

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING:
20 FIELDSIDE ROAD
PULLOXHILL
BEDFORDSHIRE
MK45 5HN**

NGR: TL 0648 3399

on behalf of GCC Developments (UK) Ltd



AUGUST 2020

Ref: BHS/0112/PFR/2



Site Data

<i>Project no / code:</i>	0112 / PFR		
<i>Project name:</i>	20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill, Beds MK45 5HN		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	375406	<i>Event/Accession No:</i>	LUTNM 2020/14
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Pulloxhill		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Pulloxhill		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0648 3399		
<i>Extent of development:</i>	c.65 sq m (new house footprint)		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden & outbuilding		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of outbuilding: construction of detached dwelling		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	CB/17/03270/FULL		
<i>Dates of archaeological monitoring:</i>	17-19 August 2020		
<i>Client:</i>	GCC Developments (UK) Ltd The Old Barn, Thrupp End Station Road Lidlington Bedfordshire MK43 0SL		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr Phil Bateman		

Cover: General view of site from south

Prepared by Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIfA

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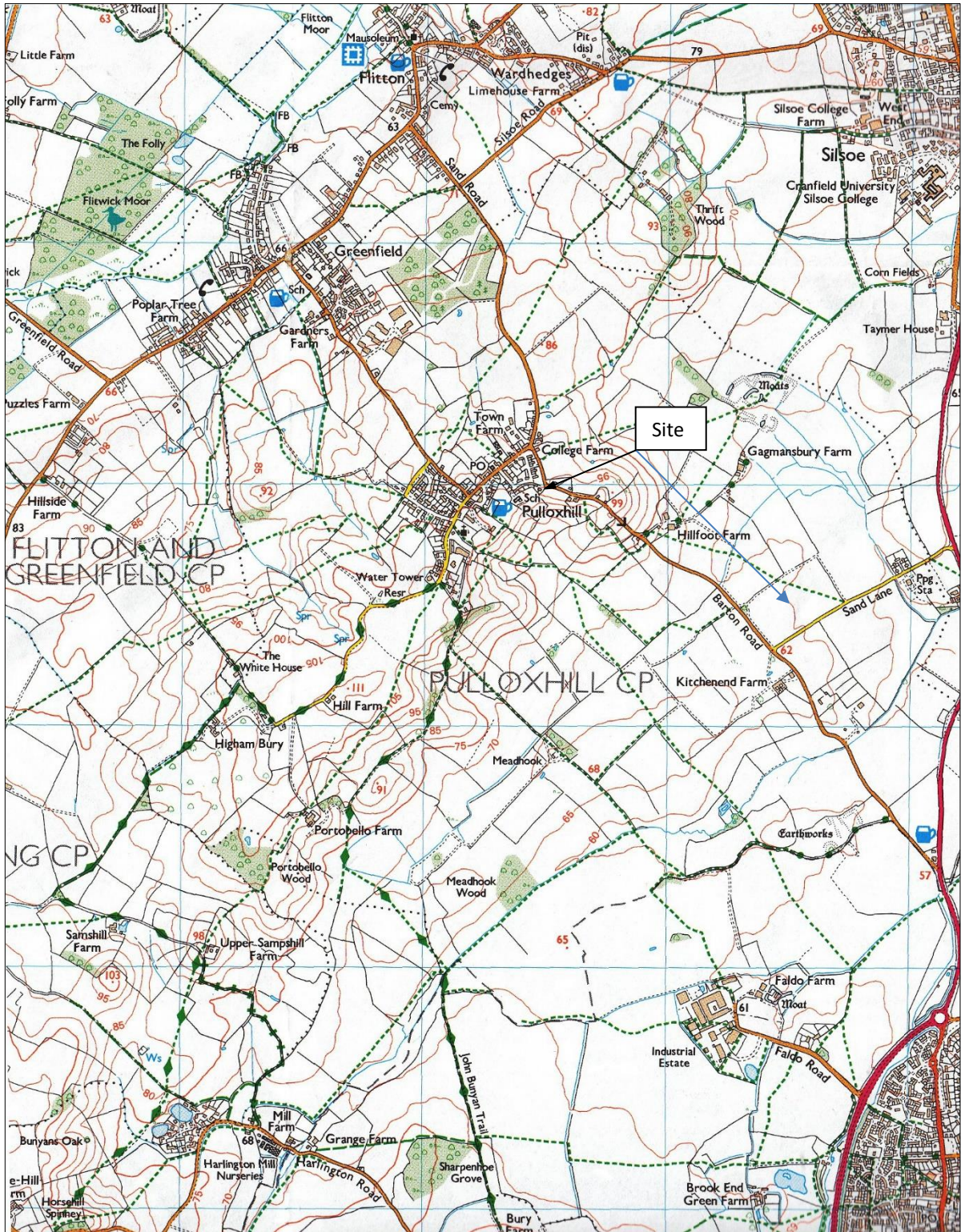


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In August 2020, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavations for footings for a detached house on land adjacent to 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill. The site lies on the eastern edge of the modern village, c.400m north-east of the parish church, in an area that appears to have remained as open fields until residential development from the 1950s onwards.

Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed only modern services associated with 20 Fieldside Road. No buried heritage assets were noted during the monitoring programme.

1. Introduction

1.1 In August 2020 *Bancroft Heritage Services* (BHS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring at 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire MK45 5HN. The project was commissioned by GCC Developments (UK) Ltd and was carried out under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for development of the site. The methodology for the project was described in a written scheme of investigation (WSI: Zeepvat 2018), approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/17/03270/FULL.

1.2 *The Author*

Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of preparing initial assessments and undertaking a wide range of fieldwork for sites in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists since 1986. Bob has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, notably as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit* (1986-94), as Project Manager for *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* (1994-97), and as Manager and Historic Buildings Consultant for *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (1998-2014).

1.3 *The Site*

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

20 Fieldside Road (henceforth 'the development site') is situated in the village and civil parish of Pulloxhill, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire. It lies on the eastern edge of the village and is centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference TL 0648 3399 (Fig. 1). The development site comprises a long rectangular plot – part of the existing garden of 20 Fieldside Road – containing a small single-storey extension to the adjoining house (Fig. 2). Access is via a lane from Fieldside Road to the north.

1.3.2 *Topography & Geology*

The site is level and lies at an elevation of c.95m OD. The natural soils of the site belong to the Ashley association, described as 'Fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils,' over chalky till (Soil Survey 1983, BGS Sheet 203, 572q).

1.3.3 Development

The development comprised (Fig. 3):

- Demolition of the existing single-storey extension.
- Construction of a detached, two-storey dwelling, over the site of the demolished structure

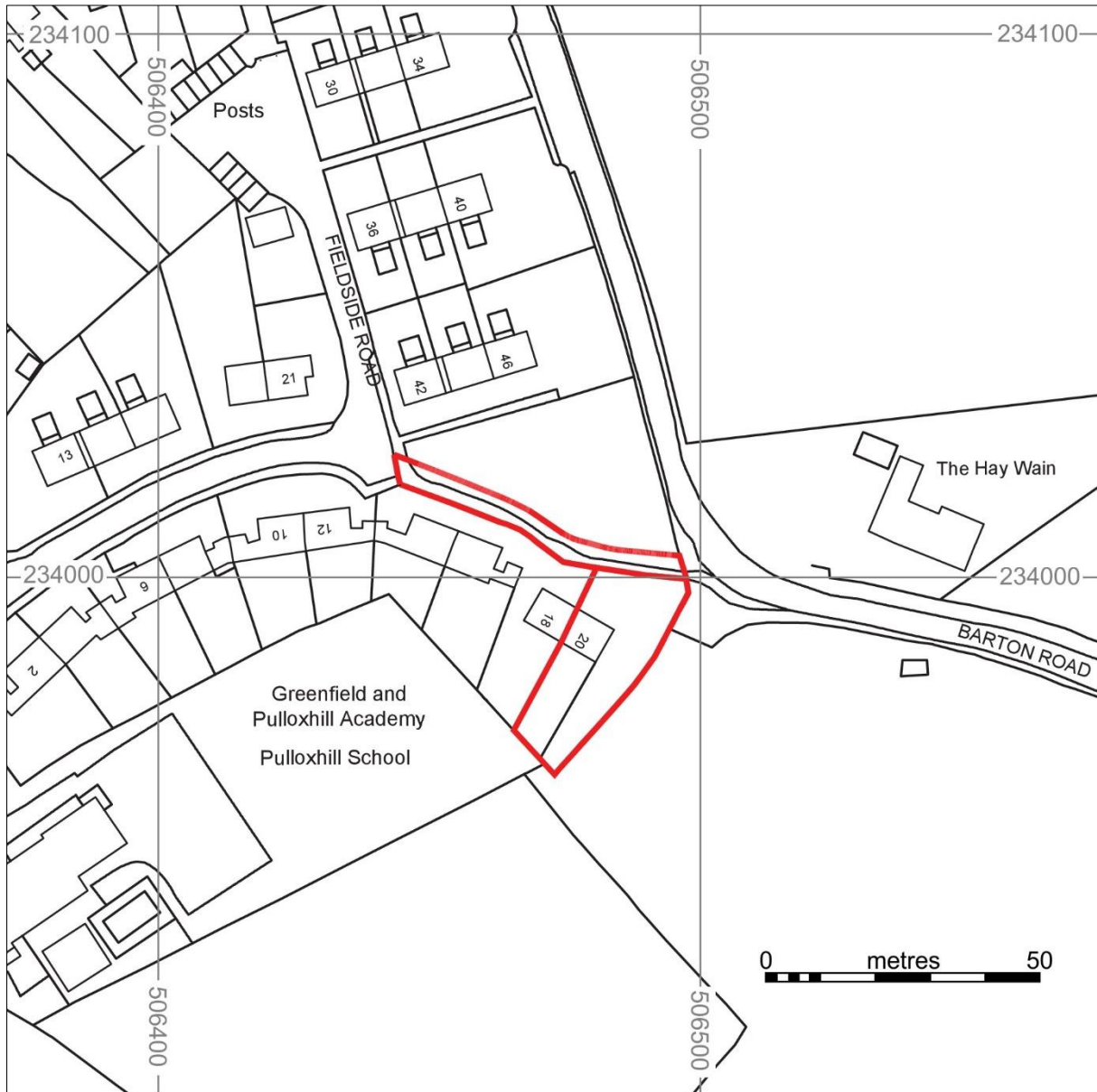


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

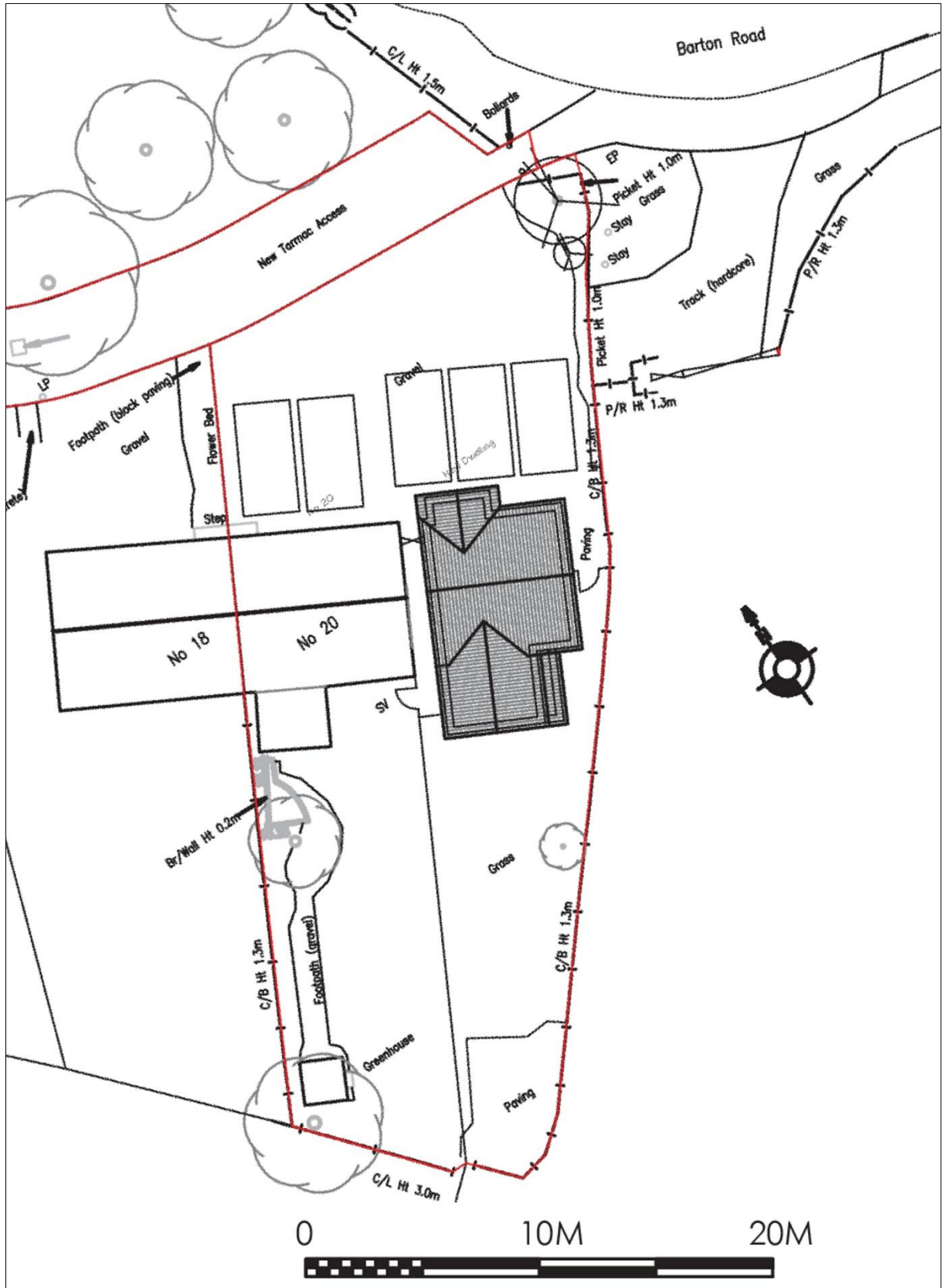


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the WSI, the aims of the project were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions
- The investigation of rural Saxon and medieval settlements to examine diversity, characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear is a local and regional archaeological research objective (Wade 2000, 24-25; Oake 2007; 14; Medlycott 2011, 70).

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the WSI, to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a), to relevant CIfA *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014b-d), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003) and to current Historic England guidelines (HE 2015).

2.3 Methods

The project was carried out according to the WSI, which stated that:

- Any groundworks likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits would be undertaken under continuous and constant archaeological supervision.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during the fieldwork stage of the project.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section summarises the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site is located in an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods, notably medieval.

This section has been compiled with information from the *Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record* (CBLHER: search ref. 201920/170) and other readily available sources. HER asset numbers are prefixed 'HER': events are prefixed 'EBD'; listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments are prefixed 'DBD'.

3.2 **Prehistoric & Iron Age** (before AD43)

Early settlement and activity in the Pulloxhill area is not fully understood and evidence from this period is sparse. The earliest evidence for human activity comes from a pit found just off Flitton Road [HER 17794]. This dates to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. A small excavation (EBD 417) uncovered a north-south aligned ditch containing late Neolithic to early Bronze Age pottery. A large pit containing post medieval pottery was also excavated and is probably associated with nearby earthworks. Another Bronze Age monument is a ring ditch to the north-east of the village [HER 18030]. This is identifiable as a crop mark. Ring ditches are usually interpreted as the remains of round barrows.

In the 20th century, human remains were found in the garden of a house on Barton Road [HER 15854]. The bones have been dated to the Iron Age and were probably disturbed by deep ploughing. Cropmarks to the south-west of Sand Lane [HER 16646] possibly represent part of a prehistoric enclosure.

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

During the Roman period, the nearest known centres of activity were in the Flitwick area, c.4km to the north, comprising a pottery production centre and a high-status villa site at Ruxox Farm (Simco 1984). The existence of a Roman road (HER 5020) from Luton through Barton-le-Clay, Streatley, Harlington, Pulloxhill, Flitton and Greenfield, Flitwick, Maulden, Ampthill and Millbrook to Marston Moretaine has been suggested (Viatores 1964: Road 1706), but no evidence to support this has been forthcoming. To date, the only evidence for Roman activity recorded in Pulloxhill has been the discovery of Roman brick, tile and pottery fragments from the Gables, Flitton Road, c.200m north of the development site (HER 19539).

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

No evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded within the vicinity of the development site. However, the Domesday Survey (1086) records that the manor of Pulloxhill was held under Nigel de Albini by Roger and Ruallon (Williams & Martin 2002). It was assessed at 10 hides and had been held by eight sokemen in King Edward's time, suggesting that the origins of the settlement lay in the 10th century. In Domesday the name appears as *Polochessele*, and in 1205 and 1287 as *Polloxhill*. It probably derives from 'Pulloc's Hill', incorporating the lost Anglo-Saxon personal name *Pulloc* (in modern English, Pollock).

After the Conquest, the overlordship remained vested in the barony of Cainhoe, but part of the lands were acquired by Dunstable Priory, and part by Woburn Abbey, the latter also holding land of Dunstable Priory. There is no mention of the abbey's estate until the beginning of the 13th century, when it possessed a small property in the parish of Pulloxhill, which was gradually enlarged by various grants and became known as the manors of *Pulloxhill* and *Greenfield*. It was taken into the king's hand at the Dissolution and annexed to the Honor of Ampthill: afterwards, it was granted out to various people (Page 1908).

During the medieval period, the village of Pulloxhill (HER 17103) expanded from an original focus consisting of the church, moated manor house site and a triangular green, in linear fashion along roads following the ridge top to the south west and north east, with dwellings particularly on the north-west side. Due to considerable encroachment, only a tiny fragment of the original green survives today. Medieval settlement earthworks (HER 1825) are recorded to the north of the present village. The HER also records several areas of ridge-and-furrow ploughing within the parish, the largest of which (HER 3322) lies to the immediate south of the development site. Near Gagmansbury Farm, some 500m ENE of the development site, is the Upbury medieval moated site and fishponds, now a scheduled ancient monument (DBD 1515). A second, less well-preserved moated site (HER 7662) is recorded east of Pulloxhill Church, 250m south-west of the development site.

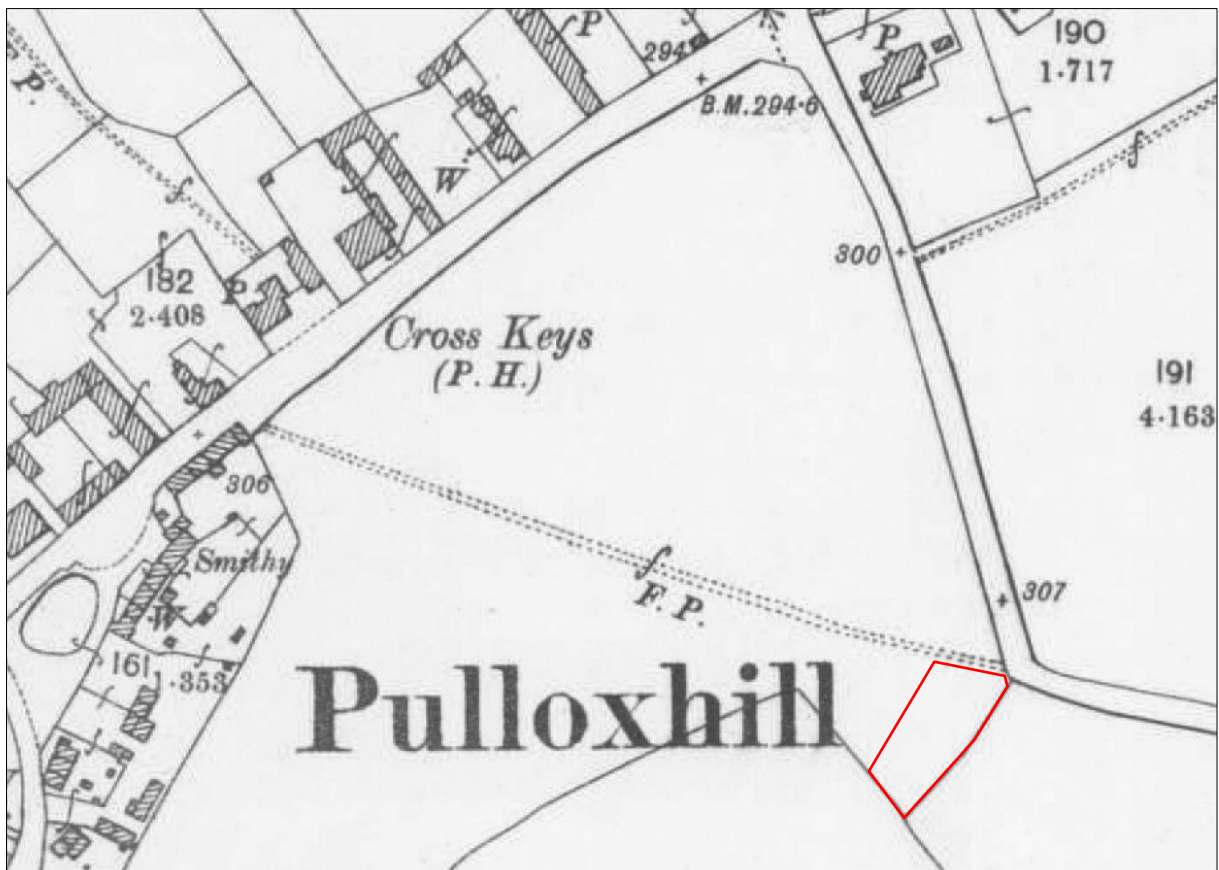


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" sheet, 1900 (not to scale)
(Approximate location of development site outlined)

3.5 **Post-Medieval and Modern** (1500-present)

In 1680, gold quartz was discovered at Pulloxhill. The discovery site was at once taken into the king's hands as royal mine, but it was found on working it that the gold did not repay the cost of separation, as it consisted merely of flakes of mica in drifted stones. The mine was therefore abandoned, but the field in which it was situated is still called 'Gold Close' (HER 10809).

Pulloxhill still retains a significant number of buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, which comprise much of the information compiled in the HER search undertaken for this project. Among these are the *Cross Keys* public house (DBD 982), *Anfield Cottage* (DBD 1053), both 17th century, and *Rectory Farmhouse* (DBD 4172), which probably has its origins in the 16th century. All the aforementioned are listed Grade II. The Grade II*-listed parish church, dedicated to St James (DBD 1094), has its origins in the 14th/15th century, but was extensively rebuilt in 1845-46.

Pulloxhill parish was inclosed by private Act of Parliament in 1809, along with Flitton cum Silsoe. As the act was private, the award has not been printed, but a copy was kept at the West Park Estate office at Ampthill (Page 1908).

The earliest available map of Pulloxhill was prepared for Amabel, 1st Countess Grey in 1828 (BLARS L33/9). The map, which also illustrates the surrounding villages, shows the development site as open farmland. A similar picture is presented by the Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" sheet of 1901 (Fig. 4). The Fieldside Road area of the village first saw development in the 1950s, and was developed to its present extent by c.1970.

4 Results & Conclusions

4.1 Results

Monitoring of excavations for the footings of the new house was undertaken over three days (see Appendix 1 for monitoring record sheets). Prior to the start of archaeological monitoring, vegetation had been cleared, external paved surfaces had been lifted and the extension to 20 Fieldside Road had been demolished. The extension appears to have had no substantial footings.

The footing trenches shown in Figure 5 were excavated to a depth of 1.0m and width of 0.6m, except at the east corner, where they were 1.4m deep because of possible tree-root incursion. The only features were modern buried services, encountered in the long trench nearest to the adjoining house and the trench parallel to it across the centre of the oversite. These comprised two ceramic drain pipes, apparently the outflow from the kitchen drain, and a 25mm diameter iron pipe, most likely the water supply to the adjoining house, which was present in both trenches. Observations revealed no buried heritage assets.

Stratigraphy encountered across the site (Fig. 7) comprised:

- 0 – c.25cm Dark brown-black organic garden soil
- 25cm+ Very stiff yellow-brown clay, containing the occasional large rounded boulder

4.2 Conclusions

Excavations for the footings of the new house revealed only buried services related to the adjoining house. The stratigraphy revealed in the footing trenches was hard to excavate and was evidently undisturbed, apart from the aforementioned modern features.

Significant buried heritage assets (*i.e.* archaeological deposits, features or artefacts) were not observed during the monitoring programme. While the existence of buried heritage assets away from the observed area cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site. The development does not appear to have had any impact on buried heritage assets.

4.3 Confidence Rating

The on-site works were undertaken in a range of weather conditions, with the full co-operation of the client and his contractor. A reasonably high confidence rating is therefore assigned to the results.

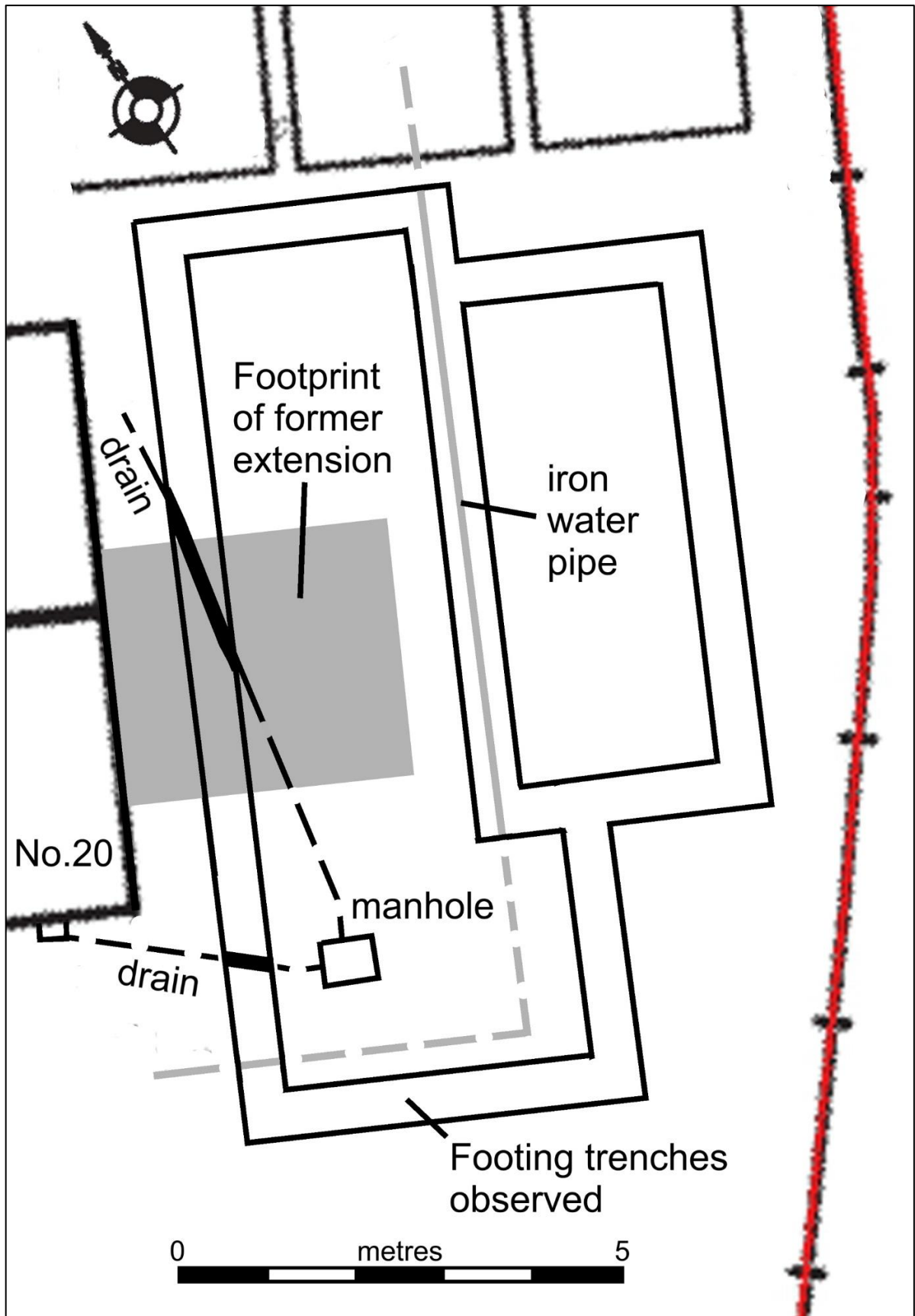


Figure 5: Observations (scale as shown)



Figure 6: General view of site from north



Figure 7: Excavating the south side footing trench



Figure 8: Excavating the east side footing trench

5. Archive

5.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

5.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (accession no. LUTNM 2020/14)

5.3 *List of Photographs*

Site Name: 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill		Proj. no/Code: 0112/PFR
Shot	Digital	Subject
1	IMG_8646	Site before start of excavation, from north
2	IMG_8647	Site before start of excavation, from south
3	IMG_8648	Excavating southern footing trench, from west
4	IMG_8649	Excavating southern footing trench, from south-west
5	IMG_8650	Excavating eastern footing trench, from south-west
6	IMG_8651	Western footing trench after excavation, from north
7	IMG_8652	Excavating northern footings in the rain, from north-west
8	IMG_8653	Excavating eastern footing, from south
9	IMG_8654	Excavating eastern footing, from south
10	IMG_8655	Central N-S footing under excavation, with iron pipe running up centre

6. References

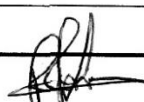
Standards & Specifications

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- CIfA 2014a, *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)
- CIfA 2014b, *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)
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- CIfA 2014d, *Standard & Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer & Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)
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- Zeevat B 2019, *20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill, Beds MK45 5HN: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring*. Bancroft Heritage Services, ref. BHS/0112/PFR/1 (unpublished)

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- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M & Murphy P 2007, *Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**
- Page W (ed.) 1908, *The Victoria History of the County of Bedfordshire 2*. Constable & Co.
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- Williams A & Martin GH 2003, *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*. Penguin

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES		WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project No/Code/Name: 112/PFR PULLOXHILL		Sheet: 1 of 3	
Client/Developer: GCC DEVS.			
Contact: PHIL BAKERMAN.		Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: ① 0850-1020; ② 1210-1610	Finish: —
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: CHANGEPAGE.			
Observations:			
① VISITED AM - STILL CLEARING SITE.			
② RETURNED AFTER LUNCH - LAYING OUT.			
WATCHED EXC R-W TRENCH AT S END AND N-W TRENCH AT SE CORNER. 600x1000 XSECTION			
STRAT - ① REMAINS OF TOPSOIL - c 200			
② BOULDER CLAY - V STIFF!			
NO FINDS OR FEATURES -			
Comments:			
BACK TOMORROW AM.			
Completed by: 		Date of visit: 17/08/20	



BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 112/PFR - PULLOXHILL		Sheet: 2 of 3
Client/Developer: GCC DWS		
Contact: PHIL BAYMAN		Phone:
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 0845	Finish: 1530
Development Type:		
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads
		Levelling
		Quarrying
		Pipelines
		Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: MOSTLY SUNNY		
Observations:		
<p>WATERED REMAINING TRENCHES ON E. SIDE - DOWN TO 1.4M AT NORTH END.</p> <p>ALSO N-S TRENCH IN CENTRE OF BLDG * OBSERVATIONS - MORE OF THE SAME!</p> <p>* N-S TRENCH - IRON PIPE c 600mm DEEP IN CUT FOLLOWING LINE OF TRENCH. WATER?</p> <p>END OF DAY, COMMENCED TRENCH NEAREST EXISTING HOUSE. ENCOUNTERED RETURN OF IRON PIPE, THEN 2x 4" CERAMIC DRAWS, ONE CRACKED + SILTED INTERNALLY.</p> <p>NO FINDS OR FEATURES -</p>		
Comments:		
<p>DEALING WITH SERVICES IN TRENCH TOMORROW MORNING: RETURN AFTER LUNCH?</p>		
Completed by:		Date of visit: 18/08/20



BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project No/Code/Name: 112/PFR PULLOXHILL		Sheet: 3 of 3				
Client/Developer: GCE BENS						
Contact: PHIL BATEMAN,		Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 1340,	Finish: 16.10,				
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: WGT + RAINING						
Observations: SAW REST OF N-S TRENCH NEAREST HOUSE. MOSTLY IN DISTURBED GROUND CONTAINING SERVICES. ALSO TRENCHES AT N END OF OVERSINE. NO FINDS OR FEATURES.						
Comments: ENOUGH! DEFINITELY NO ARCH.						
Completed by:		Date of visit: 19/08/20				

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill	OASIS reference:	375406
Short Description:	<p><i>In August 2020, a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavations for footings for a detached house on land adjacent to 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill. The site lies on the eastern edge of the modern village, c.400m north-east of the parish church, in an area that appears to have remained as open fields until residential development from the 1950s onwards.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring of the footing trenches revealed only modern services associated with 20 Fieldside Road. No buried heritage assets were noted during the monitoring programme.</i></p>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work:	none	Site status:	none
Current land use:	Garden	Future work:	unknown
Monument type:	n/a	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds:	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0648 3399
Site address:	20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill, Beds MK45 5HN		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	65 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	95m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Bancroft Heritage Services		
Project brief originator:	Central Beds Archaeologists	Project design originator:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIfA
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIfA	Director/Supervisor:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIfA
Sponsor / funding body:	client		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	17/08/20	End date:	19/08/20
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum: deposition ref. LUTNM 2020/14	none	
Paper:		WSI, WB record sheets, report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Monitoring: 20 Fieldside Road, Pulloxhill, Beds MK45 5HN		
Serial title & volume:	Report ref. BHS/0112/PFC/2		
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIfA		
Page nos	19	Date:	24/08/20