# LAND AT LEVENTHORPE SCHOOL SAWBRIDGEWORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Project: LS1468

Document: 2010/108 Version 1.0

# 17th December 2010

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# Produced for:

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#### Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. 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.

#### Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Matthew Smith of CgMs Consulting on behalf on Leach Homes.

The fieldwork was carried out by Wesley Keir (Project Officer) and Jessica Stevens (Archaeological Technician). This report was written by Wesley Keir with figures produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council Archaeology Officer.

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#### **Version History**

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	17/12/10	n/a

#### **Key Terms**

Throughout this report the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AO Hertfordshire County Council's Archaeology Officer

HER Historic Environment Record

If A Institute for Archaeologists

RTK GPS Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System

WSI Written Scheme of Investigation



# Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (Ref: 3/07/1569 OP) has been granted for the residential development of land at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of any development. A Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trench evaluation was prepared in accordance with advice received from the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the trial trenching.

Thirteen trial trenches were spread evenly across the site to determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

The results of the trial trenching indicate that there are no archaeological remains of significance within the site.



# 1. INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 Background

Planning permission (Ref: 3/07/1569 OP) has been granted for the residential development of land at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of any development. A Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2010) for trial trench evaluation was prepared in accordance with advice received from the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor, Hertfordshire County Council's Archaeology Officer (AO). This follows a geophysical survey undertaken at the site in 2007 (WYAS 2007).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Leach Homes to carry out the trial trenching.

# 1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The site is located on the northern outskirts of Sawbridgeworth and comprises c.1.5ha of land used as a playing field immediately to the south of the Leventhorpe School at grid reference TL 4818 1566 (Figure 1). The site rises moderately from the south-east to north-west lying between c.66m and c.71m OD. A large earth bund left over from the construction of the school swimming pool lies at the south-east end of the site and to its north is the site of a demolished, temporary building.

The underlying geology of the area consists of London Clay overlain with till (Boulder Clay) that may contain isolated gravel deposits (CgMs 2010).

# 1.3 Archaeological Background

The archaeological background of the development area has been reviewed in a desk-based assessment (Albion Archaeology 2007).

The assessment found the site to have a low to moderate potential for remains of the prehistoric period. The site lies approximately 200m to the east of a large undated sub-circular cropmark (HER 13006) and near to a find spot of a flint tool (HER 2128). These discoveries form part of the evidence for a wider prehistoric landscape located within and around Sawbridgeworth, which includes other cropmarks and a possible burial mound/barrow. The potential for remains of all other archaeological periods was considered to be low.

A geophysical survey undertaken on the site in October 2007 (WYAS) revealed field drains and other anomalies consistent with the creation of a playing field. No identified anomalies were considered to be of archaeological origin.

A recent trial trench evaluation undertaken to the north of the site revealed post-medieval features comprising field boundaries and two post-holes (TVAS 2010).



# 1.4 Project Objectives

The WSI identified the following general aims and objectives:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be threatened by development.
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains on the site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of the survival of buried archaeological deposits.

The results of the trial trenching are to be used to decide whether any further archaeological work is necessary and, if so, to determine its scope and nature.



# 2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching was undertaken between 29th November and 1st December 2010 and comprised the excavation of thirteen 30m x 1.8m trenches (Figure 2). The trenches were positioned so as to provide even coverage of the site.

The work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2010). In summary:

- The trial trenches were set out using a Network RTK GPS to ensure accurate positioning.
- All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist and was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged ditching bucket.
- Topsoil and modern overburden were removed by machine down to the top of archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- Recording took place on pro-forma sheets in accordance with the Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual* (2nd edition, 2001).
- The trenches were backfilled following the agreement of the AO.

All archaeological deposits and features (known as 'contexts') were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at (100) for Trench 1, (200) for Trench 2 *etc*. Within this report, numbers in brackets refer to these context numbers. Cut features (*i.e.* pits, ditches *etc.*) are expressed as [\*\*\*]; layers and deposits within cut features are expressed as (\*\*\*). Detailed descriptions of all the contexts are contained within Appendix 1.

The project adhered to the standards and guidance set out in the following documents to:

•	Albion	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd edn,
	Archaeology	2001).
•	ALGAO (east)	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.
		East Anglian Occasional Paper 14 (2003)
•	English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic
		Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide
		(2006)
		Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and
		practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-
		excavation (2002/01)
•	IfA	By-Laws and Code of Conduct
		Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field
		Evaluation (updated 2009)



# 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

The deposits and features revealed within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figures 2–4. Detailed descriptions of all the revealed deposits and features can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

The overburden was largely consistent in colour and composition across the site, comprising a c. 0.10m thick topsoil overlying a c. 0.25–0.3m thick subsoil of mid brown clay silt. A thicker build-up of overburden was present at the southeast end of the site in Trench 13, where the ground level is at its lowest. Deposits associated with the earth bund were revealed beneath the turf in Trenches 10 and 12.

The overburden overlay undisturbed geological strata predominantly consisting of weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay. At the lower, south-east end of the site in Trench 13 and the south-east end of Trench 12 the weathered chalk gave way to firm red-brown clay. These deposits were reached at between 71.5m OD at the west end of the site and 65.4m OD at the south-east end of the site.

# 3.3 Archaeological Features

Modern features were revealed in Trenches 2, 12 and 13 (Figures 2–4). They included two, probably linear, pits partially revealed in Trenches 2 and 13 that were cut from just beneath the turf line. The concrete foundations of the demolished school building and a modern trench were revealed in Trench 12.

#### 3.4 Conclusions

No pre-modern archaeological remains were revealed by trial trenching. Impact from modern development is restricted to the location of the demolished school building in the vicinity of Trench 12. Elsewhere, intact subsoil and geological deposits were present.

The results of the archaeological evaluation indicate that there are no significant archaeological remains within the site boundaries.



# 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology, 2007, Land at the Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Document 2007/63
- WYAS (West Yorkshire Archaeological Services), 2007, Land at the Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Geophysical Survey. Report No. 1732
- CgMs, 2010, Land at Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. Report MS/10650
- TVAS (Thames Valley Archaeological Services), 2010, Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 2)



# 5. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48052 15656

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48082 15656

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.25m thick.	
102	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48068 15702

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48068 15672

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.12m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
201	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.23m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
202	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.		
203	Modern intrusion	Linear E-W sides: vertical dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, min depth 0.45m min length 0.7m Modern trench - the cut is visible just beneath the topsoil/turf.	n, 🔽	
204	Backfill	Friable dark brown clay silt frequent small-medium chalk	<b>✓</b>	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48114 15687

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48084 15687

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>v</b>
301	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.25m thick.	<b>V</b>
302	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48099 15733

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48099 15703

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Pres</b>	ent:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
401	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.2m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
402	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48099 15641

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48099 15671

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>
501	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.3m thick.	<b>V</b>
502	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48115 15656

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48145 15656

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>
601	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.3m thick.	<b>✓</b>
602	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48130 15702

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48130 15672

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
700	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>
701	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.3m thick.	<b>V</b>
702	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48146 15687

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48176 15687

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
800	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	
801	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.3m thick.	<b>V</b>
802	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48161 15641

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48161 15671

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Present</b>	t:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>	
901	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.3m thick (N end), 0.35m thick (S end).	<b>V</b>	
902	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48182 15681

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48182 15651

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	<b>Excavated: Finds Pr</b>	resent:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
1001	Dump material	Modern earth bund consisting of a mixture of chalk and brown clay silt. 0.15m thick.	V	
1002	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.23m thick (N end), 0.25m thick (S end).	<b>~</b>	
1003	Natural	Mixture of red-brown clay and weathered chalk.		



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48171 15637

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48200 15630

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated: Finds Present:</b>
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.1m thick.	<b>V</b>
1101	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.25m thick.	<b>V</b>
1102	Natural	Weathered chalk with patches of red-brown clay.	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48229 15652

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48203 15667

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	<b>Description:</b>	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.15m thick (ESE end), 0.2m thick (WNW en	d).	
1201	Dump material	Modern earth bund consisting of a mixture of chalk and brown clay silt at ESE end (0.21m thick) and solely of chalk at the WNW end (0.4m thick).	the 🗸	
1202	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt Only present at the ESE end (0.37m thick).	✓	
1203	Natural	Red-brown clay (ESE half of the trench) and weathered chalk (WNW half the trench).	of $\Box$	
1204	Modern disturbance	Number assigned to modern concrete footings and a trench associated with recently demolished school building.	a 🗸	



Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.60 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 48262 15605

OS Grid Ref.: TL 48234 15615

<b>Context:</b>	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	<b>Finds Present:</b>
1300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt 0.15m thick.	<b>✓</b>	
1301	Subsoil	Friable mid brown clay silt 0.41m thick (ESE end), 0.35m thick (WNW end	l). 🗸	
1302	Natural	Red-brown clay.		
1303	Modern intrusion	Linear E-W sides: vertical dimensions: min breadth 0.45m, min depth 0.6m max length 1.9m Modern trench - the cut is visible just beneath the topsoil/turf.	<b>,</b>	
1304	Backfill	Friable dark brown clay silt	✓	



# 6. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID	albionar1-89347
PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Land at Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Planning permission has been granted for the residential development of land at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth. Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of any development. A Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trenching was prepared in accordance with advice received from the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out the trial trenching. Thirteen trial trenches were spread evenly across the site to determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. The results of the trial trenching indicate that there are no archaeological remains of significance within the site.
Project dates	Start: 29-11-2010 End: 01-12-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LS1468 - Contracting Unit No. 3/07/1569 OP - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 14 – Recreational Usage
Monument type	PIT Modern FOUNDATIONS Modern
Significant Finds	None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural Residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SAWBRIDGEWORTH Land at Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth
Study area	1.8ha
Site coordinates	TL 4818 1566 51.8194195581 0.150155541439 51 49 09 N 000 09 00 E Point
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)



Project design originator	Consultant		
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill		
Project supervisor	Wesley Keir		
PROJECT ARCHIVES			
Physical Archive Exists?	No		
Physical Archive notes	No finds retained		
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology		
Digital Contents	'other'		
Digital Media available	'Database', 'Images raster / digital		
	photography', 'Text'		
Paper Archive recipient	Bishops Stortford Museum		
Paper Contents	'other'		
Paper Media available	'Context Sheet', Correspondence',' Microfilm',' Miscellaneous Material', 'Report'		
Paper Archive notes	To be stored at Albion Archaeology until deposition		
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1			
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)		
Title	Land at Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation		
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Keir, W'		
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wardill, R'		
Other bibliographic details	2010-108		
Date	17-12-2010		
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology		
Place of issue or publication	Bedford		
Description	Comb bound report		



# 7. APPENDIX 3: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land at Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road				
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire		
Village/Town: Sawbridgeworth		Parish: Sawbridgeworth		
Planning application refere	nce: 3/07/156	9 OP		
Client name, address: CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2AT				
Nature of application: Residential development				
Present land use: None				
Size of application area: 1.	8ha	Size of area	investigated: 624sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 48181566				
Site code (if applicable): LS1468				
Site director/Organization: Robert Wardill/Albion Archaeology				
Type of work: trial trench evaluation				
Date of work Start: 29/11/		10	Finish: 01/12/10	
Location of finds and site archive/curating museum: Bishops Stortford Museum				
Related HER Nos: Periods represented: Modern				
LD 1		1 441 1		

Relevant previous summaries/reports: Land at the Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Albion Archaeology 2007).

Land at the Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Geophysical Survey (WYAS 2007).

Land at Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2010).

Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation (Stage 2) (TVAS 2010)

#### Summary of fieldwork results:

Planning permission (Ref: 3/07/1569 OP) has been granted for the residential development of land at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth.

Due to the archaeological potential of the site, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of any development. A Written Scheme of Investigation for trial trench evaluation was prepared in accordance with advice received from the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisor. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out the trial trenching.

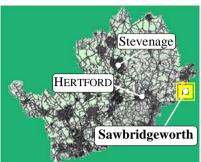
Thirteen trial trenches were spread evenly across the site to determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

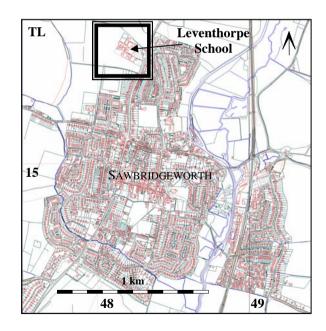
The results of the trial trenching indicate that there are no archaeological remains of significance within the site.

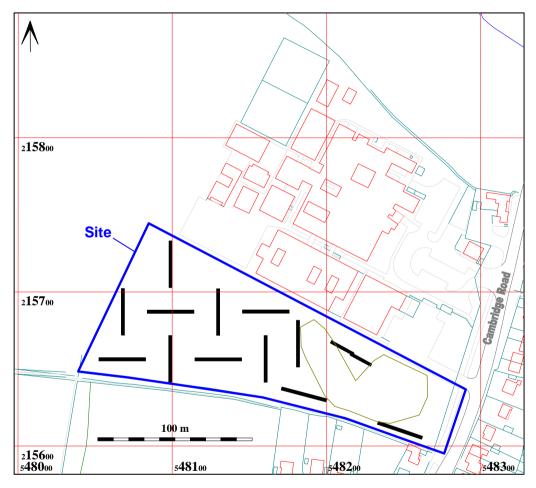
Author of summary: W. Keir	Date of summary: 10/12/2010











# Figure 1: Site location plan

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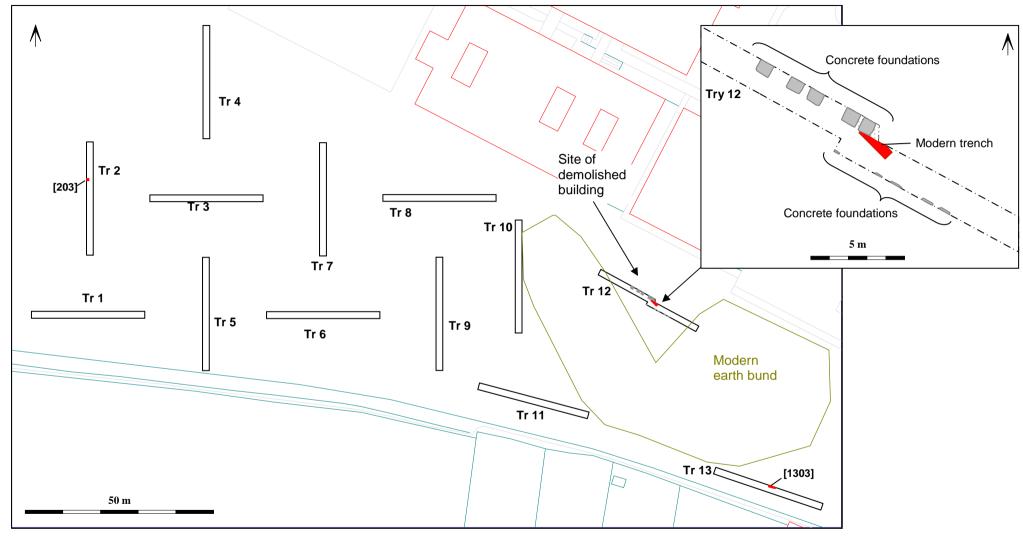


Figure 2: Trial trenching results

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Trench 1. Facing W. Scale 40cm.



Trench 2. Facing S. Scale 40cm.



Modern feature [203] in Trench 2. Scale 40cm.



Trench 3. Facing E. Scale 40cm.



Trench 4. Facing N. Scale 40cm.



Trench 5. Facing S. Scale 40cm.



Trench 6. Facing E. Scale 40cm.



Trench 7. Facing N. Scale 40cm.

**Figure 3:** Photographs: Trenches 1-7
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Trench 8. Facing W. Scale 40cm.



Trench 10. Facing N. Scale 40cm.



Trench 12. Facing WNW. Scale 40cm.



Trench 13. Facing ESE. Scale 40cm.



Trench 9. Facing S. Scale 40cm.



Trench 11. Facing ESE. Scale 40cm.



Trench 12. Facing ESE. Scale 40cm.



Modern feature [1303] in Trench 13. Scale 40cm.

Figure 4: Photographs: Trenches 8-13

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