



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land North of The Grange

Grange Lane

Lower Caldecote

Bedfordshire



## Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	153/LGC/ 2.0	<i>Date</i>	08.09.15
<i>Editor</i>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<i>Version</i>	153/LGC/ 2.0	<i>Date</i>	15.09.15
<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	

© KDK Archaeology Ltd. 2015 No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort has been made to provide as complete and as accurate a report as possible. However, KDK Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies, or omissions contained in this document.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
KDK Archaeology Licence No. 100053538

7b High Street Mews Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1EA

Tel: 01525 385443

Email: [office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk)

Website: [www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk)





**CONTENTS**

Summary.....4

1. Introduction .....4

2. Aims & Methods .....7

3. Archaeological & Historical Background .....8

4. Results.....10

5. Conclusions .....15

6. Acknowledgements.....16

7. Archive .....17

8. References .....18

**Appendices:**

1. List of Photographs .....20

2. OASIS and Site Data.....21

**Figures:**

1. General location .....3

2. Site location .....5

3. Proposed development.....6

4. Trench location .....12

5. 1m sample section of site stratigraphy (Trench 1) .....14

**Plates:**

1. Trench 1, facing southeast .....13

2. Stratigraphy of Trench 1.....13

3. Stratigraphy of Trench 2.....13

4. Trench 2, facing southwest .....13

5. Trench 3, facing southeast .....13

6. Stratigraphy of Trench 3.....13

7. Trench 4, facing southwest .....14

8. Stratigraphy of Trench 4.....14

9. Stratigraphy of Trench 5.....14

10. Trench 5, facing north .....14

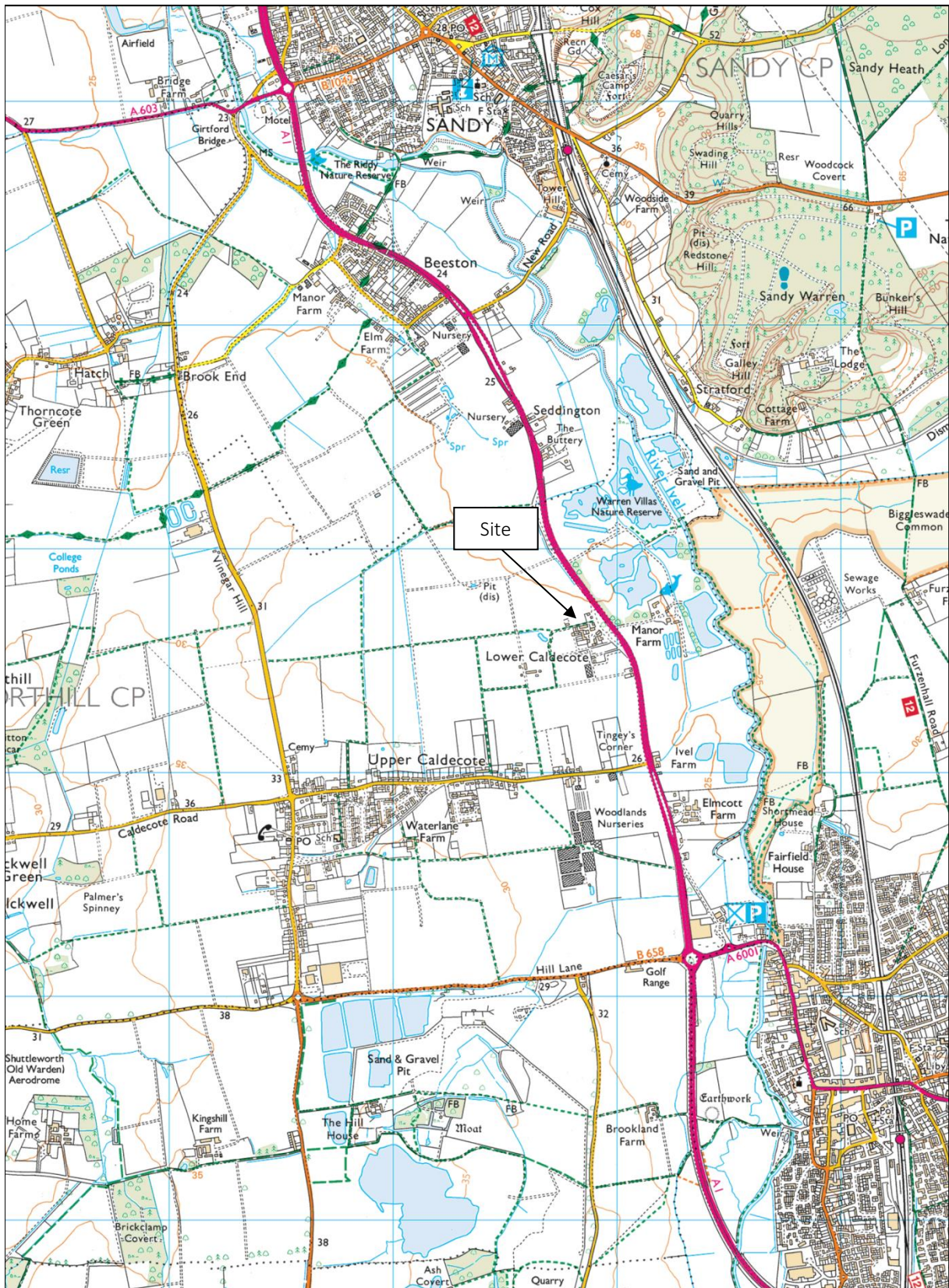


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



---

## Summary

In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation of land north of The Grange, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of eight link-detached dwellings, on behalf of Patrick Connors. Five trenches were excavated within the development area, which is currently wasteland, but no archaeological cut features or deposits were noted within any of the trenches. The presence of a subsoil layer within the stratigraphy of the site suggests it has not been significantly developed or deep ploughed. However, the site had been subjected to significant bioturbation in the form of rabbit burrows, tree throws and rooting.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation of land to the north of The Grange, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by David Clarke of Green Planning Studio Ltd on behalf of Patrick Connors, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Shlasko 2015), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT), archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/15/02583/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*

Lower Caldecote is a small hamlet located within the Civil Parish of Northill, Central Bedfordshire. The proposed development site, a property known as Land North of the Grange, is on the northern edge of the settlement at National Grid Reference TL 17826 46682 (Fig. 1)

#### *Description*

The proposed development site is an empty plot situated just north of The Grange, Lower Caldecote, a small residential settlement located 100 metres west of the A1. The site is bounded on the south by a lane and faces a row of back gardens and houses. To the west is a plot containing domestic structures, while to the east is a paved plot with a large car park and cafe. Agricultural fields bound the north side of the site (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

Located just 600 metres west of the River Ivel, the site is situated on a flat plain of riverine deposits (River Terrace deposits, 1 to 2 – sand and gravel), deposited up to two million years ago. These sand and gravel deposits have been quarried, leaving a series of ponds along the river, mostly on the east side of the A1. Underlying these deposits is sedimentary bedrock laid down 156-165 million years ago, when this area was covered in shallow seas (Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member (undifferentiated) mudstone, sedimentary bedrock) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is approximately 26mAOD.

#### *Proposed Development*

The proposal comprises the construction of eight houses on the site, along with garages, access drives, landscaping, etc. (Fig. 3).

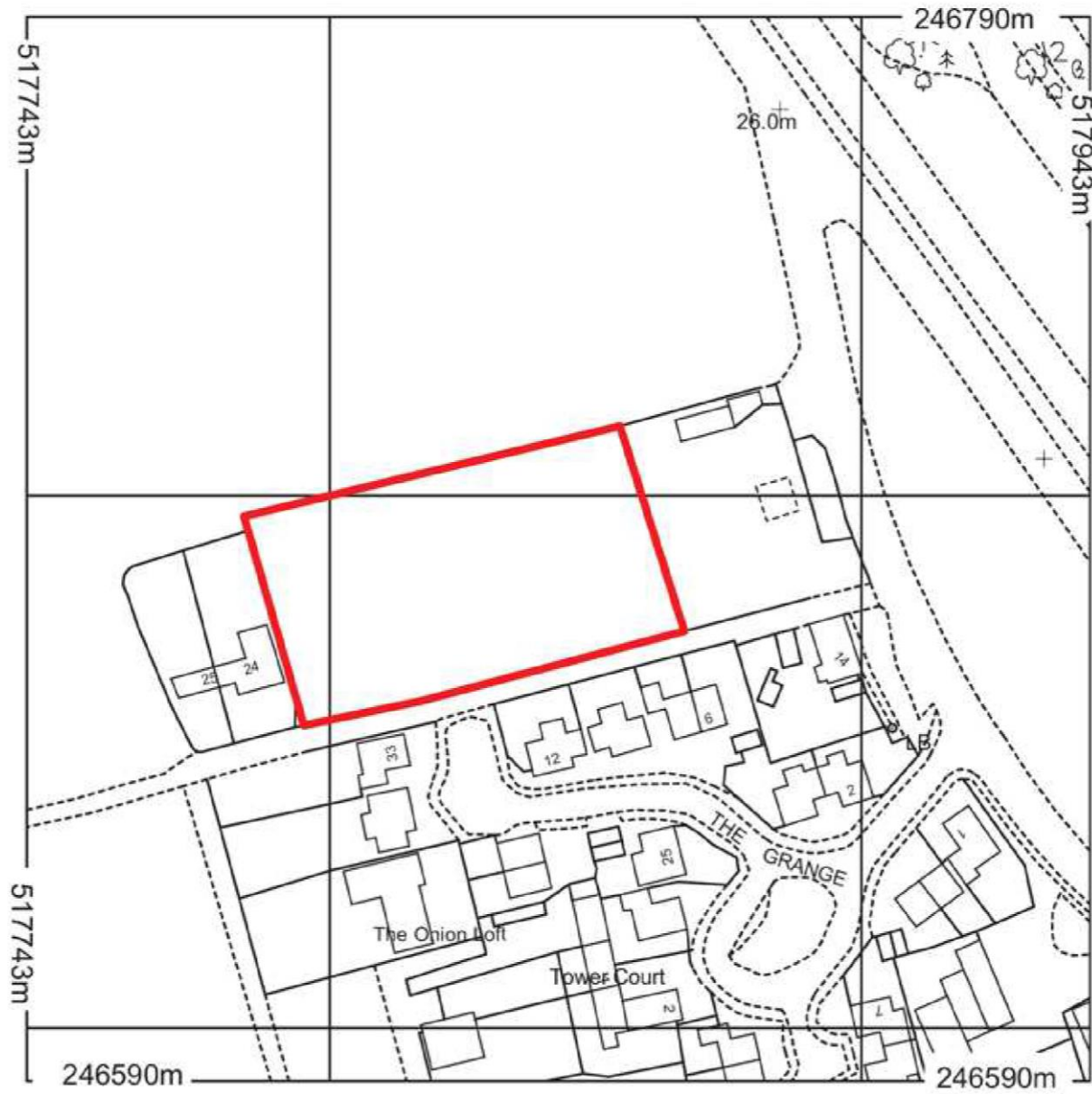


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:1000)



---

## 2 Aims & Methods

### 2.1 *Aims*

The aims of the project 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.

Other site specific research aims were as follows:

- To investigate landscape development and settlement patterns; the relationship between settlement and enclosure (Going & Plouviez 2000, 21 and Oake et al 2007, 11 - 12)
- To investigate rural Saxon and medieval settlements; to examine diversity, characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear (Wade 2000, 24-25, Oake 2007, 14 and Medlycott 2011, 70).

### 2.2 *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 Historic England 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 and Historical Background

- 3.1 Lower Caldecote, as it exists today, is a small, modern settlement on the site of The Grange. The hamlet, which was never large, straddles the Great North Road (A1) and is bounded on the east by the River Ivel. It has been an attractive area for settlement since the Prehistoric period, with abundant evidence of occupation from the Iron Age to Modern times.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), reliable internet resources such as the Victoria County History, and sources from the KDK library.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC)

There is limited evidence for prehistoric occupation in Lower Caldecote. During trial trenching at Seddington, north of the proposed development site, excavators found a probable Neolithic pit and undated cremation burial (EBD940) that is believed to be contemporaneous to the pit. Other evidence of prehistoric occupation consists of isolated finds, including a flint arrowhead (HER16206) found approximately 300 metres south of the proposed development site. This point is either Neolithic or Bronze Age in date.

Excavations at the Warren Villas quarry site at Manor Farm (HER3527), located about 600 metres northeast of the development area, between the A1 and the River Ivel, recovered Mesolithic and Neolithic material. The Mesolithic material consisted of limited lithic scatters. However, excavations recovered Late Neolithic environmental data, lithics and a single sherd of cord-impressed pottery (Dawson and Maull 1996: 60-61).

Bronze Age finds at Warren Villas include a penannular enclosure, possibly a funerary monument, although no burials were found during excavation. The ditch was about 2 metres wide with a U-V shaped profile (*ibid*: 61-62).

3.3 ***Iron Age*** (600BC-AD43)

Most of the evidence for Iron Age occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development site comes from the archaeological investigations at Manor Farm. Dawson and Maull describe the extensive findings, including a large, sub-circular enclosure, post-built structure and remains of related field systems. Interestingly, they suggest that the site may have been abandoned at the end of the of the Iron Age due to a rising water table and increasingly waterlogged conditions near the river (Dawson and Maull 1996: 62).

A second focus of Iron Age settlement was found during excavations at Ivel Farm, located south of Manor Farm and about 800 metres southeast of the proposed development site (HER13974). The archaeological remains found at Ivel Farm include a number of cremation pits that appear to be Early to Middle Iron Age in date ([www.bedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk)). There is also evidence of later Iron Age/Roman occupation at Ivel Farm, including possible evidence of stock rearing.

3.4 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

Following a period of abandonment, the Warren Villas site was reoccupied in Roman times. This occupation appears to be a farmstead with evidence of field systems, multiple enclosures, rubbish pits and drainage ditches. There is a small inhumation cemetery, as well as scattered cremation burials. A kiln and large quantities of pottery were found at the northern end of the site (Dawson and Maull 1996: 62).



---

Interestingly, a Roman trackway was identified in cropmarks in a field just north of the proposed development site (HER3528). This track appears to run from the west, toward the Warren Villas settlement and the river to the east.

### 3.5 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

There is slight evidence for agricultural activity on the Warren Villa site (HER3527) from the 4th to the 6th century followed by a phase of short term occupation indicated by a small number of pits and postholes.

In the Saxo-Norman period the settlement consisted of a small farmstead with the remains of three buildings. Evidence was found of agricultural activities in the form of pits dug into the river bank that may have been used as fish traps or possible flax retting vats (Dawson and Maull 1996: 64-65).

Further south, at Ivel Farm, excavations uncovered evidence of Saxon occupation. The location of three sunken buildings inside earlier Iron Age/Roman enclosures suggests that the Saxon inhabitants of the site may have been reusing existing earthworks (BCC).

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

Because Lower Caldecote was always a very small settlement, the early documentary evidence is quite limited. The Victoria County History for Northill Parish identifies Little Caldecote with a manor of one and a half hides with a mill held by a man named Pirot from Eudo fitzHHerbert at the time of the Domesday Survey. This manor eventually became known as Carminos Manor, after the 14<sup>th</sup> century owner John de Carminos (Page 1912: 242-251).

Place name evidence suggests that Manor Farm might be a Medieval settlement associated with this Manor, although there are no surviving Medieval structures or architectural elements. However, the remains of Medieval field systems have been identified as crop marks and through subsurface testing at various locations around the proposed development site. For instance, cropmarks identified as Medieval field systems were located in a field just north of the proposed development site (HER3528) and at the Warren Villas Quarry site.

### 3.7 **Post-Medieval-Modern** (1500-present)

Lower Caldecote remained a small rural settlement throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern periods. Because of its location on the Great North Road, it was connected to national transportation networks. An 18<sup>th</sup> century milestone in the lay-by opposite Grange Road marks the point on the road 46 miles from London ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). The Kings Head, an 18<sup>th</sup> century public house, stood about 200 metres east of the proposed development site.

The theme of transportation networks is also reflected in the construction of the River Ivel Navigation, which opened in 1758. Although the locks of this waterway are now derelict, the construction of the canal had an impact on the area around the proposed development site, both environmentally and economically (<http://www.eawa.co.uk/ivel.html>).

At Manor Farm, the surviving mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Onion Barn is a Grade II listed structure that is an example of specialized architecture. This type of onion storage and processing building is unique to this area. It is a reminder of a crop that was locally important during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).



## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

The development area is waste land and prior to archaeological evaluation was cleared of undergrowth and debris. Five trenches were excavated using a wheeled JCB excavator with a toothless 1.6m wide bucket. The trenches were located within the areas to be most heavily impacted by the proposed development.

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Plates 1&2)*

Trench 1 was located in the northwest corner of the site, orientated NW-SE, and measured 22m x 2.0m wide. No archaeological features were present, though significant bioturbation was noted. The western end of the trench appears to be sited over a series of steps in the underlying natural gravel, which probably represents the edge of a palaeochannel.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Layer	0.4	Mid greyish brown, silty sand, with modern inclusions. <b>Topsoil</b>
102	Layer	0.25	Mid orange brown, compact silty clay with moderate subangular and rounded inclusions. <b>Subsoil</b>
103	Layer	>0.2	Mottled, orangey brown sands, with coarse loose sand and gravel. <b>Natural geology</b>

### *Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plates 3-4)*

Trench 2 was located in the southwest corner of the site, orientated NE-SW, and measured 22m x 2.3m wide. No archaeological features were present, though a small modern pit was noted in the NW corner

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
201	Layer	0.45	As Trench 1. <b>Topsoil</b>
202	Layer	0.3	As Trench 1. <b>Subsoil</b>
203	Layer	>0.15	As Trench 1. <b>Natural geology</b>

### *Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Plates 5-6)*

Trench 3 was located in the northeast corner of the site, orientated NW-SE, and measured 22m x 2.0m wide. No archaeological features were present, though significant bioturbation was noted throughout the trench.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
301	Layer	0.18	As Trench 1. <b>Topsoil</b>
302	Layer	0.17	As Trench 1. <b>Subsoil</b>
303	Layer	>0.16	As Trench 1. <b>Natural geology</b>

### *Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Plates 7-8)*

Trench 4 was located in the southeast corner of the site, orientated NE-SW, and measured 22m x 2.1m wide. No archaeological features were present.



<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
401	Layer	0.35	As Trench 1. <b>Topsoil</b>
402	Layer	0.25	As Trench 1. <b>Subsoil</b>
403	Layer	>0.1	As Trench 1. <b>Natural geology</b>

*Trench 5 (Fig. 4, Plates 9-10)*

Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site, orientated N-S, and measured 22m x 2.2m wide. No archaeological features were present, though significant bioturbation was noted at the northern end.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (m)</i>	<i>Description</i>
501	Layer	0.4	As Trench 1. <b>Topsoil</b>
502	Layer	0.3	As Trench 1. <b>Subsoil</b>
503	Layer	>0.1	As Trench 1. <b>Natural geology</b>

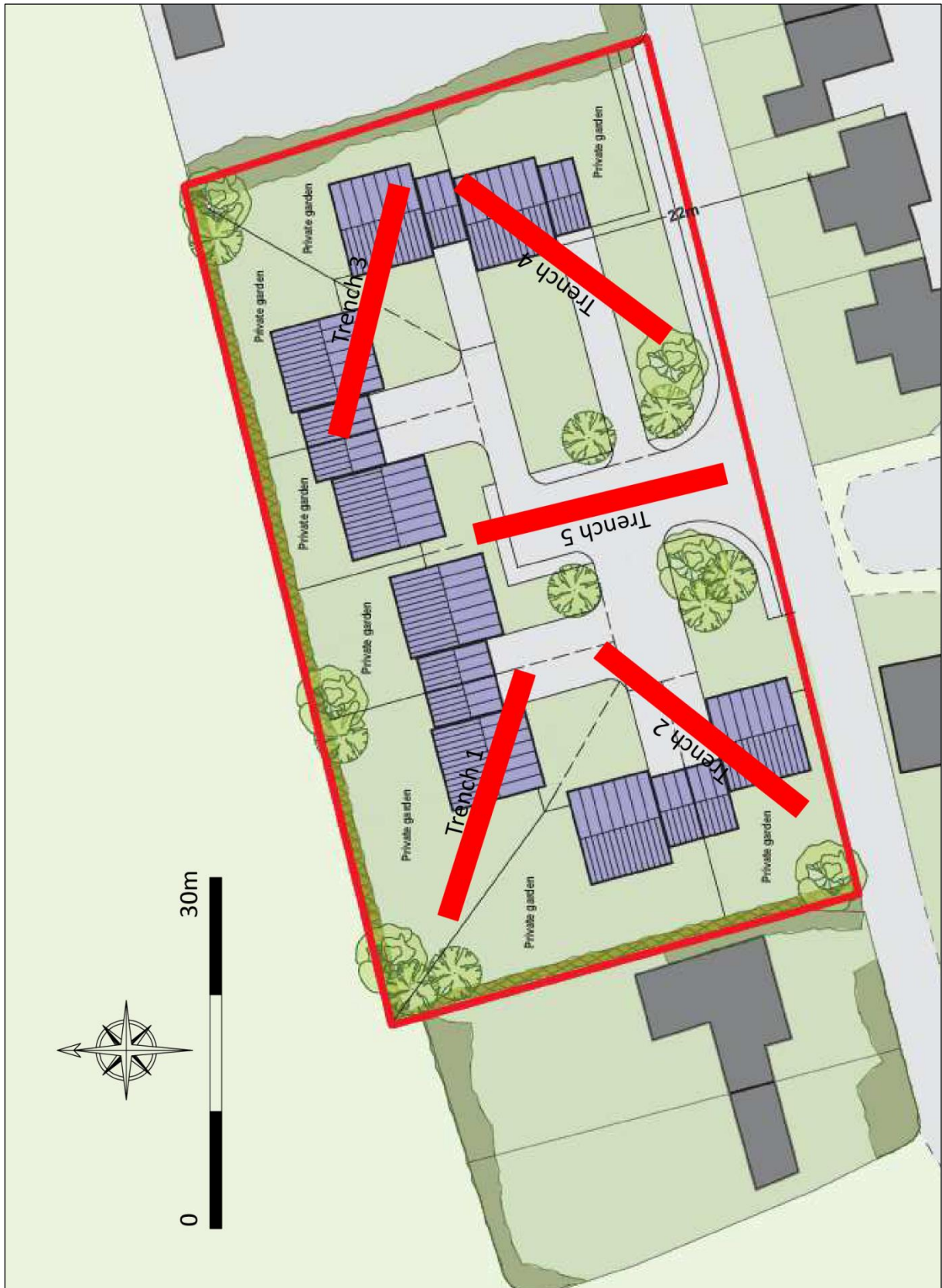


Figure 4: Trench location (scale 1:750)



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing southeast



Plate 2: Stratigraphy of Trench 1



Plate 3: Stratigraphy of Trench 2



Plate 4: Trench 2, facing southwest



Plate 5: Trench 3, facing southwest



Plate 6: Stratigraphy of Trench 3



Plate 7: Trench 4, facing southwest



Plate 8: Stratigraphy of Trench 4



Plate 9: Stratigraphy of Trench 5



Plate 10: Trench 5, facing north

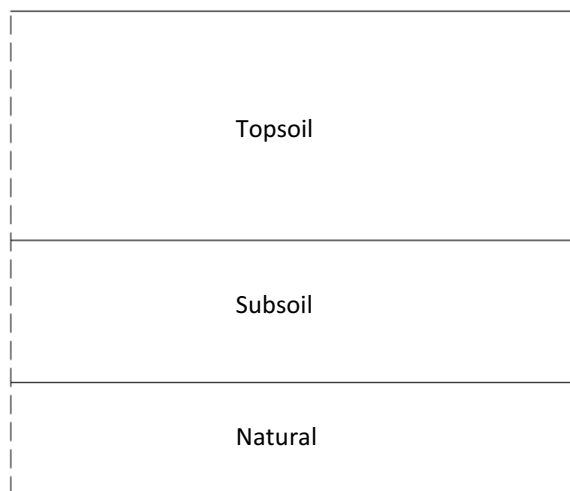


Figure 5: 1m sample section of site stratigraphy (Trench 1)



---

## 5 Conclusions

The principal periods which may have been represented in the archaeological record at the site were most likely to have been either Iron Age or Roman. However, no archaeological features were noted from these or any other period, despite the site stratigraphy including a layer of subsoil, suggesting the area had not been significantly developed or deep ploughed.

It is probable that the site lies outside the core settlement areas, and any peripheral features may be too dispersed to have been encountered during this evaluation. The site was also heavily affected by a combination of rooting and deep rabbit burrowing, often penetrating the loose natural geology. Consequently there is a possibility that had there been archaeological features on the site, they may have been destroyed by this activity.

No artefactual material was recovered from any of the listed contexts.

### *Heritage Asset Assessment*

The proposed development consists of eight semi-detached houses and associated access. It is likely that the foundations of the buildings will consist of strip footings excavated to a depth of at least one meter, and drainage trenches, whilst of a shallower depth, are also likely to impact on the natural geology.

However, as there were no indications of archaeological features in any of the trenches, it is possible that the site lies outside the limits of the built settlement, and that the land has historically been used for agriculture, though not deep ploughed. Therefore, it would appear that there is no surviving archaeology within the study area, to be affected by the proposed development.





---

## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Patrick Connors for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Archaeological Team for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Hannah Firth of CBAT for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Jessica Bertrand MA PCIfA, Laura Dodds MA and David Kaye BA ACIfA. The report was written by David Kaye, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



---

## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Trench recording sheets
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 2015.56).



## 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: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.

CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

CIfA 2014 *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2014 *Standards & Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and research of Archaeological Material*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage

EH 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. London: English Heritage

Ferguson L. M. & Murray D. M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Manchester: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1

Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

HE 2015 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. London: Historic England

Shlasko E. 2054 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation: Land North of The Grange, Grange Lane, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire*. KDK: 153/LCG/1 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.

### ***Secondary Sources***

Dawson M & Maull A. 1996 Warren Villas Quarry, Upper Caldecote: interim report on excavations from 1989-1994 *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 22, 58-66

### ***Websites Accessed***

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/LowerCaldecote/TheManorOfCaminosOrLowerCaldecote.aspx>



---

British Geological Society: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.eawa.co.uk/ivel.html>

[http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=1379822&resourceID=5](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1379822&resourceID=5)

([http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Single.aspx?uid=2623460&resourceID=1972](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=2623460&resourceID=1972))

Page W 1912 "Parishes: Northill" *A History of the County of Bedford, Vol 3.* pp. 242-251

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp242-251> [accessed 8 August 2015].



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE:			Site Name:
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	X	X	Trench 1, facing SW
2	X	X	Trench 1, facing NE
3	X	X	Trench 2, facing SW
4	X	X	Trench 2, facing NE
5	X	X	Trench 3, facing SE
6	X	X	Trench 3, facing NW
7	X	X	Trench 4, facing SW
8	X	X	Trench 4, facing NE
9	X	X	Trench 5, facing N
10	X	X	Trench 5, facing S
11	X	X	Stratigraphy of Trench 1
12	X	X	Stratigraphy of Trench 2
13	X	X	Stratigraphy of Trench 3
14	X	X	Stratigraphy of Trench 4
15	X	X	Stratigraphy of Trench 5



## Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land North of The Grange, Grange Lane, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	153/LCG
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-219035	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2015.56
OS reference	TL 17826 46682	Study area size	248sq.m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	26m
Short Description	In September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation of Land North of The Grange, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of eight link-detached dwellings, on behalf of Patrick Connors. Five trenches were excavated within the development area, which is currently wasteland, but no archaeological cut features or deposits were noted within any of the trenches. The presence of a subsoil layer within the stratigraphy of the site suggests it has not been significantly developed or deep ploughed. However, the site had been subjected to significant bioturbation in the form of rabbit burrows, tree throws and rooting.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Eight semi-detached dwellings	Current land use	Wasteland
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire	Planning application ref.	CB/15/02583/OUT
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Archaeological Team	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	David Kaye BA ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Patrick Connors		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	1.09.15	End date	3.09.15
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum	None	
Paper		Recording sheets, WSI	
Digital		CD of photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land North of The Grange, Grange Lane, Lower Caldecote, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	153/LCG/1		
Author(s)	David Kaye BA ACIfA		
Page no's	21	Date	16.09.15