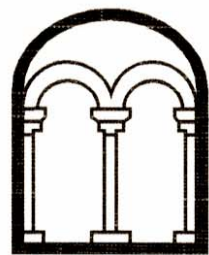


**BALDOCK DAY CENTRE
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

Albion
archaeology



**BALDOCK DAY CENTRE
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Project: BC1759
Document: 2011/128

Issue date: 18th October 2011

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Kathy Pilkinton	Wesley Keir	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Jarvis Contracting Ltd

On behalf of
Hertfordshire Property



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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 Jarvis Contracting Ltd on behalf of 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 Kathy Pilkinton (Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton 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, Jarvis Contracting 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

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>18th October 2011</i>	<i>n/a</i>

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
I/A	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 1/02627-10 (CC0739) was granted for the construction of additional parking spaces at Baldock Day Centre, Baldock. Because the development had the potential to impact upon significant heritage assets, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) was advised that a scheme of archaeological works should be implemented. In accordance with this advice, and policies included within Planning Policy Statement 5 (Policy HE12, in particular), the LPA attached conditions 3 and 4 to the planning permission requiring the submission and approval of a written scheme of investigation (WSI) followed by its implementation.

Hertfordshire County Council's County Planning Archaeologist (CPA) requested that the archaeological works should comprise archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks, followed by reporting of the results. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (Albion 2011) and approved by the CPA.

The archaeological investigation and monitoring took place between 4th October and 5th October 2011. The results are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Baldock Day Centre is located off Weston Way, within the historic town of Baldock (Fig. 1). It is centred on OS grid reference TL 2425 3352.

The areas affected by the groundworks consisted of grassed areas lying at a height of c. 66m OD. The geology of the area consists of chalk (Thompson 2002, 2).

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Baldock Day Centre lies within the historic core of Baldock, an area of rich archaeological potential. Baldock sits at the crossroads between two ancient routes — the Icknield Way (which has prehistoric origins) and the Great North Road which is thought to be Roman in origin. The confluence of these routes and the natural springs west of the modern train station (source of the River Ivel) have combined to make Baldock perennially popular for settlement.

There is extensive evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement (SAM7913) within the modern town. Saxo-Norman settlement can be inferred from documentary sources (Thomson 2002, 5) and there are some physical remains associated with this at Blackhorse Farm Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM16412) in the northern part of Baldock.

The medieval town was founded in the 1140s by the Knights Templar who hoped its location on two major routes would make it a successful market town. Indeed, the name 'Baldock' derives from the Norman French *Baudac*, meaning Baghdad, the great market town of their day (Fitzpatrick-Matthews and Burleigh 2007, 31).



The Day Centre sits within the former grounds of New Farm, an 18th–19th-century planned farm and farmhouse (HER10820). Within the farmyard is the location of a Bronze Age urned cremation burial (HER13146) revealed by trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2005). The remains of a section of ditch of Iron Age/Roman date (HER13689) have also been identified at the farm.

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 Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains indicated the investigation could contribute to regional research topics identified in Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott and Brown (2008).

1.5 Methodology

All groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. These included excavation for the parking spaces and an associated footpath.

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);



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 Introduction

At a depth of between 0.2m and 0.25m the required groundworks for the car park and footpath were generally too shallow to fully penetrate the overburden. As a result, only a small area of the underlying chalk geology was visible. The deposits revealed are summarised below.

2.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Within the area of the car park (Fig. 2), 0.2–0.25m of topsoil generally overlay a thin layer of compacted chalk containing modern brick and tile, probably associated with landscaping of the Day Centre grounds. A small area of the underlying chalk geology, overlain by a thin layer of grey chalky-silt, was visible where the ground falls away at the north end of the car park.

A similar depth of topsoil was removed for the footpath, revealing a heavily rooted mid grey chalky-silt subsoil containing fragments of modern brick. Within the south-east corner of the footpath, a section of concrete hard-standing measuring at least 2.4m x 4m was visible beneath the topsoil.

2.3 Conclusions

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the course of the groundworks. However, given the shallow nature of the observed groundworks, there remains the potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits within the vicinity.

The project archive will be deposited with North Hertfordshire District Council Museums Service. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website under reference 'albionar1-110829'.



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Medlycott, M. and Brown, N. 2008. *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*. ALGO East of England.
- Thomson I. 2002. *Baldock: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report*. Hertfordshire County Council.



4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Baldock Day Centre, Greyslates Court		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Baldock		Parish: Baldock
Planning application reference: 1/02627-10 (CC0739)		
HER Enquiry reference: 172/11		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Property, Hertford Tel: (01992) 588116		
Nature of application: Construction of parking spaces and footpath		
Present land use: Day Centre grounds		
Size of application area: c.100sq m		Size of area investigated: c.100sq m
NGR (to 8 figures): TL2425/3352		
Site code (if applicable): BC1759		
Site director/Organization: Drew Shotliff/Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological monitoring and recording		
Date of work:	Start: 04/10/11	Finish: 05/10/11
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire District Council Museums Service		
Related HER Nos: -		Periods represented: -
Relevant previous summaries/reports: <i>Baldock Day Centre, Baldock, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i> (Albion Archaeology, 2011).		
Summary of fieldwork results: No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the groundworks. However, given the shallow nature of the observed groundworks, there remains the potential for the survival of archaeological features and deposits within the vicinity.		
Author of summary: K. Pilkinton		Date of summary: 18/10/11

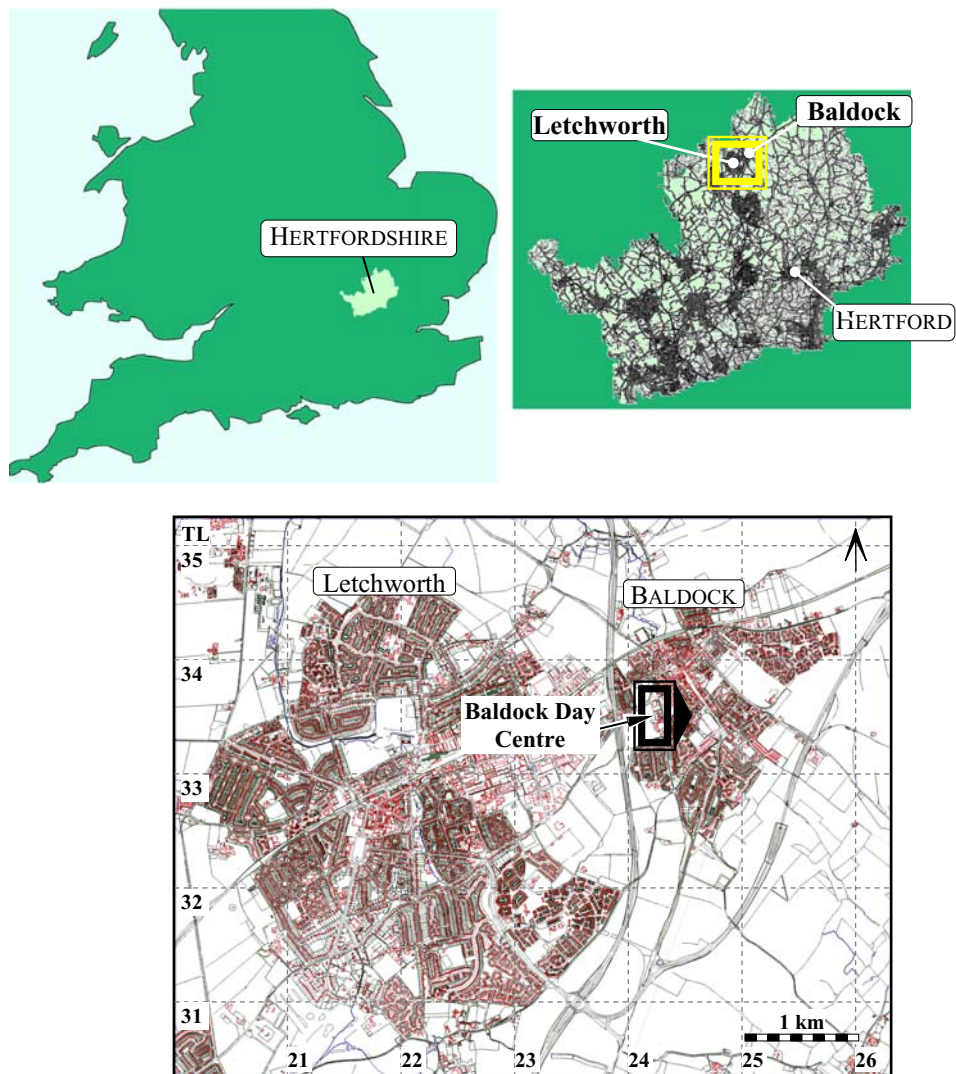
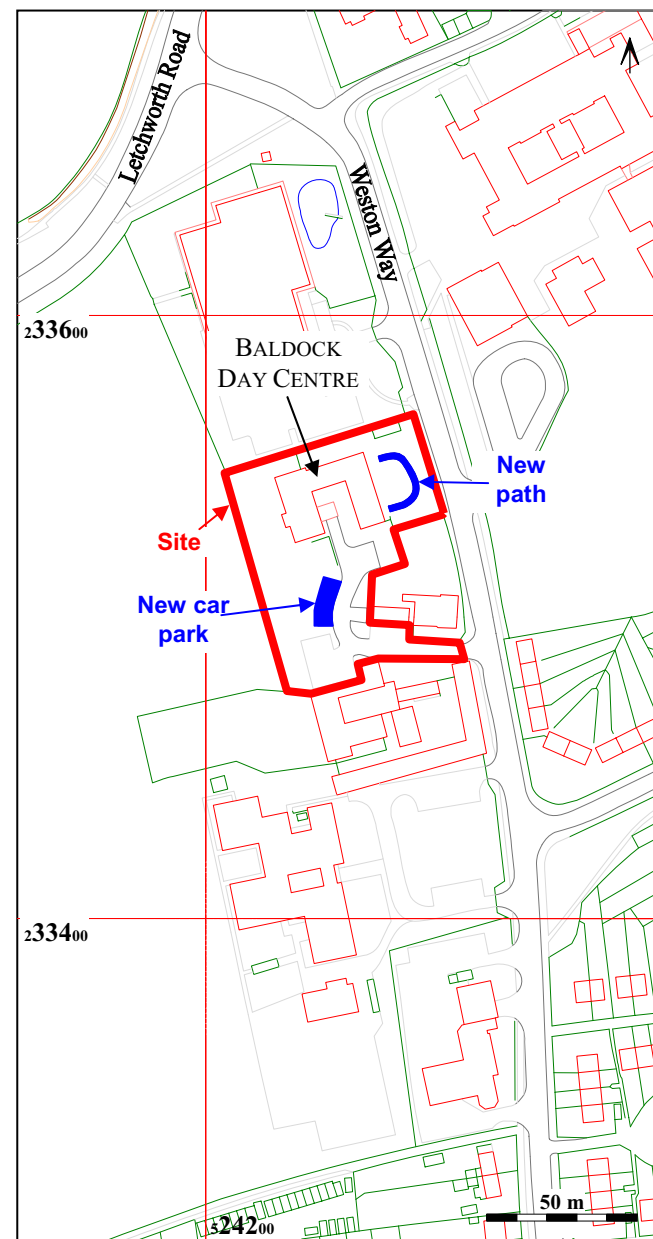
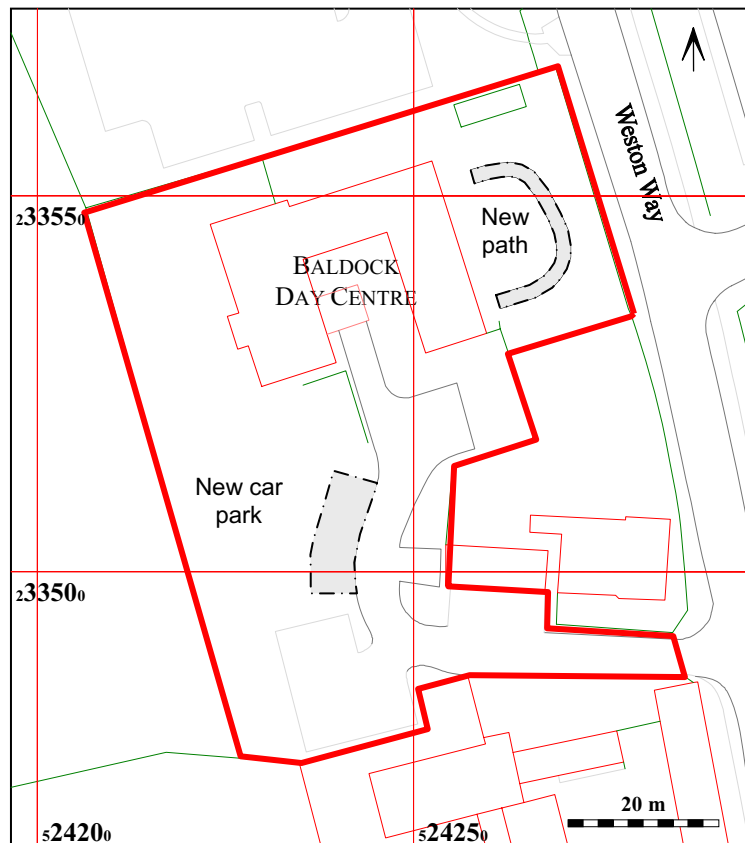


Figure 1: Site location plan

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View of stripped car park area. Looking north-west.

Figure 2: Layout of groundworks

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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

