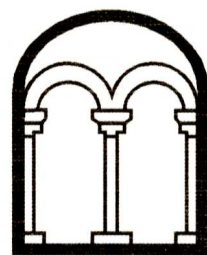


**7 MARQUIS BUSINESS CENTRE
ROYSTON ROAD
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING,
PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING**

Albion
archaeology



**7 MARQUIS BUSINESS CENTRE
ROYSTON ROAD
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING,
PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING**

Project: BAL2947

OASIS ref. albionar1-254677
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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Tori Guy	Drew Shotliff	Drew Shotliff

7th June 2019

Produced for:
Ashe Construction Ltd



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this document does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Duckworth and Kent Ltd on behalf of Ashe Construction Ltd and was carried out in consultation with Andy Instone (Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor).

The fieldwork and reporting were undertaken by Wes Keir (Project Manager), Ian Turner and Tori Guy (Project Officers), with illustrations by Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	07/06/2019	n/a

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
PDA	Permitted development area
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
HER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
HEA	Historic Environment Advisor (Hertfordshire County Council)
LPA	Local Planning Authority
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (16/00663/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council for a two-storey side extension of the current building and an extension to the existing car park at 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

As the works had the potential to impact on archaeological remains, Hertfordshire County Council's Historic Environment Advisor recommended that the works should be subject to archaeological monitoring, which took place between 8th November and 9th December 2016. The archaeological monitoring covered a retaining wall and two building wall foundations, along with eleven post pad foundations.

All observed works revealed a similar sequence of layers, comprising modern hardcore and levelling material derived from modern construction works. This directly overlay homogenous yellow-white chalk, all topsoil and subsoil having been previously removed.

Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits predating the 20th century.

The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report. It will be deposited with Hertford Museum (project code BAL2947). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. no albionar1-254677) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (16/00663/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council for a two-storey side extension of the current building and an extension to the existing car park at 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire, SG7 6XL.

Because of the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA) the Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) of the Hertfordshire County Council Natural, Historic and Built Environment Team advised that as part of the planning consent a provision for the archaeological monitoring and investigation, and subsequent analysis and reporting, of all groundworks associated with the proposed development should be made.

This was in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*.

Three conditions (nos 4, 5 and 6) were attached to the planning permission:

4. *No demolition/development shall take place/commence until an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of archaeological significance and research questions/ and:*
 - a. *The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording*
 - b. *The programme for post investigation assessment*
 - c. *Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*
 - d. *Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 - e. *Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*
 - f. *Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Reason: To safeguard the archaeological record.

5. *The demolition/development shall take place/commence in accordance with the programme of archaeological works set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 4.*

Reason: To safeguard the archaeological record.

6. *The development shall not be occupied/used until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation*



approved under condition 4 and the provision made for analysis and publication where appropriate.

Reason: To safeguard the archaeological record.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2016), approved by the HEA and the LPA.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Baldock is a small town in the north-east of Hertfordshire to the immediate east of the A1. The PDA lies at the north-eastern edge of Baldock between Royston Road and the railway line. Access to the site is from Royston Road. The Marquis Business Centre lies in an area of light industrial development with similar industrial units on either side. To the south of Royston Road lies the residential area of Yeomanry Drive. To the north of the railway line are agricultural fields and pasture.

Topographically, Baldock lies in an undulating landscape on the southern flanks of a chalk ridge that is a continuation of the Chiltern Hills to the south-west. Royston Road and the railway line lie in a small valley and the PDA lies on land falling gently towards the north at a height of *c.*70m OD. To the north of the railway line the ground rises again. The PDA is centred on grid reference TL 25102 34295.

The underlying solid geology predominantly consists of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation And New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – Chalk with no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey 2016).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Introduction

The PDA lies within Area of Archaeological Significance no 96, as identified in the Local Plan. The following sections gives a brief outline of the archaeological and historical background of the PDA and its surrounding area. Numbers given in brackets are numbers of heritage assets as listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Hertfordshire. For designated monuments the asset number as listed on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is given.

1.3.2 Early prehistoric (before 800 BC)

In the prehistoric period the undulating hilly landscape of north Hertfordshire was characterised by a large number of early prehistoric funerary monuments. These are usually located on elevated ground overlooking river valleys or lower ground. The burial monuments date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age and either survive as earthworks, in which case they are often scheduled, or as negative features in the ground, which are visible from the air as cropmarks and soilmarks forming ring ditches.



The south-facing slope to the north of the railway line accommodates the sites of 15 ring ditches. A Bronze Age barrow cemetery comprising 11 ring ditches was excavated on the line of the Baldock bypass to the east of the PDA. The location of the PDA made it unlikely that any early prehistoric evidence would be located there.

1.3.3 Iron Age, Roman and Saxon (800 BC–AD 1066)

The PDA had moderate to high potential to reveal evidence dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods as it lies to the immediate south of the Icknield Way, an ancient routeway from Wiltshire to East Anglia, which probably originated in the prehistoric period but was still in use and updated in the Roman period, and at the northern edge of the Roman settlement and its outlying cemeteries.

The Roman small town of Baldock is located at the crossing of the Icknield Way (4182) and another routeway (4190) on a north-south alignment which was the road between Roman Braughing and Baldock and remained in use as a highway until the medieval period. Settlement evidence (8) has been recorded at Baldock dating from the late Iron Age into the Roman and Saxon periods.

The core of the Roman small town lies on Walls Field, designated as a Scheduled Monument in 1985 (NHLE 1016305). However, archaeological investigations have demonstrated that settlement and burial evidence extends from the core northwards underneath Clothall Common and the Yeomanry Drive housing estate, southwards as far as London Road and north-eastwards as far as the Icknield Way (Thompson 2002).

Houses built in the late 5th century were found in the Grosvenor Road area (16007) and at Land south of Blackhorse Farm (6826) to the north of Baldock. This site, too, is now a scheduled monument (NHLE 1003548).

The PDA lies close to several Iron Age and Roman cemeteries revealed in Yeomanry Drive to the south of Royston Road (13180, 13181, 13184, 13185). The site at 'Royston Road' (13184), 88m to the south-west of the PDA is one of the largest of all the cemeteries found in this area and included 618 cremation burials and 99 inhumations with more burials likely lost to plough damage.

A late Iron Age ditch was excavated on the site of The Maltings, adjacent to the PDA in the west (9674). Finds on the site included animal bone and a late Iron Age fineware bowl in the primary silt, and a small number of abraded Roman sherds.

1.3.4 Medieval to post-medieval (1066–1900)

The medieval market town of Baldock was established by the Knights Templar in 1148. The medieval market place was laid out along the crossing of the earlier prehistoric/Roman roads with property plots extending at right angles from the main roads (Thompson 2002, fig. 4). The western end of Royston Road was part of the road pattern laid out in the medieval period and the eastern part of the road continues along the parish boundary between Bygrave and Baldock.



The PDA lies on the section of Royston Road which is a good distance outside the medieval and post-medieval core of Baldock and there are no medieval or post-medieval heritage assets recorded along this stretch of the road. The exception is the site of the Bygrave Maltings (5344), which used to lie adjacent to the PDA in the west and burnt down in 1992. The industrial site comprised two parallel maltings, the larger built between 1884 and 1898; the smaller built around the same time.

Industrial use of the area continued with the construction of modern commercial units along the northern side of Royston Road in the 20th century.

1.4 Project Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to make a full record of any archaeological remains impacted by the development, and to place them within their cultural and environmental setting. The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore to:

- monitor all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains; and
- investigate the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological deposits encountered within them.

The relevant archaeological research frameworks and agenda for the region are provided by *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex) (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The regional research framework states that the inter-relationships between towns and their hinterlands is a significant research aim, together with the identification and characterisation of pre- and post-Roman occupation, as well as the characterisation of agricultural field systems, around the town (Medlycott 2011, 47-48). In general, the distribution, density and dynamics of rural settlements in the Iron Age and Roman periods need further study (Medlycott 2011, 31). The specific aim of the archaeological fieldwork was therefore to:

- investigate whether Iron Age and Roman settlement and/or burial evidence were located on the PDA and to characterise its nature and relationship with contemporary sites and features;

The research objectives outlined in this section were not exclusive and were reviewed through the archaeological monitoring to ensure that they were still relevant.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological monitoring of the Marquis Business Centre was undertaken over five visits between 8th November 2016 and 9th December 2016. A full methodology can be found in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016).

Throughout the project the standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to:

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001)
ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003)
CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law ; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2nd edn, 2015)

2.2 Watching Brief

Any groundworks that had the potential to expose archaeological remains, i.e. excavation of building foundations and services, was included in the archaeological monitoring.

All archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion Archaeology staff and in accordance with Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* and Historic England guidelines.



3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 *Retaining Wall*

Along the south-west boundary of the PDA a foundation trench for the retaining wall was monitored (Figure 2). It was 25m long, 1m wide and c.0.85–c.1.8m deep. The trench section revealed numerous modern make-up layers, including large amounts of orange-brown type 1 gravel at the south-east end, measuring c.1.3m thick (Figure 3, Sample Section 1). Further make-up layers produced modern material, including concrete and glass fragments along with large fragments of brick wall. These layers were not recorded in detail and the finds discarded as they were associated with a number of services running through the PDA. Some of these layers may be related to the demolition of the nearby Maltings, although there was no firm evidence to demonstrate this.

3.2 *Foundation Trenches*

Two foundation trenches associated with the new extension were monitored as part of the works (Figure 2). An L-shaped foundation trench, adjacent to the retaining wall, was 20m long in total and c.0.9–1.2m deep. The NW-SE section of this foundation was very similar to that of the retaining wall, in that it only revealed modern make-up layers of type 1 gravel and modern hardcore. As with the retaining wall this material was associated with the services running through the PDA's boundaries. Conversely, the NE-SW section of the trench revealed natural chalk below c.0.1m of light grey modern overburden. There was no evidence of archaeological remains in this foundation trench.

A second foundation trench was located at the north-west end of the PDA (Figure 2); it was 7.5m long and c.0.85m deep. The sections revealed a 0.6m-thick modern make-up layer, comprising grey-brown gravel and hardcore, associated with modern services and ground-levelling for the existing hard standing. Below c.0.6m from ground level, natural chalk was encountered with no evidence of surviving archaeological remains.

3.3 *Post pads*

Eleven post pads were monitored during the archaeological investigation (Figure 2). Ten measured 1.25m x 1.25m and the eleventh measured 2m x 1.25m. None of the post pads contained evidence of archaeological remains, and all contained a similar sequence of layers. This comprised c.0.55m of grey-brown mixed demolition rubble and levelling material from the construction of the modern hard standing. Below this was natural chalk, which was excavated to c.1.1m below ground level (Figure 4, Sample Section 2).

3.4 *Overburden and Natural Strata*

All overburden observed comprised modern debris and levelling material, as described above. All topsoil and subsoil derived from cultivation had been removed during previous development. The natural chalk was exposed in all the excavations, apart from the retaining wall. It comprised a yellow-white chalk and was homogenous across the PDA. Within the retaining wall excavation, the natural stratum was not reached, due to the depth of modern



disturbance. It is unlikely that archaeological remains would survive below the level of this modern disturbance.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The monitoring of all groundworks within the PDA revealed that the retaining wall, foundation trenches and post pads, were all in areas that had previously been disturbed by modern development.

The investigation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains or artefacts. The layers of modern make-up have not potential to address any archaeological research frameworks.

It is theoretically possible that archaeological remains could survive within the unexcavated portions of the PDA. However, this is unlikely, given the extent of modern disturbance revealed during the archaeological monitoring.

The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report. It will be deposited with Hertford Museum (project code BAL2947). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. no albionar1-254677) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Archaeology Data Service.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Phillips, M., 2009, *Four Millennia of Human Activity Along the A505 Baldock Bypass, Hertfordshire*, EAA 128
- SJK Planning 2016, *7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, SG7 6XL: Planning Statement*
- Thompson, I. 2002, *Baldock. Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*



6. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock,		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Baldock		Parish: N/A
Planning application reference: 16/00663/1		
HER Enquiry reference: 70/16		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Ashe Construction Ltd, Ashe House, Cooks Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0JE (01462 630650)		
Nature of application: Side extension and internal alterations to existing building; extension and alteration to existing car park		
Present land use: car park		
Size of application area: 47m ²		Size of area investigated: N/A
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 25102 34295		
Site code (if applicable): BAL2947		
Site director/Organization: Hester Cooper-Reade / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 08/11/2016	Finish: 09/12/2016
Location of finds and site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire Museum Service.		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented: 19th century/modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: SJK Planning 2016. <i>7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, SG7 6XL. Planning Statement</i>		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Planning permission (16/00663/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council for a two-storey side extension of the current building and an extension to the existing car park at 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock.</p> <p>As the works had the potential to impact on archaeological remains, the HEA recommended that the works should be subject to archaeological monitoring, which took place between 8th November and 9th December 2016. The archaeological monitoring covered a retaining wall and two building wall foundations, along with eleven post pad foundations.</p> <p>All observed works revealed a similar sequence of layers, comprising modern hardcore and levelling material derived from modern construction works. This directly overlay homogenous yellow-white chalk, all topsoil and subsoil having been previously removed.</p> <p>Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits predating the 20th century.</p>		
Author of summary: Tori Guy		Date of summary: 31/05/2019



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

8. OASIS ID: albionar1-254677

Project details

Project name	7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire - Watching Brief
Short description of the project	<p>Planning permission (16/00663/1) was granted by North Hertfordshire District Council for a two-storey side extension of the current building and an extension to the existing car park at 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock. As the works had the potential to impact on archaeological remains, the HEA recommended that the works should be subject to archaeological monitoring, which took place between 8th November and 9th December 2016. The archaeological monitoring covered a retaining wall and two building wall foundations, along with eleven post pad foundations.</p> <p>All observed works revealed a similar sequence of layers, comprising modern hardcore and levelling material derived from modern construction works. This directly overlay homogenous yellow-white chalk, all topsoil and subsoil having been previously removed.</p> <p>Where undisturbed natural geology survived, there was no evidence of archaeological features or deposits predating the 20th century.</p>
Project dates	Start: 08-11-2016 End: 09-12-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BAL2947 – Contracting Unit Number 16/00663/1- Planning Application Number
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	None
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning Condition

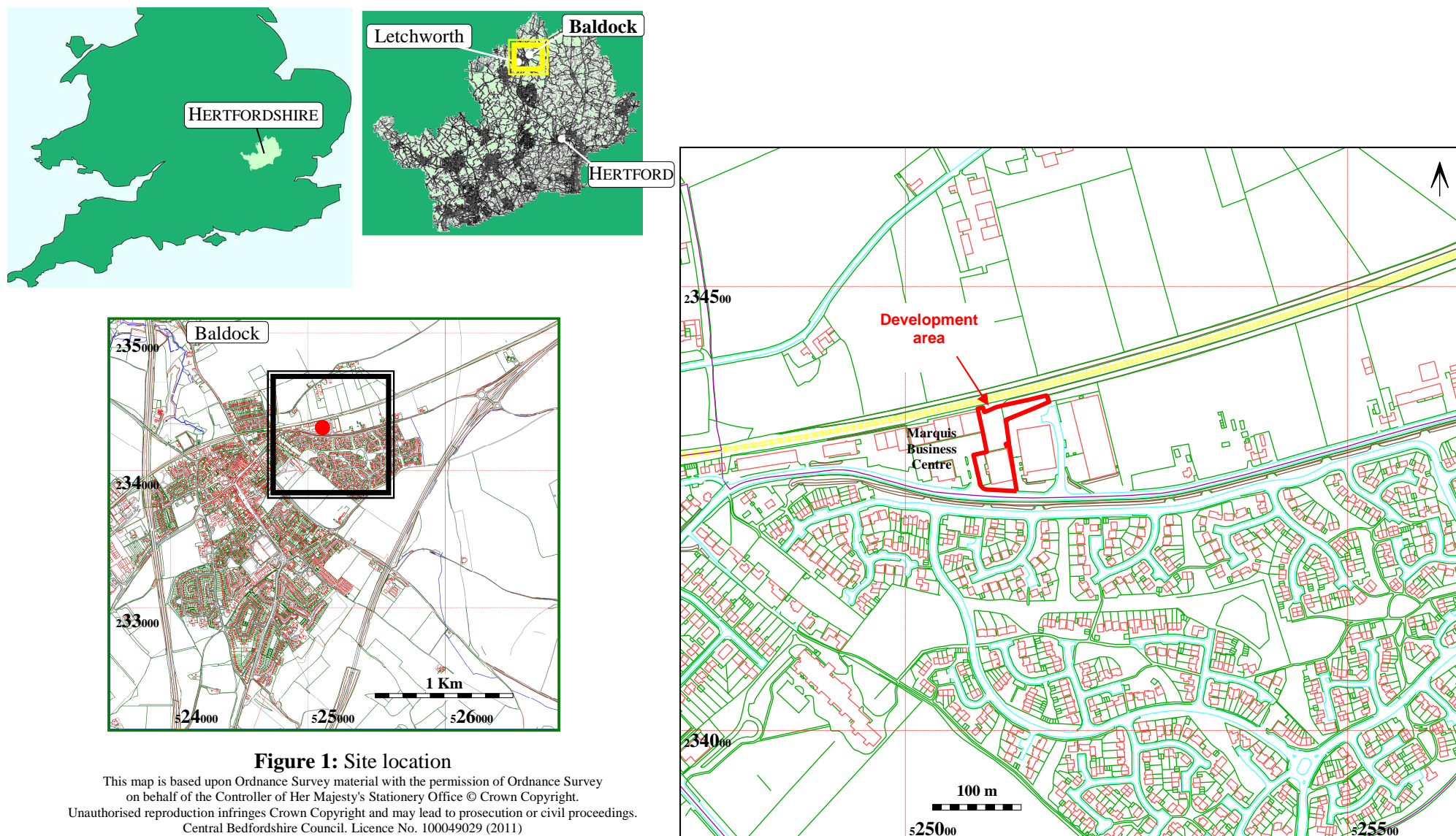
Project location

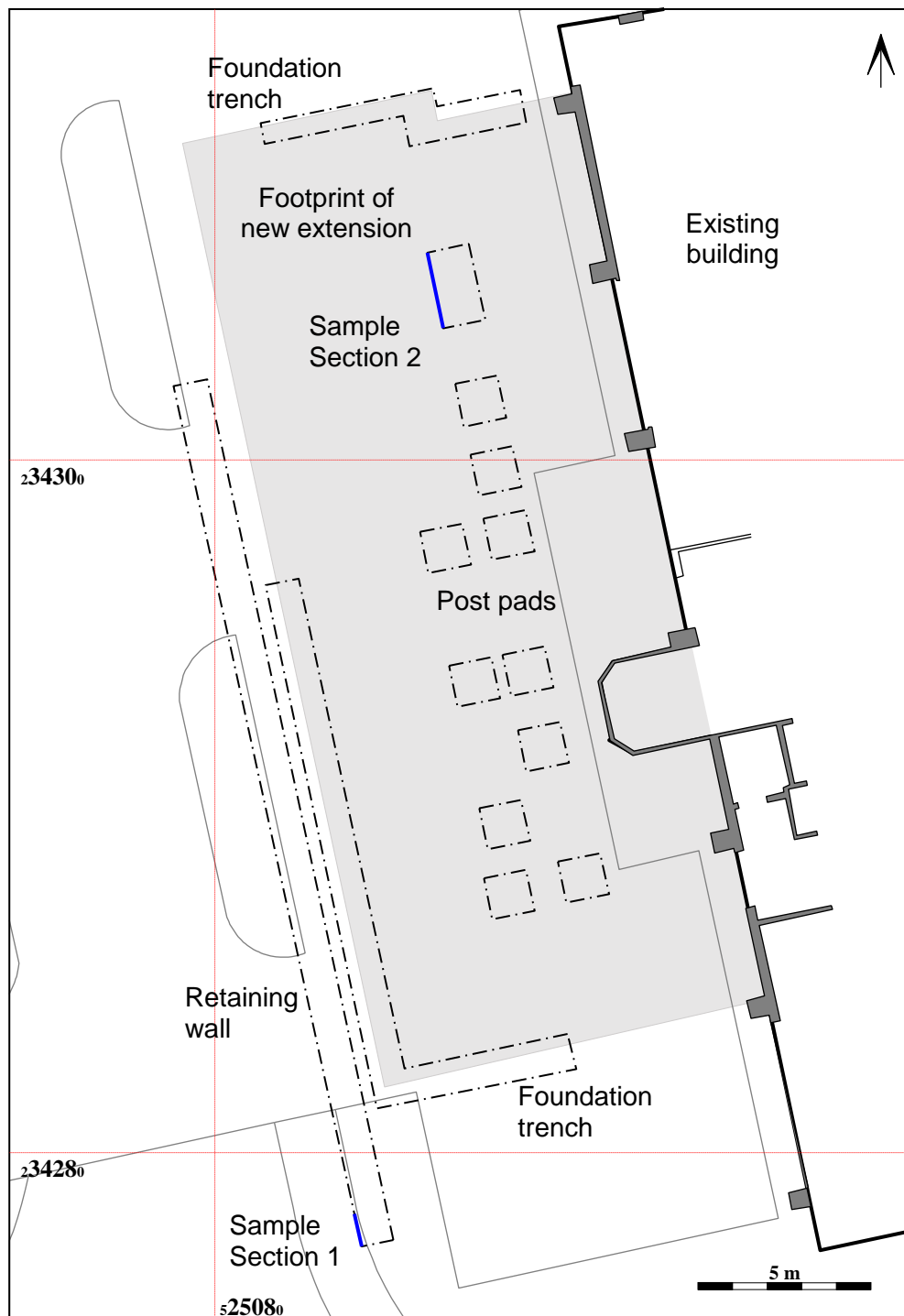
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM BALDOCK, 7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock
Study area	47 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 25102 34295 Point

Project creators



Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	No Project Design
Project director/manager	Wes Keir
Project supervisor	Ian Turner
<hr/>	
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	North Hertfordshire Museum Service
Paper Content	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context Sheet" ,"Correspondence" ,"Microfilm", "Photograph" ,"Report"
<hr/>	
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	7 Marquis Business Centre, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Monitoring, Publication and Archiving,
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Entered on	4 June 2019





┌───┐ Limits of observed trenches

Figure 2: Observed foundations

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Sample Section 1: NE-facing section of retaining wall foundation, looking south (scale 1m)



Overview of retaining wall foundation, looking east (scale 1m)



Overview of L-shaped foundation, looking north (scale 1m)



Overview of L-shaped foundation, looking east (1m scale)

Figure 3 : Selected photographs



Sample Section 2: NE-facing section of post-pad, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Overview of post-pads, looking south-east (scale 1m)

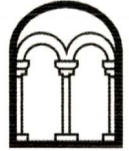


Overview of northern foundation, looking south-west

Figure 4 : Selected photographs



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