PROPOSED MOBILE HOME PARK SKELTONS DROVE, BECK ROW MILDENHALL SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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The project was commissioned by Andrew S. Campbell Associates Ltd on behalf of Wyldecrest Parks and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Kate Batt of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

The fieldwork in the Southern Land Parcel was undertaken by Tori Guy (Archaeological Supervisor) with the assistance of Jonathan Durman and Anna Orlowska-Synus (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). Subsequently fieldwork in the Northern Land Parcel was undertaken by Iain Leslie (Project Officer) and Allan King (Assistant Archaeological Supervisors). The report has been prepared by Iain Leslie, with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The Project was managed by Gary Edmondson (Project Manager) and Iain Leslie. All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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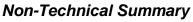
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Key Terms

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ESF	Event Suffolk
FHDC	Forest Heath District Council
HER	Historic Environment Record

HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service



Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) granted planning permission ((DC/17/0251/VAR) for the change of use of the existing vehicle dismantler's yard to a mobile home park at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 8DN. As the development site lies in an area of archaeological significance, the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising trial trenching would be required.

The trial trenching took place between 26th April and 18th May 2018, with the two land parcels forming the site being investigated separately. A total of nine trenches were opened to sample the site.

Initially the three trenches in the Southern Land Parcel were investigated, revealing 0.35–0.7m of overburden above the archaeological deposits. A range of features were identified including gulleys, which defined components of a regularly spaced NE-SW alignment. Other features included pits and postholes as well as peat deposits filling hollows. All of these features were undated with only a small quantity of animal bone being recovered from the fills of two pits in Trench 3, at least one of which was sealed by the peat.

The six trenches in the Northern Land Parcel revealed 0.4–0.5m of overburden. The main features were a series of ditches and gulleys defining a continuation of the NE-SW aligned system, initially revealed in the Southern Land Parcel. These features are undated and appear to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly in relatively recent times, as indicated by the lack of mineralization of the fills.

A small number of possibly earlier, more substantial ditches were revealed in Trenches 6, 7 and 8. Again, these were undated, suggesting that they were remote from any focus of contemporary human activity. A small number of other features were identified comprising an isolated undated pit and a short alignment of three postholes in Trench 7; a small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the fill of one of the posts. Four peatfilled hollows were identified, with considerable variation in the total thickness of these deposits. Peat deposits were truncated by several ditches, whilst also appearing to seal several pits.

Overall, the evidence gives the impression of low-level, peripheral activity of uncertain date. These features are undated and so of low significance and have no potential to address local or regional research themes. The thickness of overburden would probably protect the deposits from the main impacts of the development.

The project archive will be deposited at SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds. The parish code issued by the HER is IPS866. Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no. albionar1-305545) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) granted planning permission (DC/17/0251/VAR) for the change of use of the existing vehicle dismantler's yard to a mobile home park at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk, IP28 8DN.

As the permitted development area (PDA) lies in an area of archaeological significance, the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation, comprising trial trenching and, where necessary, excavation, would be required. Accordingly, FHDC attached an archaeological condition (No. 5) to the planning consent in accordance with 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 2012¹.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew S Campbell Associates Ltd on behalf of Wyldecrest Parks to carry out the trial trench evaluation. The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was agreed with SCCAS prior to commencement of site works (Albion Archaeology 2018).

1.2 Site Location and Description

Beck Row lies in the western part of Suffolk, 5km east of the Cambridgeshire-Suffolk border. Mildenhall lies 3.8km to the south-east and Lakenheath is 5.3km to the north-east. The PDA is situated to the north of the village of Beck Row, on the west side of the junction of Rookery Drove and Skeltons Drove, centred on grid reference TL 68727 78365.

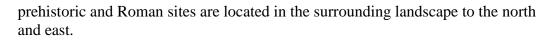
The PDA measures approximately 1.26ha and currently comprises two areas. The larger Northern Land Parcel is part of the existing vehicle dismantler's yard with hard standing; the smaller Southern Land Parcel comprises rough ground. The PDA is bordered on all sides by hedges or fences to neighbouring properties, as well as Rookery Drove in the south.

The ground is relatively level and lies at 3–5m OD. The underlying bedrock comprises Chalk of the West Melbury Marly Formation, formed 94–100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The overlying superficial deposits comprise River terrace sands and gravels².

1.3 Archaeological Background

The PDA lies within a significant historical landscape close to a multi-phased settlement (MNL 065), which is located c. 250m to the north-west. A number of

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <u>http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf</u>.
² <u>http://www.bgs.ac.uk/</u>



An archaeological field evaluation carried out in 2016 on land off Skeltons Drove *c*. 130m to the north-west of the PDA (Albion 2016) produced evidence for late Bronze Age and Roman occupation as well as evidence for activities during later periods (ESF233225).

Historic landscape characterisation (HLC) has identified the PDA as being within Beck Row built-up area (HLC Sub-category 4). Former marsh or fenland (HLC Sub-category 5) is situated to the north and former common arable or heathland (HLC Sub-category 1) is situated to the south of the PDA. Preserved soil deposits of the original natural landscape were identified during archaeological monitoring c. 190m to the west of the PDA, at Willow Park (ESF 19255).

The earliest evidence of activity is represented by a single find-spot of Mesolithic worked flint (MNL 096), recorded on Skeltons Drove. More abundant were find-spots of Neolithic pottery and worked flint, including a polished axe head (MNL 112), leaf-shaped arrowheads (MNL 113) and a Neolithic axe head (MNL 323) in the fields surrounding the PDA and along Skeltons Drove. A Neolithic flint scatter (MNL 113, 096) was recorded 400m to the north of the PDA and evidence for later prehistoric burnt mound material is known from an area c. 80m to the east of the PDA (MNL 408). A later prehistoric bone dagger (MNL 145) was retrieved from the area of the water treatment plant c. 200m west of the PDA.

Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement evidence has been identified on land adjoining and to the rear of Smoke House Inn (MNL 502, 536), *c*. 100–500m to the south of the PDA. Find-spots of Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts have also been recorded in fields surrounding Beck Row and the PDA — in particular, the fields to the north and east of the PDA where a number of find-spots dating to these periods have been recorded (MNL114, MNL 132MNL 125, MNL 701, MNL 113, MNL 123). In addition, a Bronze Age 'rapier/dagger', a burnt black area containing beaker sherds and an Iron Age silver Iceni coin (MNL 065) were recorded on land *c*. 250m northwest of the DA.

Evidence for various Roman activities has been identified within the wider area of Beck Row. This includes an extensive area of Roman occupation *c*. 150–400m to the north-east of the PDA (MNL136 and MNL 078); scatters of pottery (MNL 066), tile, bone, oyster shell (MNL 078, 075, 065); a coin (MNL 065); and a broach hoard (MNL 543). Some 950m to the north/north-east of the PDA, an area of cropmarks (MNL 075) was identified; they are likely to be of the same date. However, no archaeological excavation has occurred in this area yet. Further Roman settlement evidence was investigated on land adjoining the Smoke House Inn (MNL 502), on Washington Street (MNL 570) and to the west of Beck Row at RAF Mildenhall (MNL 509, 505, 510, 639).

Beck Row does not appear in Domesday Book and the nearest Anglo-Saxon settlements or manors were at Worlington and Barton Mills, *c*. 4.5km to the south, and 4km to the east at Eriswell. Accordingly, evidence for this period in the vicinity of the Beck Row comprises just two find-spots: a Saxon sceatta, *c*. 810m to



the north-east of the PDA (MNL 351); and a scatter of metalwork (MNL 584), *c*. 340m to the south-east of the PDA.

The historic core of Beck Row, as defined in the HER (MNL 675), dates to the medieval period. Its sprawling layout encompasses the area of Shippea Hill Road and The Street (A1101) in Beck Row, spreads along Breach Drove and Holmsey Green in the direction of Wilde Street and extends as far as Holmsey Row to the south-east. No buildings dating to this period exist in Beck Row and the only activity is represented by find-spots. These comprise a scatter of medieval metalwork (MNL 584), recorded *c*. 340m to the south-east of the DA and pottery (MNL 058) *c*. 640m north-east of the DA.

All of the extant listed buildings within Beck Row are dated to the post-medieval period. Both are Grade II listed and comprise a 17th-century house (DSF 275892) and an 18th-century house (DSF 275893) known as The Sycamores. The below-ground remains of a 16th/17th-century domestic building and associated outbuilding (MNL 536) were also identified during archaeological excavation (ESF 2084) on land adjacent to Skeltons Drove, *c*. 120m to the south of the PDA. In the same area a post-medieval field boundary (MNL 502) was identified. Archaeological investigations *c*. 200m to the west of the PDA at Willow Park (ESF 19255, 19980, 20931) revealed undated pits and ditches. Although undated, several of the ditches were considered to be associated with fenland drainage and a possible droveway.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the trial trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA and, if so, to establish their extent, date, condition, nature and significance.

The relevant archaeological research frameworks and agenda for the region are provided by *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Cambridgeshire. Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex) (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The broader objective of the project was to add to the knowledge and understanding of the origins and nature of past activity in the area and to produce an archive report that fully describes the archaeological works. The close proximity of known prehistoric and Roman remains indicated that there was the potential for the investigation to contribute to regional research topics identified within the regional research framework.

The research framework for this region has highlighted that further work to understand the inter-relationship between settlements, together with variation and change is required for the Bronze Age through to the Roman period (Medlycott 2011; 20, 31, 47). The transition between these three periods also needs further analysis to gauge the scale, rate and nature of the changes in terms of settlement type, landscape management and material culture etc. (ibid; 21, 31).

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below and a full methodology is provided in the WSI.

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
CIfA	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 (Gurney 2003)
Historic England	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2015)
(formerly English Heritage)	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition (2011)</i>
SCCAS	Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2011)
SCCAS Conservation Team	Archaeological Archives in Suffolk. Guidelines for preparation and deposition (2014)

The archive of finds and records generated during the project will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be archived to the standards outlined in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* and the SCCAS Conservation Team's guidelines.

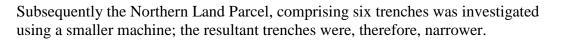
Permission will be sought from the landowner for transfer of title of all finds to the SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds on completion of the project.

The parish code issued by the HER is IPS866.

Albion Archaeology employs a full time Archives Officer to ensure that all archives are completed to the correct standards and deposited according to the relevant guidelines.

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place in two stages between 26th April and 18th May 2018. Initially the Southern Land Parcel, comprising three trenches, was investigated.



Trench 3 was rotated from its original location set out in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2018) so as to avoid an identified foul sewer, whilst the locations of Trenches 6–9 were all adjusted slightly so that they could be excavated safely within the dismantler's yard (see Figure 2)

The trenches were opened by mechanical excavators fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological strata, whichever were encountered first.

The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc*. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. The trenches were inspected by the SCCAS on 17th May 2018.



3.1 Introduction

All significant deposits and features found within the trial trenches are described below and shown on Figures 2–8.

The remains are discussed by land parcel, commencing with the three trenches in the Southern Land Parcel. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Table 1 provides an overview of the type and distribution of the features, whilst Appendix 1 contains detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features.

Trench	Ditch / Gulley	Posthole	Pit	Peat hollow	Other	Total
1	- /2					2
2	- / 1	4				5
3	1 / -		4	1		6
4	-/3		1	1		5
5	-/3				Modern pit	4
6	3 / -			1	Modern pit	5
7	3 / -	3			Modern ditch	7
8	1 / 1			1		3
9	1 / 2			1		4
Total	9 / 12	7	5	5	3	41

Table 1: Summary of features by trench

3.2 Southern Land Parcel

3.2.1 Overburden and geological deposits

All three trenches (Trenches 1–3) revealed a mid-dark brown sandy silt topsoil c. 0.2–0.5m thick. In the case of Trench 1 this had been overlain with a c. 0.3m-thick layer of hardcore. Subsoil was generally c. 0.2m-thick and comprised light orange-brown silty sand, although none was present in Trench 1.

The geological strata generally comprised yellow sand.

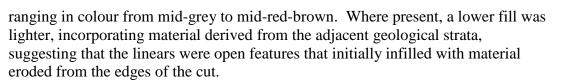
Extending most of the length of Trench 3 was a large peat hollow at least 24m long, with the dark brown deposit (302) being up to 0.45m thick. The peat sealed a number pits within the trench and had an uncertain relationship with another pit.

3.2.2 Archaeological features and deposits

Archaeological features were present in all three trenches (Table 1). They are summarised below by feature type. The only finds recovered was a small amount of animal bone and, therefore, no direct dating evidence was available.

3.2.3 Linear features aligned NE-SW

Trenches 1 and 3 contained gulleys on this alignment, defining three components, spaced c. 11m apart. The gulleys ranged from 0.35–0.5m across, with concave profiles, 0.2m deep (Figure 3: Sections 1–3). The upper fills were relatively dark,



Trench 3 contained a single ditch [310], 0.6m wide, with a concave profile 0.34m deep, which truncated the subsoil (301) (Figure 3: Section 9). The ditch was filled with a relatively dark deposit derived from an unstable upper soil profile. It truncated the subsoil indicating a relatively late feature. Sample <1> from the fill (311) contained occasional very small charcoal flecks, but was otherwise sterile.

3.2.4 Postholes

Four postholes [205], [207], [209] and [211] were identified in the western part of Trench 2 (Figure 3), with no patterning being discernable. The postholes ranged in size from c .0.3–0.55m in diameter and 0.1–0.2m deep (Figure 3: Sections 3–6). The light brown fills were undifferentiated, with no evidence for post packing or post pipes. Posthole [205] was truncated by gulley [203].

3.2.5 Pits

Four pits [304], [306], [308] and [312] were identified, three of which were overlain by the peat hollow deposit (302); the relationship between the peat and pit [308] was uncertain. The pits had concave to U-shaped profiles and ranged in size from *c*. 0.5–0.7m across and 0.1–0.2m deep (Figure 3: Sections 7 and 8). The fills [306] and [308] contained five abraded peat-stained animal bone fragments (186g) — a limb shaft and pieces of rib, scapula and pelvis(?) of indeterminate species.

3.2.6 Summary

Overburden sealing the archaeological deposits varied from 0.35–0.7m thick. Below this, the three trenches of the Southern Land Parcel revealed a range of features including gulleys, a stratigraphically late ditch, pits and postholes, indicating good preservation of archaeological remains in this area. However, the lack of artefacts means that these features are undated.

3.3 Northern Land Parcel

3.3.1 Overburden and geological deposits

Overburden was variable, ranging from 0.3–0.58m thick. All six trenches had an upper stony grey-brown make-up layer, with patches of tarmac planings that formed a compacted surface in the vehicle dismantler's yard. This surface was generally 0.13–0.16m thick, though increasing to 0.22m in Trench 6. Below this was mid-grey-brown subsoil that was 0.2–0.36m thick.

The geological strata generally varied from light orange-brown to yellow sand and silty sand (Figure 6: image 1). Peat hollows were identified within Trenches 4, 6, 8 and 9. They showed considerable variation in thickness, with single deposits as thin as 0.09m; Trenches 4 and 8 had several differentiated horizons, with a combined thickness of up to 1m (Figure 8: image 6 and 7). The peat was undated, but was truncated by features in Trenches 4 and 8 (Figure 5: section 7). A sample from peat deposit (404) revealed very poorly preserved organic material, surviving as very short fine strands.



All of the trenches contained features (Table 1), principally gulleys and ditches, which are summarised below by feature type. Excluding modern finds (e.g. intrusive safety glass shards from the upper fill of [703]), the only finds recovered was a small amount of animal bone and, therefore, no direct dating evidence was available.

3.3.3 Linear features aligned NE-SW

A series of six roughly parallel gulleys / ditches, aligned NE-SW, were identified in five of the six trenches. The three main components in the central area were traced between up to four trenches, accounting for the majority of the linear features (Figure 2). The gulleys were generally 0.4–0.5m across and up to 0.29m deep, with profiles ranging from concave to vertical-sided / flat-based examples (Figure 4: section 1; Figure 5: sections 6 and 8; Figure 6: image 2).

Three of the four more substantial ditches in Trench 7 [706], [710] and [719] were probably associated with the gulleys. They were 0.61–0.85m wide and up to 0.4m deep, with profiles ranging from concave to near vertical edges with a flat base (Figure 5: section 4; Figure 7: image 4). Sample <4> from the upper fill of ditch [710] contained very sparse charcoal flecks.

The fills contrasted with the adjacent geological strata, being relatively dark and ranging from mid-brown to mid-grey-brown silty sand. This material would appear to be derived from an unstable upper soil profile.

These linear features were spaced approximately 8–9m apart. Similar features were identified in Trenches 1–3 within the Southern Land Parcel and are thought to be a continuation of this activity. The features may be associated with arable cultivation, rather than defining relatively narrow land parcels.

3.3.4 Ditches

In Trenches 6 and 8, three of the four ditches [604], [606] and [812] had alignments that contrasted with the features discussed above (dark grey highlighted features on Figures 4 and 5). Ditches [604] and [606] were in close proximity in the north-east part of Trench 6; they were aligned NW-SE and relatively substantial, ranging from 1-1.2m across and up to 0.3m deep, with a concave profile (Figure 4: section 3; Figure 6: image 1).

In the central area of Trench 8 ditch [812] was aligned roughly E-W, appearing as a distinctive band crossing the eastern margin of a peat hollow (Figure 5). The ditch had a concave profile, 0.88m wide and 0.36m deep (Figure 5: section 7; Figure 8: image 7).

As with the other linear features, the fills were relatively dark, ranging in colour from mid-grey to mid-brown. These deposits appeared to be more mineralised than the fills of the NE-SW aligned ditches, possibly suggesting that they were earlier. However, there is no artefactual or stratigraphical evidence to prove this suggestion.

At the northern end of Trench 7, ditch [703] was 0.85m wide with a concave profile 0.39m deep (Figure 5: section 4; Figure 7: image 4). It was aligned NE-SW — similar to the main linear features — although it was only c. 0.2m from the nearest component of that system. Its dark fill looked considerably more mineralised, suggesting that it was an earlier feature, rather than a sequential ditch redefining a significant land partition. Sample <3> from the upper fill of the ditch contained very sparse charcoal flecks and a cereal grain fragment. A small quantity of angular shards of modern safety glass was also recovered.

3.3.5 Postholes

Three postholes were identified in Trench 7, forming a roughly N-S alignment c. 1.7m long (Figure 5). They were circular in plan, roughly 0.25m across and a maximum of 0.14m deep, with concave profiles (Figure 5: section 5; Figure 7: image 5). The similar light grey silty sand fills were undifferentiated, with no evidence for the presence of post pipes or packing material. The fill of [713] contained four undiagnostic animal rib fragments (3g).

3.3.6 Pit

A single pit [416] was identified in the northern part of Trench 4, truncating the margins of a peat hollow. It was roughly circular in plan, 0.76m across and up to 0.21m deep with a concave profile (Figure 4: section 2); it contained a single relatively dark fill.

3.3.7 Modern activity

Two pits and a ditch were identified as modern (Figure 2: red features). Located within the central part of Trench 5, pit [509] extended for approximately 5m along the trench. It was filled with demolition rubble, including possible fragments of asbestos cement roofing material; no further work was undertaken in this area.

In Trench 6, a pit and ditch located in the north-east part of the trench were identified as modern. Pit [608] contained very modern finds (not retained), whilst ditch [610] cut through the subsoil, indicating a recent date.

3.3.8 Summary

The six trenches in the Northern Land Parcel revealed 0.4–0.5m of overburden. The main features were a series of ditches and gulleys defining a continuation of the NE-SW aligned system initially revealed in the Southern Land Parcel. These features are undated and appear to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly in relatively recent times, as indicated by the lack of mineralization of the fills.

A small number of possibly earlier, more substantial ditches were revealed in Trenches 6, 7 and 8. Again, these were undated, suggesting that they were remote from any focus of contemporary human activity. A small number of other features were identified comprising a short alignment of three postholes and an isolated pit; these are also undated. Overall, the evidence gives the impression of low-level, peripheral activity.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary of the Archaeological Remains

The three trenches of the Southern Land Parcel revealed overburden, which generally varied between 0.35 and 0.7m thick (and up to 1.05m in places). A range of features were identified, comprising a ditch, several gulleys, pits and postholes, indicating good preservation of archaeological remains in this area. The lack of artefacts means that these undated features have low significance and no potential to address regional research objectives.

The six trenches in the Northern Land Parcel revealed relatively thick overburden, generally ranging from 0.4 to 0.5.m. The main features were a series of ditches and gulleys defining a continuation of the NE-SW aligned system initially revealed in the Southern Land Parcel. These features are undated and appear to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly in relatively recent times, as indicated by the lack of mineralization of the fills.

A small number of possibly earlier, more substantial ditches were revealed in Trenches 6, 7 and 8. Again, these were undated, suggesting that they were remote from any focus of contemporary human activity. A small number of other features were identified comprising a short alignment of three postholes and an isolated pit; these are also undated. Overall, the evidence gives the impression of low-level, peripheral activity, with low potential to address research objectives.

4.2 Significance of the Archaeological Remains

These features revealed in the trial trenches are undated and so have very limited potential to address identified research objective at a local or regional level. The relatively thick overburden would probably protect most of the deposits from the main impacts of construction work associated with the development.



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- SCCAS Conservation Team, 2014 Archaeological Archives in Suffolk. Guidelines for preparation and deposition Updated 2017



Trench:	1				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 2.20 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m.	Max: 0.55 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 68724: Northing: 78349)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68720: Northing: 78319)		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Make up layer	Loose mid pinkish grey hardcore 0.35m thick	\checkmark	
101	Topsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.2m thick	\checkmark	
102	Natural	Friable mid orange yellow sand occasional small stones		
103	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, max depth 0.2m, max length 3.5m		
104	Lower fill	Friable mid orange brown silty sand 0.08m thick	\checkmark	
105	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand 0.12m thick	\checkmark	
106	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, max depth 0.2m, max length 3.5m	\checkmark	
107	Lower fill	Friable mid brown orange silty sand occasional small stones 0.08m thick	\checkmark	
108	Upper fill	Friable mid grey brown silty sand 0.12m thick	\checkmark	

Trench:	2				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	27.00 m.	Width: 2.20 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m.	Max: 0.44 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 68772: Northing: 78338)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68743: Northing: 78333)		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.24m thick	\checkmark	
201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.2m thick	\checkmark	
202	Natural	Friable mid orange yellow sand occasional small stones		
203	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.35m, max depth 0.07m, max length 4.5m Truncates fill of posthole [205].	\checkmark	
204	Fill	Friable mid red brown silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	
205	Posthole	Circular sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.2m, max diameter 0.32m Truncated by gulley [203].	\checkmark	
206	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	
207	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 0.34m	\checkmark	
208	Fill	Friable light grey brown silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	\checkmark	
209	Posthole	Sub-circular sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.42n max depth 0.12m, max length 0.55m	n, 🔽	
210	Fill	Friable light brown grey silty sand occasional small charcoal, occasional small stones		
211	Posthole	Oval N-S sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.27m, max depth 0.09m, max length 0.4m		
212	Fill	Friable light brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones		

Trench:	3				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 2.10 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m.	Max: 1.05 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 68752: Northing: 78385)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 68772: Northing: 78362)	
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Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional small stones 0.55m thick	
301	Subsoil	Friable light orange yellow sandy silt 0.15m thick. Truncated by ditch [310].	
302	Peat	Friable dark grey brown peat occasional small stones Extends for c. 25m from northern limit of the trench. Deposit was up to 0.45m thick, sealing pits [304], [306] and [312] whilst relationship with pit [308] is uncertain.	
303	Natural	Friable light orange yellow sand occasional small stones	
304	Pit	Circular dimensions: max diameter 1.8m Sealed below peat deposit (302).	
305	Fill	Spongy dark brown grey peat	
306	Pit	Irregular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.13m, max diameter 0.5m Sealed below peat deposit (302).	
307	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the deposit.	\checkmark
308	Pit	Circular sides: assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.74m, max depth 0.18m Relationship with peat (302) is uncertain.	
309	Fill	Friable black sandy silt A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from th deposit.	e 🖌 🖌
310	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: stepped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.62m, max depth 0.34m, max length 2.1m Truncates subsoil (301).	
311	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt 0.34m thick. Sample <1> taken from this deposit.	
312	Pit	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.7m Sealed below peat deposit (302)	
313	Fill	Friable dark brown grey sandy peat	

Trench:	4				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m.	Max: 0.49 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 68732: Northing: 78415)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68750: Northing: 78391)		
D	T		• • • • • • •		

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Make up layer	Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Modern stone hardstanding 0.13m thick.		
401	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.32m thick.		
402	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand		
404	Peat	Loose dark grey black peat occasional small stones Below (405) 0.66m thick at limit of excavation. Same as (415). Sample <2> taken from this deposit.		
405	Peat	Loose mid grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones Below (406) 0.38m thick.		
406	Peat	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones Below (407) 0.25m thick.		
407	Peat	Compact mid grey brown silty sand 0.14m thick. Truncated by gulleys [408] and [410].	\checkmark	
408	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.47m, max depth 0.29m, min length 0.8m Truncates peat (407). May continue as [719] and [906] to the SW.		
409	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	
410	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.49m, max depth 0.2m, min length 1.m May continue as [507], [710] and [904]. Truncates peat (407).		
411	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	
412	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.46m, max depth 0.18m, min length 1.m Truncates peat (415). May continue as [505] and [706].		
413	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	
415	Peat	Loose mid grey white silty sand occasional small-medium stones 0.2m thick at limit of excavation. Same as (404). Truncated by gulley [412] and pit [416		
416	Pit	Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.21m, max diameter 0.76m Truncates peat (415).		
417	Fill	Loose dark brown grey occasional small stones		

Trench:	5				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m.	Max: 0.4 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68747: Northing: 78437)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68767: Northing: 78415)		
_	_				

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	resent:
500	Make up layer	Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Modern stone hardstanding 0.15m thick.	\checkmark	
501	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.25m thick.		
502	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand		
503	Gulley	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min length 1.6m		
504		Firm mid brown silty sand		
505	Gulley	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min length 1.6m May continue as [412] and [706] to the SW.		
506	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand		
507	Gulley	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min length 1.6m May continue as [410], [710] and [904] to the SW.		
508	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand		
509	Pit	Oval N-S dimensions: min breadth 1.6m, max length 5.m Pit containing modern rubble		
510	Fill	Frequent large CBM Fill of large modern pit, including possible asbestos cemen roofing material.	t 🗌	

Trench:	6				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m.	Max: 0.6 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68731: Northing: 78430)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68708: Northing: 78411)		
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Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	nt:
600	Make up layer	Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Modern stone hardstanding 0.22m thick.		
601	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.36m thick. Truncated by ditch [610]. Relation with pit [608] uncertain.		
602	Peat	Firm dark grey peat 0.09m thick.	\checkmark	
603	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand		
604	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.m, max depth 0.19m	, 🗸	
605	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand		
606	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.2n min depth 0.3m	n, 🔽 [
607	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand		
608	Pit	Oval N-S sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.84m, ma depth 0.3m, max length 1.33m Modern pit - contains modern material. Relationship with subsoil (601) uncertain.		
609	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt occasional small stones Fill contained drink can and food packaging - not retained		
610	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.3n max depth 0.31m, min length 1.6m Cut through subsoil (601), so considered to be modern.	·	
611	Fill	Dark grey brown silty sand		

721

Upper fill

Trench:	7				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.29 m.	Max: 0.3 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68710: Northing: 78952)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68726: Northing: 78369)		
Reason:	To assess archaeological potential in the Northern Land Parcel				

Context: Type: **Description: Excavated: Finds Present:** 700 Make up layer Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Modern stone hardstanding 0.14m thick. 701 Subsoil Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.2m ✓ thick. 702 Natural Loose light orange yellow sand \checkmark 703 Ditch Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.39m ✓ 704 Lower fill Firm mid yellow silty sand 0.16m thick. \checkmark \checkmark 705 Upper fill Firm mid brown grey silty sand 0.24m thick. Sample <3> taken from this deposit. A very small quantity of modern safety glass was recovered from the sample. \checkmark Ditch Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, 706 max depth 0.34m May continue as [412] and [505] to the NE. \checkmark \square 707 Lower fill Firm mid brown grey silty sand 0.09m thick. \checkmark 708 Fill Firm mid brown yellow sand 0.05m thick. Upper fill 709 Firm mid brown silty sand 0.21m thick. \checkmark 710 Ditch Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.4m May continue as [904], [410] and [507]. ✓ 711 Lower fill Firm mid brown silty sand occasional small stones 0.14m thick. \checkmark 712 Upper fill Firm mid brown silty sand 0.27m thick. Sample <4> taken from this deposit. ✓ 713 Posthole Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.09m, max diameter 0.25m \checkmark 714 Fill Firm light grey silty sand The fill contained a very small quantity of animal bone. **** 715 Posthole Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.09m, max diameter 0.25m \checkmark Fill 716 Firm light grey silty sand ✓ 717 Posthole Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.14m, max diameter 0.24m \checkmark 718 Fill Firm light grey silty sand \checkmark 719 Ditch Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.61m, max depth 0.4m May continue as [906] and [408]. ✓ 720 Lower fill Firm mid grey yellow silty sand 0.2m thick.

Firm mid brown silty sand 0.21m thick.

 \checkmark

Trench:	8				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Easting: 68690: Northing: 78399)		
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68667: Northing: 78380)		
D	T		• • • • • • •		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Make up layer	Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones Contains pockets o tarmac planings.	f 🗸	
801	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.34m thick.		
802	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand		
803	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.38m, max depth 0.26m, min length 1.m		
804	Fill	Loose mid grey brown silty sand	\checkmark	
806	Layer	Loose light grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.18m thick.	\checkmark	
807	Peat	Loose dark brown grey peat occasional small stones 0.15m thick. Above (806).		
808	Layer	Loose mid grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.22m thick. Above (807)	. 🗸	
809	Layer	Loose light grey white silty sand occasional small stones 0.18m thick. Abov (808). Truncated by ditch [812].	ve 🗸	
810	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sand 0.13m thick. Above (808).	\checkmark	
811	Layer	Loose dark brown grey silty sand occasional small stones 0.09m thick. Above (810). Truncated by ditch [812].		
812	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.36m, min length 0.85m Truncates layers (809) and (811).	\checkmark	
813	Fill	Loose mid grey silty sand occasional small stones	\checkmark	

Trench:	9				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.60 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.22 m.	Max: 0.32 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: TL	(Eastin	g: 68686: Northing: 78373)	
	OS Grid Ref.: TL		(Easting: 68667: Northing: 78380)		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds F	Present:
900	Make up layer	Hard dark grey brown silty sand frequent small stones 0.15m thick.	\checkmark	
901	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.22m thick.	\checkmark	
902	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand		
903	Peat	Dark grey peat 0.42m thick.	\checkmark	
904	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.43m, max depth 0.34m May continue as [710], [410] and [507] to the NE.		
905	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand	\checkmark	
906	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, ma depth 0.42m May continue as [719] and [408] to the NE.	x	
907	Fill	Firm mid brown silty sand	\checkmark	
908	Gulley	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.44m, max depth 0.3m		
909	Lower fill	Firm light brown yellow sand 0.08m thick.	\checkmark	
910	Upper fill	Firm mid brown silty sand 0.2m thick.	\checkmark	

7. APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-305545

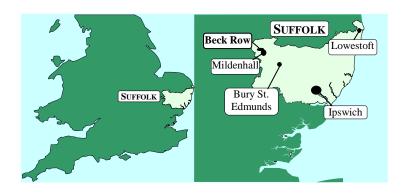
Project details	
Project name	Proposed mobile home park, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row
Short description of the project	Forest Heath District Council granted planning permission for the change of use of the existing scrap yard to a mobile home park at Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk A total of nine trenches were opened to sample the site. Initially the three trenches in the Southern Land Parcel were investigated. A range of features including gullies as well as pits and postholes was revealed, suggesting that there is potentially good preservation of archaeological remains in this area. All of these features were undated with only a small quantity of animal bone being recovered from peat deposits within a hollow in Trench 3.
	Subsequently six trenches in the Northern Land Parcel were opened, revealing relatively thick overburden, generally ranging from 0.4 to 0.5m. The main features were a series of ditches and gulleys defining a continuation of the NE-SW aligned system initially revealed in the Southern Land Parcel. These features are undated and appear to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly in relatively recent times, as indicated by the lack of mineralization of the fills. A small number of possibly earlier, more substantial ditches were revealed in Trenches 6, 7 and 8. Again, these were undated, suggesting that they were remote from any focus of contemporary human activity. A small number of other features were identified comprising a short alignment of three post holes and an isolated pit; these were also undated.
	Overall, the evidence gives the impression of low-level, peripheral activity of uncertain date. This is of low analytical significance, whilst the thickness of overburden would probably protect the deposits from the main impacts of the development.
Project dates	Start: 26-04-2017 End: 18-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IPS866 - Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	POSTHOLES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLIES Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	New mobile home park
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

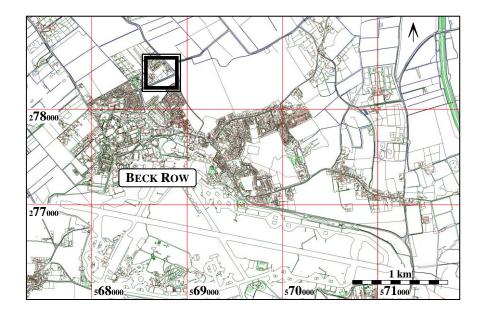
Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BECK ROW, HOLYWELL ROW AND KENNY HILL Proposed mobile home park ,Skeltons Drove, Beck Row
Study area	1.26 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 8727 8366 Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	No Brief
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project director/manager	Gary Edmondson
Project supervisor	Victoria Hainsworth
Project supervisor	Iain Leslie
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	IPS866
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	IPS66
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence' ',"Drawing", "Plan' ',"Report"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Proposed Mobile Home Park, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Leslie, I'' & Edmondson, G'
Other bibliographic	2018/71

details	
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	4 June 2018







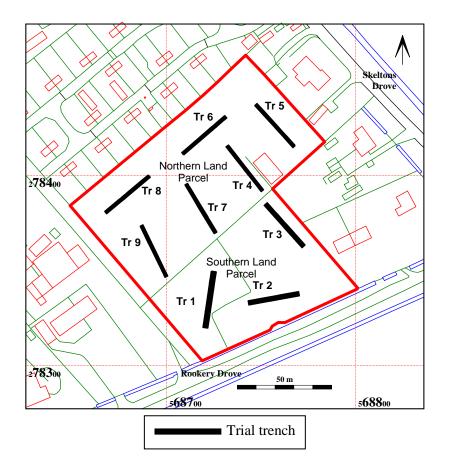


Figure 1: Site location

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Proposed Mobile Home Park, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Albion Archaeology

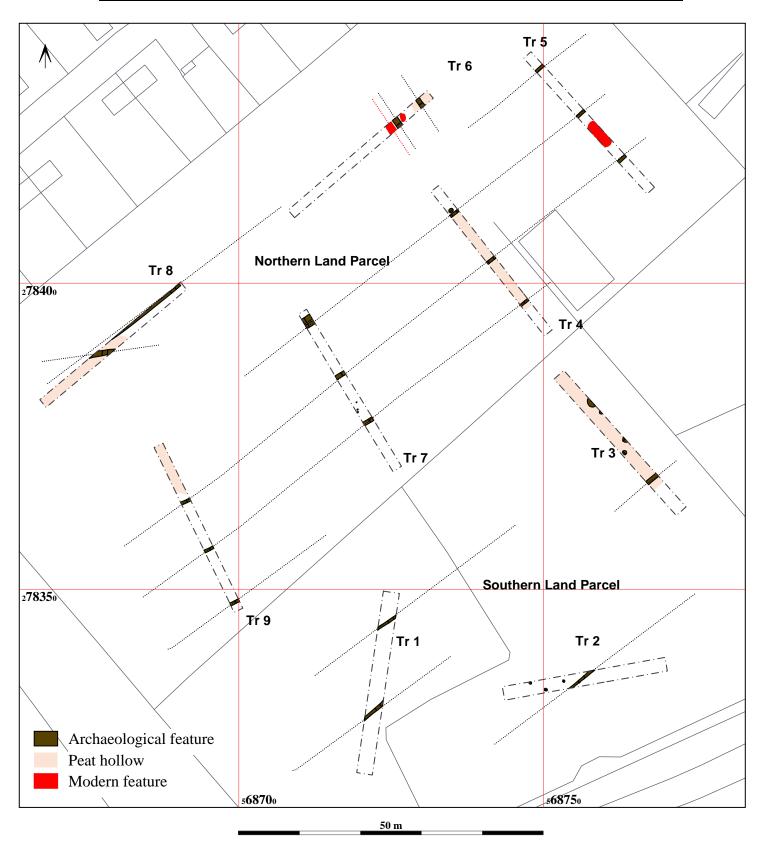
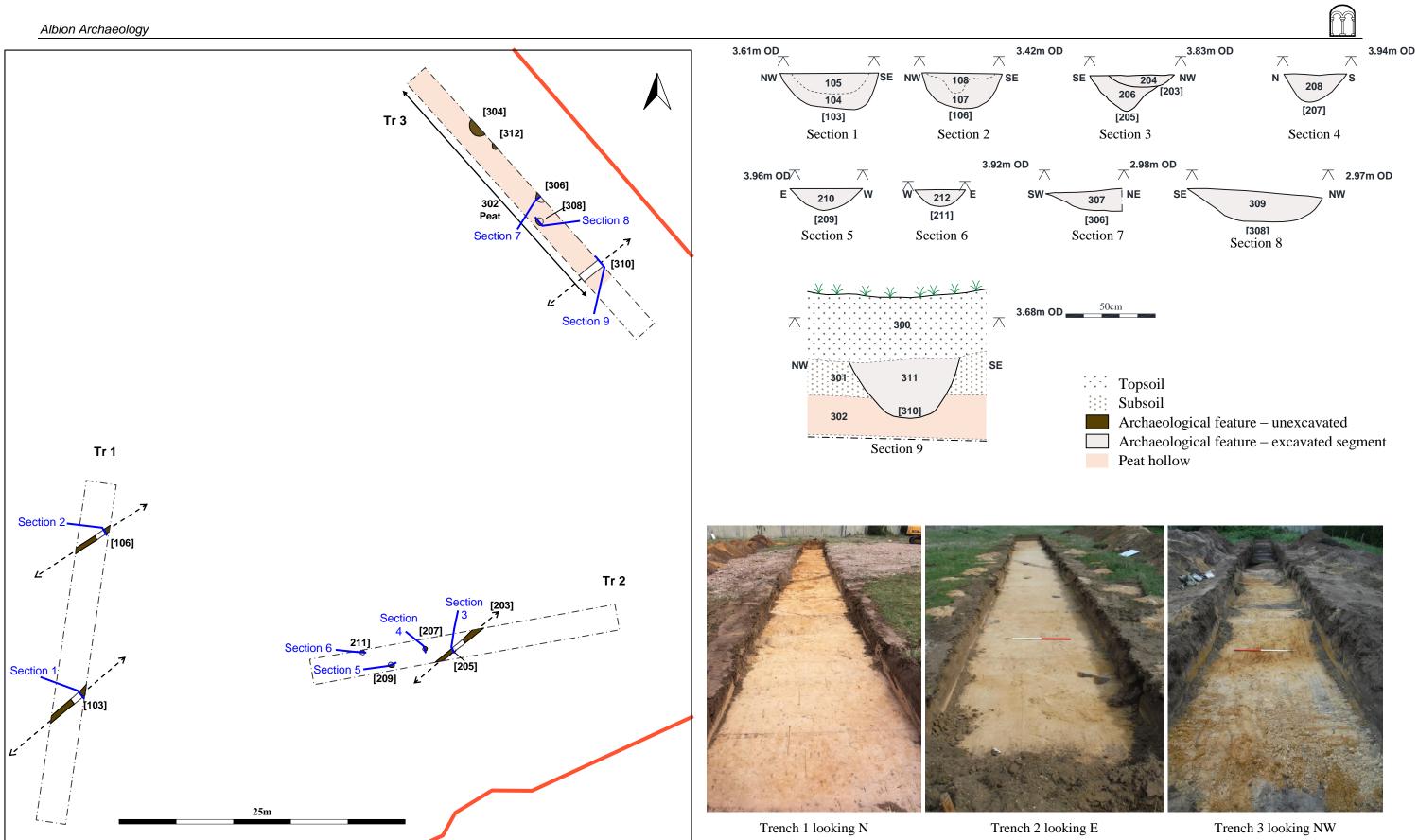


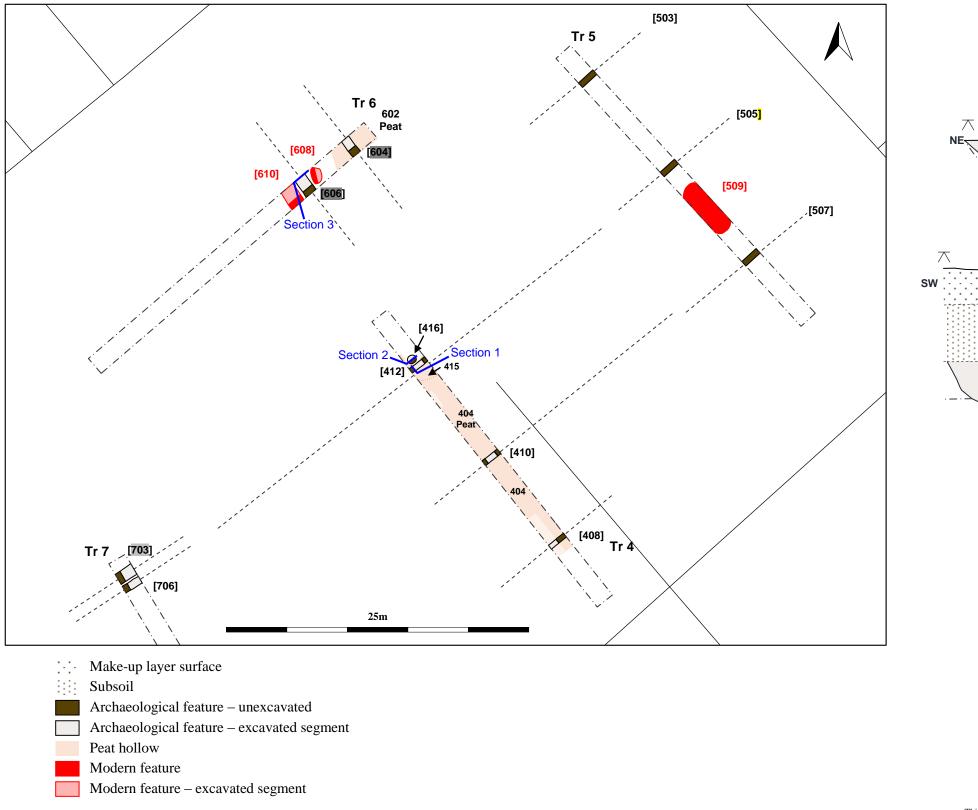
Figure 2: All-features plan This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



Proposed Mobile Home Park, Skeltons Drove, Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Figure 3: Southern Land Parcel Trenches 1–3

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



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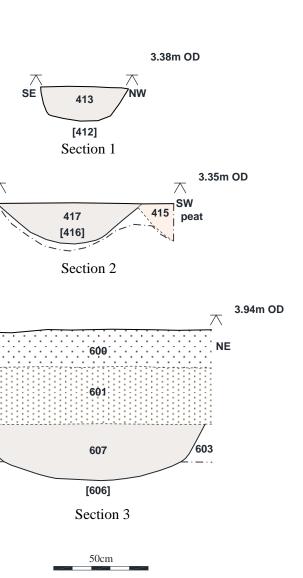
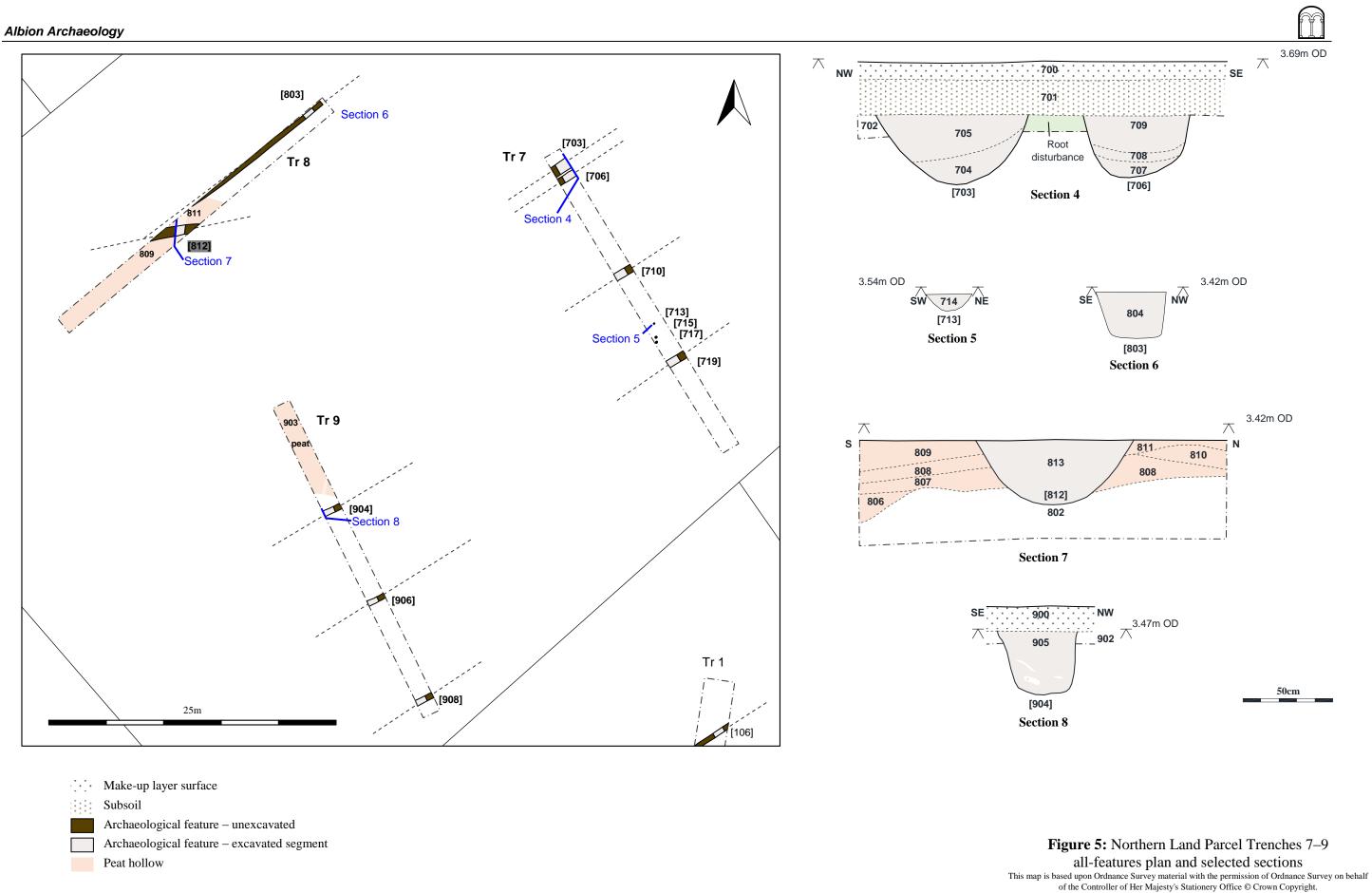


Figure 4: Northern Land Parcel Trenches 4–6 all-features plan and selected sections



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Image 1: General view of Trench 6 looking to the SW, with two ditches [604] and [606] as well as a modern ditch [610] and pit [608]



Image 2: Section through concave-profiled gulley [410] (scale 40cm in 10cm divisions)



Image 3: General view of ditch [906]. with steep-sided profile (scale 1m in 50cm divisions)

Figure 6: Selected images 1–3



Image 4: General view of Trench 7 looking to the south with ditches [703] and [706] in the foreground (scale 1m in 50cm divisions)



Image 5: General view of the linear alignment of postholes in Trench 7 (Scale 1m in 50cm divisions)

Figure 7: Selected images 4 and 5



Image 6: General view of the extensive peat hollow in Trench 8, with section through ditch [812] in the distance (scale 1m in 50cm divisions)



Image 7: General view of the sequence of peat deposits in Trench 8, with darker fill of ditch [812]

Figure 8: Selected images 6 and 7





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