

**1 WARREN FARM COTTAGES
DEEPDALE
POTTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

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

Document: 2010/73
Project: WFC1667

17th September 2010

Produced for:
Robert Harris
1 Warren Farm Cottages
Potton

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



Introduction

Central Bedfordshire Council granted planning permission (CB/10/01338/FULL) for the erection of an extension at 1 Warren Farm Cottages, Deepdale, Potton, Bedfordshire (Figure 1). The proposed works comprised extensions to the eastern side and the rear of the existing building. The works covered a combined area of c. 60m². The proposed extension is referred to as the Development Area (DA) in this document.

Because the work had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeological Officer (AO) recommended that a condition be attached to the planning permission, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording during groundworks, with a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication (as appropriate) to follow the fieldwork..

Site Description and Location

The DA is situated in Deepdale, a hamlet 1.5km west of Potton and 3km east of Sandy centred on TL 2067 4875.

Topographically, it lies at the north end of a dry valley which cuts into the south-facing scarp of the Greensand Ridge. It lies at a height of c. 35m OD. The underlying geology consists of Lower Greensand.

Archaeological Background

Located 30m to the west of the DA was a Romano-British cremation cemetery (HER 14045) investigated during the 1980s (Dawson and Slowikowski 1988). Fourteen urned cremation burials dated to the 1st-2nd centuries AD were found. Accessory vessels and grave goods accompanied some of the burials. A north-south aligned ditch, situated immediately to the west of the burials, may have formed a boundary to the cemetery. The location of the cemetery is indicated on Figure 1.

The surrounding area contains extensive areas of cropmarks (HER 652, 647, 1658, 13735, 13670-1374 and 13677-13679). They include groups of enclosures, linear features and ring ditches. They are mostly undated but probably represent later prehistoric and Roman settlement and associated landscape features. One cropmark site (HER 3338) contains a rectangular double ditch that may be a temple site. Some of the cropmarks, particularly to the north of the DA, have proved to be geological in origin.

Project Methodology

Methods employed during the project were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Albion Archaeology (Albion Archaeology 2010) and approved by the AO prior to the commencement of the project.

The methodology complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1999), and Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual* (2001).



Description and Results of Groundworks

Groundworks consisted of two components: the excavation of the foundation trenches and the reduction in ground level of the footprint of the building (Figure 2).

The ground level throughout the footprint of the building was reduced by *c.* 100mm with a toothless ditching bucket. This only removed the top level of the overburden and in some places revealed the top of the underlying subsoil (Figure 3). No archaeological remains were revealed.

The foundation trenches were 900mm deep and 700mm wide. To the south of the current building a number of live and disused services were encountered; they had considerably disturbed the existing ground. To the east of the building the ground was largely undisturbed. The soil sequence consisted of:

Topsoil	200-300mm thick. Friable, mid-greyish brown, sandy loam with occasional small stones.
Subsoil	400mm thick. Friable to compact, mid yellowish brown, silty sand. Sterile.
Geological deposits	Mid reddish brown sandy silt. Sterile.

Geological deposits were generally encountered at a depth of 700mm below present ground level. The depth of deposits correlates well with the results of the 1980s excavations which revealed archaeological features at a depth of 700mm below ground level (Dawson and Slowikowski 1988, 25).

Conclusion

While the DA lies in close proximity to a Romano-British cremation cemetery excavated 30m to the south-west in the 1980s, no archaeological remains were revealed during the works. This indicates that the cremation cemetery did not extend into the DA.

Bibliography

- Albion Archaeology. 2010. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication*. Report no. 2010-17.
- Albion Archaeology. 2001. *Procedures Manual, Volume 1: Fieldwork. 2nd Edition*.
- CBC. 2010. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 1 Warren Farm Cottages, Deepdale, Potton, Bedfordshire*. V1 MKO 11th June 2010.
- Dawson M and Slowikowski A M. 1988. "A Romano-British Cemetery at Warren Farm, Deepdale, Sandy". *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 18, 25-32.



Figures and Plates

Figure 1 Location of development area

Figure 2 Plan of development area

Figure 3 Stitched panorama of finished groundworks and indicative soil sequence

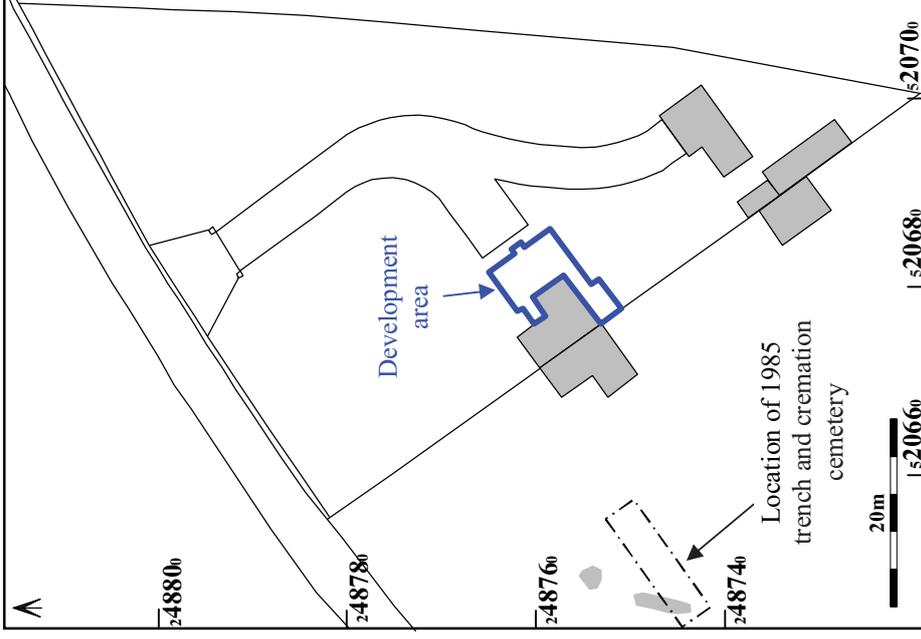
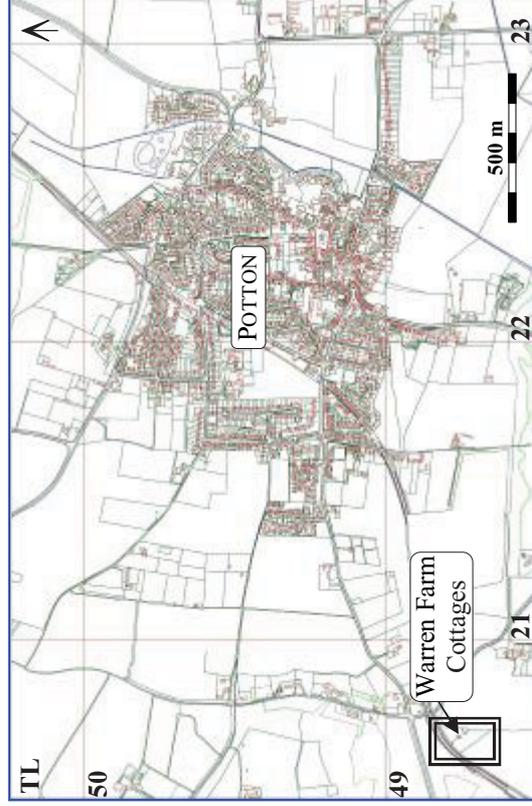
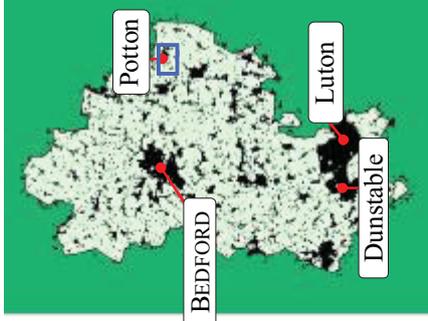


Figure 1: Site location plan

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Albion Archaeology, Central Bedfordshire Council, OS Licence No. 100017358(L.A). © Crown Copyright.

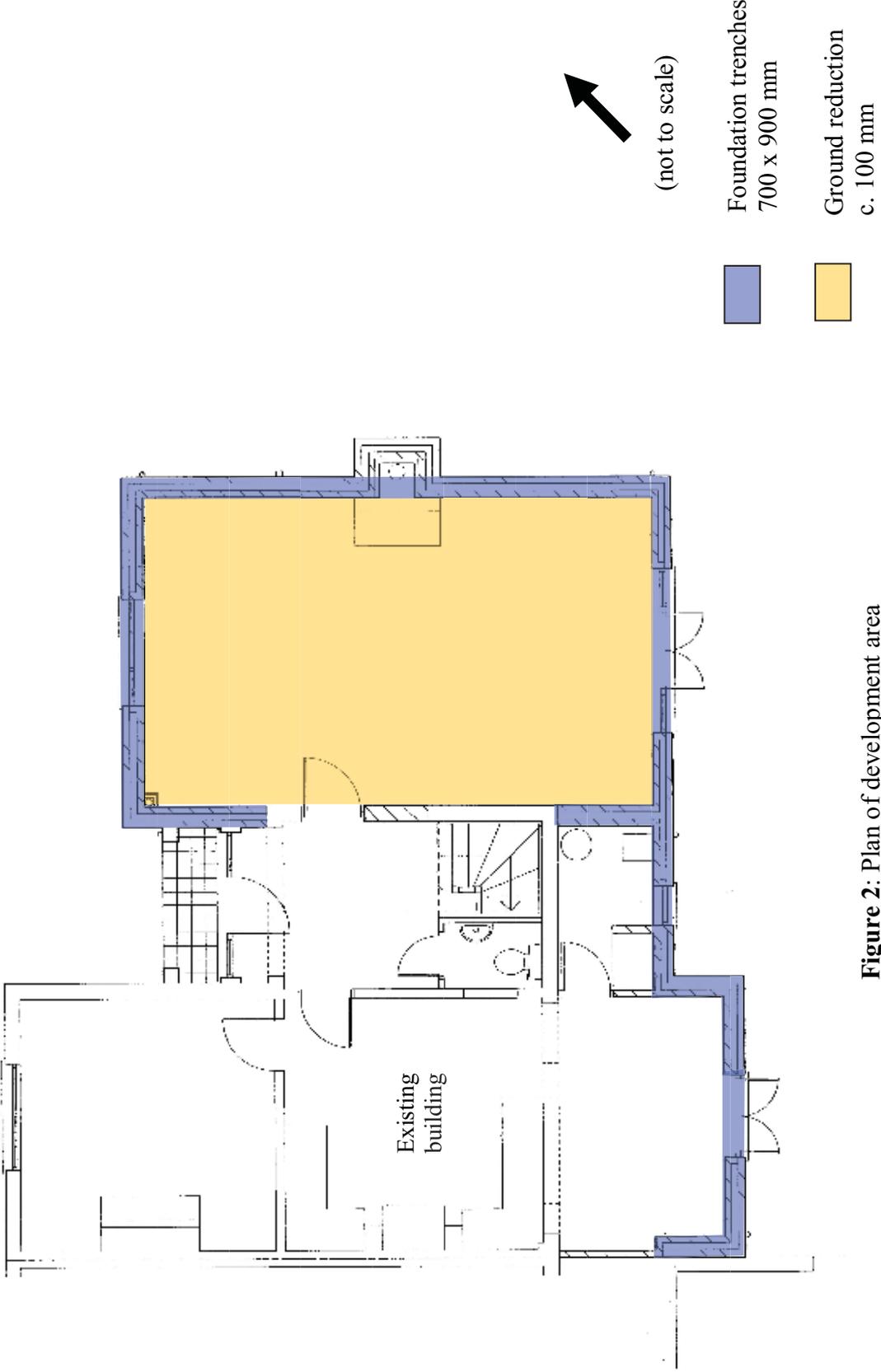


Figure 2: Plan of development area



Figure 3: Stitched panorama of finished groundworks (above) and indicative soil sequence (left)