

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
ALLOTMENTS
CONSTABLE LEYS
KIMBOLTON
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
TL 0985 6814**

on behalf of Bewick Homes Ltd



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

July 2007

ASC: 921/KCL/2

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>	KCL	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	921
<i>Event No:</i>	ECB2614	<i>Accession No:</i>	-
<i>County:</i>	Cambridgeshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Kimbolton		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Kimbolton		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	TL 0985 6814		
<i>Present use:</i>	Allotments		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Construction of thirteen dwellings and associated works		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	0603563FUL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Huntingdonshire District Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	16 th July 2007		
<i>Client:</i>	Bewick Homes Ltd 40 Mill Street Bedford MK40 3HD		
<i>Contact name:</i>	R C Kane		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Aims & Methods	6
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	7
4. Results.	8
5. Conclusions	11
6. Acknowledgements	12
7. Archive	12
8. References	13

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables.....	14
2. List of Photographs.....	16
3. ASC OASIS Form	17

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Site plan showing actual trench locations	5
3. Plan of Trench 2	10

Plates:

Cover: General shot, looking east

1. General view of site.....	9
2. Trench 2: detail of animal bone in pit (204).....	9

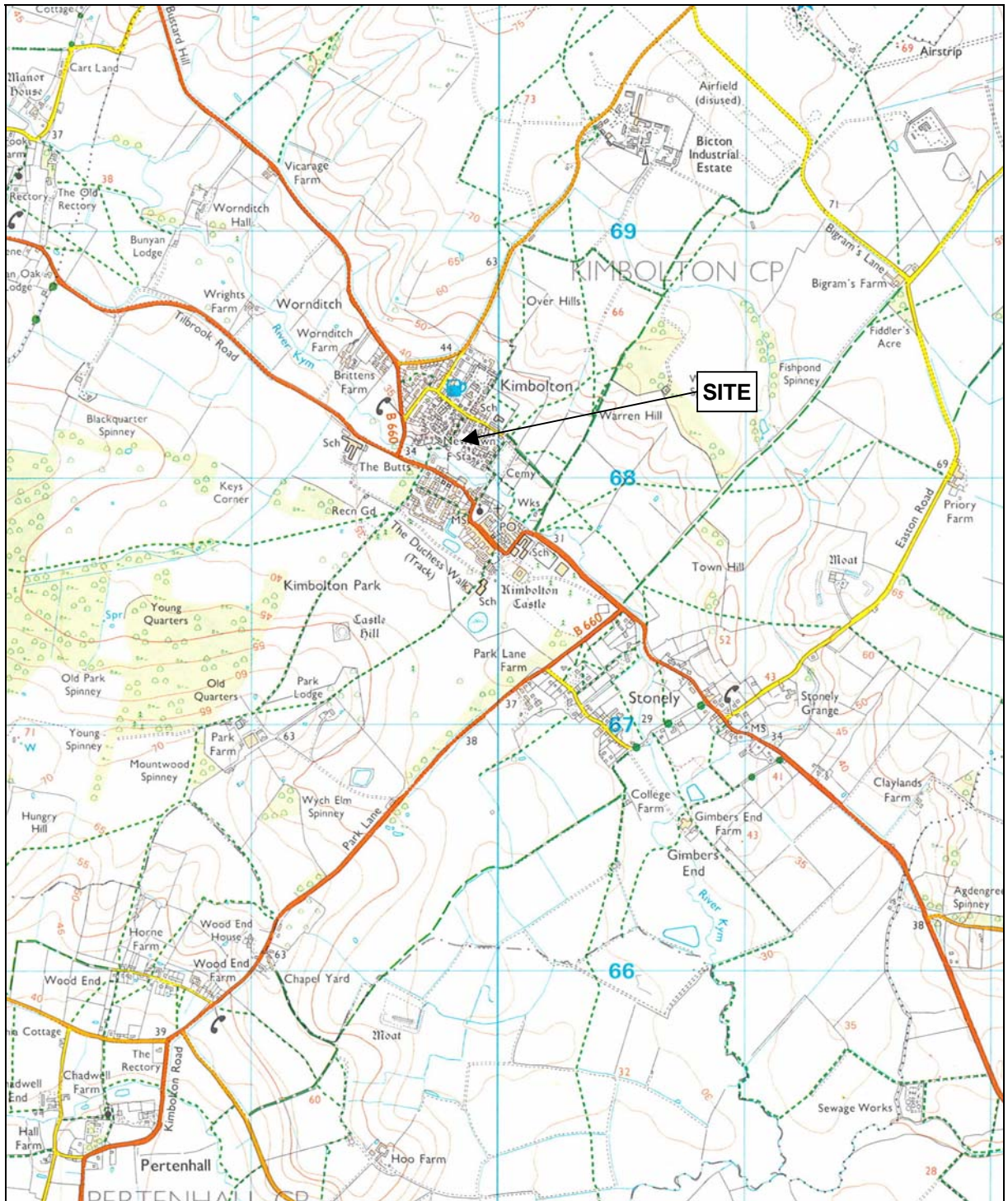


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In July 2007 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at The Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, in advance of the residential development of the site. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological finds or features were observed within three of the trenches. A small modern pit containing animal bone was noted in the remaining trench.

1 Introduction

1.1 In July 2007 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at *The Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton* (NGR TL 0985 6814: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Bewick Homes Ltd*, and was carried out according to a brief (Thomas 2007) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Cambridgeshire County Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office*, and a project design prepared by ASC (McLeish 2007). The relevant planning application reference is 0603563FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the construction of thirteen dwellings and associated works.

1.3 *Location*

The site is situated in the historic village of Kimbolton in the administrative district of Huntingdonshire, and is centred on Ordnance Survey NGR TL 0985 6814 (Fig. 1). It comprises a rectangular area of land of c.4000 sq m, close to the centre of the village. The site is bordered by residential housing to the north, east and west, with open grassland to the south.

1.4 *Description*

Access to the site is from Constable Leys (Fig. 2). The site currently comprises allotments and a number of trees and garden sheds etc, are present, notably in the centre of the site.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The soils of the area comprise the *Denchworth Association*. These are characterised as *slowly permeable and seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with fine loamy soils over clayey soils, some slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils over Jurassic and Cretaceous clay* (Soil Survey 1983,712b). The natural drainage of the area is dominated by the River Kym, which flows c.25m south west of the site. The site is flat and lies at an elevation of c. 35m OD.

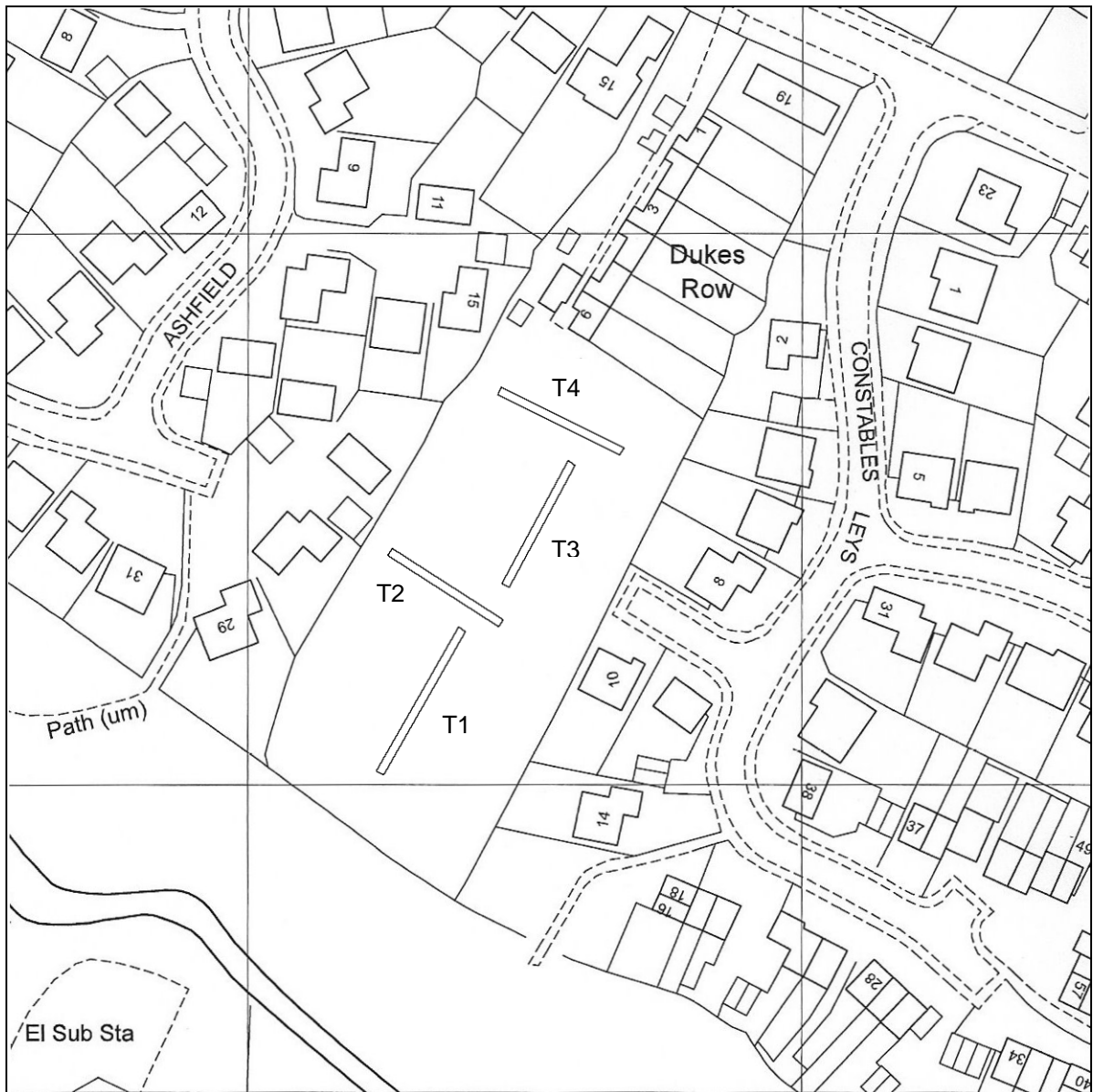


Figure 2: Site plan showing actual trench locations (scale 1:1250)

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (Section 3), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- To assess the environmental potential of the site, if appropriate, with assistance from suitably qualified environmental specialists.
- A careful consideration of any artefactual or economic information, in particular the survival of faunal evidence
- Advice will be sought from a suitably qualified specialist in Faunal Remains on the potential of sites for producing bones of fish and small mammals. If there is potential, a sieving programme is to be undertaken. Any faunal remains collected will be assessed and analysed if appropriate.
- To highlight any relevant research issues within a national and regional research framework.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (Section 2), which required:

- Four trial trenches, totalling c.97 linear metres, to be excavated.
- All features to be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the AA.

Actual trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

HER: Historic Environment Record

- 3.1 Kimbolton is an historic medieval market town which is recorded in the Domesday Book as being held by King Harold, forming the only estate to be held by the king within Huntingdonshire in 1066 (HAT Report No:258, 2004), and of having a somewhat important status (EH nd, 6). It is bisected into two sectors, the older part of the town to the south and the New Town to the north by the River Kym and the B645. The New Town, although primarily a 20th century construct, has its origins in the late 13th century. The area to be developed lies to the north of the river, where no previous archaeological investigation has been carried out.
- 3.2 Kimbolton is an area of considerable archaeological and historical interest (EH nd). The site has the potential to reveal evidence from a variety of periods, with the focus of interest likely to be in the medieval period. This geographical locale of low-lying gravel soil would facilitate some form of settlement within the area over a substantial period.
- 3.3 Very little archaeological material has been recovered from Kimbolton, and that which has is mainly in the form of surface/stray finds including a 13th century jug close to the castle NGR TL 102 677 (HER: 00415), and an iron spear head relating to either the Iron Age or Anglo Saxon period NGR TL 099 679 (HER: 00918)(EH nd 5). One interesting point is the lack of Roman archaeological material recovered, particularly due to its close proximity to the Roman town of Godmanchester, approximately 15Km to the north-east. No roads appear to have been developed to maximise any economic exchange, and so it remained on the periphery of any major Roman activity (HAT, Report 959, 2001).
- 3.4 Within the wider vicinity of the proposed development area there is an earthen bank NGR TL 0967 6814 (HER: 00256), positioned across the valley, where the River Kym forms a right angle, named *The Butts*. Measuring approximately 50m long and 24m wide, with a height of 1.70m, most likely the remains of a pond bay, (or butt, hence the areas name). No finds have been recorded for this area. To the south of the proposed site on the other side of the river, a 16th century silver Henry VIII coin was discovered as a stray find NGR TL 0975 6806 (HER: MCB 16801).
- 3.5 To date there have been three archaeological investigations carried out within Kimbolton, none of which include the proposed area of development. These include archaeological monitoring on remedial works to St Andrews Church, a desk based assessment for proposed redevelopment of Robinson's Garage, and a desk based assessment on behalf of Kimbolton School.
- 3.6 To conclude, Kimbolton appears to have retained much of its Medieval past in both the nature of town planning and its surviving Medieval buildings. In addition, the agricultural traces of medieval activity may still be visible within some local fields (EH nd, 16). Some economic expansion has occurred within the town but much of its original character is still visible today. This notion of peripheral locale could be applicable to Kimbolton throughout much of the Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods. (*ibid*).

4 Results

4.1 *Trenches 1, 3 and 4*

These three trenches were all very similar in character. No archaeological finds or features were observed within them, and the fills of all three comprised between 0.2-0.25m of topsoil over natural orange sandy gravel.

4.2 *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was the only trench in which archaeological features were observed. A pit (204) containing horse and sheep or goat bones was noted within the first 0.7m of the eastern end of the trench (Plate 2). The pit had no distinct cut, and based on the presence of three sherds of white china within the fill, it was concluded that it was likely to be of modern date.

4.3 Two further possible features were identified within the trench. Both were very similar – they appeared to comprise two north-south linear features, approximately 2m wide, both filled with grey orange gravely sandy clay. One-metre wide sections were dug through both these features, and both were concluded to have been formed naturally.



Plate 1: General view of site, looking north east



Plate 2: Trench 2: detail of animal bone in pit (204). 1m scale

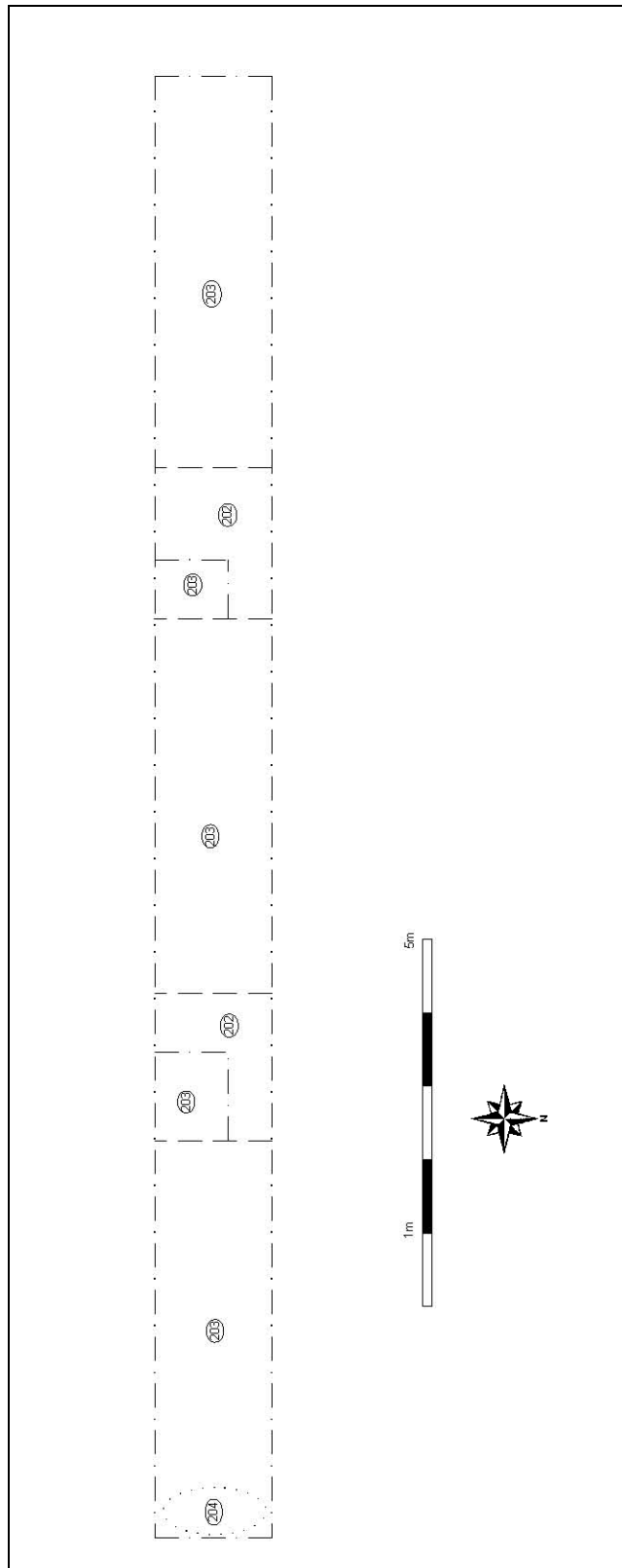


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 2 (scale 1:100)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1881) shows that the site has been undeveloped since the late 19th century. The allotments that covered the site until recent times are unlikely to have disturbed any archaeological remains on the site, and as a result are unlikely to have had any impact on the results of the evaluation.
- 5.2 No significant archaeological finds or features were observed within any of the four trenches excavated on site, although the possibility of archaeological features existing within the bounds of the site away from the trenches cannot be excluded.
- 5.3 *Confidence Rating*
The evaluation was undertaken in mainly dry, sunny conditions, and full cooperation was received from all parties involved. A high confidence rating is attached to the results of the evaluation.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Bewick Homes Ltd for commissioning ASC to undertake the evaluation at The Allotments. Thanks are also due to Hewdens for providing the plant and driver, and to the staff of the school for their assistance. The brief was produced by Andy Thomas of the *Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office (AA)*. Kasia Gdaniec monitored the fieldwork for the AA. The project was managed by David Fell BA MA MIFA and the fieldwork was carried out by Nigel Wilson HND AIFA and Calli Rouse BA PIFA.

The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. List of photographs
9. B/W prints & negatives
10. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Store. The relevant OASIS number is 28918.

8. References


Standards & Specifications


- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- McLeish, J 2007 *Project design for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire* ASC/921/KCL/1
- Thomas, A 2007 Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation. Cambridgeshire County Council.


Secondary Sources


- EH nd Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey Report (Draft).
- Gibson C. D, 2001 *Thrapston Road, Kimbolton Desk Based Assessment, Cambridgeshire*. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust. Report No: 959.
- Semmelmann K. & Ashworth. H. 2004. *St Andrews Church, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire*. The Heritage Network Ltd. Unpublished Report No: 258
- Taylor A. 1999. *Kimbolton School Swimming Pool: Desk Based Assessment*. Cambridge Heritage Associates.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	29.8	Width	1.6	Depth (max)	0.52
	Levels					
	Trench top north			35.8m OD		
	Trench top south			33m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	TL 509839 268128		S	TL 509824 268102	
	Orientation			N-S		
	Reason for Trench			Within footprint of proposed development		
	Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
101	Layer	Organic dark brown black silty soil - Topsoil	1600	200	-	
102	Layer	Orange sandy gravel – Natural subsoil	1600	-	200	

Trench 2						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	19.9	Width	1.6	Depth	0.45
	Levels					
	Trench top east			35.4m OD		
	Trench top west			37.2m OD		
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	E	TL 509846 268129		W	TL 509826 268142	
	Orientation			E-W		
	Reason for Trench			Within footprint of proposed development		
	Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
201	Layer	Organic dark brown black silty soil - Topsoil	1600	300	-	
202	Layer	Grey orange gravely sandy clay – Natural subsoil	1600	200	300	
203	Layer	Orange sandy gravel – Natural subsoil	1600	-	500	
204	Cut/fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay - Pit	-	100	300	

Trench 3						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	24.6	Width	1.6	Depth	0.4
	Levels					
	Trench top north		35.9m OD			
	Trench top south		35.6m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	N	TL 509859 268158	S	TL 509847 268136		
	Orientation		N-S			
	Reason for Trench		Within footprint of proposed development			
	Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
301	Layer	Organic dark brown black silty soil - Topsoil	1600	250	-	
302	Layer	Orange sandy gravel – Natural subsoil	1600	150	250	

Trench 4						
	Max Dimensions (m)					
	Length	22.8	Width	1.6	Depth	0.3
	Levels					
	Trench top north		37.8m OD			
	Trench top south		36.2m OD			
	NGR Co-ordinates					
	E	TL 509868 268160	W	TL 509846 268171		
	Orientation		E-W			
	Reason for Trench		Within footprint of proposed development			
	Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Width (mm)	Max Thckn (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
301	Layer	Organic dark brown black silty soil - Topsoil	1600	250	-	
302	Layer	Orange sandy gravel – Natural subsoil	1600	50	250	

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: the Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambs		SITE NO/CODE: 921/KCL	
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	Bones, Trench 2, 1m scale
2		✓	General shot, looking east
3		✓	General shot, looking south
4		✓	General shot, looking west
5		✓	General shot, looking north west
6		✓	General shot, looking north east
7	✓	✓	Trench 1, looking north, 1m scale
8	✓	✓	Trench 2, looking west, 1m scale
9	✓	✓	Trench 3, looking north, 1m scale
10	✓	✓	Trench 4, looking West, 1m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	The Allotments, Constable Leys, Kmbolton, Cambridgeshire		
Short Description:	<i>In July 2007, an archaeological evaluation was carried out at The Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, in advance of the residential development of the site. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. No archaeological finds or features were observed within three of the trenches. A small modern pit containing animal bone was noted in the remaining trench.</i>		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Allotments	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	-	Monument period:	-
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Cambridgeshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0985 6814
Site address: (with postcode if known)	The Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)		Height OD: (metres)	35
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Andy Thomas	Project design originator:	Janice McLeish
Project Manager:	David Fell	Director/Supervisor:	David Fell
Sponsor / funding body:	Bewick Homes Ltd		
A. PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	16/07/07	End date:	16/07/07
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Cambridgeshire County Store		
Paper:		Brief, Project Design, Report, Site Record Sheets	
Digital:		CD	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	An Archaeological Evaluation at the Allotments, Constable Leys, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC/KCL/2		
Author(s):	Calli Rouse		
Page nos	17	Date:	18/07/07