



KDK Archaeology Ltd

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

38 High Street  
Toddington  
Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

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



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## Summary

*In November 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological Evaluation at 38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Number 38 is situated in the historic core of the town and as such, highlighted as an area of potential archaeological interest. Several features were uncovered from a single 10 m trench including a posthole and a small pit. Both features are believed to be post-medieval in date.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological Evaluation at 38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Friends Associates, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Kaye 2016), and approved by Hannah Firth, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire. The relevant planning application reference is CB/14/01901/PAPC.

### 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*

The site is in the historic core of the town and civil parish of Toddington, which is in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 00857 28673 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The development site is on land to the rear of 38 High Street, and is bounded to the north by the Methodist Church and by residential properties on all other sides (Fig. 2). It is accessed via a long driveway to the north of number 38.

#### *Geology & Topography*

The solid geology comprises Mudstone of the Gault Formation, which is overlain by sand and gravels (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is on level ground at approximately 147m AOD.

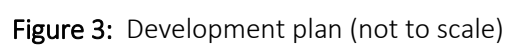
#### *Development*

The development comprise the construction of a bungalow in the rear garden (Fig. 3).





**Figure 2:** Site location (scale 1:1250)





## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Kaye 2016) 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 paleo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

Specific reference to this project is the need for research into the origins and development of small towns and early town planning during the medieval period as described by Ayers (2000, 27-32), Oake (2007, 14) and Medlycott and Brown (2008, 96-97).

The local and regional research contexts are provided by Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake et al (2007) and Medlycott (2011).

### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements outlined by the AA, the methods used were as follows:

- A single trench was excavated equating to 20.92sq m within the footprint of the development

### 2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The AA
- 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)

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, 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: Location of trench (scale 1:300)



### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 There is slight evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in Toddington in the form of Mesolithic flints and a few Roman coins respectively. Precisely when Toddington was first settled is unclear, but it derives its name from the Old English 'Hill of Tuda's people' and is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which suggests that it was well established in the late Saxon period (CBC UID: DBD3397).

It became a thriving market town, but by 1800 its importance began to wane largely due to competition from other market towns and subsequently the lack of communication by railway (*Ibid*; VCH Online). Its significance today, other than being a large and attractive village, is its proximity to the M1.

This section has been compiled with information from The Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Records (HER Ref: 201617/175), reliable internet sources and KDK's library.

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

The earliest archaeological artefacts found in Toddington are flint tools dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, discovered in the Station Road allotments (HER 15846). Another small scatter of Mesolithic flints was recovered in the garden at number 11 Station Road in the 1980s (HER 15860).

There appears to have been a significant number of Bronze Age finds in the area, including two nearly complete urns found off Leighton Road to the south-west of the parish in 1881 [HER1426], a metalworker's hoard at Park Close to the north-west [HER1512] and a socketed axe with two copper spearheads at Cowbridge to the east [HER94]. Possible burial mounds are recorded in a field to the north of the town [HER3635] and on the highest point of Toddington [HER11774].

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

There are no archaeological features or artefacts dating from the Iron Age in the study area, although an early - middle Iron Age settlement was discovered near Chalton Cross Farm during a road widening programme on the M1 (<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk>).

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

The settlement at Chalton Cross Farm continued in use during the Roman period (HER 15839), and there is evidence to suggest that there were two villas not far from the town boundary, one close to Sheepwalk Hill and another at Town Close (<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk>). Eleven 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century cremation burials were also discovered at the former site, but evidence for Roman activity within the study area is scant, other than a Roman coin of Claudius (HER 6816) and half a dozen coins, of which one was a silver coin of Trajan (HER 6573), found to the north of the site. A road once considered to have been Roman (HER 11986), which according to Camden linked Markyate with Bedford, is no longer thought to pre-date the medieval period.

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

Four Saxon cemeteries are known in the parish of Toddington, the earliest of which dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> centuries (HER 2857). This was discovered in 1819 to the south of the village in an area known as Warmark. Another cemetery was also located to the south of the village in the hamlet of Chalton (HER 91). A cemetery was established in the 6<sup>th</sup> century to the northeast in Sheepwalk (HER 101). The fourth cemetery, also to the northeast of the settlement, lies within the study area and was discovered during gravel digging in 1829 and 1830 on William Harbett's estate (HER 11954). It is recorded that a number of inhumation



burials along with several urns containing small bones, a spearhead, a sword blade, some beads, and other artefacts were found.

The earliest documentary evidence for Toddington is a charter dating from 926AD in which King Athelstan grants lands at Chalgrave and Tebworth that he had bought from Guthrum (<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk>). A sacred well dedicated to St Cyneburh is mentioned in the text, which is likely to be Kimberwell, a natural spring to the southwest of the parish (HER 6986).

By the time of the Norman Conquest, Toddington was a large and well-established settlement of 15½ hides, home to approximately 320 people in all and valued at £30 (<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk>). It was held by Wulfward, a thegn of Queen Edith.

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

After the Norman Conquest, the manor was granted to William Spec, who exchanged it for two others held by Ernulf de Hesding before 1086 (VCH online). Ernulf de Hesding's daughter Matilda granted the church of Toddington to the Abbey of La Couture in 1100–22 (*ibid*).

The manor changed hands on several occasions and by 1229 it was in the possession of the Crown again. It was granted to William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke when he married Eleanor sister of Henry III. It later passed to the Earl of Leicester and then to Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, who sub-infeudated the manor to Paul Pever by 1250, when he was awarded a market grant (*ibid*).

A motte and bailey castle known as Conger Hill (HER 89; SAM 20439) was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Pever. The name Conger Hill is first recorded in 1597 and is believed to be a corruption of an earlier British name, although the fact that it was used as a rabbit warren in the 16th century may also have been the cause.

Remains of a gateway in the park are thought to mark the site of the mansion that Pever built in Toddington in the middle of the 13th century. Matthew Paris describes this dwelling as 'like a palace, with state rooms, chapel, bed chambers and other apartments of stone covered with lead, and environed with orchards and parks in a manner which astonished all beholders.' (VCH online).

St George's Church (HER 962) dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century and is also thought to have been built by Paul Pever. The cruciform plan and general dimensions date from early in the 13th century, but only the central tower, south transept and south aisle preserve masonry of that date. The nave arcades are from c. 1310 and the chancel, vestry, north transept and north aisle were rebuilt in the 15th century, at which time the clerestory was added and the south aisle walls heightened. Pever requested that his heart be buried within the church (*ibid*). Medieval inhumation burials found at The Griffin PH (HER 15458) would suggest that the churchyard was formerly larger than at present.

The hospital of St. John the Baptist was founded in 1433 and pulled down in the 16th century following the Dissolution. The materials were reused in the erection of the market hall (VCH online).

The market and fair at Toddington, the tolls of which were held by the lords of the foregoing manor, were granted by Henry III in 1218 to William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, the market being held on Thursday and the fair on the vigil, feast and morrow of St. George (April 23). In 1531, the lords of Toddington were granted two additional fairs of two days each on the feast days of St Bartholomew (24 August) and St. Katherine (25 November). It would appear that the market went into decline and was revived before 1681, when it is recorded that sixteen



butchers rented stalls in the market-place. A second dip in the fortunes of the market occurred in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, before a brief revival in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and its final demise by 1891, when the market had been replaced by a few stalls in the church square on Saturday (*ibid*).

The HER notes the discovery of a 14<sup>th</sup> century seal belonging to a John Tarmister and a copper alloy lamp by metal detecting to the east of the site (HER 18364). Evidence for medieval agricultural practices survives in ridge and furrow identified largely through aerial photography (HER 3355).

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

Despite the drop in fortune, post-medieval Toddington was still able to sustain the establishment of a number of Non-Conformist places of worship, two schools (The National School and Wesleyan School, both founded in the 1850s) and support some 23 pubs and inns, of which three fall within the study area. The Bell (HER 5303), a 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century inn, and the Red Lion (HER 6469) an 18<sup>th</sup> century brick building, are located to the north of the site, and the Bedford Arms (HER 5311), a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber building, lies to the south.

A windmill was built to the northwest of the site in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (HER 3145) and a gasworks was established in what is now Conger Lane in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (HER 6906).



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

The site was stripped using a 5 Tonne tracked machine with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. The measurements of the proposed 10 x 1.8 metre trench were amended in order to avoid modern features within the garden such as a greenhouse and a pond. The revised trench measured 9.20 x c.2.40 metres and was excavated to a depth of 0.78m. The trench was orientated north-northeast west southwest within the footprint of the development plan.

### 4.2

**Context Table**

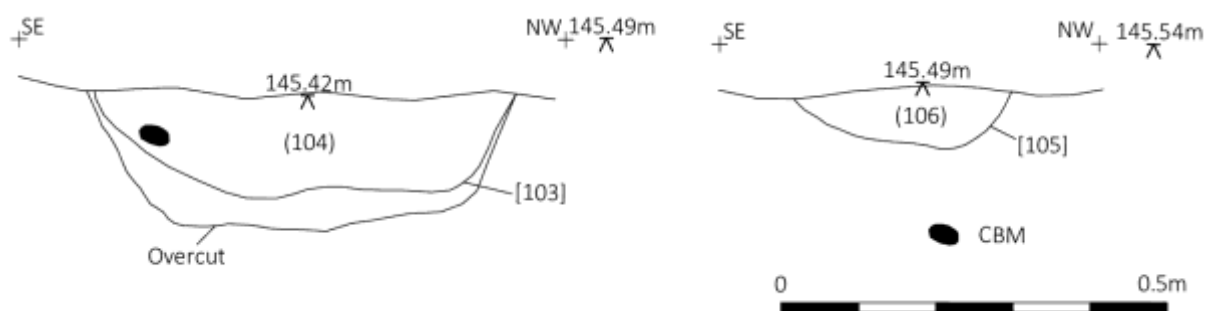
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	L: 9.20m W: >2.40m D: 0.34m	Topsoil: Dark blackish brown loose sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of garden debris (pot, trays etc.) and small sub-angular stones
101	Layer	L: 9.20m W: >2.40m D: 0.28m	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown loose sandy silt containing occasional small sub angular stones. Modern CBM was also within the fill
102	Layer	L: 9.20m W: >2.40m D: Unknown	Natural: Mid orange silty sand with gravel inclusions. There are also bands of gravel within the natural
103	Cut	L: 0.64m W: 0.55m D: 0.11m	Cut of pit: Concave in section and oval in plan. The northern edge is steep whereas the southern edge is <45°. The base is irregular
104	Fill	L: 0.64m W: 0.55m D: 0.11m	Fill of pit: Mid orangey brown friable silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions. Fine rooting was present throughout. Finds were post-medieval
105	Cut	L: >0.39m W: 0.28m D: 0.09m	Cut of posthole: Concave in section and rectangular in plan. The sides of this feature were angled >45° and the base was concave
106	Fill	L: >0.39m W: 0.28m D: 0.09m	Fill of posthole: Dark grey brown friable silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks. Fine rooting was present throughout. Finds were post-medieval

#### **Pit [103] (Figs. 5 & 6; Plates 3-6)**

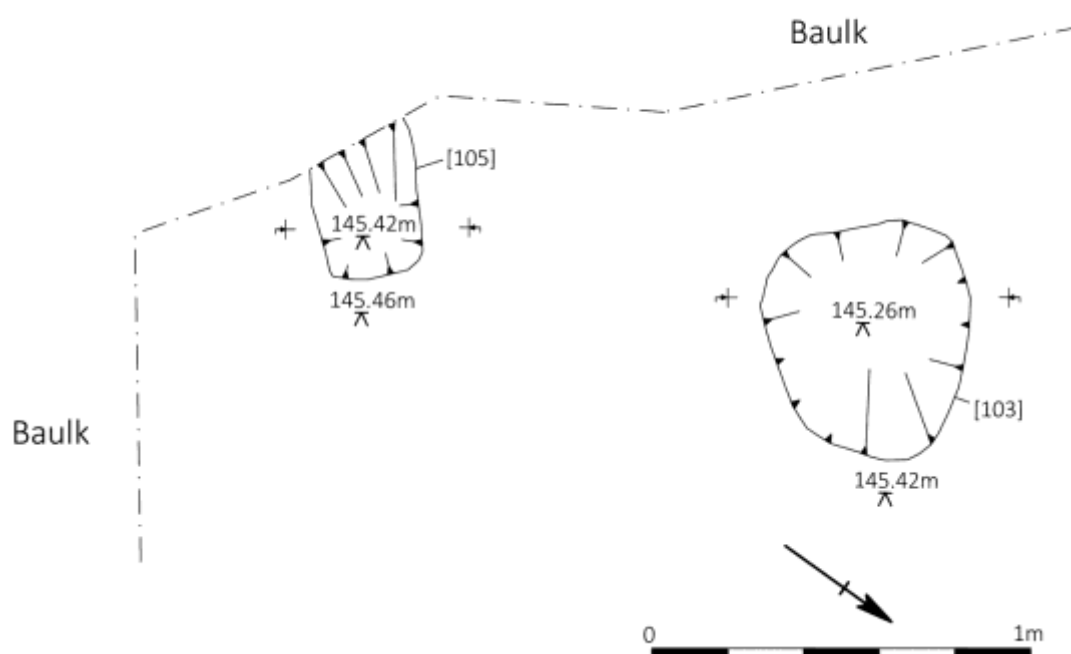
A small oval pit was observed in the southern corner of the trench. The fill, (104), contained post-medieval material including animal bone, pottery, brick, tile, and the stem of a clay pipe. These finds were photographed for the purposes of this report but not retained (Plate 5-6).

#### **Posthole [105] (Figs. 5 & 6; Plates 7-8)**

A single posthole was uncovered during this evaluation c.0.80m southeast of [103]. The posthole contained a single fill (106) which yielded a single fragment of blue and white pottery which is post-medieval/modern in date. The area had previously comprised of two separate gardens and it is possible, due to its location, that this posthole formed part of the divide between the two spaces (*Pers. Comm* Mr George 2016). There were no visible indications of other postholes within a close proximity to [105].



**Figure 5:** NE facing sections of ditch [103] and posthole [105] (scale 1:10)



**Figure 6:** Plan of ditch [103] and posthole [105] (scale 1:20)





**Plate 1:** Trench overview



**Plate 2:** Site stratigraphy



**Plate 3:** Pit [103]. NE facing section



**Plate 4:** Pit [103]



**Plate 5:** Finds from (104)



**Plate 6:** Finds from (104)



**Plate 7:** Posthole [105]. NE facing section



**Plate 8:** Posthole [105]



## 5 Conclusions

No finds or features observed on the site predated the post medieval period and the features comprised a small pit and a posthole. Although the site is situated within the core of the village, it appears that this area has been relatively untouched. The area to the northwest of the site had once been open field and farmland with the town development being concentrated along the main road. The site under investigation had also belonged to the Methodist chapel before becoming privately owned by the residence of number 38. The land was part of a larger plot which has, in modern times been sold off piece by piece for the purposes of private construction. It is likely that the archaeology encountered, particularly the posthole, formed part of the partition fence between the northeast and southwestern plots. The function of the pit is unknown.

The size and nature of the evaluation was very restricted, limiting the probability of encountering archaeological features in either the subsoil or the natural geology. Features may be widely dispersed, even in areas close to major archaeological sites, so it is perhaps not surprising that this project was unable to further our knowledge of settlement activity in the area.

The proposed foundations comprise strip footings measuring 600mm in width and 1000mm in depth. Given the dearth of known archaeological remains in the area and the negative results of the trial trenching, the potential for encountering archaeological features or finds during the proposed building works is considered to be low.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Friends Associates for commissioning this report on behalf of Mr and Mrs George. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire County Council for monitoring the project.

Mr and Mrs George for their hospitality and assistance on site as well as the machine driver Adrian Iancu from Lynch Plant Hire.

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



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (Entry Number LTNMG 1261).



## 8 References

### *Standards & Specifications*

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14

Brickley M. & McKinley J. I. 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.

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### *Secondary Sources*

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

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Oake M. Luke M. Dawson M., Edgeworth M. and Murphy P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology - Research and Archaeology: resource assessment, research agenda and strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology 9

Kaye K. 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: 38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire*. KDK Archaeology Ltd Report 244/TSH/1





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Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book: a complete translation*. London: Penguin



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 244/THS			Site Name: 38 High Street, Toddington
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		X	Trench overview. Without board. Looking southeast
2	X	X	Trench overview. With board. Looking southeast
3	X	X	Trench overview. With board. Looking northwest
4		X	Trench overview. Without board. Looking northwest
5		X	Stratigraphy. With board. Looking northeast
6		X	Stratigraphy. With board. Looking northeast
7	X	X	Posthole [105]. With board. Looking southwest
8		X	Posthole [105]. Without board. Looking southwest
9	X	X	Posthole [105] Northeast facing section. With board. Looking southwest
10		X	Posthole [105] Northeast facing section. Without board. Looking southwest
11	X	X	Pit [103] Northeast facing section. With board. Looking southwest
12		X	Pit [103] Northeast facing section. Without board. Looking southwest
13	X	X	Posthole [105] fully excavated. With board. Looking southwest
14		X	Posthole [105] fully excavated. Without board. Looking southwest
15	X	X	Pit [103] fully excavated. With board. Looking southwest
16		X	Pit [103] fully excavated. Without board. Looking southwest
17		X	Finds from pit [104]
18		X	Finds from pit [104]



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**Appendix 2: Finds Concordance**

Context Numbers		Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Other		
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms		No.	Gms
104	103	3	21	1	2	11	509	Clay pipe	1	5
106	105	1	<1							

Finds were not retained for archiving



### Appendix 3: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	244/THS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-264585	Event/Accession no	LTNMG 1261
OS reference	500891 228675	Study area size	20.92sq m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	c.145
Short Description	<i>In November 2016 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological Evaluation at 38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. Number 38 is situated in the historic town core of the town and as such, highlighted as an area of potential archaeological interest. Several features were uncovered from a single 20.92sq m trench including a posthole and a small pit. Both features are believed to be post-medieval in date.</i>		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	New bungalow in rear garden	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire	Planning application ref.	CB/14/01901/PAPC
Monument type	Posthole and pit	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	none	Future work	unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	n/a	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	Friends Associates		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	16.11.16	End date	16.11.16
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Luton Museum LTMG 1261	None	
Paper		WSI, report, site records, b&w photographs	
Digital		CD containing all digital data	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: 38 High Street, Toddington, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK Archaeology Ltd Report ref. 244/THS/2		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc		
Page no's	21	Date	18.11.16