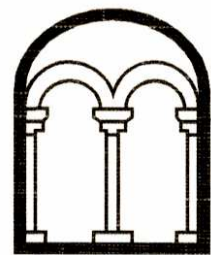


MIDDLE FARM
HIGH STREET
YILDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

Albion
archaeology



**MIDDLE FARM
HIGH STREET
YILDEN
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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Tim Mills



Contents

List of Plates	1
List of Figures.....	2
Preface.....	3
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Planning Background	5
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
1.4 Project Objectives.....	6
1.5 Methodology	6
2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS.....	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Modern Deposits.....	7
2.3 Garden Soils.....	7
2.4 Geological Deposits.....	7
2.5 Discussion and Conclusions	7
3. BIBLIOGRAPHY	9
4. PLATES	10
5. FIGURES	12
6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS.....	17
7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM	13

List of Plates

Plate 1: View of trench looking north-east

Plate 2: View of trench looking north-west

Plate 3: Section 1

Plate 4: Section 2



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Archaeological background

Figure 3: Castle earthwork survey

Figure 4: Sections



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 Tim Mills and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders, Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer), Juha-Matti Vuorinen and Gary Manning (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). This report has been prepared by Mark Phillips with illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance of Tim Mills (Client) and Geoff Saunders (Bedford Borough Council Archaeological Officer) throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

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Version History

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>6th June 2013</i>	<i>n/a</i>



Non-Technical Summary

Planning consent was granted for the installation of a swimming pool at Middle Farm, High Street, Yelden in Bedfordshire (12/00563/FUL). The development is situated in an area of archaeological interest. The field immediately to the east of the site contains extensive earthworks comprising a motte and bailey castle, ponds and enclosures (Scheduled Monument NHLE 1013520). Investigations in the village have found evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. Accordingly a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was attached to the consent. The groundworks were completed without any archaeological monitoring taking place. Following this the Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council asked for mitigation works to be carried out to record any deposits or features exposed in the sides of the excavated area. This was done on 30th May 2013.

Two sides of the construction trench for the swimming pool were cleaned by hand and recorded. The deposits consisted of construction/demolition deposits, garden soil layers and geological deposits. The construction/demolition layers are likely to be associated with a recently demolished modern outbuilding. The geological deposits consisted of Boulder Clay and alluvial gravels. No cut features or any archaeological deposits predating the post-medieval period were identified in the sections.

The presence of historic buildings such as Middle Farm shows that this part of the village was occupied from at least the 17th century and would have formed a linear strip of settlement by the 18th century. No evidence for earlier activity was found within this very small investigation area. It is not clear whether this part of the village formed part of the original medieval settlement or if it represents later expansion in the post-medieval period.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning consent was granted for the installation of a swimming pool at Middle Farm, High Street, Yielden, Bedfordshire (12/00563/FUL). The site lies within an area of archaeological interest, being located in a medieval village adjacent to castle earthworks (Scheduled Monument NHLE 1013520). A condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was attached to the development.

The construction groundworks were completed without archaeological monitoring works. The Archaeological Officer of Bedford Borough Council inspected the site and indicated that a programme of mitigation works should be undertaken. These comprised archaeological cleaning and recording of two sides of the construction trench and preparation of a report detailing the results of the investigation. Archaeological recording took place on 30th May 2013.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Yielden is in the extreme north of Bedfordshire, approximately 18km north of Bedford and 5km east of Rushden (Northamptonshire). The village is situated in the valley of the River Til which flows towards the north-east.

Middle Farm is a residential property on the east side of the High Street a short distance south of the village centre (Figure 1). The development area is situated at the rear of the house, centred at grid reference TL 0128 6684 at a height of 63m OD.

The underlying bedrock is Oxford Clay. The superficial deposits formed during the Quaternary period up to 2 million years ago consist of Boulder Clay (Oadby Member – Diamicton) and alluvial clay and silt in the base of the valley along the course of the River Til¹.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A summary of the archaeological background information for Yielden shows that the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential.

Immediately to the east of Middle Farm extensive earthworks represent the remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle, ponds and associated enclosures (Figures 2 and 3). The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The earthworks and known history of the castle are discussed by Wadmore (1920, 145-149) and Petre (2011, 86-88). Linear earthworks to the east of the motte and bailey form a series of rectangular enclosures. These extend to the south where they are situated to the east of Middle Farm. These enclosures have been interpreted as residential areas associated with the castle (Beauchamp Wadmore 1920, 149) or pre- / post-castle settlement closes (Petre 2011, 88). The castle had fallen into disuse by 1360.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 04/05/2013)



Archaeological evaluations on land to the west of the High Street (BCAS 1992) and on land off Spring Lane (BCAS 1999) have shown evidence of activity dating from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. Excavation at land off Spring Lane revealed evidence of Neolithic activity, Iron Age and Roman settlement, Saxon and medieval land divisions and medieval industrial activity (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2003).

Middle Farm and the adjoining Middle Farm Cottage are Grade II listed buildings (NHLE 1312368), originating in the 17th century with later additions. The list description is as follows:

Farmhouse. C17 timber frame, partly cased and extended in local red brick in early C19. Part colour washed. Roof part old clay tiles, part new tiles. Original L-plan, gable projecting slightly towards road, with double-pile plan extension to right. 2 storeys. Right hand wing has off-centre C20 front door, with 2 2-light casements with glazing bars to each floor, those to ground floor with cambered heads. Left hand gable has similar casement with cambered head on each floor. C20 extension to left and rear.

The timber-framed cottage on the opposite side of the High Street is also Grade II listed and dates to around 1700 (NHLE 1321276).

1.4 Project Objectives

The general objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits visible within the sides of the construction trench.
- to produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ensure that the archaeology is 'preserved by record'.
- to produce a report detailing the results of the investigation.

A specific objective of the project was to determine how any identified remains related to the immediately adjacent earthworks in the field to the east of the site.

1.5 Methodology

No brief was issued but the Archaeological Officer set out the requirements for fieldwork and reporting in a letter to the client, dated 29th May 2013. The fieldwork undertaken by Albion Archaeology to fulfil the requirements is summarised below.

The north and east sides of the construction trench were hand cleaned and drawn at a scale of 1:20. The site was planned at scale of 1:50 to locate the construction trench and sections in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid. All identified deposits were numbered and described on recording sheets. A photographic record was made with high resolution photographs taken with a digital SLR camera.



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 Introduction

The deposits are summarised below and in further detail in Appendix 1. The deposits are illustrated in Sections 1 and 2 on Figure 4.

2.2 Modern Deposits

The southern end of Section 2 in the south-east corner of the trench showed a series of modern deposits in the upper part of the soil profile. These consisted of brick rubble (109) and thin horizontal gravel layers (110) and (111).

2.3 Garden Soils

The upper part of the soil profile contained two layers of dark grey-brown silty clay (100) and (101) which were separated at the north end of the trench by a thin pebble layer. The only artefact recovered during cleaning of the sections was a glass vessel dating from the later 19th century which was recovered from topsoil layer (100). This was a small, moulded flask type bottle 63mm high in dark amber clear glass with embossed lettering on the narrow on the narrow side, JU-VIS 1/2 oz Reg No S12498. Ju-vis was a brand of meat extract.

2.4 Geological Deposits

At the north end of the trench the geological deposits were overlain by subsoil (103) which consisted of mid grey brown silty clay.

The undisturbed geological deposit exposed at the south end of the trench consisted of firm, mid grey clay with no inclusions (Section 2). This extended close to the top of the soil profile and was overlain by relatively thin modern deposits.

In the northern half of the trench the geological deposits consisted of gravels (104), (105), (106) and (107).

2.5 Discussion and Conclusions

The geological deposits exposed in the trench consisted of a mixture of clay and gravels. The clay appeared to be Boulder Clay which forms the main superficial deposit in this area. The gravel is an alluvial deposit within the river valley.

The main part of the soil profile consisted of garden soils. These occurred in two layers (100) and (102). A thin stone layer noted in Section 1 may represent a stone layer formed at the base of cultivation or possibly a pebble layer which has been buried by an imported soil layer.

Modern demolition material and gravel makeup layers noted in the south end of the trench are derived from modern construction activities in the garden, possibly associated with an outbuilding which was recently demolished.

No cut features or archaeological deposits predating the post-medieval period were identified in the sections examined. It is possible that archaeological features



could have been removed during machine excavation of the trench prior to the archaeological mitigation work.

Previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the centre of the village, 200m to the north of Middle Farm in the area between the castle and the church. These produced evidence dating from the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods. Settlement evidence dating from the Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval period was found in the investigations to the west of the High Street (BCAS 1992). Investigations in the adjacent area to the east of Spring Lane found Iron Age and Roman settlement, Saxon and medieval boundary ditches and plough soil and medieval industrial activity (BCAS 1999 and Northamptonshire Archaeology 2003). The disuse of the castle in the mid 14th century may have marked a decline in of the status or fortunes of the village.

The presence of historic buildings such as Middle Farm shows that this part of the village was occupied from at least the 17th century and would have formed a linear strip of settlement by the 18th century. No evidence for earlier activity was found within the limited investigation undertaken. It is not clear whether this formed part of the medieval settlement or if it represents a later expansion of the village.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM:2013.28). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-151769).



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Lane, Yelden, Bedfordshire*

Petre, J. S (ed.), 2012, *The Castles of Bedfordshire*, Spalding: Tyas

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4. PLATES



Plate 1: View of trench looking north-east
Shows castle earthworks beyond the fence



Plate 2: View of trench looking north-west



Plate 3: Section 1
Showing garden soils and alluvial gravel



Plate 4: Section 2
Showing garden soils, modern build-up layers and geological deposits



5. FIGURES

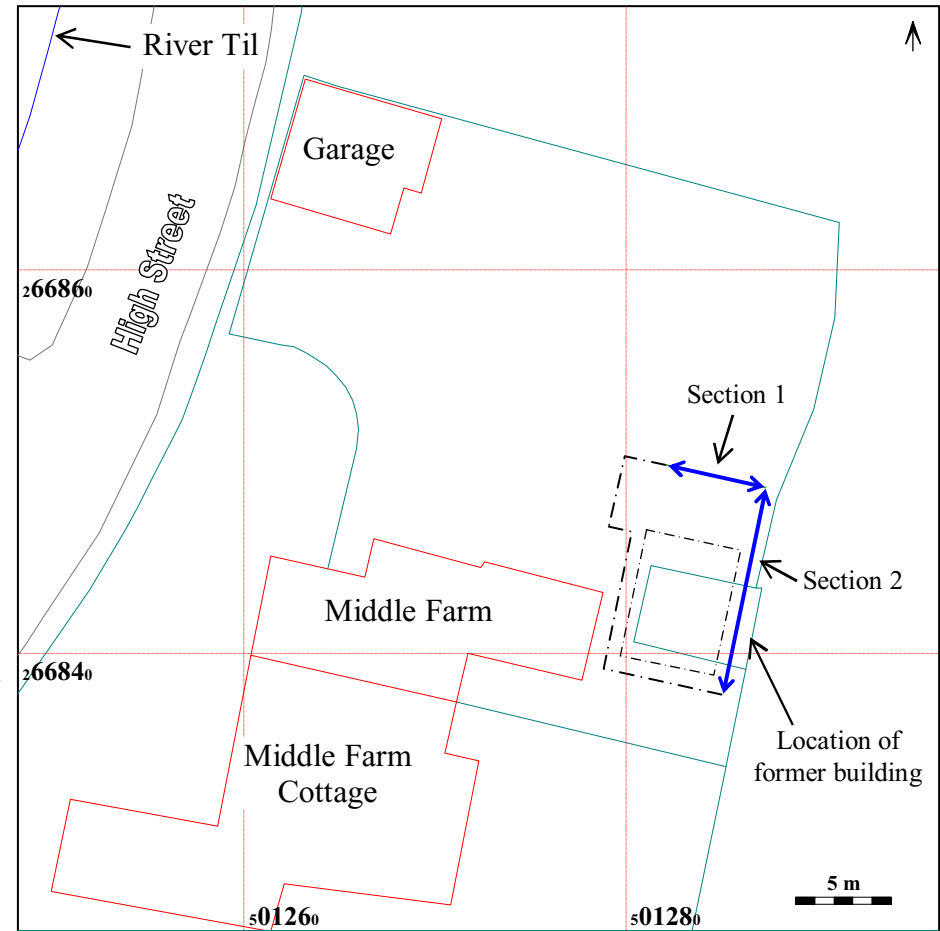
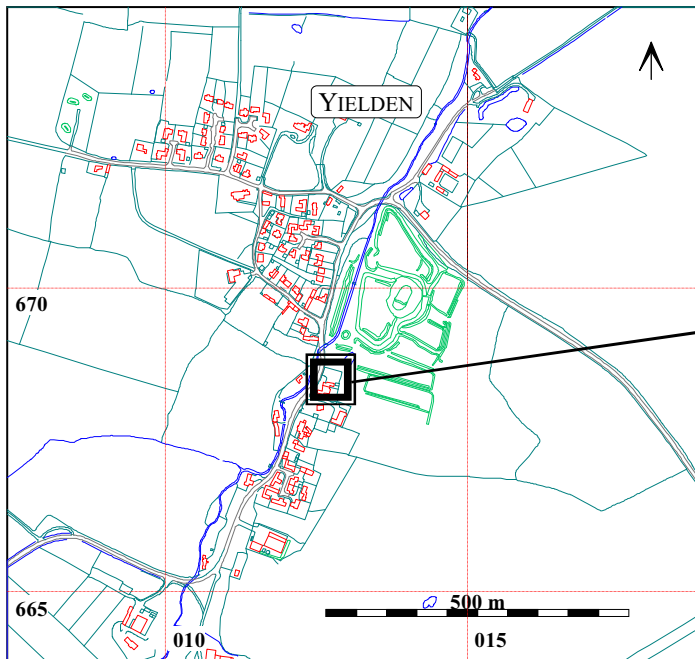
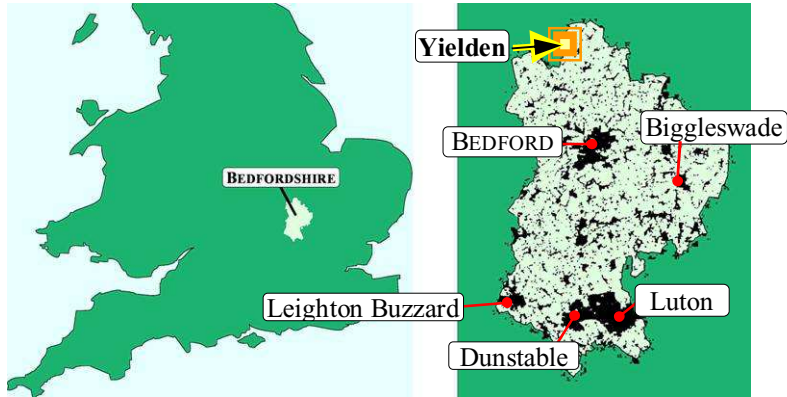


Figure 1: Site location

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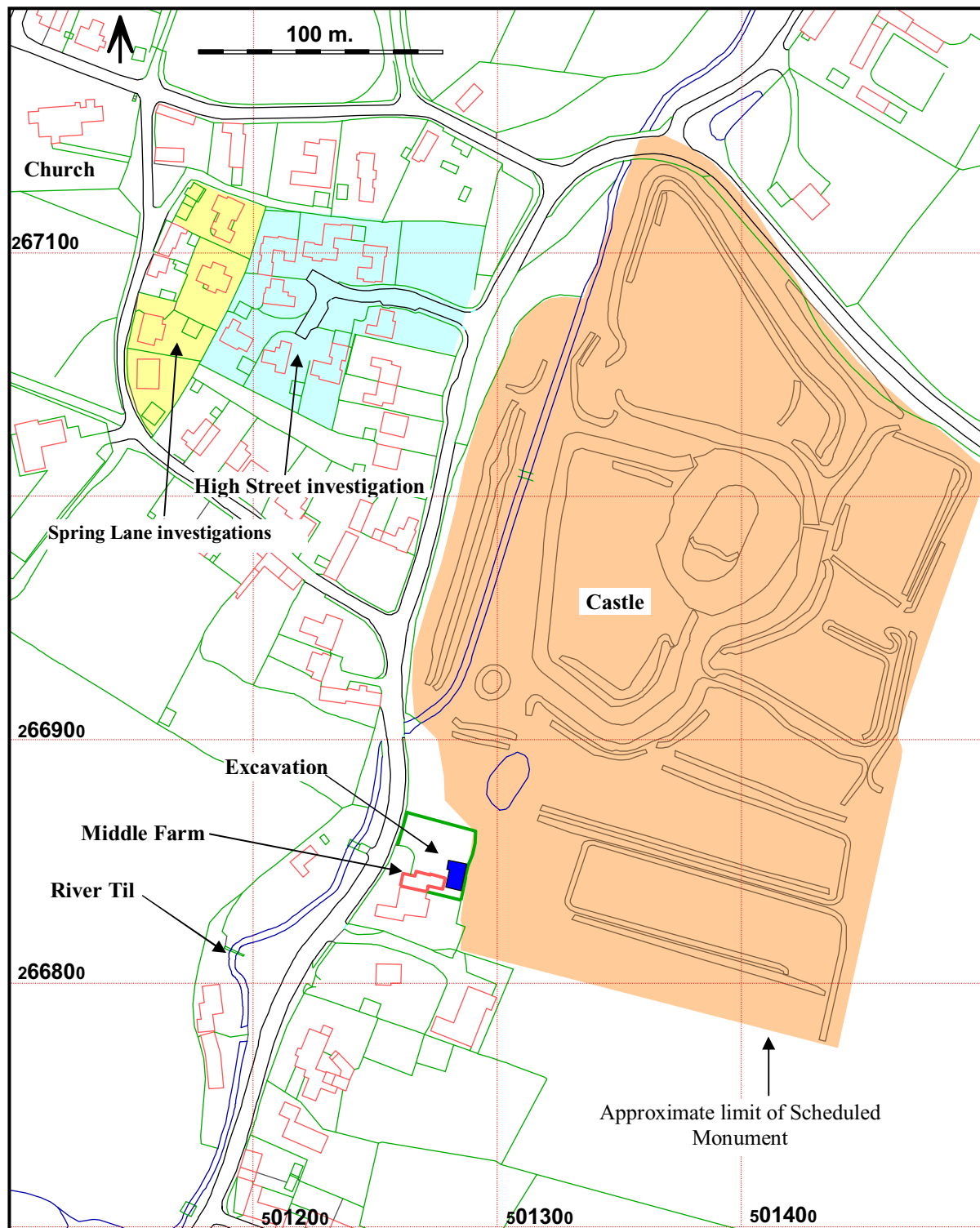


Figure 2: Archaeological background

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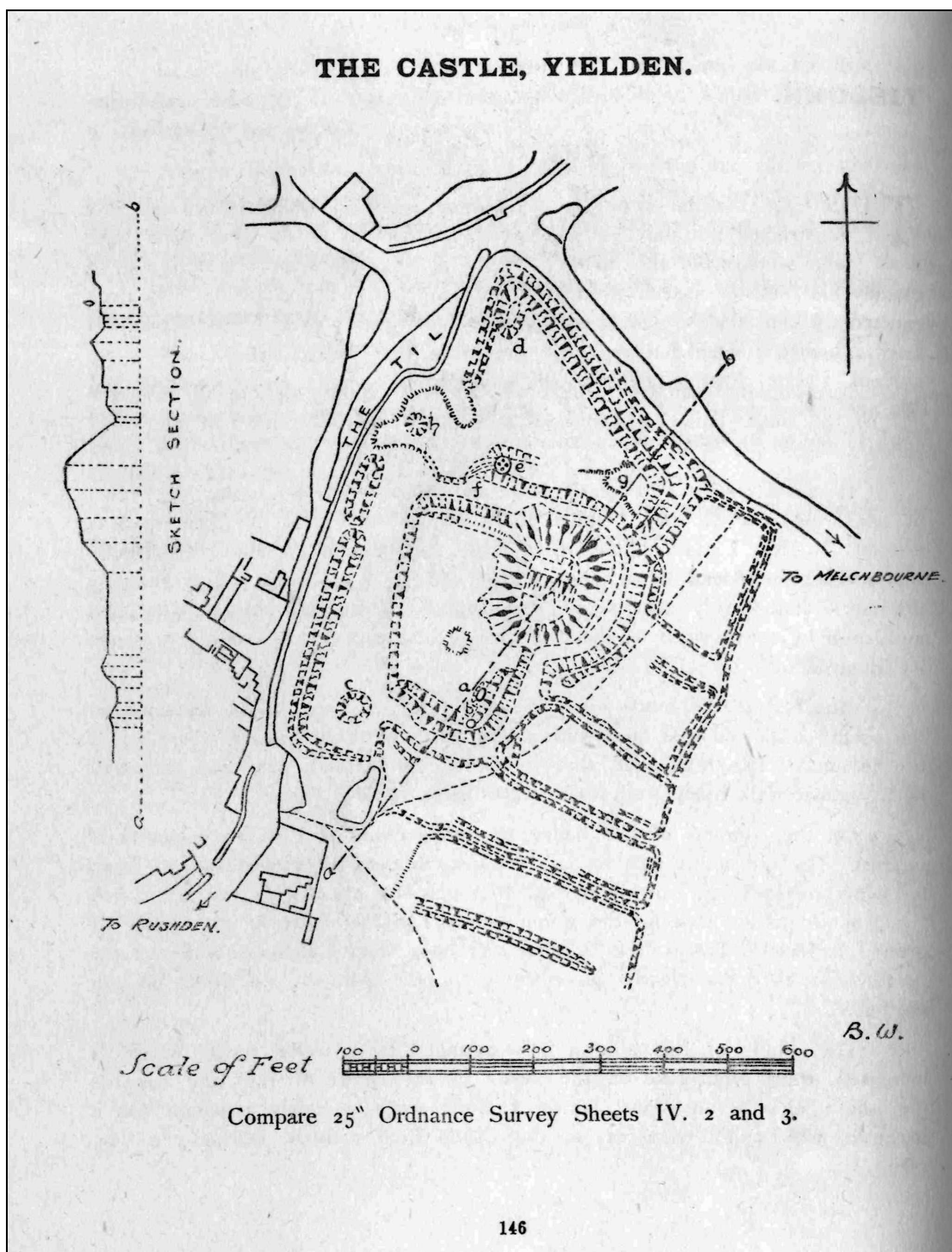
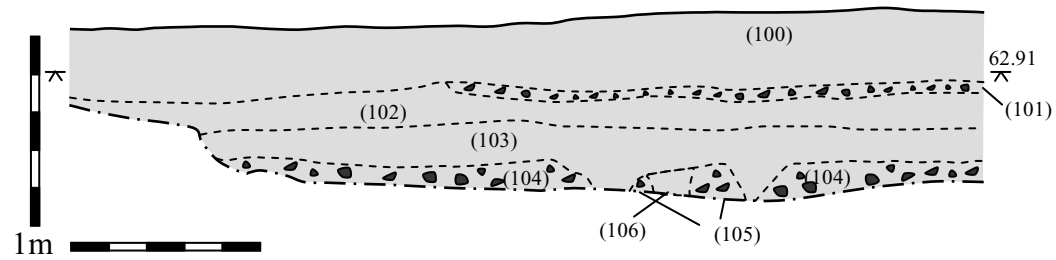
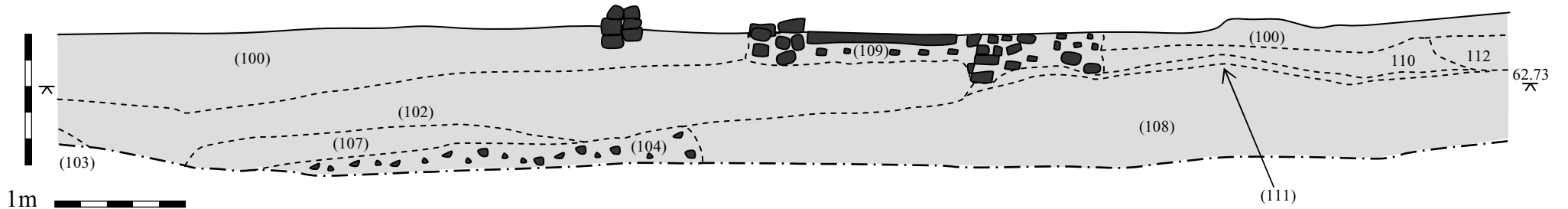


Figure 3: Castle earthwork survey (Beauchamp Wadmore 1920)



Section 1: South-facing section



Section 2: West-facing section

Figure 4: Sections



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.00 m. Width: 7.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 1282; Northing: 66843)

Reason: Construction cut for swimming pool. Archaeological recording comprised cleaning and recording N and E sides of trench.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones (Gardens soil)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101	Gravel	Mid brown gravel (Stone-line between garden soil layers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Topsoil	Dark grey brown moderate small stones (Garden soil)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Subsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones (Subsoil)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Light brown gravel (Alluvial gravel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Natural	Light brown chalky gravel (Alluvial gravel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Natural	Mid brown grey silty clay (Alluvial gravel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Natural	Mid red brown sandy gravel (Alluvial gravel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Natural	Mid grey clay (Boulder Clay)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Demolition layer	Brick rubble demolition layer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Make up layer	Mid brown gravel (Gravel make up layer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Make up layer	Light brown chalky gravel (Gravel make up layer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Make up layer	Mid brown sandy gravel (Gravel make up layer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-151769

Project details

Project name	Middle Farm, High Street, Yelden
Short description of the project	Planning consent was granted for the installation of a swimming pool at Middle Farm, High Street, Yelden, Bedfordshire. The development is situated in an area of archaeological interest and a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works was attached to the consent. The groundworks were completed without any archaeological monitoring taking place. Following this the Archaeological Officer for Bedford Borough Council asked for mitigation works to be carried out to record any deposits or features exposed in the sides of the trench. Two sides of the construction trench for the swimming pool were cleaned and recorded. The deposits consisted of construction/demolition deposits, garden soil layers and geological deposits. The construction/demolition layers are likely to be associated with a recently demolished modern outbuilding. The geological deposits consisted of Boulder Clay and alluvial gravels. No cut features or any archaeological deposits predating the post-medieval period were identified.
Project dates	Start: 30-06-2013 End: 30-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MF2198 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM:2013.28 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	12/00563/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	BOTTLE Post-medieval
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD MELCHBOURNE AND YILDEN Middle Farm, High Street, Yelden
Study area	76.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 0128 6684 52 0 52 17 23 N 000 30 53 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	none
Project design	No Project Design



originator
 Project director/manager Mark Phillips
 Project supervisor Mark Phillips

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bedford Museum
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 Physical Contents "Glass"
 Digital Archive recipient Bedford Museum
 Digital Archive ID BEDFM:2013.28
 Digital Contents "Glass","other"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum
 Paper Archive ID BEDFM:2013.28
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