

**LAND TO THE REAR OF 22 HIGH STREET
IRTHLINGBOROUGH
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology



**LAND TO THE REAR OF 22 HIGH STREET
IRTHLINGBOROUGH
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Project: HS2865
The HER Event no.: ENN108296
OASIS ref: albionar1-246827
Document: 2016/98
Version 1.1

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Ian Turner	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

16th May 2016

Produced for:
B S Bell Construction



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Project Background	1
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology	1
1.3 Archaeological Background	1
1.4 Project Objectives	3
2. METHODOLOGY	4
3. RESULTS	5
3.1 Introduction	5
3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits	5
3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits	6
4. CONCLUSION	7
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS	9
7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM	10

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Trenching results

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Bell and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Elizabeth Mordue, Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Adviser. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Ian Turner with figures produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and finds analysed by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 8141
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	13/05/2016	n/a
1.1	16/05/2016	Addition of Oasis Form (Appx 2)

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CAA	Northamptonshire County Council Archaeological Advisor
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (13/01540/FUL) was granted by East Northamptonshire District Council for the development of land to the rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough. Condition 17 required a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

The County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised that the first stage of archaeological works should comprise an archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

The trial trench evaluation was undertaken on 13th April 2016. The trench was 8m long, 1.6m wide and c. 0.95m deep.

The only archaeological features present were two ditches of post-medieval /modern date.

The features may represent backyard boundaries of properties that fronted onto the High Street. They may also have functioned as drainage ditches, running from the high ground to the north-west to the low ground to the south-east.

The absence of any earlier features, deposits or artefacts suggests that the area to the north of the High Street was first utilised in the post-medieval period with the medieval settlement associated with the 12th-century church of St Peter being restricted to south of the High Street.

The ditches identified within the site are of negligible significance and have no potential to address regional archaeological research agenda. The findings of the evaluation also suggest that the development of the site will have little or no significant archaeological impact.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (13/01540/FUL) was granted by East Northamptonshire District Council for the development of land to the rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough. Condition 17 required a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

17. No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded, in accordance with NPPF Paragraph 141.

The County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised the applicant that the first stage of archaeological works should comprise a field evaluation (trial trenching) to assess the archaeological potential of the site. Dependent on findings, further stages of archaeological work might be required in order to mitigate the impact of development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological trial trenching in accordance with the brief issued by the CAA (NCC 2016), and to undertake the fieldwork. The WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016) was approved by the CAA in advance of the fieldwork.

The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The site comprises a roughly rectangular brownfield plot lying behind the buildings fronting Irthlingborough High Street and accessed via Warren Close (Figure 1). It measures c. 320 square metres and is centred on NGR SP 9466 7074, at a height of c. 64m OD. The underlying geology is glacial till overlying bedrock of the great oolite group (a mixture of sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rock).

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The site lies within the area of historic settlement and close to a number of archaeological find spots. There are a number of listed 18th-century buildings (e.g., nos. 46 and 3/3a) on the High Street which runs to the south of the site; the 14th-century Market Cross, located 75m to the east of the site, is Grade 1 listed. The Church of St Peter lies 160m to the south. The church has 12th-century origins but was completely rebuilt in the 13th century. The probable route of a Roman road from Lowick to Irchester is recorded running along High Street/Station Road.

Irthlingborough is first recorded as *Yrtlingaburh* in AD 780, as *Edinburne* in Domesday Book of 1086 and as *Hyrtingberi* in 1137. The Old English place name (*yrtinga* = ploughman and *burg*) suggests a fortified location for protecting cattle during the early Saxon period (Ekwall 1960, 266). This may have been



located on Crow Hill, 1.4km north-east of the site, where a 13th-century furlong name, *Aldenborough*, refers to the promontory fortified in the Iron Age and Roman period.

The 1808 Inclosure map shows the development site in open space behind buildings set back from the High Street. The Inclosure and subsequent OS maps indicate that the site remained open until at least the 1970s and that its existing eastern boundary remained constant. A small building shown on the Inclosure map as abutting this boundary may have been located within the boundary of the site, although the existing buildings in and around the site are all relatively recently built.

Evidence for Iron Age, Roman and medieval settlement has been found within 500m of the site, mostly south of the High Street. The site lies to the north of the High Street and, therefore, on the periphery of the known settlement area.

Evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement was recorded during excavations at Lime Street in 2001–2, some 250m east of the site. The Iron Age phase was represented by a ring ditch and several pits. The nature of Roman activity was less clear, although a small rectangular enclosure and a cluster of small pits were excavated. The archaeological work also revealed that the western part of the site, closest to the current development, did not contain archaeological deposits or finds.

Further to the east, excavations at All Saints' Church in the 1960s produced a significant quantity of Roman pottery and building material. This further suggests that the focus of the Roman settlement lay to the east.

Closer to the site a small quantity of Roman pottery was found on the frontage of St Peter's Lane. This was also mixed with late Saxon and medieval sherds.

Unstratified finds of Romano-British date were found when the Market Cross was moved slightly during road improvement works in 1965. These finds had presumably been disturbed during the erection of the cross in the 13th century.

Saxon activity was also identified during excavations at the former allotment site at Lime Street. Although the exact nature of the site is unclear, a series of ditches, gullies and pits containing late Saxon pottery was identified.

The medieval core of Irthlingborough was located around the churches of St Peter (160m to the south) and All Saints (420m to the east). The excavations at Lime Street also identified a 14th-century manorial farm, including boundary walls, a large barn, malthouse, dovecote, rubbish pit and possible quarry. Evidence of industrial activity was indicated by a limestone-lined pit containing charcoal-rich fills (Chapman 2003). The manorial complex associated with this site extends eastwards to the remains of All Saints' Church. The church was excavated in 1965 (Brown 1966, 1969). Surrounding earthworks thought to represent various buildings and fishponds are now largely destroyed.

Closer to the current site, an evaluation on the site of the former Express Works



on Church Street revealed remains dating to the 12–13th century in four of the six trenches excavated on the site (AOC 2011).

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to provide information on any archaeological remains present and to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated, if required.

The overall aims of the investigation were:

- to establish the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- to assess the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present.
- to recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region
- to recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

More specifically investigation to the north of the High Street could add to the results of previous work carried out in the town and, whether negative or positive, help establish the extent of Roman and medieval settlement within Irthlingborough.



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trench evaluation was undertaken on 13th April 2016. The trench was 8m long, 1.6m wide and c. 0.95m deep.

The trench was opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket and operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd ed. 2001)
• Archaeological Archives Forum	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
• CfA	<i>Charter and By-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre	<i>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archives Standard</i> (2014)

The HER Event UID number is ENN108296. The Oasis reference for the project is albionar1-246827.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All features and deposits found within the trial trench are described chronologically below and shown on Figure 2. Detailed information on features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. The artefacts recovered from the features and deposits are summarised within this section.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden layers and undisturbed geological deposit are described from top to bottom in order of deposition. All the overburden layers contained occasional sherds of willow pattern pottery, modern bottle glass and brick and tile fragments (not retained for higher layers).

- (100) – tarmac over concrete, the extant surface, *c.* 0.07m thick.
- (101) – a levelling layer of type 1 and modern brick fragments, *c.* 0.08m thick.
- (102) – a former tarmac surface, *c.* 0.10m thick.
- (108) – a levelling layer of light orange-grey sandy clay, *c.* 0.16m thick (present at south-west end of trench only).
- (103) – a levelling layer of re-deposited natural, *c.* 0.17m thick.
- (107) – a levelling layer of dark orange brown clay silt, *c.* 0.25m thick (present at south-west end of trench only).
- (104) – a former surface comprising black silt with coal fragments, *c.* 0.1–0.14m thick. Collected artefacts from this layer were two sherds (54g) of late 17th–18th-century iron-glazed earthenware (F426¹), and single pieces of post-medieval bottle glass (18g), modern roof tile (53g) and undiagnostic animal bone (2g).
- (105) – a former topsoil of mid grey-brown clay-silt, *c.* 0.16–0.25m thick. Collected artefacts from this layer were nine pottery sherds (54g) ranging in date from the late 17th–20th century. Fabrics represented are iron-glazed earthenware (F426), Creamware (F415), transfer-printed ware (F416), China (F430), and miscellaneous modern glazed flatware (F1000).
- (106) – a layer of disturbed geological deposits, comprising light orange clay-silt with patches of former topsoil (105), *c.* 0.05m thick.
- (109) – the undisturbed geological deposit was light yellow-orange sandy clay with ‘seams’ of light grey sandstone.

¹ Fabric type defined in accordance with the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type Series



3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

The features and deposits are discussed in date order from earliest to latest.

3.3.1 Post-medieval / modern ditches

Two shallow intercutting ditches were present within the trench. The earlier one [110] was on a NW-SE alignment. It was truncated by E-W aligned ditch [112]. The ditches were sealed by the former topsoil layer (105).

Both ditches had concave sides with flat bases and were both *c.* 0.17m deep.

The light orange-brown clay-silt fill (111) of ditch [110] contained two abraded iron-glazed earthenware pottery sherds (12g) of late 17th–18th-century date. The light grey-brown clay-silt fill (113) of ditch [112] contained three abraded brick fragments (117g), single pieces of post-medieval and modern bottle glass (7g) and six pottery sherds (40g). The latter comprise late 15th–17th-century Midland Purple ware (F403), 17th–18th-century iron-glazed earthenware, and modern Creamware.



4. CONCLUSION

The only archaeological features present within the trial trench were two ditches of post-medieval/modern date.

The features may represent backyard boundaries of properties that fronted onto the High Street. They may also have functioned as drainage ditches, running from the high ground to the north-west to the low ground to the south-east.

The absence of any earlier features, deposits or artefacts suggests that the area to the north of the High Street was first utilised in the post-medieval period with the medieval settlement associated with the 12th-century church of St Peter being restricted to south of the High Street.

The ditches identified within the site are of negligible significance and have no potential to address regional archaeological research agenda. The findings of the evaluation also suggest that the development of the site will have little or no significant archaeological impact.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albion Archaeology, 2001, *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2nd ed.

Albion Archaeology 2016, *Land to the Rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Report no: 2016/64.

AOC Archaeology 2011, *Church Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Excavation Report*

Chapman, A., Atkins, R. and Lloyd, R. 2003, "A medieval manorial farm at Lime Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire". *Northants Archaeology*, **31**, 71–104

Ekwall, E 1960, *The Concise Dictionary of English Place-names*. Oxford: Clarendon Press

Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. 2012, *East Midlands Heritage: An updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*

Northamptonshire County Council 2016, *Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land to the rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire*

Parry, S, 1989, "Irthlingborough, Crow Hill Fort", *South Midlands Archaeology*, **19**, 27–28, CBA



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

Max Dimensions: Length: 8.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.88 m. Max: 0.88 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94664: Northing: 70756)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 94658: Northing: 70751)

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	External surface	Tarmac over concrete, the extant surface, c. 0.07m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	A levelling layer of type 1 and modern brick fragments, c. 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	External surface	A former tarmac surface, c. 0.10m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Levelling layer	Firm light yellow grey clay silt frequent small-medium stones A levelling layer of re-deposited natural, c. 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	External surface	Friable dark black sandy silt A former surface comprising dark black silt with coal and charcoal fragments, c. 0.10m to 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
105	Buried topsoil	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones A former topsoil, c. 0.16m to 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
106	Layer	A layer of disturbed natural comprised light orange clay silt with patches of (105), c. 0.05m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Levelling layer	A levelling layer of dark orange brown clay silt, c. 0.25m thick (present at SW end of trench only).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Levelling layer	Frequent medium stones A levelling layer of light orange grey sandy clay, c. 0.16m thick (present at SW end of trench only).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Natural	Light yellow orange sandy clay with 'seams' of light grey sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.65m, min depth 0.17m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
111	Fill	Friable light orange brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
112	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.18m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
113	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-246827

Project details

Project name	Land to rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by East Northamptonshire District Council for the development of land to the rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough. Condition 17 required a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) advised that the first stage of archaeological works should comprise an archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The single trench was 8m long, 1.6m wide and c. 0.95m deep. The only archaeological features present were two ditches of post-medieval /modern date. The features may represent backyard boundaries of properties that fronted onto the High Street. They may also have function as drainage ditches, running from the high ground to the north-west to the low ground to the south-east. The ditches identified within the site are of negligible significance and have no potential to address regional archaeological research agenda. The findings of the evaluation also suggest that the development of the site will have little or no significant archaeological impact.
Project dates	Start: 13-04-2016 End: 13-04-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HS2865 - Contracting Unit No. 13/01540/FUL - Planning Application No. ENN108296 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IRTHLINGBOROUGH Land to rear of 22 High Street, Irthlingborough
Study area	320 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 9466 7074 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
----------------------	--------------------



Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Physical Archive notes	To be retained at Albion archaeology until landowner transfers finds and the new resource centre opens
Digital Archive recipient	ADS
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"
Paper Archive notes	To be retained at Albion archaeology until landowner transfers finds and the new resource centre opens

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land to the rear of 22 High Street Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Turner, I' 'Wardill, R'
Other bibliographic details	2016/98
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	16 May 2016

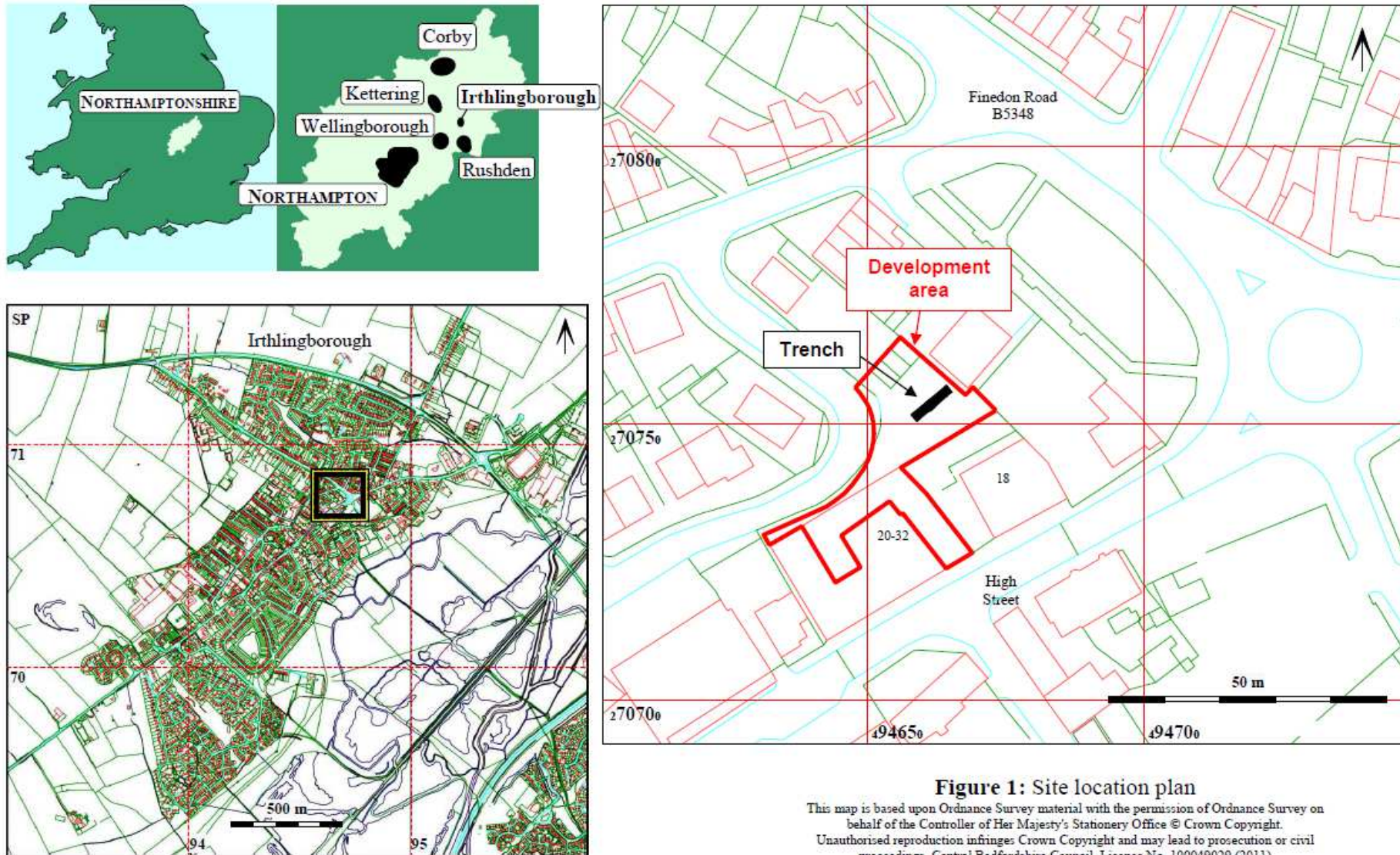


Figure 1: Site location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

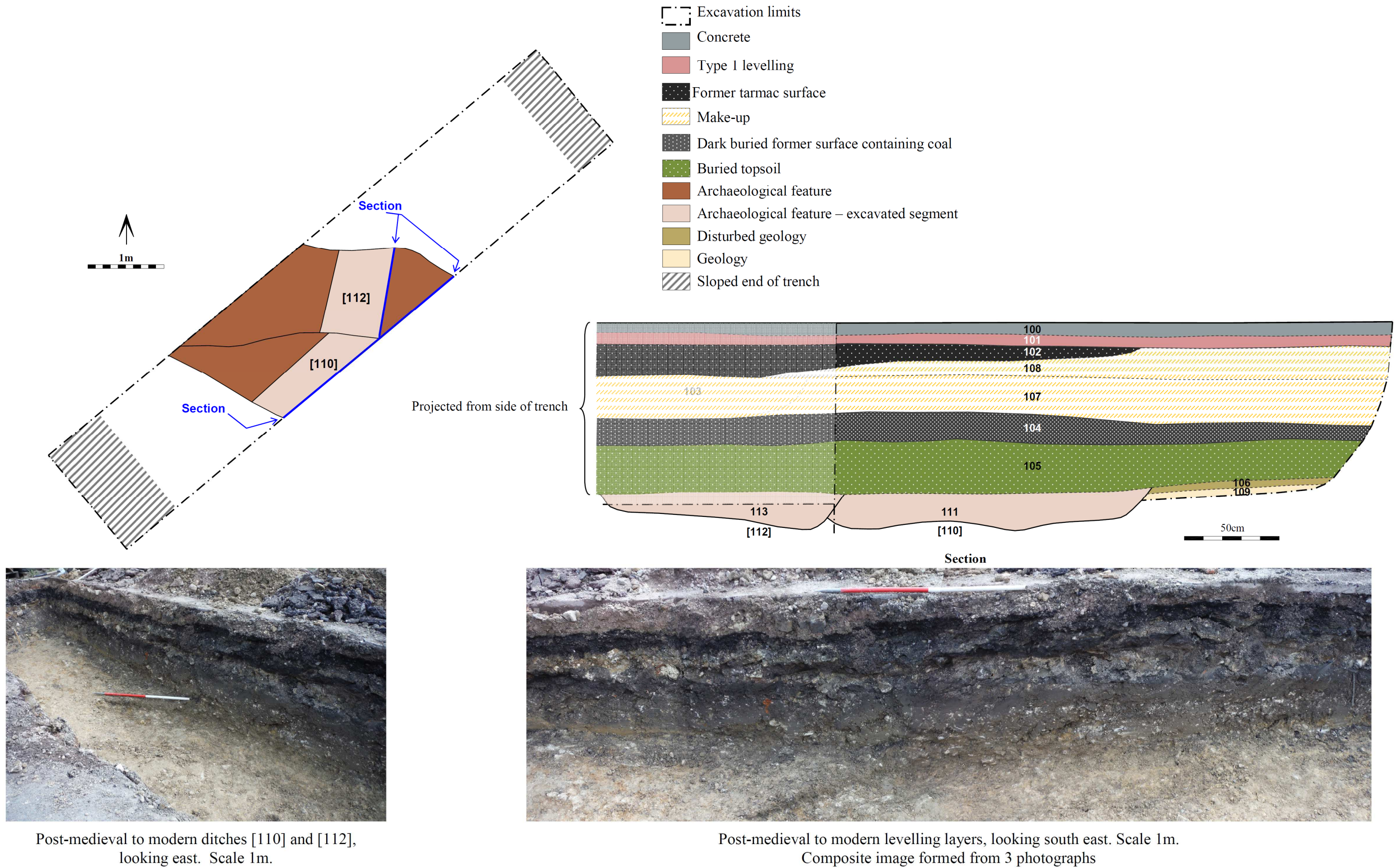


Figure 2: Trenching results



Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

