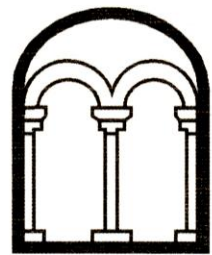


**BROADLANDS
BROAD GREEN
CRANFIELD
BEDFORDSHIRE**

STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology



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STAGE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Compiled by	Edited by	Approved by
Gareth Shane and Allan King	Kathy Pilkinton	Drew Shotliff

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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 Robinson and Hall LLP and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Hannah Firth of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team. The fieldwork was undertaken by Gareth Shane (Archaeological Supervisor). The project was managed by Kathy Pilkinton (Project Manager). The report has been prepared by Gareth Shane. The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). 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
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.1	14/07/2022	Comments from CBCA
1.0	07/06/2022	n/a

Key Terms

The following terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
CBCAT	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team
CI/A	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Client	Robinson and Hall LLP
HER	Historic Environment Record
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) granted planning permission (CB/19/01258/FULL) for the removal of the garage to the existing residential property at Broadlands, and erection of up to two detached, 1.5-storey residential units with parking, access and turning to the rear of Broadlands, Broad Green, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, MK43 0BD.

As the site is located in an area that has the potential to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) recommended a condition be attached to the permission requiring archaeological investigation to be carried out prior to commencement of the development. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the applicant to prepare the required written scheme of investigation and to carry out the Stage 1 archaeological evaluation.

Archaeological trial trenching comprising two trenches measuring 10m long and 2m wide took place on 18th May 2022.

The trial trenching identified two modern tree-pits, both located in Trench 2. No archaeological features were present in Trench 1.

The two tree-pits were presumably deliberately dug for tree planting and then backfilled after the removal of the trees. No dating evidence was recovered. However, the position and alignment of the features suggest they represent a continuation of the hedge line, still visible within the PDA, and are therefore likely to be of modern origin.

The results of the field evaluation suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is low, with no archaeological features of significance present in the trenches and no artefacts found within the topsoil and subsoil. The recorded features are of negligible significance with no potential to address national or regional research objectives.

The results of the evaluation indicate that the potential impact of the proposed development on heritage assets with archaeological interest is likely to be negligible.

With the landowner's permission, the project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2022/77). Digital data will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and will comprise photographs, spatial data, context information and reports. Selection policy and data management plan are available in Appendices 4 and 5 of the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2022). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref. no. albionar1-505741) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the (ADS).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) granted planning permission (CB/19/01258/FULL) for the removal of the garage to the existing residential property at Broadlands, and erection of up to two detached, 1.5-storey residential units with parking, access and turning to the rear of Broadlands, Broad Green, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, MK43 0BD.

On the advice of the CBC Archaeological Team (CBCAT) the following pre-commencement condition (no. 6) was attached to the planning permission:

No development or demolition shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation, that adopts a staged approach and includes the provision for archaeological fieldwork, 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 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework that requires developers to record and advance of understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) as a consequence of the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by the applicant to prepare the required written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Albion Archaeology 2022) and to carry out the Stage 1 archaeological evaluation, the results of which are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Geology*

The village of Cranfield lies in Central Bedfordshire. It is situated c. 12 km south-west of the centre of Bedford, c. 11km north-east of central Milton Keynes and c. 2.8km north-west of the A421 dual carriageway.

The permitted development area (PDA) is situated at the northern extent of Cranfield village, east of Bourne End Road leading out of the village towards Bourne End (Figure 1). It is centred on SP 96309 43282. The PDA is bounded to the west by three properties fronting onto Bourne End Road and to the south by another property, Old Barns. The eastern and northern sides of the PDA are bounded by a linear pond, which is recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) as the ditch of a possible medieval moated site (HER3274). As defined in the HER, the possible moated site encompasses the majority of the PDA. The western section of the PDA is occupied by an existing dwelling called 'Broadlands', which currently comprises a detached dwelling with linked garage and front and rear gardens.

The PDA lies on fairly level ground at c. 109m OD. The underlying geology comprises Stewartby Member Mudstone and the overlying superficial deposits



are characterised by Oadby Member Diamicton: brown to grey silty clay with chalk and flint inclusion and lenses of sand and gravel¹.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The background to the site was set out in a heritage statement prepared in support of the planning application (Albion Archaeology 2017a). The report identified known heritage assets within a 500m-radius study area around the PDA. In preparation of the WSI for the trial trenching a new search of the Central Bedfordshire and Luton HER was also undertaken (ref. no. 202122/198). The key elements of both sources of information are summarised below.

1.3.1 Previous archaeological investigations (Events)

Archaeological investigations, comprising geophysical survey and trial-trench evaluation, have been carried out in the study area, to the south and west of the PDA.

The latest, in 2016, comprised a geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching on land at Gossard's Green (EBD1613, EBD1614 and HER20508), situated in fields across the road from the PDA. The investigations concluded that the presence of ridge and furrow indicated that the area of land had been under agricultural use since at least the medieval period. No archaeological features predating the ridge and furrow were encountered during the evaluation.

Similar results were obtained in 2006 when a few 19th-century and undated features were uncovered during a small-scale evaluation (EBD66) on land close to the Leathern Bottel PH (HER14526).

Another geophysical survey (EBD1298) and subsequent trial-trench evaluation (EBD1299) were undertaken at the south-west margins of the study area in 2015, on land at Mill Road. As well as remains of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, the investigations revealed a post-medieval circular feature, which could be the ploughed-out remains of a windmill mound, and a field boundary (HER2088).

1.3.2 Prehistoric and Roman (up to c. AD 410)

The nearest evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area was recorded some 240m from the PDA and comprised a find-spot of a gold Iron Age coin of Tasciovanus. Further evidence is tentative as cropmarks c. 440m from the PDA have not undergone any archaeological investigations.

No Roman heritage assets are known within the study area.

1.3.3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval (c. AD 410–1550)

The PDA is situated north of Broad Green medieval settlement core, as defined in the HER (HER16932). No evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement has

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



been recorded within the study area, but Cranfield was a well-established settlement at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086.

A number of medieval moated sites have been recorded in the parish and one falls within the study area. The L-shaped, ditch-like pond (HER3274) that borders the PDA may be part of a moated site.

The scheduled monument of Moat Farm (NHLE1009240) is situated c. 300m to the east of the PDA. Occupying an area of c. 5ha it comprises a moated site set within a medieval toft or enclosed field system, three ponds, two trackways and remains of an earlier medieval field system surrounding the moat. The moat surrounding the five-sided island is still intact. The buildings on the island originated in the 19th century and are excluded from the scheduling, but the ground beneath several of them is included.

Further earthworks indicating possible moats have also been recorded to the north and north-west of the PDA. Extensive ridge and furrow cultivation has also been recorded in Cranfield parish and the fields around the PDA formed part of Broad End's medieval open-field system. Other medieval records within the study area comprise four find-spots of coins.

1.3.4 Post-medieval (1550–1900)

The number of post-medieval heritage assets within the vicinity of the PDA is limited; they mainly comprise the sites of former buildings. No heritage assets of this period are known to exist on the PDA. Cartographic evidence shows that the PDA was used as an orchard between the late 19th century and mid-20th century (Figure 3).

1.3.5 Modern (1900–present)

Only one modern heritage asset has been recorded in the study area – the site of the Leathern Bottle PH.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal purpose of the archaeological field evaluation was to recover information on the:

- 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.

This information will be used by the CBCAT to evaluate the significance of the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains that might survive within the site.

Archaeological remains uncovered during the trial trenching have been assessed against published national and regional research frameworks. The relevant documents for the region are provided by *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Essex) (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of*



England (Medlycott 2011). During 2018–20, ALGAO East of England carried out a review of the regional research framework, which is now available online².

In addition to the 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).

Potential archaeological heritage assets on the PDA were thought likely to date to the medieval period. Such evidence would fit into a number of broad research aims that are identified in the regional agenda.

² <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>. Accessed 12/05/2022



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below; a full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2022).

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albion Archaeology 	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd edn, 2017).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALGAO (East) 	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedford Borough Council 	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (ver. 2.8, 2010)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ClfA 	<i>Charter and by-law</i> (2014); <i>Code of conduct</i> (2019)
	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> (2020)
	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)

The trial trenching took place on 18th May 2022. Two trenches measuring 10m long and 2m wide were excavated, targeting the footprint of the new dwellings and associated parking (Figure 2).

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. All excavation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff.

With the landowner's permission, the project archive will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum, Bedford (accession no. BEDFM 2022/77). Digital data will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and will comprise photographs, spatial data, context information and reports. Selection policy and data management plan are available in Appendices 4 and 5 of the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2022). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (ref. no. albionar1-505741) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the (ADS).



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

The results of the trial trenching are presented below. Where site recording numbers have been used, they are distinguished by different bracket styles, as follows: feature number = [***] and fill/layer number = (***). Context numbers reflect the trench number e.g. [203] is a feature within Trench 2.

Detailed descriptions of each individual context are provided in Appendix 1. An all-features plan and sections are available on Figure 4. Selected photographs can be found on Figure 5.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Topsoil in both trenches comprised friable, dark-grey clay silt; it was 0.15–0.25m thick.

Subsoil in both trenches comprised firm, mid-orange-brown, clay silt; it was 0.20–0.25m thick.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprised firm, mid-brown-orange, silty clay with occasional flint nodules.

3.3 Archaeological Features

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.

Two sub-rectangular features interpreted as deliberately dug tree-pits were partially exposed in Trench 2. They were steep-sided with irregular rooted bases and diffuse upper edges which cut through the subsoil. They were on a broadly N–S alignment, in line with the existing hedgerow.

Tree-pit [203] was 2.40 x 1.35m where exposed and 0.25m deep. It had a single fill comprising friable yellow-grey clayey silt (204), from which a single fragment of animal bone was recovered. Tree-pit [205] was at least 1.8 x 0.5m and filled with a single deposit (206) similar to that in the other tree-pit.



4. CONCLUSIONS

Trial trenching revealed two tree-pits, presumably deliberately dug for tree planting and then backfilled after the removal of the trees. No dating evidence was recovered. However, the position and alignment of the pits suggest they represent a continuation of the hedge line still visible within the PDA and are, therefore, likely to be of modern origin.

Although the PDA was identified as a possible moated site and located close to the former medieval settlement core of Broad Green, there is no evidence to suggest the presence of medieval features within the site.

The results of the field evaluation suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is low, with no archaeological features of significance present in the trenches and no artefacts found within the topsoil and subsoil. The recorded features are of negligible significance with no potential to address national or regional research objectives (Oake 2007; Medlycott 2011).

The results of the evaluation indicate that the potential impact of the proposed development on heritage assets with archaeological interest is likely to be negligible.



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- Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007 *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*, Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph **9**



6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.43 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 96317: Northing: 43278)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 96308: Northing: 43283)

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey grey clay silt Maximum thickness 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown clay silt Maximum thickness 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm mid brown orange silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 96305: Northing: 43290)

OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 96301: Northing: 43280)

Reason: Assessment of archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey clay silt Maximum thickness 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown clay silt Maximum thickness 0.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm mid brown orange silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Tree-pit	Asymmetrical N-S sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.35m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Tree-pit	Asymmetrical sides: steep base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.42m, min length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Friable mid yellow grey clay silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

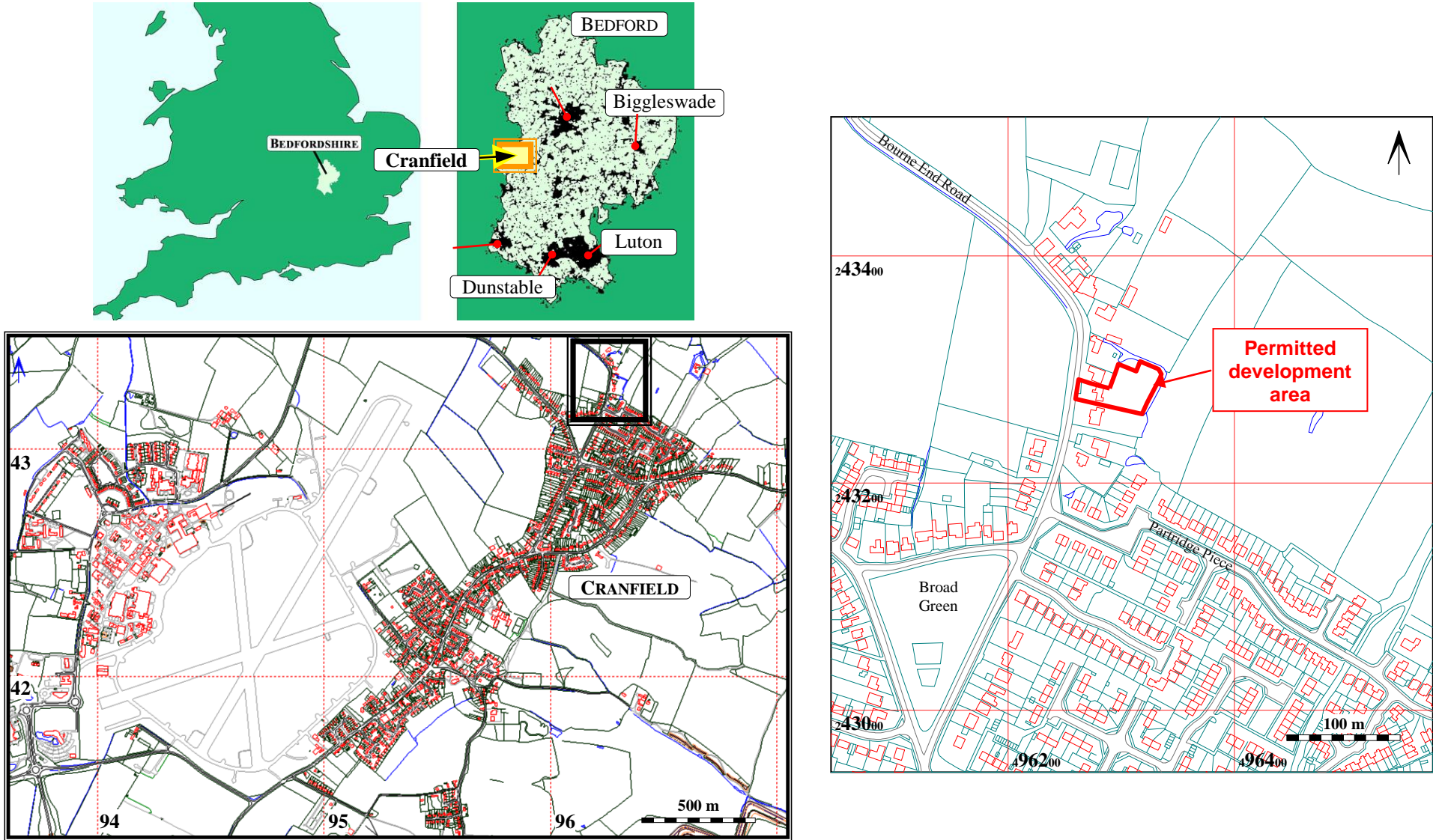


Figure 1: Site location plan

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Figure 2: Trench location plan, proposed development and constraint areas

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	PDA
	Trial trench
Existing constraints:	
	Vegetation
	Concrete platform and shed



Figure 3:
PDA overlaid on six-inch OS map 1883

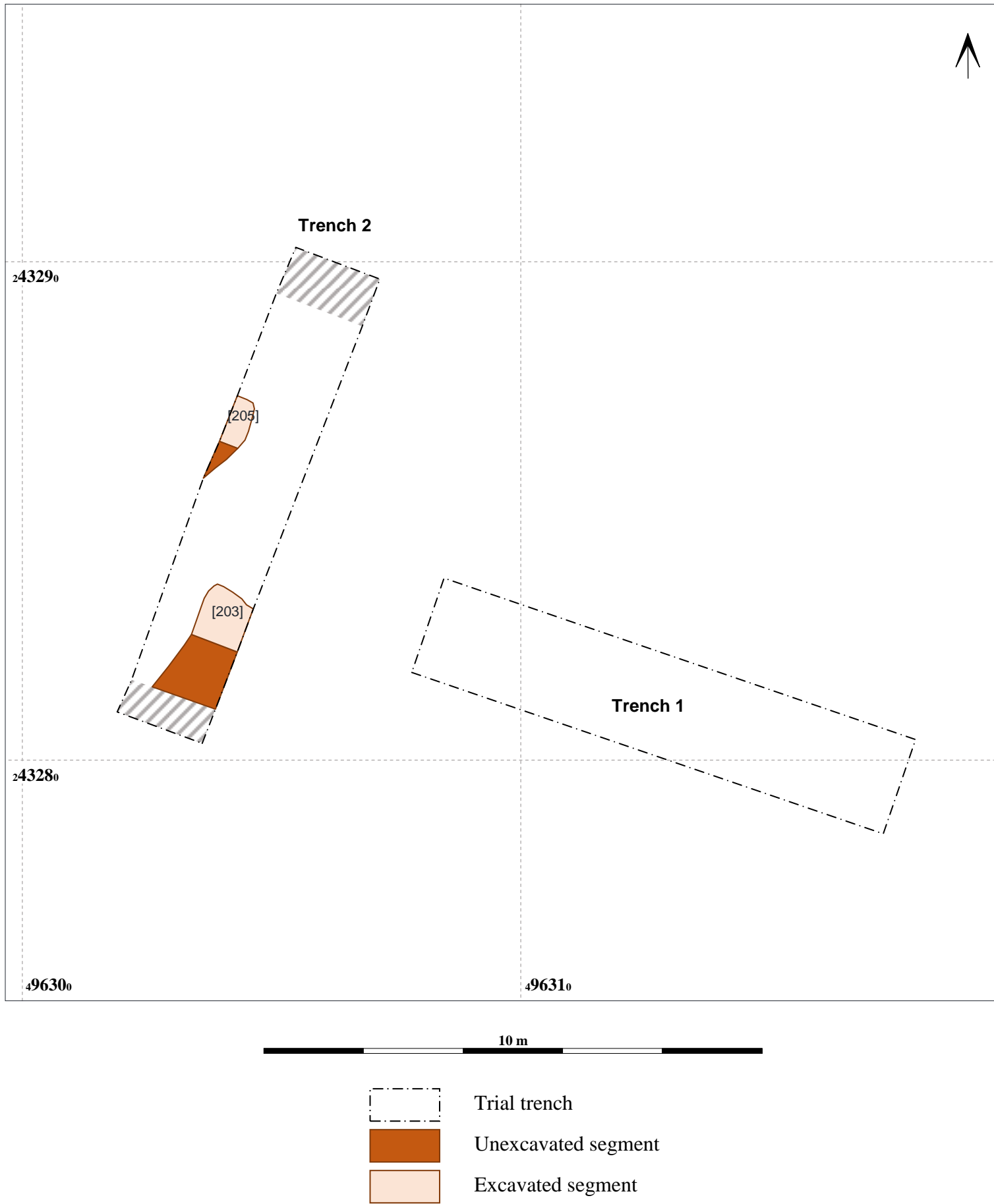


Figure 4: All-features plan



Trench 1 looking south-east
(1m scale)



Trench 2 looking south-west
(1m scale)



Tree-pit [203], looking south-west
(1m scale)



Tree-pit [205], looking north-west
(1m scale)

Figure 5: Selected photographs



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

