

KAYRIC FARM, EATON BRAY

HN683

Report No. 425

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|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Site name and address: | Kayric Farm, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire | | |
| County: | Bedfordshire | District: | South Bedfordshire |
| Village/town: | Eaton Bray | Parish: | Eaton Bray |
| Planning reference: | SB/TP/05/977, 05/978, 06/454 | NGR: | SP 9845 1968 |
| Client name and address: | T.E. Thorne Esq., Kayric Farm, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Beds. | | |
| Nature of work: | Foundation pads | Former land use: | Hard standing and pasture |
| Site Status: | n/a | Reason for investigation: | Direction of local planning authority |
| Position in planning process: | After full determination (as a condition) | Project brief originator: | Local authority |
| Size of affected area: | 1024m ² | Size of area investigated: | 59m ² |
| Site Code: | HN683 | Other reference: | Lutnm2007/130 |
| Organisation: | Heritage Network | Site Director: | David Hillelson |
| Project type, methods etc... | Monitoring | Archive Recipient: | Luton Museum |
| Start of work | 15 th August 2007 | Finish of work | 15 th August 2007 |
| Related HER Nos: | n/a | Periods represented: | None |
| Oasis UID: | Heritage1-30651 | Significant finds: | None |
| Monument types: | n/a | | |
| Physical archive: | none | | |
| Previous summaries/reports: | n/a | | |

Narrative:

In response to the requirements of the planning consent for development granted by South Bedfordshire District Council, the Heritage Network was commissioned by T.E. Thorne Esq. to carry out a programme of archaeological monitoring on a series of post pads excavated for a new stock barn at Kayric Farm, Eaton Bray (Figure 1).

The 10 pads at the northeastern end of the new barn were excavated through an area of existing hard standing while the remaining 14 were excavated through grass (Figure 2). In the area of hardstanding the stratigraphy consisted of a 0.10m thick layer of tarmac overlying 0.65m of very dark grey gravel and clay overburden. Beneath this was the light grey chalky clay natural. Pads 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the north corner contained a slightly different stratigraphy. Here the tarmac layer covered a 0.30m thick layer of redeposited chalk which overlay the light grey chalky clay natural. In the grassed area the stratigraphy consisted of a dark grayish brown silty clay topsoil over a greyish white chalky clay natural.

Kayric Farm is situated within a landscape of documented archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period onwards. It lies approximately 1km to the west of the line of the Icknield Way, between tributaries of the River Ouzel, providing an attractive landscape for settlement.

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded immediately to the east of the site and in the surrounding area. On the land between the study area and Doliittle Lane to the east (HER 15842), scatterings of prehistoric flint artefacts, some flint tempered sherds of pottery and part of a burnished jar have been recovered. The majority of the artefacts were from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods.

Further activity from this period includes scatters of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints 1.5km to the north west (NMR 1309203) and c.800m (HER 15832) to the east of the site. Fieldwalking, 1.2km to the south of the farm, produced evidence of a late Iron Age/Romano- British site (NMR 1368962).

There is also evidence of Roman activity and occupation within the immediate vicinity of the study area that may possibly be linked to Tottenhoe Roman Villa, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which lies approximately

1km to the north-east of the site at Church End.

Archaeological investigations, carried out by the Manshead Archaeological Society, on the land immediately to east of the site (HER 15842) produced late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery and a significant amount of Romano-British artefacts, including a high number of pottery sherds and roof tile fragments. Two ditches of a probable Roman date (NMR 1181194) have also been discovered within this area. The evidence indicates the presence of an occupation site in the vicinity.

A medieval moated site, also a scheduled Ancient Monument, lies 1.2km to the south-west of the study area at Church Farm, Edlesborough, with other moated sites recorded in the area, including Park Farm on the western side of Eaton Bray. Approximately 600m to the south lies Eddlesborough Mill (HER 10504) and 300m to the south-east is the site of a demolished windmill (HER 2827). A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered in the adjacent area (HER 15832).

Despite the wealth of activity in the area no archaeological features or deposits were observed although it should be noted that the present development represents only limited disturbance of the site. It has been reported that the land immediately east of this site has previously been deeply ploughed (Hudspith, 2001). It is possible that this extended over the present site, destroying any potential archaeological remains, with subsequent activity on the site removing any residual archaeological evidence.

Bibliography

Archaeology Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

Bedford Historic Environment Record (HER)

Heritage Gateway : <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>

Hudspith, R, 2001, *Manshead Mag 41*, September 2001

Illustrations:

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Site layout

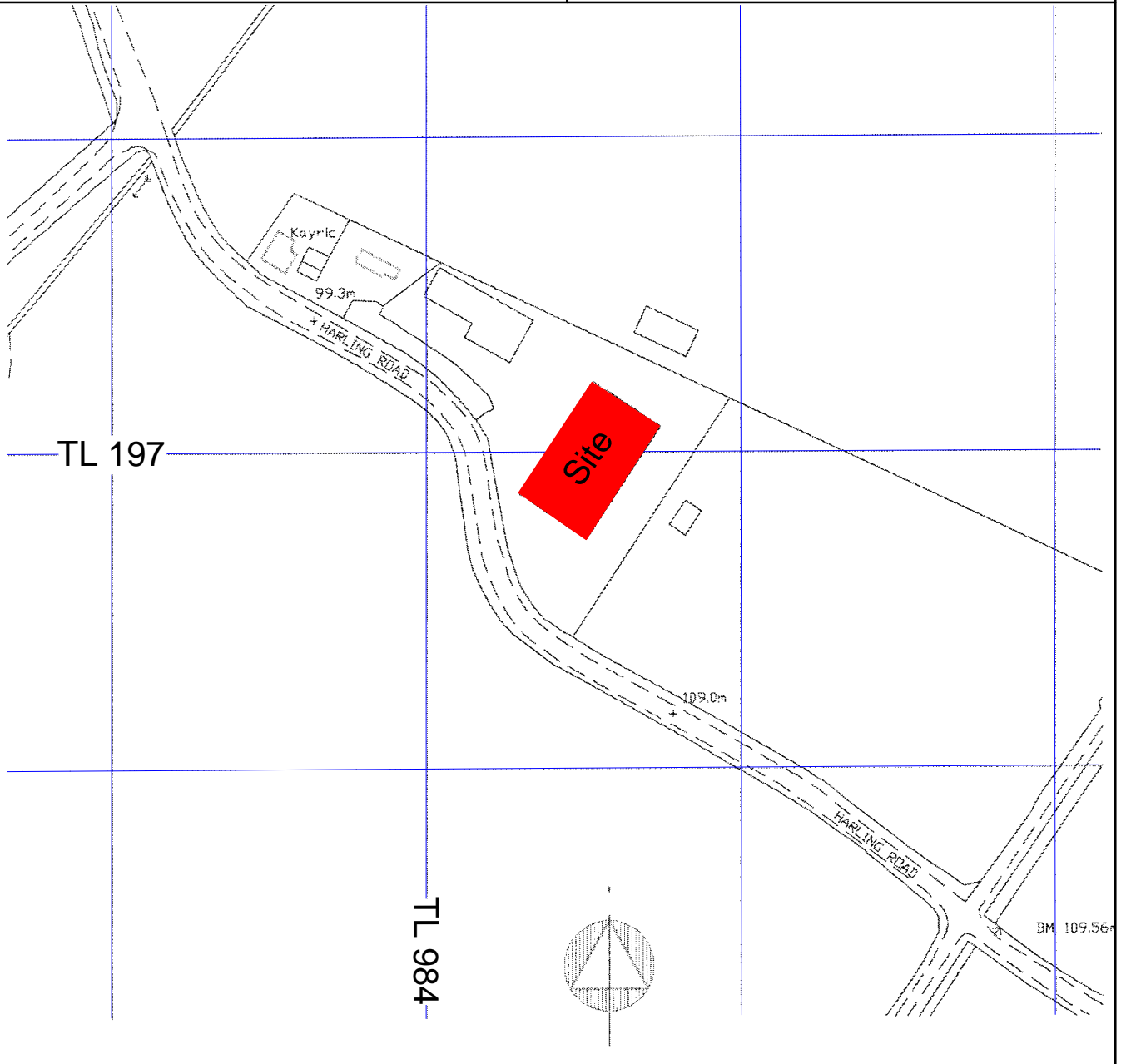
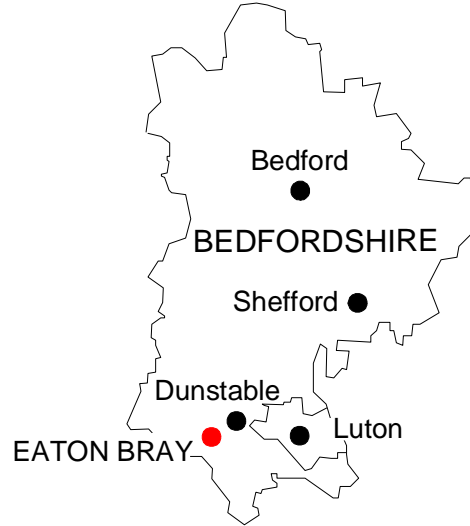
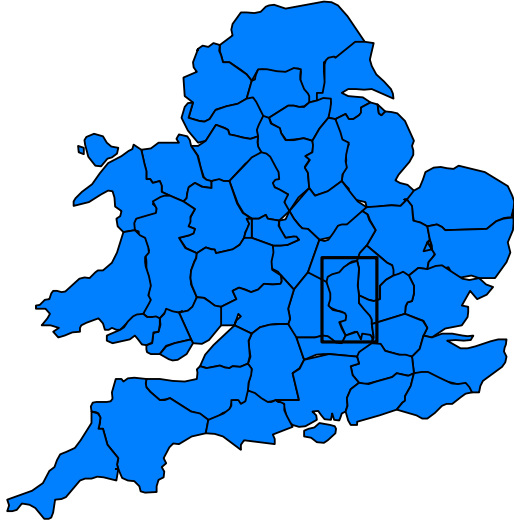
Mark Winter, BSC PGDIP

August 2007

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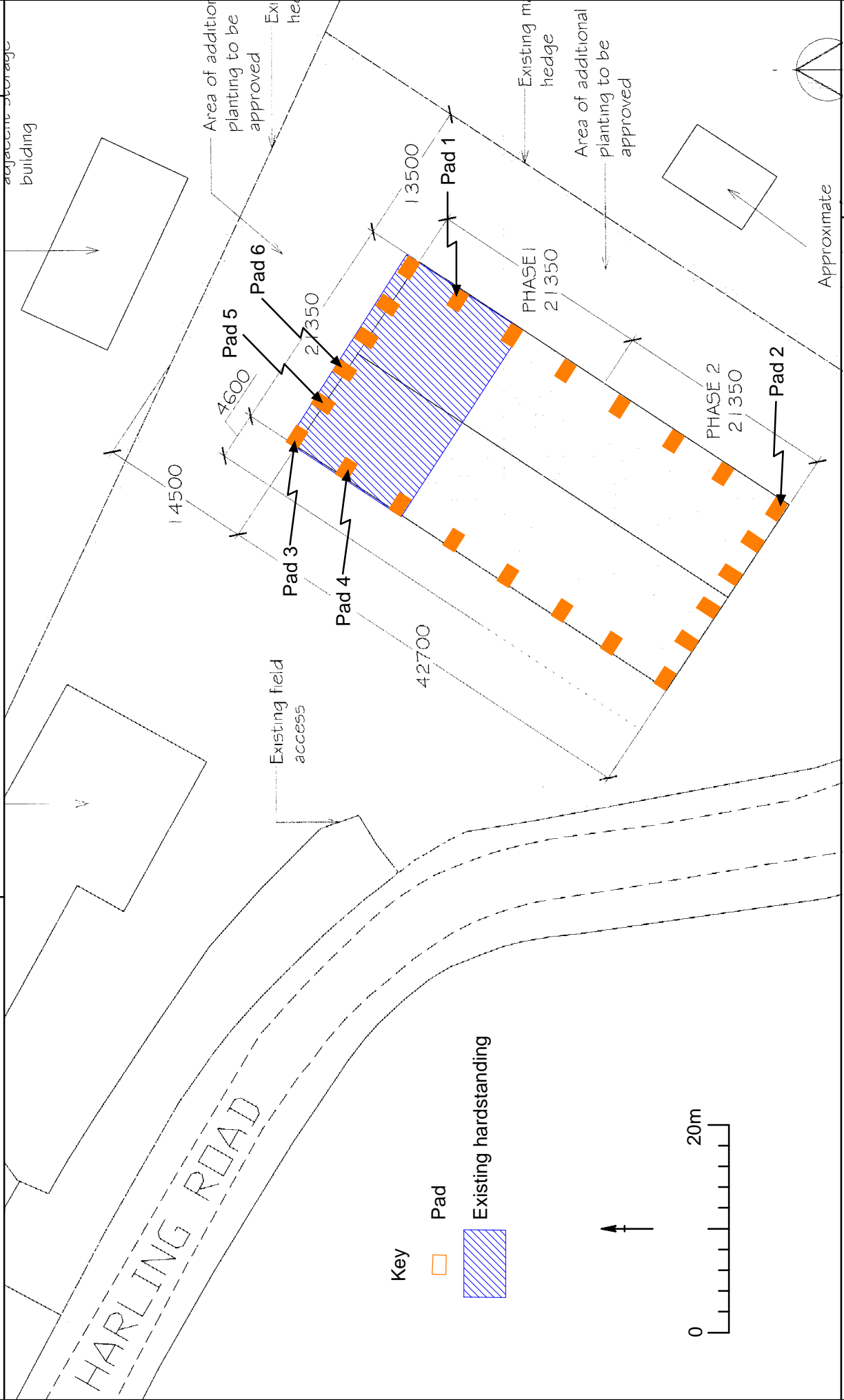


Site Location

Scale 1:2000

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Figure 1



Approximate

Site layout

Scale 1:500

Figure 2



Plate 1: Pad 2, looking north east



Plate 2: Pad 3, looking north east