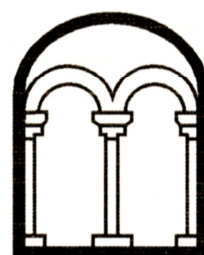


**HILL VIEW FARM
KEYSOE ROAD
RISELEY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**HILL VIEW FARM
KEYSOE ROAD
RISELEY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Project: HV2842
Museum accession no.: BEDFM 2016.13
OASIS no.: albionar1-243549

Document: 2016/177
Version 1.0

26th September 2016

Compiled by	Approved by
Iain Leslie	Drew Shotliff

Prepared for:
Mr Harold Purser

On behalf of:
Mrs J Odell



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project Background	4
1.2 Site Location and Development Description	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	4
1.4 Project Objectives	6
2. METHODOLOGY	7
3. RESULTS	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits	8
3.3 Archaeological Features	8
3.4 Modern Disturbance	8
4. CONCLUSIONS	9
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	10
6. APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM	11
7. APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA	13

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: All-features plan

The figures are bound at the back of the report.

**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.

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

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
1.0	26/09/2016	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Mr Harold Purser on behalf of Mrs J O'Dell
HER	Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team of BBC
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

Planning permission (15/02750/FUL) for a single-storey side extension to form an annexe to the existing building at Hill View Farm, Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire was granted by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, in particular for human remains, a condition (no. 4) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. The Historic Environment Team recommended either a trial trench evaluation prior to the construction works, or an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the strip foundations with the advance built-in proviso that the footings be bridged over if burials were found, so that they would not be disturbed. The client decided on the latter approach. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological observation of the groundworks.

The only archaeological feature revealed during groundworks was a pit at the western limit of the building footprint; it was late medieval or later in date. The absence of similar features elsewhere within the observed groundworks suggests that this represents an isolated feature.

No evidence of human remains was present, suggesting that the limits of any cemetery associated with the Baptist Chapel did not extend into this area.

Modern disturbance was present across much of the building footprint with disturbed and subsequently made-up ground to the north-west as well as multiple services crossing the area. Although numerous, the extent of the disturbance associated with the latter was not great and, therefore, did not hinder the identification of any significant archaeological remains.

None of the deposits or features revealed during the groundworks have the potential to address the regional research frameworks.

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2016.13. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-243549.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (15/02750/FUL) for a single-storey side extension to form an annexe to the existing building at Hill View Farm, Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, in particular for human remains, a condition (no. 4) 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*, and in accordance with Saved Policies BE24 & BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008).

The HET recommended either a trial trench evaluation prior to the construction works, or an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the strip foundations with the advance built-in proviso that the footings be bridged over if burials were found so that they were not disturbed (Lennox 2015). The client decided on the latter approach.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Albion 2016), approved by the HET. This report presents the results of the fieldwork.

1.2 *Site Location and Development Description*

Riseley is a linear roadside village which lies in the northern part of Bedfordshire in a shallow river valley formed by the Riseley Brook. The site lies at the back of properties along the High Street on Keysoe Road (Figure 1). It is situated on level ground at a height of c. 59m OD at grid reference TL 0431 6282. The site is occupied by a residential dwelling and an agricultural building.

The underlying solid geology consists of Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone, with no drift geology recorded. To the immediate north-west of the site are the alluvial gravels of the Riseley Brook (British Geological Survey 2016).

The new extension measured 16.77m x 5.18m with a connecting hallway to the existing dwelling. The construction method utilised strip foundations.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

1.3.1 *General background*

The Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) record several entries for the area around the site.

The Church of All Saints (NHLE 1137548), which dates to the 12th century or earlier, lies c. 350m north of the High Street amongst agricultural fields. The



centre of the medieval village (HER 17089) was located to the north-west of the modern village.

Medieval pottery was found at 170 High Street (HER 11996). A hearth and possible floor surface are recorded as having been excavated in the 1960s by the Ministry of Works at 76 High Street (HER 1920). Two features were detected by magnetometer, one of which was the hearth; the other was a possible kiln (HER1404). The hearth was constructed of tiles laid on edge, and was bounded on one side by an earth surface, flecked with chalk. A 14th-century date was proposed by the excavators but the evidence for this date is unclear. The finds were retained by the homeowner, and subsequent examination showed that one potsherd was late medieval; the remainder (where datable) seem to have been post-medieval.

Designated and undesignated buildings along the High Street range in date from the early 16th century to the 19th century. They are interspersed with modern 20th-century dwellings.

1.3.2 The Baptist Chapel

A Baptist Chapel (HER 12618), opened in 1838 and demolished after 1960, used to be located on Keysoe Road (then Mill Lane) to the immediate south-west of the PDA. In the Officer Report on the recommendation to grant planning permission the HET gave the following information on the Baptist Chapel:

“The Bedford Borough Historic Environment Record (BBHER) records the proposed development site as potentially falling within the extent of the former 19th-century Baptist burial ground (BBHER 12676) at Riseley. The site of the demolished Baptist Chapel is marked by a pair of 19th-century gravestones on the opposite side of Keysoe Road and is shown on the 1940s/1950s RAF vertical aerial photos of the area. It was built in the 1830s and its remains now underlie a grass amenity area on the Keysoe Road/ High Street junction. The Strict Baptist Historical Society church book for Riseley notes that the church was well attended in 1851, averaging 50 at a morning service, 100 in the afternoon and 120 in the evening. However, by 1897 the meeting had been without a pastor for 30 years but regular services continued to be held. By 1945, membership stood at just two women and services were terminated. The building had been demolished by the time the 1968 aerial photos were taken. It remains uncertain as to which side of Keysoe Road the burial ground was located but it has been suggested that it may have included the proposal site (North Bedfordshire Preservation Society, *Not Another Guide Book*, p. 14). A search of historic mapping and documentation has not shed any further light on the matter.

There were no reports of burials having been found during the construction of the house that was extended; it appears to have been built between 1986 and 1991. However, this would have largely predated Planning Policy Guidance Note: PPG16, which covered archaeological recommendations and conditions (1990)” (Lennox 2015). Therefore, no archaeological monitoring would have been undertaken at the time.



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 encountered within them;
- record any human remains that were encountered within the groundworks.

Further specific objectives, based on local and regional research objectives in Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake *et al* (2007) and Medlycott (2011) were to have been devised during the project, in the event that significant archaeological remains had been encountered.



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation and investigation during the groundworks took place between 25th August and 1st September 2016. Groundworks monitored comprised the excavation of strip foundation trenches (Figure 2).

Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis 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> (2nd edn, 2003).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
• The Church of England and English Heritage (now Historic England)	<i>Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England</i> (2005)
• ClfA	<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)

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2016).



3. RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

Groundworks comprised the excavation of strip foundation trenches, within the footprint of the new building (Figure 2).

The results of the archaeological work are summarised below. Details of all the deposits and features encountered are contained within Appendix 2.

3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

Overburden generally comprised c. 0.2m of topsoil, overlying mid-brown clay-silt subsoil, c. 0.2m thick. At the north-western end of the building footprint there was a 0.25m-thick layer of made-up ground overlying the subsoil, where there had previously been an area of hard-standing (Figure 2).

Underlying geological deposits comprised blue-brown clay and were generally encountered c. 0.45m below ground level.

3.3 *Archaeological Features*

A single archaeological feature [3] was revealed — a pit located at the western corner of the building footprint. The pit had concave sides and base; it was at least 1.2m in diameter and 0.5m deep. It was filled with a very dark grey clay-silt deposit (4) that contained occasional fragments of ceramic building material. These included a large fragment of late medieval to post-medieval tile.

3.4 *Modern Disturbance*

In addition to the made-up ground described above there were also several other instances of modern disturbance. At least five modern services cut across the footprint of the building. Although numerous, these were generally narrow (less than 0.4m wide) and had, therefore, caused only moderate disturbance.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The only archaeological feature revealed during groundworks was a pit at the western limit of the building footprint; it was late medieval or later in date. The absence of similar features elsewhere within the observed groundworks suggests that this represents an isolated feature, although it is possible that further archaeological features may exist outside of the observed area.

No evidence of human remains was present, suggesting that the limits of any cemetery associated with the Baptist Chapel did not extend into this area.

Modern disturbance was present across much of the building footprint with disturbed and subsequently made-up ground to the north-west as well as multiple services crossing the area. The extent of the disturbance associated with the latter was not great and, therefore, did not hinder the identification of any significant archaeological remains.

None of the deposits or features revealed during the groundworks have the potential to address the regional research frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook (eds.) 2000; Medlycott 2011; Oake et al. 2007).

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2016.13. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-243549.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2001, *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed.

Albion Archaeology, 2016, *Hill View Farm Riseley, Bedfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Document 2015/45

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J., 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.

Lennox, P. 2015. *Officer Report*. Unpublished Bedford Borough Council internal report on application no: 15/02750/FUL. Signed by Paul Lennox, date 11/01/2015.

Medlycott, M., 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 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.



6. APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-243549

Project details

Project name	Hill View Farm, Riseley
Short description of the project	Planning permission for a single-storey side extension to form an annexe to the existing building at Hill View Farm, Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire was granted by Bedford Borough Council. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, in particular for human remains, a condition (no. 4) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake archaeological observation during groundworks. The only archaeological feature revealed was a pit at the western limit of the building footprint; it was late medieval or later in date. The absence of similar features elsewhere within the observed groundworks suggests that this represents an isolated feature. No evidence of human remains was present, suggesting that the limits of any cemetery associated with the Baptist Chapel did not extend into this area. Modern disturbance was present across much of the building footprint with disturbed and subsequently made-up ground to the north-west as well as multiple services crossing the area. The extent of the disturbance associated with the latter was not great and, therefore, would not have hindered the identification of significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 25-08-2016 End: 01-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HV2842 - Contracting Unit No.15/02750/FUL - Planning Application No. BEDFM 2016.13 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD RISELEY Hill View Farm, Riseley
Study area	87 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 043 628 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology



Project director/manager Drew Shotliff

Project supervisor Iain Leslie

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Physical Archive ID BEDFM 2016.13

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology

Digital Contents "Ceramics",'

Digital Media available "Database" ,"Images raster / digital photography" ,"Text"

Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Paper Archive ID BEDFM 2016.13

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet" ,"Drawing" ,"Miscellaneous Material" ,"Photograph" ,"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Hill View Farm, Keysoe Road, Riseley, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Leslie, I'

Other bibliographic details 2016/177

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Bedford

Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

Entered on 26 September 2016



7. APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA



Area: 1
Extent (ha): 0.0087
OS Co-ordinates: TL0431062820
Description: Strip footings for house extension

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Loose dark brown grey clay silt . Thickness 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay . Thickness 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Pit	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.5m, min diameter 1.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Fill	Friable dark grey clay silt occasional small-large CBM. Thickness 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Make up layer	Loose mid grey rubble . Thickness 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Natural	Plastic mid blue brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

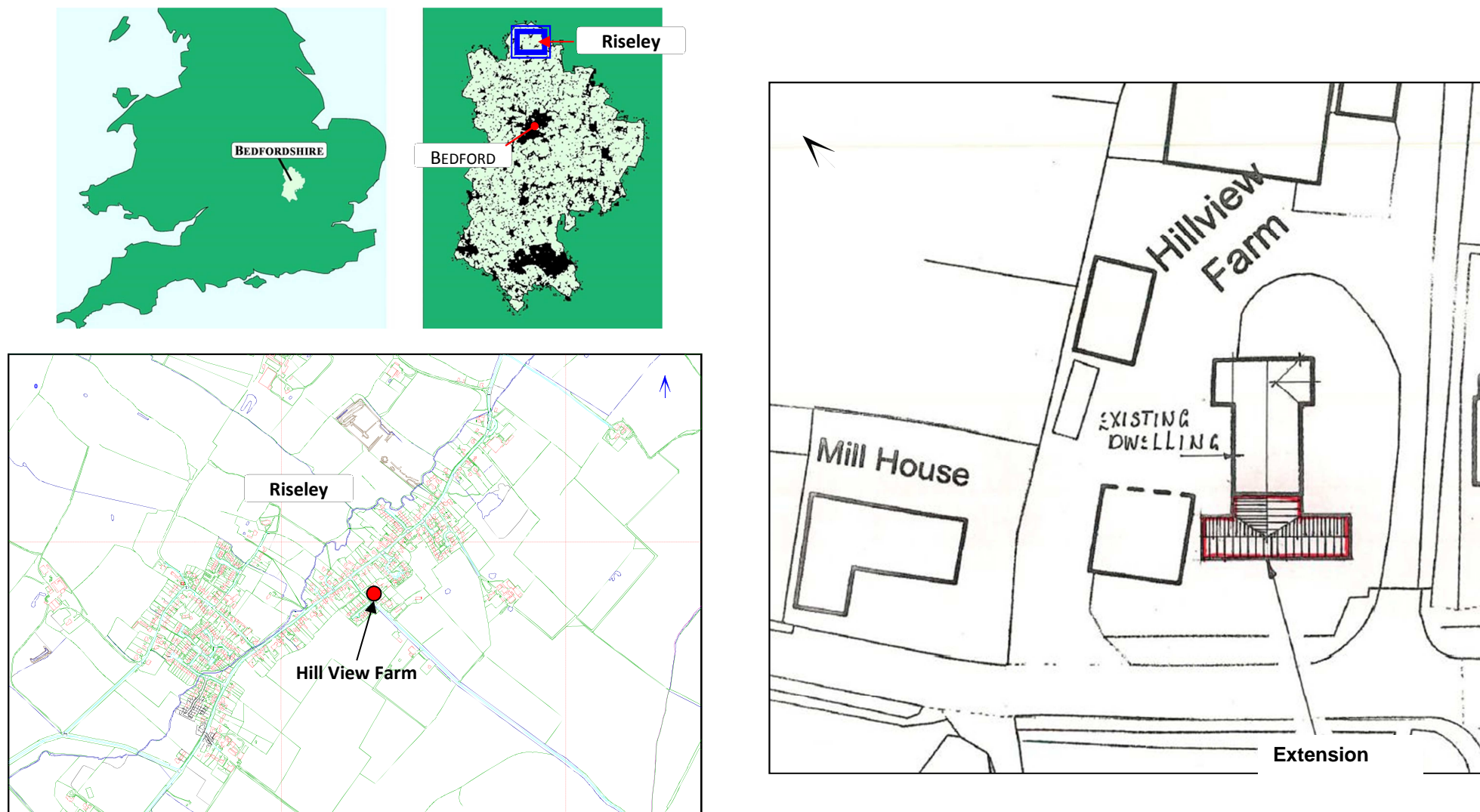
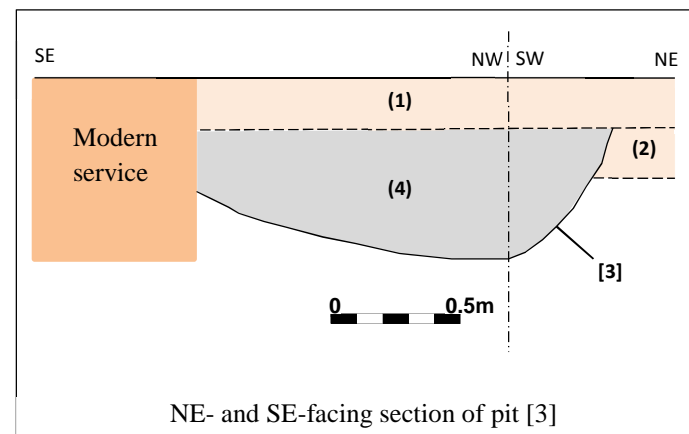
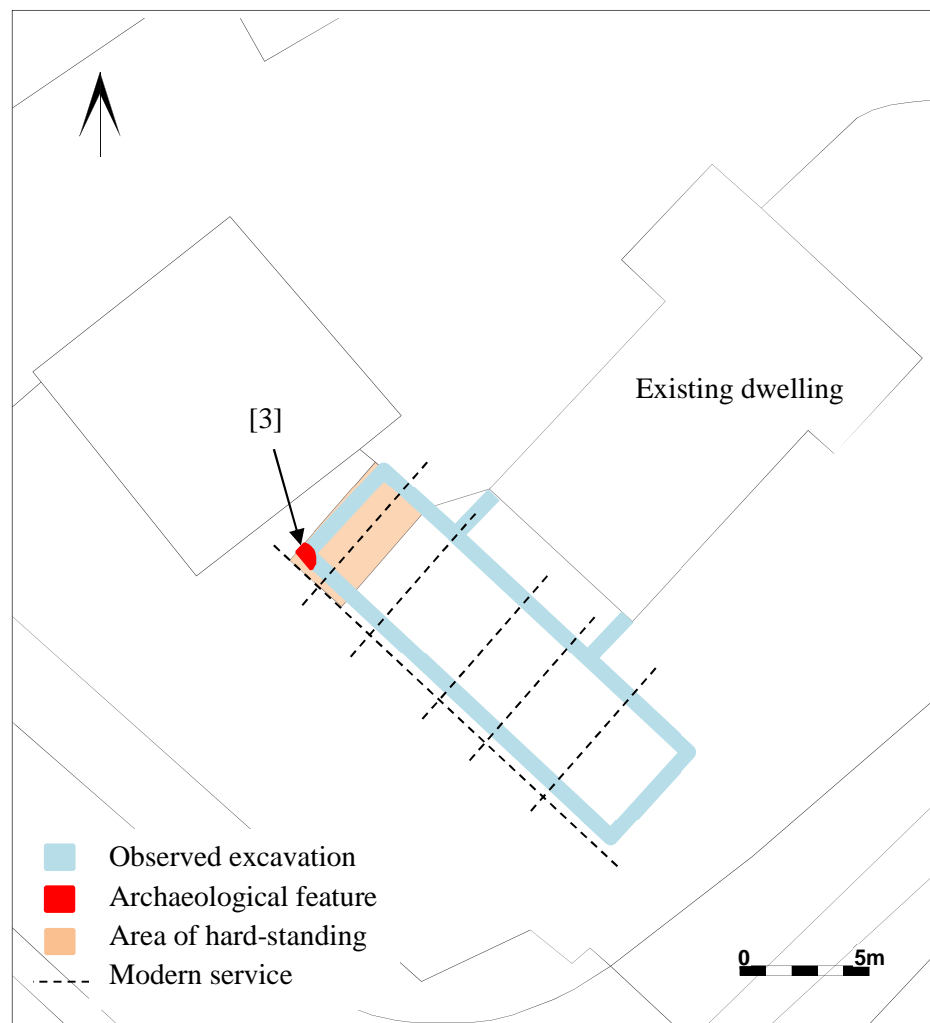


Figure 1: Site location

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)



NE-facing section of pit [3]

Figure 2: All-features plan

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

