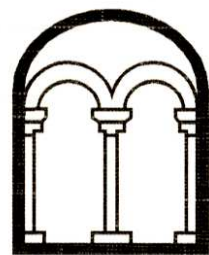


**MILL LANE COTTAGE
TEMPSFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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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 Mr Paul Hutchison and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth (Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Barker (Project Officer). This report was prepared by Ian Turner and edited by Ben Barker. The illustrations are by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Mr Paul Hutchison
DA	Development area
NGR	National grid reference
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (CB/15/00902/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for a one-and-a-half-storey rear extension, with single-storey link, at Mill Lane Cottage, 4 Mill Lane, Tempsford, Bedfordshire.

As the development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition requiring a programme of archaeological investigation was attached to the planning permission. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Paul Hutchison to carry out the archaeological works required to address the condition.

Archaeological monitoring of construction works with the potential to impact on archaeological remains was carried out on 24th July 2015. The groundworks for the new building comprised the mechanical excavation of foundation trenches up to 1.15m deep and internal ground reduction of 0.45m. The observed soil profile consisted of paving stones; sand levelling; a disturbed levelling layer of modern-period date and the undisturbed river terrace deposits.

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during monitoring of the foundation trenches and ground reduction or from scanning spoil. It is likely that the area was truncated and disturbed during the construction of the existing extension and associated sunken patio.

The project archive has no potential to address regional archaeological research objectives. It will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2015.47). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-213297).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (CB/15/00902/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for a one-and-a-half-storey rear extension, with single-storey link, at Mill Lane Cottage, 4 Mill Lane, Tempsford, Bedfordshire.

A heritage statement, submitted as part of the planning application, highlighted that the site is of archaeological interest. Accordingly, a condition (no. 5) was attached to the planning consent to secure a programme of archaeological investigation as a consequence of the development. This is in line with national planning guidelines in the form of Policy 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Paul Hutchison to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion 2015), approved by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA). The WSI detailed the methodology for archaeological observation, investigation and recording of any archaeological remains impacted by the development and a programme of post-fieldwork analysis, reporting and archiving.

This report presents the results of the archaeological works.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Tempsford is a village in Central Bedfordshire, c. 12km north-east of Bedford and 4km north of Sandy (Figure 1). It lies on the east bank of the River Ivel, close to its confluence with the River Great Ouse. The settlement is bisected by the A1 trunk road.

Mill Lane lies on the west side of the village and, as the name suggests, leads from the centre of the village to the site of the former mill on the River Ivel. Mill Lane Cottage lies on the south side of the lane, c. 150m west of St Peter's Church, which is located in the centre of the part of the village known as Church End. The cottage is within the Tempsford Conservation Area.

The new extension lay on the south side of the cottage where a smaller extension had been demolished prior to the development.

Mill Lane lies on level ground at a height of c. 20m OD. The underlying geology is Jurassic Peterborough Member – Mudstone, overlain by Quaternary river terrace deposits¹. The site is centred on grid reference TL 1610 5310.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Mill Lane Cottage itself is a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE 1138245). It comprises an 18th-century colourwashed, timber-framed and thatched building. There are a further eleven Listed Buildings within Church End to the East; the nearest (c. 125m away) is the Grade II listed Old Rectory (NHLE 1114098).

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014]



The Scheduled Monument of Gannocks Castle (NHLE 1013419), a medieval moated site, lies *c.* 95m to the south of the cottage. The moated site is rectangular in form, *c.* 65m by 55m, including the 10m-wide surrounding moat, which is water-filled and 2.5m deep on its northern side. The well preserved earthwork remains represent a 12th- to 13th-century manorial site. The association of the earthwork with the early 10th-century Danish fortification documented in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles is almost certainly unreliable.

Tempsford is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a manorial estate consisting of 26 households and worth 10 geld units. It had land for 4 ploughlands, meadow for 4 ploughs and a mill¹. It represents a fairly wealthy late Saxon rural settlement.

In the medieval period settlement within Tempsford parish was focussed on two separate hamlets — Church End and Langford End. Investigation of a moated site (HER 9726) within the latter produced evidence for both Saxon and later medieval occupation (Maull and Chapman 2005). Mill Lane Cottage lies within the postulated extent of medieval Church End (HER 17165) and, therefore, has the potential to preserve archaeological remains relating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval development of the settlement.

1.4 **Project Objectives**

It was anticipated that archaeological potential of the development site might have been compromised by the construction of the late 20th-century extension, which had 900mm-deep strip concrete footings. Nonetheless, the site had the potential to preserve archaeological remains that could have addressed a number of research objectives identified in the research framework for Bedfordshire (Oake et al 2007) and the revised framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011). The cottage lies in an area of known medieval settlement activity. The focus of the project's research objectives, therefore, lies in the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that, in common with the rest of the eastern region, further research is needed on the characterization of rural Saxon and medieval settlements — to understand how they appear to grow, shift and disappear (Oake 2007, 14; Wade 2000, 24–25; Medlycott 2011, 70).

The Ivel Valley was also densely settled and exploited in the prehistoric and Roman periods. It was possible that the site might have preserved archaeological remains relating to these periods, in which case further research objectives related to the regional framework would have been developed as the project progressed.

The specific objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- whether there was any evidence for activity relating to the known medieval settlement (or its late Saxon precursor) within this part of the village;
- whether there was any evidence for activity within the immediate environs of the moated site of Gannocks Castle;

¹ <http://opendomesday.org/place/TL1653/tempsford/>



- whether there was any evidence for activity relating to the known post-medieval settlement within this part of the village.

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the nature and date of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological remains present at the site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape;
- local environmental conditions via the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains.



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2015).

2.1 Methodological 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> (2nd edn, 2001).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Procedures for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (vers. 2.8, 2010))
• ClfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2014) <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations</i> (2014) and <i>finds</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)

2.2 Description of Construction Works

Archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks took place on 24th July 2015. The groundworks consisted of the machine-excavation of continuous foundation trenches that formed three sides of a rectangle, abutting the existing 20th-century extension on the south side of Mill Cottage. The trench was 0.60m wide and 1.15m deep. The interior of the new extension was also reduced to a depth of 0.45m below existing ground level.



3. RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

The location of the groundworks that were subject to archaeological observation, investigation and recording are shown on Figures 2–4. No archaeological features or deposits were identified other than modern-period disturbance discussed below.

3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposit*

The development area was covered by a 0.05m-thick layer of paving stones which formed the surface of a patio. The patio overlay a 0.2m-thick levelling layer of light orange-yellow sand.

Below the patio and levelling deposit was a 0.75m-thick layer of dark grey-brown silty sand. Very infrequent fragments of modern transfer-decorated willow pattern pottery, brick, roof tile and animal bone were observed within this deposit. The layer was judged to be redeposited subsoil that had been disturbed during the construction of the modern patio to the rear of the cottage.

The layer of disturbance overlay the undisturbed geological deposit of yellow-brown sand and gravel, which was excavated to a depth of 1.15m below existing ground level.

3.3 *Summary and Significance*

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the development area. The ‘sunken’ nature of the patio, prior to excavation, suggests that the area had been subject to significant ground reduction in the past (probably by 0.25–0.5m). This is likely to explain the relative lack of any artefacts dating to earlier than the 20th century observed during excavation of the foundations.

The project archive has no potential to address regional archaeological research objectives. It will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM 2015.47). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service’s OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-213297).



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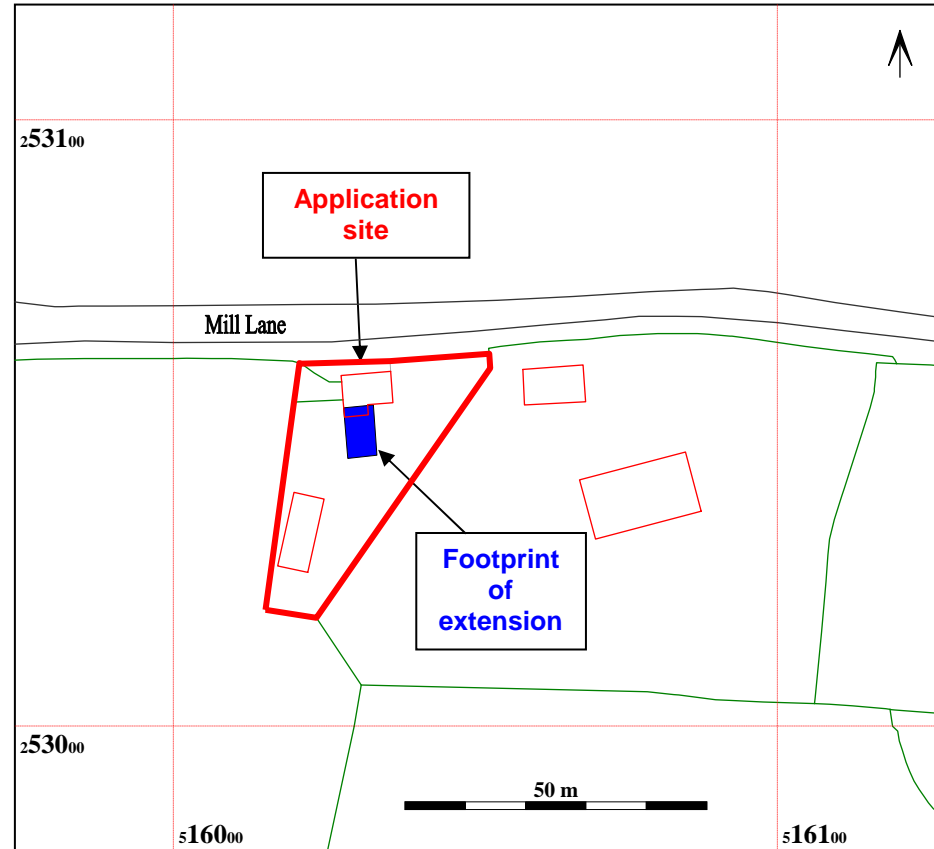
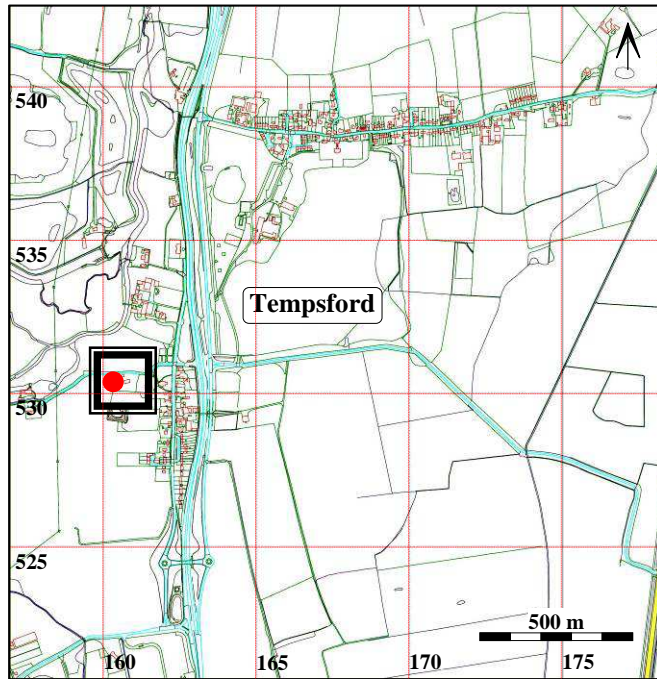
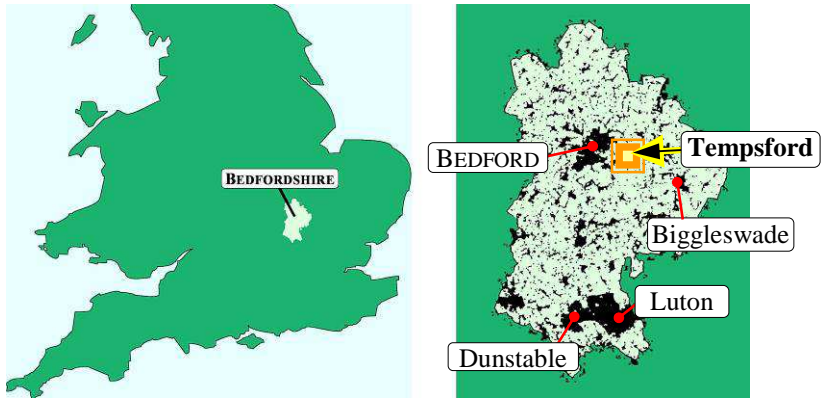


Figure 1: Site location plan

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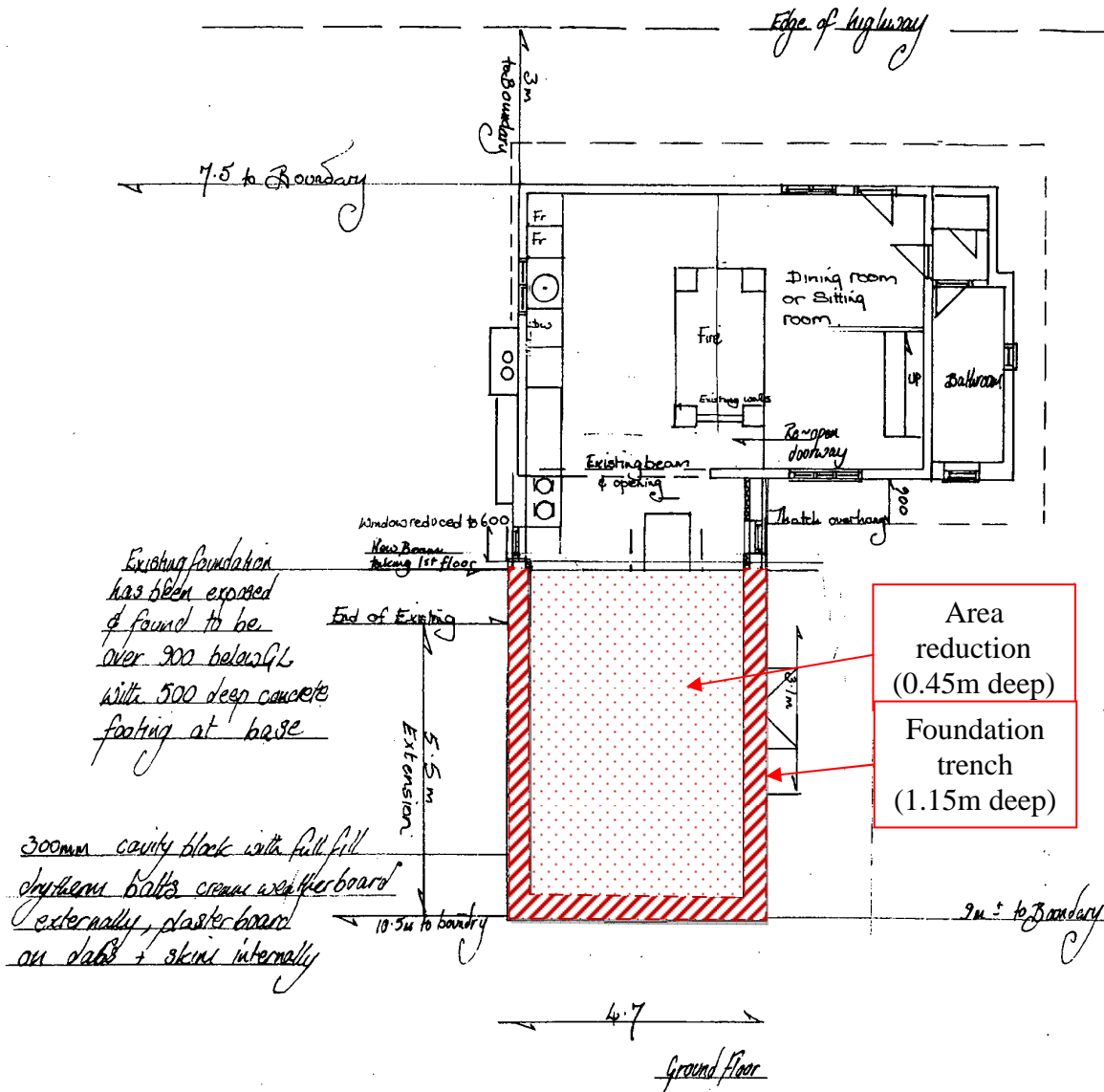


Figure 2: Extent of area observed

(Drawing based on architect's drawing submitted in support of the planning application)



Figure 3: Pre-start photograph from south-west



Figure 4: Post-excavation photograph from south-east



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