

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
1 FRIARS WALK & THE CHESTNUTS
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0201 2153

on behalf of Consensus Planning



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

September 2011

ASC: 1421/DFW/2



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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	DFW	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1421
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-106179	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	LUTN: 2011.67
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Dunstable		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Dunstable		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0201 2153		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.3500 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Residential		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Demolition of The Chestnuts, and erection of three detached dwellings and seven apartments with associated parking and landscaping		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	Pre-determination		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	05/07/2011 – 15/07/2011		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Consensus Planning Ltd Unit 6 Esprit 17 Ashridge Road Chesham Bucks HP5 2PY		
<i>Client:</i>	Elizabeth Bentley		
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Internal Quality Check

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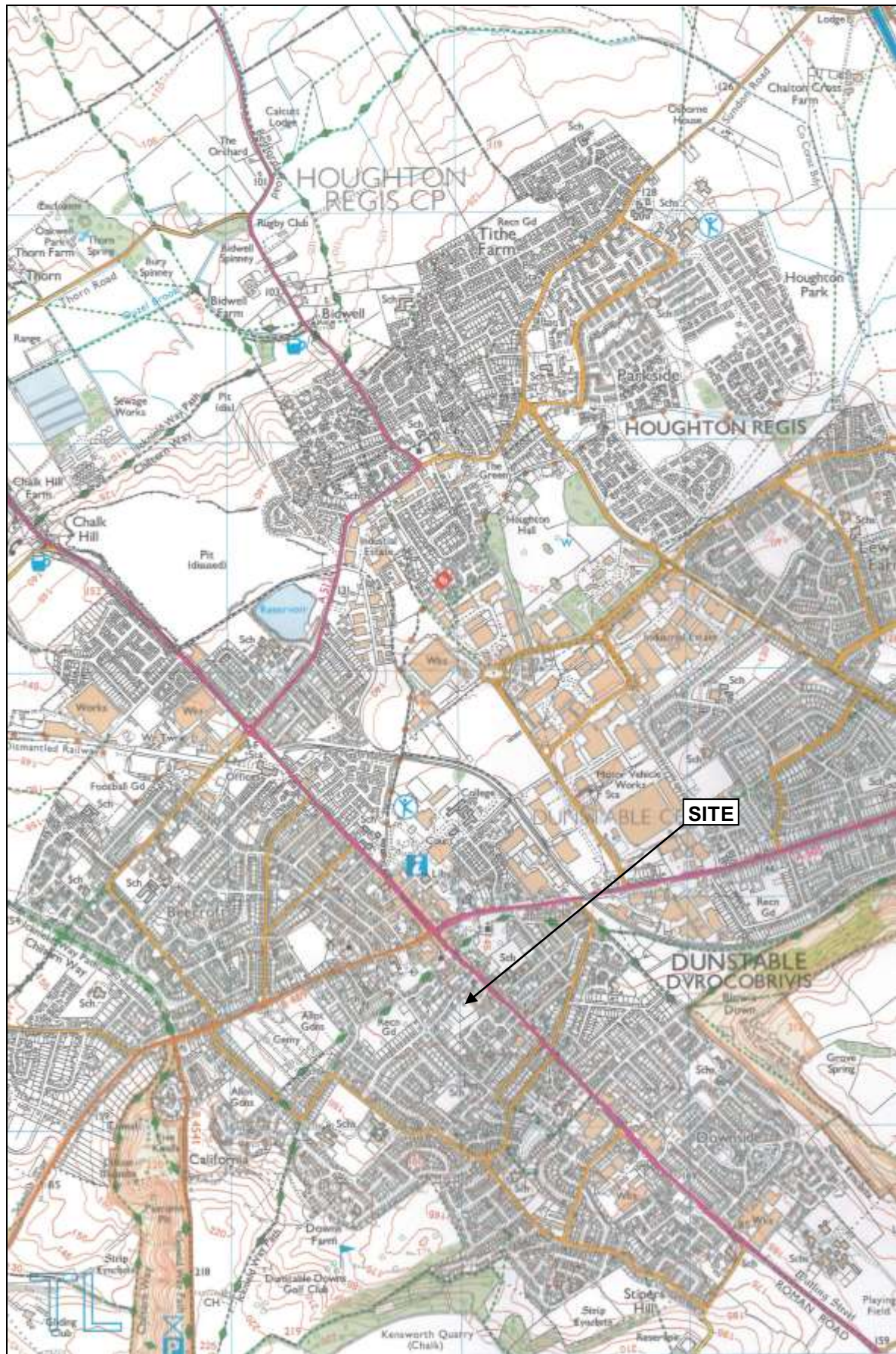


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In July 2011, an archaeological evaluation was carried out on land belonging to 1 Friars Walk and The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, in order to inform planning proposals for the site. Two of the six evaluation trenches were barren, three contained a number of shallow irregular pits, and one revealed three postholes. One pit contained a single sherd of late medieval pottery and a fragment of tile, possibly Roman. One of the postholes contained sherds of post-medieval glass and pottery. The other features remained undated.

Based on the nature of the features revealed, and the almost total absence of domestic refuse of any period from the evaluation, it appears that the site was subject only to a low level of unspecified activity, distant from any habitation, prior to the development of Friars Walk in the first half of the 20th century.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 1 Friars Walk & The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Elizabeth Bentley*, and was carried out according to a brief (Firth 2011) prepared by *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011).

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), in order to inform proposals for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located in the district of Central Bedfordshire, within the parish and town of Dunstable, at NGR TL 0201 2153 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises an irregularly shaped piece of land on the southern side of Friars Walk. Access to the site is from Friars Walk, and the site is surrounded on all sides by residential estates. There are several buildings in the northern part of the site (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area are unsurveyed, but are likely to belong to the *Coombe 1 Association*, which are characterised as *well drained calcareous fine silty soils*,

deep in valley bottoms, shallow to chalk on valley sides in places. Slight risk of water erosion over chalky drift and chalk (Soil Survey 1983, 511f). The underlying geology comprises Upper Cretaceous Middle Chalk (BGS, Sheet 220). The site lies on relatively level ground, at an elevation of c.145mAOD.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

This comprises demolition of buildings at the Chestnuts, extensions to 1 Friars Walk, and the erection of four detached dwellings and seven apartments with associated parking and landscaping (Fig. 3).

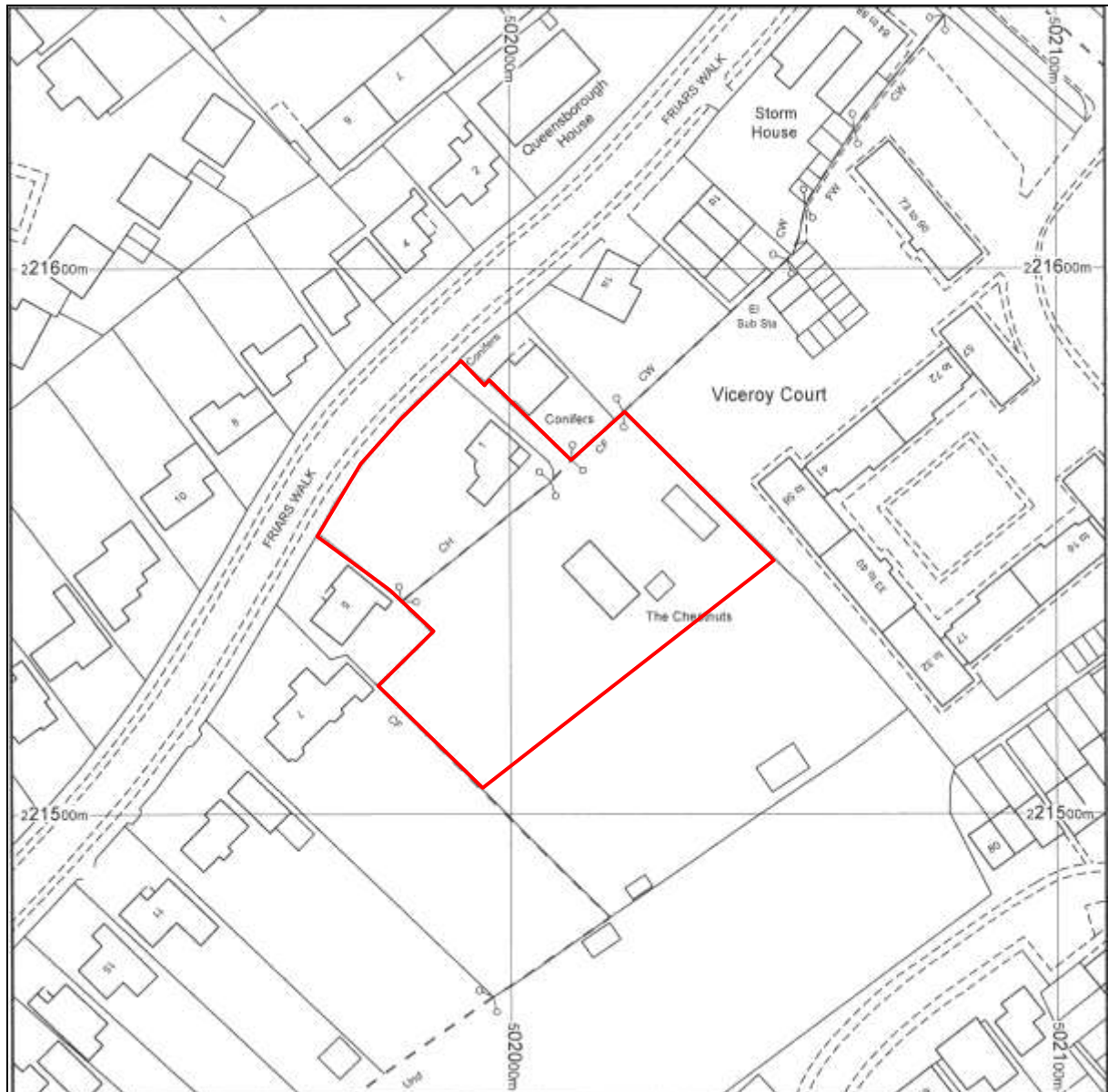


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

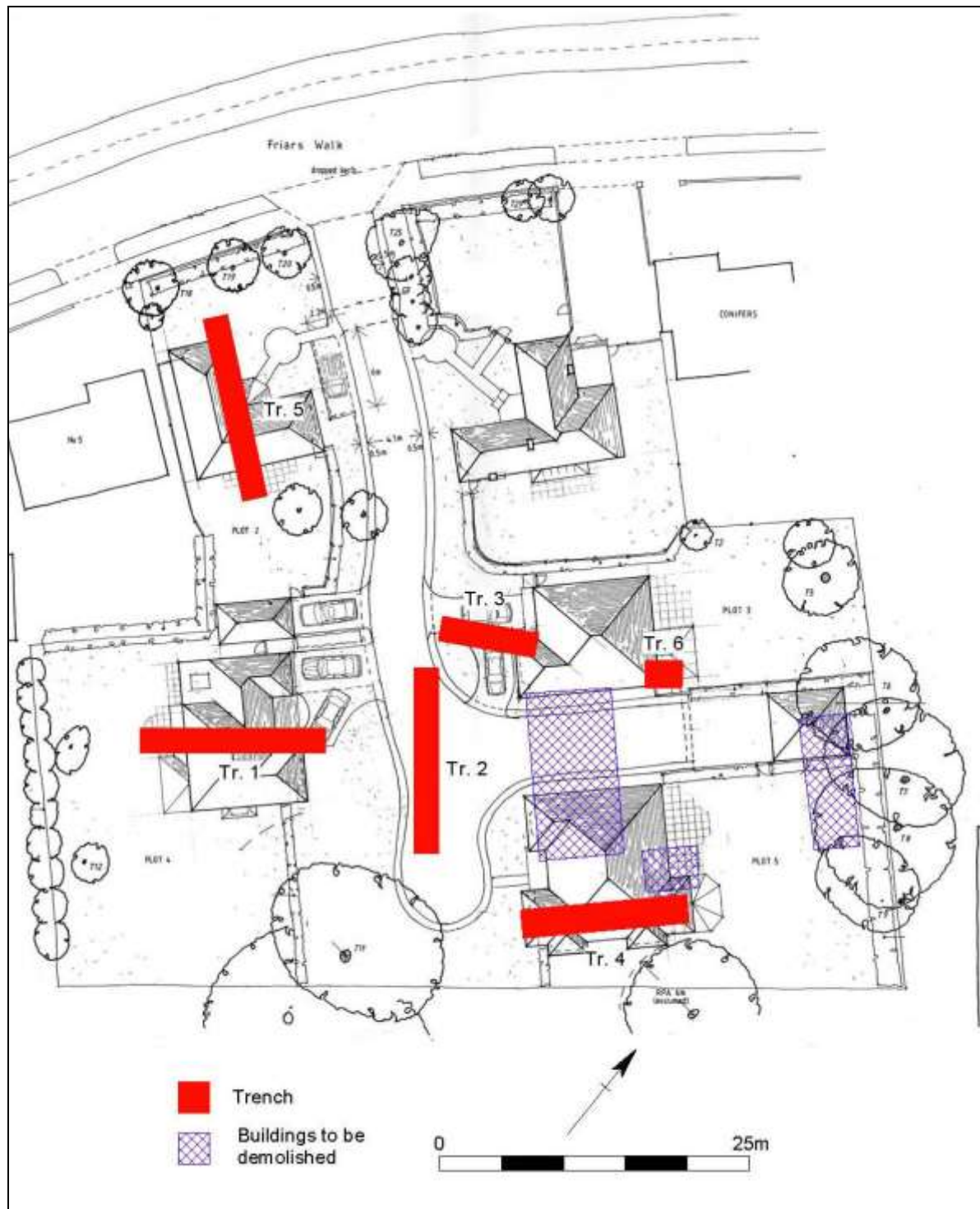


Figure 3: Proposed development and trench location plan (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- To determine the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- To inform the preparation of a Heritage Asset Assessment

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- The excavation of five trial trenches, each 15 × 2m, targeted on the areas of proposed development, with a contingency for additional trenching up to 75 sq m.

2.4 Constraints

Trench 3 had to be excavated as two separate trenches (Trenches 3 and 6) due to the presence of buried electricity cables. Trench 4 was moved slightly to the south west of its proposed location, due to the presence of a buried water pipe.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the *Dunstable Extensive Urban Survey* (EUS: Albion Archaeology 2003) and other readily available sources, including ASC's own library.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC-AD43)

Dunstable was an area of considerable importance during the prehistoric periods and a variety of sites and artefacts are known in the area (Matthews 1989). A number of prehistoric sites are recorded on higher ground of the Chiltern ridge, notably an important group of round barrows (burial mounds) known as the Five Knolls (HER138: SAM20422), which lie outside the study area c.3km southwest of the site (Dyer 1991). A further significant site, known as Maiden Bower (HER666: SAM27199), is situated to the northwest of the town centre and is interpreted as an Iron Age fort overlying an earlier causewayed enclosure (Matthews 1989, 36-41). A number of prehistoric artefacts are known from the town centre (e.g. HER157), but these have largely resulted from chance finds rather than controlled archaeological excavation.

The B489 Dunstable-Luton Road, north-west of the development site, follows the approximate route of the Icknield Way (HER353) a trade route thought to date to the Neolithic period, which linked the Norfolk coast with south/central England, following the Chiltern scarp.

3.3 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

Following the Roman invasion in AD43, the route followed by the 14th Legion to the Midlands and Wales is believed to have been formalised as the road now known as Watling Street (A5), which passes through the centre of Dunstable. During the Roman period, a settlement known as *Dvrocobrivis* (HER135) grew up at the junction of Watling Street and the Icknield Way. Evidence from chance finds and mostly small-scale excavation has led to the suggestion that the Roman settlement may have extended up to 350m from the central crossroads (EUS, fig. 12). The development site lies on the southern edge of this area.

At Friary Field, c.120m west of the development site, excavations since the 1970s have revealed an extensive Roman cemetery (HER 11284), containing over one hundred burials. Although the cemetery will have lain outside the settlement, in line with Roman custom and law, excavations to the north-east of Friary Field and north-west of Friars Walk, in the area of the former Dominican friary (below), have revealed Roman features associated with occupation, including ditches, wells, and cess pits, one containing the skeleton of a Barbary ape (EUS, 7-8). A broad Roman ditch on the friary site has been identified as a possible 'town ditch', marking the limit of settlement, though this identification remains uncertain (EUS, 24).

Excavations at St Mary's Street, c.250m northwest of the development site, revealed a Roman cess pit and a well, from which were recovered a large quantity of complete pots and nine Roman coins. The cess pit contained a ceramic assemblage closely dated to AD 130-160, and also a denarius of Vitellius, minted in Rome in AD 69. Eight coins were recovered from the well: their date range showed that the feature was in use into the 4th century AD (HER11273).

No trace of Roman activity has been recorded from the development site, or the area to its immediate south. Based on the available evidence the site appears to be outside or on the very edge of the Roman settlement, in a location where burials rather than occupation evidence might reasonably be expected to be present.

3.4 **Saxon** (c.450-1066)

Following the end of the Roman period, Dunstable appears to have been deserted for some time (EUS, 24). Although evidence of significant Saxon activity has been excavated at Puddlehill, c.3km north of the town centre, and a Saxon cemetery was excavated at Marina Drive, on the south side of the town (*ibid*), 1.5km west of the development site, no evidence of Saxon urban-type occupation has yet come from the town centre.

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

During the medieval period, a settlement was established at Dunstable in 1119 by Henry I (HER16986). He also founded a royal residence, 'Kingsbury', which was regularly visited until the time of Henry VIII. It has been suggested that Kingsbury was located near Kingsbury Court and Old Place Lodge (HER15008), 400m north-east of the development site. In c.1130 Henry founded the Priory of St Peter (HER131: SAM3) occupied by Augustinian Canons, between Kingsbury and Watling Street.

Perhaps of more direct relevance to the development site, in 1259 Henry III invited Dominican friars to Dunstable, one of 56 such establishments in England, but the only one in Bedfordshire (EUS, 28). Relations with the Augustinian Canons, who were instructed to assist the new arrivals, were strained, probably because of the popularity of the friars with the townspeople (EUS, 29). The Friary (HER141) was established opposite the Priory on Watling Street, in the area now occupied by Friary Field, extending south-westwards to Bull Pond Lane and south-eastwards possibly to Friary Walk, a modern street established in the late 19th/ early 20th century (EUS, fig. 12). Excavations on the site in the 1920s located the Friary cloisters and part of the medieval cemetery. Subsequent excavations in the 1960s/70s uncovered the kitchens and guest rooms (EUS, 7-8). More recent fieldwork has revealed the Friary church (EUS, 29), monastic toilets, the north wall of the Friary and more burials, along with a large number of enigmatic cross-shaped features, now interpreted as belonging to a medieval garden or orchard (EUS, 9).

No trace of medieval activity has been recorded from the development site, or from the area to its immediate south. Based on the available evidence the site appears to lie on or outside the southern edge of the Friary precinct and the southern limit of medieval settlement (EUS, fig. 3).

3.6 ***Post-Medieval& Modern*** (1500-present)

Dunstable Friary was dissolved in 1538. The buildings were demolished, with the exception of one great and two small chambers in the Great Court, and a stable, all of which remained Crown property until the 19th century. The site of the Friary was let to the publican of the *White Horse*, Thomas Bentley (EUS, 29). No trace of the Friary church or outbuildings now remain above ground. *The Friars* (HER6252), a listed 18th-century house at the junction of Friars Walk and High Street South, traditionally marks the site of the Friary.

The available historic and cartographic evidence summarised in the EUS indicates that the development site remained part of the field system surrounding Dunstable from the mid 18th until the early 20th century. It seems likely that this land use extended back at least to the dissolution of the Friary in 1538. The EUS records that the development of Dunstable until the early 20th century was largely confined to Watling Street and the east-west roads to Luton and Wendover: beyond this, infill was largely confined to the north-western and south-eastern quarters of the town (EUS, figs 3-7). Friars Walk itself first appears on the Ordnance Survey sheet for 1937, along with *The Chestnuts*, but 1 Friars Walk is not shown until 1960.

4 Results

4.1 General

The topsoil across the site comprised a mid brown organic loam, with occasional modern inclusions, while the subsoil comprised a mid brown/grey silty loam. The natural strata comprised white and off-white chalk, with flint nodules.

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1. Actual trench locations are shown in Figure 3.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 4: Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located at the western end of the site, orientated north east-south west. This trench was 17m in length, 2.m wide, and had a maximum depth of 0.5m. The stratigraphy in this trench comprised 0.2m of topsoil (100), which overlay 0.25-0.3m of subsoil (101) from which occasional clay pipe stems and pieces of tile were recovered (not retained). Below this layer was the natural chalk (103).

No significant archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4, 5: Plates 2-4)

This trench was located immediately to the west of the existing house, and was orientated north west – south east. The trench measured 14.5m in length, 2.3m in width, and had a maximum depth of 0.65m. The topsoil (200) in this trench was 0.3m deep, and overlay 0.35m of subsoil (201).

A sub circular pit [203] was identified at the north eastern end of the trench. The pit had a maximum width of 1.3m, and a maximum depth of 0.19m. It was filled by light brown clayey silt, with frequent chalk and flint inclusions (204). No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

A circular post hole [205] was recorded towards the southern end of the trench. The posthole had a diameter of 0.45m. It was flat bottomed, and had a maximum depth of 0.16m. The north eastern side of the posthole was heavily affected by rooting. The fill of the posthole comprised light brown clayey silt, with frequent inclusions of small sub-rounded pebbles, and frequent angular flints. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 4, 5: Plates 5-9)

Trench 3 was located north west of the existing house, orientated north east – south west. It measured 7.9m by 2m, and had a maximum depth of 0.9m. The stratigraphy in this trench comprised 0.2m of topsoil (300), over 0.4m of subsoil (301). Below this was a 0.2m layer of mixed orangey/light brown grey sandy silt (302) with frequent chalk inclusions. Below this was the natural chalk (303).

A series of features were identified at the south western end of the trench. Pits [305] and [307] were initially thought to be a linear feature, but excavation revealed [305] was an irregular, bowl-shaped pit, 2.8m in diameter, and 0.5m deep, located on the northern side of the trench. It was filled with mid-brown grey silty clay, with frequent inclusions of chalk flakes and nodules (304). No finds were recovered from the fill of this pit.

Pit [307] was located along the southern side of the trench. This pit was only partially exposed in section. It had a diameter of at least 1m, and a depth of 0.15m. The fill of the pit comprised mid brown silty clay, with chalk inclusions (306), similar to (304). Its relationship with [305] was unclear.

Feature [308] was located against the south western end of the trench. This possible pit was at least 1.1m wide and 0.15m deep. Its fill comprised mid brown silty clay with chalk inclusions (309), similar to those mentioned above. A small body sherd of hard, pink-buff fabric with an external speckled green glaze, probably 'Surrey whiteware' of 14th to 15th-century date (Mynard & Zeepvat 1992, 274, MS15), was recovered from (309), along with an abraded tile fragment, 20 mm thick with orange-red surfaces and a grey core containing flint and calcite inclusions, possibly Roman and therefore residual.

4.5 **Trench 4** (Fig. 4, 5: Plates 10-12)

This trench was located to the south east of the existing house. It was orientated north east – south west, and measured 13.5m by 2.3m, and had a maximum depth of 0.9m. The topsoil (400) was 0.15m thick, and overlay 0.2m of subsoil (401). Below this was 0.35m of mixed subsoil and chalk (402), which covered the natural chalk (405).

One feature was identified in this trench, along its south side. This sub-circular pit [403] was 0.65m wide, and 0.15m deep. It was filled by a light brown/orange silt (404), which contained frequent chalk nodules and flint, and occasional tile fragments. No dateable finds were recovered from this feature.

4.6 **Trench 5** (Fig. 4, 5: Plates 13-16)

Trench 5 was located within the garden of 1 Friars Walk. It measured 11.3m in length, and 2.1m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.7m. The topsoil (500) and subsoil (501) overlay a mixed layer of subsoil and natural chalk (502), which in turn overlay the natural chalk (503).

Three postholes were identified along the eastern side of the trench. Posthole [504] had a diameter of 0.3m, and was 0.15m deep. It was filled by mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. Two further intercutting postholes were recorded, against the eastern side of the trench. Posthole [506] was c.0.4m wide, and 0.28m deep, with a flat base. It was filled by mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions (507), and contained occasional tile fragments, a piece of post-medieval glass and one sherd of post-medieval pot. Posthole [508] extended beyond the trench edge, and was c.0.19m wide and c.0.16m deep. It was filled with mid brown silty clay (509), which was indistinguishable from (507). Some tile fragments were recovered from this context.

4.7 **Trench 6** (Plates 17-18)

This trench was located to the north of the existing house. It was orientated north west – south east, and was 3m long, and 2.2m wide. It had a maximum depth of 0.6m, and the stratigraphy comprised 0.15m of topsoil, over 0.35m of subsoil, with occasional modern inclusions. Below this was the natural chalk. No archaeological features were identified within this trench.



Plate 1: Trench 2, section, looking south west (*2x 1m scales*)



Plate 2: Trench 2, Pit [203], looking north west (*0.5m scale*)



Plate 3: Trench 3 section, looking north west (*2x 1m scales*)



Plate 4: Trench 3, Pits [305] and [307], looking north west (*2m scale*)



Plate 5: Trench 3, section of Pit [307], looking south (*1m scale*)



Plate 6: Trench 3, Pit [308], looking south west (*1m scale*)



Plate 7: Trench 4, section, looking south east (*2x 1m scales*)



Plate 8: Trench 4, Pit [403], looking south west (*0.5m scale*)



Plate 9: Trench 5, section, looking north east (*2x 1m scales*)



Plate 10: Trench 5, Postholes [506] and [508], looking north west (*0.5m scale*)



Plate 11: Trench 5, Posthole [504], looking north west (*0.2m scales*)



Plate 12: Trench 6, section, looking south east (*2x 1m scales*)

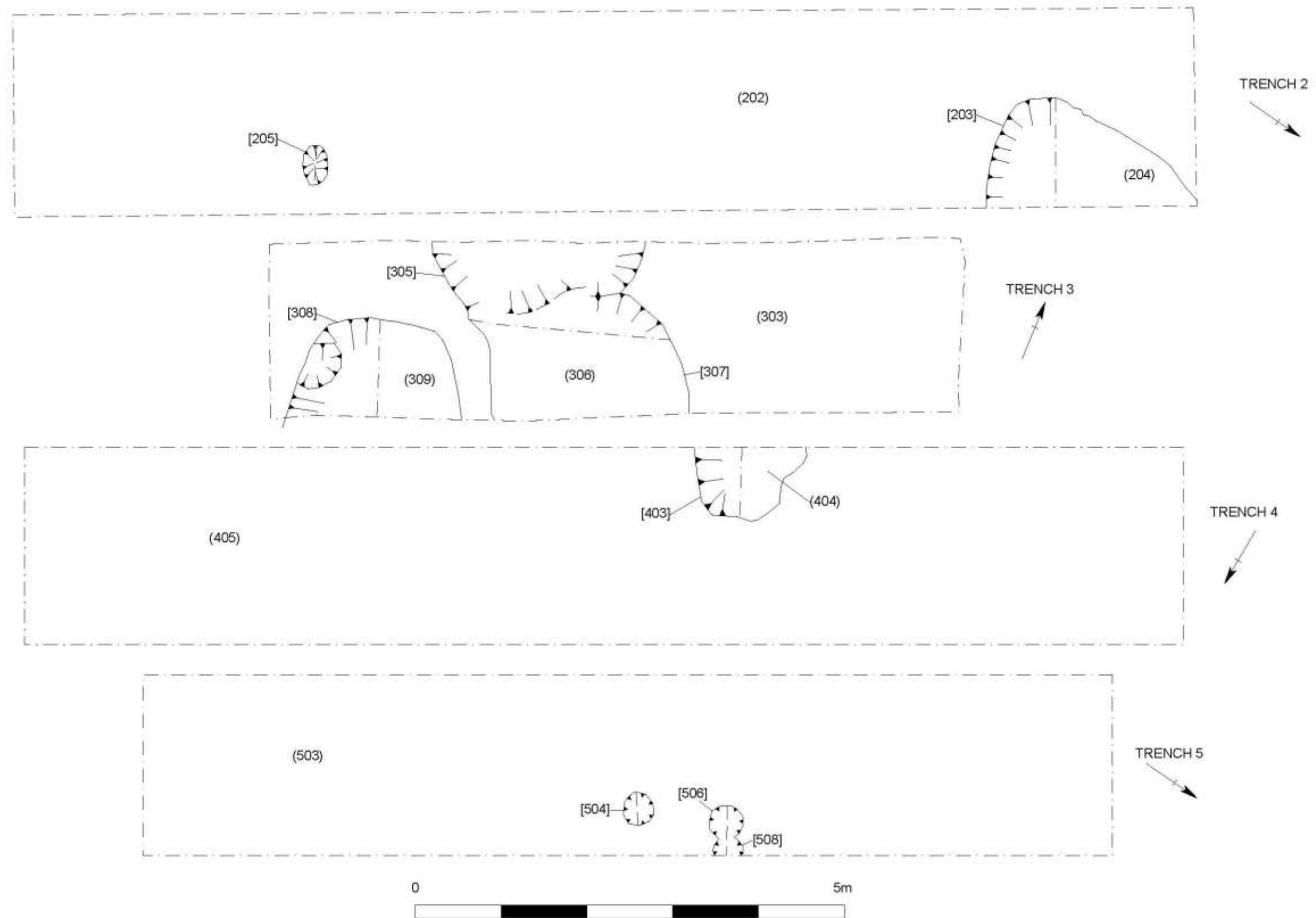


Figure 4: Trench plans (scale 1:50)

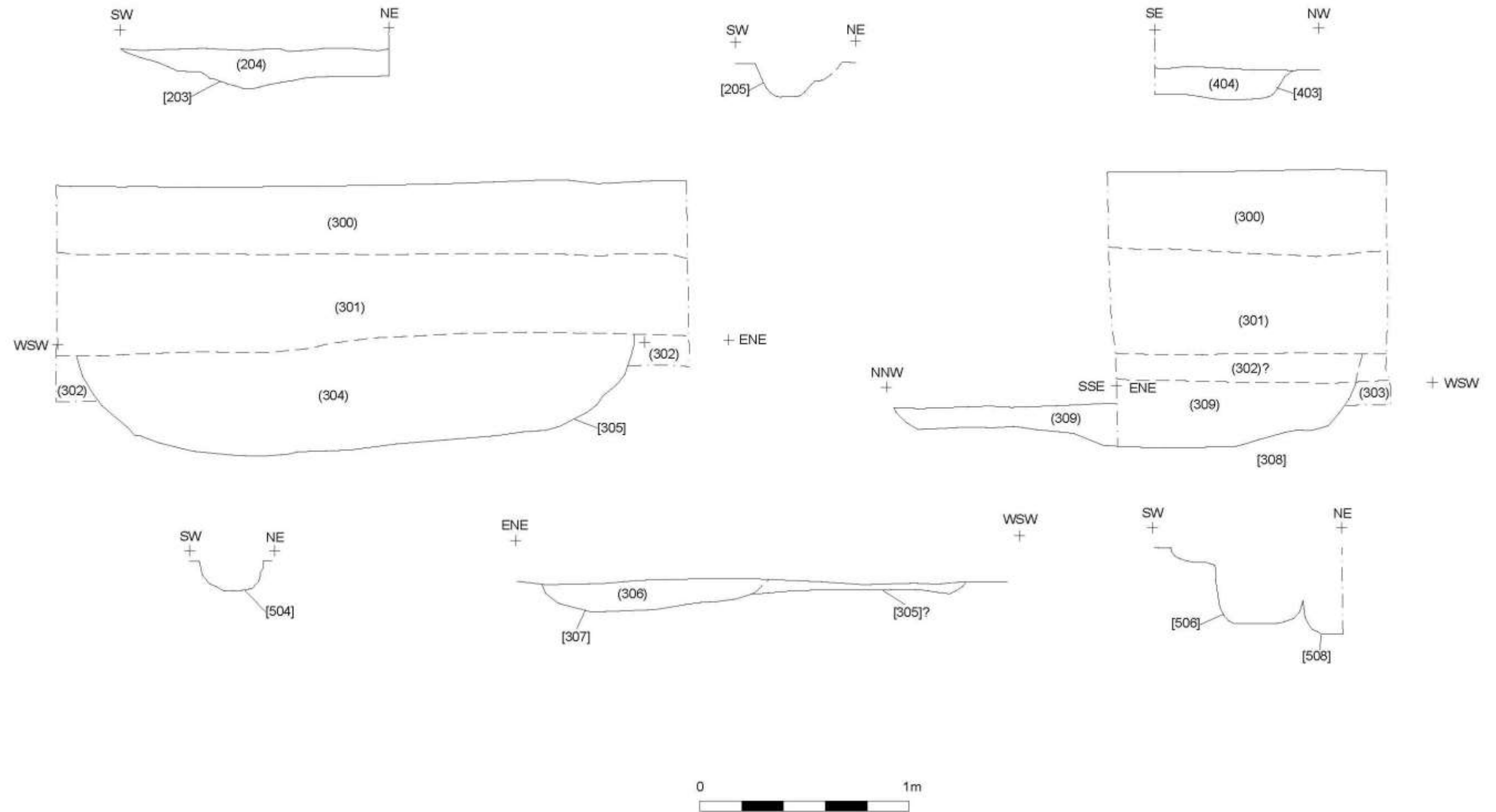


Figure 5: Sections (scale 1:20)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Features of potential archaeological significance were present in four of the evaluation trenches, cut into the natural chalk. Trenches 1 and 6 proved blank. Natural chalk was encountered across the site at depths of c.0.45-0.65m below the present ground level. It is possible that the overlying brown-grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules (e.g. 101, 201, 301) represents an intentional build-up, possibly post-medieval, of the general level of the area, though no conclusive dating evidence for this was forthcoming.
- 5.2 The features revealed in the evaluation comprised a number of pits and postholes. Most were undated: the earliest dateable feature was Pit [308] in Trench 3, which contained a single body sherd of 14th to 15th-century pottery, and a residual fragment of possible Roman tile. The other pits, in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, were all undated. All the pits were relatively small and shallow, even taking into account any truncation resulting from over-machining during the evaluation, and it seems unlikely that they were excavated for chalk extraction, or disposal of serious quantities of refuse. This latter point is reinforced by the almost total absence of domestic refuse from their fills.
- 5.3 Trench 5 contained the three small postholes, two of which contained post-medieval material. Like the pits, their function is unclear, though it is possible that may be the remains of a former garden structure.
- 5.4 In conclusion, the evaluation has demonstrated evidence for human activity on the site at Friars Walk, in the form of some shallow irregular pits and three postholes, cut into the natural chalk. The functions of these features remain uncertain, as for the most part do their dates. The single late medieval sherd from Pit [308] provides a *terminus post quem* for the backfilling of that feature: the post-medieval glass and pottery in Posthole 506 does the same for that feature. Based on the nature of the features revealed, and the paucity of domestic refuse of any period present in the evaluation, it seems reasonable to suggest that the site was subject only to a low level of unspecified activity, distant from any habitation, prior to the development of Friars Walk in the first half of the 20th century. This interpretation accords with the available historic and cartographic evidence.

6. Heritage Asset Assessment

6.1 *Heritage Assets and their Significance*

The features revealed in the evaluation comprised a number of pits and postholes. All the pits were relatively small and shallow, even taking into account any truncation resulting from over-machining. Most were undated and their function was undetermined, so their significance cannot be assessed. Pit [308] contained a single sherd of 14th to 15th-century pottery, providing a *terminus post quem* for the date of its backfilling. Posthole [506] contained post-medieval material. These two features are of significance only for determining the date range of activity on the site, which appears to have been generally low-level, not associated with habitation or industry.

6.2 *Impact of the Proposed Development*

Details of the development (*i.e.* footing trench depths, drainage locations) are not available at this time, so its specific impact on the buried heritage assets revealed in the evaluation cannot be determined. In general terms, the depth at which buried archaeological features were shown to survive makes it likely that they will be impacted by excavations for footings and drainage.

6.3 *Archaeology in the Planning Process*

Decisions regarding the level and nature of any further archaeological mitigation will be made by the local planning authority, acting on recommendations from their archaeological advisors.

7. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Consensus Planning*. The writer is grateful to Mrs Elizabeth Bentley and the owners of 1 Friars Walk for their assistance. The project was monitored by Hannah Firth and Martin Oake, *Central Bedfordshire Archaeologists*, on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to Nigel Herbert for providing and operating the excavating plant.

The project was managed for ASC by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat. Amendments to this report were made by Bob Zeepvat and checked by David Fell BA MA MIFA.

8. Archive

8.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

8.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum.

9. References


Standards & Specifications


- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
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Secondary Sources


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- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).


Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables


Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	17	Width	2.2	Depth	0.5
	Trench top NE			147.29m OD		
	Trench base NE			146.76m OD		
	Trench top SW			147.73m OD		
	Trench base SW			147.30m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NE	TL 0198 2133		SW	TL 0186 2123	
Orientation:			NE-SW			
Reason for Trench:			Within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
100	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil	2200	200	-	
101	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules - Subsoil	2200	250-300	200	
102	Layer	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural	2200	-	450-500	

Trench 2							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	14.5	Width	2.3	Depth	0.65
		Levels					
		Trench top NW		147.03m OD			
		Trench base NW		146.37m OD			
		Trench top SE		147.36m OD			
		Trench base SE		146.75m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		NW	TL 0201 2142		SE	0210 2130	
		Orientation			NW-SE		
Reason for Trench			Within footprint of proposed development				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
200	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil	2300	300	-		
201	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules - Subsoil	2300	350	300		
202	Layer	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural	2300	-	650		
204 203	Fill Cut	Light brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of chalk and flint, within shallow, flat bottomed feature – Undated pit	1270	180	650		
206 205	Fill Cut	Light brown clayey silt with frequent rooting and inclusions of chalk and flint, within steep sided, shallow, flat bottomed feature – Undated posthole	420	160	650		

Trench 3							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	7.9	Width	2	Depth	0.9
		Levels					
		Trench top ENE		146.86m OD			
		Trench base ENE		146.04m OD			
		Trench top WSW		146.96m OD			
		Trench base WSW		146.01m OD			
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		ENE	TL 0207 2149		WSW	0200 2145	
		Orientation		ENE-WSW			
		Reason for Trench		Within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
300	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil	2000	200	-		
301	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules – Subsoil?	2000	400	200		
302	Layer	Mixed orangey light brown/grey silt with frequent chalk inclusions - Subsoil	2000	200	600		
304 305	Fill Cut	Mid brown grey sitly clay with frequent chalk flecks and nodules, within bowl shaped, flat bottomed feature with moderately sloping sides – Undated pit	2670	540	800-900		
306 307	Fill Cut	Mid brown grey sitly clay with frequent chalk flecks and nodules, within bowl shaped, flat bottomed feature with moderately sloping sides – Undated pit	1080	140	800-900		
309 308	Fill Cut	Mid brown grey sitly clay with frequent chalk flecks and nodules and 1 sherd of post medieval pottery, within bowl shaped, flat bottomed feature with moderately sloping sides –Post medieval pit	2120	350	800-900		
303	Layer	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural	2000	100	800		

Trench 4									
	Max Dimensions (m)								
	Length	13.5		Width	2.3		Depth	0.9	
	Levels								
	Trench top NE			145.70m OD					
	Trench base NE			144.23m OD					
	Trench top SW			146.03m OD					
	Trench base SW			145.37m OD					
	NGR Co-ordinates								
	NE	TL 0230 2140			SW	TL 0220 2131			
	Orientation			NE-SW					
Reason for Trench			Within footprint of proposed development						
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)		
400	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil			2300	150	-		
401	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules - Subsoil			2300	200	150		
402	Layer	Mixed orangey light brown/grey silt with frequent chalk inclusions - Subsoil			2300	350	350		
404 403	Fill Cut	Light brown/orange silt with frequent chalk and flint inclusions and occasional tile fragments, within irregular, flat bottomed shallow feature with moderately sloping sides – Post medieval pit			650	120	700		
405	Layer	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural			2300	200	700		

Trench 5						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	11.3	Width	2.1	Depth	0.7
	Trench top NW			146.82m OD		
	Trench base NW			146.10m OD		
	Trench top SE			147.05m OD		
	Trench base SE			146.50m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NW	TL 0171 2154		SE	0182 2144	
Orientation:			NW-SE			
Reason for Trench:		Within footprint of proposed development				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
500	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil	2100	100	-	
501	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules - Subsoil	2100	200	100	
502	Layer	Mixed orangey light brown/grey silt with frequent chalk inclusions - Subsoil	2100	200	300	
503	Layer	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural	2100	100-200	400	
505	Fill	Mid brown clay silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions, within a small subcircular, steep sided feature – Undated posthole	310	150	500	
504	Cut					
507	Fill	Mid brown clay silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional tile, glass and one sherd of post medieval pot, within a small subcircular, steep sided feature – Post medieval posthole	410	280	500	
506	Cut					
509	Fill	Mid brown clay silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions and occasional tile, within a small subcircular, steep sided feature – Undated posthole	180	320	500	
508	Cut					

Trench 6						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	3	Width	2.2	Depth	0.6
	Trench top NE			146.73m OD		
	Trench base NE			146.12m OD		
	Trench top SW			146.78m OD		
	Trench base SW			146.16m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	NE	TL 0218 2154		SW	0215 2153	
Orientation:			NE-SW			
Reason for Trench:			Within footprint of proposed development			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)	
600	Layer	Dark brown silty clayey loam - Topsoil	2200	150	-	
601	Layer	Mid brown grey silty chalky clay with occasional chalk nodules - Subsoil	2200	350	150	
602	Laver	White and off-white chalk, with flint nodules - Natural	2200	100	500	

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 1 Friars Walk & The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Beds			SITE NO/CODE: 1421/DFW
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1			Trench 4, general shot, looking west, 2x 1m scale
2			Trench 4, stratigraphy shot, looking south west, 2x 1m scale
3			Section through pit [403], looking south west, 0.5m scale
4			Trench 1, general shot, looking south west, 2m scale
5			Trench 1, stratigraphy shot, looking north west, 2x 1m scale
6			Trench 2, general shot, looking north west, 2x 1m scale
7			Trench 2, stratigraphy shot, looking south west, 2x 1m scale
8			Trench 3, general shot, looking south west, 2x 1m scale
9			Trench 3, stratigraphy shot, looking north west, 2x 1m scale
10			Trench 6, general shot, looking north east, 2x 1m scale
11			Trench 6, stratigraphy shot, looking south, 2x 1m scale
12			Section of pit [305], looking north west, 2m scale
13			Section of pit [307], looking south east, 1m scale
14			Section of pit [203], looking north west, 0.5m scale
15			Section of posthole [205], looking north west, 0.5m scale
16			Section of pit [308], looking east south east, 1m scale
17			Section of postholes [506] and [508], looking north west, 0.5m scale
18			Section of posthole [504], looking north west, 0.2m scale

Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
(309)	1	2						Tile	1

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	1 Friars Walk & The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Beds	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-106179
Short Description:	<p>In July 2011, an archaeological evaluation was carried out on land belonging to 1 Friars Walk and The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, in order to inform planning proposals for the site. Two of the six evaluation trenches were barren, three contained a number of shallow irregular pits, and one revealed three postholes. One pit contained a single sherd of late medieval pottery and a fragment of tile, possibly Roman. One of the postholes contained sherds of post-medieval glass and pottery. The other features remained undated.</p> <p>Based on the nature of the features revealed, and the almost total absence of domestic refuse of any period from the evaluation, it appears that the site was subject only to a low level of unspecified activity, distant from any habitation, prior to the development of Friars Walk in the first half of the 20th century.</p>		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work:	none	Site status:	none
Current land use:	Garden	Future work:	Unknown
Monument type:	n/a	Monument period:	-
Significant finds:	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0201 2153
Site address:	1 Friars Walk & The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Beds		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.3500sqm	Height OD: (metres)	145
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	H.Firth	Project design originator:	C.Rouse
Project Manager:	B.Zeepvat	Director/Supervisor:	B.Zeepvat
Sponsor / funding body:	E.Bentley		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	05/07/2011	End date:	15/07/2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum	1 pot sherd, 1 tile fragment	
Paper:		Brief, WSI, site records, drawings, photos, report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: 1 Friars Walk & The Chestnuts, Dunstable, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC rep. ref. 1421/DFW/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse BA PIFA		
Page nos	1-28	Date:	08/08/2011