#### LAND AT THE TWO BREWERS PUBLIC HOUSE HITCHIN ROAD STOTFOLD BEDFORDSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION







#### LAND AT THE TWO BREWERS PUBLIC HOUSE HITCHIN ROAD STOTFOLD BEDFORDSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Project: TB2121 Bedford Museum Accession no. BEDFM:2013.22 OASIS ref.: albionar1-154364 Document: 2013/161 Version 1.0

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

23rd October 2013

Prepared for: GPS Estates Ltd

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2013, all rights reserved

#### **Contents**

1	ΙΝΤΙ	RODUCTION	4
	1.1	Project Background	4
	1.2	Site Location and Description	4
	1.3	Status and Purpose of this Document	4
	1.4	Archaeological and Historical Background	5
	1.5	Project Objectives	6
2	ME	THODOLOGY	7
3	RES	SULTS	8
	3.1	Introduction	8
	3.2	Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits	8
	3.3	Pre-Late Iron Age/Early Roman (Pre- c. 100BC)	8
	3.4	Late Iron Age/Early Roman (c. 100BC–AD200)	9
	3.5	Late Saxon (AD 850–1150)	10
	3.6	Modern (1750 onwards)	10
4	CON	NCLUSIONS	11
5	BIB	LIOGRAPHY	12
6	APF	PENDIX 1: FINDS SUMMARY	14
	6.1	Introduction	14
	6.2	Ceramics	14
	6.3	Other Finds	16
	6.4	Ecofacts	16

# List of Figures

Figure 1:	Site location
Figure 2:	Plan of the excavations
Figure 3:	Selected sections

Figure 4: Selected photographs

The figures are bound at the back of this report.



Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.

# Acknowledgements

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works by GPS Estates Ltd. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

Fieldwork was carried out by Wesley Keir (Project Officer), Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), Slavomir Utrata and Ben Carrol (Archaeological Assistant Supervisors). This report was prepared by Ian Turner, Wesley Keir and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). Figures were created by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

Albion Archaeology St Mary's Church St Mary's Street Bedford, MK42 0AS  $\textcircledargleft : 0300 300 8141$ 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	23/10/2013	n/a

# Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
OS	Ordnance Survey
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Planning permission (CB/13/00737/FULL) was granted for the conversion of the Two Brewers Public House in Stotfold into a residential dwelling, along with the construction of three new dwellings — two in the former public house car park and one in the former beer garden.

A condition attached to the planning consent (Condition 4) required the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation as a consequence of the development. The programme comprised:

- Stage 1 Archaeological field evaluation
- Stage 2 Appraisal of the results of the field evaluation.
- Stage 3 Implementation of any required mitigation strategy

Stages 1 and 2, completed in June 2013, indicated that the development site contained archaeological remains of local and regional significance that required further archaeological investigation to be undertaken in advance of the development. A brief (CBC 2013) setting out the requirements for the archaeological work was issued by the CBCA.

The archaeological excavation was carried out between 11th and 26th July 2013 in accordance with the brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013a).

The earliest feature revealed during the investigations was a large boundary ditch aligned NNE-SSW. Though it is of uncertain date, it appears to pre-date a number of features dating to between the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD, which have distinctly darker and more artefact-rich fills. Two very small sherds of pottery recovered from its fill suggest the possibility that it could date to as early as the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

The majority of the archaeological features on site appear to date to between the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD. These comprise a large pit and an enclosure that adjoins a boundary defined by several inter-cutting ditches. The relatively high number of recovered pottery sherds indicates that these features are likely to be in the immediate vicinity of a contemporary settlement. The animal bone and fired clay fragments also recovered further reinforce the idea that domestic activities are located close by.

Later features comprise a ditch, possibly dating to the late Saxon period, and the footprint of an outbuilding associated with the Victorian cottage previously used for the 'Two Brewers'.

This report will be uploaded onto the ADS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS ref: albionar1-154364). Following approval of this document by the CBCA, the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. 2013.22).



#### 1.1 Project Background

Planning permission (CB/13/00737/FULL) was granted for the conversion of the Two Brewers Public House in Stotfold into a residential dwelling, along with the construction of three new dwellings — two in the former public house car park and one in the former beer garden.

A condition attached to the planning consent (Condition 4) required the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation as a consequence of the development. This was in line with the requirements of paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*<sup>1</sup>. It was also in line with Policy 45 of the *Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire* (Presubmission version January 2013). The programme comprised:

- Stage 1 Archaeological field evaluation
- Stage 2 Appraisal of the results of the field evaluation.
- Stage 3 Implementation of any required mitigation strategy

Stages 1 and 2, completed in June 2013, indicated that the development site contained archaeological remains of local and regional significance that required further archaeological investigation to be undertaken in advance of the development. A brief (CBC 2013) setting out the requirements for the archaeological work was issued by the CBCA.

The archaeological excavation was carried out between 11th and 26th July 2013 in accordance with the brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013a).

# 1.2 Site Location and Description

The Two Brewers Public House is situated off Hitchin Road, Stotfold in Bedfordshire on a fairly level (c. 50m OD) sub-rectangular plot of land centred on grid reference TL 2111 3629 (Figure 1). It is situated in an area of mainly modern development, with 20th-century housing lying to the east, west and south. A row of mid 19th-century cottages survives immediately to the north.

The public house and associated utility/toilet block and garage are located within the centre of the plot. The archaeological excavation was split into two areas totalling c. 900m<sup>2</sup> — one to the north of the public house in the former car park and one to the south in the former beer garden.

# 1.3 Status and Purpose of this Document

Given the nature of the recovered data sets, it was agreed with the CBCA that this report would present the results of all stages of the archaeological investigations including any required analysis of the results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf.



#### 1.4.1 Archaeological evaluation of the site

Archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of three trenches within the footprints of the three new dwellings, was undertaken between 28th and 29th May 2013. Three ditches were revealed beneath the overburden during the trial trenching — one visible within both Trenches 1 and 2; and two within Trench 3 (Albion Archaeology 2013b). Of these, only ditch [306] within Trench 3 could be dated with any degree of confidence; two pottery sherds indicated that it dated to the late Iron Age period. The pottery sherds, along with a small amount of animal bone, shell and fired clay fragments suggested some level of settlement activity within the vicinity of the site.

Though containing no artefacts that could be precisely dated, the two undated ditches were both sealed beneath the subsoil suggesting that they were likely to date to no later than the post-medieval period.

#### 1.4.2 The wider historic and archaeological background

The first recorded references to Stotfold occur in an estate charter of c. 1007 (Mawer and Stenton 1926) and in Domesday Book of 1086. At the time of Domesday, the population of Stotfold can be estimated at just over 200 (Doggett 1983). Historical maps indicate that Stotfold may have developed from a number of hamlets or "ends" — around the church and Stotfold Green, and at Brook End (HER17163) c. 250m to the north of the site.

Though the site lies outside any of Stotfold's historic settlement foci, a heritage asset assessment (Albion Archaeology 2013c) submitted with the planning application identified that the site had the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with middle Bronze Age to middle Iron Age and late Saxon/Saxo-Norman settlement activity in particular.

An extensive area of middle Bronze Age – middle Iron Age settlement activity was revealed during archaeological investigations (Albion Archaeology 2011) undertaken to the east of the Pix Brook, *c*. 300m to the east of the site. The remains included large numbers of pits, postholes and boundary ditches associated with areas of unenclosed and enclosed settlement. Three distinct burial areas were also revealed containing both cremations and inhumations.

Artefact scatters (HER16050, 16803 and 16095; BCAS 1993) are further evidence of Bronze Age, and Neolithic, occupation in similar locations overlooking the Pix Brook. Evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlement has also been found in the wider landscape around Stotfold. It includes remains found at Queen Street, Stotfold (HER16829; Wessex Archaeology 2006); at Norton Way and Groveland Way (Albion Archaeology, in prep.); and more recently during investigations to the north of Arlesey Road (Albion Archaeology 2013d). Further sites likely to be Iron Age and/or Roman in date are known from cropmarks (HER3086, 16831 and 16832) or geophysical survey (HER19538). Also revealed during the investigations to the east of the site was a large and intensive area of late Saxon settlement, dated to the 10th and 11th centuries (Albion Archaeology 2011). Three broad phases of late Saxon settlement activity were identified that included at least 35 buildings, enclosures and isolated burials.

The Two Brewers Public House (HER17162) itself was built in 1933, replacing an earlier public house located to the north of the current building in the area of the car park. The earlier public house was formed out of the southernmost of four pairs of mid 19th-century cottages owned by Bryan Gibbins fronting onto Hitchin Road (Hyde 2002, 34); three pairs still survive today to the north of the site. In 1856 the dwelling was rented by Simpson, the Baldock brewers, who turned it into a 'beer house' and called it the Two Brewers (*ibid.*). It was demolished in 1933 and replaced by the current larger building.

# 1.5 Project Objectives

The overall purpose of the archaeological works was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting, and to prepare and disseminate a report that fully described the findings (this document).

The primary aims included:

- 1. determining the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the Development Area.
- 2. determining the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- 3. determining the local environmental conditions by the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains.

In addition to the primary aims of the fieldwork, wider research objectives were formulated based upon what archaeological remains were expected in the Development Area and existing regional and national research strategies. Based on the results of the evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2013b), it was originally anticipated that specific themes concerning late Iron Age settlement could be relevant (see Oake 2007, 11; Bryant 2000, 14 and 16; Medlycott 2011, 29 and 31).



Due to the confined nature of the site and with the agreement of the CBCA, the site was investigated in two halves — the southern half being investigated first, followed by the northern half with some of the resulting spoil being transferred to the southern half.

All topsoil and overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, except where a toothed bucket was required to remove substantial slabs of concrete or tarmac.

Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for the recovery of archaeological artefacts.

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

IfA	Code of Conduct	
	Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation	
	(updated 2008)	
Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn,	
	2001)	
English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic	
	Environment (2009)	
East Anglian	Gurney, D., 2003, Standards for Field Archaeology in	
Archaeology Occasional	the East of England	
Paper 14		

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013a).



#### 3.1 Introduction

All archaeological features and deposits revealed during the archaeological works are discussed chronologically below and shown on Figure 2. Full details of the artefacts recovered are contained in Appendix 1.

# 3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The overburden within the southern area of the site comprised a 0.23m thick topsoil. It overlay a 0.2–0.3m thick subsoil of mid grey brown sandy silt, which contained moderate amounts of stones along with occasional modern brick and tile fragments. Up to 0.3m of tarmac and levelling layers (loose yellow sand and brick fragments) overlay the subsoil in the northern area of the site where the former car park was located.

The subsoil within both areas overlay undisturbed geological deposits comprising mid orange hued sand with patches of gravel along with smaller, more isolated spreads of light grey sandy silt. All the revealed archaeological features were sealed beneath the subsoil.

# 3.3 Pre-Late Iron Age/Early Roman (Pre- c. 100BC)

# 3.3.1 Boundary ditch (G1) and gully (G2)

A large NNE to SSW aligned ditch (G1) was revealed within both the northern and southern excavation areas. It had moderately sloping, slightly convex sides and a concave base. It was 2.3–2.8m wide and 0.8m deep (see Figures 3 and 4). It was filled with a lower deposit of mid brown grey sandy silt and an upper deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt, both likely to be derived from natural silting. Seven very small, abraded pottery sherds and five iron nail fragments were recovered from the upper deposit. Only three of the pottery sherds could be dated with any degree of confidence; two were late Bronze Age/early Iron Age and one was Roman.

The fills of this ditch were distinctly paler than the more artefact-rich deposits of the features dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period described below. One of these features, pit G4, appeared to slightly truncate the eastern edge of the boundary ditch. These factors indicate that the ditch had become completely silted up by the time of the nearby late Iron Age/early Roman activity. It may, therefore, be as early as late Bronze Age/early Iron Age in date, as suggested by two of the recovered pottery sherds.

A small gully G2, measuring 0.25m wide and 0.06m deep, was located to the west of, and parallel with, ditch G1. Though it contained no artefacts, its similar fill and alignment to that of ditch G1 suggests it is likely to be contemporary.



# 3.4 Late Iron Age/Early Roman (c. 100BC–AD200)

Some intercutting ditches, a pit and a small enclosure ditch, all dating to between c. 100 BC and AD 200, were revealed within the southern excavation area to the east of ditch G1.

#### 3.4.1 Boundary G3

A group of parallel, inter-cutting ditches defined a N-S aligned boundary within the southern excavation area. At least eight separate ditches were revealed; the stratigraphically earliest examples being almost completely truncated by the later ditches. Five of the ditches terminated within the excavation area.

The ditches varied in size from 0.6m–1.6m+ wide and 0.2–0.57m deep. Their profiles ranged from having concave sides and flat bases to having more convex sides and concave bases (see Figure 3). Their fills were more consistent, comprising light grey orange and brown sandy silts.

A number of late Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered. These were present in two of the stratigraphically earliest ditches (S8) and (S6). However, the majority of the pottery recovered from the stratigraphically later ditches (S3, S4 and S5) dates to the Roman period, including several that are datable to the 2nd century AD. Other artefacts recovered from the ditches include a fired clay fragment of a hand-made slab or brick and a moderate assemblage of animal bone that included horse, dog and goat.

#### 3.4.2 Pit G4

A large pit was partially revealed against the southern baulk of the southern excavation area. The exposed part of the pit was semi-circular in plan and appeared to slightly truncate the eastern edge of ditch G1. It had slightly convex sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 3.90m across and 0.48m deep (see Figure 4).

The pit was filled with a primary deposit of mid grey brown sandy silt and a larger, overlying deposit of dark brown grey sandy silt, which contained a number of Roman pottery sherds.

The shape of the pit gives few clues as to its original purpose, although the number of pottery sherds within its upper fill suggests it was eventually used as a rubbish pit.

#### 3.4.3 Small enclosure G5

Small ditch G5 formed two sides of a rectangular enclosure that appeared to truncate the eastern side of pit G4 and adjoin boundary G3. Although it truncated some of the earlier boundary ditches of G3 (S6 and S7), it appeared to be contemporary with the stratigraphically later ditch S4.

The enclosure ditch was generally U-shaped in profile and was 0.5–0.6m wide and 0.16m deep (see Figure 3). Its two fills comprised light to mid orange grey sandy silts that contained a number of sherds of Roman pottery.



# 3.5 Late Saxon (AD 850–1150)

A NNE-SSW aligned ditch G6 was revealed near the eastern edge of the northern excavation area. It had a concave profile measuring 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep. It contained three deposits varying between mid brown grey and dark grey brown sandy silts (see Figures 3 and 4). The ditch was truncated by the footprint of 19th-century building G7 (see below) and contained a single, small sherd of pottery that tentatively suggests it could be of late Saxon date.

# 3.6 Modern (1750 onwards)

In addition to several features associated with modern services, the footprint of a building marked on the 1st edition OS map was revealed in the northern excavation area.

Deposits forming a large rectangular feature G7, measuring at least 12m long and 4.3m wide, were revealed within the northern excavation area. The feature corresponds well with the location and alignment of an outbuilding associated with the earlier, Victorian public house illustrated on the 1st edition OS map of 1882. The deposits, presumably associated with both the foundation and demolition of the building, comprised a mixture of chalk and mid grey brown sandy silts that contained moderate amounts of modern pottery, roof tile fragments, coal and clay pipe fragments.



# 4 CONCLUSIONS

The earliest feature revealed during the investigations was a large boundary ditch aligned NNE-SSW. Though it is of uncertain date, it appears to pre-date a number of features dating to between the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD, which have distinctly darker and more artefact-rich fills. Two very small sherds of pottery recovered from its fill suggest the possibility that it could date to as early as the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. Six residual sherds of early Iron Age pottery were also recovered from the late Iron Age/early Roman boundary G3. An extensive area of middle Bronze Age – middle Iron Age settlement activity was revealed in a similar topographical position overlooking the Pix Brook (Albion Archaeology 2011), though these were located at least 300m to the east.

The majority of the archaeological features on the site dated to between the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD. They comprised a large pit and an enclosure that adjoined a boundary defined by several inter-cutting ditches. The successive re-cutting and, therefore, maintenance of this boundary suggests it was of some importance; the pottery recovered from the various ditches suggests the boundary could have been in existence for up to 300 years.

The relatively high number of recovered pottery sherds indicates that these features are likely to be in the immediate vicinity of a settlement dating to between the 1st century BC and 2nd century AD. The animal bone and fired clay fragments also recovered further reinforce the idea that domestic activities are located close by; goat mandible and skull fragments recovered from boundary G3 suggest butchery was being carried out in the immediate vicinity. Though late Iron Age and Roman activity is known from the wider area around Stotfold, such as at Queen Street (HER16829; Wessex Archaeology 2006) and to the north of Arlesey Road (Albion Archaeology 2013d), few remains have previously been found in the vicinity of the site. The closest previously known are probably some Roman coins (HER18459) found 450m to the north-west of the site and some scattered pits, postholes and boundary ditches (Albion Archaeology 2011) found during the investigations undertaken >300m to the east of the site.

Later features comprise a ditch, possibly dating to the late Saxon period and the footprint of an outbuilding associated with the Victorian cottage previously used for the Two Brewers. Surprisingly perhaps, no structural remains were revealed of the cottage, though it is quite possible that some of the brick rubble observed in the make-up layers beneath the car park is derived from its demolition.

This report will be uploaded onto the ADS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS ref: albionar1-154364). Following approval of this document by the CBCA, the archive of materials (subject to the landowner's permission) and accompanying records will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. 2013.22).

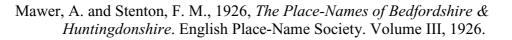


Albion Archaeology, 2001, Procedures Manual Vol. 1: Fieldwork.

- Albion Archaeology, 2011, Land South of Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design. Document 2011/164
- Albion Archaeology, 2013a, Land at the Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road, Stotfold: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation. Document: 2013/121.
- Albion Archaeology, 2013b, Land at the Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road, Stotfold: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation. Document: 2013/100 ver. 1.1.
- Albion Archaeology, 2013c, *The Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road, Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Heritage Asset Assessment*. Document: 2013/34.
- Albion Archaeology, 2013d, Football Pitch Facility, Arlesey Road, Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation. Document: 2013/07.
- Albion Archaeology, in prep., 'Excavations at Norton Road and Groveland Way, Stotfold'
- BCAS, 1993, Arlesey Stotfold Bypass: Archaeological Evaluation Stage 1 Desktop, Topographical Survey, Surface Artefact Collection. Document 1993/9
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A* framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
- Bryant, S. 2000. 'The Iron Age' in Brown and Glazebrook (2000), 14-18.
- CBC, 2013, Stage 3 Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Land at the Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road, Stotfold. V1 24th June 2013 – MKO.
- Doggett, N., 1983, *Stotfold Parish Survey*. HER archive unpublished document.
- Gurney, D. 2003. *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Hyde, B., 2002, Stotfold Pubs and Publicans.

Manning, W. H., 1985, Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum.



- Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- Oake, M., 2007, 'Research Agenda and Strategy' in Oake, M. et al. 2007, 7-18.
- Oake, M. et al, 2007, Bedfordshire Archaeology Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.
- Wessex Archaeology, 2006, Land at Queen Street, Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



#### 6.1 Introduction

The investigations yielded a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone, the majority associated with features of late Iron Age and early Roman date (Table 1).

Period	Group	Finds Summary
Pre-late Iron Age/early Roman	G1 Boundary ditch	Pottery (19g); iron nails x5
Late Iron Age/early Roman	G3 Boundary	Pottery (1.7kg); fired clay (290g);
		shell (95g);animal bone (1.2kg)
	G4 Pit	Pottery (350g); worked flint (2g);
		animal bone (137g)
	G5 Small enclosure	Pottery (178g); animal bone (44g)
Late Saxon	G6 Ditch	Pottery (4g); animal bone (9g)
Modern	G7 Foundation/demolition spread	Pottery (54g); clay tobacco pipe (2g);
	_	ceramic roof tile (424g)

Table 1: Finds Summary by period and group

#### 6.2 Ceramics

Pottery totals 219 sherds (2.3kg), representing 100 vessels. The assemblage is generally abraded and survives in moderate condition; its fragmented nature is demonstrated by a low average sherd weight of 11g. Thirty-four fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2).

Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
Late Bronze Age /			
early Iron Age			
F01B	Fine flint	1	5
F01C	Flint and sand	1	5
F29	Coarse sand	6	91
Late Iron Age			
F05	Grog and shell	13	131
F06A	Fine grog	2	10
F06B	Medium grog	6	34
F06C	Coarse grog	8	155
F09	Grog and sand	6	68
F34	Sand	7	69
F39	Grog and mica	1	6
Roman	-		
R01	Samian	2	33
R03A	White ware (VRW)	3	94
R05A	Orange sandy	1	5
R05C	Orange micaceous	1	2
R06B	Coarse grey ware	29	248
R06C	Fine grey ware	47	529
R06D	Micaceous grey ware	8	81
R06E	Calcareous grey ware	1	4
R06F	Grog and sand grey ware	3	12
R06G	Silty grey ware	1	8
R06H	White-slipped grey ware	2	14
R07B	Sandy black ware	15	73
R07C	Gritty black ware	2	7

Fabric Code	Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)
R10A	Gritty buff ware	2	11
R13	Shell	10	193
R13B	Shell with limestone and sand	7	128
R14	Sand (red-brown harsh)	18	239
R18A	Gritty pink ware	1	5
R18B	Fine pink ware	1	12
R31	Lumpy white ware	2	7
Late Saxon			
B01B	St Neots-type ware (fine)	1	4
Modern			
P39	Mocha ware	1	4
P45	Transfer-printed ware	3	50
	-		
UNID	Unidentified / undatable	7	12

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

#### 6.2.1 Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age

The earliest pottery derives from boundary ditch G1, and comprises two abraded hand-made body sherds (10g) in flint-rich fabrics (F01B, F01C), of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date. Six early Iron Age sand-tempered sherds (F29), representing a single vessel (91g), occurred as residual finds in later boundary G3.

#### 6.2.2 Late Iron Age

Pottery of late Iron Age date (c. 100 BC–AD 50) derives entirely from boundary G3, and totals 43 sherds (473g). Examples of both hand-made and wheel-thrown vessels occur in a range of predominantly grog-tempered fabrics. All are likely to be of local manufacture, although their exact provenance remains unknown. Twenty-eight vessels are represented, mainly by body sherds. Diagnostic forms are lid-seated jars; large storage vessels, some with combed decoration; and three platters, one with a diameter of 160mm.

Thirty-three fired clay fragments (290g) in a soapy organic / sandy fabric also derived from boundary G3. Most are amorphous, although one retains surfaces, and may derive from a hand-made slab or brick.

#### 6.2.3 Early Roman

Roman pottery, mainly datable to the 2nd century, totals 156 sherds (1.7kg), representing 63 vessels. The majority derives from boundary G3 (1.1kg), with smaller quantities associated with pit G4 and enclosure G5 (350g and 178g respectively).

The assemblage is primarily local in character, and is dominated by sandtempered coarse wares (fabric groups R05, R06, R07, R10, R14), possible products of a number of kiln sites located to the south-east of Bedford. Shelly wares (R13), some macroscopically similar to products from kilns at Willington, complete the local assemblage. Traded wares from further afield are white / pink wares (R03, R18: 5 sherds) from the Verulamium (St Albans) region, and two sherds of central Gaulish samian (R01). Vessel forms are lid-seated and everted rim jars, ranging in diameter from 160–240mm, and single examples of a flagon, platter, and plain rim bowl. Decoration comprises combing (linear and wavy), burnishing, slipping and rouletting: one vessel has a faintly incised lattice motif, and one is cordoned. Several of the shelly vessels have sooted exterior surfaces, suggesting their use as cooking pots.

# 6.2.4 Post-Roman

The fill of ditch G6 contained a small body sherd (4g) of late Saxon shelltempered St Neots-type ware. A sherd of mocha ware, and three fragments from a transfer-printed ware plate, all datable to the 19th century, derived from foundation / demolition spread G7. The latter also contained three sandtempered pieces of post-medieval roof tile (424g), and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem (2g), of similar date.

# 6.3 Other Finds

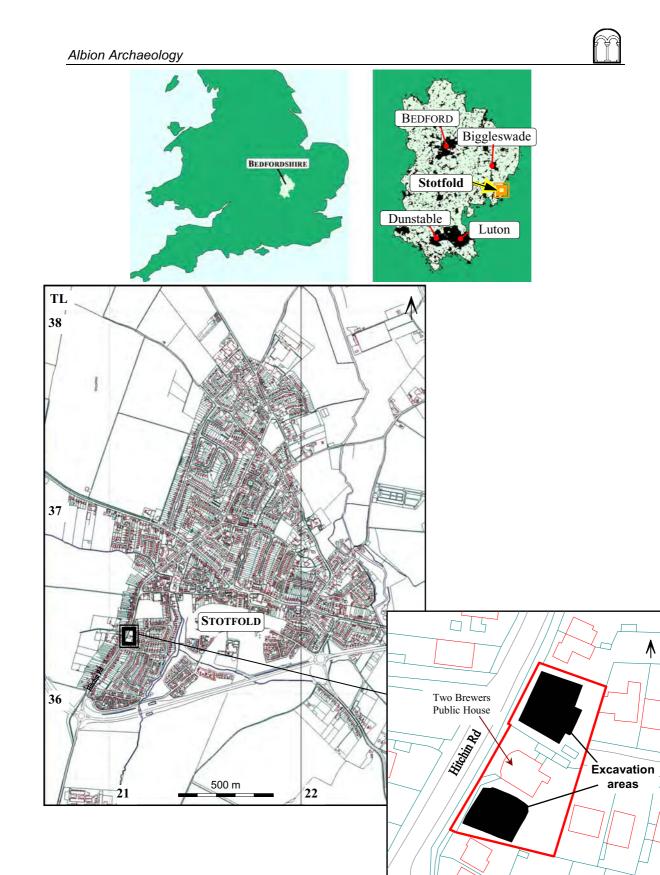
Boundary ditch G1 contained four small poorly preserved portions of iron nail shank, and the upper portion of a rectangular sectioned nail shank with a flat rectangular head (Manning type 1B: 1985).

A serrated flint flake (denticulate) of late Neolithic-early Bronze Age date occurred as a residual find in pit G4. The object is a secondary flake of triangular section, made from grey-brown opaque flint, with serrations down one lateral edge and cortex on the distal end. The proximal end is damaged, and post-depositional knicking is also present.

# 6.4 Ecofacts

The faunal assemblage comprises 84 animal bone fragments (1.4kg), the majority deriving from late Iron Age / early Roman boundary G3. Individual pieces are relatively small, with an average fragment weight of 17g, and are of reasonably fresh appearance. Diagnostic bone elements are post-cranial meat-bearing parts (limb bones, ribs); and vertebrae, pelvis, loose teeth, mandible and skull fragments, the latter suggesting on-site butchery. Species represented include horse, goat and dog.

Four oyster shell fragments (95g) were also collected from ditch G3.



**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)

20 m

~

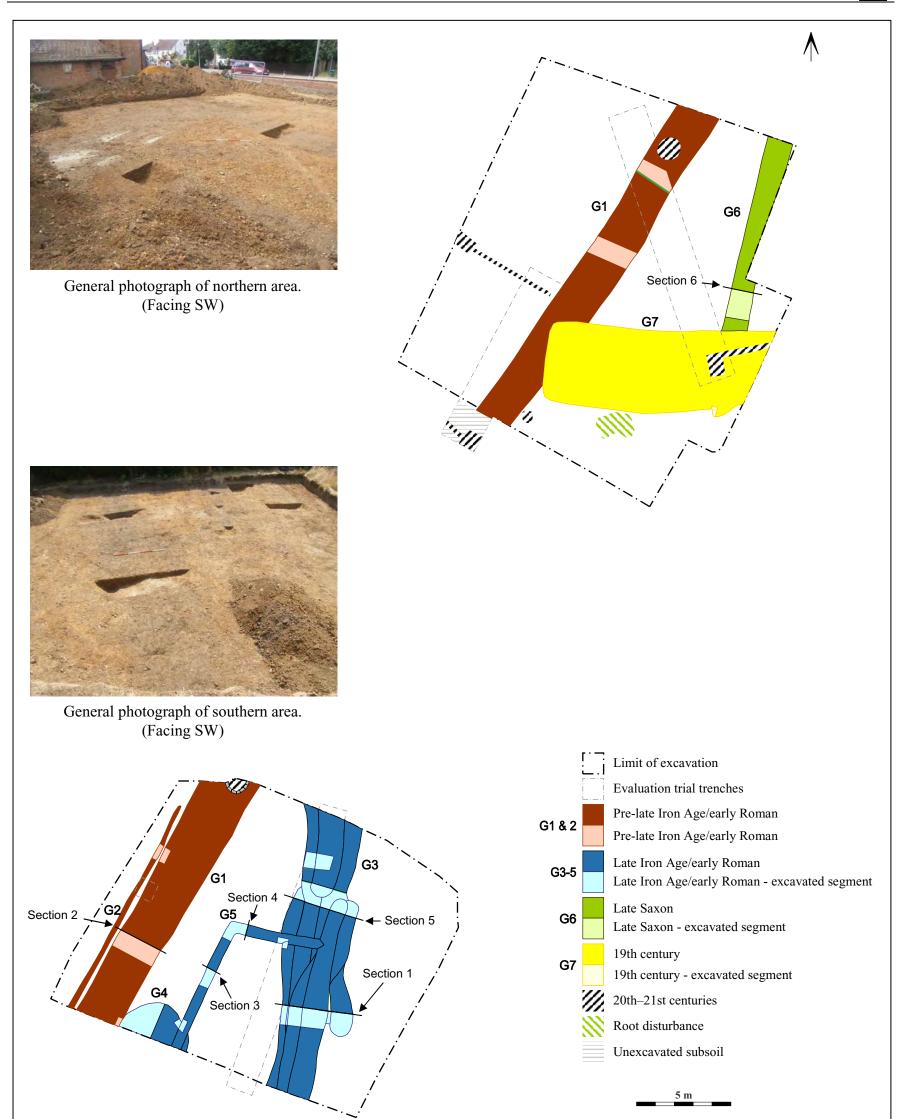
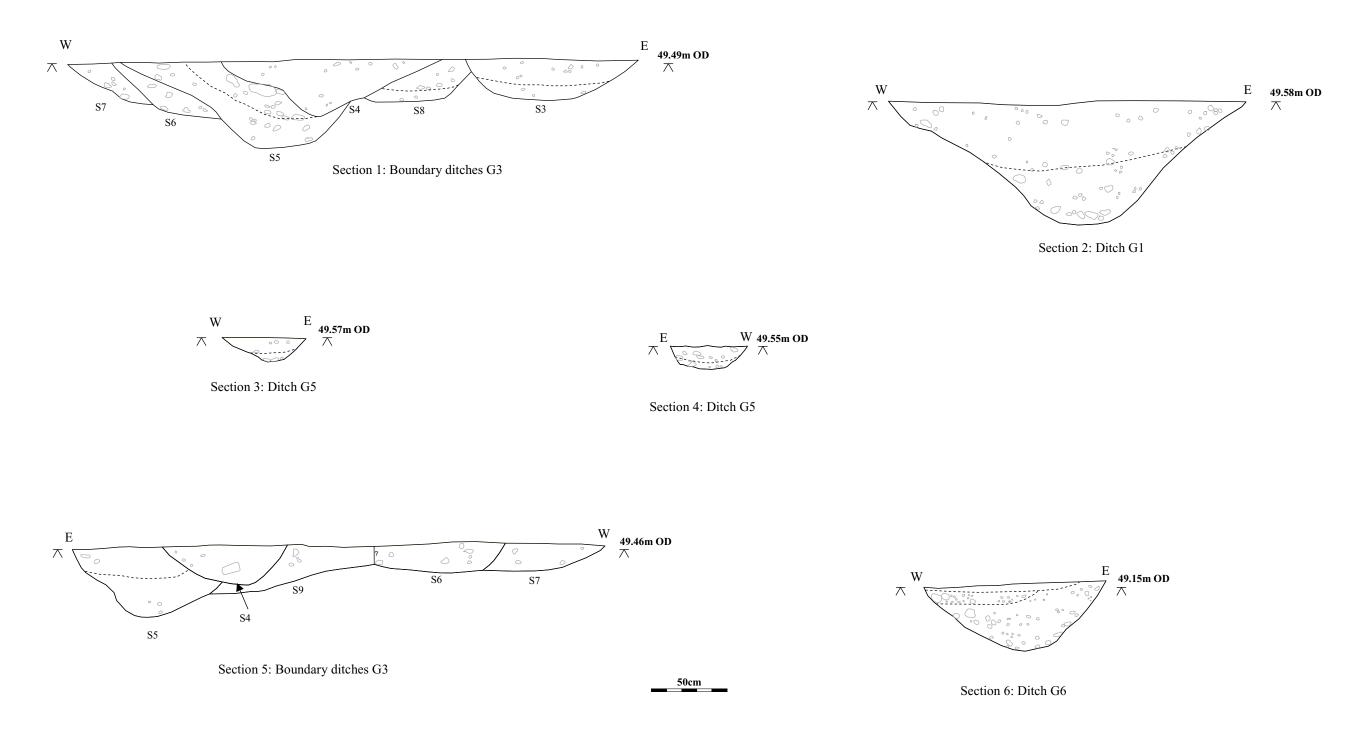
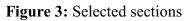


Figure 2: Plan of the excavations

Land at the Two Brewers Public House, Hitchin Road, Stotfold, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Excavation, Recording, Analysis and Publication







Ditch G1 (Section 2) (Facing NE, 2m scale)



Pit G4. (Facing SE, 1m scale)



Ditch G6. (Facing S, 1m scale)

Figure 4: Selected photographs





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

