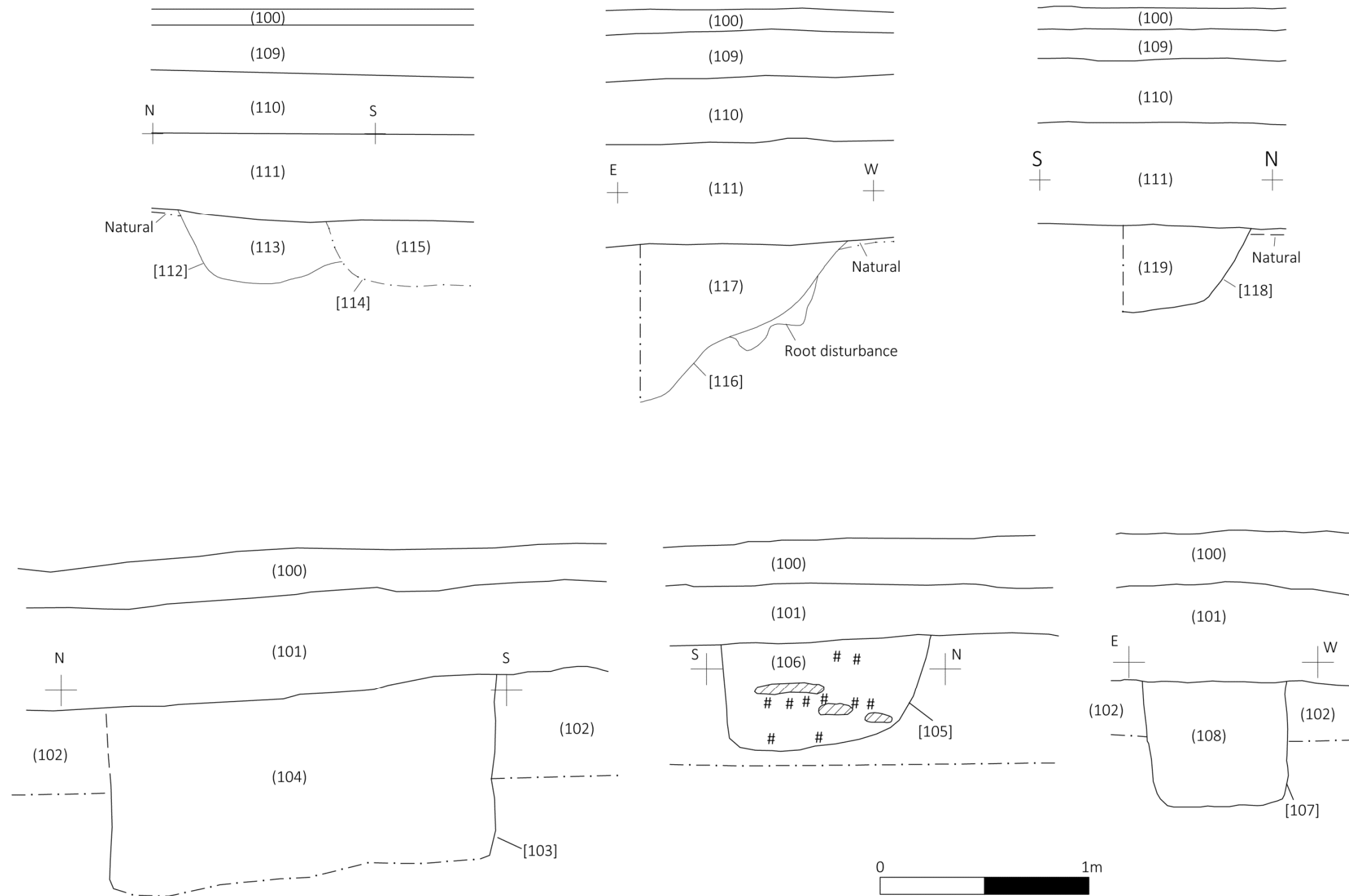


Figure 11: Feature sections (scale 1:25)



5 Conclusions

The development site is located in the heart of the historic village of Olney. The village retains its medieval layout, with long burgage plots extending back from narrow street frontages. The site is formed from the combination of two adjacent plots behind numbers 8 and 10 High Street. This amalgamation is seen in the historic maps and is also reflected in the archaeology, where the footings of obsolete boundary walls were uncovered during the excavation of Plots 2 and 3, though this was probably a post-medieval continuation of the earlier demarcation between the plots.

The layout of burgage plots results in a typical pattern of land use, with domestic structures hugging the street frontage and rear yard areas used for a variety of household activities, including rubbish disposal. The precise purpose of the medieval pits discovered in Plot 4 is unknown, but they doubtless relate to the 12th and 13th century occupation of the burgage plot. Whilst the earlier pits were found in both Plots 4 and 2, i.e. in the western and eastern excavation areas, the later post-medieval pits were found only in Plot 2, near the eastern end of the site. This probably results from the increased size of the dwellings at the western, or High Street, end of the site. The medieval structure that stood on the site may not have extended into the rear yard, while the post-medieval structure has a series of additions and extensions that pushed the usable outdoor space further to the east.

The presence of medieval pits in the footings trenches at the site is similar to other archaeological investigations in Olney, such as those at 39 High Street and 24 High Street (Wilson 2012b and 2014).



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Ian Morgan for commissioning this report on behalf of AG Morgan Ltd. Thanks are also due to Nick Crank of Milton Keynes HER for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and the staff of Milton Keynes Central Library for their assistance in the historic research.

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA, Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA, Eva Estela MA, David Kaye BA ACIfA and Callie Rouse BA ACIfA. The report was written by Ellen Shlasko PhD and edited by David Kaye.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (AYBCM: 2015.82)



8 References

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 122/OHS			Site Name: Land to the rear of 8 High Street, Olney, Bucks.
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		X	Test trench, facing E
2		X	Test trench, facing N
3		X	Drainage trench, facing E
4		X	Drainage trench, facing N
5		X	Pit [103] facing E
6		X	Pit [103] facing NE
7		X	Pit [103] facing E
8		X	Pit [105] facing W
9		X	Pit [107] facing S
10		X	Overall view of Plot 4 facing NE
11		X	West trench of Plot 4, facing N
12		X	South trench of Plot 4, facing E
13		X	Centre trench of Plot 4, facing E
14		X	Stratigraphic profile of Plot 4, west trench facing E
15		X	Stratigraphic profile of Plot 3, trench 1 facing E
16		X	Stratigraphic profile of Plot 3, trench 1 facing E
17		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 1, facing E
18		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 1, facing E
19		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3 trench 1, facing W
20		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 1, facing W
21		X	Plot 3, trench 1, facing N
22		X	Plot 3, trench 1, facing N
23		X	Plot 3, trench 3, facing W
24		X	Plot 3, trench 3, facing W
25		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 2, facing S
26		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 2, facing S
27		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 2, facing N
28		X	Foundation (122), Plot 3, trench 2, facing N
29		X	Brick wall (123), Plot 3, trench 3, facing E
30		X	Brick wall (123), Plot 3, trench 3, facing E
31		X	Service trench, facing W
32		X	Service trench, facing W
33		X	Service trench, facing E
34		X	Service trench, facing E
35		X	Soakaway, profile trench 1, facing NE
36		X	Soakaway, trench 1, facing E
37	X	X	Soakaway, trench 1, facing E
38	X	X	Soakaway, trench 2, facing E
39		X	Soakaway, trench 2, profile showing bricks under concrete
40		X	Soakaway, trench 2, brick detail
41		X	Soakaway, trench 2, brick detail
42		X	Soakaway, trench 2, facing SE
43		X	Plot 2, Pit [112], facing E
44		X	Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114], facing N
45		X	Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114], facing N
46		X	Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114], facing S



SITE NO/CODE: 122/OHS			Site Name: Land to the rear of 8 High Street, Olney, Bucks.
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
47		X	Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114], facing S
48		X	Plot 2, Pits [112] and [114], facing S
49		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing E
50		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing E
51		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing E
52		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing E
53		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing E
54		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing S
55		X	Plot 2, Pit [116], facing S
56		X	Plot 2, Pit [118], facing S
57		X	Plot 2, Pit [118], facing W
58		X	Plot 2, Pit [118], facing W
59		X	Plot 2, Pit [118], facing NW
60		X	Plot 2, Brick wall (121), facing E
61		X	Plot 2, trench stratigraphy, facing N
62		X	Plot 2, trench stratigraphy, facing S
63		X	Overall view of Plot 2, facing NE
64		X	West trench of Plot 2, facing N
65		X	South trench of Plot 2, facing E
66		X	North trench of Plot 2, facing W
67		X	West trench of Plot 2, facing S, showing brick wall (121)



Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Nos.		Pottery		Animal Bone		Shell		Pipe		Other	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms
104		36	310	3	31					1 x slag	84
108		7	47								
113		2	7	2	7						
115		1	26					3	7		
117		1	2			1	3				
119		1	14					1	4		
Totals		48		5		1		4		1	



Appendix 3: Specialist Reports

Pottery and Tile from 8 High St, Olney, Bedfordshire (Site 122/OHS)

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 45 sherds with a total weight of 384g. It was mostly of medieval date. It was recorded using the conventions of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeevat 1992; Zeevat et al. 1994), as follows:

- MC1:** Shelly Coarseware, AD1100-1400. 38 sherds, 298g.
MS3: Medieval Grey Sandy Wares, mid 11th – late 14th century. 1 sherd, 3g.
MS6: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 - 1600. 1 sherd, 18g.
PM29: Frechen/Cologne Stoneware, 1550 – 1700. 1 sherd, 13g.
SNC1: St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 1 sherd, 6g.
TLMS17: Tudor Green Ware, 15th – early 17th century. 1 sherd, 2g.

The following, not included in the Milton Keynes type-series, was also noted:

- LA:** Lyveden/Stanion 'A' Ware 1150-1400 (Steane and Bryant 1975). 2 sherds, 44g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region, and indicates that there was activity at the site throughout the medieval period.

Most of the assemblage comprises shelly coarsewares of the type that are known to have been manufactured at nearby Olney Hyde (Mynard 1984). They largely comprise fragments of jars, although small quantities of bowl fragments were also noted, as was part of the rim of a single jug. This is a fairly typical pattern for pottery of this type. The rest of the pottery assemblage consists of bodysherds, other than the small fragment of "Tudor Green" Ware, which is from the rim of a lobed cup, a common product of the tradition. The sherd of St Neots Ware is in Denham's Saxo-Norman T1(2) fabric (ibid. 1985). Overall, the assemblage is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

In addition to the pottery, context 115 produced a small fragment of roof tile weighing 25g. It is in a red sandy fabric with grey surfaces, and has sparse calcareous inclusions. It is 14mm thick, and is likely to be of medieval date.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	SNC1		MS3		MC1		LA		MS6		TLMS17		PM29		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
104	1	6			30	241	2	44	1	18					M13thC
108					7	54									12thC
113			1	3	1	3									12thC
117											1	2			15thC
119													1	13	M16thC
Total	1	6	1	3	38	298	2	44	1	18	1	2	1	13	



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Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land to the rear of 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	122/OHS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-206282	Event/Accession no	EMK1355/ AYBCM: 2015.82
OS reference	SP 88982 51404	Study area size	1084 sq. m
Project Type	Observation and recording	Height (mAOD)	50
Short Description	<i>Between June 2015 and February 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire. The work monitored the excavation of a series of footing and service trenches. Several medieval and post-medieval pits were observed during the investigations, which took place in an area thought to encompass two medieval burgage plots in the historic core of Olney. The investigations also uncovered evidence of a post-medieval stone building foundation and post-medieval brick boundary and garden walls.</i>		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Demolition of existing buildings, erection of three new dwellings and conversion of existing workshop into dwelling	Current land use	Work yard
Local Planning Authority	Milton Keynes Council	Planning application ref.	13/02596/FUL
Monument type	Monument	Monument period	Medieval-Post medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Milton Keynes Council	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	David Kaye BA ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	AG Morgan Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	June 2015	End date	February 2017
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Pottery, CBM, pipe stem	
Paper		WSI, report, site forms, drawings, specialist report, black and white photographs and negatives	
Digital		CD containing WSI, report, site forms, drawings, specialist report, client's site plans, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: 8 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK 122/OHS/2.1		
Author(s)	Ellen Shlasko PhD		
Page no's	35	Date	10/11/2017