



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: LODGE FARM, SANDY LANE, CHICKSANDS, BEDFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 1209 4017

on behalf of Mr Grahame Parrish



Mo Muldowney BA PIfA

April 2012

ASC: 1472/CLF/2



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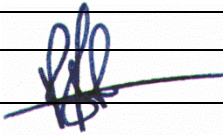
Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CLF	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1472
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeo12-114151	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2011.86
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Chicksands		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Campton and Chicksands		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 1209 4017		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c. 0.15ha		
<i>Present use:</i>	General storage area		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of an agricultural tractor and implement shed		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/11/02095/FULL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	19th to 21st March 2012		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Sidebottom Richardson Cheng Ltd 15 High Street Spalding Lincolnshire PE11 1TW		
<i>Client:</i>	F B Parrish & Son Lodge Farm Sandy Lane Chicksands Shefford Bedfordshire SG17 5QB		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Andy Richardson (SRC Ltd)		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Mo Muldowney	<i>Date:</i>	5 th April 2012
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<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	5 th April 2012
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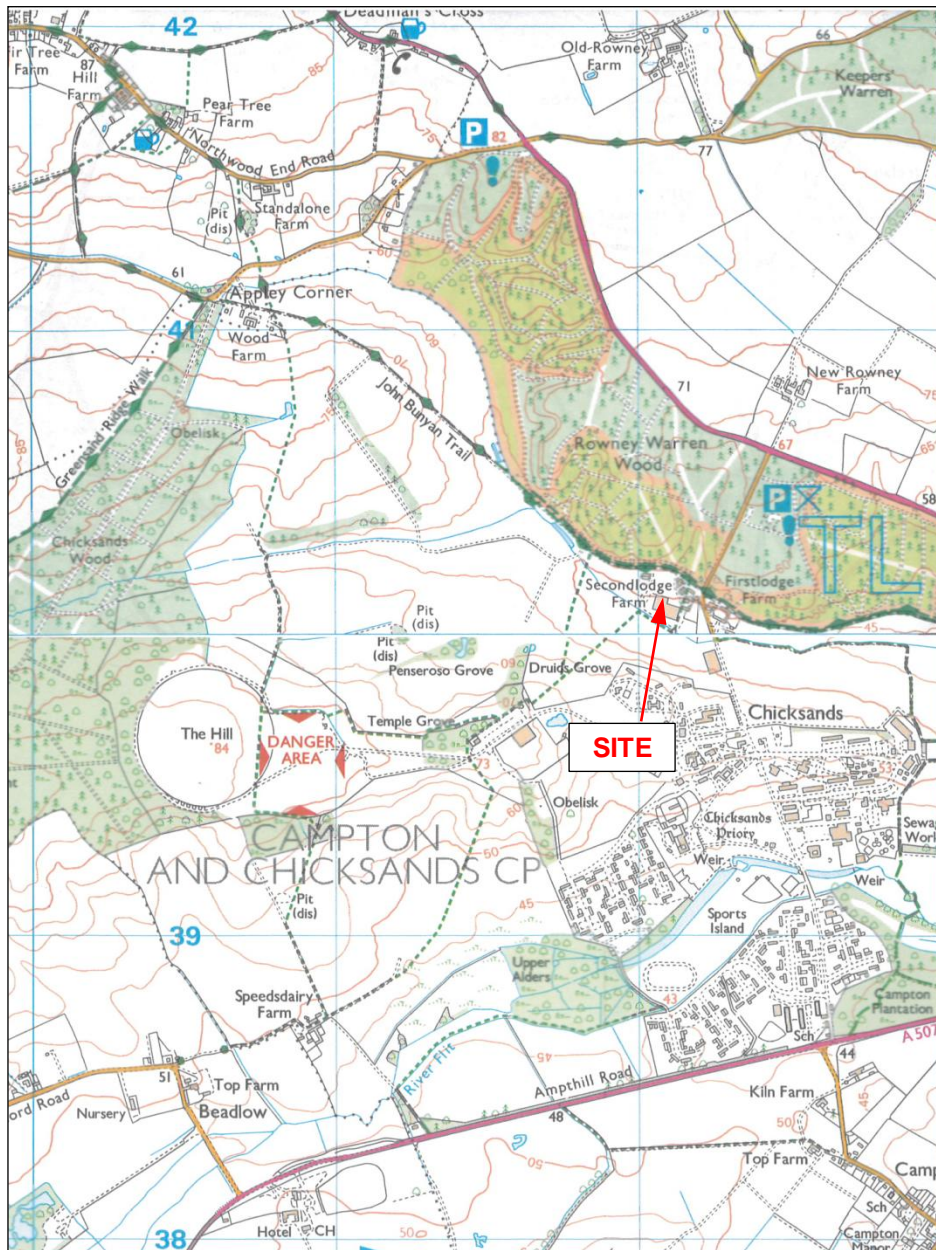


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2012, a watching brief took place on land at Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, ahead of the proposed development of a new agricultural shed. The work identified a series of large modern agricultural waste pits in addition to two late post-medieval made-ground deposits. No archaeological features were observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Sidebottom Richardson Cheng Ltd on behalf of the client Parrish Farms Ltd, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Muldowney 2011), and approved by the *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists*, archaeological advisors (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*. The relevant planning application reference is CB/11/02095/FULL (condition no. 3).

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission 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*

Sandy Lane is located in Central Bedfordshire, in the parish of Campton and Chicksands. Lodge Farm lies south of Rowney Warren Wood and north of Chicksands Priory, on the lower slopes of the south-facing River Flit valley at grid reference TL1209 4017 (Fig. 1).

The site is accessed along a farm track leading west off Sandy Lane, lying within the farm environs just north of a range of existing buildings. The proposed development area, comprising the footprint of the building, is rectangular and covers an area of c.0.15ha (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Topography & Geology*

The site is situated on the north side of a stream draining into the river Flit and lies at an elevation of c.50m OD. The soils of the site comprise the *Bearsted 1 Association*, namely well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils over cretaceous sand and sandstone (Soil Survey 1983, 541a). The solid geology comprises Woburn Sands, described as sands, fine to coarse (BGS, Sheet 204).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the erection of an agricultural tractor and implement shed (Fig. 3).

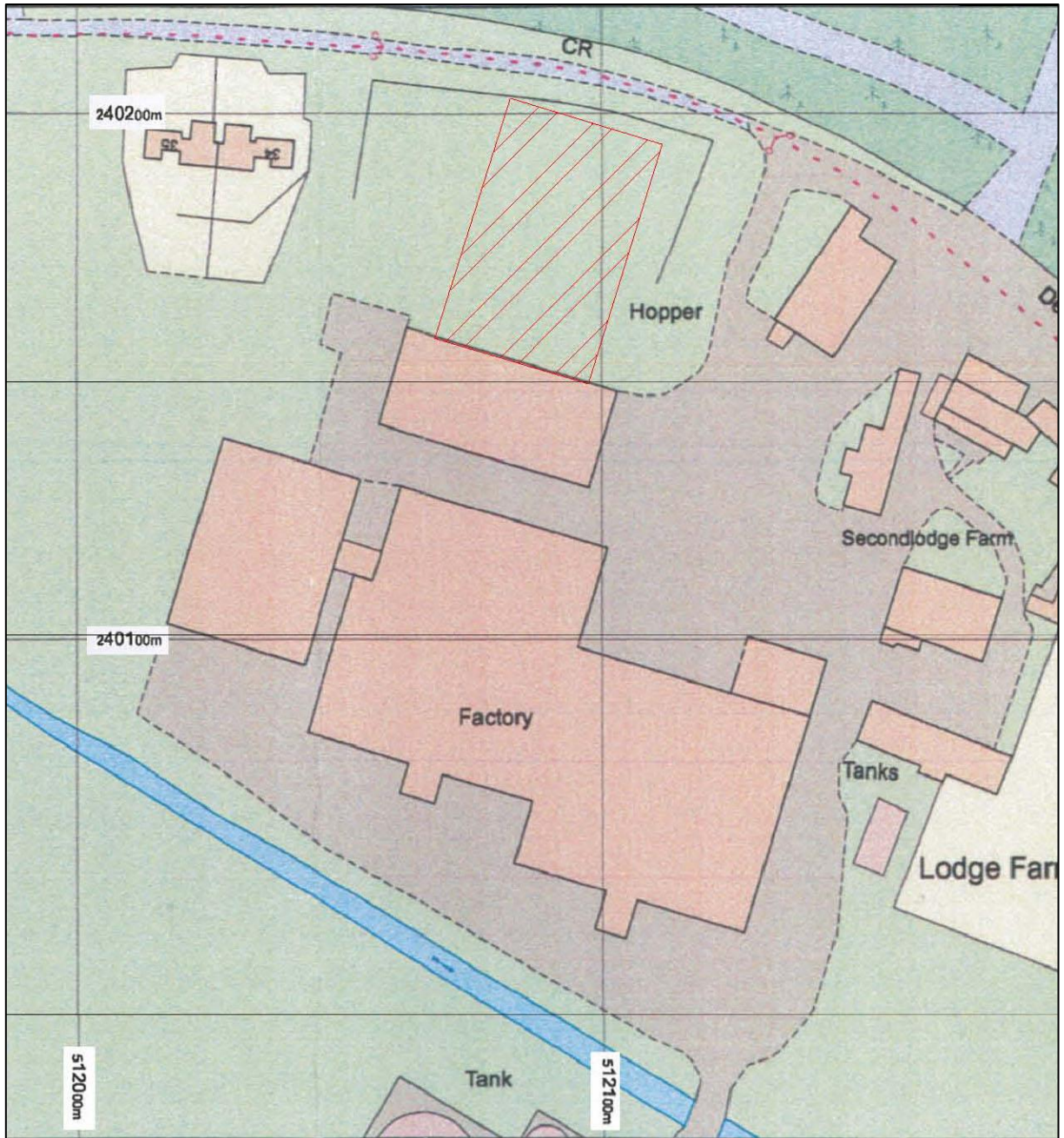


Figure 2: Site plan, with proposed development (red) (scale 1:1250)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To investigate and record the area of premature ground disturbance as well as the undisturbed part of the site
- To determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting
- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions
- To add to understanding of settlement patterns, such as hamlets and ‘Ends’ (Oake *et al* 2007, 14).
- To add to understanding of settlement density and characterisation in the medieval period (Wade 2000, 24-25)
- To add to understanding of the origins and development of different medieval settlement types and the dynamics of medieval settlement (Medlycott 2011, 70)

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists’ *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010), 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, which involved:

- recording the exposed baulks by photographic means only
- cleaning the base (by machine) of the prematurely excavated area under archaeological supervision to produce a surface that will allow the identification of any surviving archaeological features and deposits
- mechanically stripping the remaining overburden to the top of the archaeological deposits (with a toothless ditching bucket) in the remaining un-excavated area of development, again under constant archaeological supervision

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered.

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 Central Bedfordshire HER (Historic Environment Record) and other readily available sources. Prior to the production of this Project Design, a Heritage Asset Assessment was undertaken (Ingham 2011), which outlines the nearby archaeological and historical evidence. By necessity, some of this information is repeated here.

3.2 ***Prehistoric - Saxon*** (before 600BC-1066)

Although lying just beyond the search radius, two circular cropmarks (HER13995) have been identified via aerial photographic interpretation, which are undated but likely to pertain to either Bronze Age or Iron Age activity. No references to either Roman or Saxon activity were identified.

3.3 ***Medieval*** (1066-1500)

The origin of the settlement at Lodge Farm is not known, but Chicksands was recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) where it is referred to as *Chichesana* and *Chichesane*. It was divided into two separate holdings and was held by the Bishop of Lincoln and the wife of Ralph Taillebois (Williams & Martin 2003, 565 & 586).

Little is known of the early development of the settlement and it has been suggested that the settlement may originally have been situated to the south of Lodge Farm at the location of what later became the site of Chicksands Priory (HER 375; 4524). The priory was a house of the Gilbertine order, founded in c.1150 (Doubleday & Page 1904, 390-393) and the original settlement may have relocated northwards to the Lodge Farm site to make way for the priory buildings.

Approximately 100m west of the subject site an excavation carried out in the 1930s uncovered the site of a medieval cottage and kiln with associated 13th to 14th-century finds (HER458). It is possible that the remains may extend eastwards into the current development area.

To the north and bordering the subject site lies the medieval rabbit warren of Rowney Warren (HER14565), part of Rowney Grange. The HER notes that its use continued into the post-medieval period.

3.4 ***Post-Medieval*** (1500-1900)

All the post-medieval HER events lie in close proximity to the development area and are related to the area's use as a farm. The entries are summarised in the table overleaf.

A sand pit (HER3059) noted on the 1901 OS map and still visible today as an earthwork lies to the north-east of the development area and may be one of number of extraction pits in the area.

The northern part of the park and garden associated with the 18th and 19th-century use of the Priory grounds (Chicksands Park (HER6992)) lies within the search area, but the main focus of the estate lies some distance to the south of the development area.

<i>HER No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
5637	Secondlodge Farmhouse. Grade II. LB1321804	17thC
5638	Firstlodge Farmhouse. Grade II. LB1113729	17thC
13054	Timber-frame threshing barn. Grade II. LB1113730	17thC
13033	Red brick outbuilding. Grade II. LB1113729	Early 19thC
13055 & 13067	Barns	18thC
13070	stone built outbuilding	Post-med
13068	courtyard block	19thC

Table 1. Listed buildings near the development area

3.5 *Modern* (1900-present)

The most significant modern activity relates to the large-scale military use of the former Chicksands Park and Priory as RAF Chicksands (HER9275). Again, the majority of the land bought by the Government in 1935 lies to the south of the development area.

In 2003, a desk-based assessment (CUAU 2003, EBD583) was commissioned in order to characterise an area of land to the south-east of the development area, and in 2005 ASC (Wilson 2005) undertook an evaluation of land to the south-east of Firstlodge Farm, but revealed no archaeological deposits. The negative result implies that either no or very small-scale archaeological remains survive in this area and confirm that the 13th to 14th-century activity excavated in the 1930s is unlikely to have extended so far eastwards.

4. Results

- 4.1 Prior to the start of the watching brief, approximately three-quarters of the development area had been excavated to a depth of over 2m without an archaeologist in attendance (Fig. 3, Plate 1). During the watching brief, the remainder of the development area was stripped under constant archaeological supervision. Both stages of work exposed the remains of a post-medieval layer and four large modern pits containing agricultural waste.
- 4.2 The post-medieval layer was observed in two sections in the north and east baulk and comprised light purple grey sand (Plates 2 and 1) containing small and infrequent fragments of CBM (ceramic building material), glass and coke. It was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface and was approximately 0.50m thick. The layer was truncated by a series of large modern pits (Plate 3) containing agricultural waste, which were scattered over 95% of the development area. In places, such as along the north edge of the excavated area, the pits were overlain by a thin deposit (up to 0.20m) of redeposited sandy topsoil-like material (Plate 2). No finds were recovered and no environmental samples were taken.

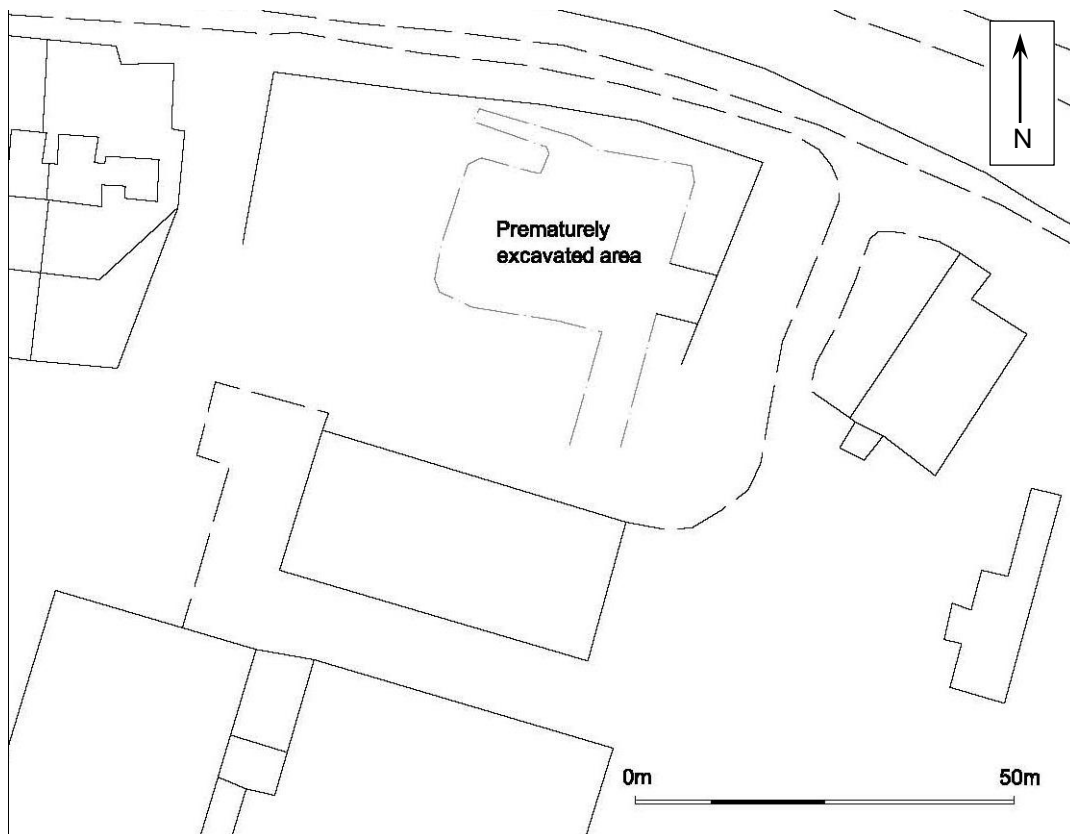


Figure 3: Sketch plan of area excavated ahead of watching brief (scale 1:1000)



Plate 1: Large modern pits and post-medieval layer, facing north-east

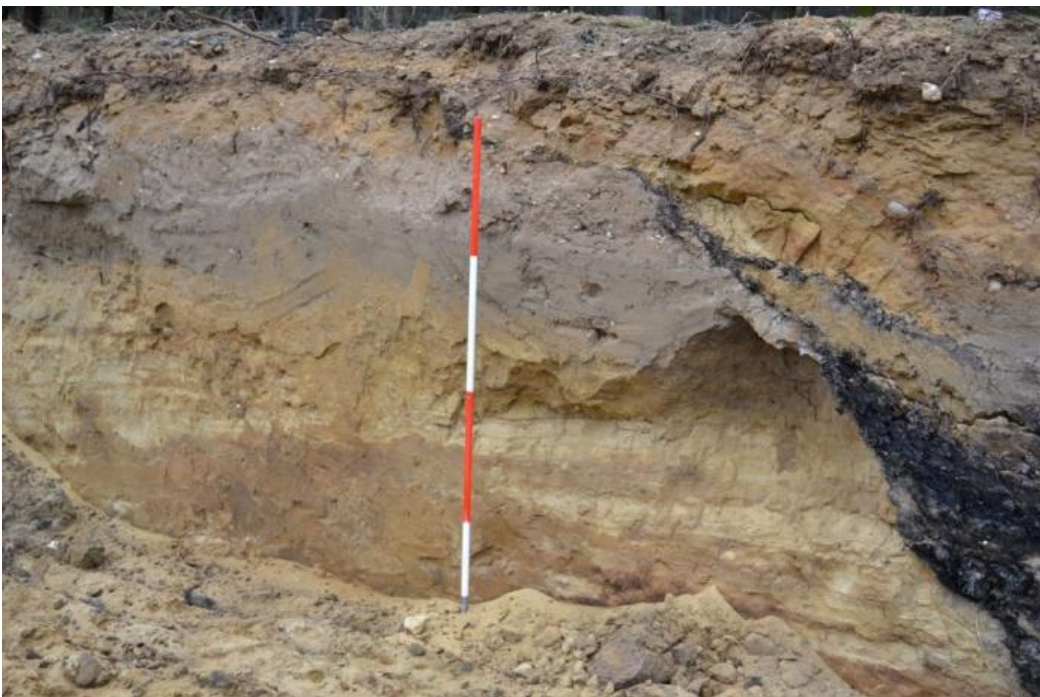


Plate 2: Post-medieval layer in north baulk, facing north-west



Plate 3: Large modern pit at south edge of development area, facing west

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Work at Lodge Farm has identified the presence of a post-medieval made-ground layer and a series of at least four large modern agricultural pits in the development area, but no archaeological features.
- 5.2 The sequence of deposits observed during machine excavation, and also in the baulks previously exposed, indicates that the area had been subject to severe ground disturbance in the post-medieval period. This involved the removal of any existing topsoil and some of the underlying natural sands, followed by the deposition of a thick (up to 0.50m) layer of sand, probably brought in from elsewhere, that raised the ground level.
- 5.3 No further activity appears to have taken place in the development area until the late 20th century, when a series of large rectangular pits were excavated to take agricultural waste. These intercutting pits spread across and beyond the development area and extended beyond the base of excavation, which varied between c.2m and c.4m deep. The wide-topped V-shaped profile of the pits has resulted in the almost total removal of the post-medieval layer at the top of the sequence and thus also any archaeological remains that may have survived that initial truncation.
- 5.4 The background research indicated that there was a low potential for the survival of archaeological remains, with either few or no references in the HER to activity of Saxon and earlier periods. The most notable activity of the medieval period was the identification of the site of a medieval cottage and kiln with associated 13th to 14th-century finds (HER458), about 100m to the west of the subject site. It was anticipated that additional contemporary remains may have spread towards the development area, but due to the severe and widespread modern truncation it is now thought unlikely. The most commonly occurring activity recorded in the HER was post-medieval and modern and this is reflected in the features observed on site.
- 5.5 In summary, post-medieval and modern activity have severely truncated the area under development, destroying any archaeological remains that may have been present.
- 5.6 *Confidence Rating*
All deposits and features within the development area were clear and well-defined and as a result a high confidence rating can be applied to the results of the watching brief.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Sidebottom Richardson Cheng Ltd on behalf of the client, F B Parrish and Son. The project was monitored by Martin Oake, *Central Bedfordshire Council* Archaeologist, on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by Mo Muldowney BA PIfA. The report was prepared by Mo Muldowney and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MifA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site Monitoring Sheets
6. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. Original specialist reports and supporting information
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

8. 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).
- EH 2006 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IFA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009*).
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M and Murphy P 2007 *Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**.
- Wade K, 2000 'Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (Rural)' in Brown & Glazebrook, 2000, 23-6

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Doubleday H & Page W, 1904 *The Victoria History of the County of Bedfordshire*.**1**. Constable & Company
- Ingham, D 2011 *Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Bedfordshire: Heritage Asset Assessment* Unpublished client report. Albion Archaeology
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Williams A & Martin G H, 2003 *Domesday Book. A Complete Translation*. Penguin
- Wilson, N 2005 *Archaeological Evaluation: Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Bedfordshire* Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd report no. **641/CLF/2**

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

Project: LODGE FARM CHICKSANDS		Project No/Code: 1472 1CLF		Sheet: 1 of 3	
		Date of visit: 19/03/12			
Client/Developer F B PARRISH + SON					
Contact: 07968 303392				Phone:	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7:15		Finish: 16:00	
Completed by: MM					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
					Other (specify): 'CELLARING'
Site & weather conditions: DRY, SUNNY. SLIGHTLY WET IN PLACES AFFECTING TRACTION OF PLANT					
Observations: AREA ON S SIDE OF BUILDING FOOTPRINT STRIPPED IN SPTS OF 2FT DEPTH. AREA IS ENTIRELY COMPRISED OF LATE 20TH C FARM WASTE PITS. NOT DEFINABLE DUE TO DISTURBANCE ACCIDENT TAKEN PLACE 11/11. NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES PRESENT. LAND SEVERELY TRUNCATED BY MODERN ACTIVITY.					
Comments:					

Project: LODGE FARM, CHICKSANDS		Project No/Code: 1472 1 CLF		Sheet: 2 of 3	
Date of visit: 20/03/12					
Client/Developer FIS PARRISH - SON					
Contact: GRHAM PARRISH			Phone: 07968 808392		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7:30/15		Finish: 16:00	
Completed by: MM					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
Other (specify): "CELLARING"					
Site & weather conditions: HIGH CLOUD DRY.					
Observations: STRIPPING CONTINUES ALONG SOUTH SIDE WITH REMOVAL OF c. 2M DEPTH OF LARGE PIT FILLED WITH STONES FROM THE GRADER + OTHER FARM WASTE MATERIAL. PIT ALMOST ENTIRELY TRUNCATED THE SOUTH HALF OF AREA. LARGE + RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE. UNANNOUNCED VISIT BY MARTIN OAKE c MID MORNING. NO ISSUES, NO PROBLEMS, NO ARCHAEOLOGY.					
Comments:					

Project: LODGE FARM, CHICKSANDS		Project No/Code: 1472 / CLF		Sheet: 3 of 3	
		Date of visit: 21/03/12			
Client/Developer FB PARRISH - SON					
Contact: GRHAMME PARRISH			Phone: 07968 303392		
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 7.30		Finish: 16.00	
Completed by: MM					
Development Type:					
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines
					Other (specify): "CONCRETE"
Site & weather conditions: OVERCAST BUT BRIGHT, EVEN LIGHT					
Observations: CONTINUING STRIP OF WEST END OF AREA. LARGE RECTANGULAR PIT ON S. EDGE CONTINUES WEST. STRIPPING FROM NW CORNER REVEALS CONTINUATION OF LARGE PIT FILLED W/ POTIVE ONIONS WHICH EXTENDS SOM N + W. PM: TOOK ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THE EXCAVATED AREA. NO ARCHAEOLOGY PRESENT.					
Comments:					

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane Chicksands			SITE NO/CODE: 1472/CLF
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	E end of N baulk (scale 2m)
2		✓	Detail post-med layer and natural sand (scale 2m)
3		✓	E facing baulk, NE corner (scale 2m)
4		✓	Post-med layer overlain by modern pit fills (scale 2m)
5		✓	NW extent of excavations (scale 2m)
6		✓	Far W limit of excavation before WB (scale 2m)
7		✓	Unexcavated material on S half of development area (scale 2m)
8		✓	Upper fills of modern pit on S side of area
9		✓	As above, facing east
10		✓	S pit, second spit (scale 2m)
11		✓	Detail fills in S pit (scale 2m)
12		✓	Upper fills of S pit, S half (scale 2m)
13		✓	General shot of large pit on S side of area during excavation (scale 2m)
14		✓	Modern pit and base of development area towards W end of N baulk (scale 2m)
15		✓	E section of N baulk showing large modern pit (scale 2m)
16		✓	W-facing E baulk of development area and pit (scale 2m)
17		✓	Central section of E baulk. Intercutting pits (scale 2m)
18		✓	As above, facing south-east

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands	OASIS reference:	114151
Short Description:	In March 2012, a watching brief took place on land at Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, ahead of the proposed development of a new agricultural shed. The work identified a series of large modern agricultural waste pits in addition to two late post-medieval made-ground deposits. No archaeological features were observed.		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	External storage area	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	Pit; layer	Monument period:	Post-medieval; modern
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL1209 4017
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5QB		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c. 0.15ha	Height OD: (metres)	c.58.00m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Martin Oake	Project design originator:	Mo Muldowney
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	Mo Muldowney
Sponsor / funding body:	F B Parrish and Son		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	19/03/2012	End date:	21/03/2012
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	BEDFM2011.86	Report, plans, maps	
Paper:		Report, plans, maps, project design, field notes	
Digital:		Report, photographs, illustrations	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: Lodge Farm, Sandy Lane, Chicksands, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1472/CLF/2		
Author(s):	Mo Muldowney BA PlfA		
Page nos	19	Date:	05/04/2012