

**TALLY HO
UPPER STAPLOE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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Preface

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record
HET	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team
LPA	Local Planning Authority
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

Planning application 15/01088/FUL for the extension and conversion of existing outbuildings to residential annexe and formation of a new manège at Tally Ho, Staploe, Bedfordshire was approved by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition (no. 3) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. Archaeological observation and investigation during the groundworks took place on 2nd and 3rd October 2015. The observed groundworks comprised the levelling of ground for the ménage and. manège. The north-west corner of the manège was reduced by c.1m with the south-east side built-up to create a level surface.

During the archaeological monitoring two undated gullies and a modern ditch were identified. The NE-SW aligned gully [6] was 0.66m wide and at right angles to gully [4], which was 0.43m wide. Both were shallow (c.0.2m deep) with concave sides and base. Neither produced any artefactual material.

Broadly N-S aligned, modern ditch [8] contained large fragments of glass, brick and scrap metal.

It is likely that both the undated gullies and the modern ditch are associated with drainage of the land. No evidence was recovered for former use of the land for anything other than agriculture — specifically no traces of the medieval settlement of Upper Staploe were found.

No further analysis of the results of the fieldwork beyond that presented in this report is required. The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2015.69). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-223619).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Background**

Planning application 15/01088/FUL for the extension and conversion of existing outbuildings to residential annexe and formation of a new manège at Tally Ho, Staploe, Bedfordshire was approved by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition (no. 3) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. This was done on the advice of the Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET), in accordance with the guidelines provided in the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Albion 2015) in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition. This report presents the results of the archaeological works undertaken on site, which comprised monitoring of the groundworks in the area of the new manège.

Following the works on the manège, the HET agreed that monitoring of the extension and conversion of the existing outbuildings was not required, due to the relatively small scale of the work and the fact that the ground had been previously disturbed¹.

1.2 **Site Location and Development Description**

The consented site consisted of a modern two-storey, detached house (Tally Ho) and associated outbuildings, including a workshop, garage and stables. It is located on the north side of Bushmead Road in the settlement of Upper Staploe to the north of St Dunstan's Farm and to the south of Cottage Farm (Figure 1). The site is situated on level ground at a height of c. 33m OD at grid reference TL 1426 5985.

The river Great Ouse lies c. 3km to the east. The underlying geology consists of Jurassic Oxford Clay, overlain by Quaternary Diamicton.

The proposed development comprised two elements:

- Extension and conversion of existing outbuildings to form a residential annexe;
- Construction of a manège adjacent to existing stables, c. 80m north of the house within a paddock. The manège measured c. 20m x 40m and was constructed on a limestone base, finished with a sand/rubber chip surface.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The site lies within a locally designated Area of Archaeological Interest within the postulated extent of the medieval settlement of Upper Staploe (HER 14146).

¹ Vanessa Clarke (BBC) email of 29-03-2018 to Rob Wardill (Albion Archaeology)



Some 80m north-west of the manège are cropmarks of buildings and enclosures shown on the 1799 enclosure map as two separate plots, both described as Upper Staploe Green. These sites may originate in the medieval period and one has the appearance of a medieval moat (HER 8605).

Given the potential for the proposed development to disturb or destroy archaeological remains associated with earlier occupation of the settlement of Upper Staploe, condition no. 3 was attached to the planning permission.

1.4 Project Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to make a full record of any archaeological remains impacted by the development, and to place them within their cultural and environmental setting. The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork were therefore to:

- monitor all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains; and
- investigate the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological deposits revealed by the groundworks.



2. METHODOLOGY

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2015). Archaeological observation and investigation during the groundworks took place on 2nd and 3rd October 2015. The observed groundworks comprised the levelling of ground for the manège. The north-west corner of the manège was reduced by c.1m with the south-east side built-up to create a level surface (Figure 2; Plates 1–3).

Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked for artefact recovery.

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
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> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
CIfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
Historic England (formerly English Heritage)	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011)

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2015.69). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-223619).



3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The features and deposits observed are shown in plan on Figure 2, with photographs presented in Plates 1–6. Numbers in square brackets refer to context numbers for features [**] and round brackets (**) refer to deposits.

3.1 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

Topsoil (1) comprised dark brown-grey clayey silt up to 0.3m thick. This overlay c.0.2m of firm dark grey-brown subsoil (2) with occasional chalk inclusions and modern building material fragments.

In the south and west parts of the site a make-up layer (10) comprising friable dark brown-grey clayey sand with modern building material fragments, metal and glass fragments lay beneath the topsoil (1) (Figure 2, Plate 3). This layer was not reduced down to the archaeological level.

Undisturbed geological deposits (3) comprised orange-grey clay with chalk inclusions.

3.2 *Archaeological Features*

Two undated gullies were revealed. The NE-SW aligned gully [6] was 0.66m wide and at right angles to gully [4], which was 0.43m wide. Both were shallow (c.0.2m deep) with concave sides and base (Figure 2, Plates 4–6). Neither produced any artefactual material.

A broadly N-S aligned ditch [8] contained large fragments of glass, brick and scrap metal (not retained), indicating that it was modern in date (Figure 2, Plate 3).

3.1 *Significance of Results*

It is likely that both the undated gullies and the modern ditch are associated with drainage of the land. No evidence was recovered for former use of the land for anything other than agriculture — specifically no traces of the medieval settlement of Upper Staploe were found.

No further analysis of the results of the fieldwork beyond that presented in this report is required. The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2015.69). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-223619).



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Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*

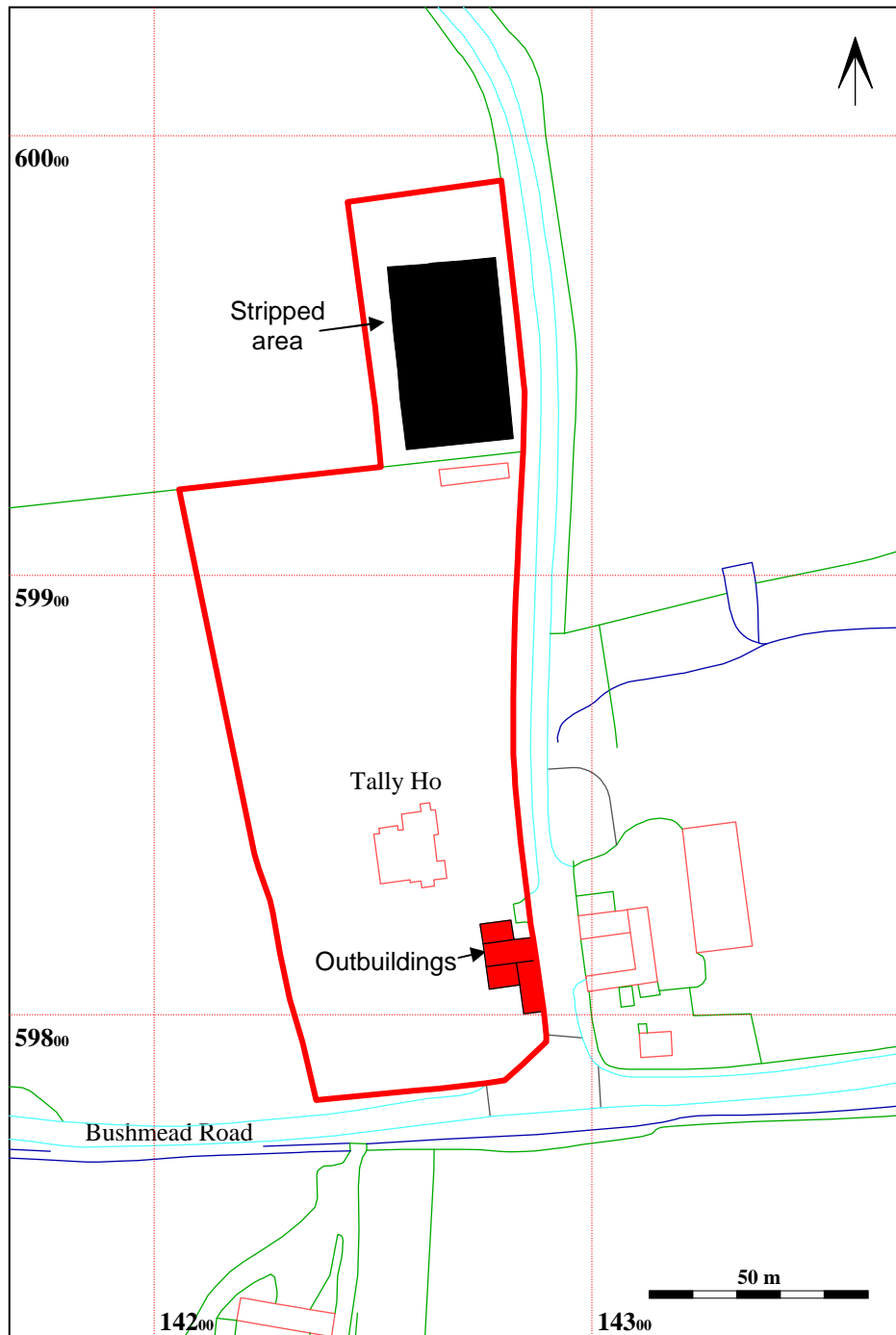
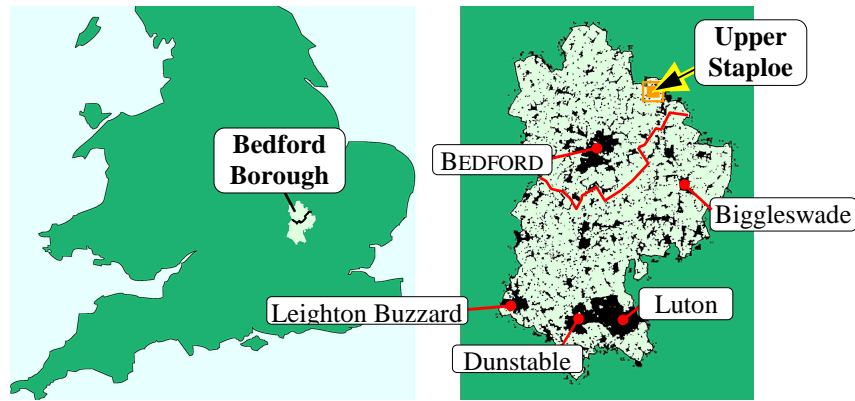


Figure 1: Site location plan

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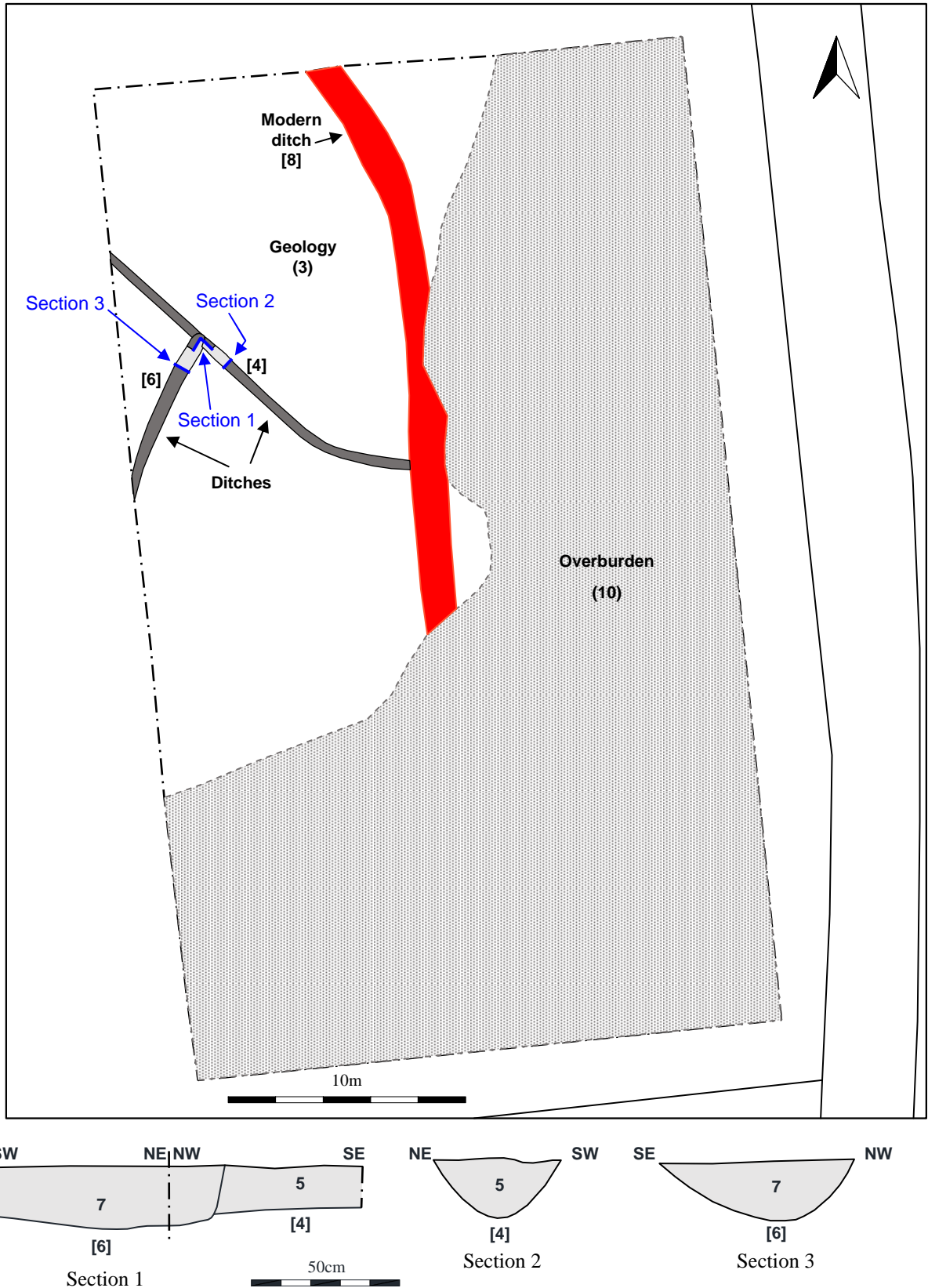


Figure 2: All-features plan

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Plate 1: General view of topsoil strip of manège, looking north



Plate 2: General view of stripped area for manège, looking south-east



Plate 3: Modern features and overburden in area of manège, looking north



Plate 4: Relationship section between earlier ditch [4] (right) and later ditch [6] (left)



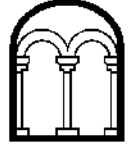
Plate 5: NE-facing section of ditch [6]



Plate 6: NW-facing section of ditch [4]

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