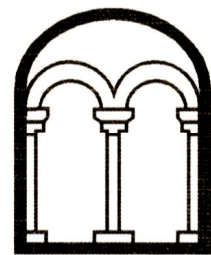


**ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Albion
archaeology



**ROBERT BLOOMFIELD ACADEMY
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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Preface

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.

This document was researched and written by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer) and Wiebke Starke (Archaeological Supervisor). The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Christiane Meckseper. Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager) and Hester Cooper-Reade (Business Manager).

Albion Archaeology is grateful to Mr Liam Roberts of Morgan Sindall plc for commissioning the project on behalf of Robert Bloomfield Academy. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of the staff at the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service and of Sam Mellonie of the CBC Historic Environment Record.

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Structure of this Document

Section 1 provides the planning and geographical background to the proposed development. Section 2 lists the relevant planning policies and archaeological research frameworks and also states the aims and methodology of the heritage assessment. Section 3 contains the assessment of all heritage assets within the study area. It discusses known evidence and makes an assessment of potential and significance of further heritage assets on the potential development area. Section 4 focuses on the impact of the proposed development on the potential assets within the development area. Section 5 is the bibliography. The appendices in Section 6 list in detail the HER records and cartographic sources used in this study.



Key Terms

Throughout this report the following abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
Client	Morgan Sindall plc
BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
EBD	Events Bedfordshire
EH	English Heritage
HER	Historic Environment Record for Central Bedfordshire
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
OS	Ordnance Survey
PAS	Portable Antiquities Scheme
PDA	Proposed development area



Non-technical Summary

Morgan Sindall plc is gathering baseline information in support of a planning application for the construction of a new block of classrooms on land at Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford, Bedfordshire. In addition, temporary classrooms which currently stand along the southern edge of the schoolyard to the south of the Academy will be removed and the area landscaped.

As part of the works on preparing the planning application, Albion Archaeology has been commissioned to produce this desk-based heritage assessment. Its purpose is to characterise the nature, likely date and potential for survival of known and potential heritage assets within the PDA and to assess their significance. It also assesses the likely impact of the development on those heritage assets and their setting.

Whilst a small number of prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains and post-medieval standing buildings are identified within the study area the main potential for the PDA lies in the Roman period.

The Shefford Lower School and Robert Bloomfield Academy sites have been subject to archaeological investigation since the late 19th century and in particular over the last few years during previous construction work within the school grounds. This has identified a Roman settlement (in the form of a possible villa or “temple” site) with an aisled building, at least one other timber building and areas of quarrying, defined by a rectangular boundary ditch.

The site of the new classroom block lies to the south, outside the Roman enclosure, in an area where previous archaeological investigations have found few sub-surface archaeological remains. The potential for further Roman heritage assets is assessed as low to moderate.

Footings trenches and associated groundworks for the proposed development are likely to have a considerable impact on any surviving, sub-surface heritage assets that might exist within the PDA. The potential for archaeological heritage assets on the PDA has been assessed as negligible to low for all periods except the Roman period where it has been assessed as low to moderate.

Therefore the overall significance of the development impact for assets of the Roman period is classed as slight to moderate. The potential impact and its significance on heritage assets of any other date have been assessed as neutral to slight. Any direct impact of the new development on potential buried archaeological remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the potential archaeological assets. This could be achieved by a programme of archaeological works prior to or during development

The PDA is located c. 350m south-west of Shefford Conservation Area in an enclosed area within the existing Robert Bloomfield Academy. As such, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of any heritage assets in the vicinity is classed as neutral.



The potential and significance of any heritage assets and the impact of the proposed development can be summarised as follows:

Period	Known heritage assets within study area	Potential for heritage assets within PDA	Significance of potential archaeological remains	Potential impact of development and significance of impact
Prehistoric (before AD43)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Roman (before AD 43 to c. 400)	Yes	Low to moderate	Local to regional	Slight to moderate
Anglo-Saxon (c. 400 to 1066)	No	Negligible to low	Local	Neutral to slight
Medieval (1066 to 1550)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Post-medieval (1550 to 1900)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Modern (1900 to present)	Yes	Negligible	Local	Neutral to slight
Setting	Yes	n/a	n/a	Neutral



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Morgan Sindall plc is gathering baseline information in support of a planning application for the construction of a new block of classrooms on land at Robert Bloomfield Academy, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

As part of the preparatory works for the planning application, Albion Archaeology has been commissioned to prepare this desk-based heritage assessment. Its purpose is to characterise the nature, likely date and potential for survival of known and potential heritage assets within the potential development area (PDA) and to assess their significance. It also assesses the likely impact of the development on those heritage assets and their setting.

In March 2012 the government issued the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), in accordance with which this assessment has been drafted.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The small town of Shefford lies in the eastern part of Central Bedfordshire on the A600 from Bedford to Hitchin. The rivers Flit and Hit pass through the town from the west and south, converging to become part of the River Ivel in the east.

The Robert Bloomfield Academy is located in the western part of the town between modern housing estates to the south of the Ampthill Road and arable fields to the north of the A505. The PDA lies in the southern part of the school grounds, in between the current sports field and a block of classrooms built in the last few years.

The PDA is centred on grid reference TL 138616 387351 and lies on fairly level ground at *c.* 45m OD. The underlying geology is Gault Mudstone overlain by the Lowestoft Formation of sands and gravels¹.

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014].



2. OBJECTIVES OF THE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

2.1 National Policy Framework

This assessment aims to implement the vision for the historic environment as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment* (NPPF) that was published on 27 March 2012 (DCLG 2012) and replaces the previous *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*.

Annex 2 of the NPPF defines heritage assets as: 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)' (NPPF, Annex 2).

Designated assets comprise, amongst others, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas. Undesignated assets are any heritage assets that may formally be identified by the local planning authority to be important for the area, for example through local listing or as part of the plan-making process. These undesignated assets are still material in planning decisions and evidence of local listing and information on these heritage assets is held in the local Historic Environment Record (HER).

According to the NPPF the significance of heritage assets is demonstrated by their value to this and future generations because of their archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest and their setting.

National and regional planning policy and research frameworks provide the setting within which the heritage assets affected by the proposed development can be characterised and their significance assessed. The potential impact of the proposals on them can then be evaluated and, as necessary, appropriate mitigation measures proposed. This will include potential impacts on the setting of heritage assets within and close to the PDA.

2.2 Research Frameworks

English Heritage has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, and most of these are available for free download from the HELM website².

Research frameworks that have been devised for the region are *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and specifically for Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007).

² Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) <http://www.helm.org.uk>.



Both documents come in two parts: the first provides a comprehensive chronological review of the historic environment as investigated so far within Bedfordshire and the eastern counties; the second establishes a research agenda and strategy for future investigations and for consolidating and integrating current knowledge. They are therefore vital tools for the assessment of any heritage asset within its local, regional and national historic environment setting.

The relevant research aims for each period are discussed in Section 3.5.

2.3 Methodology

This desk-based assessment was carried in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (1999) and Central Bedfordshire Council's *General guidance for the preparation of archaeological desk-based assessments* (CBC 2012).

Known heritage assets were identified on the PDA and within a 500m radius of its centre (Figure 2). This search radius is referred to as the *study area*. During the preparation of this document, the sources of information listed below were consulted.

2.3.1 Central Bedfordshire Council's Historic Environment Record (HER)

This is a database of archaeological information containing written and pictorial records of known archaeological monuments, previous archaeological investigations, find spots and buildings of historical and archaeological significance.

The HER contains information specific to Central Bedfordshire. It is maintained by Central Bedfordshire Council, Chicksands.

2.3.2 Heritage Gateway database

The Heritage Gateway is an online database that provides integrated access to local and national heritage information resources and collates entries of all Historic Environment Records throughout England. However, results provided by the Heritage Gateway do not provide as thorough coverage of a given area as a search of the relevant Historic Environment Record itself and can therefore only ever provide a general background to a specific study area.

2.3.3 Previous archaeological investigations

Information on previous archaeological investigations is held in the HER and either catalogued under its relevant HER number and/or additionally under its own Event number (EBD number, listed in Appendix 3). Information from previous archaeological investigations can give valuable evidence as to the presence, absence, nature and date of below-ground heritage assets within a given area of investigation.



2.3.4 Portable Antiquities Scheme data

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a DCMS-funded project for the voluntary recording of objects found by the members of the public in England and Wales. The majority of these are objects found by metal detector. They usually represent stray finds which are not in a secure archaeological context but can give a useful indication of the potential presence of archaeological or historical sites or assets nearby. PAS data is held and distributed by the relevant HER.

2.3.5 Cartographic data

Early maps and other illustrations of an area can be a very productive area of research. Often they indicate dramatic changes in land use during the post-medieval and modern periods. This can be very helpful in appreciating how the archaeological resource may have been affected by the changes in farming practices and expansion of settlements that took place during the 19th and 20th centuries in particular.

The principal source consulted in this case was the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service (BLARS). The BLARS is maintained by Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. A list of cartographic sources consulted is given in Appendix 4.

2.3.6 Site visit

As part of the desk-based assessment a preliminary site visit was undertaken on 23rd April 2014 with the following aims:

- To verify, where appropriate, the results of the desk-based survey.
- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of evaluative fieldwork techniques, if required.



3. HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

3.1 Known Archaeological and Historical Assets

3.1.1 Introduction

Figure 2 should be viewed in conjunction with this text, which describes the significance and potential of heritage assets within the PDA and within a 500m radius of its centre. For the purposes of this document, the remains listed below are presented in chronological order from prehistoric to modern.

Shefford Lower School is situated within an area of known archaeological remains (HER 379). These have been investigated on various occasions over the last 200 years and are summarised below. In the HER those investigations are catalogued as events and are given the prefix EBD (Events Bedfordshire). These are shown on Figure 2. Figure 4 summarises all previous archaeological investigations by Albion Archaeology within and adjacent to the grounds of Sheffield Lower School and Robert Bloomfield Academy. Some known HER information has also been plotted on this figure.

Figure 5 summarises the known main Roman features revealed on the site and their extent.

3.1.2 Previous Archaeological Investigation

During gravel extraction in 1826 a local antiquarian, Thomas Inskip, identified what he believed to be a walled Roman cemetery (Inskip 1850). The location of his investigations has been estimated, based on his sketch maps, to be in the vicinity of 95 Amphill Road which lies 150m to the north-west of Shefford Lower School (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2). The cemetery included cremation burials, grave goods including complete pottery vessels, such as Samian ware and amphora, as well as glass and bronze vessels with coins and other metal objects.

In the 1830s Inskip examined an area some 220m south-east of the cemetery (Dryden 1845). Here he located a possibly rectangular Roman building, interpreted at the time as a temple. An assessment of his description of the location of his finds would place this building in the immediate vicinity of the original Shefford Board School, c. 120m north of the present site (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 2).

Artefacts continued to be found in this area of Shefford. There are unconfirmed reports of the discovery of Roman armour during the construction of the new school (present location of Shefford Lower School) to the south in 1872.

Later, in the summer of 1940, Edgar Gray excavated two trenches during levelling of the school field (recorded in the Victoria County History). Behind the garden of 77a Amphill Road he located the remains of a Roman building



which included a hypocausted room. Simco believed this building was the same as that previously claimed by Inskip as a temple (Simco 1984).

In 1976, artefacts and material of Roman date were found during the construction of a school extension.

After the implementation of PPG16 in 1990 all subsequent development in the vicinity of HER 379 was subject to controlled archaeological investigation. Much of this work was carried out by Albion Archaeology – Albion project numbers 244, 365, 412, 583, 665, 694 and 773 (Figure 4). Three of these, projects 244, 694 and 773 included detailed open area investigations. The findings of these investigations and a re-interpretation of Inskip's and Gray's discoveries have been published in *Bedfordshire Archaeology* (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Project 365 comprised trial trenching and test pitting, undertaken in 1993 in advance of construction of a new school access road and car park (BCAS 1993). Roman features including ditches, pits and postholes were identified. The recovered artefacts included a wide range of pottery and metal objects. Although no Roman buildings were clearly identified the recovery of tile, brick, *opus signinum*, mortar and painted wall plaster suggests that high status Roman buildings existed in the vicinity. A subsequent watching brief (Project 445), carried out during construction of the car park, located a 4m-wide Roman ditch but the ground was not taken down to archaeological levels over the whole area.

In 2001, excavations in advance of housing development on land immediately to the north of the school (Project 773, Albion 2001), revealed substantial Roman remains. These included an aisled building, cobbled surfaces, a substantial boundary ditch and a substantial quantity of pottery, ceramic building material including hypocaust tile, along with mortar and painted plaster (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2003 (Albion 2003) in advance of major building work for the school revealed coherent Roman remains. The evaluated areas were examined in advance of construction during January-May 2004 (three areas) and January 2005 (one area) (Project 893, Albion 2005).

The earliest firm evidence for settlement was in the form of a substantial ditch which possibly originated in the late Iron Age but continued in use throughout the Roman period (Luke *et al.* 2010, 323 and fig. 18). A post-built building, pits and gullies dated to the Roman period were also located within the settlement enclosure during the 2004 investigation (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6).

A second enclosure was located to the west of a possible routeway and this contained a large number of quarry pits and a dog burial (Luke *et al.* 2010, fig. 6). The investigations recovered a substantial quantity of Roman pottery,



ceramic building material, along with mortar and painted plaster indicating the presence of a high status building.

Two extensions to the school were investigated as open area investigations. Improvements to the existing car park, internal works and the construction of two additional playgrounds, a tank area, and associated drainage pipe trench were monitored and investigated. Whilst the car park improvement did not impact on the archaeological horizon, the two playground areas revealed a large expanse of Roman quarry pitting, boundary ditches and traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Investigation of the tank area and drainage trenches identified an extensive Roman boundary which is likely to have defined the western limit of the settlement's domestic focus (Luke *et al.* 2010).

Investigation of the eastern school building extension identified another boundary ditch which, given its substantial nature, may have defined the eastern boundary of the domestic focus. It produced a significant artefact assemblage dating mainly to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. The western extension was heavily disturbed by modern activity but yielded additional evidence for internal boundary ditches and quarry pits. The limited internal works within the present school buildings identified a posthole associated with a significant dump of Roman building material. This was further evidence for post-built buildings found in previous investigations (Albion Archaeology 2014a).

Archaeological trial trench evaluation to the south and east of the school revealed fewer archaeological remains. Excavations on the school playing fields to the south of the school revealed archaeological remains in the form of a field boundary ditch, probably some distance from the main settlement. The ditch contained a small fragment of a 1st-century glass vessel (Walker 2007). Further excavations revealed two smaller Roman boundary ditches and substantial disturbance by modern services (Flavell 2010 and Jones 2012).

Recent trial trenching as part of a larger-scale evaluation of land west of Sheffield Lower School (Figure 4, project CR2336), revealed no archaeological remains in Trenches 20, 21 located immediately to the south-west of the Robert Bloomfield Academy. Trench 22 contained a single undated pit (Albion Archaeology 2014b). Similarly, trial trenching at the school in 2000 did not reveal any archaeological remains (Figure 4, project 665; EBD126).

3.1.3 Undated

A geophysical survey (EBD395) was conducted in two areas to the east of the PDA. The results of the surveys were inconclusive. They detected several anomalies of possible archaeological interest. However, the high level of ferrous noise and possible agricultural effects made it difficult to determine the nature of the anomalies.



3.1.4 Prehistoric (before AD 43)

The HER lists the following prehistoric heritage assets within the study area: a report of worked flints (HER3508); a long-necked beaker (HER380); and cropmarks, including possible ring ditches (HER602 and 3524).

In addition, a large number of archaeological interventions have been carried out within the rectangular area identified in the HER as the site of a Roman villa and cemetery (HER379). As expected, the majority of these interventions have uncovered Roman remains. However, two also uncovered prehistoric remains. An evaluation at 77-81 Ampthill Road, Shefford (EDB394) revealed residual flints and late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery, as well as a substantial late Iron Age boundary ditch. An evaluation at Robert Bloomfield School (EDB448) recovered residual, late Iron Age / early Roman pottery from within a Roman ditch.

Recent excavations at Shefford Lower School (Albion Archaeology 2014a) have also uncovered remains dating to the middle to late Iron Age. However, these artefacts were residual within a Roman boundary ditch.

3.1.5 Roman (AD 43–c. AD 400)

The PDA is part of an area of intense Roman occupational evidence (HER379), characterised by the HER as a Roman villa and cemetery. This has been investigated over several decades and the results of this are summarised in Section 2.3.3. Figure 4 shows the location of previous archaeological investigations and Figure 5 summarises the location of known Roman settlement and structural remains revealed by those investigations.

The results of the archaeological interventions in the area around the PDA, suggest that the main concentration of Roman remains, including an aisled building and cobbled surface (EDB394), are situated to the north and north-west of the PDA.

The evidence for Roman settlement remains within Shefford Lower School is summarised in a recent report published in *Bedfordshire Archaeology* (Luke *et al* 2012). An updated summary, including investigations undertaken since 2012 is given in an unpublished report by Albion Archaeology (Albion 2014a).

Ampthill Road, to the north of the settlement focus is on the same ENE-WSW alignment as a suggested Roman road (HER5342) running from Flitwick to Shefford. Another suggested Roman road (HER717) from Shefford to Bedford meets it at a T-junction to the north of the PDA.

3.1.6 Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 400–1066)

No heritage assets dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are recorded in the HER within the study area.



3.1.7 Medieval (1066–1550) (Figure 2)

“The hamlet of SHEFFORD possessed a market from a very early date; the first mention of it occurred in 1225 ... when the king, hearing that the market at Shefford was harming that at Bedford, commanded the sheriff to make inquiries and to suppress it if he found the allegations to be true; evidently the rumour was unfounded, for Henry son of Gerold in 1229 was granted a market on Friday at his manor of Campton 'in the place called Shefford.'” (Page 1908).

The PDA is located to the west of, and away from, the medieval centre of Shefford (HER17106) which is on the north-east edge of the study area. The HER lists four other medieval heritage assets within the study area: a complex of earthworks (HER1775) recorded from aerial photographs that coincide in part with buildings recorded on a map of 1765 together with other documentary evidence suggesting a deserted settlement; a trackway visible on aerial photographs (HER18312), likely to be the old medieval road between Campton and Shefford; the possible site of Polehanger Mill (HER5448); and stone and gravel pits shown on the 1799 inclosure map (HER18316).

A stray find of a medieval bronze buckle was found in the subsoil during an archaeological excavation on a playing field at Shefford Lower School (EBD151).

Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation is known both from the investigations within Shefford Lower School (Luke *et al* 2012) and a recent evaluation off Campton Road, Shefford (Albion Archaeology 2014b). Both areas lie to the west and south-west of the PDA and demonstrate that this part of the parish lay in open fields, some distance from the medieval settlement core.

3.1.8 Post-medieval (1550–1900) (Figure 2)

Shefford continued as a settlement into the post-medieval period and the majority of surviving heritage assets within the study area date from this period.

The closest surviving heritage asset from this period is the original Shefford Board School (HER7159), which was set up in 1875 as a direct result of the 1870 Education Act³.

Two surviving heritage assets are situated to the west of the PDA along Campton Road, on the edge of Shefford. They comprise a post-medieval house (HER14002) and a mortuary chapel (HER13215) located within a rectangular area now occupied by Shefford Cemetery (HER8963), opened in 1910.

3

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Shefford/SheffordSchool.aspx> Date accessed 16-02-2014



Most of the surviving post-medieval heritage assets lie to the north-east of the PDA. They are mostly situated along Ampthill Road which becomes the High Street as it enters the centre of the town. They comprise: 14 mainly 17th-century to 19th-century houses; two 19th-century shops; The Bridgeøa 19th-century public house (HER15425); and the 19th-century Catholic church of St Francis of Assisi (DBD3987) with its associated presbytery (DBD447). A number of these buildings are listed (Section 6.1.2).

3.1.9 Modern (1900 – present)

Two heritage assets date to the 20th century: the former Robert Bloomfield Middle School (HER 13216) and Shefford Cemetery (HER 8963) situated to the west of the PDA along Campton Road.

3.2 Cartographic Evidence and Historic Landscape Character

This section contains a discussion of selected historical maps, illustrating the changes occurring on the site and in the general vicinity from the 18th century. Copies of the maps discussed below are bound at the back of the report.

3.2.1 Campton and Shefford inclosure map 1799 (Figure 6)

The Campton and Shefford inclosure map 1799 (BLARS ref MA9A) shows the town of Shefford with its surrounding property plots and fields. The PDA is located within a large open field to the south of properties fronting onto Ampthill Road. The field is labelled as belonging to the Duke of Bedford.

3.2.2 Estate of honour of Ampthill map 1801 (Figure 6)

The Estate of honour of Ampthill map 1801 (BLARS ref WW 205) shows only the larger property divisions in the vicinity of Shefford. The position of the PDA is still largely as shown on the 1799 inclosure map.

3.2.3 1st and 2nd edition 25” Ordnance Survey map, 1882 and 1901 (Figure 7)

The only notable change shown on the 1st edition OS map is the appearance of the Shefford Board School, to the rear of two existing properties along Ampthill Road. The field to the south of the roadside properties remains largely unchanged.

The overall landscape around the PDA remains largely unchanged between the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps.

3.2.4 2nd edition (revised) 25” Ordnance Survey map 1937 (Figure 8)

The revised 2nd edition OS map shows that, by 1937, a new school had been built on the area of land that is now occupied by the Robert Bloomfield Academy. The PDA borders the south-west corner of the school boundary. Beyond this, to the east a housing development is underway.

3.2.5 Ordnance Survey landline maps 1994 and 2012 (Figure 8)

The most recent OS maps show that the meandering course of the River Hit to the south of the PDA had been straightened by 1994. They also show how the schools of Shefford Lower and Robert Bloomfield Middle were altered and expanded in relatively recent times.



3.3 Modern Land Use

The site was visited as part of the heritage assessment on 23 April 2014. It is a working school and academy site. The original Shefford Board School building is boarded up and not in use.

3.4 Setting

The NPPF defines setting as: *The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, and may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.*

The centre of Shefford was defined as a Conservation Area (CA) in 1971 (DBD 3390). However, the PDA is well outside the CA, which is on the north-east periphery of the study area. Therefore, the setting of the CA will not be directly affected by the proposed development.

The PDA is contained within the existing Robert Bloomfield Academy which itself lies within a modern 20th-century housing development.

3.5 Assessment of Potential and Significance

This section assesses the potential for the survival of further archaeological heritage assets on the PDA and their significance in the light of the evidence discussed above. The criteria for assessing significance are listed in Appendix 5.

3.5.1 Prehistoric

The majority of prehistoric remains found within the study area were stray finds or residual artefacts recovered from later features. Given the scarcity of prehistoric remains elsewhere within the study area, the potential for finding any prehistoric assets within the PDA is *low*.

If any were found, they are most likely to consist of stray artefacts representing a background presence of prehistoric occupation or movement of people and their significance would be *local*.

3.5.2 Roman

Robert Bloomfield Academy lies adjacent to an area of intensive Roman occupation. This is summarised above and on Figures 4 and 5. Figure 4 shows a possible temple and artefact findspots on the location of the 19th-century school building. This is based on plots provided by the HER, which are in turn based on antiquarian information. It is now thought that the temple and artefacts shown on Figure 4 in fact relate to and originate from the aisled building located 150m to the west of the school.

The PDA lies to the south of the Roman enclosure in an area where previous adjacent trial trenching has revealed few archaeological remains. The potential for further heritage assets within this area is therefore assessed as *low to moderate*.



Roman rural settlements have been identified as an area of research requiring further work within the regional framework and, as such, any heritage assets from the Roman period found within the PDA would be of *local to regional significance*, depending on their precise nature.

3.5.3 Anglo-Saxon

No Anglo-Saxon remains have been revealed within the study area and Shefford, as a settlement, is not documented until the medieval period. The potential for the survival of any Anglo-Saxon heritage assets is therefore *negligible to low*. If any did survive, they would probably be of *local* significance.

3.5.4 Medieval

Although the origin of the town of Shefford lies in the medieval period, all of the medieval heritage assets listed in the HER are on the periphery of the study area. However, a single stray, medieval artefact was recovered from subsoil during an archaeological excavation (EDB151), *c.* 30m to the south-west of the PDA.

The potential for finding any medieval heritage assets within the PDA is classed as *low*.

The regional research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake *et al.* 2007) states that in terms of settlement characterisation and distribution patterns much still remains unknown for the medieval periods. However, if any assets were found on the PDA, they would most likely consist of stray artefacts or evidence for land divisions, drainage and possibly cultivation. Their significance would therefore be *local*.

3.5.5 Post-medieval

Cartographic analysis suggests that the PDA was located in an area of open fields from at least 1799 to the modern period. No substantial post-medieval remains have been uncovered in the various archaeological interventions carried out around the PDA. Therefore the potential for any post-medieval heritage assets within the PDA is *low*.

If any assets were found on the PDA, they would most likely consist of stray artefacts or evidence for land divisions, drainage and possibly cultivation. Their significance would therefore be *local*.



4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 *The Proposed Development*

The proposed development consists of the construction of a new block of classrooms to the west of the sports field. In addition, temporary classrooms which currently stand along the southern edge of the schoolyard to the south of the Academy will be removed and the area landscaped. This is shown on Figure 3.

4.2 *Direct Impacts on Heritage Assets*

Footings trenches and associated groundworks for the proposed development are likely to have a *moderate* to *high* impact on any surviving, sub-surface heritage assets that might exist within the PDA.

The potential for archaeological heritage assets on the PDA has been assessed as *negligible* to *low* for all periods except the Roman period where it has been assessed as *low* to *moderate*.

Therefore the overall significance of the development impact for assets of the Roman period is classed as *slight* to *moderate*. The potential impact and its significance on heritage assets of any other date has been assessed as *neutral* to *slight*

Any direct impact of the new development on potential buried archaeological remains could be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the potential archaeological assets. This could be achieved by a programme of archaeological works prior to or during development.

4.3 *Direct Impacts on the Setting of Heritage Assets*

The PDA lies well outside Shefford Conservation Area and so will not affect the character of the town or the setting of any listed buildings. The proposed development elements will be visible only from other parts of the Robert Bloomfield Academy and from a modern housing development to the east. It will not be visible from anywhere within the surrounding landscape, or from the extant historic Shefford Board School building (HER 7159).

The impact of the proposed development on the setting of any surrounding heritage assets is classed as *neutral*.

4.4 *Summary*

The following table summarises the potential for heritage assets within the study area and the PDA. It covers the prehistoric to the modern periods and also gives an indication of the relative significance of those remains when considered on a local/national/regional basis and the development impact in the light of the nature of the development.



Period	Known heritage assets within study area	Potential for heritage assets within PDA	Significance of potential archaeological remains	Potential impact of development and significance of impact
Prehistoric (before AD43)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Roman (before AD 43 to c. 400)	Yes	Low to moderate	Local to regional	Slight to moderate
Anglo-Saxon (c. 400 to 1066)	No	Negligible to low	Local	Neutral to slight
Medieval (1066 to 1550)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Post-medieval (1550 to 1900)	Yes	Low	Local	Slight
Modern (1900 to present)	Yes	Negligible	Local	Neutral to slight
Setting	Yes	n/a	n/a	Neutral



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6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Designated Heritage Assets within a 500m-radius of the PDA

6.1.1 Conservation Area

Number	Name
DBD3390	Shefford Conservation Area

6.1.2 Listed Buildings

HER no.	Name	Description	Grade
DBD340	35 High Street (Avondale House)	18th-century house with shop to ground floor.	II
DBD341	37 High Street	Early 19th-century house with shop on ground floor and carriage entrance at right hand end.	II
DBD342	39 + 43 High Street	Two 18th-century houses, formerly three properties.	II
DBD3486	25 High Street (presbytery adjacent to Catholic Church of St Francis)	19th-century presbytery belonging to Roman Catholic Church of St Francis of Assisi. Designed by S J Nicholl, for Mrs Lyne-Stephens of Lynsford Hall, Thetford, Norfolk.	II
DBD3487	46 + 48 High Street	Mid 19th-century pair of houses with shops to ground floor, now one property.	II
DBD3488	Shefford Methodist Church	Early 20th-century Methodist church. Erected 1912 on site of Wesleyan chapel.	II
DBD3583	St Francis House	19 th century red brick buildings with clay tile roof. Former orphanage and seminary attached to the Roman Catholic Church of St Francis	II
DBD3808	36 & 38 High Street (The Tudor House)	Two houses that were formerly one building. 17 th century timber frame structure with 18 th and 20 th century alterations.	II
DBD3809	40 + 40a High Street	Two 18th-century houses, reworked in early and mid 19th-century.	II
DBD3987	Catholic Church of St Francis of Assisi	19th-century Roman Catholic church. Designed by S J Nicholl of Kentish Town, erected at expense of Mrs Lyne-Stephens of Lynsford Hall, Thetford, Norfolk	II*
DBD447	1 Ampthill Road	18th-century house, formerly a pair. Reworked in the 19th century.	II

6.2 Appendix 2 – Undesignated Heritage Assets within a 500m-radius of the PDA

HER no.	Name	Description	Period
379	ROMAN VILLA + CEMETERY, South of Ampthill Road	Rich cemetery and Roman temple recorded during 19th-century quarrying. Hypocaust located in 1933. Recent archaeological work has found evidence for timber buildings and cobbled floors.	Early Iron Age to Roman



HER no.	Name	Description	Period
380	FINDSPOT (BEAKER)	A long-necked beaker variously described as Bronze Age or late Neolithic	Bronze Age or late Neolithic
602	CROPMARKS	Cropmarks shown on aerial photographs, a circular feature overlapping a second partial circle	Undated
717	ROMAN ROAD (Viatores no. 223)	Suggested line of a Roman road from Bedford to Shefford.	Roman
1118	SHEFFORD STATION	Site of 19th-century former railway station building, now demolished.	Post-medieval
1775	EARTHWORKS, Polehanger Farm	A complex of earthworks recorded from aerial photographs, coinciding in part with buildings recorded on a map of 1765. Together with other documentary evidence, this suggests a deserted settlement on the site.	Medieval to 18th century
2167	THE OLD VICARAGE, 10 Ampthill Road	18th-19th-century house, formerly a vicarage. Some 20th-century alterations.	18th-19th century
2168	11 AMPHILL ROAD	18th-19th-century building with 20th-century alterations.	18th-19th century
2169	19 & 21 AMPHILL ROAD	Two 17th-18th-century houses with 19th-century additions and alterations.	17th-18th century
2173	33 HIGH STREET	18th-century building with later features. Demolished.	18th Century
3156	WINDMILL, West of Shefford	The site of a post-medieval windmill.	Post-medieval
3508	WORKED FLINTS	A report of worked flints found at Shefford.	Prehistoric
3524	RING-DITCH, south-west of Shefford	A possible ring ditch, visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs.	Bronze Age
4336	RAILWAY BRIDGE, High Street	Railway bridge for former Bedford - Hitchin line, now demolished.	Victorian to 20th century
5342	ROMAN ROAD, Viatores No. 176	Suggested route of former Roman road.	Roman
5448	POLEHANGER MILL (possible site)	Possible site of Polehanger Mill, indicated by a diverted watercourse and some buildings marked on Jeffery's map	Medieval to post-medieval
5927	29 HIGH STREET	18th-century building, demolished.	18th century
5928	31 HIGH STREET	18th-19th-century building, demolished.	18th-19th century
5930	PUMP, Northbridge Street	19th-century parish pump, removed in 1962.	19th century
7159	SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL	School opened 1875.	Post-medieval to modern
8963	SHEFFORD CEMETERY	20th-century cemetery opened 1910.	Modern
11832	BEDFORD-HITCHIN RAILWAY	Dismantled railway line in operation between 1857 and 1964.	Post-medieval to modern
13214	23-29 AMPHILL ROAD	Post-medieval house, deemed to be of local interest.	Post-medieval



HER no.	Name	Description	Period
13215	MORTUARY CHAPEL, Campton Road	Post-medieval mortuary chapel, deemed to be of local interest.	Post - medieval
13216	ROBERT BLOOMFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL	20th-century school.	20th century
14002	10 CAMPTON ROAD, Shefford	Post-medieval house, deemed of local interest.	Post-medieval
15004	FORMER NEW INN, Campton Road	Former post-medieval inn	Post-medieval
15425	THE BRIDGE PUBLIC HOUSE, High Street	19th-century public house located on Shefford High Street.	19th century
17106	SHEFFORD MEDIEVAL TOWN	The medieval town of Shefford.	Medieval
18256	Manor House, Shefford	Location of building known as Manor House; now demolished	Post-medieval
18312	TRACKWAY BETWEEN CAMPTON & SHEFFORD	Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs show a trackway, likely to be the old medieval road between Campton and Shefford.	Medieval
18316	STONE AND GRAVEL PIT, NE of Campton	Stone and gravel pits shown on the 1799 enclosure map.	Medieval to post-medieval
18365	PINFOLD, NE of Campton	Field name 'Pinfold Holes' indicated by the 1799 Enclosure Award Book is likely to be the former location of animal pound or fold.	Post-medieval

6.3 Appendix 3 – List of Archaeological Investigations ('Events')

HER no.	Description	Date/Actor
EBD125	Land at 72-88 Ampthill Close, Shefford: archaeological evaluation	2003/ Archaeological Solutions
EBD126	Land at Robert Bloomfield School, Shefford: archaeological field evaluation	2000/ Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
EBD127	Shefford Lower School: archaeological field evaluation	2000/ Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
EBD150	Shefford Lower School: recording of Romano-British ditch	2007/ Northamptonshire Archaeology
EBD151	Shefford Lower School: excavation of a Romano-British ditch	2007/ Northamptonshire Archaeology
EBD388	Land at 59 Ampthill Road, Shefford: archaeological field evaluation Stage I	1999/Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
EBD389	Land at 59 Ampthill Road, Shefford: archaeological field evaluation Stage II	2000/ Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service



HER no.	Description	Date/Actor
EBD390	Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford: archaeological evaluation	1993/ Beds CC Conservation & Archaeology Section
EBD394	77-81 Amphthill Road, Shefford: archaeological field evaluation	2001/ Albion Archaeology
EBD395	Land at Shefford: geophysical survey	1996/ Geophysical Surveys of Bradford
EBD448	Shefford Lower School: archaeological investigation	2002/ Albion Archaeology
EBD583	Chicksands, Bedfordshire: archaeological desk-based assessment	2003/Cambridge University Archaeological Unit
EBD598	Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford: summary and assessment of potential	2007/ Albion Archaeology
EBD599	Robert Bloomfield Middle School, Shefford: archaeological evaluation	2007/ Albion Archaeology
EBD628	Acorn Pre-School, School Lane, Shefford: archaeological investigation	2010/ Northamptonshire Archaeology
EBD783	Land at Shefford Lower School: archaeological observation and recording	2006/ Albion Archaeology
EBD820	95 Amphthill Road, Shefford: watching brief	1996 / Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
EBD982	Shefford Lower School: archaeological excavation	2012/ Northamptonshire Archaeology
EBD1050	Test pitting in Shefford	2012/ Cambridge University Archaeology Unit
SLS2012	Shefford Lower School: archaeological works occasioned by a variety of small-scale development work within the school	2012-2014 / Albion Archaeology
CR2236	Land off Campton Road, Shefford: archaeological evaluation comprising geophysical survey and trial trenching	2014 / Albion Archaeology

6.4 Appendix 4 – List of Cartographic Sources

Location	Description	Document reference
BLARS	1605 Pedigree of Wells of Shefford and Map of Shefford.	CRT 190/462
BLARS	1799 Inclosure Map of Shefford	MA 9A
BLARS	1801 Estate Map of Shefford	R 1/18
BLARS	1st, 2nd edition 25ö and 2nd edition ó revised OS map	In reading room
Albion	1994, 2012 Ordnance Survey Landline maps	n/a



6.5 Appendix 5 – Significance and Impact Criteria

Significance	Definition
<i>Very high (International)</i>	A designated World Heritage Site or place of equivalent 'outstanding universal value' and international significance
<i>High (Regional to national)</i>	Designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments, Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings, registered Park or Gardens or battlefields) of national significance. Or: Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare in the heritage environment record or • are a good example of a type site or • have a high potential to add to regional and national research criteria
<i>Moderate (Local to district and/or regional)</i>	Designated heritage assets of regional significance (Grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Park or Garden or battlefield <u>not</u> associated with events of national significance). Or: Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more commonly found in the heritage environment record or • have particular regional associations or may have important associations on a local or parish level (e.g. they have meaning to local population or embody something of the special identity of a locality) • have moderate potential to add to local and regional research criteria
<i>Low (Local)</i>	Assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are relatively poorly preserved or • have limited significance on a local level • have a low potential to add to local and regional research criteria
<i>Uncertain</i>	Sites where there is evidence that a heritage asset may exist, but where there is insufficient information to determine its nature, extent and degree of survival given current knowledge (e.g. cropmarks untested by fieldwork or random finds spots).
<i>Negligible</i>	Where there is very authoritative evidence ó usually backed up field evaluation ó that there is no possibility that anything of archaeological or historical significance exists or where any potential surviving remains have no value within the context of the current study.



Magnitude of Impact	Effect of Impact
High	Causes total destruction of or permanent change to most key elements of the asset that results in major loss of integrity and reduction in significance. Substantial change to the setting of the asset. Any such change would almost certainly considerably reduce the significance of the asset and would not normally be reversible.
Moderate	Either: causes permanent change to or loss of many key elements of the asset that lead to a moderate loss of its overall integrity and reduction in significance. Moderate change to the setting of the asset. Or: temporarily causes major loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Low	Either: causes permanent change to some key or peripheral elements of the asset, or changes to the setting of the asset, that lead to a slight loss of its overall integrity or significance. Or: temporarily causes moderate loss of integrity and significance, e.g. through restricting accessibility and visibility, or by altering its setting.
Negligible	Minor permanent or temporary changes to the asset that have no appreciable direct or indirect effect on the asset or its setting and do not affect its significance.
No change	No change to the asset or its setting.
Slightly Beneficial	Either: delivers some improvement to the asset that does not increase its overall integrity or significance. Or: arrests an existing process of adverse change.
Moderately Beneficial	Either: causes long-term improvement of the asset, involving some increase in its integrity or significance. Or: reverses an existing process of adverse change.
Highly Beneficial	Causes major benefit to the asset that increases its integrity and significance. Such change would almost certainly increase the significance of the asset.

Significance of impact matrix						
<i>Value/Sensitivity</i>	Very high	Neutral	Slight	Moderate /large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Moderate /large	Large or Very Large
	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate / large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight	Slight	Slight / moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral / slight	Neutral / slight	Slight
		No change	Negligible	Low	Moderate	High
		<i>Magnitude of impact</i>				

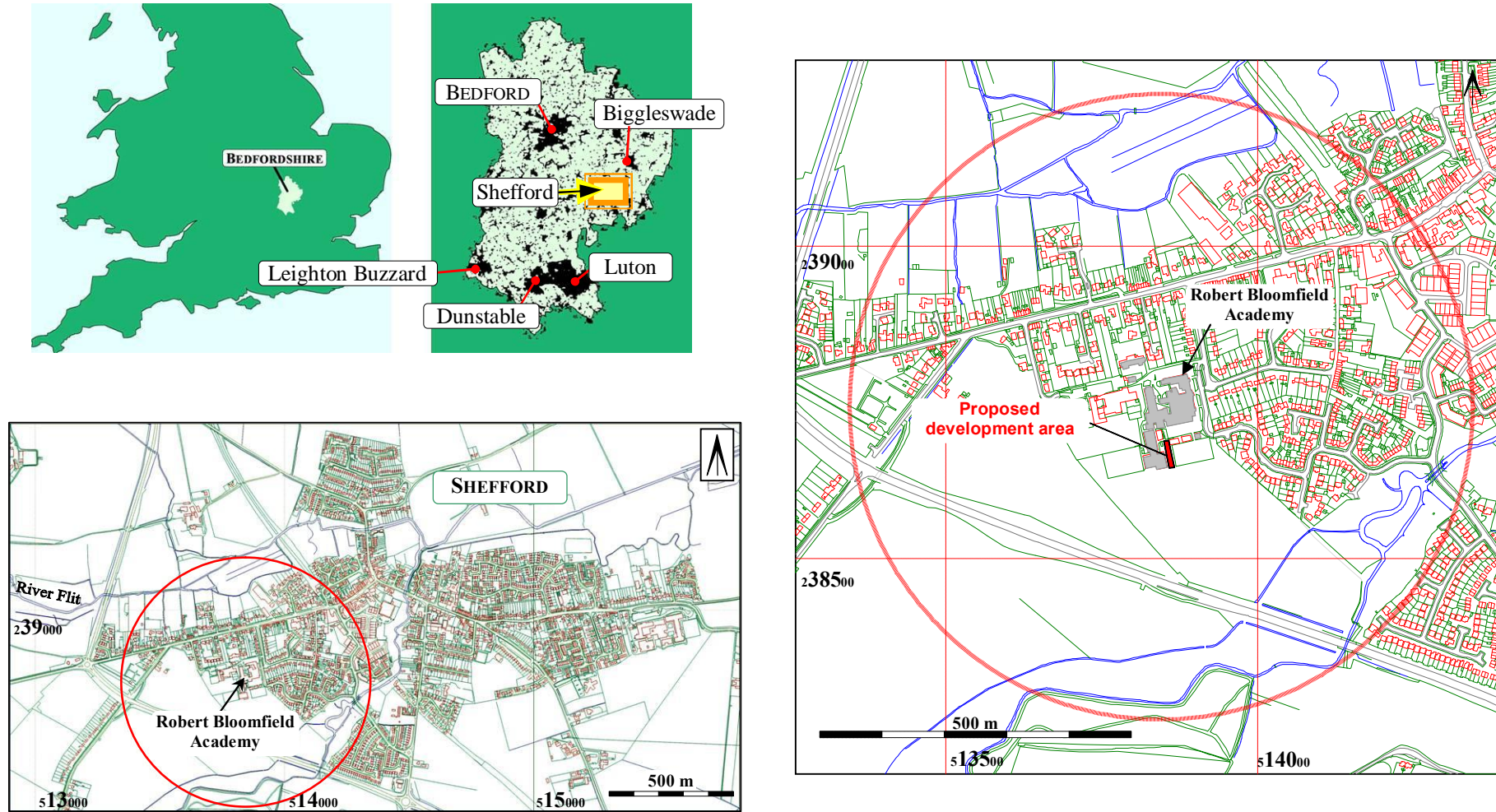
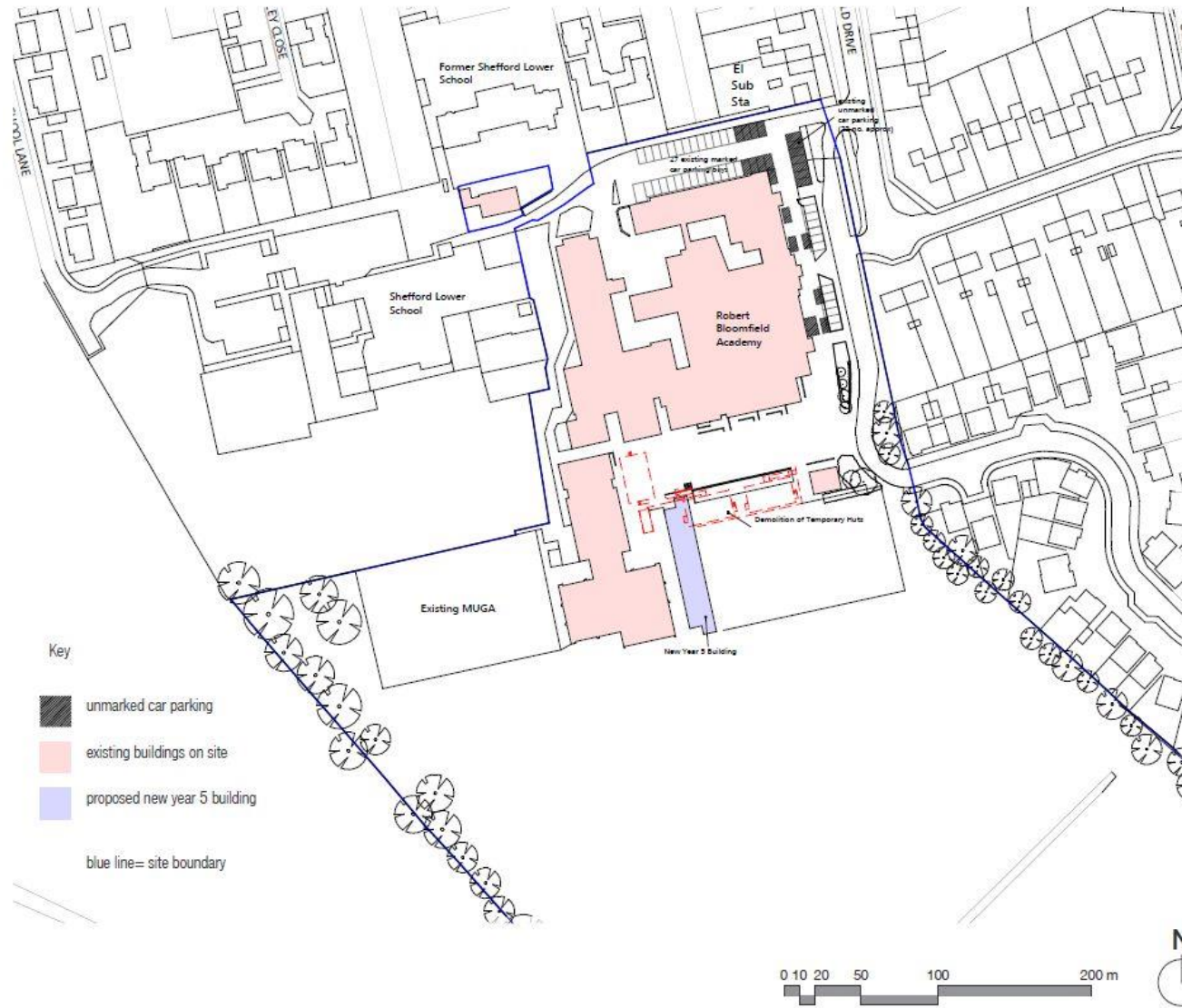


Figure 1: Site location

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REVISIONS		
A	Annotations amended.	20/03/14 GCL, IPL



PRELIMINARY

DLA ARCHITECTURE
 www.dla-architecture.co.uk
 1 Nicosj Street | Clerkenwell
 LONDON WC1X 0SB
 T: +44 (0) 20 7550 3330 E: info@dl-architecture.co.uk

PROJECT
 Robert Bloomfield Academy
 Shefford, SG17 5BU

TITLE
 Proposed Site Plan

SCALE
 1 : 1250 @ A3

DATE
 03/19/14

DRAWN
 GCL

REVIEWED
 IPL

DRAWING NO
 2013-237_201

REVISION
 A

FILE PATH
 T:\2013\2013-237\CAD\04-Rev6
 -\2013-237-A-GLA-B01-00-MG-VR6.rvt

Figure 3: Proposed development
 (Figure based on drawing 2013-237_SK06_201, dated 19/03/2014, by DLA Architecture)

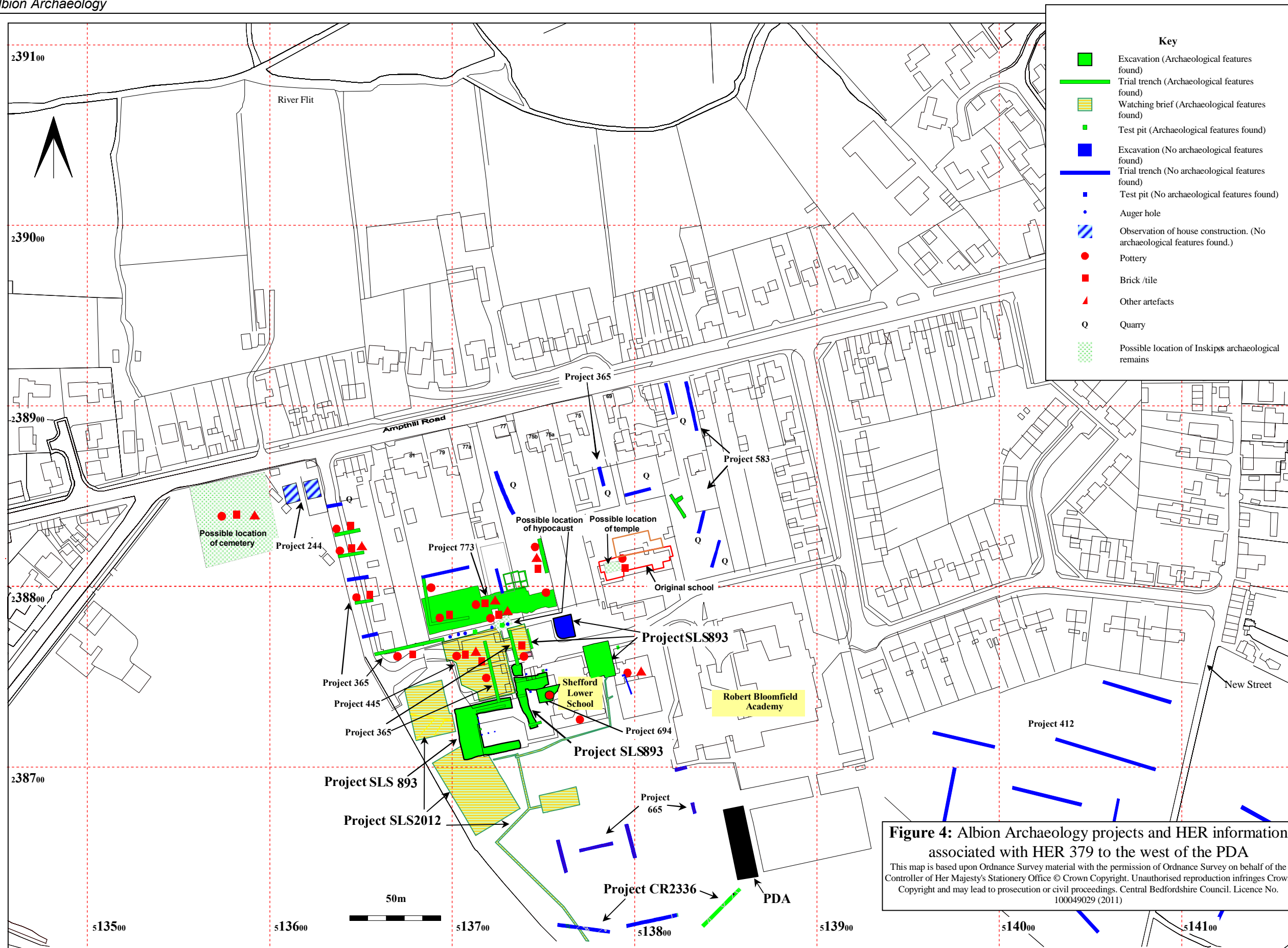


Figure 4: Albion Archaeology projects and HER information associated with HER 379 to the west of the PDA
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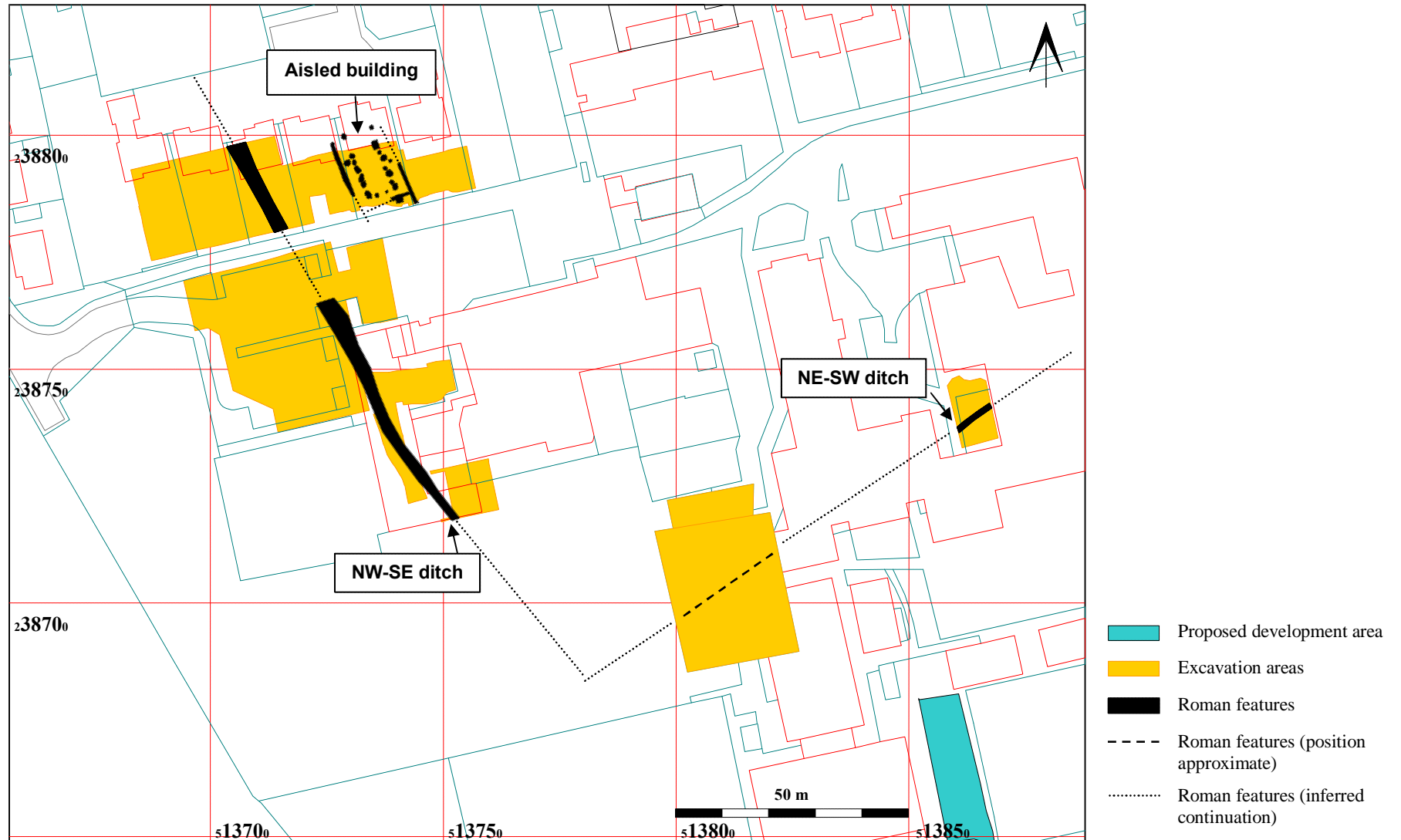
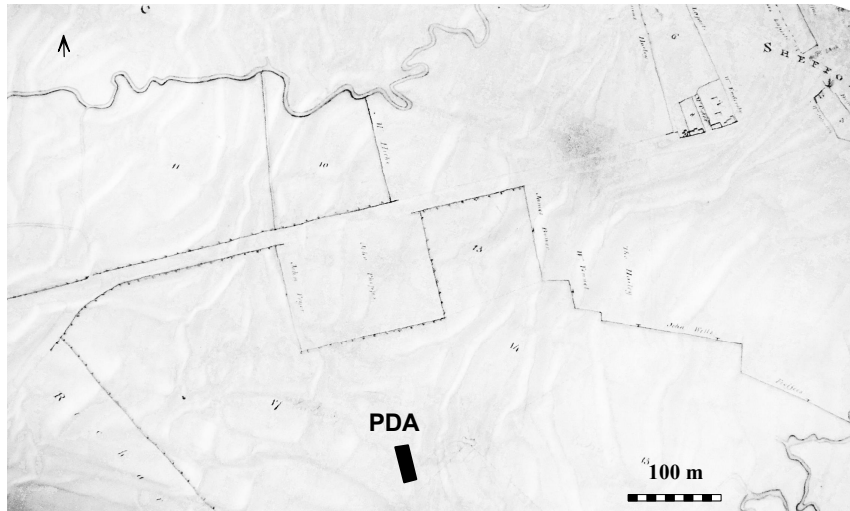


Figure 5: Selected Roman features from archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the PDA

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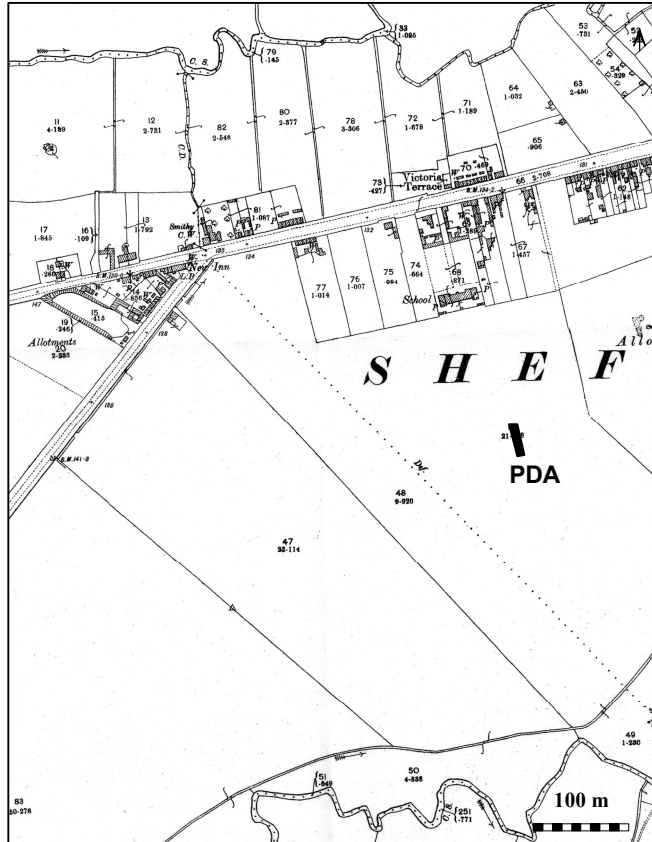


Estate of Honour of Amphill map 1801
(position and scale of PDA approximate)



Campton and Shefford 1799 inclosure map (position and scale
of PDA approximate)

Figure 6: Historical maps (1799-1801)



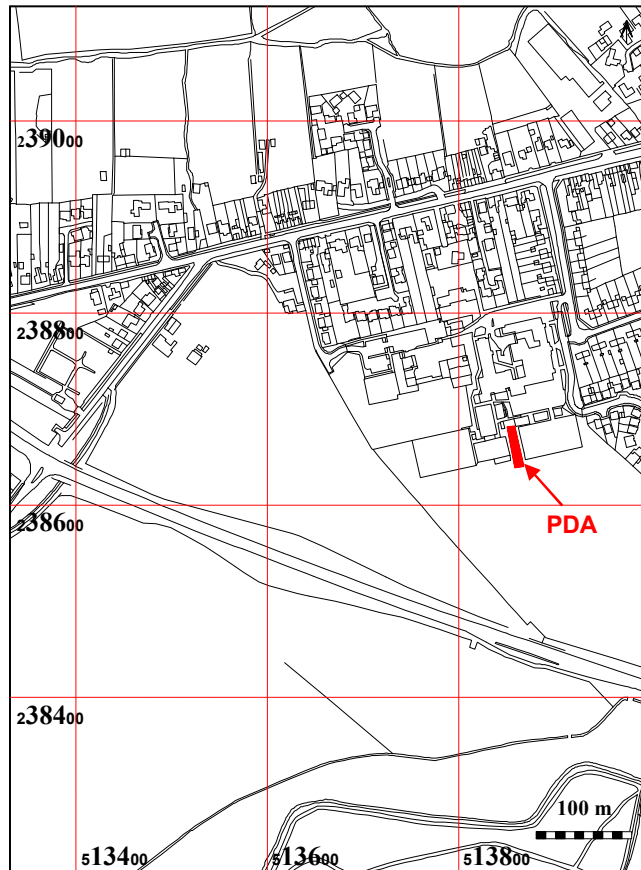
2nd edition Ordnance Survey map



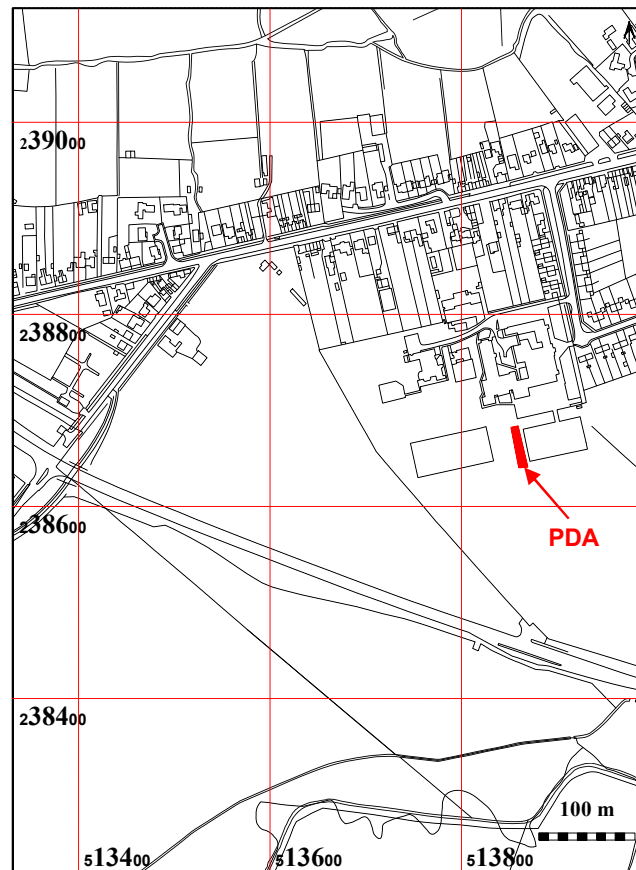
1st edition Ordnance Survey map

Figure 7: Historical maps (1st and 2nd edition OS)

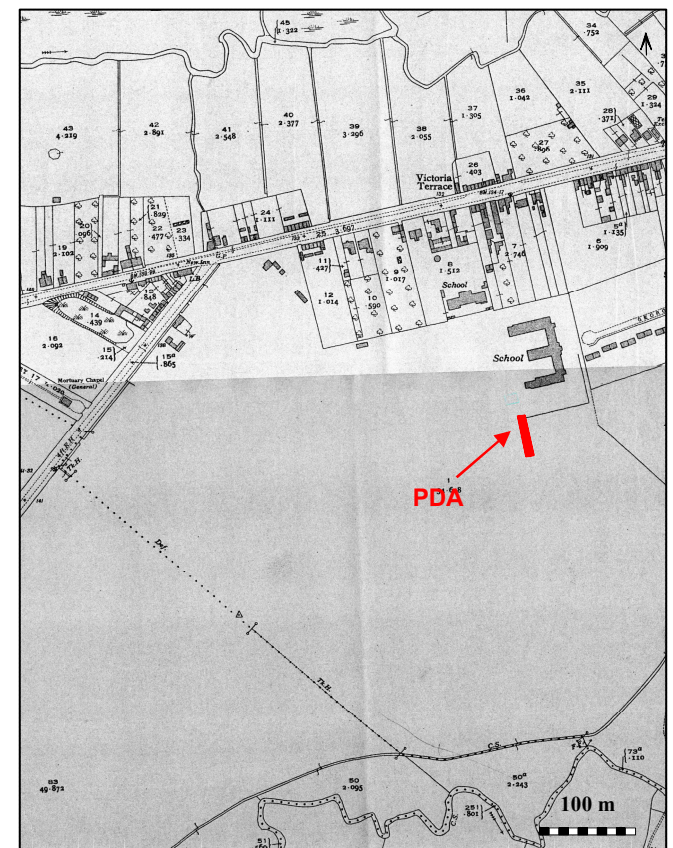
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Ordnance Survey landline map 2012



Ordnance Survey landline map 1994



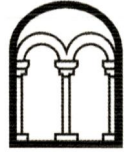
2nd edition (revised) Ordnance Survey map

Figure 8: Historical maps (2nd edition (revised) OS to modern day)

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