

# HERITAGE NETWORK



**112 BUTTERFIELD GREEN ROAD  
Luton, Beds.**

HN652

*Archaeological Monitoring Report*



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

*Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA*

112 BUTTERFIELD GREEN ROAD  
Luton, Beds.

HN652

## *Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Conack Homes Ltd*

By

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Report no. 407

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*The cover photograph shows 112 the site viewed from the south*

## Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Paul Davey and John Ackerman, Conack Homes Ltd; David Kann, David Kann Associates; and Lesley-Ann Mather, Heritage and Environment Section, BCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	112 Butterfield Green Road, Luton, Bedfordshire		
<b>County:</b>	Bedfordshire	<b>District:</b>	Luton
<b>Village/town:</b>	Luton	<b>Parish:</b>	Luton
<b>Planning reference:</b>	06/431/FUL	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 1034 2489
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Conack Homes Ltd, The Liveries, Forge Mews, 14-16 Church Street, Rickmansworth, Herts		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New Dwelling	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site status:</b>	n/a	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.446m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.446m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN 652	<b>Other reference:</b>	Accession no 2007/134
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Luton Museum
<b>Start of work</b>	24/04/2007	<b>Finish of work</b>	09/05/2007
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Modern
<b>Oasis UID</b>	Heritage1-27052	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

**Synopsis:**

In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new dwelling at 112 Butterfield Green Road, Luton, Beds, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Conack Homes Ltd to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks.

The monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts.



## 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of *Conack Homes Ltd*, as part of the archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at 112 Butterfield Green Road, Bedfordshire.

**1.2** The investigation is a requirement of the planning consent granted by Luton Borough Council (LBC), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990), for the construction of a new dwelling (ref. 06/431/FUL). The extent of the work was defined in a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* prepared by the Heritage and Environment Section of Bedfordshire County Council acting as archaeological advisers to the LBC (ref. LAM 25/01/2007). A full specification of the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated February 2007.

**1.3** The site is located to the north-east of the present core of Luton, c. 1.6 km to the south-east of Warden Hill and c. 500m to the west of The Vale Cemetery. It is centred on NGR TL 1034 2489. On the basis of the known archaeology on and in the vicinity of the site, the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) advised that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development should be undertaken, and the recording and appropriate investigation of any observed archaeological remains before the development proceeds.

**1.4** The aim of the investigation has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might have been uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements to allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with current regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

**1.5** The present report describes the findings of the monitoring programme and is intended, together with the deposition of the site archive with Luton Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

## 2. Fieldwork

### *SITE TOPOGRAPHY*

**2.1** The ground across the study area slopes gently down towards the south-east. The new dwelling is located in part of the garden, on land at a level of approximately 175mOD.

### *METHODOLOGY*

**2.2** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches.

**2.3** The machining was undertaken using a mini-digger fitted with either a toothless ditching bucket or a toothed bucket, as required.

**2.4** 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*

#### *Site stratigraphy*

**2.5** The stratigraphy was consistent across the site and consisted of a crumbly, very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty clay layer of topsoil containing a moderate amount of stone inclusions. At the southern end of the site this overlay a firm, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay subsoil which contained a moderate amount of stone inclusions. Below this was a firm yellowish red (5YR 5/8) silty clay natural which contained a moderate amount of chalk inclusions (Figures 1 and 2).

#### *Ground reduction*

**2.6** The ground level was reduced by up to 0.45m across the footprint of the new building to remove the topsoil. This was not conducted under archaeological supervision due to an oversight on the part of the clients groundworkers.

**2.7** A walk over the site at this stage, and examination of the topsoil, revealed no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

#### *Footings trenches*

**2.8** A series of footings trenches were excavated for the new dwelling (Figure 2). These measured approximately 0.90m wide by up to 2.25m deep. A further three pads were also excavated for a car port. These measured approximately 0.8m square and 1.5m deep.

**2.9** No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were revealed during this stage of the groundworks.

*Drainage trenches*

**2.10** A single drainage trench and a man-hole pit were excavated for the new dwelling (Figure 2). The drainage trench was excavated to the natural clay while the man-hole pit was 1.9m deep. These cut through a 0.35m thick layer of the previously observed topsoil overlying 0.15m of the subsoil. No archaeological remains were observed.

### 3. Discussion

**3.1** An examination of the County Historic Environment Record shows that the development area lies within a landscape that is rich in evidence of Roman and prehistoric occupation. The Icknield Way and the Edeway run to the north of the proposed development and a number of ritual and burial monuments of the early prehistoric period are also within the landscape. The majority of the known remains are located to the south and east of Butterfield Green.

**3.2** Amateur field walking to the north of the current site, within the area around Whitehill Farm c. 600m north-east, identified a number of pottery and flint scatters (HER 15528 and HER 15847). Prehistoric flints have also been recovered c. 1.3 km to the north-west (HER 16167) and c. 1.9 km to the south-east (HER 17760), while aerial photographs taken by the RAF have identified Iron Age occupation c. 300m to the south (HER 13417). An Iron Age coin has been recovered c. 800m to the south (HER 356).

**3.3** Roman activity is known in the area, as identified by the recovery of Roman pottery and tile c. 1.8km (HER 11297) and c. 600m to the south (HER 15528), and c.1.8km to the north (HER 15826). Roman coins have also been recovered c. 1.7km to the south (HER 1983). Evaluation of a site at Park Street, c. 1.9 km to the south east, identified a possible Romano-British rubbish pit or shallow ditch (HER 17760).

**3.4** Medieval activity is known at Butterfield Green and settlement remains may exist in the area immediately adjacent (HER 12399). Further medieval settlement has been identified c. 700m to the south of the site at Swifts Green (HER 17099) and c. 1.3 km south (HER 17100). Hayes Manor, located c. 300m to the south, is known to have evolved from property belonging to the De La Hayes family from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century (HER 10816).

**3.5** An evaluation, fieldwalking and geophysical survey were carried out by Albion Archaeology c. 200m to the south east of the application area. These identified a spread of archaeological features, including pits and linear ditches ranging in date from the Iron Age/Roman to the Medieval/Post Medieval periods, suggesting likely settlement activity (Pixley, 2005, 17).

**3.6** Crop marks of unknown date have been identified c. 200m (HER 3424) and c. 900m west (HER 15509), c. 500m south west (HER 12418) and c. 700m east (HER 12419). Earthworks have been identified c. 600m to the south (HER 3341) and c. 800m north (HER 5474).

**3.7** Approximately 600m (HER 12358) and 1.0 km south (HER 12364) of the site the 1842 Tithe map identifies Dovehouse Close. This also identifies two greens, c. 1.0 km (HER 12400) and c. 700m south-east (HER 12401) and a blacksmiths shop c. 1.1 km south (HER 12404). A brick and tile works, located c. 1.7 km to the south, is shown on maps dated to 1879 and 1924 and this probably operated until at least 1940 (HER 6731). First edition OS maps dated to 1887 show two chalk pits (HER 15511 and HER 15510) c. 1.0 km to the north.

**3.8** The monitoring of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. The presence of a subsoil towards the

southern side of the site may be the reason for the shallower nature of the topsoil in this area. The presence of concrete and brick in the topsoil reflects the modern disturbance of this deposit.

***Confidence Rating***

**3.9** During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally good for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

**3.10** With the exception of the lost opportunity to monitor the ground reduction in the footprint of the new building there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

## 4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
24/04/07	MW	6	Site inspection
25/04/07	MW	5	Site inspection
26/04/07	MW	4	Site Inspection
27/04/07	GIS	6	Site Inspection
09/05/07	DGK	3	Site Inspection

## 5. Bibliography

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

Mather, LA. 2007, *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 112 Butterfield Green, Luton, Bedfordshire*. (HES)

Pixley, J. 2005, *Vale Cemetery and Crematorium Extension, Luton, Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Albion Archaeology

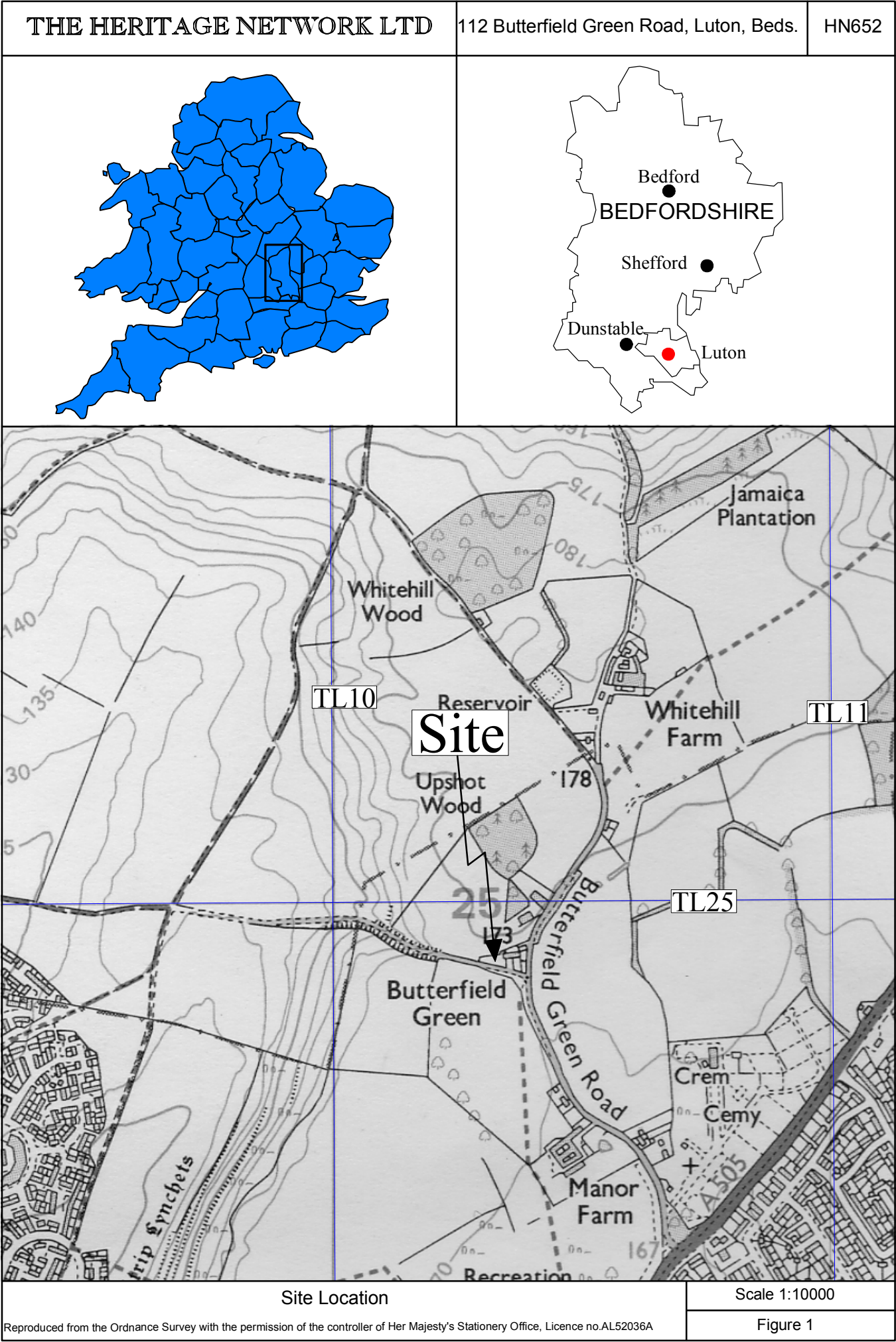
## 6. Illustrations & Plates

Figure 1 ..... Site Location

Figure 2 ..... Site Layout

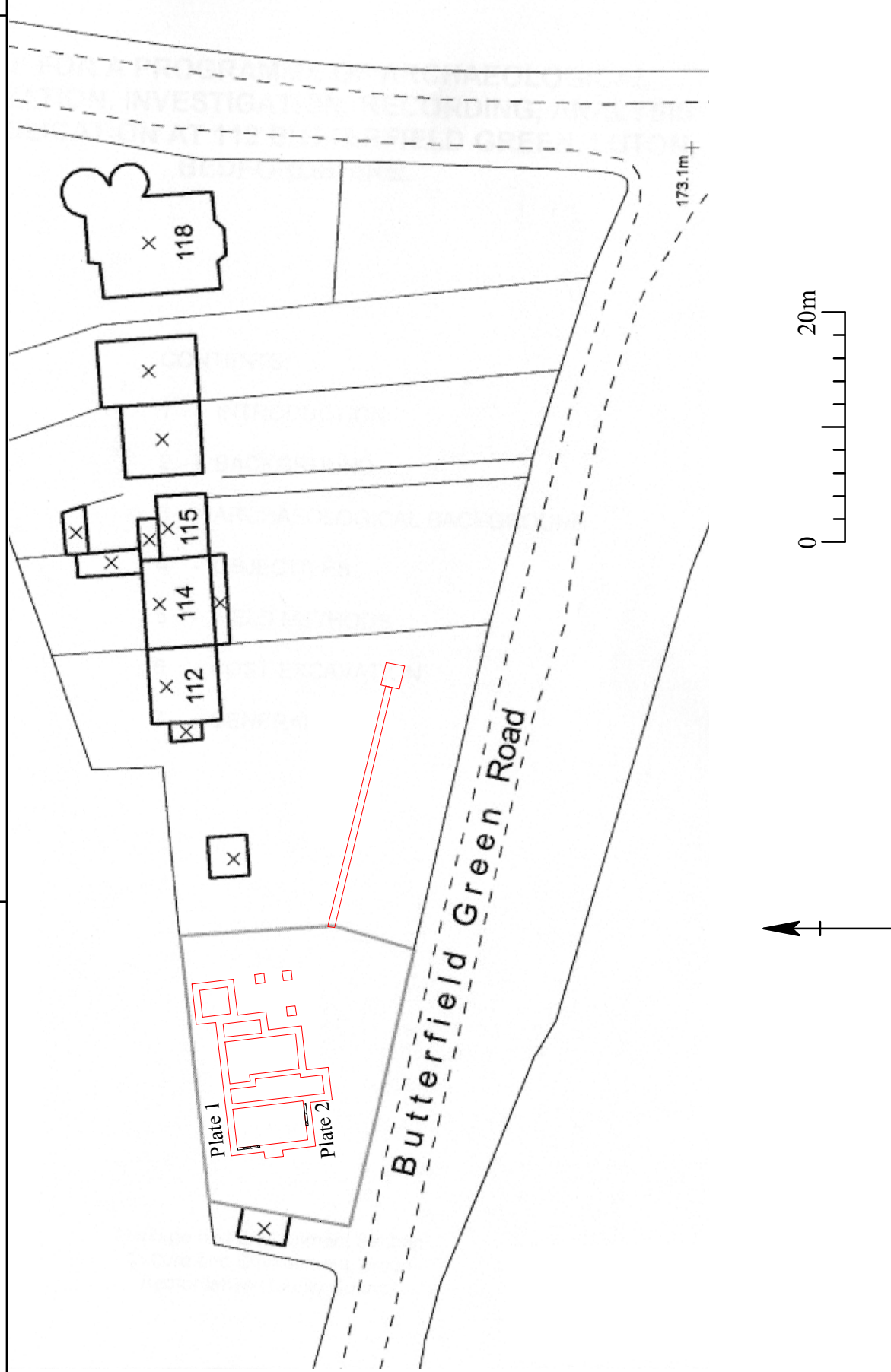
Plate 1 ..... Stratigraphy in footings trench

Plate 2 ..... Stratigraphy in footings trench



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Site layout





Plate 1: Stratigraphy in footings trench (see Figure 2)



Plate 2: Stratigraphy in footings trench (see Figure 2)