

LGHR



**The Lodge, Sandy, Central Bedfordshire:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Prepared for The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

HA Job no.: LGHR12-001

NGR: TL 1914 4848

Parish: Sandy

Council: Central Beds

OASIS ref.: headland4-152506

HER enquiry number.:

Archive will be deposited with: Bedford Museum
(BEDFM2013.03)

Project Manager: Joe Abrams

Author: Jake Streatfeild-James

Fieldwork: Jake Streatfeild-James

Graphics: Caroline Norrman

Approved by: Joe Abrams – Project Manager

Signed off by



[project manager]

Date:...9 December 2013

CONTENTS

1	..... INTRODUCTION	4
2	..... SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	4
4	..... AIMS & OBJECTIVES	5
5	..... METHODOLOGY	6
	5.2 Reporting and Archives.....	6
6	..... RESULTS	6
	6.1 Discussion.....	6
	6.2 Conclusion	6
7	..... REFERENCES	7
	Bibliographic sources	7
8	..... APPENDICES	8
	8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 – Site Location

Illus 2 – S facing photo of Area 1 post-excavation

Illus 3 – N facing photo of Area 2 post-excavation

Illus 4 – SE facing photo of Area 3 post-excavation

THE LODGE, SANDY, CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE.

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook observation of groundworks for footings and ground reduction within the footprints for three new buildings at the RSPB HQ, the Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire. This observation was designed to record, and to enhance the understanding of, any significant remains, in advance of the development of the Gate House site by the RSPB. Natural Sands of the Woburn Group were uncovered in the three areas; an artificially enriched garden soil dating to the late 18th / early 19th century was identified around the Gate House, no other archaeological deposits or finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB - the client) had been granted two consents (planning reference CB/12/00247/FULL and CB/12/02700/FULL), for demolition of a number of existing buildings on the Lodge Estate, Sandy Bedfordshire, and the construction of a range of new buildings.

The Central Bedfordshire Archaeological Officer (AO), who advises the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological matters, advised that the development site was situated within a landscape that had previously produced archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was considered to have the potential to impact upon heritage assets with archaeological interest.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the observation strategy and methodology was prepared by Headland Archaeology (2013) on behalf of the client, and was subsequently approved by the AO.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development site is situated in an area of woodland and acid grassland located on the northern edge of The Lodge estate fronting on to the Potton Road between the towns of Sandy and Potton in eastern Central Bedfordshire and centred on NGR TL 1914 4848. The site lies at an elevation of around 65m AOD at the top of the Greensand Ridge to the north and east of the scarp slope overlooking the Ivel Valley.

The site is underlain by the Woburn Sands Formation dating to the Cretaceous period, at which time the local

environment was dominated by shallow seas. The sandstone bedrock was formed with mainly siliclastic sediments and was deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> - accessed 13/11/2013).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site is situated on land adjacent to The Gatehouse, a Swiss cottage style Grade II Listed Building no 37541 built by the Peel family in the early 1850s following their acquisition of the Sandy Lodge estate. In 1961 the estate was purchased by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as their headquarters. The estate is now managed by the RSPB as a wildlife reserve.

The earliest evidence of human occupation in the area of the site comprises Mesolithic flint tools collected from Caesar's Camp hillfort c.600m to the northwest of the site (HER442) and from within Dyer's excavations of the Sandy Lodge promontory hillfort (HER1165). Mesolithic and Neolithic flint blades and flakes were found during the construction of a pond to the north of The Lodge on the Old Heath (HER 16152)

Bronze Age artefacts have been found in the Sandy area, including a wrist-guard from Tower Hill c.500m to the west of the site (HER1505) and an awl (HER4347).

Stray finds of prehistoric date have been collected from the immediate vicinity of the site during construction of a pond on the Old Heath (HER16152). They consist of two sherds of pottery of Bronze Age to late Iron Age date and a small assemblage of flints, including 2 flakes, 3 blades and a scraper. A small amount of human bone was also collected with the finds but the pieces were too small to provide detailed information.

The area of the Greensand Ridge was densely settled in the Iron Age, as evidenced by enclosures and other

features known from crop marks on the lower lying land and by the presence of three hillforts. The largest of which is Caesar's Camp (HER442) approximately 600m northwest of the site which commands views over the rivers Ivel and Great Ouse. In closer proximity to the site Galley Hill hillfort (HER 445), comprising a rectangular univallate earthwork (Scheduled Monument 1015555) overlooking the Ivel Valley lies to the east of The Lodge. Further to the southeast of which lies Sandy Lodge hillfort (HER 1164), a promontory hillfort also overlooking the Ivel Valley (SM1015006).

There are a number of sites identified from crop marks around The Lodge Estate (HER 1660 and HER1685) although undated they are considered likely to be of late prehistoric to Roman date. A number of crop marks elsewhere in the surrounding area (HER 13698, HER 13710 and HER 13712) are thought to be of geological or natural origin.

A substantial Roman town is known to have existed at Sandy (HER 444) and the routes of three Roman roads converge within the area known as Chesterfield (HER505, HER728 and HER378) and a Roman cemetery is known from Tower Hill to the west of the site (HER11318).

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records a manor of 16 hides with land for 16 ploughs, indicating a relatively substantial population and extensive arable land. The manor of Sandy was held by the Beauchamps from 1120 until the 14th century. William de Beauchamp claimed a charter of free warren here in 1276 and in 1670 the manor included a 1300 acre parcel of land called the Warren, including The Lodge (HER 13729).

The Sandy Estate was divided and sold in 1850 and The Warren was bought by Captain William Peel. After Captain Peel's death The Lodge Estate (as it had become known) passed to his brother, the First Viscount Peel of Sandy. In 1869-1870 Sir Robert Peel commissioned the architect Henry Clutton to design a mansion, 'The Lodge' (HER 7763) in the Elizabethan style (Listed Building 1137882) along with landscaped grounds. The grounds were remodelled in the mid 20th century comprising an Italianate style garden created to the south of the house.

During the Second World War the Sandy Lodge Estate was used as a munitions depot and encampment and land to the east and north was used as a fuel storage depot (HER17982).

The development site lies within an area which has produced evidence for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains and is considered to have the potential to contain sub-surface heritage assets.

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In general the purpose of the investigation is to record and enhance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost (NPPF para 141). This will be achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of any remains on the site, in their cultural and environmental setting.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by Oake et al (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott (2011). Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

In particular the site has the potential to contain remains of occupation dating from the Mesolithic through to the Iron Age, medieval warrening and 19th and 20th century designed landscapes associated with The Lodge.

Specifically the aims of the investigation include:

- Establishing the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site.
- Establishing the relationship of any remains to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- Identifying any areas of Mesolithic activity and comparing this to existing patterns of activity, to better characterise the period within the region;
- To assist the development of models for identifying potential for Mesolithic remains and key priorities for research on this period (Oake et al 2007, 9)
- Establishing a firm chronological sequence for any Iron Age remains recorded to allow for comparison with existing frameworks (Oake et al 2007, 10-12)
- Establishing the chronology, structure, and function of any Medieval settlement remains (Oake et al 2007, 14);
- To consider wider patterns of Medieval settlement in the area (Oake et al 2007, 14)
- Identify any surviving features related to the Post-Medieval designed landscape (Oake et al 2007, 15-16)
- To consider the social and economic aspects of the Post-Medieval landscape (Oake et al 2007, 15-16)
- Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited in a registered museum (Bedford) to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

5 METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken over the course of three days on the 19th of April and the 30th – 31st July 2013. Three areas were stripped using a wheeled mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. In all areas machine stripping was undertaken in shallow spits, under the supervision of a professional archaeologist, until clean natural subsoil was observed. Four tree stumps were also removed under archaeological supervision, after which sections and the bases of the excavations were cleaned by hand in order to better record any archaeological features.

5.1 Recording

All recording was in accordance with the code of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts were given unique numbers and stratigraphic relationships were recorded. Recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted archaeological standards.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was compiled. The site plan was accurately tied in to the National Grid and a scale version is shown in Illus 1.

A digital photographic record was taken and a metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs.

5.2 Reporting and Archives

The results of the works are presented below. A summary report has been prepared for submission to the OASIS database (headland4-152506). Bedford Museum has allocated an accession number (BEDFM2013.03), deposition of the archive, and any other matters relevant to the long-term curation of the archive. The costs for archiving have been included in the project estimate. Guidance provided in *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (1998) will be followed. All archive preparation will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the IfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007).

6 RESULTS

6.1 Discussion

The technical detail of contextual information can be found in our Appendices. The following narrative is designed to interpret that technical detail and attempt to categorise its significance. The areas under monitoring

are outlined in the illustrations at the end of this report (see Illus 1-4).

Monitoring in Areas 1, and 2 revealed a collection of ceramic finds consistent with post medieval midden deposits, the single diagnostic piece being a rim shard of a banded pearlware creamer or milk jug recovered from topsoil (101), dating to the late 18th / early 19th centuries AD. The topsoil across Areas 1 and 3 is likely to be an anthrosol, artificially enriched with waste from a nearby garden midden. This garden soil also contained fragments of tile and brick which may correspond to the construction of the Gate House in 1850. No archaeological features were present in either area.

Area 3 was found to contain a similar sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural. No ceramic assemblage was present in this area, however, suggesting that it was outside the enriched “garden soil” zone, surrounding the Gate House. Un-worked flint nodules were recorded in the topsoil and subsoil, but no worked tools or fragments were recovered.

No negative archaeological features or artifacts were revealed during the course of the investigation.

Table 1: Significance of Heritage Assets

Description of Heritage Asset	Trench Number	Feature Number/s	Significance of heritage asset on Local, Regional, National, International scale
n/a	-	-	None

6.2 Conclusion

Monitoring Areas 1, 2 and 3 has revealed no archaeological remains. It should be borne in mind that the sample was a very small sample of the local landscape and that it is not unusual for archaeologically sensitive areas to contain areas where no cut features are located. The surrounding area remains a sensitive one archaeologically, though the specific part of the ‘site’ being impacted by the proposals is located in an area of relatively blank ground within that sensitive area.

7 REFERENCES

Bibliographic sources

BGS Website accessed 23/1/2012 - <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>.

Communities and Local Government 2012 National Planning Policy Framework, Government National Planning Policy

Headland Archaeology Ltd, 2013. *Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at The Lodge Gatehouse, Sandy, Bedfordshire*, Unpublished Client Report

IfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (revised October 2008).

8 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1 – Site registers

Context Register

Context no.	Area	Description
(101)	1	Topsoil. Mid grey brown silty sand, frequent plastic and modern garden pot, glass rubble and modern frogged CBM fragments. Max Depth = 0.35m
(102)	1	Subsoil. Light orange brown silty sand, fine sand. Max Depth = 0.55m
(103)	1	Natural. Mid, light yellow brown and mid yellow sands with some areas of sandstone
(201)	2	Topsoil. Black sandy silt. Max Depth = 0.13m
(202)	2	Subsoil. Mid brown sand. Max Depth = 0.30m
(203)	2	Natural. Mid brown with orange Hue. Max Depth
(301)	3	Turf and Topsoil. Black silty sand with a large amount of bracken roots present. Max Depth = 0.11
(302)	3	Subsoil. Composed of a grey/brown sand with root action present throughout. Max Depth = 0.38
(303)	3	Natural. Light brown to yellow sand. Rooting penetrated below excavation depth

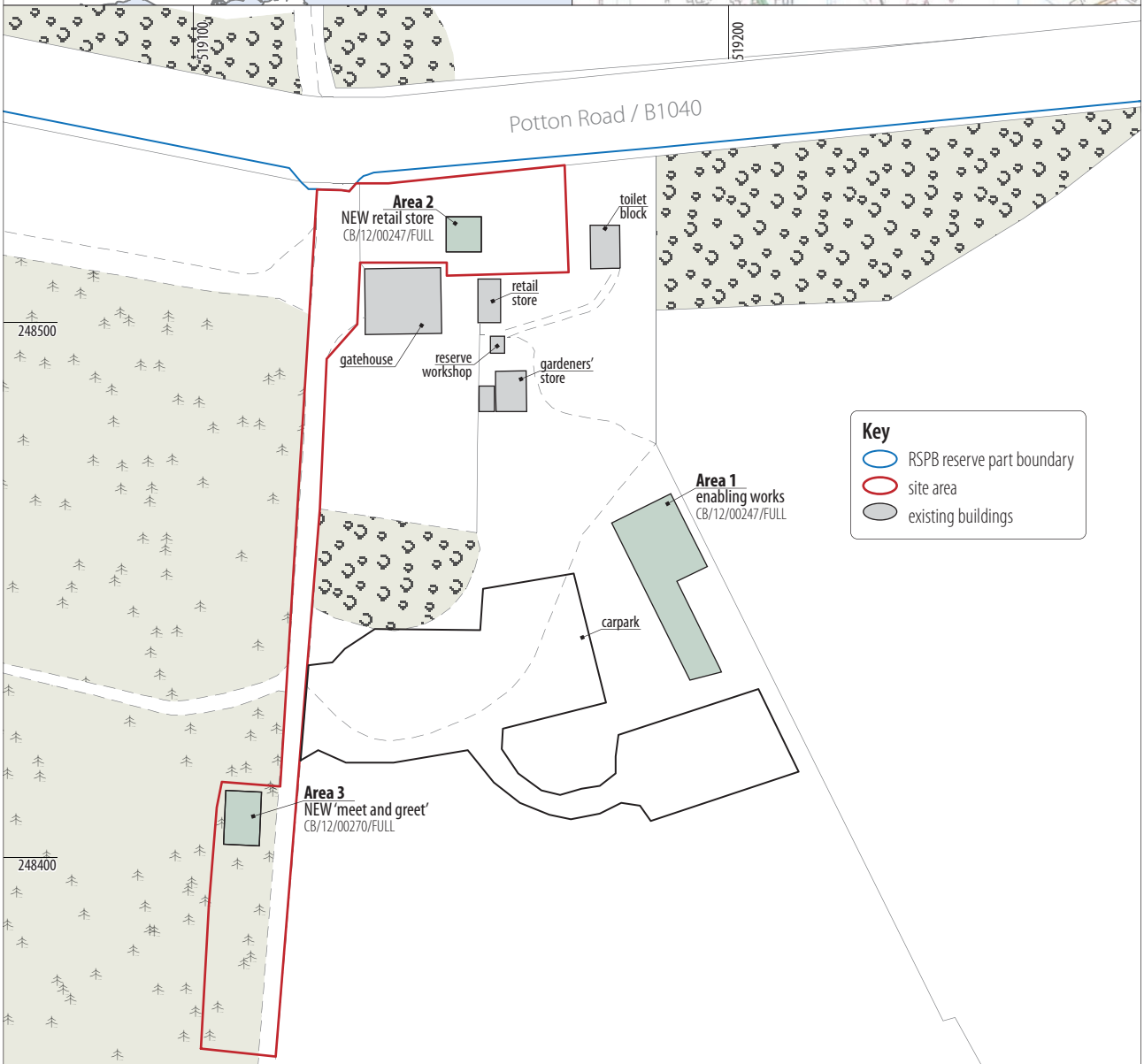
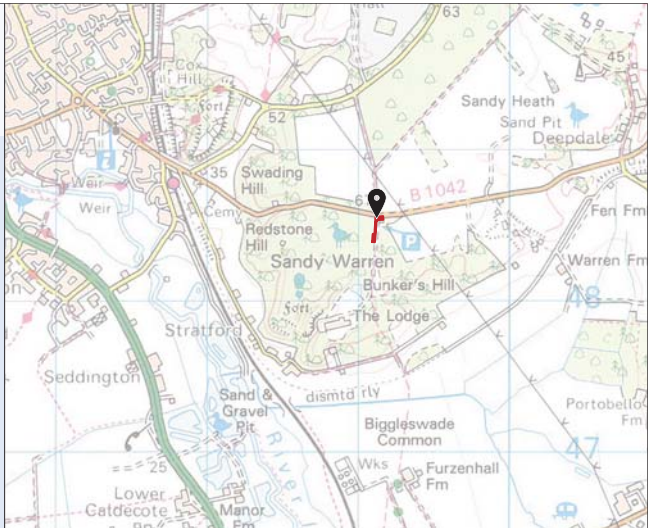
Photographic Register

Frame no.	B/W no.	Direction	Description
001			General Site Shot
002			General Site Shot
003			Tree Bole 1
004			Tree Bole 2
005			Tree Bole 2
006			Tree Bole 1 Section Cleaned
007			Tree Bole 1 Section Cleaned
008			Tree Bole 3 Section Cleaned
009			Tree Bole 3 Section Cleaned
010			Tree Bole 3 Section Cleaned
011			Tree Bole 4 Section Cleaned
012			Tree Bole 4 Section Cleaned
013			Tree Bole 1 Base Machine Cleaned
014			General Site Shot
015			General Site Shot
016			General Site Shot
017			Service Pipe Trench Section
018			Service Pipe Trench Section
019			Service Pipe Plan Shot
020			Service Pipe Plan Shot

021			General Site Shot
022			General Site Shot
023	1		ID Shot
024	2	E	Area 3 Excavation - West Facing Sample Section
025	3	E	Area 3 Excavation - West Facing Sample Section
026	4	N	Area 3 Completed Excavation
027	5	S	Area 3 Completed Excavation
028	6	N	Area 3 Completed Excavation South Facing Section
029	7	E	Area 2 Excavation Sample Section
030	8	SW	Area 2 Excavation Complete
031	9	NE	Area 2 Excavation Complete
032	10	PLAN	Material Recovered from Area 2 Excavation - Not Retained



The Lodge
Sandy
Bedford
Bedfordshire



Reproduced using 2009 OS 1:50,000 Landranger Series no. 153 and digital data. Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence no. AL 100013329

scale 1:1,250 @ A4



Illus 1
Site location



Illus 2

S facing photo of Area 1, post-excitation



Illus 3

N facing photo of Area 2, post-excitation



Illus 4

SE facing photo of Area 3, post-excitation