

11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire

HN1477

Report No. 1170

Site name and address:	11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire,		
County:	Bedfordshire	Local Planning Authority:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Pulloxhill	Parish:	Pulloxhill
Planning reference:	CB/17/03952/FULL	NGR:	TL 06280 34085
Client name and address:	Mr. & Mrs. McKenna, McKenna Motors, 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Beds.		
Nature of development:	Residential	Previous land use:	Car dealership
Site Status:	Conservation Area	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	As a condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 770m ²	Size of area investigated:	c. 40m ²
HN Ref:	HN1477	HER consultation:	201819/272
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Trial trenching	Archive Recipient:	Luton Culture LTNMG 1417 LUTNM2019/37
Start of work	02/04/2019	Finish of work	02/04/2019
Related HER Nos:	HER 17013	Periods represented:	Medieval or Post-medieval
Oasis UID:	heritage1-341970	Significant finds:	
Monument types:	Ditch		
Physical archive:	Animal bone, pottery		
Previous summaries/reports:	Shlasko, E. 2017 <i>Heritage Asset Impact Assessment: 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire</i> . KDK Archaeology		

INTRODUCTION:

In response to a condition on planning consent for residential development at 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the site owners to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. Planning permission for the development (ref. CB/17/03952/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A full specification for the work carried out, as defined in a *Brief for a Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication, 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire*, issued by the Archaeology Team (AT) at CBC, is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated March 2019 (Horsley 2019).

NARRATIVE:

The site is presently a car dealership and workshop, situated on the north-western side of the street, centred on NGR TL 06280 34085 (Figure 1). A Heritage Asset Impact Assessment of the site (Shlasko 2017), prepared to accompany the planning application, noted that the proposed development site is located in the Pulloxhill Conservation Area, and lies adjacent to the Cross Keys Public House (HER 3819), a Grade II listed 17th century building (Listing ref. 1138022). While there are no known archaeological assets on the site, the assessment states that Pulloxhill is an ancient parish, with Saxon origins and evidence of shrinkage during the medieval period.

The site is currently in use as a second-hand car dealership with vehicles displayed on the frontage and associated workshops along the north-east boundary of the site to the rear. A single storey extension to the adjacent residence at no. 9 High Street, extends onto the site.

The development proposes the demolition of the existing buildings on the site, including the extension to no.9, and the construction of two new residential units.

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TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION:

The archaeological evaluation involved the excavation of a single trial trench, located at the north-western end of the site in order to avoid known services and petrol tanks. It was originally proposed that the trench should measure 25m in length, however, due to the presence of previously unknown services, and with the agreement of the AT, the trench was shortened and slightly relocated.

Trench 1:

Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 19m in length, between 1.80m - 2.40m in width and 0.95m in depth (Plate 1).

The stratigraphy exposed in the trench sections was fairly uniform and consisted of a layer of granular sub-base, 0.05m in depth, above a geotextile membrane, which overlay a dark brownish grey, friable clayey silt make up layer, 0.15m in depth, containing demolition debris, disused car parts and occasional small sub-circular rounded stones (Plate 2, Figure 3). This deposit was disturbed by a number of modern services, including a north - south aligned pipe and a north-west to south-east aligned CCTV cable. Below this was a buried topsoil of dark greyish brown, friable silty clay, 0.50m in depth, with occasional small sub-rounded stones, chalk fragments and rooting, which overlay a mid-brownish orange, friable silty clayey sand subsoil, 0.25m in depth, with occasional small sub-rounded stones and chalk fragments. The natural substrate of mid orange, friable clayey sand was encountered directly below this layer at c.0.85m below the existing ground level.

A single archaeological feature was encountered cutting the subsoil at the north-western end of the trench. Cut [101] was aligned north-east to south-west and measured over 1m in length, 0.90m in width and 0.55m in depth. It contained fill (102), a mid brown firm sandy clay, with occasional small sub-rounded stones and chalk. One abraded bodysherd, weighing 20g, in a grey sandy fabric dated to the 12th – 14th century, was recovered from the fill. This may be residual in a later feature.

No other archaeological cut features, deposits, or finds were encountered within this trench.

Discussion:

The excavated trial trench demonstrated a consistent stratigraphy, with make-up layers above buried top and sub-soils. Modern disturbance at the north-western end of the site was confined to the upper layers. A single north-east to south-west aligned linear feature, [101], was encountered at the north-western end of the trench, which produced one abraded sherd of medieval pottery from its fill. Historic mapping covering the site has been consulted to try and identify the feature as an historic boundary, including a map of 1828, prepared for Amabel, 1st Countess Grey (Bedfordshire Archives L33/9), and both the 1st and 2nd editions of the 25-inch County Series Ordnance Survey maps. The 1828 map shows a building along the south-western boundary of the site, towards the frontage, which had, apparently, been removed by 1881, the date of the 1st edition OS map (not illustrated). Another building is shown on the frontage at this date, with a small garden to its north-east, encroaching into the present site. A similar layout is shown on the 2nd edition OS map of 1901 (Figure 5). The excavated feature could not readily be identified from the mapping consulted, but the boundaries around the present site appear to have been somewhat fluid in the late post-medieval period.

In conclusion, the Heritage Network was able to conduct an effective evaluation of the development area, despite having to alter the orientation and location of the trench due to on-site restrictions. One archaeological feature, of medieval or post-medieval date, was recorded, but no other features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were encountered in the course of the investigation., The recorded feature is considered to be of low significance and, on this basis, the risk that the proposed development might disturb significant archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Illustrations:

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench plan
Figure 3	Sections
Figure 4	Map prepared for Amabel, 1 st Countess Grey, 1828
Figure 5	Ordnance Survey map, 1901
Plate 1	Trench 1 looking NW
Plate 2	Indicative section looking NE
Plate 3	Feature [101] looking NE

Sources consulted:

Published & grey literature

Central Bedfordshire 2019 *Brief for a Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication: 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire. Stage 1 – Evaluation.*

Dept. of Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework.* (TSO)

Horsley, P. 2019 *11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire: archaeological project design (Revision A).* Heritage Network

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24

Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. & Murphy, P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy.* Beds Arch Monograph 9

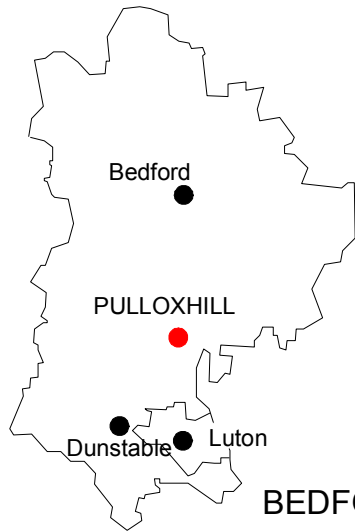
Shlasko, E. 2017 *Heritage Asset Impact Assessment: 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Bedfordshire.* KDK Archaeology

Internet

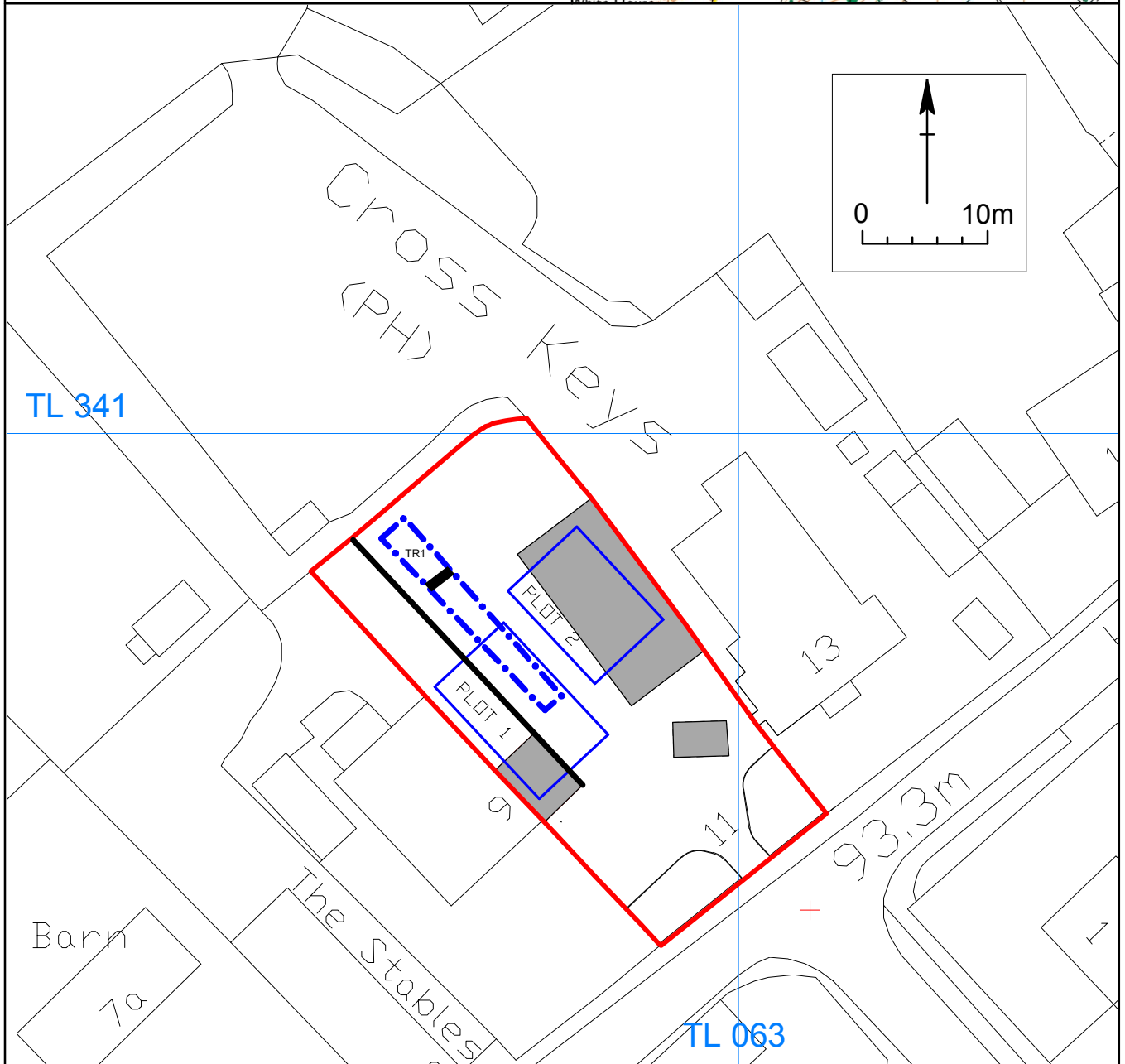
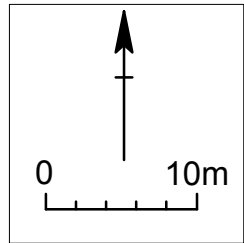
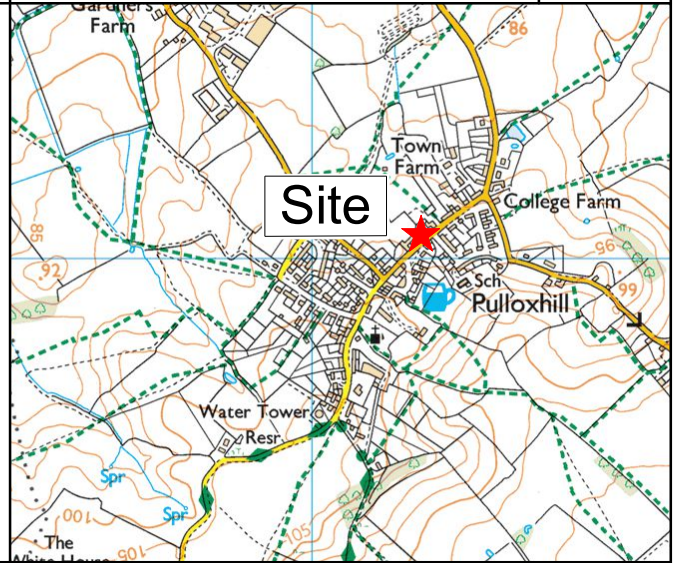
Beds. Archives: <http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/CommunityArchives/CommunityArchivesPages.aspx>

National Library of Scotland (OS map archive): <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-england-and-wales/>

Sarah Ebbage, BA (Hons), PGCE, PCIFA
June 2019
(Revision A, 3 September 2019)

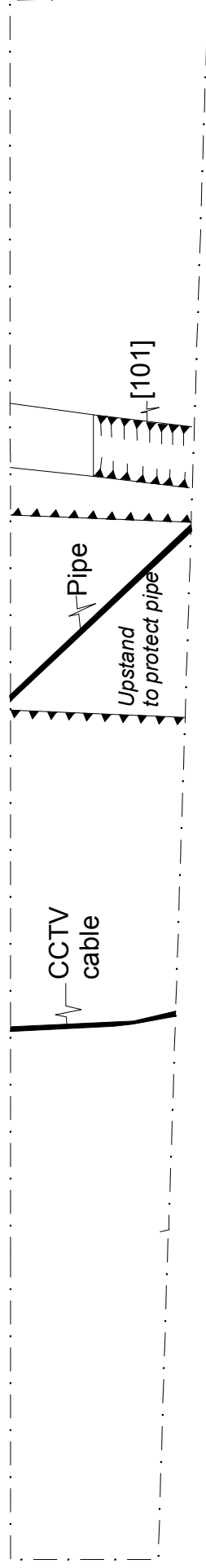


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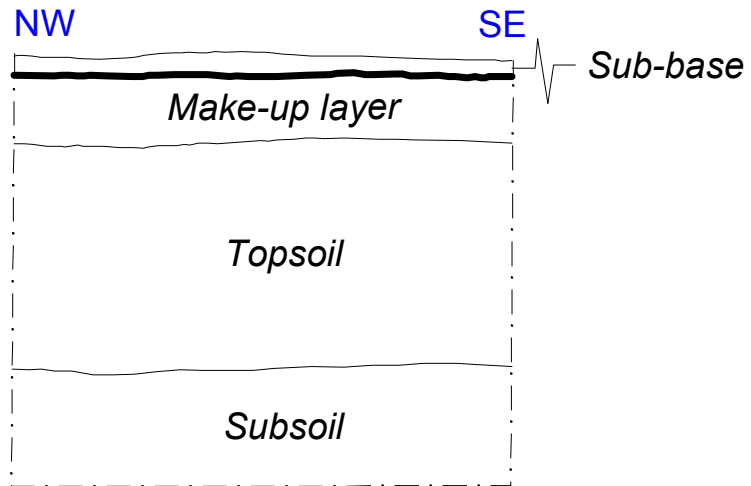
Site location and layout

Scale 1:500

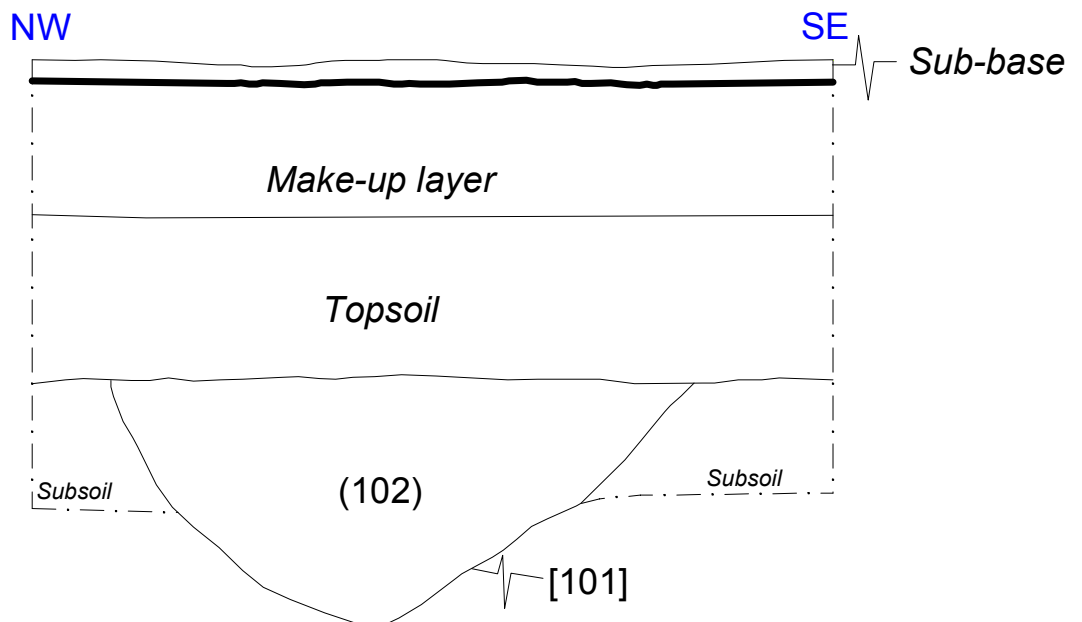


Trench 1 Layout

TR1: Indicative Section



TR1: Section of feature [101]



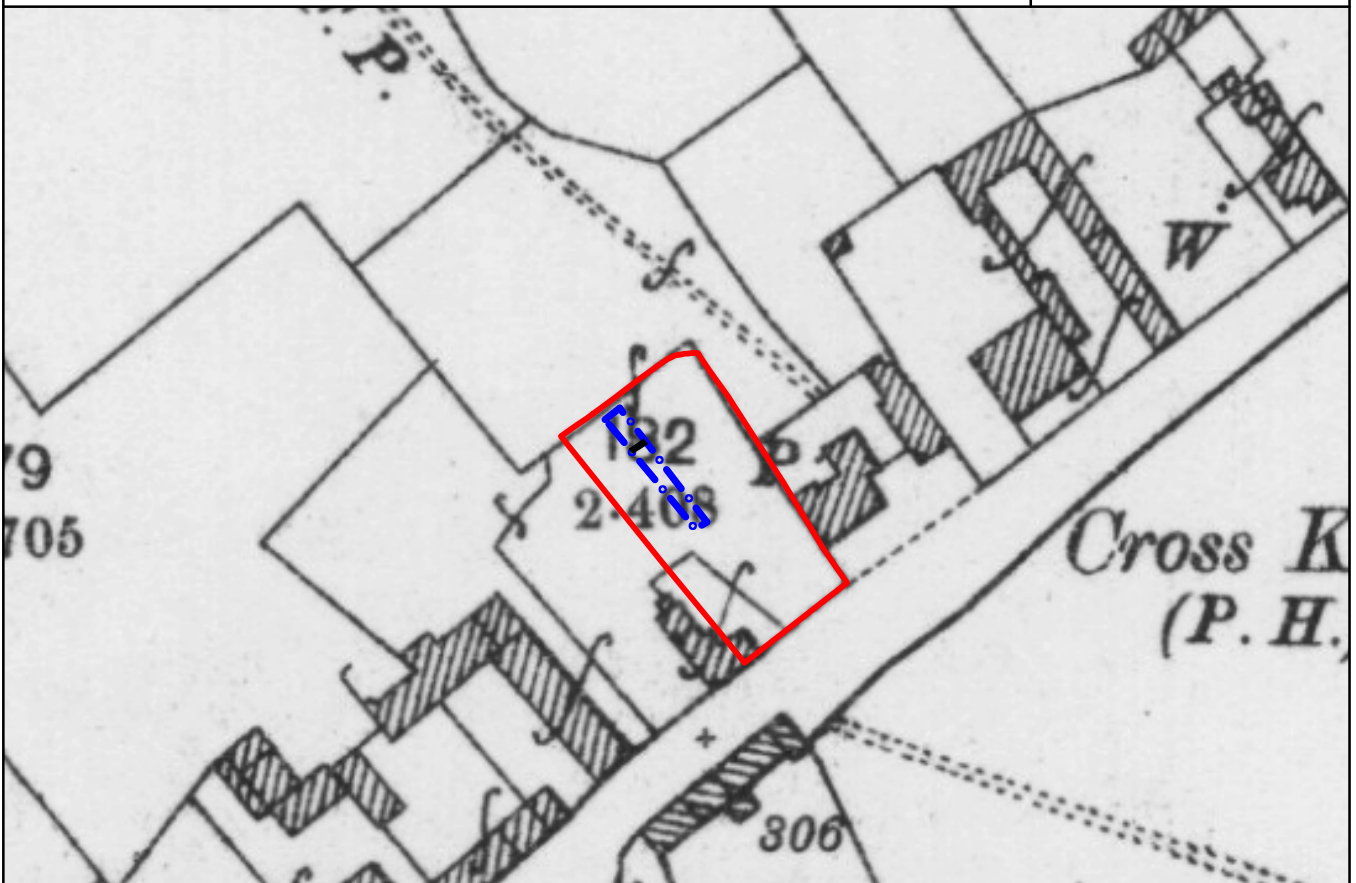
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Map prepared for Amabel, 1st Countess Grey [Bedfordshire Archives L33/9]

Scale 1:1000

Figure 4



Ordnance Survey 25-inch County Series, 2nd Edition, 1901

Scale 1:1000

Figure 5

HN1477: 11 High Street, Pulloxhill, Beds.



Plate 1 - Tr. 1 looking NW



Plate 2 - Indicative section looking NE



Plate 3 - Feature [101] looking NE