

HERITAGE NETWORK



**1 LUTON ROAD
Wilstead, Beds.**

HN909

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

1 LUTON ROAD,
Wilstead, Beds.

Project ref.: HN909
LPA ref.: 10/02637/FUL
Museum Accession no.: BEDFM 2011.26

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of James Developments

by

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Report no. 648

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The front cover shows the site looking southeast

Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Richard Sheen, Triad Planning and Design Ltd; James Developments Ltd; and Geoff Saunders, Archaeology Officer, Bedford Borough Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire, MK45 3EP		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Bedford Borough
Village/town:	Wilstead	Parish:	Wilshamstead
Planning reference:	10/02637/FUL	NGR:	TL 06437 43613
Client name and address:	James Developments c/o Triad Planning and Design Ltd, The Old Dairy, Manor Farmhouse, Manor Road, Barton Le Clay, Bedford, MK45 4NP		
Nature of work:	Rural residential	Current land use:	Garden
Site Status:	n/a	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPS5)
Position in planning process:	After full determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c.495m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.32m ²
Site code:	HN909	Other reference:	Museum accession: BEDFM 2011.26
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Field evaluation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work:	29/03/11	Finish of work:	29/03/2011
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	None
OASIS UID:	heritage1-93701	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	n/a		
Physical archive:	n/a		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In response to the requirements of the planning permission for the development of land at 1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Beds, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site.

Two trial trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a stratigraphy consisting of topsoil over the natural clay. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** This *report* has been prepared at the request of Triad Planning and Design Ltd, acting on behalf of James Developments, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of the proposed development of land at 1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire.
- 1.2** Planning permission for the development (ref: 10/02637/FUL) was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). Condition 8 of the planning consent states that:
- No development shall take place until the applicant, or developer, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- 1.3** The programme of work on the present site forms an incremental process that may include one or more stages of field investigation, analysis and report preparation, leading to the publication of the findings and the deposition of the project archive with an approved repository.
- 1.4** The site is located to the centre of Wilstead, on the southeast corner of the junction of Luton Road and Cotton End Road and is centred on NGR: TL 06437 43613 (Figure 1). It forms the garden to the north of number 1 Luton Road and is bounded by the garden of number 3 to the south and number 8 Cotton End Road to the east.
- 1.5** The site lies on the cross roads, believed to form the core of the medieval village of Wilstead (HER17052), where there is the potential for archaeological remains relating to the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods. Archaeological work within the village itself has recovered pottery dating to the 11th and 12th century, while the evidence for the wider archaeological landscape suggests that Wilstead falls within a broad pattern of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement across the Marston Vale.
- 1.6** The proposed development entails the construction of two new detached dwellings, together with associated access, services and landscaping.
- 1.7** 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 (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al 2007; Medlycott & Brown 2008), should they be discovered.
- 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.
- 1.9** It was considered that this investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of settlement in Wilstead during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, as part of the broader pattern of landscape development in Bedfordshire (Oake et al 2007). There was also the potential to examine the early establishment of Anglo-Saxon settlement within the Late Romano-

British landscape and to identify continuity and change from the Later Saxon period into the early medieval (Oake *et al* 2007).

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1** The study area is located at the junction of Cotton End Road and Luton Road, on level ground at a height of approximately 38m AOD. The land currently forms a garden area and is surrounded by residential houses.
- 2.2** The solid geology of the study area consists of Jurassic and Cretaceous clays, overlain by soils of the Evesham 3 Association (411c) which are described as:
- Slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils.* (SSEW 1983).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.3** The present village of Wilstead is located within the Marston Vale, where previous archaeological work has identified significant evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity. Excavations close to Luton Road, approximately 350m to the southwest of the present site, revealed a small farming settlement of Iron Age origin that appears to have continued into the Romano-British period (HER 18220). The excavations also produced evidence of medieval and post-medieval date.
- 2.4** The first historical reference to Wilstead is from the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morris 1976) where the manor of Wilshamstead is described as held by Countess Judith, but given to the Abbey of St Mary's of Elstow in alms. The description of the manor's assets includes villagers, smallholders and freemen, suggesting that the village was well established prior to the survey and is probably of Anglo-Saxon origins.
- 2.5** The historical core of the village appears to be dominated by the cross roads between Luton Road, Church Road and Cotton End Road (HER 17052), although the parish also contained the smaller and now deserted hamlet of Duck End (HER 17053).
- 2.6** The fabric of the church of All Saints (HER 3603) dates to the 14th century, although historical records indicate that there may have been an earlier church in the parish. In addition, archaeological works in the village have recovered pottery dating to the 11th and 12th centuries (HER 16333).
- 2.7** The present village contains a number of listed buildings dating from the post-medieval and early modern periods.

METHODOLOGY

- 2.8** 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.
- 2.9** Two trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. They were opened using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 1.2m 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 metal finds. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.
- 2.10** 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.

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

RESULTS

2.12 Two evaluation trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new dwellings. The stratigraphy was uniform across the site and consisted of a dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay topsoil which overlay the light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) clay natural.

Trench 1

2.13 Trench 1 was located at the western end of the site (Figure 2). It was orientated approximately east to west and measured 10.50m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m (Plate 1).

2.14 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the trench.

Trench 1 data:

Length (m):	10.50	Width (m):	1.60	Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	38.52	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	38.63
		Base	38.13			Base	38.32
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay topsoil.	10.50+	1.60+	0.25		
-	Layer	Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) clay natural.	10.50+	1.60+	-		

Trench 2

2.15 Trench 2 was located at the east end of the site (Figure 2). It was orientated northwest to southeast and measured 10.00m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m (Plate 2).

2.16 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the trench.

Trench 2 data:

Length (m):	10.00	Width (m):	1.60	Maximum Depth (m):	0.51	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench(mOD)		Top	38.06	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	38.08
		Base	37.71			Base	37.57
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay topsoil.	10.00+	1.60+	0.34		
-	Layer	Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) clay natural.	10.00+	1.60+	-		

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

- 3.1** The present site lies on the south-eastern side of the cross roads, believed to form the core of the medieval village of Wilstead (HER17052). On this basis it was considered that there was the potential for uncovering archaeological remains relating to the Saxo-Norman and medieval periods. Previous archaeological fieldwork within the village has recovered pottery dating to the 11th and 12th century, while the evidence for the wider archaeological landscape suggests that Wilstead falls within a broad pattern of Iron Age and Romano-British settlement across the Marston Vale.
- 3.2** Two trenches were excavated across the site to investigate its archaeological potential. They revealed a thin layer of topsoil covering the natural geology. No evidence for archaeological features, deposits or finds was present in either trench.
- 3.3** The lack of any significant quantity of material covering the natural geology, together with the lack of any archaeological remains, indicates that the site may have been previously reduced, possibly during construction of no.1 Luton Road.

Confidence Rating

- 3.4** During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4 Bibliography

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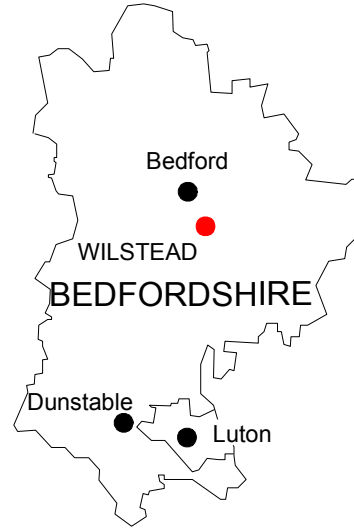
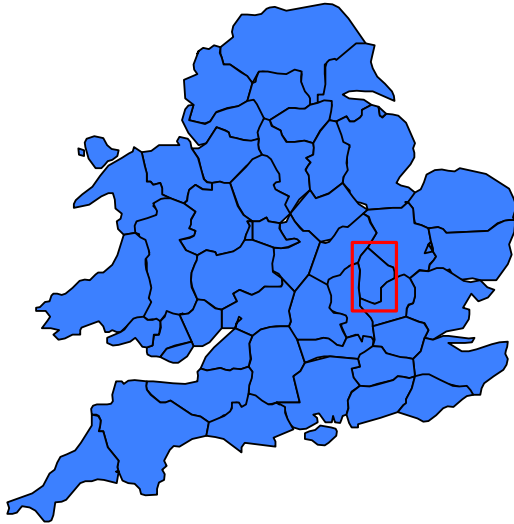
5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking east
Plate 2	Trench 2, looking southeast

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1 Luton Road, Wilstead. Bedfordshire

HN909



Site Location

Scale 1:10000

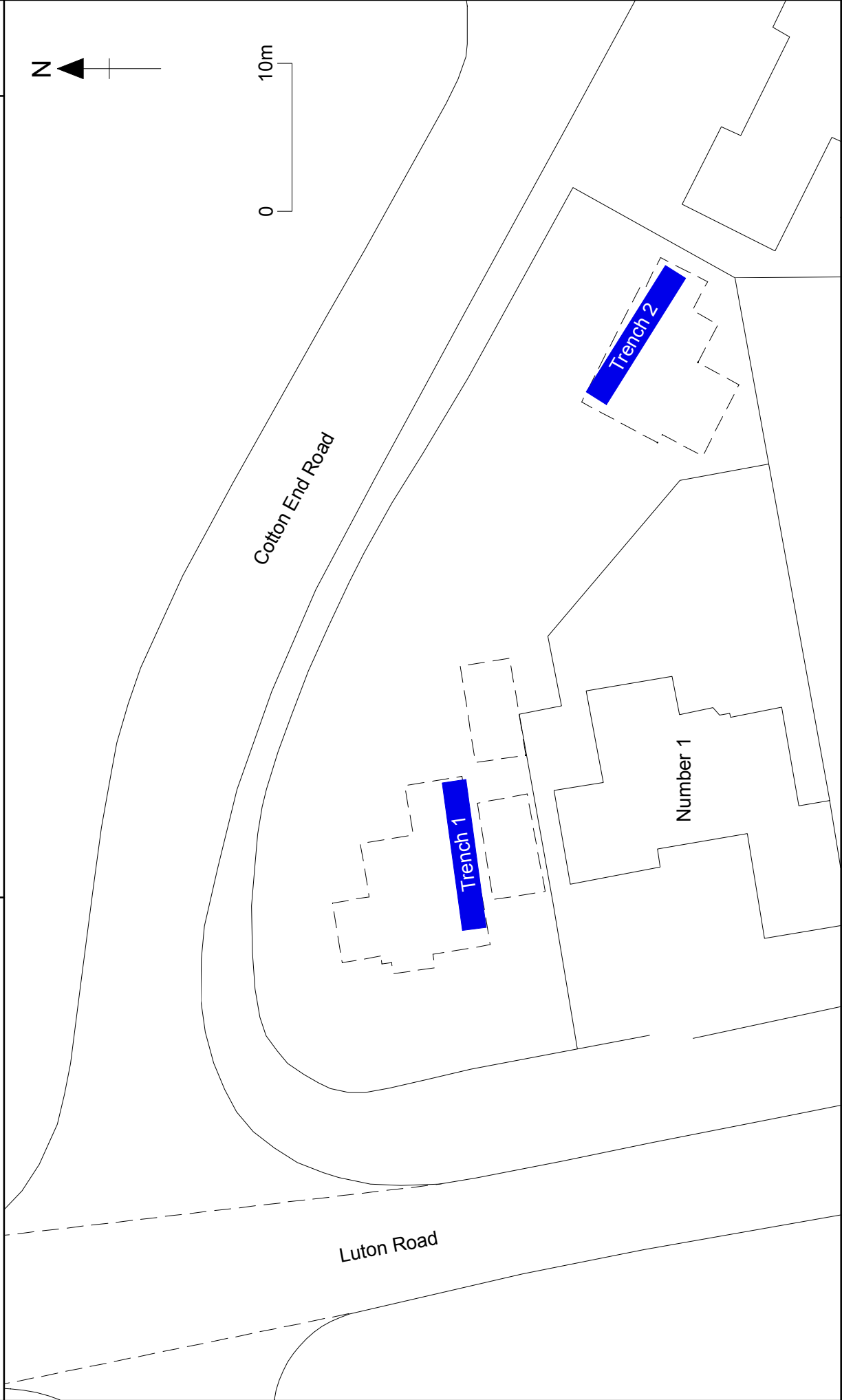
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Figure 1

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1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire

HN909



Site layout

Scale 1:350

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking southeast

6 Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-93701</i>	
<i>Project details</i>	
Project name	Wilstead, 1 Luton Road
Short description of the project	In response to the requirements of the planning permission for the development of land at 1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Beds, the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site. Two trial trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a general stratigraphy consisting of topsoil over the natural clay. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. On the basis of these results, the risk that the development might encounter archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be Low for all periods.
Project dates	Start: 29-03-2011 End: 29-03-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN909 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2011.26 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<i>Project location</i>	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD WILSHAMSTEAD Wilstead, 1 Luton Road
Postcode	MK45 3EP
Study area	495.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 06437 43613 52.0802070623 -0.446608962096 52 04 48 N 000 26 47 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.25m Max: 0.34m
<i>Project creators</i>	
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	Mark Winter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	James Developments
<i>Project archives</i>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '
<i>Project bibliography 1</i>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	1 Luton Road, Wilstead, Beds.: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Winter, M.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 648
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	The Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herfordshire
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 8 pages, 2 figures, 2 plates