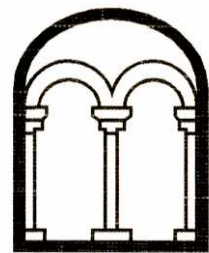


**9 GOODMAYES CLOSE  
BEDFORD**

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

**Albion**  
archaeology



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BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,  
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I. Leslie	R. Wardill	D. Shotliff

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Produced for:  
Mr and Mrs G Bell



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## **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 Mrs G Bell. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Vanessa Clarke (Senior Archaeological Officer) of the Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team.*

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

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](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
 Website: [www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)

## **Version History**

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## **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**

*Bedford Borough Council has granted planning permission for the erection of a new detached dwelling and alterations to existing access and parking at 9 Goodmayes Close, Bedford. Due to the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site a condition was attached to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological works comprising observation of groundworks associated with the development and the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that were revealed.*

*The development site is situated on the gravel terrace to the south of the river Great Ouse. Investigations on the gravel terrace to the east of Bedford have identified numerous archaeological sites. These include early Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual monuments and settlement sites dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods.*

*In 1997 a trial trench evaluation was undertaken along the southern edge of Fenlake Meadows. Archaeological features dated to the 11th–13th centuries were found close to the present development.*

*Groundworks for the development comprised the excavation of a foundation trench for the new dwelling and a pit for the installation of a soak away. No features of archaeological interest were revealed during the groundworks. A thick overburden was observed which was presumably deposited when the current dwellings were constructed in the 1950s. The presence of thick overburden suggests that if archaeological features were present in the immediate vicinity, then they could be relatively well preserved.*

*The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession number BEDFM 2013.57. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-164631. No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Project Background*

Bedford Borough Council has granted planning permission (12/02154/FUL) for the erection of a new detached dwelling and alterations to existing access and parking at 9 Goodmayes Close, Bedford. Due to the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site a condition was attached to the planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological works.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the archaeological mitigation works. A brief was not issued by the Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) but they advised that archaeological monitoring during the groundworks would be required. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared providing a methodology for archaeological monitoring and subsequent post-excavation works (Albion Archaeology 2013); it was approved by the HET.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The development area is located approximately 2km to the south-east of Bedford town centre. Situated towards the south-east end of Goodmayes Close, the site lies within an extensive residential area to the south of Cardington Road (Fig. 1).

The development site covers a total area of 452m<sup>2</sup>. It currently contains a single semi-detached two-storey dwelling. The site of the new dwelling is centred on grid reference TL0660/4854.

The site is level, at a height of 25m OD. It is situated on the gravel terrace to the south of the River Great Ouse. Superficial geological deposits consist of Felmersham Member sand and gravel river terrace deposits formed up to 3 million years ago. The underlying bedrock consists of Oxford clay.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The development site is situated on the gravel terrace to the south of the River Great Ouse. Investigations on the gravel terrace to the east of Bedford have identified numerous archaeological sites. These include early Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual monuments and settlement sites dating from the prehistoric and Roman periods.

Historic maps from the late 18th and earlier 19th centuries show the settlement of Fenlake as a linear settlement along Cardington Road, centred on the junction with Eastcotts Road. Archaeological investigation (see below) indicates that the settlement at Fenlake existed during the medieval period (HER17028).

In 1997 a trial trench evaluation was undertaken along the southern edge of Fenlake Meadows in advance of the possible widening of Cardington Road (HER 16298) (BCAS 1997). Archaeological features were found close to the



present development. Ditches and pits with pottery dated to the 11th to 13th centuries indicated the presence of medieval occupation and enclosures.

#### **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.



## 2 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation of the groundworks took place between 21st and 22nd January 2014. Groundworks monitored included excavation of the foundations of the dwelling and a pit for a soak away.

Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for archaeological 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 a pit for the installation of a soak away (see Figure 2). The foundation trench was 0.7m wide and 1.2–1.4m deep. The soak away pit measured 1.5m by 1.2m in plan and was 1.4m deep. Both were dug deep enough to expose the underlying geology and were at a depth at which archaeological remains, if present, would have been exposed.

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

Overburden consisted of a dark brown-grey sandy modern garden soil *c.* 0.45m thick. Underlying this was a mid grey-brown sandy buried topsoil *c.* 0.35m thick and a further mid brown sandy buried subsoil 0.55m thick.

The underlying geology was a light brown-orange silty sand.

#### 3.3 *Conclusions*

No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks.

The relatively deep overburden (*c.* 1.2m) described above is partially a result of the importation of made up ground, which now serves as the modern garden soil. This was presumably deposited when the current dwellings were constructed in the 1950s.

The presence of thick overburden suggests that if archaeological features were present in the immediate vicinity, then they could be relatively well preserved.

The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum under accession no.: BEDFM 2013.57. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-164631. No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required.

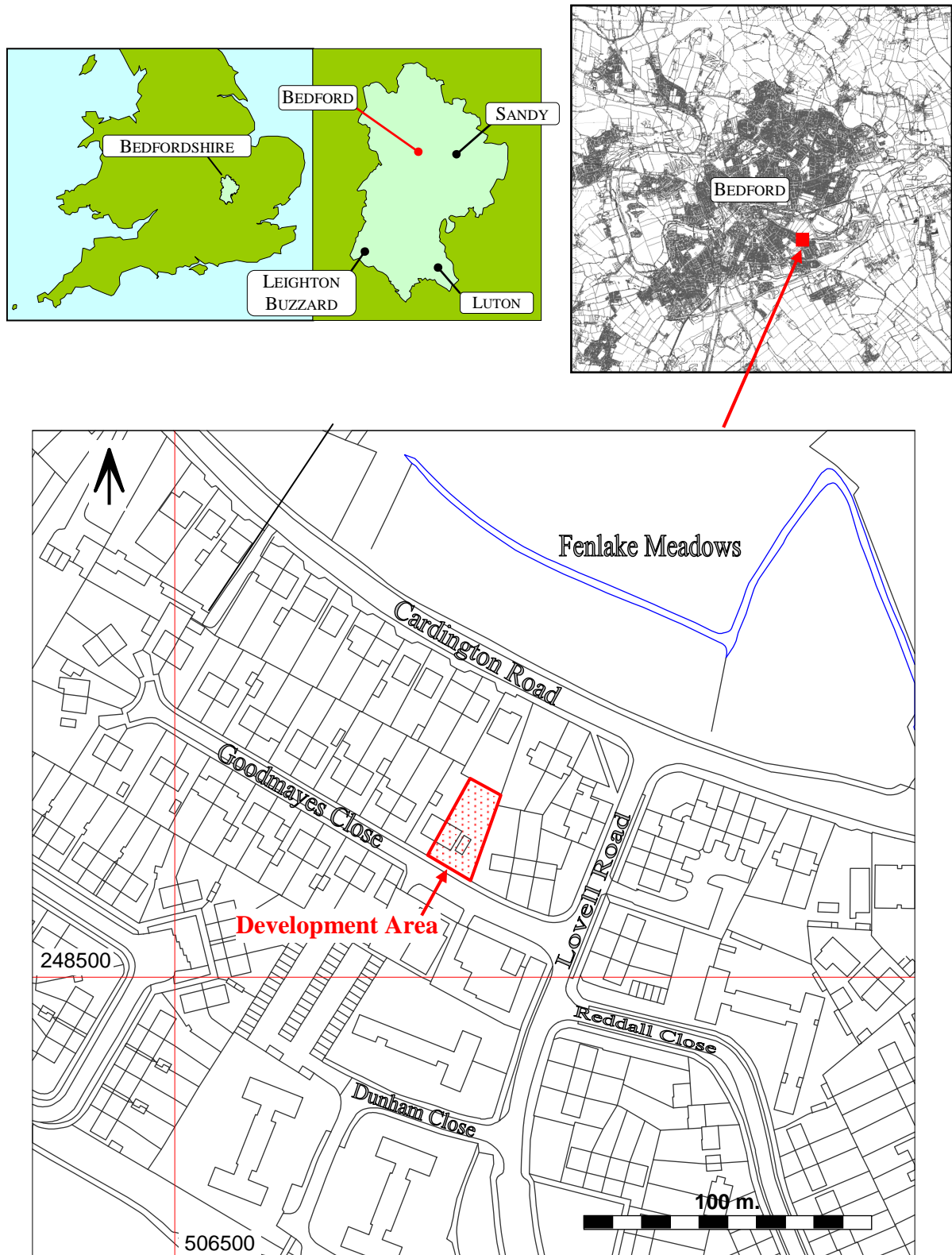


## 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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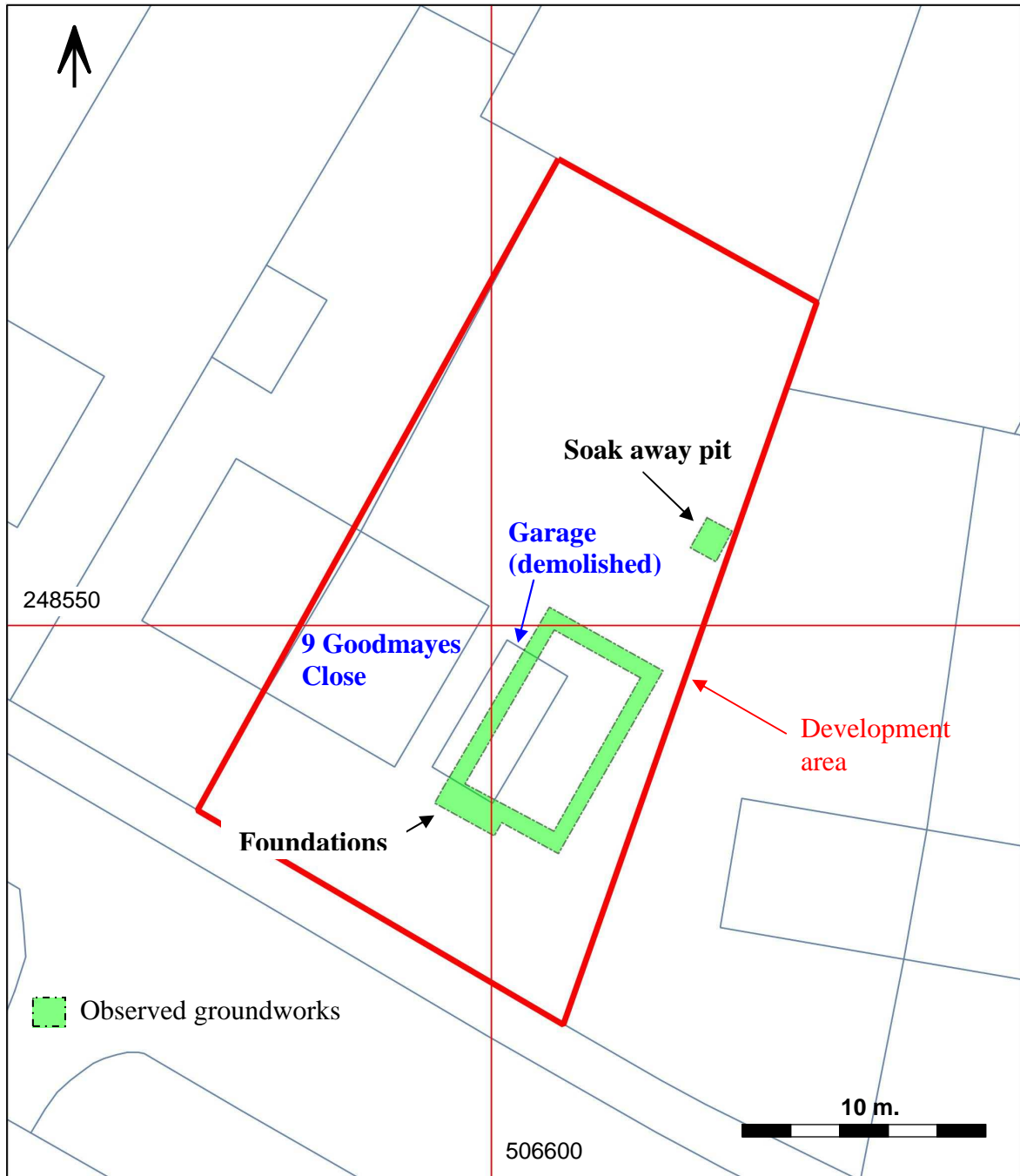
Albion Archaeology, 2013. *9 Goodmayes Close, Bedford, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication.* Document 2013/187.

BCAS, 1997, *Cardington Road, Bedford: Archaeological Evaluation Report* 1997/17



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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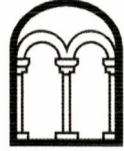


**Figure 2: Plan of observed groundworks**

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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](mailto:office@albion-arch.com)  
[www.albion-arch.com](http://www.albion-arch.com)

