



The Grange, Blunham, Bedfordshire Summary of Archaeological Works to date

Introduction

This summary was requested by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, following a site visit on Tuesday 9th August 2011; it described those elements of the archaeological works which have been completed and the results. So far Archaeological Observation of the driveway and turning areas has been undertaken and Trial Trenches 2 and 3 have been opened and investigated (Figure 1). The results of each element are summarised below.

Archaeological Observation

Monitoring of the stripping of the turning area and driveway, which extends from the house, in a south easterly direction revealed a cultivation soil, with the ground reduction stopping at the interface of the ploughsoil and underlying subsoil (Figure 2: image 1). However, an associated service trench extended *c.* 0.8m below the present ground level, exposing the undisturbed geological strata, which consisted of light grey yellow sandy gravel to gravely sand (Figure 2: image 2). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed in this area.

Trial Trenching.

It was only possible to open two of the trenches (Tr 2 and Tr 3 on Figure 1), with Trench 1 being inaccessible at present. These trenches revealed a darker sandy gravel geological strata (Figure 3: image 3). These are river terrace gravels, with the variations due to the nature of deposition.

The trenches revealed a cultivation soil, between 0.6-0.8m thick. A single archaeological feature was exposed on the western side of Trench 2. The linear ditch was aligned NW-SE, at least 6.5m long, with a well-defined terminal in the SE (Figure 3: image 4). Two sections were excavated across the ditch, one at the terminus and a second further to the NW, at the request of the CBCA following the site visit. In section the ditch has a concave profile *c.* 1.5m wide and increasing in depth from 0.4m deep near the terminal to 0.7m further to the NW (Figure 4: image 5). A series of fills were exposed, with the intermediate fill indicating the presence of an associated bank to the west. The upper fill was probably derived from natural silting of an adjacent ploughsoil. As no finds were recovered from the feature during hand excavation a sample was taken for dry sieving. The 20 litres sample has been processed with no finds being recovered.

*Gary Edmondson
10th August 2011*

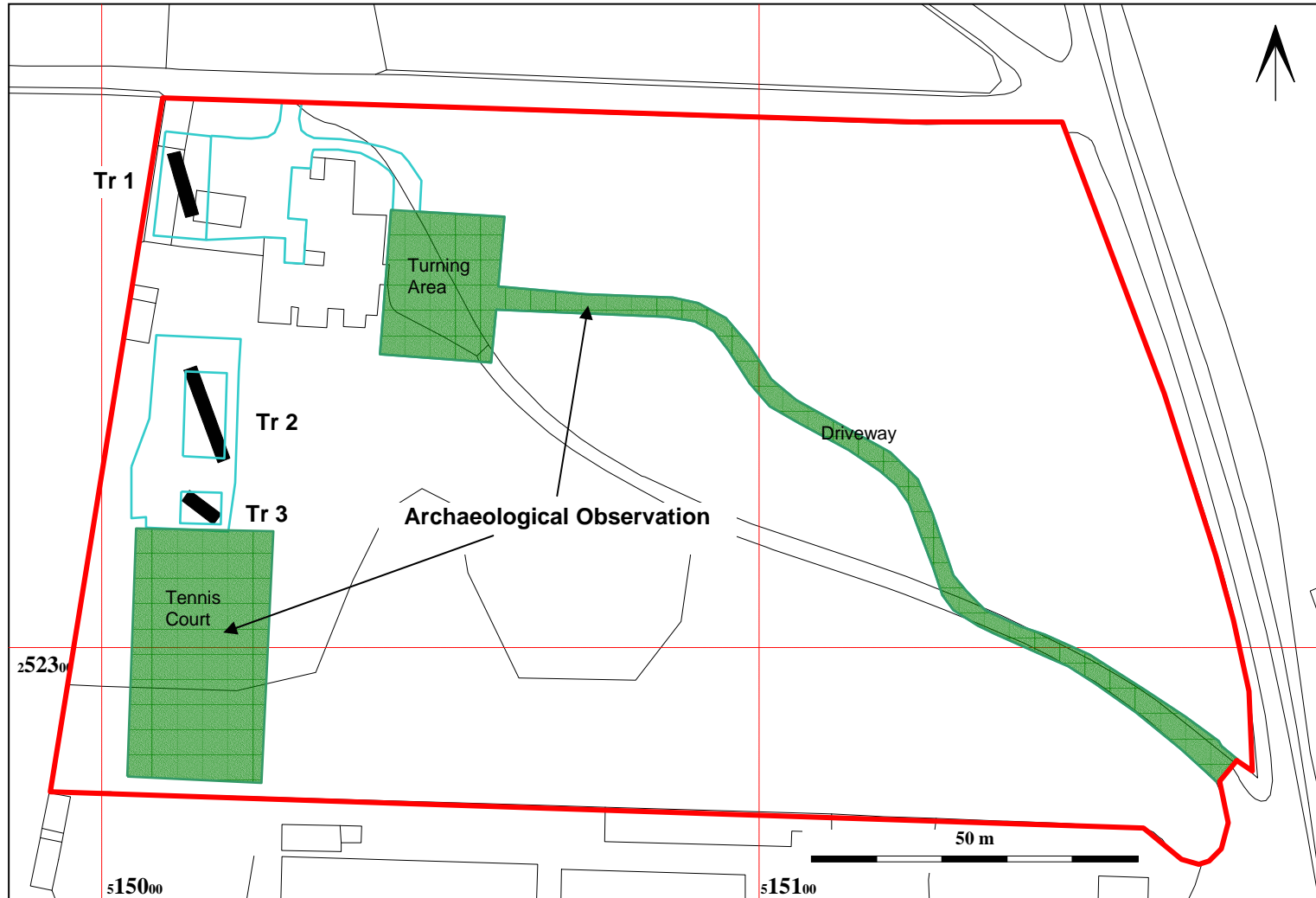


Figure 1: Location of areas of Archaeological Observation and Trial Trenches (Tr 1-3)

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Image 1: Stripping of the driveway down to formation level, revealing the interface between ploughsoil and underlying subsoil.



Image 2: Cutting drainage trench along driveway, exposing the undisturbed geological strata.

Figure 2: Selected images 1 and 2 – Archaeological Observation



Image 3: Trench 3, showing the slight variations in the geological strata. No archaeological features were present. Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions.



Image 4: Trench 2, showing terminal of undated ditch [203] excavated. The intermediate stony fill, suggests the presence of an associated bank to the left. Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions.

Figure 3: Selected images 3 and 4 - Trial Trenching



Image 5: The additional segment excavated through the ditch in Trench 2 revealed a deeper profile, filled with a similar sequence of deposits as the terminal segment. Scale 1 metre in 0.5m divisions.

Figure 4: Selected image 5 - Trial Trenching