
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED EXTENSION,
BEECHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL,
LINDEN ROAD, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION,
BUILDING RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION**

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NGR: TL 0530 2362	Report No. 3437
District: Luton	Site Code: AS 1257
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3658
Signed:	Date: January 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Proposed Extension, Beechwood School, Linden Road, Luton, Bedfordshire</i>	
<p><i>In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological observation and investigation, building recording, analysis and publication at Beechwood Primary School in Luton. The programme was commissioned in order to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of a children's centre at the school.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological investigation and programme of historic building recording revealed a small air raid shelter which is one of a number of similar structures in the grounds of the school. The complex was built to protect people during the Second World War as part of the countrywide provision of air raid shelters for schools. One of the many sets of guidelines issued by the government for the safety of the population included 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools' which covered structural requirements for air raid shelters, along with internal fixtures and fittings. The shelter comprises a simple E-shaped structure with a central entrance and flanking tunnels. Little remains internally, and all fixtures and fittings are lost. However, traces survive for many of the features noted in 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools', such as benches lining the walls, drainage and protection in the event of a gas attack. The evidence suggests a series of typical features including benches lining both walls of the tunnels and partitioned areas for storage or housing WCs. Frames for two staggered doorways lie at the entrance, retaining fragments of what is likely the gas curtains used to cover the apertures. Despite the almost complete loss of fixtures and fittings, enough remains to reveal the outline of a typical World War II air raid shelter.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>20th – 30th November 2009 and 5th, 6th and 14th January 2010</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
		<i>N</i>	
P. number		<i>3658</i>	Site code
			<i>AS 1257</i>
Type of project		<i>Excavation, watching brief and building recording</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Green/ Playing Field</i>	
Planned development		<i>New Childrens' Centre building</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>WWII air raid shelter</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Luton</i>
			<i>Leagrave</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Bedfordshire and Luton HER</i>	
Location of finds/Curating museum:		<i>Luton Museum - Accession Number: LUTNM2009.183</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>LU4 9RD</i>	
Area of site			
NGR		<i>TL 0530 2362</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c. 120m</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>CBC</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Zbigniew Pozorski/ Tansy Collins</i>	
Funded by		<i>Commissioned by Millbridge Group Plc on behalf of Luton Borough Council</i>	
Full title		<i>Proposed Extension, Beechwood School, Linden Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Building Recording, Analysis and Publication.</i>	
Authors		<i>Collins, T. Pozorski, Z.</i>	
Report no.		<i>3437</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>January 2010</i>	

PROPOSED EXTENSION, BEECHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, LINDEN ROAD, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, BUILDING RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological observation and investigation, building recording, analysis and publication at Beechwood Primary School in Luton. The programme was commissioned in order to comply with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a children's centre at the school.

The archaeological investigation and programme of historic building recording revealed a small air raid shelter which is one of a number of similar structures in the grounds of the school. The complex was built to protect people during the Second World War as part of the countrywide provision of air raid shelters for schools. One of the many sets of guidelines issued by the government for the safety of the population included 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools' which covered structural requirements for air raid shelters, along with internal fixtures and fittings.

The shelter comprises a simple E-shaped structure with a central entrance and flanking tunnels. Little remains internally, and all fixtures and fittings are lost. However, traces survive for many of the features noted in 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools', such as benches lining the walls, drainage and protection in the event of a gas attack. The evidence suggests a series of typical features including benches lining both walls of the tunnels and partitioned areas for storage or housing WCs. Frames for two staggered doorways lie at the entrance, retaining fragments of what is likely the gas curtains used to cover the apertures. Despite the almost complete loss of fixtures and fittings, enough remains to reveal the outline of a typical World War II air raid shelter.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological observation, investigation, building recording, analysis and publication at Beechwood School, Linden Road, Luton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 0530 2362; Figs. 1 & 2). The programme was commissioned by Millbridge Group Plc on behalf of Luton Borough Council, in order to comply with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of single-storey extension to the school comprising a children's centre (Luton Borough Council Planning Ref. 09/00202/REG3).

1.2 The programme was undertaken in accordance with a brief (dated 26/10/2009) issued by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC, advisors to Luton Borough Council) and a revised specification prepared by AS (dated 13/11/2009) and approved by CBC. The project conformed to the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of conduct and standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (revised 2001), as well as the document *Standards for field archaeology in the east of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003). It also adhered to the IfA *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2001) and the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2006).

1.3 The programme aimed to identify and record any features of interest that were exposed prior to and during the groundworks phase of the proposed development. It was important to establish the date, nature and extent of activity within the site and relationship of any remains identified to the surrounding contemporary landscapes. Where appropriate it was required to record the air raid structure to standards set by English Heritage.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains *in situ*. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies on the south-eastern side of Linden Road to the north-west of Luton town centre in the suburb of Leagrave. It comprises the buildings of Beechwood Primary School, hardstandings and the playing fields. The school is surrounded by residential properties of the suburb.

2.2 The area of investigation is located in the north-western part of the complex and comprises a square area of green surrounded by a tarmac access road and footpath. This area is bounded by school buildings to the north-east and south-east and by school fencing on remaining sides.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies on the Chiltern ridge and is located south-west of the River Lea. It lies at a height of c. 120m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the area surrounding the settlement of Luton comprises the Cretaceous Chalk of the Chiltern Hills. This chalk foundation beneath the Chiltern Hills forms part of the chalk ridge, including Salisbury Plain, the North and South Downs, crossing southern England in a south-westerly to north-easterly direction. At higher elevations of the Chiltern Hills, deposits of clay with flints can be found, whilst brick earths formed by periglacial action and weathered chalk are found elsewhere. To the north-west of the Chilterns, close to the site, is a steep chalk scarp, whilst to the south-east of the hills is a substantial dip in slope (Branigan 1994).

3.3 Luton itself is situated on alluvial deposits located between valley gravels to both the east and west. The settlement is on an undulating, almost fan-shaped wedge of gravel situated the northern end of the Lea gap through the Chiltern Hills (Albion Archaeology 2003). Such lower areas of the Chilterns comprise glacial sands and gravels that are often exploited for industrial-scale gravel extraction.

3.4 The soils in the area surrounding the settlement of Luton belong to the Batcombe Association, and which are characterised by plateau drift and clay soils with flints (SSEW 1983). Soils of the Batcombe Association are described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Other soils of the same association include some well drained clayey soils over chalk. All such soils of the Batcombe Association are described as variably flinty (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies just to the east of the medieval core of Leagrave (HER 16990), on the south eastern side of Linden Road. It is clear from historic Ordnance Survey Maps (Figs. 3-6) that the area was only developed after 1901 and before 1924. Archaeological remains in the area have been limited, the main centre of prehistoric activity is located c. 800m to the north east of the site at Leagrave Marsh, where extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement were uncovered during the construction of the housing estate during the 1950s (HER 167). The site is located beside the crossing point where the Icknield Way forded the river Lea and featured the remains of buildings on timber piles, in what had been marshy ground, and traces of log platforms forming 'islands'. Pottery dated the site to c. 200BC – 80AD. Other

prehistoric remains in the area are restricted to chance findspots, and provide little detailed information about the area (HER 17759, HER 17762, HER 2856).

4.2 The Icknield Way (HER 353) extends to the south of the site, and is evident from many of the modern road names, including Roman Road directly south of the site. To the north, in a field called Burnt Close a Roman kiln was uncovered in 1882, complete with kiln furniture, prepared clay and broken pottery (HER 166). Other Roman finds in the area have been restricted to chance findspots and have included finds of a bronze coin of Constantine I (HER 15277), a Roman coin of Urbs Roma type (HER 1939), a glass necklace bead (HER 16233), a bronze coin of Allectus (HER 11298, and a collection of 3rd – 4th century AD Roman coins (HER 3664).

4.3 Anglo-Saxon remains in the area comprise two Anglo-Saxon contracted inhumations, uncovered in 1905, and complete with grave goods of brooches, a pendant, a decorative pin, a stylus and part of an ivory armlet (HER 823). Additionally an Anglo-Saxon spearhead dating to the 5th-8th centuries AD was found in 1923 to the north east of the site (HER 199).

4.4 During World War II, the Vauxhall Factory built Churchill Tanks and inevitably causing the area to be targeted by the German air force. As a result of this a number of related structures are recorded in the historic environment record. These include the site of a spigot mortar emplacement (HER 17933), and a pillbox and anti-tank obstacle (HER 17931, HER 17932) located at the junction of Stoneygate Road and Dunstable Road. In addition, a nearby air raid shelter, now demolished, has been recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER 18018).

4.5 In the two years prior to the official outbreak of World War II a programme for the protection of the civil population was developed after the Air Raid Precautions Act in 1937 (Archaeo-Environment. 2003). This included the issue of gas-masks, the setting up of first aid posts and the production of booklets including advice concerning the forthcoming war. In September 1939 a programme of evacuation saw the movement of children from large cities to the relative safety of the countryside with only a few schools remaining open for those who remained (*Ibid.* 2003).

4.6 Despite continued warnings from the government, the absence of the expected air raids began to make people wonder if the evacuation had been unnecessary, and slowly children began to filter back to their homes (Website 1). With the return of nearly half of the evacuated school children by January 1940 there also came problems; children from poorer families no longer received the free school meals, milk and the medical attention that was so vital to their lives. The period also saw an increase in minor crime. The governments response was to reopen schools but only on the condition that they be given adequate air raid provision constructed to a distinct set of guidelines titled 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools' (Website 1). The latter covered aspects including the location of the shelters (they had to be a certain distance from the school and each other), and the internal layout within the

shelter, for example, each child had to have at least 28" (0.71m) of space on a bench. Other specifications made provision for drainage and also gas attacks with the addition of a gas curtain at the entrances (Archaeo-Environment. 2003).

4.7 Within the school grounds, at least three air raid shelters are known to be present, with approximate locations shown on an undated plan held by the school. As the CBC brief notes, each shelter seems to have been formed of a series of trenches or tunnels, with tunnels set at right angles to a linking tunnel, although entrance points were unmarked. However, school staff report that the shelter to the north-west of the school building is believed to have had a previously-exposed entrance hatch and stairway. The structure affected by the current proposals forms an E-shaped plan, and the programme of current works has revealed elements previously unknown, such as the entrance, see below.

4.8 The structure lies under an area of grass. Contractors working for the school in 2009 removed some turf and overburden above the air raid shelter. This established approximate dimensions and revealed that at least one of the trenches had no roof, which in fact forms the entrance, see below. In October 2009, a site visit by CBC revealed the locations of the three arms of the shelter visible on the ground.

4.9 The principal project objective was to identify and record any further evidence for the air raid shelter, prior to development of the site. The approximate location of the air raid shelter was known, but any more information as to its construction or access points was unknown. Edgeworth (in Oake et al 2007, 136-8) notes that the principal source of the large number of WWII sites in the county is the database of the Defence of Britain Survey, though many of the various structures have been demolished, buried or in a ruinous state. Some unrecorded features are still being reported, and further recording of individual unrecorded sites is seen as a priority

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Topsoil was stripped from the air raid shelter in the area to be affected by the new build proposals for the new Children's Centre by the main contractor under the supervision of an archaeologist, to expose the remains of the structure. Further work, also by hand, included the removal of subsoil from the roofs of the two flanking tunnels, while the subsoil and backfill deposit were removed from locations above the shelter corridors and from within the entrance ramp. The remains were cleaned and planned and the site was visited by CBC. Following this, late 20th century chalk rubble infill, used to block the main ramped entrance to the shelter, was removed by hand by the main contractor. A modern brick wall, placed to block the main entrance at the base of the ramp, was breached in order to allow internal access to the structure and conclude the recording. The structure was then recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds.

5.2 The roof area of the north-west lateral tunnel was inaccessible during the initial phase of works, as this part of the site was in use as a temporary roadway. Once access became available to this area in January 2010, the remaining part of the structure was exposed by the removal of topsoil and subsoil, and the recording completed. The site was visited on the 5th, 6th and 14th January 2010 in order to carry out this work.

The building recording

5.3 The site was visited on the 23rd and 30th November 2009 in order to compile written descriptions of the structure and undertake the drawing and photographic survey work. The drawing work included the production of a plan and cross-sections of the air raid shelter, shown on Fig. 9. The site was revisited on the 14th January 2010 following the exposure of the north-west lateral tunnel arm to record additional information as to the extent and nature of this area of the shelter. This included additions to the written, drawn and photographic record.

5.4 The photography was conducted using medium format (4.5 x 6 cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This used a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 film. Where necessary, finer architectural detail was captured with 35mm black and white film using a Minolta Dynax 40 camera. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000d digital single lens reflex camera (10 megapixels), duplicating the black and white photography. Supplementary colour photography was carried out with a Minolta Dynax 40 camera and 35 mm Kodak elite slide film. External lighting conditions were good at the time of the survey, though lighting was used as required within the structure. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 9).

6 THE BUILDING

6.1 The air raid shelter is one of at least three apparently similar structures within the ground of the school. It is the simplest and smallest of the three, according to an undated plan, and lies to the west of the main school buildings in an area of open grass. The groundwork element of the project saw the removal of the topsoil covering the main area of the structure, as well as the removal of the chalk rubble infilling the entrance of the air raid shelter. A further phase of work in January 2010 comprised the removal of the material above the north-west lateral tunnel, in the area of the existing pathway/temporary roadway that was inaccessible at the time of the November 2009 survey.

6.2 The structure as a whole consists of three parallel subterranean ranges, aligned north-west to south-east, connected by a lateral tunnel at the north-west end to form an E-shaped range (Plate 1). The central range comprises the entrance to the shelter which is approached from a pathway

extending c. 13m to the south-east. The pathway no longer survives and only traces are visible, including hardcore rubble framed with timber, which can be seen below ground level.

6.3 The removal of the topsoil from the flanking tunnels reveals plain concrete flat-roofs, punctuated only by a square concrete upstand at the south-east end of each roof. These have vertical sides approximately 0.3m high which were formerly covered with horizontal softwood boarding although this has mostly decayed. Each has been later infilled and capped with concrete, presumably for safety. When in use, these would have served a double purpose; as an escape route in the event that the entrance collapsed or was blocked but also for ventilation within the tunnels. Removal of topsoil covering the lateral tunnel revealed a plain concrete flat roof continuing uninterrupted and in identical form from the flanking tunnels (Plate 2). The roof form where the entrance meets the lateral tunnel is also visible revealing a section of concrete flat roof as elsewhere. The roof of the lateral tunnel breaks to the north-west for a short length at either end, in line with the roofs of the flanking tunnels. These correspond to the full-height niches visible within, see below.

6.4 The entrance itself comprises a long ramp giving access to the below ground structure (Plate 3). This is constructed of pebbly concrete, ribbed to create a rough surface, while the walls are plain but of the same material. There is no roof, although traces of corrugated metal sheeting survive to the outer side of the walls probably indicating the entrance was roofed in this. On the north-east wall, near the top of the ramp, a tubular metal handrail protrudes from the wall and extends down to the lateral tunnel where it is set into the wall at this point. The handrail is set low, at an appropriate height for children.

6.5 The aperture at the base of the ramp gives access to the lateral tunnel from which the flanking ranges are reached, although here has been blocked with modern red brick and recently punched through to gain access to the interior. Beyond this the original doorways survive in part. Here two doorways are set approximately 1m apart (Plate 4), surviving as a timber lintel and jambs. There is no evidence that either held a door, and instead fragments of coarse material survive on the frame, presumably all that remains of gas curtains. A drain is set into the floor at this point to combat water flowing down the ramp.

6.6 Beyond this, the lateral tunnel extends north-east and south-west to the tunnel at each end. On the rear wall opposite the entrance is an information sign, printed by Gibbs, Bamforth & Co. Ltd (Plate 5). Much is now indecipherable although the general focus is on rules regarding the use of the air raid shelter. What is visible reads as follows, with xxx marking illegible text:

“xxx CHILDREN WHEN ATTENDING
SCHOOL AND AT OTHER TIMES MAY
BE xxx xxx xxx SHELTER

xxx

xxx

xxx building xxx or similar xxx
will be permitted in this shelter xxx 7am
and 9pm.

All such articles left in the shelter between
these times will be confiscated

No smoking is allowed and xxx xxx
liquor must not be brought into the xxx

Please help to maintain cleanliness and xxx
behaviour for the comfort of all users.

xxx ?SCOTT

Chief Constable

Air Raid Precautions Controller.”

6.7 The writing on an adjoining section is completely illegible. To the north-east on this wall, two faces have been outlined in chalk. These comprise rather unfriendly visages, with bared teeth and horns, although it cannot be discerned whether these are original or later in date.

6.8 The construction of the tunnel is typical, of concrete blocks creating a tunnel of rectangular profile with bevelled corners at floor and ceiling level. A series of truncated cast-iron fixtures protrude at regular intervals from the flanking walls, approximately 0.2m from floor level (Plate 6). These appear to be all that remains of the fittings for the benches which originally would have lined the walls.

6.9 At each end of the lateral tunnel is a full-height niche, recessed to the north-west where the remains of fixtures survive to hold timber pieces fixed to the wall (Plate 7). The configuration suggests either the outline of cupboards, or perhaps more likely partitions to house WCs. At this point, on the north-east side is the only evidence for electrical supply, and traces of some form of fixture survive on the wall, perhaps for a light.

6.10 The two flanking tunnels extend to the south-east in entirely like form with the truncated cast-iron fittings at low level for benches, which stop short of the end of each tunnel. At the end of each tunnel, further traces of partitions for cupboards, WCs or similar survive. Square apertures in the ceiling at this point correspond to the escape hatches noted from the exterior. A volume of debris is present at this point in both tunnels from an earlier collapse. No doors survive to the hatches and both have been capped.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds (the air raid shelter).

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Above the underground structure the area of development was topped with topsoil L1000, a brown, slightly greyish soft sandy silt. The topsoil measured 0.25-0.30m in thickness. Beyond the grassed area, outside the area of the proposed construction works, beyond the grass, both the access road and pathway were covered with tarmac.

8.2 Below L1000, a subsoil (L1001) was present. It was a light brown, friable sandy silt with gravel and CBM. Natural deposits were not encountered during the programme. The backfill deposit L1002 which was found infilling the entrance to the air raid shelter contained mostly chalk, likely the local natural geology extracted during earlier school alterations.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological investigation/ building recording revealed a small air raid shelter set within the grounds of Beechwood School. From an undated plan of similar structures in the grounds of the school, this clearly comprises the smallest element of a number of much larger shelters or tunnels. The complex was built to protect people during the Second World War as part of the countrywide provision of air raid shelters for schools. This was necessitated after almost half of the formerly-evacuated children returned home and needed to return to school, and air raids were being carried out during the day as opposed to at night (Archaeo-Environment. 2003). One of many sets of guidelines issued by the government for the safety of the population included 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools' which covered structural requirements for air raid shelters, along with internal fixtures and fittings (*Ibid.* 2003)

9.2 The shelter at Beechwood School comprises a simple E-shaped structure, with a long ramp forming the entrance to the lateral tunnel from which two flanking tunnels are reached. This layout was utilised so that if one tunnel was struck, the blast would not travel around the corners to the people sheltering elsewhere in the building. Similarly the hatches at the extremes of the flanking tunnels would have held ladders to allow people to escape in the event that the entrance collapsed or was blocked.

9.3 Little remains internally, and all fixtures and fittings are lost. However, traces survive for many of these features described in 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools', such as benches lining the walls, drainage and protection in the event of a gas attack. The evidence suggests a series of including benches

lining both walls of the tunnels, partitioned areas for storage or housing WCs. Frames for two staggered doorways survive at the entrance to the lateral tunnel, along with fragments of what is likely the gas curtains used to cover the apertures. The rules regulating activity within the shelter partially survives printed onto the concrete wall opposite the entrance including the prohibition of smoking and the possibility that possessions would be confiscated if left there during the day.

9.4 Despite the almost complete loss of fixtures and fittings, enough remains to reveal the outline of a typical World War II air raid shelter.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records with an inventory will be deposited, at the Luton Museum (Accession No. LUTNM2009.183). The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

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APPENDIX 1

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record.

HER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric (to AD 43)		
353	TL 0640 2345	Icknield Way, routeway believed to pre-date the Romano-British period
167	TL 0675 2422	Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Leagrave Marsh; excavations in the 1950s revealed the remains of buildings on timber piles in what had been marshy ground, and traces of log platforms forming "islands". The site was located beside the crossing point where the Icknield Way forded the River Lea. Pottery dates the site to c. 200BC – 80AD. Finds recovered included a Late Bronze Age cauldron with upstanding lugs and an inverted rim, decorated samian ware, parts of a number of Roman 'triple vases', and a number of late Iron Age and Romano-British coins. A skeleton was recovered beside the edge of a log platform but was understood as an accidental drowning not a deliberate inhumation.
17759	TL 0676 2433	Flint scatter dates to Neolithic and Bronze Age
17762	TL 0645 2441	Scatter of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery
166	TL 0615 2435	Field known as "Burnt Close"; in 1882 evidence of a Roman kiln was uncovered, including kiln furniture, prepared clay and broken pottery. Also, an unspecified number of urned cremations, 2 extended inhumations and a skull; some of these burials were thought to be Saxon. There were also two crouched burials which were thought to be Neolithic in date.
2856	TL 0581 2458	Palaeolithic implements and animal remains found in 1971.
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
353	TL 0640 2345	Icknield Way, routeway believed to pre-date the Romano-British period
3664	TL 0688 2381	Findspot – 3 rd -4 th century Roman coins
11298	TL 0708 2375	Bronze coin of Allectus found in Gardenia Avenue
16233	TL 07 24	Roman glass necklace bead recovered.

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15277	TL 0545 2365	Bronze coin of Constantine I (274-337 AD). Shows Sol standing and holding globe.
1939	TL 0679 2280	Roman coin of Urbs Roma type dating to 330-337 AD.
Anglo-Saxon (AD410- 1150)		
169	TL 0649 2382	Site of an Anglo-Saxon burial found in 1950s. Female buried with head to the east. Grave goods included a bone comb held together with iron pins and an iron knife.
199	TL 0719 2445	Anglo-Saxon spearhead dating to fifth to eighth century found at Waters Lane in 1923.
166	TL 0615 2435	Field known as “Burnt Close”; in 1882 evidence of a Roman kiln was uncovered, including kiln furniture, prepared clay and broken pottery. Also, an unspecified number of urned cremations, 2 extended inhumations and a skull; some of these burials were thought to be Saxon. There were also two crouched burials which were thought to be Neolithic in date.
823	TL 0575 2424	Two Anglo-Saxon burials found in 1905; contracted inhumations with grave goods including brooches, pendant, decorative pin, stylus, and part of an ivory armet.
171	TL 065 230	Anglo-Saxon burial found in 1940 at Beechwood Road. Buried with an iron knife as the only grave goods. Regarded as Saxon but with no evidence to securely date it.
Medieval (AD 1150 – 1500)		
16990	TL 0574	Medieval core of Leagrave

	2377	
Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1900)		
11871	TL 0585 2380	Site of demolished former Grade II listed cottage of 18 th century origins
12385	TL 0578 2367	Site of demolished 18 th century Public House –The Royal Oak Inn.
12362	TL 0711 2413	Site of tithe barn, now demolished.
2948	TL 0698 2261	Site of dyeing and bleaching works, for dyeing and bleaching straw plait, shown on 1901 Ordnance Survey map. Since demolished.
Modern (1900- present)		
7252	TL 0692 2367	Norton Road Primary School, built 1913.
18018	TL 0661 2415	World War II air raid shelter on Hirst Way, now demolished, discovered during work on car park outside no 54.
17933	TL 0609 2420	Site of World War II spigot mortar emplacement in Marsh road. Concrete structure, mainly below ground level with round structure in centre.
5392	TL 0565 2370	St Luke's Church, Leagrave; built in 1956; Grade II Listed. Designed by Seely and Paget, features an altar piece of a large painting of Christ by Norman Blarney. It is an unusually planned church with symmetry across its short axis and projecting two-storey wings which give the building a civic rather than ecclesiastical appearance.
17931	TL 0554 2277	Site of World War II pillbox, located at junction of Stoneygate Road and Dunstable Road.
17932	TL 0557 2273	World War II anti-tank obstacle, now demolished. Located to cover junction of Stoneygate Road and Dunstable Road.
10522	TL 0695 2347	10 Marsh Road; Mock timber-framed 1930's house with octagonal staircase turret above entrance porch.
Undated		
2953	TL 0671 2363	Chalk pit shown on 1901 Ordnance Survey map
2955	TL 0660 2379	Site of lime kiln and chalk pit shown on 1901 Ordnance Survey map
2954	TL 0625 2419	Site of gravel pit shown on 1842 tithe map and 1901 Ordnance Survey map.

APPENDIX 2

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Proposed Extension, Beechwood School, Linden Road, Luton, Bedfordshire
County: Beds	District: Luton
Village/Town: Luton	Parish: Leagrave
Planning application reference:	Planning Ref. 09/00202/REG3
Client name/address/tel:	Luton Borough Council
Nature of application:	Partial demolition
Present land use:	Redundant air raid shelter
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL 0530 2362
Site Code:	AS 1257
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Historic building recording
Date of work:	December 2009
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Luton Museum - Accession Number: LUTNM2009.183
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: - WWII
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In November 2009 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological observation and investigation, building recording, analysis and publication at Beechwood Primary School in Luton. The programme was commissioned in order to comply with a planning condition attached to the construction of a children's centre at the school.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological investigation along with the programme of historic building recording revealed a small air raid shelter which is one of a number of similar structures in the grounds of the school. The complex was built to protect people during the Second World War as part of the countrywide provision of air raid shelters for schools. One of many sets of guidelines issued by the government for the safety of the population included 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools' which covered structural requirements for air raid shelters, along with internal fixtures and fittings.</i></p> <p><i>The shelter comprises a simple E-shaped structure with a central entrance and flanking tunnels. Little remains internally, and all fixtures and fittings are lost. However, traces survive for many of these features noted in 'Air Raid Precautions in Schools', such as benches lining the walls, drainage and protection in the event of a gas attack. Evidence suggest a series of typical features including benches lining both walls of the tunnels, partitioned areas for storage or housing WCs. Frames for two staggered doorways lie at the entrance, and fragments of what is likely the gas curtains used to cover the apertures. Despite the almost complete loss of fixtures and fittings, enough remains to reveal the outline of a typical air raid shelter.</i></p>
Author of summary: T Collins	Date of Summary: 18.01.2010

APPENDIX 3

BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: Proposed Extension, Beechwood School, Linden Road, Luton					NGR: TL 0530 2362		
County: Bedfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: Luton Museum			
Accession Number: LUTNM2009.183							
Site Code: AS 1257				Project Number: 3658			
Date of Work: November/December 2009 and January 2010				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
26.10.09		Yes		13.11.09		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes (4 sheets A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
Drawn Plans & Sections: 3 sheets A3 drawing film 1 sheet A4 drawing film							
Architect's Drawings: 1 sheet A3 photocopy - annotated							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
3437		Historic building recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
2	120mm	5-8	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printout in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD.							