Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
59 STATION ROAD
TODDINGTON
BEDFORDSHIRE

NGR: TL 0108 2912

for Archaeologica Ltd on behalf of Heritage New Homes

J Richards BA PIFA

March 2008

ASC: 1043/TSR/1

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Site Data

ASC project code:	TSR	*ASC project no:*	1043
OASIS ref:		*Event/Accession no:*	Pending

County:	Bedfordshire
Village/Town:	Toddington
Civil Parish:	Toddington
NGR (to 8 figs):	TL 0108 2912
Extent of site:	*c.* 0.16ha
Present use:	Garage & Parking
Planning proposal:	Residential development
Planning application ref/date:	SB/TP/07/0688
Local Planning Authority:	South Bedfordshire District Council
Date of fieldwork:	10th – 11th March 2008
Commissioned by:	Archaeologica Ltd 7 Fosters Lane Bradwell Milton Keynes MK13 9HD
Client:	Heritage New Homes Ltd Telford Place 1 Telford Way Luton Bedfordshire LU1 1HT
Contact name:	Isabel M G Lisboa BA PhD

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	J Richards BA PIFA	*Date:*	17th March 2008

Revisions:		*Date:*	

Edited/Checked By:		*Date:*	

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

Summary

In March 2008 ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation at 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire in advance of construction of new dwellings at the site. A stone lined well of probable 18th century date was observed. This was located in an area proposed as a car park in the new development. The well had already been damaged by previous development on the site to a depth of 1m below ground level, and the surviving parts are below the formation level of the proposed carpark. No other significant archaeological features were observed and the archaeological impact of this development is therefore considered to be low.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Archaeologica Ltd*, on behalf of *Heritage New Homes Ltd*, and was carried out according to a brief (Mather 2008) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *South Bedfordshire District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Bedfordshire County Council*, and a project design prepared by *Archaeologica Ltd* (Lisboa 2008). The relevant planning application reference is SB/TP/07/0688.

1.2 ***Planning Background***

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 ***Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd***

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 Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 ***Management***

The project was carried out under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA. Bob is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of a wide range of fieldwork in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists since 1986. He has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, formerly as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit*, and as Project Manager for the *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust.*

1.5 ***The Site***

1.5.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated in Toddington, in the administrative district of South Bedfordshire (Fig. 1). It comprises a rectangular area of land on the north side of Station Road.

The site comprises an area of 1556 square metres bounded to the southeast by Station Road and by houses to the northeast and southwest; an empty plot of land lies to the northwest (Fig. 2).

1.5.2 *Geology & Topography*

The soils around Toddington belong to the *Sutton 1* association "well drained fine and coarse loamy soils locally calcareous and in places shallow over limestone gravel" (Soil Survey 1983, 571u) over Gault clay (BGS, Sheet 220).

The site is essentially flat and lies at c.143m aOD.

1.5.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development consists of two blocks of dwellings and attendant parking areas (Fig. 3). The larger of the dwelling blocks sits on the street front of Station Road and its footprint falls within the area of the former garage building. The second block sits to the rear of the plot on ground currently used as parking.

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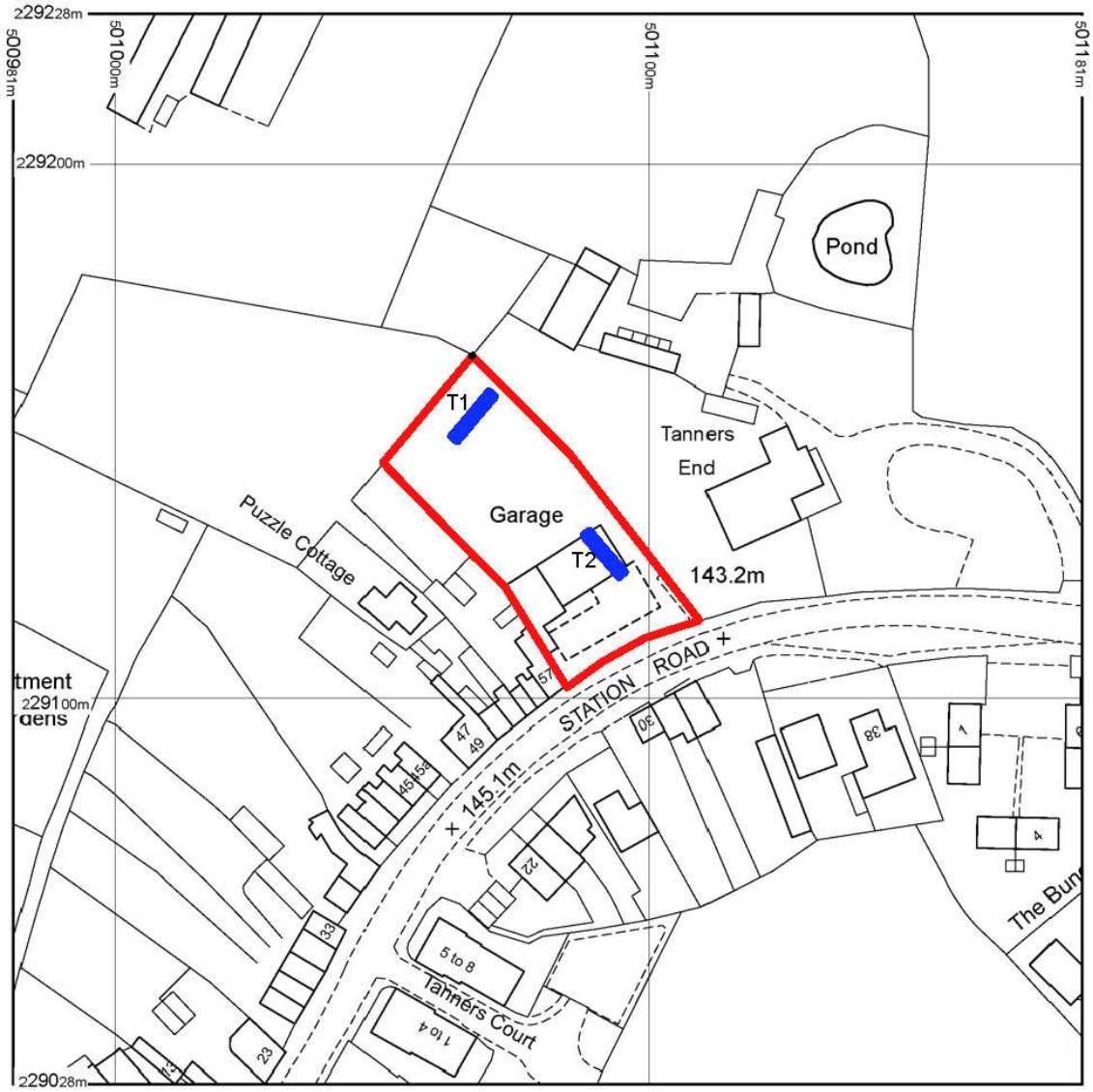

Figure 2: Site plan showing trench locations *(scale 1:1250)*

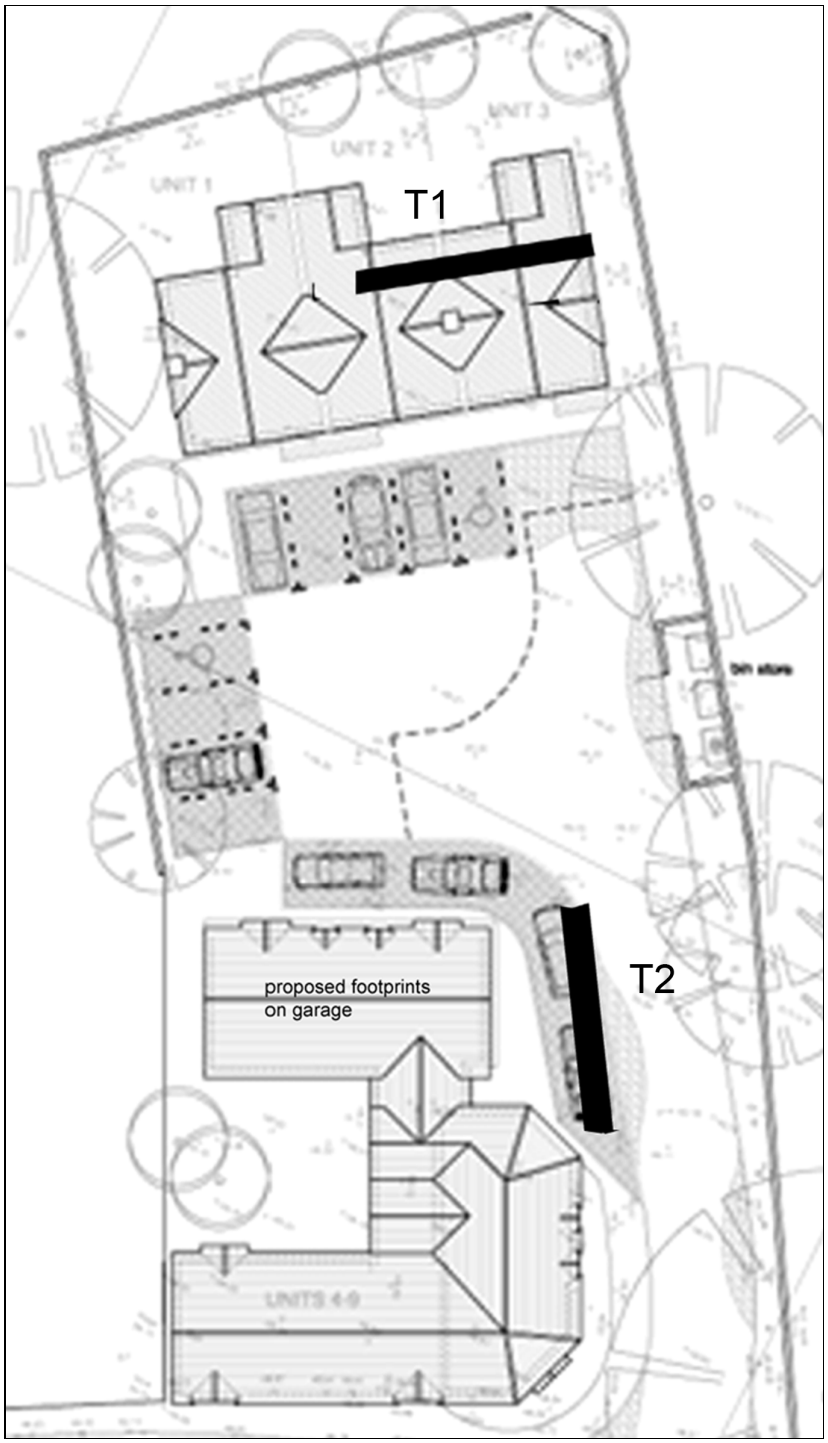

Figure 3: Proposed Development showing trench locations (*Scale 1:300*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design (Section 4.1), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological and environmental deposits within the application area

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 project design (Section 4.2), which required:

- Two trenches were excavated across the footprints of one of the housing blocks and an access road (Fig. 3).
- Trench 1 was 10m in length and was orientated NNW-SSE parallel to Station Road in the footprint of the proposed new dwelling at the rear of the plot
- Trench 2 was 10m in length and was orientated at right angles to Trench 1 on the access road adjacent to the existing garage.

2.4 *Constraints*

The concrete hardstanding over the southern part of the site had already been removed prior to the commencement of the evaluation. Trench 1 was located in an area used for parking and covered in a layer of tarmac. This was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket; once this layer had been removed the remainder of the trench was excavated using a toothless bucket.

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3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from a project design prepared by Archaeologica Ltd (Lisboa 2008).

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** *(before 600BC)*
Prehistoric flints have been found in the surrounds of Toddington (HER 3291, 15845, 15846, 15860) including knives, blades and cores dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Two Bronze Age urns were found to the southwest of Toddington (HER 1426), with an unusually high number of hoards known from further afield, more than 1km from Toddington.

3.3 ***Iron Age and Roman*** *(600BC-c.AD450)*
Very little Iron Age and Roman archaeology is known from the area around Toddington, the nearest known Roman occupation is over 1km from the development site. A coin of Cunobelin was found in the nineteenth century in Toddington (Kennett 1972). An early-mid 1st century BC cremation burial was discovered 1km south of the development site in 1858, and several pottery sherds and bronze working debris found close by indicate the presence of a cemetery (Pollard 1991). A collection of pottery vessels dating to the 1st to 2nd century AD was also discovered 2km to the southeast of the development site (*ibid*).

3.5 ***Saxon*** *(c.450-1066)*
A Saxon cemetery is known *c.*150m to the northeast of the application site (HER 101) with another cemetery further out at Chalton (HER 99). Further away, in the outskirts of the town, early pagan cemeteries with cremations and inhumations of 5-6th century date were found (HER 2857 and HER 11954). This suggests that the general area of Toddington was favoured for Saxon settlement.

3.6 ***Medieval*** *(1066-1500)*

The development site lies within the medieval core of Toddington (HER 16981), which was a medieval market town. The right to hold a market was granted in 1218. The town continued to prosper in the medieval period and its layout suggests it became a medieval planned town, organised around a green located at the junction of four of the five roads which crossed the town, probably in the 13th century.

The 13th century church of St George (HER 962) sits to the north-east of the development site and occupies the highest ground within the town and may be the site of earlier churches. Behind the church lay a Hospital, St John's Hospital (HER 7921), which was founded in 1433. The earlier manor house may also have been located on this higher ground.

There was considerable development along the main thoroughfares: To either side of the streets lay strips of land, burgage plots, with the main dwellings sitting on the street frontage in the classic pattern of a medieval new town sometimes extending back along the boundary of the plots, at right angles to the street. The street layout of the medieval town survives into the present day with the main road being the Bedford to Dunstable road.

The motte of a Norman Castle ("Conger Hill") survives as an earthwork to the southwest of the application site.

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

The town as shown in the Agas map of 1581 probably represents the shape of the medieval settlement. Apart from the town development, the Agas map shows a focus of settlement at Tanner´s End with several parallel rows of houses situated on the bend of the road at the top of the village in the area which includes the Application Site. These had disappeared by the time of the Enclosure Award map when the area became a farm, with farmhouse surviving as HER 5314.

3.8 ***Modern*** *(1900-present)*

The expansion of Toddington since 1900 has been concentrated to the south of the village with only some small-scale infilling development, such as the proposed development, within historic core of the village.

4 Results

4.1 *General*

Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1 was 11m in length and was situated to the rear of the development site. Trench 2 was 10.25m in length and lay at right angles to Trench 1 adjacent to the access road.

The natural strata was a mid to dark orange clay with frequent inclusions of flint pebbles. This was observed at a depth of 0.24m below existing ground level at the western end of Trench 1, 1.29m below ground level at the eastern end of Trench 1 and 0.04m below ground level in the northern part of Trench 2; however, to the south of Trench 2 it was not observed.

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

4.2 **Trench 1** (Fig. 4: Plates 1-3)

This trench was located to the north of the development site in order to evaluate the footprint of a proposed new dwelling.

A layer of tarmac 0.05m thick overlay this part of the site (101) this covered a 0.30m thick deposit of building rubble (106) comprising broken, frogged bricks. This sealed a layer of dark grey silty clay (108) 0.10m thick, which extended for 2.88m from the eastern end of the trench.

A 0.55m wide pipe trench [105] cut through this dark grey silty clay layer. It was filled with a deposit if concrete 0.21m thick (103) and dark greyish brown silty clay (104) containing a ceramic pipe 0.25m in diameter. A second deposit of concrete rubble (102) 0.20m thick and 0.22m wide was observed at the western end of the trench.

Below the deposit of dark grey silty clay (108), a deposit of mid yellowish brown sandy gravel was observed (109). This was 0.20m thick and extended for 2.04m from the eastern end of the trench.

Below this was a deposit of mid brown silty clay (107) up to 0.56m thick. Deposit (109) abutted a 0.35m wide and 0.40m deep pipe trench [114], filled with a light yellow sand and gravel (113). This cut a deposit of mid grey brown silty clay (110) 0.06m thick to the east. It also cut two pits [112] and [116], both filled with mid brown silty clay (111) and (115). Small, abraded fragments of tile were recovered from the excavated section of pit [116].

A smaller pit [118], 1.60m across and 0.40m deep, was observed in the southeast corner of the trench. This was filled by a mid brown silty clay (117).

All these features were of late 19th to early 20th century date and no significant archaeological features were observed within this trench.

4.3 **Trench 2** (Fig. 4: Plates 4-6)

This trench was located in the south of the development site in order to evaluate the area adjacent to the existing access road which is proposed for a car parking area.

The concrete hardstanding (201) had already been removed to a depth of 0.60m below the original ground level prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

Dark grey silty clay (202), 0.04m to 0.24m thick, with inclusions of very small brick and concrete fragments, interpreted as rubble from the demolition of the garage and removal of the concrete hardstanding, overlay the area of this trench.

A stone lined well [205] was observed within this trench. The steep sided construction cut for this [204] was filled by a dark brown silty sandy clay (206) with occasional flint pebbles. Fragments of roof tile dating to the 19th century were recovered from this. The well was filled by a mid orange sandy silt with frequent inclusions of flint gravel (207).

The well was cut into the natural strata to the north of the trench, but was cut into darker orange brown silty sand (203) to the south. The first 0.96m of the well appeared to have been damaged during the construction of the garage in the early 20th century or during its demolition, as the stones were no longer insitu.

The well appears to survive intact from 0.96m below existing ground level, which is below the formation level of the proposed new carpark. No other features were observed within this trench.

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Plate 1: Trench 1 from east (*Scale 2m*)

Plate 2: Section of pit [118] (*Scale 1m*)

Plate 3: Section of pit [116] (*Scale 1m*)

Plate 4: Section of Trench 1 (*Scale 1m*)

Plate 5: Trench 2 from north (*Scale 2m*)

Plate6: Section of Trench 2 showing well (*Scale 2x 1m*)

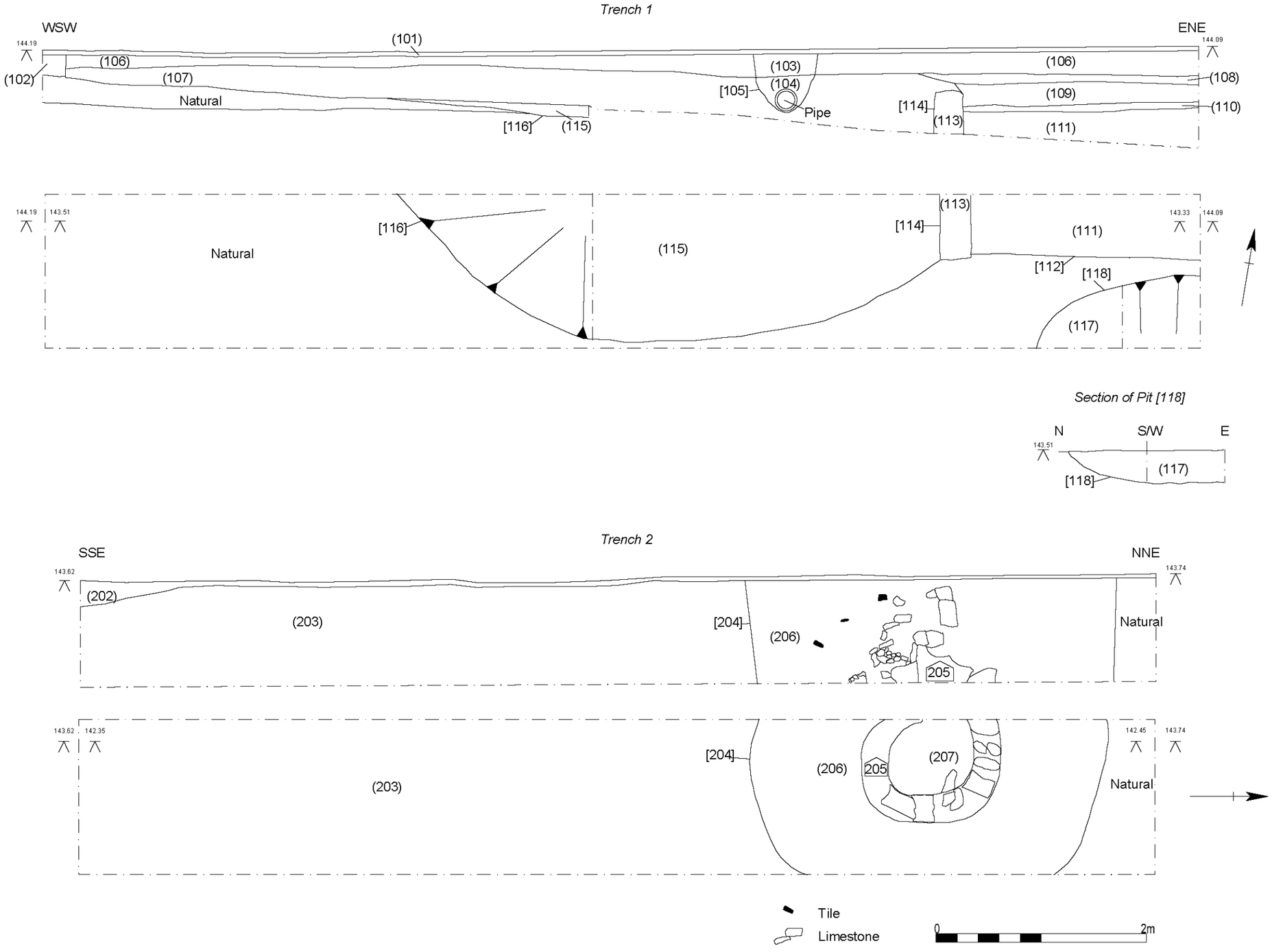

Figure 4: Trench plans and sections (*Scale 1:30*)

5. Conclusions

5.1 Three shallow pits of late 19th century date were observed in Trench 1. Two pipe trenches were also observed in this trench. The northern part of the site appears to have suffered a great deal of ground disturbance in the late 19th to 20th centuries.

5.2 A stone lined well was observed within Trench 2. This has also been damaged by modern development on the site to a depth of 0.96m below existing ground level. This well dates to the late 18th or 19th century. Where it survives, it is below the formation level of the proposed new carpark and therefore the proposed development will not impact upon it.

5.2 The southern part of the development, towards the street frontage of Station Road, is on the footprint of the previous garage, a new building is proposed in the northern part of the site, in the location of Trench 1.

5.3 While the existence of individual isolated archaeological features away from the trenches cannot be specifically excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.

5.4 *Confidence Rating*
The evaluation took place in very windy and occasionally wet conditions, but no factors hindered the evaluation and a high confidence rating is attached to the results.

6. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by *Archaeologica Ltd* on behalf of *Heritage New Homes Ltd*. The writer is grateful to Isabel Lisboa for her assistance. The project was monitored by Lesley-Ann Mather on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA, under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jenny Richards BA PIFA and Ralph Brown BSc. The report was prepared by Jenny Richards and edited by Bob Zeepvat.

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. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with *Luton Museum.*

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).*

Lisboa, I. M. G. 2008 *Desk-top and Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief at 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire*. (Archaeologica Ltd)

Mather, L-A 2008 *Brief for a programme of Archaeological Investigation of land at 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire*

Secondary Sources

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

Kennett, D. H. 1972 "Bedfordshire Archaeology 1971-1972" in Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal **7** 89-97

Pollard, J. 1991 "A 'Belgic' and an Early Romano-British Burial from Toddington" in Bedfordshire Archaeology **19** 103-105

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	11m	**Width**	1.50m	**Depth**	0.85m

Levels	
Trench base east	143.74m OD
Trench top east	144.19m OD
Trench base west	143.51m OD
Trench top west	143.33m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
WSW	501060 229145	ENE	501067 229155
Orientation		ENE-WSW	
Reason for Trench		Targeted trenching	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
101	Layer	Tarmac, modern surface	-	50	-
102	Deposit	Loose concrete rubble, backfill of service trench	200	220	50
103	Fill	Loose concrete rubble, upper backfill of service trench	620	220	50
104	Fill	Dark blackish brown silty clay fill containing ceramic drain pipe	620	360	
105	**Cut**	Cut for service trench	620	580	50
106	Layer	Loose brick rubble, make up layer for modern tarmac surface	1025	240	50
107	Layer	Mid brown silty clay, identical to (115)	8500	570	290
108	Layer	Dark grey silty clay	2680	100	850
109	Layer	Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel	2290	220	950
110	Layer	Dark grey brown silty clay	2250	60	1170
111	Fill	Mid brown silty clay,	2240	390	1230
112	**Cut**	Cut of pit			
113	Fill	Light yellow sandy gravel	620	420	400
114	**Cut**	Cut for service trench			
115	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, identical to (107)	5160	120	570
116	**Cut**	Cut for sub circular pit			
117	Fill	Mid brown silty clay	1530	360	970
118	Cut	Cut for sub circular pit			
119	Layer	Mid orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles, natural	-	-	970

Trench 2

Max Dimensions (m)					
Length	10.25m	**Width**	1.50m	**Depth**	1.30m

Levels	
Trench base north	142.74m OD
Trench top north	142.45m OD
Trench base south	142.35m OD
Trench top south	143.62m OD

NGR Co-ordinates			
SSE	501092 229121	NNW	501085 229130
Orientation		NNW-SSE	
Reason for Trench		Targeted trenching	

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Width (max: mm)	Thickness (max: mm)	Depth (BGL: mm)
201	Layer	Concrete hardstanding, removed prior to evaluation	-	-	Original ground level
202	Layer	Rubble layer from demolition of garage	-	70	Existing ground level
203	Layer	Mid brownish orange sandy silt, occasional flint pebbles	-	990	70
207	Fill	Orange sandy silt with occasional flint pebble inclusions, disuse backfill of well	820	-	970
205	Structure	Limestone lining of well	270	-	970
206	Fill	Mid brown silt with occasional flint pebble inclusions and tile fragments, construction backfill of well	3380	970	70
204	Cut	Cut for well			70
208	Layer	Mid orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebble inclusions, natural	420	970	70

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
206								Tile	3

Appendix 3: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 59 Station Road, Toddington			SITE NO/CODE: 1043/TSR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1	✓	✓	Trench 1 from West
2	✓	✓	Trench 1 South facing section
3	✓	✓	Trench 2 from North
4	✓	✓	Trench 2 West facing section showing well
5		✓	Overview of site from Northeast

Appendix 4: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	59 Station Road, Toddington		
Short Description:	In March 2008 ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation at 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire in advance of construction of new dwellings at the site. A stone lined well of probable 18th century date was observed. This was located in an area proposed as a car park in the new development. Thee well had already been damaged by previous development on the site to a depth of 1m below ground level, and the surviving parts are below the formation level of the proposed carpark. No other significant archaeological features were observed and the archaeological impact of this development is therefore considered to be low.		
Project Type: (indicate all that apply)	Trial Trenching		
Site status: (eg. none, SAM, Listed)	None	Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None
Current land use:	Former garage	Future work: (yes / no / unknown)	No
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Post medieval stone lined well		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	TL 0108 2912
Site address: (with postcode if known)	59 Station Road, Toddington		
Study area: (sq. m. or ha)	*c.* 0.16ha	Height OD: (metres)	143
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Beds CC	Project design originator:	Archaeologica Ltd
Project Manager:	Karin Semmelmann	Director/Supervisor:	Jenny Richards
Sponsor / funding body:	Heritage New Homes Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	10th March 2008	End date:	11th March 2008
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum	Tile	
Paper:	Luton Museum	Report, site records, B&W photos and negatives	
Digital:	Luton Museum	CD-ROM with copies of all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Evaluation: 59 Station Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1043/TSR/1		
Author(s):	J Richards BA PIFA		
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