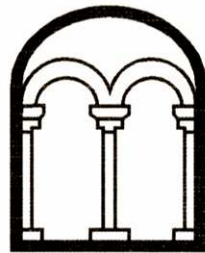


**WAITING FOR THE SUN
RUSHDEN ROAD
BLETSOE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**WAITING FOR THE SUN
RUSHDEN ROAD
BLETSOE
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Project: WSF2658
Museum accession No.: BEDFM 2015.76
OASIS no.: albionar1-227449

Document: 2015/200
Version 1.0

25th November 2015

Compiled by	Edited and Authorised by
Ian Turner	Drew Shotliff

Prepared for:
J&JACS Ltd

On behalf of:
Mr T Allen



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1 Background	6
1.2 Site and Development Description	6
1.3 Archaeological Background	6
1.4 Project Objectives	7
2. METHOD STATEMENTS	8
2.1 Implementation	8
2.2 Standards	8
3. RESULTS	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Overburden and Geology	9
3.3 Archaeological Remains	9
4. CONCLUSIONS	10
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan and foundation trenches

Figure 2: Selected photographs

The figures are bound at the back of the document.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements 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 J&JACS Ltd. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders, Bedford Borough Council Archaeologist. Fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor).

This report was prepared by Ian Turner with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 0300 300 8141
Fax: 0300 300 8209
E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	25/11/2015	N/A

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	J&JACS Ltd on behalf of Mr T Allen
HER	Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team of BBC
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application (12/01700/FUL) for the erection of a stable building for use with the keeping of horses at Waiting for the Sun, Rushden Road, Bletsoe, Bedfordshire was approved by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition 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 carry out the works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, approved by the HET, and to produce a report detailing the results.

The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was undertaken on 17th November 2015 and revealed no archaeological remains.

The foundation trenches were relatively shallow at c. 0.45m below ground level. Generally, this resulted in the trenches at the southern end of the building not penetrating the subsoil. However, along the northern half of the building footprint, underlying geological levels were clearly exposed.

The findings of the archaeological monitoring indicate that neither the Roman settlement (MBD307) nor the medieval settlement (MBD17007) in the vicinity extend into the area of the stable building.

This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (reference no. albionar1-227449) and the project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM:2015.76).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Background**

A planning application (12/01700/FUL) for the erection of a stable building with hardstanding, fencing and gate for use with the keeping of horses at Waiting for the Sun, Rushden Road, Bletsoe, Bedfordshire was approved by Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition (no. 2) 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 carry out the works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2015), approved by the HET. This report details the results of the archaeological works.

1.2 **Site and Development Description**

The site lies on the north-western outskirts of Bletsoe, adjacent to the A6 trunk road (Figure 1). It is situated on level ground at a height of *c.* 44m OD at grid reference TL 0203 5827. The land is currently given over to pasture and is surrounded by mature hedges.

The river Great Ouse lies *c.* 520m to the west. The underlying solid geology consists of Jurassic limestones and mudstone. No superficial geology is recorded.

The proposed stable building comprises a low level structure, consisting of four loose boxes and a tack room for the storage of food and bedding for the horses.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

The site lies immediately to the west of the putative limits of the medieval settlement of Bletsoe (MBD17007). Evidence for significant Roman settlement has also been recorded to the north of the site (MBD307). Those remains included structures, large quantities of artefacts and a cemetery containing 55 burials. The principal period of occupation was the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, although there was limited evidence for both early and later settlement activity.

Less significant evidence to the north of the site includes medieval ridge and furrow (MBD3647) and former gravel pits (MBD8759, MBD2878). To the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of the A6, lie the undated cropmarks of a series of rectilinear enclosures (MBD576). It has been suggested that they may be related to the Roman settlement site described above.



The only scheduled monument in the vicinity of the site is Bletsoe Castle and earthworks (HER1012365), which lie on the opposite side of the village to the north-east. The monument was subject to limited archaeological investigation in 1993 (EBD438). The site also lies beyond the limits of the Bletsoe Conservation Area; the latter is characterised by a number of listed, post-medieval buildings. However, none of them has any visual or historical relationship with the site.

An archaeological watching brief on a new sewerage tank at the farm itself revealed no archaeological remains (EBB932). An archaeological watching brief at The Grange on Rushden Road to the north similarly revealed no archaeological remains (EBB623).

Findspots of a medieval seal (MBD16006) and Roman pottery (MBD15935) are recorded in the arable fields to the north of Bletsoe. In the same area the Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded the findspots of several Roman coins.

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 any archaeological deposits encountered within them.

Dependent on the nature of any remains that might be revealed, specific research aims (most probably relating to Roman or medieval settlement) would be derived from regional research frameworks (e.g. Brown and Glazebrook 2007; Oake et al. 2007; Medlycott 2011).



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Implementation

Archaeological observation of the groundworks was undertaken on 17th November 2015 (Figure 1).

The works comprised the machining under archaeological supervision of the foundation trenches for the new stables and tack room building. The trenches were 0.45m wide and 0.45m deep (Figure 2).

The excavations were carried out using a mechanical excavator operated under close archaeological supervision. 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.

There are no further intrusive groundworks associated with the development as the hardstanding will be laid at current ground level.

2.2 Standards

The following standards were adhered to throughout the project.

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2003).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• CfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</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)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• Historic England	<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)



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The foundation trenches for the new stables and tack room contained no archaeological remains.

The foundation trenches were relatively shallow at *c.* 0.45m below ground level. Generally, this resulted in the trenches at the southern end of the site failing to penetrate through the subsoil. However, along the northern half of the trenches the underlying geological deposits were clearly exposed.

3.2 Overburden and Geology

The overburden across the site was a *c.* 0.20m-thick topsoil of dark grey-brown clay silt (1), above a 0.20–0.25m-thick subsoil of mid orange-brown, silty clay (2).

The undisturbed geological deposit (3) comprised light grey yellow clay with occasional 'seams' of yellow-white limestone.

3.3 Archaeological Remains

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the foundation trenches for the new stables. No artefacts were present within any of the deposits that were excavated during machining.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological observation, investigation and recording of the groundworks at Waiting for the Sun, Bletsoe revealed no archaeological remains.

The foundation trenches were relatively shallow at *c.* 0.45m below ground level and only penetrated through the subsoil in the southern half of the building footprint.

The findings of the archaeological monitoring indicate that neither the Roman settlement (MBD307) nor the medieval settlement (MBD17007) extend into the area of the new stable building.

This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (reference no. albionar1-227449) and the project archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (accession no. BEDFM:2015.76).



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2015, *Waiting for the Sun, Rushden Road, Bletsoe, Bedfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Document 2015/164.

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000: *Research and Archaeology: A framework for the Eastern Counties: Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8

Medlycott, M. 2011: *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the east of England*, EAA Occasional Paper no. 24

Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9

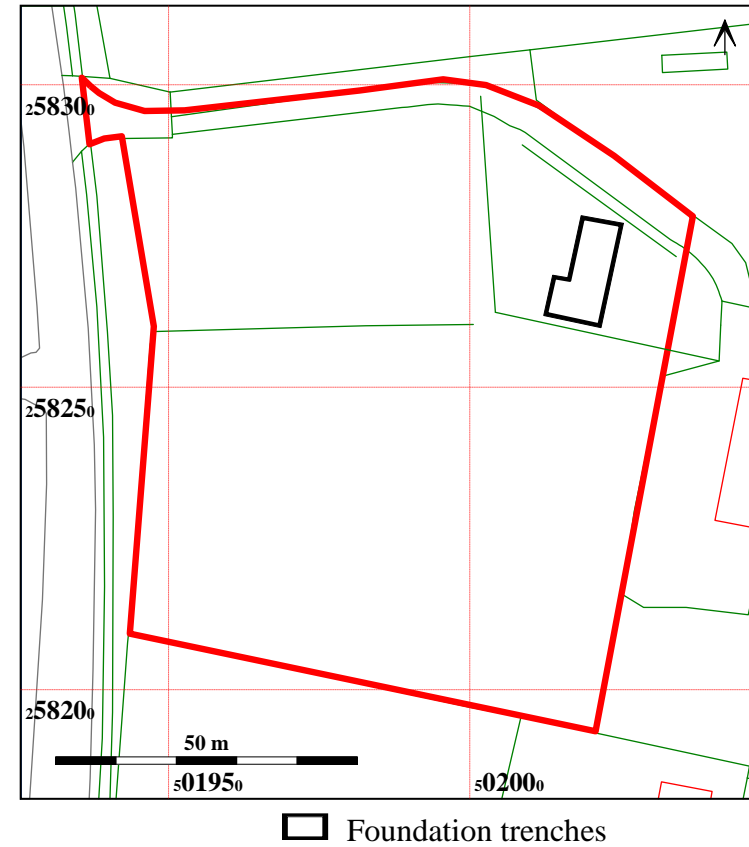
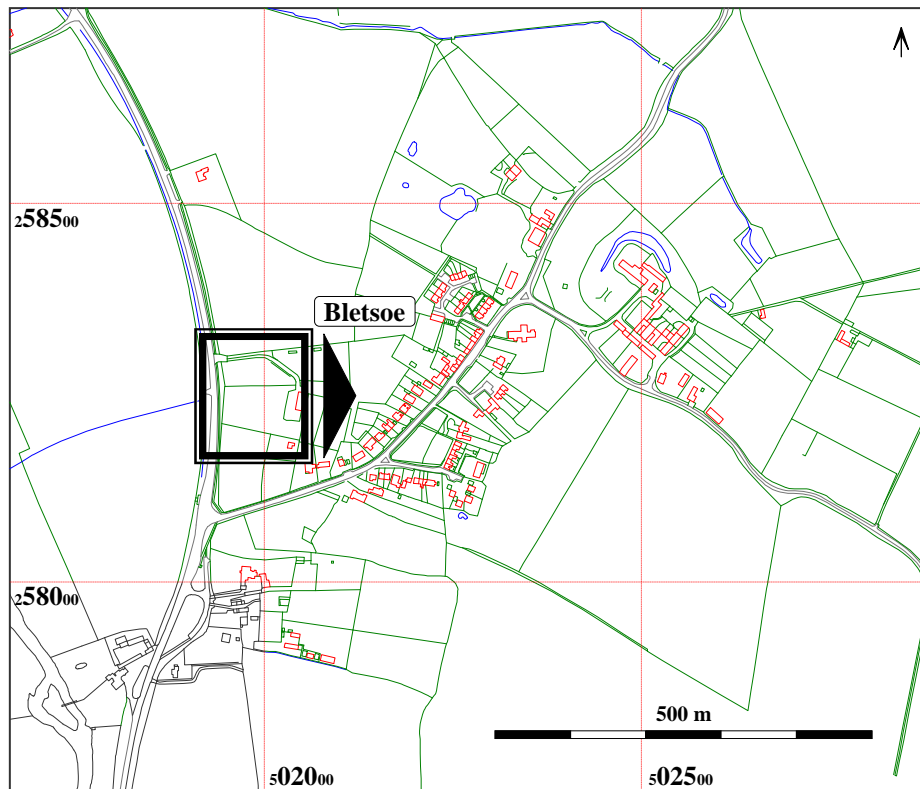
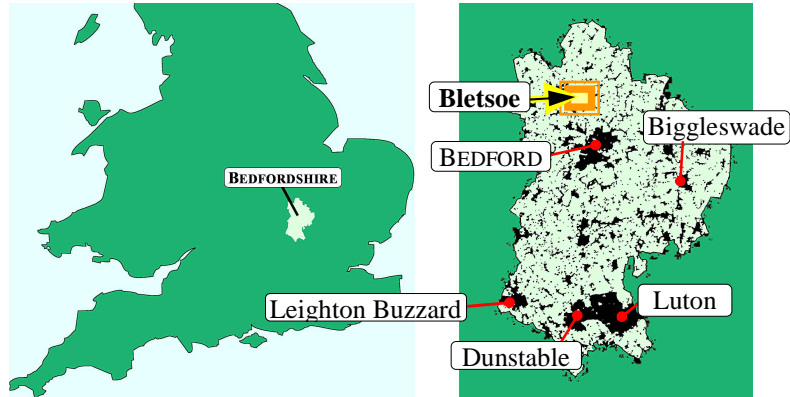


Figure 1: Site location plan and foundation trenches

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.
 Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



Plate 1: Photo montage of the foundation trenches, looking north-east



Plate 2: Representative section through the topsoil and subsoil (scale 0.4m)

Figure 2: Selected photographs

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

