

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING:
SEGENHOE HOUSE
SEGENHOE
RIDGMONT
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: SP 9824 3588

on behalf of Russell X Mead



Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA

March 2011

ASC: 1402/SSH/2




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Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	SSH	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	1402
<i>OASIS ref:</i>	Archaeol2-95775	<i>Event/Accession no:</i>	BEDFM 2011.31
<i>County:</i>	Bedfordshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Segenhoe		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Ridgmont		
<i>NGR (to 8 figs):</i>	SP 9824 3588		
<i>Extent of site:</i>	c.50sqm		
<i>Present use:</i>	Gardens		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Rear extension to existing property		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	CB/09/06798/REN		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Central Bedfordshire Council		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	7 th -10 th March 2011		
<i>Client:</i>	Russell X Mead Segenhoe House Segenhoe Ridgmont Bedfordshire MK43 0XW		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Russell X Mead		

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Martin Cuthbert	<i>Date:</i>	11 th March 2011
<i>Revisions:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	11 th March 2011

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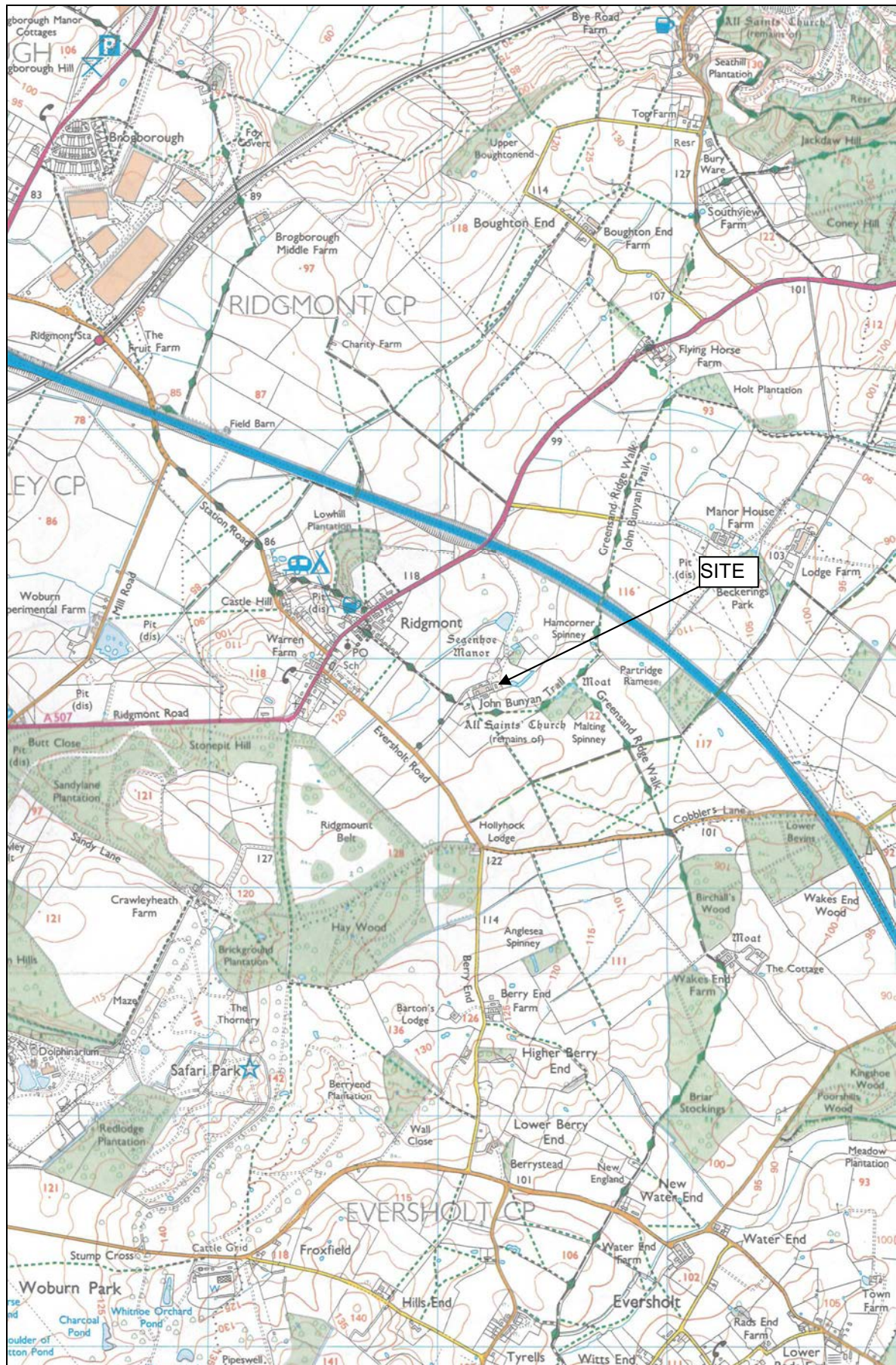


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March 2011 a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording took place at Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire, during the excavation of footing trenches and associated services, in relation to the extension of the existing house. No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. However, as the ground works were limited in scope this does not preclude the presence of archaeological remains elsewhere on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March 2011 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out a watching brief at Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by *Russell X Mead*, and was carried out according to a brief (Archaeology Team 2011) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Central Bedfordshire Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team*, and a project design prepared by ASC (Rouse 2011).

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. The relevant planning application reference is CB/09/06798/REN.

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 located at Segenhoe, in the parish of Ridgmont within the district of Central Bedfordshire at NGR SP 9824 3588 (Fig. 1).

The development lies within the grounds of Segenhoe House (Fig. 2). The development will impact a square area of ground located immediately to the east of Segenhoe House (Fig. 3). Access is from a driveway to the west. .

1.4.2 *Topography & Geology*

The site lies on largely flat ground, at an elevation of *c.110m*AOD. The soils of the area belong to the Ashley Association, which are characterised as *fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils* (Soil Survey 1983, 572q). The underlying geology comprises Lower Cretaceous Woburn Sands Formation (BGS, Sheet 220).

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises the construction of a rear extension to the existing building.

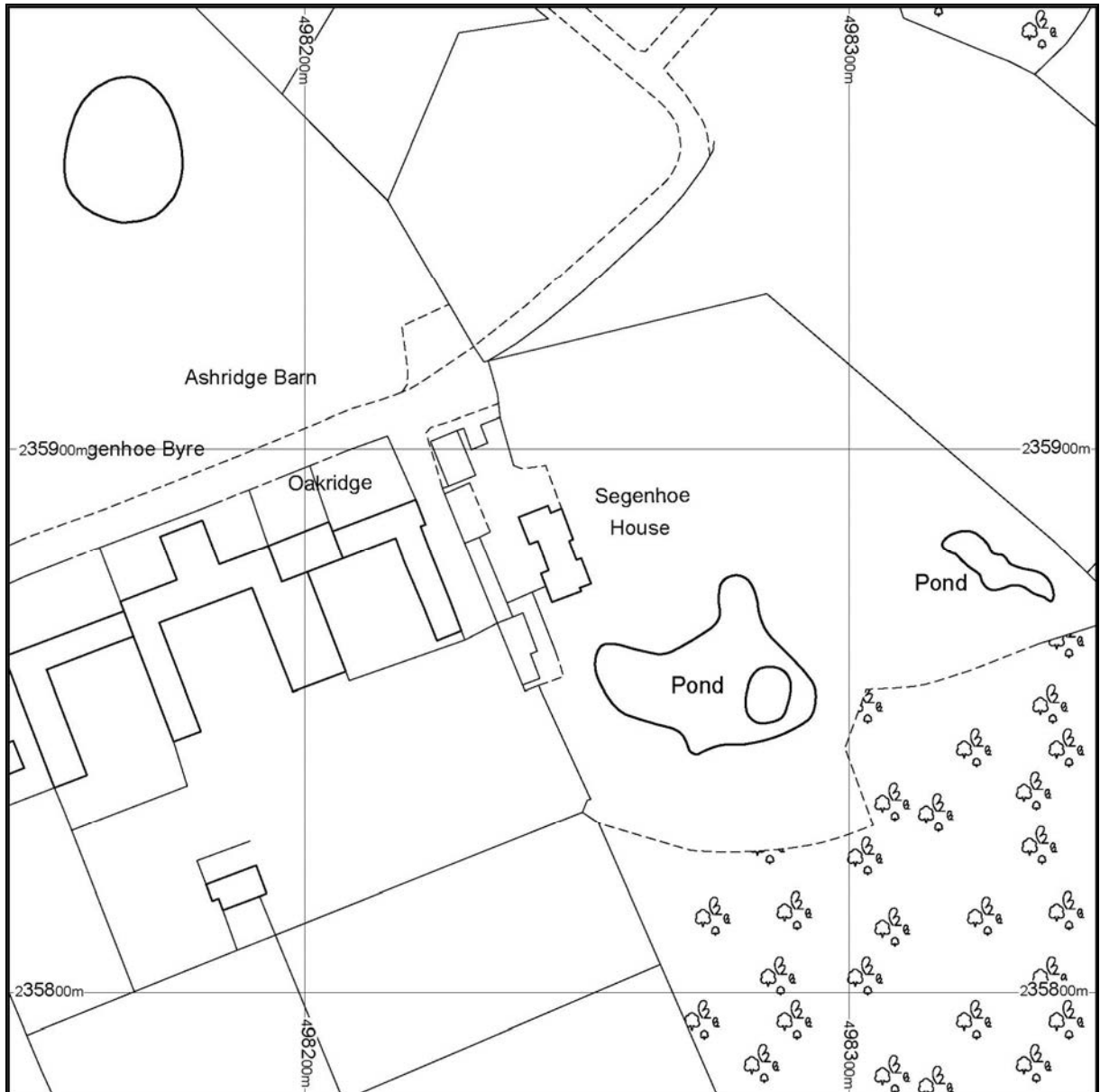


Figure 2: Site plan (scale 1:1250)

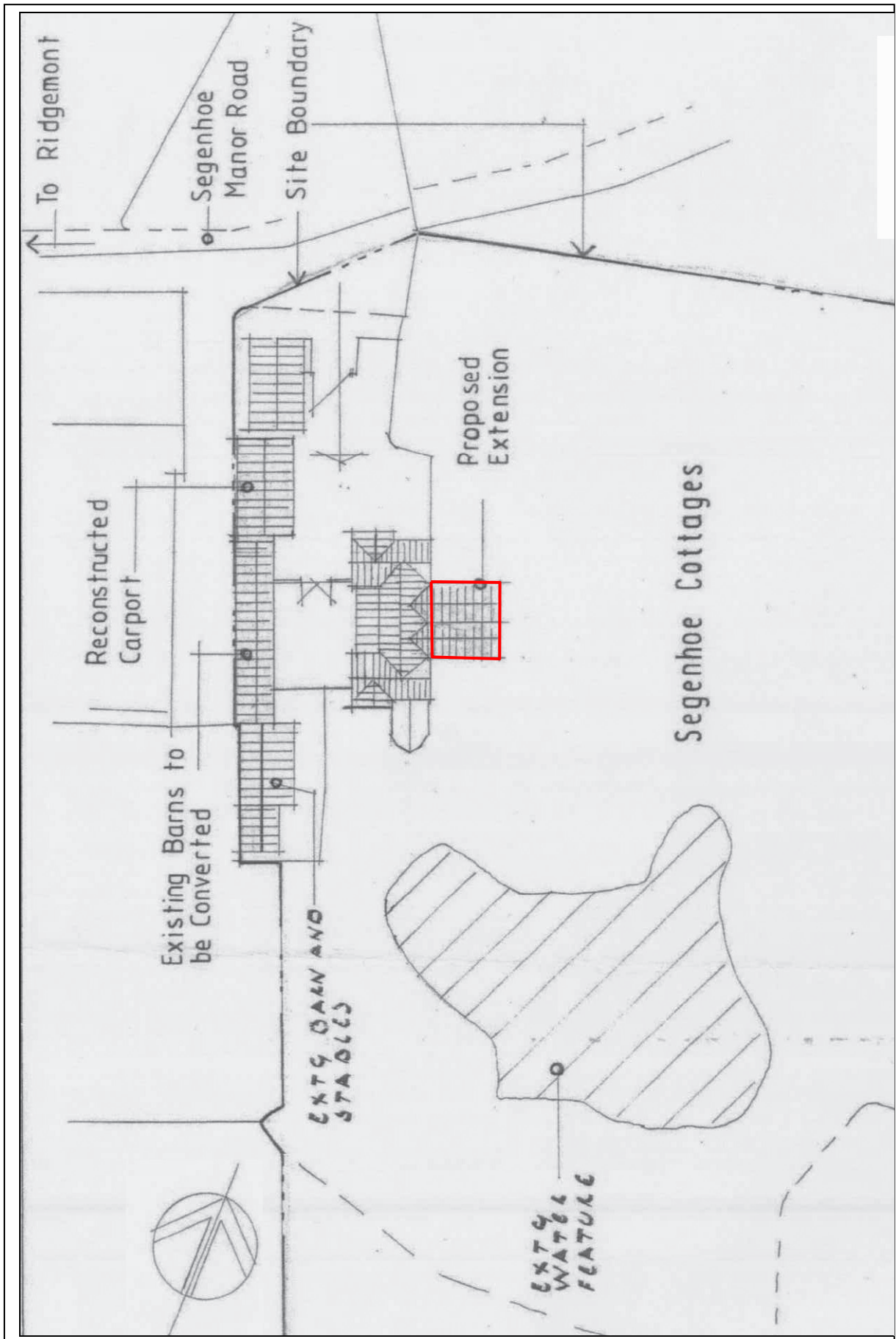


Figure 3: Proposed development (scale 1:500)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

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

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological finds, features or deposits related to the medieval village of Segenhoe in accordance with the research framework as set out by Oake *et al* 2007, 14.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains of any other period.
- To establish the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the development area.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas, and through cartographic, documentary and other research.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

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 groundworks or other works likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits or remains will be done under continuous and constant archaeological supervision

2.4 Constraints

No constraints were identified prior to the fieldwork and none were encountered during the monitoring visits. Two further service trenches, parallel to the foundation trenches, were due to be monitored, the trenches predicted shallow depth meant they were deemed unnecessary to monitor following discussions with the AA.

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 Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and other readily available sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC)

Archaeological work in advance of the recent M1 widening scheme and construction of the A507 Ridgmont bypass recovered flint artefacts of the prehistoric periods from an area approximately 700m northeast of the development. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts were identified; the Mesolithic assemblage included waste flakes and cores, which could indicate the site of a temporary settlement (HER15833). A Mesolithic flint axe was found slightly southeast of the aforementioned assemblages during earlier archaeological work (HER 15834) and a further scatter of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints has been identified through fieldwalking approximately 500m to the west-northwest (HER16086).

3.3 *Iron Age* (600BC-AD43)

The development of the Segenhoe area during the Iron Age period is not well understood, and the HER holds no records of this date with in the vicinity of the development site.

3.4 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

A possible Roman rectangular enclosure has been identified to the north of the development. The enclosure is clipped by the M1 and was first identified as a cropmark, subsequently confirmed by geophysical survey (HER552). A fragment of Roman quern stone has been recovered from the area to the northwest of the development (HER1972).

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

In the latter part of the Anglo Saxon period the Manor at Segenhoe in Redbornstoke Hundred was held by Leofneth, a thegn of King Edward (Williams and Martin 1992). An associated settlement is likely to have been present, possibly located in the vicinity of the ruined church. However, its exact location and whether it had an origin earlier within the period is currently unclear.

3.6 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

Segenhoe is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086; it was held by Walter, Seiher's brother and was assessed at 10 hides (Williams and Martin 1992). Segenhoe appears to have been superseded by Ridgmont after the Norman Conquest and the settlement may have been deserted by the latter part of the period. All Saints Church (*ruins of*) located c.200m west of the development site originated in the 12th century, the chancel

dates to this earliest phase of construction. The remains of Segenhoe are still visible in the vicinity of the ruined church as settlement earthworks surrounded by ridge and furrow (HER753). Segenhoe Manor appears to have survived the shift in settlement focus. Documentary evidence records that the Manor was held by Dunstable Priory in the 12th century. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1542, the Manor passed to Woburn Estate.

Two moated sites are recorded in the vicinity of the development. One (HER7103) lies adjacent to the ruined church, c.150m southeast of the development and could identify the earliest site of the manor at Segenhoe. The other, Malting Spinney medieval moat, associated outer enclosure and cultivation earthworks is located c.300m to the southeast of the development site and is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM11551). It is thought to be the site of Bevans or Bevins manor; documentary evidence records a Walter Beywin holding land in the area in 1276 which probably included this site. By 1598 it was under the same ownership as Segenhoe manor, and at this time included two granaries and a stable as well as the house (HER2811).

3.7 *Post-Medieval* (1500-1900)

Segenhoe Manor was certainly rebuilt and possibly relocated in the 18th century (HER4417). The extant house is II* listed and is located approximately 100m to the north of the development. Elements of formal gardens remain within its grounds. The building at the development area, Segenhoe House (HER7457) was constructed as estate cottages during the mid 19th century.

All Saints Church originated in the 12th century, but the majority of the current building was constructed during the 19th century. It has been unused since 1927 and is now a consolidated ruin listed as II* and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HER29, SAM101).

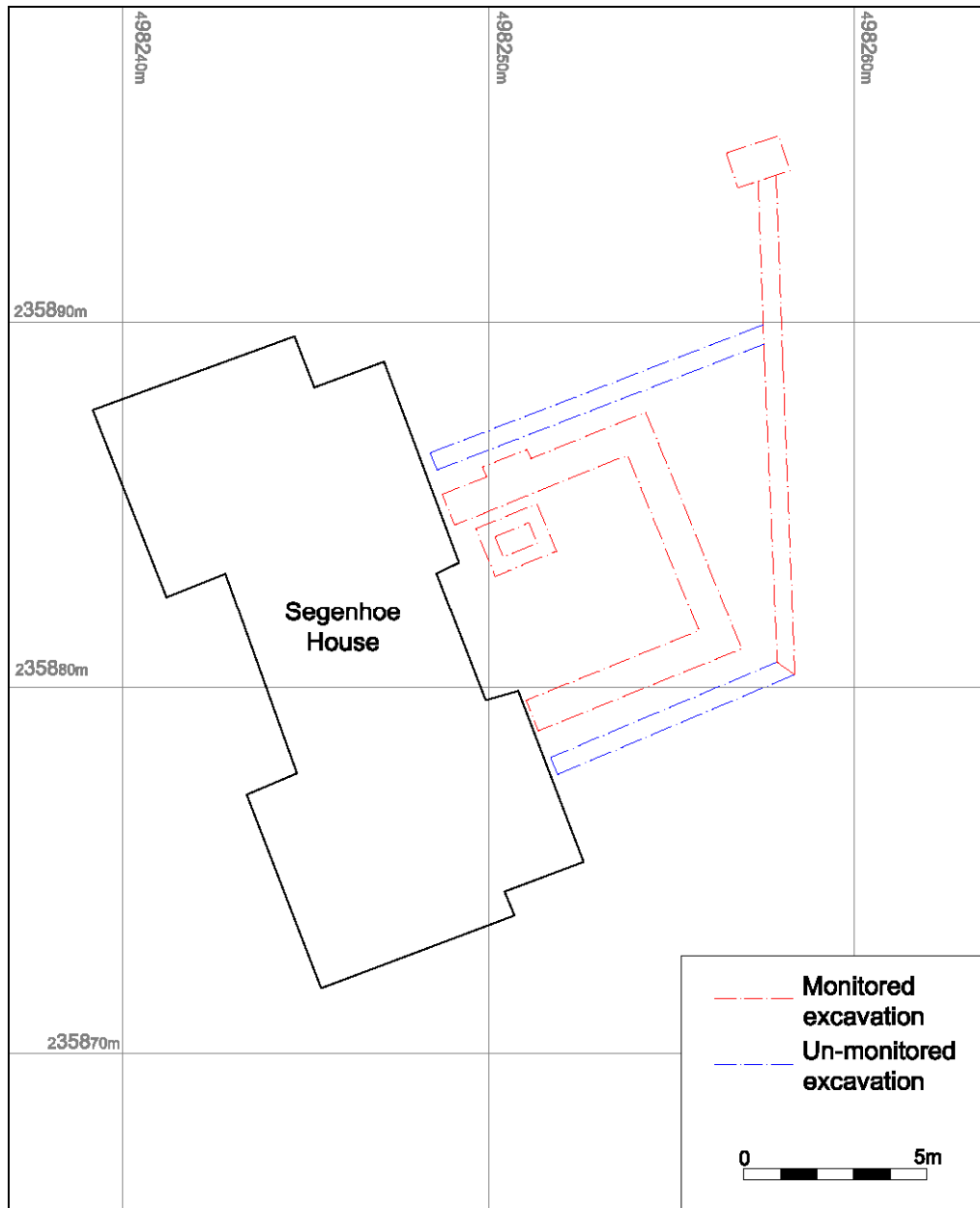
Other sites of the period are present in the surrounding area. Some of the buildings at Manor Farm, approximately 100m west of the development were constructed as part of a 19th century model farm. A building marked a "Pest house" is shown c.400m east of the development on the inclosure map of 1797 (HER294). This is thought to locate the site of an infectious disease hospital.

3.8 *Modern* (1900-present)

During the modern period Segenhoe has remained largely unchanged although a little housing development has occurred. The HER records the presence of a WWII bomb crater, which is still visible in a field approximately 150m to the west of the development site (HER18021).

4. Results

- 4.1 The development covers an area of *c.*50sq m, and replaces part of the current gardens. In addition to the foundation trenches, ground reduction was carried out across the footprint of the new building, as well as a service trench and manhole to the east of the new build (Fig. 4).
- 4.2 ***Excavated areas*** (Fig 4, Plates 1-3)
- 4.2.1 The foundation trenches were 0.6m wide and 1.2m deep. They were cut through 0.1m of turf, 0.8m of modern made ground containing brick and tile and then into the natural grey clay (Plate 1).
- 4.2.2 The ground reduction took place over the footprint of the new build. About 0.4m of overburden was removed. The layer of modern made ground was not breached (Plate 2).
- 4.2.3 The manhole was located *c.*7.0m northeast of the new building. It measured 1.5m by 1.0m and *c.* 0.7m deep, and was cut through 0.5m of topsoil consisting dark brown silty clay and into the natural subsoil of mid brown silty clay.
- 4.2.4 The service trench was 0.5m wide, *c.*0.9m deep and 14m in length. The northern 7m of the service trench was cut through the same deposits as the manhole, whilst the southern 7 0m was cut through the modern made ground seen within the foundation trenches (Plate 3).
- 4.3 There were no archaeological features observed in any of the excavated areas and no pre-modern artefacts were recovered from the up-cast deposits.



Excavated areas (scale 1:200)



Plate 1: Foundation trench stratigraphy, 1x2m scale



Plate 2: Oversight reduction, 1x2m scale



Plate 3: Service trench, looking north, 1x1m scale

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The natural subsoil layer was present at a consistent depth of *c.*0.60m within the northern part of the service trench and manhole, indicating that the geological deposits are intact and had not been significantly truncated at the eastern side of the site. The natural subsoil layer was not seen in the southern part of the drainage run and footing trenches. In these trenches modern made ground overlay the natural grey-clays suggesting the natural soils had been truncated, probably during the construction of the house in the mid 19th century.
- 5.2 No archaeological features were observed in the excavated areas. While the existence of individual, isolated archaeological features, away from excavated areas cannot be entirely excluded, it is unlikely that large numbers of archaeological features or artefacts are present on the site. It is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on archaeological remains.
- 5.3 ***Confidence rating***
On-site conditions for the archaeological works were good and the work took place in dry weather. Excellent co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the archaeological works.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by *Russell X Mead*. The writer is grateful to Tom Hopper for his assistance. The project was monitored by the *Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team* on behalf of the local planning authority. Thanks are also due to the on site contractors. The project was managed for ASC by Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip MIFA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert 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. Site Monitoring Sheets
5. Site record drawings
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 *Bedford Museum*.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

- ALGAO 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
- Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team 2011 *Brief for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont. Bedfordshire*. Central Bedfordshire Council
- 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)*.
- Rouse, C 2011 *Project Design for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont. Bedfordshire* ASC Ref: 1402/SSH/1

Secondary Sources

- BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.
- Brown N and Glazebrook J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8.
- Glazebrook J 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3.
- Medleycott M and Brown N 2008 *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*. ALGAO.
- Oake M 2007 "Research Agenda and Strategy" in Oake M, Luke M, Dawson M, Edgeworth M, and Murphey P (2007) *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9, 7-20.
- Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).
- Williams, A and Martin, G.H. 1992 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin: London.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

Project: SEGENHOE House, Segenhoe Ridgmont.		Project No/Code: 1402/SSH	Sheet: 1 of 3
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 7/3/11	
Contact: Tom Hopper		Phone: 07764 479556	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 0830-1000 +	Finish: 1130 -	
Completed by: M.C			
Development Type:			
Footings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: dry and sunny			
Observations: (am) excavation around a current manhole, - 800mm deep 600mm of made ground over natural (baise clay) made ground - brick, tile, slate, blue and white china dark brown silty clay. no cut features or finds. P.T.O + sketch.			
(pm) excavation of footing trenches 1.2m deep/c. 800mm of made ground over natural. modern services + post mod drains no arch			
Comments:			



WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: Segenhoe House Ridgmont		Project No/Code: 1402/SSH	Sheet: 2 of 3
Client/Developer		Date of visit: 9/3/11	
Contact: Tom		Phone: 07764 479556	
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):	Start: 0830 - 1130	Finish: + 1350 - 1440	
Completed by: M.C			
Development Type:			
Footings	Services	Roads	Levelling <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Quarrying
			Pipelines
			Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: dry and overcast.			
Observations: overall ground reflection within the footprint of the development. 450mm of made ground with brick + tile etc. Made ground wasn't breached NO Archaeology. man hole excavated 500mm topsoil over ^{onto} subsoil - mid brown silty clay no arch. 1.5m x 1.0m tile + shingle in base of manhole.			
Comments: return to monitor service runs - probably 10/3/11 Tom will phone			



WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

Project: Segenhoe House		Project No/Code: 1402 / SSH		Sheet: 3 of 3		
Ridgmont		Date of visit: 10/3/11				
Client/Developer						
Contact: Tom			Phone: 07764 479556			
Duration of Visit (inc. travel):		Start: 0830		Finish:		
Completed by: M.C						
Development Type:						
Footings	Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roads	Levelling	Quarrying	Pipelines	Other (specify):
Site & weather conditions: dry + windy						
Observations: Service trench dug from manhole across rear of new build and then up paved to the new build upto the house. gradual climb from manhole - at deepest point its 900mm deep and 500mm topsoil over subsoil, no arch. PTO 4 sketch. 0.5m wide						
Comments: No more visits needed.						

Appendix 2: List of Photographs

SITE NAME: Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire			SITE NO/CODE: 1402/SSH
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		✓	General site shot
2		✓	General site shot
3		✓	General site shot
4		✓	General site shot
5	✓	✓	Foundation trench stratigraphy, 1x2m scale
6		✓	Foundation trench stratigraphy, 1x2m scale
7		✓	Foundation trench stratigraphy, 1x2m scale
8		✓	General site shot
9		✓	General site shot
10		✓	General site shot
11	✓	✓	Ground reduction, 1x2m scale
12		✓	Ground reduction, 1x2m scale
13		✓	Ground reduction, 1x2m scale
14		✓	Ground reduction, 1x2m scale
15		✓	New manhole 1x1m scale
16		✓	Service trench 1x1m scale
17		✓	Service trench 1x1m scale
18		✓	Service trench 1x1m scale

Appendix 3: ASC OASIS Form

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name:	Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire	OASIS reference:	Archaeol2-95775
Short Description:	In March 2011 a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire, during the excavation of footing trenches and associated services, in relation to the extension of the existing house. No deposits or finds of archaeological significance were revealed. However, as the ground works were limited in scope this does not preclude the presence of archaeological remains elsewhere on the site.		
Project Type:	Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording		
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None	Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	None
Current land use:	Gardens	Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	None
Monument type:	None	Monument period:	None
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	None		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County:	Bedfordshire	OS reference: (8 figs min)	SP 9824 3588
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	Russell X Mead, Segenhoe House, Segenhoe, Ridgmont, Bedfordshire,		
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c.50 sq m	Height OD: (metres)	110m OD
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd		
Project brief originator:	Archaeology Team 2011	Project design originator:	Calli Rouse BA PIFA
Project Manager:	Alastair Hancock BSc PgDip MIFA	Director/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert BA PIFA
Sponsor / funding body:	Russell X Mead		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date:	07-03-2011	End date:	10-03-2011
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location (Accession no.)	Content (eg. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical:	Bedford Museum	None	
Paper:		Site records, report, photographs	
Digital:		CD-ROM with copies of all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title:	ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING: SEGENHOE HOUSE, SEGENHOE, RIDGMONT, BEDFORDSHIRE		
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1402/SSH/2		
Author(s):	Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) PIFA		
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