



HPS

Professional Archaeological Services



Land At 319 Cardington Road, Bedford, MK42 0DA

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Client: Ecoten Ltd

Project: Archaeological Strip, Map & Record



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Non-Technical Summary

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological strip, map & record on land at 319 Cardington Road, Bedford, MK42 0DA (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). The work was commissioned by Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP, on behalf of Ecoten Ltd. Permission has been granted for the erection of a new dwelling adjacent to the existing dwelling under Bedford Borough Council planning reference 15/02534/FUL.

Despite the archaeological potential of the Project Site, the results of the strip, map and sample were negative. Monitoring suggested that the site had been truncated to the depth of the natural geological layers, most likely in conjunction with the development of 319 Cardington Road by the late 19th century.

Acknowledgements

HPS would like to thank Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP and Ecoten Ltd for their assistance throughout the project.

The fieldwork was carried out by David Brookes and Jan Janulewicz, and managed by Lisa Brookes for Insite-Services Ltd.



1. Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological strip, map & record on land at 319 Cardington Road, Bedford, MK42 0DA (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). The work was commissioned by Michael Hardiman & Associates LLP, on behalf of Ecoten Ltd.
- 1.2. Permission has been granted for the erection of a new dwelling adjacent to the existing dwelling (which is also to be extended), under Bedford Borough Council planning reference 15/02534/FUL.
- 1.3. The programme of work was required in order to satisfy condition 3 of the planning permit, which states that *'No development shall take place until an archaeological mitigation strategy has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological mitigation strategy shall include a timetable and the following components (the completion of each to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority will result in a separate confirmation of compliance for each component):-*.

(i) fieldwork and/ or preservation "in situ" of archaeological remains;

(ii) a post-excavation assessment report (to be submitted within six months of the completion of fieldwork);

(iii) a post-excavation analysis report, preparation of site archive ready for deposition at a store approved by the Local Planning Authority, completion of an archive report, and submission of a publication report (to be completed within two years of the completion of fieldwork). The archaeological mitigation strategy shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings.

REASON: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance with Saved Policies BE24 & BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008) and according to national policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The Local Planning Authority is satisfied that the timing of compliance is fundamental to the



development permitted and that the permission ought to be refused unless the condition is imposed in this form.'

- 1.4. The programme of work was devised in consultation with Mr G Saunders (Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Advisor) following the document entitled 'Brief for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication at Land Adjacent to 319 Cardington Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK42 0DA' (Issued September 2016).
- 1.5. The programme of investigation comprised a strip, map & record of the development area with provision for monitoring, recording and excavation during all groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling adjacent to the existing dwelling, including all preparative and demolition ground works, services, landscaping, and access works.
- 1.6. This project was completed under Heritage Planning Services project reference HPS-140/16 and was managed by Sam Driscoll, MA, MCIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Insite-Services Ltd.

The Project Site and Study Area

- 1.7. The Project Site is located on the eastern side of the City of Bedford, in a residential area defined by detached and semidetached housing, mostly established in the 1970s and 1980s. However, 319 Cardington Road is one of the earliest properties in the area, having been established by the end of the 19th century. The property is semidetached, with a large garden.
- 1.8. Geologically the site is defined by Mid Jurassic Peterborough Mudstone, sealed by Pleistocene Felmersham Member sand and gravel. The development area is bordered by Holocene Alluvium to the north. Sand and gravel extraction has been carried out on land to the north and south of the development area.
- 1.9. The course of the River Great Ouse runs east, just 170m to the north-east of the Project Site and a network of land drains can be seen to border Cardington Road, just 50m to the north of the development area.
- 1.10. The Project Site is located at approximately 26m aOD. The land slopes gently to the north in the direction of the watercourse.



Figure 1 General Location of Project Site (circled in red)

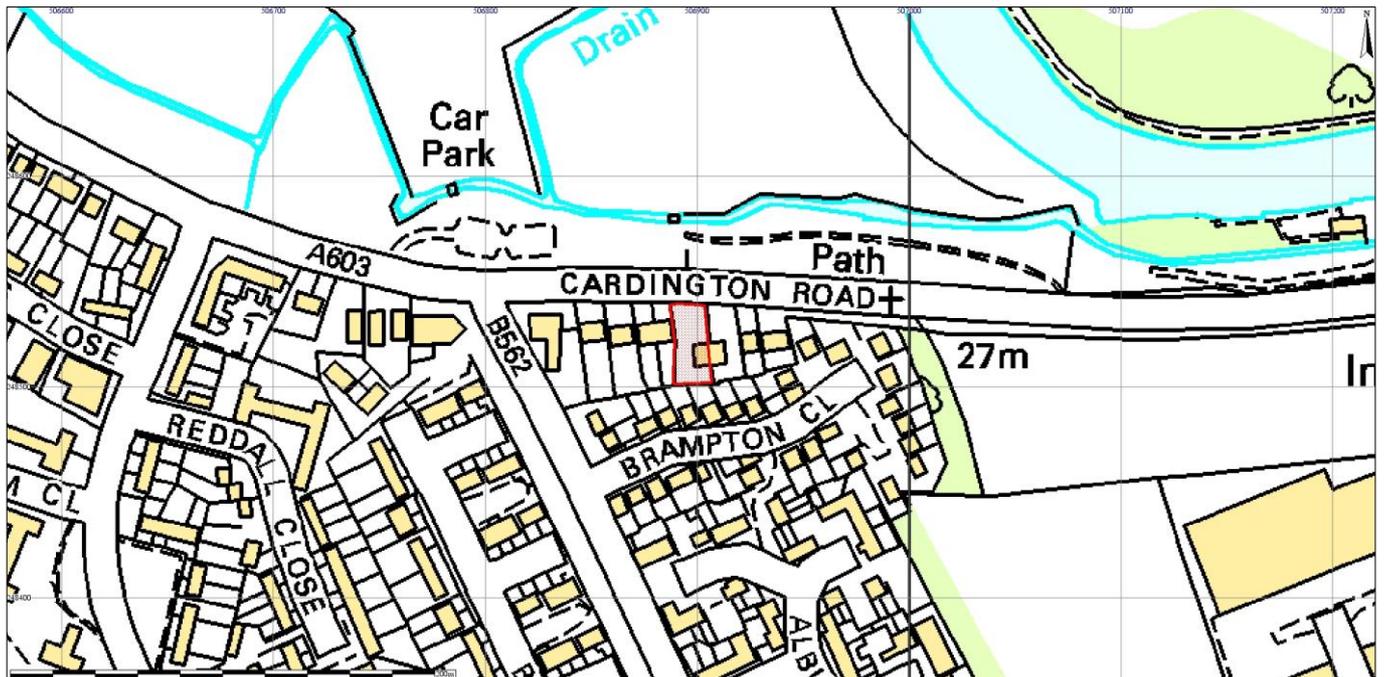


Figure 2 Project Site Location (outlined in red)

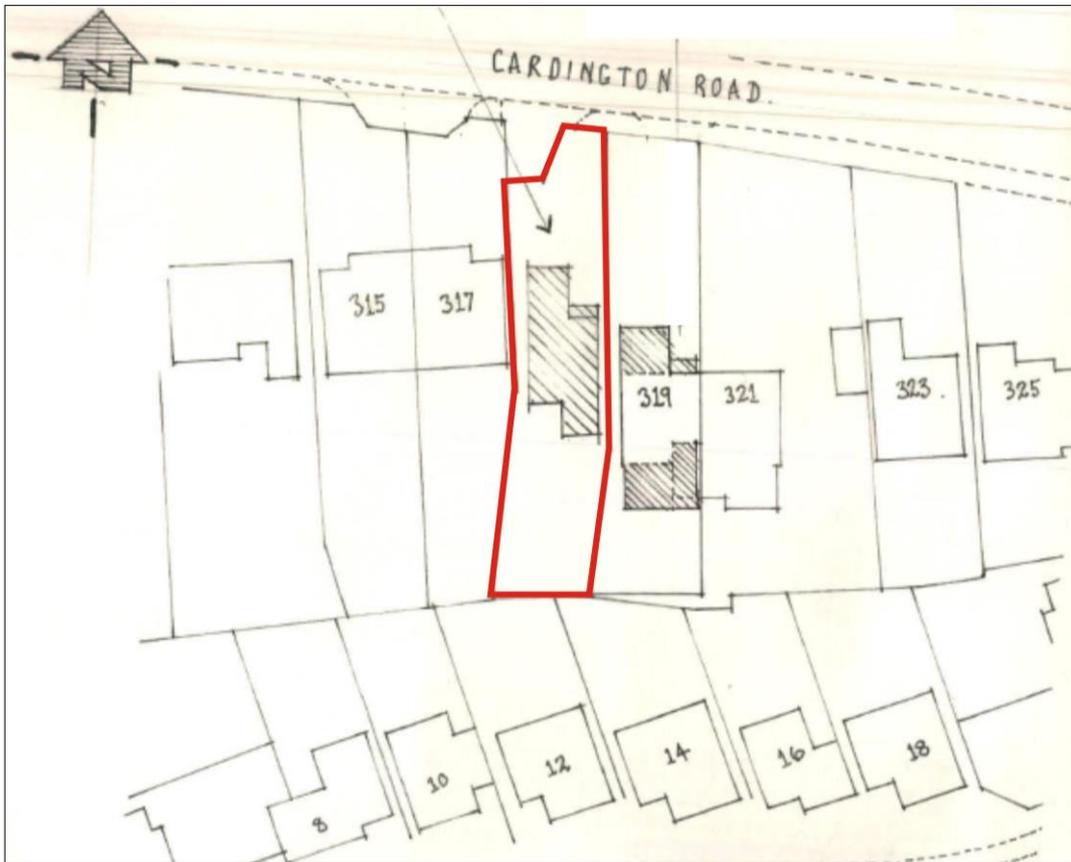


Figure 3 Red Line Boundary showing location of new dwelling (site plan provided by the client)

2. Archaeological & Historical Background

Introduction

- 2.1. The summary of sites below is taken from Bedford Historic Environment Record data and sites are listed in order of their distance from the development area.
- 2.2. Crop marks interpreted as Iron age/Roman field boundaries and Bronze Age ring-ditches have been revealed through aerial photography on land bordering the Project Site to the south (BBHER9876).
- 2.3. A trench evaluation carried out just 117m to the south-east of the Project Site revealed evidence of extensive quarrying in the Modern Period, with extraction reaching depths of up to 2.2m below the current ground level (EBB855).
- 2.4. The Project Site lies within the region of the Fenlake Medieval Settlement (BBHER16298). A trench evaluation carried out 250m north-west of the Project Site revealed pits, ditches and post holes, sealed by alluvial clays. The site is located on the opposite bank of the River Ouse. Archaeological



fills were seen to contain 11th – 13th century ceramic sherds and the settlement was interpreted as a potential small Medieval farm or nucleated settlement. Features contained waterlogged deposits, with preserved organic remains.

- 2.5. A Roman coin of Trajan II (249-251 AD) was found in the Lovell Road region, 300m south-west of the Project Site (BBHER14659).
- 2.6. An area of cropmarks was excavated ahead of gravel extraction on land 450m north-east of the Project Site, revealing Iron Age to Romano-British occupation. A stone building with hypocaust system implies that part of a villa complex was identified (BBHER986).
- 2.7. The remains of a 12th century Augustinian Priory were excavated 750m to the north-west of the Project Site.
- 2.8. A programme of archaeological investigation, has revealed extensive settlement from the Prehistoric period to the present day c. 800m to the south and south-west of the Project Site, in the region of the Bedford Southern Bypass. Mesolithic and early Neolithic flint scatters, attest to significant activity at this time, and evidence of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age settlement was identified in the Bumpy Lane, Eastcotts regions of the bypass, 800m south of the development area. Early to middle Iron Age settlement was also identified along the route of the bypass, along with two major Romano-British rural settlements; one in the region of Eastcotts. Further evidence from this period was identified in the region of Bumpy Lane (EBB650).
- 2.9. An archaeological evaluation carried out on land 890m to the south-west identified part of a ring ditch, with evidence of later Iron Age settlement defined by a concentration of post holes and ditches (EBD294).
- 2.10. From the evidence above, it is clear that the Project Site lies within an area of significant archaeological activity, with Prehistoric funerary monuments and settlement, through to Romano-British and Medieval settlement and land management.



3. Objectives

- 3.1. The objectives of the programme of investigation as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (HPS 28th September 2016) were:
- Seek to assess the potential for archaeological activity associated with the Project Site;
 - Establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area;
 - Map archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
 - Establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
 - Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during the investigation and to place these within their local and regional context;
 - Create a site archive for deposition in a suitable repository.

4. Methodology

4.1. General

- 4.1.1. The investigation took the approach of an archaeological strip, map and record, with provision for the recording of archaeological features or finds revealed during groundwork. The programme of work was designed to inform the record on the extent of preserved archaeological remains on the Project Site.
- 4.1.2. An archaeologist was present during all open area ground reduction associated with the development and all intrusive groundwork required to establish foundation and service trenches.
- 4.1.3. The client was made aware of the provisions that would be required in the event of positive results (in terms of manpower, programme of work and post-excavation resources), to ensure adequate investigation and recording of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.4. All work was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2014) and the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation (revised 2014).



4.2. **Artefactual**

4.2.1. Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (HPS 28th September 2016).

5. **Archive**

5.1. The site archive contains all the data collected during the programme of work. It has been quantified, ordered, indexed and checked for internal consistency.

5.2. The archive has been prepared to the standards outlined in MoRPHE PPN 3 - Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015), and in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1994), MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and Bedford Museum's guidance. Deposition shall take place as soon as practicable after the site works, and in any case within 12 months of the completion of the project.

6. **Results**

Introduction

6.1. The initial reduce level dig was carried out across the development area in a single phase on the 22nd November 2016. Two small test pits to the south (test pit one) and north (test pit two) of the site were also excavated.

6.2. Foundation trenches were excavated in two phases on the 6th December and the 13th December 2016. All ground reduction was carried out by machine with toothless grading bucket where practicable.



- 6.3. Due to the topography of the site sloping to the north, the ground reduction increased in depth from 400mm to 600mm to the south.
- 6.4. Soil sequence and natural deposits
- 6.4.1. The initial reduce level dig revealed natural gravel and river sands gravel at 0.4m below ground surface (101), sealed beneath an imported dark greyish brown, silty clay topsoil layer (100). The excavation of the two test pits to the north and south of the site revealed a continuing depth of natural gravels. No subsoil was identified in section, indicating that the natural geological deposits had likely been truncated and the ground level subsequently made up with imported soil.
- 6.4.2. A service trench was excavated to the west of the site measuring 0.4m in width to a depth of 0.8m. The excavation revealed 0.5m of imported topsoil (100) sealing truncated natural gravels (101).
- 6.4.3. The excavation of strip trench foundations revealed the same deposits to the centre of the site, with 0.4m – 0.5m of imported topsoil (100) sealing the natural gravels.
- 6.4.4. No archaeological features, layers or deposits were identified as a result of the programme of monitoring.

7. Artefacts

- 7.1. A small collection of 19th century ceramic sherds were recovered from the imported topsoil but were not retained.

8. Discussion

- 8.1. Due to significant archaeological activity identified in the surrounding area it was considered that the project site had the potential to preserve evidence of related activity. Although the development area is located within a region of high archaeological activity dating from the late Neolithic to Bronze Age periods, with activity centred along the Ouse River Valley and Chalk Uplands, and Iron Age and Romano-British activity, including evidence of field systems and continued settlement to the south, no archaeological activity was identified on the Project Site. This is most likely due to the proposed



truncation of the site as indicated by the natural deposits sealed beneath an imported topsoil, which most likely occurred in line with the development of the existing number 319 Cardington Road.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the Project Site, the results of the strip, map and sample were negative. Monitoring suggested that the site had been truncated to the depth of the natural geological layers, most likely in conjunction with the development of 319 Cardington Road.

10. Archive

10.1. Oasis

- 10.1.1. An OASIS online record has been initiated, entry number heritage10-263668 (1) and a .pdf version of this report will be submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.



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12. Appendices

12.1. Contexts

Description							
Strip, map and sample							
Contexts 100-101							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length /Diameter	Colour	Findings	Recorded Date
100	Topsoil (Imported)	0.4m – 0.5m	>15m	>30m	Dark greyish brown	19 th century ceramic sherds	22.11.2016
101	Felmersham Member sand and gravel	>1m	>0.8m	-	Mid reddish brown	-	22.11.2016



12.2. Photographs



Photo 1 South facing view of stripping of development area.



Photo 2 North facing view of test pit 1



Photo 3 East facing section of service trench (scale 1 x 1m)

12.3. Plan

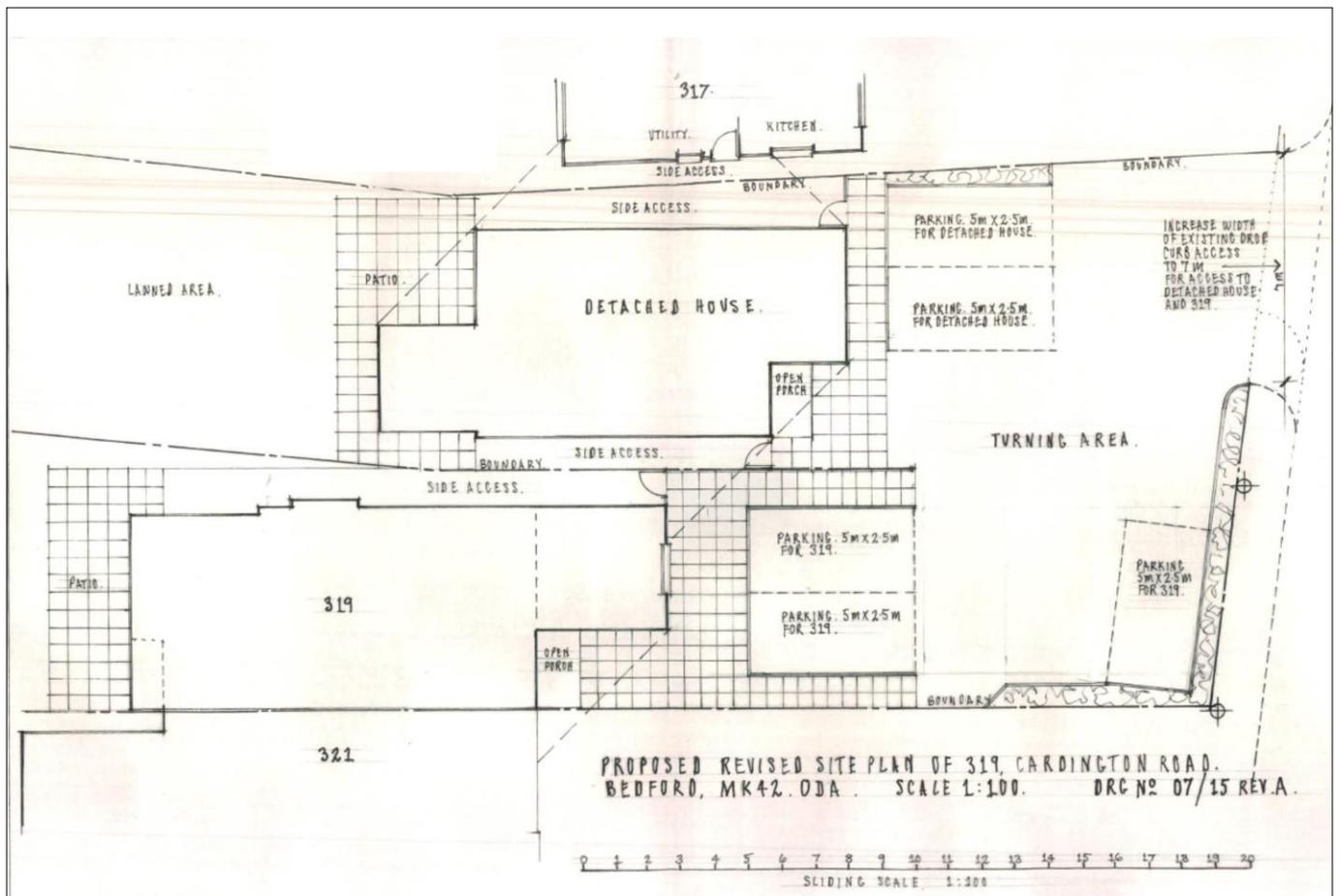


Figure 4 Revised site plan (plans provided by client)



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