



Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation at the former Turnpike Public
House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire,
August 2013



Northamptonshire Archaeology

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QUALITY CONTROL

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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	OASIS No: 158141	
Project name	Archaeological evaluation at the former Turnpike Public House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, August 2013	
Short description	In August 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting for Morris Homes at the former Turnpike Public House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire. No archaeological features or artefacts of pre-modern date were observed or recovered during the evaluation.	
Project type	Evaluation	
Site status	None	
Previous work	none	
Current Land use	Former pub car park	
Future work	unknown	
Monument type/ period	Modern	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Bedfordshire	
Site address	130 Eastcotts Road, Bedford	
Study area	0.23ha	
OS Easting & Northing	TL 070 480	
Height OD	c28m aOD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Bedford Borough Council Senior Archaeologist	
Project Design originator	CgMs Consulting	
Director/Supervisor or	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Myk Flitcroft CgMs Consulting and Adam Yates NA	
Sponsor or funding body	Morris Homes	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	27 August 2013	
End date	28 August 2013	
ARCHIVES	Location BEDFM 2013.46	Content
Physical		
Paper		Evaluation pro forma sheets, context sheets, black and white contact prints, digital photographs
Digital		Report text and figures
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological evaluation at the former Turnpike Public House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, August 2013	
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT THE FORMER TURNPIKE PUBLIC
HOUSE, EASTCOTTS ROAD, BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE,
AUGUST 2013**

Abstract

In August 2013, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology, on behalf of CgMs Consulting for Morris Homes, at the former Turnpike Public House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire. No archaeological features or artefacts of pre-modern date were observed or recovered during the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Morris Homes, to carry out archaeological trial trenching on the site of the former Turnpike Public House, Eastcotts Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, (NGR TL 070 480, Fig 1). The works were required to fulfil part of the planning requirement for the erection of six dwellings with detached garages, associated access and landscaping on the site, by Morris Homes Limited (Planning Reference 12/02178/FUL, Bedford Borough Council, 26th April 2013).

The works were undertaken in accordance with the Scheme for archaeological evaluation, prepared by CgMs (Flitcroft and Thornton 2013).

The development area 0.23ha in extent comprises the site of the former Turnpike Public House, its garden to the rear, a car park to the front and the site of a demolished bungalow to the north.

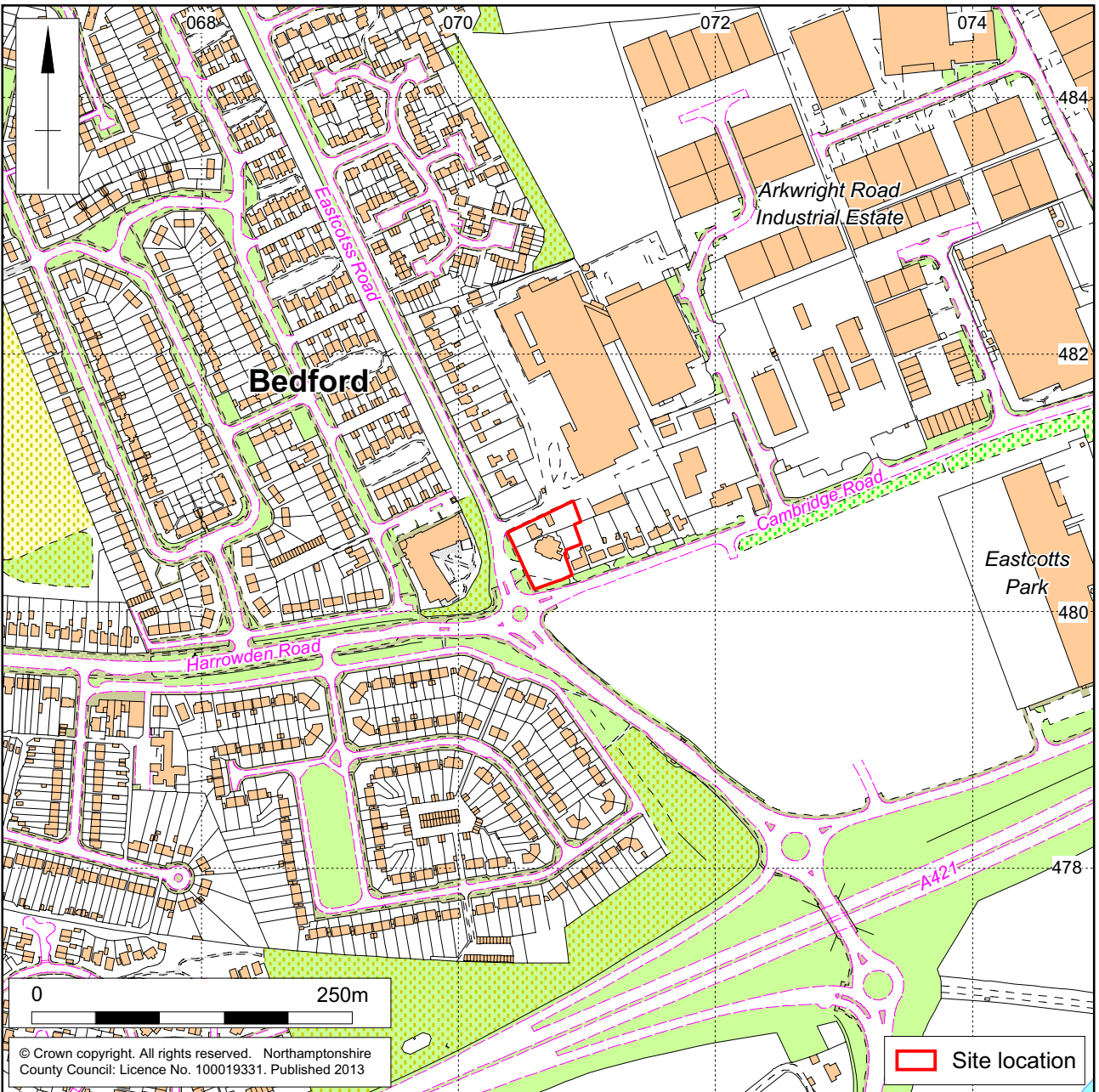
The programme of archaeological investigation involved the excavation of three trenches within the development area, however due to site constraints only two of the trenches could be excavated, the results of which are presented in this report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, geology and topography

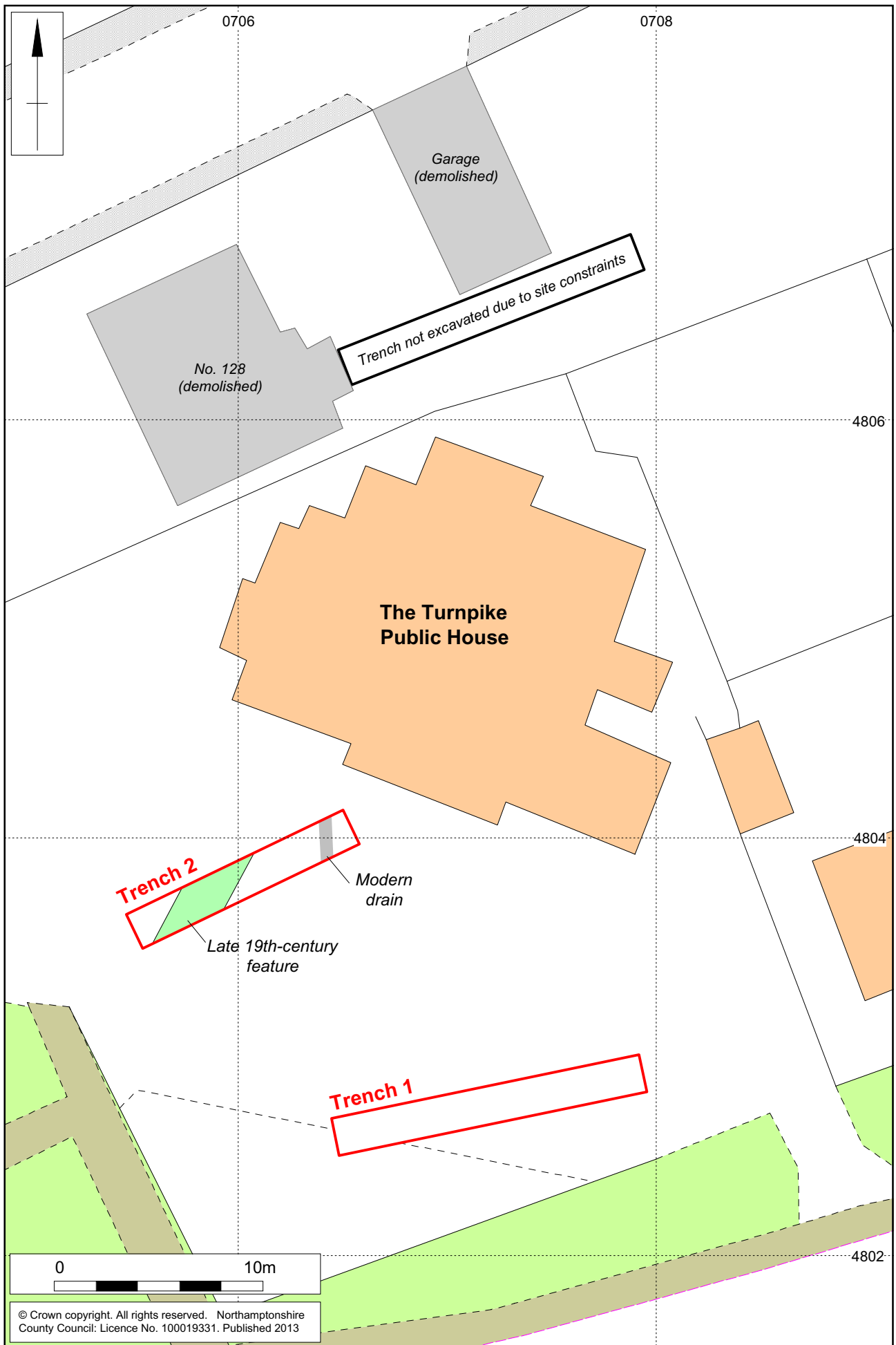
The site is located in the south-east of Bedford and is bordered by Eastcotts Road to the west and Cambridge Road (A5134) to the south (Fig 1).

The British Geology Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the geology within the site as Mudstone belonging to the Oxford Clay Formation. The superficial deposits overlying the Mudstone are sand and gravel River Terrace Deposits (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).



Scale 1:5000

Site Location Fig 1



Scale 1:250 (A4)

The excavated trenches Fig 2

2.2 Archaeological background

An archaeological excavation and a watching brief were undertaken in 2004 and 2005 on land directly south of the development site. These works revealed multi-period archaeological remains dating from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age to the Saxon period (Carlyle 2006).

Within a wider radius of two to three kilometres of the site, along this section of the River Ouse Valley, there are numerous cropmarks representing the remains of a Bronze Age and Neolithic funerary and ritual landscape, and a later Iron Age and Roman farming landscape.

Prior to and during historic quarrying of the area to the immediate north of the site and Cambridge Road, there were several finds of Bronze Age cremations and inhumations.

The historic aerial photos from the 1940s onwards show there are no signs of any quarrying within the proposed development area from that date. However quarrying took place immediately to the north of the development area, and the beer garden of the Turnpike Public House drops away to the east suggesting that this area was quarried also. In the 1940s the sites land use is shown as a mix of allotments and residential. By 1968, the Turnpike public house had been constructed.

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

The aims of the archaeological evaluation are specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Flitcroft and Thornton 2013).

The primary objectives of the current scheme for investigation are:

- to ensure that the presence, extent, level of significance and degree of preservation of surviving buried archaeological remains within the development site are reliably established;
- to allow agreement upon the need for and scope of any archaeological mitigation required for the development site at The Turnpike, 130 Eastcotts Road, Bedford.

The aims will be realised through the achievement of the following specific objectives:

- To seek to establish if surviving archaeological remains are observed within the proposed trial trenches;
- To recover information relating to the nature and function of past human activity represented by the surviving archaeological remains;
- To interpret the nature of human activity at the site and to place the site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate;
- To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for the local Historic Environment Record to ensure the long-term survival of the excavated data.

The project will address the research aims and make reference to the following documents as appropriate:

- *Research and Archaeology, A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1, Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997)
- *Research and Archaeology, A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2,*

Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)

- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)
- *Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007)
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011)

3.2 Methodology

The works were conducted in accordance with the specification, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 1994, revised 2008), the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA 1985, revised 2010), the principles of MAP2 and MoRPHE (English Heritage 1991, 2009), and the guidelines detailed in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2002). All procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines.

Three trenches were proposed, but of these only two were excavated due to site constraints (Fig 2). The third trench had to be abandoned due to the presence of overhead cables and being heavily overgrown. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the trench location plan approved by Vanessa Clarke Senior Archaeologist for Bedford Borough and were related to Ordnance Survey National Grid (Fig 2). On completion of recording the trenches were backfilled. There was no requirement for specialist re-instatement.

The topsoil, subsoil and non-structural post-medieval and later deposits were removed to reveal the natural. The topsoil was stacked separately from the subsoil and other deposits. The trenches were cleaned sufficiently to enable the identification of any features.

All deposits encountered during the course of the excavation were given a separate context number and fully recorded. Recording followed standard Northamptonshire Archaeology procedures (NA 2011). Deposits were described on pro-forma context sheets to include details of the context, its relationships and interpretation.

A full photographic record comprising both 35mm black and white negatives and digital images was maintained. The field data was compiled into a site archive with appropriate cross-referencing.

The works were monitored by Myk Flitcroft, CgMs Consulting and Vanessa Clarke Senior Archaeologist for Bedford Borough Council.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 15m long by 1.8m wide and was located in the southern part of the former public house car park and was aligned broadly east-west. Natural river terrace sandy gravels (104) were exposed at 0.8m below present ground surface (27.50m aOD). The natural gravels were overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil with frequent gravel inclusions (103). This in turn was overlain by 0.4m of modern car park hardcore and brick rubble levelling (102) and the tarmac car park surface (101). An electricity cable was observed at the western end of the trench. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from this trench.

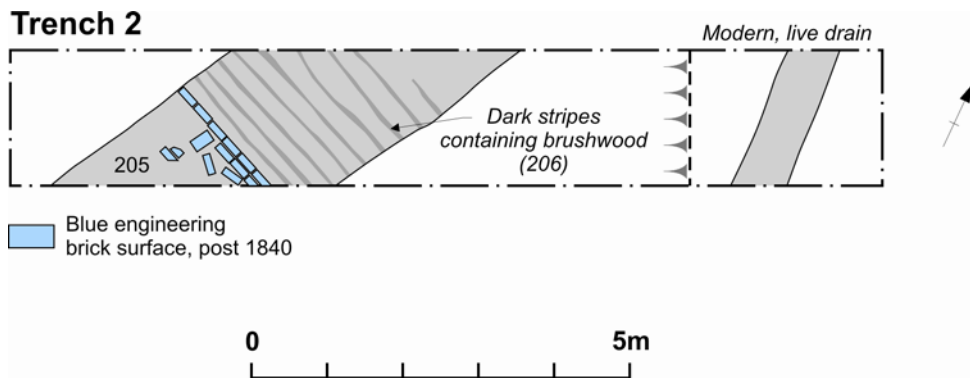


Trench 1, looking east

Fig 3

Trench 2

This trench was 11.5m long by 1.8m wide, aligned north-east to south west adjacent to the entrance of the former public house. Natural river terrace sandy gravels (204) were exposed at c0.8m below present ground surface (27.50m aOD). The natural was overlain by 0.3m of mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil (203), which in turn was overlain by 0.4m of modern made ground rubble and hardcore (202) for the car park overlain by the tarmac surface (201). A modern 'live' drain was exposed at the eastern end of the trench. A surface (205) comprising worn frogged blue engineering bricks was observed at the western end of the trench (Figs 4 to 6). Leading up to the surface was a possible track comprising narrow slots containing brushwood (206). The feature, as it contains blue brick, is post mid-19th century and may even relate to the construction of the Turnpike Public House in the 1960s.



Trench 2 plan

Fig 4



Trench 2, looking east,

Fig 5



Trench 2, brick surface (205), looking west

Fig 6

5 DISCUSSION

No archaeological features of pre-modern date were observed during the evaluation. No evidence was present to suggest that the archaeological remains encountered to the south of Cambridge Road extended into the current site.

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