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OAKFIELD, 126 HIGH STREET, GREAT BARFORD, BEDFORD MK44 3LF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Julie Walker (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 513275 251575	Report No: 5208
District: Bedford Borough	Site Code: AS 1845
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6394
Signed:	Date: 26 September 2016

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In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at Oakfield, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR TL 513275 251575). It is proposed to demolish the existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erect three detached houses with garaging (BBC Planning Reference 12/01625/FUL). *The evaluation revealed Late Pre Roman Iron Age Ditches F1005 (Trench 1) and F1014 and F1025 (Trench 3), located in the north-western sector of the site. Their presence and alignment corresponds to the ditches recorded by aerial photography (dated 2009/10) and interpreted as possible enclosures and structures to the north of this site. Pit F1017 (Trench 3) also contained Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. Though Pit F1017 contained just two pottery sherds, F1005, F1014 and F1025 contained 16, 44, and 9 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*September 2016*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work (Y/N/?)*	*Y*
P. number	*6394*	*Site code*	*AS1845*
Type of project	*Archaeological Evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Residential*		
Planned development	*Replacement residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Ditches, pit*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Late Pre-Roman Iron Age*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Bedfordshire*	*Bedford*	*Great Barford*
HER/ SMR for area	*Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Record*		
Post code (if known)	*MK44 3LF*		
Area of site	*c.0.49ha.*		
NGR	*TL 513275 251575*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.20m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Team*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Julie Walker*		
Funded by	*Alliance Developments Ltd.*		
Full title	*An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Walker, J.*		
Report no.	*5208*		
Date (of report)	*September 2016*		

OAKFIELD, 126 HIGH STREET, GREAT BARFORD, BEDFORD MK44 3LF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at Oakfield, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR 513275 251575). It is proposed to demolish the existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erect three detached houses with garaging (BBC Planning Reference 12/01625/FUL).

The site lies an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date. It is located to the south west of the historic core of Great Barford (recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record – HER17150), and the earthworks of a probable medieval moated site lie immediately adjacent to the east, closer to the river (HER752).

Earlier activity is also evident in the immediate area by aerial photographs taken in 2009/10. Extensive cropmarks are located close to the north and west of the site, and comprise multiple circular, rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures, possible pits and structures. They remain uninvestigated and undated but their form suggests a prehistoric or Romano-British origin, as they are comparable to other extensive remains which have been investigated in this part of the Ouse valley. Archaeological investigations on the northern side of the High Street at Great Barford have revealed Iron Age features including a large triple-ditched boundary at Woodpecker Close (Albion Archaeology 2004).

The evaluation revealed Late Pre Roman Iron Age Ditches F1005 (Trench 1) and F1014 and F1025 (Trench 3), located in the north-western sector of the site. Their presence and alignment corresponds to the ditches recorded by aerial photography (dated 2009/10) and interpreted as possible enclosures and structures to the north of this site. Pit F1017 (Trench 3) also contained Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. Though Pit F1017 contained just two pottery sherds, F1005, F1014 and F1025 contained 16, 44, and 9 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land on land at Oakfield, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedford MK44 3LF (NGR 513275 251575; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to demolish the existing detached dwelling and outbuildings and erect three detached houses with garaging (BBC Planning Reference 12/01625/FUL).

The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval, based on the advice of Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a brief issued by the Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBC HET *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at Oakfield, 126 High Street, Great Barford, Bedfordshire* (dated August 2015), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 26th August 2015), and approved by BBC HET. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).

Aims and Objectives

1.3 The specific aims and objectives of the project were:-

• To examine the date, nature significance and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;

• To examine the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;

• To examine the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

• To examine the potential for palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions; and

• To examine the impact upon any surviving archaeological remains from the construction of former buildings on the site; and

• To inform any future excavation strategy

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 Great Barford is located *c.*5.5km to the east of Bedford in the county of Bedfordshire. The site is located towards the southern extent of the town within Great Barford conservation area and near the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1004505) and Grade I listed building of Barford Bridge.

2.2 The site lies set back from the south-western side of the southern end of the High Street at Great Barford, close to Barford Bridge and some 100m from the river Great Ouse to the south east. It comprises an existing detached dwelling (Oakfield) and outbuildings, set in a mature garden plot. It is accessed from a long drive leading from the High Street to the north east.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located at *c.*20m AOD within a relatively flat agricultural landscape. The River Great Ouse runs *c.*140m to the south-east of the site towards its confluence with the River Ivel *c.*3.3km to the north-east. The site is located on its floodplain with land gently sloping upwards towards the north-west.

3.2 The underlying geology of the surrounding area is that of the Peterborough Member, a mudstone formed in the Jurassic period. The overlying soil type is a freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soil, whereas a loamy and clayey floodplain soil with naturally high groundwater lies *c.*100m to the south on the banks of the River Great Ouse.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 Cropmarks comprising ring ditches and enclosures are located at the crossing point of the river to the east and west of the village. They are mostly thought to be Bronze Age in date, although some are titled 'prehistoric' (BHER 613, 1842 & 600). An area on the northern border of the village, between New Road and Addingtons Road, was excavated in 1998 revealing ring ditches and rectilinear enclosures with a concentration of small pits and post holes, indicative of settlement activity (BHER EBB628). One of the pits contained early Bronze Age pottery and flint artefacts of a similar date were also recorded (BHER 604); this area is *c.*370m to the north of the site. A similar area of enclosures, ring ditches and trackways has been identified in the fields directly to the south-west of the site (BHER MBB21733), these are clearly visible on aerial photographs and probably relate to other areas of cropmarks further to the west (BHER 600).

Romano-British

4.2 A cremation and pits with Iron Age pottery were recorded during the 1998 excavations to the north. The relative paucity of material recovered from pits and associated ditches may indicate there was no contemporary settlement nearby (BHER MBB21779). Roman archaeology is focused along the route of the Roman road from Sandy to Sharnbrook. The road runs on a north-west to south-east alignment *c.*300m to the north-east of the site where it crosses the Great Ouse to the north of Barford Bridge (BHER 728). Other cropmarks and enclosures have been recorded to the south of the village and are thought to be indicative of field systems dating to this period (BHER 609).

Medieval

4.3 Saxo-Norman features *c.*230m to the north of the site, within the medieval village core, indicate possible seasonal occupation dependant on the flooding of the river BHER MBB21782). The Domesday Survey lists Great Barford as an important settlement perhaps associated with the river crossing. It was during the 15th century Barford Bridge was built, although earlier structures can be conjectured. The Bridge was widened in the 19th century and is a Scheduled ancient Monument (SAM 1004505). Medieval occupation was limited to the area north of the river crossing and concentrated around the parish church; *c.*190m to the north of the site (BHER 1011). Earthwork remains of a possible moated site are located directly to the north at Bridge Farmhouse, a *c.*1600 structure with later additions (BHER 752 & 2323).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required a 4% sample (with a further 1% sample held in reserve if required) of the 0.49ha site to be subject to trial trenching. Four trenches were excavated: two each of 30m x 1.6m, one of 45m x 1.6m and one of 15m x 1.6m. A

contingency for a further 30m of trenching was held in reserve to further investigate features/deposits as necessary.

5.2 The topsoil was 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A North East End, North West Facing *0.00 = 21.01m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with frequent red frogged brick and concrete rubble inclusions.
0.40 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, Dark red brown clay silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact grey yellow chalky gravel with patches of orange clay silt periglacial deposits.

Sample section 1B South West End, South East Facing *0.00 = 20.87m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.02m	L1029	Tarmac. A dark grey brown and black deposit of small stone tarmac.
0.02 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.40 - 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1005, Post Holes F1008, F1010 and F1012, and a modern red brick foundation M1030. Ditch F1005 contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery, and Post Hole F1008 contained post-medieval CBM.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.50+ x 1.60 x 0.52m), orientated north-west /south-east. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1006, was a friable, dark red brown clay silt with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (7; 151g) and animal bone (58g). The upper fill, L1007, was a friable, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional, small sub-angular flint. It contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (9; 167g), animal bone (133g) and an iron fragment (1; 6g).

Brick Foundation M1030 was square in plan (0.65 x 0.65 x 0.45) with vertical sides and a flat base. It was constructed of unfrogged red brick (200 x 110 x 55mm) in an English cross pattern.

Three post holes, F1008, F1010 and F1012 were present:

Feature	*Plan/ Profile (dimensions)*	*Fill (s)*	*Finds*
F1008	Sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base (0.50 x 0.47 x 0.35m)	L1009: Firm, dark grey brown silt clay with occasional small sub-angular flint.	Post-medieval CBM (101g), iron nail fragment (14g)
F1010	Sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base (0.36 x 0.34 x 0.13m)	L1011: Firm, mid grey brown sand silt with occasional, small sub-angular flint.	None
F1012	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and a concave base (0.34 x 0.14m)	L1013: Firm, mid orange brown clay silt with occasional, small sub-angular flint	None

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 2A North West End, North East Facing *0.00 = 20.89m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.18m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 2B South East End, South West Facing *0.00 = 20.36m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.41m+	L1004	Natural Deposits. Firm, light grey chalky silt.

Description: Trench 2 contained modern Pit F1021 and post-medieval Gully F1023.

Pit F1021 was only partially observable in the trench (3.00+ x 2.50+ x 0.30m+). It could not be excavated due to the presence of a live service. Its fill, L1022, was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent CBM and small sub-angular stone.

Ditch F1023 was linear in plan (1.50+ x 0.35 x 0.15m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a friable, dark grey brown clay silt with frequent small sub-rounded flint. It contained post-medieval pottery (2; 27g), CBM (60g) and an iron fragment (22g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Sample section 3A North East End, South East Facing *0.00 = 20.56m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.30 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.66m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 3B South West End, North West Facing *0.00 = 20.48m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.22– 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches F1014 and F1025 and ?Pit F1017. All the features contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery.

Ditch F1014 was linear in plan (1.50+ x 1.53 x 0.52m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1015, was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded flint. Ditch F1014 was parallel, and adjacent to Ditch F1025. It contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (44; 677g) and animal bone (38g).

Ditch F1025 was linear in plan (1.50+ x 1.72 x 0.63m), orientated north-west/south-east. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a friable, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent small sub-rounded flint and patches of re-deposited natural. Ditch F1025 was parallel and adjacent to Ditch F1014. It contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (9; 103g).

?Pit F1017 was only partially observable in trench (0.75+ x 1.34 x 0.67m). It had steep irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a friable, dark red brown sandy silt with moderate small sub-rounded flint. It contained Late Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery (2; 22g), CBM (10g), animal bone (84g) and fired clay (3; 4g).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 4A North West End, South West Facing *0.00 = 21.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.120– 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.48m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section 4B South East End, North East Facing *0.00 = 19.69m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.25 – 0.66m	L1027	Colluvium. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small, sub-angular flint inclusions.
0.66m+	L1003	Periglacial Deposits. Firm orange clay silt.

Sample section 4C South West End, North West Facing *0.00 = 19.56m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.24 – 0.82m	L1027	Colluvium. As above.
0.82m+	L1003	Periglacial Deposits. As above.

Sample section 4D South East End, South West Facing *0.00 = 20.89m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.80m	L1027	Colluvium. As above.
0.80 – 1.21m	L1003	Periglacial Deposits. As above.
1.21m+	L1028	Blue Clay deposits. Compact, mid grey blue clay.

Description: Trench 4 contained post medieval Gully F1019

Gully F1019 was linear in plan (1.50+ x 0.35 x 0.15m), orientated north/south. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a friable, dark grey brown clay silt with frequent small sub-rounded flint. It contained CBM (4g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the areas of the site examined, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with frequent red frogged brick and concrete rubble. On the north of site it overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, dark red brown clay silt with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded stone (0.18 – 0.36m thick). L1001 overlay natural deposits L1002, a compact, grey yellow chalky gravel with patches of orange clay silt periglacial deposits (0.18 – 0.66m below the present day ground surface).

8.2 The site has a natural downward slope towards the southwest. The geology differed from the northern area of site. In the south-western sector, L1000 overlay a colluvial deposit, L1027, a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small, sub-angular flint (0.41 – 0.58m thick. A test pit in this area revealed that it overlay a periglacial deposit, L1003, a firm, orange clay silt; (0.66 – 0.82m below the present day ground surface). L1003 overlay a blue clay deposit, L1028. (1.21m below the present day ground surface)

8.3 In the south-eastern of site a chalky natural, L1004, was a firm, light grey chalky silt located below Topsoil L1000 (0.41m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1005	Ditch	Late Pre Roman Iron Age
	F1008	Post hole	Post-medieval
	F1010	Post hole	-
	F1012	Post hole	-
	M1030	Brick Wall Foundation	Post-medieval or modern
2	F1021	Pit	Modern
2	F1023	Gully	Post-medieval
3	F1014	Ditch	Late Pre Roman Iron Age
	F1017	?Pit	Late Pre Roman Iron Age
	F1025	Ditch	Late Pre Roman Iron Age
4	F1019	Gully	Post-medieval

9.2 The site lies an area of archaeological potential for remains of multi-period date. It is located to the south west of the historic core of Great Barford (recorded on the Bedford Historic Environment Record – HER17150), and the earthworks of a probable medieval moated site lie immediately adjacent to the east, closer to the river (HER752).

9.2 The evaluation revealed Late Pre-Roman Iron Age Ditches F1005 (Trench 1) and F1014 and F1025 (Trench 3), located in the north-western sector of the site. Their presence and alignment corresponds to the ditches recorded by aerial photography (dated 2009/10) and interpreted as possible enclosures and structures to the north of this site. Pit F1017 (Trench 3) also contained Late Pre Roman Iron Age pottery. Though Pit F1017 contained just two pottery sherds, F1005, F1014 and F1025 contained 16, 44, and 9 sherds respectively. Associated finds comprise animal bone, sparse iron fragments and charred plant remains. The latter suggest that the features are on the periphery of a settlement as opposed to within.

9.3 Post-medieval and modern features were also present: Gullies F1019 (Trench 4) and F1023 (Trench 2). Post Hole F1008 (Trench 1), Pit F1021 (Trench 2) and Brick Foundation M1030 (Trench 1). Undated Post Holes F1010 and F1012 (Trench 1) contained no finds.

Research Potential

9.4 The identification of features potentially representing activity at the periphery of a late Iron Age settlement is significant; Oake *et al* (2007, 11) indicate that little characterisation of rural settlements of this period has been carried out and that related issues, such as settlement patterns, are important but currently poorly understood. The current site, therefore, has the potential to contribute information towards developing the available corpus of information for this subject. Medlycott (2011, 31) goes further, indicating that settlement density, zonation and dynamics

require further study. In particular, the role and function of late Iron Age settlement complexes is considered to an important area of research (Medlycott 2011, 31) to which this site might contribute.

9.5 The date of the site, indicates that it has the potential to contribute to studies regarding the Iron Age/Roman period transitional phase (Medlycott 2011, 31). The preservation of faunal remains and charred plant macrofossils indicates that reconstruction of the agricultural and farming activities (Oake *et al* 2007, 11; Medlycott 2011, 31) undertaken within the possible settlement may be possible.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken, and deposited with the local museum (Bedford – Accession No. BEDFM: 2015.61).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Alliance Developments Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the evaluation, in particular Mr Peter Barnett for assistance.

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Geoff Saunders, Bedfordshire Borough Council Historic Environment Team.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1	Topsoil				1435				
			2					735				
			3					1354		Ashphalt?	1	4
										Glass	1	2
			4					430				
1005	1006		1	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	7	151		58			
	1007		1		Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	9	167		133	Fe.Frag	1	6
1008	1009		1	Fill of Pit				101		Fe.Frag	1	14
1014	1015		3	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st Century BC	44	677		38			
1025	1016		3	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	9	103					
1017	1018		3	Fill of Pit	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	2	22	10	84	F.Clay	3	4
1019	1020		3	Fill of Gully				4				
1023	1024		2	Fill of Gully	Post medieval	2	27	60		Fe.Frag	1	22

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered 73 sherds (1147g) of pottery, predominantly slightly abraded 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares that date to the late pre-Roman Iron Age, probably in the late 1st century BC (Table 1). The bulk of this pottery was contained in three ditches and may represent the disposal of domestic refuse.

Period	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Late Pre-Roman Iron Age	71	1120	0.05
Post-Medieval	2	27	-
Total	*73*	*1147*	*0.05*

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described in the report, in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Study Group for Roman Pottery. Where possible Roman fabrics were assigned a code from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), and cross referenced with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (held by Albion Archaeology, on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council). All data will be entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

Fabric types

SOB GT	Southern British ('Belgic') grog-tempered ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 214). Beds. Ceramic type series: fabric F06
PM GL	Post-medieval glazed red earthen ware

Discussion

The late pre-Roman Iron Age pottery was entirely comprised of southern British ('Belgic') grog-tempered wares, largely wheel-made, and with each context including a mix of sherds from several vessels. The most significant group comprised 44 sherds (677g) contained in Ditch F1014, with smaller groups in Ditches F1005 and F1025, and isolated sherds in Pit F1017. A single diagnostic vessel was present in the Ditch F1014 group; a narrow neck jar with a bulging plain neck cordon, corresponding to Thompson's (1982, 155) type B3-5, who notes it is common the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire regions, appearing in the late 1st century BC, and occurring only rarely thereafter. It is also paralleled in late 1st century BC deposits at Baldock (Rigby 1986, 278: fig.108.54), while similar SOB GT narrow-neck jars were recorded at Little Paxton (Evans 2011, 224), and contemporary SOB GT vessels were present in the earliest phases of Roman occupation at Sandy (Johnston 1974, 48). The exterior surface of the jar is plain, un-burnished and apparently unworn, although several body sherds from other vessels in the Ditch F1014 group, as well as in Ditches F1005 and 1025 exhibit

soot on their exterior surfaces, suggesting they may have been used as cooking pots.

Two small sherds from the base of a post-medieval glazed red earthen ware vessel were contained in Gully F1023, probably produced in the 18th-19th centuries.

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The Ceramic Building Materials
Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 15 fragments (2920g) of late post-medieval and early modern CBM, largely as un-stratified material from the topsoil, but including isolated fragments of peg tile contained in a pit and gully (Table 2).

CBM type	Frequency	Weight (g)
Peg tile (late post-medieval+)	2	161
Red brick (19-20th C)	8	1798
Sewer pipe (19-20th C)	5	961
Total	15	2920

Table 2: Quantification of CBM

The fragments of peg tile, contained in Pit F1008 and Gully F1023, were manufactured in a highly fired red fabric with inclusions of common-abundant quartz (<0.25mm), sparse red iron-rich grains and flint (0.5-8mm). The fabric was fired at such a high temperature it as nearly fused and vitrified. The small fragments of peg tile were 12-14mm thick with a sanded base, but were of insufficient size to preserve any other diagnostic dimensions or technological traits.

Topsoil L1000 contained several abraded fragments of soft red brick and salt-glazed white earthen ware pipe; the former sand-tempered with a thickness of 68-70mm, and the latter comprising sewer pipe, with both comprising common components of construction from the 19th century to the Victorian period onwards.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A very small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at Great Barford totalling 28 fragments. Bone preservation was rated as ok on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Bones derived from ditch and pit fills. Bone abrasion was observed in low quantities but fragmentation was relatively high, with a large number of fresh breaks indicating that the bone was fairly friable. Very few fragments were identifiable to specific taxa; the majority could only be identified as belonging to large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. Identified taxa (Table 3) were cattle and sheep/goat. Cattle were represented by a lower molar tooth and a distal tibia and sheep/goat was represented by a lower molar tooth. Both of the teeth were only slightly worn, indicating the animals they belonged to were not fully adult. No signs of butchery or pathology were noted on any of the bones. There was little else of interest in this small assemblage.

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Total
1005	1006	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD		1	5	1	7
	1007		Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	1		4	1	6
1014	1015	Fill of Ditch	Late 1st Century BC	1		1	10	12
1017	1018	Fill of Pit	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD			1	2	3
			Total	2	1	11	14	28

Table 3. Quantification of animal bone from Great Barford.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During the trial trench evaluation of 126 High Street, Great Barford, five bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. The remains were mostly from deposits spot dated to the late 1st century BC to the mid 1st century AD. The purpose of the assessment was to gain an understanding of the preservation and distribution of carbonised plant remains and other environmental archaeological materials at the site, as well as to develop a preliminary understanding of the diet and economy of the site's inhabitants.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4.

The bulk sample light fractions contained few carbonised remains, with cereals recovered from two deposits (L1018 and L1015). Cereal remains were in the form of carbonised grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Non-cereal plant taxa were recorded in three samples and included goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), dead-nettle (*Lamium* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), eyebright/ bartsia (*Euphrasia/ Odontites* sp.) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). All of these taxa can grow as arable weeds.

Red bartsia and other eyebright/ bartsia species are common grassland taxa that also grow as arable weeds. They can be characteristic of less fertile soils. Goosefoot, dock and dead-nettle are more characteristic of more fertile soils, while stinking chamomile was a ubiquitous weed of heavy clay and loam soils. It is possible that these seeds derived from nearby crop processing activities, although the possibility exists that they also derived from other natural habitats.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The results from 126 High Street, Great Barford, demonstrate the presence of sparse carbonised plant macrofossils within the sampled deposits. Both wheat and barley were recorded but the concentration of carbonised cereal remains was insufficient for any detailed investigation of their relative significance in the site's economy.

Non-cereal taxa show evidence of fertile soils, some of which may have been heavy, as indicated by stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). The frequent presence of eyebright/ bartsia (*Euphrasia/ Odontites*) provides an additional signature for less fertile soils and there may have been an extensive arable system in practice, perhaps incorporating less heavily managed/ manured outfield soils for some crops.

The low density of material in the sampled deposits indicates that none were receiving concentrated carbonised material from the processing and use of cereals.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Trench	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
										Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
AS1845	1	1018	1017	Fill of Pit	3	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	20	10	50%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	X	-	X	*Pupilla muscorum*	X	XX	-	-	-	-
AS1845	2	1007	1005	Fill of Ditch	1	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	X	-	-	-	-
AS1845	3	1009	1008	Fill of Pit	1	-	10	10	100%	-	-	-	X	*Chenopodium* sp. (1), *Euphrasia/ Odontites* sp. (1)	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-
AS1845	4	1015	1014	Fill of Ditch	3	Late 1st Century BC	40	20	50%	X	-	Hord (1), Trit (2), NFI (1)	X	*Chenopodium* sp. (1), *Rumex* sp. (1), *Euphrasia/ Odontites*sp.	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
AS1845	5	1016	1025	Fill of Ditch	3	Late 1st Century BC - Mid 1st Century AD	20	10	50%	-	-	-	X	*Lamium* sp. (2), *Odontites vernus* (1), *Anthemis cotula* (1), Asteraceae (1)	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from 126 High Street, Great Barford. Abbreviations: Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain).

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Sample Section 3B in Trench 3 looking south-east

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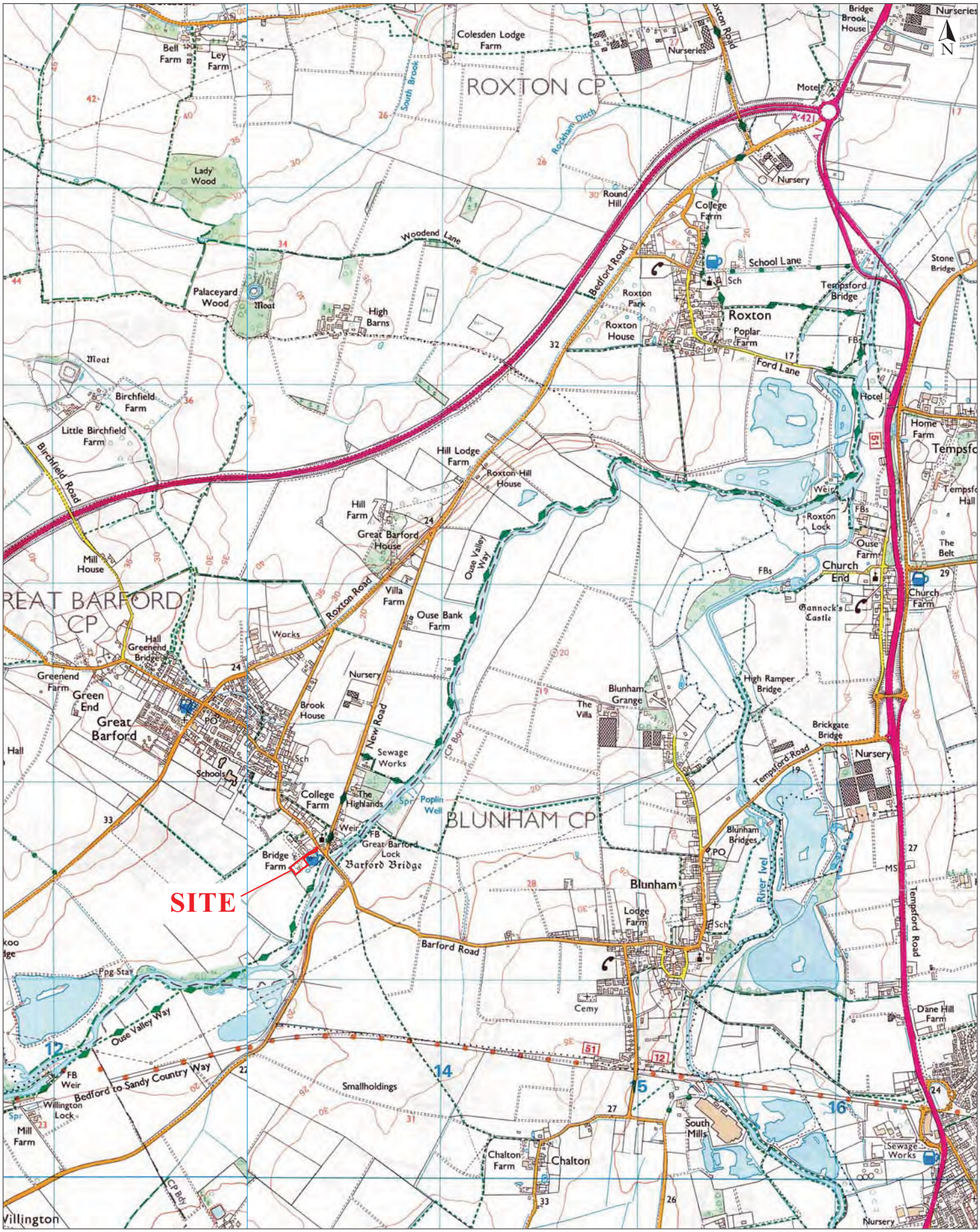

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)

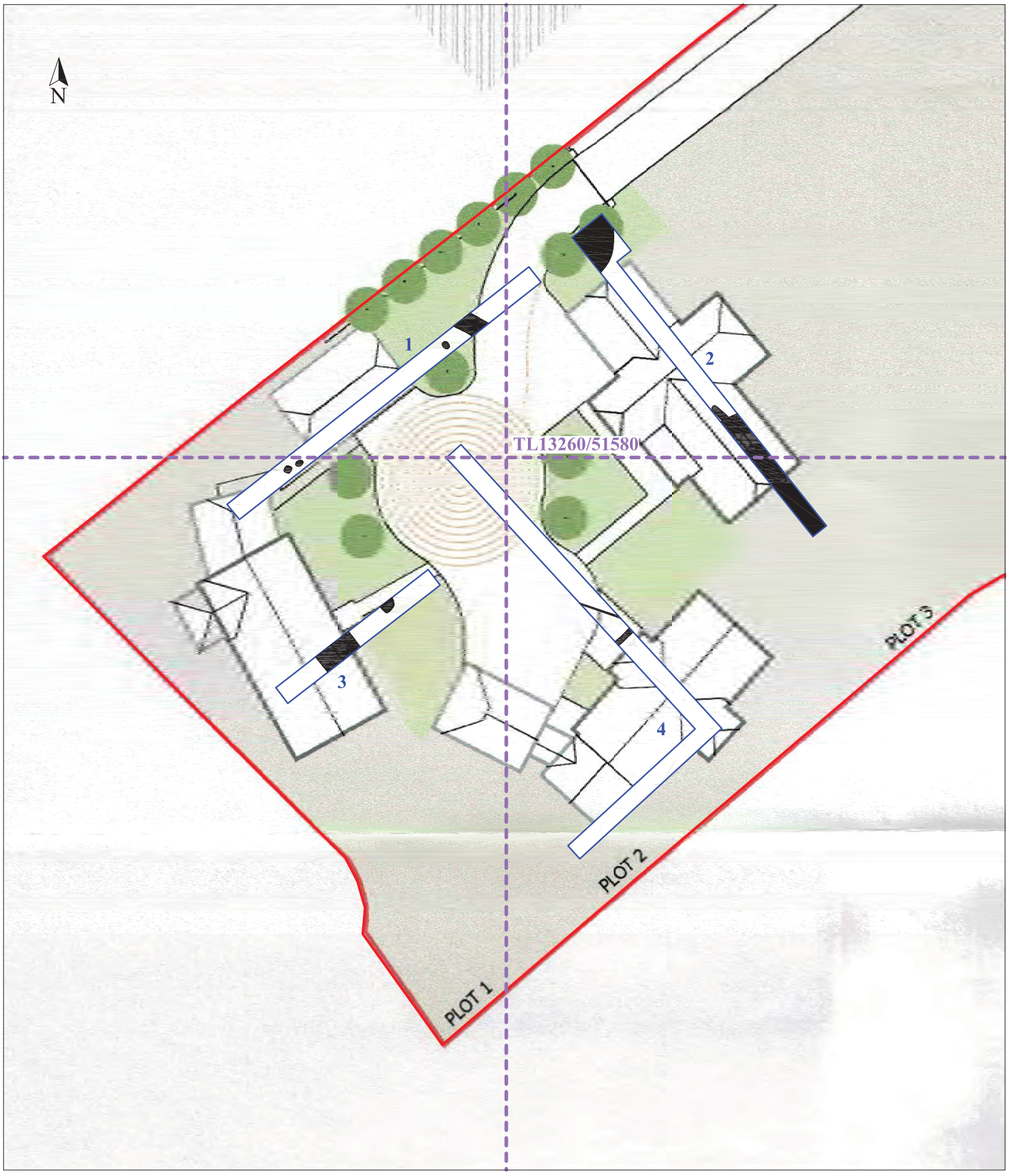

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:400 at A4

Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)

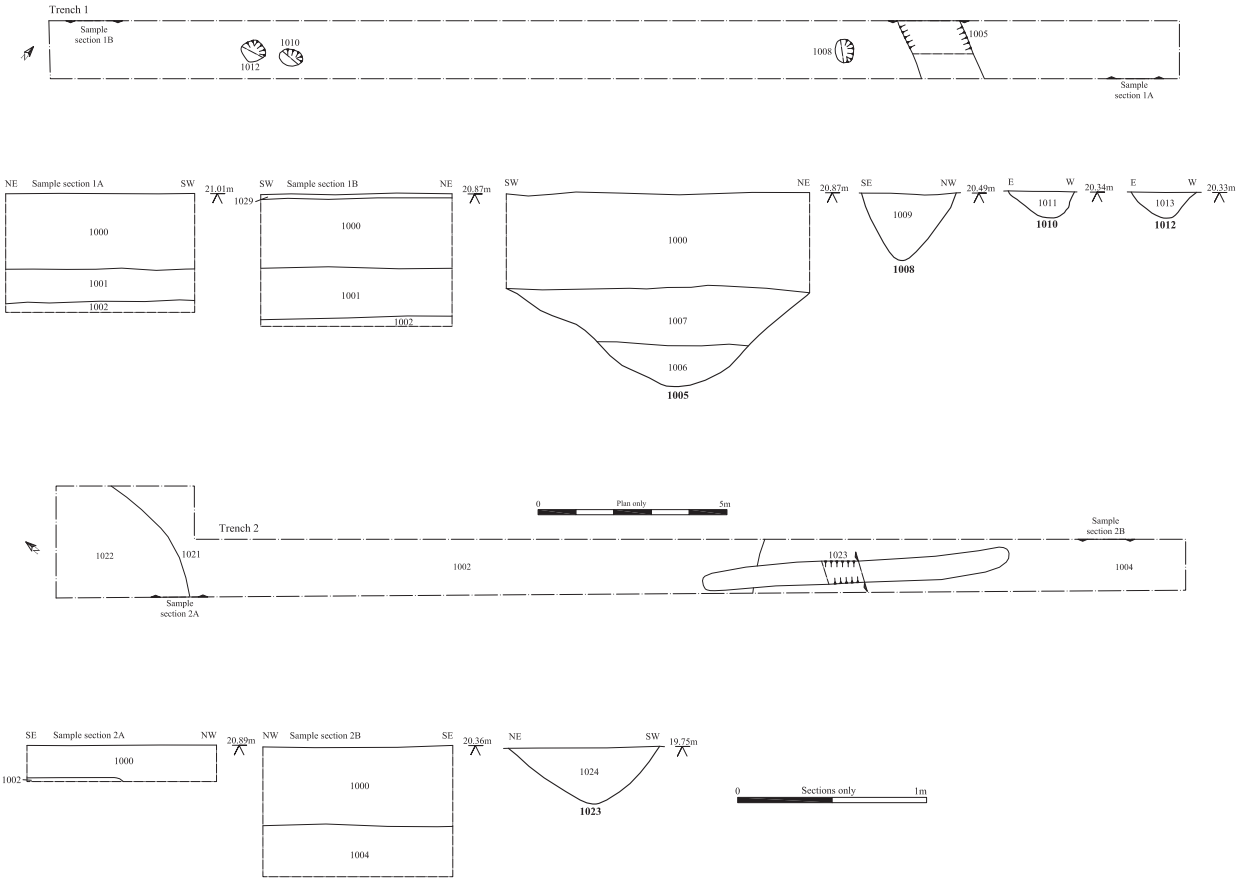

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Fig. 3 Plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)

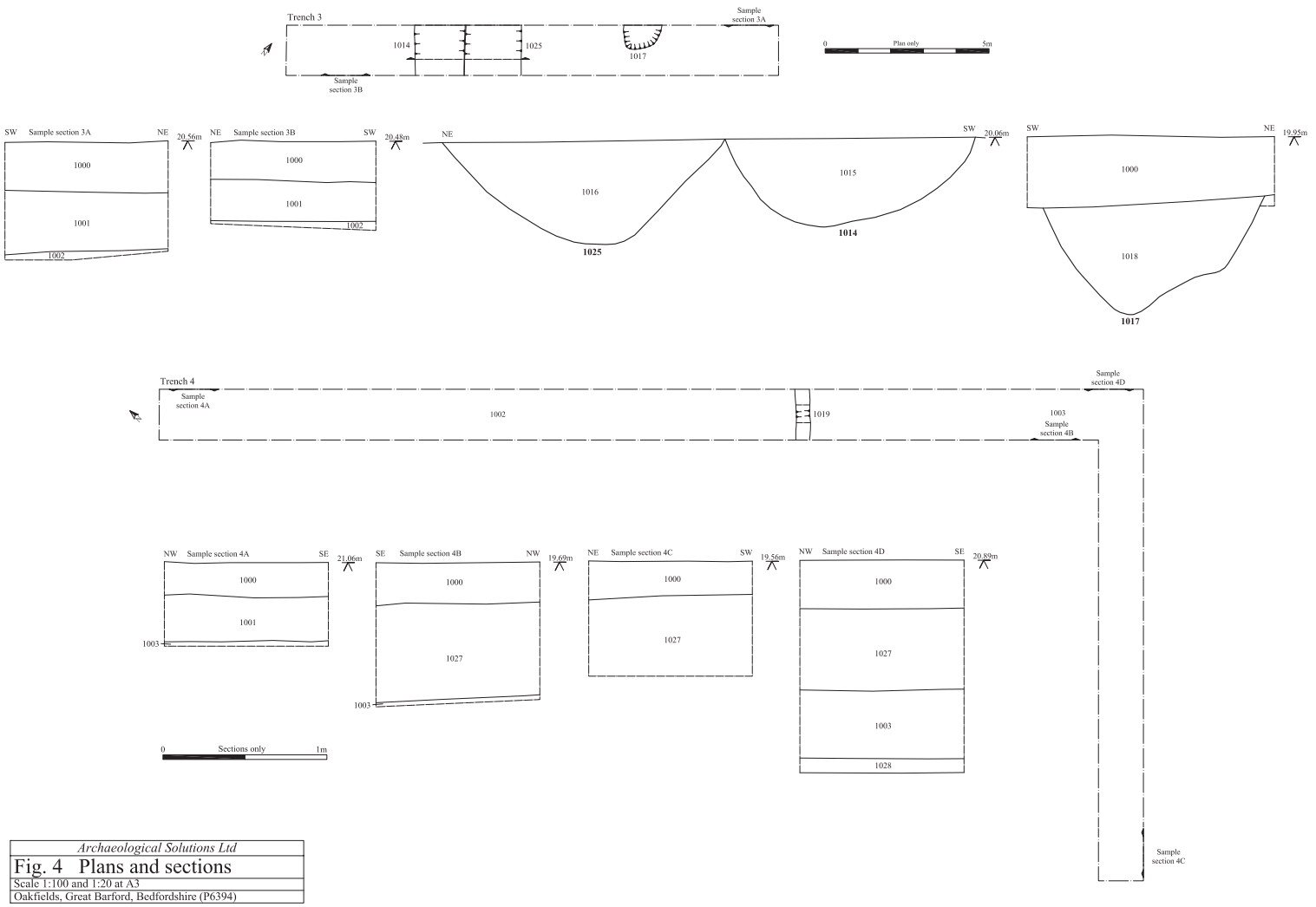

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Fig. 4 Plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Oakfields, Great Barford, Bedfordshire (P6394)