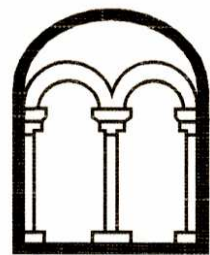


**THE WHITE HOUSE
HUSBORNE CRAWLEY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**THE WHITE HOUSE
HUSBORNE CRAWLEY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Document: 2014/100
Version: 1.0

Project Code: WH2367
Bedford Museum accession no.: BEDFM: 2014.18
OASIS ID: albionar1-173612

Compiled by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Drew Shotliff

Issue date: 25th July 2014

Produced for:
Vynette Thomas

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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 Vynette Thomas and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist)

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer) and Ian Turner (Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Mark Phillips with illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Mark Phillips. Artefact analysis was undertaken by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>25th July 2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (CB/13/003073/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the erection of an orangery with cellar and a verandah at the White House, School Lane, Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the development site had the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest. A condition requiring archaeological mitigation works was attached to the planning permission. The requirements for the works were set out in brief issued by the CBCA (CBC 2014) and the methodology for the works was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014).

The construction of the new orangery and cellar at the eastern end of the existing building had the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains, if any were present. This area was subject to archaeological monitoring during groundworks carried out by the building contractor on the 14th and 19th of May 2014.

The overburden consisted of a modern gravel surface above a mixed deposit closely derived from underlying geological deposit. The investigation uncovered two modern (20th-century) ditches and part of pit or ditch that contained fragments of post-medieval tile drain. All of the features were cut into the undisturbed bedrock which consisted of the Woburn Sands Formation (Lower Greensand) approximately 200mm below the modern ground surface.

No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required. The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM: 2014.18). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-173612).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (CB/13/003073/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) for the erection of an orangery with cellar and a verandah at the White House, School Lane, Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the development site had the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest. Consequently a condition (3) was attached to the planning permission. This stipulated that no development could take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation had been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority and that the development could only be implemented in full accordance with the approved archaeological scheme. The recommendations were in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Policy 45 of the Development Strategy for Central Bedfordshire.

Detailed requirements for the archaeological works were set out in a brief issued by the CBCA (CBC 2014). Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the developer to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which was approved by the CBCA (Albion 2014).

This report presents the results of the archaeological monitoring works.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The village of Husborne Crawley is located towards the western edge of Central Bedfordshire. The development site is located on the south side of School Lane, close to its junction with Bedford Road. It is centred at NGR SP 95486 36194.

The site lies at a height of approximately 100m OD on the northern edge of the Greensand Ridge. The underlying bedrock is Woburn Sands Formation (Lower Greensand).

The site contains a detached house set within a large garden. The development works comprised the erection of an orangery with a cellar at the west end of the house and a verandah on the east side of the north range. Archaeological works were undertaken in advance of the construction of the orangery and cellar. The verandah was not included in the archaeological works due to the low impact of its design.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Information on heritage assets near the site, historical maps and historical documents were collated in a desk-based archaeological assessment (CAMplan 2013).

Crawley is first mentioned in Domesday Book (AD 1086) whilst the Husborne part of the name is first recorded in a charter of AD 969. Crawley (*Crawelai* or *Crauelai*) consisted to two manors of five hides each in Domesday, the descent of



the manors remaining separate until they were acquired by the Duke of Bedford in the 18th century.

The historic settlement contained two separate centres, Church End and Long End. The development site lies within the historic core of Church End (HER 16893) at the east end of a former, small triangular green.

The medieval parish church of St James (HER 3740) is located 80m to the north-east of the development area, on the opposite side of School Lane. The Grade II* listed building is first mentioned in 1170 when it was granted to the Prior of Dunstable (Pickford 1998, 388). The church was heavily restored in 1911 but contains fabric dating from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. A hoard of gold and silver (HER 8695) buried in an earthen pot was reportedly found during grave digging in the churchyard in 1228.

Historic buildings close to the development include Manor Farm (HER 3739, Grade II) and Henry IV Cottage (HER 3737, Grade II). Manor farm is a substantial timber-framed building dating from the late 16th/17th century with later additions; it stands in a prominent position next to the church, opposite the development area. Henry IV Cottage is a cruck-framed building, dated to the 15th century, located on Bedford Road at the east side of the former green.

The location of the White House was occupied by the 18th century; maps of c.1760 (BLARS ref. R1/42) and 1799 (BLARS ref. MA75) show buildings on or near the location of the current house.

1.4 Project Objectives

Research objectives identified in the WSI were derived from the local and regional research agendas (Medlycott 2011, Oake *et al* 2007) and based on the potential for medieval and post-medieval settlement remains on the site. However, the investigation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains relevant to the published county and regional archaeological research objectives.

1.5 Methodology

The groundworks for the orangery and cellar involved two phases of work: ground reduction and underpinning of the existing building, followed by the excavation of the cellar. The design of the archaeological works included two phases to take account of the construction methodology (CBC 2014 and Albion 2014).

A preliminary visit to the site was carried out on 14th May to monitor the excavation of two test pits. These were dug by the building contractors to examine the existing house foundations.

The initial ground reduction works were monitored on 19th May. A small number of cut features were identified and investigated. These were cut into the top of the undisturbed geological deposit, which lay just below the modern ground surface. Clean geological deposits were exposed across the whole of the development area and consequently no further archaeological monitoring was required during the subsequent, deeper stages of the groundworks required to create the cellar.



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 Introduction

The deposits are summarised below and are shown in plan and section on Figure 2. A selection of photographs is presented in Figures 3 to 6.

2.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Overburden consisted of a loose gravel surface (1) above a layer of mid red-brown silty sand (2) with occasional brick fragments.

The gravel is a modern external surface formed from imported stone. Layer (2) appeared to be a mixed layer which was largely derived from the underlying geological material with some modern debris incorporated. In total, there was approximately 200mm of overburden above the undisturbed geology.

Undisturbed geological deposits were found only 200mm below the modern ground surface (Figure 2, Section 1 and Figure 4). They consisted of clean, light greenish-yellow sand with mid orange-red banding. Some flat pieces of ironstone found at the top of the deposit in one of the test-pits may represent an *in situ* layer. The deposits correspond to the recorded bedrock in this area which is Woburn Sands Formation — sandstone formed 100 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. It is part of the Lower Greensand Group and forms the Greensand Ridge which runs SW-NE through this part of Bedfordshire.

2.3 Archaeological Features

Three archaeological features were identified: two 20th-century ditches and part of a post-medieval pit or ditch.

In the southern part of the area a shallow ditch, aligned roughly east-west, contained fragments of modern brick. A disused service run, containing glazed earthenware sewer or drain pipe, ran across the middle of the development area.

Feature [4] was partially uncovered in the north-west part of the development area (Figure 2, Section 2 and Figure 5). It was aligned approximately NW-SE and continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north-west. Excavation of a 1m-long segment at the south-east end uncovered a steep-sided, U-shaped profile with concave sides and a slightly concave base. The primary fill (5) consisted of dark brown, silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The main fill (6) was loose, light yellow-orange, sand with occasional medium/large stones mixed with small pockets of a darker silty fill (5). Fragments of post-medieval tile drains ('land drain') were present in the feature, which may represent an elongated pit or the terminal section of a ditch.

2.4 Conclusions

The investigation uncovered two modern ditches and part of a pit or ditch that contained fragments of post-medieval tile drain. All of the features were cut into the undisturbed bedrock which consists of Woburn Sands Formation.



No further analysis or publication of the results of the fieldwork is required. The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM: 2014.18). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-173612).



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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4. FIGURES

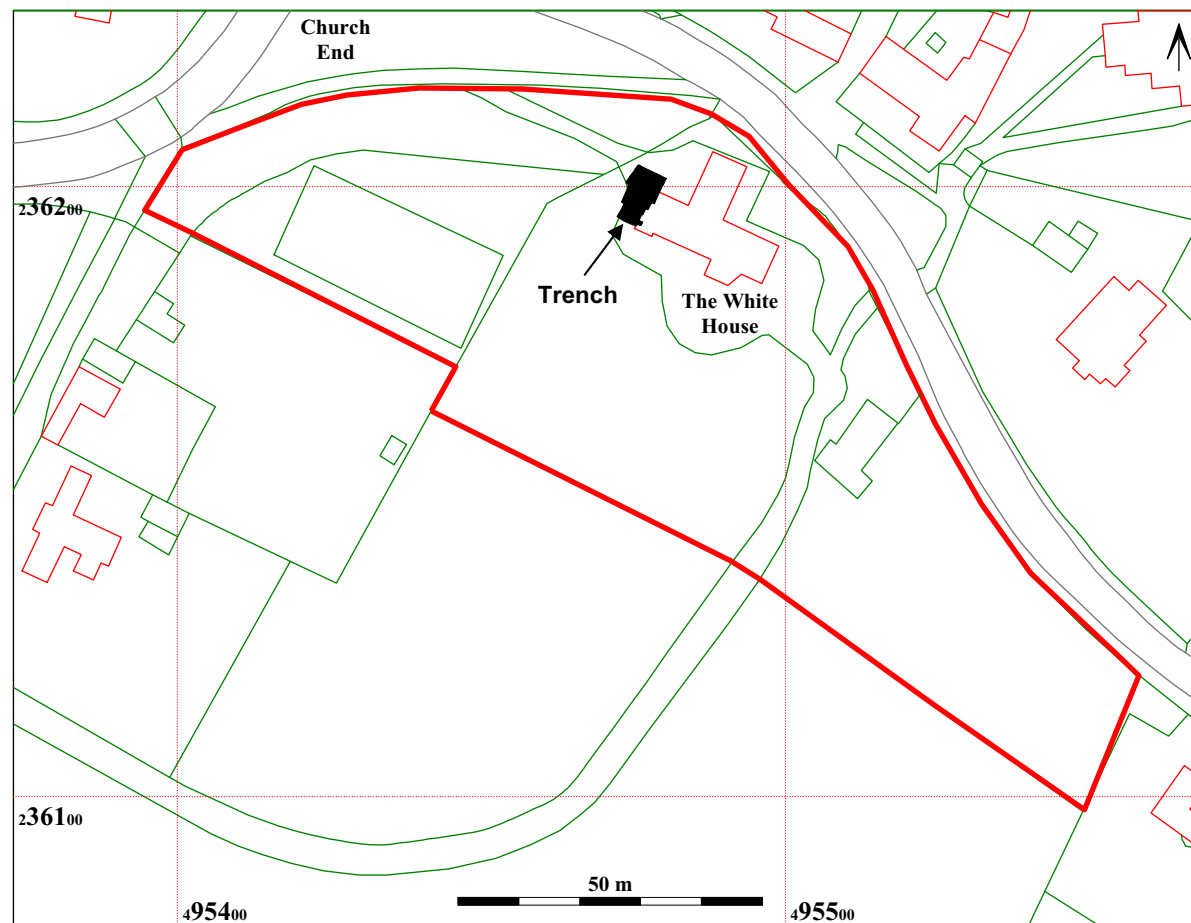
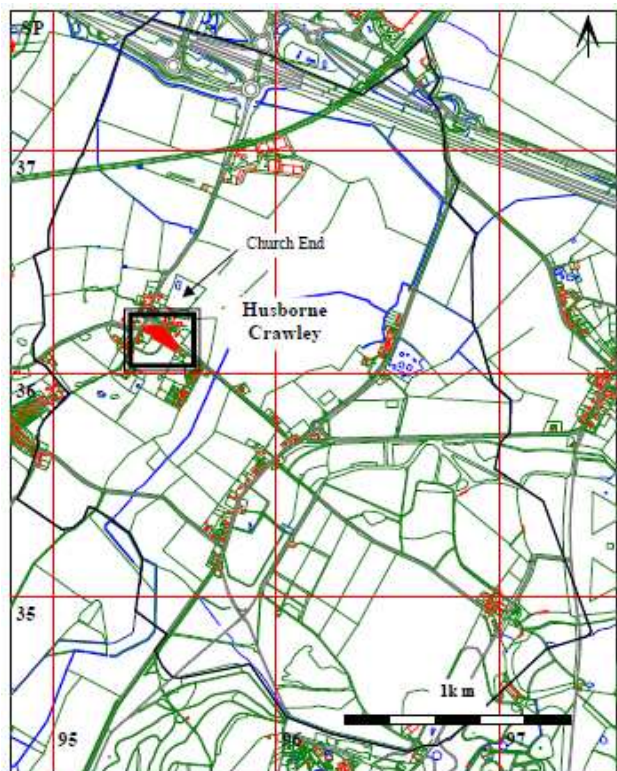
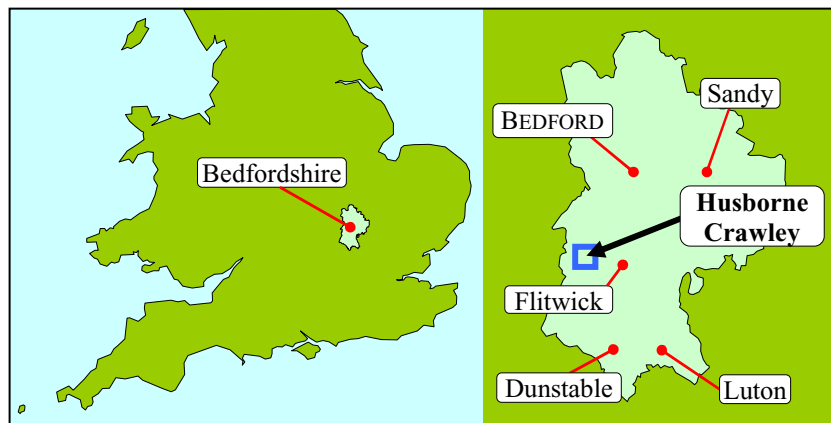


Figure 1: Site location plan

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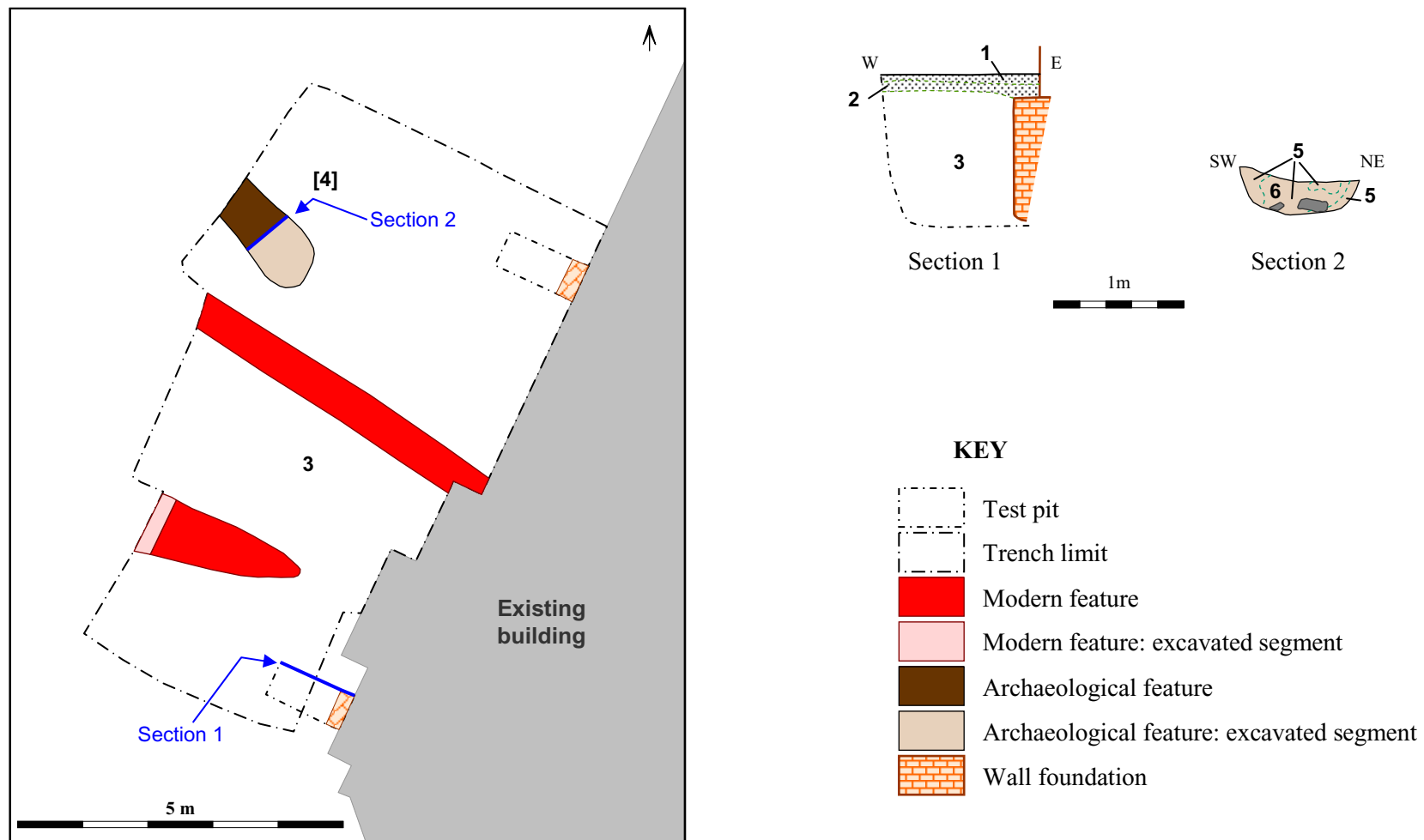


Figure 2: All features plan and sections



Figure 3: General view of development area during excavation of test pits (looking south-east)



Figure 4: Test pit
Shows foundations of existing house to right and modern overburden
above undisturbed geological deposit (scale 1m)



Figure 5: Feature [4]
(looking north-west; scale 1m)



Figure 6: General view of development area following machining
(looking south-east). Shows feature [4] at right and pipe trench crossing
middle part of area (scale 1m)



5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-173612

Project details

Project name	The White House, Husborne Crawley
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the erection of an orangery with cellar and a verandah at the White House, School Lane, Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the development site had the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest. A condition requiring archaeological mitigation works was attached to the planning permission. The requirements for the works were set out in a brief issued by the CBCA; the methodology for the works was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by Albion Archaeology. The construction of the new orangery and cellar at the eastern end of the existing building had the potential to impact on buried remains, if any were present. This area was subject to archaeological monitoring during groundworks carried out by the building contractor. The overburden consisted of a modern gravel surface above a mixed deposit closely derived from underlying geological deposits. The investigation uncovered two modern (20th-century) ditches and part of a pit or ditch that contained fragments of post-medieval tile drain. All of the features were cut into the undisturbed bedrock which consisted of the Woburn Sands Formation (Lower Greensand) approximately 200mm below the modern ground surface.
Project dates	Start: 14-05-2014 End: 19-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WH2367 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CB/13/003073/FULL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM:2014.18 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE HUSBORNE CRAWLEY The White



	House, Husborne Crawley
Site coordinates	SP 95486 36194 52.0155176155 -0.608452355607 52 00 55 N 000 36 30 W Point
Study area	40 Square metres

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 director/manager	Mark Phillips
Project supervisor	Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography" ,"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM 2014.18
Paper Media available	"Context sheet" ,"Drawing",' 'Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The White House, Husborne Crawley, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Phillips, M'
Other bibliographic details	2014/100
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology



Place of issue or
publication

Bedford

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 25 July 2014

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