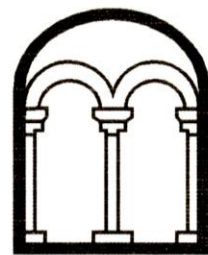


**1 LONDON END LANE
BOW BRICKHILL
MILTON KEYNES**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Albion
archaeology



Location	1 London End Lane
Parish	Bow Brickhill
NGR	SP 9070 3435
Planning application No.	12/02504/FUL
Event No.	EMK1283
Museum Accession No.	AYBCM:2016.74
Oasis Reference	albionar1-251769
Project No	LEL 2920
Fieldwork start date	17 May 2016
Fieldwork completion date	7 June 2016



**1 LONDON END LANE
BOW BRICKHILL
MILTON KEYNES**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Project: LEL2920

Document: 2017/35
Version 1.0

28th February 2017

Compiled by	Approved by
Anna Rebisz-Niziolek and Gary Edmondson	Drew Shotliff

Prepared for:

Gill Hudson Homes Ltd



Contents

List of Figures	3
Preface	4
Non-Technical Summary	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Planning Background	6
1.2 Site Location and Description	6
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	6
1.4 Description of Development Works	7
1.5 Project Objectives	7
2. METHOD STATEMENTS	9
2.1 Methodological Standards	9
2.2 Archaeological Monitoring During Construction Works	9
3. RESULTS	10
4. CONCLUSIONS	11
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	12



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Layout of development area

Figure 3: Historical maps

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2

Figure 5: Selected image 3

The figures are bound at the rear of the document.



Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This documented is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

This document has been prepared by Anna Rebisz-Niziolek (Project Supervisor) and Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and approved by Drew Shottliff (Operations Manager).

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>28/02/2017</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

MKCSAO	Milton Keynes Council's Senior Archaeological Officer
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Gill Hudson Homes Ltd
DA	Development area
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
LPA	Local Planning Authority
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd edn, 2001</i>
	Albion Archaeology
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent 08/01721/FUL was granted on appeal for a residential development and associated office at 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill, Milton Keynes. Planning consent 12/02504/FUL was subsequently granted to allow additional time for the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Gill Hudson Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works to fulfil condition no. 4 (attached to the 2012 permission).

Bow Brickhill is located a short distance to the south-east of Milton Keynes. The development area is located at the southern margin of the settlement, on the north side of a lane leading to one of the components, or 'Ends', of the historic settlement. It occupies steeply sloping ground at the edge of the Greensand Ridge.

The archaeological monitoring comprised two visits. The preliminary access works and the driveway up the lower slope were initially monitored. Subsequently, the area upslope, within the footprint of the dwelling and associated parking area, was monitored. The results indicated that the areas had been striped and disturbed previously; probably as part of the original development scheme some years ago. The site had then been abandoned, allowing a thin turf to form.

No archaeological features were observed. However, it is likely that if any had been present, they would have been relatively well-defined against the geological strata, despite some churning of the upper horizon (probably associated with the initial development). Apart from modern artefacts including brick and concrete, which appear to have been imported into the site (possibly as hard core), no artefacts were recovered.

Given the slope of the site and the nature of the underlying clay, it would appear likely that former use of the DA was restricted to, perhaps, woodland or steep grazing land for the nearby settlement.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Planning Background**

Planning consent (08/01721/FUL) was granted on appeal for a residential development and associated office at 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill, Milton Keynes. Condition no. 3 of that permission required the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with a scheme submitted and approved in advance and in writing by the local planning authority. A Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring was submitted as partial discharge of condition no. 3 (12/01154/DISCON).

Planning consent 12/02504/FUL was subsequently granted to allow additional time for the development. Condition no. 4 of that permission stated:

The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief, November 2012 as electronically registered on 31 May 2013.

Since May 2013, Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd have ceased trading and the site has been sold on.

The current developers of the site, Gill Hudson Homes Ltd commissioned Albion Archaeology to carry out the programme of archaeological works in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition. The Milton Keynes Council's Senior Archaeological Officer (MKCSAO) requested an updated Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2016), which set out how the work would be undertaken in compliance with the previously submitted and agreed method, referenced in condition no. 4 of the planning permission (ASC 2012).

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The settlement of Bow Brickhill is located a short distance to the south-east of Milton Keynes. The development area (DA) is located at the southern margin of the settlement, on the north side of a lane leading to one of the components or 'Ends' of the historic settlement. It is a rectangular plot of land, extending 114m NW-SE and ranging in width from 38m near the lane to 68m upslope to the south-east. It covers an area of c. 0.5ha and is centred on grid reference SP 9070 3435 (Figure 1).

The development area occupies steeply sloping ground at the edge of the Greensand Ridge, in the vicinity of Weeks Covert, with the ground falling from c. 130m OD at the south-east margin, to c. 114m OD in the vicinity of the lane, over a distance of 114m. The underlying geology comprises Oxford Clay (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The DA lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and had the potential to reveal evidence of a range of chronological periods.



Little archaeological work has been carried out in this part of the parish. In 1968 the north part of Bow Brickhill was incorporated into the designated area of the new city of Milton Keynes. Further west, large-scale excavations at Caldecotte Lake revealed the Saxon and medieval origins of the hamlet of Caldecotte (Zeepvat et al, 1994).

The Ouzel valley attracted settlement and activity during the prehistoric period, with worked flint being recorded at a number of locations, including a concentration in association with bone and burnt stones at Caldecotte Lake (HER3353/2).

Watling Street passes through the area *c.* 1km south-west of the DA. The Roman small town of *Magiovinium* developed on Watling Street and was partially excavated in advance of road improvements (Neal 1987). There was no evidence for Roman remains in the immediate vicinity of the DA.

Little is known of the early development of Bow Brickhill, but the settlement may have originated during the Saxon period. Prior to the Norman Conquest (1066) the land was held by Blackman, a man of Earl Tosti and Biho Wulfwy (ASC 2012). By Domesday (1086) the land was held by the bishop of Lisieux and Walter Giffard (Morris 1978). During these periods the DA probably comprised open land, part of the common land of the parish. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation strips have been recorded to the west of the site and London End Lane may have formed the boundary between the two historical landscapes (ASC 2012).

The principal settlement of Bow Brickhill lies to the north of the DA, above the river valley. London End Lane leads from the village to a separate hamlet or 'end'. The layout of the area is shown on the 1791 enclosure map of Bow Brickhill, with London End Lane following a more westerly course than the modern road. The DA is shown as a single plot with a building adjacent to the lane. A small stream is depicted flowing through the western part of the site.

On the 1881 OS map the DA is shown as part of an 'L'-shaped plot which includes the land currently occupied by no. 1 London End Lane (Figure 3). The 1881 map also shows a footpath crossing the site in the direction of the Greensand Ridge — this is not shown on the 1900 map. By 1966, the stream shown on the previous maps has been diverted or canalised.

1.4 Description of Development Works

The development comprised the construction of a detached dwelling with separate office on the higher ground, with access from London End Lane and associated services (Figure 2).

1.5 Project Objectives

The immediate aim of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to



investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

In order to achieve the objective, the project would:

- Record, assess and report on any archaeological remains uncovered using the methodology set out in Section 2 (below), at all times adhering to CIfA standards and guidance;
- Produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ensure that any archaeological remains were ‘preserved by record’

The regional research agenda and any relevant period or material research papers would be used as the basis for assessing the significance of any findings and deciding on the objectives for any further analysis.



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below.

2.1 Methodological Standards

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2007)
Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>

2.2 Archaeological Monitoring During Construction Works

2.2.1 Methodological approach

A suitably qualified archaeologist attended site to observe construction works and record any archaeological remains uncovered. Provision was made for adequate recording within the parameters of this type of monitoring exercise. Significant remains that could have impacted on programme and cost would have been reported to the client and MKCSAO in order to agree the most appropriate response. Each site visit was recorded on the appropriate Albion Archaeology record sheet.

2.2.2 Observation of ground works

All groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. This comprised works associated with the parking and access as well as the footprint of the dwelling. Soil bunds were examined for artefacts and other cultural material.



3. RESULTS

The monitoring comprised two visits. On 17 May 2016 the preliminary works close to the access with London End Lane and the continuation of the driveway up the lower slope were monitored. On 7th June 2016 the area upslope, within the footprint of the dwelling and associated parking area, was monitored (Figure 2).

Both visits indicated that the area had been stripped previously — probably as part of the original development scheme some years ago. This had removed most of the overburden, with machining continuing into the undisturbed geological strata.

Following abandonment of the original development a thin soil and turf horizon had formed, which was visible during the current monitoring (Figures 4 and 5). Removal of this overburden, which comprised a friable dark grey-black clay silt topsoil (10) (up to 5cm thick), revealed intermittent traces of friable light orange sandy clay (11) (also up to 5cm thick). This would appear to be remnants of the subsoil.

Below the overburden, no more than 10cm below the ground surface was the geological strata (12), which varied across the investigation area, ranging in colour from light orange to light/mid orange-grey clay. It would appear that the upper part of this deposit had been removed previously, as generally the surface was clean; however, areas of churning were apparent, which would appear to have been associated with the original machine stripping of the site.

Situated close to the entrance to the site, near the lane, was an area of modern material including brick and concrete fragments. This material appears to have been dumped on the site, possibly in association with the original construction scheme.

No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts recovered. Following discussions with the MKCSAO, no further monitoring was undertaken.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The monitoring comprised observation of the lower slope in the area of the access road, together with an area of less steep ground further upslope on the site of the footprint of the new dwelling and associated parking area. The results indicated that the areas has been stripped and disturbed previously — probably as part of the original development scheme some years ago. The DA was then abandoned, allowing a thin turf to form.

It is likely that any archaeological features, if present, would have been relatively well-defined against the geological strata, despite some churning of the upper horizon. Apart from modern artefacts, including brick and concrete (which appear to have been imported into the site, possibly as hard core for the original development scheme) no artefacts were recovered.

Given the slope of the site and the nature of the underlying clay, it would appear likely that former use of the DA was restricted to, perhaps, woodland or steep grazing land for the nearby settlement.



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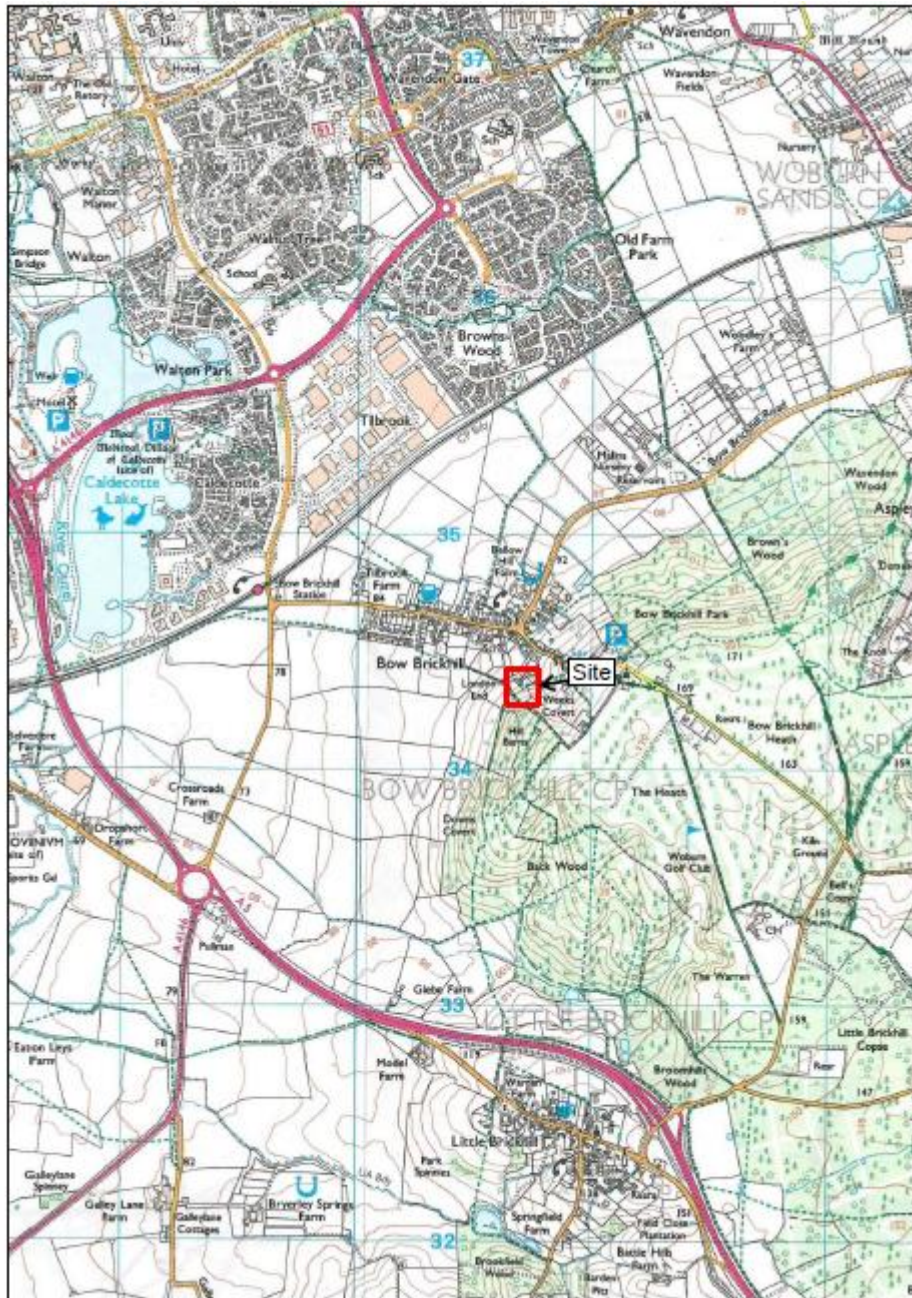


Figure 1: Site location

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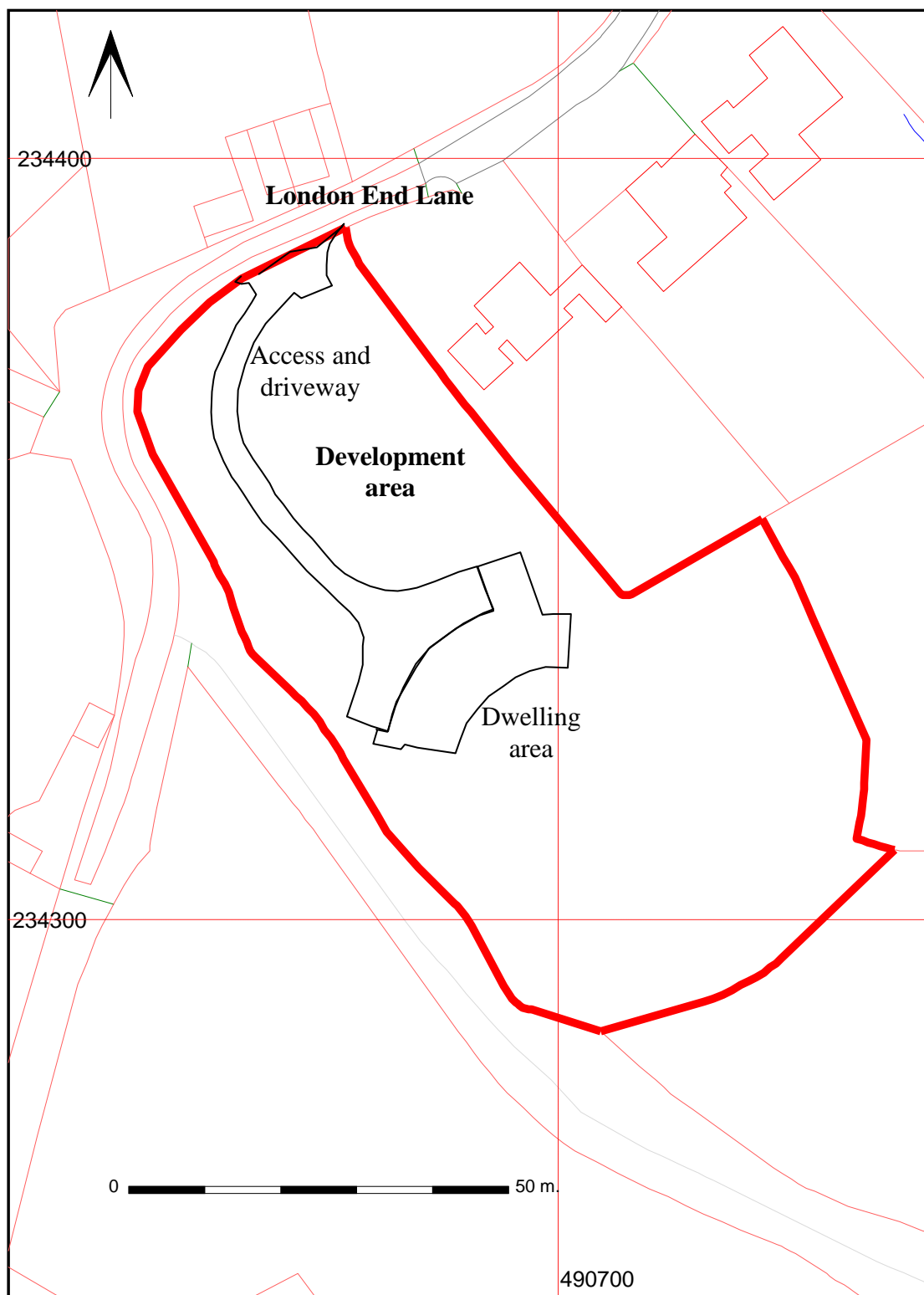
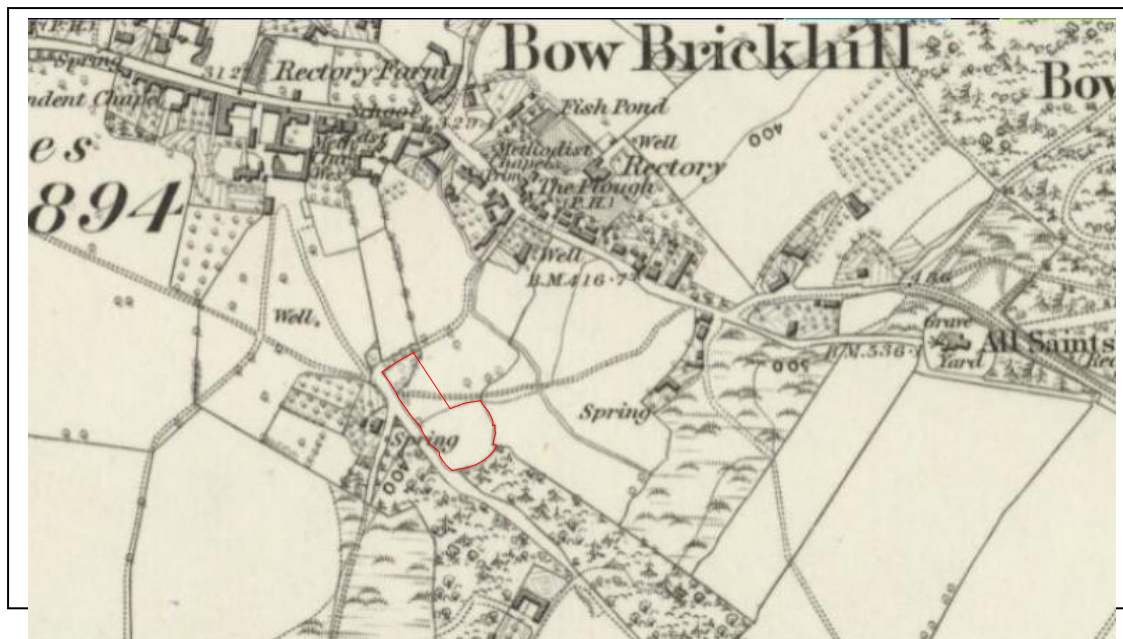


Figure 2: Layout of development area

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(location of development area is approximate)



Map B: Detail of 1881 Ordnance Survey map
(location of development area is approximate)

Figure 3: Historical maps



Image 1: Truncated soil profile revealed during initial visit near to the lane.
Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.



Image 2: Truncated soil profile revealed upslope in area of the building footprint during second visit. The thicker grass seems to define the undisturbed area beyond the building.
Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 4: Selected images 1 and 2



Image 3: Machining reveals a clean area of undisturbed geological strata at a shallow depth. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

Figure 5: Selected image 3



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