

## 74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedfordshire

HN1264

Report No. 993

<b>Site name and address:</b>	74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedfordshire, MK45 5DF		
<b>County:</b>	Bedfordshire	<b>District:</b>	Central Bedfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Greenfield	<b>Parish:</b>	Flitton & Greenfield
<b>Planning reference:</b>	Pre-planning	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 05329 35341
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Mr John Washington, 74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedfordshire, MK45 5DF		
<b>Nature of development:</b>	Residential development	<b>Previous land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site Status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	Pre-determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.132m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	4m <sup>2</sup>
<b>HN Ref:</b>	HN1264	<b>Museum Ref:</b>	LTNMG 1246
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.</b>	Trial trenching	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Luton Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	20/04/2016	<b>Finish of work</b>	20/04/2016
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	HER 2624	<b>Periods represented:</b>	None
<b>Oasis UID:</b>	heritage1-246732	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

**Introduction:**

In advance of the determination of a planning application for redevelopment of land at 74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedfordshire, MK45 5DF, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Sherwood Architects, acting on behalf of Mr John Washington, to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. The work followed the specification set out in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated 14 April 2016. With the agreement of the Archaeology Team at Central Bedfordshire Council, no visit to consult the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record was undertaken.

**Narrative:**

The site is situated on the northern spur of the village, east of the river Flit and immediately to the north of Mill Lane. It is centred on NGR TL 05329 35341 and consists of pasture, with mature trees and shrubs located around the perimeter of the site, and an entrance to the south-east (Figure 1, Plate 1).

The present investigation consisted of four test pits, focused on the footprints of the proposed new buildings (Figure 2). All of test pits measured approximately 1m square, representing a total area of 4 square metres. The test pits were excavated under close archaeological supervision using a 1.8 tonne tracked mini-digger, fitted with a 0.90m ditching bucket.

All the test pits showed a consistent stratigraphy, comprising a dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft silty clay topsoil, between 0.23m and 0.30m in depth, overlying a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) friable sandy clay subsoil, between 0.40m and 0.60m in depth (Plate 2). The natural substrate, of mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/3) and brown (10YR 5/8) sandy clay, was observed immediately below the subsoil at between 0.63m and 0.85m below the present ground level. Bands of natural gravel were also observed in the substrate.

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*Test pit 1 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	1	<b>Width (m):</b>	1	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.05	<b>Orientation</b>	N/A
<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Top:</b>		62.26		<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Base:</b>		61.24	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>		
-	Topsoil	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft silty clay.	1	1	0.25		
-	Subsoil	Dark yellowish brown (10YR(3/6) friable sandy clay with occasional small to medium rooting.	1	1	0.6		
-	Natural	Mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) and brown (10YR 5/3) soft sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint	1	1	>0.2		

*Test pit 2 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	1	<b>Width (m):</b>	1	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	0.96	<b>Orientation</b>	N/A
<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Top:</b>		62.31		<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Base:</b>		61.35	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>		
-	Topsoil	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft silty clay.	1	1	0.3		
-	Subsoil	Dark yellowish brown (10YR(3/6) friable sandy clay with occasional small to medium rooting.	1	1	0.5		
-	Natural	Mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) and brown (10YR 5/3) soft sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint	1	1	>0.2		

*Test pit 3 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	1	<b>Width (m):</b>	1	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.05	<b>Orientation</b>	N/A
<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Top:</b>		62.40		<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Base:</b>		61.35	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>		
-	Topsoil	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft silty clay.	1	1	0.26		
-	Subsoil	Dark yellowish brown (10YR(3/6) friable sandy clay with occasional small to medium rooting.	1	1	0.6		
-	Natural	Mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) and brown (10YR 5/3) soft sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint	1	1	>0.2		

*Test pit 4 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	1	<b>Width (m):</b>	1	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	0.84	<b>Orientation</b>	N/A
<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Top:</b>		62.29		<b>Level of Test pit (mOD) Base:</b>		61.45	
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>		
-	Topsoil	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) soft silty clay.	1	1	0.23		
-	Subsoil	Dark yellowish brown (10YR(3/6) friable sandy clay with occasional small to medium rooting.	1	1	0.4		
-	Natural	Mottled yellowish brown (10YR 5/8) and brown (10YR 5/3) soft sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded flint	1	1	>0.2		

**Discussion:**

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered that might relate to former medieval and post-medieval watermills on and in the vicinity of the site, and no evidence was recovered that could be considered to contribute to the research aims for the evaluation as defined in the approved Project Design.

On this basis, and despite the limited sample of the site represented by the present investigation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

**Illustrations:**

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Test pit layout

Plate 1 View of the site, looking south-west

Plate 2 Indicative section, looking south-west

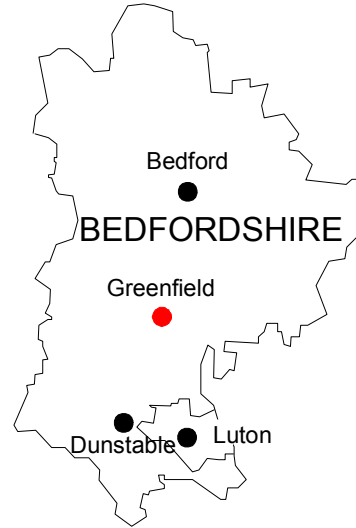
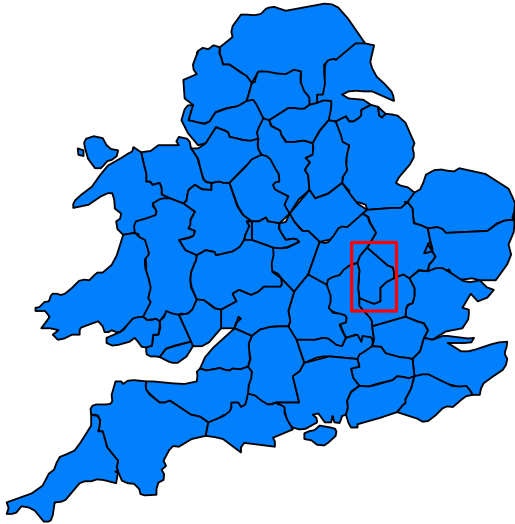
Mark Sycamore, BA

May 2016

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

74 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Beds.

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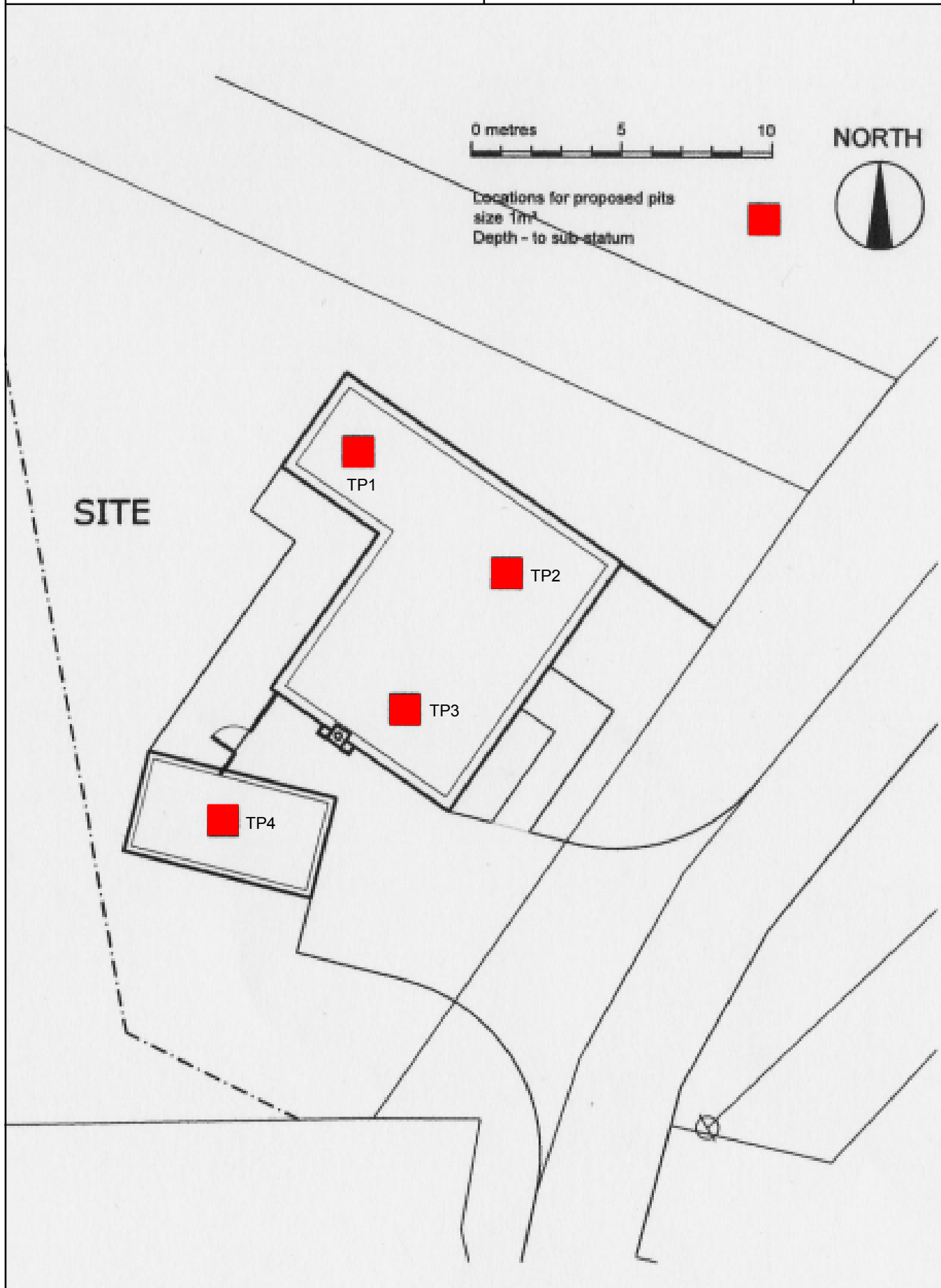


Site Location

Scale 1:7500

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Figure 1



Test pit layout (overlaid on proposed site plan)

Courtesy Sherwood Architects

Scale 1:175

Figure 2





Plate 1: View of the site, looking south-west



Plate 2: Indicative section, looking south-west