border archaeology

archaeology & built heritage
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Archaeological Strip Map Record & Excavation

On behalf of

Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd

Concerning

Fairfield Primary School
Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA)
Calverton
Milton Keynes

June 2016

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Contents:

1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Limited undertook a programme of Archaeological Strip Map Record & Excavation with respect to the proposed Fairfield Primary School development Calverton Milton Keynes between 28th July 2015 and 5th August 2015 (fig. 1). This area forms part of Area 11 of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA) (NGR: SP 80155 38868 - centre).

The site lies southeast of Stony Stratford and approximately 325m SW of Watling Street

The results of the excavation revealed no evidence of significant archaeological features or deposits. Trench 1 contained a shallow post-medieval furrow orientated NNE-SSW [1004]/[1006], while Trench 2 contained the remains of a probable post-medieval/modern hedge [2004] running parallel to the current hedgerow.

The alignment of these features appears to reflect that of a sub-rectangular enclosure of unknown date and function, previously identified by geophysical survey, no evidence of which appears on any of the available historic mapping relating to this area, suggesting a potentially early origin, predating the existing field system.

However, there was no conclusive evidence to demonstrate that these two linear features were associated with the sub-rectangular enclosure feature indicated on the geophysical survey and, moreover, samples taken from the fills of these features appeared to suggest a relatively late (possibly post-medieval) date.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Limited (BAL) was instructed by Simon Jeffrey of Willmott Dixon Construction Limited to carry out a programme of Archaeological Strip Map Record & Excavation with respect to the site of the proposed Fairfield Primary School development Calverton Milton Keynes (*fig. 1*), this site itself comprising part of Area 11 of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area (WEA) (NGR: SP 80155 38868 - centre). The site is located to the SE of Stony Stratford and approximately 325m SW of Watling Street and fieldwork was carried out between the 28th July 2015 and the 5th August 2015.

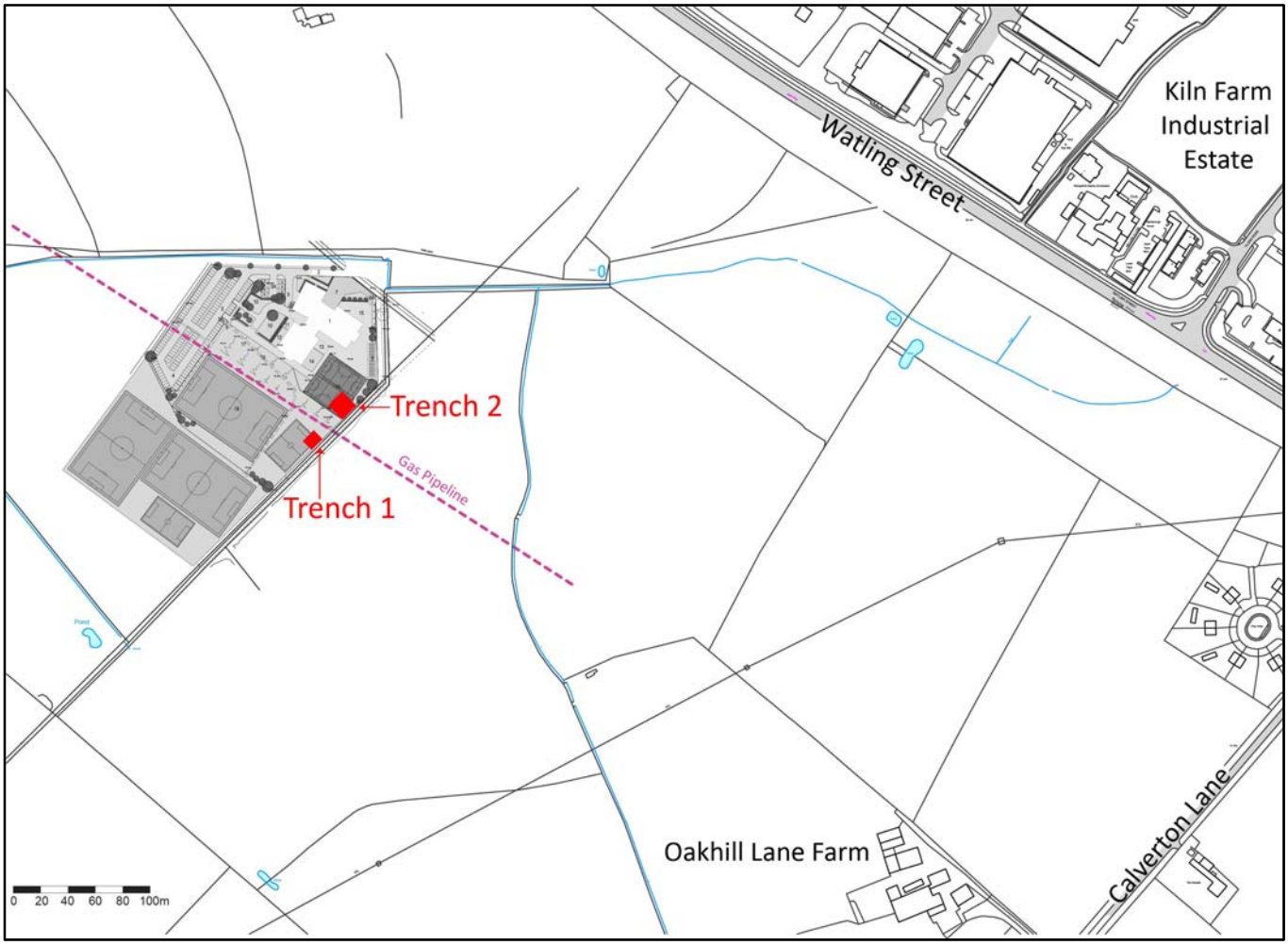

Fig. 1: Site location plan

The programme of archaeological work related to proposed reduced level engineering ground works undertaken prior to the construction of two designated sports areas covering areas of 100m^2 (Trench 1) and 235m^2 (Trench 2). These areas were agreed by Nick Crank BSc MCI*f*A Senior Archaeological Officer Milton Keynes Council (SAOMKC) in consultation with Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd.

The site lies within Field 10 of the previous programme of geophysical survey and overlies a positive NE/SW - aligned linear anomaly located at the SE extent of the field, which was interpreted as representing the NW extent of a sub-rectangular 'probable Iron Age enclosure'. The feature continues SE into the adjacent field (Field 13), where an entrance is suggested on the SW side, together with several probable 'round houses' (Hadrell 2007, 12) (*fig*. 2).

A modern gas service main is clearly visible running NW/SE directly through this probable enclosure (*figs. 1 & 2*) and the immediate area, which was considered likely to contain further archaeological features, is partly obscured by magnetic disturbance.

2.1 Soils & Geology

Area 11 comprises part of an extensive tract of typical calcareous pelosols of the HANSLOPE series (411d) which may be characterised as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils overlying chalky till. Smaller areas of typical stagnogley soils of the WICKHAM 2 series (711f) and Evesham 1 series (411a) are also present within the vicinity. The WICKHAM 2 soils consist of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey, fine silty over clayey and clayey soils overlying drift over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay or mudstone. The Evesham soils are of a slowly permeable calcareous clayey composition associated with shallow well-drained brashy calcareous soils over limestone, the underlying geology comprising Jurassic clay and limestone (SSEW, 1983).

3 Methodology

All archaeological site works within the study area were undertaken in accordance with BAL's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (2014) and with accepted standards of professional and ethical conduct, as defined in *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CI*f*A 2014), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CI*f*A 2014) and the CI*f*A *Code of conduct* (2014). BAL adheres to project management guidance as set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Lee 2015).

Undifferentiated topsoil and made ground were removed by machine and toothless blade under archaeological supervision; removed material was stored and scanned for artefacts.

Removal of topsoil by machine ceased when a clear archaeological horizon had been attained and excavation proceeded manually thereafter to the base of archaeological deposits.

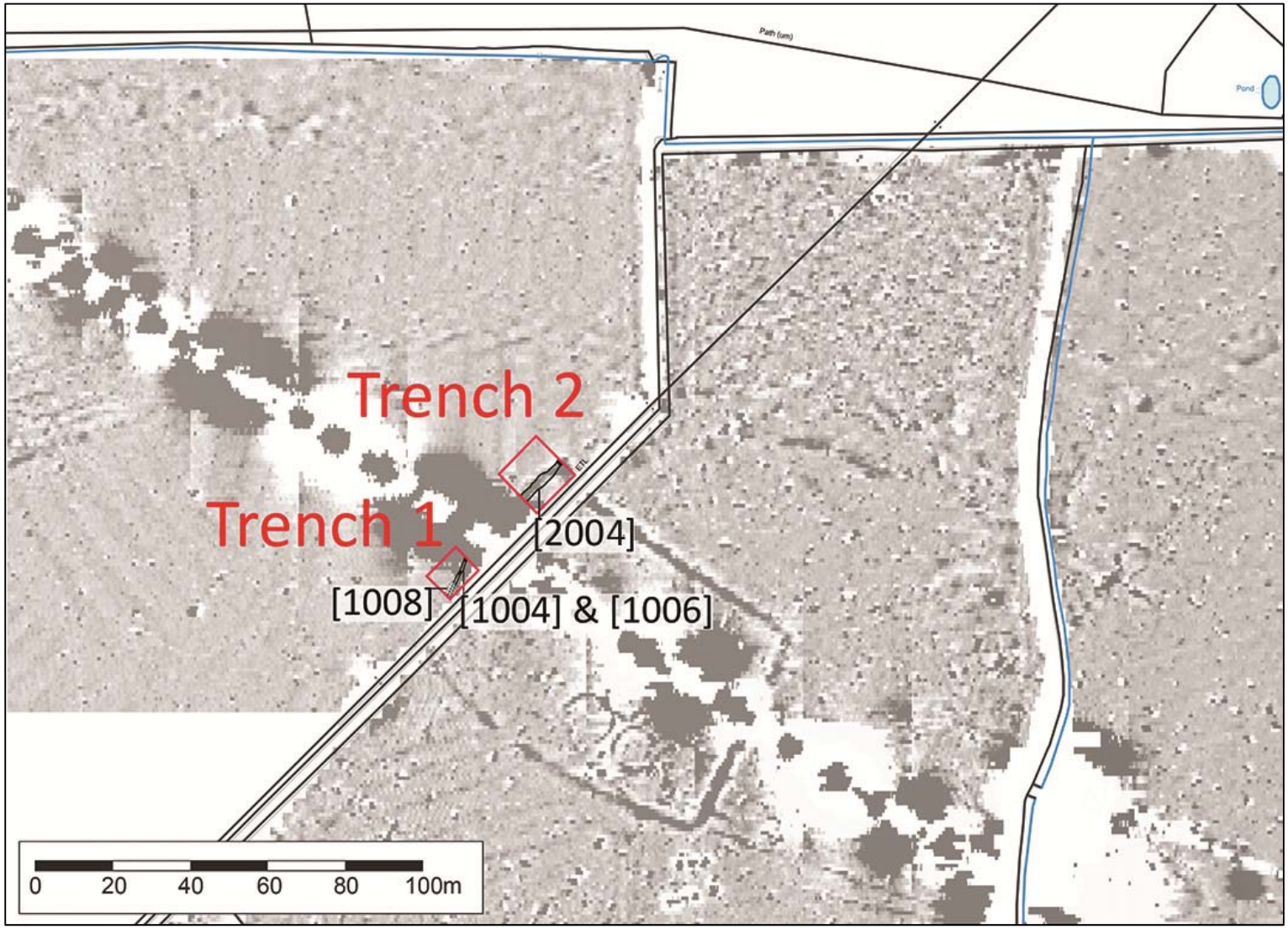

Fig. 2: Plan showing excavation areas & features recorded therein, overlying the geophysical survey plot showing the sub-rectangular enclosure feature and modern gas service main

4 . Trench Descriptions

4.1 Trench 1

Item	Tr. No	Context No.	Type	F/B	F/O	Context Information	Interpretation	Finds	Misc.	Provisional Date	Comments
1	1	(1001)	Deposit	-	-	Moderate/loosely compacted, mid-greyish brown silty clay; occasional chalk inclusions & small-medium sub-angular stones; 0.27m deep. Overlies (1002).	Topsoil	-	-	Modern	-
2		(1002)	Deposit	-	-	Very firm, light orange-brown silty clay; frequent chalk, moderate mid-sized sub-angular stone; 0.29m deep. Underlies (1001). Overlies (1005)/(1007).	Subsoil	1 × residual pottery sherd	-	Post-medieval	-
3		(1003)	Deposit	-	-	Very firm, light greyish-brown chalky clay; patches of degraded stone, frequent chalk, small-large sub-angular stones, moderate flint. Cut by [1004]/[1006].	Natural	-	-	Natural	-

Item	Tr. No	Context No.	Type	F/B	F/O	Context Information	Interpretation	Finds	Misc.	Provisional Date	Comments
4		[1004]	Cut	(1005)	-	Linear; orientated NNE-SSW; break of slope top gradual, sides moderately sloping, break of slope base gradual, base irregular-flat; 7.70m (visible length) × 0.75m × 0.22m. Cuts (1003). Cut by [1008] (at extreme SSW). Same as [1006]. Filled by (1005).	Cut of furrow	-	-	Post-medieval	Same as [1006]
5	1	(1005)	Fill	-	[1004]	Very firm, mid-dark greyish brown, dark blue mottled slightly silty clay; moderate-frequent small & large stones, occasional flint & chalk; 7.7m long (visible length) × 0.75m × 0.16-0.22m. Same as (1007). Underlies (1002). Fills [1004].	Singular fill of ditch [1004]	Residual pottery (recovered from sample)	-	Post-medieval	Same as (1007)
6		[1006]	Cut	(1007)	-	Linear; orientated NNE-SSW; break of slope top moderate-steep (W) / irregular & more gradual (E), sides irregular sloping, break of slope base sharp, base irregular-flat base; 7.7m long (visible length) × 0.76m × 0.16m. Same as [1004]. Underlies (1007). Cuts (1003). Filled by (1007).	Cut of furrow	-	-	Post-medieval	Same as [1004]

Item	Tr. No	Context No.	Type	F/B	F/O	Context Information	Interpretation	Finds	Misc.	Provisional Date	Comments
7	1	(1007)	Fill	-	[1006]	Very firm, mid-dark brown, dark blue mottled, slightly silty clay; moderate small & large sub-angular stones, occasional chalk & small flint inclusions; 0.76m wide x 0.16m deep x 7.7m long (visible). Same as (1005). Underlies (1002). Overlies [1006] & (1003).	Singular fill of ditch [1006].	-	-	Post-medieval	Same as (1005)
8		[1008]	Cut	(1009)	-	Roughly square; orientated approximately NW-SE; break of slope top, base, sides and profile of base unknown (as unexcavated). Approximate dimensions 4m × 3.5m (depth unknown as unexcavated). Cuts [1004].	Cut of modern intrusion.	-	-	Modern	-
9		(1009)	Fill	-	[1008]	Very loose, mid-light greyish-brown silty clay; frequent large & small sub-angular stones. Approximate dimensions 4m × 3.5m (depth unknown as unexcavated). Underlies (1002). Fills [1008].	Fill of modern intrusion [1008].	-	-	Modern	-

Trench 1 was excavated to an average depth of 0.56m beneath the modern topsoil and contained a shallow NNE-SSW -aligned ditch feature [1004]/[1006].

Topsoil (1001) was a moderate to loose mid-greyish-brown silty clay containing occasional chalk and small-to-medium sub-angular stones, which extended to an average depth of 0.27m. This overlay a very firm light orange-brown silty clay subsoil (1002) with an average depth of 0.29m, which contained frequent chalk, moderate medium sub-angular stones, together with a single sherd of residual Roman pottery, identified as being of middle to late 1st -century date (R. Perrin pers. comm.).

Subsoil (1002) appeared to have been cut in the SSW corner of the trench by a modern feature [1008] of unknown purpose. This feature was not evident above ground and only became visible after the trench had been opened. Its actual form could thus not be determined; however, as seen, the feature exhibited a roughly square plan, with visible dimensions of 4m × 3.5m; the depth was unknown.

Modern feature [1008] was filled by (1009), a very loose, mid-to-light greyish-brown silty clay containing frequent large and small sub-angular stones. No dating evidence was recovered from (1009); however, both the compaction and the horizon from which the feature was cut suggested a modern date.

Subsoil (1002) overlay fill (1005)/(1007), a very firm mid-dark greyish-brown slightly silty clay with evidence of dark blue mottling. The fill contained moderate-to-frequent small and large stones, together with occasional unworked flint and chalk; the recorded depth varied between 0.16m and 0.22m. Palaeoenvironmental sampling results were limited, with only abraded pottery fragments present, together with fresh, unburnt bone. The pottery was of similar 1st -century date to the residual sherd recovered from (1002) (R. Perrin pers. comm.). The comparative absence of charred organic materials was interpreted as supporting a fairly modern and agricultural origin, the small amount of pottery fragments being considered residual; however, this material could not be dated conclusively to any period (*Appendix 1*).

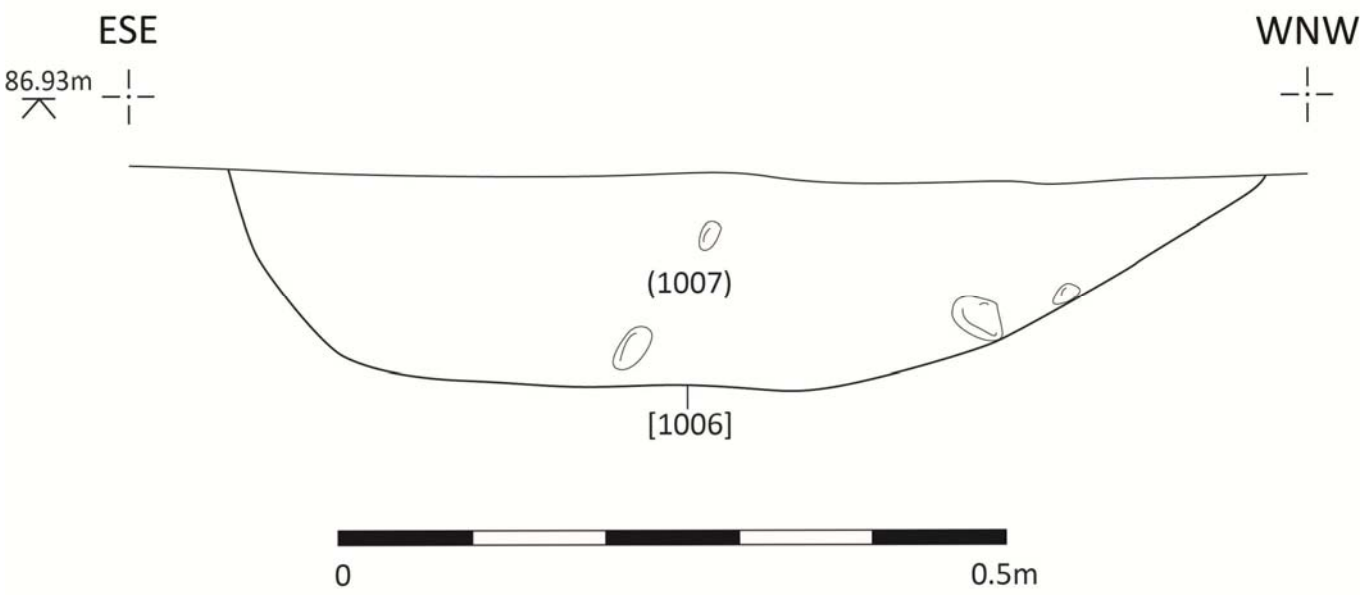

Fig. 3: NNE -facing section of [1004]/[1006]

Plate 1: SSW view of [1004]/[1006]

Deposit (1005)/(1007) filled a ditch cut [1004]/[1006] (*Plate 1; figs. 3 & 4*) running NNE-SSW, which revealed a gradual-moderate break of slope at the top of the profile, gradual-to-moderately sloping sides, with a gradual basal slope break and a flat/irregular base. Its visible dimensions were 7.7m × *c*.0.76m × 0.16-0.22m. The modern intrusion [1008] truncated this feature at the SSW corner of the trench.

Unfortunately, the form and surviving depth of [1004]/[1006] was such that it was not possible to ascertain the nature and function of the ditch. However, this feature possibly represented the remains of a post-medieval plough furrow, as assessment of its fill (1005)/(1007) identified fragmentary animal bone of fairly modern appearance (*see below & appendices*). Additionally, fragments of pottery were present in sufficient quantity to suggest an agricultural origin for fill (1005)/(1007).

4.1.1 (1005)

The fill of furrow [1004] was 0.16m to 0.22m deep. This fairly compact and seemingly sterile material could not be dated conclusively to any period. Several small fragments of heavily abraded residual pottery of probable 1st -century AD date were recovered from the fill sample. The palaeoenvironmental evidence itself suggests a fairly recent incorporation of elements, both fresh and heavily abraded, through continual re-deposition, and it would thus appear plausible to suggest a post-medieval or, indeed, an early modern through to modern date for the feature.

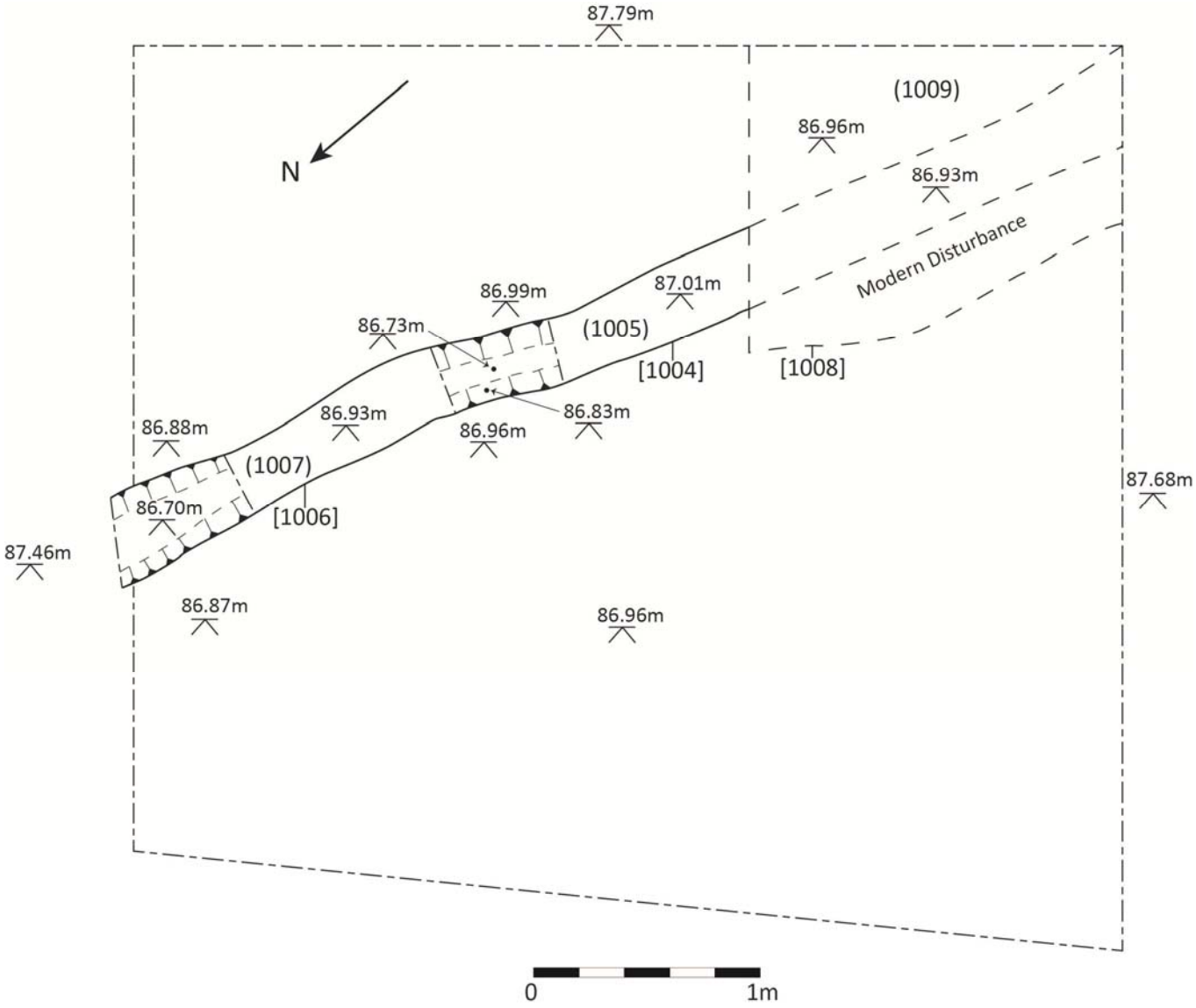

Fig. 4: Plan of Trench 1

Ditch [1004]/[1006] cut natural (1003), a very firm light greyish-brown chalky clay with patches of degraded stone and frequent inclusions of chalk and small-to-large sub-angular stones.

4.2 Trench 2

Item	Tr. No	Context No.	Type	F/B	F/O	Context Information	Interpretation	Finds	Misc.	Provisional Date	Comments
1	2	(2001)	Deposit	-	-	Moderately compact, mid-greyish-brown silty clay; occasional small stones & pottery; depth 0.29-0.39m. Overlies (2002).	Topsoil	Pottery	-	Modern	-
2		(2002)	Deposit	-	-	Very firm, mid-orange-brown silty clay; occasional small stones; 0.15m deep. Underlies (2001). Overlies (2005).	Subsoil	Very occasional pottery 1 × CBM fragment	-	Post-medieval	-
3		(2003)	Deposit	-	-	Very firm, light orange-grey clay, blue mottled, patches of light orange sandy silty clay; occasional clusters of medium sub-angular stones. Cut by [2004].	Natural	-	-	Natural	-
4		[2004]	Cut	(2005)	-	Irregular; aligned ENE-WSW; (?)sharp break of slope top, irregular sloping sides, mostly steep but more gradual on the SSE edge; break of slope at the base moderate, base irregular, undulating; trench wide × 1.78m × 0.77m Cuts (2003).	Cut of hedgerow	-	-	Post-medieval	-

Item	Tr. No	Context No.	Type	F/B	F/O	Context Information	Interpretation	Finds	Misc.	Provisional Date	Comments
5	2	(2005)	Fill	-	[2004]	Moderately compact, mid-dark brown silty clay, orange & blue mottling (natural) & patches of sandy, orange clay; frequent charcoal flecks & pieces, very occasional animal bone; trench wide × 1.78m × 0.77m. Underlies (2002). Fills [2004].	Fill of hedgerow [2004]	Bone	-	Post-medieval	-

Trench 2 was excavated to an average depth of 0.44m beneath the modern topsoil and contained a ENE-WSW -aligned feature [2004] interpreted as a possible post-medieval hedgerow feature. Two roughly circular features were excavated and were later determined to be tree-boles (*fig. 6*); these were noted in plan but are not discussed further.

Topsoil (2001) was a moderately compacted mid-greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small stones and residual Roman pottery of mid-1st century AD date; the recorded depth varied from 0.29m to 0.39m.

Topsoil (2001) overlay subsoil (2002), a 0.15m -deep (average) very firm mid-orange-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small stones, very occasional residual pottery of mid-1st century AD date and single piece of CBM.

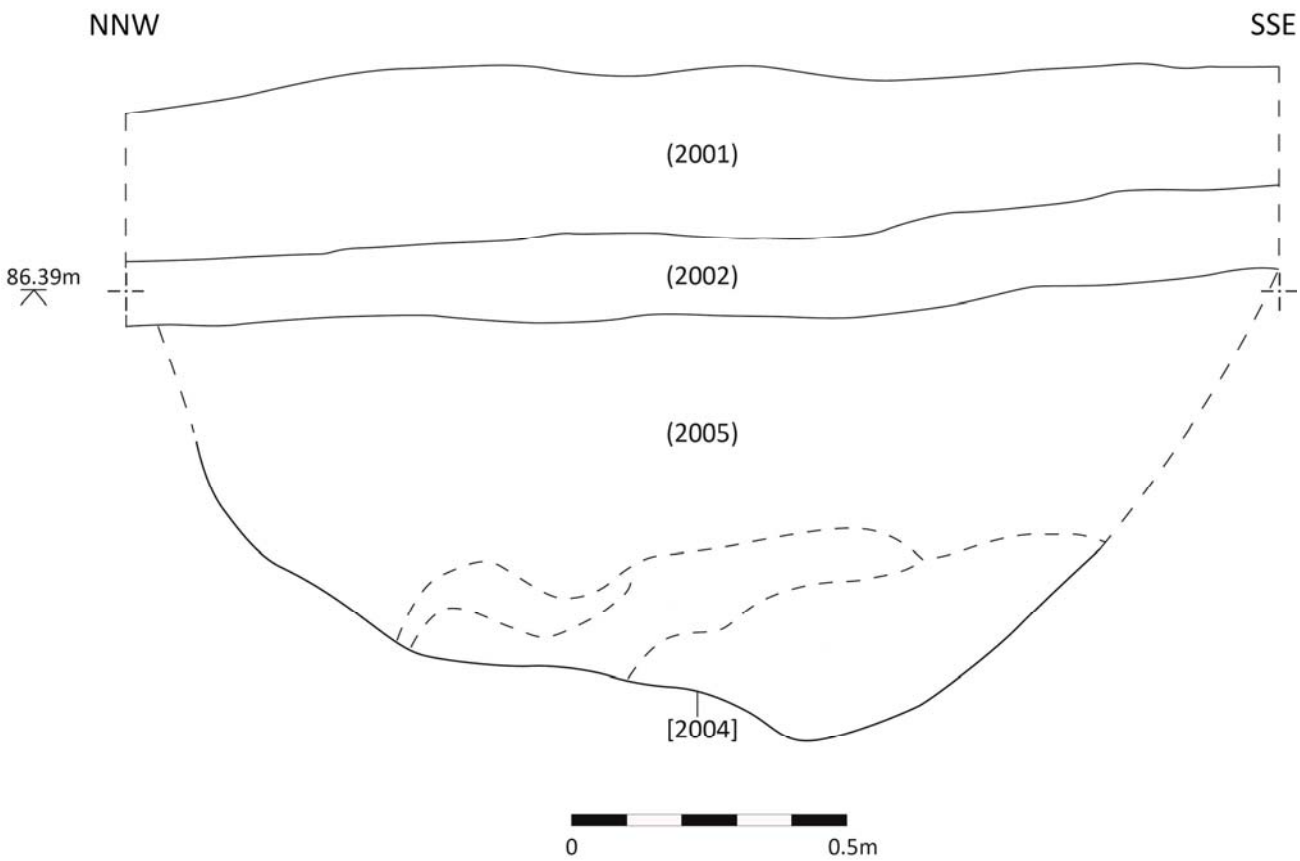

Fig. 5: View ENE of hedgerow [2004]: dashed lines in base of feature indicate lenses

Subsoil (2002) overlay (2005), the single 'fill' of possible hedgerow [2004]; (2005) was a 0.77m -deep (average), moderately compacted, mid- to-dark brown silty clay with patches of sandy orange clay mottled with patches of natural, containing frequent charcoal (flecks and pieces) and very occasional animal bone.

The animal bone was brown in colour and did not appear poorly degraded. A total of eight bones (51g) were recovered by means of hand-collection. All remains were very fragmented and disarticulated, offering little

zooarchaeological potential (*Appendix 2*). Much of the assemblage could be attributed only to medium-sized mammal, with the exception of a single equine molar, and its condition suggested rapid incorporation into the deposit.

Plate 2: View ENE of hedgerow [2004]

Deposit (2005) filled the ENE-WSW -aligned irregular linear feature [2004] (*Plate 2; fig. 5*). This revealed a possibly sharp break of slope at the top of the profile and irregular sides, generally steeply sloping but more gradual to the SSE; the break of slope at the base was moderate and the base was irregular and undulating. In terms of its recorded visible dimensions, the feature extended across the trench, with an average width of 1.78m and an average depth of 0.77m.

Linear [2004] was interpreted as a possible post-medieval hedgerow but has been given a cut number in order to better describe its form. [2004] cut natural (2003), a very firm, light orange-grey clay with blue mottling and patches of light orange sandy silty clay, containing occasional mid-sized sub-angular stones.

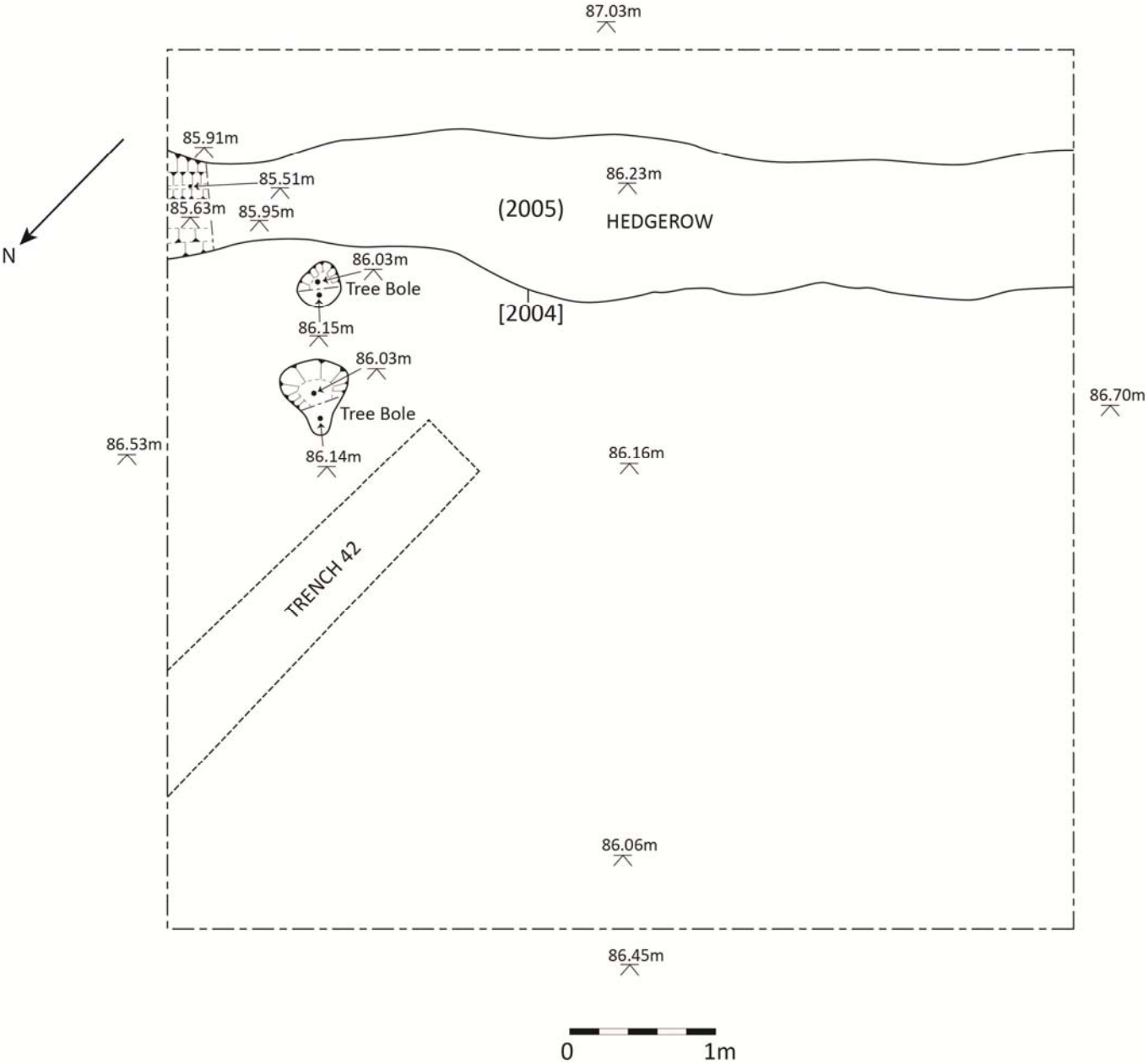

Fig. 6: Plan of Trench 2

5 Conclusion

Trench 1 contained a NNE-SSW aligned shallow linear [1004]/[1006], interpreted as a post-medieval furrow, whilst Trench 2 contained the remains of what appeared to be a hedgerow [2004] running roughly ENE/WSW, parallel with the existing field boundary, which is depicted on the OS 1st edition map of 1885 and presumably forms part of the later post-medieval field pattern established in the late 18th century.

The SAOMKC attended site on the 30th July 2015 and confirmed his agreement with BAL's interpretations.

However, it should be noted that linear [2004] in Trench 2 appears to reflect the ENE/WSW alignment of a linear anomaly recorded in the previous geophysical survey results as forming one side of a sub-rectangular feature interpreted as an 'Iron Age enclosure', with evidence of an entrance and possible 'round houses' (Haddrell 2007, 12). Similarly, whilst [1004]/[1006] lies within an area more heavily obscured by magnetic disturbance from a modern gas service main, it also would appear to broadly align with this enclosure feature.

No evidence of this feature appears on any of the available historic mapping relating to this area, suggesting a potentially early origin, predating the existing field system.

However, there was no conclusive evidence to demonstrate that these two linear features were associated with the sub-rectangular enclosure feature indicated on the geophysical survey and, moreover, samples taken from the fills of these features appeared to suggest a relatively late date, possibly post-medieval.

6 Copyright

7 Bibliography

Border Archaeology Ltd, 2014, *Archaeological Field Recording Manual*

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SSEW, 1983, *Soil Map of England and Wales: Scale 1: 250,000*

8 Appendix 1: Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

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Director: Palaeoenvironmental Science
Border Archaeology Ltd

8.1 Executive Summary

This Report has been prepared by the Palaeoenvironmental Department at Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) to facilitate and elucidate the palaeoeconomic interpretation of archaeology discovered during the small excavation on the site of the proposed Fairfield Primary School development within the Milton Keynes WEA.

Only one feature had potential archaeological significance and this was sampled for palaeoenvironmental indicators. The most indicative find comprised fragments of highly abraded pottery that had likely been subject to exposure and frequent re-deposition and which were probably incorporated as a result of agricultural activity. In addition, the occasional fragments of bone recovered had a fresh appearance, which, due to the taphonomic challenges of the soils encountered throughout the WEA, is unlikely to have been a result of good preservation but rather to fairly recent deposition. The almost complete absence of charcoal and the total absence of charred archaeobotanical remains further supports a picture of post-medieval or modern agriculture.

One sample was recovered from the singular fill (1005) of a shallow ditch [1004]. A sample of 30ℓ was taken due to the limited availability and highly compact nature of the deposit and 30ℓ of material was thus received by the Palaeoenvironmental Department and processed through flotation, with the resultant material sorted and identified.

8.2 Introduction

This Report details the results derived from 30ℓ of soil recovered in three 10-litre sample buckets from one context (1005), the fill of a linear feature [1004] interpreted as a ditch. Modern features were also encountered and investigated for confirmation but these were not sampled. The cut features were revealed in two excavation trenches located in an area of proposed reduced-level engineering groundworks for two designated sports areas. At the time of excavation, the land was largely pastoral fields.

Trench 1 measured 100m^2 and averaged 0.56m depth; a squared modern feature was encountered, together with the ditch [1004] from which the sample was taken. Ditch [1004] and fill (1005) are synonymous with cut [1006] and fill (1007).

Trench 2 measured 235m^2 and averaged 0.44m depth; a probable hedgerow feature was encountered, which, due to its modern and disturbed nature, was not sampled.

Both trenches exhibited a similar profile of post-medieval subsoil and topsoil.

The sample was processed by means of flotation and any potential archaeobotanical remains from both the floating element and the heavier residue were sorted and visually identified. While archaeobotanical recovery was exceedingly poor, this did not appear to have been due to the taphonomic issues elsewhere on the WEA. Instead, the organic material appears to be moderately recently deposited, probably following considerable exposure and re-deposition. This was further supported by the recovery of heavily abraded pottery fragments of probable 1st -century date (R. Perrin pers. comm.).

The site is classified as comprising calcareous and non-calcareous clays over chalky tills or limestone (SSEW 1983). Such soils have had a significant negative impact on taphonomy throughout the WEA; this is coupled with frequent and seasonal waterlogging leading to a fluctuating water table and further denuding the soils of organic remains. However, this does not appear to have affected the scant material from the present site and it is highly plausible that this is only due to the comparatively recent deposition.

8.3 Methodology

8.3.1 Objectives of analysis

The purpose of the palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy implemented during archaeological excavations is the retrieval of non-specific palaeoenvironmental remains. In addition, specific palaeoenvironmental recovery to support regional research frameworks and site specific palaeoenvironmental potential is capable of being implemented on archaeological excavations. Consideration of such additional investigation may be highlighted prior to the commencement of works or during excavation or it may become apparent during post-excavation procedures. No such additional considerations were valid in the case of the present site.

8.3.2 Sampling methodology

Sampling methodology followed the BAL Palaeoenvironmental Department Manual for environmental sampling and processing (BAL 2015). Sample collection on site was undertaken using three 10-litre sample buckets and identification was by reference to context and sample number. Following receipt into the Palaeoenvironmental Department, these were assigned bucket numbers for tracking purposes. The sample was not subject to sub-sampling and they were processed by flotation in their entirety.

Flotation was undertaken in Siraf-style tanks with a 1mm retent mesh and 250µm flot sieve. No re-floating was required. Retents were initially scanned by magnet to retrieve any archaeometallurgical debris and a sieve bank was used to facilitate visual sorting, with the smaller fractions sorted using a magnifying lamp and/or illuminated stereo zoom microscopy (≥ ×10). The flots were sorted entirely by means of illuminated stereo zoom microscopy (≥ ×10). The results of this analysis are reported with the flot and retent data recombined; this is due to limited-to-no variance in the species being reported.

8.3.3 Personnel

Flotation and primary analysis was undertaken by Robin Putland BSc MSc, Janice McLeish MA, Matthew Gutteridge BSc and David Elgar BSc MSc, with assistance from Corey Koppelow BSc and Carolina Sanchez-Ignacio BSc within BALs Palaeoenvironmental Department. This work was further assisted by BAL's field staff as part of a programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Further analysis and identification was undertaken by Robin Putland BSc MSc and Amy Bunce BSc MA.

8.4 Description of results

8.4.1 Description and implications of materials recovered

Detailed below are the general implications of the discovery of certain materials within the palaeoenvironmental sample.

8.4.2 Finds

Archaeological finds within palaeoenvironmental samples are fairly common and help confirm that the sampling of the material was not biased in any manner during archaeological recovery.

Instances of heavily abraded pottery fragments formed the finds assemblage recovered from the sample. In all cases, these fragments were <1cm in size and heavily degraded, although variation in fabric type was observable and an approximate 1st -century AD date is proposed (R. Perrin pers. comm.). It is highly likely that abrasion occurred as a result of pottery fragments being present in agricultural topsoil. Such a situation leads to frequent exposure and re-deposition with further breakage.

8.4.3 Bone

Occasional instances of heavily fragmented unburnt bone (with no inclusions of burnt bone) strongly supports a more agricultural deposit origin. The especially fresh appearance of the bone, with the survival of many interior elements, further indicates inclusion by means of more recent agricultural practices. This is especially apparent given the noted taphonomic biases present throughout the soils comprising the WEA.

8.4.4 Charcoal

Charcoal is ubiquitous in palaeoenvironmental samples, as it occurs in domestic, funerary and industrial settings or may be present as a result of accidental firings. Identification of the species composition of a charcoal assemblage may add valuable data relating to the selection of wood for varying purposes. While often relied upon to provide dating evidence, particularly C14 dates, charcoal is not the best material to use as it is subject to the 'Old Wood problem', whereby charcoal is known to be frequently redeposited and reused. In addition, wood

grows over many years and it is not possible to know precisely from where within the tree a charcoal fragment derives.

However, only one fleck of charcoal was recovered from the Fairfield Primary School sampling. This fleck was of 1mm in size and can therefore not be ruled out as wind-blown inclusion. The absence of such material suggests the material was deposited at some distance from past habitation.

8.5 Description of significant palaeoenvironmental contexts

As sampling was of only one context, its archaeological implications are considered in detail below. Further results can be observed in the table below.

8.5.1 (1005)

The fill of ditch [1004] was 0.16m to 0.22m deep. This fairly compact and seemingly sterile material could not be dated conclusively to any period. With the palaeoenvironmental evidence suggesting fairly recent incorporation of elements, both fresh and heavily abraded, through continual re-deposition, it is plausible to suggest a post-medieval or, indeed, an early modern through to modern date for the feature.

8.5.2 Table of results

		Context no.	1005		
		Sample no.	1		
		Sample part	1/3	2/3	3/3
		Bucket no.	E2641	E2642	E2643
		Sample vol. (mℓ)	300	200	300
		% sample analysed	100	100	100
		Waterlogged?	N	N	N
		Refloated?	N	N	N
Latin name	Common name	Plant part			
Charcoal					
Undetermined	Undetermined	fragments		+	
Artefactual					
Ceramic/pottery	-	-		+	+
Faunal					
Mammal (unburnt)	Indeterminate	-			+

Abundance key: + = rare; ++ = occasional; +++ = common; ++++ = abundant

Table 1: Archaeobotanical and non-archaeobotanical remains

Table 1 details the results of both the archaeobotanical material and the archaeological finds. The flot and retent data has been recombined due to the lack of variation between the material represented.

8.6 Conclusions and recommendations

The intention of the non-specific palaeoenvironmental sampling at Fairfield Primary School was the further interpretation of a feature of indeterminable age and function. To this end, the palaeoenvironmental sampling, although producing very scant results, may have been successful. The combination of abraded Roman pottery with fresh unburnt bone and the comparative absence of charred organic materials strongly supports a fairly modern and agricultural origin.

Due to the severely limited recovery of materials, no further work is recommended.

Retention of the materials recovered as an incorporation of the site archive for deposition with the museum is recommended.

8.7 Bibliography

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9 Appendix 2: Animal Bone Assessment

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9.1 Introduction

Between July and August 2015, Border Archaeology Ltd carried out archaeological work comprising two trenches in advance of a school building development forming part of the Milton Keynes Western Expansion Area.

The archaeological work centred on fields to the S of Watling Street.

Archaeology was present in both trenches, with animal bone recovered from a single context, the fill (2005) of [2004], within Trench 2 (*figs. 1 & 2*). A total of eight animal bones (51g) were recovered by means of hand-collection. All remains were very fragmented and disarticulated.

9.2 Method

The methodology used in this assessment follows a modified version of that used by Davis (1992). Due to the small volume and fragmented nature of the material, a single table (*Table 1*) has been created to summarise the findings. The anatomical element and *taxa* have been recorded as 'unknown' (U) unless otherwise stated (*Table 1*). The unknown *tax*a have therefore been classified as 'small' (sm), 'medium' (m) and 'large' (lge) mammal.

9.3 Results

9.3.1 Preservation

The small assemblage was fragmented, exhibiting mostly modern breaks throughout, with the exception of a single complete *equine* molar. Bone preservation was generally poor, with occasional root action creating surface erosion. No weathering or cracking was noted.

9.3.2 Species Representation

With the exception of the equine molar, the remaining seven fragments could only be assigned to medium-sized mammal.

9.3.3 Ageing

The only evidence of age came from the *Equus* molar, which, with some evidence of wear, would indicate an adult animal. The remaining fragments were undiagnostic

9.3.4 Butchery

No evidence of butchery, gnawing or burning was noted within the assemblage

9.3.5 Pathology

No pathology was noted within the assemblage

Context No:	Trench No:	Feature Type	Bone No: / (g)	Element	Taxa	Preservation	Fusion	Butchery	Gnaw	Burn	Teeth	Comments
2005	2	Hedge-row	8/51g	-	*Equus*	Mod-good	-	-	-	-	1	Molar with wear
				7 × U	Med. mamm.	poor	-					7 × small fragments

U=unknown Element & Taxa, sm = small mammal, med = medium mammal, lge = large mammal

Table 1: Summary of assemblage

9.4 Conclusions

The animal bone assemblage from MKWE15, Area 11 FPS15 produced a very small volume of material, with little zooarchaeological potential. From the total assemblage, it was possible only to classify a single molar; the remainder of the assemblage could be attributed to medium-sized mammals. The condition of the material, coupled with the limited surface erosion and animal-gnawing, could suggest that the material was quickly incorporated into the deposit. The deposit was interpreted as a post-medieval hedgerow fill; no other dateable material was recovered from this context.

The current assemblage does not warrant further study but should be retained to amalgamate with any future excavations within the vicinity.

9.5 References

Davis, S. J. M., 1992, *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites,* Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92.

10 Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Cut	Feature	Area	Trench	Slot	Pottery		Animal Bone		CBM/Daub		Flint		Fe		Stone		Shell		Other		Comments
No:	No:	Type		No:	No:	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	No:	(g)	
1002		subsoil		1		6	21															
2002		subsoil		2		4	12															
2005	2004	hedgerow		2				8	51													
Total						10	33	8	51													

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