

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
121 AMPHILL ROAD
MAULDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0509 3802

on behalf of William Willoughby (Estates)



Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)

October 2012

ASC: 1567/MAR/2



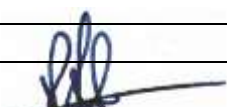
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	MAR	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1567
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeo12-134375	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2012.60
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Maulden		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Maulden		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0509 3802		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.175 sq m		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of two-storey, end of terrace dwelling		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/12/02094/FULL		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	22 nd October 2012		
<i>Client:</i>	William Willoughby (Estates) The Stables Northfield Farm Great Lane Clophill Beds MK45 4DD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Simon Jones		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Gareth Shane	<i>Date:</i>	25/10/12
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	25 Oct 2012

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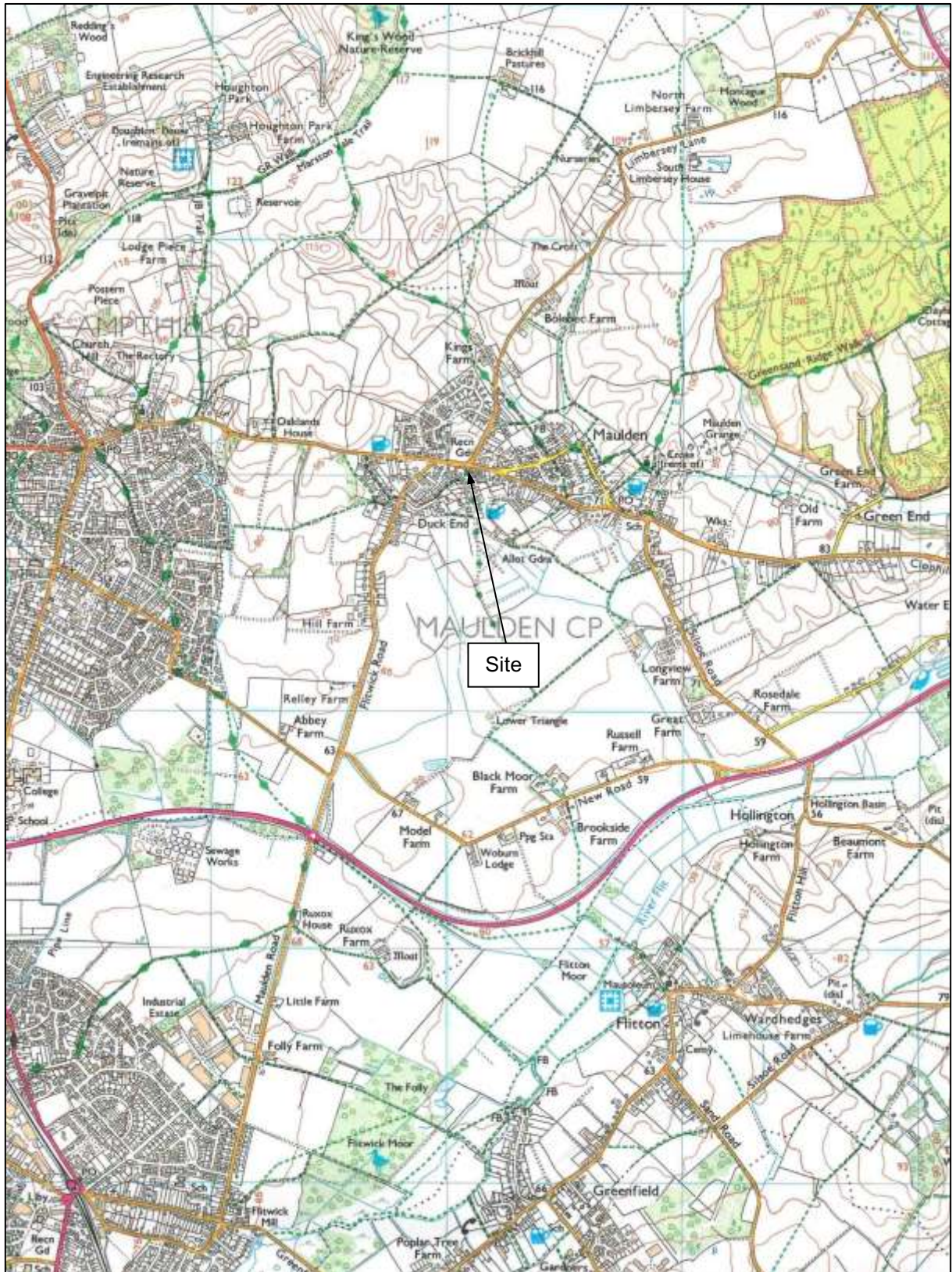


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In October 2012 an evaluation was undertaken at 121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. Two trial trenches were excavated within the footprint of a new terraced house. The trenches revealed a deep covering of made ground likely to have been deposited in the 1970s when the terraced housing was constructed. It appeared likely that ground levels were reduced for that development, removing any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed. Consequently the likely impact of the development on buried heritage assets is assessed as negligible.

1. Introduction

1.1 In October 2012 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation of 121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by William Willoughby (Estates), and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 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/12/02094/FULL.

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 evaluation site is located in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire, in the civil parish and village of Maulden, centred on NGR TL 0509 3802 (Fig. 1). 121 Ampthill Road lies near the present centre of the village, c.700m west of the parish church, on the south side of Ampthill Road, at its junction with Moor Lane, at the west end of a terrace of six cottages. The evaluation site comprises the west part of the property, occupying a roughly rectangular area of c.175 sq. m, bounded to the north by Ampthill Road, to the west by Moor Lane, and to the south by a footpath following the southern boundary of the terrace's gardens (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site is on level ground, at an elevation of c.76m AOD, overlooking the valley of the river Flit. Soils in the area of the site belong to the *Frilford Association* (Soil Survey 1983, 554a), described as 'Deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater. The underlying solid geology

is the Woburn Sands formation of the Lower Greensand Group (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.4.3 Development

The development comprises construction of a two-storey, end of terrace cottage, with associated parking and access (Fig. 3).

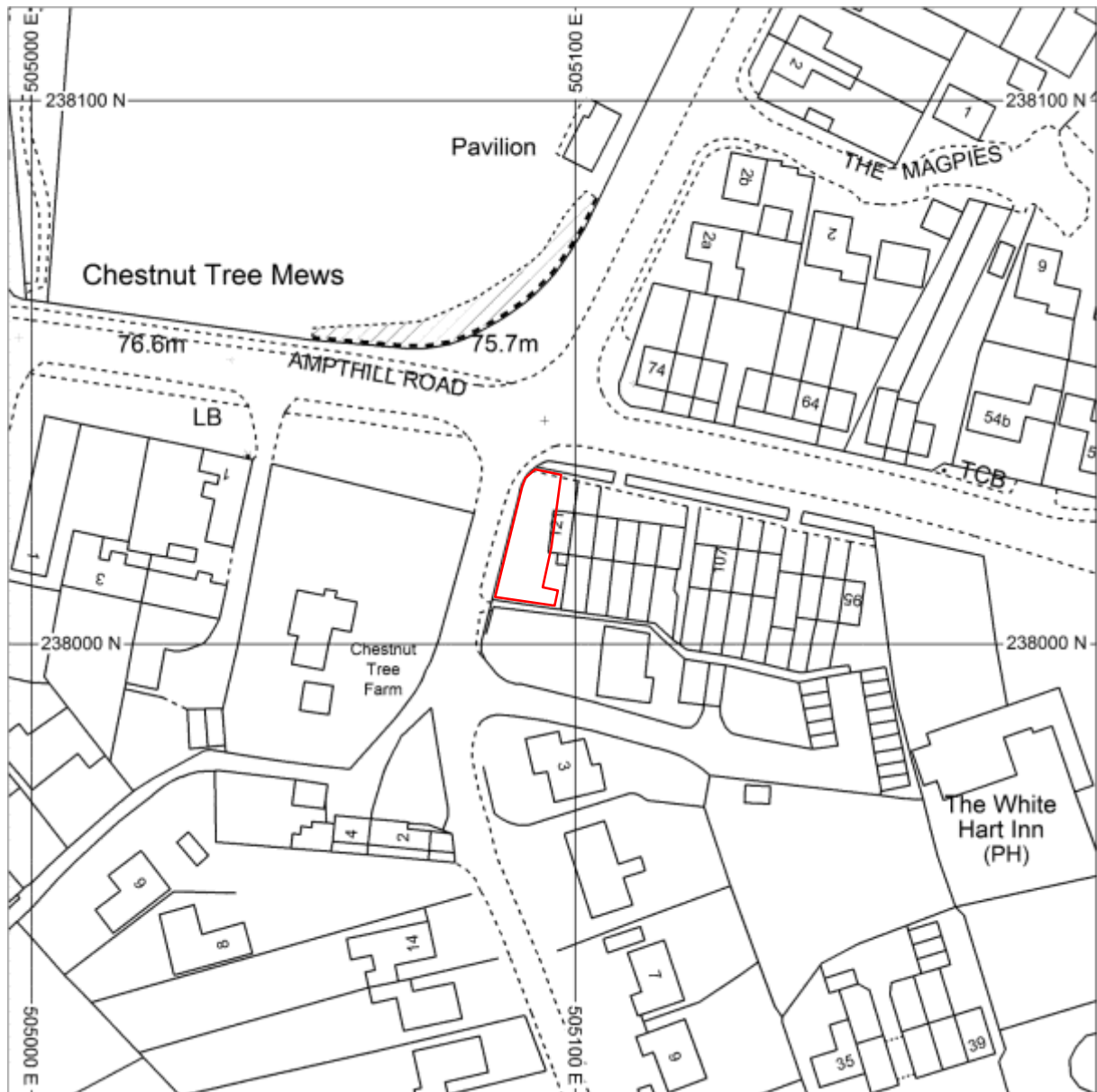


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

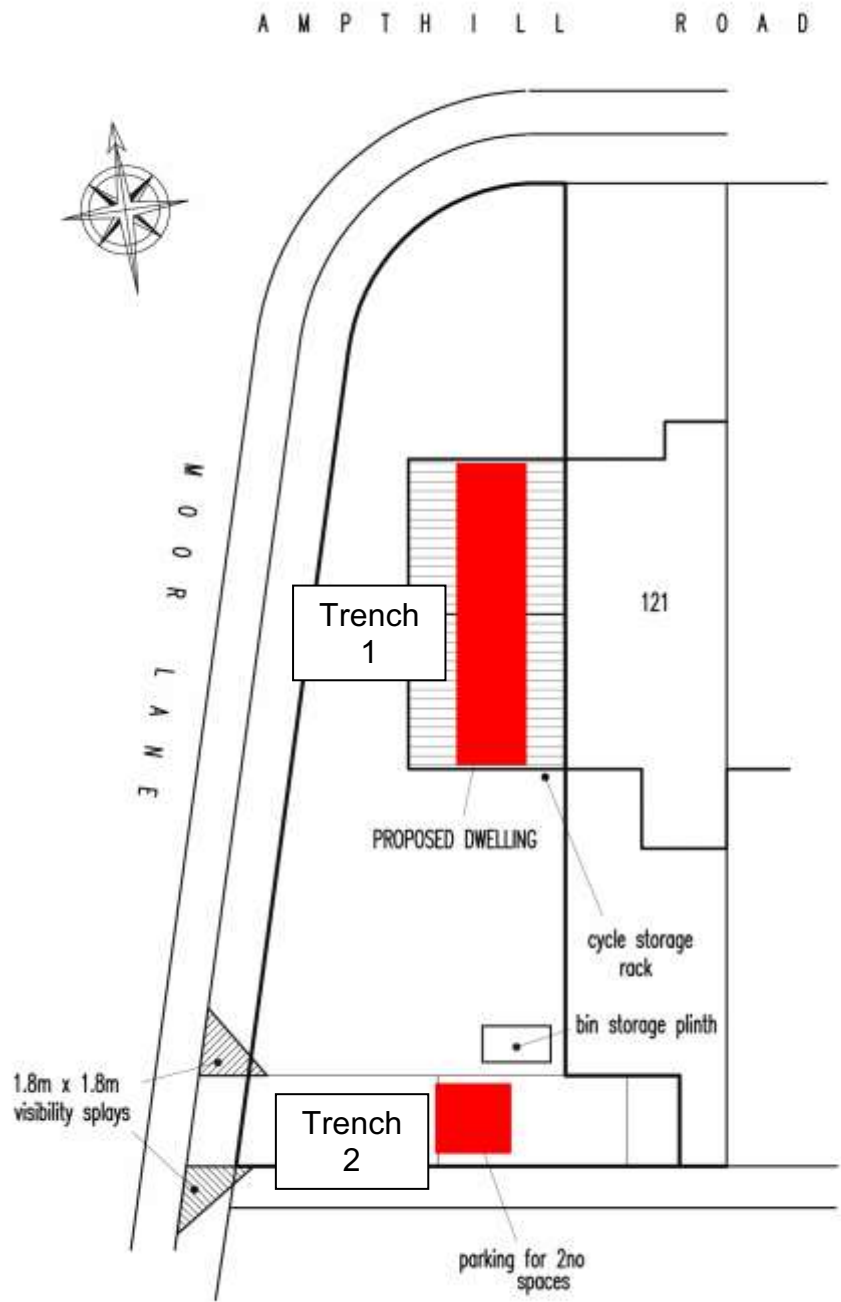


Figure 3: Development and trench plan (*scale 1:200*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- Investigating medieval settlement to examine settlement diversity and characterise rural settlement forms (Wade 2000, 24-25; Oake *et al* 2007, 14; Medlycott 2011, 70)
- As above, but for post-medieval settlement (Edgeworth *in* Oake *et al* 2007, 121-123)

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:

- Excavation of up to 30 sq. m. of trial trenches within the footprint of the cottage, parking and access areas. Trenches were a minimum width of 2m. Trench locations are shown in Fig. 3.

2.4 Constraints

Services were encountered close to the north end of trench 1 cutting the subsoil. There were no departures from the methodology outlined in the project design.

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.

3.2 ***Pre-Saxon*** (before 450BC)

The HER contains little information regarding pre-Saxon activity in the Maulden area. The nearest known focus of prehistoric and Roman activity is at Ruxox Farm, 2km south of Maulden, where fieldwalking has recovered quantities of struck flint, predominantly of Neolithic date (Fadden 1970). More recently, a single Neolithic blade was found during metal detecting in fields near Duck End, south of the site (HER 19386).

During the Roman period, the Maulden area fell within the *civitas* (tribal territory) of the *Catuvellauni*, with its capital at *Verulamium* (St Albans). Probably the nearest town was *Magiovinium*, adjacent to Fenny Stratford, 16km to the west of Maulden. The nearest Iron Age and Roman site of any significance to the site is at Ruxox Farm, where there was evidence of extensive settlement of both periods, a probable Roman villa, and a sacred site (Dawson 2004, 103 ff; Simco 1984, 28ff; HER0918). Simco also records the discovery in c.1798 of a Roman amphora, and other vessels probably associated with a cremation cemetery, from 'Maulden Marsh', probably between Ruxox and Maulden (*ibid*, 111; HER 0223).

3.3 ***Saxon & Medieval*** (c.450-1500)

The present settlement at Maulden is possibly of late Saxon origin. Maulden has five entries in the Domesday Survey (AD1086), and at the time there were two main land holdings. The largest was 5 hides in size and held by Elstow Abbey. This seems to have been located on land to the north and north-east of the church and included the enclosed demense lands. The second, amounting to 3 hides, was held by Hugh Bolebec, and was probably located around King's and Bolebec Farms. At least half of the parish was in arable cultivation at the time of the survey, with the rest forming meadow (towards the Flit) and woodland, some of which survives within Maulden Wood. At both ends of the modern village of Maulden traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks survive (HER 4445). The development site is located close to the western end of the historic core of the village of Maulden (HER 16995).

The site of Maulden Manor is thought to be closely connected with St Mary's Church (HER 1091, Grade II* Listed, 14th - 16th century) and an area of earthworks (HER 1178) to the immediate north. The possible moat (HER 4925) to the east of the Grange (HER 3773, Grade II 17th century) may also form part of this landscape. However, the earliest known cartographic record of it dates to the end of the 18th century and may represent a rectory moat, so this interpretation remains uncertain.

The development of the settlement pattern within the parish of Maulden seems to have been largely polyfocal in nature. The earliest area of occupation is likely to have radiated from the church, occupying the areas to the south and west and underlying

Ampthill Road, George Street and Church Road. Secondary areas of settlement comprised Duck End, Moor End and Water End, all of which overlook the river Flit. Green End and Hall End occupy the areas to the east of the parish below Maulden Wood.

Despite the likely date of settlement at Maulden, the HER records only a single find of medieval date, a copper alloy button found by a metal detectorist in fields near Duck End (HER 19385).

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

Maulden Manor remained the more dominant of the land holdings, and after the Dissolution it was briefly held by the Crown. In 1559 it passed to the Cary family. After 1615 it passed through various conveyances until 1635, when it was acquired by Earl Elgin of Houghton House. In 1738 it was bought by the Duke of Bedford, where it remained.

4. Results and Conclusions

4.1 General

Two trenches were excavated within the footprint of the development. The turf and topsoil were removed from trench 1 to reveal a thick layer of imported made ground covering what remained of the original subsoil. Natural ground was found below this at the base of the trench. Trench 2 displayed almost identical stratigraphy but contained more made ground and no subsoil or natural substratum. No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from either trench.

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

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 3: Plates 1 & 2)

The trench was north-south orientated, 7 metres long, 2 metres wide and located close to the existing terraced house. The stratigraphy comprised:

- 100** 0.00-0.24m Dark grey brown soft sandy silt. Turf and topsoil.
- 101** 0.24-0.71m Mid orange loose sand, on top of a thick layer of soft dark grey silty sand. Made ground.
- 102** 0.71-0.80m Mid brown orange loose. silt sand Subsoil.
- 104** 0.80m+ Mid brown orange soft sandy silt. Natural.

4.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 3: Plate 3)

This trench was located close to the southern boundary of the study area and measured 2 x 2m. The stratigraphy comprised:

- 100** 0.00-0.30m same as trench 1
- 101** 0.30-0.90m same as trench 1
- 103** 0.90-1.20m mid grey brown soft silt sand. Containing unfrogged bricks *c.* 19th century in redeposited sand. Made ground.

No natural was reached in this trench as excavation was stopped at 1.2m

4.4 Conclusions

The portion of the site evaluated consisted for the most part of made ground. This material is likely to have been deposited on the site around the time of construction of the terraced housing in the mid 1970's. The original land surface of the site has been lost, as demonstrated by the height difference in Moor Lane. The subsoil close to the base of trench 1 was 71cm below the present ground level gives some indication of the extent to which original soil horizons have been removed. Consequently any archaeological features that may have been present on the site prior to construction of the terraced housing are likely to have been removed.

4.5 Confidence Rating

The evaluation was carried out in fair weather with good light conditions, and full cooperation was received from client and machining contractor. Accordingly a high confidence rating is attached to the results of this evaluation.

5. Heritage Asset Assessment

5.1 *Heritage Assets and their Significance*

No archaeological features were located in the evaluated portions of the site.

5.2 *Impact of the Development*

The development is unlikely to significantly impact buried heritage assets

5.3 *Archaeology in the Planning Process*

Any decisions regarding the level and nature of any further archaeological mitigation will be made by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy



Plate 3: Trench 2

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Simon Jones of William Willoughby (estates). The writer is grateful to Simon Jones for his assistance. The project was monitored by *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 Mo Muldowney BA PlfA and Gareth Shane BSc (Hons). The report was prepared by Gareth Shane 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. List of photographs
7. B/W prints & negatives
8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).

IFA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

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 2009*).

Zeepvat B 2012 121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Evaluation. ASC doc ref 1567/MAR/2

Secondary Sources

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.

Brown N & Glazebrook J (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2: Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8

Dawson M 2004 *Archaeology in the Bedford Region*. Bedfordshire Archaeol. Monograph 4 / BAR British Series 373 (Oxford).

Fadden K 1970 'Ruxox Farm, Maulden. 1 The Prehistoric Finds', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 5, 1-4.


Medlycott M 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24.


Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M & Murphy P 2007 *Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.

Simco A 1985 *Survey of Bedfordshire: the Roman Period*. Beds CC / RCHM.

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	7m	Width	2m	Depth	0.8m
		Trench top N end			75.17m OD		
		Trench base N end			74.36m OD		
		Trench top S end			75.06m OD		
		Trench base S end			74.18m OD		
		NGR Co-ordinates					
		N	TL05094 38024		S	TL 05096 38017	
Orientation:			N-S				
Reason for Trench:			Evaluation				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown soft sandy silt. Topsoil			2000	240	000
101	Layer	Mid orange sand loose, on top of Dark grey silty sand soft imported material. All made ground			2000	470	240
102	Laver	Mid orange brown silty sand loose. Subsoil.			2000	90	710

Trench 2							
		Max Dimensions (m)					
		Length	2m	Width	2m	Depth	1.2m
		Trench top N end			75.17m OD		
		Trench base N end			74.36m OD		
		Trench top S end			75.06m OD		
		Trench base S end			74.18m OD		
		NGR Co-ordinates					
CENTRE		TL 05090 38010					
Orientation:				N-S			
Reason for Trench:			Evaluation				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown soft sandy silt. Topsoil			2000	300	000
101	Layer	Mid orange sand loose, on top of Dark grey silty sand soft imported material. All made ground			2000	600	240
103	Layer	Mid grey brown silty sand soft. Made ground.			2000	300	900

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Maulden			SITE NO/CODE: 1567/MAR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench 1 looking south
2		✓	Trench 1 stratigraphy shot
3		✓	Trench 1 stratigraphy shot
4		✓	Trench 1 stratigraphy shot
5	✓	✓	Trench 2 looking south
6		✓	General site shot
7		✓	General site shot

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	121 Ampthill Road, Maulden	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-134375
Short Description:	In October 2012 an evaluation was undertaken at 121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire. Two trial trenches were excavated within the footprint of a new terraced house. The trenches revealed a deep covering of made ground likely to have been deposited in the 1970s when the terraced housing was constructed. It appeared likely that ground levels were reduced for that development, removing any archaeological features or deposits that may have been present. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed. Consequently the likely impact of the development on buried heritage assets is assessed as negligible.		
Project Type:	Evaluation		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Private garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0509 3802
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	20sq.m.	Height OD: (metres)	76 AOD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Firth, H 2012	Project design originator:	Zeepvat, B 2012
Project Manager:	David Fell MA MIfA	Director/Supervisor:	Mo Muldowney BA PlfA
Sponsor / funding body:	William Willoughby (estates)		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	22/10/12	End date:	22/10/12
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum	None	
Paper:		Report, site records, plans etc	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation, 121 Ampthill Road, Maulden, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1567/MAR/2		
Author(s):	Gareth Shane BSc (Hons)		
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