

**HARE HOUSE
SCHOOL LANE
BOLNHURST
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Albion
archaeology



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1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT	4
1.1 Planning Background	4
1.2 Location, Topography and Geology	4
1.3 The Development.....	4
1.4 Archaeological Background	5
2. RESULTS	6
2.1 Nature of the Works.....	6
2.2 Soil Layers	6
3. CONCLUSIONS	7
4. BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
5. IMAGES.....	9

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Plan of new foundation trench and drains

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
HER	Historic Environment Record
NHLE	National Heritage list for England
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission (18/00269/FUL) for the replacement of an existing garage with a new timber structure at Hare House, School Lane, Bolnhurst, MK44 2EN.

The development area is situated within the perimeter of a scheduled ancient monument, Manor Farm Iron Age univallate hillfort and medieval moated enclosure (SM11529, NHLE1012066). Accordingly the works were undertaken with scheduled monument consent. Planning permission for the development included a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy, on the advice of Bedford Borough Council's Archaeological Officer.

The village of Bolnhurst is in the civil parish of Bolnhurst and Keysoe in north Bedfordshire. Hare House is on the western edge of the village, on the south side of School Lane, opposite Manor Farm. The development area is centred on NGR TL 8555 5976 and lies on level ground at a height of approximately 79m OD.

The foundations for the new garage were designed to minimise any groundworks to protect potential underlying archaeological deposits associated with the scheduled monument. The foundations for the new garage consisted of a shallow (c.300mm) reinforced concrete slab, that incorporated the existing concrete slab of the previous building. In addition, two trenches (300–400mm deep) were excavated for surface water drainage.

The topsoil was c.250mm thick and contained a single abraded sherd (15g) of sand-tempered pre- 'Belgic' Iron Age pottery. Subsoil was exposed over much of the base of the trench; it probably derived from an old plough soil and was similar in character to the underlying glacial till. No archaeological features were observed cutting the subsoil layer in the base of the trench or the drain runs.

The project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under accession no. BEDFM 2018.41. This report will be uploaded onto the OASIS website under reference number albionar1-320616.



1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

1.1 *Planning Background*

Bedford Borough Council granted planning permission (18/00269/FUL) for the replacement of an existing garage with a new timber structure at Hare House, School Lane, Bolnhurst, MK44 2EN.

The development area is situated within the perimeter of a scheduled ancient monument, Manor Farm Iron Age univallate hillfort and medieval moated enclosure (SM11529, NHLE1012066). Accordingly the works were undertaken with scheduled monument consent. Planning permission for the development included a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological mitigation strategy, on the advice of Bedford Borough Council's Archaeological Officer.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in accordance with the planning condition and to carry out the subsequent programme of archaeological works.

All of the works requiring archaeological monitoring were completed on 12th and 13th November 2018.

1.2 *Location, Topography and Geology*

The village of Bolnhurst is in the civil parish of Bolnhurst and Keysoe in north Bedfordshire. Hare House is on the western edge of the village, on the south side of School Lane, opposite Manor Farm (Figure 1).

The development area is centred on NGR TL 8555 5976 and lies on level ground at a height of approximately 79m OD. The underlying bedrock is Oxford Clay Formation mudstone formed during the Jurassic period *c.* 157–166 million years ago. The superficial geology is Oadby Member Diamicton, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period.¹ This is a glacial till, formed by glacial erosion of the underlying Oxford Clay with some coarser clasts, mainly flint, chalk and quartzite with some Jurassic limestone and reworked Jurassic fossils (Bedfordshire Geology Group).

1.3 *The Development*

The development involved the dismantling of an existing garage building and its replacement with a larger garage. The foundations for the new garage were designed to minimise any groundworks to protect potential underlying archaeological deposits associated with the scheduled monument. The foundations for the new garage consisted of a shallow (*c.*300mm) reinforced concrete slab, that incorporated the existing concrete slab of the previous building.

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials ©NERC 2018



1.4 Archaeological Background

The development is located within a scheduled monument, the Manor Farm Iron Age univallate hillfort and medieval moated enclosure (NHLE 1012066). The majority of this type of hillfort date from the later Bronze Age and earliest Iron Age (12th–6th centuries BC), while part of the monument to the north of School Lane was reoccupied during the medieval period as a moated enclosure. Prehistoric flints have reportedly been found in the hillfort ditch and an unpublished document notes that a large quantity of Roman pottery was recovered during field-walking on the site of the earthwork at Manor Farm (Simco 1984, 99).

The development site lies close to the inferred western extent of the Church End medieval settlement (Bedford Borough HER 17012). Medieval rubbish pits were observed during the excavation of a soakaway at School House approximately 100m to the north-east of the development area.



2. RESULTS

2.1 *Nature of the Works*

The deposits observed during the groundworks are described below and illustrated in Figure 2. Groundworks were undertaken with a small mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and operated under archaeological supervision.

The foundation slab for the new garage measured 14.3m long by 8m wide; however, this area included the foundation slab of the previous building, which was left *in-situ* and re-used. The trench for the new foundation slab was excavated to a depth of 300mm below the surface level of the existing slab. As the surrounding ground was slightly lower in some places than the surface of the existing slab, the resulting trench varied in depth between *c.*200mm and 300mm.

In addition to the trench for the foundation slab, two trenches were excavated for surface water drainage. They were 5.5m long, 400mm wide and 300–400mm deep, extending southwards from the south-east and south-west corners of the foundation trench for the installation of perforated pipe drainage.

Two soil layers were observed in the excavated area.

2.2 *Soil Layers*

The topsoil layer (1) was a dark grey clay-silt with occasional small stones. It was approximately 250mm thick. The layer contained occasional modern (20th-century) tile and brick fragments, which were not collected. A single abraded sherd (15g) of sand-tempered pre-‘Belgic’ Iron Age pottery (fabric F28²) was recovered from this deposit.

A subsoil layer (2) was exposed over much of the base of the trench but was obscured by the thicker elements of the topsoil layer. The subsoil was mid-yellow-brown silt-clay with occasional small stones, mostly chalk flecks and flint pebbles. The layer is probably derived from an old plough soil, but it is a relatively ‘clean’ deposit, similar in character to the underlying glacial till.

² Fabric defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series



3. CONCLUSIONS

A single sherd of pre-‘Belgic’ Iron Age pottery was recovered from the topsoil. The base of the trench lay approximately on the boundary between topsoil and subsoil. No archaeological features were observed cutting the subsoil layer in the base of the trench or the drain runs.

The groundworks were confined to the topsoil and subsoil layers and no underlying archaeological deposits were uncovered by the works. Due to the mixed nature of the soil in the base of the trench the archaeological visibility was quite variable. Archaeological deposits could potentially still exist at a lower level.



4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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5. IMAGES



Image 1: View of the trench and retained slab, looking north-west
(Scale 2m)



Image 2: View of trench and retained slab, looking south-east
(Scale 2m)



Image 3: Drainage trench extending from south-east corner of foundation, looking north-west

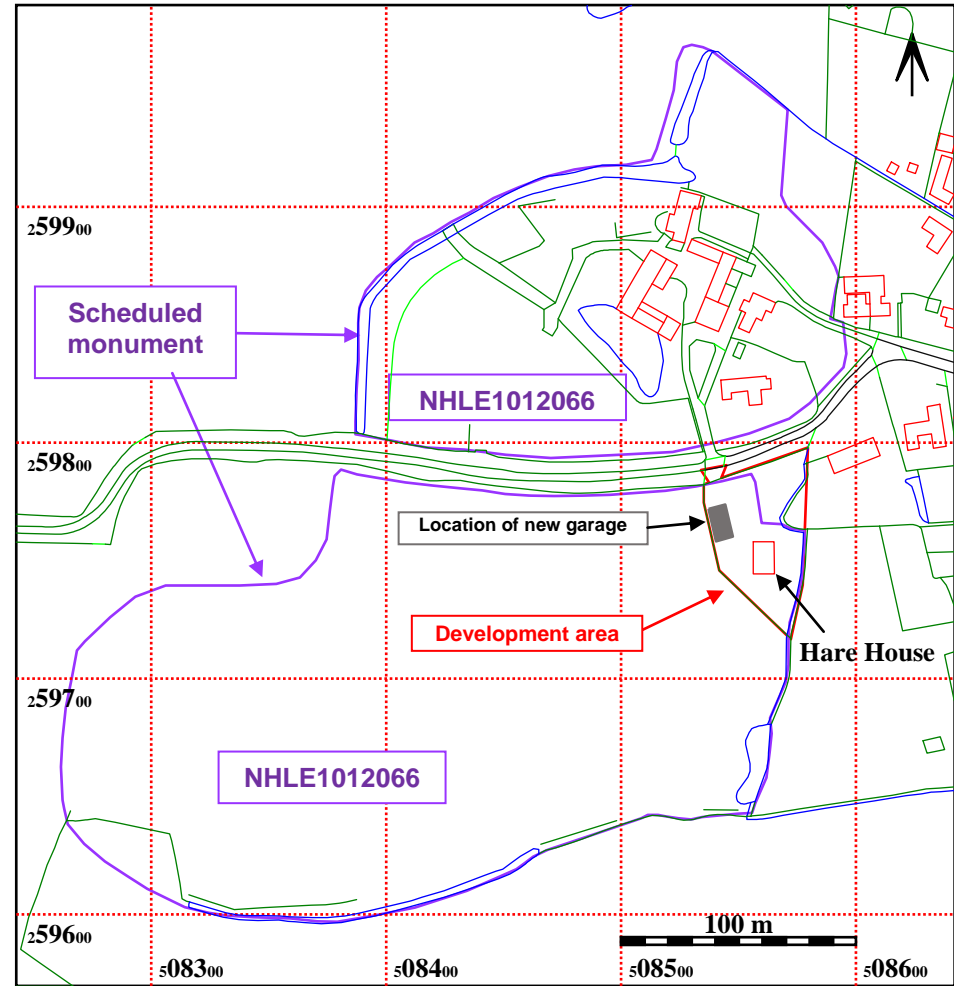
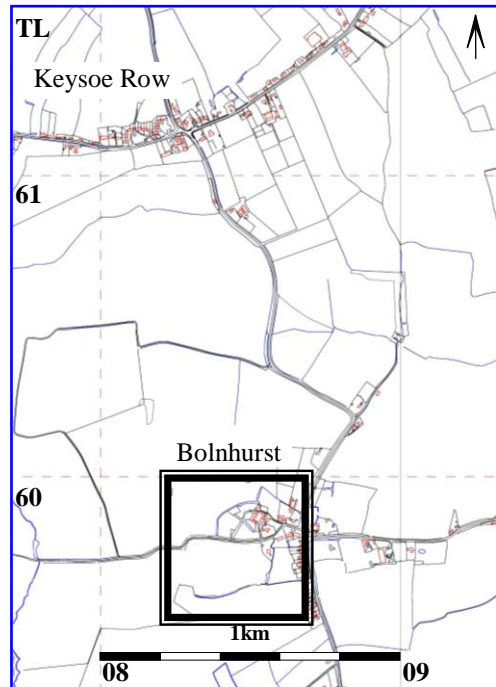
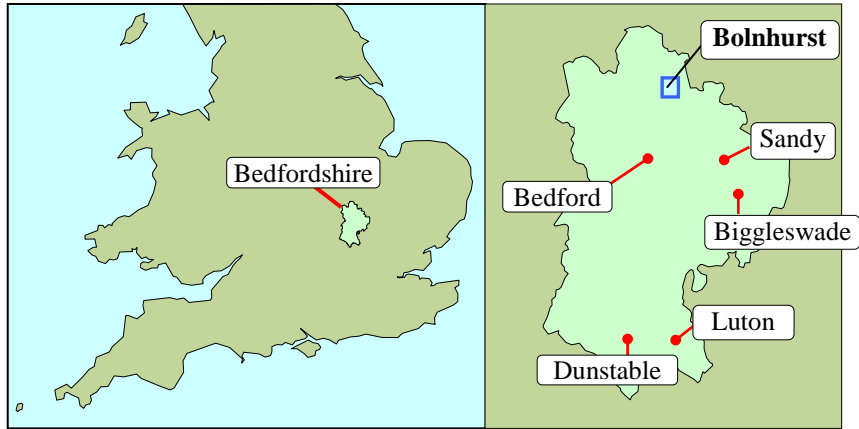


Figure 1: Site location plan

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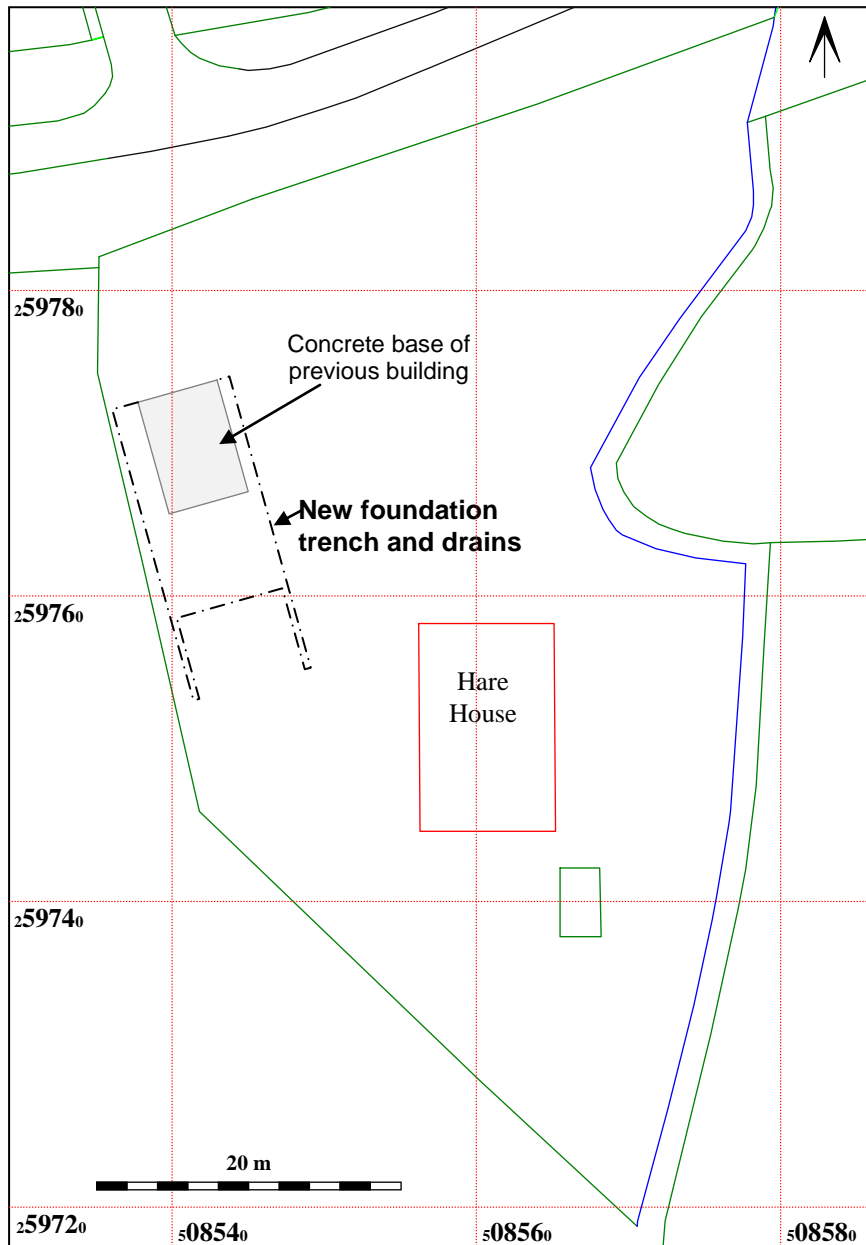


Figure 2: Plan of new foundation trench and drains

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