



HERITAGE NETWORK



**Land to the rear of
BRAYBROOKS DRIVE
Potton, Bedfordshire**

HN621

Stage 2: Archaeological Assessment Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land to the rear of
BRAYBROOKS DRIVE
Potton, Beds.

HN621

Stage 2
Archaeological Assessment

Prepared on behalf of DJB Builders Ltd

by

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The cover illustration shows a view of the excavation area from the south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders, Alison Hudson, and David Kaye. Animal bone and environmental analysis was undertaken by Abigail Rothwell. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Geoff Saunders, and edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Bedfordshire		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Mid Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Potton	Parish:	Potton
Planning reference:	MBDC 05/1067	NGR:	TL 2238 4897
Client name and address:	DJB Builders Ltd, Copper Cottage, Church End, Ravensden		
Nature of work:	New Housing	Former land use:	Pasture
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Post determination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.7800m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.81m ²
Site Code:	HN621	Other reference:	BEDFM 2006.322
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Excavation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	07/09/2006	Finish of work	13/09/2006
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Medieval – Post-medieval
Oasis UID	heritage1-18750	Significant finds:	No significant finds
Monument types:	Pit complex, Medieval/Post-Medieval.		
Physical archive:	Pottery, CBM, Animal bone , Fe. Object, Stone, Flint.		
Previous summaries/reports:	Heritage Network Evaluation Report no.366		

Synopsis: In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct new housing on land to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation.

A previous archaeological evaluation on the site, carried out by the Heritage Network, demonstrated the survival of a low density of features dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. These were located at the western end of the site, in Plot 2 of the new development.

A further stage of investigation, concentrated on the garage block to Plot 2, was undertaken. This revealed a pit complex which contained at least five intercutting pits. The pits yielded pottery and tile dating to the late medieval/early post medieval period. A significant amount of horncore was also recovered. Horncore is a common waste product of tanning. A former tan-yard, Braybrooks Tannery, is known to have been located on the adjacent plot (HER 7898).

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *DJB Builders Ltd* as part of a programme of archaeological mitigation on a development site located to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Beds.

1.2 The planning permission for the development (planning ref. MBDC 05/1067) was granted subject to a standard condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning. The scope of the required work was defined in consultation with the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) of Bedfordshire County Council, acting as adviser to the local planning authority, Mid Bedfordshire District Council (MBDC). The investigation followed the provisions set out in a Method Statement contained in an email dated 5th September 2006.

1.3 The site is located at the south eastern limit of the medieval settlement of Potton (HER 17164), centred on NGR TL 2238 4897. The site lies on the Greensand Ridge, adjacent to Potton Brook which forms the eastern boundary to the site. The development involves the construction of 20 new dwellings, garages, services, access road and associated landscaping.

1.4 An evaluation was carried out by the Heritage Network in July 2006 in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the *Heritage and Environment Service* of Bedfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to MBDC. The evaluation demonstrated the likelihood that the majority of the site was devoid of archaeological deposits. A single pit identified in the westernmost trench contained a large concentration of horn cores possibly indicating activity associated with a tannery located on the adjacent site to the north.

1.5 On the basis of the evaluation report, the CAO advised that further archaeological investigation of the area surrounding the pit should be undertaken prior to the start of development works, in order to consider whether any further archaeological activity associated with the pit was present.

1.6 The aim of the present programme of archaeological works has been to preserve by record the archaeological remains which were liable to be affected by construction works in the vicinity of Plot 2 of the new development, in accordance with current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown & Glazebrook 2000).

1.7 The present report presents and reviews the scope of the data recovered, and assesses its quality, character and significance. In accordance with the requirements set out in English Heritage's document, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2, 1991), this is intended to allow the planning authority to consider its potential, and what, if any, further analysis may be required, leading to publication and deposition of the archive.

2. Site Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located on an area of former pasture immediately to the west of Potton Brook. Modern housing developments occupy the land to the north (Braybrooks Drive) and west (Horne Lane), and a further development (Sheepwalk Close) is located on the opposite side of the brook. To the south is a large field which is presently fallow.

2.2 The land falls sharply from c.38.0mOD along the western boundary to c.34.0m along the western bank of Potton Brook.

2.3 The geology is recorded as Aeolian Drift and Peat of the Hanworth association (871c) (SSEW1983), overlying lower greensand (Geological Survey 1948). This was characterised on the site as brownish yellow (10YR6/8) sand with patches of gravel and angular sandstone fragments. On the eastern half of the site the natural geology was masked by the presence of a series of deep alluvial deposits.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.4 Little is known about the extent and nature of archaeological features and deposits in the south of Potton, as, prior to the Heritage Network's initial evaluation, no archaeological fieldwork had been undertaken here.

2.5 An examination of the Bedfordshire County Council Historic Environment Record has shown that the present site is located on the edge of the medieval core of Potton. To the south are cropmarks (HER 10802) which are suspected to be medieval and possibly relate to an earlier alignment of Potton Brook. To the east, on the opposite bank of the brook, are linear cropmarks (HER 15083) of uncertain date. To the north is a former post-medieval tanning site (HER 7898).

2.6 An evaluation of the site undertaken by the Heritage Network in July 2006 demonstrated that extensive flood deposits cover the eastern half of the site. Towards the western limit of the site the presence of a large pit yielding horn core indicated that waste associated with the tanning industry had been deposited on the site.

3. Fieldwork

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

General

3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Method Statement, current health and safety legislation, and IFA and ALGAO standards.

3.2 Prior to the start of the excavation c.0.3m of overburden, consisting of a loose, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), silty sand, had already been removed. The remaining overburden was removed, under close archaeological supervision, using a 360-degree tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Machine excavation ceased once the archaeological horizon had been established. Spoil was scanned for unstratified artefacts.

3.3 The location and outline of all defined archaeological contexts were recorded in relation to established fixed points using a Total Station Theodolite, and the data introduced into CAD software.

3.4 All identified archaeological features and deposits were cleaned by hand, and sampled as appropriate according to their accessibility. Written, drawn and photographic records were completed as appropriate.

Post-Excavation

3.5 Following current professional practice, the post-excavation stage of the present project has been divided between Archive and Assessment, and Post-Excavation Analysis and Publication.

Archive

3.6 The site archive, comprising the excavation records and materials recovered, have been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. A Harris Matrix has been compiled, together with an overall site summary, and a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

3.7 The archive is being prepared, in accordance with UKIC guidelines, for deposition with Bedford Museum under accession number BEDFM 2006.322

Artefacts

3.8 Where appropriate, bulk finds such as pottery and ceramic building material have been carefully washed in clean water to remove the soil, and quantified. All pottery has been marked with the site code and context number.

Ecofacts

3.9 Four bulk samples were taken from dated contexts. Approximately 1 litre from each sample was processed and examined to assess their potential.

QUANTIFICATION**Documentary Archive**

3.10 The documentary archive incorporates the written, drawn and photographic records from the fieldwork on the present site. The various elements of the documentary archive are quantified in Table 1, below:

Record Type	Items
Contexts records	15
Context register sheets	1
Sample register sheets	1
Sample sheets	4
Survey sheets	2
Level sheets	1
Drawing Register	1
Plans	4
Sections	3
Black & White Photographs	22
Colour Slide Photographs	6

Material Archive

3.11 The material archive incorporates the artefacts, faunal remains and environmental samples collected during the fieldwork on the present site, including both stratified and unstratified material. The various elements of the material archive are quantified in Table 2, below:

Type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	14	175
CBM	15	475
Animal Bone	324	11190
Iron Object	1	20
Flint	3	15
Stone	2	105
Samples	4	c.110 litres

FIELDWORK RESULTS**Recorded contexts:**

Length (m):	12.61	Width (m):	6.87	Maximum Depth (m):	-	Orientation	N-S
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
01	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with steep concave undercutting sides and a flat base, aligned east – west. Pit.	1.50	1.42	0.63		
02	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6), slightly silty sand with occasional flints. Upper fill of [01].	c.1.77	1.61	0.55		
03	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with steep concave undercutting sides and a flat base, aligned east – west. Pit. Same as [10].	3.19	1.76	0.77		
04	Fill	Friable, grey (10YR 5/1), very fine ash and sand, with occasional charcoal fragments. Dump deposit within pit [01].	0.75	-	0.14		
05	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with near vertical straight sides and a flat base, aligned north – south. Pit	2.08	1.30	0.48		
06	Fill	Firm, strong brown (7.5YR 4/6), silty clay with sand. Fill of [03].	1.30	-	0.38		
07	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with near vertical straight sides and a flat base, aligned north – south. Pit	1.55	1.30	0.35		
08	Fill	Firm, strong brown (7.5YR 4/6), silty clay with sand. Fill of [05].	1.60	0.65 +	0.26		
09	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6), slightly silty sand with occasional flints. Fill of [07]	1.55	1.30	0.35		
10	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with steep straight sides and a flat base, aligned east – west. Pit. Same as [03].	3.19	1.76	0.60		
11	Fill	Loose, dark brown (10YR4/4), silty sand. Fill of [10].	0.55 +	1.00	0.60		
12	Fill	Loose, dark brown (10YR 3/3), silty clayey sand. Evaluation trench backfill.	0.56 +	1.60	0.30		
13	Cut	Sub-ovoid cut feature with steep concave undercutting sides and a flat base, aligned east – west. Pit	1.39	1.01 +	0.48		
14	Fill	Loose, dark brown (10YR 3/3), silty sand with occasional small stones. Fill of [13].	1.39	1.01 +	0.48		
15	Group	Pit complex comprised of pit cuts [01], [03], [05], [07], [10], and [13].	-	-	-		
16	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6), slightly silty sand with occasional flints. Primary fill of [01], same as (02) but separated by fill (04).	c.1.16	-	0.27		
17	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6), slightly silty sand with occasional flints. Upper fill of [03].	3.19	1.76	0.77		
18	Fill	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6), slightly silty sand with occasional flints. Upper fill of [05].	2.08	1.30	0.25		

3.12 The reduced area was located close to the western boundary of the site. The area had previously been covered by hard standing which was removed in advance of the evaluation of

the site. Prior to the start of the present stage of fieldwork a further c.0.30m of overburden had been removed from the site.

3.13 The stratigraphy on the site consisted of a layer of firm, brown (10YR 4/3), sandy silt subsoil over the natural geology formed of brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sand with patches of gravel and angular sandstone fragments.

3.14 A pit complex [15] was observed in the centre of the site, comprising at least 5 individual pits [01], [03], [05], [07], and [13].

3.15 Sub-ovoid feature [01] formed part of pit complex [15]. The feature was aligned approximately east – west and had steep undercutting concave sides with a flat base. The feature measured 1.50m long by 1.42m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.63m. Three fills (02), (04), and (16) were recorded:

- Fill (02) consisted of a firm, dark yellowish brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small flints. The fill yielded pottery sherds ranging in date from the 10th – 16th centuries AD.
- Fill (04) consisted of a friable, grey, very fine ash and sand. The fill yielded several fragments of animal bone but no datable artefacts. This fill may represent a single event of material being dumped in the feature.
- Fill (16) consisted of a firm, dark yellowish brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small flints. This fill is identical to fill (02) but separated from it by fill (04).

3.16 The feature yielded a large amount of horncore suggesting its primary function was for the deposition of industrial waste. Horncore is a waste product associated with the tanning industry. Fill (04) contained a large amount of ash indicating that the pit had been used for the deposition of burnt material.

3.17 Sub-ovoid feature [03] formed part of pit complex [15]. The feature was aligned approximately east – west and had steep undercutting concave sides with a flat base. The feature measured 3.19m long by 1.76m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.70m. Two fills (17) and (06) were recorded:

- Fill (17) consisted of a firm, dark yellowish brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small flints. The fill yielded pottery sherds ranging in date from the 10th – 16th centuries AD.
- Fill (06) consisted of a firm, strong brown, silty clayey sand. The fill yielded no archaeological artefacts.

3.18 Sub-ovoid feature [05] formed part of pit complex [15]. The feature was aligned approximately north – south and had near vertical straight sides and a flat base. The feature measured 2.08m long by 1.30m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.48m. Two fills (08) and (18) were recorded:

- Fill (08) consisted of a firm, strong brown, silty clayey sand with patches of redeposited natural sand. The fill yielded no archaeological artefacts.

- Fill (18) consisted of a firm, dark yellowish brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small flints. The fill yielded pottery sherds ranging in date from the 10th – 16th centuries AD.

3.19 Sub-ovoid feature [07] formed part of pit complex [15]. The feature was aligned approximately north – south and had near vertical straight sides and a flat base. The feature measured 1.55m long by 1.30m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.35m. A single fill (09) was recorded:

- Fill (09) consisted of a firm, dark yellowish brown, slightly silty sand with occasional small flints. The fill yielded pottery sherds varying in date from the 13th – 15th centuries AD.

3.20 Sub-ovoid feature [10] formed part of pit complex [15]. This feature is a continuation of pit [03], recorded during the evaluation stage of works.. At this point the feature had steep undercutting sides and a flat base. A single fill (11) was recorded:

- Fill (11) consisted of a loose, dark brown, silty sand. The fill yielded several fragments of animal bone but no datable artefacts.

3.21 Sub-ovoid feature [13] formed part of pit complex [15]. The feature was aligned approximately east – west and had steep undercutting concave sides with a flat base. The feature measured 1.39m long by at least 1.01m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.48m. A single fill (14) was recorded:

- Fill (14) consisted of a loose, dark brown, silty sand with occasional small stones. The fill yielded several small fragments of ceramic building material of post medieval date.

3.22 Due to the homogeneous nature of fills (02), (17), and (18), it was not possible to distinguish a stratigraphic relationship between pits [01], [03], and [05]. Dating of the artefacts recovered from the three pits suggests that they were all backfilled during the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

4. Artefact and Ecofact Assemblages

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Context	Pottery		CBM		An bone		Fe object		Flint		Chalk		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
[01] (02)	3	25	7	110	186	4160			2	10			two burnt bone fragments
[01] (04)					27	1905							
[03] (17)			2	215	51	3215							
[05] (18)	1	5			1	5							
[07] (09)	9	135	1	25									
[10] (11)					21	1115							
[13] (14)			4	15	2	5	1	20	1	5			
U/s	1	10	1	110	36	785					2	105	
Total	14	175	15	475	324	11190	1	20	3	15	2	105	

Pottery

4.1 A total of 14 sherds of pottery, weighing 175g, was recovered from four stratified and one unstratified contexts. The pottery ranged in date from the medieval period to the early post medieval period. The assemblage consists mostly of small, abraded and undiagnostic bodysherds of 13th-16th century date.

4.2 Fill (02) yielded the earliest pottery from the site: a small and heavily abraded sherd of possible early St Neots type of 10th –11th century date (Bedford pottery fabric type series B01B). A further 2 sherds were recovered from this context: one undiagnostic medieval bodysherd (General Type C), and one sherd possibly of red border ware (P67) of late 15th – 16th century date.

4.3 A single small abraded shell tempered bodysherd (B07) of 13th century date was recovered from fill (18) in pit [05].

4.4 The only remaining stratified context to yield pottery was fill (09) in pit [07]. This yielded two bodysherds of shell tempered ware (B07) of 13th century date, and six sherds, including one rim sherd, of late medieval reduced ware (E01) of late 14th –15th century date. The reduced ware may be locally produced at the kiln site in Everton.

4.5 A further sherd of probable red border ware (P67) was recovered unstratified. The sherd appears to be from the same vessel as the one recovered from context (02).

4.6 Earlier trial trenching on the site revealed evidence suggesting archaeological activity in the sites vicinity of 13th – 16th century date. The evidence collected during the present stage of work has confirmed this.

Discussion

4.7 The pottery from the present site represents a domestic assemblage. The small and abraded nature of the sherds suggests that this material was not in its primary place of deposition. This, combined with the small size of the assemblage, indicates that it is not the

result of the dumping of domestic refuse on the site. It does, however, suggest domestic occupation in the vicinity of the site at this time.

Recommendations

4.8 Given the small size of the assemblage, the abraded nature of the sherds, and the fact that the sherds are unlikely to be in their primary place of deposition, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

4.9 A total of 15 fragments of CBM, weighing 475g, was recovered from four stratified and two unstratified contexts during the present investigation. The majority of the assemblage consists of small undiagnostic fragments of red sandy late medieval – post medieval tile.

4.10 Fill (17) in pit [03] yielded a tile fragment of late medieval roof tile (Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series 1D).

4.11 The remaining fragments from the assemblage are small and mostly undiagnostic. Two of the fragments, from fill (02), show a slight curvature suggesting they may be parts of pan tiles. A further two fragments show signs of fire damage.

4.12 A single small piece of post-medieval tile was recovered from fill (09) in pit [07]. The pit also yielded pottery of 14th –15th century date, and it is possible that the tile is intrusive within an earlier context.

4.13 Fill (14) in pit [13] yielded four small undiagnostic fragments of post-medieval tile.

4.14 A single small fragment of floor tile of probable 16th century date was recovered unstratified.

Recommendations

4.15 Given the small size of the assemblage and that the majority of it is abraded and undiagnostic, no further work is proposed on this assemblage

Animal Bone

(by Abigail Rothwell)

4.16 A total of 324 fragments of animal bone, weighing 11190g, was recovered from 9 stratified and 1 unstratified contexts during the present investigation.

Context	Number of fragments	Percentage of total assemblage
[01] (02)	35	26
[01] (04)	20	15
[01] lower	1	<1
[01] upper	6	4
(02)	29	21
[03] (17)	22	16
[10] (11)	8	6
u/s	16	12

Horncore measurements:

Context	Horncore No.	Basel Circumference (mm)	Min Basel diameter (mm)	Max Basel diameter (mm)	Horncore length (mm)
HN621					
[01] (02)	1	180	51	69	230
[01] (02)	2	179	45	59	200
[01] (02)	3	165	46	54	190
[01] (02)	4	125	42	35	160
[01] (02)	5	179	48	61	210
[01] (04)	6	170	48	56	220
[01] (04)	7	172	40	60	200
[01] (04)	8	116	33	39	125
[01] (04)	9	165	47	56	205
[01] (04)	10	115	33	39	165
[01] (04)	11	150	46	48	170
[03] (17)	12	148	38	47	200
[03] (17)	13	160	48	50	195
[03] (17)	14	140	40	47	150
[10] (11)	15	154	40	51	200
[10] (11)	16	131	35	45	120
U/s	17	155	40	53	185
U/s	18	140	37	50	140
HN599					
[105] (106)	19	225	58	77	215
[105] (106)	20	142	39	48	182

Animal Bone Analysis

4.17 The general condition of the assemblage was good but fragmentary. Cranial fragments make up 84% of the assemblage by count, post cranial fragments 16%.

4.18 Species present include cattle (95%), pig (0.5%), sheep/goat (0.5%) and unidentified mammal (4%).

4.19 137 fragments of cattle horncore were identified and make up 42% of the assemblage. Most were fragmentary in nature. Only 18 were complete.

4.20 Due to the fragmentary nature of the assemblage only 11 fragments had fusion evidence, and of these 8 (73%) were fused suggesting a bias towards adult animals.

4.21 No gnawing evidence was noted on any of the bones.

4.22 Butchery was noted on several of the post-cranial bones. The marks consisted of chop marks, & repeated knife cuts. The horncores did not appear to show any butchery evidence except for a single fragment, which had repeated knife cuts.

4.23 Most of the horncores do not appear to have been cut from the skull, and elements of broken skull bone remain attached.

Recommendations

4.24 Further analysis of the intact horncores from both stages of work is recommended to allow the age and gender of animals being exploited to be established.

Iron Object

4.25 A single iron object, weighing 20g, was recovered from fill (14) in pit [13]. The heavily corroded object measures 58mm long and has a diameter of approximately 13mm. The object likely represents the shank of a nail.

Recommendations

4.26 No further work is proposed on this item.

Flint

(by Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews)

4.27 A narrow grey flint with S-shaped profile, 45mm long, 18mm maximum width and about 3mm thick, was recovered from fill (02) in pit [01]. It has a very small (but not punctiform) striking platform, prominent flake scars on the dorsal surface and ripples on the ventral surface. Towards the distal end of the ventral surface is a zone about 12mm long of steep retouch, with a corresponding zone on the opposite side on the dorsal face. Despite this, there is no clear evidence for utilisation. However, the distal end may be broken (the evidence is not certain), in which case, it may have been fashioned into something like a borer.

4.28 An almost parallel-sided honey-coloured flint 44mm long, 20mm maximum width and up to about 3mm thick was recovered from fill (02) in pit [01]. It has a punctiform string platform at the point where a 7mm wide band of cortication runs through the flint. There are well defined flake scars and a prominent bulb of percussion. The distal end has been broken off.

4.29 An almost parallel-sided grey flint, was recovered from fill (14) in pit [13], measuring 27mm long, 9mm maximum width and up to about 4 mm thick, with a hook-like projection (not formed subsequent to striking) at the distal end. The profile is prismatic and the striking platform appears to be missing.

Discussion

4.30 All three lithics appear to be of Neolithic date (c 4350-2000 BC). The second flint from pit [01], is a tool of uncertain type owing to subsequent breakage, although it may have been used as a borer or graver. The remaining pieces are debitage.

Recommendations

4.31 No further work is proposed on the flint.

Stone

4.32 A total of two pieces of chalk, weighing 105g, was recovered unstratified from the site. Although unworked, chalk is not naturally occurring on the site, indicating that it is imported.

Recommendations

4.33 No further work is proposed on the chalk.

Bulk Environmental Samples

4.34 Four bulk samples were taken from dated contexts. Approximately 1 litre from each sample was passed through a fine mesh and then scanned for artefactual and environmental evidence using a microscope to assess their potential. The results are summarised in the table below:

Sample Number	Context	Potential	% of Archaeological Material in sample	Bone	Mammal Bone	Charcoal	organic matter	Burnt grain	Burnt Chaff	Weed seeds	Fe Object	Pottery
1	09	Low	1-5	✓		✓	✓					
2	14	Low	<1			✓				✓		
3	04	High	40-50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	02	Med	1-2			✓	✓	✓		✓		

Discussion

4.35 Two of the samples, taken from contexts (09) and (14), contained only small amounts of faunal evidence, charcoal, and floral evidence. These samples have a limited potential to yield further information on the site.

4.36 One sample, taken from context (02), contained charcoal, burnt organic matter, burnt grain, and weed seeds. Context (02) yielded pottery and CBM ranging in date from the 10th century AD to the early post medieval period. The sample has a moderate potential to yield further information on the local environment at this time, and the significance of such information can be considered to be low.

4.37 Sample 3, taken from context (04), yielded the greatest range of artefactual and environmental material. During the fieldwork the fill did not yield any datable artefacts, although pottery was observed in the processed sample. The pottery sherds were very small, abraded and undiagnostic, and the fabric was similar to other medieval sherds recovered from the site. The sample has a high potential to yield further significant information on the local environment and industrial processes associated with the material deposited in the pit.

Recommendations

4.38 On the basis of the assessment results no further detailed work is recommended on Samples 1, 2, and 4. Further detailed analysis by a specialist is recommended to be undertaken on Sample 3.

5. Further Research

RESEARCH AIMS

5.1 The archaeological investigation was considered to have the potential to contribute to the following research topics:

- the origins, development, and growth of the medieval settlement of Potton;
- the development of the tanning industry within the locality.

5.2 In order to address these topics, the aims of the excavation were:

- to establish the nature and layout of the site;
- to establish the date range of the site;
- to recover evidence which demonstrates the site's economic and social status.

5.3 The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrates that sufficient data has been collected to allow the aims of the excavation to be met. The results can be summarised as follows.

- The archaeological features recorded during both stages of the fieldwork were located close to the western boundary of the development site. The results of the evaluation demonstrated the presence of extensive flood deposits to the east as the land falls towards the Potton Brook.
- A group of five inter-cutting pits [15] was recorded on the site. Two of the pits, [01] and [03] yielded a significant amount of horncore, a common waste product associated with the tanning industry. Braybrooks Tannery occupied a plot to the north of the present site (HER 7898). The tannery is recorded as specialising in the manufacture of parchment and chamois leather from sheepskins with deeds dating from 1711. The ceramic material and horncore recovered from pit group [15] suggests that tanning in the vicinity of the present site predates the existing deeds by approximately 200 years and that at this point cattle skins were being processed.
- The ceramic assemblage suggests that pit group [15] dates to the late medieval/early post medieval period. Pottery and CBM of this date was recovered from the fills of pits [01], [03], [07], and [13]. Earlier residual material in the pit fills suggests activity in the vicinity of the site from the 10th century onward. A lack of modern material appears to reflect the site's recent use as pasture.
- No evidence for structures was observed. This, combined with the abraded and undiagnostic condition, and small size, of the pottery assemblage, suggests that the present site was probably located outside the occupation area of the medieval settlement. It also suggests that although waste products from the tanning industry have been recovered, the tannery itself was not located on the site.

- A single flint tool (possibly a borer) and two pieces of debitage were recovered from pit group [15]. The flints, which are Neolithic in date, are redeposited within the later features. They give an indication of activity in the vicinity of the site during this period.

Conclusion

5.4 The evidence from the present site indicates the survival of features and deposits relating to the tanning industry possibly associated with the nearby tan-yard (HER 7898). No direct evidence of occupation on the site was revealed.

UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN

5.5 The data collected from the present site has provided further information concerning the use of land surrounding the medieval settlement at Potton. The various classes of data collected have been assessed in line with the regional research framework (Glazebrook, 1997; Brown and Glazebrook, 2000).

5.6 The artefact assemblages recovered from the present site are all extremely small. Their abraded and undiagnostic nature means that they have very little potential to contribute to the identified research aims. On this basis no further research on this material has been recommended and it is proposed to publish this as it stands.

5.7 It is considered that the intact horncore collected from pit group [15] has the potential to allow the gender and age of animals being exploited to be established. Further research on this material in this regard is proposed prior to publication.

5.8 Four bulk samples were taken from three dated and one undated context. Three of the samples are considered to have only limited potential to provide further significant information on the site. Sample 3 is considered to have a high potential to offer further information on the local environment and industrial processes taking place during the late medieval – early post medieval period. Further analysis of this sample by an appropriate specialist, is proposed prior to publication.

PUBLICATION

5.9 It is proposed to publish the present site as a note in Bedfordshire Archaeology.

Provisional Synopsis

Section	Content	Words	Pages
Introduction	Project background	500	1
	Site location, geology and topography	250	0.5
Narrative and discussion	Prehistoric features and deposits	500	1
Artefacts	By type	1000	1.5
Ecofacts	By type	1000	1.5
Bibliography		250	0.5
Total words:		3500	6
Line drawings	Plans		1
	Sections		0.5
Tables	Artefact x 1		0.5
	Ecofact x 2		1
Total Pages:			9

ARCHIVE

5.10 The documentary and material archive is currently held by The Heritage Network Ltd at its premises at 11 Furnston Court, Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts.

5.11 In its final form the archive will conform to UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

5.12 The documentary and material archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum, Castle Street, Bedford under accession number BEDFM 2006.322.

TASK LIST TO PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Task	Description	Undertaken by	Days
1	Additional background research: Potton the tan-yard	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	1
2	Environmental analysis and report	Arcus, Sheffield University	4
3	Animal bone report	<i>Ditto</i>	2
4	Compile publication text	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
5	Prepare illustrations	Geoff Saunders, Heritage Network	1
6	Editing	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	1
7	Submission to Bedfordshire Archaeology	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	0.5
8	Final archive	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
9	Archive deposition	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	0.5

Confidence Rating

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

6. Bibliography

Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER)

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology

Geological Survey 1948 *Geological Map of England and Wales, Sheet 2, Scale 1:625,000*

Saunders, G, 2006 *Land to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Beds. Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Heritage Network report no.366

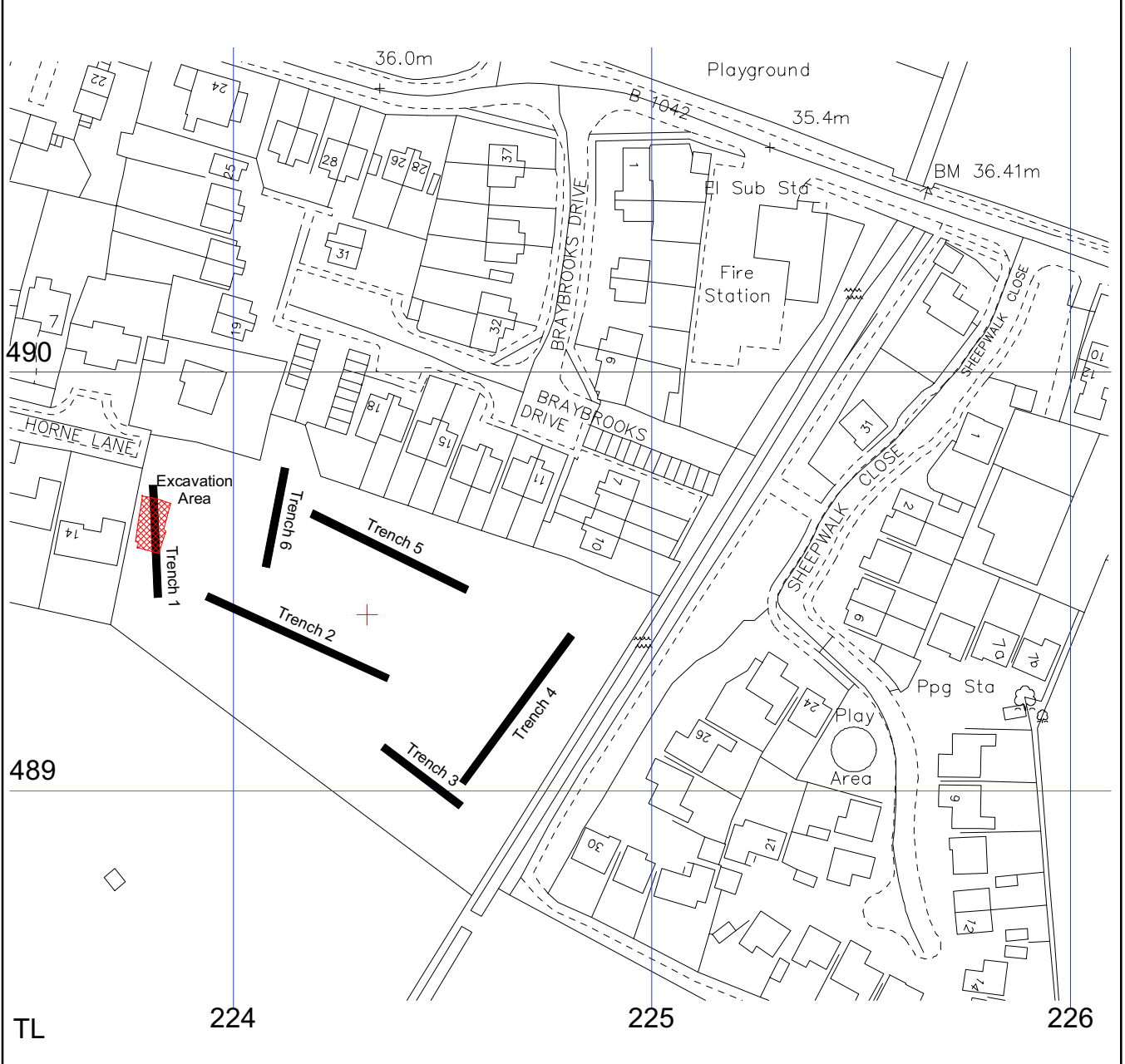
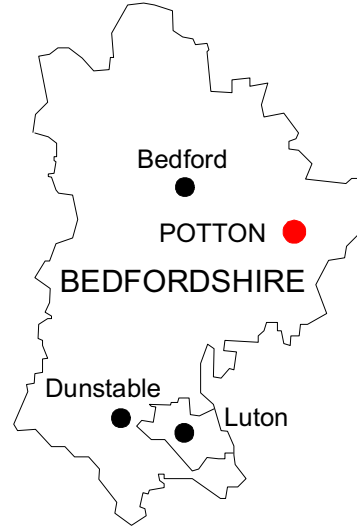
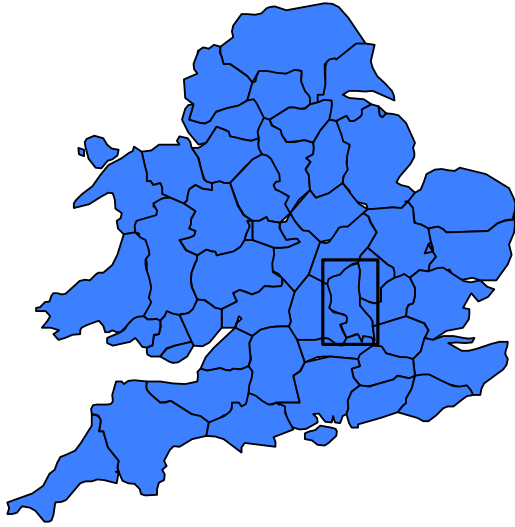
Turner, C, 2006 *Land to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Beds. Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 Soil Map Sheet 4, Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

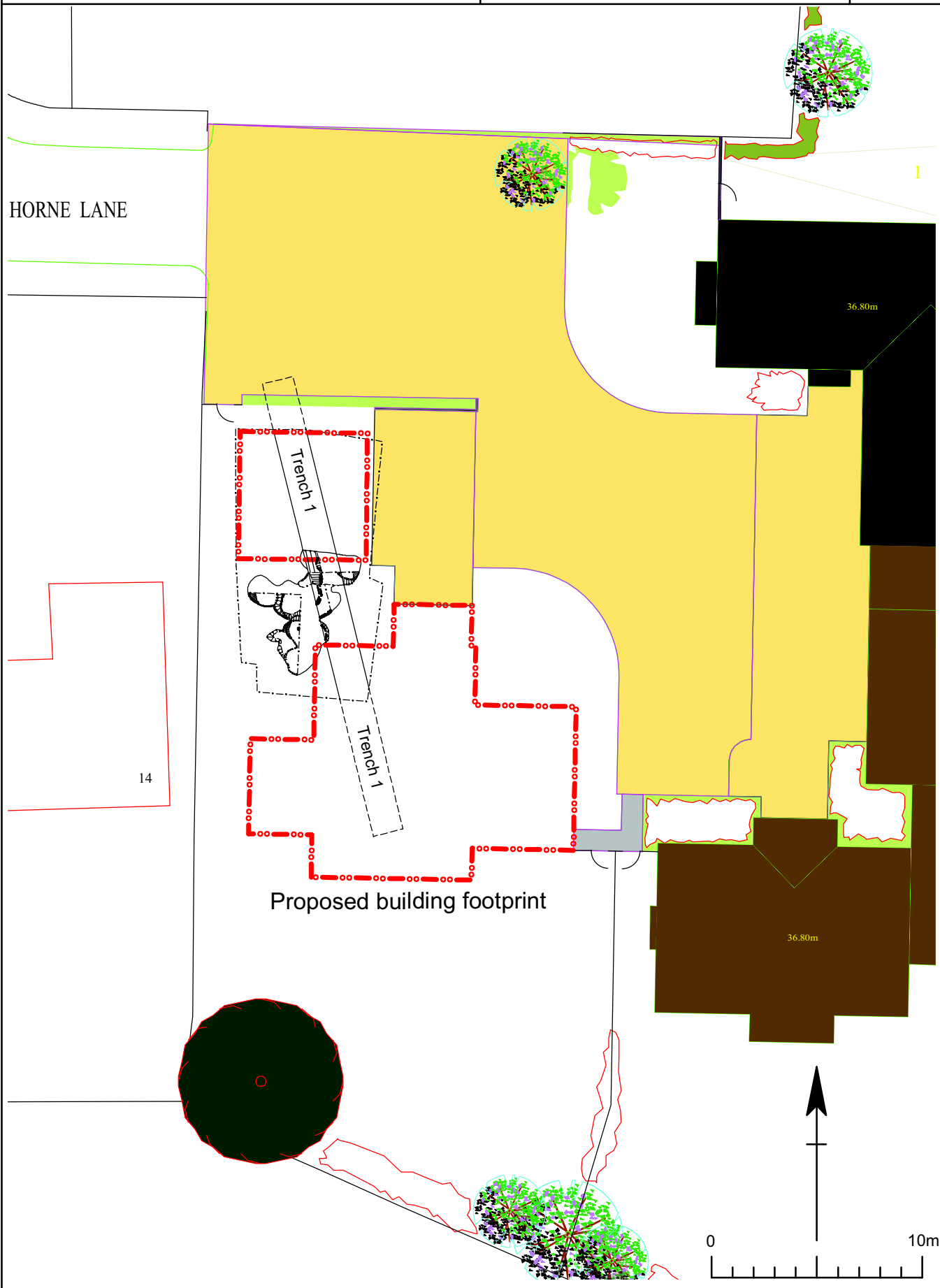
7. Illustrations

Figure 1.....	Site location
Figure 2.....	Site layout
Figure 3.....	Pit complex plan
Figure 4.....	Feature sections
Figure 5.....	Feature plans
Figure 6.....	Matrix



Site Location

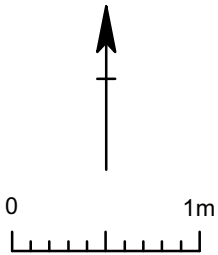
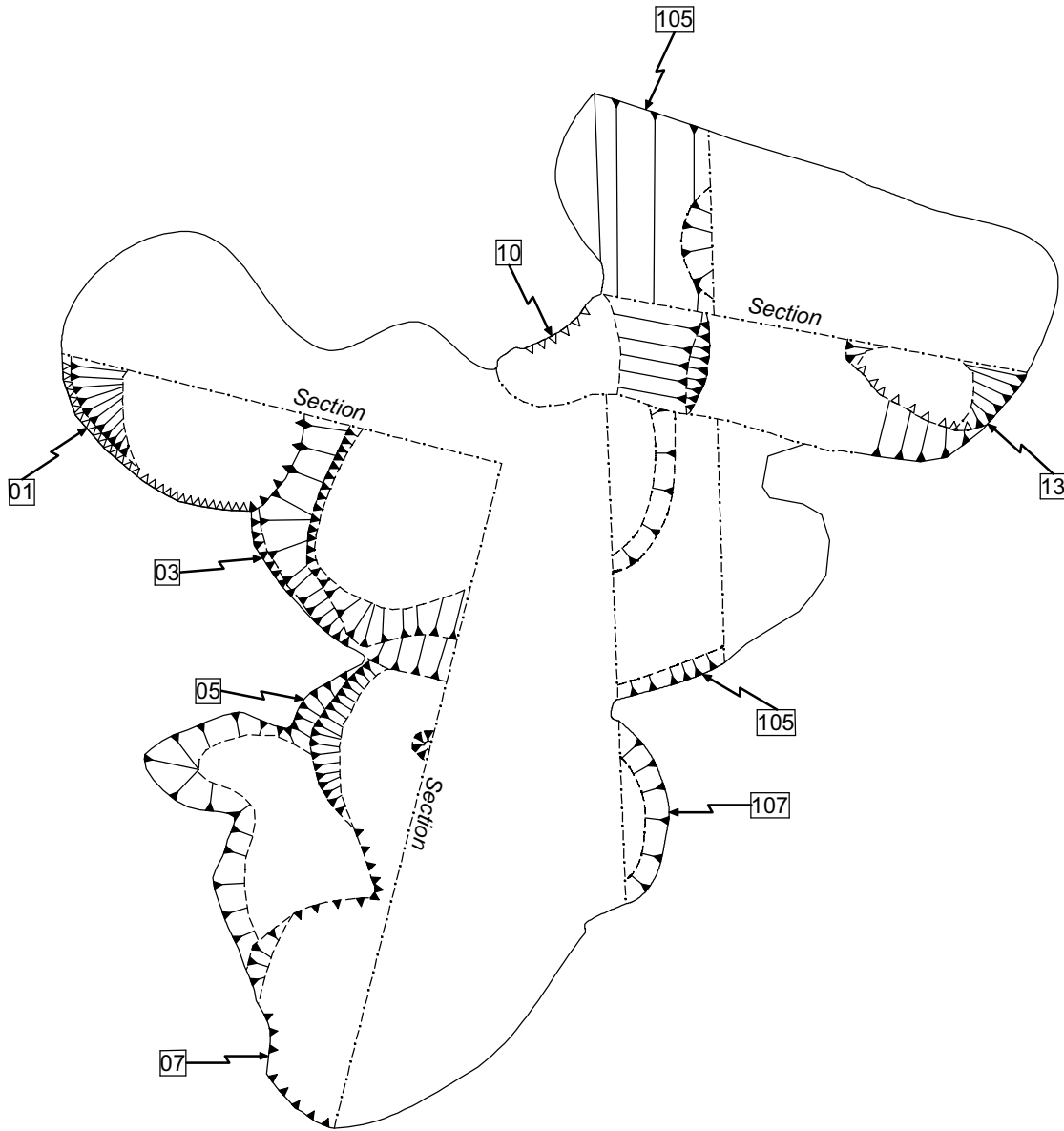
Scale 1:1500



Site layout

Scale 1:250

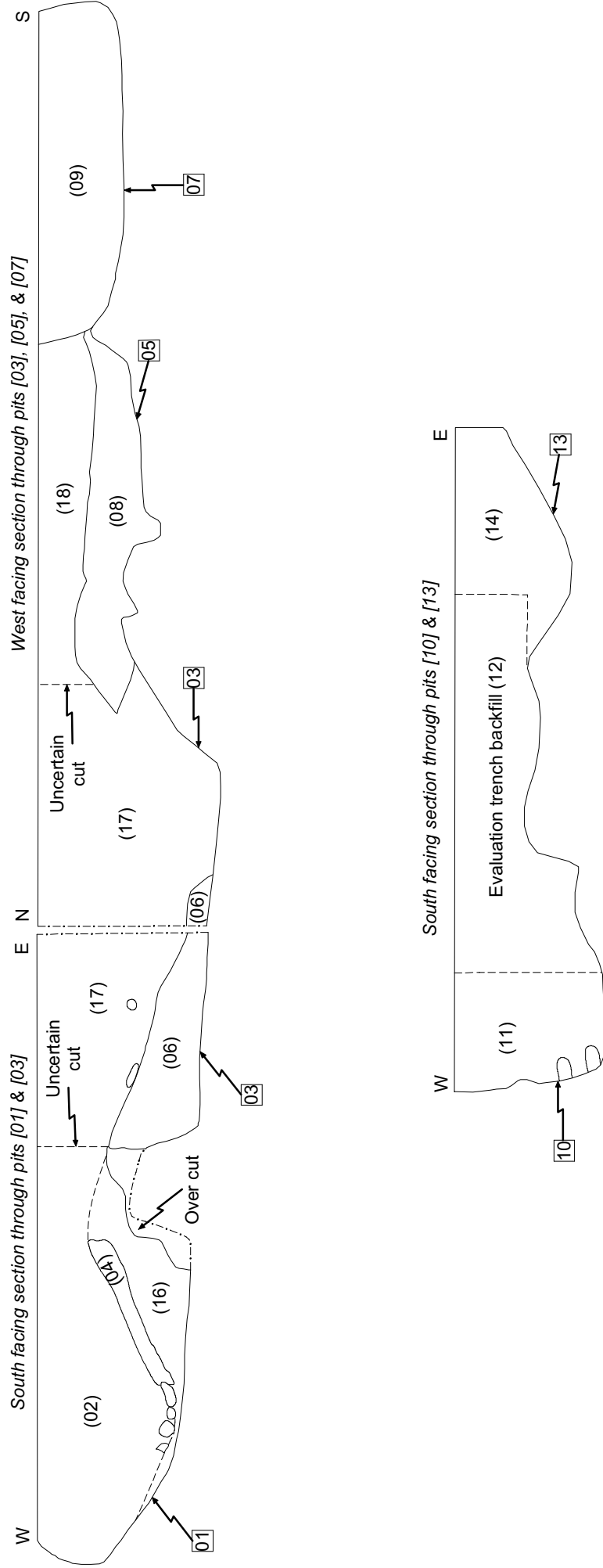
Figure 2



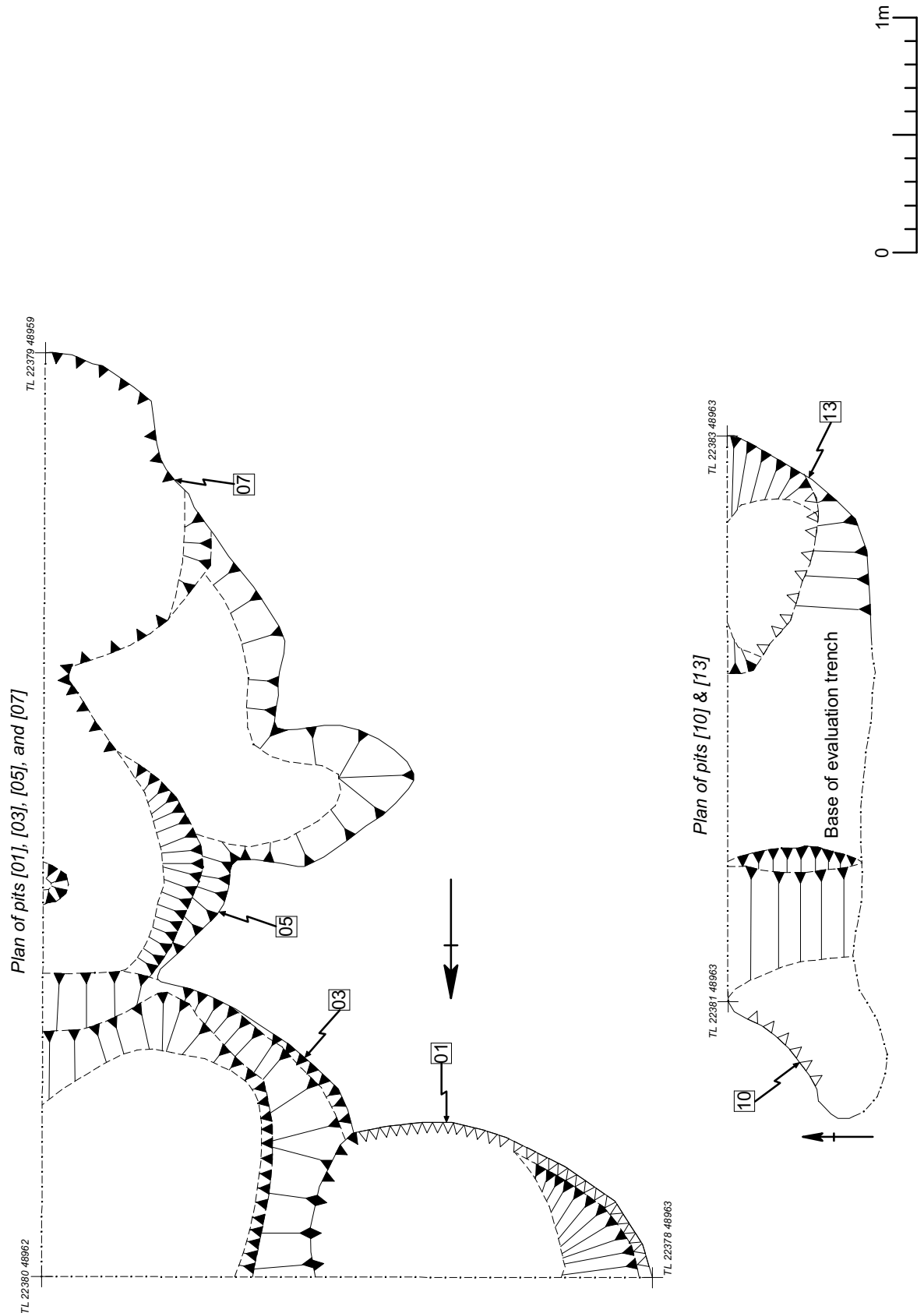
Feature layout

Scale 1:40

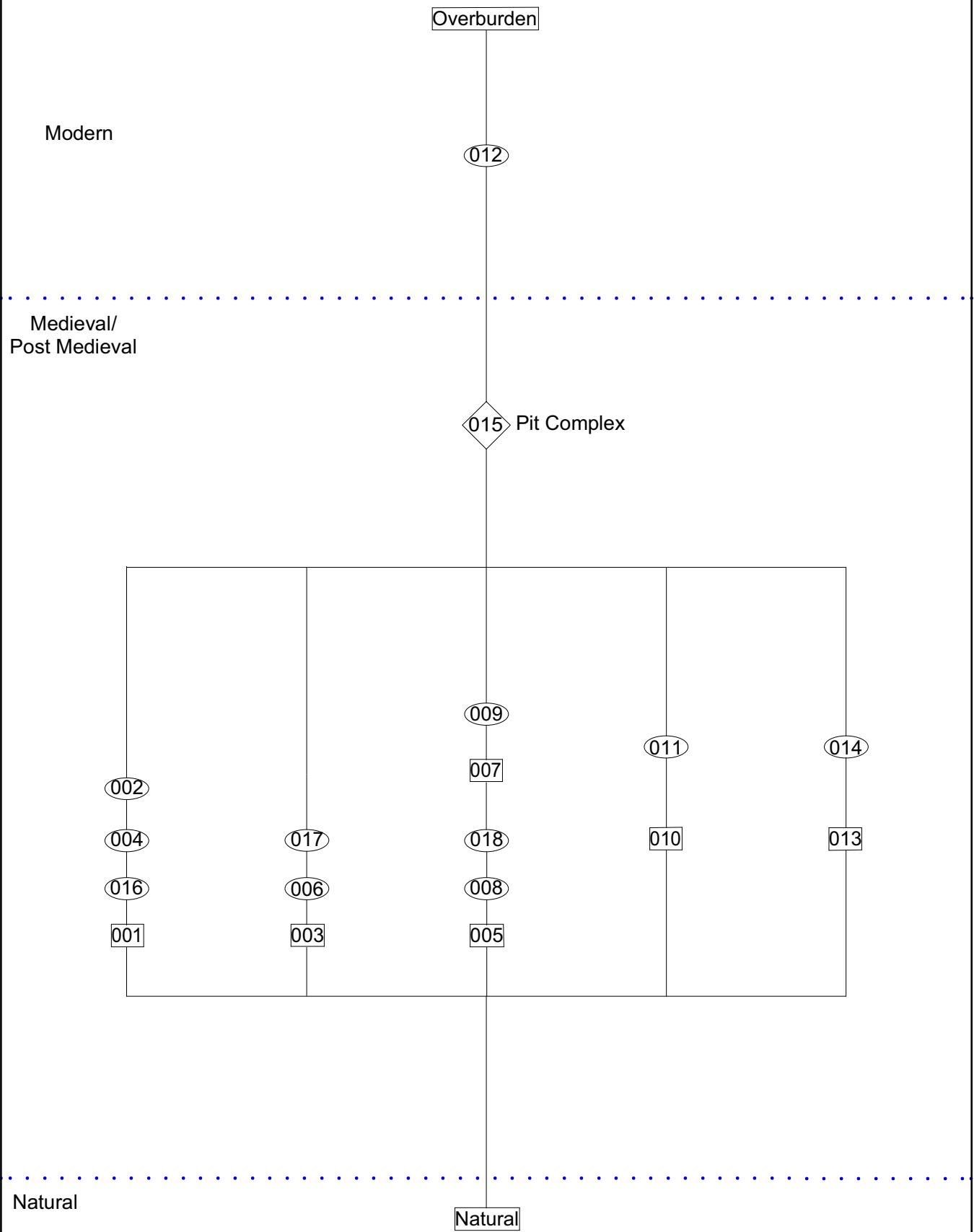
Figure 3



Feature sections



Feature plans



Appendix 1

Bedfordshire HER entries for 1km radius of the present site.

HER No	Proximity to site (km)	NGR (TL)	Period	Description
2812	0.80	232 493	Bronze Age	Cropmarks. Ringditch
10802	0.10	223 488	Medieval	Earthworks. May be related to an earlier line of Potton Brook.
17164	Adjacent	223 492	Medieval	Potton medieval town
3551	0.90	224 498	Medieval & Post-medieval	Cropmarks & Medieval occupation. Myers Road. 1996 Evaluation identified pits & ditches Saxo-Norman & Medieval in date. Pottery mostly Potton, Everton & London Type wares (BCAS project database) 1999 Excavation identified Saxo-Norman pits & Medieval boundary ditches & pits. During the Saxo-Norman & Medieval periods the site represents an intermittently used area of marginal land on the periphery of the township (BCAS) (South midland archaeology 2000, 30 pg2 – M. Wilson & M. Philips) 2005 Evaluation at land adjacent to Myers farm (Archaeological Solutions Newton & Ginns Report No 1873) late post- medieval ditches.
1100	0.70	2287 4959	Medieval / Post-medieval	St Marys Church
8951	0.70	2281 4941	Medieval / Post-medieval	St Mary's parish churchyard
10669	0.80	2308 4827	Medieval / Post-medieval	Track/ London recorded in Gamlingay 1601. Runs N-S to the east of Potton Brook.
3130	0.70	2267 4965	Medieval / Post-medieval	Earthwork. Manor House on site of moat. Manor house built c.1870 (HER 4334)
4334	0.70	2266 4965	Post-medieval	The manor house. The old manor house was demolished in 1870 & replaced & occupied by James Poole Wagstaff esq. The 1 st edition OS map shows surrounding garden features.
4808	0.25	2255 4916	Post-medieval	Site of Potton gas works – demolished. Also brick & tile dovecote.
7120	0.05	2232 4899	Post-medieval	Brick corn dryer & barn
7121	0.05	2232 4899	Post-medieval	Timber framed barn – Home Farm
7124	0.05	2235 4900	Post-medieval	Small barn
7898	0.05	2247 4900	Post-medieval	Tan Yard – demolished. Firm specialising in the manufacture of parchment & chamois leather from sheepskins. Deeds date from 1711 & some of the buildings from late 18 th century. Machinery inside recorded as all 20 th century (Industrial archaeology id Beds 1967, Pg. 25)
10671	0.20	2265 4905 – 2455 4885	Post-medieval	Tile kiln lane. Shown on 1754 estate map, route was apparently extinguished by the 1814-1832 enclosure map, is not shown on the map or mentioned in the award.
10681	0.70	2257 4904	Post-medieval	Bridge. Tannery bridge over Potton brook, 1895
10684	0.60	2285 4937	Post-medieval	Old sand pit
10688	0.70	2302 4944	Post-medieval	WWII Pillbox. Hexagonal concrete & red brick. Type 22.
10689	0.60	2286 4936	Post-medieval	WWII Pillbox. Hexagonal concrete & red brick. Type 22.
10831	0.80	2282 4969	Post-medieval	2 road side buildings belonging to Joesph Ingle, 1832. Now redeveloped.
16380	0.70	223 496	Post-medieval	The Rising Sun Inn
16434	0.60	219 497	Post-medieval	The Red Lion Inn
17952	0.20	2260 4903	Post-medieval	WWII Spigot mortar base. 'spider or birdcage'
17953	0.15	2256 4904	Post-medieval	Site of WWII tank trap. Angle iron type
17959	0.05	2238 4888	Post-medieval	WWII wardens post
656	1.00	230 498	Uncertain	Cropmarks. linear Features some parallel, possibly a sub-rectangular enclosure
3216	1.00	220 501	Uncertain	Cropmark. Linear feature with fork at N end (probably an old stream bed) and a rounded end feature (possibly quarring).
4478	0.80	219 484	Uncertain	Earthwork. 'Old Sandpits'
4486	0.70	218 485	Uncertain	Marked as 'Galley Hill' on OS 1881. Gallows may have once stood here on the summit of the hill.
15083	0.20	227 487	Uncertain	Cropmarks – linear, possibly rectilinear & subrectangular enclosures.
15084	1.00	234 486	Uncertain	Cropmarks – ring ditch & rectilinear enclosure
15105	0.80	218 489	Uncertain	Cropmarks - linear

Appendix 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-18750</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Land to the R/O of Braybrooks Drive, Potten, Bedfordshire (Stage 2)
Short description of the project	In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct new housing on land to the rear of Braybrookes Drive, Potten, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. A previous archaeological evaluation on the site, carried out by the Heritage Network, demonstrated the survival of a low density of features dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. These were located at the western end, in Plot 2 of the new development. A further stage of mitigation concentrated on the garage block to Plot 2 was undertaken. This revealed a pit complex which contained at least five intercutting pits. The pits yielded pottery and tile dating to the late medieval/early post medieval period. A significant amount of horncore was also recovered, horncore is a common waste product of tanning. A former Tannery, Braybrooks Tannery, was located on the adjacent plot (HER 7898)
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2006 End: 13-09-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN621 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	heritage1 - 17360 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	MBDC 05/1067 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	PIT COMPLEX Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE POTTON Land to the R/O Braybrooks Drive, Potten, Bedfordshire (Stage 2)

Study area	81.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 2238 4897 52.1250512510 -0.212119059263 52 07 30 N 000 12 43 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Chris Turner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Archive ID	BEDFM 2006.322
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2006.322
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Industrial','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of Braybrooks Drive, Potton, Beds. Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Saunders, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report number 380
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Hertfordshire
Description	A4 booklet, green cover, comb bound, 19 pages, 6 figures