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**CLOPHILL HOUSE,
High Street, Clophill, Beds.**

HN1090

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

CLOPHILL HOUSE, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire.

Project ref.: HN1090
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Archaeological Assessment

Prepared on behalf of Mr & Mrs G. & A. Warner

by

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The cover photograph shows Clophill House, looking west.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Robin Densem, Mark Sycamore & Daniel Phillips. The bricks were examined and dated by Tom Doig. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Daniel Phillips, Helen Ashworth, Mark Sycamore & Robin Densem and edited by Helen Ashworth.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Clophill House, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire.		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Clophill	Parish:	Clophill
Planning reference:	CB/13/00733/FULL	NGR:	TL 0857 3795
Client name and address:	Mr and Mrs G. & A. Warner, Clophill House, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire.		
Nature of work:	New extension	Former use:	Dwelling
Site Status:	Grade II Listed Building, conservation Area	Reason for investigation:	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After full determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Site Code:	HN1090	HER consultation:	None
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	OR	Archive Recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	08-04-2014	Finish of work	25-06-2014
Related HER Nos:	HER 3713	Periods represented:	Post Medieval
Oasis UID	heritage1-158814	Significant finds:	Brick
Monument types:	Brick wall, post -medieval; brick floor, post-medieval; pit, undated; linear feature, undated		
Physical archive:	Brick		
Previous summaries/reports:	Collins, M. 2013 <i>Heritage Asset Assessment Clophill House, High Street, Clophill</i> . Unpublished document		

Synopsis:

As the result of a condition on the planning permission for a proposed new development at Clophill House, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

Clophill House is a Grade II listed building, described as a late 18th century refronting of an earlier building. A parish map of 1719, shows a rectangular building along the street frontage, which may form the core of the present house. Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity has also been recorded in the vicinity.

Evidence was revealed for a series of structures to the rear of Clophill House. These appear to have been industrial or agricultural in purpose. It is possible that the earliest structure was a brick-built oven, which had a base of ironstone slabs and a possible firing chamber to the side. Coal appears to have been the preferred fuel. This appears to have been removed at some point in the 18th century.

The site then appears to have been occupied by a possible timber-framed structure, of possible late 18th century date, floored in brick and tile. This structure was apparently rebuilt in brick, on the same footprint, in the early 19th century, possibly during the 1830s.

A number of undated cut features were encountered below the post-medieval structures. These were not investigated, and will be preserved in situ, as they lie below the proposed formation level. A brick-lined well was also exposed adjacent to Clophill House.

On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be *High* for the post-medieval and modern periods and *Moderate* for all other periods.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Mr and Mrs G. & A. Warner to cover a programme of archaeological work as part of the development at Clophill House, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (Figure 1).

1.2 Planning permission for the development (ref: CB/13/00733/FULL), was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to an archaeological condition issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

1.3 The study area is located in the core of the village, on the north-eastern side of the junction between High Street and Mill Lane, centred at NGR 508572 237940. It is a Grade II listed building, lying within the Clophill Conservation Area.

1.4 The development proposes the construction of a single storey corridor link extension, running to a new orangery at the rear of the existing building.

1.5 The aim of the programme of archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks has been to identify and record any below ground archaeological remains that are threatened by the development, to consider their location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Oake et al, 2007; Medlycott 2011), and provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them.

2. Archaeological Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located in the core of the village, on the north-eastern side of the junction between High Street and Mill Lane, centred at NGR 508572 237940. Clophill lies in the valley of the River Flit at the foot of the Greensand Ridge, which rises steeply to the north-west.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Evesham 3 Association (411c), described as '*Slowly permeable calcareous clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils.*' (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of the Woburn Sands Formation - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 100 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas. (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's work schedule. A series of site visits were made to monitor the development groundworks.

2.5 Excavation of footing trenches and ground reduction was undertaken using a 360⁰ tracked mini digger fitted with toothless buckets.

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

2.7 During the early phase of monitoring of the area of the orangery significant brick archaeological structures were revealed associated with Clophill House (Plate 1). In discussion with the Archaeology Officer at CBC, the client and the architect and in order to fulfil the proposed development and meet planning requirements, a decision was made to progress from archaeological monitoring to archaeological excavation. This enabled the development to reach its planned formation level. Any deeper archaeological deposits will be preserved under a layer of geotextile material.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.8 The archaeological monitoring programme on the groundworks at Clophill House was divided into three areas (Figure 2). These comprised the site of a proposed orangery to the north-east of Clophill House (Trench 1), the line of a corridor, connecting the new orangery with the house (Trench 2), and a new soakaway and associated service trench to the west of the new corridor (Trench 3).

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located at the north-eastern end of the eastern range to Clophill House and adjacent to a greenhouse, in an area bounded by existing brick walls (Figure 2; Plate 1). The footprint of the orangery measured 6.8m southeast to northwest by 5.5m south-west to north-east. The ground within this area was reduced by approximately 1.05m.

2.10 The stratigraphy below the present ground surface comprised dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose clayey sand overburden, 0.95m in depth, which contained frequent brick fragments. This extended across most of Trench 1.

2.11 Within the excavated area a number of complex and intercutting archaeological features and deposits were revealed. These have been grouped into three stratigraphic phases (Figure 3).

2.11.1 Phase 1: undated features encountered below the later structures;

2.11.2 Phase 2: small, single bay structure, with stone foundations;

2.11.3 Phase 3: early 19th century brick-built structure.

Phase 1 – undated features (Figure 4)

2.12 A number of features were exposed at the formation level following removal of the later structures (Figure 4). These cut the natural yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) friable sandy clay, which contained frequent roots and manganese (Plate 2). None were investigated as they were encountered at the building impact level and would be protected in situ. No finds were recovered to date these features.

2.13 A large north-west to south-east aligned linear feature, cut [131], was exposed in the centre of the area (Plate 3). This measured 2.9m in length and 0.6m in width and was truncated to the north-west by wall [101] and structure [112] to the south-east. It contained fill (132), a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) friable silty sand. Although assigned to this phase on the basis that it only appeared at the impact level it is likely to represent the line of a wall robber trench that ran south-east from wall [177] to meet structure [112] immediately to the west of doorway [133].

2.14 Fill (132) was cut at its north-western end by a sub-square feature, possibly a large posthole, cut [162], which measured approximately 0.2m x 0.2m. Two similar features, cuts [159] and [160] were located to the northwest, while two further small pits or postholes, cuts [164] and [173] lay on either side of [131] to the south-east. All contained a similar fill, a dark brown (10YR 3/3) loose sand with frequent coal fragments. It is possible that these formed a series of modern post-holes.

2.15 Part of a possible pit or linear feature, cut [156], was revealed in the north-western corner. The exposed area measured approximately 0.70m in length and 0.94m in width and contained fill (157), a yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) friable sand with charcoal flecks. It was truncated on all but the south-eastern side by later features and structures.

2.16 A slightly curved north-west to south-east aligned linear feature, cut [166] was exposed in the north-eastern corner. It measured 2.1m in length and 0.5m in width and contained fill (167), a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) friable silty sand with rare charcoal and CBM flecks. It was truncated to the northwest by wall [124] but appeared to terminate to the southeast.

2.17 To the south-east of [166] was a similar curved feature, cut [120/118], which measured c.2.5m in length, c.0.4m in width. Machine excavation during the removal of structure [112], which had been cut through [118 / 120], showed that it was shallow, measuring c.0.08m in

depth. It contained a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) friable silty sand with occasional rooting, which produced a single fragment of floor tile, dated to the 1740s.

2.18 Two small features were also exposed at this level. An oval feature, cut [129], lay to the east of [131]. It measured 1.2m in length and 0.6m in width and contained fill (130), a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sand. A few mortared brick fragments were noted in the surface of the fill. To the west of [131] was a small circular pit, cut [171], which measured 0.5m x 0.4m and contained fill (172), a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) compacted sand with occasional charcoal flecks. This had been truncated to the east by structure [112].

2.19 Although these features could not be definitely dated the presence of coal fragments and ceramic building material noted within the fills suggests that some at least are of post-medieval date.

Phase 2 – stone building (Figure 4)

2.20 A single cell structure, [112], with substantial ironstone foundations, was exposed in the south-eastern corner of the trench. This was aligned north-east to south-west. Three lengths of wall foundation were revealed, enclosing a space which measured 3.6m by 1.8m internally (Plate 4). The south-west wall was not exposed as this either lay under the later wall [101] or beyond the excavation area.

2.21 The exposed wall foundations were constructed of roughly hewn ironstones, the largest of which measured 0.35m x 0.23m x 0.12m. These had been laid in lime mortar and were irregularly coursed. All three walls had a consistent width of 0.36m and stood two courses high, a depth of 0.12m. The base of the walls were not reached during this project.

2.22 A possible threshold, [133], marking a doorway into this structure, was recorded towards the north-eastern corner. This measured 1.2m in length by 0.12m in width and was constructed of unfrosted red bricks, laid end to end, and set in brownish yellow lime mortar (Plate 5). The bricks measured 9" x 4¼" x 2½" (230mm x 110mm x 50mm) and have been dated to between 1800 and 1830.

2.23 A thin construction trench [168] was observed running around the outer edge of [112]. It measured 0.10m in width and contained fill (169), a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable silty sand with moderate mortar flecks.

2.24 A brick floor surface, [114], measuring 3.48m in length, 1.92m in width and 0.06m in depth, occupied the space between the walls (Plate 6). This had been built so that it sloped downwards on all sides, to a maximum depth of 305mm. A single row of stretcher bricks ran down the centre. Although the floor had originally covered the entire internal space later damage resulted in only about two thirds of it surviving.

2.25 The floor was constructed of red unfrosted bricks, set in a bed of soft sandy mortar. The complete individual bricks measured 8½" x 4" x 2½" (215mm x 10mm x 50mm) and have been dated to the 1780s. A number of half bricks were also collected from the floor and these have been dated to the 1830s.

2.26 The brick floor had been laid on a bedding layer, (117), which comprised pale yellow (10YR 7/3) loose, fine sand (Plate 7). This appeared to butt against wall [112].

2.27 The remains of two brick walls crossed the space, apparently sub-dividing it into three unequal areas (Plate 8). Wall [115] to the south-east, measured c.0.8m long by c.0.12m wide, and was constructed of a single skin of red unfrosted bricks, two courses high. The bricks, which have been dated to the early 19th century, before 1830, measured 9" x 4" x 2³/₄" (230mm x 100mm x 60mm). White mortar marks on the floor showed that the wall extended across the entire space. Wall [116] was located approximately 0.60m to the northwest of [115]. It measured 0.4m in length by 0.24m in width and was constructed of a single course of red unfrosted bricks in a bed of soft sandy mortar. No sample brick could be recovered from this feature.

2.28 A further short length of wall, [113], was located against the north-western wall of [112]. This may represent the northern continuation of [116]. It measured 0.48m in length, 0.23m in width and over 0.08m in depth and was constructed of red bricks, laid in English bond. No complete bricks could be recovered from this feature, but the pieces have been dated to the 1830s. Floor [114] appears to change on the eastern side of this wall, sloping downwards from this point and being constructed of different bricks. It appears that the eastern end of [112] was remodelled in the mid 19th century.

2.29 Structure [112] was partially reduced to 53.60 OD in order to reach the formation level, the remainder will be preserved in situ.

Phase 3 – 19th century brick structure (Figure 5)

2.30 A two bay brick structure was constructed on the site in the early 19th century, forming the south-western end of an L-shaped range of outbuildings, shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1883. These appear to have stood until the late 1970s (www.old-maps.co.uk). The southern bay to this structure was constructed on top of [112], using the lower stone courses as its foundation. The southern, western and northern walls to this structure, [175] - [177], remained from the earlier range and bounded a small courtyard area to the rear of Clophill House.

2.31 Wall [175], on the north-eastern side of the site, forms the south-western side to a greenhouse, which appears to have existed since at least the 1880s and was built against the southern elevation to the outbuilding range. It stands to a maximum height of 4.15m and was originally constructed of handmade unfrosted red bricks, bonded with lime mortar but not laid in any clearly discernible bond pattern (Plate 9). The earliest bricks measure 8¹/₂" x 4" x 2¹/₂" (215mm x 100mm x 60mm). It has a chamfered offset approximately 0.50m above the impact level, which appears to mark the top of the footings. The wall has clearly been rebuilt or repaired on a number of occasions.

2.31.1 The south-eastern end of the wall may be of later date. It forms the southern elevation to an existing greenhouse, which was built before 1883, on the south-eastern elevation of a range of outbuildings to the rear of Clophill House. A small metal door, possibly relating to a boiler in the greenhouse, has been inserted in the south-eastern end, just above the footings.

2.32 Wall [176] forms the south-western boundary to the site. It stands approximately 4.15m high and measures 5.60m in length and 0.34m in width (Plate 10). The wall is constructed of handmade unfrosted red bricks, laid in no clearly discernible pattern and bonded with lime mortar (Plate 9). Bricks recovered during the groundworks measure 8³/₄" x 4" x 2¹/₂" (225mm

x 100mm x 50mm) and have been dated to between 1800 and 1830. Like [175] it has a chamfered offset at approximately 0.50m above the impact level.

2.32.1 Its eastern end is constructed above the stone footings to [112]. Traces of plaster and whitewash still adhere to the upper part of the wall in this area, suggesting that it has not been exposed to the elements for any length of time. This is reinforced by a fresh break in the brickwork immediately to the north-west, where a wall that followed the line of the north-eastern elevation to [112] has recently been removed.

2.32.2 Two possible blocked openings are visible in this elevation. One is located to the south-east of the removed wall, set at a height of 0.56m above the offset. It measures 1.50m in width and is visible to a maximum height of 0.50m. The upper part is hidden by plaster. The second is located to the north-west. This has an arched brick header, and measures 2.16m in height and 1.23m in width, suggesting that it marks the location of a doorway. The header was located below a wooden beam, 0.20m in depth, which may have extended the length of the wall.

2.33 Wall [177] forms the north-western boundary to the site. It measures 4.70m in length, 0.42m in width and stands to approximately 4.15m in height (Plate 11). A shallow buttress, 0.68m in width, is located at 1.64m from the junction with [176] and marks the join between two phases of construction, with the earlier structure to the south-west. Linear [131] runs south-east from this buttress to meet structure [112] immediately west of the doorway, indicating that the buttress marks the location of a demolished wall. No clear evidence for blocked openings was visible on either side of the buttress, but a wooden beam, 1.70m in length, with square holes above, was noted on the north-eastern side at approximately 2m above the chamfer. This may mark the line of an upper floor.

2.34 The area between [112] and the surrounding walls has been sub-divided into two small rooms, groups [178] and [179], bounded by brick walls (Plate 12). Room [178] is located immediately to the north-west of structure [112]. It measures 1.53m in length by 1.05m in width, giving an internal area of 1.60m². The room is bounded to the south-east and south-west by wall [176], to the north-west by wall [135] and to the north-east by walls [136] and [137].

2.34.1 Wall [135] measured 1.10m in length, 0.23m in width and 0.07m in height. It was constructed of yellow unfrosted bricks dating to the early 1830s. Walls [136] and [137], which measured 1.37m in length, 0.37m in width and approximately 0.30m in height, were constructed of roughly coursed ironstone with half bricks and brick fragments, bonded with a very hard mortar. These appear to have re-used material from the demolition of [112] as brick fragments from wall [137] have been dated to the 1830s.

2.34.2 A diagonal wall, [140], which ran approximately north – south, was located in the south-eastern corner (Plate 13). Its exposed area measured c.1.2m in length, 0.18m in width and c.0.24m in height, and was constructed of broken red unfrosted bricks, dated to the 1830s, set in a very pale mortar with gritty inclusions. A line of bricks, cut into [176], may have marked the western edge of surface [139]. This was formed of irregular stone slabs, 0.09m thick, set in a very hard mortar.

2.34.3 Removal of wall [137] revealed that [139] was laid on top of [140], which occupied the eastern half of Room [178] (Plate 14). It was similar to, and probably contemporary with, [137], being constructed of roughly coursed stone and brick, at least 3 courses high.

2.34.4 A short length of wall, [138], formerly crossed surface [139] in the south-eastern corner of [178]. It was constructed of broken unfrosted red bricks, dated to the 1830s, and ran on a north – south alignment to meet wall [137] just below [140] (see Plate 13). Only the southern end survived, which measured 0.25m in length, 0.20m in width and 0.24m in height. Its northern continuation was visible as a line of mortar on [139]. An irregular feature, [146], lay immediately to the east of [140] and may relate to the removal of wall [138].

2.34.5 To the north-west of [140] was a brick floor surface, [141], which was exposed at approximately 0.25m lower than surface [139]. It consisted of half bricks laid in parallel lines on a bed of yellow (10YR 8/6) soft sandy mortar (Plate 15). The floor was worn and sloped downwards to the east.

2.35 Room [179] was located immediately to the north-west of [178] (see Plate 12). It was bounded to the south-east by wall [135], to the south-west by [176] to the north-west by [177] and to the north-east by [134]. Its internal space measured 1.26m in length and 1.17m in width, giving an area of 1.47m².

2.36 Wall [134] continued the line of walls [136] and [137]. It was constructed of mainly unfrosted yellow bricks, bonded with lime mortar and laid in Flemish bond pattern. The exposed area measured 1.18m in length, 0.28m in width and 0.25m in height. The individual bricks measured 9" x 4" x 2½" in depth (230mm x 100mm x 50mm) and have been dated to the 1830s – 40s, indicating that this is one of the latest structures on the site. This wall and [135] appear to represent later subdivisions of this area in the mid 19th century (Plate 16).

2.36.1 The room had a brick floor, [142], identical to that observed in [178]. Removal of wall [135] between the rooms demonstrated that this floor extended across both [178] and [179].

2.36.2 A low plinth, consisting of three stone courses, was located in the north-western corner of the room (see Plate 16). Its exposed face measured 0.26m in width and 0.32m in height. This may represent a padstone, the remains of an earlier timber framed structure adjoining [112] to the south-east.

2.37 Room [180] was located in the north-eastern corner of the site. It was bounded to the north-west by wall [177], to the north-east by wall [175] and to the south-east by wall [128] (Plate 17). Evidence for structures to the south-west had previously been removed. Its exposed area had a maximum length of 1.81m and a width of 1.17m, giving an internal space of at least 2.11m.

2.37.1 Wall [128] ran on a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 1.46m in length, 0.22m in width and had a maximum height of 0.07m. It was constructed of a mixture of red and yellow bricks, dated to the period 1830s – 40s, which measured 8½" x 4¼" x 2¾" (220mm x 110mm x 60mm). The remains of this wall, which was only one course high for most of its length, had been truncated at

its south-western end, but possibly formed part of the north-eastern continuation of [135]. No foundation trench was observed and it seems that the wall sat directly on the ground (Plate 18).

- 2.37.2** Two distinct areas of flooring were visible in the room (see Plate 17). Unfrogged yellow bricks, [126], had been laid at the south-western end of the room. This measured 1.19m in length and 0.65m in width. The individual bricks measured 9" x 4½" x 3" (230mm x 110mm x 75mm) and have been dated to the period 1800 – 1830. Removal of the bricks revealed a bedding layer, (125), comprising loose yellow (5Y 8/6) sand with occasional small brick or tile fragments, up to 0.05m in depth.
- 2.37.3** Floor [126], which butted [127], comprised an area of square ceramic floor tiles set in lime mortar measuring 1.16m by 1.17m. The individual tiles measured 9" x 9" x 1½" (230mm x 230mm x 35mm) and have been dated to before 1800, indicating that this floor may represent part of an earlier structure.
- 2.37.4** Removal of the floors, and the underlying bedding layers, revealed a layer of dark brown (10YR 3/3) friable burnt clayey sand, (151), which contained frequent coal and brick fragments (see Plate 18). This measured 0.90m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.01m in depth.
- 2.37.5** Layer (151) sealed a surface consisting of burnt ironstone slabs, [150], which had been laid dry. The slabs, which covered an area measuring 1.04m in length, 1.06m in width and 0.04m in depth, were set into a shallow scoop in the natural clay, cut [155] (Plate 19). This was irregular in plan, with a fairly straight edge to the north-east and rounded sides to the north-west and south-east (Figure 6). It narrowed to the south-west, before opening to another chamber, which had been truncated on most sides. The feature, which has been interpreted as an oven, measured c.1.0m by c.1.0m, with vertical sides and a flat base. It overlay the south-western edge of linear [166].
- 2.37.6** A deposit of burnt coal and charcoal, (152), was located to the south-west of [155]. This, which may represent the remains of the firing chamber for the postulated oven, was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.12m in length, over 0.38m in width and up to 0.05m in depth (Plate 20). This. It had been truncated along its south-western edge and overlay the north-eastern end of cut [129].
- 2.37.7** A further deposit of burnt material, (153), was encountered below the slabs in the centre of the oven. This measured 0.46m in length and 0.36m in width. It was not investigated as it lay at the impact level.
- 2.37.8** An inverted L-shaped area of heat-marked clay, (154), was noted around the north-eastern and north-western edges of [155] (Plate 21). The markings appeared to indicate a brick structure surrounding the postulated oven. This was subsequently removed, possibly in the late 18th century, to lay floor [126]/[127].

2.38 An existing hard surface, [103], was located adjacent to Clophill House, to the south-east of the orangery site. The surface, which measured over 5m in length, 1.6m in width and

0.04m in depth, was constructed of thin red bricks, laid dry and with earth bonding in between the bricks. The individual bricks measured 9" x 4½" x ½" (230mm x 110mm x 35mm) and have been dated to the 1780s. Below the surface was a make up or bedding layer, (107), comprising loose yellow (10YR 8/6) sand with occasional brick fragments, 0.02m in depth.

2.39 The remains of earlier brick surfaces, [108] / [109], were encountered adjacent to the house below (107). Where visible, this surface consisted of a single course of yellow unfrosted bricks, laid on a bed of yellow sand. A sample brick was retrieved, which has been dated to the 1780s.

2.40 A dumped make up layer, (106) / (170)], comprising dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) friable silty sand, 0.05m in depth, was recorded below [108] / [109].

Trench 2 (Figure 7)

2.41 Trench 2 was located to the south-west of the eastern range to Clophill House and was formerly a narrow passage that was bounded to the north-east by the eastern range to the house, [205], and to the south-west by a standing garden wall, [201], (Plate 23). It measured 1.40m in width and 12.20m in length. The ground within this area was reduced by a maximum of 1.30m, revealing the existing brick surface, which sat on a layer of bedding material, 0.07m in depth, above the natural yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) sticky clayey sand. A small number of features were recorded, comprising the remains of a brick wall, a possible pit and a well.

2.42 Wall [104], which measured over 1.2m in length and 0.2m in width, was exposed at the northern end of the passage. It was orientated north-east to south-west and crossed between the corner of the house and the garden wall. The exposed area consisted of two skins of thin red bricks set in a hard white mortar (Plate 24). Only fragments could be retrieved, but these have been dated to the period 1780 – 1800.

2.43 A possible pit, [202], was revealed within the underpinning trench to wall [201] at approximately 3.58m to the south-east of [104]. The feature, which cut the natural sandy clay, was sub-rectangular, with straight steep sides and a flattish base (Plate 25). It measured c1.13m in length, c.0.23m in width and c.0.50m in depth and contained a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose silty sand (203) that produced no finds. The top of the pit had been truncated by the stone foundations for the garden wall.

2.44 A circular brick well, [204] was exposed at the south-eastern end of Trench 2. It was capped by a millstone which was broken in half and visible prior to excavation, being flush with the existing brick surface (Plate 26). The well had an internal diameter of 0.92m and an external diameter of 1.12m and a depth of 4.35m below the present ground level. It was constructed of unfrosted red bricks, the top 15 courses of which had been set in mortar, while the lower courses were laid dry (Plate 27). No complete bricks were recovered, but the broken pieces have been dated to between 1800 and 1820.

Test Pits

2.45 Prior to the excavation of Trench 2, two test pits were hand excavated against the south-western side of wall [201] in order to determine whether the wall required underpinning.

Test Pit 1:

2.46 Test pit 1 was located at approximately 2.80m from the north-western end of wall [201]. It measured 0.89m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.85m in depth. The sections revealed a dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) loose silty sand topsoil, 0.20m in depth, above a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable silty sand, 0.33m in depth. This overlay the natural clayey sand.

2.47 The western section revealed that wall [201] had been built on a foundation of roughly coursed mortared sandstone, approximately 0.30m in depth (Plate 28). No clear evidence for a foundation trench was visible in the other sections.

Test Pit 2:

2.48 Test pit 2 was located 9.85m to the south-east of TP 1. It measured 0.87m in length, 0.85m in width and approximately 0.85m in depth. The sections revealed a layer of loose stone chippings, 0.02m in depth, above dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sticky clay sand overburden, 0.15m in depth (Plate 29). This overlay a brown (10YR 4/3) sticky silty clay sand subsoil, 0.08m in depth, containing moderate brick and tile fragments.

2.49 The cut for the foundation trench to wall [201] was observed, which measured 0.45m in width and 0.85m in depth, with a steep side and flattish base. It contained a brownish yellow (10YR 5/4) friable silty sand, with occasional brick fragments. This had been cut through the subsoil and the natural clayey sand.

2.50 The wall footings were similar to those observed in TP1, comprising roughly coursed mortared sandstone rubble, approximately 0.36m in depth.

Trench 3 (Figure 7)

2.51 Trench 3 was located 3.40m to the south-west of wall [201] and in the garden of Clophill House. The works involved the excavation of a new soakaway which measured 1.30m by 1.30m and 1.05m in depth. The sections revealed a dark brown (10YR 3/3) friable clayey sand topsoil, 0.2m in depth, with occasional sub-angular flints and occasional red brick fragments above a dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable clayey sand subsoil, 0.2m in depth, with occasional red brick fragments and occasional charcoal (Plate 30). This in turn overlay the strong brown (10YR 5/6) firm clayey sand natural, over 0.65m in depth.

2.52 A service trench, measuring 3.50m in length and 0.45m in width led to the soakaway extended north from the soakaway (Plate 29). The sections revealed a thin layer of yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) compact sandy silty clay overburden, 0.12m in depth, with frequent small rounded pebbles above yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loose, heavily mixed material, 0.40m in depth, containing frequent red brick fragments and lenses of sand and charcoal. This overlay the natural clayey sand.

2.53 A modern service pipe crossed the trench at approximately 0.72m from its southern end.

2.54 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered within Trench 3.

ARTEFACTS

Bricks

Cont No.	No. of whole bricks	Wt of whole bricks (g)	Size of whole bricks: in/cm	No. of frags	Wt of frags (g)	No. discarded pieces	No. kept pieces	Date
101	2	4755	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 8¾ / 22.5	0	0	0/0	2/0	1800 - 1830
103	3	1635 (each brick)	H: 1½ / 3.5 W: 4¼ / 11 L: 9 / 23	0	0	2/0	1/0	1780s
104	0	0	n/a	2	1335	0/0	0/2	1780-1800
105	1	2700	H: 2¾ / 6 W: 4 / 10 L: 8¾ / 22	4	3815	0/2	1/2	1800-1830
109	1	3490	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 8¾ / 22	0	0	0/0	1/0	1780s
112	0	0	n/a	10	1825	0/7	0/3	1830s
113	0	0	n/a	3	1275	0/2	0/1	1830s
114	2	5355	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 8½ / 21.5	11	8770	1/7	1/4	Brick - 1780s Fragments - 1830s
115	1	2760	H: 2¾ / 6 W: 4 / 10 L: 9 / 23	1	1385	0/1	1/0	Pre-1830
119	0	0	H: 1½ / 4 W: 4 / 10 L: >4 / 10	1	710	0/0	0/1	1740s
122	0	0	H: 2 / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: >7 / 18	1 frag 1 block	5695	0/1	0/1 block	1840s
126	2	2880 3170	H: 3 / 7.5 W: 4½ / 11 L: 9 / 23	0	0	1/0	1/0	1800-1830
127	2	3640 4145	H: 1½ / 3.5 W: 9 / 23 L: 9 / 23	0	0	1/0	1/0	Pre-1800
128	2	2535 3145	H: 2¾ / 6 W: 4¼ / 11 L: 8½ / 22	0	0	0/0	2/0	1800-1830 & 1830-40
130	0	0	n/a	2	85	0/2	0/0	undateable
133	2	2735 (each brick)	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4¼ / 11 L: 9 / 23	0	0	1/0	1/0	1800-1830
134	2	3105 (each brick)	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 9 / 23	0	0	1/0	1/0	1830s-40s
135	2	3005 (each brick)	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 9 / 23	0	0	1/0	1/0	Early 1830s
137	0	0	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: > 6/15	2	2290	0/1	0/1	1830s

Cont No.	No. of whole bricks	Wt of whole bricks (g)	Size of whole bricks: in/cm	No. of frags	Wt of frags (g)	No. discarded pieces	No. kept pieces	Date
140	0	0	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: >4 / 10	8	2660	0/7	0/1	1830s
149	0	0	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4¼ / 11 L:	2	2635	0/1	0/1	1830s
150	0	0	H: 1¼ / 3.5 W: 8 / 21 L: >12/30	2	5425	0/1	0/1	Post-1800
161	0	0	n/a	1	735	0/1	0/0	undateable
163	0	0	n/a	3	35	0/3	0/0	undateable
201	1	2330	H: 2½ / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: 9 / 23	8	1650	0/8	1/0	1800 - 1830
204	0	0	H: 2 / 5 W: 4 / 10 L: >4 / 10	113	2140	0/99	0/14	1800-1820
Total	23	63500		175	42465	8/143	15/32	

2.55 A total of 198 whole bricks and brick fragments, weighing 105,965g was recovered from 26 stratified structures and features. No bricks from the site were dated to later than the 1840s, with the majority falling into the period 1800 – 1830s, indicating that the majority of the structures encountered during the present project were constructed in the early 19th century.

2.56 A small number of bricks dated to the 18th century, with the earliest example, dated to the 1740s, recovered from context (119), the fill of the curvilinear feature below structure [112]. Some of the earlier bricks appear to have been reused in the early 19th century structures.

2.57 All the red bricks recovered from the site were handmade and were in a similar fabric, suggesting they were from the same, probably local, kiln site. They were in a fairly soft, fine sandy matrix, tempered with occasional fragments of chalk and flint. A number of the examples had been overfired to a dark brownish red.

Recommendations

2.58 As no further significant information is likely to be gleaned from the brick assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

2.59 It has been agreed with the curator of Bedford Museum and with the Archaeological Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council, that the assemblage be sorted, with a view to depositing only the best examples of the bricks and brick fragments. On this basis 15 complete bricks and 32 brick fragments will be deposited with Bedford Museum. The remainder will be discarded.

3. Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The data for the research design for the present project has been obtained from information contained in a previously prepared Heritage Asset Assessment (Collins 2013) and from the project brief (Oake 2013). The HER officer for CBC was also consulted in case of any updated information since the HAA was prepared.

3.2 Some evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded from the immediate vicinity of the present site. A recent archaeological evaluation at 122a High Street produced a scatter of flint artefacts of early Mesolithic date, indicating a site located to exploit the resources of both the river valley and surrounding higher ground. Prehistoric flint artefacts have also been recorded from the wider area, with a number of flakes, blades and scrapers of Mesolithic to Bronze Age (HER 15610) date being recovered from Simpsonhill Plantation quarry to the south-west of the village. A field walking survey in the area of Cainhoe Castle, to the south-east of the village, produced a number of flint tools of Neolithic and Bronze Age date (HER 18683).

3.3 The only definite evidence for Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the present site consists of a single late Roman coin, a 4th century radiate (HER 3650).

3.4 The documentary evidence suggests that by the late Saxon period Clophill was a small thriving settlement. The Domesday Survey of 1086 notes that the manor of Clophill was held by Nigel of Aubigny and answered for 5 hides (approximately 600 acres). Eleven households are recorded on the manor at this date, giving an estimated total population of between 40 and 60. Prior to 1066 it had been held by two thegns of Earl Tosti (Morris 1977).

3.5 The site of the Saxon settlement is currently unknown, though the name Clophill suggests a location on a hill, away from the present historic village which lies in the valley of the River Flit. It is possible that the early settlement originated around the site of the old parish church of St Mary (HER 2476) which lies on the hillside to the north of the present village. The present building, which is now redundant and a ruin, dates to the 14th century, but may have replaced an earlier structure. Map and aerial photographic evidence has also indicated the presence of buildings around the old church (HER 9145).

3.6 At some point in the medieval period the settlement moved to its present location in the river valley. The present site lies on the south-western edge of the medieval village (HER 16998), which lies either side of High Street. Later development has taken place to the south-west of the medieval core. Few archaeological investigations have been carried out within the village, including at 91 High Street and 122a High Street, but none of these have produced evidence for Saxon or Medieval activity. No known medieval buildings are extant, though it is possible that later frontages have been added to earlier structures.

3.7 The present site lies opposite to Clophill Mill (HER 2610), a late 18th century watermill which replaced an earlier building. The earliest reference to a mill at Clophill is dated 1273.

3.8 Clophill House is a Grade II listed building (list entry no.1113740) described as a late 18th century refronting of an earlier building. A parish map, dated 1719, shows a rectangular

building along the street frontage, which may form the core of the present house (Collins 2013, Figures 1 & 2).

Collected Data

3.9 The fieldwork on the present site has revealed a complex of former standing structures to the rear of Clophill House. These formed part of an inverted L-shaped range of probable outbuildings, with adjoining glasshouse, shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1883 (www.old-maps.co.uk). This is the earliest map that shows these structures, although the evidence indicates that there were outbuildings to the rear of Clophill House by at least the late 18th century they are not shown on the maps of 1719 or 1814/28 (Collins 2013, Figures 1 – 5).

3.10 A number of undated cut features, some of which correlated to the post-medieval buildings, were also encountered below these structures.

3.11 Trench 1, the site of the new orangery, was bounded by standing walls ([175], [176] & [177]) which will remain in situ. These formed part of a range of now demolished 19th century outbuildings, which extended further to the north-east. Bricks from these walls, which appear to follow the footprint of earlier structures, have been dated to the early 19th century.

3.12 The structures recorded in Trench 1 appear to have been built in two phases, with structure [112] the earliest building. This comprised three walls with foundations of roughly coursed ironstone. The floor inside the building was deliberately sloped, presumably to allow liquid to drain to the centre, presumably through the brick floor as no obvious drain was noted. Bricks dating to the 1780s were recovered from this floor, suggesting that it was laid in the late 18th century.

3.13 No evidence for the form of the original superstructure was clearly identified, however, a possible padstone, which may have supported a timber post, was observed in the south-western corner of the standing walls bounding Trench 1, suggesting that [112] may form the footings to a timber-framed structure, of 18th century or earlier date, that possibly extended to the north-west. The footings to the south-western wall to [112] and its postulated north-western range may lie beneath the existing wall, [176].

3.14 A distinct joint was observed in the western wall [177]. A substantial linear feature, [131], ran south-east from this point to meet structure [112] to the south of threshold [133] in its north-western wall. It is suggested that this marks the line of a robbed out foundation relating to the postulated earlier structure.

3.15 It is possible that another early structure was located to the north-east. The remains of a separate brick-built structure, identified as a possible oven, [155], were recorded to the north of [112]. This was exposed following the removal of a tiled floor, [127], dated to the 1780s.

3.16 The pre-19th century structure was rebuilt in the early 19th century, possibly in the 1830s, apparently reusing some of the foundations to the earlier building and removing others. Walls [175] – [177], [128] and [136]/[137] were constructed at this time, forming an inverted L-shaped structure to the north-west of [112], which may have encompassed a small stand-alone building on the site of the former oven.

3.17 A single brick floor, [141]/[142], covered the south-western range, suggesting that this area was originally one open space. It was later subdivided, by walls [134] and [135], into two

smaller rooms (rooms [178] and [179]). A low platform, topped by ironstone slabs and set at a slight angle, occupied the south-eastern half of room [178].

3.18 Removal of the remains of the post-medieval buildings exposed a series of undated cut features. These included two curvilinear features [166] and [120]/[118], and possible pits [156], [129] and [171]. None of these appeared to relate directly to the post-medieval structures to the rear of Clophill House. A substantial linear feature, [131], was observed running from wall [177] to structure [112]. This has been interpreted as a robber trench relating to a wall presumably demolished during the rebuilding of the possible timber-framed structure in the early 19th century.

3.19 A limited number of features were exposed in Trench 2, the passage between Clophill House and wall [201], leading to the new orangery. A brick built well, capped with a millstone, was encountered at the southern end of the trench. Brick fragments from the well have been dated to the period 1800 – 1820. A sub-rectangular pit, [202], was exposed below wall [201]. No finds were recovered to date this feature.

3.20 The footings for wall [201] were observed in two hand excavated test pits on the south-eastern side of the wall. They demonstrated that the wall stood on roughly coursed sandstone, laid in a foundation trench. No finds were recovered to date this feature.

Conclusions

3.21 It was considered that the present investigation could have the potential to provide a greater understanding of a number of research topics highlighted in the regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake et al 2007, Medlycott 2011). These included:

- the origin and development of Saxon and early medieval villages in Bedfordshire;
- No evidence for Saxon or early medieval activity was encountered during the present project.
- the origins, development and dynamics of medieval rural settlement;
- No evidence for medieval activity was encountered during the present project.
- the development of post-medieval villages in the county.
- Evidence was revealed for a series of structures to the rear of Clophill House. These appear to have been industrial or agricultural in purpose. It is possible that the earliest structure was the brick-built oven, [155], which had a base of ironstone slabs and a possible firing chamber to the side. Coal appears to have been the preferred fuel. This appears to have been removed at some point in the 18th century, when floor [127] was laid.
- The site then appears to have been occupied by a possible timber-framed structure, of possible late 18th century date, floored in brick and tile. The slope to the surviving floor in [112] indicates an industrial purpose, involving the draining of liquid. No evidence for its purpose was, however, recovered. This structure was apparently rebuilt in brick, on the same footprint, in the early 19th century, possibly during the 1830s.

3.22 No artefacts, features or deposits dating from earlier than the Post Medieval period were encountered during this project.

Confidence Rating

3.23 During the course of the archaeological monitoring, all elements below the ground were visible and accessible throughout. On this basis, the confidence rating for the work should be considered to be *High*.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
08/04/2014	RGD	10	Monitoring ground reduction within orangery
09/04/2014	RGD/MS	10	Cleaning and photographing orangery
10/04/2014	RGD/MS	12	Monitoring ground reduction in corridor
11/04/2014	RGD/MS	10	Monitoring ground reduction in corridor/Decision to move to excavation within orangery
14/04/2014	RGD/MS	11	Monitoring ground reduction and underpinning in corridor/excavation within orangery
15/04/2014	RGD/MS	11	Excavation and recording within orangery and recording in corridor
16/04/2014	RGD/DRP	11	Recording within orangery
17/04/2014	RGD/MS	8	Recording within orangery
03/06/2014	RGD	10	Monitoring of soakaway
25/06/2014	DRP	2	Monitoring soakaway trench

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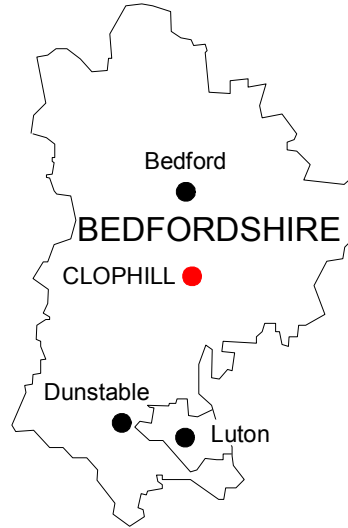
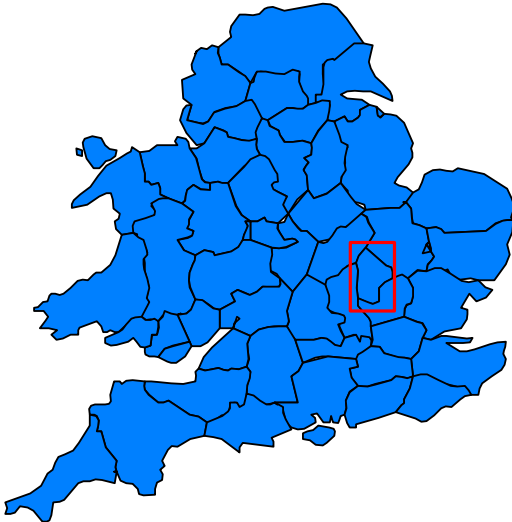
Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M and Murphy P (2007) *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* - Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9

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Victoria County History: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62657>

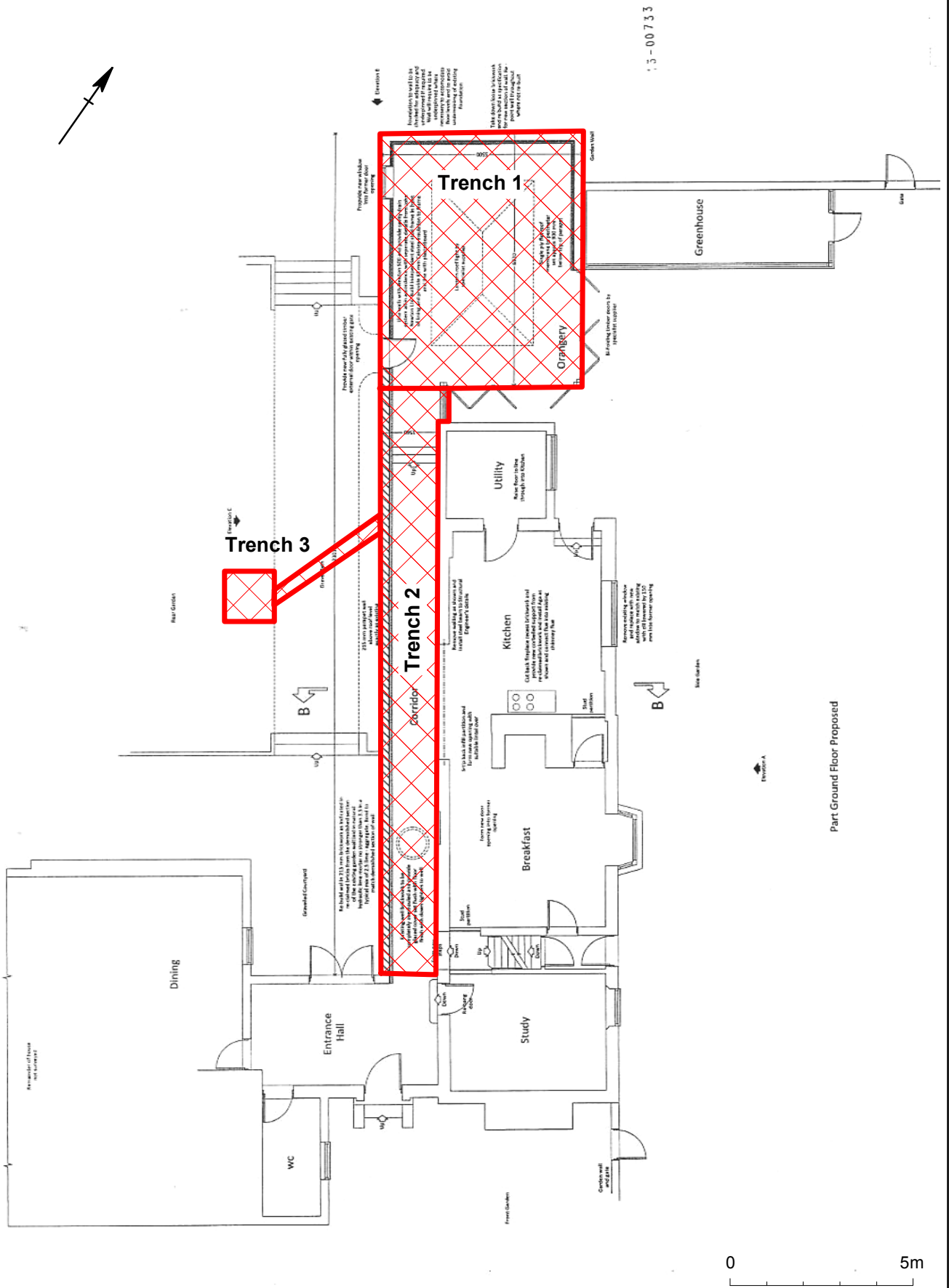
6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Site Layout
Figure 3	Trench 1 phase plan
Figure 4	Trench 1, showing Phase 1 and 2 features & structures
Figure 5	Trench 1, phase 3, key features
Figure 6	Detail of postulated oven, [155], after removal of slabs [150]
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Plate 2	Trench 1, formation level, looking W
Plate 3	Linear [131], looking S
Plate 4	Structure [112], looking NE
Plate 5	Threshold [133], looking SE
Plate 6	Floor [114], looking N
Plate 7	Bedding layer (117), looking SW
Plate 8	Structure [112], looking SW
Plate 9	Wall [175], looking NE
Plate 10	Wall [176], looking SW
Plate 11	Wall [177], looking NW
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Plate 15	Detail of brick floor [141]/[142], looking SW
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Plate 29	Test pit 2, looking SE
Plate 30	Soakaway, Trench 2, looking NE
Plate 31	Service trench, Trench 3, looking S



Site Location

Scale 1:10000



Site layout

Scale 1:150

Figure 2



Phase 1

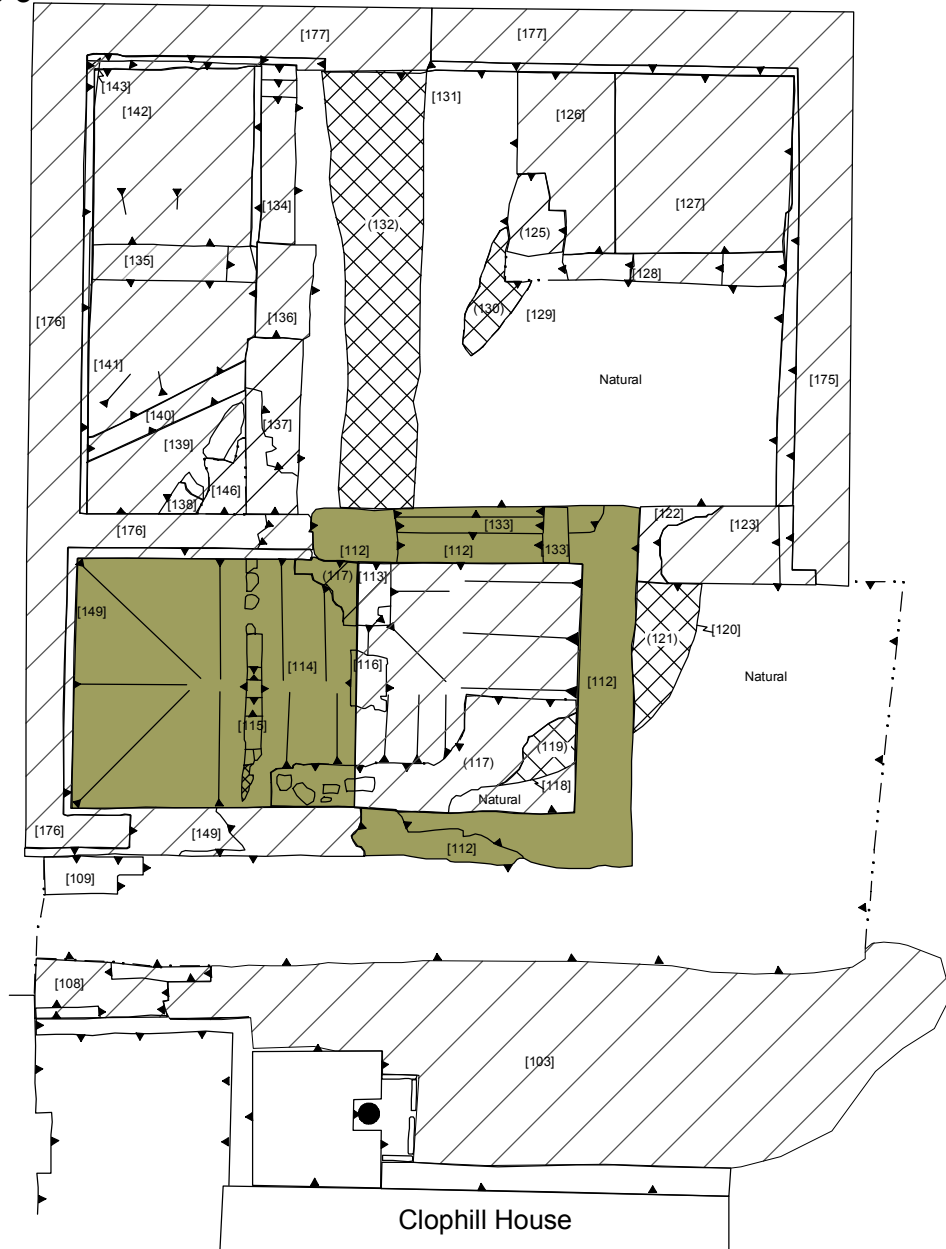


Phase 2



Phase 3

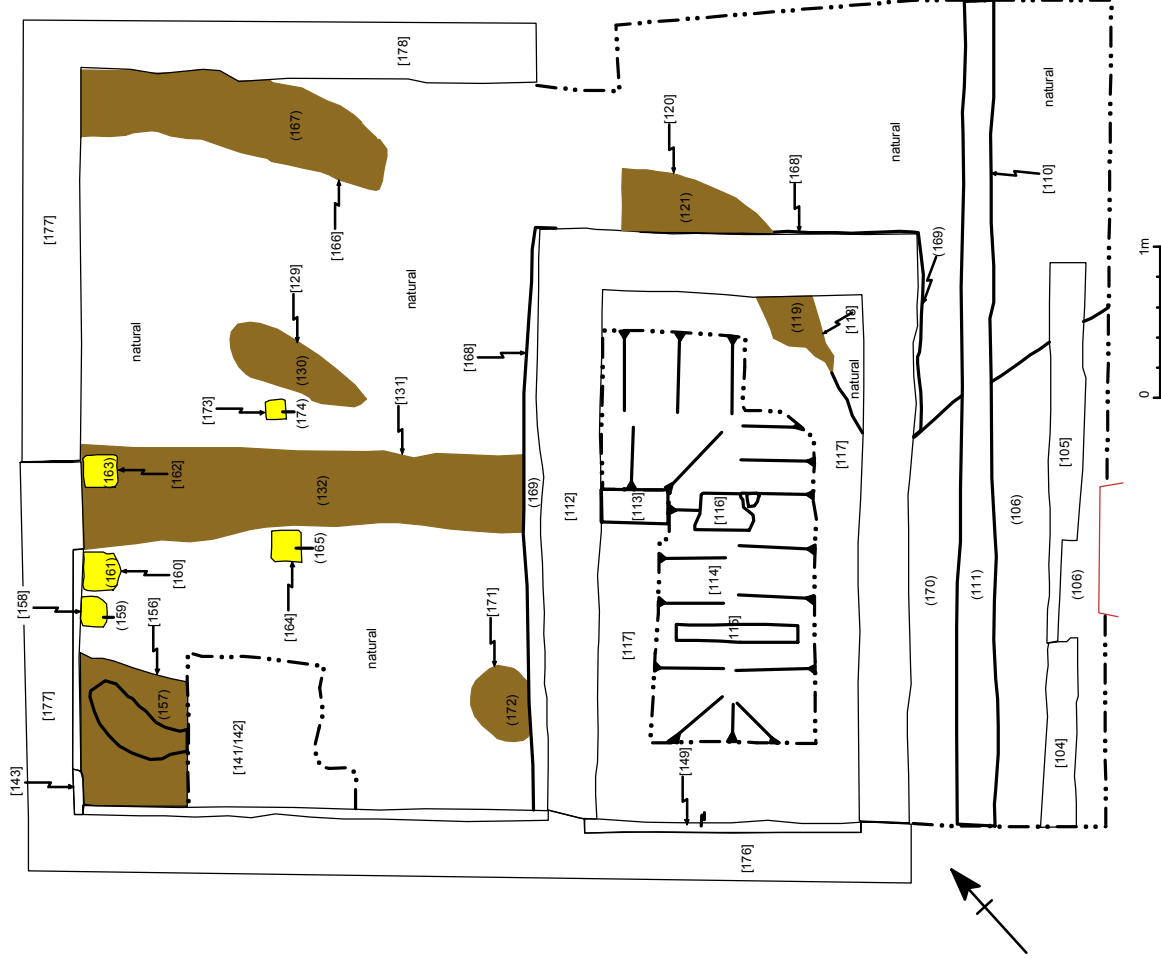
Trench 1



Trench 1, phase plan

Scale 1:50

Figure 3



Trench 1, showing Phase 1 features and Phase 2 structure



Brick walls



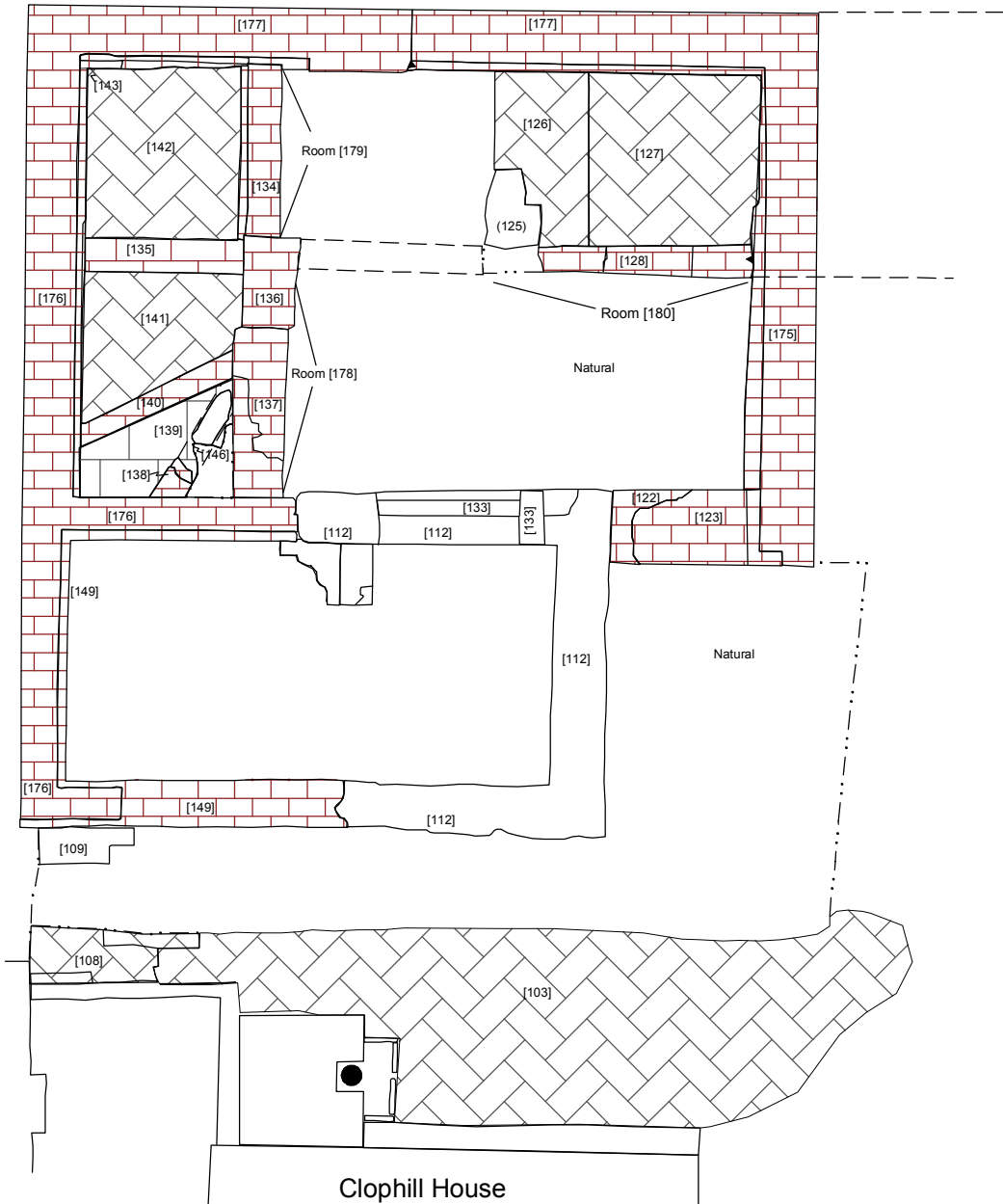
Brick / tile floor



Stone slab surface



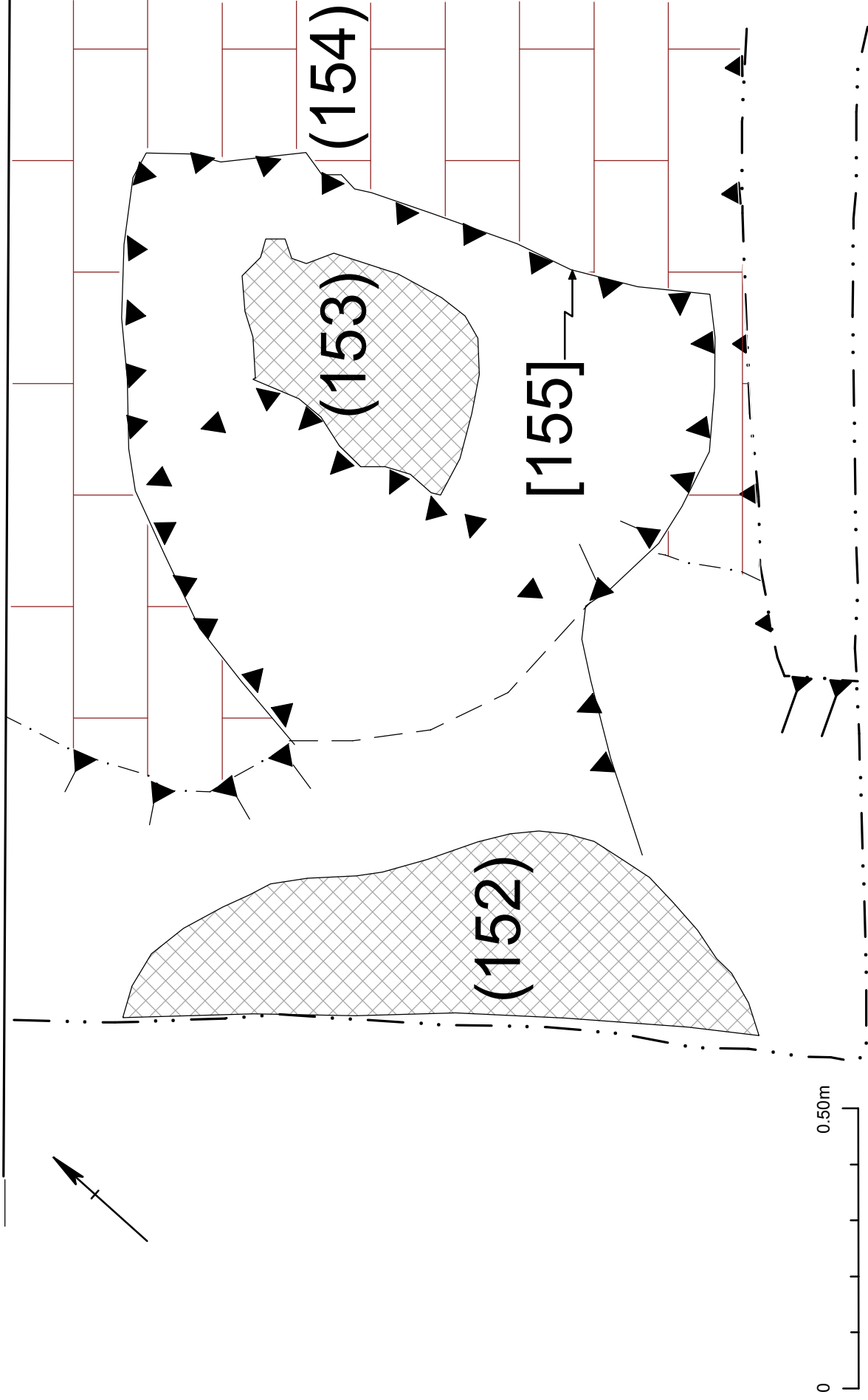
Trench 1



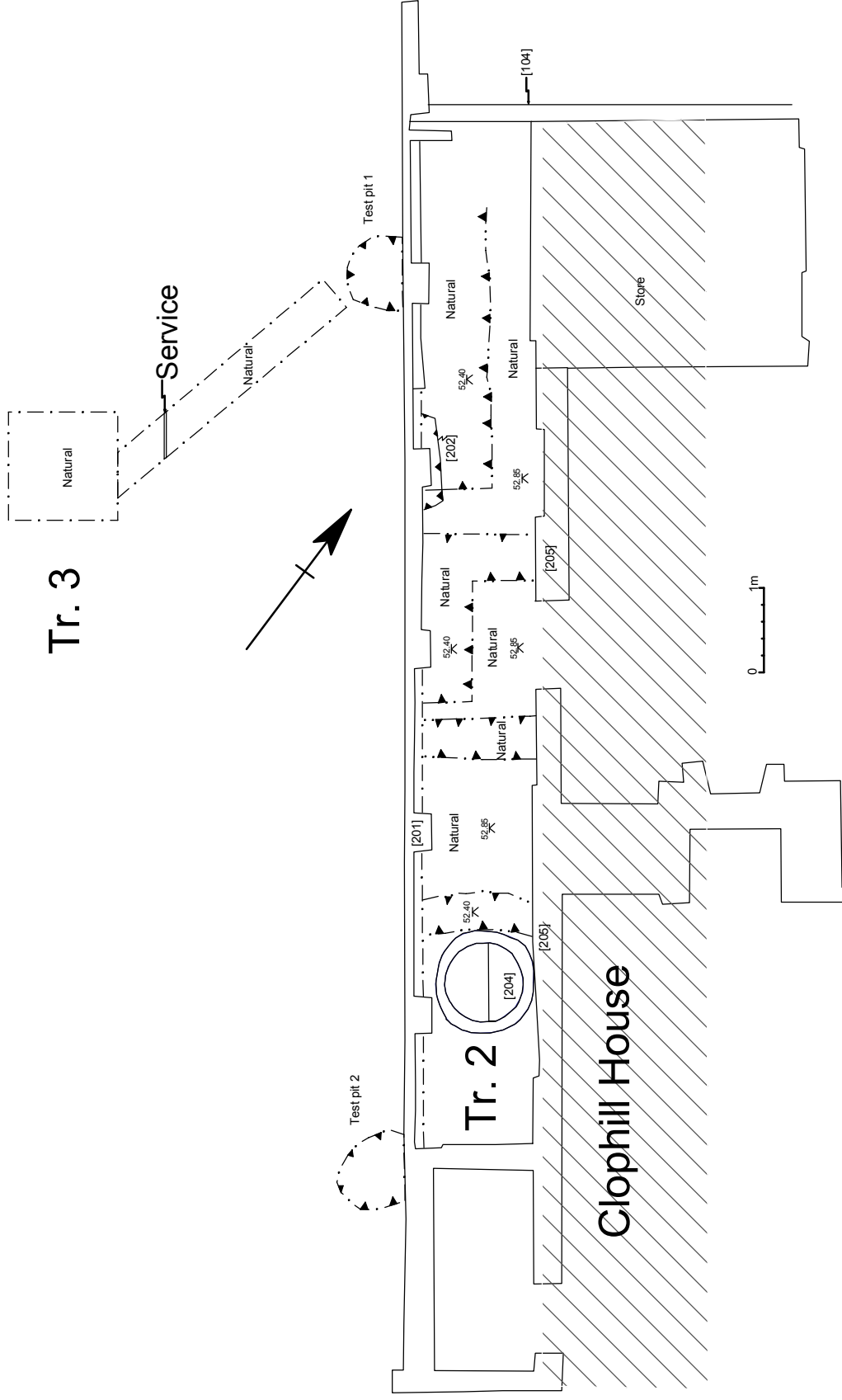
Trench 1, Phase 3, key features

Scale 1:50

Figure 5



Detail of the area of the postulated oven, [155], following removal of the ironstone slabs [150]



Plan of Trenches 2 and 3



Plate 1: Location of Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1, formation level, looking west



Plate 3: Linear [131], looking south



Plate 4: Structure [112], looking north-east



Plate 5: Threshold [133], looking south-east



Plate 6: Floor [114], looking north



Plate 7: Bedding layer (117), looking south-west



Plate 8: Structure [112], looking south-west



Plate 9: Wall [175], looking north-east



Plate 10: Wall [176], looking south-west



Plate 11: Wall [177], looking north-west



Plate 12: Rooms [178] and [179], looking north-west



Plate 13: Wall [140] and surface [139], looking south-east



Plate 14: Wall [140] and surface [139] after removal of [137]



Plate 15: Detail of brick floor [141] / [142], looking south-west



Plate 16: Room [179], showing floor [142] and plinth [143], looking north-west



Plate 17: Room [180], looking north-east



Plate 18: Room [180] showing wall [128] and burnt layer (151), looking north-west



Plate 19: Area of burnt ironstone slabs, [150], looking north-west



Plate 20: Area of burnt material (152), looking north-east



Plate 21: Oven [155] after removal of [150] & burnt layer (154), looking NE



Plate 22: Hard surface [103], looking south-east



Plate 23: Trench 2, before the works started, looking north



Plate 24: Wall [104], looking south-east



Plate 25: Feature [202], looking south-east



Plate 26: Well [204] before the start of groundworks, looking north-east



Plate 27: Well [204] after ground reduction, looking north-east



Plate 28: Test pit 1, looking north



Plate 29: Test pit 2, looking south-east



Plate 30: Soakaway, Trench 3, looking north-east



Plate 31: Service trench, Trench 3, looking south

Appendix

OASIS Data Entry

OASIS ID: heritage1-158814	
Project details	
Project name	Clophill, Clophill House, High Street
Short description of the project	As the result of a condition on the planning permission for a proposed new development at Clophill House, High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. Clophill House is a Grade II listed building, described as a late 18th century refronting of an earlier building. A parish map of 1719, shows a rectangular building along the street frontage, which may form the core of the present house. Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity has also been recorded in the vicinity. Evidence was revealed for a series of structures to the rear of Clophill House. These appear to have been industrial or agricultural in purpose. It is possible that the earliest structure was a brick-built oven, which had a base of ironstone slabs and a possible firing chamber to the side. Coal appears to have been the preferred fuel. This appears to have been removed at some point in the 18th century. The site then appears to have been occupied by a possible timber-framed structure, of possible late 18th century date, floored in brick and tile. This structure was apparently rebuilt in brick, on the same footprint, in the early 19th century, possibly during the 1830s. A number of undated cut features were encountered below the post-medieval structures. These were not investigated, and will be preserved in situ, as they lie below the proposed formation level. A brick-lined well was also exposed adjacent to Clophill House.
Project dates	Start: 08-04-2014 End: 25-06-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HN1090 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2013.50 – Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	FLOOR Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	“Part Excavation”, “Watching Brief”
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE CLOPHILL Clophill House, High Street
Postcode	MK45 4AA
Study area	57.78 Square metres

Site coordinates	TL 0857 3795 52.0288919822 -0.417291803237 52 01 44 N 000 25 02 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.40m Max: 54.65m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Martin Oake
Project design originator	Helen Ashworth
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Robin Densem
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Physical Archive id	BEDFM 2013.50
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Archive id	BEDFM 2013.50
Digital contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive id	BEDFM 2013.50
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
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