



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road

Hulcote

Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

<i>Author</i>	Florian Weber MA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	748/HRT/2.1	<i>Date</i>	19.05.2023
<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	748/HRT/2.1	<i>Date</i>	30.05.2023
<i>Revision</i>	Derek Watson PhD	<i>Version</i>	748/HRT/2.2	<i>Date</i>	29.06.2023

© KDK Archaeology Ltd 2023 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 His 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](mailto:office@kdkarchaeology.co.uk)  
Website: [www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.kdkarchaeology.co.uk)





## CONTENTS

Summary.....	1
1. Introduction .....	1
2. Aims & Methods .....	5
3. Archaeological & Historical Background .....	7
4. Results.....	11
5. Conclusions .....	22
6. Acknowledgements.....	23
7. Archive .....	24
8. References .....	25

### Appendices:

1. List of Photographs .....	27
2. Finds Concordance.....	28
3. Excavation Summary Tables.....	29
4. Specialist Reports.....	32
5. Site Data.....	39
6. OASIS Summary.....	42

### Figures:

1. General location .....	2
2. Site location .....	3
3. Development plan.....	4
4. Excavation within the development area.....	6
5. HER data plan.....	10
6. All features plan .....	12
7. Representative site stratigraphy .....	13
8. Phasing plan .....	17
9. Relationship slot and full profile sections of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] .....	18
10. Running section and plan of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014] and section and plan of Pit [020] .....	19
11. Plan and section of Ditch [022] and Running section and plan of Ditch 2 [016] and Ditch 1 [014] ..	20
12. Plan (scale 1:20) and sections of Gully [008] and Gully [010] .....	21

### Plates:

1. Overall site photo.....	13
2. Overall site photo.....	13
3. General site stratigraphy.....	13
4. North-northwest facing section of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] .....	14
5. South-southwest facing section of Ditch 1 [004] .....	14
6. East-southeast facing section of Ditch [006].....	14
7. Ditches 1 [004] and [006], looking south-southeast .....	14
8. South-southeast facing section of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014].....	14
9. Southwest facing section of Pit [020].....	15
10. East-southeast facing section of Ditch 2 [022] .....	15
11. South-southwest facing section of Ditch 1 [016] and Ditch 2 [018].....	15
12. West-northwest facing section of Ditch 1 [016] and Ditch 2 [018] .....	15
13. North facing section of Gullies [008] and [010].....	16
14. South-southwest facing section of Gullies [008] and [010].....	16
15. Gullies [008] and [010], looking east-southeast.....	16
16. Assemblage of iron nails .....	38
17. Nail: N1 .....	39



---

18. Nails: N2 (top) and N3 (bottom).....	39
19. Nails: N2 (top) and N3 (bottom).....	39
20. Nails: N4 and N5.....	40



## Summary

In April 2023, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire, during the construction of an agricultural barn for the storage of hay and housing livestock. The development included ground reduction within the footprint of the barn during which 5 shallow linear and 2 circular archaeological features were recorded, containing medieval pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and animal bone. The linear features were used for water management and drainage and have silted up over a long period. The larger of the two pits may have been a water-hole for animals, while the small pit could have been used for rubbish disposal.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2023 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording at Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Paul Harris and was carried out in order to fulfil Condition 2 of planning consent. The relevant planning application reference is CB/21/04129/FULL.

### 1.2 *The Site*

#### *Location*

The site is situated in the village of Hulcote, in the civil parish of Hulcote and Salford and within the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 9465 3903 (Fig. 1).

#### *Description*

The development is situated within a parcel of land that is contiguous with the western side of Rook Tree Farm Road. It is bounded to the north, west and southeast by agricultural fields, and to the east by an agricultural field and Rook Tree Farm Industrial Estate (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology and Topography*

The bedrock geology is mudstone of the Weymouth Member, formed between 163.5 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period; with superficial sand and gravel Glaciofluvial deposits, formed between 860 and 116 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>). The development site is situated within an area of banded geology and may extend into superficial deposits of diamicton (accumulated from dryland erosion) of the Oadby Member (formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period) to the west/northwest. The topography slopes from 85m to 82m AOD north to south, and rises to c.91m (AOD) to the east.

#### *Development*

The development called for the construction of an agricultural barn for the storage of hay and housing livestock (Fig. 3).

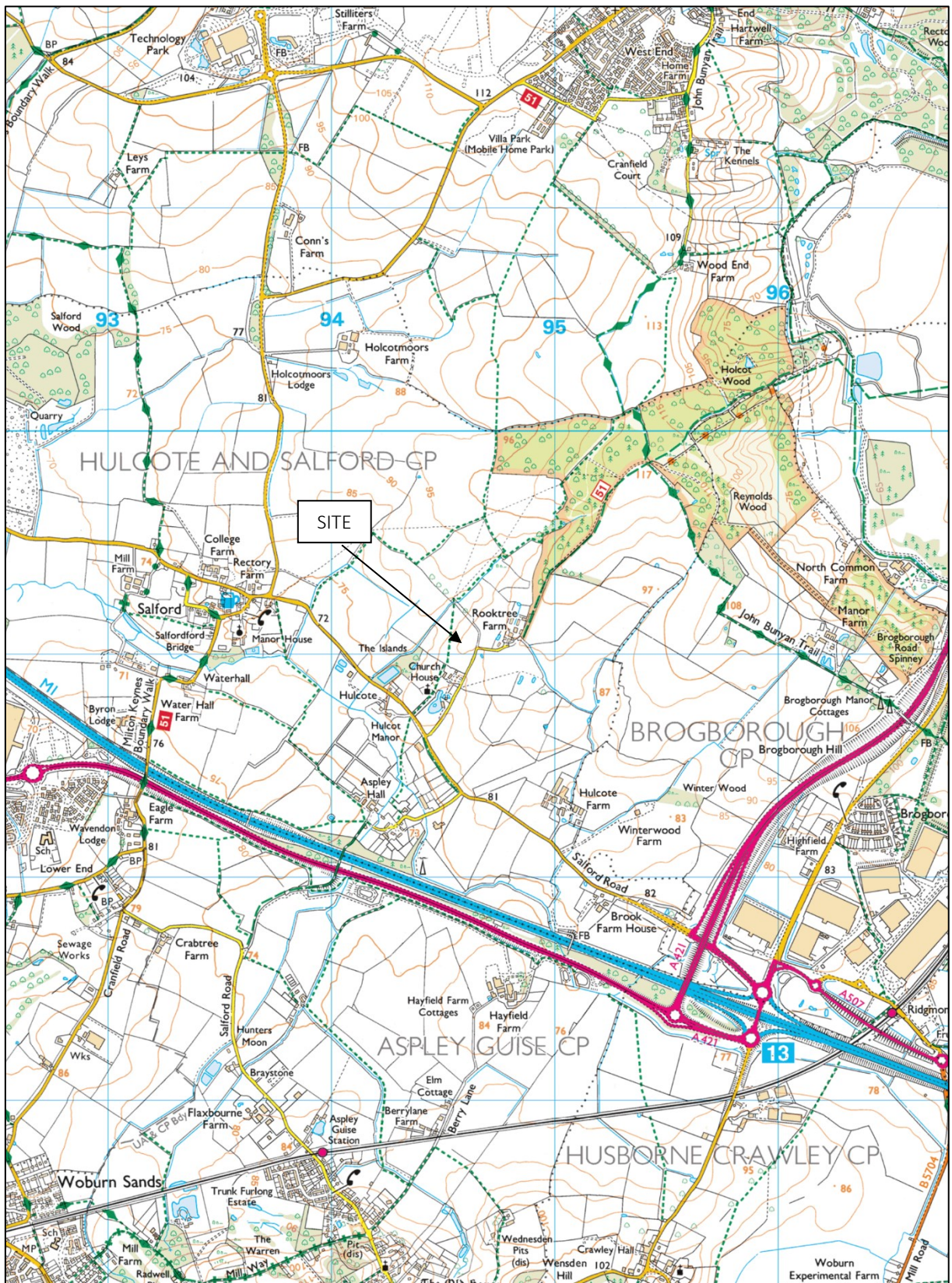


Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

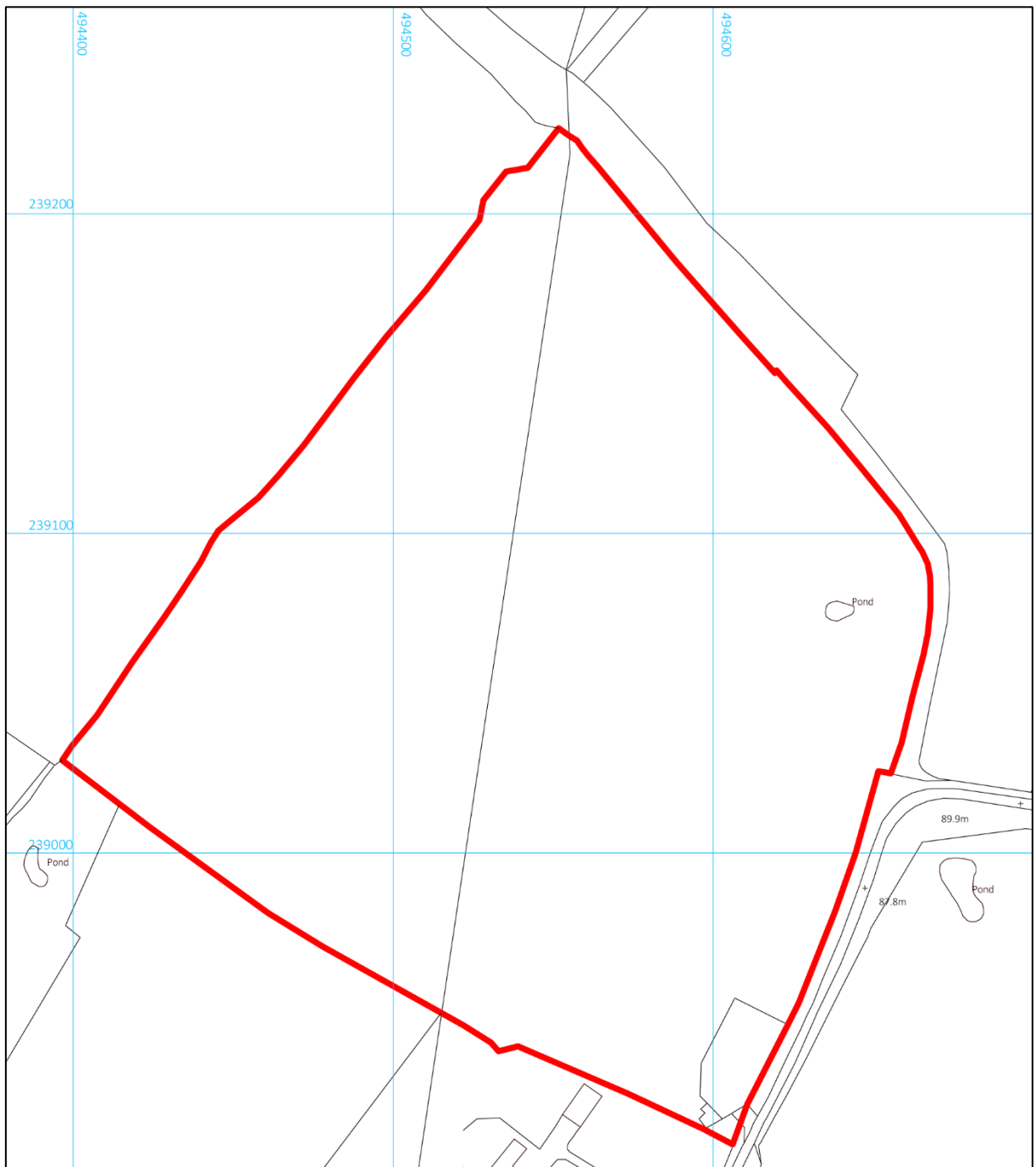


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:2000)

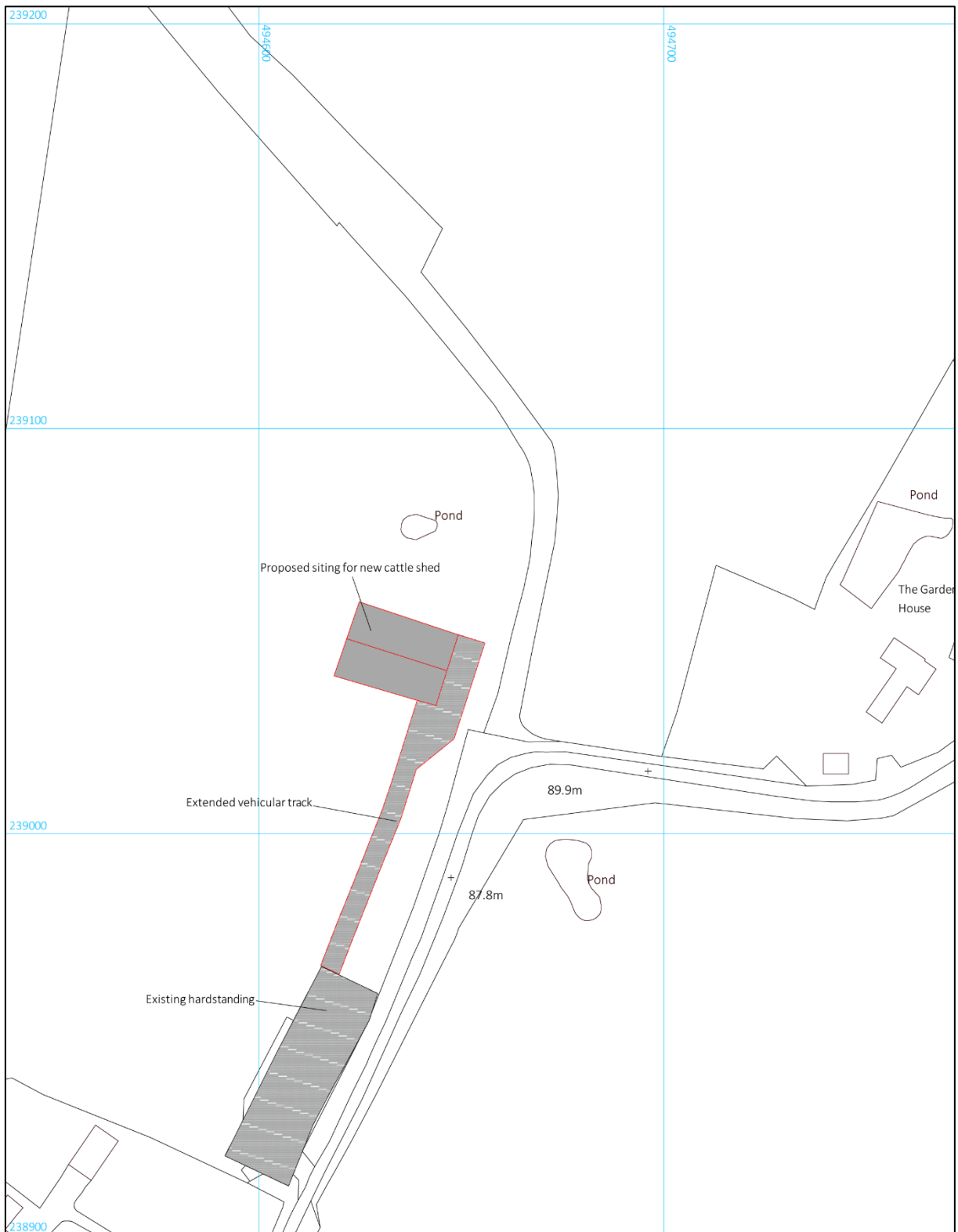


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:1250)





---

## 2 Aims and Methods

### 2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2022) 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 were *inter alia* 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; The East of England Regional Research Framework 2023).

### 2.2 Methods

The methods used were as follows:

- Initially the archaeological Watching Brief included only the ground reduction within the foundation pits. However, due to the sloping ground, further excavation was necessary to level the area for the proposed barn (Fig. 4). A strategy for investigating the archaeological features that were subsequently revealed was agreed with Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBAT) and the client.
- The analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provisions for subsequent production of a report(s) and/or publication(s) of these results and an archive
- Provisions necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site

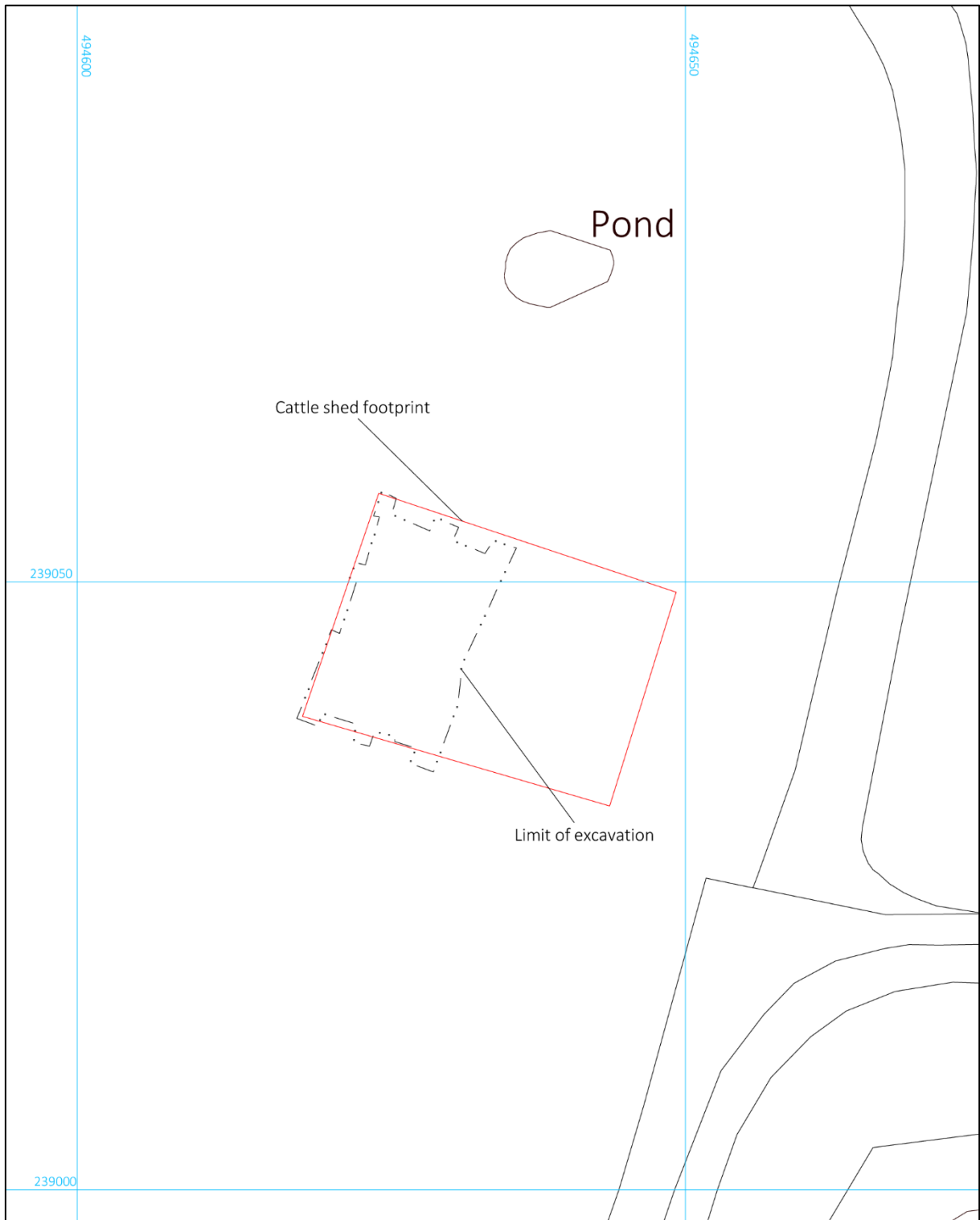
### 2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2020a)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022)
- Current Historic England guidelines (EH 2008, HE 2015)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)
- Data Protection Act 2018

### 2.4 Constraints

The south-east corner of the excavation could not be investigated due to the high water table.



**Figure 4:** Excavation within the development area (scale 1:500)



### 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The earliest archaeological evidence for human activity in the area dates from prehistory, but the origins of the modern settlement lie in the Saxon period. The development site is not located within a Conservation Area, but it does lie within the deserted medieval settlement of Hulcote at a location where earthwork remains of the village formerly survived. Hulcote may derive from the Old English word '*holh*' meaning hollow ground combined with the word cottages to mean 'cottages in the hollow' (BA 2023).

This section has been compiled with information from Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER; search ref: 202223/129) and reliable online sources. The HER data, with a 1km search radius, is shown in Fig. 5.

- 3.2 ***Prehistoric (before 600BC) Iron Age (600BC - AD43) & Roman (AD43 - c.450)***

In a large area situated approximately 1km southwest of the development, a fieldwalking survey in advance of M1 road widening (EBD803) in 1993 encountered worked flint dated from the Mesolithic, the late Neolithic and the early Bronze Age. The Iron Age was represented by four sherds of Iron Age pottery, closely grouped in one field. Roman pottery, ceramic building material, a possible mould for casting copper alloy, and two quern fragments were also found. These indicate activity and settlement in the general area.

Possible evidence for prehistoric settlement was found in a series of early-middle Iron Age ditches, discovered south of St Nicholas' Church c.260m southwest of the development (HER 21640). The archaeological investigations revealed that the highest concentration of Iron Age ditches was present in the southern corner of the site, which suggests that this may have been the core of settlement activity.

The cropmark of a possible prehistoric, sub-square enclosure is situated north of Hulcote (HER 16490), c.500m northwest of the development.

- 3.3 ***Saxon (c.450 - 1066)***

Although no archaeological remains from this period are listed within the HER search area, the presence of a Saxon settlement is known from a document dated 969AD and the Domesday Survey of 1086, which observes that Hulcote was a 4 hide estate that had been owned by Alweard Belrap before the Norman Conquest (Williams & Martin 2002: 576).

- 3.4 ***Medieval (1066 - 1500)***

Hulcote Manor was subsequently awarded to William Speke and was held by Ralph Passwater in 1068. The manor had five villagers, eight smallholders and a slave as well as a mill and woodland for fifty pigs (*ibid.*).

The proposed development site is situated within the medieval settlement of Hulcote. Earthworks observed on the ground and aerial photographs, in an area including the development site, indicate the presence of the former medieval settlement around Hulcote church and Rooktree Farm. An estate map of 1596 also depicts buildings within this area (HER 774). Further possible settlement activity located to the southeast of Rooktree Farm, c.260m east of the development, consists of linear features and possible pits (HER 21539). In common with many other settlements of this period, including the nearby Salford shrunken medieval village (HER 1655), Hulcote was a reasonably sized village, and it would have expanded and contracted depending on social and economic trends.



Remains from this period also include Green Lane, a medieval/post medieval lane to the northwest/northeast of the proposed development site (HER 8388-90) and the memory of a medieval rabbit warren maintained in a local field name (HER 8381). Various artefacts have been recorded in the locality including a medieval finger ring (HER 18607) and an annular brooch found near Hulcote Farm, (HER 18593); a 15<sup>th</sup> century copper-alloy French jeton made in Tournai (HER 18574), a medieval finger ring (HER 18582) and a 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century coins (HER 18515 & 18778) found near Rook Farm; and 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> century pottery from near the M1 (EBD803).

Two linear mounds, north of Church Farm and c.120m southwest of the development, were thought by some to have been long barrows or the burial mounds of monks who died during a plague whilst on a pilgrimage to the Abbey of Woburn. In recent years the mounds have been ploughed over and 'generally knocked about, but they have revealed nothing with which to identify their original purpose' (HER 15058). However, they are intriguing in that each mound is 26.5m long with 26.5m between the two mounds, and they are arranged in the form of the letter 'T' with a space of 26.5m between the two arms.

An area of ridge & furrow in Hulcote (HER 5087) survives c.870m southeast of the development, and rectilinear earthworks and adjacent ridge and furrow were documented northeast of Hulcot Farm (HER 15059). Ridge & furrow is an archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, and is typical of the open-field system. A reminder of the agricultural basis of the settlement's economy.

### 3.5 *Post-medieval (1500 - 1900) & Modern (1900 - present)*

Historic map evidence and analysis of aerial photographic data suggest that the settlement was focussed around the 17<sup>th</sup> century Grade I listed Church of St Nicholas (HER 1077; NHLE 1114036) to the southwest of the development site and extended to Rook Tree Farm in the northeast.

St Nicholas' Church (HER 1077) and churchyard (HER 8910), Church House (formerly Church Farm) (HER 4389) form a cluster near the site of the former manor house and possible garden earthworks (HER 28). This was the site of a 16<sup>th</sup> century manor house that was destroyed by a fire in 1769 and never rebuilt. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Hulcote Manor (formerly listed as White Ladies) replaced an earlier rectory described in a document of dating from 1619/20 (HER 3732; Grade II, NHLE: 1311815). A 16<sup>th</sup> century silver shilling of Elizabeth I was found by metal detecting near Hulcote manor

A medieval fishpond complex (HER 3423), originally constructed for the manor house, was rebuilt in 1575, and the ponds were probably modified and incorporated into the local garden landscaping. The main pond, to the south of the complex, is retained by an earthwork c.3m high, and the ponds to the north by other substantial earthworks. The site was included in A W Guppy's list of moated sites, but is not now thought to include a moat. The ponds of a 20<sup>th</sup> century fish farm (HER 15186) are situated to the west.

Rook Tree Farmhouse (HER 4375), c.155m northeast, is a 17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century additions and alterations. The farm belonged to the Lord of the Manor of Hulcote until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when Law of Property Acts in the 1920s effectively abolished manors and the property was sold at auction.

The 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century Aspley Hall (HER 14367), located c.850m southwest of the development, stands near the remains of a tower windmill (HER 935; now called The Round House). A mill was mapped on this site in 1600, but it is unclear if the extant structure is the same mill or a replacement; the mill was dismantled c.1880. Hulcote Water Mill (Mill House) (HER 2835), also



---

stands nearby, which is a brick mill building, formerly part of a watermill, now converted into a house.

Various cropmarks and earthworks have been documented in the wider area, including: cropmarks and earthworks most likely associated with a modern field (HER 8386); the earthwork remains of post-medieval buildings (HER 8385); rectangular cropmark with associated footpath and ponds (HER 8383); cropmarks associated with post-medieval/medieval woodland (HER 8392); and cropmarks possibly derived from post-medieval clay extraction (HER 8384); cropmarks associated with post-medieval gravel working (HER 8387).

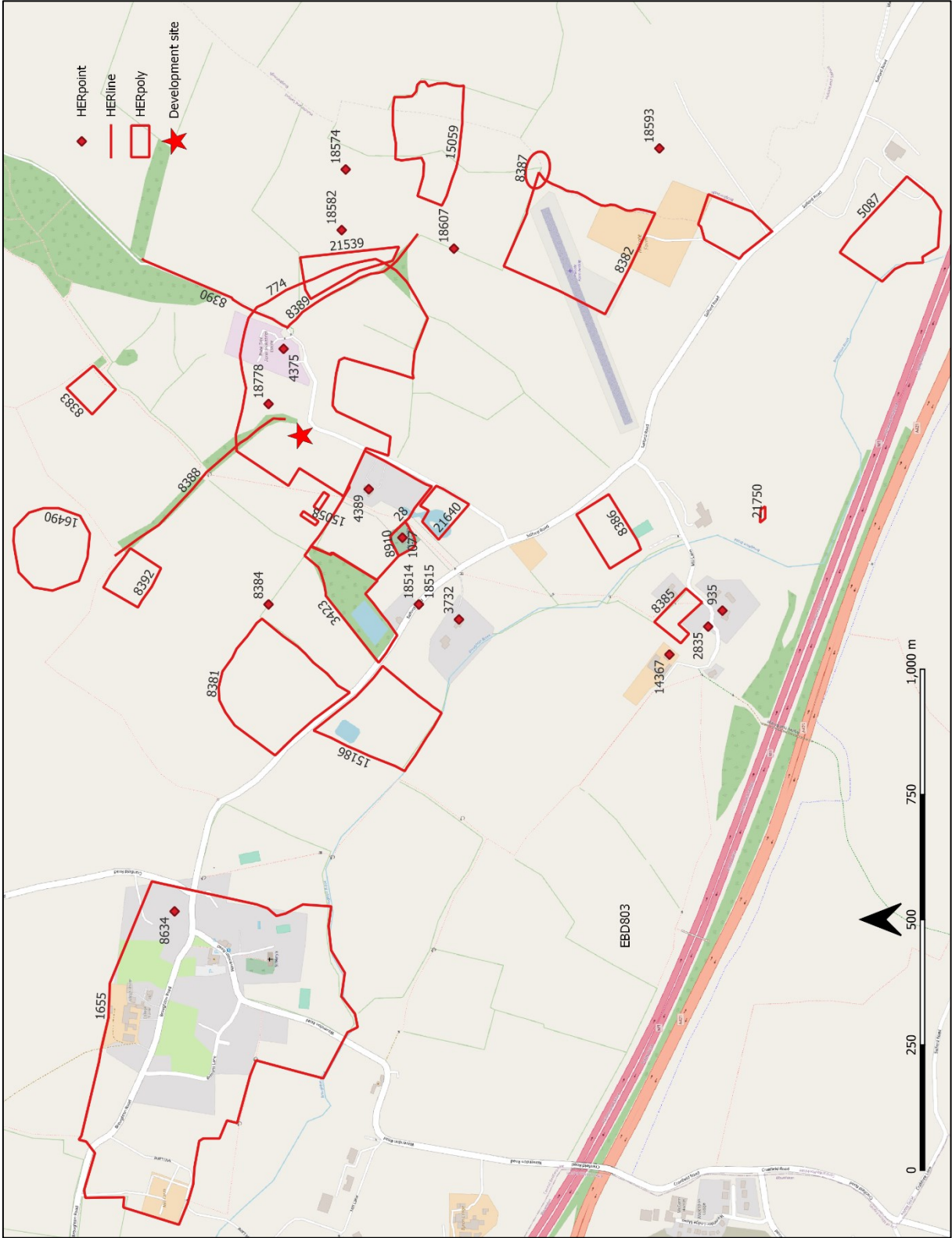


Figure 5: HER data plan (1km search radius; scale as shown)



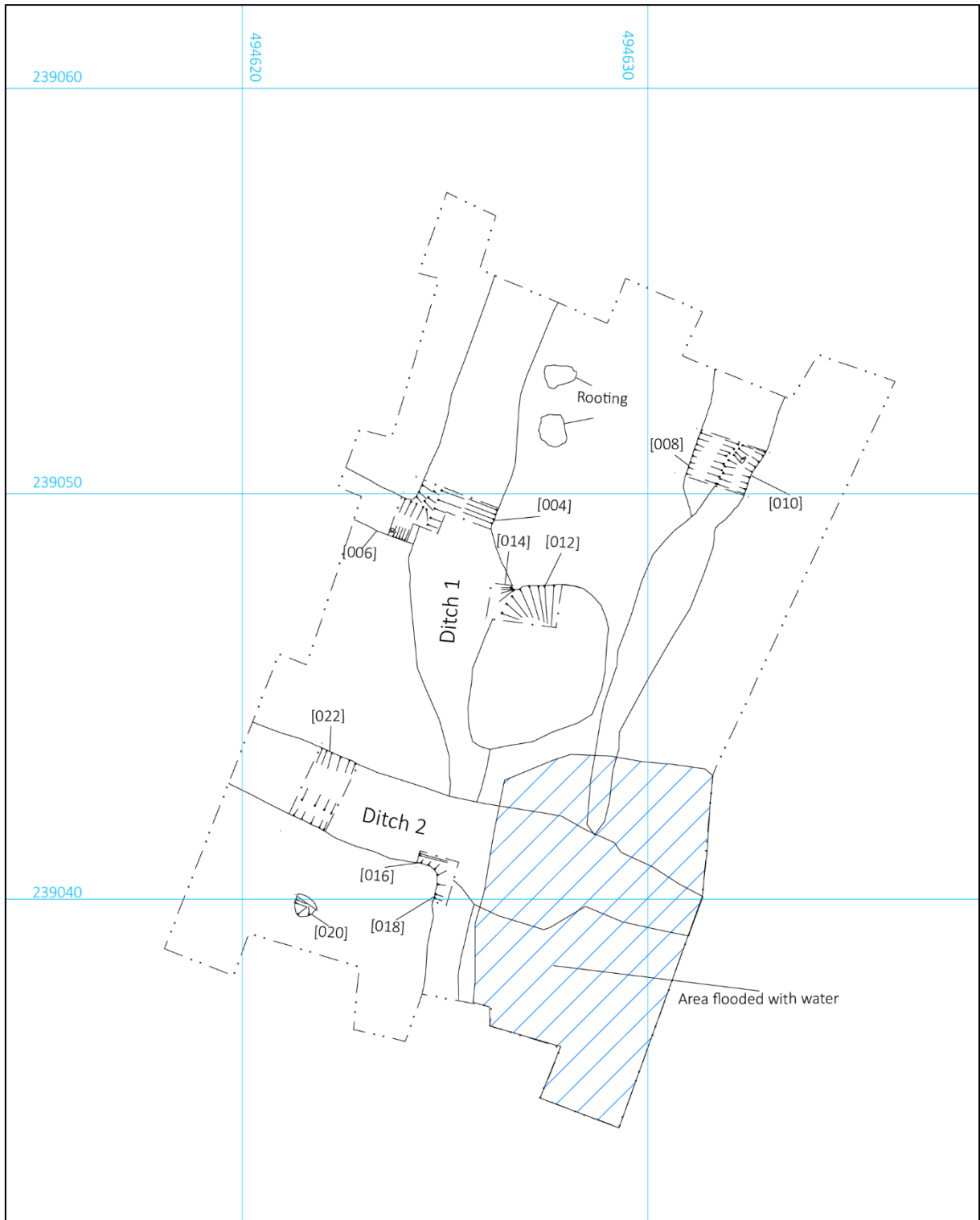
---

## 4 Results

### 4.1 *Introduction*

The Watching Brief initially consisted of the monitoring of the excavation of 12 foundation pits for the new barn. The pits were approximately 1.8m long, 1m wide and 0.50m deep. No archaeological features or deposits were observed. Because the ground sloped from east to west, approximately a third of the site had to be reduced to the natural geology, while the other part had to be built up to create a level building platform. During the ground reduction, a number of linear and circular archaeological features were exposed, and an excavation strategy was agreed with the client and the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT). Because of the high ground water level an investigation in the south-east corner of the site was not possible.

A total of five linear features and two circular features were present, all producing datable material, dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The work was carried out with a 2.6 tonne excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket.



**Figure 6:** All features plan features (scale 1:150)

4.2 **Description**

The site stratigraphy was fairly uniform with a dark greyish brown topsoil (001), 0.08m – 0.11m thick, overlying a mid-greyish brown fairly silty clay subsoil (002) which was between 0.10m –





0.12m thick. The natural geology was a mottled yellowish grey brown, very silty clay composition and was firm and sticky with occasional stones and flint (Fig. 7; Plates 1-3).



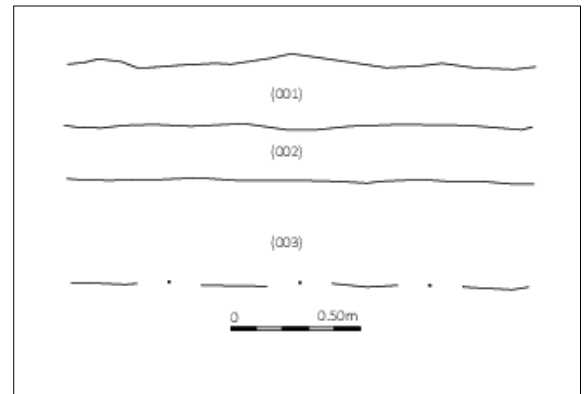
**Plate 1:** Overall site photo, post-ex, looking northeast



**Plate 2:** Overall site photo, post-ex, looking southwest



**Plate 3:** General site stratigraphy



**Figure 7:** Representative site stratigraphy

#### 4.3 *Phasing*

##### 11<sup>th</sup> century

The earliest feature was Ditch 1 that crossed the western part of the site in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction (Figs. 6, 8-11; Plates 4-5, 7). It was 2m wide, more than 18m long and 0.40m deep, with concave sides and a U-shaped base and had a single fill (005). Three slots were excavated in this ditch (Cuts [004], [014] & [018]) two of which contained fragments of 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Romano-British roof tile was also found in one of the cuts, which was probably intrusive.

Ditch 1 [004] cut the east-southeast to west-northwest aligned Ditch [006], which was 0.98m wide, at least 5m long and 0.34m deep (Figs. 6, 8-9; Plates 4, 6-7). It contained a single fill (007) with one pottery sherd dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery and another of 16<sup>th</sup> century date. There were also two complete handmade iron nails (App. 4) as well as CBM, shell and a possible coal fragment.

Both ditches had silted up over time, as was the case with the other features excavated.

A relationship slot between Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] was extended to see the full profile sections of both ditches (Fig. 9).



**Plate 4:** North-northwest facing section of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006]



**Plate 5:** South-southwest facing section of Ditch 1 [004]



**Plate 6:** East-southeast facing section of Ditch [006]



**Plate 7:** Plan shot of Ditch 1 [004] and [006], looking south-southeast

### 12<sup>th</sup> century

A large pit [012] was excavated as part of the relationship slot with Ditch 1 [014] (Figs. 6, 8 & 10; Plate 8). The pit, which was 4.5m in diameter and 0.43m deep, had steep sides and a flat base, and was immediately flooded with water. It was seen to cut Ditch 1 [014] and the single pottery sherd recovered from the fill (013) dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The purpose of the pit is uncertain, but it may have been used as a water-hole for animals.



**Plate 8:** South-southeast facing section of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014]



A small pit [020], 0.53m in diameter and 0.28m deep, was located in the south-west corner of the site (Figs. 6, 8 & 10; Plate 9). It had concave sides and a V-shaped base and contained 3 sherds of pottery and 1 fragment of CBM in its single fill (021).



**Plate 9:** Southwest facing section of Pit [020]

Two slots were excavated in Ditch 2, (Cuts [016] and [022]), which was 1.82m wide and 0.37m deep. It crossed the southern end of the site from west-northwest to east-southeast and cut Ditch 1 [018] (Figs 6, 8 & 11; Plates 10-12). Ditch 2 [022] had a slightly sandy clay fill (023), which appears to have been the result of silting. It contained animal bone, iron nails and one piece of 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery.



**Plate 10:** East-southeast facing section of Ditch 2 [022]



**Plate 11:** South-southwest facing section of the relationship slot for Ditch 1 [016] and Ditch 2 [022]



**Plate 12** West-northwest facing section of the relationship slot for Ditch 1 [016] and Ditch 2 [022]



## 17<sup>th</sup> century

Two north-northeast to south-southwest aligned gullies ([008] and [010]) were exposed at the eastern end of the excavation area (Figs 6, 8 & 12; Plates 13-15) They converged 2.6m from the northern limit of excavation, just south of the excavated slot. Gully [008] was 0.82m wide and 0.22m deep, while gully [010] was 0.67m wide and 0.16m deep. Two sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery, animal bone and iron nails were found in the single fill (011) of Gully [010].



**Plate 13:** North facing section of Gullies [008] and [010]



**Plate 14:** South-southwest facing section of Gullies [008] and [010]



**Plate 15:** Plan shot of Gullies [008] and [010], looking east-southeast

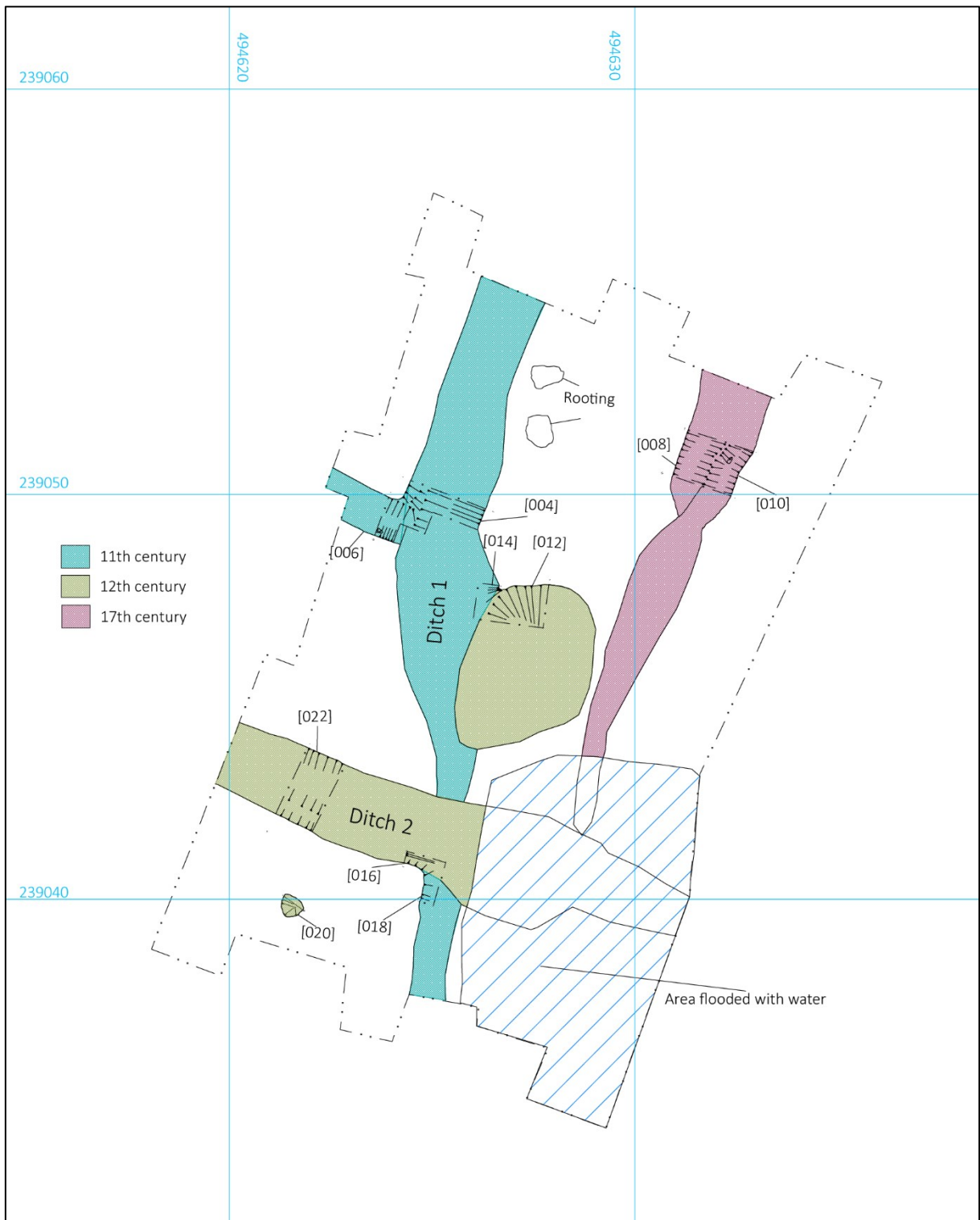
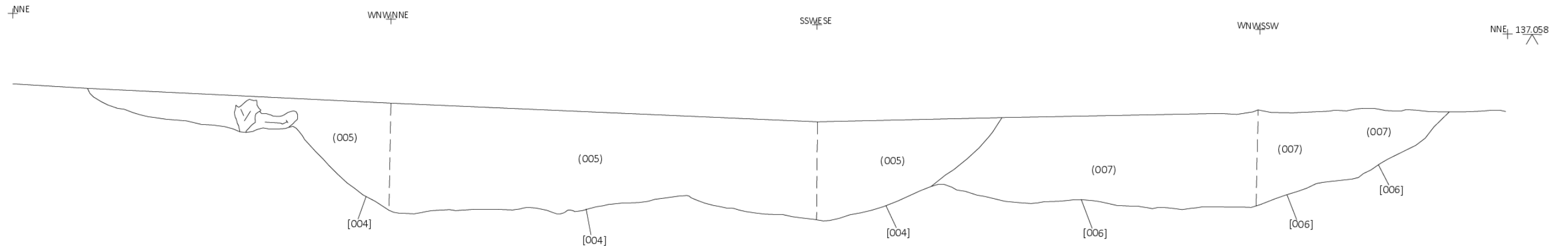


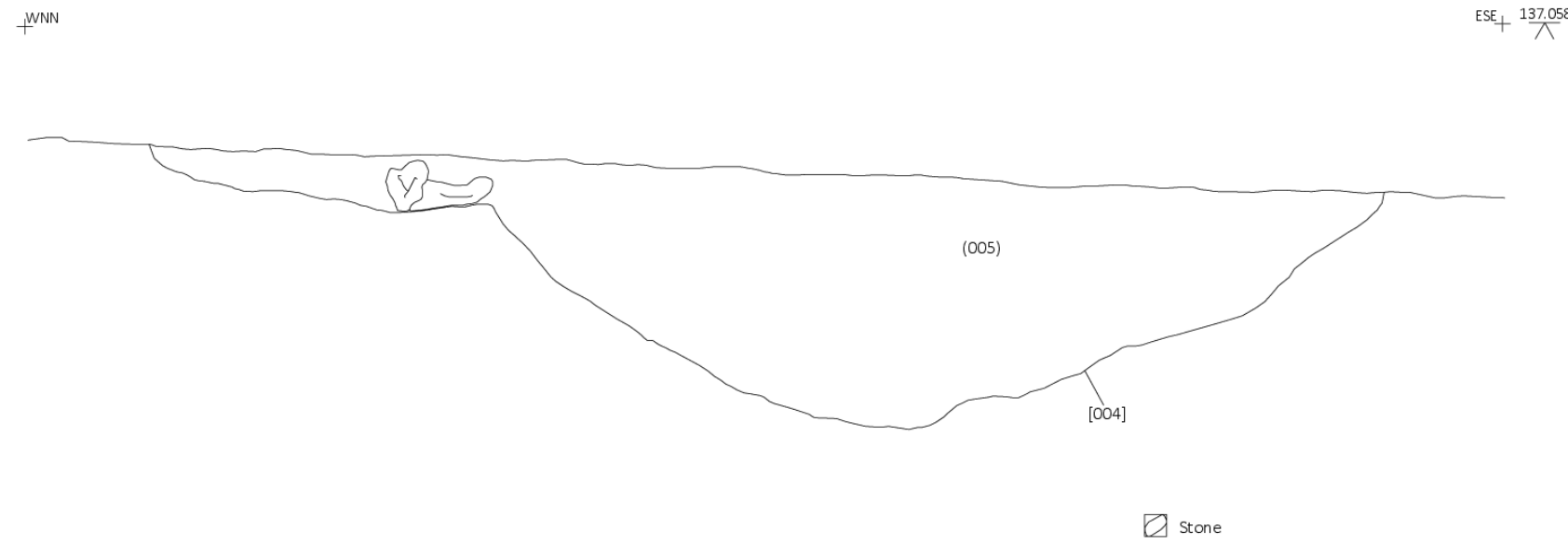
Figure 8: Phasing plan (scale 1:150)



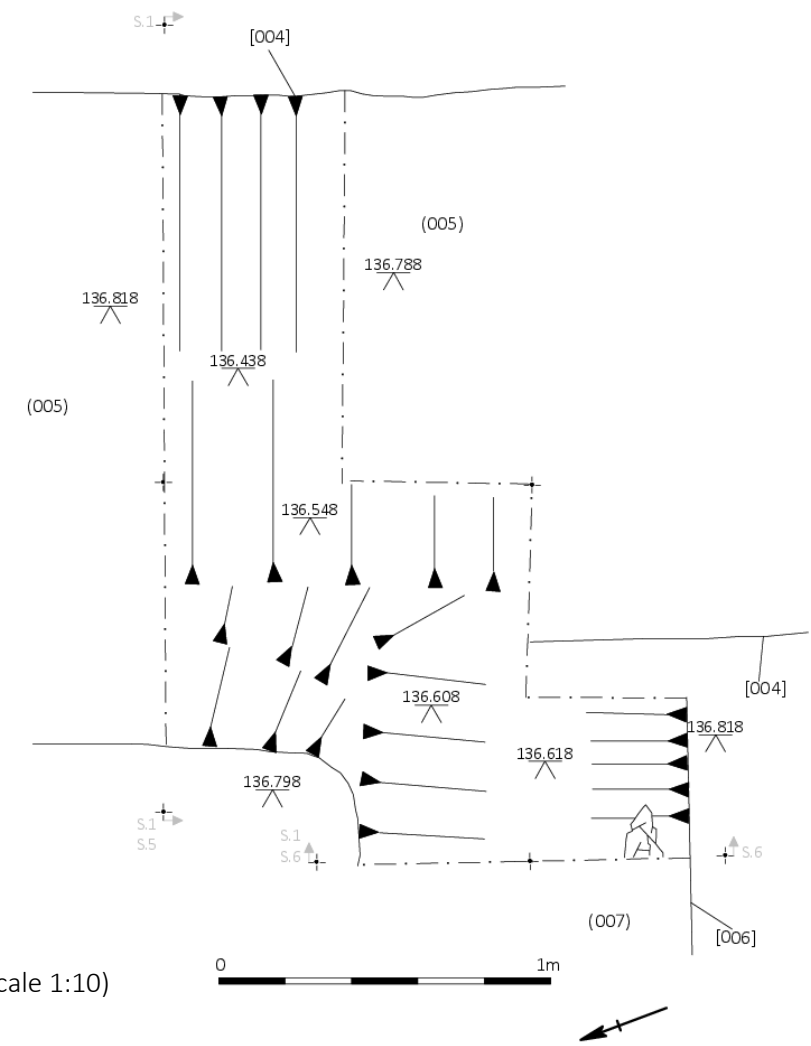
Running section of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006]



South south west facing section of Ditch 1 [004]



Plan of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006]



East south east facing section of Ditch [006]

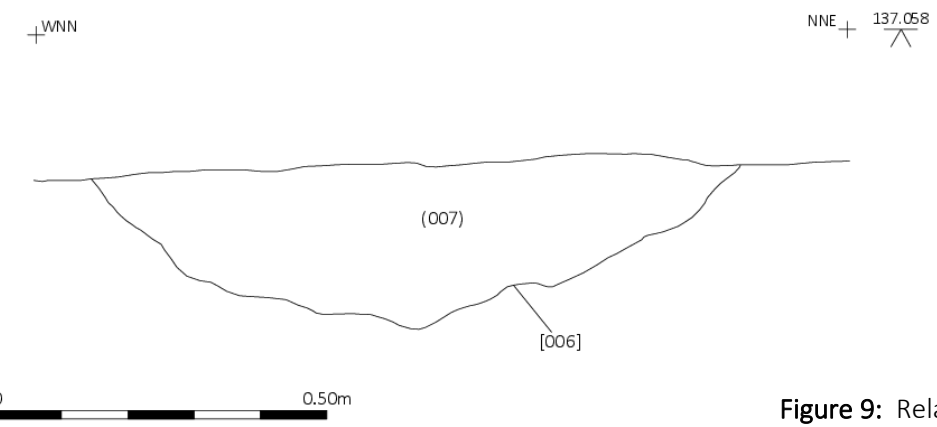
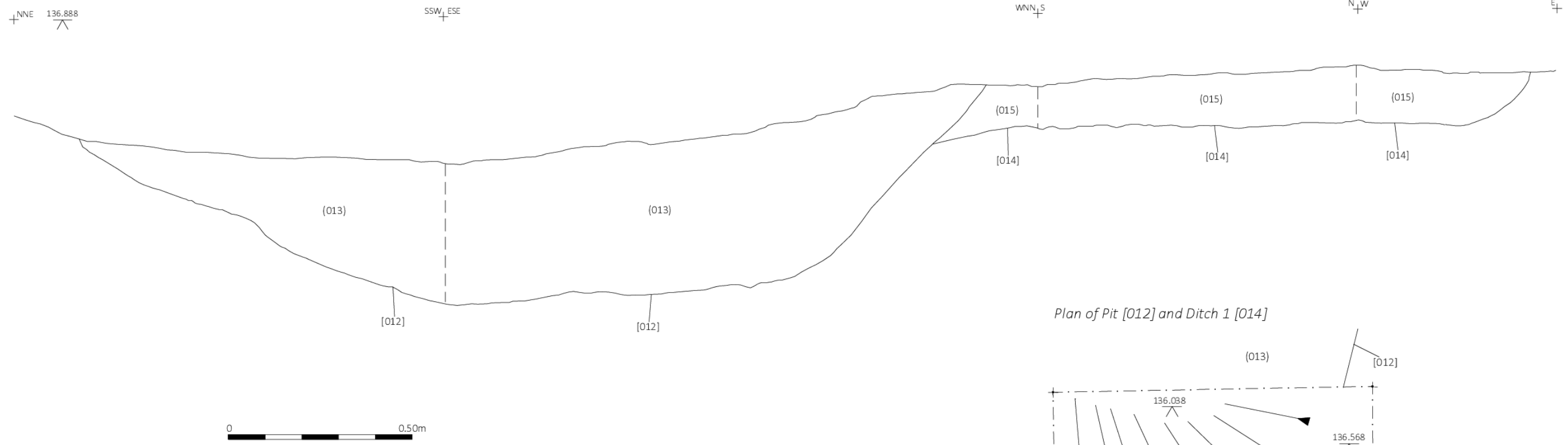


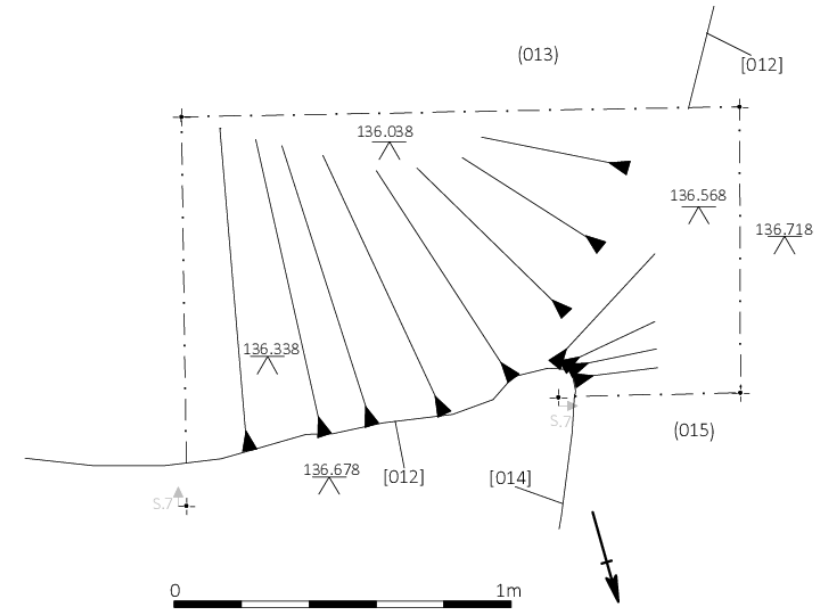
Figure 9: Relationship slot and full profile sections of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] (scale 1:10)



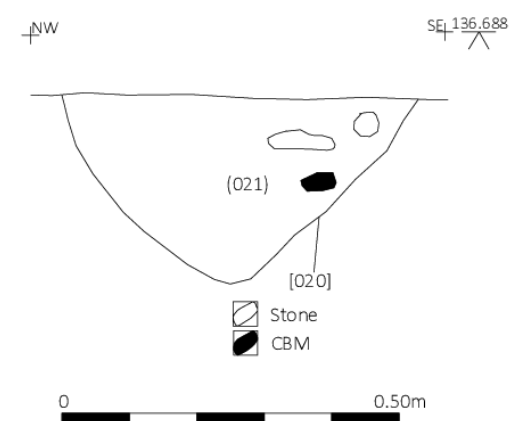
Running section of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014]



Plan of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014]



Southwest facing section of Pit [020]



Plan of Pit [020]

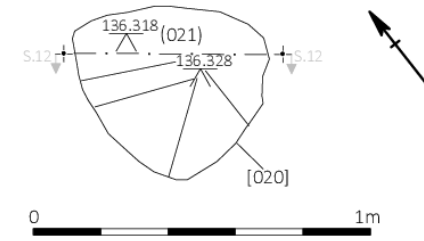
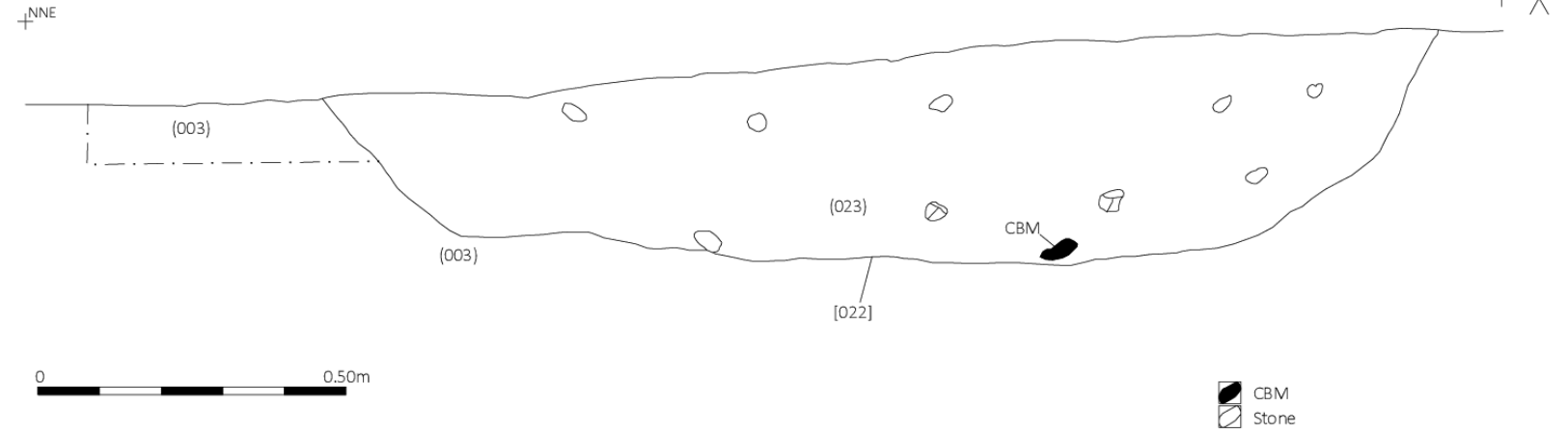


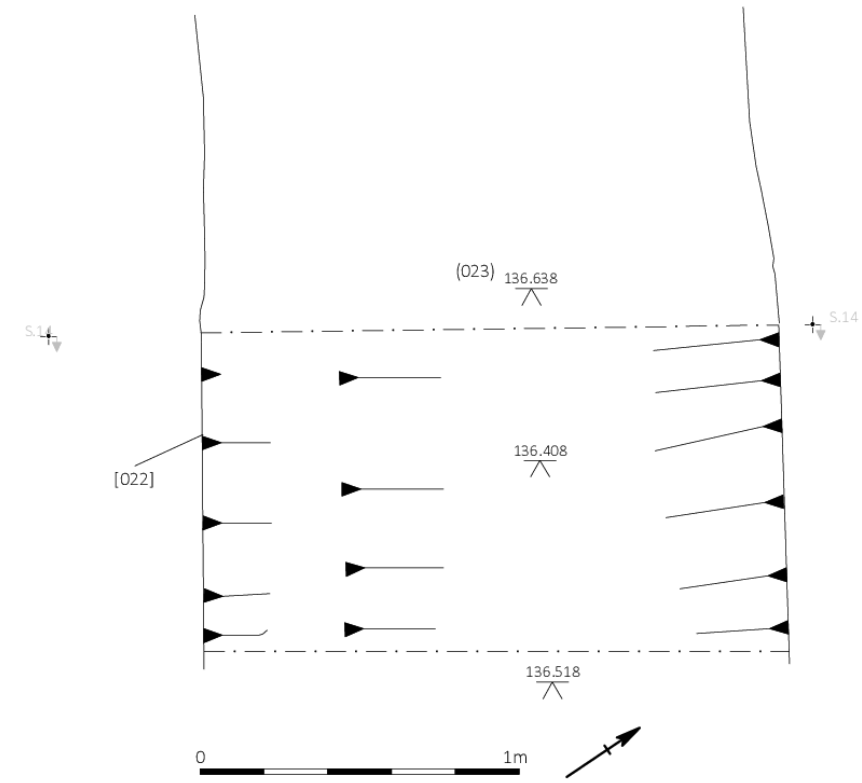
Figure 10: Running section and plan of Pit [012] and Ditch 1 [014] and section and plan of Pit [020] (scale 1:20 & 1:10 as shown)



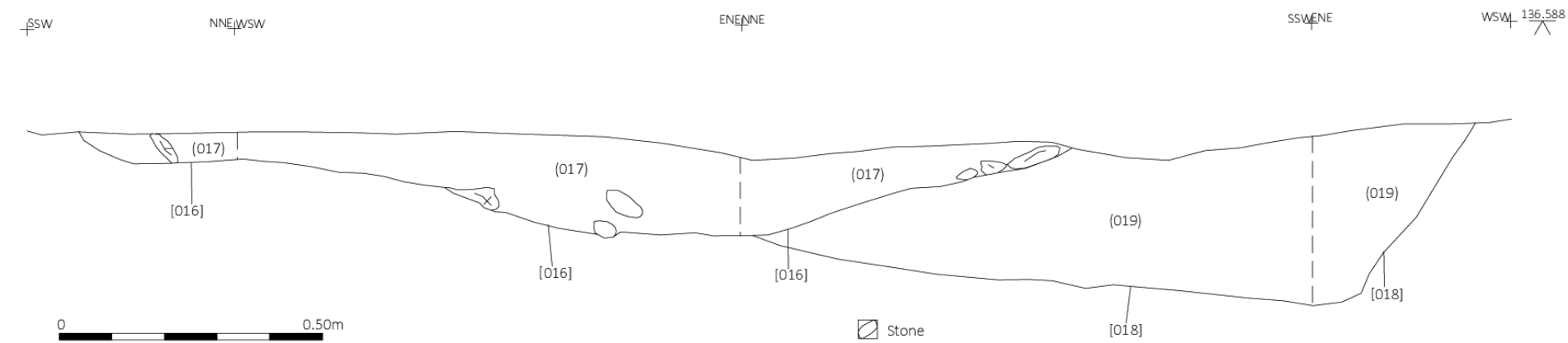
West north west facing section of Ditch 2 [022]



Plan of Ditch 2 [022]



Running section of Ditch 2 [016] and Ditch 1 [018]



Plan of Ditch 2 [016] and Ditch 1 [018]

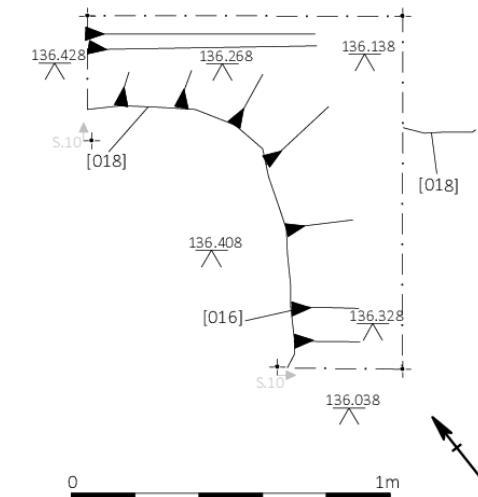


Figure 11: Plan and section of Ditch 2 [022] and running section and plan of Ditch 2 [016] and Ditch 1 [018] (scale 1:20 and 1:10 as shown).



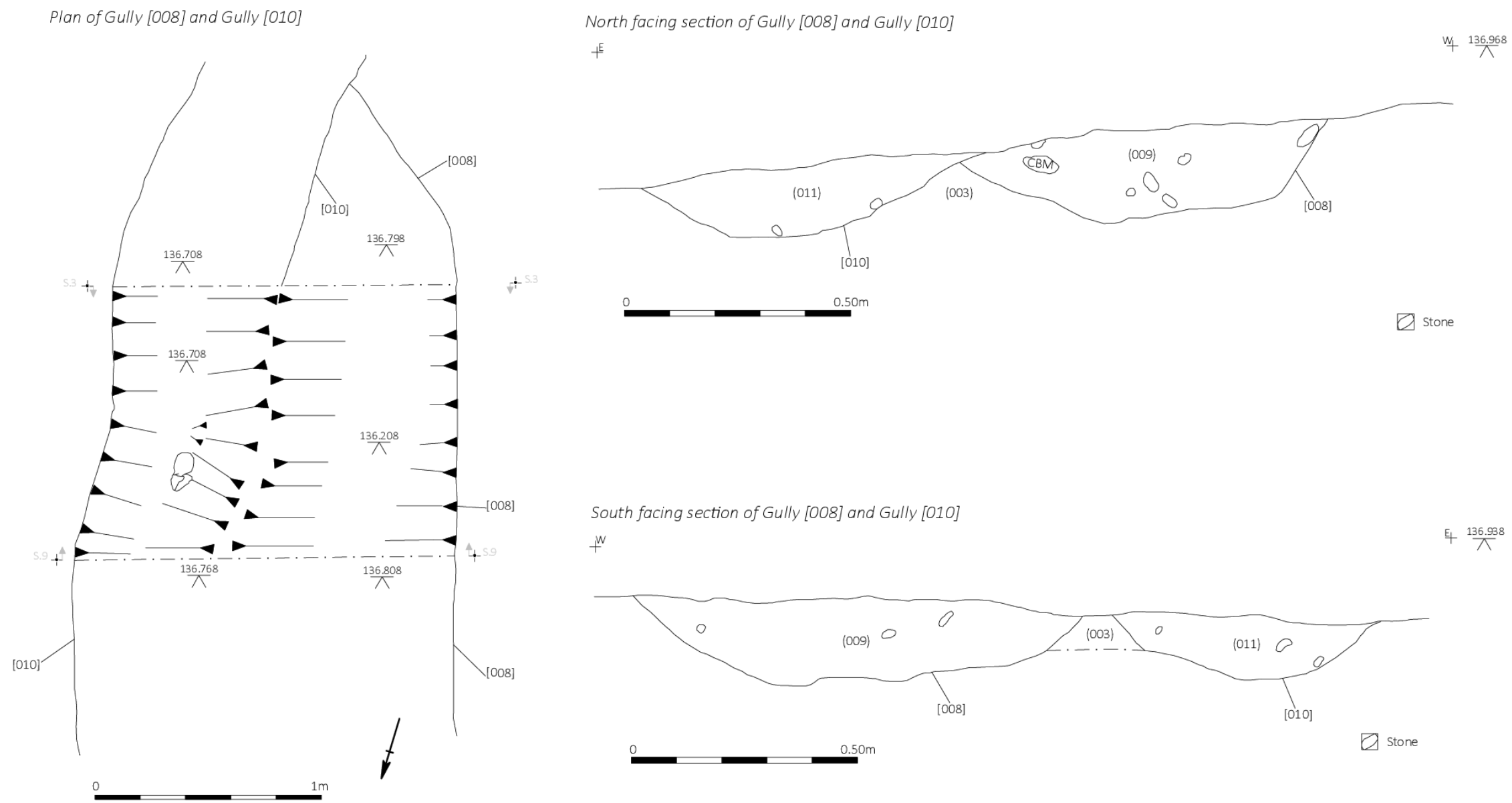


Figure 12: Plan and sections of Gully [008] and Gully [010] (scale 1:20 and 1:10 as shown).



## 5 Conclusions

The Archaeological Watching Brief, undertaken by KDK Archaeology in April 2023 recorded seven archaeological features, consisting of 3 ditches, 2 gullies and 2 pits spread across the site. The silty fills, the small number of finds and the downhill oriented linear features are a probable indication for water management and drainage.

The footprint of the barn is located within a depression in the ground, sloping gently eastwards towards the road. During the excavation, parts of the field were constantly waterlogged, probably as a result of being fed by several small springs,(Paul Harris pers. comm). It would seem that drainage has been a problem on the site since at least the medieval period.

The pottery assemblage found in the archaeological features dates from two distinct phases, the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century and the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century. The very small number of pottery sherds suggests that the site was outside the occupation area, probably on land that was used as pasture rather than arable farming. Animal bone, either sheep or goat was present in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> century features, while the 16<sup>th</sup> century and 17<sup>th</sup> century contained half an oyster shell and the remains of a pig (Watson 2023). Iron nails were found in Ditch [022] and Gully [010]. The length of these nails suggests they were use for construction rather than horseshoes.

The two tile fragments found in the fills of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] indicates the presence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site (Blinkhorn 2023).

The archaeological investigations encountered a surprisingly large number of densely-packed features mostly of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century date but with finds demonstrating that human activity in this area dates back at least to Roman period. The features are located, both now and when first utilised, within an agricultural setting, while the finds are indicative of nearby settlement activity, probably related to the shrunken medieval villages of Hulcote and Salford and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Rook Tree Farmhouse. Therefore, the records produced from the excavation have been able to address some of the original research aims of the project, such as the date, nature and extent of activity on the site and how it relates to its contemporaneous landscape.



---

## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Paul Harris for commissioning this report. Thanks are also due to Sam Mellonie of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents; and to Clara Schonfeld and Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT) for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Florian Weber MA ACIfA and Barney King PCIfA. The report was written by Florian Weber MA ACIfA, with specialist reports from Paul Blinkhorn, Derek Watson PhD and Phyllida Broadway MA PCIfA. It was 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. Specialist reports

7.2 The archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum, Bedford (BEDFM 2022/130)

7.3 The digital archive will be deposited with ADS according to their latest guidelines and a copy of the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) will be sent to the HER team upon submission.



## 8 References

### *Standards & Specifications*

- Allen J. L. & Holt A. St J. 1986 (with later updates) *Health & Safety in Field Archaeology*. London: Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers
- Archaeology Data Service. 2014. *Guidelines Depositors*. Version 2.0 September 2014. University of York
- 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*
- 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 an Archaeological Watching Brief*. 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 2022 *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- The East of England Regional Research Framework 2023, <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- EH 2008 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation*. London: English Heritage
- EH 2010 *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*. London: English Heritage
- Ferguson L. M. & Murray D. M. 1997 *Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Paper 1
- 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
- The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum. 2022. *Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire. V2.8, 2010, updated 2022*. The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
- 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

Watson D. 2022. *Written Scheme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording: Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm, Hulcote, Bedfordshire*. KDK Library ref 748/HRT/1.1

### ***Secondary Sources***

BA 2023 Hulcote Index of Pages. Bedfordshire Archives  
<https://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/CommunityHistories/Hulcote/HulcotePagesIndex.aspx>

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

Brown N. & Glazebrooke J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8

Medlycott M. (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Re-visited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Oake M., Luke M., Dawson M., Edgeworth M. and Murphy P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology - Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology 9

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



## Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	View	Subject
2513	NE	Overview photo
2514	NE	Overview photo
2515	SE	Overview photo
2516	SW	Overview photo
2517	NE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2518	NNNE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2519	NNE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2520		Void
2521	NNE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2522	NNE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2523	NNE	Stratigraphy of foundation pit
2524	NNE	Overview photo
2525	SE	Overview photo
2542	NNE	SSW facing section of ditch [004]
2543	ESE	WNW facing section of ditch [004]
2544	SSW	NNE facing section of ditch [004] and ditch [006]
2545	WNW	ESE facing section of ditch [006]
2546	NNE	SSW facing section of full profile ditch [006]
2547	NNE	SSW facing section of full profile ditch [004]
2548	S	North facing section of gully [008] & [010]
2549	ESE	ESE overview of gullies [008]&[010]
2550	WNW	ESE facing section of full profile of ditch [006]
2551	SSE	Ditches [004] and [006]
2552	NNE	SSW facing section of ditch [008] and ditch [010]
2553	ESE	WNW facing section of pit [012] and ditch [014]
2554	NNE	SSW facing section of pit [012] and ditch [014]
2555	NNE	SSW facing section of pit [012] and ditch [014]
2556	W	East facing section of pit [012] and ditch [016]
2557	N	South facing section of pit [012] and ditch [016]
2558	SSE	Pit [012] and ditch [014]
2559	WNW	ESE facing section of ditch [016]
2560	NNE	SSW facing section of ditch [016]
2561	ESE	WNW facing section of ditch [016] and ditch [018]
2562	SSW	NNE facing section of ditch [016] and ditch [018]
2563	NNE	SW facing section of pit
2564	NNE	Pit [020]
2565	WNW	ESE facing section of ditch [022]
2566	WNW	Detail of ESE facing section of ditch [022]
2567	SW	SW facing overview of [022]
2568	NE	Post-ex site photo
2569	SW	Post-ex site photo
2570	SW	Post-ex site photo
2571	N	Overview photo



## Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context Numbers		Pot		Bone		CBM		Fe objects		Glass		Shell		Other		
Fill	Cut	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	No.	Gms	Notes
005	004	3	30			4	242									
007	006	2	19	4	94	1	46	2	15			1	8	1	13	Coal?
011	010	2	9	5	49			1	7							
013	012	1	8	2	12									3	23	Coal?
019	018	1	4	2	17											
021	020	3	44			1	16									
023	022	2	5	8	123			2	5							
<b>Total</b>		14	119	21	295	6	304	5	27			1	8	4	36	





## Appendix 3: Excavation Summary Tables

### Context Table

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
(001)	Topsoil	D: 0.08m-0.11m	Dark greyish brown, fairly silty sandy clay, fairly loose soft, Occasional Sub-angular stones <20mm
(002)	Subsoil	D: 0.10m – 0.12m	Fairly silty clay, fairly compact, Occasional Sub-rounded stones <20mm
(003)	Natural geology		Mottled yellowish grey brown, very silty clay, very firm but/and sticky, occasional Sub-angular stones <20mm, occasional sub-angular flint <50mm
[004]	Cut of ditch	2m x >18m x 0.40m	Cut of ditch, Linear, concave, U-Shaped, ESE – WNW orientated
(005)	Fill of ditch [004]	2m x >18m x 0.40m	Mid greyish brown, Fairly silty clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones <20mm, pottery, bone
[006]	Cut of ditch	0.98m x >5m x 0.34m	Cut of ditch, linear, concave, u-shaped, ESE-WNW orientated
(007)	Fill of ditch [006]	0.98m x 12.6 x 0.34m	Dark greyish brown, fairly silty clay, fairly compact, occasional sub-angular stones <20mm, pottery
[008]	Cut of gully	0.82m x 12.6m x 0.22m	Cut of gully, linear, <45 degrees, flat, NNW-SSW orientated
(009)	Fill of gully [008]	0.82m x >2m x 0.22m	Light orangey grey brown, slightly sandy clay, slightly soft but friable, moderate sub-angular flint <20mm, occasional rounded stones <10mm, pottery, bone fe nails
[010]	Cut of gully	0.67m x >3.5m x 0.16m	Cut of gully, linear <45 degrees, u-shaped, NNE-SSW orientated
(011)	Fill of gully [010]	0.67m x >3.5m x 0.16	Mid brownish grey, slightly silty clay, fairly firm but friable, , occasional rounded stones <10mm, pottery bone, fe nails
[012]	Cut of pit	0.98m x 4.5m x 0.43	Cut of pit, circular, steep, u-shaped
(013)	Fill of pit [012]	0.98m x 4.5m x 0.43	Dark brownish grey, fairly silty clay, fairly firm but friable, occasional rounded stones <10mm, pottery, bone
[014]	Cut of ditch	0.20m x >18m x 0.15m	Cut ditch, linear, >45 degrees, u-shaped, N-S orientated
(015)	Fill of ditch [014]	0.20m x >18m x 0.15m	Mid greyish brown, fairly silty clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones, <20mm,
[016]	Cut of ditch	0.30m (min) x 18m x (min) 0.20m	Cut of ditch, linear, <45 degrees, u-shaped, ESE-WNW orientated
(017)	Fill of ditch [016]	0.30m (min) x 18m x (min) x 0.20m	Mid greyish brown, Fairly silty clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones <20mm
[018]	Cut of ditch	0.30m x more than 18m x 0.34m	Cut of ditch, linear, <45 degrees, u-shaped, ESE-WNW orientated
(019)	Fill of ditch [018]	0.30m x more than 18m x 0.34m	Mid greyish brown, Fairly silty clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones <20mm, pottery, bone
[020]	Cut of pit	0.53m x 0.53m x 0.28m	Cut of pit, circular, concave, v-shaped base.
(021)	Fill of pit [020]	0.53m x 0.53m x 0.28m	Mid greyish brown, fairly silty clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones >20mm, pottery, CBM
[022]	Cut of ditch	1.82m x <2m x 0.37m	Cut of ditch, linear, >45 degrees, u-shaped, ESE-WNW orientated
(023)	Fill of ditch [022]	1.82m x <2m x 0.37m	Mid yellowish brown, slightly silty sandy clay, fairly firm, occasional sub-angular stones >20mm, pottery, bone, fe nail



### Plan Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	2	1:20	Plan of ditch 004 and ditch 006
2	4	1:20	Plan of [008] & [010]
4	8	1:20	Plan of pit [012] and ditch [014]
4	11	1:20	Plan of ditch [016] and ditch [018]
4	13	1:20	Plan of pit [020]
2	15	1:20	Plan of [022] ditch

### Section Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Contexts
1	1	1:10	Running section of ditch [004] and gully [006]
2	3	1:10	North facing section of gullies [008] & [010]
3	5	1:10	SSW facing section of ditch [004]
3	6	1:10	ESE facing section of ditch [006]
3	7	1:10	Running section of pit [012] and ditch [014]
2	9	1:10	South facing section of gullies [008] & [010]
4	10	1:10	Running section of ditch [016] and ditch [018]
4	12	1:10	Cut of pit [020]
2	14	1:10	WNW section of [022] ditch

### Levels Register

Number	Drawing	TBM	BS	IH	FS	RL
1	1/1	137.868	1.14	139.008	1.95	137.058
2	2 /3	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.04	136.968
3	2/ 4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.3	136.708
4	2/4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.45	136.558
5	2/4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.24	136.768
6	2/4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.2	136.808
7	2/4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.8	136.208
8	2/4	137.868	1.14	139.008	2.21	136.798
9	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.12	136.818
10	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.5	136.438
11	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.15	136.788
12	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.39	136.548
13	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.14	136.798
14	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.33	136.608
15	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.32	136.618
16	1/2	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.12	136.818
17	3/7	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.05	136.888
18	4/8	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.26	136.678
19	4/8	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.6	136.338
20	4/8	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.9	136.038
21	4/8	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.37	136.568
22	4/8	137.868	1.07	138.938	2.22	136.718
23	2/9	137.868	1.07	138.938	2	136.938
24	4/10	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.4	136.588
25	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.56	136.428
26	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.72	136.268
27	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.85	136.138
28	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.66	136.328
29	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.95	136.038



---

<b>Number</b>	<b>Drawing</b>	<b>TBM</b>	<b>BS</b>	<b>IH</b>	<b>FS</b>	<b>RL</b>
30	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.64	136.348
31	4/11	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.58	136.408
32	4/12	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.3	136.688
33	4/13	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.67	136.318
34	4/13	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.66	136.328
35	2/14	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.25	136.738
36	2/15	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.35	136.638
37	2/15	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.68	136.308
38	2/15	137.868	1.12	138.988	2.47	136.518



## Appendix 4: Specialist Reports

### Pottery and CBM from a Watching Brief of Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire (Site 748/HRT)

Paul Blinkhorn

#### Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised 14 sherds with a total weight of 112g. It was all Saxo-Norman or later. It was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1979; Stainsbie 2007, 237), as follows:

B01A: T1 (2) type St. Neots Ware, AD1000-1200. 8 sherds, 70g.

B07: Medieval Shelly Ware, AD1100-1400. 1 sherd, 8g.

C03: Fine Sandy Reduced Ware, 12th - 13th century. 1 sherd, 8g.

C60: Hertfordshire-type Greyware, mid/late 12th – mid 14th century. 1 sherd, 3g.

P01: Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 18th century. 2 sherds, 16g.

P33: Tin-glazed Earthenware, 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 7g.

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.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. The entire assemblage consisted of plain bodysherds other than two rimsherds from turned-rim B01A bowls which occurred in contexts 5 and 21. The sherd of P33 is from a shallow dish or plate with painted polychrome decoration on the inner surface. These are typical products of their respective traditions. Overall, the assemblage is in fairly good condition and generally appears to be reliably stratified.

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

Cntxt	B01A		B07		C03		C60		P01		P33		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
5	3	28											11thC
7	1	3							1	15			16thC
11									1	1	1	7	17thC
13			1	8									12thC
19	1	4											11thC
21	2	33			1	8							12thC
23	1	2					1	3					M12thC
Total	8	70	1	8	1	8	1	3	2	16	1	7	

#### CBM

Two contexts each produced Romano-British tile. The sample from context 5 weighed 223g and was 25mm thick. It has a red fabric with a grey upper surface and is hard with dense sand and rare fine flint. The other sample, from context 7, weighed 45g and is in a grey fabric with orange-red surfaces. It contains very fine iron-rich sand, and is 15mm thick.

Two contexts each produced an amorphous fragments of fine red daub with rare flint inclusions. That from context 5 weighed 10g while the other, from context 21, weighed 15g. Both are undateable.



---

## Bibliography

Baker, E and Hassall, E. 1979 The Pottery in D Baker, E Baker, J Hassall and A Simco Excavations in Bedford 1967-1977 *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* **13**, 147 – 239



---

## Animal Bone from a Watching Brief of Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire (748/HRT)

Derek Watson

### Introduction

A Watching Brief of Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire, generated an animal bone assemblage of 19 fragments (0.295kg bone dry weight; Table 1). Fragmentary animal bones, and an oyster shell, were recovered from the fills of ditches and a pit. Available dates, based on the spot dating of pottery (Blinkhorn, this volume), span the medieval (11th - 12th centuries) and post-medieval periods (16th -17th centuries).

Methodology: Taxonomic identification and Quantification

All elements were identified to species or taxonomic groups, where possible, and quantified by a fragment count that grouped the fragments when they could be conjoined (Number of Identified Specimens; NISP=18 specimens; Table 1). The remains of three species were conclusively identified in the assemblage: horse (*Equus caballus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), and the native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). 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 terms ovicaprine or ovicaprid. Specimens that were not identifiable to species were assigned to size classes (i.e., small/large mammal). As most elements were assigned to broad size classes, it is probable that some of the specimens assigned to the small mammal classes may be the remains of ovicaprines, or similar-sized animals, and the large fragments might, for example, be those of cattle or horses; though other species may be represented.

The high fragmentation of the small assemblage precluded any estimation of age-at-death or the capture of any metric data. No forms of surface modification (e.g., gnawing/burning) or butchery were observed in the assemblage.

The MNI (minimum number of individuals) is calculated from the greater number of left or right complete bones or epiphyseal ends, and/or mandibles with in situ teeth. On this basis, the remains comprise no more than a single individual in each context.

### 11th – 12th Centuries

The elements of the species represented were found in the fills of Ditches [004 & 202] and a large pit [012], and comprised a horse and an ovicaprid

### 16th – 17th Centuries

These remains were recovered from the fills of two ditches [006 & 010] and comprise a half shell of an oyster and, based on the canine, a male pig.

### Discussion and Conclusions

As the animal bone assemblage from the site is small and highly fragmented it is difficult to formulate any reliable conclusions concerning human activities and animal exploitation. The species represented are quite typical of those found in medieval and post-medieval sites/contexts in England. The body parts represented in 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 the initial disarticulation of an animal



carcass. These elements are often incorporated into the fills of convenient cut features that were used for disposal.

Table 1: Animal bones from 748/HRT

Context	11th C		12th C		16th C	17th C	Undated	Totals
	5	19	13	23	7	11	15	
Species/Element	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)	# (%)
<b>Horse</b>			<b>2 (10.5)</b>					<b>2 (10.5)</b>
Metacarpal			1 (5.3)					1 (5.3)
Phal3			1 (5.3)					1 (5.3)
<b>Ovicaprine</b>	<b>2 (10.5)</b>							<b>2 (10.5)</b>
Scapula (single animal)	2 (10.5)							2 (10.5)
<b>Pig</b>						<b>3 (15.8)</b>		<b>3 (15.8)</b>
Maxilla + 3 molars						1 (5.3)		1 (5.3)
Mand. canine/tusk (male)						1 (5.3)		1 (5.3)
Scapula						1 (5.3)		1 (5.3)
<b>Small Mammal</b>			<b>1 (5.3)</b>				<b>1 (5.3)</b>	<b>2 (10.5)</b>
Radius			1 (5.3)					1 (5.3)
Fragment Indeterminate							1 (5.3)	1 (5.3)
<b>Large Mammal</b>	<b>1 (5.3)</b>		<b>2 (10.5)</b>		<b>4 (21.1)</b>	<b>1 (5.3)</b>		<b>8 (42.1)</b>
Metacarpal (unfused)					1 (5.3)			1 (5.3)
Vert (Unfused)					1 (5.3)			1 (5.3)
Rib	1 (5.3)							1 (5.3)
Fragment Indeterminate			2 (10.5)		2 (10.5)	1 (5.3)		5 (26.3)
<b>Oyster</b>					<b>1 (5.3)</b>			<b>1 (5.3)</b>
Flat					1 (5.3)			1 (5.3)
<b>Indeterminate</b>			<b>1 (5.3)</b>					<b>1 (5.3)</b>
Fragment			1 (5.3)					1 (5.3)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1 (5.3)</b>	<b>2 (10.5)</b>	<b>1 (5.3)</b>	<b>5 (26.3)</b>	<b>5 (26.3)</b>	<b>4 (21.1)</b>	<b>1 (5.3)</b>	<b>19 (100)</b>



## Nails from a Watching Brief of Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire (748/HRT)

Phyllida Broadway MA PCifA

A total of five iron nails of varying completeness were recovered during excavations at Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire. Four of the nails were found in medieval contexts and one is possibly post-medieval in date due to a pottery sherd found in the same context. Due to the size of the nails, it is likely they were all used in building construction.



**Plate 16:** Assemblage of iron nails

### Iron objects

Iron objects first appear in archaeological contexts in the middle Bronze Age but iron was not widely utilised until much later in the Iron Age. This in part is due to it being a harder process than its copper counterpart. Although it can be heated, hammered and drawn like copper its melting point is 1500°C and it is a difficult metal to purify. Once the practice of smelting Iron became widely adopted it replaced copper as the preferred material in which to make tools and weapons revolutionising farming and warfare practices (Shopland 2005:33).

All of the nails recovered from the site are handmade. Three of them had a rectangular shaft measuring 5mm in width and the other two had a square cross section with one shank being 4mm and the other 5mm wide.

#### *N1*

A near complete but corroded handmade iron nail was found in the fill of Gully [010], which contained 17th -18th century pottery fragments. The head is slightly domed, irregular in shape and 12mm wide. It was 63mm long, weighing 7g and was 5mm wide along the shaft. The shank has slight damage along its shaft, is rectangular in cross section and tapers slightly to a blunted tip.





**Plate 17: N1**

*N2, N3*

Two complete handmade iron nails were found in the fill of Ditch [006], which is probably 11<sup>th</sup> century. The top nail (N2) shown in Plates 18 & 19 below is 70mm has a slightly domed square head measuring 10mm wide and weighs 7g. The shank is rectangular in cross section is 5mm wide and tapers to a point at the distal tip.

The second nail below (N3) has a slightly more corroded head and is more irregular in shape than N2. It is 74mm long, 11mm wide at the head and weighs 8g. The shank is 5mm wide, rectangular in cross section and also tapers to a point. The nail is slightly bent.



**Plate 18: N2 (top) and N3 (bottom)**



**Plate 19: N2 (top) and N3 (bottom)**

*N4 and N5*

Two incomplete iron nails were found in the fill of Ditch [022] along with fragments of animal bone and pot sherd dating from the 12th century. The top nail (N4) shown in Plate 20 below has a complete protruding oblong shaped head that is 10mm wide. The shank is square in cross section and is 4mm wide at this point. It weighs 2g is 14mm long.

The second nail N5 (below) is also incomplete, has a square cut cross section and the shank is bent at the tip. It weighs 3gs is 42mm long and 5mm wide. Both nail fragments appear to be handmade and are corroded.



**Plate 20:** N4 and N5



## Appendix 5: Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
<b>Project Name &amp; Address</b>	Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire	<b>Project Site Code</b>	748/HRT
<b>OASIS reference</b>	kdkarcha1-512679	<b>Event/Accession no</b>	BEDFM 2022/130
<b>OS reference</b>	SP 9465 3903	<b>Study area size</b>	209m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Project Type</b>	Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording	<b>Height (mAOD)</b>	82m – 85m AOD
<b>Short Description</b>	<p>In April 2023, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Observation, Investigation &amp; Recording at Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire. In accordance with the proposed development plan, the reduction of the ground was carried out within the footprint of the new barn building.</p> <p>During the monitoring of the works, linear and circular archaeological features have been discovered, containing Medieval pottery, CBM and animal bone.</p>		
<b>Previous work</b>	None	<b>Site status</b>	None
<b>Planning proposal</b>	Agricultural Barn for hay storage and livestock	<b>Current land use</b>	Pasture
<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	Central Bedfordshire Council	<b>Planning application ref.</b>	CB/21/04129/Full
<b>Monument type</b>	Ditches, gullies and pits	<b>Monument period</b>	Medieval and early post-medieval
<b>Significant finds</b>	None	<b>Future work</b>	No
RESEARCH AIMS			
<b>Research framework</b>	<b>Section /Question</b>	<b>Summary of outcome</b>	
East of England Research Framework	Med (Rural) 03: How can we improve our understanding of medieval agricultural practices?	The ditches crossing the site suggest field drainage, probably from a high groundwater table or springs.	
East of England Research Framework	Med (Rural) 14: How can we characterise and explain medieval rural settlement change, evolution and abandonment?	Hulcote is a good example of settlement activity dating from the 11 <sup>th</sup> to the 17 <sup>th</sup> century, when villages like Hulcote or Salford were larger and the actual site was probably in vicinity of a settlement.	
PROJECT CREATORS			
<b>Organisation</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
<b>Project Brief originator</b>	N/A	<b>Project Design originator</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd
<b>Project Manager</b>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<b>Director/Supervisor</b>	Florian Weber MA ACIfA
<b>Sponsor/funding body</b>	Paul Harris		
PROJECT DATE			
<b>Start date</b>	16.03.2023	<b>End date</b>	18.04.2023
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)</b>	
<b>Physical</b>	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Finds	
<b>Paper</b>	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Report, WSI, site records, photographs	
<b>Digital</b>	OASIS/ADS	Digital archive	



<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
<b>Title</b>	Archaeological Observation & Recording: Land Adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire		
<b>Serial title &amp; volume</b>	KDK Archaeology Report 748/HRT/2.2		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Florian Weber MA ACIfA		
<b>Page no's</b>	42	<b>Date</b>	29.06.2023



---

## Appendix 6: OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID): kdkarcha1-512679

Project Name: Watching Brief at Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire

Sitename: Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire

Activity type: Watching Brief

Project Identifier(s): 748/HRT

Planning Id: CB/21/04129/Full

Reason For Investigation: Planning: Post determination

Organisation Responsible for work: KDK Archaeology Ltd

Project Dates: 16-Mar-2023 - 18-Apr-2023

Location: Land adjacent to Rook Tree Farm Road, Hulcote, Bedfordshire

NGR: SP 94650 39030 LL : 52.0415990818353, -0.621419134912073 12 Fig : 494650,239030

Administrative Areas: Country : England  
County : Bedfordshire  
District : Central Bedfordshire  
Parish : Hulcote and Salford

**Project Methodology:** The methods as outlined in the WSI were as follows: •Initially the archaeological Watching Brief included only the ground reduction within the foundation pits. However, due to the sloping ground, further excavation was necessary to level the area for the proposed barn. A strategy for investigating the archaeological features that were subsequently revealed was agreed to with Clara Schonfeld and Hannah Firth of Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBAT) and the client (Paul Harris). •The analysis of the results of the archaeological work with provisions for subsequent production of a report(s) and/or publication(s) of these results & an archive •Provisions necessary to protect the archaeological interests of the site

**Project Results:** The Archaeological Watching Brief, undertaken by KDK Archaeology in April 2023 recorded seven archaeological features, consisting of 3 ditches, 2 gullies and 2 pits spread across the site. The silty fills, the small number of finds and the downhill oriented linear features are a probable indication for water management and drainage. The footprint of the barn is located within a depression of the ground, sloping gently eastwards towards the road. During the excavation, parts of the field were constantly waterlogged, probably as a result of being fed by several small springs (Paul Harris pers. comm). It would seem that drainage has been a problem on the site since at least the medieval period. The pottery ensemble found in the archaeological features dates from two distinct phases, the 11th/12th century and the 16th/17th century. The very small number of pottery sherds suggests that the site was outside the occupation area, probably on land that was used as pasture rather than arable farming. Animal bone, either sheep or goat was present in the 11th and 12th century features, while the 16th century and 17th century contained half an oyster shell and the remains of a pig (Watson 2023). Iron nails were found in Ditch [022] and Gully [010]. The length of these nails suggests they were used for construction rather than horseshoes. The two tile fragments found in the fills of Ditch 1 [004] and Ditch [006] indicates the presence of Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site (Blinkhorn 2023). The archaeological investigations encountered a surprisingly large number of densely-packed features mostly of 11th/12th century date but with finds demonstrating that human activity in this area dates back at least to Roman period. The features are located, both now and when first utilised, within an agricultural setting, while the finds are indicative of nearby settlement activity, probably related to the shrunken medieval villages of Hulcote and



Salford and the 17th century Rook Tree Farmhouse. Therefore, the records produced from the excavation have been able to address some of the original research aims of the project, such as the date, nature and extent of activity on the site and how it relates to its contemporaneous landscape.

Keywords: Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types  
Gully - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types  
Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Animal Remains - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Nail - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Oyster Shell - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Tile - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Tile - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Butchered Animal Remains - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Butchered Animal Remains - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  
Nail - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus

Funder:

HER : Central Bedfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work;

HER Identifiers: HER Event No - 202223/129

Archive: Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with The Higgins Bedford; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;