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**LAND REAR OF THE OLD VICARAGE, CHURCH END,  
ELSTOW, BEDFORDSHIRE MK40 3JU**

Authors: Barlow, G.	
NGR: TL 04790 47449	Report No: 4826
District: Bedford Borough	Site Code: AS 1720
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5935
Signed:	Date: 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2015

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>The Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire MK40 3JU</i>		
<p><i>In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the rear of the Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire MK40 3JU (NGR TL 04790 47449). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a garage and workshop attached to a recently approved dwelling (Ref. 13/02466/FUL), based on the advice of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).</i></p> <p><i>In the event only a large possible cess pit (F1012), probably related to the vicarage, a modern wall foundation trench (F1004), and a modern service trench (F1010) were recorded during the monitoring. Significant remodelling of the ground appears to have taken place in recent times with the natural deposits being overlain by layers of modern made ground. No finds other than those of modern date were present in any of the deposits.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>March 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5935</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1720</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Elstow Conservation Area (CA; HER DBD3403)</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Garage and workshop</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval and modern pit, wall and service trench</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Beds</i>	<i>Bedford Borough</i>	<i>Elstow</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bedford HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>MK30 3JU</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 04790 47449</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.30m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice: Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Gareth Barlow</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Paquale Caprioli</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Rear Of the Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication.</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4826</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>April 2015</i>		

# **LAND REAR OF THE OLD VICARAGE, CHURCH END, ELSTOW, BEDFORDSHIRE MK40 3JU**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the rear of the Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire MK40 3JU (NGR TL 04790 47449). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a garage and workshop attached to a recently approved dwelling (Ref. 13/02466/FUL), based on the advice of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).*

*The site lies in the western section of the village green of Elstow, to west of the Old Vicarage, and on the edge of what is believed to be the core area of the medieval settlement. The site lies beyond the western extent of Church End, with Abbey Close located to the south and West End to the north. It also lies within Elstow Conservation Area (CA; HER DBD3403), which is centred on The Green, the medieval settlement and Elstow Abbey 125m to the south-east.*

*In the event only a large possible cess pit (F1012), probably related to the vicarage, a modern wall foundation trench (F1004), and a modern service trench (F1010) were recorded during the monitoring. Significant remodelling of the ground appears to have taken place in recent times with the natural deposits being overlain by layers of modern made ground. No finds other than those of modern date were present in any of the deposits.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the rear of the Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire MK40 3JU (NGR TL 04790 47449; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for a garage and workshop attached to a recently approved dwelling (Ref. 13/02466/FUL), based on the advice of the Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team of Bedford Borough Council (BB HET) (*Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Land Rear of the Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow, Bedfordshire*, dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 04/12/2014) and approved by BB HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The project aimed for the recovery of a record of archaeological deposits that may be damaged or removed by any development (including services and landscaping). The main objective surrounds the potential for the groundworks for the development to produce evidence associated with the Saxon and medieval occupation of Elstow.

#### *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.

## **1.6**

### **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The site lies in the western section of the village green of Elstow, to west of the Old Vicarage, and on the edge of what is believed to be the core area of the medieval settlement. The site lies beyond the western extent of Church End, with Abbey Close located to the south and West End to the north. It also lies within Elstow Conservation Area (CA; HER DBD3403), which is centred on The Green, the medieval settlement and Elstow Abbey 125m to the south-east.

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies at c. 29.9m AOD on second terrace sands and gravels of the River Great Ouse, which flows eastwards 250m to the north of the site.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, with evidence for the occupation of Elstow dating from the prehistoric period onwards. The surrounding area has also been subject to extensive previous archaeological investigation. Land to the immediate west of the site has been subject to both a gradiometer survey as part of an archaeological assessment (HER EBB593) and an archaeological desk-based assessment (HER EBD521). The gradiometer survey recorded few anomalies indicative of archaeological remains. The desk-based assessment noted a potential for late Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains.

4.2 An archaeological evaluation undertaken 80m to the north-east of the site at Nos. 28 – 30 West End identified that it formed part of the open fields of Elstow from at least the 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century (HER EBD288). Elstow Lower School, which is almost 500m to the south-east of the site, has also been subject to archaeological investigation (HER EBD81). An early Bronze Age ring ditch was identified, and early Iron Age pits and post holes clustered around the barrow.

4.3 The area surrounding the site incorporates extensive evidence for early occupation, which is consistent with Elstow's location within the valley of the River Great Ouse, which flows to the north. A prehistoric rectilinear enclosure and other rectilinear features, visible as cropmarks, have been identified off Elstow Road to the north of the

site (HER 16640 - MBD16594). A further area of complex cropmarks, including late Iron Age trackways, linear features, enclosures, and WWI practice trenches, is recorded west of both Peartree Farm and the site (HER 1624 - MBD1624). Further Iron Age occupation was recorded to the south-east and consisted of two ring ditches excavated in advance of Bedford Bypass (HER 2421 - MBD2421). A Bronze Age urn was also found in the Elstow area (HER 274 - MBD274).

4.5 Extensive Roman occupation dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> centuries was uncovered at the site of Elstow Abbey and 125m to the south-east during excavations between 1965 and 1972 (HER 15309 – MBD15370). It formed part of the multi-period site including artefacts of Neolithic date, a Bronze Age barrow, Roman-British material, early Saxon cremations and later Saxon burials and structural remains of the medieval Abbey buildings. A late Iron Age to Roman bow brooch was also recovered from Elstow (HER 15896 – MBD15850). Roman pottery and medieval finds comprising a lead seal die, a copper alloy annular brooch, a buckle with a forked spacer and an oval disc decorated with a cross, are also recorded (HER 15897 - MBD15851).

4.6 The site lies within and at the western extent of the medieval settlement of Elstow, which was established well before the foundation of the Abbey in 1075 (HER 17018 - MBD16971). The village of Elstow was established prior to the founding of the abbey and by 1608 it extended for 500m along the High Street and Wilstead Road on both sides. The site also lies within and at the eastern extent of earthworks of unknown origin and purpose present to the south of West End. The earthworks are judged to relate to the medieval settlement (HER 16154 - MBD16109). The site also lies to the north-west of the remains of medieval Elstow Abbey (HER 262 - MBD262). The Benedictine Abbey was founded c. 1078, dissolved 1539 and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (National Heritage List Entry 1005405).

4.7 The Grade I listed St Mary and St Helena Church stands within the Elstow Abbey complex and originally formed part of Abbey church belonging to Benedictine nunnery founded c.1078 by Countess Judith of Huntingdon (HER 821 - MBD821). The present structure dates from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century, while the detached Grade I listed tower of Elstow parish church dates to the 15<sup>th</sup> century (HER 822 - MBD822). Further medieval remains in the vicinity of the site include a medieval linear settlement located along Wilstead Road to the west, a plain medieval bronze finger ring and a decorated floor tile fragment (HERs 17036 - MBD16989, 16056 - MBD16010 & 16229 - MBD16183).

4.8 To the east of the site is the c.1500 Moot Hall, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, timber framed and was originally a four-bay structure (SAM No. 27359). Also within the abbey complex is the Grade I listed Hillersdon Mansion, which is the remains of the house built for Thomas Hillersdon, c.1620 - 30, incorporating part of



the Benedictine Abbey that was dissolved in 1539 (HER 1196 - MBD1196; SAM DBD2341).

4.9 The site also lies to the immediate west and within the complex of the Old Vicarage, which fronts on to both The Green and Church End (HER 12562 - MBD12562). The Grade II listed former Vicarage was constructed in 1796 on the basis of its date plaque, but is regarded as being a reworking of earlier structure. However, local historic sources reveal that Elstow was unusual in not having a parsonage or vicarage until 1923, when conveyance of 'an old building at the west end of The Green', now known as the Old Vicarage, was made (Bedfordshire Community Archives website). Wings were added to the rear of the structure in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1925, the Rating and Valuation Act recorded that the Old Vicarage stood in 1.705 acres of grounds, which also included 'a dilapidated barn; a wood barn; a hen house; an old granary; four stall stable used for stores; an old copper house (for boiling water); a garage; a grass tennis court and orchard; a garden and summerhouse' (*ibid.*).

4.10 In 1966 a new vicarage was built adjacent to the Old Vicarage and the latter was sold in the same year. The sales particulars (BLARS Ref. P128/2/6/4) referred to the outbuildings as:

*"The Stable Yard which is approached by a short roadway outside the walled garden comprises a Brick and Tiled Garage measuring about 23 feet by 14 feet; a Four-Bay open Fronted Brick and Tiled Shed, which needs some repair but could be renovated to afford extra garage space, and a second range of dilapidated Brick and Tiled Building comprising a Three-Bay Cart Shed and a Store with a Loft above. The Walled Garden is well laid out with lawns and flower beds and contains a number of ornamental trees and shrubs. Beyond the back entrance is a small plot which might be used as a site for an additional detached house. An Outline Planning Application for the development of this plot was submitted and refused by the Bedford Rural District Council, but the County Planning Officer has indicated that a fresh application is more likely to meet with a favourable decision"*

4.11 Historic cartographic sources clearly confirm that the site formed part of the complex associated with the Old Vicarage to the immediate east. The estate map of Elstow Manor, which dates to 1767, predates the known date of with the Old Vicarage, yet clearly depicts its medieval or post-medieval precursor within the same enclosure of 'House Field', yet in a slightly more easterly position. In 1767 the site itself appeared undeveloped and consisted of agricultural land located within both 'House Field' and a neighbouring plot. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1884, also associates the site with the property later known as the Old Vicarage. In 1884 the site contained the two extant, narrow ranges aligned north to

southwards. Subsequent cartographic sources dating from 1901 and 1926 depict no notable development within the site.

4.12 The site therefore had a potential for remains associated with the multi-period remains known to the south, the core medieval village settlement area to the east, and the undated earthworks to the immediate west of the site. The site is also known to be associated with the Grade II listed the Old Vicarage, which stands to the immediate east and bears the date plaque of 1796. Although it was not acquired as a parsonage until 1923, it is regarded as being a reworking of earlier structure, as depicted by the 1767 estate map of Elstow Manor. The two extant, narrow ranges aligned north to southwards within the site are depicted on historic cartographic sources from 1884 onwards and were mentioned as outbuildings to the Old Vicarage during the 1925 Rating and Valuation Act and its 1966 sales particulars.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored was the mechanically-excavated trench for the new basement (Fig. 2).

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig.3

Deposits located within area of excavation were recorded in sample sections presented below.

<i>Sample section 1</i> <i>West side, east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 29.93m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint.
0.00 – 0.30m	L1002	Modern made ground. Friable, mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.30 – 0.83m	L1003	Modern made ground. Compact, mid orange brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.83m+	L1001	Natural deposits. Friable, patches of very pale brown orange and very pale grey yellow coarse

		sand with frequent small sub-angular and angular flints, and moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
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<i>Sample section 2</i> <i>East side, west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 29.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1015	Modern made ground/yard surface. Very firm, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and rounded flints.
0.18 – 0.28m	L1016	Modern made ground. Compact, mid brown orange sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.28 – 0.58m	L1017	Modern made ground. Compact, mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.28 – 0.43m	L1018	Modern made ground. Compact, mixed patches of pale yellow brown sandy silt and pale/mid brownish grey silty sand with occasional-moderate small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.
0.43 – 1.00m	L1019	Made ground. Compact, pale yellow grey sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint.

*Description: The trench contained a large possible cess pit (F1012), a robbed out boundary wall trench (F1004), and a modern service trench (F1010).*

F1012 was a large pit (6.00+ x 6.00+ x 0.62m), larger than the trench. Its shape is unknown but the north side was vertical and it was possibly square or rectangular. It had a near vertical northern side and a flattish base. On the western side (Section F1212A) the basal fill, L1013, was a compact, mid greenish grey silty sand with frequent small, and moderate medium, sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flints. It contained post-medieval CBM (420g). Overlying L1013, L1014 was a firm, mid orange brown silty sand with sparse small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained no finds. On the eastern side of the feature (Section F1212B), the basal fill, L1020, was a firm, mid greenish grey silty sand with frequent small sub-angular, sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained no finds. Above L1020, L1021 comprised mixed patches of firm, mid greenish grey silty sand with moderate small and medium sub-angular, and sub-rounded flints, mid greenish grey clay, and mid brownish orange clay. It contained no finds. Above L1021, L1023 was a compact mid brown orange sandy silt with moderate-frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained no finds. Uppermost, L1022 was a very firm, mid greenish grey silty sand and occasional patches of mid

greenish grey clay, with moderate-frequent small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. It contained no finds.

F1004 was a construction cut for a robbed out wall (6.00+ x 2.00+ x 0.68m), orientated east-west. It cut made ground layer L1003. Its northern side was near vertical and the base was slightly concave. The basal fill, L1005, was a firm, mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained a sherd of post-medieval (late 15<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (14g). Above L1005, L1006 was the very pale yellow grey mortar footing for the wall. After the wall had been removed the trench had been backfilled with L1007 a very firm, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate small sub-rounded and rounded flints. L1007 contained 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (46g), CBM (140g), and glass (30g). L1008 was a firm, mid brown orange silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained no finds. Uppermost L1009 was a firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained no finds.

F1010 was a service trench (3.00+ x 0.40 x 0.43m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a firm, mid-dark orange brown silty sand with moderate-frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flints. It contained a lead water pipe.

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The deposit model varied across the trench. On the western side a 0.30m thick layer (L1000) of topsoil comprising a friable, dark grey brown silty sand with moderate small and medium sub-angular, sub-rounded, and rounded flint was present. Uppermost elsewhere was a friable, mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and rounded flint (L1002) of the same thickness. L1000 and L1002 overlay made ground layer L1003, a 0.53m thick layer of compact, mid orange brown silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint. At the base of the sequence the natural deposits (L1001) were encountered at a depth of 0.83m below the current ground surface. These deposits comprised friable, patches of very pale brown orange and very pale grey yellow coarse sand with very frequent small sub-angular and angular flints, and moderate small and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

8.2 On the eastern side of the excavation the surface layer (L1015) was a very firm, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and rounded flints (0.18m thick). Below L1015 was L1016, a very firm, dark grey brown silty sand with frequent medium sub-rounded and rounded flints (0.10m thick). Below L1016 was L1017, a compact, mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint (0.30m). Below L1017 was L1019, a compact, pale yellow grey sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and rounded flint (0.55m thick). The uppermost fill of Pit F1012 was encountered at a depth of 1.30m below the current ground surface.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a high archaeological potential, in particular for evidence of the medieval and post-medieval occupation of Elstow, being located close to the medieval market and the remains of Elstow Abbey.

9.2 In the event only a large possible cess pit (F1012), probably related to the vicarage, a modern wall foundation trench (F1004), and a modern service trench (F1010) were found.

9.3 Significant remodelling of the ground appears to have taken place in recent times with the natural deposits being overlain by layers of modern made ground. No finds other than those of modern date were present in any of the deposits.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Bedford Museum under Accession No BEDFM: 2014.81). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Paquale Caprioli for funding the project and for his assistance. And also McCallum Homes Ltd for their co-operation on site.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Planning Services.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Elstow/ElstowVicarages.aspx>

**APPENDIX 1****CONCORDANCE OF FINDS****AS1720, P5935, Land rear of The Old Vicarage, Church End, Elstow**

Concordance of finds by feature

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Spot Date (Pottery)</b>	<b>Pottery</b>	<b>CBM (g)</b>	<b>A.Bone (g)</b>	<b>Other</b>
1004	1005	Base fill of construction cut	Late 15 <sup>th</sup> -early 17 <sup>th</sup>	(1) - 14g			
1006	1007	Backfill of mortar wall footing	19th	(2) - 46g	140		Glass (4) - 30g
1012	1013	Fill of cess pit			495		
1012	1013	Fill of pit			Tile (1) - 420g		

## APPENDIX 2

## SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The monitoring recovered three sherds of lightly abraded post-medieval pottery from two features (Table 1). One sherd from Construction Trench F1004 (L1005) comprises a body sherd of early post-medieval Raeren stoneware. Wall footing F1006 (L1007) contained a sherd each of late post-medieval factory made mocha ware and refined white earthenware.

#### *Fabric Key:*

RAER: Raeren stoneware late 15<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup>

RWE: Refined white earthenware mid 18<sup>th</sup>+

MOCH: Mocha type ware mid 18<sup>th</sup>+

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>
Construction cut base 1004	1005	1x14g RAER	Late 15 <sup>th</sup> -early 17 <sup>th</sup>
Backfill of wall footing 1006	1007	1x13g RWE 1x33g MOCH	19 <sup>th</sup>

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

### The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The monitoring recovered nine fragments (780g) of CBM, including a single fragment (140g) of medieval peg tile in L1007, with the remainder comprising highly fragmented 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile in L1013.

The tile in L1007 was manufactured in a fabric with dark grey-brown surfaces, thin red margins and a dark grey core; and may be over-fired. The fabric comprises a calcareous clay tempered with common quartz (<0.5mm) with sparse polycrystalline grains (<2mm), resulting in a 'gritty' texture. The tile is 16mm thick, with a width of 140mm, and is moderately warped from firing, with length-ways striations from where the tile was pressed into a mould. Only the 'lower' half of the tile is present, therefore peg holes are absent, although the edges are distinctly rough. Peg tile began to be adopted as a roofing material in the late 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> centuries but retained relatively inconsistent production standards until 1477 when it was regulated to conform to a minimum size, including a width of 6 inches (150mm), though many tiles appeared to have evolved towards this standard by the time of legislation (Drury 1981, 131). This example is approaching the regulated proportions of the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, which combined with the fabric and firing characteristics suggests it may date to the 14<sup>th</sup>-mid 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.



The remaining CBM: three fragments (145g) in L1007 and five fragments (495g) contained in L1013 includes abraded fragments of highly-fired, orange-red brick and peg tile that may be regarded as post-medieval rubble. The brick includes an un-frogged fragment with a thickness of 60mm, which suggest it may have been manufactured between the late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

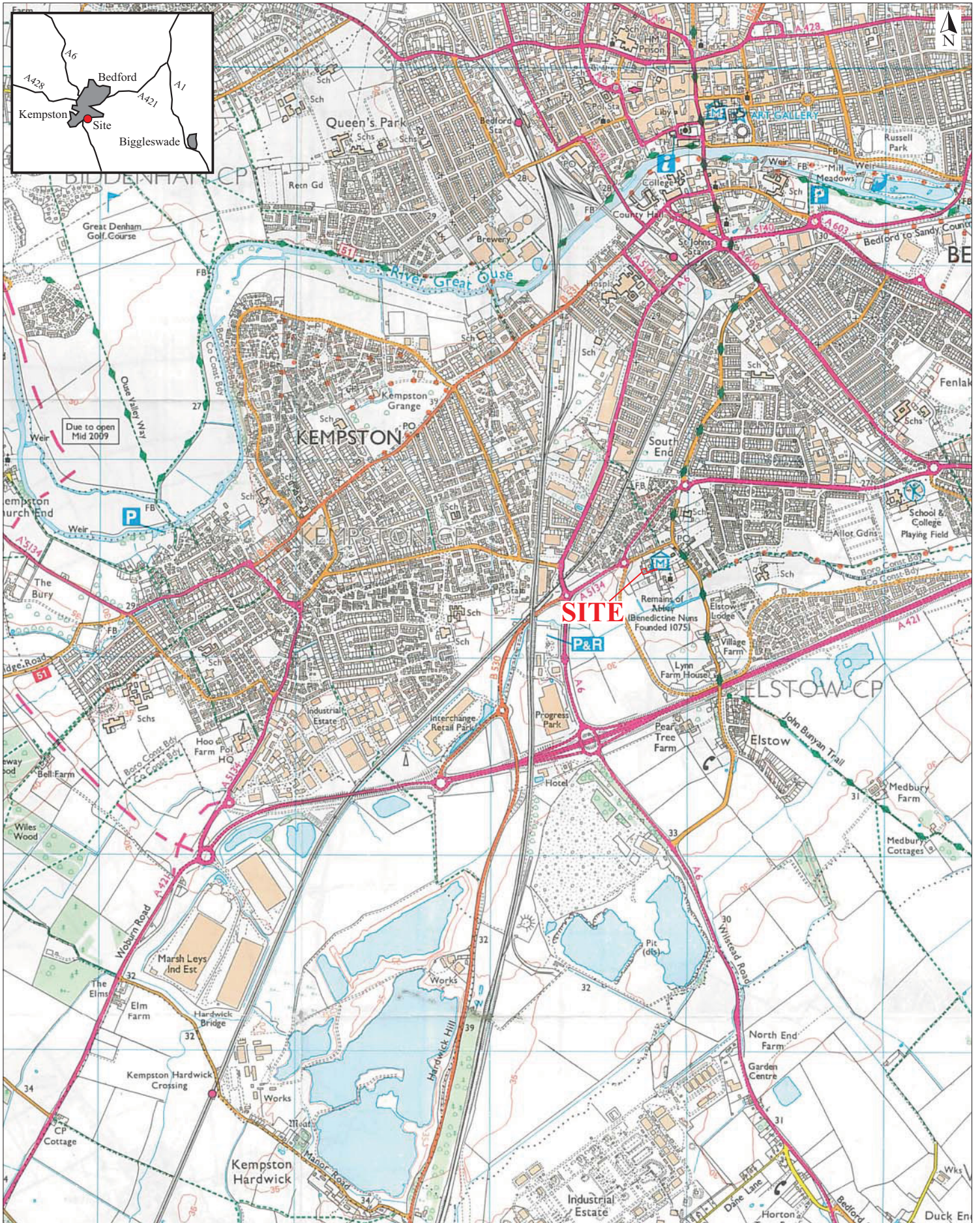
### Bibliography

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

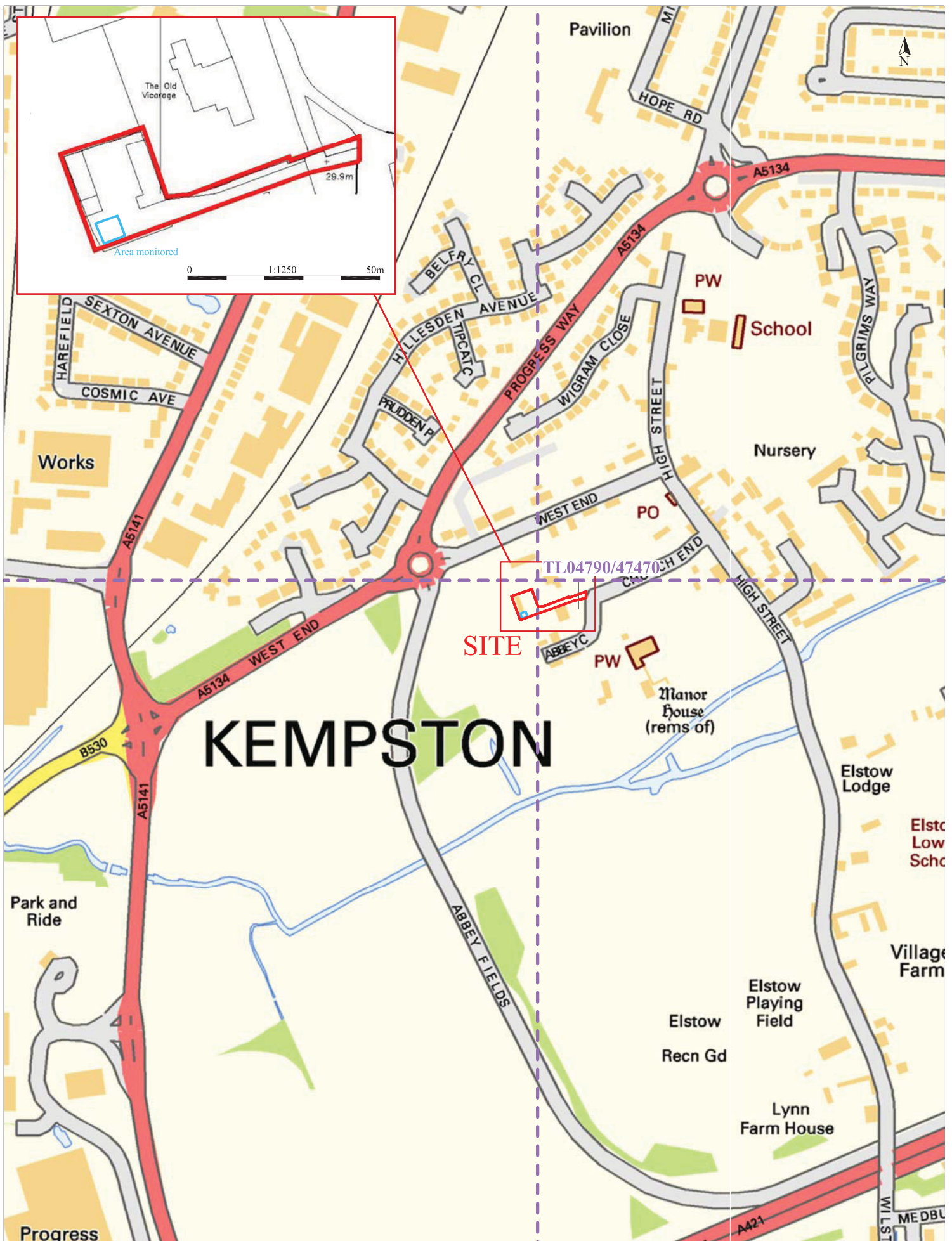


1  
Post-excitation view of site looking south-west.



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Old Vicarage, Elstow (P5935)



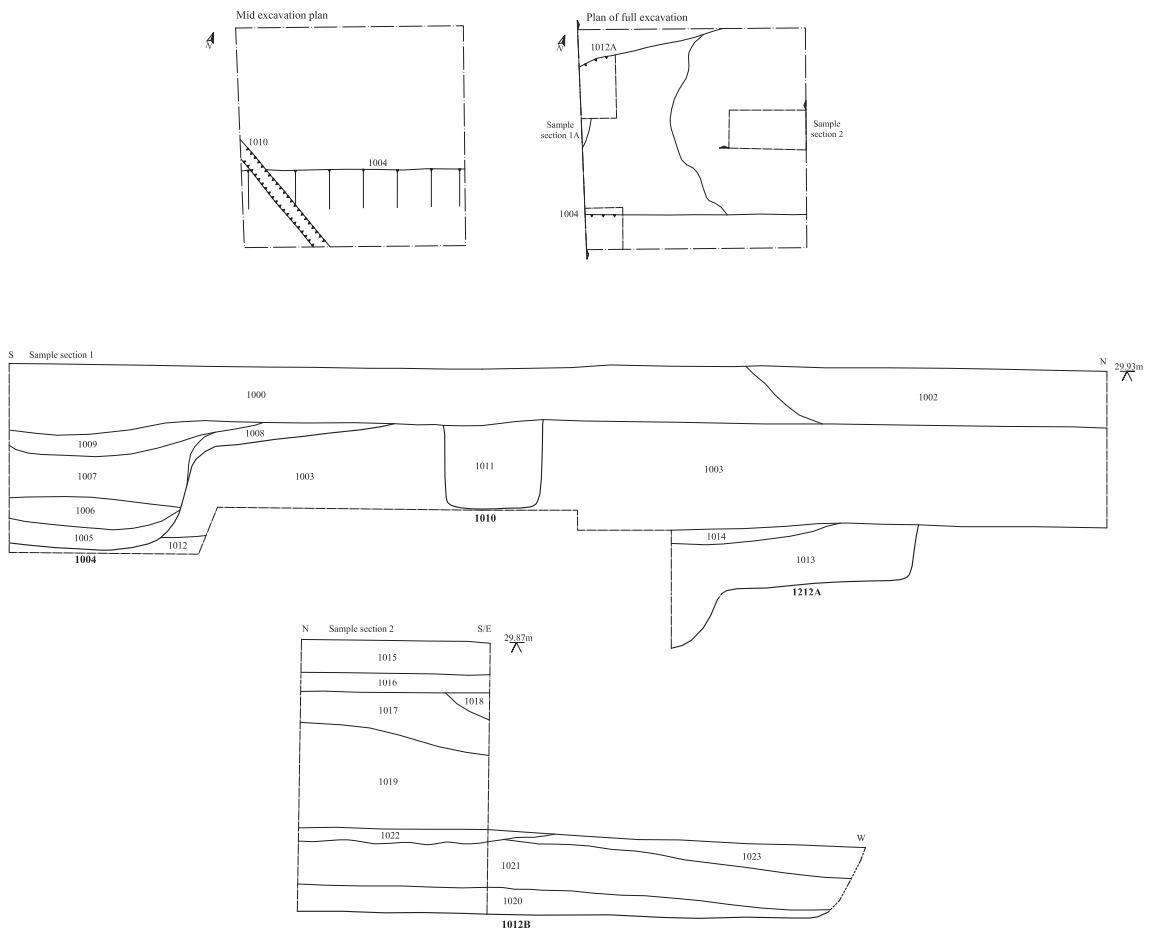
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0 1:5000 250m

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### Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:5000 and 1:1250 at A4  
Old Vicarage, Elstow (P5935)



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**Fig. 3 Plans and sections**  
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3  
 Old Vicarage, Elstow (P5935)