

# Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: LAND AT 3A AND ADJACENT TO 3 HIGH STREET CLOPHILL BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0828 3776

*on behalf of William Willoughby (Estates) Ltd*



Mo Muldowney BA PIfA

June 2012

ASC: 1538/CHS/2



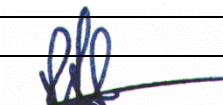
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## Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	CHS	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1538
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	archaeol2-127504	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2012.36
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Clophill		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Clophill		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0828 3776		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.658 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Rough grassland		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of two semi-detached dwellings and the restoration of existing barns		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/12/00547/FULL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	21 June 2012		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	William Willoughby (Estates) Ltd The Stables Northfield Farm Great Lane Clophill Bedfordshire MK45 4DD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Simon Jones		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Mo Muldowney	<i>Date:</i>	27 June 2012
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
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*Cover:* General view of site from adjoining building

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

## Summary

*In June 2012 an evaluation was undertaken on land between 3 and 3a High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire ahead of the proposed construction of two semi-detached dwellings. Three post-medieval pits were identified near the centre of the site. No features were present in the other trenches to the north and south.*

### 1. Introduction

1.1 In June 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 3 and 3a High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by William Willoughby (Estates) Ltd, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Summerfield-Hill 2012), and approved by *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists*, archaeological advisors (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*. The relevant planning application reference is CB/12/00547/FULL.

#### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), 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*

The site is located in Central Bedfordshire, in the parish of Clophill, at NGR TL 0828 3776 (Fig. 1).

The site is a rectangular plot of land fronted by the High Street to the south, which also provides access. The site is situated between residential properties 3a and 3 (Fig. 2).

##### 1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is located at the base of the Greensand Ridge, soils for the area derive from the Frilford Association described as *deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some ferruginous sandy and some coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater with a risk of water erosion* (Soil Survey 1983, 554a). The underlying geology is *Quaternary Head* (BGS, Sheet 220). The River Flit lies c.100m to the south where there are alluvial and river terrace deposits. The site elevation level is c.50m AOD.

### 1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of the construction of a pair of semi-detached dwellings, and the restoration of existing barns at the southern end of the site (Fig. 3)



Figure 2: Site plan with trench locations (scale 1:1250)



## 2. Aims & Methods

### 2.1 Aims

As described in the project design, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine, in particular, any remains relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement at Clophill. The importance of investigating rural settlement in order to examine settlement diversity and characterise rural settlement forms in Bedfordshire;
- 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 paleo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

### 2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2009) 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), to English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991, EH 2006), 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 proposed:

- An archaeological field evaluation of the site. Three trial trenches were excavated within the footprint of the houses and the new driveway. The trenches covered a total area of 73.31sq m including part of the contingency.

### 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, in particular dating the medieval period, as the site is within the medieval historic core of Clophill.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources.

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

The early development of Clophill is not fully understood and evidence from this period is lacking. There have, however, been a number of finds discovered to suggest activity within the area dating to this period. Prehistoric flints (HER14644) and Iron Age pottery (HER14643) have been recovered from Cainhoe Castle, c.1.5km southeast of the site. Mesolithic flints have been found to the east of Beadlow Manor, c.2.9km northeast of the site (HER2595). Mesolithic-Bronze Age flints have been discovered at a sand quarry at Simpsonhill Plantation, c.700m southwest of the site. Cropmarks visible southeast of the Pedley Wood, c.2.1km northeast of the site, show a rectangular enclosure thought to date to the prehistoric period (HER16705).

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

As with the previous periods, there is surprisingly little evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the development site during the Roman period. The closest known major site is located c.6.8km to the northeast of the development site, at Shefford where a wealthy Roman cemetery was identified in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The associated Roman settlement is to the west of the historic core of Shefford (HER 379).

Evidence for Roman occupation within Clophill parish was found in the form of pottery and building debris at Chicksands Wood, c.2.3km to the northeast of the development site (HER2770). Roman pottery has been uncovered from Cainhoe Castle (HER 14643), and a 4<sup>th</sup> century radiate coin was found c.60m south of the site (HER 3650).

3.4 ***Saxon - Medieval*** (c.450-1500)

It is probable that Clophill was established in from the Saxon period, although the origins of the settlement are uncertain. At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Nigel d'Aubigny held Clophill. It was part of the Flitton Hundred and was *assessed at 5 hides with land for 8 ploughs* (Williams & Martin 2003, 575). Cainhoe Castle, an 11<sup>th</sup> century Norman castle built by Nigel d'Aubigny, is c.1.5km southeast of the site (HER225; scheduled monument 20440). The castle is associated with fishponds and part of a field system. Earthworks in the area also indicate the remains of a medieval manorial site. The manor of Cainhoe (HER3825) is also mentioned in the Domesday Survey *assessed at 4 hides* and held by Nigel d'Aubigny (Williams & Martin 2003, 575). The manors of Clophill and Cainhoe were always held together (Page 1908, 320-325).

A further manor, Bedlow Manor, also existed at Clophill, situated c.2.6km northeast of the site (HER1461). It is thought to have originated in the land held at the time of the

Domesday Survey by Azelina, wife of Ralph Taillebois, where it amounted to 1 hide. It was given to the Beaulieu Priory, a cell of the abbey of St. Albans, between 1140 and 1146 (HER813). The priory was situated *c.*2.3km northeast of the site, and founded by Robert de Albini (Page 1908, 320-325).

A fourth manor also existed at Clophill, consisting of a manor house and moat, which in the 16<sup>th</sup> century acquired the name Manor of Clophill Hall (HER9131). The now demolished house is situated *c.*700m northeast of the site. This manor can be traced back to 1354 when a grant of land made by Joan the widow of Roger Dakenery to Gerard de Braybrook, consisted of *4 acres of meadow, and 250 acres of wood* (Page 1908, 320-325).

St Mary's Old Church is the former parish church (HER2476; SAM 388). It lies outside the historical core of Clophill, *c.*1.4km northeast of the site. The church dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although recent specialist inspection of the church, undertaken by Hicks in 2010, noted the thickness of the nave and former chancel wall, which could suggest a Saxon origin for the present church. It is thought that a deserted medieval settlement once stood round the church (HER9145). A 1719 map of the Manor of Clophill (BLARS: L33 286 F72) shows two small buildings in the field to the east of the church, and a larger building in the field to the west, which may be part of the earlier village.

Today the medieval core of Clophill consists of a linear settlement located along both sides of the High Street (HER 16998). Extensive medieval ridge and furrow has also been found within the parish (HER 2769).

### 3.5 **Post-Medieval - Modern** (1500-present)

Clophill continued to expand into the post-medieval and modern periods. Today the town includes a number of listed buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many of which are found along the High Street. For instance, the Post Office is a Grade II listed building dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, *c.*460m northeast of the site (HER3715). The Green Man public house, *c.*500m west of the site, is a Grade II listed building dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century with an 1800 fronting (HER3705), and Clophill House is a Grade II listed building dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, *c.*300m northeast of the site (HER3713).

In 1848 a larger parish church was constructed in the centre of village, along the High Street, named St Marys Church (HER3721). As a result, St Mary's Old Church fell into decline, although it did continue to be used as a mortuary chapel until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when it became abandoned and fell into a poor state.

The Grade II listed water mill that exists at Clophill dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and is *c.*200m northeast of the site (HER2610). This building replaced an earlier mill, the earliest reference to which dates from 1273.

The site itself is situated along the High Street within the medieval core of the town. The 1883 OS map of Clophill depicts a square enclosed plot of land with buildings to the east and west with no building present on site of the new development. Immediately to the east of the site are two 18<sup>th</sup>-century Grade II listed cottages, 3 High Street (HER3707) and 5 High Street (HER13095).

## 4 Results

### 4.1 General

Three trenches were excavated in the development area and were located with reference to the proposed buildings and front parking area.

The trenches were opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.4m wide toothless ditching bucket, operating under continuous archaeological supervision. Modern overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was removed until the first archaeological horizon was encountered.

#### *General Stratigraphic Sequence*

In all trenches the sequence of deposits comprised mixed mid orange brown sandy clay natural at the north end of the development area and natural gravels with sandy clay patches (003) overlain by mid orange brown silty sand subsoil (002). The uppermost layer was dark grey brown silty sand topsoil (001).

Natural (003) was encountered at a maximum height of 53.32m OD, and a minimum of 0.30m below the ground surface. Subsoil (002) was present at the higher, north end of the development area only in Trench 1 and the north-west end of Trench 2 and was up to 0.20m thick. Topsoil (001) was 0.20m thick, where undisturbed and up to 0.50m thick where it was mixed with post-medieval and modern overburden in the area around Trench 3 and the road frontage.

No environmental samples were taken.

Detailed information regarding the trial trenches and their contents appears in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2: Plate 1)

Trench 1 was located towards the rear of the plot. It was oriented east-north-east to south-west-south and was 10m long by 2m wide. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

### 4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 4: Plates 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was located at the approximate centre of the development area and was oriented north-west to south-east. It was 10m long by 2m wide with two small extensions on the north-west side, giving a total area of 29.76 sq. m. Three archaeological features were identified.

Pit **005** was located approximately 1m from the north-west end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan with a wide, shallow v-shaped profile. It was 1.20m in diameter by 0.16m deep and filled with compact mid grey brown silty sand (004). Two sherds of porcelain and a fragment of animal bone were recovered.

Pit **007** was located approximately 1.5m from the south-east end of the trench. Its full extent was not visible in plan and resembled a ditch terminus with a u-shaped profile. It was 0.65m wide by 0.70m deep and filled with mid orange brown silty sand (006). A fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered.

Pit **009** was located immediately to the north of pit 007 and had a similar shape in plan, with an irregular flat-based, V-shaped profile. It was 1m wide, up to 0.48m deep and was filled with mid orange brown silty sand (008). No finds were recovered.

#### 4.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 2: Plate 5)

Trench 3 was located towards the front of the plot. It was oriented north-east to south-west and was 10m long by 2m wide. No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

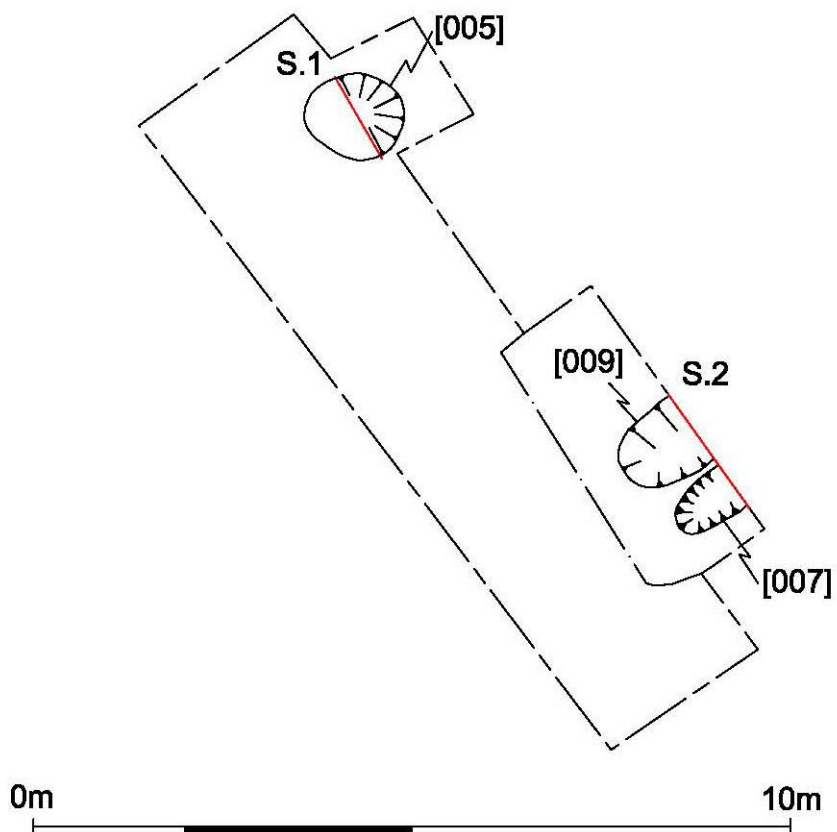
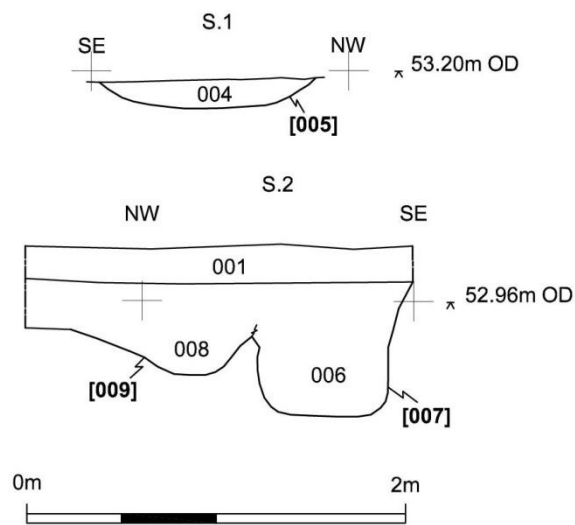


Figure 4: Trench 2



**Figure 5:** Sections



**Plate 1:** Trench 1, facing west-south-west



**Plate 2:** Trench 2, facing north-west



**Plate 3:** Trench 2, pit 005, facing south-west



**Plate 4:** Trench 2, pits 007 and 009, facing north-east



**Plate 5:** Trench 3, facing north-east

## 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The results of the evaluation demonstrated that the proposed development area has been subject to minor activity during the post-medieval period. This comprised a small number of pits and accumulated layers within the topsoil in the front half of the development area.

The pits were largely devoid of finds, producing only two sherds of 18th/19<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain, a fragment of unidentified animal bone and a fragment of clay pipe. There was no other material to indicate function.

The presence of post-medieval activity here was not unexpected given that the development area lies between two 18<sup>th</sup>-century cottages (HER3707 and HER13095). The lack of medieval features is of interest as the development area lies within the assigned medieval core of the town, and because the post-medieval features were not particularly extensive or dense. It is likely therefore that this part of the village had not been subject to occupation before and during the medieval period, with only a minor amount of use throughout the post-medieval period.

### 5.2 *Confidence Rating*

Conditions for the evaluation were reasonable, despite intermittent rain and both machine and hand excavation were carried out without difficulty. The deposits and features were clearly defined, allowing a high confidence rating to be applied to the results.



## **6. Acknowledgements**

The evaluation was commissioned by William Willoughby (Estates) Ltd. The project was monitored by Hannah Firth on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by David Fell and 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 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.

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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. English Heritage (London).
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2009 *Standards & Guidance for Archiving Archaeological Projects*. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading).
- IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2009 Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents Evaluations* (Reading).
- Summerfield Hill C 2012 *Land at 3A and Adjacent to 3 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation*. ASC doc ref. 1538/CHS/1


### *Secondary Sources*

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Hicks C 2010 *The Old Church of St Mary the Virgin, Clophill, Bedfordshire: Conservation Statement*.
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M and Murphy P 2007 *Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**.
- Page W (ed.) 1908 *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, 320-325
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).
- Williams A & Martin G H 2003 *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	10	<b>Width</b>	2	<b>Depth</b>	0.40
	<b>Trench top ENE</b>			53.59m OD		
	<b>Trench base ENE</b>			53.19m OD		
	<b>Trench top WSW</b>			53.68m OD		
	<b>Trench base WSW</b>			53.32m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>ENE</b>	508274.64/237776.48		<b>WSW</b>	508283.38/237779.56	
<b>Orientation:</b>			ENE-SWS			
<b>Reason for Trench:</b>		Targeting rear of proposed houses				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
001	Layer	Dark grey brown silty sand. Topsoil	-	200	0	
002	Layer	Mid orange brown silty sand. Subsoil	-	200	200	
003	Layer	Mixed mid orange brown sandy clay and gravels with sandy clay	-	-	400	

Trench 2						
	<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
	<b>Length</b>	10	<b>Width</b>	2	<b>Depth</b>	0.45
	<b>Levels</b>					
	<b>Trench top NW</b>			53.55m OD		
	<b>Trench base NW</b>			53.17m OD		
	<b>Trench top SE</b>			53.09m OD		
	<b>Trench base SE</b>			52.67m OD		
	<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
	<b>NW</b>	508279.63/237773.92		<b>SE</b>	508285.86/237765.66	
	<b>Orientation</b>			NW-SE		
<b>Reason for Trench</b>		Targeting central area of houses				
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>	
001	Layer	Dark grey brown silty sand. Topsoil	-	200	0	
002	Layer	Mid orange brown silty sand. Subsoil	-	70	200	
003	Layer	Mixed mid orange brown sandy clay and gravels with sandy clay	-	-	270	
004	Fill	Mid grey brown silty sand. Fill of pit 005	1220	160	270	
005	Cut	Shallow, circular cut. Post-medieval pit	1220	160	270	
006	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Fill of pit 007	800	700	200	
007	Cut	Shallow irregular cut. Post-medieval pit	800	700	200	
008	Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Fill of pit 009	960	220	200	
009	Cut	Steep-sided, flat-based, u-shaped cut	960	220	200	

Trench 3												
							<b>Max Dimensions (m)</b>					
							<b>Length</b>	10	<b>Width</b>	2	<b>Depth</b>	0.50
							<b>Levels</b>					
							<b>Trench top NE</b>				53.05m OD	
							<b>Trench base NE</b>				52.43m OD	
							<b>Trench top SW</b>				53.10m OD	
							<b>Trench base SW</b>				52.80m OD	
							<b>NGR Co-ordinates</b>					
							<b>NE</b>	508280.71/237760.70		<b>SW</b>	508289.56/237765.64	
							<b>Orientation</b>				NE-SW	
<b>Reason for Trench</b>				Targeting car park area								
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>			<b>Width (max: mm)</b>	<b>Thickness (max: mm)</b>	<b>Depth (BGL: mm)</b>					
001	Layer	Dark grey brown silty sand. Topsoil			0	500	-					
003	Layer	Mixed mid orange brown sandy clay and gravels with sandy clay			-	-	500					

## Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land at 3a and Adjacent to 3 High Street, Clophill				SITE NO/CODE: 1538 CHS	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject		
1		✓	CAT scanning the trenches before excavation		
2		✓	CAT scanning the trenches before excavation		
3		✓	CAT scanning the trenches before excavation		
4		✓	CAT scanning the trenches before excavation		
5		✓	CAT scanning the trenches before excavation		
6	✓	✓	Trench 1, general shot		
7	✓	✓	Trench 2, pit 005		
8	✓	✓	Trench 3, general shot		
9	✓	✓	Trench 3, [007], [009]		
10	✓	✓	Trench 2, general shot		

## Appendix 3: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)	Type	(no)
004	2	3.43	1	0.29		
006					Clay tobacco pipe	1

## Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land at 3a/3 High Street, Clophill, Beds	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2_127504
Short Description:	In June 2012, an evaluation was undertaken on land between 3 and 3a High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire ahead of the proposed construction of two semi-detached dwellings. Three post-medieval pits were identified near the centre of the site. No features were present in the other trenches to the north and south.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Former grassed garden area	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No
Monument type:	Pit	Monument period:	Post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pottery, animal bone, clay tobacco pipe		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0828 3776
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	3/3a High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire MK45 4AB		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.658sq m	Height OD: (metres)	53.00
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Hannah Firth	Project design originator:	Carina Summerfield-Hill
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	David Fell
Sponsor / funding body:	William Willoughby (Estates) Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	21/06/2012	End date:	21/06/2012
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum BEDFM 2012.36	Pottery etc., report, site records, client plans, photographs	
Paper:		Report, site records, plans, maps	
Digital:		Report, photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Land at 3a and Adjacent to 3 High Street, Clophill, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1538/CHS/2		
Author(s):	Mo Muldowney		
Page nos	20	Date:	25/06/2012