



KDK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Archaeological Evaluation Report

15 Ickwell Road
Upper Caldecote
Bedfordshire



Quality Check

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<i>Editor</i>	David Kaye BA ACIfA	<i>Version</i>	282/UCI/2.1	<i>Date</i>	17.07.2017
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<i>Revision</i>	Ellen Shlasko PhD	<i>Version</i>	282/UCI/2.2	<i>Date</i>	29.09.2018
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Summary

In May 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire. The site lies on the western edge of Upper Caldecote, a medieval rural settlement. A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These trenches revealed extensive modern disturbance throughout the site, with made ground, concrete foundations or tarmac paving appearing in every trench. The only below ground features were a line of modern postholes in one of the trenches. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

1 Introduction

1.1 In May 2017, KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire. The project was commissioned by Bond Street Homes, and was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by KDK (Barclay-Jones 2017), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team (CBCAT), Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Central Bedfordshire Council. The relevant planning application reference is CB/15/04934/FUL.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation has been required under the terms of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and as Condition 9 of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 *The Site*

Location

Upper Caldecote is a small hamlet located within the civil parish of Northill, in the administrative district of Central Bedfordshire. The development site, a property known as Land North of the Grange, is on the western edge of the settlement at National Grid Reference TL 1649 4583 (Fig. 1)

Description

The site is bounded to the north by Ickwell Road, and to the east by adjoining properties. The south and west boundaries are formed by open land (Fig. 2).

Geology & Topography

Located to the west of the River Ivel, the site is situated on a flat plain of riverine material, deposited up to two million years ago. These sand and gravel deposits have been quarried, leaving a series of ponds along the river, mostly on the east side of the A1. Underlying these deposits is Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock laid down 156-165 million years ago, when this area was covered in shallow seas (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Development

The development will consist of the demolition of the existing buildings and enlargement of gardens, followed by construction of two detached dwellings (Fig. 3).

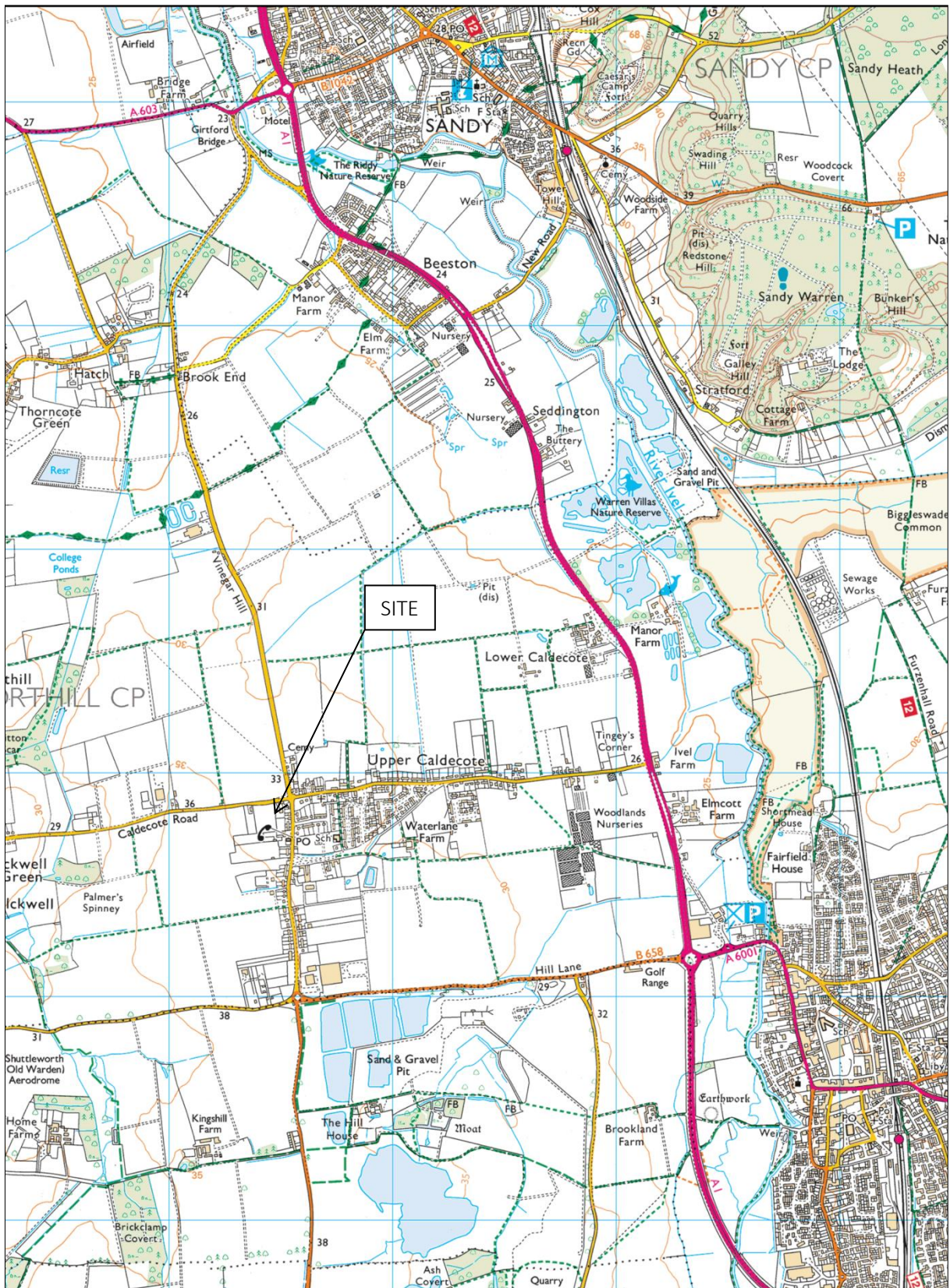


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)



Figure 2: Site location (scale 1:1,250)



2 Aims & Methods

2.1 The aims of this project as defined in the approved WSI (Barclay-Jones 2017) were:

- To establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape
- To establish the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

Other site specific research aims were as follows:

- To investigate landscape development and settlement patterns; the relationship between settlement and enclosure (Going & Plouviez 2000: 21 and Oake et al 2007: 11 - 12)
- To investigate rural Saxon and medieval settlements; to examine diversity, characterise settlement forms and understand how they appear, grow, shift and disappear (Wade 2000: 24-25, Oake 2007: 14 and Medlycott 2011: 70).

2.2 *Methods*

In line with the requirements of the Brief, this is the first part of a staged investigation whereby the results of this stage will be assessed to determine the need and extent of further stages of archaeological investigation. The methods used were as follows:

- Stage One: An archaeological field evaluation of the site after demolition of the existing buildings but prior to any intrusive groundworks including removal of the foundations/services associated with demolished buildings.

This consisted of 130m² of trenching, divided into one 21.5m trench, one 18.5m trench, one 12m trench and one 16m trench, distributed throughout the planned development (Fig. 4). All trenches were 2m wide.

- Stage Two: An appraisal of the results of the field evaluation and their significance with regard to the development site and the wider context. This may lead to the definition of a programme of investigation and recording of archaeological remains which will be unavoidably destroyed by the development. Alternatively, it may lead to the development of a strategy for the preservation *in situ* of any archaeological remains within the development area. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists will prepare a Brief for the next phase of the investigation for the agreement of the Site Owner and the LPA. The Brief will also cover a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication.
- Stage Three: The implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording based on the Brief
- Stage Three: The implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording or preservation *in situ* based on the Brief drawn up by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists.



2.3 *Standards*

The work conformed to the following requirements:

- The design brief
- The relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (CIfA 2014)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014)
- Current English Heritage guidelines (HE 2015, EH 2008)
- The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (ALGAO 2003)



3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Upper Caldecote is part of the parish of Northill, which was first recorded in the Tribal Hidage in the 7th-9th centuries AD as being part of the tribal territory of the Gifle (CBCAT 2016). The name Caldecote derives from the Old English for 'cold or inhospitable cottage(s), or shelter(s) for travellers' (Mills 1992: 63), with 'Upper' as a general prefix. The village is essentially linear, along its two main roads, but retains its old village green (BBC: Domesday Reloaded).

This section has been drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Barclay-Jones 2017), with information from Central Bedfordshire HER (licence number 201617/312), KDK's own library and reliable internet sources.

3.2 *Prehistoric-Roman* (before 600BC – AD450)

Evidence for early occupation in the area around Upper Caldecote comes from cropmarks to the south-east and south-west of the site (HER 9093, HER 16787). Cropmarks to the south-east were partially discovered during a geophysical survey (EBD 744) for a pipeline running to the south of the village. The marks indicate a rectilinear enclosure, as well as a ring ditch and a large area of linear features, which are considered to show evidence of Bronze and Iron Age occupation in the area. The area of cropmarks is bisected by Hill Lane; the area north of the lane still shows evidence of an enclosure and features, but they are more fragmented. To the south-west of the development site cropmarks indicate the presence of a trapezoidal enclosure, with some other indistinct features. An excavation in 2001 revealed that it was part of a Roman settlement which spanned the whole Roman period. East of these features, a single crouched inhumation was discovered, but it remains undated.

3.3 *Saxon* (c.450 - 1066)

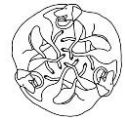
Upper Caldecote is part of the parish of Northill, which is thought to be Saxon in origin; the name Northill (rendered variously as Nortgivele and Nortgifelle) references the tribal influence of the Gifle, in whose territory Northill lay. Upper Caldecote was not known as a separate settlement at this time, but three hides within Northill later became part of the hamlets of Ickwell and Caldecote (BHO). In the time of King Edward these were split between two holders (Williams & Martin 2002: 571).

3.4 *Medieval* (1066 - 1500)

In 1086, at the time of the Domesday Survey, the hides which would later become part of Upper Caldecote were owned by Eudo, but were held by Pirot and Ralph. The 1 ½ hides held by Pirot had a mill worth 14s, but were only worth 20s overall; the 1 ½ hides held by Ralph had 3 slaves, and woodland for 100 pigs, and was significantly wealthier, being valued at £3 (Williams & Martin 2002: 571).

The medieval settlement at Upper Caldecote (HER 17129) is thought to have grown up around the manor, the site of which is now thought to be marked by the location of the now-demolished Manor Farm (HER 2987). It was one of a number of subsidiary settlements which were first recorded in the 12th century, but which are likely to have had earlier origins (CBCAT 2016). There are thought to have been 4 manors in the parish of Northill, one of which was Blundells (also known as Hartshorne), which later became Upper Caldecote. Its origins are obscure; John Blundel owned land in 1381 which was held of Northill Rectory Manor, but by 1558 the tenancy was unknown (BHO).

A windmill (HER 3161) is known to have stood to the north-west of the development site. It was recorded from the 13th century, and may be the mill referred to in the Domesday Survey. It went out of use during the 17th century and now no traces remain except in the name of Windmill Hill.



3.5 *Post-Medieval* (1500 - 1900)

The manor at Upper Caldecote was still known as Blundells (or Hartshorne) until at least 1728, but by 1801 the name had changed (BHO). The Grade II listed parish church of All Saints (HER 744) was built in the latter half of the 19th century, originally as a chapel of ease for the parish church at that time; it only become the parish church until after the creation of the ecclesiastical parish of Caldecote in 1928.

The village has a strong farming history, rather than being associated with any industry. Many of the buildings in the village which appear in the Historic Environment Record are post-medieval farm buildings, including an onion-drying shed (HER 13364), weather-boarded barns (HER 12774), farmhouses (HER 5813, HER 9306) and a granary (HER 9257); many of these are also listed buildings.

3.6 *Modern* (1900 - present)

There are no archaeologically significant finds or features from this time in the vicinity of the site.

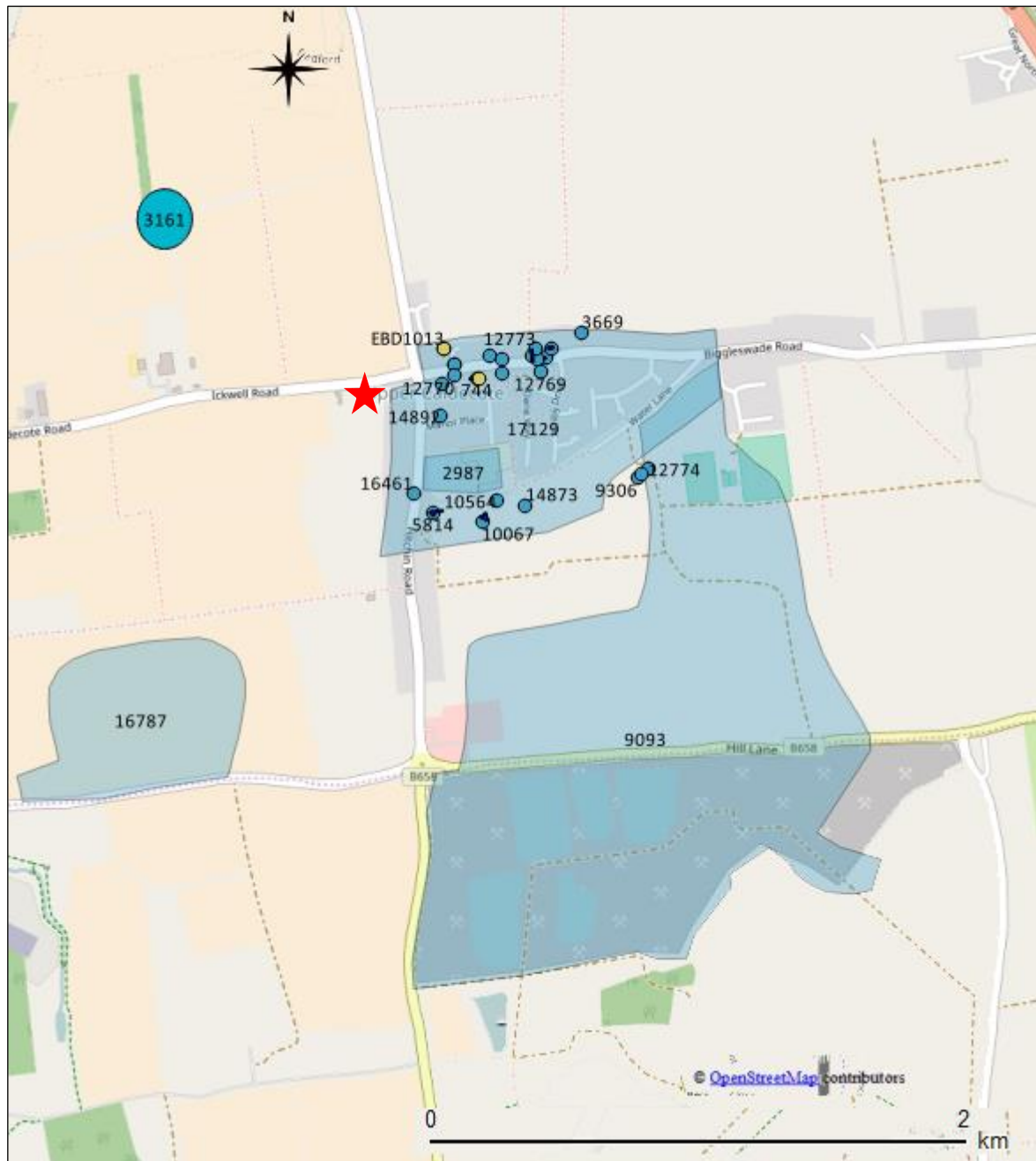


Figure 4: HER data plan with the monument areas in blue and the site indicated by a star (scale 1: 25000)



4 Results

4.1 Introduction

The excavations at 15 Ickwell Road consisted of four trenches, located as shown in Figure 5. All trenches were machine excavated with an 8 tonne machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The stratigraphy was varied and is described in detail below for each trench. Geotechnical survey by Listers Geotechnical Consultants Ltd described the general stratigraphy at the site as Made Ground with an average thickness of 0.6m, over glaciofluvial deposits with an average thickness of 1.8m (Johnson 2016:9).

Some changes from the planned trenching were unavoidable, due to the presence of services and trees. The changes include: Trench 1 was lengthened by 1 meter and widened to ensure coverage of the proposed building footprint; Trench 2 was shortened to avoid hitting existing services; Trench 3 was shortened due to the presence of trees and services; and Trench 4 was relocated to avoid existing trees and services and also extended toward Trench 3.

4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the centre of the site. It was approximately 16.0m long by 2.20m wide, with the long axis running southwest to northeast (Figure 6, Plate 1). This trench was in a highly disturbed parking area. The stratigraphy consisted of three cultural layers on top of natural. First was a thin layer of sand that had accumulated over a tarmac surface. Under the tarmac was a prepared base of crushed brick and rubble that sat on top of the orange natural (Figure 7). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.67m (Plate 2). This profile suggests that the site may have been truncated prior to the creation of the paved parking area. No features or artefacts were observed in Trench 1.

Context Table

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	16.0 x 2.20 x 0.11m	Thin layer of builders' sand and rubbish, mid orange colour, very loose sand
101	Layer	16.0 x 2.20 x 0.26m	Tarmac
102	Layer	16.0 x 2.20 x 0.18m	Crushed Brick and rubble that has been compacted into the natural, causing some of the natural to mix with this layer
103	Natural	16.0 x 2.20 x 0.19m excavated depth	Natural, gravelly silt, mid orangey brown colour, very compact

Trench 2

Trench 2 was placed along the southern end of the site. It was 18.5m long by 2.0m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.93m. The long axis of the trench ran east to west (Figure 6, Plate 3). The stratigraphic profile of the trench was largely made ground, but there was a substantial, amorphous area along the north wall of the trench that contained a layer of dark green-grey silt with a distinctly gassy smell. This layer, which covers an area of approximately 5.0m x 1.0m abutting the north wall of the trench, may have been fill from a dew pond or marshy area (Figure 7, Plate 4). A similar odour was encountered during geotechnical studies on the site. In their test pits 3 and 4, near KDK's Trench 2, Listers Geotechnical Consultants Ltd noted a hydrocarbon odour in the made ground (Johnson 2016: 9). No other features or artefacts were observed in Trench 2.



<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	Layer	18.5 x 2.0 x 0.25m	Made ground consisting of broken concrete, concrete and shingle, with occasional sub-rounded stones <10mm
201	Layer	c 5.0m x 1.0m x 0.24m	Dark green-grey silty, sandy layer
202	Natural	18.5 x 2.0 x 0.42m	Mid orange-brown gravelly silt, very compact

Trench 3

Trench 3 was situated along the western side of the development site. It measured 12.5m by 2.0m and was excavated to a depth of 0.67m (Figures 6 and 7, Plates 5 and 6). The long axis of the trench ran approximately north to south. At the north end of the trench, modern concrete foundations crossed the trench at a right angle. These foundations were associated with a small building that can be seen in Figure 5. No other features or artefacts were found in Trench 3.

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
300	Layer	12.5 x 2.0 x 0.5m	Top soil, dark greyish black, silty sandy loam, heavily rooted
301	Layer	12.5 x 2.0 x 0.10m	Dark grey silty sand with no inclusions
302	Natural	12.5 x 2.0 x 0.52m	Sand natural mid orange very compact

Trench 4

Trench 4 was moved to the west of its planned location in order to avoid services and trees. The new location was just north of Trench 3, on the western side of the development site. This trench was also extended to make up for the area lost when Trench 3 was shortened to avoid trees and services. The final measurements for the trench were approximately 21.5m x 2.0m, with a depth of 0.50m (Figure 6, Plates 7, 8 and 9). The southern end of the trench had to be realigned to avoid an area of hard standing, which appears in section 4b as level (403) (Figure 8, Plate 9).

A series of four modern post holes were found in Trench 4. Post hole [405] was sectioned and plastic was found in the fill (Figure 8, Plate 10).

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
400	Layer	21.5 x 2.0 x 0.20m	Top soil: loose highly rooted dark grey-black silty sandy loam with a high organic content
401	Layer	21.5 x 2.0 x 0.27m	Subsoil: very dark grey-black silty sand
402	Natural	21.5 x 2.0 x 0.21m	Natural - Sand, mid orange, very compact
403	Concrete	0.10m depth	Concrete hard standing



<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (max)</i>	<i>Description</i>
404	Posthole fill	W: 0.22m D: 0.09m	Fill of modern post hole [405], very dark black loam with high amounts of roots that do not appear to penetrate the sides of the feature. This is probably topsoil pushed into the hole.
405	Posthole cut	W: 0.22m D: 0.09m	Cut of modern post hole
406	Posthole	W: 0.22m	Modern post hole, similar to [405], not excavated
407	Posthole	W: 0.22m	Modern post hole, similar to [405], not excavated
408	Posthole	W: 0.22m	Modern post hole, similar to [405], not excavated

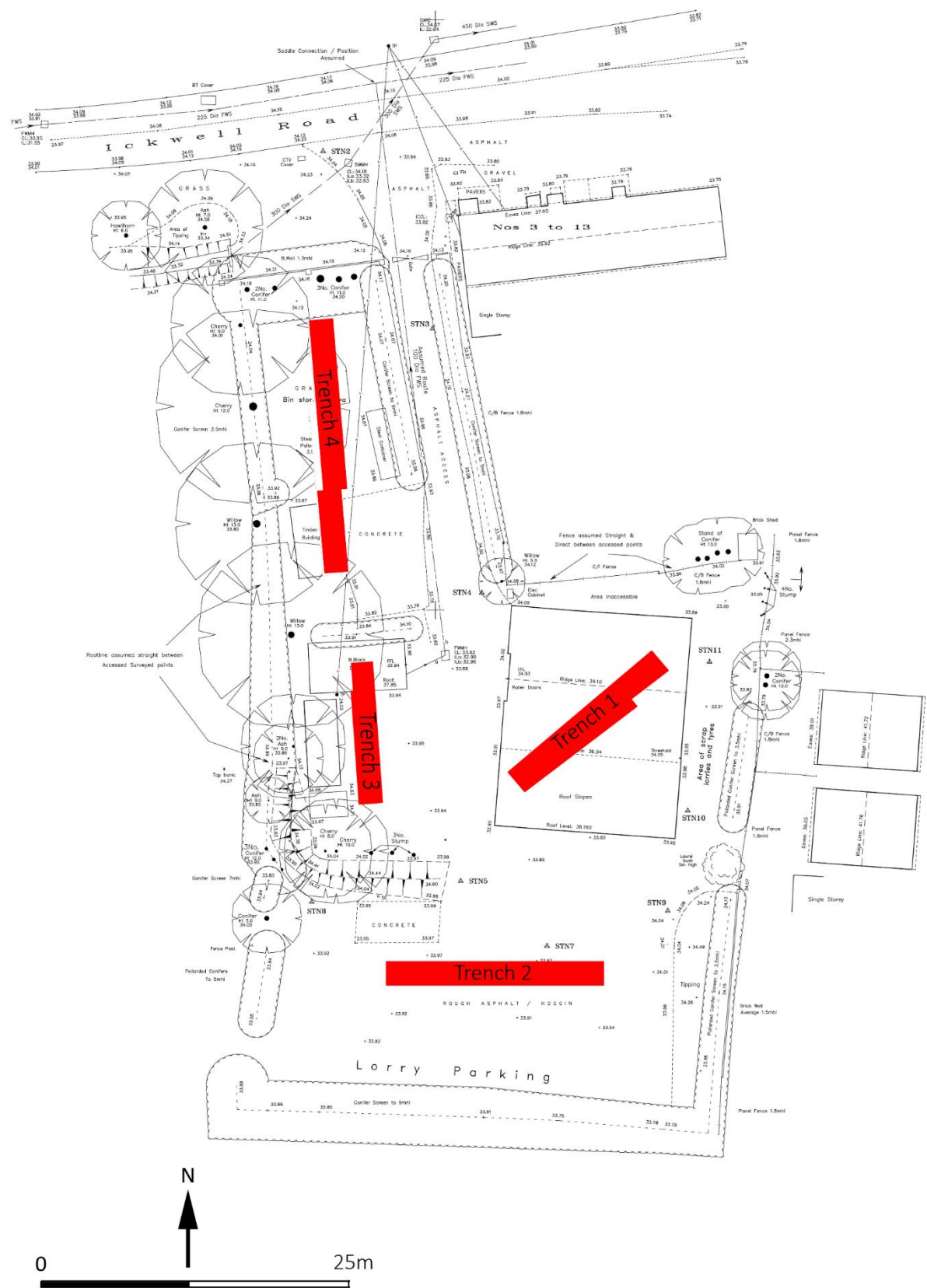


Figure 5: Final trench locations (scale as shown)



Plate 1: Trench 1 plan, facing SW



Plate 2: Trench 1 stratigraphy, facing NW



Plate 3: Trench 2 plan, facing W



Plate 4: Trench 2 stratigraphy, facing N



Plate 5: Trench 3 plan, facing SSE



Plate 6: Trench 3 stratigraphy, facing W



Plate 7: Trench 4 plan, facing S



Plate 8: Trench 4 section 4a, facing W



Plate 9: Trench 4 section 4b, facing E



Plate 10: Trench 4, posthole [405], facing W

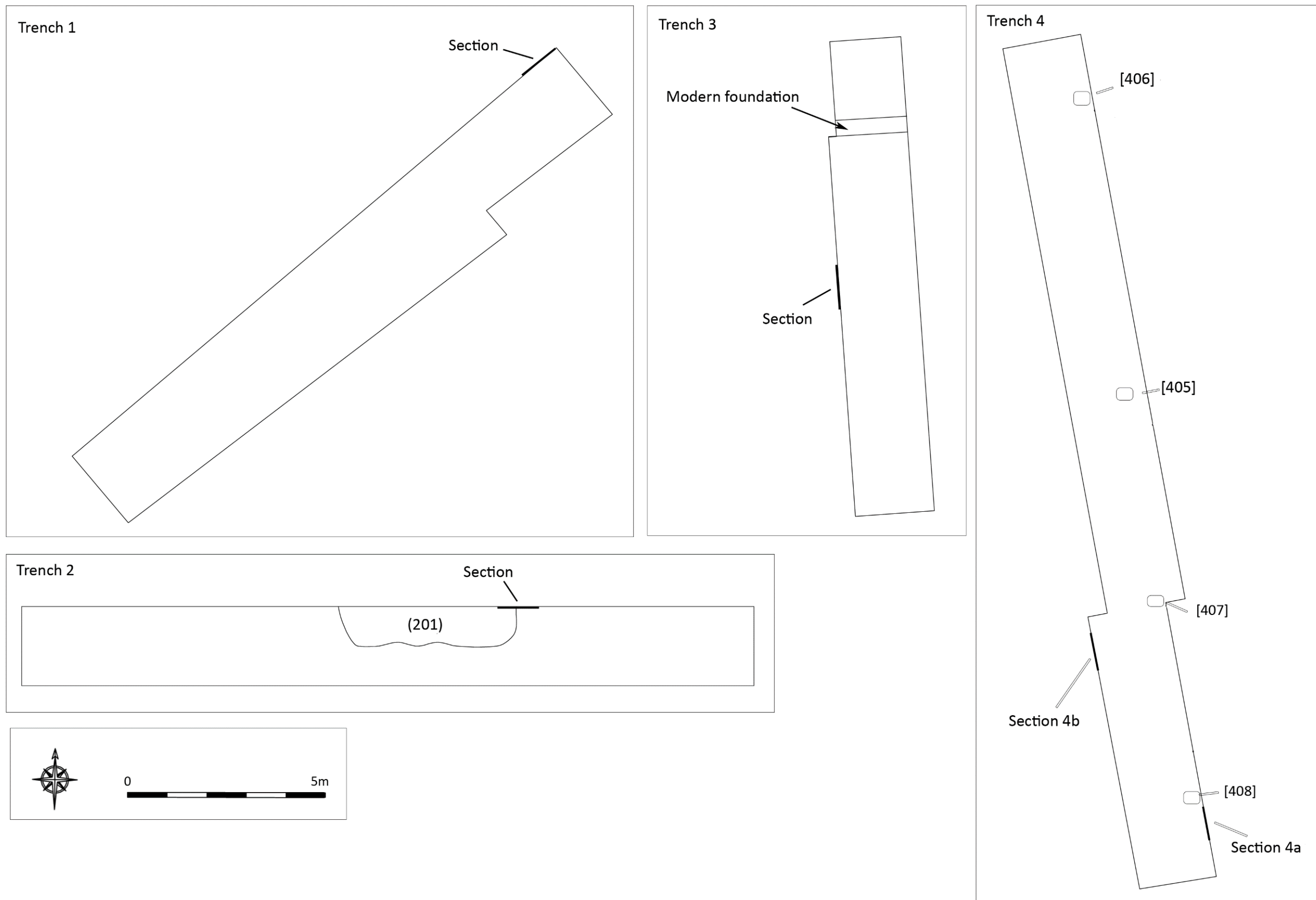


Figure 6: Trench plans (scale as shown)

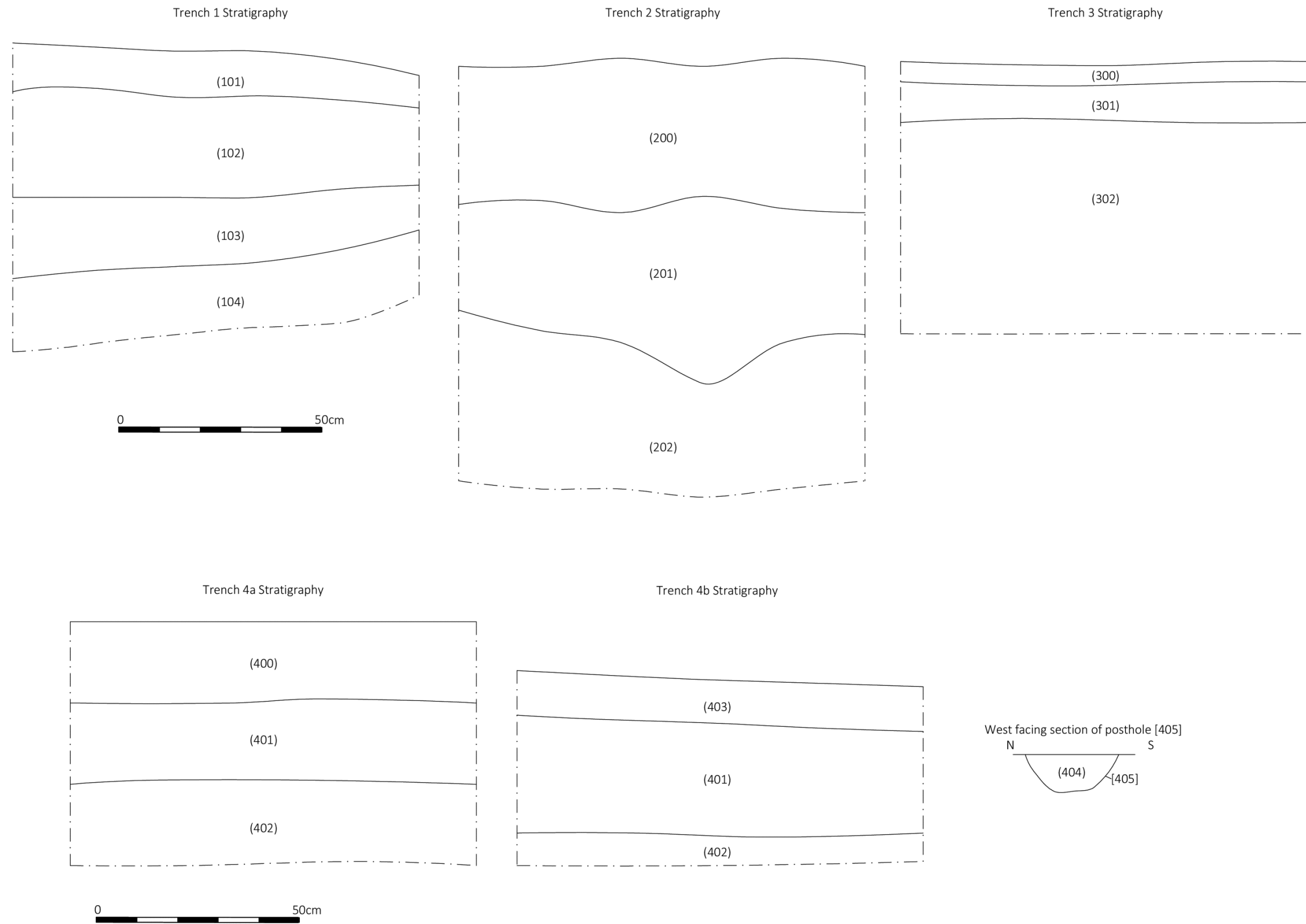


Figure 7: Trench Stratigraphy (scale 1:10)



5 Conclusions

Excavation of the four archaeological evaluation trenches revealed that the proposed development site has experienced considerable modification in the modern era. Made ground containing concrete and gravel appeared in every trench, along with evidence of the truncation of the natural soils. No historic artefacts or features were observed in the trenches.

Although the proposed development site is located on the edge of the medieval settlement of Upper Caldecote, there is no surviving evidence of historic occupation from this or any other any period within the trenches. Additional below ground investigations conducted as part of a geotechnical survey (Johnson 2016) confirm that the made ground observed in the evaluation trenches extends throughout the site.

It is possible that the trenches fell between widely dispersed features, or that the site has been truncated by an unknown amount, thereby destroying what archaeology may have been present. It is also possible that there simply has not been any occupation on this particular site other than that which is already documented.



6 Acknowledgements

KDK Archaeology is grateful to John Dearman for commissioning this report on behalf of Bond Street Homes. Thanks are also due to Stephen Coleman of Central Bedfordshire Council for providing historic environment records and Matt Adams, also of Central Bedfordshire Council for monitoring the project..

The fieldwork was carried out by Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA, Barney King and Cameron Kaye. The report was written by Ellen Shlasko PhD and edited by David Kaye BA ACIfA.

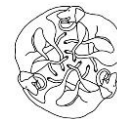


7 Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial report
4. Trench recording sheets
5. Site drawings
6. Client's site plans
7. List of photographs
8. B/W prints & negatives
9. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Bedford Museum (Accession BEDFM 2017.14).



8 References

Standards & Specifications

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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp242-251> [accessed 7 March 2017]

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Appendix 1: Photograph List

SITE NO/CODE: 282/UCI			Site Name: 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		x	Overall of Trench 1 facing SW
2		x	Overall of Trench 1 facing NE
3		x	Stratigraphy of Trench 1 facing NW
4		x	Overall of Trench 2 facing W
5		x	Overall of Trench 2 facing E
6		x	Stratigraphy of Trench 2 facing N
7		x	Overall of Trench 4 facing S
8		x	Overall of Trench 4 facing N
9		x	Overall of Trench 4 facing N
10		x	Stratigraphy of Trench 4 facing W
11		x	Overall of Trench 3 facing S
12		x	Overall of Trench 3 facing S
13		x	Overall of Trench 3 facing N
14		x	Stratigraphy of Trench 3 facing W
15		x	Stratigraphy 4b of Trench 4 facing E
16		x	Overall of posthole [405] facing W
17		x	Section of posthole [405] facing W
18		x	Overall of Trench 4 facing S
19		x	Level 201 facing E
20		x	Level 201 facing SW
21		x	Level 201 facing SW
22		x	Trench 1 facing NE
23		x	Trench 2 facing E



Appendix 4: OASIS and Site Data

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project Name & Address	15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire	Project Site Code	282/UCI
OASIS reference	Kdkarcha1-276923	Event/Accession no	BEDFM 2017.14
OS reference	TL 09084 38242	Study area size	.2ha
Project Type	Evaluation	Height (mAOD)	35
Short Description	In May 2017 KDK Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire. A total of four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. These trenches revealed extensive modern disturbance throughout the site, with made ground, concrete foundations or tarmac paving appearing in every trench. The only below ground features were a line of modern postholes in one of the trenches. No other archaeological features or artefacts were observed.		
Previous work	None	Site status	n/a
Planning proposal	Demolition of existing structures and erection of two dwellings	Current land use	Residential
Local Planning Authority	Central Bedfordshire Council	Planning application ref.	CB/15/04934/FUL
Monument type	n/a	Monument period	n/a
Significant finds	None	Future work	Unknown
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	KDK Archaeology Ltd		
Project Brief originator	CBCAT	Project Design originator	KDK Archaeology Ltd
Project Manager	David Kaye BA ACIfA	Director/Supervisor	Carina Summerfield-Hill MSc ACIfA
Sponsor/funding body	Bond Street Homes. Ltd		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	23.05.2017	End date	24.05.2017
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
	Location	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, files/sheets)	
Physical	Bedford Museum	n/a	
Paper		Brief, WSI, report, site records, maps, plans	
Digital		CD containing all digital files	
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report)			
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: 15 Ickwell Road, Upper Caldecote, Bedfordshire		
Serial title & volume	KDK Archaeology Ltd 282/UCI/1		
Author(s)	Ellen Shlasko PhD		
Page no's	24	Date	16.06.2017