



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road
Maulden
Bedfordshire

Museum Acc. No: BEDFM 2023/239



Quality Check

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<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	763/MCR/2.1	<i>Date</i>	15.12.2023
<i>Revision</i>	Karin Kaye MA MCIfA	<i>Version</i>	763/MCR/2.2	<i>Date</i>	05.02.2024

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Summary

In November 2023, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire in order to fulfil Condition 3 of planning permission for the development of the site. Fourteen trenches were excavated measuring 1.8m wide and 40m long, save for two that measured 32m and 8m long, to accommodate an overhead power cable. No archaeological features were identified apart from land drains. The ridge and furrow recorded as being present was not observed probably due to its extremely low profile.

1 Introduction

1.1 In November 2023, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Sheran Lobleby of M J Hillson Group Ltd, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Watson 2023), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/22/00588/OUT.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as Condition 3 of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

The development site is situated in the village and civil parish of Maulden, within the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire Council at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 0621 3783 (Fig. 1).

Description

The development site is a broadly rectangular parcel of land, measuring c.2.4 hectares, situated to the rear of Nos. 29-33 Clophill Road, and extending to the road (Fig. 2). The site is bounded to the south/southwest and southeast by residential and commercial properties located along Clophill Road, and to the west, north and east by open land.

Geology and Topography

The bedrock geology is sedimentary sandstone of the Woburn Sands Formation, formed between 126.3 and 100.5 million years ago during the Cretaceous period; the proposed development straddles an area that either has no superficial deposits (to the south) or has deposits of diamicton (sediment resulting from dry-land erosion) of the Oadby Member (to the north), formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>). The land rises to the north from c.85m to c.94m AOD.

Development

The development proposal is an outline application that calls for the demolition of an existing commercial building and the erection of up to 30 dwellings, together with all ancillary works, with all matters reserved except access (Fig. 3).



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

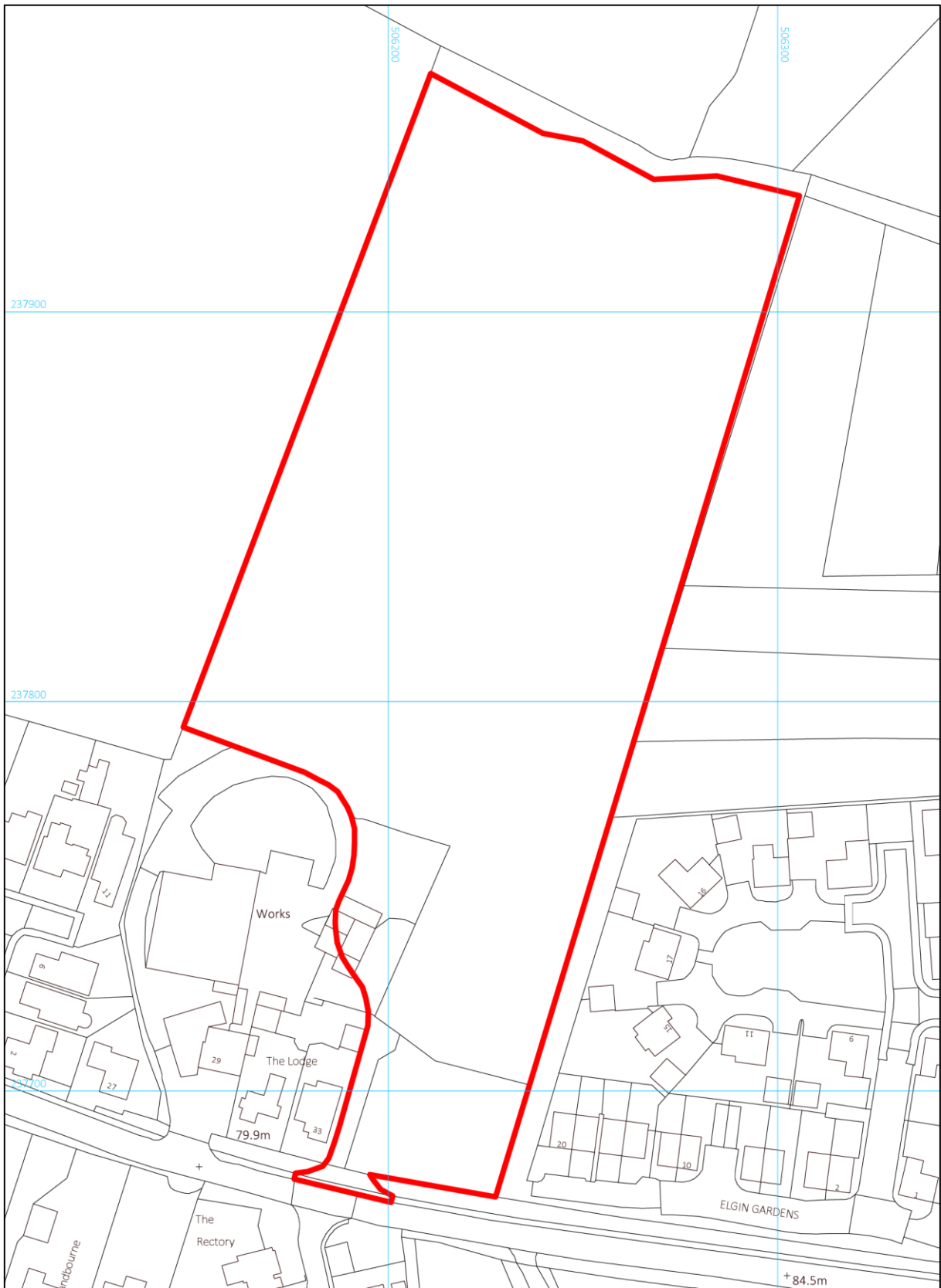


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)

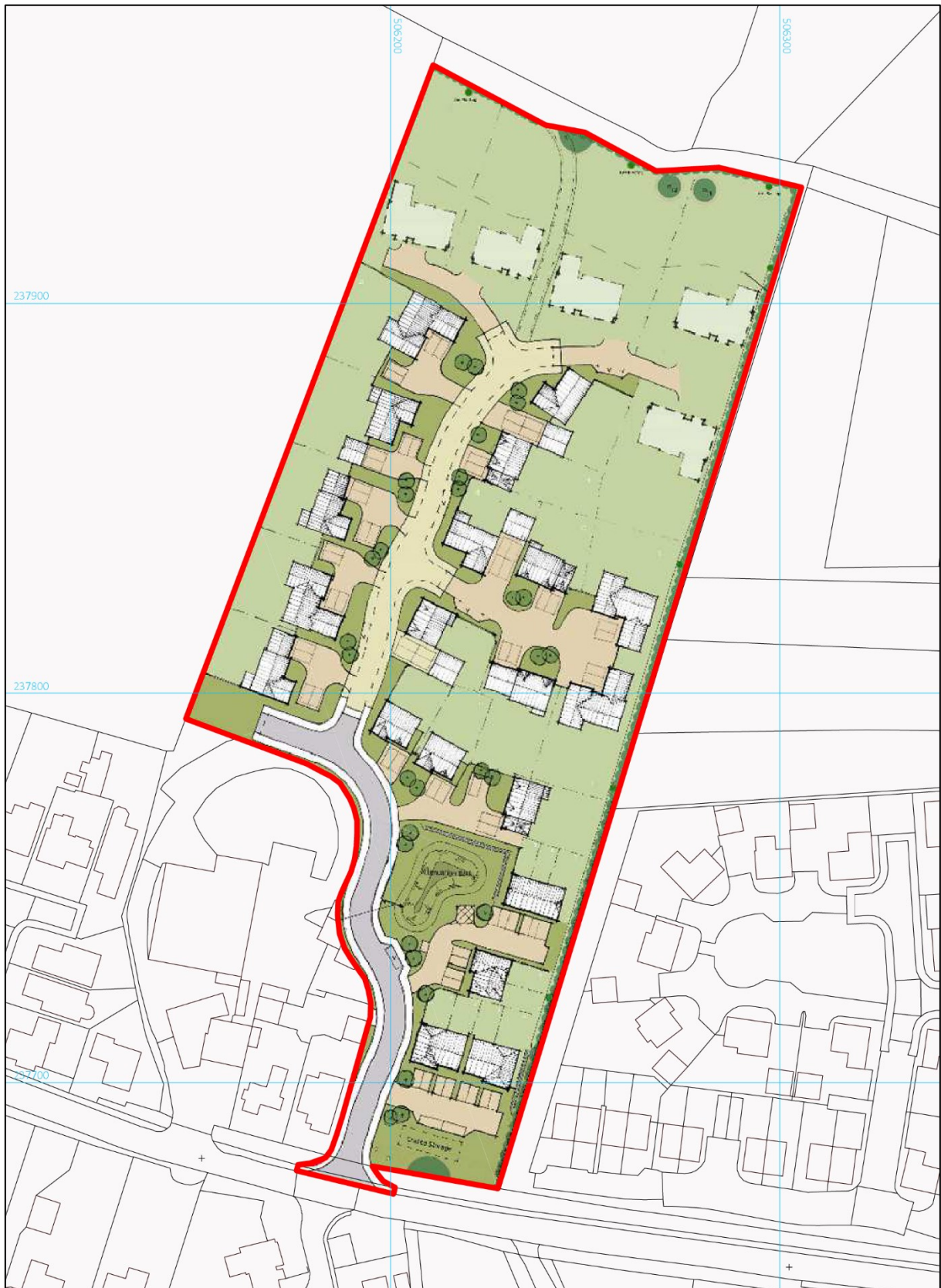


Figure 3: Development plan (scale 1:1,500)



2 Aims and Methods

2.1 Aims

The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Watson 2023) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

In addition, the research aims will *inter alia* consider various aspects of the development of rural Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements; their origins, morphology, diversity and ultimate success or failure (Wade 2000: 24-25; Oake 2007: 14; Medlycott 2011: 70; Edgeworth 2007: 121-123 and ALGAO East of England, 2021 The Regional Research Historic Environment Research Framework for the East of England).

2.2 Methods

The methods used were as follows:

- An archaeological field evaluation of the site, originally comprising thirteen 40m trenches measuring 1.8m wide (Fig. 4).
- This was carried out using a 9 tonne backhoe loader fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.
- The final trench layout was slightly altered to accommodate unforeseen obstacles. Trenches 8 and 10 were moved in order to avoid the existing access road and hard standing. In addition, Trench 13 was bisected in order to avoid excavating beneath overhead power cables. The longer 32m trench to the north of the cables remained Trench 13, and the shorter 8m trench to the south was renamed Trench 14 (Fig. 5).

2.3 Standards

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- 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)

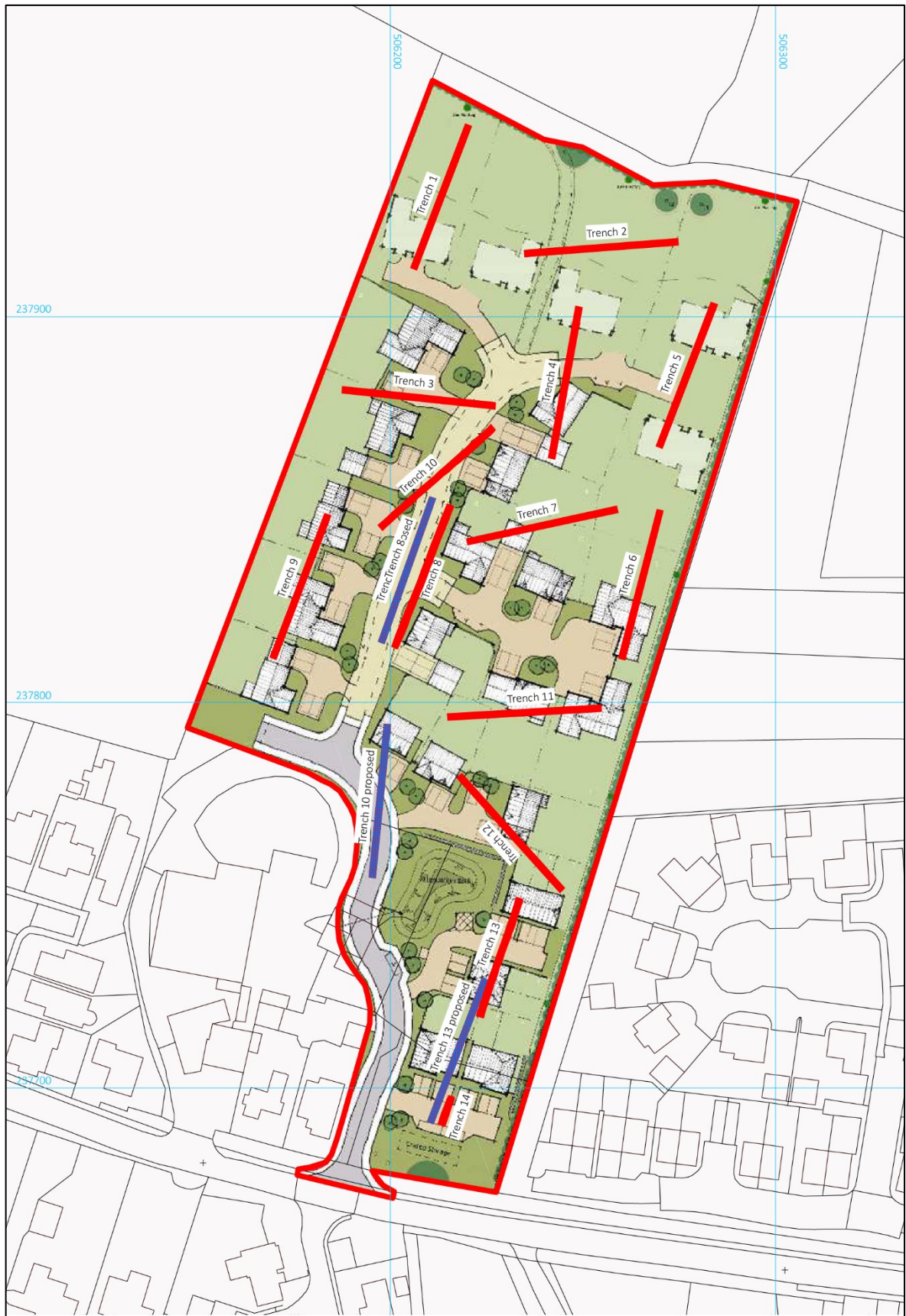


Figure 4: Trench location plan (scale 1:1500)



3 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The village of Maulden is situated in the Flit Vale, approximately 1km north of the River Flit and at the southern edge of the Greensand Ridge, between Ampthill and Shefford. Human activity in the Flit Vale dates from prehistory, and Iron Age and Romano-British settlements have been documented near Maulden. The modern settlement of Maulden has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period and the toponym is compounded from the Old English words *mael*, meaning cross or a crucifix, and *dūn*, a hill (KEPN 2023). The development site is not situated within the Maulden Conservation Area.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER ref: 202223/164), and reliable online sources. The HER data, with a search radius of 1km, is shown in Fig. 6.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Despite the presence of numerous sites in the wider area, there are few listed in the HER search area. A Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 9811) was found c.350m southwest of the development, and a possible ploughed-out Bronze Age barrow was documented by geophysical survey c.200m to the east, though it may simply be medieval/post-medieval rabbit warren (EBD2365; HER 10122).

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

The valleys of the rivers Flit and Great Ouse were of considerable importance during the Iron Age and the Roman period and a number of sites are situated around Maulden (Dawson 2000). Still, the only site listed within the HER search area is situated c.250m east of the development and north of Clophill Road. Archaeological trial trenching (EBD2365) revealed a complex of remains including activity dating from the Iron Age to the Saxon period. The Iron Age remains comprise two ditches with finds of mid-late Iron Age pottery, and sheep/goat bones, indicative of some form of nearby settlement (HER 22476-77).

An excavation at Old Farm, immediately east of the site, recorded three phases of mid-to-late Iron Age settlement enclosures, comprising ditches, pits and post-holes. There was also evidence of significant iron smithing. Mid-to-late Iron Age pottery was also recovered (Headland Archaeology South & East).

3.4 *Saxon* (c.450 - 1066)

The derivation of Maulden, or Meldone is thought to mean 'cross on the hill', implying an early Christian site. Certainly, there was a Saxon settlement here, as Maulden Manor is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which also included four other pre-Conquest manorial estates in Maulden (Page 1912; Powell-Smith 2023).

Saxon features were revealed north of Clophill Road (HER 22477; EBD2365), c.350m east of the development, where a ditch and a pit, dated by the presence of early-mid Saxon pottery to the Saxon period, indicate nearby settlement.

3.5 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

Post-Conquest there were five manors (Page 1912; Powell-Smith 2023). The principal estate was Maulden Manor with 7 villagers, 2 slaves, arable land, pastures, a mill and woodland for 100 pigs (i.e., the ancient woodland of Maulden Wood (HER 13232)) was awarded to Countess Judith after the Conquest by William, and she subsequently granted it to Elstow Abbey, which she founded in 1078. A second manor later known as Ragons Manor and held in 1086 by Hugh



Bolbec of Walter Giffard, Earl of Oxford, had 5 villagers and 4 ploughlands as well as meadows and woodland although less than Maulden Manor. A reeve of King William had an estate of 2 villagers and half a ploughland and on the land of Hugh of Beauchamp only 1 villager was listed, together with 1 meadow and woodland for 20 pigs. The fifth entry belongs to Nigel of Aubigny who acquired 25 acres of land which had been taken (stolen) by John de Roches from the men of the town (*super homines qui villam tenent*).

The historic core of Maulden (HER 16995) may have originally focussed on the N-S stream running on the west side of George Street and through an eastern green, with additional separate settlements to the west around a western green and along Duck End and Moor Lanes. Nevertheless, the historic development of Maulden village is difficult to reconstruct as it is largely based on a relatively late historic map, dating to 1797. The map shows a complex polyfocal settlement, with the church, the manor held by Elstow Priory (now called Burystead) and the Rectory (now Maulden Grange HER 3773) on higher ground to the east. There is no evidence that the medieval settlement once adjoined the church and manor house site, which may have always been a separate church/manor complex.

The parish church of Maulden, St Mary the Virgin, is a Grade II* Listed Building (NHLE: 1321701; HER 1091) with 14th – 16th century origins, though it was substantially rebuilt in 1858-9 (Page 1912). It is situated c.340m northwest of the development site. The remains of a churchyard cross (Grade II, NHLE: 1113926; HER 222) is located approximately 10m southeast of the south aisle of the church.

The site of a medieval/post-medieval manor house is situated to the north of Maulden Church (HER 1178). These irregular earthworks are shown on a map of 1797. Berrystead was demolished sometime between 1821 and 1863. The site was eventually incorporated into a larger pasture field, Maulden Church Meadow, and was partly damaged by quarrying activity.

Medieval remains in the wider area include the small linear settlement at Green End, possibly of medieval assarting origin, which lies c.400m to the east (HER 17001); the leat, dam & outlet water course at Green End (HER 21424) that are the earthwork remains of a former water course and management features; and a linear holloway earthwork situated to the east of Silsoe Road in Maulden (HER 16136), c.340m southwest, which is probably medieval in date.

The remains of ridge and furrow (HER 4445) have been recorded at various locations within the parish of Maulden, in varying states of preservation. The development site contains the degraded remains of ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks, with more adjacent to its northern edge. In 2020, an archaeological topographical survey (EBD2211) was undertaken on Land at 29 Clophill Road (Albion Archaeology 2022; Souterrain 2020); which covers, approximately, the eastern half of the development site. The survey documented a series of earthworks, including the fragmentary remains of medieval and post-medieval cultivation ridges (ridge and furrow); a short stretch of medieval headland (raised ridges or ledges that separated the open fields); and a post-medieval cart track. Ridge and 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. These cultivation earthworks adumbrate the importance of agriculture to the local economy.

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500 - 1900)

The post-medieval development of the parish emphasises the east-west linear character of settlement along the Amphill and Clophill Roads. A dispersed, polyfocal pattern of settlement is indicated by place names such as Duck End, Green End, Water End and Hall End. The post-medieval development of Maulden is evident in the presence of numerous Listed Buildings, and other heritage assets in the eastern part of the village, including: the 16th century The George Inn (Grade II, NHLE: 1200379; HER 15312), the 19th century Bothy (Grade II, NHLE: 1113931;



HER 13780), and the 18th century stables (HER 16381) all on George Street; the 17th century Church Close Cottage, Church Road (HER 15409); the 19th century Willow End, 12 Ampthill Road (Grade II, NHLE: 1113922; HER 3750); the 17th century Wood Farm Cottage, Green End (Grade II, NHLE: 1137915; HER 13781); and the 19th century Maulden Primary School (HER 7153). The southern part of Maulden Wood is a 19th century plantation (HER 20588).

Maulden Grange (Grade II, NHLE: 1137884; HER 3773), a 17th century Gothic style house, reworked in the late 18th century, with early 19th century additions, is situated c.180m northwest of the development site. The 1797 Enclosure Map shows an earthwork that is a possible moat and an enclosure containing two buildings (HER 4925), which is located adjacent to the northwest corner of the development.

The churchyard (HER 8931) of the Church of St Mary the Virgin (HER 13778) is post-medieval, as is the sandstone Sexton's Hut (HER 15615) at the north-eastern edge, and the mausoleum to the northwest of the church dates from 17th century (HER 13778).

The sites of sand pits (HER 2960-1) shown on the 1880s Ordnance Survey are situated to the north of the development, and the site of a clay pit shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey (HER 2968) is south of Clophill Road, opposite the site.

3.7 **Modern** (1900 - present)

Few heritage assets from this period are listed in the HER search area. A series of post-medieval to modern ditches were documented to the west of Silsoe Road (HER 22507) during trial trench excavation. The three ditches probably represent field boundaries and one had a ceramic land drain in its base. Nearby, a group of undated features, comprising a further three ditches and a pit (HER 22508), were also revealed by archaeological investigations.

Maulden Wood plantation (HER 20588) is also the location of World War II features, including Nissen hut bases, concrete roads and a concrete loading ramp.

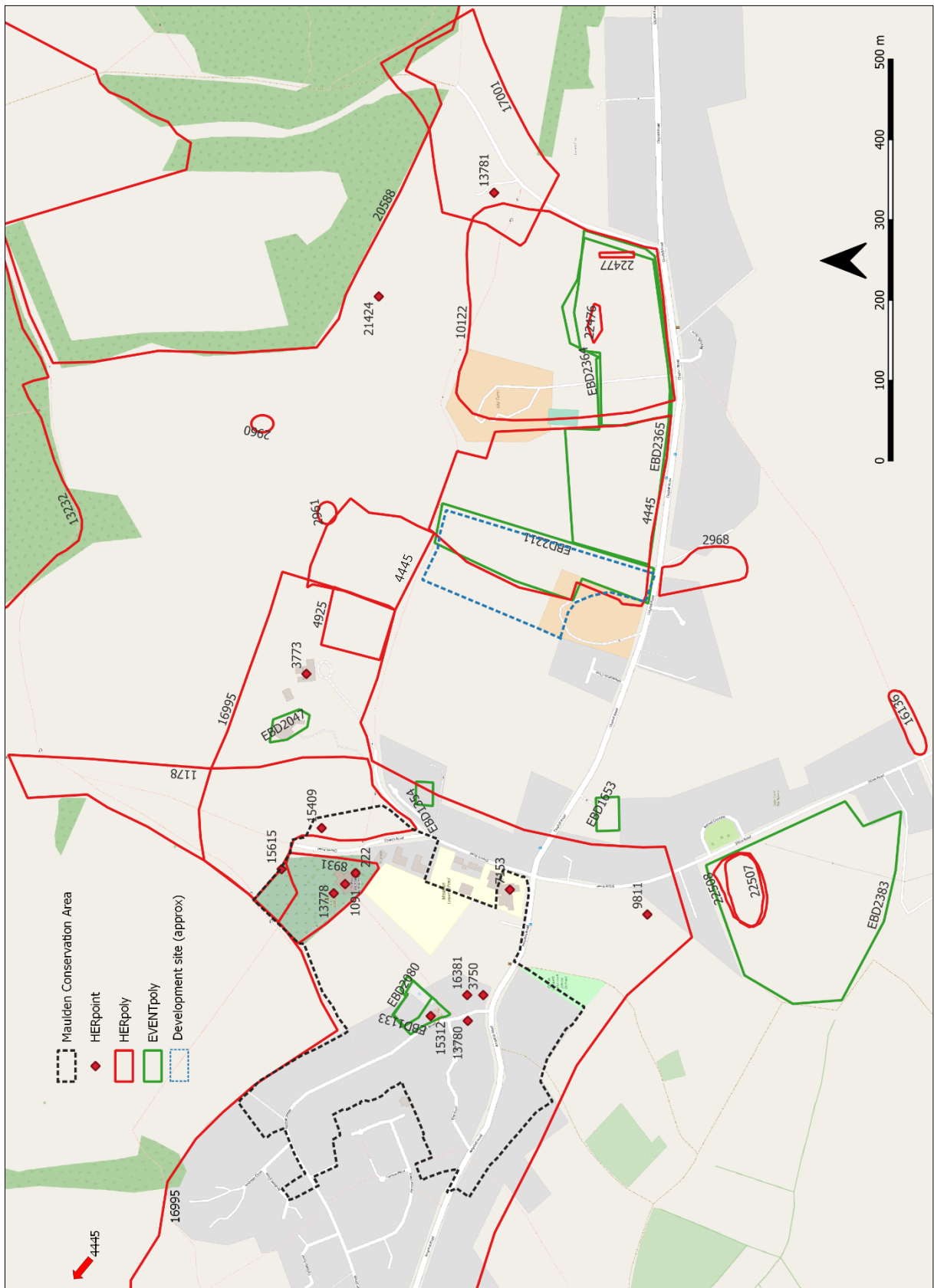


Figure 6: HER data plan (scale as shown)



4 Results

4.1 *Introduction*

A total of fourteen trenches were excavated at the land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. Thirteen were originally planned but Trench 13 was bisected into two smaller trenches in order to avoid an overhead cable. The location of Trenches 8 and 10 was also moved in order to preserve site access (Fig. 5). All trenches were 1.8m wide and 40m long, save for Trenches 13 and 14, which were 32m and 8m long respectively. The depths of the trenches varied greatly between 0.4m and 1.3m deep (Fig. 6). Full trench details are given in Appendix 2.

The work was carried out using a 9 tonne backhoe loader fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

4.2 *Trenches* (Plates 1-14)

No features of archaeological interest were identified in any of the evaluation trenches. Trench 8 contained evidence of two recent geological test pits and there were two ceramic land drains in Trench 10.

The site stratigraphy was relatively consistent throughout the trenches, except for the natural soil, which changed between the north and south of the site. The topsoil was mid greyish brown silty clay and was between 0.1 and 0.18m deep, below this was light greyish brown silty clay varying between 0.19 and 0.6m. The natural soil in the northern half of the site was grey clay with chalk inclusions, this was excavated to approximately 0.6m depth in sondages. This clay gave way to an underlying geological layer of mid yellowish brown clayey sand in the southern half of the site, and a clear boundary could be seen where the grey clay overlay the sand in Trenches 7, 9 and 10 (Plates 15-18, Fig. 7).



Plate 1: Trench 1 facing north-northeast



Plate 2: Trench 2 facing east-northeast



Plate 3: Trench 3 facing east-southeast



Plate 4: Trench 4 facing south-southwest



Plate 5: Trench 5 facing south-southwest



Plate 6: Trench 6 facing north-northwest



Plate 7: Trench 7 facing east-northeast



Plate 8: Trench 8 facing south-southwest



Plate 9: Trench 9 facing south-southwest



Plate 10: Trench 10 facing northeast



Plate 11: Trench 11 facing east-northeast



Plate 12: Trench 12 facing southeast



Plate 13: Trench 13 facing south-southwest



Plate 14: Trench 14 facing north-northeast



Plate 15: Trench 1 stratigraphy facing east-southeast



Plate 16: Trench 3 stratigraphy facing north-northeast



Plate 17: Trench 9 stratigraphy facing east-southeast



Plate 18: Trench 13 stratigraphy facing west-northwest

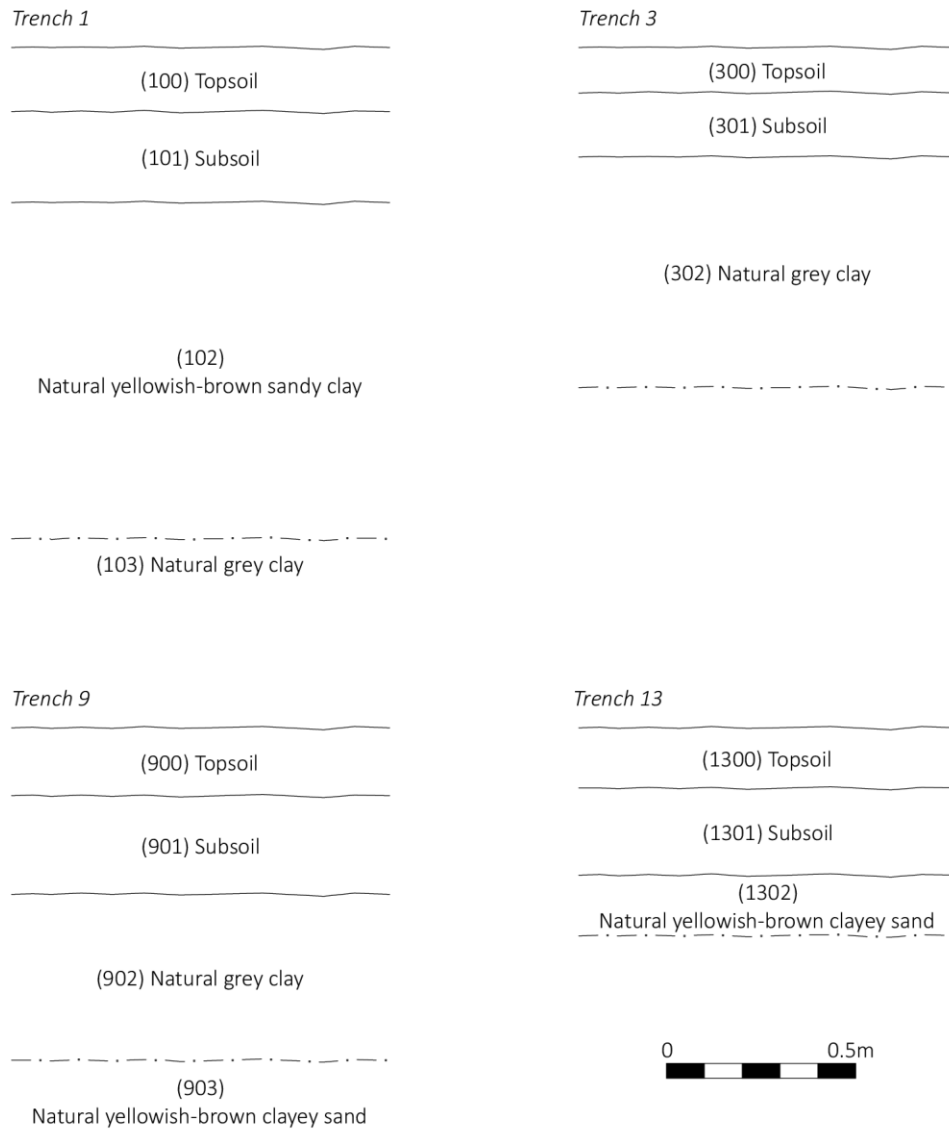


Figure 7: Representative trench stratigraphy (scale 1:20)

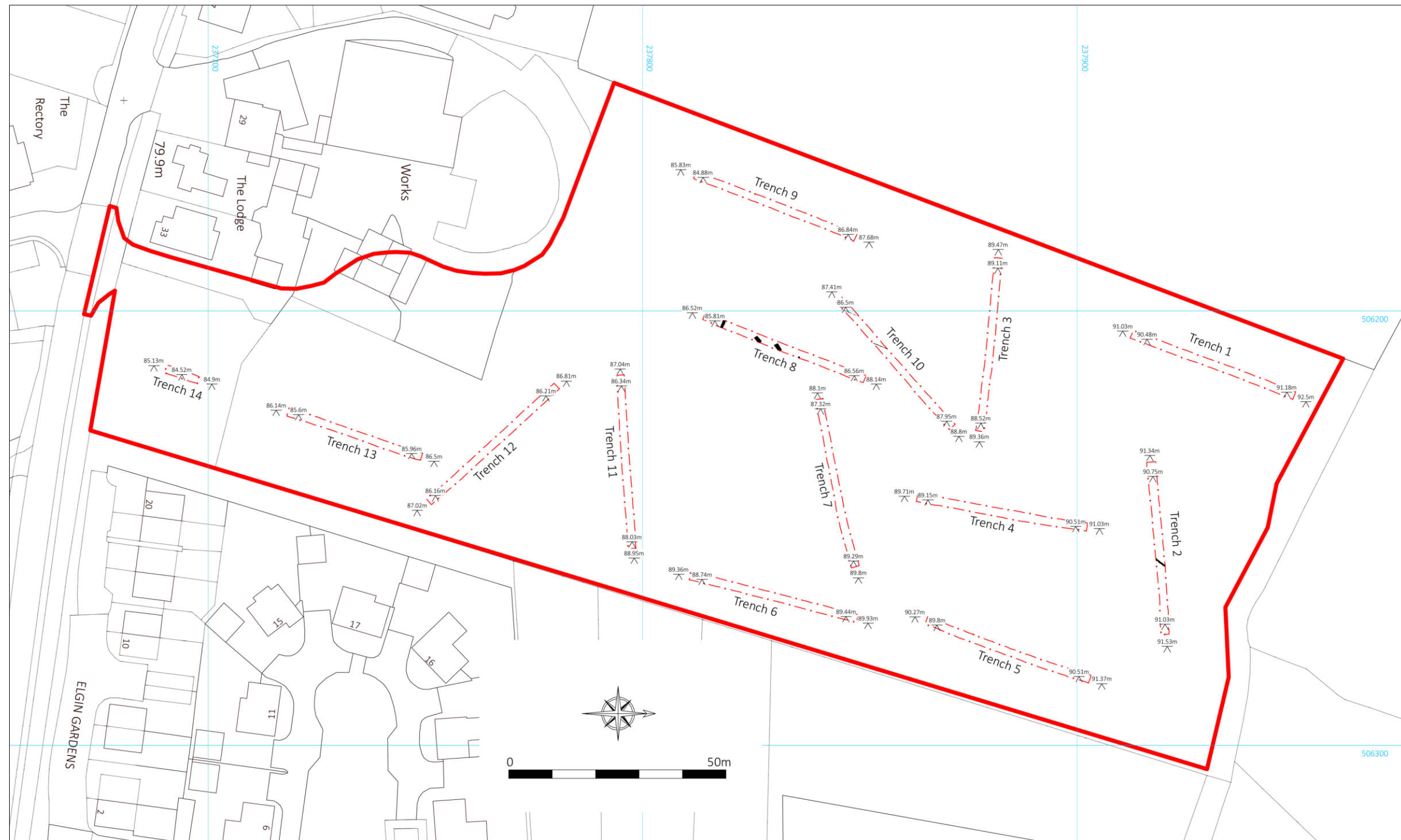


Figure 8: Overall trench layout with reduced levels (scale 1:1000)



5 Conclusions

The excavation of fourteen evaluation trenches at land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire revealed no evidence of archaeological features, save for some ceramic land drains. The ridge and furrow known to be present on the site could not be seen in the evaluation trenches due to its extremely low profile. The horizon between the subsoil and the natural soils was diffuse, which also made it difficult to discern any subtle change in site formation from the trench sections.

The lack of other archaeological features can be explained by the position of the site beyond the historic core of the village. It is also possible that the trenches lie between widely dispersed archaeological features.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to Sharon Lobley for commissioning this report on behalf of MJ Hillson Group. Thanks are also due to Sam Mellonie of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant document and to Clara Schonfeld of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project. Special thanks go to the staff of M J Hillson Group for their assistance on site.

The fieldwork was carried out by Chris Martin-Taylor BSc and Barney King PCIFA. The report was written by Chris Martin-Taylor, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIFA.



7 Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise a digital version of the Evaluation Report which will contain the following:
1. List of photographs
 2. Site Records
 3. OASIS summary report
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with OASIS/ADS kdkarcha1-513865. Upon deposition, the DOI will be sent to the HER Team.



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Appendix 1: Photograph List

Shot	JPEG	RAW	View	Subject
1	x	x	NNE	Trench 1
2	x	x	NNE	Trench 1
3	x	x	SSW	Trench 1
4	x	x	SSW	Trench 1
5	x	x	ESE	Trench 1 sondage stratigraphy
6	x	x	ESE	Trench 1 representative stratigraphy
7	x	x	ENE	Trench 2
8	x	x	WSW	Trench 2
9	x	x	WSW	Trench 2
10	x	x	NNW	Trench 2 stratigraphy
11	x	x	SSW	Trench 4
12	x	x	SSW	Trench 4
13	x	x	NNE	Trench 4
14	x	x	NNE	Trench 4
15	x	x	WNW	Trench 4 stratigraphy
16	x	x	WNW	Trench 3
17	x	x	WNW	Trench 3
18	x	x	ESE	Trench 3
19	x	x	ESE	Trench 3
20	x	x	NNE	Trench 3 stratigraphy
21	x	x	NNE	Trench 9
22	x	x	NNE	Trench 9
23	x	x	SSW	Trench 9
24	x	x	SSW	Trench 9
25	x	x	ESE	Trench 9 stratigraphy
26	x	x	ESE	Trench 9 stratigraphy
27	x	x	ESE	Trench 9 stratigraphy
28	x	x	ESE	Trench 9 natural soil change
29	x	x	ESE	Trench 9 natural soil change
30	x	x	NNE	Trench 5
31	x	x	NNE	Trench 5
32	x	x	SSW	Trench 5
33	x	x	SSW	Trench 5
34	x	x	WNW	Trench 5 stratigraphy
35	x	x	WNW	Trench 5 stratigraphy
36	x	x	WNW	Trench 5 stratigraphy
37	x	x	SSW	Trench 6
38	x	x	SSW	Trench 6
39	x	x	NNE	Trench 6
40	x	x	NNE	Trench 6
41	x	x	WNW	Trench 6 stratigraphy
42	x	x	WSW	Trench 7
43	x	x	WSW	Trench 7
44	x	x	ENE	Trench 7
45	x	x	ENE	Trench 7
46	x	x	NNW	Trench 7 stratigraphy



Shot	JPEG	RAW	View	Subject
47	x	x	NNW	Trench 7 stratigraphy
48	x	x	ESE	Trench 7 natural soil change
49	x	x	ESE	Trench 7 natural soil change
50	x	x	SW	Trench 10
51	x	x	SW	Trench 10
52	x	x	NE	Trench 10
53	x	x	NE	Trench 10
54	x	x	SE	Trench 10 stratigraphy
55	x	x	SE	Trench 10 stratigraphy
56	x	x	SE	Trench 10 stratigraphy
57	x	x	SSW	Trench 8
58	x	x	SSW	Trench 8
59	x	x	NNE	Trench 8
60	x	x	NNE	Trench 8
61	x	x	WNW	Trench 8 stratigraphy
62	x	x	WNW	Trench 8 stratigraphy
63	x	x	WSW	Trench 11
64	x	x	WSW	Trench 11
65	x	x	ENE	Trench 11
66	x	x	ENE	Trench 11
67	x	x	NNW	Trench 11 stratigraphy
68	x	x	SSW	VOID Trench 13
69	x	x	SSW	VOID Trench 13
70	x	x	SSW	Trench 13
71	x	x	SSW	Trench 13
72	x	x	NNE	Trench 13
73	x	x	NNE	Trench 13
74	x	x	WNW	Trench 13 stratigraphy
75	x	x	NNE	Trench 14
76	x	x	NNE	Trench 14
77	x	x	SSW	Trench 14
78	x	x	SSW	Trench 14
79	x	x	WNW	Trench 14 stratigraphy
80	x	x	SE	Trench 12
81	x	x	SE	Trench 12
82	x	x	NW	Trench 12
83	x	x	NW	Trench 12
84	x	x	SW	Trench 12 stratigraphy



Appendix 2: Trench Record

Trench no	1	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.78	Depth (m)	0.60-1.30
Co-ordinates	506212, 237931					Area (sq m)	71.20
Description	First trench excavated, a 1.3m deep sondage was dug at the north-northeast end. The natural clay in the north end of the sondage was very dark, suggesting the presence of roots and possibly a pond in the past. No archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
100	Topsoil	0.17	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
101	Subsoil	0.24	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
102	Natural	>0.89	Mid yellowish brown sandy stoney clay, inclusions of rounded and sub rounded chalk				
103	Natural	-	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				

Trench no	2	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.80	Depth (m)	0.60-0.76
Co-ordinates	506254, 237918					Area (sq m)	72.00
Description	Contained a natural feature running SW-NE created by a large root. No archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
200	Topsoil	0.12	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
201	Subsoil	0.30	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
202	Natural	>0.34	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				

Trench no	3	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.82	Depth (m)	0.40-0.90
Co-ordinates	506207, 237879					Area (sq m)	72.80
Description	Trench severely waterlogged, no archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
300	Topsoil	0.12	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
301	Subsoil	0.17	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
302	Natural	>0.61	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				

Trench no	4	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.90	Depth (m)	0.51-0.76
Co-ordinates	506246, 237882					Area (sq m)	76.00
Description	Trench severely waterlogged, no archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
400	Topsoil	0.12	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
401	Subsoil	0.18	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
402	Natural	>0.40	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				



Trench no	5	Length (m)	40.30	Width (m)	1.90	Depth (m)	0.50-0.80
Co-ordinates	506278, 237884					Area (sq m)	76.57
Description	Trench severely waterlogged, no archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
500	Topsoil	0.12	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
501	Subsoil	0.17	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
502	Natural	>0.51	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				

Trench no	6	Length (m)	40.20	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.55-0.83
Co-ordinates	506265, 237830					Area (sq m)	80.40
Description	Trench severely waterlogged, no archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
500	Topsoil	0.12	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
501	Subsoil	0.24	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
502	Natural	>0.47	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				

Trench no	7	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.70-1.10
Co-ordinates	506239, 237844					Area (sq m)	80.00
Description	Contained a boundary representing the interface between natural grey clay and yellowish-brown sand. No archaeological features.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
700	Topsoil	0.16	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
701	Subsoil	0.28	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
702	Natural	>0.66	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				
703	Natural	-	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				

Trench no	8	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.90	Depth (m)	0.90
Co-ordinates	506208, 237832					Area (sq m)	76.00
Description	Trench 8 was relocated to preserve site access. A modern posthole was present in line with the gate. Further to the south of this were two square features that were modern geological test pits, as attested by the contractors on site. No other archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
800	Topsoil	0.17	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
801	Subsoil	0.26	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
802	Natural	>0.47	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				



Trench no	9	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.81	Depth (m)	0.88
Co-ordinates	506176, 237831					Area (sq m)	72.40
Description	The upper natural soil (902) gives way to the lower counterpart (903) at an interface located 10m from the north-northeast end of the trench. No archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
900	Topsoil	0.18	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
901	Subsoil	0.26	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
902	Natural	>0.44	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				
903	Natural	-	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				

Trench no	10	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.83-1.30
Co-ordinates	506211, 237858					Area (sq m)	80.00
Description	Trench 10 was relocated to preserve site access. it has a similar stratigraphy to trench 9. Two ceramic land drains were present towards the southwest end of the trench. Upper natural (1003) to the northeast end, lower natural (1004) to the southwest.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
1001	Topsoil	0.16	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
1002	Subsoil	0.20	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
1003	Natural	>0.36	Grey clay with chalk inclusions				
1004	Natural	-	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				

Trench no	11	Length (m)	40.40	Width (m)	1.80	Depth (m)	0.56-1.03
Co-ordinates	506235, 237796					Area (sq m)	72.72
Description	No archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
1100	Topsoil	0.14	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
1101	Subsoil	0.19	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
1102	Natural	>0.33	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				

Trench no	12	Length (m)	40	Width (m)	1.8	Depth (m)	0.75
Co-ordinates	506231, 237766					Area (sq m)	72.00
Description	No archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
1200	Topsoil	0.15	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
1201	Subsoil	0.6	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
1202	Natural	-	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				



Trench no	13	Length (m)	32.60	Width (m)	1.80	Depth (m)	0.55-0.93
Co-ordinates	506228, 237734					Area (sq m)	58.68
Description	Trench 13 was divided into two in order to avoid overhead power cables, with the new Trench 13 relocated further to the north-northeast and Trench 14 located further to the south-southwest. Their combined length was 40m, to match the original intended length of Trench 13. No archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
1300	Topsoil	0.16	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
1301	Subsoil	0.23	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
1302	Natural	>0.16	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				

Trench no	14	Length (m)	8.20	Width (m)	1.90	Depth (m)	0.43-1.0
Co-ordinates	506215, 237694					Area (sq m)	15.58
Description	The south-southwest end of Trench 14 marks the intended original extent of Trench 13, which was divided into two in order to avoid overhead power cables. No archaeological features present.						
Context No.	Type	Depth (m)	Description				
1400	Topsoil	0.16	Mid greyish brown silty clay				
1401	Subsoil	0.27	Light greyish brown slightly sandy clay				
1402	Natural	>0.57	Mid yellowish brown clayey sand				



Appendix 3: Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	763/MCR
OASIS reference	kdkarcha1-513865	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2023/239
OS reference	TL 06215 37837	Study area size	c.520 sq m
Project Type	Archaeological Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	90m
Short Description	In November 2023, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire in order to fulfil Condition 3 of planning permission for the development of the site. Fourteen trenches were excavated measuring 1.8m wide and 40m long, save for two that measured 32m and 8m long. No archaeological features were identified save for land drains and modern disturbance, possibly due to the location of the site being beyond the boundaries of historic occupation. The ridge and furrow recorded as being present was not observed due to its extremely low profile.		
Previous work	No	Site status	None
Planning proposal	The development proposal is an outline application that calls for the demolition of an existing commercial building and the erection of up to 30 dwellings, together with all ancillary works, with all matters reserved except access	Current land use	Existing commercial building and open land
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council	Planning application ref.	CB/22/00588/OUT
Monument type	None	Monument period	None
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
RESEARCH AIMS			
Research framework	Section /Question	Summary of outcome	
N/A	N/A	N/A	
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	-	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye	Director/Supervisor	Chris Martin-Taylor
Sponsor/funding body	M J Hillson Group Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	20.11.2023	End date	27.11.2023
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	N/A		
Paper	N/A		
Digital	OASIS/ADS	Report	



BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	763MCR/2.1		
Author(s)	Chris Martin-Taylor		
Page no's	33	Date	12.12.2023



Appendix 4: OASIS Summary

OASIS ID (UID): kdkarcha1-513865

Project Name: Evaluation at 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

Sitename: 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

Sitecode: 763/MCR

Project Identifier(s): 763/MCR

Activity type Evaluation

Planning Id: CB/22/00588/OUT

Reason For Investigation: Planning: Between application and determination

Organisation Responsible for work: KDK Archaeology Ltd

Project Dates: 20-Nov-2023 - 27-Nov-2023

Location 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

NGR : TL 06221 37758 LL : 52.028073, -0.453165 12 Fig : 506221,237758

Administrative Areas Country : England

County/Local Authority : Central Bedfordshire

Local Authority District : Central Bedfordshire

Parish : Maulden

Project Methodology: In line with the requirements of the brief, the methods used were as follows:

- An archaeological field evaluation of the site, originally comprising thirteen 40m trenches measuring 1.8m wide.
- This was carried out using a 9 tonne backhoe loader fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.
- The final trench layout was slightly altered to accommodate unforeseen obstacles. Trenches 8 and 10 were moved in order to avoid the existing access road and hard standing. In addition, Trench 13 was bisected in order to avoid excavating beneath overhead power cables. The longer 32m trench to the north of the cables remained Trench 13, and the shorter 8m trench to the south was renamed Trench 14.

Project Results: The excavation of fourteen evaluation trenches at land to the rear of 29- 33 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire revealed no evidence of archaeological features, save for some ceramic land drains. The ridge and furrow known to be present on the site could not be seen in the evaluation trenches due to its extremely low profile. The horizon between the subsoil and the natural soils was diffuse and very disturbed, which also made it difficult to discern any subtle change in site formation from the trench sections. The lack of other archaeological features can be explained by the position of the site beyond the historic core of the village. It is also possible that the trenches lie between widely dispersed archaeological features.

Keywords:

Funder Private: individual ,Private or public corporation M J Hillson Group Ltd

HER: Central Bedfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD

Person Responsible for work: David Kaye