

OGFB10



Overend Green Farm, Heath and Reach:

Archaeological Monitoring

Prepared for Mr J Pinney

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client

Mr J Pinney

National Grid Reference

SP 93351 28769

Parish:

Council:

OASIS ref.:

Archive will be deposited with:

Central Bedfordshire
headland4-159104
Luton Museum

Project Manager:

Author:

Fieldwork:

Graphics:

Joe Abrams
Iulian Newman
James McNicoll-Norbury, Iulian Newman
Caroline Norrman

Schedule

Report

December 2013

Signed off by



Joe Abrams

Date: 17 December 2013

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	4
2	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	4
3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
4	AIMS & OBJECTIVES	5
5	METHODOLOGY	5
5.1	Site works	5
5.2	Recording	5
5.3	Reporting and Archives	6
6	RESULTS	6
6.1	Discussion	6
6.2	Conclusion	6
7	REFERENCES	7
7.1	Bibliographic sources	7
8	APPENDICES	8
8.1	Appendix 1 – Site registers	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 – Site location plan

Illus 2 – Photograph of soil profile in soakaway pit

OVEREND GREEN FARM, HEATH AND REACH.

Archaeological Monitoring

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the renovation of farm buildings at Overend Green Farm, Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire in order to provide information on its archaeological potential. No significant archaeological remains or finds were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mr J Pinney (the client) has been granted full planning consent (CB/09/07029/FULL) for the conversion of several standing disused farm buildings and the demolition of two buildings in order to create several commercial and residential units with associated parking and services at Overend Green Farm, Heath and Reach, SP 93351 28769; henceforth referred to as the Development Area (DA) (Illus 1).

The local planning authority (LPA) is advised on archaeological matters by the Archaeological Advisor (AO). Due to the archaeological potential of the DA the AO has instructed that archaeological monitoring would be required prior to construction of the development. This work is requested in accordance with government guidance as set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) and encapsulated in the monitoring brief (CBC 2013b).

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for monitoring (Headland Archaeology 2013), undertake the site works and prepare a report (this document) on the results. The WSI was approved by the AO prior to commencement of the project.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The site lies in open countryside in southwest Bedfordshire around 1 km northeast of Heath and Reach (site centre SP 93351 28769). The development includes the conversion of several standing disused farm buildings and the demolition of two buildings in order to create several commercial and residential units with associated parking and services. The site is currently in use as a farm. The site lies on the Greensand Ridge, at a height of c.140m AOD, just below the crest of the ridge on a terrace on a southeast facing slope. The geology of

the area is Lower Greensand. The west of the site is bounded by Overend Green Lane.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A search of Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (CBHER) has been undertaken (2010). It covered an area of 500m radius centred on the site. An updated search was undertaken in Jan 2013 and although some digital polygons have altered since the first search, no significant new 'events' (archaeological investigations) have been recorded. Therefore, the archaeological potential of the site remains the same, broadly speaking, as it was in 2010.

Some 400m to the southwest of the site is a recorded cropmark previously interpreted as a ring ditch of Bronze Age date (MBD 1887). An aerial photograph in CBHER appears to show a circular mark in a pasture field.

On the western side of Overend Green Lane, some 100m from the site, is the recorded location of an excavated Roman pottery kiln and coin (MBD 14688). Records in the CBHER indicate this find was not precisely located and originated somewhere in the nearby quarry in 1967. Quarrying has been undertaken in the vicinity since at least the mid-18th century as a note of a court case in the CBHER makes clear (MBD 10864). A sand quarry opened in 1915 some 400m to the northeast of the site has produced large amounts of Roman material, including pottery and inhumation burials (MBD 1170). Reports relating to these finds appear to have continued into the early 1970s and it has been suggested that a villa may have formerly occupied the quarry site.

The site is surrounded by earthworks thought to relate to medieval settlement and cultivation bisected by Overend Green Lane (MBD 5079, 11178 & 11179). These are clearly shown in aerial photographs taken in the 1940s (CPE/UK/897, 12 Dec 46, F/20//58), as are more extensive ridge and furrow earthworks that have since been eroded by ploughing. Quarrying to the west (MBD 11177) appears to have destroyed further rectilinear earthworks

that were recorded by archaeological survey. The origins of the settlement are not clear and they could lie in the late Saxon period. The date of shrinkage or desertion of the settlement is also unclear. Most of the earthworks relate to ridge and furrow cultivation but alongside the road some 100m north of the site the earthworks were interpreted as representing 2 or 3 tofts or a farmstead; it was noted that they appeared to lie over ridge and furrow cultivation remains (MBD 11179).

The first documentary record relating to Overend Green dates to 1489 (Court Roll, KK 944/4). An enclosure map of 1841 (CRO: MA 62) is the first detailed plan of the area and shows farm buildings in the current locations and the surrounding areas named as 'New Close' to the north and 'Simonds Close' to the south. New Close is first documented in 1689 (KK 301-302) and it would seem likely that the medieval settlement noted above (MBD 11179) had been abandoned by this time.

Several records relate to buildings around the site. Around 50 m to the southeast of the site is a record relating to a ruined post-medieval building (MBD16357). On the west side of Overend Green Lane is a range of 19th century outbuildings (MBD 6400) associated with Overend Green House, a Grade II listed farmhouse recorded as mainly 19th century but 13th century in origin (MBD 6399). The latter dating may be a transcription error as photographs of the farm buildings do not appear to show any medieval elements.

In view of the archaeological background the development site occupies an area with a high potential to contain remains relating to the medieval settlement of Overend Green.

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In general the purpose of the investigation was to record and enhance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost (NPPF para 141). This was to be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by Oake et al (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott & Brown (2011). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

In particular the site had a high potential to contain remains of late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement. Of particular relevance were the objectives set out in Oake (2007, 14) in relation to obtaining more

information on different types of sites in the medieval rural settlement hierarchy (including 'Ends'). Any information concerning the relationship between the post-medieval settlement and its medieval ancestor may also address some objectives laid out by Edgeworth (2007, 121-22).

Specifically the aims of the investigation include:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site. In particular whether any remains pre-dating the standing structures and post-medieval farm survive within the disturbed areas.
- Establishing the relationship of any remains to the surrounding contemporary landscapes. In particular whether any remains relating to the deserted settlement of Overend Green survive on the site.
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Site works

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken over the course of four days (4/2/13, 5/2/13, 12/2/13 and 31/10/13). This observed floor reduction internal to the building, a small intrusion from ground level directly north of the buildings, a service trench and the soakaway and Klargest pits (Illus 1).

Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Headland Archaeology 2013). Namely involving continuous archaeological observation, investigation and recording during all groundworks unless agreed otherwise with the AO.

5.2 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). The trench and contexts were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was compiled. The site plan was accurately tied in to the National Grid and a scale version is shown in Illus 1.

A digital photographic record was taken and a metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

5.3 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (headland4-159104).

There resultant archive will be deposited at Luton museum. All archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Discussion

The technical detail of contextual information can be found in the Appendix 1. The following narrative is designed to interpret that technical detail and attempt to categorise its significance. Context numbers for deposits are expressed in parenthesis, i.e. (001), cuts of features are expressed in brackets, i.e. [003].

Monitoring of the floor reduction internal to the buildings as highlighted in Illus 1 revealed made ground (003) overlying the natural geology, no topsoil was present. Excavations of a service pipe trench, soakaway and Klargestier pit (Illus1) external to the building revealed topsoil (001) overlying made ground (002) which sealed the subsoil (004). The natural geology (004) was uncovered at between 0.95 -1.05 metres in depth (Illus2).

No significant archaeological deposits or remains were identified, furthermore no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring.

Table 1: Significance of Heritage Assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench Number	Feature Number/s	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale
n/a	-	-	None

6.2 Conclusion

No evidence of significant archaeological remains was found within the DA. It is likely that there has been considerable modern disturbance and truncation within the farmyard which encompasses the DA.

As no further ground works are required as part of the development the potential damage to any unidentified heritage assets is negligible.

Table 2: Impact on Heritage Assets (HA)

HA	Development impact	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale	Impact of development on heritage asset (None, Low, Medium, High)
n/a	Conversion of farm buildings and demolition of two other buildings	-	None

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliographic sources

Archaeological Archives Forum *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (published by the IfA 2007).

Brown N & Glazebrook J 2000 *Research & Archaeology: A framework for the eastern counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*

Central Bedfordshire Council 2013a. *Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Overend Green Farm, Overend Green Lane, Bedfordshire.*

Communities and Local Government 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework, Government National Planning Policy.*

Edgeworth M 2007. 'Post medieval, industrial and modern periods', in Oake et al 2007, 119-141.

Glazebrook J 1997. *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the eastern counties – 1 Resource assessment.*

Headland Archaeology 2013. *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Overend Green Farm, Overend Green Lane, Bedfordshire*

Medlycott M 2011. *Research and Archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England. EAA Occasional Papers 24.*

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

8 APPENDICES

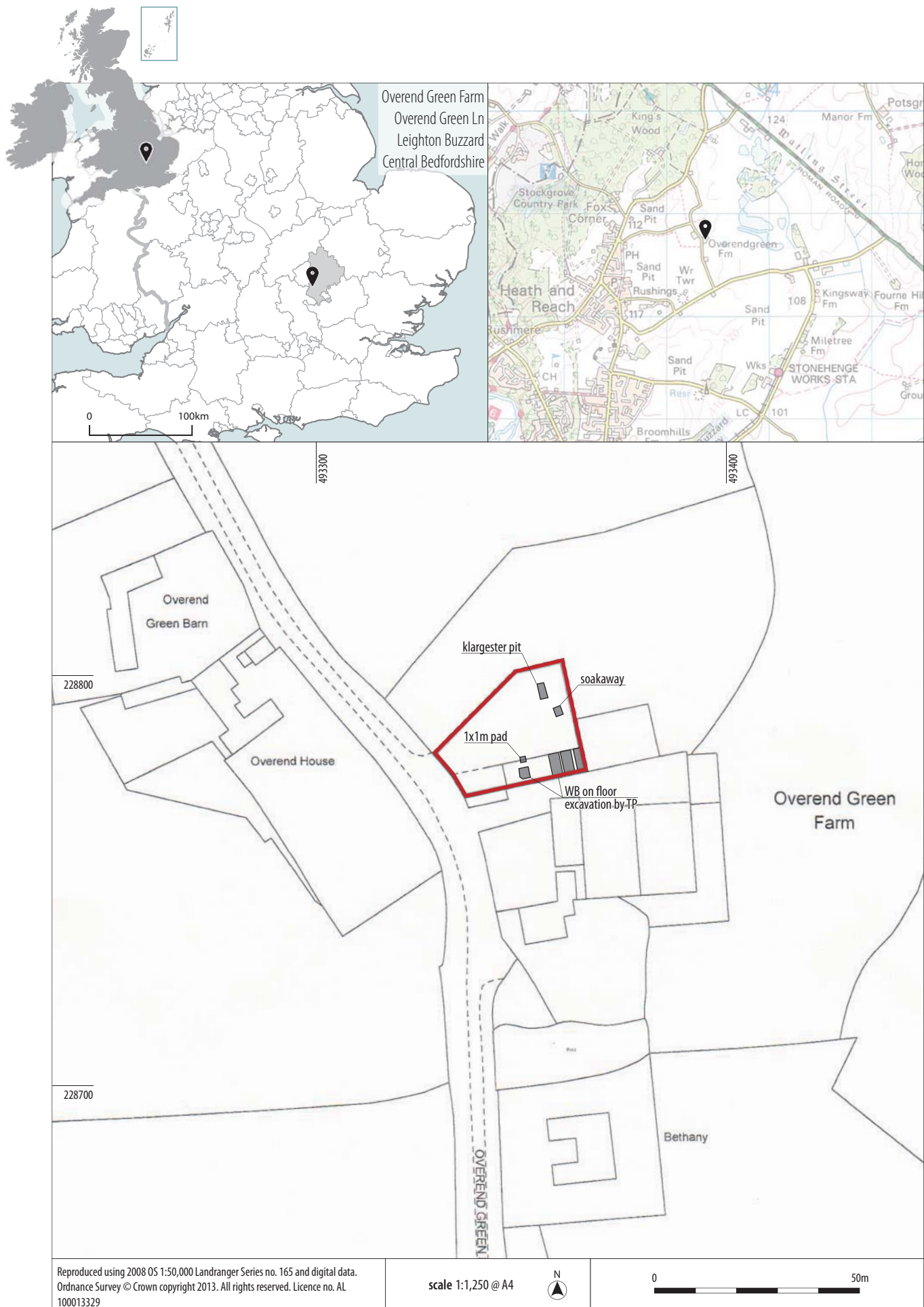
8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Photographic register

Photo Number	Colour	Black & White	Digital	Direction	Description
1	1/1			W	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
2	1/2			N	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
3	1/3			E	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
4	1/4			E	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
5	1/5			S	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
6	1/6			W	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
7		1/1		W	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
8		1/2		N	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
9		1/3		N	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
10		1/4		E	Test pit monitoring of floor reduction inside buildings
11		1/5		E	Service pipe trench
12		1/6		N	Service pipe trench
13		1/7		E	Service pipe trench
14		1/8		N	Service pipe trench
15		1/9		N	Service pipe trench
16		1/10		E	Service pipe trench
17			1	E	General shots of Klargestest pit section
18			2	NE	General shots of Klargestest pit section
19			3	SW	General shots of Klargestest pit section
20			4	SE	General shots of soakaway pit section
21			5	SE	General shots of soakaway pit section
22			6	N	General shots of soakaway pit section

Context register

Context number	Description	Dimensions and cut/fill details
001	Topsoil	Mid brown grey, clayey silt, loose with frequent modern brick rubble inclusions. Disturbed deposit. 0.45m thick. (external to buildings deposit)
002	Made ground	Dark orange brown silty clay with mix of brick rubble, gravel and stone. Mixed deposit, varying in concentration of inclusions across the site. 0.15m thick. (external to buildings deposit)
003	Made ground	Concentration of brick rubble with occasional gravel and stone inclusions in a clay mix. (recorded internal to the buildings)
004	Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, loose compaction, with occasional small chalk inclusions. 0.35m thick.
005	Natural	Light brown silty clay with occasional small chalk inclusions.



Illus 1
Site location



Illus 2

Post-ex shot of soakaway pit from W