

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
THE WHEATSHEAF
ASPLEY GUISE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9477 3585

on behalf of Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

August 2012

ASC: 1540/AGW/2



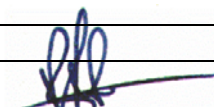
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Site Data

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| <i>ASC project code:</i> | AGW | <i>ASC project no:</i> | 1540 |
| <i>OASIS ref:</i> | Archaeol2-128381 | <i>Event/Accession no:</i> | Requested |
| <i>County:</i> | Bedfordshire | | |
| <i>Village/Town:</i> | Aspley Guise | | |
| <i>Civil Parish:</i> | Aspley Guise | | |
| <i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i> | SP 9477 3585 | | |
| <i>Extent of site:</i> | c.1700 sq m | | |
| <i>Present use:</i> | Disused public house and grounds | | |
| <i>Planning proposal:</i> | Construction of 3 detached houses with associated | | |
| <i>Local Planning Authority:</i> | Central Bedfordshire Council | | |
| <i>Planning application ref/date:</i> | CB/12/00672/OUT | | |
| <i>Date of fieldwork:</i> | 13/08/2012 – 14/08/2012 | | |
| <i>Client:</i> | Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP Powage House Church Street Aspley Guise Milton Keynes MK17 8HQ | | |
| <i>Contact name:</i> | Mr Jeremy Tilston | | |

Internal Quality Check

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|---------------------------|---|--------------|------------|
| <i>Primary Author:</i> | Calli Rouse | <i>Date:</i> | 20/08/2012 |
| <i>Revisions:</i> | | <i>Date:</i> | |
| <i>Edited/Checked By:</i> |  | <i>Date:</i> | 20/08/2012 |

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

Summary

During August 2012, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological finds or features. Post medieval features were identified within the remaining trenches, some of which were likely to be associated with the most recent incarnation of the Wheatsheaf pub. A further post medieval brick lined feature and possible boundary ditch were also identified, and may have been associated with an earlier version of the Wheatsheaf, which is known to have been demolished and re-built in the earlier 20th century.

1. Introduction

1.1 In August 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation of The Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2012), and approved by *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*. The relevant planning application reference is CB/12/00672/OUT.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Frameworks* (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 assessment site is situated in Aspley Guise in the unitary authority of *Central Bedfordshire*. It is in the east part of the village on the east side of Mount Pleasant and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference SP 9477 3585 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises the former Wheatsheaf public house and a number of outbuildings, garden and parking area. An electricity substation occupies the north corner of the plot, which is to remain. The assessment site covers an area of c.1700 sq m and the land slopes from southwest to northeast (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils comprise the *Frilford Association*, namely deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils over Mesozoic and Tertiary sand of the *Woburn*

Sands Formation (Soil Survey 1983, 554a; BGS, Sheet 220). The site lies at an elevation of c.103m OD.

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The development proposal comprises the demolition of the existing Wheatsheaf public house, the construction of three detached houses and conversion of the coach house into a garage and store (Fig. 3).

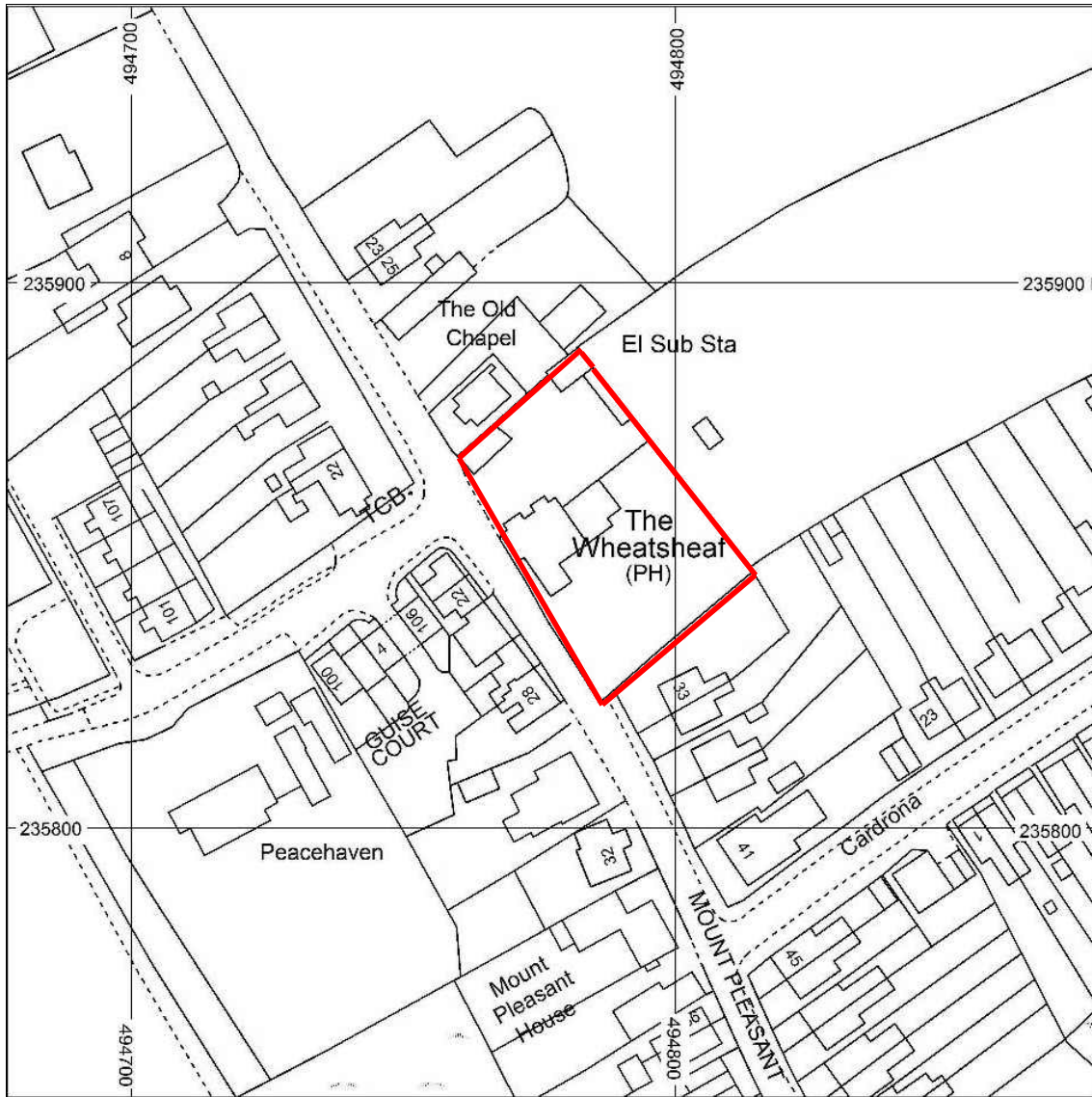


Figure 2: Site location (Scale 1:1250)



Figure 3: Trench locations (Scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area, particularly during the medieval and post medieval settlement of Mount Pleasant
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
- To examine settlement diversity and characterise the settlement form as described by Wade (2000) and Oake (2007)

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2009), 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 proposed:

- The excavation of 150sqm of trial trenches, measuring 2m in width, under archaeological supervision, targeted on the footprints of the buildings, driveways and access routes

2.4 Constraints

The machine used to carry out the excavations was fitted with a 1.5m bucket, so the length of the trenches was extended to compensate for this. This was discussed with and approved by the AA on site.

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) and other readily available sources, including a Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by ASC (Fell 2012).

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

The prehistoric period is currently not well understood in the Aspley Guise area, and the HER does not hold any records dating to this period in the vicinity of the development site.

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

Little is known of Aspley Guise during the Roman period and the area was probably away from the main centres of settlement and communications. During this period the area lay within within the civitas of the *Catuvellauni* (Branigan 1987), with its capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans).

Communications in the area during this period were dominated by a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street* (OS 1979), which passed c.5km southwest of Aspley Guise and linked *Verulamium* with *Durocbrivis* (Dunstable) and *Magiovinium* (Fenny Stratford). It has been claimed that a road existed linking Dorchester-on-Thames (Oxon) with Alconbury (Cambs), which passed through Aspley Guise (HER 173; Viatores Road 485). This route is unproven and is not recognised in the Survey of Roman Bedfordshire (Simco 1984, map C). It has been suggested that earthworks 220m east of the development site (HER 10452) may be the *agger* (bank) of this road but this requires confirmation and the earthworks may relate to the medieval settlement at Mount Pleasant (HER 16892; section 2.6).

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

The early development of Aspley Guise is not understood in detail, but the village probably originated during the Saxon period (HER 16891). There is currently no archaeological evidence for this period in the village and the earliest documentary reference is a charter dated 969, granting land for fifteen husbandmen to King Dunstan's thegn Alfwold (Page 1912 338; parish history).

3.5 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

Aspley Guise is included in the Domesday survey (1086) where it is recorded as *Aspeleia*. The land was held by Hugh of Beauchamp and was valued at £8 (Morris 1977, 213).

The core of the medieval village was situated c.700m west of the development site and developed to the south of the church of St Botolph (Pevsner 1968, 43). The origin of

the church is not understood in detail, but the advowson was granted to *Simon de Beauchamp* in 1188 (Page 1912, 342). The exterior of the church is largely 19th century in date (Pevsner 1968, 43).

Mount Pleasant is situated to the east of the medieval village and is linked to the latter by a narrow lane, originally known as *Triggs End Lane* (now Bedford Road; Anon 1980, App 1). There is no archaeological or historical evidence for the early development of Mount Pleasant, but the area may have developed as a separate settlement or 'end' during the medieval period (HER 16892). The earthworks to the west of Mount Pleasant, considered the agger of the postulated Roman road (HER 10452) may be a medieval settlement feature, but this requires investigation. The only other evidence for this period in the study area comprises a poorly documented assemblage of medieval pottery sherds (MBD20265) found to the east of Mount Pleasant, close to Crawley Park.

3.6 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

The earliest readily available map to show Aspley Guise in detail is a map of the parish dated 1661. The map is difficult to interpret and predates the construction of Aspley House and the Parliamentary Enclosure (below), but shows the mid 17th century layout of the village. The map shows the development site as part of a larger sub-rectangular plot of land, on the east side of a northwest to southeast orientated road, which approximates to the course of Mount Pleasant.

The principal building in the village is Aspley House, the main entrance to which is off Bedford Road c.200m east of Mount Pleasant (HER 1008; Douglas 1987). It was constructed c.1690 for William Norcliffe and replaced an earlier structure on the site. The building was set within extensive grounds (HER 7015), which include a series of 'fishponds' (HER 15365).

A major feature of the area to the east of the development site is Crawley Park (HER 6981). The park is shown on Bryant & Jeffery's map of Bedfordshire which is dated 1765, is a designated Historic Park, and is included in the register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

A second map of the parish was prepared in 1745 which depicts the site in more detail. The map shows the north part of the village dominated by the buildings and grounds of Aspley House with the parish church to the west. Mount Pleasant had been laid out by this time and is shown to the south of Aspley House. Towards the north end of Mount Pleasant buildings are shown on the east side, set within subrectangular enclosures. The land on the west side is shown as a single plot and may have been an orchard. The land to the south of the latter is shown containing ridge and furrow cultivation strips forming part of the open field landscape of the parish. The development site plot shown on the previous plan had been subdivided and the site is shown as a rectangular plot of land, with a building at the south end of the plot.

Aspley Guise was enclosed in 1761 (anon 1980) and details of the landscape are shown on the enclosure map. The village is shown focused on the junction of Church Street and Bedford Road to the west of Aspley House. Mount Pleasant is depicted as a separate settlement, with buildings clustering around its intersection with Bedford Road and the road, now known as *Spinney Lane* is depicted as a prominent feature of

the landscape, immediately to the west of the development site. A second group of buildings is shown at the junction of Mount Pleasant and Spinney Lane. The orchard, depicted on the 1745 map, is also shown. The development site is shown with a range of buildings aligned northeast to southwest at the approximate location of the present building and the land was awarded to one William Brown.

The development site changed hands in April 1810 and the land was conveyed to Thomas Britten, yeoman (CRT130/AGP16). It is not known when the Wheatsheaf Inn became established, but a beer house was probably constructed shortly after the Britten acquisition. Thomas died in 1811 leaving the property to his widow Anne. She died in 1836 and her will mentions 'the Wheatsheaf' and also three cottages, which were left to her daughter-in-law Kitty (*ibid*). The public house remained in the hands of the Britten family until 1901.

The HER refers to a number of windmills within the study area (HER 8697 and 8718). These are not depicted on the historic maps but the mill on Wenesdon Hill (HER 8697) c.220m north of the development site was demolished c.1745-61 and the site was subsequently used for sand extraction (HER 2493). A second sandpit (HER 2494) was situated c.100m north of the windmill and both pits are shown as disused on the 1881 edition Ordnance Survey map.

The first edition one inch to the mile scale Ordnance Survey map was published in 1836. The map is at a small scale but shows the general layout of the area with the village focused around the church and the principal road junction and Mount Pleasant as a separate 'end' to the east.

The Ordnance Survey produced their first large scale maps of the area in 1881 and 1882 and they show Mount Pleasant in considerable detail. The Methodist Chapel (HER 8684) which is situated immediately north of the development site was constructed c.1813 and is depicted on the map. To the north of the chapel, the map depicts two groups on buildings of the east side of Mount Pleasant, separated by an open field (land parcel 118). The west side of Mount Pleasant is shown as largely open ground (parcel 113) with a cluster of buildings at the Mount Pleasant/Bedford Road junction. The stretch of road south of Spinney Lane has a very different character, with open land on the east side (parcel 65) and a row of terraced buildings to the west. The public house is shown as an 'L' shaped building, adjacent to Mount Pleasant, with gardens to the southeast. A separate structure is shown at the northwest side of the plot with a further range of buildings to the east, which were probably agricultural in nature.

3.7 **Modern** (1900-present)

The pattern of settlement along Mount Pleasant had become established by the late 19th century. The 1901 edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that little change had taken place in the landscape since the previous edition of the maps. A number of new buildings are shown north of the Methodist chapel on the east side of Mount Pleasant and the land parcel to the south of the Wheatsheaf (formerly parcel 65) had been divided into two separate plots.

Mount Pleasant has developed during the 20th century and the 1950 edition Ordnance Survey map shows three buildings on the west side of Mount Pleasant, in the plot to

the north of Spinney Lane. A further isolated building is depicted to the north. The San Remo Road development, on the east side of Mount Pleasant, south of the development site dates from the mid 20th century and is shown on the 1964 edition Ordnance Survey map. In recent years further development has taken place on the west side of Mount Pleasant, notably the construction of Guise Court to the west of the Wheatsheaf and the modern layout of the area is shown in Fig. 2.

The last member of the Britten family died in 1900 and the business was sold to the Bedford brewers *Jarvis and Company*. The sale took place on 24 August 1900 and the property is described thus:

'All that valuable freehold, old-established, and fully-licensed Free Public-House known as "The Wheatsheaf".'

Well situate, adjoining Mount Pleasant Road, Aspley Guise, containing two Cellars in basement; Bar, Tap-room, and Parlour on ground floor; Four Bed-rooms and Two Attics above, also the Brewhouse and Two Cottages adjoining, the latter being used as Washhouse and Dairy, with two Store-rooms over; also on the opposite side of the entrance to the Court-yard, a three-roomed Cottage let to Amos Bowler at 1s. 3d. per week, and a Coachhouse, and at the rear an enclosed Farm Yard, With ranges of timber and thatched buildings, including a Thrashing Barn, 2 Corn ditto, Stable, Cowhouse, Piggeries, Poultry House, and Workshop, a Productive Orchard, With open Cattle Shed thereon, and a Capital Garden, Planted with choice fruit trees, the whole enclosing an area of One and A-Half Acres' (CRT130/ASP16).

The Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1901 and shows a similar layout to that illustrated on the 1881/2 edition maps.

The present 'Wheatsheaf' and outbuilding were probably constructed during the first decades of the 20th century, following the demolition of the earlier buildings. The present building is shown on a postcard dated to c. 1925. *Jarvis and Company* went into liquidation in 1917 and the 'Wheatsheaf' along with the other tied houses of the company passed to *Charles Wells Ltd*.

The public house remained in the hands of *Charles Wells Ltd* until its closure and sale in 2011. At the time of writing the buildings and grounds are in derelict condition and the site is to be redeveloped for housing, as illustrated in Fig. 3.

4 Results

4.1 General

The natural soil encountered across the development site comprised very soft, orange sand, with rare inclusions of small, angular stones. As the soil across the site was so friable, Trenches 2 and 4 included a layer which immediately overlay the natural, and comprised a grey orange sandy silty context, which represented the distorted interface between the natural and the overlying subsoil. The site also sloped from west to east, and this was reflected in the stepping of Trenches 1, 3 and 4.

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

4.2 Trench 1 (Figs. 3-5: Plates 1-2)

Trench 1 was located towards the northern edge of the site, and was orientated east-west. The trench measured 16x1.5m, with a maximum depth of 0.8m at its eastern end. The western part of this trench was dominated by a modern service trench and soakaway. The easternmost 5m of this trench were c.0.3m lower than the western end, due to the slope of the site. The stratigraphy within this trench typically comprised 0.2m of tarmac (101), over a 0.15m thick layer of re-deposited natural, with occasional brick inclusions (102). Underlying this was a 0.1m thick layer of grey/black made ground, with occasional inclusions of modern debris and slate (103). Below this was 0.3m of orange grey sand, with occasional brick inclusions (104). This overlay 0.2m of grey silty sand with inclusions of modern pottery, metal and glass (105). Below this was the natural stratum (106).

The edge of a brick-lined feature [107] was exposed against the southernmost side of the trench. Not enough of this feature was exposed to warrant excavation, but it was constructed in red bricks, which measured 22x10cm, and was filled by (105).

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 3: Plates 3-4)

Located to the rear of the site, Trench 2 was orientated north-south, and measured 16x1.5m. The depth of this trench varied between 0.67-0.7m. The stratigraphy within this trench comprised c.0.3m of grey silty sandy topsoil (201), which overlay c.0.3m of grey orange sandy subsoil (202). Below this was the natural soil (203). No archaeological finds or features were observed within this trench.

4.4 Trench 3 (Figs. 3-5: Plates 5-6)

Trench 3 was located towards the south western corner of the site, and measured 16.3x1.5m, and had a maximum depth of 0.5m. The topsoil (301), subsoil (302) and natural (303) recorded within Trench 3 were the same as those described in Trench 2, above, and a single flint flake was recovered from (302). One linear feature [304] was observed towards the western end of the trench. This feature ran parallel with Mount Pleasant, and the top of the cut was indiscernible from the topsoil within the trench. This feature had a maximum depth of 0.7m, and had vertical sides, and a flat base. The fill of this feature comprised a dark grey silty sand, with occasional inclusions of 19th/early 20th century pottery and animal bone (305).

4.5 **Trench 4** (Fig. 3: Plates 7-8)

Trench 4 was located to the south of Trench 3 and measured 17.7x1.5m. The depth of this trench varied from 0.55m at its western end, to 0.65m to the east. The stratigraphy of this trench ((401),(402),(403)) was similar to that previously described in Trench 2. No archaeological finds or features were observed within this trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west, 2x1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 1, brick feature [107], looking south, 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south, 2x1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 2, section, looking east, 2x1m scale



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking west, 2x1m scale



Plate 6: Trench 3, linear feature [304], looking south, 2x1m scale



Plate 7: Trench 4, looking west, 2x1m scale



Plate 8: Trench 4, section, looking south, 2x1m scale

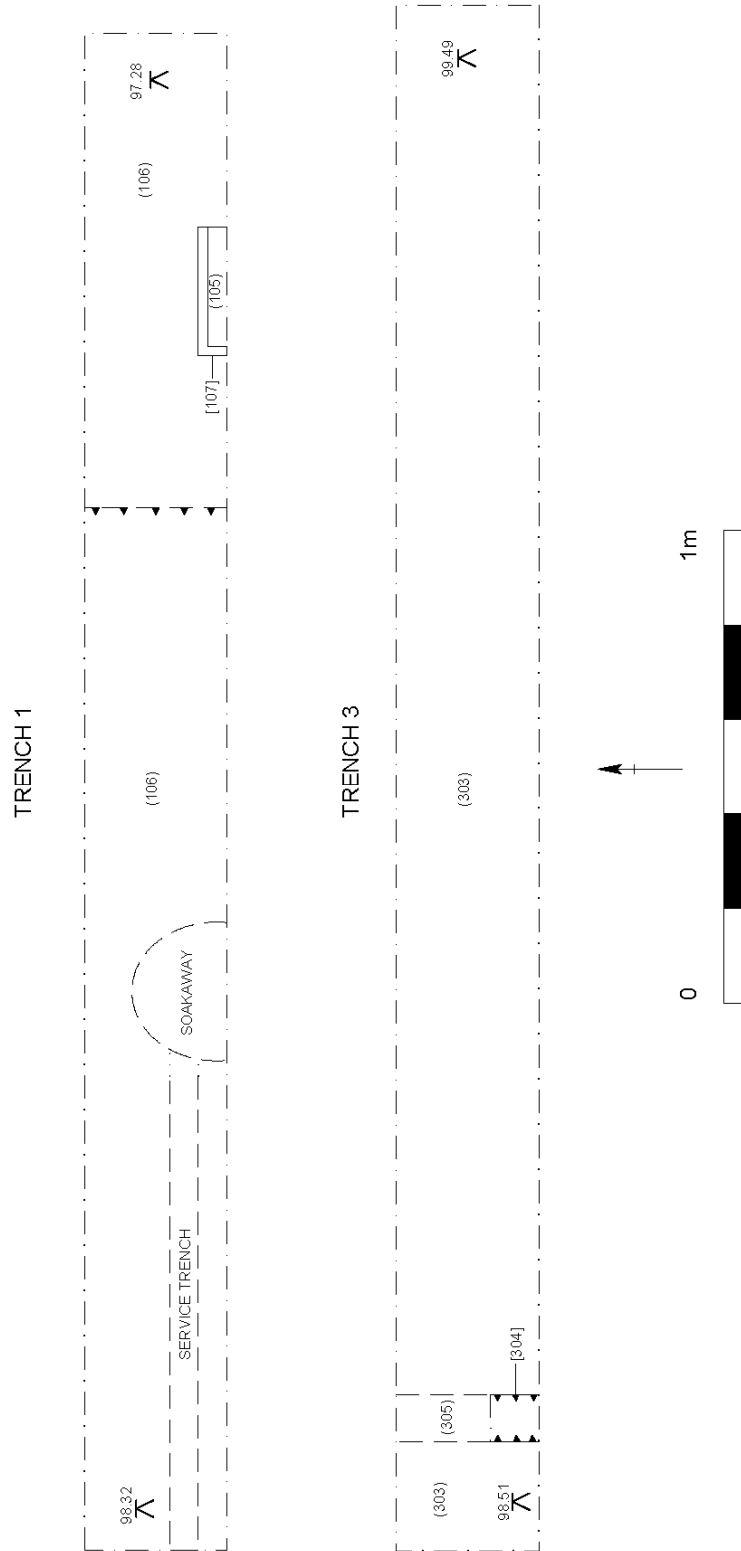


Figure 4: Trench plans (Scale 1:75)

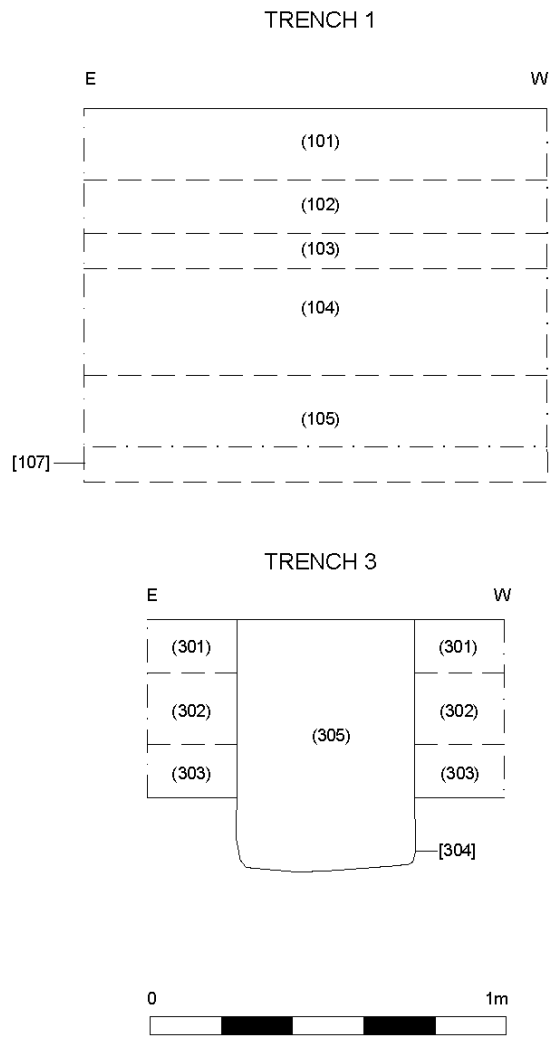


Figure 5: Trench sections (*Scale 1:20*)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The trenches were positioned to avoid areas of the site that were likely to have been disturbed by the now demolished Wheatsheaf pub. In the case of Trenches 2 and 4, the trenches were positioned on ground that appeared to have been undisturbed by any previous development.
- 5.2 The development site is known from documentary evidence to have been occupied since at least the mid 18th century, with a public house on the site from the early 19th century. The first pub and its associated buildings were demolished and the recently removed Wheatsheaf pub was constructed in the early 20th century. It seems likely that the modern service trench and soakaway recorded in Trench 1 were associated with the most recent incarnation of the pub. Linear feature [304] follows the same alignment as Mount Pleasant, and may represent an earlier site or garden boundary.
- 5.3 The function of brick feature [107] is unclear, as only a small area of it was exposed during the excavation. The feature was filled by soil which contained modern material, but the structure itself may represent an earlier phase of building on the site. Comparisons between the cartographic evidence for the development of the site and the results of the evaluation show that the area in which [107] is located was open ground from the latter part of the 19th century. However, the 1761 Enclosure map of Aspley Guise shows buildings in this area, suggesting that [107] may be a remnant of these structures.
- 5.4 The results of the evaluation can be interpreted as reflecting the development of the site, and the former Wheatsheaf pub. No archaeological features that pre-date the post-medieval period were recorded during the evaluation, which could imply that if Mount Pleasant developed as a separate 'end' (Section 3.5), this part of the settlement was left open until the post-medieval period.
- 5.5 *Confidence Rating*
The evaluation was carried out under clear, dry conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. As a result, a high level of confidence is attached to the results of the fieldwork.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP*. The writer is grateful to Mr Jeremy Tilston for his assistance. The project was monitored by Martin Oake of *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Dr Jonathan Hunn PhD MIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse 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. Site record drawings
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

8. References


Standards & Specifications


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Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------|
|  | Max Dimensions (m) | | | | | |
| | Length | 16m | Width | 1.5m | Depth | 0.8m |
| | Levels | | | | | |
| | Trench top W | | | 98.75m OD | | |
| | Trench base W | | | 98.32m OD | | |
| | Trench top E | | | 98.06m OD | | |
| | Trench base E | | | 97.28m OD | | |
| | NGR Co-ordinates | | | | | |
| | E | SP 494783 235866 | | W | SP 494770 235857 | |
| | Orientation | | | East-west | | |
| Reason for Trench | | | Within area of proposed development | | | |
| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Width (max: mm) | Thickness (max: mm) | Depth (BGL: mm) | |
| 101 | Layer | Tarmac | 1500 | 200 | - | |
| 102 | Layer | Orange sand with occasional brick inclusions - Re-deposited Natural | 1500 | 150 | 200 | |
| 103 | Layer | Grey black sandy silt with occasional tile inclusions - Made Ground | 1500 | 100 | 350 | |
| 104 | Layer | Orange grey sand with occasional brick inclusions - Subsoil | 1500 | 200 | 450 | |
| 105 | Layer | Grey silty sand with inclusions of modern pottery, metal and glass - Subsoil | 1500 | 150 | 650 | |
| 106 | Layer | Orange sand - Natural | 1500 | - | 750 | |
| 107 | Cut | Brick lined feature | 1500 | - | 750 | |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------|
|  | Max Dimensions (m) | | | | | |
| | Length | 16m | Width | 1.5m | Depth | 0.7m |
| | Levels | | | | | |
| | Trench top N | | | 98.21m OD | | |
| | Trench base N | | | 97.62m OD | | |
| | Trench top S | | | 98.64m OD | | |
| | Trench base S | | | 97.68m OD | | |
| | NGR Co-ordinates | | | | | |
| | N | SP 494784 235861 | | S | SP 494794 235848 | |
| | Orientation | | | North-south | | |
| Reason for Trench | | | Within area of proposed development | | | |
| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Width (max: mm) | Thickness (max: mm) | Depth (BGL: mm) | |
| 201 | Layer | Grey silty sand - Topsoil | 1500 | 300 | - | |
| 202 | Layer | Grey orange sand - Subsoil | 1500 | 300 | 300 | |
| 203 | Layer | Orange sand - Natural | 1500 | 100 | 600 | |

| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------|
|  | Max Dimensions (m) | | | | | |
| | Length | 16m | Width | 1.5m | Depth | 0.7m |
| | Levels | | | | | |
| | Trench top E | | 99m OD | | | |
| | Trench base E | | 98.51m OD | | | |
| | Trench top W | | 100.12m OD | | | |
| | Trench base W | | 99.49m OD | | | |
| | NGR Co-ordinates | | | | | |
| | E | SP 494793 235846 | | W | SP 494780 235836 | |
| | Orientation | | | East-west | | |
| Reason for Trench | | | Within area of proposed development | | | |
| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Width (max: mm) | Thickness (max: mm) | Depth (BGL: mm) | |
| 301 | Layer | Grey silty sand – Topsoil | 1500 | 150 | - | |
| 302 | Layer | Grey orange sand – Subsoil | 1500 | 200 | 150 | |
| 303 | Layer | Orange sand - Natural | 1500 | 150 | 350 | |
| 304 | Cut | Cut of flat bottomed linear feature | 500 | 200 | 700 | |
| 305 | Fill | Dark grey silty sand with occasional 19 th /early 20 th century pottery and animal bone | 500 | 200 | 500 | |

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------|
|  | Max Dimensions (m) | | | | | |
| | Length | 17.7m | Width | 1.5m | Depth | 0.65m |
| | Levels | | | | | |
| | Trench top E | | 98.48m OD | | | |
| | Trench base E | | 97.88m OD | | | |
| | Trench top W | | 100.26m OD | | | |
| | Trench base W | | 97.88m OD | | | |
| | NGR Co-ordinates | | | | | |
| | E | SP 494804 235843 | | W | SP 494790 235832 | |
| | Orientation | | | East-west | | |
| Reason for Trench | | | Within area of proposed development | | | |
| Context | Type | Description and Interpretation | Width (max: mm) | Thickness (max: mm) | Depth (BGL: mm) | |
| 401 | Layer | Grey silty sand – Topsoil | 1500 | 250 | - | |
| 402 | Layer | Grey orange sand – Subsoil | 1500 | 100 | 250 | |
| 403 | Layer | Orange sand - Natural | 1500 | 150 | 350 | |

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

| SITE NAME: The Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise | | | SITE NO/CODE: 1540/AGW |
|---|-----|---------|---|
| Shot | B&W | Digital | Subject |
| 1 | √ | √ | Trench 1, looking west, 2x 1m scale |
| 2 | √ | √ | Trench 1, section, looking south, 2x 1m scale |
| 3 | √ | √ | Trench 1, Brick feature [107], looking south, 1m scale |
| 4 | √ | √ | Trench 2, looking south, 2x 1m scale |
| 5 | √ | √ | Trench 2, section, looking east, 2x 1m scale |
| 6 | √ | √ | Trench 3, looking west, 2x 1m scale |
| 7 | √ | √ | Trench 3, section, looking north, 2x 1m scale |
| 8 | √ | √ | Trench 3, [304] pre-excavation, looking south, 2x 1m scale |
| 9 | √ | √ | Trench 3, [304] post-excavation, looking south, 2x 1m scale |
| 10 | √ | √ | Trench 4, looking west, 2x 1m scale |
| 11 | √ | √ | Trench 4, section, looking south, 2x 1m scale |
| 12 | | √ | General site shot |
| 13 | | √ | General site shot |
| 14 | | √ | General site shot |

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| Project Name: | The Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire | OASIS reference: | Archaeol2-128381 |
| Short Description: | During August 2012, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise, in advance of the redevelopment of the site. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. Two of the trenches were found to contain no archaeological finds or features. Post medieval features were identified within the remaining trenches, some of which were likely to be associated with the most recent incarnation of the Wheatsheaf pub. A further post medieval brick lined feature and possible boundary ditch were also identified, and may have been associated with an earlier version of the Wheatsheaf, which is known to have been demolished and re-built in the earlier 20 th century. | | |
| Project Type: | Evaluation | | |
| Previous work: (eg. SMR refs) | - | Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed) | None |
| Current land use: | Derelict ground | Future work: (yes/no/unknown) | No |
| Monument type: | - | Monument period: | - |
| Significant finds: (artefact type & period) | - | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | |
| County: | Bedfordshire | OS reference: (8 figs min) | SP 9477 3585 |
| Site address: (+ postcode if known) | The Wheatsheaf, Mount Pleasant, Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire | | |
| Study area: (sq. m. / ha) | c.1700 | Height OD: (metres) | c.103 |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | |
| Organisation: | Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd | | |
| Project brief originator: | M.Oake | Project design originator: | C.Rouse |
| Project Manager: | D.Fell | Director/Supervisor: | J.Hunn |
| Sponsor / funding body: | Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP | | |
| PROJECT DATE | | | |
| Start date: | 13/08/2012 | End date: | 14/08/2012 |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | | |
| | Location (Accession no.) | Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets) | |
| Physical: | Bedford Museum | - | |
| Paper: | | Archive box | |
| Digital: | | CD | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report) | | | |
| Title: | Archaeological Evaluation: The Wheatsheaf, Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire | | |
| Serial title & volume: | ASC Ltd Report ref. 1540/AGW/2 | | |
| Author(s): | Calli Rouse BA PIFA | | |
| Page nos | 1-24 | Date: | 20/08/2012 |