



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

The Orchard  
Bedford Road  
Houghton Regis  
Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

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## Summary

In September 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd conducted an Archaeological Evaluation at The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, with the excavation of seven trenches close to, or within the footprint of the development. The only archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 1 and 7. There were three postholes in Trench 1 which may have formed part of a boundary or structure; two of the fills contained late Iron Age pottery. A gully/ditch documented in Trench 7 was undated. A large possible palaeochannel, was revealed in Trenches 3, 4 and 6, north of the Iron Age remains. There was no evident link between the archaeological features and the paleochannel, though Iron Age activity/settlement has been recorded on other sites in the Houghton Regis area.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Christina Cremin, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Summerfield-Hill 2019), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/17/00501/OUT.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Condition 18 of the Planning Consent.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The site is situated in the north of the parish of Houghton Regis, on the western side of Bedford Road. It falls within the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council, and is centred on National Grid Reference TL 0115 2519 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The site is roughly rectangular in plan with an existing house, The Orchard, situated at the north-west corner of the site. A storage yard is in the central part of the site and to the south this area is covered by trees and undergrowth. The site is bounded by agricultural fields to the north and west and Bedford Road to the east and south, from which access is provided (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The underlying geology consists of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, whilst no superficial geological deposits have been mapped in this area. Topographically the site sits in the vale at the foot of the Chilterns Ridge. Ouzel Brook is situated c.30m to the south. The site lies at c.102m AOD with the land rising gently to the north (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

#### *Development*

The development entails the demolition of the existing buildings/structures and redevelopment of site to provide six dwellings, an estate road, landscaping and associated works. The existing dwelling will be retained (Fig. 3).



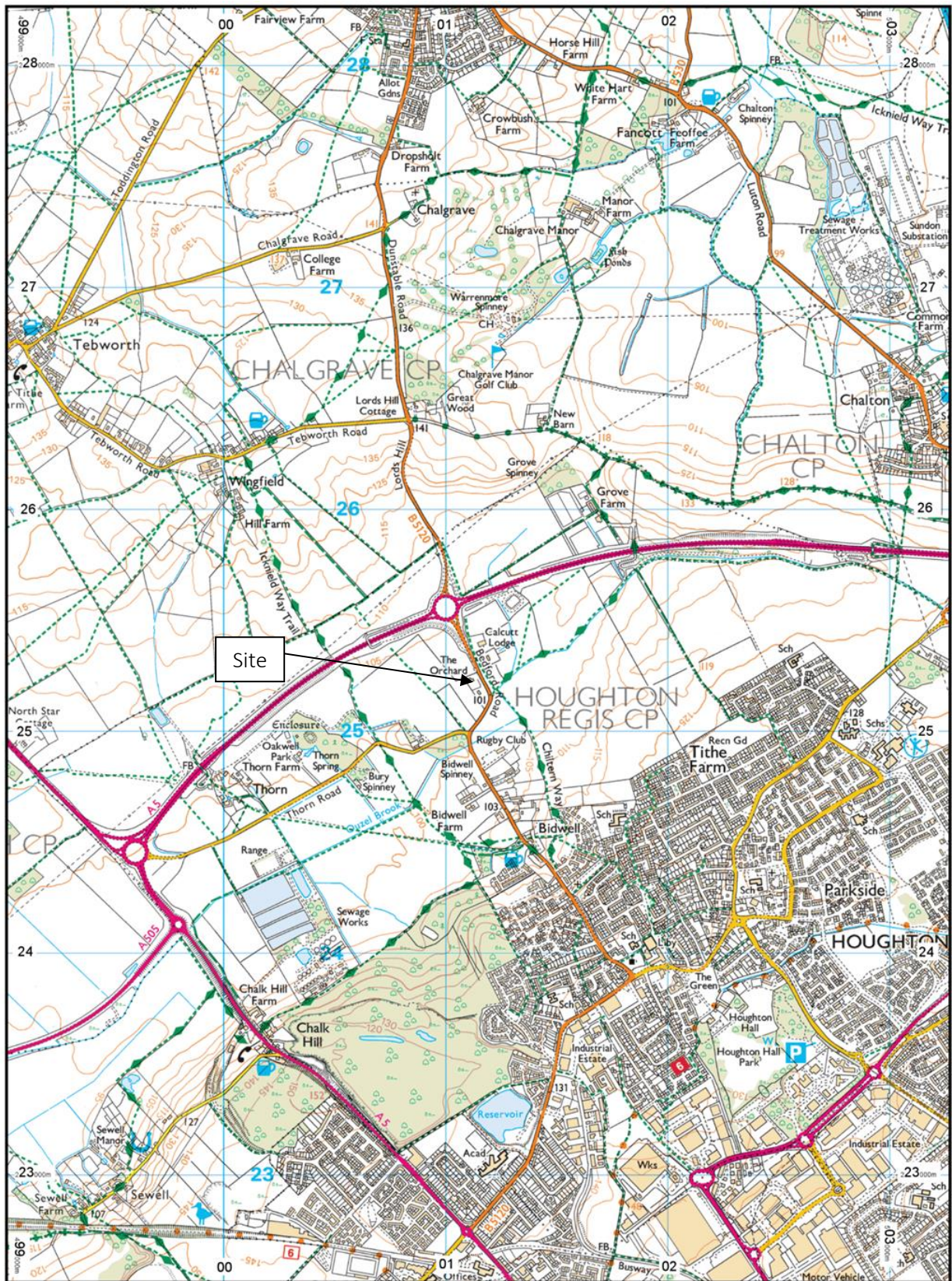


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



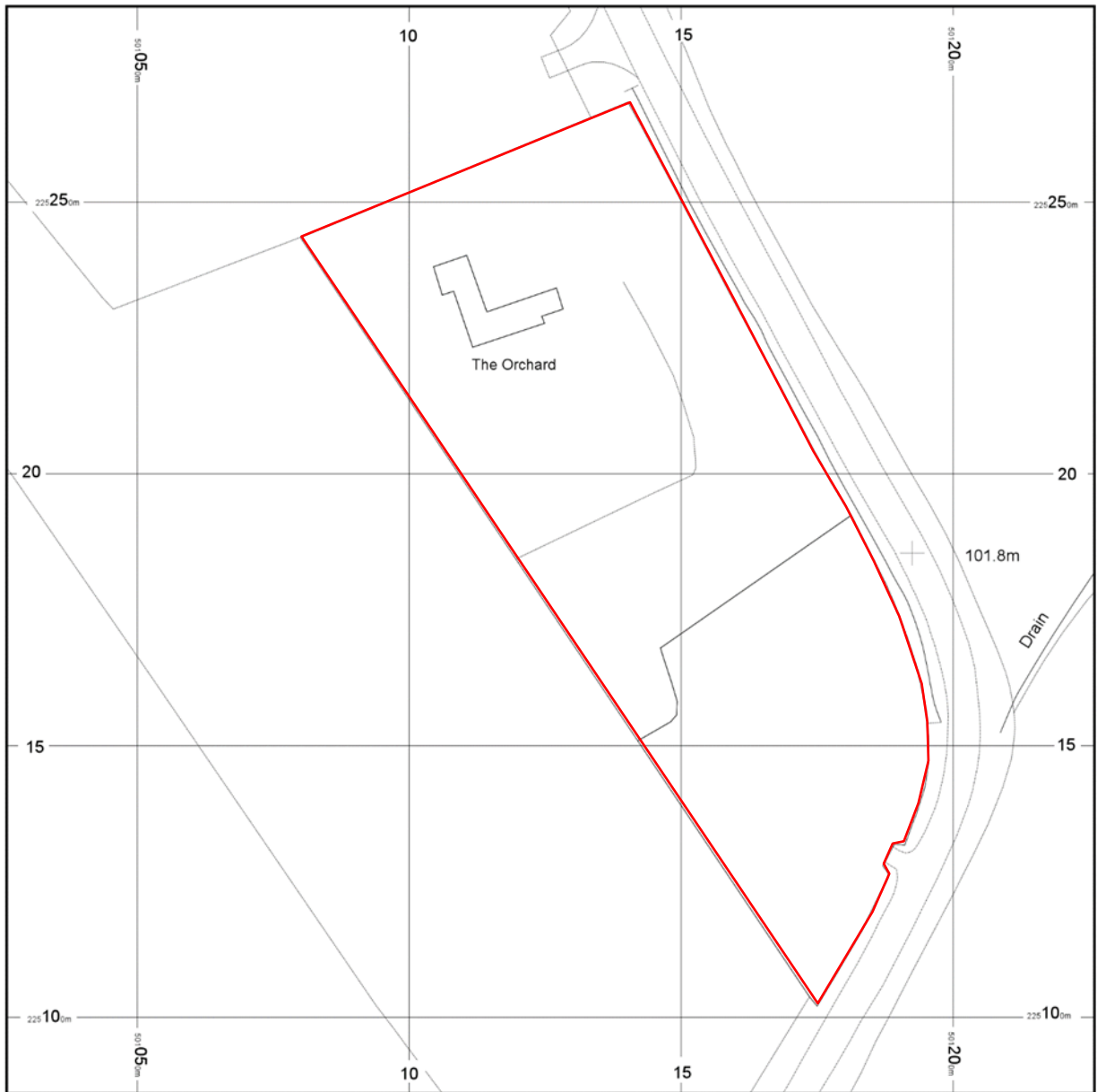


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

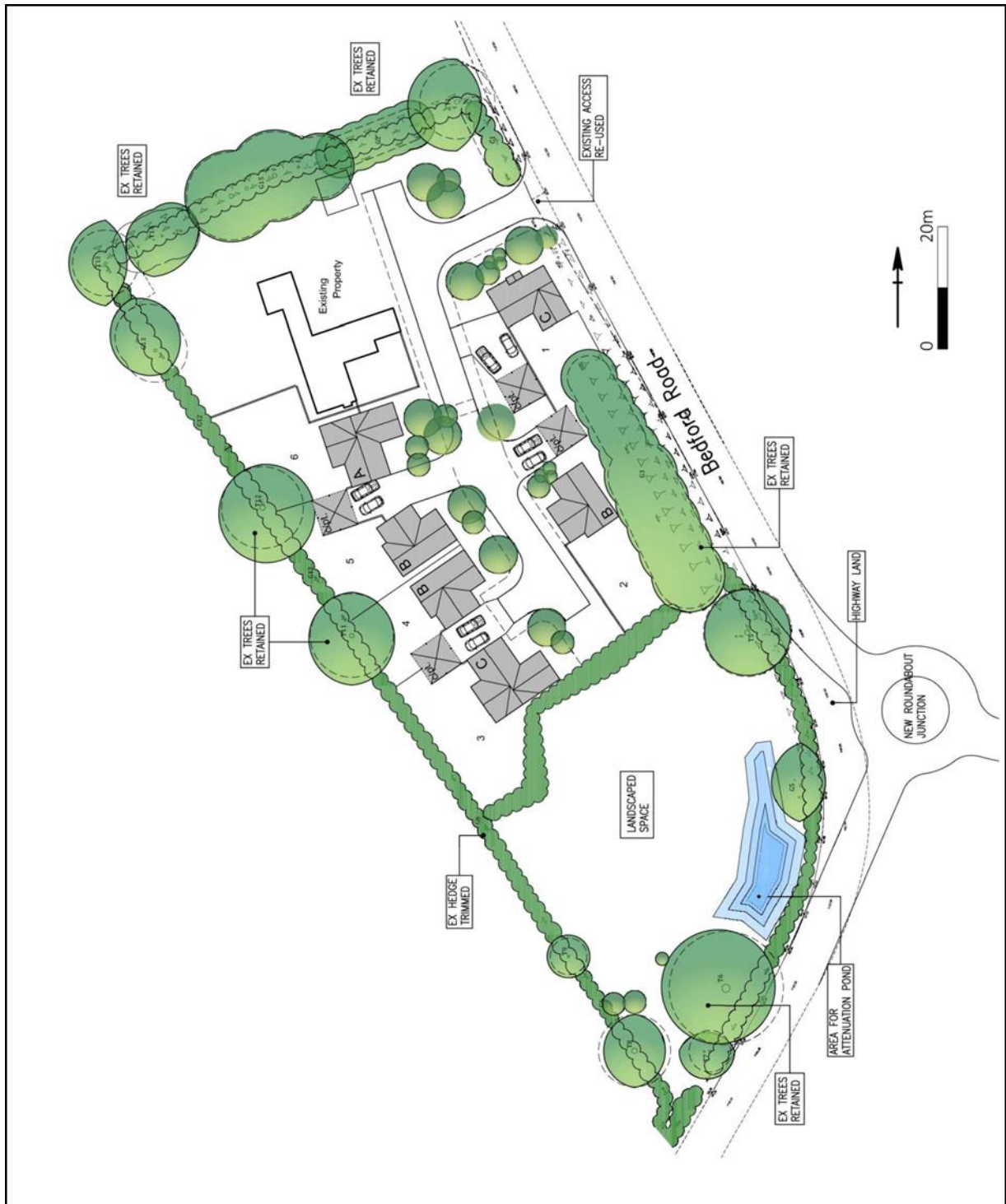


Figure 3: Development plan (scale: 1:1,000)



## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the Brief (Utrata 2019) 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, preliminary research objectives were:

- Development of Iron Age and Roman landscape and settlement patterns (Oake 2007: 11; Bryant 2000: 14; Going and Plouviez 2000: 21 & 16 and Medlycott 2011: 31).
- The origins and development of field systems and relationship between field systems and settlement in the Iron Age and Roman periods (Oake 2007: 10-12; Bryant 2000: 15; Going and Plouviez 2000 and Medlycott 2011: 47).
- Chronology and dating in the Iron Age (Oake 2007: 11; Bryant 2000: 14 & 16 and Medlycott 2011: 29).
- Iron Age – Roman transition (Bryant 2000: 16 and Medlycott 2011: 31).
- Characterising Iron Age and Roman rural settlement including settlement layout and economy (Oake 2007: 10-12; Bryant 2000: 14 & 16; Going and Plouviez 2000: 22 and Medlycott 2011: 47).

The investigation of rural Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements to examine diversity, characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear is also a local and regional archaeological research objective (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. The results of this stage will be assessed to determine the need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation as detailed in the approved WSI (Summerfield-Hill 2019). The methods used were as follows:

- Stage One: The archaeological field evaluation of the site comprised the excavation of seven trenches within the site boundaries (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*



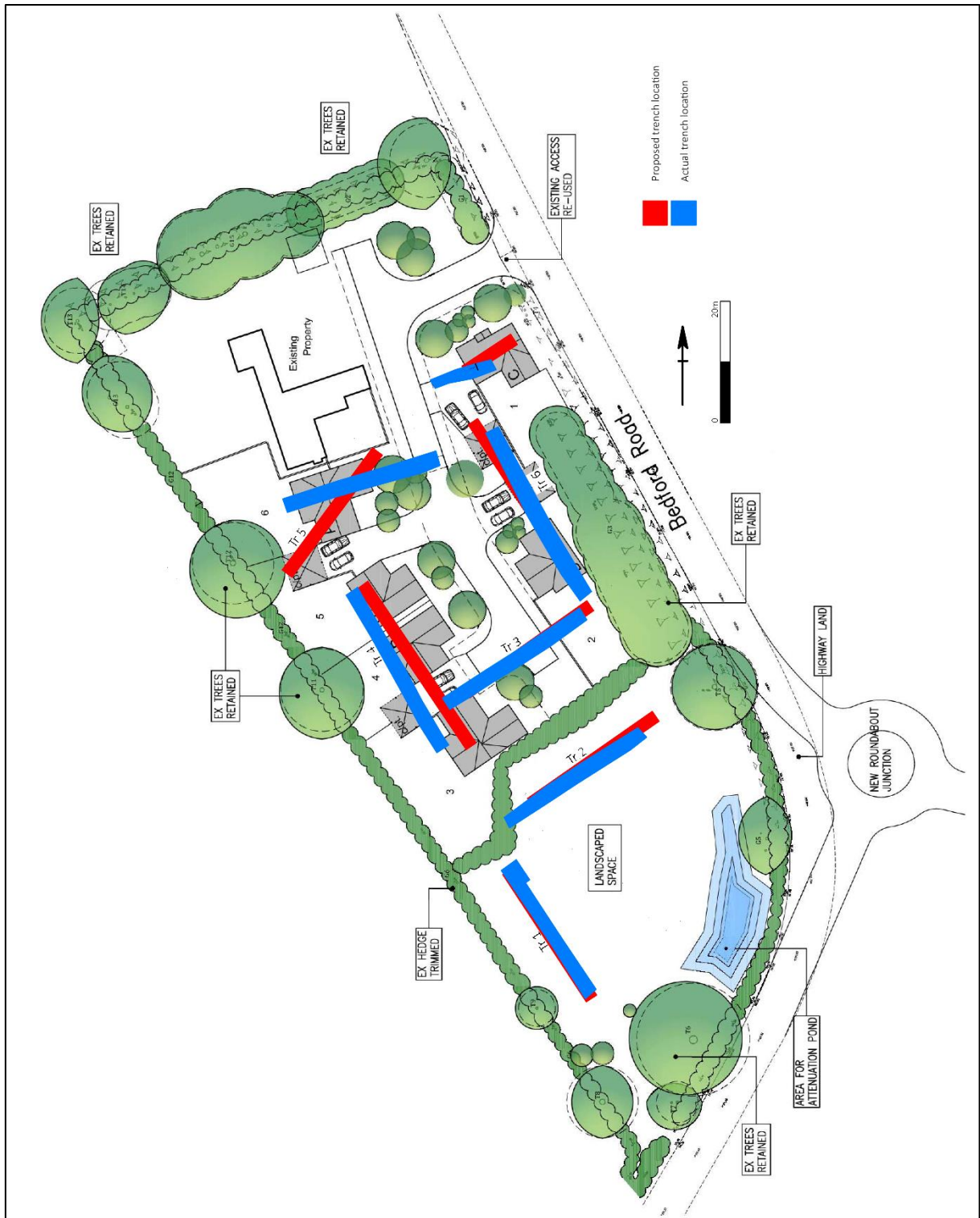


Figure 4: Trench plan (scale 1:1000)



### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Houghton Regis is a small-town with Saxon origins set within an extensive archaeological landscape with evidence of occupation from the Neolithic period onwards. Houghton is a common name usually referring to a 'farmstead on or near a ridge or hill-spur', whilst the term Regis means 'of the king' as it was a royal manor from an early date (Mills 1991: 180). The development site is situated north of the town in close proximity to the A5-M1 Link Road. This area has been subjected to geophysical survey and excavations revealing extensive occupation from the prehistoric to the Roman periods. Evidence for Saxon and medieval occupations also surround's the site vicinity pointing to occupation away from the town of Houghton Regis itself. This section has been compiled with information from the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record Office, (Search No: 201819/251, radius 500m), CBCAT Brief, reliable internet sources and KDK's library (Fig. 5).

#### **Prehistoric – Iron Age** (before 600BC-AD43)

In the environs of Houghton Regis, the earliest occupation evidence dates from the Neolithic period found to the south-west of the development in chalk ridge (HER 687; Cotswold Archaeology 2014). A Neolithic polished stone axe has also been found on the line of the A5-M1 Link Road, west of the development, and further flint artefacts of contemporary date (MOLA 2015).

There are also extensive settlement patterns from the Middle Iron Age onwards. Iron Age farmsteads have been found in the vicinity of the development site; at two locations along the Bedford road to the south, boundary ditches and pits forming part of an enclosure complex have been excavated (HER 20366; Albion Archaeology 2014 & 2018). Also, between Thorn Farm and the A5 to the west of the development, further Iron Age activity has been excavated. Here a pit alignment, boundary ditches, ring ditches, enclosures and clusters of pits and postholes were found (HER 18290). Further settlement evidence along with three urned cremation burials have also been found to the north-west of Thorn (HER 16541). Ditches and pits have also been found south-east of Thorngreen House (HER 20377; Cotswold Archaeology 2014, MOLA 2015). Also, Iron Age and Roman features have been found to the east of Dunstablians Rugby Football Club, to the south-east of the development (HER 19886; Albion Archaeology 2012).

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

Settlement activity also continued into the Roman period. A large concentration of rectilinear enclosures, interpreted as a Roman farmstead, have been found on the banks of Ouzel Brook, c.300m to the north-east of the development. Also, in this location, a small building was excavated in the 1980s, that may have been a church or temple. The type and quantity of finds in this area, excavated in more recent years, has indicated the presence of high-status buildings also existed within the complex (HER 1453; Albion Archaeology 2012). As mentioned above, Roman activity has been found at the Dunstablians Rugby Football Club, to the south-east (HER 19886; Albion Archaeology 2012), and further sites to the south (HER 20366; Albion Archaeology 2014; Albion Archaeology 2018) and to the west (HER 16541, 20373 and 20382; Cotswold Archaeology 2014).

The main settlements identified appear to be situated within patterns of field systems (HER 20388 and 20394), and recent excavations that are currently unreported, have identified smaller areas of activity and occupation away from the main settlement areas.



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

At the time of the Domesday survey of 1086, Houghton Regis is described as a *demesne manor of the king, assessed at 10 hides ... and land for 24 ploughs*. An earlier Saxon church had already been established at this time as the survey records that *William the Kings chamberlain holds the church of the manor* (Williams 2002: 563).

In closer proximity to the site, the historic core of Bidwell existed to the south of the development. It mainly lined the east side of the now lost Bidwell Green with a small cluster to the south of Bedford Road (HER 16987). Bidwell Green, is recorded deriving from the medieval period and continuing in use into the 18<sup>th</sup> century (HER 12241).

Further sites of former Greens are recorded at Bury Corner Green, to the west of the development (HER 12243), and immediately east, Calcutt Green (HER 12244).

Evidence dating from the Saxon period has been found to the north of Thorn on the line of the Link Road. Here an Early-Middle Saxon inhumation cemetery was excavated (MOLA 2015).

Around Thorn Farm, there is evidence for Saxo-Norman and medieval settlement. Here, building and plot boundaries have been identified thought to relate to Thorn medieval settlement on the northern edge of Thorn Green (HER 16888, 12242). Further settlement activity has been found to the east of the development at Bury Corner Green (HER 12243).

To the west of the development is Thorn Spring Moat which is medieval (HER 140). The moat along with a contemporary wood bank (HER 13164) forms a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1013519). To the east, at Calcutt Farm, a further moated site exists (HER 3395). Here, an estate map of 1762 shows a waterfilled ditch or possible stream enclosing an area in which a former 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century farm building stood. The area also included three large ponds all of which may represent a former moated site. At Bury Spinney there is a possible medieval manorial site, c.600m south-west of the development (HER 147). Here two linear ponds are marked on an estate map of 1762 which may indicate the remains of a moated site.

Extensive evidence for medieval ridge and furrow field systems has also been identified throughout the area (HER 20378, 20383, 20384, 20385, 20386, 1638, 19927).

An ancient roadway also exists within the area stemming from Markyate to the Icknield Way/Church Street in Dunstable, and onto Houghton Regis and Toddington. Antiquarians suggested that this route may have been used in Roman times but currently there is no evidence that this route is any earlier than the medieval period (HER 11986).

Earthworks at Bidwells Farm, to the south of the development, have also been recorded that represent field boundaries and demolished farm buildings of medieval/post-medieval date (HER 12267). To the north of which further earthworks are recorded as representing former water courses across the meadow, the date of which is uncertain (HER 12283).

**Post-Medieval – Modern** (1500 - present)

The search area indicates that a number of post-medieval buildings exist; at Calcutt Farm, to the east, a former 18<sup>th</sup> century farm building that was listed but now demolished is recorded (HER 4329), and Thorn Cottage, to the south-west of the development, is an 18<sup>th</sup> century cottage (HER 9806).



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Further entries in the HER include the site of a post-medieval demolished pond at Pond Close, north-east of the development is also recorded in the HER (HER 12239), post-medieval boundaries to the north and north-east of Calcutt Lodge (HER 19937) and also ditches to the south-east of Calcutt Lodge, although these features are undated (HER 19943).

Ordnance survey mapping of the site itself depicts the site in 1882 as an enclosed field as it is today with trees depicted over the entire field. By the 1901 OS map a small rectangular building is shown in the centre of the field. The 1977 OS map shows the rectangular building had been extended and is named The Orchard which is accompanied by a driveway stemming from the southern end of the plot up to The Orchard. The 1980 OS map shows a further building at the northern end of the site in the location of the current house on the site. Today the original rectangular building, first shown on the 1901 OS map is no longer present.

### 3.2 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

No site-specific information is listed in the HER.



Figure 5: HER data plan; red star = development site (scale 1:1,000)

(Base map courtesy of OpenStreetMap)





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## Results

### 4.1 *Introduction*

In September 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd conducted an Archaeological Evaluation at The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, with the excavation of seven trenches within the footprint of the development, using a 9 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket. A total of 345sq. m was investigated during the archaeological evaluation.

The original proposal was for the excavation of seven trenches: one 30m and six 25m in length and 2m wide (Fig. 4). However, alterations were made to the trench layout due to the presence of live services and topographic obstacles in the development area (Fig. 6).

The stratigraphy revealed within the trenches was variable, though the site appears to have been landscaped, probably to level out a natural hollow. It should also be noted that the use of the term “subsoil” in the context description is a misnomer. The “layers” that appear in the baulk sections that are described as “subsoil” are in fact natural geology, and their depth is simply the amount the trench was machined in to the natural geology. There was no naturally formed subsoil in any of the trenches.

Archaeological remains were only found within Trenches 1 and 7.

### 4.2 *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was 25m long x 2 wide x 0.59m deep (Fig. 7; Plates 1-2). The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying natural geology (Fig. 8; Plate 3). The trench revealed two postholes [104, 106] situated at the north-western end of the trench, and a possible posthole [108] and a modern soakaway at the western end (Fig. 7). The trench was extended by 1m to the west at the northern end of the trench in order to determine if any other archaeological cut features were associated with postholes [104] and [106]. The size of the extension was limited by the presence of live services, and no new features were revealed.

Posthole [104] was 0.43 in diameter and 0.1m deep, and its fill (105) contained 93 small sherds of Iron Age Pottery (Fig. 7; Plate 4). Posthole [106] was 0.3m in diameter and 0.11m deep, with a fill (107) that yielded 7 small sherds of Iron Age Pottery (Fig. 7; Plate 5). The fill (109) of a potential posthole [108], measuring 0.39m wide x 0.15m deep did not yield any artefacts, but it did contain a large amount of roots (Fig. 7; Plate 6).

The Iron Age potsherds were derived from vessels made, predominantly, of the same shelly fabric F16 of the Bedfordshire prehistoric type-series; a single sherd of Bedfordshire fabric F28 was found in fill (105) (Blinkhorn, this volume). The fabrics and lack of decoration suggest that the pottery assemblage dates to the late Iron Age.

No environmental analysis was carried out on the fills of the postholes as the volume of the remaining material was too small to obtain any meaningful results.

A modern soakaway [110], orientated ENE-WSW, was also present within Trench 1 (Fig. 7; Plate 7).

### 4.3 *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was 9.5m long x 2m wide x 0.92m deep (Fig. 7; Plate 8). The stratigraphy comprised concrete and made ground overlying natural geology (Fig. 8; Plate 9). This trench needed to be relocated and shortened as the initial plans showed part of trench extending outside the property boundary, and the area has several active services in it.



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The only feature present was a possible gully [704] at the east end, though its extent was made unclear due to bioturbation (Plate 10). It was at least 2m in length, 0.82m wide and 0.19m deep, containing a single backfill of redeposited natural geology. There is a possibility that this feature was rooting as it was on the same alignment as several extant trees to the south of the trench, and the fill was showed signs of heavy bioturbation.

As with the postholes in Trench 1, no environmental analysis was carried out due to the very limited volume of the material within the cut.

- 4.4 There was some variation in the natural geology in Trenches 3, 4 and 6, which has been interpreted as a paleochannel (*pers. com.* Utrata). The deposits within it were identified in a machine-cut slot and consisted of a layer of dark yellowish grey dense clay up to 0.42m deep with an irregular base (405), overlying a blueish grey dense clay at least 0.58m in depth, extending beyond the depth of the machine cut (406). Both deposits were greater than the 2.2m width of the cut.

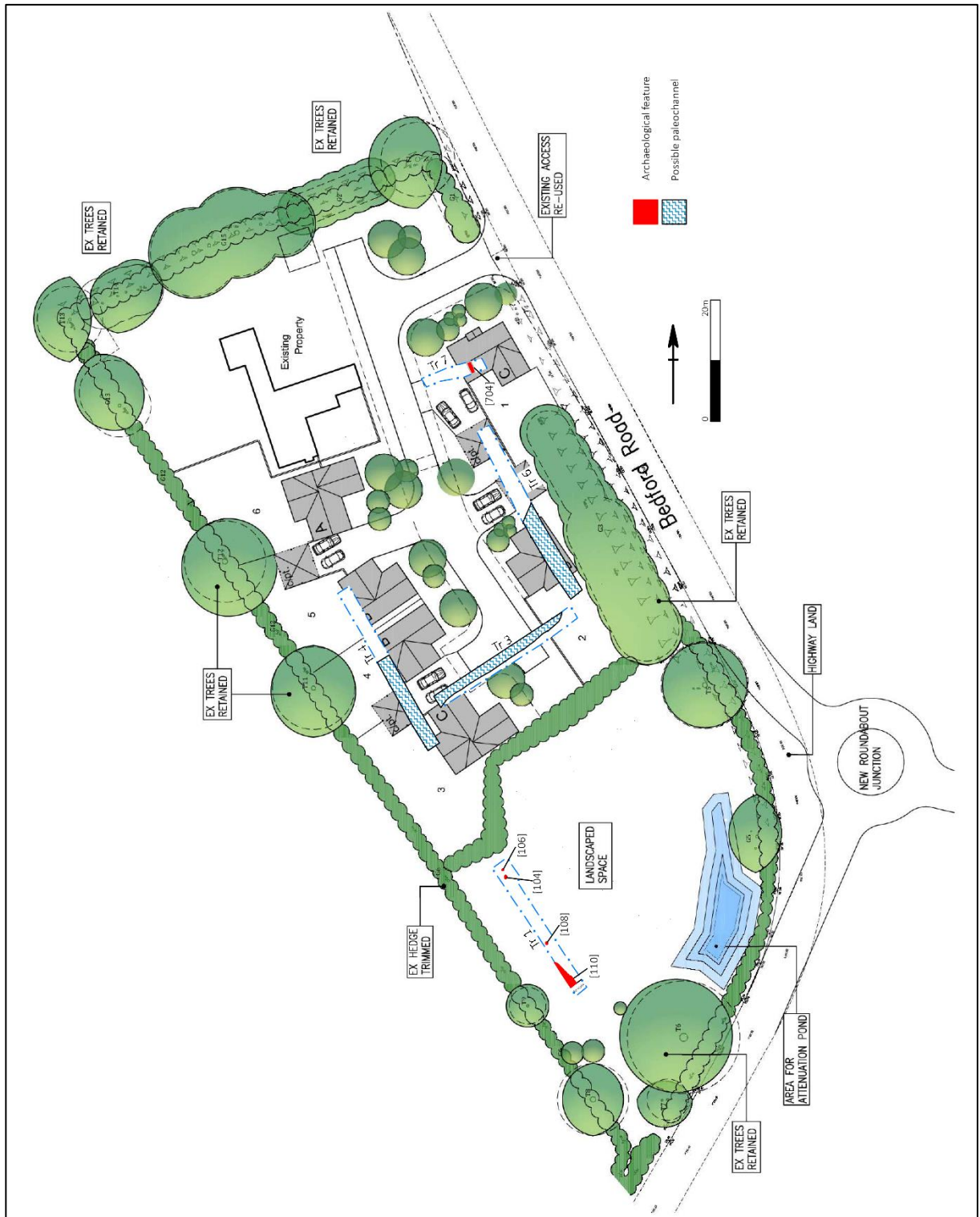


Figure 6: All features plan (scale 1:1000)

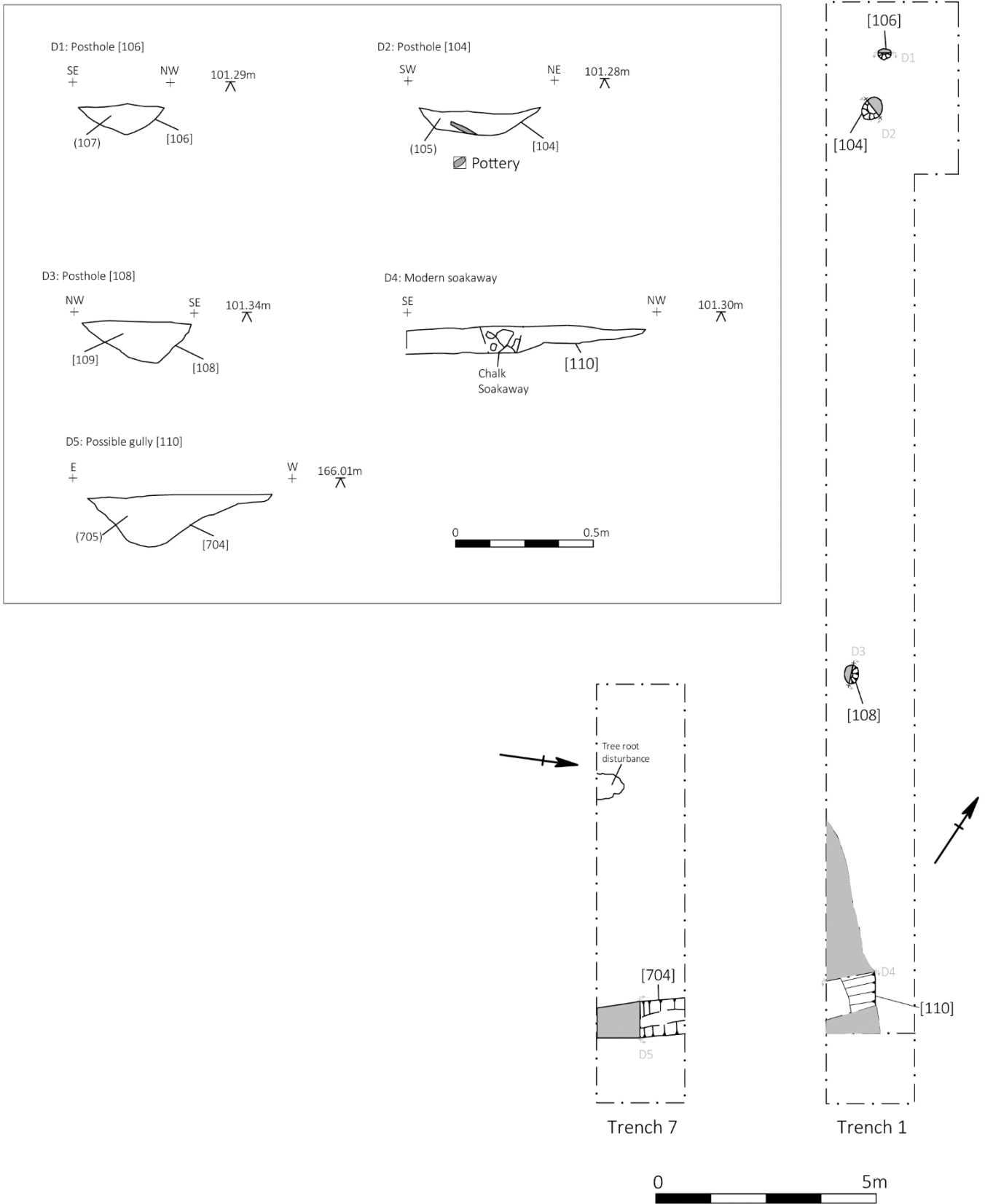


Figure 7: Trench 1 plan (1:125) and sections (1:20)

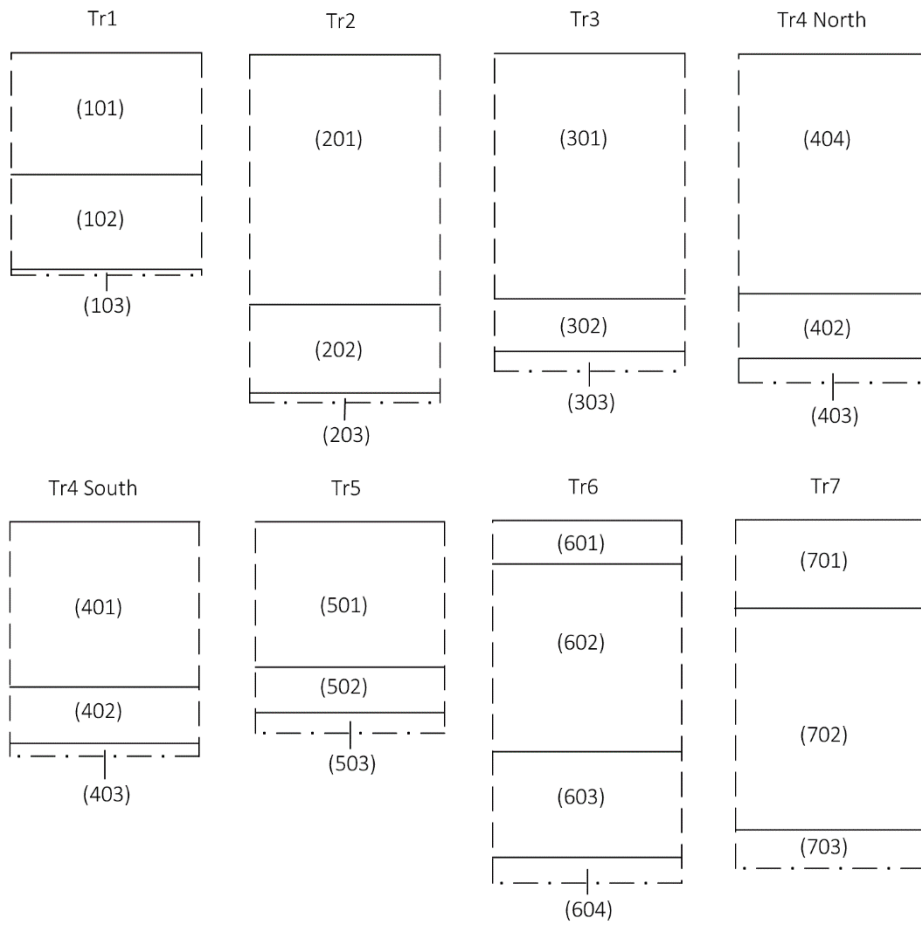


Figure 8: Trenches stratigraphic profiles





Plate 1: Trench 1, facing northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1 extension, facing south



Plate 3: Trench 1 stratigraphy



Plate 4: Trench 1, posthole [104], half-section, facing north



Plate 5: Trench 1, posthole [108], post-excitation, facing north



Plate 6: Trench 1, possible posthole [108], pre-excitation





**Plate 7:** Trench 1, chalk-based soakaway [110], facing northwest



**Plate 8:** Trench 7, facing northwest



**Plate 9:** Trench 7 stratigraphy



**Plate 10:** Trench 7, possible gully/ditch [704], facing south



Context Table: Trenches 1 and 7

| <i>Context no.</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Dimensions (max)</i> | <i>Description</i>  |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| 101                | Layer       | Depth 0.3m              | Topsoil. Dark brownish grey silty clay, with moderate inclusions of sub-angular stones (<100mm).  |
| 102                | Layer       | Depth 0.26m             | Subsoil. Mid brownish grey silty clay, with occasional inclusions of rounded stones (<100mm).   |
| 103                | Layer       | Depth >0.02m            | Natural geology. Yellowish white silty clay.  |
| 104                | Cut         | 0.43 x 0.1m             | Circular cut for post hole [104] at the west end of trench 1, contained iron age pottery. The cut has sheer sides, with a flat base.                                      |
| 105                | Fill        | 0.43 x 0.1m             | Fill of [104]. Dark greyish brown silty clay, containing iron age pottery and two sized medium stones.  |
| 106                | Cut         | 0.3 x 0.11m             | Circular cut for post hole [106] at the west end of trench 1, contained iron age pottery. The cut has sheer sides, with a flat base.                                      |
| 107                | Fill        | 0.3 x 0.11m             | Fill of [106]. Dark greyish brown silty clay, containing iron age pottery.  |
| 108                | Cut         | 0.32 x 0.39 x 0.15m     | Circular cut for possible post hole/rooting hole [108] towards the eastern end of the trench, to the west of soakaway [110]. The cut has straight sides, and a flat base. |
| 109                | Fill        | 0.32 x 0.39 x 0.15m     | Fill of [108]. Mid brownish grey silty clay. The fill contained no artefacts, but it did have large amounts of roots.   |
| 110                | Cut         | >4.8 x >1.2 x 0.1m      | Cut for linear soakaway [110] at the eastern end of trench 1. The cut is linear, with straight sides and a flat base; it was orientated ENE-WSW.                          |
| 111                | Fill        | >4.8 x >1.2 x 0.1m      | Fill of [110]. Mid yellowish brown silt.  |
| 201                | Layer       | Depth 0.42              | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown fairly loose silty clay  |
| 202                | Layer       | Depth 0.36              | Subsoil. Mid brownish grey, fairly firable, silty clay  |
| 203                | Layer       | Depth >0.02             | Natural geology. Light yellowish white, silty chalky/clay, fairly firm  |
| 301                | Layer       | Depth 0.65m             | Made Ground of broken modern brick and concrete and building refuse   |
| 302                | Layer       | Depth 0.14m             | Subsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay   |
| 303                | Layer       | Depth >0.05m            | Natural geology. Blue clay meeting with yellowy sandier clay  |
| 401                | Layer       | Depth 0.45              | Topsoil. Dark brownish grey silty clay  |
| 402                | Layer       | Depth 0.66              | Made Ground. Dark reddish brown silty clay, containing large amounts of brick, glass, metal and with broken tarmac/hard core at the top                                   |



| <i>Context no.</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Dimensions (max)</i> | <i>Description</i>   |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|
| 403                | Layer       | Depth 0.27              | Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown silty clay  |
| 404                | Layer       | Depth >0.02m            | Natural. Light yellowish white chalky/silty clay   |
| 405                | Layer       | Depth 0.42m             | Natural. Dark yellowish grey dense clay  |
| 406                | Layer       | Depth >0.58m            | Natural. Blueish grey dense clay   |
| 501                | Layer       | Depth 0.38m             | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown ,heavily bioturbated silty clay   |
| 502                | Layer       | Depth 0.12m             | Subsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay  |
| 503                | Layer       | Depth >0.06m            | Natural geology. Light yellowy grey clay   |
| 601                | Layer       | Depth 0.12m             | Concrete   |
| 602                | Layer       | Depth 0.501m            | Made ground. Broken modern brick and concrete and building refuse  |
| 603                | Layer       | Depth 0.28m             | Subsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay  |
| 604                | Layer       | Depth >0.06m            | Natural geology. Blue clay meeting with yellowy sandier clay   |
| 701                | Layer       | Depth 0.23m             | Concrete hardstanding  |
| 702                | Layer       | Depth 0.59m             | Made-ground. Broken modern bricks, concrete blocks, and building refuse.   |
| 703                | Layer       | Depth >0.10m            | Natural geology. Light yellowish grey clay, banding to blue clay.  |
| 704                | Cut         | 0.43 x 0.1m             | Circular cut for post hole [104] at the west end of trench 1, contained iron age pottery. The cut has sheer sides, with a flat base. |
| 705                | Fill        | 0.43 x 0.1m             | Fill of [104]. Dark greyish brown silty clay, containing iron age pottery and two sized medium stones.                               |

#### 4.3 Trenches 2-6

Trenches 2-6 were archaeologically sterile and spread across the area between Trenches 1 and 7 (Fig. 8). The stratigraphy included made-ground (201, 301, 404, and 601) natural geology (202, 203, 302, 303, 402, 403, 502, 503, 603, and 604). Some modern site levelling had occurred in the vicinity of Trench 4.





**Plate 11:** Trench 2, facing northeast



**Plate 12:** Trench 3, facing southwest



**Plate 13:** Trench 4 facing southeast



**Plate 14:** Trench 5, facing southeast



**Plate 15:** Trench 5, facing southwest





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## 5 Conclusions

Of the three postholes in Trench 1, [104] and [106] appear to be associated, both containing late Iron Age pottery, while their relationship with [108], 12.7m to the southeast, is not clear. It is possible they all form part of a fence line or boundary, but there was a considerable gap between them.

It seems more probable that [104] and [106] may have formed part of a structure, the rest of which is located within the unexcavated area to the southwest of the recorded postholes.

Iron Age settlement/activity close to paleochannels has been recorded on sites in the Houghton Regis area (*pers. com. Utrata*), however, in this instance, there is no evident link between the archaeological features on this site and the possible paleochannel.

The gully recorded in Trench 7 cannot be considered to be a definite archaeological feature due to significant bioturbation within its fill, and as there was no dating evidence associated with it no relationship can be drawn with those features present in Trench 1.

The site as a whole has been subjected to some landscaping, particularly around the central area. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 all have significant layers of made ground overlying the natural geology. It is likely that a site strip has taken place prior to this material being deposited on site as a levelling layer, filling a natural hollow in the local topography.

The area exposed within the evaluation trenches necessarily provides a relatively narrow view of the archaeological remains and their inter-connectedness within a landscape. However, the evaluation has achieved its goal in providing some insight into past human activities, and though the data from Trench 1 is scant it adds to our knowledge of the distribution of human occupation/activities during the Iron Age.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was carried out by Barney King, Chris Martin-Taylor BSc, and Rebecca Bradford BSc. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD, 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. Sample records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site drawings
9. Client's site plans
10. List of photographs
11. B/W prints & negatives
12. Specialist reports
13. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Wardown Museum and Gallery, Luton Culture (LTNMG 2019/62).



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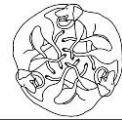
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## Appendix 1: Photo List

| SITE NO/CODE: 434HRB |          |      | Site Name: The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire |
|----------------------|----------|------|--|
| Shot                 | Photo no | View | Subject  |
| 1                    | 1984     | W    | Overall of trench 1  |
| 2                    | 1985     | E    | Overall of trench 1  |
| 3                    | 1986     | NNW  | Trench 1 stratigraphy  |
| 4                    | 1987     | NW   | Poss pit/posthole [104] pre ex                                     |
| 5                    | 1988     | NNW  | poss pit/posthole [104] section                                    |
| 6                    | 1989     | W    | Poss pit/posthole [106] pre ex                                     |
| 7                    | 1990     | S    | Poss pit/rooting [108] pre ex                                      |
| 8                    | 1991     | WNW  | Linear/soakaway [110] pre ex                                       |
| 9                    | 1999     | SSW  | Overall Trench 2   |
| 10                   | 2000     | NNE  | Overall Trench 2   |
| 11                   | 2001     | W    | Overall Trench 4   |
| 12                   | 2002     | E    | Overall Trench 4   |
| 13                   | 2003     | N    | Trench 4 stratigraphy  |
| 14                   | 2004     | N    | Trench 4 stratigraphy  |
| 15                   | 2005     | SW   | Trench 2 stratigraphy  |
| 16                   | 2006     | N    | Overall trench 5   |
| 17                   | 2007     | S    | overall Trench 5   |
| 18                   | 2008     | W    | E facing Stratigraphy Trench 5                                     |
| 19                   | 2009     | E    | W facing strat of trench 3   |
| 20                   | 2010     | W    | Trench 6 overall   |
| 21                   | 2011     | NNW  | SSE facing strat of trench 6                                       |
| 22                   | 2012     | NE   | Trench 6 overall   |
| 23                   | 2013     | N    | Trench 7 overall   |
| 24                   | 2014     | N    | Trench 7 overall   |
| 25                   | 2015     | W    | E facing stratigraphy of trench 7                                  |
| 26                   | 2016     | W    | E facing stratigraphy of trench 7                                  |
| 27                   | 2017     | SW   | Trench 5 chalk land drain 1  |
| 28                   | 2018     | wsw  | Trench 5 chalk land drain 2  |
| 29                   | 2019     | W    | Trench 5 chalk land drain 3  |
| 30                   | 2020     | NE   | [104] posthole 100%  |
| 31                   | 2021     | N    | [106] posthole 100%  |
| 32                   | 2022     | S    | N facing section of bioturbated possible furrow [704]              |
| 33                   | 2023     | S    | N facing section of bioturbated possible furrow [704]              |
| 34                   | 2024     | S    | overall of trench extension of trench 1                            |
| 35                   | 2025     | E    | shot of digger slot [404] paleo channel                            |
| 36                   | 2026     | E    | shot of digger slot [404] paleo channel                            |
| 37                   | 2027     | S    | Trench 3 overall   |
| 38                   | 2028     | N    | Trench 3 overall   |



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**Appendix 2: Finds Concordance**

| Context      |  | Pottery    |            |
|--------------|--|------------|------------|
|              |  | No.        | Grams      |
| (105)        |  | 93         | 562        |
| (107)        |  | 7          | 16         |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>100</b> | <b>578</b> |




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## Appendix 3: Excavation Summary Tables

### Plan Register

| Sheet No | Drawing No | Scale | Details  |
|----------|------------|-------|----------|
| 1        | 5          | 1:20  | Trench 1 |
| 2        | 7          | 1:50  | Trench 7 |
| 2        | 8          | 1:50  | Trench 6 |
| 2        | 9          | 1:50  | Trench 5 |

### Section Register

| Sheet No | Drawing No | Scale | Contexts                        |
|----------|------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1        | 1          | 1:10  | Posthole [106]                  |
| 1        | 2          | 1:10  | Posthole [104]                  |
| 1        | 3          | 1:10  | Possible posthole [108]         |
| 1        | 4          | 1:10  | Soakaway [110]                  |
| 2        | 6          | 1:10  | Ditch/gull [704]                |
| 3        | 10         | 1:10  | Trench 4, palaeochannel section |



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## Appendix 4: Pottery from Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire (Site 434/HRB)

*Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 100 sherds with a total weight of 577g. It was all of Iron Age date. It occurred in two contexts, 105, which produced 93 sherds weighing 561g and 107 (7 sherds, 16g).

It was mostly all in the same fabric, with coarse shell fragments up to 5mm and a slightly sandy matrix with rare iron, fabric F16 of the Bedfordshire prehistoric type-series (eg. Webley 2007, table 8.7). Nearly all the sherds from context 105 were from the lower body and base of a single, large, thick-walled vessel. The base was flat with a diameter of c 200mm. It is somewhat low-fired and friable and could not be reconstructed, but is clearly the product of primary deposition. The only sherd from this group which was from a different vessel weighed 6g and is in a fine sandy fabric with sparse shell fragments up to 2mm (Bedfordshire fabric F28). The material from context 107 is in the same coarse shelly fabric F16 as the vessel from 105, but is from a different pot.

Fabrics such as these are very typical of mid-late Iron Age sites in the region (ibid.). The small assemblage size (in terms of the number of vessels represented) makes precise dating within the period somewhat tentative, but the complete lack of decoration, such as finger-tipping (typical of the early Iron Age) or scoring (the type-fossil of the middle Iron Age), and the range of fabrics suggest that a date in the late Iron Age is the most likely.

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## Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

| PROJECT DETAILS  |  |   |                     |
|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Project Name & Address   | The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire  | Project Site Code                                 | 434/HRB             |
| OASIS reference  | kdkarcha1-340681   | Event/Accession no                                | 2019.62             |
| OS reference   | TL 0115 2519   | Study area size                                   | 345sq. m            |
| Project Type   | Archaeological Evaluation  | Height (mAOD)                                     | 102                 |
| Short Description  | In September 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd conducted an Archaeological Evaluation at The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, with the excavation of seven trenches close to, or within the footprint of the development. The only archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 1 and 7. There were three postholes in Trench 1 which may have formed part of a boundary or structure; two of the fills contained late Iron Age pottery. A gully/ditch documented in Trench 7 was undated. A large possible palaeochannel, was revealed in Trenches 3, 4 and 6, north of the Iron Age remains. There was no evident link between the archaeological features and the paleochannel, though Iron Age activity/settlement has been recorded on other sites in the Houghton Regis area. |   |                     |
| Previous work  | None   | Site status                                       | None                |
| Planning proposal  | The development entails the demolition of the existing buildings/structures and redevelopment of site to provide six dwellings, an estate road, landscaping and associated works. The existing dwelling will be retained   | Current land use                                  | Residential         |
| Local Planning Authority   | Central Bedfordshire Council   | Planning application ref.                         | CB/17/00501/OUT     |
| Monument type  | Postholes  | Monument period                                   | Iron Age            |
| Significant finds  | Iron age pottery   | Future work                                       | Unknown             |
| PROJECT CREATORS   |  |   |                     |
| Organisation   | KDK Archaeology Ltd  |   |                     |
| Project Brief originator   |  | Project Design originator                         | KDK Archaeology Ltd |
| Project Manager  | David Kaye BA ACIFA  | Director/Supervisor                               | Barney King         |
| Sponsor/funding body   | Christina Cremin, c/o Bob Harrington Designs Ltd, 1st Floor, 12 Church Square, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 1AE   |   |                     |
| PROJECT DATE   |  |   |                     |
| Start date   | 16/09/2019   | End date  | 19/09/2019          |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES   |  |   |                     |
|  | Location   | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) |                     |
| Physical   | Luton Culture (LTNMG 1360)   | potsherds   |                     |
| Paper  |  | WSI, report, brief                                |                     |
| Digital  |  | All digital data on CD                            |                     |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) |  |   |                     |
| Title  | Archaeological Evaluation Report: The Orchard, Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire  |   |                     |
| Serial title & volume  | 434/HRB/2.1  |   |                     |
| Author(s)  | Derek Watson PhD   |   |                     |
| Page no's  | 30   | Date  | 07/10/2019          |