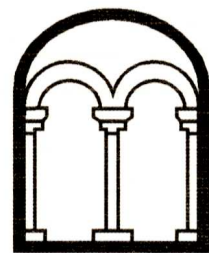


**CILEX
COLLEGE HOUSE
KEMPSTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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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. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project 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).

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathy Pilkinton (Project Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Kathy Pilkinton. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager). We are grateful to Stephen Phelan for commissioning the work on behalf of CILEX.

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 8141
 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:

BARS	Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record
HET	Historic Environment Team (Bedford Borough Council)
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (16/01129/FUL) for the extension of an existing car park and ancillary works at College House, Manor Drive, Kempston, MK42 7AB, was granted by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area a condition was attached to the planning consent requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy. The Historic Environment Team of Bedford Borough Council specified that the mitigation strategy should consist of detailed archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks associated with the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the monitoring which took place on 28th December 2017. The works comprised turf removal followed by ground reduction.

Undisturbed geological deposits were not exposed and the depth of excavation (< 0.2m) was not sufficient to reveal archaeological features. No artefacts were found. Therefore the development will have had no impact on any archaeological remains that might survive within the PDA.

No remains of archaeological significance were revealed and there is no further potential to address specific regional research aims.

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2017.96). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-294626).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (16/01129/FUL) for the extension of an existing car park and ancillary works at College House, Manor Drive, Kempston, MK42 7AB was granted by Bedford Borough Council.

Due to the high archaeological potential of the permitted development area (PDA) a condition (no. 5) 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 issued a brief (Bedford Borough Council 2017), which 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 (WSI) (Albion 2017a) in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition, and to carry out the subsequent programme of archaeological works.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The PDA lies in Kempston at the end of Manor Drive, which runs down towards the River Great Ouse from the High Street (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed car park extension lies *c.* 40m south-east of the river. It is centred on NGR TL 02586 47748 and lies at a height of *c.* 29m OD.

The superficial geology comprises Felmersham Member - Sand And Gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The solid geology is Great Oolite Group - Limestone And Argillaceous Rocks, formed approximately 165–8 million years ago in the Jurassic Period¹ (British Geological Survey 2017).

The proposed development comprises the extension of an existing car park onto a grassed area that is bordered by trees to the north-east and domestic outbuildings to the south-west.

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 PDA.

The PDA lies on the northern edge of an area of Saxon and medieval settlement known as Bell End (HER 2993). A series of archaeological investigations in the

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC [2014]



area have produced evidence for: late Saxon tenement plots (1 King William Road (HER: EBD 93)); 9th- to late 13th-century occupation (Kempston Mill (HER: EBD 26)); a medieval burgage plot (St John's Street, Kempston (HER: EBD 863)). Part of a late Saxon cemetery was also found at 6 Brook Drive (HER: EBD 682).

The PDA lies within the former landscaped park (HER 3529) of Kempston Manor. The existing 19th-century manor house (HER 14030) is Grade II listed. Documentary evidence indicates that a range of buildings (bakehouse, chapel, dovecote and stables) were associated with the medieval manor house. Previous archaeological investigations within the manorial site revealed evidence for 10th- to 12th-century occupation (HER: EBD 251). The site of a possible medieval moat (HER 5454) lies to the south-west of the PDA.

Evidence for earlier occupation (i.e. prehistoric and Roman) is also recorded in this part of Kempston (HER 2980).



2. 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 general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were 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;

The PDA had highest potential to preserve Saxon or medieval remains related to the former manor. The research framework for Bedfordshire states that generally few medieval settlements have been investigated within the county. It also highlights the potential for acquiring information about the origins and development of manorial complexes such as the one that exists at Kempston (Oake et al. 2007, 14).

Dependent on the nature of any remains that were revealed, specific research aims would have been derived from regional research frameworks (e.g. Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Oake et al. 2007; Medlycott 2011).



3. METHODOLOGY

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

3.1 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> , 3rd edition (2017)
ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
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)
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 edition (2011)

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2017.96). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-294626) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

3.2 Observation, Investigation and Recording

Monitoring of construction groundworks took place on 28th December 2017. An area of c. 9 x 25m was stripped of turf and then reduced by 0.05–0.2m.

All mechanical excavation was carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket and operated by an experienced driver under archaeological supervision.

The extent of the stripped area is shown in Figure 2 and the working conditions are illustrated in the photographs (Plates 1–3).



4. RESULTS AND SIGNIFICANCE

Topsoil comprised dark brown silty loam, c. 0.05–0.2m thick. Subsoil was visible in places and comprised mid-brown clayey silt with small to medium stones.

Undisturbed geological deposits were not reached and the depth of excavation was not sufficient to reveal archaeological features. No artefacts were found in the soils that were removed. Therefore, the development will have had no impact on any archaeological remains that might survive within the PDA.

No remains of archaeological significance were revealed and there is no further potential to address specific regional research aims.



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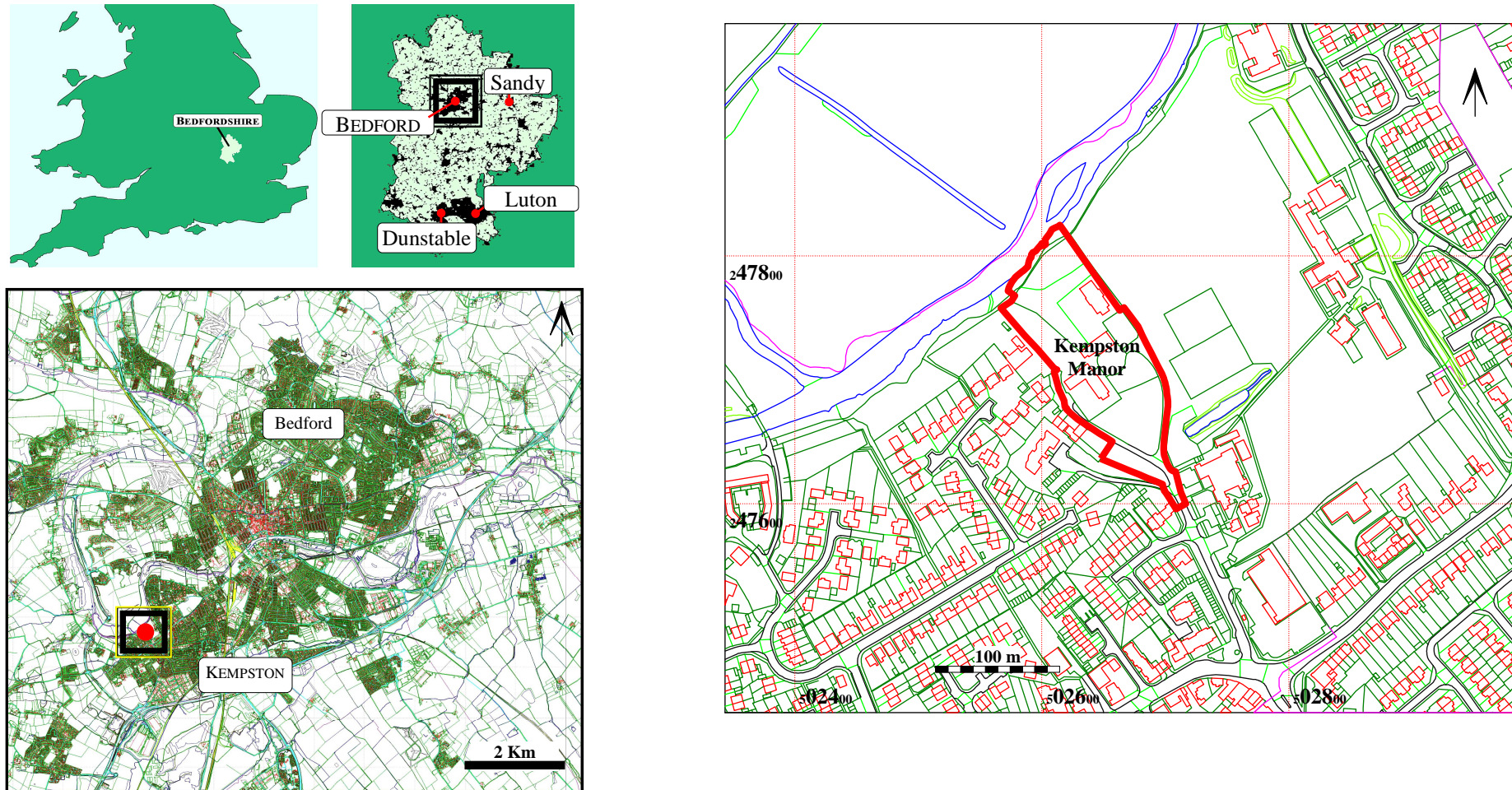


Figure 1: Site location

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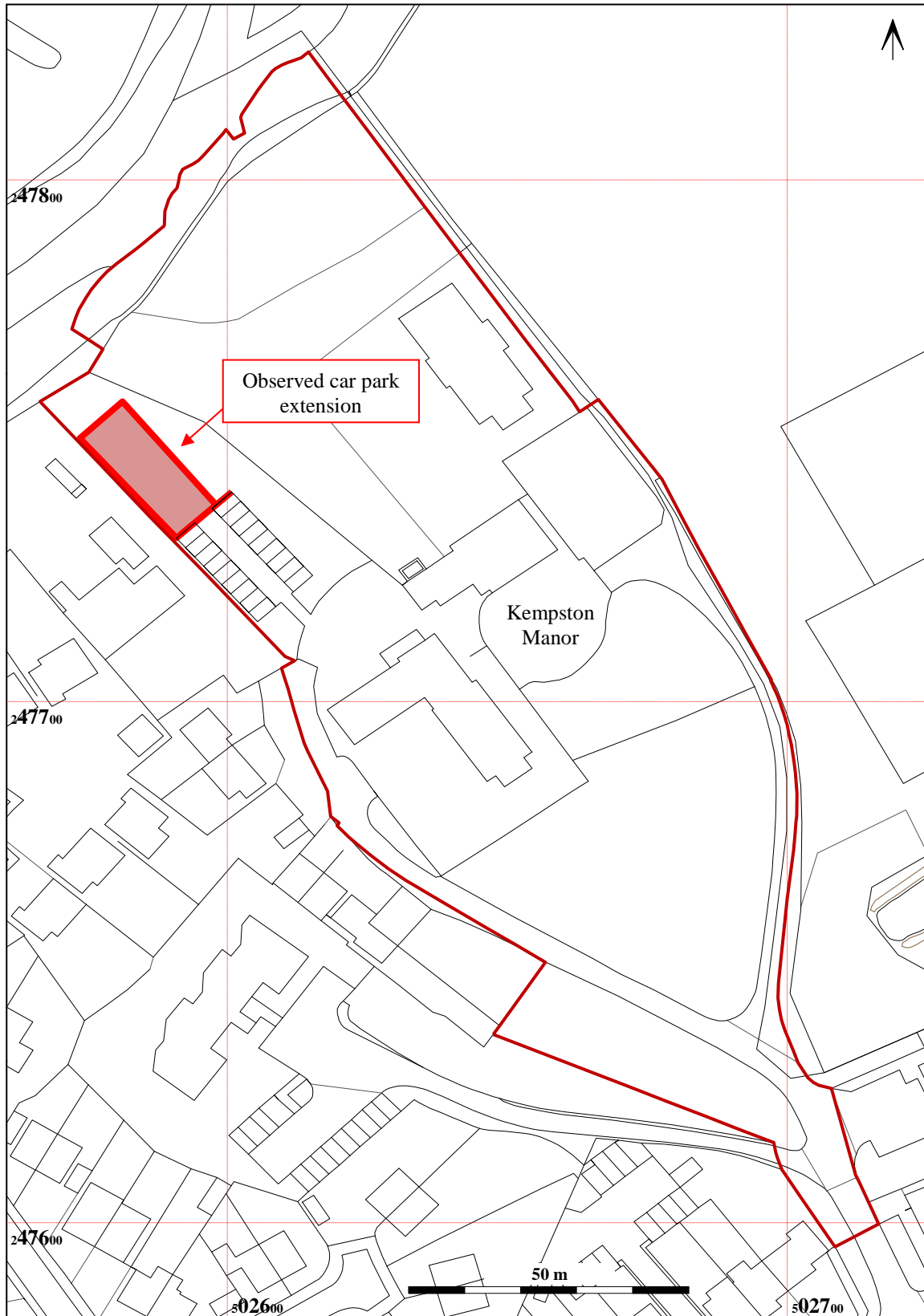


Figure 2: Location of area of archaeological works

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Plate 1: Setting-out at the start of the works, looking south-east



Plate 2: Site strip in progress, looking north-west from the existing car park



Plate 3: Completed soil strip at the north end of the new car park, looking west

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

