

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP, SAMPLE
EXCAVATIONS AND PHASE 1 AND 2 TRENCHING:
LAND OFF DRAYTON ROAD
NEWTON LEYS
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

NGR: SP 8697 3096

on behalf of Bovis Homes Ltd



Alastair Hancock BSc PGDip MifA
& Mo Muldowney BA AifA

June 2013

ASC: 1582/NLD/4




Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	NLD	<i>ASC project no:</i>	1582
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-137941	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	AYBCM2013.60
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Newton Leys		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Stoke Hammond		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 8697 3096		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.14 hectares		
<i>Present use:</i>	Arable		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Residential development		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale District Council		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	10/01535/AOP		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	December 2012 to May 2013		
<i>Client:</i>	Bovis Homes Ltd (Central Region)		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Chris O'Connor		

Internal Quality Check

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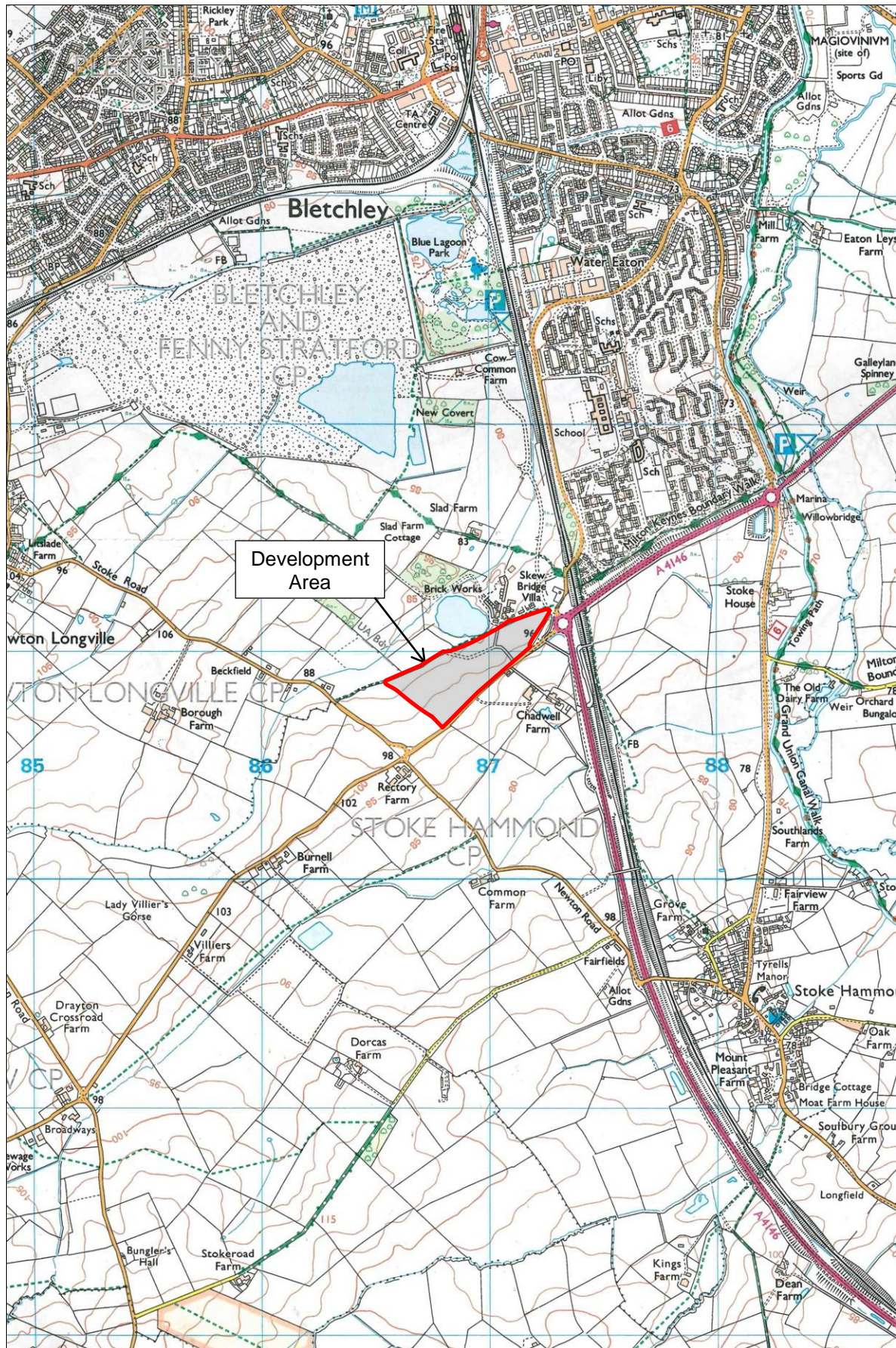


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

During late 2012 and early 2013 a phased programme of archaeological investigation, comprising strip, map, sample excavations (SMS) and evaluation trenching, was carried out at land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Buckinghamshire. A large assemblage of struck flint, interpreted as locating significant Neolithic or Bronze Age activity, was recovered during fieldwalking of the area in 1995. However, archaeological features of these periods were not identified during the SMS or trenching and a total of only three residual flint artefacts were recovered.

The results of the SMS and trenching were otherwise consistent with recent archaeological investigations completed at, or near, the site. The earliest identified evidence comprised dispersed and truncated ditch segments defining remnants of part of the field system of a middle Iron Age settlement excavated slightly to the north. The site then appears to have been little used until it was incorporated into the medieval open field system of Newton Longville and it has since seen continuous agricultural use.

1. Introduction

1.1 In December 2012 through to May 2013 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out strip, map sample excavations and evaluation trenching at the western part of a development area known as Land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Buckinghamshire. The project was commissioned by Bovis Homes Ltd, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Muldowney & Rouse 2013), which was approved by *Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Service* (BCAS), archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council* (AVDC). The relevant planning application reference is 12/01959/AOP.

1.2 *Planning Background*

The work 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 development area comprises a triangular parcel of previously arable land located within the Buckinghamshire district of Aylesbury Vale and the parish of Stoke Hammond, centred on NGR SP 8697 3096 (Fig. 1). The area is positioned midway between the villages of Stoke Hammond and Newton Longville; its southern boundary is delimited by Drayton Road and the south west is bounded by a hedgerow separating it from arable land. The northwest

limit comprises the boundary between the planning authorities of Aylesbury Vale and Milton Keynes; recently completed phases of residential development lie immediately to the north.

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the site belong to the Hanslope Association, which are characterised as *slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion over chalky till* (Soil Survey 1983, 411d). The underlying geology comprises a combination of Quaternary glacial sand and gravel; and Quaternary till (BGS, Sheet 220). The southern part of the site adjacent to Drayton Road is relatively flat but the northern half of the site gradually descends from c.90m AOD to c.85m AOD.

1.4.3 *The Development*

The site will be subject to phased development by *Bovis Homes Ltd* at the west and *Taylor Wimpey Ltd* at the east. The development comprises construction of housing, associated infrastructure and landscaping. Construction commenced at the west of the site in early 2013 and two major phases of built development are planned here. This report sets out results of phased archaeological fieldwork completed at the western part of the development area (hereafter “site”). A third and final phase of trenching and a strip, map, sample excavation is yet to be completed at the east of the development area

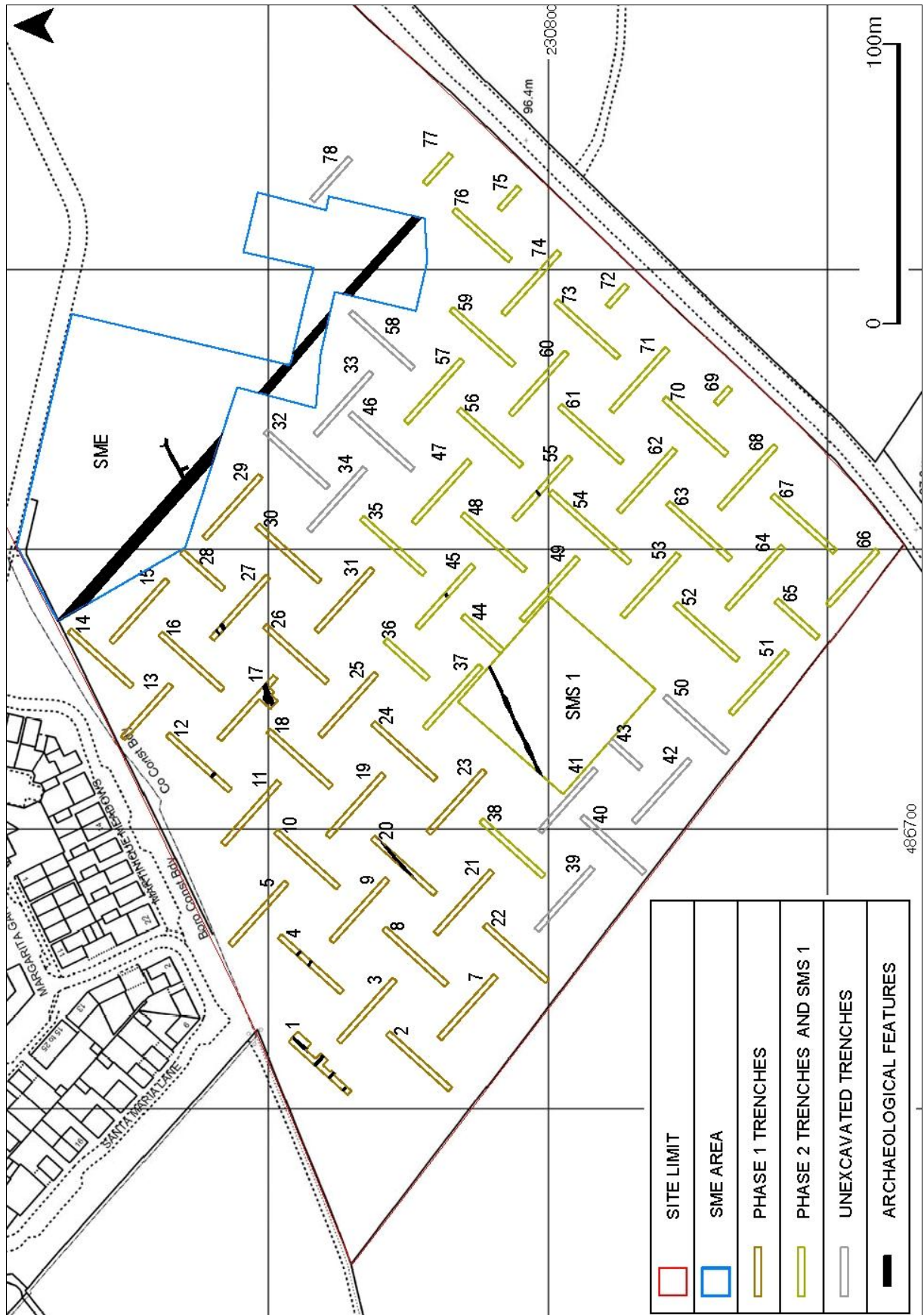


Figure 2: Location of strip, map, sample areas and trenches (scale 1:2000)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Rouse and Muldowney 2013), the aim of the evaluation was to advance understanding of the historic environment at a local and regional scale, with particular reference to research agendas for the East Midlands (Cooper 2006 and update Knight et al. 2012), the Solent-Thames area (Oxford & Wessex Archaeology 2010) and Buckinghamshire (Thorpe 2009). In light of the presence of a mid Iron Age settlement slightly to the north of the site and the presence of a Late Neolithic to Bronze Age flint scatter within it, the specific objectives of the work were to:

- establish the chronology, layout, development, and economic function of any identifiable field system(s)/droveways and associated features representing crop processing or storage areas.
- establish the chronology and character of any activities such as dispersed settlement or burial associated with the field system.
- assess the potential of environmental sampling to investigate the economy and environmental setting of the nearby Iron Age settlement and implement an appropriate strategy
- establish the presence or absence of features associated with the Neolithic – Bronze Age lithic scatter to compare the buried ground surface and its assemblage with material acquired from the fieldwalking.
- interpret the results of the project within the context of current knowledge and research on the late Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods within the region, specifically how the settlement and field system characteristics compare with other settlements recorded in the area
- disseminate results through deposition of an ordered archive with Buckinghamshire County Museum, the deposition of a detailed report with the County Historic Environment Record, and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results.

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 English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991, EH 2006, EH 2011), to period specific guidelines, such as those for handling Post-Roman Ceramics produced by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski, Nenck & Pearce, 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The strip, map sample excavation and trenching was completed in three stages; all work was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the project design which is summarised as:

SME (Show Home Strip, Map, Sample Excavation)

- a strip, map, sample excavation (SME) of c.8095sq m located at an area designated for show homes, a haul road and a site compound.

Phases 1 and 2

- trenched evaluation comprising an 8% sample of the part of the lithic scatter located within the Bovis Homes development area. This equated to seventy eight 30m x 2m trenches (Fig. 3). One of the trenches (T20) targeted a geophysical anomaly to determine its origin.
- a second strip, map, sample excavation (SMS1) comprising one 50m by 50m square located at the highest density of field walked flint (Fig. 3).

2.4 **Constraints**

SME (Show Home Strip, Map, Sample Excavation)

No constraints were encountered during the SME stage, although prolonged rain, snow and the low winter sun may have hampered identification of archaeological features.

Phase 1

Three trenches were either shortened or moved from their proposed position due to obstacles such as hedges, existing spoil heaps and construction equipment.

Phase 2

Five trenches located at the north-east were not excavated as development work at the show home area had encroached into the Phase 2 area. A further six trenches were not excavated at the south-western margin as they lay within 30m of an active badger sett.

All unexcavated trenches are shown on the trench plan in grey (Fig. 2).

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the 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 although the focus is likely to lie in the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. This section has been compiled with information from the Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), the Milton Keynes Council Historic Environment Record (MKHER) and other readily available sources, including ASC's own library.

3.2 *Earlier Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Fieldwalking (BCMAS 1995) has identified two concentrations of flint artefacts at or near the site. One was located north east of the site limits (HER613701002), but the other is focussed at the site. The diagnostic element of this lithic assemblage has been interpreted as identifying significant late Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, perhaps settlement (HER0613701001). Geophysical survey has been completed at the site relatively recently; a possible ring ditch (HER613701003) was identified at the east and a small rectilinear magnetic anomaly, possibly locating an infilled ditch, at the west. Intensive settlement activity was not evident in the geophysics data, but widespread linear magnetic anomalies characteristic of medieval ridge and furrow were present and could mask weaker magnetic responses of archaeological features dating to earlier periods (Walker 2010).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

A Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement has been excavated c.0.2km to the northwest of the site (HER613704000). Ditches interpreted as "land boundaries" extended southward from the settlement toward the site and field boundary ditches of this date have also been excavated at the development access road, which crosses the site (HER613704001). The settlement seems to have been relatively short lived, existing for 3-6 generations, and comprising 2-3 roundhouses and associated enclosures at any one time (Brown 2012). The settlement is interpreted as having expanded alongside the Eaton Brook, a watercourse located immediately to its north until its sudden demise, perhaps consequent to extensive flooding. By the Late Iron Age the area of former settlement had reverted to marsh land (*ibid*).

The landscape surrounding the site appears to have been subject to extensive clearance of woodland by the middle to late Iron Age, and many areas had probably been cleared earlier (Kidd 2009). Environmental evidence from nearby early-mid Iron Age sites has confirmed that the landscape was predominantly open grassland with small farmsteads, perhaps operating a mixed agrarian economy (Brown 2012, Edgeworth 2006, Zeepvat 1991). However, it has been suggested that Iron Age activity in the Ouzel valley may have had a largely pastoral focus (Kidd 2009, 41). The hillfort of Danesborough lies 4.5km ENE of the excavation; it is one of a limited number of Iron Age sites in the region that could be interpreted as a proto-urban centre.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period, the site lay 3km south east of the small Roman town of *Magiovinium*, which was located at the river Ouzel crossing point of the Roman road

now known as Watling Street. The local landscape remained largely open and in mixed agricultural use: the principal change being the establishment of villa estates, notably along the Ouse valley to the north of Milton Keynes (Radford & Zeepvat 2007). To date villas have not been found in the Ouzel valley, though many agricultural settlements have been examined, *e.g.* to the north east at Fenny Lock (Ford *et al* 2001) and to the south east at the Three Locks golf course (Ford *et al* 2000). The site may have seen little use during this period (Brown 2012); with the exception of infrequent isolated findspots, perhaps the nearest recorded evidence of the period is located *c.*1km to the south east; it comprises an enclosure or building identified through aerial photography and by sherds of late prehistoric and Roman pottery recovered during fieldwalking (HER05608).

3.5 **Anglo-Saxon** (c.450-1066)

Early Anglo-Saxon settlement was often dispersed, periodically shifted location or focus and usually had no continuity with settlement of the earlier period (Hamerow 2002, 121). There is no evidence for activity of this period in the immediate vicinity of the site. The closest early Saxon settlements have been identified at Caldecotte (Zeepvat *et al* 1994), Fenny Lock (Ford *et al* 2001) and Brooklands (Oxford Archaeology, in prep). The mid Anglo Saxon period saw the establishment of longer lived settlements; the nearest recorded evidence is located *c.*1.3km to the north east of the site where excavation identified parts of two enclosures and an appended field system of mid Saxon date (Hancock 2010). The focus of settlement often shifted during the late Saxon period and the historic core of many existing English villages may have been established at this time.

3.6 **Medieval** (1066-1500)

Prior to the Norman conquest Stoke Hammond was held by eight thegns. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records it as 10 hides and at this time it was held by Manno the Breton. Stoke Hammond appears on a document of the 11th century as *Stoches*: the suffix *Hammond* first appears in the 13th century, deriving from *Hamon*, son of Meinfelin, who held the manor in the 12th century (Page 1927, 471). The manor was subsequently held by a number of families until ownership passed to the crown in the 16th century. Stoke Hammond was retained by the Crown until 1607, when it was granted to Robert, Earl of Salisbury. In the latter part of the 17th century the manor was broken up (Page 1927, 471-475).

The development plot lies *c.*2km to the north west of the village of Stoke Hammond close to the north and east boundaries of the parish. Only occasional isolated findspots (*e.g.* HER31413) of medieval artefacts are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. The ridge and furrow identified by the geophysical survey shows that the site formed part of the open field system of the village during the medieval period.

3.7 **Post-Medieval - Modern** (1500-1900)

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 shows the site as enclosed farmland. A farm complex is shown *c.*0.8km to the north west of the development site on early mapping (HER06994) and it is possible that the site fell within the curtilage of this farm.

4. Results

4.1 *General*

The strip, map, sample excavations and evaluation trenching identified seventeen dispersed ditch segments, including parts of two post medieval field boundaries, and four, or perhaps five, shallow pits (Fig. 3). The majority of features had been truncated by widespread medieval furrows and all were truncated by modern ploughing. All features cut the natural deposit (101), which varied in composition and colour across the examined area, changing from patches of grey yellow and reddish brown clay to brownish red silt with flint gravel. The natural was directly overlain by a c.0.3m thick mid grey brown modern plough soil (100), which deepened slightly at the northwest (downslope) part of the site.

Detailed information regarding trial trenches containing archaeological features appears in Appendix 1.

4.2 *SME: Show Home Strip, Map and Sample Excavation*

Two south-west to north-east aligned intercutting ditches and two, or perhaps three, intercutting pits were identified at the northwest of the stripped area. The ditches [005 and 007] had u-shaped profiles and both contained two clay fills. A struck flint flake and one piece of undiagnostic fired clay were recovered from primary fill (006) of ditch [007]; and a small piece of undiagnostic heat affected clay was recovered from primary fill (004) of ditch [005].

An additional section was excavated 10m to the west and only one ditch [010] was present here. Two small sherds of probable middle Iron Age pottery with a hard sandy fabric were recovered from the single fill (011) of the ditch (Plate 1). The southern side of the ditch cut the latest pit [017] of two, or perhaps three, shallow intercutting pits [012, 017 and 019] (Fig. 4: S.3). The pits had a maximum depth of 0.3m and all contained clay fills including occasional flecks of comminuted charcoal (plate 2). The primary fill of the earliest pit (012) comprised a thin deposit of burnt stones. Dateable finds were not recovered from the pit fills.

The ditches and pits were sealed by a 0.22m thick layer of colluvium 002. A north-south aligned undated gully [009] cut the colluvium and must post-date the ditches and pits. Also identified were medieval furrows and a broad post medieval field boundary ditch with a ceramic drain at its base (Plate 3).

4.3 *Phase 1 Trenching*

Parts of eleven ditches and two pits were identified in trenches 1, 4, 12, 17, 20 and 27.

4.3.1 *Trench 1*

Four ditches, one oriented north-east to south-west [117], and the others [112, 118 and 120] oriented north-west to south-east, were identified at this trench.

Ditch 117 was 1.26m wide and 0.42m deep with a slightly irregular concave profile. Vertical sided and flat bottomed ditches 118 and 120 were respectively 0.75m and 0.95m wide by no more than 0.30m deep, each ditch contained a single undated clay fill. Ditch 112 (Fig. 4: S.15) was 1m wide by 0.42m deep with a u-shaped profile containing two clay fills. Fragments of peg tile, a rim

sherd of early Roman pottery, a small piece of burnt, or perhaps cremated, bone and a residual struck flint flake were recovered from its upper fill (110).

4.3.2 *Trench 4*

Two north-west to south-east aligned ditches [130 and 133] crossed the northeast half of the trench. Ditch [130] (Fig. 4: S.28) was 0.64m wide with a 0.34m deep concave profile which contained two clay fills. Ditch [133] (Fig. 4: S.29) was 0.75m wide and 0.28m deep with near-vertical sides and a flat base; it contained a single silty fill (134).

4.3.3 *Trench 12*

A single north-west to south-east oriented ditch [113] ran across Trench 12. It was just over 1m wide by 0.40m deep and had steep sides breaking sharply to a relatively flat base (Fig. 4: S.17; Plate 4). The single fill (114) of the ditch was mid brown grey silty clay from which seventeen sherds of a middle Iron Age vessel were recovered. This ditch approximates the alignment and may identify a continuation of excavated middle Iron Age ditch 10431 of enclosure E1 (Brown 2012).

4.3.4 *Trench 17*

One ditch and two pits were identified at the south-east end of Trench 17 (Fig. 4: S.23; Plate 5). The earliest feature was a sub-rectangular pit [125] with a u-shaped profile. Pit [125] was subsequently cut by sub-oval pit [123], which had gently sloping sides breaking gradually to a relatively flat base. Each pit contained a single undated clay fill.

Ditch [108] cut the southern side of pit [123] and was oriented west-south-west to east-north-east. The ditch was 1.74m wide by 0.62m deep with steep sides and concave base, which contained two clay fills. Finds were not recovered from the pit or ditch fills. Trench 17 was extended to the west to determine whether ditch [108] returned to align with middle Iron Age ditch [113] at Trench 12, but it did not do so.

4.3.5 *Trench 20*

Trench 20 targeted an L-shaped geophysical anomaly tentatively interpreted as originating from a relatively recent drainage feature (Walker 2010). A south-west to north-east aligned ditch [128] was identified at the position of the geophysical anomaly. The ditch was 0.86m wide with a 0.34m deep concave profile, which contained a single undated silty fill (Fig. 4: S.26).

4.3.6 *Trench 27*

Two parallel ditches were located at the north-west end of the trench. Ditch [102] had a 0.58m wide by 0.20m deep u-shaped profile containing a single undated silty fill. Ditch 104 had a 1.4m wide by 0.68m deep with a steep sided and flat based profile. One small abraded sherd of organic tempered middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper (106) of its two clayey fills.

4.4 *Phase 2 Trenching and SMS1*

Parts of two ditches were identified; one ran across the north of the SMS1 area and into Trench 45 and the other was present in Trench 55.

4.4.1 *SMS Area 1 and Trench 45*

A west-south-west to east-north-east aligned ditch [140] was identified at the north of the SMS area. The ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.60m deep with broad v-shaped sides and a u-shaped slot at its base (Fig. 4: S.32; Plate 6). The ditch cut the medieval furrows and two stem fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from its single clay fill. A further part of this ditch was identified at Trench 45, although this segment was not investigated.

4.4.2 *Trench 55*

Ditch 138 was located 12m from the north-east end of the trench and was oriented north-east to south-west. It was 0.60m wide and 0.18m deep with a shallow concave profile. The single fill (137) of the ditch contained four small sherds of middle Iron Age pottery and an incomplete Bronze Age flint arrowhead.

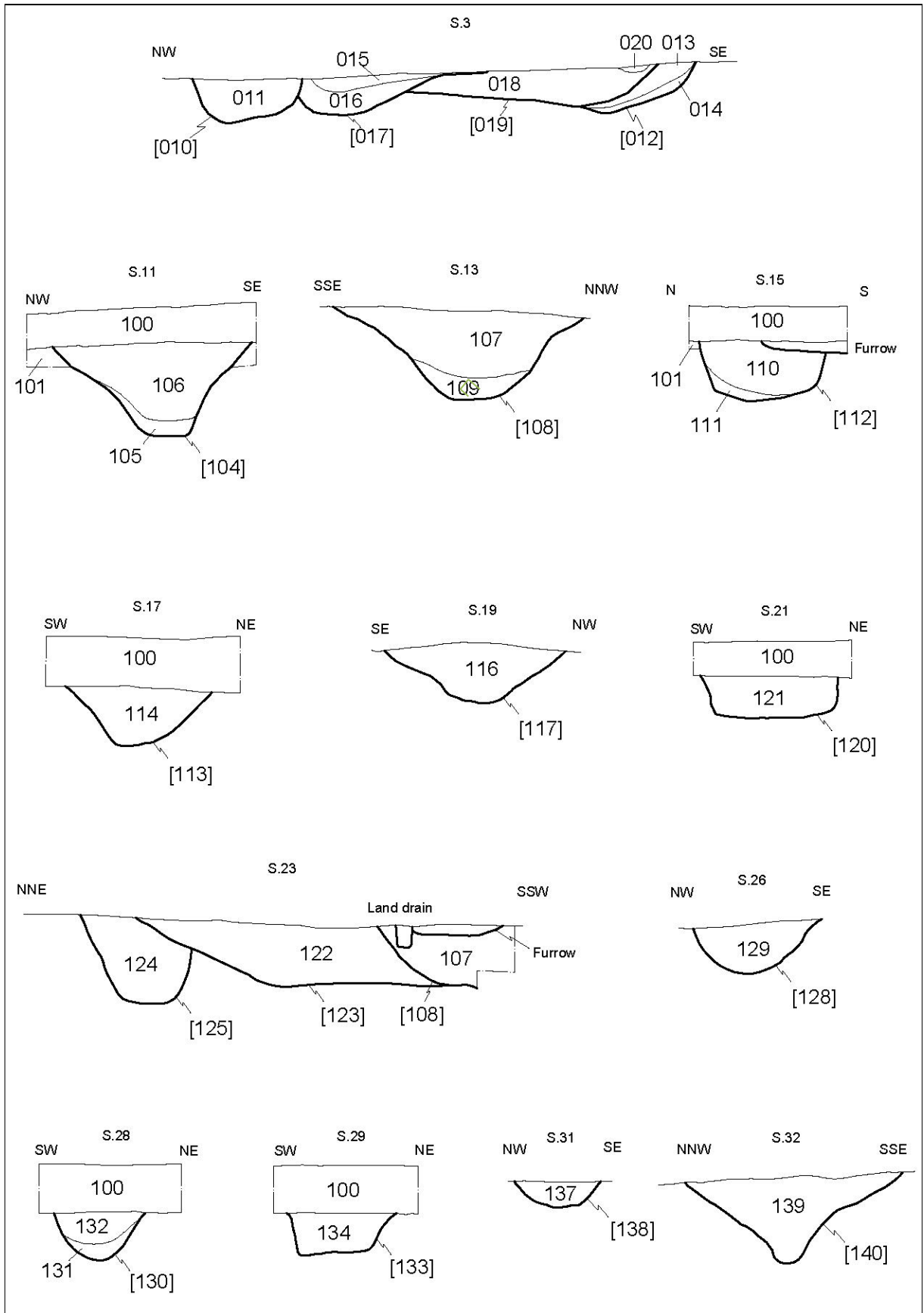


Figure 4: Selected sections (scale 1:40)



Plate 1: SME; Ditch 010, facing ENE



Plate 2: SME; Pits 012, 017, 019, facing ENE



Plate 3: SME; Post medieval enclosure ditch, facing NW



Plate 4: Phase 1; Ditch 113, facing north-west



Plate 5: Phase 1; Pits 123, 125 and Ditch 108, facing SE



Plate 6: SMS1; Post Medieval enclosure ditch, facing NE

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 One of the objectives of ASC's work was to determine the presence or absence of remains associated with a concentration of Neolithic – Bronze Age worked flints recovered during an earlier programme of fieldwalking. Very little evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity was identified; no cut features were present and a total of only three struck flints was recovered as residual material incorporated into the fills of later ditches.
- 5.2 The disparity in the number of struck flints recovered during the different phases of archaeological investigation is puzzling; it could suggest that the fieldwalked flint scatter locates a prehistoric site which has been comprehensively ploughed out, or one which has a focus beyond the site boundary. Alternatively the flint scatter could identify recurring, brief visits which left no other trace.
- 5.3 The trenching also tested results of an earlier geophysical survey (Walker 2010) in order to determine if magnetic anomalies originating from furrows of a medieval open field system had masked archaeological features of earlier periods.
- 5.4 Sixteen ditch segments and four or five shallow pits were present which were not evident in the geophysics results. It does seem probable that some of these features were masked as their alignment was coincident with the medieval furrows. However, it is also likely that the majority of the features result from relatively short lived agricultural activity of a type that caused little magnetic contrast between the fill of the features and the surrounding soils and sediments.
- 5.5 The densest concentration of ditches and all of the pits were located at the northern and lower lying part of the site nearest to the excavated middle Iron Age settlement. The truncation by medieval furrows, the paucity of recovered finds and environmental evidence, the alignment of the ditches and the absence of strong magnetic anomalies indicate that many of the ditches may locate boundaries of a rectilinear field system extending at least 100m south of the middle Iron Age settlement.
- 5.6 The earliest securely dated feature comprised ditch 113 which is contemporary with the middle Iron Age settlement excavated 200m to the north. The position and alignment of ditch 113 suggests that it is a continuation of excavated E1 "enclosure" ditch 10431 (Brown 2012).
- 5.7 Two groups of shallow intercutting pits were cut by ditches tentatively attributed to the middle Iron Age field system. None of the pits was dated by finds and none contained deposits suitable for environmental sampling or scientific dating. The pits may identify Iron Age activity slightly earlier than formal establishment of the field system.
- 5.8 Recovery of a single residual sherd of early Roman pottery from post medieval ditch 112 is consistent with the conclusion of the excavation, which was that the area immediately to the north was marginal, marshy, land and that much of the site may have seen little use during this period.

- 5.9 The widespread presence of broad (up to 4m wide) approximately NW-SE aligned furrows is also consistent with the results of the excavation (Brown 2012) and illustrates that the site lay within an open field system during the medieval period.
- 5.10 The latest features were two ditches which identify post medieval enclosure of the earlier open fields. A large NW-SE aligned ditch in the SME area contained a ceramic drain at its base and fragments of ceramic drain were recovered from the fill. At SMS1, WNW-ESE aligned ditch [140] cut the medieval furrows and fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from its fill.
- 5.11 *Confidence Rating*
Confidence in the results of the project is moderate as weather conditions were poor and the fills of the often truncated features were frequently difficult to distinguish from the natural deposit.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Chris O'Connor of Bovis Homes Ltd. The project was monitored by Sandy Kidd and Bill Boismier (BCCAS) on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip MifA. Fieldwork was carried out by Ralph Brown BA, Martin Cuthbert BA AIfA and Mo Muldowney BA AIfA. Finds and environmental samples were processed and quantified by Janice McLeish BA. The report was prepared by Mo Muldowney and edited by Alastair Hancock.

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. Sample records
9. Site record drawings
10. List of photographs
11. B/W prints & negatives
12. Original specialist reports and supporting information
13. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

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Appendix 1: Trenches with Excavated Archaeological Features

Trench 1							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
110	Fill	Mid blue grey silty clay. Upper fill of ditch			-	380	300
111	Fill	Mid grey yellow silty clay. Lower fill of ditch			-	100	680
112	Cut	Linear cut with near vertical sides and rounded base. Ditch			900	400	300
116	Fill	Mid brown grey silty clay. Fill of ditch			-	420	300
117	Cut	Linear cut with U-shaped profile. Ditch			1260	420	300
118	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and flat base. Ditch			750	240	300
119	Fill	Mid brown grey clay silt. Fill of ditch			-	240	300
120	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and flat base			950	300	300
121	Fill	Mid brown grey clay silt. Fill of ditch			-	300	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 4							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
130	Cut	Linear cut with concave sides and base. Ditch			630	340	300
131	Fill	Mid orange grey silty clay. Lower fill of ditch			-	120	520
132	Fill	Mid yellow grey clay silt. Upper fill of ditch			-	220	300
133	Cut	Linear cut with near vertical sides and flat base. Ditch			750	280	300
134	Fill	Mid yellow grey clay silt. Fill of ditch			-	280	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 12							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300
113	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and concave base. Ditch			1004	400	300
114	Fill	Mid brown grey clay silt. Fill of ditch			-	400	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 17							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
107	Fill	Orange brown silty clay. Upper fill of ditch			-	460	300
108	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and concave base. Ditch			1740	620	300
109	Fill	Dark yellow grey silty clay. Lower fill of ditch			-	160	760
122	Fill	Light brown grey silty clay. Fill of pit			-	440	300
123	Cut	Sub oval, steep sided, flat-based cut. Pit			1950	440	300
124	Fill	Light brown grey silty clay. Fill of pit			-	580	300
125	Cut	Sub oval, steep sided, flat-based cut. Pit			680	580	300
126	Fill	Blue grey silty clay. Upper fill of ditch			-	-	300
127	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides. Ditch			-	-	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 20							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
128	Cut	Linear cut with concave sides and base. Ditch			860	340	300
129	Fill	Mid brown grey clay silt			-	340	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 27							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
102	Cut	Linear cut with concave sides and base. Ditch			580	200	300
103	Fill	Mid yellow grey clay silt. Fill of ditch			-	200	300
104	Cut	Linear cut with convex sides and flat base. Ditch			1400	680	300
105	Fill	Mid grey orange silty clay. Fill of ditch			-	680	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Trench 55							
Max Dimensions (m)		Length	30m	Width	1.8m	Depth	0.3m
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
100	Layer	Dark grey brown ploughsoil			-	300	0
137	Fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Ditch			-	180	300
138	Cut	Linear cut with steep sides and a concave base			600	180	300
101	Layer	Variable reddish orange to yellowish brown clays. Natural			-	-	300

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Buckinghamshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1582/NLD
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	SME Post-medieval field boundary with drain, facing south-west
2	✓	✓	SME As above
3	✓	✓	SME Narrow furrow at south of area, facing south-west
4	✓	✓	SME Ditches 005 and 007, facing north-west
5	✓	✓	SME Gully 009, facing north-east
6	✓	✓	SME Ditches 005 and 007, facing south-east
7	✓	✓	SME Pits 012 and 019, facing south-east
8	✓	✓	SME Ditch 010 and pit 017, facing south-east
9	✓	✓	SME View along ditch 010=005/007, facing east
10		✓	Phase 1 Trench 14
11		✓	Phase 1 Trench 16
12		✓	Phase 1 Trench 15
13		✓	Phase 1 Trench 28
14		✓	Phase 1 Trench 32
15		✓	Phase 1 Trench 31
16		✓	Phase 1 Trench 26
17		✓	Phase 1 Trench 17
18		✓	Phase 1 Trench 30
19	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 27 ditch 102, facing north-east
20	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 27 ditch 104, facing north-east
21		✓	Phase 1 General shot, facing east
22		✓	Phase 1 General shot, facing south-east
23		✓	Phase 1 Trench 9
24	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 17 ditch 108, facing north-west
25	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 17 ditch 108, facing north-west
26		✓	Phase 1 Trench 27
27	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 1 ditch 112, facing south-west
28	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 12 ditch 113, facing south-west
29	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 1 ditch 117, facing north-west
30	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 1 ditch 117, facing north-west
31		✓	Phase 1 working shot
32		✓	Phase 1 working shot
33	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 1 ditch 118, facing north-east
34	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 1 ditch 120, facing north-east
35		✓	Phase 1 Trench 1
36		✓	Phase 1 Trench 3
37		✓	Phase 1 Trench 8
38		✓	Phase 1 Trench 21
39		✓	Phase 1 Trench 22
40		✓	Phase 1 Trench 7
41		✓	Phase 1 Trench 2
42		✓	Phase 1 Trench 4
43		✓	Phase 1 Trench 20
44		✓	Phase 1 Trench 23
45		✓	Phase 1 Trench 24
46		✓	Phase 1 Trench 19

47		✓	Phase 1 Trench 10
48		✓	Phase 1 Trench 5
49		✓	Phase 1 Trench 6
50		✓	Phase 1 Trench 11
51		✓	Phase 1 Trench 18
52		✓	Phase 1 Trench 25
53		✓	Phase 1 Trench 13
54		✓	Phase 1 Trench 29
55		✓	Phase 1 Trench 32
56		✓	Phase 1 Trench 33
57	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 17 extension pits 123, 125, & ditch 108, facing south-east
58	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 17 extension pits 123, 125, & ditch 108, facing south-east
59	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 20 ditch 128, facing north-east
60	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 4 ditch 130, facing north-west
61	✓	✓	Phase 1 Trench 4 ditch 133, facing north-west
62		✓	Phase 2 Trench 35
63		✓	Phase 2 Trench 36
64		✓	Phase 2 Trench 37
65		✓	Phase 2 Trench 44
66		✓	Phase 2 Trench 49
67		✓	Phase 2 Trench 51
68		✓	Phase 2 Trench 52
69		✓	Phase 2 Trench 53
70		✓	Phase 2 Trench 65
71		✓	Phase 2 Trench 66
72		✓	Phase 2 Trench
73	✓	✓	Phase 2 SMS 1 ditch 136, facing south-east
74	✓	✓	Phase 2 SMS 1 ditch 136, facing south-east
75	✓	✓	Phase 2 SMS 1 ditch 136, facing south-east
76		✓	Phase 2 Trench 56
77		✓	Phase 2 Trench 57
78		✓	Phase 2 Trench 47
79		✓	Phase 2 Trench 47
80		✓	Phase 2 Trench 68
81		✓	Phase 2 Trench 69
82		✓	Phase 2 Trench 71
83		✓	Phase 2 Trench 72
84		✓	Phase 2 Trench 72
85		✓	Phase 2 Trench 74
86		✓	Phase 2 Trench 75
87		✓	Phase 2 Trench 76
88		✓	Phase 2 Trench 77
89		✓	Phase 2 Trench 59
90		✓	Phase 2 Trench 60
91		✓	Phase 2 Trench 61
92		✓	Phase 2 Trench 62
93		✓	Phase 2 Trench 63
94		✓	Phase 2 Trench 64
95		✓	Phase 2 Trench 38
96	✓	✓	Phase 2 Trench 55 Ditch 138, facing south-east
97		✓	Phase 2 Trench 55

98		✓	Phase 2 Trench 54
99	✓	✓	Phase 2 SMS 1 Ditch 140
100	✓	✓	Phase 2 SMS 1 Ditch 140
101		✓	Phase 2 Trench 67
102		✓	Phase 2 Trench 70
103		✓	Phase 2 Trench 48
104		✓	Phase 2 Trench 45
105		✓	Phase 2 Trench 73

Appendix 3: Finds and Environmental Assessment

Mo Muldowney and Alastair Hancock, unless otherwise stated

3.1 Pottery, with Liz Muldowney

A total of twenty five sherds of pottery were recovered from five contexts (Table 1). The sherds have been examined and a spot date assigned. The majority of fabrics appear similar to those recovered at the middle Iron Age settlement (Brown 2008, 2012) located slightly to the north, with organic and sandy tempered wares predominating. All sherds are undecorated and probably locally made.

Context	Cut	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Other Finds		Spot date
		(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)		Type	(no)	
004	005						Heat affected clay	1	Undated
006	007					1	Fired clay	1	Undated
011	010	2	15						Middle IA sandy
106	104	1	2						Middle IA organic
108	107					1			Undated
110	112	1	6	1	<1		CBM	7	Post-medieval
114	113	17	90						Middle IA organic
137	138	4	5			1			Middle IA sandy
139	140						Clay pipe	2	Post-medieval
Total		25	108	1		3		11	

Table 1: Pottery

The truly diagnostic sherds from the assemblage are seventeen from a middle Iron Age grog tempered flat based barrel shaped vessel with a slightly everted rim, which were recovered from ditch 113. These sherds are in good condition, which indicates primary deposition.

The remaining eight sherds were recovered from four features: ditches 010, 104, 112 and 138 and are of middle Iron Age or Roman date. The single Roman example (context 110) is from a 1st-2nd century jar with an everted channel rim, it was made in a sandy fabric with a red/orange colour-coat.

3.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and Heat Affected or Fired Clay

One fragment of fired clay, one fragment of heated clay and seven fragments of abraded CBM were recovered from two contexts (Table 1). The fragments of heat affected and fired clay are undiagnostic, but five fragments of peg tile and two fragments of a thick hard fired sandy tile from fill 110 of ditch 112 are of Roman or more likely post medieval date.

3.3 Flint

Three struck flints were recovered from contexts 006, 108 and 137 (Appendix 3). The assemblage comprises two unretouched flakes and the incomplete body of a triangular arrowhead with fine invasive bifacial retouch. The two squat flakes retain areas of cortex and exhibit post-depositional damage. The arrowhead from ditch 138 is of Bronze Age date, perhaps a tanged and barbed example when complete, but only the central part of the body remains. The arrowhead was found in association with abraded Roman pottery and is residual.

3.4 Other Finds

The remaining finds comprise a small fragment of undiagnostic burnt, or perhaps cremated bone from ditch 112; and two clay tobacco pipe stem fragments from ditch 140. The burnt, or cremated, bone may be associated with the middle Iron Age settlement activity located slightly to the north, but it was recovered from a post-medieval context.

3.5 Environmental Remains

Two bulk environmental samples were taken from dated contexts within ditches 104 and 113. The samples were processed by flotation, examination of the flots and bulk residues showed that they contained very little environmental or economic evidence. Neither is suitable for detailed analysis (Table 2).

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	106	114
Vol (l)	30	30
Weight (kg)	27.8	29.6
Mag +ve (g)	4	6
Flot (g)	3	16
Seeds (No.)	4	3
4mm Fraction (g)	417	836
2mm Fraction (g)	202	407
1mm Fraction (g)	175	399
Charcoal (g)	-	<2

Table 2: Environmental remains

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys	OASIS reference:	137941
Short Description:	<p><i>During late 2012 and early 2013 a phased programme of archaeological investigation, comprising strip, map, sample excavations (SMS) and evaluation trenching, was carried out at land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Buckinghamshire. A large assemblage of struck flint, interpreted as locating significant Neolithic or Bronze Age activity, was recovered during fieldwalking of the area in 1995. However, archaeological features of these periods were not identified during the SMS or trenching and a total of only three residual flint artefacts were recovered.</i></p> <p><i>The results of the SMS and trenching were otherwise consistent with recent archaeological investigations completed at, or near, the site. The earliest identified evidence comprised dispersed and truncated ditch segments defining remnants of part of the field system of a middle Iron Age settlement excavated slightly to the north. The site then appears to have been little used until it was incorporated into the medieval open field system of Newton Longville and it has since seen continuous agricultural use.</i></p>		
Project Type:	Strip, Map and Record; Evaluation; Strip, Map and Sample		
Previous work: (Eg. SMR refs)	Fieldwalking, Geophysical Survey	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Arable	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	Unknown
Monument type:	Ditch, pit, furrow	Monument period:	Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pottery, flint, CBM		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Buckinghamshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 8697 3096
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK3 5FN		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.14ha	Height OD: (metres)	c.100m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Sandy Kidd	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse & Mo Muldowney
Project Manager:	Alastair Hancock	Director/Supervisor:	Mo Muldowney
Sponsor / funding body:	Bovis Homes Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	November 2012	End date:	7th May 2013
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Buckinghamshire County Museum AYBCM2013.60	Pottery, flint, CBM	
Paper:		Drawing sheets, record sheets, report, plans, maps	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation on Land off Drayton Road, Newton Leys, Buckinghamshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1582/NLD/4		
Author(s):	Mo Muldowney BA AIfA and A Hancock BSc PgDip MIfA		
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