

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **OLD PALACE LODGE HOTEL Dunstable, Bedfordshire**

HN978

## ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT***

Revision B



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land at  
**OLD PALACE LODGE HOTEL,  
Dunstable, Bedfordshire**

Project ref.: HN978

LPA ref.: CB/11/04377/FULL & CB/11/04378/LB & CB/10/03163/REN

OASIS ref: heritage1-119272

Accession No: LUTNM 2012.8

## *Archaeological Assessment Report*

*Prepared on behalf of MGM Hotels Ltd.*

by

Greg Jones BA (HONS) MA AIfA

Report no.719

*May 2012*

*(Issued March 2013)*

© The Heritage Network Ltd

**11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ  
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998**



## Contents

|            |   |                   |
|------------|---|-------------------|
|            | Summary.....  | Page i            |
| Section 1  | Introduction.....   | Page 1            |
| Section 2  | Background .....  | Page 3            |
| Section 3  | Fieldwork.....  | Page 5            |
| Section 4  | Further Research.....                                     | Page 16           |
| Section 5  | Sources consulted.....                                    | Page 19           |
| Section 6  | Illustrations .....                                       | following Page 20 |
| Appendix 1 | OASIS summary sheet.....                                  | Page 21           |
| Appendix 2 | Tables of finds and environmental finds from Samples..... | Page 23           |

*The front cover shows the site looking south*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and Robin Densem. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Greg Jones, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to: Graham Rosser of Rosser Morris Ltd., MGM Hotels Ltd, and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

|                                      |   |                                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Site name and address:</b>        | Land at Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire  |                                   |  |
| <b>County:</b>                       | Bedfordshire  | <b>District:</b>                  | Central Bedfordshire                   |
| <b>Village/town:</b>                 | Dunstable   | <b>Parish:</b>                    | Dunstable                              |
| <b>Planning reference:</b>           | CB/11/04377/FULL &<br>CB/11/04378/LB &<br>CB/10/03163/REN   | <b>NGR:</b>                       | TL 02120 22002                         |
| <b>Client name and address:</b>      | MGM Hotels Ltd.   |                                   |  |
| <b>Nature of work:</b>               | Extension   | <b>Current land use:</b>          | Car park and storage area              |
| <b>Site Status:</b>                  | n/a   | <b>Reason for investigation:</b>  | Direction of LPA (PPS5)                |
| <b>Position in planning process:</b> | After full determination  | <b>Project brief originator:</b>  | Local Authority                        |
| <b>Size of affected area:</b>        | c. 100m <sup>2</sup>  | <b>Size of area investigated:</b> | 100m <sup>2</sup>                      |
| <b>Site code:</b>                    | HN978   | <b>Other ref:</b>                 | n/a                                    |
| <b>Organisation:</b>                 | Heritage Network  | <b>Site Director:</b>             | David Hillelson                        |
| <b>Project type, methods etc...</b>  | Excavation  | <b>Archive recipient:</b>         | Luton Museum                           |
| <b>Start of work:</b>                | 03/05/2012  | <b>Finish of work:</b>            | 06/05/2012                             |
| <b>Related HER nos:</b>              | HER 4355  | <b>Periods represented:</b>       | Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern |
| <b>OASIS UID:</b>                    | heritage1-119272  | <b>Significant finds:</b>         | Pottery, tile, animal bone             |
| <b>Monument types:</b>               | Ditch, Pit, Post-hole   |                                   |  |
| <b>Physical archive:</b>             | Pottery, Tile, Bone   |                                   |  |
| <b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>   | Kaye, D. 2007 <i>Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report</i> . Heritage Network Report no.389 |                                   |  |

### Synopsis:

As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new extension on land at the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Graham Rosser of Rosser Morris Ltd, acting on behalf of MGM Hotels Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation.

Two stages of fieldwork were undertaken. The first consisted of an archaeological evaluation. Three trial trenches were opened which revealed a number of undated archaeological features and a medieval pit (Heritage

Network 2007). Of particular interest in Trench 3 was a carved stone of medieval date that strongly suggests the presence of a high status building in the vicinity.

As a result of these findings an open area excavation was requested by the LPA. This work included the re-excavation of the dated pit identified in Trench 3 in order to take an environmental sample. Another pit was uncovered during this work which contained Roman pottery and two further undated pits were encountered within the excavation area, together with a large undated ditch, three undated post holes and two other features of natural origin.

# 1 Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of Graham Rosser of Rosser Morris Ltd, acting on behalf of MGM Hotels Ltd, as part of the archaeological works undertaken as part of the construction of a single storey extension on land at the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

**1.2** Planning permission for the development (refs: CB/10/04377/FULL & CB/11/04378/LB, respectively) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). As a consequence, an incremental scheme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication was implemented.

**1.3** Stage 1 of the project consisted of an evaluation by trial trenching across the footprint of the proposed development, in order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. This work was carried out in response to a pre-determination request for an earlier scheme.

**1.4** The Stage 1 evaluation revealed a number of undated archaeological features and a medieval pit (Heritage Network 2007). Of particular interest was a carved stone of medieval date that strongly suggests the presence of a high status building in the vicinity. On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter archaeological remains of significance was defined as *High* for Roman and medieval periods but *Low* for all other periods.

**1.5** Stage 2 of the project was the assessment of the archaeological results by the Archaeology Team for Central Bedfordshire Council. Following this assessment a *Stage 3 brief for a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication at land at Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire*, was issued setting out the archaeological mitigation that would be required to allow the development to proceed. This was followed by a more detailed investigation of the footprint of the proposed building, this being the location of both the highest concentration of archaeological features and the greatest impact.

**1.6** The study area is in the historic core of Dunstable, centred at NGR TL 0212 2198 (Figure 1). The site is located on the north side of Church Street, approximately 200m to the east of the Roman road of Watling Street (A5). Currently the site forms part of the hotel car park and is covered with hard standing. The development proposes the construction of an extension at the rear of the existing hotel complex.

**1.7** The aim of the investigation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

**1.8** It was considered that the archaeological investigations on the present site had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the route and use of the prehistoric Icknield Way; the development of the Roman small town, with particular emphasis on the route of the Icknield Way; the relationship between the Roman and medieval town; and the development

and growth of Dunstable as a medieval planned town, in particular the effect of the Royal residence on the town.

**1.9** The present report represents an assessment of the Stage 3 archaeological fieldwork. It is intended to quantify the archaeological record and assess its potential. The report will also provide a roadmap for further work, should it be required by Archaeology Team for Central Bedfordshire Council, to fulfil the planning condition on the consented development.



## 2 Background

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** The study area consists of land to the rear of the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, principally used as a car park and storage area. The site slopes gently from the hotel frontage to the rear of the car park in a north-easterly direction at a height of approximately 148mOD

**2.2** As the site is located within an urban area the local soils are unsurveyed, however they are likely to belong to either the Upton 1 Association (342a), described as *Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk*, or to the Swaffham Prior Association, described as *Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble* (SSEW 1983).

**2.3** The underlying solid geology consists of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (Undifferentiated) ([www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience)).

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**2.4** The Old Palace Lodge Hotel is part of a range of buildings believed to be located on the site of the King's Palace at Dunstable (HER 148). Documents refer to Henry I having built a house or palace and spending Christmas there in 1123 and 1132. The lands attached to the house were granted by Henry to the Augustinian Priory of Dunstable, which was founded in 1131/2. The house and garden, however, remained in the king's hands until 1204 when King John gave the house to the priory. By the time of the dissolution of the priory in 1539, the house had become a farm house and is later referred to as Kingsbury. The present buildings date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and in 1934 the property was sold and divided up into Old Palace Lodge, which became a hotel in 1960, Kingsbury Stables, which became a public house in 1961, and Kingsbury Court.

**2.5** A visit to the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) was made on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012. This established that there are 195 HER records and 72 Events listed within a radius of 500m of the present site. These include:

- The prehistoric route way known as the Icknield Way (HER 353), following the line of Church Street, immediately to the south of the Old Palace Lodge Hotel.
- The Roman town of Durocobravis (HER 135 & 11284), centred on the crossroads of the Icknield Way and Watling Street (HER 5508). A number of small scale excavations have been undertaken in the northeast quadrant of the Roman town, close to the present study area, and have revealed strong evidence of urban settlement including roads, buildings and wells.
- An enclosed Roman cemetery (HER 11284) has been partially excavated at Friary Field, 450m to the southwest of present study area.
- The medieval town of Dunstable (HER 16986) founded by Henry I and believed to centre on the crossroads.
- The Augustinian Priory, located on the south side of Church Street, immediately opposite the present study area, founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (HER 131).

- A Dominican Friary (HER 141) founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, located on the southwest side of High Street South 430m south south-west of the present study area.

**2.6** Of specific relevance to the present site is a transcript of a verbal report for a small excavation at the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, undertaken by the Manshead Archaeological Society, which revealed evidence of a Roman gully and a robbed out medieval wall (HER 14965). Excavations in 1988 at Kingsbury Court produced no evidence for the medieval palace (HER 15008). An evaluation carried out by the Heritage Network in 2007 identified a number of undated features and a medieval pit (Kaye, 2007). Of particular interest was a carved stone of medieval date that strongly suggests the presence of a high status building in the vicinity.

## 3 Fieldwork

### *METHODOLOGY*

#### *General*

**3.1** All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved stage 1 and stage 3 Project Designs, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

**3.2** The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon as appropriate, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.4m wide toothless bucket.

**3.3** Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

**3.4** The exposed area was cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

**3.5** All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate *pro-forma*. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film, at scales of 1:20 and 1:10.

#### *Artefacts*

**3.6** Where not considered detrimental to their condition, bulk finds such as pottery and bone have been carefully washed in clean water to remove the soil, and quantified. All pottery has been marked with the site code and context number.

#### *Ecofacts*

**3.7** Three bulk samples, each measuring approximately 30 litres, were taken during the fieldwork. These were processed and examined to assess their potential.

#### *Documentary Archive*

**3.8** The documentary archive, comprising the excavation records has been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. An overall site summary and a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data have also been prepared.

### *RESULTS*

#### *Stratigraphy*

**3.9** The upper stratigraphy was uniform across the site. It consisted of a layer (01) of dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) friable sandy silt clay overburden, approximately 1.05m thick, with occasional <1 cm sized inclusions of sub-angular flint and occasional chalk flecks. Root action was also prevalent. The natural geology across the site consisted of chalk.

#### *Stage 1: Evaluation*

**3.10** Three trial trenches were opened across the area of the proposed development as part of the Stage 1 evaluation. Archaeological features, including ditches, pits and postholes, were identified in Trenches 1 and 3, including a pit, cut [305], which contained 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and fragments of worked stone (Kaye 2007).

**Stage 3: Open Area Excavation**

**3.11** On the basis of the results of the evaluation the LPA requested further investigation of the footprint of the proposed new extension. Accordingly a larger area covering the entire footprint was opened up, taking in the area surrounding the pit and ditch in Trench 3 (Figure 2, 3 & 4; Plates 11-12).

**3.12** The removal of the overburden revealed a number of features, including six pits; two ditches; a gully; two post-holes and a number of modern features (Figure 2). Two of these features had previously been investigated during the Stage 1 evaluation, pit [17] (which correlates to evaluation feature [303]) and gully [23] (which correlates to evaluation feature [301]).

**3.13** Two features, cuts [03] and [09], were uncovered which initially appeared to be pits. Subsequent excavation of these features revealed that they were irregular, with major root action within the fills, and were probably natural in origin (Figure 3).

**3.14** A modern soakaway, [13], which measured 2.4m wide, was located in the centre of the site (Figure 3). This had been backfilled with red bricks (14).

**3.15** All of the significant archaeology lay at the northern end of the trench, around the area of the evaluation Trench 3. The southern end of the excavation area was blank (Figure 2; Plates 1 - 3).

**Recorded contexts**

|                             |                                |  |                   |                    |                  |        |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| <b>Excavation Area</b>      |                                | Area 1   |                   | <b>Orientation</b> | N-S              |        |
| <b>Max Depth (m)</b>        |                                | 1.05   | <b>Length (m)</b> | 22.9               | <b>Width (m)</b> | 4.25   |
| <b>End of trench</b>        |                                | Northern   | <b>Top:</b>       | 147.13             | <b>Base:</b>     | 146.85 |
| <b>Levels (mOD)</b>         |                                | Southern   | <b>Top:</b>       | 148.03             | <b>Base:</b>     | 146.83 |
| <b>Observations</b>         |                                | Archaeology, Modern Truncation, Services, Made ground, Root Disturbance.   |                   |                    |                  |        |
| <b>Addition Information</b> |                                | Area 1   |                   |                    |                  |        |
| <b>Context</b>              | <b>Type</b>                    | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Length (m)</b> | <b>Width (m)</b>   | <b>Depth (m)</b> |        |
| 1                           | Overburden                     | Friable sandy silty clay, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4). Occasional sub-angular flint and chalk flecks.  | 22.9              | 4.25               | 1.05             |        |
| 2                           | Natural Layer                  | Compact white (GLE Y1 8/ N) Chalk natural.   | 22.9              | 4.25               | 1.05+            |        |
| 3                           | Tree Bole Cut. Contains 4.     | Irregular in plan, with an irregular profile. The sides were irregular with an irregular base. Tree.   | 0.95              | 0.6                | 0.1              |        |
| 4                           | Tree Bole Fill. Fill of 3.     | Friable silty sandy clay, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently. | 0.95              | 0.6                | 0.1              |        |
| 5                           | Posthole Cut. Contains 6 & 33. | Sub circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a flat base. Post-hole.   | 0.6               | 0.6                | 0.2              |        |

|    |  |  |     |     |         |
|----|--|--|-----|-----|---------|
| 6  | Posthole Fill – same as 33. Fill of 5. | Loose sandy silty clay; light brown (2.5YR 5/ 4) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.2     |
| 7  | Ditch Cut – same as 15. Contains 8.    | Linear in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Post-med ditch.   | 4.5 | 0.6 | 0.15    |
| 8  | Ditch Fill – same as 16. Fill of 7.    | Sticky sandy silty clay, brown (10YR 4/ 3) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 4.5 | 0.6 | 0.15    |
| 9  | Natural feature. Contains 10.          | Irregular in plan, with an irregular profile. The sides were irregular with an irregular base. Root.   | 1   | 0.6 | 0.8     |
| 10 | Natural Fill. Fill of 9.               | Friable sandy silty clay, mid brown (2.5YR 4/ 3) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently.  | 1   | 0.6 | 0.8     |
| 11 | Pit Cut. Contains 12.                  | Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a flat base. Very shallow, more flat than u-shaped.   | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.18    |
| 12 | Pit Fill. Fill of 11.                  | Friable sandy silty clay, mid yellow brown (10YR 5/ 4) in colour. There were two inclusions. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of gravel. Occurring occasionally.  | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.18    |
| 13 | Soakaway Cut. Contains 14.             | Square in plan, with a square profile. The sides were vertical with a flat base. Soakaway.   | 2.4 | 2.4 | Unknown |
| 14 | Soakaway Fill. Fill of 13.             | Loose clay, light reddish brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There were two inclusions. 20 + cm sized inclusions of modern building material. Occurring very frequently. 20 + cm sized inclusions of modern building material. Occurring very frequently. Soakaway filled with red bricks (modern) | 2.4 | 2.4 | Unknown |
| 15 | Ditch Cut – same as 7. Contains 16.    | Linear in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were concave with a concave base. Same as 7.  | 4.5 | 0.6 | 0.15    |
| 16 | Ditch Fill – same as 8. Fill of 15.    | Sticky sandy silty clay, brown (10YR 4/ 3) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 4.5 | 0.6 | 0.15    |
| 17 | Pit Cut. Contains 18.                  | Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a flat base. Same as [303] in Stage 1 evaluation.   | 1.7 | 1   | 0.15    |

|    |  |   |      |      |      |
|----|--|---|------|------|------|
| 18 | Pit Fill.<br>Fill of 17.                                   | Firm clayey silty sand, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 1.7  | 1    | 0.15 |
| 19 | Pit Cut.<br>Contains 20.                                   | Sub-circular in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were shallow with a flat base.   | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.34 |
| 20 | Pit Fill.<br>Fill of 19.                                   | Friable sandy silty clay, brown (10YR 5/ 3) in colour. There were two inclusions. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently. 11-20 cm sized inclusions of sub-rounded flint. Occurring moderately.          | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.34 |
| 21 | Cut of Pit or<br>Gully terminus.<br>Contains 22.           | Linear in plan, with a U shaped profile. The sides were steep with a convex base.   | 1.45 | 0.5  | 0.3  |
| 22 | Fill of Pit or<br>Gully terminus.<br>Fill of 21.           | Friable sandy silty clay, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/ 2) in colour. There were two inclusions. 6-10 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently. 0 sized inclusions of sub-angular flint occurring.              | 1.45 | 0.5  | 0.3  |
| 23 | Gully Cut. Cuts<br>18, 28 & 36.<br>Contains 24 &<br>35.    | Linear in plan, with a U shaped profile. Possibly later extended to the NE to cut linear [27]. The sides were shallow with a flat base. Same as [301] in the Stage 1 evaluation.  | 3.2  | 0.65 | 0.2  |
| 24 | Gully Fill –<br>same as 35.<br>Fill of 23.                 | Friable sandy silty clay, brown (10YR 4/ 3) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 3.2  | 0.65 | 0.2  |
| 25 | Pit Cut.<br>Contains 26 &<br>34.                           | Sub-circular in plan, with a square profile. The sides were vertical with a flat base.  | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.4  |
| 26 | Pit Fill – same<br>as 34.<br>Fill of 25.                   | Firm clayey silty sand, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There were two inclusions. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently. 6-10 cm sized inclusions of sub-angular flint. Occurring frequently. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.4  |
| 27 | Ditch Cut.<br>Contains 28 &<br>36.                         | Linear in plan, with a funnel profile. The sides were steep with a concave base.  | 4.8  | 1.9  | 0.7  |
| 28 | Ditch Fill –<br>same as 36.<br>Fill of 27. Cut<br>by [23]. | Firm clayey silty sand, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently.  | 4.8  | 1.9  | 0.7  |
| 29 | Posthole Cut.<br>Contains 30.                              | Square in plan, with a stepped profile. The sides were steep with a concave base.   | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.2  |

|    |   |   |      |      |      |
|----|---|---|------|------|------|
| 30 | Posthole Fill.<br>Fill of 29.               | Sticky sandy silty clay, dark grey (10YR 4/ 1) in colour. There was a single inclusion. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring occasionally.  | 0.5  | 0.4  | 0.2  |
| 31 | Posthole Cut.<br>Contains 32.               | Square in plan, with a stepped profile. The sides were shallow with a flat base.  | 0.25 | 0.2  | 0.06 |
| 32 | Posthole Fill.<br>Fill of 31.               | Friable sandy silty clay, dark grey (10YR 4/ 1) in colour. There was a single inclusion. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring occasionally.   | 0.25 | 0.2  | 0.06 |
| 33 | Posthole Fill –<br>same as 6.<br>Fill of 5. | Loose silty sandy clay; light brown (2.5YR 5/ 4) in colour. There were two inclusions. 3-5 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderate. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently.                     | 0.6  | 0.6  | 0.2  |
| 34 | Pit Fill – same<br>as 26.<br>Fill of 25.    | Firm clayey silty sand, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There were two inclusions. Fleck sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently. 6-10 cm sized inclusions of sub-angular flint. Occurring moderately. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.4  |
| 35 | Gully Fill –<br>same as 24.<br>Fill of 23.  | Friable sandy silty clay, brown (10YR 4/ 3) in colour. There was a single inclusion. 1-2 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring moderately.  | 3.2  | 0.65 | 0.2  |
| 36 | Ditch Fill –<br>same as 28.<br>Fill of 27.  | Firm clayey silty sand, dark yellow brown (10YR 4/ 4) in colour. There was a single inclusion. <1 cm sized inclusions of chalk. Occurring frequently.   | 4.8  | 1.9  | 0.7  |

### Discussion

**3.16** The features exposed during the present project could be assigned to five distinct phases, on the basis of their stratigraphy and the finds recovered from their fills (Figure 3). These are:

- Phase 1 - Geological deposits.
- Phase 2 - Roman deposits
- Phase 3 - Medieval deposits
- Phase 4 - Post-medieval / modern deposits.
- Phase 5 - Undated deposits.

#### Phase 1: Geological deposits

**3.17** The earliest deposit revealed was the natural chalk substratum (Plates 1 – 3).

Phase 2: Roman

**3.18** One feature could be assigned to this phase, pit [11], which contained three sherds of early Roman pottery. A small fragment of post-medieval peg tile was also present, but this is likely to be the result of bioturbation from linear [07], a post-medieval feature which truncates the southern side of the pit (Plate 4).

Phase 3: Medieval deposits

**3.19** Two features can definitely be assigned to the medieval period, [17] & [23] as they contained sherds of medieval sandy ware, of 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date, as well as fragments of worked Totternhoe clunch (Plates 5 - 7). Both features had previously been partially investigated during the Stage 1 evaluation, with pit [17] correlating to evaluation feature [303], while linear [23] correlates to evaluation feature [301].

**3.20** Linear [23] may have originally butted the southern edge of ditch [27], but was subsequently extended to the north-east, across [27] (Figure 3).

**3.21** A number of other features on the site have been tentatively assigned to this phase on the basis of their stratigraphic relationships, their location and the similarity of their fills to the identified medieval features. These include ditch [27], pits [19], [21] and [25], postholes [29] and [31] (Plates 5 – 10).

Phase 4: Post-medieval / modern deposits

**3.22** One feature, ditch [07] could be assigned to the post-medieval period on the basis of post-medieval tile fragments recovered from its fill (Plate 11).

**3.23** A number of modern services were also encountered, including a soakaway [13] and a pair of drainage trenches leading to it.

Phase 5: Undated deposits

**3.24** A number of features could not be assigned to a particular phase, including pit [05] (Plate 12) and natural features [03] and [09].

**FINDS CONCORDANCE**

| Context      | Pottery   |            | Tile      |             | Glass    |          | Stone    |              | An bone  |           | Metal    |           |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|              | No        | Wt         | No        | Wt          | No       | Wt       | No       | Wt           | No       | Wt        | No       | Wt        |
| 01           |           |            | 2         | 570         |          |          |          |              |          |           |          |           |
| 04           |           |            | 1         | 85          |          |          |          |              |          |           |          |           |
| 08           |           |            | 6         | 400         | 4        | 5        |          |              | 2        | 1         |          |           |
| 12           | 3         | 30         | 1         | 2           |          |          |          |              | 1        | 15        |          |           |
| 16           |           |            | 4         | 55          |          |          |          |              |          |           |          |           |
| 18           | 5         | 70         |           |             |          |          | 2        | 6480         |          |           | 1        | 15        |
| 24           | 2         | 25         |           |             |          |          | 7        | 4880         |          |           |          |           |
| u/s          | 1         | 100        |           |             |          |          |          |              |          |           |          |           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>225</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>1112</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>11360</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>15</b> |



## ***FINDS ASSESSMENT - Artefacts***

### ***Pottery***

**3.25** A total of 11 sherds, weighing 225g, was recovered from 3 stratified and 1 unstratified context. The assemblage comprises abraded and undiagnostic bodysherds, unlikely to be in their place of primary deposition. They range in date from the early Roman period to the medieval period.

**3.26** The earliest pottery on the site was retrieved from context (12), the fill of pit [11]. This consisted of one abraded sherd of grog-tempered ware, of late Iron Age / early Roman date, and two sherds of samian ware from a single vessel, a form 18/31 dish, dating to the late 1<sup>st</sup> – early 2<sup>nd</sup> C AD. The condition of the grog-tempered sherd suggests that it is likely to be residual within the context. However, the samian was in good condition and is likely to be in its primary place of deposition. A small group of late Roman pottery sherds was recovered during the Stage 1 evaluation, from linear [101] and pit [303] (Kaye 2007). These appear to have been residual within later features.

**3.27** The remaining sherds were all bodysherds in a coarse sandy ware, of 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date, Bedfordshire fabric C59A. Nine sherds of this fabric were recovered from the fill of pit [303], the same as (18), during the Stage 1 evaluation. No glazed wares were present on the site.

**3.28** The unstratified sherd may have formed part of either a base or a curfew.

### ***Recommendations***

**3.29** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage no further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material. On this basis no further work is proposed.

### ***Tile***

**3.30** Fourteen roofing tile fragments, weighing 1112g, were recovered from five stratified contexts. Part of a hand-made tile, of late medieval or early post-medieval date, was recovered from the overburden (01). The remaining thirteen fragments consist of pieces of peg tile of post-medieval date.

### ***Recommendations***

**3.31** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage no further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material. On this basis no further work is proposed.

### ***Glass***

**3.32** Four small fragments of green glass, weighing less than 5g, were recovered from context (08). All the fragments are modern and come from the base of the same bottle.

### *Recommendations*

**3.33** Given the modern date and fragmentary nature of the glass no further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material. On this basis no further work is proposed.

### *Stone*

**3.34** Nine stone fragments, weighing 11360g, were recovered from two stratified contexts. Two of these came from pit fill (18), with seven, including one decorated fragment from gully fill (24) (Plate 13). All are of Totternhoe Clunch.

**3.35** The pieces comprise broken fragments of building stone, with only one, from (18), showing a possible decorated surface. No clear tooling marks were present on any piece. This was the largest fragment and measured 300mm in length, 180mm in width and 150mm in height (Plate 14). The smallest fragment, recovered from (24), measured 35mm in length, 40mm in width and 20mm in height.

**3.36** The decorated piece showed carved chevrons on one face. There is no indication as to whether this formed part of a shaft or capital.

**3.37** The objects cannot be closely dated, but may be medieval or post-medieval in date.

**3.38** Four pieces of Totternhoe stone, weighing 665g, were recovered during the Stage 1 evaluation (Kaye 2007, 6). Three of these fragments form one decorated piece, which may represent a mason's test piece.

### *Recommendations*

**3.39** The presence of the stone fragments recovered during the Stage 3 excavation indicates a substantial building in the immediate vicinity of the present site. However, the assemblage consists of broken pieces of building stone, with very few dateable features. On this basis no further work is proposed on this material.

**3.40** The three pieces collected during the Stage 1 evaluation will be submitted to a specialist for further analysis. This will appear in the publication report.

### *Metal*

**3.41** One metal item, weighing 15g, was recovered during the excavation from stratified context (18). The object, which consisted of an unequally folded sheet of lead, 0.5mm thick, measured 32mm in length with a maximum width of 19mm. A strip of iron, 6mm wide, ran along the edge of the wider side. This is likely to represent a fragment of window lead of medieval date.

**3.42** About 240 lead offcuts weighing over 133 grammes were recovered during the processing of Sample 1 from context (18), the fill of pit [17]. The offcuts indicate waste from trimming sheet lead of at least two thicknesses. Fragments ranged in size from 0.5-0.8mm thickness, which have curled into small cylinders, to 1.5-3mm thickness. Their presence suggests the manufacture or use of sheet lead on site.

### *Recommendations*

**3.43** The presence of the lead off cuts indicates that lead working was taking place on the site, probably to prepare window leads and roof flashing. It is, therefore, likely that the folded sheet from pit fill (18) was manufactured on site. However, the small size of the fragments indicates that further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material.

**3.44** On this basis, no further work is proposed on the assemblage.

### ***FINDS ASSESSMENT - Ecofacts***

#### ***Animal bone***

**3.45** A total of three fragments of animal bone, weighing 16g were recovered from the site. Two chicken bone fragments totalling 1g in weight were recovered from context (08), the fill of [09], and a long bone from an unknown midsized animal, from pit fill (12) weighing 15g, which has butchery marks. The age at death of these animals could not be determined from the fragments present.

### *Recommendations*

**3.46** As this is a small and undiagnostic assemblage from only two contexts, no further work is proposed.

### ***Environmental Samples***

*by D. James Rackham*

#### *Introduction*

**3.47** Excavations conducted by Heritage Network on land at the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, uncovered evidence of Roman and medieval activity. Three bulk samples were collected; a sample from context (18), medieval pit [17]; a sample from context (12), from a possible Romano-British pit [11]; and a sample from context (24), a linear feature, [23], of medieval date

#### *Methods*

**3.48** The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residues and floats were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the three flots was measured, and the volume and weight of the residues recorded. A total of 95 litres of soil weighing 115.5 kilogrammes was processed in this manner.

**3.49** The residues were sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through the residues in order to recover magnetised material such as hammer scale and prill. The residues were then discarded. The floats of the samples were studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones

etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheets. The floats were then bagged. The floats and finds from the sorted residues constitute the material archive of the sample.

**3.50** The individual components of the sample were then identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 1 and 2 (see Appendix 2).

### Results

**3.51** The samples washed down to a residue of medium and fine sub-angular flint gravel, with occasional well rounded pebbles, hard chalk and ironstone, with some sand and sediment concretions. Pottery sherds were recovered from samples 1 and 3, a little coal in samples 1 and 2; flint chips in all samples although no obvious tools, and a little fired earth. Hammerscale was present in samples 1 and 2 and relatively abundant in medieval sample 3. The latter would suggest smithing being undertaken on the site in the medieval period. A little burnt flint and pebble was present in the sample from pit [11].

**3.52** The most interesting finds were a collection of lead offcuts with a little casting debris from sample 1.

**3.53** Environmental finds were limited to bone in samples 1 and 2, charcoal and charred plant remains in all the samples, and abundant terrestrial snail shells.

**3.54** A few grammes of large animal bone were recovered from samples 1 and 2. Several of the fragments were unidentifiable but a sheep tooth is present in sample 2, frog/toad and rodent in sample 1, and a field vole tooth in sample 2. A single fish vertebra, possibly herring, was recovered from sample 1 and a small bird foot phalanx was recovered from sample 2. A few charred cereals are present in all three samples but only 3-4 grains, with wheat being present in samples 2 and 3, and one or two charred seeds are also present. Charcoal is present in all three samples; although only sample 1 produced material that could be taken to species.

**3.55** The most abundant remains in all three samples were the shells of terrestrial snails. All three samples produced snails of the species *Cecilioides acicula*. This species burrows and its occurrence in archaeological deposits cannot be interpreted as contemporary; it is also thought to have been introduced in the Roman period or later. Nevertheless the remaining taxa can be considered contemporary and are dominated by species of open country/grassland habitats with shells of *Vallonia excentrica*, *Helicella itala* and *Pupilla muscorum* being fairly abundant, along with *Trichia hispida* and *Cochlicopa* sp. species of catholic habitat. A few shells of shade loving/woodland taxa are also present, such as *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella pura*, *Oxychilus* sp. and *Vitrea* sp., but make a much smaller contribution to the assemblage.

### Discussion and Recommendations

**3.56** The samples indicate the presence of two industrial activities. The presence of iron smithing in the medieval period and possibly in the Roman period, although the finds in the latter are of sufficiently low density that they could have moved down through the soil. The presence of lead sheet offcuts and a little casting waste in sample 1 indicates some form of leadworking being undertaken.

**3.57** The environmental evidence is limited with a scatter of charcoal and charred cereal grains, and a little large animal bone and a single fish vertebra, suggesting domestic fire and food consumption waste entering the deposits along with the industrial debris. The snail fauna are suggestive of an open landscape but with some shade or vegetation. The assemblage from medieval linear [23] has the highest shade loving component.

**3.58** Although further specific identifications of charred seeds, charcoal and the fish bone could be obtained, and the snail faunas could be identified and quantified it is difficult to see how this would make any further contribution to the archaeology other than slightly refining the palaeoenvironmental interpretation and producing presence data for specific plant and animal taxa.

**3.59** On this basis, no further environmental work is proposed.

## 4 Further Research

### RESEARCH AIMS

**4.1** The defined aim of the present project has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to consider their importance in the context of the current published local and regional research agenda (Oake et al 2007, Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), if they were discovered.

**4.2** It was considered that the archaeological investigations on the present site had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the route and use of the prehistoric Icknield Way; the development of the Roman small town, with particular emphasis on the route of the Icknield Way; the relationship between the Roman and medieval town; and the development and growth of Dunstable as a medieval planned town, in particular the effect of the Royal residence on the town.

**4.3** The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrates that a variety of data have been collected which can contribute positively to the aims of the project. The key elements can be summarised as follows:

**4.4** It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics, including investigation into the development of the prehistoric routeway known as the Icknield Way

- No evidence for prehistoric activity was encountered during the present project. A single sherd of abraded late Iron Age / early Roman grog-tempered pottery, together with 2 sherds of early Roman samian ware, was collected from pit [11].

**4.5** It was considered that, although Dunstable is one of the better understood Roman small towns in Bedfordshire (Oake et al 2007, 73), little archaeological work has been possible along the route of the Icknield Way itself. In addition, the form and character of small towns in the later Roman period is less well understood and remains an important regional research topic (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, 21; Medlycott 2011, 48).

- Evidence for Roman activity was recorded during the present investigation. Pit [11] has been dated to the early Roman period on the basis of the finds recovered from its fill. These comprised one abraded sherd of grog-tempered ware of late Iron Age / early Roman date and two sherds of early Roman samian ware pottery from the same vessel.
- A small number of sherds of late Roman date were recovered as residual finds from medieval and post-medieval features during the Stage 1 evaluation.

**4.6** It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the relationship between the Roman small town and the later town (Oake et al 2007, p.11).

- Only one possible Roman feature, pit [11], was identified on the present site, however, Roman pottery sherds were also recovered from at least two features during the Stage 1 evaluation. Further evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity was revealed

in 1981 when Roman and medieval pottery was collected from the site by the Manshead Society.

**4.7** It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the character, development and growth of the medieval town (Oake 2007, 14-15; Medleycott 2011, 11), with Dunstable having particular significance as a planned town and Royal Residence (Oake et al 2007, 15).

- A number of features of probable medieval date were revealed during both during both the Stage 1 evaluation and the present investigation. These were concentrated at the northern end of the site, with linear [27] and the two postholes to the north possibly marking a boundary.
- Fragments of worked Totternhoe clunch were collected from two features on the present site. The fragments, together with the report of a robbed out buttress found during excavations by the Manshead Society in 1981, indicate that a high status building was located in the immediate vicinity.
- Evidence for industrial activity on the site was identified during the processing of the bulk soil samples. A number of lead offcuts and a little casting waste were recovered from sample 1, context (18), while hammerscale was recovered from all three samples, but especially from sample 3, context (24). The presence of the lead sheet, suggestive of window leads, is further evidence for a high status building in the vicinity.
- The environmental evidence indicates an open grassed landscape, with some shade or vegetation, particularly around linear [23]. This would suggest that the present site lay on undeveloped land, possibly to the rear of a property fronting Church Street. The large linear [27] may mark the line of the rear boundary to this property.

**4.8** It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the character, development and growth of post-medieval Dunstable (Oake et al 2007, 127).

- Evidence for post-medieval activity was encountered during the present project. A small ditch [07] contained post-medieval tile fragments. The fill (08) also contained modern green bottle glass fragments at the top of the fill. However these were almost certainly intrusive.
- A modern soakaway, cut [14], was located to the south of linear [07].

**4.9** Two natural features were also encountered, cuts [03] and [09]. Both lay to the south of linear [07].

### **UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN**

**4.10** The data collected from the present site has provided new information regarding occupation in the area in the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

**4.11** Although intercutting features were revealed during the investigation, the stratigraphy of the present site was not complex with the majority of features containing a single fill. On this basis no further stratigraphic analysis will be undertaken and it is proposed to publish this as it stands.

**4.12** The assemblages of animal bone, tile, glass and lead have been assessed as requiring no further work. On this basis it is proposed to publish the reports on these materials as they stand.

**4.13** The assemblages of Roman and medieval pottery have been assessed as having no further archaeological potential. On this basis it is proposed to publish the reports on these materials as they stand.

**4.14** The environmental samples collected from the site have been assessed and have demonstrated no potential for further analysis. On this basis it is proposed to publish the report on this material as it stands.

**4.15** No further work will be undertaken on the stone assemblage, with the exception of the decorated fragments found during the Stage 1 evaluation. The specialist report on these will appear in the publication report.

### **PUBLICATION**

**4.16** It is proposed to publish the results of the present project as a note in Bedfordshire Archaeology, with the full report being uploaded to OASIS. A web article, summarising the findings of the project, will also be provided for inclusion on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

| Section                  | Content               | Words | Pages |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| Introduction             | Project background    | 500   |       |
| Narrative and discussion | Features and deposits | 500   |       |
| Artefacts                | By type               | 500   |       |
| Ecofacts                 | By type               | 200   |       |
| Bibliography             |                       | 250   |       |
| <b>Total words:</b>      |                       | 2000  | 4     |
| Line drawings            | Plans                 |       | 0.5   |
|                          | Sections              |       | 0.5   |
| Tables                   | Ecofacts x 2          |       | 1     |
| <b>Total Pages:</b>      |                       |       | 6     |

### **ARCHIVE**

**4.17** The documentary and material archives are currently held by The Heritage Network Ltd at its premises at 11 Furnston Court, Icknield Way, Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

**4.18** In its final form the archive will conform to UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage, and the specific requirements for the deposition of archaeological archives with Luton Museum. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

### **TASK LIST TO PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

| Task | Description                       | Undertaken by                     | Days |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 1    | Compile publication text          | Greg Jones, Heritage Network      | 1    |
| 2    | Prepare publication illustrations | Greg Jones, Heritage Network      | 1    |
| 3    | Editing                           | David Hillelson, Heritage Network | 0.5  |
| 4    | Final archive                     | Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network  | 2    |
| 5    | Archive deposition                | Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network  | 0.5  |



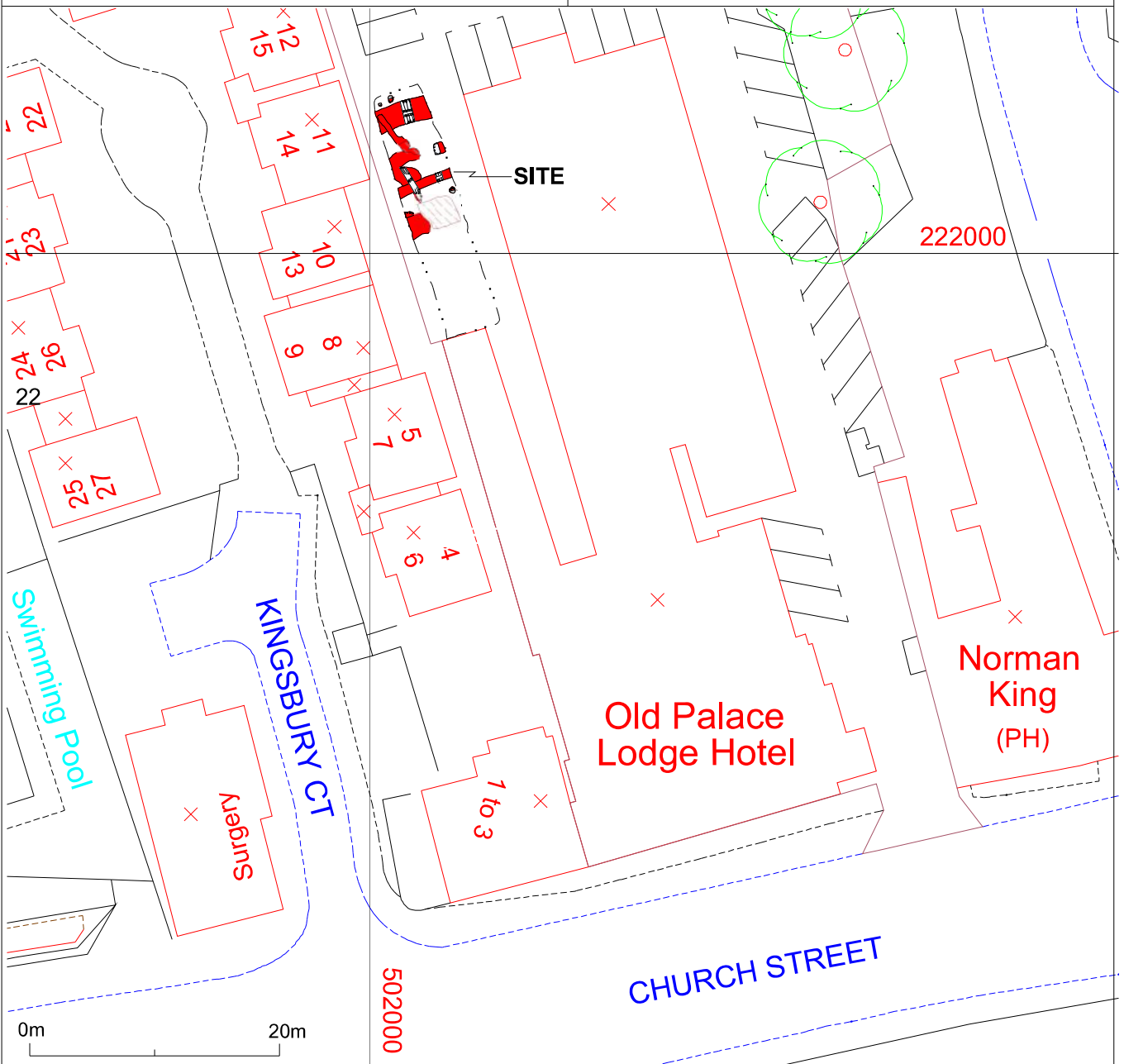
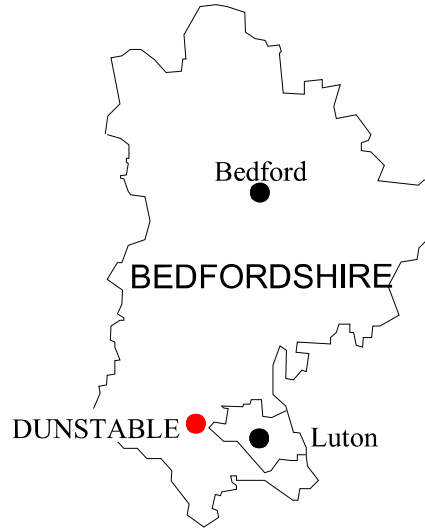
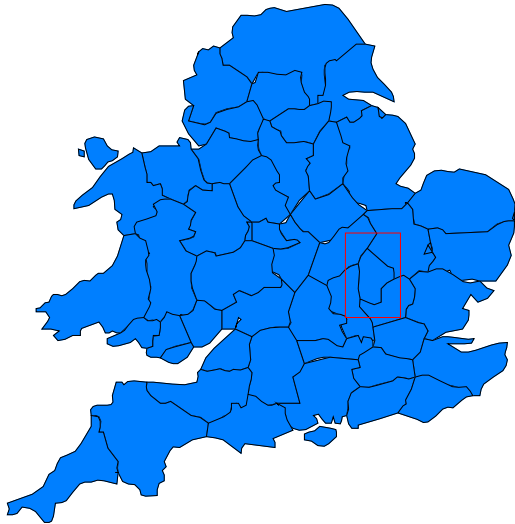
## 5 Sources Consulted

- Albion Archaeology, 2003, *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Dunstable Archaeological Assessment*.
- Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology
- Dept. of Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. (TSO)
- Dobney *et al.* 1995 *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations: recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2
- English Heritage 2002 *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. (HBMC)
- English Heritage 2006 *Management of Field Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)
- English Heritage 2010 *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*. (HBMC)
- Evans, J.G. 1972 *Land Snails in archaeology*. London: Seminar Press
- Greig, J, 1991 *The British Isles, Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany* (eds W van Zeist, K Wasylikowa and K-E. Behre), Rotterdam, 229-334
- Gurney, D. *et al.* 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)
- Hanf, M, 1983 *The Arable Weeds of Europe*, Ludwigshafen.
- Heritage Network, 2007, *Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Evaluation Report*. Heritage Network report no. 389
- Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Field Excavation*.
- Jacomet, S, 2006 *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites* 2nd edition. Archaeobotany Lab IPAS, Basel University
- Kaye, D. 2007 *Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable Bedfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Heritage Network report no.389
- Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24
- Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. & Murphy, P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.
- Rackham, D.J. and Giorgi, J. 2011 *Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, Beds. – HN978. Environmental Archaeology Report*. Unpublished report for Heritage Network.
- Sankaran, V. & Sherlock, D. 1977 (eds.) *Domesday Book: Bedfordshire*. Chichester: Phillimore
- Snee, J. 2011 *Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Project Design*. Heritage Network.
- Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England & Wales, Sheet 4, Eastern England*. Rothamsted: SSEW
- Stace, C, 2005 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 2nd Edition, Cambridge
- Williams, D. 1973 'Flotation at Siraf'. *Antiquity*, **47**, 198-202

## 6 Illustrations

Figure 1 ..... Site location  
Figure 2 ..... Pre-excavation plan  
Figure 3 ..... Features at N end of site – by phase  
Figure 4 ..... Sections 7 & 8  
Figure 5 ..... Sections 2, 3, 4, 10 & 11  
Figure 6 ..... Sections 9 & 12

Plate 1 ..... Pre-ex general shot, looking S  
Plate 2 ..... General shot, looking S  
Plate 3 ..... General shot, looking NW  
Plate 4 ..... Section through pits [09], [11] & [15] looking SW  
Plate 5 ..... Pit [17] looking N  
Plate 6 ..... Features [17], [19] & [23], looking SW  
Plate 7 ..... Section through gully [23] looking N  
Plate 8 ..... Half sectioned pit [25], looking E  
Plate 9 ..... Section through ditch [27] looking W  
Plate 10 ..... Post-holes [31] & [29], looking N  
Plate 11 ..... Ditch [07], looking W  
Plate 12 ..... Pit [05] looking S  
Plate 13 ..... Carved stone fragment from (24)  
Plate 14 ..... Worked stone fragment from (18)

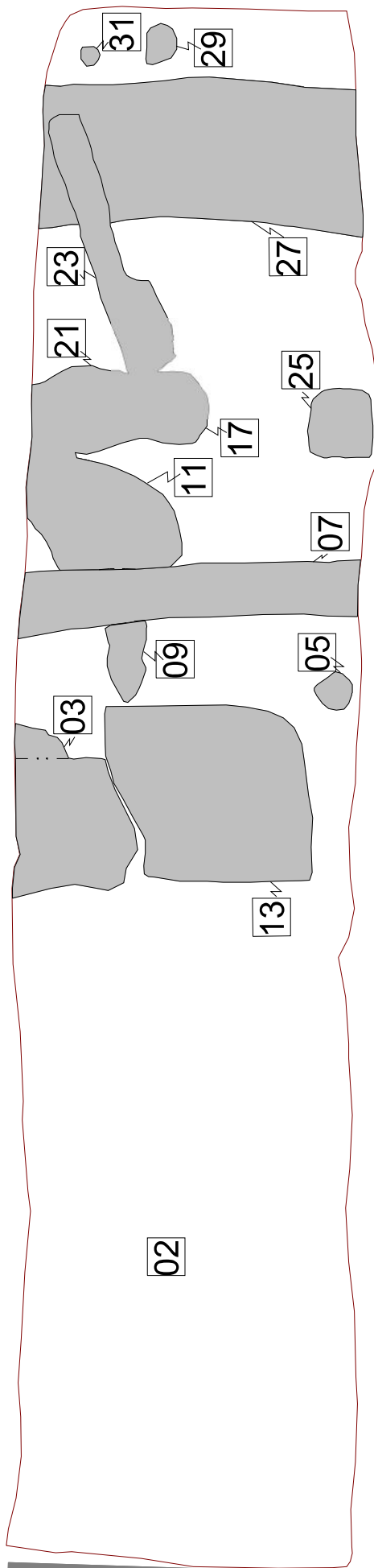


Site Location

Scale 1:500

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL52036A

Figure 1

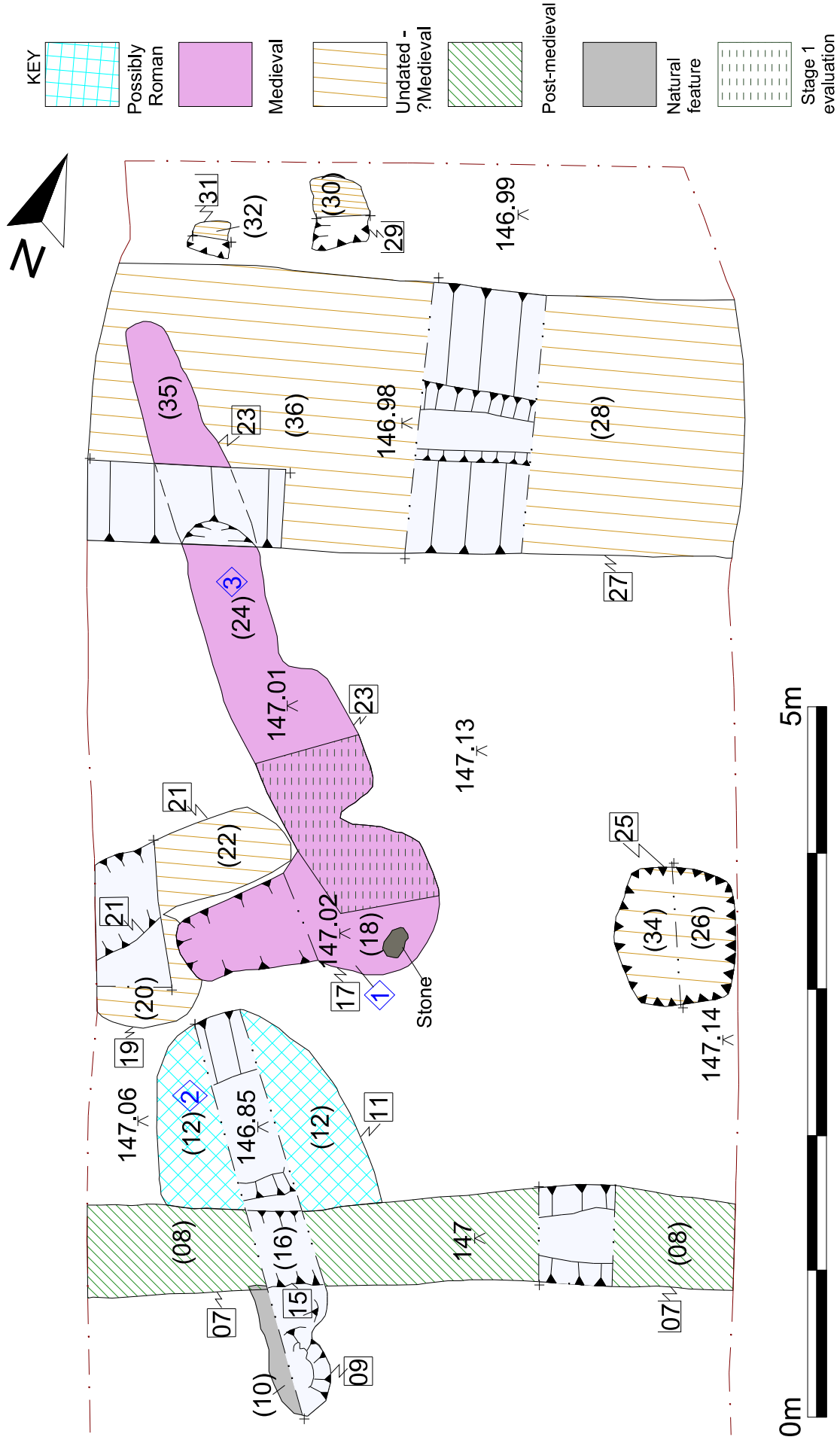


Existing building



Existing building

Pre-excavation plan



Archaeological features at N end of site - by phase

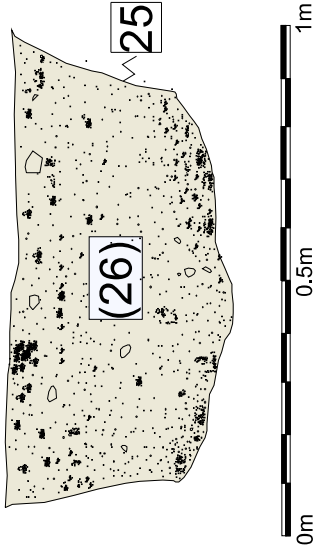
East Facing Section Through Ditch [27]

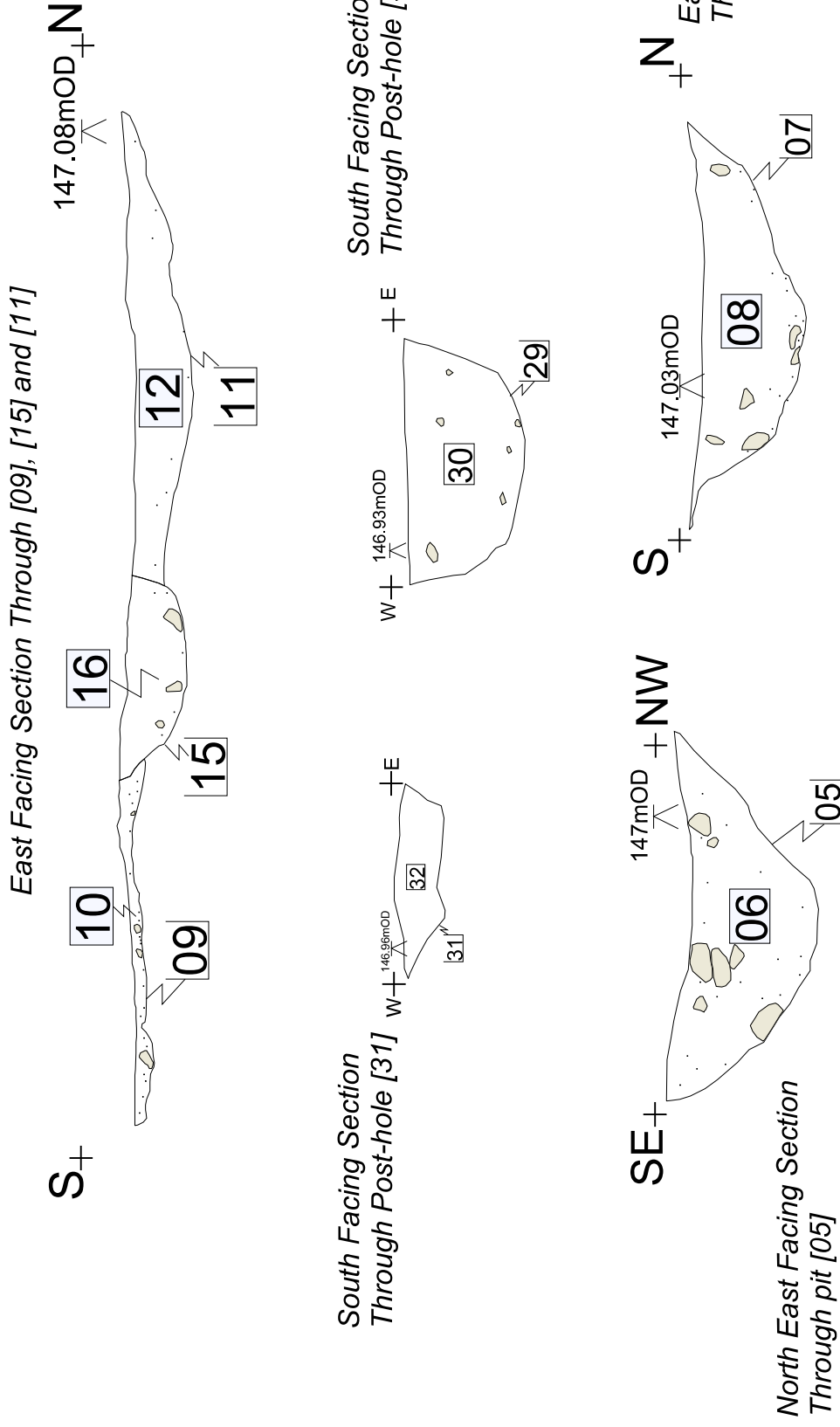
S+ 147.06mOD  
/ \



West Facing Section Through Pit [25]

+ N N + 147.16mOD  
/ \





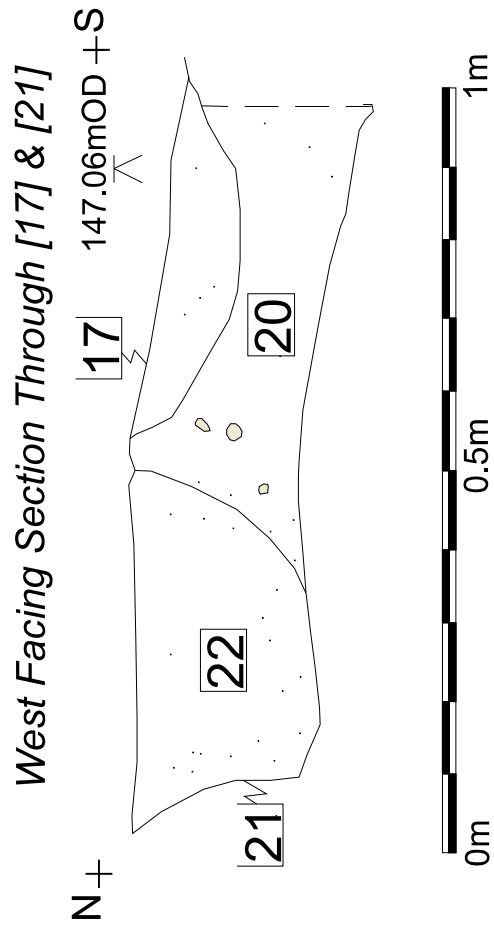
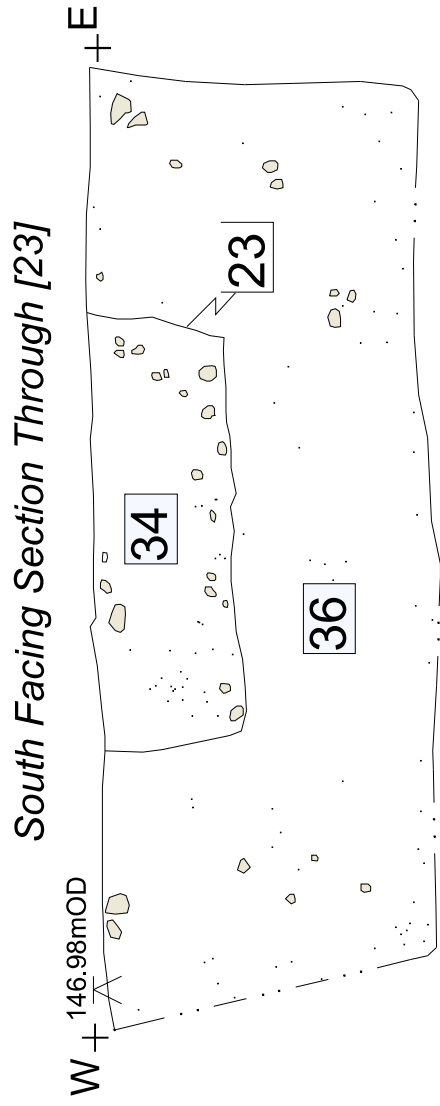






Plate 1: Pre-excavation shot of the site, looking south



Plate 2: General post-excavation shot of the site, looking south



Plate 3: General shot of the site, looking northwest



Plate 4: Pits [09], [11] & [15] looking south-west



Plate 5: Features [17], [19] and [23] looking north



Plate 6: Features [17], [19] & [23] looking south-west



Plate 7: Gully [23] looking north



Plate 8: Ditch [27] looking west



Plate 9: Pit [25] looking north-east



Plate 10: Post-holes [31] &amp; [29] looking north



Plate 11: Ditch [07] looking west



Plate 12: Pit [05] looking south



Plate 13: Carved stone fragment from (24)



Plate 14: Worked stone fragment from (18)





# Appendix 1

## Oasis Summary Sheet

| <i>OASIS ID: heritage1-119272</i>      |  |
|--|--|
| Project details                        |  |
| Project name                           | Dunstable, Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street   |
| Short description of the project       | As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new extension on land at the Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Graham Rosser of Rosser Morris Ltd, acting on behalf of MGM Hotels Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. Two stages of fieldwork were undertaken. The first consisted of an archaeological evaluation. Three trial trenches were opened which revealed a number of undated archaeological features and a medieval pit (Heritage Network 2007). Of particular interest in trench 3 was a carved stone of medieval date that strongly suggests the presence of a high status building in the vicinity. As a result of these findings an open area excavation was requested by the LPA. This work included the re-excavation of the dated pit identified in Trench 3 in order to take an environmental sample. Another pit was uncovered during this work which contained Roman pottery and two further undated pits were encountered within the excavation area, together with a large undated ditch and three undated post holes and two other features of natural origin. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 03-05-2012 End: 06-05-2012  |
| Previous/future work                   | Yes / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | HN978 - Contracting Unit No.   |
| Any associated project reference codes | LUTNM2012.8 - Museum accession ID  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project  |
| Site status                            | Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)  |
| Current Land use                       | Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Uncertain  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Post Medieval  |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Medieval   |
| Monument type                          | PIT Medieval   |
| Monument type                          | POST-HOLE Uncertain  |
| Monument type                          | PIT Uncertain  |
| Significant Finds                      | POTTERY Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | TILE Post Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | STONE Medieval   |
| Significant Finds                      | STONE Uncertain  |
| Significant Finds                      | GLASS Post Medieval  |
| Significant Finds                      | ANIMAL BONE Uncertain  |
| Investigation type                     | ""Full excavation""  |
| Prompt                                 | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS  |

| <b>Project location</b>       |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Country                       | England   |
| Site location                 | BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE DUNSTABLE Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Church Street           |
| Postcode                      | LU5 4RT   |
| Study area                    | 100.00 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates              | TL 02120 22002 51 0 51 53 12 N 000 30 57 W Point  |
| Lat/Long Datum                | Unknown   |
| Height OD / Depth             | Min: 147.00m Max: 148.00m   |
| <b>Project creators</b>       |   |
| Name of Organisation          | Heritage Network  |
| Project brief originator      | Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body                     |
| Project design originator     | Heritage Network  |
| Project director/manager      | David Hillelson   |
| Project supervisor            | Greg Jones  |
| Type of sponsor/funding body  | Landowner   |
| <b>Project archives</b>       |   |
| Physical Archive recipient    | Luton Museum Service  |
| Physical Archive ID           | LUTNM 2012.8  |
| Physical Contents             | "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"                          |
| Digital Archive recipient     | Luton Museum Service  |
| Digital Archive ID            | LUTNM 2012.8  |
| Digital Contents              | "Environmental"   |
| Digital Media available       | "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  |
| Paper Archive recipient       | Luton Museum Service  |
| Paper Archive ID              | LUTNM 2012.8  |
| Paper Contents                | "Environmental"   |
| Paper Media available         | "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"                  |
| <b>Project bibliography 1</b> |   |
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)   |
| Title                         | Land at Old Palace Lodge Hotel, Dunstable, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Assessment Report |
| Author(s)/Editor(s)           | Jones, G.   |
| Other bibliographic details   | Report no.719   |
| Date                          | 2013  |
| Issuer or publisher           | Heritage Network  |
| Place of issue or publication | Letchworth, Herts.  |
| Description                   | A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 23 pages, 6 figures, 14 plates                       |

## Appendix 2

### Archaeological and environmental finds from samples 1-3.

| Sample | Context No. | Type            | vol in l. | residue vol in l. | pot no/wt g | fired earth # | Flint  | ham'r scale (no flakes) | bone wt g. | other  |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|-------------------------|------------|--|
| 1      | 18          | Pit fill        | 23        | 12                | 2/4.2       | 1.6*          | 45/4.8 | 7                       | 2.2        | 133.2g lead (Pb) offcuts from medium and fine sheet with a little casting debris; flint- lots small chips-possible debitage; |
| 2      | 12          | Roman pit fill  | 32        | 15                |             | 0.4           | 83/3.2 | 6                       | 4.8        | 2g burnt flint/pebble; flint –small chips-poss. Debitage.  |
| 3      | 24          | Medieval linear | 40        | 11                | 1/1         | +             | 2/0.2  | 35                      |            |  |

# - weight in grammes

**Table 2.** Archaeological and environmental finds from samples 1-3.

| Sample | Context No. | vol in l. | residue vol in l. | flot vol. ml. | charcoal & | ch'rd grain * | ch'rd seed * | snail */# | other  |
|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|--|
| 1      | 18          | 23        | 12                | 19            | 3/5        | 1             | 1            | 3/3       | Indet charred cereal grain; catyle size long bone, indet bone; frog/toad, rodent, fish vertebra; snails – <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella</i> sp., <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Cepeae</i> sp., <i>Vallonia costata</i> , <i>Vallonia excentirca</i> , <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> , <i>Aegopinella pura</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i>                      |
| 2      | 12          | 32        | 15                | 6             | 1/3        | 1             | 1            | 2/2       | Charred wheat grain and seed; sheep, cattle size, indet, field vole, small bird; snails – <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> , slug.  |
| 3      | 24          | 40        | 11                | 13            | 2/4        | 1             |              | 5/3       | Charred wheat grain; snails - <i>Trichia hispida</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Helicella</i> sp., <i>Hellicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Cepeae</i> sp., <i>Vallonia costata</i> , <i>Vallonia excentirca</i> , <i>Ceciloides acicula</i> , <i>Aegopinella pura</i> , <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Oxychilus</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Vitrina</i> sp., <i>Vitrea</i> sp., |

& - frequency of >2mm/<2mm fragments of charcoal

\* frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-100; 3=101-250; 4=251-500; 5=>500

# diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa