

**LAND OFF PARKVIEW LANE
TEBWORTH
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVING**

Albion
archaeology



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Preface

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Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CBM	Ceramic building material
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EBD	Event Bedfordshire
HER	Historic Environment Record
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) granted planning permission (CB/18/03208/OUT) for the demolition of existing stables and construction of a 2–3 bedroom bungalow with off-street car parking at Land off Parkview Lane, Tebworth, LU7 9QG. A subsequent variation (CB/19/00411/VOC) allowed for the removal of Conditions 10 and 12 on the 2018 consent.

As the development could impact on potential below-ground heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that a condition (no.3) should be attached to the 2019 consent requiring a written scheme of archaeological investigation to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare the written scheme of archaeological investigation and to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring, publication and archiving. This report presents the results of the archaeological monitoring.

The archaeological monitoring revealed four archaeological features; two pits, a ditch and a posthole. Whilst recovered brick shows that the posthole was modern, the other features did not contain any dating evidence. The ditch, however, appears to align with earthworks (HER 760) thought to represent deserted medieval settlement, which are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1974 and more recently on Google Earth historic satellite imagery.

Whilst the modern and undated features have negligible significance, the presence of the probable medieval ditch and its relationship with the known earthworks has a modest significance, in that it confirms that sub-surface remains associated with the medieval earthworks (HER 760) do survive. Whilst the lack of deposits associated with buildings or domestic activity suggests that any buildings were outside of the monitored areas, or that the remains have been truncated, the actual footprint of the groundworks was relatively small, meaning that elsewhere in the vicinity remains may survive (as attested by the survival of the ditch).

The project archive will be deposited with The Culture Trust Luton (accession no. LUTNM: 2020/16) and details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-363936).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) granted planning permission (CB/18/03208/OUT) for the demolition of existing stables and construction of a 2–3 bedroom bungalow with off-street car parking at Land off Parkview Lane, Tebworth, LU7 9QG. A subsequent variation (CB/19/00411/VOC) allowed for the removal of Conditions 10 and 12 on the 2018 consent.

As the development could impact on potential below-ground heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised that the following condition (no.3) should be attached to the 2019 consent:

No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI); that includes provision for post excavation analysis and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved archaeological scheme.

Reason: This condition is pre-commencement as a failure to secure appropriate archaeological investigation in advance of development would be contrary to paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets affected by development before they are lost (wholly or in part). Section 15, NPPF).

The CBCA initially advised that the archaeological work should comprise a strip, map and sample excavation, followed by post-excavation analysis, publication and archiving. After reviewing the extent of groundworks, it was agreed with the CBCA that the works would instead comprise archaeological monitoring, publication and archiving, which was consistent with the level of potential impact. This approach is in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, issued on 24th July 2018 (and subsequently reissued on 19th February 2019¹).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2019) required by the condition and to carry out the programme of archaeological monitoring, publication and archiving agreed with the CBCA. This report presents the results of the archaeological monitoring.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, Available at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.



1.2 Site Location and Description

Tebworth is a small village in the parish of Chalgrave in the south-west of Central Bedfordshire. The parish also includes the settlements of Chalgrave, Wingfield and parts of Hockliffe. The western parish boundary is defined by the Roman road of Watling Street, 1.3km to the west of Tebworth.

The permitted development area (PDA) lies to the south-east of Parkview Lane in the southern part of the village just outside Tebworth Conservation Area (Figure 1). It is centred on OS grid reference SP 9924 2663 and is c.0.12ha in extent. It is bounded to the south-west by modern development and to the north-east by open farmland. The PDA was formerly part of a larger area used for the keeping, grazing, riding and working of horses, including a paddock, stables and storage.

Tebworth lies on undulating hilly ground at the southern foot of the Greensand Ridge at the start of the clay vale between the Greensand Ridge and the Chilterns to the south. The underlying bedrock is Gault Formation Mudstone and the superficial deposit is Oadby Member Diamicton, which formed as glacial till deposits (British Geological Survey 2017). The PDA stands on approximately level ground at a height of c.133m OD.

1.3 Description of Development Works

The permitted development comprised the demolition of existing stables and construction of a bungalow with off-street car parking and access from Parkview Lane, along with associated services.

1.4 Archaeological Background

During preparation of the WSI a search of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) was carried out for all heritage assets within a 500m-radius study area around the PDA (ref.: 201920/106). To date, there have been few archaeological investigations within Tebworth, reflecting the limited amount of modern development.

Tebworth is first mentioned in a charter dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. In 926, King Athelstan confirmed to the thegn, Ealdred, the purchase of 5 hides of land at Chalgrave (*Cealhgræfan*) and Tebworth (*Teobbanwyrþe*), which he had bought 'from the heathen', most likely a Danish landowner (Page 1912). The mention of Tebworth at this time does not necessarily indicate the existence of a settlement corresponding to the modern village, as the charter was concerned with a landholding or estate. The name Tebworth means 'Teobba's enclosure' in Old English (Mawer and Stenton 1926, 118). Tebworth is not mentioned in Domesday Book (1086), as the holding would have been recorded as part of the manor of Chalgrave. The HER contains no records dated to the Anglo-Saxon period from the study area.

In terms of the PDA, the most significant archaeological remains within the study area relate to the medieval period. The PDA lies within an area of former medieval settlement earthworks (HER 760), which represent elements of the inferred extent of the medieval village (HER 16876). Some form individual plots, whilst others seem to overlie ridge and furrow in places,



suggesting that the village expanded over adjoining common fields and subsequently contracted again.

In 1988, an archaeological watching brief (EBD 817) was to be carried out during development works on the eastern side of Wingfield Road, to the south of the PDA. The development lay within the area covered by HER 760 but the works were done before any archaeological monitoring was in place.

In 2015, archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of the south-eastern stable block within the PDA did not identify any archaeological features or artefacts (EBD 817); however, the archaeological horizon was not reached in some areas of the site.

The study area contains relatively few records relating to the prehistoric or Roman periods. However, this may be a reflection of the lack of archaeological fieldwork rather than a genuine absence of sites of those dates.

The majority of heritage assets within the study area mainly date to the post-medieval period; they comprise 17th- to 19th-century cottages, farm buildings, schools, a post-office, timber yard, chapel and public house. The site of a 20th-century saw mill (HER 11970) lies to the south of the PDA. It is not shown on the 1887 25-inch OS map but was mentioned in a 1917 sale catalogue and was still in use as a timber yard in 1983. The Saw Mill Office and Shoulder of Mutton Cottage form two listed, 17th-century timber-framed buildings that lie immediately to the north-west of the PDA.



2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 *Fieldwork Data Collection Aims*

The primary function of the archaeological investigation was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting. Together with the production of this report, that fully describes the archaeological works and findings, this will define the value of the archaeological remains.

To achieve the above, data was collected during the fieldwork with the aim of determining the following:

1. the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the PDA;
2. the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits within the PDA;
3. the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
4. the local environmental conditions (through the recovery of palaeo-environmental remains).

2.2 *Research Strategies*

In addition to the primary aims of the fieldwork, wider research objectives were formulated based upon what archaeological remains were expected and in light of existing research strategies.

Historic England has produced an extensive library of national guides covering a wide range of topics, most of which are available for free download from the Historic England website².

2.2.1 *Regional and county-based strategies*

A number of research frameworks have been devised for the region. The earliest comprises *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. resource assessment* (Glazebrook 1997). This was complemented by *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. research agenda and strategy* (eds Brown and Glazebrook 2000), which set out research priorities.

These documents were reviewed and revised in *Revision of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region* (eds Medlycott and Brown 2008). Finally, the regional research framework was again reviewed and augmented in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (ed. Medlycott 2011).

In addition to these regionally focussed documents, work has also specifically been done on the county of Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al. 2007).

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/advice-and-guidance/>



2.3 Project Research Objectives

The proposed development had the potential to reveal archaeological remains associated, in particular, with the medieval settlement of Tebworth.

The village is likely to have existed by the late Anglo-Saxon period and there are extensive medieval settlement and ridge-and-furrow earthworks. The PDA was located in the southern part of the medieval settlement where expansion and contraction in relation to the surrounding fields seems to have taken place.

The research framework for Bedfordshire states that in general few medieval rural settlements have been investigated in the county. It stresses the potential for acquiring information about the origins, diversity and development of villages from within or around the edges of existing settlements (Oake 2007, 14). In addition, characterisation of settlement forms, understanding how they grow, shift and disappear is of local and regional importance (Oake 2007, 14 and Medlycott 2011, 70).

The research objectives outlined in this section were not exclusive and were reviewed through the archaeological monitoring to maintain their relevance.



3. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological monitoring took place over four visits between 28th September and 24th October 2020. Groundworks monitored included building foundation trenches, two soakaways and a service trench (Figure 2).

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator, operated by an experienced driver, and all work was inspected by an experienced Albion Archaeology staff member in consultation with the CBCA. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and recorded as appropriate using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 1. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***)

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 ed., 2017).
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law</i> (2014); <i>Code of conduct</i> (2019)
	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> (2020)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2020)
• EAA	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2015)
• Historic England	Archaeology Guidelines and Standards ³ ;
	<i>The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide</i> (2015)
• Luton Culture	<i>Procedures for preparing archaeological archives for deposition with Luton Culture</i> (2013)

³ Historic England guidelines on a number of specialist fields and materials, including environmental archaeology, are available at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/advice-and-guidance/>.



4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

Archaeological features and deposits found during the archaeological monitoring are described below and shown in Figure 2. Works monitored included foundation trenches associated with construction of the bungalow, which were 0.6m wide by 2.5–3m deep; two soakaways 2.5m square by 2.5m deep; and a 0.3m-wide service trench.

Detailed contextual information on all deposits and features can be found in Appendix 1.

4.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

Within the foundation trenches the overburden varied in its constituent layers, although it remained very consistent in total depth. At the north-west end of the PDA, a *c.*0.15m-thick modern make-up layer (1) overlay intermittent grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (5) and orange-brown silt-clay subsoil (6), to a total thickness of *c.*0.3–0.4m. Along the north-east edge a *c.*0.1m-thick, loose black tarmac shingle (9) overlay the topsoil, which was *c.*0.1m thick in this area and sealed a *c.*0.2m-thick subsoil. Finally, along the southern length, a *c.*0.05m-thick layer of modern make-up overlay topsoil and subsoil.

Overburden in the location of the two soakaways comprised a *c.*0.2m-thick topsoil, overlying a *c.*0.25m-thick subsoil.

At the north-west of the PDA in the location of the service trench, a modern make-up layer (14) was observed to a depth of *c.*0.3m.

The undisturbed geology (2) was generally a mix of orange sandy gravel and orange-grey clay.

4.3 Archaeological Features

Four archaeological features were identified during the monitoring of the foundation trenches; two potential pits, a posthole and a ditch.

In the north-west corner of the foundation trenches, two pits were identified. The deeper of the two, pit [3], was *c.*0.85m in diameter by *c.*0.7m deep, with 45° sides and a flat base. Due to the limited dimensions of the trench, its shape in plan was not clear. Pit [7] was *c.*1.1m in diameter by *c.*0.5m deep with a circular shape, concave profile and a yellow-grey clay-silt fill. The pits were cut directly into the natural geology, with only modern make-up layer (1) overlying them. No finds were present in the pits.

At the south-east extent of the foundation trenches a NE–SW aligned ditch [10]/[12] was identified. It was 0.7–1.9m wide and *c.*0.4m deep, with a U-shaped profile and a grey-brown clay-silt fill. The ditch truncated the subsoil (6) and was overlain by modern topsoil. No finds were present.



A single, modern post-hole [15] was identified in the *c.*6m-long service trench. It was *c.*0.3m in diameter and remained unexcavated. Modern brick fragments were identified in the grey-brown clay-silt fill and were not retained.



5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 *Summary of Results*

The archaeological monitoring revealed four archaeological features; two pits, a ditch and a posthole. Whilst the recovered brick shows that the posthole was modern, the other features did not contain any dating evidence.

The ditch truncated the subsoil, which in rural areas such as this often represents medieval ploughsoil, potentially suggesting the ditch itself is of medieval or later date. More significantly, the ditch appears to align with earthworks (HER 760) thought to represent medieval settlement remains (Coleman 1986, 27), visible on aerial photographs taken in 1974 (Coleman 1986, Plate 2) and more recently on Google Earth historic satellite imagery (Figure 3). Coleman (1984, 27, 61) suggests that the earthworks represent house platforms and closes.

It is likely, therefore, that this ditch was associated with the medieval settlement, and judging from the aerial imagery, may have served to define the boundary between a house platform and close. There was no evidence for buildings within the monitored areas, nor were there deposits rich in organic material or finds, which suggests that any previous buildings were located outside of the monitored areas, or that any sub-surface remains have subsequently been truncated. The two pits may also have been associated with the medieval settlement, but other than their location within it, there is no evidence with which to confirm this.

5.2 *Conclusions*

Of the four archaeological features present within the monitored areas, one is likely to be medieval in date, one modern and two undated. Whilst the modern and undated features have negligible significance, the presence of the probable medieval ditch and its relationship with the known earthworks has a modest significance, in that it confirms that sub-surface remains associated with the medieval earthworks (HER 760) do survive. Whilst the lack of deposits associated with buildings or domestic activity suggests that any buildings were outside of the monitored areas, or that the remains have been truncated, the actual footprint of the groundworks was relatively small, meaning that elsewhere in the vicinity remains may survive (as attested by the survival of the ditch).

The project archive will be deposited with The Culture Trust Luton (accession no. LUTNM: 2020/16) and details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-363936).



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7. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARIES

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Make up layer	Friable dark brown grey clay silt moderate small-large CBM. 0.15-0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Natural	Compact mid orange grey clay moderate small-medium stones. Contained lenses of orange sandy gravel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Pit	Oval sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.7m, max diameter 0.85m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Pit	Firm mid brown orange silty clay occasional small stones. 0.7m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt occasional medium-large CBM. 0.1-0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown silty clay . 0.1-0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Pit	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.5m, max diameter 1.1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Pit	Firm mid yellow grey silty clay occasional small stones. 0.5m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Tarmac	Loose dark grey tarmac . 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, max depth 0.4m, max length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Ditch	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones. 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.35m, max length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Ditch	Firm mid grey brown silty clay moderate small stones. 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Demolition layer	Loose mid brown silt frequent small-large CBM, frequent small-large concrete, frequent small-large stones. 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max breadth 0.3m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Posthole	Firm dark brown grey clay silt frequent small-medium CBM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

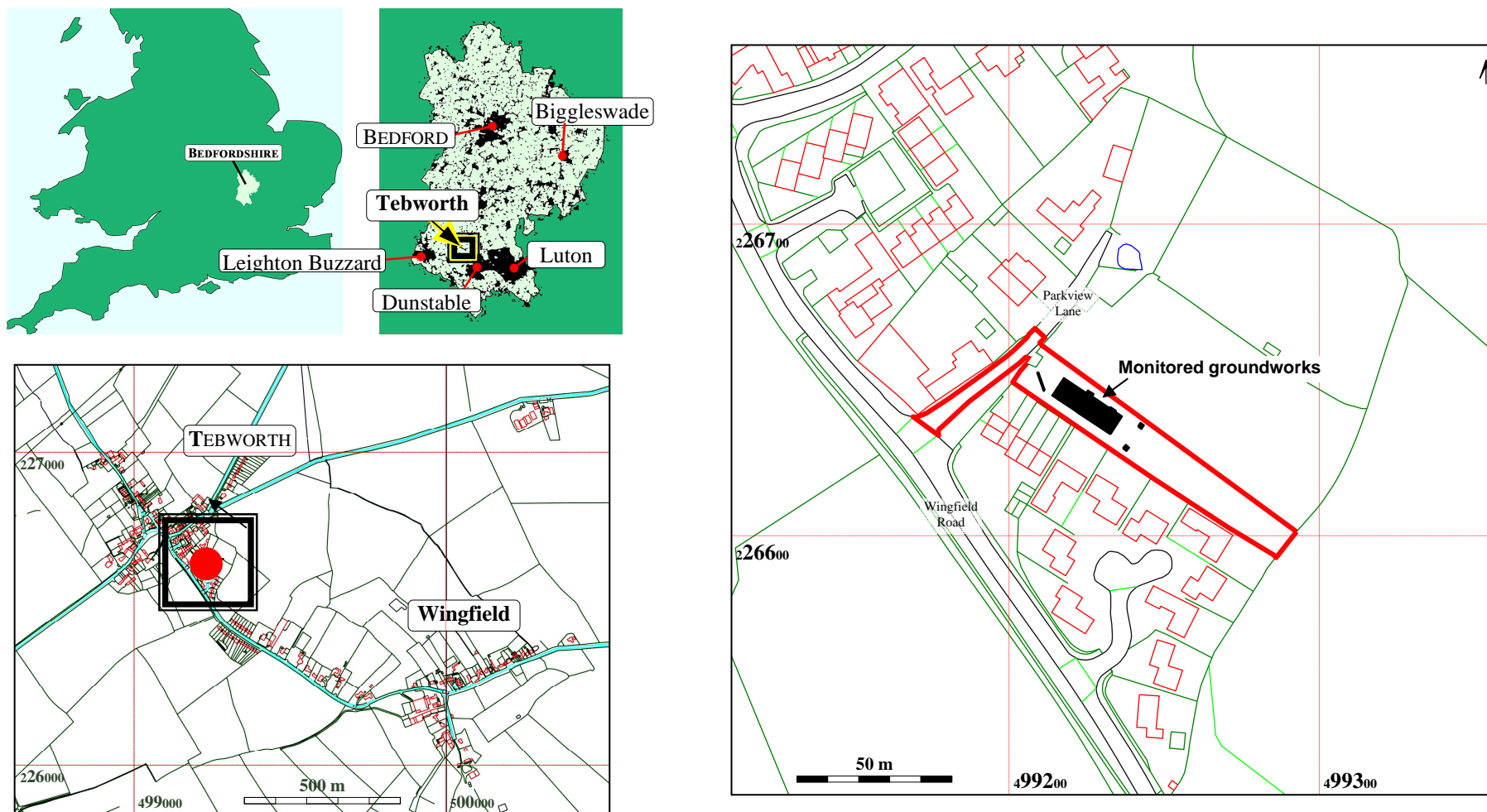
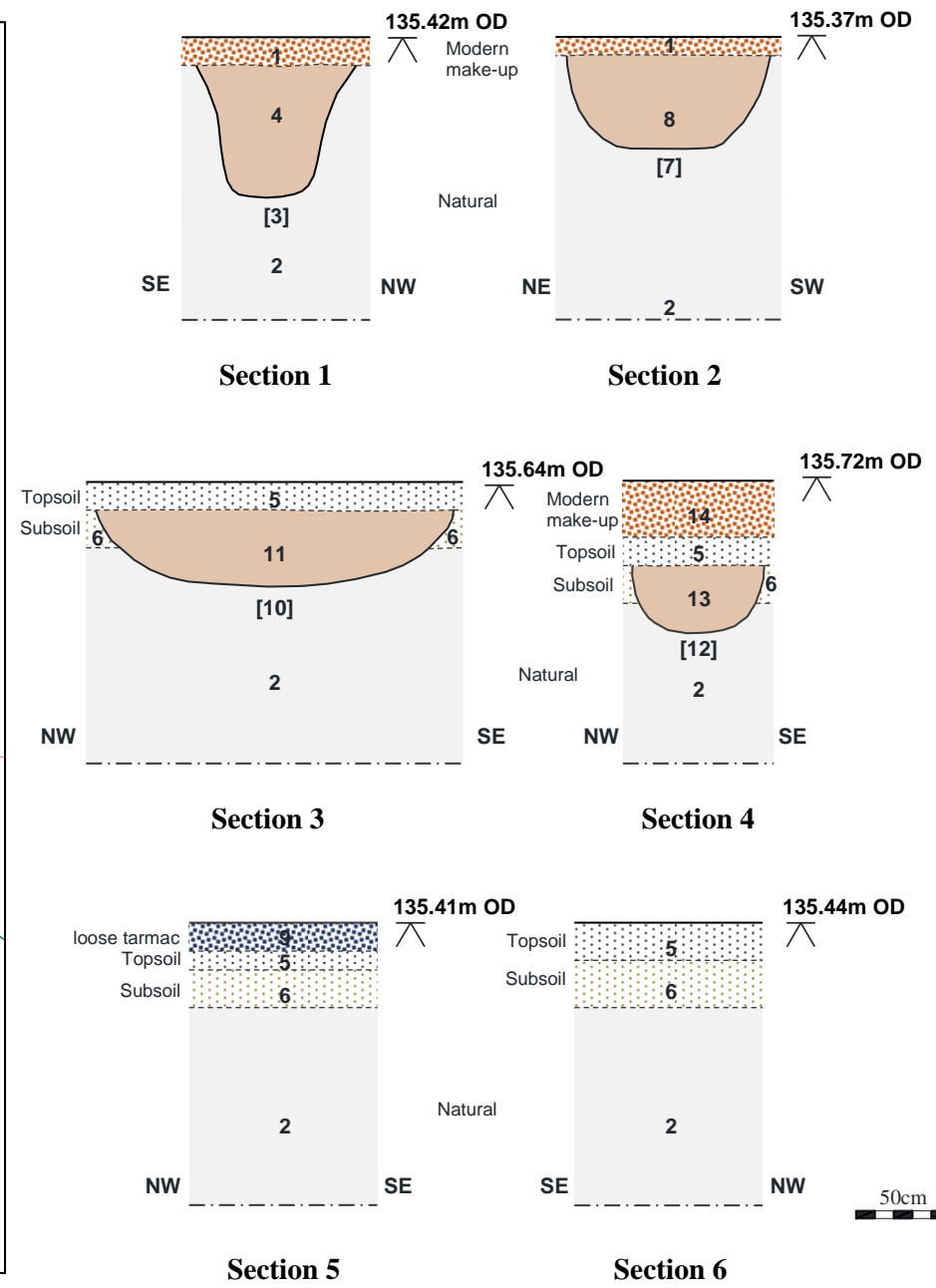
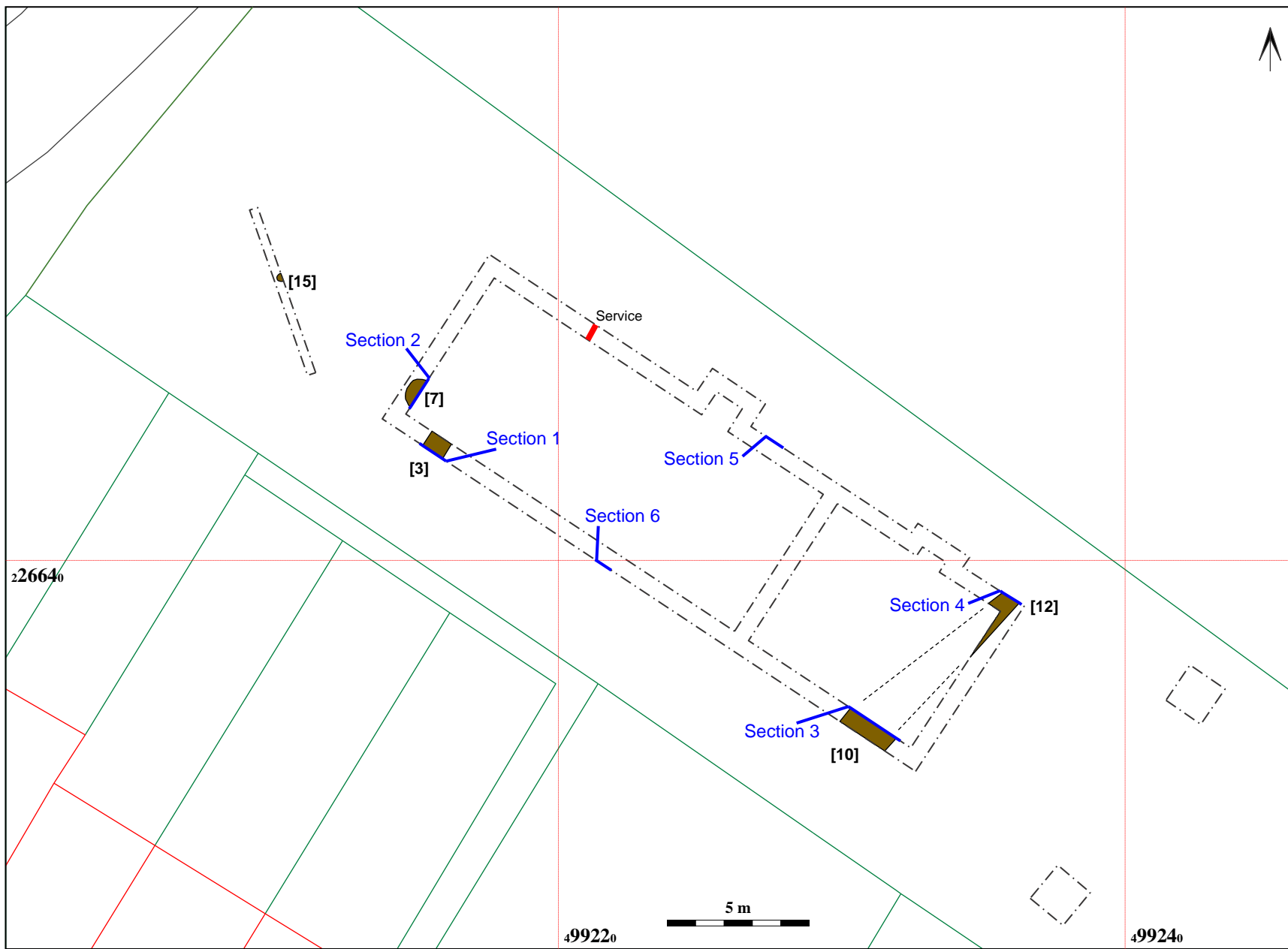


Figure 1: Site location

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Ditch [3]. Scale 1m. Looking SW



Pit [7]. Scale 1m. Looking SE



Ditch [10]. Scale 1m. Looking NE



Ditch [12]. Scale 1m. Looking NE



Pit [15]. Looking NE

Figure 2: All-features plan, sections and photographs

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Figure 3: Site plan with satellite imagery

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