

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Environmental Impact Assessment*

*Field Evaluation & Excavation*

*Finds / Environmental Analysis*

*Geophysical Survey*

*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

**Land west of 11 North Square, Newport  
Pagnell,  
Milton Keynes: Archaeological  
Evaluation  
Report No. MK093/17**

## CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Town Hall  
Creed Street  
Wolverton  
Milton Keynes  
MK12 5LY

Tel: 01908 226124

Mob: 07741 313975

email: [info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

web: [www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk](http://www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk)

Author	Marta Perlinska MA PCIfA
Illustrator	Marta Perlinska MA PCIfA
Approver	Mark Roberts BA MLitt MCIfA
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## 1. SUMMARY

*CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological evaluation for New City Finance Ltd on the site of a housing development at Land west of 11 North Square, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes (centred on SP 87720 44034). The Site comprised concrete surfaces and the remains of the demolished foundations. Two trenches were excavated revealing a possible Medieval pit and a stakehole.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1. General

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August at land west of 11 North Square, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes. The work was commissioned by New City Finance Ltd.

### 2.2. Planning Background

The work was carried out to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning application 16/03503/FUL and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated July 2017, covering this programme of works produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

### 2.3. Archaeological Background

The archaeological background of the Site has been summarized in the WSI as follows:

*The site of the development is situated in the medieval core of Newport Pagnell, within an area suggested to have been occupied by the Saxon burgh. Although the burgh defences have proven elusive, evidence for Saxon occupation was revealed in a watching brief at Bury Lawn, c. 50m to the north-west in 1990 (MMK3903).*

*Other small-scale archaeological investigations in the vicinity have uncovered evidence for Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Of significance are the results of an evaluation and watching brief in land to the rear of 4-6 Union Street, west of the site. This revealed intact and relatively deeply stratified late medieval and post-medieval features and deposits (over 1m deep in places). In the evaluation phase, two large late medieval/early post-medieval pits, and a sequence of*

*intercutting pits and structural remains were uncovered. These dated from the 15-16th century through into 19th century, although a small quantity of residual Saxo-Norman pottery was also recovered (Albion Archaeology 2008, report no. 2007/113)*

*A subsequent watching brief revealed a number of archaeological features, including probable medieval layers and ditches set on a north-east to south-west orientation, possibly representing domestic plot boundaries. Post medieval and modern features were also encountered, including pits, ditches robbed-out foundation trenches and demolition layers (Albion Archaeology 2008, Report no. 2008/51)*

*Around 100m to the south-east, a watching brief conducted to the rear of 40-42 High Street revealed over 0.8m of stratigraphy, including a 13-14th century cesspit and evidence of 14-15th century ironworking (Archaeologica 2002). An intervention at the rear of 30-32 High Street also revealed a circular feature approximately 1m diameter filled with green-grey clay of organic origin with charcoal flecks, oyster shells and pottery of 11th-14th century date (MMK5499-5500).*

#### **2.4. Geology**

The bedrock in the area consists of Oxford Clay (Peterborough Member).

#### **2.5. Objectives**

The main objective of the evaluation was to assess the significance of any archaeology and provide information to inform a further WSI for mitigation which might be required as outlined in condition (2) *'On completion of the archaeological field evaluation a further Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological mitigation in respect of any identified areas of significant buried archaeological remains shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include a statement of significance and research objectives; and a) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works; b) The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI'*.

In general the project objectives were to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site, and;
- produce a report which places any discovered archaeological remains in their local, regional or national context, as appropriate.

The Research Objectives were to:

- investigate the evidence for and origins of the different phases of land use and enclosure within the area, including any evidence for pre-Roman, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity;
- place the results of the investigation within the wider landscape context and contribute to an understanding of the pattern of land use.

### **3. WORKING METHODS**

#### **3.1. General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

#### **3.2. Trenching**

Two trenches each measuring 8m x 0.8m were excavated over the footprint of the block of flats (Fig. 1). The trenches had been deliberately aligned to intersect a potential medieval burgage plot boundary running through the centre of the Site.

#### **3.3. Excavation and Recording Strategy**

Topsoil and made ground were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision until the features of archaeological interest were exposed.

The trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50. All archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records

conforming to Cifa standards (2014) and CFA's quality manuals. A digital photographic record was made of the trench.

### **3.4. Archiving**

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at the Buckinghamshire County Museum and will conform to guidelines in MoRPHE guidelines (Brown 2011, MGC 1994, SMA 1995, Ferguson and Murray 1997, UKIC 1990 and EH 2006) ensuring the proper transfer of ownership.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1. General**

The locations of the trenches and features are shown in Fig. 1. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report. An overview of the trenches is presented below, followed by individual descriptions of the features.

### **4.2. Trench Description**

#### **4.2.1. Trench 1**

The natural layer (0103), consisted of grey-yellow clay with occasional charcoal pressed into the surface. Two archaeological features were found 5.5m from the eastern end of the trench, both cut into 0103. Stakehole 0105 was 0.18m in diameter and 0.2m deep. It was filled with 0106, a very dark grey-black silty sandy clay of moderate compaction, with a crushed snail shell and frequent charcoal. To the south of it was 0107, a small pit 0.45m long, 0.4m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with dark grey-black sandy silty clay with frequent charcoal. Two pieces of pottery, dated 15-16<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered lying flat on the top of the feature. Both features were covered with 0.47m thick made ground (0102). It consisted of black silty sand, darker on top and lighter towards the bottom, containing frequent charcoal and occasional brick fragments. A 0.34m thick layer of crushed bricks with concrete over it (0101) covered the trench.

#### **4.2.2. Trench 2**

The natural layer (0202) consisted of yellow clay. Due to health and safety reasons (allowing for a max. 1.2m depth) only the top of the natural, mixed with overlying layer, was exposed. It was covered with made ground (0201), 1.1m deep, composed of black, crushed tarmac, full of

bricks and glass on the top, with charcoal and chalk. The glass piece recovered was the bottom of a 19<sup>th</sup> century fizzy drink bottle.

## 5. FINDS

### 5.1. Pottery from Newport Pagnell, Bucks (Paul Blinkhorn)

The pottery assemblage comprised 5 sherds with a total weight of 60g. It is all medieval, and was recorded using the conventions of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (e.g. Mynard and Zeepvat 1992), as follows:

MS6: Potterspury Ware, AD1250 - 1600. 4 sherds, 36g.

TLMS3: Late Medieval Reduced Ware, 15th – 16th century. 1 sherd, 24g.

Both types are common finds in the region. Three of the sherds of MS6 (weight = 31g) occurred in context (201), and are all from the same vessel, a jug with a patchy green glaze. The rest of the pottery occurred in context 108, with the sherd of MS6 from it being somewhat small and abraded. The sherd of TLMS3 is fairly large and fresh, and appears reliably stratified.

### 5.2. Glass

Two sherds of a Hamilton/Torpedo mineral soda water bottle were retrieved. The lettering suggests it was manufactured in 'P&FJ Taylor, Newport Pagnell'. The factory was moved to Union Street a few years after the foundation of the business in 1825.

## 6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The burgage plot boundary was not identified in the trenches. The evaluation revealed one undated stakehole and small pit, possibly of medieval date. The Site had been truncated and covered in made ground to a depth of 1.2m; there were no traces of the 19<sup>th</sup> century bottle works. The concrete was the remains of a 20<sup>th</sup> century loading bay with a wooden structure upon it which was removed for the proposed development.

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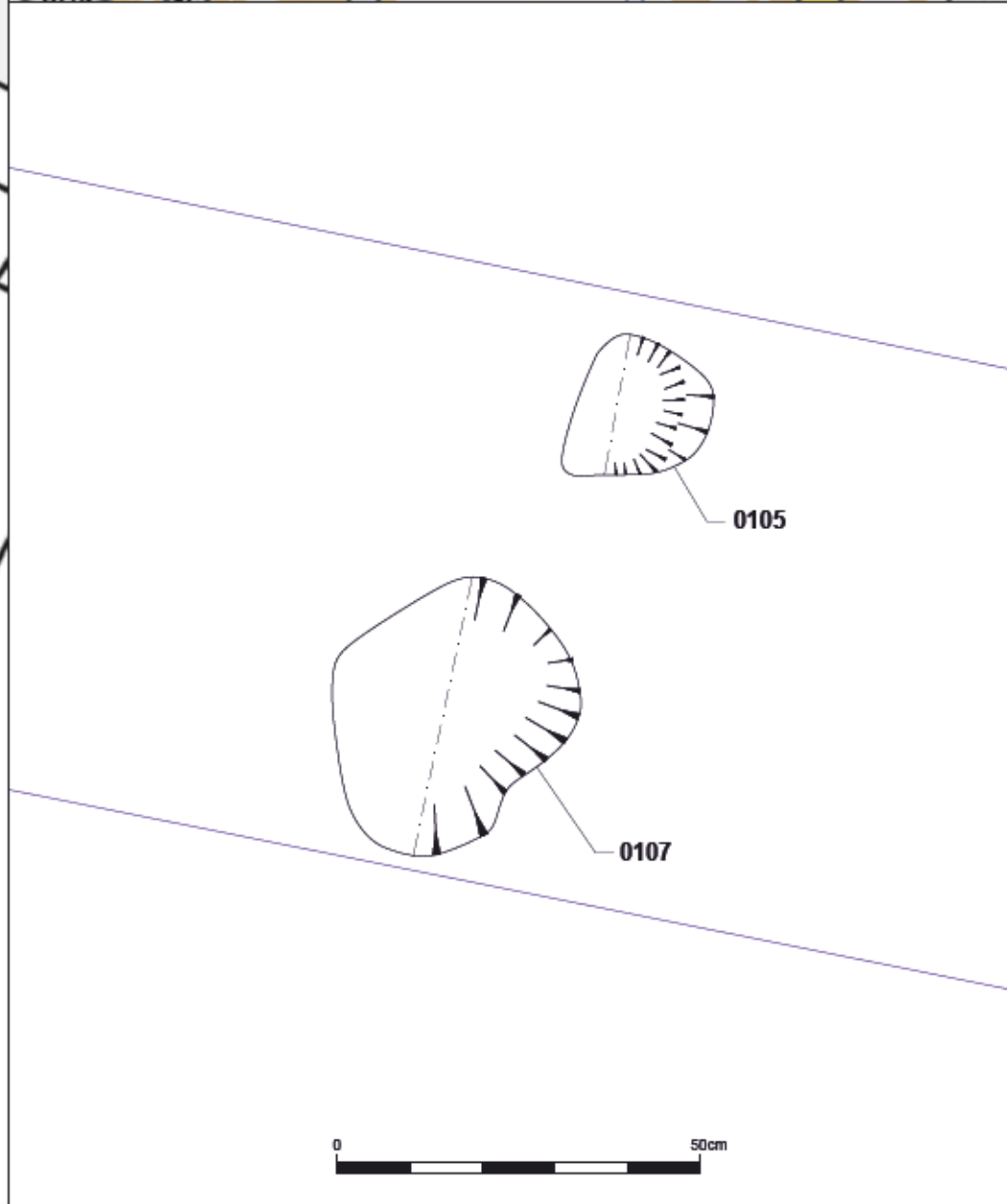
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**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline

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**CFA** ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
 Town Hall  
 Creed Street  
 Wolverton  
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY  
 T: 01908 226 124  
 M: 07741 313975  
 m.sorley@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

**Title:**  
 Site and trench location plan

**Project:**  
 Land west of 11 North Square,  
 Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes:  
 Archaeological Evaluation

**Client:**  
 New City Finance Ltd.

**Scale at A3:**  
 main inset: 1:200; small inset: 1:10

<b>Drawn by:</b> MP	<b>Checked:</b> MR	<b>Date:</b> 17/08/2017
<b>Report No.:</b> MK093/17		<b>Fig. No.:</b> 1



Fig. 2 - Site prior to commencement of works, taken from W



Fig. 3 - Trench 2, taken from W

Project:  
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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
Town Hall  
Creed Street  
Wolverton  
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY  
T: 01008 226 124  
M: 07741 313075  
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
New City Finance Ltd.

Drawn by: MP	Checked: MR	Date: 18/08/17
Report No: MK093/17		Fig. No: 2-3



Fig. 4 - Trench 1, taken from W; features 0105 and 0107 visible in foreground



Fig. 5 - Post-ex shot of 0105, taken from E

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Land west of 11 North Square, Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes: Archaeological Evaluation



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD  
Town Hall  
Creed Street  
Wolverton  
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY  
T: 01008 226 124  
M: 07741 313075  
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
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Report No: MK093/17		Fig. No: 4-5



Fig. 6 - Post-ex shot of 0107, taken from E

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**CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**  
Town Hall  
Creed Street  
Wolverton  
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY  
T: 01008 226 124  
M: 07741 313075  
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk  
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:  
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Report No: <b>MK093/17</b>		Fig. No: <b>6</b>