

11-15 HIGH STREET SOUTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU6 3RZ

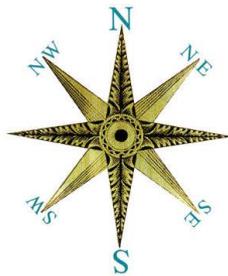
A programme of archaeological evaluation



22/06/2016

VERSION 1.1

COMPASS



ARCHAEOLOGY

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A programme of archaeological evaluation

Planning Reference: CB/14/04720/FULL
Site code: HSS16
Luton Culture Museum Entry Number: 1243
NGR (centre): TL 01950 21845

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED
250 YORK ROAD, BATTERSEA,
LONDON SW11 3SJ

Telephone: 020 7801 9444

e-mail: mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk

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Abstract

Compass Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation exercise on the site of 11-15 High Street South between 24th March and 5th April 2016 ahead of redevelopment works.

The site lies close to the historic centre of Dunstable; immediately southeast of the crossroads between the prehistoric Icknield Way and Roman Watling Street, and west of Dunstable Priory one of the most powerful medieval institutions of the 12th-15th centuries.

As such the redevelopment was subject to an archaeological planning condition requiring a programme of strip; map and sample to be carried out prior to development, (condition 9 attached to planning application approval CB/14/04720/FULL). As a preliminary informative exercise and for geotechnical purposes it was agreed that a series of 8 trial trenches be dug within the footprint of the existing building to better gauge the level and condition of archaeological survival across the site. In the event an additional pit was dug in the rear yard of the property for water infiltration testing making a total of 9 trial trenches.

Archaeological deposits and features were encountered in 8 of the 9 trial trenches, including former cellars, wall footings, construction and demolition surfaces, post-holes, stake holes and several large pits, dating from the 14th century to the 1950s. A relatively large assemblage of post-medieval pottery of 17th to 19th century date was recovered from the backfilled pits and cellars, and several sherds of residual 12th to 14th century pottery were also identified. A single sherd of Roman-British grog-tempered ware indicates nearby Roman activity. Archaeology was often encountered immediately below the existing concrete floor slab meaning that extreme caution should be taken during initial clearance during the next stage of fieldwork.

The most interesting feature encountered was in the 9th trial trench in the rear yard of the property. In the southeast section of the pit a large Totternhoe clunch wall footing was unearthed aligned NNW-SSE. Dumped against this wall footing was a large quantity of demolition debris comprised of mortar dust mixed with crushed tile, chalk and Totternhoe clunch. This material was probably derived from the building associated with the footing, and the size and form of the footing suggests it is related to the medieval Priory. Its presence hints at significant archaeological deposits surviving towards the rear of the property which could provide an insight into the layout and function of the wider Priory precinct.

Natural chalk was encountered in 6 of the 9 trial trenches at depths of between 0.17m and 0.93m below the existing ground surfaces, indicating that the depth of horizontal stratigraphy varies across the site.

In light of the observations made during the trial trench evaluation several new research questions have been added to the original aims set out in the WSI for the archaeological fieldwork.

Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
2 Site location, geology and topography	3
3 Site background	5
4 Archaeological research questions	11
5 Methodology	12
6 Results	15
7 Conclusions and recommendations	37
8 Sources	40
Appendix I Context list	41
Appendix II Trench plans, levels and sections	43
Appendix III The Pottery by <i>Paul Blinkhorn</i>	49
Appendix IV Ceramic Building Material analysis by <i>Susan Pringle</i>	51
Appendix V Clay Tobacco Pipe by <i>James Aaronson</i>	54
Appendix VI OASIS data collection form	56
Appendix VII Summary for excavation round-up publications	59

List of figures

Front cover – Aerial view with the development site outlined in red

		Page
Fig.1	OS location plan	1
Fig.2	Site plan, detail	3
Fig.3	The site in relation to underlying geology, (extract from BGS Sheet 220: Leighton Buzzard)	4
Fig.4	The site in relation to the major medieval institutions	5
Fig.5	Site plan showing the location of evaluation trenches 1-9	15
Fig.6	Trench 1 facing NW	16
Fig.7	Trench 1 facing NE	17
Fig.8	Trench 2 facing NE	18
Fig.9	Trench 2 facing SW	19
Fig.10	Pottery from pit [204]	20
Fig.11	Pit 3 facing SW	21
Fig.12	Trench 4 facing SW	22
Fig.13	Trench 5 facing NW	24
Fig.14	Trench 5 facing SE	25
Fig.15	Medieval pottery from context (504)	26
Fig.16	Post-medieval pottery from deposit (504)	26
Fig.17	Trench 6 facing NE	28
Fig.18	Trench 6 facing N	29
Fig.19	Trench 7 facing NW	30
Fig.20	Trench 7 facing SE	30
Fig.21	Trench 7 facing NE	31
Fig.22	Trench 8 facing SSW; surface (801)	32

Fig.23	Trench 8 facing SSW; surface (803)	33
Fig.24	Partial medieval monastic floor tile recovered from surface (802), dated c1200-1500AD	33
Fig.25	Trench 9 facing NE	35
Fig.26	Trench 9 facing SE	35
Fig.27	Trench 9 facing W	36
Fig.28	Trench 9 facing NE; detail of wall footing [903]	36
Fig.29	Plans of Trenches 1-3, (originals drawn at 1:20)	43
Fig.30	Plans of Trenches 4-6, (originals drawn at 1:20)	44
Fig.31	Plans of Trenches 7-9, (originals drawn at 1:20)	45
Fig.32	Sections through Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 (originals drawn at 1:10)	47
Fig.33	Sections through Trenches 7, 8 and 9 (originals drawn at 1:10)	48

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Fig.5 adapted from original drawings provided by the client and drawn by NFA architects limited

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological programme of evaluation on land at 11-15 High Street South in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 3RZ, (fig.1).

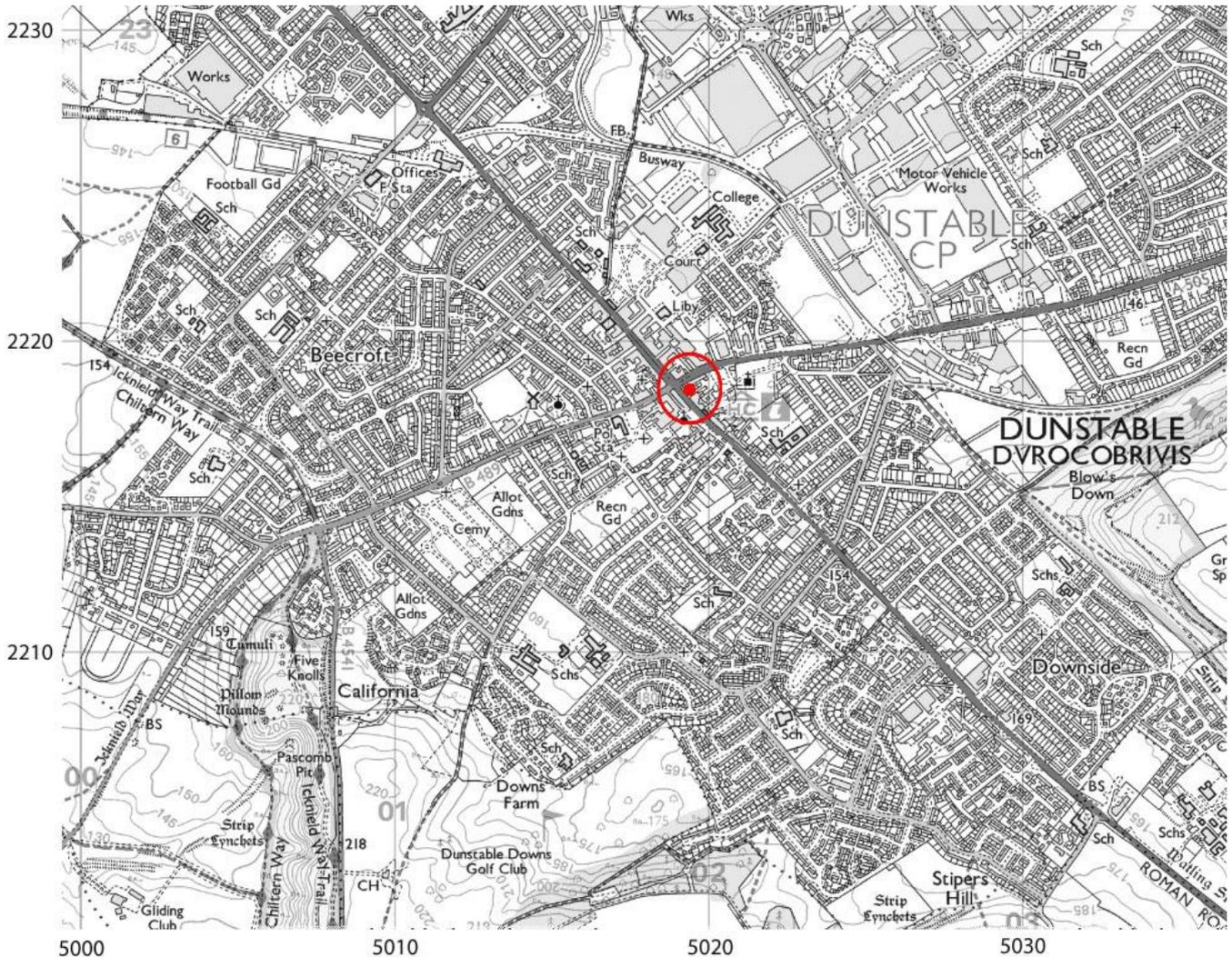


Fig.1: OS location plan with site ringed in red

1.2 The present site is due to be redeveloped; with the existing two-storey building demolished and a new mixed-use development being built in its stead. The new development will comprise commercial space on the ground floor and 26 residential units over an additional three upper floors, with associated parking and access / landscaping works to be carried out across the site, (planning reference CB/14/04720/FULL). The new development will cover a similar footprint to the existing building but with a flush rear wall and a correspondingly slightly larger car park to the rear.

- 1.3** A previous Heritage Statement to accompany the original planning application¹ has demonstrated that the site lies in the centre of the historic core of Roman and medieval Dunstable focussed round the intersection of the prehistoric Icknield Way, (modern day West Street-Church Street), and Roman Watling Street, (modern day High Street North-High Street South). The Scheduled Ancient Monument, (SAM), of the Augustinian Priory of Dunstable lies immediately to the east of the site, and the site fell within the wider Priory precinct. The site has been occupied by street frontage buildings since at least the mid-18th century based on the surviving cartographic evidence, and probably longer. As such it was deemed necessary for a programme of archaeological mitigation to be attached to the approved planning permission as a pre-development condition. The planning condition is reproduced in full below²:

‘The Council as the Local Planning Authority hereby gives notice of its decision to GRANT PERMISSION for the development specified above and shown on the submitted plans, subject to the following conditions:

9 No demolition or development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation for a strip; map and sample excavation followed by post excavation analysis and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The said development shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved archaeological scheme.

Reason: To record and advance understanding of the heritage assets with archaeological interest which will be unavoidably affected as a consequence of the development. (Policy 45, DCSB)’

- 1.4** The initial archaeological mitigation included the monitoring of three geotechnical test pits and the excavation of a further five archaeological test pits across the existing site footprint to gauge the depth, nature and extent of archaeological survival on the site prior to demolition of the standing structure. In addition a ninth pit was dug in the rear yard for water infiltration testing. This document details the results of this initial stage and will be used in part to inform the next stage of works detailed in section 1.5 below.
- 1.5** Upon demolition of the existing buildings the site will be stripped of modern overburden to expose archaeological deposits and a hand excavation sampling strategy implemented to record and interpret the surviving archaeology in record before it is lost. The evaluation stage detailed in this report was conducted to better inform the methodology and likely scope of this secondary phase of works.

¹ Albion Archaeology, (2014)

² Pers.comm. Andrew Davie, 01/04/15

2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 The site lies on the east side of High Street South, c35m from the junction of West Street - Church Street and High Street North - High Street South. The site is adjacent to No.9 High Street South, to the northwest, with which it shares a party wall, a further pedestrian and vehicular access links the rear of the site with Church Street further to the northwest. The narrow pedestrian alley known as Church Walk runs along the southeastern boundary of the site. The rear of the site backs onto a car parking area to the rear of properties fronting onto Church Street., (fig.2)

The site is aligned northeast - southwest and measures c17.5m across its southeastern frontage and is c59m long. This amounts to a development area of c895m².

The site is currently occupied by an early 20th century, two-storey commercial building, (originally Woolworths / now Londis), occupying the full width of the southeastern frontage, extending 44m back, with a rear yard area occupying the northwestern end of the site. The property has been vacant for several years now and soft stripped of much of its modern interior features.

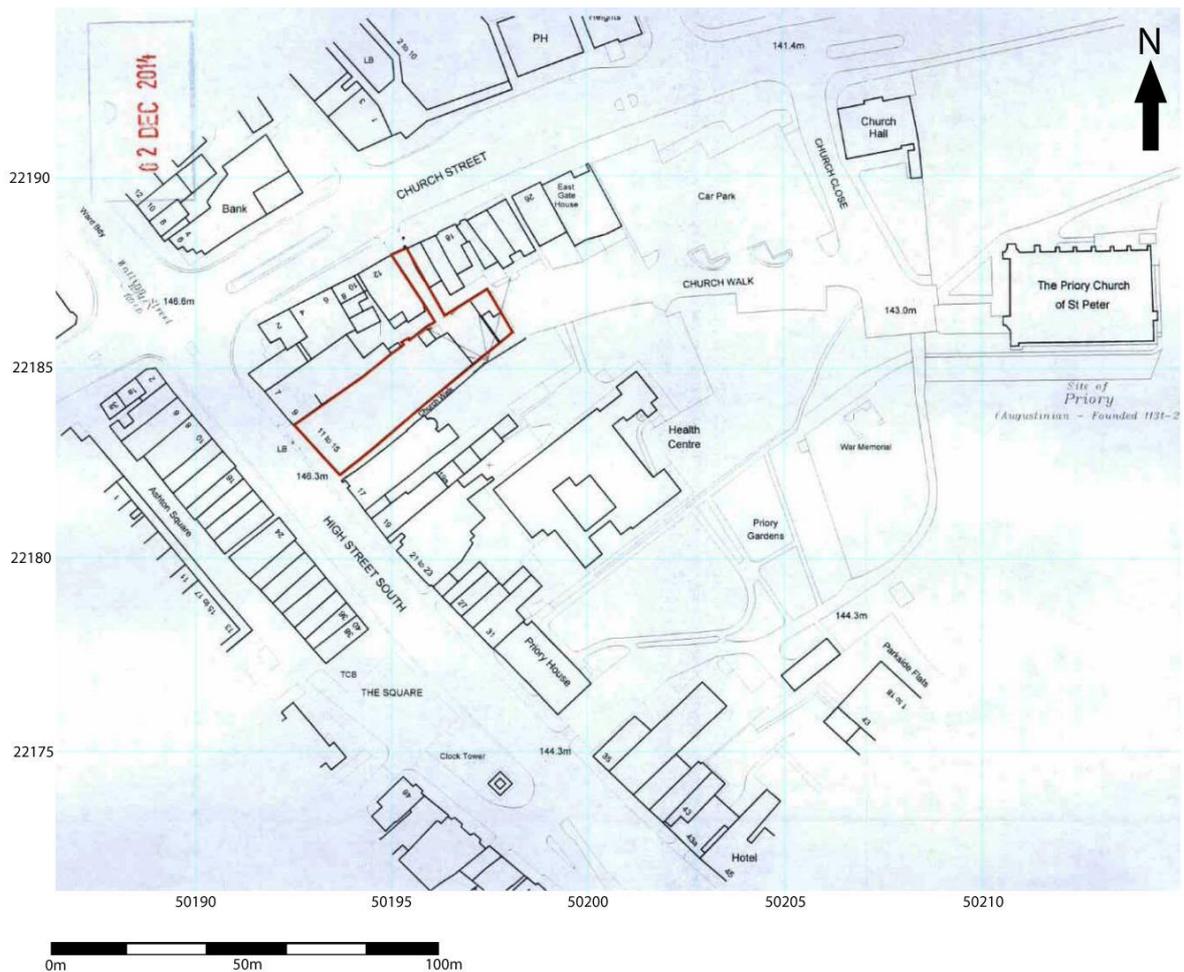


Fig.2: Site plan, detail. The red outline indicates the area to be subjected to strip; map and sampling

2.2 The British Geological Survey, (Sheet 220: Leighton Buzzard not shown here), indicates that the site lies over an area of middle chalk with clay-flints, with surrounding areas of upper chalk containing limestone to the south and lower chalk to the north, (see fig.3).

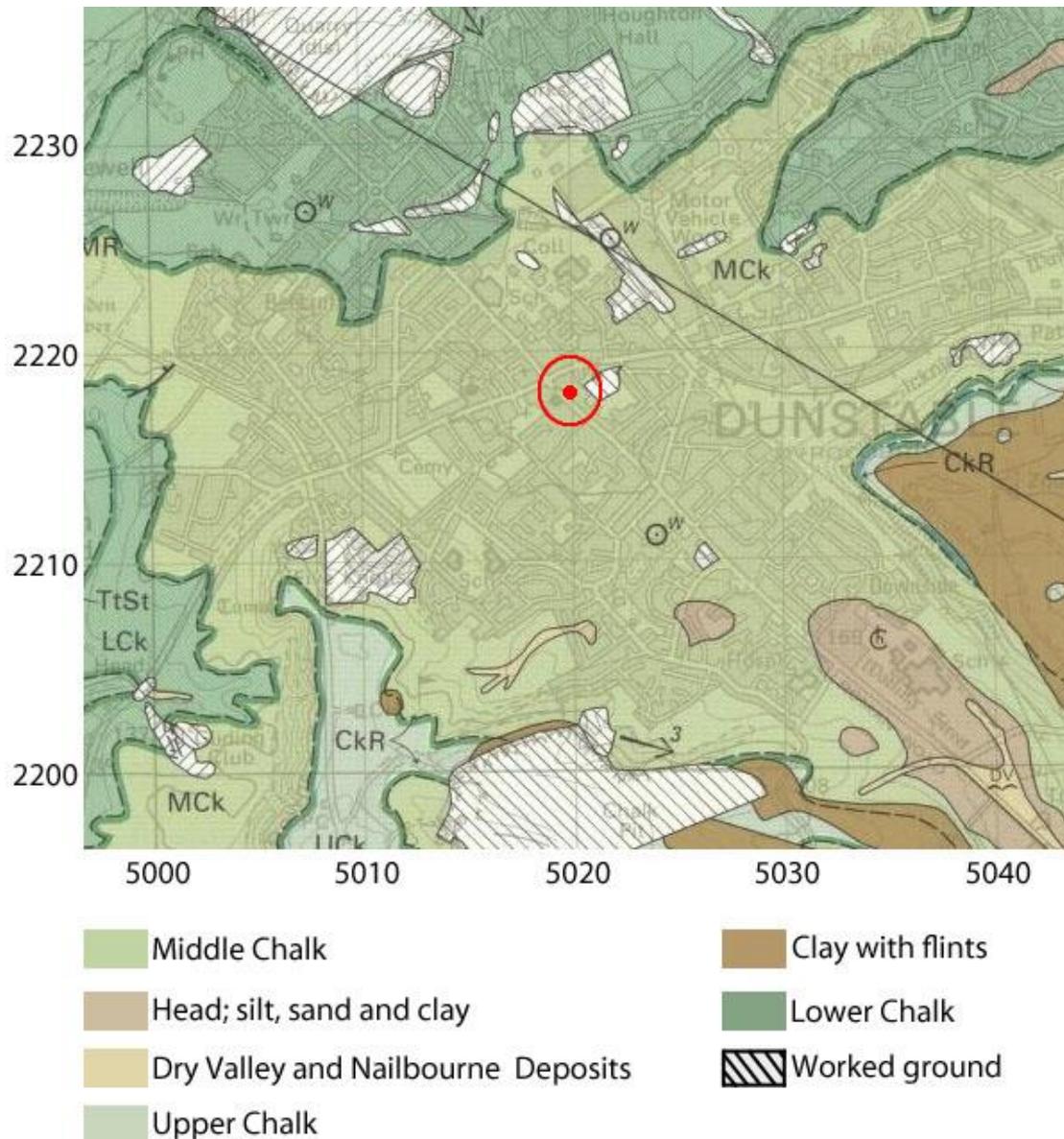


Fig.3: The site in relation to underlying geology, (extract from BGS Sheet 220: Leighton Buzzard)

2.3 The development site itself lies on relatively even ground at a height of $c145.90\text{m OD}$ to $c146.30\text{m OD}$, northeast - southwest. The wider natural topography gently falls away along High Street South on a southeast - northwest downward slope, reflecting Dunstable's location at the bottom of the Chiltern Ridge.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the development site has previously been discussed in a Heritage statement prepared by Albion Archaeology in October 2014 to accompany the original planning application, and of Dunstable as a whole in an Archaeological Assessment by Albion Archaeology in 2003. Compass Archaeology also detailed the site history in the Written Scheme of Investigation written to accompany the evaluation. Therefore only the most pertinent details will be repeated here.

Much of the following section is based upon records held by the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record, (CBHER), which was consulted on the 2nd February 2016. A 400m radius search was made, centred round the development site, under CBHER Search No.201516/286. References made to features brought up in the CBHER search in the following sections are prefixed HER in the case of monuments, EBD in the case of archaeological excavations, or DBD in the case of Listed buildings.

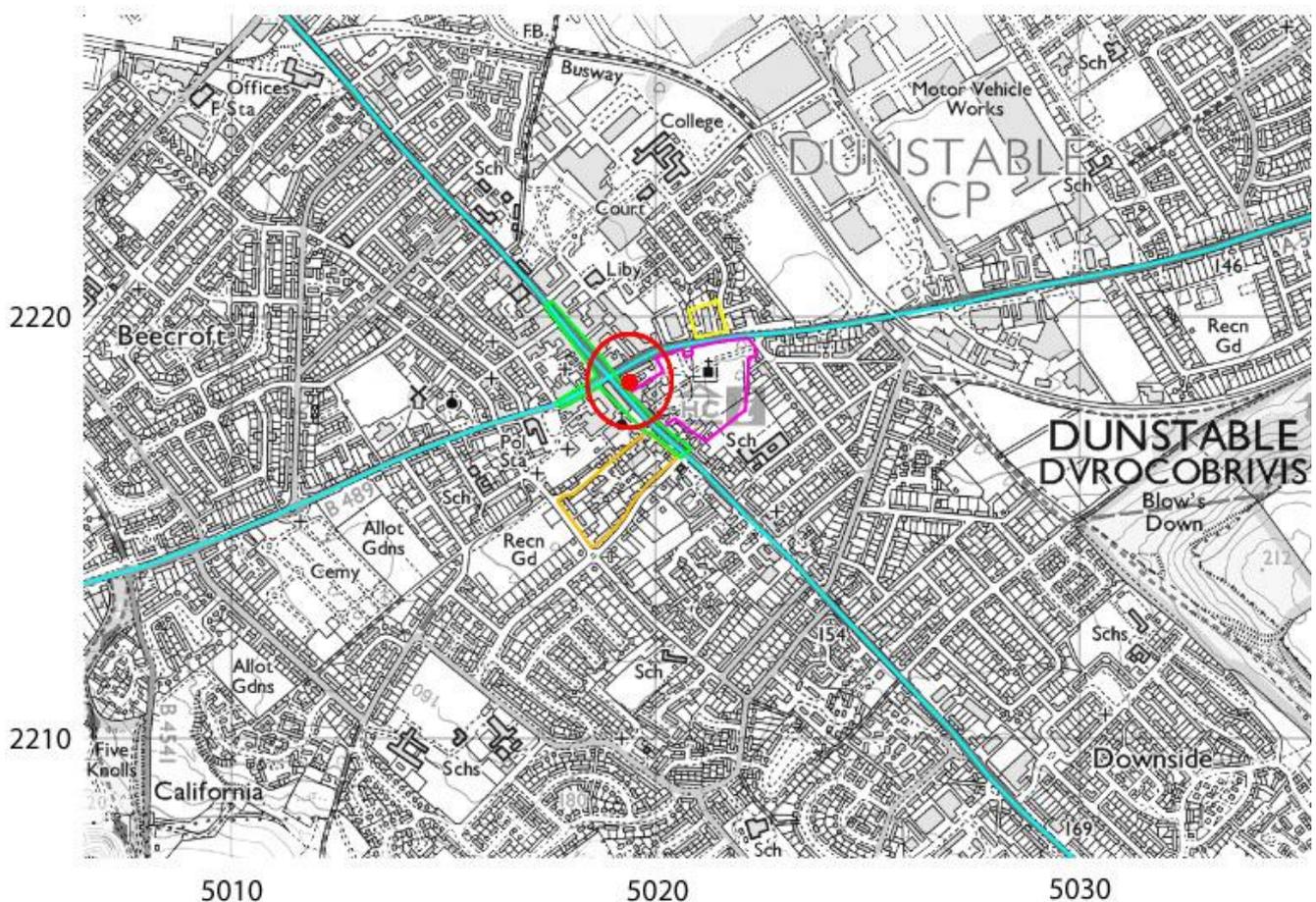


Fig.4: The site in relation to the major medieval institutions; the Augustinian Priory, (purple relating to the SAM area), Dominican Friary, (orange), royal residence of Kingsbury, (yellow), and market, (green). The Roman road of Watling Street runs north-south through the centre of the town in blue, and the ancient Icknield Way is aligned east-west, also in blue, bisecting the town into four 'quadrants'

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 Dunstable sits at the crossroads of two very ancient routes, one of which, The Icknield Way runs roughly west southwest by east northeast through the centre of the old town, preserved in the routes of West Street, (B489), and Church Street, (A505), c35m north of the development site. The Icknield Way runs through the Chiltern Hills along a high ridge forming part of a trade route between southern England and East Anglia and is believed to date from at least the Neolithic period, (HER353).

3.2.2 The site is therefore situated close to an important transport route, and as such numerous communities from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age have made their mark on the surrounding landscape

3.2.3 *The site's proximity to the Icknield Way and the surrounding influence of prehistoric peoples would suggest that even in the heavily urbanised town centre evidence of prehistoric settlers may survive.*

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 Dunstable was occupied by the Romans from at least the 1st century, and was referred to as '*Durocbrivis*' in the Antonine Itinerary. The fact that it is mentioned in such a document and is one of only two Roman towns identified in the county, (Sandy being the second), highlights the significance of the settlement. It probably served as a small station post, guarding the crossroads formed by the Icknield Way, and Watling Street, formed to link London with the north, (HER135). The settlement followed traditional Roman lines in its layout, with two principle roads bisecting the town into four quadrants. The town seems to have been occupied from the early 1st century up until the 5th century, when the settlement appears to have been abandoned, evident from a heightened instance of deliberate backfilling of wells from this period, and sparsity of datable material from the sub-Roman period.

3.3.2 Nos.11-15 High Street South lies within the southeast quadrant of the Roman town, and evidence of Roman occupation is less well represented in this area. Although significant levels of residual Roman and Romano-British material has been recovered from various excavations around the Priory site, and along High Street South, no clear settlement pattern or land use has been revealed. A Roman, military-style, ditch was observed during a watching brief at The Little Theatre in 2003, (EBD1237), and a substantial Roman ditch ran east-west across Dunstable Priory Meadow, measuring c2.3m wide and more than c1.0m deep, (EBD734).

The closest archaeological excavation to the site itself was at the former 'Moore's' building at 21-23 High Street South, c25m southeast of No.11-15, and took place in 2002, (HER17800, EBD725). Trial pits by The Manshead Archaeological Society in the rear gardens of the properties revealed among other features two sections of what was interpreted as Roman timber beam slots orientated parallel to one another on a northwest-southeast alignment, the upper levels of one containing a well preserved coin of Constantine, (317-337AD).

These were divided by a possible Romano-British redeposited chalk floor surface, containing a single unabraded sherd of a poppy-beaker vessel. The features were all cut into the natural chalk, observed at c0.70m below existing ground level³. *It is possible that this represents roadside settlement along Watling Street, but due to a sparsity of supporting evidence the exact nature of this settlement remains unclear. Nevertheless the fact that such remains survive close to the proposed development site, and within the footprint of a site with a similar historic development model, indicate that similar features may equally survive on the development site.*

3.3.3 *11-15 High Street South can therefore be said to lie within the heart of the Roman settlement, close to the focal point of the main crossroads. Although evidence is somewhat limited close to the site in question, this may simply be due to a lack of previous opportunity for excavation in the area).*

3.4 Saxon

3.4.1 Following the departure of Roman forces there was an influx of Saxon settlers into this part of Bedfordshire by 571AD. Dunstable is not mentioned in any Saxon documents or even in the Domesday Book, relatively soon after the Norman Conquest. This is probably more down to the fact that Dunstable at the time was still within the Royal manor of Houghton Regis and so would have been included within its respective Domesday entry.

3.4.2 Dunstable itself has yet to yield any firm evidence of Saxon occupation, but the substantial Saxon cemeteries of Puddle Hill, 2km north, and Marina Drive, 2km to the southwest, (HER496), and Five Knolls, 1.6km southwest, indicate at least some Saxon presence nearby. The latter of these included nearly 100 inhumations inserted into the side of a Bronze Age barrow, indicating an attempt to impose themselves upon the existing landscape or purely a recognition of the sites local spiritual significance.

3.4.3 Due to Dunstable's location at the crossroads it is not credible to suggest that the site was completely abandoned. More likely the administrative / military significance of the site diminished with the removal of the Roman authorities, and the settlement reverted to a market or trade centre within a predominantly agricultural landscape.

3.5 Medieval

3.5.1 It was the importance of Watling Street as a trade route to the north of England that prompted Henry I's decision to have the woods cleared around this section of Watling Street, and a promise of royal favour to any who wished to settle there, that led to the permanent establishment of a settlement at Dunstable, (HER16986, fig.4).

³ Hudspith, R. 'Archaeological Work in Dunstable, 2001-2002' in *Manhsead Magazine* No.42, October 2002 pp6-8.

- 3.5.2** Henry's personal interest in the establishment and success of the settlement went so far as to constructing a royal residence, 'Kingsbury', on the north side of the Icknield Way, later opposite the Priory Churchyard at which he stayed in 1123 and 1132, (HER148, HER15008).

This early period of borough rights and town planning is less well understood both in terms of the historic and archaeological record, and so the opportunity to excavate in such a prominent position within the core of the historic town provides a chance to expose remains associated with this aspect of Dunstable's past.

- 3.5.3** Henry's stop over at Dunstable in 1132 coincided with his establishment of the Augustinian Priory of St Peter at Dunstable in the previous year, (HER131, National Heritage List No.1004676). The Priory and its precinct extended to encompass the northwest corner of the southeastern quadrant of the town, including the area of the development site. The gatehouse is known to have stood c85m to the southeast of the development site. The precinct wall ran from this point northwest across the present street frontages up to the crossroads and turned east along Church Street.

The only surviving elements of this once powerful institution are seven bays of the nave of the former Priory Church of St. Peter, (HER132), the priory gateway immediately southwest of the church, (HER6329), and the Priory hospitium in the form of the extant Priory House. The rest of the Priory was demolished soon after the Dissolution. This said earthworks in the area of Priory Gardens indicate survival of some of these buildings in foundation form at least. Together these elements form the basis for the Scheduled Ancient Monument, (1004676). Outside of this immediate area numerous excavations and archaeological observations have recorded survival of buildings, footings, and features associated with the Priory, (EBD725, EBD730, EBD733, EBD734, EBD844, EBD845, EBD852 and EBD856), mostly built from a mixture of Totternhoe stone, (locally quarried), with ashlar blocks used for more decorative elements or facing, and flint / rubble cores.

The site does not lie within any Scheduled Ancient Monument, but does lie adjacent to the SAM of the Augustinian Dunstable Priory (National Heritage Listing no.1004676, Monument No.SM3).

There is no reason to believe that the development site will be completely devoid of similar evidence due to its close proximity to other monastic buildings, and the precinct boundary, albeit truncated or in the form of secondary deposition of finds.

- 3.5.4** The town was never walled, but was probably surrounded by a wide ditch, mention of which is made in the late 13th and 14th centuries. It was during the medieval period that the town began to develop along its distinctive ribbon pattern, with long, thin burgage plots extending back from both sides of the four main street frontages. A market was centred along the present High Street North, High Street South, and probably West Street, with a sheep and cattle market attached.

- 3.5.5** Extensive archaeological evidence for medieval occupation has been uncovered during previous excavations in Dunstable. These include at least four malting ovens suggesting a thriving brewing industry; numerous rubbish / cess pits; boundary ditches and gullies associated with medieval properties; wells; and earlier side streets, (EBD55, EBD720, EBD727, EBD742, EBD746, HER11280 and HER17723).

The EBD725 excavations at ‘Moore’s building’, 21-23 High Street South, revealed medieval remains in the form of a rubbish pit containing a few pottery sherds and peg tile fragments. *As No.11-15 fronts one of the main streets through medieval Dunstable it is probable that some form of building and associated backyard activity similar to this rubbish pit would survive on the site.*

3.6 *Post-medieval*

- 3.6.1** Throughout much of the post-medieval period Dunstable remained a predominantly rural community; a market town not much increasing in size until the mid-19th century and the industrial revolution.
- 3.6.2** Due to its location on the principal road linking London with the North it became a popular coaching station, with a large number of inns being established from the early 17th to early 18th centuries. Much of the original timber framing and lathe-work of these inns survive in part behind rebuilt facades.
- 3.6.3** During the mid-19th century Dunstable began to expand along the four main streets, with more and more side-streets and associated properties being laid out as the populace grew. Dunstable developed a local trade in the manufacturing of straw hats, with numerous ‘hat factories’ being established within buildings fronting the High Street; including a bonnet sewing room which was built behind No.11-15 High Street South by Thomas Waterfield, but which no longer stands.

Other notable historic buildings close by to No.11-15 High Street South are Nos.7-9 High Street South which were two 19th century buildings used as shops to the north, now forming one property, (The Co-Op Funeral Care), (HER15274); No.17 High Street South on the opposite site of Church Walk, to the south, which was established in the early post-medieval period, before being occupied by the International Tea Co. Stores from 1901, until becoming the current betting shop, (HER15643); and No.19, a late 16th century shop re-fronted and extended to the rear in 1825, (DBD201).

- 3.6.4** Nos 11-15 are first shown in a perspective view of Dunstable included as an inset on a parish map of Houghton Regis in 1762, (not shown), but in such a stylised way so as to be of little use with regards to extracting useful or accurate detail.
- 3.6.5** The first really useful depiction of the properties is the 1879 Ordnance Survey 1:500 scale map, only produced for towns of over 40,000 in population, (fig.7).

This map depicts three long, thin plots, with the southernmost slightly wider than the northern two, and longer too; its extensive formalised gardens wrapping round the back of Nos.11 and 13. No.13 is surrounded to the south and east by a separate boundary wall, and again wraps round the rear of No.11, making the latter the smallest of the properties, with little more than a small yard to the rear. All the properties contain numerous outbuildings in their rear yards. Nos.11 and 15 both have a well sunk in their back gardens, and these are likely to survive albeit backfilled / capped below the existing ground levels. None of them give any clear indication of having been basemented.

3.6.6 This arrangement of buildings appears to have survived largely intact until between 1933 and 1937, when Nos.11 and 13 were demolished, their plots amalgamated, and the new Woolworths Bazaar built upon the site, (fig.10). This original building had a brick and glass front with a central projection, built to the design of the company's own Architects Department and Construction Department in the 'Modern Style'. Sometime between 1955 and 1961 the company purchased No.15 and expanded its premises into this plot, (fig.11). This involved the demolition of No.15, and the widening of the southwest frontage. The discrepancy in plot widths between Nos.11-13 and No.15 was and is still visible in the slightly wider southern bay of the current store, (see fig.12). The columns separating the central and southern bays of the store are probably built along the lines of the former boundary wall shown on the 1879 OS map.

3.6.7 *It is likely that remains associated with the three properties which once occupied the site, be they surviving footings for boundary / party walls, wells, or drainage pits / runs may be encountered during groundworks. It is also true that these features may have partially truncated earlier medieval, Roman or prehistoric features, but to what extent is unclear. However, the fact that there is no indication of the earlier buildings having been basemented would suggest that any truncation may be localised to the immediate areas of individual footings, rather than across the entire site footprint.*

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS

4.1 The aims of the archaeological work have been planned in relation to the principles outlined in the Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9, (2007), *Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*, and wider research frameworks such as the East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, (2011), *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*.

4.2 The redevelopment of 11-15 High Street South, Dunstable, provides an opportunity to address the following site specific and more generalised research questions:

- Is there any evidence of prehistoric occupation of the site, or roadside occupation / features associated with the Icknield Way?
- Is there any evidence of Roman occupation? What is its nature; civic; administrative; military; industrial; domestic?
- Is there any evidence to suggest Dunstable's role within the wider Roman landscape?
- Is there any evidence of sub-Roman occupation of the site? What is its nature?
- Is there any evidence of the early-medieval / Saxon occupation of the site? Can this be linked to the development of the post-Roman settlement / transition to medieval town?
- Is there any evidence of medieval occupation of the site? What is its nature?
- Is there any evidence relating to the Augustinian Priory precinct?
- Is there any evidence of town planning in the form of former burgage plots or other property boundaries? Are these consistent or has there been a change over time?
- Is there any evidence of the post-medieval development of the site? What is its nature and can this be related to cartographic / documentary sources?
- What is the scale and state of preservation of archaeology across the development footprint?
- At what level do the highest / lowest archaeological deposits occur?
- What is the nature and level of the natural substrate across the site?

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Standards

- 5.1.1** The field and post-excavation work were carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Planning Notes 3: Archaeological Excavation, 2015*), and to regional frameworks, (Gurney, D. ‘*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*’, 2003). Works also conformed to the standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, 2014*). Overall management of the project was undertaken by a full member of the Chartered Institute.
- 5.1.2** Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations. All members of the fieldwork team have valid CSCS (Construction Skills Certificate Scheme) cards, and wore hi-vis jackets, hard-hats, steel-toe-capped boots, gloves etc., as required.
- 5.1.3** The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team were responsible for monitoring of the progress of fieldwork and for maintaining professional standards. The team were given due notice of the commencement of fieldwork and two separate site visits were made for monitoring purposes by Hannah Firth and Martin Oake of CBCAT.

5.2 Fieldwork

- 5.2.1** The evaluation programme included the monitoring of three geotechnical test pits dug up against the north party wall of the current structure to the base of the existing foundations. These pits measured approximately 2m long, (NE-SW), by 1m wide. Depending on the width and depth of the existing foundations or other obstructions being encountered the pits were partially extended to the southeast by a further 1m long and 0.5m wide, (see fig.5). As well as these three geotechnical pits a further five test pits were dug across the footprint of the existing structure and development area, (fig.5). These were dug for archaeological purposes; to evaluate the survival, depth and nature of archaeological remains across the site. They measured approximately 2m long by 1m wide and be aligned alternating NE-SW and NW-SE. These pits were excavated by the same team of archaeologists as monitor the geotechnical pits.

In the event a ninth pit was dug in the centre of the rear yard for facilitation of a water infiltration test, this pit measured approximately 1.1m² and was hand dug by the same group of labourers and archaeologists as the original eight, (fig.5).

- 5.2.2** *These evaluation test pits do not in themselves constitute the full extent of archaeological works required, but were more of an informative exercise prior to the strip; map and record phase of the project so as to give a better impression of what to expect. The archaeological condition attached to planning permission is specific to the strip; map and sampling of the site and so*

will not be discharged until completion of this exercise and its post-excavation analysis / publication, (see 5.6 below).

- 5.2.3 The trenches were marked out by Compass staff and then the extant concrete slab floor cut using a circular saw and broken out with handheld pneumatic drills. Initial bulk excavation within the test pits was undertaken by a team of two labourers using hand tools under constant archaeological supervision. Deposits were generally removed in this way in shallow spits to the latest significant archaeological horizon, or in the absence of remains to a clean natural / subsoil layer.
- 5.2.4 Following initial clearance a base plan of the site was produced followed by an on-site decision as to the extent and likely significance of archaeological deposits and features within the test pits and to dictate the extent of hand-excavation required. Sufficient work was undertaken to establish the nature of deposits and features and their relationships with one another, with adequate recovery of finds dating and other evidence.
- 5.2.5 Archaeological contexts were recorded as appropriate on *pro-forma* sheets by written and measured description, and drawn in plan and section, at scales of 1:10 or 1:20.
- 5.2.6 The investigations were recorded on a general site plan and related to the Ordnance Survey grid.
- 5.2.7 Levels were taken on the top and bottom of any archaeological features or deposits, transferred from the nearest Ordnance Datum Benchmark, (on the north side of the Priory Church, valued at 146.90mOD).
- 5.2.8 The fieldwork record was supplemented by digital photography in .jpeg and RAW formats.
- 5.2.9 The recording system followed the procedures set out in the Museum of London recording manual, (*MoLAS, Archaeological Site Manual, Third Edition - 1994*). By agreement the recording and drawing sheets used was directly compatible with those developed by the Museum.

5.3 Post-excavation

The fieldwork was followed by off-site assessment and / or analysis and compilation of a report, and by ordering and deposition of the site archive.

5.3.1 Finds and samples

Assessment of finds was undertaken by appropriately qualified staff, (see Appendix I). Finds and samples were treated in accordance with the appropriate guidelines, including CiFA's '*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*' (2014).

5.3.2 All identified finds and artefacts have been retained and bagged with unique numbers related to the context record, although certain classes of ceramic building material and 20th / 21st century material, were discarded after an appropriate record was made. Sensitive artefacts will be properly treated, in line with the appropriate Standards as stated above.

5.3.3 Should further work / analysis be deemed necessary at a later stage then an Updated Project Design, (UPD), should be produced to cover the nature and extent of post-excavation analysis and further publication. This document will then be approved by the Central Bedfordshire Archaeology Team and Client or their representative prior to carrying out the recommendations in the UPD.

5.4 Report procedure

5.4.1 This report contains a description of the fieldwork plus details of any archaeological remains or finds, and an interpretation of the associated deposits. Illustrations have been included as appropriate, including a site plan located to the OS grid, illustrative sections through trench stratigraphy, and trench plans. A short summary of the project has been appended using the OASIS Data Collection Form, and in paragraph form suitable for publication within the 'excavation round-up' of the Bedford Architectural, Archaeological, and Local history Society and / or the Manshead Journal, of the Manshead Archaeological Society, and if deemed suitable on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

5.4.2 Copies of the report will be supplied to the Client, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team, and Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, and to the Central Bedfordshire HER.

5.4.3 Should the future strip, map and sample excavation produce additional material of interest then any requirements for further analysis of the site assemblage as a whole will need to be discussed and agreed with the Client and with the Central Bedfordshire Council through the creation of an Updated Project Design.

5.5 The site archive

An ordered indexed and internally consistent archive of the evaluation will be compiled in line with Luton Culture guidelines, (*Luton Culture, 2013*), and CiFA's '*Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*', (2014) and will be deposited with Luton Culture under site code HSS16, and Museum Entry Number: 1243. The integrity of the site archive should be maintained, and the landowner will be urged to donate any archaeological finds to the Museum. This will be produced following the strip; map and record phase of fieldwork is completed.

5.6 *Not until the completion of the secondary, strip; map and sample phase of the excavation process and the formal post-excavation report and / or publication, has been approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team, and provision made for the deposition of the resulting site archive will the archaeological condition be deemed fully discharged.*

6 THE RESULTS

6.1 What follows is a written description of observations made during the course of the fieldwork augmented by illustrative photographs. The following description should be read in conjunction with fig.5 for trench locations and figs.29-30 for plans and sample section drawings of the trenches, (see appendix II). All trenches contain contexts prefixed with the number of the corresponding trench eg. contexts 101-105 are in trench 1, contexts 201-204 are from trench 2 etc. Fills and layers are shown in (rounded brackets), whilst cuts and structures are shown in [square brackets]. A context list for individual trenches has also been appended to the report; (see appendix I).

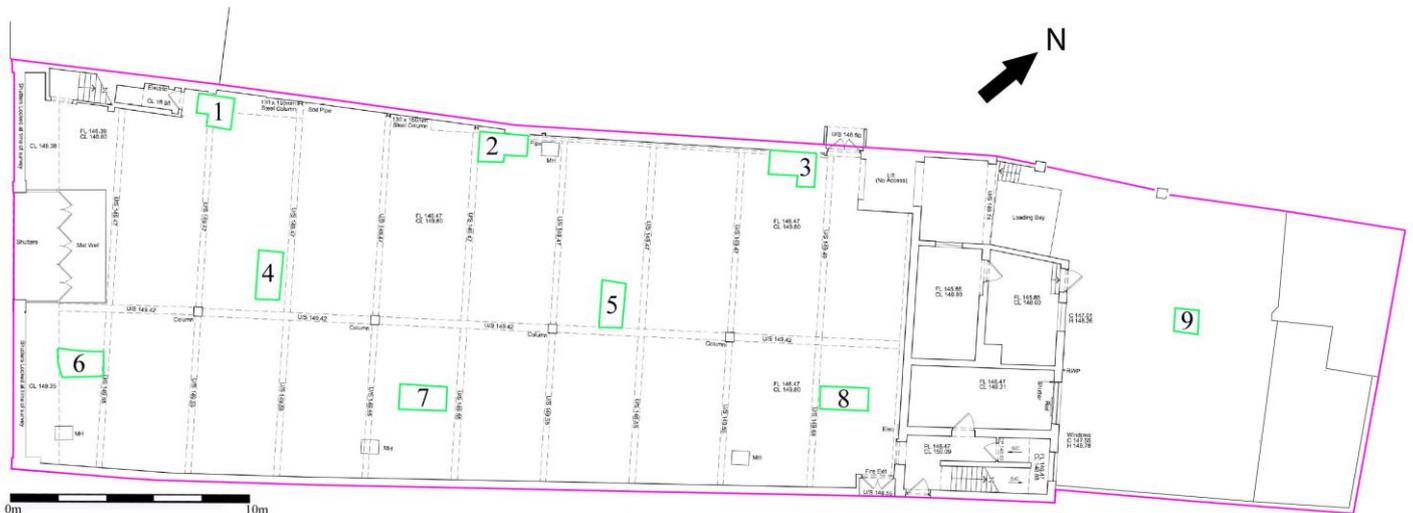


Fig.5: Site plan showing the location of evaluation trenches 1-9

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 Trench 1 was dug towards the western end of the building and was dug primarily for geotechnical purposes. The trench was L-shaped and measured 1.52m long, (NE-SW), by up to 1.32m wide, (NW-SE), at the northeastern end. The trench was dug to a depth of 0.92m, 145.53mOD.

6.2.2 The earliest feature within the trench was a segment of red brick wall in the NE corner of the trench, standing 5 courses high from the base of excavation, (0.38m), and former a rounded corner of some larger structure, [105], (see figs.6 and 7). The wall as exposed was 0.74m long, (NW-SE), by at least 0.20m thick, (the back edge of the structure was not revealed beyond the edge of excavation). The wall was plastered on the interior faces as exposed with an off-white lime mortar based plaster. The bricks themselves appeared to be unfrogged, possibly indicating a *terminus ante quem* of the mid to late 18th century date for production. The top of the wall was encountered at 145.93mOD. The wall continued below the base of excavation for an unknown depth, but must have formed the cellar wall of a basement associated with a former property facing High Street South which stood here until the 1920s

when the Woolworths store was built in its place. The cellar had been backfilled with a loosely compacted mix of crushed tile, brick and other ceramic building material, (CBM), along with large quantities of mortar dust, (104), representing demolition debris from the above ground structure when it was demolished. A single large piece of a 17th century glazed red earthenware “dog-dish” was recovered from deposit (104) suggesting the building would have been backfilled sometime during that period. This may imply that the building was not one of those shown on the 19th century maps, or at least the cellar was no longer utilised at this point in time.

6.2.3 In the southwest corner of the trench a brick pier base 0.70m NE-SW, by at least 0.52m NW-SE, was present continuing below the base of excavation. Into the top of this brick pier base was a concrete block into which was set the steel frame of the structural pillar of the extant 1920s Woolworths building. The presence of this brick pier and concrete block is useful in that it provides an indication as to the level of truncation to be expected around all similar structural pillars within the standing building.

6.2.4 Both the cellar wall, and concrete block of the pillar base were overlain by the construction cut for a modern service pipe, [103]. This service trench was present within trenches 1, 2 and 3 and was aligned parallel to the property boundary, (NE-SW).



Fig.6: Trench 1 facing NW, (1m scale)



Fig.7: Trench 1 facing NE; cellar wall [105] to left of frame and backfilled rubble to right and foreground (1m scale)

6.3 Trench 2

6.3.1 Trench 2 was located at the centre of the northwest wall of the property and was an L-shaped trench dug primarily for geotechnical purposes, (fig.8). The trench measured 2.05m long, (NE-SW), by up to 1.24m wide, (NW-SE), at the southwestern end. The trench was dug to a depth of between 0.56m at the southwestern end and 1.17m at the northeastern end. This reflects the level of the natural chalk and base of excavation in feature [204] respectively.

6.3.2 Natural chalk was encountered from as little as 0.28m below extant floor level at 146.27mOD, and extended northwest across the trench for 1.18m before being cut by square pit, [204]. The pit had rounded corners and near vertical edges and was cut to a depth of at least 0.90m below the existing chalk, but was not bottomed during this stage. The base of excavation lay at 145.37mOD, (see fig.9). The pit was shown to be at least 0.80m wide, though the upper portion of it may have been truncated by the modern service trench, (see 6.3.4). The pit was also exposed as at least 0.40m long. If this represents half the feature then that would suggest it was 0.80m in diameter or 0.80m square.

6.3.3 Pit [204] contained a loosely compacted dark-grey silt, (203), which produced an array of various pottery largely datable to the mid-19th century, (fig.10), with two Glazed Red Earthenware vessels represented; a large jar, and a very large pancheon. Although potentially earlier in date they may also be seen as intrusive from material bought in from elsewhere to backfill the feature. This suggestion is also supported by the presence of crushed peg tiles and brick fragments dating largely from the 19th century, but with maybe two earlier medieval examples of

peg tile mixed in. The homogenous nature of this fill suggests at this stage at least a single backfilling episode, and that the feature was kept relatively clean during its use. It may therefore represent some form of storage pit or even a well if it proves to go deeper.

6.3.4 As noted in 6.2.4 a modern service trench truncated deposits within the northwestern side of the trench including the upper part of feature [204], but hopefully the opposing half of the cut survives below this.



Fig.8: Trench 2 facing NE; pit [204] in background, and natural chalk in foreground (0.5m scale)



Fig.9: Trench 2 facing SW; pit [204] in foreground, (1m scale)



Fig.10: Pottery from pit [204], (10cm scale)

6.4 Trench 3

- 6.4.1** Trench 3 was dug in towards the rear of the building in the northeast corner, and was the third of the geotechnical test pits. Like the other three along the northern boundary wall the trench was L-shaped, and measured 1.90m long, (NE-SW), by up to 1.40m wide, (NW-SE), at the northeastern end. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.59m below floor level, the base of the excavated trench lying at 145.93mOD.
- 6.4.2** Natural deposits were not reached in this trench. The lowest deposit consisted of a loosely compacted brown-grey silt containing occasional crushed CBM and fragments of chalk, (306). This layer continued below the base of excavation, but was at least 0.14m thick. Layer (306) was sealed below a layer of redeposited chalk no more than 70mm thick, (305). This in turn was overlain by another brown-grey silt deposit containing crushed CBM and chalk, (304). All these deposits were contained within the southeastern half of the trench.
- 6.4.3** The deposits described above were sealed below a remnant of brick flooring which ran across the southeastern half of the trench and continued beyond the limits of excavation. This floor, [303], lay adjacent to a narrow brick footing, at least four courses high, (0.27m), and 0.24m wide, extending from the southwestern end of the trench for a length of 0.92m. Wall footing [307] was not directly linked to the floor as there was a slight gap of approximately 30mm-40mm between the two. The footing was constructed from a lower level

than the floor, which makes sense, but no construction cut was immediately visible. The footing also seemed to stop abruptly rather than continue across the trench and no obvious signs of robbing were observed, (see fig.11). The two features could be part of a contemporary structure as they were observed from the same depth of approximately 0.33m below extant floor level, (146.25mOD), but their exact relationship remains unclear at this stage. The fact that both appear to continue beyond the edge of excavation however suggests this can be settled during the next stage of works.

- 6.4.4** As in Trenches 1 and 2 the cut for the modern service run was present in the northwestern half of the pit and truncated all deposits within this area including any sign of a construction cut for wall [307]. The service run originated within an inspection chamber directly adjacent to the northwestern end of the trench.



Fig.11: Pit 3 facing SW; wall footing [307] in centre background, and floor [303] to left, service cut on right of trench, (1m scale)

6.5 Trench 4

- 6.5.1** Trench 4 was positioned in the centre of the building towards the western end, and was aligned NW-SE with the street frontage. It measured 2.05m long by 1.02m wide and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.25m, (see fig.12).

- 6.5.2** Trench 4 was an exception in that no archaeological deposits or features were observed within the trench. The existing concrete floor and rubble base 0.17m thick, almost immediately overlay natural chalk deposits, (401). Only a very thin veneer of brown silt, no more than 10mm-20mm thick was observed across the top of the chalk, probably representing a work / trample surface during laying of the concrete slab in the 1920s. Natural chalk was therefore encountered at c146.34mOD

6.5.3 Considering the trench's location within the former footprint of a property shown on the 19th century OS plans it was somewhat unexpected that no associated deposits were observed. It may be that this part of the property was unbasemented, unlike the observations in Trenches 1 and 6 closer to the street frontage, and that this part of the property was just an open section of floor within a wider room which was removed prior to construction of the concrete slab. Hopefully when the area is stripped during the next stage of works this issue can be resolved.



Fig.12: Trench 4 facing SW; showing the natural chalk at a considerably high level

6.6 Trench 5

6.6.1 Trench 5 was dug in the centre of the building footprint towards the rear, and was aligned NW-SE with the street frontage. The trench was dug 2.05m long, (NW-SE), by 1.05m wide, (NE-SW), and up to a maximum depth of 1.24m. The northwestern end of the trench was dug to a depth of 0.21m at which point a ceramic drain pipe aligned at a right angle to the trench was observed and prohibited further investigation in this area, (see fig.13 below).

6.6.2 Natural chalk was observed from a depth of 0.83m below existing floor level, (145.70mOD) at the southeastern end of the trench and from 0.72m, (145.82m OD), within the northwest facing section. From this point the natural chalk was cut by a large pit, [506], the northern corner of which was observed within the trench, (see figs.13 and 14). The pit measured at least 1.24m long, (NE-SW), by at least 0.90m wide, but as it continued beyond the edge of excavation the true shape of the feature could not be confirmed; be it square or rectangular.

6.6.3 Pit [506] had near vertical sides and was excavated to a depth of 0.41m below the level of the chalk but was not bottomed at this stage. The pit contained deposit (505), a loosely compacted mix of grey-brown silt and crushed chalk and CBM and produced an assemblage of 18th – 19th century post-medieval pottery including Glazed Red Earthenware, White Salt-glazed Stoneware and Creamware, giving a *terminus post quem* for the abandonment / filling in of the feature. From initial observations it would appear to have been deliberately backfilled in a single episode suggesting it may have been open and maintained clean for some while.

- 6.6.4** Overlaying deposit (505), and sealing pit [506] were deposits (503), and (504). The former was comprised of large quantities of Totternhoe clunch and chalk up to 0.75m thick, whilst the latter was a mix of medium compacted, brown-grey silt and crushed chalk which was present towards the southeastern edge of the pit and overlying the chalk in the southern and northern sections. This deposit, (504), produced a large assemblage of pottery including mainly 18th century pottery but some 19th century sherds too, (see fig.16), and several clay tobacco pipe bowls one of which was datable to c1820-1840, suggesting a similar *terminus post quem* to (505), and a near contemporary date to the backfilling of pit [506]. This was also corroborated by a series of cross fits noted between sherds from (504) and (503). The brick and peg tile fragments recovered from fills (503), (504), and (505), were widely dated but no examples later than 1800 were recovered suggesting the buildings from which they derived were gone before the 19th century.
- 6.6.5** 10 sherds of medieval pottery were also found within deposit (504); including Medieval Shelly Ware, (1100-1400), Hertfordshire Glazed Ware, (13th-15th centuries), and Sandy Wares of 12th - 13th century dates. These sherds of pottery though residual were in good condition and are therefore believed to have originally been stratified from nearby. This is of special interest in that it indicates medieval activity occurring close by from an early date in the town's formation in the 12th century. Alongside the medieval sherds a single grog-tempered Romano-British sherd was also recovered from deposit (504), indicating even earlier activity, (see fig.15).
- 6.6.6** The upper part of deposit (503), and the northwestern part of (504) was truncated by construction cut [502] which contained the ceramic pipe and backfill material (501).



Fig.13: Trench 5 facing NW; chalk-cut pit [506] in foreground, (1m scale)



Fig.14: Trench 5, facing SE; chalk-cut pit [506] in foreground, with overlying deposit (504) in section above, (1m scale)



Fig.15: *Medieval pottery from context (504). A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was also recovered see top-right rim sherd, (10cm scale)*



Fig.16: *Post-medieval pottery from deposit (504), (10cm scale)*

6.7 Trench 6

- 6.7.1** Trench 6 was positioned in the southwestern corner of the building close to the shop frontage. The trench was aligned NE-SW and measured approximately 1.98m long by 1.24m wide at the southwestern end. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 1.25m below existing floor level, (145.22mOD). The nature of the observed deposits meant that close examination of the pit was inhibited and so observations were made from the top.
- 6.7.2** Natural chalk deposits were observed in the northwestern side of the trench from 0.32m below floor level at 146.11mOD. However they were cut through at this point, [604], along a NNE-SSW alignment and then slightly roughly undercut to the northwest before falling sharply to the base of excavation. Towards the northeastern end of the trench and disappearing beyond the excavation edge was a patch of brickwork seemingly built up against the face of the cut chalk, and slightly curving in a NNE direction, [603] (see figs.17 and 18 below). The top of observed brickwork was at 145.50mOD; 0.95m below existing floor level.
- 6.7.3** Brickwork [603] and its associated cut [604] were backfilled with a large amount of loosely deposited brick, and crushed chalk / tile, rubble, (602). The deposit continued beyond the southeastern, southwestern and northeastern limits of excavation suggesting a cut and underground space of substantial size. The deposits continued for a depth of up to at least 1.25m and continued below the level of excavation.
- 6.7.4** This large feature is somewhat strange in that it does not appear to be a conventional cellar as in the case of that observed in Trench 1. The cut through the chalk although clean and straight in the upper part of the chalk very rapidly becomes very rough, and only a small area of brickwork facing is visible at this stage. There is no obvious sign of the whole feature having been lined with brick, (though this could easily have been the case at some point), and the fact that the brickwork appears to be curving rather than straight suggests some other feature rather than a cellar. It may have been some form of underground cistern or served some form of industrial purpose. It lies within the former footprint of No.15 High Street South which was used as a tobacconist in the 19th century, and what use it could have served in this capacity is unclear. It could be an earlier feature from an as yet unknown building, but the *in situ* brickwork appeared relatively modern in nature. The nature of this large underground structure will be one of several questions for the next stage of works.



Fig.17: Trench 6 facing NE; natural chalk on north side of trench cut by underground structure [603] / [604], (1m scale)



Fig.18: Trench 6 facing N; Cut [604] through chalk and brickwork [603] abutting cut chalk in the background behind scale, (1m scale)

6.8 Trench 7

6.8.1 Trench 7 was located along the middle of the southeastern part of the building, and was aligned NE-SW. The trench was dug 2.07m long, (NE-SW), by 1.12m wide, (NW-SE), and to a maximum depth of 0.43m below floor level or 145.98mOD, in the southwestern corner of the trench. The majority of the trench was dug to a depth of 0.32m, or 146.20mOD.

6.8.2 Natural chalk was only reached in the southwestern corner of the trench where it was observed at 0.43m below floor level, (145.98mOD). This was at the bottom of brick structure [708], which formed a slightly rough right angle in the southwestern corner of the trench, (see figs. 19-21). The brickwork measured 0.86m NNW-SSE, by 0.60m NE-SW, and was one to one and half bricks wide (eg. 0.22m – 0.32m respectively). The brickwork was three courses high laid in stretcher bond formation, (0.20m), and bonded with a mid-beige to yellow sandy mortar. The brickwork where it entered the southeastern section was partially disturbed / robbed out. The bricks sat within cut [709]. This somewhat shallow feature may have represented some form of small water storage tank or soakaway, but without seeing more of it in plan this cannot be proven either way as of yet.

6.8.3 The feature was backfilled with three very different deposits. At the base (704) was a dark-beige silty soil, 0.24m thick, containing a collection of mid-18th century pottery, including 28 sherds of White Salt-Glazed Stoneware in the form of tankards along with Tin-glazed Earthenware and shell edged plates and soup bowls, associated with a well-to-do household. This date is supported by the presence of at least one later-18th century clay pipe bowl. This was sealed below

a thin charcoal-rich layer, (703), up to 0.10m thick, and perhaps representing waste material from a fire, finally the feature was sealed below a layer of compact redeposited chalk, (702) which covered the rest of the trench as well, and was between 20mm and 60mm thick.

6.8.4 Outside of brick feature [708] the uppermost redeposited chalk layer sealed a further two layers of redeposited chalk containing crushed CBM and grey-brown silts of varying compaction; (705), which was 70mm thick, and (706), which was up to at least 0.11m thick, respectively. Brick feature [708], cut through both deposits. The uppermost of these deposits, (705) was very compact and probably represents a work surface prior to extension into this part of the building in the late-1950s.



Fig.19: Trench 7 facing NW; compacted surface (705) and top of brick structure [708] in top-left of trench, (1m scale)



Fig.20: Trench 7 facing SE, with natural chalk at base of brick feature [708], and redeposited crushed chalk and tile surface (706) in main part of trench, (1m scale)



Fig.21: Trench 7 facing NE; brick feature [708] fully excavated showing natural chalk in base. Construction cut [709] is visible immediately to the right of brickwork, (0.60m scale)

6.9 Trench 8

6.9.1 Trench 8 was located in the southeastern corner of the building at the rear, was aligned NE-SW and measured 2.05m long, (NE-SW), by 1.00m wide, (NW-SE), and was dug to depth of 0.47m to 0.53m below existing floor level, 145.99mOD to 146.09m OD at the southwestern and northeastern ends respectively.

6.9.2 Natural chalk was only observed in one isolated spot, in the base of stake-hole [805], and was recorded at 0.64m below existing floor level 145.88mOD.

6.9.3 The earliest archaeological deposit encountered was a mid-compacted grey-brown silt containing frequent crushed chalk, Totternhoe clunch and CBM, (803), between 0.47m and 0.53m below floor level. This layer was cut by a series of stake-holes and postholes, [805], [807] and [809], and [811], [813] and [815] respectively, (fig.23). These varied in size from 0.12m to 0.32m in diameter. Only stake-hole [805] was fully excavated but it was 0.12m in diameter and 0.11m deep, filled with a loose, friable grey silt. Layer (803) produced a single sherd of mid-14th century Late-medieval Reduced Ware. This would suggest that the features are either contemporary or slightly later, but still indicate earlier, medieval, occupation of the site. They may form part of a larger timber-built structure or part of a boundary line or animal pens. The other cuts were not excavated but rather left until the next stage of the fieldwork so that they can be seen in their wider context prior to intrusive work.

6.9.4 Layer (803), was sealed below a layer of grey silt containing compacted chalk rubble and measuring 0.10m thick, (802). This deposit produced a small

assemblage of 17th century material including Late-Medieval Reduced Ware, Red Glazed Earthenware, and Tin-glazed Earthenware pottery and a nice mid-17th century clay tobacco pipe bowl. It also produced a fragment of medieval monastic floor tile, (see fig.24), residual, but of interest nevertheless. It shows how material from the Priory site was utilised by the local inhabitants and probably transferred through various episodes of robbing / dumping / levelling and reuse.

- 6.9.5** Layer (802) was overlain by a very thin veneer, no more than 20mm thick of compacted very-dark-grey silt containing frequent crushed CBM and chalk, (801), probably representing a similar work surface to that seen in Trenches 4, and 7, (see fig.22). This surface was present 0.26m below existing floor level at 146.27mOD. (801) was sealed below the brick-rubble base and concrete slab of the existing building.



Fig.22: Trench 8 facing SSW; compacted surface (801) as exposed, (0.30m scale)



Fig.23: Trench 8 facing SSW; surface (803) cut by stake holes / postholes [805]-[815], (0.50m scale)



Fig.24: Partial medieval monastic floor tile recovered from surface (802), dated c1200-1500AD

6.10 Trench 9

- 6.10.1** Trench 9 was a last minute addition to the programme and so was not included within the WSI for the archaeological works, (Compass Archaeology, 2016). The pit was dug in the rear yard of the property used as car parking space, and was excavated to allow water infiltration tests to be carried out.
- 6.10.2** Trench 9 was square, measured 1.10m by 1.10m and was excavated to a depth of 1.03m, the base resting at 145.03mOD. Natural chalk was encountered near the base of the trench from 145.14mOD.
- 6.10.3** In the western corner of the trench the corner of a single stone flag projected 2cm into the trench and was at greater than 0.36m long, directly overlying the chalk. It is possible that this slab, [904], may be a capping stone for a well. A similar slab and well were identified at Nos.21-23 High Street South in 2002. Slab [904], and the chalk were sealed below a thin layer of intensely black silt, 40mm thick, and present in the northeast, southwest, and northeast sections, (see fig.27), and believed to represent a demolition work surface associated with deposit (902) above. As just stated (905) was sealed below a significant depth of crushed chalk, Totternhoe clunch, tile and mortar dust 0.60m thick, (902). This deposit was overlain by a further layer of mixed brown-grey silt and crushed brick / chalk up to 0.11m thick over which lay the concrete base and tarmac surface of the extant yard.
- 6.10.4** Material (902) had been dumped against the face of a substantial stone wall footing present in the southeastern section of the trench, (see figs.25, 26, and 28). The footing, [903], was constructed of Totternhoe clunch face work with a chalk and clunch rubble core, bonded with a brown-yellow sandy-mortar. The footing was aligned NW-SE, and was at least 0.70m tall, built directly onto the chalk. The footing rose vertically from the chalk for c0.18m, (equivalent to the lowermost course of masonry), before sloping back towards the section for c0.55m, (a further three courses of stone), and then rising vertically again for at least 70mm in the uppermost exposed level. It had been truncated / reduced at this uppermost level but would presumably have formed the beginning of the aboveground structure. The footing was present from 0.23m below present ground level at 145.83mOD, and continued beyond the limits of excavation at both ends and behind.
- 6.10.5** From the size and nature of construction the footing would appear medieval in date and it is probably safe to consider it forms a part of the wider precinct / complex of Dunstable Priory, and as such of is great significance as to our understanding of the extent and nature of the Priory site. The material dumped against the footing must derive either from its associated aboveground structure or from a nearby source such as another nearby precinct building or maybe even the Priory itself. It is hard to tell at this stage if the dumping has occurred against the interior or exterior face of the footing. Its full extent and character will be more fully examined during the next stage of fieldwork.

6.10.6 Also of interest is the lack of any evident soil horizon within the trench. If this is the interior of some underground structure such as an undercroft then perhaps the lack of buried soils is easily explained in that there wouldn't have been any and the chalk may have formed a natural floor. Then the building above could easily have been knocked back in on itself prior to subsequent construction. It would seem in the extreme to have removed all soil against the exterior face of a wall prior to dumping of deposit (902).

6.10.7 *Note should be taken of the footing's presence so close to the surface, meaning it is extremely vulnerable to disturbance during clearance of the site. This area and the area along its projected line should be dealt with with extreme caution.*



Fig.25: Trench 9 facing NE; Wall footing [903] in back section of section, (1m scale)



Fig.26: Trench 9 facing SE; Wall footing [903] to left of frame showing battered side, with demolition deposit (902) abutting



Fig.27: Trench 9 facing W; Natural chalk in base of trench and single stone flag, 904 in top corner of trench. Both chalk and slab are sealed by a thin black demolition surface, (905), and overlying rubble (902)



Fig.28: Trench 9 facing NE; detail of wall footing [903] showing Totternhoe clunch face work and chalk rubble core built directly on top of the natural chalk with modern made ground above, (1m scale)

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The evaluation exercise has proved successful in several ways; helping inform us as to the levels of natural ground across the site; the levels at which archaeological deposits survive; and some indications as to the nature of those deposits. We will now return to the research questions set out in the original WSI and pass comment based upon the findings so far.

7.2 Is there any evidence of prehistoric occupation of the site, or roadside occupation / features associated with the Icknield Way?

No evidence of prehistoric activity, be it features, occupation layers or chance finds have been made so far on the site.

7.3 Is there any evidence of Roman occupation? What is its nature; civic; administrative; military; industrial; domestic?

Only a single Romano-British pottery sherd was recovered from dumped material (504). Its presence suggests Roman activity in the area, but no more can be said about the nature of Roman occupation on the site at this stage

7.3 Is there any evidence to suggest Dunstable's role within the wider Roman landscape?

Not enough evidence of Roman occupation / activities have been identified as of yet to pass comment.

7.4 Is there any evidence of sub-Roman occupation of the site? What is its nature?

No evidence of sub-Roman occupation has as yet been found on the site

7.5 Is there any evidence of the early-medieval / Saxon occupation of the site? Can this be linked to the development of the post-Roman settlement / transition to medieval town?

No evidence of Saxon occupation has as yet been identified. No comments can be passed as of yet regarding the transition from Roman to medieval Dunstable.

7.6 Is there any evidence of medieval occupation of the site? What is its nature?

Several sherds of 12th-15th century pottery have been recovered from the site, from deposit (504), the nature of which suggests that they were redeposited from very close by; and from deposit (803), which was cut by a series of timber stake / postholes. Both of these indicate a medieval presence on the site, possibly from very early on in the town's origins; from the 12th century. Until the features in trench 8 are seen in their wider context their nature cannot be firmly commented upon.

7.7 Is there any evidence relating to the Augustinian Priory precinct?

Although not initially included in the original WSI, Trench 9 has produced one of the most significant finds on the site in the form of medieval wall footing [903]. This is undoubtedly linked with the wider monastic precinct, and if more of it survives could prove of great significance as to our understanding of the layout / extent of the Priory site.

7.8 Is there any evidence of town planning in the form of former burgage plots or other property boundaries? Are these consistent or has there been a change over time?

There has as yet been no evidence of earlier boundaries, but elements of earlier structures, pre-19th century have been found in the form of cellar wall [105] in Trench 1, and brick structure [708] in Trench 7.

7.9 Is there any evidence of the post-medieval development of the site? What is its nature and can this be related to cartographic / documentary sources?

Several features including the cellar wall and brick structure mentioned above, along with pits [204] and [506] and brickwork [303], [307] and [603] all point to the post-medieval usage of the site. The two pits may form storage features or in the case of [204] a well. Brickwork [303] and [307] are likely associated with former properties which stood on the site prior to the 1920s. Feature [603] is interesting and not readily identifiable, but may prove of significance once the whole area is opened up.

7.10 What is the scale and state of preservation of archaeology across the development footprint?

Archaeological deposits were exposed in 8 out of the 9 trenches dug, and in all cases extended beyond the limits of excavation, both horizontally and vertically. Despite obvious signs of truncation in the uppermost limits the state of preservation appears to be quite good, with brick structures surviving to several, if not their full height in the case of features [105] and [708]. The compacted nature of the upper archaeological deposits appears to have preserved underlying features. Therefore the state of preservation can be classed as good, whilst the scale can be classed as medium, given that features appear quite discreet, with limited complex horizontal stratigraphy.

7.11 At what level do the highest / lowest archaeological deposits occur?

It has been shown that archaeological deposits survive over much of the site, in most cases immediately below the existing floor levels, and yard surfaces. The highest archaeological horizon was recorded in Trench 5 at 0.15m below ground level, (146.38mOD); whilst the deepest exposed deposits were in Trenches 5, 6, within the interior of the building footprint at 1.24m below existing ground level, (145.29mOD and 145.18mOD respectively), and Trench

9 in the external yard at the rear of the property at 0.93m below existing ground level, (145.mOD).

7.12 What is the nature and level of the natural substrate across the site?

The evaluation has confirmed the natural bedrock to be chalk, which lies between 146.11mOD at the southwest end of the site and 145.14mOD at the northeast end of the site. This gives a fall of just under 1.00m over a distance of c60.00m. This said the fall is actually only c0.30m from the front to rear and the northern half to southern half of the main building, with a further c0.70m drop from Trench 8 to Trench 9, a distance of c12.00m.

These observations reflect the natural southeastern slope in the wider topography, but may also indicate that the areas immediately adjacent to the main roads of Icknield Way and Watling Street lie at a higher point than their surroundings, with some man-made terracing having taken place towards the rear of 11-15 High Street South, resulting in a drop in the level of natural present behind footing [903].

7.13 Based upon the evidence collected during the evaluation stage several additional, more specific research questions may be added to the questions posed above during the strip; map and sample exercise which is to follow. These include:

- To what structure does footing [903] relate? Can this building, its form, function and date of occupation be determined?
- Do the postholes and stakeholes in Trench 8 indicate medieval backyard activity associated with early occupation of the street frontage?
- What is the nature of structure [603]? Is it domestic / industrial?
- What were the original functions of pits [204] and [506]? Do they have significantly earlier origins prior to their backfilling in the 18th and 19th centuries?
- What was the function of feature [708]? Is it domestic or some form of light industrial feature such as a water storage tank or the like?
- Why is the drop in the level of natural so pronounced between the rear of the main building and the external yard?
- Why is the natural so significantly higher towards the centre front of the site, as seen in Trench 4?

7.14 With regards to the next phase of works it is suggested that extreme caution and care be taken when breaking out and lifting the existing concrete floor slab within the extant building and also the existing tarmac surface within the rear yard. It is stressed that well preserved archaeological deposits have been proven to exist across the site and the wall footing in the rear yard is of particular significance. Any machine-work should be carried out under archaeological supervision and a toothless grading / ditching bucket be used to remove broken out surfaces. Any concrete breaking should also be undertaken with care as the breaker could easily damage the upper levels of some features.

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APPENDIX I Context list

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
101	1	Made ground below extant floor
102	1	Backfill of service pipe trench
103	1	Cut of service pipe trench
104	1	Backfill of cellar
105	1	Brickwork of cellar wall
201	2	Backfill of service pipe trench
202	2	Cut of service pipe trench
203	2	Fill of cut feature 204
204	2	Cut of pit / well
301	3	Backfill of service pipe trench
302	3	Cut of service pipe trench
303	3	Brick floor in south of trench
304	3	Grey mixed deposit below floor 303
305	3	Crushed chalk layer below deposit 304
306	3	Dark grey / brown made ground deposit
307	3	Brick wall footing down centre of trench
401	4	Chalk (natural)
501	5	Backfill of service pipe trench
502	5	Cut of service pipe trench
503	5	Large rubble-based deposit / made ground
504	5	Mixed chalk and silt (made ground)
505	5	Fill of cut 506
506	5	Cut of large pit
601	6	Made ground below extant floor
602	6	Backfill of cellar / underground structure
603	6	Brickwork of cellar / underground structure
604	6	Cut for cellar / underground structure through chalk
701	7	Made ground below extant floor
702	7	Redeposited chalk and silt layer below 701
703	7	Charcoal-rich layer within feature 708
704	7	Lower sandy silting deposit within feature 708
705	7	Mixed chalk and CBM deposit over trench
706	7	Redeposited chalk layer within trench
707	7	Chalk, (natural) in base of feature 708
708	7	Brick-built structure in NW corner of trench. Water tank?
709	7	Construction cut for brick structure 708

Context No.	Trench No.	Description
801	8	Compacted dark-grey / black construction deposit
802	8	Compacted lighter-grey chalk and crushed CBM surface
803	8	Looser mixed chalk and silt surface / occupation layer
804	8	Fill of stake-hole 805
805	8	Cut of stake-hole
806	8	Fill of stake-hole 807
807	8	Cut of stake-hole
808	8	Fill of stake-hole 809
809	8	Cut of stake-hole
810	8	Fill of post-hole 811
811	8	Cut of post-hole
812	8	Fill of post-hole 813
813	8	Cut of post-hole
814	8	Fill of post-hole 815
815	8	Cut of post-hole
901	9	Made ground deposit
902	9	Main crushed CBM, mortar dust backfill within trench
903	9	Large Totternhoe clunch footing of wall in NE section
904	9	Single floor tile / capping stone in NW corner of trench
905	9	Thin black silt demolition surface sealing 904 and natural chalk

APPENDIX II Trench plans, levels and sections

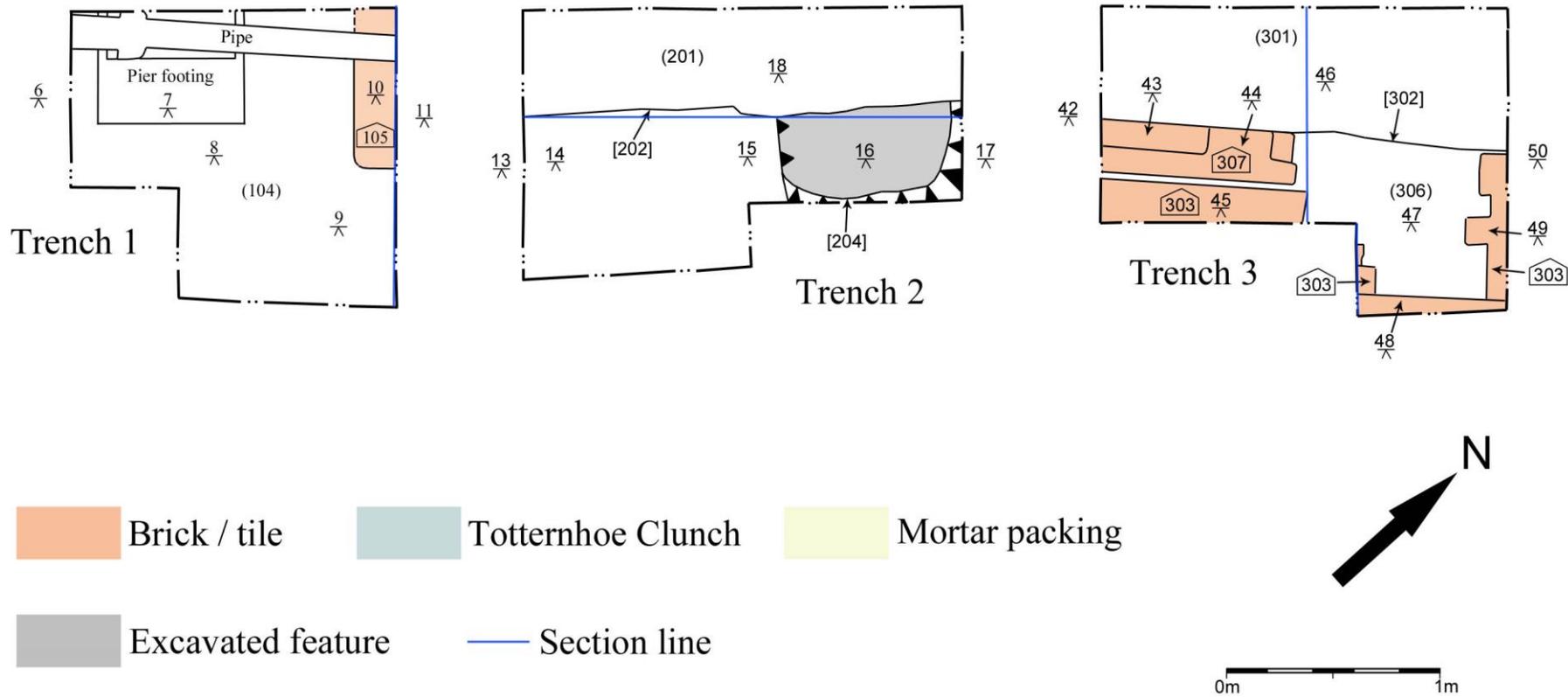


Fig.29: Plan of Trenches 1-3, (originals drawn at 1:20)

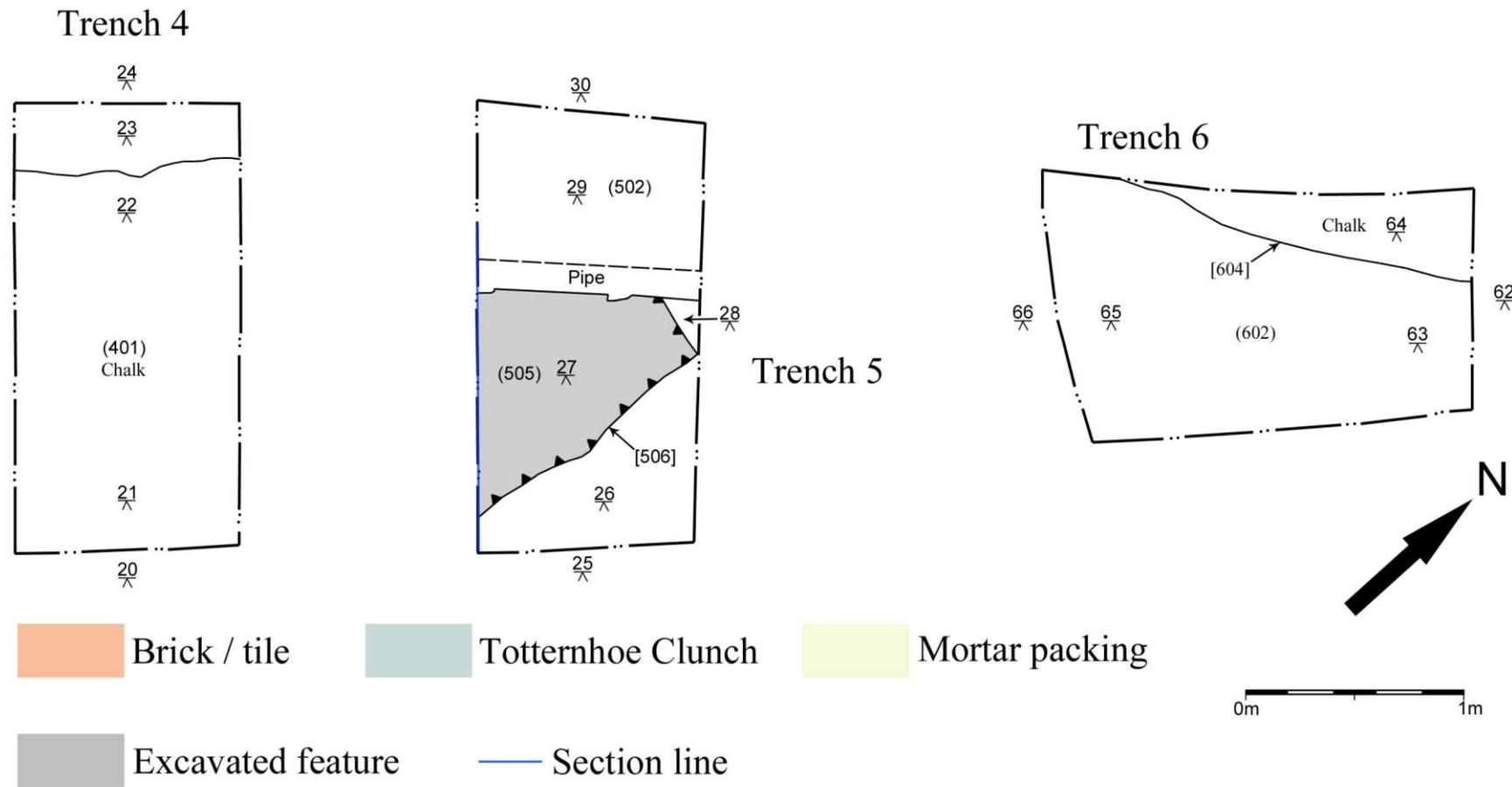


Fig.30: Plans of Trenches 4-6 (originals drawn at 1:20)

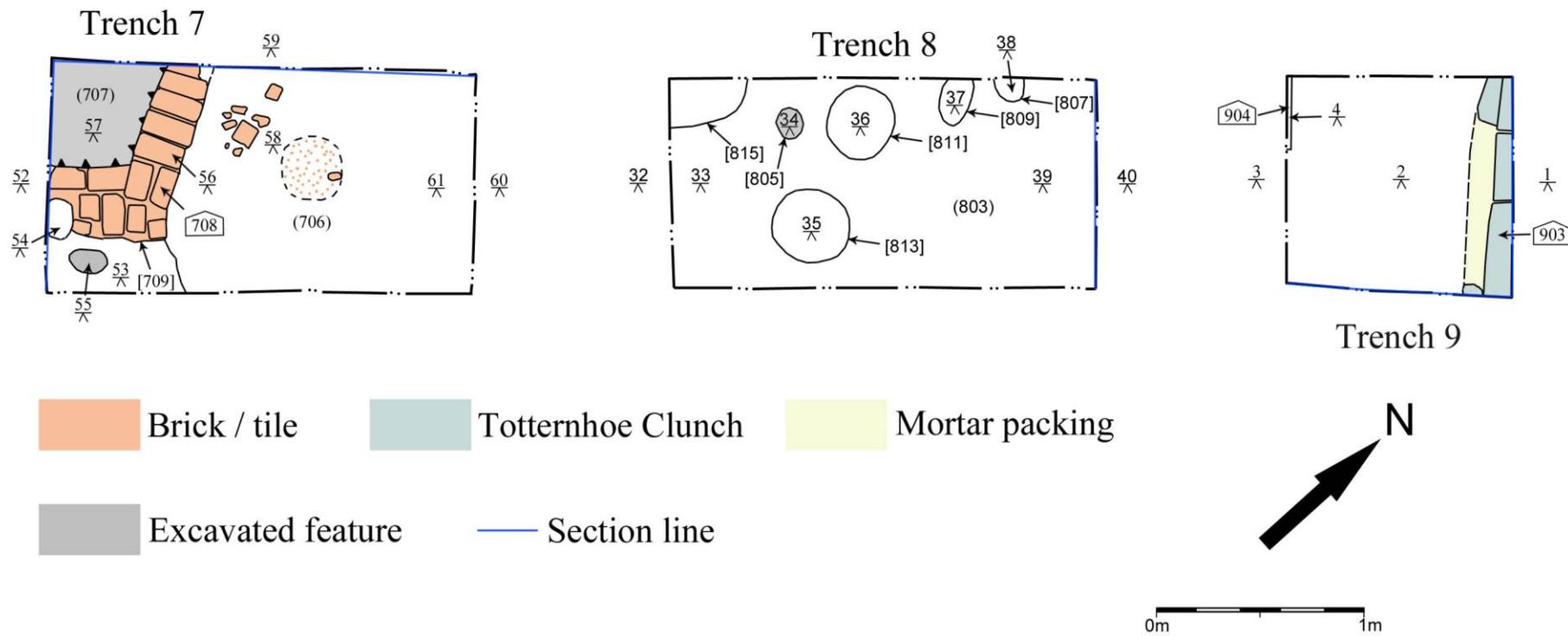
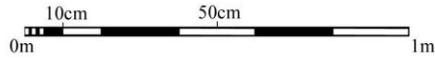
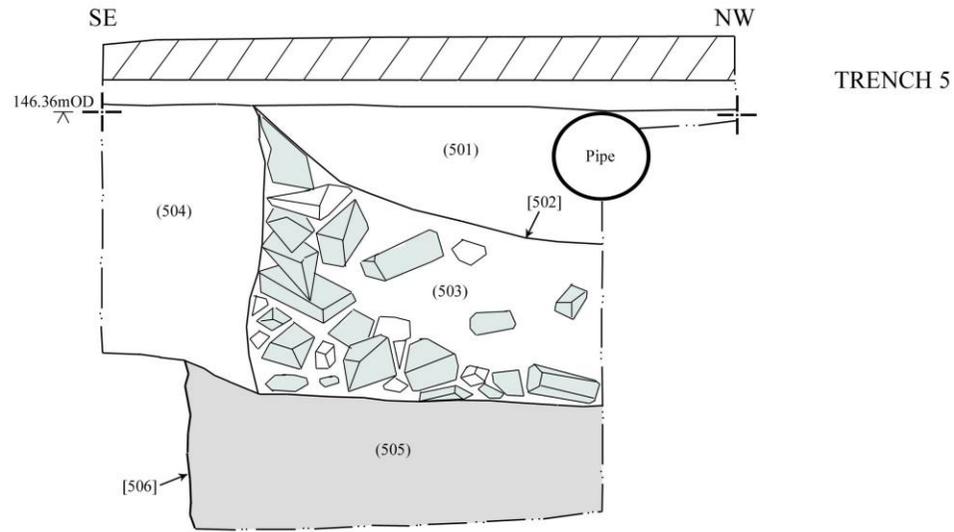
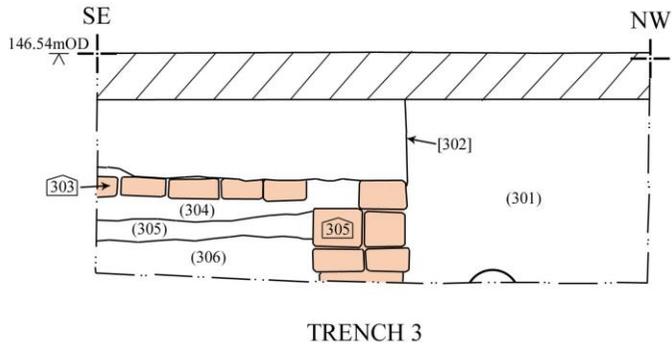
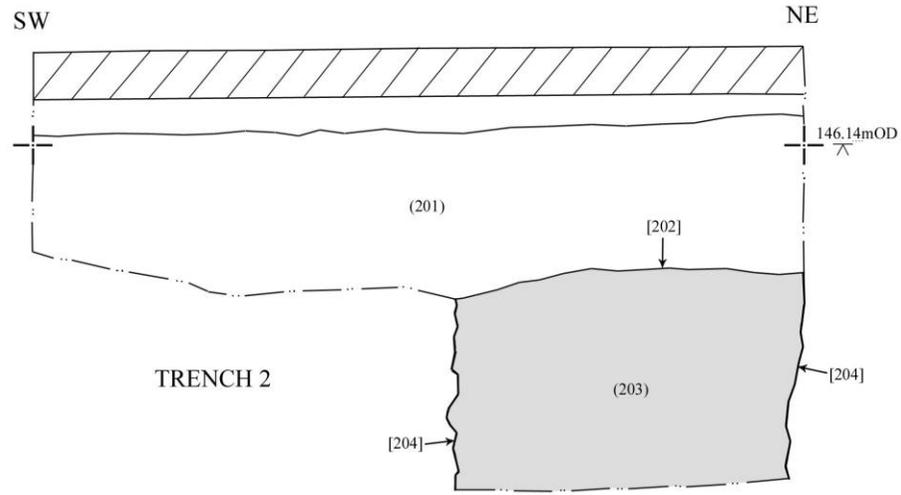
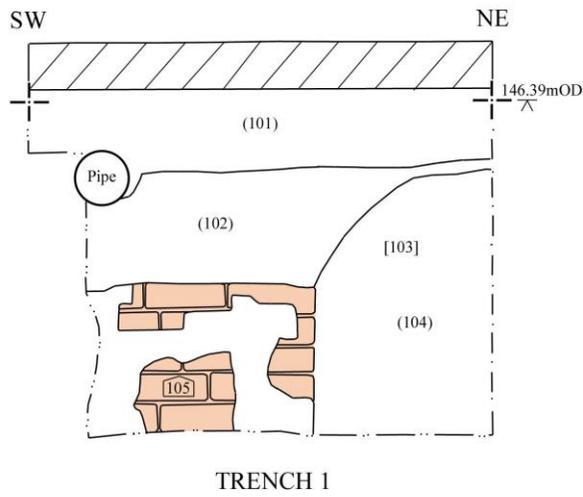


Fig.31: Plan of Trenches 7-9, (originals drawn at 1:20)

Site levels by trench. All values given in metres above ordnance datum, (mAOD)

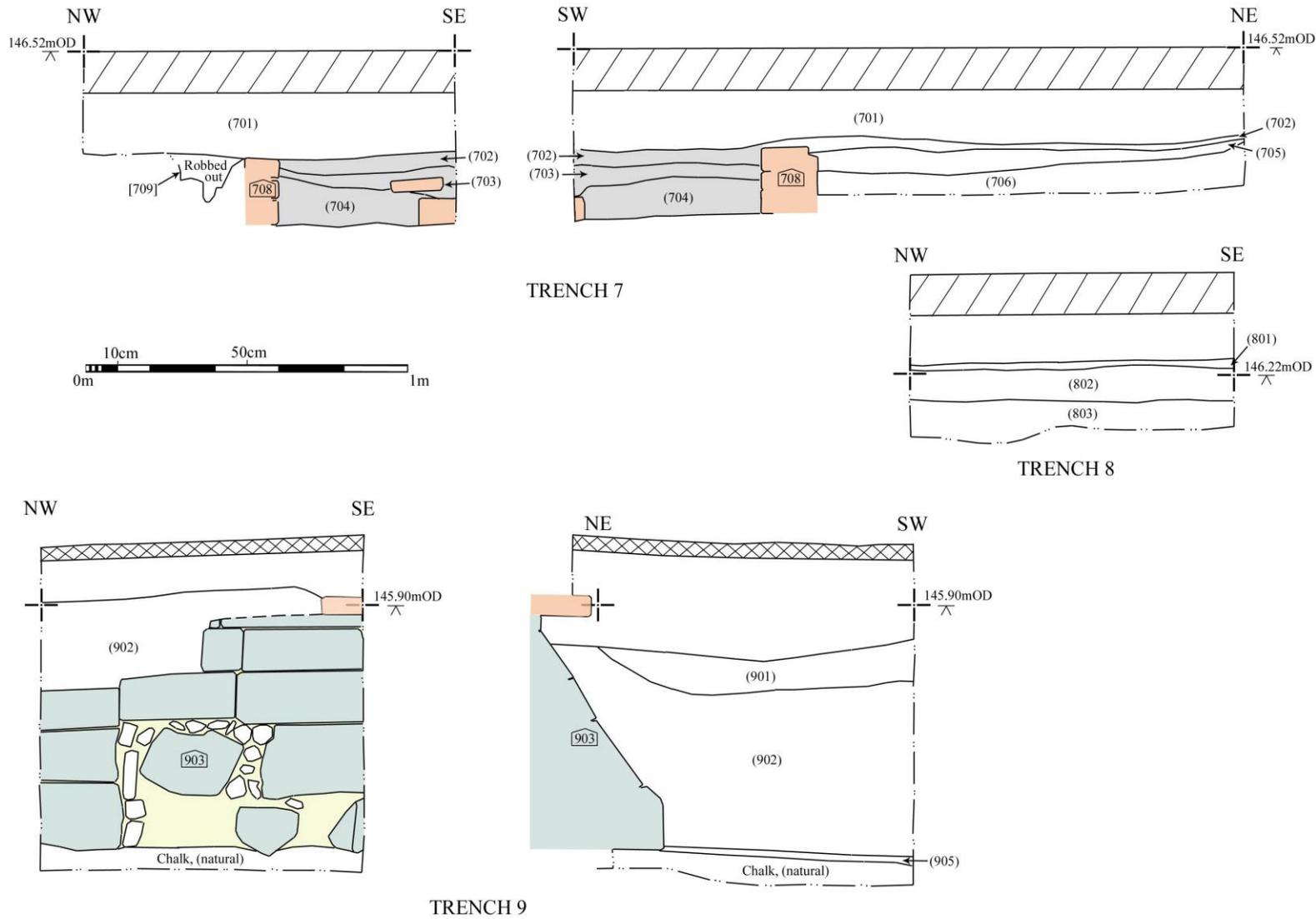
Trench 1		Trench 2		Trench 3		Trench 4		Trench 5		Trench 6		Trench 7		Trench 8		Trench 9	
No.	mAOD																
6	146.45	13	146.55	42	146.54	20	146.52	25	146.53	62	146.43	52	146.52	32	146.52	1	146.06
7	145.92	14	146.01	43	146.25	21	146.27	26	145.70	63	145.18	53	146.20	33	145.99	2	145.03
8	145.53	15	145.94	44	146.17	22	146.31	27	145.29	64	146.11	54	146.09	34	145.88	3	146.07
9	145.53	16	145.37	45	146.25	23	146.35	28	145.82	65	145.22	55	146.08	35	146.01	4	145.14
10	145.93	17	146.54	46	145.97	24	146.55	29	146.33	66	146.50	56	146.21	36	145.99		
11	146.45	18	146.14	47	145.93			30	146.54			57	145.98	37	145.96		
				48	146.25							58	146.09	38	145.97		
				49	146.24							59	146.52	39	146.06		
				50	146.54							60	146.52	40	146.53		
												61	146.11				

Fig.32: Sections through Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5, (originals drawn at 1:10)



- Brick / tile
- Totternhoe Clunch
- Mortar packing
- Excavated feature

Fig.33: Sections through Trenches 7, 8 and 8 (originals drawn at 1:10)



APPENDIX III The pottery by *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 248 sherds with a total weight of 6479g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval and modern wares, and was recorded using the conventions of the Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service type-series (eg Baker and Hassall 1977), as follows:

- B07: Medieval Shelly Ware**, AD1100-1400. 4 sherds, 62g.
- C58: Hertfordshire Glazed Ware**, 13th-15th C. 1 sherd, 54g.
- C59a: Coarse Sandy Ware**, 12-13th C. 2 sherds, 29g.
- C59b: Sandy Ware**, 12-13th C. 3 sherds, 35g.
- E01: Late medieval Reduced Ware**, mid-14th – 16th C. 3 sherds, 97g.
- P01: Glazed Red Earthenware**, 16th – 18th century. 93 sherds, 4556g.
- P06: Slip-decorated earthenware**, 17th – 18th century. 1 sherd, 33g.
- P09: Border Ware**, mid-16th – 18th century. 2 sherds, 18g.
- P30: Staffordshire Slipware**, mid-17th – 18th century. 6 sherds, 89g.
- P33: Tin-glazed Earthenware**, 17th – 18th century. 31 sherds, 218g.
- P36: Chinese Porcelain**, mid-17th – 18th century. 4 sherds, 8g.
- P37: White Salt-glazed Stoneware**, early-mid 18th century. 33 sherds, 442g.
- P38: Creamware**, 1760 – 1880. 7 sherds, 176g.
- P48: English Stoneware**, 1750+. 6 sherds, 26g.
- P56: Mass-produced White Earthenware**, 19th – 20th century. 51 sherds, 633g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region and suggests that the main period of activity at the site was from the 17th – 19th centuries. The residual sherds of Romano-British and medieval material are all in good condition, indicating that they have been subject to very little disturbance, and were probably originally stratified near to where they occurred. The Romano-British sherd is in a grog-tempered fabric.

Cross fits were noted between contexts (504) and (503), and these and (505), the fill of pit (506), contained a similar range of wares, indicating that the pre-19th century material was probably all disturbed during the construction of the pit.

The group of material from context (704) included many fragments of good-quality table ware, particularly White Salt-Glazed Stoneware tankards, shell-edges plates and soup bowls. One of the plates has a finely moulded flower, butterfly, leaf, and basket design on the edge, and dates to c 1755 (Mountford 1971, Fig. 141).

A number of vessels were well-represented. Most of the sherds of P01 from 203 are all from a single vessel, a large glazed jar. Two large sherds from a very large pancheon were also present. A large fragment of a “dog-dish” in the same fabric occurred in context (104).

Overall, the post-medieval pottery, and particularly the 18th century vessels, are typical of a well-to-do household of the period.

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Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	B07		C59a		C59b		C58		E01		P01		P09		P06		P33		P30		P48		P36		P37		P38		P56		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
104											1	354																			17thC
203											37	3291														1	105	20	411	19thC	
503											1	7	1	11	1	33								1	45	2	49	5	42	19thC	
504*	4	62	2	29	3	35	1	54			11	257	1	7			8	61	4	82	2	10			3	150	2	13	14	91	19thC
505											3	29					2	9							1	9	2	9	10	82	19thC
704											38	595					17	137	2	7	4	16	4	8	28	238					M18thC
801											1	8					3	7										2	7	19thC	
802									2	61	1	15					1	4													17thC
803									1	36																					M14thC
Total	4	62	2	29	3	35	1	54	3	97	93	4556	2	18	1	33	31	218	6	89	6	26	4	8	33	442	7	176	51	633	

*also included a single sherd of Romano-British pottery (33g)

APPENDIX IV Ceramic Building material by *Susan Pringle*

Key: A = Abraded; M = Mortar; *Med* = *Medieval*; PM = Post medieval; Rd = Reduced; S = Sooted; V = Vitrified

All measurements given in millimetres, (L = Length; B = Breadth; T = Thickness). Weight in grams

Context	CBM / Context date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments
(203)	1200-1500?	Med?	Fine sandy	Peg tile	1	150	-	-	15	M	Light brown fine sandy fabric. Medium moulding sand with calcium carbonate
(203)	1200-1500	Med?	Sandy with flints	Peg tile	1	92	-	-	14	-	Flinty moulding sand. One large round nail-hole c16mm diameter
(203)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Finer sandy	Peg tile	1	183	-	-	15	M	Fairly fine moulding sand. No flints
(203)	1450-1800	PM		Brick	1	646	1104	101	50	A, Rd, V	Unfrogged. Worn top surface – flooring brick? Four vertical stripes - of paint? - on stretcher. Vitrified moulding sand
(203)	1600-1900	PM	Orange	Brick	1	828	95+	103	62	M, V	Unfrogged. Vitrified surfaces. Flat faces, sharp arrises. Orange fabric, silty and rock fragments
(203)	1600-1900	PM	Orange	Brick	2	810	-	106	57 – 60	M, V	Both unfrogged. White lime mortar adhering to one. Orange fabric, silty and rock fragments
(203)	1600-1900	PM	Orange speckly	Brick	1	339	-	-	62	M	Flint flecks in fabric and moulding sand. Unfrogged
(504)	1600-1800	PM	Spotty	Brick	1	1496	180+	88+	62	M	Unfrogged. Flat smooth header, sharp arrises. Both stretchers rubbed; 1 is nearly flat, other has curve at junction with header. Spotty iron-rich fabric. Lots of white flint in the moulding sand
(504)	1600-1800	PM	Spotty	Brick	1	1133	155+	105	50+	A, V	Unfrogged. Top surface very worn. Vitrification on header, stretcher and base

Context	CBM / Context date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments
(504)	1200-1800	Med?	Fine sandy with flints	Peg tile	1	93	-	-	15	M	Flinty moulding sand
(504)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Sandy	Peg tile	1	145	-	-	15	-	Round nail-hole. Medium moulding sand containing no flint
(504)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Silty chunks	Peg tile	1	117	-	-	14	-	Fairly fine moulding sand
(504)	1450-1800	PM	Finer sandy	Peg tile	1	109	-	-	13	-	Large square nail-hole set diagonally c15mm x17mm. Iron nail rusted to surface. Fairly fine moulding sand
(505)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Sandy with flints	Peg tile	2	223	-	-	13-15	-	Flint flecks in moulding sand. Partial polygonal? nail-hole. Probably medieval
(505)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Sandy with flints	Ridge tile	1	59	-	-	11	-	Curved tile, unglazed. Partial nail-hole. Flinty moulding sand
(505)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Finer sandy with flints	Peg tile	2	223	-	-	14	M, S x1	Partial nail-hole in one. Probably medieval
(505)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Finer sandy with no flints	Peg tile	1	175	-	-	15	-	Medium moulding sand containing no flints
(505)	1200-1500	Med	Fine sandy orange	Floor tile	1	341	102	74+	32-38	A, M	Very worn floor tile, probably originally glazed. Mortar on base and on broken edge. Vitified sand? on sides and base may be glaze. Bevelled sides appear to be moulded not knife-cut. Fabric is fine sandy orange with silty inclusions and flint flakes
(706)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Sandy with flints	Peg tile	1	31	-	-	14	A	Sandy orange fabric with white flint inclusions. Coarse moulding sand. Medieval?

Context	CBM / Context date	Period	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight	L	B	T	Condition	Comments
(802)	1200-1800	Med?	Sandy	Peg tile	2	282	-	-	15	M x1	1 with large round nail-hole. Moulding sand has white calcareous speckle. Probably medieval
(802)	1200-1800	Med / PM	Finer sandy	Peg tile	1	130	-	-	15	M	Well-sorted medium grade moulding sand
(802)	1550-1800	PM	Sandy with flints	Brick	1	620	100+	113	47	V	Unfrogged. Smooth flat sides, fairly sharp arrises. Vitrified sand on stretcher and base. Sandy-flinty fabric
(802)	1200-1400	Med	Fine sandy	Floor tile	1	169	67+	65+	29	A	Two-colour decorated floor tile (partial). Top worn. Knife-cut bevelled sides have been rubbed at the top. Fairly fine sandy fabric containing poorly sorted quartz.

APPENDIX V Clay tobacco pipe by *James Aaronson*

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage from 11-15 High Street South, Dunstable is relatively small; comprising 3 partial and 1 complete pipe bowls along with 29 stem fragments but is also typical of the kind found in many urban environments in terms of make-up and the state of preservation.

Only a single complete pipe bowl was recovered from context (802), a buried yard / construction surface, and dates from the early 17th century; quite an early example. The other three partial bowls dated from the late-18th to early-19th century and came from contexts (704) and (505) respectively. These later pipe bowls found their way into secondary deposits associated with silting and backfilling of other features. This said all the datable pipes provide a secure dating when viewed alongside the pottery evidence given in Appendix III which allocate similar date ranges to the respective contexts.

Bibliography

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Catalogue

There follows a catalogue of the assemblage compiled using the guidelines set out in the *DAACS Cataloguing Manual: Tobacco Pipes*, by Kate Grillo, Jennifer Aultman and Nick Bon-Harper, (updated February 2012)

Key:

Abbreviations across head of table

BH = Bowl height
BW = Bowl width
SL = Stem length
SW = Stem width
BS = Borehole size

Abbreviations within text of table

BF = On bowl, facing smoker
SH = On sides of heel

All bowls have been identified using the following guides:

Atkinson, D and Oswald, A, (1969), 'London Clay Tobacco Pipes' *Journal of the Archaeological Association. Third Series Vol.XXXII*

All dates are approximate, all measurements are given in millimetres, (mm).

Table.1: *Catalogue of clay tobacco pipe*

Context	Form	Type	Date	Count	BH	BW	SL	SW	BS	Comments
(503)	Partial stem	-	-	1	-	-	60	5 - 6	2	Tapering towards mouth
(504)	Partial bowl with partial stem	28	1820-1840	1	36	20	34	9	2	No decoration, only back third of bowl remaining. Probable start of spur at join with stem indicated. Typology probable, not definite.
(504)	Partial stem	-	-	12	-	-	24 - 64	6 - 11	1.5 - 2	Various lengths and widths, two pieces conjoin. 5 pieces are of a speckled fabric, which are generally thicker stemmed too
(702)	Partial stem	-	-	1	-	-	35	9.5	3	-
(704)	Bowl with partial stem	27	1780-1820	1	36	21	9	7	2	Tall bowl, thin sided / brittle. Initialed 'W.W' SH. Short stubby heel.
(704)	Partial bowl	27	1780-1820	1	-	-	-	-	2	Only right side of bowl survives. Initialed 'W' on right SH. Short stubby heel. Very thin / brittle wall to bowl.
(704)	Partial stem	-	-	10	-	-	47 - 102	5 - 7.5	1.5 - 2	Mostly longer fragments, (55-60mm), most tapering towards mouth
(801)	Partial stem	-	-	2	-	-	33 - 72	7 - 10	2.5 - 3	-
(802)	Bowl with partial stem	5	1610-1640	1	25	17.5	18	8.5	3	Squat bulbous bowl. Flat round heel base. Mould lines roughly cleaned but still visible. Rouletted round rim BF
(802)	Partial stem	-	-	2	-	-	41 - 60	8.5 - 9	2.5 - 3	-
(803)	Partial stem	-	-	1	-	-	40	8.5	2.5	-

APPENDIX VI OASIS data collection form

OASIS ID: [compassa1-250740](#)

Project details

Project name	11-15 High Street South, Dunstable: A programme of archaeological evaluation
Short description of the project	Compass Archaeology were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation exercise on the site of 11-15 High Street South between 24th March and 5th April 2016. A series of 8 trial trenches were dug within the footprint of the existing building with an additional pit dug in the rear yard of the property making a total of 9 trial trenches. Archaeological deposits and features were encountered in 8 of the 9 trial trenches, including former cellars; wall footings; construction and demolition surfaces; post holes; stake holes and several large pits. A relatively large assemblage of post-medieval pottery of 17th to 19th century date was recovered from the backfilled pits and cellars, and several sherds of residual 12th to 14th century pottery were also identified. A single sherd of Roman-British grog-tempered ware indicates nearby Roman activity. Archaeology was often encountered immediately below the existing concrete floor slab. The most interesting feature encountered was in the 9th trial trench in the rear yard of the property. In the southeast section of the pit a large Totternhoe clunch wall footing was unearthed aligned NNW-SSE. Dumped against this wall footing was a large quantity of demolition debris comprised of mortar dust mixed with crushed tile, chalk and Totternhoe clunch. This material probably derived from a building associated with the footing. The size and form of the footing suggests it is related to the medieval Priory. Natural chalk was encountered in 6 of the 9 trial trenches at depths of between 0.17m and 0.93m below the existing ground surfaces.
Project dates	Start: 24-03-2016 End: 05-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	HSS16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	1243 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CB/14/04720/FULL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	POST HOLES Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Medieval
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE Post Medieval

Monument type	WALL FOOTINGS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLOOR TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE DUNSTABLE 11-15 High Street South, Dunstable
Postcode	LU6 3RZ
Study area	18.5 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 01950 21845 50.986420886312 -0.547343680655 50 59 11 N 000 32 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0.17m Max: 0.93m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Compass Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Compass Archaeology
Project director/manager	Geoff Potter
Project supervisor	James Aaronson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Luton Culture
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","other"

Physical Archive notes	Medieval glazed floor tile Clay tobacco pipe All finds to be deposited under same site code along with further records after secondary phase of work
Digital Archive recipient	Luton Culture
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Digital Archive notes	To be deposited under same site code along with further records after secondary phase of work
Paper Archive recipient	Luton Culture
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Map","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text","Context sheet"
Paper Archive notes	To be deposited under same site code along with further records after secondary phase of work

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	11-15 HIGH STREET SOUTH, DUNSTABLE, BEDFORDSHIRE, LU6 3RZ A programme of archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Aaronson, J
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Compass Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	250 York Road, Battersea, London, SW11 3SJ
Description	A summary of the evaluation detailing site background, known history, research objectives, methodology, and description of archaeological deposits and features recorded supplemented by illustrations and photographs. Conclusions and recommendations for next phase of work given.

COMPASS ARCHAEOLOGY

Dunstable – 11-15 High Street South (TL 01950 21845) James Aaronson

Prior to redevelopment and a strip; map and sample exercise a series of 8 trial trenches were dug within the footprint of the existing building with an additional pit dug in the rear yard of the property making a total of 9 trial trenches.

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OASIS ID: 250740

LUTON CULTURE ENTRY NO.: 1243