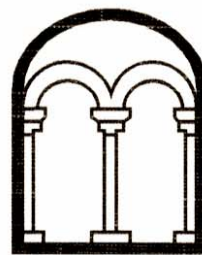


**ST DOMINIC'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
HARPENDEN
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS COMPRISING STRIP,
MAP AND RECORD INVESTIGATION AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

Albion
archaeology



**ST DOMINIC'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
HARPENDEN
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
COMPRISING STRIP, MAP AND RECORD INVESTIGATION AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Project: SD1842
Document: 2011/109

Issue date: 2nd September 2011

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Ian Turner	Wesley Keir	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Hertfordshire Property

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2011, *all rights reserved*



Contents

List of Figures.....	1
Preface.....	2
Key Terms.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 Planning Background	3
1.2 Site Location and Description	3
1.3 Archaeological Background	3
1.4 Project Objectives	3
1.5 Methodology	4
2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits.....	5
2.3 Conclusions.....	5
3. BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET	7

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Layout of groundworks

Figure 3: Photos showing typical deposits revealed during the groundworks

Figures are bound at the back of the report



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Hertfordshire Property and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Instone, County Planning Archaeologist (CPA), County Historic Environment Unit.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Ian Turner with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance and co-operation of the principal contractor, F.J. Morris Ltd, throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford.
 MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 8141
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	2nd September 2011	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
CHEU	County Historic Environment Unit
CPA	County Planning Archaeologist
DA	Development Area
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new classroom, new car parking and associated works at St Dominic's RC Primary School, Harpenden. Because the development had the potential to impact upon significant heritage assets, conditions were attached to the permission requiring the submission and approval of a written scheme of investigation followed by its implementation.

The County Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) advised that the required archaeological investigation was to follow the same methods as specified in the Design Brief for the works at Prae Wood Primary School, St Albans (CHEU 2011). This comprised strip, map and record investigation and archaeological monitoring and recording. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (Albion 2011) and agreed with the CHEU.

The archaeological investigation and monitoring took place between 26th July and 17th August 2011. The results are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

St Dominic's RC Primary School is located off Southdown Road at the southern end of Harpenden town centre; it is centred on OS grid reference TL1375 1388 (Fig. 1).

The areas affected by the groundworks currently consist of grassed and tarmac areas lying at a height of c. 102m OD. The geology of the area of the site consists of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel overlying (undifferentiated) chalk.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The site lies just outside the medieval village centre which is a locally designated Conservation Area.

A recent Archaeological Impact Assessment (Archaeological Solutions Ltd 2011) identified twelve entries recorded in the Historic Environment Record within a 250m radius of the site, all dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. These include the Grade II* listed Harpenden Hall (HER 9493), a large house dating back to the late medieval period. During the 19th century it was used for a variety of purposes including a grammar school and a lunatic asylum.

1.4 *Project Objectives*

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

The close proximity of significant medieval and post-medieval remains indicated the investigation could potentially contribute to regional research topics identified in Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott and Brown (2008).



1.5 Methodology

The groundworks consisted of the following main elements (Fig. 2):

- Classroom footings comprising the excavation for 21 foundation pads, measuring 1.6 x 0.65 x 1m deep.
- Ground reduction for classroom area measuring 19 x 8.6 x 0.10–0.3m deep.
- Soak-away measuring 2.5 x 2.5 x 2.5m deep.
- Drainage trench measuring 5 x 0.5 x 0.4m deep.
- Pit for drain sump moulding measuring 0.9 x 0.6 x 1m deep.
- Ground reduction for new car parking area measuring 12.8 x 7.3 x 0.2m deep.

The CHEU specified strip, map and record for the new car parking area. This involved machine excavation to formation level or archaeological remains, whichever was encountered first. Where possible, machine excavation was undertaken with a toothless bucket to ensure that any sub-surface archaeological remains could be clearly identified.

All other groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. These included excavation of the classroom foundation pads, drainage trench and soak-away.

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

- IfA's *By-Laws and Code of Conduct* (2010);
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations* (updated 2008) and *finds* (updated 2008);
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (2001);
- English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide* (2006);
- The ALGAO *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14* (2003);
- The CHEU *Design Brief for Archaeological Excavation, via 'Strip, Map and Record', and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Prae Wood JMI, King Harry Lane, St Albans*. 8/6/2011.



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 *Introduction*

The groundworks only revealed deposits associated with landscaping of the school grounds and geological deposits. The underlying geology was mostly revealed within the deeper excavations associated with footings and services. The groundworks did not fully penetrate the overburden within the area of the car park specified for strip, map and record. The deposits revealed are summarised below.

2.2 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

Topsoil of generally 0.18–0.28m thickness directly overlay natural geological deposits within the majority of the excavations. A thicker topsoil of up to 0.48m, formed through landscaping of the school grounds, was visible within the soak-away.

Within the northernmost footing trenches a layer of modern building rubble of *c.* 0.1m thick was sandwiched between the topsoil and underlying geology (Fig. 3).

2.3 *Conclusions*

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the groundworks. It is likely any such features or deposits which may once have existed within the area of the development have been destroyed by the previous landscaping of the school grounds.

The project archive will be deposited with Verulamium Museum (accession no. SDS11). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website.



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology, 2011. *St Dominic's RC Primary School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of investigation for archaeological works comprising strip map and record investigation and archaeological monitoring and recording.* 2011/90
- Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 2011. *St Dominic's RC Primary School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Impact Assessment*
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J., 2000. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.
- CHEU, 2011. *Design Brief for Archaeological Excavation, Via 'Strip, Map and Record', and Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: Prae Wood JMI, King Harry Lane, St Albans*
- Medlycott, M. and Brown, N. 2008. *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region.* ALGO East of England.



4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: St Dominic's RC Primary School, Southdown Rd		
County: Hertfordshire		District: St Albans
Village/Town: Harpenden		Parish: Harpenden
Planning application reference: N/A		
HER Enquiry reference: HER was not contacted in this instance due to sufficient information contained within the recent Impact Assessment (see below)		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Property, Hertford Tel: (01992) 588118		
Nature of application: Construction of temporary classroom and car park area		
Present land use: School grounds		
Size of application area: 315sq m		Size of area investigated: 315sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL1375/1388		
Site code (if applicable): SD1842		
Site director/Organization: Drew Shottliff/Albion Archaeology		
Type of work Strip, map, record investigation and watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 26/07/11	Finish: 17/08/11
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Verulamium Museum		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: Modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports St Dominic's RC Primary School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of investigation for archaeological works comprising strip map and record investigation and archaeological monitoring and recording (Albion Archaeology, 2011). St Dominic's RC Primary School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Impact Assessment (Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 2011).		
Summary of fieldwork results: No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the groundworks. It is likely any such features or deposits which may once have existed within the area of the development have been destroyed by the previous landscaping of the school grounds		
Author of summary: W. Keir		Date of summary: 22.09.11

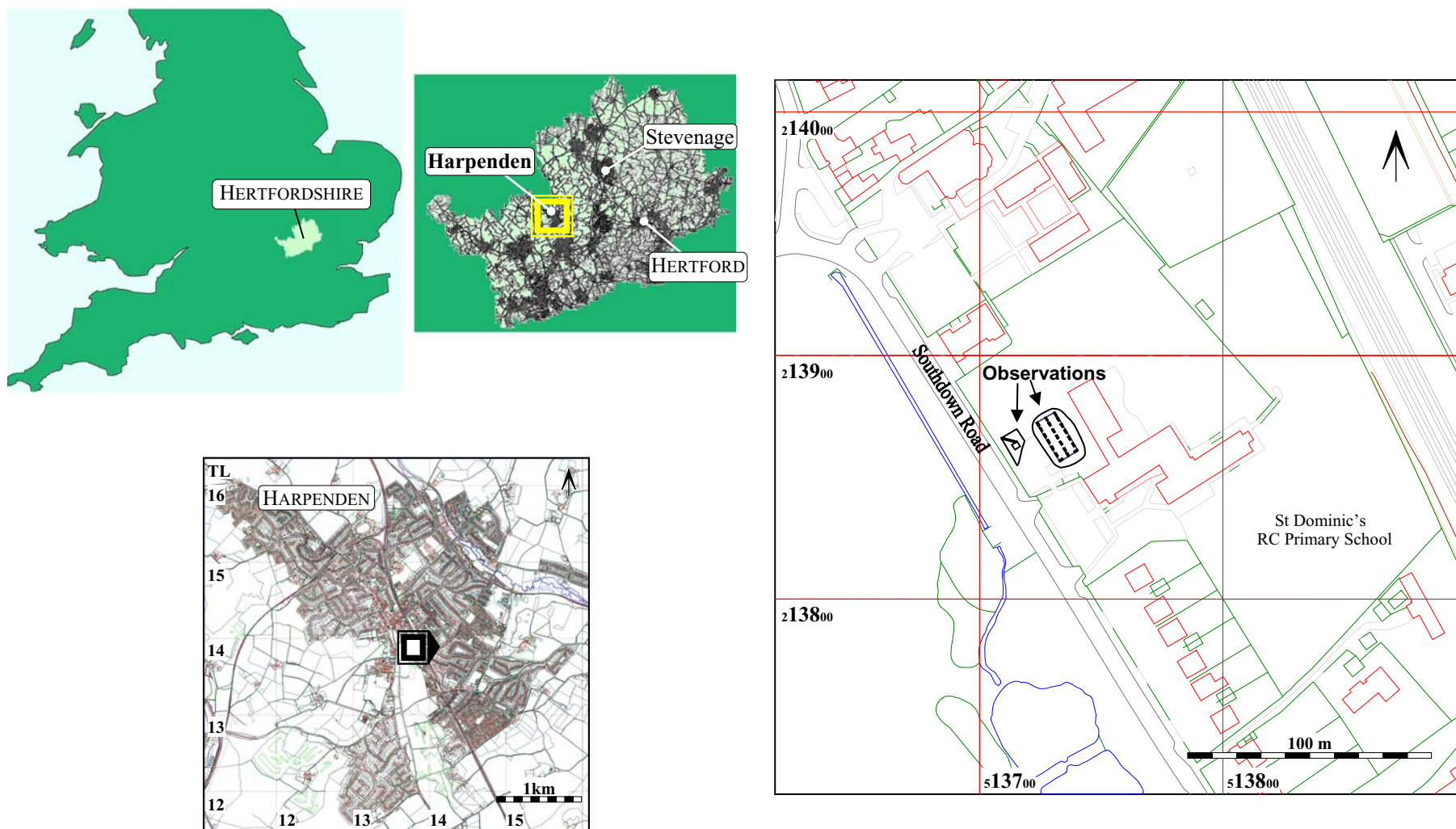


Figure 1: Site location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

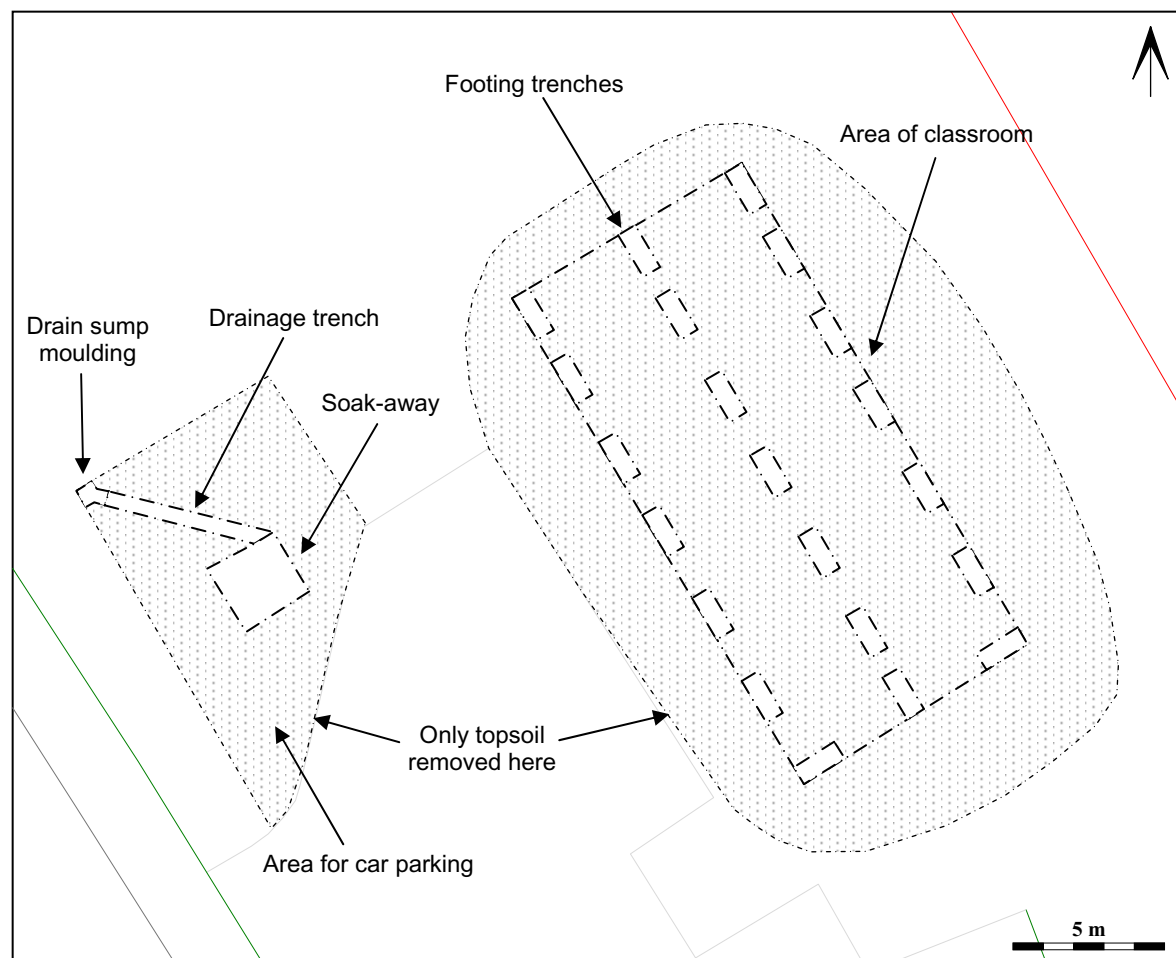


Figure 2: Layout of groundworks

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



Topsoil, modern rubble and natural geology visible within one of the footing trenches.
Scale 1m



Ground reduction for parking area. Scale 2m

Figure 3: Photos showing typical deposits revealed during the groundworks

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

