



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A Programme of Archaeological Observation,
Investigation and Recording on land at
Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire
December 2010 – May 2011
Accession No: LUTNM: 2010.99



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Report 13/160

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No: 154418
Project name	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Bury Farm, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Standen, between December 2010 and May 2011 during redevelopment works on land at Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.	
Project type	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording	
Site status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current Land use	Former agricultural	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type/ period		
Significant finds		
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire	
Study area (sq metres)	400m	
OS Easting & Northing	SP 9696 2434	
Height	109m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh	
Project Manager	Anthony Maull	
Sponsor or funding body	Mr and Mrs Standen, Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	December 2010	
End date	May 2011	
ARCHIVES	Location	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper	Bedfordshire Museums LUTNM:2010.99	Watching brief forms (8) Colour slides (15*) black and white contact prints (15) Digital photographs (85)
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)		
Title	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land at Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire December 2010 – May 2011	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology report 13/160	
Author	David J Leigh	
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**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT
BURY FARM, TILSWORTH ROAD, STANBRIDGE
BEDFORDSHIRE
DECEMBER 2010 – MAY 2011**

Abstract

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Standen, between December 2010 and May 2011 during redevelopment works on land at Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire. Modern disturbance was recorded throughout the investigation area. No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology between December 2010 and May 2011 during redevelopment works on land at Bury Farm, Tilsworth Road, Stanbridge, Bedfordshire (NGR SP 9696 2434; Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr and Mrs Standen and was carried out following a request for an archaeological watching brief by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists in a brief for archaeological work issued on 1 September 2010 (CBCA 2010).

It adhered to Planning Policy Statement 5, subsequently superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2010) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the appropriate national standards and guidelines, as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

The development area lies on the northern boundary of the village of Stanbridge, and on land adjacent to the main building of Bury Farm, fronting directly onto Tilsworth Road. The village lies approximately 4km to the south-east of Leighton Buzzard.

The site is situated on ground sloping down to the south on the southern side of a low north-east – south-west orientated ridge and lies at a height of 109m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology has been mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising Gault Clay and Lower Chalk (BGS Geotitles: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geotitles/>).

2.2 Historical background

The development area is located in the village of Stanbridge in an area of particular archaeological interest and on the northern edge of the historic core of the village. A visit was made to the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Office on the 1 December 2010 to examine all the information pertaining to the development area and its environs.

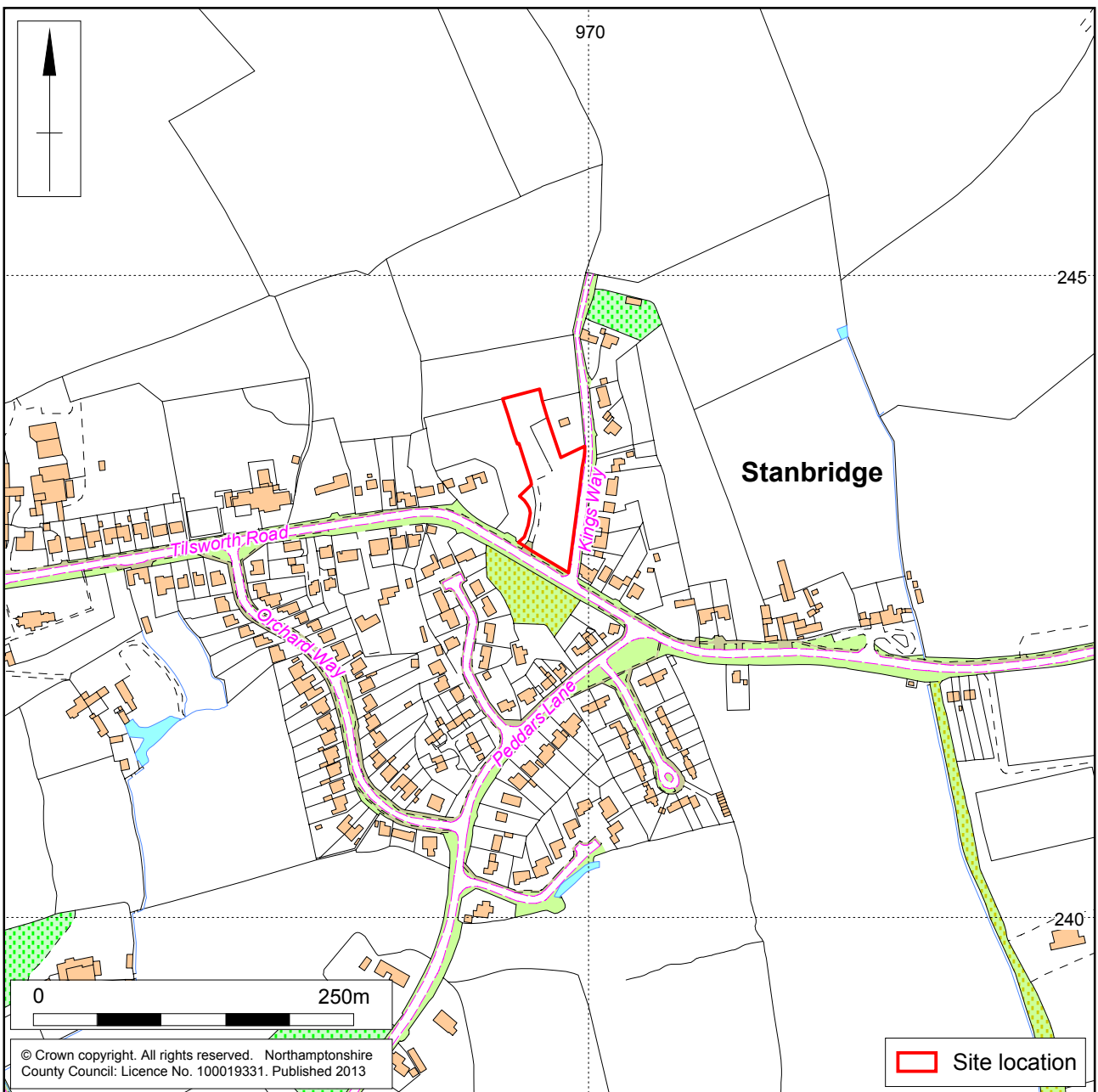
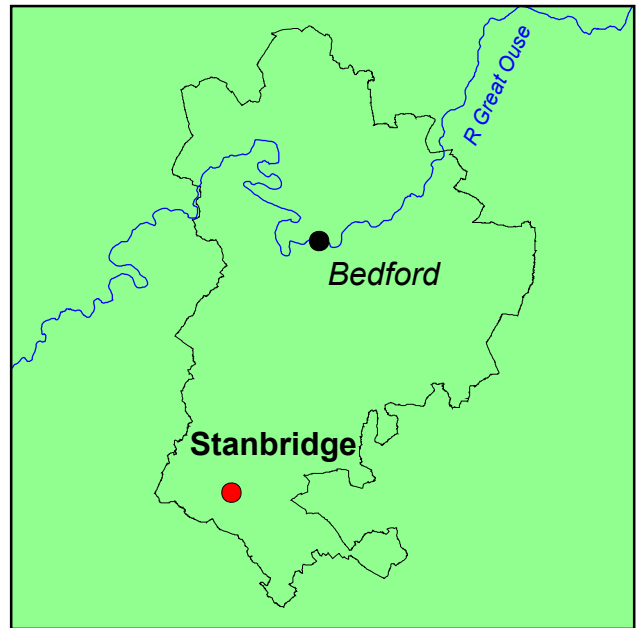
Evidence of Romano-British settlement has been recorded in fields to the north-east of the development area (Historic Environment Record No: 16508) with further finds of Romano-British date recorded from fields close-by to the north-west (HER No: 3220).

Although the village is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086AD, it is probable that it originated in the Saxon period, however, it was not until the 12th century when the village is first mentioned in a documentary reference (CBCA 2010). The focus of the village during the medieval and post-medieval periods was centred on a large village green (HER No: 10951) which lay to the south-west close to Ivy farm.

A number of earthwork remains lie near the development area, these include the remains of a possible hollow-way or trackway (HER No: 10964) adjacent to Peddars Lane, a hollow-way or ditch up-cast situated between Green Farm and Ivy Farm (HER No: 10963), evidence of a moat and other earthworks in the area of the former Hill Farm (HER No: 1864). In Mill Field to the north-west of the site are the remains of a windmill mound (HER No: 535). A mill is recorded attached to the Manor of Stanbridge in 1291AD. Remains of ridge and furrow are recorded around the village (HER No: 7769) with ridge and furrow in Mill Field covering a possible earlier gravel pit (HER No: 10898). The remains of the medieval village of Stanbridge lie on the north side of Peddars Lane (HER No: 16886). Close-by to the east of Bury Farm lie more earthworks and a well (HER No: 10961). The site of the medieval manor of Stanbridge lies to the north-west of Bury Farm (HER No: 10959).

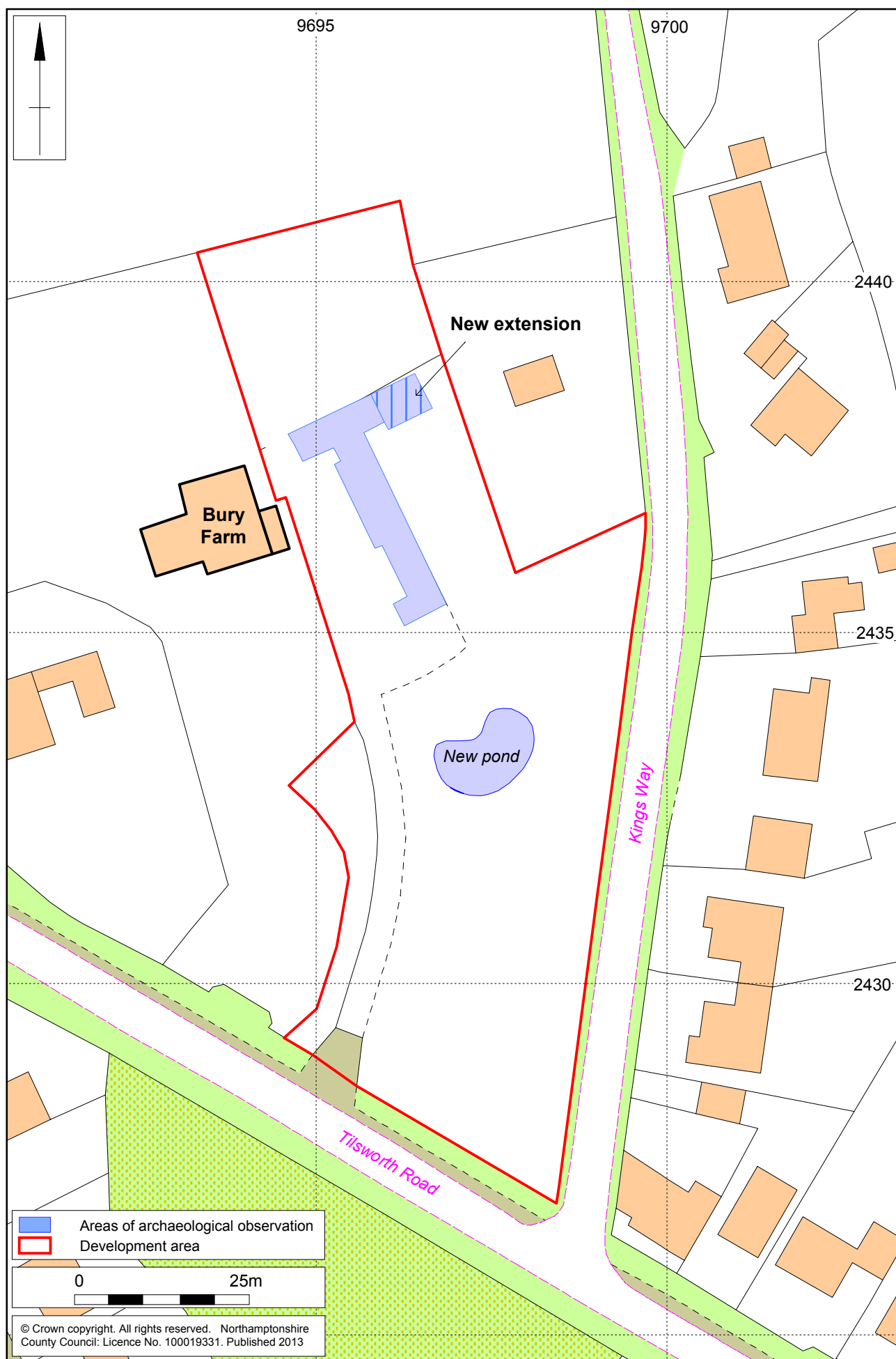
The Church of St John the Baptist (HER No: 956) lies to the south-west of the development area, the earliest parts of the church date from the 14th century with later additions and alterations. Several Listed Buildings are recorded in the village; these include a Grade II Listed Barn (HER No: 16141) dating from the mid to late 18th century, Green Farmhouse (HER No: 5949) Grade II Listed dating from the 17th/18th centuries, 17th-century cottages (HER No: 5955) and a Grade II Listed Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (HER No: 6428) lying immediately to the west of the development area.

No previous archaeological work is recorded as having been carried out in the development area, however, an archaeological evaluation carried out to the rear of Stanbridge Lower School (Phillips and Bell 2006) to the west of the development area revealed two ditches and a pit of probable 12th/13th century date.



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:750 (A4)

Area of archaeological observation Fig 2

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the groundworks undertaken for the redevelopment works and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- ◆ Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- ◆ Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and colour slide was kept, with supplementary photographs in digital format. The written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets (NA 2011). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008). The work was undertaken paying due regard to research contexts, both local and regional as set out in Oake *et al* (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott and Brown (2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken between December 2010 and May 2011 during groundworks for the construction of a new extension and the redevelopment of an existing barn and associated outbuildings (Figs 3 and 4) to residential and commercial use, along with a re-designed access and the construction of a new rainwater harvesting pond.

In order to adhere to the requirements of the planning condition the demolition of the existing barn and outbuildings was carried out in two stages. Initial demolition comprised the removal of the walls (Figs 5 and 6) and the supporting of the roofs on screw jacks. Once construction of the new supporting walls was underway the existing roofs were removed.

The groundworks were undertaken using a 360° mini excavator fitted with a combination of toothed and toothless buckets.



The existing barn and outbuildings, looking south-west Fig 3



The existing barn and outbuildings, looking east Fig 4

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

4.1 The barn, outbuildings and new extension

Within the area of the barn, outbuildings and the new extension the natural substratum was encountered at a minimum depth of approximately 0.20m below present ground level and comprised grey-blue compact clay with occasional chalk inclusions (Fig 7). Sealing this was grey-brown sandy loam, up to 0.35m thick, containing occasional irregular stones and numerous small fragments of modern ceramic building material.

No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.



The barn after removal of the walls, looking south Fig 5



The barn after removal of the walls, looking east Fig 6



The stratigraphic sequence in the area of the barn and outbuildings Fig 7

4.2 The rainwater harvesting pond

The rainwater pond was excavated to the south of the barn within an area of maintained lawn (Figs 2, 8 and 10).



The area of the new rainwater pond prior to excavation Fig 8

The stratigraphic sequence (Fig 9) comprised, natural grey-blue clay encountered at a depth of approximately 1.30m below present ground level. This was sealed by grey-brown sandy loam, up to 1.15m thick, containing numerous fragments of modern ceramic building material, including fragments of London Brick and Thermalite blocks. This in turn was sealed by grey-brown topsoil/turf layer, up to 0.15m thick.



The stratigraphic sequence in the pond, looking south-east Fig 9



The pond after completion, looking north-east Fig 10

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	8
Colour slides	15
Black and white contacts and negatives	15
Digital photographs	85

The project archive will be consolidated and prepared for deposition with Bedfordshire Museums under the Accession No: LUTNM: 2010.99.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Modern disturbance was noted throughout the area of the barn, outbuildings and new extension. Evidence of modern ground make-up was noted within the area of the new rainwater pond, which may be associated with levelling up and landscaping activity in this area of domestic garden.

No pre-modern archaeological deposits or artefacts were present. The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable circumstances and the results are considered to be reliable.

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