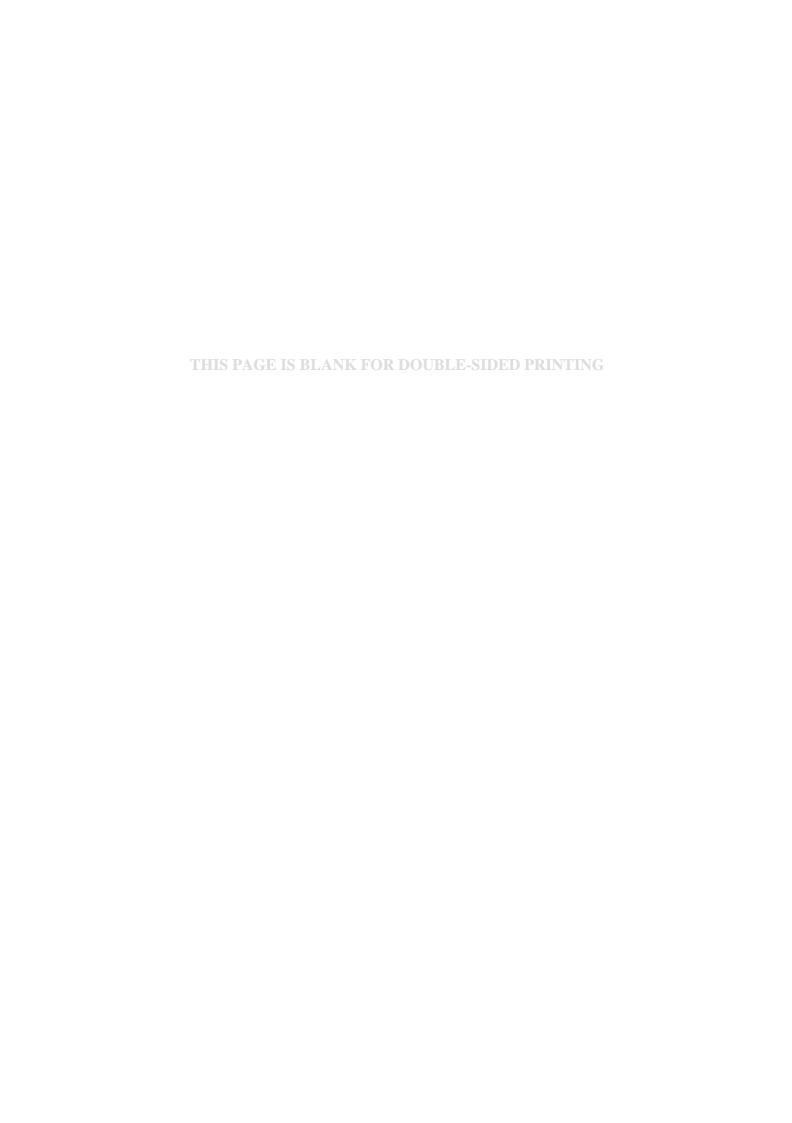
LAND NORTH OF NEWMARKET ROAD ROYSTON HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION PHASE 2

Albion archaeology







LAND NORTH OF NEWMARKET ROAD ROYSTON HERTFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION PHASE 2

Project: NR2337

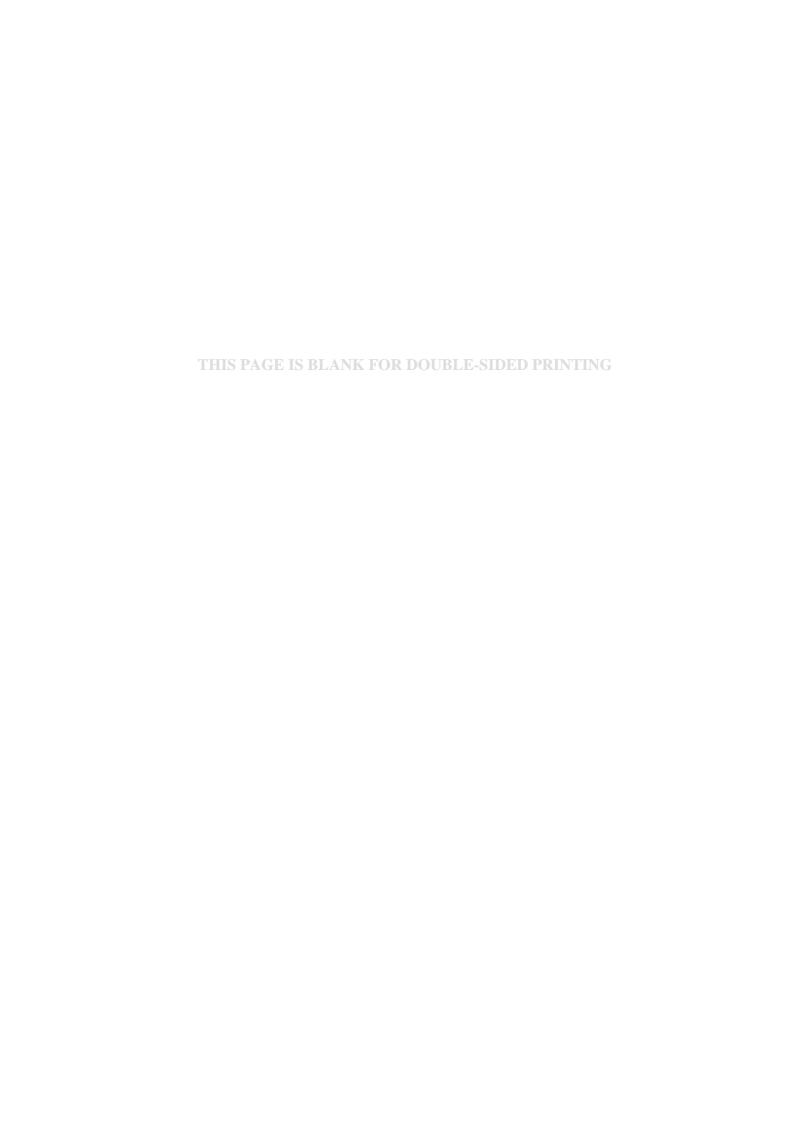
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Preface

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 D H 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 Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), Catie Watts and Heather White (Archaeological Technicians).

This report has been prepared by Ian Turner and Jackie Wells (Artefacts Officer) with illustrations by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The Project Manager was Jeremy Oetgen. All Albion Archaeology projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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1.0	5th October 2015	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

DA	Development area
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HEA	Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council
HER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

5



Non-Technical Summary

Planning application (14/02485/1) for a residential development and community open space with new access onto the A505 on land north of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, has been approved by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC).

The Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) for Hertfordshire County Council advised NHDC that the site was located in a landscape rich in archaeological remains. A trial trench evaluation comprising 25 trenches was carried out in advance of the planning determination. This identified a number of features of low archaeological significance. Following approval of the planning application, the HEA recommended a further phase of evaluation trenching should be carried out at the site to confirm its archaeological potential.

This report presents the results of this second phase of archaeological trial trenching, which comprised 23 trenches (Trench 26 and Trenches 29–50). This equates to a further 2.09% sample of the site bringing the total sample for both trenching phases to 4.36%. Proposed Trenches 27 and 28 could not be excavated because of the proximity of overhead power lines. Nine trenches contained archaeological features.

Four ditches of post-medieval or later date were present in Trenches 26, 38 and 45. An undated ditch in Trench 29 is also probably of post-medieval or later date.

An undated pit in Trench 44 was similar to two undated pits identified in first phase of the evaluation in Trench 17. The low number of pits and the absence of any artefacts suggest that the development area has been consistently used for agriculture, at some distance from any settlement focus.

The presence of furrows in Trenches 29, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 50 indicates that the ridge and furrow system of ploughing was used within the development area.

A metalled hollow-way in Trench 41, which was located at the historic field boundary at the western edge of the development area, was undated and did not extend into the surrounding trenches.

The second phase of trial trenching has corroborated the results of the first phase. A small number of additional features were present that were either undated or associated with post-medieval and modern field boundaries. Few of the features have contained artefacts, none of which have been earlier than post-medieval in date.

The features 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 development area.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Planning application (14/02485/1) for a residential development and community open space with new access onto the A505 on land north of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, has been approved by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC).

Pre-application consultation with the Historic Environment Advisor for Hertfordshire County Council (HEA) identified that the site was located in a landscape rich in archaeological remains. As a consequence, the HEA advised the NHDC that an initial trial trench evaluation be carried out at the site to assess the principle of the development with regard to the archaeological potential of the site. This advice was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* – *Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.*

The initial phase of trial trenching was carried out by Albion Archaeology in August 2014 with the report on the findings (Albion Archaeology 2014) subsequently submitted with the planning application. Following approval of the planning application, the HEA recommended a further phase of evaluation trenching should be carried out at the site to confirm its archaeological potential.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced detailing the methods and procedures to be employed to complete the second phase of archaeological field evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2015).

The results of both phases of trial trenching will inform the development of any necessary strategy to mitigate the effects of the development upon any archaeological remains present at the site. If the results of the evaluation indicate that further archaeological investigation is required, then the scope of the work and suitable methodologies will be agreed with the HEA and NHDC in the form of a further written scheme of investigation.

This report presents the results of the second phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The development area (DA) 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 DA measures c. 17ha in extent. The site lies on the northern slopes of the north 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 recorded¹.

The site is centred on grid reference TL 3689 4120.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The slopes of the north 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 site in the Meridian School playing field (MHT 13455). 400m to the east of the site 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 site 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 site (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 site. 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 site.

To the south of the site 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 site, 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 site 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).

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]



There are also a number of sites comprising undated enclosures, ditches and pits to the north and south of the site (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 site (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 Previous Trial Trenching Results

Twenty-five trenches were excavated in 2014, equalling a 2.27% sample of the site (Albion Archaeology 2014).

Archaeological features were identified in 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.

1.5 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the evaluation was to determine whether archaeological remains are present within the site 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. The site lies in a landscape with a large number of prehistoric funerary monuments and there is potential that further remains relating to this landscape could be revealed on the site.

The research framework for the eastern region states that the nature of burial practice in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods needs to be further investigated. In particular, this includes the relationship between settlement sites and burial sites and the development and use of monuments, including burial mounds, as key elements in understanding the landscape (Medlycott 2011, 13 and 20).

Specific research objectives were to be formulated, if remains uncovered during the trial trenching warranted a further stage of archaeological work. These research objectives would be determined by the nature of the archaeological



remains present at the site and would be linked to the published research frameworks for the region (Medlycott 2011).

1.6 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2015). Phase 2 trial trenching of the 11ha site comprised 23 50m x 2m trenches. This equates to a further 2.09% sample of the site bringing the total sample for both trenching phases to 4.36%. Fieldwork was carried out between 1st and 9th September 2015.

A total of 25 trenches had originally been planned for the second phase of the evaluation; however, it was not possible to open two due to their proximity to overhead power cables.

The trenches varied in depth between 0.24m and 0.53m.

Contexts were recorded in blocks of numbers assigned according to the trench number: Trench 26 = contexts 2600-2699; Trench 29 = contexts 2900-2999 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

Phase 2 of the archaeological evaluation comprised 23 trenches. Fourteen trenches contained no archaeological remains (Trenches 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 46, 47, 48, 49), with investigation confirming that only tree-throws and rooting boles were present. Nine trenches contained archaeological features which comprised: four ditches of post-medieval or later date; six furrows; an undated ditch; an undated pit and an undated hollow-way.

All features and deposits found within the trial trenches are described chronologically below and shown on Figures 2–6. Detailed information on features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. The few artefacts recovered from the features are described within this section.

2.1.1 Overburden and undisturbed geology

The topsoil comprised a dark grey-brown silt ploughsoil, 0.18–0.28m thick.

Beneath the topsoil, the subsoil ranged in thickness from 0.03–0.22m. The deeper deposits occurred in the southern trenches at the base of the higher ground that lies outside the DA. The subsoil varied from mid orange-brown to light red-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments.

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

2.1.2 Post-medieval to modern ditches

Four ditches [2603], [3803], [3806] and [4507] were present in Trenches 26, 38 and 45 (Figures 2 and 5).

Ditches [2603], [3803] and [4507] were aligned NNW-SSE with ditch [3806] being set on a perpendicular, ENE-WSW, alignment. The ditches varied in profile — some had flat bases; others were V-shaped. They were up to 1.34m wide and 0.42m deep. Fills varied from light grey-white silt with frequent chalk fragments to mid grey-brown silt with moderate small chalk fragments. Ditch [2603] contained three sand-tempered brick fragments and a roof tile fragment (total 96g) of post-medieval to modern date. Ditch [3806] contained a flat, 13mm-thick, sand-tempered roof tile fragment (34g) of post-medieval date.

Ditches [3803] and [4507] contained no artefacts. However, their location and alignment indicate that they are the same ditch as the field boundary ditches of modern date identified in first phase of the evaluation (Trenches 12, 17 and 24). This boundary ditch also matched the boundary alignment for the extant field, which appears little changed from its illustration on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map (Albion Archaeology 2014, fig. 6).

All the ditches are interpreted as field boundary ditches of post-medieval to modern date on the basis of their alignment and / or the artefacts they produced.



2.1.3 Furrows

Six NNW-SSE aligned furrows were present in Trenches 29, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 50; three were recorded in detail as [4411], [4505] and [5003]. The alignment of the furrows matches the longitudinal alignment of the extant field. The furrows were typically c. 1.50m wide and shallow. None contained artefacts.

The presence of wide shallow furrows indicates that the ridge and furrow system of ploughing, associated with the open field system, was used within the DA. Although no surviving ridges could be identified on the extant field surface, possible evidence for furrows was visible as regularly spaced, linear grass cropmarks (Figure 5, photograph of ditch [3803]). Ridge and furrow ploughing has a wide date range. Its origins are in the early medieval period and it continued in some areas until the 19th century.

2.1.4 Modern plough ruts

Plough ruts were observed in many of the trenches with larger examples in Trench 42 being investigated and planned. The plough ruts matched the extant field boundaries, being either NNW-SSE or ENE-WSW aligned. They are interpreted as modern features, created by mechanised deep ploughing through the relatively thin overburden, scarring the natural chalk deposit.

2.1.5 Undated ditch

An ENE-WSW aligned ditch [2903] was present in Trench 29. It had 45-degree sides with a flat base and contained light brown-grey to mid grey-brown silt and no artefacts (Figures 2 and 3).

The ditch's location, alignment, profile and size indicate that it is the same ditch as the undated feature identified in the first phase of the evaluation (Trenches 7 and 10). The ditch is also similar in form and alignment to ditch [3806] in Trench 38, which contained a fragment of post-medieval to modern roof tile. The alignment is also shared by the north-west and south-east field boundaries of the extant field as illustrated on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map.

Although this ditch remains undated, it is interpreted as a probable field boundary of post-medieval to modern date, based on artefact evidence from ditch [3806] and its general alignment.

2.1.6 Undated pit

A circular pit [4405] was present at the north-west end of Trench 44. It had 45-degree sides, a concave base, measured 0.85m wide by 0.24m deep and contained light grey-orange silt. It produced no artefacts and its date is unknown (Figure 6).

Four pits were identified in the first phase of evaluation. Of these, two in Trench 17 were similar in size and shape to pit [4405] — they too contained no artefacts. The two other pits — extensive, undated probable quarry pits — differed considerably from the smaller pits.

2.1.7 Undated hollow-way

A wide, shallow, slightly curving-linear feature [4103] on a broadly ESE-WNW alignment was present in Trench 41 (Figure 4). It had straight gently sloping sides



with a flat base measuring c. 4.20m wide and 0.22m deep. The base of the feature had been 'metalled' with a layer of stones that were imbedded into the chalk. The gaps between the stones were filled with multiple, hard, thin laminations of mid grey-brown chalky silt. Above this the feature had a secondary fill of mid brown silt with moderate numbers of stones towards the bottom of the deposit. No artefacts were contained in either layer and thus the date of the feature is unknown.

The feature is interpreted as a hollow-way — a path eroded by human and animal footfall. The feature is located at the western boundary of the DA, a historic boundary illustrated on the OS map of 1886. It also corresponded with a large natural depression that was the lowest point within the DA. This area possibly acted as an entry point into the field in the medieval, post-medieval or modern period. The hollow-way was not present in any of the trenches to the east, indicating that is a relatively short feature and does not extend across the DA. The absence of any artefacts suggests that the feature was some distance from any settlement focus.

2.1.8 Tree-throws and rooting boles

A total of 22 tree-throws or rooting boles were investigated; they were dispersed among Trenches 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 44, 45, 47, 48, 50). All were planned and ten were recorded in detail, [3603], [4403], [4407], [4409], [4503], [4803], [4903], 4905] [5005], [5007]. They were generally irregular in plan with uneven profiles and contained deposits that varied from light brown-grey to dark brown-grey silt with moderate small chalk fragments. They contained no artefacts.



3. SYNTHESIS AND INTERPRETATION – PHASE 2

3.1 Summary

Phase 2 of the archaeological evaluation comprised 23 additional trial trenches, positioned evenly across the DA in between the initial 25 trial trenches.

Nine trenches contained archaeological features which comprised: four ditches of post-medieval to modern date; six furrows; an undated ditch; an undated pit; and an undated hollow-way (Figure 2).

The four ditches [2603], [3803], [3806] and [4507] were present in Trenches 26, 38 and 45. They are interpreted as field boundary ditches of post-medieval to modern date, on the basis of artefact evidence or correlation with ditches that were dated during the previous phase of evaluation.

Six NNW-SSE aligned furrows were present in Trenches 29, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 50. The alignment of the furrows matches the longitudinal alignment of the extant field. They contained no artefacts.

The presence of furrows indicates that the ridge and furrow system of ploughing was used within the DA. Ridge and furrow ploughing was associated with the open field system and has a wide date range. Its origins are in the early medieval period and it continued in some areas until the 19th century.

Undated features comprised an ENE-WSW aligned ditch [2903] in Trench 29, a circular pit [4405] in Trench 44 and a hollow-way [4103] in Trench 41.

The ditch matches the alignment and from of post-medieval to modern ditch [3806] and is likely to be of similar date.

The pit was similar to two undated pits identified in first phase of the evaluation in Trench 17. The low number of pits and the absence of any artefacts suggest that the DA has always been used for agriculture, at some distance from any settlement focus.

The hollow-way [4103] was metalled with stones at its base. It is located at the historic western boundary of the DA and corresponded with a large natural depression which may have been an entry point into the field. It was not present in any of the trenches to the east indicating that is a relatively short feature that does not extend across the DA. The absence of any artefacts suggests that it lay some distance from any settlement focus.

A total of 22 tree-throws or rooting boles were investigated; they were dispersed among 11 of the trenches. They did not contain any artefacts.

Modern plough ruts were also present in many of the trenches, indicating that some degree of plough erosion has occurred.



3.2 Significance

The second phase of trial trenching has corroborated the results of the first phase. A small number of features were present that were either undated or associated with post-medieval and modern field boundaries.

The only new type of feature was the metalled hollow-way located at the historic field boundary at the western edge of the DA. However, it is undated and does not extend into the DA.

Few of the features contained artefacts and no artefacts predating the post-medieval period have been revealed by the evaluation.

The features 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 DA.



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5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.41 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53692: Northing: 24091

Easting: 53691: Northing: 24086

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
2600	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-large chalk	✓	
2601	Subsoil	Friable light brown grey silt occasional small-large chalk	V	
2602	Natural	Hard light white chalk		
2603	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.34m max depth 0.08m	n, 🗸	
2604	Fill	Friable light grey brown silt moderate small-large chalk	\checkmark	\checkmark



Max Dimensions: Length: 47.30 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.33 m. Max: 0.38 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53686: Northing: 24106

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2900	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-large chalk	✓	
2901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
2902	Natural	Hard light white chalk		
2903	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.14m, max depth 0.33m	✓	
2904	Primary fill	Firm light brown grey silt frequent small-medium chalk	✓	
2905	Secondary fill	Firm mid grey brown silt frequent small-medium chalk	✓	



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53690: Northing: 24105

Easting: 53694: Northing: 24101

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
3000	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-medium chalk	V	
3001	Subsoil	Friable mid red brown silt occasional small chalk	✓	
3002	Natural	Hard light white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53690: Northing: 24110

Easting: 53694: Northing: 24107

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
3100	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-medium chalk	V	
3101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small chalk	V	
3102	Natural	Hard light white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53686: Northing: 24110

Easting: 53683: Northing: 24106

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	Present:
3200	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small-medium chalk	✓	
3201	Subsoil	Friable light grey brown silt moderate small-large chalk	V	
3202	Natural	Hard light white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates:

Context:	Context: Type: Description:		Excavated: Finds Pr	s Present:	
3300	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey silt occasional small chalk	✓		
3301	Subsoil	Friable light grey brown silt moderate small-large chalk	V		
3302	Natural	Hard light white chalk			



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53687: Northing: 24120

Easting: 53685: Northing: 24115

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
3400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small-large chalk, occasional small medium stones	. 🗸	
3401	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt occasional small chalk	V	
3402	Natural	Hard light yellow white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53696: Northing: 24117

Easting: 53691: Northing: 24114

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds P	resent:
3500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	V	
3501	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt occasional small chalk	✓	
3502	Natural	Hard light yellow white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53691: Northing: 24122

Easting: 53696: Northing: 24120

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Property	esent:
3600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	V	
3601	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt occasional small chalk	✓	
3602	Natural	Hard light yellow white chalk		
3603	Treethrow	Sub-circular sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m min length 1.3m	, ✓	
3604	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silt moderate small chalk, occasional medium stones	~	



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53692: Northing: 24130

Easting: 53694: Northing: 24125

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
3700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk	
3701	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small chalk	v
3702	Natural	Hard white chalk	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53687: Northing: 24127

Easting: 53685: Northing: 24122

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
3800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-large stones	✓	
3801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small chalk	✓	
3802	Natural	Hard white chalk		
3803	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: max bread 1.15m, max depth 0.42m	th 🗸	
3804	Primary fill	Firm light grey white silt frequent small chalk	✓	
3805	Secondary fill	Friable mid grey brown silt frequent small chalk	✓	
3806	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.16m	✓	
3807	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	\checkmark



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53680: Northing: 24124

Easting: 53677: Northing: 24119

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
3900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	
3901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small chalk	✓	
3902	Natural	Hard white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53679: Northing: 24127

Easting: 53675: Northing: 24124

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4000	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	V	
4001	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
4002	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.24 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53672: Northing: 24135

Easting: 53673: Northing: 24130

Context:	Type:	Description: Excavated: Finds P		resent:	
4100	Natural	Hard white chalk			
4101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent flecks chalk	✓		
4102	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small chalk	✓		
4103	Hollow way	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 4.2m, madepth 0.22m	x 🗸		
4104	External surface	Compact mid grey brown chalky silt frequent small-large stones Thin layer. The primary deposit within hollow way [4103], formed of small, medium and large flints compacted into surface - missing in patches - infilled with layerhard/compacted chalk dust and silt that was thinly 'laminated' indicating multiple very thin deposits laid down over time.	e 🗸		
4105	Upper fill	Loose mid orange brown silt frequent small-large stones Disuse fill of hollow way, natural silting.	V		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53677: Northing: 24134

Easting: 53681: Northing: 24131

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	
4201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
4202	Natural	Hard white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53685: Northing: 24134

Easting: 53688: Northing: 24130

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	V	
4301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
4302	Natural	Hard white chalk		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53684: Northing: 24140

Easting: 53689: Northing: 24138

Context:	Type:	ype: Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:		
4400	Natural	Hard white chalk			
4401	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	~		
4402	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓		
4403	Treethrow	Sub-rectangular E-W sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.8m	n 🗸		
4404	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small-medium chalk	✓		
4405	Pit	Circular sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.24m, max length 0.95m	✓		
4406	Fill	Firm light grey orange silt frequent small-large chalk	~		
4407	Treethrow	Irregular N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.23m, max length 1.2m	✓		
4408	Fill	Hard dark brown grey silt frequent small-large chalk	\checkmark		
4409	Treethrow	Irregular N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.1m, max length 2.05m	✓		
4410	Fill	Hard light brown grey silt frequent small-large chalk	✓		
4411	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.17m	V		
4412	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓		



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.36 m. Max: 0.36 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53681: Northing: 24140

Easting: 53677: Northing: 24137

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Find	ls Present:
4500	Natural	Hard white chalk		
4501	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent flecks chalk	✓	
4502	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk	✓	
4503	Treethrow	Curving linear NW-SE sides: steep base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadt 0.8m, max depth 0.31m, max length 0.75m	th 🗸	
4504	Fill	Hard dark brown grey silt frequent small-medium chalk	\checkmark	
4505	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.06m	✓	
4506	Fill	Friable mid orange brown silt frequent small chalk	\checkmark	
4507	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 1.7m		
4508	Fill	Friable mid grey brown silt moderate small chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53669: Northing: 24141

Easting: 53674: Northing: 24139

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	
4601	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
4602	Natural	Hard white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53673: Northing: 24147

Easting: 53668: Northing: 24146

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	V	
4701	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	✓	
4702	Natural	Hard white chalk		



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53676: Northing: 24148

Easting: 53679: Northing: 24144

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4800	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	
4801	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silt moderate small chalk	~	
4802	Natural	Hard white chalk		
4803	Treethrow	Curving linear N-S $$ sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max length 3.3m $$	V	
4804	Fill	Compact mid brown grey silt moderate small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	



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

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53685: Northing: 24147

Easting: 53687: Northing: 24142

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:	
4900	Natural	Hard white chalk		
4901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small chalk	✓	
4902	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional flecks chalk	✓	
4903	Treethrow	Irregular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.11m, max length 1.1m	✓	
4904	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silt frequent small-large chalk	\checkmark	
4905	Treethrow	Irregular E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.03m, max depth 0.15m, max length 1.11m	\checkmark	
4906	Fill	Loose mid orange brown silt frequent small-large chalk	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: Easting: 53683: Northing: 24151

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
5000	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silt occasional small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	✓	
5001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silt moderate flecks chalk	✓	
5002	Natural	Hard white chalk		
5003	Furrow	Linear N-S $$ sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.1m $$ Cut of a plough rut.	✓	
5004	Fill	Friable light brown orange chalky silt moderate small-medium chalk	✓	
5005	Treethrow	Curving linear N-S $$ sides: steep base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.26m $$	✓	
5006	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silt moderate small-medium chalk	✓	
5007	Treethrow	Linear N-S $$ sides: assymetrical base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.25m $$	✓	
5008	Fill	Compact dark brown grey silt moderate small-medium chalk	✓	

CHER 09010.



6. APPENDIX 3: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston County: Hertfordshire District: North Hertfordshire Village/Town: Royston Parish: Royston Planning application reference: 14/02485/1 HER Enquiry reference: N/A Client name, address, and tel. no.: The Hoy 1997 Settlement, Upper Campsfield Farm, Upper Campsfield Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1QG. (01993) 811423 Nature of application: Barford + Co. are gathering information on Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, to address a condition on a planning permission for housing development. Present land use: agricultural Size of application area: c. 17ha Size of area investigated: c. 2,500m² NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3689 4120 Site code (if applicable): NR2337 Site director/Organization: Drew Shotliff / Albion Archaeology Type of work: Archaeological trial trench evaluation Date of work: Start: 01/09/2015 Finish: 09/09/2015 Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire District Council Museum Related HER Nos: MHT 13455, CHER Periods represented: 03107, CHER 03296, MHT 2567 MHT Undated, Post-medieval, modern. 2568, MHT 13545, MHT 13542,

Relevant previous summaries/reports: *Land North of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation.* Albion Archaeology report no. 2014/152

Summary of fieldwork results: A second phase of trial trenching (23 trenches) confirmed that few archaeological features survived within the development area. Nine trenches contained archaeological features which comprised: four ditches of postmedieval to modern date; six furrows; an undated ditch; an undated pit; and an undated hollow-way. Modern plough ruts were also present in many of the trenches, indicating that some degree of plough erosion had occurred.

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 confirm the conclusion of the earlier evaluation that there is low potential for significant archaeological remains within the development area.

Author of summary: J Oetgen Date of summary: 02/10/10



7. APPENDIX 4: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-225530

Project details

Project name Land north of Newmarket Road, Royston

Short description of the project

Planning application for a residential development and community open space with new access onto the A505 on land north of Newmarket Road, Royston, Hertfordshire, has been approved by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC). An earlier trial trench evaluation abionar1-177934 comprising 25 trenches was carried out in advance of the planning determination. This identified a number of features of low archaeological significance. Following approval of the planning application, the HEA recommended a further phase of evaluation trenching should be carried out at the site to confirm its archaeological potential. The second phase of archaeological trial trenching, comprised 23 trenches (Trench 26 and Trenches 29-50). Nine trenches contained archaeological features. Four ditches of post-medieval or later date were present as were as undated ditch and pit The low number of pits and the absence of any artefacts suggest that the development area has been consistently used for agriculture, at some distance from any settlement focus. The presence of furrows indicates that the ridge and furrow system of ploughing was used within the development area. A metalled hollow-way which was located at the historic field boundary at the western edge of the development area was undated and did not extend into the surrounding trenches. This second phase of trial trenching has corroborated the results of the first phase. A small number of additional features were present that were either undated or associated with post-medieval and modern field boundaries. Few of the features have contained artefacts, none of which have been earlier than post-medieval in date.

Project dates Start: 01-09-2015 End: 09-09-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

NR2337 - Contracting Unit No. 14/02485/1 - Planning Application No. albionar1-177934 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type DITCHES Post Medieval

FURROWS Post Medieval

DITCH Uncertain PIT Uncertain

HOLLOW WAY Uncertain

Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval
Methods & "Sample Trenches"
techniques

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

planning process

Country England

Site location HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE ROYSTON Land north of

Newmarket Road, Royston



Study area 1150 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 3689 4120 Point

Project creators

Name of

Albion Archaeology

Organisation

Project brief originator

none

Project design

Albion Archaeology

originator

Project Jeremy Oetgen

director/manager

Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive

recipient

North Herts Museums Service Resource Centre

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Physical Archive

notes

Checking with museum as to any selection policy for the finds

Digital Archive

recipient

Albion Archaeology

Digital Contents "Ceramics", 'other"

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive

recipient

North Hertfordshire Museum Service

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous 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 - Phase 2

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Turner, I'

'Oetgen, J'

Other bibliographic

details

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Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

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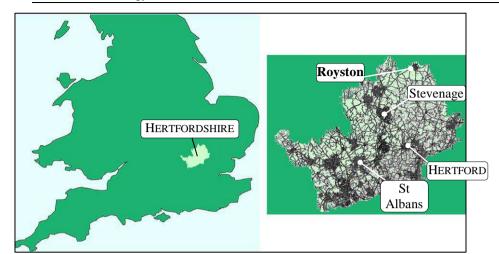
Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)

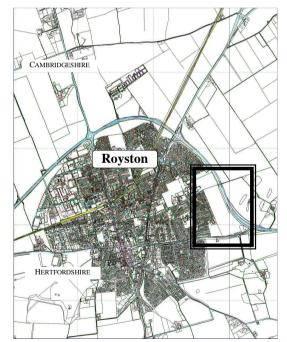
Entered on 5 October 2015



8. FIGURES







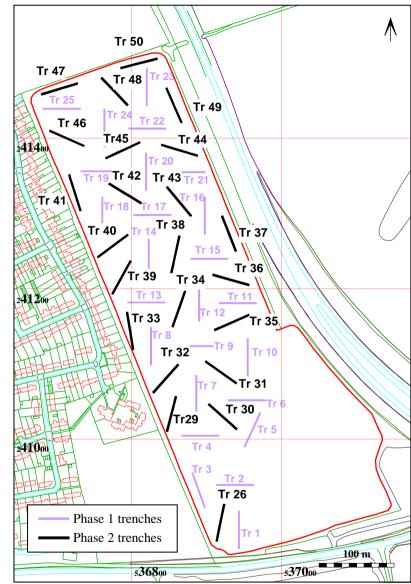


Figure 1: Site location

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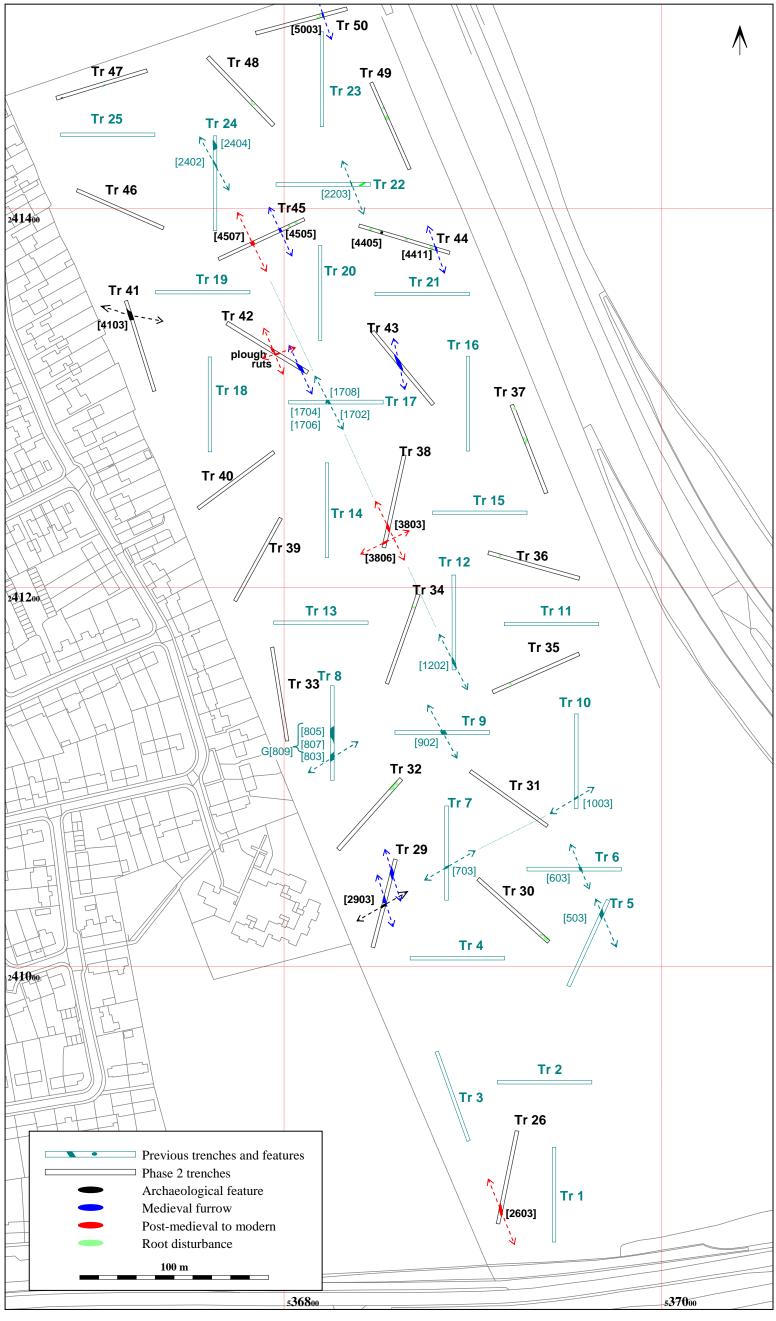


Figure 2: All features plan

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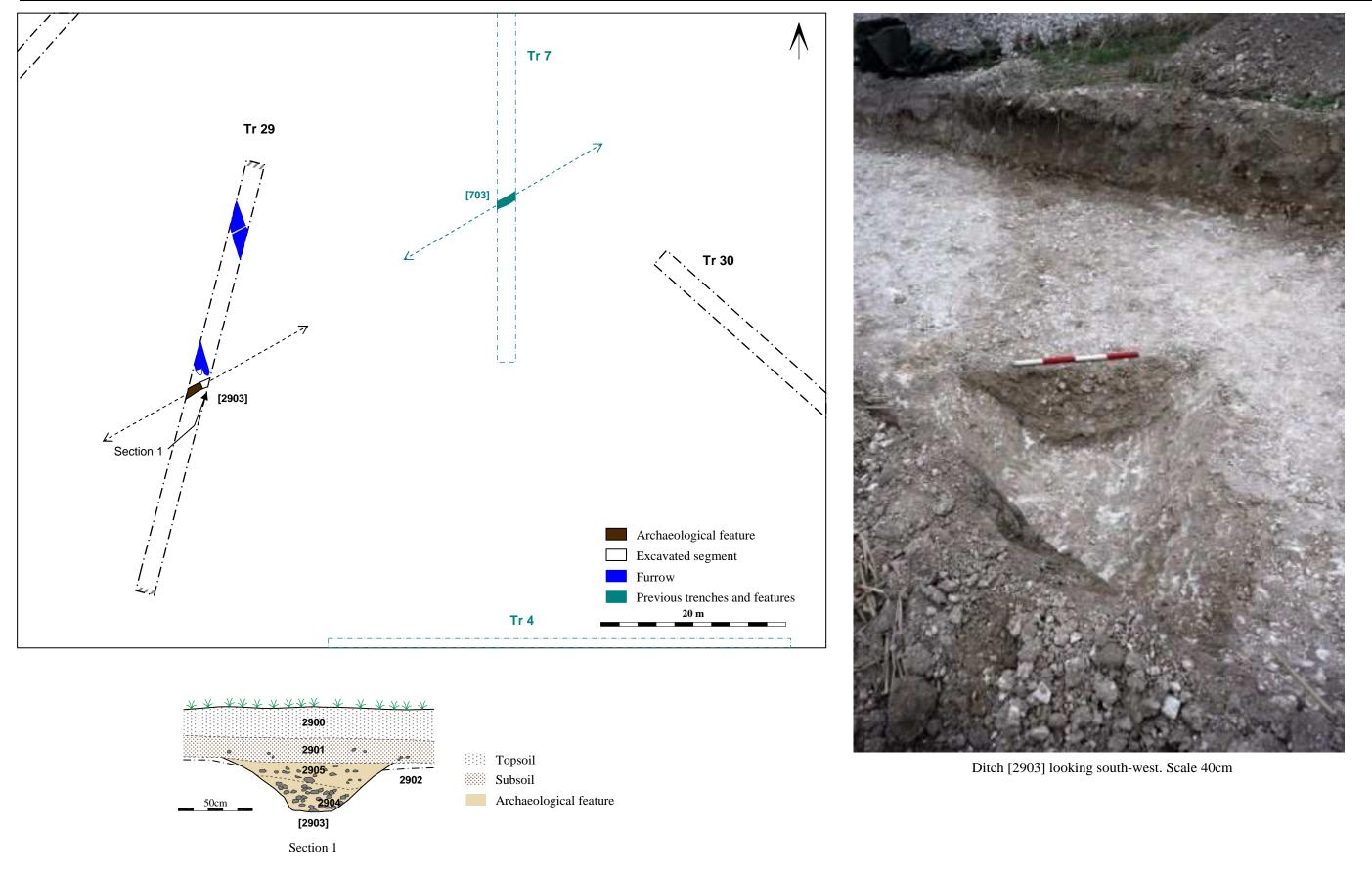
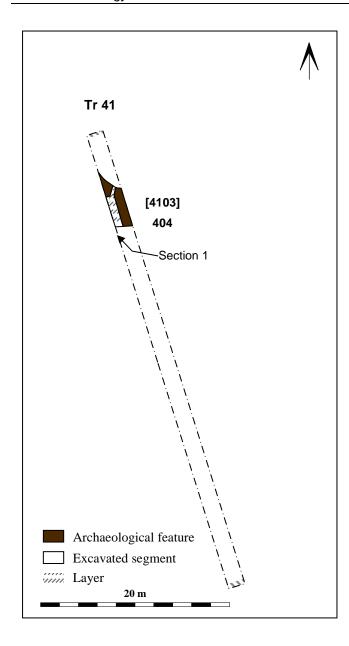
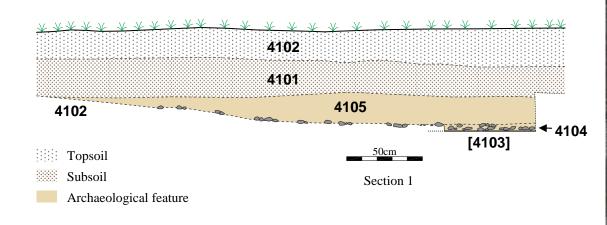


Figure 3: Trench 29









Hollow-way [4103] looking west. Scale 2m



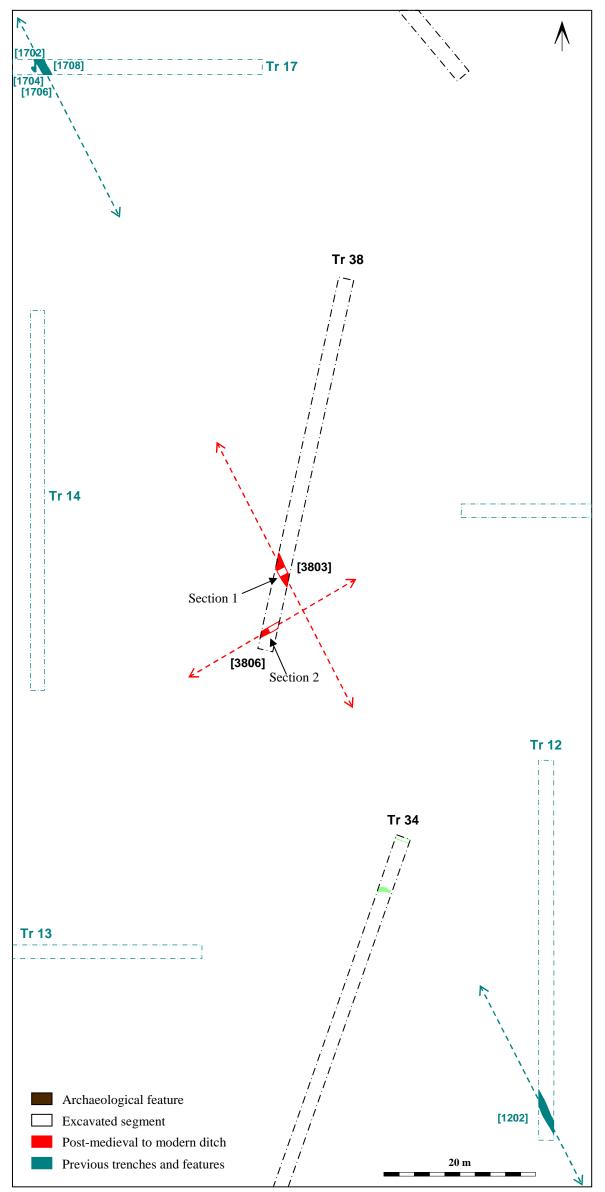
Hollow-way [4103] looking north-west. Scale 1m

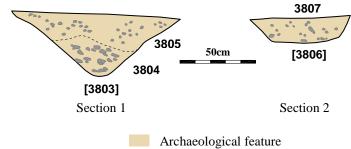


Hollow-way [4103] looking north-west. Scale 2m

Figure 4: Trench 41









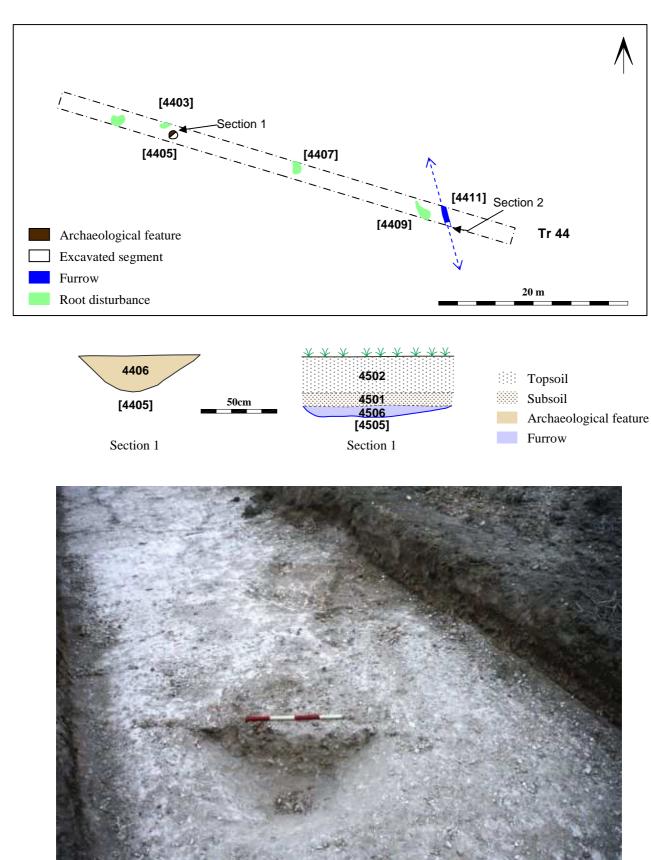
Ditch [3803] with [3806] in the background, looking south-east. Scale 1m



Ditch [3806] looking south-west. Scale 40cm

Figure 5: Trench 38





Undated pit [4405]. Looking north-west. Scale 40cm

Figure 6: Trench 44



Albion archaeology



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