

**Land off Bedford Road
Lower Stondon
Hertfordshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Orion Heritage Ltd

On behalf of
Barratt David Wilson North Thames

CA Project: 661004
Site Code: HITBR17
CA Report: 17662



Land off Bedford Road
Lower Stondon
Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 661004
Site Code: HITBR17
CA Report: 17662



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	27/11/17	AKM	JSJ	DRAFT	Internal review	MLC
B	27/11/17	AKM	JSJ	DRAFT	Orion Heritage Ltd review	MLC

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	6
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4).....	7
6. THE FINDS	8
7. DISCUSSION.....	9
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	10
9. REFERENCES.....	10
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	11
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	15
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	16
APPENDIX D: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET 17	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan; 1:25,00
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing modern disturbance and constraints, and former railway line; 1:1250
- Fig. 3 Trench 17: view of part of the former railway line and representative section
- Fig. 4 Trenches 15 and 23, photographs

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Bedford Road
Location:	Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire
NGR:	517000 234945
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	06 - 10 November 2017
Planning Reference:	17/02175/1
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with North Hertfordshire Museum
Site Code:	HITBR17

In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orion Heritage Limited, acting on behalf of Barratt David Wilson North Thames comprised the excavation of thirty-one trenches.

A single undated ditch was recorded in Trench 23 and the remains of the former Bedford to Hitchin Branch railway line, bisecting the site on a northeast to southwest alignment, were recorded in Trenches 14, 19, and 17. Four trenches (Trenches 31, 33, 34, and 35) were not excavated due to on site constraints and Trenches 1 and 13 were adjusted in order to adhere to the appropriate buffer zones for overhead services. Aside from remains associated with the former railway line and an undated ditch no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and only a small number of artefacts were recovered from the overburden.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire (centred at NGR: 517000 234945; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd on behalf of Barratt David Wilson North Thames (BDWNT) was undertaken to support a planning application (Planning Ref: 17/02175/1) to North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) for the residential development of the site, comprising 185 dwellings and associated development.
- 1.2 The scope of the archaeological evaluation was determined following discussions between Orion Heritage Ltd and Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2017) and approved by Simon Wood (HCCHEA). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014)*. It was monitored by Simon Wood, including a site visit on 8 November 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site) is located on the south-east fringe of Stondon village in the parish of Ickleford and comprises 7.08ha of mostly arable land, with a small area of woodland in the north and pasture in the east. It is bounded to the west by Bedford Road, an access track with an arable field beyond lies to the south, various farm buildings associated with the Old Ramerick are located to the east, and modern development along Southern Avenue and The Railway lies to the north. The site slopes down from c. 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south to c. 45m aOD to the north, and it lies immediately south of a tributary of the River Purwell.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as sandstone of the Woburn Sands Formation, deposited 126 to 101 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain in the south of the site by Diamicton superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, comprising variable Quaternary deposits of glacial origin. Further north these give way to sand and gravel deposits of glaciofluvial origin, whilst at the northern edge of the site there are alluvial deposits associated with a tributary of the River Purwell, which runs along the northern site edge (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) prepared by Orion Heritage (2016). The following summary has been taken from the DBA. It has been superseded by the results of the evaluation which revealed one undated ditch and remains associated with the former railway line.

2.2 No designated heritage assets (Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Registered Battlefields or Parks and Gardens etc.) lie within the site, though a medieval moated site lies directly to the east and extends slightly into the eastern edge of the site.

Prehistoric

2.3 There are no prehistoric remains recorded within the study site and little evidence in its surroundings. On the western fringe of Lower Stondon village, prehistoric enclosure cropmarks and a set of Iron Age enclosures are recorded. It is considered that the archaeological potential of the site for prehistoric remains is low.

Roman

2.4 There are no Roman remains recorded within the site. The only archaeological evidence of Roman date within the surroundings of the site is the postulated line of the Ickleford to Bedford Roman road which runs to the west of the current Bedford Road. However, this line is purely conjectural and there is no supporting evidence from the area which proves this assertion.

Early Medieval and Medieval

2.5 There are no records of any archaeological remains relating to early medieval period activity within 1km of the site but a medieval moated site extends slightly into the east of the site. A late medieval house ('Old Ramerick') is located immediately outside of the site; this area being highlighted as an Archaeological Alert Area and subject to policies within the North Hertfordshire District Plan. In the area surrounding the site a possible medieval plough headland, medieval ridge and furrow features and a medieval moat and earthworks are recorded.

2.6 Ickleford is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, and it was either waste ground or formed part of the Manor of Peritone (later the Manor of Pirton), part of

the Hundred of Hitchin. The manor was held by Sir Ralf de Limesey in 1086, along with the manors of Odsey and Caldecot. In 1215, the parish of Ickleford was constituted into a vicarage by Hugh Wells, Bishop of Lincoln. In the 13th century, the Manor was held by the lords of the Manor of Pirton as a quarter of a knight's fee by the family of Foliot. In 1346, the manor was sold to Simon Francis of London, and remained in the hands of his descendants until 1585 when the manor house with other lands was mortgaged to Thomas Ansell of Northamptonshire.

- 2.7 The Manor of Ramerick was also held by the lords of the Manor of Pirton. It was owned by Richard de Reinbudecurt, son of Guy de Renbudecurt, who came to England with William I. In the 13th century, the Manor was held by the Braybroke family, who, after various changes in ownership had regained it by the late 15th century.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.8 The only post-Medieval/modern heritage asset recorded within the site is the line of the former Midland Railway (Bedford to Hitchin Branch). The line was closed in the 1960s, but its course is preserved as a hedgeline, cropmarks, and an embankment. There are a number of post-medieval/modern heritage assets within the surroundings of the site including a gravel pit, 20th century military structures and several farmsteads.
- 2.9 The earliest map available which shows the site in any detail is the 1804 Ordnance Surveyor Drawing. Although of quite poor quality, the map shows the site comprising two fields; a larger field with a smaller field in the north. Bedford Road bisects the west of the site, fields lie to the north and south, and several buildings named 'New Ramerwick' (labelled as 'Old Ramerick' on more recent maps) are located to the east. An access track runs along the southern perimeter of the site.
- 2.10 The 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Ickleford shows the site in more detail; comprising a large field and parts of three smaller fields. The tithe apportionment indicates that the site was a mixture of pasture and arable land. The land was owned by the President and Fellows of Saint John's College, Cambridge and occupied by Richard Eve. The 1882 Ordnance Survey Map shows the removal of a field boundary in the west of the site, and the line of the former Midland Railway (Bedford to Hitchin Branch) bisecting the east and west of the site. Trees demarcate the northern and western perimeters of the site, and a possible orchard is shown in the east. A footpath runs close to the north-eastern perimeter of the site. The

Ordnance Survey Map of 1922/24 shows that the orchard in the east of the site is no longer extant. The Ordnance Survey Map of 1977/79 indicates that the railway has been dismantled, part of a field boundary and the footpath in the east of the site are no longer extant and a drain follows the line of the remainder of the field boundary in the east of the site.

Unknown

- 2.11 There are several recorded archaeological assets of unknown date within the surroundings of the site; these include cropmarks of a sub-circular enclosure and linear ditch a linear earthwork representing a hollow way on the western side of Bedford Road and cropmarks of a ring ditch and other features.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 As stated in the WSI (CA 2017), 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable NHDC 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* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twenty-nine 40m long by 1.8m wide trenches, as well as one 15m long by 1.8m wide trench (Trench 1) and one 26.5m long by 1.8m wide trench (Trench 13), in the locations shown in Figure 2. All trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual* (CA2009).
- 4.2 Four trenches (Trenches 31, 33, 34, and 35) were not excavated due to parts of the site being inaccessible due to overgrowth. Trenches 1 and 13 were adjusted on site as detailed above to account for overhead power lines. These changes were

approved by Simon Wood. The trenches were positioned to provide a representative sample of the proposed development area, and all changes were made with the approval of HCCHEA and Orion Heritage Ltd.

- 4.3 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 *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA2007).
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003). There were no deposits identified that required environmental sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2005).
- 4.5 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 site archive will be deposited with North Hertfordshire Museum. 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 2-4)

- 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.
- 5.2 The fieldwork revealed only one archaeological feature comprising a ditch running across Trench 23 on a northeast to southwest alignment. In Trenches 19, 17, and 14 the line of the former Bedford to Hitchin Branch railway line was recorded bisecting the site along a northwest to southeast axis (Figs. 2 and 3). A potential feature tested in Trench 27 proved to be modern bioturbation, as did potential features tested in Trenches 5 and 25. All remaining excavated trenches (Trenches 2 – 4, 6 - 13, 15, 16, 18, 20 – 22, 24, 26 – 30, 32) revealed no features; a representative

trench shot of Trench 15 is shown in Figure 4. A small assemblage of finds, including a clay pipe and a fragment of transfer-printed ceramic were recovered from the topsoil from Trench 26 and 25 respectively and an iron object was recovered from Made Ground in Trench 19.

Trench 23 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.3 One ditch was recorded in Trench 23 on a northeast to southwest alignment, measuring 1.30m wide by 0.70m deep. Its sides were recorded as straight, steeply sloping and leading into a very slightly concave base, overall presenting a slightly flattened “v” shape in section. No finds were recovered from the single fill which likely represents the result of natural silting.

Trenches 14, 17, and 19 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.4 Trenches 14, 17, and 19 were targeted at the line of the former Bedford to Hitchin Branch railway line. While Trenches 14 and 19 revealed only limited, mostly truncated remains, Trench 17 provided clearer insight into the layout of the former rail track (Fig 3). It shows the lines of three of the four rails and associated deposits of made ground, as well as some shadows of the sleepers located between them. The easternmost rail did not survive in plan, although a faint outline was visible in section.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in appendix B and discussed further below. None of the material described will be retained

Pottery

- 6.2 A single modern sherd (4g) was recorded from the topsoil 2600 in Trench 26. It is an abraded base sherd, probably from a plate, in a refined whiteware fabric of the type produced on an industrial scale from the late 18th century onwards. It features blue-coloured transfer print design to its interior surface.



Other finds

- 6.3 A small and unmarked clay tobacco pipe stem fragment (2g) was recorded from the topsoil r 2500 in Trench 25. Pipes for tobacco smoking in white pipeclay were in common use in Britain from the very late 16th to the late 19th centuries, and without diagnostic features or markings, refinement within this date range is not possible.
- 6.4 An iron split pin fastening c. 160mm in length and made from a strip 5mm wide and of half-round section was recovered from Made Ground deposit 1904 in Trench 19. It is thought unlikely to date before the later 19th century.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 There was no strong indication of archaeological activity within the site, pre-dating the 19th century. The one ditch revealed on the site recorded in Trench 23 was only observed in that trench, and no dateable evidence was recovered from its fill. It is likely that this ditch represents a former boundary line, agricultural division or drainage system pre-dating the construction of the railway. Finds recovered from the topsoil were dated, broadly, to the late 18th to early 20th centuries.
- 7.2 The results of the evaluation broadly confirm the findings of the DBA (Orion Heritage Ltd 2016) which suggested a low archaeological potential for the site, due to the presence of the railway and the impact of its construction. The main feature within the site proved to be the line of the former railway, which is amply recorded and illustrated through Ordnance Survey mapping, as detailed in the DBA. Despite the lack of dateable evidence, the balance of probability suggests that the single ditch recorded in Trench 23 relates to the medieval or Post-medieval field system which developed between Stondon and the medieval moated site at Old Randwick, immediately to the east of the site. Aside from remains associated with the former railway line and an undated ditch no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and only a small number of artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Moosbauer, assisted by Martyn Cooper, Anne Templeton, Abigail Breen, Bethany Hardcastle, Samuel Burns, Daniele Marzeddu and Benjamin Lang. The report was written by Anna Moosbauer. 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 Michelle Collings.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 November 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **24**

Orion Heritage Ltd 2016 *Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Ref: QU-0168/1



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	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>15	>1.8	0.20	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>15	>1.8	0.60	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>15	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>25	>1.8	0.30	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>25	>1.8	0.60	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>25	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.39	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.16	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.40	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.75	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.60	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40m	>1.8	0.55	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.40	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.15	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.40	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.33	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.31	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.60	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.33	

11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.28	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>26.5	>1.8	0.20	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>26.5	>1.8	0.55	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>26.5	>1.8		
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
14	1403	Deposit		Railway	Degraded sleepers, stone lining	>1.8	0.5		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.39	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.18	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.15	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
17	1703	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – mid yellowish brown, silty clay, firm	>1.8	0.23		
17	1704	Deposit		Railway	Made ground - light brownish yellow, silty clay, firm	>1.8	0.20		
17	1705	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – black coal dust, loose	>1.8	0.20		
17	1706	Deposit		Railway	Shadow of rail - mid greyish brown, gravel and ash, loose	>1.8	0.31		
17	1707	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – black coal dust, loose	>1.8	0.20		
17	1708	Deposit		Railway	Made ground - light yellowish brown, gravel and stone, loose	>1.8	0.30		
17	1709	Deposit		Railway	Rail sleeper - light brown, sand, loose	>1.8	0.38		
17	1710	Deposit		Railway	Cut of service – dark brown, silt	>1.8	0.02		
17	1711	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – mid yellowish brown, silty clay, firm	>1.8	0.40		
17	1712	Deposit		Railway	Rail infill - light brownish grey, silty clay, firm	>1.8	0.40		
17	1713	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – mid yellowish grey, gravel and sand, loose	>1.8	0.40		
17	1714	Deposit		Railway	Cut of rail – light yellowish brown, sandy gravel, loose	>1.8	0.40		
17	1715	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – light brown, sand, loose	>1.8	0.28		
17	1716	Deposit		Railway	Cut of sleeper - light brown, sand, loose	>1.8	0.46		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	

18	1802	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
19	1900	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.40	
19	1900	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
19	1904	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – dark greyish brown, silt and gravel	>1.8	0.30		
19	1906	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – dark greyish brown, silt and gravel	>1.8	0.35		
19	1908	Deposit		Railway	Made ground – made ground – mid yellowish brown, sand and silt	>1.8	0.40		
19	1910	Deposit		Railway	Made ground - dark greyish brown with black, silt and ash	>1.8	0.50		
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.20	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
22	2202	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.40	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
23	2302	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
23	2303	Cut		c/o ditch	Linear, steep slightly concave sides, slightly concave base, moderate b.o.s. at base	>1.8	1.30	0.70	
23	2304	Fill	2303	f/o ditch	Mid orangey brown, sandy clay, friable, frequent fine gravel	>1.8	1.30	0.70	
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.35	
24	2401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.55	
24	2402	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
25	2501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.50	
25	2502	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
25	2503	Cut		c/o bioturbation	Irregular sub-oval with irregular sides and base	>0.54	0.76	0.07	
25	2504	Fill	2503	f/o bioturbation	Dark brownish grey silt, with black ash, some fine gravel	>0.54	0.75	0.07	
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
26	2601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.60	
26	2602	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
27	2701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.70	

27	2702	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
27	2703	Cut		c/o bioturbation	Irregular round with irregular sides and base	0.30	0.30	0.18	
27	2704	Fill		f/o bioturbation	Dark brownish grey, sandy silt, rare charcoal inclusions	0.30	0.30	0.18	
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
28	2801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
28	2802	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.30	
29	2902	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
30	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
30	3002	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, friable, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.25	
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish orange, sandy clay, firm, some gravel (<3cm)	>40	>1.8	0.60	
32	3202	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orange, sandy clay with sand, gravel and clay lenses	>40	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

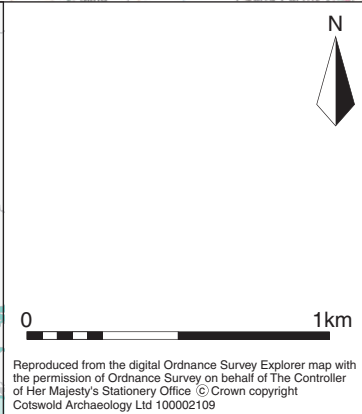
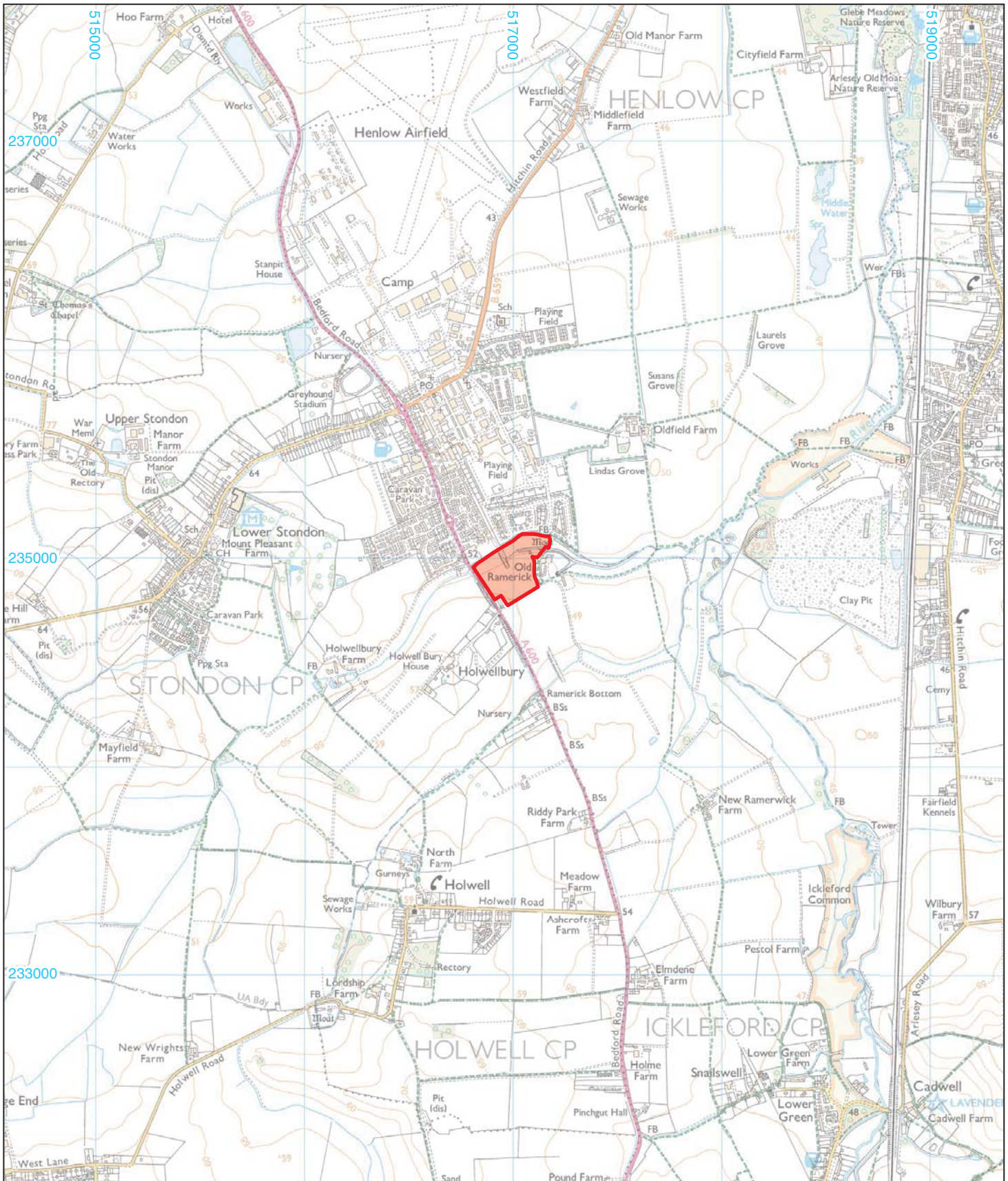
Context	Material	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
1904	iron	Modern split pin	1	25g	C19-C20
2500	ceramic	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	1	2	
2600	pottery	Refined whiteware (transfer-printed)	1	4	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire	
Short description	<p>In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orion Heritage Limited, acting on behalf of Barratt David Wilson North Thames comprised the excavation of thirty-one trenches.</p> <p>A single undated ditch was recorded in Trench 23 and the remains of the former Bedford to Hitchin Branch railway line, bisecting the site on a northeast to southwest alignment, were recorded in Trenches 14, 19, and 17. Four trenches (Trenches 31, 33, 34, and 35) were not excavated due to on site constraints and Trenches 1 and 13 were adjusted in order to adhere to the appropriate buffer zones for overhead services. Aside from remains associated with the former railway line and an undated ditch no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and only a small number of artefacts were recovered from the overburden.</p>	
Project dates	6 – 9 November 2017	
Project type	evaluation	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	7.08ha	
Site co-ordinates	517000 234945	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Hertfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Anna Moosbauer	
MONUMENT TYPE	ditch	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive North Hertfordshire Museum	Content
Physical		Modern ceramic, clay pipe (not to be retained)
Paper		Context sheets, trench sheets, permatrace sheets
Digital		Digital photos, spreadsheets, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17662		

APPENDIX D: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Ickleford, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: Lower Stondon
Village/Town: Lower Stondon		Parish: Ickleford
Planning application reference: 17/02175/1		
HER Enquiry reference: N/A		
Funding source: Private		
Nature of application: Residential development		
Present land use: Agricultural land		
Size of application area: 7.08ha		Size of area investigated: 7.08ha
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 517000 234945		
Site code (if applicable): HITBR17		
Site director/Organization: Cotswold Archaeology		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 6 th November 2017	Finish: 10 th November 2017
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire Museum		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented:
<p>Relevant previous summaries/reports: Orion Heritage Ltd 2016 Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Ref: QU-0168/1</p>		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Hertfordshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Orion Heritage Limited, acting on behalf of Barratt David Wilson North Thames comprised the excavation of thirty-one trenches.</p> <p>A single undated ditch was recorded in Trench 23 and the remains of the former Bedford to Hitchin Branch railway line, bisecting the site on a northeast to southwest alignment, were recorded in Trenches 14, 19, and 17. Four trenches (Trenches 31, 33, 34, and 35) were not excavated due to on site constraints and Trenches 1 and 13 were adjusted in order to adhere to the appropriate buffer zones for overhead services. Aside from remains associated with the former railway line and an undated ditch no features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and only a small number of artefacts were recovered from the overburden.</p>		
Author of summary: AKM		Date of summary: 27.11.2017



**Cotswold
Archaeology**

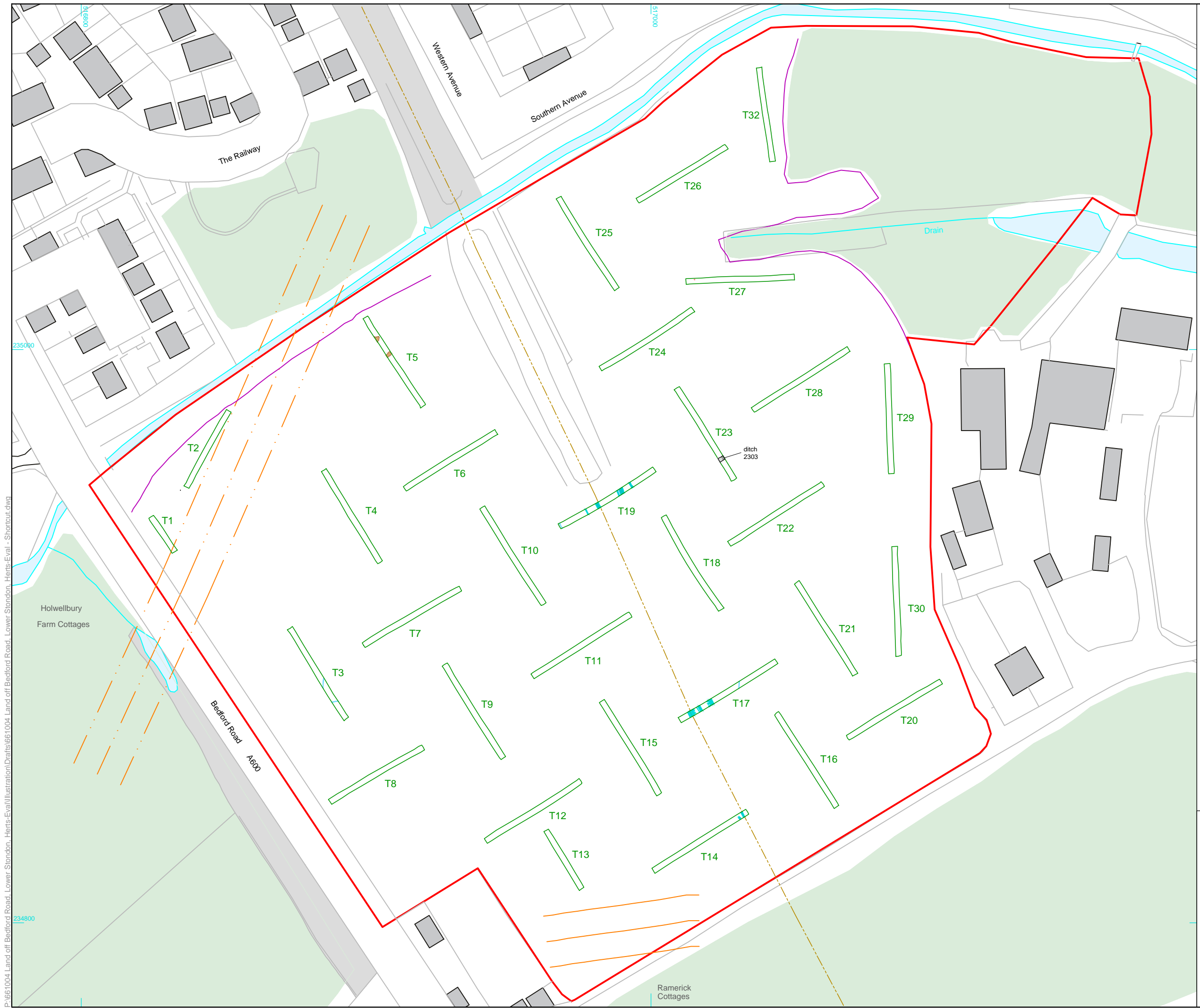
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon,
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY EE **PROJECT NO.** 661004 **FIGURE NO.** 1
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 16/11/2017
APPROVED BY MC **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

Reproduced from the digital Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- Field drain
- Tree-throw
- Natural
- Former railway line
- Overhead cable
- Constraint



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon,
Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing modern
disturbance, constraints and former
railway line**

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 661004	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 17/11/2017	2
APPROVED BY MC	SCALE@A3 1:1250	

P:\661004 Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Herts-Eval\Illustration\Drafts\661004 Land off Bedford Road, Lower Stondon, Herts-Eval - Shortcut.dwg



Trench 17, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 17, representative section (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Bedfords Road, Lower Stondon,
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 17: view of part of the former
 railway line and representative section**

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 661004
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 17/11/2017
 APPROVED BY MC SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 15, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 23, ditch 2303, looking west (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Bedfords Road, Lower Stondon,
 Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 15 and 23, photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	661004	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/11/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	NA	4

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660