



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

New Bury Farm
Mill Road
Slapton
Buckinghamshire

Event/Accession No. AYBCM2022.126



Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	Laura Dodd MSc MCifA	<i>Version</i>	729/SSF/2.1	<i>Date</i>	28.11.2022
<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACifA	<i>Version</i>	729/SSF/2.1	<i>Date</i>	30.11.2022
<i>Revision</i>	Laura Dodd MSc MCifA	<i>Version</i>	729/SSF/2.2	<i>Date</i>	13.12.2022
<i>Revision</i>	David Kaye BA ACifA	<i>Version</i>	729/SSF/2.3	<i>Date</i>	03.01.2023

© KDK Archaeology Ltd 2022 No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort has been made to provide as complete and as accurate a report as possible. However, KDK Archaeology Ltd cannot accept any liability in respect of, or resulting from, errors, inaccuracies, or omissions contained in this document.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
KDK Archaeology Licence No. 100053538



Unit 3 Leighton Road Leighton Buzzard Bedfordshire LU7 1LA
Tel: 01525 385443
Email: office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk
Website: www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk





CONTENTS

Summary 1

1. Introduction 1

2. Aims & Methods 5

3. Archaeological & Historical Background 6

4. Results..... 9

5. Conclusions..... 20

6. Acknowledgements..... 21

7. Archive..... 22

8. References..... 23

Appendices:

1. List of Photographs 25

2. Finds Concordance..... 26

3. Excavation Summary Tables 27

4. OASIS and Site Data..... 28

Figures:

1. General location 2

2. Site location..... 3

3. Proposed development plan 4

4. HER data plan 8

5. Evaluation trench location plan..... 9

6. Test pit location plan..... 10

7. Trench 1 representative stratigraphy 12

8. Northwest facing section of Pit [103] 12

9. Plan of Pit [103] 13

10. Trench 2 representative stratigraphy 14

11. Trench 3 representative stratigraphy 15

12. Trench 4 representative stratigraphy 16

13. Test Pit 1 representative stratigraphy..... 18

14. Test Pit 5 representative stratigraphy..... 19

15. Test Pit 9 representative stratigraphy..... 19

Plates:

1. Trench 1..... 11

2. Trench 1 stratigraphy..... 11

3. Northwest facing section of Pit [103] 12

4. Pit [103] 12

5. Trench 2..... 14

6. Trench 2 stratigraphy..... 14

7. Representation of finds recovered from (201)..... 14

8. Trench 3 15

9. Trench 3 stratigraphy..... 15

10. Representation of finds recovered from (301)..... 15

11. Trench 4..... 16

12. Trench 4 stratigraphy..... 16

13. Test Pit 1 18

14. Test Pit 5 19

15. Test Pit 9 19



Summary

In November 2022, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Buckinghamshire as a condition of the planning permission for the construction of a solar farm. Four trial trenches and nine test pits were excavated within a 36.2ha area. A single pit of unknown date was observed within Trench 1 and three of the evaluation trenches contained an imported soil, likely from the construction of the Grand Union Canal to the west. No further cut features or archaeological deposits were encountered during this investigation.

1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2022, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Abrams Archaeology Ltd, on behalf of Interguide Management Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Abrams & Kaye 2022), and approved by Lucy Lawrence, Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Aylesbury Vale. The relevant planning application reference is 21/02775/APP.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The site is land rear of Bury Farm, Mill Road, which lies in the village and civil parish of Slapton, and the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale, Buckinghamshire, at NGR SP 92744 21568 (Fig. 1).

Description

The site is an area of c. 36.2ha of land. The Site is currently comprised of pastureland split into five fields. The northeastern boundary of the Site is the River Ouzel. Its southwestern boundary comprises the Grand Union Canal, the southeastern boundary abuts the farm complex and equestrian centre based at New Bury Farm. To the northwest lies further fields and beyond that is the Church Farm Stud and Grove (Fig. 2).

Geology and Topography

The site lies on Gault formation comprising Mudstone bedrock geological deposits. Superficial deposits vary across the site. The northern part of the site borders the River Ouzel (Clipstone Brook section) and close to this watercourse deposits comprise Alluvial silts, clays and gravel. To the south of these deposits, superficial deposits comprise of Oadby Member (Diamicton). <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/> (accessed 29-09-2022).

Proposed Development

The development entails the construction of a solar farm (Fig. 3).

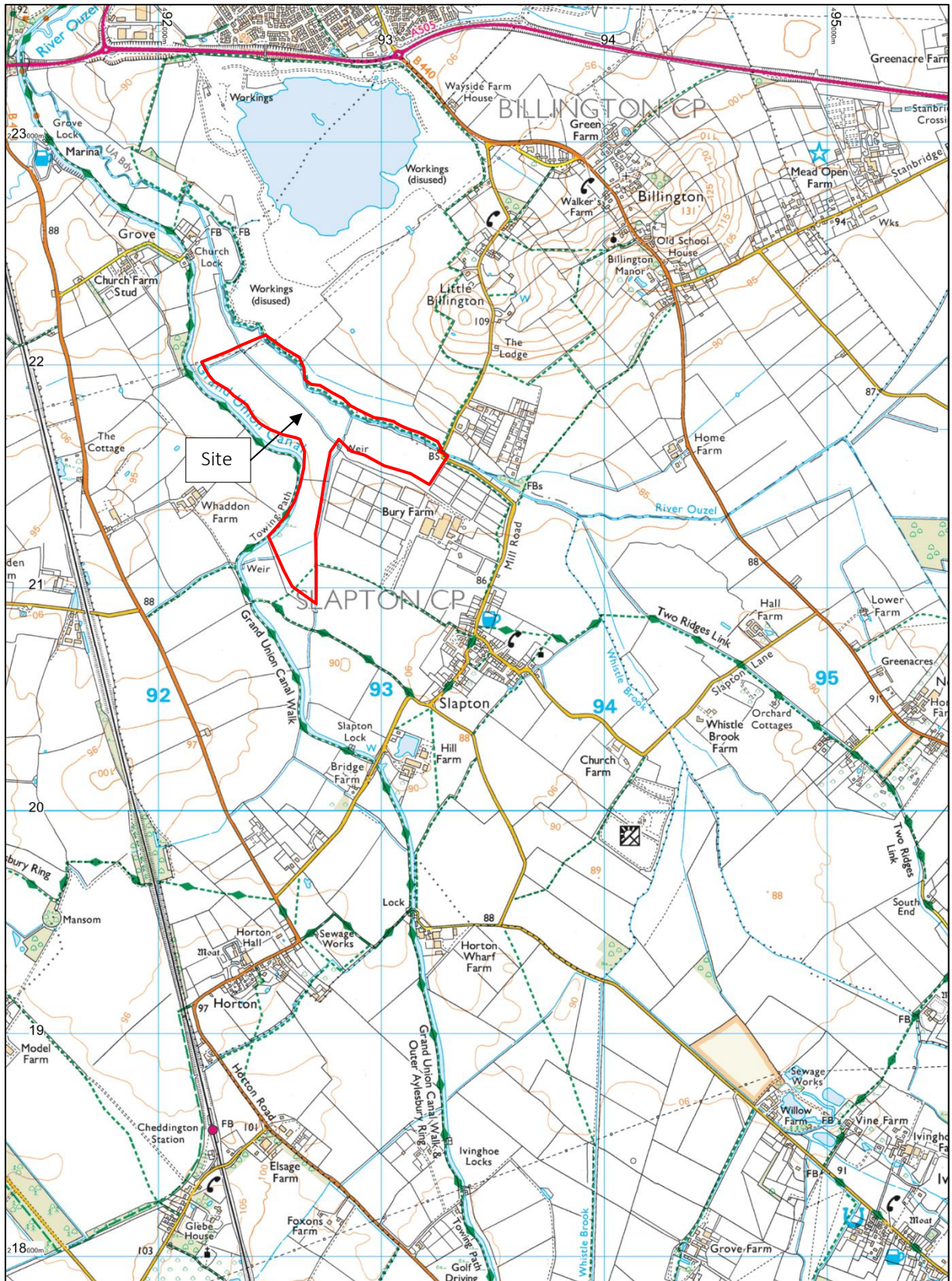


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

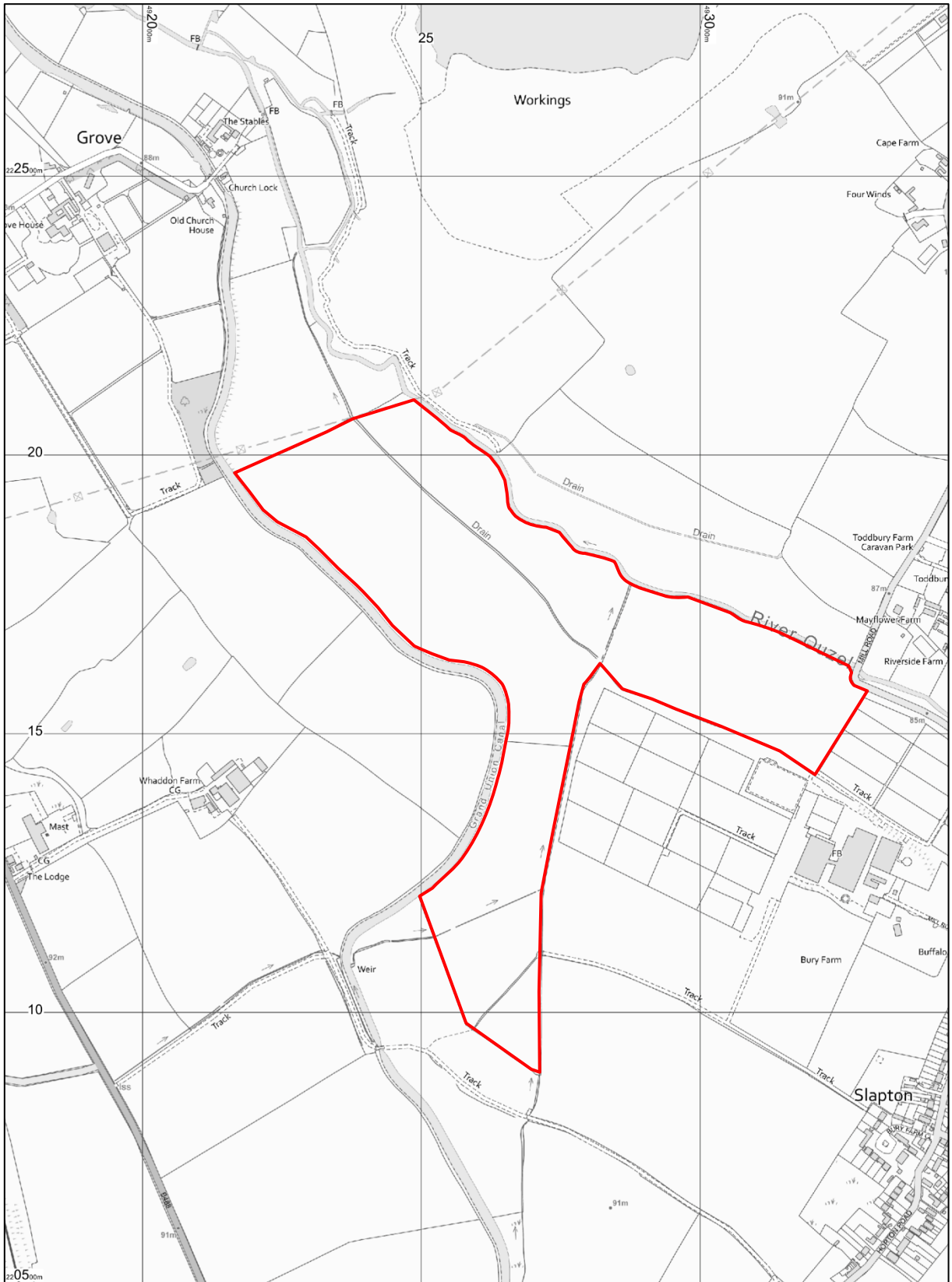


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:10,000)

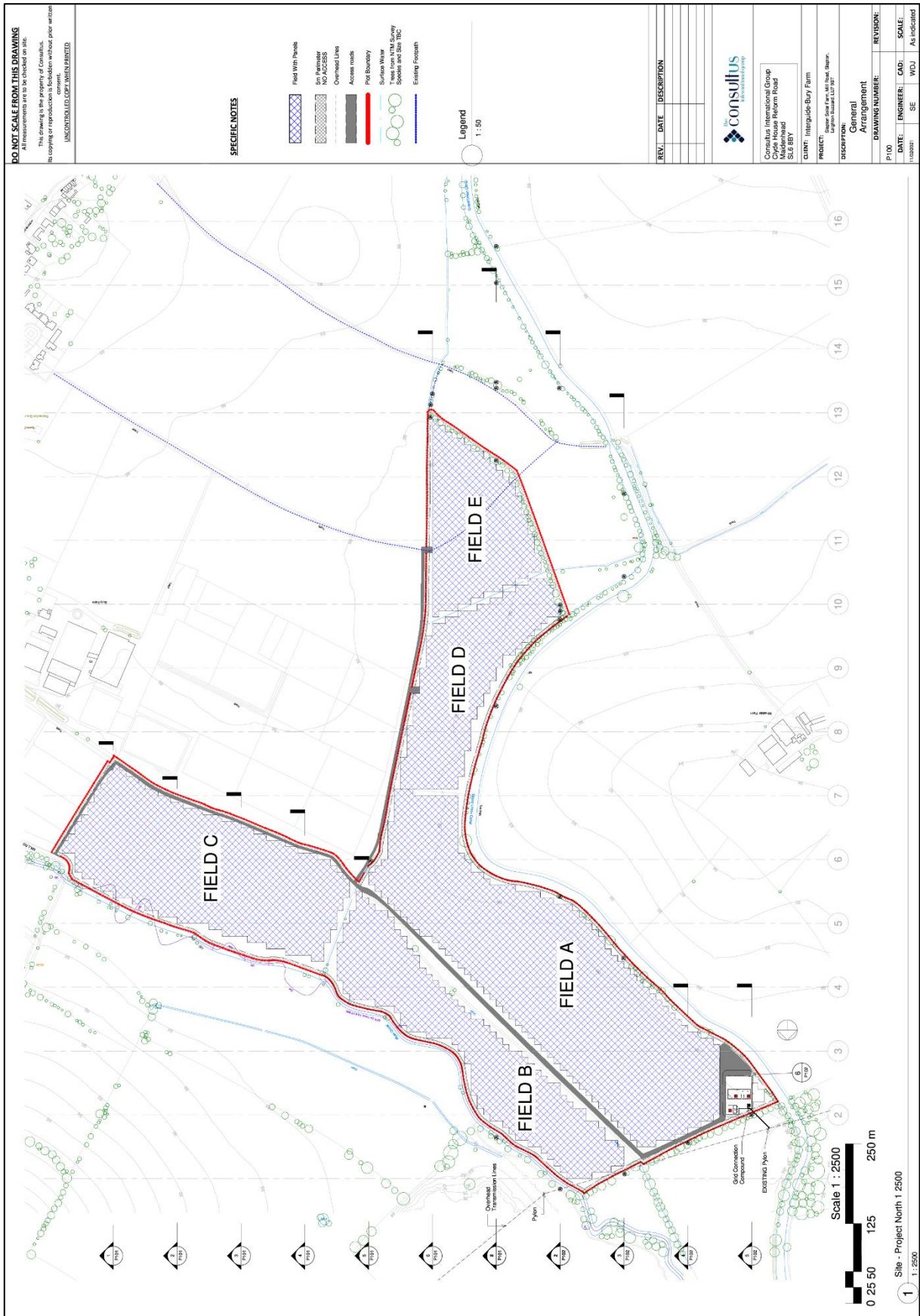


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale as shown)



2 Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Abrams & Kaye 2022) were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the site.
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site.
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the HER.
- To test the depth at which remains may be preserved and to identify whether any are present within that part of the site most likely to be impacted by the proposals. This is named the Grid Connection Compound.
- To test the depth of topsoil/overburden in selected points across the proposed solar farm. This to help inform a mitigation strategy.
- to undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines,
- to archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance,
- to analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use,
- to produce a written account to include summary; site description; deposit descriptions deposit levels (relative to ordnance datum) conclusions and recommendations for further work,
- to disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological monitoring to produce as comprehensive a record as possible, and to provide an ordered archive.

2.2 Methods

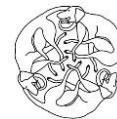
The methods used were as follows:

- The trial trench evaluation of the Grid Connection Compound (Fig. 5). This was achieved by excavating four trenches measuring a total of 244.60sq m.
- The excavation of nine test pits through the topsoil/overburden to ascertain its depth and reveal underlying geology, in order to inform the likelihood of the archaeological horizon being impacted upon by the insertion of piles for the solar panels. (Fig. 6).

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2020a)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2021)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015b)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 This section is a very brief summary that has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire and the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Records (HER Licence No 1325) covering a radius of 1km from the development site and other readily available sources. The archaeological monuments are shown on Figure 4.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC-AD43)

Little is known of prehistoric settlement within the immediate vicinity of Slapton although evidence for prehistoric activity in the wider area is plentiful. Throughout the county, Palaeolithic finds are found mainly along major river courses, and the abundance of flints found within the nearby Chiltern Hills intimates that the area surrounding Slapton would have been traversed by prehistoric peoples, even if no trace of their passage survives (Farley 2010:3-4). By the Iron Age, settlement within the vicinity of Slapton was represented by hillforts at nearby Ivinghoe Beacon and Cheddington (Farley 2010: 55).

3.3 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period, Buckinghamshire was traversed by a number of Roman roads, including Watling Street and Akeman Street. While Slapton was not located in the immediate vicinity of a major Roman town (the nearest being *Durocobrivis* (Dunstable), some 6km to the east), there is evidence for a villa at nearby Pitstone, and a temple at Moneybury Hill (Farley 2010: 79). Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of Slapton includes the discovery of four Roman V-shaped ditches (HER05357) and fragments of Roman pottery (HER04062) during the laying of pipe lines. Metal detecting within the parish has also recovered Roman artefacts, including a pin (MBC26574) and a coin (MBC29342).

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

Several areas of significant settlement are known within Saxon Buckinghamshire, at Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, and much closer to the site at Pitstone (Farley 2010: 124). When the settlement was established is uncertain, but by the late Saxon period the manorial estate was held by the Abbess of Barking (HER09374), and while there is no readily available information on the size of the population of Slapton at this time, the Domesday Survey records that the manor was worth £6 (Williams & Martin 2002: 401).

3.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

In addition to the settlement at Slapton, the proposed development site lay within a landscape of small villages such as Grove (HER 146000000) and the now deserted settlements of Whaddon (HER 42601000) and that to the south of Slapton Mill (HER 234602000). A significant feature in the landscape would have been Grove Priory, which lay to the north of the development site until it was dissolved, along with other alien priories in 1413 (Baker 2013:171).

However, the evidence suggests that the development site lay within the hinterland of these settlements

3.6 *Post-Medieval to Modern* (1500-present)

Slapton has remained a small rural hamlet from post-medieval times until the present day with some small scale industrial activity such as brickmaking (HER09276). Prominent features in the landscape include the railway which originally opened between 1837-1838, when it was known as the London and Birmingham Railway (HER14811).



The Grand Junction Canal (HER04119) passes along the southern boundary of the development site. Authorised in 1793, it was finally opened in 1805, providing better communication links between London, the Midlands and Birmingham. It became part of the Grand Union Canal in 1928.

3.7 *Site specific*

The site has been arable land under the current owner, being pasture since 2011. Prior to this it was briefly turned over to growing maize. This led to the soils being deep ploughed, potentially mixing topsoil and subsoil in some areas.

A geophysical survey of the site did not identify any definite cut features, although the possible remains of ridge and furrow and various uncertain anomalies were recorded (Abrams 2022: 8).

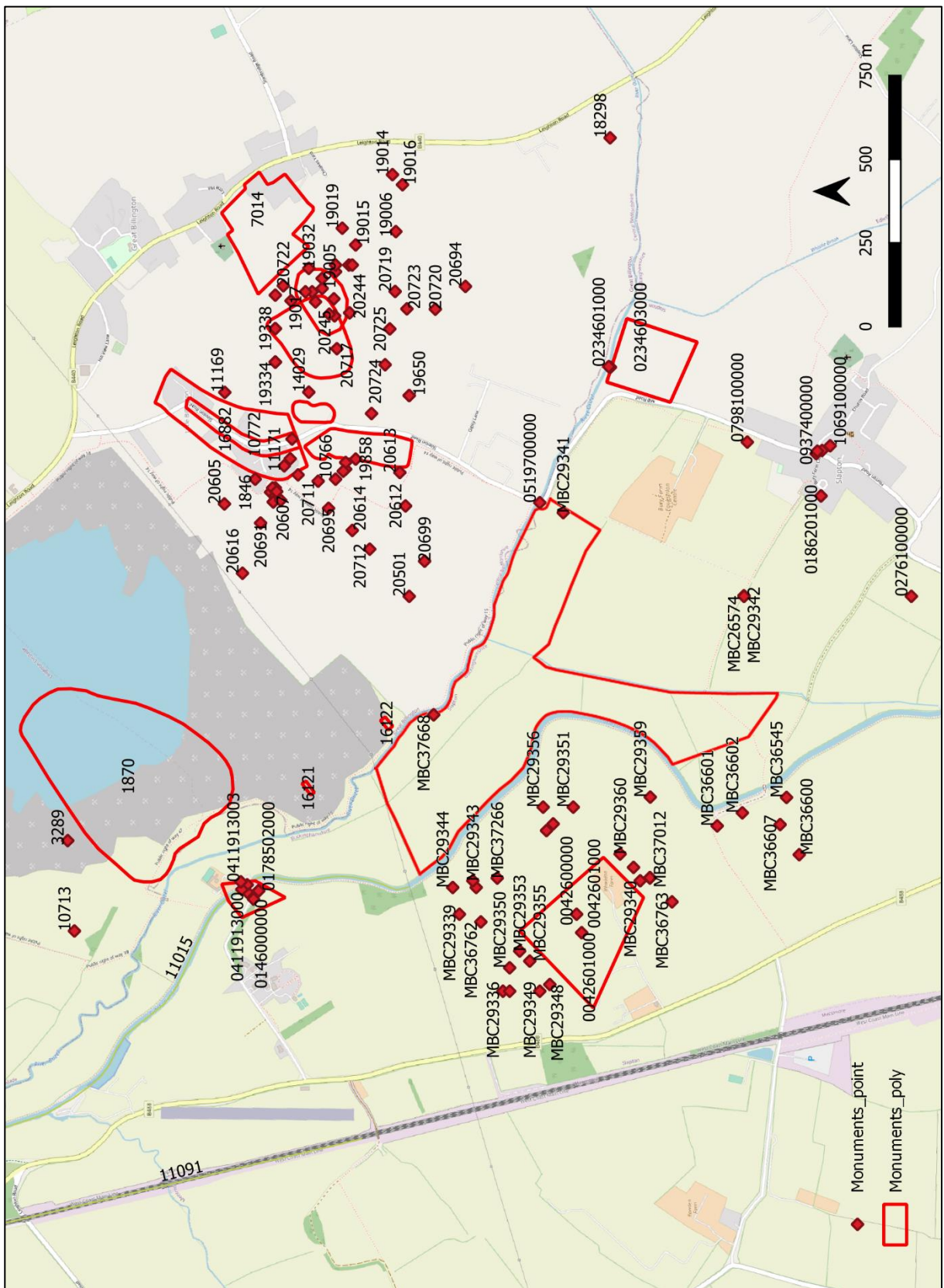
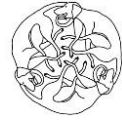


Figure 4: HER data plan (scale 1:17,500)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

The site comprised an area of 32.6 ha. A total of four evaluation trenches and nine test pits, equating to an area of 277.5 sq m were investigated (Fig. 5 & 6). All ground reduction was undertaken using a 21-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m toothless ditching bucket. The archaeological horizon and natural geology were located well below the impact level of the proposed works.

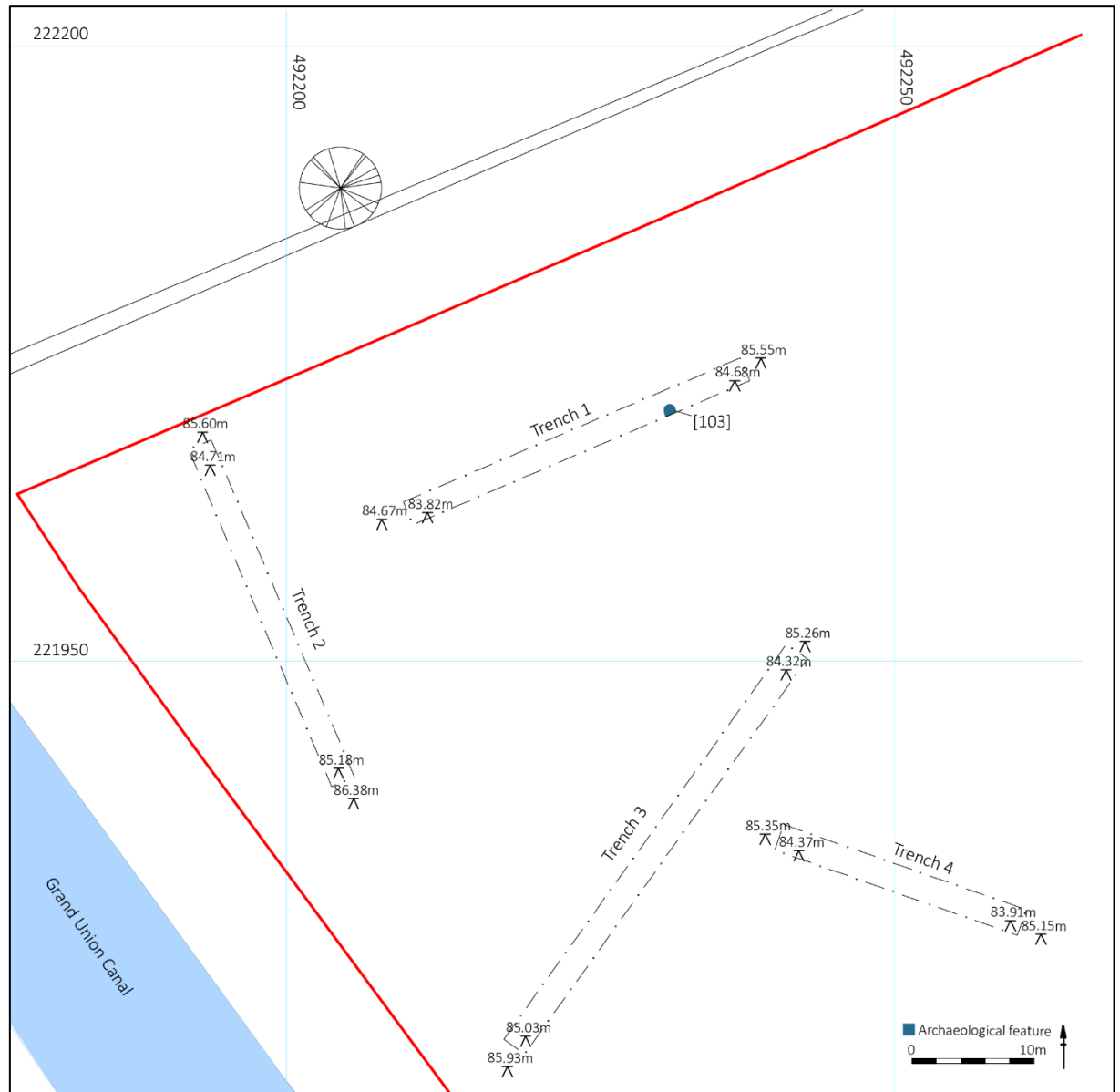


Figure 5: Evaluation trench location plan (scale 1:500)

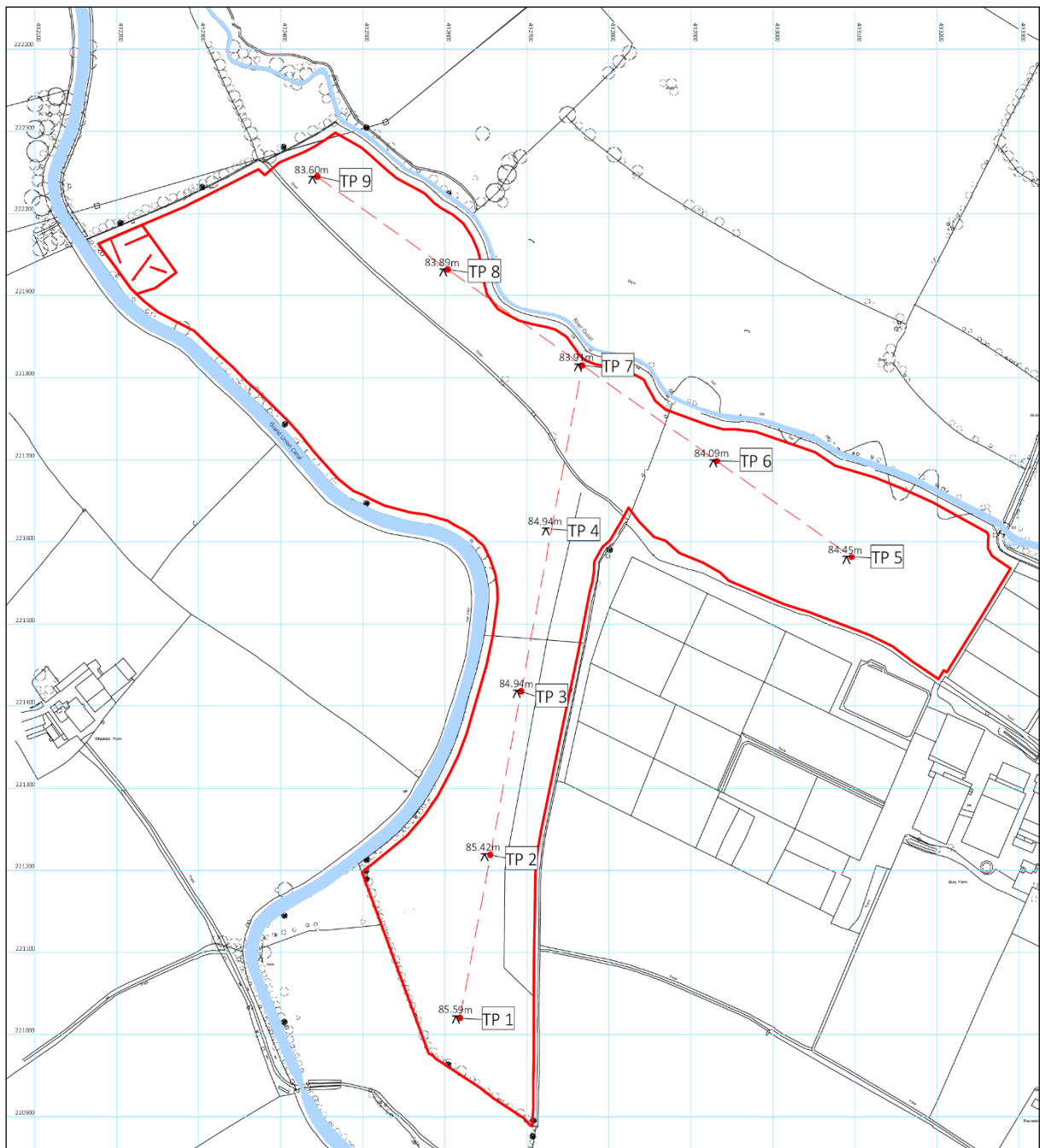
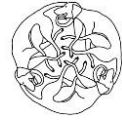


Figure 6: Test pit location plan (scale 1:7000)

4.2 Evaluation Trenches

The four Evaluation trenches were located to the northwest of the site within the area of the proposed Grid Connection Compound.

Trench 1 (Figs. 5 & 7; Plates 1-2)

Trench 1 was orientated east northeast-west southwest and was located close to the northern boundary of the site. The Trench measured 30.50m long, 2m wide and reached a depth of 0.92m. A small pit and an imported soil layer were observed within this Trench. The imported soil (101) was likely created by the dumping of material when the Grand Junction Canal was being built. The layer was deeper to the west southwest end which was closer to the canal and



tapered out before disappearing to the east southeast. Clam shells were recovered from (101). The stratigraphy of this trench comprised:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Topsoil	L:30.50m W:2m D: 0.30m	Dark brownish grey friable clay loam. Malleable when wet. Frequent rooting throughout as well as occasional rounded and angular stone and flint gravels
101	Imported soil	L:20.50 W:2 D: 0.29	Light brownish grey sandy clay soil with a gritty texture. contained occasional rounded and angular stones and angular flints. Large chunks of charcoal observed. Deeper to the WSW end of the trench. Layer not visible to the ESE. A buried topsoil layer was not observed beneath this layer. It is possible that there was no topsoil due to ploughing, or a localised topsoil strip may have taken place in the post-medieval period.
102	Subsoil	L:30.50m W:2m D: 0.23m	Mid reddish yellow sandy clay, Firm and malleable with moderate gravel inclusions. Iron stone present in small quantities. Larger flint pieces also noted. Some rooting present within this layer
103	Cut	L:0.85m W:0.96m D: 0.15m	Cut of pit. Circular with <45° sided and a flat base. Contained a single fill (104). Had well defined edges
104	Fill	L:0.85m W:0.96m D: 0.15m	Mottled brownish grey with flecks of iron panning throughout. A soft and malleable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and charcoal inclusions
105	Natural geology	L:30.50m W:2m D: >0.32m	A mixture of grey, yellow clay with bands of flint and stone gravels to the WSW

A discreet pit of unknown date was observed within Trench 1 and was located 6.40m from the east-northeast end (Figs. 8 & 9). The pit was small and almost circular, measuring 0.96m wide by 0.85m long. The fill comprised a naturally silted fill with occasional flecks of charcoal. No artefacts were recovered from the fill and the function of this feature is unknown. This was the only cut feature encountered on the site.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy

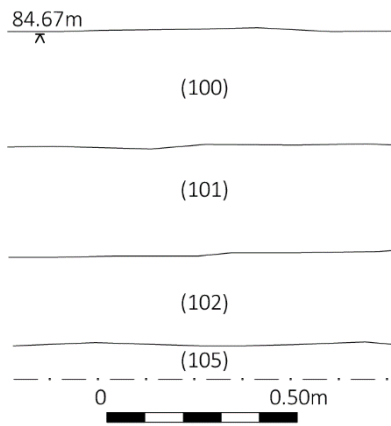


Figure 7: Trench 1 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



Plate 3: Northwest facing section of Pit [103]



Plate 4: Pit [103], looking southeast

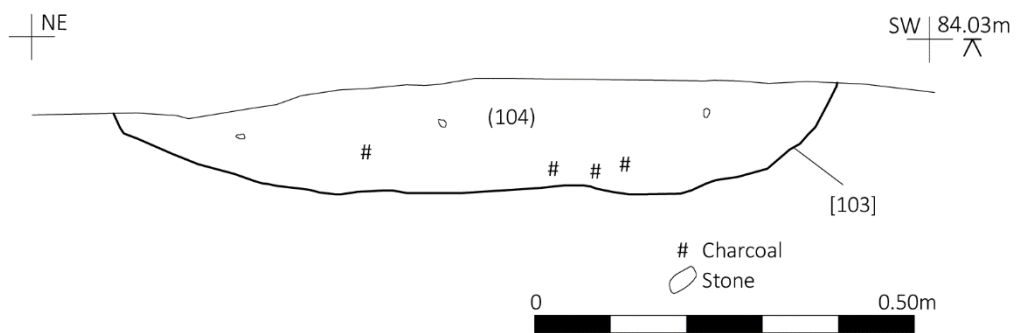


Figure 8: Northwest facing section of Pit [103] (scale 1:10)

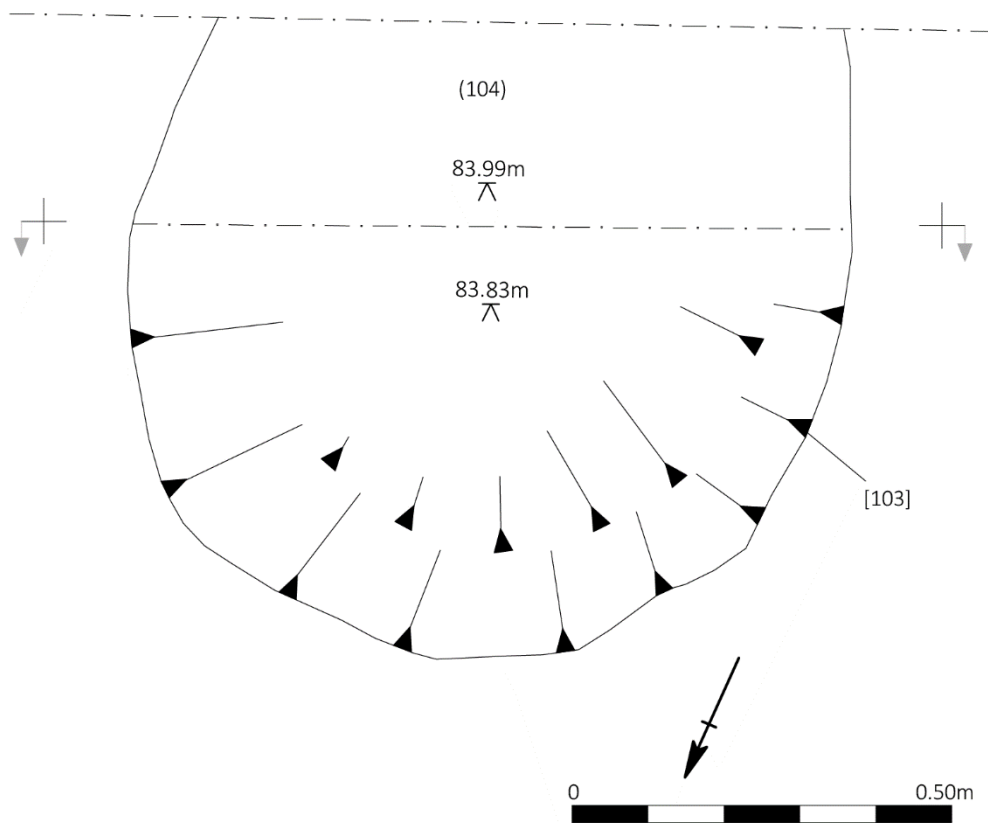


Figure 9: Plan of Pit [103] (scale 1:20)

Trench 2 (Fig. 5 & 10; Plates 5-7)

Trench 2 was located to the west of Trench 1 in the northwest corner of the site. It measured 29.80m long, 2m wide and 0.38m deep and was orientated northwest-southeast. No cut features were observed within this trench; however, as with Trench 1, an imported layer of soil, (201) was present above the subsoil layer. CBM, clay pipe, slate and clam shells were recovered from this layer (Plate 7). The stratigraphic composition of the trench was as follows:

Context no.	Type	Dimensions (max)	Description
200	Topsoil	L:29.80m W:2m D: 0.38m	Dark brownish grey friable clay loam. Malleable when wet. Frequent rooting throughout as well as occasional rounded and angular stone and flint gravels
201	Imported soil	L:18.80m W:2m D: 0.30m	Light brownish grey sandy clay soil with a gritty texture. contained occasional rounded & angular stones and angular flints. CBM, clam shells and a piece of slate were recovered from the layer. Contained large chunks of charcoal
202	Subsoil	L:29.80m W:2m D: 0.19m	Mid reddish yellow sandy clay, Firm and malleable with moderate gravel inclusions. Larger flint pieces also noted. Some rooting present within this layer
203	Natural geology	L:29.80m W:2m D: >0.15m	Firm blue grey clay which became stony to the southeast



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking southeast



Plate 6: Trench 2 stratigraphy, looking northeast

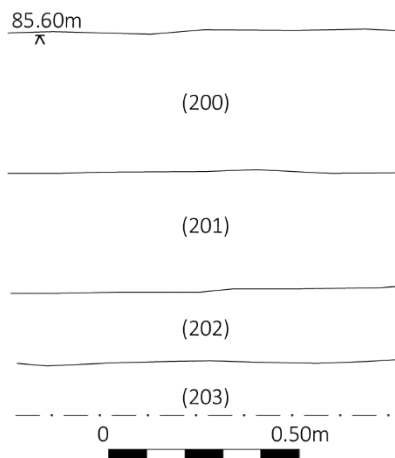


Figure 10: Trench 2 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



Plate 7: Representation of finds recovered from (201)

Trench 3 (Fig. 5 & 11; Plates 8-10)

Located to the south of Trenches 1 and 2, Trench 3 was the largest of the 4 trenches. This was due to an error during stripping which meant the trench ended up being 40.50m long instead of the initial 30m. The trench was orientated north northeast -south southwest and was 2m wide and 0.94m deep. The imported soil was observed within this trench, and, as with Trench 1, the layer was deeper to the west southwest and got shallower before disappearing to the east northeast. Pottery, clam shell, and a copper alloy button were recovered from (301) all of which appeared to be late post-medieval/modern in date (Plate 10). The stratigraphy comprised:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
300	Topsoil	L:40.50m W:2m D: 0.22m	Dark brownish grey friable clay loam. Malleable when wet. Frequent rooting throughout as well as occasional rounded and angular stone and flint gravels
301	Imported soil	L:32.24m W:2m D: 0.37m	Light brownish grey sandy clay soil with a gritty texture. It contained occasional rounded & angular stones and angular flints. Pottery, clam shell, and a copper alloy button recovered all appear late -post med /Modern.
302	Subsoil	L:40.50m W:2m D: 0.39m	Dark grey brown sandy clay with occasional small gravel inclusions. Rooting present although not excessive. Firm and malleable. Deeper to the SSW
303	Natural geology	L:40.50m W:2m D: >0.25m	Firm reddish brown sandy clay with occasional bands of stone. Occasional stones also present within the clay

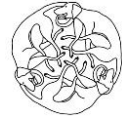


Plate 8: Trench 3, looking north northeast



Plate 9: Trench 3 stratigraphy, looking southeast

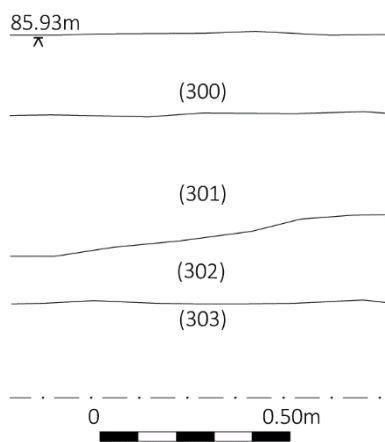


Figure 11: Trench 3 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



Plate 10: Representation of finds recovered from (301)

Trench 4 (Fig. 5 & 12; Plates 11 & 12)

The final evaluation trench was located to the south of Trench 3. It was orientated east southeast-west northwest and measured 21.50m long, 2m wide and 1.27m deep. No finds, features or deposits were encountered within this trench. The stratigraphy comprised:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
400	Topsoil	L:21.50m W:2m D: 0.38m	Dark brownish grey friable clay loam. Malleable when wet. Frequent rooting throughout as well as occasional rounded and angular stone and flint gravels
401	Subsoil	L:21.50m W:2m D: 0.29m	Dark brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular gravels. Some minor rootlets.
402	Natural geology	L:21.50m W:2m D: >0.60m	Bands of river washed pebbles to the SW. Yellow clay elsewhere with bands of bluish grey clay. some occasional flints although these were rare.

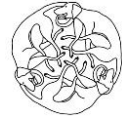


Plate 11: Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 12: Trench 4 stratigraphy

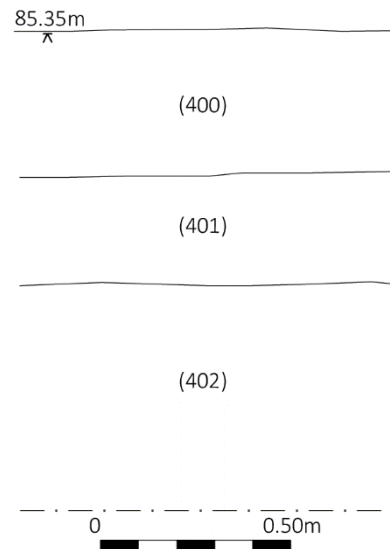


Figure 12: Trench 4 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

4.3 Test Pits

In addition to the evaluation trenches, nine test pits were excavated at 200m intervals, near to the eastern and southern site boundaries, forming two perpendicular transects (Fig. 6 & 11-13; Plates 13-15). These pits were 2 metres wide, between 1.5 and 2 metres in length and between 0.60 and 1.62 metres deep. The pits contained similar stratigraphical make up with the exception of Test Pit 9 where a palaeochanel/alluvial deposit was noted below the natural geology. The base of this layer was not reached. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological origin were encountered. The stratigraphy for each test pit is as follows:



<i>Pit No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
Test Pit 1	Topsoil	L:2m W:2m D:0.29m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Subsoil	L:2m W:2m D:0.26m	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and stone gravels.
	Natural geology	L:2m W:2m D:>0.45m	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Some small flints present although these are rare
Test Pit 2	Topsoil	L:2.10m W:2m D:0.32m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Natural geology	L:2.10m W:2m D:>0.98	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Some small flints present although these are rare
Test Pit 3	Topsoil	L:1.80m W:2m D:0.29m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Subsoil	L:1.80m W:2m D:0.31m	Light yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm and malleable. No notable inclusions
	Natural geology	L:1.80m W:2m D:> 0.50m	Mid orangey brown sandy clay with bands of bluish grey clay
Test Pit 4	Topsoil	L:1.75m W:2m D:0.29m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Subsoil	L:1.75m W:2m D:0.47m	Light yellowish brown sandy clay. Firm and malleable. No notable inclusions
	Natural geology	L:1.75m W:2m D:>0.54m	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Contained small chalk inclusions. Some small flints present although these are rare
Test Pit 5	Topsoil	L:1.70m W:2m D:0.32m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Natural geology	L:1.70m W:2m D:>0.28m	Mid orange sandy clay containing occasional chalk flecks
Test Pit 6	Topsoil	L:1.50m W:2m D:0.25m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Subsoil	L:1.50m W:2m D: 0.45m	Mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional stone and flint gravels
	Natural geology	L:1.50m W:2m D:>0.38m	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Contained small chalk inclusions. Some small flints present although these are rare



<i>Pit No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
Test Pit 7	Topsoil	L:2m W:2m D: 0.31m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Subsoil	L:2m W:2m D: 0.42m	Mid orange grey sandy clay with occasional stone and flint gravels
	Natural geology	L:2m W:2m D:>0.42m	Dark orange sandy clay with bands of mid grey clay. Contained occasional small stone and flint gravels
Test Pit 8	Topsoil	L:1.80m W:2m D: 0.37m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Natural geology	L:1.80m W:2m D: >0.37 m	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Contained small chalk inclusions. Some small flints present although these are rare
Test Pit 9	Topsoil	L:1.80m W:2m D:0.35m	Mid brownish grey loamy clay with occasional rounded and angular flints and gravels. Slightly malleable
	Natural geology	L:1.80m W:2m D:0.49m	Firm light bluish grey clay with bands of sandier orange clay. Contained small chalk inclusions. Some small flints present although these are rare
	Palaeochanel/ Alluvium	L:1.80m W:2m >0.78m	Possible palaeochannel. Dark grey brown sandy silty clay. Quite organically in composition. Malleable with occasional flint and stone gravel inclusions



Plate 13: Test Pit 1, looking southwest

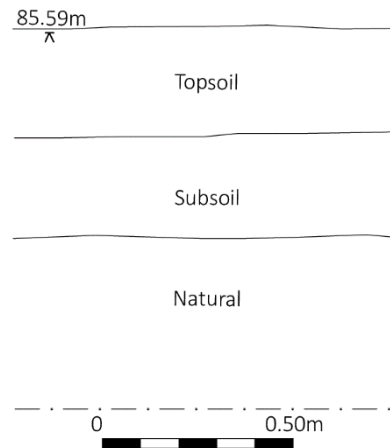


Figure 13: Test Pit 1 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

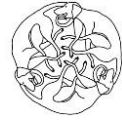


Plate 14: Test Pit 5, looking southwest

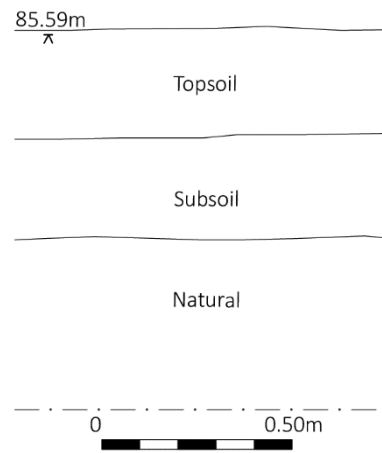


Figure 14: Test Pit 5 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



Plate 15: Test Pit 9, looking southwest

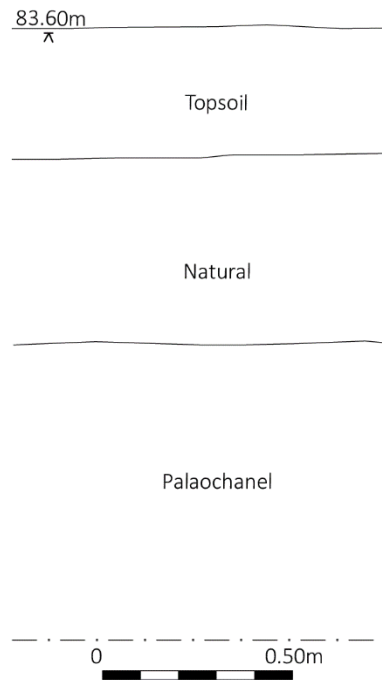


Figure 15: Test Pit 9 representative stratigraphy (scale 1:20)



5 Conclusions

This investigation comprised the excavation of four evaluation trenches and nine test pits over an area of 36.2ha. The development site lay within the hinterland of a number of medieval settlements such as Grove and Whaddon, although there is very little evidence for human activity within the excavated areas. A geophysical survey of the site did not produce much evidence for potential cut features beyond that of ridge and furrow and several anomalies (Abrams 2022: 8). During this investigation, a single cut feature was encountered within Trench 1, Pit [103], which contained a small amount of charcoal but no datable artefacts. Stratigraphical evidence would suggest that it pre-dated the construction of the Grand Junction Canal; however, no further date could be attributed to it.

The construction of the Grand Junction Canal to the southwest of the evaluation trenches had an impact on the stratigraphic composition of the site as a thin layer of imported soil could be seen within Trenches 1-3. Artefacts including pottery, a copper alloy button, slate, ceramic building material and a piece of clay pipe recovered from this layer would indicate it was late post-medieval in date, coinciding with the construction of the Canal and it is likely that soil from the excavation of the canal was deposited on the surrounding fields.

The test pits and trenching demonstrated that the natural geology and therefore the potential archaeological horizon, was present at depths varying between 0.32m below the existing ground level, in Test Pits 2 and 5, and 1.12m in Trench 1, though this was due to the varying thickness of the topsoil and the layer of imported soil resulting from the canal construction.

The absence of any alluvium in all but one of the test pits would suggest that the site has not been a flood plain, at least from the post-medieval period. However, the alluvial deposit which underlay the natural geology in Test Pit 9 may suggest the presence of an ancient palaeochannel or frequent flooding events.

This investigation comprises a small percentage of the overall field and it is possible that the trenches fell between widely dispersed features. Due to the lack of datable material, none of the research aims for this project could be addressed on this occasion.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Abrams Archaeology Ltd, on behalf of Interguide Management Ltd. Thanks are also due to Julia Wise of the Buckinghamshire HER for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents, to Lucy Lawrence of Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Team for monitoring the project and to the staff of Interguide Management Ltd for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc MCIfA and Barney King PCIfA. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc MCIfA, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.



7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Written Scheme of Investigation
2. Initial report
3. Monitoring sheets
4. Site drawings
5. Client's site plans
6. List of photographs

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Discover Bucks (Accession AYBCM2022.126). All digital files will be deposited on ADS.



8 References

Standards & Specifications

Abrams J. & Kaye D. 2022. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: Stage 1: New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Buckinghamshire*. KDK Library Ref. 729/SSF/1.3

Brickley M. & McKinley J.I. 2004 *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper.

Campbell G, Moffett L & Straker V 2011 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Portsmouth: English Heritage

CIfA 2019 *Archaeological Archive Selection Toolkit*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2020a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2020b *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2020c *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA 2021 *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage

EH 2010 *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*

HE 2015 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. London: Historic England

McKinley J.I. & Roberts C. 1993 *Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Technical Paper 13

Paine C. (ed) 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*. London: Museums & Galleries Commission

Walker K. 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage*. London: United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section

Watkinson D. & Neal V. 1998 *First Aid for Finds*. Hertford & London: Rescue

Secondary Sources

Abrams J. 2022. *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching): New Bury Farm Solar Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire*. Abrams Archaeology

Baker E. 2013. *La Grava: The Archaeology and History of a Royal Manor and Alien Priory of Fontevrault*. York: Council for British Archaeology

British Geological Survey (BGS): <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/> (Accessed: 14.10.2022)



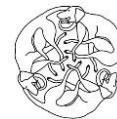
Farley M. (ed) 2010. *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire* Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society

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



Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	View	Subject
1	NW	Trench 2 overview
2	SE	Trench 2 overview
3	NE	Trench 2 stratigraphy
4	N	Trench 1 stratigraphy
5	SE	Trench 3 stratigraphy
6	S	Trench 4 stratigraphy
7	WSW	Test Pit 1 overview
8	WSW	Test Pit 1 stratigraphy
9	NW	Test Pit 2 overview
10	NW	Test Pit 2 stratigraphy
11	NW	Test Pit 3 overview
12	NW	Test Pit 3 stratigraphy
13	NW	Test Pit 4 overview
14	NW	Test Pit 4 stratigraphy
15	SW	Test Pit 9 overview
16	SW	Test Pit 9 stratigraphy
17	SW	Test Pit 8 overview
18	SW	Test Pit 8 stratigraphy
19	SW	Test Pit 7 overview
20	SW	Test Pit 7 stratigraphy
21	SW	Test Pit 6 overview
22	SW	Test Pit 6 stratigraphy
23	SW	Test Pit 5 overview
24	SW	Test Pit 5 stratigraphy
25	E	Trench 1 overview
26	SW	Trench 3 overview
27	NE	Trench 3 overview
28	SE	Trench 4 overview
29	SE	Northwest facing section of Pit [103]
30	SE	Overall Pit [105]
31	-	Representative finds from (201)
32	-	Representative finds from (301)



Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers	Pottery		CBM		Shell		Other objects		
	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	Object
101	-	-	-	-	3**	48**	-	-	-
201	-	-	1	28	3	52	1	3	Clay Pipe
	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	CU Button
							1	11	Slate
301	4	182	-	-	7*	51*	-	-	-

*Only 1 (16g) of clam shell retained

**Not retained

All dateable artefacts are to be included with the archive. A sample of clam shell will be retained as stated above and the remaining shell will be discarded as agreed with Discover Bucks Museum.



Appendix 3: Excavation Summary Tables

Drawing Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:10	Northwest facing section of Pit [103]
1	2	1:10	Plan of Pit [103]



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton Buckinghamshire	Project Site Code	729/SSF
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-511327	Event/Accession no	AYBCM2022.126
OS reference	SP 92744 21568	Study area size	277.5sq m
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	c.85
Short Description	In November 2022, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton, Buckinghamshire as a condition of the planning permission for the construction of a solar farm. Four trial trenches and nine test pits were excavated within a 36.2ha area. A single pit of unknown date was observed within Trench 1 and three of the Evaluation trenches contained an imported soil, likely from the construction of the Grand Union Canal to the west. No further cut features or archaeological deposits were encountered during this investigation.		
Previous work	None	Site status	None
Planning proposal	Construction of solar farm	Current land use	Agricultural
Local Planning Authority	Aylesbury Vale	Planning application ref.	21/02775/APP
Monument type	Pit	Monument period	Unknown
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	-	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Laura Dodd
Sponsor/funding body	Abrams Archaeology		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	21.11.2022	End date	23.11.2022
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Discover Bucks	Pottery, shell, CBM, clay pipe	
Paper		WSI, Report, all fieldwork records, permatrace	
Digital		All digital files to be uploaded to ADS	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: New Bury Farm, Mill Road, Slapton		
Serial title & volume	729/SSF/2.2		
Author(s)	Laura Dodd MSc MCIFA		
Page no's	28	Date	28.11.2022