

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**WATCHING BRIEF:
14 REDWOOD GLADE
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9196 2720

on behalf of Mr P. Masters



Jonathan R Hunn BA PhD MIFA

August 2010 (rev. Jan 2011)

ASC: 1322/LBR/2r



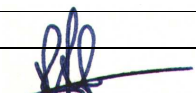
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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	LBR	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1322
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-78749	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	LUTN: 2010.59
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Leighton Buzzard		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Leighton-Linslade		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9196 2720		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.80 sq. m.		
<i>Present use:</i>	Footpath and lawn		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Extension to existing building		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/09/05941/FULL		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	19.7.10		
<i>Client:</i>	Mr P. Masters 14 Redwood Glade Leighton Buzzard Beds LU7 3JT		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Mr P. Masters		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Jonathan R Hunn	<i>Date:</i>	2 August 2010
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<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	18 th Jan 2011

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

Summary

In July 2010 a watching brief was undertaken on the construction of an extension to 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The work was required because of the development's proximity to two Bronze Age barrows, both scheduled ancient monuments. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief, and it appears that the area was probably truncated by landscaping during the construction of the present estate in the 1960s or 1970s.

1. Introduction

1.1 In July 2010 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Mr P. Masters*, and was carried out according to a brief (Oake 2010) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, by their archaeological advisors (AA), the *Central Bedfordshire Conservation & Design Team*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2010). The relevant planning application reference is CB/09/05941/FULL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

ASC is an independent archaeological 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 Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 *The Site*

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The development site is situated in the Central Bedfordshire district, within the town and parish of Leighton Buzzard, at NGR SP 9196 2720 (Fig. 1).

The site is located to the north of the town centre, on the north side of Redwood Glade. It is bounded by houses and gardens to the east and west, and wooded ground to the north. Access to the site is from Redwood Glade, which forms the southern boundary of the site (Fig. 2).

1.4.2 *Geology & Topography*

The site lies in an area of gently undulating terrain, although the immediate vicinity of the site is flat (approximately 120m AOD). The soils of the site are likely to belong to either the Evesham 3 Association, which are described as *slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils*. Some *slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous clayey soils* (Soil Survey 1983, 411c), or the Frilford Association, which are described as *deep*

well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some ferruginous sandy and some coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of water erosion (Soil Survey 1983, 554a). The underlying geology comprises Lower Cretaceous Woburn Sands (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises a two-storey extension to the existing house (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

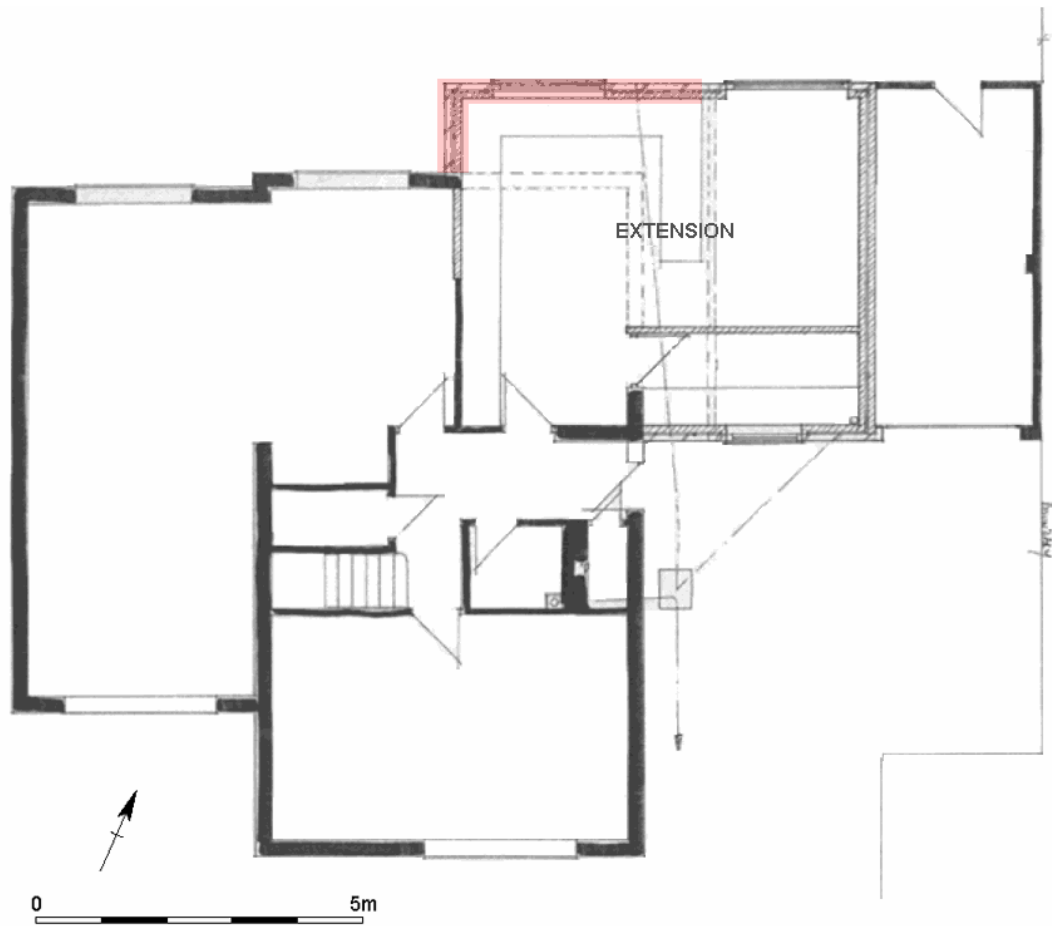


Figure 3: Proposed development: extent of footing observed in red (*scale as shown*)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the project design (Section 3.1), the aims of the watching brief were:

- To determine and understand the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting
- To place the results of the project in their local and regional research context, as described by Oake *et al* (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and Medleycott & Brown (2008)
- To contribute to the understanding of Bronze Age barrows and their relationship with settlement and other activity, as emphasised by Oake (2007, 9-10), Brown & Murphy (2000, 10) and Medleycott & Brown (2008, 31)
- To establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation in the development site
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), to the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the project design (Section 3.3), which required:

- Any works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains to be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision
- When archaeological deposits are encountered the AA to be notified and a timetable for the adequate investigation and recording of these features to be agreed. Construction works not to recommence until the AA is content that the archaeological work has been completed satisfactorily.
- Provision to be made for delays caused by the need for archaeological recording and a contingency allowance for more detailed recording of exceptional finds. The AA to be consulted before any contingency allowance is deployed.

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were encountered during this project.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

- 3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information from the Central Bedfordshire & Luton Historic Environment Record (HER), ASC's reference collection and other readily available sources.

3.2 ***Prehistoric*** (before 600BC)

Two Bronze Age barrows, both of which are Scheduled Monuments, are located immediately to the north of the development site and to the south-west (Fig. 2: HER 0002). The former appears to have originally extended into the garden of 14 Redwood Glade. Both mounds survive to a substantial height, despite modern intrusions. There is no clear record of either mound having been excavated, although a decorated pottery incense cup was found nearby. In both cases the surrounding ditches are no longer visible as they have become infilled, and are assumed to survive as buried features.

3.3 ***Iron Age*** (600BC-AD43)

To the north of the development site is an undated ditch and bank earthwork enclosing a large area known as 'Craddocks'. The earthwork has now largely been destroyed following parliamentary enclosure in the mid 19th century, and the area is now covered by a golf course, but it is thought to have been an Iron Age hill-slope enclosure (HER 0004).

3.4 ***Roman*** (AD43-c.450)

During the Roman period Leighton Buzzard was distant from the principal centres of settlement and lines of communication as Watling Street is situated c.5km to the north-east of the town. Roman pottery was found on Leighton Heath, c.0.2km to the south-west of the development site. The assemblage included two samian lids, five vessels and fragments of two further vessels (HER 2772). Roman finds have also been recorded in the centre of Leighton Buzzard, with Roman coins being found in the churchyard (HER 9659) and pottery uncovered from opposite the church (HER 819). Roman pottery to the south of the High Street (HER 1464), and a burial (HER 10728) have also been found, however, no direct evidence of Roman settlement has been uncovered.

3.5 ***Saxon*** (c.450-1066)

Little is known of the origins of the settlement of Leighton Buzzard, but it is likely to have originated during the Saxon period. A series of Saxon cemeteries are located c.1km to the south of the development site: all were excavated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The earliest of these was a 6th-century cremation cemetery found during sand quarrying in an area known as 'Deadman's Slade'. Documentary and cartographic sources date the name of the area back to the 16th century, suggesting that the cemetery was known about much earlier than the 19th century (HER 0001).

Approximately 500m to the east of HER 0001 are two further Saxon cemeteries, situated in an area known as Chamberlains Barn (HER 0003). These cemeteries comprised largely inhumation burials, with a few cremations. Both were excavated and recorded in the 1930s. Cemetery 1, the westernmost of the two, comprised three cremation burials and nineteen inhumation graves, from which a variety of grave goods were recovered, including iron buckles and knives, and glass beads. The burials were dated to the 6th and 7th centuries. The chance find of an iron shield boss away from the area of Cemetery 1 led to the discovery of Cemetery 2. This comprised sixty-eight graves, and grave goods recovered from this cemetery included iron knives, pottery, spindle whorls and necklaces of silver rings tied together with thread and strung with beads. This cemetery was not in use before the 7th century.

Analysis of these two cemeteries has revealed that the orientation of the graves changed between the two. Cemetery 1 showed no overall pattern of orientation, while in Cemetery 2 most of the graves were orientated with the head to the southwest. This is likely to be in response to changes in burial practise associated with the spread of Christianity.

Further isolated finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been recovered within the vicinity of the development site, including an iron spearhead found in a load of soil excavated from Sandy Lane, c.0.5km to the northeast of the development site (HER 2820) and a brooch, found c.0.3km northeast of Redwood Glade (HER 14850).

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Leighton Buzzard was in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey (1086), when the right to hold a market and to collect tolls belonged to the king. Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln held the church and its lands (Williams & Martin 2003).

The early layout of the town is not well understood, but the settlement may have developed at the river crossing, and have included the site of the church. The present Bridge Street and Church Square may have early origins. There is a suggestion that the town was subject to a radical re-planning in the 12th century, with the basic 'Y'-shaped formation of streets probably being laid out at that time, although this has yet to be proved (BCC & EH 2005). The present church dates to the 13th century, but may occupy the site of an earlier building.

Redwood Glade is located c.2km to the north of the centre of Leighton Buzzard. It may have been farmland, open ground or woodland during the medieval period.

3.7 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Directly to the north of Redwood Glade is the late 19th century Grade II Listed building 'The Knolls'. It was built by R. Norman Shaw, in a Tudor vernacular style (HER 4690).

Located c.1km to the southwest of the development site is the site of John Dollin Barrett's 70 acre plantation (HER 10763). Reclaimed from wasteland in 1884 it was used for the cultivation of rare trees. Although the plantation still exists, it is now much reduced in size. During the post-medieval period an area of former common heathland lost to enclosure in 1848 was located to the northwest of the development site (HER 11095). Much of this area of woodland was cleared in the mid 20th century to make way for housing.

3.8 ***Modern*** (1900-present)

During the modern period the town of Leighton Buzzard has developed in size, and the area of Redwood Glade was developed in the latter part of the 20th century. Further to the northwest, a camp was set up at The Heath in 1939 to house children and mothers from towns liable to be bombed (HER 17919).

4. Results

- 4.1 The continuous watching brief was completed in a single day (Appendix 1). It involved observing the excavation of a 6m L-shaped length of footing trench between the house and garage to the rear (north) of the property (Fig. 3: Plate 1). The remainder of the development was located on the footprint of the present building and made use of the existing foundations.
- 4.2 The footing trench was 0.6m wide and 1.0m deep, and was excavated by hand. It was located partly beneath a paved area and partly in the rear lawn. The stratigraphic profile revealed (Plates 2 & 3) was as follows:
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 000 - 080 mm | Turf / paving slabs above a thin concrete base. |
| 080 - 280 mm | Former topsoil. Dark brown sandy organic soil |
| 280 mm+ | Natural. yellowish brown sandy soil. |
- 4.3 The foundations of the house and garage were observed in the trench. The house footings were 0.6m in depth and 0.3m wide. The garage foundation was 0.4m deep and 0.24m wide.
- 4.4 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were found during excavation of the footing trench.
- 4.5 Excavation of a short footing trench between the house and garden was not monitored. It was only one metre in length, and had been largely disturbed by existing service runs which cut through it (Fig. 3).



Plate 1: Location of footing trench, looking south



Plate 2: West end of footing trench, looking south



Plate 3: North-facing section of footing trench, looking south-west

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Although the site lies close to two Bronze Age barrows, one of which may have extended onto the property (though not as far as the observed footing trench), no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed in the present development. The aspect of the lawn and the general character of the locality suggest that the area was landscaped during the construction of Redwood Glade in the late 20th century. The sandy nature of the soil suggests that, in historical terms, the area would have remained as heathland for much of its history. Considering that all the recorded prehistoric to Saxon monuments in the vicinity of Redwood Glade are funerary, it is likely that this heathland area was favoured for burial during these periods.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by P. Masters. The writer is grateful to John Turner of *Turner Build & Design* for his assistance. The project was monitored by the *Central Bedfordshire Conservation and Design Team* on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by David Fell BA MA MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA. The report was prepared by Jonathan Hunn and edited by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
1. Brief
 2. Project Design
 3. Initial Report
 4. Client's site plans
 5. Site Monitoring Sheets
 6. List of photographs
 7. B/W prints & negatives
 8. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with Luton Museum.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **14**.
- EH 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition. English Heritage (London).
- 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' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.
- Oake, M 2010: *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire*. Conservation & Design Team, Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Rouse, C 2010 *14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire: Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief*. ASC doc. ref. 1322/LBR/1.

Secondary Sources

- Albion Archaeology 2005 *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Leighton Buzzard Archaeological Assessment* Bedfordshire County Council and English Heritage
- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8**
- Brown, N & Murphy, P 2000 “Neolithic and Bronze Age” in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 9-13
- Glazebrook, J (1997) *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties - 1 Resource Assessment* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **3**).
- Medlycott, M & Brown, N 2008 *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*. ALGAO East of England
- Oake, M (2007) “Research Agenda and Strategy,” in Oake *et al* (2007), 7-20.
- Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M & Murphy P (2007) *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. (Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**)
- 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 Classics

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

A.S.C. LTD		ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD MONITORING RECORD				
Project: 14, Redwood Glade Leighton Buzzard		Project No/Code: 1322 LBR	Sheet: 1 of 2			
Client/Developer H. P. Hoeters		Date of visit: 19.7.10				
Contact: John Turner (Turner Builders Design)	Phone: 07850389201					
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 8 am	Finish: 12.15 am				
Completed by: JRH						
Development Type:						
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: Dry & Sunny						
Observations: Observed a small extension on the north side of the existing dwelling. This measured (at max) 4.5m E-W by 1.5m N-S. Depth is 1300mm and width is 600mm. The top of the section is as follows: ① thin concrete base & paving slab 80mm thick ② organic layers (topsoil) 200mm thick ③ A yellowish brown (Mun 10YR 5/4 to 5/6) sandy natural deposit. Foundation of existing house 0.6m down and 0.3m thick (max). Garage foundation 0.4m down and 0.24m thick. No signs of any features or any man-made artifacts recovered from the hand dug foundation.						
Comments: No further work envisaged.						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: 14, Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard			SITE NO/CODE: 1322/LBR
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		734	View SW of trench digging underway
2		735	View west of foundation digging
3		736	View NW of summerhouse and Monkey Puzzle trees
4		737	View east of location of new foundation trench
5		738	View south of detail of western end of new foundation trench
6		739	View west of completed foundation trench
7	1	740	Location of new extension to existing dwelling looking south
8	2	741	Oblique view of north facing section in new foundation trench

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-78749
Short Description:	In July 2010 a watching brief was undertaken on the construction of an extension to 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. The work was required because of the development's proximity to two Bronze Age barrows, both scheduled ancient monuments. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during the watching brief, and it appears that the area was probably truncated by landscaping during the construction of the present estate in the 1960s or 1970s.		
Project Type:	Watching brief		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	none	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	none
Current land use:	House and garden	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	unknown
Monument type:	none	Monument period:	none
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9196 2720
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	14, Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 3JT		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c. 7 sq. m	Height OD: (metres)	120m
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Hannah Firth (CBC)	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	David Fell BA MA MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Mr P. Masters		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	19..7.10	End date:	19.7.10
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Luton Museum	None	
Paper:		Brief, project design, report, site records, plans, photos	
Digital:		CD with all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 14 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume:	ASC report ref. 1322/LBR/2		
Author(s):	Jonathan R Hunn BA PhD MIFA		
Page nos	17	Date:	2 nd August 2010