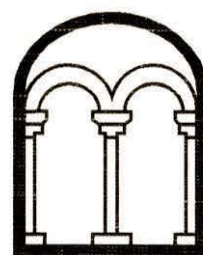


97A HIGH STREET  
BEDFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS  
AND PUBLICATION

**Albion**  
archaeology



**97A HIGH STREET  
BEDFORD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

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Compiled by	Approved by
K Pilkinton	D Shotliff

8th July 2014

Produced for:  
Ms Abir Saleh



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*The 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 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 Mr and Ms Abir Saleh. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders (Archaeological Officer) of the Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team.*

*Fieldwork was carried out by Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared this report.*

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## **Version History**

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>08/07/2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## **Key Terms**

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

HER	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record
HET	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## **Non-technical Summary**

*Planning application 13/01453/FUL for a single-storey extension over an existing flat-roofed extension on the west side of 97A High Street, Bedford, and a two-storey extension with porch on the east side, was submitted to Bedford Borough Council in July 2013.*

*As the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council recommended that a condition was attached to any planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation scheme.*

*The application was subsequently granted planning permission in September 2013 with an archaeological condition attached – Condition 6.*

*The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site is located in an area of archaeological interest, within the core of the Saxon burh and medieval town at Bedford (BBHER 10530).*

*However, no features of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks.*

*Features visible along the north side of the trench appeared to be post-medieval in date and may be the remains of rubbish pits. However, they were not revealed to a sufficient extent to accurately determine their form or function.*

*The alignment of the previous building foundations and the recent excavations made interpretation of the partially visible deposits problematic. However, the presence of subsoil in places, above the relatively undisturbed gravel terrace, suggests that if archaeological features were present in the immediate vicinity, they could be relatively well preserved.*

*The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2013.52. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-161046. No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 **Project Background**

Planning application 13/01453/FUL for a single-storey extension over an existing flat-roofed extension on the west side of 97A High Street, Bedford, and a two-storey extension with porch on the east side, was submitted to Bedford Borough Council in July 2013.

As the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council recommended that a condition was attached to any planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation scheme. This advice was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*<sup>1</sup>.

The application was subsequently granted planning permission in September 2013 with an archaeological condition attached – Condition 6.

The HET issued a brief detailing the requirements of the archaeological mitigation scheme at the site (BBC 2013), which was to comprise observation of construction groundworks and the investigation, recording, analysis and publication of any revealed archaeological remains.

### 1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The development site is located within a block of properties on the east side of the High Street between Mill Street to the south, Lurke Street to the north, and Howard Street to the east (NGR 505064 249938).

Number 97A is located at the rear of property number 97 which fronts onto the High Street. It is bounded to the north and east by a car park and to the south by the garden of the adjacent property.

The site lies at approximately 31m OD and the underlying drift geology is typically sands and gravels of the Stoke Goldington Member (Second Terrace) of the Ouse Valley Formation.

### 1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site is located in an area of archaeological interest, within the core of the Saxon *burh* and medieval town at Bedford (BBHER 10530).

Numerous small-scale archaeological investigations undertaken in the first half of the 20th century in the High Street, Silver Street, and St Peter's Street have identified evidence of occupation in the area from the Saxon period onwards (BBHER300 etc.).

---

<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>.



Various subsequent ground investigations undertaken from the 1980s onwards all within *c.* 50–150m of the development site have confirmed the potential of the area to contain features and artefacts of Saxon and medieval date (BBHERs 14378, 14819, 16099, 16107 etc.).

#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks associated with the construction of the new dwelling that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

The opportunities to address research themes identified in the local and regional research frameworks (Medlycott 2011, Oake *et al* 2007) during the project were limited due to the nature of the development groundworks. However, the specific research aims were:

- Identifying the nature of Saxon/medieval and later occupation of the area;
- Clarifying the chronology of Saxon/medieval and later occupation of the area;
- Identifying Saxon/medieval and later industrial/manufacturing activities in the area.



## 2 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation of the groundworks took place between 24th and 27th June 2014. Groundworks monitored included excavation of the foundations of the dwelling and a reduction in level to the construction area.

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

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations</i> (updated 2012) and <i>finds</i> (updated 2012)

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





### **3 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

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#### **3.1 Description of Groundworks**

Groundworks comprised a foundation trench for the new dwelling and ground reduction within the new building footprint (see Figure 2). The ground within the building footprint was reduced by 0.5m; this was not sufficiently deep to expose archaeological deposits. The foundation trench was 0.5m wide and reached a depth of *c.* 1.1m exposing the underlying terrace geology.

#### **3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits**

Topsoil (100) consisted of a dark brown-grey sandy garden soil *c.* 0.25m thick. Underlying this, the remains of previous foundations (101) were visible up to a depth of *c.* 1m in places. Where undisturbed by foundations, subsoil (102), up to 0.40m thick and consisting of mid brown silty sand, was present.

The underlying geology (103) was a loose mid orange sandy gravel. It was present at a depth of *c.* 1m.

#### **3.3 Post-medieval Disturbance**

Excavation of the foundation trench revealed previous brick and concrete foundations on almost exactly the same alignment. They are likely to represent the remains of outhouses associated with 97 High Street and are probably Victorian in date. They were almost entirely removed to make way for the new foundations.

The north side of the foundation trench revealed a dark grey silty deposit containing occasional brick rubble (105). The Victorian foundations on this side of the site appeared to be cut into this deposit. This may represent the remains of earlier post-medieval rubbish pitting as the deposit appears to be contained within a number of features [104] partially visible along the northern foundation trench (Figure 2).



## 4 CONCLUSIONS

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No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks.

Features visible along the north side of the trench appeared to be post-medieval in date and may be the remains of rubbish pits. However, they were not revealed to a sufficient extent to accurately determine their form or function.

The alignment of the previous building foundations and the recent excavations made interpretation of the partially visible deposits problematic. However, the depth of overburden and the presence of subsoil in places suggest that, if archaeological features were present in the immediate vicinity, they could be relatively well preserved.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession no.: BEDFM 2013.52. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-161046. No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required.



## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology, 2014. *97A High Street Bedford, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication*. Document 2013/168.

BBC 2013, *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 97A High Street, Bedford, Bedfordshire*. 4th October 2013.

Medlycott, M. (ed) 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.

Oake, M. *et al*, 2007, *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.



## 6 APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

### OASIS ID: albionar1-161046

#### Project details

Project name	97A High Street, Bedford
Short description of the project	Planning application for a single-storey extension over an existing flat-roofed extension on the west side of the property, and a two-storey extension with porch on the east side, was submitted to Bedford Borough Council in July 2013. The application was subsequently granted planning permission in September 2013 with an archaeological condition attached. No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks. Features visible along the north side of the trench appeared to be post-medieval in date and may be the remains of rubbish pits. However, they were not revealed to a sufficient extent to accurately determine their form or function.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2014 End: 27-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HSB2266 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	13/01453/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2013.52 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE, 97a High Street, Bedford
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 505064 249938 51.902663846 0.187952907677 51 54 09 N 000 11 16 E Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology



Project director/manager Robert Wardill  
 Project supervisor Kathleen Pilkinton

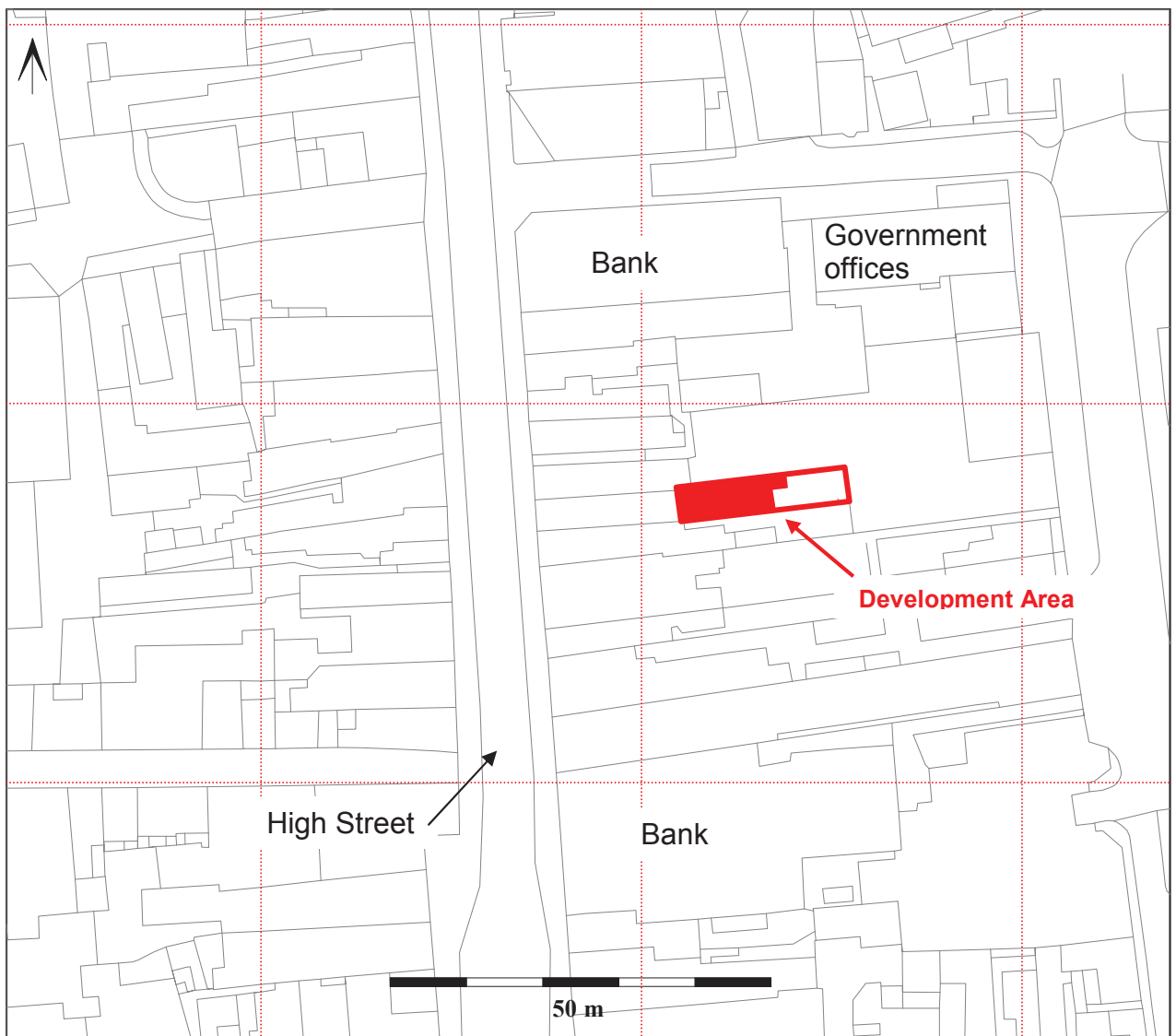
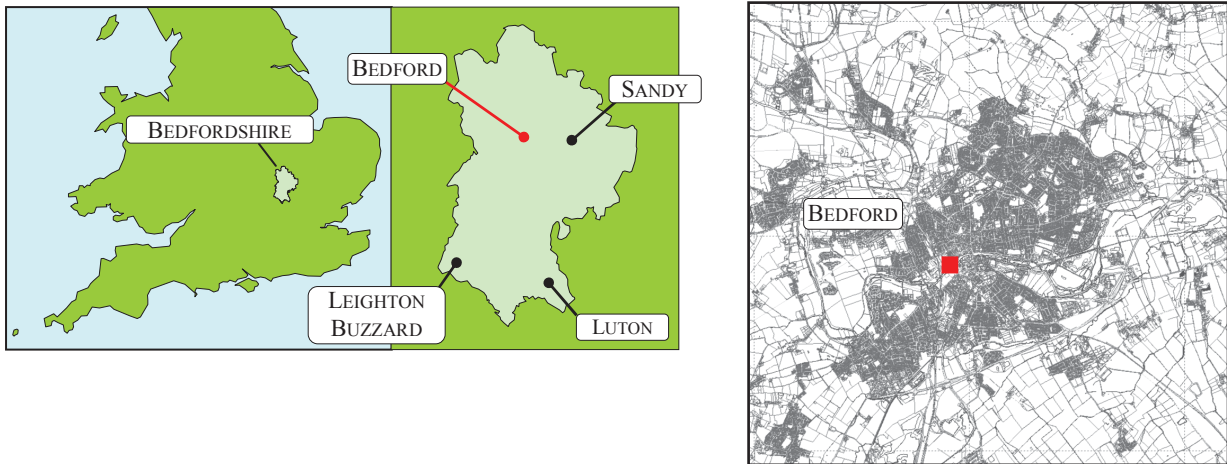
### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology  
 Digital Contents "other"  
 Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum  
 Paper Archive ID BEDFM 2013.52  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

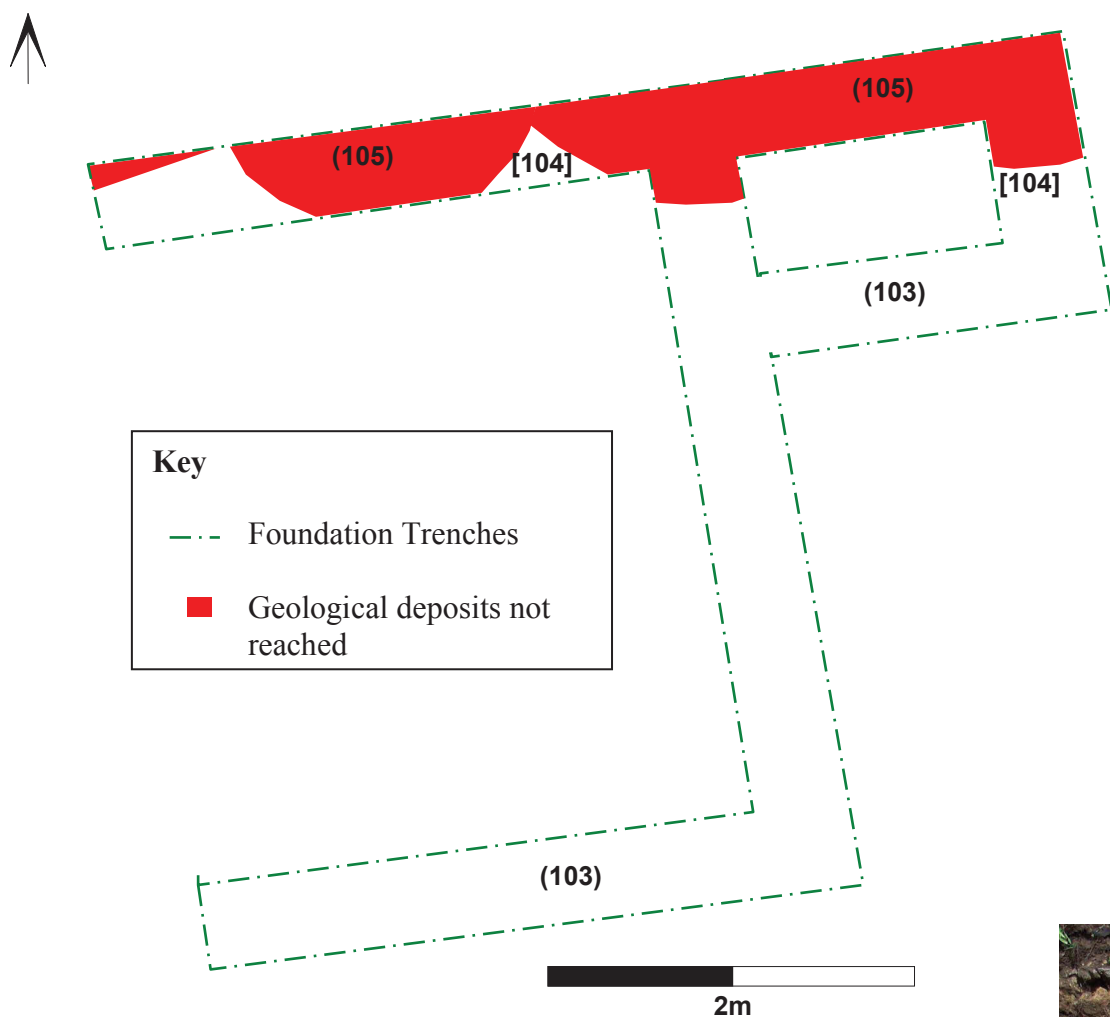
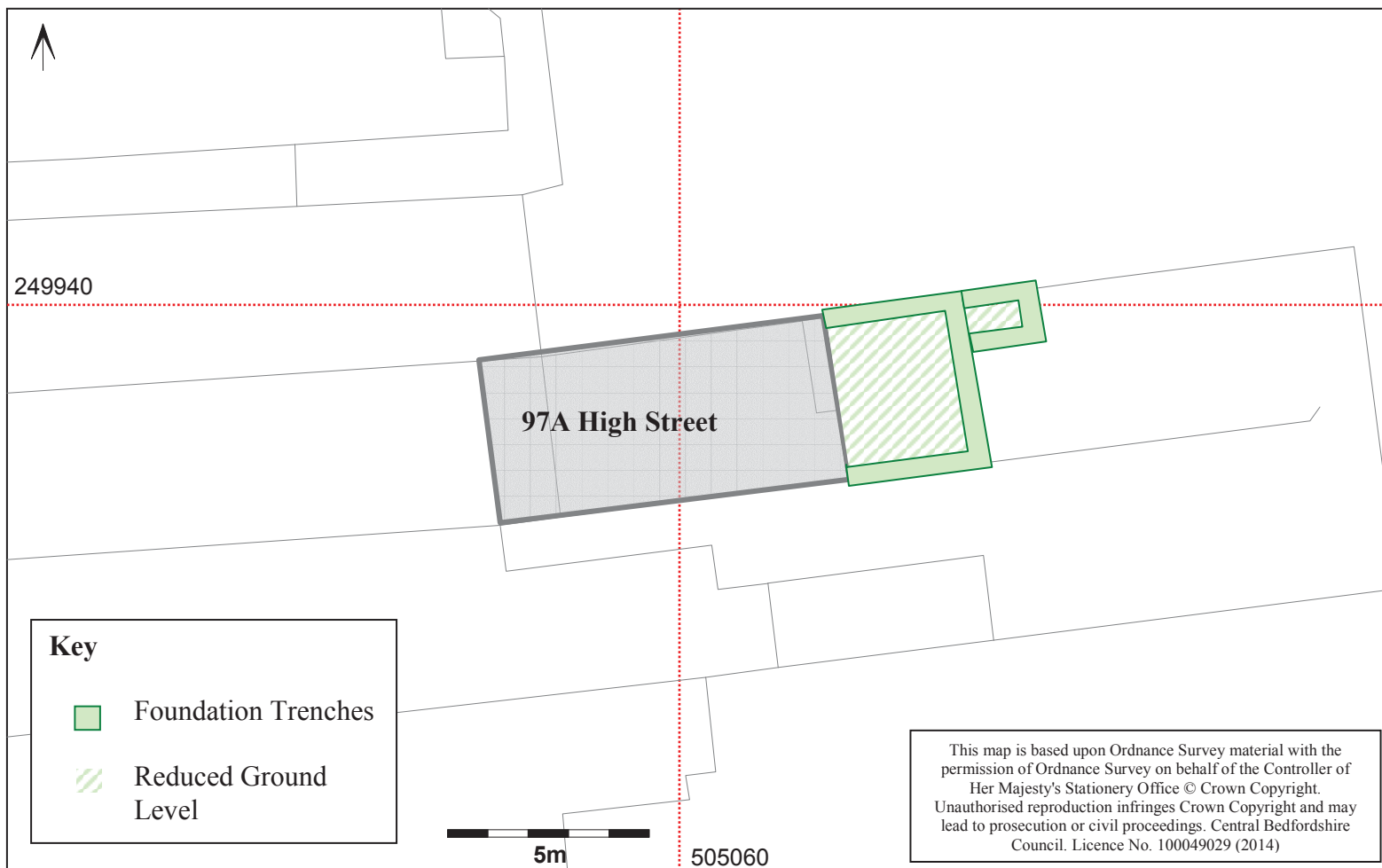
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 Date 2014  
 Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology  
 Place of issue or publication Bedford

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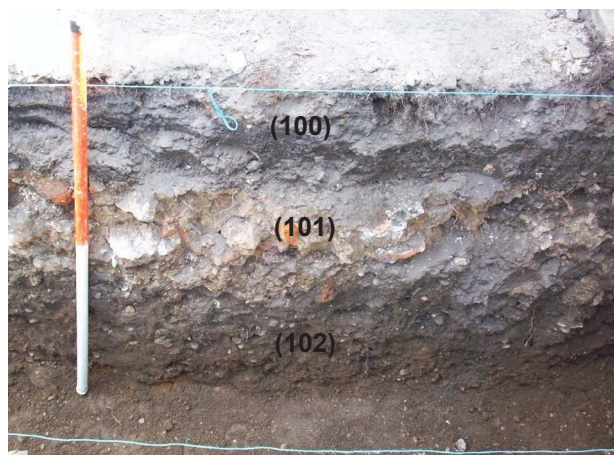


**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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Northern foundation trench, looking west.  
Scale – 1m



Southern foundation trench, looking south.  
Scale – 1m

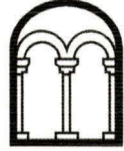


Remains of previous foundations in SE corner of site

**Figure 2:** Plans and photographs of observed groundworks

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