LAND AT 1 DOVE LANE HARROLD BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: DL1270

Document: 2007/65 Version 1.0

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Produced for: Red Lion Developers Ltd

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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.

The project was commissioned by Steve Willey of Red Lion Developers Ltd and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lesley-Ann Mather of Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Service.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor) and Matthew Smith (Project Officer). This report was prepared by Matthew Smith with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer) and Joan Lighting (CAD Technician). It was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Structure of the Report

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology and results of the fieldwork are presented in Sections 2 and 3. Section 4 presents a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 contains a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork. Appendix 2 contains detailed descriptions of the archaeological deposits recorded on the site.

Key Terms

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion Archaeology

CAO Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer

EUS Extensive Urban Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Procedures Manual Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd Edition 2001.

Bedfordshire County Council



Non-technical Summary

In June 2007 Albion Archaeology undertook an archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) on land at 1 Dove Lane, Harrold, Bedfordshire, on behalf of Red Lion Developers Ltd.

The proposed development area is located at the centre of the village of Harrold. The development area is c.275 sqm in extent, centred on (NGR) SP 9525 5687.

The development area lies within the historic core of the village and within an archaeologically sensitive part of Bedfordshire. Harrold and the surrounding area have undergone numerous archaeological investigations and produced evidence from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods. Within 100m of the development area previous investigations have unearthed remains dating from the Neolithic, late Bronze Age, late Iron Age/Romano British, Saxon and the medieval periods.

The development area has been evaluated using a single trench. This revealed the remains of a walled structure a partial floor surface, drain and a well. Contemporary soil layers were also revealed. All of these remains are considered to have been in use during the post-medieval period and the soil layers would have formed partly as a result of associated human action. Collectively, it is suggested that these remains are consistent with those of a yard/garden area to the rear of a property fronting the High Street. Such remains are of relatively low archaeological significance.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Bedford Borough Council has granted planning permission (06/2138/FUL) for the erection of a detached house and double garage at 1 Dove Lane, Harrold.

The CAO advised that the area being considered for the development was archaeologically sensitive. As a result, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation as a consequence of the development.

A brief was issued by the CAO, Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer, (BCC 2007a, 2007b) to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in fulfilment of that condition.

These documents outlined a three-staged approach to the programme of archaeological work:

- Stage I archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage II appraisal of the results of the archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage III implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording (if required, following completion of Stage II).

In June 2007, in accordance with the briefs, Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Red Lion Developers Ltd to undertake the archaeological evaluation (Stage I), the results of which will be used to inform any subsequent mitigation strategy.

1.2 Site Location

The proposed development area comprises the former garden of the existing house at 1 Dove Lane. It lies within the centre of the village of Harrold, and covers an area of c.275 sqm and is centred on (NGR) SP 9525 5687 (Figure 1).

1.3 Topography, Geology, Soils and Land Use

Topographically the development area is in the valley of the River Great Ouse that flows to the south, and is bordered on the east and north by tributaries of the Ouse. The development area is situated at an average height of 43m OD.

The geology of the area generally comprises of argillic brown earths and fine loamy soils over valley gravels. The gravels overlie Great Oolite Limestone.

1.4 Archaeological Background

There have been many archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Harrold, producing evidence of all periods of human activity from the early Neolithic to the post-medieval period.

The three sites most relevant to the development area, as they are all located within a 50m to 100m radius, comprise investigations at Meadway (BCAS 1997); the site of the former Bridgman Joinery works (Albion Archaeology 2005) and at 68 High Street (Albion Archaeology 2003).



Located 50m directly north of the development area the excavations at the Meadway uncovered an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the form of un-enclosed post-built and sunken-featured buildings as well as quarry pits both of 5th-7th century date. These existed alongside a ring ditch with a central inhumation dating from the late Neolithic / early Bronze Age and a small late Iron Age cremation cemetery.

Excavations at the former Bridgman Joinery Works, 85m to the north-west of the development area, contained a late Iron Age and early Romano-British field system, including a 1st-2nd century malting oven. A single sunken-featured building dating to the Anglo-Saxon period, several Saxo-Norman pits and late medieval ditches (demarcating land parcels) were also revealed.

Within the historic core of the town, *c*.50m to the west of the development area on the High Street, a medieval ditch was revealed.

1.5 Project Objectives

The primary aim of the project was to gather more information on the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The main objectives of the trial trenching, as identified in the project design (Albion 2007) comprised the following:

- Determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that were present.
- Obtain information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were present.



2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place in June 2007 and one 12m x 1.6m (18 sqm) trench was opened (Figure 2).

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IFA's Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork* and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)
- IFA's Code of Conduct (1999a)
- English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)

The trench plan was agreed by the Bedfordshire CAO prior to any trial trenching taking place.

Topsoil and overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits. It was necessary to re-machine the trench (Figure 2) in order to clarify whether post-medieval deposits were concealing earlier archaeological remains. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

The bases and sides of the trench were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. The trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1.

The trench was inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.



3. RESULTS

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order and by feature type. Detailed descriptions of the artefactual and ecofactual remains can be found in Appendix 1. Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 2.

3.1 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The overburden comprised a 0.40m thick layer of topsoil, overlying a 0.17m thick layer of alluvium-based subsoil. Both layers contained artefacts dating to the post-medieval and modern periods, none of which were retained.

The undisturbed natural geology lay at a depth of c.1.2m. It was a loose mid brown orange sandy gravel (122).

3.2 Post-medieval

Beneath the initial layers of overburden a horizon of post-medieval activity was uncovered. The remains comprised a well, a lightweight structure and floor surface, a drain, a posthole and buried layers of former topsoil.

3.2.1 Well

The full extent of well [112] was not revealed (Figure 2).

Within Trench 1 the well cut measured 1.52m diameter, with a central stone structure, of single coursed stones, 1.25m diameter and a shaft recess of 0.8m. The structure was packed into the well cut using dark brown/black clay silt (113). The well contained post-medieval and modern pottery amongst other debris

3.2.2 Structure and associated remains

Two parallel walls [108 and 110] and the remains of a floor surface or levelling layer (116) were recorded. Associated with the structure was a drain [105] and a posthole [123] both of which were located to the south of wall [108] (Figure 2).

The walls are on a SW-NE alignment perpendicular to the current road frontage of Dove Lane (Figure 1). The floor surface or levelling layer was only present immediately north of wall [108]. It comprised loose light yellow/orange sandy gravel up to 0.15m thick.

Running parallel to the structure at its southern edge was a drain [105]. Resembling a wall, the drain comprised roughly hewn limestone blocks laid over a recess with near vertical sides and a concave base. Dateable artefcatual material was recovered from deposit (106) within the drain and comprised small quantities of post-medieval pottery (Appendix 5.1, Table 2).

Between the drain and the wall was a partially exposed posthole [123]. It was sub-circular in plan with near vertical sides and a concave base.



3.2.3 Buried Soils

Former topsoil layers (102)/(103) and subsoil layers (117)/(118)/(119) were sealed by the present day topsoil and subsoil layers (Figure 2, Section 1). Layers (117), (118) and (119) contained artefactual material dating from the early medieval to post-medieval periods.

Such a build up of layers is not un-common in the centre of a long-lived village and dating evidence and stratigraphic relationships between these layers and the structural remains described in Section 3.2.2. suggests they were formed during the medieval/post-medieval period.

3.2.4 Alluvial Deposits

Beneath the horizon of post-medieval features and associated soils were loose brown/grey silts and gravels (120), (121) and (125), up to 0.2m thick. These deposits contained early medieval pottery, late medieval / post-medieval roof tile and animal bone.



4. SYNTHESIS

4.1 Summary of Archaeological Remains

The evaluation has revealed the remains of a walled structure, a partial floor surface, a drain and a well. Contemporary soil layers were also revealed. All of these remains are considered to have been in use during the post-medieval period and the soil layers would have formed partly as a result of associated human activity. Collectively, it is suggested that these remains are consistent with those of a yard/garden area to the rear of a property fronting the High Street.

The artefactual assemblage consists of post-medieval brick/tile, clay pipe, glazed pottery and masonry. Occasional residual sherds of locally made shelly medieval pottery were also recovered.

The underlying alluvial deposits contained locally made shelly ware pottery along with later ceramic roof tile. They may have formed during the medieval and post-medieval periods and certainly prior to the creation of the yard and its associated soil layers.

4.2 Significance of Archaeological Remains

The evaluation has demonstrated that the development area contains the remains of a yard/garden dating from the post-medieval period. The remains were generally well preserved, although some truncation of the features may have occurred in the upper part of the soil profile.

The Archaeological Research Framework for Bedfordshire (Oake forthcoming) and the Research Agenda for the eastern region (Glazebrook 1997) do not identify residential gardens or yards as one of the areas of research for the period, unless evidence of local cottage industry is present.

The EUS (Albion Archaeology 2003) has already assessed the potential and character of Harrold's post-medieval and modern remains.

Overall, the archaeological significance of the remains identified by the evaluation is considered to be low.



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- IFA. 2001. Guidelines for Finds Work.
- Oake M (ed) (forthcoming), An Archaeological Research Framework for Bedfordshire.



6. APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Artefact and Ecofact Summary

6.1.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone. Small quantities of ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, vessel and window glass were also recovered (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Pottery	Other finds
105	Land drain	106	Post-medieval	3:36	Clay pipe (5g); window glass (1g); copper alloy button (2g)
108	Foundation trench	109	Post-medieval		Window glass (2g)
112	Well	115	Modern	2:18	Roofing slate (25g); pantiles (917g); coping stone (2.5kg);
					vessel glass (12g); window glass (1g)
117	Subsoil	117	Modern	4:21	Animal bone (25g); roof tile (7g); clay pipe (4g); shell (6g);
					window glass (3g)
118	Subsoil	118	Early medieval	8:42	Animal bone (10g)
119	Subsoil	119	Modern	9:49	Animal bone (1g); roof tile (103g); clay pipe (1g); shell (1g)
120	Alluvium	120	Post-medieval	1:53	Animal bone (189g); roof tile (38g)
125	Alluvium	125	-		Animal bone (203g); shell (24g)
			Total	27:229	

^{* -} spot date based on date of latest artefact in context (sherd count : weight in grammes)

Table 1: Artefact summary by group and feature

6.1.2 Pottery

Twenty-seven pottery sherds, weighing 229g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. Sherds are small (average weight 8g), although not particularly abraded. Nine fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
Early medieval			
Type B05	Shell	13	(117): 1, (118):8, (119):3, (120):1
Post-medieval			
Type P03	Black-glazed earthenware	4	(117):1, (119):3
Type P30	Staffordshire slipware	2	(106):2
Type P33	Tin-glazed ware	1	(106):1
Type P	Brown-stoneware	1	(115):1
Modern			
Type P37	White salt-glazed stoneware	1	(119):1
Type P38	Creamware	3	(112):1, (117):1, (119):1
Type P43	Pearlware	1	(119):1
MOD	Misc. modern	1	(115):1

Table 2: Pottery type series

Approximately half the assemblage comprises wheel-thrown shell tempered sherds in fabric type B05. These are thought to derive from areas of kiln activity within the village (Hall 1972; Blinkhorn 2003; Albion in prep), and are datable to the 12th-13th centuries. Diagnostic elements include single examples of a jug and jar rim, and a plain strap handle, the latter deriving from a jug. Six overfired and brittle sherds which may be classified as wasters or seconds were also identified. All derived from subsoil and alluvial deposits.



The remainder of the assemblage is of post-medieval and later date and comprises 17th-18th century glazed earthenware, Staffordshire slipware, brown stoneware and tin-glazed wares, and 19th century creamware, pearlware and white salt-glazed stoneware, the majority deriving from subsoil deposits.

6.1.3 Other finds

Four post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem fragments and a partial pipe bowl were recovered from land drain [105] and subsoil (117) and (119). Four pieces of window glass and a vessel glass fragment, also of post-medieval origin occurred.

Three sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (70g) were recovered from subsoil (117), (119) and alluvium (120). The fill of well [112] yielded two pieces of modern pantile (917g). Subsoil (119) produced a fragment of shell tempered roof tile (78g). The latter measures 15mm in thickness and is highly abraded, suggesting it may derive from a *tegula* of Roman origin.

A piece of modern roofing slate was recovered from the fill of well [112], which also contained a worn shelly limestone coping stone. Land drain [105] yielded part of a modern composite copper alloy button.

6.1.4 Animal bone

Twenty-three animal bone fragments, weighing 428g were recovered from subsoil and alluvial deposits. Fragments are small (average weight 18g), although bone preservation is good, with a low incidence of abrasion. Diagnostic elements are large mammal long bone, pelvis, vertebrae, mandible and teeth fragments, some of the latter deriving from a horse.



6.2 Context Summary



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.80 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.85 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP 9525 5687 (Easting: 4952540: Northing: 2568840)

OS Grid Ref.: SP 9525 5687 (Easting: 4952560: Northing: 2568720)

Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:	
100	Topsoil	Firm dark brown black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.40m.	✓		
101	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt Thickness 0.17m	✓		
102	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional small ceramic building materia occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.15m.	nl,		
103	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate smallarge stones Thickness 0.15m	l- 🗸		
104	Dump material	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-lar stones Thickness 0.35m.	rge 🗸		
105	Land drain	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: min length 1.97m, max breadth 0.32m, max depth 0.3m	V		
106	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stone	s 🗸	\checkmark	
107	Stone structure	Roughly hewn, unbonded, limestone pieces. Size of blocks: 60mm x 60mm x 30m to 280mm x 180mm x 120mm.	nm 🗸		
108	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: vertical base: concave dimensions: min length 1.95m, max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.45m	✓		
109	Stone structure	Roughly squared limestone blocks bonded with whitish yellow sandy mortar. Size blocks : $60 \text{mm} \times 60 \text{mm} \times 60 \text{mm} \times 150 \text{mm} \times 120 \text{mm}$.	of 🗸	\checkmark	
126	Backfill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	✓		
110	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: vertical base: flat dimensions: min length 2.2m, max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.28m	✓		
111	Stone structure	Single course of large flat limestone blocks in light yellow sandy mortar. Size of blocks : $60\text{mm} \times 30\text{mm} \times 30\text{mm} \times 560\text{mm} \times 430\text{mm} \times 100\text{mm}$.	✓		
127	Backfill	Friable light brown yellow sandy silt moderate medium stones	✓		
112	Well	Sub-circular profile: vertical dimensions: max diameter 1.52m, min depth 0.65m			
113	Packing	Friable dark brown black clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small ston	es \square		
114	Stone structure	Roughly hewn and some squared, limestone blocks in unbonded, regular coursed retaining wall.			
115	Backfill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small-large ceramic building material, frequent flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones		\checkmark	
116	Levelling layer	Loose light yellow orange sandy gravel Thickness c. 0.15m.	✓		
117	Subsoil	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional flecks ceramic building materia occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.35m.	al,	✓	
118	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Thickness c. 0.40m.	✓	✓	
119	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small ceramic building material, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.27m.	✓	✓	
120	Alluvium	Loose mid brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large stones, occasional small stones Thickness 0.18m.	✓	✓	
121	Alluvium	Loose light brown grey sandy gravel Thickness 0.07m.	✓		
122	Natural	Loose mid orange sandy gravel			



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.80 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.85 m.

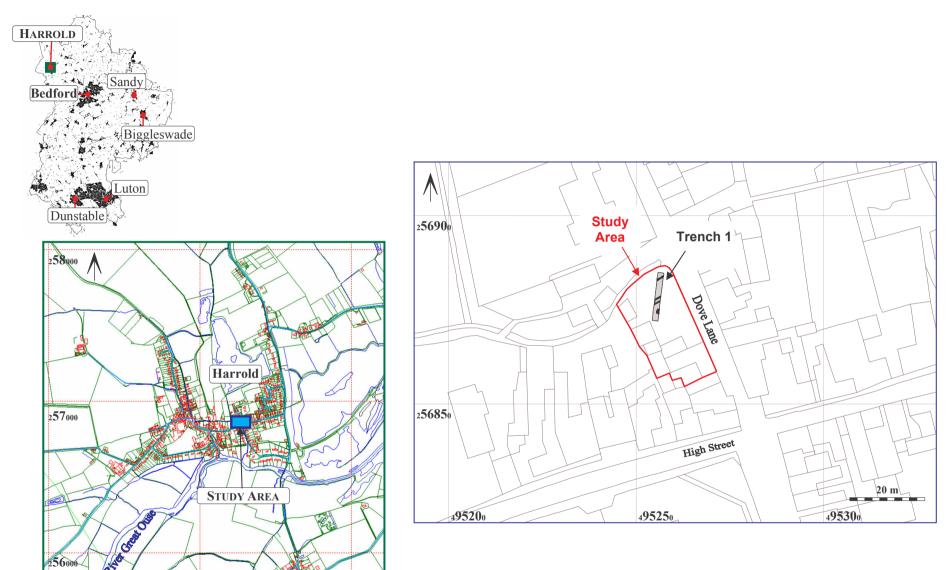
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP 9525 5687 (Easting: 4952540: Northing: 2568840)

OS Grid Ref.: SP 9525 5687 (*Easting:* 4952560: *Northing:* 2568720)

Reason: To assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
123	Posthole	Sub-circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: min diameter 0.4m, max depth 0.38m	✓	
124	Fill	Friable dark brown black sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	✓	
125	lens	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones		V





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Figure 1: Site location map

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