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**6 THE GREEN
Ickwell, Beds.**

HN1215

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING REPORT***

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIFA

6 THE GREEN Ickwell, Bedfordshire

Project ref.: HN12015

Bedford Museum entry no.: BEDFM 2015.54

LPA Planning ref: CB/15/00191/FULL

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Mrs Jane Wilkinson

By

Helen Ashworth, BA (HONS) ACIFA

Report no. 961

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The cover photograph shows the site looking south-east

Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Mr and Mrs Wilkinson and Hannah Firth, Archaeology Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	6 The Green, Ickwell, Bedfordshire		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Ickwell	Parish:	Northill
Planning reference:	CB/15/00191/FULL	NGR:	TL 14945 45700
Client name and address:	Mrs Jane Wilkinson, 30 High Street, Southill, Biggleswade, SG18 9HU		
Nature of work:	Extension to existing house	Former land use:	Garden
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Planning Condition (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	After determination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.88m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.88m ²
Site Code:	HN1215	Museum Accession No:	BEDFM 2015.54
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Monitoring	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	05/10/2015	Finish of work	12/10/2015
Related HER Nos:	Na	Periods represented:	none
Oasis UID	heritage1- 216251	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In response to a planning condition on the construction of a side and rear extension and a detached garage at 6 The Green, Ickwell, Beds., the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil above a layer of subsoil, which sat directly on the natural clay. Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the site remained undeveloped until the mid 20th century and, although the site lies on the edge of a village green which is thought to have medieval origins, no evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period was observed during the present project.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during the course of this work.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Mrs Jane Wilkinson, detailing the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording work carried out as part of a development at 6 The Green, Ickwell, Bedfordshire.

1.2 The planning permission for the development (ref: CB/15/00191/FUL) has been granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), subject to an archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The extent of the present work was defined in a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 6, The Green, Ickwell, Bedfordshire*, prepared by the Archaeology Team (AT) of CBC. A full specification for the investigation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated July 2015 (Turner 2015).

1.3 The site fronts on the northern side of the medieval village green. Number 6 forms the western end of a terrace of three late post-medieval properties, centred on NGR TL 14945 45700. The access to Home Farm lies immediately to the west, and the farm's buildings are situated to the north of the property.

1.4 The aim of the present project has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains which were liable to be threatened by the development, and the establishment of a local and regional archaeological and historical context for them, if they were discovered, in accordance with the current published local and regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al 2007; Medlycott 2011).

1.5 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the development of Northill parish from the Roman period onwards, in particular the development of the early medieval and medieval settlement at Ickwell.

1.6 The development proposes the construction of a two-storey extension on the western side and rear of the existing property, with a detached garage and associated landscaping (Figure 2).

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site lies on the western edge of the valley of the River Ivel on level ground, at approximately 30mAOD. The ground rises to the west, to a spur of the Greensand Ridge. It is located on the north side of Ickwell Green and forms the western property in a short terrace of three dwellings. Home Farm Barns, part of the Ickwell Grange complex, lie to the north of the site, while other outbuildings associated with Ickwell Grange lie to the west.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Evesham 3 Association (411c), described as *Slowly permeable calcareous clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils.* (SSEW 1985).

2.3 The underlying geology comprises Mudstone of the Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member (undifferentiated), a Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (BGS).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's work schedule. A series of site visits were made to monitor the development groundworks

2.5 The ground reduction and the excavation of footings for the new extension were undertaken by a 5 tonne tracked excavator, fitted with 1.5m and 0.4m wide toothless ditching buckets respectively.

2.6 All potential archaeological features and deposits were investigated to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.7 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on pro forma sheets, at scales of 1: 50, 1:20 and 1:10.

2.8 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.9 All recording work was carried out in accordance with the approved project design, current health and safety legislation, and both CIfA and ALGAO standards.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

2.10 The fieldwork involved a series of site visits to observe the groundworks for the new extension and garage. These involved ground reduction in the footprint of the new extension and garage, the excavation of footings to the new extension and a new soakaway to the north of the house (Figure 2). New services utilised existing connections.

Groundworks***Extension***

2.11 The extension for the existing house was L-shaped and ran along the western and northern sides of the building, covering an area of approximately 55m² (Figure 2). The ground level within this area was reduced by between 0.20m and 0.30m in depth, but did not breach the subsoil (Plate 1).

2.12 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this area.

2.13 Following the ground reduction footings trenches, measuring 0.40m in width and approximately 1m in depth, were excavated to form the footprint to the new build. The stratigraphy recorded in the footings trenches consisted of dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay overburden, 0.50m in depth, overlying light brownish grey (10YR 6/2) silty clay subsoil, 0.25m in depth (Plate 2). The yellow (10YR 7/6) clay natural was encountered below the subsoil at approximately 0.75m below the present ground level.

2.14 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in the trenches.

Garage

2.15 The new garage, which measures 7.60m in length by 4.10m in width, is located approximately 4.5m to the north of the house. Its footprint was reduced by approximately 0.50m, but did not breach the subsoil (Plate 3).

2.16 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this area.

Soakaway

2.17 A soakaway, measuring 1.50m by 1.50 and 1.60m in depth, was excavated approximately 9.70m to the north of the house. The stratigraphy exposed in the sections was similar to that previously recorded in the footings trenches (Plate 4).

2.18 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in this area.

3. Discussion

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

3.1 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted. The overview set out below has been drawn from the HER, our own records and other sources. The study area covers a radius of 500m from the centre of the site.

- The earliest evidence of activity within the study area dates from the Roman period. Two Roman skeletons and fragments of Samian pottery (HER 425) were found in Church Field during the 19th century, 300m north-west of the site. A metal detector find of a Roman coin (HER 18666) was recovered approximately 250m to the south-west, in fields to the south-east of Ickwell Bury Manor.
- The site is situated in the historic core of the village, within the Ickwell conservation area. The present village appears to be medieval in origin (HER 17122), but it is likely that settlement in the area dates from Anglo-Saxon or Roman periods. The present site fronts the northern edge of the medieval green (HER 14899).
- The village is part of Northill Parish; the settlement pattern throughout the historic parish was dispersed. Although the parish is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, the region has been interpreted as the territory of the tribe called the ‘Gifle’ between the 7th and 9th centuries AD (Mills 2011), the local Saxon tribe that gives its name to the river Ivel).
- The manorial seat of Ickwell Bury (HER 438) lies approximately 400 metres to the south-west of the development site.
- A 13th century coin (HER 18659) was found 360m to the south-east of the site. A medieval pendant (HER 19424) was found on the other side of the village, 400m to the north-east.
- Ickwell Park (HER 6995), a Grade II registered post-medieval park that occupies approximately 140ha surrounding Ickwell Bury, is situated 75m to the west of the site.
- In the south-eastern corner of the green, 360m from the site, lies a possible moated site (HER 456) identified to the south of a 17th century Grade II listed house (HER 455). While it is possible that the house may date from the 16th century, the moat most likely represents an ornamental garden feature.
- Post-medieval copper alloy buckles and mounts (HER 18667) were recovered from fields to the south-east of Ickwell Bury Manor).
- A brick and tile works (HER 6690) to the north of Caldecote Road, lies 160m to the east of the site. The works was in operation through the 19th century, but closed early in the 20th century).
- There are 31 listed structures within the study area. Most of the post-medieval buildings that front the green and the outbuildings associated with Ickwell Bury Manor are Grade II listed, with the exception of a 17th century dovecote at Ickwell Bury Manor, which is graded II* (Listing 1321725). Nos 1, 3 and 7 Ickwell Green are listed, but the present property is not.

3.2 Late 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the present terrace of three houses was built between 1948 and 1960 (www.old-maps.co.uk – not illustrated). Prior to the mid 20th century the site was undeveloped, forming an area of open ground to the south of Home Farm barns.

RESEARCH AIMS

3.3 The aims of the investigation have been:

- to identify any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development and establish their location, depth, extent, date, character and condition;
- to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development is adopted.

3.4 On the basis of the known heritage assets in the immediate vicinity, the site had the potential to preserve remains from the Roman period onwards, which, in turn, had the potential to contribute to a number of research topics highlighted in the published local research agenda. Of particular but not exclusive interest was the opportunity to expand the understanding of.

- the form and distribution of prehistoric and Roman occupation sites in the county;
- the origin and development of Saxon and early medieval villages in Bedfordshire;
- the origins, development and dynamics of medieval rural settlement;
- the development of post-medieval villages in Bedfordshire.

COLLECTED DATA

3.5 Although the site lies on the edge of a village green which is thought to have medieval origins, no evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period was observed during the present project.

CONCLUSIONS

3.6 It was considered that the investigation on the present site had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the origins and development of settlement around the village green from the early medieval period.

3.7 The site appears to have formed an open space between a range of barns and the village green until the mid 20th century. It was occupied by the present property between 1948 and 1960.

3.8 No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during the course of this work.

Confidence Rating

3.9 Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
05/10/2015	GAJ	9	Monitoring ground reduction for extension & garage & excavation of extension footings
06/10/2015	GAJ	6	Monitoring excavation of footings & soakaway
12/10/15	GAJ	2	Monitoring final strip of garage

5. Bibliography

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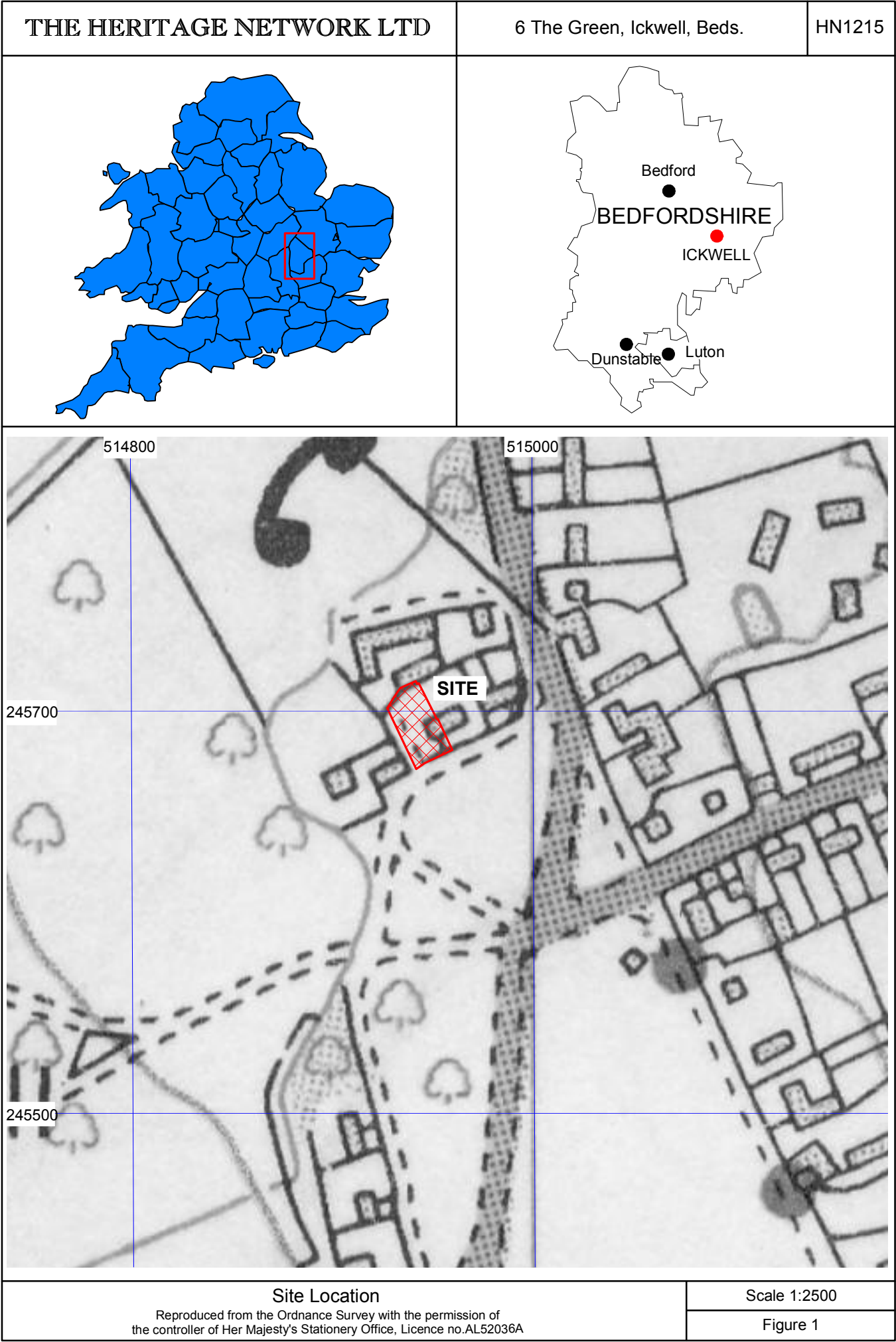
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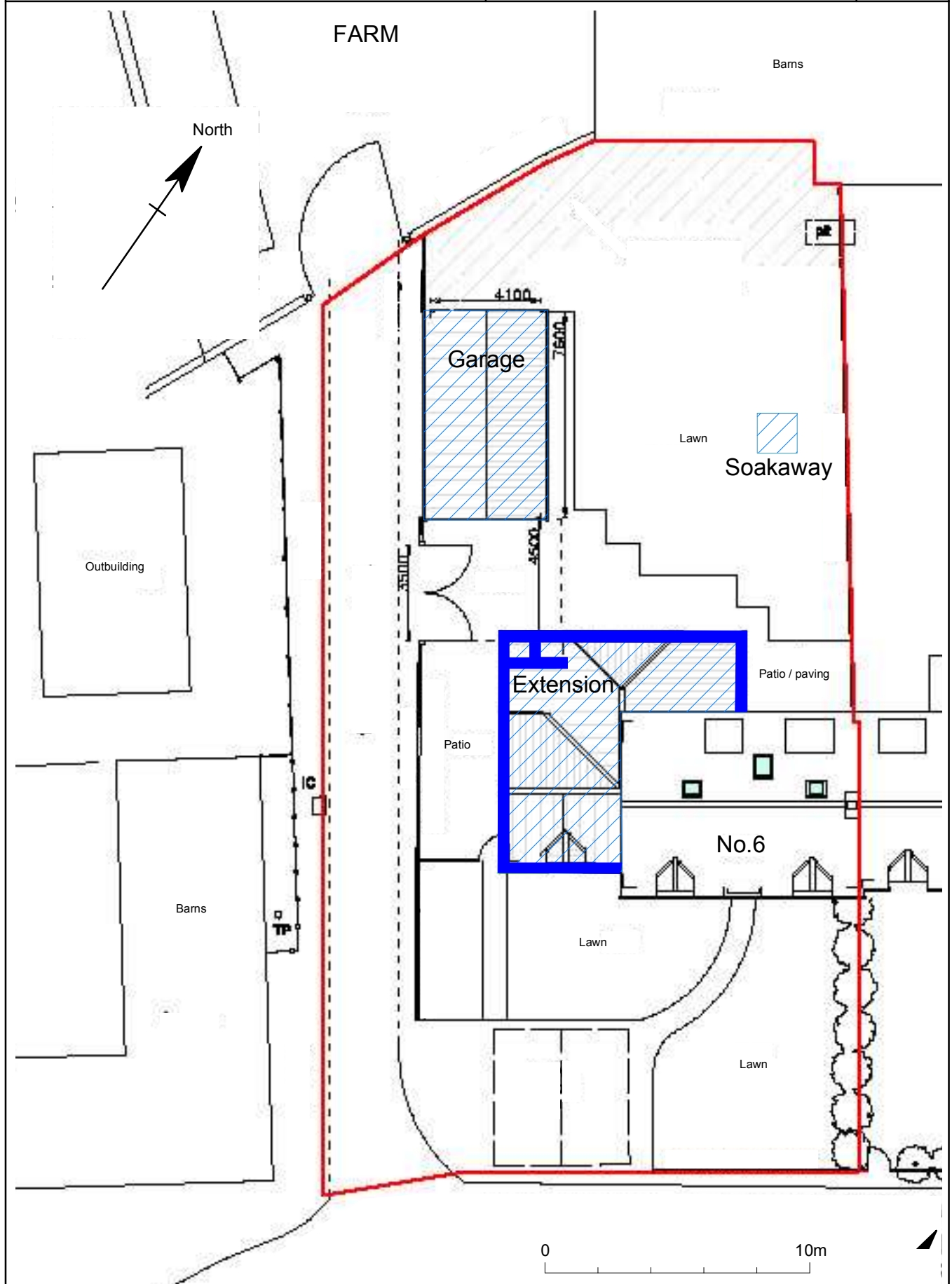
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6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Plate 1	Ground reduction for new extension, looking E
Plate 2	Indicative section in footings trench, looking W
Plate 3	Garage footprint following ground reduction, looking S
Plate 4	Soakaway, looking S





Site layout

Scale 1:200

Figure 2



Plate 1: Ground reduction for the new extension, looking E



Plate 2: Indicative section in footings trenches, looking W



Plate 3: Garage footprint following ground reduction, looking S



Plate 4: Soakaway, looking S

Appendix 1

OASIS Data form

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-216251</i>	
Project details	
Project name	6 The Green, Ickwell, Northill
Short description of the project	In response to a planning condition on the construction of a side and rear extension and a detached garage at 6 The Green, Ickwell, Beds., the Heritage Network was commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. Monitoring of the development groundworks revealed a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil above a layer of subsoil, which sat directly on the natural clay. Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the site remained undeveloped until the mid 20th century and, although the site lies on the edge of a village green which is thought to have medieval origins, no evidence for activity pre-dating the modern period was observed during the present project. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during the course of this work.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2015 End: 12-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN1215 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2015.54 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE NORTHILL Ickwell, 6 The Green
Postcode	SG18 9EF
Study area	88 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 14945 45700 52.097260648224 -0.321790950561 52 05 50 N 000 19 18 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Turner

Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Archive ID	2015.54
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	2015.54
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Diary", "Drawing", "Report", "Unspecified Archive"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	6 The Green, Ickwell, Bedfordshire: archaeological monitoring report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.961
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 10 text pages, 2 figures, 4 plates