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21 MOOR END Eaton Bray Beds

HN1157

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

# HERITAGE NETWORK

Registered with the Institute for Archaeologists Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

# 21 MOOR END Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN1157 Planning ref: CB/14/01758/FULL Museum ref.: LTNMG 1112

### Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Mr & Mrs K Lloyd

By

Mark Sycamore, BA

Report no. 900

December 2014 Issued April 2015

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The cover photograph shows the site during stripping, looking E

# Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mr & Mrs K Lloyd; Oak Developments; and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Officer Central Bedfordshire Council for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Site name and address:	21 Moor End, Eaton H	Bray, Bedfordshire	
County:	Bedfordshire <b>District:</b> Central Beds.		Central Beds.
Village/town:	Eaton Bray	Parish: Eaton Bray	
Planning reference:	CB/14/01758/FULL	NGR:	SP 9765 2021
Client name and address:	Mr & Mrs K Lloyd, 2	1 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Be	edfordshire
Nature of work:	Extension to existing	Former land use:	Existing conservatory, patio
	dwelling		and garden
Site status:	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Planning Condition (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After full	Project brief originator:	Local authority
	determination (as a		
	condition)		
Size of affected area:	c.157m <sup>2</sup>	Size of area investigated:	c.157m <sup>2</sup>
Site Code:	HN1157	<b>Museum Accession No:</b>	LTNMG 1112
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director: David Hillelson	
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient: Luton Museum	
Start of work	13/10/2014	Finish of work	17/10/2014
Related HER Nos:	None	Periods represented:	Medieval, Post-medieval; modern;
Oasis UID	heritage1-187234	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Ditch, Pit		
Physical archive:	Pottery, animal bone, cbm		
Previous summaries/reports:			
-	Ashworth, H. 2014. 21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds. Archaeological Project		
	Design.		

### Summary

#### 21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds.

#### Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning consent for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing building, enlargement of the existing patio and the excavation of new services following the demolition of an existing conservatory at 21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

The monitoring the groundworks for the new building revealed a disturbed stratigraphy consisting of layers of foundation and bedding material overlying the natural clay beneath the pre-existing conservatory and patio. Elsewhere on the site the stratigraphy consisted of undisturbed topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay.

Two archaeological features were revealed during the ground reduction, comprising a linear ditch running east to west at the northern edge of the site, and a shallow pit, which was cut by the ditch. Service trenches were subsequently excavated, but not monitored, as agreed with the Archaeology Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council.

The ditch is likely to represent an earlier alignment of the northern boundary to the property, which appears from the cartographic evidence to have been remodelled between 1860 and 1880. The pit is likely to be of earlier post-medieval date.

No features, finds or deposits predating the post-medieval period were observed during this project.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This *Project Design* has been prepared at the request of Worth Planning and Design Ltd, acting on behalf of Mr & Mrs K. Lloyd, to cover a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of proposed development at 21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire.

**1.2** The planning permission for the development (ref: CB/14/01758/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire District Council (CBDC), subject to an archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The extent of the present work was defined in correspondence from the Archaeology Team (AT) at Central Bedfordshire Council. A full specification for the investigation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated August 2014 (Ashworth 2014).

1.3 The study area is located within Moor End, one of the early hamlets of Eaton Bray, centred at NGR SP 9765 2021 (Figure 1). The site is a private residence and garden, bounded by Moor End road to the west, no.19 Moor End to the north, no.23 Moor End to the south, and fields to the east.

1.4 The aim of the present project has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains which were liable to be threatened by the development, and the establishment of a local and regional archaeological and historical context for them, if they were discovered, in accordance with the current published local and regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al 2007; Medlycott 2011).

1.5 On the basis of the known heritage assets in the immediate vicinity, the site had a high potential to preserve remains of medieval and post-medieval date,

**1.6** The development consisted of the demolition of an existing conservatory, followed by the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing building. The works also included the enlargement of the existing patio and the excavation of new services.

1.7 This report presents the data collected in the course of the archaeological fieldwork, and the conclusions that can be drawn from it. Together with the deposition of the project archive with Luton Museum, it completes the process described in the approved Project Design.

### 2. Fieldwork

#### SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies approximately 160m to the east of the River Ouzel, within the village of Eaton Bray. The property is backed to the south by gardens then open fields. The ground level lies at approximately 100mOD.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Block Association (512e) and are described as:

'moderately permeable calcareous loamy soils over chalky grave, variably affected by groundwater' (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying solid geology consists of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period, at a time when the local environment was dominated by warm chalk seas. (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).

#### **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  $360^{\circ}$  tracked mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.6 All 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 pro forma sheets, at scales of 1: 50, 1:20 and 1:10.

2.8 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.9 All 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

2.10 The development involved a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on groundworks for a new extension to the rear of the existing building, replacing a former conservatory, and an extended patio (Figure 2).

2.11 The groundworks for the present project involved the monitoring of ground reduction and excavation of service trenches.

#### **Ground reduction**

2.12 At the northern end of the site an area of approximately 12.5m by 8.5m was reduced by up to 1.1m (Figure 3, Plate 1). The stratigraphy revealed in the sections comprised a layer of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey sand topsoil, c.0.55m thick, overlying a dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey silt subsoil, c.0.2m thick, overlying a white (2.5 Y 8/1) clayey silt natural.

2.13 The western side of this area, which lay directly below the former patio and conservatory, was made up of modern overburden related to their construction. This chiefly consisted of a sand bedding layer directly overlying the natural clayey silt (Plate 2).

2.14 Two features, a linear ditch and a pit, were revealed on the northern edge of this area. Ditch [101]/[103] ran on an east - west alignment, close to and almost parallel with, the northern boundary to the property (Figure 3, Plate 3). Two sections were excavated across the ditch, revealing that it contained a single fill, context (102)/(104), which comprised dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey silt with rare small sub-angular flint and occasional sub-rounded chalk (Figure 4). Finds recovered from this feature include sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and fragments of post-medieval peg tile.

**2.15** At its western end the ditch cut a shallow sub-circular feature [105], interpreted as a possible pit. This contained fill (106), a grey (10YR 6/1) clayey silt, with no inclusions (Plate 4). Sherds of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered from this feature

2.16 No other features, deposits or finds were encountered in this area.

#### Service trenches

2.17 Following the ground reduction, a series of service trenches, measuring 0.6m in width and approximately 1m in depth, were excavated beneath the area of the new development (Figure 5). It was agreed with the Archaeology Officer of Central Bedfordshire Council, that as the natural substratum had already been exposed and no further archaeological features revealed, that these did not need to be monitored.

#### ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

#### **Finds Concordance**

	Pottery		CBM		An Bone	
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
102	3	80	1	165		
104	11	275	4	75	5	95
106	3	40				
Totals	17	395	5	240	5	95

#### **Pottery**

**2.18** A total of 17 sherds of pottery, weighing 395g, was recovered from three stratified contexts. The assemblage comprised a mixture of large, relatively unabraded sherds, and small abraded pieces. The bulk of the material comprised undiagnostic bodysherds.

2.19 The earliest pottery recovered from the site consisted of unsourced and unglazed sandy greywares of probable 12th - 14th century date (5 sherds, weighing 65g). These were recovered from all three finds-bearing contexts and indicate activity of this period in the immediate vicinity. A single sherd of possible Saintonge ware of the same period was also present in context (104). This had been badly abraded and no surface remained to indicate whether it had been glazed or not. Two small abraded sherds of medieval green-glazed ware were also recovered from the same context.

2.20 All of the medieval pottery is likely to be residual in later contexts, as (104) also contained sherds of 19th and 20th century date.

2.21 Pit [105] represented the stratigraphically earliest feature. This contained two sherds of medieval greyware and one battered sherd of probable early post-medieval brown glazed earthenware, suggesting an early post-medieval date for this feature.

#### Recommendations

2.22 The presence of the medieval pottery in all excavated features indicates activity of this date in close proximity to the present site. However, none of the features could be dated to this period. On this basis, and given the small size and abraded nature of the pottery assemblage, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed to hand the material to the client, who has expressed an interest in its retention.

#### Ceramic building material

2.23 Five fragments of brick and tile, weighing 240g, were recovered from two stratified contexts. All the material, which is of late post-medieval date, was collected from ditch [101].

#### Recommendations

2.24 The fragments are all badly abraded and no sensible measurements or identification is possible. On this basis, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed to hand the material to the client, who has expressed an interest in its retention.

#### Animal bone

2.25 A total of five fragments of animal bone, weighing 95g, were recovered from one stratified context (104). They are pieces of two cow metacarpus, both distal ends.

#### *Recommendations*

2.26 Given the small and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed to hand the material to the client, who has expressed an interest in its retention.

### 3. Discussion

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

3.1 Slight evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded within a 1km radius of the present site, including Mesolithic and Neolithic / Bronze Age artefacts (HER 15842) found during a fieldwalking survey near Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, approximately 1km to the east. A scatter of Neolithic / Bronze Age flints (HER 15832) was recovered during a fieldwalking survey between Doolittle Lane and Tring Road, approximately 1km to the south-east. A copper alloy knife (HER 19043) of mid – late Bronze Age date was recovered by a metal detectorist to the east of Common Farm, within 1km of the present site.

3.2 A small number of Iron Age sherds were recovered as possible residual finds from a later feature during archaeological fieldwork at The White Horse Public House (Albion Archaeology 2013a).

*3.3* Evidence for Roman occupation (HER 15842) has also been recorded from the area of Doolittle Lane. A fieldwalking survey in 1991 identified scatters of mainly coarseware sherds and tile fragments, extending either side of the lane. Archaeological investigation in 1997 revealed two ditches, containing late Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a posthole. The site lies approximately 1km to the south of Totternhoe villa and may represent a satellite settlement. A number of metal artefacts, including a bow brooch (HER 15282) and several coins, have also been recorded from Eaton Bray, including two from the immediate vicinity of the churchyard (HER nos. 11776 & 11777), approximately 900m to the north-west.

*3.4* The village is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating that it had been established by at least the late Saxon period, although no evidence for activity of this period has, as yet, been recorded in the vicinity. There were thirty-five households living on the manor of *Eitone* in 1086, giving an estimated population of between 140 and 175. The manor, which answered for 12 hides and 1 virgate (approximately 1470 acres) contained enough arable land for 20 plough teams, although only 12 were present, enough meadow to feed 6 plough teams (approximately 48 animals) and sufficient oak or beech woodland for 300 pigs (Morris 1977).

3.5 Eaton Bray was a polyfocal village (HER 16884) by the medieval period, with four settlement *foci* located at Moor End, Eaton Green Common, St Mary's Church and Great Green Common. Evidence for medieval occupation has been recorded from archaeological investigations in the village. A ditch, containing pottery of  $12^{th} - 13^{th}$  century date, was revealed during fieldwork at Poplar Farm, approximately 500m to the north-west (Crank 2004). This appears to represent either a field or a property boundary. Three pits and a ditch, all of probable medieval date, were also encountered at The White Horse PH (Albion Archaeology 2013a).

3.6 Moor End forms the south-east side of the present village. Although it was likely to have been a separate hamlet in the medieval period, over the course of time, and particularly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it has become linked to the settlements to the north. The hamlet at Moor End was probably focussed around Moat Hall (HER 3242), on the western side of Moor End, and the mill (HER 2622) on the eastern side. An archaeological evaluation at Moat Hall, approximately 250m to the south-west, demonstrated the presence of a moat on the site. A single trench, which investigated a large ditch on the eastern side of the property, showed that it was a continuous feature (Kajewski & Rae 2007). Finds recovered from the moat indicate

that it had been backfilled in the late  $19^{th}$  or early  $20^{th}$  century, presumably to give easier access to the house.

3.7 Post-medieval mapping shows a building in the location of the present house at number 21 Moor End by 1849 (Eaton Bray Community Archives). An inverted L-shaped structure is shown on the Tithe map of 1849 (ibid). The eastern range may represent the present house, while the northern range is likely to represent the neighbouring property, no.19 Moor End. A pond is marked at the western end of the northern range, with a blacksmith's shop beyond, on the road frontage (Collins 2014, Figure 1). The land to the east is recorded as orchards, with Narrow Piece beyond (ibid). This now forms the rear garden to the present site. The present house and its adjoining range appear to have been separated into two structures by 1880 (Eaton Bray Community Archives).

#### **Research** Aims

**3.8** The aim of the present project has been to identify any archaeological remains that might have been 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).

#### **COLLECTED DATA**

3.9 The stratigraphic sequence recorded during the groundworks consisted of layers of topsoil and modern overburden, overlying a subsoil. The natural clay was observed at a depth of up to 1.1m from the modern surface.

3.10 The cartographic evidence shows that there had been some minor changes to the layout of the site between the 1840s and the present day (Collins 2014, Figures 2, 4, 6 and 7). These are related to the property and field boundaries changing during this period.

3.11 The monitoring of the groundworks for the present project revealed an undisturbed stratigraphy consisting of layers of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay on the eastern side of the site. The area underneath the former conservatory and patio revealed a more disturbed stratigraphy, consisting of modern overburden related to their construction, directly above the natural.

*3.12* Two features were identified during the monitoring of the works. Linear ditch [103] was identified on the northern side of the site, running to the south of, and almost parallel with, the present boundary. This suggests that the feature is likely to represent an earlier alignment of a boundary to the property and this is supported by the 1860 Enclosure Map (Collins 2014, figure 5). The finds recovered from its fill suggest that it is at least of later post-medieval date, but possibly earlier, and appears to have gone out of use by 1880.

3.13 At its western end the ditch cut pit [105]. Pottery sherds of medieval and early postmedieval date were recovered from the fill of this feature, but not in such quantities as to suggest that it represents a refuse pit.

3.14 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered on the site.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

3.15 It was considered that such an investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the landscape of Eaton Bray and its environs from the prehistoric period onwards and had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research aims. These include a greater understanding of:

- 1. the form and distribution of prehistoric and Roman occupation sites in Bedfordshire;
  - No evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered during the present project.
- 2. 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.
- **3.** The development and dynamics of medieval rural settlement and the development of post-medieval villages in Bedfordshire.
  - A number of sherds of medieval pottery of  $12^{th} 14^{th}$  century date were recovered as residual finds from the fills of the features on the site. Although neither feature could be assigned to this period, the presence of the sherds indicates activity of this date in the immediate vicinity.
  - Two features of probable post-medieval date were encountered on the site. The stratigraphically earlier feature comprised the northern side of a sub-circular pit which produced medieval and early post-medieval pottery sherds. No clear function could be assigned to this feature. The pit was cut by a later boundary ditch, which runs almost parallel to the present northern boundary, suggesting slight changes to the property boundary in the later post-medieval/modern period.

#### **Confidence Rating**

**3.16** 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*.

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
13/10/2014	RGD	1	Site visit
15/10/2014	RGD	8	Monitoring of groundworks
16/10/2014	RGD	9	Monitoring of groundworks, archaeological investigation
17/10/2014	RGD	6	Monitoring of groundworks, recording of archaeological features

### 4.Schedule of site visits

### 5.Bibliography

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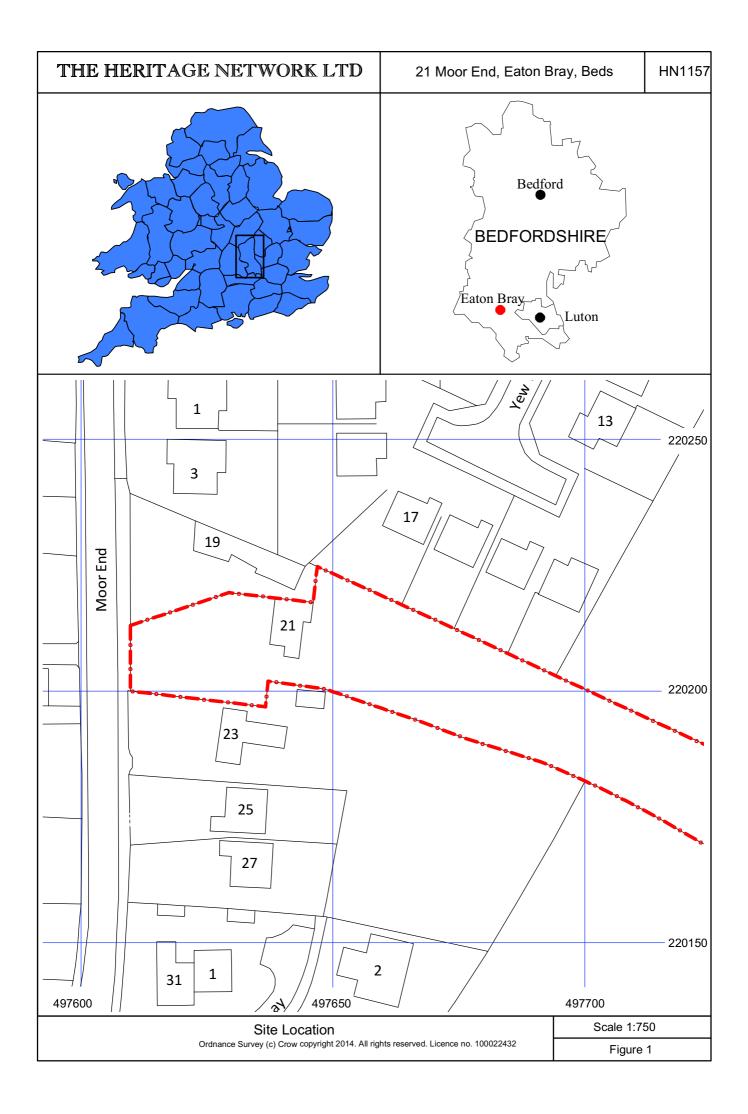
Victoria County History: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42448

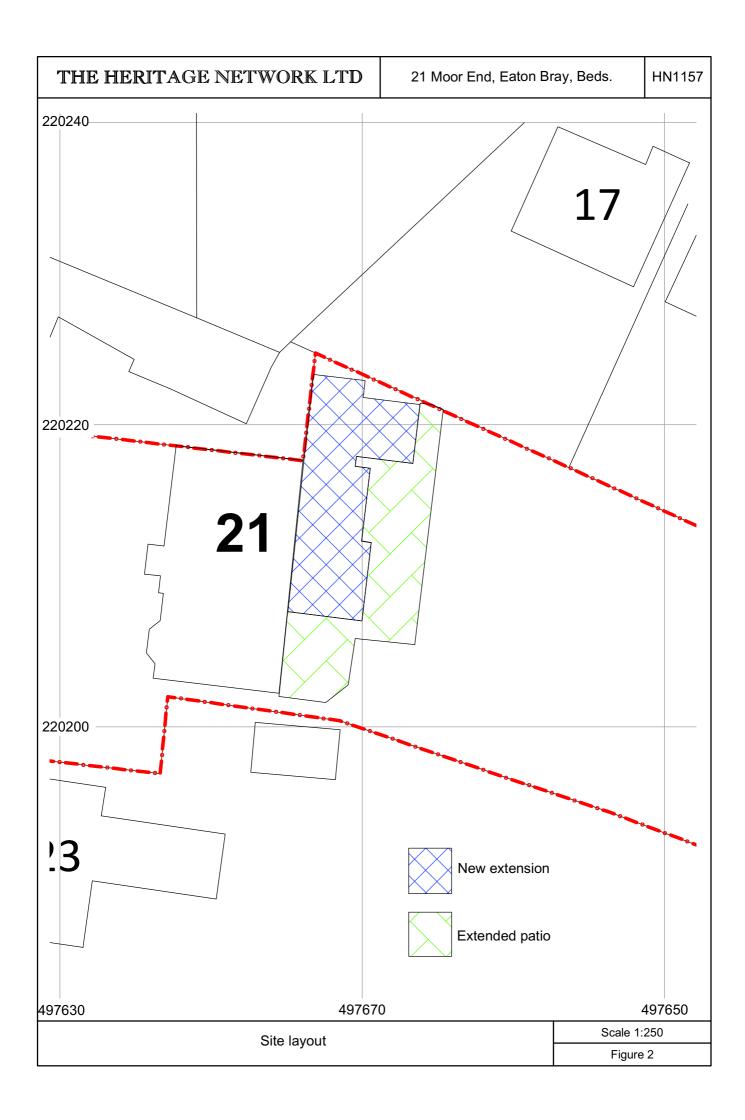
# **6.Illustrations**

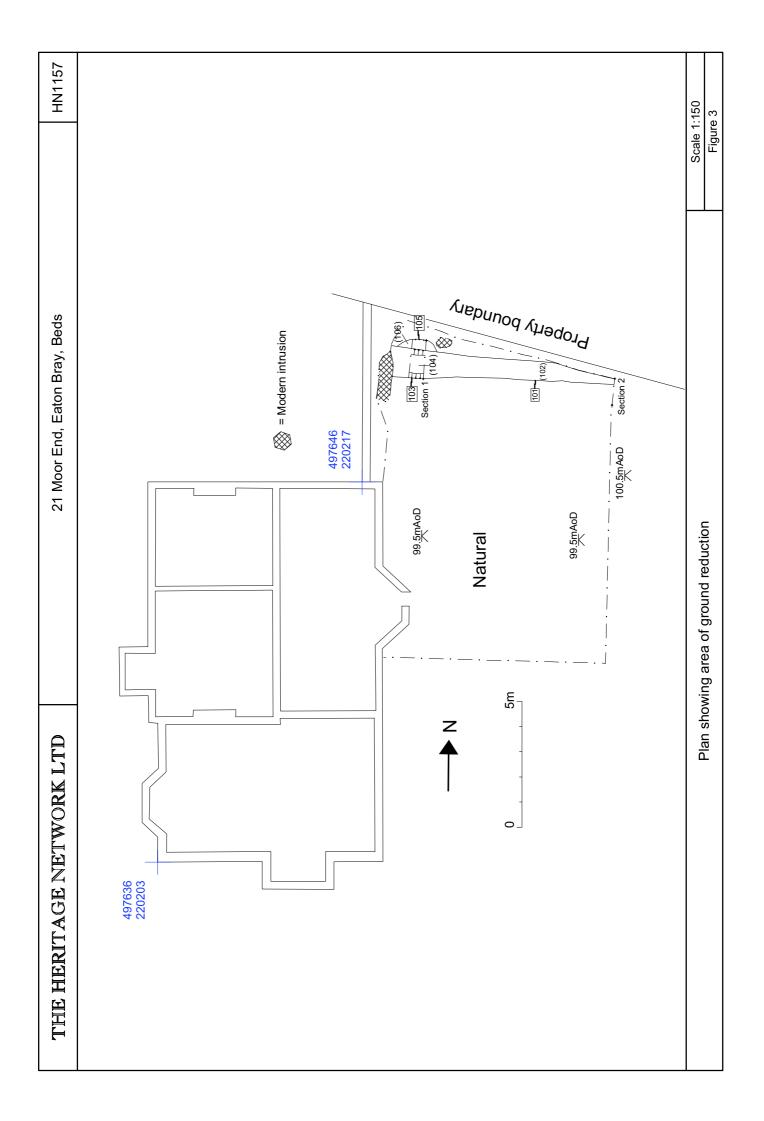
Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Plan of area of ground reduction
Figure 4	Feature sections
Figure 5	

Plate 1	Area of ground reduction, looking NW
Plate 2	Area of ground reduction, looking SW
Plate 3	Ditch [101] looking NW
Plate 4	Features [103] and [105] looking W

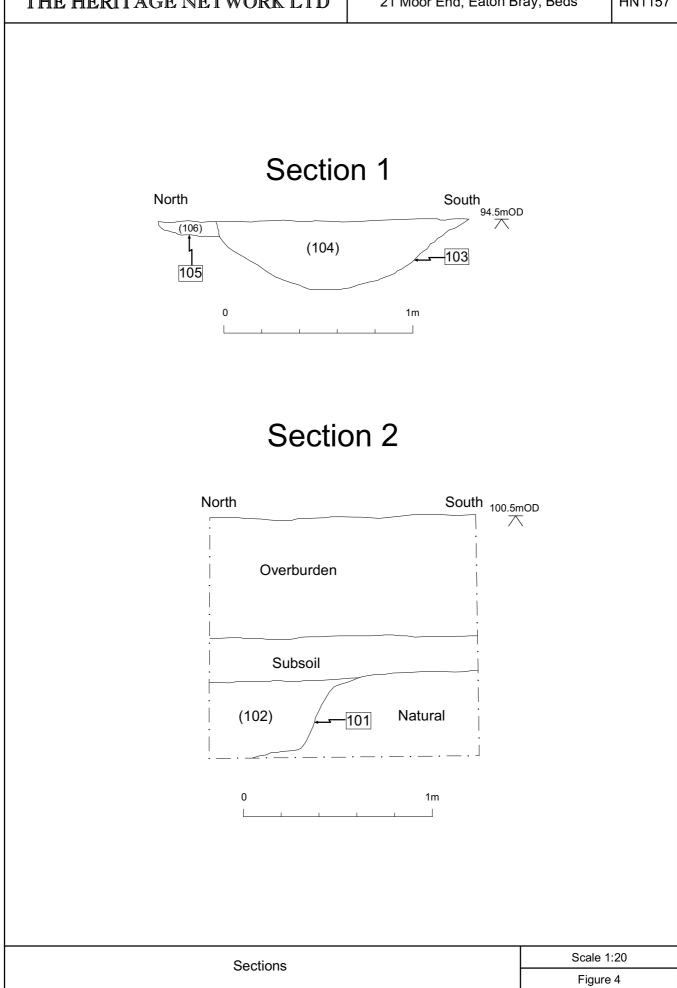
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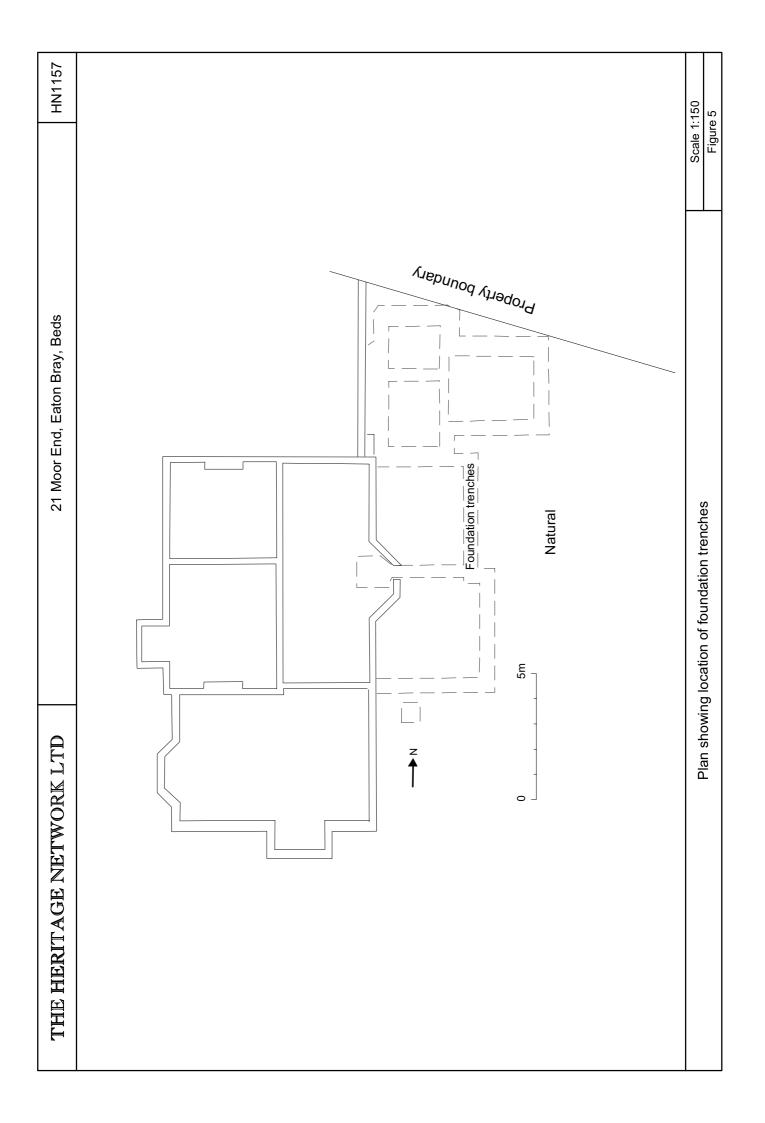














21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds

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Plate 1: Area of ground reduction, looking NW



Plate 2: Area of ground reduction, looking SW

### THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds

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# Appendix 1

### **Recorded Contexts**

Contort Type		Decemination	Dimensions (m)		
Context	Туре	Description	Length	Width	Depth
101	Cut	Ditch cut. Concave base, moderate sloping sides, runs N-S alignment. Filled by 102	>7.75	1.2	0.35
102	Fill	Fill of 101. Dark grey (10yr 4/1) firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular flint, occasional sub-rounded chalk.	>7.75	1.2	0.35
103	Cut	Ditch cut. Concave base, moderate sloping sides, runs N-S alignment. Filled by 103	>7.75	1.2	0.35
104	Fill	Fill of 101. Dark grey (10yr 4/1) firm clayey silt with rare small sub-angular flint, occasional sub-rounded chalk.	>7.75	1.2	0.35
105	Cut	Cut of shallow pit. Flat base, steep sides. Filled by 106, truncated by 101	>0.7	>0.25	0.05
106	Fill	Fill of 105. Grey (10yr 6/1) compact clayey silt, no inclusions	>0.7	>0.25	0.05

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# Appendix 2 OASIS Data form

OASIS ID: heritage1- 187234			
Project details			
Project name	21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire		
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning consent for the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing building, enlargement of the existing patio and the excavation of new services following the demolition of an existing conservatory at 21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The monitoring the groundworks for the new building revealed a disturbed stratigraphy consisting of layers of foundation and bedding material overlying the natural clay beneath the pre-existing conservatory and patio. Elsewhere on the site the stratigraphy consisted of undisturbed topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay. Two archaeological features were revealed during the ground reduction, comprising a linear ditch running east to west at the northern edge of the site, and a shallow pit, which was cut by the ditch. Service trenches were subsequently excavated, but not monitored, as agreed with the Archaeology Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council. The ditch is likely to represent an earlier alignment of the northern boundary to the property, which appears from the cartographic evidence to have been remodelled between 1860 and 1880. The pit is likely to be of earlier post-medieval date. No features, finds or deposits predating the post-medieval period were observed during this project.		
Project dates	Start: 13-10-2014 End: 17-10-2014		
Previous/future work	No / No		
Any associated project reference codes	HN1157 - Contracting Unit No.		
Type of project	Recording project		
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area		
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden		
Monument type	Ditch Post Medieval		
Monument type	Pit Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	Pottery Medieval		
Significant Finds	Pottery Post Medieval		
Significant Finds	Pottery Modern		
Significant Finds	Brick / Tile Post Medieval		
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"		
Prompt	Planning condition		
	Project location		
Country	England		
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE EATON BRAY 21 Moor End		
Postcode	LU6 2HN		
Study area	157 Square metres		

	NGR - SP 9765 2021			
	LL - 51.871809 -0.58364975 (decimal)			
Site coordinates	LL - 51 52 17 N 000 34 53 E (degrees)			
	Point			
	Project creators			
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network			
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body			
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	Client			
Digital Archive recipient	Luton Museum			
Digital Archive ID	LTNMG 1112			
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"			
Paper Archive recipient	Luton Museum			
Paper Archive ID	LTNMG 1112			
Paper Media available	"Context sheet" "Diary" "Drawing" "Photograph" "Plan" "Report" "Section"			
Project bibliography 1				
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)			
Title	21 Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds: archaeological monitoring report			
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sycamore, M.			
Other bibliographic details	Report no 900			
Date	2014			
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network			
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.			
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 14 text pages, 5 figures, 4 plates			