



HERITAGE NETWORK



**Land to the rear of
109-113 HIGH STREET
Henlow, Bedfordshire**

HN842

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
109-113 HIGH STREET
Henlow, Bedfordshire

Heritage Network ref.: HN842
CBC Planning ref.: MB/TP/2008/2400
OASIS ref.: heritage1-68634
Museum Accession no.: BEDFM2009.58

Archaeological Assessment Report

Prepared on behalf of LSF Properties Ltd

by

Nigel Wilson, HND AIFA

Report no. 586

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The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mick James, Greg Jones, Katie Watkins and Nigel Wilson. The assessment and illustrations were prepared by Nigel Wilson, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land to the rear of 109-113 High Street Henlow, SG16 6AE		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Henlow	Parish:	Henlow CP
Planning reference:	MB/TP/2008/2400	NGR:	TL 17592 38805
Client name and address:	LSF Properties Ltd c/o Eades Hotwani Partnership, Hitchin, SG5 2DY		
Nature of work:	New housing	Former land use:	Paddock
Site status:	n/a	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Post-determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 1950m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.270m ²
Site Code:	HN842	Museum accession no.:	BEDFM2009.58
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation & open area excavation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	06/10/2009	Finish of work	20/01/2010
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	IA, Saxon
Oasis UID	heritage1-68634	Significant finds:	Pottery, Animal bone
Monument types:	Roundhouse, Ditches, Pits,		
Physical archive:	Pottery, Animal bone		
Previous summaries/reports:	HN825 - Land to the r/o 109-113 High Street Henlow, Archaeological Evaluation. Heritage Network report no. 556		

Synopsis: As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the construction of six new dwellings, with associated car parking and access, on land to the rear of 109-113 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation.

Two stages of fieldwork were undertaken. The first consisted of an archaeological evaluation. Within the seven trial trenches a limited number of features were identified, comprising a pit containing pottery of 10th - 11th century date, an undated pit or tree bole, an undated curvilinear feature and a post-medieval hedge line.

As a result of these findings, an open area excavation, focusing on the 10th - 11th century pit, was requested by the LPA. Within this area, further archaeological features were recorded. The highly truncated remains of two curvilinear features, interpreted as drip gullies surrounding roundhouses, were excavated and recorded. Their fills included significant quantities of mid 1st century BC pottery. Further pits containing pottery of a similar date were also recorded, as well as a number of undated pits which may originally have been dug for gravel extraction. Two further pits of 10th - 11th century date were recorded, both interpreted as possible rubbish pits.

A series of linear features was also investigated. Due to their irregular nature in both plan and section, and their very clean fills, it has been suggested that they could have been formed by periglacial activity.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *LSF Properties Ltd.*, as part of the archaeological investigation, recording and analysis at land to the rear of 109-113 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire (Figure 1). Planning permission for the development was granted by the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) (ref. MB/TP/2008/2400) subject to a standard archaeological condition in accordance with the provisions set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16* (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning.

1.2 In line with a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication* prepared by the Archaeological Officer (AO) from the Conservation and Design Team of Central Bedfordshire Council, acting as adviser to the planning authority, a three stage programme was adopted. The first stage was a field evaluation undertaken by the Heritage Network in October 2009. This was followed by an appraisal of the results of evaluation by the AO. The third and final stage was the implementation of an agreed programme of investigation, in this case, an open area excavation of the north-eastern quadrant of the development area.

1.3 The scope of the Stage 3 excavation was defined in a *Brief for Archaeological Investigation* prepared by the AO. A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated December 2009.

1.4 The study area is centred on NGR TL 17592 38805 and lies on the western side of Henlow's High Street, at the northern end of the village and close to its historic core. It is bounded to the north by allotments, to the west by fields leading to a tributary of the river Ivel, to the east by the gardens to nos.109-113 High Street, and to the south by the garden of no.107 High Street.

1.5 Henlow and the surrounding area contain evidence of multi-period activity from the Bronze Age onwards. On the basis of the results of the Stage 1 evaluation, which produced evidence of 10th-11th century activity, the AO advised that further archaeological investigation of the present site should be undertaken before the development would be permitted to proceed.

1.6 The aim of the excavation has been to investigate and preserve by record any remains liable to be threatened by the development within the excavation area. The development proposes the construction of two detached 4-bedroom dwellings, two semi-detached 3 bedroom dwellings, and a garage block with a single bedroom flat above, with associated access, parking, services and landscaping.

1.7 The present report represents an assessment of the data collected in the course of the evaluation and excavation stages in accordance with the post-excavation methodology for the project contained in the approved Project Design. It includes an updated research design and proposals for a further programme of analysis and research leading to publication and the deposition of the archive with Bedford Museum.

2. Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Henlow's High Street follows a glacial gravel ridge between the river Ivel to the east and a small un-named tributary to the west. The ground is relatively level at approximately 40m AOD.

2.2 The soils of the area belong to the Sutton 1 Association, and are described as "*Well drained fine and coarse loamy soils with local calcareous and in places shallow*" (SSEW 1984). The underlying geology comprises glacial sands overlying Upper Greensand and Gault.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

2.3 The earliest archaeological activity in the area dates to the prehistoric period. Cropmarks representing a prehistoric enclosure, or possible long barrow, have been identified at Clifton, 600m to the west (HER 15096). Further to the west is a small irregular prehistoric enclosure (HER 15095), and five Early Bronze Age inhumation burials (HER 394). Prehistoric cropmarks of linear and curvilinear features are also known to the west of Manor Farm (HER 1888).

2.4 Little evidence has been recovered for the Roman and Saxon periods. In the 1960s the line of a potential Roman road (HER 5342) was identified by the *Viatores* to the north of Henlow, turning from a north-south alignment to east-west and running through Clifton. If this road is genuine, then it is possible that it led activity away from this area and may explain the sparse evidence from this period. However, it should be noted that the reliability of the evidence for such roads is heavily debated. A Saxon pot was uncovered to the east of Clifton, 700m to the west (HER 393)

2.5 Henlow is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Haneslauue* from the Old English meaning 'Hill or mound frequented by hens (of wild birds)' (Mills 2003). The mound indicated in the name may indicate the presence of a Saxon or earlier burial mound (HER 790).

2.6 At the time of the Domesday Survey, the village was divided between up to five medieval manors including Henlow Warden, Henlow Llanthony, Henlow Grey and Henlow Zouches (Page 1908), whose actual boundaries are unclear. The present site lies close to the core of the medieval village.

2.7 Little evidence of the medieval village of Henlow (HER 17111) remains. St Mary's Church, located 200m to the east, has 12th century origins (HER 1071). To the south, Manor Farmhouse (HER 5002) dates in part to the early 16th century or earlier and may form part of the manor of Henlow Grey. Henlow Grange (HER 714), 800m to the south-east, is of mid-18th century date and is believed to have replaced an earlier building which may have formed part of the manor of Henlow Warden.

2.8 The existing village is characterised by a number of post-medieval buildings and by the 19th century Henlow Park (HER 6993). Further activity of this period is recorded in the form of gravel pits identified to the east (HER 2931) and northwest (HER 2524 and HER 2525) of the site.

2.9 The evaluation stage of the project revealed a limited number of features including a pit containing pottery of 10th-11th century date, an undated curvilinear feature possibly relating to late prehistoric or Roman activity in the Ivel valley, a post-medieval hedge line, and an undated pit or tree bole.

METHODOLOGY

General

2.10 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Designs, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

2.11 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

2.12 Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.13 All potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.14 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate *pro forma*. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film, at scales of 1:20 and 1:10.

Artefacts

2.15 Where not considered detrimental to their condition, bulk finds such as pottery and bone 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

2.16 Seven bulk samples, six measuring approximately 30 litres, and one of 20 litres were taken during the fieldwork. Sub-samples from each bulk sample were processed and examined to assess their potential.

Documentary Archive

2.17 The documentary archive, comprising the excavation records has been quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. An overall site summary, and a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data has also been prepared.

Material Archive

2.18 The material archive will be prepared in accordance with UKIC guidelines and with the published guidelines for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with registered museums in Bedfordshire. It will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2009.58.

3. Assessment

ARCHIVE QUANTIFICATION

Documentary Archive

3.1 The documentary archive incorporates the written, drawn and photographic records from the fieldwork on the present site. The various elements of the documentary archive have been quantified in the table below:

Record Type - Evaluation		Items
Contexts		9
Trench record sheets		7
Survey record sheets		1
Level record sheets		1
Field Drawings	A2 sheets	1
Photographs	Colour Negatives	38
	Monochrome negatives	33
Record Type - Excavation		Items
Contexts		61
Survey record sheets		2
Level record sheets		2
Environmental sample record sheets		6
Field Drawings	A2 sheets	3
Photographs	Colour Prints	11
	Monochrome negatives	35

Material Archive

3.2 The material archive normally incorporates artefacts, faunal remains and environmental samples collected during the project, including both stratified and unstratified material. The material archive for the present project is limited to the following:

Evaluation		
Type	Items	Weight (g)
Pottery	17	135
Animal bone	1	<1
Excavation		
Pottery	76	3684
Animal bone	78	1845

RECORDED DATA

Stage 1 Evaluation

3.3 Seven trial trenches were opened across the footprints of the proposed new buildings (Figure 2). Within the trenches a number of features were identified including a pit [101] in Trench 1 towards the northeast corner of the site, which contained 10th-11th century pottery. Other features identified were undated and were considered to represent less potential for archaeologically significant remains. However it is possible that a curvilinear feature [501] recorded in Trench 5 may have been the truncated remains of a Iron Age roundhouse.

Stage 3 Open Area Excavation

3.4 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, and with the agreement of the client that curvilinear feature [501] could be preserved in situ, the AO requested further investigation of the north-eastern quadrant of the site. Accordingly a larger area was opened up, taking in the area surrounding the pit in Trench 1 (Figure 2).

3.5 The area was machined to the first archaeological horizon, revealing a number of features, including three linear features, two curvilinear ditches, 10 large pits or quarries, and a number of smaller discrete features (Figure 3).

3.6 The exposed features have been assigned to four phases on the basis of stratigraphy and the dating of the recovered finds. These are:

- Phase 1 - Geological deposits.
- Phase 2 – Late Iron Age (mid 1st century BC) deposits.
- Phase 3 – Late Saxon (10th – 11th centuries) deposits.
- Phase 4 - Undated deposits.

Phase 1: Geological deposits

3.7 The earliest deposit revealed was a general layer of natural sandy silt. Cutting through the natural were irregular linears [1059], [1060] and [1061], with sterile sandy gravel fills. These are believed to be natural features, possibly formed by periglacial processes.

Phase 2: Iron Age deposits

3.8 Three features at the northern end of the excavation area were dated to the late Iron Age by finds of pottery. These were curvilinears [1057] and [1058] and a possible terminus or elongated pit [1023]. Only fragments of features [1057] and [1058] remained and although it is likely that they represent some form of enclosing gully, the shape of the enclosure could not be determined. However, circular gullies, usually interpreted as evidence of round houses, are common features of Iron Age Britain. If the curvilinear features represent segments of circular structures, it is estimated that they would have enclosed areas with internal diameters of about 9.6m. This is consistent with roundhouses of this period.

3.9 Feature [1057] formed an arc running from NW – SW. It was not possible to record its full extent as it was also truncated, although it is believed to have continued under the northern baulk of the site. On the west side was a possible terminus [1046]. Four sections were excavated across the

gully: [1032], [1034], [1038] and [1046]. Each segment was broadly similar in profile with concave sides and a slightly concave base.

3.10 Only a short length of linear [1058] had survived truncation. To the north it extended beyond the limit of excavation and to the east it petered out without terminating.

3.11 A third Iron Age feature, possible linear [1023], contained a small quantity of pottery from this period. Only a small length of this feature was exposed within the excavation area and it is possible that it represents a ditch terminus, or an elongated pit.

3.12 Four pits of late Iron Age date were recorded during the investigation. The largest was pit [1003], which was 2.30m in diameter and 1.00m in depth, with steep sides and a flat base, and included a sherd of grog-tempered pottery and a piece of animal bone within its fill. Pit [1019] cut natural feature [1062] and was roughly oval in shape, with a maximum length of 2.20m and depth of c.0.5m; it had steep sides and was over 0.5m deep, containing a dark silty fill including late Iron Age pottery. Pit [1023] was ovoid, measuring approximately 1.00m in diameter and 0.50m in depth, and a fill which included three sherds of Iron Age pottery. Pit [1005] was 1.40m in diameter and 0.60m in depth, with sides at 45° to a flat base, and a fill which included animal bone. It has been dated to the Iron Age on the basis of its general similarity to the other dated pits. No clear function could be attributed to these features which have tentatively been interpreted as being used for gravel extraction on the basis of the general character of the local geology.

Phase 3: Saxon deposits

3.13 Three pits contained pottery of late Saxon (10th – 11th century) date: Pit [101], exposed during the evaluation stage, and Pits [1029] and [1030]. These features have been interpreted as possible domestic rubbish pits.

Phase 4: Undated deposits

3.14 During the evaluation a number of potential features were investigated in Trenches 5 and 7. Tree-bole [503] and linear [701] were undated and intended to be protected below the access drive for Plots 3 – 5.

3.15 Within the excavation area a number of undated features were recorded. Pit [1005] was similar in size, shape and fill to Pit [1019] and may be contemporary. Pits [1007], [1011], [1013], [1015], [1017] and [1052] were shallow and were characterised by having fairly shallow angled sides and almost flat bases. It is not clear if they were deliberately cut, or formed by natural processes such as geological or root action.

Recorded Contexts

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
101	Cut	Sub-circular pit.	1.55	1.20	0.12
102	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) loose clayey silt, with occasional small stones. Fill of pit [101]. Pottery sherds of 10 th -11 th C date recovered from this fill	1.55	1.20	0.12
501	Cut	Curvilinear feature.	1.00	0.63	0.30
502	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) loose clayey silt. Fill of curvilinear feature [501]	1.00	0.63	0.30
503	Cut	Sub-rounded feature with irregular sides and base. Probable tree bole	2.00	1.40	0.14
504	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) loose clayey silt	2.00	1.40	0.14
701	Cut	Linear feature, aligned NW-SE, extending from E baulk. Possibly a former hedge line	1.95	1.10	0.18
702	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/3) soft sandy clay with moderate small stones	1.95	1.10	0.18
1001	Layer	Black (10YR 3/1) Topsoil			0.30-0.55
1002	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose sandy silt, re-deposited natural			0.20
1003	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep sides and flat base. Contains Fill (1004). Gravel extraction?	2.30 diameter		1.00
1004	Fill	Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) loose sandy silt, 40% gravel. Fill of [1003]. IA pottery & Animal bone.	2.30 diameter		1.00
1005	Cut	Sub-circular pit, sides of 45° to a flat base. Contains (1006). Gravel extraction ?	1.40 diameter		0.60
1006	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) sticky silty sand 30% gravel. Fill of [1005]. Animal bone.	1.40 diameter		0.60
1007	Cut	Sub-circular pit/ root hole straight sides 30-45° to a flat base. Contains (1008).	1.10 diameter		0.20
1008	Fill	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) loose sandy silt 20% gravel. Fill of [1007]. No finds.	1.10 diameter		0.20
1009	Cut	Linear feature, aligned NE – SW, with steep irregular sides 60° and flat base. Contains fill (1010). Segment of periglacial feature [1060].	1.00	1.10	0.25
1010	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) loose sandy silt. <5% gravel. Very clean fill. Fill of [1009]	1.00	1.10	0.25
1011	Cut	Sub-circular pit straight sides 30° to a flat base. Contains (1012)	1.10 diameter		0.15
1012	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/2) loose sandy silt 15% gravel. Fill of [1011]. No finds	1.10 diameter		0.15
1013	Cut	Sub-circular pit steep sides 80° to flat base. Contains (1014).	0.80 diameter		0.10
1014	Fill	Brown (7.5 YR 4/4) friable silty sand 15% gravel. Fill of [1013]. No finds	0.80 diameter		0.10
1015	Cut	Sub-circular pit straight sides 30° to flat base. Contains (1016).	2.10 diameter		0.20
1016	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt 10% gravel. Fill of [1015]. No finds.	2.10 diameter		0.20
1017	Cut	Sub-circular pit straight sides 45° to flat base. Contains (1018).	0.90 diameter		0.10
1018	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt 15% gravel. Fill of [1017]. No finds	0.90 diameter		0.10
1019	Cut	Sub-oval pit straight sides 80° gradual break to flat base. Contains (1020). Extends beyond northern boundary of excavated area.	2.20	>1.10	0.50

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
1020	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2 sticky sandy clay silt <5% gravel. Fill of [1019]. IA pottery and animal bone . Environmental sample #6.	2.20	>1.10	0.50
1021	Cut	Linear feature aligned NE-SW very uneven sides. NW side 80-90°, SE side 45°. Natural periglacial feature.	2.50	1.80	0.55
1022	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) sticky sandy clay silt. <1% gravel. Very clean and no finds. Fill of [1021].	2.50	1.05	0.55
1023	Cut	Sub-circular pit steep sides 60° to a flat base. Contains (1024)	1.00	1.25	0.50
1024	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/4) friable silty sand. 20% gravel. Fill of [1023]. Iron Age pottery	1.00	1.25	0.50
1025	Fill	Black (7.5YR 5/1) loose sandy silt, 40% gravel. Fill of [1029]. Saxon pottery and animal bone.	1.42	1.22	0.22
1026	Cut	Linear feature orientated N-S irregular in profile concave base. Probably periglacial. Contains (1027).		0.86	0.28
1027	Fill	Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) compact silty sand. Fill of [1026] deposited naturally by periglacial activity.		0.86	0.28
1028	Fill	Yellow (2.5Y 7/6) friable silty sand 25% gravel. Basal fill of [1029]. No finds	1.22	1.44	0.23
1029	Cut	Sub oval pit, near vertical sides flat base. Contains (1025), (1028).	1.44	1.22	0.62
1030	Cut	Sub circular pit concave sides at 45-60° to a concave base. Contains (1031). Saxon.	1.40 diameter		0.60
1031	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt, 10-20% gravel. Fill of [1030]. Saxon pottery.	1.40 diameter		0.60
1032	Cut	Curvi-linear ditch orientated E-W. Sides concave to a concave base. Segment of drip gully [1057]. Contains (1033).	1.00	0.60	0.20
1033	Fill	Very dark brown (7.5YR 5/3) loose sandy clay silt 10% gravel. Fill of [1032]. Iron Age pottery.	1.00	0.60	0.20
1034	Cut	Curvi-linear ditch orientated NE-SW concave sides to concave base. Segment of drip gully [1057]. Contains (1035).	1.00	0.60	0.20
1035	Fill	Very dark brown (7.5YR 5/3) loose sandy clay silt 10% gravel. Fill of [1034] Iron Age pottery.	1.00	0.60	0.20
1036	Cut	Sub-circular pit, irregular sides 45° to a flat base. Contains (1037).	1.45 diameter		0.50
1037	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/4) loose sandy clay silt 10% gravel. Fill of [1036]. No finds.	1.45 diameter		0.50
1038	Cut	Curvi-linear ditch orientated NE-SW concave sides to flat base. Segment of drip gully [1057]. Contains (1039). Totally truncated away at NE end.	1.50	0.60	0.10
1039	Fill	Brown (7.5YR 4/3) friable sandy clay silt, 20-50% gravel. Fill of [1038]. Iron Age pottery.	1.50	0.60	0.10
1040	Cut	Curvi-linear ditch orientated S-N concave sides 45° to flat base. Segment of drip gully [1058]. Contains 1041. Totally truncated away at southern end.	1.40	0.50	0.10
1041	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt 10% gravel. Fill of [1040]. Iron Age pottery.	1.40	0.50	0.10
1042	Cut	Linear feature orientated NW-SE, NE side very steep 80-90°, SW side uneven 45-60°. Part of periglacial feature [1061].	0.70	1.00	0.55

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
1043	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose sandy silt 80% gravel. Fill of [1042]. Deposit formed by periglacial activity.	0.70	1.00	0.55
1044	Cut	Linear feature orientated SSE- NNW, concave sides and base. Segment of periglacial feature [1059]. Contains (1045).	0.60	0.50	0.15
1045	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose sand <1% gravel. Fill of [1044]. Deposit formed by periglacial activity.	0.60	0.50	0.15
1046	Cut	Curvi-linear ditch orientated SE-NW, highly truncated but seems to terminate at NW end. Segment of drip gully [1057]. Contains (1047).	2.00	0.40	0.10 (max)
1047	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt 25% gravel. Fill of 1046. Iron Age pottery.	2.00	0.40	0.10 (max)
1048	Cut	Linear feature orientated SW-NE irregular sides and uneven base. Segment of periglacial feature [1060]. Contains (1049).	1.80	0.85	0.35
1049	Fill	Strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) loose sand <1% gravel. Very clean sand filling periglacial feature segment [1048]. No finds.	1.80	0.85	0.35
1050	Cut	Sub circular pit straight sides with a sharp break to the flat base.	1.60 diameter		0.20
1051	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt 5-10% gravel. Fill of [1050]. No finds.	1.60 diameter		0.20
1052	Cut	Sub square pit very shallow uneven base. Possibly a root hole.	1.30	1.80	0.10
1053	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) friable sandy clay silt 5% gravel. Fill of [1052]. No finds.	1.30	1.80	0.10
1054	Cut	Oval feature concave sides 45° to concave base. Possible posthole. Contains (1055).	1.20	0.35	0.15
1055	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy clay silt <5% gravel. Fill of [1054]. No finds	1.20	0.35	0.15
1056	Fill	Dark yellowish brown loose sandy silt 80% gravel. Fill of periglacial feature [1021] on NW side of the cut.	2.50	0.75	0.55
1057	Group	Roundhouse drip gully. Segments [1032], [1034], [1038], [1046].			
1058	Group	Roundhouse drip gully. Segment [1040]			
1059	Group	Natural linear, segment [1026], [1044].			
1060	Group	Natural linear, segment [1009], [1048]			
1061	Group	Natural linear, segment			

FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Pottery		CBM		An bone		Flint		Charcoal		Date	Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
102	17	160									AS	Mostly St Neots
1004	1	2			1	25					LIA	Grog-tempered
1006					3	35					?LIA	
1020	2	10	1	5	7	165					LIA	
1024	3	55					1	2			LIA	
1025	17	437	3	30	67	1620			4	3	AS	Pottery is burnt
1031	1	10									AS	
1033	36	2635									LIA	
1035	5	230									LIA	X context join
1041	2	280									LIA	X context join
1047	9	25									LIA	Grog-tempered

FINDS ASSESSMENT - Artefacts**Pottery**

3.16 A combined total of 93 sherds, weighing 3819g, was recovered from both phases of fieldwork on the present site. Of this 17 sherds, weighing 135g, were collected during the Stage 1 evaluation and 76 sherds, weighing 3,684g, were recovered from 9 stratified contexts during the Stage 3 excavation.

Chronology

3.17 The bulk of the assemblage (15 sherds, weighing 110g) from the evaluation stage consisted of sherds from at least two vessels in a coarse St Neots-type ware (fabric B4). The majority were undiagnostic bodysherds, but two rim sherds were present, one from a small carinated bowl or cup and the other from a jar with an everted rim, both dated to the 10th-11th century (McCarthy & Brooks 1988, pp.177-8). Two undiagnostic bodysherds sherds of late Saxon quartz and organic ware (fabric A19), weighing 25g, were also recovered from the same fill.

3.18 The bulk of the assemblage (48 sherds, weighing 3210g) from the excavation stage comprises large unabraded sherds of coarse quartz, grog and organic tempered ware typical of late Iron Age pottery in this region. The majority of these were recovered from sections excavated across the curvilinear ditch to the roundhouse and appear to represent a single hand-thrown vessel, a large thick-walled storage jar with a bead rim and combed decoration below the shoulder. Cross-context joins were observed between fill (1035) in section [1034] and [1041] in section [1040].

3.19 A small amount of finer grog-tempered pottery (10 sherds, weighing 27g), also of late Iron Age date, was recovered from contexts (1004) and (1047).

3.20 Late Saxon pottery was recovered from the fills of two features, pits [1029] and [1030]. The remains of two vessels, one in quartz and organic tempered ware, the other in fine shell and organic tempered ware, were recovered from context (1025). A single body sherd in fine shell and organic tempered ware, was collected from fill (1028). The late Saxon material was very similar to that recovered during the evaluation (see McCarthy & Brooks 1988).

Further work

3.21 The pottery assemblage, particularly the late Saxon material, is of regional importance given the lack of comparable sites from Henlow. On this basis the assemblage should be submitted to appropriate specialists for closer identification. This is expected to assist in the dating and characterisation of the site during both the Iron Age and Saxon periods. Any diagnostic sherds should also be illustrated.

FINDS ASSESSMENT - Ecofacts

Animal Bone

Context:	Assemblage:
1006	Mid size mammal distal femoral 1/3
1025	1 mid size mammal rib 1 large mammal rib Mid-large mammal ulna proximal 1/3 Misc large mammal fragments 1 frag horse mandible with I1 and I2 5 large mammal teeth 1 horse mandibular ramus and M3 1 horse metacarpal unfused distal Right cattle mandible m1-m2 Left cattle mandible p4-m2
1020	Mid size mammal metacarpus 3 burnt fragments

3.22 In total, 78 pieces of bone weighing 1845g were recovered. The assemblage was in an average condition with little damage to the cortical bone and a moderate degree of fragmentation exhibited. A small number of fragments had also been burnt black.

3.23 Examination of the remains revealed the presence of horse, cattle and unidentified, mid-sized mammal remains. The majority of these appear to represent an adult population, although a horse metacarpal, unfused at the distal end, does indicate the presence of at least one juvenile.

Further work

3.24 As this is a small assemblage, largely from a single context, and which has been identified as to species and age where possible, no further work is proposed on the material.

Bulk Environmental Samples

3.25 Seven bulk samples were taken from dated contexts. Approximately 10 litres from each sample was passed through 500 micron mesh and then scanned for artefactual and environmental evidence using a hand-lens to assess their potential. The results are summarised in the table below:

Sample Number	Context	Potential	% of Archaeological Material in sample	Mammal Bone	Mammal Bone	Burnt Mammal Bone	Charcoal	Burnt seeds	CBM	Fe Object	Pottery	Flint	Burnt Flint
Evaluation	102	Moderate	<1%				✓						
1	1033	Moderate	6%				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
2	1035	Moderate	4%				✓					✓	
3	1041	High	6%		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	1025	Moderate	10%		✓		✓					✓	✓
5	1024	Moderate	10%				✓		✓		✓		✓
6	1020	High	4%				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓

Discussion

The majority of the examined samples contained no environmental material and only very small quantities of other material. Charcoal was observed in all the contexts but not in quantities to indicate burning activity had taken place in the immediate surrounding area.

Further work

3.26 On the basis of the assessment results it seems likely that detailed analysis of the flots and residues resulting from flotation of the full samples would produce useful data concerning the environment, economy and diet of the site during the late Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods. The flots and residues will be scanned for macroscopic artefactual elements before being submitted to a specialist.

4. Further Research

RESEARCH AIMS

4.1 The defined aim of the present project has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to consider their importance in the context of the current published local and regional research agenda (Oake et al 2007, Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook, 2000), if they were discovered.

4.2 The Stage 1 archaeological evaluation identified archaeological remains of Saxo-Norman date within the development site, demonstrating that Henlow had Saxon antecedents, as suggested by 11th century documentary evidence. As this period is little understood in Bedfordshire, the opportunity to improve the understanding of the development of the settlement pattern in the county in the late Saxon and early medieval period was highlighted.

4.3 The possibility that remains of later prehistoric or Roman date might be encountered in the course of the investigation, also provided a possible opportunity to characterise such activity and to compare and contrast it to other contemporary settlements within the Ivel/Ouse river system.

4.4 The assessment of the results of the fieldwork demonstrates that a variety of data has been collected which can contribute significantly to the aims of the project. The key elements can be summarised as follows:

- In respect of the later prehistoric period (para.4.3), a significant number of sherds of mid-1st century BC date was recovered from the fills of curvilinear ditches, indicating possible domestic occupation of the site during this period. No evidence for activity during the Roman period was recovered.
- In respect of the Saxo-Norman period (para.4.2), three pits contained pottery of 10th - 11th century date indicating possible domestic occupation of the site during this period.

UPDATED RESEARCH DESIGN

4.5 The data collected from the present site has provided new information regarding occupation in the area in the late Iron Age, and in the late pre-Conquest period. There was no evidence that such occupation was continuous.

4.6 The stratigraphy of the present site was not complex, the archaeological horizon was encountered at a depth of between 0.30m and 0.55m below the present ground level, directly below the topsoil which was present across the entire site. The majority of the features, which were cut into the natural glacial sands, contained a single fill. No individual feature or section contained more than two fills. On this basis no further stratigraphical analysis will be undertaken and it is proposed to publish as it stands.

4.7 It is considered that the late Iron Age and Saxon pottery, from both phases of fieldwork, has the potential to contribute to research topics concerned with local and regional rural settlement and agricultural activity. These assemblages will be subject to further specialist study, in line with the recommendations set out in the assessment.

4.8 The remaining 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 significantly to the identified research aims. On this basis no further research on this material has been indicated and it is proposed to publish it as it stands.

4.9 The bulk soil samples collected from dated features all contain charcoal and at least two contain burnt seeds. It is therefore considered likely that analysis of the flots and residues from flotation of all the samples will produce useful environmental and economic indicators that will increase our understanding of the function and status of the site in the late Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon periods.

PUBLICATION

4.10 It is proposed to publish the results of the present project as a note in Bedfordshire Archaeology, with the full report being uploaded to OASIS. A web article, summarising the findings of the project, will also be provided for inclusion on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

Provisional Synopsis

Section	Content	Words	Pages
Introduction	Project background	500	
Narrative and discussion	Features and deposits	500	
Artefacts	By type	500	
Ecofacts	By type	200	
Bibliography		250	
Total words:		2000	4
Line drawings	Plans		0.5
	Sections		0.5
Tables	Ecofacts x 2		1
Total Pages:			6

ARCHIVE

4.1 The documentary and material archives are currently held by The Heritage Network Ltd at its premises at 11 Furnston Court, Icknield Way, Letchworth, Herts.

4.2 In its final form the archive will conform to UKIC guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage, and the specific requirements for the deposition of archaeological archives in registered Bedfordshire museums. All post-excavation documentation will be filed, ordered, and indexed as part of the research archive.

4.3 The documentary and material archive will be deposited Bedford Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2009.58.

TASK LIST TO PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Task	Description	Undertaken by	Days
1	Late Iron Age	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
2	Saxon pottery	Paul Blinkhorn	2
3	Environmental samples	Palaeoecology Research Services	8

4	Additional background research	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
5	Compile publication text	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
6	Artefact illustration	Donna Watters, Artaeology	1
7	Prepare publication illustrations	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	1
8	Editing	David Hillelson, Heritage Network	1
9	Final archive	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	2
10	Archive deposition	Helen Ashworth, Heritage Network	1

5. Sources Consulted

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

Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J.. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. Research agenda and strategy.* (East Anglian Archaeology)

Central Bedfordshire Council 2009. *Stage 3 Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording Analysis and Publication at land to the rear of 109-113 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire.* (Central Bedfordshire Council)

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH)

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Gurney, D. *et al.* 2003. *Standards for Fieldwork in the East of England.* (ALGAO EER)

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

Heritage Network 2009 *Land to r/o 109 – 113 High Street Henlow, Beds. Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation: Report.* (Heritage Network, HN825)

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Margary, I. 1964. *Roman roads in the south-east Midlands, by the Viatores.* (London)

McCarthy, M.R. & Brooks, C.M. 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600.* Leicester: Leicester University Press

Medlycott, M & Brown, N. 2008. *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region.* (ALGAO East of England)

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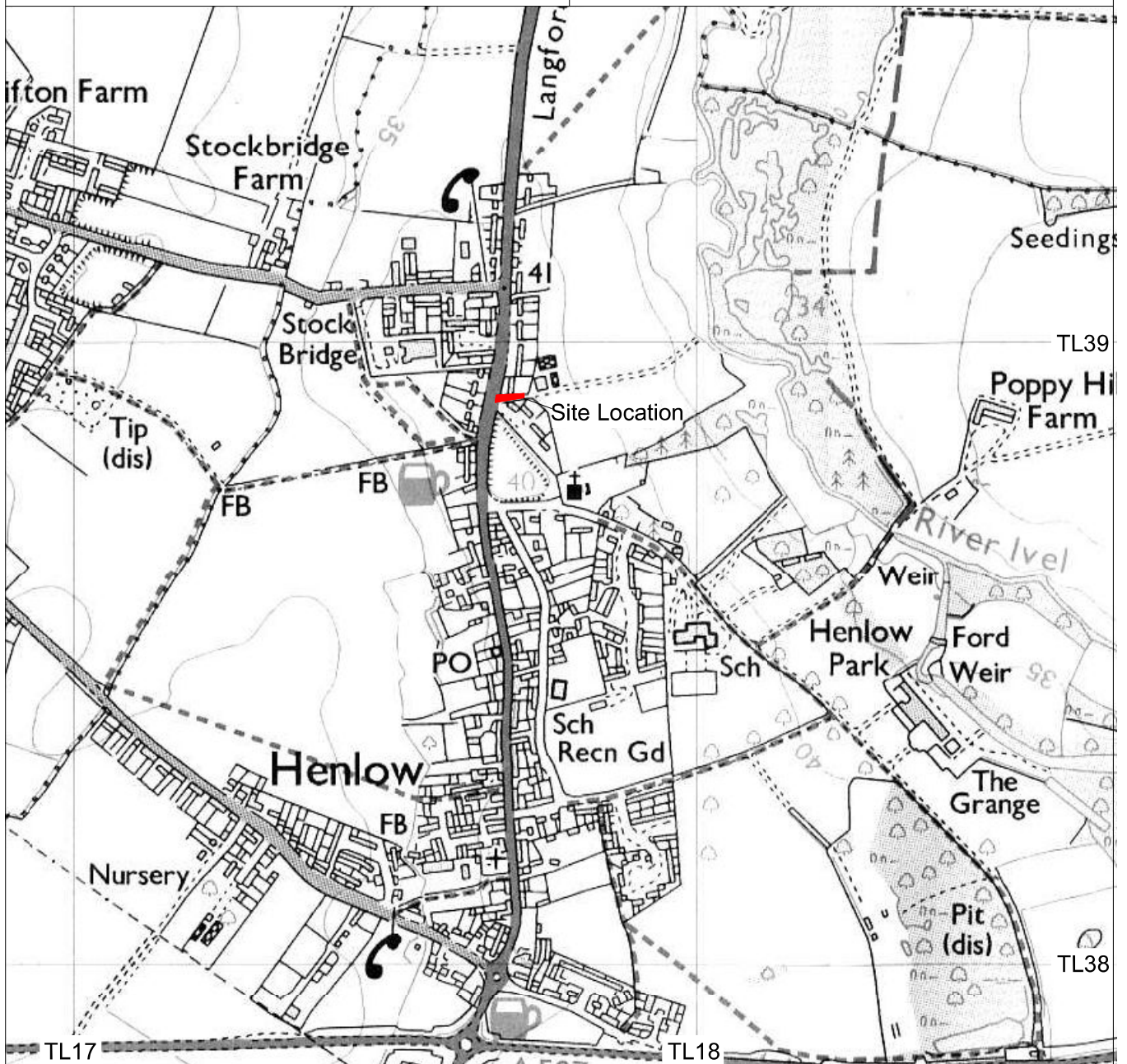
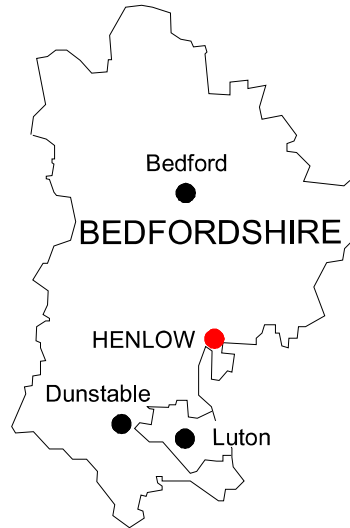
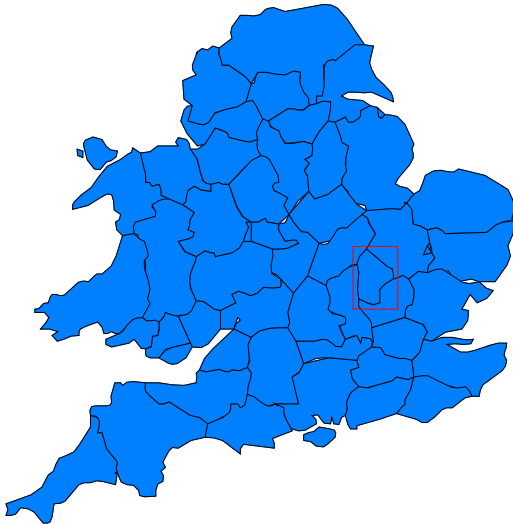
Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M and Murphy P (2007) *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy -* (Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9)

Page, W. 1908. *The Victoria County History of Bedfordshire.* (Dawsons of Pall Mall, Folkestone & London)

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 soil map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend.* (Harpenden)

6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Location of excavation area and evaluation trenches
Figure 3	Excavation area: all features plan
Figure 4	Feature sections (1)
Figure 5	Feature sections (2)
Figure 6	Feature sections (3)
Figure 7	Feature sections (4)
Plate 1.....	Quarry Pit [1003], looking east
Plate 2.....	Pit [1019], looking east
Plate 3.....	Pit [1023], looking east
Plate 4.....	Pit [1029], looking south
Plate 5.....	Curvilinears [1057] & [1058], looking east
Plate 6.....	Linear [1040], looking north west
Plate 7.....	Pits [1030] & [1036], looking east
Plate 8.....	Feature [1062], looking north east
Plate 9.....	Feature [1060], looking south west

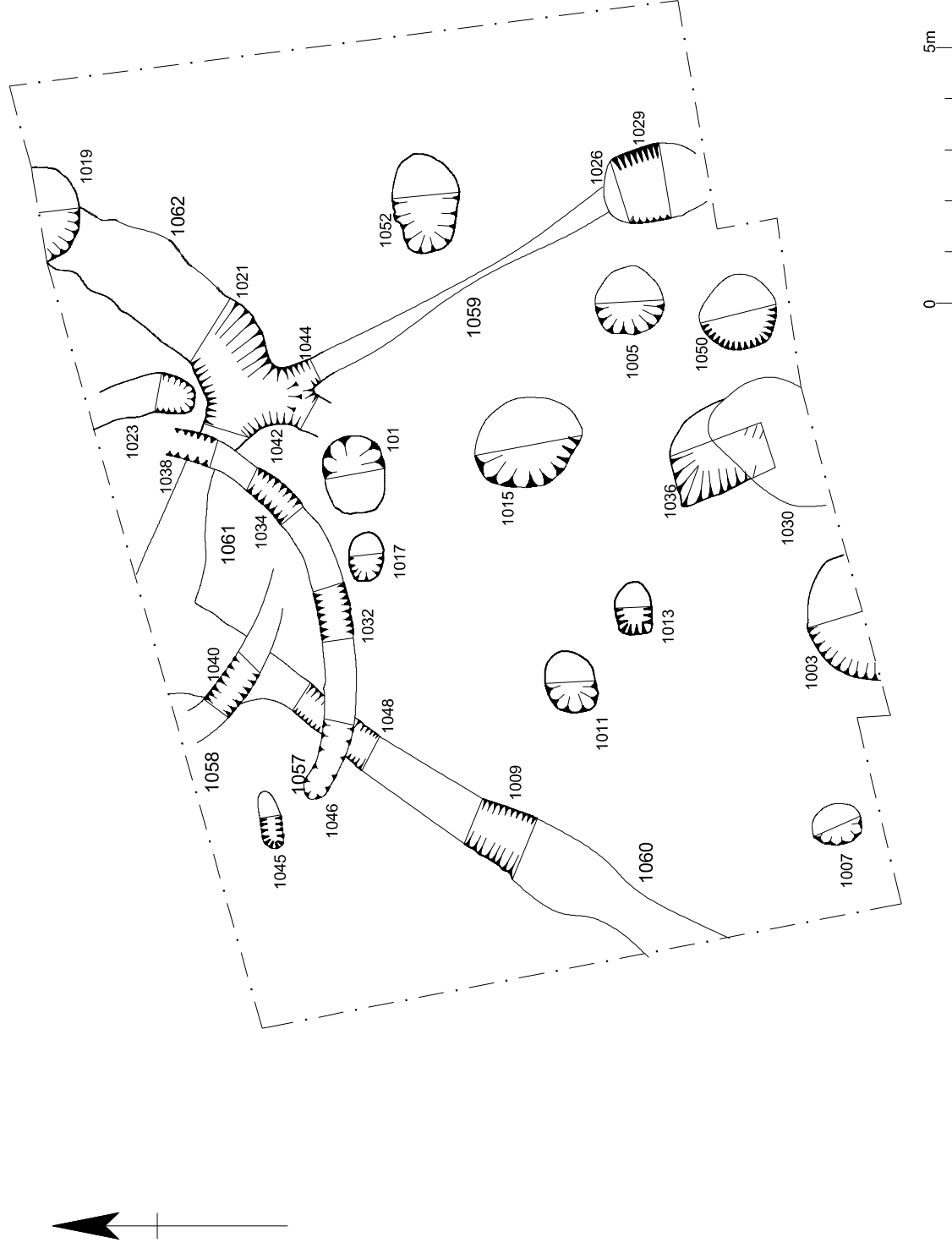


Site Location

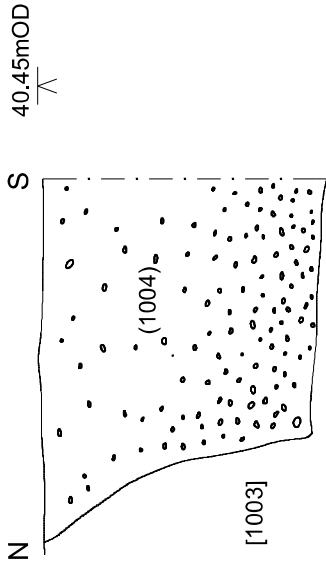
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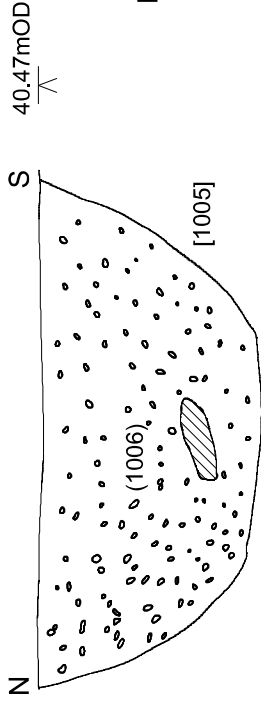
Location of excavation area and evaluation trenches



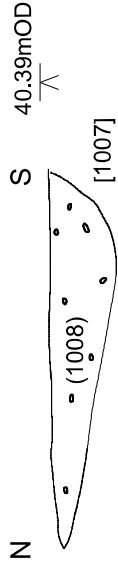
Excavation Area: all features plan



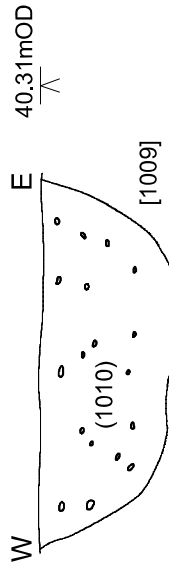
West facing section across Pit [1003]



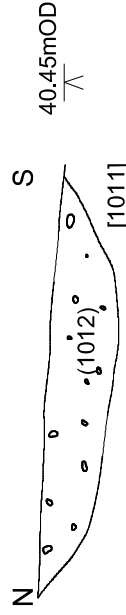
West facing section across Pit [1005]



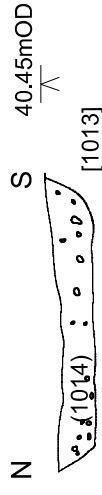
West facing section across Pit [1007]



South facing section across Feature [1009]

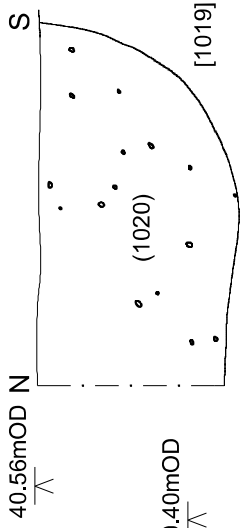


West facing section across Pit [1011]

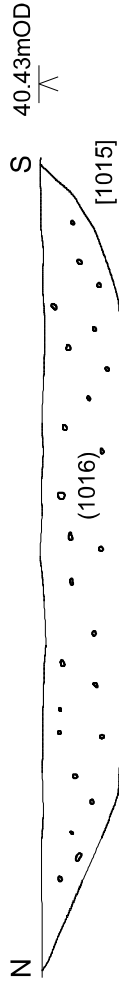


West facing section across Pit [1013]

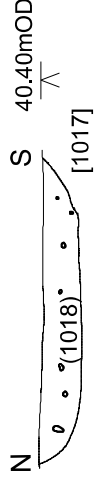




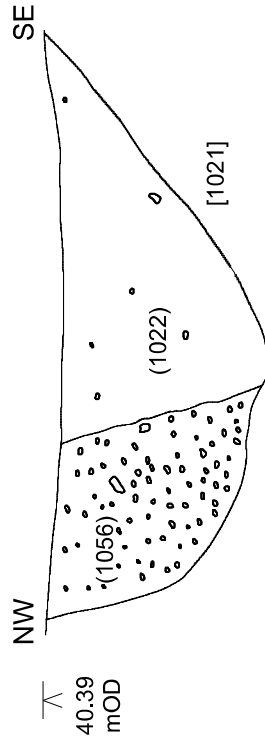
West facing section across Pit [1019]



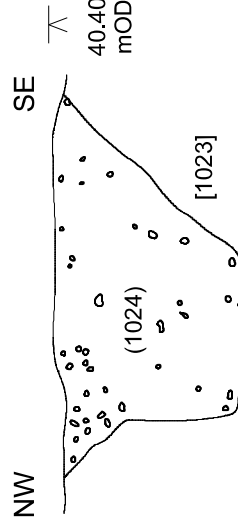
West facing section across Pit [1015]



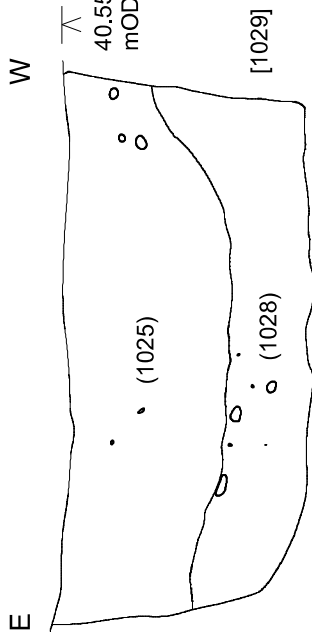
West facing section across Pit [1017]



South facing section across Feature [1021]

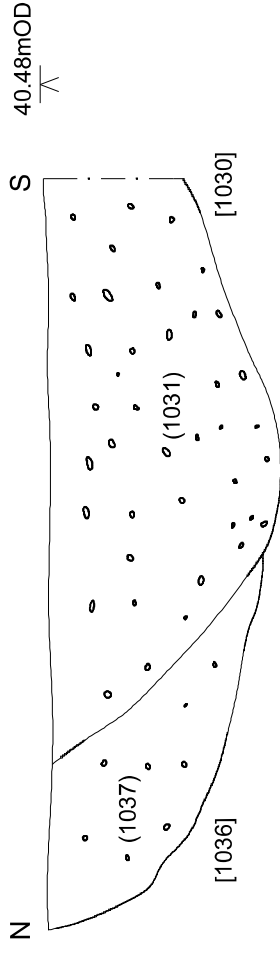


West facing section across Pit [1023]

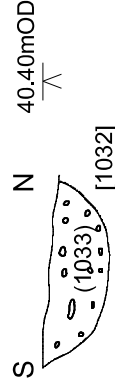


West facing section across Pit [1029]

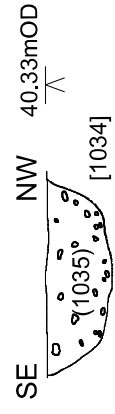




West facing section across Pits [1030], [1036]



East facing section across Gully [1032]



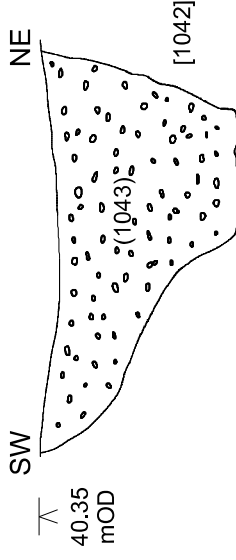
North west facing section across Gully [1034]



North facing section across Gully [1038]

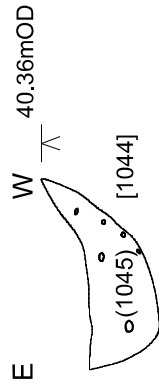


North west facing section across Gully [1040]

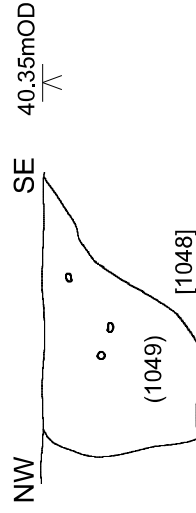


South east facing section across Feature [1042]

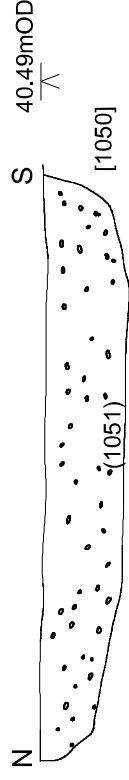




North facing section across Pit [1044]



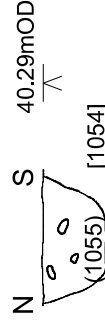
South west facing section across Feature [1048]



West facing section across Pit [1050]



South facing section across Pit [1052]



West facing section across Posthole [1054]





Plate 1: Quarry Pit [1003], looking east



Plate 2: Pit [1019], looking east



Plate 3 : Pit [1023], looking east



Plate 4: Pit [1029], looking south

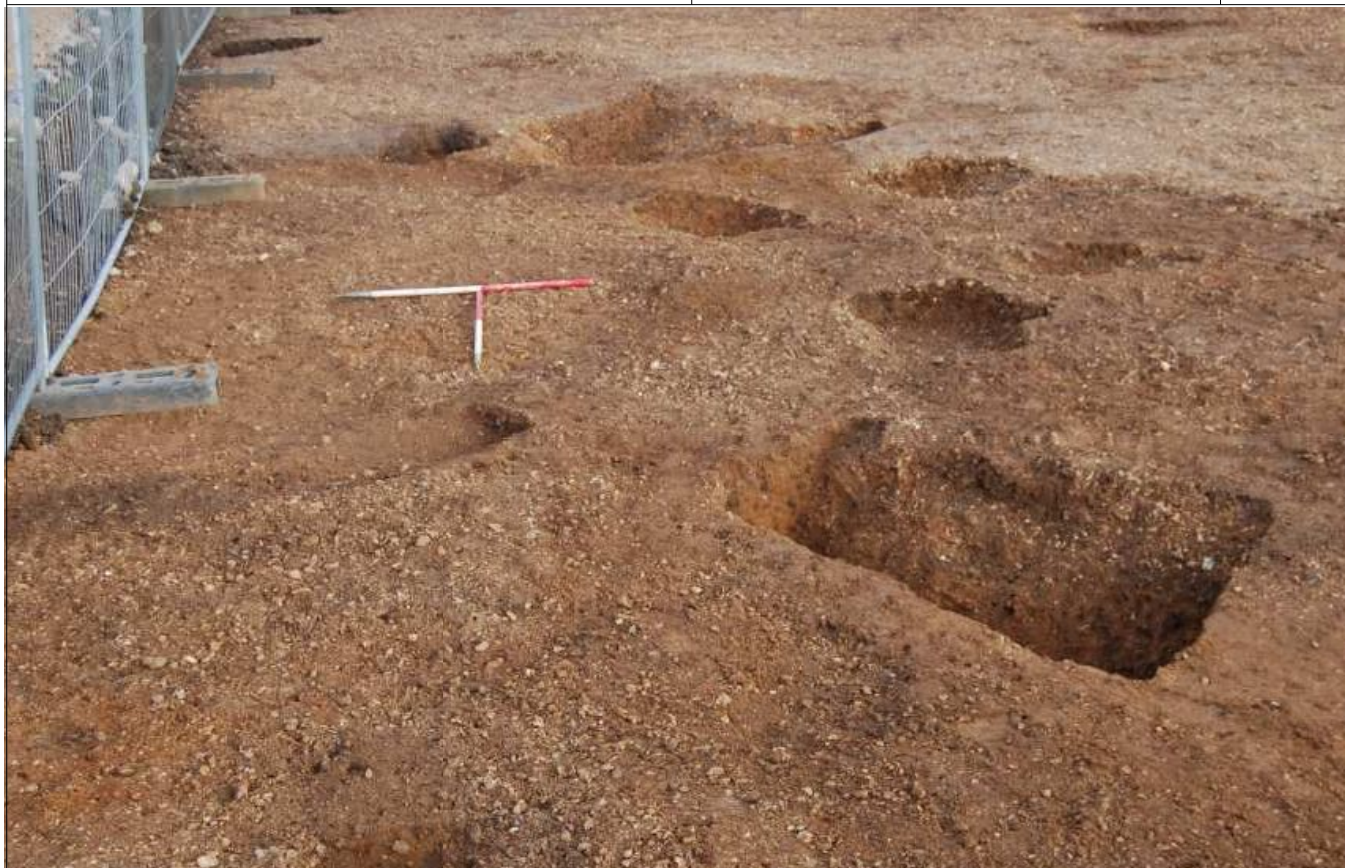


Plate 5: Curvilinears [1057] & [1058], looking east



Plate 6: Linear [1040], looking north west



Plate 7: Pits [1030] & [1036], looking east



Plate 8: Feature [1062], looking north east



Plate 9: Feature [1060], looking south west

Appendix

OASIS Data Entry Form

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-68634</i>	
Project details	
Project name	land to r/o 109-113 High Street, Henlow
Short description of the project	As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the construction of six new dwellings, with associated car parking and access, on land to the rear of 109-113 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. Two stages of fieldwork were undertaken. The first consisted of an archaeological evaluation. Within the seven trial trenches a limited number of features were identified, comprising a pit containing pottery of 10th - 11th century date, an undated pit or tree bole, an undated curvilinear feature and a post-medieval hedge line. As a result of these findings, an open area excavation, focusing on the 10th - 11th century pit, was requested by the LPA. Within this area, further archaeological features were recorded. The highly truncated remains of two curvilinear features, interpreted as drip gullies surrounding roundhouses, were excavated and recorded. Their fills included significant quantities of mid 1st century BC pottery. Further pits containing pottery of a similar date were also recorded, as well as a number of undated pits which may originally have been dug for gravel extraction. Two further pits of 10 th - 11 th century date were recorded, both interpreted as possible rubbish pits. A series of linear features was also investigated. Due to their irregular nature in both plan and section, and their very clean fills, it has been suggested that they could have been formed by periglacial activity.
Project dates	Start: 14-12-2009 End: 20-01-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	HN842 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2009.58 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	ROUNDHOUSE Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Investigation type	'Open-area excavation'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE HENLOW Land to r/o 109-113 High Street, Henlow
Postcode	SG16 6AE
Study area	270.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 17592 38805 52.0347339465 -0.285538390794 52 02 05 N 000 17 07 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40.29m Max: 40.56m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Nigel Wilson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	LSF Properties Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM 2009.58
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Archive ID	BEDFM 2009.58
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2009.58
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the r/o 109-113 High Street, Henlow: Archaeological Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wilson, N.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report no. 586
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	The Heritage Network Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 Booklet, comb-bound, green cover; 18 pages, 7 figures, 9 plates