Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT BURY FARM, CHURCH END, KENSWORTH, BEDFORDSHIRE

On behalf of
Vernon Moore Esq.

By
David Fell MA

12th February 2001

ASC/M/KBF01/2

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REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

SITE DATA

ASC site code:	KBF01	Project Number	264
County:	Bedfordshire		
District:	South Bedfordshire		
Village/Town:	Kensworth		
Parish:	Kensworth		
NGR:	TL 0317 1902		
Total extent of site:	*c.*0.3 hectares		
Extent of development:	*c.*0.3 hectares		
Present land use:	Derelict farm buildings		
Planning proposal:	Conversion of farm buildings for residential use		
Planning application ref/date:	Not yet applied for		
Desk-based assessment?:	None required		
Client:	Vernon Moore 16 Heng Fa Villas 100 Shing Tai Road HONG KONG		
Contact name:	Richard Burton, Burton & Associates Ltd (Structural Engineer)		
Telephone		Fax:	

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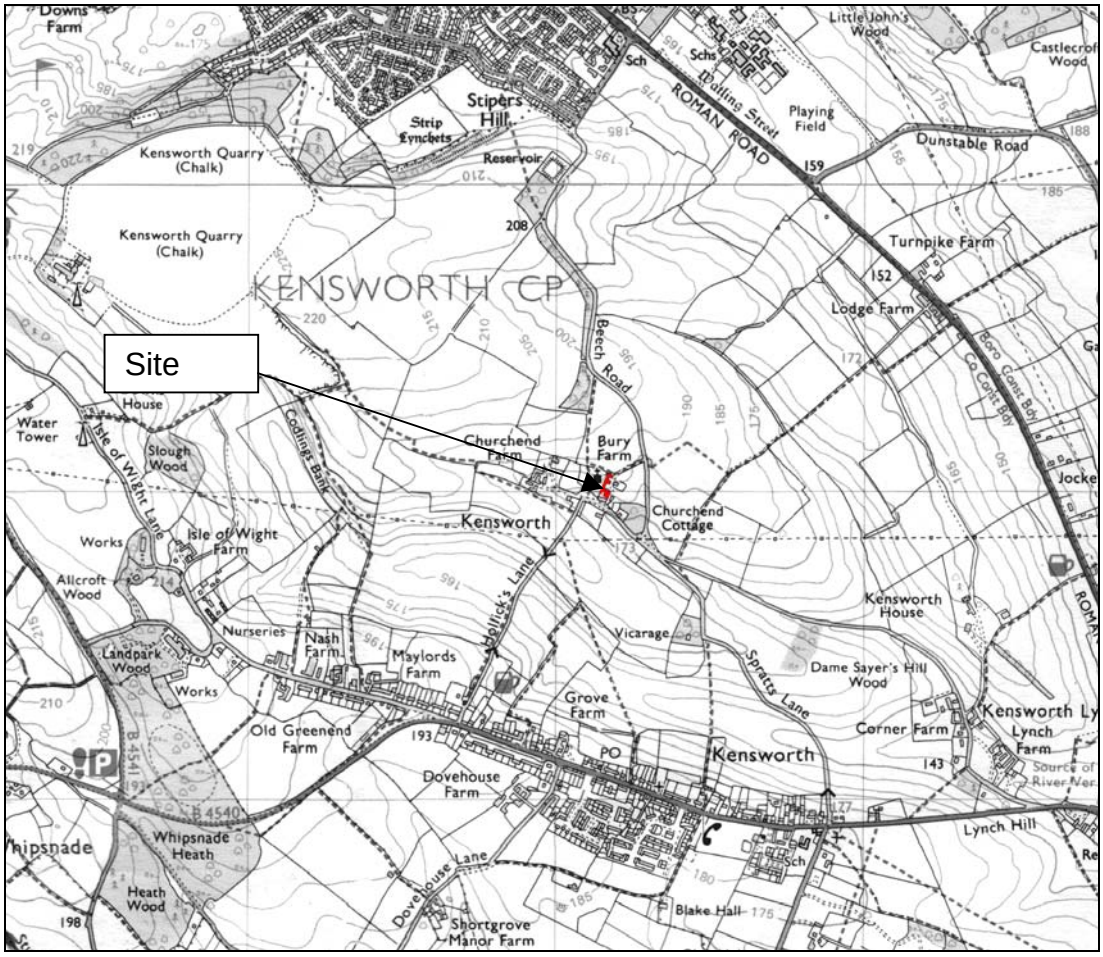

Based upon the 1998 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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Figure 1: General Location Plan *(scale 1:25,000)*

Summary

An archaeological investigation was undertaken at Bury Farm, Kensworth in Bedfordshire during February 2001. No archaeological remains were found during the investigation, but the work revealed that the west wall of the barns have a complex structural history probably dating from the 17th or 18th centuries.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February 2001 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) undertook an archaeological investigation at Bury Farm, Kensworth, Beds (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in advance of the submission of planning proposals for the conversion of a range of disused farm buildings for residential use by the client, Vernon Moore Esq. The investigation was commissioned on the client's behalf by *Burton & Associates Ltd*, structural engineers for the project, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Zeepvat 2001) and approved by the Archaeological Officer, Bedfordshire County Council.

1.2 The main purpose of the evaluation was to examine the structure and footings of the wall forming the rear (west) side of the range of buildings, and also the site boundary with the adjoining churchyard. Ground levels in the latter are significantly higher than in the farm buildings, and concerns about the structural integrity of the wall had been raised by the church. In view of the site's location within the medieval settlement of Kensworth, adjoining the churchyard, it was felt that this essentially structural investigation should be undertaken archaeologically. This document presents the archaeological results of that investigation.

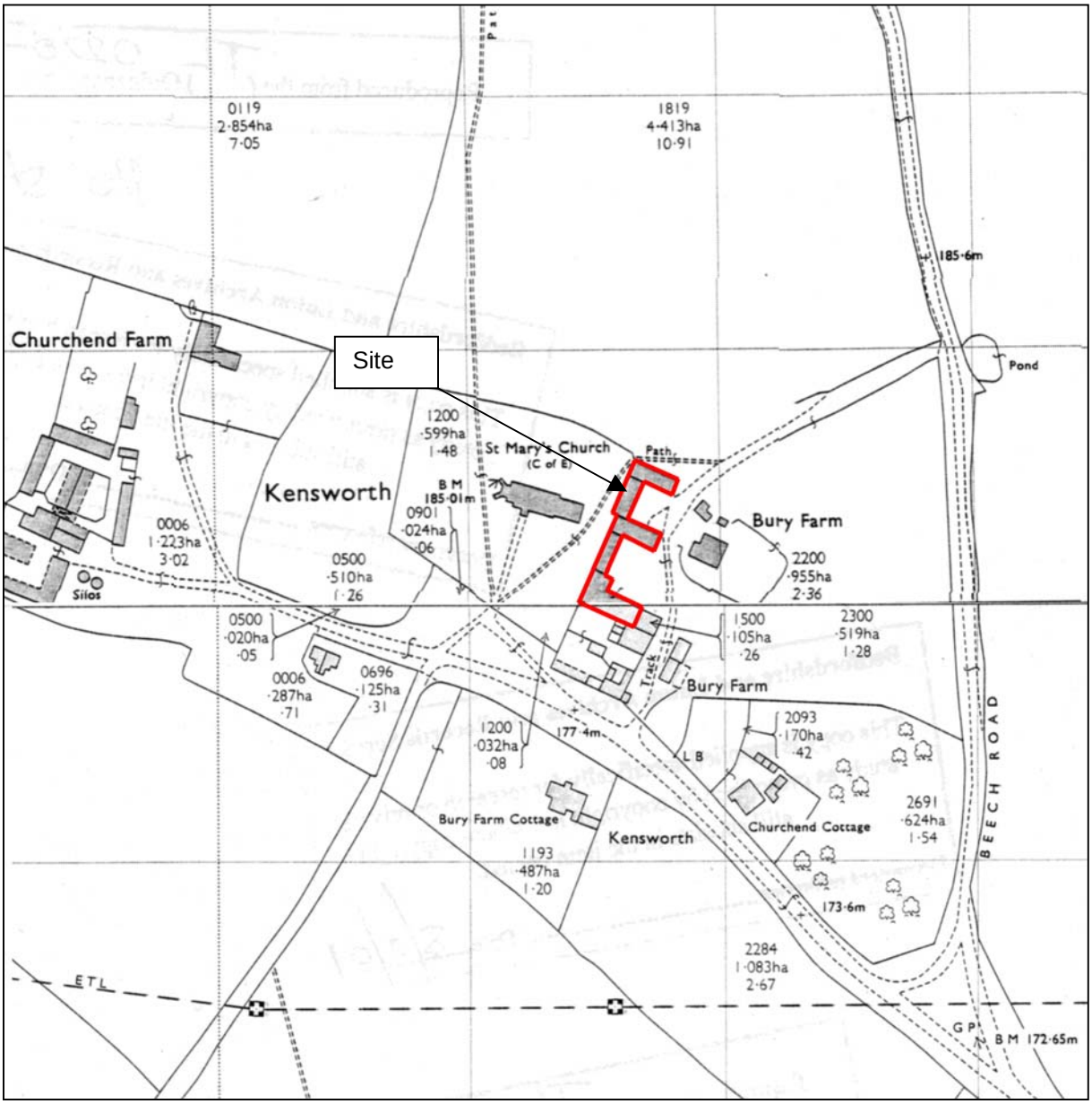


Figure 2: Site Location Plan (*Scale 1:2,500*)

2 Setting

2.1 *Location*

Kensworth is a linear settlement, situated *c.*4km south of Dunstable in the administrative district of South Bedfordshire. The site lies next to the village church, north of the village, in a separate 'end' or hamlet, known as Church End and is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 0317 1902. A second hamlet, known as Kensworth Lynch is situated east of the village centre (Fig. 1).

2.2 *Soils, Geology and Topography*

The soils at the site comprise the Batcombe Association, namely fine silty and loamy soils over clayey subsoils (Soil Survey 1983, 582a). The underlying geology is chalk. The site is on a south facing slope and falls from *c.*185m OD at the north end to *c.*176m OD to the south.

Plate 1: View of the Site looking South

2.3 *Site Description*

2.3.1. The development area comprises a group of farm buildings on brick footings, located on the west side of the yard, now overgrown. Bury Farm House itself lies to the east and is not connected with the development. Bury Farm Cottage and its gardens lie to the south and the land to the north is open farmland. Access to the site is from Beech Road, to the north-east. Though a gate is shown in Fig. 3 leading to the road at the south end of the site, the track leading to it is overgrown and is passable only on foot.

2.3.2 The proposed development comprises the residential conversion of the range of farm buildings on the west side of the site (Fig. 2). The five buildings concerned (Plate 1: Fig 3) are all timber-framed on brick footings, with roofs

of slate and corrugated iron. Internal floors appear to be generally of packed earth, although some concrete is also present. Going from south to north, the buildings comprise:

1. Barn, L-shaped, max. dimensions 12.5 x 10m.
2. Shelter shed, 16m x 4.5m
3. Barn, 7.5m x 10.5m
4. Shelter shed, 16m x 6.0m (concrete floor & feed trough)
5. Barn, 17.8m x 6.0m.

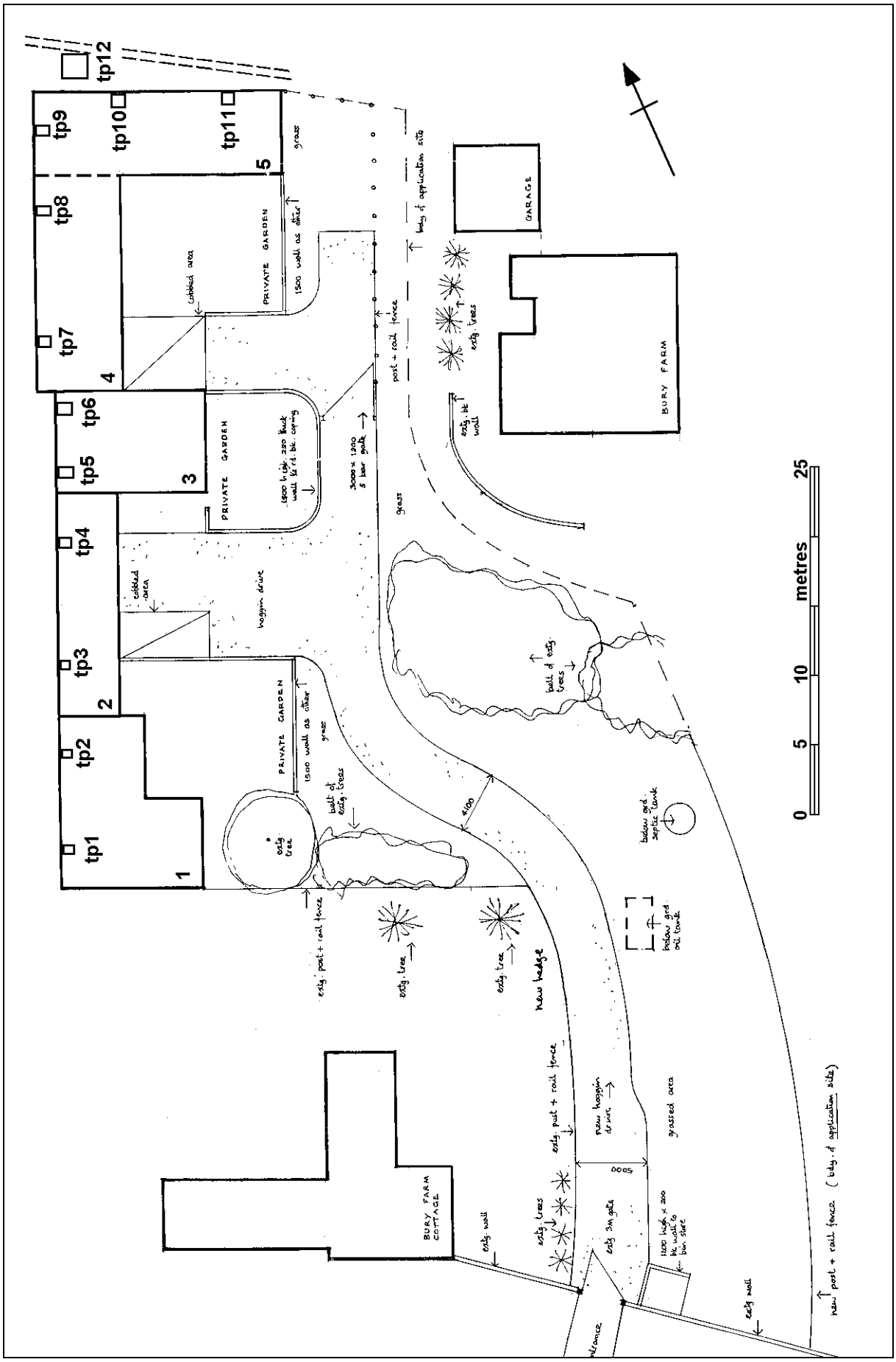


Figure 3: Site Plan and Trial Pit Locations

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 *Archaeological and Historical Background*
Kensworth is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest. While it was anticipated that the site had the potential to reveal remains of a variety of period, the focus of interest in the evaluation lay in the medieval period.

3.2 South Bedfordshire were an important area of settlement throughout the prehistoric period. A small number of palaeolithic artefacts have been found in the Kensworth area, notably an axe from Mount Pleasant north of the site (Smith 1894, 65,102-2). Activity may have intensified during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and a quantity of Neolithic and Bronze Age flint has been located north of the site at Kensworth Quarry (McSloy & Shotliff 1996). A large number of Bronze Age round barrows (burial mounds) are situated in this area of the Chilterns, notably a group known as the *Five Knolls*, 3km west of the site (Dyer 1991).

3.3 The Chiltern hills were an important area during the Roman period and a major Roman road, now known as *Watling Street*, which ran northwest from *Londinium* (London) which passed 1km east of the site (OS 1979). The site lies 3km south of the small Roman town of *Durocobrivis* (Dunstable: Burnham & Wacher 1990; Matthews 1989) and finds of late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds in the churchyard immediately west of the site (Simco 1984, 108) and from Hollick's Lane to the south of the site (Horne 1997,11) may indicate that a Roman settlement was situated at Church End.

3.4 The settlement may have been in existence at Church End during the Saxon period and the presence of the parish church indicates that Church End may have formed the original centre of Kensworth. Kensworth was mentioned in the Domesday survey (1086). The land was held by the Canons of St Paul's, London, and was valued at seventy shillings (Morris 1977).

3.5 The parish church of St Mary is situated immediately west of the site and was probably constructed during the Norman period (Pevsner 1968, 105). The building now known as *Bury Farm* was the formerly the site of the manor (Page 1908) and Church End was probably the focus of settlement within the parish for much of the medieval period. The present village of Kensworth, once known as Kensworth Common, developed along the Whipsnade to Markyate road (the modern B4540) and now forms the major settlement in the parish.

4 Aims & Methods

4.1 *Aims*

The aims of the investigation were:

- to determine the structure of the footings of the west and north walls of the farm buildings.
- To consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains which are liable to be threatened by the development, within and to the north of the farm buildings.
- To produce an accurate and full record of the archaeological remains 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.

All elements of the work were conducted in accordance with *Project Design* (Zeepvat 2001). This stipulated that the investigation would comprise two elements, namely:

- Test-pitting
- Preparation of a report and archive

4.2 *Standards*

The work was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, the document *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* and the relevant section(s) of ASC's *Operations Manual*.

4.3 *Methods*

4.3.1 Twelve test pits were located as required by the Structural Engineer, as shown in Fig. 3. Pits 1-9 were placed along the inner (east) face of the west wall of the buildings. Pits 10 and 11 were located against the foot of the south face of the north wall of Building 5. All the above pits were a nominal 0.6m square.

4.3.2 Test Pit 12, which measured one metre square, was located to the north of Building 5, to examine stratigraphy in this area in the light of proposals to reduce soil levels as part of the development.

4.3.3 Excavation of the test pits was carried out by hand, according to the *Project Design.* Owing to the presence of concrete feed troughs along the west wall of Building 4 and the north wall of Building 5, and a concrete floor at the west end of the latter, a breaker was used to remove these obstacles so that excavation could take place. The breaker was also used to remove a concrete offset at the base of the rendered wall in TP3, but a more substantial offset in TP4 proved impossible to remove.

5 Results

5.1 *Test Pit 1*

This was located in Building 1, 4.1m from the south end of the barn.

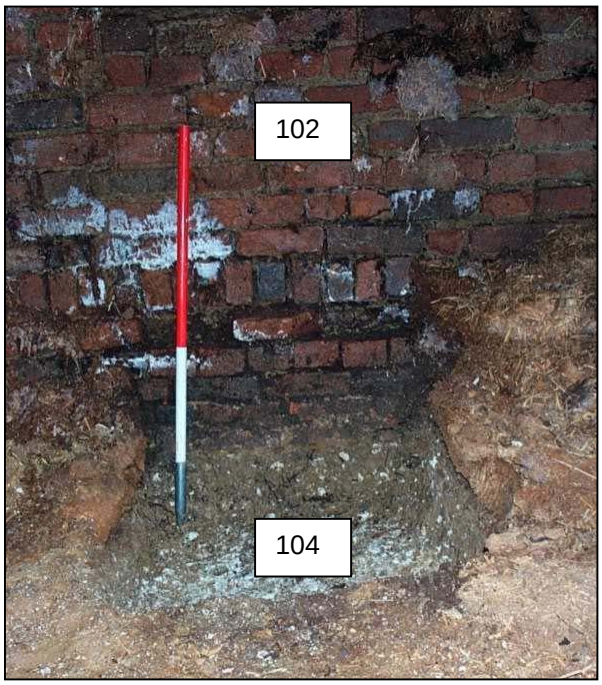


Plate 2: Trench 1 (*Scale = 1m*)

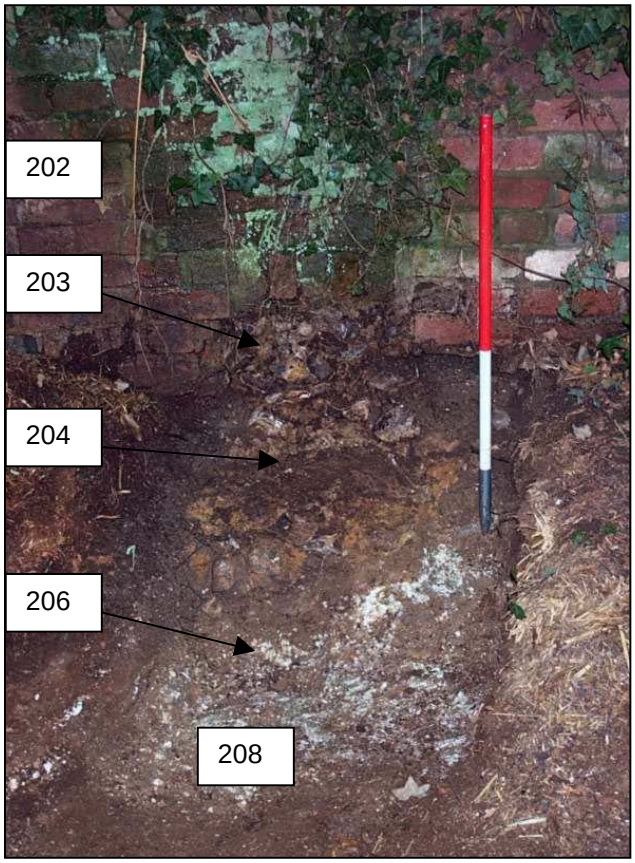
The footings of the barn wall at this point were found to consist of six courses of red bricks, laid in a modified English Garden Wall bond (102). The fifth course was offset *c.*80mm from the wall face. No foundation trench was present, and the footings were set directly onto orange-brown clay subsoil (103). Below this layer, the natural chalk was exposed at a depth of 0.45m below the present ground surface (104). No archaeological features were revealed in TP1.

Trench 1							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*450mm
Surface Height		181.42m OD			**Base Height**		181.22m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 1					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
100	Layer	Orangy brown organic material. Decayed straw etc.				100	-
101	Layer	Dark grey organic rich soil. Former soil layer				100	100
102	Structure	Six courses of red brick wall, set directly onto subsoil. Fifth course offset *c.*80mm. Modern wall of barn.				-	-
103	Layer	Orangy brown clay- occ. Flint nodules. Subsoil				250	200
104	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	*c.*450

Table 1: Trench 1 Context Summary

5.2 *Test Pit 2*

This pit was located towards the north end of building 1.



The footings of the barn wall at this point consisted of red brick courses, laid in stretcher bond (202). The brick wall overlaid the base of a wall (203) comprised of flints set on a cream mortar, 0.43m wide and standing to a height of 0.2m, running at right-angles to Wall 202. This flint wall evidently either represented an earlier structural phase of Barn 1, or predated it. Wall 203 was set centrally on a wider footing (204) of coarser flints with an orange brown clay (?) bonding, 0.25m deep

A rectangular feature 0.33m x 0.40m (206) was noted at the eastern end of Wall 203. It was filled with a deposit of orange brown clay, but contained no finds, and was interpreted as a posthole.

e = 1m)

Trench 2								
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*450mm	
Surface Height		181.45m OD			**Base Height**		181.41m OD	
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 1						
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**					**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
200	Layer	Orangy brown organic material. Decayed straw etc.					100	-
201	Layer	Dark grey organic rich soil. Former soil layer					100	100
202	Structure	Two courses of modern red bricks, set onto structure (203). Modern wall of barn.					-	-
203	Structure	Flint nodules bonded with cream mortar. Base of a wall. 17/18th century?					200	-
204	Structure	Flint nodules with orange brown bonding. Foundation of wall (203).					250	200
205 206	Fill Cut	Orangy brown clay. Fill of Posthole (206). Square construction cut. Posthole?					90 90	450 450
207	Layer	Orangy brown clay- occ. flint nodules. Former subsoil					250	200
208	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata					-	450

Table 2 Trench 2 Context Summary

5.3 *Test Pit 3*

This pit was located near the south end of Building 2.

Plate 4: Trench 3 (*Scale = 1m*)

In this building, the inner face of the west wall has been reinforced with a layer of concrete (303), poured within timber shuttering and having a projecting 'foot' at its base. Consequently, no details of the structure of the wall were visible. The 'foot' was removed with the breaker, revealing that the base of the wall 0.25m below the modern ground surface, was set directly onto natural chalk (304), which sloped down slightly towards the wall.

Trench 3							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*250mm
Surface Height		182.51m OD			**Base Height**		182.31m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 2					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
300	Layer	Orangy brown organic material. Decayed straw etc.				100	-
301	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material and concrete frags. Modern debris				150	100
302	Structure	Grey concrete adhering to base of wall (303)				40	-
303	Structure	Coarse cement with freq, pebbles. Face of barn wall				250	200
304	Layer	Chalk with orange brown clay. Natural Strata				-	450

Table 3: Trench 3 Context Summary

5.4 *Test Pit 4*

This pit was located 3.0m from the north end of Building 2.

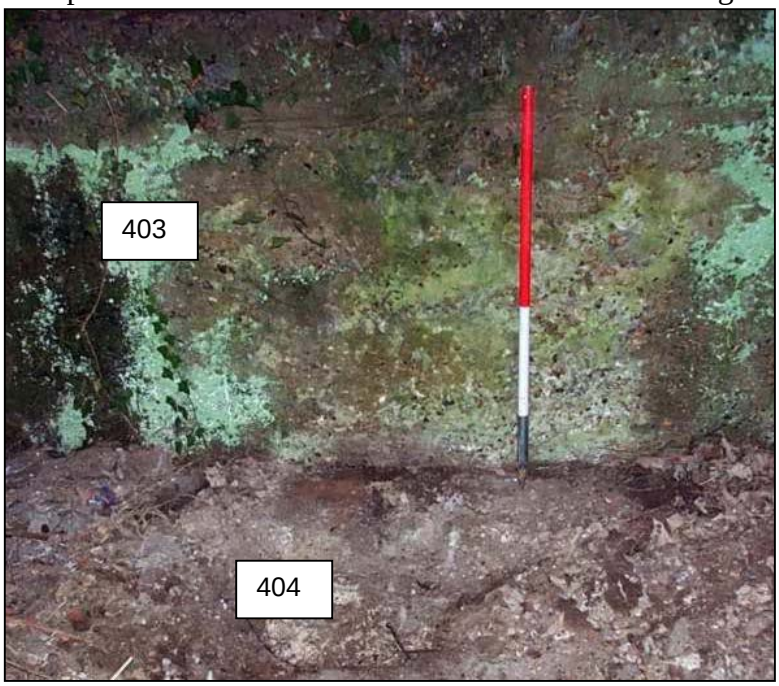


Plate 5: Trench 4 (*Scale = 1m*)

The wall in this location was much the same as described for Test Pit 3. In this instance the 'foot', which projected 0.25m from the base of the wall, was more substantial and could not be removed with the breaker. Consequently, the base of the wall could not be examined. Natural chalk (404) was encountered 0.3m below the modern ground surface.

Trench 4							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*300mm
Surface Height		182.49m OD			**Base Height**		182.20m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 2					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
400	Layer	Mixed gravel and concrete debris.				50	-
401	Layer	Mixed ceramic building material and concrete frags. Modern debris				150	100
402	Structure	Grey concrete adhering to base of wall (403)				40	-
403	Structure	Coarse cement with freq, pebbles. Face of barn wall				250	200
404	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	300

Table 4: Trench 4 Context Summary

5.5 *Test Pit 5*

Test Pit 5 was located towards the south end of Building 3.

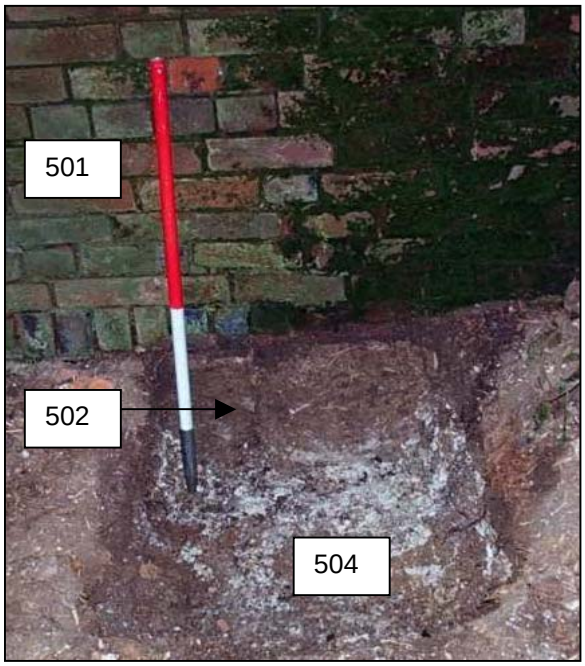


Plate 6: Trench 5 (*Scale = 1m*)

In this building, the west wall (501) was constructed in red brick, laid in Flemish bond. It was set on a footing of large roughly squared blocks of Totternhoe Clunch stone, 0.3m tall (502). These blocks were bonded with orange-brown clay containing chalk flecks (503) and were set directly onto the natural chalk (504), 0.4m below the present ground surface. No foundation trench was present.

Trench 5							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	400mm
Surface Height		183.26m OD			**Base Height**		182.99m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 3					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
500	Layer	Orangy brown organic material. Decayed straw etc.				100	-
501	Structure	Two courses of red brick wall. Modern west wall of Barn 3				*c.*150	-
502	Structure	Two roughly hewn Totternhoe clunch blocks with orange brown clay bonding. Base or foundation of a wall				300	100
503	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	400

Table 5: Trench 5 Context Summary

5.6 *Test Pit 6*

This test pit was located towards the north end of Building 3.

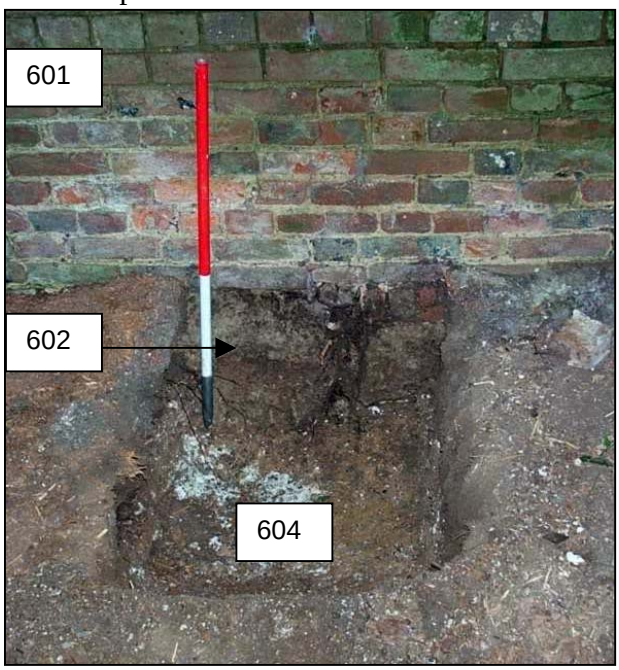


Plate 7: Trench 6 (*Scale = 1m*)

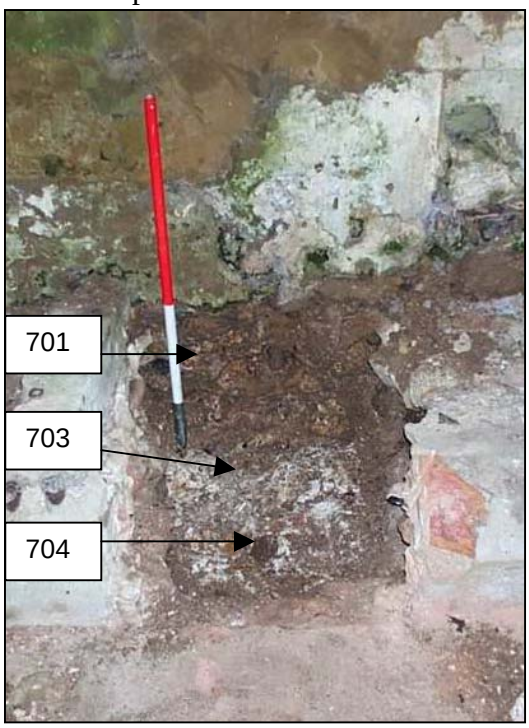
The wall structure and footings were more or less as described for Test Pit 5. The clunch block footings (602) were set on natural chalk (604), 0.34m below the present ground surface.

Trench 6							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	340mm
Surface Height		183.48m OD			**Base Height**		183.22m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 3					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
600	Layer	Orangy brown organic material. Decayed straw etc.				100	-
601	Structure	A single course of red brick wall. Modern west wall of Barn 3				*c.*150	-
602	Structure	Two roughly hewn Totternhoe clunch blocks bonded with orange brown clay. Base or foundation of a wall				300	*c.*150
603	Layer	Orange brown clay with freq. Flint nodules. Subsoil				*c.*300	*c.*100
604	Layer	Chalk with orangy brown clay. Natural Strata				-	340

Table 6: Trench 6 Context Summary

5.7 *Test Pit 7*

This test pit was located towards the southern end of Building 4. A low feeding trough, constructed in concrete with a brick edging was situated against the west wall of this building. It was removed with the breaker.



The wall face in TP7 was obscured by areas of modern cement rendering, so no meaningful observations regarding its structure could be made, other than that its lower part was of flint, set in a grey mortar (701). This was located on an irregular foundation of coarser flints (702), set in a foundation trench (703), cut into the natural chalk. The base of the footing was 0.45m below the modern ground surface.

A circular feature 0.1m deep (704) had been cut into the chalk 0.45m east of the foundation trench. It was filled with a dark grey silt containing no finds. This was presumably a posthole.

Plate 8: Trench 7 (*Scale = 1m*)

Trench 7							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	800mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*450mm
Surface Height		183.79m OD			**Base Height**		183.35m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 4					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
700	Layer	Mixed modern brick and concrete debris. Base of modern feeding trough.				300	-
706	Layer	Dark grey silty soil with occ. Concrete debris. Redeposited soil				100	300
701	Structure	Random natural flint nodules in a grey mortar. Wall of Barn				-	-
702	Fill	Coarse flints (larger than (701), set in grey mortar. Fill of wall foundation trench					*c.*100
703	Cut	Irregular construction cut of foundation trench of Wall (701).					*c.*100
705	Fill	Dark grey silt. Filling of Posthole (704).				*c.*100	450
704	Cut	Circular cut. Construction cut of posthole?				*c.*100	450
707	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	450

Table 7: Trench 7 Context Summary

5.8 *Test Pit 8*

This test pit was located close to the north ending of Building 4.

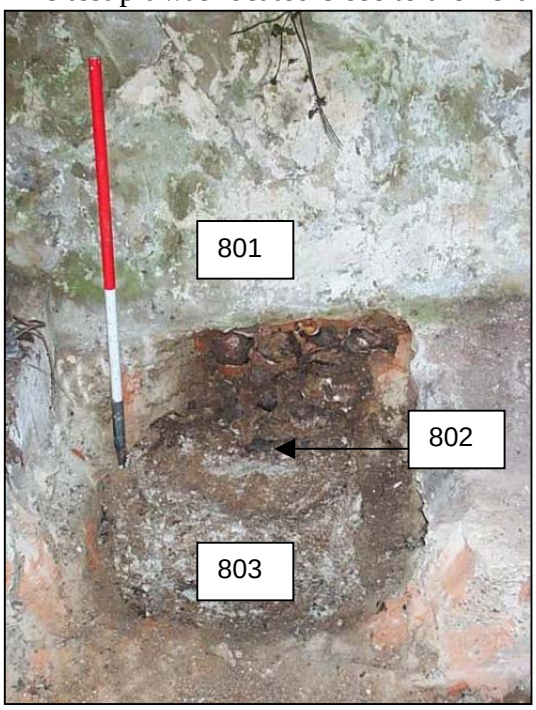


Plate 9: Trench 8 (*Scale = 1m*)

Details of the wall, its footings and construction trench are as described in TP7. No archaeological features were noted in the test pit.

Trench 8							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	800mm	**Width**	600mm	**Depth**	*c.*120mm
Surface Height		183.87m OD			**Base Height**		183.79m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 4					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
800	Layer	Mixed modern brick and concrete debris. Base of modern feeding trough.				*c.*300	-
801	Structure	Random natural flint nodules in a grey mortar- faced with concrete. Wall of Barn				-	*c.*120
802	Cut	Irregular cut Construction cut of foundation trench of Wall (801).				-	*c.*120
803	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	120

Table 8: Trench 8 Context Summary

5.9 *Test Pit 9*

Test Pit 9 was located in the west end of Building 5, within a rectangular-section through running the length of the building, down its east-west axis.

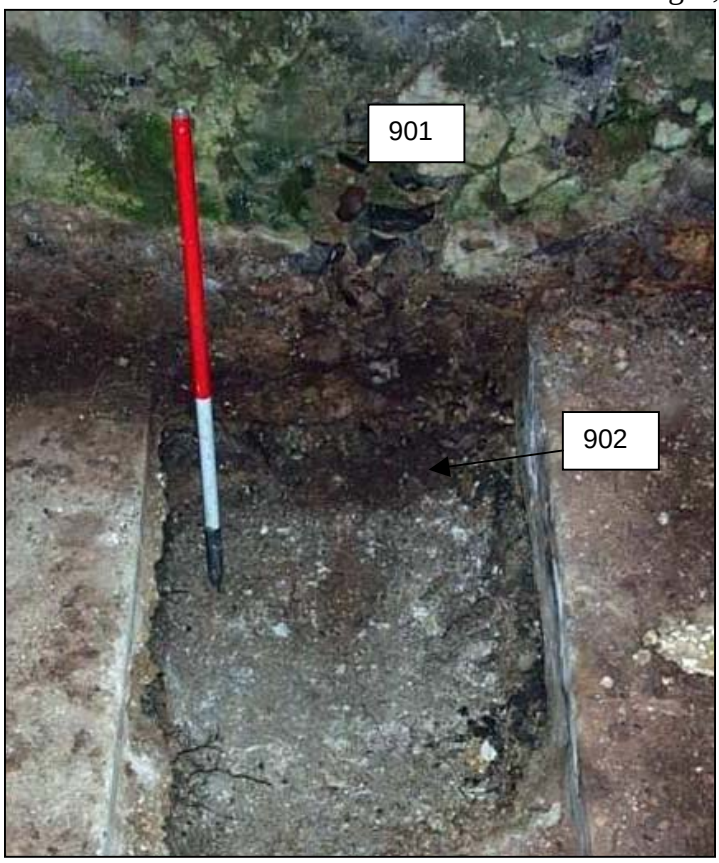


Plate 10: Trench 9 (*Scale = 1m*)

The lower part of the west wall and its footings (901) were of flint set in a grey mortar, with a rendered surface, more or less as described in Building 4. However, the upper part of the wall was constructed in red brick. The wall footings were set in a shallow foundation trench with gently sloping sides (902). The natural chalk strata was located *c.*0.4m below the concrete barn floor.

Trench 9								
Max Dimensions		**Length**	600mm	**Width**	500mm	**Depth**	*c.*400mm	
Surface Height		184.90m OD			**Base Height**		184.40m OD	
Reason for Trench		Testing base of west wall of Barn 5						
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**					**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
900	Layer	Mixed modern brick and concrete debris.					*c.*400	-
901	Structure	Random natural flint nodules in a grey mortar- faced with plaster. Wall of Barn					-	
902	Cut	Irregular construction cut of foundation trench of Wall (901).					-	*c.*400
903	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata					-	400

Table 9: Trench 9 Context Summary

5.10 *Test Pit 10*

This pit was located against the north wall of Building 5, towards its western end. Two phases of feed trough, built up with a loose tarmac-like material and surfaced with a mortar skim, ran the length of this wall and had to be removed with the breaker.

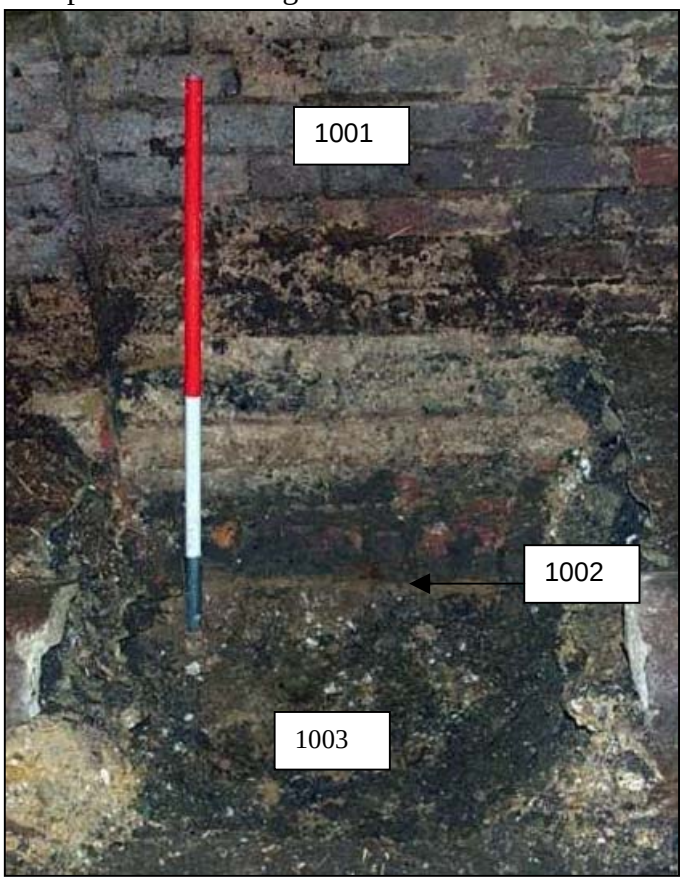


Plate 11: Trench 10 (*Scale = 1m*)

The north wall (1001) was constructed of red brick, laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond, with footings in Stretcher bond, offset 80mm from the wall face. The footings were laid on a deposit of mixed dark grey silty clay 0.1m thick (1002), overlying the natural chalk (1003). There was no evidence for a footing trench. The top of the natural chalk was located 0.35m below the concrete floor of the barn.

Trench 10							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	850mm	**Width**	650mm	**Depth**	*c.*350mm
Surface Height		184.92m OD			**Base Height**		184.44m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of north wall of Barn 5					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
1000	Layer	Mixed modern brick and concrete debris. Base of modern feeding trough				*c.*400	-
1001	Structure	Five courses of red brick wall. North wall of Barn				-	-
1002	Structure	Dark grey silty clay. Former soil layer?				100	250
1003	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	350

Table 10: Trench 10 Context Summary

5.11 *Test Pit 11*

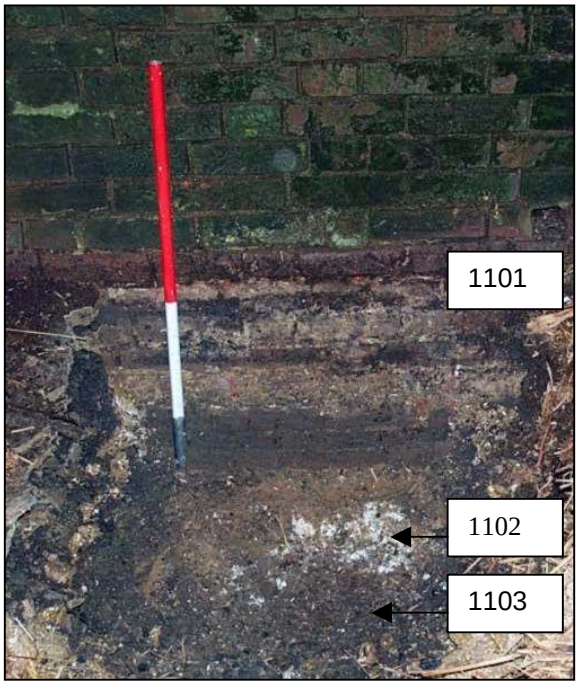


Plate 12: Trench 11 (*Scale = 1m*)

Test Pit 11 was located towards the eastern end of Building 5. The wall, its footings and related structures were exactly as described for Test Pit 10.

Trench 11							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	1m	**Width**	700mm	**Depth**	*c.*350mm
Surface Height		184.90m OD			**Base Height**		184.46m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing base of north wall of Barn 5					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
1100	Layer	Mixed modern brick and concrete debris. Base of modern feeding trough				*c.*400	-
1101	Structure	Five courses of red brick wall. North wall of Barn				-	-
1102	Structure	Grey silty clay. Soil layer?				100	250
1103	Layer	Chalk. Natural Strata				-	350

Table 11: Trench 11 Context Summary

5.12 *Test Pit 12*

This pit was located at the northern end of the site, close to the north wall of Building 5. Its aim was to sample any archaeological features which may exist to the north of Building 5, and to test the level of undisturbed soil in that area

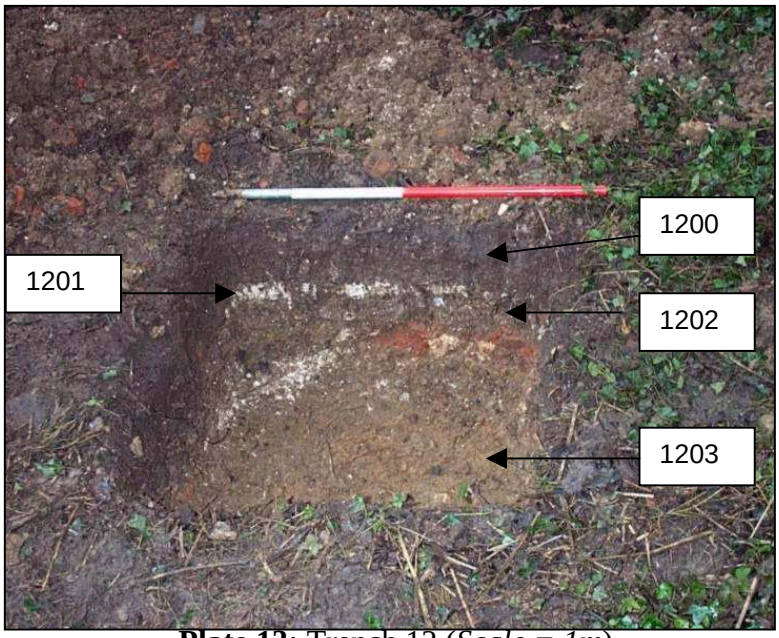


Plate 13: Trench 12 (*Scale = 1m*)

Topsoil in TP12 comprised a dark grey-brown clayey silt, 0.15m thick. Beneath this was a layer of crushed chalk (1201), 70mm thick and of modern date, overlying a deposit of re brick debris mixed with a pale brown silty clay (1202), 0.15m thick, also of modern date. Beneath layer (1202), at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground level, the natural subsoil, an orange-brown silty clay (1203) was encountered. No archaeological features or finds were noted in TP12.

Trench 12							
Max Dimensions		**Length**	1m	**Width**	1m	**Depth**	400mm
Surface Height		186.79m OD			**Base Height**		186.37m OD
Reason for Trench		Testing area north of the barns					
Context	**Type**	**Description and Interpretation**				**Max Thckns (mm)**	**Depth (BGL mm)**
1200	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay. Topsoil.				150	-
1201	Layer	Crushed chalk. Modern spread of redeposited chalk				70	150
1202	Layer	Mixed red brick debris mixed with pale brown silty clay (70%: 30%). Modern building debris mixed with redeposited subsoil				150	250
1203	Layer	Orange brown silty clay. Natural Subsoil				-	400

Table 12: Trench 12 Context Summary

6 Conclusions

6.1 The archaeological investigation successfully addressed the aims set out in the Project Design, and summarised in Section 4 of this document. Information was obtained regarding the construction and footings of the west and north walls of the farm buildings, and the area to the north, where ground levels may be significantly reduced during the proposed development.

6.2 Although Bury Farm lies within the medieval settlement of Kensworth, and is in an area of known Roman activity, no archaeological features or finds of these dates were present on the test pits. This is not to say that evidence of either period may be encountered elsewhere during this development.

6.3 Bury Farm is on a pronounced north-south slope. The fact that present ground levels (apparently undisturbed) to the north of the barns, and also to the west in the churchyard, are significantly higher than those in the barns, suggests that significant terracing has been carried out to provide level floors within the buildings. The depth of soil within the barns is shallow, and the chalk substrata is typically 0.15 – 0.40m below present floor levels. The modern concrete floor in Building 5 has been built up to some extent on its south side, but it is still significantly lower than undisturbed ground levels to the north of the building.

6.4 It was evident that the west wall of the farm buildings has a complex history, incorporating a variety of materials and structural techniques. While much of the wall, notably the upper part, is of brick and probably dates from the 19th or early 20th century, there are elements of clunch and flint construction in its lower part and footings which are probably of earlier date, possibly 17th or 18th-century. The north wall of Building 5, which is constructed entirely of brick, is almost certainly of 19th or 20th-century date.

6.5 Of particular interest is the truncated east-west flint wall (203) located in Building 1. This appears to predate the surviving elements of the west wall of that structure, and probably belongs either to an earlier phase of Building 1, or to an earlier building on the same site.

6.6 Detailed commentary on the structural condition of the west wall of the farm buildings is beyond the scope of the archaeological investigation. However, it was noted that the wall footings are set directly on natural chalk throughout most of its length, and show no obvious signs of movement or distortion.

7 Acknowledgements

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9. Archive

9.1 The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum.

9.2 The accession number allocated to the archive is: pending

9.3 The project archive comprises:

1. 12 Trench Record Sheets
2. *c.*30 colour slides
3. *c.*30 Black White Prints
4. 1 x CDROM containing digital archive