

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING:
20 CASTLE CLOSE
TOTTERNHOE
BEDFORDSHIRE
LU6 1QT**

NGR: SP 9830 2178

on behalf of Peter Garner



(CBLHER ref. 201617/92)

September 2016

Ref: BHS/0039/TCC/2



Site Data

<i>Project no / code:</i>	0039 / TCC		
<i>Project name:</i>	20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, Beds LU6 1QT		
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	257330	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	LTNMG 1253
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire (historic county)		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Totternhoe		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Totternhoe CP		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9830 2178		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.50 sq. m.		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garden		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension to house		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Planning application ref:</i>	CB/16/00732/FULL		
<i>Dates of archaeological monitoring:</i>	6 th September 2016		
<i>Client:</i>	Peter Garner 20 Castle Close Totternhoe Beds LU6 1QT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Peter Garner		

Prepared by Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCI(A)

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Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25000)

Summary

In September 2016, site stripping and ground reduction for a house extension at 20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, was archaeologically monitored. The development site is close to Totternhoe Castle located in Middle End, some distance from the historic core of Totternhoe village in Middle End and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of Anglo-Saxon and later date. The observations did not reveal any buried heritage assets or artefacts. It is therefore unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site, or that the development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.

1. Introduction

1.1 In September 2016 *Bancroft Heritage Services* (BHS) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring at 20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire LU6 1QT. The project was commissioned by the client, Peter Garner, and was carried out under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for development of the site. The methodology for the project was described in a written scheme of investigation (WSI: Zeepvat 2016), approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/16/00732/FULL.

1.2 *The Author*

Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCIFA is an established archaeologist with extensive experience in managing archaeological projects, of preparing initial assessments and undertaking a wide range of fieldwork for sites in both rural and urban environments, of post-excavation, publication and presentation projects, and of work on a wide range of historic buildings and structures. He holds a first degree from the University of Leicester, and has been a validated Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists since 1986. Bob has been involved in the management of archaeological projects since the late 1970s, notably as Senior Field Archaeologist for the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit* (1986-94), as Project Manager for *Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust* (1994-97), and as Manager and Historic Buildings Consultant for *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (1998-2014).

1.3 *The Site*

1.3.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is located in the village and civil parish of Totternhoe, in the Central Bedfordshire unitary authority area, centred on National Grid Reference SP 9830 2178 (Fig. 1). It lies c.1.0km north-west of the church in Castle Close, a 1960s residential development of detached bungalows in the Middle End area of the village. The site is bounded by Castle Close to the north-west and residential properties and gardens on the remaining sides (Fig. 2). A more detailed description of the area subject to development appears in Section 4 of this report.

1.3.2 *Topography & Geology*

The development site lies at an elevation of c.110m AOD, near the foot of a small, steep-sided, south-west-facing combe on the north side of the Stanbridge road (now Castle Hill Road) and east of Totternhoe Castle. The site is on the boundary between the Upton 1 and Block soil associations, described respectively as '*shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk. Mainly on moderately steep, sometimes very steep*

land. Deeper fine silty calcareous soils in coombes and dry valleys.’ and ‘moderately permeable calcareous loamy soils over chalky gravel variably affected by groundwater.’ (Soil Survey 1983, 342a & 512e). The underlying geology for both soils comprises chalk (www.landis.org.uk/services/soilsguide).

1.3.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises construction of a rear extension to the existing bungalow (Fig. 3), and the addition of an upper floor.

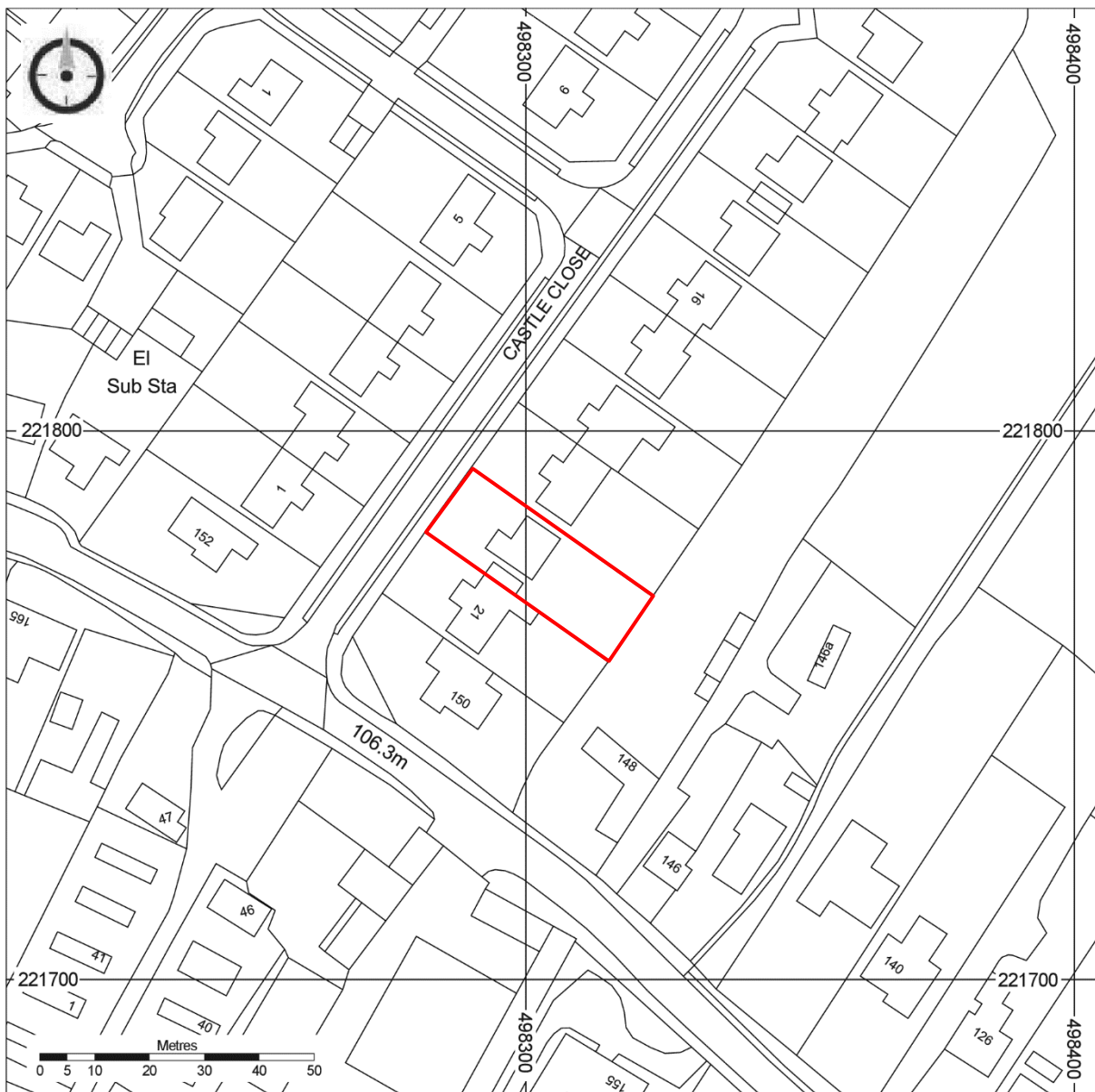


Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1250)

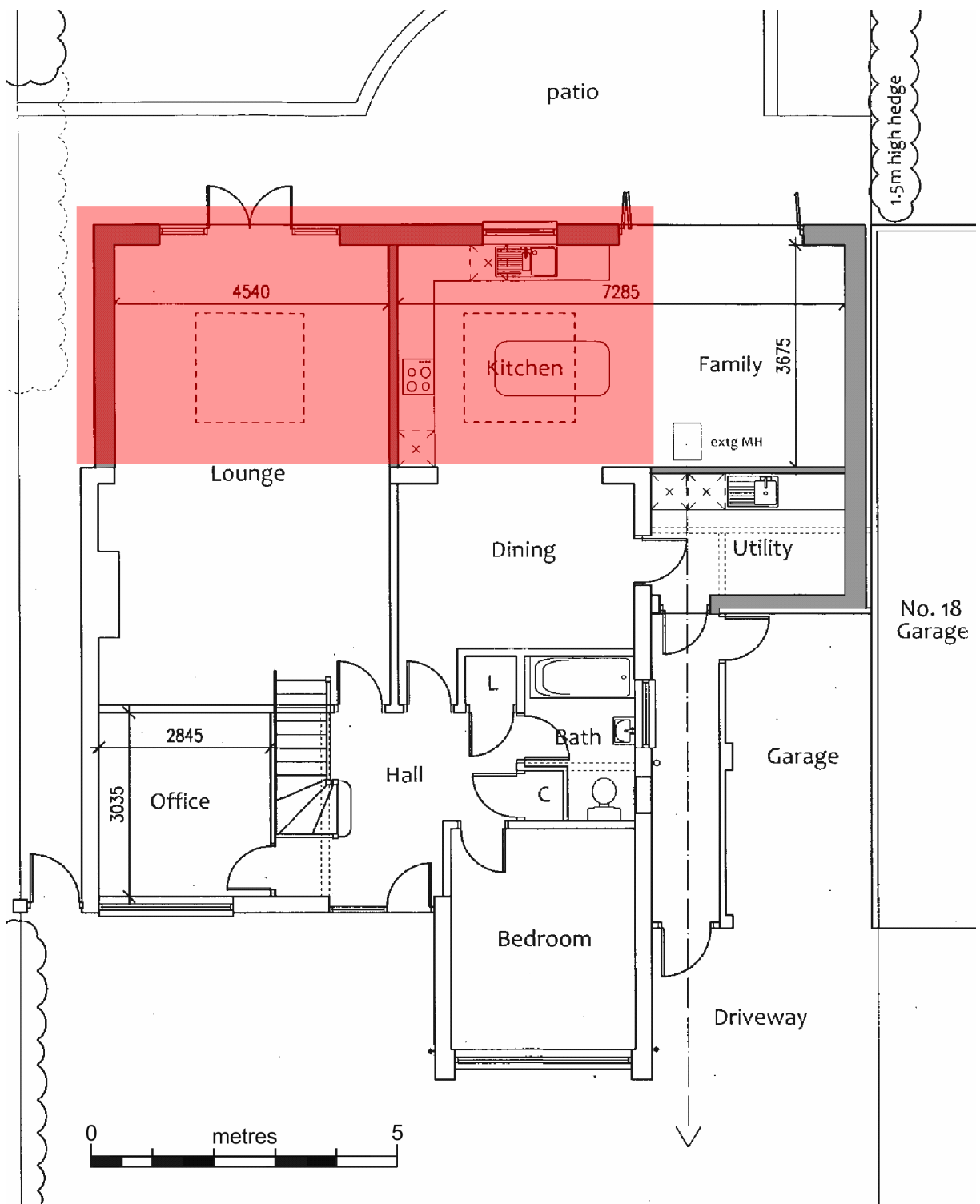


Figure 3: Proposed development, and extent of monitoring (*scale 1:100*)
(Walls of proposed extension shaded: area monitored shaded red)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the WSI, the aims of the project were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation on the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions
- To investigate medieval rural settlement in order to examine medieval settlement diversity and characterise rural settlement forms (Wade 2000; Oake 2007)

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the WSI, to the relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IfA 2009), to current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2006), and to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003).

2.3 Methods

The project was carried out according to the WSI, which described:

- Continuous and constant archaeological supervision of groundworks likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits.

2.4 Constraints

No major constraints were encountered on site. The subsoil was very firm and dry, which made excavation difficult but did not impede observations.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site is located in an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the *Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record* (CBLHER: search ref. 201617/92), and other readily available sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric & Iron Age** (before AD43)

Evidence of activity in the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age period is sparse in the Totternhoe area, mainly comprising occasional flint scatters. The presence of buildings/structures has been suggested at Totternhoe, though the site (HER 1957) has the appearance of an early Iron Age unenclosed settlement and it was only the presence of a few collared urn sherds which suggested a Bronze Age date to the excavator (Oake *et al* 2007, 39-40). Chalk extraction from the extensive pits north-west of the development site at Banbury Knap and Castle Hill has exposed material dating from the late Bronze Age onwards, comprising a Bronze Age burial urn, trackways, a pit containing late Bronze Age/early Iron Age sherds and a hearth or occupation deposit, overlying a ditch. Early Iron Age pottery was also found (HER 24). Quarrying in the area has also revealed two, ring ditches (ploughed-out burial mounds) of Bronze Age date (HER 1960), and an Iron Age ditched enclosure (HER 1968). The ploughed-out remains of a possible ring ditch are also recorded c.0.5km south-east of the development site (HER 16540). At Five Knolls, 2km east of the development site, is a group of seven barrows/ring ditches (HER 138; NHLE 1009892). Maiden Bower, an Iron Age hillfort overlying an earlier causewayed enclosure (Matthews 1989, 36-41), lies c.1.5km north-east of the development site (HER 666: NHLE 1015593). Evidence of Iron Age settlement has been identified at Sewell (Shirral Spring: see below), and at Well Head, south of Church End (Oake *et al* 2007, 59).

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

During the late Iron Age and Roman periods, the Totternhoe area fell within the territory of the *Catuvellauni* tribe, whose major settlements were located at Colchester and St Albans. The nearest settlement of any size was *Dvrocobrivis* (Dunstable), centred 3.5km to the east on the intersection of the Icknield Way and the Roman road latterly known as Watling Street, which passed c.2km north-east of the development site.

In 1954, a Roman villa was identified and partly excavated by Manshead Archaeological Society in a field east of the parish church, c.1.1km south-east of the development site. The villa (HER 534; NHLE 1005409) was of courtyard plan, with a bath block, mosaic and tessellated pavements. It was assigned a 4th-century date, though the pottery recovered indicates that there had been a 2nd-century structure on the site (Simco 1984, 120). In West Field, west of the church and c.0.6km from the development site, finds of Roman material have been made since the late 19th century, and recent geophysical survey has identified features (HER 25) suggesting the presence of a farmstead, possibly associated with the nearby villa. At Shirrell Spring, c.0.9km to the north-east of the development site, the discovery of quantities of Roman pottery, coins and pins may indicate another settlement or a sacred site associated with the spring (Simco 1984, 121: HER 26). Roman finds have also been recovered during quarrying at Banbury Knap/Castle Hill Pit, immediately north-east of Castle Close (HER 24 & 1957).

3.4 **Saxon & Medieval** (c.450-1500)

The name Totternhoe (*Totenhoe*, 1086); means "look-out house promontory", presumably referring to an earlier building on the site of the medieval castle, which occupies such a commanding position.

Saxon activity in the Totternhoe area is attested by a number of isolated finds. From the site at Shirrel Spring (HER 26) a brooch dated to c.AD700 was recovered in 1920, suggesting that the site had retained its ritual significance from earlier periods. An 8th-century silver coin known as a *sceatta* was found in Castle Hill Road, just east of its junction with Castle Close [HER 2819]. An Anglo-Saxon silver strap end dating to the second half of the 9th century was recovered from an unlocated site in Totternhoe [HER 17726]. The terminal consists of a formalised animal head with prominent eyes and a snout, rather crudely executed in slight relief. In 1904, it was noted that: "Part of a Saxon shield has been found at Totternhoe" [HER 11215].

Two manors are mentioned in Totternhoe at Domesday (1086). Totternhoe Manor, the principal, belonged to Walter de Wahull, and was rated at 15 hides. It was held as tenant in fee by Osbert (Page 1912, 448). By the beginning of the 13th century the manor had passed to Roger de Welton. William son of Roger obtained a grant of free warren here in 1257, and was followed by his son, also Roger. By 1276 it was held by Millicent de Montalt along with her manor at Eaton Bray, with which it descended until the early 19th century (*ibid*).

Probably the most significant monument of this period in Totternhoe is the castle (HER 533: NHLE 1005409). This occupies the crest of a prominent ridge, north-west of the combe containing the development site. The earliest written reference to the castle appears in a grant of land to Dunstable Priory dated between 1170 and 1176, where it is called "castellaria de Eglemont". The builder of the castle is thought to have been Walter de Wahull. The castle motte is a conical earthen mound c.5m tall, with a basal diameter of 40m, surrounded by a broad ditch except to the south, where the ground falls away steeply. There are baileys to the east and west, with an outer ward beyond to the east. To the north and north-west are medieval quarries (HER 2437; NHLE 1020772), from which was extracted 'Totternhoe clunch', a soft limestone that was an important local building stone in the medieval period, much in demand for carving though not particularly durable for external use.

To the east of the castle, on the slopes of the combe containing the development site, are a series of cultivation terraces or lynchets, probably of medieval date (HER 2605; NHLE 1020772). Further evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site is provided by sherds of 13th/14th-century pottery, recovered from the garden of 3 Castle Close (HER 17797).

Settlement at Totternhoe developed around three foci or 'ends', strung out along the road to Stanbridge. *Church End*, probably the principal settlement, developed around the junction of the roads to Stanbridge and Dunstable. *Middle End*, where the development site is located, was focused on a group of farms below the castle. A short distance north-west of Middle End is the hamlet of *Lower End* (HER 16889), where there are traces of a moat (HER 530) probably marking the site of Totternhoe old manor house (Page 1912, 447). Earthworks possibly representing medieval settlement have been recorded to the south of Poplar Farm, Middle End (HER 11220).

3.5 **Post-Medieval & Modern** (1500-present)

The HER records a single find of the early post-medieval period from the vicinity of the site, a sixpence of Elizabeth I, dated 1574 (HER 19602).

Totternhoe remained a predominantly agricultural settlement until the latter half of the 20th century and there was no significant development until then, beyond a gradual infilling along the Stanbridge road between the three 'ends'. However, one industry that did have a significant impact upon the landscape of the parish from the mid-18th century onwards was quarrying for chalk, mostly to the north of Totternhoe Castle (HER 1686). Although 18th-century records suggest that the stone was not suitable for burning to make lime, but lime burning on a large scale is documented from 1870, and can be assumed to have taken place before that date. The Totternhoe Lime, Stone and Cement Co Ltd operated the works from c.1898, changing its name to the Totternhoe Lime and Stone Co Ltd in c.1924, and from 1936 working with the Rugby Portland Cement Co Ltd. By 1967 three bottle kilns for lime burning survived; it was stated that there were originally 28. By 1977 two survived: these were demolished in 2006.

The earliest extant map showing Totternhoe in any detail is an estate map of 1829 (BLARS BW 1004). Totternhoe parish was not enclosed until 1886 – the last in Bedfordshire – and this estate map still shows some of the medieval strip fields surviving. The development site appears to have lain in a larger enclosure adjacent to the Stanbridge road (Fig. 4). On the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" sheet of 1880 (Fig. 5) the site is clearly located in an orchard, one of several in Middle End. From subsequent Ordnance Survey sheets it is apparent that the Castle Close development was constructed in the late 1960s or early 1970s, prior to 1975.

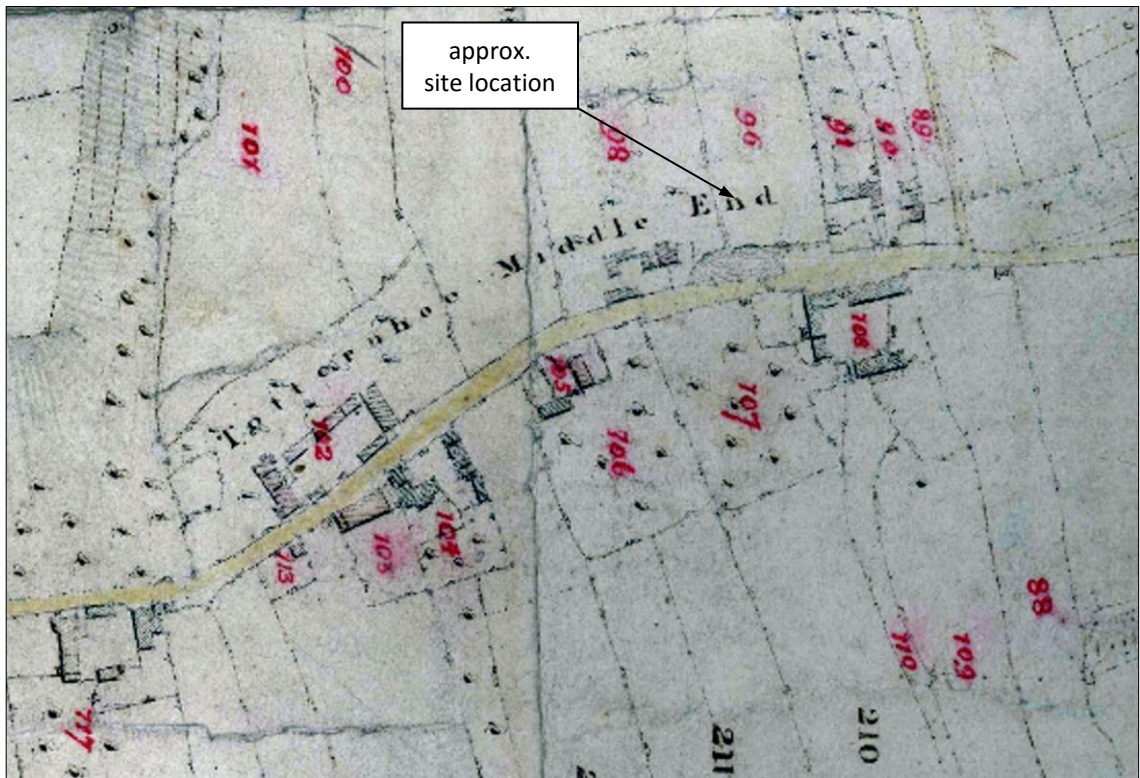


Figure 4: Extract from Totternhoe estate map, 1829 (not to scale)

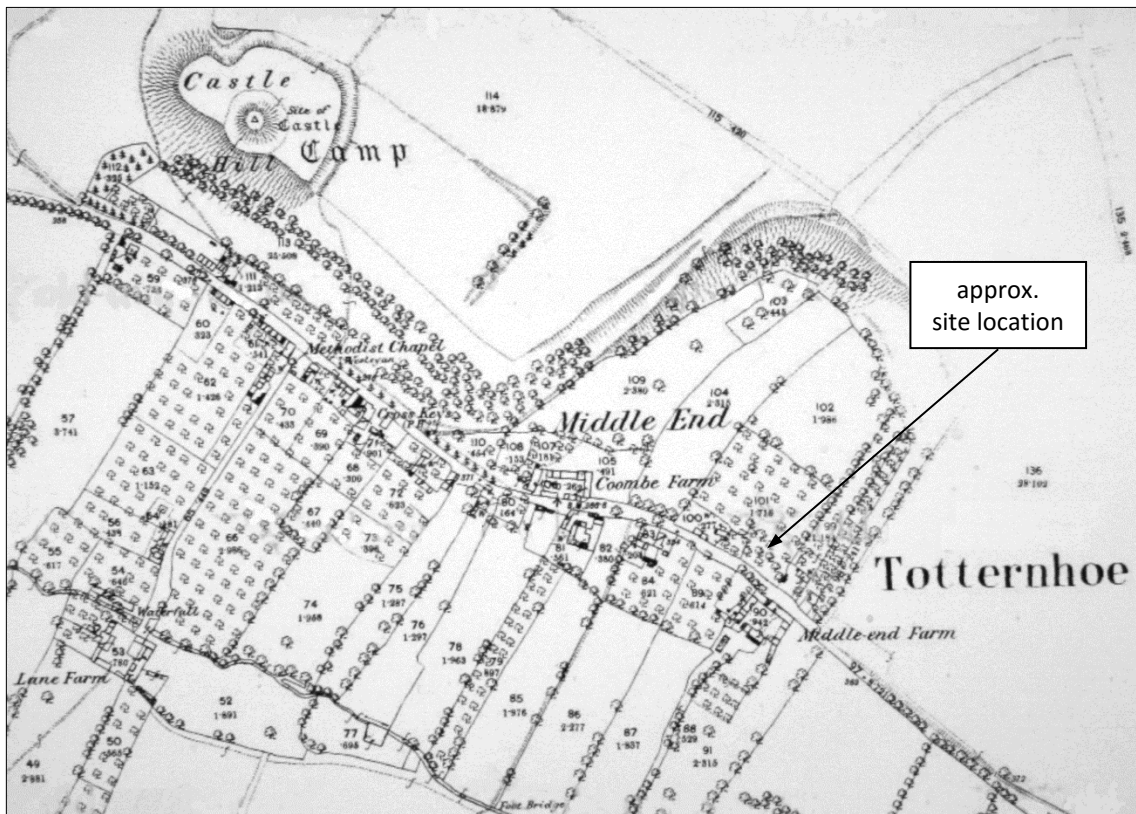


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition 25" sheet, 1880 (not to scale)

4 Results & Conclusions

4.1 *The Development Area*

The area of the proposed extension, to the rear of the existing bungalow and garage, comprised a strip c.4m wide across the full width of the property. A concrete apron c.1m wide ran along the north-west edge of this strip: at the south-western end, behind the garage, the area had been reduced to below the level of the apron at some time in the past, and had been gravelled to form a yard. The remainder of the strip, c.3 x 9m, consisted of part of the lawn, with flower beds along its north-western and north-eastern edges, upwards of 0.6m higher than the concrete apron. A stone retaining wall along its north-west side had been removed by hand prior to the start of groundworks.

4.2 *Results*

The first stage of groundworks involved reduction of the raised lawn area to a level below the concrete apron, sufficient for the base of the extension. Because of limited access, this was done with a mini-excavator fitted with a toothless bucket: spoil was removed to the front of the house by wheelbarrow for disposal.

The upper layer of turf and topsoil covering the reduced area was c.0.3m deep. It contained a few fragments of modern china and glass. Beneath the flower bed on the north-west side of the reduced area, the space behind the retaining wall (up to 0.3m wide) had been filled with a loose mixture of topsoil and subsoil, containing frequent whole bricks and fragments similar to those with which the bungalow was built. Below the topsoil and this infill deposit was the subsoil, a dry, firm grey chalky till. This layer contained no finds and was quite homogenous, continuing below the depth of excavation.

As the ground reduction for the extension cut some way into the natural subsoil, it was decided that observation of the footings for the extension, which would all have been cut well into the subsoil, would serve no useful archaeological purpose.

4.3 *Conclusions*

Observation and monitoring of the ground reduction did not reveal any archaeological finds or features. The site appears to have been in agricultural use until the 1960s, when the present bungalow was constructed, necessitating some terracing, as demonstrated by the level of the lawn and the need for a retaining wall. The only finds, from the topsoil, were of modern pottery, glass and building materials, contemporary with the present bungalow.

Significant buried heritage assets (*i.e.* archaeological deposits, features or artefacts) were not observed during the monitoring programme. While the existence of buried heritage assets away from the observed area cannot be specifically discounted, it is unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.

4.4 *Confidence Rating*

The work was undertaken in dry, warm weather with the full co-operation of the client's groundwork contractor. A high confidence rating is therefore assigned to the results.



Plate 1: Reduced area prior to excavation, from north



Plate 2: South-east face of reduced area, from north

5. Archive

5.1 Archive Content

The project archive will comprise:

1. WSI
2. Initial Report
3. Clients site plans
4. Site Monitoring Sheet
5. List of photographs (below)
6. Original specialist reports and supporting information
7. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

5.2 Deposition

The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (accession no LTNMG 1253)

5.3 List of Photographs

Site Name: 20 Castle Close, Totternhoe		Proj. no/Code: 0039/TCC
Shot	No.	Subject
1	6186	Area of proposed extension before reduction, from south
2	6187	Area of proposed extension before reduction, from south-west
3	6188	Area of proposed extension before reduction, from north (looking SE)
4	6189	Area of proposed extension before reduction, from north (looking S)
5	6190	Excavation under way
6	6191	South-east face of reduced area, from north

6. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. English Heritage (London).
- IfA 2010 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.
- IfA 2008 Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.
- IfA (various dates) Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance* documents (*Desk-Based Assessments 2011, Watching Briefs 2008, Evaluations 2009, Excavations 2008, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings 2008, Finds 2008, Archiving 2009*).
- Zeepvat B 2016 *20 Castle Close, Totternhoe LU6 1QT: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring*. Bancroft Heritage Services doc. ref. 0039/TCC/1

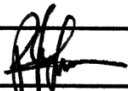
Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown N & Glazebrook J (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2: Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**
- Medlycott M 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **24**.
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M & Murphy P 2007 *Research & Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**.
- Page W (ed.) 1912 *The Victoria History of the County of Bedfordshire, vol. 3* (London)
- Simco A 1984 *Survey of Bedfordshire: the Roman Period*. Beds CC/RCHM(E)
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Internet Sources

- www.old-maps.co.uk
www.heritagegateway.org.uk
www.landis.org.uk/services/soilsguide

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheet

BANCROFT HERITAGE SERVICES							WATCHING BRIEF RECORD	
Project No/Code/Name: 0039/TCC TOTTERNHOE						Sheet: 1 of 1		
Client/Developer PETER GARNER								
Contact: DUNCAN.				Phone:				
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 0830		Finish: 1700				
Development Type:								
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):		
			✓					
Site & weather conditions: WARM, DRY.								
Observations:								
AREA 4x9m AT REAR OF HOUSE - CURRENTLY LAWN, FLOWERBED + CONCRETE APRON. LAWN TAKEN DOWN TO ^{JUST} BELOW LEVEL OF APRON. SOIL V. DRY -								
TOPSOIL/TURF - UP TO 300mm DEEP. CONTAINED MOD CHINA + GLASS + BRICK FRAGS.								
DISTURBED AREA ALONG NW EDGE OF LAWN - CONTAINED BRICK, MIXED TOPSOIL + SUBSOIL. BRICKFILL BEHIND RETAINING WALL (MOVED BEFORE WS)								
BEWENATH TOPSOIL, GREY CHUNKY TILL SUBSOIL. NO FINDS.								
Comments:								
AREA BEHIND GARAGE ALREADY BELOW LEVEL OF CONCRETE APRON, ∴ WELL INTO NAT. REAR PART OF GARAGE (UTILITY ROOM) OVER PART OF EXTENSION. WATCHING FOOTINGS IN THIS AREA THEREFORE CONTINUED.								
Completed by: 				Date of visit: 06/09/2016.				

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	20 Castle Close, Totternhoe	OASIS reference:	257330
Short Description:	<i>In September 2016, site stripping for a house extension at 20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, was archaeologically monitored. The development site is close to Totternhoe Castle located in Middle End, some distance from the historic core of Totternhoe village in Middle End and had the potential to contain buried heritage assets of Anglo-Saxon and later date. The observations did not reveal any buried heritage assets or artefacts. It is therefore unlikely that significant buried heritage assets are present on the site, or that the development has had a significant impact on buried heritage assets.</i>		
Project Type:	Watching Brief		
Previous work: (e.g. HER refs)	none	Site status: (e.g. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	n/a	Monument period:	n/a
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9830 2178
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, Beds LU6 1QT		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.50 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	c.110m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Bancroft Heritage Services		
Project brief originator:	Hannah Firth, CBCA	Project design originator:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCI/A
Project Manager:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCI/A	Director/Supervisor:	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCI/A
Sponsor / funding body:	Site Owner		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	5 th Sept 2016	End date:	
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum LTNMG 1253	None	
Paper:		WSI, photo list, site records, report	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Archaeological Monitoring: 20 Castle Close, Totternhoe, Beds LU6 1QT		
Serial title & volume:	Report ref. 0039/TCC/2		
Author(s):	Bob Zeepvat BA FSA MCI/A		
Page nos		Date:	10 th Sept 2016