



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
LAND ADJACENT TO
6 CALDECOTTE LANE
CALDECOTTE
MILTON KEYNES**

On behalf of N R Shayler

Joe Abrams BA AIFA



November 2002

ASC:CCL02/2

© Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

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

ASC site code:	CCL02	Project No:	434
City:	Milton Keynes		
District:	Caldecotte		
Village/Town:	Caldecotte		
Parish:	Bow Brickhill		
NGR:	SP 8925 3549		
Total extent of site:	c.0.18ha		
Present land use:	Empty plot – rough grassland		
Planning proposal:	Construction of a detached dwelling		
Planning application ref/date:	02/00633/FUL		
Archaeological Event Number:	639		
Dates of work:	18 November 2002		
Client:	Neil R Shayler Civil Engineer Contractor, Little End Farm, Russell Grove, Millbrook, Bedford, MK45 2JE.		
Contact name:	Neil Shayler		
Telephone:		Fax:	

CONTENTS

Summary..... 3

1. Introduction & Setting 3

2. Archaeological & Historical Background 5

3. Aims & Methods 7

4. Results 9

5. Conclusions 13

6. Acknowledgements 13

7. Bibliography 14

8. Archive 14

Appendices:

1. Technical Detail – Trenches 1 and 2 15

Figures:

1. General location..... 2

2. Site location 4

3. Caldecotte earthworks survey..... 6

4. Trench Location Plan 8

5. Plan of Trenches 1 and 2 10

6. Section drawings of ditches [101], [103], [109] and [201] 11

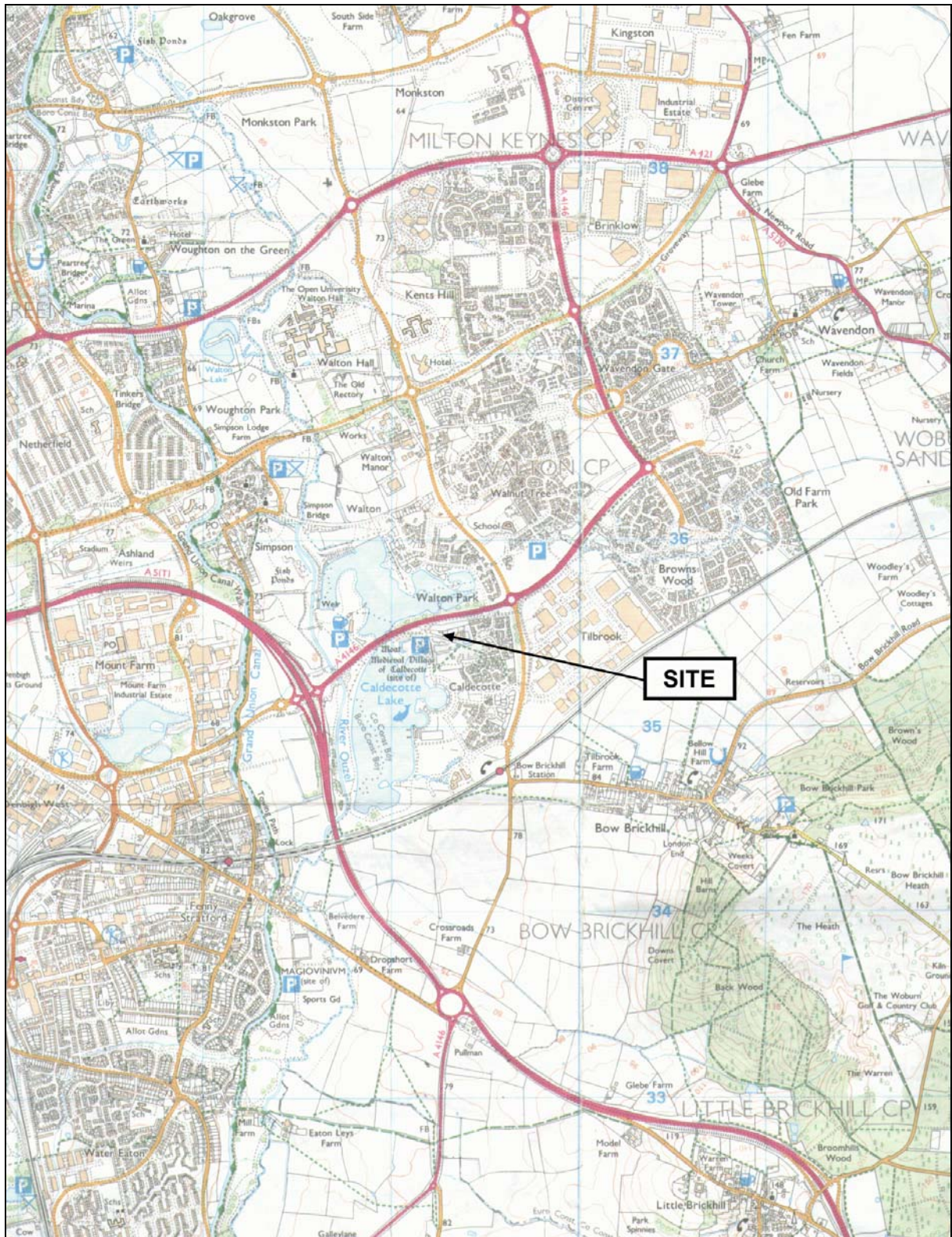
Plates:

Cover:

1. Aerial photograph showing the earthworks to the north of Caldecotte village 6

2. Ditch [101], facing southwest..... 12

3. Ditch [201], facing west 12



Based upon the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown Copyright ASC Ltd - Licence No. AL52133A0001

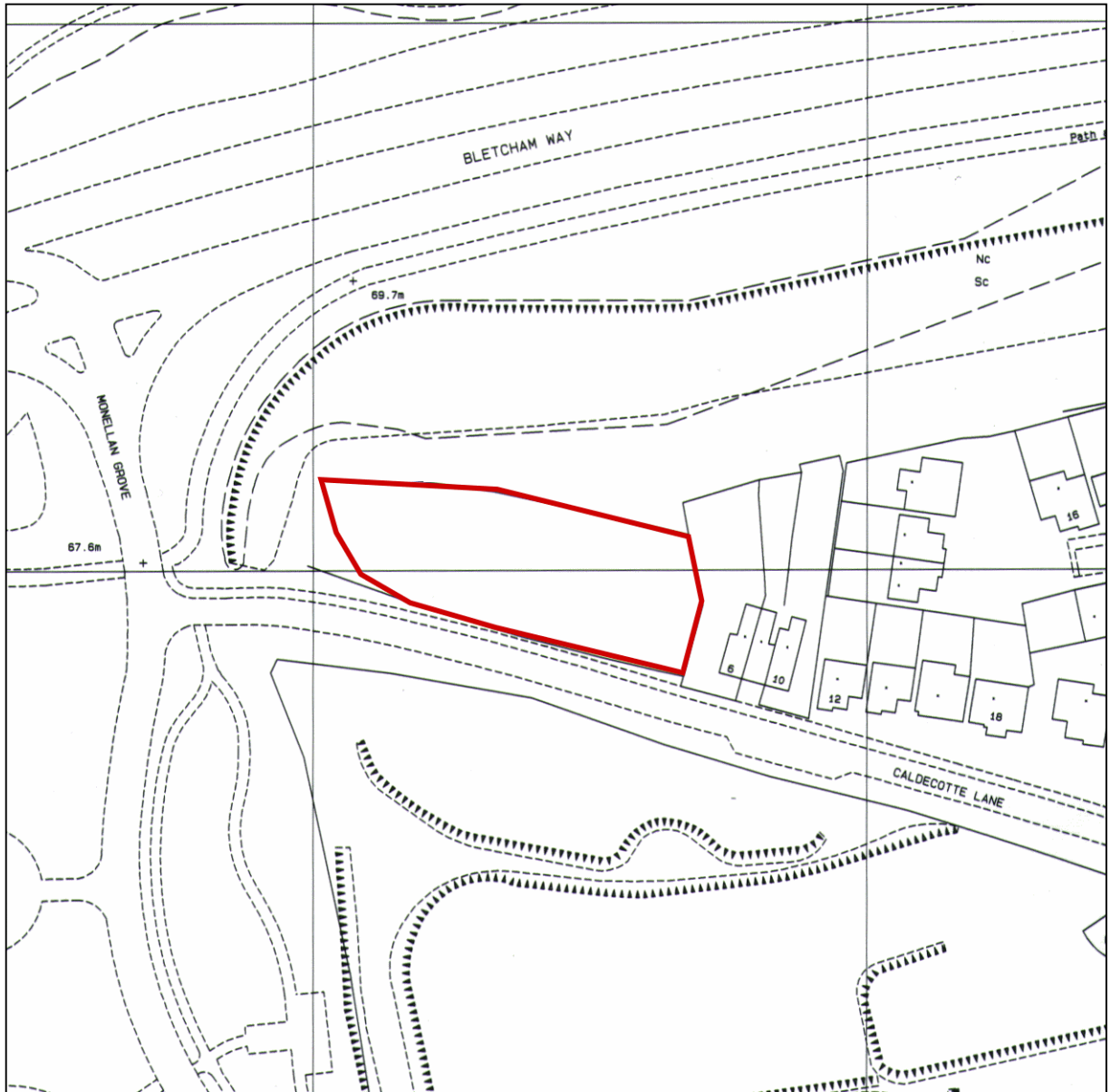
Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

- 5.1 *During November 2002 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to 6 Caldecotte Lane, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. The evaluation trenches revealed three parallel ditches, two of these contained sherds of Post-Medieval pottery. It is likely these served a dual function as roadside ditches designed to keep the lane drained during wet periods, and also to demarcate the southern boundary of the land upon which the site is located.*

1 Introduction

- 1.1 During November 2002 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 6 Caldecotte Lane, Caldecotte (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Neil Shayler of N.R Shayler, Civil Engineering Contractors, and was carried out according to a brief (PS/537/2/A/C290) prepared by Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer, Milton Keynes Council, and a project design prepared by ASC (Marshall 2002).
- 1.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned in response to a PPG 16 (archaeology and planning) planning condition imposed by the local planning authority, Milton Keynes Council. The condition was imposed due to the area being identified as having archaeological potential. The site is located immediately north of earthworks marking the location of the deserted medieval village of Caldecotte. To the west is the site of a medieval moated Manor House. It was expected that any archaeological remains within the development area would be severely damaged or destroyed by the ground works associated with the construction of a residential development, access roads and associated services.
- 1.3 **Setting**
- 1.3.1 The site a roughly rectangular plot 0.18ha in size. It is located within the parish of Bow Brickhill at NGR SP 8925 3549 (Fig. 1).
- 1.3.2 The elevation of the site is between 65.76m OD in the southern part of the site and 65.95m OD adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. The development area is broadly level and is bordered by housing to the east, a hedgerow and Caldecotte Lane to the south and open rough grassland to the north and west.
- 1.3.3 The natural soils of the area are derived from clay and the underlying geology is classified as belonging to the Oxpasture association, these are described as being 'fine loamy over clayey soils with permeable sub-soils and slight seasonal waterlogging' (Soil Survey 1983).



Based upon an Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Superplan, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown Copyright ASC Ltd - Licence No. AL100015154

Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

2 Archaeological & Historical Background

- 2.1 The name Caldecotte is thought to have originated in the middle Saxon period and literally means ‘cold cottages’. This is thought to describe a place for travellers to shelter, suggesting that the origins of any settlement on this location may have been relatively humble (Gelling 1993). The Domesday Survey does not mention a settlement at Caldecotte, it is likely that it was included under the lordship of Bow Brickhill (Croft & Mynard 1993).
- 2.2 The parish of Caldecotte contains two discrete areas in which there are significant concentrations of archaeology. One is in the southwestern part of the parish around the site of a Roman settlement *Magiovinium*, close to modern Fenny Stratford, the other is in the land surrounding the development site in the northwestern part of the parish in which the site lies. These remains include the deserted medieval village of Caldecotte (MK 618), which lies immediately southeast of the site. Earthworks related to this scheduled monument are visible in the field opposite the site. A former moated manor (MK 619) lies c.100m southwest of the site (Zeepvat 1993).
- 2.3 Other archaeological remains within the sites vicinity include prehistoric flints found in association with bone and burnt stones, recorded during the excavation of Caldecotte Lake c.400m southwest of the site. An Iron Age ditched enclosure (MK 117) was excavated c.300m southwest of the site, also within the area now occupied by Caldecotte Lake (Zeepvat 1993).
- 2.4 Archaeological evidence from the Roman period consists of extensive field systems and a settlement with associated industrial activity in the form of pottery kilns and features related to bronze working (MK44). These were excavated c.200m west of the site. A number of ditches dating from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, probably related to a more complex field system, were discovered between Berrystead Close and Well Close (Zeepvat *et al* 1994).
- 2.5 A Saxon settlement (MK504) was located c.300m northwest of the site. This has been dated to the late Saxon period, after which the focus of the settlement shifted southwest of the site.
- 2.6 The moated manor and deserted medieval village are of course the most significant archaeology from the medieval period. Both sites lie within the immediate vicinity of the development area. A recent archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeologica in the yards and gardens of the neighbouring Caldecotte Farm, revealed three large features, identified as being probably Medieval in date (Records of Buckinghamshire, *forthcoming*).
- 2.7 The 1781 Inclosure Map clearly shows that a building stood on the site of the development area during the latter part of the 18th century and may have existed there prior to this. Features related to this building or activities taking place around it were considered to be a high possibility during the evaluation.



Plate 1: Aerial photograph showing the earthworks to the north of Caldecotte village - after Zeepvat 1994 (*Aerofilms*)

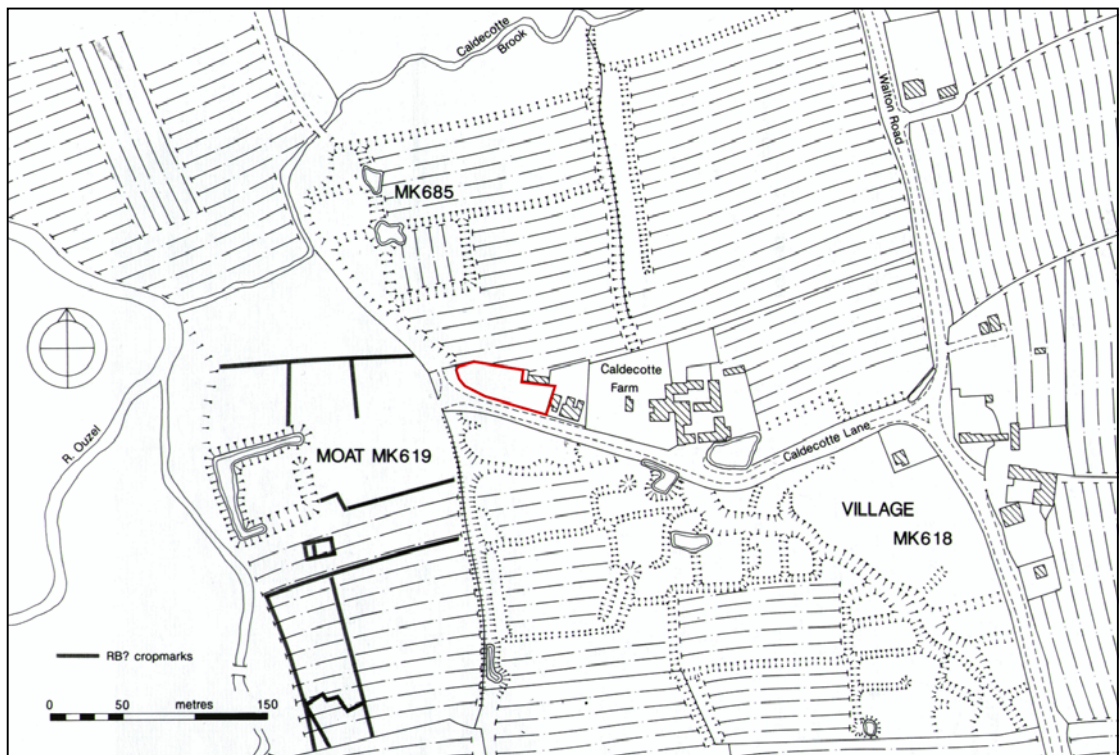


Figure 3: Caldecotte earthworks survey - after Zeepvat 1994

3 Aims & Methods

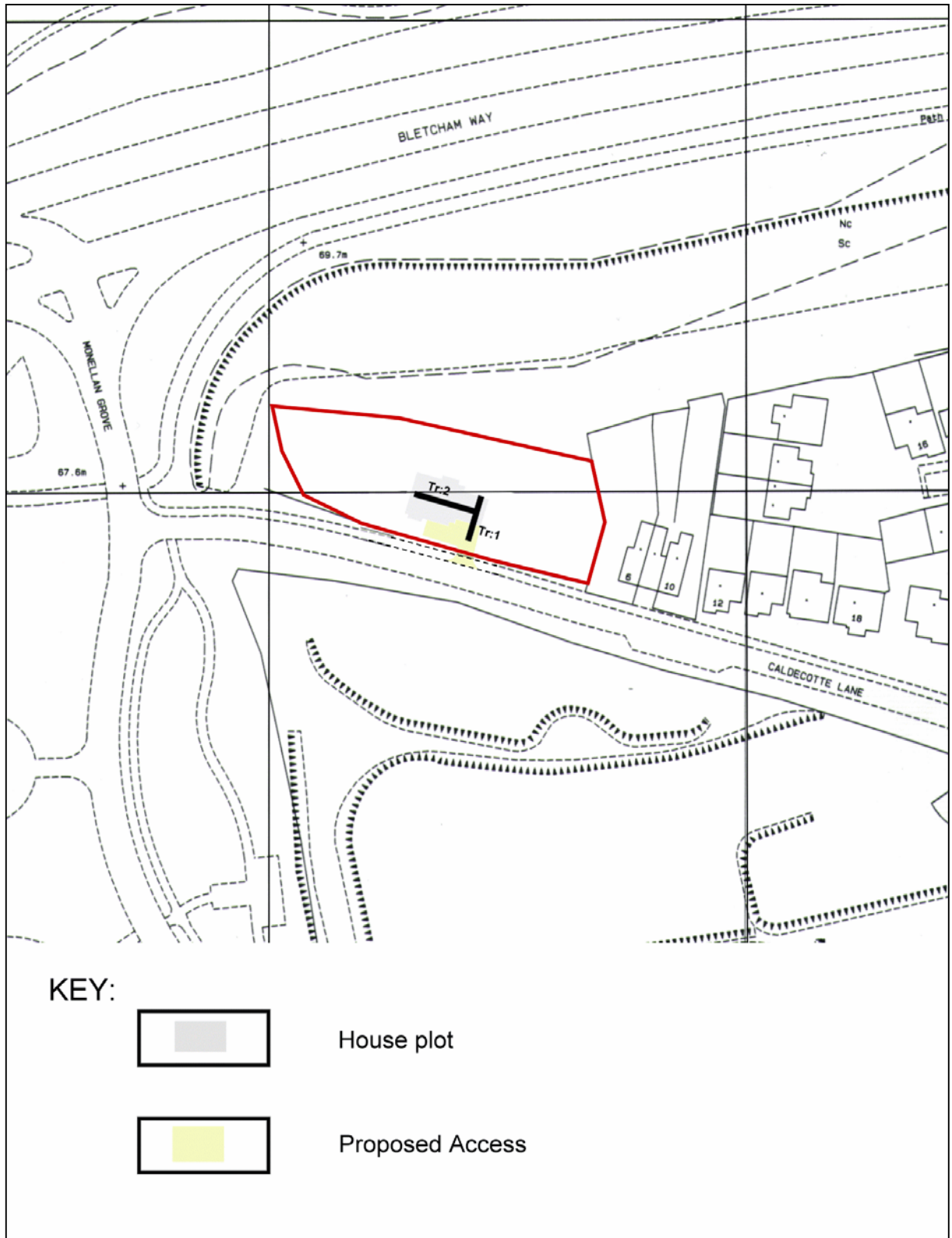
3.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, which were liable to be threatened by the development.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeology present, such that a permanent record will be made and the results presented in such a way that they may be re-examined and interpreted in the future.

3.2 The work was carried out according to the brief, which required:

- The excavation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits.
- A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.

3.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Evaluations*, and the relevant section(s) of ASC's *Operations Manual*.



Based upon an Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Superplan, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown Copyright ASC Ltd - Licence No. AL100015154

Figure 4: Trench Location Plan (scale 1:1250)

4 Results

4.1 Two trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation (Fig. 4): both contained archaeological features (Fig. 5). These are discussed below and the detailed technical information on each trench can be found in Appendix 1.

4.2 Trench 1 contained three ditches all aligned broadly northwest to southeast within the trench (Fig. 5). Ditch [103], located in the centre of Trench 1, was stratigraphically the earliest of the three as it was truncated to the southwest by ditch [109]. Ditch [103] contained two deposits 102 and 106. Deposit 102 was the primary fill of [103], this was a mid grey silty clay from which one sherd of Post-Medieval pottery was recovered. Above this was deposit 106 a mid brown sandy silt from which no artefactual material was recovered.

Truncating deposits 106 and 102 on the southwest edge of [103] was ditch [109]. This ditch also contained two deposits 107 and 108. Deposit 108, an orange-ish mid brown silty clay was the primary fill of this ditch, above this was deposit 107 a white-ish grey/orange clay. Neither deposit within ditch [109] contained any artefactual material.

Located at the southwestern end of Trench 1 was ditch [101] (Plate 2). This truncated deposit 107 within ditch [109] making it the latest of the three ditches recorded in this trench. Three deposits were recorded within [109]; the primary fill of this ditch was 105 an orange-ish mid brown silty clay from which no artefactual material was recovered. Above 105 was deposit 104 a mid brown silty clay with frequent medium pebbles, this also contained no artefactual material. Above this was deposit 100 from which a single sherd of Post-Medieval pottery was recovered.

4.3 Trench 2 contained one ditch [201] (Plate 6), which was aligned northwest to southeast. Ditch [201] contained one deposit 200, a greyish mid brown silty clay from which no artefactual material was recovered. The alignment of this ditch and the similarity in the character of deposits 200 and 102, the primary fill of ditch [103], suggest that ditches [103] and [201] are the same feature.

4.4 Both trenches contained topsoil layer 1, an organic rich blackish dark brown silty sand layer 0.4m deep. Sherds of modern pottery were recovered from it during the machining of this trench. Below this was subsoil 2, a mid orange-ish brown silty sand 0.65m deep. The natural subsoil in the base of the trenches was clay which varied from white-ish grey to orange-ish grey, this contained occasional seams of gravel.

4.5 Using the physical relationships (Fig. 6) and the artefactual material recovered from these ditches it is possible to clearly state the sequence in which they were originally excavated and became backfilled, and also to assign a likely date range for this activity. The physical relationships visible in the trench section clearly show that ditch [103]/[201] was the earliest of the three, followed by ditch [109] and ditch [101] respectively. The dating evidence recovered from 102 within the earliest ditch [103] and deposit 100 within the latest ditch [101] suggest that all three ditches were excavated and became backfilled during the post-medieval period.

4.6 No evidence relating to the deserted medieval village MK618 was recorded during the evaluation and on this basis it is suggested that the buildings shown on the 1781 Inclosure Map of Bow Brickhill, and mentioned in the brief (Giggins 2002), may well have been Post-Medieval in origin.

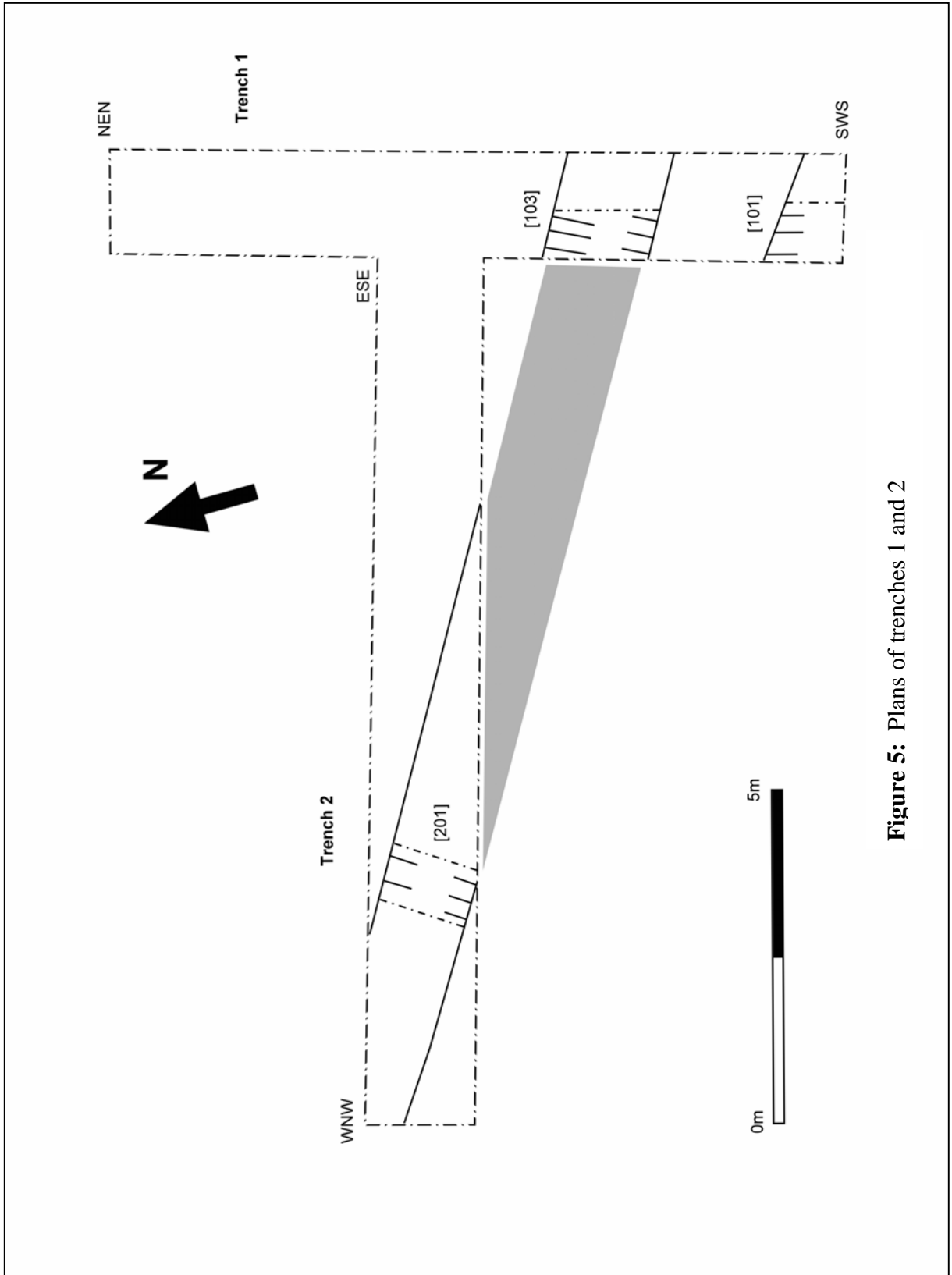


Figure 5: Plans of trenches 1 and 2

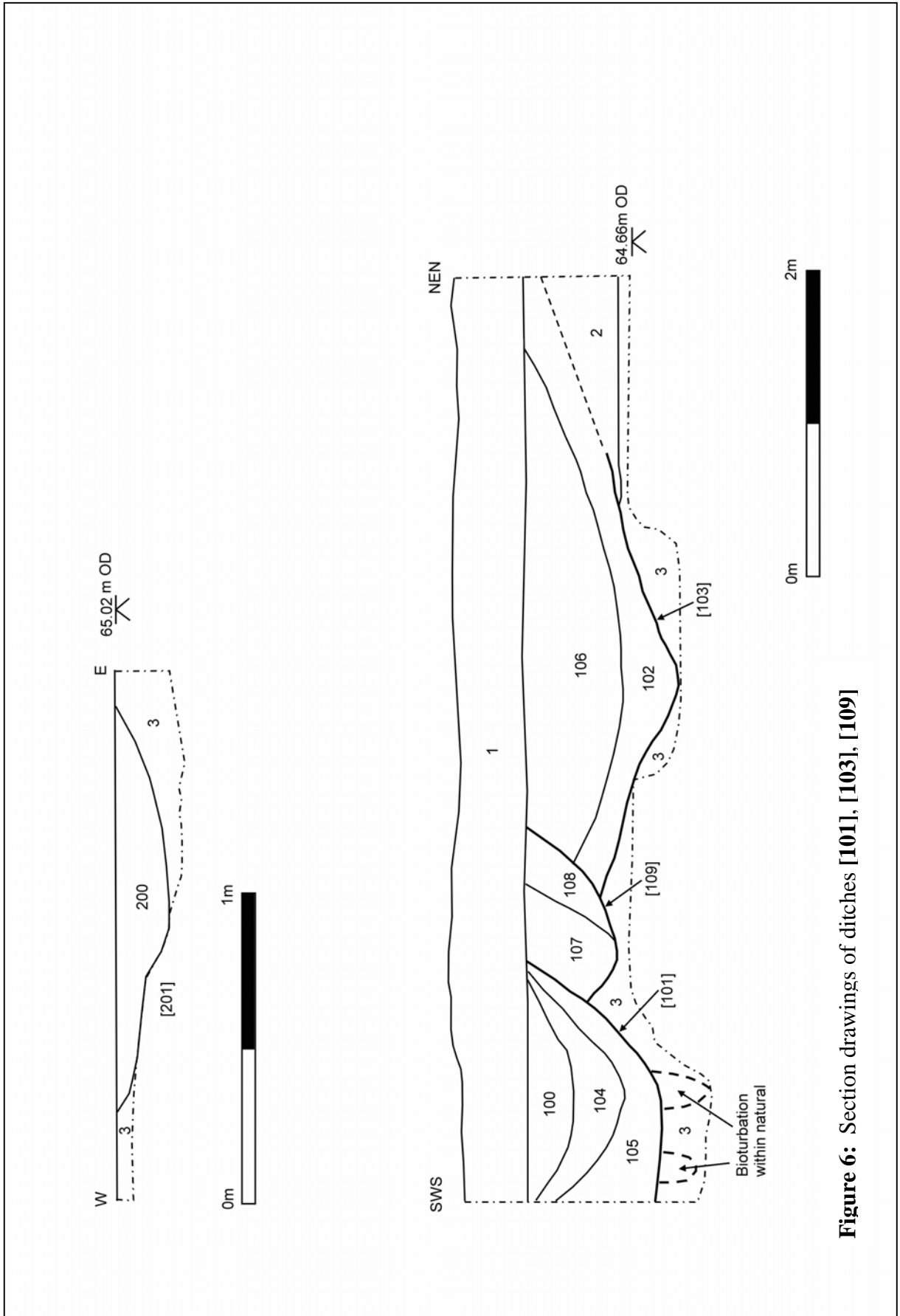


Figure 6: Section drawings of ditches [101], [103], [109]



Plate 2: Ditch [101], facing southwest.



Plate 3: Ditch [201], facing west.

5 Conclusions

- 5.2 Three ditches were recorded, two of which produced Post-Medieval pottery. It is suggested that the three ditches represent a sequence of boundary ditches cut along broadly the same alignment, and possibly to re-instate the same land boundary. Caldecotte Lane is recorded on 18th century cartographic sources and therefore these may well have been roadside ditches designed to keep the lane drained during wet periods and also to demarcate the southern boundary of the land upon which the site is located.

6 Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Neil Shayler of N.R.Shayler - Civil Engineering Contractor for commissioning ASC to undertake the evaluation. Thanks are also extended to Brian Giggins, Archaeological Officer who monitored the site on behalf of Milton Keynes Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Abrams and Geoff Marshall. Report preparation was undertaken by Joe Abrams and the text was edited by Bob Zeepvat of ASC Ltd.

7 Bibliography


- Croft, R.A. and Mynard, D.C., 1993 *The changing landscape of Milton Keynes*. Buckinghamshire Archaeol. Soc. Monog. Ser. 5 (Aylesbury).
- Gelling M 1993 'Place Names of the Milton Keynes Area' in Croft RA and Mynard DC 1993. 45-50
- Giggins B 2002 *Brief For Archaeological Evaluation On Land Adjacent to 6 Caldecotte Lane, Caldecotte* Milton Keynes Council.
- IFA 1999c Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.
- Marshall G 2002 A Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation, Land Adjacent to 6 Caldecotte Lane, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes. ASC Report CCL02/1
- Soil Survey 1983 *The 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).
- Zeervat RJ, Roberts JS and King NA 1994 *Caldecote, Milton Keynes, Excavation and Fieldwork 1966-91*. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Series 9 (Aylesbury).
- Zeervat RJ 1993 'Bow Brickhill' in Croft RA and Mynard DC 1993. 61-70
- Zeervat RJ forthcoming *Archaeological Notes – work undertaken by Archaeologica, Bow Brickhill: Caldecotte Farm*. Records of Buckinghamshire.


8. Archive

8.1 The project archive comprises:

1. 1 illustration sheet (plans and sections)
2. 1 plan register
3. 1 section register
4. Photographic registers
5. 2 trench sheets
6. 3 context registers
7. 15 context sheets
8. Photographs
9. Copy of report
10. Brief
11. CDROM

Appendix 1: Technical Detail – Trenches 1 and 2

Trench 1							
Max Dimensions:	Length	11m	Width	1.6m	Depth	1.25m	
Orientation	NEN - SWS		Area (sq. m)	17.6m			
General Description	Contained three ditches [101], [103] and [109], all aligned northwest – southeast.						
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Depth BGL		
1	Layer	Topsoil, blackish dark brown silty sand, friable, occasional fine pebbles, 0.40m deep.			0m		
2	Layer	Subsoil, mid orange-ish brown sandy silt, firm, frequent medium and fine pebbles, 0.65m deep. One sherd of residual medieval pottery was recovered from this layer.			0.4m		
3	Layer	Natural subsoil grey/orange/white clay, firm.			1.05m – 1.20m		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			L	Width/Dia	D
100	Deposit	Orange-ish brown silty clay, firm, occasional charcoal flecks and fine pebbles. One sherd of Post-Medieval pottery and one piece of ceramic building material were recovered from this deposit. Fill of [101].				1.4m	0.3m
104	Deposit	Mid brown silty clay, firm, occasional fine and medium pebbles. Fill of [101].				1.3m	0.3m
105	Deposit	Orange-ish mid brown silty clay, firm, occasional medium pebbles. Fill of [101].				1.4m	0.6m
[101]	Cut	Ditch, gradual sloping slightly concave sides, slightly concave base, aligned northwest – southeast, contained deposits 100, 104 and 105.				1.5m	0.85m
106	Deposit	Mid brown sandy silt, friable, very occasional fine pebbles. Fill of [103].				3.0m	0.6m
102	Deposit	Mid grey silty clay, firm, frequent fine pebbles. One sherd of Post-Medieval pottery was recovered from this deposit. Fill of [103].				4.0m	0.3m
[103]	Cut	Ditch, gradual concave sloping sides, slightly concave base, aligned northwest – southeast, contained deposits 106 and 102.				4.0m	1.0m
107	Deposit	White-ish grey/orange, clay, firm. Contained re-deposited natural clay. Fill of [109].				0.5m	0.6m
108	Deposit	Orange-ish mid brown silty clay, moderate coarse sand. Fill of [109].				0.3m	0.4m
[109]	Cut	Ditch, U-shaped steep concave sides, concave base, aligned northwest – southeast, contained deposits 107 and 108.				0.8m	0.5m

Trench 2							
Max Dimensions:	Length	13m	Width	1.6m	Depth	1.0m – 1.25m	
Orientation	ESE - WSW		Area (sq. m)	20.8m			
General Description	Contained one ditch [201], aligned northwest to southeast. It is highly likely that this was a continuation of ditch [103] from Trench 1.						
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			Depth BGL		
1	Layer	Topsoil, blackish dark brown silty sand, friable, occasional fine pebbles, 0.40m deep.			0m		
2	Layer	Subsoil, mid orange-ish brown sandy silt, firm, frequent medium and fine pebbles, 0.45m deep.			0.4m		
3	Layer	Natural subsoil grey/orange/white clay, firm, occasional patches/seams of mid orange-ish yellow sand and gravel.			1.0m		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation			L	Width/Dia	D
200	Deposit	Greyish mid brown silty clay, friable, frequent medium pebbles.				1.35m	0.21m
[201]	Cut	Ditch, gradual sloping concave sloping sides, concave base, aligned northwest – southeast. Contained deposit 200.				1.35m	0.21m