



Land Adjacent to 102 HIGH STREET, Henlow, Bedfordshire

HN906

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land adjacent to 102 HIGH STREET, Henlow, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN906 LPA ref.: CB/10/00831/FULL Bedford Museum Accession No: BEDFM2011.23

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared on behalf of Robert Miller Esq.

by

James Snee BSc (HONS)

Report no. 649

April 2011

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The front cover shows the site looking west

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by James Snee and Greg Jones. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee, and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to: Robert Miller Esq; and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Officer, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Site name and address:	e and address: Land adjacent to 102 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, SG16 6AE						
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire				
Village/town:	Henlow	Parish:	Henlow				
Planning reference:	CB/10/00831/FULL	NGR:	TL 17699 38906				
Client name and address:	Robert Miller Esq. 122 H	ligh Street, Clophill, Bedford	dshire, MK45 4BJ				
Nature of work:	New dwelling	Current land use:	Waste ground				
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPS5)				
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority				
Size of affected area:	$c.500m^2$	Size of area investigated:	40m ²				
Site code:	HN906	Other ref:	n/a				
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson				
Project type, methods etc	Field evaluation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum				
Start of work:	08/03/2011	Finish of work:	10/03/2011				
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Late Saxon/early medieval				
OASIS UID:	heritage1-92337	Significant finds:	Pottery				
Monument types:	Pit						
Physical archive:	Pottery, Bone						
Previous summaries/reports: None							

Summary

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a new development on land adjacent to 102 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

Two trenches were opened, with Trench 1 located across the drive and Trench 2 across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in Trench 1, but a number of features were revealed in Trench 2. The majority of these appear to be of natural origin.

A single dated feature was encountered. This was a sub-circular pit which contained two sherds of pottery dating to between the 9th and 11th centuries, together with cattle horn core and mandible fragments. No evidence for its function was identified, but it may represent a small gravel extraction pit. A second undated, but possibly contemporary, feature was also encountered.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for the prehistoric to early Saxon periods. However, the risk of disturbing later Saxon and early medieval remains is *High*.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Robert Miller Esq, as part of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed redevelopment of land adjacent to 102 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire.

1.2 Planning permission for the development (ref: CB/10/00831/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). The scope of this investigation has been defined in a *Brief for a programme of archaeological investigation, recording, analysis and publication at land adjacent to 102 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire* (ref: HF 17/01/2011) prepared by the Archaeology Team (AT) at CBC. A full specification for the work carried out is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated February 2011.

1.3 The site is located to the north of the present village of Henlow on the eastern side of the A6001. It lies on the corner of High Street and Northfield Close and is centred on NGR TL 17699 38906. The property was formerly a thoroughfare from the High Street to land now occupied by the Gardener's Lane housing estate. It currently forms an area of open ground with a mixture of grass and metalled hard standing. To the north, the site is bounded by the garden of 102 High Street, and to the east by the gardens of 2 Gardener's Lane (Figure 1).

1.4 The present site is located close to the historic core of the village of Henlow in a known archaeological landscape. Archaeological investigations at 109-113 High Street, approximately 650m to the south, have revealed evidence of settlement activity from the later prehistoric period through to the early medieval period.

1.5 The proposed development entails the construction of a new detached dwelling, with associated access, services and landscaping.

1.6 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

1.7 It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al 2007; Medlycott & Brown 2008). These include:

- The chronology and dynamics of settlement in the Henlow area during the prehistoric and Roman periods, with particular reference to the late Bronze early Iron Age (Oake et al 2007, p.59-61) and late Iron Age Romano-British transition periods (ibid, p66-7; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, p16);
- An understanding of Henlow's position in the general pattern of other contemporary settlements within the Ivel/Ouse river system and the relationship between the medieval settlement and its prehistoric antecedent (Oake et al 2007, p.59-61, 66-67);
- the development of rural settlement in Bedfordshire from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (Oake et al 2007, p14; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, p24-25);

• the character and development of the early medieval and later settlement at Henlow (Oake et al 2007, Chapters 2 & 5; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, p23-26).

1.8 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area is located at a height of approximately 40mOD on the west side of the Ivel valley, close to the confluence of the rivers Ivel and Hiz. The land rises gently to the southwest.

2.2 The underlying solid geology consists of Sandstone and loose sand of the Woburn Sands Formation (<u>www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience</u>), overlain by river terrace gravels of the Sutton 1 Association (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.4 The two trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. However, the presence of an existing manhole and service trench required the realignment of Trench 2, in relation to that proposed in the Project Design, with the agreement of the AT. Both trenches were opened using a wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

2.5 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.6 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

2.7 Trench 1 was orientated north-south and excavated across the proposed driveway; Trench 2 was orientated northwest-southeast and excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling (Figure 2). Trench 1 measured 5.4m by 2.0m and 0.8m deep; Trench 2 measured 15.0m by 2.0m and 0.9m deep. The total sample covered 40.8m², representing approximately 10% of the area directly affected by the development.

Length (m):	5.4	20		Maximum Depth (m):	0.8	Orientation		N-S		
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		ch (mOD)	Top Base	41.19 40.43	-Level at S End of Tren		ench (mOl	D)	Top Base	41.11 40.30
Context	Constant Tons		Description				Dimensions (m)			
Context	Туре		Description				Length	W	idth	Depth
-	Layer		Very dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, with noderate stones/ pebbles.			with	5.4+	2	2+	0.30
-	Layer		Mid brown silty sand subsoil, with moderate stones/pebbles.			e	5.4+	2	2+	045
-	Layer	Very pale greyish brown silty sand and gravel.				/el.	5.4+	4	2+	>0.05

Trench 1

2.8 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of 0.30m of very dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, overlying 0.45m of mid brown silty sand subsoil (Plate 1). Beneath the subsoil the

natural substratum was revealed, which consisted of very pale greyish brown silty sand and gravel, more than 0.05m deep.

2.9 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present in this trench.

Length (m):	15	Width (m):		2.0	Maximum Depth (m):	0.9	Orientati	ion	N	W-SE
Level at NW	End of Tr	ench	Тор	41.14	Level at SE I	el at SE End of Trenc			Тор	41.03
(mOD)			Base	40.33					Base	40.03
Context	Туре			Descripti	on	-			sions (n	/
	νı			-			Length	W	idth	Depth
-	Layer	moderate s	tones/ p	ebbles.	y sand topsoil,		5.4+		2+	0.30
-	Layer	Mid brown stones/pebb		nd subsoil	, with moderat	e	5.4+		2+	045
201	Cut	Sub-circula base.	r cut wi	th concave	e sides and a ro	ounded	1.3	1	1.3	0.4
202	Fill	stones.	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional mixed stones.				1.3	1	1.3	0.4
203	Cut	Sub-circula base.					0.5	().5	0.2
204	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt with very occasional small stones.					0.5	().5	0.2
205	Cut	Irregular cu	Irregular cut or depression.				>1.0	>	1.0	0.2
206	Fill	Mid brown	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones				>1.0	$^{}$	1.0	0.2
207	Cut	Irregular cu	Irregular cut or depression.				>1.5	>	0.4	0.27
208	Fill	Mid brown	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones				>1.5	$^{}$	0.4	0.27
209	Cut	Irregular cu	Irregular cut or depression.				2.3	>	0.5	0.16
210	Fill	Mid brown	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.				2.3	>	0.5	0.16
211	Cut	Irregular cu	Irregular cut or depression.				>1.5	>(0.85	0.25
212	Fill	Mid brown	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.				>1.5	>(0.85	0.25
213	Cut	Irregular cu	Irregular cut or depression.					>	0.9	0.14
214	Fill	Mid brown	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.					>	0.9	0.14
-	Layer	Very pale g	Very pale greyish brown silty sand and gravel.						2+	>0.05

2.10 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of 0.40m of very dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, overlying 0.35m of mid brown silty sand subsoil (Plate 2). Beneath the subsoil the natural substratum was revealed, which consisted of very pale greyish brown silty sand and gravel, over 0.15m deep.

2.11 Two definite archaeological features were revealed in Trench 2. A large sub-circular pit, cut [201], with concave sides and a rounded base, was revealed in the centre of the trench (Figure 3). It was cut on its southern side by a modern service trench. Feature [201] measured 1.30m in diameter and 0.40m in depth and contained a single dark brown sandy silt fill, context (202). Two sherds of shell-tempered pottery, of Saxo-Norman date, were recovered from the fill, as well as seven fragments of animal bone. Although no clear evidence for its function was encountered, it has been tentatively interpreted as a gravel extraction pit on the basis of the small number of artefacts recovered from the fill and the nature of the local geology. A number of similar pits, of Iron Age date, were encountered during archaeological investigations at 109-113 High Street, approximately 650m to the south.

2.12 A small sub-oval feature, cut [203], was observed extending from the northern baulk at the south-eastern end of the trench, approximately 4m to the south-east of [201]. The feature had vertical sides and a rounded base and measured 0.50m in length, 0.50m in width and

0.20m in depth. It contained a single dark brown sandy silt fill, context (204). No artefacts were present to date the feature, which could represent either the terminus of a linear feature or a small pit.

2.13 A number of other features were present in Trench 2, cuts [205], [207], [209], [211] and [213]. Investigation demonstrated that they were irregular in plan, shallow in depth and devoid of any finds. It was noted that their fills, contexts (206), (208), (210), (212) and (214) were similar in nature to the subsoil above and paler in colour than the fills of [201] and [203]. On this basis they have been interpreted as natural features.

FINDS CONCORDANCE

	Po	ottery	Anima	al bone	
Context	No.	Weight (g)	No.	Weight (g)	Date
202	2	15	7	50	$9^{\text{th}} - 11^{\text{th}} \text{ C}$
Total	2	15	7	50	

Pottery

2.14 Two sherds of abraded pottery, weighing 15g, were recovered from context (202), the fill of pit [201]. The assemblage consists of undiagnostic bodysherds in a shell-tempered ware, dating to between the 9^{th} and 11^{th} centuries AD. It is possible that they came from the kiln site at Harrold, Bedfordshire, alternatively they may have come from the St Neots area.

2.15 Both sherds show signs of sooting and smoke discolouration. One sherd is in a particularly poor condition, the tempering has leached and the inner surface has spalled. Their condition suggests that they are residual in this feature. Nevertheless, their presence indicates Saxo-Norman activity in the immediate vicinity of the present site.

Recommendations

2.16 No further significant archaeological information may be readily obtained from this small assemblage. However, the fact that it is present in an area where evidence for late Saxon activity is scarce should be noted.

Animal bone

2.17 A total of seven fragments of animal bone, weighing 50g, was recovered from context (202), the fill of pit [201]. The bulk of the assemblage comprises six pieces of cattle horn core, possibly from the same animal. One fragment of cattle mandible is also present.

Recommendations

2.18 No further significant archaeological information may be readily obtained from this fragmentary assemblage. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the material.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The village of Henlow sits in a well-defined archaeological landscape. To the west and southwest of the proposed development is an expanse of cropmark remains including two irregular enclosures (HER 15095 & 15096) and a series of linear and curvilinear features (HER1888), which are similar to later prehistoric and Romano-British settlements known in the area. In addition to the cropmarks, five Early Bronze Age burials (HER 394) are known from the area of enclosure (HER 15095).

3.2 Specific evidence for Iron Age settlement was revealed during archaeological investigations on land to the rear of 109 to 113 High Street where at least one Late Iron Age roundhouse was identified along with features containing Romano-British, mid-Saxon and early medieval pottery (Heritage Network 2009; Heritage Network 2010). This shows a considerable degree of continuity of settlement close to the core of the village.

3.3 Henlow is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Haneslauue*. At this time, the village was divided between up to five 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.

3.4 Little evidence of the medieval village of Henlow (HER 17111) remains. St Mary's Church, located approximately 200m to the south-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.

3.5 The existing village is characterised by a number of post-medieval buildings (some of which may have medieval origins) and by the 19^{th} 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.

Conclusions

3.6 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

3.7 It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to a number of regional research topics, including the chronology and dynamics of settlement in the Henlow area during the prehistoric and Roman periods, with particular reference to the late Bronze – early Iron Age (Oake et al 2007, p.59-61) and late Iron Age - Romano-British transition periods (ibid, pp.66-67; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, p.16).

• No evidence for activity for prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered during the present project.

3.8 It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of Henlow's position in the general pattern of contemporary settlements within the Ivel/Ouse river system, and of the relationship between the medieval settlement and its prehistoric antecedent (Oake et al 2007, p.59-61, 66-67).

- No evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity was encountered during the present project.
- Two definite archaeological features were encountered during the present evaluation, of which one contained two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, indicative of activity of this period in the vicinity.
- The study area is located on the eastern side of the main village street and the features identified in Trench 2 may represent activity in back plots associated with properties fronting the street.

3.9 It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of rural settlement in Bedfordshire from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards (Oake et al 2007, p.14; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, pp.24-25).

- One of the features investigated during the present project, pit [201], contained two sherds of pottery, dating to between the 9th-11th centuries, and a number of fragments of cattle bone. Although the pit is unlikely to represent a domestic refuse pit, the finds indicate occupation of this date in the immediate vicinity, possibly located along the road frontage. A second, possibly contemporary, feature, cut [203], may represent either a small pit or the terminus of a linear feature.
- The evidence from the present site, together with that recorded from the archaeological investigations to the rear of 109-113 High Street (Heritage Network 2010), indicates possible ribbon development along High Street in the later Saxon period.

3.10 It was considered that the present project had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the character and development of the early medieval and later settlement at Henlow (Oake et al 2007, Chapters 2 & 5; Brown and Glazebrook 2000, pp.23-26).

- Evidence for early medieval activity was recorded during the present investigation. A single pit, cut [201], containing two pottery sherds of late Saxon early medieval date, was encountered in Trench 2. Although no clear evidence for the pit's function was present, its size and profile, together with the relative lack of finds, suggests that it may have been a small gravel extraction pit.
- A possible pit, or the butt end of a linear feature, cut [203], was also encountered in Trench 2. No finds were present to date this feature, but its fill was similar to that of [201], suggesting that it may be contemporary.
- Evidence for late Saxon/early medieval activity has been recorded from the present site at the northern end of Henlow, and from the rear of 109-113 High Street, at the southern end of the village. This suggests that Saxo-Norman occupation may have extended further north along the line of High Street, at least on the eastern side than the later village, which is located to the south of the parish church.

• No evidence for later medieval and post-medieval activity was encountered during the present project. The study area appears to have been used as thoroughfare from High Street to the land now occupied by the Gardener's Lane housing estate from at least the late 19th century (<u>www.old-maps.co.uk</u>).

3.11 A number of undated features were also present in Trench 2. Their irregular shape and the nature of their fills, together with their lack of finds, suggest that they are of natural origin.

3.12 In conclusion, the present evaluation has demonstrated that the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be Low for the prehistoric, Roman and early-middle Saxon periods. However, the risk of the development disturbing remains of late Saxon and early medieval date may be considered to be *High*.

Confidence Rating

3.13 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

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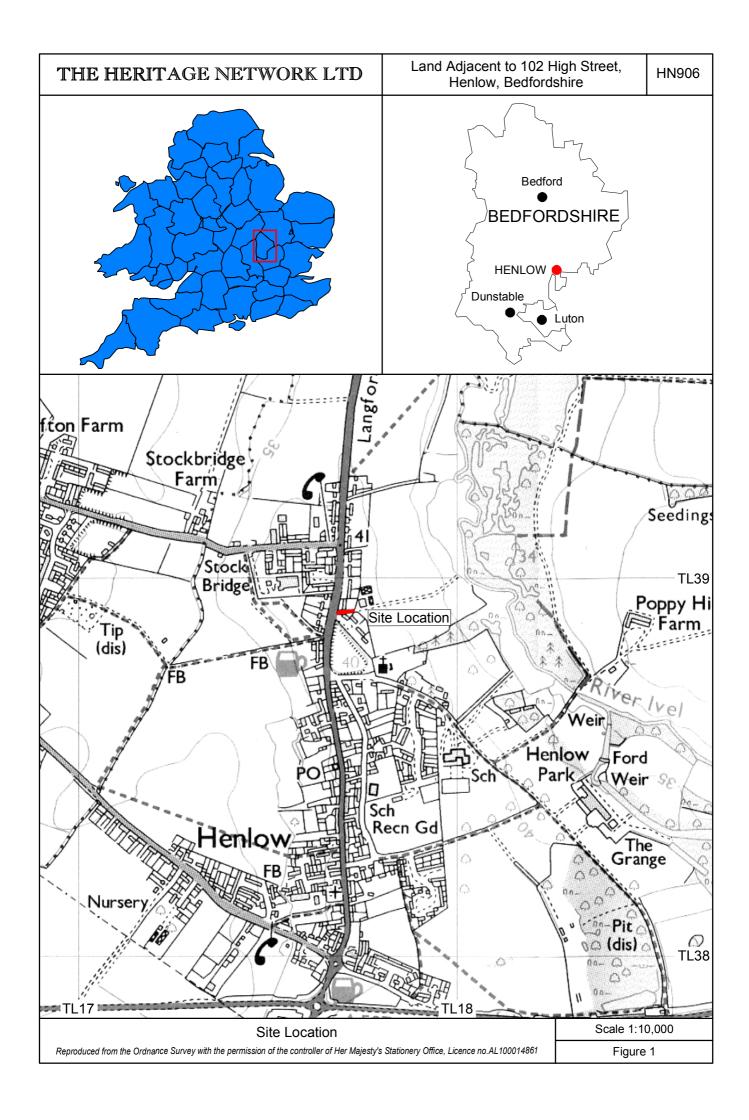
Sankaran, V. & Sherlock, D. 1977 (eds.) Domesday Book: Bedfordshire. Chichester: Phillimore

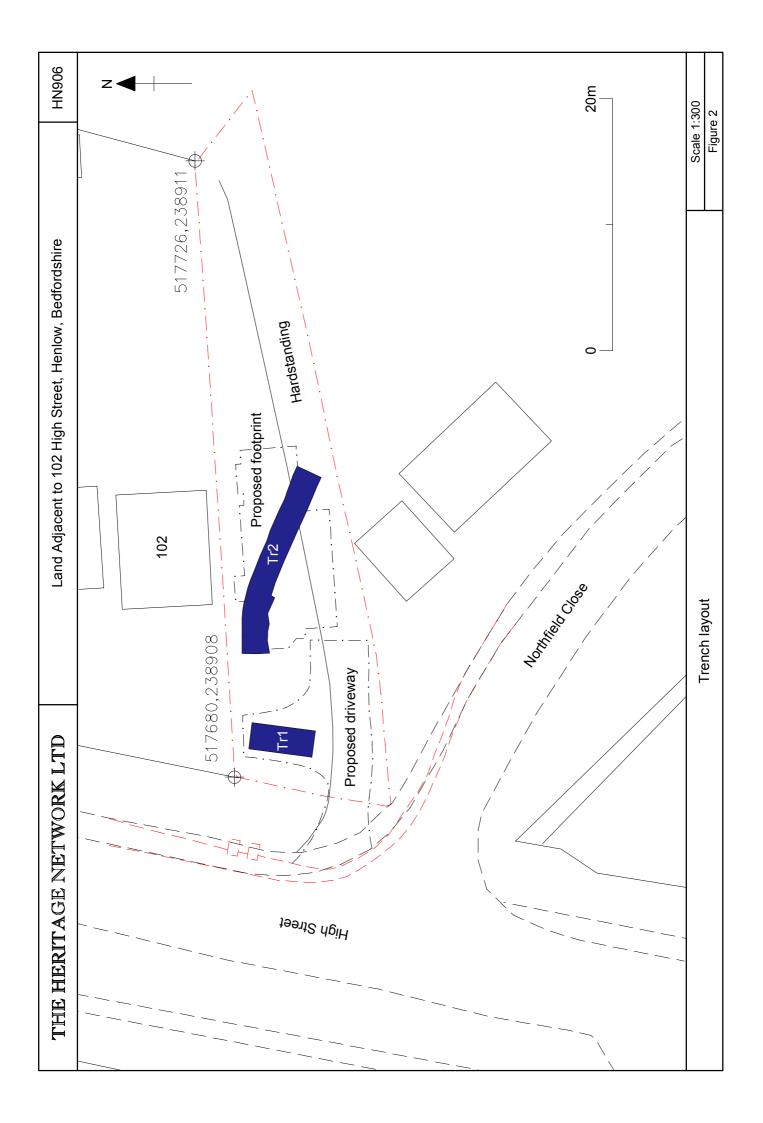
Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 19831:250,000 Soil Map of England & Wales, Sheet 4, Eastern England. SSEW

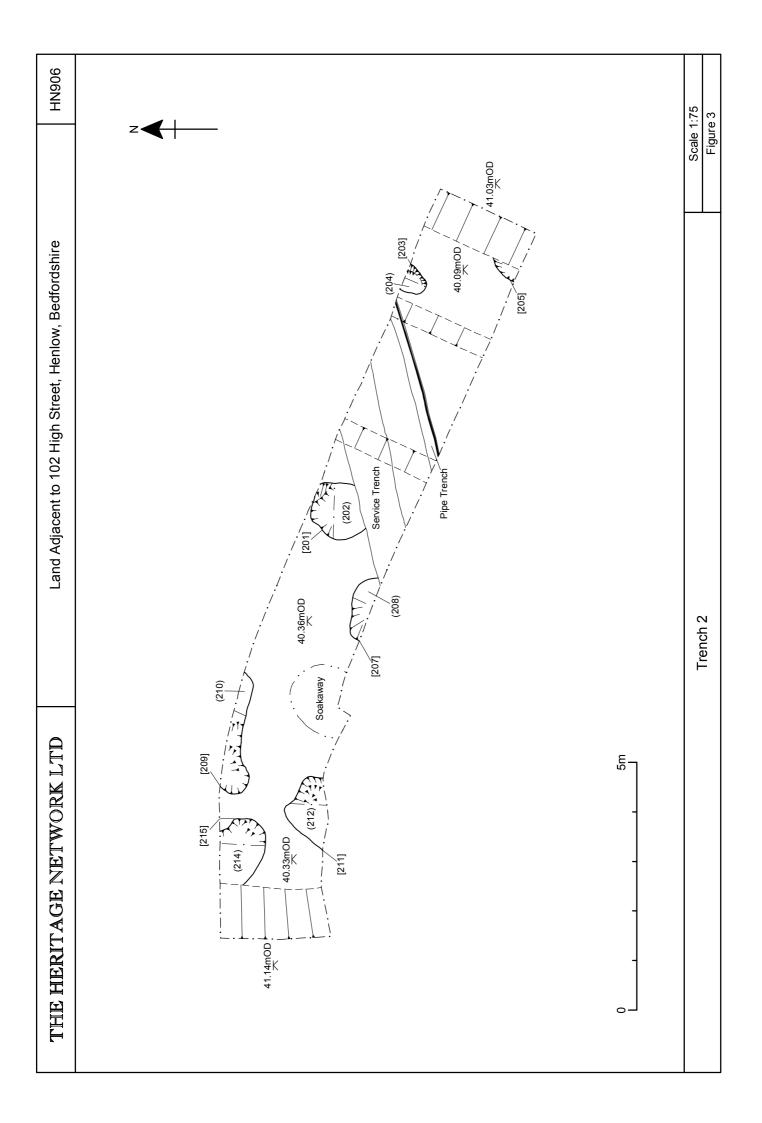
5 Illustrations

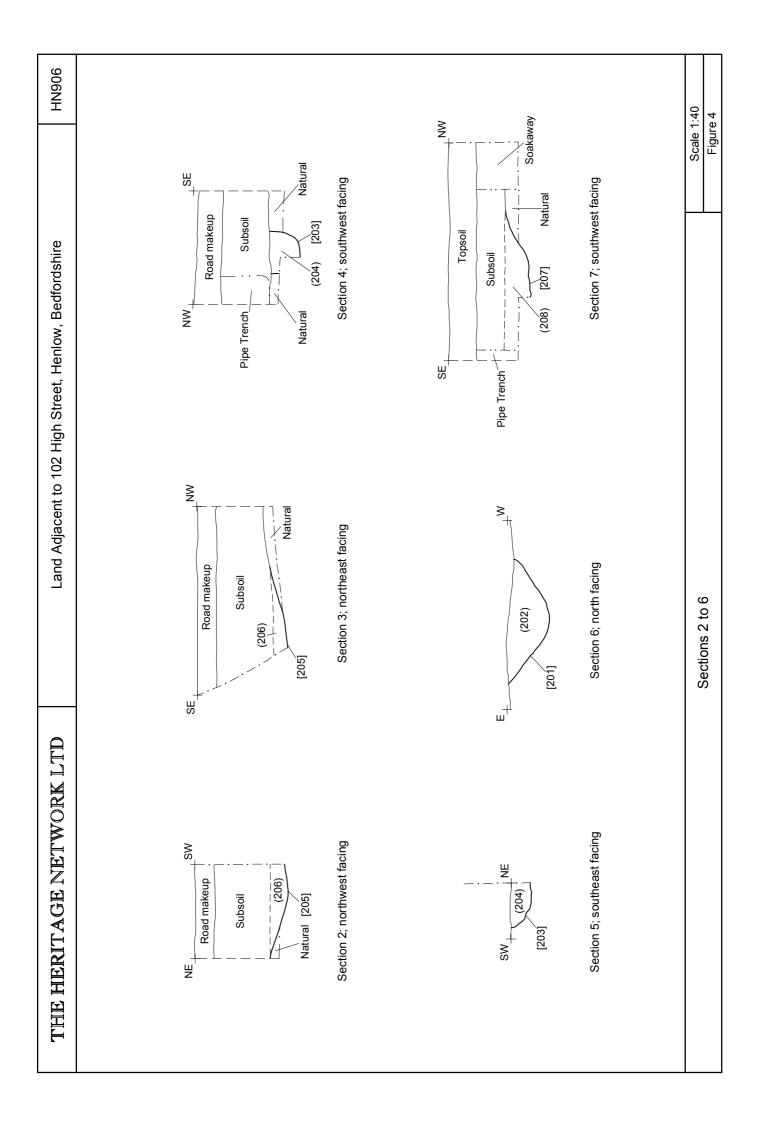
Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench layout
Figure 3	Trench 1
Figure 4	Sections 2 to 6
Figure 5	Sections 8 to 11

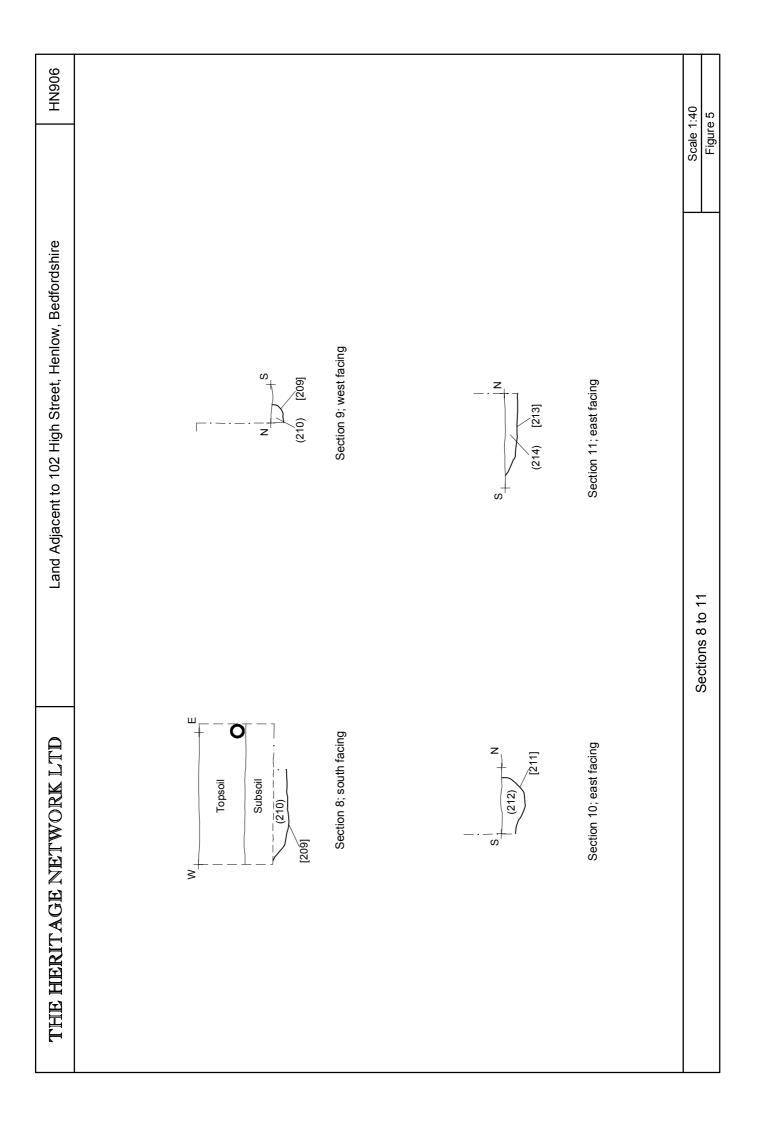
Plate 1	General site view, looking west
Plate 2	Trench 1, looking north
Plate 3	Trench 2, looking northwest
Plate 4	Trench 2, looking southeast
Plate 5	.Features [209], [211] & [213], looking east
Plate 6	Pit [201], looking south
Plate 7	Pit [201], looking east
Plate 8	Pit [203], looking northwest











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Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north.

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Plate 4: Trench 2, looking southeast.

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Plate 6: Pit [201], looking south.



Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-92337					
Project details					
Project name	Henlow, land adj to 102 High Street				
Short description of the project	In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land adjacent to 102 High Street, Henlow, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.				
	Two trenches were opened, with Trench 1 located across the drive and Trench 2 across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. No archaeological features deposits or finds were present in Trench 1, but a number of features were revealed in Trench 2. The majority of these appear to be of natural origin.				
	A single dated feature was encountered. This was a sub-circular pit which contained two sherds of pottery dating to between the 9 th and 11 th centuries, together with cattle horn core and mandible fragments. No evidence for its function was identified, but it may represent a small gravel extraction pit. A second undated, but possibly contemporary, feature was also encountered.				
Project dates	Start: 08-03-2011 End: 10-03-2011				
Previous/future work	No / Not known				
Project code	HN906 – Contracting unit no.				
Type of project	Field evaluation				
Site status	None				
Current Land use	Other 13 – Waste ground				
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval				
Significant Finds	POT Early Medieval				
Significant Finds	POT Medieval				
Methods	'Targeted Trenches'				
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)				
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS				
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)				
Project location					
Country	England				
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE HENLOW Land adj to 102 High Street				
Postcode	SG16 6AE				
Study area	500 Square metres				
Site coordinates	TL 17699 38906 52.0356189563 -0.283944348772 52 02 08 N 000 17 02 W Point				
Height OD / Depth	Height OD / Depth Min: 40.09m Max: 40.33m				
Project creators					
Organisation	Heritage Network				
Project brief author	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body				

Project design author	Heritage Network
Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Funding body	Landowner
	Project archives
Physical Archive?	Yes
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Digital Media ?	'Images raster / digital photography' 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Media?	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey'
	Project bibliography
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Adjacent to 102 HIGH STREET, Henlow, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report no. 649
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	The Heritage Network Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 12 pages, 5 Figures, 8 Plates