



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

## Archaeological Observation and Recording Report

The Lodge Wall

RSPB

Sandy

Bedfordshire



### Quality Check

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## Summary

Between September and October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire as a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Ground reduction was undertaken in two areas along the length of the wall where the re-profiling of the tree covered slopes to the south of the main road had taken place.

During this investigation, a root filled ditch was observed within the trench of the eastern development area. No dating material was recovered from the fill of the ditch and its function is unknown. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were exposed.

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Between September and October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of The Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by The RSPB reserve, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Jill Harden, Reserve Archaeologist for the RSPB (Harden 2017), and a Method Statement produced by KDK Archaeology Ltd (Kaye 2018) both of which were approved by CBC Archaeology Team (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/17/01967/FULL.

### 1.2 *Planning Background*

This project has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. This programme of Archaeological Observation and Recording has been carried out in conjunction with the Historical Building Recording (HBR) of the brick boundary wall along the northwest edge of The Lodge Grounds which was undertaken by the Reserve Archaeologist, Jill Harden (Harden 2018). The HBR report was submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Council Planning department prior to the completion of this Watching Brief and an approved copy can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.

### 1.3 *The Site*

#### *Location & Description*

The site is located immediately adjacent to the B1042, Potton Road, along the northern boundary of the RSPB reserve. The coordinates of the wall section that was recorded and removed extends from National Grid Reference (NGR) TL18734862 to TL18424856 (Fig. 2).

#### *Geology & Topography*

The geology of the area is sandstone of the Woburn Sands Formation of the Cretaceous (British Geological Survey). No superficial geology has been recorded (*ibid*). The site lies between approximately 47.50 -66.60m AOD on the southern edge of a steep-sided combe.

#### *Development*

The development comprised the removal of sections of the dilapidated wall and the re-profiling of the bank behind (Fig. 3)



Figure 1: Site location (scale 1:25,000)

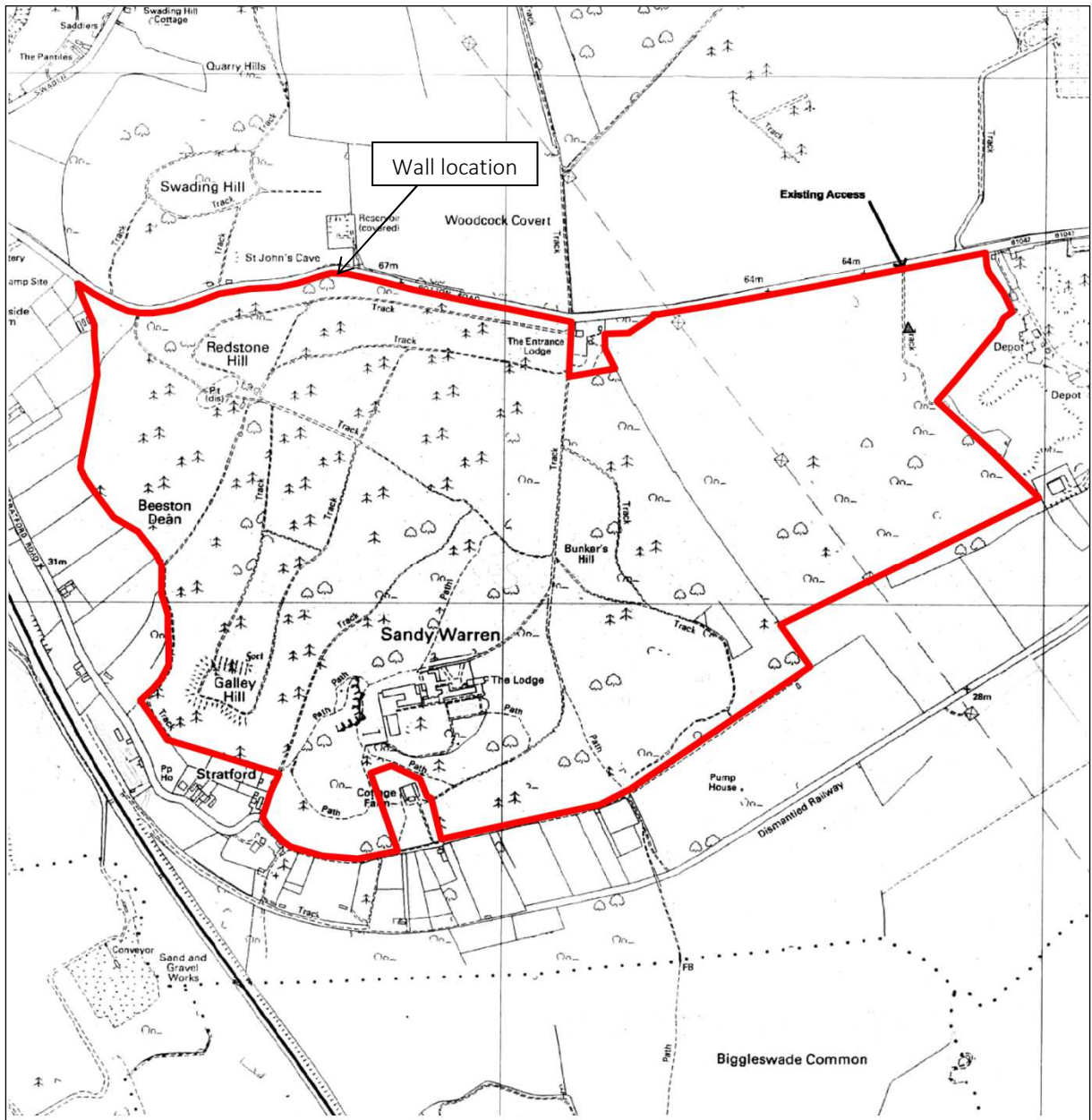


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:12,500)



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## 2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The programme of works included:

- The re-profiling excavation works.
- The removal of the stumps of the trees felled as part of this programme of works.

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the Method Statement, the approach was as follows:

- The first day of monitoring was carried out to investigate and record any archaeological remains that were exposed, but also to assess the practicalities of the Watching Brief. The results of the first day's investigations were discussed with the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT) and further monitoring of the strip and investigation of identified features was agreed and carried out.

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2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief (Adams 2018)
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



### 3 Archaeological & Historical Background

This section has been compiled with information from KDK's own library, reliable internet sources, and Central Bedfordshire HER (search radius 500m).

#### 3.1 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic activity was recorded during the construction of the pond to the northeast of The Lodge (HER 16152). Flint tools including blades and flakes were recovered from the excavation, along with two sherds of Bronze Age to late Iron Age pottery. Fragments of human bone were also recovered, though too small to provide much useful information. Mesolithic flint was also recorded during excavations at Sandy Lodge Hillfort (HER 1165) in 1971.

Numerous cropmarks are visible in the heathland south of Potton Road (HER 1660). No further details are recorded other than that they are thought to be prehistoric. To the north of this complex are cropmarks (HER 1658) showing a scatter of small sub-rectangular enclosures, with a connected linear group at the north east end of the Heath. To the south west is a large rectangular enclosure and extensive linear features running north east to south west.

#### *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The later prehistoric landscape was dominated by three hillforts, two of which, Sandy Lodge (HER 1164) and Galley Hill (HER 445) are only 150m apart and are both scheduled monuments (Heritage List No 1015006 and 1015555 respectively).

Galley Hill is situated 150m further west and comprises a rectangular univallate earthwork overlooking the Ivel Valley Hill (HER 445), and is believed to be later in date than Sandy Lodge Hillfort. It is sited on a sharply sloping ridge with double ditch ramparts on three sides, a single bank and ditch and a probable entrance to the northwest which was suitable for both pedestrian and carts.

An earthwork survey (McOmish 2005) and small scale investigation (Abrams 2006) have provided evidence for occupation at this site pre-dating the construction of the hillfort. The excavation of the site established the likely existence of a second, earlier monument on Galley Hill, with the recovered pottery from the site suggesting domestic activity.

#### *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

The Roman town of Sandy (HER 444) appears to have been a small and diffuse settlement based on a major road intersection. It has been suggested that it may have been a manufacturing centre for pottery, iron and bronze work, a centre of consumption and redistribution, and it may also have a site of religious significance.

Although a little way from the Roman town, there are several cropmarks in the immediate vicinity of the site that may be of Roman origin (eg HER 1658). Although now under debate, the Viatores claimed to have identified the line of Akeman Street, part of which is visible in cropmarks (HER 738).

A large Roman cemetery existed in Tower Hill (HER 11318), to the north and east of which a number of early Saxon burials have also been discovered.






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**Saxon** (c.450-1066)

The juxtaposition of the Roman and Saxon burials suggest some continuity in the settlement of Sandy. A Saxon cremation urn was recovered, probably during the construction of the Varsity railway line between Sandy and Potton, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kennet, 1971). The route of the line was immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of the site.

The late Saxon manor of Sandy was a large estate of 16 hides and 1 virgate, held by Wulfmaer of Eaton Socon (Williams & Matin 2002: 570). Another, much smaller, estate of 3 hides and 3 virgates were held by 2 sokemen in Kinwick (*ibid*: 566).

**Medieval** (1066-1500)

The Domesday Survey records Eudo Dapifer as holding the larger of the two manors, whilst the one in Kinwick had been granted to Earl Waltheof who in turn gave it in alms to St Edmunds abbey (*ibid*). In 1120 Eudo's lands escheated to the crown, and were subsequently granted to the Beauchamp family, who held the manor of the king in chief till the middle of the fourteenth century. By the time the estate was sold in 1670 by Robert Spencer, it included a parcel of land called "The Warren" which may have included the heathland to the south of the modern Potton Road (HER 13729). The manor has changed hands numerous times up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (VCH).

Stone quarries on the south side of the reserve are thought to date back to the medieval period (<http://www.rspb.org.uk>).

**Post-Medieval** (1500-1900)

The RSPB site, which was formerly part of the larger medieval manor, was bought by Captain William Peel in 1851. He was responsible for the construction of the Swiss Cottage, the stone wall around the estate and the planting up of much of the heathland. Following his death in the Indian Mutiny, the estate passed to his brother (*ibid*).

### 3.2 **The Known Archaeology & History of the Site**

**Prehistoric** (before 600BC-AD43)

Sandy Lodge Hillfort, which is located immediately to the southwest of The Lodge, is a promontory hillfort, originally oval in plan. It measures approximately 150m north to south and 75m east to west with a 10m wide ditch to the north. A small excavation inside the hillfort in 1968 revealed the presence of a surface 0.45m below existing, containing fragments of early Iron Age pottery and numerous flint blades and flakes largely dating from the Mesolithic period. Archaeological evidence suggests that the hillfort was either in use for a short period, or never completed.

In August and September 2015 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of archaeological works in the form of a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation, combined with an Observation, Investigation and Recording at the RSPB Reserve in preparation of the erection of a wind turbine, and the laying of the associated cabling. Within the heathland area to the east of the reserve the excavation uncovered several features of an Iron Age date, the most notable being a large roundhouse c.16m in diameter comprising a series of postholes surrounding a central hearth. Radiocarbon dating was undertaken on cremated bone from one of the postholes and charcoal from a second, yielding calibrated dates of between 771-409BC. This, married with dating evidence from fired clay and pottery, proved the presence of Iron Age occupation on the site (Dodd 2016).

**Roman- medieval***(before AD43-1500)*

The presence of human activity within the reserve is limited for the Roman and Medieval periods. During the same archaeological works mentioned above a small circular enclosure and postholes containing Roman Pottery and the presence of medieval and post-medieval finds indicated extended human activity on this site (*ibid* 2016).

**Post-Medieval***(1500-1900)*

The Lodge is a neo-Elizabethan style manor (HER 7763) built in 1869-70 by Henry Clutton for Sir Robert Peel, complete with landscaped grounds (HER 9885). Its listing describes it as having “Contemporary stone mullioned casements. Central block and left gable have plain parapet. Clusters of 2 or 3 rectangular chimney stacks set at right angles to the bases. Central gable has 2 storey stone porch with pierced parapet. Double doors in arched surround, with decorated spandrels and drip moulding”. Some remodelling was carried out in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A small scale archaeological investigation was undertaken at the entrance to The Lodge in 2013 as a consequence of development proposals. No archaeological remains were identified during the works (Headland Archaeology 2012).

**Modern***(1900-present)*

During WWII the estate was owned by Lord Stewart, the chairman of the London Brick Company. Much of the land was requisitioned to store ammunition and other supplies, and brick bases for Nissen huts, concrete storage tanks, pits and rubble strewn tracks survive on the old heath (*ibid*). A petrol dump and pumping station were also built on the Potton Road in Sandy during the WWII to supply the airfields in East Anglia by train, tankers or pipeline (HER 17982).

The site was bought by the RSPB in 1961 (<http://www.rspb.org.uk>).



## 4 Results

### *Introduction*

Two large areas were stripped behind the portions of recently demolished wall in order to reduce the gradient of the slope and protect the public footpath from weathering and collapse. This was done using a 13 tonne machine fitted with a 1.80m toothless ditching bucket. The contexts encountered during this investigation are listed below:

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	D<0.42m	Topsoil found throughout the excavated area. Mid greyish brown, very loose silty sand containing occasional rounded stones. Heavily disturbed by roots and there were several established trees in the vicinity. The soil was sterile of any finds though modern detritus was visible on the surface.
002	Layer	-	Natural geology found throughout the site. Mid brownish orange very loose silty sand. Sandstone appears in patches and can be found beneath the sand in large bands. Heavily affected by rooting.
003	Cut	L: >8.00m W: 0.36m D: 0.13m	Linear feature with irregular sides and a U-shaped base which was heavily affected by rooting in places. Orientated NW-SE. Filled by (004). Ditch or root run, located in Area 1
004	Fill	L: >8.00m W: 0.36m D: 0.13m	Fill of [003]. Mid greyish brown, very loose silty sand which contained occasional rounded stones. Rooting present throughout in great quantity. No datable material recovered from the fill.

### **Areas 1 & 2**

Areas 1 and 2 were located at the eastern end of the site (Fig. 3; Plates 1-3). The excavation entailed the stripping of a large area south on top of a steep gradient. The area was stripped down to the natural geology under archaeological supervision before being reduced further at a later date. Although the areas are joined, they were stripped independently of each other; the first, Area 1 to the east, followed by Area 2 to the west covering a combined space of 391.39 sq m. Within Area 1 was a single linear feature [003] (Figs. 4-5; Plates 5-6). This comprised a shallow cut with irregular sides and a U-shaped base which had been greatly affected by rooting. The entire feature measured at least 8m in length and continues beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. The feature is a possible ditch which was orientated northwest-southeast across the trench. It contained a single fill (004) which was void of any datable material.

### **Area 3**

Area 3 was situated at the western end of the development site (Fig. 3; Plate 4). A large 55m area was reduced along the gradient and at the base of the slope to the required depth. The area was heavily rooted and no archaeological features or deposits were exposed. After discussion with CBCAT, it was decided further monitoring visits were not needed.



**Plate 1:** Area 1, looking east



**Plate 2:** Area 2, looking east



**Plate 3:** Site stratigraphy



**Plate 4:** Area 3, looking northeast



**Plate 5:** Ditch/root run [003]



**Plate 6:** Northwest facing section of [003]

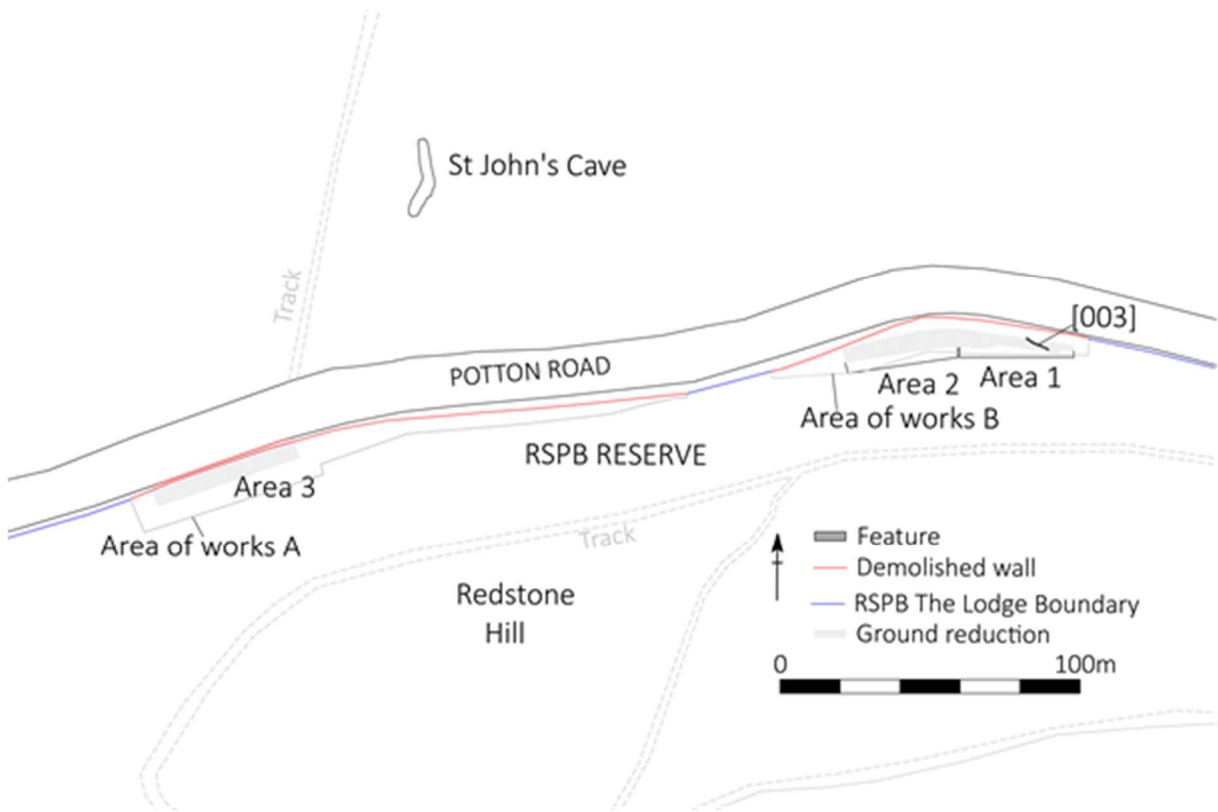


Figure 3: Location of groundworks and areas of investigation (scale 1:2500)

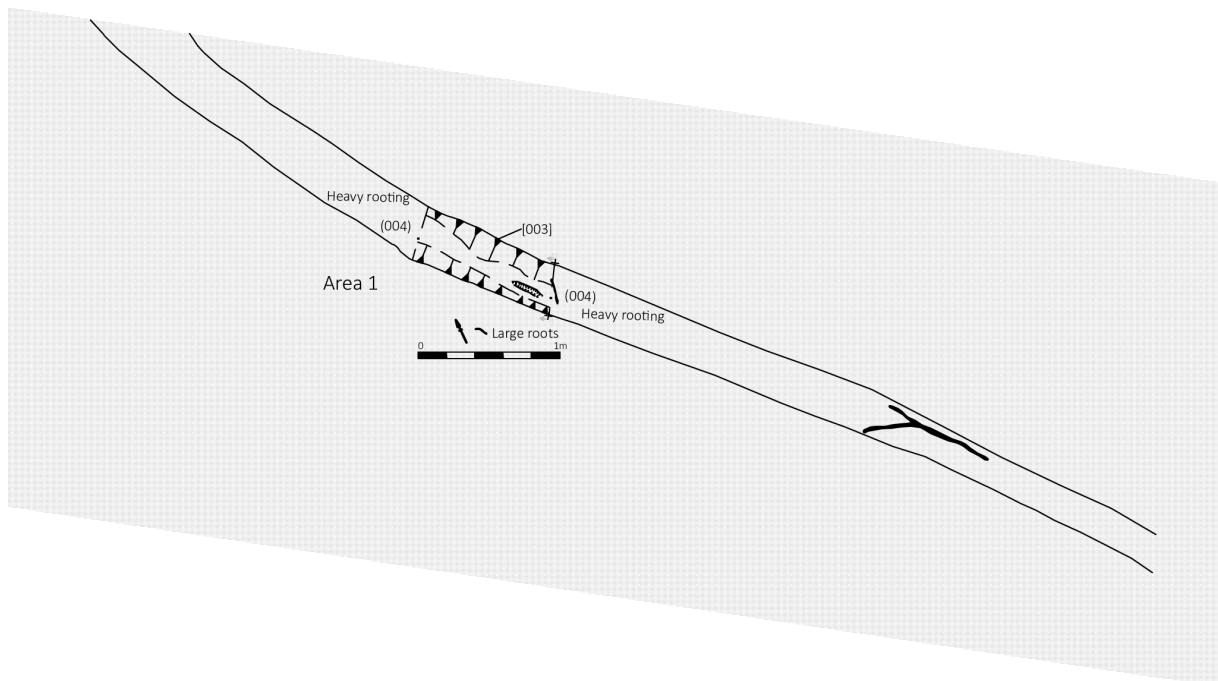
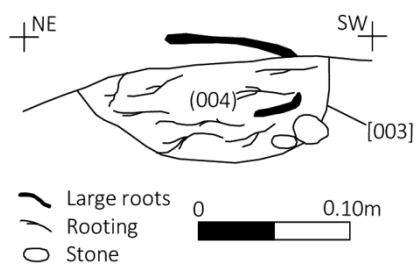


Figure 4: Plan of [003] within Area 1 (scale 1:50)



**Figure 5:** Northwest facing section of [003] (scale 1:10)



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## 5 Conclusions

The groundworks undertaken for the purposes of this development were associated with the demolition of a dilapidated wall. The wall had been constructed along the southern edge of a coombe and as a result of weathering and ground instability, the encroaching soil had added pressure to the wall compromising its strength. In addition, car crashes and “robbing” of material had left the wall in an irreparable state. The removal of the wall had left the pathway and the road beyond exposed to future soil collapse and, therefore, the bank to the south was reduced and re-profiled.

During this investigation, only a single ditch orientated northwest-southeast was observed in Area 1. The function of this feature is unclear but it appears to have been filled by natural processes before the subsequent rooting had taken place.

Further archaeological finds, features and deposits were not exposed within the excavated area. This may in part be a consequence of the natural steepness of the slope which will have caused significant alteration of the topography of the area through weathering. Deeper soils caused by hill wash was evident during the initial wall recording undertaken by Jill Harden (2017); however, the ground adjacent to the wall had been reduced prior to KDK Archaeology’s arrival on site and this information was lost. These processes will have altered the upper stratigraphic layers over time. This, combined with extensive rooting throughout the coombe will have undoubtedly impacted on any sensitive archaeological features and materials.

Sandy is known to be rich in archaeological material and there is evidence for significant occupation dating from the Iron Age through to the modern period. However, the gradient of the coombe in which the development site is situated may have been seen as an inappropriate place to build. The heathland to the east and the flat land to the west would have been far more suitable for human habitation.



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## 6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to The RSPB for commissioning this project. Thanks are also due to Jill Harden, Reserve Archaeologist for the RSPB, Peter Bradley of the RSPB for providing additional information and their assistance on site and to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and other relevant documents and to Slawek Utrata of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA and Chris Martin-Taylor BSc. The report was written by Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA, and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.





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## 7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Method Statement
3. Written Scheme of Investigation
4. Initial report
5. Historic Building Recording Report
6. Monitoring sheets
7. Site drawings
8. Client's site plans
9. List of photographs
10. B/W prints & negatives
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (Accession Number BEDFM 2017.88)



## 8 References

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Page W. 1908 'Parishes: Sandy with Girtford', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2*, ed. London, pp. 242-246. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol2/pp242-246> [accessed 10 October 2018].

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## Appendix 1: Excavation Summary Tables

### Photo Register

Shot	B&W	Digital	View	Subject
1	X	X	W	Area 3, lower section
2	X	X	E	Area 3, upper section
3	X	X	NE	Area 3, lower section
4	X	X	E	Area 1
5		X	S	Area 1 stratigraphy
6	X	X	NNE	Ditch [003]
7	X	X	ESE	WNW facing section of [003]
8	X	X	W	Area 2
9		X	E	Area 2

### Drawing Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Details
1	1	1:10	Section of [003]
1	2	1:20	Plan of [003]



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## Appendix 2: Wall Historic Building Recording Report

### Recording parts of the brick boundary wall along the NW edge of The Lodge grounds at RSPB The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire

Jill Harden, RSPB Reserves Archaeologist (North)

Finalised in 4 June 2018, with final revisions 26 October 2018

#### Summary

In September 2017 a record was made of a c340m length of The Lodge estate brick boundary wall beside the Sandy–Potton road, in advance of Health & Safety works which are due to take place in the autumn of 2018. The work was designed to provide additional data relating to the post-1850 dilapidated brick wall before its down-taking to pavement level, as part of slope re-profiling works immediately south of the highway. Two trial pits revealed that the pavement surface is now c0.25m above the base of the wall, which had been built to a height of 1.6m. Albeit largely buried against the edge of the pavement, a physical record of this length of wall will therefore survive in part after the engineering works have been completed.

#### Introduction

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has been granted planning permission (CB/17/01967/FULL) to re-profile the slope adjacent to the B1042 and remove the dilapidated boundary wall, for safety reasons.

During their considerations the Central Bedfordshire Conservation and Archaeological Officers, who advise the Local Planning Authority, highlighted the historic significance of the boundary wall around The Lodge estate. It forms an element of the curtilage of the Grade 2 Listed Buildings now owned by the RSPB. The history and significance of the wall was therefore assessed as part of the preparation for the application to remove part of its length. Although the RSPB had photographed aspects of the dilapidated brick wall in advance of applying for planning consent, a condition of consent was to undertake further work. This condition was applied to fulfil the requirements of para 141 in Section 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework of 2012: to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) as a consequence of the development.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the methodology of the recording work was prepared by the RSPB and subsequently approved by the Archaeological Officer.

#### Geographical context

The site is in part of the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge National Character Area (Natural England 2013), its geological form having been created during the Cretaceous period 146-65 million years ago. Ironstones and sandstones predominate at this location.

A steep-sided, wooded, dry valley (a combe) breaks the face of the Greensand escarpment just east of Sandy. The B1042 road to Potton meanders its way up through the valley before emerging onto the open heathland of Sandy Ridge (Figure 1). From the base of the ridge to the plateau above, the rise is from c40m to 65m above OD.

The length of wall in question (the site A+B plus the length between: Figure 1) runs from TL18424856 to TL18744861 and is 337m long. It forms the boundary between the southern edge of the pavement beside the road and the woodland of The Lodge estate.

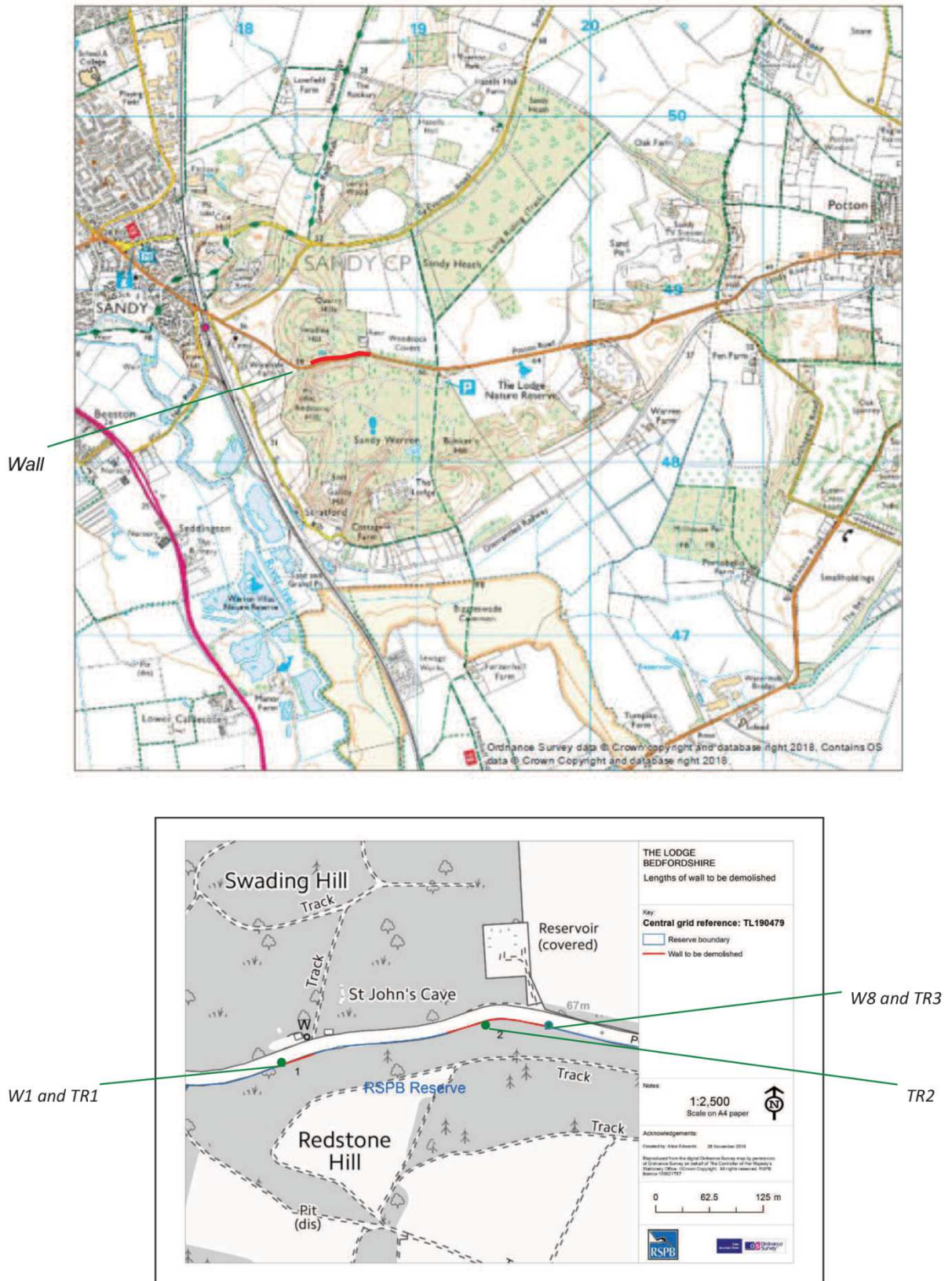
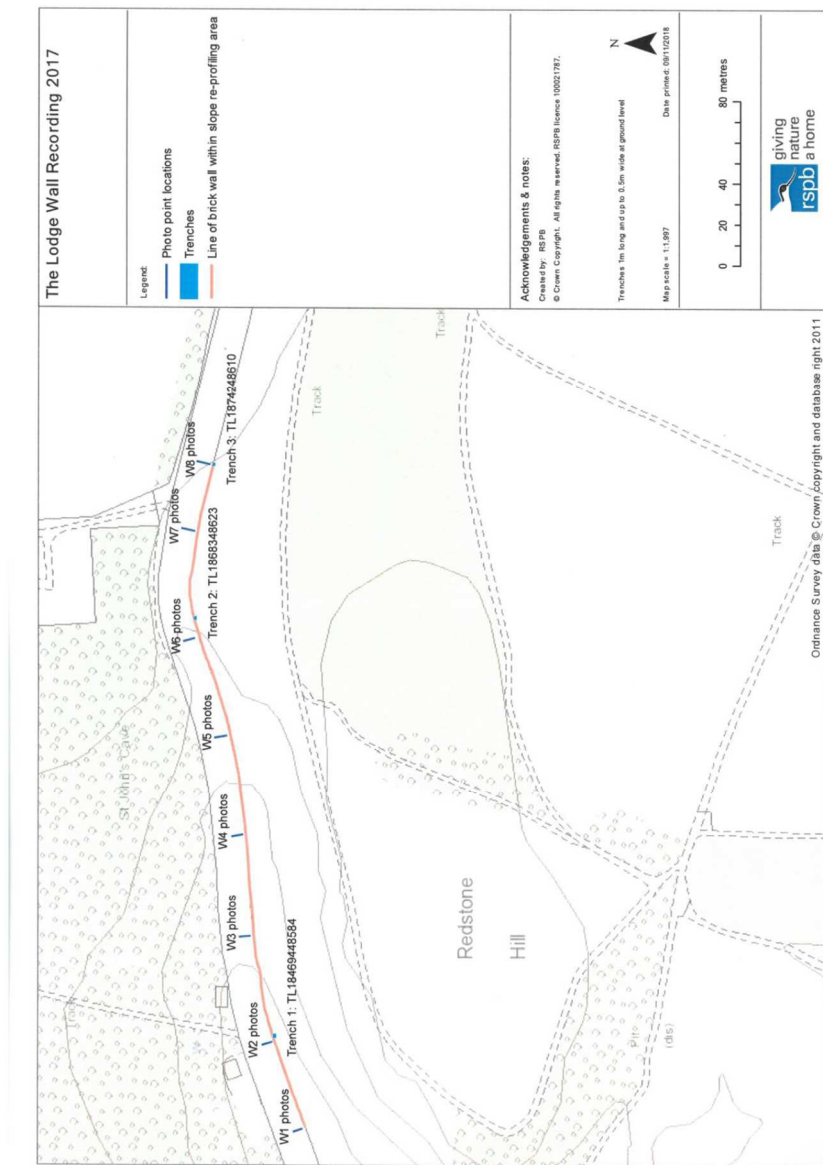


Figure 1: Site location maps



**Historical Background**

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that Sandy manor consisted of 16 hides with land for 16 ploughs – a significant area of arable land associated with what was to become the medieval village of Sandy. By 1276 this manor was held by William de Beauchamp, with a dwelling at Sandy Place, and a charter of free warren. This right to hunting presumably extended across the Greensand Ridge and must have included what is now known as Sandy Warren. Sandy Place, now subsumed by the town of Sandy, was rebuilt by the Monoux family c1670; documents from the period record that the manor still included 1300 acres called the Warren, part of which must now be The Lodge RSPB reserve.

Nearby manor houses with wider estates included The Hazells (List entry 1000572) just N of The Lodge, Moggerhanger Park (1001369) just W of Sandy, and Old Warden Park to the SW (1000474) as well as Ickwell Bury (1000577) and Southill Park (1000579). All were remodelled as befitting mansions and their designed landscapes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Both Ickwell and Southill have stone boundary walls around their grounds. They all provide useful comparanda for the later-19th century creation of The Lodge on what had originally been part of the Monoux’s Sandy manor.

In 1850 Sandy manor was split up for sale at auction. The part called ‘Sandy’ (Figure 2) was purchased in 1851 by Captain William Peel, who was a younger son of the former prime minister, Sir Robert Peel.



Captain Peel built a house at the northern edge of the property in Swiss chalet style, now known as the Gatehouse (LBS37541). Built of yellow brick with sandstone dressings and mock timber-framing to the first floor, it has a slate roof.

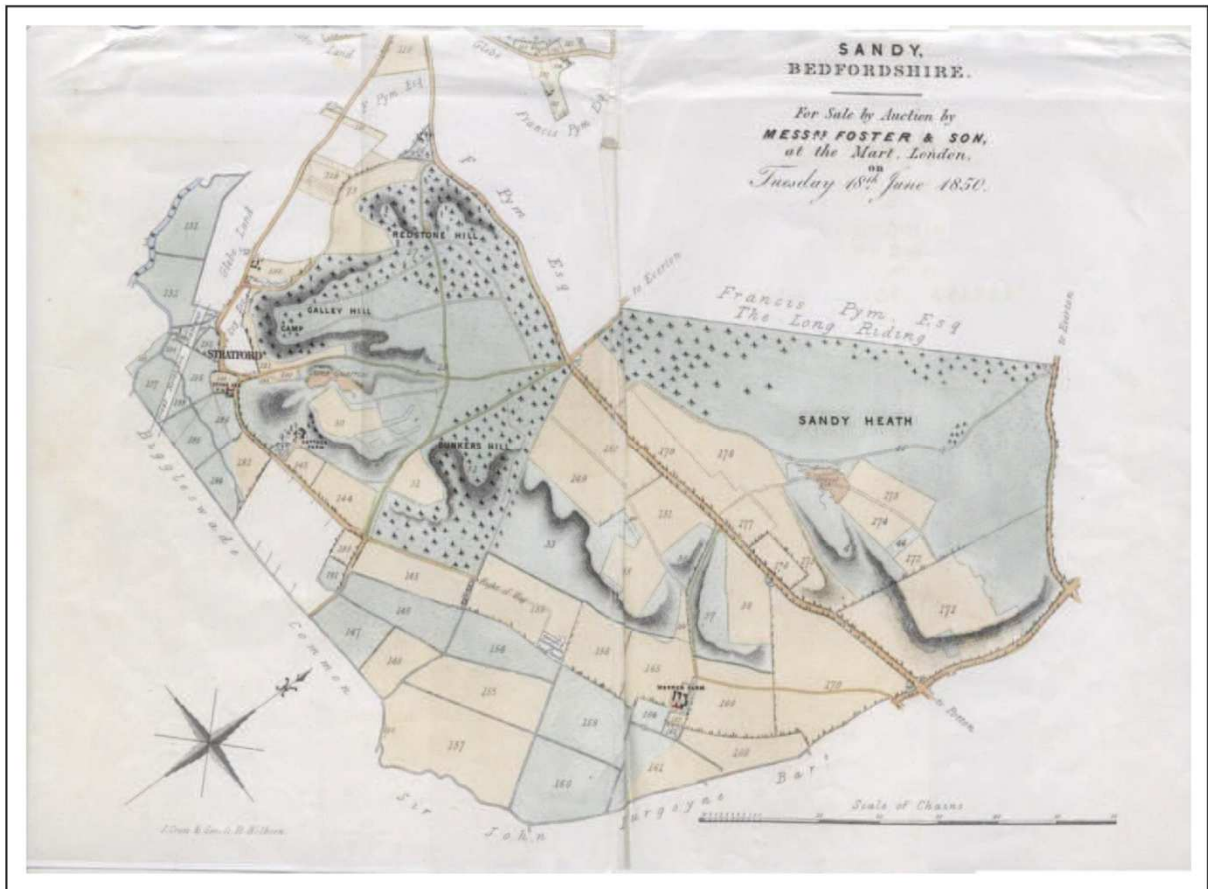


Figure 2: Map of Sandy estate drawn up in advance of its sale in 1851

Captain Peel also paid for major agricultural improvements across the estate, the planting of new trees and construction of a wall enclosing the estate “each side the Potton road” (1857). But what exactly the latter refers to is unclear. The extent of the wall along the Potton road is not known – how far it extended east towards Potton has not yet been discovered. It is presumed that this wall was built of brick, as was the house, and capped with freestone slabs. But a postcard printed c1900 of the Potton Road and the wall along its south side is the earliest record of its form that has so far come to light.





*Figure 3: Postcard that includes the brick wall along the south side of the road to Potton*

William Peel died in 1858 and his brother, Arthur Peel, inherited the estate. A decade after taking ownership the then MP for Warwick commissioned the prominent Victorian architect Henry Clutton in 1869/70 to design a new mansion for the estate. The building now known as The Lodge (LBS 37542-6) was located in the SW part of the estate towards the S edge of the Greensand Ridge. It is highly likely that it was at this time that the grounds of The Lodge (not the whole estate) were enclosed on the west, south and east sides with an ironstone wall. The north side of the grounds was already demarcated by the wall built by his brother. Enclosing the grounds of a mansion such as The Lodge was *de rigeur* in Victorian times, ensuring that the hoi poloi and any wandering stock were kept out of private grounds that were reserved for the enjoyment of the rich.

The estate was sold in 1934 to Sir Malcolm Stewart, chairman of the London Brick Co and owner of many of the Bedfordshire brickworks. He remodelled the mansion and the garden around the house. Otherwise, the grounds seem to have remained largely unchanged until it was requisitioned for use by the military during the Second World War. The land was used as an ordnance depot for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, in association with other local depots such as the still extant fuel storage depot immediately east of the RSPB reserve. It seems unlikely that there was any maintenance of the boundary wall during this period, or in subsequent years. After the death of Sir Malcolm's widow, in 1960, the estate was sold off in several parcels to different buyers.

The RSPB bought the Lodge and grounds, but the Gatehouse and much of the NW part of the estate was sold into different ownerships. These parts were not acquired by the RSPB until the 2000s. In the later 2000s the RSPB raised the considerable sum that was needed to undertake the conservation repair and rebuilding of the brick wall along the Potton road to its original height. In 2009 a distance of c400m, from the western edge of the heathland plateau to just east of the Gatehouse entrance, was completed.

The remainder of the brick wall was already in a very poor condition, suffering from damage caused by people wanting to acquire the capping stones, by hill creep, and by the catastrophic effects of car and lorry accidents. These factors have resulted in the destabilisation and collapse of lengths of the wall through the dry valley. Originally 20 bricks high plus its stone capping, none of the wall survives to its full height through the combe. Parts are reduced to less than 6 bricks high.



*Figure 4 (above): Part of the wall rebuilt by the RSPB in 2009*



*Figure 5 (right): An upstanding stretch of the remains of the wall in the combe*



*Figure 6 (above): In places the wall hardly survives above the level of the pavement*



*Figure 7 (right): The result of a car crash in 2016*



## Aims

The aim of this work is to provide an appropriate level of record (HE 2016) for the affected length of brick boundary wall along the NE edge of The Lodge RSPB reserve, to mitigate the loss of information prior to its removal.

## Methodology

During the site visit on 9 June 2017 with Central Bedfordshire Council's contracted planning archaeologist, Matt Adams, it was agreed that a record of the wall, by photography of various lengths and drawing of two or three sections across it, would fulfil this condition. The recording was undertaken on 26–27 September and 31 October 2017.

Photographs of the wall (digital jpeg and RAW files as well as 35mm B&W film) were taken every 50m along the length of the site (Figures 8–15 below, pp8–10). These record the external face and 'top' of the wall. No photos were taken of the internal face at this stage as it was masked along its length by slumping of the hill slope. A sketch plan identifying the location of these photos was produced and notes were made of the brick size, type and bond.

Three small trial pits 1m long by 0.4m wide at ground level were excavated by hand against the internal face of the wall, to record its height and build. Well-spaced locations were chosen where access was possible from the pavement, trees were not growing against the wall, and the surviving height could pose no Health & Safety concerns. NGRs of the locations of these trial pits were noted, sections / profiles across the wall were produced and photographs taken (Figures 16-19 below, pp11-13).

The results of the work are presented below. A summary report is being prepared for submission to the OASIS database. Bedford Museum has allocated an accession number for the deposition of the archive.

## Results

The wall that bounds the Lodge grounds along the Sandy–Potton road was constructed of engineering brick (9" by 4½" by 2½") and capped with freestone slabs; none of the latter survive along this part of its length. No foundations were found. The wall was built using unfrogged, pierced, red or yellow bricks of Imperial size, mortared using a Flemish garden wall bond. The bricks are, in principle, 0.23m long by 0.11m wide and 0.065m high, but the exact measurements do vary by +/- 3mm to 5mm. Whether red or yellow, the bricks either have two cylindrical piercings through their length or have two rows of ten sub-rectangular piercings through their height. The source of the bricks is not known.

Today, the wall only survives intermittently along the site, but when built it was 1.6m high from the base of its lowest course (ie 20 courses high plus the slab capping). It is c0.23m wide (the length of a brick), with the uppermost brick course overhanging by up to 0.02m on both faces. The stone slabs that used to cap the wall overhung this course by around 0.02m on both sides. There was no clear evidence of any building repairs to the wall.

Three brick piers, 1.25m high from the base of the wall and 0.12m wide, keyed into the wall at 11.2m intervals were found in September 2018 to either side of W6. The upper two courses of the piers use bevel-design bricks to provide a 'finished' look. Two others were recorded at TR3 and TR1. To ensure the stability of the wall, they would have been built along its length. When this recording work was undertaken the piers were not visible along the other sections of the wall due to soil slippage, trees and scrub growth but they are to be seen along the rebuilt wall length to the east.



Figure 8: W1 West end (Sandy end)  
NGR TL 18424856



Figure 9: W2 @ 45m  
NGR TL 18464858



Figure 10: W3 @ 100m  
NGR TL 18514859





Figure 11: W4 @ 150m  
NGR TL 18564859



Figure 12: W5 @ 200m  
NGR TL 18604860



Figure 13: W6 @ 250m  
NGR TL 18654861





Figure 14: W7 @ 300m  
NGR TL 18714862



Figure 15: W8 E end (Potton end)  
@ 337mm NGR TL 18744861



These photographs reflect the varied state of this part of The Lodge boundary wall. Other photographs are included in the archive.

The following photographs and plans provide details of the wall once the slumping soil and sub-soil had been removed from three locations along its rear face.



Figure 16: TR1 NGR TL 18464858



Figure 17: TR2 NGR TL 18674862





Figure 18: TR3 NGR TL 18744861





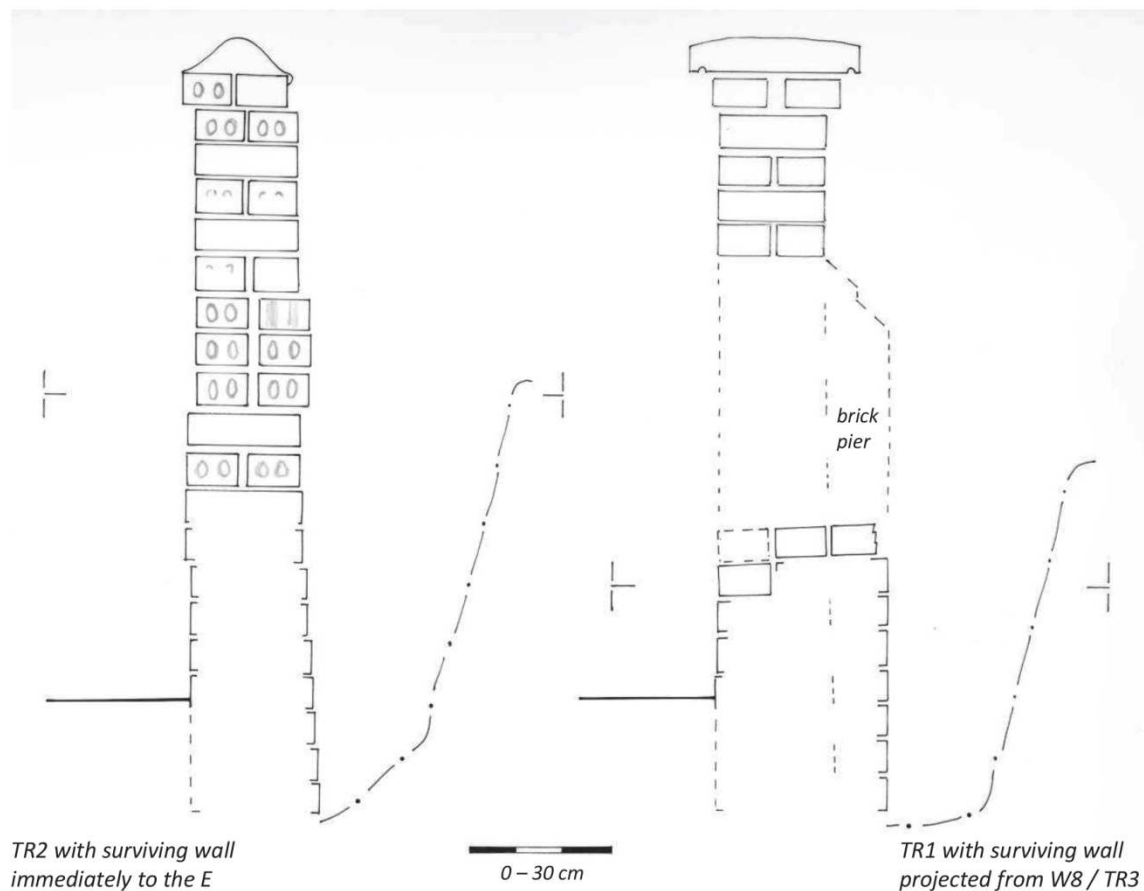


Figure 19: Composite sections / profiles across the brick wall in Trench 1 and Trench 2

## Conclusions

This recording exercise has created a record of the construction and state of the brick wall along the north side of grounds associated with The Lodge prior to the removal of the parts that pose a possible Health & Safety risk to pedestrians and motorists. Desk-based research has produced a narrative relating to the estate and building works undertaken in the mid-later 19th century.

## References

- Bedfordshire Times 1857 (June) Opening of the Potton and Sandy Railway
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures
- Groom B n/d History of Sandy Lodge typescript
- Historic England 2016 Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice
- Natural England 2013 National Character Area profile: 90. Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge
- RSPB 2017 Historic environment statement and significance assessment relating to the proposal to take down certain lengths of the boundary wall at The Lodge RSPB reserve, Sandy submitted as part of planning application CB/17/01967
- RSPB 2017 A written Scheme of Investigation for the implementation of an historic environment programme of historic building recording and archaeological monitoring at RSPB



The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire submitted in response to the HE conditions relating to CB/17/01967/FULL

### Plan register

Plan number	Title	Scale
1	Trenches 1 and 2 – section/profile across wall	1:10
2	Plot of photographic recording points along wall	Sketch not to scale
3	Trench 3 – plan of current top of wall	1:10

### Photo register

In the archive the digital photos are prefixed with DSC\_00. Jpegs and raw files have the same number; those that are raw files either have the suffix \_2 or A.

For simplicity, directions have been generalised to W, E, N and S rather than being accurately noted along this linear structure

B/W no	Digital no	Looking	Description
1-01	47	W	TR2 along top of wall
1-02	46	W	TR1 along top of wall
1-03	45	SE	W8 Wall face at angle with full height rebuild to left
1-04	44	S	W8 Wall face
1-05	41	S	W7 Wall face
1-06	42	SE	W7 Wall face at angle
1-07	43	SE	W7 Wall face at angle with wall top
1-08	38	S	W6 Wall face
1-09	39	SE	W6 Wall face at angle
1-10	40	SE	W6 Wall face at angle with wall top
1-11	37	-	At work at TR2
1-12	35	SE	W5 Wall face at angle
1-13	36	S	W5 Wall face
1-14	33	SE	W4 Wall face at angle
1-15	34	S	W4 Wall face
1-16	31	SE	W3 Wall face at angle
1-17	32	S	W3 Wall face
1-18	29	S	W2 Wall face
1-19	30	SE	W2 Wall face at angle
1-20	27	SE	W1 Wall face at angle
1-21	28	S	W1 Wall face
1-22	26	N	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
1-23	24-25	N	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
1-24	23	SW	TR2 General view of location of trench
1-25	22	E	TR2 Wall top
1-26	21	S	TR2 Wall face
1-27	17	SW	TR1 General view of location of trench
1-28	18	S	TR1 Wall face
1-29	19-20	N	TR1 Wall top and internal face to base
1-30	15-16	N	TR1 Wall top and internal face to base
1-31	17	-	TR1 Wall top
1-32	14	W	TR1 Wall top



B/W no	Digital no	Looking	Description
1-33	11 & 13	S	TR1 Wall face
1-34	7-8	-	TR1 Wall top
1-35	9	-	TR1 Wall top
1-36	10	-	TR1 Wall top
1-37	12	S	TR1 Wall face
2-01	87	W	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-02	83-84	N	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-03	89	W	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-04	-	NW	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-05	85-86	N	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-06	88	N	TR2 Wall top and internal face to base
2-07	67-68	E	TR3 Wall top and internal face as excavated
2-08	65-66	NE	TR3 Wall top and internal face as excavated
2-09	63-64	W	TR3 Wall top and internal face as excavated
2-10	62	N	TR3 Wall top and internal face as excavated
2-11	61	N	TR3 Wall top and internal face as excavated
2-12	60	N	W1 Wall top and internal face as cleaned
2-13	59	NE	W1 Wall top and internal face as cleaned
2-14	57	S	W1 Wall face
2-15	58	SE	W1 Wall face
2-16	56	SW	W1 Wall face
2-17	55	W	W2 Wall top
2-18	54	W	W3 Wall top
2-19	53	W	W4 Wall top
2-20	52	W	W5 Wall top
2-21	50-51	W	W6 Wall top
2-22	48-49	W	W7 Wall top



### Appendix 3: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
<b>Project Name &amp; Address</b>	The Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy Bedfordshire	<b>Project Site Code</b>	399/STL
<b>OASIS reference</b>	kdkarcha1-326414	<b>Event/Accession no</b>	BEDFM 2017.88
<b>OS reference</b>	TL 18424856- TL 18744861	<b>Study area size</b>	751.92sq m
<b>Project Type</b>	Archaeological Observation and Recording	<b>Height (mAOD)</b>	47.50 -66.60
<b>Short Description</b>	<p>Between September and October 2018 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook a programme of Observation and Recording of the Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire as a condition of the planning permission for the development of the site. Ground reduction was undertaken in two areas along the length of the wall where the re-profiling of the tree covered slopes to the south of the main road had taken place.</p> <p>During this investigation, a root filled ditch was observed within the trench of the eastern development area. No dating material was recovered from the fill of the ditch and its function is unknown. No further archaeological finds, features or deposits were exposed.</p>		
<b>Previous work</b>	Recording of the brick boundary wall along the NW edge of the Lodge grounds at RSPB The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire	<b>Site status</b>	Curtilage of Grade II listed building
<b>Planning proposal</b>	Re-profiling of slope and the removal of a dilapidated wall	<b>Current land use</b>	RSPB Reserve
<b>Local Planning Authority</b>	Central Bedfordshire Council	<b>Planning application ref.</b>	CM/17/01967/FULL
<b>Monument type</b>	Ditch	<b>Monument period</b>	unknown
<b>Significant finds</b>	None	<b>Future work</b>	None
PROJECT CREATORS			
<b>Organisation</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
<b>Project Brief originator</b>	Matt Adams	<b>Project Design originator</b>	KDK Archaeology Ltd
<b>Project Manager</b>	David Kaye	<b>Director/Supervisor</b>	Laura Dodd
<b>Sponsor/funding body</b>	RSPB		
PROJECT DATE			
<b>Start date</b>	10.09.2018	<b>End date</b>	02.10.2018
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	<b>Location</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)</b>	
<b>Physical</b>	Bedford Museum	-	
<b>Paper</b>		WSI, Report, B&W Photos and negatives, Site drawings. Also included in the archive will be the recording forms and reports produced during the recording of the boundary wall provided by Jill Harden.	
<b>Digital</b>		CD ROM containing all digital files of both the wall recording and the watching brief investigations. All digital photographs	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
<b>Title</b>	Archaeological Observation and Recording Report: The Lodge Wall, RSPB, Sandy, Bedfordshire		
<b>Serial title &amp; volume</b>	399/STL/2.2		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Laura Dodd MSc ACIfA		
<b>Page no's</b>	33	<b>Date</b>	14.10.2018