

HERITAGE NETWORK



**28 GRANGE STREET
Clifton, Bedfordshire.**

HN1022

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

28 GRANGE STREET
Clifton, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN1022
LPA ref.: CB/11/00741/FULL
Accession No: BEDFM 2012.67

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Ian Saunders, Esq.

by

Greg Jones, MA BA (HONS) AIFA

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The front cover shows the site, looking west

Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Ian Saunders Esq. and Dave Benbow of HG Construction Ltd, and Martin Oake, Archaeology Team (AT) of Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	28 Grange Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire, SG17 5EW.		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Clifton	Parish:	Clifton
Planning reference:	CB/11/00741/FULL	NGR:	TL 16365 39120
Client name and address:	Ian Saunders Esq., HG Construction Ltd., 4 Hunting Gate, Hitchin, SG4 0TJ		
Nature of work:	New dwellings	Current land use:	Garden
Site Status:	Conservation Area.	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c. 1675m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.91m ²
Site code:	HN1022	Alternate reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Trial trench evaluation	Archive recipient:	Bedfordshire
Start of work:	11/12/2012	Finish of work:	12/12/2012
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Medieval?, Post-medieval.
OASIS UID:	heritage1-135327	Significant finds:	Pot, tile, animal bone
Monument types:	Ditch, pit		
Physical archive:	Pot, tile		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land at 28 Grange Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

Three trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a small number of cut features comprising three pits and an east-west oriented ditch. Only one of the pits contained dateable finds, including sherds of modern flowerpot and late post-medieval peg tile. The other features are undated but are thought to be of medieval or later date. The ditch has been interpreted as a possible field boundary.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods. This rises to *High* for the medieval and post-medieval periods, though the potential significance of such remains is considered to be *Low*.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Ian Saunders Esq., to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of a proposed development at 28 Grange Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire.

1.2 Planning permission for the development (ref.: CB/11/00741/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to an archaeological condition, issued on the advice of the Council's Archaeology Team (AT), and in accordance with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), now superseded by the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated September 2012.

1.3 The property is located on the northern edge of the village, on the east side of Grange Street, close to the junction between Grange Street and Pedley Lane. The study area, which lies within the Clifton Conservation Area, is located at the northern end of Grange Street, centred on NGR TL 16365 39120. The site is bounded to the north by no.30 Grange Street, to the south by nos.28a and 22c, to the west by Grange Street itself, and to the east by open land (Figure 1).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation 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, Oake *et al* 2007, Medlycott 2011), should they be discovered. It was considered that such investigation had the potential to identify archaeological deposits which might contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Clifton, from the prehistoric period onwards.

1.5 The proposed development entails the demolition of the existing building and the construction of three new dwellings, with associated private gardens, garages, access and parking.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located at a height of approximately 44mOD. The land is fairly flat but slopes to the east.

2.2 The underlying solid geology consists of Sandstone and loose sand of the Woburn Sands Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience) overlain by soils of the Sutton 1 Association (571u). These are described as *Well drained fine and coarse loamy soils locally calcareous and in places shallow over limestone gravel* (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.4 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate using a 3-tonne tracked mini-digger mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

2.5 Spoil from the machining was scanned visually and using a metal detector for archaeological artefacts.

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

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

RESULTS

2.8 Three trial trenches were opened across the site. These were located with reference to known constraints across the site, which included standing buildings and the presence of more than 30 trees and shrubs (Figure 2).

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located in the western half of the site and was oriented WSW-ENE. It measured 13m long by c.2.4m wide (Figure 2).

Recorded data:

Length (m):	13.0	Width (m):	2.4	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.80	Orientation	E-W
Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	44.60	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	44.65
		Base	43.77			Base	43.89
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey soft silty clay sand.			-	-	c.0.65
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown clay sand natural.			-	-	> 0.15
101	Cut	Pit cut, with sloping sides and a flat base. Cuts (104), contained (102).			1.80	>1.30	>0.60

Length (m):	13.0	Width (m):	2.4	Maximum Depth (m):	c.0.80	Orientation	E-W
Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	44.60	Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	44.65
		Base	43.77			Base	43.89
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
102	Fill	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown medium sticky clay silt with sand, fill of [101]. Contained Post-medieval pottery and tile.		1.80	>1.30	>0.60	
103	Cut	Pit cut, with sloping sides and a flat base. Contained (104).		>1.30	1.20	0.30	
104	Fill	10YR 3/3 dark brown gritty clay silt with sand, fill of [103]. Cut by [101] and contained animal bone fragments.		>1.30	1.20	0.30	
105	Cut	Semi circular cut with steep sides, base not seen. Contained (106).		1.80	0.90	0.80	
106	Fill	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown sticky silt with sand and grit and small amount of gravel. No finds		1.80	0.90	0.80	

2.10 The stratigraphy on the site consisted of c.0.65m of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay sand topsoil, overlying yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay sand natural.

2.11 Cutting into the natural were three pits [101], [103] and [105] (Figure 3; Plate 1). Pit [101] was located on the southern side of the trench and truncated pit [103] to the north (Plate 2). Its fill (102) contained modern flowerpot sherds and fragments of post-medieval peg tile. A small number of animal bone fragments were recovered from the fill of pit [103]. Pit [105] was located at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 3). Its fill (106) contained no finds.

Trench 2

2.12 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1 and was oriented NE-SW (Figure 2). It measured 15m long by 2m wide.

Recorded Data

Length (m):	15.0	Width (m):	2.0	Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	45.09	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	44.86
		Base	43.74			Base	44.03
Context	Type	Description		Dimensions (m)			
				Length	Width	Depth	
-	Layer	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey soft silty clay sand.		-	-	c.0.65	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown clay sand natural.		-	-	> 0.15	
201	Cut	Linear cut, with sloping sides and a flat base, oriented east-west.		>3.5	0.80	0.20	
202	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft stony silty clay natural.		>3.5	0.80	0.20	

2.13 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 was very similar to that observed in Trench 1.

2.14 Located at the north eastern end of Trench 2 was linear feature [201] (Figure 4; Plate 4). It measured >3.5m long, by 0.80m wide, by 0.20m deep and was oriented east-west. The fill (202) consisted of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft stony silty clay (Plate 5). One small fragment of animal bone was recovered from the fill, but no datable finds were present.

Trench 3

2.15 Trench 3 was located to the south-east of Trench 1 and was oriented NE-SW. It measured 15m in length by 2m wide and was excavated to a depth of c.0.8m (Figure 2).

Length (m):	15.0	Width (m):	2.0		Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.00	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.00
			Base	44.16				Base	44.12
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
-	Layer	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey soft silty sandy clay.	-	-	-	-	-	c.0.7	
-	Layer	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown clay sand natural	-	-	-	-	-	>0.1	

2.16 The stratigraphy in Trench 3 consisted of very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft silty clay sand clay topsoil above yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) clay sand natural.

2.17 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in Trench 3 (Plate 6).

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) lists all documented heritage assets within the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough administrative districts, including evidence of archaeological activity, ranging from chance finds to full-scale excavations. The HER was consulted on 25 October 2012, covering a 500m radius from the site centre.

3.2 The site lies on the eastern side of Grange Street, to the north of the core of the modern village.

3.3 Clifton, which gave its name to a Hundred, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was divided between five small estates with a total area of 14 hides (approximately 1,680 acres) (Morris 1977). At that period 18 males are noted as living on two of the estates, giving an estimated population of between 70 and 90. Two mills and 150 eels were recorded on the largest estate, held by William of Cairon from Eudo Dapifer. Meadow and arable land were recorded on all five estates.

3.4 No evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded within a radius of 500m of the present site, though a number of prehistoric sites are known from the wider area. These include five Bronze Age burials (HER 394), approximately 700m to the south-east and cropmarks of two possible Bronze Age ring ditches (HER 1664), approximately 700m to the north.

3.5 The suggested course of Viatores Road no.176 (HER 5342), which is thought to have crossed the county on an approximate east – west alignment, runs immediately to the north of the present site (Simco 1984, Figure 68). The Viatores suggested that the course of the road followed Pedley Lane and then continued eastwards. However, Simco has largely disproved a number of the suggested Viatores' roads in Bedfordshire, including this particular road. The only definite evidence for a road on this alignment has been identified at Woburn Park and this appears to follow a more curving pre-Roman course (ibid, 78 & Figure 66).

3.6 No evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded within a 500m radius of the site. A small Saxon vessel (HER 393) was found in 1930, close to the location of the Bronze Age burials and suggests a Saxon burial close to a Bronze Age burial mound.

3.7 The core of the medieval village (HER 17110) is located to the south-east of the study area, focused on Church Street, the southern end of Grange Street and the present village centre. The parish church of All Saints (HER 1037) appears to have been located at the north-eastern end of the medieval settlement, approximately 250m to the ENE. The church was originally built in the early 14th century and extended in the 15th century. The remains of a moated site, to the east of the present Clifton Manor, is thought to mark the site of the medieval manor of Clifton and Lacies (HER 3575), approximately 350m to the NNE. Earthworks of unknown date (HER 2523), which have now been ploughed out, are marked on the 1st edition OS map of 1881 to the north of the manor.

3.8 The site of the medieval archery butts (HER 7791), named as Butts Close on an estate map of 1745, is likely to have been on the north side of Shefford Road, approximately 300m to the south-west.

3.9 A number of medieval finds (HER 18354), including coins, buckles and a harness pendant, have been recovered by a metal detector user in Clifton.

3.10 Apart from the parish church, no medieval buildings survive in the village. The earliest buildings in the vicinity of the study area comprise The Grange (HER 6652), a Grade II listed building of 16th century date on the western side of Grange Street, less than 100m to the SSW, and a listed barn at Pedley's Farm (HER 13346), on the opposite side of Grange Street. The barn is Grade II listed and of early 17th century date. The farmhouse at Pedley's Farm is described as being of post-medieval date. Two other Grade II listed buildings of 17th and 18th century date, nos. 3 and 5 Grange Street (HER 4243), are located at the southern end of the street, approximately 100m to the SSW.

3.11 Other early post-medieval buildings include the present Manor House (HER 6656), which is Grade II listed and has 17th century origins, but was substantially altered and extended in the 19th century. A small landscape park (HER 9429) was established in the grounds of the Manor House in the late 18th or early 19th century. The Post Office and Stores, no.14 Church Street (HER 6719), is probably 17th century in origin with later modifications.

3.12 A number of other buildings in the village are of 18th century date, including Clifton House (HER 6645), White House, no. 14 Grange Street (HER 6649), The Armoury, 30 Grange Street (HER 6650), no.34 Grange Street (HER 6651) and Holly Cottage, 25 Church Street (HER 6720).

3.13 The existing building on the present site (HER 9191) is described as a 19th century roughcast house of 2 storeys with a porch. It has a gabled slate roof and windows of varying styles.

3.14 A number of post-medieval gravel and clay pits are also known from the vicinity of the present site, including a gravel pit to the north of Shefford Road (HER 7641), approximately 500m to the south-west and a clay pit to the north of Pedley Lane (HER 7643), approximately 100m to the north west.

Research Design

3.15 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that were 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 (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott and Brown 2008, Medlycott 2011), should they have been discovered.

3.16 It was considered that such an investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Clifton, from the prehistoric period onwards.

3.17 A number of research aims were identified prior to the start of the present project. These are detailed below.

3.18 The study of minor Roman roads in the county, which may follow the line of earlier precursors.

- The Viatores' evidence for many suggested Roman roads in Bedfordshire has since been reassessed and, largely, dismissed. This is true of road no.176, which was believed to follow Pedley Lane and continue eastwards, immediately north of the present site. No evidence for Roman activity was encountered during the present project.

3.19 The study of early medieval settlement, the agrarian economy and land use changes.

- No evidence for early medieval settlement was encountered during the present project.

3.20 The study of the origin and development of medieval villages in Bedfordshire.

- No evidence for medieval settlement was encountered during the present project. However, a possible boundary ditch of medieval date, running on an approximate east – west alignment, was revealed at the northern end of Trench 2. The lack of finds from its fill suggests that it was located at some distance from the core of the medieval village and is likely to represent a field boundary.

3.21 The study of the development of rural industry, including sites associated with brickmaking, in the post-medieval period.

- No clear evidence for rural industry was encountered during the present project.

3.22 The study of the development of rural settlement in the county in the post-medieval period.

- Three post-medieval pits, of which only one contained dateable finds, were revealed in Trench 1 in the western half of the site. The lack of finds suggests that they were not used for the disposal of domestic refuse and they are likely to have been used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.

Conclusion

3.23 The evaluation revealed a number of cut features. These include an undated linear ditch at the northern end of Trench 2, which possibly represents a medieval or early post medieval boundary. The absence of finds from the ditch suggests that it was located some distance from any form of settlement, and probably represents a field boundary.

3.24 Three pits were also encountered in Trench 1. One contained finds of late post-medieval and modern date. This appears to have been the latest feature on the site as it cut the southern edge of the pit to the north. The other two pits are undated. No function could be ascribed to these features.

3.25 Clifton was a small rural settlement in the medieval period and the recorded data is entirely consistent with this.

3.26 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb further archaeological remains may be considered to be *High* for the medieval and post medieval periods. The potential significance of such remains is considered to be *Low*.

Confidence Rating

3.27 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

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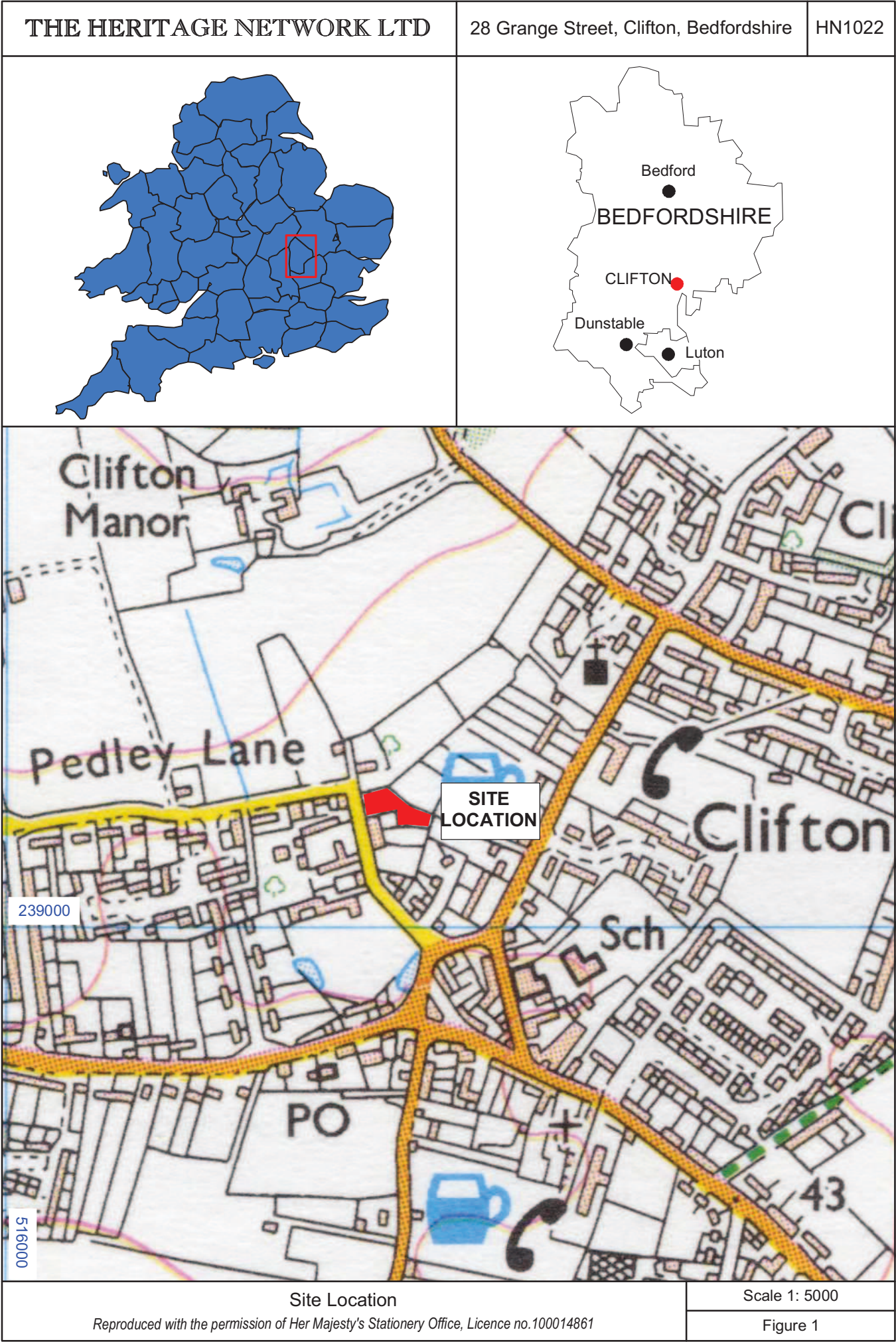
Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24

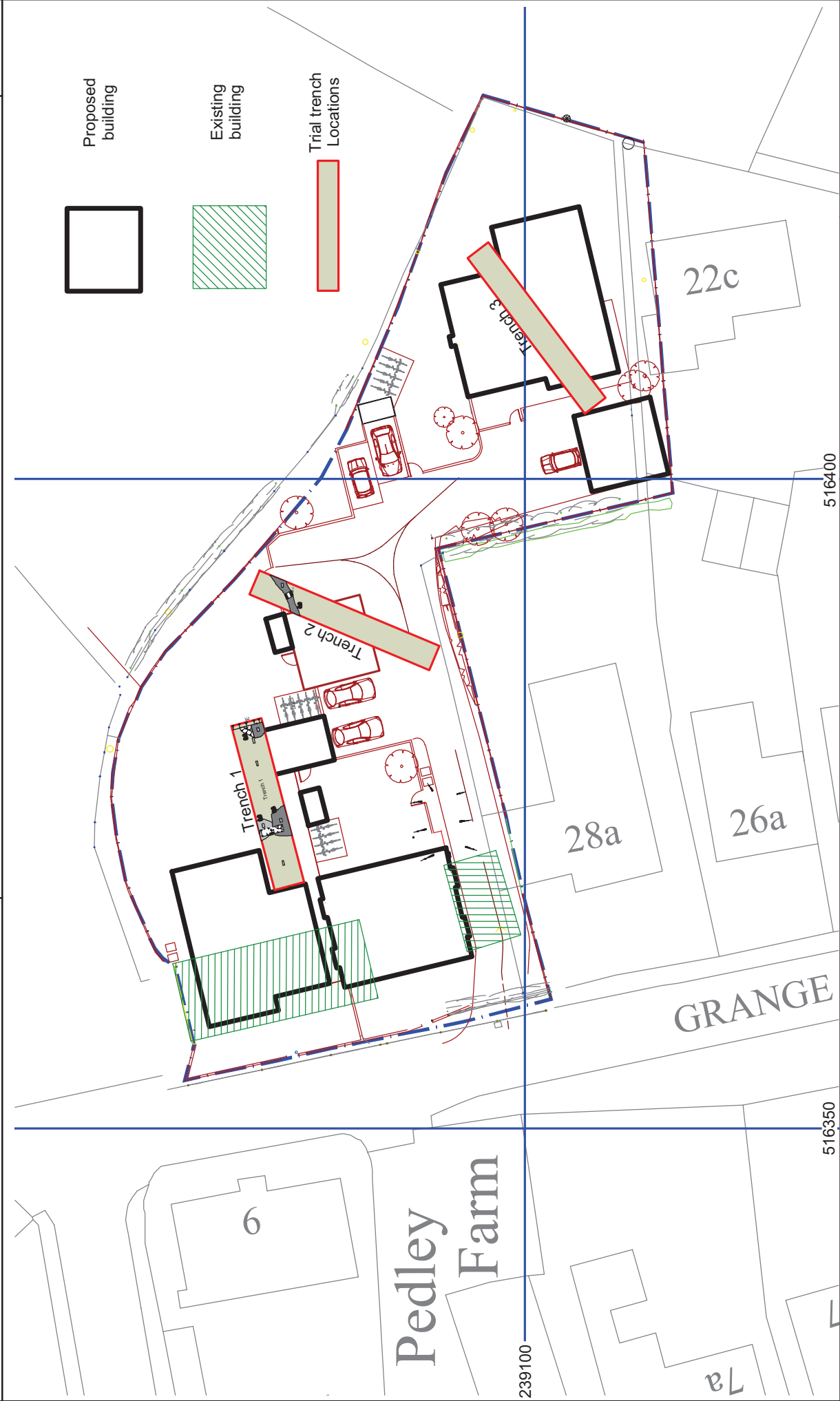
Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. & Murphy, P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.

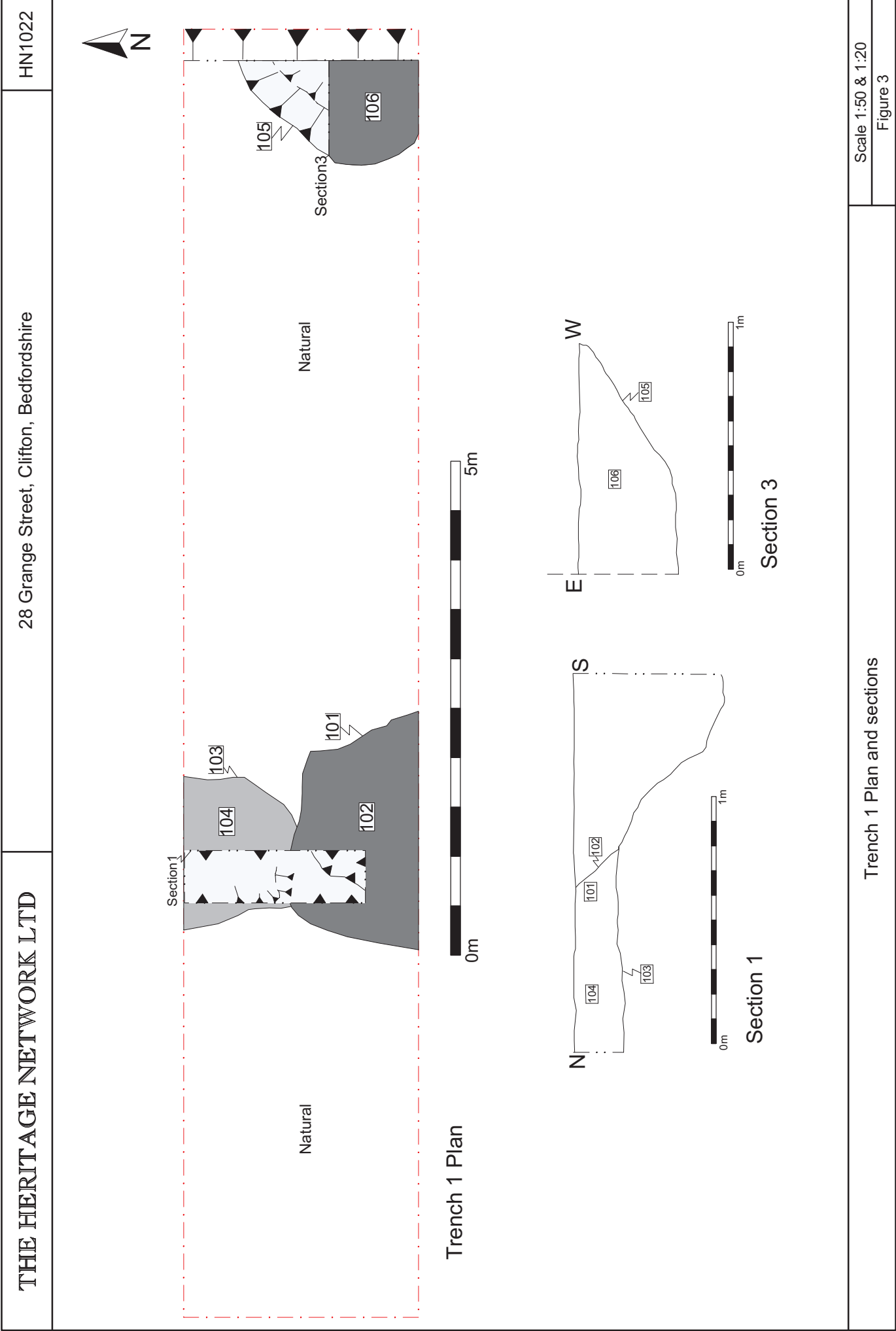
Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 19831:250,000 *Soil Map of England & Wales, Sheet 4, Eastern England*. SSEW

5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site Layout
Figure 3	Trench 1: Trench plan and sections
Figure 4	Trench 2: Trench plan and section
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking east
Plate 2	Section through pits [103] & [101], looking east
Plate 3	Section through pit [105], looking south
Plate 4	Trench 2, looking southwest
Plate 5	Section through ditch [201] looking east
Plate 6	Trench 3 looking northeast







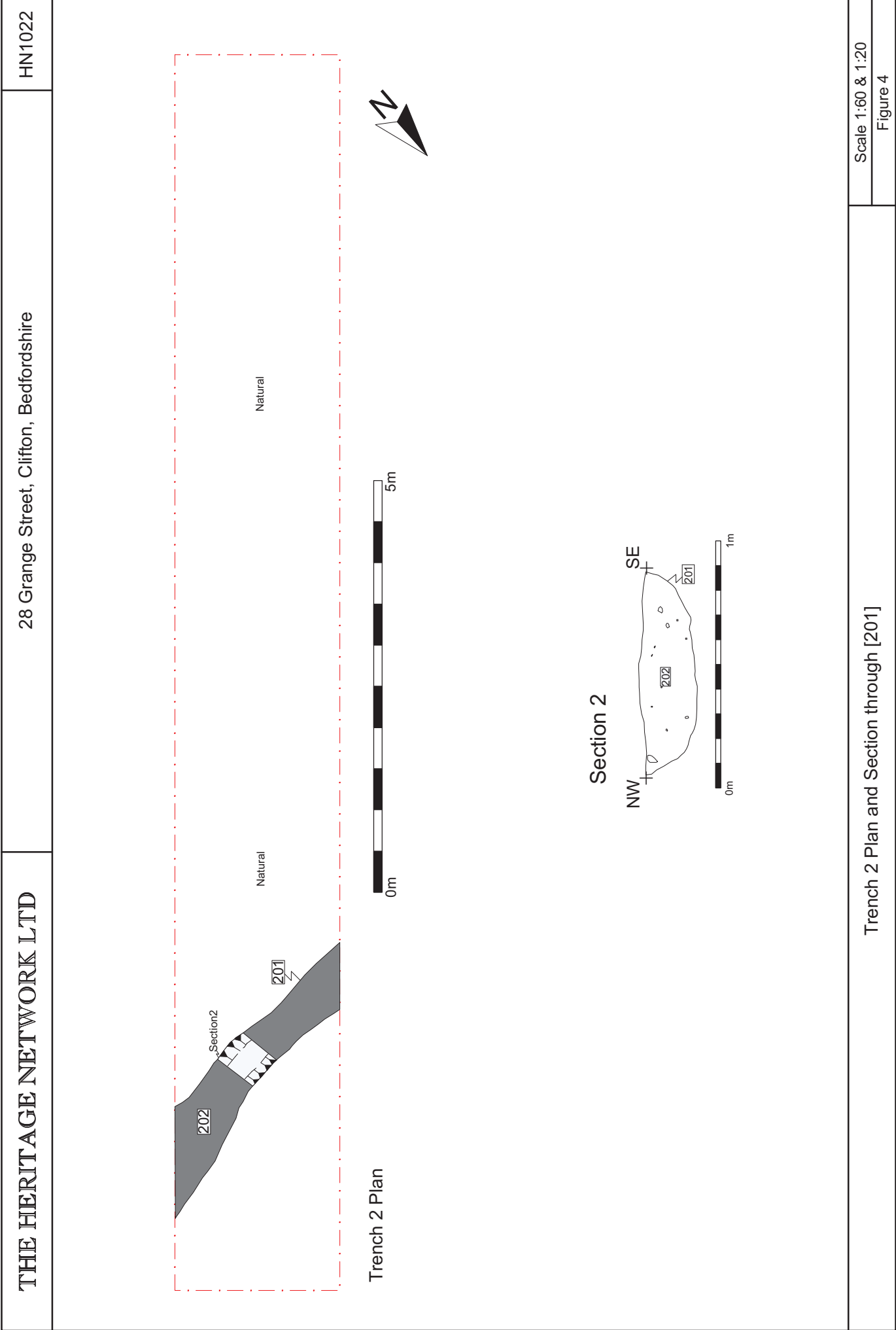




Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east



Plate 2: Pits [103] & [101] looking east



Plate 3: Pit [105] looking south



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking southwest



Plate 5: Linear [201], (202) looking east



Plate 6: Trench 3 looking northeast

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-135327	
Project details	
Project name	Clifton, 28 Grange Street
Short description of the project	<p>In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land at 28 Grange Street, Clifton, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.</p> <p>Three pits and an east-west oriented ditch, of medieval or later date, were revealed during the site strip and sample was excavated from one of the pits which contained a small quantity of peg tile and abraded pottery. The ditch was interpreted as a medieval field boundary and the pits were interpreted as post-medieval.</p> <p>On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be <i>Low</i> for the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods. This rises to <i>High</i> for the medieval and post-medieval periods, though the potential significance of such remains is considered to be <i>Low</i>.</p>
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2012 End: 12-12-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1022 - Contracting Unit No.
Associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2012.67 – Accession Number
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 12 - Residential
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval?
Significant Finds	POT, TILE Post-medieval
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey", "Sample" Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE CLIFTON 28 Grange Street
Postcode	SG17 5EW
Study area	1675 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 16365 39120
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.03m Max: 43.77m
Project creators	
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 funding body	Developer
Name of funding body	HG Construction Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Central Bedfordshire Museums
Physical Contents	"Ceramics" "Animal Bone"
Digital Archive recipient	Central Bedfordshire Museums
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Central Bedfordshire Museums
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	28 GRANGE STREET Clifton, Bedfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No. 761
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Hertfordshire
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 12 pages, 4 figures, 6 plates