



HERITAGE NETWORK



Land at THE ROSE AND CROWN 14 London Road, Sandy

HN826

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land at
THE ROSE AND CROWN
14 London Road
Sandy, Bedfordshire

Project ref.:HN826
Accession no.: BEDFM 2009.62
LPA ref.: MB/TP/08/191

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Costdeal Ltd

Report no. 565

November 2009

© The Heritage Network Ltd

11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998

Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion	Page 8
Section 4	Illustrations & Plates.....	following Page 14
Appendix	OASIS Data Entry.....	Page 15

The cover illustration shows The Rose and Crown looking southeast

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Mark Winter and Andy Fawcett. The finds assessment was prepared by Andy Fawcett and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Lloyd Houghton, Costdeal Ltd; Dave Brown Plant Hire; and Martin Oake, Conservation and Design Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, SG19 1EX		
County:	Bedfordshire	District:	Central Bedfordshire
Village/town:	Sandy	Parish:	Sandy
Planning reference:	MB/TP/08/191	NGR:	TL 1654 4920
Client name and address:	Lloyd Houghton, Costdeal Ltd, c/o 83 Tilehouse Street, Hitchin, SG5 2DX		
Nature of work:	New housing	Former land use:	Garden and carpark
Site status:	n/a	Reason for investigation:	Direction of LPA (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	As a condition	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.1500m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.150m ²
Site Code:	HN826	Accession no. :	BEDFM.2009.62
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Bedford Museum
Start of work	27/10/09	Finish of work	30/10/09
Related SMR Nos:	HER 16453, HER 17130	Periods represented:	Early medieval, very late medieval-early post medieval and post medieval.
Oasis UID	heritage1-64684	Significant finds:	Pottery, CBM, flint, clay pipe
Monument types:	8 linears, 3 postholes, 1 pit, 1 layer, 1 structure		
Physical archive:	Pottery, CBM, Brick, Animal Bone, Shell, Fe Object, Stone, Flint, Glass, Clay Pipe, Coal/Charcoal		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to develop land at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Costdeal Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

Three trial trenches were opened across the proposed development area. The investigation showed that the west end of the site has been reduced to allow the construction of a barn in the southwestern corner, which still survives in part. A series of walls were encountered, representing the original western end of this structure. The natural geology rose to the east of the site, indicating that the whole plot has not been completely reduced. A concentration of garden features were observed in the eastern half of the site, the majority possibly relating to onion cultivation, along with a possible fence line and a possible pond. An undated ditch at the eastern end may be earlier and relate to an original site boundary. The depth of overburden at this end of the site demonstrates that this area was built up during the modern period.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Costdeal Ltd.*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a development site located at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

1.2 The investigation was a requirement of the planning permission granted by Mid Bedfordshire District Council (now Central Bedfordshire Council) (ref: MB/TP/08/191), following the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in a *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Land at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire* and a *Brief for the Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at the Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire* prepared by the Archaeological Officer (AO) from the Conservation and Design Team of Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), the new unitary authority covering the site.

1.3 The study area is centred on NGR TL 1654 4920 on the west side of the modern town of Sandy and on the southern side of the former hamlet of Girtford (Figure 1). It is bounded to the north by no.16 London Road and no.5 Church Path, to the east and south by Church Path and to the west by London Road. The development proposes the conversion and extension of the existing public house with construction of a new double garage and three terraced cottages, with parking, landscaping and ancillary works.

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

1.5 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Fieldwork

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The study area consists of a small plot of land to the east of London road. The site lies on level ground at approximately 25m AOD.

2.2 Being within an urban area the soils on the site are unsurveyed. However, immediately to the east are areas belonging to the Evesham 3 Association (411c) and the Frilford Association (554a). The Evesham Association soils overlie Jurassic and Cretaceous clay and are described as:-

‘Slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils’.

2.3 The Frilford Association soils overlie Mesozoic and Tertiary Sands and are described as:-

‘Deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some ferruginous sandy and some coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of water erosion’ (SSEW).

METHODOLOGY

2.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

2.5 Three trenches were opened using a wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.50m wide toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision.

2.6 Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

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

2.8 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

Stratigraphy

2.9 Some variation in stratigraphy was encountered on site. Trenches 1 and 2 were located in the former garden area and both contained a very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand topsoil, up to 0.44m thick. In Trench 1 this overlay a 0.50m thick, dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand subsoil while in Trench 2 it overlay a 0.40m thick, dark brown (10YR 3/3) slightly clay silt, which contained modern plastic. In both trenches the subsoil overlay the yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly clay sand natural.

2.10 Trench 3 was located in the former carpark area and the stratigraphy consisted of a tarmac surface, 0.08m thick, which overlay 0.60m of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand levelling material containing frequent stone and rubble. This overlay the previously observed natural geology.

Trench 1

Length (m):	20.60	Width (m):	3.20		Maximum Depth (m):	0.94	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at Northwest End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.83	Level at Southeast End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.89
			Base	22.16				Base	22.09
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand topsoil.	20.60	3.20	0.44				
	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand subsoil.	20.60	3.20	0.50				
	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly clay sand natural.	20.60	3.20	-				
101	Cut	Ditch cut.	2.80+	1.00+	0.62				
102	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loose silty sand ditch fill.	2.80+	1.00+	0.62				
103	Cut	Square feature, possibly a former pond.	2.39+	1.78+	0.72				
104	Fill	Brown (10YR 4/3) loose silty clay. Fill of [103].	0.50+	-	0.36				
105	Fill	Dark grey (10YR 4/1) clayey silty sand with a slightly organic appearance. Fill of [103].	1.35+	0.12+	0.33				
106	Fill	Black (10YR 2/1) silty clay with an organic appearance. Fill of [103].	1.34+	-	0.30				
107	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silty sand. Fill of [103].	0.69+	-	0.49				
108	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silty sand with a slightly organic appearance. Fill of [103]. Contained pottery of 19 th /20 th C date.	0.39+	0.75+	0.18				
109	Fill	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty clay sand. Fill of [103].	1.45+	0.80+	0.24				
110	Cut	Linear garden feature.	0.61+	0.91	0.12				
111	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill.	0.61+	0.91	0.12				
112	Cut	Linear garden feature.	1.38+	0.65	0.03				
113	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill. Contained pottery of 19 th /20 th C date.	1.38+	0.65	0.03				
114	Cut	Circular garden feature.	0.63	0.30+	0.05				
115	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill.	0.63	0.30+	0.05				
116	Cut	Linear garden feature.	1.04+	0.80	0.06				
117	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill.	1.04+	0.80	0.06				
118	Cut	Posthole.	0.79	0.44	0.39				
119	Fill	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clayey silty sand posthole fill.	0.79	0.44	0.39				
120	Cut	Posthole.	0.54	0.30	0.16				
121	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clayey sand posthole fill.	0.54	0.30	0.16				
122	Cut	Linear garden feature.	0.97+	0.83	0.09				
123	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill.	0.97+	0.83	0.09				
124	Cut	Linear garden feature.	0.90+	0.75	0.08				
125	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand fill.	0.90+	0.75	0.08				

2.11 Trench 1 was located at the east end of the site in the area of the proposed new cottages (Figure 2, Plate 1). The trench contained a total of 10 features, most probably of 19th/20th century date. Feature [101] (Figure 3, Plate 2), located at the southeast end of the trench, appears to represent a previous boundary and is roughly aligned with the existing site limit. Feature [103] (Figure 3, Plate 3) was located to the northwest of this. It was a square cut feature containing a series of fills. Fill (106) in particular appeared to have an organic element to its composition, suggesting that this is a former pond. The rest of the trench contained a series of very shallow features, with fills which were indistinguishable from the subsoil. These were on the same

orientation as the existing rear boundary and appear to be the remains of a series of possible horticultural features (Figure 3, Plates 4 and 5). Two postholes were observed at the northwest end of the trench (Figure 3, Plates 6 and 7). These were very close together and may represent different phases of a former fence line.

Trench 2

Length (m):	12.90	Width (m):	3.20		Maximum Depth (m):	0.75	Orientation	E-W	
Level at East End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.86	Level at West End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.66
			Base	22.08				Base	22.06
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand topsoil.	12.90+	3.20+	0.25				
	Layer	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) slightly clayey silt subsoil.	12.90+	3.20+	0.40				
	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly clay sand.	12.90+	3.20+	-				
201	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) silty sand layer. Contained 1 sherd of late Saxon pottery.	3.20+	1.74+	0.30				
202	Cut	Linear.	2.03+	0.58	0.14				
203	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) slightly clay silt fill.	2.03+	0.58	0.14				

2.12 Trench 2 was located to the southeast of the Rose and Crown (Figure 2, Plate 8). The trench contained a layer of dumped material (201), from which one sherd of late Saxon pottery was recovered, and a possible horticultural feature [202], similar to those observed in Trench 1 (Figure 3, Plates 9 and 10).

Trench 3

Length (m):	15.00	Width (m):	3.10		Maximum Depth (m):	1.10	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at Northeast End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.38	Level at Southwest End of Trench (mOD)			Top	22.47
			Base	21.71				Base	21.73
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
	Layer	Tarmac surface.	15.00+	3.10+	0.08				
	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand mixed levelling layer.	4.60+	3.10+	0.60				
	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) slightly clay sand natural.	15.00+	3.10+	-				
301	Cut	Posthole.	0.66	0.44	0.32				
302	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silty sand posthole fill. Contained pottery dated late 16th –17 th C.	0.66	0.44	0.32				
303	Structure	Series of red brick walls.	4.50	3.10	0.54				
304	Structure	Concrete wall foundation.	1.00+	-	0.10				
305	Fill	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) silty sand fill of wall trench.	-	0.10	0.62				
306	Cut	Cut for wall trench.	-	0.10	0.62				
307	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty sand build up layer.	0.40+	-	0.27				
308	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand build up layer.	0.42+	-	0.15				
309	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silt build up layer.	0.45+	-	0.10				
310	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand levelling layer	1.50+	-	0.25				

311	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy clay build up layer.	1.55+	-	0.22
312	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sand and mixed rubble infill.	3.10+	2.20+	-

2.13 Trench 3 was located at the east end of the site in the area of the new garage block (Figure 2, Plate 11). Posthole [301] (Figure 3, Plate 12) was observed at the northeast end in an area of slightly higher ground. Pottery sherds from 1 vessel, dating to the early post-medieval period, were collected from its fill. A series of walls were observed at the southwest end of the trench (Figure 3, Plates 13 and 14). These align with the existing barn and possibly represent the remains of an extension to this structure. A number of make-up layers were observed beneath this and the natural geology appears to have been reduced in this area.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Concordance

	Pottery		CBM		Brick		An bone		Shell		Fe object		Stone		Flint		Glass		Clay pipe		Coal/Charcoal	
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
102							1	20							3	25						
108	3	3	7	145					1	2	2	20			5	85			5	15	4	4
113	1	2																				
117			1	2																		
119			2	230													1	1				
121																			1	2		
123																			1	2		
201	1	14											2	1195								
203	1	2	1	8							1	5										
302	7	120	1	30	8	760							1	185								
303					1	3395																
Total	13	141	12	415	9	3455	1	20	1	2	3	25	3	1380	8	110	1	1	7	19	4	4

The Pottery

2.14 A total of 13 sherds of pottery, weighing 141g, has been recovered from the site. Contexts (108), (113) and (203) all contained very small and abraded pieces of pottery that date from the mid/late 19th to early/mid 20th century AD.

2.15 The single body sherd from dump layer (201), which weighs 14g, displays very little abrasion and is hand made. It is tempered with quartz sand and frequent, but ill-sorted, shell and equates to Bedfordshire fabric A05. The sherd is likely to date from the 8th to 9th/10th century AD and may have been imported onto the site in the modern period.

2.16 The 7 body sherds from context (302) (Bedfordshire fabric P02), all belong to the same vessel and are dated from the very late medieval to early post-medieval period (c. AD1550/1600 to 1700).

Recommendations

2.17 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

CBM

2.18 Twelve pieces of CBM, weighing 415g, were recovered from five stratified contexts. These mostly consist of abraded tile fragments, although two pieces from fill (108) may be brick. Two

identifiable tile pieces are noted in context (119), and date to the post-medieval period (18th to 19th century AD). However, the single abraded example from context (302) is earlier, and is certainly contemporary with the pottery from the same fill.

Recommendations

2.19 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Brick

2.20 A total of 9 brick fragments, weighing 3455g, was recovered from two stratified contexts. The contents of fill (302) are all quite fragmented, however basic analysis of the fabrics indicates that at least two are contemporary with the pottery. The sample brick taken from wall [303] is not frogged, and its general appearance suggests a date range of early/mid to late 19th century AD.

Recommendations

2.21 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Animal Bone

2.22 A single piece of animal bone, weighing 20g, was recovered from context (102). This represents the remains of a long bone from an unidentified mid-size mammal.

Recommendations

2.23 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Shell

2.24 A single piece of burnt oyster shell, weighing 2g, was recovered from context (108).

Recommendations

2.25 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Fe Objects

2.26 A total of 3 iron objects, weighing 25g, was recovered from contexts (108) and (203). They all appear to be the remains of nails, and those recovered from context (108) were considerably more corroded.

Recommendations

2.27 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Stone

2.28 Three pieces of sandstone, weighing 1380g, were recovered from contexts (201) and (302). These remains may have been shaped and as such could have been used in a garden wall or similar feature.

Recommendations

2.29 Due to the small size and abraded nature of the material no further work is proposed on the assemblage at this time.

Flint

2.30 A total of 8 pieces of flint, weighing 110g, was recovered from two stratified contexts. Five were collected from (108), including two which appear to have been burnt, and a possible struck flake. Three were recovered from (102) of which one may be a struck flake.

Recommendations

2.31 Due to the small size and residual nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed at this time.

Glass

2.32 A single piece of modern glass, weighing 1g, was recovered from context (119).

Recommendations

2.33 Due to the modern date and small size of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

Clay pipe

2.34 Seven pieces of clay pipe, weighing 19g, were recovered from contexts (108), (121) and (123). These represent white pipe stems of a post-medieval date.

Recommendations

2.35 Due to the small size and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

Coal/charcoal

2.36 Four very small pieces of coal/charcoal, weighing 4g, were recovered from (108).

Recommendations

2.37 Due to the small size and undiagnostic nature of the assemblage no further work is proposed on this material.

3. Discussion

Archaeological and historical background

3.1 The Rose and Crown public house (HER 16453) was built in the 19th century on the eastern side of London Road (also known as the Great North Road) presumably to take advantage of the traffic along the road. It lies at the southern end of the former hamlet of Girtford (HER 17130) which developed at the junction of the Great North Road and the road to St Neots. The manor of Girtford is known from the early 13th century, at which time it belonged to Cauldwell Priory in Bedford (Page 1908). No evidence for its origins has, so far, been discovered and it is possible that the hamlet may date to the late Saxon or early medieval periods.

3.2 The presence of the Great North Road (now the A1) which runs from London to Edinburgh, is likely to have encouraged settlement in the area. The road is likely to have Roman, or even pre-Roman origins, and has remained in use into the modern period.

3.3 To the east of Girtford is the medieval town of Sandy (HER 17131) and a clear division was originally evident between these two settlements. The town has subsequently expanded in all directions, encompassing its adjoining hamlets.

3.4 The Roman small town at Sandy lies approximately 1.3km to the south-east, on the east side of the river and at a break in the Greensand Ridge. This appears to have been an important strategic point in the pre-Roman period, as demonstrated by the three Iron Age hillforts overlooking the site (Albion Archaeology 2003, p.8). The exact limits of the town have not been established, but the core of the known area lies to the south-east of the modern town and comprises the present Municipal Cemetery, Chesterfield to the south and part of the railway station and former marshalling yard to the north-west (ibid). Archaeological investigations within the known limits of the Roman town have uncovered evidence to show that it was occupied from the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD (ibid, pp.11-13).

3.5 No evidence has, so far, been identified that the Roman town continued to be occupied into the Saxon period. It appears that the Roman buildings fell out of use by the 5th century (Albion Archaeology 2003, p.26). However, the finding of thirteen cinerary urns, of 5th and 6th century date, at the present railway bridge (HER 432 and 9821) does attest to a Saxon presence in this area. The occurrence of Roman and Saxon burials in close proximity to each other suggests some continuity (ibid). Little evidence for the mid Saxon period has been identified in the area of the Roman settlement and by the late Saxon period it was apparently based mainly on the west bank of the Ivel, roughly in the area of the present parish church (ibid).

3.6 A visit was made to the Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) on 24 September 2009 in order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the proposed investigation. This revealed evidence for activity dating from the prehistoric period onwards within a 1km radius of the site.

- Aerial photographs have revealed evidence for prehistoric activity within 1km of the study area, including cropmarks of a prehistoric rectilinear enclosure to the north-west of Bridge Farm, approximately 600m to the south-west (HER 17125); cropmarks of a possible prehistoric enclosure to the east of Mogerhanger, approximately 900m to the north-west (HER 1644) and cropmarks of a Bronze Age ring ditch to the north of Hatch, approximately 1km to the south-west (HER 15093).

- Artefacts indicating late Iron Age activity have been recovered from the vicinity of the study area, including an Iron Age coin, recovered at Girtford Bridge, approximately 300m to the south-west (HER 439) and a Celtic coin from 57 Cambridge Road, approximately 1km to the east (HER 16033). The numbers of Iron Age coins, mostly from the reign of Cunobelinus, found at Sandy have led to suggestions that it was the site of a tribal mint (Albion Archaeology 2003, p.19).
- The Roman town was well served by a number of roads, several of which ran close to the present site, including a road from Bedford to Cockayne Hatley and onto Wimpole (HER 738; Viatores no.224) 300m to the south-west, which appears to be preserved in the modern road network at Sandy; the Sandy - Podington Road, 500m to the north-east (HER 728); a north-west to south-east aligned road (HER 10803/11312; Viatores no.225) which possibly represents the line of the present High Street, though its validity has been subsequently questioned (Albion Archaeology 2003, p.10); and the remains of a road to the south-west of Girtford Bridge, approximately 900m to the south-west, which survives as straight double ditched cropmarks heading west from Sandy towards Cardington (HER 11984).
- Other evidence for Roman activity within 1km of the study area includes a number of finds of artefacts, including pottery sherds, coins and toilet implements, as well as human bones, found on the north-eastern side of the modern town approximately 800m to the north-east (HER 6612). It has been suggested that this may represent a small rural farmstead to the north of the main town (Simco 1984, p.116). A human skeleton, of possible Roman date, was uncovered during the excavation of foundation trenches at 13 The Avenue, approximately 300m to the south-east (HER 16116); a 1st or 2nd century coin, possibly a dupondius of Trajan, found near Girtford Bridge, approximately 300m to the south-west (HER 14815); and Roman pottery from All Saints Churchyard, approximately 300m to the north (HER 11310).
- Little evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area. An undated earthwork at Sandye Place (HER 3033) approximately 700m to the south-east, is marked as a 'Danish Camp' on the 1901 OS map. It may represent an early manorial site, though there is no evidence for this interpretation. St Swithun's Church (HER 5396) provides evidence for Sandy's origins. It is first mentioned in 1240, although the current building dates mostly to the 14th and 15th centuries.
- A great deal of evidence exists for the post-medieval and modern expansion of the town, mainly in the form of buildings. Sandye Place, an 18th century house (HER 440) and its associated grounds (HER 9437), lie approximately 700m to the south-east. Industrial remains include a clay pit and brick and tile works to the south of Bedford Road, approximately 550m to the south-east, which were in operation between 1830 and 1914 (HER 3026). In addition, a field named Burnt Ground (HER 13727) is recorded in Girtford, approximately 500m to the north, on a post-enclosure map of Sandy. This indicates either an area of cleared and burnt woodland or the site of a brick kiln.
- Remains dating from the Second World War in the vicinity consist of an air raid shelter (HER 17979) at 35 St Neots Road, approximately 300m to the north-east; a tank trap on Girtford bridge (HER 17975), approximately 400m to the south-west; and a POW camp (HER 17980) on London Road, approximately 400m to the north, which housed Italian prisoners.
- Cropmarks of unknown date have also been identified in the vicinity of the study area. These include those to the north of Brook End, 900m to the south-west (HER 15094); to the north

(HER 13718) and north-west of Beeston, 800m to the south (HER 13731); in Girtford, 400m to the north (HER 13717); at Hamlet End, 600m to the north-west (HER 13730); at Mogerhanger, 900m to the north-west (HER 1644).

Research Aims

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

3.8 A number of additional site specific research aims were also identified on the basis of the known archaeology in the immediate vicinity. The present site lies within the medieval hamlet of Girtford, and next to the Great North Road. On this basis it was considered that the project could provide an opportunity to investigate further the development of both the hamlet and the road, as well as their relationship to the Roman and medieval settlements at Sandy. The site had the potential to contribute to a number of research topics highlighted in the published local research agenda (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al 2007; and Medlycott & Brown 2008), and this potential has been reconsidered in the context of the collected evidence:

- The origins and development of the settlement at Girtford.
 - A single sherd of late Saxon pottery was recovered from layer (201) in Trench 2. Although this is likely to have been imported on to the site, the nature of the layer suggests that it was not brought in from a great distance and indicates activity of this date in the vicinity.
 - Pit [301] at the northeastern end of Trench 3, contained pottery sherds, brick and tile fragments of 16th/17th century date and may represent a domestic rubbish pit relating to a late medieval or early post-medieval property fronting the Great North Road.
 - No clear dating evidence was recovered from Ditch [101] at the eastern end of Trench 1. However it follows the alignment of Church Street and the later features appear to respect the feature, suggesting that it is medieval or post-medieval in date and represents the eastern boundary to the plot. A possible prehistoric flint flake was recovered from its fill, but this is likely to be residual.
- The origins and development of the Great North Road.
 - No clear evidence for this was identified during the present project.
- The relationship of Girtford to the Roman town at Sandy.
 - No evidence for Roman activity was encountered on the site.
- The location and extent of outlying Roman occupation and activity.
 - No evidence for Roman activity was encountered on the site.
- The network of Roman roads leading to and from Sandy.
 - No evidence for features that might be associated with Roman roads was encountered during the present project.
- The Roman – Saxon transition period.
 - No evidence for features, deposits or finds of this period were encountered during the present project.

- The Saxon – medieval transition period.
 - A single sherd of pottery, dated to the 8th-10th century AD, was recovered from layer (201) in Trench 2. Although the layer is likely to have been imported on to the site its nature suggests that it was not transported a great distance, indicating late Saxon activity in the vicinity.
- Medieval settlement characterisation and diversity.
 - No features relating to early medieval settlement were encountered during the present project. However, a single pit, cut [301] in Trench 3, contained pottery and ceramic building material of early post-medieval date and probably relates to a late medieval / early post-medieval property fronting the Great North Road.

3.9 The majority of the features encountered on the site dated to the post-medieval period. Evidence for a series of garden and possible boundary features was encountered in Trenches 1 and 2, in the eastern half of the site, including a number of shallow linear features, cuts [116], [112], [122], [124] and [202]. These are likely to represent evidence for modern horticultural activity.

3.10 Two postholes were also observed in Trench 1, cuts [118] and [120]. These are contemporary with the other post-medieval features and possibly represent different phases of an internal fence.

3.11 The garden also contained a pond, cut [103], which was recorded at the eastern end of Trench 1. This contained a number of fills, several of which included organic material. Pottery of 19th and 20th century date was recovered from its fills.

3.12 A series of brick walls were encountered at the southwestern end of Trench 3, structure [303]. These probably represent the original southwestern end of the 19th barn that currently stands in the southwestern corner of the site. Late 19th century OS maps show that it originally extended further to the southwest. It seems likely that construction of these features will have removed any earlier archaeological remains from this area, as a pit containing very late medieval/early post-medieval pottery was encountered at a higher level to the northeast.

3.13 An undated ditch, cut [101], was encountered at the eastern end of Trench 1. This was aligned with the existing site limit and appeared to curve slightly to follow the course of Church Street to the east. A possible prehistoric flint flake was the only dateable artefact recovered from the fill of this feature, though it is likely that this is residual in a later feature. Nevertheless, its presence indicates prehistoric activity in the vicinity. A second possible prehistoric flint flake was recovered from fill (108) in pond [103].

Conclusions

3.14 The trial trenches represent a 10% sample of the development site by area. This was considered appropriate to meet the aims of the evaluation, and assess the risk that development of the site would encounter archaeological remains of significance. The investigation demonstrated that the west end of the site had previously been reduced and that the existing barn originally extended to the western site limit.

3.15 The stratigraphy across the rest of the site was largely consistent. The presence of modern plastic in the subsoil suggests that this material is a modern import, probably used to build up the site and create a garden area. A concentration of probable horticultural features was observed in the eastern half, indicating that this area has been heavily disturbed during the post-medieval period.

3.16 The current investigation has demonstrated slight evidence for medieval and earlier activity on, and in the vicinity of, the present site. However, it seems that the site has been heavily disturbed during the post-medieval period by construction of the existing buildings and its use as a garden, possibly largely given over to the cultivation of onions. A significant amount of building up has evidently taken place across the site during the post-medieval and modern periods and it appears likely that this was preceded by some degree of terracing in the southwestern corner. Overall the risk that the proposed development will disturb post-medieval remains should be considered *High*, while the risk for remains of medieval date is *Moderate* to *Low* and the risk for remains predating the medieval period is *Low*. In the context of the research aims for the project, the significance of the post-medieval remains may be considered to be *Low*.

Confidence Rating

3.17 In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

Bibliography

Albion Archaeology 2003 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire. The Roman Town of Sandy: Archaeological Assessment*. Bedfordshire County Council & English Heritage

Archaeology Data Service : <http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>

BCC 2003 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: The Roman Town of Sandy*. Bedfordshire County Council

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (EH)

Glazebrook, J. 1997, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology

Gurney, D. et al, 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)

Heritage Gateway: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. (IfA)

Medlycott, M. & Brown, N. 2008 *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*. ALGAO East of England

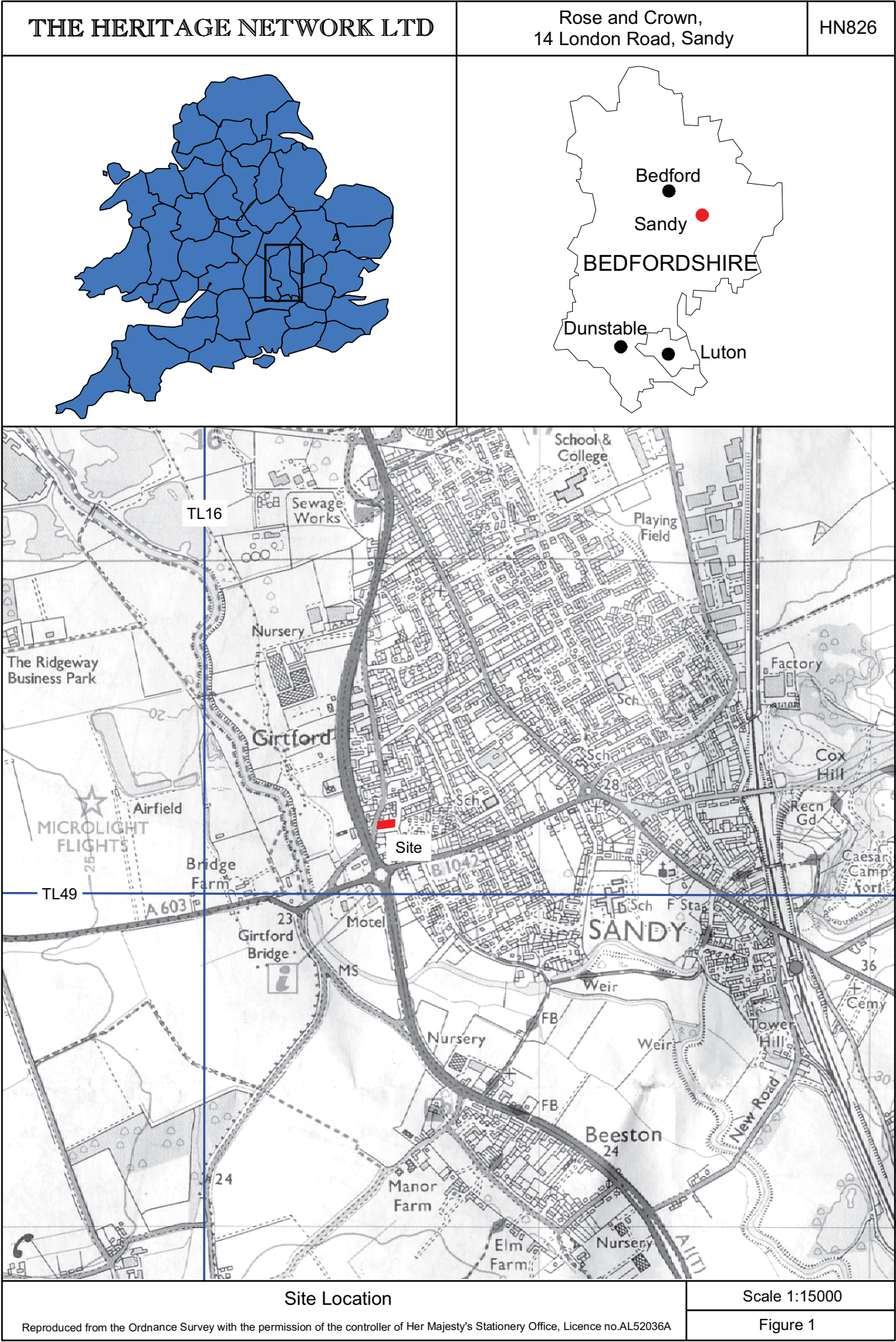
Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P. 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9

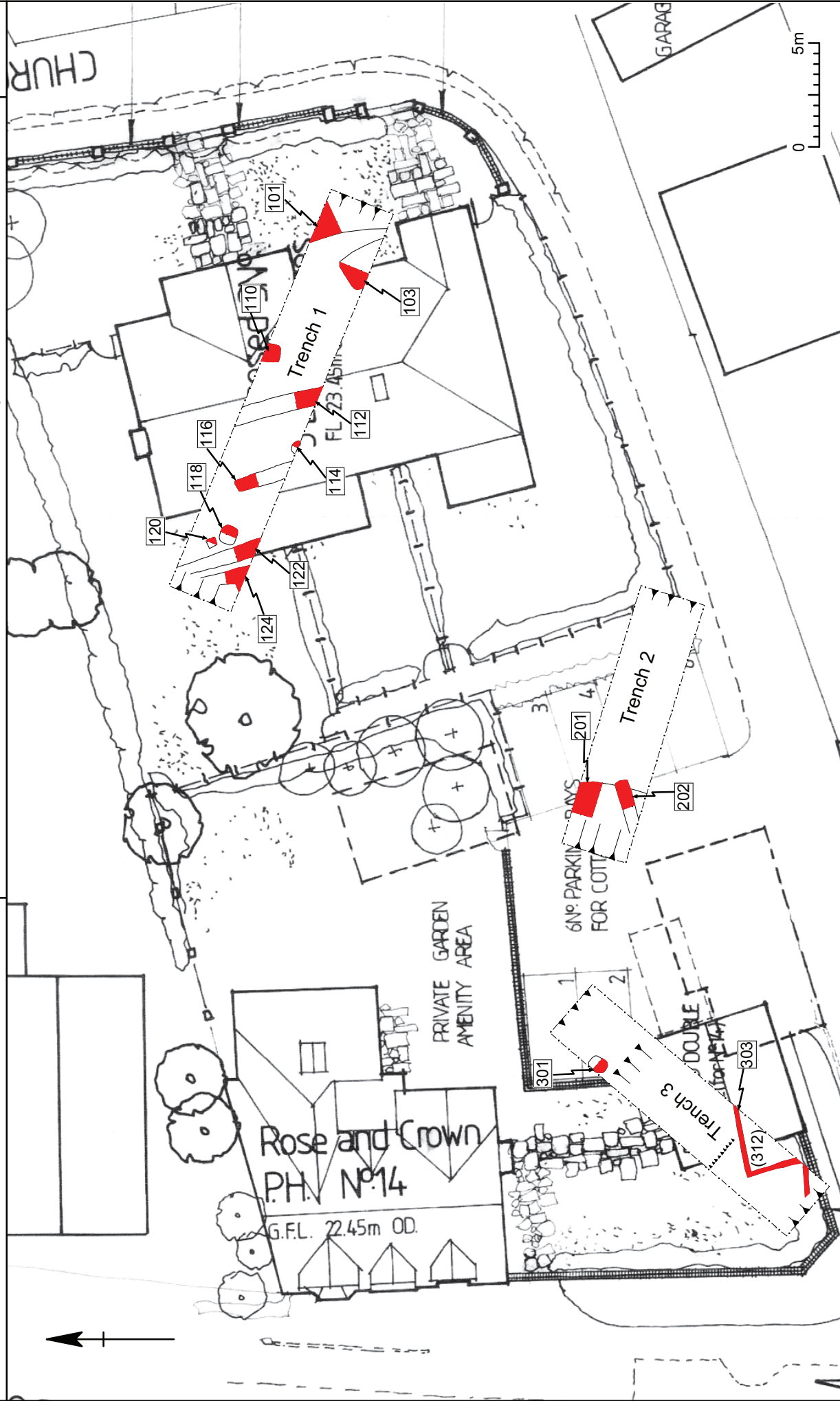
Simco, A. 1984 *Survey of Bedfordshire: The Roman Period*. Bedford: Bedfordshire County Council & Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Victoria County History: ‘Parishes: Sandy with Girtford’, *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 2* (1908), pp.242-246. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk> Date accessed: 03 October 2009

4. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Site Layout
Figure 3	Section drawings
Plate 1	Trench 1, looking northwest
Plate 2	Ditch [101], looking northeast
Plate 3	Pit [103], looking southwest
Plate 4	Pit [114], looking southwest
Plate 5	Linear [116], looking south
Plate 6	Posthole [118], looking northwest
Plate 7	Posthole [120], looking northwest
Plate 8	Trench 2, looking southeast
Plate 9	Layer (201), looking northeast
Plate 10	Linear [202], looking southwest
Plate 11	Trench 3, looking northeast
Plate 12	Posthole [301], looking northeast
Plate 13	Wall [303], looking east
Plate 14	Wall [303], looking south





Site layout



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking northwest



Plate 2: Ditch [101], looking northeast



Plate 3: Pit [103], looking southwest



Plate 4: Pit [114], looking southwest



Plate 5: Linear [116], looking south



Plate 6: Posthole [118], looking northwest



Plate 7: Posthole [120], looking northwest



Plate 8: Trench 2, looking southeast



Plate 9: Layer (201), looking northeast



Plate 10: Linear [202], looking southwest



Plate 11: Trench 3, looking northeast



Plate 12: Posthole [301], looking northeast



Plate 13: Wall [303], looking east



Plate 14: Wall [303], looking south

Appendix

OASIS Data Record

OASIS ID: heritage1-64684

Project details

Project name	Sandy, Rose and Crown, 14 London Road
Short description of the project	<p>In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to develop land at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Costdeal Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.</p> <p>Three trial trenches were opened across the proposed development area. The investigation showed that the west end of the site has been reduced to allow the construction of a barn in the southwestern corner, which still survives in part. A series of walls were encountered, representing the original western end of this structure. The natural geology rose to the east of the site, indicating that the whole plot has not been completely reduced. A concentration of garden features were observed in the eastern half of the site, the majority possibly relating to onion cultivation, along with a possible fence line and a possible pond. An undated ditch at the eastern end may be earlier and relate to an original site boundary. The depth of overburden at this end of the site demonstrates that this area was built up during the modern period.</p>
Project dates	Start: 27-10-2009 End: 30-10-2009
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HN826 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM2009.62 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	LINEAR Post Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE None
Significant Finds	SHELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FE OBJECTS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STONE None
Significant Finds	FLINT None
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COAL/CHARCOAL None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE SANDY Rose and Crown, 14 London Road
Postcode	SG19 1EX
Study area	1500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1654 4920 52.1283829549 -0.297316549864 52 07 42 N 000 17 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 22.38m Max: 22.89m

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	Mark Winter
Type of sponsor	Developer
Name of sponsor	Costdeal Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museums
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at The Rose and Crown, 14 London Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Winter, M
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 565
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	The Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 15 pages, 3 figures, 14 plates.