



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Maltings Farm
49 Grange Road
Blunham
Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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Summary

Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Evaluation at Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford, in order to fulfil a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Three trenches were excavated, and two contained archaeological cut features, including a possible pit/pond, drainage gullies/ditches and a pit. Small assemblages of animal bone, 12th century pottery, and medieval/post-medieval CBM were recovered from multiple contexts. The cut features were used for the disposal of waste and, probably, to demarcate agrarian property boundaries.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July and August 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford. The project was commissioned by Sycamore Homes, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2019), and approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/19/01605/FULL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a condition of the Planning Consent defined by Central Bedfordshire Council.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The development site is located on the west side of Grange Road in the village and civil parish of Blunham, Bedfordshire, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council (Fig. 1). The site is situated at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 1527 5189.

Description

The development site is bounded to the north by buildings belonging to Maltings Farm and to the south by residential properties, whereas to the west lie agricultural fields and on the east is Grange Road (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

The bedrock geology is the Peterborough Member, sedimentary mudstone formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period; superficial deposits comprise River Terrace Deposits, sand and gravel deposited up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The site lies at an elevation of c. 21m AOD

Development

The development consists of the erection of two detached dwellings (Fig. 3).



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

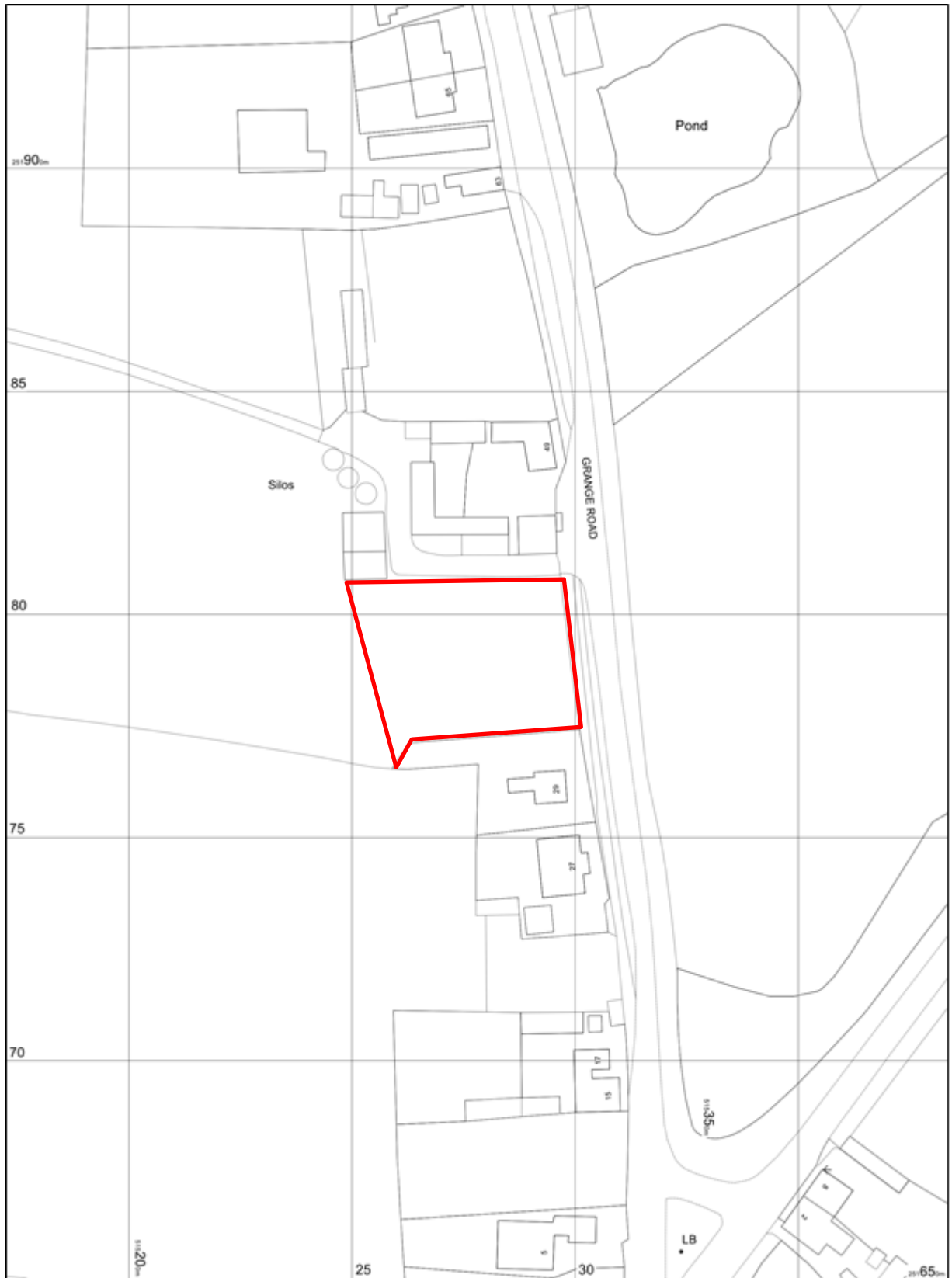


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1: 1250)

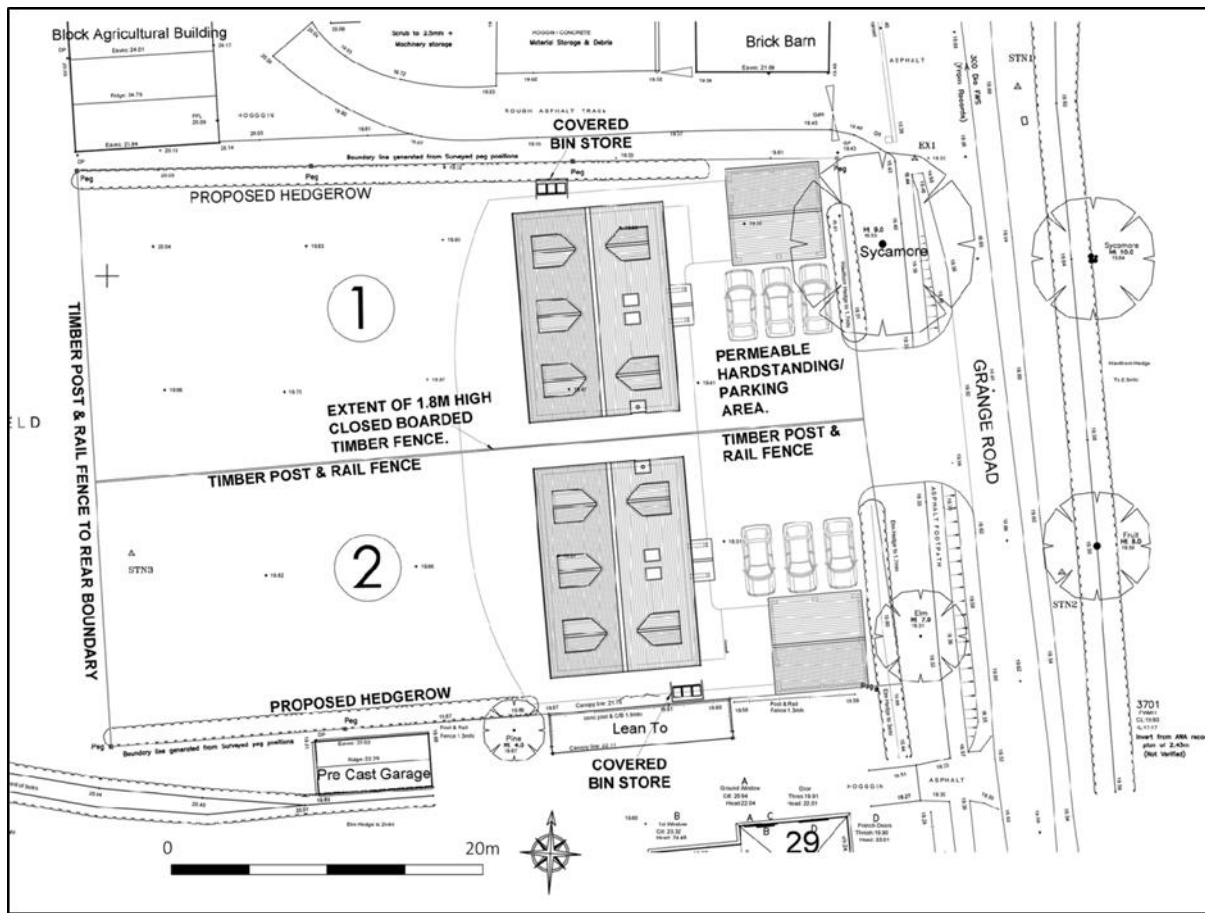


Figure 3: Development plan (scale: 1:500)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 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, the research aims also considered 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*

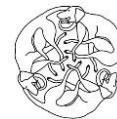
In line with the requirements of the Brief, this was the first part of a staged investigation to determine the potential need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation. The methods used were as follows:

The archaeological field evaluation of the site comprised two 10m long trenches and one 20m long trench, all 2m wide, within the footprints of the new buildings (Fig. 4).

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 Blunham is a small village situated near major roads such as the A1 (to the east) and the confluence of the River Ivel with the River Great Ouse. The village appears to have started as a linear settlement along the line of the present-day High Street. The name of the village may derive from the Old English for 'homestead, or land in a river-bend, of a man called Blūwa' (Mills 1991: 41). The development site is located outside the Blunham Conservation Area (DBD 3273) which focuses on the historic core of the village (only the northern half of this area is shown as a pink block in Fig. 5). Traces of human activity dating from prehistory to the Roman period have been found locally, but there is no firm evidence for occupation in the area prior to the Saxon period. Nevertheless, there are a number of undated cropmarks which may be indicative of settlement predating the mid-5th century AD.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER), reliable online sources, and KDKs own library. The HER data, with a 750m search radius, is shown in Fig. 5. As this WSI proposes an archaeological evaluation the details of the (n=17) listed buildings within the HER search area have been condensed as these heritage assets will not be impacted by this project.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

A number of cropmarks (HER 1776) situated southwest of Tempsford Church End, beginning c. 700m northeast of the development site, have been observed in aerial photographs that indicate the presence of pits (some aligned), c. 8 ring ditches, and various linears. No associated dating evidence has been discovered, but it is thought that the ring ditches are Bronze Age, while the ridge and furrow are medieval. The area was disturbed by the digging of a large gravel pit (HER 9728) and by the canalisation of the River Ivel in the 18th century.

Undated cropmarks (HER 13756) forming a block of sub-rectangular enclosures were partly buried by construction of The Villa glasshouses, c. 520m northwest of the development site. Archaeological investigations (EBD794) to the west revealed a series of undated features, including pits and a boundary ditch; a few flint flakes were present but these are not reliable dating evidence for the features as they may be residual.

Cropmarks north of Zwetsloot Nursery (HER 16786), at the north eastern edge of the HER search area, form three small aligned enclosures, about 100m apart. These cropmark enclosures form 1) an oval-shape; 2) a ring ditch (possibly Bronze Age in date); and 3) three sides of a sub-rectangular enclosure (possibly the remains of a prehistoric long barrow).

Numerous prehistoric artefacts have been found locally, but the find spots are >500m from the development site. Palaeolithic handaxes were found in Tempsford gravel pit (HER 14664), southeast of Blunham Mill (HER 18438), and south of The Old Mill (HER 18439). Neolithic axes were also found in local gravel pit (HER 14663). An early Neolithic end scraper and a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age scraper were discovered south of The Old Mill (HER 18438). Near Tempsford, a flint 'Core/Pick' (HER 14667), worked deer antler (HER 14670), and pieces of animal bone (HER 14672) were also found in gravel pits. A fragment of a corroded copper-alloy object, possibly a dagger chape or an item of personal adornment (HER 18521), was discovered south of The Grange Nurseries, and broadly dated to the Middle Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age.



3.3 ***Iron Age (600BC - AD43) & Roman (AD43 - c.450)***

Cropmarks (HER 615) at Ham Barn form a complex of rectilinear enclosures extending c.600m north to south, and parallel the line of the old River Ivel at the north east edge of HER search area. No surface finds have been retrieved to aid dating, but the enclosures are thought to date to the Iron Age or Romano-British period.

Roman potsherds have been discovered along the gravel terraces of the river bank northeast of the settlement (HER 9772) and north of Brickgate Bridge (HER 14673) on the Great North Road; both find spots are >600m north/northeast of the development site. An undated, incomplete, spoon (HER 20618) is Roman in style, but the patina and stem section appear to be of later date, perhaps post medieval.

3.4 ***Saxon (c450-1066)***

The only find dating to this period in the HER search area is an Anglo-Saxon spearhead (HER 9772) found, along with other variously dated artefacts, in the riverbank gravels c. 660m north of the development site.

3.5 ***Medieval (1066-1500)***

At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), Blunham was in the *Wichestanestou* Hundred and was divided between three holdings jointly owned by Judith, niece of William the Conqueror, and the Abbot of Bury St. Edmunds. The settlement was medium sized with 14 households, and valued at a total worth of 5 geld units, which was a high value for the size of the village (Open Domesday 2019). The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds held 4 hides and 1 virgate directly of the king, which included the mill, which was worth £4 (Williams & Martin 2002: 566). The Abbey also held half a hide of ploughland of the Countess Judith, which was worth 20s (*ibid.*: 585). Dominic held 1 virgate of Eudo the Steward, with land for oxen, worth 2s (*ibid.*: 570).

The medieval village of Blunham (HER 17512) appears to have evolved from a linear settlement along what is now the High Street, which then 'belled-out' to the south. The site of the medieval manor, based on documentary evidence, may have been 'The Island' (HER 9794) situated adjacent to the River Ivel. The parish church is the ironstone and limestone St James & St Edmund's Church (HER 1024; Grade I, List Entry No. 1321759), which dates from the 12th century, with 19th century work. Available evidence indicates that the village was, unsurprisingly, part of a wider, largely agricultural landscape. For example, the cropmarks to the north-east of the site (HER 1776) include a preserved area of ridge and furrow, and the linear features revealed by the crop marks may have been related to agricultural activities/practices dating to this period. Other local sites consist of gravel pits north east (HER 9857) and west (HER 9856) of Blunham.

Metal detectorists discovered a 13th century silver penny of John or Henry III (HER 18573) and a 14th century silver farthing (HER 18469). Medieval pottery (HER 9772) was found in the riverbank gravels. Documentary evidence suggests that there was a medieval to post-medieval dovehouse (HER 9768), since demolished, approximately 200m northwest of the development site.

3.6 ***Post-Medieval (1500-1900)***

The village expanded to the north and west, and its economy continued to be predominantly agricultural. However, brickmaking is known to have been carried out in the area by the 1850s, as shown by the site of the brick fields & kilns (HER 2505). A sales catalogue of 1880 indicates a new kiln was in operation and had an associated dwelling house, though these structures have since



been demolished. By 1862 Blunham had a railway station on the Oxford to Cambridge railway line, but the station was shut when this line was closed in 1968 (BCC 2019).

The nucleus of the older buildings in the village is concentrated near the church (HER 1024), with (listed/unlisted, and some now demolished) cottages, (farm)houses and outbuildings dating from the 16th to 19th century on Park Lane, The Hill and the High Street, with others dating from the 17th - 19th century on Grange Road. Notable buildings include Blunham Mill (HER 1025), a timber framed and weather boarded 18th -19th century mill structure that was probably built on the site of an earlier mill recorded in Domesday; and 54 Park Lane (former Manor Court House & Brotherhood House) built in 16th and 17th centuries, and formerly the site of 16th century manorial courts (HER 802; Grade II, List Entry No. 1321758). The timber-framed 19th century Maltings Farmhouse at 49 Grange Road (HER 12604) sits adjacent to the development site.

The only portable artefact listed in the HER search area is part of a decorative copper-alloy hilt from an 18th or 19th century sword found west of 63-65 Grange Road (HER 19717).

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken at the John Donne Lower School (Blunham School), High Street (HER 9162; EBD953), a complex of buildings dating from the early 19th century, but the evaluation revealed no site archaeology. An archaeological Evaluation (EBD1727) was also conducted on land between 73-85 Grange Road, c. 150m north of Maltings Farmhouse (HER 12604) where site trenching revealed a possible oven/hearth of unknown date and a post-medieval pit (Summerfield-Hill 2019).

A significant Scheduled Monument is situated c. 260m northeast of the development site: the Blunham Bridges on Tempsford Road (HER 997; Scheduled Monument No. 1004504; Grade II, List Entry No. 1113881). These comprise two adjoining bridges spanning the River Ivel: the western bridge dates from the 17th - 18th centuries, with 19th additions; and the eastern bridge was built in the 19th century. The latter is also known as the Blunham Navigation Bridge (HER 15057). An 18th century bridge, Brickgate Bridge (HER 15114), is located to the east of the River Ivel between Blunham Navigation Bridge and the A1.

3.7 **Modern** (1900-present)

The modern settlement has retained its rural character, and the only monuments listed in the HER comprise the High Ramper Bridge (HER 15759), an historic footbridge replaced by a modern construction; a WWII pillbox (HER 17849), located between the bridges on Tempsford Road; and Blunham War Memorial (HER 19687), a granite obelisk memorial unveiled in 1920, commemorating 15 men who fell in WWI and a further 6 from WWII.

3.8 **The Known Archaeology & History of the Site**

No site specific data is listed in the HER.

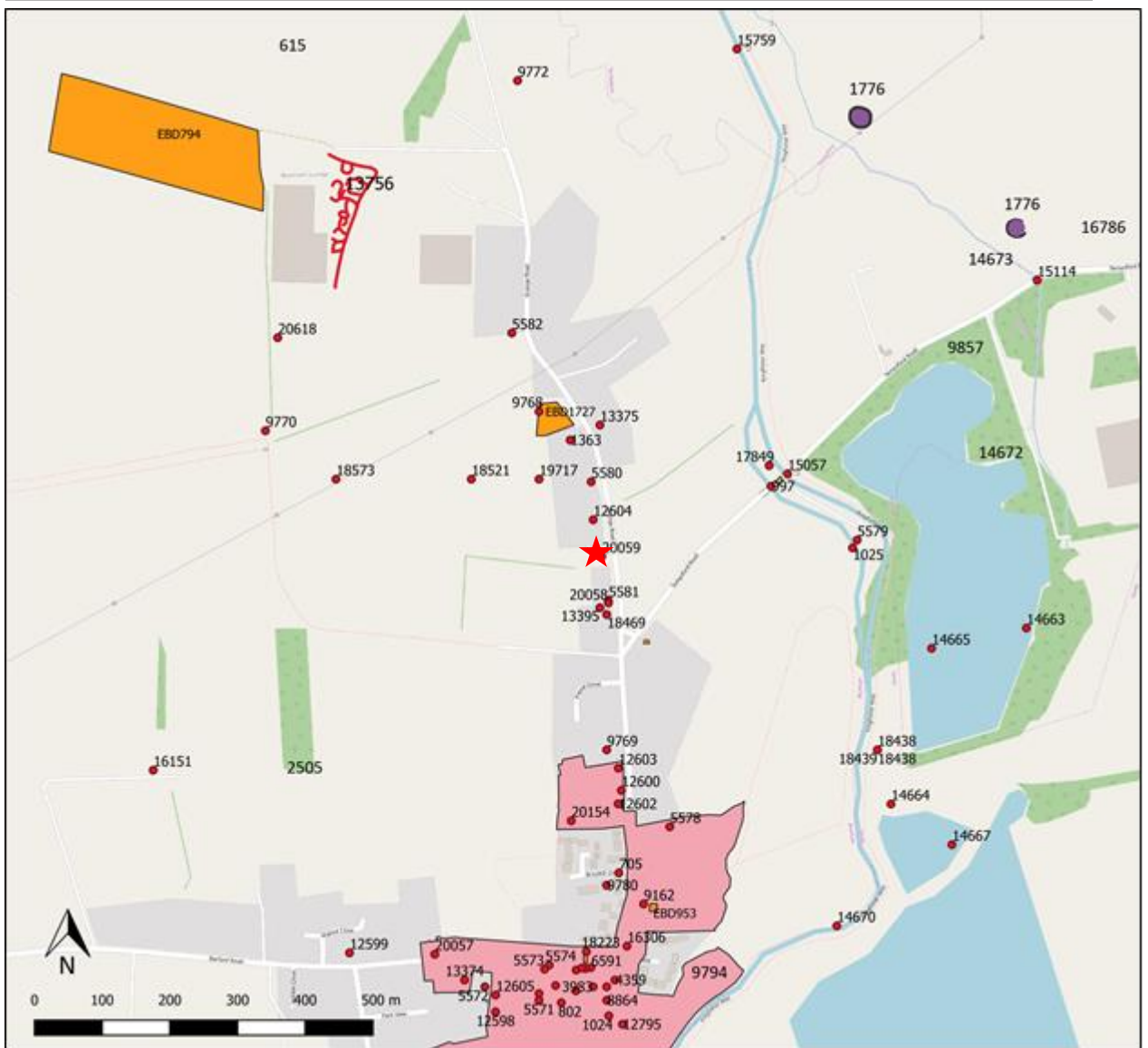
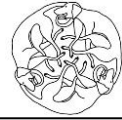


Figure 4: HER data plan with the development site indicated by a red star (scale as shown)

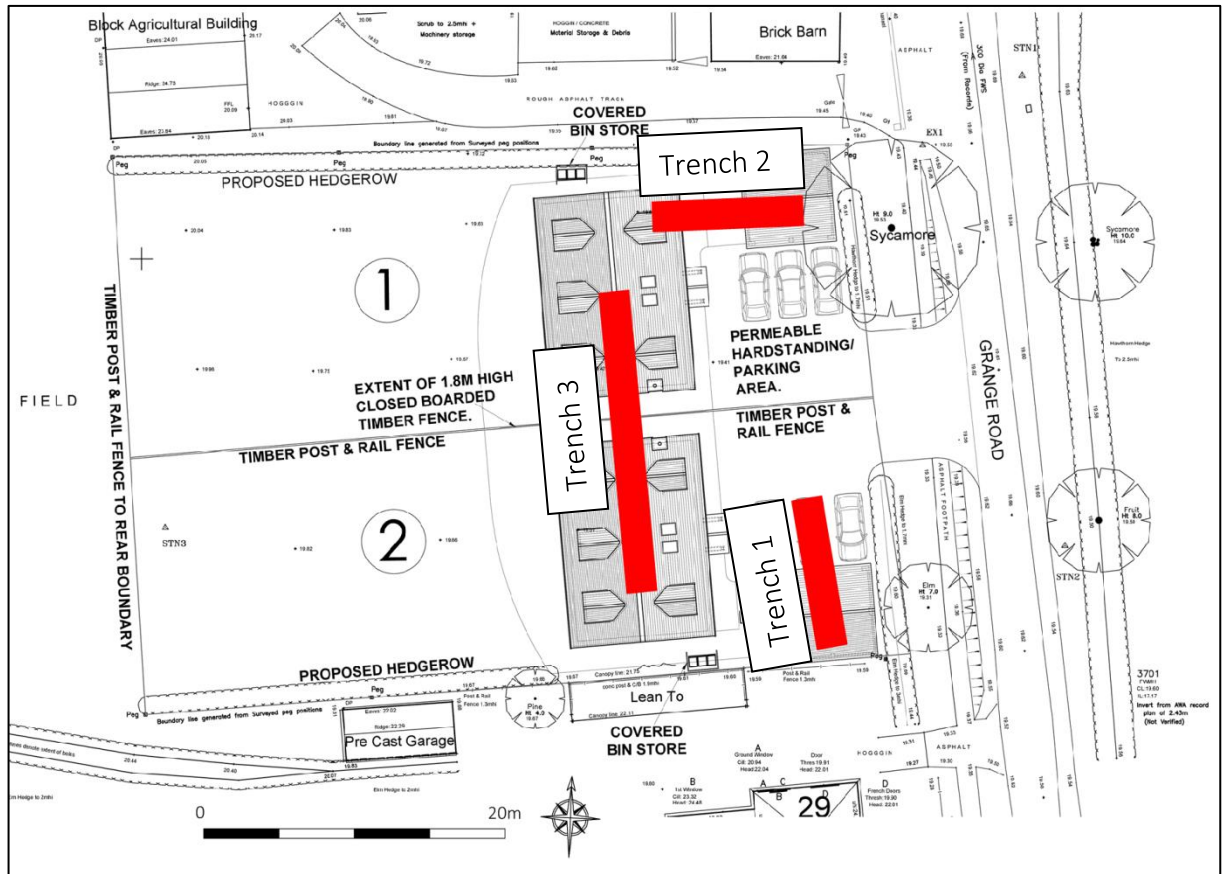
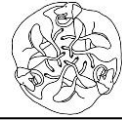
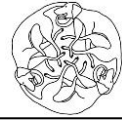


Figure 5: Trench location plan (scale 1:500)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

A total of 80sq metres were investigated in three trenches (Fig 5) that were excavated utilising a 3-tonne tracked excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

The stratigraphy revealed within the three trenches was generally similar, comprising:

- Topsoil (101, 201, 301): Dark greyish brown silty sand.
- Sub-soil (Trench 1 only; (102)): Loose, mid orange gravelly sand.
- Sub-soil (103, 202, 302): Loose, mid greyish brown gravelly sand.
- Natural (104, 203, 303): Loose, light greyish yellow gravelly sand.

4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 10m x 2m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m. Two cut features were revealed within the trench (Figs 6-7; Plates 1-4). Cut feature [105], which was located at the southern end of the trench, was >2.2m x >1.2m x 0.22m, and may have been the terminus of a boundary ditch, or of a drainage gully. The single sandy clay fill (106) included large amounts of stones/flint and gravel, a single possibly medieval potsherd and animal bone. The second cut feature was a large Pit [107] that measured 2.93m x >1.59m x >0.49m, with a single silty sand-based fill (108). It contained two sherds of 12th century pottery and animal bone. It had been cut through the subsoil (103), though this was only evident in section and not during the initial pulling of the trench.

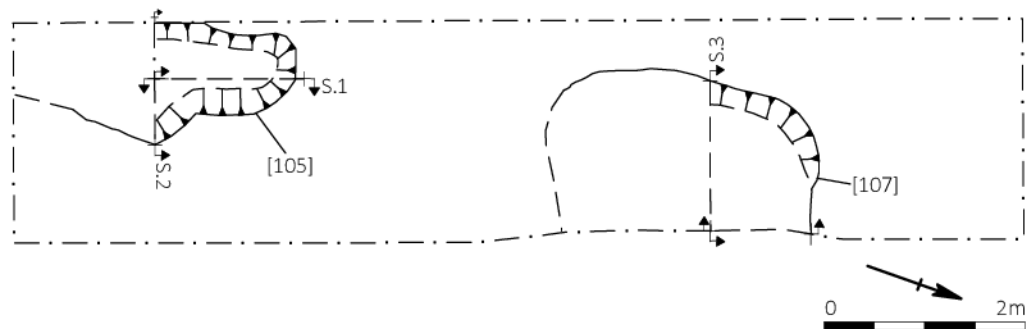
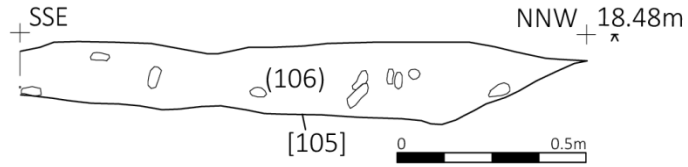


Figure 6: Trench 1 plan, showing the location of possible ditch terminus [105] and pit [107] (scale 1:75)



S1: Ditch terminus [105]



S2: Ditch terminus [105]

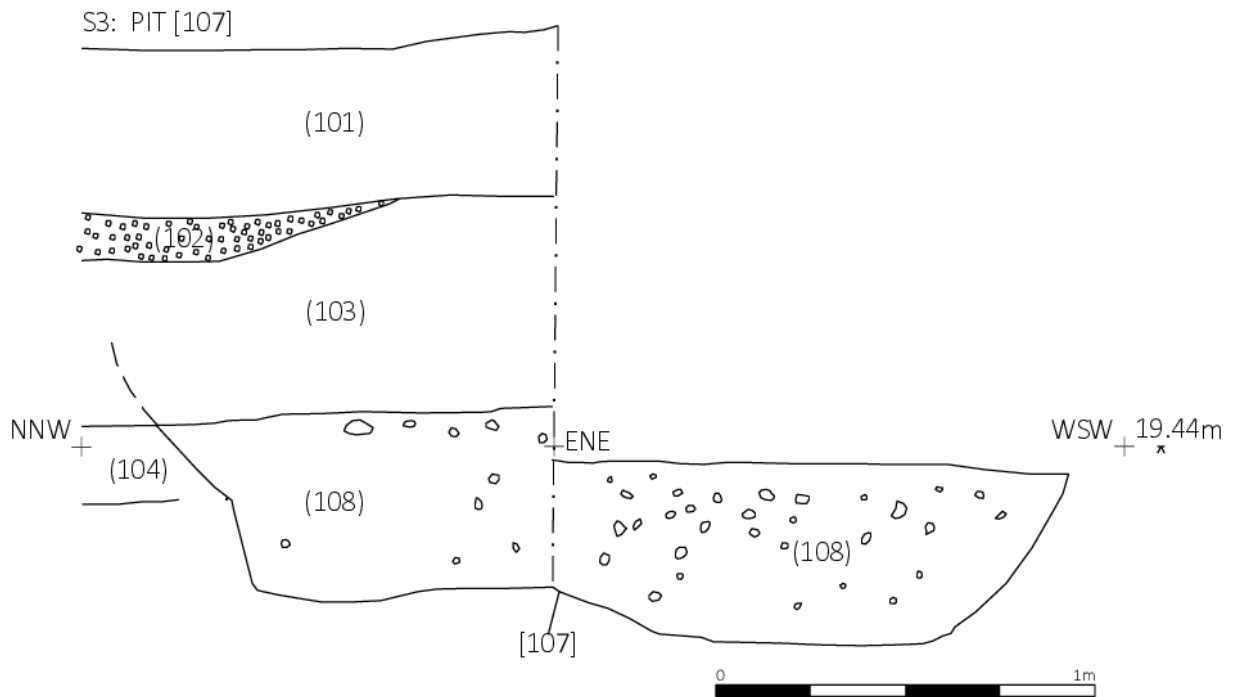


Figure 7: Trench 1 cut features (scale 1:20)



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking NNW



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy, looking WSW



Plate 3: Trench 1, terminus [105], looking SSE



Plate 4: Trench 1, pit [107], looking ENE



Context Table, Trench 1:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max.)</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Layer	0.3m depth	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown silty sand
102	Layer	0.4m depth	Subsoil: Loose, mid orange gravelly sand
103	Layer	0.3m depth	Subsoil: Loose, mid greyish brown gravelly sand
104	Layer	>0.1m depth	Natural: Loose, light greyish yellow gravelly sand
105	Cut	>2.2m x>1.2m x 0.22m	Cut for possible terminus [105] at southern end of trench, continuing off into bulk. Contained one fill, with a single piece of medieval pottery, and animal bone. May be the terminating end of a drainage gully or boundary
106	Fill	>2.2m x>1.2m x 0.22m	Fill of possible terminus [105], containing animal bone and single piece of medieval pottery. Mid yellowish brown sandy clay. Fill included large amounts of stones/flint and gravel
107	Cut	2.93m x >1.59m x 0.49m	Large pit containing animal bone and 2 sherds of medieval pot in a single fill (108). Unknown purpose. Possibly evidence of gravel quarrying
108	Fill	2.93m x >1.59m x 0.49m	Single fill of pit [107]. Mottled, greyish brown, gravelly silty sand. Likely backfilled intentionally. Contained two medieval potsherds and animal bone

4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 10m x 2m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.95m (Figs 8-10; Plates 5-8). The two cut features exposed within the trench comprised the possible terminus of a drainage gully [204] and a large feature, possibly a pit or pond [206]. The gully [204] appears to have been filled by natural sedimentation (205). The pit/pond [206] exposed within the evaluation trench was cut into the subsoil, and the area revealed was >4.09m x >1.58m x >0.4m. A slot was machined through it and recorded. The lower fill (207) was the mottled, bluish grey colour of the silty clay that is generally associated with waterlogged soils (SASSA 2019), indicating that feature [206] had contained long-term standing water. Finds included late medieval or early post-medieval roof-tile, fragments of hand-made brick and post-medieval floor and roof tiles. The upper fill (208), a mixed brownish grey, gravelly silty sand, included post-medieval roof-tile.

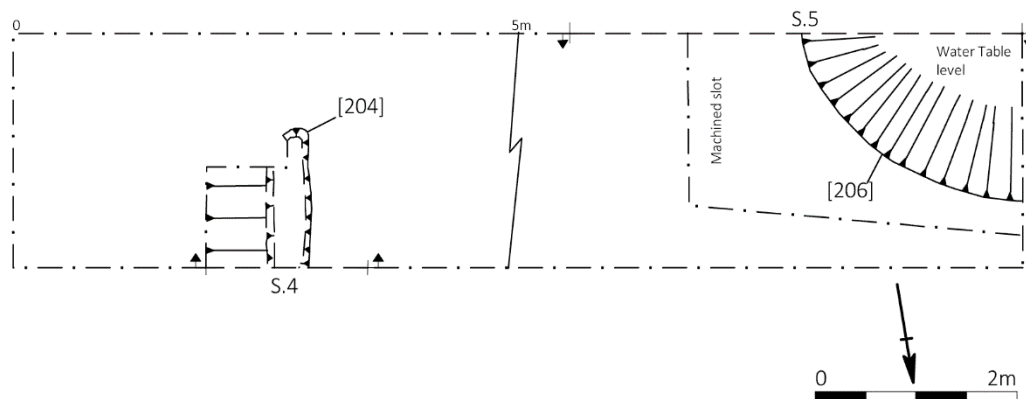


Figure 8: Trench 2 plan, showing the location of possible gully [204], and pit/pond [206] (scale 1:75)



S.4: Gully [204] in Trench 2

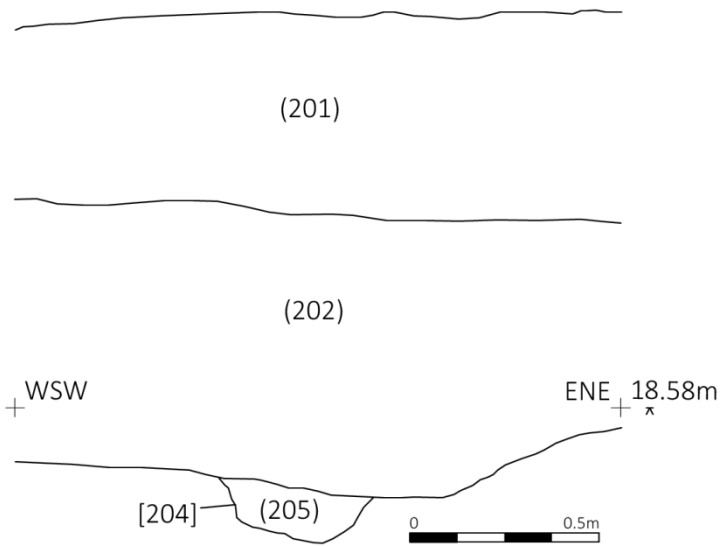


Figure 9: Trench 2 Gully [204] (scale 1:20)

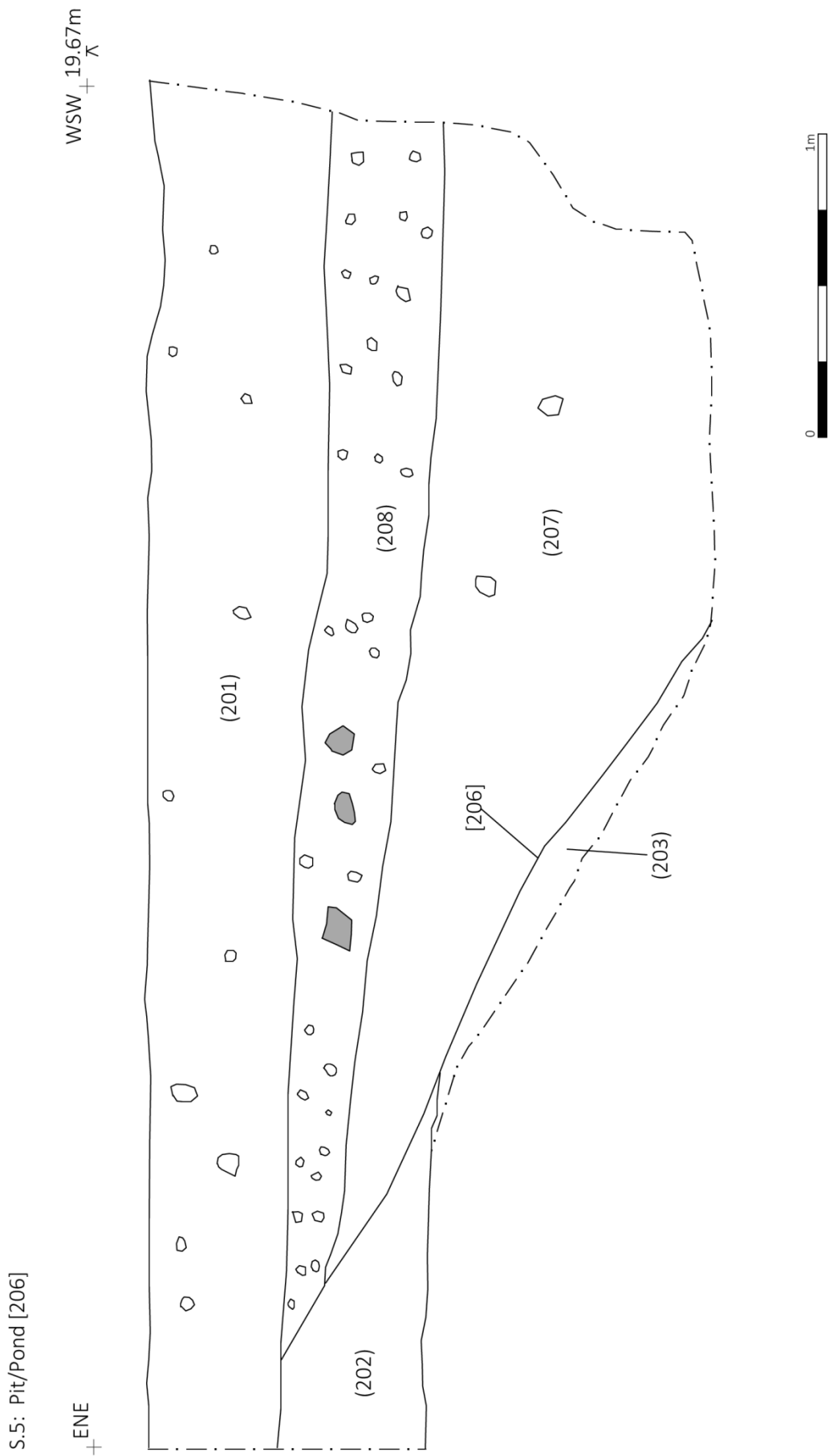


Figure 10: Trench 2 Pond/Pit [206] CBM shown as grey blocks (scale 1:20).



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking WSW



Plate 6: Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking ENE



Plate 7: Trench 2, gully terminus [204], looking ENE



Plate 8: Trench 2, pit/pond [206], looking SSE



Context Table, Trench 2

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max. depth)</i>	<i>Description</i>
201	Layer	0.5m depth	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown, silty sand.
202	Layer	0.35m depth	Subsoil: Loose, mid greyish brown gravelly sand
203	Layer	>0.1m depth	Natural: Loose, light greyish yellow gravelly sand
204	Cut	>1.46m x 0.34m x 0.19m	Possible terminus of drainage gully. Single fill. Unknown date
205	Fill	>1.46m x 0.34m x 0.19m	Single fill of gully [204]. Light yellowish brown gravelly sand. Likely filled by natural sedimentation. Contained a single piece of animal bone
206	Cut	>4.09m x >1.4m	Large feature, possible pit or pond, cutting subsoil. Two fills. This feature was flooded at base due to local water table, which prevented exposing the base
207	Fill	>3.8m x 1m	Lower fill of pit/pond [206]. Mottled, bluish grey, silty clay. Contained fragments of late medieval and post-medieval CBM
208	Fill	>4.09m x >1.58m x >0.4m	Upper fill of [206]. Mixed brownish grey, gravelly silty sand. Contains lots of post-medieval tile and brick with lime mortar

4.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 20m x 2m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m (Plates 9-10). No archaeological finds or features were revealed within Trench 3.



Plate 10: Trench 3 stratigraphy, looking E

Context Table, Trench 3

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max. depth)</i>	<i>Description</i>
301	Layer	>20m x >2m x 0.3m	Topsoil: dark greyish brown, silty sand.
302	Layer	>20m x >2m x 0.4m	Sub-soil: Loose, mid greyish brown, fairly gravelly sand
303	Layer	>20m x >2m x >0.1m	Natural: Loose, light greyish yellow gravelly sand



5 Conclusions

The Archaeological Evaluation entailed the excavation of three trenches within the footprint of the new buildings, which revealed a series of cut features containing 12th century potsherds from (106) and (108) and CBM dating from the late medieval to post-medieval periods in (207) and (208). The only other archaeological material discovered was a small assemblage of animal bone, present in both trenches, which included cattle, horse, and an ovicaprid, which are commonly found on medieval rural sites.

The Trench 1 & 2 cut features comprise a Pit [105], a possible terminus of a boundary Ditch or a drainage Gully [107], a possible drainage Gully [204], and a potential large Pit or Pond. No archaeological features or artefacts were found in Trench 3. The potsherds found in Trench 1 features date from the 12th century when the agricultural village of Blunham was developing and the Church of St James & St Edmund's (HER 1024) was built. The CBM found within the large Trench 2 cut feature [206] dates from the late medieval and early post-medieval periods when the village was expanding northwards.

The cut features may have served several practical purposes ranging from drainage to waste disposal. The large Pit/Pond [206] probably had standing water within it over an extended time period as the lowest fill (207) has the characteristic colour of a deoxygenated waterlogged soil, whereby oxidised iron in the soil changes colour from red to grey. Thus, it seems likely that feature [206] may have been a 'pond' rather than a pit. This feature also appears to have been used for the disposal of medieval/post-medieval CBM. Some of the features were also used for the disposal of animal bone probably generated by primary butchery waste. These cut features, particularly the ditch or gullies, were also often used to demarcate agrarian property boundaries. The width (i.e. 2m wide) of 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 the medieval landscape of Blunham.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Simon Bird for commissioning this report on behalf of Sycamore Homes. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Hannah Firth and Slawek Utrata of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc. The report was written by Derek Watson PhD, and edited by Karin Kaye MA MCIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

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

7.2 The archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford (BEDFM 2019.59).



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

Bedford Museum 2010 *Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire*

ClfA 2014 *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 472/BMF			Site Name: Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire
Digital	B&W	View	Subject
1	1	NNW	Trench 1, 2 x 1m scales
2	2	SSE	Trench 1, 2 x 1m scales
3		WSW	Trench 1, strat 1, 1 x 1m scale
4	3	WSW	Trench 2, 2 x 1m scales
5	4	ENE	Trench 2, 2 x 1m scales
6		NNW	Trench 2, strat, 1 x 1m scale
7	5	SSE	Trench 2, possible pond or pit, 2 x 1m scales
8		ENE	Trench 1 strat 2, 1 x 1m scale
9	6	N	Trench 3, 2 x 1m scales
10	7	S	Trench 3, 2 x 1m scales
11		E	Trench 3, strat [VOID]
12		E	Trench 3, strat, 1 x 1m scale
13	8	WSW	Trench 1: ENE facing section of terminus [105] mid ex, , 1 x 1m scale
14		SSE	Trench 1: Overall of terminus [105] mid ex, , 1 x 1m scale
15	9	SSE	Trench 1: NNW facing section of terminus [105] post ex, , 1 x 1m scale
16		SSE	Trench 1: Overall of terminus [105] post ex, , 1 x 1m scale
17	10	ENE	Trench 1: Overall of pit [107] , 1 x 1m scale
18	11	ENE	Trench 1: WSW facing baulk section of pit [107] , 1 x 1m scale
19	12	SSE	Trench 1: NNW facing section of terminus [107] , 1 x 1m scale
20	13	NNW	Trench 2: SSE facing baulk section of gully [204],, 1 x 1m scale
21	14	ENE	Trench 2: Overall of gully terminus [204] , 1 x 1m scale



 Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context numbers		Pottery		Bone		CBM		Charcoal	
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms
102				3	606				
106	105	1	9	2	214			1	1
108	107	3	43	5	359				
202				1	166				
205	204			1	15				
207	206					9	2281		
208	206					1	27		
Total		4	52	12	1360	10	2308	1	1



Appendix 3: Excavation Summary Tables

Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
2	4	1:20	Trench 1 plan
3	5	1:20	Trench 2 plan

Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	1	1:10	Running section of terminus [105]
1	2	1:10	N facing section of possible terminus [105]
1	3	1:10	Running section of pit [107]
1	6	1:10	ESE facing baulk section of gully [204]
4	7	1:20	NNW facing section of pit/pond [206]



Appendix 4: Specialist Reports

4.1 Pottery and CBM

Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 4 sherds with a total weight of 53g. It is all medieval, and was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1979), as follows:

B07: Medieval Shelly Ware, AD1100-1400. 3 sherds, 41g.

C59b: Sandy Ware, 12th - 13th century. 1 sherd, 12g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem. Both fabrics are common finds in the region. The sherds are in reasonably good condition and fairly large, and appear reliably stratified.

Cntxt	B07		C59b		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	
106	1	9			12thC
108	2	32	1	12	12thC
Total	3	41	1	12	

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

CBM

A small assemblage of fired clay building material was also noted, mostly from context 207. It consisted of a single large fragment of post-medieval roof-tile in a buff-firing clay weighing 855g, another of a floor tile in a fine red fabric of similar date weighing 852g, five fragments of hand-made brick weighing a total of 503g, and a small fragment of late medieval or early post-medieval roof-tile in a red sandy fabric weighing 30g. Context 208 produced a further fragment of roof-tile in the red fabric weighing 28g. Both were c 12mm thick.

The roof-tile is 160mm wide and 13mm thick, and at least 180mm long while the floor tile is 115mm wide, 38mm thick and at least 110mm long. Neither had any evidence of glaze. None of the brick fragments had any of their original dimensions surviving.

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4.2 Animal Bone

Derek Watson PhD

Introduction

An Archaeological Evaluation of land at Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford, generated an animal bone assemblage of 14 fragments (1.360kg bone dry weight). Fragmentary animal bones were recovered from 5 contexts comprising the fills of cut features revealed in two evaluation trenches. The pottery from Trench 1 (Context numbers 106, 107) and the CBM from Trench 2 Context numbers 207, 208) date to the 12th century, and late medieval/early post-medieval periods.

Methodology: Taxonomic identification and Quantification

All elements were identified to species or taxonomic group, where possible, using published criteria, and quantified by a fragment count that grouped the fragments when they could be conjoined (Number of Identified Specimens; NISP=11 specimens; Table 1). A total of two species were positively identified in the assemblage: horse (*Equus caballus*), and cattle (*Bos taurus*). Differentiation between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) was not possible as none of the requisite diagnostic features were preserved in the assemblage. Consequently, sheep/goat will be referred to by the general term 'ovicaprine'. Specimens that were not identifiable to species were assigned to size classes (e.g. small/medium/large). As most elements were assigned to broad size classes, it is probable that the specimens assigned to the medium to large mammal classes may be the remains of cattle and/or horse.

Estimation of age-at-death is based on dental eruption and tooth wear of mandibles with *in situ* teeth (Grant 1982), and the stage of epiphyseal fusion (Bennett 2008; Habermehl 1975; Silver 1969) for elements identified to species. Butchery marks were observed on one specimen assigned to the medium-large class (context 108), but no other forms of (anthropogenic) surface modification were observed in the assemblage.

The Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) is calculated from the greater number of left or right complete bones, epiphyseal ends, and/or mandibles with *in situ* teeth.

Trench 1

The faunal remains from Trench 1 comprise horse and cattle, with fragments assigned to the medium-large bone that may be from either of the identified species. The MNI for horse, cattle, and the ovicaprid is one individual of each species in each of the relevant contexts. The only complete cattle tibia from context (102) had an incompletely fused proximal epiphyses, suggesting that the animal was c. 3.5-4 years at the time of death. The remaining horse and cattle tibia were all distal articular ends with shaft fragments. A fragmentary tibia shaft had butchery marks on the anterior tibial crest, which may have been related to filleting or dismembering the carcass.

Trench 2

The assemblage comprised two animal bone fragments from cattle and a medium-sized mammal.



Conclusions

The animal bone assemblage from 472BMF is small, and it is difficult to formulate any reliable conclusions concerning human activities and animal exploitation. The remains were found in contexts broadly dated to the medieval and early post-medieval periods, with an MNI of one of the identified species in each context. The species represented are typically found on medieval archaeological sites. The body parts that constitute the assemblage are commonly generated by primary butchery: the removal and discard of the least meaty bones/portions (e.g. lower extremities and mandibles/teeth) during initial disarticulation of an animal carcass. These elements are often incorporated into the fills of convenient cut features that were used for disposal. Horses were generally not consumed for their meat as they were valuable draught or high-status animals, though the remains found at the site may have been animals exploited for secondary products (body parts) after death. Indeed, the animals represented in the assemblage were probably exploited for a range of uses and products e.g. traction, meat, milk, leather, sinew etc.

Contexts	Trench 1						Trench 2				Totals	
	102		106		108		202		205		#	(%)
Species/Elements	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
Horse	1	(9)	1	(9)							2	(18)
Tibia	1	(9)	1	(9)							2	(18)
Cattle	2	(18)			1	(9)	1	(9)			4	(36)
Tibia	2	(18)									2	(18)
Metatarsal							1	(9)			1	(9)
Mandible + M3					1	(9)					1	(9)
Sheep/Goat			1	(9)							1	(9)
Tibia			1	(9)							1	(9)
Medium mammal									1	(9)	1	(9)
Indeterminate									1	(9)	1	(9)
Medium-Large mammal					3	(27)					3	(27)
Tibia					1	(9)					1	(9)
Skull fragments					2	(18)					2	(18)
Totals	3	(27)	2	(18)	4	(36)	1	(9)	1	(9)	11	(100)

Table 1: Animal bone from 472/BMF

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Appendix 5: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford	Project Site Code	472/BMF
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-352810	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2019.59
OS reference	TL 1527 5189	Study area size	80sq metres
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	21m
Short Description	Between July and August 2019 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Archaeological Evaluation at Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedford, in order to fulfil a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Three trenches were excavated, and two contained archaeological cut features, including a possible pit/pond, drainage gullies/ditches and a pit. Small assemblages of animal bone, 12th century pottery, and medieval/post-medieval CBM were recovered from multiple contexts. The cut features were used for the disposal of waste and, probably, to demarcate agrarian property boundaries.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	The development consists of the erection of two detached dwellings	Current land use	Agricultural
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council	Planning application ref.	CB/19/01605/FULL
Monument type	Pit, gully/ditch, pond	Monument period	Medieval & post-medieval
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	n/a	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Chris Martin Taylor
Sponsor/funding body	Sycamore Homes, The Granary High Street, Turvey, Bedford, MK43 8DB		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	31/07/2019	End date	02/07/2019
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford	Potsherds, animal bone, charcoal, CBM	
Paper		WSI, report, fieldwork sheets and drawings, b&w photograph and negatives	
Digital		Report downloaded to OASIS and where applicable digital data downloaded to ADS, and CD to the museum.	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Maltings Farm, 49 Grange Road, Blunham, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	472/BMF/1		
Author(s)	Derek Watson		
Page no's	31	Date	30/08/2019