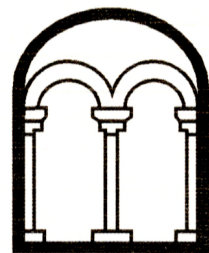


**WOODHALL PARK ESTATE  
RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT  
PHASE 1  
WATTON-AT-STONE  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP  
AND RECORD, ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION  
AND ARCHIVING**

**Albion**  
archaeology



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP  
AND RECORD, ANALYSIS, PUBLICATION  
AND ARCHIVING**

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Compiled by	Approved by
Marcin Kozimiński	Drew Shotliff

4th May 2018

Produced for:  
Affinity Water Ltd



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## Preface

*All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this document does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.*

## Acknowledgements

*We are grateful to Diana Hammond for commissioning the project on behalf of Affinity Water Ltd and to Alison Tinniswood, Historic Environment Adviser of Hertfordshire County Council, for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Kozimiński and Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisors). This report has been prepared by Marcin Kozimiński and Joan Lightning (CAD Technician), who digitised the plans and created the figures.*

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## Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	04/05/2018	n/a

## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Affinity Water Ltd
HEA	Historic Environment Adviser of Hertfordshire County Council
Site	Woodhall Park Estate



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Affinity Water Ltd undertook river restoration works at the Woodhall Park Estate, Watton-at-Stone:*

- *Phase 1 – excavation of a new channel around a horseshoe weir and removal of the topsoil from an area, on which the spoil from the excavation of the new channel was to be placed;*
- *Phase 2 – excavation of a new channel parallel to the Broadwater.*

*The restoration project is located within a Registered Park and Garden. The Phase 1 new channel is also close to three known cropmarks and the area in general has high potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date. The works had the potential to affect sub-surface archaeological remains and, therefore, the Historic Environment Adviser of Hertfordshire County Council (HEA) advised that the initial strip of topsoil should be archaeologically monitored, and any archaeological remains investigated and recorded.*

*This document presents the results of the Phase 1 works.*

*No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts earlier than the modern period (1750-onwards) were found during the Phase 1 river restoration works. No remains of structures or buildings associated with the Woodhall Estate were found.*

*A modern pit was recorded within the new river channel area. However, historical OS maps indicate no activity in the area of the restoration works.*

*The results of the archaeological monitoring demonstrate that the works had no impact on significant archaeological remains.*

*The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report. It will be deposited at Hertford Museum and details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref.: albionar1-299491).*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Affinity Water Ltd carried out river restoration works at the Woodhall Park Estate, Watton-at-Stone, Hertfordshire. The works comprised:

- Phase 1 – excavation of a new channel around a horseshoe weir and removal of the topsoil from an area on which the spoil from the excavation of the new channel was to be placed (Figure 1);
- Phase 2 – excavation of a new channel parallel to the Broadwater.

The restoration project is located within a Registered Park and Garden. The Phase 1 new channel is also close to three known cropmarks and the area in general has high potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date.

The proposed works had the potential to affect sub-surface archaeological heritage assets. Therefore, the Historic Environment Adviser of Hertfordshire County Council (HEA) advised that the initial strip of topsoil should be archaeologically monitored, and any archaeological remains investigated and recorded.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Affinity Water Ltd to undertake the archaeological monitoring works.

This document presents the results of the Phase 1 works.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Woodhall Park Estate (the site) lies *c.* 1.5km south-east of village Watton-at-Stone and *c.* 5km north of Hertford in East Hertfordshire District. The estate is bordered by the A119 to the west, the A602 to the north and east and by fields to the south. The River Beane runs through the estate on a broadly north-south axis; it includes an artificial lake, known as the Broadwater, located in the northern part of the site (Figure 1). The site is centred at OS grid reference TL 3142 1828 and lies on a gentle east-facing slope at an elevation of *c.* 50m OD.

The Phase 1 groundworks were carried out in the western part of the site between the River Beane and the A119.

The underlying bedrock consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated); the superficial geology comprises alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits<sup>1</sup>.

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

Known cropmarks in close proximity to the Phase 1 new channel comprise: a rectangular enclosure (HER4271); a probable prehistoric barrow (HER7584);

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>  
British Geological Survey materials, accessed on 15/03/2018.



and ditches (HER7585). No HER records are located close to the line of the Phase 2 channel. However, the area in general has high potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later date.

The Woodhall Park Estate is centred around the 18th-century neo-Classic mansion that currently houses Heath Mount School. It was built on a new site c. 300m to the north-east of the original Tudor mansion that was destroyed by fire in 1772. The parkland was also created at that time. Some years later, the River Beane was dammed and the Broadwater was created as an aesthetic feature. The park in its present form has existed at the estate since 1838.

#### 1.4 **Project Objectives**

The principal objective of the archaeological investigation was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the site and, if so, to establish their nature, function and character in their cultural and environmental setting.

To achieve the above, the data collected during the fieldwork aimed to determine the following:

- the date, nature and extent of any activity within the site;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding landscape;
- the local palaeo-environmental conditions.

#### 1.5 **Methodology**

The Phase 1 restoration work comprised excavation of a new channel to take the river along a new route around a horseshoe weir and removal of the topsoil from a low-lying area to the west, on which the spoil from the excavation of the new channel was to be placed (Figure 1). Following advice from the HEA, the initial topsoil strip of these areas was archaeologically monitored.

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
ALGAO (East)	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . EAA Occasional Paper No. 14 (Gurney 2003)
CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of Conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
Hertfordshire Association of Museums	<i>A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Hertfordshire</i> (2017)
Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)



## **1.6 Archiving**

All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, ALGAO (East) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* and Hertfordshire Association of Museums' *A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Hertfordshire*.

The site archive will be deposited at Hertford Museum and details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and the Archaeology Data Service (ref.: albionar1-299491).





## 2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

---

### 2.1 Introduction

The archaeological monitoring works associated with the Phase 1 topsoil strip were undertaken between 30th October and 3rd November 2017 and covered a total area of c. 13,600m<sup>2</sup>. They comprised the topsoil strip of the new river channel (c. 4,800m<sup>2</sup>) and removal of the topsoil from the area, on which the spoil from the excavation of the new channel was to be placed (c. 8,800m<sup>2</sup>).

Deposits and a feature revealed are described below and shown on Figure 2. Context numbers in round brackets refer to fills or layers (\*) and a square bracket refers to a cut [\*].

### 2.2 Overburden and Natural Geology

A 0.15–0.2m thick dark brown-grey clay-silt topsoil (1) overlay a 0.1m-thick mid orange-brown silt-clay (2) to clay-silt (7) subsoil, within the new channel and the spoil area respectively (Figure 2).

On a few occasions, pockets of undisturbed geological deposits were revealed within the new river channel. These comprised a 0.1m+ thick light grey-orange clay deposit (3) that overlay light orange-grey silty sand (4) (Figure 2). Both deposits are likely to be alluvial in origin. No geological strata were revealed within the stripped spoil bund area.

### 2.3 Modern (1750-onwards) Feature

A rectangular pit [5] on a NW-SE axis was revealed beneath the topsoil within the new river channel area. It was 7.5m long by 1.8m wide; it was cut into the subsoil and remained unexcavated (Figure 2; Plate 2). Its topsoil-like fill (6) contained frequent ceramic building material fragments as well as a number of 'China'-type glazed pottery sherds; none of the artefacts were retained.

### 2.4 Summary and Conclusions

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts earlier than the modern period (1750-onwards) were found during the Phase 1 river restoration works. No remains of structures or buildings associated with the Woodhall Estate were found.

A modern pit was recorded within the new river channel area. Historical OS maps indicate no activity in the area of the restoration works.

The results of the archaeological monitoring demonstrate that the works had no impact on significant archaeological remains.

The project archive does not merit any further analysis or reporting beyond that presented in this report.



### 3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hertfordshire* (2017).

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic  
Environment (MoRPHE)*.



#### 4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Woodhall Park Estate, Watton-at-Stone		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Watton-at-Stone	Parish: Watton-at-Stone	
Planning application reference: n/a		
HER Enquiry reference: n/a		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Affinity Water Ltd, Tamblin Way, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 9EZ		
Nature of application: n/a		
Present land use: estate park		
Size of application area: n/a	Size of area investigated: c. 13,600m <sup>2</sup>	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 3150 1810		
Site code (if applicable): WPE3260		
Site director/Organization: Rob Wardill / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving		
Date of work:	Start: 30/10/2017	Finish: 03/11/2017
Location of site archive/Curating museum: Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos: N/A	Periods represented: Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts earlier than the modern period (1750-onwards) were found during the Phase 1 river restoration works. No remains of structures or buildings associated with the Woodhall Estate were found.</i></p> <p><i>A modern pit was recorded within the new river channel area. Historical OS maps indicate no activity in the area of the restoration works.</i></p>		
Author of summary: Marcin Kozimiński	Date of summary: 02/05/2018	



## 5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

### OASIS ID: albionar1-299491

#### Project details

Project name	Woodhall Park Estate River Restoration Project
Short description of the project	Affinity Water Ltd undertook river restoration works at the Woodhall Park Estate, Watton-at-Stone. This included the excavation of a new channel around a horseshoe weir and removal of the topsoil from an area, on which the spoil from the excavation of the new channel was to be placed. The restoration project is located within a Registered Park and Garden. The new channel is close to three known cropmarks and the area in general has high potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric to the post-medieval date. The works had the potential to affect sub-surface archaeological heritage assets.  No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts earlier than the modern period (1750-onwards) were found during river restoration works. No remains of structures or buildings associated with the Woodhall Estate were found. A modern pit was recorded within the new river channel area.
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2017 End: 03-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WPE3260 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Registered Park and Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WATTON AT STONE Woodhall Park Estate River Restoration Project
Study area	13600 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3142 1828 Point

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	No Project Design
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Marcin Kozimiński



Project supervisor Ian Turner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient Hertford Museum

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet' ','Correspondence" ,"Photograph" ,"Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Woodhall Park Estate River Restoration Project, Phase 1, Watton-at-Stone, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Record, Analysis, Publication and Archiving

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Kozimiński. M'

Other bibliographic details 2018/44

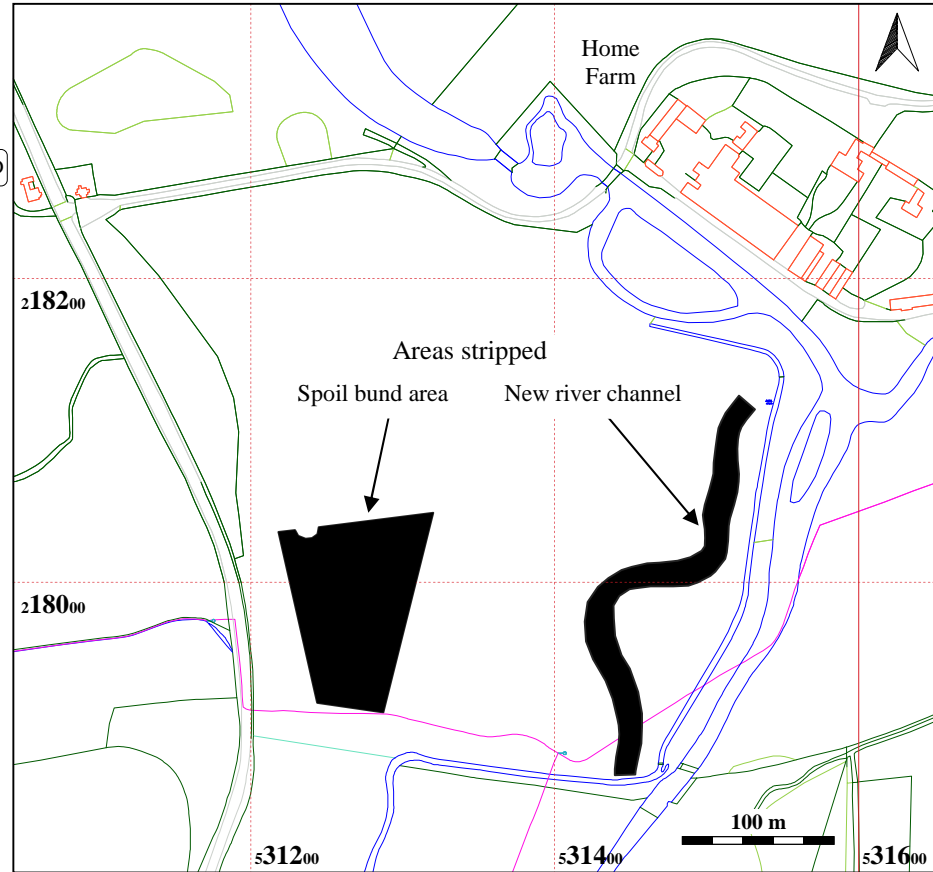
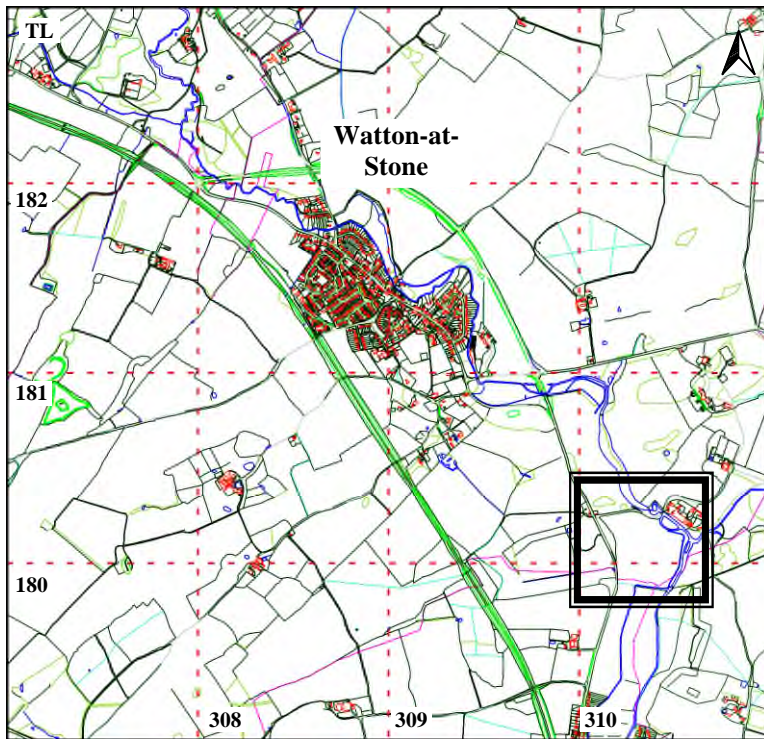
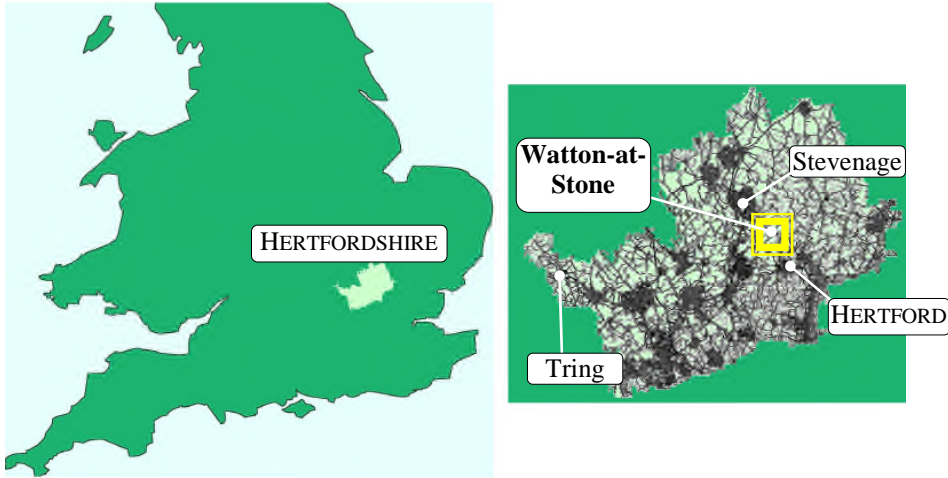
Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Bedford

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

Entered on 21 March 2018



**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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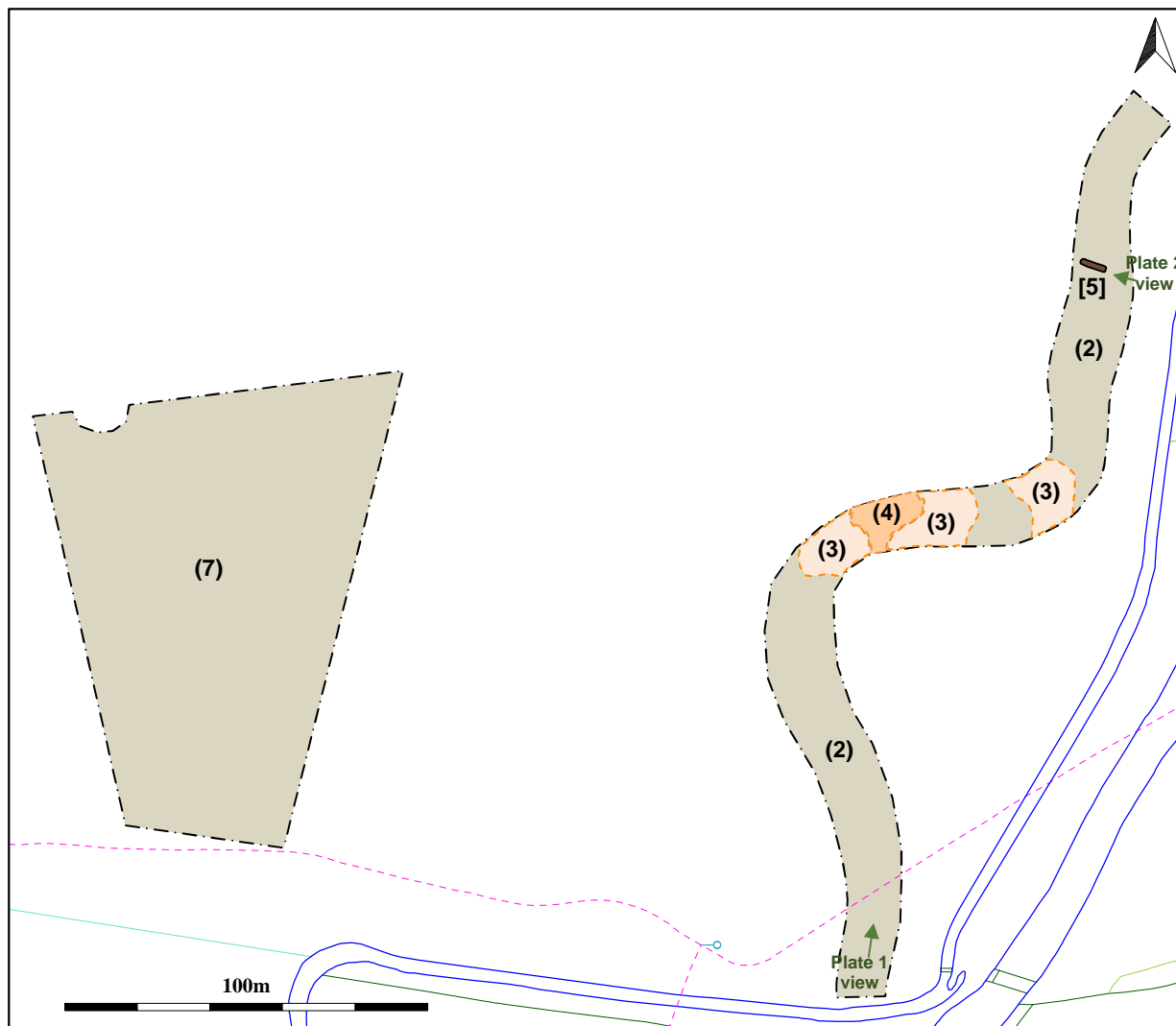


Plate 1: New river channel, looking NNE; scale 1m.



Plate 2: Modern pit [5], looking NW; scale 1m.

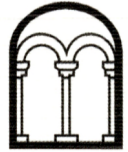
**Figure 2: Results of the archaeological works**

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