LAND OFF SPRING LANE, YELDEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Document 1999/60
Project SLY594

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Produced for:
Berry Bros and Holmes
On behalf of Mr S and R Clarke

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the Brief and Project Design. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service (BCAS) cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

This report has been prepared by Mike Luke (Project Officer), Matt Edgeworth (Project Supervisor) and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Supervisor). All BCAS projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Project Manager). Joan Lightning undertook digitisation of site plans and produced all illustrations in this report. Earthwork survey was undertaken by Matt Edgeworth assisted by Mike Luke. Trial excavation was supervised by Matt Edgeworth, with investigation and recording undertaken by Ian Beswick and James Goad (Project Technicians). All artefacts were catalogued and analysed by Jackie Wells.

Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service would like to acknowledge the co-operation of Mr Stuart Clarke (the landowner), Nick Bowman (Berry Bros and Holmes) and Martin Oake (County Archaeological Officer).

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Key terms

Throughout this project the following terms or abbreviations are used:

BCAS	Bedfordshire County Archaeology Service
BCC	Bedfordshire County Council
CAO	County Archaeological Officer (of BCC)
Client	Mr Stuart and Richard Clarke
Clients consultant	Berry Bros and Holmes
Project Design	Document: *Archaeological field evaluation of land off Spring Lane, Yielden, Bedfordshire*
The Brief	Document: *Brief for archaeological field evaluation of land off Spring Lane, Yielden, Bedfordshire.*

Structure of report

After the introductory Section 1, this report presents the results of the of the earthwork survey (Section 2) and the trial excavation (Section 3). The preservation and areas of archaeological remains are discussed in Section 4 with an overall chronological synthesis of the results presented in Section 5. The final section of the report discusses the significance of the results in light of known national and regional criteria. The detailed trench descriptions are placed at the back of the textual section of the report (Appendix 1). All figures are bound at the very back of this report.

Non-Technical Summary

The village of Yelden is known from historical sources and the County Council's Historic Environment Record to contain evidence of occupation from the Roman period to the present day. It is perhaps best known for the medieval Motte and Bailey Castle (Scheduled as an Ancient Monument by the Secretary of State) which survives as a major earthwork within the village.

The proposed development area (referred to as the Study Area) at Spring Lane is situated in-between the Castle and the church of St. Marys (a known medieval structure). Although the Study Area is not known to have produced archaeological remains/artefacts, evaluation in 1992 on the land immediately to the east identified Neolithic/Bronze Age deposits and evidence for settlement from the Roman to post-medieval periods.

The evaluation (comprising earthwork survey and trial excavation) was undertaken on the advice of the County Archaeological Officer, in accordance with Local Plan Policy and guidance in PPG 16.

Evaluation demonstrated that remains and artefacts for the following chronological periods survive within the Study Area.

- ***Roman and Saxon** (phase 2)- boundary ditches and pits indicate rural settlement of these periods.*
- ***Saxo-Norman** (phase 3)- a possible ploughsoil probably reflects the location of the Study Area outside the main village during this period. The village boundary appears to survive as an earthwork within the Study Area.*
- ***Medieval** (phase 4)- with the development of Spring Lane during this period the village extended up to St. Marys Church. Boundaries, a building, pits and unspecific burning related activity were identified.*
- ***Late medieval** (phase 5)- an extensive deposit of possible ploughsoil may reflect a return to agriculture associated with the "shrinking" of the village.*
- ***Modern** (phase 6)- the surviving earthworks south of the Study Area were shown to be mainly the result of natural springs. These may have formed hollows from the Roman period, but there was an attempt to infill these in the last 200 years. A similar spring/pond survives on the opposite side of Spring Lane.*

Trial excavation demonstrated archaeological remains are likely to be found over the whole development area. The preservation of both archaeological features including more vulnerable types such as posthole and surfaces and artefacts including pottery, ceramic building material and iron was good. Animal bone is preserved and there is some potential for ecofactual information (charred remains).

Although the remains are not of schedulable quality, they do have the potential to address a number of national and regional research aims. Yelden is one of the few villages in Bedfordshire where it is possible to demonstrate almost continuous occupation from the Roman period to the modern day.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

Planning permission is being sought for the development of this site. The *CAO* of *BCC* advised prior to application that the area was archaeologically sensitive (Brief section 1.3). In accordance with Local Plan Policy HA1a, the Borough Council required sufficient information to evaluate the importance of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. This is in line with guidance contained in PPG 16 *Archaeology and Planning*. In order to assess the archaeological implications of the proposed scheme a *Brief* was issued by the *CAO* for a staged Archaeological Field Evaluation.

On 6th September 1999 *BCAS* were appointed by The Client to undertake this evaluation which would comprise earthwork survey and trial excavation.

This report presents the results of the evaluation and the archaeological significance of the discovered archaeological remains.

1.2 Site location (Fig. 1)

The development area (here after referred to as the Study Area) is situated in the centre of the village of Yelden (also spelled Yielden), near the Bedfordshire-Northamptonshire border. The Study Area is bounded to the west by Spring Lane, Church Cottage and Chichely Cottage, to the north by the access road to Highcroft and to the east by a fence bounding the properties adjacent to High Street. It is 0.25 ha in extent centred on TL 0117/6708.

Topographically the Study Area is on the west bank of the upper reaches of the River Til at a height of 65m AOD. The land in the vicinity is therefore generally rising to the north and west and dropping to the south and east.

The underlying geology of the area is Oxford Clay with localised deposits of sand and gravel.

During the field evaluation the Study Area was mainly grassland with barns/outbuildings in the north-west corner. The land is relatively flat to the east of Chichely Cottage but there is a marked slope to the south.

1.3 Archaeological background (Fig. 1)

BCC has a catalogue of archaeological sites and historic buildings, the Historic Environment Record (HER), in which all known discoveries in Bedfordshire are recorded. Although the Study Area contains earthworks, indicative of archaeological remains, it has not produced any other archaeological remains. The adjacent area is known to contain evidence for human activity from prehistoric periods onwards.

The Study Area is situated between the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Yelden Castle and associated enclosures (HER 341), and the parish church of St Mary the Virgin (HER 1154). The latter is predominantly a 13th-14th

Century building and has recently been the subject of an archaeological watching brief (BCAS 1999b).

An archaeological field evaluation (BCCAS 1992) of the land immediately to the east revealed a long sequence of occupation (HER 15618). The earliest phase of activity was an extensive soil layer containing late Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts. A number of Roman features may relate to a Roman villa located 450m to the north-west (HER 340). The 1992 evaluation produced Saxon and medieval structural remains including buildings, and a road or courtyard. There was also post-medieval activity represented by a waterlogged wooden structure.

1.4 Project objectives

The *Brief* states that the Study Area is archaeologically sensitive but that insufficient information is available to assess the impact of the development. Therefore the following information is required from the field evaluation.

- The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that are present (Brief 4.3.1).

- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that are present (Brief 4.3.2).

1.5 Overall method statement

A detailed method statement accompanies the results of each of the investigative methods utilised during this field evaluation. Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* have been adhered to. Also those standards outlined in the BCAS *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records* (1996), the IFA Code of Conduct, English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (1993) were adhered to.

The Brief originally proposed three stages of evaluation (earthwork survey, geophysical survey and trial excavation). However, due to the presence of upstanding buildings and a metal fence, the effective area suitable for geophysical survey would have been insufficient to produce meaningful results. This was discussed with the *CAO* at an early stage and an alternative option of increased contingency trenching was detailed in the Project Design. The CAO accepted this revision and approved the Project Design.

2. EARTHWORK SURVEY

2.1 *Introduction*

Undulations in the ground surface often reflect underlying archaeological remains. These are frequently interpreted as boundary features for example ditches and banks, or agricultural features such as furrows. Earthworks were known to be present within the Study Area and therefore the *Brief* required an earthwork survey (Brief 5.4).

2.2 *Method statement*

1. A grid was established over the Study Area at 10m intervals based on the national OS co-ordinates. During the laying out an initial inspection was made of the surviving earthworks.
2. A plan of the earthworks was produced at a scale of 1:200, including hachure representations of the top and bottom of features. The position of the perimeter of the Study Area was measured.
3. Approximately 76 OD spot heights were recorded over the Study Area. These were taken at key points as well as to provide an overall impression of the ground level.
4. A south-west to north-east profile was undertaken perpendicular to the main earthworks.
5. Sufficient digital photographs were made of the earthworks.
6. Each earthwork was assigned a letter and described.

2.3 *Summary* (Fig. 2)

Earthworks were mainly visible at the southern end of the Study Area. These comprised three steep inclines **A, B** and **C** aligned approximately north-west to south-east. They had the appearance of terraces with a 0.7m change of height (Fig. 4). Towards the north-west there is less regularity in the inclines, but they appear to be turning to the south-west. These were originally interpreted as the result of human activity. However, the results of the trial excavation suggest they may be a natural phenomenon (see section 3.5.7 for discussion).

A steep slope in the ground (**D**) adjacent and parallel to the present Spring Lane on the south-west limit of the Study Area was also identified. This may be the result of weathering and erosion within the pre-tarmac routeway forming a "hollow way". A similar steep slope (**E**) exists in relation to the present field boundary on the eastern limit of the Study Area. This may suggest this boundary was in existence for a long period of time.

The majority of the remainder of the Study Area was fairly flat, with a slight upwards slope to the north-west.

3. TRIAL EXCAVATION

3.1 Introduction

Trial excavation was undertaken between 27th September and 1st October in wet conditions with, at times, heavy showers. A total of three trenches were opened and investigated. Details of all trenches and the deposits/features they contained are recorded in Appendix 1 at the end of this report.

3.2 The initial trench strategy (Fig. 2)

The trench strategy was determined by the results of the earthwork survey and the need to provide an even coverage of the Study Area. Prior to commencement of fieldwork the strategy was approved by the CAO (23rd September). Trenches were positioned for the following reasons:

Tr. No	Investigative reason	Length
1	The terrace-like earthwork to the south	25m
2	Flat area c. 10m to east of terrace C.	25m
3	Provide coverage of remainder of Study Area.	30m

Table 1: Initial trench strategy

3.3 Contingency trenching

The initial trial trenches provided sufficient information to address the project objectives. Therefore, no contingency trenches were required by the CAO or the Client.

3.4 Method statement

- All aspects of trial excavation were undertaken in accordance with the Brief and approved Project Design for the evaluation.
- The location of all trenches were marked out on the ground in advance of machining.
- The trenches were opened with a mechanical JCB excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching blade, operating under archaeological supervision.
- Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first.
- Topsoil and subsoil were stockpiled separately on either side of the open trenches. Backfilling took place in reverse order with deposits being compacted with the bucket of the JCB.
- Trenches were approximately 1.7m wide and between 20 and 30m in length. No excavation took place below 1.2m.
- Archaeological features/deposits were cleaned along with at least one side of each trench.

- Recording took place on pro-formae sheets.
- Trenches were numbered in the order they were opened.
- All archaeological deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100.
- Each trench was issued a unique block of recording numbers in a continuous sequence. Therefore feature [120],a posthole, is located in trench 1, context (214), a fill of a pit, is located in trench 2, etc.
- No human remains were encountered.
- Spoil was scanned for artefacts by both eye and metal detector.
- Artefacts, including those recovered from spoil heaps, were assigned to the relevant context number for the trench.
- Environmental samples were taken from deposits which appeared to contain charred remains or had the potential to be waterlogged.
- All trenches were inspected by the *CAO* prior to being backfilled.

3.5 *Results of the trial excavation* (Fig. 3)

A total of 80 contexts were investigated within the three trenches. These comprised 43 archaeological features, 29 of which were of the "cut" type. Table 2 summarises the feature types by trench. Appendix 1 provides detailed descriptions of contexts arranged by trench.

Trench	Finds	Ditches	Gullies	Posthole	Pit	Surfaces	Spring/ pond
1	Y	1	1	3	3	1	1
2	Y		1	7 (1 slot)	3 (incl. 1 animal grave)		
3	Y	3			3		

Table 2: Feature summary by trench

In the following discussion, the results of the trial excavation have been grouped into broad stratigraphic phases. These reflect the relationship features/deposits have with other features/deposits. The longitudinal trench sections (Fig. 4) illustrate this. The discussion commences with the earliest deposits (the natural) and finishes with the latest (the topsoil).

Each phase has been assigned to a broad, and approximate, chronological period based on the artefact assemblage (Table 5). Within each stratigraphic phase, the features are discussed by type and mention is made of any dating evidence.

3.5.1 PHASE 1: natural deposits

Natural deposits (102), (211), and (304) were encountered at depths of between 0.5 and 0.8m. In areas where archaeological feature/deposits were identified during machining the natural was only observed in the sides of

excavated features. Generally the natural was a compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay with patches of gravel and silt. However, in trench 1, a solid grey clay was observed in the base of feature [106].

Within trenches 1 and 2 the upper surface of the natural deposits was clearly sloping to the east and south respectively (Fig. 4). In the case of trench 1 this appeared to correspond to a change from sandy gravel to a clay.

3.5.2 PHASE 2: Roman and Saxon unspecified activity

Features assigned to this phase were identified truncating the natural and sealed beneath the phase 3 ploughsoil (103, 223 and 303).

Boundaries

Gulley [104] had been truncated by later activity and it is therefore difficult to determine whether it functioned as a boundary or structural feature. It was only 0.08m deep and was aligned south-west to north-east. The edge of a more substantial ditch [317] was located to the north of trench 3. This was at least 1.3m wide, 0.45m deep and was aligned south-west to north-east (Fig. 3). The alignment would correspond with a ditch observed in trench 5 of the 1992 evaluation suggesting it was a major boundary extending for over 40m.

Pits

The gently sloping side of a large feature [124] was identified to the south of trench 1. Its predominate fill was a firm dark brown sandy silt (125), which contained one large sherd of Roman pottery. Two fired clay deposits (126) and (127) overalaid this towards the south-west of the trench. These were dipping from north to south and appeared to have been dumped rather than being *in-situ* structures, such as hearths. Deposit (126) contained a sherd of Saxon pottery.

A small pit [122] was truncated by the larger feature [124] indicating it was earlier in date. It was filled by a fairly homogenous deposit which contained flecks of charcoal but no datable material.

3.5.3 PHASE 3: Saxo-Norman (?) ploughsoil

A uniform dark grey brown layer (103), (223) and (303), was observed in all three trenches. It was up to 0.20m thick, although in some areas, noticeably the south, it only survived as a shallow spread if at all. Its uniform nature and even distribution of stones suggests it may be a ploughsoil. A single small sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery and a small fragment of late medieval tile was recovered (223).

3.5.4 PHASE 4: medieval settlement

Archaeological features were observed truncating the phase 3 layers and therefore machining generally stopped at this level. These had not been observed at a higher level and the trench sections showed they were sealed by the phase 5 layers.

Boundaries

Ditch [309] was orientated north-west to south-east and was 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 3). The base and sides of this ditch showed evidence of *in-situ* burning. Its lower fill (311) included fired clay fragments and the upper fill (310) burnt stones and unburnt animal bone. This clearly reflects the utilisation of the ditch hollow after its primary function had become less important. The pits [307, 312 and 314] all contained similar deposits and are likely to be contemporary. No dateable artefacts were forthcoming from this group of features.

A similarly aligned ditch [305] was partially investigated at the south of trench 3. It is possible this forms the continuation of the boundary ditch located in trench 6 of the 1992 evaluation. It was filled by a deposit (306) which contained flecks of charcoal and fired clay.

Post-built building and other structural remains

Five postholes [217], [219], [221], [226] and [228] may represent the wall of a building continuing to the north of trench 2. These formed a north-west to south-east alignment, 6m in length, with posts approximately spaced every 1m. The postholes vary in diameter between 0.3m and 0.56, and are less than 0.4m in depth (for example Fig. 3 section 7). The deposits filling the postholes contained charcoal flecks but no evidence for packing or a postpipe. It may be significant that slot [230] (Fig. 5 section 9) occurs within the eastern half of a 2m wide gap between [221] and [226]. Although posthole [226] appeared to truncate this slot it is possible this, along with the slot, represent part of the door arrangements.

The postholes to the east clearly truncate the phase 3 ploughsoil (223), however this layer is absent to the west and these postholes directly truncate the natural (211). All are sealed by the phase 5 layer (201) but no dateable artefacts were retrieved.

Although interpreted as a pit, feature [224] is located in the vicinity of the possible doorway and may therefore be related to this building (Fig. 5 section 9). Posthole [215], although off the alignment to the north-west, may also be associated. Its fill (216) contained a tiny sherd of Roman pottery. This is truncated by a shallow pit [213] which may also be associated with the building (Fig. 3 section 6).

Pits

Three pits [307, 312 and 314] were identified in the northern half of trench 3 which may be contemporary with the building south of boundary ditch [305].

They were less than 1m in diameter and only 0.4m deep (for example Fig. 5 section 2 and 3). The sides and base of pit [314] showed evidence of *in-situ* burning comparable to that identified within ditch [309]. All the pits contained a similar dark grey brown silty clay fill with flecks of charcoal, burnt clay and unburnt animal bone.

Surface ?

In the south of trench 3 a layer of small stones (302) was identified with frequent flecks of charcoal and two sherds of Saxon pottery. Although insubstantial this layer may represent an external surface. It sealed ditch [305] and separated the phase 3 and 5 ploughsoils. It is therefore only discussed here for convenience.

3.5.5 PHASE 2 or 4: Boundary and structural features of uncertain phase

A number of features were identified in areas where the phase 3 layers were absent. These therefore truncated the natural and were sealed by phase 5 layers. Due to their uncertain assignment they are discussed separately but could be contemporary with either phase 2 or 4.

Boundaries

Ditch [116] was orientated north-west to south-east, 0.7m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig. 3). Its fill appeared to have been truncated by square pit [118]. However the fills of both features were very similar, although ditch fill (117) contained fired clay.

A shallow gully [202] aligned south-west to north-east was located at the west end of trench 2. Although it was heavily truncated its alignment would be perpendicular to all other boundary features.

Structural

Situated approximately 3.5m north-west of the phase 4 posthole alignment was an isolated posthole [210]. The similarity in the dimensions and fill of this suggests it may be associated.

The proximity of postholes [112 and 120] to each other and their similarity in dimensions and form suggests these are associated (Fig. 5 section 15). A large oval posthole [114] with near vertical sides, over 0.3m in depth may also be associated. Its fill (115) contained flecks of charcoal and two sherds of middle Saxon pottery.

Pits

Pit [206] was 1.1m in diameter and only 0.33m deep. Its main fill (208) contained a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery and small amounts of animal bone and fired clay. Its upper fill (207) contained 3 sherds of Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery. Its fill was however root disturbed. The adjacent large pit-like feature [234] was investigated and is likely to be a tree-throw hollow.

Animal burial

An articulated dog skeleton (209) was found within oval pit [204] towards the

west end of trench 2. The only artefact from the fill was the tip of a metal blade (ra 1) found in the vicinity of its ribs. This feature was situated in the middle of the trench and was therefore not observed directly underlying phase 5 deposits. It is possible this is a relatively modern feature (see section 3.7.1).

3.5.6 PHASE 5: late medieval ploughsoil (?)

Directly underlying the topsoil in all trenches was a mid greyish brown silty clay layer (101, 201 and 301). This was generally 0.3m thick, although was thinner within the central part of trench 2. Its uniform nature and even distribution of small stones suggests it may be a ploughsoil. Although machine excavated the spoil was separated from the topsoil and scanned for artefacts. A relatively large pottery assemblage (19 sherds) was recovered. These date from the Saxon to post-medieval periods. Due to the method of collection it is uncertain how reliable artefacts from the latter periods should be treated.

3.5.7 PHASE 6: modern activity

Features assigned to this phase were located below the topsoil but truncated the phase 5 ploughsoil.

Spring/pond

Trench 1 was dominated by the large feature [106]. This was 13m long with concave sides and an uneven base (Fig. 3). The main deposit (109) within this was a grey brown silty clay and contained a number of post-medieval artefacts. This was sealed by cobbles (110) and a clay layer (111) both of which produced sherds of modern china. These are likely to have been deposited to consolidate the soft ground surface.

This is clearly a natural feature corresponding to earthworks **A, B** and **C** associated with the spring line. Water was noted welling up from the ground in this area during the excavation. It is possible for some period of time it formed a pond. Its north side appeared to truncate the phase 5 ploughsoil (101), although given the likely origin it is probable the situation is more complex. The two deposits at the north (107 and 108) were different from the main fill containing less clay. The latter contained a sherd of Roman pottery. These may indicate the spring/pond originally developed during the Roman period.

3.5.8 PHASE 7: Topsoil

Topsoil consisted of a loose dark brown sandy silt, fairly uniformily 0.3-0.35m in depth across the study area.

3.6 Artefact assemblage

3.6.1 Introduction

The trial excavations produced an artefactual assemblage comprising mainly pottery, animal bone and fired clay (Table 3). All artefacts collected were processed in accordance with the *Brief* and *Project Design*. The material was scanned to ascertain the nature, condition and, where possible, date range of the artefact types present.

Tr.	Context	Feature	Spotdate**	Pottery	Animal bone	Fired clay	Other finds	Phase
				sherd:wt	*frag:wt*	*frag:wt*		
1	100	100	modern				CBM (27g), flint (18g),	7
							vessel glass (8g)	
	101	101	modern	5:79	1:3	1:5	CBM* (15g)	5
	108	106	Roman	1:8			flint (3g)	6
	109	106	post-med	8:46	6:77	1:77	CBM (24g), clay pipe (2g)	6
	111	106	post-med	4:60	1:3		fe nail (2g)	6
	115	114	mid-Saxon	2:18	8:14			4?
	117	116	-			17:222		6
	125	124	Roman	1:236				2
	126	124	Saxon	1:38				2
2	200	200	medieval	2:57				7
	201	201	Saxo-Norm	4:65		1:125	CBM (87g)	5
	205	204	-				fe knife blade (RA 1)	4?
	207	206	medieval	4:18	9:27	2:45		4?
	208	206	Saxo-Norm	1:23	1:1	2:46		4?
	209	204	-		101:979			4?
	216	215	Roman	1:2				4?
	223	223	late med	1:4			CBM (43g)	3
	225	224	-		3:210			4
3	300	300	medieval	12:189			flint (24g)	7
	301	301	medieval	10:71				5
	302	302	Saxon	2:16	1:4			4
	308	307	-		2:9			4
	310	309	-		9:317			4
	315	314	-		4:58			4
Total				**59:929**	**146:1702**	**29:520**		

CBM = ceramic building material CBM* = Roman tile RA = registered artefact
** = this is based on the nature and date of all artefacts from the context

Table 3: Artefact Assemblage by Trench and Context (weight in grammes)

3.6.2 Ceramics

Pottery

A total of 59 sherds, weighing 929g was recovered. These were examined by context. Nineteen fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by BCAS. Fabrics are listed below (Table 4) in approximate chronological order. Bracketed figures represent sherd number, and bracketed italics denote vessels of regional (*r*) or continental (*c*) origin. Quantification was carried out using minimum sherd count and weight.

Fabric type	Sherd no.	Common name
Roman (*c.* AD 100-350)		
Type R13	1	Shelly ware
Type R08	1	Black micaceous
Type R01	1	Samian ware (*c*)
Early-middle Saxon (*c.* AD 400-850)		
Type A16	3	Mixed Coarse Quartz
Middle Saxon (*c.* AD 650-850)		
Type A08	1	Ipswich ware
Type A11	1	Maxey-type
Saxo-Norman (*c.* AD 850-1150)		
Type B01	8	St Neots-type ware
Type B01A	1	St Neots-type (orange)
Type C12	2	Stamford ware (*r*)
Medieval (*c.* AD 1150-1400)		
Type C	5	Non-specific medieval wares
Type B07	8	Shelly ware
Type C67	1	Mixed inclusions
Type B09	2	Lyveden/Stanion type (*r*)
Late medieval (*c.* AD 1400-1500)		
Type E02	3	Late medieval oxidised
Post-medieval/modern (*c.* AD 1500-		
Type P01	6	Fine glazed red earthenware
Type P48	2	English stoneware
Type P37	1	White salt-glazed stoneware
Type P38	5	Creamware
Type P45	1	Transfer-printed Ware
UNID	6	Unidentified ware

Note. see Appendix 2 for details of pottery type by context

Table 4: Pottery type series

Pottery was recovered from all trenches, the majority (485g) deriving from Trench 1. However, approximately 53% of all material derived from the phase 5 ploughsoil and modern topsoil.

The pottery dates from the Roman to post-medieval periods. This timespan is consistent with the ceramic assemblage recovered from the adjacent evaluation (BCCAS 1992).

Roman

Two of the three sherds identified are probably residual within spring/pond [106] and pit [124]. The third was unassociated with other finds and derived from the fill of posthole [215].

Fabric types are of local and continental origin, comprising a shell tempered storage jar from Harrold, north Bedfordshire, and an undiagnostic Gaulish samian import. A sherd of rouletted beaker in reduced micaceous fabric was also noted.

Saxon

Three sand tempered sherds dating to the early-middle Saxon period derive from external surface (302) and phase 5 ploughsoil (201). The latter yielded an undiagnostic, burnished sherd of probable middle Saxon date. This has been identified as Ipswich ware by Dr. Ailsa Mainman (York Archaeological Trust). Although Ipswich ware is known from Bedfordshire (e.g. Bedford itself and Stratton, near Biggleswade), its occurrence is rare. Interestingly, the sherd from Yelden is finer and smoother in appearance than those hitherto identified in the county.

A single, abraded sherd of shell tempered middle-Saxon Maxey-type ware was recovered from posthole [114].

No diagnostic forms are present among the Saxon material.

Saxo-Norman

Eleven sherds of Saxo-Norman date were identified, those from phase 2/4 pit fill(208) and phase 3 ploughsoil (223) may be *in-situ*. While those from phase 5 ploughsoil (101) (201) and (301) are residual. Fabric types represent cooking and tablewares, in the form of St Neots-type vessels and Stamford ware, the latter a regional import from Lincolnshire. Diagnostic forms are restricted to a St Neots-type everted rim jar.

Medieval

The bulk of the medieval pottery derives from the phase 5 ploughsoil (301) and topsoil (200 and 300). Undiagnostic shell tempered vessels of 12th-13th century date are the predominant type, with a single sherd of mixed type C67 and Northamptonshire import Lyveden/Stanion comprising the remainder.

Ceramic Building Material

Ceramic building material weighing 196g was recovered. The majority comprise sand tempered flat roof tiles and brick fragments of late/post-medieval date. A single unstratified fragment of shell tempered Roman *tegula* (15g) was identified from the phase 5 ploughsoil (101) trench 1.

Fired Clay

Twenty-nine fragments of fired clay (17 from soil sample residues), weighing 520g were identified. These derive from deposits containing Saxon, Saxo-Norman and medieval pottery in Trenches 1 and 2. All fragments are hard fired in an oxidised sand tempered fabric. Those pieces from ditch [116] and pit [206] retain surfaces, edges and wattle impressions (*c.* 11mm diameter), and clearly represent structural daub.

3.6.3 Non-Ceramics

Flint

Three residual fragments of worked flint, weighing 45g were recovered. Two core fragments derive from topsoil (100) and (300), and a retouched/utilised flake from the fill of spring/pond [106]. The flake is retouched from the dorsal surface at the distal end, the ventral surface at the proximal end, and has use damage along one edge. The unstratified core fragments are patinated and shows signs of edge damage. The flake, however, survives in good condition.

3.6.4 Artefact summary by phase

Phase	Date*	Pottery	Animal bone	Fired clay	Other finds
		sherd:wt	*frag:wt*	*frag:wt*	
7	modern	14:246			CBM (27g), flint (42g)
6	post-medieval	13:114	7:80	23:299	CBM (24g),flint (3g), clay pipe (2g), fe nail (2g)
5	medieval?	19:215	1:3	2:130	CBM (102g)
4?	medieval?	8:61	113:1014	4:91	fe knife blade (RA 1)
4	medieval	2:16	18:598		
3	Saxo-Norman	1:4			CBM (43g)
2	Roman/Saxon	2:274			
Total		**59:929**	**146:1702**	**29:520**	-

* approximate date of the phase based on artefactual and stratigraphic evidence

Table 5: Summary of artefactual evidence by phase

The artefact assemblage from Phase 2 features is small, but does appear to be uncontaminated and indicates Roman or Saxon activity. A single sherd of Saxon-Norman pottery was recovered from phase 3. Phase 4 deposits produced undated artefacts but stratigraphically could be medieval in date. The presence of medieval material within the mixed artefact assemblage from phases 5 and 6 supports this dating.

3.7 Ecofactual evidence

3.7.1 Animal Bone

One hundred and forty fragments of animal bone, weighing 1.7kg were recovered. A further 7g were derived from soil sample residues. The majority of the assemblage (979g) comprises the articulated skeleton of a dog, recovered from [204] trench 2. The skeleton cannot be accurately dated. Differences in colour and condition between the bones of this skeleton and the remainder of the assemblage suggest it may be more recent in date than it phase assignment suggests. A fragment of iron knife blade (ra 1) found with the skeleton cannot be dated.

The remainder of the assemblage occurs as single fragments with the exception of spring/pond [106] and layers (Table 3). The bone survives in reasonable condition, with some surface erosion. Diagnostic fragments include long bone, rib and vertebrae fragments, which cannot be identified to species. A fragmentary mandible of sheep / goat is also present.

3.7.2 Environmental Sampling

Five soil samples were taken (Table 6). These were processed in accordance with the Procedures Manual. Soil samples were disaggregated in water and the charred material (flot) collected on a 500μ mesh. All flots were dried, catalogued and curated. The 5.6mm residue fraction were sorted for artefacts and discarded. Other residue fractions (1mm and 2mm) were dried, catalogued and curated.

Sample No	Volume	Context	Feature	Reason for sample	Charred remains	Seeds	Phase
1	8l	225	224	charcoal-rich deposit	moderate	-	4
2	8l	316	314	burnt deposit	moderate	-	4
3	8l	108	106	water filled feature	very sparse	-	6
4	8l	115	114	water filled feature	very sparse	-	4?
5	8l	117	116	water filled feature	very sparse	-	6

Table 6: *Summary of Environmental Samples*

Phase 4 Samples 1 and 2 produced a moderate quantity of wood charcoal, although no seeds were present. The remainder yielded little material, despite the presence of water. It is likely the fluctuation in the water table has prevented the preservation of plant or insect remains.

4. AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND LEVEL OF PRESERVATION

The significance of the identified archaeological remains within the planning process is partly dependent on their distribution within the development area and their quality of preservation.

4.1 Areas of archaeological remains

Archaeological features and deposits were identified within all three trenches. The distribution of these suggests that there are no significant gaps between the archaeological remains.

4.2 Preservation of the archaeological remains

The level of preservation can be assessed based on the nature of the survival of archaeological features and artefacts/ecofacts.

4.2.1 Archaeological features

The survival of archaeological features is dependent on the nature and intensity of previous landuse, especially ploughing. Although larger features such as ditches and pits often survive the most intensive-farming regime, it is the smaller and relatively more fragile features such as postholes and hearths, which are often truncated or destroyed completely. The presence and dimensions of these provide the best indication of the quality of archaeological survival.

Within the Study Area a range of archaeological features are present. These include the larger types such as ditches and pits, but also the smaller gully and postholes. A number of the postholes in trench 2 were only 0.3m in diameter and 0.08m deep. This suggests that although the smaller features do survive they have been truncated by ploughing in antiquity. The possible surface in trench 3 is significant as this type of feature only rarely survives.

It is likely that the brick buildings to the north-west of the Study Area will have truncated, at the very least, archaeological features/deposits within their footings.

4.2.2 Artefact and ecofact assemblage

The survival of artefacts and ecofacts can also be affected by former landuse and the nature of the soil (specifically acidity). Although less vulnerable material such as ceramics and stone frequently survive, animal bone and metal can easily be destroyed.

Although the majority of the assemblage comprised ceramic material (pottery and tile) which are durable, other material such as animal bone, fired clay and metal also survived. This suggests the preservation of artefacts is good. The five environmental samples produced evidence of charred plant remains indicating the potential for seeds (although none were present). A number of samples were taken from the wetter, potentially "waterlogged" deposits. However, these indicated these deposits did not contain waterlogged material.

5. CHRONOLOGICAL SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

The following synthesis incorporates relevant data from the adjacent 1992 investigation. It is presented in chronological order based on the stratigraphic evidence and the artefactual assemblage.

5.1 Prehistoric

Three flint artefacts were recovered from deposits, which also contained later artefacts, within trenches 1 and 3. These are therefore residual, but may suggest prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts were recovered from the 1992 evaluation. Those from trench 5 were apparently found *in-situ* within a layer interpreted as a possible old ground surface. This was truncated by Roman features. The present evaluation did not locate such a deposit, which if identified correctly, may have only survived under earthworks present within the 1992 Investigation Area.

5.2 Roman

One of the three sherds of Roman pottery was substantial and indicates domestic activity was probably located in the vicinity during this period. Although it is likely that all sherds were residual within later features, one sherd derived from one of the distinct deposits to the north of the spring/pond [106]. This may suggest the spring originated during this period. A small sherd from the possible post-built building is likely to be residual. One sherd was a continental import (samian ware), but the others more local in origin. Based on stratigraphic evidence, the boundary ditch [317] to the north of trench 3 is likely to be of Roman date. This would continue the alignment of a similar ditch encountered within the 1992 trench 5. Other activity in this phase is represented by a gulley and pit in trench 1. The large area of deposits at the south of this trench could represent a large pit, but is more likely to be associated with the spring line.

Roman activity identified in the 1992 evaluation comprised boundary ditches, gullies, postholes, a possible timber slot and pits. These were concentrated within the trenches immediately to the east of the present Study Area. It was suggested (BCCAS 1992) that this activity might be associated with the Roman villa (HER 340) located c. 500m to the west. However, based on the present evidence it is more likely to represent a Roman farmstead, situated in the vicinity of the spring.

5.3 Saxon

Three early-middle Saxon pottery sherds were recovered including imports from Ipswich and Maxey. Except for the sherd within the upper fill of the possible pit to the south of trench 1, all are residual. Saxon features could therefore not be distinguished from Roman, although the presence of pottery and burnt deposits suggests occupation was located in the vicinity.

Apparently more extensive Saxon activity was identified within the 1992

evaluation. This included ditches, gullies, pits and postholes with packing, suggestive of buildings. It is likely such a settlement was positioned to take advantage of the higher ground adjacent to a spring.

5.4 Saxo-Norman

The pottery assemblage of this period includes locally produced St Neots ware and regional imports from Stamford. These are principally residual finds within later features/deposits. The quantity (11) is suggestive of occupation in the vicinity. Given its stratigraphic position above Roman features, the possible ploughsoil may date to this period.

The 1992 evaluation identified ditches, gullies, possible buildings and a possible courtyard assigned to the 10-11th Century.

Domesday records that a settlement at Yelden was in existence before 1086 when it was rated at ten hides. Allen Brown (1989, 236 and fig. 64) believed earthworks visible on 1972 aerial photographs indicated that a planned village, laid out along the south-west to north-east high street, was in existence before the castle was built. The 1972 aerial photograph shows two linear earthwork boundaries *c.* 100m north-west and *c.* 200m south-east of and parallel to the main street. These are still partially visible today (see Fig. 1). That to the north-west would include earthwork E identified at the eastern limit of the present Study Area. An arrangement of house plots adjacent to the main street with agricultural plots behind are visible in-between these boundaries. It is therefore likely that the present Study Area is located immediately outside of the Saxo-Norman settlement, hence the ploughsoil. This may also explain the presence of buildings within the 1992 evaluation.

5.5 Medieval

Locally produced shell tempered pottery dominates the medieval assemblage with only a single import from Lyveden/Stanion. The identification of boundary ditches, a post-built building and pits indicates medieval settlement occurred within the Study Area. Although the boundaries follow the same alignment as the earlier Roman ditch this merely reflects the slope of the ground. Despite the presence of one small sherd of Roman pottery from the fill of a posthole, it is likely on stratigraphic evidence that the building dates to this period. It is uncertain what function the burning activity identified to the north of trench 3 served.

Medieval activity identified within the 1992 evaluation comprised ditches, pits and structural features. The pilaster shaft recovered from these investigations indicates the presence of a high status building presumably within the castle complex.

Although Beresford and St Joseph (1979, 156) believed that Yelden castle was built by 1173-4, Allen Brown (1989) believes the original castle may have been erected shortly after the Norman Conquest. The surviving earthworks today comprise a motte and two irregularly shaped baileys. The castle was built over part of five existing crofts. A similar occurrence was observed at

Burwell, Cambridgeshire where the mid 12th Century castle was constructed within an earlier settlement (Taylor 1974, Fig. 58).

It is uncertain if there is any significance to the apparent continuation of the castle's outer earthwork in the line of both Spring Lane and Church lane. The area enclosed would be similar in size and shape to that of the castle, extending as far as the church of St. Marys. Whatever the interpretation it is clear that Spring Lane does not respect the western boundary of the Saxo-Norman settlement. The Study Area would therefore be part of the main medieval settlement from this time.

Spring Lane may therefore have originally been a boundary earthwork, part of which is indicated by **D**, possibly fed by the springs located within the present Study Area. However, it is also possible it originated as a routeway to the church becoming a sunken lane over time due to both the action of traffic and erosion by water.

5.6 Post-medieval

Apart from the attempts at infilling/stabilising the spring/pond features there was no other evidence for activity within the trenches. The cottages to the west of the Study Area are visible on the 1842 Tithe Map, although the farm buildings in the north-west corner are only clearly visible on the OS 1st Edition map. The 1992 evaluation identified 17th Century activity including a preserved wooden structure and waterlogged deposits immediately adjacent to the High Street.

6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULTS

6.1 *The assessment of archaeological remains within the planning process*

The CAO's *Brief* specifically forbids this report discussing the potential implications for the development of any archaeological remains discovered during the evaluation. However, a discussion of the significance of the remains in terms of their national and regional archaeological research frameworks is appropriate.

Although archaeological remains are now a material consideration in the planning process, there is no single, "easy-to-use" guide to assessing the importance of a particular archaeological site.

A limited number of nationally important archaeological sites have been given the status of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) to indicate their exceptional type, nature and state of preservation. The Study Area is located 150m to the west of the Scheduled Monument of the castle.

With the issuing of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16; Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)* central government accepted the view that archaeological remains should be regarded as a finite, non-renewable resource, and that there should be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of nationally important remains (whether Scheduled or not). The Bedford Borough Local Plan policy HA1 adopted this view. The case for the preservation of archaeological remains *in-situ* must be assessed based on the significance of the remains. The creation of an archaeological record, through the mechanism of archaeological fieldwork, was indicated to be the second best option and a similar view was adopted in Local Plan policy HA2.

Central government, though English Heritage, addressed the issue of national research needs with the publication of *Exploring our past* in 1991 and a draft Research Agenda in 1997. The latter contains a number of research agendas, against which the archaeological resource of an area may be assessed.

On a more regional level, the County Archaeologists of East Anglia have published the first volume in a research framework for the eastern counties (Glazebrook 1997). Although this document covers the adjacent counties of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, it does not specifically consider Bedfordshire. Nevertheless, topographical and historical similarities (at regional level) between these counties make the document a useful tool for assessing the significance of the archaeological remains within the Study Area.

6.2 Assessment of the significance of the archaeological remains within the Study Area (Roman and Saxon)

The Roman artefacts and remains within the Study Area comprise ditches and isolated features suggestive of low density rural settlement. Although the latter has been identified by English Heritage and for the Eastern Counties as the key to the understanding the economic, social and political structures of rural England. Despite the location of a villa 500m west the Study Area only has low potential to address this aim.

Saxon artefacts and remains are also only present in small numbers. However, the presence of imported Ipswich (?) ware suggests the settlement during this period may have been of a relatively high status. English Heritage have suggested the 7th Century represents a fundamental period of change both with the introduction of Christianity and the re-location of settlements known as the "Middle Saxon shuffle" (English Heritage 1999, 43). The Study Area is located within a known Saxo-Norman village, adjacent to the church suggesting it may have moderate significance for this period.

6.3 Assessment of the significance of the archaeological remains within the Study Area (Saxo-Norman and medieval)

Yelden is recorded in Domesday and when the castle was constructed a planned settlement was already in existence. The Study Area is situated in a key location, adjacent to but outside the boundary of the Saxo-Norman settlement, and within an arc of the expanded medieval settlement. The presence of a possible ploughsoil adds to the potential of the Study Area to address regional and national research aims, such as the reorganisation of the landscape and field systems (English Heritage 1991, 37, 39). A medieval post built building was identified and burning related activity. The archaeological remains and artefacts therefore have a good potential to address regional and national research aims for this period.

7. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARIES BY TRENCH

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 26.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.6 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0116967059 Ref. 2: TL0115967035

Reason for trench: Investigate "terrace-like" earthworks in south of Study Area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☒	☒
101	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones. First 'uniform layer'. Contains a number of finds, inc. pottery.	☒	☒
102	Natural strata	Compact mid yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small stones. Contains patches of mid brown silt.	☐	☒
103	Ploughsoil	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones. Second subsoil, only surviving in north as a shallow spread, reappearing in south of trench.	☒	☐
104	**Gulley**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.08m, max length 1.m. Base of shallow gulley.**	☒	☐
105	Fill	Firm mid green brown clay silt moderate small stones. Contains patches of orange gravel. Cut by [106].	☒	☐
106	**Spring/Pond**	**Sub-rectangular profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.35m, max length 13.m. Cut of large water feature - possibly 'spring' or pond. Water welling up from soil.**	☒	☐
107	Fill	Compact dark brown clay silt occasional small stones. Very dark, almost black fill.	☒	☐
108	Fill	Compact mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones.	☒	☒
109	Main fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones.	☒	☒
110	External surface	. Frequent small to medium stones laid on top of (109). Contains numerous sherds of 19th C. china. Consolidation layer - vestiges of cobbled surface. Patchy surface - ie, difficult to define exact size.	☒	☐
111	External surface	. Light chalky whiteish or yellow brown clay with frequent small chalk fragments. Contains metal and modern china. Consolidation layer laid or dumped on top of 109. Difficult to define extent due to patchy nature.	☒	☒
112	**Posthole**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max length 0.5m. Post hole only visible at base of cut [106].**	☐	☐
113	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
114	**Posthole**	**Oval profile: near vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.3m, max length 0.8m. Partially excavated.**	☒	☐
115	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal. Contains patches of orange gravel. Only partially excavated.	☒	☒
116	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.45m, min length 1.6m.**	☒	☐
117	Fill	Firm dark brown clay silt frequent flecks charcoal. Dark, almost black, greasy fill.	☒	☒
118	**Pit**	**Square profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.23m, max length 0.8m. Possible square pit cutting [116]. Only partly visible in trench. orientated at right angles to [116].**	☒	☐
119	Fill	Firm mid green brown clay silt .	☒	☐
120	**Posthole**	**Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.1m, max diameter 0.4m.**	☒	☐
121	Fill	Firm mid green brown clay silt occasional small stones.	☒	☐
122	**Pit**	**Sub-oval profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.3m, max length 1.3m.**	☒	☐
123	Fill	Firm mid brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones.	☒	☐
124	Pit	**Dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.25m, min length 5.m. 15 degree slope flattening out at base. Cut of large pit or simply naturally sloping ground.**	☒	☐
125	Main fill	Firm dark brown sandy silt occasional small stones, occasional flecks charcoal.	☒	☒

Trench:	1					
Max Dimensions:	**Length:**	**26.00 m.**	**Width: 1.60 m.**	**Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m.**	**Max: 0.6 m.**	
OS Co-ordinates:	**Ref. 1:**	**TL0116967059**	**Ref. 2:**	**TL0115967035**		
Reason for trench:	**Investigate "terrace-like" earthworks in south of Study Area**					

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
126	Upper fill	Firm dark red brown sandy silt moderate flecks fired clay. Layer of dump material within [124]. Only present on west side of trench.	☒	☒
127	Upper fill	Firm yellow red silty clay moderate flecks fired clay. Layer/dump of burnt material. Only present on west side of trench.	☒	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 21.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.75 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0115867071 Ref. 2: TL0117767061

Reason for trench: Investigate flat area east of "terrace-type" earthworks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy silt occasional small stones.	☒	☒
201	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	☒	☒
202	Gulley	**Linear N-S profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.49m, max depth 0.09m, min length 0.55m. Boundaries uncertain due to heavy root disturbance.**	☒	☐
203	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand frequent medium stones. Fill contains redeposited natural.	☒	☐
204	Animal grave	**Oval profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.2m, max length 1.1m. Pit dug for purpose of animal burial.**	☒	☐
205	Fill	Loose mid green brown silty sand frequent small stones. Mixed boundary with natural due to root disturbance.	☒	☐
209	Animal skeleton	. Skeleton of small dog laid on side within pit. Tip of metal blade (RA 1) in ribs. Bones are in relatively good condition.	☒	☒
206	Pit	**Sub-circular profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.33m.**	☒	☐
207	Upper fill	Dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones. Fill of rubbish pit. Quite heavy root disturbance.	☒	☒
208	Main fill	Loose mid grey silty sand moderate small stones. Some root disturbance.	☒	☒
210	Posthole	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.32m, max length 0.45m. Feature lying 0.1m to the east of [206]. Possible post hole.**	☐	☐
212	Fill	Mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones.	☐	☐
211	Natural strata	Compact mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent small stones. This natural surface dips down towards the east.	☐	☐
213	Pit	**Sub-rectangular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.09m, max length 0.8m. Appears to cut earlier posthole [215].**	☒	☐
214	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones, moderate flecks charcoal, moderate medium charcoal.	☒	☐
215	Posthole	**Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.36m. Truncated by later pit [213].**	☒	☐
216	Fill	Loose mid grey brown loam frequent small stones.	☒	☒
217	Posthole	**Circular profile: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.23m, max diameter 0.33m. Feature has concave western side but straight profile on eastern side**	☒	☐
218	Upper fill	Loose dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones, occasional flecks charcoal	☒	☐
232	Main fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional medium stones.	☒	☐
219	Posthole	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.3m, max length 0.32m. Unexcavated, but in alignment with other excavated post holes.**	☐	☐
220	Fill	Dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones, occasional flecks charcoal.	☐	☐
221	Posthole	**Circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.3m, max diameter 0.42m.**	☒	☐
222	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones.	☒	☐
223	Ploughsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones. Possible early ploughsoil. [224], [226], [228] are all cutting this layer.	☒	☒
224	Pit	**Sub-rectangular E-W profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.1m. Truncates slot [230]**	☒	☐
225	Fill	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt frequent large charcoal, frequent flecks charcoal.	☒	☒

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 21.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.75 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0115867071 Ref. 2: TL0117767061

Reason for trench: Investigate flat area east of "terrace-type" earthworks.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
226	Posthole	Oval dimensions: max breadth 0.43m, max length 0.68m. Possible post hole or pit (see plan 4). Seems to truncate slot [230].	☐	☐
227	Fill	Loose dark grey brown silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional large charcoal. Unexcavated. Fill of possible posthole.	☐	☐
228	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 0.56m, max length 0.58m. Post hole or small pit. Eastern-most feature of a series of possible post holes or pits (unexcavated). Cut into layer (223). Sealed by layer (201).	☐	☐
229	Fill	Dark grey brown silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Fill of possible posthole.	☐	☐
230	Slot	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, max depth 0.19m, max length 1.1m. Truncated at W. end by pit [224], but not totally removed. Cuts layer [223]. Cut by unexcavated pit [226]. Probable structural slot.	☒	☐
231	Lower fill	Mid yellow grey silty sand moderate small stones. Redeposited natural primary fill.	☒	☐
233	Upper fill	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal. Very similar to [223] but contains more charcoal.	☒	☐
234	Treethrow	Irregular dimensions: max breadth 0.92m, min length 1.24m.	☐	☐
235	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay .	☐	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 29.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 1.3 m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0119067099 Ref. 2: TL0117967073

Reason for trench: Investigate level ground adjacent to 1992 evaluation.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt .	☒	☒
301	Ploughsoil	Friable mid grey brown silty clay . Seals most features.	☒	☒
302	External surface	Plastic dark grey brown silty clay frequent small stones, frequent flecks charcoal. Possible external surface sealing ditch [305] and separating subsoils (301) and (303).	☒	☒
303	Ploughsoil	Plastic dark grey brown silty clay frequent small stones, frequent flecks charcoal. Features [302], [307], [309], [312], and [314], all with much darker fills, are cutting this layer and are sealed by (301). Possible early ploughsoil. Seals feature [317] in north of trench.	☒	☐
304	Natural strata	Light red brown clay gravel . Contains frequent fine gravel at south end, becoming a more solid clay at the north end where it is machined deeper. Lies below (303). Cut by [317].	☐	☐
305	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.25m, min length 0.6m. Situated at south end of trench below layer (302). North edge only excavated to a depth of 0.25m. Cuts layer (303).**	☒	☐
306	Fill	Compact mid grey brown silty clay frequent medium stones, frequent flecks fired clay, frequent flecks charcoal.	☒	☐
307	**Pit**	**Circular profile: near vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.35m, max length 1.1m. Only partially visible, extending 0.4m from W. baulk. Sealed by (301) and cut through (303).**	☒	☐
308	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay frequent large fired clay, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small stones. Very mixed fill. Probably derived from a mixture of (303) and natural clay.	☒	☒
309	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE profile: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.6m. Cut through (303) into natural. As with [314], its sides show evidence for in-situ burning.**	☒	☐
310	Upper fill	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent large charcoal, moderate small stones. Some stones may show evidence for burning.	☒	☒
311	Lower fill	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent large fired clay.	☒	☐
312	**Pit**	**Sub-oval dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max length 0.9m. Unexcavated feature extending 0.4m from east baulk. Has similar fill to those of [309] and [314].**	☐	☐
313	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent large charcoal, moderate small stones.	☐	☐
314	**Pit**	**Circular profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min diameter 0.8m. Pit cut extending 0.8m from W. baulk. Sides and base have been subject to burning.**	☒	☐
315	Upper fill	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent flecks charcoal, frequent large charcoal, moderate small stones.	☒	☒
316	Lower fill	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent large fired clay, frequent flecks fired clay.	☒	☐
317	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW profile: 45 degrees dimensions: min depth 0.45m, min length 1.6m. Below (303), cutting natural. Only north side visible.**	☒	☐
318	Fill	Brown sandy clay frequent small stones, occasional flecks charcoal.	☒	☐

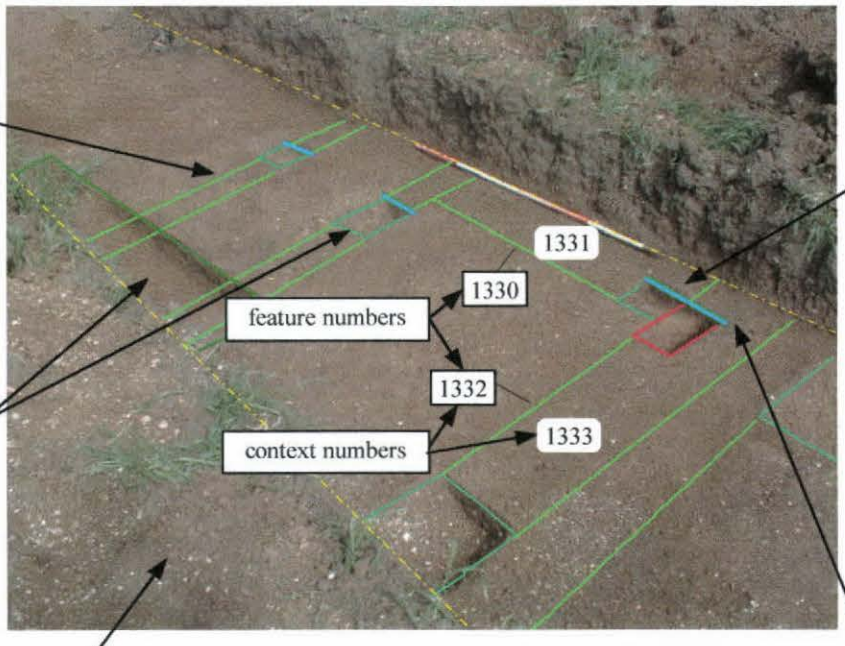
APPENDIX 2: POTTERY TYPE BY CONTEXT

Spotdate	Fabric	Common name	Context	Sherd no.	Weight (GM)
	UNID	Unidentified ware	115	1	5
	UNID	Unidentified ware	300	3	63
	UNID	Unidentified ware	301	2	5
Roman	R13	Shelly	125	1	236
Roman 1st/2nd century	R08	Black micaceous	216	1	2
Roman 2nd/3rd century	R01	Samian (source unknown)	108	1	8
Saxon	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	126	1	38
Saxon	A16	Mixed Coarse Quartz	302	2	16
Middle Saxon (650-850)	A08	Ipswich ware	201	1	19
Middle Saxon (650-850)	A11	Maxey-type	115	1	13
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01	St Neots-type ware	101	1	3
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01	St Neots-type ware	102	1	14
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01	St Neots-type ware	207	3	15
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01	St Neots-type ware	208	1	23
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01	St Neots-type ware	301	2	11
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	B01A	St Neots-type (orange)	223	1	4
Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (850-1150)	C12	Stamford ware	201	2	21
Medieval	C	Non-specific medieval wares	200	1	11
Medieval	C	Non-specific medieval wares	207	1	3
Medieval	C	Non-specific medieval wares	300	3	33
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Medieval Shelly (source unknown)	201	1	25
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Medieval Shelly (source unknown)	300	2	53
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	B07	Medieval Shelly (source unknown)	301	5	35
Early Medieval (1150-1250)	C67	Mixed inclusions	301	1	20
High Medieval (1250-1400)	B09	Lyveden/Stanion type	200	1	45
High Medieval (1250-1400)	B09	Lyveden/Stanion type	300	1	7
Late Medieval (1400-1500)	E02	Late Medieval Oxidised	300	3	33
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Glazed Red Earthenware (fine)	101	1	21
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Glazed Red Earthenware (fine)	109	1	23
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P01	Glazed Red Earthenware (fine)	111	4	60
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P48	English Stoneware	101	1	38
Post-Medieval (1500-1750)	P48	English Stoneware	109	1	14
Modern (1750-onwards)	P37	White salt-glazed Stoneware	109	1	2
Modern (1750-onwards)	P38	Creamware	101	1	3
Modern (1750-onwards)	P38	Creamware	109	4	4
Modern (1750-onwards)	P45	Transfer-printed Ware	109	1	3

APPENDIX 3: EXPLANATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND PROCEDURES (EXAMPLES NOT FROM YELDEN)

1, FEATURE IDENTIFICATION
After machining **features** such as gullies, post-holes, pits, tree-holes and animal burrows are often visible as darker areas of soil against the lighter undisturbed **natural**.

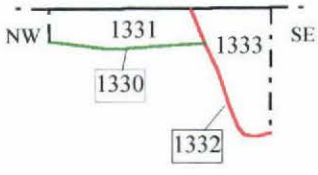
2, EXCAVATION AND RECORDING
All features are investigated. If they are archaeological a **segment** is excavated. The nature of the deposits is studied and any artefacts in the soil are collected.



Photograph of gullies at the north-western end of trench 13

3, CONTEXT RECORDING
Descriptions and interpretations of all aspects of the identified feature (e.g. upper and lower fills, and the cut) are recorded as **contexts**. The **context number** given to the cut is also known as its **feature number**.
Written recording takes place on pro-formae sheets.

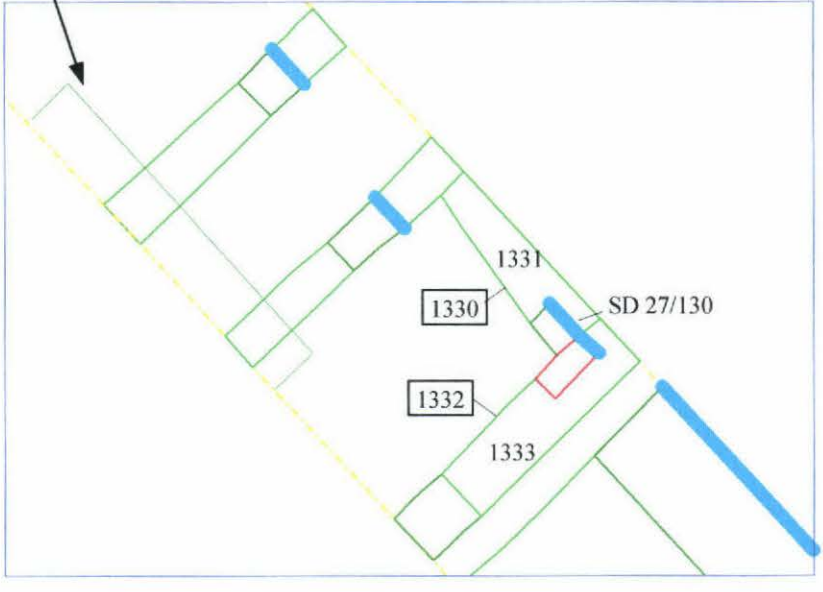
4, SECTION RECORDING
The profile of features and nature of their fills are recorded on scale drawings known as **sections**. These record the distributions of stones and other inclusions and also the relationships between features



SD 27/130 ← section number
i.e. section drawing 130 on sheet 27

Section of excavated segment across two intercutting gullies

5, PLAN RECORDING
The positions of all features are mapped on scale drawings known as **plans**. These show the spatial and stratigraphic relationships of all features, excavated or not. The relevent feature and section numbers are also shown



Plan of area of photograph

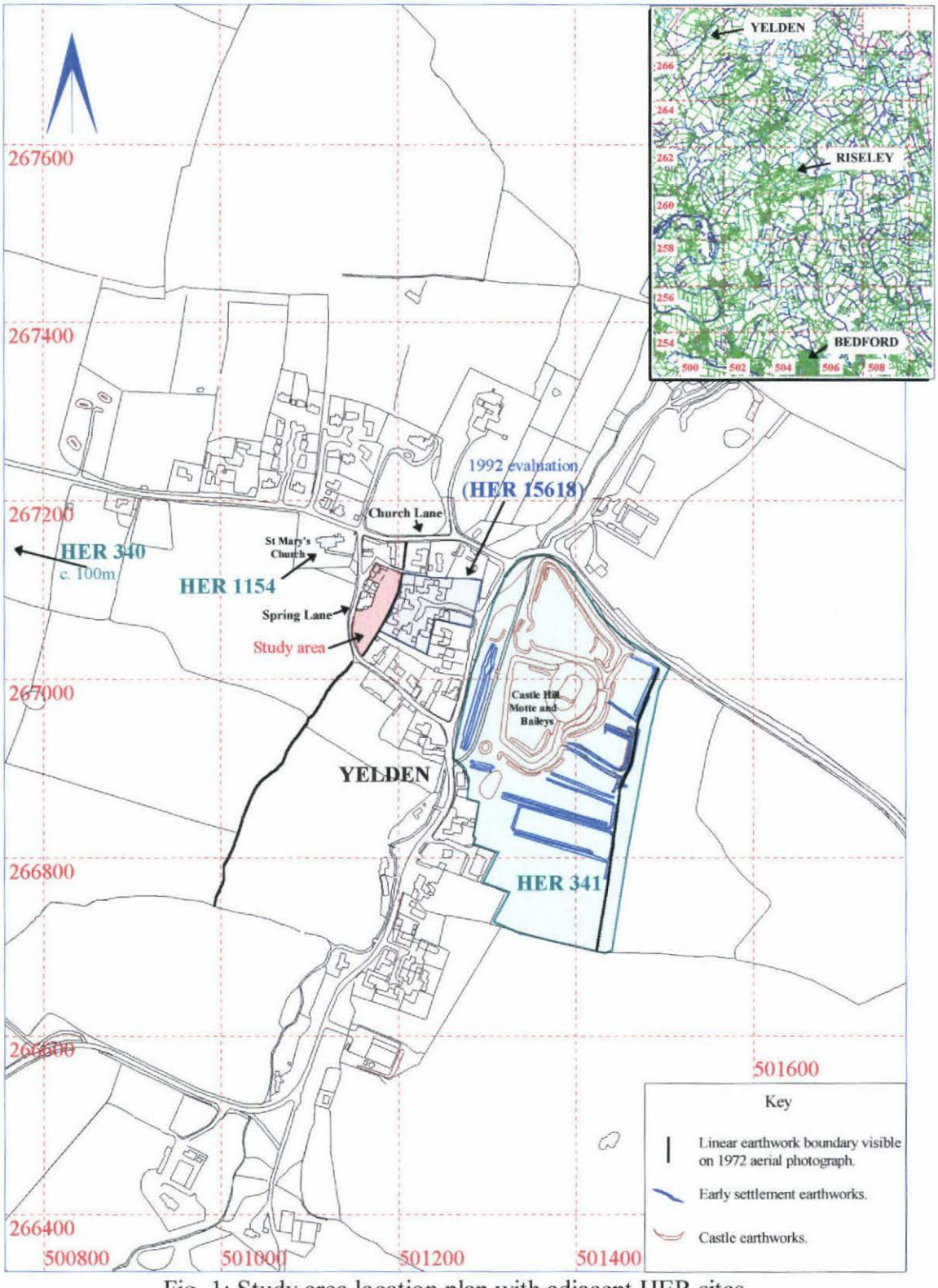


Fig. 1; Study area location plan with adjacent HER sites.

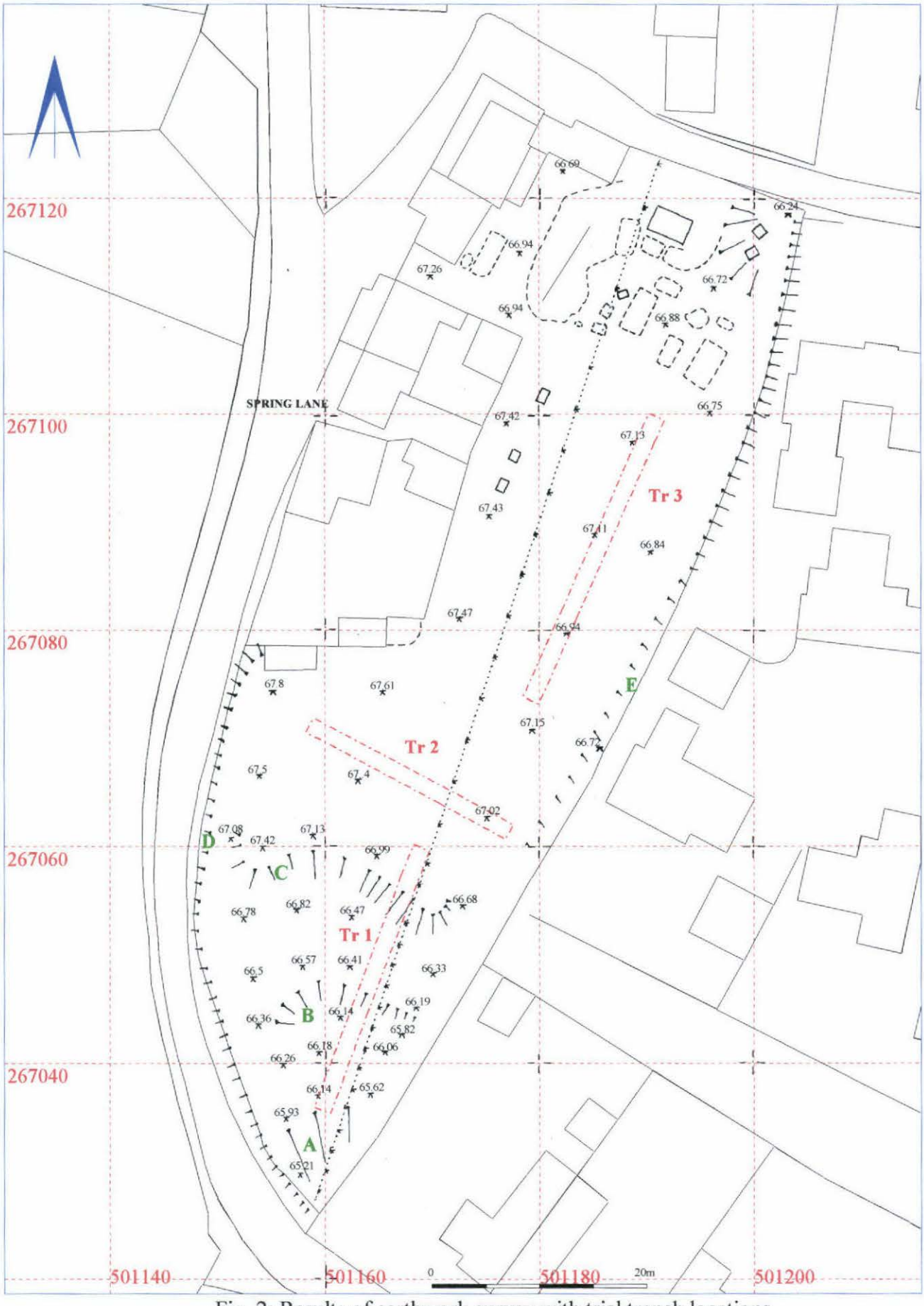


Fig. 2; Results of earthwork survey with trial trench locations.

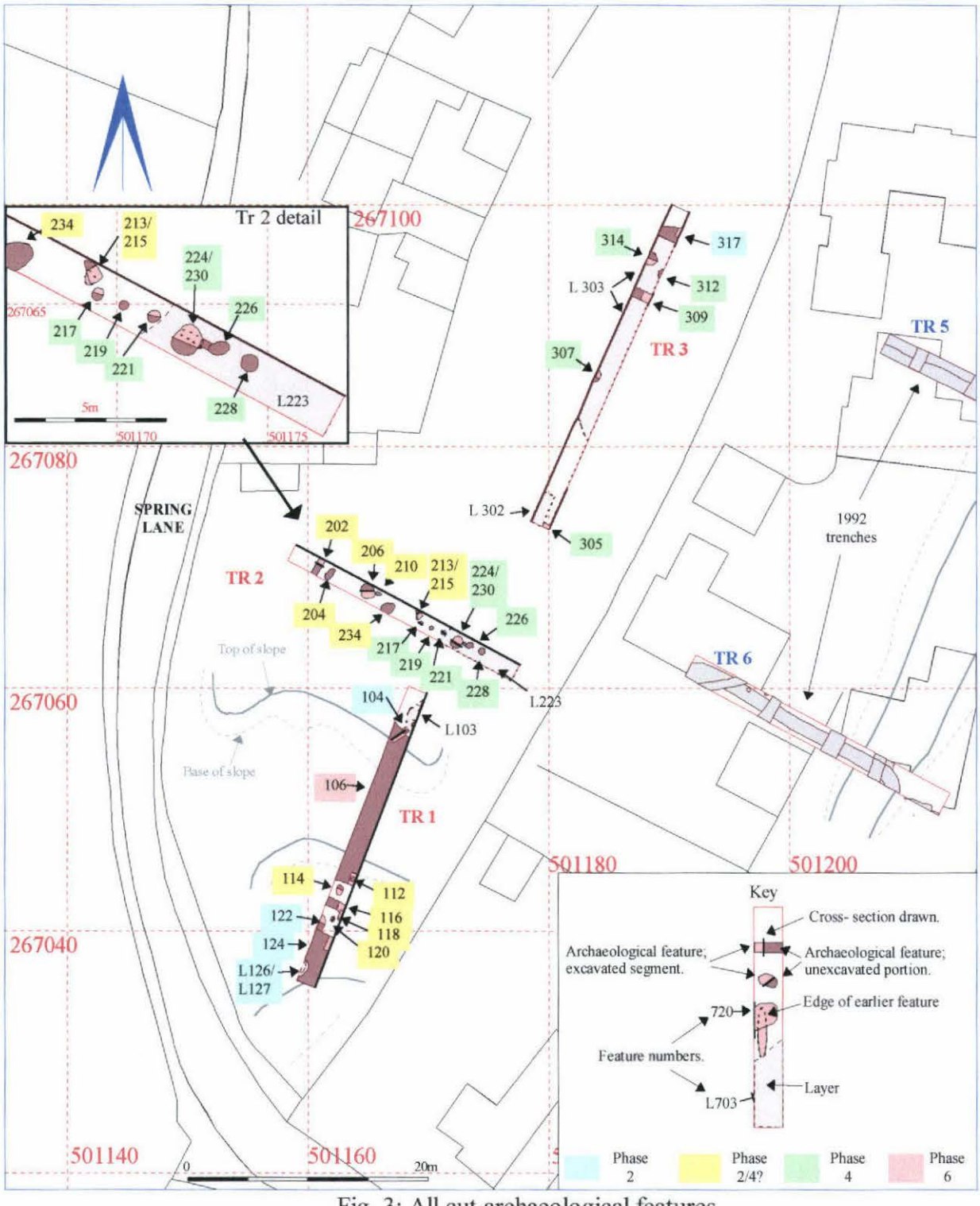


Fig. 3; All cut archaeological features.

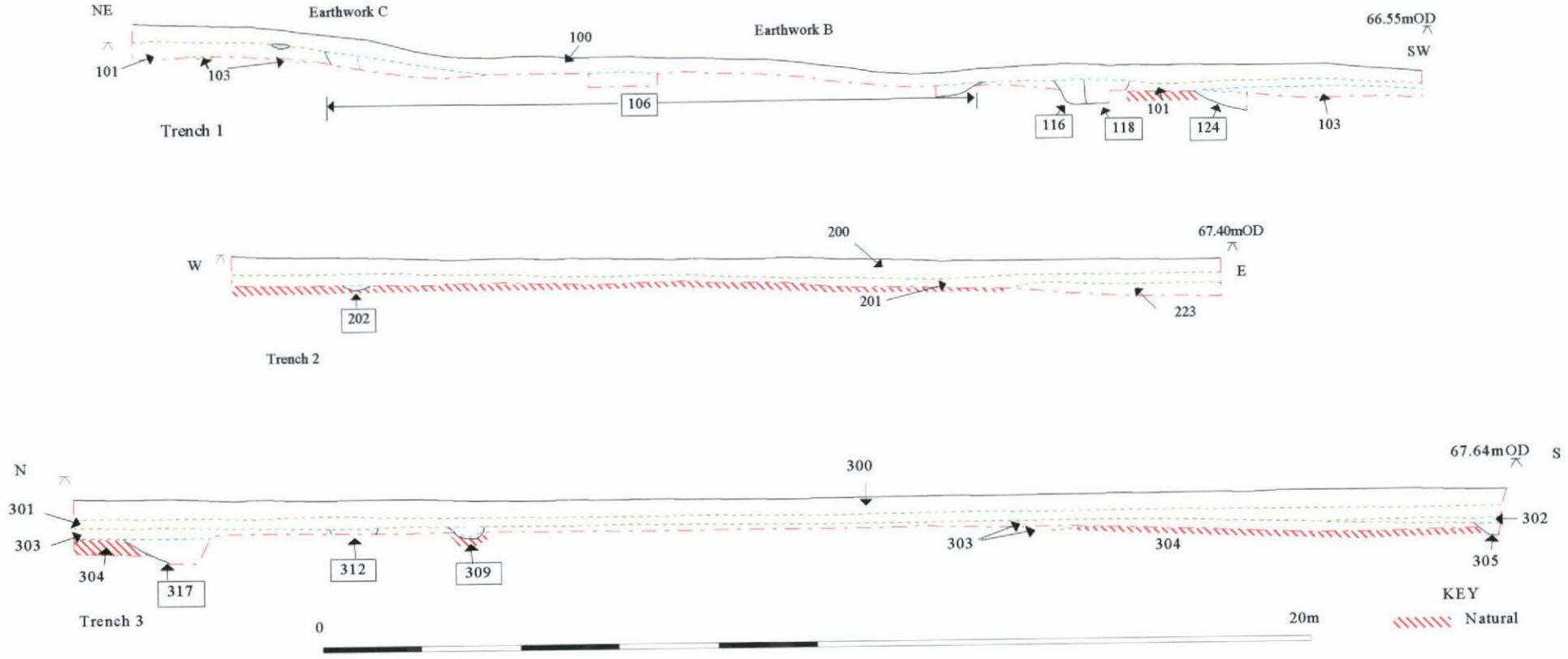
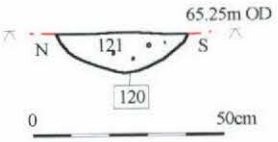
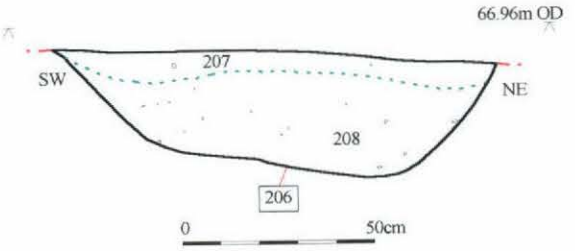


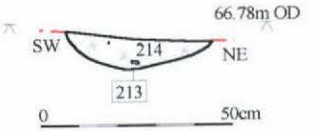
Fig. 4; Longitudinal trench sections.



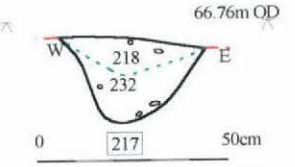
Trench 1, section 15



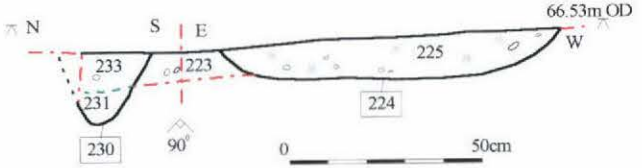
Trench 2, section 5



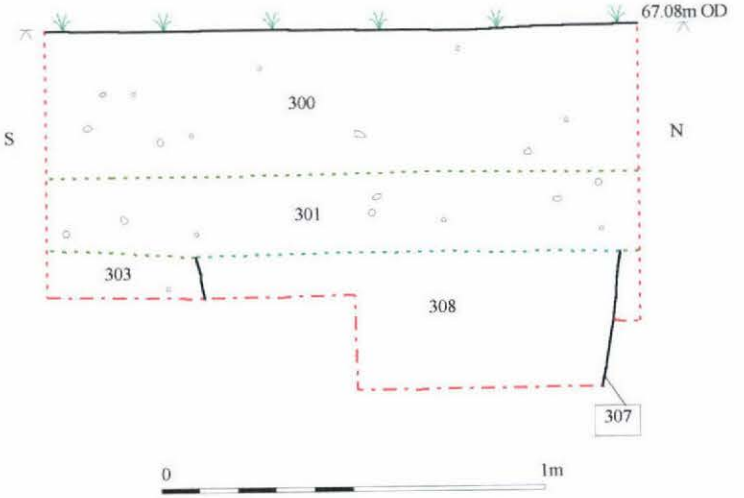
Trench 2, section 6



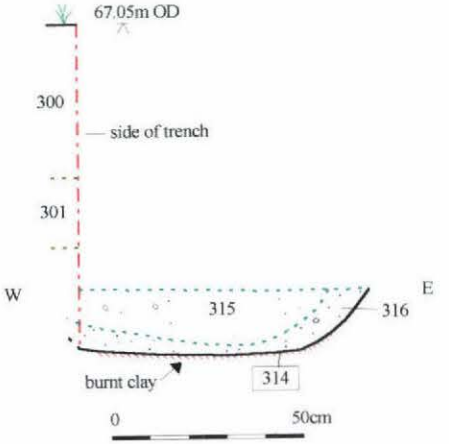
Trench 2, section 7



Trench 2, section 9



Trench 3, section 2



Trench 3, section3

Fig. 5; Selected sections.