# LAND NORTH OF NEWMARKET ROAD ROYSTON HERTFORDSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

# Albion archaeology





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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 specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology 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.

The project was commissioned by Martin Page of Barford + Co and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Instone, Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) of Hertfordshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips, Christiane Meckseper (Project Officers), Kathy Pilkinton (Archaeological Supervisor) and Marcin Synus (Archaeological Technician).

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## Non-Technical Summary

Barford + Co. are gathering information on Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, in support of a planning application for development for housing.

As the proposed development area (PDA) lies in a landscape rich in archaeological remains the Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council (HEA) advised that an archaeological evaluation was required in order to identify and investigate the site's archaeological potential and significance.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced, detailing the methods and procedures to be employed to complete the archaeological field evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2014). This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching.

The proposed development area (PDA) lies at the eastern edge of Royston, centred on grid reference TL 3689 4120. In total, it measures c. 17ha in extent, although the net developable area below the 80m OD contour is around 11ha. The underlying geology consists of New Pit Chalk Formation and Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation bedrock with no superficial deposits recorded.

Twenty-five trenches were excavated equalling a 2.27% sample of the net developable area; their distribution was designed to achieve an even coverage of the PDA.

The overburden consisted of a loose chalky silt ploughsoil generally around 0.3m thick. Subsoil was found in some trenches, consisting of a thin (c. 0.1m) layer of light yellow brown chalky silt with chalk fragments.

Archaeological features were identified in only 10 of the 25 trenches. All of the dateable features (primarily field boundaries) were post-medieval (1500-1750) or modern (1750 onwards) in date. Undated features consisted of: a shallow gulley in Trench 22; an irregular chalk-filled feature in Trench 8; a NE-SW aligned ditch, crossing Trenches 7 and 10; two small pits in Trench 17; and two large pits in Trenches 8 and 24.

All the features identified in the trial trenches are of low archaeological significance and have no potential to address the published archaeological research objectives for the region. The results suggest a low potential for significant archaeological remains within the PDA.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Planning Background

Barford + Co. are gathering information on Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, in support of a planning application for development for housing.

As the proposed development area (PDA) lies in a landscape rich in archaeological remains the Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council (HEA) advised that an archaeological evaluation was required in order to identify and investigate the site's archaeological potential and significance.

The results of the evaluation will inform future decisions concerning the development of a strategy to mitigate the effects of the development upon any significant heritage assets identified.

This approach is in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, which was published on 27 March 2012<sup>1</sup>.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced detailing the methods and procedures to be employed to complete the archaeological field evaluation (Albion 2014). This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation.

# 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The PDA lies at the eastern edge of Royston. It is bounded by Newmarket Road in the south, the A505 in the east, residential properties and a playing field at Hawthorne Way in the west and the Meridian School playing field to the north (Figure 1). The county boundary between Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire runs along the A505 in the north.

The total area of the PDA measures c. 17ha in extent. The site lies on the northern slopes of the Hertfordshire Chalk Downs and slopes downwards from 100m OD in the south-east to 60m OD in the north-west. The built development will not extend above the 80m contour line in the south-eastern part of the site in order to safeguard views and the town's setting. The net developable area is, therefore, envisaged to be around 11ha.

The underlying geology consists of New Pit Chalk Formation and Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation bedrock with no superficial deposits recorded<sup>2</sup>.

The site is centred on grid reference TL 3689 4120.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf. <sup>2</sup> Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]



# 1.3 Archaeological Background

The slopes of the Hertfordshire Chalk Downs provide the setting for a relatively large number of prehistoric monuments in the form of ring ditches and barrows. These typically date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age period and have a funerary function. The data below was provided by the Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records and is prefixed MHT (Monuments Hertfordshire) and CHER (Cambridgeshire HER) respectively.

One ring ditch is located immediately north of the PDA in the Meridian School playing field (MHT 13455). 400m to the east of the PDA lies a Bronze Age round barrow (CHER 03107). The site of a possible Iron Age hillfort (CHER 03296), immediately to the north of the A505 near the south-eastern corner of the PDA is disputed, and may be due to natural geology.

To the north of the A505 there are two scheduled monuments. One is a Bronze Age barrow cemetery in Five Hill Field near Heath Farm, c. 1.3km east of the PDA (CHER 03172). This comprises at least five round barrows and one Iron Age square barrow and a cross dyke. The other scheduled monument is a causewayed enclosure and two ring ditches (CHER 03195) which lie c. 830m to the north of the PDA. This lies close to further ring ditches (CHER 08552).

Several more ring ditch groups (CHER 03116, 08558, 08560) and a barrow (HER 08562) lie to the north of the A505 within *c*. 500m of the PDA.

To the south of the PDA two ring ditches are recorded within the land of Burloes Hall (MHT 2567 and 2568). Burloes Hall itself is an Edwardian house and garden laid out in 1903 (MHT 9566).

A large number of worked and burnt prehistoric flints were retrieved during fieldwalking in the north-eastern quadrant of Royston east of Melbourne Road (MHT 13545). The flints date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age period and are the remainder of widespread and long-lived activity in this area.

Fewer sites and monuments are recorded to the west of the PDA, which is due to the built-up area of Royston. However, the open slopes of the chalk downs to the south-west of Royston again harbour a large number of prehistoric monuments. Therfield Heath, *c.* 2–3km to the south-west of the PDA has been designated an Area of Archaeological Significance (AAS 9) in the Local Plan. It contains three scheduled monuments in the form of a Neolithic long barrow, Bronze Age cemetery and Iron Age boundary ditches (Scheduled Monument nos. 17, 97 and 125).

There are also a number of sites comprising undated enclosures, ditches and pits to the north and south of the PDA (MHT 13543, 17000, 17001, CHER 09545). These could be parts of settlements dating to the prehistoric or Roman period or parts of later field boundaries and field systems.

Definite medieval field systems have been traced to the north of the PDA (MHT 13542 and CHER 09010). Medieval stock pens, ridge and furrow ploughing and cultivation terraces are also recorded within Therfield Heath.



The town of Royston itself grew up around the crossing of the Icknield Way, a prehistoric routeway which is now followed by the A505, and Ermine Street, a Roman road on the line of the present-day A10. In 1189, Richard I granted the right to hold a market at Royston and the first stalls and later houses most likely stood at the crossing of the two streets (Page 1912). Most built heritage assets within Royston lie near the crossroads and surrounding streets and include a large number of listed buildings.

# 1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA and, if so, to establish their extent, condition, nature and significance.

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of settlement in the area and to produce an archive report that fully describes the archaeological works.

# 1.5 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion 2014). Twenty-five trenches were excavated across the site equalling a 2.27% sample of the 11ha net developable area. This is in accordance with the initial 2% sample proposed in the WSI. Fieldwork was carried out between 11th and 21st August 2014.

Contexts were recorded in blocks of numbers assigned according to the trench number: Trench 1 = contexts 100-199; Trench 2 = contexts 200-299 etc. The numbers for cut features such as ditches and pits are given in the text in square brackets [\*\*\*\*]; whilst fills and layers are in round brackets (\*\*\*\*).



## 2. RESULTS

#### 2.1 Introduction

The results are summarised below by trench and illustrated in Figures 2 to 5. Detailed context and trench data is provided in Appendix 1.

## 2.1.1 Geological deposits and overburden

The overburden consisted of a loose chalky silt ploughsoil generally around 0.3m thick. The ploughsoil seen the trenches in the north and west of the site was similar in depth to that seen on the higher ground in the south-east, with no significant build-up at the base of the slope. Slightly deeper soil occurred in some localised natural depressions.

Subsoil was found in some trenches, consisting of a thin (c. 0.1m) layer of light yellow brown chalky silt with chalk fragments.

The undisturbed geological deposit seen in all of the trenches was chalk bedrock.

#### 2.1.2 Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4

These trenches contained no archaeological features.

#### 2.1.3 Trench 5

This trench contained a single ditch [503], located 8m from northern end of the trench (Figure 3). It was aligned roughly north-south, c. 2.15m wide and 0.44m deep with an asymmetric profile that was steeper on its western side. It contained two fills: a mid grey brown upper fill (504) and a light yellowish brown primary fill (505). The lower fill produced a small finds assemblage that include animal bone, coal, post-medieval roof tile and pottery and a clay pipe dateable to the late 17th century.

A distinct step in the underlying chalk bedrock occurred in line with the ditch. The chalk was higher on the eastern (upslope) side of the ditch where it was covered by just topsoil (800). On the western (downslope) side the soil was deeper with a 0.2m-thick layer of subsoil (501) at the base and a deposit of broken chalk adjacent to the ditch.

## 2.1.4 Trench 6

This trench contained a single ditch [603], located 21m from the east end of the trench (Figure 3). It was aligned roughly north-south and was 1.15m wide and 0.18m deep with an asymmetric profile. It contained a single light yellowish brown fill which produced a small amount of post-medieval roof tile. The ditch marks a step in the chalk similar to that noted for ditch [503].

#### 2.1.5 Trench 7

This ditch contained a single ditch [703], located 17m from the south end of the trench (Figure 3). It was aligned NE-SW and was 0.85m wide and 0.22m deep with sloping sides and concave base. It contained asymmetric fills consisting of



an upper fill (704) on the northern side of the cut above a lower fill (705) to the south. The upper fill contained a high proportion of chalk fragments.

#### 2.1.6 Trench 8

The centre of this trench contained a large pit [809]. There was also a possible linear feature [803] in its southern half (Figure 4).

Feature [803], aligned NE-SW, was 2.93m wide and up to 0.4m deep. The cut was irregular with asymmetric sides and a base that varied in depth. The single fill (804) consisted mostly of medium to large chalk fragments with a chalky silt in the interstices between the stones.

Pit [809] was investigated in two excavated segments [805] and [807]. It was more than 9m long and up to 0.44m deep with a flat base and sides sloping at approximately 45°. A single fill of mid brown chalky silt with small fragments of chalk and occasional stones produced a single iron nail.

A light yellow brown subsoil layer (801) occurred across the central part of the trench, above and a short distance beyond the limits of pit [809]. It is likely that this deposit formed in a slight hollow caused by the settling of the pit fill.

#### 2.1.7 Trench 9

This trench contained a single linear feature [902], located at its mid point (Figure 4). It was aligned NW-SE and was 2.4m wide and 0.15m deep with an asymmetric profile consisting of a flat base and a sloping eastern side. It contained a single light yellow brown fill which produced a small amount of post-medieval roof tile and pottery.

In profile the feature forms a small step in the underlying chalk bedrock. Its shape suggests that rather than being a deliberate cut feature it was probably formed by ploughing along the upslope edge of a former field.

#### 2.1.8 Trench 10

This trench contained a single ditch [1003], located 5m from its south end (Figure 3). It was aligned NE-SW and was 0.8m wide and 0.28m deep with near vertical sides and stepped base (deeper along its southern side). It contained asymmetric fills consisting of an upper fill (1004) on the northern side of the cut above a lower fill (1005) to the south. The upper fill contained a high proportion of chalk fragments.

## 2.1.9 Trench 11

This trench contained no archaeological features.

#### 2.1.10 Trench 12

This trench contained a single ditch [1202], located at its southern end (Figure 4). The feature was aligned NW-SE and was 1m wide and 0.13m deep with relatively shallow sides and an uneven base. It contained a single fill (1203) with frequent small chalk fragments.



#### 2.1.11 Trenches 13, 14, 15 and 16

These trenches contained no archaeological features.

#### 2.1.12 Trench 17

Trench 17 contained a cluster of features: two small pits [1702 and 1704], a gully [1706] and a ditch [1708] located 20m from the west end of the trench (Figure 5).

Pits [1702] and [1704] were both small, rounded features with similar fills, consisting of firm, dark grey chalky silt. Pit [1704] was cut by gully [1706] whilst pit [1702] had largely been truncated away by both the gully and ditch [1708].

Gully [1706] was aligned north-south and was 0.24m wide and 0.17m deep, with vertical sides, a flat base and a square southern terminal. It contained a single mid red brown fill with occasional small stones and produced a single, very small sherd of modern pottery.

Ditch [1708] was aligned NW-SE and was 1.1m wide and 0.44m deep with straight sloping sides and an uneven base with a narrow V-shaped depression along part of its western edge. The mid red brown upper fill [1709] produced a single small sherd of modern pottery. No artefacts were recovered from the lower fill (1710).

The dark fills found in the two pits contrasts with all of the other deposits that were investigated within the site. It is possible that the colour could indicate that they derive from burning; however, no other evidence such as charcoal was present. Gulley [1706] and ditch [1708] clearly post-dated the pits but the relationship between the pit and gully could not be determined due to the similarity of their fills.

#### 2.1.13 Trenches 18, 19, 20 and 21

These trenches contained no archaeological features.

#### 2.1.14 Trench 22

This trench contained a single gully-type feature [2203] located 10m from its east end (Figure 5). It was only 0.27m wide and 25mm deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a mid reddish brown fill (2204).

## 2.1.15 Trench 23

This trench contained no archaeological features.

#### 2.1.16 Trench 24

This trench contained a ditch [2402] and a large pit [2404], both located in the northern half of the trench (Figure 5).

Ditch [2402] was aligned NW-SE and was 0.52m wide and 0.22m deep with sides sloping at c. 45° to a concave base. It contained a single mid yellow brown fill (2403).



Pit [2404] in the northernmost end of the trench was at least 5m long, 2m wide and up to 0.54m deep. The north-east edge of the cut had a stepped profile and the base of the feature was flat. It contained a lower (2405) and upper fill (2406), both yellowish brown silty chalk with more frequent chalk fragments in the lower fill.

## 2.1.17 Trench 25

This trench contained no archaeological features.



## 3. SYNTHESIS AND INTERPRETATION

# 3.1 Summary

Twenty-five trial trenches were positioned evenly across the PDA.

The underlying geology consisted of chalk bedrock. The overburden consisted of modern ploughsoil and a thin subsoil layer that occurred in some trenches. Archaeological features were identified in ten of the trenches (see Figure 6 for interpretive plan). All of the dateable features were post-medieval (1500-1750) or modern (1750 onwards).

Post-medieval features comprised a field boundary ditch seen in Trenches 5 and 6 and a linear feature in Trench 9. The ditch in Trenches 5 and 6 can be identified with a hedge line indicated on 19th-century maps (Figure 6). The feature in Trench 9 is a step, cut into the natural slope of the chalk, probably as a result of plough action. It follows the alignment of the field boundaries shown on historical maps and its fill contained a small amount of post-medieval roof tile and pottery.

Modern features comprised a field boundary which crossed Trenches 12, 17 and 24 and a small, square cut gully found next to the field boundary in Trench 17.

Undated features consisted of: a shallow gulley in Trench 22; an irregular chalk-filled feature in Trench 8; a NE-SW aligned ditch, crossing Trenches 7 and 10; two small pits in Trench 17; and two large pits in Trenches 8 and 24.

The gully in Trench 22 matches the alignment of the post-medieval and modern field boundaries and is likely to be a modern landscape feature. The irregular, chalk-filled feature in Trench 8 is likely to be natural in origin. The ditch in Trenches 7 and 10 contained a step in its base (excavated segment in Trench 10), which is probably evidence of cleaning or maintenance. The only artefact recovered was a fragment of unworked, burnt flint. The two small pits in Trench 17 were cut by the modern field boundary and gully in this trench but are otherwise undated and of uncertain function. The two large pits found in Trenches 8 and 24 were more than 9m and 5m long respectively with steep sides and flat bases. Their fills contained nothing to suggest a possible function or date — a single iron nail being the only object recovered from the pit in Trench 8. The size of these features suggests that they may have been quarry pits.

## 3.2 Significance

The trial trenching identified a small number of features cut into the chalk bedrock. The features were either undated or associated with post-medieval and modern field boundaries. They are of low archaeological significance and have no potential to address the published archaeological research objectives for the region.

Conditions for archaeological observation during the evaluation were good with identified features clearly contrasting with the undisturbed chalk bedrock exposed in all trenches. The results suggest a low potential for significant archaeological remains within the PDA.



## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# 5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36942: Northing: 40854)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36942: Northing: 40904*)

Context:	Type:	Description: Excavated: Finds Pr	
100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
101	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36921: Northing: 40939)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36962: Northing: 40939*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
200	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	
201	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36897: Northing: 40908)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36880: Northing: 40955*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>	
300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
301	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
302	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36866: Northing: 41004)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36916: Northing: 41004*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>	
400	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
401	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	✓	
402	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.4 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36950: Northing: 40989)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36971: Northing: 41035*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
501	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
502	Natural	Hard white chalk		
503	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.15m, max depth 0.44m Assymetric profile with steeper western (downslope) side		
504	Fill	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt moderate small stones	$\checkmark$	
505	Fill	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small stones	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36928: Northing: 41051)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36978: Northing: 41051)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fine	ds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
601	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>~</b>	
602	Natural	Hard white chalk		
603	Ditch	Linear N-S $$ sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.18m $$		
604	Fill	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small stones	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.28 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36886: Northing: 41035)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36885: Northing: 41084*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
701	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	✓	
702	Natural	Hard white chalk		
703	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.22m Corresponds to ditch [1003] in Trench 10		
704	Fill	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt frequent small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
705	Fill	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.44 m. Max: 0.5 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36825: Northing: 41098)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36825: Northing: 41148*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
800	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
801	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
802	Natural	Hard white chalk		
803	Feature	Linear NE-SW sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.95m, max depth 0.4m		
804	Fill	Loose mid brown grey silty chalk frequent medium-large chalk Clean fill consisting largely of chalk fragments	<b>✓</b>	
805	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 0.44m, min length 9.m		
806	Fill	Friable mid brown chalky silt frequent flecks chalk	<b>✓</b>	
807	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.4m, min length 9.m		
808	Fill	Friable mid brown chalky silt frequent flecks chalk	<b>✓</b>	<b>~</b>
809	Pit	Sub-rectangular dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min length 9.m Unxcavated portion of pit [805] - [807]	dl 🗌	
810	Pit	Mid brown chalky silt		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m. Max: 0.34 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36858: Northing: 41123)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36909: Northing: 41123)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Present</b>	
900	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>~</b>	
901	Natural	Hard white chalk		
902	Feature	Linear NW-SE $$ sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 2.4m max depth 0.15m $$	п, 🗆	
903	Fill	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small stones	<b>✓</b>	$\checkmark$
904	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.25 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36954: Northing: 41083)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36954: Northing: 41133*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fine	ds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	✓	
1001	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk Subsoil deposi identified in area imediately north of ditch [1003].	it 🗸	
1002	Natural	Hard white chalk		
1003	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.28m		
1004	Fill	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt frequent small-medium chalk		
1005	Fill	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones		<b>✓</b>



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36916: Northing: 41180)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36966: Northing: 41180*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
1100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
1101	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.3 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36889: Northing: 41156)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36889: Northing: 41206)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1200	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
1201	Natural	Hard white chalk		
1202	Ditch	Linear NW-SE $$ sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.13m $$		
1203	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown chalky silt frequent small chalk		
1204	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36794: Northing: 41181)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36844: Northing: 41181*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
1300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
1301	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36833: Northing: 41215)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36822: Northing: 41265*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pro	esent:
1400	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
1401	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
1402	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36878: Northing: 41239)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36929: Northing: 41239)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
1500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
1501	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36897: Northing: 41271)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36897: Northing: 41322)

Context:	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
1600	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
1601	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.23 m. Max: 0.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 36802: Northing: 41297)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36852: Northing: 41297*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
1701	Natural	Hard white chalk		
1702	Pit	Oval sides: steep		
1703	Fill	Firm dark grey chalky silt moderate small chalk Dark colour suggests possible burnt deposit, however no obvious charcoal	<b>✓</b>	
1704	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.16m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.22m $$		
1705	Fill	Firm dark grey chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
1706	Gulley	Linear N-S $$ sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, max depth 0.17m $$		
1707	Fill	Friable mid red brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
1708	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.44m Base of ditch contains narrow V-shaped depression along its western edge	1	
1709	Fill	Friable mid red brown chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
1710	Fill	Friable mid grey chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36760: Northing: 41271)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36760: Northing: 41320*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
1800	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	
1801	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36731: Northing: 41355)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36781: Northing: 41355*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	Excavated: Finds Pro	esent:
1900	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
1901	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	✓	
1902	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36819: Northing: 41330)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36819: Northing: 41380*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
2000	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
2001	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36848: Northing: 41354)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36897: Northing: 41355*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
2100	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
2101	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>V</b>	
2102	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.26 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36795: Northing: 41412)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36845: Northing: 41412*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Fi	inds Present:
2200	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	✓	
2201	Subsoil	Friable light yellow brown chalky silt moderate small chalk	<b>✓</b>	
2202	Natural	Hard white chalk		
2203	Gulley	Linear N-S $$ sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.03m $$		
2204	Fill	Friable mid red brown chalky silt frequent flecks chalk	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36820: Northing: 41443)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36820: Northing: 41492*)

Context:	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
2300	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>
2301	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.38 m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36763: Northing: 41388)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36763: Northing: 41438*)

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2400	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	
2401	Natural	Hard white chalk		
2402	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.52m, max depth 0.22m		
2403	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown chalky silt frequent flecks chalk	<b>✓</b>	
2404	Pit	Sub-rectangular sides: irregular base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, max depth 0.54m, min length 5.m		
2405	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown chalky silt frequent small-medium chalk	<b>✓</b>	
2406	Fill	Friable mid yellow brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** (Easting: 36681: Northing: 41439)

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** (*Easting: 36731: Northing: 41439*)

Reason:

Context	: Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present</b>	:
2500	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown chalky silt occasional small stones	<b>V</b>	]
2501	Natural	Hard white chalk		]



# 6. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACTS SUMMARY

#### 6.1 Introduction

Seven features across six trenches yielded a small assemblage comprising mainly pottery and ceramic building material (Table 1). This material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1–4, 7, 11–16 or 18–25.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date	Finds Summary
5	503	Ditch	505	Post-medieval	Pottery (132g); ceramic roof tile (174g); coal (3g);
					clay tobacco pipe (15g); animal bone (3g)
6	603	Ditch	604	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (29g)
8	807	Pit	808	Undated	Iron nail x1
9	902	Ditch	903	Post-medieval	Pottery (2g); ceramic roof tile (36g)
10	1002	Ditch	1005	Undated	Burnt unworked flint (14g)
17	1706	Ditch	1707	Modern	Pottery (2g)
	1708	Ditch	1709	Modern	Pottery (1g)

**Table 1:** Artefact Summary by trench and feature

### 6.2 Ceramics

Five pottery sherds, weighing 137g were recovered. They survive in good condition, with a mean weight of 27g, and are unabraded. Four post-medieval and modern fabric types were identified (Table 2).

Common name	Sherd No.	Wt (g)	Fill / Sherd No.
Post-medieval			
Glazed red earthenware	1	131	(505):1
Black-glazed earthenware	1	2	(903):1
Modern			
Mocha ware	2	2	(505):1, (1709):1
White earthenware	1	2	(1707):1

**Table 2:** Pottery type series

Ditches [503] and [902] each contained single sherds of 17th-century glazed earthenware (total weight 133g), one deriving from a shallow bowl. Three undiagnostic sherds of 19th-century mass-produced tableware (4g) were collected from ditches [503], [1706] and [1709].

Eight sand-tempered pieces of post-medieval flat roof tile (239g) derived from ditches [503], [603] and [902]. They range in thickness from 12–15mm; one piece retains a partial square peg hole.

### 6.3 Other Finds

The primary fill of ditch [503] contained a highly abraded fragment of animal tooth (3g), a piece of coal (3g), and a complete clay tobacco pipe bowl. The latter has a crudely milled rim and a flat heel, and is datable to the late 17th century (c. 1660–1680).

The square-sectioned shank from an undatable iron timber nail was collected from pit [807], and a piece of unworked, patinated burnt flint (14g) from undated ditch [1002].



# 7. APPENDIX 3: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston					
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire			
Village/Town: Royston		Parish: Roys	ton		
Planning application refere	nce: N/A				
HER Enquiry reference: N/	'A				
Client name, address, and t	el. no.: The Ho	oy 1997 Settle	ment, Upper Campsfield Farm,		
Upper Campsfield Road, W	oodstock, Ox	fordshire, OX	20 1QG. (01993) 811423		
Nature of application: Barf	ord + Co. are a	gathering info	rmation on Land North of		
Newmarket Road, Royston	, Hertfordshire	e, in support of	f a planning application for		
development for housing.	development for housing.				
Present land use: Agricultu	Present land use: Agricultural				
Size of application area: <i>c</i> .	17ha	Size of area investigated: c.2,500m <sup>2</sup>			
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 368	NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3689 4120				
Site code (if applicable): N	Site code (if applicable): NR2337				
Site director/Organization:	Drew Shotliff	/ Albion Arch	aeology		
Type of work:					
Archaeological trial trench	evaluation				
Date of work: Start: 11/08/2		2014	Finish: 21/08/2014		
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum:					
North Hertfordshire District Council Museum					
Related HER Nos: MHT 13		Periods represented:			
03107, CHER 03296, MH7		Undated, Pos	st-medieval, modern.		
2568, MHT 13545, MHT 1	3542,				
CHER 09010.					

# Relevant previous summaries/reports: None

Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological features were identified in only 10 of the 25 trenches. All of the dateable features (primarily field boundaries) were post-medieval (1500-1750) or modern (1750 onwards) in date. Undated features consisted of: a shallow gulley in Trench 22; an irregular chalk-filled feature in Trench 8; a NE-SW aligned ditch, crossing Trenches 7 and 10; two small pits in Trench 17; and two large pits in Trenches 8 and 24.

All the features identified in the trial trenches are of low archaeological significance and have no potential to address the published archaeological research objectives for the region. The results suggest a low potential for significant archaeological remains within the PDA.

Author of summary: R. Wardill	Date of summary: 16/12/14



#### 8. APPENDIX 4: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

## OASIS ID: albionar1-177934

**Project details** 

Land north of Newmarket Road, Royston Project name

the project

Short description of Barford + Co. are gathering information on Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, in support of a planning application for development for housing. The proposed development area (PDA) lies at the eastern edge of Royston, centred on grid reference TL 3689 4120. In total, it measures c. 17ha in extent, although the net developable area below the 80m OD contour is around 11ha. Twentyfive trenches were excavated; their distribution was designed to achieve an even coverage of the PDA. The overburden consisted of a chalky ploughsoil c.0.3m thick. Archaeological features were identified in only 10 of the 25 trenches. All of the dateable features (primarily field boundaries) were post-medieval or modern in date. Undated features included a NE-SW aligned ditch and two large pits. All the features identified in the trial trenches are of low archaeological significance and have no potential to address the published archaeological research objectives for the region. The results suggest a low potential for significant archaeological remains within the PDA.

Project dates Start: 11-08-2014 End: 21-08-2014

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

NR2337 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

**DITCH Post Medieval** Monument type

Monument type PIT Modern **DITCH Modern** Monument type

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

POTTERY Modern Significant Finds Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Housing estate

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the

planning process

Between deposition of an application and determination

# **Project location**

Country **England** 

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE ROYSTON Land north

of Newmarket Road, Royston



Study area 17.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 3689 4120 52.0518188785 -0.00339077396456 52 03 06 N 000 00

12 W Point

**Project creators** 

Name of

Albion Archaeology

Organisation Project brief

originator

No Brief

Project design

Albion Archaeology

originator Project

Robert Wardill

director/manager

Mark Phillips Project supervisor

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

recipient

North Herts Museums Service Resource Centre

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics" **Physical Contents** 

Digital Archive

Albion Archaeology

recipient **Digital Contents** 

"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"

Digital Media

available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

North Hertfordshire Museum Service

Paper Contents

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "other"

Paper Media

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous

available Material","Photograph","Report"

**Project** bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire:

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

'Phillips, M and Wells, J' Author(s)/Editor(s)

Other bibliographic

details

2014/152

Date 2014

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or

publication

Bedford

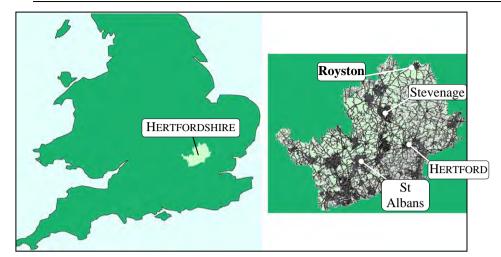
Entered by Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

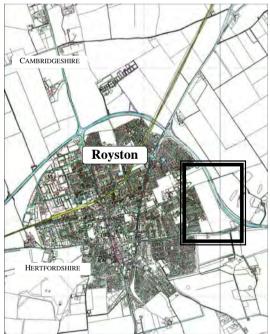
5 September 2014 Entered on



# 9. FIGURES







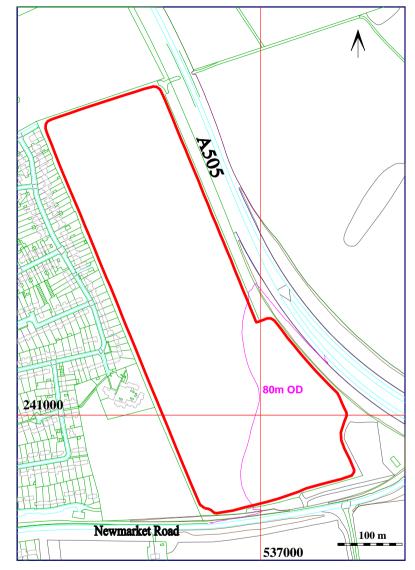


Figure 1: Site location plan

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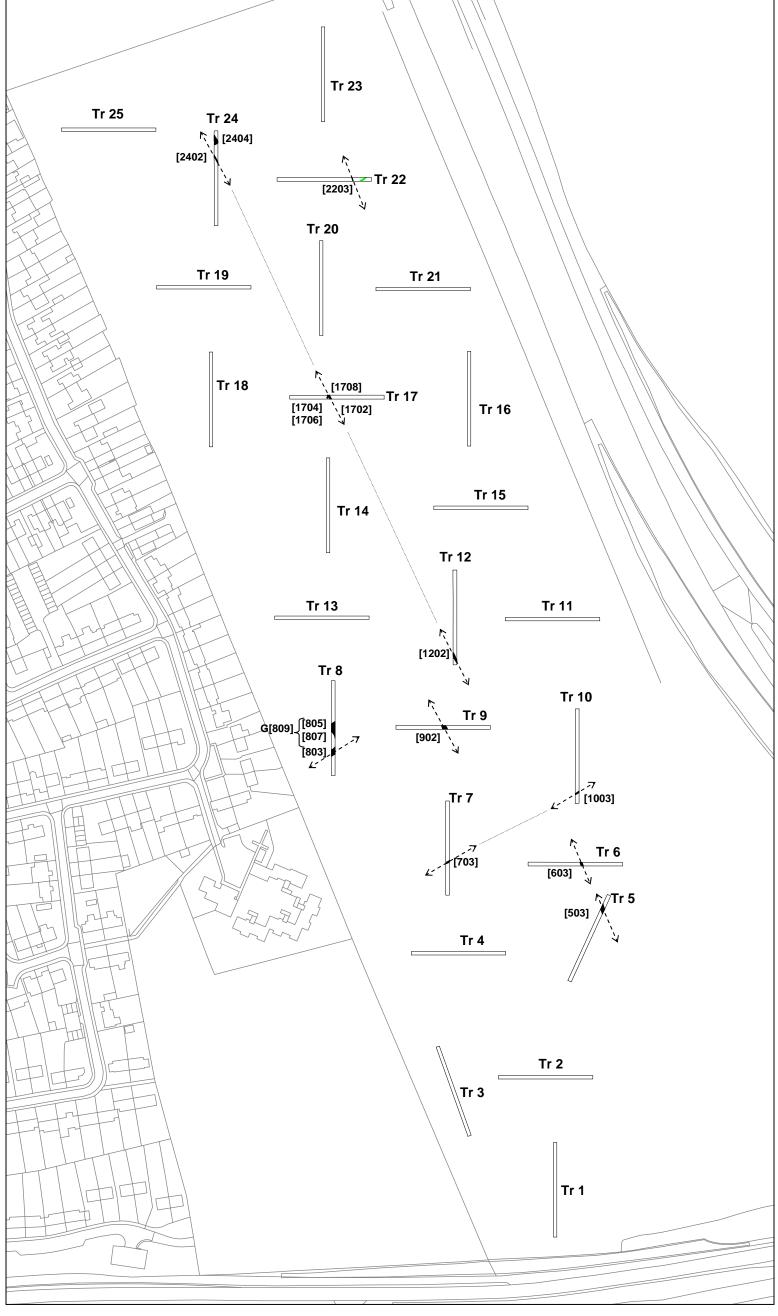
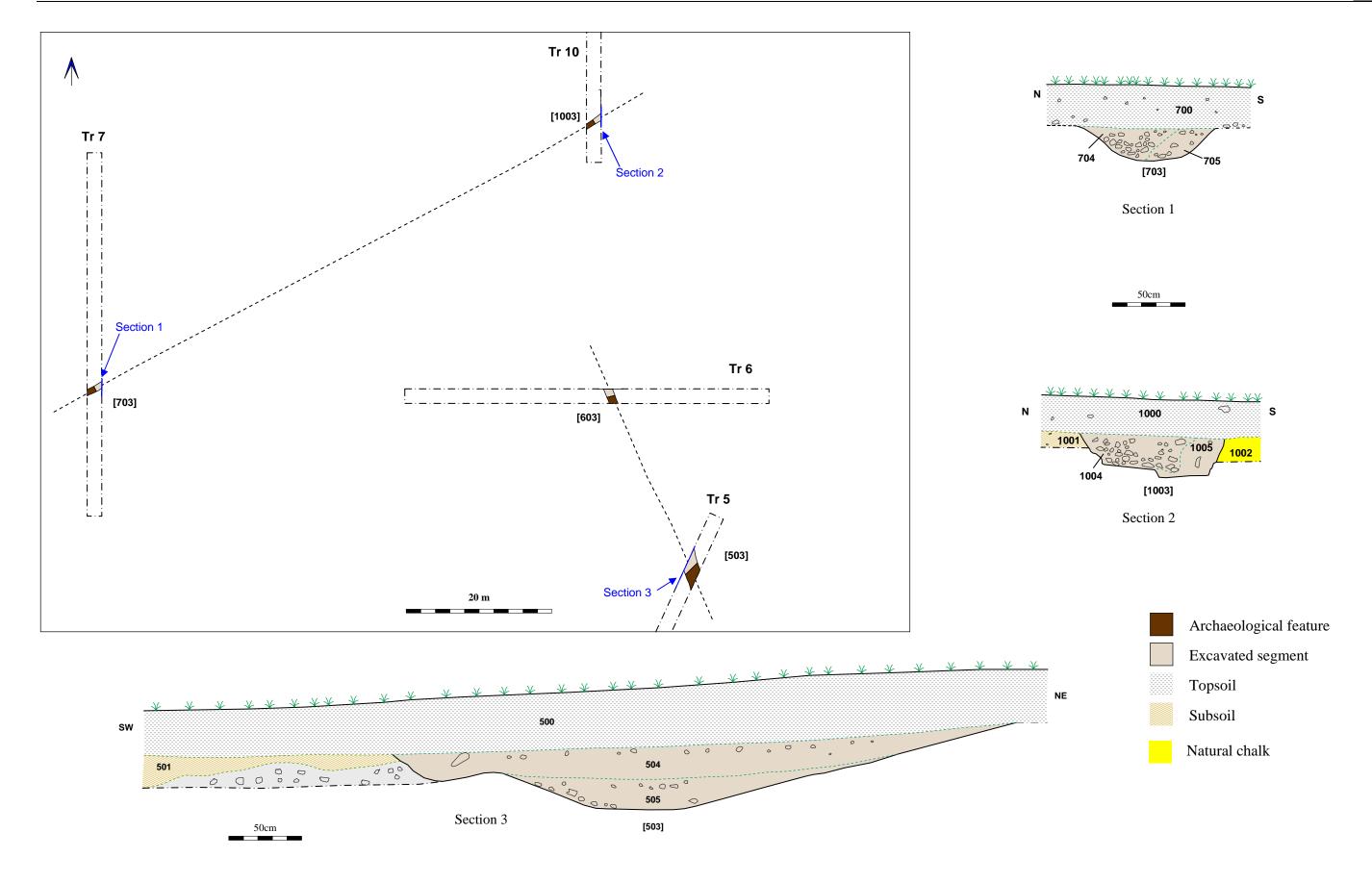


Figure 2: All features plan

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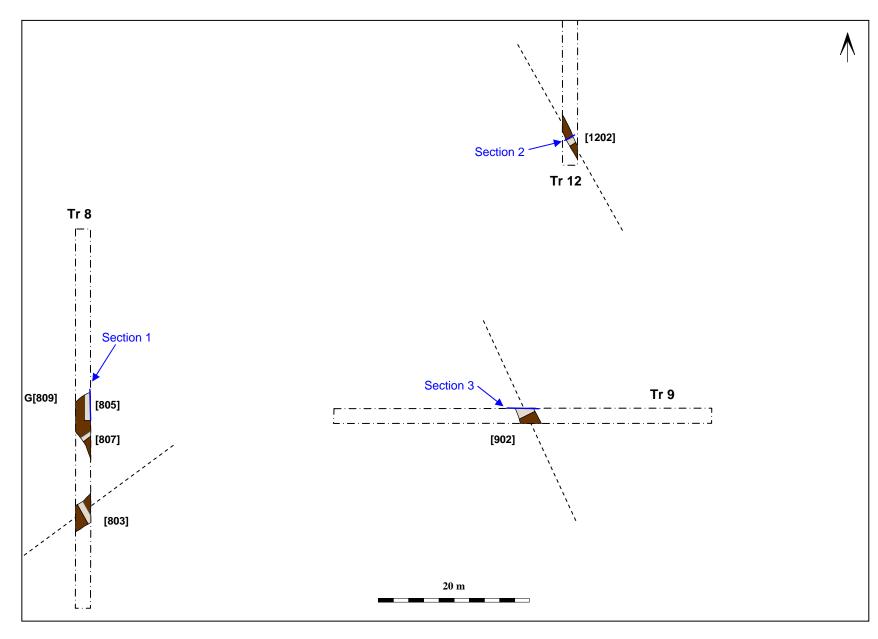


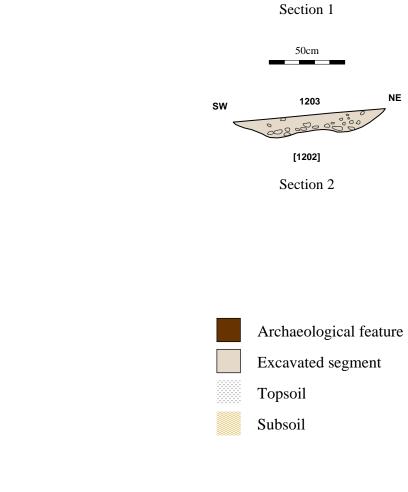


**Figure 3:** Trenches 5, 6, 7, and 10



90





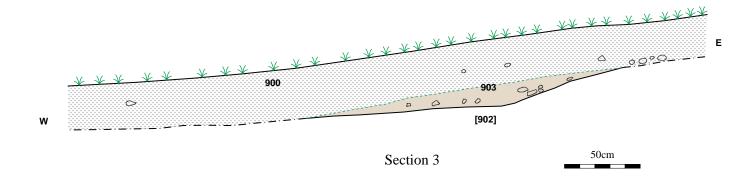


Figure 4: Trenches 8, 9, and 12

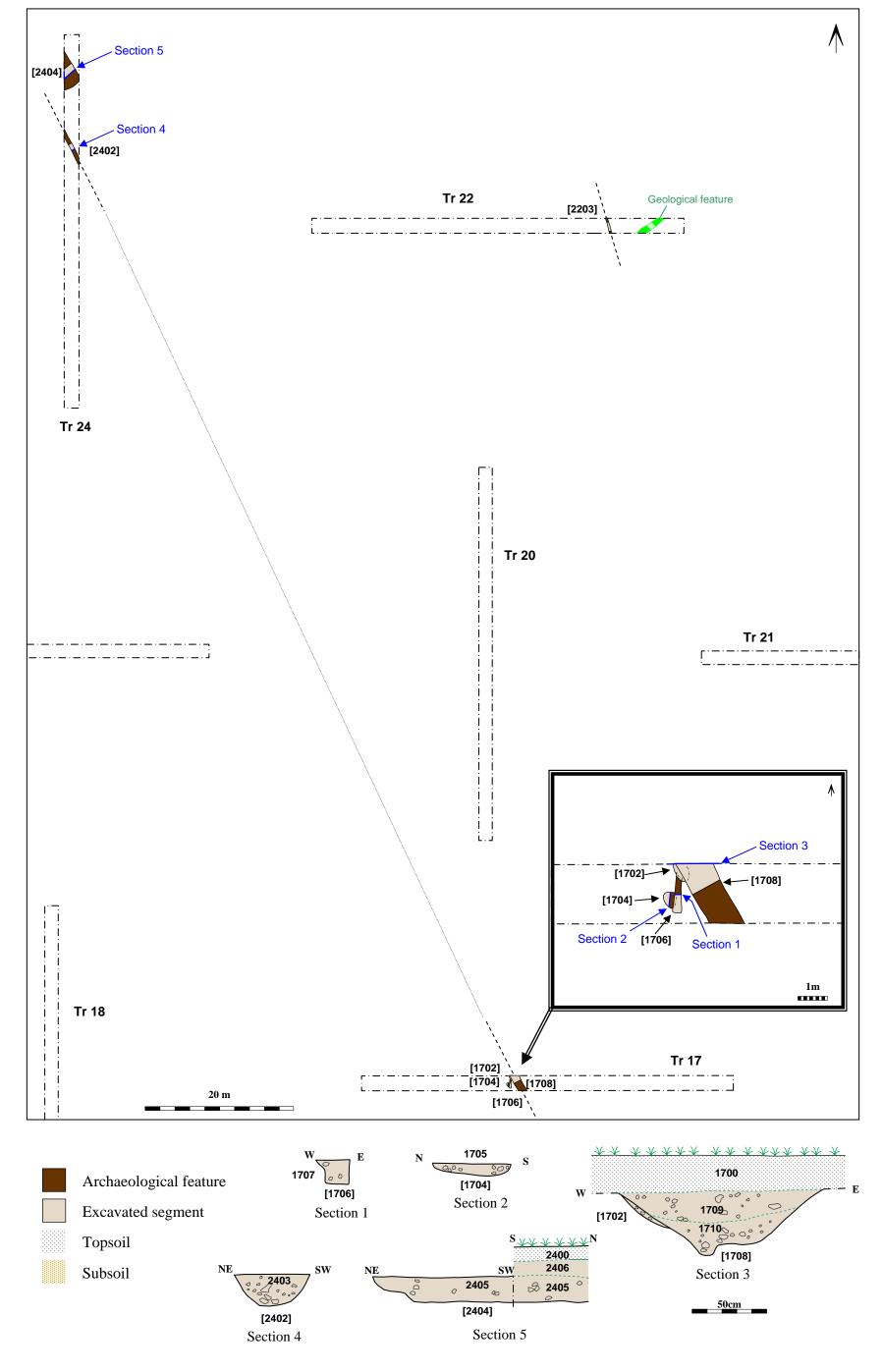
800

801

806

[805]





**Figure 5:** Trenches 17, 22, and 24



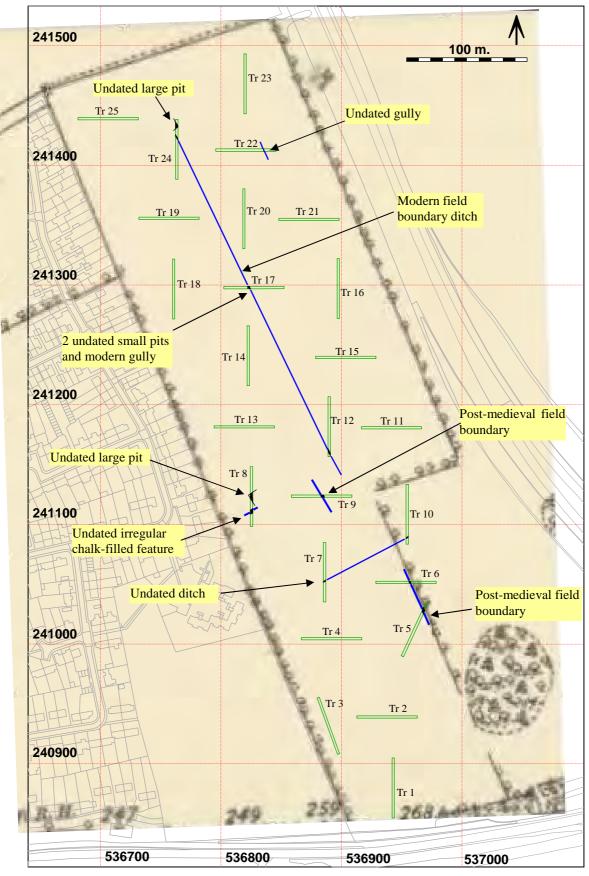


Figure 6: Interpretive results overlaid on 1886 Ordnance Survey map

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Historic map: National Library of Scotland



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