



KDK Archaeology Ltd

Archaeological Evaluation and  
Observation and Recording Report

77-79 High Street

Bedford

Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

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## Summary

In May-June 2017 an archaeological evaluation and observation and recording project took place at 77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire during the conversion of the property to a shop and apartments, and the construction of a single storey rear extension. An evaluation trench was situated within the footprint of the new extension and uncovered the remains of a Saxo-Norman pit, interpreted as backyard activity from the High Street. A stone wall foundation was also exposed representing a structure or building pre-dating the existing building on the site (pre-1795), and a single course of post-medieval bricks were also found. The site also displayed a series of modern made-up ground deposits, with a sondage excavated to expose the natural strata. The footing trenches for the new extension were also monitored, which were primarily excavated through made-up ground.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In May-June 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation and observation and recording at 77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Whitworth Chartered Architects on behalf of Paul Panayis, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay-Jones 2017), and approved by Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBCHET), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Bedford Borough Council. The relevant planning application reference is 16/02430/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.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location and Description*

77-79 High Street lies on the eastern side of the High Street and to the north of Mill Street on National Grid Reference 50505 24987 (Fig. 1). It is a Grade II listed early 19th century building with a neo-classical frontage and modern shop front at ground floor (National Heritage List Entry for England: 1129013). It is bounded to the south by 75 High Street and to the north by 81 High Street, which is currently Natwest Bank. To the rear lies numbers 1&2 Mill Yard. Mill Yard provides the access to the rear of the site from Mill Street (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The natural geology of the site comprises superficial deposits of Stoke Goldington Member sand and gravel overlying bedrock geology of Kellaways Clay-Mudstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is at an elevation at 30.13m AOD.

#### *Proposed Development*

The proposed development involves the redevelopment of the property to a shop and apartments, along with the erection of a single-storey rear extension (Fig. 3).



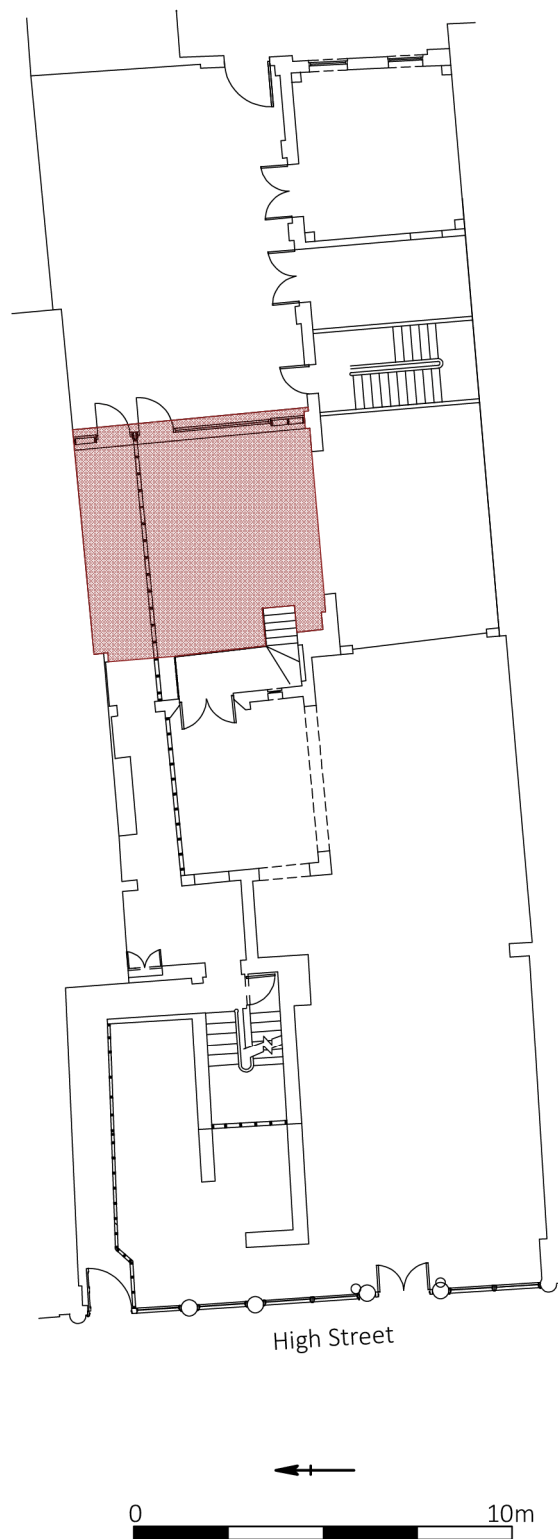


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)





Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)



**Figure 3:** Proposed development with rear extension highlighted (scale: 1:200)



## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Barclay-Jones 2017) were:

- To record the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development.

Overall research aims include *inter alia* the development of towns, changes in the internal layout and housing density, the identification of commercial and industrial buildings and structures in urban centres (Medlycott 2011: 70).

2.2 *Methods*

### Evaluation

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

- A single evaluation trench measuring 3 x 3m was excavated within the building footprint (Fig. 4).

### Observation and Recording

Due to the presence of archaeological features in the evaluation trench, observation and recording was carried out, in line with the requirements of the AA, as follows:

- Archaeological monitoring of footing trenches and pads associated with the construction of the new rear extension (Fig. 4).

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)



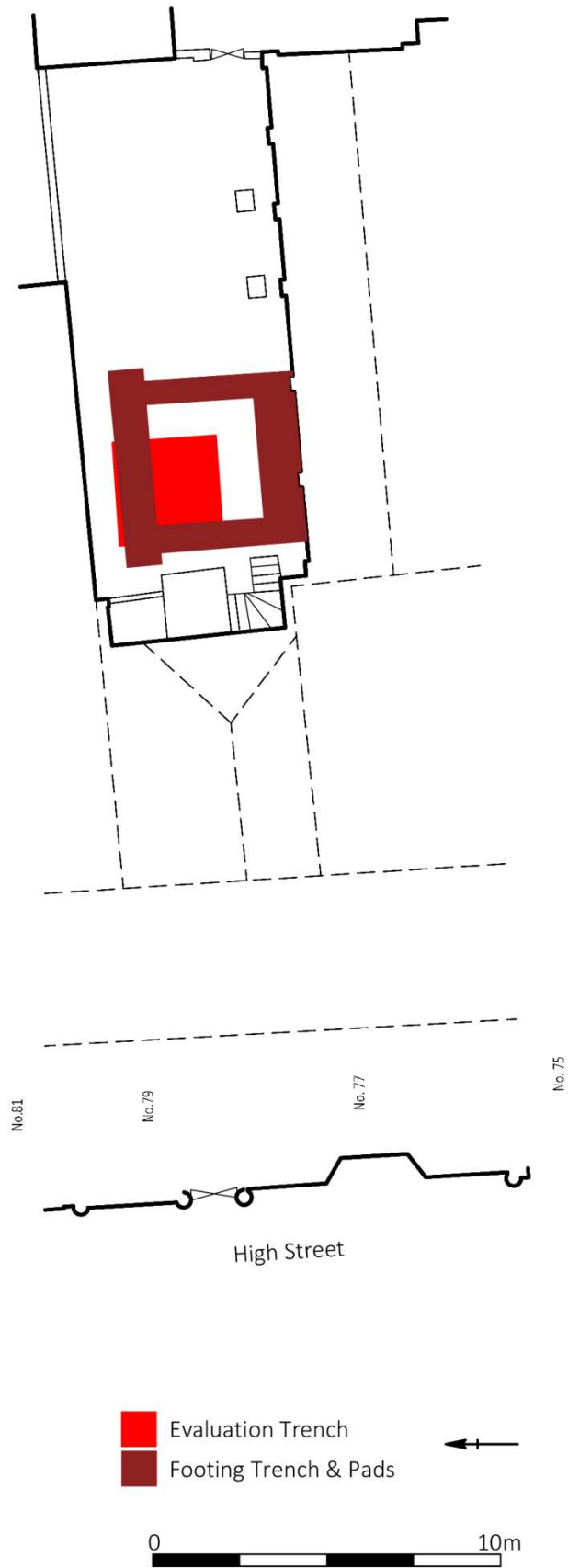


Figure 4: Evaluation trench and footings trench location (scale: 1:200)



### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The present town stands on either side of the River Ouse. There is archaeological evidence for an earlier settlement on the left bank, respecting the course of the river, which provided a defensive boundary. In 880AD, this area was known as *Bedanford* and in the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 referred to as *Bedeford*. The name derives from the old English personal name 'Bīeda' and 'ford', or 'Bieda's ford' (Mills 1991: 29). The site lies in the Bedford Conservation Area to the north of the River Ouse. Little is known about the High Street before the medieval period, as continual demolition and development has obscured and destroyed evidence of earlier features.

This section has been compiled with information from Bedford Borough Historic Environment Records (BBHER reference 028 (2016-17) covering a 100m search radius, books from KDK's own library, Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team Archaeological Brief (Clarke 2017) and reliable internet sources. Monuments are prefixed MBD. Further historical research will be undertaken as part of the Historic Building Recording.

3.2 ***Prehistoric-Roman*** (before 600BC- c.AD450)

There is no evidence for activity before the Saxon period within the search radius. The continual high density occupation of this particular part of Bedford, married with the number of development projects throughout the medieval to modern period, will have obscured evidence for earlier occupation around this area. Roman activity is evident beyond the periphery of the site.

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

Bedford is rich in Saxon activity; however, evidence for this period consists mostly of documentary data. The great battle of 571 was fought at a place named *Bedcanforda*, which has often been assumed to refer to Bedford, although this is often disputed. In this battle, Cithwulf, a member of the West-Saxon royal house, captured large pieces of land from the Britons including the future shires of Oxford and Buckingham. The first undisputed reference to Bedford occurs in the treaty between Alfred of Wessex and Guthrum, the Viking Ruler of East Anglia in the late 9<sup>th</sup> century, which listed Bedford as part of the boundary of the English and Danish territory. The town of Bedford was then in Danish hands. King Edward the Elder, son and successor of Alfred the Great, came to Bedford during the Danish wars in 919, where he recaptured the borough and ordered the digging of the king's ditch to defend the town to the south of the Ouse. However, further skirmishes led to Danish forces taking back Bedford in the great raid of 1010, in which the town was burned.

During the middle Saxon period the settlement is thought to have extended north of the River Ouse to the line of Mill Road. By the late Saxon period, Bedford was a defended burh with an important river crossing (River Ouse).

The present day High Street formed the main route within the burh leading to the river crossing, and the development site is situated within the northeast quadrant of the burh.

Archaeological works in closer proximity to the development site include excavations carried out in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Bedford Museum at no.81 High Street, immediately to the north of the development site. Here ditches and watercourses containing Saxon pottery were found (EBB731). Trial trenching was also carried out at 35-39 Mill Street, at the site of the former Howard Chapel, situated c.67m southeast of the development site. Pits backfilled with domestic refuse dating from the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries were found, along with evidence for contemporary ironworking and residual Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery (EBD201). A watching brief was also carried out on the site, which exposed a series of large rubbish/cess pits containing St Neots pottery dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century (EBD206).



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

After the Norman Conquest, Bedford Castle was built to the northeast of the town bridge. At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Bedford was assessed at a half-hundred for military expeditions by land and sea. The land was never hidated, with the exception of the one hide belonging to the church of St Paul. The Survey states that the half-hundred was worth 100s (Williams & Martin 2002: 562). Henry II gave the town its oldest charter in 1166, making it a borough and confirming the town's right to a merchant guild ([www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)). In the subsequent years the town thrived as a trading centre and benefitted from a mint in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. By the late 12<sup>th</sup> century a school had been built in School Lane (now Mill Street). During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Bedford was an agricultural town. It fell into rapid decline following the Black Death in 1349.

### 3.5 **Post-Medieval** (1500- 1900)

During the post-medieval period, Bedford flourished and the area profited from an increase of industry. Little survives of the medieval High Street; however, the layout of the town is well documented. The oldest secular building in Bedford is the George Inn, whose remains consist of a gateway dating to the late 15<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> century (MBD 991). The site of several other Inns have also been recorded, such as a 17<sup>th</sup> century Inn at 58-60 High street (MBD 1820). This building underwent restoration in 1888 before being turned into a cinema in 1911. The building was finally demolished in 1936 and replaced by Palace Chambers. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Cross Keys Inn was built at 69 High Street (MBD 1230). On the High Street and the adjoining roads were lace manufacturers (MBD17317 and MBD17231), iron mongers (59 High Street 17339, 97 High Street MBD17286 and a third was located at Silver Street MBD 17267), a malthouse (MBD 15069; there were also malt houses on the north side of St. Pauls Square MBD 537 and Mill Street 17576), an old court house (42-44 High Street MBD 1813), a hatter's workshop (17441), a gunsmith's (4277) and the old county prison (MBD15055), which was believed to be where English writer and Baptist preacher John Bunyan was imprisoned in 1661. Most of these sites have been demolished.

High Street contains a number of historically significant buildings that were constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as numbers 59 & 61 (MBD 4528), 68 (4088) 72-74 (MBD 4089), 73 (MBD1817), 76-78 (4090), 80 (MBD 4093), 81-93 (MBD 4095), 84 (MBD 1227), 95-101 (MBD 4102), 103-105 (MBD 4103) and 107 (MBD 4104). Further buildings at 8-10 Mill Street (MBD 4042) and 1-3 (MBD 4032), 5-7 (MBD4033) 16 (MBD 4044), 20 (MBD 4045) and 24 (MBD 4047) Silver Street have also been deemed historically important. Other historically important buildings within the search parameter include; the former Bedfordshire Times office (22 Mill Street MBD 4046) and a factory (18 Mill Street MBD 17332 All of these buildings have been demolished.

### 3.6 **Modern** (1900-present)

Bedford has continued to develop, although the main fabric of the High Street has changed very little bar the modernising shop fronts. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a shopping arcade was introduced leading off the High Street (MBD 15049).

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century Bedford played host to a number of notable events. The Bedford Corn Exchange, which was constructed in 1874, became home to the BBC music department and an armed forces canteen. The venue received a number of notable artists in the early part of the century such as Vera Lynn, Humphrey Bogart, Bob Hope and Gracie Fields. The venue also played host to the last concert performed by Glenn Miller before his disappearance in 1944, (Love Bedford <http://www.lovebedford.co.uk>).

### 3.7 **Cartographic Evidence**

There is evidence to suggest that a building had been on the development site since at least 1795, however, the fabric of the current building suggests that this earlier building was replaced or amalgamated into the 1830s-1840s refurbishment. The 1795 map shows a small



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rectangular building adjacent to the High Street. By 1836 there had been several additions to the rear of the property.

Ordnance Survey maps from 1841 show a resemblance to the modern day configuration. At this time the building still appears to be one unit and the development area is depicted as a garden. The 1884 Ordnance Survey map shows the property as being a single unit Post office. Sometime in the mid-late 1880s the property was used as a tea and wine merchants owned by the Dickens Brothers, who stamped their trading initials 'D B' in the entrance to what is now number 79 in the form of a mosaic. At the time the brothers were noted as trading from 77 High Street.

By 1924 internal alterations had been undertaken and the property had been divided into two units, 77 and 79.





## 4 Results

### 4.1 Introduction

Initially, a single trench was mechanically excavated in the footprint of the new extension. Following the excavation and recording of this trench, footing trenches and pads were also mechanically excavated. The machine used was a 1 tonne JCB (8010 CTS) fitted with a 0.5m toothless ditching bucket.

See Appendix 1 for a context table with full context descriptions and Appendix 3 for the specialist report on the pottery and ceramic building material (CBM).

### 4.2 Evaluation Trench (Figs. 5-7; Plates: 1-11)

The single trench measured 3x3m and was excavated to a depth of 1m, through a series of modern/post-medieval made-ground deposits. Of particular interest was deposit (112), found at the NW corner of the trench. This deposit contained frequent larger sub-angular stones and roof tile. The deposit was cut by construction cut [121] associated with limestone wall [105], and may represent dumped material originating from an earlier building on the site.

In the SE corner of the trench, a sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.6m to expose the natural geology. The sondage also further exposed an area of heat affected earth (113), (Plates 1-5).

The remains of a single pit [108], stone wall [105] and a part of a brick wall [106] were excavated in the trench, described as follows:

**Pit [108]:** was found at the northern end of the site. It was cut by construction cut [121] for stone wall [105]. The pit extended beyond the limit of excavation, and as such its full shape in plan and profile was not determined. It had been deliberately backfilled and contained at least three fills (107, 119 and 120), with finds of St Neots Ware pottery dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Saxo-Norman), animal bone and tap slag. A fragment of burnt daub was also recovered from fill (107). The fragment had a curved surface with possible wavy impressions and had the appearance of being structural, possibly from an oven (Plates 6-7).

**Stone Wall [105]:** was orientated N-S with a return orientated E-W. A construction cut [121] was associated with the wall, which was not apparent in plan but was observed in section. The wall was constructed of rough sub-angular Blisworth limestone, which is a widely spread deposit found in eastern England. The stones were laid in an irregular coursing pattern. Two courses were observed which were un-mortared but the stones lay within a clayey matrix (118), which may have acted as a bonding material. During the surface cleaning of the wall, a single sherd of St Neots Ware pottery was found dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Saxo-Norman). The construction cut for the wall [121] cut through the uppermost fill (107) of pit [108]. The E-W return of the wall was also overlain by brick wall [106]. Interestingly, one of the stones of the wall had a pinkish surface suggesting that the stone had been heat affected (Plates 6-11).

**Brick Wall [106]:** was found at the western side of the trench, orientated E-W. It consisted of a single course of red bricks laid down in a stretcher pattern with no bonding. The bricks had no frog and each measured 220mm (L) x 110mm (W) x 35mm (D), ( $8^{11/16} \times 4^{5/16} \times 1^{3/8}$  inches). The bricks rested on a gravelly deposit (111), contained within a possible construction cut [117] for the wall. This cut, however, was only observed in the trench's bulk section and was not fully clear. The wall overlay stone wall [105] (Plates 8-11).



4.3 ***Footing trenches and Pads*** (Figs. 5&6; Plates: 12-18)

The footing trenches were excavated within a 27.13 sq. m area. They measured 0.6m wide and between 0.6-0.9m deep, through the same made-ground deposits initially observed in the evaluation trench (100-103, 104 & 109). The trenches were not deep enough to breach the natural stratigraphy. The western side of the footing trench revealed more of deposit (118), which formed part of stone wall [105], whilst the remainder of the trench revealed no other archaeological finds, features or deposits (Plates 12-18).



**Plate 1:** General shot of trench in relation to surrounding building, looking W (2x1m scale)



**Plate 2:** Trench stratigraphy, looking N (2x1m scale)



**Plate 3:** Trench stratigraphy, looking W (2x1m scale)



**Plate 4:** Trench stratigraphy and sondage, looking S (2x1m scale)





**Plate 5:** Trench stratigraphy and sondage, looking E (2x1m scale)



**Plate 6:** Stone wall [105] and pit [108], looking NNW (1m scale)



**Plate 7:** Stone wall [105] and pit [108], looking W (1m scale)



**Plate 8:** Stone wall [105] and brick wall [106], looking W (2x1m scale)





**Plate 9:** Stone wall [105] and brick wall [106], looking E (2x1m scale)



**Plate 10:** Brick wall [106] & stone wall [105], looking NNW (1m scale)



**Plate 11:** Brick wall [106] and stone wall [105], looking SSE (1m scale)



**Plate 12:** Footing trench, looking ESE (2x1m scale)



**Plate 13:** Northern side of footing trench, looking E (1m scale)



**Plate 14:** Western side of footing trench, looking N (1m scale)





**Plate 15:** Southern side of footing trench, looking W (1m scale)



**Plate 16:** Eastern side of footing trench, looking S (1m scale)



**Plate 17:** Footing trench, part of wall [105] and stratigraphy, looking W (2x1m scale)



**Plate 18:** Eastern side of footing trench, stratigraphy, looking W (2x1m scale)



Figure 5: Overall archaeology plan (scale 1:50)



Figure 6: Archaeology plan of evaluation trench and western side of footing trench (scale 1:20)

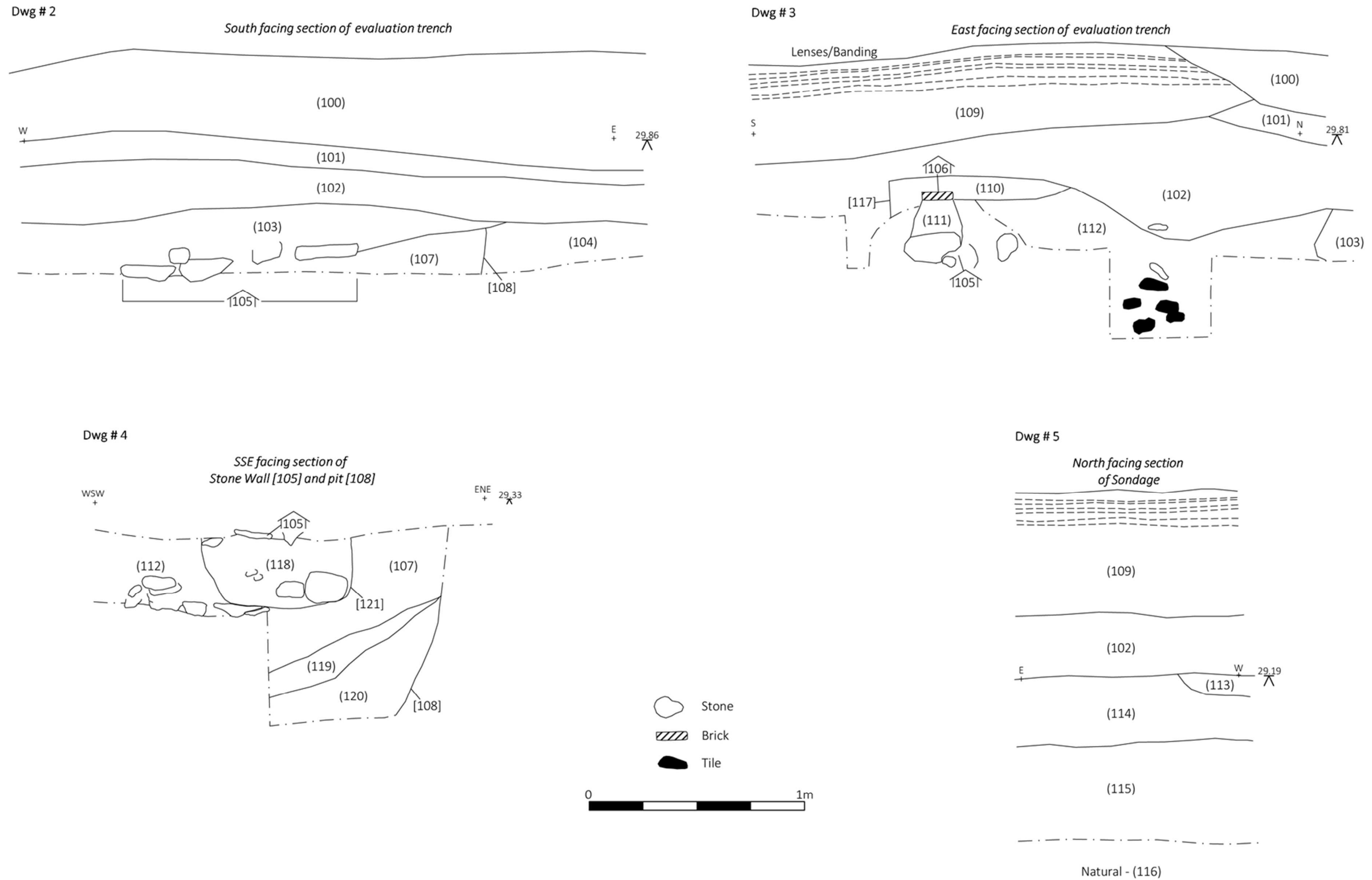


Figure 7: Section drawings (scale 1:20)





## 5 Conclusions

The works have demonstrated that the stratigraphy was primarily of post-medieval/modern made-ground deposits, which is to be expected in such an urban location. However, despite this, earlier archaeological features have survived.

The earliest feature consisted of a pit dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Saxo-Norman). This feature most likely relates to backyard activity stemming from occupation along the High Street. Finds from this feature included tap slag, suggesting metalworking was taking place within the vicinity. There was also a fragment of burnt daub, which appears to have been structural, possibly deriving from an oven or similar, such as a hearth or kiln. Further traces of Saxo-Norman activity have been found within the surrounding area, as at no. 81 High Street, immediately to the north of the development, where exposed ditches and a watercourse contained Saxon pottery (EBD731). Excavations carried out 35-39 Mill Street, southeast of the development, exposed pits backfilled with domestic refuse dating to the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century, along with ironworking debris (EBD201, EBD206).

The excavations also exposed a limestone wall, which represents an earlier structure on the site pre-dating the existing building that was constructed c.1795. The buildings within the immediate vicinity are all brick-built with no limestone structures visible. From such a small area observed it is difficult to ascertain whether the wall derives from a building or boundary.

It is difficult to fully determine the purpose of the single course of brickwork. The bricks were not frogged, which could suggest a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date. The cartographic evidence does not depict a wall in this location, however the OS map dating to 1841 does show this area as a garden. As such, one possibility is that this feature may have related to the garden.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Matthew Stearn of Whitworth Chartered Architects for commissioning this report on behalf of Paul Panayis. Thanks are also due to Vanessa Clarke of Bedford Borough Council for providing historic environment records and monitoring the project.

Thanks are also due to all onsite contractors for their full co-operation throughout the site works.

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill, and edited by Ellen Shlasko PhD.



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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (Accession No. BEDFM 2016.63).



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## Appendix 1: Context Table

Context	Context Type	Dimensions (m) (Width, Length, Depth, Height)				Description (Fill: Colour/Texture/Consistency or Cut: Shape/Sides/Base/Orientation)										Fill of/Filled by	Cut/Cut by	Interpretation
100	Deposit	>3	>0.8m	0.53		Dark	Greyish	Brown		Fairly	Friable		Silty		Clay			Made-ground: part of series of deposits.
101	Deposit	>3	>0.6	0.12		Light	Brownish	Orange		Very	Friable		Sandy		Gravel			Made-ground: part of a series of deposits.
102	Deposit	>3	>3	0.30		Dark	Greyish	Brown		Fairly	Friable		Silty		Clay			Made-ground: part of a series of deposits.
103	Deposit	>2.3	>0.2	0.24		Mixed	Brownish	Yellow			Friable				Loam			Made-ground: part of a series of deposits.
104	Deposit	>0.7	>3	0.22		Dark	Greyish	Brown			Soft			Silty	Clay			Made-ground: part of a series of deposits.
105	Structure	0.55-1.26	>1.4- >2.55		0.48												108	Stone wall: orientated n-s with a return e-w. Constructed of rough stones (0.22m (W), 0.3m (L) & 0.25m (D) max) of irregular coursing. Two courses survive, the lower course was quite sporadic, within a clayey matrix (118) and no actual bonding. A construction cut was also observed [121] clearly showed the wall cutting through a medieval pit [108]. Wall thought to have formed part of an earlier building on the site. One of the stones had a scorched appearance on its surface indicative of burning. The return part of the wall was overlaid by brick wall [106].
106	Structure	>0.11	>1.22		0.19													Brick wall: orientated E-W. Only one course was surviving consisting of red bricks with no frog and no bonding material, laid in a stretcher bond. Each brick measured 110mm (W), 220mm (L) and 35mm (D). The wall overlies stone wall [105]. A possible construction cut for the wall was observed in the bulk section of the trench [017]. The wall likely represents a boundary or possibly garden feature.
107	Fill	>2	>0.9	0.61		Dark	Greyish	Brown			Friable			Silty	Clay	108	121	Fill of pit [108]: thought to have been deliberate backfill containing finds of pottery and animal bone.
108	Cut	>2	>0.9	0.86													120 119 107	Pit: underlying and cut by stone wall [105]/construction cut [121]. The full shape in plan and profile was not seen but it contained at least three fills, thought to have been backfill containing finds of pottery, animal bone and slag. The pit likely represents backyard activity associated with the High Street. The presence of slag may indicate metal working taking place in the vicinity.
109	Deposit	>2.3	>3	0.45		Mid	Orangey	Brown			Friable				Gravel			Made-ground: part of a series of deposits.
110	Deposit	0.85		0.14		Light	Orangey	Yellow			Loose				Gravel			Made-ground: deposit overlying brick wall [106].
111	Deposit	0.21	>1.3	0.15		Dark		Red			Loose			Gravelly	Loam			Made-ground: deposit underlying brick wall [106] and overlying stone wall [105].



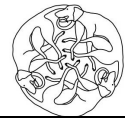


Context	Context Type	Dimensions (m) (Width, Length, Depth, Height)				Description (Fill: Colour/Texture/Consistency or Cut: Shape/Sides/Base/Orientation)										Fill of/Filled by	Cut/Cut by	Interpretation
112	Deposit	>0.57	1.66	0.50		Mixed								Loam	Clay		121	Made-ground deposit containing frequent larger stones and roof tile suggesting an earlier building on the site. This deposit was cut by stone wall [105]/ construction cut [121].
113	Deposit	0.64	>0.25	0.10		Mid	Pinkish	Red			Soft			Loam	Clay			Concentration of scorched earth.
114	Deposit	>3		0.32		Dark		Brown			Soft			Silt	Clay			Made-ground: observed in sondage.
115	Deposit	>3	>3	0.45		Mid	Orangey	Brown			Soft			Silt	Clay			Deposit very similar to natural but not clean enough.
116	Deposit	>3	>3			Mid	Orangey	Brown			Soft			Gravelly	Clay			Natural geology.
117	Cut	>0.3	>1.21	>0.2		Linear	Steep		E-W									Possible traces of a construction cut for brick wall [106]: only seen in the trench's bulk section.
118	Deposit	1.29	>2.5	0.33		Light		Brown			Soft			Loamy	Clay	121		Fill of Stone wall [105] construction cut [121]: into which stone wall was set.
119	Fill	0.90	>0.15	0.15		Mid	Brownish	Orange			Soft		Silty		Clay	108		Fill of pit [108]: had the appearance of redeposited natural with no finds.
120	Fill	0.80	>0.15	0.33		Dark	Greyish	Brown			Friable		Silty		Clay	108		Fill of pit [108]: deliberate backfill containing finds of pottery, animal bone and slag.
121	Cut	1.29	>2.5	0.33		Linear	Sheer	Flat	N-S							118	107 112	Construction cut of stone wall [105]: filled by stone wall [105] set within a clayey matrix (118).



## Appendix 2: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 298/BHS			Site Name:77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire
Digital	B&W	View	Subject
<b>Evaluation</b>			
1	1	NW	General shot of evaluation trench (2x1m scale)
2	2	NNW	Stone wall [105] (2x1m scale)
3	3	WSW	Stone wall [105] & brick wall [106] (1m scale)
4	4	SSE	Brick wall [106] (1m scale)
5	5	NNW	Brick wall [106] & stone wall [105] (1m scale)
6		SW	General shot of evaluation trench (2x1m scale)
7		N	Tr strat and wall [105] (2x1m scale)
8		W	Tr strat and wall [106] (2x1m scale)
9		S	Tr strat and sondage (2x1m scale)
10		E	Tr strat and sondage (2x1m scale)
11	6	E	General shot of walls [105] and [106] (2x1m scale)
12		NW	General shots of trench in relation to surrounding building (2x1m scale)
13		NW	General shots of trench in relation to surrounding building (1m scale)
14		W	General shot of trench (2x1m scale)
15		W	General shot of trench in relation to surrounding building (2x1m scale)
16		W	General shot of trench in relation to surrounding building (2x1m scale)
17		SW	General shot of trench in relation to surrounding building (2x1m scale)
18		WSW	Wall [105] and pit [108] (1m scale)
19	7	NNW	Wall [105] and pit [108] (1m scale)
20		NNW	Wall [105] and pit [108] (1m scale)
<b>Observation and Recording</b>			
21		SE	Footings Pad 1 general shot (1m scale)
22		W	Footings Pad 1 stratigraphy (1m scale)
23		E	Footing trench, part of wall [105] (1m scale)
24		W	Footing trench, part of wall [105] and stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
25		N	Western side of footing trench (1m scale)
26		E	Northern side of footing trench (1m scale)
27		E	Eastern side of footing trench, stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
28		S	Eastern side of footing trench (1m scale)
29		W	Southern side of footing trench (1m scale)
30	8	SW	General shot of footing trench (2x1m scale)
31		NE	General shot of footing trench (2x1m scale)
32		ESE	General shot of footing trench (2x1m scale)



### Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers		Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM		Slag	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms
(105)	-	1	6						
(107)	[108]	5	113	4	39	1	67		
(120)	[108]	3	178	6	58			2	216



## Appendix 4: Specialist Report

### Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 297g. It is all Saxo-Norman, and was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977), as follows:

**B01A:**                    **T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware**, AD1000-1200. 9 sherds, 297g

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 assemblage is generally typical of the later products of the St Neots Ware tradition, with the vessels generally fairly large (Denham 1985). For example, a bodysherd from a probable storage jar occurred in context (120). The range of vessel types is also fairly typical. Fragments of rims from inturned bowls were noted in context (105) and (107). A rim and handle from a possible pitcher or, more likely, a handled storage vessel, occurred in context (107). The former are extremely rare products of the St Neots Ware tradition, but the latter regularly occur in small quantities at sites of the period, including Bedford itself (eg. Baker and Hassall 1979, Fig. 107).

A fragment of burnt daub (weight = 67g) in a fairly fine, hard, sandy fabric occurred in context (107). It has an uneven, somewhat curved surface and possible withy impressions, and appears structural, probably from an oven or similar.

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

	B01A		
Cntxt	No	Wt	Date
105	1	6	11thC
107	5	113	11thC
120	3	178	11thC
Total	9	297	



## Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	298/BHS
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-283442	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2016.63
OS reference	TL 05056 49928	Study area size	38.80 sq. m
Project Type	Evaluation and Observation and Recording	Height (mAOD)	30.15 mAOD
Short Description	In May-June 2017 an archaeological evaluation and observation recording project took place at 77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire during the conversion of the property to a shop and apartments and the construction of a single storey rear extension. An evaluation trench was situated within the footprint of the new extension and uncovered the remains of a Saxo-Norman pit, interpreted as backyard activity from the High Street. A stone wall was also exposed representing a structure or building pre-dating the existing building on the site (pre-1795), and a single course of post-medieval bricks were also found. The site also displayed a series of modern made-up ground deposits, with a sondage excavated to expose the natural strata. The footing trenches for the new extension were also monitored which were primarily excavated through made-up ground.		
Previous work	Historic Building Recording KDK	Site status	Listed
Planning proposal	Single-story rear extension	Current land use	Commercial with offices above
Local Planning Authority	Bedford Borough Council	Planning application ref.	16/02430/FUL
Monument type	Pit, stone wall, brick wall	Monument period	Medieval – Post-medieval
Significant finds	Pottery, burnt daub, animal bone, slag	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Vanessa Clarke	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Paul Panayis		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	04.05.17	End date	21.06.17
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2016.63)	Pottery, burnt daub, animal bone, slag	
Paper		Brief, WSI, report, fieldwork records and drawings, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		Development plans, reports, fieldwork records and drawings, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation and Observation and Recording report 77-79 High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK298/BHS/2.0		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
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