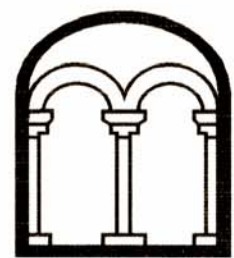


**WELLOCS
10 CHURCH WALK
HAROLD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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Project: CW1858
Accession Code: BEDFM:2011.66

Document: 2012/104
Version: 1.0

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9th August 2012

Prepared on behalf of:
Mr and Mrs Croft



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Figure 1: Site location plan and selected photographs

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document, and all statements 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.

This report has been prepared by Anna Rebisz-Niziolek (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer), and edited by David Ingham (Project Officer). Anna Rebisz-Niziolek undertook the fieldwork, while Robert Wardill (Project Manager) managed the project. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Mr and Mrs Croft for commissioning the project. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team, who monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

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Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>09/08/12</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
HER	Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd edn, 2001</i>
	Albion Archaeology
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the construction of a new house and cycle storage shed on land to the rear of 10 Church Walk, Harrold, Bedfordshire. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, the council's Historic Environment Team advised that a condition should be attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and to carry out the subsequent programme of archaeological works, the results of which are presented in this report.

The site is situated on level ground near the centre of Harrold at SP 9526 5672, at a height of c. 43m OD. The river Great Ouse flows c. 100m to the south. The underlying drift geology consists of river terrace sands and gravels.

Harrold has a rich archaeological and historical background, and remains dating to all periods since early prehistory have been recorded during both quarrying and housing developments. Building work in the vicinity of Church Walk has produced a range of evidence for medieval settlement. Medieval ditches and pits were recorded c. 100m north-east of the site, while medieval pottery and pits, together with human bone, have also been found on the opposite side of the road at nos 15 and 17 Church Walk. Archaeological investigations in advance of building work at 10 Church Walk in 2004 identified a ditch which has tentatively been dated to the Roman period.

Monitoring of the groundworks on 12th–13th October 2011 and 25th–27th June 2012 revealed that they were not deep enough to expose undisturbed geological deposits. No archaeological features were discovered, although the subsoil in one area produced a moderate assemblage of medieval pottery, while possible evidence of demolition layers was revealed in another.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A planning application (10/01556/FUL) was approved by Bedford Borough Council (BBC) for the construction of a new dwelling and cycle-storage shed on land to the rear of 10 Church Walk, Harrold, Bedfordshire. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of the BBC recommended that a condition should be attached to planning consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This recommendation was in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Planning Policy 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (DCLG 2010). The requirements of this programme of work were set out in a brief supplied by the HET (BBC 2011).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011a) in accordance with the requirements of the brief, and to carry out the subsequent programme of archaeological works.

The groundworks were carried out in two separate phases. The results of the initial phase are described in an interim report (Albion Archaeology 2011b), although this document brings together the results of both phases.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site is situated on level ground near the centre of the village of Harrold at SP 9526 5672, at a height of *c.* 43m OD. The river Great Ouse flows *c.* 100m to the south. The underlying geology consists of argyllic brown earths over fine loams with a substrate of alluvial valley gravels, which in turn overlie solid geology of oolitic limestone.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The historical and archaeological background to Harrold has been summarised in the Extensive Urban Survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council (Albion Archaeology 2003).

Archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of a side extension, porch and conservatory of the house number 10 on Church Walk, identified a ditch which was tentatively dated to the Roman period (Albion Archaeology 2004).

Building work elsewhere in the vicinity of Church Walk has produced a variety of evidence for medieval settlement. Approximately 100m north-east of the site, medieval ditches and pits were recorded in 1991 and 1992 (HER 16113), along with some post-medieval debris. Medieval pottery and pits, together with human bone, have also been found on the opposite side of the road, to the rear of nos 15 and 17 Church Walk (HER 16114).

Further afield, within and close to the village (*e.g.* HER 64, HER 543), physical remains dating to all periods since early prehistory have been



recorded during both quarrying and housing developments. Excavations across the High Street, at the former Bridgman Joinery Works, produced evidence of extensive late Iron Age – Romano-British field systems and Saxon buildings (Luke and Preece, forthcoming), whilst high concentrations of medieval pottery and slag were found at the Priory Middle School to the west (Duncan *et al.*, forthcoming). Such a rich assemblage attests to the enduring attractiveness of the area as a place for settlement.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

Archaeological observation was undertaken on 12th–13th October 2011 and 25th–27th June 2012. Groundworks associated with the installation of a new drainage pipe were carried out during the first phase, while those associated with the footings of the new house were carried out during the second (Fig. 1). The groundworks comprised the excavation of narrow trenches (0.6m wide and *c.* 0.7m deep) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

The foundations of the new cycle-storage shed were not due to be as deep, and their excavation was not monitored.

2.2 Methodology

The project adhered throughout to the standards set out in the IFA's *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance* documents, specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (October 2008), in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers Guide* (2006) and in Albion's *Procedures Manual*.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2011a).

2.3 Project Archive

The project archive can be found at Bedford Museum under accession code BEDFM 2011.66. An OASIS online record of the project has been submitted under the reference albionar1 – 109098.



3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Contextual Summary

No features of archaeological origin were identified within the trenches, which were not deep enough to reach undisturbed geological deposits. The top/garden soil extended to a depth of 0.22–0.5m, below which was a similarly thick deposit of subsoil.

The subsoil in the drainage trench was relatively uniform except for a 6m long section where it was more gravelly (Fig. 1), and where most of the recovered pottery was found. It is likely that the assemblage represents either a discrete deposit from a midden, or material that was drawn up into the subsoil, perhaps by ancient ploughing, from an underlying feature.

A thin gravelly layer was present in the west and north parts of the house footings, which perhaps represents either construction or demolition debris. The presence of loose stones and mortar in the base of the footings at the south-east corner may also have been a demolition deposit. The subsoil layers in the rest of the footings were more uniform, and contained occasional fragments of ceramic building material and pottery.

3.2 Finds Summary

The finds assemblage mainly comprised pottery, derived entirely from the subsoil. The earliest pottery comprises five shell-tempered body sherds (55g) in the St Neots-ware tradition (fabric types B01 and B01A¹), datable to the 9th–11th centuries, and a handmade rim sherd (type B04A: 50g) of similar date.

The majority of the assemblage is of 12th–13th century origin, and comprises forty sherds (611g) of wheel-thrown, shell-tempered pottery (type B05). Examples of this ware are well attested throughout the village, and areas of kiln activity are known in Harrold High Street (SP 947567) and in Brook Lane (SP 948569: Hall 1972). A sizeable pottery assemblage weighing in excess of 290kg was excavated at the Priory Middle School (Duncan *et al.*, forthcoming), thought to derive from nearby kilns that have yet to be located. Vessel forms are jars (one decorated with a vertical applied thumbed strip), bowls and jugs, the latter represented by strap handles. A 13th–14th-century glazed jug sherd (9g) of Lyveden/Stanion ware (B09) is a regional import from Northamptonshire.

Later finds are two 14th–16th century sand-tempered sherds (types E02 and E03: total weight 25g), three 17th-century black-glazed earthenware sherds (P03: 40g), and a basal fragment of a post-medieval wine bottle (36g).

Building material comprises four abraded shell-tempered fragments of Roman roof tile (182g), likely to be a local product of the Harrold Lodge Farm kilns (Brown 1994). Small quantities of Roman building material were recovered from nearby excavations at the former Bridgman Joinery works (Wells, forthcoming).

A late medieval fragment of glazed roof tile (52g) was also recovered, from the same source as the Lyveden/Stanion pottery, as well as ten pieces of post-medieval sand-tempered flat roof tile (900g).

¹ Pottery fabric types are defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology.



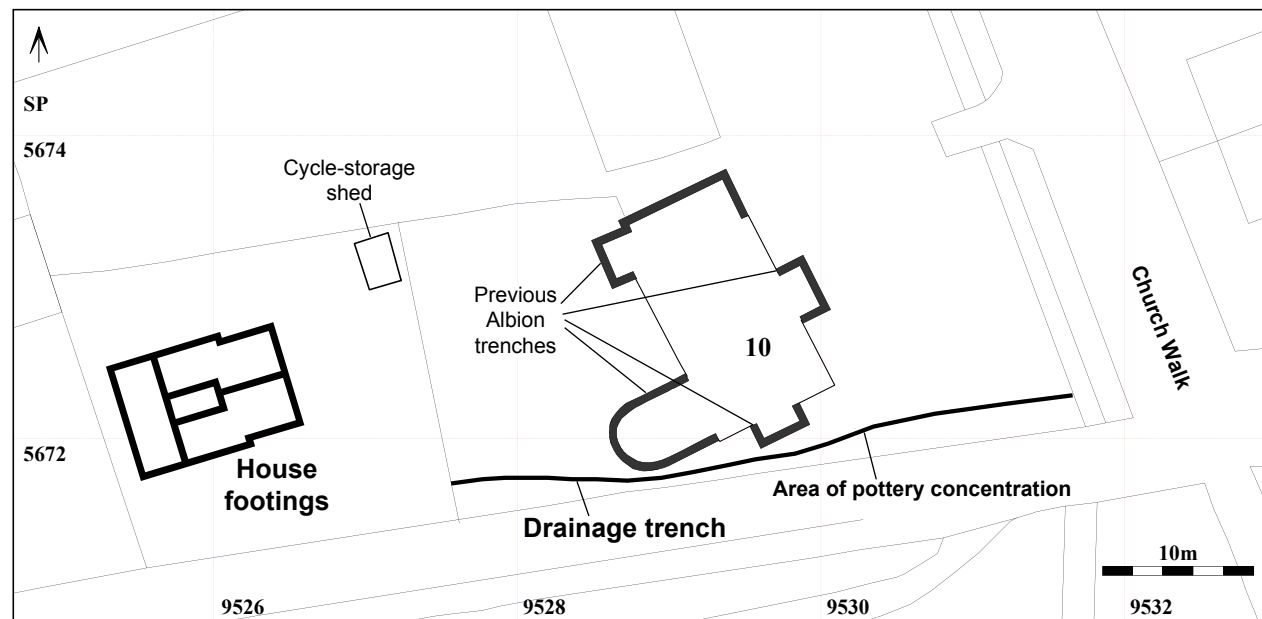
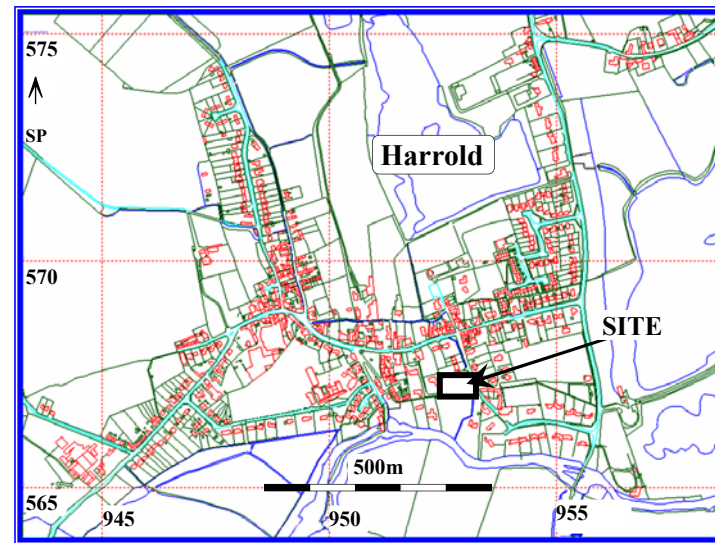
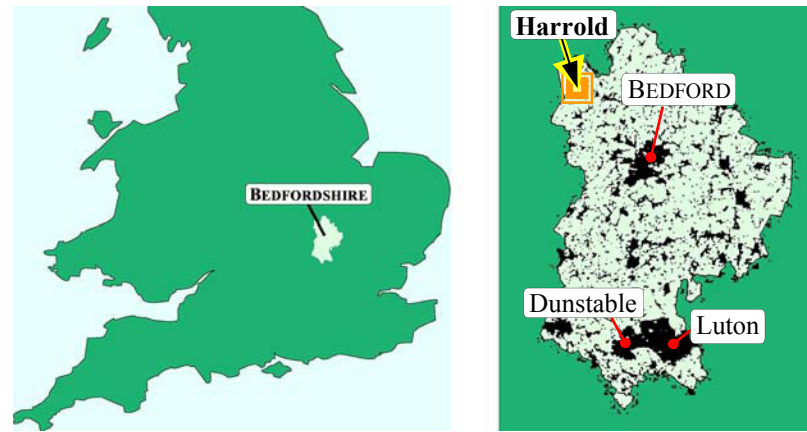
3.3 Conclusions

No features of archaeological significance were observed during either phase of groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling at 10 Church Walk, Harrold. None of the excavated trenches was deep enough to reach undisturbed geological deposits, however, and the assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material recovered from the subsoil supports the site's potential to contain archaeological remains preserved *in situ* beneath the development.



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Photograph 1: general view of drainage trench, looking west



Photograph 3: general view of house footings, looking west



Photograph 2: general view of drainage trench, looking east



Photograph 4: general view of house footings, looking east

Figure 1: Site location plan and selected photographs

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