



Area A, Land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Area A, Land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In late September 2017 Oxford Archaeology carried a trial trench evaluation on land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire in advance of a proposed residential development.

Eight trenches were excavated forming the first phase of a two-stage evaluation. The trenches revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval agriculture and land management in the form of furrows and a single boundary ditch.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Nexus Heritage and Bloor Homes for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Geoff Saunders who monitored the work on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Gary Evans, who was supported by Rachel Legge. Survey and digitising were carried out by Benjamin Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Nexus Heritage on behalf of Bloor Homes (South Midlands) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development and a new school.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Geoff Saunders and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (ClfA 2014) and local and national planning policies.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area is being undertaken in two stages. An initial phase consisting of eight trenches, known as Area A, will be supplement with a second phase of 31 trenches, Areas B and C, in the future. This document details the results of the first phase of trenching, Trenches 32-39.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Village Farm and to the east of Dines Close (Fig. 1; NGR 506539 243901).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of arable fields, pasture and paddocks, totalling c. 12ha. The site is divided into three areas, A, B and C (Fig. 2). Areas B and C are formed of a single agricultural field each and together equate to approximately 9.5ha. Area A is formed of three paddocks and an area of agricultural buildings and storage. Of the 2.5ha that form Area A only 1.4ha was subject to the trial trench evaluation (Fig. 3).
- 1.2.3 The site is located on relatively flat ground which rises gently from c. 35m AOD to the north of the proposed development area to c. 38m AOD on the Cotton End Road frontage at the south end of the development.
- 1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as clays of the Stewartby and Weymouth Members of the Oxford Clay Formation (BGS Sheet 203).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment, walkover survey and geophysical survey report (Nexus Heritage 2017) and is reproduced below to place these results in context.

Prehistoric period: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age

- 1.3.2 The county has important deposits of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic material notably from the Great Ouse Valley and brickearth deposits in the Chilterns. Based on these finds, it is acknowledged that the county has the potential to provide information and material pertinent to the main (regional and national) broad research themes for this period. No material has been found in the county dating to the Upper Palaeolithic period. There is potential for sites of this period to be found in sealed valley deposits and the research agenda (Bedfordshire County Council 2007) suggests that developing an awareness of possible site locations within the county can help the future identification of site of this period. There are no known archaeological deposits from the Palaeolithic period within the site or in the vicinity.
- 1.3.3 There is more known about the Mesolithic period with deposits identified through surface collection and some controlled investigation. The evidence found to date suggests that there were two favoured types of location during this period: good vantage points, notably the Greensand Ridge and Chilterns, and river valleys. In this context and on the basis of the site's location in the Marston Vale and at the foot of the greensand ridge, it is considered that the possibility of archaeological remains from this period to be present on the site is very low.
- 1.3.4 There are no known archaeological deposits from the Neolithic and Bronze Age within the site. Within the vicinity, a probable (as stated in the NHRE entry) Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement (NHRE No: 1410843) is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs north of the village. Settlement sites of this period are rare with the evidence for these found to be particularly difficult to identify and interpret. More common and readily identifiable through aerial photography are ceremonial and burial monuments. Where identified, the distribution of these sites is heavily biased towards the main river valleys and the chalk downland. Evidence from excavated sites is usually characterised by small clusters of pits and other features and occasionally possible structures, with the latter rarely forming coherent or structured patterns. There has been some summarising of the evidence for settlement in the late Bronze Age and Iron Age in Bedfordshire (referenced p.11, Bedfordshire County Council, 2007). However, this has highlighted that little detailed work has been carried out on the characterisation of rural settlements and it is only possible to gain a superficial insight into the development of what appears to be an increasingly sedentary settlement pattern throughout these periods.
- 1.3.5 There is evidence for possible later prehistoric period activity in the Assessment Area with the archaeological remains of possible early-middle, late Iron Age and Romano-British period enclosures and settlements recorded through excavation (BHER (SMR) No: 18221; BHER (SMR) No: 18220) and as earthworks (BHER (SMR) No: 7142) and cropmarks in aerial photographs (BHER (SMR) No: 3570; BHER (SMR) No: 16302). A geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) undertaken in June 2017 detected no anomalies of probable or possible archaeological origin and it is considered that the likelihood of archaeological remains from this period to be present on the site is very low.

Romano-British period

- 1.3.6 In addition to the evidence noted above, there is direct and specific evidence of occupation in this period at a site to the north-west of the site and within the Assessment Area (BHER (SMR) No: 18262). However, this is limited and the absence of archaeological material relating to this period prevents any general assessment of the type and extent of settlement, if any, in the vicinity of the site. The absence of known remains of this period within the site suggest that there is a low likelihood that artefacts or archaeological deposits dating to this period extend into the site.

Anglo-Saxon period

- 1.3.7 There is evidence of early Saxon settlement within the county, both as a presence on sites situated in river valleys and on late Roman sites, and without this association. However, the information is not sufficient to be able to understand settlement pattern and how it may relate to earlier settlement patterns, particularly those of the Roman period. Bedford is the only place that can be described as a town during the Saxon period. While most of the towns in the county have origins in the late Saxon period, none except for Bedford have urban characteristics until after the Conquest. The village's place name indicates Saxon occupation, with its meaning indicating it being "Wil's Homestead", although Wilshamstead does not first appear until the Domesday Survey. The universal contraction to Wilstead first appears in written form in the late 18th century. Of interest in the Domesday Survey is the documenting of eight freemen of the village at the time of the conquest. This suggests that the village was possibly of some taxable value and relatively well-established at that time and the land cultivated more actively than the lack of visible remains indicate. There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the Saxon/early Medieval period recorded or known within the site, although there is evidence of Saxo-Norman activity (BHER (SMR) No: 662 /) within the Assessment Area. This suggests that there is a low probability that artefacts or archaeological deposits dating to this period extend into the site.

Medieval period

- 1.3.8 Within the county, there is a varied settlement pattern during this period and the research agenda has identified a requirement for a detailed understanding of each element of the settlement pattern and the chronology of these elements, amongst others. Few rural settlements have been excavated in the county. However, excavation at the deserted settlement at Stratton has demonstrated the potential of these deserted sites to contribute to the overall research agenda that encompasses all rural settlements whether deserted or not. The Assessment Area contains a small deserted medieval settlement (BHER (SMR) No: 17053) located at Duck End which is to the north-west of the site. The 'End' represents another element of the medieval settlement pattern and the place name suggests a settlement of different character to that of Wilstead. Work has been undertaken within and/or around the edges of existing settlements and this has also demonstrated the potential and the efficacy of this approach when advancing the research agenda. This work has also highlighted the requirement for investigating the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements at the micro-level and broad settlement patterns at the macro-level. Although there have been several controlled investigations near the site, none of these

have produced evidence that would contribute to a more informed understanding of the settlement pattern of the village in this period. Analysis of historic cartographic sources and the extant settlement pattern indicates that the nucleus of the medieval village was centred to the west of site at the junction of what is now the Bedford/Luton and Cotton End Roads. The medieval parish church of All Saints is situated to the west of this junction as are a number of post-medieval buildings thus further suggesting that this area formed the historic core of the village. Furthermore, this analysis when taken in the context of the landscape characterisation of this area suggests that the medieval village was of the nucleated type, which is at the upper end of the rural settlement hierarchy, with ribbon-like development occurring on the roads to/from the village in the late post-medieval period with intensive residential development occurring in the late 20th and early 21st century. Field systems are another area of important study and some work has been undertaken in this area (East Anglian Field Systems Project). Of note is the distinctiveness of the county's field systems when considered against those from the rest of the Eastern region. There is a preponderance of ridge and furrow, little of which now survives, and it is this evidence of historical agricultural activity which marks out the county as part of the classic Midland system with connections to Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire rather than towards the east and the region's different systems of agriculture. The first historical reference to the village is in the Domesday Survey and the entry suggests that it was a settlement of some significance in economic terms. The medieval settlement (BHER (SMR) No: 17052) is recorded on the BHER as extending to the site with part of Area A within its perceived boundary, but no evidence for this interpretation is provided. A geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) undertaken in June 2017 revealed anomalies consistent with the ridge and furrow in the northern section of Area A, which corresponds with recorded ridge and furrow (BHER (SMR) No: 662), also identified in the walkover survey. This suggests that the site was wholly given over to agricultural activity during the medieval period. During this period, there is no archaeological evidence that the site was occupied by buildings, being outside of the historic village core, although still within the extent of what is considered to be the medieval settlement. The presence of known agricultural activity of the medieval period does not necessarily suggest that there is a probability that artefacts or archaeological deposits dating to this period are present within the site. It is considered that the likelihood of archaeological remains from this period to be present on the site is very low.

Post-medieval period

- 1.3.9 The landscape of the Assessment Area experienced very little change during the post-medieval period and specifically up until the mid-late 20th century with historic cartographic evidence indicating limited development within the vicinity of the site and the village. In the post-war period and more recently, residential development has occurred within and on the edge of the village and its road corridors, resulting in a range of building styles and materials. Development has encroached on the site with residential properties bounding it to the west at Dines Close and Castle Close and to the south, fronting Cotton End Road. The combination of residential development and the screening effect of shrubs and trees allows for very limited, or non-existent,

permeability, either visual or physical, to the site from these roads. The earliest evidence for buildings on the site is contained in the Inclosure Map of 1809 (Bedford Archives and Records Service, ref: MA36). This shows a group of three blocks of buildings arranged in a courtyard plan and set back from what is now Cotton End Road. A U-shaped building which is likely to have been a farmhouse is situated at the south side of the courtyard. The other courtyard buildings are likely to have been used for agricultural purposes and are shown as having slightly staggered footprints suggesting that they are formed of a series of small buildings that had been added over time. The BHER (BHER (SMR) No: 7144 / Nexus UID: 32) notes a Dove House Close as being marked on this map with this reference intimating the existence of a Dove House. There is no further evidence beyond that of the map to substantiate this and it is not possible to positively assign this usage to any of the buildings based on the evidence to hand. A comparison of the 1809 Inclosure Map and the Ordnance Survey of 1883 shows that the courtyard plan was further enclosed at its northern end in the interim period and more buildings were erected directly to the rear of the farmhouse and to the east and rear of the existing east side courtyard buildings. There was limited change to the building footprints within the farmstead in the early-mid 20th century. Development within the site since that time has been limited with two buildings, presumably for agricultural use, erected in the period between 1960 and 1974-75. The walkover survey included a site visit to Area A, specifically, the accessible areas of the yard containing garages and outbuildings. On the basis of a limited visual inspection of these buildings, it is considered that, notwithstanding the limited changes to the footprint of the buildings within the site as evidenced by the historic mapping, the extant buildings, on the basis of form and materials are not of early nineteenth century date. An in-depth historic building analysis could contribute to a better understanding of the history of the buildings on the site. Regarding Areas B and C, the Ordnance Surveys show that these have remained undeveloped and in agricultural use.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

1. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development
2. To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
3. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence
4. To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed
5. To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
6. To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
7. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Bedfordshire HER
8. To test the results of the geophysical survey

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be outlined in Appendix A of the Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2017). Appendices B, C, D and E detailed OA's standard methodologies for geomatics and survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials

2.2.2 The site specific methodologies were as follows:

1. Trenches were set out as indicated on Figure 2 by an OA surveyor equipped with a GPS system to an accuracy of less than 25mm
2. Trench locations were scanned with a cable avoidance tool prior to and during excavation
3. Trenches were machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision by an eight-ton 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket
4. Trenches were machined to the top of the natural geology
5. Trenches were backfilled with excavated material in reverse order of excavation upon completion of archaeological works and in agreement with Geoff Saunders

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty clay was overlain by a compact light to mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions were ideal throughout the works; all trenches were excavated in dry conditions in areas of grass pasture.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Linear features were present in all of the trenches, except Trench 39 (Fig. 3). However, with the exception of a single linear feature that crossed Trenches 33 and 34, they were all considered to be the remains of medieval furrows (Plates 1 and 3-8). A deliberately backfilled pond containing modern material was also present in Trench 39.

3.4 Trench 33 and 34

- 3.4.1 Aligned NW-SE, Trench 33 was 50m long and contained a single ditch. Crossing the centre of the trench on an ENE-WSW alignment, ditch 3304 was recorded as 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep and had a shallow concave profile (Figs 3 and 4; Plate 2). The ditch contained a single fill, 3303, a dark greyish brown silty clay. Two sherds of pottery, one dating to the medieval period and one of post-medieval date, along with an iron nail, an iron nail or holdfast and four fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) of post-medieval date were recovered from the feature.
- 3.4.2 The ditch also crossed Trench 34, where it was recorded as ditch 3404 (Fig. 3). The ditch was not excavated within Trench 34 and no finds were recovered from the surface. The visible fill was a dark greyish brown silty clay, very similar to the ditch fill recorded within Trench 34.
- 3.4.3 In both trenches the ditch truncated the natural geology but was sealed by subsoil.

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 A total of 18 sherds of pottery were recovered. Of these 18 sherds, 16 were recovered from furrows. The remaining two sherds were recovered from fill 3303, the sole fill of ditch 3304.

- 3.5.2 The assemblage recovered from the furrows has been dated to the 12th-13th centuries and is formed of two fabric types, sandy grey ware and a shelly ware. The sherds represent a mix of vessels including a wide bowl with steeply curved wall with an inturned beaded rim and cooking pots.
- 3.5.3 An undated iron nail and ten pieces of 12th- to 16th-century CBM, both roof and floor tile, were also recovered from the furrows in Trench 38.
- 3.5.4 A sherd of post-medieval red earthenware weighing 31g was recovered from the fill of ditch 3304. The sherd had a dark greenish-brown glaze internally. A 12th- to 13th-century sherd of sandy medieval grey ware was also recovered. Despite being in a fairly fresh condition it is likely this is a residual find associated with medieval furrows.
- 3.5.5 In addition to the pottery, two nails, one of which may have been a holdfast, were also recovered along with five fragments of CBM. One fragment of CBM, the edge of a roof tile, is of 12th- to 16th-century date, while the other four fragments, which form a single brick, are like to be of 17th- to early-19th-century date.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 During the works the weather was generally dry and clear, and ground conditions remained dry throughout. Where present, archaeological features were well defined and easily identifiable against the natural geology.
- 4.1.2 The eight trenches excavated within Area A equate to a 4% sample of the area. This level of coverage, combined with the results of the geophysical survey, suggests the trial trenching can be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of Area A.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation are detailed above within Section 2. In summary, the aims were to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey and establish the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits and, if present, determine their character, date range and significance.
- 4.2.2 The geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) identified a series of linear anomalies in the north-east corner of Area A which were interpreted as ridge and furrow. These were observed within Trenches 32 and 35. Ridge and furrow was also recorded within Trenches 36, 37 and 38, on the same NE-SW alignment, suggesting the continuation of the activity beyond the area identified by the geophysical survey.
- 4.2.3 The geophysical survey also identified a linear anomaly crossing the centre of the eastern field within area A. This was interpreted as modern field boundary which was confirmed by the evaluation works but demonstrated to likely be of post-medieval origins.
- 4.2.4 Trench 38 was positioned to investigate two “undetermined” trends which, upon excavation were both interpreted as furrows.

4.3 Interpretation and significance

- 4.3.1 With the exception of the ridge and furrow, only a single feature of an anthropogenic origin was identified during the evaluation. Observed crossing both Trenches 33 and 34, the ditch can be associated with a field boundary that, although not currently present, is identifiable on satellite imagery from 2002 and 2006 (Magnitude Surveys 2017). Material recovered from the ditch suggests the boundary was established in the post-medieval period. However, it is not possible to identify the boundary in the results of the map regression undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment.
- 4.3.2 It is likely the extant boundary observable on the satellite imagery is a later re-establishment of the boundary delineated by the ditch in Trenches 33 and 34. In both trenches the ditch was observed to be sealed by subsoil suggesting that at some point the boundary had been ploughed out.
- 4.3.3 The results of the evaluation support the conclusions of the geophysical survey and suggest Area A has very limited archaeological potential.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained no archaeological features except six furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil - friable, mid to dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt, containing occasional small sub angular to sub round pebbles.	-	-
3201	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil – dark greyish brown clay silt	-	-
3202	Layer	-	-	Natural - firm mid to light brownish orange silty clay	-	-
3203	Fill	1.05	-	Fill of furrow 3203 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3204	Cut	1.05	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3205	Fill	1.90	-	Fill of furrow 3206 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3206	Cut	1.90	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3207	Fill	2.05	-	Fill of furrow 3208 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3208	Cut	2.05	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3209	Fill	2.45	-	Fill of furrow 3209 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3210	Cut	2.45	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3211	Fill	1.10	-	Fill of furrow 3212 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3212	Cut	1.10	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3213	Fill	1.15	-	Fill of furrow 3214 – mid brown clay silt with occasional charcoal flecking	-	-
3214	Cut	1.15	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-

Trench 33			
General description		Orientation	NNW-SSE
		Length (m)	50
		Width (m)	1.8

Trench contained a single WSW – ENE aligned post-medieval boundary ditch. The trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil – friable mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.	-	-
3301	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil – compact to firm mid to light greyish brown clayey silt occasional small to medium sub-angular stones	-	-
3302	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange clay with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-
3303	Fill	2.90	0.52	Fill of ditch 3304 – dark greyish brown with orange brown mottle silty clay, rare sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks	Pottery, CBM	c1600-1800
3304	Cut	2.90	0.52	Ditch – shallow concave sides and base	-	-

Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained a single WSW – ENE aligned post medieval boundary ditch. The trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil – friable mid dark greyish brown clayey silt, occasion small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-
3401	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil – moderate to firm mid to light greyish brown fine clayey silt, occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones.	-	-
3402	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm brownish orange clay, frequent small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-
3403	Fill	1.60	-	Fill of ditch 3404 – dark brown with orange brown mottle silty clay.	-	-

3404	Cut	1.60	-	Ditch – not excavated	-	-
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Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology except a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil – mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt, occasional rounded stones	-	-
3501	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil – compact mid-light greyish brown clayey silt, occasional small sub-angular stones	-	-
3502	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm brownish orange clay sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-
3503	Fill	1.25	-	Fill of furrow 3504 – mid grey brown silty clay charcoal flecks and occasional sub rounded pebbles.	-	-
3504	Cut	1.25	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology except a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil – mid-dark greyish brown clayey silt, occasional small sub-rounded stones.	-	-
3601	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil – firm light-mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-
3602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3603	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 3604 – dark brown silty clay with orange mottling	Pottery	12th-13th C
3604	Cut	1.84	0.09	Furrow – shallow concave profile	-	-

Trench 37						
General description					Orientation	N-S

Trench devoid of archaeology except a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil – mid dark greyish brown clayey silt, occasional sub-rounded stones	-	-
3701	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil – firm light-mid greyish brown clayey silt, occasional sub-angular and sub rounded stones	-	-
3702	Layer	-	-	Natural – mid brownish orange clay with occasional lenses of light yellow clay, frequent sub-angular and sub rounded stones.	-	-
3703	Fill	1.10	-	Fill of furrow 3704 – dark brown silty clay with orange mottling	-	-
3704	Cut	1.10	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-

Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology except four furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil – mid-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt. Occasional small sub-angular stones.	-	-
3801	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil – firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	-	-
3802	Layer	-	-	Natural – firm mid brownish orange with frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-
3803	Fill	2.10	-	Fill of furrow 3804 – dark brown silty clay	Pottery, CBM	12th - 13th C
3804	Cut	2.10	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3805	Fill	1.00	-	Fill of furrow 3806 – dark brown silty clay	Pottery	12th - 13th C
3806	Cut	1.00	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-

3807	Fill	0.95	-	Fill of furrow 3808 – dark brown silty clay	CBM	12th - 16th C
3808	Cut	0.95	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3809	Fill	1.60	-	Fill of furrow 3810 – dark brown silty clay	-	-
3810	Cut	1.60	-	Furrow – not excavated	-	-
3811	Fill	3.25	-	Fill of 3812 – dark brown silty clay	CBM	12th - 16th C
3812	Cut	3.25	-	Shallow depression of unknown origin.	-	-

Trench 39

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a modern backfilled pond and no other features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
3901	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3903	-	-	-	Fill of pond 3904 – brown clay silt containing tarmac, concrete and modern rubble.	-	-
3904	Cut	-	-	Pond	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.1.1 A total of 18 sherds of pottery weighing 131g were recovered from four contexts. This is all of medieval date, apart from a single post-medieval sherd. The condition of the material is fairly worn to fairly fresh, but all very fragmentary. The limited range of pottery fabrics and traditions present is typical of Bedfordshire. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. Fabric codes mentioned are those of the Bedfordshire fabric type series held by Albion Archaeology. Most of these are also described in a report by Paul Blinkhorn (Blinkhorn 2007).

Context (3303) Spot-date: c. 1600-1800

B.1.2 Description: 2 sherds (31g). 1x worn body sherd in post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric P01) with a dark greenish-brown glaze all over internally (probably 17th-18th century). 1x fairly fresh body sherd of fairly coarse sandy medieval grey ware (Fabric C03), probably 12th-13th century.

Context (3603) Spot-date: 12th – 13th century

B.1.3 Description: 1 sherd (3g). Worn body sherd sandy medieval grey ware (Fabric C03).

Context (3803) Spot-date: 12th-13th century

B.1.4 Description: 11 sherds (78g). Sandy medieval grey ware (Fabric C03). A mixture of fairly fresh to fairly worn sherds from several vessels. Including rim from a wide bowl with a steeply curved wall with an inturned beaded rim. Also a wide sagging base probably from a cooking pot with external sooting. A range of firing colours from weakly oxidised orange-brown to dark grey brown are present.

Context (3805) Spot-date: 12th-13th century

B.1.5 Description: 4 sherds (19g). Two sherds in sandy medieval grey ware (Fabric C03) including thin-walled sagging base probably from a cooking pot. Also two very worn joining body sherds in medieval shelly ware (Fabric B07). This had a dark grey core with dark grey-brown surfaces and a fairly soft sand-free matrix with moderate fairly coarse voids left by dissolved-out shell inclusions. The vessel appears to be handmade and probably dates from the 11th to the 13th century.

B.2 Ceramic building material

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of 14 pieces of CBM weighing 268g were recovered. The condition is very poor and fragmentary. This has not been separately catalogued but is described below.

Context (3303) Spot-date: 17th to early 19th century

B.2.2 Description: 4 pieces (197g). Fairly worn fragments probably from a single brick in a sandy purplish-brown fabric with some very coarse flint and dark grey mudstone or ironstone inclusions. Includes a corner fragment. Fairly crudely made.

Context (3803) Spot-date: 12th-16th century

B.2.3 Description: 1 piece (20g). Worn edge fragment sandy orange medieval flat roof tile. Fabric has some flint and calcareous inclusions. The date is probably the same as the pottery from this context (see above), but the tile itself is not closely datable.

Context (3807) Spot-date: 12th-16th century

B.2.4 Description: 4 pieces (19g). Surface flakes from a minimum of three fine sandy medieval flat roof tiles including an edge fragment. Two are in a light orange-buff fabric with a light grey core; the other two in a deeper orange fabric with a light grey core. All probably medieval but not closely datable.

Context (3811) Spot-date: 12th-16th century

B.2.5 Description: 5 pieces (32g). Four surface flakes probably from the same medieval flat roof tile in fine sandy fabric with light brown surface and orange core, some dissolved-out calcareous inclusions. One larger but very worn piece of roof tile in a much coarser orange-brown fabric. All probably medieval but not closely datable.

B.3 Metal objects

By Ian Scott

Introduction

B.3.1 There are three pieces of iron from two contexts as detailed in the table below.

Context	Object	Description
3303	Nail	incomplete. Hand wrought with small head and tapered rectangular section stem. Not measured.
3303	Nail or holdfast	Has a small irregular flat head and a stem of unusually thin rectangular section clench at the end. L: 52mm.
3809	Nail	Incomplete. Has a small slightly domed rectangular head. The stem is incomplete and its cross section is unclear. Not measured.

B.3.2 The nails are all handmade, but are not closely datable.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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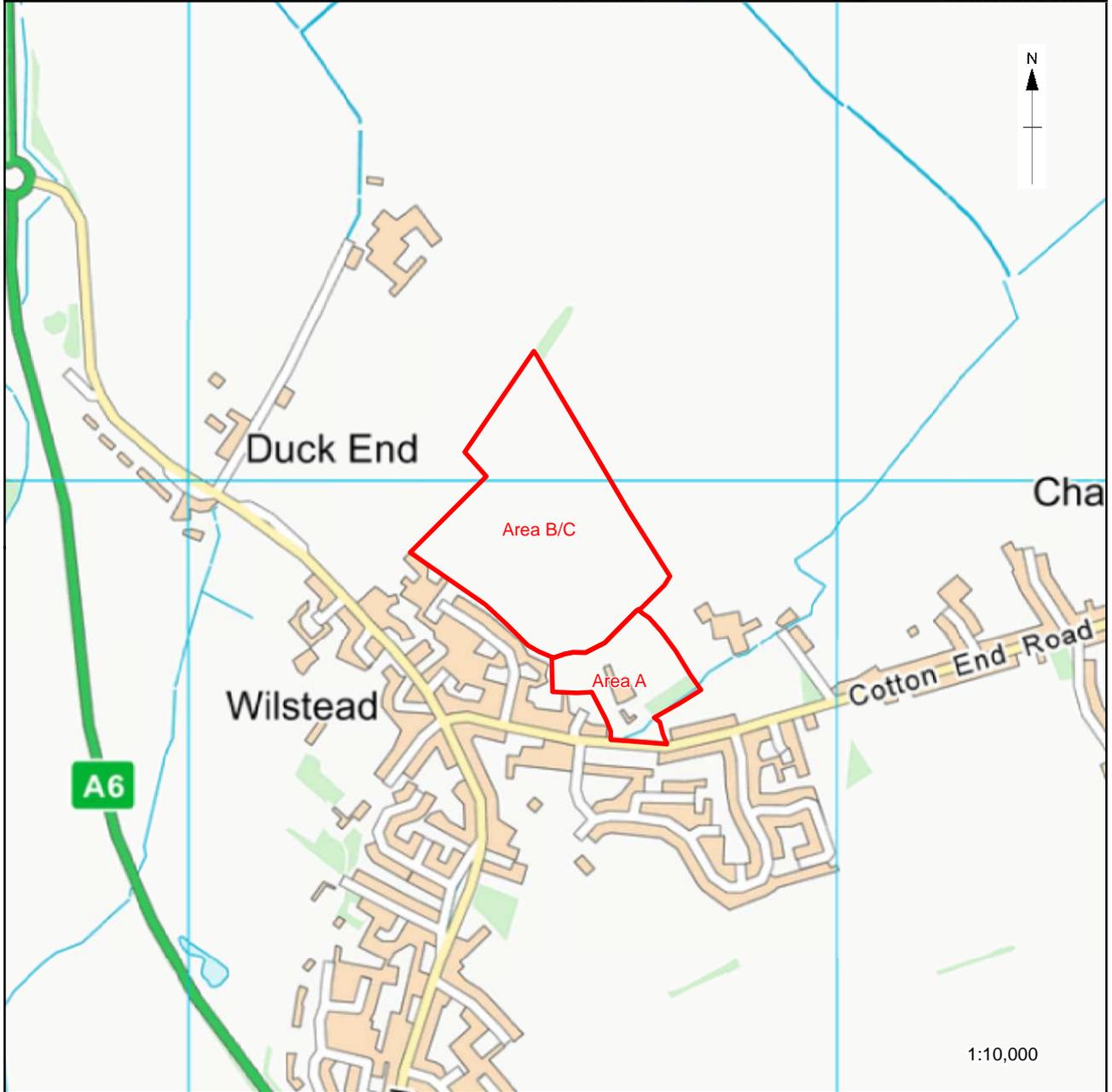
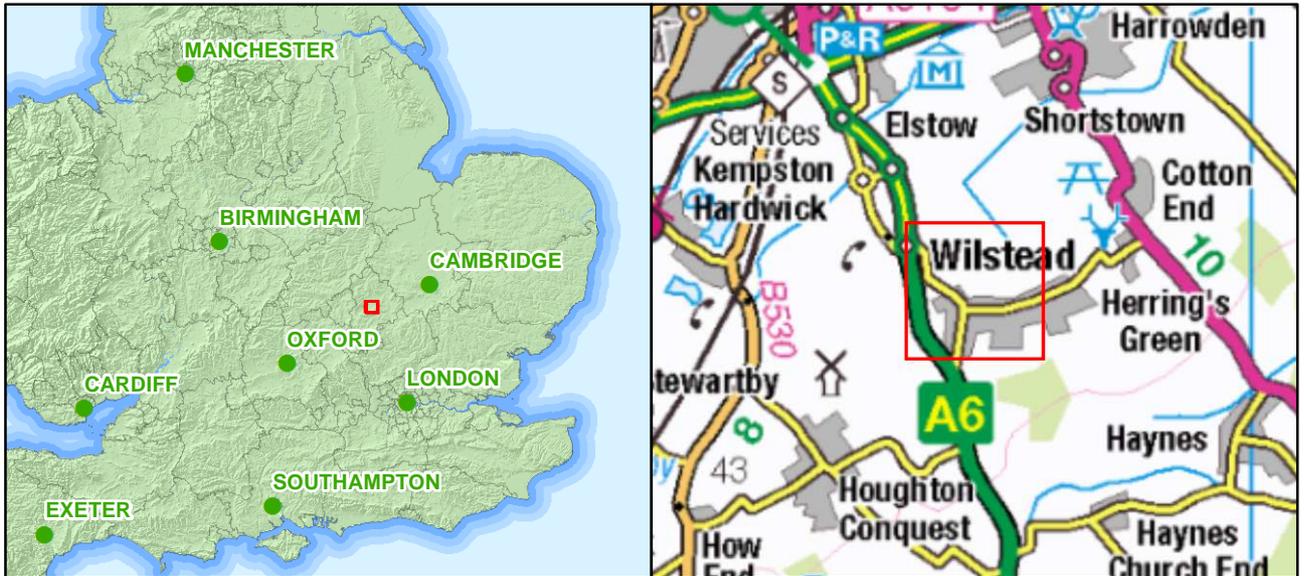
Magnitude Surveys, 2017 *Geophysical Survey Report of Cotton End Road, Wilstead, Bedfordshire*, Magnitude Surveys

Nexus Heritage, 2017 *Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, Walkover Survey and Geophysical Survey*

OA, 2017 *Land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead Bedfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation*, Oxford Archaeology

APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

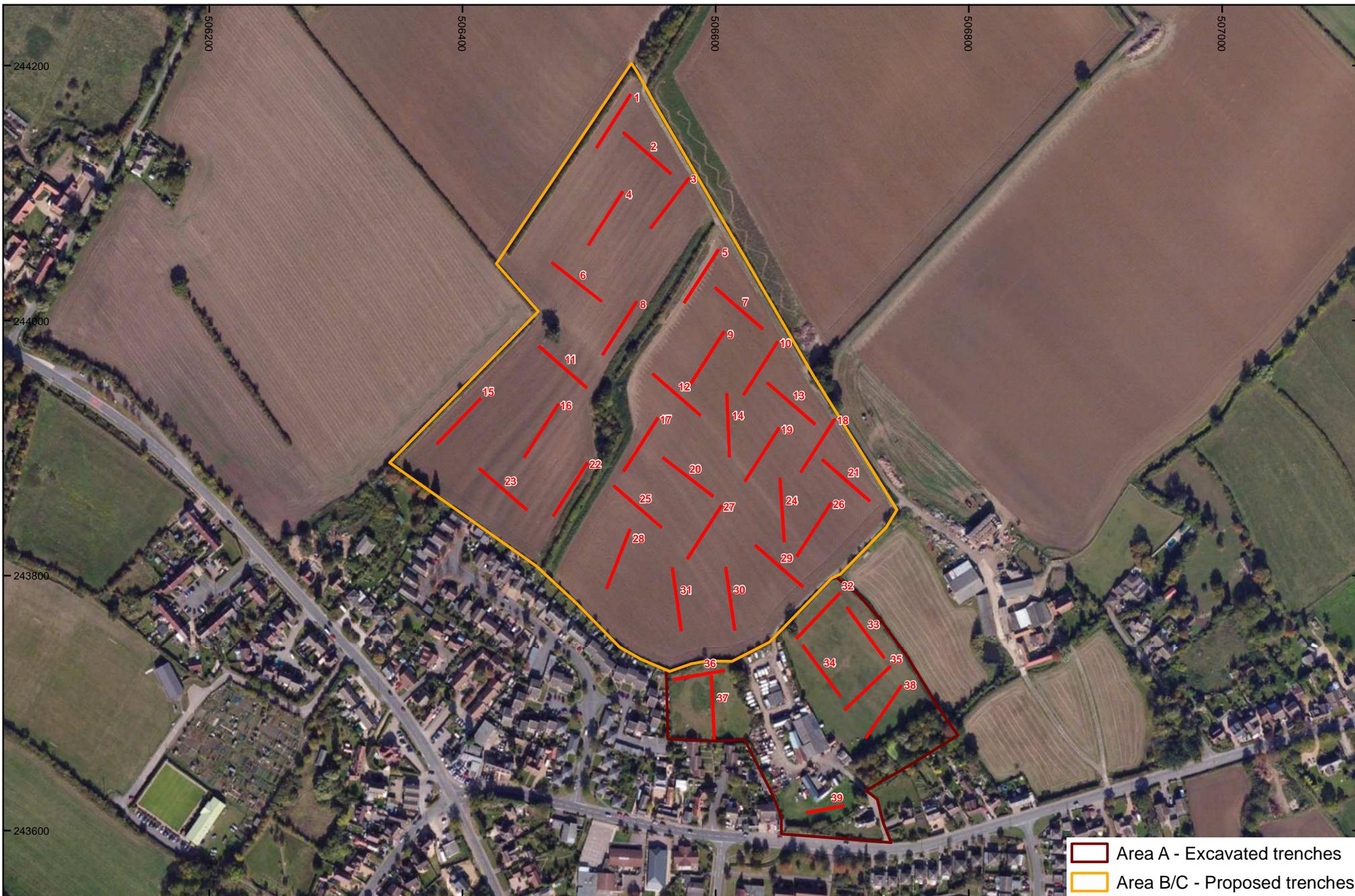
Site name:	Area A, Land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire
Site code:	BEDFM.95.2017
Grid reference	506539, 243901
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	19th September 2017 – 21st September 2017, 3 days
Area of site	12.07ha of which 1.4ha was evaluated as Area A
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Higgins Museum in due course, under the following accession number: BEDFM-2017.95
Summary of results:	<p>In late September 2017 Oxford Archaeology carried a trial trench evaluation on land at Dines Close and Village Farm, Wilstead, Bedfordshire in advance of a proposed residential development.</p> <p>Eight trenches were excavated forming the first phase of a two-stage evaluation. The trenches revealed evidence for medieval and post-medieval agriculture and land management in the form of furrows and a single boundary ditch.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

X:\w\Wilstead Bedfordshire\010\Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\21002_WSI_Figure2_2017-08-24.mxd\benjamin.brown*15/09/2017



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

- Area A - Excavated trenches
- Area B/C - Proposed trenches

Figure 2: Trench layout

0 1:4,000 @ A4 250 m

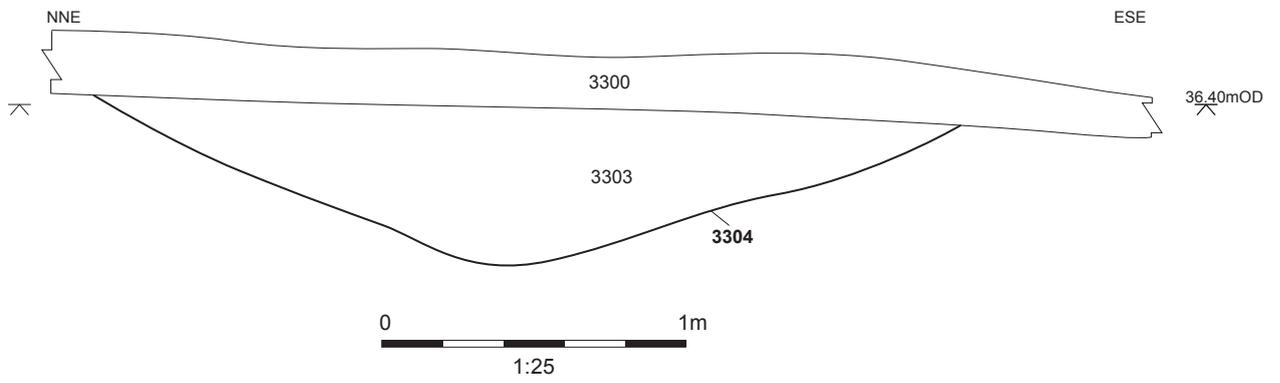


Figure 4: Section 3301, Trench 33



Plate 1: Trench 32, view to SW



Plate 2 - Trench 33, ditch 3304, view to ENE



Plate 3 - Trench 34, view to SSE



Plate 4 - Trench 35, view to WSW



Plate 5 - Trench 36, view to W



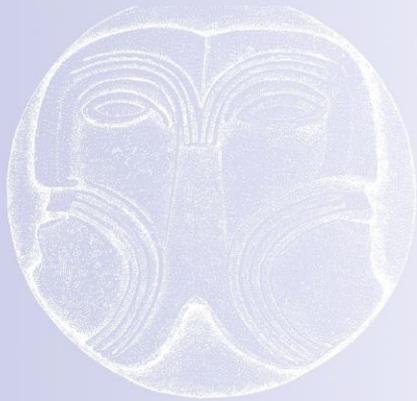
Plate 6 - Trench 37, view to S



Plate 7 - Trench 38, view to NE



Plate 8 - Trench 39, view to W



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