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PROPOSED PUBLIC HOUSE, PORTISHEAD DRIVE, TATTENHOE, MILTON KEYNES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Megan Stoakley MA PIfA (Research)		
NGR: SP 8275 3398	Report No: 4082	
District: Milton Keynes	Site Code: AS1498	
	MK Event No. 1311	
Approved: C Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4648	
	Date: May 2012	
Signed:		

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Project details	
Project name	Proposed public house, Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton
	Keynes

In May 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (NGR SU 8275 3398). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application to erect a new public house on the site at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (Planning Ref. 12/00698/FUL.

The recorded features of the evaluation were all linear (furrows, ditches and gullies). Plough Furrows F1012 and F1014 (Trench 1) were directly comparable (form, orientation and fill) and likely contemporary. Similar Ditches F1004 and F1006 (Trench 3) shared a similar alignment and likely broadly contemporary. Sparse finds (animal bone and CBM) were present but were not sufficient to date the features.

The evaluation revealed plough furrows, ditches and gullies likely agricultural features. No finds of significant quantity suggestive of settlement remains were found.

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Project dates (fieldwork)	May 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4648	Site code	AS1498; MK HER
			Event 1311
Type of project	Archaeological et	/aluation	
Site status	None		
Current land use	Waste land		
Planned development	Proposed public I	house	
Main features (+dates)	Linears (plough for	urrows, ditches, gullies	s)
Significant finds (+dates)	Sparse animal bo	ne and CBM	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Milton Keynes	Shenley Brook End
HER/ SMR for area	Milton Keynes &	Buckinghamshire HER	?s
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 0.84 ha.		
NGR	SP 8275 3398		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 112m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Advice from the N	Ailton Keynes Senior A	rchaeological Officer
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological S	olutions	
Funded by	McMullen & Sons	s Limited	
Full title	Proposed public	house, Portishead D.	rive, Tattenhoe, Milton
	Keynes. An Arch	aeological Evaluation	
Authors	Smith, L. & Higgs	s, K.	
Report no.	4082		
Date (of report)	May 2012		

PROPOSED PUBLIC HOUSE, PORTISHEAD DRIVE, TATTENHOE, MILTON KEYNES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (NGR SU 8275 3398). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application to erect a new public house on the site at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (Planning Ref. 12/00698/FUL.

The site had only a low potential for prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon, post-medieval and early modern remains, and a moderate potential for Romano-British and modern remains. The most significant archaeological potential for the site was for medieval archaeology associated with the deserted medieval village of Tattenhoe which was centred upon the Church of St Giles 80m to the east.

The recorded features of the evaluation were all linear (furrows, ditches and gullies). Plough Furrows F1012 and F1014 (Trench 1) were directly comparable (form, orientation and fill) and likely contemporary. Similar Ditches F1004 and F1006 (Trench 3) shared a similar alignment and likely broadly contemporary. Sparse finds (animal bone and CBM) were present but were not sufficient to date the features.

The evaluation revealed plough furrows, ditches and gullies, likely agricultural features. No finds of significant quantity suggestive of settlement remains were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (NGR SU 8275 3398; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by McMullen & Sons Limited and was undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application to erect a new public house on the site at Portishead Drive, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes (Planning Ref. 12/00698/FUL).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by the Milton Keynes Council Senior Archaeological Officer (MKC AO), and a specification provided by AS (dated 9th May 2012), approved by the MKC AO. The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard* and *Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).
- 1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been completed (Higgs 2011).
- 1.4 The principal objectives for the evaluation were:
- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it was important to establish the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity associated with the evidence from previous excavations close by to the south, and any medieval activity on the periphery of the nearby

- settlement. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment.
- 1.5 The main research issues were to identify any evidence of Romano-British occupation associated with the activity recorded during excavations to the south in 2002. It was also be important to identify any evidence of the open fields surrounding the medieval Tattenhoe village.

Planning policy context

- 1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.
- 1.7 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site of the proposed public house is located within the suburban district of Tattenhoe, which lies at the south-western extent of the city of Milton Keynes and the county of Buckinghamshire. It formerly lay within the historic parish of Tattenhoe, which now forms part of the larger parish of Shenley Brook End. The site is located along the western frontage of Portishead Drive, which is a modern residential street, and it comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 0.84 hectares situated between Portishead Drive and Chaffron Way. The site's eastern boundary is formed by the course of Portishead Drive, while to the immediate north lie residential properties at Nos. 6, 10 & 26 Sunderland Court. To the immediate south lies a pedestrian pathway leading to a subway beneath Chaffron Way, while to the west of the site is undeveloped land. The site currently comprises an overgrown, open field.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The surrounding relief is gently undulating and slopes down to the Loughton Brook, which flows 700m to the south-east of the site. The Tattenhoe district lies on a drift geology of Boulder clay, while a geo-technical survey for the site identified Glacial Till overlying Oxford Clay.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been completed (Higgs 2011). In summary:
- The site lies within an area with numerous archaeological finds, which has been subject to extensive metal detecting surveys and has yielded a wealth of findspots. However, the early prehistoric period is represented only by a single Neolithic tear-drop shaped flint hand axe discovered 700m to the south of the site. Although a partially enclosed Iron Age settlement comprising a minimum of 21 round houses is recorded at Tattenhoe Bare, it lies 850m to the south-west of the site. The site therefore has only a low potential for further prehistoric remains.
- The area surrounding the site has yielded a large number of metal detecting finds dating from the Romano-British period, which are dominated by chance finds of badly worn and incomplete Roman coins. It is possible that Romano-British settlement at Tattenhoe, including that to the north of Newton Common, was associated with the small town of Magiovinium, which lay just outside of the parish of Bletchley at its eastern extent. A second, larger Romano-British settlement has also been identified in the vicinity of Tattenhoe's Church of St Giles, which stands 80m to the east of the site. In particular several ditches containing late 2nd mid to late 4th century pottery and roofing tiles, judged to indicate the nearby presence of a building, were found in the vicinity of Portishead Drive. It is likely that further Romano-British finds and features may be found within or close to the site itself, and thus the site has a high potential for such remains.
- The site lies 80m to the west of Tattenhoe's Church of St Giles and its deserted medieval village, which was centred upon the extant scheduled moat, fishponds and series of earthworks. Archaeological evidence for the medieval settlement is extensive, comprising blocks of limestone indicative of a medieval church upon the site of the extant 16th century building, as well as a number of 12th century and later structures. It is judged that the earliest medieval settlement at Tattenhoe occupied the higher ground to the east of the present church and probably dates to the later 11th and 12th centuries, relocating in the 13th and 14th centuries to the south-east of the extant church. Although the site lies to the west of both areas, the watching brief along course of Portishead Drive to immediate east of site revealed extensive evidence for medieval ploughing and furrows, whilst cartographic evidence dating from 1881 1958 depicts a roughly L-shaped earthwork in close proximity of the site. The site thus has a potential for further medieval remains, though the site is peripheral to the known settlement core.
- Extensive post-medieval and later finds assemblages have been found in the area surrounding the site, the majority of which comprises metal detecting finds. However, the settlement of Tattenhoe had fallen into decline in the 15th century and was almost deserted

by the 16th century, whilst the Tattenhoe district was not developed as a suburban area of Milton Keynes until the very late 20th century. Portishead Drive, which lies to the immediate east of the site, was not established until 2000 and the site itself has remained undeveloped.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The advice from the MKC AO required the excavation of trial trenches to evaluate the presence of any archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed new development, or that will be affected by its construction. 200 linear metres of trenching at 1.8m width were required to examine the area of the proposed public house and car park. Five trenches of 40m x 1.8m were excavated, and a proposed trench plan was agreed with MKC AO.
- 4.2 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample Section	1Δ· SI// F	End SE Facing
		ind, OL I doing
0.00m = 113.00n	1 AUD	
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional
		angular gravel.
0.08 – 0.41m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional
		angular gravel.
0.41m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brown clay with moderate angular gravel and
		frequent chalk fragments

Sample Section 1B: NE, SE Facing 0.00m = 112.07m AOD		
0.00 - 0.03m	L1001	Made Ground. Mid yellowish brown, firm, silty clay.
0.03 - 0.64m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above.
0.64m+	L1003	Natural. As Above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Gully F1010 and Plough Furrow F1012.

Gully F1010 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.81 x 0.21m), orientated NE/SW. It had very shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a mid bluish grey brown, firm, slightly silty clay with occasional angular gravel. No finds were present.

Plough Furrow F1012 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.86 x 0.08m), orientated NW/SE. It had

very shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional angular gravel and CBM. It contained CBM.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2)

Sample Section 2A: SE End, SW Facing 0.00m = 112.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1.
0.39 - 0.70m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.70m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 2B: NW, SW Facing		
0.00m = 111.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1001	Made Ground. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.38m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.38m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Plough Furrow F1014.

Plough Furrow F1014 was linear in plan (1.80+ \times 0.90 \times 0.07m), orientated NW/SE. It had very shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay. It contained animal bone.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample Section 3A: SE End, SW Facing 0.00m = 111.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.13 – 0.37m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.37m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 3B: NW End, SW Facing		
0.00m = 110.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.14 - 0.52m	L1002	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.52m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained two ditches (F1004 and F1006).

Ditch F1004 was linear in plan (1.80+ \times 1.10 \times 0.36m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional angular gravel and fragments of CBM. It contained animal bone. F1004 was on the same alignment as Ditch F1006 (Tr.3)

Ditch F1006 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.42 x 0.36m), orientated N/S. It had steep irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a mid greyish brown, firm, silty clay with angular gravel. It contained no finds. F1006 was on the same alignment as Ditch F1004 (Tr.3). It did not continue into Trench 2.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2)

Sample Section 4 0.00m = 111.20m		End, NW Facing
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.13 – 0.43m	L1002	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.43m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As above Tr.1

Sample Section 4B: NE End NW Facing		
0.00m = 110.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 5)

Sample Section 5A: SE End, SW Facing							
0.00m = 111.43m AOD							
0.00 - 0.32m	0.00 – 0.32m L1000 Topsoil. As above Tr.1.						
0.32m+	L1003	1003 Natural boulder clay. As above Tr.1					

Sample Section 5B: NW End, SW Facing							
$0.00m = 109.59m \ AOD$							
0.00 – 0.26m	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.						
0.26m+	L1003	Natural boulder clay. As Above Tr.1.					

Description: Trench 5 contained Gully F1008.

Gully F1008 was linear in plan $(1.80+ \times 0.90 \times 0.09m)$, orientated N/S. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a bluish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional angular gravel and chalk fragments. No finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of artefacts and/or ecofacts during the evaluation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 In the majority of trenches (3-5) Topsoil L1000 was the uppermost layer. It was a dark greyish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional angular gravel (0.13 - 0.26m thick). In Trenches 1 and 2 Made Ground L1001 was uppermost. It comprised a mid yellowish brown, firm, silty clay (0.03-30m thick). Below L1000 and L1001 was Subsoil L1002, a mid reddish brown, firm, silty clay with occasional angular gravel (0.15-0.38m thick). L1002 was absent in Trench 5 where Topsoil L1000 directly overlay the natural boulder clay (L1003). The latter was present below Subsoil L1002 in Trenches 3 and 4, and it comprised a mid brown boulder clay with moderate angular gravel and frequent chalk fragments (0.20-0.64m below the present ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The recorded archaeological features are tabulated:

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
1	F1010	Gully	-
	F1012	Plough furrow	-
2	F1014	Plough furrow	
3	F1004	Ditch	-
	F1006	Ditch	-
5	F1008	Gully	-

- 8.2 The recorded features were all linear (furrows, ditches and gullies). Plough Furrows F1012 and F1014 (Trenches 1 and 2) were directly comparable (form, orientation and fill) and likely contemporary. Similar Ditches F1004 and F1006 (Trench 3) shared a similar alignment and likely broadly contemporary. The ditches did not continue into Trench 2. Sparse finds were present and were not sufficient to date the features. Plough Furrow F1014 (Tr.2 and Ditch F1004 (Tr.3) contained animal bone, and Plough Furrow F1012 (Tr.1) contained CBM. The plough furrows are likely post-medieval or modern.
- 8.3 The site had only a low potential for prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon, post-medieval and early modern remains, and a moderate potential for Romano-British and modern remains. The most significant archaeological potential for the site was for Romano-British settlement activity associated with a known site to the south, and also for medieval archaeology associated with the open fields surrounding the deserted medieval village of Tattenhoe which was centred upon the Church of St Giles 80m to the east.
- 8.4 In the event the evaluation revealed plough furrows, ditches and gullies likely agricultural features. Cartographic sources (Figs. 3 and 4) record the site as open. No finds of significant quantity suggestive of settlement remains were found.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

- 9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Buckinghamshire County Museum (Accession No. AYBCM: 2012.43). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.
- 9.2 The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. It will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and according to the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (SCC AS Conservation Team, 2008).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank McMullen & Sons Limited for their co-operation and funding the project, in particular Mr Andrew Newbury

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Mr Nick Crank, Archaeological Officer Milton Keynes Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS 1498, Tattenhoe, Milton Keynes

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)
1004	1005	3	Ditch		256
1010	1011	1	Plough Furrow	4	
1012	1013	1	Plough Furrow	11	110

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

A total of two small fragments (15g) of highly abraded, post-medieval peg tile were recovered from Plough Furrows F1010 and F1012. They have almost certainly been repeatedly re-deposited as agricultural soils have been supplemented and moved.

Animal Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A total of 14 bones were recovered from two deposits, L1005 (Ditch F1004) and L1013 (Plough Furrow F1012). L1005 contained a cattle scapula broken into several pieces and a deer 1st phalanx, thought likely to belong to fallow deer but as it was incomplete this could not be confirmed with certainty. This context also contained seven fragments attributed to large mammal (cattle or horse sized) and one to medium mammal (sheep or pig sized). Context L1013 yielded just four fragments of large mammal long bone shaft. No butchery, pathology or other modifications were noted on any of the bones.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1 Plough furrow F1012 in Trench 1



3 Ditch F1004 in Trench 3



2 Plough furrow F1014 in Trench 2



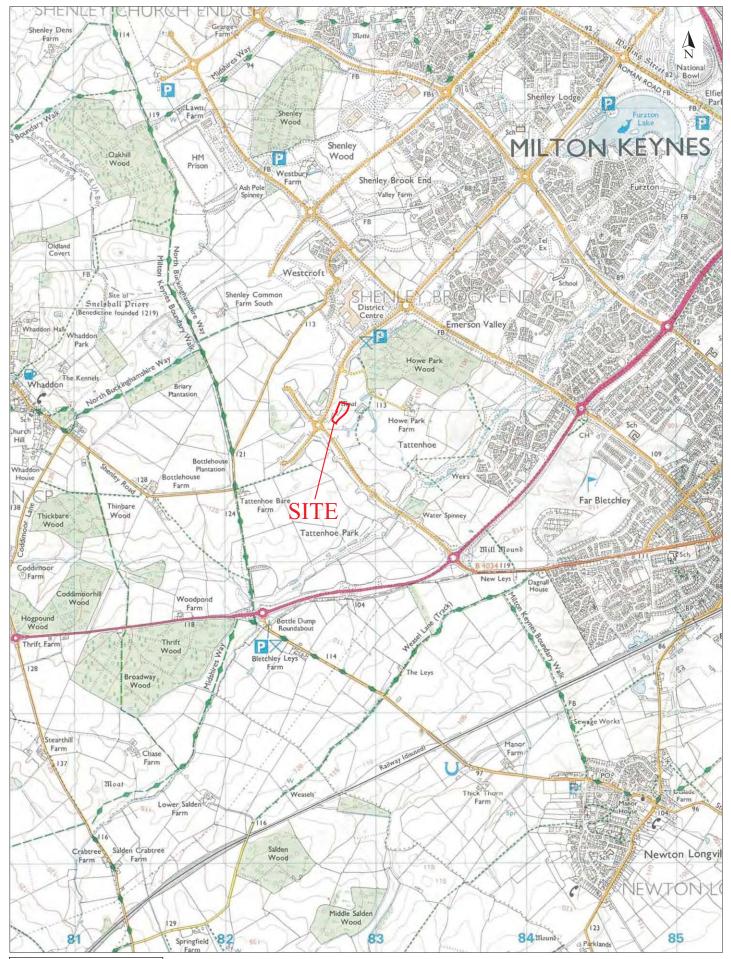
4 Ditch F1006 in Trench 3





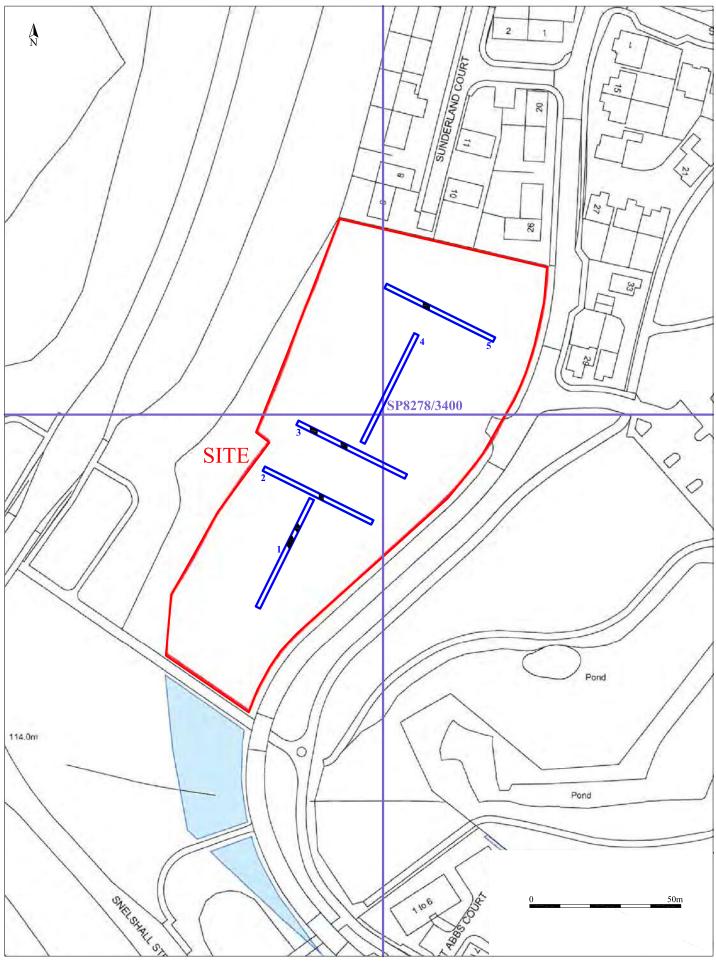
5 Gully 1008 in Trench 5

6 Gully 1010 in Trench 5



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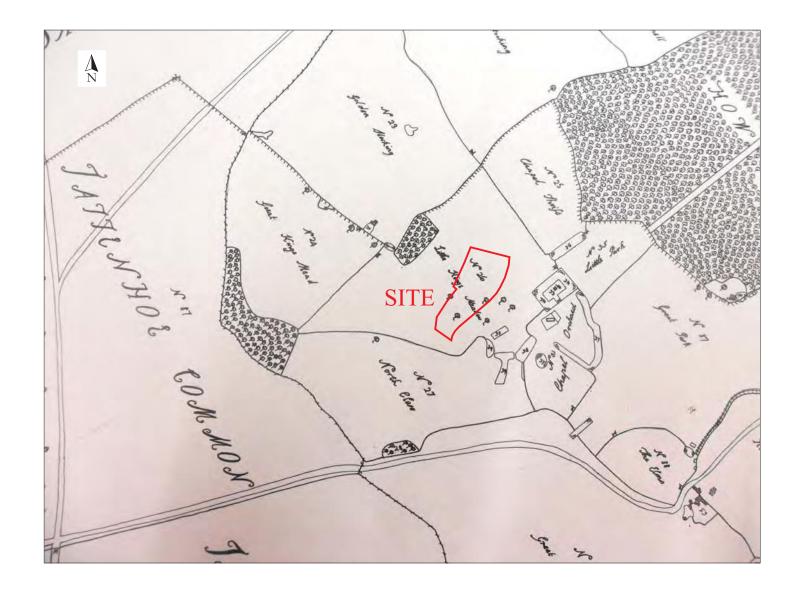
Archaeological Solutions Ltd Fig. 1 Site Scale 1:25,000 at A4 Site location plan

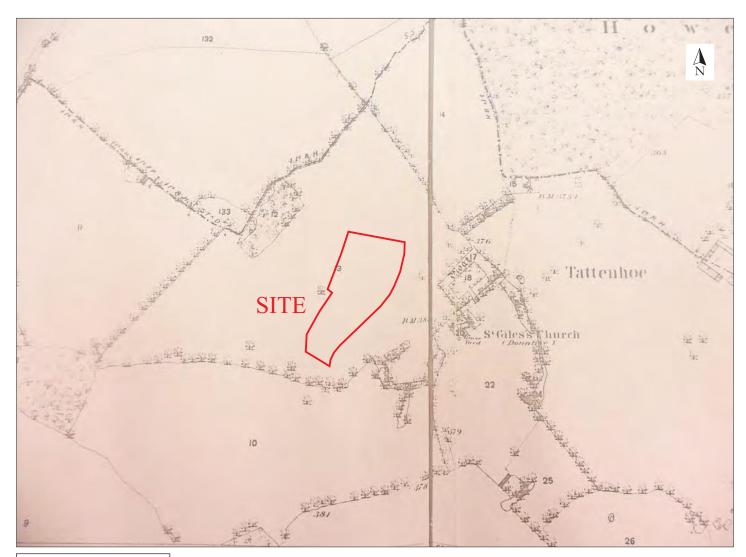


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4





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Archaeological Solutions Ltd g. 4 OS map, 1881

