

**Land between 19 and 73 The Hill
Blunham
Central Bedfordshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Heritage

CA Project: MK0052
Accession Number: BEDFM 2019.40
Site Code: BLUN19

May 2019



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	25/04/2019	DGL	JN	DRAFT	QUALITY ASSURANCE	APS
B	09/05/19	DGL	JN	ISSUE	CLIENT COMMENT	APS

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire
Location:	Blunham, Central Bedfordshire
NGR:	515110 251270
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15-18 April 2019
Planning Reference:	CB/18/04789/OUT
Location of Archive:	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
Accession Number:	BEDFM 2019.40
Site Code:	BLUN19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2019 at land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 515110 251270). The evaluation was undertaken to provide further archaeological information prior to determination of a formal outline application for residential development.

Archaeological interest is derived from the medieval origins of Blunham focused to the east of the site and subsequent post-medieval expansion of the village encompassing the site. Recent archaeological work at The Hill, Blunham identified pits containing Roman and medieval finds and evidence of early post-medieval quarrying.

The evaluation identified quarrying in the southern and eastern portions of the site dating to the post-medieval and modern period. A northeast-southwest orientated boundary ditch located centrally within the site dates to the post-medieval period and is potentially related to a boundary identified on historic mapping.

Structural remains potentially associated with 19th century industrial activity were identified in the northeast of the site. The remains do not relate to any buildings indicated on cartographic sources. Given the proximity of the structure to a known 19th century brickworks and contemporary quarrying activities it is possible that these buildings may be related.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 515110 251270; Fig. 1). The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Heritage.
 - 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to support an application for planning permission (ref: no. CB/18/04789/OUT) made to the Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) for residential development.
 - 1.3 The scope of the works was agreed during discussions between CgMS and Slawek Utrata, the archaeological advisor to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBCAA) and detailed in a CBCAA issued Brief (CBC 2019). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by the CBCAA.
 - 1.4 The fieldwork also followed *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 CBCAA, including site visits on 17 & 18 April 2019.
- The site**
- 1.5 The proposed development area is approximately 1.32ha, and comprises an irregular plot of land, currently in agricultural use, situated to the west of the River Ivel above the floodplain. The site is bounded to the north by agricultural land, to the east by a farm track fronting woodland and enclosed pastoral fields, to the south by The Hill and by residential properties and pastoral fields to the west. The site lies at approximately 27m AOD in the west, sloping down to the east.
 - 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Peterborough Member Musdtone of the Jurassic period overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member – Diamiction (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site has been detailed within a *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (TVAS 2018) and a CBC-issued Brief (CBC 2019). The following section is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric and Roman (Pre AD 410)

- 2.2 There are no known archaeological finds or features within the site. Two handaxes and two unretouched flakes, dated to the Palaeolithic, and a Neolithic polished stone axe, have been recovered from the area around the site, although the exact location is not known.
- 2.3 An evaluation carried out off Barford Road to the south-west of the site produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery from a shallow ditch. An extensive complex of cropmarks, visible on aerial photography, indicates recti-linear enclosures located to the north of Blunham; potentially of Iron Age or Roman date. Further cropmarks identifying more rectangular enclosures at The Villa, to the north of the site, were targeted by evaluation trenching. The features investigated, which did not produce any dating material, are considered to be of Iron Age or Roman date.

Early medieval / Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

- 2.4 There are no known archaeological finds or features within the site.

Medieval and Post-medieval (AD 1066– 1800)

- 2.5 There are no known archaeological finds or features within the site which lies within the medieval settlement of Blunham. A settlement at Blunham is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 AD indicating the village has potential Saxon origins.
- 2.6 The medieval village of Blunham started as a linear settlement along the line of High Street to the east of the site. The site of the medieval manor of Blunham is thought to be located to the south of the site, close to the centre of the present village. To the west of the manor the parish church of St James and St Edmund dates from the 12th century. The church was extensively enlarged in the 16th century.
- 2.7 Extensive medieval ridge and furrow is recorded in the area, with furrows being recorded in the Barford Road evaluation. A former medieval road, now a footpath, is located to the south of the site running south from Park Lane. A 14th century coin and

stoneware jug represents the known finds from this period recovered from the local area.

- 2.8 During the post-medieval period the village extended to the west with the activity concentrated to the east and south of the site. The expansion included buildings of residential, religious, agricultural and industrial indicating a broadening activity in Blunham. Cartographic sources indicate that the site has been historically devoid of development.
- 2.9 Recent archaeological investigations in close proximity to the site have identified features containing Roman and medieval finds and early post-medieval quarrying at the Hill (AS 2017). Discussions with local inhabitants during the course of fieldwork activities suggest that similar quarrying activity likely occurred within the project area, with any pits having been subsequently backfilled to return the land to agricultural uses.
- 3.0 A substantial ditch, potentially of Saxon date, was identified adjacent to the site. Further investigations on the High Street and Park Lane also identified archaeological features of medieval and early post-medieval date.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are 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), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable the CBC, advised by the CBCAO, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the proposed development upon them, and to avoid or minimise any conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and any aspect of the development proposal. This process is in line with policies contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

- 3.2 Had significant remains been identified reference would have been made to *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* (Medlycott 2011). The remains identified during the course of the evaluation were of limited research potential.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twelve trenches (measuring 30m by 2m), in the locations shown on Fig. 2. 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*.
- 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 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum under accession number BEDFM 2019.40, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Natural geology was encountered between 0.3m and 0.53m below present ground level (BPGL), and consisted of a mixed mid orangey brown clayey silt and mid brownish grey clay. Pockets of mid reddish brown small to medium gravels were observed across the site. This was overlain by a subsoil layer of between 0.05 and

0.15m thick. This was in turn sealed by topsoil up to 0.4m thick. All archaeological features were observed cut into the subsoil.

- 5.2 Trenches 4-9 and 12 contained irregular patches of mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate to frequent small sub-angular stones. These patches were tested to confirm non-cultural association/origin and deemed to be of natural or geological formation (Figure 7). Trenches 1, 4 and 7-10 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 5.3 Sub-circular pit 202 was located centrally within Trench 2. The partially exposed pit measured 1.9m wide and 0.11m deep with moderate concave sides and an irregular undulating base. The pit contained single fill, 203, comprising light brownish grey sandy clay with a large quantity of dumped brick and tile fragments of post-medieval date.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 4 & 5)

- 5.4 A structure constructed of brick and tile dating to the modern period was located centrally to Trench 3 (Fig. 4). The structure appears to be constructed on, and cut into, levelling layers 302, 303 (sealed by 302) and 312 which contained large quantity of burnt materials, including charcoal, slag, CBM, pottery, tile.
- 5.5 The surviving remains of Wall 307 truncate the southern limits of the levelling layers. Aligned north-east/south-west the wall appears curvi-linear in nature. Only a single course of bricks survive, laid on their base in a header bond. The bricks used in the construction of wall 307 were unfrogged and bonded with clay.
- 5.6 Deposit 304 represents the probable continuation of wall 307. Comprising brick rubble fragments and clay this likely represents a foundation deposit on which wall 307 was constructed.
- 5.7 Located directly to the north of wall 307 structure 310 was constructed of brick and mortar aligned east/west. The structure comprises three sections of brick wall, forming a U shape with an opening extending outside of the trench towards the east. The east-west segments of structure 310 are constructed to expand in the east, and constrict to join with the north-south wall segment. All of the walls are constructed using unfrogged bricks. The bricks are laid on base in a stretcher bond, with two courses surviving in the north wall section, and three courses in the south. The wall sections

vary in thickness, with the east-west sections being constructed two bricks wide, and the north-south section three bricks wide.

- 5.8 Constructed internal to structure 310 is tile surface 314 (Fig. 5). Surface 314 represents an unbonded brick tile floor surface constructed directly on a bed of sand layers 316 and 317. The brick tiles of Surface 314 were laid adjacent to the north wall section of structure 310, with the gaps created against the southern east-west wall being filled with brick tile fragments.
- 5.9 Further slabs were revealed between walls 307 and 310 and likely form an external surface lain directly on to the construction levelling deposits. The surviving remains indicate a strong potential for the surface having been disturbed by ploughing, and potentially robbing. Some slabs were partially exposed in the western trench section indicating the potential for the slabbed surface to have extended further around the structure than the surviving concentration to the south suggests. Brick and slabs were seen in the trench section to the north of the structure further indicating damage from modern agricultural practices.
- 5.10 Internal to structure 310 deposit 315 was formed post the usage of the structure. The lack of brick rubble within this deposit infers it is not directly associated with any potential demolition phase and likely formed from a mix of backfilling and natural processes.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.11 Boundary ditch 502 runs south-west/north-east through the centre of Trench 5 (Fig. 3). The ditch measured 4.88m wide and 0.63m deep and contained two fills. Both deposits were likely formed by backfilling events. Homogenous lower fill 503 formed from the northern edge of the ditch and represents a redeposited topsoil deposit. Final fill 504, characterised by mixed clay patches, represents a levelling deposit of disturbed natural probably associated with the quarrying to the south and east. Pottery of 16th-18th century date and post-medieval CBM was recovered from fill 503.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 5.12 Quarry pit 602 was located in the eastern portion of Trench 6. The quarry pit was irregular in shape, and filled with backfill deposit 603 which contained CBM fragments dating to the modern period.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

- 5.13 Quarry pit 1103 was located in the western end of Trench 11 and was linear in plan. A machine excavated sondage revealed the depth of the feature to be over 0.96m BPGL. CBM dating to the modern period was dumped within the backfill deposit 1101

Trench 12 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.14 Pit 1202 was located at the eastern end of Trench 12. The partially exposed quarry pit was investigated by a machine excavated sondage to a depth of 0.9m BPGL at which point the water table was reached. Backfill deposit 1203 revealed a layer of dumped brick and tile debris dating to the modern period.
- 5.15 Located towards the centre of Trench 12 pit 1204 was irregular in plan. The partially exposed quarry pit was investigated by a machine excavated sondage to a depth of 1m BPGL at which point the base had not been exposed. Backfill deposit 1205 contained a concentrated dump of CBM dating to the modern period.
- 5.16 Modern Ditch 1206 was located in the western end of Trench 12 running roughly north/south. The ditch was observed to cut from the subsoil, with vertical sides and filled with moderately compact dark brownish grey clay with moderate amounts of chalk and small stone inclusions. This feature was left unexcavated.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual material is recorded from seven deposits; the fill of pits, ditches, layers, walls and floor surfaces (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016).

Post-medieval pottery

- 6.3 The assemblage comprises two sherds (47g) of post-medieval pottery recorded from ditch fill 503. The condition of the assemblage is moderate with minor abrasion of surfaces and fractures. The mean sherd weight is average for a post-medieval assemblage (23.5g). Both sherds are glazed red earthenwares (GRE), which date from the 16th to 18th centuries. One sherd is a possible jar rim, however it is heavily abraded and it is not possible to determine the form with any certainty.

Summary

- 6.4 Due to the small size of the assemblage it has not been possible to draw any meaningful conclusions from the pottery evidence.

Ceramic building material

- 6.5 A total of 36 fragments (29,646g) of ceramic building material are recorded from seven deposits. The material has been made in fine (fs) or medium (ms) sandy fabrics some with clay pellet (cp), calcareous (c) and grog (g) inclusions. The fragments recorded are diagnostic and in good condition. Two roof tiles, six paving tiles and six bricks all dating to the post-medieval period are identified. Four bricks were sampled from wall structures 307 and 310 and four paving tiles were sampled from floor surfaces 313 and 314. Based on the fabrics and forms these fragments suggest a post 19th century date.

Industrial waste

- 6.6 Eight fragments (125g) of fuel ash slag are recorded from layer deposit 302. It is not possible to provide any further comment on this material.

Metalwork

- 6.7 One large fragment (439g) from an Iron ploughshare or other heavy bladed instrument is recorded from layer deposit 302. The fragment is heavily encrusted and corroded.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological remains located in the eastern portion of the site. All of the features can be apportioned to the post-medieval and modern periods. No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

- 7.2 Natural and geological features were encountered throughout the site. These features took the form of irregular sub-circular to roughly linear patches and were tested to confirm the absence of archaeological features.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1800)

- 7.3 Quarrying was identified in the southern and eastern portion of the site. While the backfill material identified in the upper levels dates to the modern period the pits potentially date to the later post-medieval period. Recent archaeological investigations at The Hill, Blunham identified quarry pits which were dated to the post-medieval period and as such the quarrying identified on site is likely contemporary (AS 2017).
- 7.4 Ditch 502 runs on a southwest-northeast alignment through the centre of the site, with finds recovered from the primary fill, 503, dating to the post-medieval period. The pottery recovered displayed minimal abrasion indicating it was not residual in nature. A broad 16th–18th century date range for this material could infer a potential early post-medieval date for the ditch; however, as the majority of features on the site date to the later post-medieval to early modern period it is likely that the ditch is contemporary with these later features.
- 7.5 The 1799 Blunham Enclosure Map depicts a boundary aligned east/west, crossing the southern central portion of the site. The map suggests a boundary should have been revealed in Trenches 8 and 9 but no evidence of a corresponding feature was identified in these trenches. Given the broadly contemporary date of the finds recovered, it is possible that ditch 502 relates to the boundary depicted on the Enclosure map, which may be inaccurate, or is at least contemporary in date.

Modern (AD 1800 – present)

- 7.6 The surviving structural remains of the feature indicate the potential for adaptations to the building with varying alignments and construction techniques of the walls. Dating material recovered is all of a contemporary date, post 19th century, indicating any such changes in construction are still of the same period. The slabs used in the construction are a mix of roof tile and paving slab suggesting the reuse of material from another structure in the area.

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- 7.7 No finds were identified from the structure that would identify a function. Pit 202, located c. 100m to the west was backfilled with the same material and is potentially related, although the shallow nature of the pit offers no supporting information to infer a function. Historic mapping (*Ordnance Survey 25" Map, 1st Edition* SBD10619) indicates the site is part of a field known as 'Brick Field' with a known brickworks located c.335m to the north-west of the site. The HER references brickmaking being conducted in the vicinity of the site in the 1850's (HER 2505). Given the date of the bricks used to form the structure and the localised quarrying it is likely that the structure is related to this industrial activity.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Dale Langford, assisted by Arizona Mosby, Enrico Ravanetti, and Fanny Dubuc. The report was written by Dale Langford. The finds report was written by Peter Banks. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Julian Newman.

9. 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)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones			0.23	
1	101	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.33+	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.1	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate CBM and small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.31	
2	201	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.41+	
2	202	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-circular; moderate slope; irregular to flat base	1.90	1.12+	0.11	Post-Med
2	203	Fill		Fill of pit	Light brownish grey; sandy clay; compact; frequent CBM rubble inclusions	1.90	1.12+	0.11	Post-Med
2	204	Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.1	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate CBM and small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.26	
3	301	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.36+	
3	302	Layer/ Deposit		Dump layer	Mid reddish brown; silty sand; compact; frequent small CBM, charcoal, and coal fragments; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM			0.10	Post-Med
3	303	Layer/ Deposit		Mixed construction layer	MIXED: light brownish grey; silty clay; moderately compact; moderate small CBM and charcoal fragments AND mid reddish brown; sand; friable; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM			0.17	Post-Med
3	304	Layer/ Deposit		Construction layer	Mid reddish brown; silty sand; compact; frequent fragmentary brick rubble; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM	2.00+	0.48	0.08	Post-Med
3	305	Layer/ Deposit		Dump layer	Mid reddish brown; silty sand; compact; frequent small CBM, charcoal, and coal fragments; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM			0.10	Post-Med
3	306	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut of wall 307; full extent not observed				Post-Med

3	307	Structure		Wall	Brick; L.236mm; B.109mm; D.60mm; un-frogged; on-bed; undetermined coursing; clay bonding	0.60	0.48	0.16	Post-Med
3	308	Fill	306		Dark brownish grey; clayey silt; compact; rare small charcoal, CBM, and sub-rounded stone; moderate horizon clarity; low contamination risk; unexcavated				Post-Med
3	309	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut of wall 310; full extent not observed				Post-Med
3	310	Structure			Brick; L.230mm; B.115mm; D.70mm; on-bed; regular coursing; rectangular wall sections; exterior faces to S, W, and N; clay bonding				Post-Med
3	311	Fill	309		Mid yellowish brown; silty clay; compact; rare small CBM, sub-rounded stone; moderate horizon clarity; low contamination risk; unexcavated				Post-Med
3	312	Layer/ Deposit		Levelling layer	Mid greenish grey; silty clay; compact; rare CBM and charcoal; clear horizon clarity; low risk of contamination; unexcavated	2.74	2.30		Post-Med
3	313	Surface		Exterior floor surface	Brick tile; L.300mm; B.300mm; D.35mm; no mortar or bonding materials present	2.30	2.30	0.12	Post-Med
3	314	Surface		Interior floor surface	Brick tile; L.300mm; B.300mm; D.35mm; no mortar or bonding materials present				Post-Med
3	315	Layer/ Deposit		Fill within structure 310	Mid greenish grey; silty clay; compact; rare small CBM and charcoal; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM	1.60	1.03	0.12	Post-Med
3	316	Layer/ Deposit		Levelling layer	Mid orangey brown; fine/medium sand; loose; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; T			0.05	Post-Med
3	317	Layer/ Deposit		Levelling layer	Mid reddish brown; silty sand; moderately compact; frequent small charcoal, CBM, and sub-rounded/sub-angular stones; clear horizon clarity; low contamination risk; unexcavated				Post-Med
3		Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.1	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones			0.26	
4	401	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.36+	
4	402	Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.1	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones			0.30	
5	501	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.35+	

5	502	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear; irregular moderate slope; irregular concave base; NE-SW orientation	2.00+	4.88	0.63	Med/Post-Med
5	503	Fill	502	Lower fill of Ditch	Mid brownish grey; sandy clay; moderately compact; frequent small and medium sub-angular stones; poor horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM	2.00+	4.58	0.34	
5	504	Fill	502	Upper fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey; sandy clay; moderately compact; frequent small and medium sub-angular stone, patches of redeposited clay; poor horizon clarity; low contamination risk; TSM	2.00+	3.02	0.33	
5	505	Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.05	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate CBM and small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.38	
6	601	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.53+	
6	602	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Irregular/sub-circular pit; not excavated	2.00+	4.50		Med/Post-Med
6	603	Fill	602	Fill of quarry pit	Mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact to friable; moderate CBM, small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	2.00+	4.50		Med/Post-Med
6	604	Layer		Subsoil interface	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt from the Topsoil mixed with mid orangey brown clayey silt, and mid brownish grey clay from the Natural. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.			0.15	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones			0.30	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.20	
7	703	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.50+	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones			0.38	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.15	
8	802	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.53+	
8	803	Cut		Cut of natural feature/tree bowl	Irregular; tested to confirm geological/natural origin	1.80+	1.30	0.88	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of natural feature/tree bowl	Mid brownish grey; sandy clay; moderately compact; frequent small sub-angular stones	1.80+	1.30	0.88	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to			0.30	

					frequent small sub-sounded and sub-angular stones				
9	901	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.40+	
9	902	Cut		Cut of natural feature/tree bowl	Irregular; tested to confirm geological/natural origin	1.24	0.86	0.19	
9	903	Fill	902	Fill of natural feature/tree bowl	Mid brownish grey; sandy clay; moderately compact; occasional small sub-angular stones	1.24	0.86	0.19	
9	904	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.1	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.25	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.25	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.50+	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.33	
11	1101	Fill	1103	Fill of quarry pit	Mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact to friable; moderate CBM, small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	1.80+	5.30	0.96+	Med/Post-Med
11	1102	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.43+	
11	1103	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Irregular; unexcavated (sondage tested)	1.80+	5.30	0.96+	Med/Post-Med
11	1104	Layer		Natural (tested variation)	Mid greyish brown; silty clay; friable; frequent small sub-rounded stones			0.43+	
11	1105	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.1	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate to frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.34	
12	1201	Layer		Natural	MIXED: mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact; moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones AND mid brownish grey; clay; compact; occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones			0.49+	
12	1202	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Irregular; unexcavated (sondage tested)	2.00+	6.50+		Med/Post-Med
12	1203	Fill	1202	Fill of quarry pit	Mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact to friable; moderate CBM, small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	2.00+	6.50+		Med/Post-Med
12	1204	Cut		Cut of quarry pit	Irregular; unexcavated (sondage tested)	2.00+	8.00+		Med/Post-Med
12	1205	Fill	1204	Fill of quarry pit	Mid orangey brown; clayey silt; moderately compact to friable; moderate CBM, small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	2.00+	8.00+		Med/Post-Med

12	1206	Cut		Cut of modern ditch	Linear; vertical sides; base not excavated	2.00+	0.35	0.49+	Modern
12	1207	Fill	1206	Fill of modern ditch	Dark brownish grey; mottled clay; moderately compact; moderate chalk and small sub-angular stone inclusions	2.00+	0.35	0.49+	Modern
12	1208	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown; clayey silt; friable; rare small sub-rounded stone			0.15	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
203	CBM	Paving tile x 1, Brick x 1	fsg/msg	2	2246	POST-MED
302	CBM	Tile x 2	fs/fsc/fscp	10	171	POST-MED
302	Industrial Waste	Fuel ash slag		8	125	
302	Iron	Ploughshare		1	439	POST-MED
307	CBM	Brick x 2	fsc/fscp	2	4497	MOD
310	CBM	Brick x 2	fs/fsx	2	5941	MOD
313	CBM	Paving tile x 2	fs/fsc	4	9277	MOD
314	CBM	Paving tile x 2, Brick x 1	fs/fscp	7	6659	MOD
503	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed red earthenware	GRE	2	47	C16-C18
503	CBM	Paving tile x 1		9	855	POST-MED

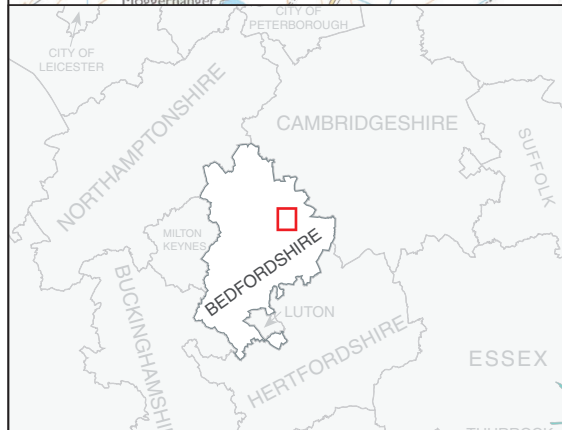
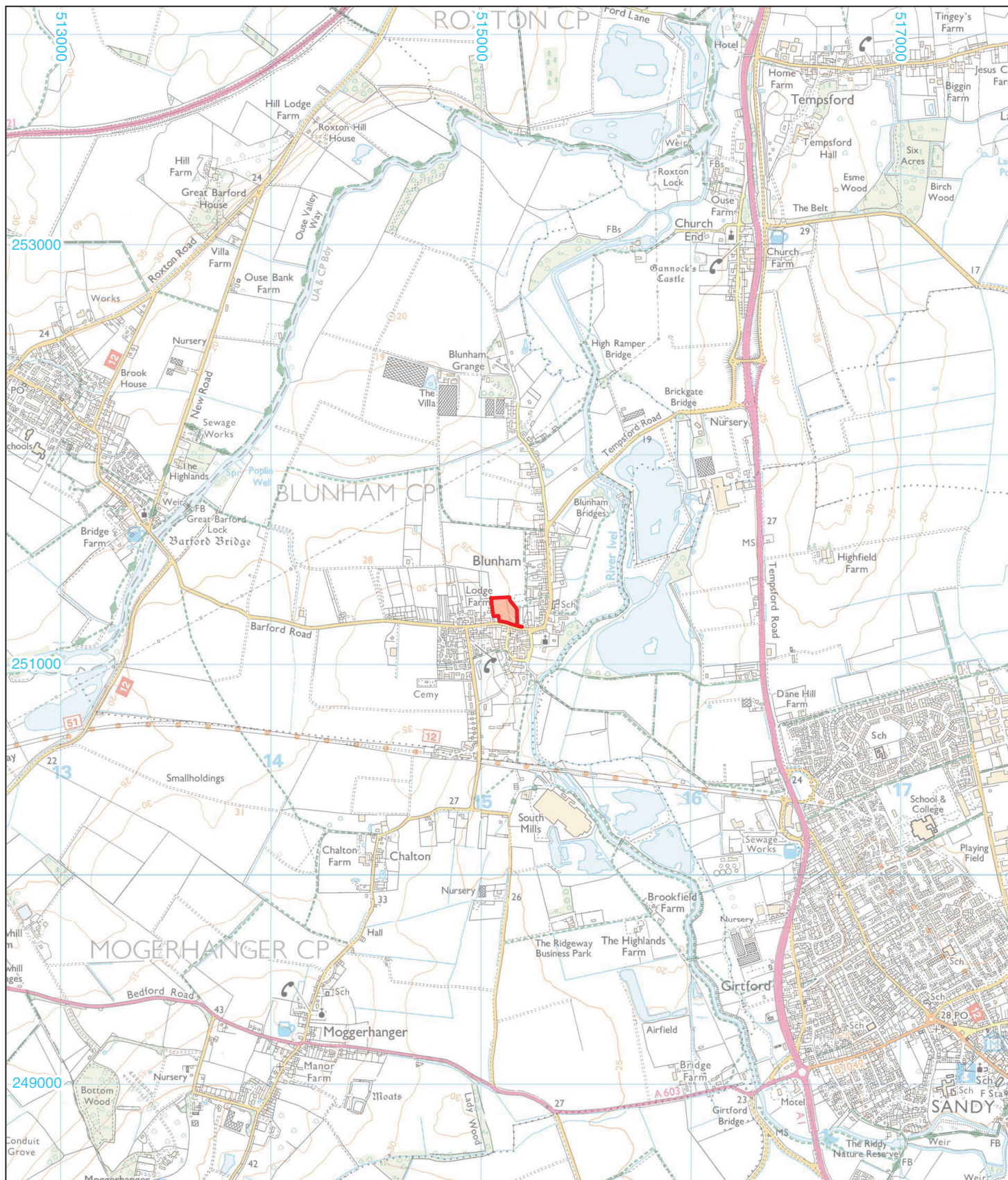
Table 2: Fabric Description

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Post-medieval pottery	Glazed red earthenware	GRE	2	47
Total			2	47

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2019 at on land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 515110 251270). The evaluation was undertaken to provide further archaeological information prior to the submission of a formal planning application for residential development.</p> <p>Archaeological interest is derived from the medieval origins of Blunham focused to the east of the site and subsequent post-medieval expansion of the village encompassing the site. Recent archaeological work at The Hill, Blunham identified pits containing Roman and medieval finds and evidence of early post-medieval quarrying.</p> <p>The evaluation identified quarrying in the southern and eastern portions of the site dating to the post-medieval and modern period. A northeast-southwest orientated boundary ditch located centrally within the site dates to the post-medieval period and is potentially related to a boundary identified on historic mapping.</p> <p>Structural remains potentially associated with 19th century industrial activity were identified in the northeast of the site. The remains do not relate to any buildings indicated on cartographic sources. Given the proximity of the structure to a known 19th century brickworks and contemporary quarrying activities it is possible that these buildings may be related.</p>	
Project dates	15-18 April 2019	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019, Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</p> <p>TVAS (Thames Valley Archaeological Services) 2018, Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Bedfordshire</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.32ha	
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 515110 251270	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Julian Newman	
Project Supervisor	Dale Langford	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum/ BEDFM 2019.40	Black and White Photo Film, Pottery, Ceramic, Brick, Metal,

Paper	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum/ BEDFM 2019.40	Context sheets, matrices, permatrace drawings
Digital	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum/ BEDFM 2019.40	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019, Land between 19 and 73 The Hill, Blunham, Central Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land between 19 and 73 The Hill,
 Blunham, Central Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. MK0052
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 23-04-2019
 APPROVED BY JN SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Non-archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Machine excavated slot
- Modern
- Field drain
- Section location
- Line of boundary ditch (after 1799 Blunham Enclosure Map)

0 1:1500 50m

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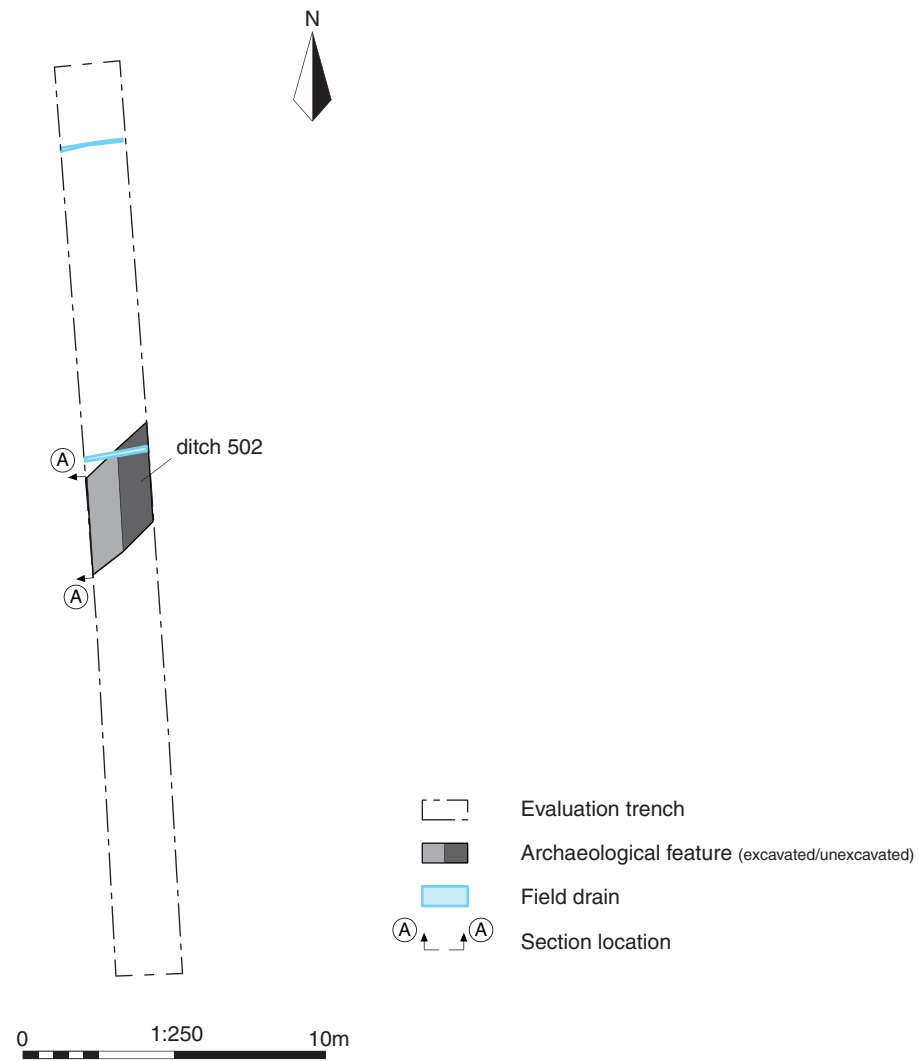
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PROJECT TITLE
Land between 19 and 73 The Hill,
Blunham, Central Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing
archaeological features

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	MK0052	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23-04-2019	2
APPROVED BY	JN	SCALE	A3 1:500, 1:100	

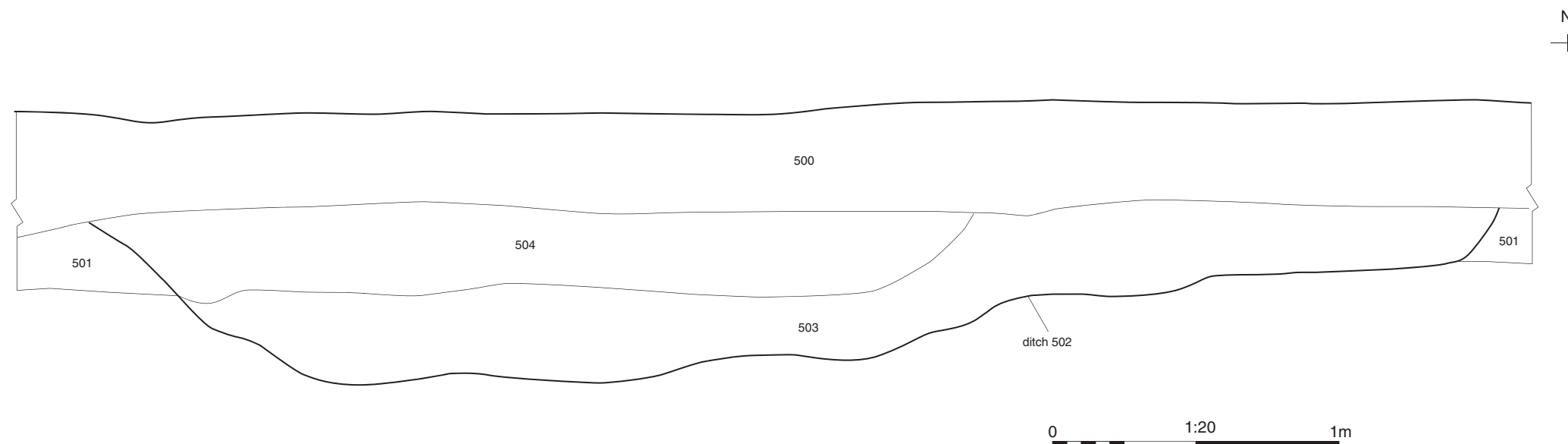
Trench 5



Ditch 502, looking west (1m scales)

Section AA

S
26.0m
AOD





Structural remains, post-excavation, aerial view



Structural remains, pre-excavation, looking east (1m scales)



Contexts 316 and 317 underlying brick tile surface 314, looking east (0.3m scale)



Floor surface 314 internal to structure 310, looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land between 19 and 73 The Hill,
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FIGURE TITLE

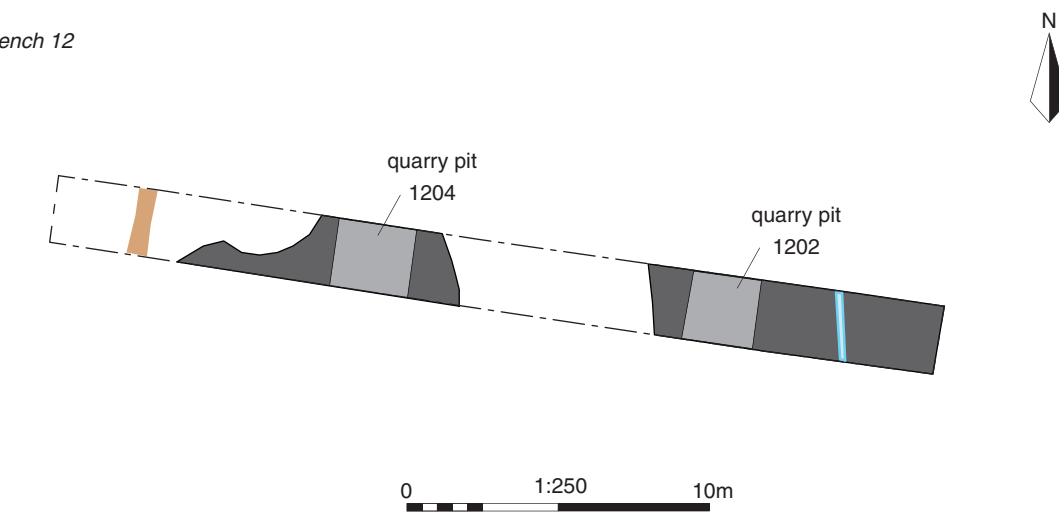
Trench 3: photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	MK0052
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23-04-2019
APPROVED BY	JN	SCALE@A4	NA

FIGURE NO.

5

Trench 12



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- Field drain



Quarry pit 1204, looking south (1m scale)



Quarry pit 1202, looking south (1m scale)



Trench 8, geological variation, looking east (1m scale)



Trench 9, geological variation, looking east (1m scale)



Trench 11, geological variation, looking east (0.5m scale)

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