# LAND AT WARREN FARM
# NEW ROAD
# SANDY
# BEDFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
## AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

Albion
archaeology

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# NEW ROAD
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## *Contents*

## List of Tables



## List of Figures



*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*

### Preface

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### Acknowledgements

*The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor), Adrian Woolmer and Gareth Shane (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). This report has been prepared by Wiebke Starke with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures have been produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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### Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

| | |
|---|---|
| BARS | Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service |
| CBC | Central Bedfordshire Council |
| CBCA | Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist |
| CI*f*A | Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists |
| HER | Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record |
| PDA | Proposed development area |
| WSI | Written Scheme of Investigation |

## Non-Technical Summary

*Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd are gathering baseline information on land at Warren Farm, New Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for the use of the site for pallet storage, refurbishment and recycling.*

*The proposed development area (PDA) lies to the south of New Road, between the River Ivel and the A1 Trunk Road,* c. *1.5km south of Sandy, Bedfordshire, centred on grid reference TL 1751 4811. The plot of land is within the valley of the River Ivel, a landscape rich in archaeological remains, with a number of cropmarks extending into the PDA. An earlier evaluation of the northern part of the PDA, undertaken in 1993 revealed various archaeological remains adjacent to New Road. For this reason the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised the planning officer that a heritage statement based on the results of an archaeological field evaluation should accompany any planning application.*

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation, which included the excavation of eight 25m x 2m trial trenches, and to prepare the heritage statement. The trenches were positioned to target previously recorded cropmarks, whilst providing even coverage across the PDA. A geophysical survey undertaken prior to the trenching, did not detect any archaeological features (even those identified previously), due to extensive background magnetic disturbance, possibly due to the nature of recent land-use.*

*The trial trenching took place between 5th and 15th September 2017 and revealed a variety of archaeological features extending across the PDA; features were present in all eight trenches. Generally there was good correlation with the previously identified cropmarks; additional features were also identified.*

*The presence of a prehistoric ring ditch and associated activity was confirmed, whilst most of the remains dated from the late Saxon to medieval period. The features were mostly ditches, with smaller numbers of pits and postholes. A possible water pit was also identified close to the feature revealed in the 1993 evaluation, although the associated timber was much more poorly preserved than in the 1993 investigation (possibly due to a fall in the level of the water table). In the northern part of the PDA (Trenches 4–7) extensive dumping of modern debris was identified below redeposited topsoil. As a result, up to 1.2m of overburden sealed the archaeological features in this area.*

*The prehistoric archaeological heritage assets are of regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the ritual landscape of the Ivel valley and the wider Great Ouse catchment. The late Saxon and medieval remains are also of regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the layout and development of the medieval landscape and settlement of the Ivel valley.*

*Depending on the extent and depth of ground reduction and foundations, it is likely that the proposed development will have a negative impact on the sub-surface archaeological heritage assets within the PDA. These remains are of regional significance and, therefore, the impact itself will also be significant. However, in the event of planning permission being granted, this significant, negative impact can be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the buried archaeological remains that will be affected by the development.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Background

Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd are gathering baseline information on land at Warren Farm, New Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for the use and development of the site for pallet storage, refurbishment and recycling.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken in order to obtain the information required to inform the heritage statement that would need to accompany any future planning application. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation and prepare the heritage statement (Section 4 of this report) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2017), approved by the CBCA, prior to the commencement of the archaeological works.

This is in accordance with the *Central Bedfordshire Design Guide* (March 2014) and national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, which was published on 27 March 2012[1].

## 1.2 Site Location and Description

The Proposed development area (PDA) lies on the southern side of New Road, *c*. 1.5km south of the edge of Sandy and between the A1 Trunk Road and the River Ivel, centred on grid reference TL 1751 4811 (Figure 1). The PDA comprises land to the east of a pallet business and occupies low-lying ground at *c.* 22m OD. At the time of the fieldwork it was rough grassland with some evidence of modern dumped materials.

The underlying geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel Alluvium over Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member (undifferentiated) – Mudstone[2].

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

In preparation of the WSI, a search of the HER was carried out for all heritage assets within a 500m radius of the PDA (referred to as the study area) (ref.: 201617/285). The most salient information from this is reproduced below (Figure 2).

### 1.3.1 Previous archaeological investigations

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the area since the 1990s. Especially significant is the previous evaluation undertaken in 1993 within the northern part of the current PDA (EBD79). Three trenches uncovered a number of ditches, pits and postholes, which yielded datable evidence ranging

[1] National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf.
[2] http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html. Accessed 19/10/16.

from the Saxon to the late medieval period. The results suggested a rural domestic site with Saxon origins (BCAS 1993).

Other works were undertaken on the east side of the Ivel at Station Road (EBD919, EBD1154 and EBD1517). These works revealed evidence for Anglo Saxon and Romano-British occupation for some areas and Late Iron Age to Roman period for others, including the remains of a cemetery. Excavations at a timber yard on High Road, Beeston (EBD1578), uncovered post-medieval field boundaries.

#### *1.3.1.1 1993 Trial trench evaluation (EBD79)*

In 1993 three trenches were excavated in the northern half of the current PDA (BCAS 1993). Trench 1 and 2 were parallel, aligned NW-SE and intersected with Trench 3, which was aligned NE-SW, parallel to New Road (Figure 3). All three trenches revealed archaeological features including boundary ditches, pits and postholes.

The most significant discovery was feature [49] at the south-east end of Trench 1. Its full extent and nature was not determined at the time, but it contained a waterlogged timber structure which was left *in situ* once recorded. Pottery from the feature was dated to the 14th–15th century. Trench 2 recorded a number of ditches, one of which, ditch [20], dated to the 11th–12th century. The west half of Trench 3 revealed a number of linear features and postholes. Datable evidence recovered from the excavated ditches suggested a late Saxon to early medieval date. For all three trenches the overburden at the time of investigation was *c.* 0.5m thick comprising *c*. 0.3m of topsoil and 0.2m of subsoil.

#### *1.3.1.2 Geophysical Survey on the PDA*

Prior to the current archaeological trial trenching, a geophysical survey was undertaken in the area of the PDA (SUMO 2017). Despite known cropmarks and the results from the 1993 evaluation, no archaeological responses could be identified, due to magnetic disturbances.

### 1.3.2 Prehistoric to Roman (prior to c. AD 410)

The prehistoric to Roman periods are represented in the wider study area by a number of find-spots (Figure 2). These comprise Roman (HER20265 and HER19896) and Iron Age (HER20271) coins, a Roman finger ring (HER19693) and a Bronze Age/Iron Age bead (HER20265). They were recovered from the area north of New Road and east of the A1(M), between the Great North Road and the River Ivel.

Other known Roman heritage assets are the Roman town at Chesterfield (HER444) on the east side of the Ivel, along with the Roman cemetery at Tower Hill (HER11318). West of the Ivel there were Roman finds close to the river, south of New Road (HER548) in an area of former gravel quarrying. The cropmarks at Beeston Berrys (HER1495) are thought to be multi-period, ranging from the prehistoric to the medieval period. The PDA lies in the area of these cropmarks and some of the evaluation trenches target the known cropmarks.

### 1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon (410–1066) and medieval (1066–1550)

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation in the wider study area has been retrieved during a watching brief at Station Road, Sandy, (EBD1154). No Anglo-Saxon heritage assets are known within the study area to the west of the River Ivel. However, the hamlet of Beeston, *c*. 500m to the north-west of the PDA, was recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey as a medium-sized settlement, with 16 households and 10.5 taxable geld units, which would suggest that the settlement has Saxon origins. Beeston is also the closest settlement to the PDA. Sandy which is also recorded in the Domesday Survey lies on the east side of the Ivel, *c*. 1.5km to the north of the PDA. It could be assumed that the land within the PDA, due to the natural barrier of the Ivel, was part of the agricultural landscape associated with Beeston rather than with Sandy.

Beeston continues through the medieval period (HER17132) into the modern periods as a linear hamlet along the main road and The Green. Other medieval heritage assets within the study area are a medieval buckle (HER20263) found north of New Road and the cropmarks at Beeston Berrys (HER1495), thought to date from the prehistoric to the medieval period.

### 1.3.4 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

Two post-medieval heritage assets have been recorded within the study area. Firstly an onion shed (HER13369) in Beeston, at the eastern margin of the historic settlement core (HER17132) and secondly a three-dimensional figurine of a man (HER19832) which was found just east of the A1(M) north of New Road.

### 1.3.5 Modern (1900–present)

Five modern heritage assets have been recorded within the study area. These comprise a WW2 pillbox (HER17176) and tank trap (HER17974) on either side of the River Ivel on New Road *c*. 100m to the east of the PDA. Further modern heritage assets comprise the gasworks (HER3240), which was built in 1862 and was still operational in 1933, but has long since been redeveloped. The others are railways comprising the Sandy and Potton Railway (HER20286), which was operational between 1857 and 1967. Also the London to Peterborough section of the Former Great Northern railway (HER11862), which opened in 1850 and is now the East Coast mainline. Both railway lines are located east of the River Ivel *c*. 500m away from the PDA

### 1.3.6 Undated

A number of heritage assets within the study area are currently undated — mainly cropmarks and earthworks. A series of water management earthworks (HER9835) have been identified between Seddington and Stratford, *c*. 700m to the south of the PDA. Their exact date and function are unclear. A site with irregular cropmarks (HER13724) has been identified west of Seddington, *c*. 350m to the south-west of the PDA on the west side of the A1(M) and *c*. 300m south of Beeston. Lastly tentative cropmarks (HER13719) have been recorded in an area between Chesterfield and the River Ivel, *c*. 250m to the east of the PDA.

## *1.4 Cartographic Evidence*

This section contains a discussion of selected historical maps, illustrating the changes occurring on the site and in the general vicinity, from the mid-18th

century. Copies of the maps discussed below are bound at the back of the report (Figures 10–13).

### 1.4.1 18th-century maps (Figure 12: Maps 1 and 2)

Two 18th-century maps are available for the area — the larger scale 1765 Jefferys' map of Bedfordshire (Figure 12: Map 1) and a smaller-scale estate plan of Beeston Lordship farm dating to 1748 (Figure 12: Map 2).

The Jefferys' map depicts Sandy north of the River Ivel, Great North Road south of the river, almost parallel to it and the hamlet of Beeston to the west of Great North Road. Just south of the approximate location of the current PDA, the map depicts two tracks/roads connecting Great North Road to the river.

The smaller-scale Estate map gives more detail. It shows a road extending east from Great North Road, labelled as Church Close Lane. This lane is likely to be correlated with the western section of today's New Road. However, Church Lane Close turns south-east towards a common by the river. The second road leading to the common is labelled as Bury Hill Lane and also extends from the Great North Road. From the common a footbridge crosses the River Ivel at a bend. The approximate location of the PDA is on Church Close and partially on the track leading to the common. There are no buildings depicted in this area.

### 1.4.2 Moggerhanger and Beeston Estate map of 1857 (Figure 13: Map 3)

This map depicts the post-enclosure landscape west of the River Ivel. Most noteworthy is that the common by the footbridge over the Ivel has disappeared. Both Church Close Land and Bury Hill Lane are only retained as short straight tracks extending from the Great North Road. The land closest to the main road, formerly Bury Piece had been divided into two square fields (Lot 24 and 25). Church Close, the common and parts of Bury Hill have been amalgamated under Lot 28, which encompassed land on both sides of the Ivel. A footpath connects the eastern end of Church Close Lane with the footbridge over the Ivel, via the area of the current PDA.

### 1.4.3 1882–1950 Six-inch OS map (Figures 13–15: Maps 4–8)

The 1882 OS survey map (Figure 13: Map 4) shows further land consolidation east of Great North Road. Lots 23–25 and parts of Lot28 from the 1857 map have been amalgamated into one big land parcel. The track of Bury Hill Lane is no longer in existence. Church Close Lane continues in use, extending straight down to the river as a footpath. North of the path a small parcel has been developed; it shows two structures. The footbridge over the Ivel is still in use, but the footpath from Church Close Lane is no longer in use. There is a path leading south from the bridge towards Seddington.

The most noteworthy change between the 1882 and 1902 maps (Figure 14: Map 5) is the construction of New Road. This road replaces Church Close Lane; it crosses the river, heading towards Sandy and connecting with Station Road at the gasworks (HER3240). The property north of the area of the PDA has been extended by another building and the estate of Warren Villas has been built to the south of New Road, west of the PDA.

The footbridge over the river is no longer in existence. A small building complex has been established to the east of Great North Road, at the edge of the land south of New Road. It is labelled 'Westray' on subsequent maps.

By 1927 Warren Villas has been extended (Figure 14: Map 6) and by 1950 (Figure 15: Map 7) two structures are depicted on the location of the pallet business.

#### 1.4.4 1978 1:10,000 OS Landline map (Figure 15: Map 8)

The area of the PDA does not undergo any changes on this map. There are some minor changes to the Warren Villas complex and the boundary for the plot of the present-day pallet business is defined.

In the wider area the land between Beeston Green and Great North Road has undergone quite substantial development, whilst the Great North Road has been widened.

### *1.5 Project Objectives*

The principal purpose of the evaluation was to gather information on possible sub-surface archaeological heritage assets within the PDA.

The archaeological trial trenching endeavoured to determine the:

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

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that generally few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in the county, with work tending to be focussed on villages and nucleated settlements at the higher end of the medieval settlement spectrum. Research into other elements of the medieval settlement patterns like isolated enclosed or unenclosed moated sites, "Ends" and smaller settlements still require more detailed study (Oake et al 2007, 14).

The significance of the results of the fieldwork were to be considered with reference to all regional research frameworks (e.g. Brown and Glazebrook 2007; Oake et al. 2007; Medlycott 2011).

# 2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2017).

## 2.1 Methodological 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 edition (2001) |
| Bedford Museum | *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (2010) |
| CI*f*A | *Charter and By-law; 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) |
| EAA | *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (2003) |
| Historic England (formerly English Heritage) | *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (2015) |
| | *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, 2nd edition (2011) |

The project archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession number BEDFM 2017.05). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-274757) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

## 2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place from 5th to 15th September 2017. It comprised the excavation of eight 25m x 1.8m trenches. The trenches were positioned for even coverage across the PDA, to complement the trenches excavated in 1993 and to target specific known cropmarks. The results are summarised in Section 3.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. All excavation and recording were carried out by experienced Albion staff. Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro-forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

# 3. TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

## *3.1 Introduction*

The investigation was undertaken in a period of generally dry but variable conditions, allowing the deposits to be examined under varying lighting and ground moisture conditions.

All deposits revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figure 3. A selection of sections and photographs of the excavated features are presented in Figure 4 and Figures 5–9 respectively. This phase of the evaluation commenced at Trench 4 (Trenches 1 to 3 relate to the 1993 evaluation). Each trench was assigned a unique block of contexts, commencing at 400 for Trench 4, 500 for Trench 5 etc. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Detailed information is provided within Appendix 1. Details of the finds recovered from the investigation are presented in Appendix 2, and are summarised in the following text. Table 1 presents a tabulation of the overburden and features by trench.

| Trench | Deeper overburden | Ditch | Pit | Posthole | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **4** | Yes | 1 | 1 | - | - | **2** |
| **5** | Yes | - | 1 | - | - | **1** |
| **6** | Yes | 5 | 2 | - | - | **7** |
| **7** | Yes | - | - | 2 | Water pit | **3** |
| **8** | - | 2 | - | - | - | **2** |
| **9** | - | 1 | 1 | - | Mound? | **3** |
| **10** | - | 3 | - | - | - | **3** |
| **11** | - | 5 | - | 2 | - | **7** |
| **Total** | **-** | **17** | **5** | **4** | **2** | **28** |

**Table 1:** Summary of overburden and features by trench

Archaeological features were present in all trenches, comprising ditches, pits and postholes (see Table 1 and Figure 3). These features are discussed below in chronological order from earliest to latest.

## *3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits*

The nature and thickness of the overburden varied considerably between the northern and southern parts of the site.

### 3.2.1 Northern Area: Trenches 4–7

During the initial stage of the mechanical opening of the trenches, it became apparent that the ground surface in the northern part of the PDA had experienced extensive modification sometime after 1993.

It appears that the original topsoil was removed from this area, prior to laying down of a substratum (502), (702) and an external concrete surface (501), (701), up to 0.24m thick, in the western part of the area (Trenches 5 and 7). The continuation of this modern horizon appeared as bricks, concrete fragments and other construction debris in Trenches 4 and 6 to the east. The buried subsoil was present in all four trenches; it was up to *c*. 0.5m thick in Trench 4 and on average

0.25m thick in the other trenches. A 0.10m-thick layer of buried topsoil survived in Trench 6.

Presumably at a later date, the topsoil was replaced over the made ground; it ranged in thickness from *c.* 0.62m in Trench 5 to *c*. 0.25m in Trench 6.

Overall, the overburden ranged in thickness from 0.9–1.2m, compared to the original soil profile of 0.5m, revealed in the 1993 evaluation (Figure 5: Image 1).

#### 3.2.2 Southern Area: Trenches 8–11

The soil profile in the southern part of the site appeared undisturbed. It comprised 0.27–0.38m of topsoil, characteristic of a former ploughsoil, over 0.14–0.2m of subsoil. This is similar to the combined thickness of overburden revealed in the 1993 evaluation in the area to the north.

Throughout the site the topsoil comprised dark brown-grey sandy silt. There was no notable difference between the topsoil encountered in Trenches 4–7 and that in Trenches 8–11. The subsoil generally comprised mid grey-brown sandy silt with slight variations in colour.

#### 3.2.3 Geological horizon

The undisturbed geological deposits comprised yellow-brown to orange silty sand and gravel.

### *3.3 Prehistoric Ring Ditch and Associated Activity*

Cropmarks suggested the presence of a ring ditch, *c.* 30m in diameter. Its eastern side was targeted by Trench 9 (ditch [903]). Given their location, undated layer [914] and possible features [910] may be associated with this activity.

Ditch [903] was aligned NNW-SSE; it had a V-shaped profile, *c.* 1.75m wide and 0.69m deep, and contained three fills (Figure 4: Section 1 and Figure 5: Image 2). The lower fill (904) was mid brown-orange in colour and appears to be derived from the erosion of the exposed geological strata, whilst the other deposits were darker, being derived from the upper soil profile. No finds were recovered from the fills.

There was a marked rise in the ground level westwards from the inner edges of the ditch (Figure 4: Section 2 and Figure 3 – pale orange). It comprised up to 0.25m of compact, orange, sandy gravel (914) (Figure 4: Section 3). This material may represent part of an internal mound (made of redeposited gravel) or could simply be a natural variation in the geological strata.

The ditch appears to correlate with the circular cropmark, the diameter of which suggests a burial mound rather than the drainage gully of a roundhouse.

Pit [907] was situated towards the centre of the area defined by the circular cropmark. It was roughly oval in plan, *c.* 2m across at the top, with concave upper edges tapering to a narrow shaft *c.* 0.85m across at a depth of 0.55m (Figure 4: Section 3 and Figure 6: Image 3). The feature was 1.1m deep with a flat base, which extended into the present-day groundwater table. The feature contained

four fills, which ranged in colour from mid-yellow-brown to mid-brown-grey. A very small quantity of animal bone was recovered from upper fill (909).

### 3.4 Late Saxon Features

Two features in Trenches 6 and 7 contained material dating to the late Saxon period.

Possible water pit [705] was revealed in the north-west end of Trench 7, continuing beneath a modern concrete floor (Figure 3). It was at least 3m long by 1.75m across with steep sides and a flat base at a depth of 0.48m (Figure 4: section 4 and Figure 6: Images 4 and 5). Beneath a mid grey-brown upper fill, the lower fills (706) and (707) were much darker, with evidence of poorly preserved organic material in the waterlogged conditions, including several worked timbers and poorly preserved organic remains from sample <4> from fill (707). The timber comprised three stakes (713), (714) and (715), which appeared to have been driven into the feature. Late Saxon pottery was recovered from the upper fill (708). This possible water pit appears to be similar to feature [49] revealed in the 1993 evaluation, a short distance to the north (Figure 3).

In Trench 6 pit [605] also contained late Saxon pottery. The pit was *c*. 0.8m across with a concave profile, 0.38m deep, and filled with dark silty sand (Figure 7: Image 6).

### 3.5 Early Medieval Features

Finds dating to the early medieval period were recovered from ditches [1108], [1112], [1116] and [1120] in Trench 11.

Ditches [1103], [1108] and [1112] correlate with an ESE-WNW aligned cropmark. Ditch [1112] was the latest in the sequence and truncated both [1103] and [1108] (Figure 4: section 5 and Figure 7: Image 7). It was a substantial, V-shaped feature, 2.5m wide and 0.8m deep. Its three fills were relatively dark, ranging in colour from mid-brown-grey to dark brown-grey. The datable material originated from the upper main fill (1115).

Ditch [1108] was slightly to the north of [1112]. It was at least 1.1m wide and 0.73m deep, with a concave surviving profile, filled with three relatively dark deposits. A small assemblage of finds, comprising animal bone and pottery, was recovered from secondary fill (1110).

Ditch [1103] was to the south of recut [1112]; its roughly V-shaped profile was 1.15m wide and 0.67m deep. The four fills ranged in colour from a dark brown-grey lower fill to a light grey-yellow upper fill. The only artefact recovered was an unidentified iron object (RA 1) from intermediate fill (1106). Any relationship of this feature to ditch [1108] was lost due to truncation by [1112].

Ditch [1116] and its earlier form [1120] were aligned NW-SE, situated just to the north of the group discussed above. Both terminated in the trench but continued in a south-easterly direction. The ditches were 0.8–1.35m across and up to 0.64m deep, with concave profiles (Figure 4: section 6 and Figure 8: Image 8). Each had a sequence of fills with darker upper deposits. Two of the fills in ditch [1116] had

an interesting assemblage of finds, which included a relatively large amount of pottery, as well as animal bone and fuel ash slag. The lower main fill of [1120] also contained animal bone and pottery. These ditches do not correlate with any known cropmarks.

Aligned ENE-WSW, ditch [611] was a substantial feature, *c.* 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep. Its mid-grey-brown fill contained small quantities of pottery and animal bone. The ditch represents the last in a series of three ditches on this alignment; the earlier undated ditches [607] and [609] had truncated profiles and were 0.25–0.36m deep. It would appear that ditch [607] defined a terminal. The recutting would suggest that the boundary was maintained over a long period (Figure 8: Image 9). The ditches can be correlated with an ENE-WSW aligned cropmark.

### *3.6 Undated Features*

A number of features did not contain any datable material. In Trench 4 pit [404] was irregular in plan and up to 0.36 deep. Circular pit [505] in Trench 5 was 1.7m across and 0.55m deep. Its sequence of three fills ranged in colour from a mid-orange-brown lower fill to a mid-brown-yellow upper deposit (Figure 4: Section 7 and Figure 9: Image 10). In Trench 6, pit [613] was sub-circular in plan, 0.65m across but only 0.15m deep; it had a grey-brown fill.

Boundary ditches uncovered in Trench 4 ([406]), Trench 6 ([615] and [618]), Trench 8 ([803] and [805]) and Trench 10 ([1003] and [1005]/[1007]) also remain undated.

Ditch [406] was up to 0.8m wide, but only survived to a depth of 0.1m; it could be a variation in the geological strata.

Ditches [615] and [618], some 10m apart, had similar ENE-WSW alignments; they were 0.47–0.65m wide and up to 0.25m deep (Figure 9: Image 11). Their similar alignment may suggest that they were associated.

Ditches [803] and [805] in Trench 8 were *c.*15m apart and had a similar NW-SE alignment; they were 0.97–1.1m wide and 0.29–0.39m deep with concave profiles (Figure 10: Images 12 and 13). They had similar mid-brown-grey fills, indicating material derived from an unstable upper soil profile, characteristic of a cultivation soil. It is possible that they may have been associated.

In contrast the three ditches in Trench 10 had varied alignments. Ditch [1007] was very substantial at 2.56m wide and 0.49m deep; it had a concave profile and contained two fills. The other two ditches [1003] and [1005] were around 1m wide and up to 0.25m deep with concave profiles (Figure 10: Image 14).

Undated postholes [1123] and [1125] were sub-oval in plan, 0.38–0.45m across and up to 0.5m deep with undifferentiated dark grey-black fills (Figure 11: Image 15). The two features were probably associated, although their function is uncertain.

# 4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND HERITAGE STATEMENT

## 4.1 Summary of Results

In the northern part of the PDA, within Trenches 4–7, the evaluation revealed extensive dumping of modern debris, sealed by redeposited topsoil. This has left up to 1.4m of overburden above the archaeological features, compared to the 0.5m-thick soil profile encountered in the same area during the 1993 evaluation. The modern debris is probably responsible for the magnetic disturbance detected by the geophysical survey, which is likely to have hampered the detection of archaeological anomalies.

A variety of archaeological features were identified, extending across the PDA, with features present in all eight trenches. The features were mostly ditches, with smaller numbers of pits and postholes. Generally there was good correlation with the previously identified cropmarks; additional features were also identified across the site.

The survival of a possible prehistoric ring ditch and associated activity was confirmed.

Most of the remains dated from the late Saxon to medieval periods. A possible water pit was identified close to a similar feature revealed in the 1993 evaluation. Timber from the water pit was much more poorly preserved than similar material found in 1993, possibly due to a fall in the level of the water table.

The later features within the PDA relate to the development of the medieval landscape of the Ivel valley. The features uncovered in 1993 in Trench 3 and Trench 1, together with the possible water pit in Trench 7 are potentially situated at the edge of a land parcel called Church Close on the 1748 Estate map, which was bounded in the west by the track from Church Close Lane to the common. The ditches recorded in Trench 11 are probably associated with the path between Church Close Lane and the common by the river. The field and road names in the area, Church Close, Bury Piece, Bury Close, Bury Hill, Church Close, Lane, Bury Hill Lane and the common suggest that there might have been a settlement focus here. This may have been associated with the manor house as indicated by the Bury place-name, even though there is no evidence for residential dwellings or a church on the 1748 Estate map.

## 4.2 Heritage Statement

The prehistoric archaeological remains are of regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the ritual landscape of the Ivel valley and the wider Great Ouse catchment (Oake et al 2007, 9–10; Malim 2000).

The late Saxon and medieval remains are also of regional significance and have the potential to contribute to local and regional research objectives relating to the layout and development of the medieval landscape and settlement of the Ivel valley (Oake et al 2007, 14).

It is proposed to develop the site for pallet storage, refurbishment and recycling. The proposed layout submitted for the pre-application enquiry (Figure 14) shows the proposed office building, loading area, turning area, parking and hardstanding. Details of foundations, formation levels etc. were not available at the time of writing, although the ground investigation report recommends a reinforced raft foundation and notes that a minimum foundation depth of 0.5–0.9m will be required to penetrate the made ground and topsoil (BRD 2017, ii).

Depending on the extent and depth of ground reduction and foundations, it is likely that the proposed development will have a negative impact on the sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA. These remains are of regional significance and, therefore, the impact itself will also be significant. However, in the event of planning permission being granted, this significant, negative impact can be mitigated by measures to investigate and record the presence/absence, nature and significance of the buried archaeological remains that will be affected by the development.

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# 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

**Trench:** **4**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m.** **Width: 1.80 m.** **Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m.** **Max: 1.2 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17524: Northing: 48127)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17547: Northing: 48117)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **400** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey silty sand 0.4m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **401** | **Make up layer** | **Loose sandy gravel occasional small-large CBM, frequent small-medium stones 0.5m thick; modern layer partially composed of building rubble.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **402** | **Buried subsoil** | **Friable mid brown grey silty gravel 0.57m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **403** | **Natural** | **Compact mid brown orange sandy gravel moderate small-medium stones** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **404** | **Pit** | **Irregular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.8m, max depth 0.36m, min length 1.55m Not fully seen in trench.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 405 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones Sole fill. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **406** | **Ditch** | **Linear sides: assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.1m, min length 1.1m Possible tree-throw / natural feature.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 407 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt Sole fill. | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench:** 5

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.89 m. Max: 1.14 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17502: Northing: 48110)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17520: Northing: 48092)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **500** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate small-large stones 0.62m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **501** | **External surface** | **Hard mid grey concrete 0.12m thick, modern concrete debris.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **502** | **Make up layer** | **Compact mid orange grey sandy gravel frequent small-medium CBM, frequent large concrete For (501), 0.1m thick, modern sub strata.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **503** | **Buried subsoil** | **Friable mid brown grey silty sand frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones 0.21m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **504** | **Natural** | **Friable mid grey orange silty sand frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **505** | **Pit** | **Circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.55m, max diameter 1.7m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 506 | Lower fill | Firm mid orange brown sandy clay occasional medium stones Initial fill, 0.19m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 507 | Main fill | Friable dark grey brown sand occasional small stones Posible backfill or weathering 0.38m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 508 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown yellow sand frequent small-medium stones Deposit 0.1m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench: 6**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.8 m. Max: 0.9 m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17548: Northing: 48107)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17544: Northing: 48082)*

**Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential, and investigate linear cropmark**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **600** | **Natural** | **Mid brown yellow sandy gravel** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **601** | **Buried subsoil** | **Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional medium stones 0.1m - 0.2m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **602** | **Buried topsoil** | **Friable dark grey brown silty sand 0.05m - 0.1m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **603** | **Make up layer** | **Friable mid brown grey concrete frequent small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large concrete, frequent small-medium stones 0.25m - 0.35m thick, modern deposit.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **604** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown black sandy silt 0.25m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **605** | **Pit** | **Sub-oval sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.38m, max length 0.85m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 606 | Fill | Dark grey brown silty sand occasional small stones Natural silting, contained small amount of pottery and animal bone. | ☑ | ☑ |
| **607** | **Ditch** | **Linear ENE-WSW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.25m, min length 0.4m Boundary ditch, initial ditch in squence of three** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 608 | Fill | Dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Terminal fill, silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **609** | **Ditch** | **Linear ESE-WNW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.45m, max depth 0.36m, min length 0.55m Boundary ditch, 2nd phase, recut of ditch [607].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 610 | Fill | Dark grey brown sandy silt frequent small stones Natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **611** | **Ditch** | **Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, max depth 0.3m, min length 2.m Boundary ditch, 3rd final phase, recut of ditch [609].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 612 | Fill | Mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Natural silting, small quantity of pottery and animal bone. | ☑ | ☑ |
| **613** | **Pit** | **Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.15m, max diameter 0.65m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 614 | Fill | Mid grey brown silty sand moderate small stones Natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **615** | **Ditch** | **Linear ENE-WSW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.25m Boundary ditch.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 616 | Lower fill | Mid red grey silty sand occasional small stones Primary silting 010m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 617 | Upper fill | Mid grey red silty sand occasional medium stones Natural silting 0.15m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **618** | **Ditch** | **Linear ENE-WSW sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.47m, max depth 0.19m, min length 2.25m Boundary ditch.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 619 | Fill | Friable mid orange grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones Natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench:** 7

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.73 m. Max: 0.92 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17504: Northing: 48073)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17528: Northing: 48066)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential and investigate linear cropmark**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **700** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate small-large stones 0.49m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **701** | **External surface** | **Hard mid brown grey concrete 0.24m thick, deposit of modern concrete slab.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **702** | **Make up layer** | **Compact mid grey orange silty sand moderate small CBM, moderate small-medium concrete, frequent small-large stones Substrata below (701), 0.46m thick, modern building debris.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **703** | **Buried subsoil** | **Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones 0.24m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **704** | **Natural** | **Friable mid grey orange silty sand frequent small-medium stones, occasional large stones** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **705** | **Pit** | **Sub-oval sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.48m, min length 3.m Water pit, containing poorly preserved remains of timber structure.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 706 | Lower fill | Plastic black clay gravel moderate small-medium stones, occasional small stones Lowest fill, probably initial erosion of sides after construction, 0.11m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 707 | Main fill | Plastic black clay peat occasional small stones Main fill, organic / humic deposit, sample <4>, contained worked timber and moderate amount of pottery and animal bone, 0.48m thick. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 708 | Upper fill | Friable mid grey brown sandy silt Contained pottery and animal bone, 0.91m thick. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 713 | Timber | Stake driven into pit [705], boxed half multi-faceted stake. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 714 | Timber | Stake, quatered roundwood stake with multi-facet point. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 715 | Timber | Remains of stake, halved round wood, broken at both ends. | ☑ | ☑ |
| **709** | **Posthole** | **Sub-circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.5m, max diameter 0.66m Pit / posthole associated with [705].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 710 | Fill | Plastic black clay peat occasional small stones Sole fill. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **711** | **Posthole** | **Sub-circular sides: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.53m, max diameter 0.8m Contemporary with [705].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 712 | Fill | Loose mid brown grey silty sand moderate small stones Sole fill. | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench:** **8**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.74 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17549: Northing: 48057)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17529: Northing: 48042)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **800** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey sandy silt 0.36m thick** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **801** | **Subsoil** | **Friable mid grey brown sandy silt 0.2m thick** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **802** | **Natural** | **Compact mid brown orange sandy gravel** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **803** | **Ditch** | **Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.97m, max depth 0.29m, min length 1.8m Boundary or drainage** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 804 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Natural silting | ☑ | ☐ |
| **805** | **Ditch** | **Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.39m, min length 1.8m Boundary or drainage** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 806 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones Natural silting | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench:** **9**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.6 m. Max: 0.9 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17580: Northing: 48074)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17555: Northing: 48074)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential and investigate circular cropmark and internal features**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **900** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey sandy silt moderate small stones 0.52m thick** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **901** | **Subsoil** | **Friable mid brown grey silty sand moderate small stones 0.34m thick** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **902** | **Natural** | **Friable mid brown grey silty sand frequent small stones** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **903** | **Ditch** | **Linear NNW-SSE sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.69m, min length 1.78m Ring ditch?, correlated with cropmark** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 904 | Lower fill | Firm mid brown orange silty sand frequent small-medium stones natural silting, 0.15m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 905 | Fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium stones sample <2>, 2nd phase of natural silting, 0.28m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 906 | Upper fill | Firm mid grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones final episode of natural silting, 0.31m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **907** | **Pit** | **Sub-oval sides: convex base: flat dimensions: max depth 1.1m, max diameter 2.m Water pit?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 908 | Main fill | Firm mid brown yellow sandy clay moderate medium stones fill 0.78m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 909 | Upper fill | Firm dark yellow brown sandy clay occasional small stones Backfill 0.18m thick, contained some animal bone. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 912 | Fill | Firm mid brown grey sandy gravel 0.24m thick, above (908), below (909). | ☑ | ☐ |
| 913 | Lower fill | Firm mid brown grey sandy gravel natural slumpage 0.17m thick, only on SE-side of feature below (908). | ☑ | ☐ |
| **910** | **Natural interface** | **Irregular N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.4m, max depth 1.m, min length 1.8m Natural variation?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 911 | Fill | Firm mid orange brown clay sand sole deposit. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **914** | **Layer** | **Compact orange sandy gravel Deposit identified to the west of ditch [903] and getting thicker to the west. Possible mound material or variation in the geological strata.** | ☐ | ☐ |

**Trench:** **10**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.48 m. Max: 0.67 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17569: Northing: 48052)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17591: Northing: 48041)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential and investigate linear cropmark**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1000** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey sandy silt 0.38m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1001** | **Subsoil** | **Friable mid grey brown sandy silt 0.14m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1002** | **Natural** | **Loose mid yellow orange sandy gravel** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **1003** | **Ditch** | **Linear N-S sides: U-shaped base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.86m, max depth 0.23m, min length 1.75m Terminus to south.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1004 | Main fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Sole fill of terminus, natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1005** | **Ditch** | **Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.08m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.85m Boundary or drainage, cut by [1007].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1006 | Main fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Sole fill of ditch, natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1007** | **Ditch** | **Linear ENE-WSW sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.56m, max depth 0.49m, min length 1.85m Boundary or drainage, cutting [1005].** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1008 | Lower fill | Compact mid brown grey sandy gravel Fill 0.09m thick, natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1009 | Main fill | Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small-medium stones natural silting, 0.4m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |

**Trench:** **11**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.58 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17549: Northing: 48032)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17549: Northing: 48006)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential and investigate linear cropmark**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1100** | **Topsoil** | **Friable dark brown grey sandy silt 0.27m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1101** | **Subsoil** | **Friable mid grey brown sandy silt 0.16m thick.** | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1102** | **Natural** | **Friable mid grey orange silty sand** | ☐ | ☐ |
| **1103** | **Ditch** | **Linear E-W sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.67m, min length 1.8m Boundary ditch?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1104 | Lower fill | Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones sample <1>, 0.2m thick, primary silting. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 1105 | Secondary fill | Friable light grey yellow silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.12m thick, only on south side of cut. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1106 | Tertiary fill | Friable mid yellow grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones Weathering, 0.16m thick, on south side of feature, overlaying (1105), contained ferrous object (RA1). | ☑ | ☑ |
| 1107 | Upper fill | Friable light grey yellow silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.17m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1108** | **Ditch** | **Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.73m, min length 1.8m Boundary ditch?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1109 | Lower fill | Compact mid brown grey clay sand moderate small-large stones 0.25m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1110 | Secondary fill | Friable mid grey silty sand occasional small-large stones Weathering, 0.26m thick, contained moderate assemblage of pottery and animal bone. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 1111 | Upper fill | Friable mid brown grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones fill 0.28m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1112** | **Ditch** | **Linear E-W sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.5m, max depth 0.8m, min length 1.8m Boundary ditch?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1113 | Lower fill | Compact mid brown grey clay sand moderate small-large stones Initial silting 0.26m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1114 | Secondary fill | Friable dark brown grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.16m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1115 | Main fill | Friable dark brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones 0.58m thick, contains small assemblage of pottery. | ☑ | ☑ |
| **1116** | **Ditch** | **Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.64m, min length 1.05m Terminus?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1117 | Lower fill | Loose mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-medium stones Natural silting, 0.21m thick, moderate amount of animal bone. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 1118 | Main fill | Friable dark brown grey occasional medium burnt stones, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Natural silting, 0.39m thick, large quantity of pottery, small amount of animal bone and fuel ash slag. | ☑ | ☑ |
| 1119 | Upper fill | Loose dark brown grey silty sand occasional medium burnt stones, moderate flecks charcoal Natural silting, sample <3>, 0.22m thick, contained pottery, animal bone and fuel ash slag. | ☑ | ☑ |
| **1120** | **Ditch** | **Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.59m, min length 1.05m Probable terminus?** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1121 | Main fill | Compact mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small stones Natural silting, contained moderate amount of pottery and animal bone, 0.38m thick. | ☑ | ☑ |

**Trench:** **11**

**Max Dimensions:** **Length: 25.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.58 m.**

**Co-ordinates:** **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17549: Northing: 48032)*

**OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 17549: Northing: 48006)*

**Reason:** **To evaluate archaeological potential and investigate linear cropmark**

| Context: | Type: | Description: | Excavated: | Finds Present: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1122 | Upper fill | Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones Natural silting, 0.23m thick. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1123** | **Posthole** | **Sub-oval sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.5m, max diameter 0.45m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1124 | Fill | Friable dark grey black sandy silt Sole fill, natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |
| **1125** | **Posthole** | **Sub-oval sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.4m, max diameter 0.38m** | ☑ | ☐ |
| 1126 | Fill | Friable dark grey black sandy silt Sole fill, natural silting. | ☑ | ☐ |

# 7. APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY

## 7.1 Introduction

Nine deposits across four trenches yielded an assemblage comprising late Saxon and early medieval pottery, animal bone, fuel ash slag, two iron objects and four worked timber pieces (Table 2) No artefacts were recovered from Trenches 4, 5, 8 or 10.

| Tr. | Feature | Description | Fill | Date range | Finds summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6** | 605 | Pit | 606 | 10th-12th century | Pottery (19g); animal bone (4g) |
| | 611 | Ditch | 612 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (39g); animal bone (3g) |
| **7** | 705 | Pit | 707 | Undated | Worked timber; animal bone (44g) |
| | 705 | Pit | 708 | 10th-12th century | Pottery (9g); iron nail x1; animal bone (557g) |
| | 705 | Pit | 713 | Undated | Worked timber |
| | 705 | Pit | 714 | Undated | Worked timber |
| | 705 | Pit | 715 | Undated | Worked timber |
| **9** | 907 | Pit | 909 | Undated | Animal bone (14g) |
| **11** | 1103 | Ditch | 1106 | Undated | Iron object (RA1) |
| | 1108 | Ditch | 1110 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (83g); animal bone (236g) |
| | 1112 | Ditch | 1115 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (63g) |
| | 1116 | Ditch | 1117 | Undated | Animal bone (738g) |
| | 1116 | Ditch | 1118 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (885g); fuel ash slag (15g); animal bone (103g) |
| | 1116 | Ditch | 1119 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (211g); fuel ash slag (154g); animal bone (4g) |
| | 1120 | Ditch | 1121 | 12th-13th century | Pottery (18g); animal bone (277g) |

**Table 2:** Finds summary by trench and feature

## 7.2 Ceramics

Sixty-eight pottery sherds (1.3kg) representing 34 vessels were collected, mainly from the fills of ditch [1116]. The sherds are largely unabraded and survive in good condition, reflected in a mean sherd weight of 20g. Fabrics are identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series (Table 3).

| Fabric Code | Common name | No. Sherd | Wt. (g) | Fill/No. Sherd |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Late Saxon* | | | | |
| B01 | St Neots-type ware | 4 | 103 | (606):1, (1118):2, (1119), 1 |
| B01A | St Neots-type ware (orange) | 9 | 291 | (1118):9 |
| B01B | St Neots-type ware (fine) | 1 | 11 | (606):1 |
| B01C | St Neots-type ware(mixed inclusions) | 1 | 9 | (708):1 |
| B04 | St Neots-type ware (coarse) | 1 | 43 | (1110):1 |
| *Medieval* | | | | |
| B07 | Shell | 43 | 749 | (612):1, (1110):1, (1115):1, (1118):35, (1119):3, (1121):2 |
| C01 | Sand | 1 | 12 | (1118):1 |
| C59A | Coarse sand | 5 | 86 | (1110):2, (1115):2, (1118):1 |
| C67 | Mixed inclusions | 3 | 23 | (1119):3 |

**Table 3**: Pottery Type Series and quantification

*Late Saxon*

Late Saxon pottery totals 16 shell-tempered sherds (457g) of St Neots-type ware (fabric B01 and variants). Most occur residually in early medieval features, principally ditch [1116], although three sherds represent the only ceramic finds from pits [605] and [705]. The fabrics range in date from the *c.* 10th–early 12th centuries. Forms are two bowls with simple upright rims and an everted rim jar with a thumbed rim and external sooting, suggesting use as a cooking pot.

*Early medieval*
Fifty-two sherds (870g) are datable to the 12th–13th centuries. The majority are shell-tempered wheel-thrown vessels (B07), known to derive from production centres on the Beds./Bucks./Northants. borders. Eight sherds of contemporary local sandy coarse ware (C01, C59A, C67) also occur. Forms are two everted rim jars — one with an applied thumbed strip — an upright rim bowl and two jugs. One of the latter has a large strap handle decorated with a central longitudinal slash.

### 7.3 Non-ceramic Artefacts

Four timber fragments were collected from the waterlogged fills of pit [705]. Two derive from stakes (one boxed half, one cleft quartered) with multi-facet points. One possibly represents the upper portion of a third stake, and one is a small section of hurdle rod. Samples have been retained for species identification.

Iron objects respectively collected from pit [705] and ditch [1103] comprise a damaged flat-headed timber nail and a distorted tapering rectangular-sectioned object (RA1), possibly a nail shank or tang from a whittle tang knife.

The fills of ditch [1116] contained fragments of fuel ash slag (168g), remnants of a high-temperature domestic fire, and not indicative of a metallurgical process.

### 7.4 Animal Bone

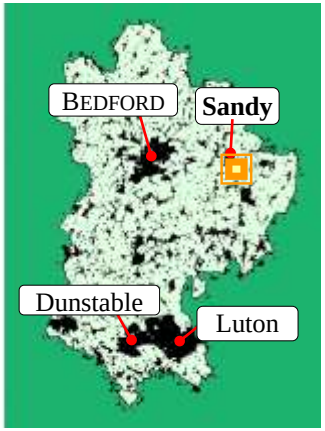
Seven features (Trenches 6, 7 9 and 11) yielded 51 animal bone fragments (1.9kg), the largest deposits deriving from ditch [1116] (845g) and pit [705] (601g). Surface condition and bone preservation is good to fair and fragments have a mean weight of 39g. The assemblage comprises limb bone, rib, pelvis, vertebra, skull, mandible and miscellaneous tooth fragments (molar, incisor, canine) from indeterminate medium to large mammals. Identifiable elements are horse limb bones (radius, metatarsal), a humerus from an immature goat, and a worn sheep/goat molar.

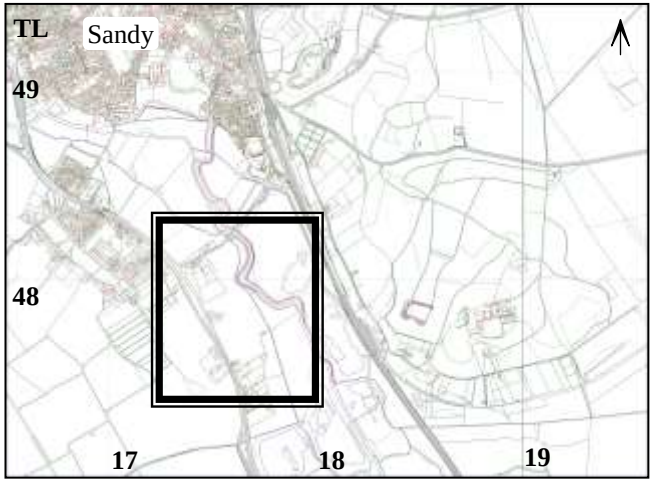
### 7.5 Ecofact Samples

A total of four samples were taken, mostly from the fills of ditches but also from a lower fill of possible water pit [705]. Generally the ditch fills contained small quantities of charcoal (flecks and very small lumps) and charred grain, with uncharred, modern seeds suggesting the presence of intrusive material. Sample <3> from the upper fill of ditch [1116] contained a small assemblage of charred grain. A sample <4> from the water pit [705] contained poorly preserved organic material; mostly short lengths of fibrous material as well as uncharred pieces of roundwood. Small amounts of charcoal, both flecks and small lumps were present, as well as small numbers of snails.

The evidence indicated varied potential across the site. It is possible that some of the ditches may contain reasonably large assemblages of charred grain, which may help to provide information on the agricultural economy of the area. The identification of uncharred organic material indicates potential for waterlogged material (which does not normally survive) to be present on the site. However,

the poor condition of the material may indicate deterioration due to adverse changes in the conditions of preservation.

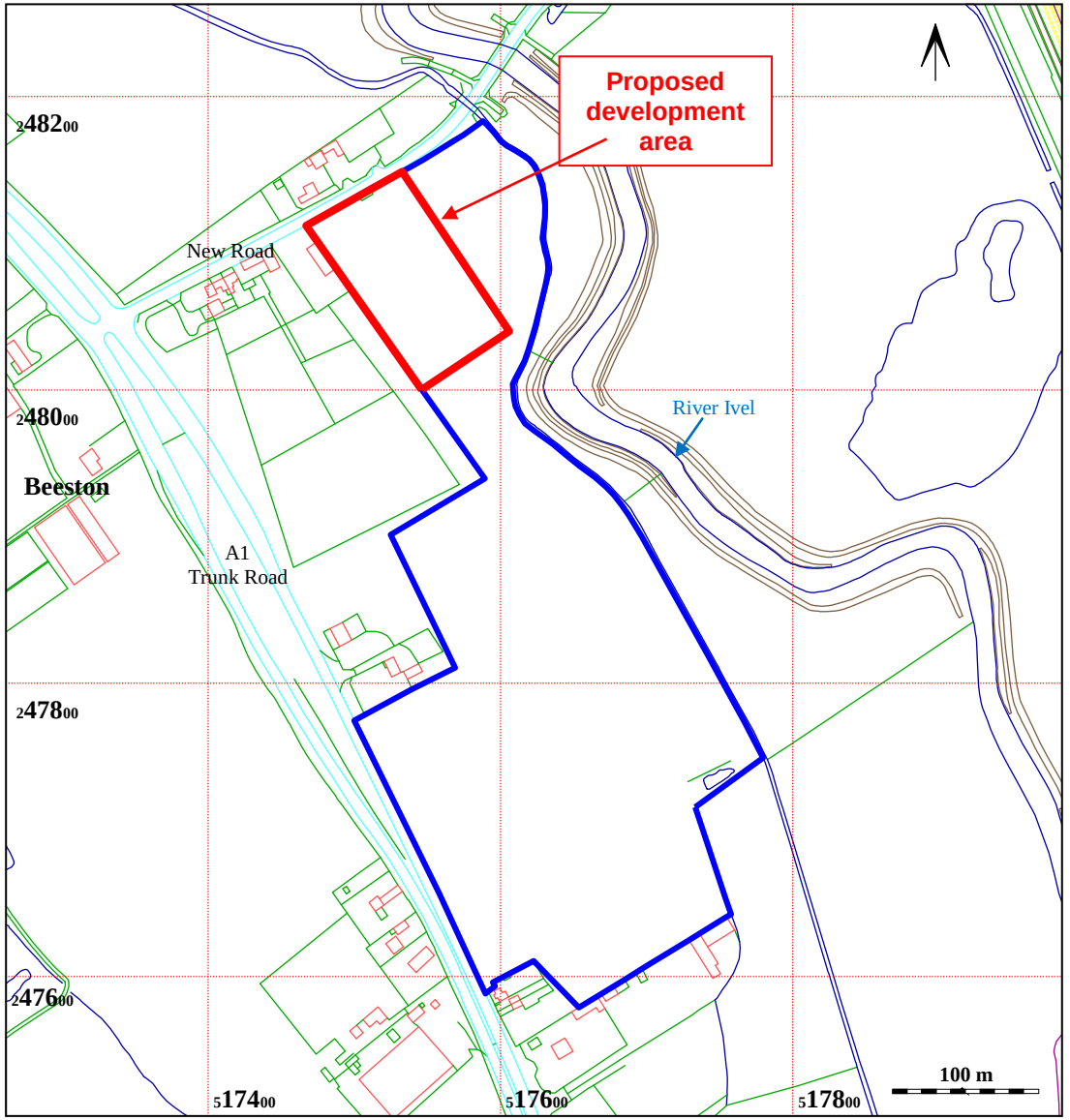




**Figure 1:** Site location

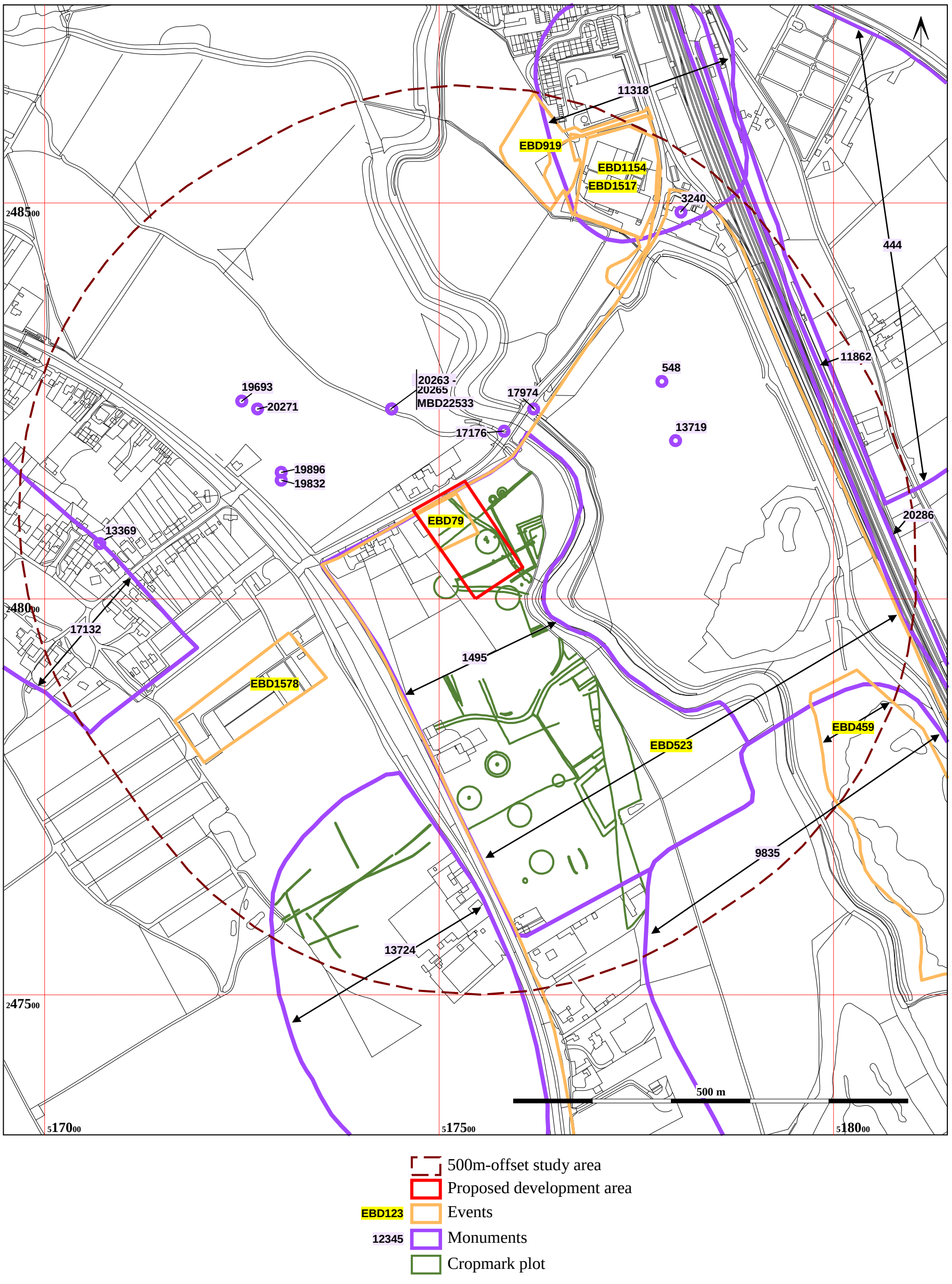



**Figure 2:** Heritage assets within 500m of the proposed development area

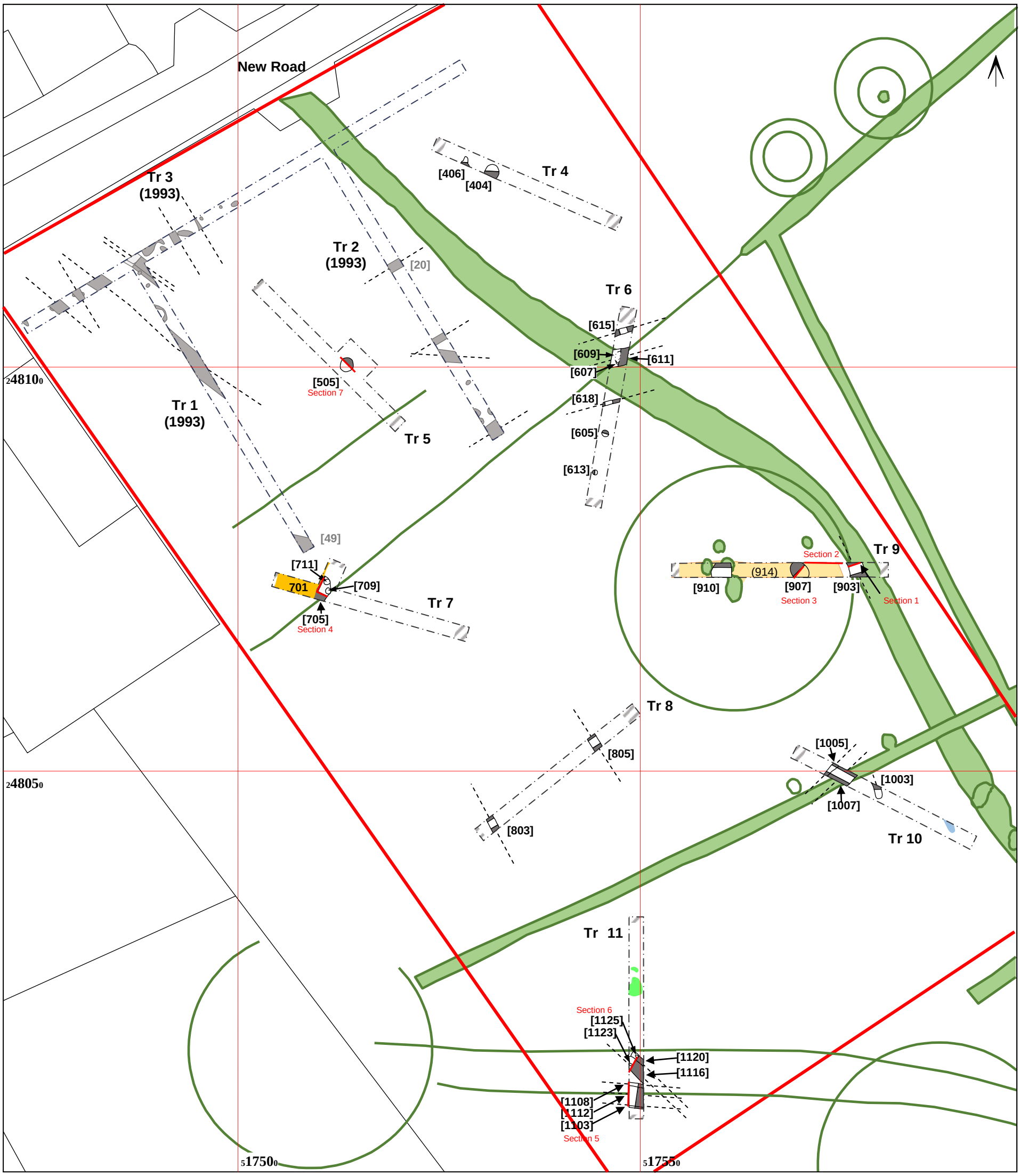
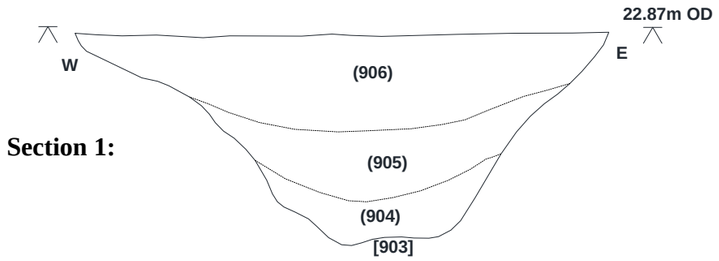
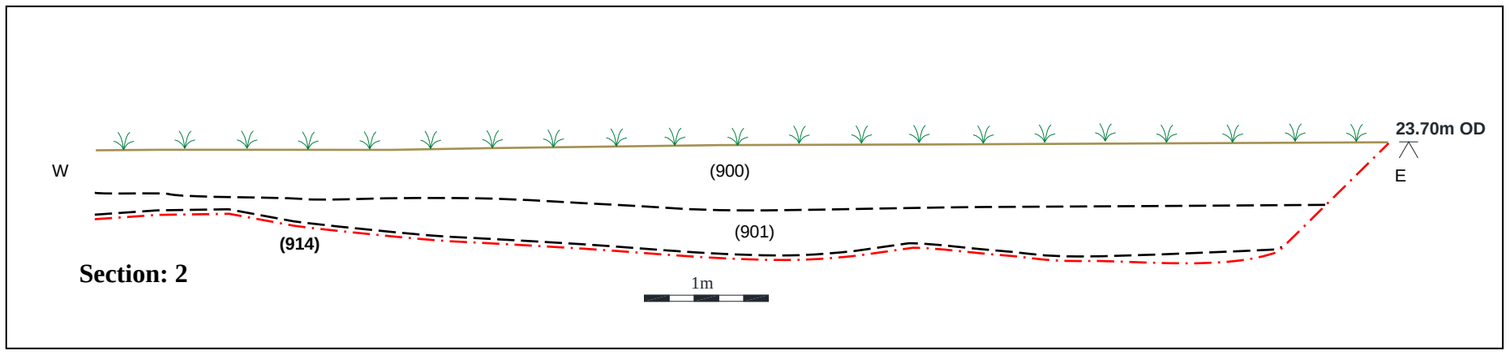



**Figure 3:** All-features plan, including 1993 trenches and cropmark overlay



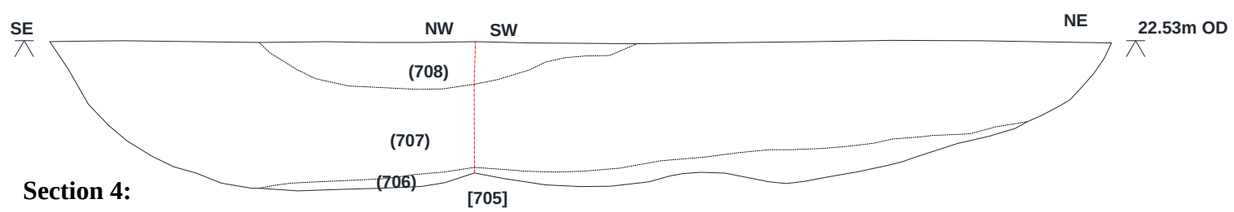

**Section 1:**




**Section: 2**




**Section 3:**

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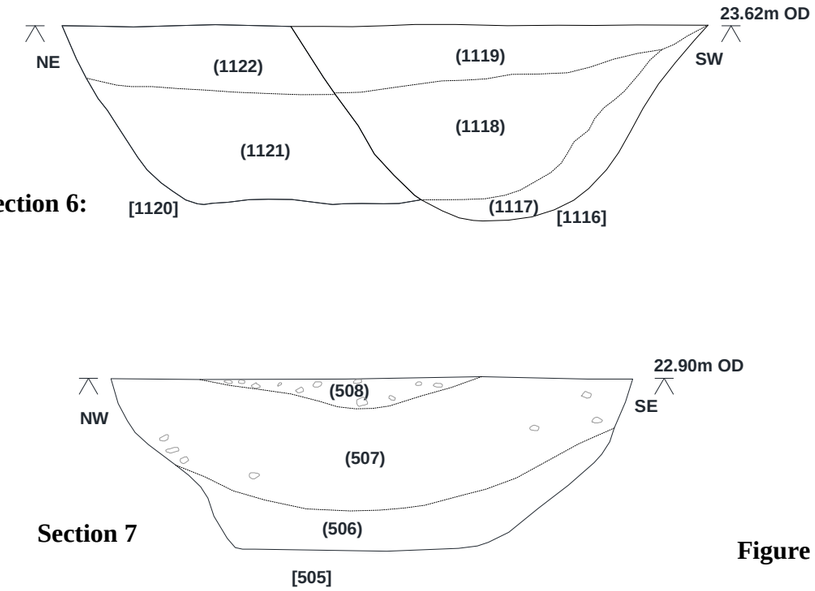
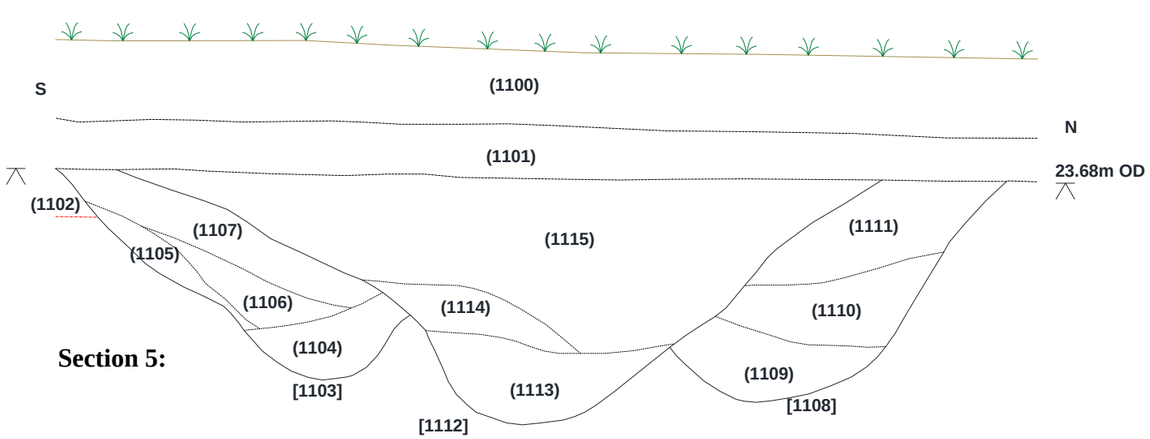



**Section 6:**

**Section 7**




**Section 5:**


**Figure 4:** Selected sections (note that section 2 is shown at a smaller scale)

**Image 1:** Section of Trench 5 showing enhanced overburden of topsoil (500), make-up layer (502) and buried subsoil (503). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 2:** South-facing section of probable ring ditch [903] Trench 9. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 5:** Selected images 1 and 2

**Image 3:** Section of pit [907] Trench 9. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 4:** General view of pit [705], baulk section in the background showing make-up layer (702). Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 5:** Detail of section of pit [705] with pits [709] and [711]. Scale 40cm in 10cm divisions.

**Figure 6:** Selected images 3–5

**Image 6:** Section of pit [605] in Trench 6. Scale 40cm in 10cm divisions.

**Image 7:** Section through sequential ditches [1103], [1108] and [1112] in Trench 11. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 7:** Selected images 6 and 7

**Image 8:** Section through ditches [1116] and [1120] in Trench 11. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 9:** Section through ditches [607], [609] and [611] in Trench 6. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 8:** Selected images 8 and 9

**Image 10:** Section through undated pit [505] in Trench 5. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 11:** Section through undated ditch [618] in Trench 6.
Scale 40cm in 10cm divisions

**Figure 9:** Selected images 10 and 11

**Image 12:** Section though undated ditch [803] in Trench 8. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Image 13:** Section though undated ditch [805] in Trench 8. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

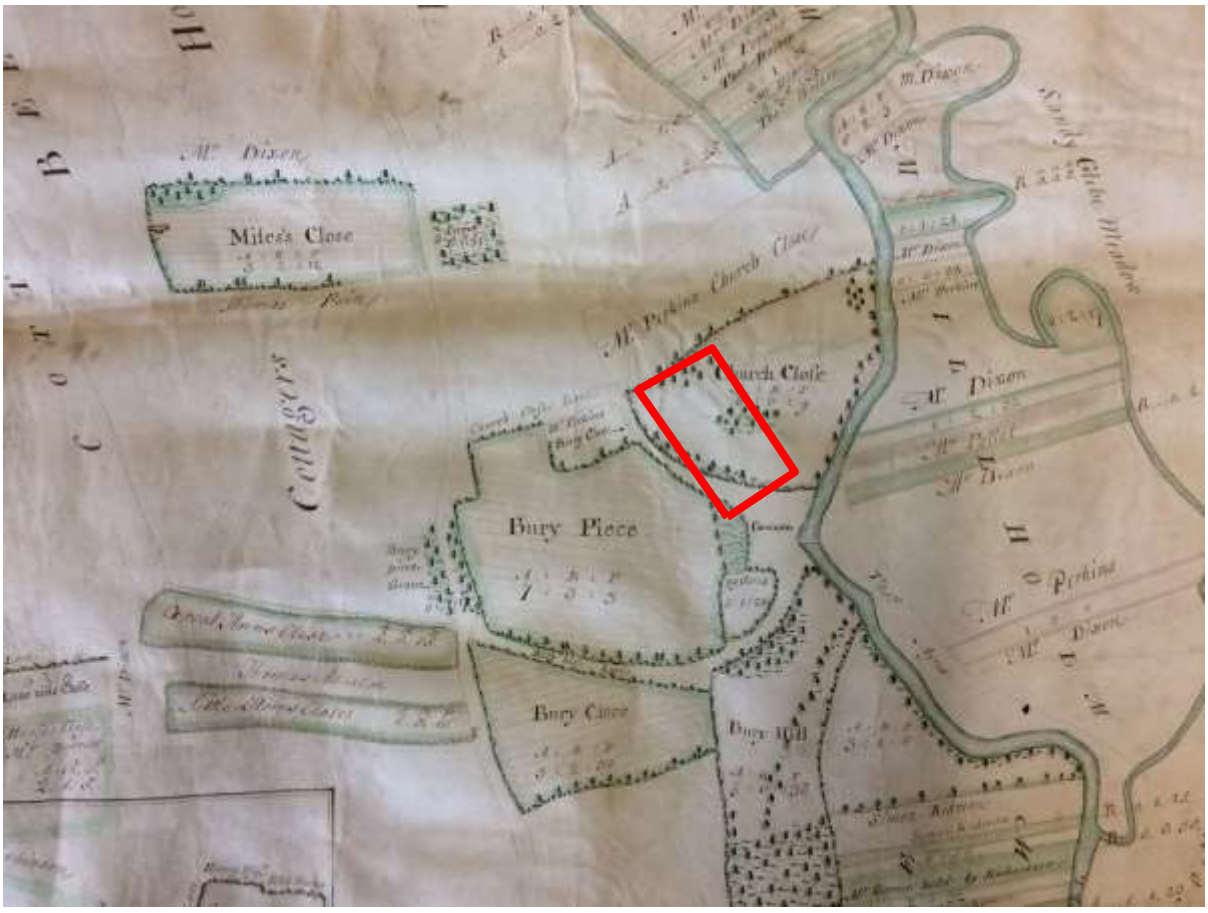
**Image 14:** Section through undated ditches [1005] and [1007] in Trench 10. Scale 1m in 50cm divisions.

**Figure 10:** Selected images 12–14

**Image 15:** Undated postholes [1125] and [1125] in Trench 11. Scale 40m in 10cm divisions

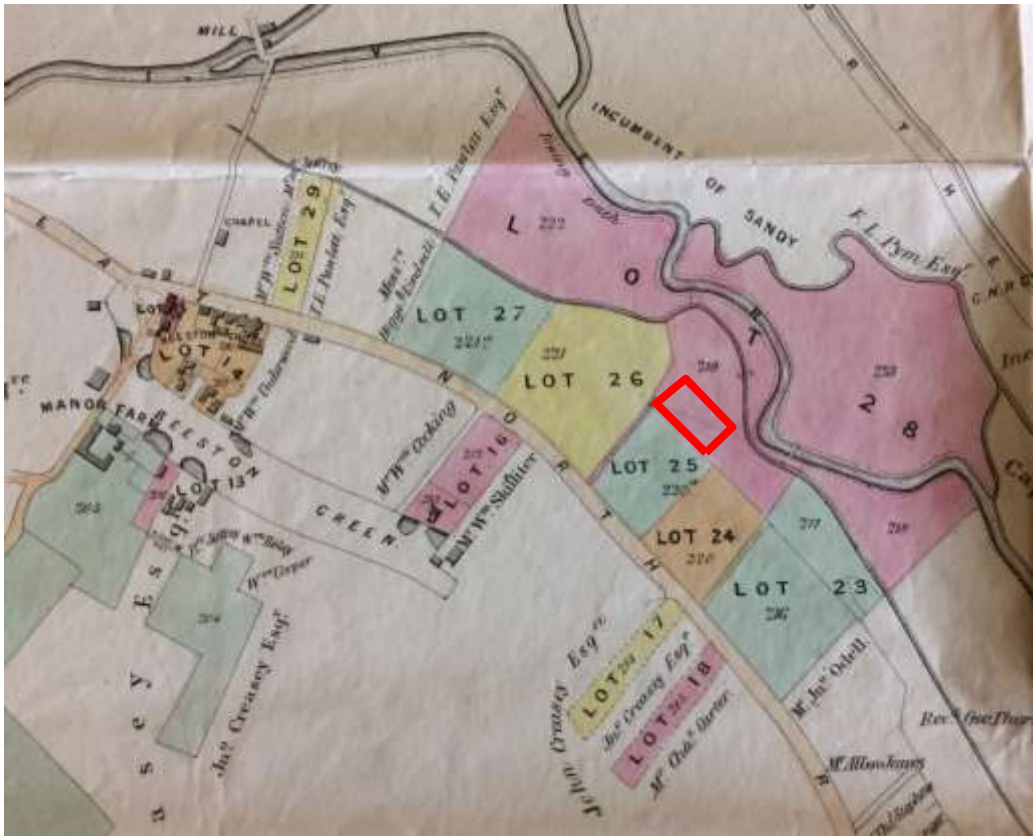
**Figure 11:** Selected image 15


**Map 1:** 1765 Jefferys' map of Bedfordshire




**Map 2:** 1748 Survey of Beeston Lordship Farm

**Figure 12:** Historical maps 1 and 2




**Map 3:** 1857 Plan of the Moggerhanger and Beeston Estate


**Map 4:** 1882 Six-inch OS map

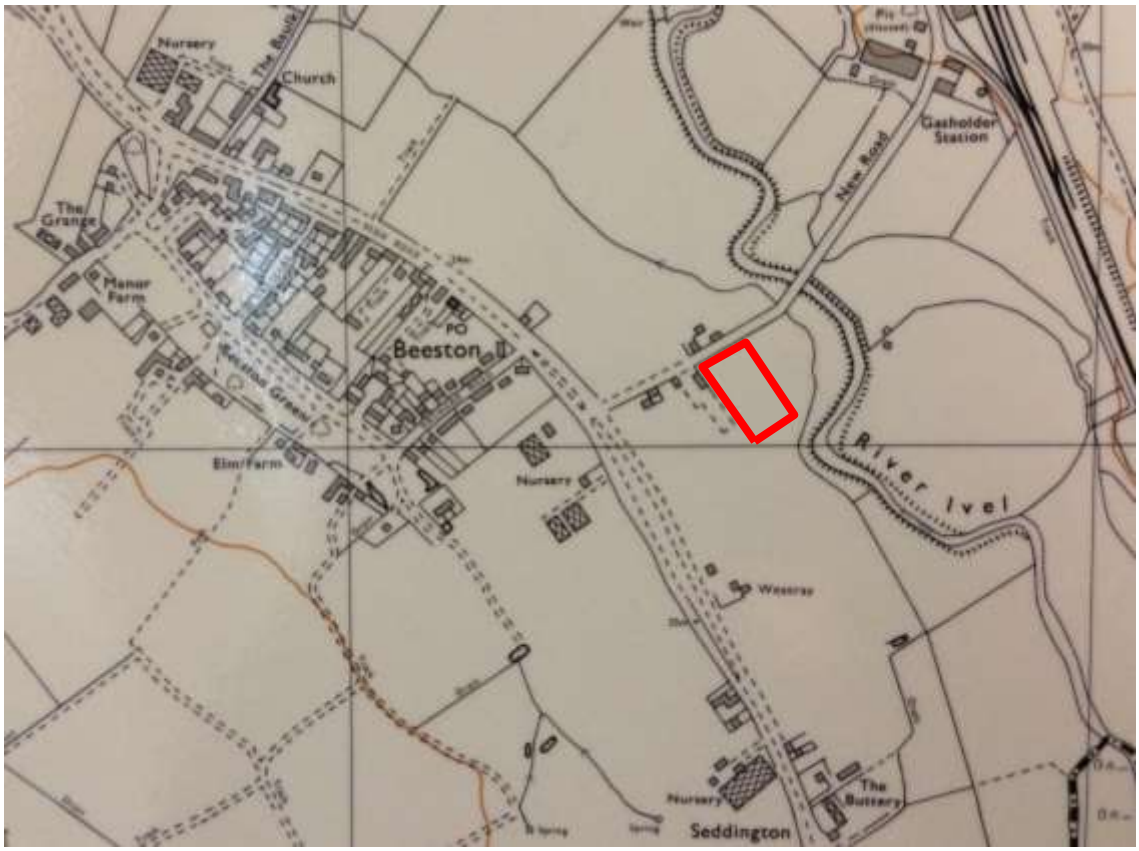
**Figure 13:** Historical maps 3 and 4


**Map 5:** 1902 Six-inch OS map


**Map 6:** 1927 Six-inch OS map

**Figure 14:** Historical maps 5 and 6


**Map 7:** 1950 Six-inch OS map




**Map 8:** 1978 1:10,000 OS landline map

**Figure 15:** Historical maps 7 and 8

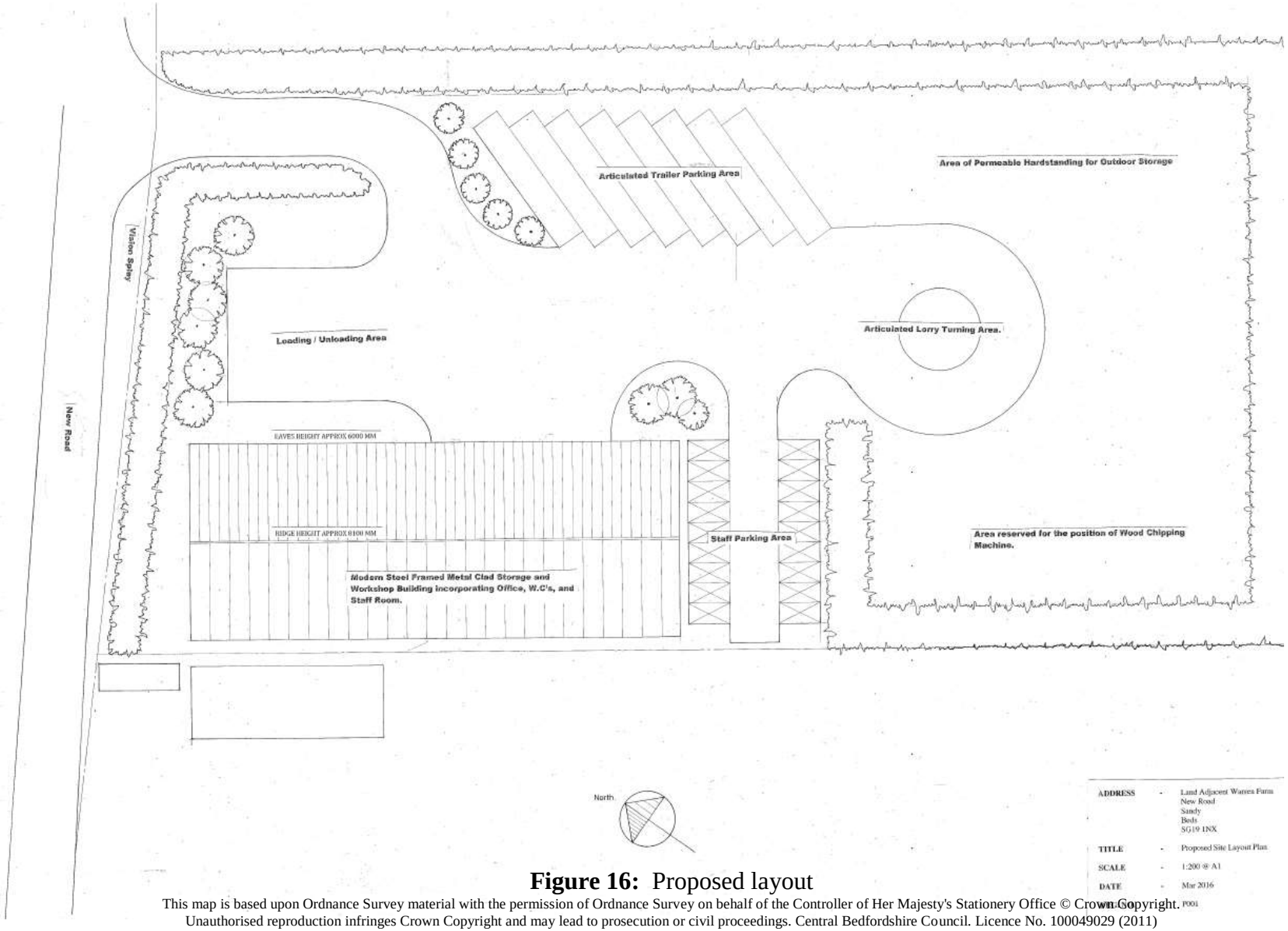



**Figure 16:** Proposed layout

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