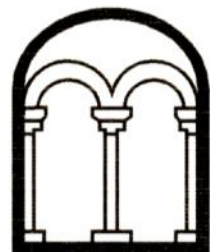


**STONESTHROW
CHURCH END
KEMPSTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



**STONESTHROW
CHURCH END
KEMPSTON
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND
PUBLICATION**

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Prepared for:
Mr Terence McQueenie



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

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Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Albion | Albion Archaeology |
| BLARS | Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service |
| CifA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| HE | Historic England |
| HER | Historic Environment Record |
| HET | Historic Environment Team |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority |
| NHLE | National Heritage List for England |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |
| Procedures Manual | Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd edn, 2001 |
| | Albion Archaeology |
| PDA | Proposed development area |



Non-technical Summary

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission (16/00366/FUL) for the erection of a double garage adjacent to Stonesthrow, Church End, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK43 8RH.

As the development could impact on potential below-ground archaeological remains a condition (no. 3) was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. The Borough Council's Historic Environment Team (HET) advised that a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks, with subsequent post-excavation works and publication must be undertaken. This was 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, and Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008).

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.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the foundation trenches.

A dark coloured alluvial layer up to 1.90m thick was observed, suggesting that this area was wet, boggy ground in antiquity. This deposit was similar to that found during recent excavations in the area (M. Luke pers comm, Luke 2016) and it is likely that the boggy ground prevented any activity related to the nearby Roman period settlement extending south into this area. However the investigated area is small so it is difficult to draw conclusions about the presence or absence of other archaeological deposits within the wider area.

None of the deposits 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 2016.46. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-256987.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission (16/00366/FUL) for the erection of a double garage adjacent to Stonestrow, Church End, Kempston, Bedfordshire, MK43 8RH.

As the development could impact on potential below-ground archaeological remains 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*, and in accordance with Saved Policies BE24 & BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, and Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008).

The Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council advised that the mitigation strategy required would be a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during the groundworks, with subsequent post-excavation works and publication.

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*

Kempston Church End, part of Kempston Rural, lies to the north-west of Bedford and adjacent to the River Great Ouse. It is a small hamlet that consists of the parish church of All Saints and a small cluster of houses to its south, of which Stonestrow is one. The site of the proposed double garage is at the eastern end of the house (Figure 1).

Kempston Church End lies in the floodplain of the river Great Ouse on level ground at c. 30m OD. The underlying geology is Felmersham Member Sand and Gravels over Great Oolite Limestone bedrock (British Geological Survey 2016). The garage is centred on grid reference TL 0151 4790.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

Antiquarian finds and modern excavations have revealed evidence for settlement at Kempston Church End dating back to the prehistoric period with an emphasis on high-status settlement in the Roman period. An HER search for all heritage assets in a 500m radius from the proposed development area (PDA) was undertaken as part of this WSI.

Roman finds have been recorded at Church End since the 19th century. They include coins, pottery and a small bronze figurine (HER 162). In 2009 eleven sherds of Romano-British pottery and one sherd of Iron Age pottery were found at Kempston Rural Lower School adjacent to the PDA (BLARS 2013).



Excavations as part of the Bedford Western Bypass revealed a Roman roadside settlement to the south of Kempston Church End (Luke 2016). The settlement lies parallel to the line of a possible Roman road (HER 58) followed by the modern Cemetery Road. Doubt has since been cast on the identification of this road (Simco 1984) as some of the boundaries were found to be post-medieval in origin, and there is no indication of the road on aerial photographs of Kempston Rural.

Settlement at Kempston Church End began in the Iron Age/early Roman period with the establishment of a trackway leading towards a presumed crossing of the River Great Ouse (NHLE 1005412) and two adjacent enclosures. By the late 1st century AD the settlement was characterised by a series of enclosures established on a grid-like pattern along a substantial metalled trackway, possibly a deliberately planned layout. The enclosures contained timber and stone buildings, wells, yards, pits, post-holes and finds concentrations. The trackway and settlement enclosures remained in use throughout the Roman period until the mid-4th century, after which they fell into disuse (Luke 2016, 212).

A small 7th-century cemetery (HER 18921) was found within the site of the settlement suggesting that not all of it had been abandoned. It was located within a Roman fenced enclosure, equidistant between the two major trackways and adjacent to a 4th-century masonry building.

Kempston is next mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a fairly large manor with a mill and woodland for 200 pigs. All Saints' Church has been in existence since at least 1215 but it has been suggested that it contains fragments of Anglo-Saxon masonry, which could be the remains of an older church (BLARS 2013). Settlement in Kempston parish in the medieval period consisted of dispersed hamlets, surviving in the many "End" place names, such as Church End, Green End, Box End, West End and Wood End.

The medieval/post-medieval settlement of Church End (HER 11560), as drawn by the HER, is focussed around the church of All Saints and extends from the Old Vicarage in the north to beyond the grounds of Kempston Lower School in the south. The site of a post-medieval cottage (HER 5754), formerly grade III listed and now demolished, lies to the immediate north of the proposed garage.

Apart from the designated Church of All Saints (NHLE 1114281), The Old Vicarage (NHLE 1321544) and Church End Cottages (NHLE 1114282), many of the buildings in Church End, including Stonestrow, are modern.

1.4 Fieldwork Aims

The primary function of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting. Together with an appropriate level of analysis and reporting to fully describe the archaeological works and findings.

The work had the potential to provide information on:

1. The date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the development site;



2. To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
3. the local environmental conditions (through the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains).

1.5 Research Strategies

In addition to the primary aims of the fieldwork, wider research objectives could be formulated based upon what archaeological remains were encountered and these could be linked to existing research strategies.

1.5.1 Regional and county-based strategies

A number of research frameworks have been devised for the region. The earliest comprises *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997). This was complemented by *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy* (eds Brown and Glazebrook 2000), which set out research priorities.

These documents were reviewed and revised in *Revision of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region* (eds Medlycott and Brown 2008). Finally, the regional research framework was again reviewed and augmented in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (ed. Medlycott 2011).

In addition to these regionally focussed documents, work has also specifically been done on the county of Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al. 2007).

1.5.2 Project Objectives

The proposed groundworks have the potential to reveal archaeological assets dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods, either in the form of artefacts, and/or features relating to settlement activity.

While Roman rural settlement at Kempston has been the subject of much excavation and investigation, there is scope for further research into the characterisation of rural settlements as a whole, their extent, distribution and patterns of continuity or discontinuity, in the Iron Age and Roman periods (Oake 2007, 11).

For the Saxon and medieval periods further research is needed into settlement chronology, distribution and characteristics. Opportunities for studying the Saxon origins of medieval settlement are rare, and the local research framework specifically mentions the need for research into medieval settlements at the lower end of the settlement hierarchy, such as “Ends” (Oake 2007, 14).

This echoes the principal research requirement in the regional research framework for a definition of actual medieval settlement patterns across the region: the dating of each element in this pattern (nucleation/dispersion, moated sites, isolated



farms, field systems, greens, Ends, etc.) and the relationship of the medieval pattern to any earlier pattern (Wade 2000).



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation and investigation during the groundworks took place on the 13th September 2016. The groundworks comprised the excavation of adjoining strip foundation trench which followed the perimeter footprint of the 6.50m by 6.50m square garage, with a 3.50m wide gap at the entrance. The trench was 0.50m wide and excavated down to natural ground at between 1.30m and 2m deep (Figure 1, Plate 1).

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, 2001). |
| • ALGAO (East) | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003) |
| • Bedford Museum | <i>Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (Bedford Museum 2010). |
| • CfA | <i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014) |
| | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014) |
| • Historic England/ English Heritage | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (updated 2015) |
| | <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (Second Edition)</i> (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 adjoining strip foundation trenches which followed the perimeter footprint of the new building (Figure 1, Plate 1). The results of the archaeological work are summarised below.

3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

The overburden comprised, from top to bottom:

The modern surface layer was yellow, sandy clay and brick rubble, c. 0.15m thick - the former patio foundations.

Below the patio remains, a layer of dark black grey sandy silt with occasional small limestone fragments which varied in thickness from 1.20m to 1.90m was present. Occasional fragments of brick and tile of post-medieval / modern date were present towards the top of this deposit. However no other artefacts were encountered. This deposit is interpreted as an alluvial accumulation layer which has been previously encountered during other archaeological investigations undertaken in this area (pers comm, M. Luke).

The underlying geological deposit, exposed at the base of the foundation trenches, comprised mid orange clay sand with patches of light yellow sand and patches of gravel. The surface of this deposit undulated across the 6.50m x6.50m square area, varying from 1.30m to 2m below the modern surface.

3.3 *Archaeological Features*

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the foundation trenches.



4. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the foundation trenches.

A dark coloured alluvial layer up to 1.90m thick was observed, suggesting that this area was wet, boggy ground in antiquity. This deposit was similar to that found during recent excavations in the area (M. Luke pers comm, Luke 2016) and it is likely that the boggy ground prevented any activity related to the nearby Roman period settlement extending south into this area. However the investigated area is small so it is difficult to draw conclusions about the presence or absence of other archaeological deposits within the wider area.

None of the deposits revealed during the groundworks have the potential to address the regional research frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook (eds.) 2000; Medlycott 2011; Oake et al. 2007). However the continuation of the alluvial deposit seen in previous excavations provides useful information about the wider landscape.

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2016.46. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-256987.



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APPENDIX 1: OASIS DATA

OASIS ID: albionar1-256987

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Stonesthrow, Kempston Church End |
| Short description of the project | Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission for the erection of a double garage adjacent to Stonesthrow, 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. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present within the foundation trenches. A dark coloured alluvial layer up to 1.90m thick was observed, suggesting that this area was wet, boggy ground in antiquity. This deposit was similar to that found during recent excavations in the area (M. Luke pers comm, Luke 2016) and it is likely that the boggy ground prevented any activity related to the nearby Roman period settlement extending south into this area. However the investigated area is small so it is difficult to draw conclusions about the presence or absence of other archaeological deposits within the wider area. |
| Project dates | Start: 13-09-2016 End: 13-09-2016 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | BEDFM 2016.46 - Museum accession ID ST2960 - Contracting Unit No. 16/00366/ful - Planning Application No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Monument type | NONE |
| Significant Finds | NONE |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF Saved Policies BE24 and BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002 |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD KEMPSTON RURAL Stonesthrow, Kempston Church End |
| Study area | 42 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TL 01518 47906 Point |

Project creators

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



Project manager Drew Shotliff

Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Paper Archive ID BEDFM 2016.46

Paper Contents "other"

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

Project bibliography 1

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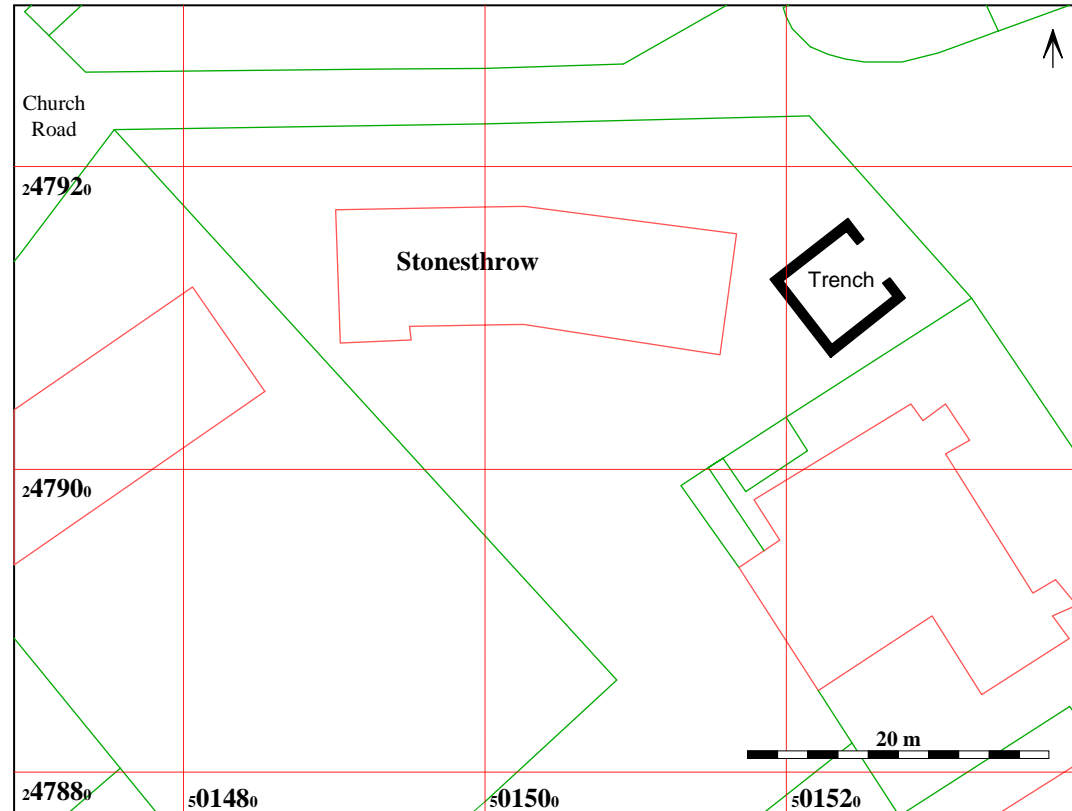
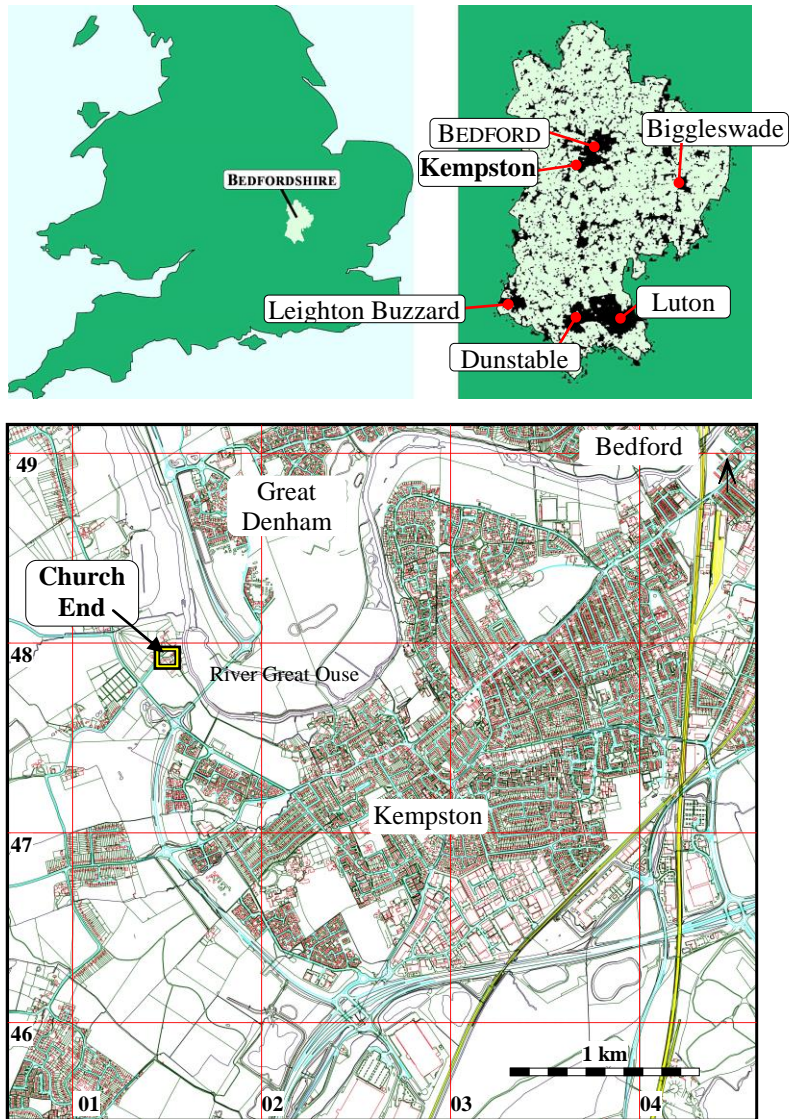


Figure 1: Site location

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a) Alluvial layer beneath patio remains. Looking South. Scale 1m.



General view of garage foundations. Looking East.

Plate 1



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