



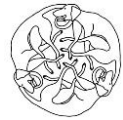
KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land between 43 - 47 Silver Street

Stevington

Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	137/SSS/2.1	<i>Date</i>	14.07.15
<i>Revision</i>	Laura Dodd MSc	<i>Version</i>	137/SSS/2.2	<i>Date</i>	19.08.15
<i>Revision</i>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<i>Version</i>	137/SSS/2.3	<i>Date</i>	21.08.15

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Fig. 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Summary

In July 2015 archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington in Bedfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Several features were uncovered from a single 10x2m trench including a destruction layer, two postholes, a wall base and possible wall foundation, a stone surface and a ditch terminus. All the features are believed to be post-medieval in date and are believed to be connected to the buildings and boundaries depicted on late 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of the land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Aragon Land and Planning, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Thompson 2015), and approved by Bedfordshire Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (BBCHET) archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Bedford Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 14/01465/FUL.

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.

8.3 *The Site*

Location

The site is situated at the south-west side of the village of Stevington, which is a small civil parish in the Borough of Bedford at National Grid Reference 498787 253056 (Fig. 1). It is roughly equidistant between the villages of Pavenham, Stagsden, Bromham and Oakley. Silver Street is one branch of an x-shaped linear development forming the south-west side of the village of Stevington. This route continues further southwards away from the village through Duck End and out towards the A428 and ultimately to Stagsden. Silver Street continues further north-eastwards and ends in the heart of the village at a crossroads still retaining its cross.

Description

The site occupies a c. 0.08ha, vacant plot on the frontage of the south-east side of Silver Street between nos 43 and 47 (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by a large field to the south which contains a pond and an associated spinney immediately adjacent and forming its south-eastern boundary. The frontage of the site is currently walled, and is bounded on the west and east sides by houses and associated rear gardens. The street frontage is the highest part of the site at approximately 49.50mAOD, and the ground in the remainder of the plot slopes gradually downwards to the rear.

Geology & Topography

The site lies within an area of underlying Kellaways Sand member interbedded sandstone and siltstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). There are no superficial geological deposits mapped for the majority of Stevington, and none in the entire area of Silver Street.

Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a new detached residential house and associated parking area, within a cutting that will require substantial reduction in ground level in part of the site (Fig. 3). The front boundary wall will be re-aligned and partly restored.



Fig. 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

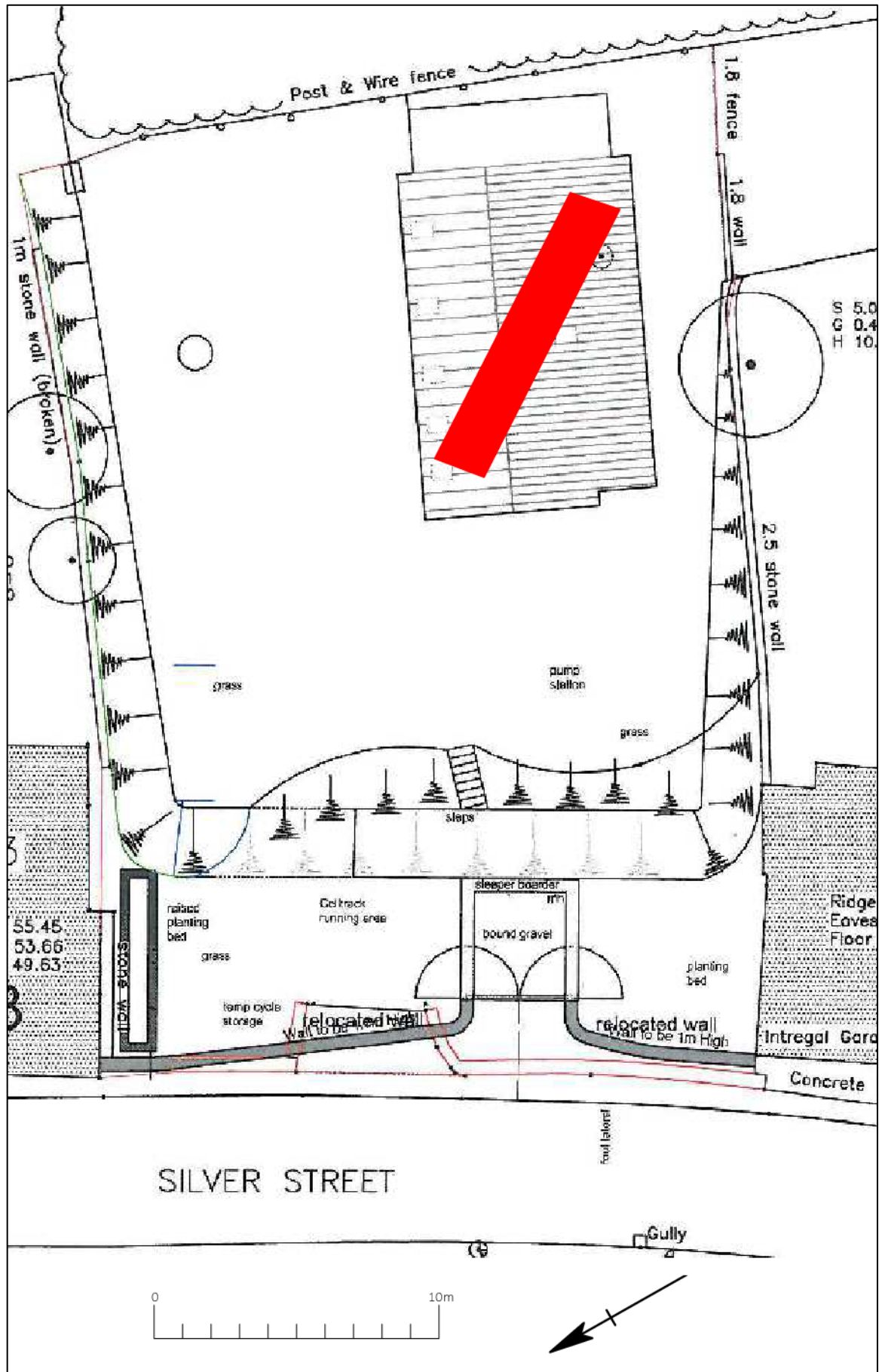


Fig. 3: Proposed development and trench location (scale 1:200)

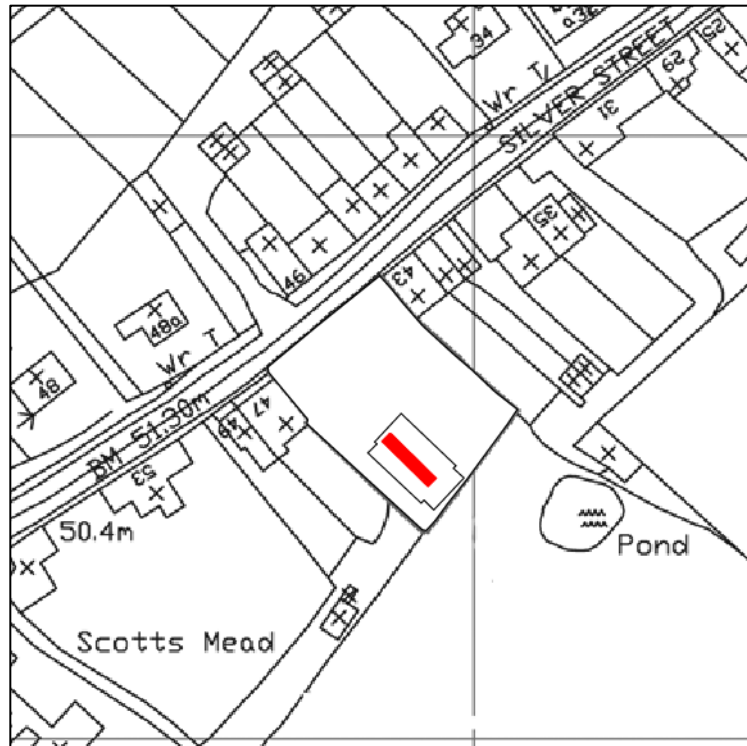


Fig. 4: Actual trench location (scale 1:1,250)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this evaluation as defined in the approved WSI (Thompson 2015) were:

- To record the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development.
- In addition, the research aims will *inter alia* consider the various aspects of the development of Saxon and medieval settlements; their origins, morphology, diversity and ultimate success or failure (Wade 2000: 24-25; Oake 2007: 14 & Medlycott 2011: 70).

2.2 *Methods*

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

- Following discussion with BBCHET, a single trench measuring 10x2m was excavated in the footprint of the new dwelling (Fig. 4).
- All surviving archaeological deposits, features and structures contained within the trench were investigated, and recorded in agreement with the Historic Environment officer.

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The 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 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008, 2011)
- 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 The site lies within Stevington's Conservation Area, Bedfordshire Borough Designation no. DBD538. It is also within the core of the Stevington's medieval settlement, which is partly based upon the two main roads, Silver Street and Church Street, with the village hub at the crossroads between the two. As the site is located on the frontage of Silver Street but has avoided modern redevelopment, there is the likelihood of well-preserved Medieval and/or post-medieval remains and also a possibility of Saxon village evidence. The majority of buildings currently on Silver Street date from the 17th-19th centuries. Of the 41 listed buildings on Stevington, 14 are on Silver Street, and three are at neighbouring properties (Ref 1310154, 1310179 and 1321460). There is also a growing amount of evidence, from around the fringes of the village, of Iron Age/ Roman metallurgical activity and also prehistoric ditches/ enclosures.

This section has been compiled with information from Bedford Borough's Historic Environment Record (BBHER). Other secondary sources, the Victoria County history and on line mapping has also been examined.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Undated, possible cropmark sites are known from around Stevington including (BBHER 2778, 2783) in fields c.0.25km to the south-west of the site, and c.1km to its south (BBHER 3120). Irregular enclosures and associated linear ditches are also known from Duck End (BBHER 16526). A single worked flint, a barbed and tanged arrowhead, has been found from the south of the parish (BBHER MBB 20863) and is probably of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date.

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The route of a conjectured Roman road between Irchester Roman town and Kempston passes through Stevington and out through West End on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment (BBHER 58). Confirmed finds of Roman tile and iron slag have been found in the West End area (BBHER 5078). Three concentrations of bloomery slag of Iron Age or Roman date have been found in an area to the north-east of Park End (BBHER 9050 & 3) and in fields both north and south of the railway line (BBHER 9051-2).

3.5 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Although the origins of the Saxon settlement at Stevington are obscure, by the late Saxon period it comprised a 3 hide estate worth £30, which was held by Aethelwold, a thegn of King Edward (Williams & Martin 2002: 577). The church retains Saxon stonework in the lower part of the west tower (BBHER 854).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Following the Norman Conquest the estate was awarded to Count Eustace of Bolougne and was held by Ernulf d'Ardres. It was a reasonably large settlement of 23 households, having 11 smallholders, 10 villagers and 2 slaves (Williams & Martin 2002: 577). Surrounding land comprised enough fields for 24 ploughs, whilst there were only up to 9 plough teams, four more units of meadow and enough woodland for 20 pigs.

Although a licence to crenellate was issued to Baldwin Blake in 1281, no other evidence for a castle exists, and it is presumed that the site of the Manor is located, together with the Church, in and around Manor Farm and the present Manor House at Church End, at the north end of the village (BBHER 79). A lime kiln and a medieval building possibly associated with the manor, have also been found (BBHER 14358) in the only archaeological intervention in the



village. Manor records of 1349 attest that Stevington was affected by the Black Death (VCH, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp100-104>)

The village cross (BBHER 989; Scheduled Monument 1005428) dates from the 14th century, at the very heart of Stevington medieval village (BBHER 16949) where Silver Street and Church Street meet. Traces of a possible homestead enclosure (BBHER 1175), is known from the north of the village.

Three small hamlets were on the fringes of the medieval village: Park End medieval settlement (BBHER 16948), West End medieval settlement (BBHER 16950) and Duck End medieval settlement (BBHER 16951).

Evidence for a shrunken settlement in the Duck End area may be evidenced by a former possible fishpond (BBHER 1930), a barn (BBHER 1974), a cropmark (BBHER 2778) and demolished medieval and later cottages/ farm buildings (BBHER 6528).

Many wells were mapped in late 19th century Stevington, but the most notable was the medieval Holy Well – a natural spring (BBHER 77), which flows out of a limestone outcrop on which the largely 14th St Mary's Church (BBHER 854) is built over, and which may pre-date the medieval period.

The village was likely surrounded with infields, and there are surviving ridge and furrow earthworks, plus comprehensive traces of ploughed out examples around the village, (BBHER 433) including at West End (BBHER 3929, 1845), with possible lynchets (BBHER 5078). Also included is the site of a possible limestone quarry to the north of Park End (BBHER 2785). Cropmarks show the remains of a curved medieval road between Church End and West end, now superseded (BBHER 6973). A possible deer park is fossilised in an extensive area of fields directly south-west of Park End (BBHER 6974).

3.7 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Three metal-detected post-medieval coins and a jetton plus a copper-alloy seal matrix have been recovered recently from fields at the southern end of the parish (BBHER MBB 19389-91, 19397). No excavated examples have been found in Stevington.

Many of Stevington's buildings date from the 17th century, suggesting widespread replacement of older timber buildings. Further widespread episodes of new building work and/or rebuilding carried on into the 18th and 19th centuries. Many buildings of that date still survive and the 1885-1896 Ordnance Survey map shows the village only as being slightly less developed than today. New types of building and structures arrived in the Victorian era. Amongst them was the Bedford to Northampton railway ran west-east to through the south of the parish (BBHER 14731).

3.8 *Modern* (1900-present)

Very little change appears to have taken place in Stevington up to 1901. Infill of existing plots along the village centre road occurred up to the present time, with smaller fields being divided up into gardens. In the 1930s the village was provided with a whole series of standpipes (BBHER 3444-5, 3463, 5377, 6975-7, 15331) including one positioned opposite the site in Silver Street (BBHER 4441). A telephone box was also acquired in 1935 (BBHER 15139). The railway was dismantled in 1962.



3.9 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

The site is now an open urban area which is part of the larger rear field plot 100, which contains a large pond. The 1885-1896 Ordnance Survey map appears to depict half the site as having an east-west orientated building on the frontage and an associated rear plot, occupying the western half of the current plot width. The remainder was open and indeed being continuous with the field to the south/east bar a boundary extending to the pond which is in the same position as today (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/os-1-to-10560/bedfordshire/011/nw>; <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/499151/253312/12/100478>).



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

Initial placing of the trench was amended due to the presence of a post-medieval well and excessive vegetation restricting access to various strategical points throughout the site. The amended trench location is displayed in Fig. 4. It was also stated in the WSI (Thompson 2015) that a second trench may be required near to the frontage of the site. As a reduction of ground level was not required in this area a second trench was not deemed necessary. A single 10x2m trench was mechanically excavated with a 2.8 tonne machine fitted with a 0.9m toothless and a 0.6 toothed bucket where compacted ground was encountered.

4.2 Trench 1 (Figs. 5 & 6: Plates 1 & 2)

Trench 1 was located at the southeast end of the site and was situated within the proposed building's footprint. The site stratigraphy was comprised of:

0.15m topsoil **(100)**: Mid grey brown, compacted fine silty clay;

0.52m made ground **(101)**: Dark grey brown, compacted fine silty clay containing a frequent presence of charcoal, moderate medium sub-angular stones and occasional inclusions of CBM, pottery, and glass;

0.05m natural **(115)**: mid orangey yellow with patches of light grey heavily compacted silty clay.

The trench produced several features and deposits throughout.

Destruction layer (Plate 2)

A layer of debris **(102)** was uncovered on removal of the made ground (101). The deposit was focused in the centre and southeast end of Trench 1 and measured c.4.20m in width and 0.15m in depth. This destruction layer contained inclusions similar to the made ground but was lighter in appearance. Pottery and CBM of a modern date were observed but not recovered.

Postholes (Plates 3 & 6)

Two postholes were uncovered during this evaluation. The larger, **[103]** was located at the northwest end of the trench (Plate 3). **[103]** cuts stone surface **(109)** on its northeast side and the natural (115) on its southwest. There are no visible indications of other postholes within a close proximity to **[103]**. The posthole contained a single fill **(104)** which yielded pottery, glass and CBM which are all post-medieval in date. The second posthole **[112]** was situated at the southeast end of Trench 1 and underlay the destruction layer (102) (Plate 6). **[112]** contained two fills **(113)** and **(114)**. **(113)** contained an iron nail which was post-medieval in date, and **(114)** contained two packing stones situated at the base of the posthole.

Wall base and possible wall foundation (Plates 4 & 7)

Linear feature **[105]**, identified as a possible wall foundation, was discovered at the northwest edge of trench 1 (plate 4). The feature is aligned in a southwest-northeast direction and measures 0.45m wide and 0.19m deep. **[105]** appears to continue and terminate beneath stone surface (109). The location of the terminus of **[105]** is unclear and is not visible in the excavated section showing the relationship between **[107]** and (109). **[105]** consisted of a single fill **(106)** which yielded pottery, CBM (mainly tile) and glass of a post-medieval date. A foundation cut **[107]** was exposed 0.60m southeast of **[105]**. This feature was also orientated on southwest-northeast direction. Within the cut was a high concentration of light white/grey medium sized flat stones bonded with a white grey silty clay mortar **(108)**. Animal bone, pottery, CBM and an iron nail were recovered from within this context. The relationship between **[105]** and **[107]** was unclear.



Stone surface (Plate 7)

(109) consisted of a high frequency of flat sub-angular white/grey stones identical to those observed in fill of wall base (108). The deposit of stones was up to two courses deep (0.16m in depth) and was mortared with light brownish yellow silty clay. Pottery of a post-medieval date, as well as animal bone and CBM were discovered within this fill.

Ditch (Plate 8)

Linear ditch [110] measuring 0.93m in width and 0.22m in depth was located beneath destruction layer (102) to the southeast of Trench 1. [110] was aligned in a northeast-southwest direction, terminating 1.50m southwest of the baulk. The ditch contained a single fill (111) which was completely void of finds or dateable material. This feature was heavily truncated by rooting.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (LxWxD)</i>	<i>Description</i>
102	Deposit	>1.46x4.20x0.15m	Layer of destruction
103	Cut	0.32x0.44x0.13m	Posthole
104	Fill	0.32x0.44x0.13m	Fill of posthole [103]
105	Cut	>0.84x0.45x0.19m	Possible wall foundation
106	Fill	>0.84x0.45x0.19m	Fill of possible wall foundation [105]
107	Cut	>1.80x>0.70x0.13m	Foundation cut
108	Deposit	>1.80x>0.70x0.13m	Possible wall
109	Deposit	>1.40x>2.60x0.16m	Stone surface
110	Cut	>1.50x0.93x0.22m	Ditch
111	Fill	>1.50x0.93x0.22m	Fill of ditch [110]
112	Cut	0.24x0.24x0.11m	Posthole
113	Fill	0.24x0.24x0.11m	Upper fill of posthole [112]
114	Fill	>0.22x0.14x0.03m	Packing stones in posthole [112]

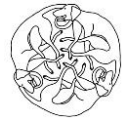


Plate 1: Trench 1 facing southeast. 1m scales.



Plate 2: Trench 1 facing northwest. 1m scales.



Plate 3: Posthole [103], facing southeast.



Plate 4: Possible wall foundation [105]. 1m scale.



Plate 5: Southwest facing section of relationship slot. 2m scale.



Plate 6: Southwest facing section of posthole [112].



Plate 7: Stone surface (109), wall base [107] and possible wall foundation [105]. 2m scale.



Plate 8: Southwest facing section of ditch [110]. 1m scale.

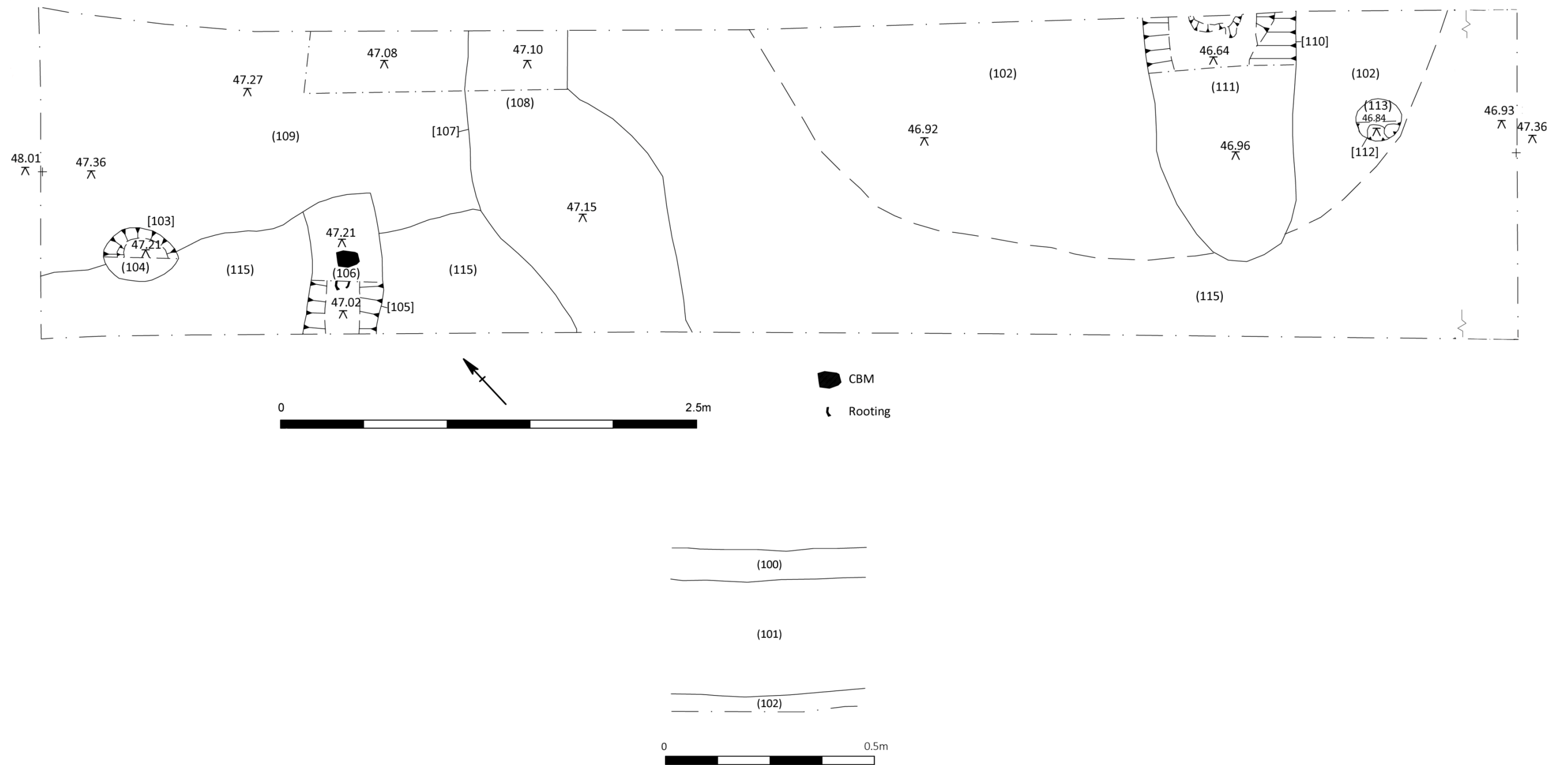
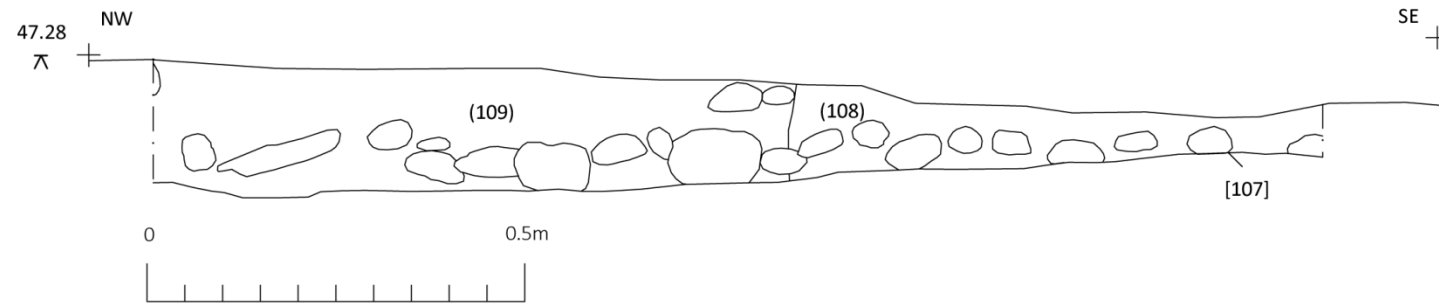
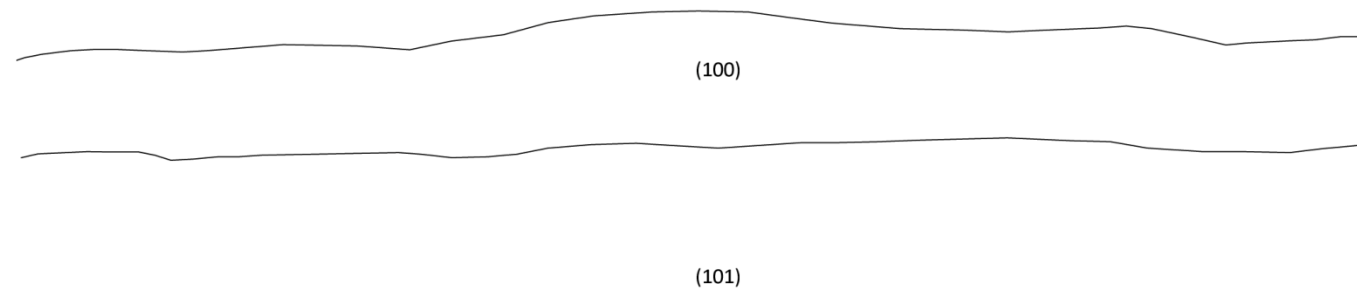


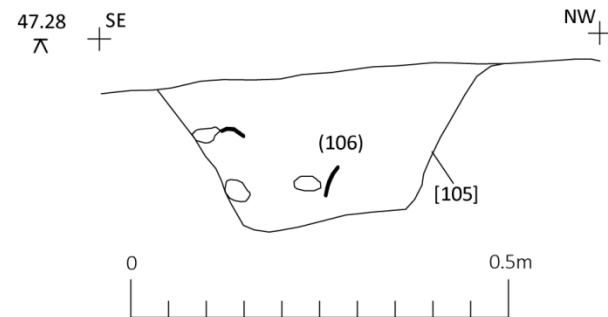
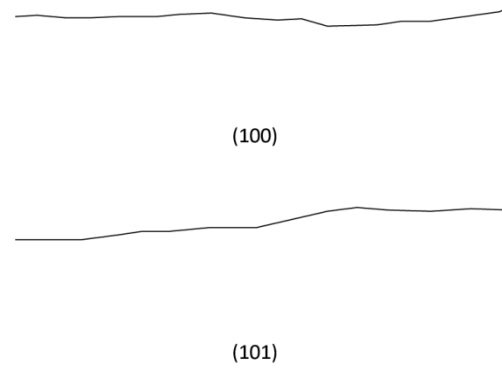
Fig. 5: Plan (Scale 1:25) and representative stratigraphy (Scale 1:10) of Trench 1



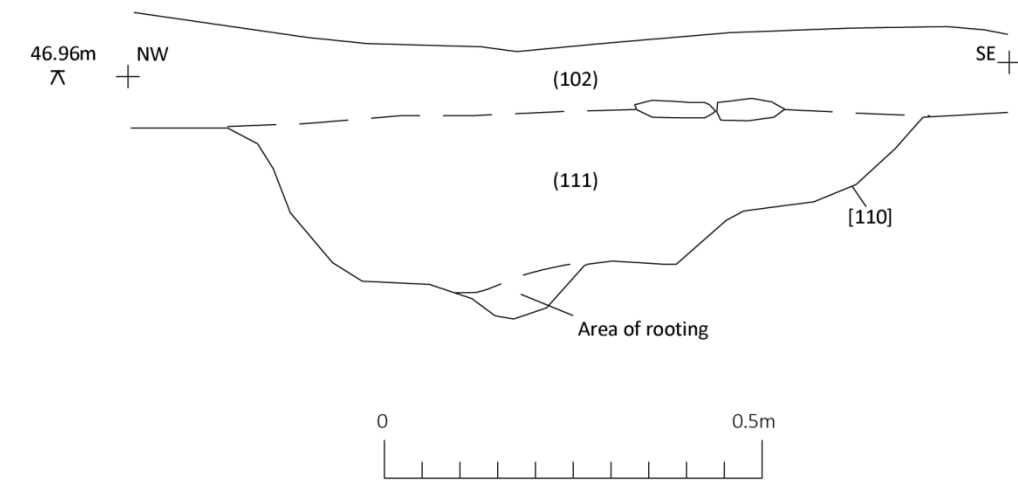
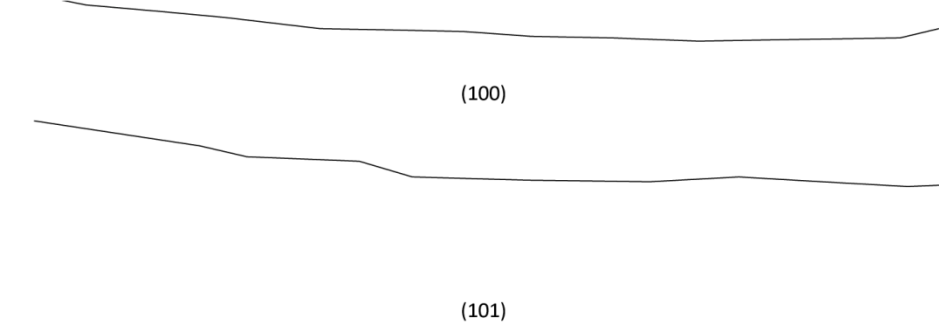
SW facing section showing the relationship between wall base [107] and stone surface (109)



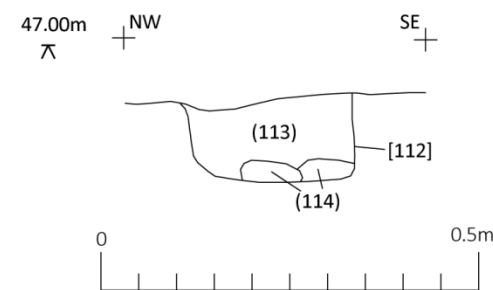
NE facing section of possible wall foundation [105]



SW facing section of ditch [110]



SW facing section of posthole [112]



NE facing section of posthole [103]

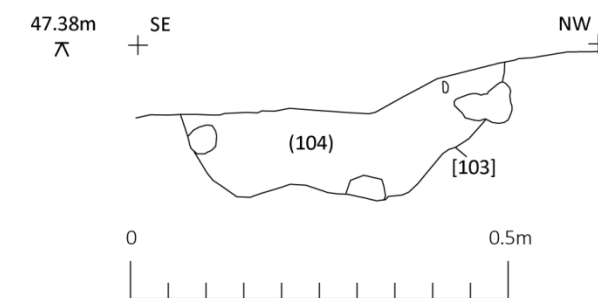


Fig. 6: Section drawings of the features in Trench 1 (scale 1:10)



5 Conclusions

The evaluation was carried out in preparation for the construction of a new house. Cartographic evidence suggests that there has been no development or extensive use within the boundaries of the site since the demolition of farm buildings in the 19th century

The 10x2m excavated area conducted within the proposed footprints of the new building exposed several post-medieval features, including two postholes, [103] and [112] a shallow ditch [110], a possible wall foundation [105] and a wall base. The trench produced only post-medieval archaeology which is most likely connected to the buildings and boundaries depicted on the 1885-1896 Ordnance Survey map (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/os-1-to-10560/bedfordshire/011/nw>).

No features or finds were discovered predating the post-medieval structures. This may be due to the site being outside the core settlement area as the majority of medieval settlement is concentrated north of Silver Street between Church End and West End. It is also possible that there are other features medieval and later on the site; however they were not encountered during this evaluation.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Aragon Land and Planning for commissioning this report on behalf of Mr and Mrs Sherlock. Thanks are also due to Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents. The project was monitored by Vanessa Clarke.

The fieldwork was carried out by Jessica Bertrand MA and Laura Dodd MSc. The report was written by Laura Dodd, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.45).



8 References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE:137/SSS			Site Name: Land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Trench 1 looking SE
2		X	Trench 1 looking SE
3	X	X	Posthole [103] looking SE
4		X	Posthole [103] looking SE
5	X	X	Possible wall foundation facing SE
6		X	Possible wall foundation facing SE
7	X	X	Stone surface facing NW
8	X	X	Surface and wall base NE
9	X	X	SW facing section of ditch facing NE
10	X	X	SW facing section of posthole [112] facing NE
11	X	X	Trench 1 facing NW

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers		Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Fe objects		Glass		Other	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms
102	101	1	22										
104	103	1	3			2	6			2	8		
106	105	1	6			1	234			1	18		
108	107	1	25	3	8	4	43	1	4				
109	N/A	1	9	1	<1	1	132						
113	112							1	6				



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	137/SSS
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-211678	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2015.45
OS reference	498787 253056	Study area size	20 sq. m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	48.01m
Short Description	In July 2015 archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington in Bedfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Several features were uncovered from a single 10x2m trench including a destruction layer, two postholes, a wall base and possible wall foundation, a stone surface and a ditch terminus. All the features are believed to be post-medieval in date and are believed to be connected to the buildings and boundaries depicted on late 19 th century Ordnance Survey mapping.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of detached dwelling and associated vehicular parking together with restoration and realignment of front boundary wall.	Current land use	Urban open space
Local Planning Authority	Bedford Borough Council	Planning application ref.	14/01465/FUL
Monument type	Wall base, ditch, 2 postholes, stone surface and possible wall foundation	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Geoff Saunders	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Jessica Bertrand
Sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Sherlock		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	07/07/15	End date	07.07.15
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2015.45)	-	
Paper		Evaluation report, WSI, site records, photographs	
Digital		CD ROM, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report, Land between 43-47 Silver Street, Stevington, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	137/SSS/2		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc		
Page no's	23	Date	22.07.15