LAND AT BOOT FIELD HIGH ROAD SOULBURY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





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Project: BF3466 Accession Number: AYBCM 2019.3 OASIS ref: albionar1-338484

> Document: 2019/50 Version 1.0

> > 3rd May 2019

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Produced for: Brickhill Properties GP Ltd



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Preface

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James Pargeter of Brickhill Properties GP Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lucy Lawrence, Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Officer.

This report was prepared by Allan King with contributions from Jackie Wells and Gary Edmondson. Illustrations were prepared by Joan Lightning.

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	03/05/2019	n/a

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this document:

BCAS	Buckingnamshire County Archaeological Service
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CBM	Ceramic building material
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HES	Historic Environment Service (of Buckinghamshire County Council)
HER	Historic Environment Record (of Buckinghamshire County Council)
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written scheme of investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/J0405/W/18/3203262) for the development of up to 10 dwellings at Boot Field, Soulbury, with associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage and associated engineering works in accordance with the application (16/04602/AOP) and associated plans.

Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Service (HES) advised that an archaeological condition (no. 5) should be attached to the appeal decision.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Brickhill Properties GP Ltd to undertake a field evaluation, the results of which are set out in this report, in order to assist the HES in advising the local planning authority on the potential archaeological impacts of the development and on any further mitigation works that might be required.

Boot Field is located on the west side of High Road — the village's main thoroughfare, at the south-west margin of the village — centred at grid reference SP (4)8828 (2)2675. The permitted development area (PDA) is on a SE-facing slope between 96m and 105m above OD, with the course of a small stream located a short distance to the SE.

The initial stage of the evaluation comprised a topographical survey, which identified four lynchets or terraces aligned roughly NE-SW across the slope, three possible building platforms towards High Road and traces of boundaries comprising ditches and low earthworks. The results of this survey were used in conjunction with historical data and geophysical survey results to devise a trenching strategy.

The trial trenching took place between 14th and 26th March 2019 in variable weather conditions. A utility pipe and associated stand-off extending along the eastern margin of the PDA was avoided by the trenches. The seven trenches were c.10–40m long by 1.8m wide. Trenches 2 and 4 were subsequently extended by c.2m, so as to clarify deposits revealed.

The trial trenching revealed medieval and post-medieval features across the PDA. They comprised ditches, internal/external surfaces, a single posthole and other layers associated with the earthworks visible within the landscape.

The earliest dated features were a series of ditches, which were either directly dated to the medieval period by associated finds or indirectly by alignment or stratigraphy. The low quantity of finds suggests that these ditches represent field boundaries located away from any focus of human settlement. These ditches do not appear to respect the terraces, suggesting the terracing was associated with later activity.

A variety of features and deposits associated with the post-medieval period were revealed, including numerous make-up layers and cobbled and gravel surfaces in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7. These most likely relate to the buildings recorded on the 1769 manorial plan. Surfaces immediately below the topsoil and apparently correlating with known buildings were observed in Trenches 3 and 4. It is possible that a surface recorded in Trench 2 was associated with another of the buildings depicted on the 1769 plan. Originally it was thought that a fourth building should be present at the SE margin of the PDA. Recalibration of the manorial plan,



incorporating information from the evaluation, suggests that this was actually situated further to the south, beyond the PDA. The remaining layers were interpreted as backfilling and consolidation over earlier ditches

Ditches associated with the post-medieval activity were identified across Trenches 2–6. Only one of these in Trench 4 closely correlated to a component of the rectilinear enclosures recorded on the 1769 manorial plan. Several ditches in Trenches 2 and 6 are more recent boundaries, with one still visible as a marked depression in the landscape.

The remains provide an opportunity for the study of medieval and post-medieval rural settlement activity and associated earthworks in Soulbury. They have the potential to feed into the research aims identified in the local and regional research frameworks. Overall the medieval and post-medieval remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of local to regional significance.

A summary of the evaluation results will be uploaded onto the OASIS website (ref. no.: albionar1-338484). With the landowner's permission, the archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession number AYBCM 2019.3).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/J0405/W/18/3203262) for the development of up to 10 dwellings at Boot Field, Soulbury, with associated access, parking, landscaping, drainage and associated engineering works in accordance with the application (16/04602/AOP) and associated plans.

Because of the archaeological potential of the site, the Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Service (HES) advised that an archaeological condition should be attached to the appeal decision.

Condition no. 5 in the schedule of conditions set out in the appeal decision states that:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured and implemented a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2019) and to undertake the fieldwork. The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report to assist the HES in advising the Local Planning Authority on the potential archaeological impacts of the development, and on any further mitigation works that might be required.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

Situated within the Vale of Aylesbury, the village of Soulbury is located, some 4 km west of Leighton Buzzard and 11.5 km south-east of the centre of Milton Keynes. Boot Field is located on the west side of High Road — the village's main thoroughfare, at the south-west margin of the village — centred at grid reference SP (4)8828 (2)2675 (Figure 1).

The village is located on high ground at the western edge of the valley of the Ouzel, with tributaries of the river creating valleys to the north and south. The permitted development area (PDA) is on a SE-facing slope between 96m and 105m above OD. The course of a small stream is located a short distance to the SE. The PDA forms an irregular strip of land covering c.0.9ha, extending c.155m NNW-SSE and c.60–90m wide, bounded by High Road to the east and a pumping station and associated access to the south. A property boundary defines the PDA's northern limit, whilst its irregular western extent is within the large field.



The northern part of the PDA occupies relatively high ground, which falls away steeply to the east and south, with a gentler slope to the west. The ground falls slightly to the north, beyond the PDA, before rising towards the church in the NE. A series of irregular 'terraces' occupy the eastern margin of the site towards High Road, with another prominent terrace, aligned roughly NE-SW delimiting the northern part of the PDA. Several linear depressions can be seen crossing the western part of the PDA.

A service trench is present within the eastern margin of the PDA, roughly following High Road. The location was confirmed by geophysical survey — gradiometer anomaly (8) (CgMs 2016b, Figures 5 and 9) and appears to result in intermittent undulations shown on a LIDAR survey (CgMs 2016a, Figure 10).

A series of superficial geological deposits are identified by the British Geological Survey, comprising an area of Glaciofluvial Deposits in the NE part of the PDA, bounded to the south by the Oadby Member of the Wolston Formation, which can contain bands of sand gravel and clay. A linear band of Head – clay deposits extends across the lower, southern part of the area, within the valley of the tributary of the Ouzel.

The PDA lies beyond the Soulbury Conservation Area, which extends roughly N-S along High Road.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The village has at least late Saxon origins, the name referring to a 'stronghold in a gully'. The village, then known as 'Soleberie', was recorded in Domesday Book of 1086. The settlement appears to have originated on the higher ground, with the Church of All Saints overlooking most of the village, which developed along the main routeway, the High Road, which runs roughly N-S. Farms as dwellings developed along the routeway, with a number of timber-framed buildings dating from the 16th and 17th centuries still surviving.

1.3.1 Historic Environment Record (HER)

The site is located within an Archaeological Notification Area (0108500000), associated with medieval settlement activity, as designated by Aylesbury Vale District Council. Information from an earlier desk-based study (CgMs 2016a) and from a 500m radius search of the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (dated 17/01/2019) is summarised below.

The land parcel containing the PDA has a number of records MBC3272/MBC3273 relating to earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village, identified from aerial photographs. A trench dug for a water pipe that bisected two of the platforms was subject to archaeological observation. Although this did not reveal any features or finds, several slabs of limestone were noted during archaeological monitoring. MBC3274 corresponds to the trackway at the northern limit of the PDA, defining the northern boundary of the land parcel and continuing to the SW.



The heritage assets in the vicinity of the PDA are exclusively medieval to post-medieval in date; designated heritage assets include the Grade II* church and the Grade II Manor Farmhouse and 'The Old Cottage'.

Archaeological monitoring of ground reduction in the adjacent land parcel to the north of the track (Albion 2016) revealed a variety of modern features. Removal of the topsoil from the NE margin of the current PDA was also monitored as part of these works.

1.3.2 Historical maps

The most useful map is the 1769 manorial plan, which shows a series of roughly rectilinear enclosures extending across the PDA. Several of the boundaries are sinuous, which may suggest that they followed cultivation furrows. At least three buildings are shown within the PDA (Figure 8), in the eastern part of the area, towards High Road, with the main concentration in the central-eastern area. Geo-locating the historical plan proved challenging, as it has very few points that can be correlated with modern maps.

Subsequent maps of a suitable scale, such as the 1813 Ordnance Survey drawing, indicate that the PDA was part of a large land parcel, with no evidence for the buildings.

A small pond in the NE of the PDA is shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. It is not shown on subsequent maps, indicating that it had been infilled.

1.3.3 Aerial photographs

Aerial photographs taken in February 1990 clearly show a large darker area with a rounded western limit within the PDA — apparently an extensive depression extending westwards from the street frontage. The depression seems to be confirmed by LIDAR data (CgMs 2016a, Figure 10). Traces of rectilinear earthworks are visible beyond this, though apparently not correlating with land divisions shown on the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 7). The continuation of these features, though less clearly defined, can be traced to the east towards High Road. At least one pronounced bank is highlighted within the darker area by low sunlight on image SBC21713. This is also visible on a LIDAR survey, a trace of which is overlaid onto the evaluation trenches (Figure 10).

1.3.4 Geophysical survey

Gradiometry and earth resistance surveys were undertaken in early August 2016 (CgMs 2016b); a digital terrain survey was carried out at the same time. Generally, the results of the two geophysical surveys complement each other with a roughly rectilinear pattern of former banks/earthworks being identified. The central area of the PDA contained clusters of anomalies (2 and 4) on the gradiometer survey (Figure 9). These appear to correlate partly with the cluster of buildings depicted on the 1769 map (Figure 7). An area of general enhanced magnetic responses was identified further to the south, towards the street frontage (4). Towards the NE corner of the PDA, an area identified as made-ground (possibly modern) was identified (5); it corresponds to the area containing a pond on the 1880 OS map, as well as

8



superficial disturbance associated with construction in the area immediately to the north (Albion Archaeology 2016).

1.3.5 Archaeological topographical survey

This survey was undertaken as the initial stage of the current evaluation (Souterrain 2019). It recorded a series of features, including four lynchets or wide terraces, aligned roughly NE-SW, stepping down to the current watercourse to the south (L1-L4 on Figure 11). Other features included three possible building platforms (M1-M3) and a series of ditched boundaries and traces of rectilinear enclosures, which survived in low relief.

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on any archaeological remains present within the PDA — both earthworks and any below-ground remains. This information will assist in determining the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains and in formulating the design and extent of any further mitigation works that might be required. Information on the following was required:

- Location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the 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.

This report examines the significance of the results with reference to regional research frameworks. The research framework that has been devised for the region is the *Solent-Thames: Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Hey and Hind 2014). This covers the historic counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. It is a vital tool for the assessment of any heritage asset within their local, regional and national historic environment setting.

The resource assessment indicates that village origins from the Saxon period onwards, together with subsequent development in the later medieval period are a focus for investigation, particularly expansion up to the 14th century and subsequent decline or shrinkage (Hey and Hind 2014, 240).

For the later medieval period the research framework lists a number of areas for further research that may be of relevance to this project. These include:

- The chronology of development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region;
- The origin and nature of rural settlements (of various types);
- Village shrinkage and abandonment; change from hamlets to farmsteads.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards

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

•	Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (3rd ed, 2017).
•	Archaeological Archives Forum	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (2nd ed. 2011)
•	BCAS	Generic brief for archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)
•	Buckinghamshire County Museum	Procedures for Notifying and Transferring Archaeological Archives (rev 2013)
•	CIfA	Charter and By-law (2014); Code of Conduct (2014) Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014) Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)
•	Historic England [formerly English Heritage]	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (2015) Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)

2.2 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 14th and 26th March 2019. Seven trenches were dug, targeting features previously identified on the 1769 manorial plan and the results of the geophysical and topographical surveys (Figure 2).

The trenches ranged from c.10m–40m long by 1.8m wide. Trenches 2 and 4 were extended by c.2m, so as to clarify the presence and nature of exposed deposits.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flatedged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision.

The soil heaps and feature fills were scanned for artefacts by eye and metal detector. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, investigated 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. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2019).

The project archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession number AYBCM 2019.3). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-338484) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All archaeological deposits and features found within the trial trenches are summarised in this section. Where site recording numbers have been used, they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate whether they are a feature number [***] or fill / layer numbers (***). Context numbers reflect the trench number, e.g. [104] is the cut of a ditch in Trench 1.

Detailed descriptions of every individual context are provided in Appendix 1; this should be consulted for information such as alignment, nature of fills, dimensions etc. The trench locations and all features are shown on Figure 2, with a more detailed plan presented in Figure 3, which also shows section locations. Figures 4–6 present selected sections. The various data-sets are superimposed on the all-features plan (Figure 7), with individual overlays of the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 8), geophysical survey (Figure 9), LIDAR trace (Figure 10) and topographical survey (Figure 11). Selected site images are shown in Figures 12–19.

Archaeological features were identified in all seven trenches; see Table 1 for a breakdown by feature type. They primarily comprised ditches. Internal and external surfaces were also identified, with generally finer gravel used for internal surfaces and larger cobbles for external surfaces. Datable artefacts were recovered from five of the trenches, indicating activity from the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Trench	Ditch	Posthole	Internal surface	External surface	Make-up layer	Dump layer	Layer	TOTAL
1	3	-	-	-	4	-	-	7
2	7	1	-	1	2	1	-	12
3	2	-	2	2	1	-	2	9
4	5	-	1	-	7	-	-	13
5	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
7	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	4
TOTAL	23	1	4	5	16	1	3	53

Table 1: Summary of archaeological features by trench

A number of undated features and deposits were also revealed. These, wherever possible, have been assigned to a chronological period, based on their correspondence with geophysical anomalies and/or spatial association or similarity of deposits with other, more securely dated, archaeological remains. The results are discussed below in chronological order, from latest to earliest.

3.2 Modern Layers

A modern make-up layer (108) was built up over the topsoil for the construction of the current road along the NW edge of the PDA (Figure 4: section 5). This is associated with construction of the access to the properties immediately to the north.



The topsoil was a 0.18–0.30m-thick layer of dark grey-brown clay silt. In the east this lay directly above stone surfaces, being up to 0.2m thick (Figure 5: section 13; Figure 6: section 30), indicating that it was not a typical ploughsoil (which tends to be uniformly thick at around 0.3m).

3.3 Archaeological Remains

3.3.1 Stone surfaces and consolidation layers

Stone and gravel layers, defining internal or external surfaces together with associated deposits, were observed in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7. Generally, these are likely to relate to the buildings recorded on the 1769 manorial plan — less so in the case of Trench 7, which is some distance from any of the buildings shown on that plan (Figure 8). All of these layers overlay the subsoil where present; no buried topsoil was identified, indicating that it had been removed prior to construction.

A potential external cobbled surface (222) was identified extending 7.72m from the NE end of Trench 2, positioned at the rear of a building recorded on the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 8). It is possibly associated with house platform M1, identified in the topographic survey, which appears to back onto the marked terrace between L2 and L3 (Figure 11). It consisted of dark brown-grey clay silt with moderate inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM) and frequent inclusions of small to large cobbles up to 200mm x 110mm x 90mm. The stones in this layer were not densely packed together, indicating that it may have been partially robbed out, or used to consolidate the ground rather than create a solid cobbled surface.

The surface overlay two layers (220) and (221) that are interpreted as levelling layers. Made ground (220) consisted of mid-red-brown clay silt, extending c.3m SW beyond the extent of (222) (Figure 4: section 12; Figure 12). Less substantial layer (221) consisted of dark brown-grey clay silt with frequent inclusions of charcoal (sample <2>). The latter was probably burnt refuse, incorporated into the levelling layers; the charcoal survived in lumps, suggesting that it had not been significantly compacted.

A layer of dark grey-black sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small to large stones, (223) overlay surface (222) in the SE side of Trench 2. It extended for 3.54m and was 0.29m thick, resulting in a visible mound in the surface of the field that formed part of M1 identified in the topographical survey (Figure 11). It is interpreted as an external dump of waste stone.

Internal surface, (303) was situated towards the south end of Trench 3. It appears to be a short distance south of the plotted position of a building shown on the 1769 plan (Figure 8). It consisted of a 0.07m-thick layer of mid-grey-brown clay silt, with a rough assortment of stones and cobbles up to 120mm x 60mm x 50mm in size, extending 6.4m within the trench (Figure 5: section 13; Figure 14). It was overlain by a 0.1m-thick layer (312), extending over an area of 2.7m x 1.8m and comprising large cobbles up to 290mm x 210mm x 100mm, together with fragments of CBM.



A 0.04m-thick layer of mid-grey-brown clay silt (306) with moderate stone inclusions extended 8.65m north of (303). It may represent an unintentional spread of stone from the surrounding stone surfaces, rather than a constructed surface.

A potential external cobbled surface (314) was identified extending for 5.7m within the middle of Trench 3, placing it in the vicinity of a building shown on the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 8). It was 0.10m thick (Figure 5: section 14) and consisted of mid-grey-brown clay silt with frequent stones and cobbles up to 180mm x 140mm x 80mm in size.

A third potential surface (311) was identified towards the north end of Trench 3. Its purpose appeared to be to consolidate the ground over and around ditches [307] and [309] (Figure 5: section 17; Figure 8; Figure 14). It consisted of a 0.07m-thick layer of dark brown-grey silty gravel with moderate inclusions of large stones and cobbles up to 180mm x 120mm x 70mm in size, extending for 11.75m.

Five make-up and consolidation layers (405), (410), (411), (417) and (420) were identified overlying ditches within Trench 4 (Figure 5: sections 19 and 21; Figure 8). They consisted of deposits of dark brown silty gravel, midorange sand and mid-grey-brown clay silt, between 0.06–0.17m thick. Layer (416) consisted of similar dark brown silty gravel but did not overlie a ditch. This is also interpreted as consolidation of the ground surface, as it did not appear substantial enough to be a cobbled surface. These layers may be associated with a building shown on the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 8).

A probable internal surface (403) was identified at the north end of Trench 4; it appears to correlate with a building depicted on the 1769 manorial plan (Figure 8 and Figure 15). It consisted of a layer of mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel up to 0.06m thick, extending 7.05m from the north end of the trench. A 0.14m-thick layer of mid-blue-grey clay (404) overlying its northern extent along the east side of the trench may have provided a setting for structural elements.

Internal and external surfaces were identified within Trench 7, although these do not appear to correlating with the buildings shown on the 1769 plan (Figures 8 and 16). The internal surface (706) consisted of a 0.08m-thick layer of mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel, extending 1.7m from the south end of the trench.

The external surface was comprised of three layers (703), (704) and (705) and a structural cut [702]. Only a short length of the edge of the structural cut was visible in the NE corner of the trench (Figure 6: section 30; Figure 8; Figure 16). It had a vertical side and a flat base, which matched the level of the undisturbed geological strata 1.55m into the trench. It is assumed that this was to allow for the construction of make-up layer (704) to provide stability for stone surface (705) that matched the slope of the ground. A single layer of cobbles (703), up to 170mm x 140mm x 80mm, set in the base of the cut



and extending beyond it to the internal surface formed a level, cobbled surface immediately outside of the postulated building. The make-up layer consisted of mid-yellow-orange sandy gravel, up to 0.10m thick, sealing (703) within the cut. This was overlain by (705), a mixture of large cobbles and sub-angular stones, up to 240mm x 160mm x 90mm in size, which extended over the top edge of the cut and 3.4m into the trench.

3.3.2 Post-medieval ditches

A total of fourteen ditches in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are assigned to this period. With the exception of [207] these ditches were overlain by topsoil, or make-up and gravel layers, where present. These also tended to cut the subsoil and generally correlate with features detected by the LIDAR and the topographical survey (Figures 7, 10 and 11).

Two sequential WNW-ESE aligned ditches [216] and [218] were identified in the NE part of Trench 2. The earlier ditch [216] was at least 0.54m wide with a steep eastern edge; it was truncated by ditch [218] to the west (Figure 4: section 12; Figure 13). The latter had a concave profile, 1.78m wide and 0.54m deep, filled with sterile mid-grey-brown silty clay. It was overlain by make-up layer (220), with the earlier ditch truncating the subsoil. These ditches do not correlate with boundaries visible on the LIDAR or topographic surveys (Figures 10 and 11).

Two NE-SW aligned ditches [307] and [309] were identified in Trench 3; one continued into Trench 5 at the southern extent of terrace L2 (Figure 11). Ditch [307] / [505] was substantial at 4.63m wide and 0.72m deep; it had steep sides and an uneven base and was filled with grey-brown silty clay (Figure 5: section 17; Figure 14). It produced 1.8kg of animal bone, including cattle, horse and sheep/goat. Ditch [309] was a recut of [307]; no trace of it was identified in Trench 5. It was 1.75m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with light brown-grey silty clay. This boundary correlates with a LIDAR feature (Figure 10) and the marked slope between terraces L2 and L3 (Figure 11).

In the central part of Trench 4, two sequential NE-SW aligned ditches [406] and [408] correlate with the LIDAR trace (Figure 10) and define the boundary between terraces L3 and L4 (Figure 11). Ditch [408] had convex sides and a concave base; it was truncated by ditch [406]. It was 0.85m wide, 0.49m deep and contained light green-grey silty clay. Ditch [406] had steep sides and a flat base. It was 0.69m wide, 0.16m deep and contained dark grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of yellow sand (Figure 5: section 19; Figure 15). A redefined NW-SE boundary comprised sequential ditches [412] and [414]. The earlier ditch [414] was up to 1.91m across and 0.38m deep (Figure 5: section 21). The fills of these ditches were similar to those of [406] and [408], suggesting that they may represent components of the same enclosure system.

An E-W aligned ditch [418] was partially revealed at the south end of Trench 4. It was at least 1m wide and 0.72m deep, filled with mid-grey-brown silty



clay (Figure 5: section 24; Figure 15). A small assemblage of finds including pottery and CBM was recovered from its fill (Table 2).

Towards the SW end of Trench 6, ditch [609] defined a recut of an earlier, more substantial boundary [607] (Figure 6: section 29; Figure 16). NW-SE aligned ditch [607] was 3.16m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.84m. Further excavation was not possible due to groundwater (Figure 16). The ditch had steep sides and contained mid-grey-brown silty clay. It was truncated by ditch [609], which was still visible in the landscape as a marked linear depression. Ditch [609] had a concave profile, 2.98m wide and 0.60m deep, filled with mid-grey-brown clay silt.

Situated towards the SW end of Trench 2, ditches [205] and [207] represent another recut NW-SE aligned boundary. Both had concave sides and bases, with [207] truncating [205] (Figure 4: section 11; Figure 13). Ditch [205] was 1.22m wide, 0.38m deep and contained light brown-grey silty clay. Ditch [207] was 3.36m wide and 0.56m deep, filled with dark brown-grey clay silt and mid-red-brown sandy silt. These ditches appear to correlate roughly with linear anomalies in the LIDAR trace and topographical survey (Figures 10 and 11), albeit with some displacement.

3.3.3 Lynchets/terracing

Trenches 1–6 targeted earthworks recorded by the previous studies, particularly the topographical survey (Figure 11; Souterrain 2019). Trench 1 targeted the northern terrace L1; four make-up layers were recorded. Layers (103), (109) and (110) overlay subsoil (101) (Figure 4: section 5), with a combined thickness of 0.36m. They appeared to represent redeposited topsoil, subsoil and geological strata, with occasional inclusions of CBM in (103).

Trenches 3 and 5 investigated parts of terrace L2. Single make-up deposits (305) and (504) respectively were recorded in the northern ends of each trench (Figures 2 and 11; Figure 5: section 18; Figure 6: section 26). These layers consisted of friable mid-grey-brown clay silt with occasional chalk inclusions. They were 0.18m–0.22m thick and probably derived from the subsoil.

3.3.4 Subsoil

Subsoil in the form of mid-grey-brown silt clay was up to 0.46m thick, where present. It was absent in areas of Trenches 3, 4 and 7. This deposit appears to separate the post-medieval and medieval phases of ditches.

3.3.5 Medieval ditches

A total of eight ditches are assigned to this period, on the basis of datable finds, stratigraphic relationships (particularly with the subsoil) and alignments.

Two perpendicular ditches [104] / [111] and [106] were identified in Trench 1. Ditch [104] / [111] was aligned NW-SE. It was up to 0.98m wide and 0.17m deep, with steep sides and a flat base (Figure 2; Figure 4: sections 1–4;



Figure 12). Ditch [104] terminated to the NW; it contained mid-grey-brown silty clay. It was truncated by ditch [106], which also terminated within the trench to the SW. Ditch [106] was 1.12m wide and 0.61m deep, filled with mid-brown-grey silty clay. It produced a small assemblage of finds, including medieval pottery and a horseshoe (RA2). These ditches do not correlate with any features identified by the LIDAR survey (Figure 10), although they may have been associated with a low bank identified immediately to the SW in the topographical survey (Figure 11).

Two N-S aligned, parallel ditches [210] and [212] in Trench 2 were 1.06—1.15m wide and 0.28—0.32m deep. They were filled with deposits that varied from mid-orange-brown silty clay to mid-brown-grey silty clay. Ditch [212] truncated ditch [210] and terminated within the trench; its fill produced two sherds of medieval pottery. These ditches do not correlate with any features identified by the LIDAR or topographical surveys (Figures 10 and 11).

A NW-SE aligned ditch [203] was 1.13m wide and 0.32m deep, with a steep concave profile (Figure 4: section 6; Figure 13). It was filled with midbrown-grey silty clay, from which a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. The LIDAR trace shows a linear feature in the vicinity but it is thought to correlate with a recut boundary to the west (Figure 10) (see [205] / [207] above).

Three ditches within Trenches 5 and 6 produced no datable artefacts and could not be reliably dated. It is likely that they are contemporary with the known medieval features, as they were overlain by subsoil and do not correlate with the pattern of known post-medieval ditches (Figure 10). Ditch [508] was the most substantial at 1.44m wide and 0.29m deep. It had irregular sides and a concave base (Figure 6: section 25) and was filled with mid-yellow-brown silty clay. Ditches [603] and [605] were spaced some 9m apart. They were slightly smaller at 0.79–0.93m wide and 0.24–0.25m deep; they had steep sides and concave bases (Figure 6: sections 27 and 28; Figure 16).

3.3.6 Undated posthole

Isolated posthole [214] was identified in the NE half of Trench 2. It was circular in plan, 0.31m across, but only 0.08m deep (Figure 4: section 9; Figure 13). The mid-grey silty clay fill contained moderate inclusions of small stones but no artefacts. The purpose and date of the posthole is unknown; its relationships with adjacent deposits, including the subsoil, are uncertain.

3.3.7 Geological strata

The geological strata comprised firm light orange to brown silty clay with chalk inclusions across the majority of the PDA (Trenches 1, 2, 4–6). Midyellow-brown silty clay with chalk inclusions and firm mid-orange-grey silty clay were present in Trenches 3 and 7 respectively.



3.4 Artefacts and Ecofacts

3.4.1 Introduction

Six trenches yielded an assemblage comprising mainly pottery, CBM and animal bone. Smaller quantities of vessel glass, industrial residues and metal objects were also recovered (Table 2). Datable artefacts are predominantly medieval or post-medieval. No finds were recovered from Trench 6.

Tr.	Feature/Fill	Description	Date Range	Finds Summary
1	106/107	Ditch	C12-13	Pottery (32g); iron horseshoe (RA2); ferrous slag (495g);
				hammerscale (<1g); animal bone (27g)
2	203/204	Ditch	C12-13	Pottery (8g)
	210/211	Ditch	C13-14	Pottery (25g)
	220	Make-up layer	C16-18	Pottery (48g); CBM (116g); iron nail x3; animal bone (109g)
	221	Make-up layer	C16-18	CBM (452g); fired clay (11g); animal bone (42g); oyster shell (9g); iron pitchfork (RA15); iron nail x1
	222	External surface	C15-18	Pottery (7g); CBM (768g); animal bone (13g)
3	301	Subsoil	C18	Copper alloy coin (RA4)
	303	Internal surface	C16-18	Pottery (329g); CBM (427g); animal bone (200g); iron nail x3; pewter spoon (RA16); ferrous slag (116g); hammerscale (<1g); fuel ash (34g); vessel glass (19g)
	304	Layer	C16-18	Pottery (405g); CBM (73g); iron buckle (RA7); iron nail x1; ferrous slag (154g)
	306	Layer	C16-18	Copper alloy bell (RA1); washer (RA5); iron object (RA6); iron nails x10
	307/308	Ditch	C15-18	Pottery (79g); CBM (248g); iron nail x7; animal bone (1.8kg); iron shoeing nail (RA9)
	314	External surface	C15-18	Pottery (43g); CBM (314g); wall plaster (18g); animal bone (24g); iron shoeing nail (RA11)
4	406/407	Ditch	C16-18	Pottery (285g); CBM (4.5kg); whetstone (RA19); oyster shell (7g); iron nail x2
	408/409	Ditch	C16-18	Pottery (255g); CBM (451g); vessel glass (856g); animal bone (286g)
	412/413	Ditch	C16-18	Pottery (41g); CBM (5.1kg); mortar (450g)
	414/415	Ditch	C18+	Pottery (13g); animal bone (102g)
	417	Make-up layer	C16-18	CBM (17g); iron shoeing nail (RA 12); iron nail x6
	418/419	Ditch	C15-18	Pottery (16g); CBM (21g); oyster shell (7g)
5	503	Natural interface	Undated	Animal bone (16g)
7	703	External surface	C16-18	CBM (577g); iron horseshoe (RA17); cast iron fragment
		•		(RA18); vessel glass (160g)
	704	Make-up layer	C16-18	CBM (57g); animal bone (55g)
	705	External surface	C15-18	Pottery (15g); animal bone (12g)

Table 2: Artefact summary by Trench and feature

3.4.2 Pottery

Seventy-six pottery sherds (1.6kg) were recovered from 15 deposits: they survive in good condition, with a mean sherd weight of 21g. Fabric types (Table 3) range in date from the 10th–19th centuries and are identified in accordance with the Milton Keynes post-Roman pottery type series (Mynard 1992).



Ware code	Common name	Date Range	Sherd No.	Wt. (g)
SNC1	St Neots type ware	10th-late 12th	1	5
		century		
MC1	Medieval shelly ware	11th-late 13th	4	57
		century		
MS2	Medieval coarse sandy ware	13th century+	3	28
MS3	Medieval grey sandy ware	12th century+	1	3
MS8	Medieval coarse oxidised sandy ware	12th-14th century	1	43
MS9	Brill/Boarstall ware	13th-15th century	2	25
TLMS3	Late medieval reduced ware	14th-15th century	1	24
TLMS7	Late medieval Brill/Boarstall ware	15th-16th century	2	70
TLMS13	Fine late medieval reduced ware	16th century	2	11
PM8	Lead-glazed earthenwares	17th century	27	958
PM16	Black-glazed coarse wares	17th century	11	45
PM20	White-slipped ware	17th century	19	316
PM23	Creamware	18th century	1	13
PM25	White earthenwares	18th-19th century	1	3

Table 3: Pottery Type Series

Medieval

Medieval pottery (12 sherds: 161g) was collected from ditches [106], [203], [210] and occurred residually in later features [412] and [418]. The assemblage comprises locally manufactured sandy coarse wares (MS2, MS3, MS8), shell-tempered wares (SNC1, MC1) and Brill/Boarstall ware (MS9). Late medieval and transitional early post-medieval wares (5 sherds: 105g) are reduced wares (TLMS3, TLMS13) and later Brill/Boarstall products (TLMS7). Forms are square-rimmed bowls, a cistern and a glazed jug with applied diagonal red iron-rich clay strips.

Post-medieval and later

Layers/surfaces (220), (303), (304) and ditches [406], [408], [414] yielded 59 post-medieval and later sherds (1.3kg). The majority are simple lead- or ironglazed, or glazed-and slip-decorated earthenware products of the South Northants. industry (PM8, PM16, PM20). Forms are mainly bowls, and a single jar and one handled bowl/chamber pot. Single sherds of 18th–19th-century creamware (PM23) and white earthenware (PM25) also occur.

3.4.3 Building materials

Sand-tempered CBM (13.1kg) derived from 14 deposits across Trenches 2–4 and 7, the majority associated with post-medieval ditches [406] and [412], which respectively yielded 4.5kg and 5.1kg. The assemblage comprises 25 stock-moulded brick fragments, a nib tile, 28 flat roof (peg) tile fragments and three unglazed floor or hearth tiles, the latter with smoothed, worn upper surfaces. No complete examples survive. Bricks are fairly uniform, measuring *c*.100–110mm (width) x 60–65mm (depth), and broadly date from the 16th to mid-18th centuries. The single nib tile dates from the 13th century onwards, while the peg tiles are broadly late medieval to post-medieval in date. A single sandy daub fragment (11g), distinguished by a flat surface and lath impression, was recovered from make-up layer (221).

Ditch [412] yielded a sizeable coarsely aggregated mortar fragment (450g). Five pieces of off-white wall plaster (18g) (some with keying marks and lath impressions) were collected from external surface (314).



3.4.4 Other artefacts

A range of objects derived from 16 deposits (Trenches 1–4 and 7), with the greatest concentration from Trench 3 surfaces/layers (303), (306) and ditch [307].

Iron objects

Layers (304) and (306) respectively yielded a 17th–18th-century oval shoe buckle (RA7) and a possible medieval padlock bolt spine (RA6). A portion of tanged pitchfork (RA15), broadly datable to the medieval or post-medieval periods, was collected from make-up layer (221). A cast, slightly curving fragment (RA18), possibly deriving from an 18th-century or later cooking pot, derived from external surface (703).

The heel of a horse or pony shoe (RA2) of probable 13th–15th-century date derived from ditch [106], while surface (703) yielded a 19th-century draught horse shoe (RA17), the latter with toe clip, fuller, rectangular nail holes and caulkins on both heels. Ditch [307], surface (314) and make-up layer (417) yielded three rectangular headed Type 4 shoeing nails (RAs 9, 11, 12; Clarke 1995, 88) of 14th–15th-century date.

Portions of 38 iron timber nails with either flat squared, offset, or faceted rectangular heads derived from ditches [307] and [406] and make-up layers and surfaces in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7. A few are identifiable later medieval/post-medieval forms.

Other materials

A distorted late 17th–18th-century pewter spoon (RA16) with a rat tail bowl attachment and decorated stem derived from internal surface (303). A late 17th-century cast copper alloy rumbler bell (RA1) was recovered from layer (306) and a worn 18th-century copper alloy farthing (RA4), probably of George II, from subsoil (301).

Undatable finds, collected respectively from layer (306) and ditch [406], comprise a copper alloy washer (RA5) and the end of a rectangular-sectioned sandstone primary whetstone (RA19).

Industrial residues

Ferrous smithing slag (765g), including a small portion of hearth bottom, was collected from layers/surfaces (303), (304) and ditch [106]. Trace amounts of flake hammerscale (<1g) derived from (303) and [106].

Vessel glass

Vessel glass (179g) was collected from deposits in Trenches 3, 4 and 7. A later medieval to post-medieval olive green glass body sherd and a partial kick base from a 17th-century wine bottle derived from internal surface (303).

Olive green bottle glass of 17th–18th-century date from ditch [408] comprises eight body sherds, a V-tooled string rim (diameter *c*.28mm; height 36.5mm) and three partial bases — one cylindrical with a domed kick



(possibly Hume's type 19, 1750–70); one with a low irregular kick (possibly from squat form Hume's type 9, 1705–20); and one of indeterminate form.

External surfaces (703) and (705) respectively yielded a moulded and embossed 'Kilner Brothers' jar lid dating c.1900+ and three joining body fragments from a 19th-century olive green cylindrical bottle.

3.4.5 Animal bone

Sixty animal bone fragments (2.7kg) were collected from twelve deposits (Trenches 1–5 and 7), the majority (1.8kg) from ditch [307]. The material displays minimal surface erosion/weathering and is generally well-preserved, with a mean fragment weight of 45g. Anatomical elements are mainly post-cranial: principally meat-bearing limb bone shafts and a small number of rib and vertebrae fragments. The most intact examples, deriving from [307], include the distal ends of a cattle femur and horse humerus; a complete horse radius and phalanx; a sheep/goat mandible fragment and indeterminate pieces of metapodial, skull and pelvis. Unfused epiphyses indicate some immature animals.

The sparse spread of animal bone suggests occasional or incidental deposition, particularly given its incorporation into surfaces and make-up layers, although the limited nature of trial-trench investigation reduces the reliability of any conclusions that can be drawn.

Three poorly preserved oyster shell fragments (23g) deriving from post-medieval ditches [406], [418] and make-up layer (221) were not retained.

3.4.6 Environmental sampling

A total of seven samples were collected from a variety of deposits, including ditch fills stone surfaces and associated deposits. The samples ranged in size from 10–20 litres. This material was processed using a flotation tank, with the flot captured on a 300 micron sieve, whilst a 1mm mesh was used to collect the residue. The material was then air-dried, with the sample residues being checked to see if they required re-floating for recovery of any remnant charred plant remains; none required re-floating. The samples are discussed below by feature type.

Ditches

Samples <3> to <5> from ditches [408], [603] and [106] respectively were very poor, containing only occasional flecks and very small lumps of charcoal. This suggests that the ditches were away from any focus of contemporary activity, with the material providing very limited potential to shed light on the past landscape. The fills contained small quantity of snails, indicating only limited potential to reconstruct the past landscape.

Surfaces and associated deposits

There was considerable variation in the quantity of charred plant remains recovered from these samples, with samples <2> and <7> being richer than the others.



Sample <1> from internal surface (303) contained occasional charcoal flecks and small lumps, the latter exhibiting variable abrasion. Sample <2> from make-up deposit (221) below external surface (222) contained abundant charcoal lumps up to 2cm across, with variable abrasion. Fuel ash slag was also present, along with occasional very blistered fragments of charred grain. The large charcoal fragments indicate that the deposit was not trampled. Sample <6> from external surface (314) contained occasional charcoal flecks. In contrast, sample <7> from external surface (706) contained abundant charcoal, which ranged from small angular to sub-angular lumps as well as flecks. The charcoal lumps show evidence of iron-staining. Whilst there is no evidence for the use of the charcoal (there being no evidence of iron smithing etc.) the material can provide evidence for the local environment. Small quantities were present in most samples, although the quantities suggest only limited potential to reconstruct the past landscape.



4. **CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 Summary of Results

The evaluation revealed medieval and post-medieval activity across the PDA, including ditches, internal and external surfaces and deposits associated with the earthworks, including the terraces.

The medieval features consisted of possibly eight ditches, indicating subdivision of the sloping ground at the edge of the settlement. The low quantity of finds suggests that these ditches represent field system boundaries. Generally these features were sealed by the subsoil.

Possibly fourteen ditches associated with the post-medieval period were identified in Trenches 2–6. Only one of these in Trench 4 closely correlates with the rectilinear enclosures recorded in the 1769 manorial plan. Ditches [205], [207], [607] and [609] are more recent boundaries, with [609] still visible in the landscape. The remaining ditches appear to pre-date the buildings and are probably field system boundaries, indicating phases of reorganisation in this period.

A variety of deposits, including numerous make-up layers and cobbled and gravel surfaces in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7 date to the post-medieval period. These most likely relate to the buildings recorded on the 1769 manorial plan. Surfaces immediately below the topsoil and correlating with known buildings were observed in Trenches 3 and 4. It is possible that a surface recorded in Trench 2 was associated with another of the buildings depicted on the 1769 plan.

Originally it was thought that a fourth building should be present at the SE margin of the PDA. However, subsequent recalibration of the manorial plan, incorporating information from the evaluation, suggests that this building was actually situated further to the south, beyond the current site. Trenches 1, 3 and 5 contained deposits overlying the subsoil to create the terraces identified as L1 and L2, which run NE-SW across the PDA. The remaining layers were interpreted as backfilling and consolidation over earlier ditches.

4.2 Significance of Results

The evaluation has revealed ditches, internal and external surfaces and makeup layers dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods within a landscape of standing earthworks. The ditches probably represent field system boundaries and drainage features from both periods. The surfaces and makeup layers represent the internal and external surfaces of buildings along the eastern side of the PDA towards the road frontage, and the consolidation of the areas surrounding them.

The remains provide an opportunity for the study of medieval and post-medieval rural settlement activity and associated earthworks in Soulbury, and have the potential to feed into the research aims identified in the local and regional research frameworks (Hey and Hind 2014).



Overall the medieval and post-medieval remains revealed by the evaluation are likely to be of local to regional significance.



5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.36 m. Max: 0.52 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 88260: Northing: 26806)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 88264: Northing: 26787*)

Reason: To investigate earthworks and the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.26m thick.	✓	
101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.29m thick. Seals the fills of ditches [104] and [106].	✓	
102	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-large stones		
103	Make up layer	Friable mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, occasional small-medium stones Mixed with friable mid-orange-brown sand silt and firm mid-yellow-brown silty clay, up to 0.46m thick. CBM left in situ Below layer (110) and above layer (109).	•	
104	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.72m, max depth 0.17m, min length 4.5m Defined terminal in the NW.	✓	
105	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Sealed by subsoi (101)	1	
106	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.12m, max depth 0.61m, min length 2.5m Truncates the fill of [111]. Appears to have a rounded terminal to the SW.	✓	
107	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Animal bone, pottery, hammerscale and slag and an iron horseshoe (RA2) was recovered from this deposit. Sample <5> was taken from this deposit. Below subsoil (101).	✓	✓
108	Make up layer	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium CBM, frequent small stones, moderate medium stones Up to 0.37m thick. CBM left in situ.	✓	
109	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.24m thick. Above subsoil (101)	✓	
110	Make up layer	Friable dark grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Mixed with friable dark brown-grey silty clay with dark grey-black patches, up to 0.15m thick. Below topoil (100) and above layer (103).	✓	
111	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.98m, max depth 0.13m, min length 4.5m Truncated by ditch [106].	✓	
112	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Truncated by [106].	✓	



Max Dimensions: Length: 32.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.12 m. Max: 0.44 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88288: *Northing:* 26781)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88267: *Northing:* 26759)

Reason: To investigate a possible house platform shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds I	Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.30m thick. Truncated by ditch [207].	V	
201	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.45m thick. Truncated by ditches [216] and [218]. Seals fills of ditches [203], [205] and [212].	~	
202	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones		
203	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.13m, max depth 0.32m, min length 2.m	✓	
204	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Below subsoil (201). Contains a very small quantity of pottery.	\checkmark	✓
205	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.22m, max depth 0.38m, min length 2.m Earlier form of boundary.	✓	
206	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Truncated by ditch [207].	\checkmark	
207	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 3.36m, max depth 0.56m, min length 2.m Truncates fill of ditch [205] and topsoil (200).	\checkmark	
208	Lower fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.24m thick.	\checkmark	
209	Backfill	Friable mid red brown sandy silt $$ moderate small-medium stones $$ Up to $0.32m$ thick.	✓	
210	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.06m, max depth 0.32m, min length 2.5m Earlier boundary, truncated by [212].	✓	
211	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones Fill truncated by [212]. Contains a small quantity of pottery.	\checkmark	✓
212	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.28m, min length 2.m Truncates fill of ditch [210]. Defined terminal in the south.	✓	
213	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Sealed by subsoil (201).	\checkmark	
214	Posthole	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.31m Relationship with (201) and (220) uncertain.	✓	
215	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay moderate small stones	✓	
216	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.54m, max depth 0.2m, min length 2.m Earlier form of ditched boudary. Truncates subsoil (201).	✓	
217	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Truncated by ditch [218].	~	
218	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.78m, max depth 0.54m, min length 2.m Truncates fill of ditch [216].	✓	
219	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Below layer (220).	\checkmark	



Max Dimensions: Length: 32.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.12 m. Max: 0.44 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 88288: Northing: 26781)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88267: *Northing:* 26759)

Reason: To investigate a possible house platform shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
220	Make up layer	Friable mid red brown clay silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate flecks mortar, moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones Up to 0.16m thick. Relationship with [214] uncertal Above fill (219) of ditch [218]. Below (222). Contains animal bone, CBM, pottery and an iron nail (RA10).	✓ ✓ in.
221	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-large CBM, frequent flecks charcoal, occasional small-large stones Up to 0.09m thick. Below (22 and above (220). Contains animal bone, CBM, fired clay, shell, iron nails ar an iron pitchfork (RA15). Sample <2> was taken from this deposit.	· ·
222	External surface	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-large stones Up to 0.22m thick. Cobbles up 200mm x 110mm x 90mm in size. Above (220) and below (223). Contains animal bone, CBM and pottery.	✓ ✓
223	Dump material	Friable dark grey black sandy silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-large stones Moderate patches of mid-yellov brown sandy gravel. Up to 0.29m thick. Cobbles up to 270mm x 260mm x 90mm in size. Below (200) and above (222). CBM left in situ.	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.17 m. Max: 0.42 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 88288: Northing: 26771)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88297: *Northing:* 26733)

Reason: To investigate a possible house platform shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.28m thick.	✓	
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones $$ Up to 0.3m thick. A coin (RA4) was recovered from this deposit.	V	✓
302	Natural	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones		
303	Internal surface	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-large CBM, frequent smal large stones Contains patches of mid-yellow-brown sandy gravel. Stones up to 120mm x 60mm x 50mm in size. Up to 0.07m thick. Contains animal bone, CBM, pottery, vessel glass, iron nails, fuel ash slag and hammerscale. A pewter spoon (RA16) was recovered from this deposit. Sample <1> was take from this deposit. Below internal surface (312).	,	✓
304	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.10m thick. Contains CBM, pottery, slag, an iron buckle (RA7) and iron nails (RA8). Below topsoil (301) and above internal surface (312).	✓	✓
305	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.22m thick. Below topsoil (300) and above subsoil (301).	✓	
306	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.04m thick. Below topsoil (300) and above subsoil (301). Contains a copper alloy rumbler bell (RA1), iron nails (RA3), a washe (RA5) and an iron spine (RA6).	✓	V
307	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 4.63m, max depth 0.72m, min length 2.m Truncates subsoil (301). May continue as [505] to the SW.	✓	
308	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Truncated by ditch [309]. Contains animal bone, pottery and iron nails including a shoeing nai (RA9).	✓	✓
309	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.75n min depth 0.28m, min length 2.m Truncates fill of ditch [307]. May continu as [505] to the SW.	*	
310	Fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones Below external surface (311).	✓	
311	External surface	Loose dark brown grey silty gravel occasional small-medium CBM, moderate large stones Gravel up to 50mm in diameter. Large cobbles up to 180mm x 120mm x 70mm in size. Up to 0.07m thick. Above fill of ditch [309]. CBM left in situ.	✓	
312	Internal surface	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent large CBM, frequent large stones, moderate small-medium stones Stones up to 290mm x 210mm x 100mm in size. Up to 0.10m thick. Below layer (304) and above internal surface (303). CBM left in situ.	, v	
314	External surface	Friable mid grey brown clay silt frequent small-large stones Cobbles up to 180mm x 140mm x 80mm in size. Up to 0.10m thick. Contains animal bone, CBM, plaster and iron nails including a shoeing nail (RA11). Sample <6> was taken from this deposit.	✓	V



Max Dimensions: Length: 33.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.04 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88300: *Northing:* 26720)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 88304: Northing: 26690*)

Reason: To investigate earthworks and the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.18m thick.	✓	
401	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones Up to 0.36m thick. Below internal surface (403), truncated by ditches [414] and [418].	✓	
402	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay occasional small-large stones with patches of mid-yellow-grey clay.		
403	Internal surface	Loose mid yellow brown sandy gravel Gravel up to 10mm diameter. Up to 0.06m thick.	· •	
404	Make up layer	Firm mid blue grey clay Up to 0.14m thick.	✓	
405	Make up layer	Loose dark grey brown silty gravel Stones up to 10mm diameter. Up to 0.08m thick.	✓	
406	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.69m, max depth 0.16m, min length 2.5m Truncates fill of ditch [408].	V	
407	Fill	Firm dark grey silty clay moderate small-large CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, moderate flecks sand, moderate small-large stones Below layer (420). Contains CBM, pottery, shell, iron nails (RA13) and a whetstone (RA19).		✓
408	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: convex base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.85m max depth 0.49m, min length 2.5m ?Truncates subsoil (401).	, V	
409	Fill	Firm light green grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Truncated by ditch [406]. Contains animal bone, CBM, pottery and vessel glass. Sample <3> was taken from this deposit.	✓	✓
410	Make up layer	Loose dark grey brown silty gravel Gravel up to 10mm diameter. Up to 0.06m thick.	✓	
411	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow orange sand moderate small stones Up to 0.17m thick.	✓	
412	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.51m, max depth 0.16m, min length 2.5m Truncates fill of ditch [414].	✓	
413	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay moderate small-large CBM, occasional small-medium stones Frequent patches of black silt and mid-yellow sand. Below layer (410). Contains CBM, pottery and mortar.		✓
414	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.91m, max depth 0.38m, min length 2.5m Truncates subsoil (401).	✓	
415	Fill	Firm light green grey silty clay moderate small-medium stones Truncated by ditch [412] and sealed by layer (410). Contains animal bone and pottery.	✓	✓
416	Make up layer	Loose dark grey brown silty gravel $\;$ Small stones up to 10mm across. Up to 0.08m thick.	✓	
417	Make up layer	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent small-large stones Stones up to 130mm x 110mm x 90mm in size. Up to 0.09m thick. Contains CBM and ironails. Below topsoil (400) and above fill of ditch [418].	n	✓
418	Ditch	Linear E-W sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: min breadth 1.m, min depth 0.72m, min length 2.m Truncates subsoil (401).	✓	
419	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Below layer (417). Contains CBM, pottery and shell.	✓	✓



Max Dimensions: Length: 33.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.04 m. Max: 0.34 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88300: *Northing:* 26720)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 88304: Northing: 26690*)

Reason: To investigate earthworks and the archaeological potential of the site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	ent:
420	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, moderate smal medium stones Up to 0.11m thick. Below layer (405) and above fill of ditcl [406].		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.7 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88269: *Northing:* 26748)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88283: *Northing:* 26721)

Reason: To Investigate a field boundary shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.34m thick.	✓	
501	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small stones Up to 0.46m thick. Truncated by ditch [505] and seals fill of ditch [508].	✓	
502	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk, occasional small medium stones		
503	Natural interface	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.18m thick. Below subsoil (501). Contains a very small quantity of animal bone.	~	✓
504	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks chalk, moderate small-medium stones Up to 0.18m thick. Below topsoil (500) and above subsoil (501).	✓	
505	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 3.01m, min depth 0.4m min length 2.m Profile not fully exposed. Truncates subsoil (501). May continue as [307] / [309] to the NE.	m, 🗸	
506	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Sealed by topsoil (500).		
508	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.44m, max depth 0.29m, min length 2.m	✓	
509	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones Below subsoil (501).	✓	



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 40.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.22 m. Max: 0.56 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88280: *Northing:* 26698)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting:* 88257: *Northing:* 26665)

Reason: To investigate a field boundary shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small stones Up to 0.30m thick	χ. ✓	
601	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones Up to 0.45m thick. Truncated by ditch [607] and seals fill of ditches [603] and [605].	~	
602	Natural	Firm light orange brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones with patches of blue-grey clay.		
603	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.79m, max depth 0.24m, min length 2.m	✓	
604	Fill	Firm mid green grey silty clay occasional small stones Sealed by subsoil (601). Sample <4> was taken from this deposit.	✓	
605	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.93m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.m	✓	
606	Fill	Firm mid green grey silty clay occasional small stones Sealed by subsoil (601).	✓	
607	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: steep dimensions: max breadth 3.16m, min depth 0.84m, min length 2.m Truncates subsoil (601).	✓	
608	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones	✓	
609	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 2.98m, max depth 0.6m, min length 2.m Truncates fill of ditch [607]. This feature is visible in the landscape as a marked linear depression.	✓	
610	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium stones Sealed by topsoi (600).	1	



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.14 m. Max: 0.28 m.

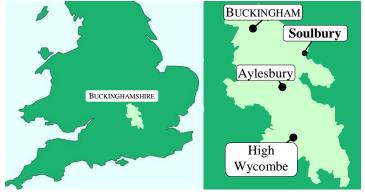
Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 88320: Northing: 26707)

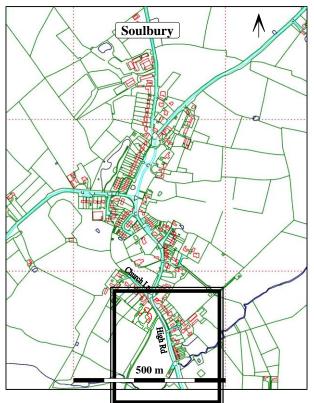
OS Grid Ref.: SP (*Easting: 88321: Northing: 26697*)

Reason: To investigate a possible house platform shown on the 1769 Manorial plan and earthworks

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones Up to 0.28m thick.	✓	
701	Natural	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-medium stones Truncated by cut [702].		
702	Feature	sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.25m, min length 1.55m Full shape in plan not visible. Truncates geological strata (701).	✓	
703	External surface	Firm mid orange grey silty clay occasional small-large CBM, frequent medium-large stones, occasional small stones Almost exclusively cobbles up to 170mm x 140mm x 80mm in size. Up to 0.13m thick. Contains CBM, pottery, vessel glass, an iron horseshoe (RA17) and a fragment of cast iron plate (RA18).	V	V
704	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow orange sandy gravel occasional small-large CBM, moderate medium stones, occasional large stones Gravel up to 30mm diameter. Up to 0.10m thick. Contains animal bone and CBM.	✓	✓
705	External surface	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-large CBM, frequent small-large stones Mixed pebbles, sub-angular stones and limestone up to 240mm x 160mm x 90mm in size. Up to 0.10m thick. Contains animal bone, pottery and vessel glass. CBM left in situ.	V	V
706	Internal surface	Compact mid yellow brown sandy gravel occasional large stones Gravel up to 30mm diameter, with occasional large stones up to 150mm x 120mm x 80mm in size. Up to 0.08m thick. Sample <7> was taken from this deposit. Sealed by topsoil (700).	· •	







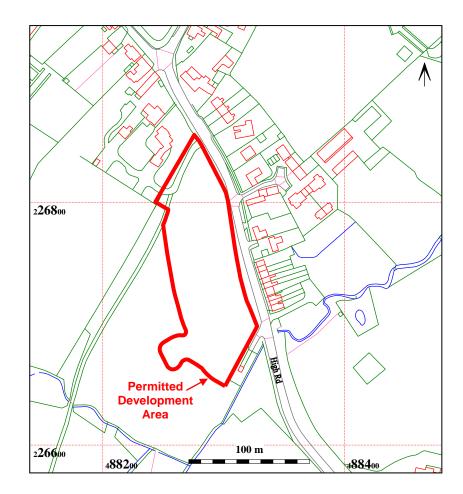


Figure 1: Site location

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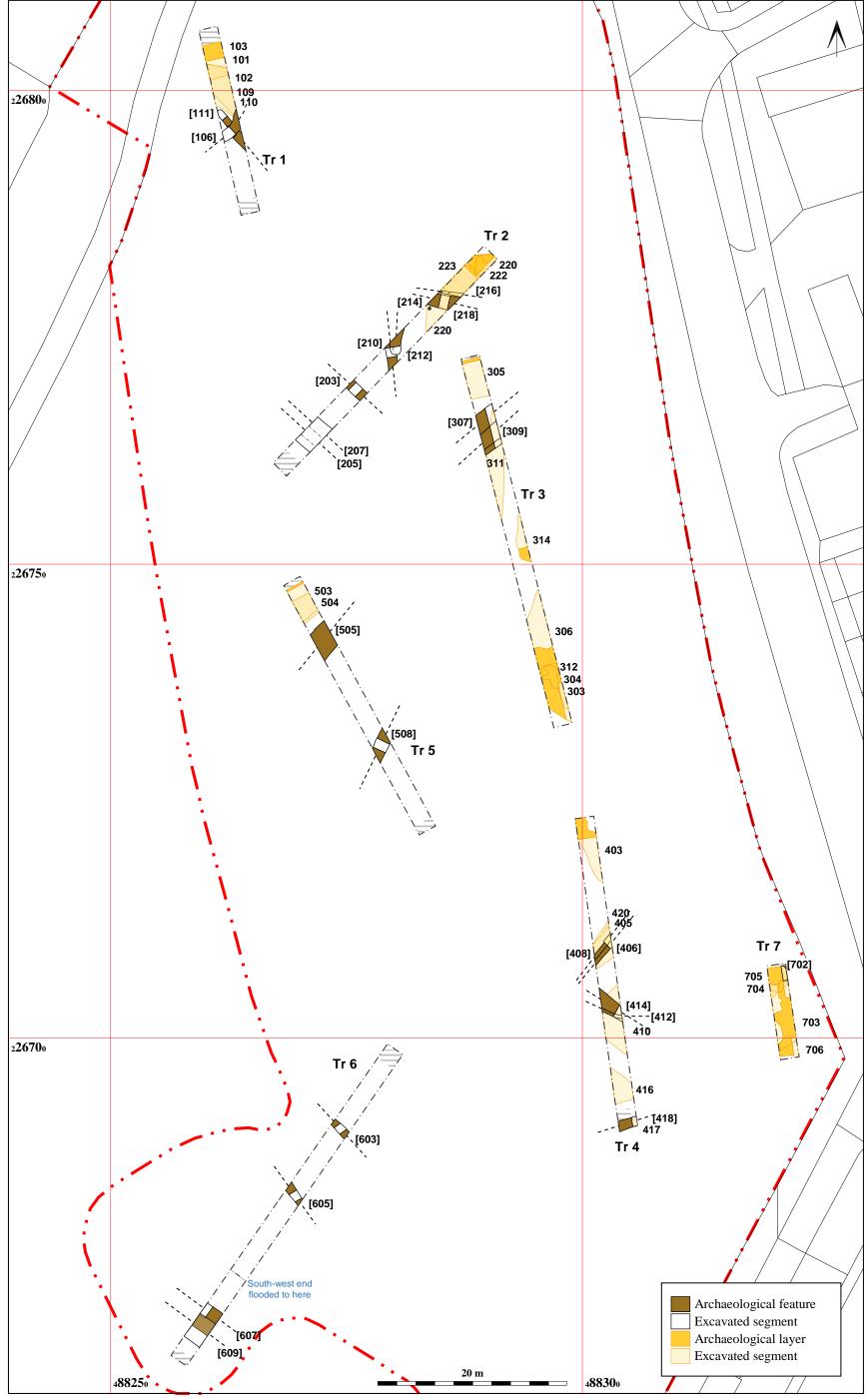


Figure 2: All-features plan

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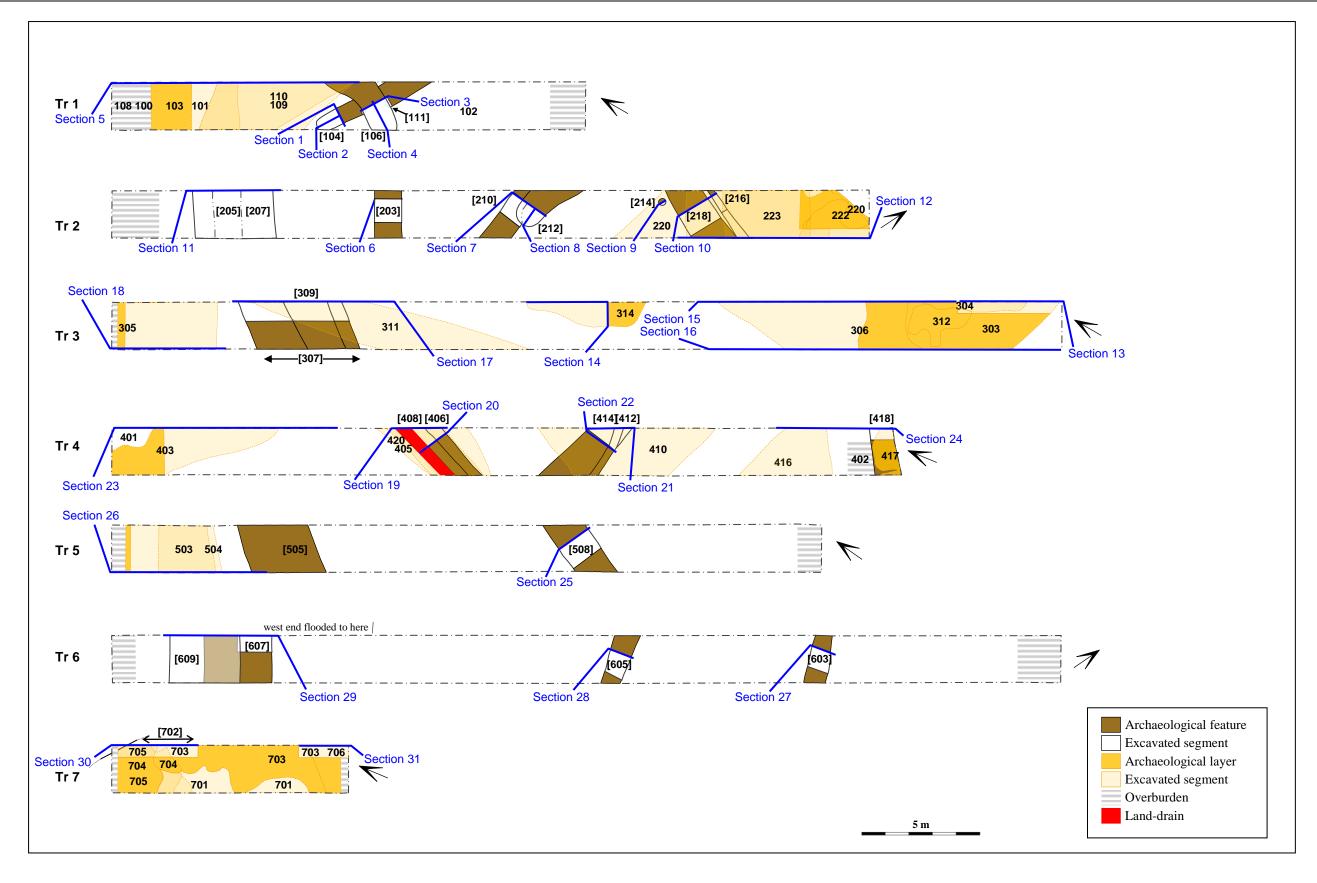
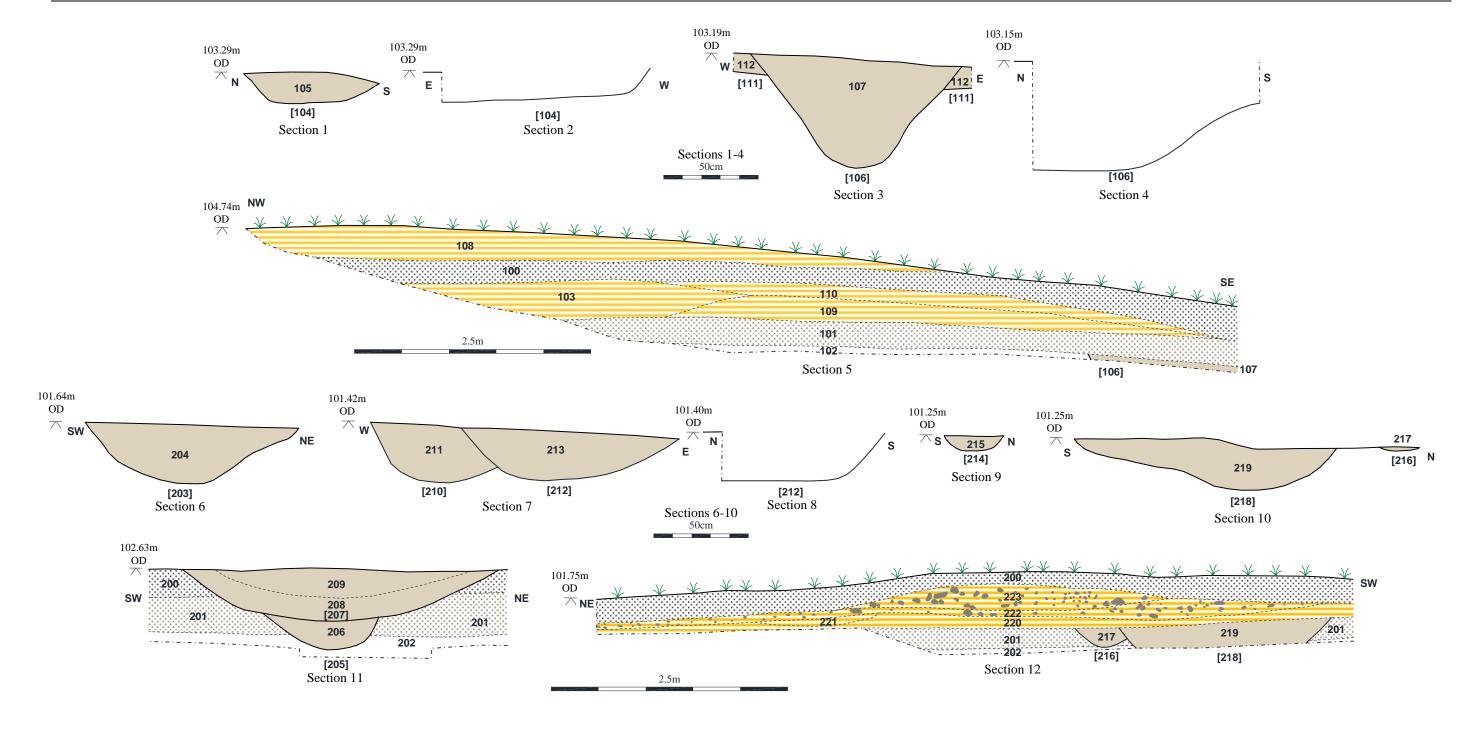


Figure 3: Detailed all-feature plans for each trench

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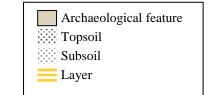
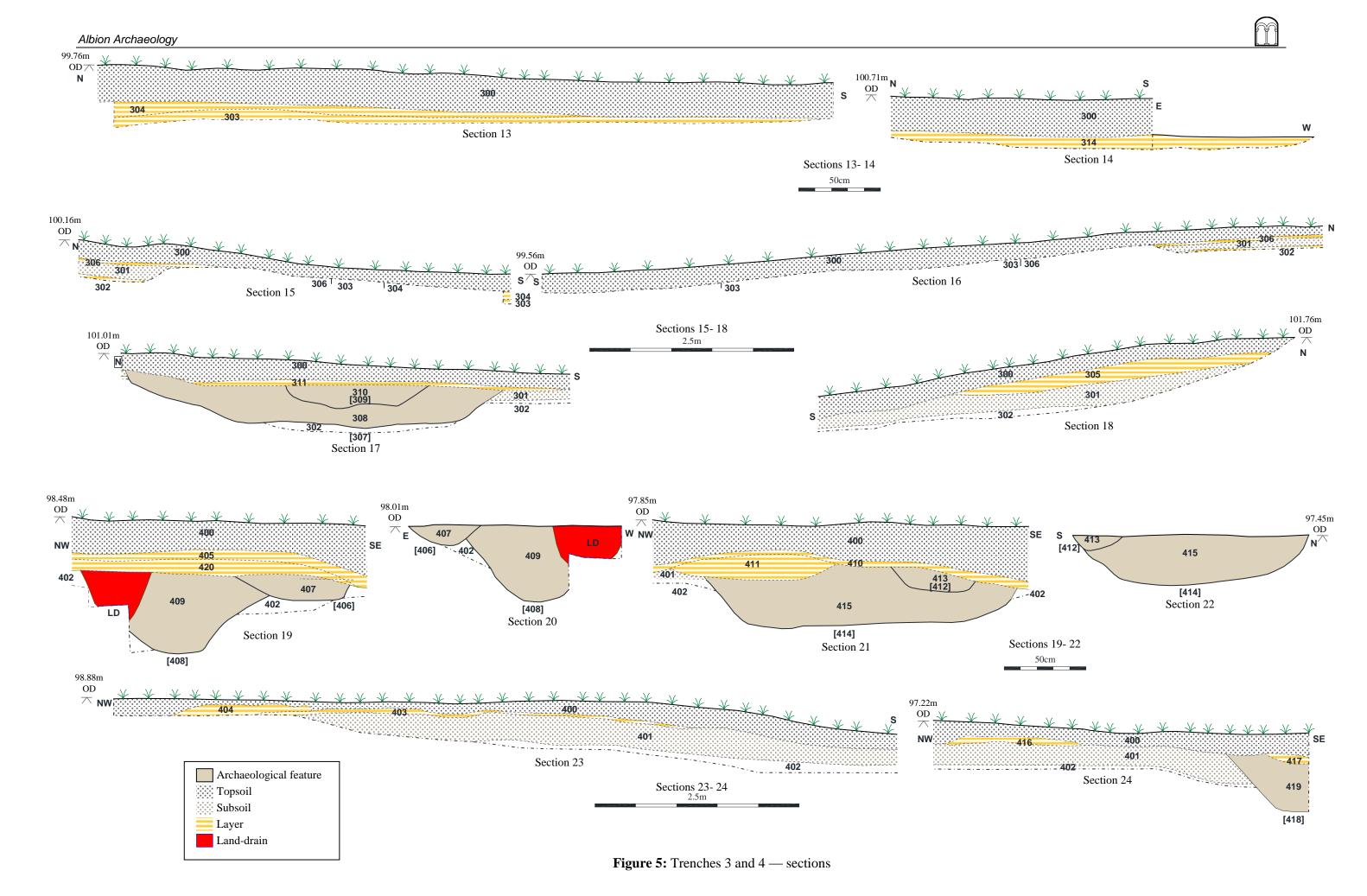


Figure 4: Trenches 1 and 2 — sections





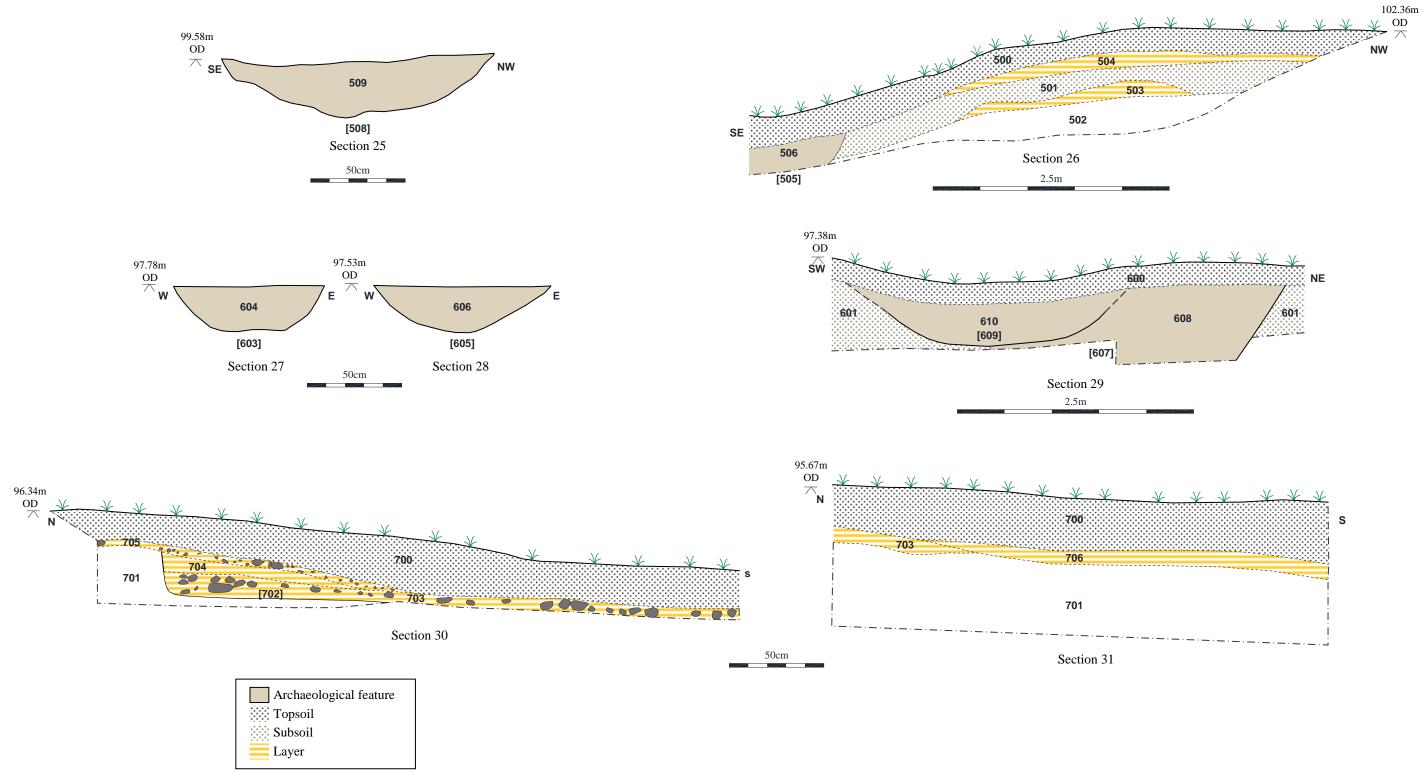


Figure 6: Trenches 5–7 — sections



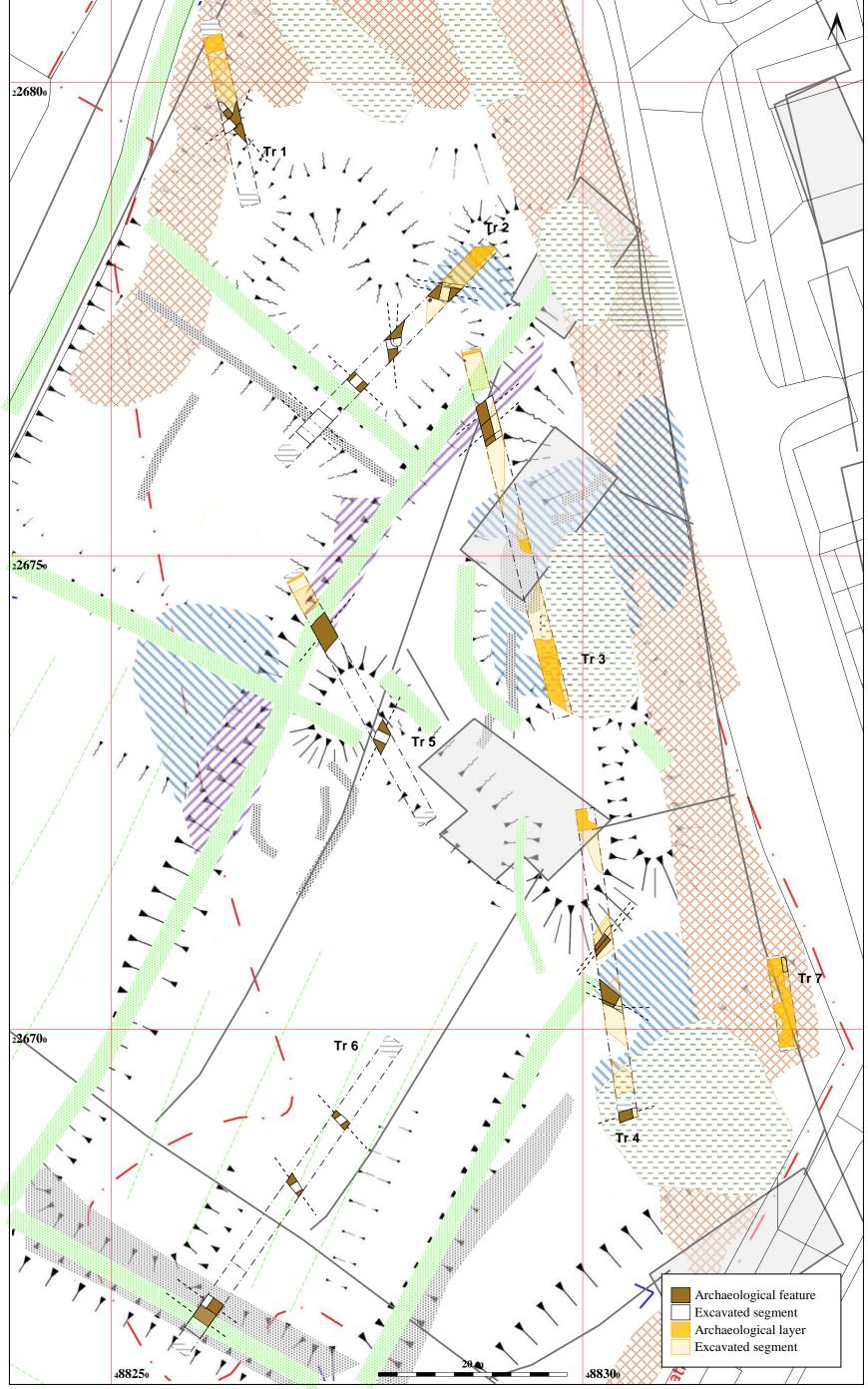


Figure 7: All-features plan overlaid onto 1769 manorial plan, geophysical and topographical surveys and LIDAR data
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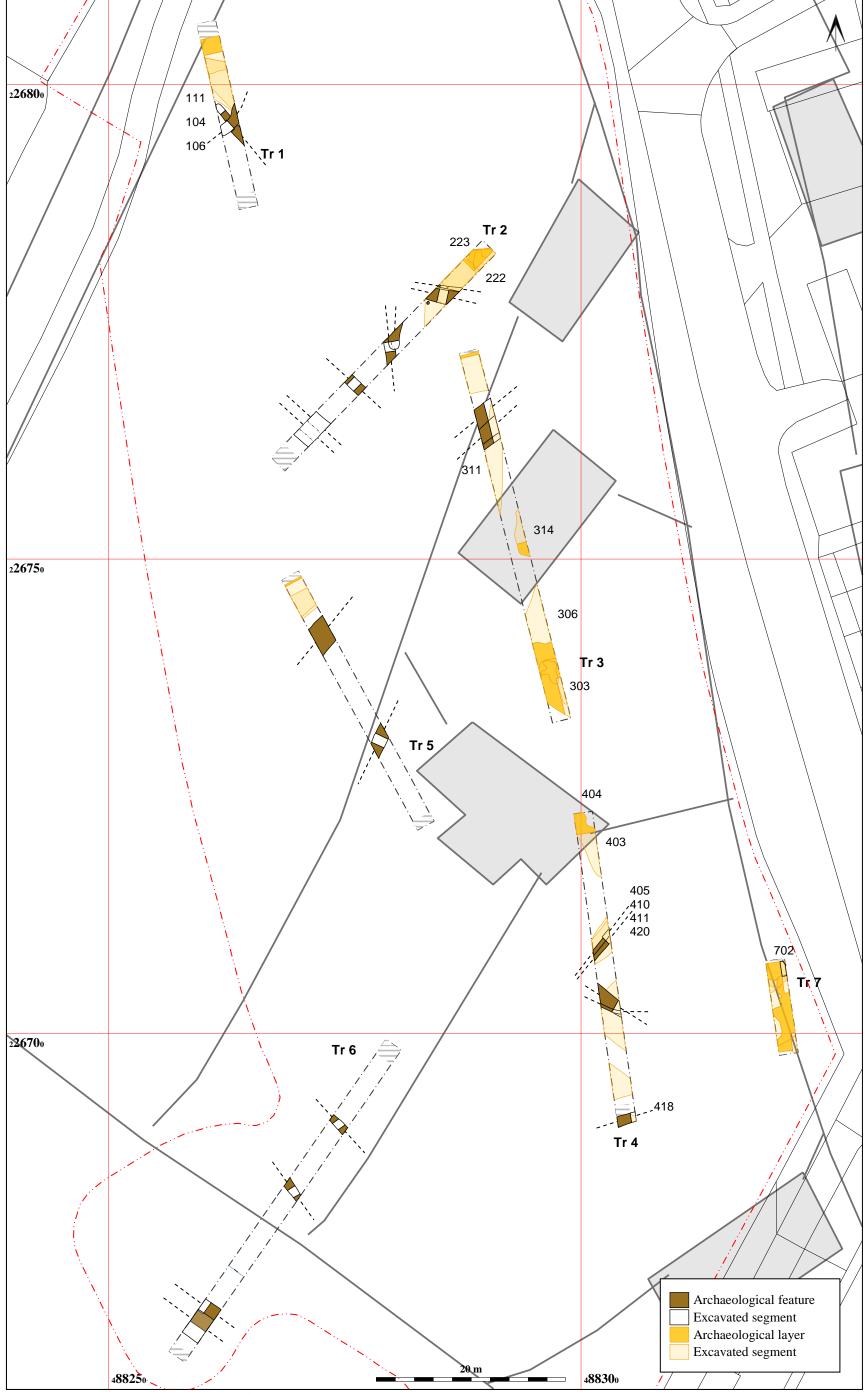


Figure 8: All-features plan overlaid onto 1769 manorial plan

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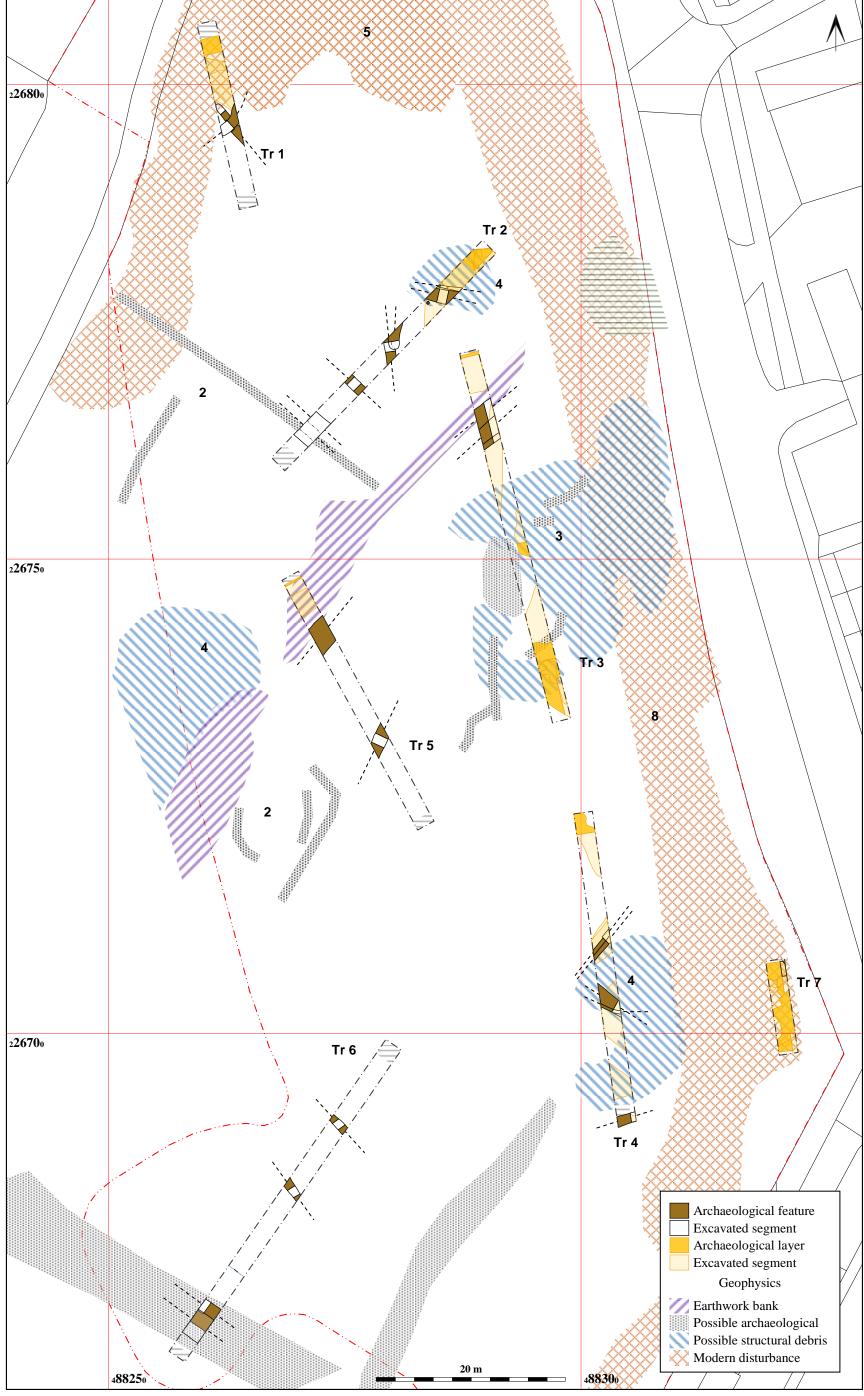


Figure 9: All-features plan overlaid on geophysical survey results

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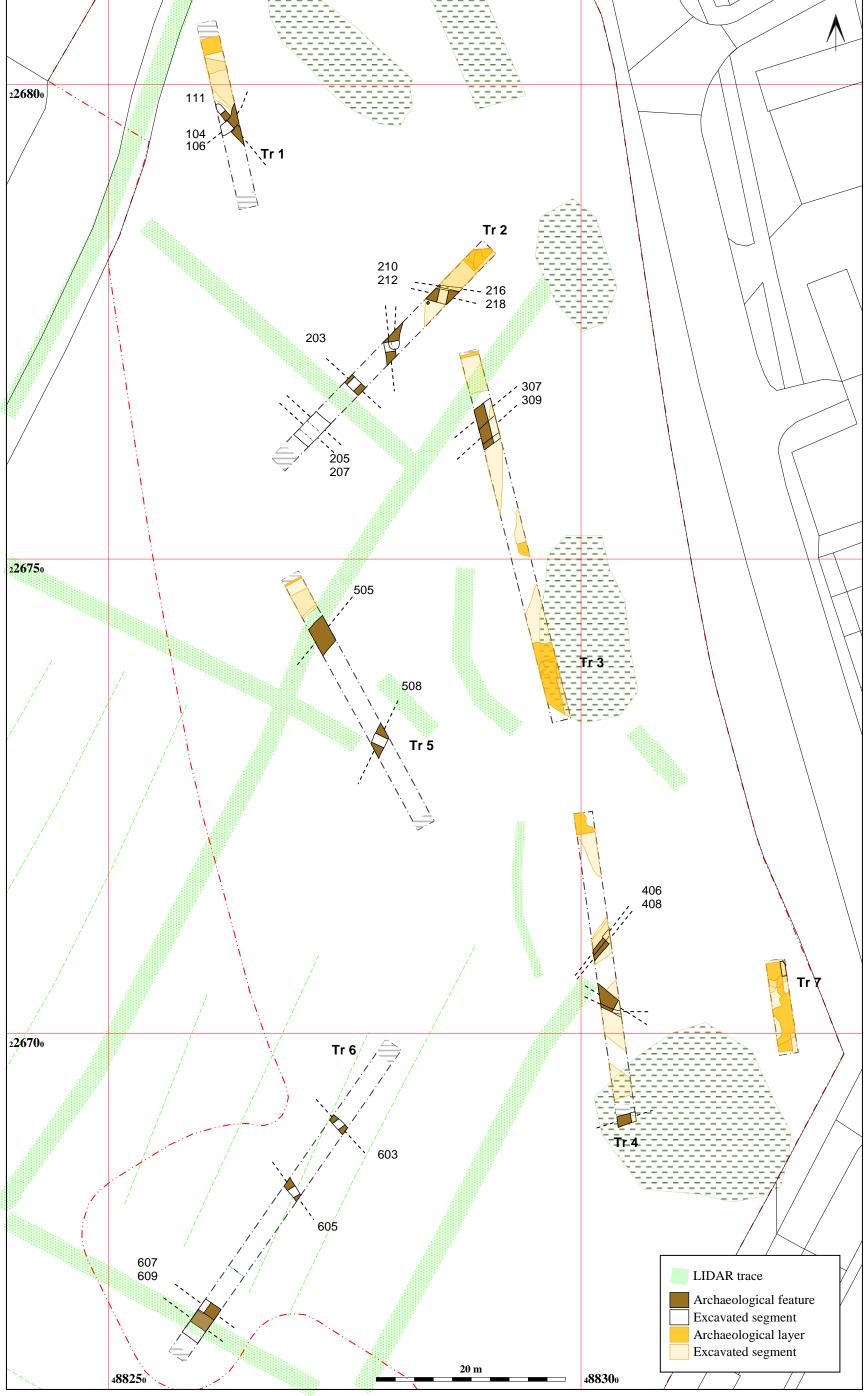


Figure 10: All-features plan overlaid onto LIDAR data

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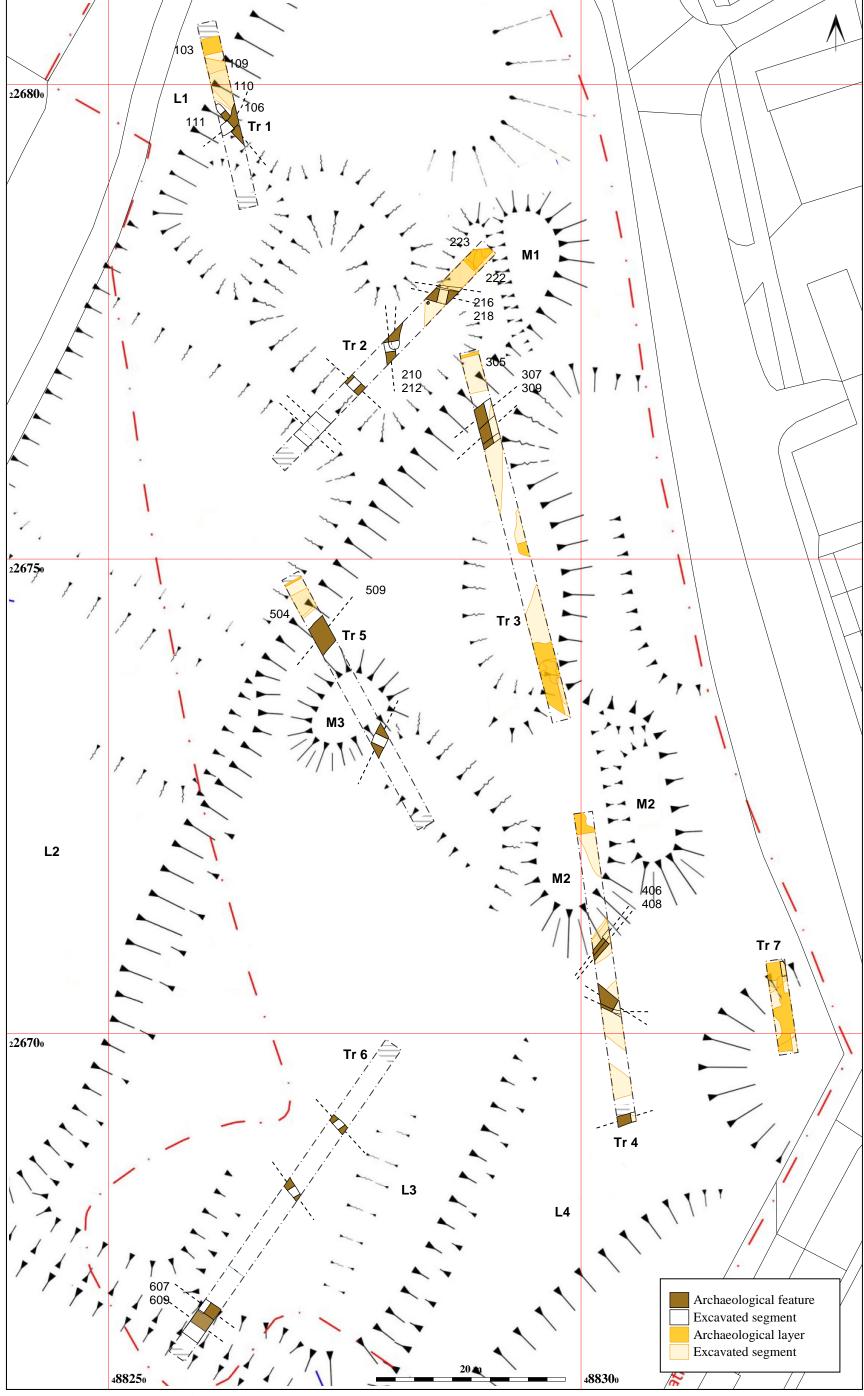


Figure 11: All-features plan overlaid onto archaeological topographical survey

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Trench 1: Ditch terminus section [104]/[106], looking SE, 0.4m scale in 10cm divisions



Trench 2: Baulk section layers (220)–(223), looking SE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 2: Baulk section layers (220)–(223), looking SE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 2: Stone dump (223), looking SW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions

Figure 12: Trenches 1–2: selected images





Trench 2: Ditches [206]/[218] and baulk section with stone surface (222), looking NW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 2: Posthole section [214], looking west, 0.2m scale in 10cm divisions



Trench 2: Baulk section with ditches [205]/[207], looking NW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 2: Ditch section [203], looking NW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions

Figure 13: Trench 2: selected images





Trench 3: Stone surfaces and associated deposits (303)–(304)/(306)/(312), looking NW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 3: Internal surface (312), looking NE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 3: Ditch section [307]/[309] with thin layer (311), looking NE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions

Figure 14: Trench 3: selected images





Trench 4: Internal surface (403), looking NE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 4: Ditches [406]/[408] with land-drain, looking NE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 4: Ditch section [418], looking NE, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 5: Baulk section of terrace L1, looking SW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions

Figure 15: Trenches 4–5: selected images





Trench 6: Ditch and baulk section [607]/[609], looking NW, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 7: Structural cut and stone surfaces [702]/(704)/(705), looking east, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 6: Ditch section [603], looking north, 1m scale in 50cm divisions



Trench 7: Stone surfaces (703)/(706), looking east, 1m scale in 50cm divisions

Figure 16: Trenches 6–7: selected images





View of Trench 1, looking north-west



View of Trench 3, looking south-east



View of Trench 2, looking north-east



View of Trench 4, looking north

Figure 17: General views of Trenches 1–4





View of Trench 5, looking south-east



View of Trench 7, looking south



View of Trench 6, looking south-west



View of Trench 7, looking north

Figure 18: General views of Trenches 5–7





View of site, looking south



View of site, looking south



View of site, looking east



View of site, looking north-east

Figure 19: General views of site







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