

**HARROLD-ODELL COUNTRY PARK  
SKATE PARK  
HARROLD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Project: HP 1346

Document: 2008/19  
Version 1.0

25th April 2008

Compiled by	Approved by
David Ingham	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:  
Bedfordshire County Council - Countryside Access Service

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2008, *all rights reserved*



## Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a Skate Park facility at Harrold-Odell Country Park, Harrold, Bedfordshire (planning ref. BC/CC/2007/0036). This was on condition that a programme of archaeological monitoring and reporting was undertaken, as recommended by Bedfordshire's County Archaeological Officer. Bedfordshire County Council – Countryside Access Service commissioned Albion Archaeology to prepare a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008) and undertake the work.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Wesley Keir (Project Officer). This report was prepared by David Ingham (Project Officer). All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

A copy of this report and the project archive can be found at Bedford Museum (Accession No. BEDFM 2008.44)

## Site Description and Location

The site, c. 200m<sup>2</sup> in size, is centred at SP 9564 5683, 150m north of the country park's visitor centre (Fig. 1). The underlying geology comprises alluvial valley gravels overlying Oolitic limestone.

## Archaeological Background

Excavation in the 1970s immediately east of the site revealed occupation spanning the late Iron Age to the late Roman period, as well as some evidence of earlier prehistoric and later Saxon activity (Dix 1980). In addition, extensive crop-marks have been plotted in the area of the skate park (Fig. 1).

## Project Methodology

Methods employed during the project complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1999), English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991), and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001).

## Description and Results of Groundworks

The groundworks comprised the excavation of an area approximately 24m long and 8m wide for the skate park, with a 1.5m wide path to the north-west of the area (Fig. 1). Up to 0.2m of topsoil was excavated using a mechanical digger under archaeological supervision (Fig. 2). All works requiring archaeological monitoring were completed on 28th March 2008.

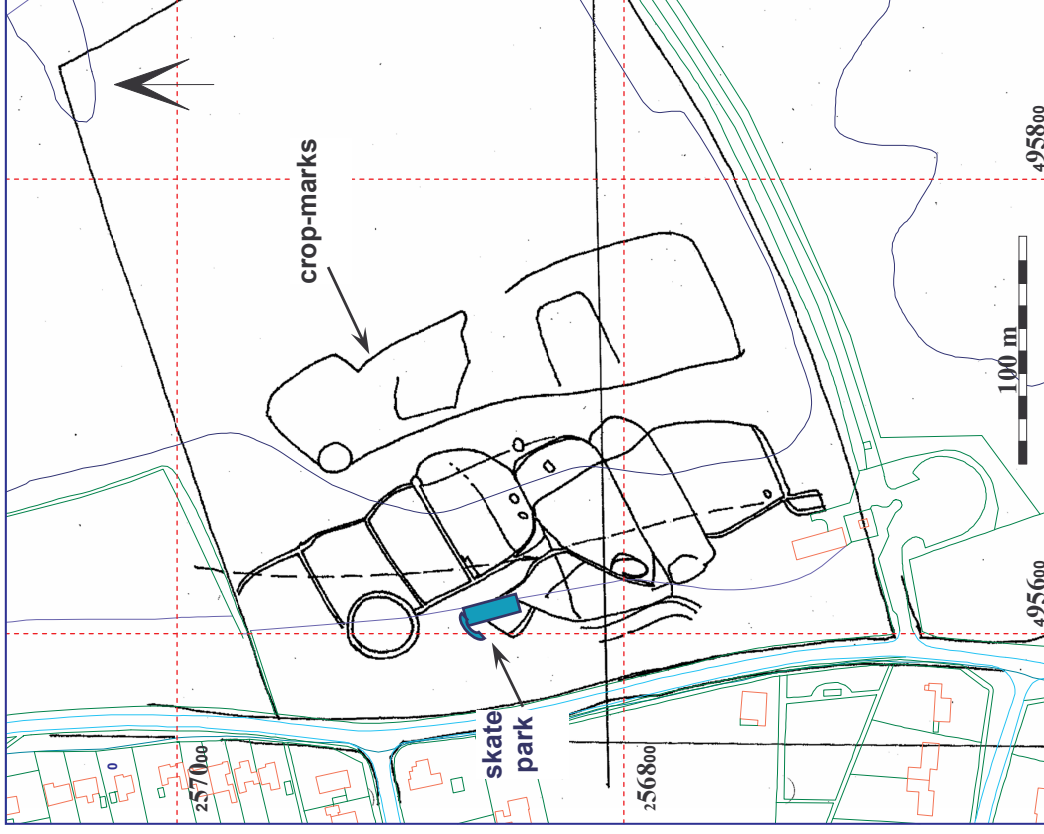
## Conclusion

No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed during the course of the development. The shallow nature of the groundworks means that any archaeological remains that may exist within the development site have been preserved *in situ* beneath the skate park.

## Bibliography

Albion Archaeology 2008, *Harrold-Odell Country Park, Skate Park, Harrold, Bedfordshire: Project Design for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*

Dix, B., 1980, 'Excavations at Harrold Pit, Odell, 1974 – 1978: a preliminary report', *Beds Archaeological Journal* 14, 15–18



**Figure 1: Location of development area**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(L.A). © Crown Copyright.



Skate park area before machining



Skate park area after machining

**Figure 2:** Selected photographs