

**GLEBE HOUSE  
CHURCH LANE  
ALDENHAM  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD EVALUATION**

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Produced for:  
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Acting on behalf of:  
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## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

*The project was commissioned by Peter Ottery, Chartered Town Planner, on behalf of Mr Julien Tendler and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Instone, County Planning Officer (CPA), Hertfordshire County Council.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer). This report has been prepared by James Newbould (Project Officer) and edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager) with contributions from Jackie Wells ( Finds Officer) and Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## Structure of this Report

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 describes the trial trenching methodology and Section 3 summarises the results. Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results and assesses their significance. Section 5 is a bibliography.

In Section 6, Appendix 1 is an artefact summary and Appendix 2 contains trench summary information and detailed contextual data.



## Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
CPA	Hertfordshire County Council's County Planning Archaeologist
Client	Peter Ottery, Chartered Town Planner, acting on behalf of Mr Julien Tendler
HER	Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
HBC	Hertsmere Borough Council
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001 Albion Archaeology



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Peter Ottery, Chartered Town Planner, acting on behalf of Mr Julien Tendler, has prepared a planning application for the erection of a six-bedroom detached dwelling on land at Church Lane, Aldenham, Hertfordshire, henceforth referred to as the Proposed Development Area (PDA). This land lies within an archaeologically sensitive area. In order to advise Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) on the historic environment impact of the proposed development, Hertfordshire County Council's County Planning Archaeologist (CPA) requested further information on the archaeological potential of the PDA.*

*The CPA issued a brief (HCC 2009) detailing his requirements for an archaeological field evaluation, comprising non-intrusive geophysical survey and intrusive trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the evaluation and to prepare a report on the results.*

*The objectives of the evaluation were to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA and, if so, to establish their extent, condition, date, nature and significance. This would not only provide the information required to allow the planning application to be determined but would also allow the scope of any mitigation works to be established in the event that planning permission were given.*

*In June 2009, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for non-intrusive and intrusive evaluation was prepared and approved by the CPA (Albion Archaeology 2009). In June and July 2009, Albion Archaeology carried out the evaluation; the results are presented in this report.*

*The results of the intrusive trial trenching demonstrate that there are no significant archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. However, the results of the non-intrusive geophysical survey show potential for archaeological remains to survive elsewhere within the PDA.*

*No remains were encountered that would preclude development within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. If the location of the building were to change, or additional construction works were planned, the remains identified by non-intrusive geophysical survey would require further characterisation.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Project Background*

Peter Ottery, Chartered Town Planner, acting on behalf of Mr Julien Tendler, has prepared a planning application for the erection of a six-bedroom detached dwelling on land at Church Land, Aldenham, Hertfordshire, henceforth referred to as the Proposed Development Area (PDA). This land lies within an archaeologically sensitive area. In order to advise Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC) on the historic environment impact of the proposed development, Hertfordshire County Council's County Planning Archaeologist (CPA) requested further information on the archaeological potential of the PDA.

The CPA issued a brief (HCC 2009) detailing his requirements for an archaeological field evaluation, comprising non-intrusive geophysical survey and intrusive trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the evaluation and to prepare a report on the results.

The objectives of the evaluation were to determine whether archaeological remains were present within the PDA and, if so, to establish their extent, condition, date, nature and significance. This would not only provide the information required to allow the planning application to be determined but would also allow the scope of any mitigation works to be established in the event that planning permission was given.

In June 2009, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the evaluation. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared and approved by the CPA (Albion Archaeology 2009). In June and July 2009, Albion Archaeology carried out the evaluation; the results are presented in this report.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The PDA is centred on (NGR) TQ 1418 9847. It comprises a *c.* 0.5ha parcel of land, located on the corner of Church Lane and Church Alley, Aldenham, to the immediate east of the extant Glebe House and Vicarage (Fig. 1). The current land-use is rough grassland and the underlying geology is sand and gravel on clay and chalk.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background has been summarised in the brief (HCC 2009). The principal remains, in relation to the PDA are described below.

Aldenham village contains several sites of archaeological significance (HER2684). The parish church of St John the Baptist (HER4380) lies *c.* 150m to the west of the PDA. It originated in the 12th century and has Roman brick within its walls (HER733). The remains of a medieval/early post-medieval manor house (HER715) and evidence of Roman and medieval occupation (HER10779) exist to the south of the PDA. These remains have the potential to extend into the PDA.



#### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The layout of the trenches (Fig. 1) was discussed with and approved by the CPA. The trenches were arranged to test the archaeological potential of the proposed house footprint. Geophysical survey was used to test the archaeological potential of both the house footprint and the rest of the PDA. The overall objectives of the work were to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present; and to
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.





## 2. METHODOLOGY

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Geophysical survey and trial trenching took place between 29th June and 3rd July 2009. Both of the proposed trenches were opened.

Throughout the project the standards set out in the following documents were adhered to:

- IfA's *Code of Conduct (1999a)*
- IfA's *Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (1999b)*
- Albion Archaeology's *Procedures Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Analysis of Fieldwork Records (2001)*
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (1991)*

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to either the top of archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand in order to clarify the nature of potential archaeological remains. The deposits and any potential remains were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at (100) for Trench 1, (200) for Trench 2 *etc.*

The CPA was consulted prior to backfilling of the trenches.



### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 *Introduction*

Deposits and features of archaeological interest are summarised below in chronological order. Allocated context numbers are prefixed with the trench number they were recorded from, *i.e.* contexts (100) and (101) are from Trench 1.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features can be found in Appendix 2 (Section 6.2). The record will be archived at Bushey Museum, Hertfordshire.

#### 3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits*

Overburden consisted of clay silt topsoil (100, 200) overlying a silty clay subsoil (101, 201) derived from the underlying flinty clay natural (102, 202). Post-medieval and modern brick and tile were identified within the topsoil deposits but were not collected.

#### 3.3 *Geophysical Survey Anomalies*

No geophysical survey anomalies were located within the house footprint.

Outside that footprint, linear anomalies, possibly associated with medieval ridge and furrow or a track-way parallel with Church Alley to the south (Fig. 2), thermoremnant remains associated with burning activity and an area of high resistance, possibly associated with a structure, were recorded (Stratascan 2009). This latter anomaly, shown in blue, lies directly beneath a large tree and could alternatively be a result of the tree's influence on the water content of the soil within its root system.

#### 3.4 *Post-medieval/Modern Disturbance*

The remains of two shallow, amorphous pits were encountered in Trench 1 [103, 105]. They contained post-medieval and modern tile brick and animal bone (Appendix 1). The pits were cut through the subsoil (101) and their deposits were indistinguishable from the overlying topsoil. This suggests that the deposits formed in modern times, probably as a result of agricultural processes.



## 4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

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### 4.1 Summary

During geophysical survey several anomalies were recorded (Fig 2), all of these lay outside the proposed house footprint and were not tested during trial trenching. The trenching revealed two pits [103 and 105], containing topsoil derived deposits. They produced artefacts of post-medieval or later date and it is likely that they were the result of agricultural processes.

### 4.2 Potential

The trial trenching has demonstrated that there are no significant archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. However, the results of non-intrusive geophysical survey show potential for archaeological remains to survive elsewhere within the PDA. Figure 2 illustrates the areas of the PDA where non-intrusive survey revealed remains of possible archaeological origin.

### 4.3 Significance

The trial trenching has demonstrated that the footprint of the proposed dwelling contains no significant, sub-surface archaeological features.

The precise character of remains revealed by non-intrusive survey in the remainder of the PDA is currently unknown. Although ridge and furrow would generally be considered to be of low, local significance, any remains associated with the medieval and Tudor manor to the immediate south-west of the PDA (HER715) would carry higher significance.

In summary, no remains were encountered that would preclude development within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. If the location of the building were to change, the remains identified by non-intrusive geophysical survey would require further characterisation.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2001. *Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

Albion Archaeology 2009. *Glebe House, Church Lane, Aldenham, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Document 2009/71.

HCC 2009. *Design Brief for Archaeological Geophysical Survey and Evaluation of Land adjacent to Glebe House, Church Lane, Aldenham*.

Stratascan 2009. *Geophysical Survey: Land at Church Lane, Aldenham, Hertfordshire*.



## 6. APPENDICES

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### 6.1 Appendix 1 – Artefact Summary

The trial trenching produced a small finds assemblage comprising three pieces of ceramic roof tile, an animal bone fragment and a piece of coal (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range. All finds derived from trench 1 and are of post-medieval or later date.

Feature	Description	Context	Finds Summary
103	Pit	104	Flat roof tile (37g); animal bone (18g)
105	Pit	106	Flat roof tile (74g); coal (4g)

**Table 1: Artefact summary by feature**

Ceramic building material comprises three pieces of flat roof tile in an oxidised sand-tempered fabric, ranging in thickness from 14–16mm. All are abraded and the fragment from pit [106] is burnt. An abraded rib fragment from a large mammal of indeterminate species derived from pit [105].



## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Trench Summaries



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**

**Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TQ** (Easting: 14168: Northing: 98503)

**OS Grid Ref.: TQ** (Easting: 14184: Northing: 98491)

**Reason: To test archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed dwelling**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey clay silt 0.19m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay frequent small stones 0.16m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm mid red brown clay moderate medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Pit	Irregular profile: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max diameter 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Topsoil	Firm dark grey clay silt 0.24m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Pit	Oval profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.09m, max length 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Topsoil	Firm mid grey clay silt At least 0.09m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench:** 2

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 20.00 m. Width: 1.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

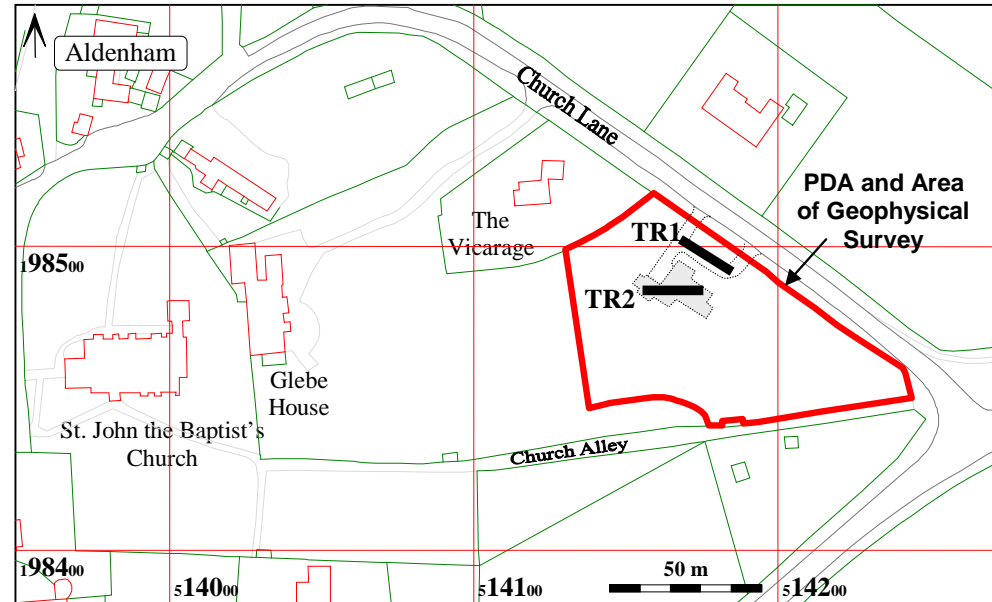
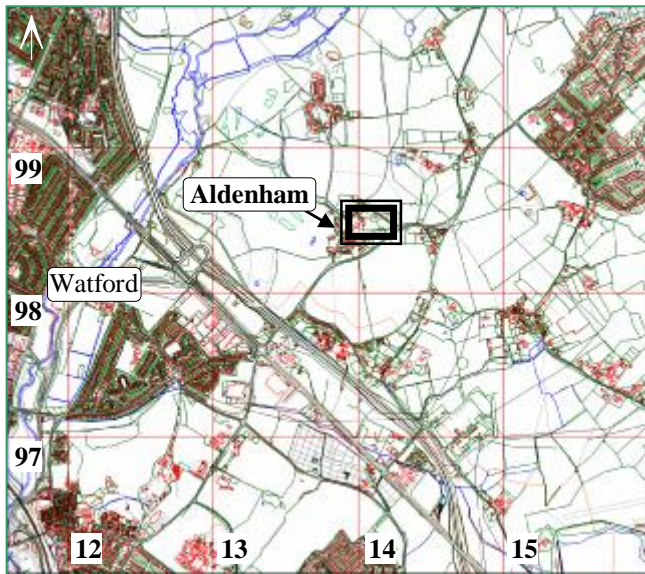
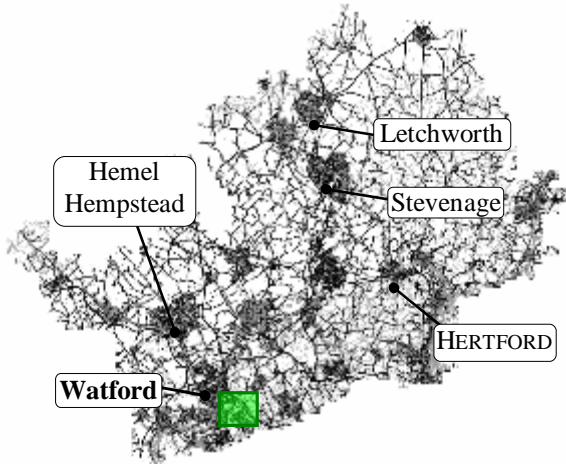
**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TQ (Easting: 14158: Northing: 98484)

OS Grid Ref.: TQ (Easting: 14177: Northing: 98484)

**Reason:** To test archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed dwelling

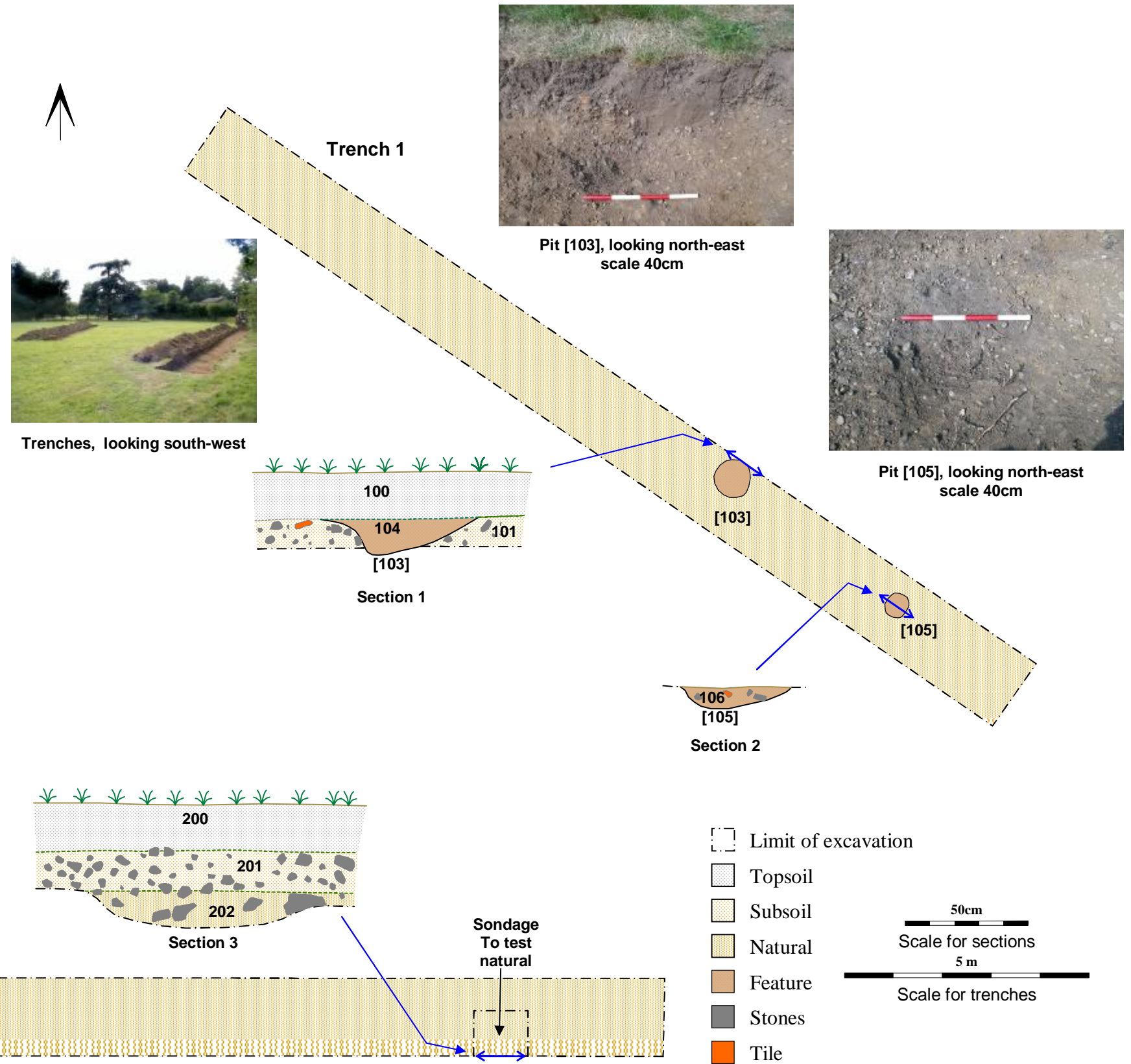
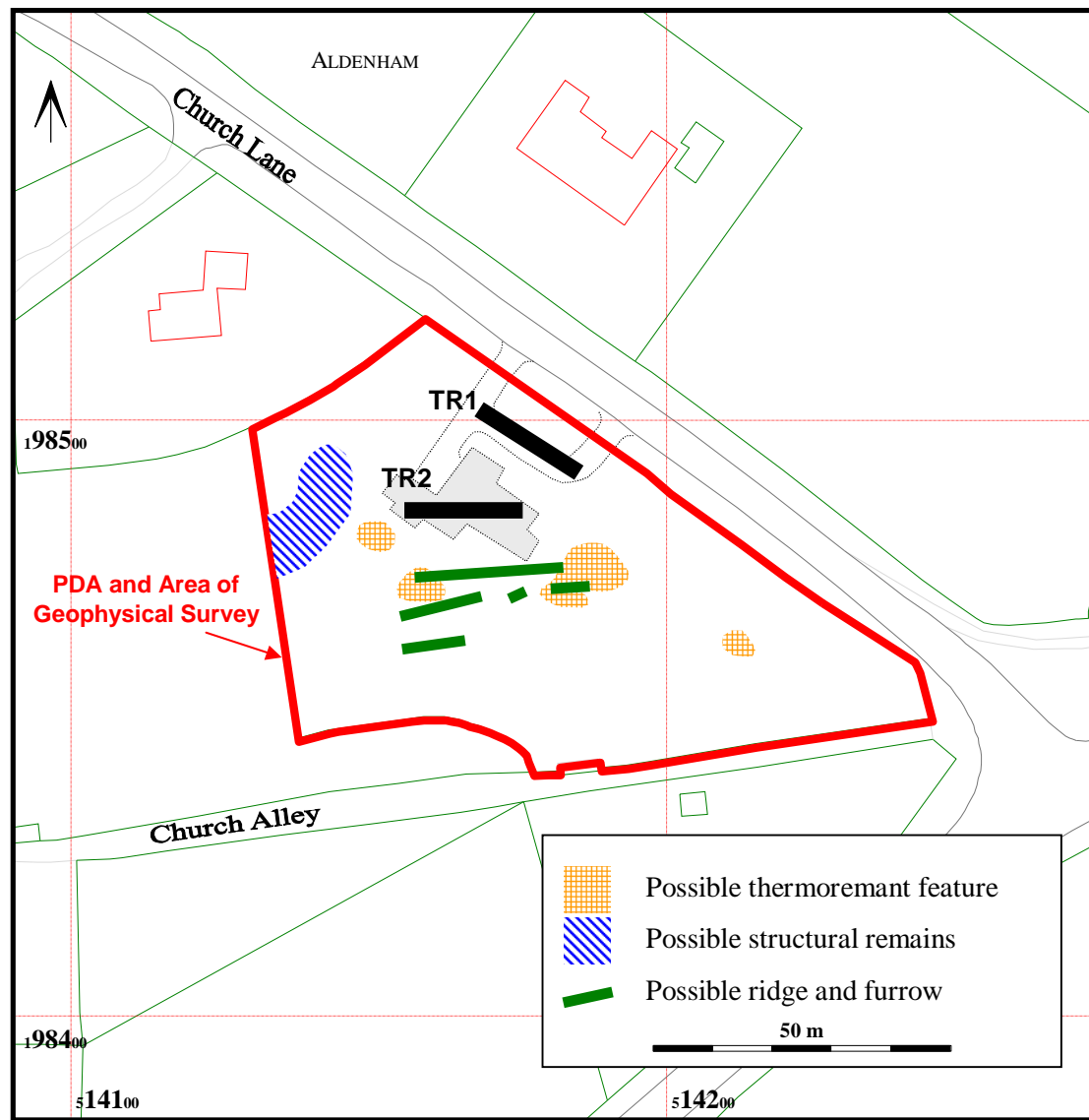
Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm dark grey clay silt 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay frequent small stones 0.16m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm mid red brown clay moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Figure 1: Site location and trench plan**

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**Figure 2: Intrusive and non-intrusive survey results**

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