

## Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT:  
HARROLD TENNIS CLUB  
HARROLD  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9502 5690

*on behalf of Mr J. Osborne*



Calli Rouse BA PIFA

August 2008

ASC: 1095/HTC/1

Letchworth House  
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,  
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE  
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700  
Email: [office@archaeological-services.co.uk](mailto:office@archaeological-services.co.uk)  
Website: [www.archaeological-services.co.uk](http://www.archaeological-services.co.uk)



## Site Data

<i>ASC site code:</i>	HTC	<i>Project no:</i>	1095
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Harrold		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Harrold		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9502 5690		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.15,900 sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	Tennis club, tennis courts, play area and fields		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Erection of clubhouse, three tennis courts with associated access and parking		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	08/176		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Bedford Borough Council		
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	01/08/08		
<i>Commissioned by:</i>	Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd 15-17 Goldington Road Bedford MK40 3NH		
<i>Client:</i>	John Osborne		
<i>Contact name:</i>	John Hargreaves - Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd		

## Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	05/08/08
<i>Revisions:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	07/08/08
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

## CONTENTS

Summary.....	4
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Aims & Methods .....	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence .....	9
4. Walkover Survey .....	17
5. Statutory Constraints on Development.....	21
6. Conclusions .....	22
7. Acknowledgements .....	23
8. Historic Environment Record Data .....	24
9. References .....	25
10. Cartographic Sources.....	26

### Figures:

1. General location.....	3
2. Site location and proposed development .....	6
3. Archaeological sites in the Bedfordshire HER .....	13
4. Harrold Pre-Enclosure map .....	14
5. First Edition Ordnance Survey map .....	15
6. Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map.....	16

### Plates:

*Cover:* Village Hall, looking north

1. Access to the existing tennis courts .....	18
2. Central boundary wall.....	18
3. Play area.....	18
4. Eastern area.....	19
5. Building in the southeastern corner of the site .....	19
6. Potential ridge and furrow .....	19
7. Current access to the eastern part of the site.....	20
8. The northern part of the site .....	20

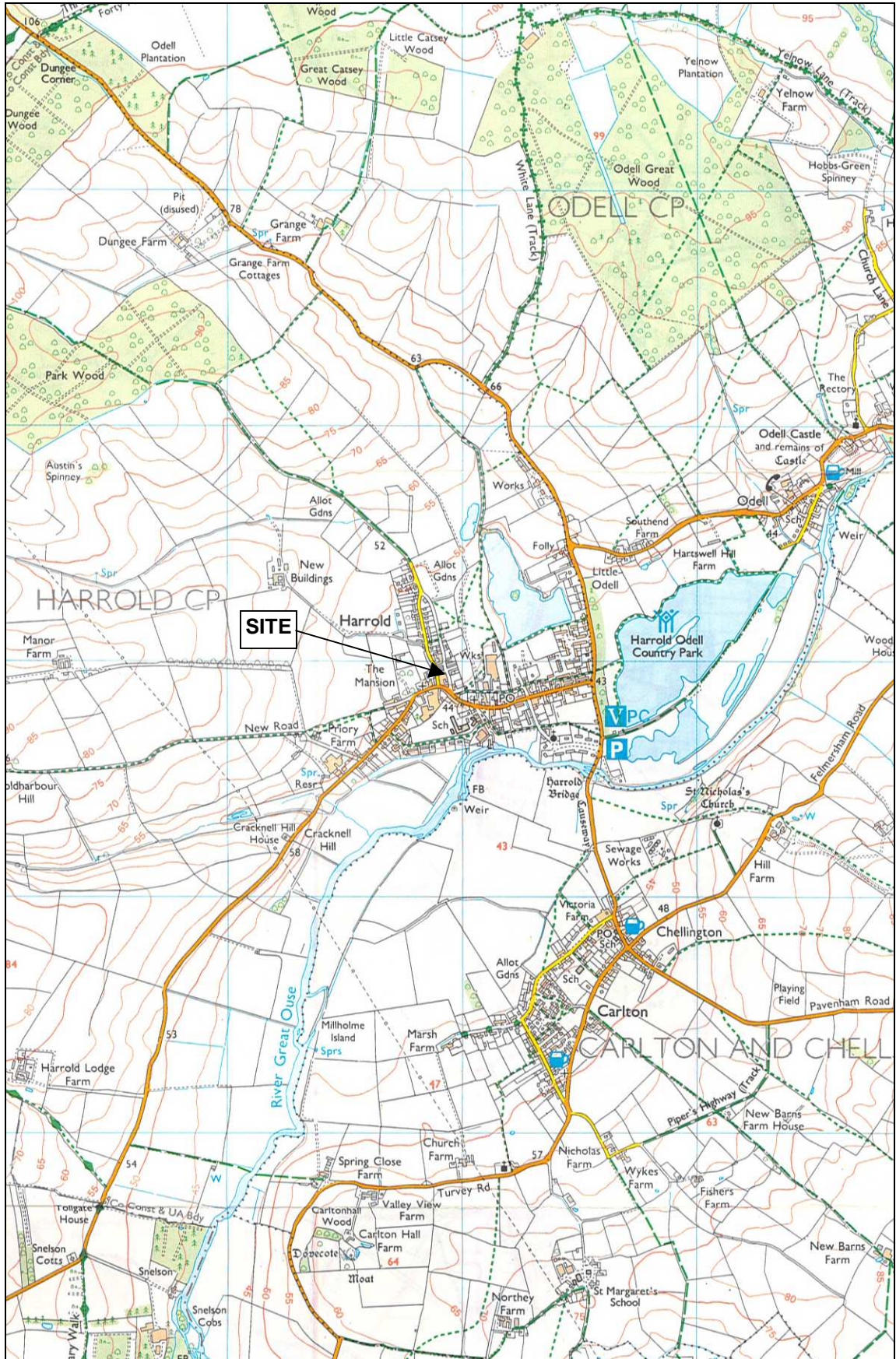


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

## Summary

*In July and August 2008, ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the rear of Harrold Tennis Club, Harrold, Bedfordshire, as part of the planning application process. The assessment found that the proposed development site lies next door to several areas of archaeological remains, and that the southernmost part of the site lies within the Harrold Conservation Area.*

*The potential for the survival of archaeological remains varies across the site. The western third of the site has limited potential, while the eastern part of the site, which is currently under pasture, contains some earthworks, indicating a higher potential for the survival of archaeological remains.*

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Harrold Tennis Club, Harrold, Bedfordshire, to inform development proposals for the site. The project was commissioned by Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd, on behalf of Mr J. Osborne. The assessment has been prepared to support an LDF submission by the client.

### 1.2 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

*Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) is an independent practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

### 1.3 *Management*

The assessment was managed by Karin Semmelmann BA MA MIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

### 1.4 *The Site*

#### 1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The proposed development site is located in the borough of Bedford, within the parish and village of Harrold, at NGR SP 9502 5690 (Fig. 1).

The site comprises two distinct areas, covering a total of approximately 15,900 sqm. The western part is accessed from Brook Lane, which forms part of the western boundary of the site. The main access point for the eastern part of the site is from a footpath that runs on an east-west alignment through part of the site. Housing largely surrounds the site, apart from at its northernmost end, where it is bordered by fields.

A detailed description of the site appears in Section 4 of this report.

#### 1.4.2 *Geology*

The soils of the area are of the *Efford 1 Association*, which are characterised as *well drained fine loamy soils often over gravel, associated with similar permeable soils variably affected by groundwater* over marine and river terrace gravel (Soil Surevy 1983, 571s). The underlying geology comprises valley gravel (BGS, Sheet 203).

#### 1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The proposed development comprises the erection of a clubhouse, three new tennis courts, a new access road, car parking and associated works (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2:** Site location and proposed development (*not to scale*)

## 2. Aims & Methods

2.1 ‘Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered’ (IFA 2000).

2.2 The assessment was carried out according to the brief, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

### 2.3.1 *Archaeological Databases*

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), Bedford. The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately 1km radius.

### 2.3.2 *Historic Documents*

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the Bedfordshire County Records Office (CRO), Bedford.

### 2.3.3 *Cartographic & Pictorial Documents*

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal source consulted was the CRO.

### 2.3.4 *Air Photographs*

Given favourable light and crop conditions, air photographs can reveal buried features in the form of crop and soil marks. They can also provide an overview of and more specific information about land use at a given time. The principal source consulted was the CRO.

### 2.3.5 *Geotechnical Information*

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.



### 2.3.6 *Secondary & Statutory Sources*

The principal source consulted was the CRO.

## 2.4 *Walkover Survey*

As part of the assessment a walkover survey of the site was undertaken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2008, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the Bedfordshire County Council Archaeology Service.

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Evidence

3.1 The local and regional settings of archaeological sites are factors that are taken into consideration when assessing the planning implications of development proposals. The following sections provide a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs.

The study area lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and the site has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. The location of known archaeological and historical sites recorded in the HER is shown in Fig. 3, and details appear in Section 9.

#### 3.2 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

##### 3.2.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

Excavations at a commercial gravel site during the 1950s (HER64), located c.300m to the east of the site, uncovered a Neolithic stone axe, round barrow ring ditches which are likely to date to the Bronze Age, as well as a Bronze Age cremation cemetery which later became the focus for later Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries (Eagles and Evison 1970). A further Bronze Age ring ditch was excavated c.600m to the east of the site (HER543).

A large-scale excavation was undertaken on the site of the former Bridgman Joinery, immediately to the east of the site, which uncovered limited and dispersed evidence for human activity from the late Bronze Age period in the form of a ditch and several pits and postholes (Albion Archaeology, 2002).

##### 3.2.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

HER543 provided evidence of a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead. The site was originally identified from cropmarks seen on aerial photographs, and a series of enclosures, roundhouses, cremations and inhumations was uncovered during excavation, with the focus of settlement moving further west over time.

HER64 records huts, pits and ditches, associated with finds relating to an Iron Age settlement. Additional evidence for Iron Age settlement, in the form of enclosures and domestic debris contained within the enclosure ditches, was uncovered on the Bridgman Joinery site, which lies directly between HER64 and the site.

##### 3.2.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

A Roman road (HER58), which ran from Irchester to Kempston, is recorded c.700m to the southeast of the site. It is thought that the modern ford across the River Ouse is likely to be on the same site as it was during the Roman period.

Evidence for Belgic and Roman agricultural settlement has been found c.600m to the east of the site, during excavations at a gravel extraction site (HER543). Occupation on this site continued through to the 4<sup>th</sup> century. A 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century malting oven was also uncovered during the excavations at the aforementioned

Bridgman Joinery site. In addition to this, a Roman ditch was recorded during an archaeological watching brief at 10 Church Walk (HER18232), c.400m to the southeast of the site, and a Roman coin dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD was discovered in a field c.600m to the southeast of the site (HER15980).

#### 3.2.4 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

The excavation at the Bridgman Joinery site revealed limited evidence for Anglo Saxon settlement in the form of a single sunken-featured building with a possible associated pit, but it is observed that the position of this activity, in the south-western corner of the excavation site, implies that there may be a larger settlement beyond the boundaries of the Bridgman Joinery. This is further supported by HER64, which records the discovery of part of a 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and two Anglo-Saxon huts, located c.300m to the east of the site. The existence of the cemetery indicates that there is likely to be a settlement close by. The Harrold Extensive Urban Survey (HEUS) suggests that it was located under the centre of the current town, with the settlement core positioned between two north-south routes, represented by Church Walk and Dove Lane to the east, and The Green, Orchard Lane/Brook Lane to the west (Macqueen and Edgworth, 2003).

#### 3.2.5 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Harrold is recorded in the Domesday Survey (1086) as having land for 16 ploughs, woodland for 200 pigs and one mill rendering 36s8d and 200 eels (Williams and Martin, 2003). At the time of the Survey, Harrold was worth £6. It was also given a value of £20 TRE (*Tempore Regis Edwardi* – In the time of King Edward), which implies a large settlement in the area before the Norman Conquest in 1066.

The HER records an area of possible settlement shrinkage at Little Odell, c.800m to the northeast of the site (HER3559). Medieval pottery has been recovered from a ploughed field (HER3373), c.800m to the west of the site. A mill and two weirs are recorded as early as 1067, c.500m to the south of the site (HER10419). Closer to the site, a 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery kiln was uncovered in a garden adjacent to Brook Lane (HER1183).

An Augustinian convent, known as the Priory, was founded in Harrold between 1140 and 1150. It is likely to have been located to the south of St Peter's Church, which was included as part of the Priory, although it is thought that the church itself pre-dated the Priory (Macqueen and Edgworth, 2003).

St Peter's Church (HER862) is located c.400m to the southeast of the site. Pevsner dates the oldest surviving parts of the church to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner 1968). It is thought to be the oldest extant building in Harrold, as it is first mentioned in the Priory foundation charter, which dates to 1136-8 (Macqueen and Edgworth, 2003). However, it has been suggested that there may have been a church on the site for centuries, and that there may be some Anglo Saxon or early Norman work visible within the north wall of the nave (*ibid*).

### 3.2.6 *Post-Medieval - Modern (1500-present)*

A stone pit was noted on farmland *c.*900m to the west of the study area (HER1871), but it has now been filled in. *c.*500m closer to the site is the site of a sunken lane and earthworks (HER10235), which are shown on the pre-enclosure map (Fig. 4). The Mansion (HER1069) is a Grade II listed building, and is dated 1619 on its central chimneystack, but it was much restored and refaced during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Closer to the centre of Harrold is the United Reformed Churchyard (HER8900), which is located *c.*150m from the site. It is presumed that the burial ground was laid out after 1808, when the chapel itself was constructed. The HER records a lime kiln (HER6746) and gravel pit (HER1877), both located *c.*550m to the northeast of the site. Closer to the site, field boundaries and gravel digging have resulted in an amorphous depression within a field *c.*200m to the north of the site (HER6796). Also located *c.*200m to the north of the site is HER2921, which records an area of further possible gravel digging within an area of medieval village shrinkage.

After the dissolution of the Priory in 1536, the buildings survived until 1608, when the majority of the Priory buildings were demolished to make way for Harrold Hall (HER1068), which was built between 1608 and 1614 (Page 1912; Macqueen and Edgworth, 2003). The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (1835) (Fig. 5) shows the grounds of Harrold Hall (HER9434), which were located *c.*500m to the southeast of the site. During WWII, Harrold Hall was used as a holding facility for Italian prisoners of war, who worked on farms in the surrounding area. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for a housing development (Macqueen and Edgworth, 2003).

## 3.3 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

### 3.3.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC)*

There is no record of any Prehistoric human activity within the site boundaries.

### 3.3.2 *Iron Age (600BC-AD43)*

There is no evidence for human activity on the site during the Iron Age.

### 3.3.3 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

There is no record of any occupation or activity within the site boundaries during the Roman period.

### 3.3.4 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

There is no record of any human occupation or activity within the site boundaries during the Saxon period.

### 3.3.5 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

There is no specific evidence pertaining to the use of the site during the medieval period, but it is likely to have been utilised in some way during this period, possibly as farmland.

### 3.3.6 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The earliest readily available cartographic evidence for the site is a pre-enclosure map of Harrold, which dates to 1797 (Fig. 4). This shows the site as being divided into three separate plots, belonging to three separate individuals. There is one extant building shown on the site at this time, located close to the site of the existing village hall.

The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 5), which dates to 1883, shows the site divided into three different areas to those shown in 1797. At this point several buildings are shown on the site, including those located in the southernmost section of the site which fronts onto the High Street. The second edition OS map, which dates to 1900, shows no major changes within the boundaries of the site (Fig. 6).

### 3.3.7 *Modern (1900-present)*

Figure 1 is based upon the most up to date OS mapping of the site, and shows there are few major changes to the bulk of the site. Two tennis courts have been constructed in the southwestern corner of the site, along with a slightly larger building in a similar place to the building noted on figure 4.

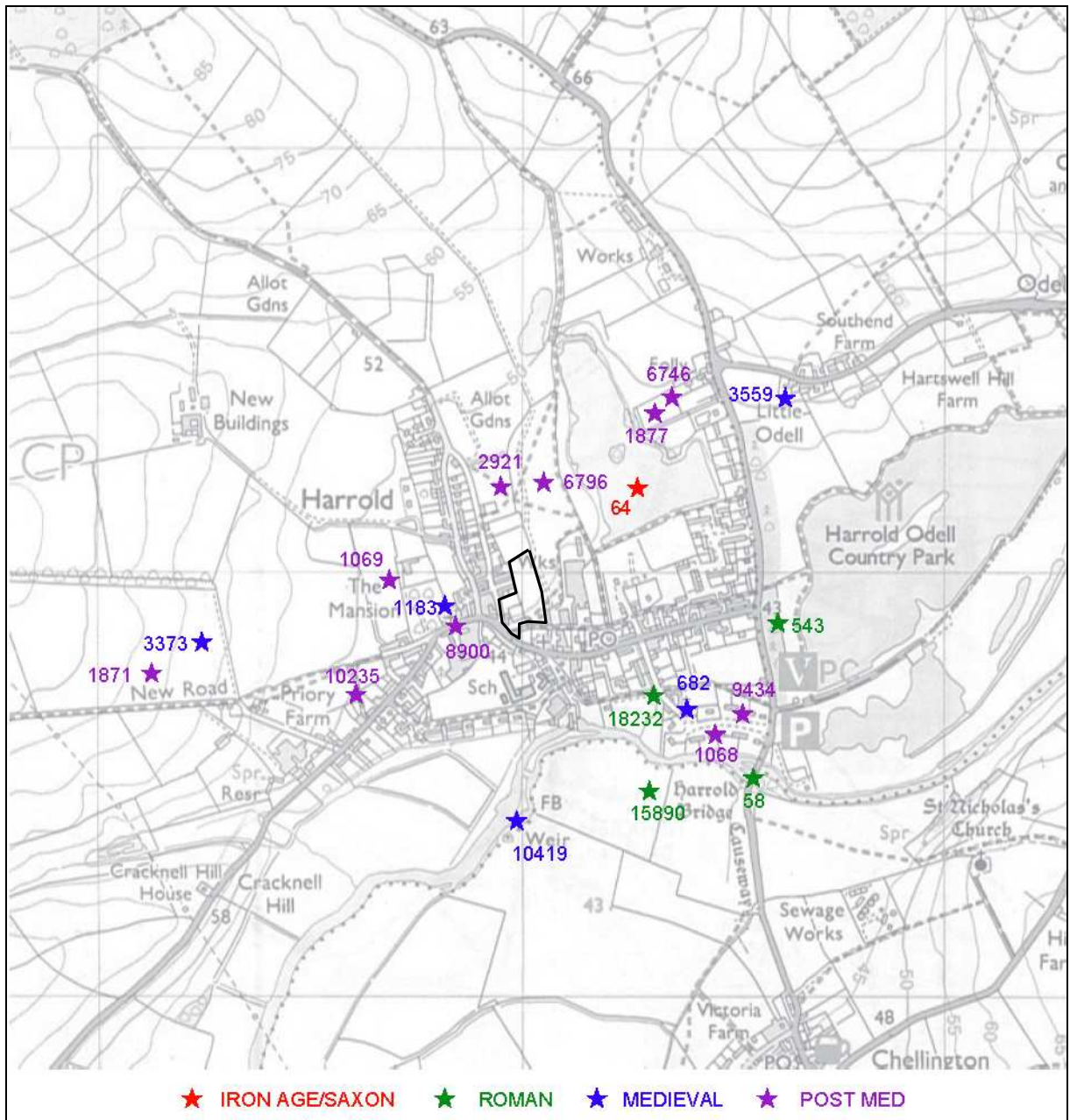
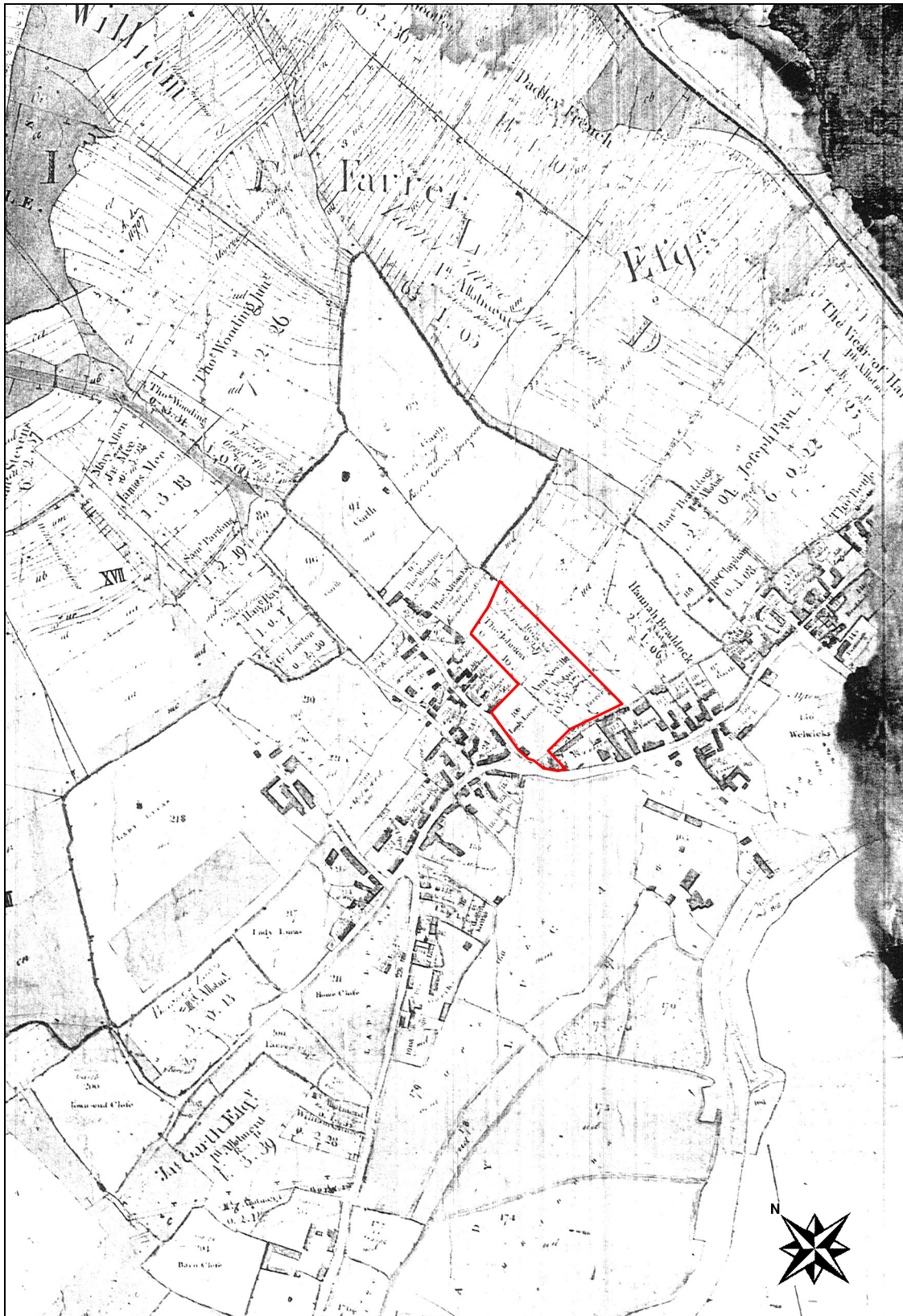
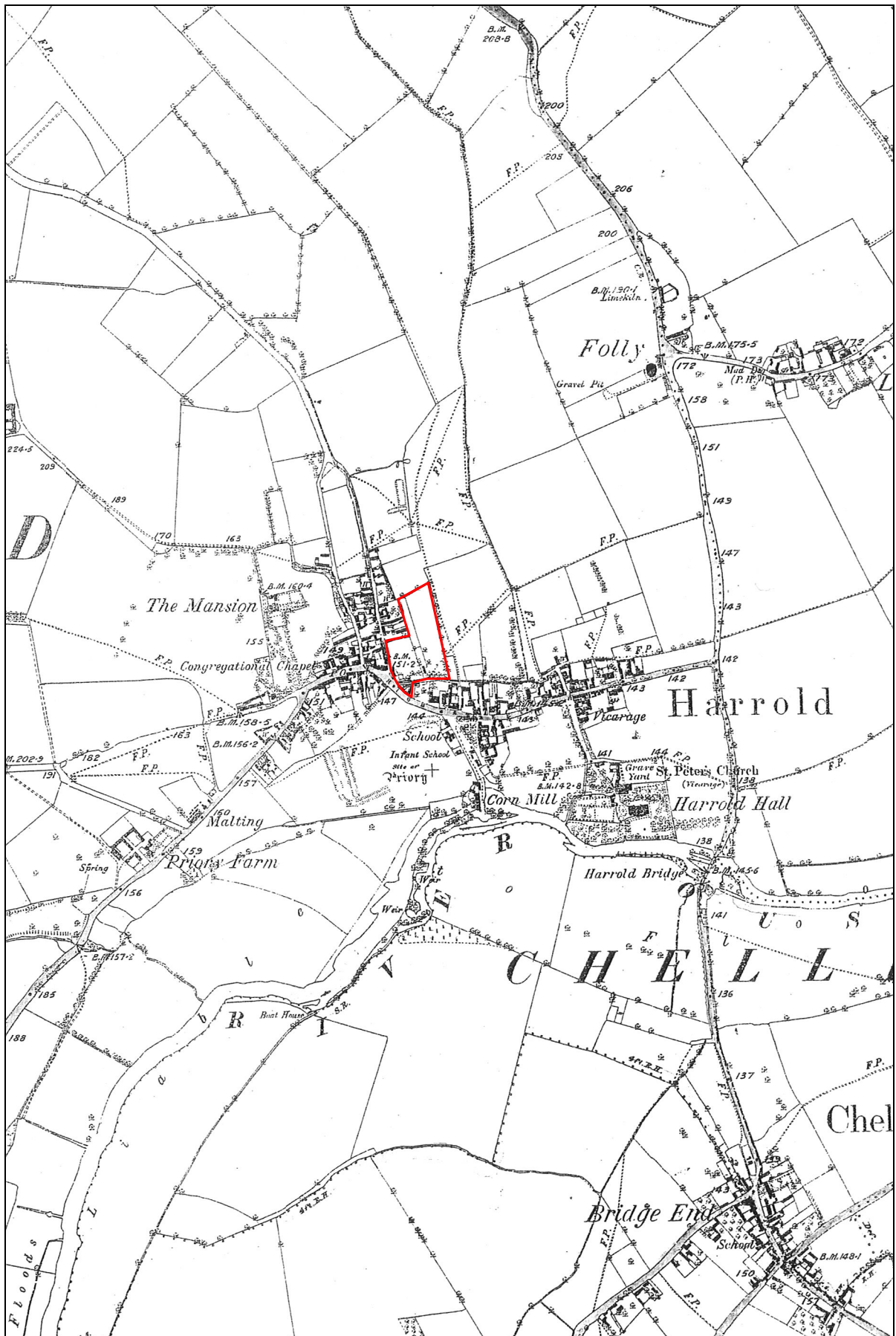


Figure 3: Archaeological sites in the Bedfordshire HER.



**Figure 4:** Harrold Pre-Enclosure map, 1797 (*not to scale*)



**Figure 5:** First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1883 (scale: 6 inches to 1 mile)



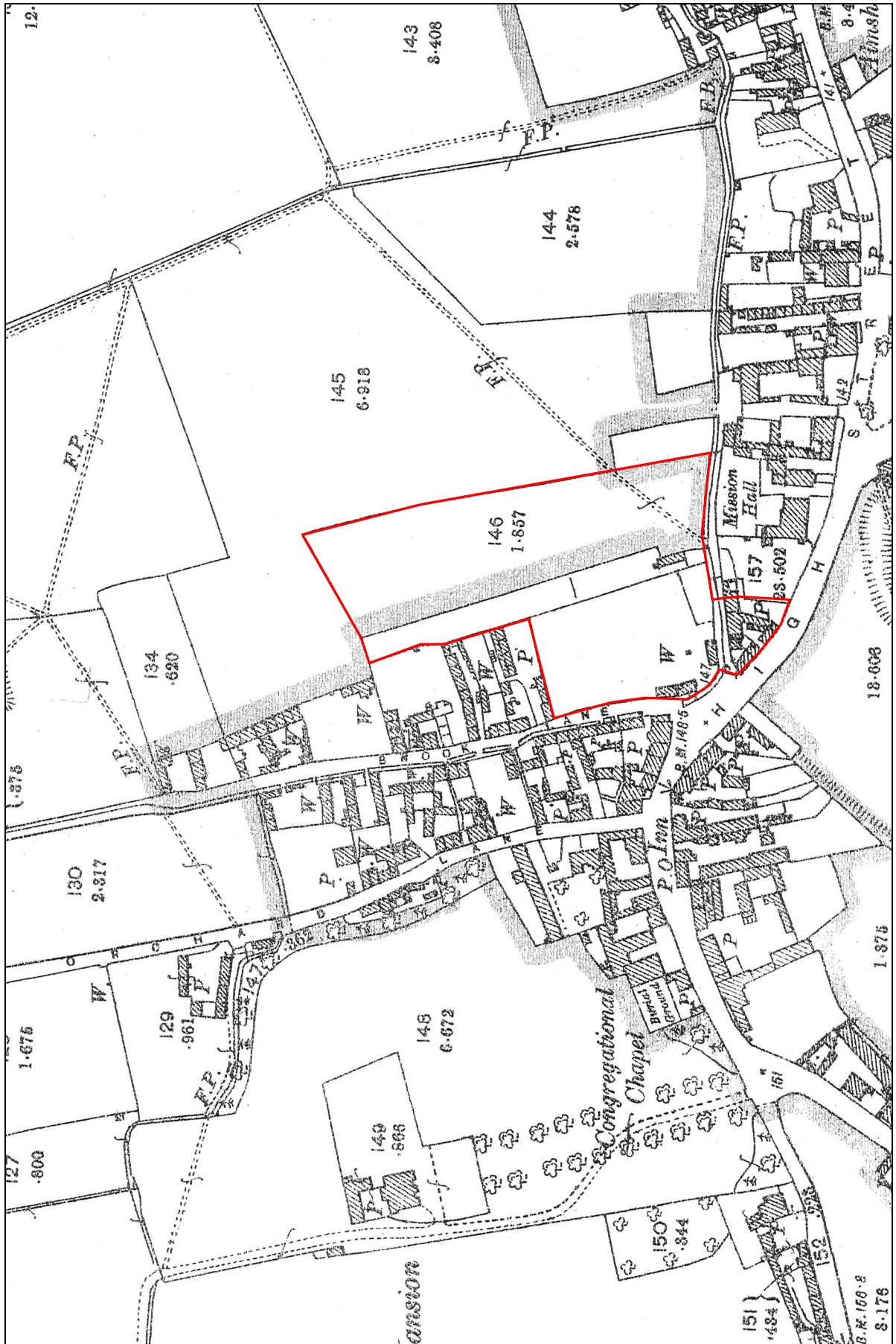


Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1900 (scale: 25 inches to 1 mile)

## **4. Walkover Survey**

### **4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use***

The site is essentially split into two separate areas, both of which have separate access points (Plates 1 & 7), and are partially separated by a brick wall. The western area comprises the current village hall, tennis courts and play area (Plate 3). This area is accessed from Brook Lane, which runs along the western edge of this part of the site. The eastern area is approximately twice as long as the western area, and currently comprises two fields (Plate 5). The southernmost field is currently being used as pasture for horses, while the northern part is more overgrown (Plate 8).

### **4.2 *Buildings***

The village hall (front cover) is located in the southwestern corner of the site, and is to be incorporated into the proposed development. There is a concrete building with a corrugated iron roof located close to the southeastern corner of the site (Plate 5).

### **4.3 *Services***

There are likely to be underground services in the western part of the site, particularly located close to the village hall, and the buildings in the southwestern corner of the site. There are overhead telephone cables running across the southeastern corner of the site, with a telegraph pole situated within the southern part of the eastern area of the development site (Plate 6).



**Plate 1:** Access to the existing tennis courts, looking east



**Plate 2:** Central boundary wall, looking southeast



**Plate 3:** Play area, looking northeast



**Plate 4:** Eastern area, looking north



**Plate 5:** Building in the southeastern corner of the site, looking east



**Plate 6:** Potential ridge and furrow, looking southeast



**Plate 7:** Current access to the eastern part of the site, looking east



**Plate 8:** The northern part of the site, looking north

## **5. Statutory Constraints on Development**

5.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

### **5.2 *Conservation Areas***

The southwestern section of the site falls within the Harrold Conservation Area.

### **5.3 *Areas of Archaeological Significance***

The site does not fall within an Area of Archaeological Significance.

### **5.4 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments***

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) within the site boundaries.

### **5.5 *Listed Buildings***

There are no listed buildings present on the site.

## 6. Conclusions

6.1 Figure 3 shows the distribution of sites in the area surrounding the development site. The proximity and density of the archaeology found to the east of the site suggests that there may be similar remains within the boundaries of the site itself. In particular, the HEUS suggests that the core of the Saxon settlement in Harrold was located to the southeast of the site. While the majority of the site does not fall within the suggested core area, it is probable that the site was utilised in some way during the Saxon period, if not earlier.

### 6.2 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

The proximity of the site to areas of dense archaeological remains suggests that they may extend within the site. The walkover survey revealed some earthworks within the southeastern third of the site, including potential ridge and furrow close to the existing play area (Plate 6). This may extend further into the northeastern third of the site, but the overgrown nature of that area made it difficult to tell during the walkover survey. The presence of these earthworks indicates that this side of the site may not have been subjected to any significant development, and therefore has a relatively high potential for the survival of archaeological remains, potentially relating to the core of Saxon settlement identified in the HEUS. Comparatively, the western part of the site has been subjected to too much development to have a high potential of the survival of archaeology, although there is limited potential for buried remains beneath the existing tennis courts.

6.3 The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*. Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, acting on the advice of the Bedfordshire County Council Archaeology Service.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

ASC is grateful to Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd for commissioning and John Osborne for funding this assessment. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of the Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record for providing access to the HER data. The assistance of the staff of the CRO is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walkover survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by Calli Rouse BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat MA MIFA.



## 8. Sites & Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 1km

HER no	NGR	Period	Type	Description	Proximity to site (m)
58	SP 9553 5649	Roman	Road	Roman road between Irchester and Kempston	700
64	SP 952 563	Iron Age/ Saxon	Occupation	Iron Age Occupation, Anglo Saxon Cemetery	300
543	SP 956 569	Roman	Occupation	Belgic and Roman occupation	600
682	SP 9538 5667	Medieval	Church	St Peter's Church	500
1068	SP 9546 5655	Post Medieval	House	Harrold Hall	600
1069	SP 9467 5695	Post Medieval	House	Grade II Listed Building	300
1183	SP 9478 5689	Medieval	Kiln	13 <sup>th</sup> century pottery kiln	200
1871	SP 9412 5677	Post Medieval	Pit	Stone pit	900
1877	SP 9533 5740	Post Medieval	Gravel Pit	Gravel Pit	550
2921	SP 9494 5720	Post Medieval	Earthworks	Earthworks caused by gravel digging	200
3373	SP 9425 5685	Medieval	Findspot	Medieval pottery found at edge of plough line	800
3559	SP 956 574	Medieval	Settlement	Medieval Settlement shrinkage	800
6746	SP 9536 5742	Post Medieval	Kiln	Lime Kiln	550
6796	SP 9504 5723	Post medieval	Depression	Amorphous depression in pasture field caused by field boundaries and gravel digging	200
8900	SP 9482 5689	Post Medieval	Churchyard	United Reformed Churchyard	150
9434	SP 955 567	Post Medieval	Gardens	Harrold Hall Gardens	500
10235	SP 9461 5672	Post Medieval	Earthworks	Sunken lane and earthworks	400
10419	SP 9498 5642	Medieval	Mill	Mill race and weirs	500
15890	SP 953 565	Roman	Coin	Sestertius of Antoninus Pius	600
18232	SP 9529 5672	Roman	Ditch	Roman ditch found during watching brief	400

## 9. References

### *Standards & Specifications*

ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

### *Secondary Sources*

Albion Archaeology 2002 *Former Bridgman Joinery, Harrold, Bedfordshire. Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design* Albion Archaeology

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.

Eagles, B. N. & Evison, V. I. 1970 Excavations at Harrold, Bedfordshire, 1951-53 *Bedfordshire Archaeological Journal* Vol. 5

MacQueen, J and Edgeworth, M 2003 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Harrold Archaeological Assessment* Albion Archaeology

Page, W (ed.) 1912 *The Victoria County History of Bedfordshire* Vol III

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Williams, A & Martin, G.H. 2003 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* Penguin Books

## 10. Cartographic Sources

*The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
1797	-	Harrold Pre-Enclosure Map
1883		1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, 6" to 1 mile
1900	VI.12	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, 25" to 1 mile