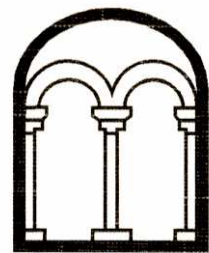


**LAND TO THE EAST OF 1 PEDLEY LANE
CLIFTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**LAND TO THE EAST OF 1 PEDLEY LANE
CLIFTON
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION
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AND PUBLICATION**

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Ian Turner	Ben Barker	Drew Shotliff

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Campbell Buchanan

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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 by Campbell Buchanan. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council's Senior Archaeological Officer. Fieldwork was carried out by Ben Barker (Project Officer) and Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor).

This report was prepared by Ian Turner and edited by Ben Barker (Project Officer) with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).

All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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1.0	24/07/14	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
DA	Development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (CB/12/03085/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new dwelling with parking and a garden on land east of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton, Bedfordshire.

As the development site lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition was attached to the planning permission for a programme of archaeological works. The requirements for the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks were set out in a brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2012).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Campbell Buchanan to produce a written scheme of investigation (Albion 2012c) in response to the brief issued by the CBCA, to undertake the archaeological works and to produce a report detailing the results (this document).

The ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches revealed a layer of dark black grey clay silt with fragments of brick, roof tile and pottery sherds that ranged in date from the 17th to the 20th century. The deposit is interpreted as material built up during the use of a former farmyard of 20th-century date.

No earlier archaeological features or deposits were present beneath the farmyard layer, suggesting that this site may have lain beyond the medieval settlement core.

This report will be submitted to the Central Bedfordshire HER and uploaded onto the OASIS database (ref. no. albionar1-185034). No further analysis or publication of the results will be required. The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession number BEDFM:2012.78).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

Planning permission (CB/12/03085/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new dwelling with parking and a garden on land east of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton, Bedfordshire.

As the development site lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition was attached to the planning permission for a programme of archaeological works. This recommendation was in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of *Policy 141* of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The requirements for the programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks were set out in a brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2012).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Campbell Buchanan to produce a written scheme of investigation (Albion 2012c) in response to the brief issued by CBCA, to undertake the archaeological works, and to produce a report detailing the results (this document).

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

Clifton is a village in the south-east of Central Bedfordshire and lies *c.* 2.5km west of the A1 Great North Road (Figure 1). It lies on fairly level ground just south of the confluence of the Rivers Flit and Ivel and in between the villages of Shefford and Henlow.

The development area (DA) lies on the northern edge of the village, but close to its historic centre which lies to the south-west. The DA is bounded to the east and west by residential properties and private gardens, to the north by Pedley Lane, and to the south by the access road to the associated residential development of Pedley Farm Close.

Prior to the current development the plot was occupied by a range of agricultural sheds and a large central barn on an area of concrete hard standing. A range of agricultural buildings along the current access road from Grange Street, to the east, include a Grade II listed barn (Figure 2), the redevelopment of which is subject of a separate report (Albion 2014).

The DA is centred on NGR TL 1629 3907 and comprises *c.* 0.5ha of land at *c.* 42m OD. The underlying geology comprises soils of the “Milton” association, a gleyed brown earth found in Bedfordshire on the loam and gravel terraces of the Rivers Ouse and Ivel (Taylor 1982). The solid geology is sandstone and mudstone of the Lower Greensand Group.



1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Albion Archaeology has previously carried out an archaeological evaluation of land located 30m to the west of the DA (Albion 2012a). In support of a previous planning application, relating to an adjacent plot of land, Albion Archaeology prepared a desk-based heritage asset assessment (Albion 2012b). Its purpose was to characterise the nature, likely date and significance of known or potential heritage assets within the proposed development area. The search area of the assessment included the current DA. In the course of preparation of this WSI, consultation with the CBC HER Officer confirmed that no new relevant data had been added to the HER since the 2012 desk-based study.

Clifton today is classed as a 'large village' but it grew out of a much smaller settlement that was most likely polyfocal in nature (HER 17110). There are two likely cores to the village: the Stockbridge Road/Church Street crossroads in the north, centred on the parish church; and the area at the southern end of Church Street in the vicinity of the village pond and former triangular village green.

The Clifton Conservation Area description includes a further core, which is the Grange Street and Pedley Lane junction immediately north-east of the DA. However, it is not certain on what evidence this description is based.

The DA is situated close to the village centre around the green to the south-east and lies within the western extent of the Conservation Area (Figure 1).

Clifton is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Clistone' and extending to 3 hides and ½ virgate (Page 1908). It is therefore most likely Saxon in origin; however the location of this settlement is unclear. It is possible that it was close to the 14th-century manorial site (HER 3575) and associated earthworks (HER 2523) c. 200m to the north of the DA. The earthworks are now ploughed-out but a three-sided moat still exists, indicating the location of the early manor house.

The route of a Roman road (HER 5342) was suggested to run along Pedley Lane, a short distance to the north of the DA. This was one of many roads identified by the *Viatores* group in the South Midlands (*Viatores* road no. 176). However, its existence was later discounted (Simco 1984).

An adjacent barn is grade II listed (HER 13346). Pedley Farm house (HER 7088), immediately to the north of the DA, has a 16th-century core with later alterations.

Many of the buildings in the vicinity of the DA within the Conservation Area date from the 16th–19th century. A further timber-framed barn (HER 16385) was formerly located to the south-east of the DA but fell into disrepair and collapsed sometime after 1995.

To the south of the DA is a Grade II listed building, The Grange (HER 6652). This dates from the 16th century, with later additions and alterations, and lies



in extensive grounds, whose 17th-century garden wall and garden gate (HER 6653) are also Grade II listed.

The field bordering the northern side of Pedley Lane is the suggested site of a post-medieval clay pit (HER 7643), as it is marked as “Clay Pit Close” on an estate map of 1745.

The archaeological field evaluation immediately to the south-west of the DA revealed an undated gully, possibly associated with a modern boundary or drainage ditch, and a possible yard surface or area of flooring (Albion Archaeology 2012a). Another archaeological evaluation at 28 Grange Street (Jones 2012) identified a number of archaeological features likely to represent medieval and post-medieval occupation.

An archaeological evaluation at New Road, Clifton to the south (Albion Archaeology 2013) identified a number of ditches probably representing post-medieval or later land division.

1.4 Project Objectives

The development site had the potential to address a number of research objectives identified in the research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al* 2007). It lies close to the core of the identified medieval settlement at Clifton and therefore the focus of research objectives for the site lie in the Saxon and medieval period. It also had the potential to contain post-medieval remains relating to rural settlement, a research objective highlighted by Edgeworth (*ibid*, 121–123).

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that, in general, few medieval rural settlements, particularly with Saxon origin, have been investigated in the county (Oake in Oake *et al* 2007). Oake states a need for research into rural settlement on a micro-scale of investigation, in order to establish the chronology, structure and function of individual settlements as well as classes of settlement, ranging from the prehistoric to the medieval period. The need for investigation into the origins, development and dynamics of medieval rural settlement are also emphasised by Medlycott (2011) in the East of England Research Framework.

The site also had the potential to provide information about the development of farmsteads and farm buildings in the post-medieval period (Gilman *et al* 2000, 42 and Oake 2007, 16).

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.

In addition, the investigation sought to recover contemporary palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- whether any Saxon activity was present in this part of Clifton;
- whether any medieval or post-medieval activity survives below ground on the proposed development area, and to identify its nature.

The project had the potential to add to knowledge and understanding of the nature of rural settlements. It was also to result in an archive report that fully described the archaeological works (this document).



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Implementation

Archaeological observation of the groundworks was undertaken between 19th September 2013 and 10th March 2014 (Figure 2). This comprised monitoring of the removal of a concrete slab that formed a farmyard surface and the ‘raft’ foundation of the farmyard building (demolished at an earlier stage of the works) and the excavation of foundation and service trenches for the new build.

2.2 Scope of Works

The area of investigation is shown on Figure 3. The overlying concrete slab was approximately 0.25–0.3m thick and the foundation trenches were 0.65m wide and varied in depth from 0.6m in the west to 1.2m in the east. The two service trenches were 0.45m wide and varied in depth from 0.45m in the north to 0.7m in the south where they intercepted the service runs supplying Pedley Farm Close.

The excavations, including the removal of the concrete slab, were carried out using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed bucket and operated under close archaeological supervision. The 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 artefacts.

2.3 Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001).
ALGAO	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No. 14</i> (2003)
Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (1998)
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> (2009)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011)
CBC brief	<i>Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Land East of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton, Bedfordshire</i>
IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>



Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations (updated 2008) and finds (updated 2008)

A detailed methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion 2012c).

2.4 Archiving

An integrated project archive was prepared on completion of the project. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2009). The archive will be deposited at Bedford Museum under accession number BEDFM:2012.78.

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service (ref. no. albionar1-185034).



3. RESULTS

3.1 Overburden

The removal of the modern concrete slab revealed an underlying mixed demolition / levelling layer of loose gravel and moderate brick fragments (200). This material was 0.1–0.28m thick and is likely to have been associated with the construction of the modern concrete slab.

Below the levelling layer was a 0.3–0.5m thick layer of dark black-grey clay silt (201) with occasional large fragments of brick, roof tile and pottery sherds that ranged in date from the 17th to the 20th century. The layer is interpreted as a disturbed deposit, likely to have derived from activity associated with the former farmyard.

Discrete dumps of early to mid 20th-century bottle glass were concentrated in the vicinity of the adjacent building to the north-east of the DA. These are likely to have originated as domestic refuse from the adjacent farmhouse.

3.2 Modern Foundations

As part of the demolition works, all traces of the foundations associated with the former farmyard buildings were removed. These included a modern brick sump/manhole, located to the western end of the larger building, and some shallow brick foundations along the eastern and western perimeters, presumably associated with boundary walls (the buildings having been constructed on top of the concrete raft).

The base of the modern brick foundation along Pedley Lane appeared to be built on a loose aggregation of large, roughly squared Greensand blocks (Figure 2). There was no trace of mortar and the stones appeared to have been casually thrown into the trench to provide a solid foundation for the brickwork above.

3.3 Geology

Beneath the former farmyard layer the undisturbed geological deposit comprised light brown-grey silty clay with moderate small white chalk fragments (202).



4. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological observation and investigation of the groundworks within the DA demonstrated that no significant archaeological remains were present within the area monitored.

A substantial medieval ditch on a north-south alignment was identified within the barn conversion, located *c.* 15m to the south of the DA (Albion 2014), indicating the presence of contemporary settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. The ditch was not identified within the foundation or service trenches at 1 Pedley Lane, suggesting that the feature terminates or turns beneath the access road that divides the two areas.

The absence of early archaeological remains on the DA suggests that this area was outside the medieval settlement focus, the edge of which may have been defined by the substantial ditch identified within the barn conversion to the south.

The results of the fieldwork do not warrant further analysis and publication. However, in combination with the findings of adjacent investigations, they are of local significance, specifically to the development of the village of Clifton.

This report will be submitted to the Central Bedfordshire HER and uploaded onto the OASIS database (ref. no. albionar1-185034). The project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession number BEDFM:2012.78).



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6. APPENDIX 1: DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area: 1

Extent (ha): 0.03

OS Co-ordinates: TL1631639117

Description: Area of new build.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Demolition layer	Loose light brown grey sandy gravel occasional small-large CBM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Make up layer	Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small-large CBM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm light brown grey silty clay moderate small chalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-185034

Project details

Project name	Land east of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the demolition of existing buildings and construction of a new dwelling with parking and a garden on land east of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton, Bedfordshire. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological works. The ground reduction and excavation of foundation trenches revealed a layer of dark black-grey clay silt with fragments of brick, roof tile and pottery sherds that ranged in date from the 17th to the 20th century. The layer is interpreted as material built up during the use of a farmyard of 20th-century date. No earlier archaeological features or deposits were present beneath the farmyard layer.
Project dates	Start: 19-09-2013 End: 10-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	PF2094 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM 2012.78 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CB/12/03085/FULL) - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE CLIFTON Land east of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton
Study area	0.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1629 3907

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 Ben Barker
 Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bedford Museum
 Paper Archive ID BEDFM: 2013.78
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land to the East of 1 Pedley Lane, Clifton, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication
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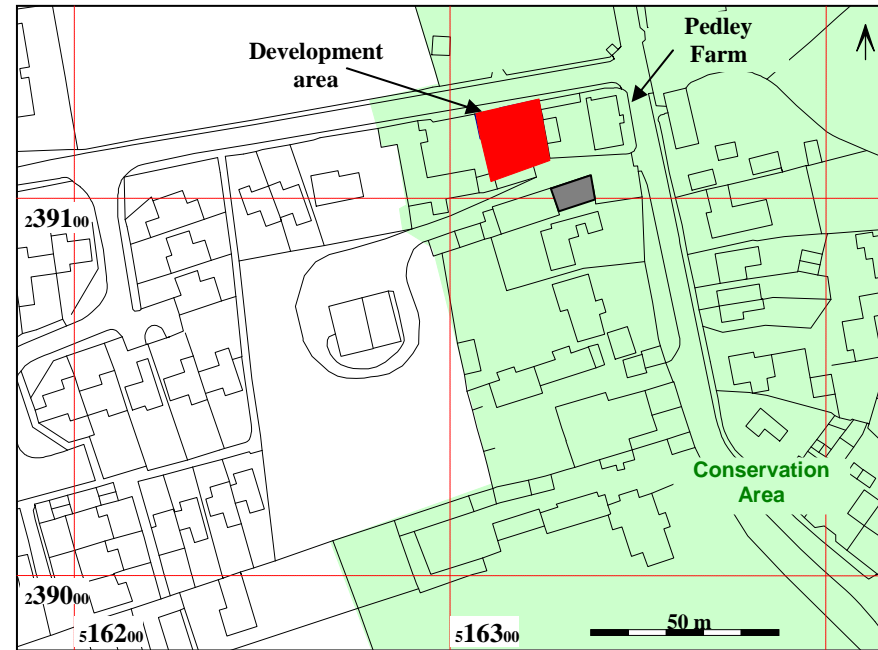
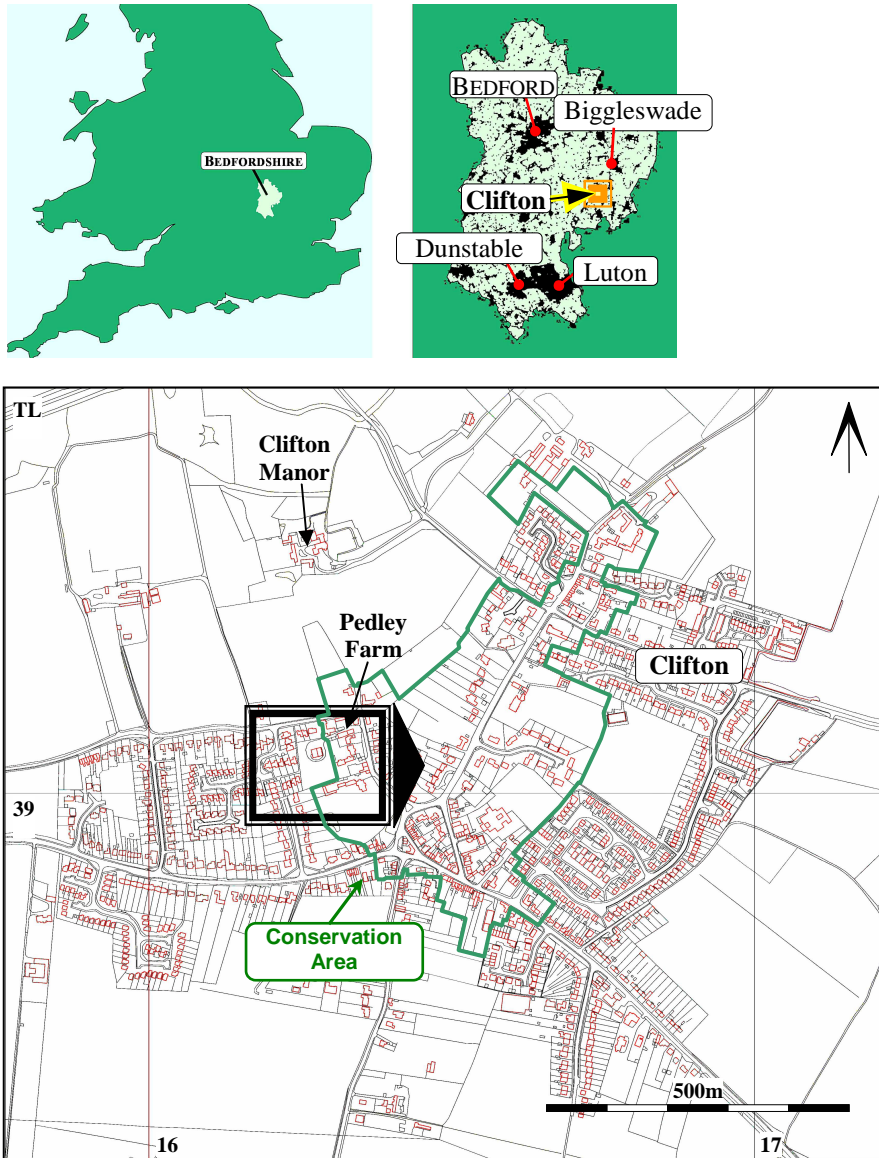


Figure 1: Site location

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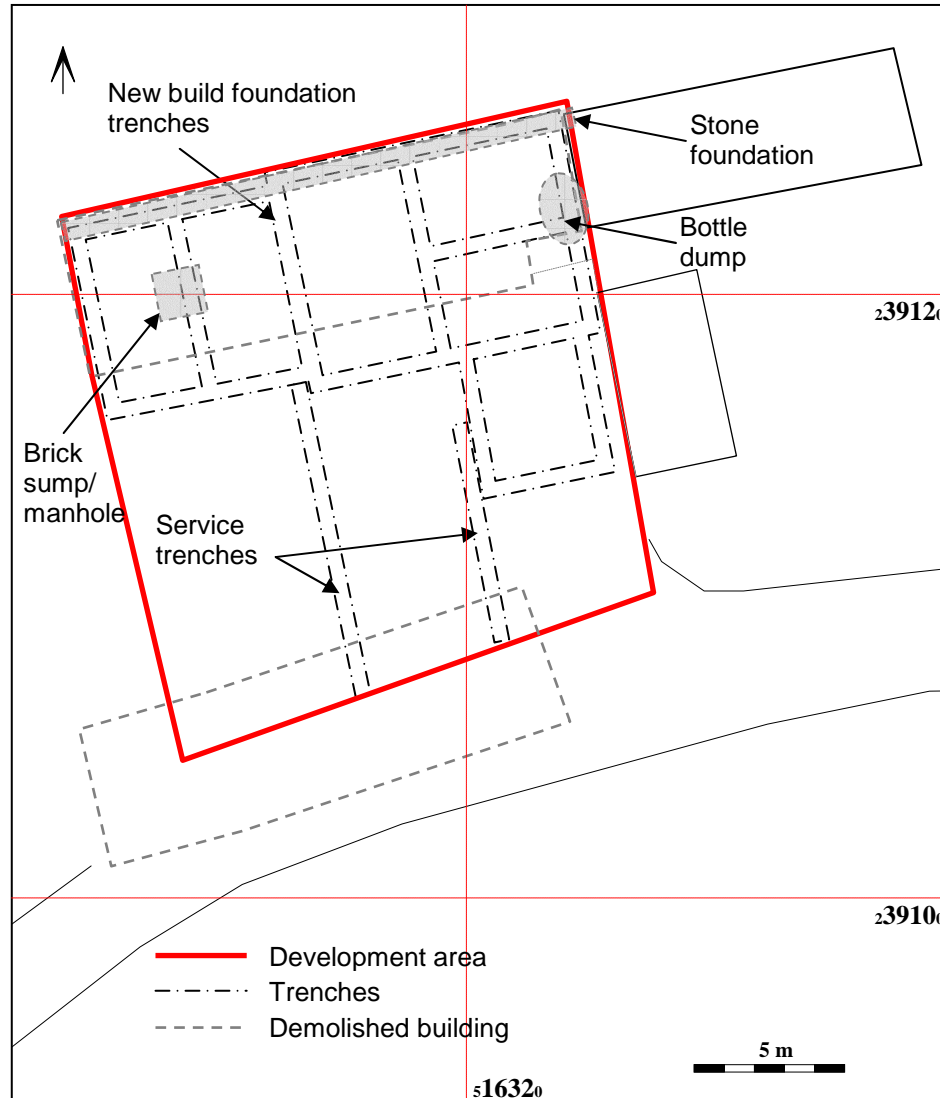


Above: Composite panorama of DA from SE on 19/09/2013 - showing partially converted Grade II listed barn HER 13346 to south.

Far left: 'Grubbing-out' of stone foundations along Pedley Lane on 20/09/2013.

Left: Excavation of new foundations on 7/10/2013 showing remains of brick on stone foundations along Pedley Lane

Figure 2: Site working shots



Above: Dark-coloured former farmyard layer (201) observed in foundation trenches beneath concrete slab

Below: Dark-coloured former farmyard layer (201) observed in service trench beneath recent demolition layer



Figure 3: Foundation trenches



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