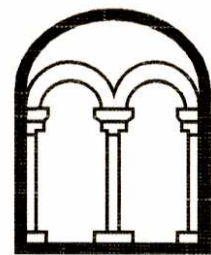


**19 STRATFORD ROAD
SANDY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**19 STRATFORD ROAD
SANDY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Project: SR 1889
Document: 2013/11
Version 1.0

Museum accession no: BEDFM.2012.61
Oasis no: albionar1-135007

Issue date: 14th January 2013

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Compiled by | Approved by |
| Christiane Meckseper | Drew Shotliff |

Produced for:
Terry Coxall
19 Stratford Road
Sandy
Bedfordshire
SG19 2AB



Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| List of Figures | 3 |
| Preface | 4 |
| Key Terms | 4 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| 1.1 Planning Background | 5 |
| 1.2 Site Location and Description | 5 |
| 1.3 Archaeological Background | 5 |
| 1.4 Project Objectives | 6 |
| 1.5 Methodology | 7 |
| 2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS | 8 |
| 3. BIBLIOGRAPHY | 9 |

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of archaeological investigation works

Figure 3: Ground reduction in northern part of site behind retaining wall of raised garden

Figure 4: Northern foundation trench of new garage

Figure 5: Southern foundation trench of new garage

Figure 6: Soakaway

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 monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Archaeological Officer of Central Bedfordshire Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) and Ben Barker (Project Officer). The report and figures have been prepared by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance and co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Coxall throughout the project are gratefully acknowledged.

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

Version History

| <i>Version</i> | <i>Issue date</i> | <i>Reason for re-issue</i> |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>1.0</i> | <i>14/01/2013</i> | <i>n/a</i> |

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| CBCA | Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist |
| Client | Mr Terry Coxall |
| DA | Development area |
| HER | Heritage Environment Record |
| IfA | Institute for Archaeologists |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority (Central Bedfordshire Council) |
| 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 consent (12/00800/FULL) was granted for the erection of a quadruple garage with annex accommodation following the demolition of an existing garage at 19 Stratford Road, Sandy.

As the Development Area (DA) lay in an area of archaeological interest (Albion 2012a), a condition for a scheme of archaeological investigation was attached to the consent. 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*, published on 27 March 2012¹.

A brief for the necessary work was issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) (CBC 2012), detailing the requirements for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the development works. In response to the brief, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared (Albion 2012b) and agreed with the CBCA.

Archaeological monitoring of the construction works took place between 9th and 15th October 2012. The results are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Stratford Road runs from the Potton Road, east of Sandy railway station, to the base of Galley Hill, c. 2km to the south-east of Sandy. The DA at 19 Stratford Road is a private dwelling at the southern end of the road (Figure 1).

The garage lies to the north-west of the main house within the grounds of the property. It has a gravel access drive and courtyard to the south and east and a garden with a tree-lined northern boundary to the west. The southern boundary of the garden is a wooden fence.

The site is c.1,200sqm in size and is centred on grid reference TL 1855 4762.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

As part of the planning application a desk-based heritage asset assessment was prepared by Albion Archaeology (Albion 2011) which gives a detailed summary of the heritage assets in the vicinity of the DA, its setting and the potential impacts of the development on those assets. An enquiry to the HER prior to writing of the WSI confirmed that no additional assets had been added to the HER since the completion of the heritage asset assessment.

The DA lies in the southern part of the hamlet of Stratford, c. 2km to the south of the town of Sandy. The Iron Age promontory forts of Galley Hill (HER 445) and Sandy Lodge (HER 1164), two heritage assets of national significance, lie at the

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.
19 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication



crest of the Greensand Ridge immediately above the DA. Stratford Road lies on the line of a Roman road (HER 505) linking Sandy with Baldock to the south. Sandy was an important settlement in Bedfordshire in the Roman period but it is likely that the extent of the Roman settlement and any possible associated cemeteries lie to the north of the DA, possibly in the area between nos 6 and 11 Stratford Road.

Roman occupational evidence in the form of ditches and pottery was excavated at The Bungalow on Stratford Road in the 1970s (Dawson 1995) and further pits and ditches thought to represent backyard activity of plots fronting the Roman road were excavated more recently at 6 Stratford Road (HER 13407). The settlement is thought to be 2nd–4th century in date.

The same excavations also uncovered the remains of a Roman inhumation cemetery, probably dating to the late 4th century. Further evidence for this cemetery was recorded during construction works at land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road. A watching brief at 11 Stratford Road revealed no Roman remains but a Roman ditch was excavated a short distance to the south. This was sealed by a late Roman colluvial layer, suggesting that occupation had ceased in this area by the later Roman period.

Sandy did not survive into the Anglo-Saxon period as a major settlement and in the medieval period consisted of a small village with several outlying hamlets. One of these was the hamlet of Stratford which most likely originates in the medieval period but most of its built heritage assets date from the 18th and 19th century. 19 Stratford Road itself was built in the 18th century. Cartographic evidence suggests that most of the land around Stratford and at the base of the Sandy Warren was used for agriculture or as meadowland until the modern period.

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 purpose of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting. These characteristics are what form the “significance” of an archaeological heritage asset as defined by the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*.

The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- if there was any evidence for Roman roadside occupation, in particular if there was evidence for further burials along the Roman road;
- if there was any evidence for the medieval development of the hamlet at Stratford;

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the nature of any archaeological remains present at the site;



- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present at the site.

The broader objectives of the project were to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in Stratford and the hinterland of Sandy and to produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological investigations.

A record of the project has been added to the OASIS² archive, reference number: albionar1-135007.

1.5 Methodology

The following groundworks were monitored:

- Excavation of a service trench between the western boundary fence and the new garage (0.8m wide, 0.3m deep);
- Ground reduction (0.3m) within the footprint of the new garage and along the northern site boundary, between the existing garden retaining wall and the boundary (up to 0.8m);
- Excavation of the footings for the new garage (0.6m wide, 0.8m deep);
- Excavation of a soakaway to the west of the new garage (2m x 1.8m wide, 1.8m deep).

The turf, topsoil, subsoil and garden soils were removed by a tracked mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation of the drainage and foundation trenches was undertaken by a tracked mini-digger with a narrow toothed bucket.

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

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (2010)*;
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations (updated 2008)*;
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)*;
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)* and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2009)*.

² Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations. <http://oasis.ac.uk/>



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The layers observed during the ground reduction and excavation of service and foundation trenches and the soakaway typically consisted of *c.* 0.4m topsoil (100) (friable, dark brown silty loam) above *c.* 0.4m subsoil (101) (mid reddish brown, friable sandy silt). The exposed underlying geology (102) consisted of firm mid brownish sandy silt with occasional gravel patches.

Along the northern site boundary, behind the retaining wall for the raised garden, up to 0.8m of ground was reduced (Figure 3). The sequence here comprised topsoil above 0.25m of mixed garden soil (104) with occasional fragments of ceramic building material. This in turn lay above orange-grey firm silty soil (105), which could represent a buried subsoil or a layer of colluvium.

No archaeological features or artefacts were revealed during the construction works; in fact, the soils were observed to be noticeably sterile. The positions of layers in plan and in section are shown on Figure 2. The northern and southern foundation trench of the new garage buildings are shown in Figures 4 and 5, the soakaway is shown in Figure 6.

The results of the programme of archaeological investigation have shown that there were no Roman burials or any Roman roadside activity in this area. There was also a distinct lack of earlier prehistoric material that might have been expected to have eroded from the Iron Age Galley Hill fort at the top of the hill. The investigations also confirmed that this part of Stratford was not built upon in the medieval and early post-medieval period, prior to the construction of the cottages in the 18th century, and most likely consisted of agricultural land or pasture.

The site records do not merit any further analysis or reporting. The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM: 2012.61). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website.



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed.
- Albion Archaeology 2011. *19 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire. Desk-based Heritage Asset Assessment*. Report no. 11-148.
- Albion Archaeology 2012. *19 Stratford road, Sandy, Bedfordshire: Written Statement of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Report no. 2012-147.
- CBC 2012. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 19 Stratford Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire*. June 2012.
- Medlycott, M. 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M and Murphy P. 2007. *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.
- Oake M. 2007. 'Research Agenda and Strategy.' In: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9, 7-18.

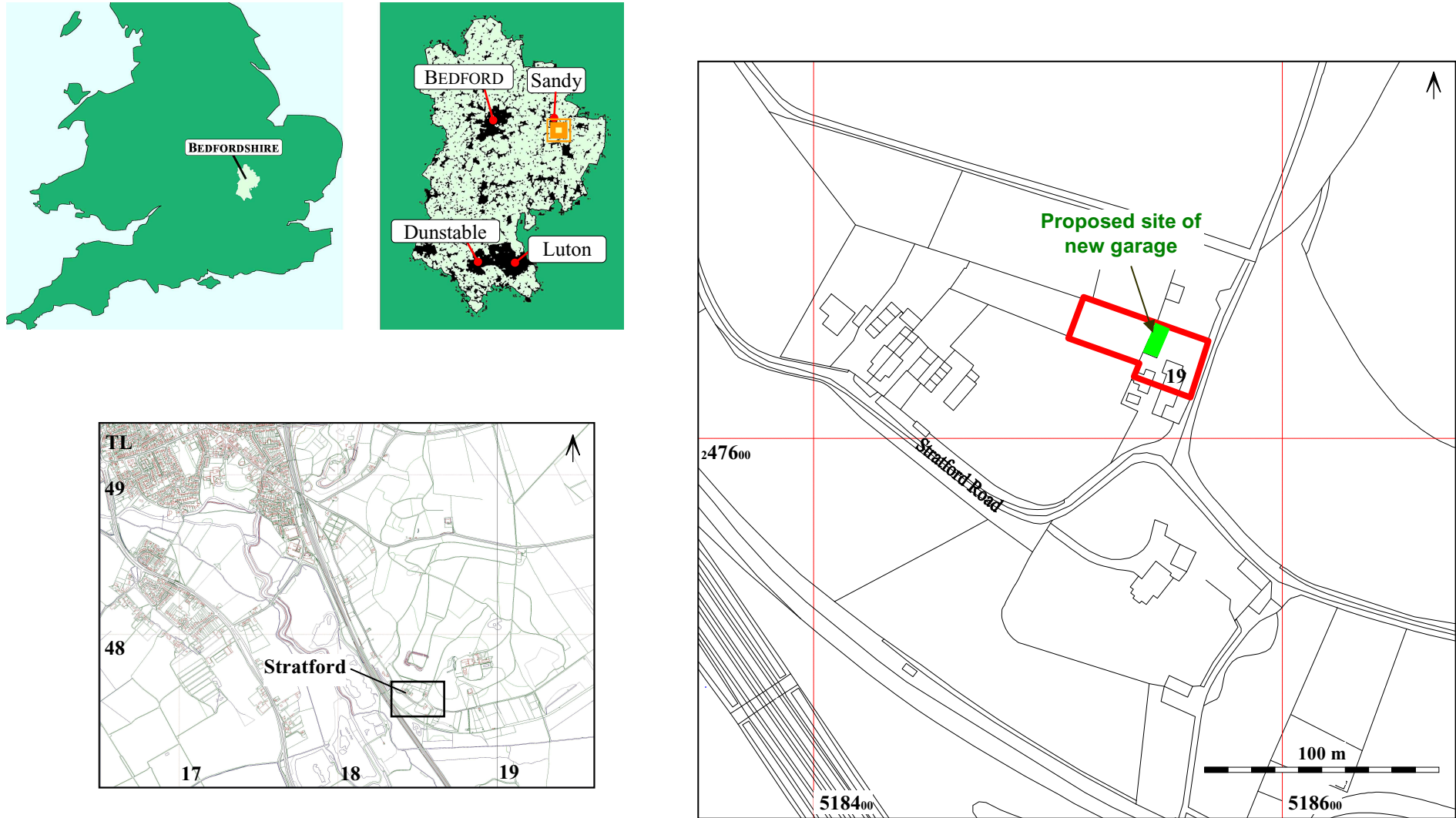


Figure 1: Site Location

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 3: Ground reduction in northern part of site behind retaining wall of raised garden



Figure 4: Northern foundation trench of new garage



Figure 5: Southern foundation trench of new garage



Figure 6: Soakaway



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

