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CAMPTON MANOR
Rectory Road, Campton
Bedfordshire

HN1134

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

HERITAGE NETWORK

Registered with the Institute for Archaeologists

Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

CAMPTON MANOR Rectory Road, Campton, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN1134 Accession no.: BEDFM 2014.29 LPA ref.: CB/14/000682/PAPC

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Peter Busby Esq. $_{by}$ Greg Jones, BA (HONS) MA AIFA

Report no.862

May 2014

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The cover illustration shows the site looking northeast

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and Mark Sycamore. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Greg Jones and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Peter Busby, and to Martin Oake and Hannah Firth from Central Bedfordshire County Council (CBC), for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Campton Manor, Rectory Road, Campton, Bedfordshire SG17 5PF					
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire			
Village/town:	Campton	Parish:	Campton			
Planning reference:	CB/14/00682/PAPC	NGR:	TL 12915 37980			
Client name and address:	Peter Busby, Campton M	lanor, Rectory Road, Campto	on, Bedfordshire, SG17 5PF			
Nature of work:	Residential	Current land use:	Garden			
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Pre-validation investigation			
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	n/a			
Size of affected area:	50m ²	Size of area investigated:	24m²			
Site code:	HN1134	Museum accession no.:	BEDFM 2014.29			
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson			
Project type, methods etc.:	Trial trenching	Archive Recipient:	Bedford Museum			
Start of work:	29/04/2014	Finish of work:	30/04/2014			
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented	Post-Medieval			
OASIS UID:	heritage1-176298	Significant finds:	None			
Monument types:	Floor surface, well, build	ing foundation				
Physical archive:	Paviour, Brick, Pot					
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a					

Synopsis:

In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new development located on land at Campton Manor, Rectory Road, Campton, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of targeted trial trenching.

Two trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of a proposed new swimming pool and extension. Both trenches were located in an existing patio area adjacent to the manor house, and revealed a layer of disturbed subsoil overlying the undisturbed natural substrate.

Although the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, no evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity was revealed during the investigation, with the exception of a single unstratified and abraded pottery sherd of possible early medieval date. The ironstone foundation for a probable post-medieval outbuilding was recorded in Trench 1, together with the remains of a late 18th / early 19th century brick floor surface and a possible well of mid-19th century date.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be Low for all periods up to the post-medieval and *Moderate* to *High* for the post-medieval and modern periods. However, the significance of any post-medieval features on the site may be considered to be *Low*.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Peter Busby Esq., as part of a programme of archaeological work carried out in in support of a planning application for the construction of new pool building and link extension to the existing house at Campton Manor, Rectory Road, Campton, Bedfordshire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 In line with the requirements of Paragraph 128 of the Department of Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Validation Checklist, the applicant is required to submit a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected by the proposal, in the form of a Heritage Statement.
- 1.3 The extent of the information required to compile the Heritage Statement has been defined in correspondence with the Archaeological Team (AT) at CBC, acting as adviser to the planning authority. The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) required by paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the AT's standard model brief for archaeological field evaluations, includes a research design, an outline of the investigative process that is to be followed, and a method statement for the investigation. The extent of the information required has been agreed in discussion with the AT, and a specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated April 2014.
- 1.4 Campton Manor lies within the historic core of the village, to the south of Rectory Road and bounded by the rear of the properties on Gravenhurst Road to the east, residential properties at Elms Close and open fields to the west. The new development lies within the grounds of the manor, immediately to the south east of the existing house, situated on a paved terrace, centred at NGR TL 12915 37977. The AT considers that the site has the potential to preserve archaeological deposits which relate to the origins and development of the manor and village from the prehistoric period onwards.
- 1.5 The proposed development entails the construction of a two storey extension and single storey building linking the new structure with the existing building.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The study area is located on the south western side of Rectory Road (Figure 2) in the medieval core of the village of Campton. It lies on fairly flat land at a height of approximately 44m AOD.
- 2.2 Locally the soils belong largely to the Evesham 3 Assiocation (411c), described as 'Slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils.' (SSEW 1983).
- 2.3 The underlying geology consists of the Woburn Sands Formation Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 100 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey).

METHODOLOGY

- 2.4 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.
- 2.5 Two trial trenches were located across the site, by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures.
- 2.6 Within the trenches, topsoil and overburden were removed using a 2½-tonne tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, to the natural geological horizon, or to the maximum possible safe depth, as appropriate. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heap for ferrous finds.
- 2.7 The open trenches were cleaned by hand, and inspected for any potential archaeological features and deposits. Where the natural or archaeological horizon could not be reached by machine a sondage was excavated to examine these layers.
- 2.8 The stratigraphy within the trenches was photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Plans of potential features and deposits were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:20, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

RESULTS

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located in the south-western half of the site, across the proposed new swimming pool, and to the south-west of the existing house (Plate 1). The trench, which was oriented approximately northeast - southwest, measured 10m in length and 1.6m in width, and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1m (Plate 1).

2.10 Trench data:

Length (m):	10.0	Width (m):		1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1	Orientat	ion	N	E-SW
Level at NF	End of Tre	nch (mOD)	Top	43.87	Level at SW	End of T	rench (m	OD)	Top	43.92
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD) Base			Base	42.87	Ecver at 5 vv	End of 1			Base	42.89
Context	Type		Description						sions (r	
3011111	- 7 P C						Length	W	idth	Depth
-	Layer	occasional	CBM a	nd charcoa			>10.0	>	1.6	0.60
-	Layer	subsoil with activity	1 occasi	ional sub-a	R 4/4) friable s angular flint an	id root	>10.0	>	1.6	0.20
[101]	Cut	Linear cons Orientation			ick wall [102].		2.23	>().05	-
[102]	Structure	Twelve cou	rick wall with bright yellow cement mortar. welve courses. Top course consists of floor tiles. rientation NE-SW.						-	
(103)	Fill		Brown (7.5YR 4/4) soft clayey sand fill of [102] with occasional CBM lumps. Unknown depth.					>(0.05	-
[104]	Structure	and appears	ossible well structure? Slightly curved in shape and appears to overlie brick surface [105]. Void opeared in baulk supporting theory of well ructure. Late 18th/early 19th century bricks.						1	
[105]	Structure	0.11m x 0.0 Late 18 th / E	Ory laid brick floor. Brick dimensions: 0.23m x 0.11m x 0.05m. Overlies wall foundation [106]. 0.95 >0.60 ate 18 th / Early19 th century bricks.).65	ı	
[106]	Structure		ronstone wall foundation, underlying brick floor urface [105].						0.3	
[107]	Cut	Contained t	Pertangular cut with vertical cides and a flat base						0.8	
(108)	Fill	Dark Brown fill of [107] stoneware b	ark Brown (7.5YR 3/3) friable clayey silty sand 1 of [107]. Contained late 19 th / early 20 th century 1.3 0.6 0.8 oneware bottles.							0.8
-	Layer	Yellowish l rooting.	orown (7.5YR 5/6) sand with mo	oderate	>10.0	>	1.6	>0.07

- 2.11 The stratigraphy in Trench 1 revealed a 0.60m thick layer of dark brown (7.5YR 3/3) friable silty sand overburden, which overlay a 0.2m thick dark yellowish brown (7.5YR 4/4) friable sand subsoil, which sealed the yellowish brown (7.5YR 5/6) sand natural (Plate 1).
- 2.12 Located at 0.8m from the south-western end of Trench 1 were the partial remains of a dry laid red brick floor [105], overlying an ironstone foundation [106] (Plate 2). Overlying the brick floor, in the southern corner of the trench, heading into the baulk, was a single course of bricks laid in a curved line [104]. On the north-east side of the structure, in the baulk, there was a void, which may suggest that this feature defined a former well (Figure 3, Plate 2).
- 2.13 To the north-west of the brick floor, a more modern brick wall [102] was revealed, aligned north-east to south-west and standing to an excavated height of twelve courses with the top course consisting of floor tiles. Wall [102] measured 2.16m in length by >0.16m wide and consisted of Fletton bricks laid in stretcher bond with a bright yellow cement mortar. Surrounding the wall a construction cut [101] was observed, which measured 2.23m long by >0.05m wide by an unknown depth. The cut was vertical and contained a soft brown (7.5YR 4/4) clayey sand fill, with occasional CBM fragments. No other finds were present within the fill.

- 2.14 At the north-eastern end of the trench a vertically cut rectangular pit [107] was revealed, cut from close to the existing surface, which contained a yellowish brown (7.5YR 3/3) friable clayey silty sand fill with late 19th / early 20th century rubbish. Two late 19th / early 20th century stoneware bottles were retained for dating purposes.
- 2.15 One solitary sherd of possible early medieval pottery was recovered unstratified from the overburden in Trench 1. The sherd was poorly fired and heavily abraded.

Trench 2

2.16 Trench 2 was located in the north-western half of the site, across the proposed new extension and to the north-west of Trench 1 (Plate 2). The trench, which was oriented approximately north-west to south-east, measured 5m in length and 1.6m in width, and was machine excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1m.

2.17 Trench data:

Length (m):	5.0	Width (m):		1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.0	Orientat	ion	N	W-SE
Level at NW	End of Tr	ench	Top	43.94	Laval at CE I	ra cr	Fueros de Cond)D)	Top	43.86
(mOD)			Base	42.98	Level at SE I	Lna or 1	nd of Trench (mOD)		Base	42.93
Contout	Trmo			Dogovinti			D	imen	sions (r	n)
Context Type			Description			Length	W	Width Depth		
-	Layer	overburden	Dark yellowish brown (2.5YR 4/2) loose silty sand overburden with gravel and concrete frags, and sub-angular flint and brick rubble.				>5.0	>	2.0	0.30
-	Layer	Greyish brow	Greyish brown (2.5YR 5/2) silty sand subsoil.			il.	>5.0	>	1.6	0.60
-	Layer		Light yellowish brown (2.5YR 6/4) clayey sand natural with frequent root activity.				>5.0	>	2.0	>0.1

- 2.18 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 revealed a 0.30m thick layer of dark yellowish brown (2.5YR 4/2) loose silty sand overburden, which overlay a 0.6m thick greyish brown (2.5YR 5/2) silty sand subsoil, which sealed the light yellowish brown (2.5YR 6/4) clayey sand natural (Plate 3).
- 2.19 No archaeological features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 2.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Brick		Comments
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
104			3	3805	Brick paviours
105			4	8065	Bricks
108	2	1035			Stoneware bottles
U/s	2	10			
Totals	4	1045	7	11870	

Pottery

- 2.20 Two lightly salt-glazed stoneware bottles with wide flared necks were recovered from the fill of rubbish pit [107]. These are likely to be late 19th or early 20th century in date and often contained ink.
- 2.21 A total of 2 sherds of pottery, weighing 10g, was recovered unstratified from the overburden. They are both hand-made undiagnostic and highly abraded body sherds of an underfired sandy ware, which could be early medieval date but this is not conclusive.

Recommendations

2.22 No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material. On this basis, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 2.23 Three part bricks were recovered from the curved wall that may define a well. They are $105 \text{mm} (4\frac{1}{2})$ wide and 50 mm (2) deep (length uncertain), and formed of a hard, coarse red sandy fabric with calcite inclusions. They are likely to be mid- 19^{th} century in date.
- 2.24 Two complete and two part hand-made brick paviours were recovered from floor surface [105]. They measure 232mm (9½") long, 105mm (4½") wide and 45mm (1¾") deep and are formed of a soft red sandy fabric with no coarse inclusions. They are likely to be late 18th or early 19th century in date. One of the part paviours has a lime mortar adhering to the lower face and two of the paviours show secondary burning on their end faces.

Recommendations

2.25 No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from this material. On this basis, no further work is proposed on this assemblage.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) lists all documented heritage assets within the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough administrative districts, including evidence of archaeological activity, ranging from chance finds to full-scale excavations. The accumulated evidence shows that the study area lies in a significant archaeological landscape.
- 3.2 The HER has been consulted for a 500m radius from the site centre (Figure 1). The recorded entries have been listed in chronological order.
- 3.3 Evidence for early activity close to the site consists mainly of isolated findspots around the village. Some prehistoric flints (HER 2571) were recovered from a findspot 330m to the south east. A find of prehistoric flint arrowheads and some Roman pottery fragments (HER 2568) were recovered 217m to the south west. Prehistoric lithics (HER 2572) were recovered from a findspot 330m to the south west. Another findspot of prehistoric flints with undated ceramic sherds (HER 2569) was located 240m to the north-west.
- 3.4 Further afield a decorated prehistoric beaker, possibly Bronze Age in date, was found c650m to the north east (HER 380).
- 3.5 Iron Age pottery sherds (HER 2567) have been recovered 115m to the south east.
- 3.6 An early 4th century AD Roman coin (HER 15962) was recovered 200m to the north west in the recreation ground.
- 3.7 Campton is mention in the Domesday Survey of 1066 as consisting of a total of eight households and lying in the Hundred of Clifton.
- 3.8 There is a reference on the Pastscape database (362513) to a probable Roman barrow with a primary cremation, excavated at 'Campton Bury', Clifton in 1848. Other finds included iron and bronze spurs, a knife, human bones and a possible Samian bowl. The actual location of this feature is unknown and it does not appear in the HER.
- 3.9 A group of 24 medieval sherds (HER 4328) was discovered 140m to the south west. A flint tool and Saxo-Norman pottery fragments (HER 2566) were recovered from a findspot 200m to the east. Saxo-Norman pottery (HER 2570) was also recovered from a findspot 225m to the north. Another find of medieval pottery (HER 5957) was found approximately 240m to the north-west. Fragments of a medieval strap fitting and a post-medieval lace tag were found (PAS 19637) 280m to the south.
- 3.10 Twelve listed buildings are recorded within a 500m radius of the present site. All are grade II, with the exception of the Campton Manor (Listing 1137564) and the parish church (Listing 1113722) which are grade II.
- 3.11 The manor house (HER 377) was originally built between 1581 and 1591 for the Ventris family. The house is of close-studded timber frame construction with colour-washed plaster infill, and the rear elevation is in red brick with flared header decoration. The building has additions and alterations dating from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

- 3.12 During the second half of the 20th century parts of the grounds were sold for the development of housing along Gravenhurst Road to the east, up to the junction with Rectory Road.
- 3.13 All Saints Parish Church (HER 1030) lies 120m to the north, set within its post medieval churchyard (HER 8869). The church has its origins in the late 13th century, with 14th, 15th and 17th century alterations, and was extensive reworked in 1898.
- 3.14 There are two post medieval sand pits (HER 2512 & 2509) located 180m to south west and 240m to the south east respectively.
- 3.15 A brick kiln (HER 18309), shown on the Enclosure Map of 1799, lies 385m to the North West.
- 3.16 A patch of undated burnt ground (HER 18297), which has not been investigated, was located 190m to the south east.

Research aims

- 3.17 On the basis of the known archaeology in the immediate vicinity it appears that the present site lies within one of the foci of the medieval village and to the north and west of prehistoric, Roman and Saxo-Norman occupation.
- 3.18 The aims of the investigation have been:
 - to establish the likely presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, and characterise them in terms of location, depth, extent, date, character and condition should they be present;
 - to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality, in relation to the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Oake *et al* 2007, Medlycott & Brown 2008, Medlycott 2011);
 - to provide sufficient information to advise the planning application for the development of the site, and ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of any such remains is adopted should it get consent.
- 3.19 The present site has provided an opportunity to investigate the southern limits of the village, with the potential to contribute to a number of research topics highlighted in the published local research agenda (Oake et al, 2007), including:
 - the investigation of landscape development and settlement patterns;
 - the investigation of time lags in the adoption of trends between areas;
 - gaining a greater understanding of early medieval settlement, the agrarian economy and land use changes;
 - gaining a greater understanding of the origin and development of medieval villages in Bedfordshire;
 - gaining understanding of the development of rural settlement in the county in the post-medieval period;
 - characterising regional variation.

Collected Data

- 3.20 The excavation of the trial trenches revealed a layer of mixed overburden covering a subsoil layer that overlay the natural substrate.
- 3.21 Trench 1 revealed the partial remains of a late 18th / early 19th century brick floor surface, the edge of a possible mid-19th century brick-lined well, a modern wall with associated construction cut, and an ironstone foundation that may relate to a former outbuilding. Ironstone or carrstone was quarried locally and ironstone rubble was often used for foundations in this area.
- 3.22 One unstratified sherd of possible early medieval pottery was recovered from the overburden in Trench 1. A late 19th or early 20th century rubbish pit was revealed in the same trench.
- 3.23 No other significant features, deposits or finds were encountered on the site.

Conclusions

- *3.24* Although the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, no evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity was revealed during the investigation, with the exception of a single unstratified and abraded sherd of possible early medieval pottery. The ironstone foundation for a probable post-medieval outbuilding was recorded in Trench 1, together with the remains of a late 18th / early 19th century brick floor surface and a possible well of mid-19th century date.
- 3.25 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be *Low* for all periods up to the post-medieval and *Moderate* to *High* for the post-medieval and modern periods. However, the significance of any post-medieval features on the site may be considered to be *Low*.

Confidence Rating

3.26 In the course of the trial trenching programme, the weather, ground and light conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, there are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for this stage of the project that was less than *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record

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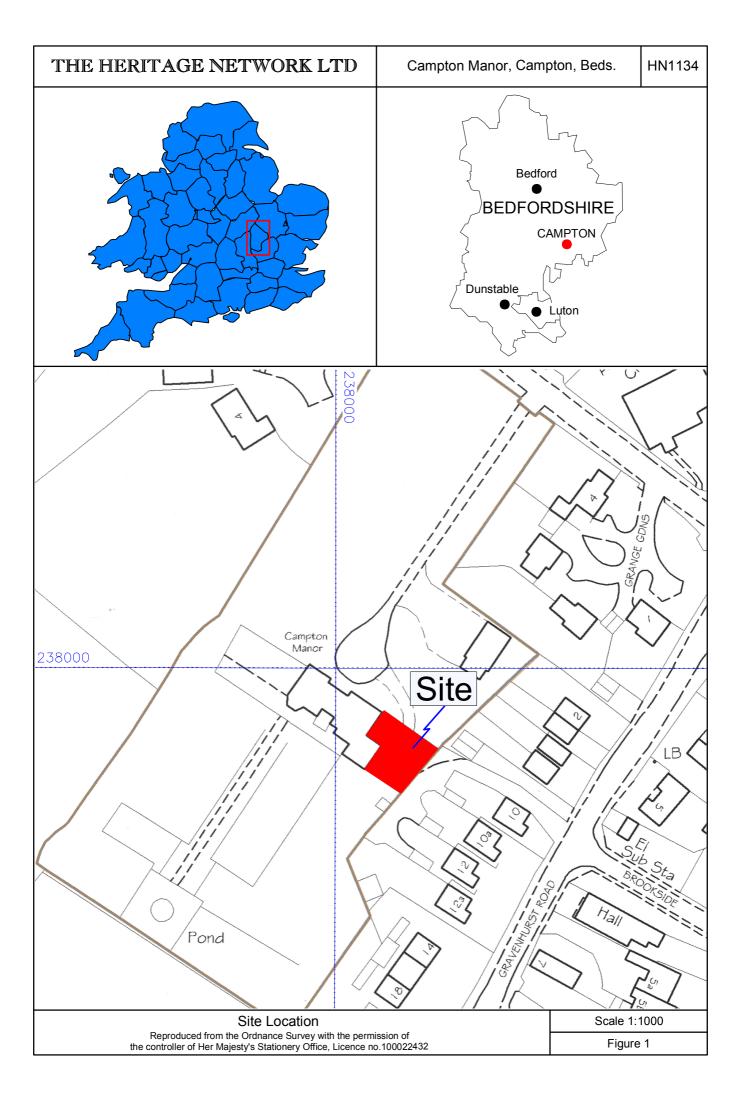
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5 Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench Layout
Figure 3	Trench 1 Plan & Section
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking southwest
Plate 2	[104], [105] & [106] looking southwest
Plate 3	[101]. [102] & (103) looking northwest
Plate 1	Trench 2 looking southeast



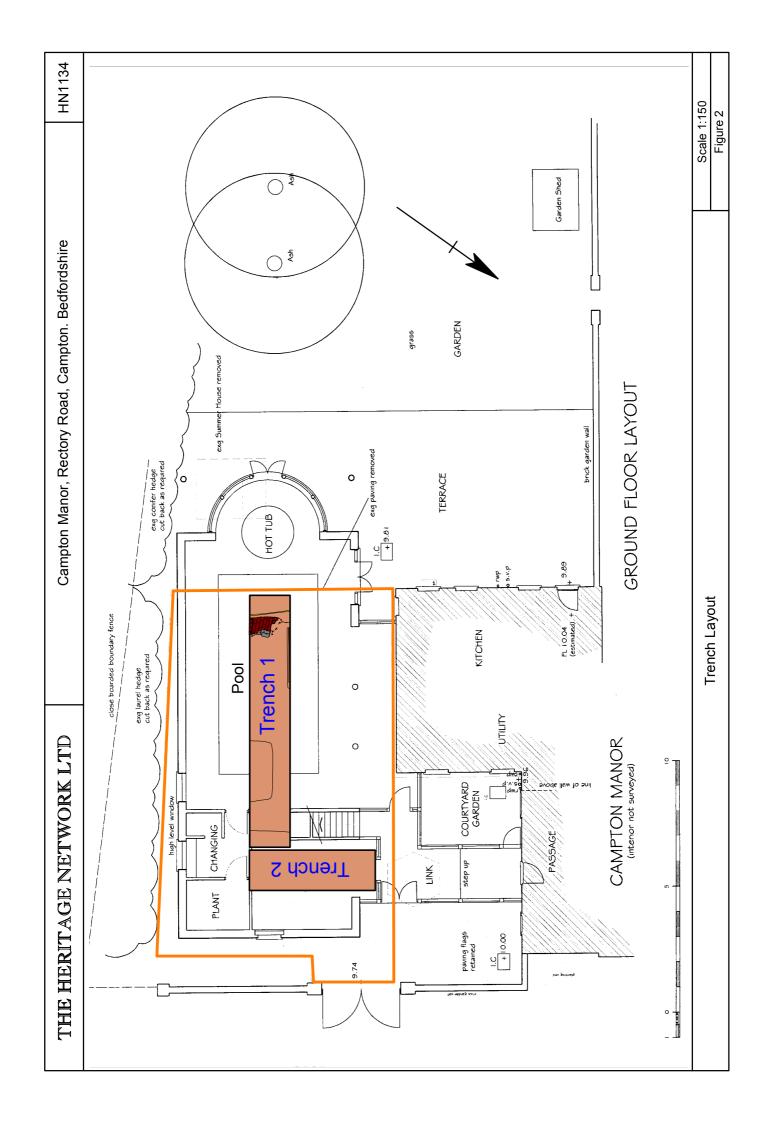




Plate 1: Trench 1 looking SW



Plate 2: [104], [105] & [106] looing SW

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Plate 3: [101], [102] & (103) looking northwest



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking southeast

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

	OASIS ID: heritage1-176298
Project details	
Project name	Campton Manor, Rectory Road, Campton
Short description of the project	In order to investigate the archaeological potential of a proposed new development located on land at Campton Manor, Rectory Road, Campton, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owner to undertake a programme of targeted trial trenching. Two trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of a proposed new swimming pool and extension. Both trenches were located in an existing patio area adjacent to the manor house, and revealed a layer of disturbed subsoil overlying the undisturbed natural substrate. Although the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, no evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity was revealed during the investigation, with the exception of a single unstratified and abraded pottery sherd of possible early medieval date. The ironstone foundation for a probable post-medieval outbuilding was recorded in Trench 1, together with the remains of a late 18th / early 19th century brick floor surface and a possible well of mid-19th century date. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains may be considered to be Low for all periods up to the post-medieval and Moderate to High for the post-medieval and modern periods. However, the significance of any post-medieval features on the site may be considered to be Low.
Project dates	Start: 29-04-2014 End: 30-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN1134 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2014.29 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	FLOOR SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	BUILDING FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK PAVIOUR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STONEWARE BOTTLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS Campton Manor, Rectory Road
Postcode	SG17 5PF
Study area	24.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 12915 37980 52.0282926694 -0.353969200906 52 01 41 N 000 21 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 42.87m Max: 42.98m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Peter Busby
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.29
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.29
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.29
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Campton Manor, Campton, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.862
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	Comb-bound document, green cover, 12 text pages, 3 drawings, 4 plates
Entered by	David Hillelson (djh@heritagenetwork.co.uk)
Entered on	15 May 2014