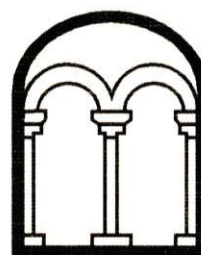


**GOLDINGTON GREEN LOWER SCHOOL
GOLDINGTON ROAD
BEDFORD**

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

Albion
archaeology



**GOLDINGTON GREEN LOWER SCHOOL
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.

Acknowledgements

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Vanessa Clarke and Geoff Saunders (Bedford Borough Council Archaeologists). The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor) and Ben Barker (Project Officer). This report has been prepared by Ben Barker. The figures were compiled by 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*

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

BBC	Bedford Borough Council
BBC AT	Bedford Borough Council Archaeology Team
CIfA	Chartered Institute <i>for</i> Archaeologists
HER	Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team (of BBC)
DA	Development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (16/02864/DC3) for the erection of a single-storey, nine-classroom building at Goldington Green Lower School, Bedford was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

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, and in accordance with Saved Policies BE24 and BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008).

The HET specified that the mitigation strategy should consist of archaeological monitoring of groundworks and the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that were revealed. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Kier Construction Ltd to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition and to carry out the required works.

The archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out between 24th April and 11th May 2017. Following limited ground reduction, the groundworks primarily comprised the excavation of 97 foundation pad pits, each measuring 0.75m wide by 0.75m long where excavated by machine bucket, or 1m in diameter where excavated by auger. The pits were excavated to a depth of 0.7–1.8m, as determined by the depth of the undisturbed natural geological deposits. No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were encountered, although in places the ground had been heavily disturbed by recent building activity and services associated with the school and the demolition of a former swimming pool and temporary classroom.

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM: 2017.28). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-280875) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (16/02864/DC3) for the erection of a single-storey, nine-classroom building at Goldington Green Lower School, Bedford was granted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC).

Due to the high archaeological potential of the proposed development area, 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 and BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002, Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008).

The HET specified that the mitigation strategy should consist of archaeological monitoring of groundworks and the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that were revealed.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion 2017) in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition, and to carry out the subsequent programme of archaeological works. The document reports on the findings of the programme of archaeological observation, monitoring and recording.

1.2 *Site and Development Description*

The development area (DA) lies on the eastern edge of Bedford. It is situated within the grounds of Goldington Green Lower School, which lies on the south side of Goldington Road.

The DA lies *c.* 500m north-west of the River Great Ouse. It is centred on NGR TL 07683 50426 and lies at a height of *c.* 24m OD. The superficial geology consists of Quaternary Sand and Gravel river terrace deposits. The solid geology is Peterborough member Mudstone¹.

The DA is located to the south-east of the existing school buildings where a temporary, mobile classroom was removed to make way for the new building. The new classroom measures *c.* 19m x 44m and has an overall footprint of 822m².

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

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

Goldington was formerly a separate village that was subsumed by the urban expansion of Bedford in the 20th century. The school site lies opposite Goldington Green, within the bounds of the medieval settlement of Goldington

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014]



(HER 17071). The former settlement is now partly covered by modern playing fields and open areas but its focal green and some historic buildings survive. The latter include the Grade II listed Goldington Hall (HER 1312), which lies on the opposite side of the Green, *c.* 350m north-west of the DA. The school also lies on the opposite side of the road to the site of a post-medieval, rectangular enclosure that is labelled “Manor Pound” on the Polhill Estate Map of 1805 (HER 14507).

Between the DA and the River Great Ouse were a series of cropmarks, representing prehistoric ring ditches/henge monuments and a possible Iron Age/Roman field system (HER 1905). The remains were largely destroyed by development in the 1980s. Part of the area was investigated, revealing two Neolithic henges, both of which had been reused in the Bronze Age as burial sites (Mustoe 1988). Similar remains of prehistoric and Roman date are commonly found on the gravel terraces of the middle Great Ouse.

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 have the potential to reveal archaeological remains; and
- investigate the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of archaeological deposits encountered within the groundworks.

The DA had the highest potential to contain Saxon or medieval remains related to the former settlement of Goldington (HER 17071). However, dependent on the nature of any remains that were revealed, specific research aims were to be derived from regional research frameworks (e.g. Brown and Glazebrook 2007; Oake et al. 2007; Medlycott 2011).



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2017).

2.1 Methodological Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edition (2001)
Bedford Museum	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (2010)
CIfA	<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, Version 1.2</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , 2nd edition (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM: 2017.28). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-280875) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

2.2 Fieldwork

The archaeological observation, investigation and recording were carried out between 24th April and 11th May 2017. The groundworks comprised limited ground reduction (between 0.1m and 0.3m) followed by the excavation of 97 foundation pad pits. Depending on plant availability and depth, the pits were either excavated by machine bucket or mechanical auger.

The pits were generally 0.75m wide by 0.75m long where excavated by machine bucket, or 1m in diameter where excavated by the auger. The depths were largely determined by the geology encountered, but were all a minimum of 0.7m deep and were specified to extend a minimum of 0.15m into undisturbed geology or solid ground. All pits were examined by a building inspector prior to filling with concrete.



Initially, all pits were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. However, it soon became apparent that continuous archaeological observation was not productive and, with the sanction of the BBC AT, the archaeological monitoring shifted to an intermittent watching brief. All pits were recorded before being backfilled and were drawn or photographed as appropriate.

Following the observation, investigation and recording of ground reduction and foundation pads it was determined that the service trenches associated with the development would largely be within disturbed ground. Accordingly, the BBC AT determined that no further archaeological observation needed to be undertaken on any works associated with the services.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The location of the foundation pad pits is shown in Figure 2. They are numbered in accordance with the “Pad Foundation Layout and Details” drawing provided by the Architects (Diamond Woods & Shaw Ltd, Project No. 16-S-00020, Drawing No. 0-001). The stratigraphy observed in each is summarised below and tabulated in Appendix 1. Context numbers in round brackets refer to fills or layers (***). A selection of representative photographs is reproduced in Figure 3.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The foundations were located in an area of landscaped playing field that had previously been partially occupied by a temporary mobile classroom, erected in 2003. Prior to this, the north-western part of the DA had contained the school swimming pool, which was demolished in advance of the construction of the temporary classroom. The very south-western edge of the new building overlapped part of the tarmacked playground, although the majority of the rest of the area was grassed.

Due to the previous on-site activities soil profiles observed within the pad pits were generally highly disturbed. It is likely that the landscaping of the playground resulted in the levelling of the wider area; this would have disturbed the original topsoil and subsoil layers, and probably increased the total depth of overburden in this part of the playing field.

In general, an average depth of approximately 0.8m of overburden was recorded overlying undisturbed geology, but this layer was highly mixed and displayed very little evidence of stratification. The overburden, layer (1), consisted of dark grey-brown sandy silt with a high organic content and occasional modern refuse (brick, tile, china and animal bone). The deposit was consistent with that of a disturbed topsoil/subsoil mix.

The natural geology (2) was generally a light to mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel with patches of black-brown organic clays within the gravels to the south, and yellow-brown inorganic clays further to the north. The deposits were consistent with the type of fluvial deposits present along the former flood plain of the Great Ouse valley. The absence of a subsoil suggests that it may have been mechanically truncated. No non-modern archaeological artefacts or ecofacts were present within any of these deposits.

3.3 Modern Archaeological Features

No archaeological features, other than those dating to the modern period, were identified during the watching brief. The location of the former mobile classroom and approximate location on the swimming pool in relation to the foundations pits are shown on Figure 3.

3.3.1 Swimming pool/mobile classroom foundations

The greatest impact of the former swimming pool was the presence of eight large c. 1m square cubes of concrete, plus one large L-shaped mass that was c. 3m in



length. These were not removed under archaeological supervision; however the disturbance appeared to be localised to the area of the former swimming pool. There was no evidence of a large hole left by the former pool — it would appear most likely that the swimming pool was free-standing and not sunk into the ground. Despite this, there had been a significant impact in this area by disturbance associated with the foundations and associated services.

3.3.2 Services

A total of 14 of the pad pits contained evidence of modern services, which included former gas, electric, drainage and water cables/pipes. These were generally located 0.4–0.6m below ground level. Due to the disturbed nature of the ground through which they passed, the service trenches were not always clearly visible.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording revealed no evidence for the presence of heritage assets within the development area. This may be a function of truncation associated with the levelling of the area during the construction of the school playing field, rather than evidence for a total absence of archaeological remains in this area. This situation has been compounded locally by the excavation of foundations for the former school swimming pool/mobile classroom and the routing of multiple services for surrounding buildings across the footprint of the new building.

The information revealed by the watching brief suggests that there is little potential for the survival of significant archaeological remains in this part of the school site.



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6. APPENDIX 1: PAD PIT SUMMARY

Row	Column	Excavation method	Depth BGL (m)	Depth to geology (m)	Geology type	Observations within made-ground
A	1	Auger	1.45	0.50	Mid-yellow-brown clay	n/a
A	2	Auger	1.40	0.45	Mid-yellow-brown clay	n/a
A	3	Bucket	1.50	0.70		Electricity cable
A	4	Auger	0.95	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Topsoil overburden
A	5	Auger	1.40	1.0	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Concrete footing dug out by machine
A	6	Auger	0.90	0.60	Mid yellow-brown clay	n/a
A	7	Auger	0.90	0.55	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	8	Auger	0.90	0.30	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	9	Auger	0.75	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	10	Auger	0.95	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	11	Bucket	0.95	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	12	Bucket	0.90	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
A	13	Auger	1.15	1.05	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	1	Auger	1.50	0.75	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	2	Bucket	1.80	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Oyster shell and electricity cable
B	3	Bucket	1.10	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Gas and water pipe
B	4	Auger	1.00	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Topsoil overburden
B	5	Auger	1.00	0.45	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	6	Auger	0.90	0.50	Mid yellow-brown clay	n/a
B	7	Auger	0.95	0.70	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	8	Auger	0.90	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	9	Auger	0.70	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	10	Auger	1.40	0.45	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Water table reached at c. 1m BGL
B	11	Bucket	0.85	0.77	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	12	Bucket	1.00	0.95	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
B	13	Auger	1.15	1.00	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	1	Auger	1.50	0.75	Mid-yellow-brown clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	Modern brick inclusions
C	2	Auger	1.70	0.80	Mid-yellow-brown clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	Modern brick inclusions and electricity cable
C	3	Auger	1.50	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	4	Auger	0.95	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	5	Auger	1.30	0.65	Black-brown organic clay	n/a
C	6	Auger	0.90	0.55	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Water pipe
C	7	Auger	0.70	0.60	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	8	Auger	0.95	0.45	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	9	Auger	0.85	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	10	Auger	0.95	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	11	Bucket	0.75	0.70	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	12	Bucket	0.90	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
C	13	Bucket	0.90	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	1	Square	1.55	1.00	Mid-yellow-brown clay	Modern brick inclusions
D	2	Auger	1.50	0.70	Mid-yellow-brown clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	Mod brick inclusions in overburden
D	3	Bucket	1.40	1.10	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	1.1m of modern disturbance to
D	4	Bucket	1.05	0.80	0.25m-thick black-brown organic clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	5	Bucket	1.10	0.75	0.3m-thick black-brown organic clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	6	Bucket	1.00	0.50	0.15m-thick black-brown organic clay above 0.3m of mid-yellow-brown clay above 0.15m of yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	7	Bucket	1.00	0.60	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Water pipe
D	8	Bucket	1.00	0.45	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.2m of orange-brown clay subsoil below 0.25m of topsoil
D	9	Bucket	0.80	0.35	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	10	Bucket	0.70	0.35	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	11	Bucket	0.85	0.70	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	12	Bucket	1.30	1.10	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
D	13	Bucket	0.80	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Water pipe



Row	Column	Excavation method	Depth BGL (m)	Depth to geology (m)	Geology type	Observations within made-ground
E	2	Auger	1.50	0.80	Yellow-brown sand over mid-yellow-brown clay	Modern brick inclusions
E	3	Auger	1.50	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Modern brick inclusions and electricity cable
E	4	Bucket	1.00	0.85	0.25m-thick black-brown organic clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	5	Bucket	1.05	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Highly disturbed, including modern refuse
E	6	Bucket	0.95	0.55	0.2m-thick black-brown organic clay above 0.15m of mid-yellow-brown clay above 0.15m yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	7	Bucket	1.00	0.60	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	8	Bucket	1.00	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.2m of orange-brown clay subsoil below 0.3m of topsoil
E	9	Bucket	0.85	0.35	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Water and sewer pipes
E	10	Bucket	0.70	0.35	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	11	Bucket	0.85	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	12	Bucket	1.15	0.95	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
E	13	Bucket	0.95	0.70	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	3	Auger	1.50	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Tarmac at 0.4m, above 0.5m of made ground
F	4	Auger	0.90	0.75	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Modern brick inclusions and electricity cable
F	5	Auger	0.80	0.60	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Redeposited mid-grey silty clay overburden
F	6	Auger	0.80	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	7	Auger	0.95	0.65	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	8	Auger	1.10	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	9	Auger	0.75	0.25	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	10	Auger	0.85	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	11	Bucket	0.85	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	12	Bucket	1.10	1.05	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
F	13	Bucket	0.95	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	3	Bucket	1.55	1.00	0.3m-thick black-brown organic clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	Concrete and modern drainage
J	4	Auger	1.15	1.00	Dark yellow-brown sandy gravel	Base slightly organic
J	5	Auger	0.95	0.75	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Redeposited mid-grey silty clay overburden
J	6	Auger	0.90	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Humic overburden mixed with modern disturbance
J	7	Auger	0.90	0.65	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	8	Auger	1.00	0.40	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	9	Auger	0.70	0.20	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	10	Auger	0.90	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	11	Bucket	0.90	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	12	Bucket	1.15	0.95	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
J	13	Bucket	0.95	0.80	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
G	3	Bucket	1.20	1.00	0.3m-thick black-brown organic clay above yellow-brown sandy gravel	Concrete and modern drainage
G	4	Auger	1.40	1.00	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.4m-thick layer of sand and brick above a mixed organic clay layer
G	5	Auger	1.10	0.95	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.4m-thick layer of sand and brick above a mixed organic clay layer. Electricity cable
G	6	Auger	1.10	0.70	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Slight humic overburden mixed with modern disturbance
G	7	Auger	0.95	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
G	8	Auger	1.00	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.9m of modern disturbance
G	9	Auger	0.80	0.30	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Two electricity cables
G	10	Auger	0.90	0.50	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	Electricity cable
G	11	Bucket	0.95	0.85	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
G	12	Bucket	0.95	0.90	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a
G	13	Bucket	0.9	0.85	Mid-light yellow-brown sandy gravel	n/a

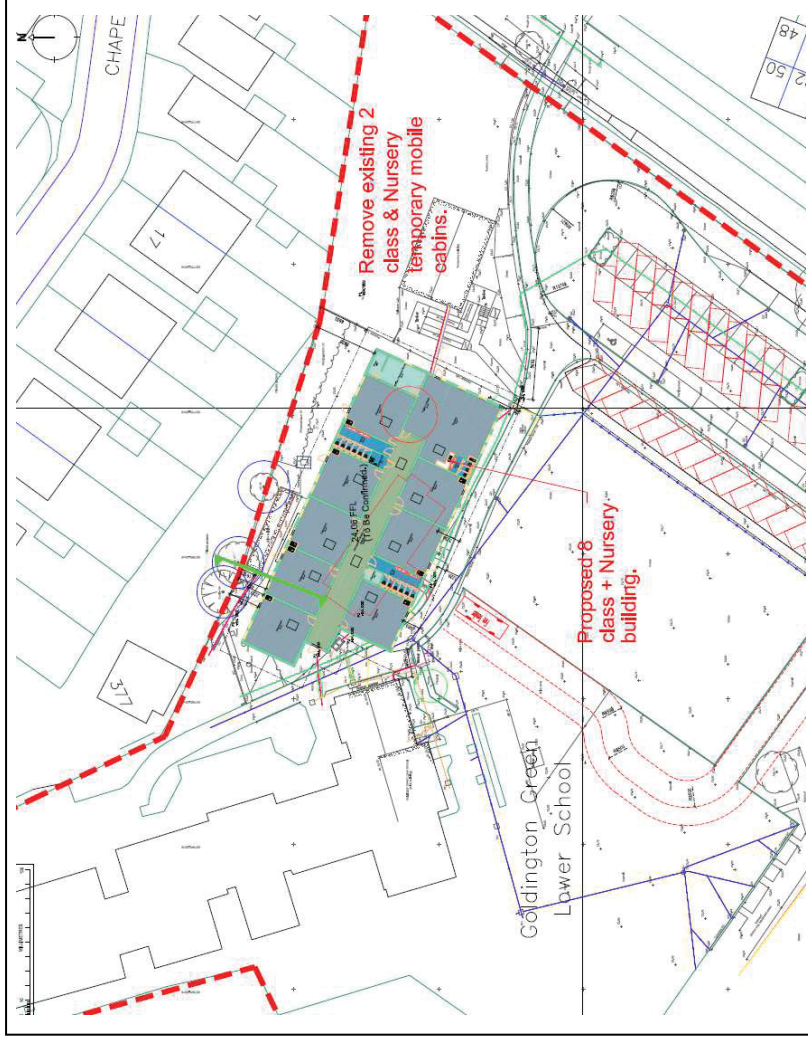
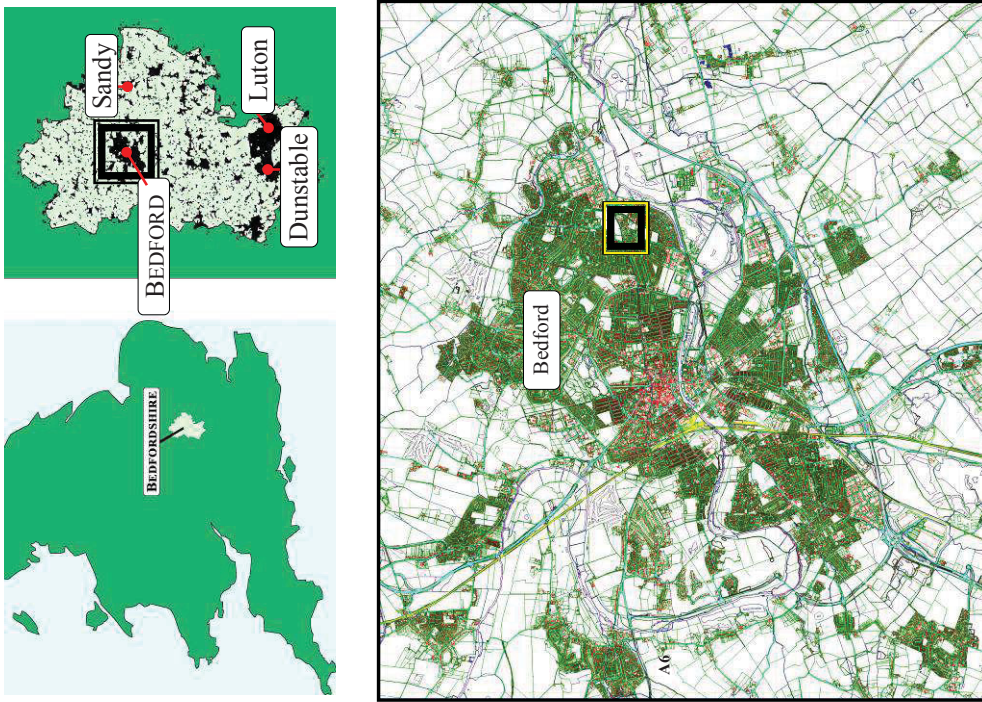


Figure 1: Site location plan

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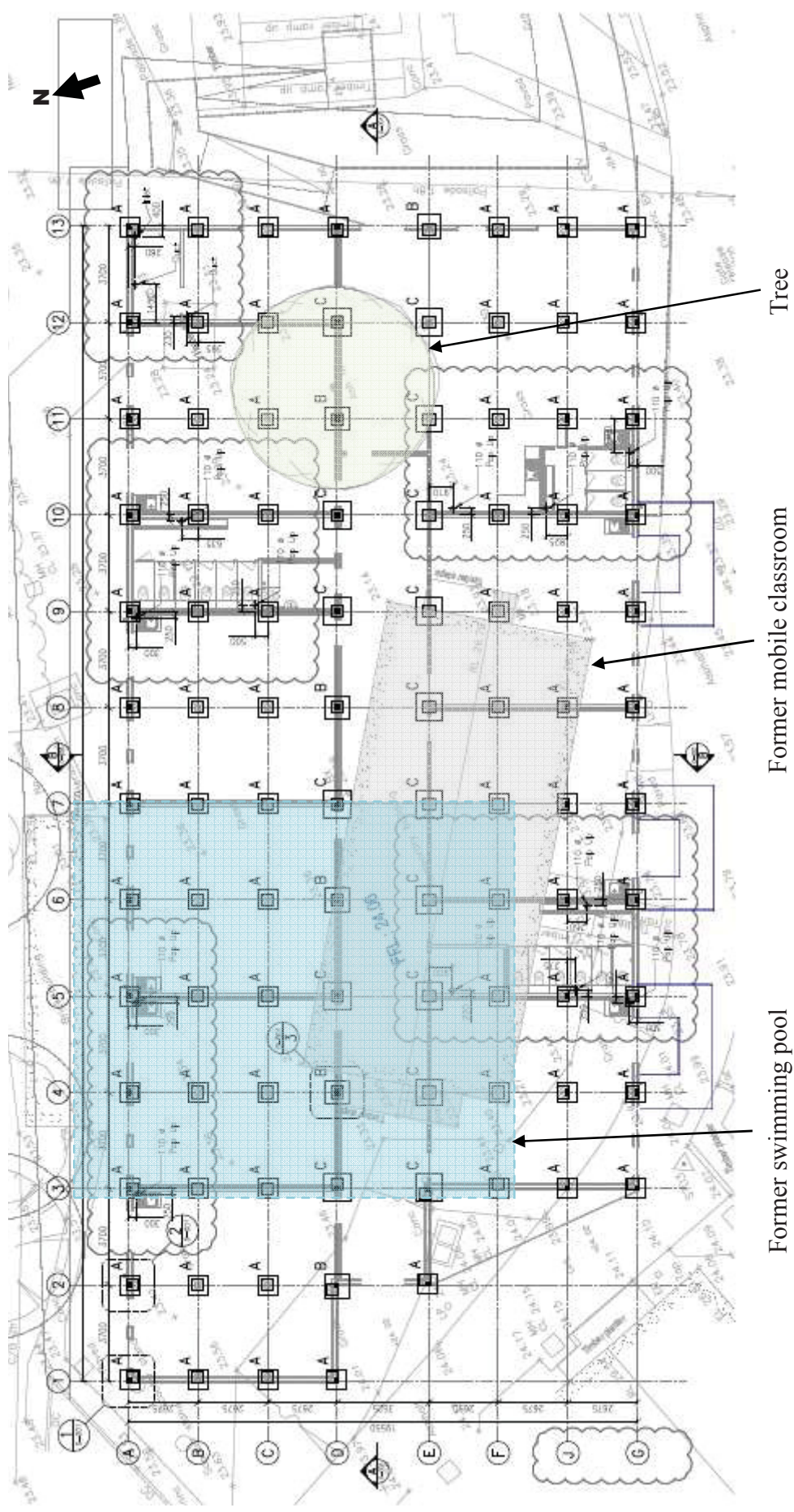


Figure 2: Pad pit location plan
(After Diamond Woods & Shaw Ltd,
Project No. 16-S-00020, Drawing No. 0-001)



Typical augered pad pit (no. A10)



Typical square pad pit (no. E5)



Working shot (looking NE)



Former swimming pool/mobile classroom foundations (looking SE)

Figure 3: 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

