



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Mentmore
4 Greenfield Road
Pulloxhill
Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

In October 2018 KDK Archaeology undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire, as part of a requirement of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 2 of the Planning Consent for this site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered possibly as a result of previous demolition and modification of the property and the presence of tree rooting throughout.

1 Introduction

1.1 In October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Martin Smith, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Summerfield-Hill 2018), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBAT) acting as Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/16/00038/FULL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was 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 situated in the village and parish of Pulloxhill, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire. It is centred on National Grid Reference TL 06194 33995 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is a roughly rectangular plot located to the rear of 4 Greenfields Road. It is bounded by dwellings to the east and west with enclosed fields to the north. Access to the site is via Greenfields Road to the southwest (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The superficial geological deposit for the site is diamicton, which derives from the Oadby Member, whilst the underlying bedrock geology is mudstone from the Gault Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site is at an elevation of c.95m AOD.

Development

The development entails the erection of a detached barn style bungalow, the demolition of a garage, proposed turning and parking area and the installation of three dormer windows in the rear of the existing dwelling (Fig. 3).

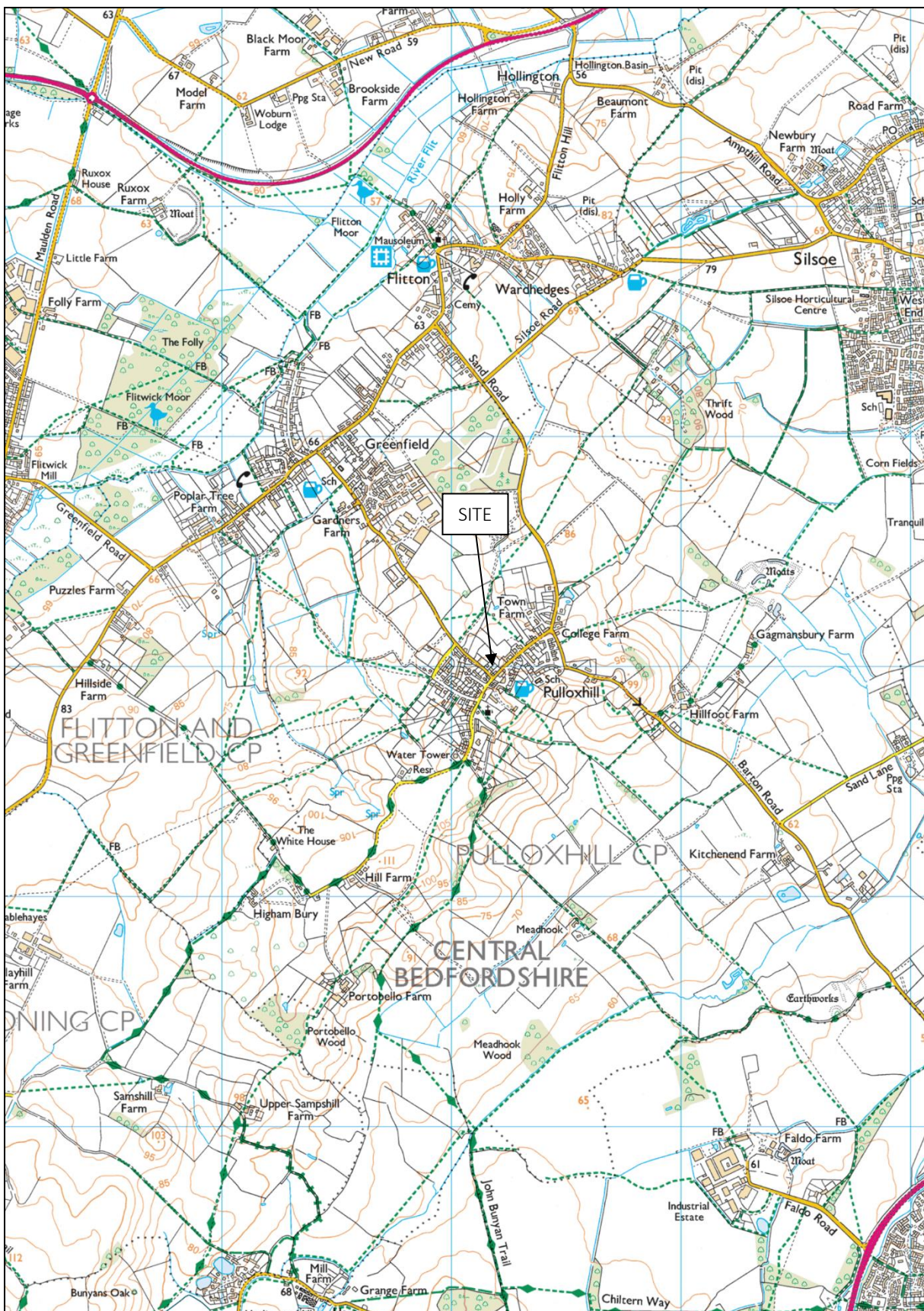


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

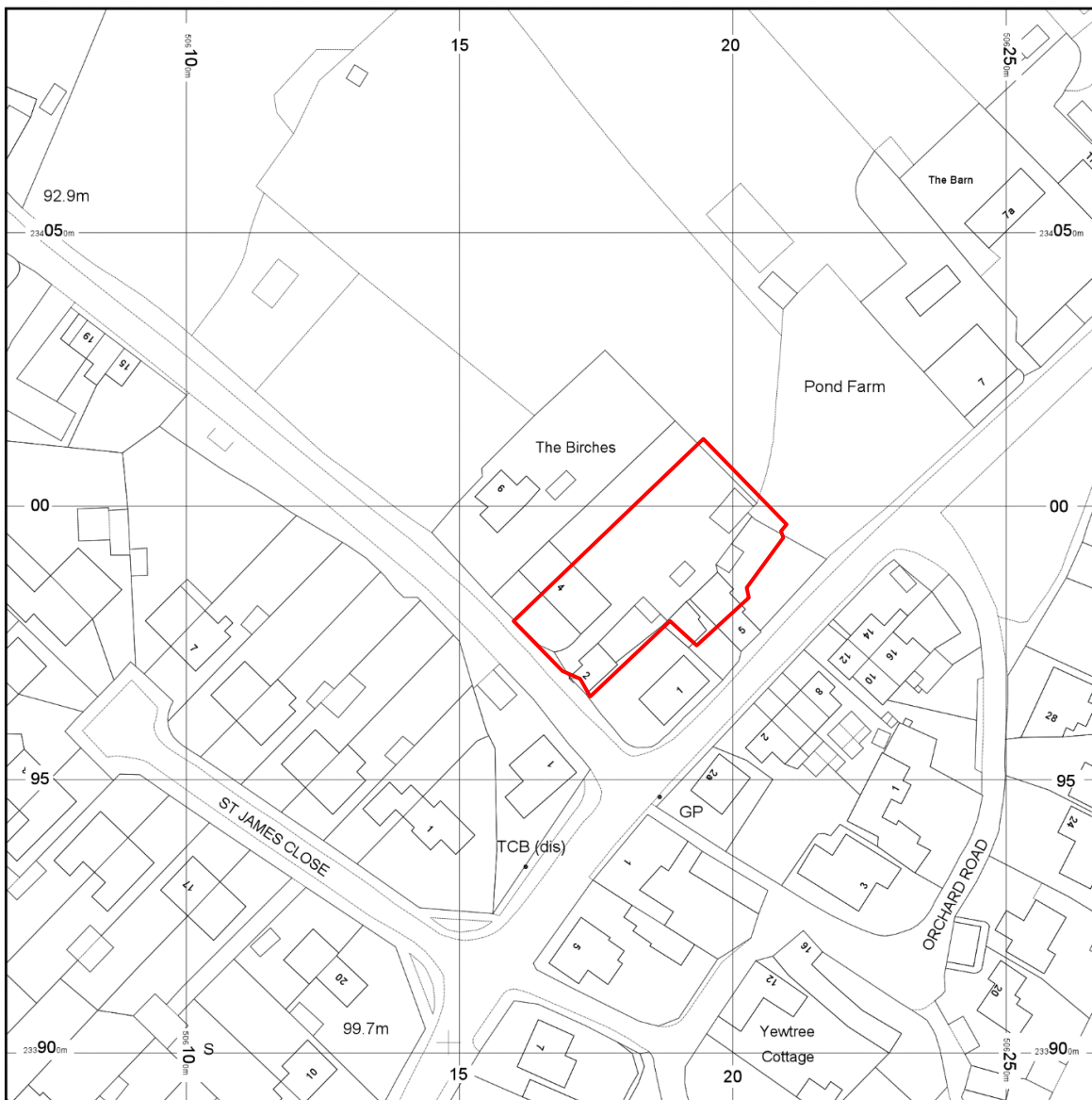


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Development plan with the development areas highlighted (scale 1:400)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Summerfield-Hill 2018) 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.

In addition, the research aims will *inter alia* consider various aspects of the development of rural Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements; their origins, morphology, diversity and ultimate success or failure (Wade 2000: 24-25; Oake 2007: 14; Medlycott 2011: 70 and Edgeworth 2007: 121-123).

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 trench, 10m long and 2.2m wide, within the footprint of the new dwelling avoiding the existing shed (Fig. 4). There was a contingency for additional trenching of up to 10 sq. m to further investigate features and deposits as necessary, which was not required.

2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current 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 & Historical Background

- 3.1 The development site is within the historic core of the village of Pulloxhill (HER 17013) the name of which means 'Hill of man called Pulloc' (Mills 1991:264). The village is a linear settlement centred on the High Street which houses a number of historic buildings and stems off of Church Road in which St James' Church is situated. Hints of activity from the prehistoric to the Roman periods have been recorded within the parish, but primarily the development has the potential to reveal activity relating to the Saxon to post-medieval periods.

This section has been compiled with data from a 500m search radius of the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record Office (HER Search No. 201819/82), along with further readily accessible material including Internet sources and KDK's own library. The location of HER data is shown in Fig. 5.

3.2 *Prehistoric – Iron Age* (before 600BC – AD43)

The earliest archaeological evidence comes from a ditch that was found during a small-scale excavation at The Chalet, Flitton Road. Pottery sherds found within the ditch dated from the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (HER 17794, Event No EBD417).

Cropmarks to the north-east of Pulloxhill also point to the existence of a prehistoric circular enclosure and a Bronze Age ring ditch (HER 18030).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43 - c.450)

There is limited evidence for Roman activity within the study area. The suggested route of the Roman road Viatores No 170b is to the south and west of the village, c.670m SW of the development site (HER 5020). However, there is no definite evidence to suggest that a Roman road existed. Later interpretations of this route are that it is actually a hollow way or the remains of a medieval lynchet (farming terrace) (HER 5159).

Findspots of residual Roman pottery, brick and tile have also been recovered from excavations carried out at The Gables, Flitton Road, c.366m to the northeast of the development site (HER 19539/Event No EBD1005).

3.4 *Saxon-Medieval* (c.450 - 1500)

Early Saxon settlement is suggested in the name Kitchen End, which may derive from Cyccingas, the place of the followers of Cuca (HER 17015). The site itself is situated along Barton Road, to the southeast of the village of Pulloxhill and is one of several deserted medieval settlements in the parish (cf. Bedfordshire Community Archives).

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 a settlement was clearly established at Pulloxhill when it was held by Roger and Riwallon of Nigel d'Aubigny. It was assessed at 10 hides with land for 13 ploughs. It had 11 villagers, 13 borders, 2 slaves, meadow for 6 ploughs and woodland for 100 pigs. At the time of the survey the village was worth £10, when received, £8 (Williams and Martin 1992: 575-576).

The core of the medieval village of Pulloxhill still exists and primarily the village today is within the medieval boundaries (HER 17013).

St James' Church and churchyard are situated c.180m southwest of the development site. It dates from the 14th/15th century with later rebuilding in 1845-46 (HER 3767 & 8953).



A three-sided medieval moat to the east of St James' Church is likely to have been the medieval manorial site, with the church having been built within the manorial enclosure (HER 7662).

Aerial photography has revealed a series of linear and rectilinear earthworks to the north of the village, which are thought to represent an area of shrunken medieval settlement (HER 1825). Some of these earthworks appear to coincide with field boundaries shown on the Draft Enclosure Map c.1809-1826. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survive adjacent to the earthworks of the shrunken settlement (HER 20534). This earlier settlement is thought to be 'Townys End' which is referred to in a will dating to 1505. To the south of this settlement is Town Farm.

Further areas of medieval ridge and furrow have also been identified to the south of the parish indicating former medieval and later common fields and furlongs, c.2km southeast of the development site (HER 3322).

A village pond that may have had medieval origins was still present in 1949, but by 1980 had been filled in and grassed over, forming part of the village green (HER 11869).

3.5 *Post-Medieval-Modern* (1500 - Present)

A number of post-medieval listed buildings survive on Church Road and include Rectory Farmhouse, which is situated to the west of the parish church and dates from the 16th-18th century (HER 3812), the late 18th century Chequers Public House (HER 3813), a 17th century cottage at 12 Church Road (HER 3815), the Thatched Cottage (HER 4385), and 5 Church Road which has a 19th century bakehouse with bread oven (HER 16321).

The High Street is also home to a number of listed buildings. Number 5 High Street is a 17th century timber framed house (HER 3816); 7 Pond Farmhouse is an 18th century reworking of a probable 17th century house (HER 3818); The Cross Keys Public House dates from the 17th century (HER 3819); Vine Cottage is a mid 18th century house (HER 3820); Town Farmhouse, which is a 17th-18th century timber framed house (HER 3821); Anfield Cottage (The Old Smithy), an 18th century building (HER 4991), and the 17th century Grosmont Cottage (HER 7339).

Further listed building in the village include College Farmhouse, Barton Road, a 16th century house with 17th-20th century alterations (HER 3822); 7 Flitton Road, a 17th century house (HER 3823); Halfpenny Cottage, Greenfield Road (HER 9261) and Yew Tree Cottage, 12 Orchard Road, a mid-late 17th century house (HER 13820).

The site of an abandoned gold mine exists at a field called Gold Close, to the north-east of the village. The site was briefly worked in the late 17th century when gold quartz was discovered. However, on working the gold it consisted of flakes of mica in drift stone and the gold did not repay the cost of separation, as a result of which the mine was abandoned (HER 10809).

The HER notes a findspot of an 18th century coin, found to the north of College Farm, c.860 northeast of the development. The coin is a plated forgery of a silver Ecu of Louis XIV of France dating to 1788 (HER 18685).

A war memorial commemorating those who fell in the First and Second World Wars also exists in St James's Church (HER 20324).

Ordnance Survey mapping of the development site indicates that the house on the site, Mentmore, was a school between 1882 and at least 1960. By 1977 the site layout was as it stands today.

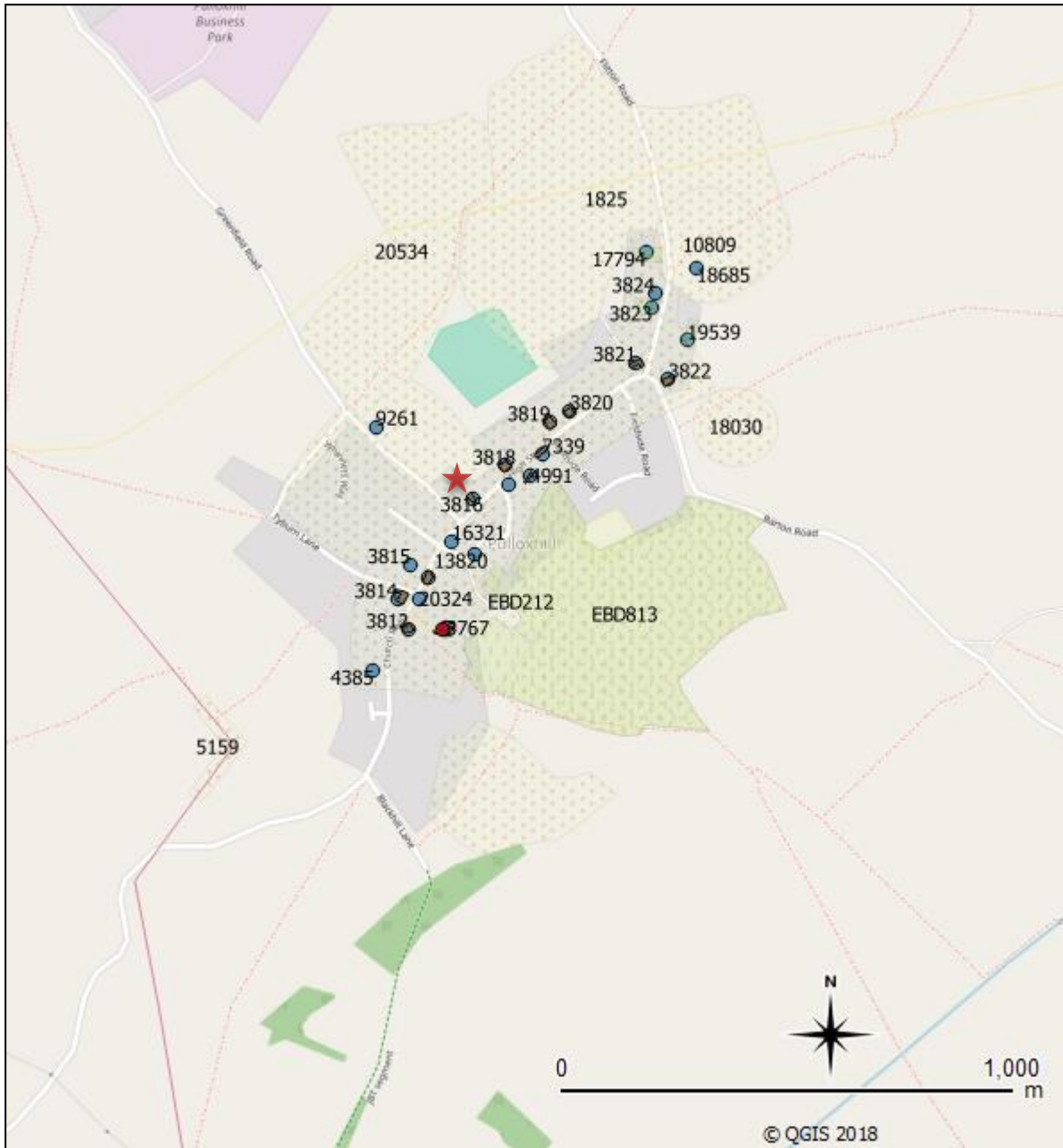


Figure 4: HER data plan, red star indicating development site (scale 15,000)



4 Results

Introduction

A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling using a 2.5 tonne machine fitted with a 1.2 m toothless ditching bucket. The trench was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 10m in length and 2.20m in width (Plates 1-3). The layout of the trench is slightly wider than required due to overlap with the bucket but the trench remained within the foot print.

No archaeological features or finds were revealed other than a post medieval soakaway near the middle of the trench (Plate 3).

It was noted that the ground was heavily disturbed by the roots of two substantial trees that had recently been removed.

The stratigraphy of the trench comprised of:

- Topsoil **(100)**. Dark greyish brown silty clay, heavily bioturbated. 0.11m in depth
- Subsoil **(101)**. Mid greyish brown silty clay with small sub-angular stones. 0.22m in depth
- Redeposited natural **(102)**. Light yellowish grey clay, with chalky inclusions and pieces of brick and building materials mixed throughout. 0.19m in depth
- Natural **(103)**. Light yellowish grey clay, with chalky inclusions



Figure 5: Trench location plan (scale 1:400)

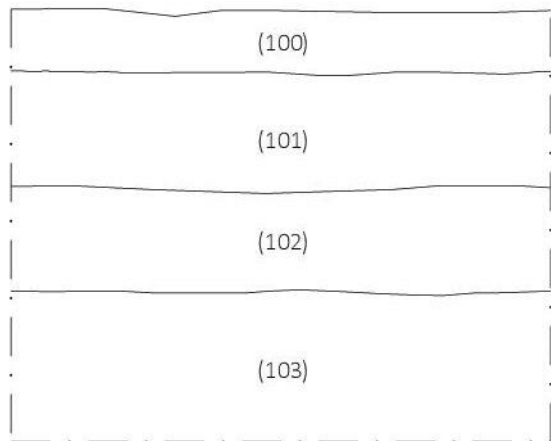


Figure 6: Representative stratigraphy, facing section west-southwest



Plate 1: Evaluation trench, facing northwest



Plate 2: Trench stratigraphy facing west-southwest



Plate 3: Soakaway facing south-southwest



5 Conclusions

Despite the extent of archaeological activity in the area, the evaluation trench produced no archaeological finds or cut features other than a post-medieval soakaway. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the area investigated had been truncated in recent times, as is evidenced in the redeposited natural containing brick and tile beneath the present subsoil. This and the extensive bioturbation caused by the roots of the recently removed trees would have disturbed or destroyed any surviving archaeological features unless they were of significant depth.

Although the trial trench was devoid of archaeological remains, it would generally be considered possible that archaeological features have survived elsewhere on the site. In this instance however, the distance of the trench to the existing property would suggest that the entire site has been truncated resulting in little potential for archaeological survival.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Martin Smith for commissioning this report and for his assistance on site. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Slawek Utrata of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King. The report was written by Barney King, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. 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 1340).



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

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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.

Williams A. & Martin G.H. 2002 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. London: Penguin.



Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 383/PGR			Site Name: Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	x	x	Evaluation Trench Northwest Facing
2		x	Trench Stratigraphy West-Southwest Facing
3	x	x	Soakaway South-Southwest Facing



Appendix 2: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	383/PGR
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-321376	Event/Accession no	LTNMG 1340
OS reference	TL 06194 33995	Study area size	22.05 m ²
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	98.00
Short Description	In October 2018 KDK Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation at Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire, in order to fulfil Condition 2 of the Planning Consent for this site. No archaeological features or finds were encountered, probably as a result of previous demolition and modification of the site.		
Previous work	No	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Erection of bungalow	Current land use	Garden and garage
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council	Planning application ref.	CB/16/00038/FULL
Monument type	None	Monument period	N/A
Significant finds	None	Future work	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	Slawek Utrata	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Barney King
Sponsor/funding body	Martin Smith		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	08.10.2018	End date	08.10.2018
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Luton Museum	-	
Paper		Evaluation report, WSI, Site records, Photographs	
Digital		Fieldwork Forms, Digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Mentmore, 4 Greenfield Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	383/PGR/2.1		
Author(s)	Barney King		
Page no's	18	Date	11.10.2018