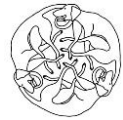




KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green
Thurleigh
Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	320/TVG 2.0	<i>Date</i>	25.09.17
<i>Revision</i>		<i>Version</i>		<i>Date</i>	

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Summary

In September 2017 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at the Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The works uncovered the remains of what was thought to have been a pond containing finds of post-medieval pottery, tile and clay pipe stems.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by DBF Construction Ltd, 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 16/02994/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

The site is located within the town and civil parish of Thurleigh, in the administrative district of Bedford Borough. It is situated in at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 05323 58507 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is currently laid to lawn, with a number of mature trees and shrubs. It is bounded to the north by the High Street, to the east by Vicarage Green and to the west by gardens. The southern boundary is formed by an adjacent property (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The geology of the site comprises sedimentary bedrock of mudstone from the Oxford Clay Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton, from the Oadby Member (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Development

The proposed development comprises the sub-division of the plot from the existing dwelling, and the erection of a new dwelling, with new access from Vicarage Green (Fig. 3).



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

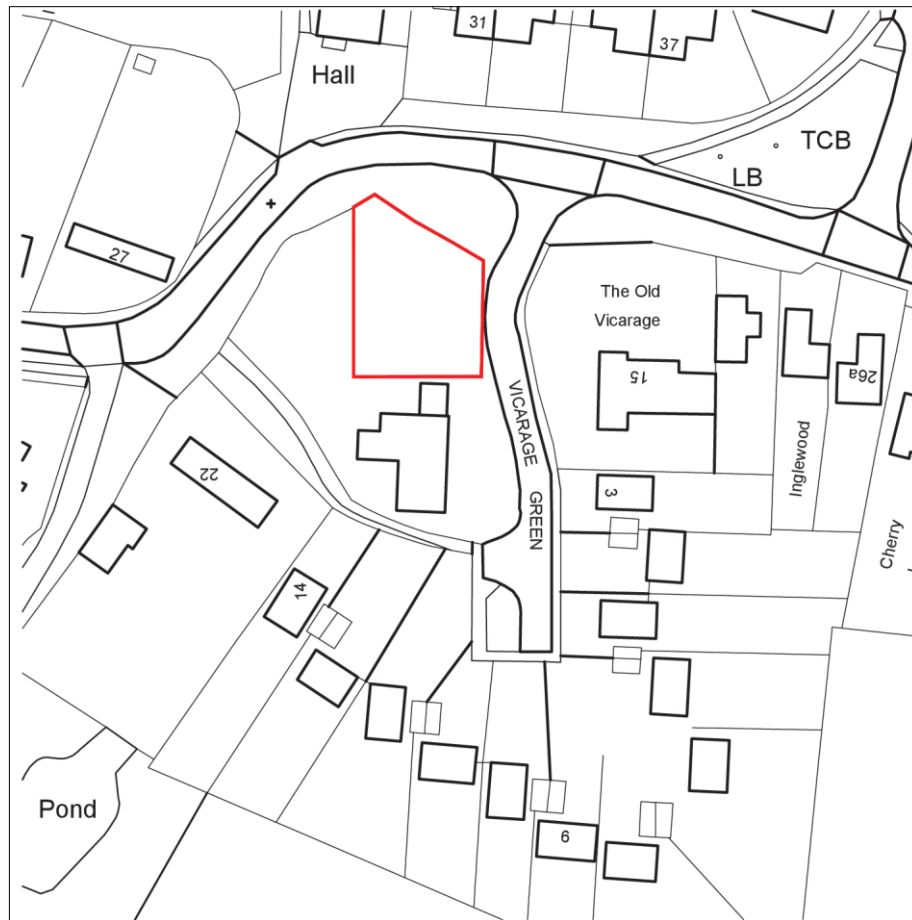


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

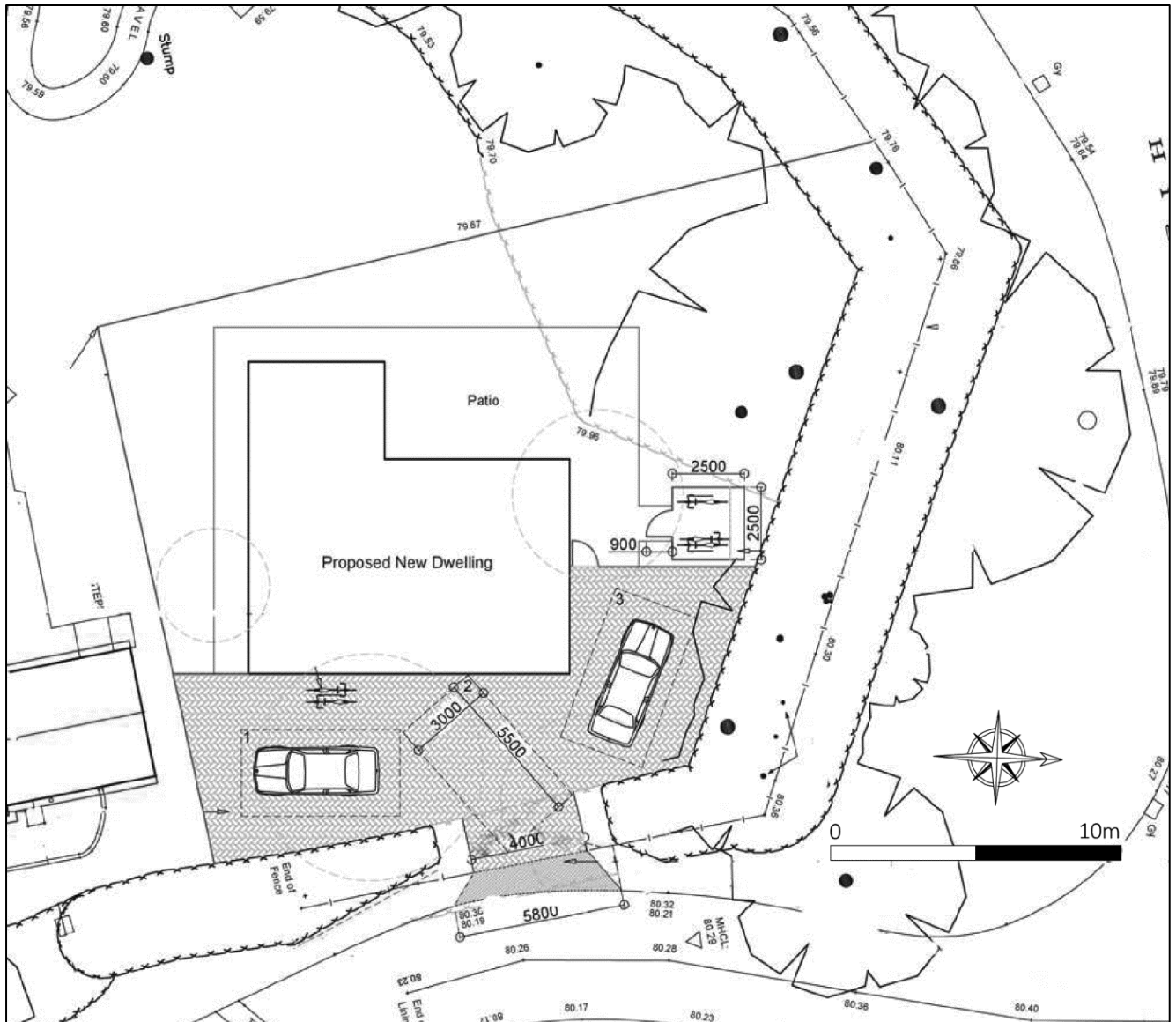


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale: 1:250)



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:

- The excavation of a single 10m trench, 1.8m wide within the footprint of the new dwelling (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)

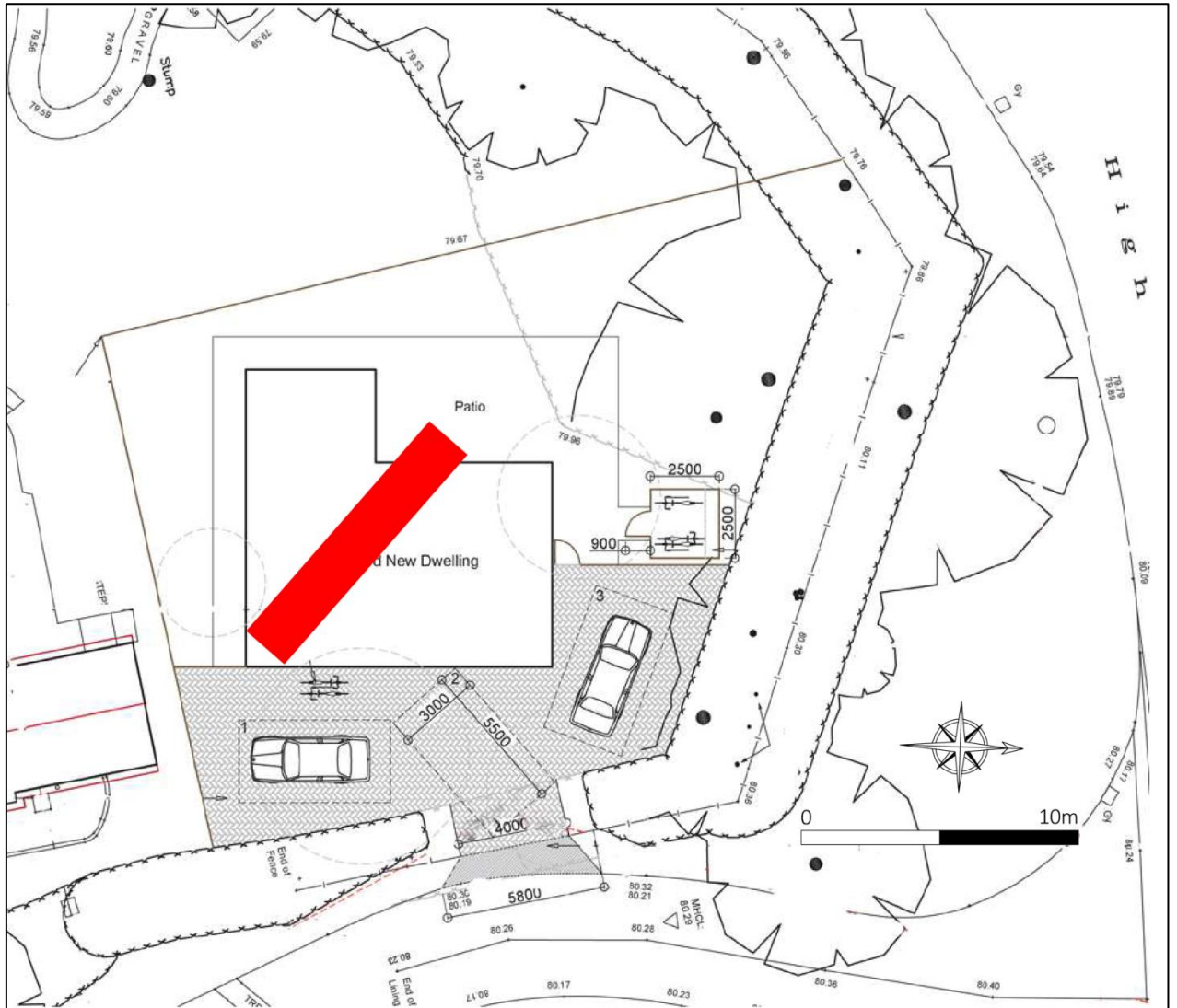


Figure 4: Trench location (scale 1: 250)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The Domesday Survey shows that by the late Saxon period there was extensive occupation around Thurleigh. By the 12th century, the village boasted a church and a motte and bailey castle. Settlement in the area probably began much earlier, though, as there is evidence for a considerable Iron Age and Roman metalworking industry on a number of sites.

Historically, the settlement spread out along the High Street, with the church and castle mound (Bury Hill) on the south side of the street at the western end of the village. The Thurleigh Conservation Area (DBD 3408) includes the High Street, the castle and church and a number of listed buildings; the development area also falls within this area.

This section has been compiled with information from Bedford Borough Historic Environment Records (BBHER reference 018 (2017-18)) covering a 500m search radius, the Victoria County History (VCH), books from KDK's own library, and reliable internet sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Evidence for prehistoric occupation in Thurleigh is limited to scattered finds, including a Neolithic axe (HER 314) found in a field south of the village, and a Bronze Age palstave (MBB 19524), which was found to the south of the development area, and which is listed in the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database. Several sets of cropmarks may also be prehistoric in origin, but no archaeology has been done to confirm the age of these sites (HER 16627 and 16634).

3.3 *Iron Age-Roman* (600BC -c.450)

During the Iron Age, Thurleigh appears to have become a centre for metalworking. Scatters of slag have been found on a number of sites around the parish, although none within the vicinity of the development site. An oval enclosure with a scatter of slag was found east of Follyfields (HER 2734) and northwest of the mill house, fieldwalking found Iron Age pottery in conjunction with known cropmarks (HER 2752). Closer to the development site, some Iron Age material was found prior to the development of the Old Vicarage site.

This metalworking activity seems to have continued into the Roman period. The Old Vicarage investigations produced Roman material, demonstrating continuity of occupation. Slag and Roman pottery were found at Mill Road (HER 2729) and there have been other finds of undated slag that may be Iron Age or Roman (e.g. HER 2735, 2740 or 2746).

3.4 *Saxon* (c450-1066)

By the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Thurleigh was well settled, with 39 households spread over six landholdings (www.opendomesday.org). These households included at least nine 'villagers', presumably people who lived in the settlement and not on outlying farmsteads. Archaeological evidence of these inhabitants is scarce, although some Saxon material was found at the Old Vicarage site and there were supposedly Saxon burials found under the mound at Thurleigh Castle (HER 313). An Anglo-Saxon pin (MBB 19532) was also found to the south of the village, near the Bronze Age palstave, and is listed on the PAS database.



3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

After the Norman Conquest, the largest manor of Thurleigh, or *LaLega*, was granted to Walter of Flanders and held by his brother, Hugh of Flanders (VCH). This may have been Walter Bec, a Flemish knight who fought with William the Conqueror and was rewarded with grants of land (George 1926:86). Walter took possession of an estate valued at £5 in 1086, with 7 ploughlands and woodland for 150 pigs (www.opendomesday.org).

By the early 12th century, the manor belonged to the La Leye family, who held the manor until the late 14th or early 15th century. After 1428, the manor passed to the FitzGeffrey family, who held it until the 17th century (VCH). The most significant developments in Thurleigh during the medieval period were the building of the church and the construction of the motte and bailey castle on Bury Hill.

Grade II* listed St Peter's Church is west of the development site. The earliest construction is thought to date to the 1130s, with 14th and 15th century rebuilding (HER 1140). The tower is 12th century. The medieval settlement (Church End Medieval Village (HER 17062)) was probably clustered around the church, which includes the area of the Lower School.

Just east of the church is Bury Hill, the site of Thurleigh Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (DBD 1296). An earthen motte and bailey, the site consists of an oval mound, 60m x 40m, rising 7m above the surrounding ditch. The bailey is to the south of the motte and encompasses an area of 270m x 200m. Within the bailey were ponds. Although they no longer exist, the outer defences originally extended north of the motte, and the development site sits within the area covered by the monument (HER 313). The castle fell into disuse by the 13th century, but the site has been identified as the easternmost of a postulated line of defensive sites located on the upper reaches of the River Ouse, and the building of the castle has been ascribed to King Stephen.

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

There are a number of surviving post-medieval buildings in Thurleigh, which contribute to the character of the Conservation Area. Some of these are listed, such as 23 High Street, Sunnyside and Novel Hovel. There are also the remains of a possible quarry (HER 3079) to the north-west of the site, indicated by earthworks on a late 19th century map.

The churchyard of St Peter's dates to the post-medieval period, and the cross in the churchyard is a Scheduled Monument (DBD 2631).

Ordnance surveying mapping of the development area depict the site was covered with trees in the 1884 OS map. By 1901 trees are depicted around the periphery of the area with a trackway to the south. In the 1981 OS map the site area was depicted as blank with residential properties to the east and south-west.

3.7 *Modern* (1900-present)

During World War II, land northwest of the village was taken over as an airfield. In September 1942, the 8th USAAF 306th Bombardment Group was stationed at Thurleigh, where they were based until April 1945. To the north of the village were two Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) camps, associated with RAF Thurleigh (MBB 21812). After the war the airfield was taken over by the Royal Aircraft Establishment. Thurleigh airfield was considered as the site of the third London airport, but public opposition led to that plan being abandoned. The airfield finally shut in 1994 and has since been converted into an industrial and venture park.

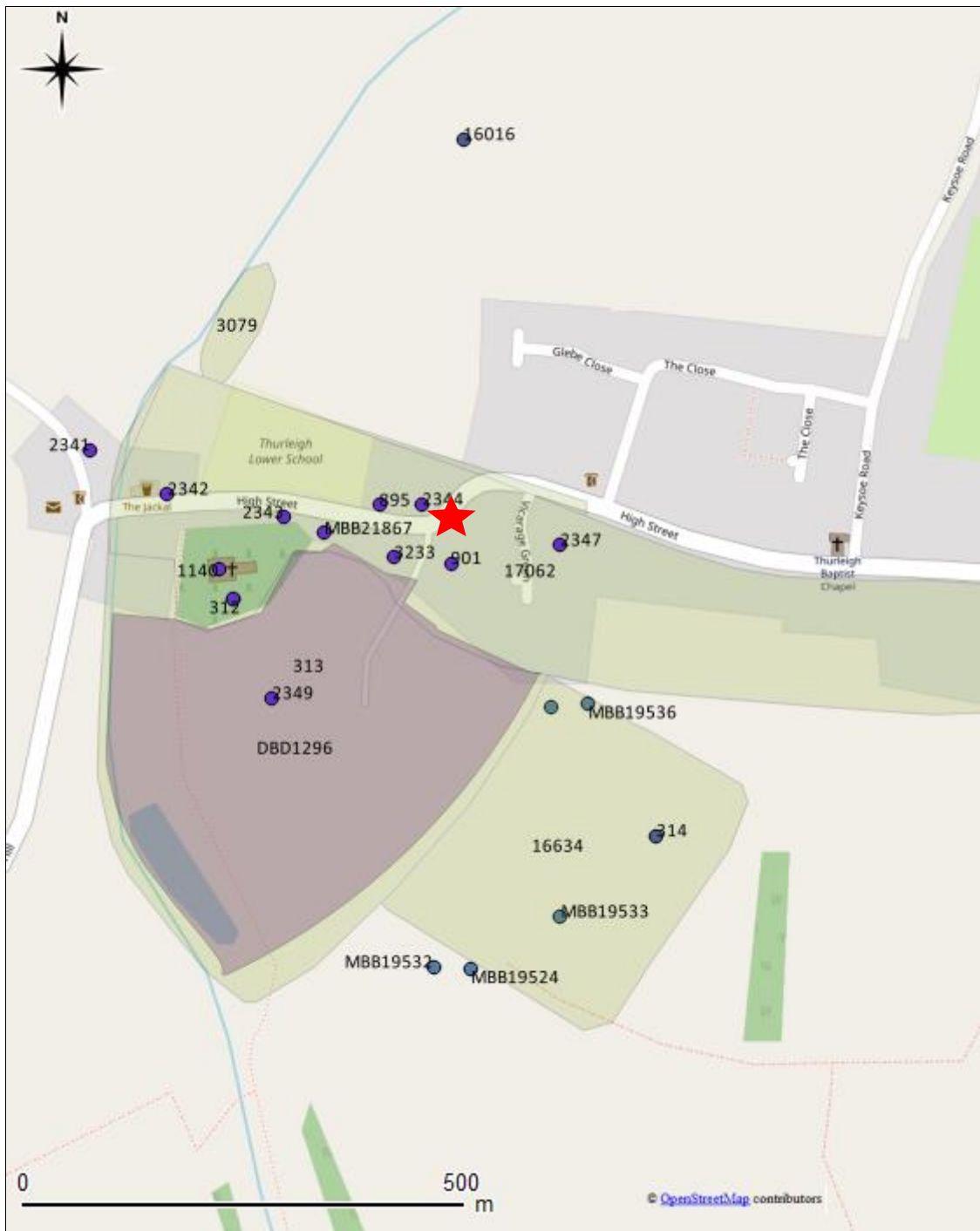


Figure 5: HER data plan (scale 1:7500)
Green blocks: monument areas; purple blocks: scheduled monuments



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

A single trench was mechanically excavated using an 8 ton machine fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1; Fig. 6).

The general site stratigraphy consisted of:

0.3m deep of Topsoil (100): dark greyish brown, fairly clayey silt, very friable with moderate sub-angular stones <5mm and occasional fragments of brick.

0.3m deep of Made-Ground (101): mid yellowish brown, slightly silty clay, fairly soft with moderate sub-angular flint <20mm.

>0.2m deep Natural Strata (102): light brownish yellow with grey flecks, fairly firm clay with frequent sub-angular flint >100mm (Plate 2; Fig.7).

4.2 Trench 1 (Plate 1-5; Fig. 6-8)

The trench measured 10m length, 1.8m in width and 0.78m maximum depth. The general site stratigraphy was clearly observed (Plate 1-2).

A possible pond [104] was observed orientated northwest-southeast which extended beyond the trenches limits, and as such the full shape in plan was not seen. Two slots were hand excavated to help define the edges of the feature. The pond measured >1.8m NE-SW, 7.4m NW-SE and >0.45m in depth. It had been deliberately backfilled by Fill (105) which contained post-medieval finds, including a sherd of glazed black earthen ware from the late 17th century onwards, clay pipe stems with a small bore hole (2.5mm) dating from the 18th-19th century and tile fragments. A further fill (106) was also observed at the base of Slot 2, thought to have been more natural silting that contained a single fragment of tile (Plate 3-5; Fig. 6-8; Access Cambridge Archaeology; Shopland, 2005; Cambridge Archaeology Field Group, 2012).

Context Table

Context no.	Type	Dimensions (max)	Description
100	Deposit	L:>10m W: >1.8m D: 0.3m	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, fairly clayey silt, very friable with moderate sub-angular stones <5mm and occasional fragments of brick.
101	Deposit	L: >10m W: >1.8m D: 0.3m	Made-Ground: mid yellowish brown, slightly silty clay, fairly soft with moderate sub-angular flint <20mm.
102	Deposit	L: >10m W: >1.8m D: >0.2m	Natural Strat: light brownish yellow with grey flecks, very clay, fairly firm with frequent sub-angular flint >100mm.
103	Deposit	L: >1m W: 1.4m D: 0.2m	Redeposited Natural: light brownish yellow with grey flecks, fairly firm clay with moderate sub-angular flint <50mm
104	Cut	L: >1.8m W: 7.4m D: 0.3m	Possible pond: this feature extended beyond the limit of excavated so full shape in plan was not observed. It had <45 degree angle sides with a flat base and contained fills (105) & (106).



105	Fill	L:>1.8 W: 7.4m D: 0.3m	Fill of pos. pond [104]: a result of deliberate backfilling consisting of dark brownish grey, slightly silty clay, very soft with moderate sub-angular flint <20mm and contained finds of pottery, clay pipe stem and tile.
106	Fill	L: >1m W: >1.25m D: 0.13m	Fill of pos. pond [104]: a result of natural silting consisting of mid grey with flecks of reddish brown, slightly silty clay, very soft with occasional sub-angular flint <5mm and contained a single fragment of tile.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking NW (2x1m scale)



Plate 2: Trench 1, general stratigraphy, looking ENE (2x1m scale)



Plate 3: Pond [104], looking WNW (scale 1m)



Plate 4: Pond [104], slot 1, looking WSW (2x1m scale)

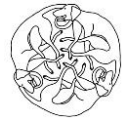


Plate 5: Pond [104], slot 2, looking ENE (2x1m scale)

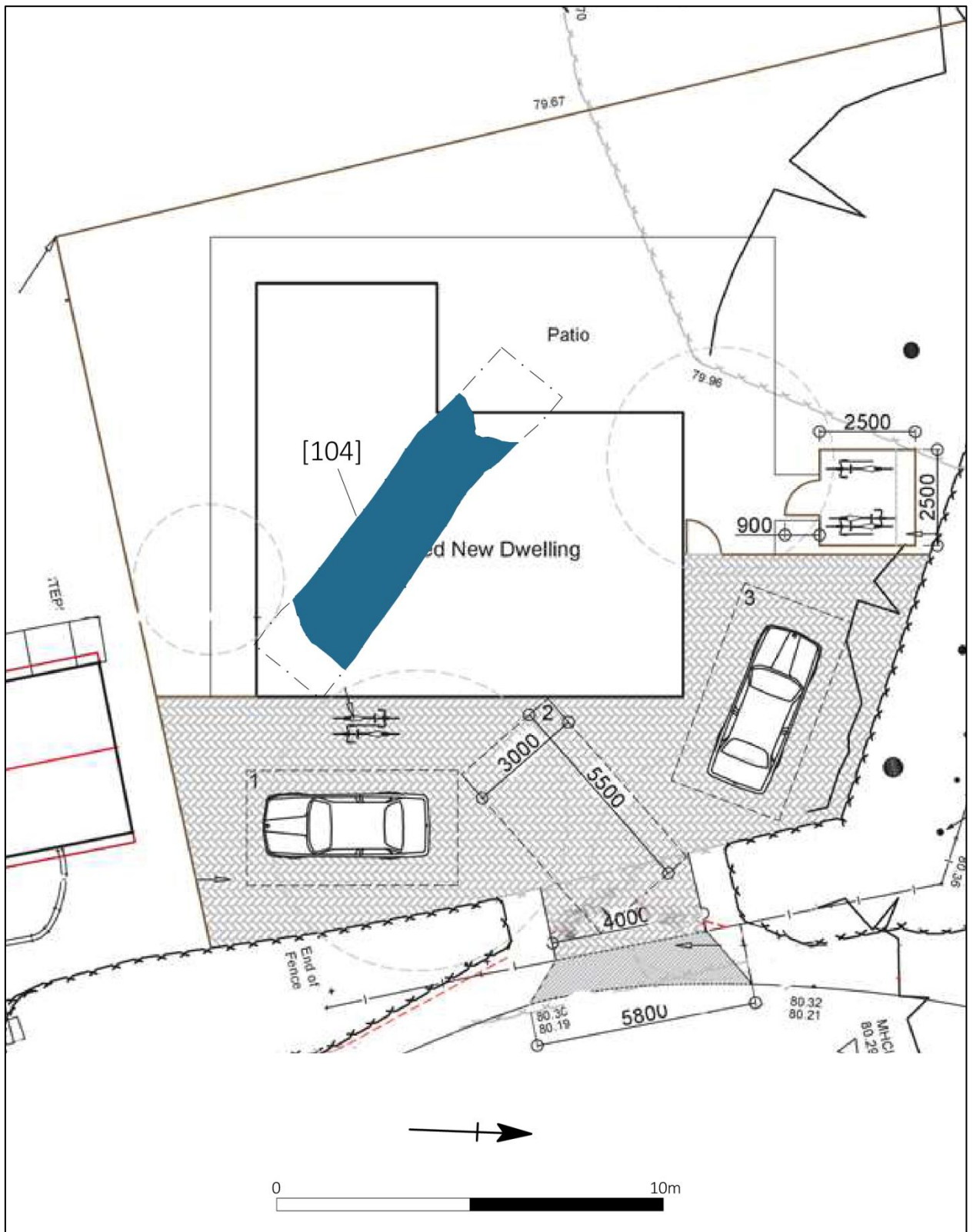


Figure 6: Overall archaeology plan (scale 1:150)

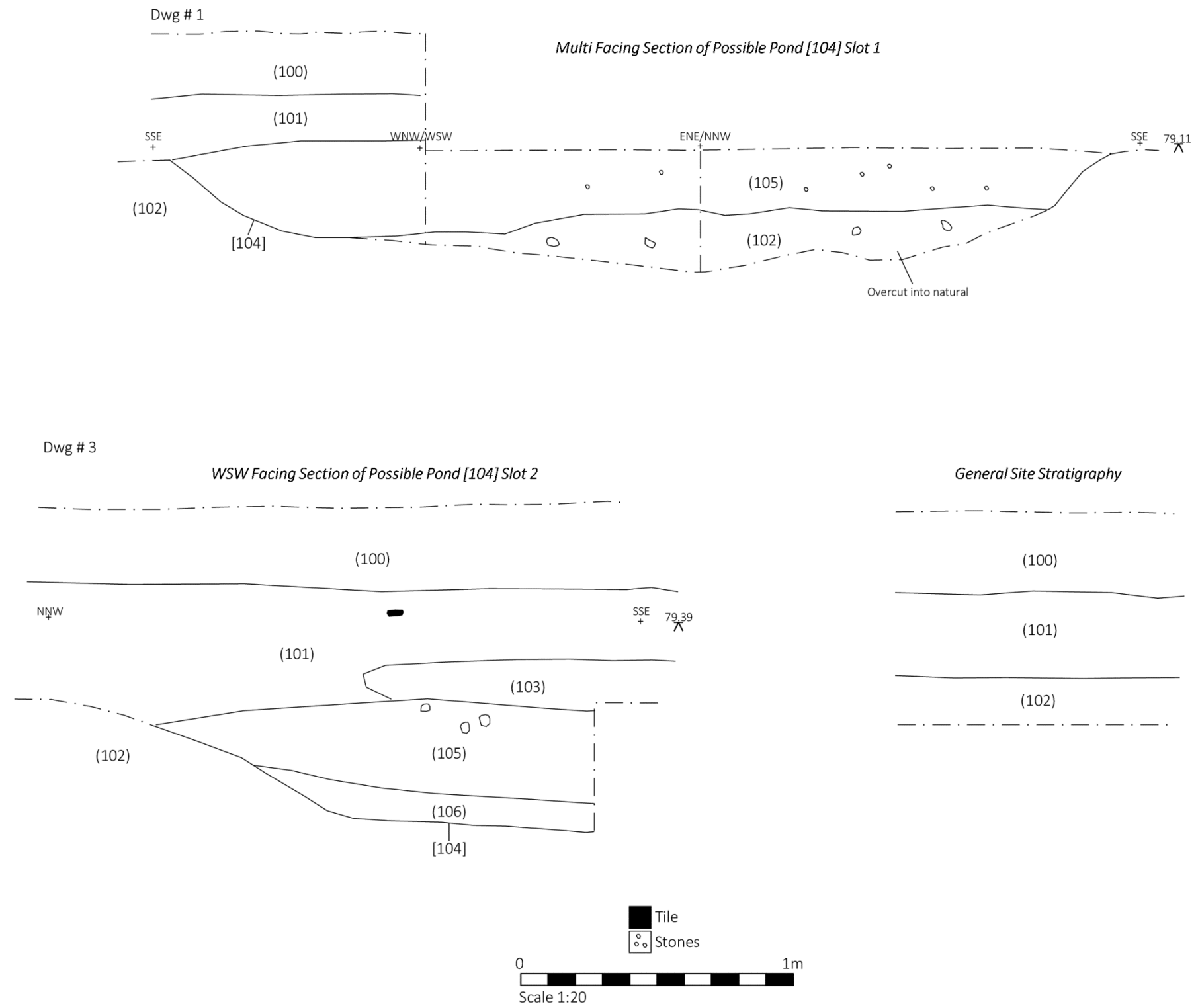


Figure 7: Archaeology sections (scale 1:20)

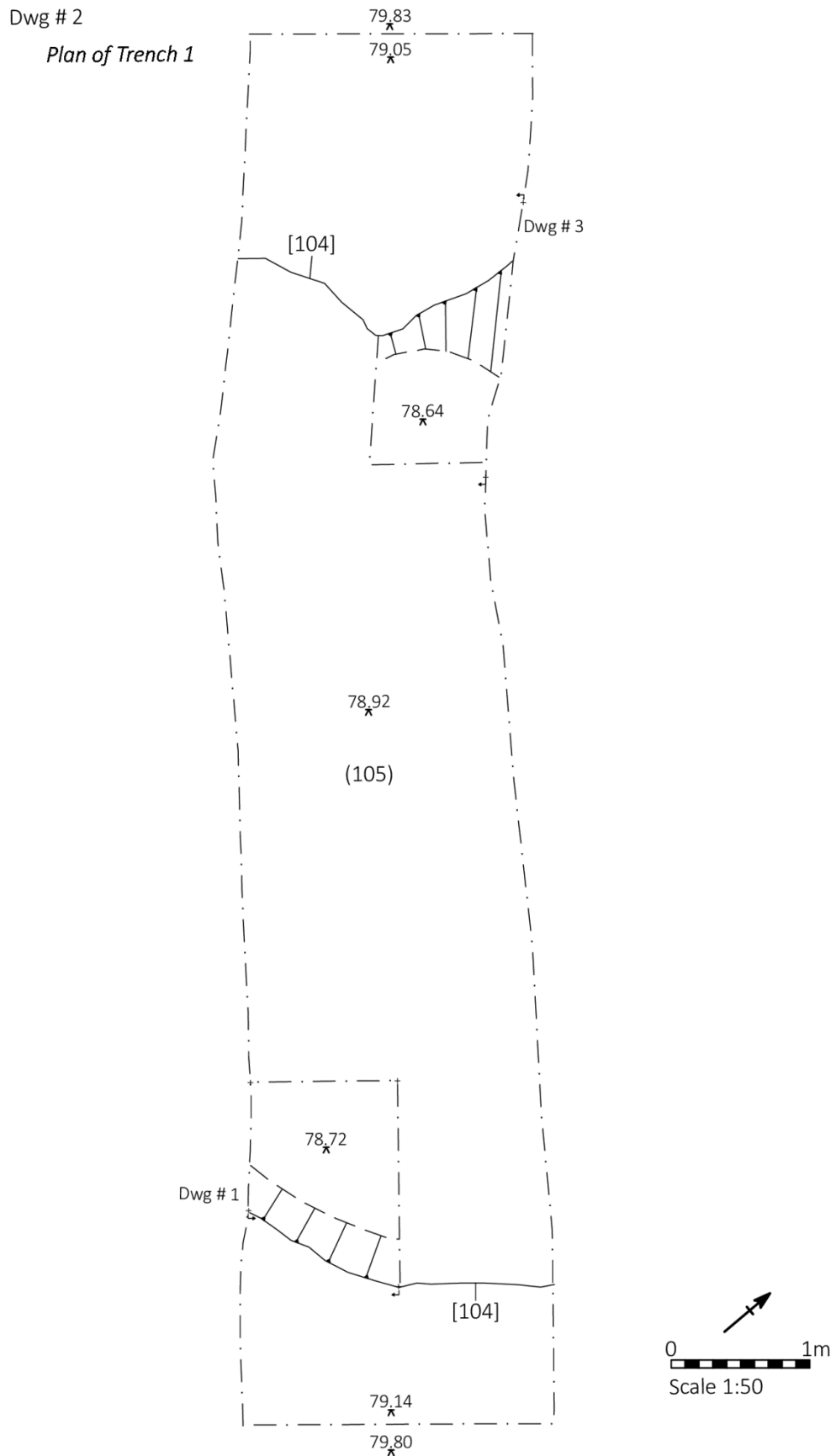


Figure 8: Archaeology trench plan (scale 1:50)



5 Conclusions

The development site is situated within Thurleigh Conservation Area being in close proximity to the High Street, the church, the castle and a number of listed buildings. In particular the development site sits within the area that would have originally been covered by the medieval castle as the outer castle defences originally extended north of the motte.

The results of the evaluation, however, revealed activity on the site of later date. A large feature was exposed thought to have been a natural dew pond containing post-medieval pottery, tile and clay pipe stem. Historical mapping of the area depicts a pond to the SW of the area from at least 1884 that is still present today (Fig. 2). By the time of the 1886 OS map, what is thought to have been a second pond is illustrated to the south of the development. Unfortunately the mapping does not depict a pond on the development site itself; however, it is clearly within an area whereby ponds existed within the surrounding environs. It is likely these were for agricultural use, providing drinking water for cattle and sheep. The northwest edge of the pond appears to have been shaped in a way typical of trampling by livestock.

Whilst the site was close to significant medieval features and there is evidence of human activity in the vicinity from earlier periods, no other cut features, deposits or artefacts were noted within the evaluation trench. It is therefore probable that either the site lies outside the principal area of occupation activity, or the trench was located between more widely dispersed features, or that the sheer size of pond, which covered approximately 75% of the trench base, obscures deeper features from earlier periods cut into the underlying natural geology.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Adam Hartung of DBF Construction Ltd for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Bedford Historic Environment Record Office for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; and to Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBCHET) for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA and Barney King. The report was written by Carina Summerfield-Hill, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Trench recording sheet
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 Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2017.94).



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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 320/TVG			Site Name: Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire
Digital	B&W	View	Subject
1	1	NNW	Trench 1 (2x1m scale)
2		ENE	Trench 1 stratigraphy (2x1m scale)
3	2	WNW	Possible Pond [104] (1m scale)
4		NNW	Possible Pond [104] slot 1 (1m scale)
5	3	WSW	Possible Pond [104] slot 1 (2x1m scale)
6		ENE	Possible Pond [104] slot 1 (1m scale)
7	4	ENE	Possible Pond [104] slot 2 (2x1m scale)
8		E	Possible Pond [104] slot 2 (2x1m scale)
9		E	Possible Pond [104] slot 2 (2x1m scale)
10		ENE	Possible Pond [104] slot 2 (2x1m scale)



Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers		Pottery		CBM		Other	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms
105	104	1	38	2	110	clay pipe x 2	11
106	104			2	102		

Note: finds not retained



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	320/TVG
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-295361	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2017.94
OS reference	TL 05323 58507	Study area size (sq m)	436.12
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	79.83
Short Description	In September 2017 an Archaeological Evaluation was carried out at the Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire prior to the construction of a single dwelling. The works uncovered the remains of what was thought to have been a pond containing finds of post-medieval pottery, tile and clay pipe stems.		
Previous work	No	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Sub-division of site and erection of new dwelling	Current land use	Garden
Local Planning Authority	Bedford Borough Council (BBC)	Planning application ref.	16/02994/FUL
Monument type	Pos. pond	Monument period	Post-medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Geoff Saunders (BBC)	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	DBF Construction Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	19.09.17	End date	19.09.17
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum (BEDFM 2017.94)	-	
Paper		Development plans, brief, WSI, report, site records & drawings, b&w photographs and negatives	
Digital		Development plans, brief, WSI, report, site records & drawings, digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land Adjacent to 15 Vicarage Green, Thurleigh, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK 320/TVG/2.0		
Author(s)	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA		
Page no's	23	Date	21.09.17