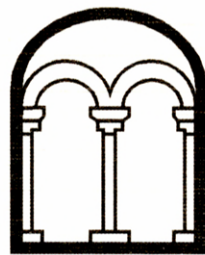


**NORTHDALE END: EMPLOYMENT AREA
RAUNDS
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

Albion
archaeology



**NORTHDALE END: EMPLOYMENT AREA
RAUNDS
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

Project: NE3577
OASIS ref. no.: albionar1-371704
HER event code: ENN109687

Document: 2019/136
Version 1.0

11th December 2019

Compiled by	Edited by	Approved by
Lewis Busby	Iain Leslie	Drew Shotliff

Prepared for:
R Hodgson and Sons Ltd



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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by R Hodgson and Sons Ltd. It was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Lesley-Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council. Fieldwork was undertaken by Lewis Busby (Archaeological Supervisor) and Frederica Mauro (Assistant Archaeological Supervisor).

This report was prepared by Lewis Busby and Iain Leslie (Project Manager) with figures produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

The project was managed by Iain Leslie and Ben Carroll (Project Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 8141
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 E-mail: office@albion-arch.com
 Website: www.albionarchaeology.co.uk

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	11/12/2019	N/A

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CAA	County Archaeological Advisor



CIfA Chartered Institute *for* Archaeologists
Client R Hodgson and Sons Ltd
HER Historic Environment Record
NCC Northamptonshire County Council
PDA Permitted development area
WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

East Northamptonshire Council granted planning permission for a large-scale residential development at Northdale End, Raunds, Northamptonshire.

A suite of archaeological evaluation works was undertaken to support the initial outline application (09/01626/OUT). The results of the evaluation led the County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) to conclude that the permitted development area (PDA) contained significant archaeological remains that required investigation prior to development of the site. Therefore a condition (no. 27) was placed on the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to development of the site.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by R. Hodgson and Sons to carry out the works required within that part of the PDA known as the 'Employment Area'. The CAA's brief required this area to be subject to trial-trench evaluation followed by open-area excavation, if necessary, depending on the results of the evaluation. This report presents the result of the trial-trench evaluation.

The trial-trench evaluation demonstrated that the late Saxon and medieval settlement identified elsewhere within the PDA does not extend into the Employment Area. No archaeological features, other than a tree throw and modern plough scars, were present within the trenches. It may, therefore, be concluded that no remains of archaeological significance are likely to be impacted by development within the Employment Area

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference: albionar1-371704) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service. On approval of this report the project archive will be prepared for deposition with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC) (Event No ENN109687).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

East Northamptonshire Council granted planning permission for a large-scale residential development at Northdale End, Raunds, Northamptonshire.

A suite of archaeological evaluation works was undertaken to support the initial outline application (09/01626/OUT):

- desk-based assessment (Capita Symonds 2009)
- geophysical survey (Bartlett 2010); and
- trial trenching (Phoenix 2010).

The results of the evaluation led the County Archaeological Advisor (CAA) to conclude that the permitted development area (PDA) contained significant archaeological remains that required investigation prior to development of the site. Therefore a condition (no. 27) was placed on the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to development of the site. The CAA issued a brief (NCC 2018) for the work required in that part of the development that lies to the west of Brooks Road.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by R. Hodgson and Sons to carry out the works required to fulfil the CAA's brief within that part of the PDA known as the 'Employment Area' (Figure 1). The CAA's brief required this area to be subject to trial-trench evaluation followed by open-area excavation, if necessary, depending on the results of the evaluation. The work was done in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2019), approved in advance by the CAA. This report presents the result of the trial-trench evaluation.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The PDA is located on the northern edge of Raunds, with the Employment Area representing *c.* 0.9ha at the north-west limit of the PDA (Figure 1). The Employment Area is centred on NGR TL 00000 73708 and is bounded by New Barn Farm to the north, an access track to the west and arable land to the east and south.

The land slopes down gently to the south-east at a height of *c.* 70m OD and was arable land at the time of the fieldwork. The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the Employment Area comprises Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone¹. The drift geology comprises Oadby Member - Diamicton (Boulder Clay), formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. .

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background to the PDA was discussed in the desk-based assessment and the reports on the various stages of previous evaluation. It is

¹<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed: 01/11/19



briefly summarised here. Fieldwork is currently ongoing in other parts of the PDA and preliminary results are briefly included.

The initial desk-based assessment (which covered land to both the west and east of Brooks Road) concluded that the site had low to moderate potential to preserve remains of later prehistoric, Roman and late Saxon date; and moderate to high potential for remains associated with medieval and post-medieval settlement and cultivation.

Subsequent geophysical survey and, in particular, trial trenching confirmed that the remains of former late Saxon and medieval settlement survived within parts of the PDA, while others were devoid of such evidence. However, the CAA cautioned that open-area excavation to the east of Brooks Road had revealed a greater density of remains than suggested by the evaluation (NCC 2018, 4).

Fieldwork in Areas A, B, C, E and F (Figure 2) is currently underway, comprising a mix of trial trenching and open-area excavation. This has revealed late Saxon and medieval settlement remains across the southern and eastern parts of the PDA. The remains within Areas A and E are characterised by ditched enclosures as well as numerous stone buildings, surfaces and trackways. The remains in Areas B, C and F are characterised by dense settlement activity in the form of enclosure ditches, pits and post-holes, as well as two stone-built ovens.

The westernmost part of the PDA, including the Employment Area, was not subject to trial trenching during the evaluation.

In 2016, an open-area archaeological excavation was undertaken to the east of Brooks Road (Elston 2018). A small Bronze Age cremation cemetery represented the earliest features on site. Medieval settlement evidence, dating from the 11th century, included part of a field system with paddocks and enclosures. In the 14th century part of the site was used as a manorial farm, which featured a number of stone-built structures. The site was used for agriculture with ridge and furrow cultivation from the late medieval period.

1.4 Project Objectives

The specific research objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine if evidence of the late Saxon and medieval settlement identified elsewhere within the PDA, extended into the Employment Area.
- To determine if archaeological remains from other periods survived within the Employment Area

The general purpose of the archaeological trial trenching was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the Employment Area;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the Employment Area;



- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Standards

The following standards were adhered to throughout the project.

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
• CIfA	<i>Charter and by-law; Code of conduct</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> (2014)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2014)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
• Historic England	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2015)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> , (2nd edn, 2011)
• NCC	<i>Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive Standards</i> (2014)

2.1 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching was undertaken between 19th and 21st November 2019. Four trenches were excavated, each measuring 30m by 1.8m, which equates to a c.3% sample of the Employment Area (Figure 2).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket, operated by an experienced driver, under close archaeological supervision. The overburden was removed down to the top of undisturbed geological or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts by eye and metal detector. All deposits were recorded in a unique number sequence, using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

2.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of the fieldwork was conducted by the CAA via phone and email correspondence, including detailed photographs.

2.3 Archiving

All finds and records generated during the project will be archived to the standards outlined in Appendix 3 of Historic England's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 2: Archaeological Excavation (2015) and *Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive Standards* (NCC 2014). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference: albionar1-



371704) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.

On approval of this report the project archive will be prepared for deposition with the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (ARC) (Event No ENN109687).



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. [303] is a feature within Trench 3.

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 are shown on Figure 2, an all-features plan and section on Figure 3 and selected photographs on Figures 4 and 5. The results are discussed by trench below.

3.2 Trench 1

Overburden in Trench 1 was c.0.4–0.5m thick, varying slightly with the gently sloping ground. Topsoil comprised c.0.2m-thick loose dark grey-brown, silt. Subsoil comprised c.0.2m-thick, firm mid-grey silty clay. The undisturbed geological strata consisted of compact dark grey-blue clay.

A single feature [103] was present within the trench; it probably represents a tree throw or rooting. It measured 0.2m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled with compact light grey chalky clay with frequent small to large stones (104).

3.3 Trench 2

Overburden in Trench 2 was c.0.3m thick. Topsoil comprised c.0.2m-thick loose dark grey silt. Subsoil comprised c. 0.15m-thick, firm light brown-grey silty clay. The undisturbed geological strata consisted of compact light orange-brown clay.

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.

3.4 Trench 3

Overburden in Trench 3 was c.0.35m thick. Topsoil comprised c.0.1m-thick loose dark grey-brown silt. Subsoil comprised c. 0.2m-thick, firm mid-grey silty clay. The undisturbed geological strata consisted of compact dark yellow-brown clay.

Archaeological remains were present within the trench in the form of nine plough scars [303] [304] [305] [306] [311] [313] [315] [317] and [319], aligned NE-SW. The plough scars measured 0.1–0.3m wide by 0.05–0.1m deep and were present across the entire trench. Fills within the plough scars comprised firm mid-brown clay; a single fragment of modern metalwork (not retained) was present.



3.5 Trench 4

Overburden in Trench 4 was *c.*0.4m thick. Topsoil comprised *c.*0.2m-thick friable dark brown silt. Subsoil comprised *c.*0.2m-thick, firm mid-grey silty clay. The undisturbed geological strata consisted of compact light brown-orange clay.

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial-trench evaluation demonstrated that the late Saxon and medieval settlement identified elsewhere within the PDA does not extend into the Employment Area.

No archaeological features, other than a tree throw and modern plough scars, were present within the trenches. It may, therefore, be concluded that no remains of archaeological significance are likely to be impacted by development within the Employment Area.



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.47 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP 99960/73640

OS Grid Ref.: SP 99984/73659

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown silt moderate small stones 0.22m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid grey silty clay 0.18m in thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Compact dark grey blue clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Treethrow	Circular sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.64m, max depth 0.21m, min length 0.21m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Fill	Compact light grey grey chalky clay frequent small-large stones 0.21m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP 99984/73659

OS Grid Ref.: SP 99997/73723

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Loose dark grey silt moderate small-medium stones 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm light brown grey silty clay 0.17m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Compact light orange brown clay 0.03m thick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m. Max: 0.31 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00020/73728

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00020/73698

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown silt C. 0.11m in thickness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey silty clay 0.21m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Compact dark yellow brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: V-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max depth 0.06m, min length 8.2m Plough scar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Fill	Firm mid brown clay 0.06m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.21m, max depth 0.06m, min length 7.59m Plough scar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Fill	Firm mid brown clay 0.06m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.22m, max depth 0.08m, min length 7.15m Plough scar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Firm mid brown clay 0.08m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: steep base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.33m, max depth 0.09m, min length 7.9m Plough scar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Fill	Firm mid brown clay 0.09m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, min length 1.99m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.19m, min length 3.53m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.24m, min length 6.86m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.31m, min length 4.6m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.13m, min length 3.7m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 0.12m, min length 3.83m Unexcavated Plough scar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Fill	Firm mid brown clay Unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

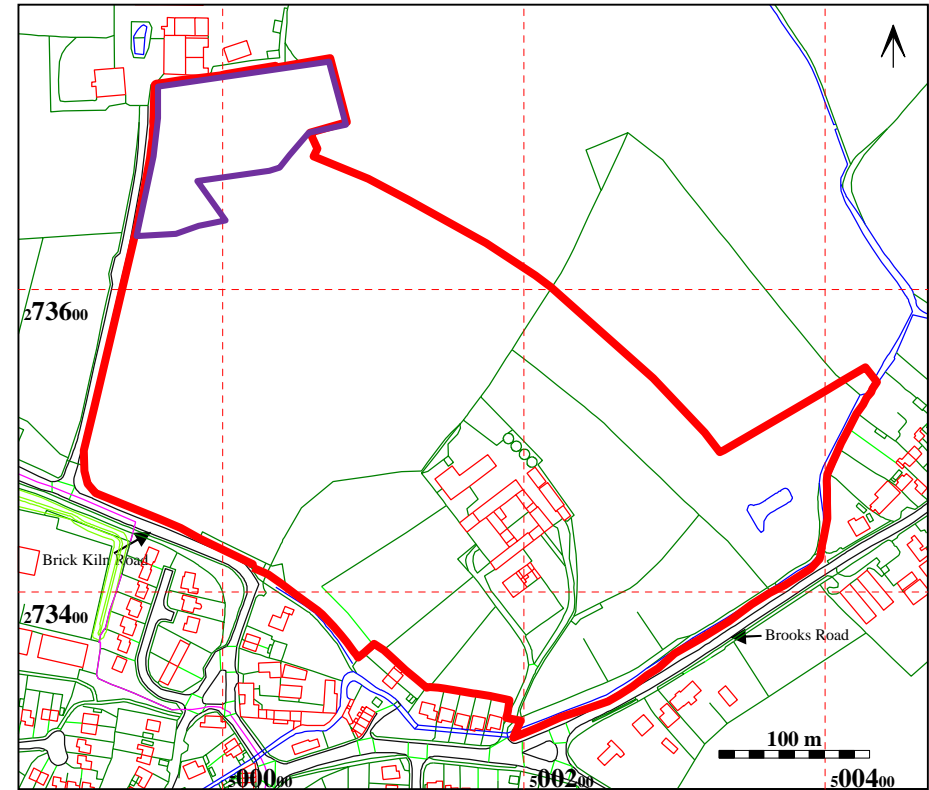
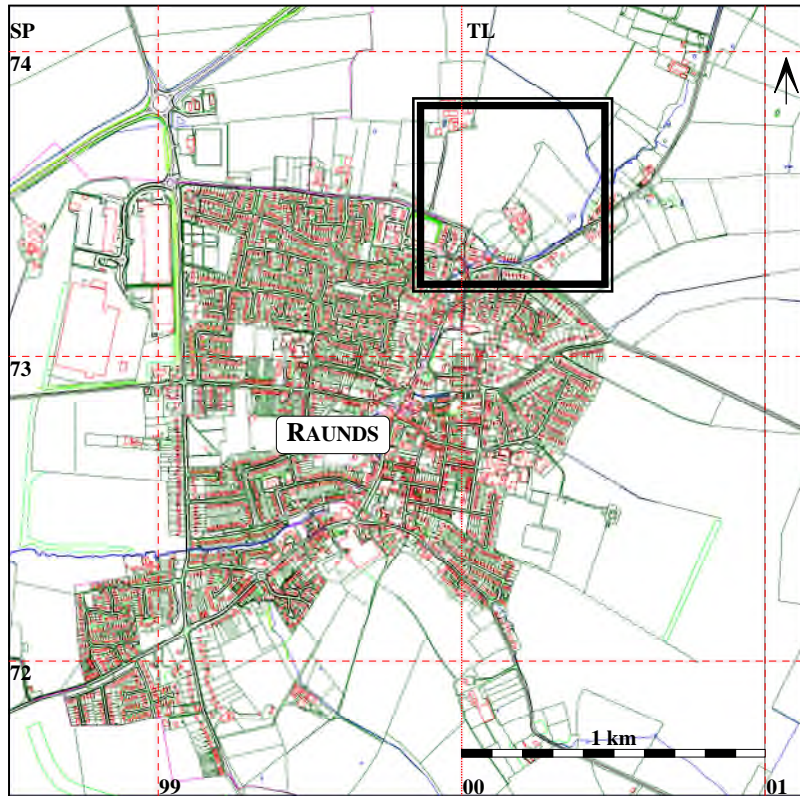
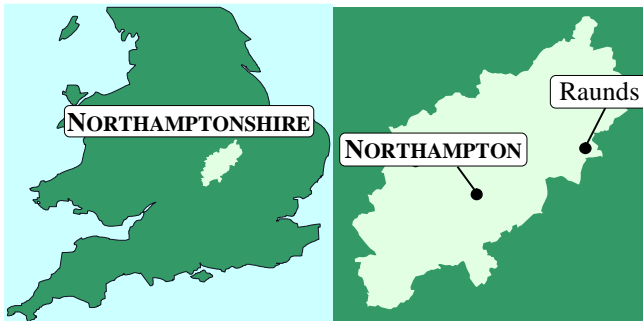
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Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 00045/73719

OS Grid Ref.: TL 00074/73725

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt 0.17m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid grey silty clay 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





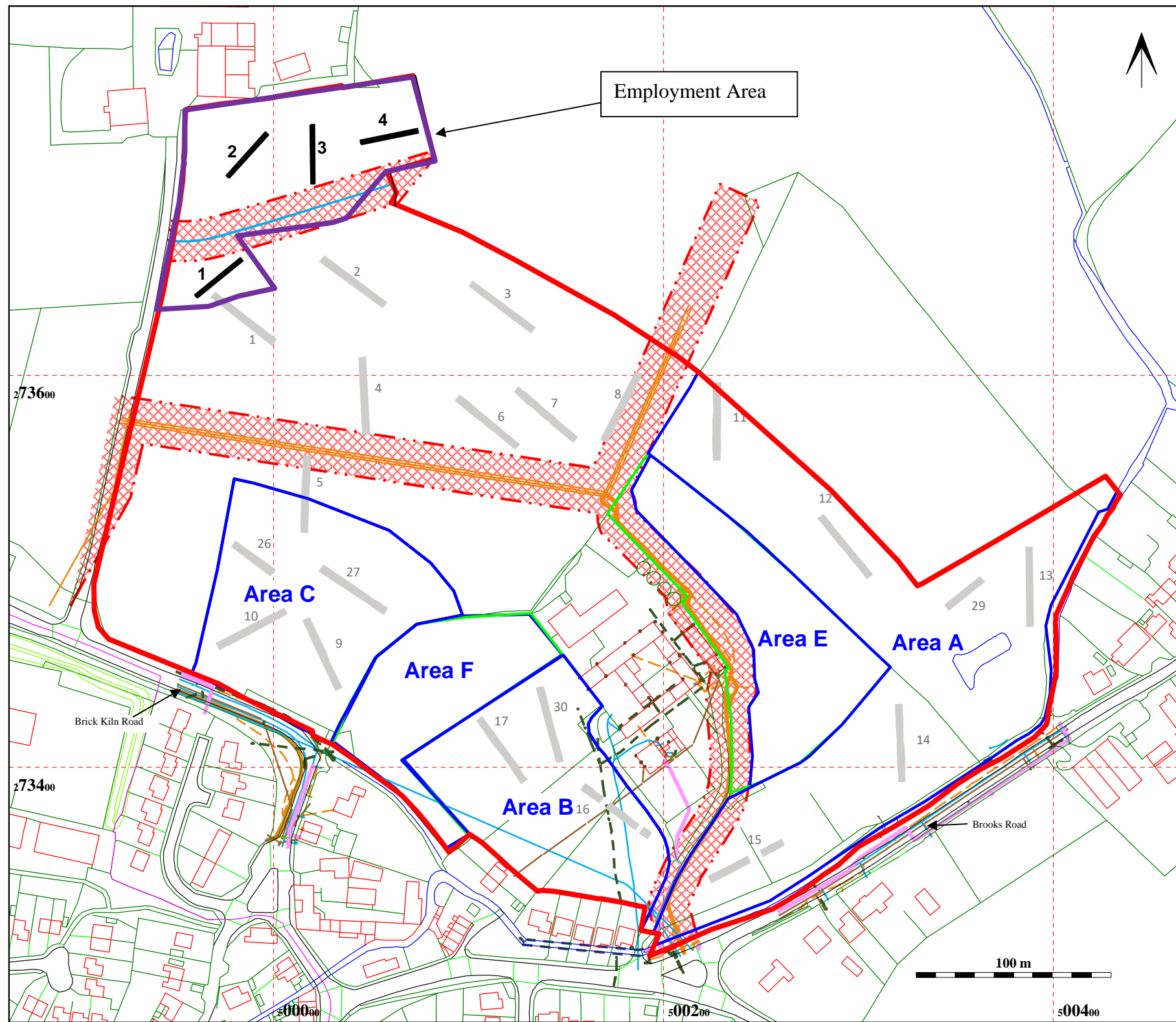
-  Permitted development area (PDA)
-  Employment Area

Figure 1: Site location plan

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- Permitted development area (PDA)
- Investigation Areas
- Employment Area
- Overhead cables
- High voltage cables
- Low voltage cables
- Water
- Foul water sewer
- Storm water
- Gas-low pressure
- 10m offset
- Excavated trenches
- 2010 Phoenix trenches

Figure 2: Trench locations

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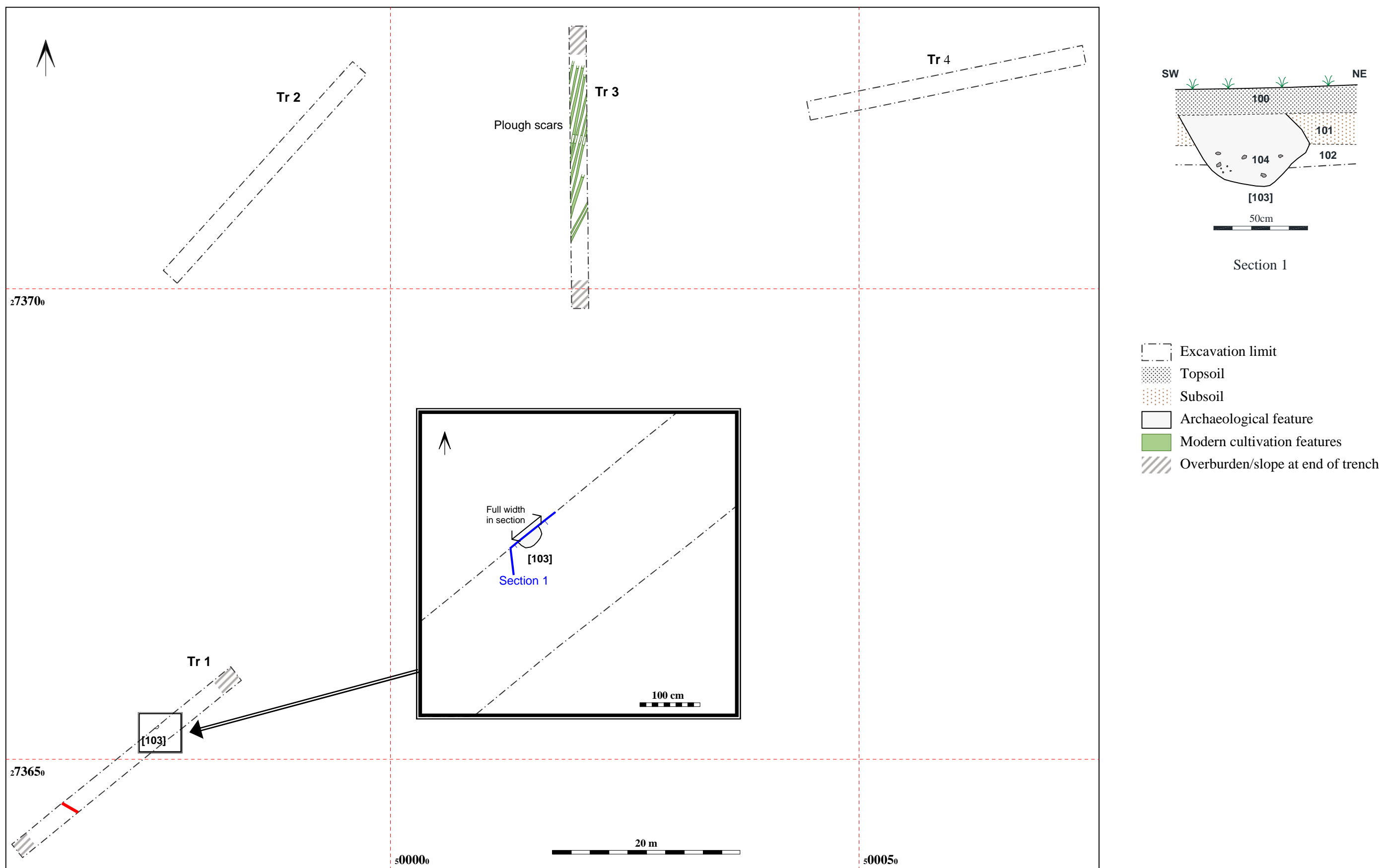


Figure 3: All-features plan and section

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Trench 1 - Looking north-east



Trench 2 - Looking north

Figure 4: Selected photographs (Trenches 1 and 2)



Trench 3 - Looking north-east



Trench 4 - Looking west



Plough scars – Trench 3



Tree throw [103] – Trench 1

Figure 5: Selected photographs (Trenches 1, 3 and 4)

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

