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Provision of Lighting to Carriage Drive FLITWICK MANOR Flitwick, Bedfordshire

HN1037

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT

Provision of Lighting to Carriage Drive
FLITWICK MANOR
Flitwick, Bedfordshire

Project Ref.: HN1037
Accession no.: LUTNM 2012.40
LPA ref.: CB/12/01701/FUL

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Menzies Hotels Operating Ltd

By

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Report no. 766

January 2013

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The cover photograph shows the site in the course of groundworks, looking west

Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to John Mather, BM Trevillion Interiors Ltd; Jon Doubleday, building contractor; and Stephen Coleman and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Flitwick Manor, Church Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1AE		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Flitwick	Parish:	Flitwick
Planning reference:	CB/12/01701/FUL	NGR:	TL 02913 34166
Client name and address:	Menzies Hotels Operating Ltd, c/o BM Trevillion Interiors Ltd, 12 Ladysmith Road, Enfield, EN1 3AA		
Nature of work:	Lighting	Former land use:	Garden
Site status:	n/a	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA
Position in planning process:	Post-determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c. 4000 m ²	Size of area investigated:	17 m ²
Site Code:	HN1037	Accession no.:	LUTNM 2012.40
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient:	Luton Museum Service
Start of work	17/12/2012	Finish of work	17/12/2012
Related HER Nos:	Grade II Registered Park and Garden	Periods represented:	Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-138792	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Wall		
Physical archive:	n/a		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning consent for the installation of lighting on the carriage drive of Flitwick Manor, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

It was considered that the present project could provide the opportunity to investigate potential features of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date and thus improve our understanding of the origins and development of Flitwick.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts dated to before the 1980s were revealed during the course of the present project.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of BM Trevillion Interiors Ltd, acting on behalf of Menzies Hotels Operating Ltd, as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken during the provision of lighting to the carriage drive at Flitwick Manor, Flitwick, Bedfordshire.

1.2 Planning permission for the development (ref: CB/12/01701/FUL) granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), was subject to an archaeological condition issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The extent of the work was defined in a *Brief for a Scheme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Flitwick Manor, Flitwick, Bedfordshire*, prepared by the Archaeological Team (AT) at CBC, the unitary authority covering the site.

1.3 The study area lies adjacent to the carriage drive leading to the Flitwick Manor Hotel from Church Road, centred at NGR 502945 234177. It is located within Flitwick Manor Park, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, within the core of the medieval settlement of Flitwick Church End, and close to Flitwick Manor, which is a Grade II* listed building.

1.4 The development comprised the installation of lighting to the carriage drive, most of which is to be mounted above ground, but connections to the existing power supply at either end were buried below ground.

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Flitwick lies on the Mid Greensand Ridge (Central Bedfordshire Landscape Characterisation Area 6B) which is defined as a gently undulating ridge, forming part of the prominent band of Greensand running south-west to north-east across the county (www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Type%206_tcm6-26762.pdf#False).

2.2 The study area, centred at NGR TL 02945 34177, is located on the southwest edge of the town. It lies on the northwestern side of the valley of the River Flit at a height of 75m AOD. The land slopes downwards to the southeast.

2.3 Locally the soils belong to the Bearsted 1 Association (541A), described as '*Well-drained coarse loamy and sandy soils over sand or sandstone, in places ferruginous. Some permeable coarse and fine loamy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of water erosion*' (SSEW 1983). To the southwest, the soils of the valley base are of the Thames Association (814a), '*stoneless mainly calcareous clayey sols affected by groundwater.*' The underlying geology consists of Woburn Sands Formation - Sandstone overlain by alluvium (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 Fieldwork comprised a single site visit to supervise the excavation of electrical cable trenches to connect the carriage drive lighting to the existing supply (Figure 2).

2.5 The trenches were either excavated by hand or by using a tracked mini-digger as appropriate.

2.6 All recording work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and both IfA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Stratigraphy

2.7 The stratigraphy, which was fairly uniform across the site, consisted of a layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) clayey silty sand topsoil, between 0.10 and 0.30m in depth. This overlay yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clayey silty sand, which was exposed to a depth of up to 0.30m.

Cable trenches

2.8 Six cable trenches, 0.30m in width, were excavated to depths of up to 0.60m below the present ground level (Figure 2).

2.9 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in cable trenches 1 and 6 at the western end of the drive. In cable trenches 2 to 5, structural features of brick and concrete were recorded (201, 301, 401 and 501) (Figure 3). These are part of the foundations to the present brick gateway, erected in 1980s and dated by a memorial to Prince Charles and Lady Diana's marriage in 1981.

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 the 4th December 2012, covering a 500m radius from the site centre:

- The study area lies within a well documented archaeological landscape. The Domesday survey of 1086 AD lists two entries for Flitwick: a 5 hide manor and an additional hide in the possession of William Lovet, who had displaced the former Saxon landholder after the Norman Conquest. Lovet (or more likely his successors) may have been responsible for the erection of Flitwick Mount, a small motte and bailey castle located to the north-west of the development site (HER 228 and SM 20406) and the replacement of the Saxon church with what was to become St Peter and St Paul (HER 1060 and LB 16/28) (Firth 2012).
- The modern village of Flitwick developed from three separate, but interlinked, settlements; Church End, Denel End and East End. It is not known which of these settlement cores is the earliest but it is considered that Church End (HER 17004) is most likely to be the focus of the original settlement (ibid.).
- From the Lovet family the manor at Flitwick can be traced through Philip de Saundreville and his family's association with Dunstable Priory (beginning in the 12th century), through the Rufus (early 13th century) and de Flitwick (late 13th-mid 14th century) families to the acquisition of the manor in the early 17th century by the Blofield family. The earliest parts of Flitwick Manor (HER 229 and LB 16/26) are thought to have been constructed by Edward Blofield, with successive owners undertaking alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries. The manor passed to Samuel Rhodes in circa 1670 and from then on to the Dell family and eventually the Brooks' (ibid.).
- The earliest designed elements of Flitwick Manor Park date to the period after 1735 when the Flitwick Manor estate belonged to Dr Humphrey Dell. Dell undertook a series of remodelling works to both the house and its grounds. Historical sources suggest these changes include the creation of Flit Water and the Ha-ha. Following Dell's death the estate passed to Ann Fisher whose second marriage was to George Brooks in 1789. Initially the estate was tenanted out but during this period the Westoning Road which had once passed through the parkland was diverted around the southern edge of the park. The old road became the south carriage drive and this is still in evidence through the arboretum and pinetum. The division was probably brought about as a result of the 1808 parish Enclosure and allowed the creation of the parkland largely as it remains today. In 1817 the estate was bequeathed to George's son, John Thomas Brooks (ibid.).
- John Thomas Brooks (J T Brooks) was an avid horticulturist. He created a series of gardens, plantations and structures within the landscape, many of which extended

northwards beyond Church Road. In 1838 J T Brooks wrote a guidebook to Flitwick Manor, in which he detailed a series of walks which took full advantage of the parkland and gardens. Brooks was amongst the early pioneers of horticulture and arboriculture and the pinetum contains at least two original introductions, the first of their kind within Britain. Much of the wider Brooks landscape has been lost amongst the urban development surrounding the parkland, however within the park the winter evergreen walk, the arboretum and pinetum survive as do a number of clumps and single specimen trees. The lime avenue which lines the present driveway to Flitwick Manor dates to this period and is an important feature within the designed landscape (ibid.).

Research aims

3.2 The aim of the investigation has been to identify any archaeological remains that were exposed in the course of the development, to ensure the preservation in situ of such remains where practically possible, their preservation by record where not, 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).

3.3 On the basis of the known heritage assets in the immediate vicinity, the site was thought to have a high potential to preserve remains of medieval and post-medieval date, which, in turn, had the potential to contribute to a number of research topics highlighted in the published local research agenda.

Conclusions

3.4 The present project was considered to have the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics, including the origin and development of Saxon and early medieval villages in Bedfordshire, in particular to examine settlement diversity and characterise rural settlement forms.

- No evidence for Saxon or medieval activity was exposed on the site.

3.5 It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to further study of settlement and land use in the post-medieval and modern periods.

- No evidence for post-medieval or modern settlement or land use was exposed on the site.

3.6 It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to further study of the origins and development of historic parks and gardens in the post-medieval period.

- No evidence for the post-medieval development of the park or garden was exposed on the site.

3.7 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts dating to earlier than the 1980s were revealed during the course of the present project.

Confidence Rating

3.8 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
17/12/2012	RD	10	Monitoring excavation of cable trenches

5. Bibliography

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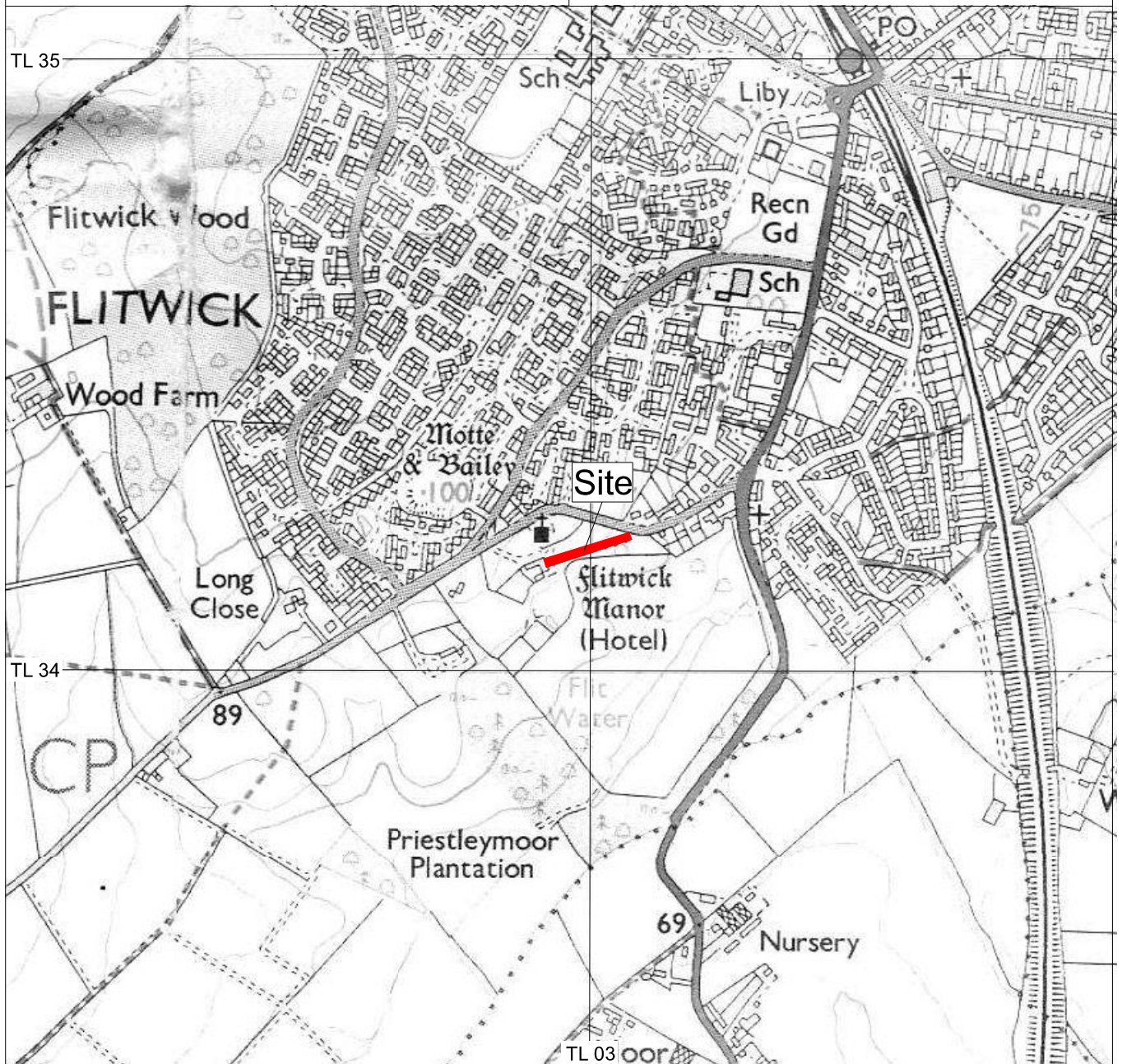
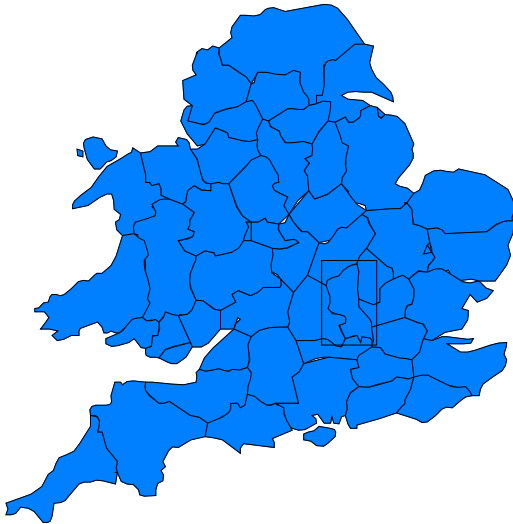
Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1984 *Soil Map 1:25000 scale, Sheet 4, Eastern England*. SSEW: Rothamsted, Harpenden

6.Illustrations

Figure 1Site Location
 Figure 2Site Layout
 Figure 3 Sections 1 to 6

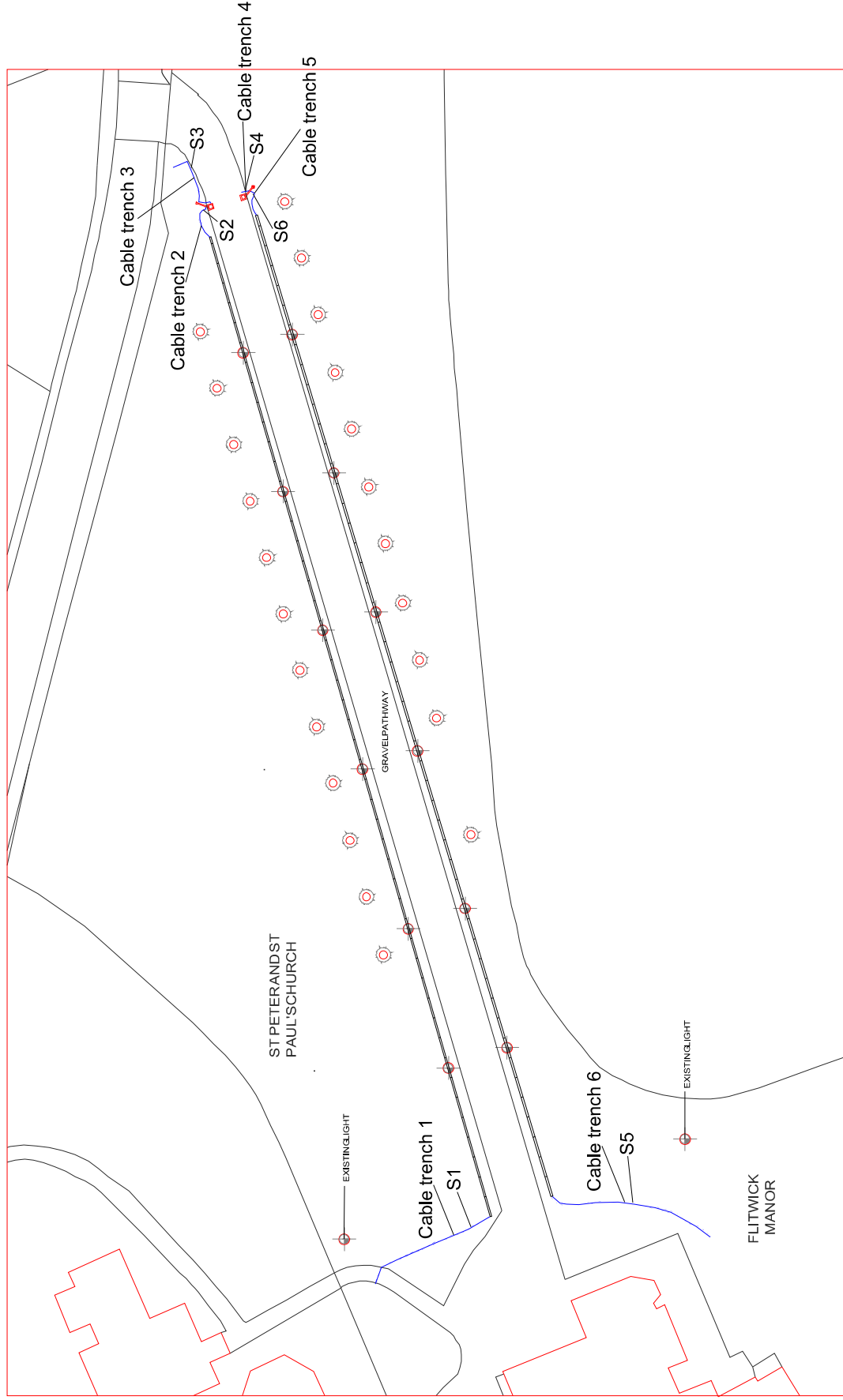
Plate 1 Cable trench 1, looking northwest.
 Plate 2 Cable trench 2, looking northeast.
 Plate 3 Cable trench 3, looking northwest.
 Plate 4 Cable trench 4, looking southwest.
 Plate 5 Cable trench 5, looking north.
 Plate 6 Cable trench 6, looking south.

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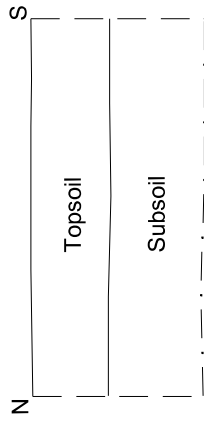


Site Location

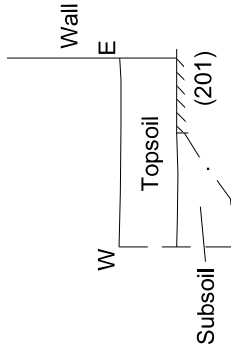
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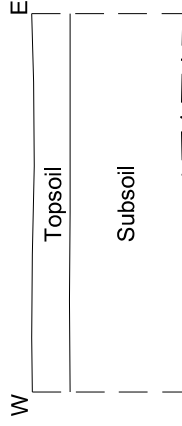
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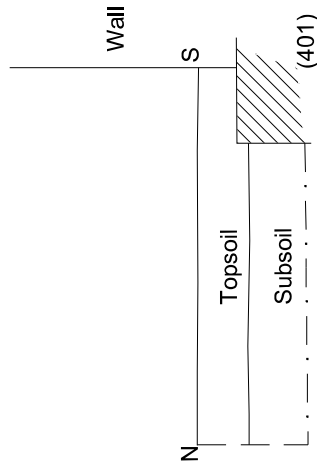
Section 1, Trench 1



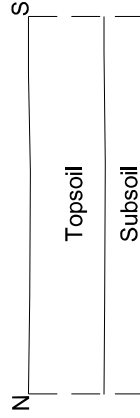
Section 2, Trench 2



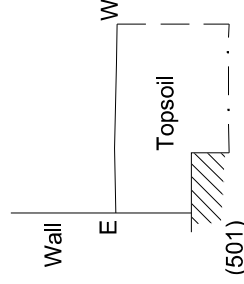
Section 3, Trench 3



Section 4, Trench 4



Section 5, Trench 6



Section 6, Trench 5





Plate 1: Cable trench 1, looking northwest.



Plate 2: Cable trench 2, looking northeast.



Plate 3: Cable trench 3, looking northwest.



Plate 4: Cable trench 4, looking southwest.



Plate 5: Cable trench 5, looking north.



Plate 6: Cable trench 6, looking south.

Appendix

OASIS ID: heritage1-138792	
Project details	
Project name	Flitwick, Flitwick Manor, Church Road
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning consent for the installation of lighting on the carriage drive of Flitwick Manor, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. It was considered that the present project could provide the opportunity to investigate potential features of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date and thus improve our understanding of the origins and development of Flitwick. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts dated to before the 1980s were revealed during the course of the present project.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2012 End: 17-12-2013
Previous/future work	No/Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1037 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Watching Brief'
Development type	Lighting
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Post determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE FLITWICK Flitwick Manor, Church Road
Postcode	MK45 1AE
Study area	17.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 02913 34166 51 0 51 59 45 N 000 30 03 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 75.00m Max: 75.00m
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	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Robin Densem
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Menzies Hotels Operating Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Wardown Park Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient	Wardown Park Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Provision of Lighting to Carriage Drive FLITWICK MANOR Flitwick, Bedfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report no. 766
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 10 pages, 3 figures, 6 plates