LAND OFF 93 AYLESBURY ROAD
ASTON CLINTON
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology

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

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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.

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The project was commissioned by Tim Northey, Planning Manager, Rectory Homes Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Eliza Alqassar, Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor), Tori Hainsworth (Archaeological Supervisor), Hanno Conring (Assistant Supervisor) and Konstantinos Papagiannakis (Archaeological Technician). This report has been prepared by Ian Turner with contributions from Jackie Wells (Artefacts) and figures produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). 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

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this document:

AO	Archaeology Officer of the BCC Historic Environment Service
AVDC	Aylesbury Vale District Council
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CI*f*A	Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PDA	Proposed development area
WSI	Written scheme of investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Rectory (Aston Clinton) Ltd was granted outline planning permission in December 2016 for the erection of 50 dwellings on land to the rear of 93 Aylesbury Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire.

A heritage statement submitted as part of the initial planning application recognised a moderate to high potential for the preservation of prehistoric to Roman heritage assets on the proposed development area (PDA) and archaeological investigations recently undertaken in the vicinity revealed Romano-British remains. For this reason the Archaeology Officer (AO) for Buckinghamshire County Council advised that an archaeological field evaluation would be required to further identify the nature of the archaeological resource within the PDA. This is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework *2012.*

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial trenching and to undertake the fieldwork. The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report to assist the AO in advising the local planning authority on the potential archaeological impacts of the development and on any mitigation that might be required if the development is permitted.

The trial trenching took place between 28th November and 12th December 2016 and comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches measuring 25m long and 1.8m wide.

The trial trenching has shown that medieval / post-medieval furrows and modern drains are present across the PDA. There are also other archaeological features within the north-eastern half of the PDA but they are absent from the south-western half of the PDA, with the exception of two undated post-holes.

In the north-eastern half of the PDA six large pits, eight small pits and eight ditches were present within the trenches. These features produced virtually no artefacts.

The ditches probably represent field system boundaries. The purpose of the pits is uncertain; some of the larger ones may be related to quarrying. One of the small pits contained fragments of human cranium. This may derive from a burial disturbed in antiquity but its significance is uncertain.

Due to the paucity of artefacts, dating of these features is problematic. With the limited dating evidence available from the PDA and by comparison with the results from the Brook Farm excavation to the north-east, a broad medieval date is tentatively suggested.

The features are another element of the medieval landscape around Aston Clinton and, given their peripheral location to settlement, have only limited potential to feed into the research aims identified in the local and regional research frameworks. They have limited potential to contribute to research objectives relating to landscape and land use, e.g. the development and character of field systems. Overall, the possible medieval remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of only local significance.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rectory (Aston Clinton) Ltd were granted outline planning permission in December 2016 for the demolition of 95 Aylesbury Road and the erection of 50 dwellings with access, parking, amenity space, formal and informal open space, footpath links, landscaping, drainage and all ancillary works on land to the rear of 93 Aylesbury Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. The LPA has advised that one of the conditions of permission requires completion of an archaeological trial trench evaluation prior to submission of reserved matters.

A heritage statement (Albion Archaeology 2015) was submitted as part of the initial planning application. This recognised a moderate to high potential for the preservation of prehistoric to Roman heritage assets on the proposed development area (PDA). Since then several archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site revealing further Romano-British remains.

For this reason the Archaeology Officer (AO) for Buckinghamshire County Council advised in their comment on the outline planning application that an archaeological field evaluation, comprising trial trenching, would be required to further identify the nature of the archaeological resource within the PDA. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* 2012.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2016) and to undertake the fieldwork. The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report to assist the HES in advising the local planning authority on the potential archaeological impacts of the development and on any mitigation that might be required if the development is permitted.

1.1 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The village of Aston Clinton lies on the northern slopes of the Chiltern Hills in the Aylesbury Vale, *c.* 5km to the east of Aylesbury and *c.* 3km west of Tring. The A41 now bypasses the village to the north but its original route still forms the main road through the village, following the line of the Roman Akeman Street. Within the village the former A41 is called London Road, but it changes its name to Aylesbury Road when it passes the junction with Weston Road to the south-east of the PDA.

The PDA lies to the north of 93 Aylesbury Road. It measures *c.* 2.25ha in extent and consists of a paddock with tree-lined boundaries. A brook runs along the northern edge of the PDA. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive in the field. Aylesbury Road and the residential properties along its northern edge border the PDA in the south; to the north, east and west lie further paddocks and arable fields (Figure 1).

The PDA is centred on grid reference SP 8749 1249 and lies on level ground at *c.* 90m OD. The underlying geology consists of Gault Formation And Upper Greensand Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone (British Geological Survey 2016).

1.2 Archaeological Background

A heritage statement was compiled for the application site in April 2015 (Albion 2015). The document reviewed known heritage assets recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) in the vicinity of the PDA and a 500m-radius study area around it and assessed the potential for further assets on the PDA itself. Its main conclusions are summarised here, together with more recent evidence from evaluations in the vicinity of the PDA.

Aston Clinton lies at the junction of the Icknield Way, thought to be prehistoric in date, and the Roman Akeman Street, a major routeway from Roman London to Cirencester. The present-day Aylesbury Road follows the line of the Roman Akeman Street (010500).

The known prehistoric and Roman settlement sites recorded in the HER suggest a wide corridor of settlement along this Roman road (Alqassar 2016). For example, late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement remains, including the existence of a Roman trackway on the same line as Akeman Street, were excavated during investigations of the Aston Clinton bypass to the west and north of the PDA (Masefield 2008).

Excavations at the Arla Dairy site, *c*. 1km to the north of the PDA, revealed a late Iron Age/ Romano-British settlement located on a slight ridge of ground situated adjacent to ponds and marshy ground. Similarly, excavations at Stablebridge Road, *c*. 1 km to the south-east of the PDA encountered a significant late Iron Age/early Roman settlement and the course of the Lower Icknield Way.

Closer to the PDA several prehistoric and Roman findspots are known. Evidence for a possible late Iron Age settlement was retrieved during the machine-digging of a pond *c*. 500m east of the PDA (0572500, 0572501). Work during the pond-digging recorded a possible hearth structure and "plentiful" Belgic pottery. A number of Iron Age coins were found by metal-detecting in a field *c*. 500m west of the PDA (MBC 31953, 32054, 32055, 32056, 32100).

A number of ditches of possible Roman date were excavated during an evaluation of the land adjacent to the PDA in the east. The ditches were possibly part of a Roman field system (076850, EBC17571). The absence of any artefacts, with the exception of one sherd of Roman pottery in the fill of one of the ditches, suggests that they were not near any Roman settlement. The ditches were parallel to existing field boundaries, suggesting the possible antiquity of the current field system.

A Roman boundary ditch and possible quarry area were recorded in an evaluation to the north-east of the PDA (EBC17684). Open-area excavation is currently being undertaken on the same site (see below) and has revealed medieval ditches and several alluvial(?) deposits to the immediate north of the brook. Test slots through the deposits revealed a 6th-century brooch and a number of 11th–13th-century artefacts (Albion Archaeology in prep.).

The current settlement of Aston Clinton is medieval in origin. Possible medieval plot boundaries, which contained abraded and residual Romano-British pottery sherds, were excavated at Park Farm, adjacent to Church Lane, *c*. 250m to the east of the PDA. The evaluation report notes that Church Lane follows the general NE-SW alignment of prehistoric trackways and boundaries in the vicinity and, therefore, a Roman date for the ditches cannot be discounted (Cotswold Archaeology 2016, 2).

The PDA was part of the medieval field system around the village of Aston Clinton and there are surviving ridge and furrow earthworks on the site.

Archaeological trial trenching and open-area excavations were recently undertaken by Albion Archaeology immediately east of the PDA, at Brook Farm which is separated from the PDA by a stream (Albion Archaeology in prep.). The investigation revealed medieval activity that was characterised by rectangular ditched enclosures and occasional pits, mostly confined to the southern part of the site. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation was also present, indicating that much of the site was open fields. Also present was evidence for post-medieval field systems, the remnants of some of which in part survived to this day as hedgerows or dips in the landscape. The amount of pottery and animal bone recovered was relatively small, which suggests that the enclosures were peripheral to any domestic settlement. However, the relatively well-represented metalwork assemblage (which included two coins, a buckle and shoeing nails) may suggest that the core of the settlement was close-by. Dating of the artefacts recovered suggests the enclosures and associated activity were in use between the 11th and 15th centuries. A 6th-century copper brooch, mid-late Anglo-Saxon to 11th-century loom weight and a shale finger ring were recovered from a natural former brook channel to the south of the site, evincing Anglo-Saxon activity in the close-vicinity.

1.3 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to provide information on any archaeological remains present within the site. This information will assist in determining the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains and in formulating the need, design and extent of any mitigation works that might be required.

Information on the following was required:

- Location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the proposed development site;
- Integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present at the proposed development site.
- Nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The trial trench report examines the significance of the results with reference to regional research frameworks. The research framework that has been devised for the region is the *Solent-Thames: Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Hey and Hind

2014). There is also a set of papers which specifically deal with the archaeological resource of Buckinghamshire. The papers fed into the wider Solent-Thames research framework and are still available online[1].

For all prehistoric periods landscape development and settlement patterns are areas where considerable further research is needed (Lambrick 2014). The research framework for the area (Fulford 2014) also suggests that more work needs to be undertaken with regards to rural settlement characters and typologies during Roman period.

Similarly, our understanding of early medieval settlements, their organisation and interrelationship with other sites in their contemporary landscape remains limited. This, together with more concentrated work on the dating of settlements and the recovery and study of datable material is one of the research aims of the regional research framework. The development of agricultural systems and agricultural change is also a theme of the research framework (Dodd and Crawford 2014).

[1] https://library.thehumanjourney.net/2597/ [Accessed 7 November 2016]

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

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

• Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd ed, 2001).
• Archaeological Archives Forum	*Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (2nd ed. 2011)
• BCAS	*Generic brief for archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)*
• Buckinghamshire County Museum	*Procedures for Notifying and Transferring Archaeological Archives* (rev 2013)
• CI*f*A	*Charter and By-law* (2014); *Code of Conduct* (2014) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014)
• Historic England [formerly English Heritage]	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2015)
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 28th November and 12th December 2016 and comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches measuring 25m long and 1.8m wide. The locations of five trenches were slightly adjusted where necessary to avoid trees and hedgerows (Figure 2). The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. The area and spoil from each trench was scanned for artefacts. All hand excavation and recording was carried out by Albion Archaeology staff.

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 for Trench 1, and 200 for Trench 2 etc. Context numbers in square brackets refer to cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2016)

3. RESULTS

All features and deposits found within the trial trenches are described chronologically below and shown on Figures 2–7. Photographs of the features are shown on Figures 8–9. Further information on features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. Finds from the investigations are detailed in Appendix 2.

3.1 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden comprised topsoil over subsoil, which lay directly on undisturbed geological deposits.

The topsoil was a 0.17–0.31m-thick layer of dark brown-black silt. The subsoil was a 0.08–0.35m-thick layer that varied from mid grey-orange to mid brown-grey clay silt.

The undisturbed geological deposit varied across the PDA from hard white pea-grit chalk fragments and small stones to the NE towards the stream (Trenches 9–14 and part of Trench 6) to light brown-orange clay silt to the south (Trenches 1–4 and 8) with an area of light grey-orange clay silt with frequent small stones to the west (Trenches 5–7).

3.2 Archaeological Features and Deposits

Of the fourteen trenches, nine contained archaeological features, disregarding furrows which were present in all the trenches. The features comprised eight ditches, six large pits, eight small pits and two post holes. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 8 and 11 contained no archaeological features, other than furrows.

Dating the features is problematic due to the low number of dateable artefacts recovered. This issue discussed by feature type in this section and further analysed in the report conclusion.

3.2.1 Pits

Large pits were present in Trenches 6, 10 and 13. Small pits were present in Trenches 6, 12, 13 and 14.

The six large pits, [615], [1003], [1010], [1012], [1305] and [1307], which continued beyond the edges of the trenches, appeared to be broadly oval in shape. They had concave to convex sides with concave to flat bases in profile and ranged from 1.6–4.30m wide and 0.19–0.6m deep. They contained deposits that varied from mid green-brown clay silt to mid brown-grey silty clay. The only dateable artefact recovered from the large pits was a late medieval / early post-medieval pottery sherd (5g) recovered from the top of pit [1012]. A small amount of animal bone (60g) was recovered from pit [615].

The purpose of the large pits is not known. Pits [615] and [1012] were located within clay geology and they may have been quarry pits. However, the other pits were cut into chalky pea-grit gravel, making quarrying an unlikely explanation for their origins.

The date of the pits is also uncertain. The single late medieval / early post-medieval pottery sherd recovered from the top of pit [1012] is insufficient to provide secure dating, but suggests a possible date for the feature. Generally the pits are similar in size and are likely to have been broadly contemporary.

The eight small pits [609], [613], [1203], [1207/ 1210], [1213], [1215], [1303], [1408] ranged from oval to sub-circular in shape and displayed a variety of profiles. They were 0.5–1.60m+ long, 0.3–1.15m wide and 0.06–0.17m deep. They contained deposits that varied from light brown-white chalk and gravel to dark brown clay silt.

Pit [609] contained a tiny sherd of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age pottery (1g), which is judged to be residual. Pit [1207 / 1210] contained pieces of human cranium (26g) and fragments of animal bone (64g and 9g). The human cranium fragments may represent redeposited remains from a burial that was disturbed in antiquity. However, during some periods, e.g. the Iron Age, few individuals were afforded formal burial and isolated fragments of human bone are not uncommon in the archaeological record. Pit [1215] contained a small amount of animal bone (13g).

The purpose and date of the small pits is not known. However, they are judged likely to be contemporary with the large pits, which are also of uncertain date.

3.2.2 Post holes

Two post holes were present within the trenches to the south-west of the PDA, one in Trench 3 and another *c*. 27m to the north in Trench 5.

Post holes [303] and [503] were circular to oval in shape; they were 0.37–0.6m long, 0.37–0.4m wide and 0.16–0.2m deep. They contained deposits that varied from mid orange-grey silty clay to mid brown-grey clay silt and no artefacts.

The purpose and date of the post holes is not known.

3.2.3 Ditches

A total of eight ditches were present within Trenches 6, 7, 9 and 12.

Four NE-SW aligned parallel ditches, located in close proximity, were present within Trench 9. Ditches [905], [907], [909], [911] had concave sides with bases that varied from concave to flat. They were 0.84–1.79m wide, 0.16–0.21m deep and contained deposits that varied from light brown-grey clay silt to mid brown-grey silty clay and no artefacts.

The ditches are interpreted as a field or enclosure boundary that has been maintained by re-cutting. The date of the boundary is not known. The alignment of the ditches matches that of the furrows and may indicate that they are contemporary. However, the ditches may predate the furrows. It is noted that the alignment of many of the medieval ditches and later boundaries and furrows had a similar NE-SW alignment to those excavated at Brook Farm (Albion Archaeology, in prep) *c*. 100m to the east on the other side of the stream.

A NW-SE aligned ditch was identified in Trench 6 and continued into Trench 7. Ditch [607 / 703] had vertical sides and a flat base. It was 0.60m wide and 0.24–0.32m deep. It contained dark brown clay silt and no artefacts. The ditch was truncated by, and thus predated, furrow [605].

The purpose and date of the ditch are unknown. The vertical-sided, flat-based profile of the ditch is suggestive of a modern feature, but truncation by a furrow conflicts with a modern date. Similar features have been interpreted as bedding trenches (e.g. for hedges); such an interpretation may apply to this feature.

An E-W aligned ditch was identified in Trench 12. Ditch [1217] also had vertical sides and a flat base. It was *c*. 0.60m wide, *c*. 0.17m deep and contained deposits that varied from light grey to mid grey-brown clay silt and no artefacts. The purpose and date of the ditch are unknown. It was similar to ditch [607 / 703] (see above) but was on a different alignment.

A NNW-SSE aligned ditch was present in Trench 10. Ditch [1006 / 1008] had concave sides with a base that varied from uneven to flat. It was 1.7–2m wide and 0.06–0.2m deep. It contained a deposit of mid grey-brown clay silt, which produced a sherd of early medieval pottery (5g).

A NE-SW aligned ditch terminal [1016] was also present in Trench 10. It had a concave profile and was 0.83m wide and 0.19m deep. It contained dark brown-grey silty clay and no artefacts.

The ditches within Trench 10 were probably field system and drainage features. Their date is uncertain. The single early medieval pottery sherd recovered from ditch [1006 / 1008] may indicate the date of the feature, but it is insufficient for secure dating. It is noted that the large pits [1003] and [1010] appear to respect the location of ditch [1006 / 1008], suggesting that the features were contemporary. Pit [1012] within Trench 10 contained a late medieval / early post-medieval pottery sherd, which may also suggest a possible date for the ditches within the trench.

3.3 Ridge and Furrow

Pronounced, large-scale, ridge and furrow earthworks are visible across the PDA as linear raised banks and troughs on a NE-SW alignment. Generally, furrows are likely to be the result of ploughing during the medieval period, although the system of strip farming is likely to have continued in use until the fields were 'Inclosed' in the late 18th century.

All of the fourteen trenches contained furrows. In places the furrows in the trenches matched well with those visible on the surface. Elsewhere the correspondence was at odds with the surface undulations, suggesting more than one episode of cultivation.

This interpretation is further supported by the fact that the furrows within the trenches that matched the surface depressions tended to have darker-coloured fills (sometimes containing roof tile and coal fragments) and were often

truncated along their course by land drains or chalk-filled French drains. The non-surface matching furrow remnants tended to be paler in colour and contained no artefacts or land drains.

3.3.1 Medieval furrows

To the SW of the PDA the furrows within Trenches 1–9 were aligned NE-SW, reflecting the orientation of the visible surface ridge and furrow earthworks (Figure 2). However, to the NE within Trenches 10–14 the furrows were aligned broadly NW-SE, running parallel with the stream located immediately NE of the PDA. It is likely that this change in direction was also marked by a boundary, effectively creating two separate furlongs. However, no matching boundary ditch was present within any of the trenches. Generally, it seems likely that the alignment was changed in order to avoid turning the plough in the damp ground at the stream edge.

The furrows had concave sides and flat bases. They were 0.8–3m wide, 0.05–0.22m deep and contained deposits that varied from light brown-grey silty clay to dark grey-brown clay silt.

Artefacts recovered from the furrows were few in number. A stratigraphically early furrow in Trench 6 contained a post-medieval pottery sherd. Furrows in Trench 3 and Trench 1 respectively contained single sherds of medieval and late medieval / early post-medieval date.

In terms of date, the furrows are interpreted as probably spanning the late medieval to post-medieval period.

3.4 Modern Features

Modern features comprise chalk-filled French drains and ceramic-pipe field drains. Most of these modern drainage features were laid within the depression troughs of the ridge and furrow earthworks visible on the surface. They also run parallel to the stream at the NE end of the PDA. French drains take their name from Henry Flagg French, the author of 'Farm Drainage' (1859) which described and popularised this type of field drainage.

3.4.1 French drains

Linear, vertical-sided, flat-based drainage features filled with large fragments of chalk were visible truncating many of the later furrows, matching their visible surface troughs. In total, 21 examples of French drains were encountered amongst all but one of the trenches. They are likely to date to the late 19th / early 20th century.

3.4.2 Field drains

Ceramic field drains were present in seven of the trenches. They were generally aligned NE-SW; one example was aligned NW-SE. These drains are likely to be 20th century in date.

3.5 Tree Throws and Rooting Boles

Of the fourteen trenches, seven contained tree throws or rooting boles.

Features in Trenches 1–4, 6, 12 and 14 were investigated and judged to be tree throws or rooting boles on the basis of their irregular shapes in plan and section and / or the pale, sterile deposits that they contained.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Summary of Results

The trial trenching has shown that medieval / post-medieval furrows and modern drains are present across the PDA. There are also other archaeological features within the north-eastern half of the PDA but they are absent from the south-western half of the PDA, with the exception of two undated post-holes.

In the north-eastern half of the PDA six large pits, eight small pits and eight ditches were present within the trenches. These features produced virtually no artefacts.

The purpose of the large pits is also not known. Certainly the lack of artefacts within them indicates that they were distant from any focus of domestic settlement. The large pits created within clay geology may have been quarries.

The purpose of the small pits is also not known. The one within Trench 12 contained a small amount of animal bone and six pieces of human cranium. This material is likely to have entered the feature during the natural, gradual silting up of the pit. It is unclear whether the human bone derives from a disturbed burial in the vicinity and its significance remains uncertain.

The ditches probably represent field system boundaries. The four parallel, closely spaced ditches in Trench 9 may represent a more significant boundary that was maintained by re-cutting.

Due to the paucity of artefacts within the pits and ditches, dating of these features is problematic. The only pottery sherds recovered from the features were of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval date. The prehistoric sherd is considered a residual artefact in a later pit. Where relationships could be discerned the pits and ditches were stratigraphically earlier than the furrows. A number of furrows also contained roof tile or pottery of late medieval / early post-medieval date.

The recent excavations undertaken by Albion Archaeology at Brook Farm on the opposite side of the brook, *c*. 100m to the north-east, revealed enclosure ditches and furrows on a similar alignment to those within the PDA. These features contained low numbers of artefacts, indicating that they were not domestic in character. The limited dating evidence from the site indicated that features of 11th–15th-century, post-medieval and even modern date shared the same alignment. A small number of Anglo-Saxon artefacts were also recovered from an infilled palaeochannel located close to the brook.

In light of the dating evidence from the PDA and from the Brook Farm excavation, a broad medieval date is tentatively suggested for the pits and ditches within the north-eastern half of the PDA.

4.2 Significance of Results

The evaluation has revealed pits and ditches tentatively dated to the medieval period. Some of the larger pits may represent quarrying activity. It is likely that the ditches were agricultural field system and drainage features peripheral to a settlement, probably located to the east of the PDA. However, the dearth of artefacts and ecofacts in the features indicates that the PDA is located at a considerable distance from any settlement focus.

The features are another element of the medieval landscape around Aston Clinton and, given their peripheral location to settlement, have only limited potential to feed into any of the research aims identified in the local and regional research frameworks (Hey and Hind 2014). They have limited potential to contribute to research objectives relating to landscape and land use, e.g. the development and character of field systems (Dodd and Crawford 2014, 228–229).

Overall, the possible medieval remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of only local significance.

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.55 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87381: Northing: 12351)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87405: Northing: 12352)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.20m thick.**	☐	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.20m to 0.25m thick.**	☑	☑
102	**Natural**	**Friable light brown orange clay silt With large patches of light grey clay.**	☐	☐
103	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.16m**	☑	☐
104	Fill	Firm light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
105	**Treethrow**	**Curving linear sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.77m, min depth 0.13m, min length 1.25m This feature was truncated by a furrow and a mole drain cut.**	☑	☐
106	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
107	**Furrow**	**Linear sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, min depth 0.06m**	☑	☐
108	Fill	Firm light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☑
109	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.07m**	☑	☐
110	Fill	Firm light grey brown silty clay	☑	☐
111	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 1.2m Not excavated.**	☐	☐
112	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones	☐	☐
113	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 1.5m Not excavated.**	☐	☐
114	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☐	☑

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.38 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87426: Northing: 12344)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87440: Northing: 12364)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.25m thick.**	☑	☐
201	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.08m thick.**	☑	☐
202	**Natural**	**Friable light brown orange clay silt With large patches of light grey clay.**	☐	☐
203	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.25m, min depth 0.06m**	☑	☐
204	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.5 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87397: Northing: 12397)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87405: Northing: 12373)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.25m thick.	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was c, 0.15m thick.	☑	☐
302	Natural	Friable light brown orange clay silt With large patches of light grey clay.	☐	☐
303	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min depth 0.16m, min diameter 0.37m	☑	☐
304	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
305	Furrow	Linear sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.11m	☑	☐
306	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☑
307	Furrow	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.13m	☑	☐
308	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
309	Furrow	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.13m	☑	☐
310	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☑
311	Furrow	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.1m	☑	☐
312	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.44 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87429: Northing: 12388)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87453: Northing: 12397)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.18m to 0.25m thick.	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.14m thick.	☑	☐
402	Natural	Friable light brown orange clay silt With large patches of light grey clay.	☐	☐
403	Furrow	Linear NE-SW Not excavated. Edge of the furrow visible in SE corner of trench.	☐	☐
404	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☐	☐
405	Natural	Firm light grey clay A change in the natural to clay at the East end of the trench.	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.4 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87384: Northing: 12424)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87410: Northing: 12424)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
501	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid brown grey clay silt The deposit was 0.13m to 0.16m thick.**	☑	☐
502	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
503	**Posthole**	**Oval sides: assymetrical base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.2m, min length 0.6m**	☑	☐
504	Primary fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
505	Secondary fill	Plastic mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☐
506	**Furrow**	**Linear NW-SE dimensions: min breadth 3.m Not excavated. Considerable width suggests the feature may be two adjoining parallel furrows as in Trench 3.**	☐	☐
507	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: 0.48 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87409: Northing: 12452)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87419: Northing: 12475)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
601	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid orange grey clay silt occasional small chalk The deposit was 0.10m to 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
602	**Natural**	**Plastic light grey orange clay silt frequent small stones With occasional large patches of light grey clay.**	☐	☐
603	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.14m**	☑	☐
604	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
605	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, min depth 0.09m**	☑	☐
606	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☑
607	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.24m This ditch was also present in Trench 7, recorded as [703].**	☑	☐
608	Fill	Plastic dark brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
609	**Pit**	**Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.15m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
610	Fill	Plastic dark brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
611	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.18m, min length 3.7m**	☑	☐
612	Fill	Plastic mid brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
613	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.08m, min length 1.m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
614	Fill	Plastic dark green brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
615	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.48m, min length 1.8m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench and is truncated by a furrow.**	☑	☐
616	Primary fill	Plastic mid green brown clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☑
617	Secondary fill	Plastic dark brown black clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
618	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 1.m Not excavated.**	☐	☐
619	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones	☐	☐
620	**Natural**	**Plastic light yellow grey clay**	☐	☐
621	**Natural**	**Firm dark brown grey clay occasional medium chalk A dark clay natural layer underlying natural deposits (620) and (602).**	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 25.00 m. **Width:** 1.80 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.4 m. **Max:** 0.48 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87426: Northing: 12426)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87434: Northing: 12450)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.23m thick.**	☑	☐
701	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.12m to 0.18m thick.**	☑	☐
702	**Natural**	**Plastic light grey orange clay silt frequent small stones With large patches of light brown orange clay silt.**	☐	☐
703	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.58m, min depth 0.32m This ditch was also present in Trench 6, recorded as [607].**	☑	☐
704	Main fill	Plastic mid grey clay occasional small-large stones	☑	☐
705	Secondary fill	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
706	**Furrow**	**Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.2m, min depth 0.18m**	☑	☐
707	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
708	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
709	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 25.00 m. **Width:** 1.80 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.45 m. **Max:** 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87468: Northing: 12413)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87480: Northing: 12392)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
801	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.16m thick.**	☑	☐
802	**Natural**	**Friable light brown orange clay silt With large patches of light grey clay.**	☐	☐
803	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW General number for cut of three furrows within Trench 8. Not excavated. 1.25m to 2.0m wide.**	☐	☐
804	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small stones General number for fill of three furrows within Trench 8	☐	☐

Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87468: Northing: 12438)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87490: Northing: 12427)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
901	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.16m to 0.18m thick.**	☑	☐
902	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
903	**Feature**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, min depth 0.09m**	☑	☐
904	Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt frequent flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
905	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.06m, min depth 0.16m**	☑	☐
906	Fill	Firm light brown grey frequent flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
907	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.79m, min depth 0.16m**	☑	☐
908	Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt moderate flecks chalk, frequent small-medium stones	☑	☐
909	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.94m, min depth 0.18m Straight 30 degree sides.**	☑	☐
910	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt frequent flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
911	**Ditch**	**Linear NE-SW base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.84m, min depth 0.21m Straight 40 degree sides.**	☑	☐
912	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
913	**Furrow**	**Linear NE-SW General number for cut of two furrows within Trench 9. Not excavated. 0.80m to 1.50m wide.**	☐	☐
914	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87444: Northing: 12476)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87469: Northing: 12476)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
1001	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid brown grey clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small-medium stones The deposit was 0.17m to 0.30m thick.**	☑	☐
1002	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
1003	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.67m, min depth 0.19m, min length 2.6m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1004	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1005	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small stones Additional uniform subsoil layer overlying features at east end of Trench 10.**	☑	☐
1006	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
1007	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☑
1008	**Ditch**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.7m, min depth 0.06m Additional section excavated through ditch.**	☑	☐
1009	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1010	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 4.3m, min depth 0.2m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1011	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1012	**Pit**	**sides: assymetrical dimensions: min breadth 4.m, min depth 0.6m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1013	Lower fill	Friable light grey clay silt frequent flecks chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
1014	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate flecks chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
1015	Upper fill	Friable mid green brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☑
1016	**Ditch**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.83m, min depth 0.19m Cut of ditch terminus.**	☑	☐
1017	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1018	**Furrow**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.85m Feature not fully excavated.**	☐	☐
1019	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87464: Northing: 12506)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87476: Northing: 12484)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt The deposit was 0.24m to 0.29m thick.**	☑	☐
1101	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid brown grey clay silt The deposit was 0.22m to 0.28m thick.**	☑	☐
1102	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
1103	**Furrow**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.08m**	☑	☐
1104	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐

Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 25.00 m. **Width:** 1.80 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.65 m. **Max:** 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: SP** *(Easting: 87481: Northing: 12458)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87502: Northing: 12471)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.25m thick.**	☑	☐
1201	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid brown grey clay silt The deposit was 0.30m to 0.35m thick.**	☑	☐
1202	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
1203	**Pit**	**sides: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.15m, min depth 0.3m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1204	Primary fill	Plastic dark brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1205	Fill	Firm light grey white silty chalk moderate small stones	☑	☐
1206	Upper fill	Plastic dark brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1207	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.57m, min depth 0.17m Cut of a pit, also recorded as [1210].**	☑	☐
1208	Primary fill	Friable light brown white chalky gravel	☑	☐
1209	Main fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☑
1210	**Pit**	**sides: 45 degrees base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.17m Cut of a pit, same as [1207].**	☑	☐
1211	Lower fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☑
1212	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones Upper fill of pit [1210], deposit is disturbed by land drain construction.	☑	☐
1213	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.52m, min depth 0.07m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1214	Fill	Firm light brown grey clay silt frequent small chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
1215	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.06m, min length 0.5m**	☑	☐
1216	Fill	Friable light grey brown clay silt occasional small chalk, frequent medium-large stones	☑	☑
1217	**Ditch**	**Linear E-W sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.57m, min depth 0.17m**	☑	☐
1218	Primary fill	Firm light grey clay silt occasional small stones	☑	☐
1219	Secondary fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt frequent small chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
1220	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-medium stones	☑	☐
1221	**Furrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 2.5m Not excavated.**	☐	☐
1222	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones	☐	☑
1223	**Furrow**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.08m**	☑	☐
1224	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.55 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87508: Northing: 12447)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87508: Northing: 12422)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was 0.20m to 0.30m thick.**	☑	☐
1301	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk**	☑	☐
1302	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
1303	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: assymetrical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.16m, min length 1.6m**	☑	☐
1304	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey clay silt occasional small chalk	☑	☐
1305	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, min depth 0.42m, min length 2.m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1306	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay moderate small chalk	☑	☐
1307	**Pit**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.52m, min depth 0.24m, min length 2.m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1308	Fill	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay moderate small chalk	☑	☑
1309	**Furrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.22m**	☑	☐
1310	Primary fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay occasional small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1311	Secondary fill	Plastic light grey white silty clay frequent small chalk, moderate small stones	☑	☐
1312	Upper fill	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small-medium stones	☑	☑
1313	**Furrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, min depth 0.2m**	☑	☐
1314	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown silty clay moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1315	**Furrow**	**Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, min depth 0.14m**	☑	☐
1316	Fill	Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐

Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87486: Northing: 12510)*

OS Grid Ref.: SP *(Easting: 87501: Northing: 12490)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown black silt occasional small stones The deposit was c. 0.20m thick.**	☑	☐
1401	**Subsoil**	**Plastic mid grey brown clay silt moderate small chalk The deposit was 0.20m to 0.28m thick.**	☑	☐
1402	**Natural**	**Friable light white chalk occasional small stones Deposit was fragmented pea-grit chalk.**	☐	☐
1403	**Treethrow**	**Irregular sides: assymetrical base: v-shaped dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.47m, min length 2.75m**	☑	☐
1404	Primary fill	Firm dark brown grey clay occasional small chalk	☑	☐
1405	Secondary fill	Plastic light grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☑	☐
1406	Fill	Firm light grey white silt frequent medium-large chalk, moderate medium-large stones	☑	☐
1407	Upper fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones	☑	☐
1408	**Pit**	**Sub-circular sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.55m, min depth 0.08m, min length 0.65m**	☑	☐
1409	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐
1410	**Treethrow**	**sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.17m Plan view not seen. Feature continues beyond edge of trench.**	☑	☐
1411	Primary fill	Plastic light brown grey silty clay	☑	☐
1412	Main fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt frequent small chalk, occasional small stones	☑	☐
1413	**Furrow**	**Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.9m, min depth 0.1m**	☑	☐
1414	Fill	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☑	☐

7. APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY

Eighteen deposits across six trenches yielded an assemblage comprising pottery, ceramic roof tile, four metal artefacts, animal bone and human skull fragments (Table 1). No finds were collected from Trenches 2, 4, 5, 7–9, 11 or 14.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Fill	Date Range	Finds Summary
1	101	Colluvium	-	Modern	Plant pot rim (2g)
	107	Furrow	108	Late medieval+	Pottery (3g)
	113	Furrow	114	Late medieval+	Ceramic roof tile (3g)
3	305	Furrow	306	Undated	Pottery (1g); iron nails x2
	309	Furrow	310	Medieval	Pottery (5g)
6	603	Furrow	604	Late medieval+	Pottery (11g); ceramic roof tile (29g); lead alloy offcut (2g)
	605	Furrow	606	Post-medieval	Pottery (3g)
	609	Pit	610	Prehistoric	Pottery (1g)
	611	Tree-throw	612	Late medieval+	Ceramic roof tile (3g); iron shoeing nail x1
	615	Pit	616	Undated	Pottery (2g); animal bone (60g)
10	1006	Ditch	1007	Early medieval	Pottery (5g)
	1012	Pit	1015	Late medieval+	Pottery (5g)
12	1207	Pit	1209	Undated	Human bone (26g); animal bone (9g)
	1210	Pit	1211	Undated	Animal bone (64g)
	1215	Pit	1216	Undated	Animal bone (13g)
	1221	Furrow	1222	Late medieval+	Ceramic roof tile (516g)
13	1307	Pit	1308	Undated	Fired clay (1g)
	1309	Furrow	1312	Late medieval+	Ceramic roof tile (179g)

Table 1: Finds summary by trench and feature

7.1 Ceramics

Ten abraded pottery sherds (38g) derived mainly from furrows and pits in Trenches 1, 3, 6 and 10. Their poor and fragmented condition is reflected in a low mean sherd weight of 3g, and suggests that they are redeposited. Most sherds are of medieval and later date (Table 2), spanning the 12th–18th centuries. Where possible, fabrics are coded in accordance with the Milton Keynes post-Roman pottery type series (Mynard and Zeepvat 1992).

Fabric description	No. sherd	Wt. (g)	Fill:no. sherd
Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age			
Fine flint	1	1	(610):1
Medieval and later			
Medieval coarse sandy ware (MS2)	1	5	(107):1
Medieval grey sandy ware (MS3)	1	5	(310):1
Late medieval smooth oxidised ware	1	11	(604):1
Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (TLMS7)	2	8	(108):1, (1015):1
Glazed red earthenware (PM8)	1	3	(606):1
Modern earthenware plant pot	1	2	(101):1
Unidentified	2	3	(306):1, (616):1

Table 2: Pottery type series and quantification

7.1.1 Prehistoric

A tiny late Bronze Age/early Iron Age flint-tempered sherd (1g) recovered from the fill of pit [609] is too small to provide a date for the feature, although may suggest 'background' activity during this period. An abraded sand-tempered

sherd (2g) collected from pit [615] may also be of prehistoric origin, although it is too small to be identified with certainty.

7.1.2 Medieval and later

Two sand-tempered coarse ware body sherds (10g) of 12th–13th-century date were collected from furrow [309] and ditch [1006]. Two sherds of 15th–17th-century Brill/Boarstall ware (8g), including a jug rim, derived from furrow [107] and the upper fill of pit [1012]. A contemporary sherd of smooth oxidised sandy ware (11g) derived from furrow [603].

Furrow [605] yielded a highly abraded sherd of 16th–18th-century glazed red earthenware; a miscellaneous sand-tempered sherd (1g) from furrow [305] cannot be dated with any confidence. A modern earthenware plant pot rim (2g) collected from colluvium (101) has not been retained.

Eleven abraded pieces of sand-tempered late medieval / post-medieval flat roof tile (730g) were collected from furrows [113], [603], [1221], [1309] and tree-throw [611].

7.2 Metal Artefacts

Undatable finds collected from furrows [305] and [603] respectively comprise two incomplete flat-headed iron nails and a lead alloy sheet offcut. A late medieval / post-medieval shoeing nail (Type D; Goodall 1980) derived from tree-throw [611].

7.3 Animal Bone

Twenty-six abraded animal bone fragments (146g) were collected from pits [615], [1207] / [1210], and [1215]. The material is well fragmented, with a mean bone weight of 5g. Diagnostic elements are miscellaneous limb bone fragments, a portion of sheep / goat mandible and two horse teeth (molar and canine).

7.4 Human Remains

The fill (1209) of pit [1207 / 1210] contained six redeposited pieces of human cranium (26g), probably deriving from an immature individual.

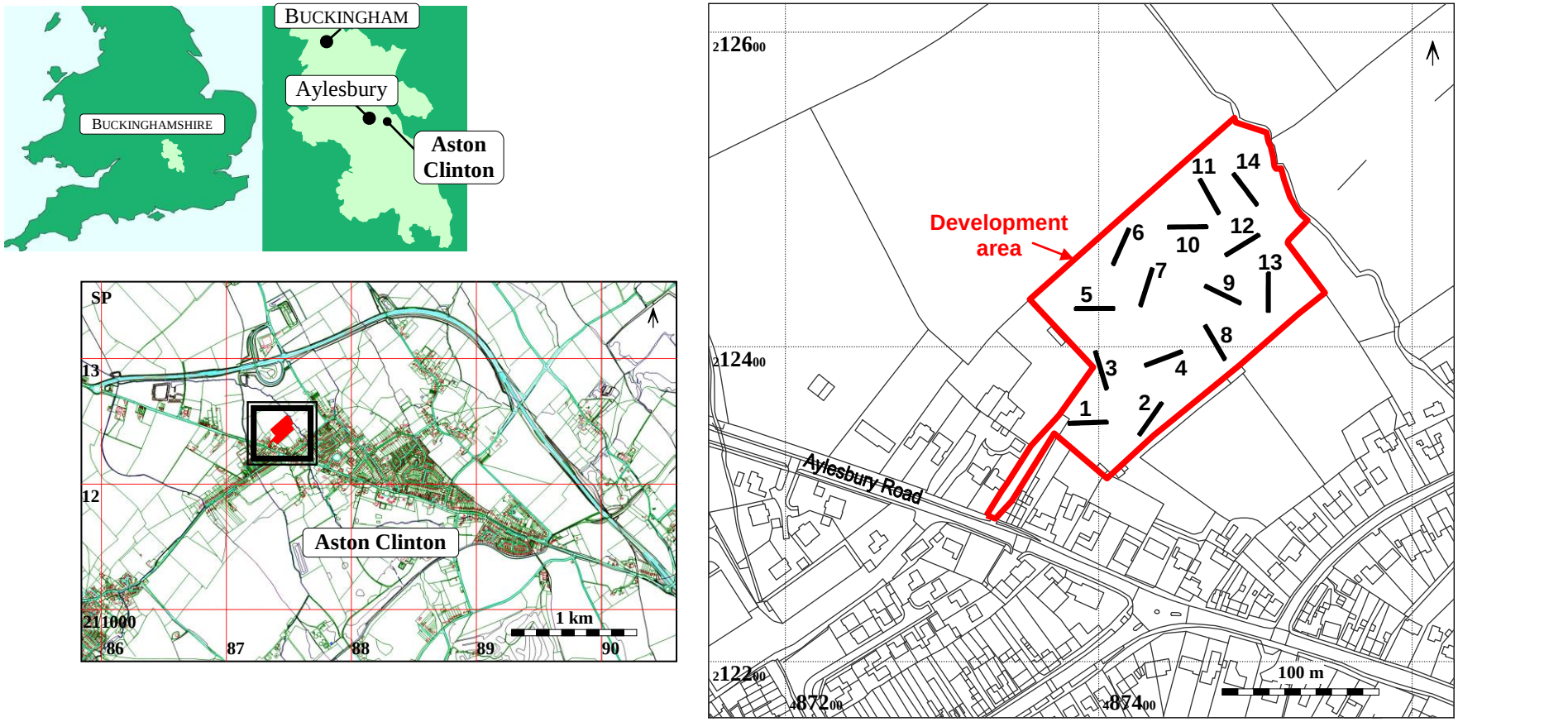


Figure 1: Site location and trench layout

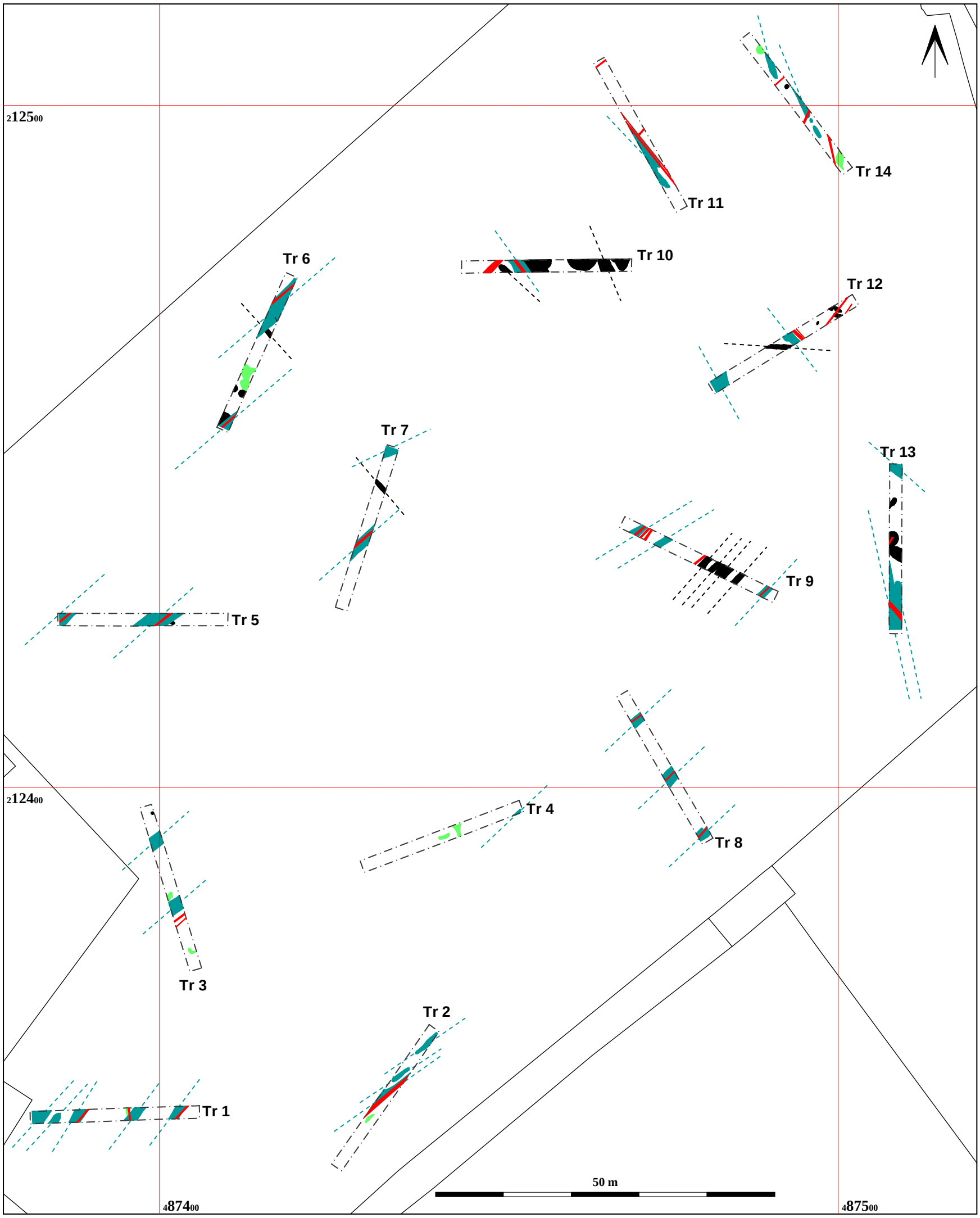


Figure 2: All-features plan

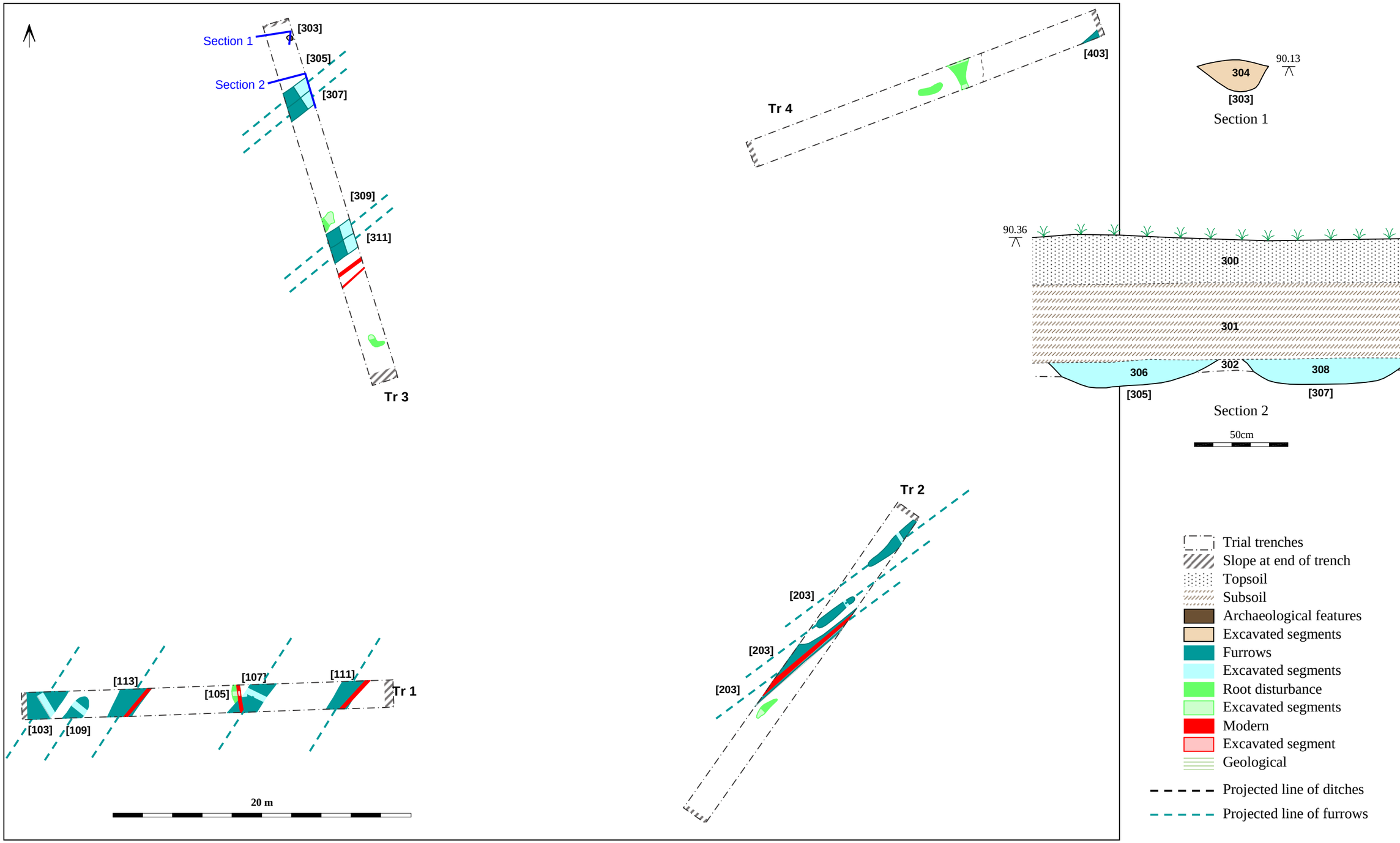
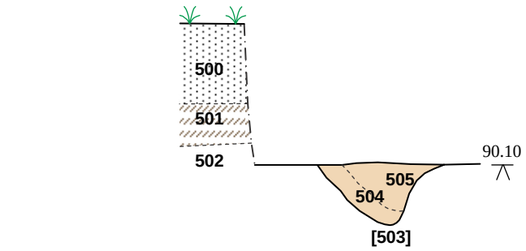
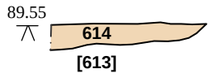


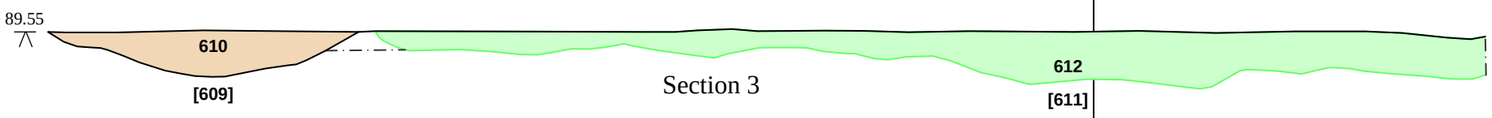
Figure 3: Trenches 1-4



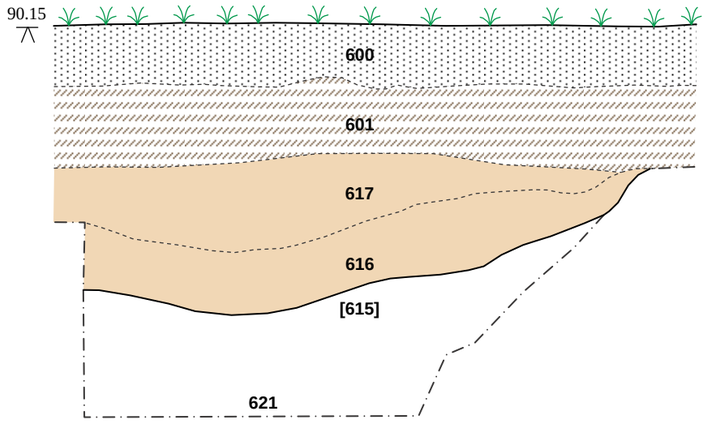
Section 1



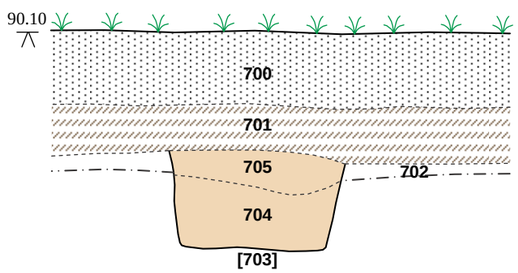
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5

50cm

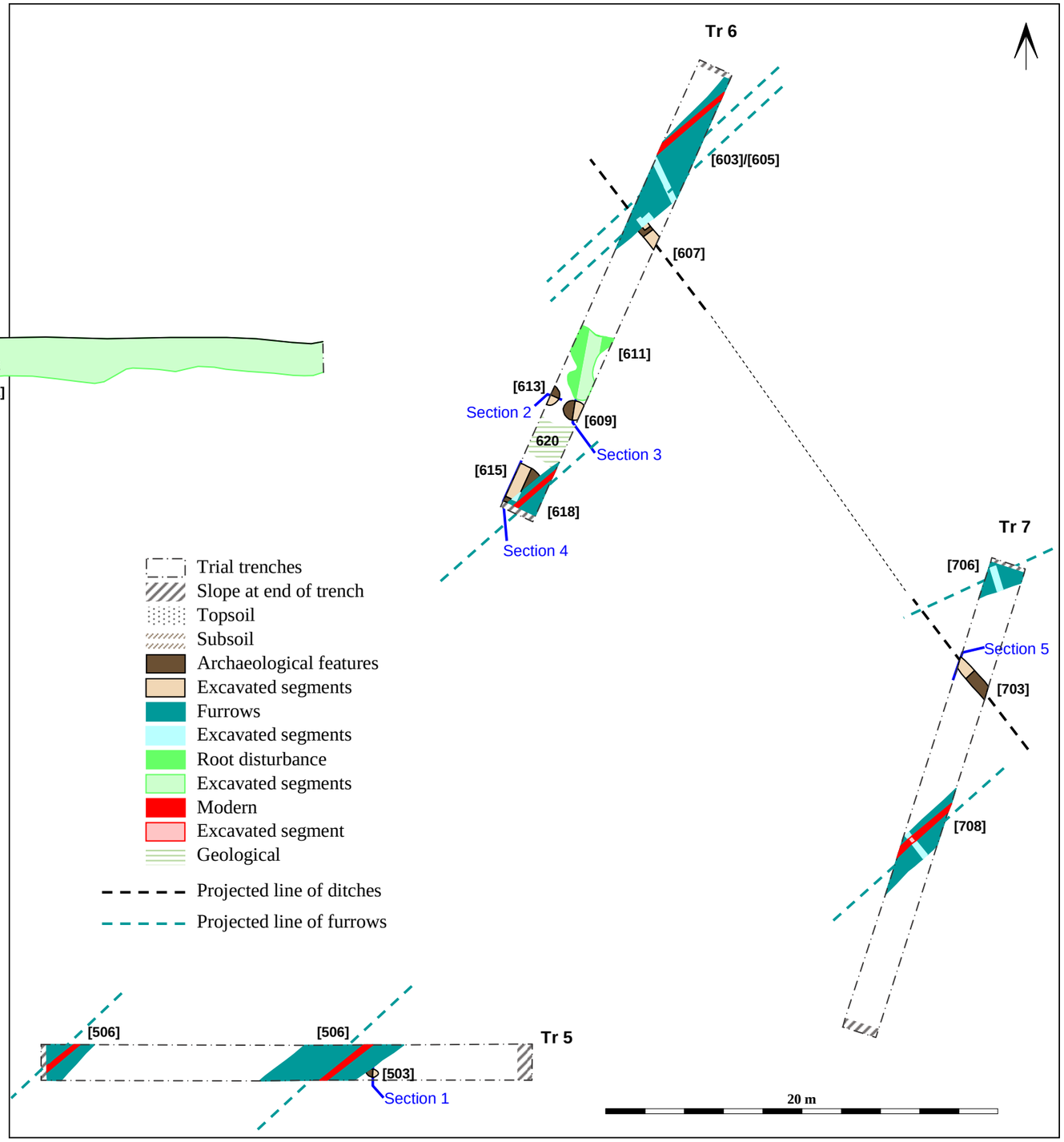


Figure 4: Trenches 5–7

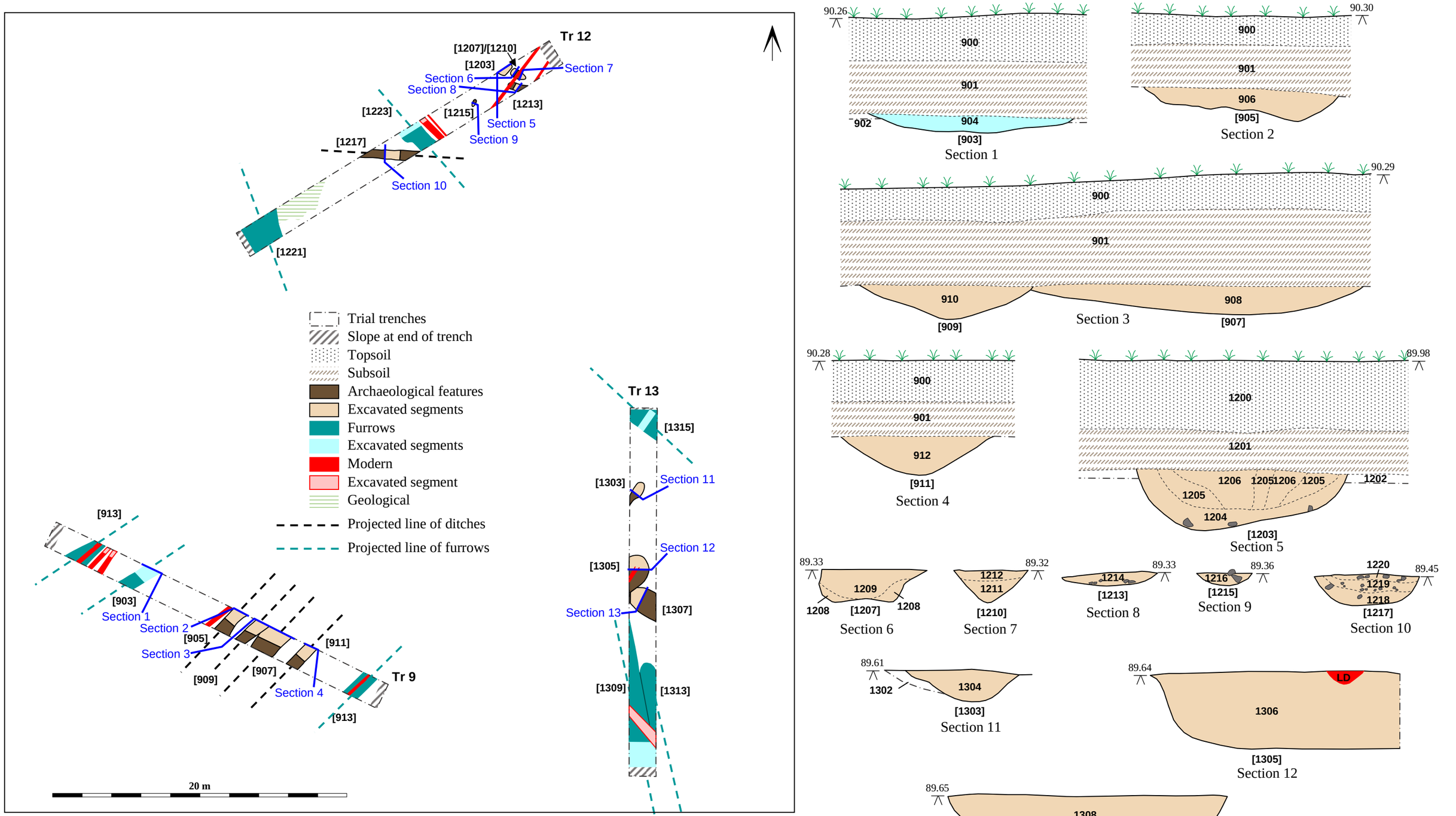


Figure 5: Trenches 9, 12 and 13

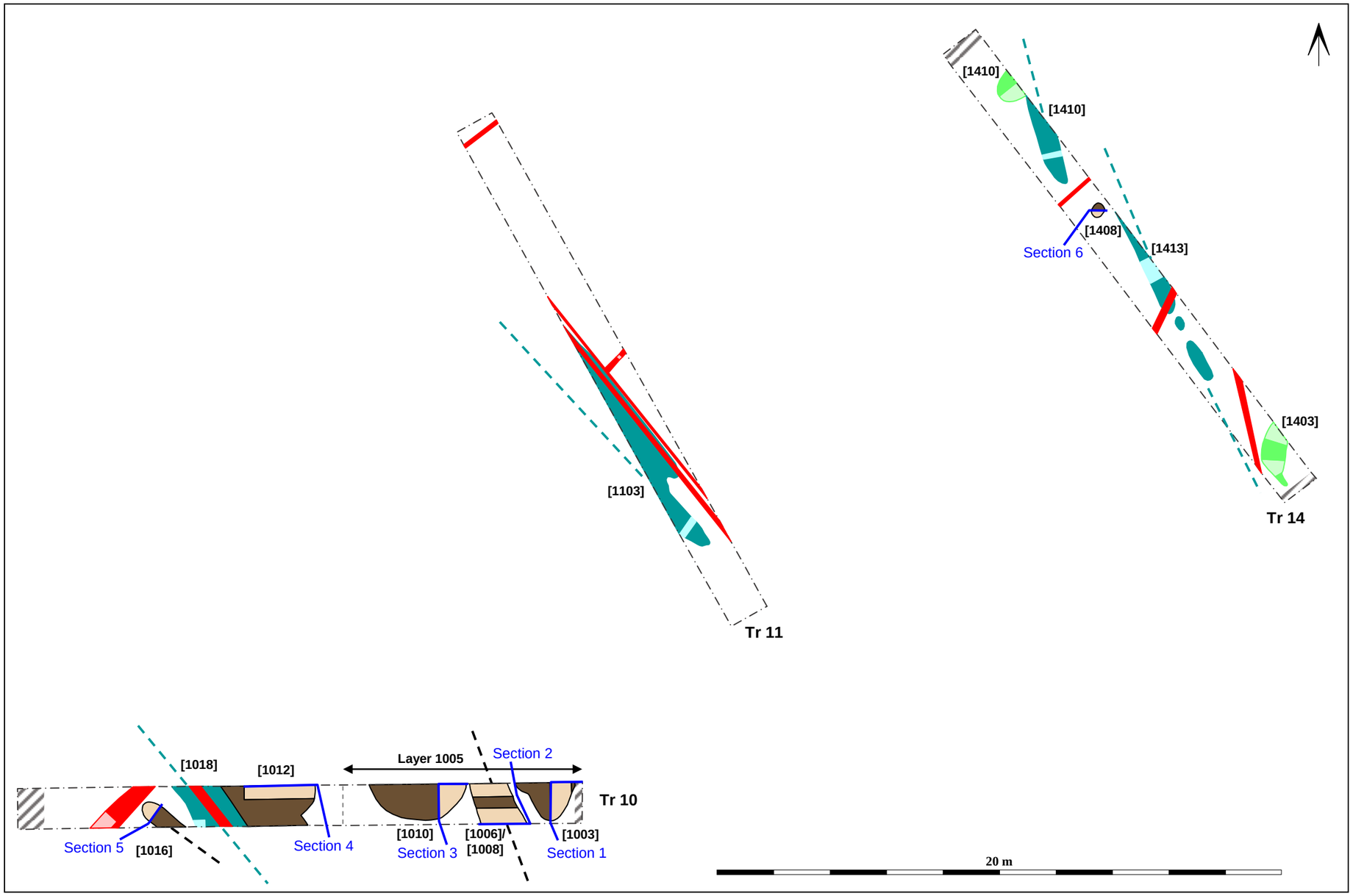


Figure 6: Trenches 10, 11 and 14

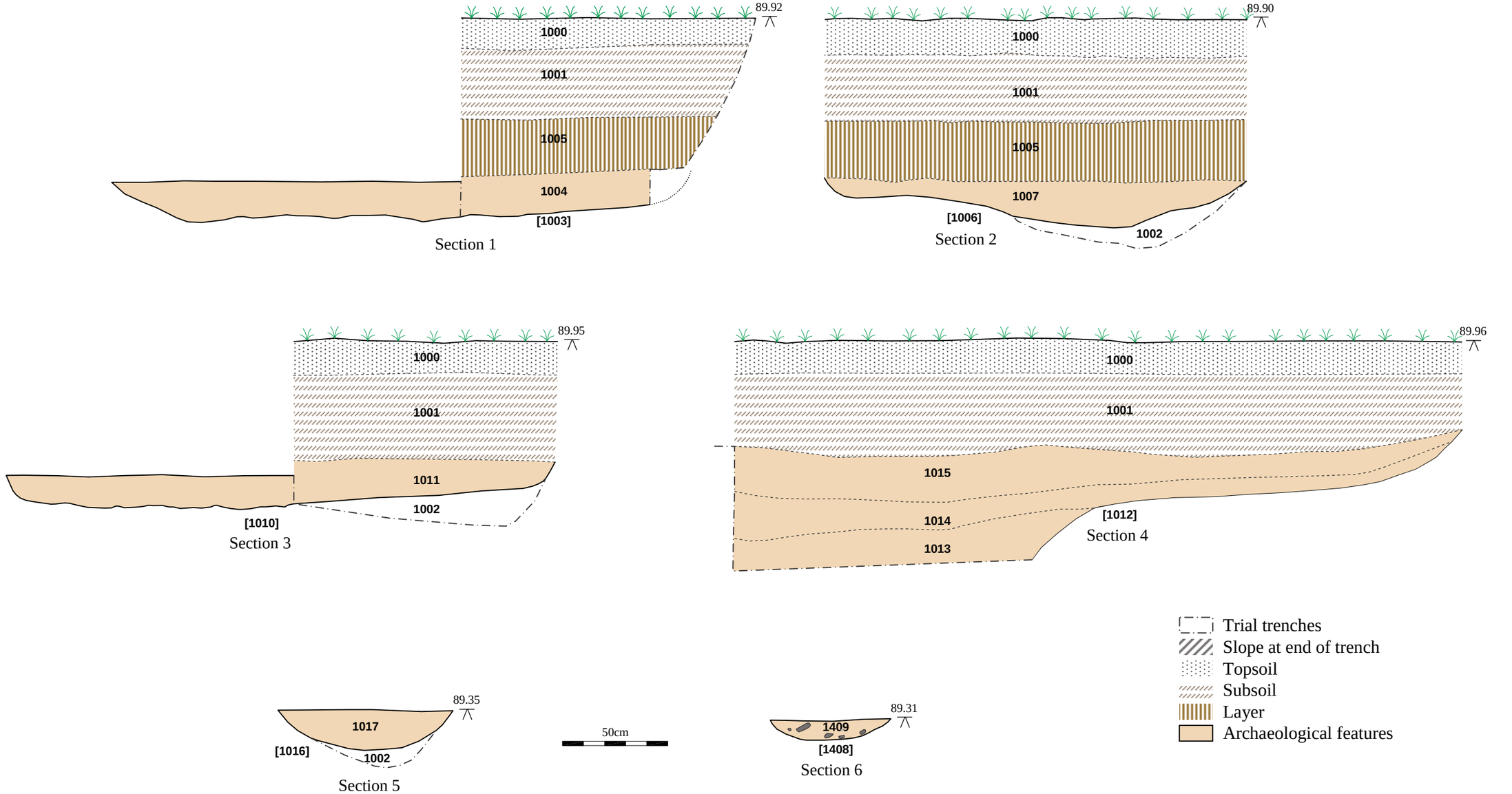


Figure 7: Trenches 10, 11 and 14 – selected sections

Tr 6. Pit [615]. Scale 1m. Looking N.

Tr 10. Pit [1003]. Scale 1m. Looking W.

Tr 10. Pit [1010]. Scale 1m. Looking W.

Tr 10. Pit [1012]. Scale 1m. Looking NW

Tr 10. Pit [1012]. Scale 1m. Looking NNW

Tr 13. Pits [1305] & [1307]. Scale 1m. Looking SW.

Tr 13. Pit [1307], Scale 1m. Looking SE.

Tr 6. Pit [609], Scale 1m. Looking NW.

Tr 6. Pit [613], Scale 40cm. Looking NE.

Tr 12. Pit [1203], Scale 1m. Looking NW.

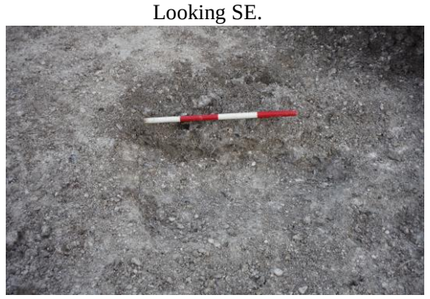
Tr 12. Pit [1207/1210]. Scale 40cm. Looking SE.

Tr 12. Pit [1210/1207], cut by land drain. Scale 40cm.

Tr 12. Pit [1213]. Scale 40cm. Looking SE.

Tr 12. Pit [1215], Scale 40cm. Looking NE.

Tr 13. Pit [1303]. Scale 40cm. Looking SW.



Tr 14. Pit [1408]. Scale 40cm. Looking NE.

Tr 3. Post hole [303]. Scale 40cm. Looking NE.

Tr 5. Post hole [503]. Scale 40cm. Looking W.

Figure 8: Pits and post holes – selected photographs

Tr 7. Ditch [703]. Scale 40cm. Looking NW

Tr 9. Ditch [905]. Scale 1m. Looking NE.

Tr 9. Ditch [907] & [909]. Scale 1m. Looking NE.

Tr 9. Ditch [911]. Scale 1m. Looking NE

Tr 10. Ditch [1006/1008]. Scale 1m. Looking SE

Tr 10. Ditch [1008/1006]. Scale 1m. Looking SW.

Tr 12. Ditch [1217], Scale 40cm. Looking W.

Tr 1. Furrow [103], Scale 1m. Looking SW.

Tr 7. Furrow [708] and French land drain, Scale 1m. Looking SW.

Tr 10. French land drain, Scale 40cm. Looking S.

Figure 9: Ditches, furrows and French land drains – selected photographs

Central Bedfordshire

Albion archaeology

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

Telephone 0300 300 8141
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA