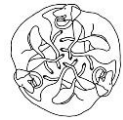




KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

146 Station Road  
Temsford  
Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

|                 |                     |                |             |             |          |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| <i>Author</i>   | Laura Dodd MSc      | <i>Version</i> | 296/TSR/2.1 | <i>Date</i> | 21.07.17 |
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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)





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## Summary

In July 2015 an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a bungalow and garage at 146 Station Road, Tempsford, Bedfordshire as a planning condition for the development of the site. Despite there being evidence for settlement within Tempsford dating back to the Iron Age there were no features or finds of archaeological significance revealed within the excavated trenches.

### 1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 146 Station Road, Tempsford, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Tammy Giddings, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay-Jones 2017), and approved by Matt Adams, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/17/00403/FULL.

#### 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 located towards the eastern edge of the village and civil parish of Tempsford, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 17459 53889 (Fig. 1).

##### *Description*

The site is bounded to the west and south by fields, and to the north by Station Road. The eastern boundary is formed by the adjoining property. It is roughly rectangular in shape, and lies at a height of c. 19.20 AOD (Fig. 2).

##### *Geology & Topography*

The geology of the site comprises sedimentary bedrock of mudstone, from the Peterborough Member, which is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel from river terrace deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

##### *Development*

The development will consist of the erection of a 4-bed detached chalet bungalow, with a double garage (Fig. 3).

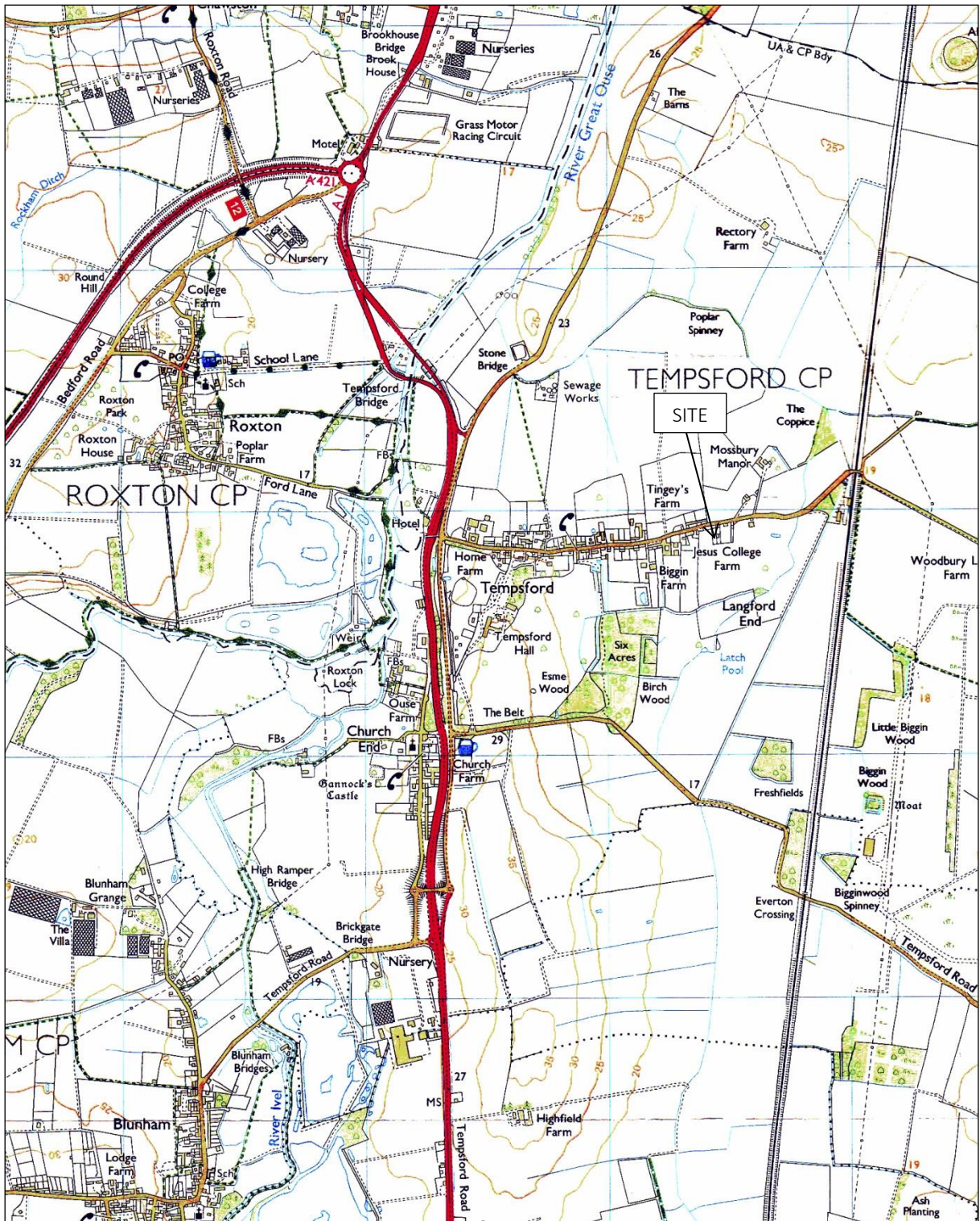


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

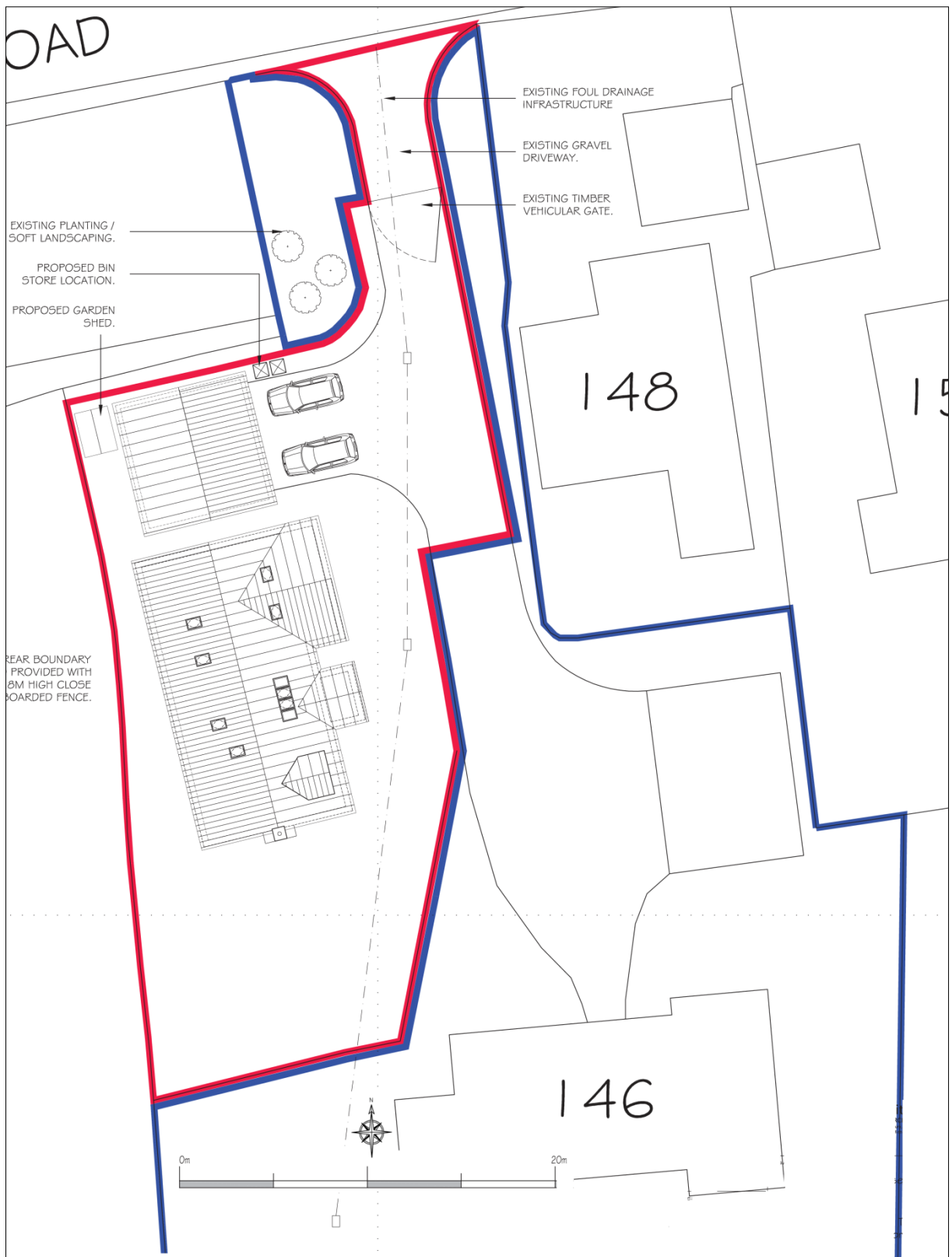


Figure 3: Development plan (scale as shown)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

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

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

### 2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the Brief, this is the first part of a staged investigation whereby the results of this stage will be assessed to determine the need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation. The methods used were as follows:

- Stage One: An archaeological field evaluation of the site consisting of one 6 x 2m trench in the footprint of the garage, and one 12 x 2m trench in the footprint of the bungalow (Fig. 4). This was undertaken post demolition of any existing buildings, but prior to any intrusive groundworks (including removal of the foundations/services associated with demolished buildings).
- Stage Two: An appraisal of the results of the evaluation and their significance with regard to the proposed development. This in turn may lead to the definition of a programme of investigation and recording of archaeological remains which will be destroyed by the development. CBCAT will in turn prepare a Brief for the next phase of investigation that will also cover a programme of post-excavation, analysis and publication
- Stage Three: The implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording based on the Brief

### 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* (ClfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)





### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Located at the confluence of the Great Ouse and the Ivel, the site of the village of Tempsford attracted settlement from a very early period. Artefacts from the Paleolithic period, evidence of Bronze Age ritual, the remains of Roman settlement, and both documentary and archaeological evidence of occupation from Saxon times to the present have been found within the landscape around Tempsford. The village first enters the documentary record in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when it is mentioned as the site of a battle between the English and the Danes (<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang10.asp>). By the time of the Domesday Survey, the area was divided into several manors (Victoria County History). By the 16th century, there were 240 'houseylng' people in the parish, and Tempsford was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1777 (VCH online). The centre of Tempsford is a Conservation Area (DBD 6476), but the development area lies outside the boundaries of this.

This section has been compiled with information from various readily available sources and data from the Historic Environment Record, which covers an area of a 1km radius centred on the development site (HER Search No. 201718/19).

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

There have been a number of prehistoric finds in the Tempsford area, including Palaeolithic handaxes and other very early artefacts. For the most part, these are isolated finds, many discovered during the course of gravel extraction. None of these finds are in the immediate vicinity of the development site. Most of the prehistoric finds near the development site consist of residual pottery or flint found on later sites. A trackway previously considered to be prehistoric (HER 628), to the north-west of the site, is probably Roman.

Enclosure cropmarks (HER 627) to the north of the site are thought to be prehistoric, and are located within an area of extensive geological features.

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

Although there is evidence for Iron Age occupation and activity in the area around Tempsford, none occurs within the area immediately around the site.

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

Roman ditches but no structural remains were revealed at Tempsford Park (HER 19769). A more convincing occupation site is found to the west of the development area, where aerial photographs revealed crop marks of a rectilinear enclosure and a trackway flanked by ditches (HER 628). The enclosure has been archaeologically investigated and the recovered artefacts date the enclosure to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Remains of rectilinear and sub-rectilinear enclosures, structures and a north-south trackway have also been observed (HER 1671) north-west of the development site. These features were not excavated, but Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil. North-east of the site, north of the Tempsford Sewage Works, are further cropmarks and a rectangular enclosure (HER 16799), which are thought to be associated with a Roman villa and its associated industrial areas.

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

The earliest documentary mention of Tempsford is in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, which contains two references to the settlement. In AD 921, an English army led by King Edward the



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Elder attacked the Danes at Tempsford, where it is thought that there was an important defended settlement, although its location is unknown. The victory was a blow to the Danes, but did not end the predations and the war between the English and the Danes continued. In 1010, the Danes spent the summer pillaging through East Anglia, penetrating as far as Tempsford before withdrawing for the winter (<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang11.asp>).

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

By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Tempsford was a large settlement of 26 households, divided into several manors. The largest landholders were Eudo the Steward and his undertenant, William de Carun. After Eudo's death in 1120, the manor reverted to the crown, with the overlordship being granted to the Beauchamps of Eaton. The de Carun family held the manor well into the 13th century, after which it was split between the families of Robert de Carun's two daughters, thereby forming Tempsford and Drayton Manors. A third manor, Mossbury, is also mentioned in the Domesday Survey, as being held by William de Carun for the Bishop of Lincoln (<http://opendomesday.org/place/TL1653/tempsford/>; Victoria County History online).

The historic settlement core of Langford End (HER 17156) is situated within the heart of Tempsford, along Station Road; the present settlement is still largely contained within the medieval core.

West of the development site are the remains of a medieval moat and settlement site (HER 9726). Excavations in 1999 revealed a substantial number of features, which included the demolished manor, the moat, a cobbled road, an aisled hall house, a hearth and an oven. Most features were dated to 12th – 13th century. A large number of mainly domestic artefacts were recovered (Maull & Chapman 2005). To the south of this lies a substantial earthwork, considered to be a hollow way (HER 15320) which runs along the southern boundary of Tempsford Park.

To the east of the development site are rectilinear settlement earthworks (HER 1848), which indicate the former extent of the Langford End settlement. A probable ditch (HER 3128), associated with the earthworks, has since been levelled and affected by ploughing.

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

Tempsford was enclosed in 1777. At around this time, Sir Gillies Payne built a new mansion house at Tempsford Park and had the landscape redesigned (HER 7001). A number of new cottages and buildings were erected along Station Road in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, several of which survive as Grade II listed structures (HER 5981, 5982, 5992, 14470 and 14471). However, none of the buildings within the immediate vicinity of the development area are listed, although 148 Station Road (the adjoining property) is the site of a now-demolished post-medieval cottage (HER 12743).

As might be expected in a settlement situated on two rivers, there were at least four mills in Tempsford. However, none of these were in the vicinity of the development site.

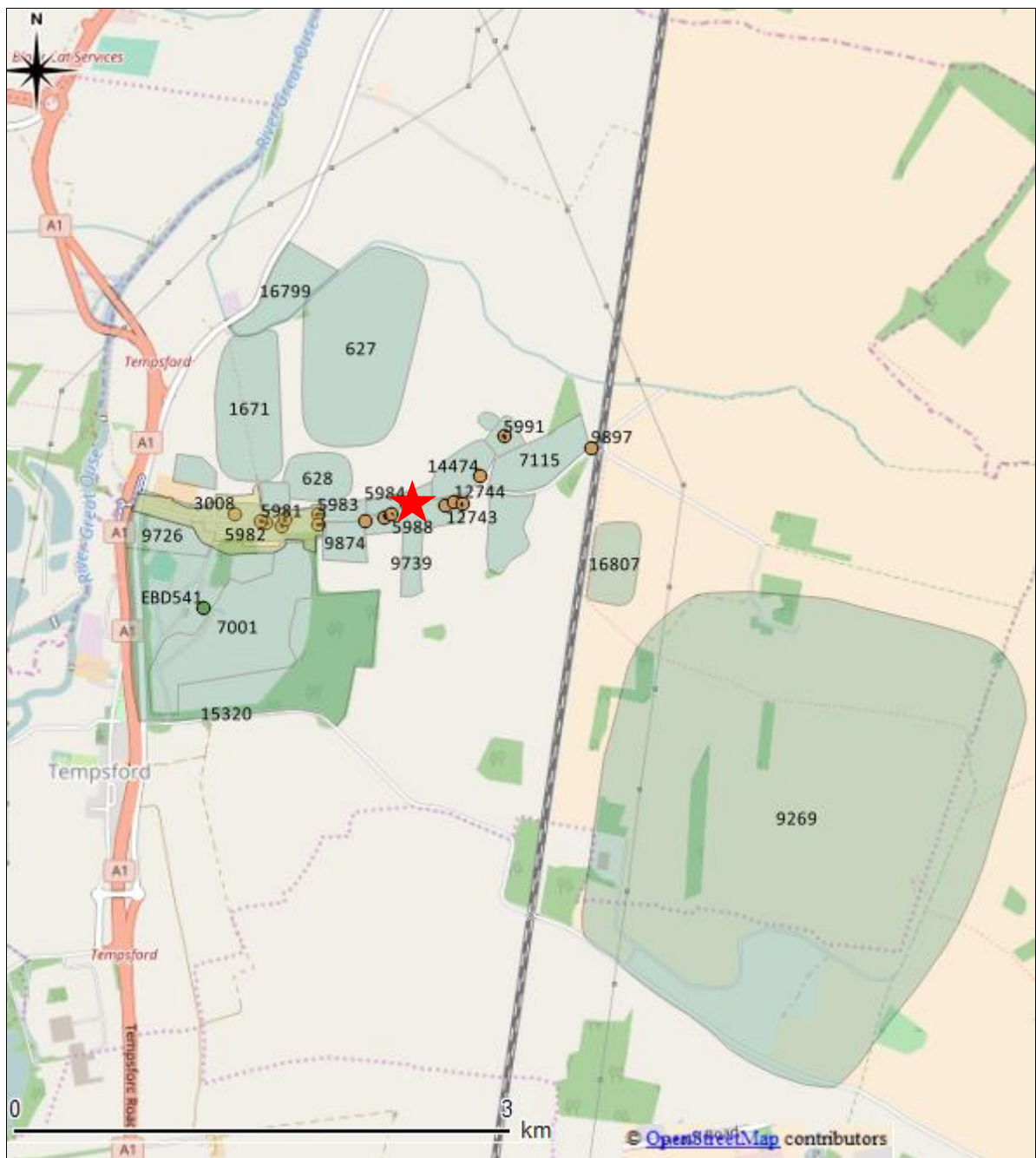
To the north-east of the development area is the site of a former brickworks (HER 7115), Brickclamp Marsh and its associated clay pit.



3.8 **Modern** (1900-present)

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the big event in Tempsford was the reconstruction of Tempsford Hall, which had been destroyed in a fire (HER 3077). The building survives. A War Memorial and the Stuart Memorial Hall were built in 1924, commemorating the 15 men from Tempsford who died in the Great War (HER 13491).

During World War II, Tempsford Hall was used as an agent reception and pre-flight preparation centre for the Special Operations Executive. The associated airfield was located to the south-east of the development site on the outskirts of the village (HER 9269), and was used to transport special agents on missions to Europe, to engage in covert supply missions to resistance groups and to conduct missions to pick up radio signals from agents on the ground (<http://www.harringtonmuseum.org.uk/HistoryTempsford.htm>).



**Figure 4:** HER data plan: monument areas are shown in green and the Conservation Area is yellow (scale 1:40,000)



## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

Two trenches were excavated down to the natural strata using a JCB fitted with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. The first trench was within the footprint of the garage and measured 12m long x 2m wide and reached a depth of 1.25m. The second trench was located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling and measured 12m long x 2m wide. The natural geology was reached at between 0.75-1.30m (Fig. 5-7; Plate 1-4). The stratigraphy comprised:

- Topsoil (100). A dark greyish brown loam which contained frequent vegetation and occasional modern debris. This layer reached a depth of up to 0.65m
- Subsoil (101). This subsoil was observable in Trench 1 only and comprised a mid greyish brown sandy clay. Within the layer were occasional small flecks of chalk and occasional gravel inclusions. Rooting was also present. This layer was 0.50m in depth.
- Subsoil (103). This was observable in trench 2 and was composed of a compact mid brownish orange gravelly sand. This layer was 0.62m deep.
- Natural geology (102) was a bright brownish orange sandy gravel which contained occasional small flecks of chalk. There was a higher concentration of gravel to the south of the site.

There were no significant archaeological cut features or deposits observed within the trenches. There had been evidence for disturbance to the north of the site within Trench 1 as a section of a backfilled pond was observed (Fig 5; Plate 5). This had been filled in around the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century using fly ash (104) by the previous land owners. The fill was a dark blackish grey friable material which contained very few inclusions, other than a few pieces of plastic. The full dimensions of the cut of the pond is unknown as it was largely obscured by the north and west baulk.

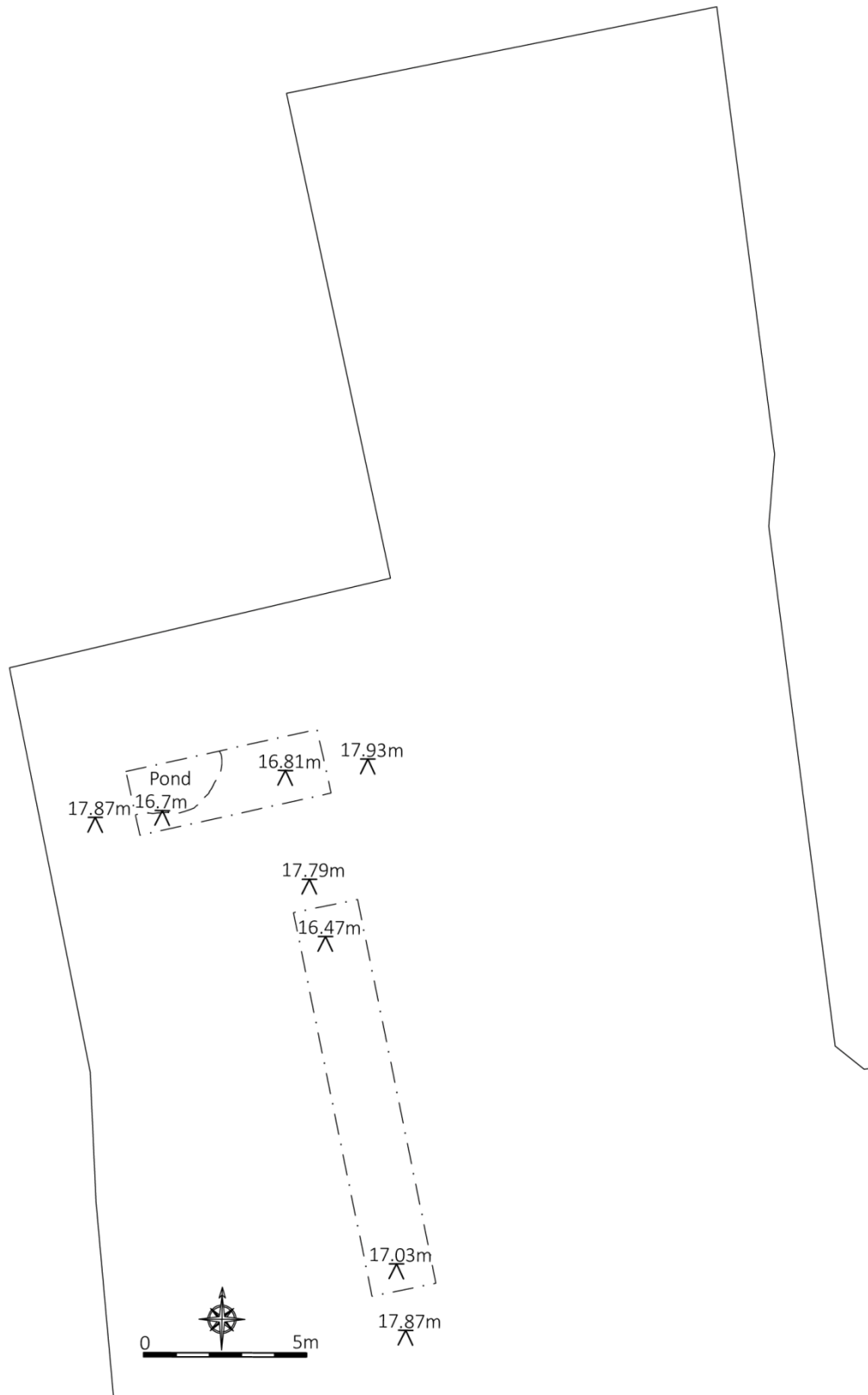


Figure 5: Trench location plan (scale 1:200)



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 1 stratigraphy

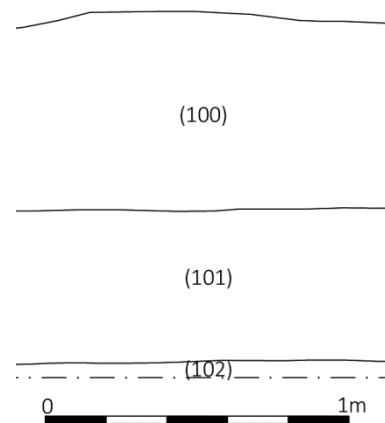


Figure 6: Trench 1 representative stratigraphy



Plate 4: Trench 2 stratigraphy

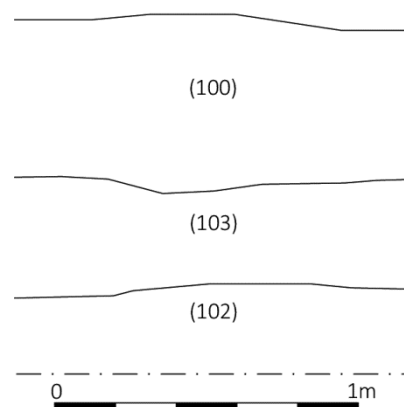


Figure 7: Trench 2 representative stratigraphy



**Plate 5:** Backfilled pond in Trench 1



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## 5 Conclusions

The site is located on the main road running through the residential core of the village and Number 146 is set in close proximity to older properties, including Grade II listed post-medieval buildings. Furthermore there are several noted areas of archaeological interest throughout the area. Evidence for occupation around Tempsford dates back to the Iron Age; however, there is no evidence for settlement within a close proximity to the development site.

There was a single instance of disturbance observed within the investigated area comprising a pond which had been backfilled in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Subsoil (101) which was observed to the east and south of the pond was different to the subsoil found elsewhere on site indicating possible truncation of the area surrounding the pond.

As no finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered during this evaluation, it is also possible that the trenches fell between widely dispersed features, or that there simply has not been any occupation within the immediate area.





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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Tammy Giddings for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Matt Adams of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project.

We would also like to thank Tammy Giddings and her family for their hospitality throughout the programme of works and to machine operator Peter Wilsons for his assistance on site

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc and Laura Dodd MSc. 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. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Trench recording sheets
5. Site drawings
6. Client's site plans
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum (Accession Number BEDFM2017.43)



## 8 References

### ***Standards & Specifications***

Adams, M. 2017 *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation; Recording, Analysis and Publication: 146 Station Road Tempsford: Stage One - Evaluation* CBC

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

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***Online Sources***

Anglo Saxon Chronicle: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang10.asp> and  
<http://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/ang11.asp>

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

Domesday Survey: <http://opendomesday.org/place/TL1653/tempsford/>

Harrington Museum: <http://www.harringtonmuseum.org.uk/tempsford-airfield/>

Victoria County History: 'Parishes: Tempsford' in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, ed. William Page (London, 1908), pp. 251-255. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol2/pp251-255>



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**Appendix 1: Photograph List**

| Shot | B&W | Digital | Subject  |
|------|-----|---------|--|
| 1    | X   | X       | Trench 1 looking WSW                                   |
| 2    |     | X       | Trench 1 stratigraphy looking SE                       |
| 3    |     | X       | Trench 1 stratigraphy with backfilled pond looking NNW |
| 4    | X   | X       | Trench 2 looking NNW                                   |
| 5    | X   | X       | Trench 2 Stratigraphy looking WSW                      |



## Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

| PROJECT DETAILS  |   |   |                         |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|
| Project Name & Address   | 146 Station Road, Tempsford, Bedfordshire   | Project Site Code                                 | 296/TSR                 |
| OASIS reference  | kdkarcha1-283536  | Event/Accession no                                | BEDFM 2017.43           |
| OS reference   | TI 17459 53889  | Study area size                                   | 36sq m                  |
| Project Type   | Archaeological Evaluation   | Height (mAOD)                                     | 19.20                   |
| Short Description  | In July 2015 a strip map and sample excavation/archaeological observation & recording was undertaken prior to the construction of a bungalow and garage at 146 Station Road, Tempsford, Bedfordshire as a planning condition for the development of the site. Despite there being evidence for settlement within Tempsford dating back to the Iron Age there were no features or finds of archaeological significance revealed on the development site. |   |                         |
| Previous work  | None  | Site status                                       | None                    |
| Planning proposal  | Erection of a 4 bed detached chalet bungalow with double garage   | Current land use                                  | Garden                  |
| Local Planning Authority   | Central Bedfordshire Council  | Planning application ref.                         | CB/17/00403/FULL        |
| Monument type  | Backfilled pond   | Monument period                                   | Modern                  |
| Significant finds  | None  | Future work                                       | Unknown                 |
| PROJECT CREATORS   |   |   |                         |
| Organisation   | KDK Archaeology Ltd   |   |                         |
| Project Brief originator   | Matt  | Project Design originator                         | KDK Archaeology Ltd     |
| Project Manager  | David Kaye  | Director/Supervisor                               | Chris Martin-Taylor BSc |
| Sponsor/funding body   | Tammy Giddings  |   |                         |
| PROJECT DATE   |   |   |                         |
| Start date   | 18.07.17  | End date  | 18.07.17                |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES   |   |   |                         |
|  | Location  | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) |                         |
| Physical   | Higgins Art Gallery and Museum  | -   |                         |
| Paper  |   | Report, WSI, site records, photographs            |                         |
| Digital  |   | CD ROM, digital photographs                       |                         |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) |   |   |                         |
| Title  | Archaeological Evaluation Report:146 Station Road, Tempsford, Bedfordshire  |   |                         |
| Serial title & volume  | 296/TSR/2   |   |                         |
| Author(s)  | Laura Dodd MSc  |   |                         |
| Page no's  | 19  | Date  | 21.07.17                |