

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**122A HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL,  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 0926 3815	Report No: 4125
District: Central Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS1517
Approved: C Halpin MifA	Project No: 4932
Signed:	Date: August 2012

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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>122A High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<i>In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 122A High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0926 3815). The evaluation was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for the construction of eight new dwellings (CBC Planning Ref CB/12/02204/FULL).</i>			
<i>The site is located in the eastern part of the historic core of the village of Clophill, which is recorded on the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER 16998). It had the potential to reveal evidence of the medieval and post-medieval development of the village. In the event the evaluation did not reveal medieval features or finds, and represents negative evidence for this period. Post-medieval and modern features associated with the dwellings on the High Street were found.</i>			
<i>Quite unexpected was the occurrence of struck flint at the interface of the subsoil (L1001) and natural (L1002). Flint was found in six (Trs. 3 – 8) of the eight trenches. The struck flint represents a homogenous group and dates to the earlier Mesolithic period. It is suggested that spread of struck flint represents a localised area of earlier Mesolithic activity. Other Mesolithic finds in the local area surrounding Clophill include, c.1.8km to the east, a possible Mesolithic working floor (CBHER 2595) which produced a similar assemblage.</i>			
<i>The heritage assets to be affected at this site are therefore the post-medieval remains and Mesolithic flint scatter recorded during the evaluation. The principal impact of the development on these assets will be the groundworks for the proposed houses, garages and the introduction of services etc.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>August 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4932</i>	Site code	<i>AS1517</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Clophill Conservation Area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Dwelling &amp; garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>8 new dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post medieval ditches, pits, post hole gully</i>		
Significant finds (+ dates)	<i>Earlier Mesolithic spread of struck flint</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Clophill</i>
HER for area	<i>Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (CBHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.3000m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 0926 3815</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 55m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Tilsworth Developments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>122A High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Gareth Barlow &amp; Andrew Peachey</i>		
Report no.	<i>4125</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2012</i>		

## 122A HIGH STREET, CLOPHILL, BEDFORDSHIRE

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

*In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 122A High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0926 3815). The evaluation was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for the construction of eight new dwellings (CBC Planning Ref CB/12/02204/FULL).*

*Archaeological features were revealed in three trenches (Trs. 2, 4 and 6). The features comprise principally ditches (F1014, F1018 and F1020 (Tr.4); and F1010 and F1022 (Tr.6)). Pits (F1006 (Tr.2) and Pit F1012 (Tr.6)), a gully (F1016 (Tr.4)) and post hole (F1008 (Tr.6)) were also recorded. The dated features are principally post-medieval and modern. Some features (F1006 (Tr.2) and F1016 and F1018 (Tr.4)) are undated.*

*The site is located in the eastern part of the historic core of the village of Clophill, which is recorded on the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER 16998). It had the potential to reveal evidence of the medieval and post-medieval development of the village. In the event the evaluation did not reveal medieval features or finds, and represents negative evidence for this period. Post-medieval and modern features associated with the dwellings on the High Street were found.*

*Quite unexpected was the occurrence of struck flint at the interface of the subsoil (L1001) and natural (L1002). Flint was found in six (Trs. 3 – 8) of the eight trenches. The struck flint represents a homogenous group and dates to the earlier Mesolithic period. It is suggested that spread of struck flint represents a localised area of earlier Mesolithic activity. Other Mesolithic finds in the local area surrounding Clophill include, c.1.8km to the east, a possible Mesolithic working floor (CBHER 2595) which produced a similar assemblage.*

*The heritage assets to be affected at this site are therefore the post-medieval remains and Mesolithic flint scatter recorded during the evaluation. The principal impact of the development on these assets will be the groundworks for the proposed houses, garages and the introduction of services etc.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at 122A High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0926 3815; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide further information in support of a planning application for the construction of eight new dwellings (CBC Planning Ref CB/12/02204/FULL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (dated 6<sup>th</sup> July 2012) and a specification (WSI) prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012), approved by CBC. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 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.

1.5 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 Clophill is a village in central Bedfordshire, c.12km to the south of Bedford. The site lies on the eastern edge of Clophill, on the southern side of the High Street and comprises the existing dwelling of 122A High Street and large rear garden plot. The site is located in the Clophill Conservation Area.

### **3 THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

3.1.1 The village is situated at c.55m AOD on the lower slopes of the Greensand Ridge, above the valley of the River Flit to the south. The geology of area is localised deposits of silts, sands and gravels (undifferentiated Head deposits) overlying the Woburn Sands Formation of the Lower Greensand Group. The valley of the River Flit to the south also contains alluvial and river terrace deposits.

#### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

##### *Prehistoric*

3.2.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains within 1km of the site are scarce. Neolithic - Late Bronze Age flint implements (CBHER 14644) and Iron Age pottery (CBHER 14643) were discovered at Cainhoe Castle situated c.900m to the south-east of the site. A cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (CBHER 16705) is located to the south-east of Pedley Wood c.1km to the north-east.

##### *Romano-British*

3.2.2 Similarly Romano-British archaeological remains within 1km of the site are scarce. The supposed route of a Roman road, Viatores No. 176 (CBHER 5342) runs west-east through the centre of Clophill (the modern day High Street) and is located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. Romano-British pottery (CBHER 14643) was discovered at Cainhoe Castle c.900m to the south-east and a late Romano-British radiate coin (CBHER 3650) was discovered c.1km to the south-west.

##### *Anglo-Saxon and Medieval*

3.2.3 Clophill was settled at least as far back as the late Saxon period. A settlement at Clophill is recorded prior to Domesday, and after the Conquest was combined with Cainhoe to the south and held by Nigel D'Albini, who built Cainhoe Castle (CBHER 225). The latter lies some 900m to the south west of 122A High Street. The location of the late Saxon settlement is as yet unknown. The medieval and later settlement extends in linear form along the lower slopes of the Greensand Ridge, but it has been suggested that the name 'Clophill' is associated with a hilltop settlement (Allden 1978), which does not fit this morphology.

3.2.4 The site is located in the eastern part of the historic core of the village (CBHER 16998). The ruined parish church of St Mary (CBHER 2476) lies some 700m to the north east of the village core, with cropmarks and air photo interpretation showing evidence of a small number of buildings having been located surrounding it (CBHER 9145). There are records of buildings still surrounding the church in the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries (Allden 1978). The ruined church dates to the 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> centuries, but some surviving structural elements may be considerably

earlier. It may have been built by the de Greys, who acquired the Clophill/Cainhoe Manor in 1415, and a record of a request for burial there in 1498 is known.

3.2.5 The origins of the settlement are far from certain. If the original Saxon settlement did lie to the north east, the settlement shift may post date the plague years of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and a shift to the present linear development may suggest the archaeological potential for this part of the village is for remains from the 14<sup>th</sup> century and later (Alden 1978).

#### Post-Medieval

3.2.6 Two 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings (CBHERs 3716 & 3718) are located c.250m – 300m to the west. Nos. 122 and 124 High Street (CBHERs 13107 & 13105), adjacent to the site, comprise 18<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed cottages. The site of an infectious diseases hospital (CBHER 9153) and a smithy (CBHER 9524) are located 500m to the south and 400m to the west respectively.

3.2.7 Later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings (CBHERs 3717, 3720, 3722, 7452, 9152, 13103, 13108 & 8687) are located c.10m – 300m to the west of the site. The 19<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary (CBHER 3721) is situated 250m to the north-west. Post-medieval quarry pits (CBHERs 9134, 9136 & 9137) are located 500m to the north-west and 500m to the south-east respectively.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 One test pit (labelled Trench 1) and seven trenches (labelled Trenches 2 – 8) were excavated using a mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches measured 7.50 – 30m x 1.80m and the trial pit measured 2 x 2m.

4.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 1A: NE end 0.00 = 52.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.03m	L1004	Gravel Driveway.
0.03 – 0.03m	L1005	Plastic Sheet.
0.03 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid – dark grey, friable, sandy silt with sparse flint.
0.22 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt with sparse flint.
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. Light – mid orange brown/yellow, compact, sandy silt with sparse flint.

*Description: Post-medieval (mid 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (5g) and CBM (107g) were found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. No archaeological features were present.*

### **Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)**

<i>Sample section 2A: NW end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.71 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.51m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 2B: NE end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.56m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.43 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.61m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: Undated Pit F1006 was recorded within Trench 2.*

Pit F1006 was rectangular in plan (0.93+ x 0.40 x 0.15m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a light to mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained no finds.

### **Trench 3 (Fig. 2)**

<i>Sample section 3A: East End</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 3B: West End</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: Two struck flints (40g) were found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. No archaeological features were present.*

### **Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 3)**

<i>Sample section 4A: East end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1

0.55m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1
<i>Sample section 4B: West end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: One struck flint (1g) was found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. Three ditches (F1014, F1018 and F1020), and Gully F1016 were present. Ditches F1014 and F1020 contained post-medieval pottery, the other features contained no finds and were undated.*

Ditch F1014 was linear in plan (1.89+ x 0.69 x 0.31m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (391g).

Gully F1016 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.19 x 0.21m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1017, was a light mid brown, compact, sandy silt with sparse flint. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1018 was linear in plan (2.00+ x 0.73 x 0.15m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1019, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1020 was linear in plan (1.18+ x 0.69+ x 0.20m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (76g) and CBM (161g).

### **Trench 5 (Fig. 2)**

<i>Sample section 5A: East End</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.28m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 5B: West End</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.14 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36m	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: Two struck flints (5g) were found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. No archaeological features were present.*

## Trench 6 (Figs. 2 & 3)

<i>Sample section 6A: South end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.38m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 6B: North end</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: Five struck flints (32g) were found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. Two ditches (F1010 and F1022), Post Hole F1008 and Pit F1012 were present. Ditch F1010 and Pit F1012 contained post-medieval pottery, Ditch F1022 contained post-medieval/modern pottery, and Post Hole F1008 contained the remains of a modern wooden post.*

Post Hole F1008 was circular in plan (0.45 x 0.23m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained no finds excepting the remains of a modern wooden post.

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (1.84+ x 0.58 x 0.13m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (12g).

Pit F1012 was subcircular in plan (0.45 x 0.39 x 0.10m). It had very shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained post-medieval (late 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (6g).

Ditch F1022 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.17+ x 0.1m), orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was a mid brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained post-medieval/modern (mid 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (3g), CBM (2g), glass (1g) and slag (3g).

## Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 7A: East End</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.10 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 7B: West End</i> <i>0.00 = 50.66m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.11 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.40m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: One struck flints (10g) was found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. No archaeological features were present.*

## **Trench 8 (Fig. 2)**

<i>Sample section 8A: North end</i> <i>0.00 = 51.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.37m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 8B: South end</i> <i>0.00 = 50.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

*Description: Five struck flints (98g) were found on the interface between Subsoil L1001 and the natural, L1002. No archaeological features were present.*

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 The stratigraphy was consistent across the site excepting Trench 1 where a gravel drive and plastic overlay the sequence. Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a mid – dark grey, friable, sandy silt with sparse flint (0.10 – 0.43 m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, friable, silty sand with sparse flint (0.08 – 0.29m thick).

7.2 L1001 overlay the natural geology, L1002. The latter was present at 0.28 – 0.61m below the existing ground level and comprised a light – mid orange brown/yellow, compact, sandy silt with sparse flint.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The archaeological features and finds are tabulated:

Trench/ Trial Pit	Context	Description	Date	Finds at interface of L1001 & L1002
1				Post-med. pot, CBM
2	F1006	Pit	Undated	
3				X2 struck flints (40g)
4				X1 struck flint (1g)
	F1014	Ditch	Post-medieval	
	F1016	Gully	Undated	
	F1018	Ditch	Undated	
	F1020	Ditch	Post-medieval	
5				X2 struck flints (5g)
6				X5 struck flints (32g)
	F1008	Post Hole	Modern	
	F1010	Ditch	Post-medieval	
	F1012	Pit	Post-medieval	
	F1022	Ditch	Post-medieval /modern	
7				X1 struck flint (10g)
8				X5 struck flint (98g)

8.2 Archaeological features were revealed in three trenches (Trs. 2, 4 and 6). These trenches are not adjacent and therefore the features are dispersed. The features comprise principally ditches (F1014, F1018 and F1020 (Tr.4); and F1010 and F1022 (Tr.6)). Pits (F1006 (Tr.2) and Pit F1012 (Tr.6)), a gully (F1016 (Tr.4)) and post hole (F1008 (Tr.6)) were also recorded. The dated features are principally post-medieval and modern. Some features (F1006 (Tr.2) and F1016 and F1018 (Tr.4)) are undated. The features contained pottery and few other finds (CBM). The alignment of the ditches share little in common with the adjacent boundaries excepting Ditch F1022 (Tr.6) which is parallel to the back boundary of the site.

8.3 The site is located in the eastern part of the historic core of the village of Clophill (HER 16998) and had the potential to reveal evidence for the medieval and post-medieval development of the village. However, the evaluation did not record any medieval features or finds. A previous archaeological investigation by AS at 91 High Street (EBD645) c.200m to the west was also negative; suggesting the absence of evidence for medieval occupation may be consistent in this area of the village, possibly reflecting vacant or peripheral land, which can characterise non-nucleated or low population density rural settlements in the region (Wade 1997, 52). Post-medieval and modern features associated with the dwellings on the High Street were recorded, and contained pottery that indicated occupation from the late 16<sup>th</sup>/early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

8.4 An unexpected result of the evaluation was the recovery of a distribution of Mesolithic struck flint at the interface of the subsoil (L1001) and natural (L1002). The struck flint forms a homogenous group (Flint Report Below), including cores, microliths, blades and debitage that were probably manufactured from local river

terrace gravels. This group was represented by between 1 - 5 pieces per trench in six (Trs. 3 – 8) of the eight trenches. The microliths comprise obliquely blunted types, which combined with the bi-polar cores and blades in the group are indicative of an earlier Mesolithic date. This distribution of artefacts may represent a localised area of earlier Mesolithic activity, similar to a possible Mesolithic working floor recorded c.1.8km to the east (CBHER2595). The presence of such hunter-gatherer activity in the local landscape is further supported by the presence of Mesolithic blades, a scraper and debitage recovered c.1.2km to the south-west (CBHER 15610), as well as sparsely distributed Mesolithic microliths and flakes recorded within a 5km radius of Clophill (Struck Flint Report below). Importantly, the composition of this group of struck flint, its location close to the River Flit, and the exploitation of river gravels are consistent with *in situ* evidence for earlier Mesolithic occupation or activity in the southern area of the East Midlands (Myers 2006, 53-5) and the western area of East Anglia (Austin 1997, 9).

8.5 The heritage assets to be affected at this site are therefore the post-medieval remains and Mesolithic flint scatter recorded during the evaluation. The principal impact of the development on these assets will be the groundworks for the proposed houses, garages and the introduction of services etc.

## 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Bedford Museum under Accession No. BEDFM 2012.44. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**AS1517, 122a High Street, Clophill, Beds**  
 Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	TT	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1001		1 3 4 5 6 7 8	Subsoil	Mid 16th-18th	(1) 12g	107		Str. Flint (2) - 40g Str. Flint (1) - 1g Str. Flint (2) - 5g Str. Flint (5) - 32g Str. Flint (1) - 10g Str. Flint (5) - 98g
1010	1011	6	Fill of Ditch	17th-18th	(1) 19g			
1012	1013	6	Fill of Pit	Late 16th-18th	(1) 5g			
1018	1019	4	Fill of Ditch	17th-18th	(8) 380g			
1020	1021	4	Fill of Ditch	17th-18th/19th	(2) 75g	161		
1022	1023	6	Fill of Ditch	Mid 18th – 19th	(1) 3g	2		Glass (1) - 1g Slag (1) - 3g

## APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 14 sherds, weighing 494g, from five features and the subsoil. All the pottery is post-medieval red earthenware except for a small fragment of English Porcelain from Ditch F1022. The mug base from Ditch F1018 (L1019) contains a darker brown streaking to its brown glaze which is similar in appearance to that found on Staffordshire mottled wares, and therefore might suggest a similar date range of the mid 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### KEY:

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware mid 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

ENPO: English Porcelain mid 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Subsoil 1001		1x12g PMRE	Mid 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Unglazed – heavy abrasion
Ditch 1010	1011	1x19g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Internal green-brown glaze - abraded
Pit 1012	1013	1x5g PMRE	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	V abraded, traces of internal brown glaze
Ditch 1018	1019	8x380g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	min 3 vessels. X1 bowl base and body with abraded internal green-brown glaze; x1 rounded bowl rim with internal glaze, possibly from same vessel as above; body sherd with internal clear glaze fairly good condition; x1 abraded jar base with internal and external dark brown glaze
Ditch 1020	1021	2x75g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>	abraded body sherds x1 clear internal glaze and patchy external glaze, x1 olive green-brown glaze both sides
Ditch 1022	1023	1x3g ENPO	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	Abraded ring base from small cup

### The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey MifA*

The evaluation recovered six fragments (265g) of highly fragmented, late –post-medieval CBM. Ditch F1020 (L1021) contained a single fragment of 35mm thick floor brick with a single fragment of peg tile, while Ditch F1022 (L1023) contained crumbs of unidentifiable CBM. Subsoil L1001 (Tr.1) also contained a further two fragments of peg tile. All the CBM occurred in an orange-red fabric with inclusions of medium sand and sparse coarse iron rich grains, which was probably produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 16 pieces (187g) of struck flint recovered from the base of Subsoil L1001 (in Trenches 3-8) in a relatively fresh and un-patinated condition. This small assemblage appears to be homogenous in technology, and includes two bi-polar blade cores and two obliquely blunted microliths (Table 1), which are indicative of an earlier Mesolithic chronology.

Implement/Flake type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Core	2	79
Microlith	2	2
Blade	4	30
Debitage	8	76
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>187</i>

Table 1: Quantification of implement types anddebitage flake types in the Pit Cluster

### *Methodology & Terminology*

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement/core type (after Healy 1988, 48-9), patination and colour were also recorded as part of this data set.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio).

### *Raw Material*

The entirety of the assemblage occurs in a dark grey raw flint with a moderate brown-red tinge, and an off-white cortex that is typically worn smooth. The colouring of the flint, probably by iron oxides, and the wear of the cortex suggest the raw flint was sourced from terrace gravels. These eroded deposits could be sourced locally along the course of the River Flit, which passes through the modern village of Clophill. These gravels would have provided a valuable resource for Mesolithic hunter-gatherers, as the common local geology of the Lower Greensand Group is composed of sandstone and mudstone rather than flint containing deposits, and Mesolithic flint-knappers appear to have been very careful in selecting good quality raw flint which they may have carried with them (Butler 2005, 114).

### *Distribution and Composition*

The two cores in the assemblage, contained in Trenches 3 & 8, represent the same method of blade production, but were discarded at quite different stages of core reduction. Both cores are bi-polar types that are approximately cylindrical in shape (Healy 1988: type B1) and typical of the Mesolithic period (Butler 2005, 84). They both exhibit abraded striking platforms manufactured following tablet removals at both ends of the cores. The narrow blade scars evident on both cores indicates that both were carefully and extensively worked prior to discard, and also correspond closely with the microliths and blades in the assemblage although no cross-fitting flakes could be identified. The example in Trench 3, associated with a long blade, weighs 22g and is almost certainly exhausted, having been reduced to the point where its products may be considered micro-blades, which were extensively used for composite tools and microliths in the Mesolithic. The core in Trench 8, associated with a microlith and debitage, weighs 57g and appears fractured on one side suggesting it was discarded due to a mis-hit or internal fracture that curtailed the viability of the core as it could no longer predictably or efficiently produce blades.

The microliths in the assemblage were recovered from Trenches 4 and 8, the latter in association with a core and debitage. Both microliths were manufactured using the 'classic' microburin technique (Butler 2005, 90) and are obliquely blunted types, with limited abrupt retouch applied to form an arcing edge. These obliquely blunted types conform to microlith types defined by Clark (1934: type A) and Jacobi (1978: type 1a). Obliquely blunted microliths form the dominant microlith type in earlier Mesolithic (c.10,000-8,500BP) assemblages in southern Britain (Butler 2005, 90-98; Jacobi 1984, 46-7), and although they continue into the later Mesolithic they are superseded by geometric types, which are absent here. Also, the microliths in this assemblage are relatively large, with lengths ranging between 32-40mm, which is typical of earlier to middle Mesolithic microlith types (Pitts & Jacobi 1979: fig.5) thus supporting the chronology suggested by their shape.

The blades in the assemblage exhibit considerable variability, possibly reflecting the multitude of their uses, and the long duration over which the cores that produced them were reduced. Trench 3 contained a long blade (80mm in length) that exhibited dorsal scars and evidence of platform abrasion that indicate it was struck from a bi-polar core similar to those in this assemblage albeit considerably larger, therefore probably relatively early in the life-span of the core. The two blades in Trench 6 are both 55mm long, which is similar to the height of the cores in this assemblage, while the single blade in Trench 5 has had the small bulb of percussion removed (snapped off), possibly the first step in the production of a potential microlith.

The debitage in the assemblage comprised two broad types of flake that are entirely consistent with Mesolithic core reduction and blade production. The first are relatively thin, slightly irregular, hard-hammer struck flakes that include sparse primary, tertiary and un-corticated flakes in Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8, which probably represent core trimming and shaping. The second type comprises soft-hammer struck, blade-like uncorticated flakes in Trenches 6 and 8 that represent careful

removals, which were either deemed unsuitable as blades or were part of core maintenance/preparation prior to further blade removal.

This earlier Mesolithic assemblage, including cores, microliths, blades and debitage was recovered from Trenches 3-8, which sampled an area of c.3000m<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, while the sampling method may have limited the quantity of struck flint recovered from this area, it is clear the consistent spread of struck flint represents a localised area of earlier Mesolithic activity. It has been postulated that the composition of Mesolithic flint assemblages may offer a clue as to a sites function within a hunter-gatherer landscape model, possibly indicating whether a location was a hunting camp, a task specific flint procurement site, or a base camp or multifunctional site (Butler 2005, 116-7). This assemblage is too small to allow such representative analysis to be statistically valid, but the presence of microliths and blades in association with low quantities of core and debitage is closest to the model of a hunting camp, for which the East Anglian landscape may have provided the ideal terrain, mix of flora and fauna in the Mesolithic (Jacobi 1984, 44). This exploitation of the landscape is supported by other Mesolithic finds in the local area surrounding Clophill including c.1.8km to the east a possible Mesolithic working floor (HER 2595) that produced four cores, three microliths, three scrapers and debitage to form a group quite similar to this assemblage. Mesolithic blades, a scraper and debitage were also recovered c.1.2km to the south-west (HER 15610), while a microlith was recorded c.5km to the south-west (HER 3657) and further Mesolithic implements or flakes were also recorded within a 5km radius of Clophill (HER 3660, 3661 and 9809).

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



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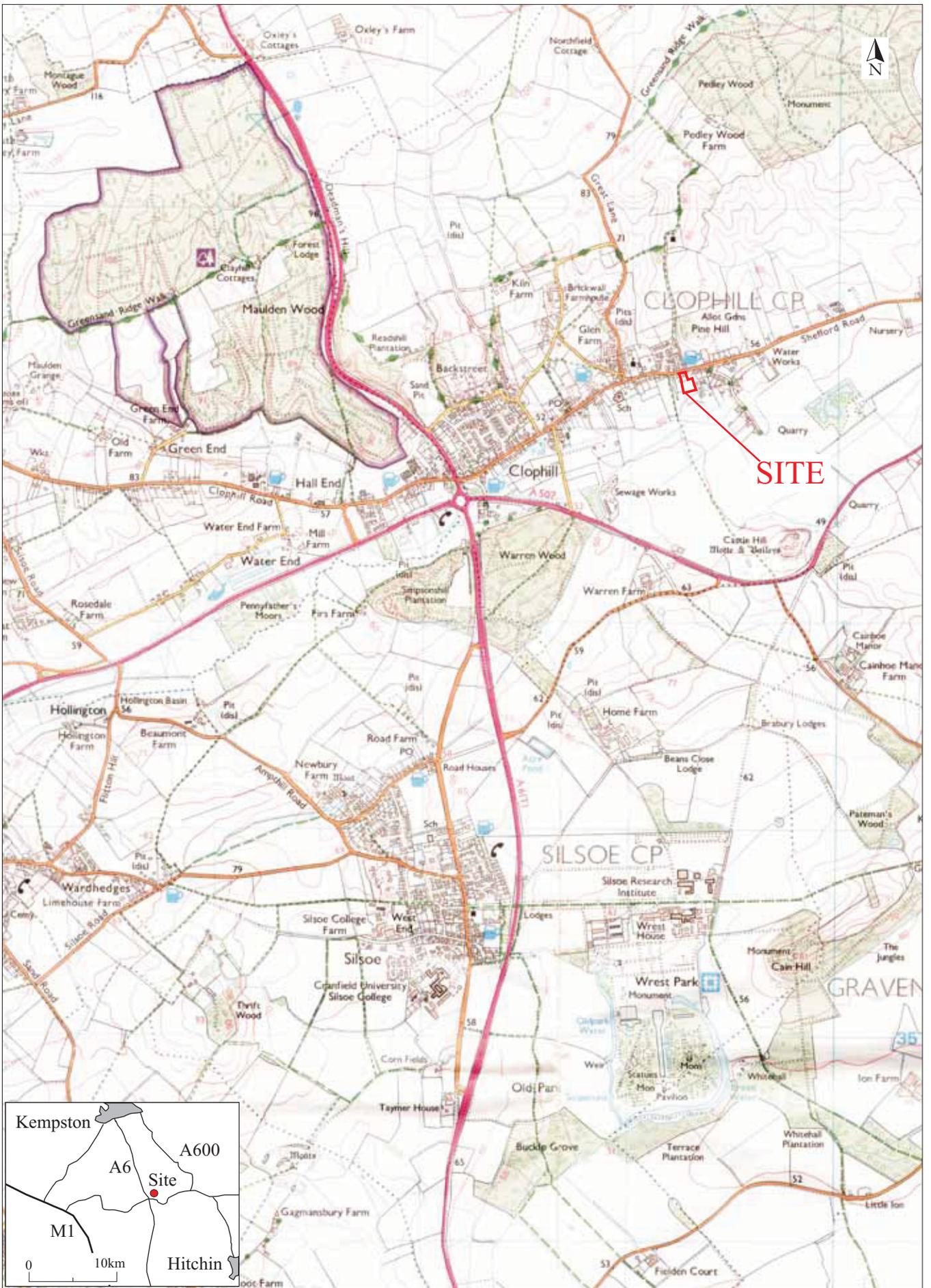
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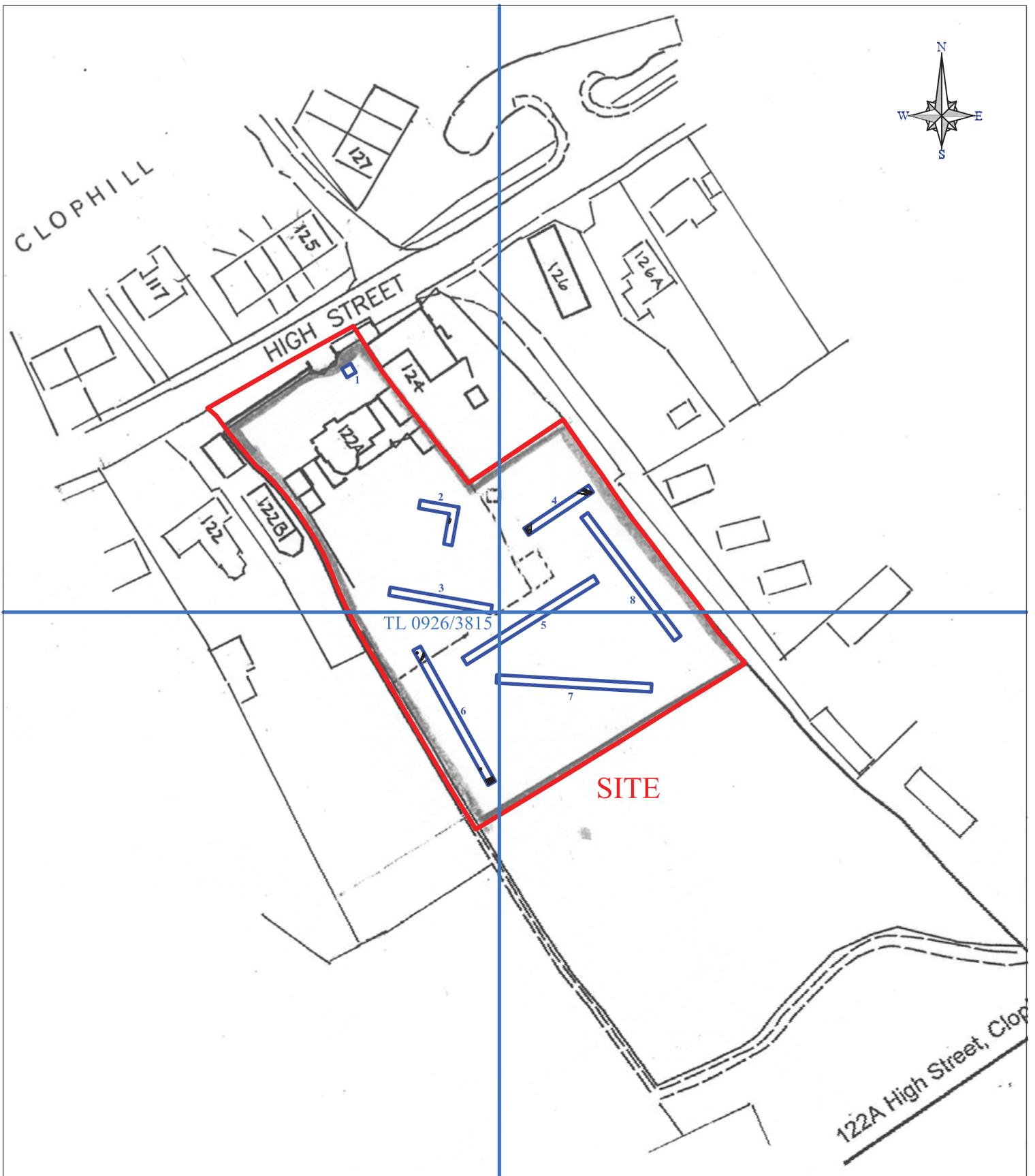


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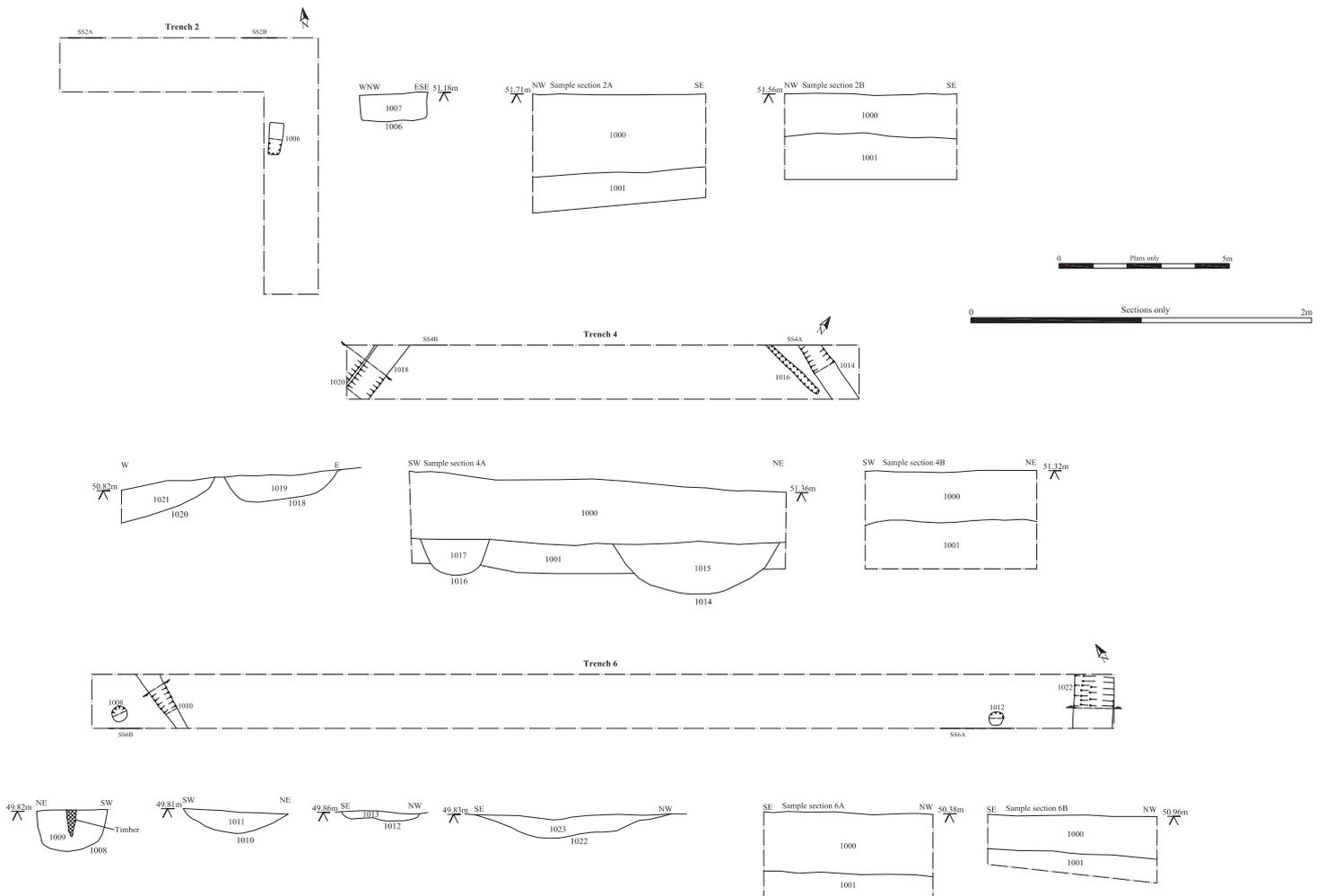
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 50m

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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
Scale 1:1000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3