

**Land West of Odell Road
Harrold
Bedford Borough**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Environmental Dimension Partnership

on behalf of
Catesby Estates Ltd

CA Project: MK0036
CA Report: MK0036_01
Accession No. BEDFM 2019.38

May 2019



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8).....	6
6. THE FINDS	10
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	10
8. DISCUSSION.....	11
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	14
10. REFERENCES.....	15
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	16
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	19
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	20
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	21

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench location plan with geophysical survey results and archaeological features (1:1250)
Fig. 3 Trench 1: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 4 Trench 2: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 5 Trench 2: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 6 Trench 7: section and photographs (1:20)
Fig. 7 Trench 9: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 8 Trench 11: Photograph

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land West of Odell Road
Location:	Harrold, Bedford Borough
NGR:	495338, 257541
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	1 – 5 April 2019
Location of Archive:	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
Accession Number:	BEDFM 2019.38
Site Code:	ODEL19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2019 at Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough. Eleven trenches were excavated to inform planning proposals made to Bedford Borough Council for the development of up to 90 dwellings within the site.

Archaeological interest in the site is derived from prehistoric activity on the site's western edge and occupation from the Early medieval onwards in the local area. Gravel extraction in the area of the site has been identified from the Early medieval period onwards. A previous geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies indicative of quarrying, agricultural and industrial activity in the form of a lime kiln within the site.

The evaluation identified a scatter of isolated archaeological features largely associated with agricultural and quarrying activities. Aside from an undated north-west/south-east boundary ditch the main concentration of activity was in the south-eastern corner of site comprising a large pit with Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint, and Post-medieval quarrying.

The archaeological features identified by the trenching broadly correlated to the preceding geophysical survey with the quarrying and lime kiln clearly evident. The pit containing the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint and smaller undated historical features revealed by the trenching were consistently not identified by the geophysical survey.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd at Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough (centred at NGR:495338 257541; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform planning proposals for an outline application to Bedford Borough Council (BBC: the local planning authority) for development of up to 90 dwellings within the site.
- 1.3 The scope of the archaeological work, which comprised the excavation of eleven trial trenches was defined during discussions with Ed Oakley (EDP) and Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeologist for Bedford Borough Council (SABBC). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2019) and approved by the SABBC.
- 1.4 The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2016). It was monitored by the SABCC, including a site visit on the 3 April 2019.

The site
- 1.5 The proposed development area comprises approximately 4.7ha; a single pasture field located to the west of Odell Road. It is enclosed by a hedged boundary and treeline to the north, a disused gravel pit, which is now a lake, separated by a post and wire fence, to the west, residential properties to the south and Odell road to the east. There is also a single mature oak tree within the site towards its western boundary. The site lies at approximately 59m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-east corner, sloping down towards the lake in the south-west to c.45m aOD.
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mudstone sedimentary bedrock of the Rutland Formation. There is also a band of Blisworth Limestone across the eastern end of the site (BGS 2019). Overlying the natural geology in Trenches 2 and 3, located towards the west of the site, was a naturally occurring silty sand geological deposit.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following archaeological background of the site has been summarised principally from a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment prepared by EDP (2017). A geophysical survey was also undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (BCC) in 2017 within the site, which identified anomalies interpreted as a possible trackway, a pipeline / drain, a former boundary and a curving ditch-like feature in the south of the site, potentially associated with former gravel extraction.

Prehistoric (pre AD 43)

- 2.2 Two Neolithic burials were recorded c. 330m to the south of the site, along Medway. A further burial incorporated within a funerary monument defined by a ring ditch was radiocarbon dated to the Middle Neolithic period. A second burial central to the ring ditch was accompanied by grave goods and was radiocarbon dated to the Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age and is considered contemporary with the ring ditch. Three dispersed pits, 400m to the south-west of the site, were recorded as being of possible Late Neolithic to early Bronze Age in date.
- 2.3 Occupation and burial activity dating from the Bronze Age and Iron Age was found during gravel extraction in the early 1950s, to the west and south-west of the site. A ring ditch was mapped as partially extending into the western part of the site, but was not detected by the survey, and is likely to have been removed by quarrying along the western edge of the survey area. The ring ditch was one of eleven Bronze Age ring ditches representing the ploughed out remains of barrows, some associated with cremations and burials, located on the western site boundary.

Roman (AD 43 - 410)

- 2.4 Evidence for Roman period occupation has been identified to the north-east, east, south and south-west of the site. The conjectural line of two Roman roads passes within c. 480m of the site. Two Roman settlements have been recorded at similar distances from the site to the south-east and south-west. There is no known Roman activity within the confines of the site.

Early medieval and medieval periods (AD 410 – 1539)

- 2.5 Early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) activity was found during gravel extraction in the early 1950s, to the west and southwest of the site. Medieval occupation was also found in the vicinity, in and around Little Odell, c.250m to the east of the site.

Post-medieval and modern periods (1539 – present)

- 2.6 The BBC HER records two non-designated heritage assets within the boundary of the site. These comprise the site of a former post-medieval lime kiln, immediately west of Odell Road, and the approximate extent of a post-medieval to Victorian gravel pit, which occupied a marginal part of the site, on its western side. Historic maps (including the 1878 OS 6" first edition map) show a further gravel pit adjacent to the southern boundary of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable BBC, following the recommendations of the SABBC, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLA 2019).
- 3.2 If significant archaeological remains were identified on site, reference would be made to the following titles so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional context:
- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1: Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997);
 - *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000);
 - *Bedfordshire Archaeology, Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al. 2007); and,
 - *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medleycott 2011).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 11 trenches; measuring 50m long by 2m wide, (with the exception of Trench 10 measuring 30m in length and Trench 11 measuring 20m in length) in the locations shown on Fig. 2. Trenches 2 and 3 were further stripped to investigate geological layers which archaeological features truncated. Trench 2 was extended to the east by 3m to fully expose a partially exposed feature. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, where samples were taken, were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner artefacts will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum under accession number: BEDFM 2019.38 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

General Stratigraphy

- 5.2 The general stratigraphy across the site consisted of topsoil, subsoil and natural substrate which was revealed at between 0.32m and 0.59m below present ground level (BPGL). The natural substrate, comprised a light yellow brown sandy clay with flint and gravel inclusions in the eastern portion of the site and mid-red brown sandy clay, with significant gravel inclusions and patches of compact grey-blue silty clay in the western portion of the site. In Trenches 2 and 3 this was overlain by a layer of mid-red brown sandy clay up to 0.5m thick which contained frequent natural flint and gravel inclusions.
- 5.3 This was overlain by subsoil comprising mid red brown silty clay between 0.1m and 0.36m thick. This was in turn sealed by topsoil, comprising dark grey brown sandy silt up to 0.4m thick.
- 5.4 Archaeological features in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11 were identified cutting the subsoil and archaeological features in Trenches 1, 6, 7 and 8 were identified cutting the natural substrate. The archaeology in Trench 2 was recorded as cutting geological layer 202, which sealed the natural substrate.
- 5.5 Archaeological features were identified in all trenches with the exception of Trenches 3, 4 and 10.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2 & 3)

- 5.6 Ditch 103 was located towards the north-eastern end of Trench 1. The ditch was orientated north-west/south-east and measured 1.23m wide and 0.27m deep, with a concave base and gentle sloping sides (Fig. 3). It contained a single mid-red brown silty sand fill, 104, that was formed by natural processes and contained no finds. Ditch 103 aligns with a linear anomaly orientated north-west/south-east across the site observed on the geophysical survey.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, 4 & 5)

- 5.7 Pit 203 was located central to Trench 2, truncating geological layer 202. Pit 203 was irregular in plan with slightly undercutting sides and a concave base; measuring 2.1m by 1.9m (Fig. 4). No finds were recovered from either of the two fills. Primary fill 204 comprised light yellow brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks, formed by natural processes. Final deposit 205 comprised mid-grey brown sandy clay, also containing occasional charcoal flecks.

- 5.8 Ditch 206 was located at the north-western end of Trench 2, truncating geological layer 202 (Fig. 5). Ditch 206 was orientated north-east/south-west with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base measuring 0.37m wide and 0.4m deep. Ditch 206 contained a single dark brown grey clayey silt fill, 207, the result of natural infilling following disuse, containing no finds.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

- 5.9 Trench 5 contained a single ditch terminus, located at the western end of the trench, orientated north-west/south-east. The terminus had gentle sloping sides and measured 0.8m wide by 0.22m deep. A single mid-red brown silty clay fill, 504, formed by natural processes, contained no finds.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 5.10 Trench 6 contained two ditches and pit 607, the continuation of quarry pit 707 in trench 7. Neither ditch was identified by the geophysical survey.
- 5.11 Ditch 603 was orientated north-east/south-west and located at the south-east end of Trench 6 truncating the natural substrate. Surviving to 1.60m wide and 0.24m deep with gentle sloping sides and a flat base, ditch 603 contained a single mid-red brown sandy clay fill, 604, formed by natural processes. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 5.12 Ditch 605 was cut from the level of the subsoil and truncated the south-eastern edge of ditch 603. Measuring 1.1m wide and 0.39m deep with a moderately steep concave profile no finds were recovered from the sole fill, 607, which comprised a mid-yellow brown gravelly sand. The north-east/south-west alignment indicates a potential positive boundary associated with ditch 603 remained in existence to influence the alignment of ditch 605.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2 & 6)

- 5.13 Trench 7 contained a two pits and a ditch running along the length of the trench. Quarry pit 709 and ditch 703 correlate to features identified by the geophysical survey.
- 5.14 Ditch 703 was located centrally within the trench, orientated north-west/south-east (Fig. 6.a). Measuring 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep with a stepped curving profile

ditch 703 contained three fills. All of the fills were formed by natural processes with no finds recovered. Ditch 703 correlates to an anomaly on the geophysical survey.

- 5.15 Located at the south-western end of Trench 7 pit 707 correlates with the edge of a large quarry pit identified by the geophysical survey which is visible in the modern landscape (Fig 6.b). The partially exposed upper level of the quarry pit revealed a moderately steep sloping side to a depth of 0.95m BPGL. No finds were recovered from backfill deposit 708 comprising mid red brown clay.
- 5.16 Pit 709 was located towards the north-eastern end of Trench 7 and measured in excess of 0.8m wide and 0.9m deep with steep sloping sides with a concave base. The pit contained four fills, all of which were formed by natural processes. Four flint blades, two flint bladelets and seven flint flakes, of Mesolithic to Early Neolithic date, were recovered from deposit 714, the final fill of the pit.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

- 5.17 Ditch 803 was located at the western end of the Trench 8, orientated north-west/south-east. Measuring 0.7m wide by 0.29m deep the ditch had moderate sloping sides and contained a single mid-grey brown clayey silt fill which produced no finds. Ditch 803 does not correlate to an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, but given the similar alignments is potentially related to ditch 805.
- 5.18 Ditch 805 correlates with the geophysical survey and forms a continuation of ditches 103 and 703. The ditch measured 1m wide and was left unexcavated.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2 & 7)

- 5.19 Trench 9 contained two ditches orientated north-east/south-west. Ditch 903 had gentle sloping sides and an irregular base; it measured 2.3m wide and 0.55m deep and truncated the subsoil (Fig. 7). Fills 904 and 905 were both formed by natural processes and contained no finds.
- 5.20 Ditch 906 was located at the north-eastern end of Trench 9, parallel to ditch 903. It was not excavated, and measured 0.4m wide. Neither ditch 903 or 905 were identified by the geophysical survey.

Trench 11

- 5.21 Located in the north-eastern corner of the trench the partial remains of a potential former post-medieval lime kiln were recorded (Fig. 8). Marked on the 1878 Ordinance Survey Map and identified by the geophysical survey, pit 1103 was oval in plan and cut from the top of the subsoil. The exposed remains comprised a backfill deposit formed of burnt clay with occasional large mid-white brown limestone inclusions.

6. THE FINDS

Flint

- 6.1 The assemblage comprises 13 fragments (22g) of flint. Six blades made in a bluish grey flint with moderate to heavy patination exhibit signs of light edge damage. Two blades exhibit signs of proximal fractures and two blades have distal fractures. Both are patinated, one is fractured at the distal end; the other has a proximal fracture. The fragments are most likely Mesolithic in date, it is possible that they date to the Early Neolithic. Seven fragments of debitage in poor condition, with heavy patination and edge damage, are derived from the same context.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Plant Macrofossils

- 7.1 Two environmental samples (40 litres of soil) were processed from pit 709 in Trench 7. This was done with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).
- 7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997). The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.3 The flots from both samples (sample 1 and sample 2) were 10ml in size with a high percentage of rooty material (80-90%). The charcoal from within both samples is poorly preserved with some pieces showing signs of vitrification. Both samples also contained a moderate number of the burrowing snail species *Cecilioides acicula*.

Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (10,000 BC – 3,000 BC)

- 7.4 Deposit 714 from pit 709 (sample 1) contained flint flakes that have been dated to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic. No charred cereal remains were recovered and only a low number of charred seeds were recorded, and these include those of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), oraches (*Atriplex* sp.) and cabbage (*Brassica* sp.). A single fragment of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell was also recorded. A small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered with some pieces showing signs of vitrification. Low quantities of terrestrial snail shells belonging to the open country species *Vallonia costata* and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* were recorded during assessment. This assemblage is likely to be representative of wind blown/dispersed material although the possible exploitation of hazelnuts and other wild fruits as a food resource has been observed in other assemblages of this date.
- 7.5 Fill 710 (sample 2) of pit 709 contained no charred plant remains or charred cereal remains. Moderately low quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recorded during assessment with some pieces showing signs of vitrification. A moderate number of terrestrial snail shells belonging to the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella* sp., *Clausilia bidentata* and *Carychium tridentatum*. This assemblage is likely to be representative of the local landscape and does not indicate that any settlement activity was taking place within the nearby vicinity. There is no indication of the likely date of the deposit from this assemblage.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation identified a small concentration of archaeological remains largely located in the south-eastern corner of the site. Although the majority of the features remain undated some can be attributed to the phases identified below.
- 8.2 The results of the evaluation broadly correlated with the results of the preceding geophysical survey with the features identified predominantly of a post-medieval or modern date. The features revealed by the trenching which were not identified as anomalies by the geophysical survey were sterile in composition with less anthropogenic material, potentially indicating why they were not identified by the geophysical survey.

- 8.3 The archaeological features ranged in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods with some features remaining undated, predominantly in the form of ditches. Historical land use within the site and surrounding area is known to relate to agricultural practices and quarrying for gravel extraction.

Mesolithic/Early Neolithic (10,000 BC – 3,000 BC)

- 8.4 A flint assemblage, dating to the Mesolithic, or Early Neolithic, was recovered from the final fill of pit 709. Six flint blades were recovered which displayed evidence of light damage and a further seven fragments of debitage were recovered from deposit 714. The debitage flint had heavy edge damage suggesting the potential for basic processing of a flint nodule. Evidence of Neolithic activity has been identified c. 330m south of the site and c. 400m south-west of the site, indicating known activity in the area of a contemporary period. Given as the natural geology of the area largely consists of clays and gravels and the flint was recovered from the final fill of the pit this would not obviously suggest the pit was related to the quarrying of flint during this period.
- 8.5 None of the undated features on the site could clearly be apportioned to this period, although this remains a possibility.

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1540 – present)

- 8.6 Ordinance Survey mapping from the 19th century indicates the presence of a lime kiln on site which was identified by the geophysical survey as being 4-5m in width. The partially exposed remains within the trench revealed a backfill deposit of burnt clay and limestone within pit 1106. No structural evidence or industrial debris relating to the kiln, which would have been used for the calcification of limestone, ultimately to produce lime mortar, was revealed by the trenching. The requirements for such material decreased in popularity in the late 19th and 20th centuries inferring an end date for the kiln (Sickels-Taves and Allsopp 2005).
- 8.7 A large depression was clearly visible in the landscape that correlated to a semi-circular anomaly on the geophysical survey at the southern extent of the site. Enclosing a known area of some 50m wide the pit revealed within the trenches relates to historical gravel quarrying. Historic mapping from 1878 indicates the presence of a quarry pit directly to the south-west suggesting the identified pit is likely to be of a contemporary date.

Undated

- 8.8 The geophysical survey identified a north-west/south-east aligned anomaly running centrally through the site with a potential parallel ditch to the west forming a trackway. No dating material was recovered from the shallow remains of the ditch which truncated the subsoil where investigated in Trenches 1 and 3. No evidence of a second ditch forming a trackway on the western side was revealed indicating the ditch likely forms a field boundary. The alignment of the ditch broadly correlates with Odell Road suggesting a potential medieval or post-medieval date.
- 8.9 It is unclear if the southern extent of the ditch respects or is truncated by the quarrying at its southern extent. An undated parallel ditch was identified 14m to the northeast in Trench 8 and likely relates to the partial remains of a contemporary ditch not identified by the geophysical survey.
- 8.10 Two parallel ditches were revealed in Trench 9 which produced no dating material. A further undated ditch, on a varying alignment, was recorded in Trench 5. Given the lack of finds it is likely that these ditches relate to agricultural practices, the varying alignment indicating the potential for different field systems. The ditches are cut from the level of the subsoil and as such are potentially of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 8.11 A further undated ditch, 206, was located at the north-western end of Trench 2. Sealed by the subsoil and with different fill characteristics to the possible agricultural ditches this ditch represents a different phases of activity. Given the concentration of Bronze Age activity directly to the west of site the ditch potentially relates to this period.
- 8.12 Directly to the south-west of ditch 206 undated pit 203 is likely contemporary based on similarity of the fill, although no function can be apportioned to the pit. Despite the agricultural nature of the site no tree-throws were noted in any other trenches to suggest this feature might be of similar formation.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Bethany Hardcastle assisted by Breana McCulloch, John Hardisty, Eduardo Cabrera and Harriet Farr. The report was written by Bethany Hardcastle. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks and Emma Aiken respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Dr Mark Hewson and Julian Newman.



10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, sandy silt with Occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.225
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.22
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown, moderately compact sandy clay, frequent sub angular pebbles	>50	>2	>0.44
1	103	Cut		Cut of shallow ditch	Linear, aligned north-west/south-east. Gently sloping sides and flat base.	>2	1.25	0.21
1	104	Fill	102	Fill of ditch	Mid red brown silty sand	>2	1.25	0.21
1	105	Cut		Cut of shallow ditch	Linear, aligned north-west/south-east. Gently sloping sides and flat base.	>2	1.6	0.27
1	106	Fill		Fill of shallow ditch	Mid red brown, sandy clay	>2	1.6	0.27
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt, occasion gravel inclusions	>50	>2	0.33
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown sandy clay	>50	>2	0.36
2	202	Layer		Geological	Mid red brown sandy clay, moderately compact, frequent gravel inclusions and small rounded stones	>50	>2	0.37
2	203	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-oval, slightly irregular, moderately steep sloping sides and concave base		0.75	0.49
2	204	Fill	203	Fill of pit	Light yellow brown moderately compact silty clay, occasional gravel inclusions		>1	0.06
2	205	Fill	203	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown sandy clay, occasional charcoal flecks		>1	0.5
2	206	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, north-east/south-west orientated, moderately steep sloping sides, concave base	>2	0.37	0.4
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey silty clay, frequent medium sub-angular stone inclusions	>2	0.37	0.4
2	208	Layer		Natural	Light brown yellow silty sand, frequent small angular stone and natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	>1.06
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.34
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.25
3	302	Layer		Geological	Mid brown red sandy clay, occasional natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	0.5
3	303	Layer		Natural	Light brown yellow silty sand, frequent small angular stone and natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	>1.09
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.4
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.2

4	402	Layer		Natural	Light brown yellow silty sand, frequent small angular stone and natural flint inclusions with patches of mid brown red silty clay	>50	>2	>0.6
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.4
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.3
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown, soft sandy clay with frequent gravel patches	>50	>2	>0.7
5	503	Cut		Cut of ditch terminus	Linear, north-east/south-west orientated, gentle sloping sides	>2.2	0.8	0.22
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of ditch terminus	Mid red brown silty clay, occasional small stone inclusions	>2.2	0.8	0.22
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.3
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.3
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown sandy clay, occasional natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	>0.6
6	603	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, north-east/south-west orientated, gentle sloping sides and flat base	1.9	1.6	0.24
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of ditch	Mid red brown, friable sandy clay	1.9	1.6	0.24
6	605	Cut		Cut of furrow	Linear, north-east/south-west orientated, concave base, cuts subsoil	1.9	1.1	0.39
6	606	Fill	605	Fill of furrow	Mid yellow brown, loose gravelly sand	1.9	1.1	0.39
6	607	Cut		Quarry pit	Circular in plan. Not excavated	>9	>2	-
6	608	Fill	607	Fill of quarry pit	Mid red brown friable clayey silt	>9	>2	-
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.23
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.1
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown silty sand, frequent small angular stone and natural flint inclusions with patches of mid brown red silty clay	>50	>2	>0.33
7	703	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, north-west/south-east orientated, varying sides and concave base	>5.1	0.95	0.29
7	704	Fill	703	Fill of ditch	Light yellow brown friable sandy silt		0.08	0.04
7	705	Fill	703	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown moderately compact sandy clay, occasional charcoal flecks	>1.15	0.56	0.15
7	706	Fill	703	Fill of ditch	Dark grey brown, friable sandy clay, occasional charcoal flecks	>1.15	0.85	0.15
7	707	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Sub-circular, moderately steep sloping side, base not reached			>0.7
7	708	Fill	707	Fill of quarry pit	Mid red brown friable clayey silt			>0.7
7	709	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-circular, steep sloping sides, concave base	>4	>0.8	0.9
7	710	Fill	709	Fill of pit	Mid red grey, friable silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	>1.6	1.4	0.89
7	711	Fill	709	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown sandy silt, redeposited natural		0.5	0.38
7	712	Fill	709	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown silty clay, moderate compaction		0.42	0.3

7	713	Voided						
7	714	Fill	709	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown friable sandy silt	>1.7	1.4	0.64
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.25
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular pebbles	>50	>2	0.26
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown, moderately compact silty sand	>50	>2	>0.51
8	803	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, north-west/south-east orientated, concave base	>2	0.7	0.29
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown, friable silty sand, occasional gravel inclusions	>2	0.7	0.29
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt, occasion gravel inclusions	>50	>2	0.3
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown compact sandy clay	>50	>2	0.2
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, sandy clay with frequent gravel and natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	>0.5
9	903	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, north/south orientated, concave base. Cuts subsoil	>2	2.3	0.55
9	904	Fill	903	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow grey, friable silty clay	>2	1.9	0.19
9	905	Fill	903	Fill of ditch	Mid red brown, friable silty sand	>2	2.33	0.42
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt, occasion gravel inclusions	>50	>2	0.12
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy clay	>50	>2	0.2
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown, compact sandy clay with frequent gravel patches and natural flint inclusions	>50	>2	>0.32
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions	>50	>2	0.3
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, moderately compact silty clay	>50	>2	0.2
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay, frequent gravel inclusions	>50	>2	>0.5
11	1103	Cut		Cut for lime Kiln	Remains of modern lime kiln	>4.5	>1.5	>0.2
11	1104	Fill	1103	Fill of lime kiln	Burnt clay with mid-white limestone inclusions	>4.5	>1.5	>0.2

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
714	Flint	Blades x 6, Flakes x 7	13	22	MESO/ENEO

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Assessment of Environmental Evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Volume	Flot	Roots	Grain	Chaff	Cereal	Charred	Notes for Table	Charcoal	Other
Mesolithic/Early Neolithic												
Pit 709	714	1	20	10	90	-	-	-	**	hazelnut frag, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp., <i>Atriplex</i> sp., <i>Brassica</i> sp.	-/**	moll-t*
Pit 709	710	2	20	10	80	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	moll-t****

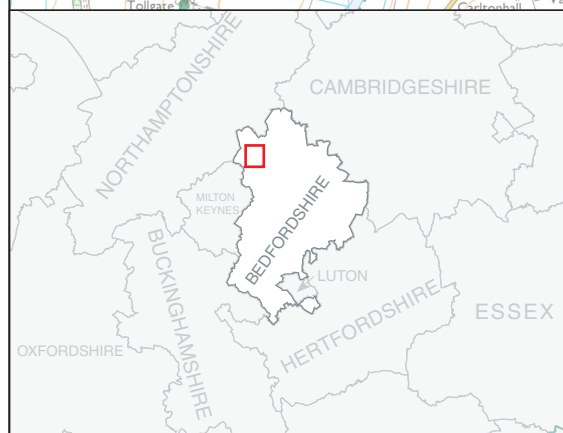
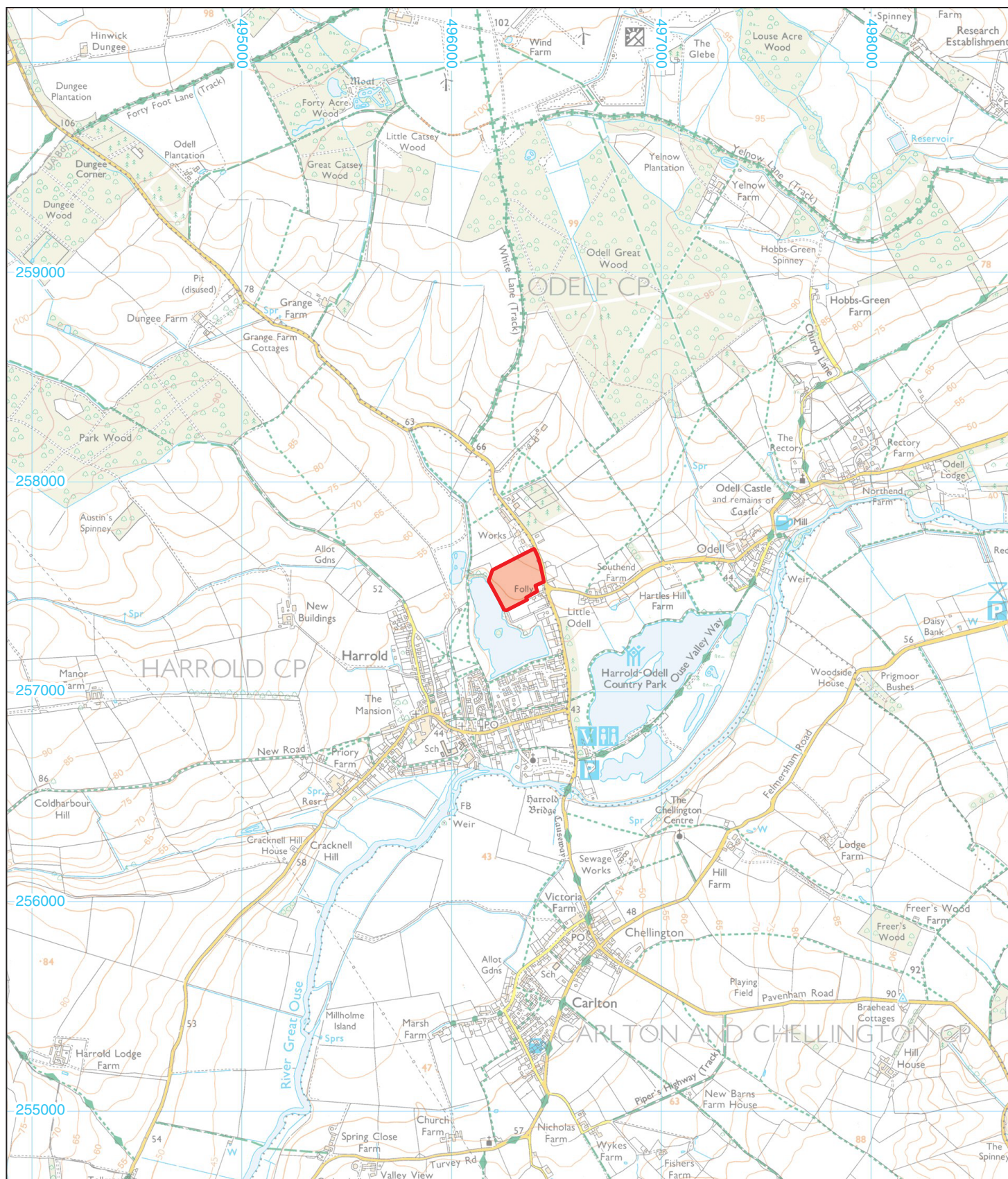
Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2019 at Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough. Eleven trenches were excavated to inform planning proposals made to Bedford Borough Council for the development of up to 90 dwellings within the site.</p> <p>Archaeological interest in the site is derived from prehistoric activity on the site's western edge and occupation from the Early medieval onwards in the local area. Gravel extraction in the area of the site has been identified from the Early medieval period onwards. A previous geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies of indicative of quarrying, agricultural and industrial activity in the form of a lime kiln within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a scatter of isolated archaeological features largely associated with agricultural and quarrying activities. Aside from an undated north-west/south-east boundary ditch the main concentration of activity was in the south-eastern corner of site comprising a large pit with Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint, and Post-medieval quarrying.</p> <p>The archaeological features identified by the trenching broadly correlated to the preceding geophysical survey with the quarrying and lime kiln clearly evident. The pit containing the Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint and smaller undated historical features revealed by the trenching were consistently not identified by the geophysical survey.</p>	
Project dates	1 – 5 April 2019	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Barlett-Clark Consultancy 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough	
Study area (M ² /ha)	4.7ha	
Site co-ordinates	495338 257541	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Hewson	
Project Supervisor	Bethany Hardcastle	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) BEDFM 2019.38	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Flints and black and white photo film
Paper	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, drawings

Digital	Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land West of Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford Borough: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report MK0036_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land West of Odell Road, Harrold,
 Bedford Borough

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

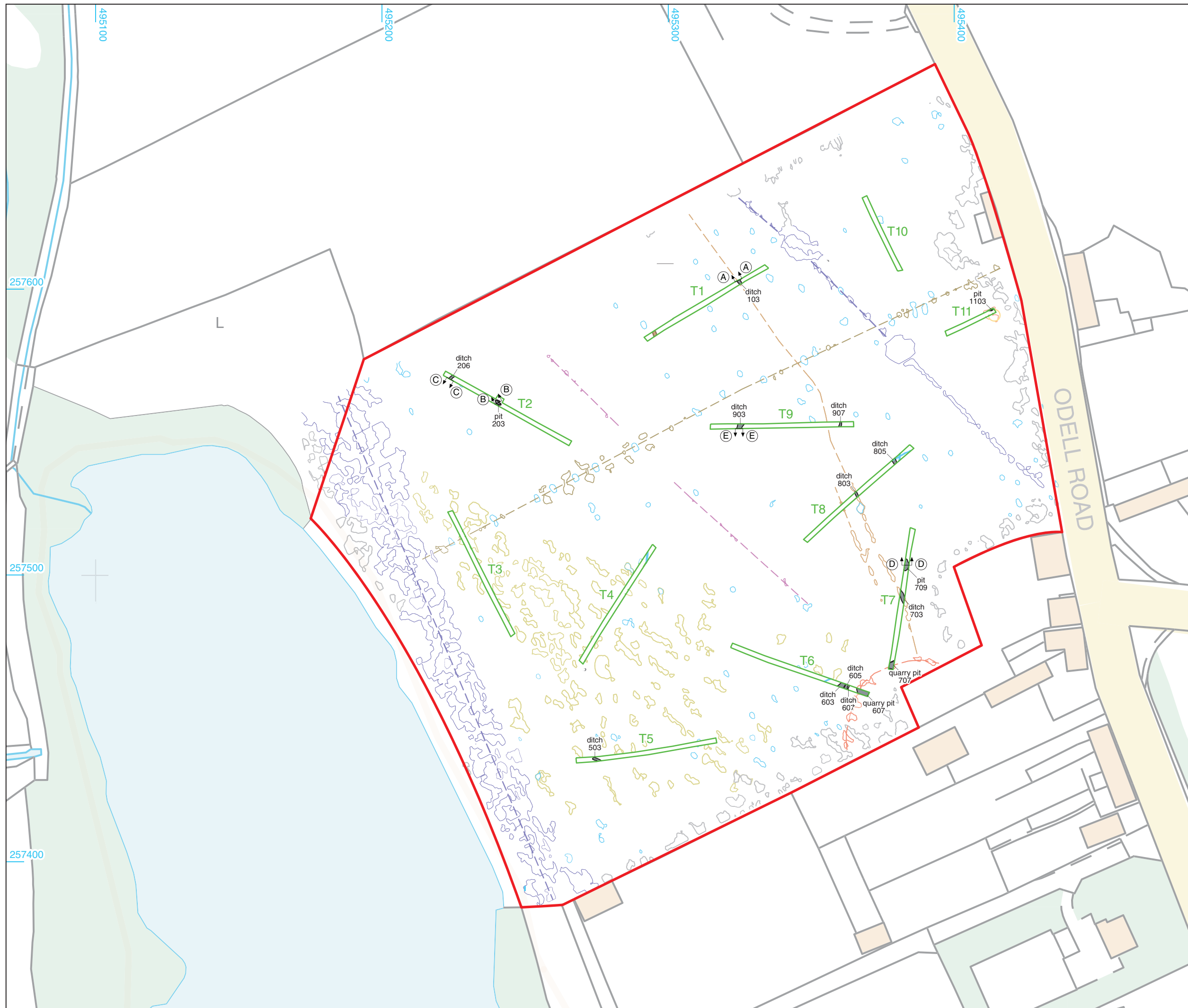
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PROJECT NO. MK0036
DATE 11/04/2019
SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
 - Limit of excavation
 - Cut feature
 - Modern feature
 - Natural feature
 - Land drain
 - Section line
- Geophysics
- Magnetic anomalies (possible archaeological?)
 - Former trackway?
 - Former fence or boundary
 - Broad/irregular magnetic anomalies (topographic/natural?)
 - Drain?
 - Pipe (and associated magnetic disturbances)
 - Strong (recent?) magnetic disturbances
 - Strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies



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© 2017 Barlett-Clark Consultancy, geophysical results

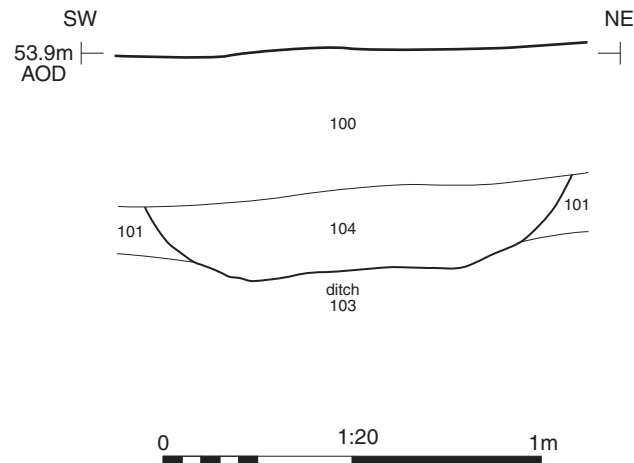
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PROJECT TITLE
Land West of Odell Road, Harrold,
Bedford Borough

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan with geophysical
survey results and archaeological
features**

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APPROVED BY	BH	SCALE	A3 1:1250	

Section AA



Ditch 103, looking north-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

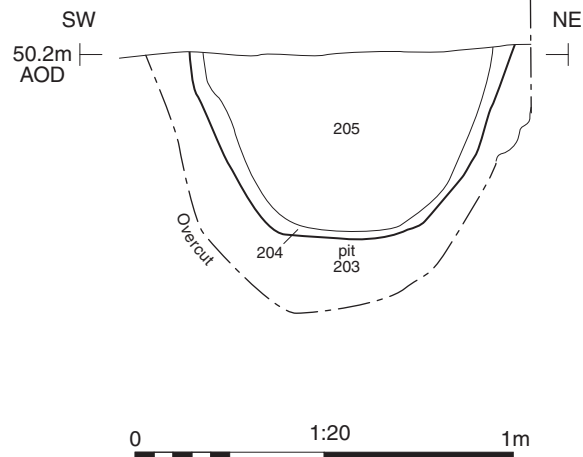
Trench 1: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

3

Section BB



Pit 203, looking north-west (1m scale)



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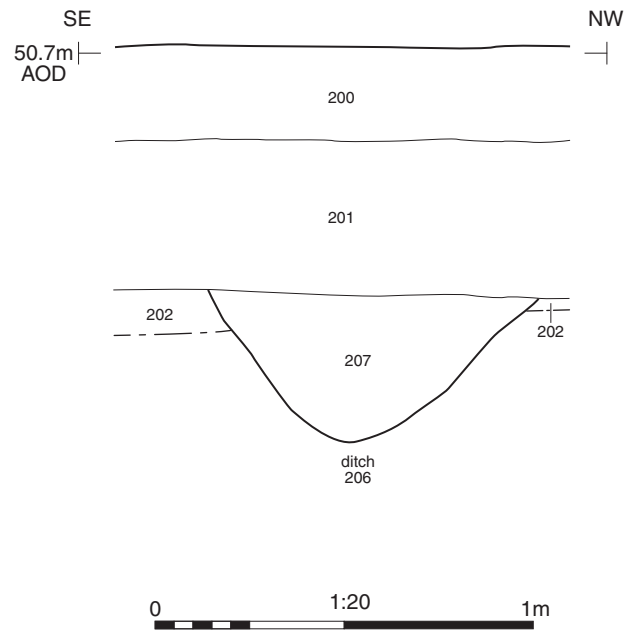
Land West of Odell Road, Harrold,
 Bedford Borough

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	BH	SCALE@A4	1:20	4

Section CC



Ditch 206, looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5



6a

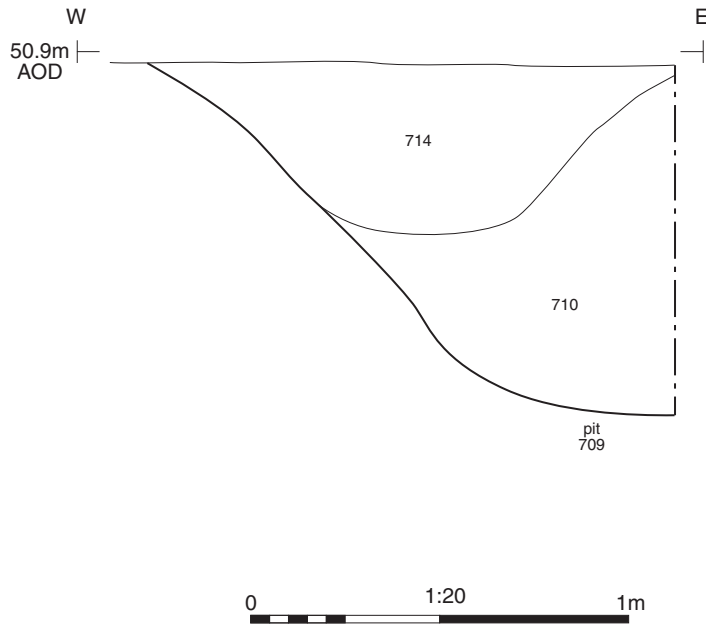
North facing section of pit 709, looking south (1m scale)



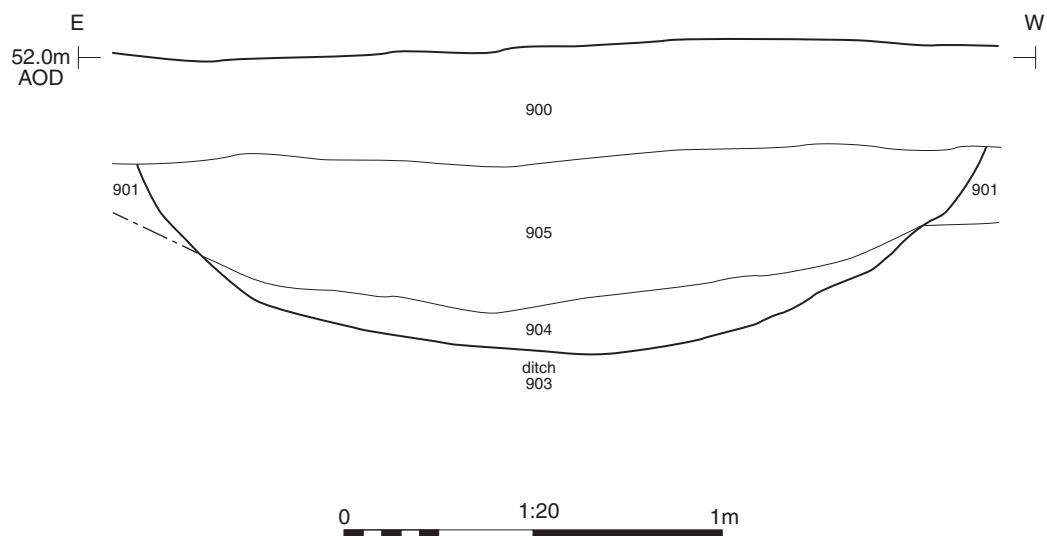
6b

Quarry pit 707, looking north (2m scale)

Section DD, pit 709



Section EE



Ditch 903, looking north (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land West of Odell Road, Harrold,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 9: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7



Trench 11 showing lime kiln 1103, looking south-west (2x1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land West of Odell Road, Harrold,
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: photograph

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 APPROVED BY **BH**

PROJECT NO. **MK0036**
 DATE **11/04/2019**
 SCALE@A4 **NA**

FIGURE NO.

8

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