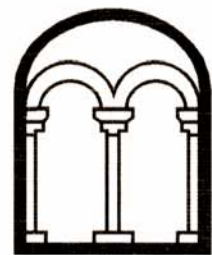


**PROPOSED RELIEF ROAD
ARLESEY
BEDFORDSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING**

Albion
archaeology



**PROPOSED RELIEF ROAD
ARLESEY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements 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.

This document has been prepared by Jeremy Oetgen (Project Manager). The figures were produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jeremy Oetgen. Artefacts were identified and reported by Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Oetgen and Mark Phillips (Project Officer). Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager) was responsible for overall management and quality control.

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Structure of the Document

The first section of this document introduces the proposed project. Section 2 outlines the methodologies employed during the investigation. Sections 3 and 4 present the results of the trial trenching and their significance. Section 5 is a bibliography. Supplementary information on methodologies and results is contained in the three appendices (Sections 6–8).

Key Terms

Throughout this document, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
DPD	Development Plan Document (adopted 2011)
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists



LPA	Local Planning Authority
MA8	Land allocated under DPD Policy MA8
PDA	Proposed development area
<i>Procedures Manual</i>	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd edn, 2001
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-technical Summary

On behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council, Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd is compiling an Environmental Statement for a planning application to construct a new relief road from High Street, Arlesey, to the A507 Arlesey–Stotfold bypass. The road is contained in the Masterplan for the land allocated for mixed-use development in the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocation DPD (adopted April 2011, Policy MA8).

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) has indicated that a programme of archaeological field evaluation is required in line with the brief issued by the CBCA in 2011 for a heritage asset assessment of the site allocated under MA8. It was agreed that the field evaluation of the road could be undertaken separately as a variation to the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011).

The trenching strategy was informed by the results of a desk-based heritage assessment (Albion Archaeology 2014) and a programme of geophysical survey (Stratascan 2011). Seven trenches were excavated along the line of the proposed road in August 2014. The line of two gas pipelines represented a major significant constraint on the trenching.

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of the following archaeological remains:

- *a single small early Iron Age pit located near the east end of the road corridor;*
- *three undated features, likely to medieval furrows;*
- *a post-Enclosure field boundary ditch;*
- *an undated ditch on the line of a recorded cropmark (HER1767).*

The early Iron Age pit may indicate that there is moderate potential for the survival of further early Iron Age remains at the east end of the PDA.

The cropmark had been interpreted as a pre-Enclosure trackway and the discovery of the ditch supports this interpretation. A review of the archaeological and documentary evidence relating to the trackway suggests that it was an important feature of the pre-Enclosure landscape and may date back at least to the medieval period. The line of the trackway suggests that it may have been a drove road for local movement of livestock between dry pasture and river meadows. The possibility is also considered that it was used for stock movement over longer distances from central Bedfordshire into Hertfordshire and on to the London area. The trackway is, therefore, considered to be of local or potentially of regional significance.

There was no evidence that medieval settlement of Arlesey (HER17109) extend as far north as the west end of the PDA. Nor was there any evidence from the Palaeolithic to Bronze Age, the Roman period or Saxon period. It is, therefore, concluded that there is negligible potential for the survival of remains of these periods within the PDA. Any remains that happen to survive in the areas not trenched are likely to be of negligible significance, but there is always a slight residual risk of discovering isolated finds of greater significance

The archaeological potential and significance of heritage assets within the PDA is summarised in the table below.



<i>Period</i>	<i>Potential for survival within PDA</i>		<i>Likely significance of asset</i>
	<i>Prior to evaluation</i>	<i>After evaluation</i>	
<i>Prehistoric (before 650 BC)</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local</i>
<i>Early–middle Iron Age (650–100 BC)</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Local to regional</i>
<i>Late Iron-Age (100 BC–AD 43)</i>	<i>Moderate to high</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local to regional</i>
<i>Roman (AD 43–450)</i>	<i>Moderate to high</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local</i>
<i>Saxon (450–1066)</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local</i>
<i>Medieval (1066–1545)</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local</i>
<i>Pre-Enclosure trackway HER 1767 (before c. 1804)</i>	—	<i>High</i>	<i>Local to regional</i>
<i>Post-medieval (1545–1900)</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Local</i>
<i>Modern (1900 – present)</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Negligible</i>
<i>Undated</i>	<i>[not predictable]</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Negligible</i>

The results of this evaluation will contribute to the assessment of the impact of the proposed development that will be presented in the heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

On behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council, Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd is conducting an Environmental Impact Assessment in support of a planning application for the construction of a new road from High Street, Arlesey, to the A507 Arlesey/Stotfold Bypass. The new road will form part of the relief road set out in the Arlesey Masterplan for the land allocated for mixed-use development in the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocation DPD (adopted April 2011, Policy MA8). This policy indicates that the archaeological impacts of any proposed development must be mitigated and that any planning application must be accompanied by a heritage asset assessment, which:

- Describes the significance of any affected heritage assets;
- Assesses the impact of the proposed development on that significance.

In 2011 the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) issued a brief (CBC 2011) setting out the requirements for the heritage asset assessment. This indicated the need for a supporting programme of archaeological field evaluation. Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd on behalf of the Arlesey Consortium to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which was agreed with the CBCA. These documents applied to all the land allocated under Policy MA8.

The WSI (Albion Archaeology 2011) specified a programme of geophysical survey to be followed by trial trenching. The geophysical survey covering 50ha of arable land east of High Street was completed shortly afterwards (Stratascan 2011). A trenching strategy for the whole 50ha site agreed with the CBCA in April 2013, but was not implemented at the time. However, in June 2014 the CBCA confirmed that trenching of the relief road corridor could be undertaken as a variation to the approved WSI.

It should be noted that the original brief and WSI were drafted in accordance with national planning policy *PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment*. This policy has been superseded by the relevant section of the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

1.2 *Status of this Document*

This report presents the results of trial trenching of the proposed relief road only and the CBCA will require further trenching to complete the evaluation of the remainder of the MA8 site. The fieldwork was undertaken with the prior approval of the CBCA, who acts as archaeological advisor to the LPA. The report has been submitted to the CBCA for vetting.

1.3 *Site Location and Description*

The proposed development area (PDA) comprises a c. 20m-wide corridor, c. 3.96ha in area, which runs across arable farmland land between High Street and the A507 Arlesey–Stotfold Bypass (Figure 1). It lies to the south-east of Church End, in the vicinity of Chase House (formerly know as Chase Farm),



and is centred on grid reference TL 1971 3700. A considerable length of the PDA runs along the line of an existing farm track.

Topographically, the land around Chase Farm overlooks the valley of the Pix Brook to the north-east and the River Hiz to the west. The road corridor crosses the lower end of a ridge that runs north from Fairfield Park, where it forms a relatively prominent landmark. Within the road corridor the highest point (c. 48.2m OD) is approximately mid-way along the route, where it crosses the existing track. From here the land falls gradually to c. 43m OD at the east end and c. 41m OD at the west end (Figure 2).

The solid geology comprises marly chalk of the West Melbury Formation overlying Gault Formation mudstone, which is exposed at each end of the road corridor. Local deposits of glacial gravel cover the bedrock at the east end of the road corridor and alluvium is present along the course of the Pix Brook (Figure 3).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

A baseline survey of the archaeology and history of the area is presented in the desk-based heritage assessment prepared to accompany this evaluation (Albion Archaeology 2014). This shows that there are no designated heritage assets within the PDA. The only undesignated heritage recorded in the HER is cropmark (HER1767) interpreted as a track running between Church End and Hitchin Road, Stotfold. It predates the 1804 Enclosure of Arlesey and is not shown on any of the maps of Arlesey that have been consulted; however, the south-east end appears on a pre-enclosure map of Stotfold from 1848 (BLARS MA88/2). The present long, straight track leading east from High Street is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map of 1882.

No archaeological investigation has been undertaken prior to the present work, but the extreme eastern end of the PDA was subjected to evaluation prior to the construction of the A507 Arlesey–Stotfold Bypass. Here, fieldwalking recovered prehistoric flint scatters and Saxon pottery, while in the field east of the road, geophysical survey suggested the possible presence of Saxon sunken-featured buildings (HER16083; EBD188 and EBD599). No investigation took place during construction of the line of the gas pipelines within the PDA; according to the National Grid Plant Protection Team, the pipelines were installed in the 1970s, before archaeological evaluation of such works became common practice.

According to the HER, the medieval settlement of Arlesey (HER17109) extended into the west end of the PDA. However, this is purely conjectural.

The geophysical survey undertaken under as part of the present evaluation programme (Stratascan 2011) identified a number of magnetic anomalies of probable archaeological origin (Figure 5), but those within the PDA were mostly linear features interpreted as traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation. Two broad areas of magnetic disturbance cross the PDA. These are generically interpreted as the result of ‘substantial nearby ferrous metal objects such as fences and underground services’ (ibid., 9). The eastern



anomaly was undoubtedly caused by the high and intermediate pressure gas pipelines that cross the site; the other is located on the line of a 19th-century field boundary (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25-inch map, 1882). Weak positive anomalies, possibly indicting linear cut features of archaeological origin (i.e. ditches) were recorded at the south-west end of the PDA and alongside the farm track — the anomaly to the south of the track may be due to the intermediate pressure gas main. Potentially the most significant features identified by the survey are two possible enclosed settlements: one lying *c.* 100m to the south of the PDA; the other *c.* 400m to the north. These have not been verified by excavation and are as yet undated.

The absence of evidence from the PDA itself may reflect a lack of fieldwork rather than an actual absence of archaeological remains themselves. Evidence from the surrounding area suggests that the environs of the PDA were densely settled from at least the Bronze Age onward and during the Iron Age and Roman periods. This suggests that the undated possible enclosed settlements identified by geophysical survey are most likely to date from the Iron Age or Roman periods. Arlesey is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, indicating that its origins lie in at least the late Saxon period and field evaluation on the line of the A507 identified Saxon features along the Pix Brook (HER 16803). This information demonstrated that the PDA had the potential to contain well preserved archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the modern era and it is this potential that was tested by the trial trenching.

1.5 Research Objectives

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

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

This information assists in determining the nature, function and character of the archaeological remains in their cultural and environmental setting. These characteristics contribute to the ‘significance’ of an archaeological heritage asset and its value for this and future generations. The significance of heritage assets can be assessed with reference to various national, regional and topical guidelines and research frameworks, particularly those published for eastern England (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott and Brown 2008) and Bedfordshire (Oake *et al* 2007).



2. METHOD STATEMENTS

2.1 Standards

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

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Albion Archaeology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001) |
| ALGAO (East) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Standards for the Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> |
| English Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition</i> • <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006) |
| IfA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Conduct</i> • <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> |

2.2 Archaeological Field Evaluation

The evaluation strategy for the whole of the land allocated under DPD Policy MA8 comprises two-stage field investigation involving geophysical survey and trial trenching. Detailed method statements for each stage are presented in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011). In June 2014 the CBCA confirmed that trenching of the PDA for the current relief road application could be undertaken as a variation to this WSI.

2.2.1 Geophysical survey

The geophysical survey comprised detailed magnetometry on all suitable land within MA8 east of High Street (Stratascan 2011). The PDA for the current planning application lies mostly within the surveyed area, but *c.* 180m of the corridor at its eastern end lies outside the area. The CBCA confirmed that this omission was acceptable, provided that trenching was undertaken.

For the survey, the standards set out in English Heritage's *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) were followed. In summary, readings were taken on a 30m x 30m grid, recorded at 1m centres in traverses 0.25m apart. Individual grids were matched together to produce an overall plan of the surveyed area.

The results of the geophysical survey were used to refine the trial trenching strategy.

2.2.2 Trial trenching

A programme of trial trenching is required for the whole of the MA8 site, although some of the land parcels to the west of the High Street have limited



accessibility and are subject to ecological constraints. However, the trenching strategy for the whole of the MA8 land east of High Street has been agreed with the CBCA. The strategy comprises 91 trenches, each 50m long by 2m wide, of which seven lie within the PDA for the relief road. In June 2014 the CBCA confirmed that these seven trenches could be undertaken separately as a variation to the agreed WSI. The original trench numbering sequence applied to the overarching trench strategy was retained, so that the results could more easily be integrated when, in due course, the evaluation of the remainder of the MA8 site is completed.

The seven trenches within the PDA (Trenches 55, 58, 62, 66, 89, 90 and 91) were opened using a mechanical excavator, operated by an experienced driver under archaeological supervision. Investigation and recording was carried out by experienced Albion staff.

2.2.3 Geotechnical ground investigations

In addition to the trial trenching, archaeological monitoring was undertaken on a series of test-pits and monitoring boreholes. Liaison with the contractors ensured that the ground investigations avoided any areas of known archaeological potential and no archaeological features were observed during these works.

2.3 Reporting and Archiving

Data gathered from each stage of the evaluation is presented in separate reports, which comprise technical appendices to the heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement for the proposed relief road. The latter takes the place of the heritage asset assessment required by Section 8 of the CBCA's brief.

The archive of finds and records generated during the project are being archived to the standards outlined in Appendix 3 of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects and Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire* (2010). In liaison with the landowners, in principle permission will be sought for transfer of title of all finds to Bedford Museum (accession number BEDFM:2011.60).

Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service (OASIS Ref: albionar1-108370). A summary of the OASIS record is presented in Appendix 3.

2.4 Health and Safety

A specific hazard within the PDA arose from the presence of high and intermediate pressure gas pipelines. The trial trenching therefore was undertaken in accordance with the advice and guidance provided by National Grid Plant Protection Team.

No excavation was undertaken within 15m of the mapped route of the pipelines. The magnetometer survey helped locate the high and intermediate



pressure pipelines crossing the eastern half of the PDA, but the intermediate pressure pipeline to the south of the farm track was not so clearly detectable.



3. RESULTS OF TRAIL TRENCHING

3.1 *Introduction*

Trial trenching took place between 7th and 10th August 2014. Weather conditions were changeable, ranging from hot sun to heavy rain.

The results of the trenching are discussed below, illustrated with plans, sections and photographs in Figures 6–13. A detailed summary of recorded deposits found in each trench is presented in Appendix 1

3.2 *Character of Geological Deposits and Soils*

All trenches lay in arable land. The plough soil was consistently *c.* 300mm thick and comprised dark brown-grey to grey-black loam. Subsoil comprised lighter, brownish loam that was 100–200mm thick.

Very few artefacts were observed in the overburden, generally. Occasional post-medieval/modern brick and tile fragments were noted throughout, but more were present near the south-west end of the PDA, south of Chase House. Trench 62 produced the most brick and tile. A sand-tempered post-medieval peg tile fragment (211g) and a sizeable piece of coal (226g) were collected from subsoil (6201). This probably reflects the increasing proximity of the PDA to the built-up areas of High Street.

Geological deposits were very variable, with different material occurring in bands and patches. At the east end of the PDA, the geological deposits tended to be lighter, more yellow- or brown-coloured sand or clay with gravel. In the rest of the PDA clay or clay loam predominated. This probably reflects the variation mapped by the British Geological Survey (Figure 3).

At the west end of Trench 89 it was observed that the plough soil and subsoil were particularly compacted, so much so that some of the material came up in large lumps up to *c.* 500mm across (Figure 11, photograph at top right). There was also a very clear boundary between plough soil and subsoil. This end of the trench lay *c.* 30m from the line of the gas pipeline (as mapped), so it is possible that this compaction is the result of heavy plant movement during pipeline construction in the 1970s.

Gravel spreads (6203) and (6204) in Trench 62 resembled metallised surfaces, but they were very patchy and more likely to have arisen from natural sorting of small pebbles in the subsoil.

Slight greenish staining of the geological deposits near the south-west end of Trench 66 (6604) might have been caused by leaching from a silage clamp that was formerly located in that area (R. Bland, farmer, pers. comm.).

3.3 *Isolated Iron Age Pit*

Trench 90 contained a single small pit [9003] at its extreme north-east end. It was bowl-shaped and 200mm deep. The function of the pit is unknown, but the presence of pottery, burnt stones, charcoal and fired clay suggests that it was close to an area of contemporary habitation (although no other features



were observed in Trench 90). The pottery comprised four abraded body sherds (12g) representing two vessels. The wares are sand- and flint-tempered (respectively fabrics F28 and F01C¹), and are of early Iron Age date (*c.* 800–600 BC). Four well-preserved animal bone fragments (46g), including a complete sheep/goat tibia and a partial phalanx were also collected from the fill.

3.4 Undated Linear Features and Small Pit

Trench 89 contained two undated ditches, [8902] and [8904] (Figure 11). They both had concave profiles and similar fills but were on different alignments. Ditch [8902] was shallower (base *c.* 0.75m below ground level) than ditch [8904] (base *c.* 1.2m below ground level). Ditch [8902] contained an abraded pottery body sherd (4g) tempered with sand and flint (fabric F01C), datable to the early Iron Age. The small size of the sherd precludes positive dating of the feature. However, it attests to the possibility of early Iron Age occupation in the vicinity.

A small pit [5805] in Trench 58 (Figure 8) might have been the tip of a posthole, perhaps for a post removed by levering out (hence its asymmetrical profile). It contained no finds. It did not appear to be very old and might have been a temporary fence post or marker inserted during the construction of the gas pipelines in the 1970s.

3.5 Ditch forming the Boundary of a Possible Drove-road (Trench 55)

At the east end of Trench 55 a single, relatively substantial ditch [5506] was recorded. It ran obliquely along the north edge of the trench on an approximately north-easterly alignment and had a steep-sided concave profile (Figure 7). The primary fill (5505) was barely distinguishable from the adjacent geological deposit (5503), except that the fill was siltier. The upper fill (5504) was similar to the subsoil (5502), but darker in colour. There were no finds, but the alignment and location of the ditch coincide closely with cropmark HER1767 (Figure 4). The ditch is almost certainly the origin of the cropmark and is, therefore, interpreted as the flanking ditch on one side of the trackway. A second, parallel ditch is, therefore, expected to lie on the other side of the trackway.

3.6 Medieval Cultivation

The best evidence of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation came from Trench 91. Here, at least four furrows [9104] on a N-S alignment were recorded, *c.* 10m apart, centre to centre (Figure 13). There may have been a fifth furrow at the west end of the trench, but this location coincided with a 19th- or 20th-century land drain. These features coincide with the furrows identified by geophysical survey.

Parallel variations in the geology (e.g. Trenches 55, 58; Figures 7–8) were probably not furrows as such, but may perhaps represent differential weathering beneath furrows that have themselves been totally obliterated by

¹ Fabric types defined in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series



modern cultivation. These variations may be the origin of the widespread parallel linear magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

3.7 Post-enclosure Boundary Ditch (Trench 66)

N-S aligned, 3m-wide linear feature [6603] had a V-shaped profile and was over 1.2m deep (Figure 10). It was backfilled with material of very mixed composition (6602), which contained frequent modern rubbish and building material. It also had a strong, unpleasant odour of decay, indicating that it had been backfilled relatively recently. A *c.* 6-inch diameter ceramic land drain had been placed in the bottom of the ditch. Because it was clearly modern, the feature was excavated by machine.

The ditch coincided with an area of magnetic disturbance recorded by the magnetometer survey (Stratascan 2011, 9, fig. 49) and the line of an old field boundary indicated on historical maps. It was clearly a former boundary ditch that had been deliberately backfilled.

3.8 Land Drains

A small number of 19th- or 20th-century land drains were encountered — mostly ceramic pipes. Drainage is not a particular problem on the land, except at the west end of the PDA (R. Bland, farmer, pers. comm.)



4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESULTS

The evaluation has demonstrated the survival of the following archaeological remains. Their significance is assessed in accordance with criteria set out in Appendix 2.

4.1 *Isolated Iron Age Pit*

The early Iron Age pit [9003] is of uncertain function and the lack of any other features within Trench 90 suggests that there is *low* potential for the survival of contemporary features within the PDA. However, because a very small fragment of early Iron Age pottery was also recovered from Trench 89, it is reasonable to adjust this to *moderate* potential. The nearest known contemporary settlement is that identified across the Pix Brook at Etonbury Academy (Albion Archaeology 2014). The pit is possibly an extreme outlier of nearby settlements, such as those to the north of the Pix Brook. Isolated features with no associated remains are of limited archaeological potential and, unless they contain finds of particular interest, they are of *local* significance. However, if further early Iron Age features occur within the PDA, they could be of *local* to *regional* significance, depending on their exact nature.

4.2 *Undated Features*

There were relatively few undated features encountered in the trenches, so there is only *moderate* potential that further undated features survive within the PDA. Those that were encountered were undiagnostic and cannot be characterised by association with any other archaeological remains or historically documented activities on the site. Their significance is, therefore, *negligible*.

4.3 *Boundary Ditch on the Line of a Pre-Enclosure Trackway*

The discovery of feature [5506] verifies the existence of the trackway visible as a cropmark (HER1767). The ditch produced no finds, so is itself undated and has limited archaeological potential, but the trackway can be dated with reference to historical records (namely the pre-Enclosure map of Stotfold and post-Enclosure maps of Arlesey). These sources demonstrate that the track was a feature of the pre-Enclosure landscape and may date back at least to the medieval period. The line of the trackway, running as it does along the chalk ridge from the high ground near Fairfield towards the confluence of the Pix Brook and River Hiz at Church End, suggests that it may have been a drove road for movement of stock between dry pasture (in Stotfold parish) and meadows alongside the River Hiz. It is interesting to note that the track could have linked the lands of three adjacent parishes: Stotfold, Arlesey and Henlow (via the medieval bridge over the River Hiz (HER5208; Simco and McKeague 1997)). This indicates that the trackway may have been of more than local importance, perhaps serving as a route for movement of livestock from central Bedfordshire into Hertfordshire and on to the London area. The trackway is, therefore, considered to be of *local* significance (as evidence of pre-Enclosure/medieval land use, agriculture and animal husbandry) and potentially of *regional* significance (as evidence of regional communication,



trade and the pre-Enclosure/medieval agricultural economy in eastern England).

4.4 Medieval Cultivation and Settlement

The best-preserved furrows were present near the west end of the PDA. This part of the land was converted to arable from pasture in the last 25 years (R. Bland, farmer, pers. comm.) and can be seen in the 1986 vertical aerial photo in the HER collection. The author recalls observing slight ridges in the pasture field in the late 1980s, particularly near the southern boundary of the field, but ploughing has now obliterated any surface features.

Well preserved earthwork ridge and furrow is relatively rare in Bedfordshire and might be considered regionally significant as evidence of medieval field systems and agricultural practice. There are small areas of earthwork ridge and furrow at Arlesey, west of High Street. However sub-surface remnants are commonly observed in archaeological investigations and are generally less valuable. The furrows within the PDA are not visible as earthworks and the sub-surface remains are not particularly extensive. They are, therefore, at best of only *local* significance.

There was no evidence of medieval (or later) settlement anywhere within the PDA, even at the west end, adjacent to High Street. This tends to confirm that the medieval settlement of Arlesey did not extend as far north as conjectured by the HER (HER17109). There is *low* potential for the survival of medieval settlement remains and these are unlikely to be of more than *local* significance.

4.5 The Post-Enclosure Landscape

Evidence of post-Enclosure field boundaries, such as that identified in Trench 66, serves only to corroborate the evidence recorded on historical maps. They are of *local* significance.

4.6 Other Periods

The evaluation found no features or artefacts dating from the Palaeolithic to Bronze Age, the Roman period or Saxon period. It is, therefore, concluded that there is negligible potential for the survival of remains of these periods within the PDA. Any remains that happen to survive in the areas not trenched are likely to be of *negligible* significance, but there is always a slight residual risk of discovering isolated finds of greater significance.

4.7 Summary of Archaeological Potential and Significance of Heritage Assets within the PDA

The table below updates the summary presented in the desk-based heritage assessment (Albion Archaeology 2014). An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on these assets is presented in the heritage chapter of the Environmental Statement.



Period	Potential for survival within PDA		Likely significance of asset
	Prior to evaluation	After evaluation	
Prehistoric (before 650 BC)	Moderate	Low	Local
Early–middle Iron Age (650–100 BC)	High	Moderate	Local to regional
Late Iron-Age (100 BC–AD 45)	Moderate to high	Low	Local to regional
Roman (AD 45–450)	Moderate to high	Low	Local
Saxon (450–1066)	High	Low	Local
Medieval (1066–1545)	High	Low	Local
Pre-Enclosure trackway HER 1767 (before c. 1804)	—	High	Local to regional
Post-medieval (1545–1900)	Low	Low	Local
Modern (1900 – present)	Low	Low	Negligible
Undated	[not predictable]	Moderate	Negligible

Table 1: Potential and significance of heritage assets



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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH RECORD SUMMARY

Trench: 55

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 19804 36847 (Easting: 19804: Northing: 36847)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 19848 36824 (Easting: 19848: Northing: 36824)

Reason: Testing geophysical anomaly on line of track and cropmark HER1767

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
5500	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam Layer c. 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5501	Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam Layer c. 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5502	Natural	Grey brown silty clay frequent small stones Occurs in patches and bands with (5503). North-to-south banding may be evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, but not conclusive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5503	Natural	Light brown grey silty clay Occurs in patches and bands with (5502).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5506	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 2m, max depth 1m, min length 11m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5504	Fill	Brown grey clay loam occasional small stones Approx 0.37m thick. Clayier than primary fill (5505).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5505	Primary fill	Firm brown grey clay silt occasional small stones Approximately 0.37m thick. Hard to distinguish from surrounding natural except by the fill's distinctly siltier texture.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 58

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 19960 36818 (Easting: 19960: Northing: 36818)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 19910 36818 (Easting: 19910: Northing: 36818)

Reason: Testing 'blank' area of geophysical survey

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
5800	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam Layer c. 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5801	Subsoil	Grey brown clay loam frequent small stones Layer c. 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5802	Natural	Brown clay loam frequent small stones Patches of gravel in places. Occurs at east end of trench and in patches within layer (5803).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5803	Natural	Light brown grey clay loam occasional small stones Patches of gravel and occasional chalky flecks. Occurs at west end of trench and in patches within layer (5802).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5805	Pit	Assymetrical sides: assymetrical base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, min breadth 0.3m, max depth 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5804	Fill	Brown clay loam frequent flecks charcoal Black speckles (charcoal or manganese?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 62**

Max Dimensions: Length: 38.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 19275 36870 (Easting: 19275; Northing: 36870)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 19312 36859 (Easting: 19312; Northing: 36859)

Reason: Testing geophysical anomaly (possible track alongside field boundary?)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
6200	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam frequent medium CBM Layer c. 0.4m thick. Probably augmented by slope-wash material, because this trench lies at the lowest point of site. Contains frequent red clay roof tile and red and white brick fragments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6201	Subsoil	Mid brown grey clay loam occasional medium CBM Layer c. 0.2m thick. Probably contains some slope-wash material, because this trench lies at the lowest point of site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6202	Natural	Grey clay With patches of mid brownish-grey clay loam and gravel. Probably weathered Gault clay.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6203	Natural	Patchy gravel spread at c. 0.5m below ground level at mid-point of trench. Possibly a gravel surface, but more probably a natural layer. Similar to layer (6204), but more clearly defined.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6204	Natural	Patchy gravel spread at c. 0.5m below ground level at west end of trench. Looks like layer (6203), but not as clearly defined. Probably a natural layer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 66

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 19471 36885 (Easting: 19477; Northing: 36885)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 19430 36868 (Easting: 19430; Northing: 36868)

Reason: Testing a probably 20th-century geophysical anomaly

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
6600	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam occasional small CBM, occasional small stones Layer c. 0.35m thick, becoming thinner to north end of trench.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6601	Subsoil	Light yellow grey clay loam occasional small stones Slightly browner in colour over top of brown natural (6605). Layer c. 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6603	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: V-shaped base: v-shaped dimensions: max breadth 3m, min depth 1.2m, min length 2m Machine-dug. Ditch on line of old field boundary known from historical maps.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6602	Backfill	Dark brown grey Very mixed composition. Contains frequent modern rubbish, including frequent brick and tile and occasional metal and glass. Has a strong, unpleasant odour of decay. A c. 6inch-dia. ceramic land drain has been placed in the bottom of the ditch. (No finds retained.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6604	Natural	Firm mid grey clay silt Has numerous cracks (due to periodic drying out). There is distinct area of greenish staining of this deposit to west of ditch [6603]. Probably weathered chalk (or perhaps Gault clay?).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6605	Natural	Brown clay loam With gravelly patches. Bands of variation within layer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 89**

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.45 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 20077 36837 (Easting: 20077: Northing: 36837)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 20027 36837 (Easting: 20027: Northing: 36837)

Reason: Testing area that has not been surveyed by magnetometer

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
8900	Ploughsoil	Dark grey black silty loam moderate small stones Layer 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8901	Subsoil	Mid yellow brown clay loam Layer 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8902	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, min depth 0.25m, min length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8903	Fill	Mid yellow grey silty loam occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8904	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.m Very irregular, with a small depression on west side.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8905	Fill	Mid yellow grey silty loam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8906	Natural	Variable, light yellow brown to mid orange brown sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 90

Max Dimensions: Length: 49.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 20155 36898 (Easting: 20155: Northing: 36898)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 20129 30611 (Easting: 20129: Northing: 30611)

Reason: Testing area that has not been surveyed by magnetometer

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
9000	Ploughsoil	Dark grey clay silt occasional small stones Layer 0.30m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9001	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay frequent small stones Layer 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9002	Natural	Mid yellow brown clay With variable amounts (patches) of gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9003	Pit	Oval sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.72m, max depth 0.2m, max length 0.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9004	Fill	Dark grey clay silt occasional small burnt stones, moderate flecks charcoal, occasional small fired clay, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 91

Max Dimensions: Length: 50.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.5 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL 19391 36802 (Easting: 19391: Northing: 36802)

OS Grid Ref.: TL 19341 36867 (Easting: 19341: Northing: 36867)

Reason: Testing geophysical anomaly (a possible track or boundary?)

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
9100	Ploughsoil	Dark brown grey clay loam Layer 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9101	Subsoil	Grey clay loam With patches of gravel. Layer 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9102	Natural	Grey clay Less deep between the furrows [9104]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9104	Furrow	Four furrows on north-to-south alignment, approximately 10m centres. There may have been a fifth furrow at the west end of the trench, but this location coincided with a 19th/20th-century land drain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9103	Fill	Brown grey clay With gravel and small stones in places	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criteria used for Assessing the Significance of Assets	
<i>Significance of Asset</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<i>International</i>	A designated World Heritage Site or place of equivalent 'outstanding universal value' and international significance
<i>National</i>	Designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments, Grade I or Grade II* listed buildings, registered Park or Gardens or battlefields) of national significance. <i>Or:</i> Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rare in the heritage environment record or • are a good example of a type site or • have a high potential to contribute to regional and national research objectives
<i>Regional</i>	Designated heritage assets of regional significance (Grade II listed buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Park or Garden or battlefield <u>not</u> associated with events of national significance). <i>Or:</i> Undesignated heritage assets and archaeological remains of potentially equivalent value. This includes assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more commonly found in the heritage environment record or • have particular regional associations or may have important associations on a local or parish level (e.g. they have meaning to local population or embody something of the special identity of a locality) • have high potential to contribute to regional research objectives national research objectives but to low potential to address national research objectives
<i>Local</i>	Assets which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relatively poorly preserved or • have limited significance on a local level • have a low potential to contribute to regional or national research objectives to add to local and regional research criteria
<i>Uncertain</i>	Sites where there is evidence that a heritage asset may exist, but where there is insufficient information to determine its nature, extent and degree of survival given current knowledge (e.g. cropmarks untested by fieldwork or random finds spots).
<i>Negligible</i>	Where there is very authoritative evidence – usually backed up field evaluation – that there is no possibility that anything of archaeological or historical significance exists or where any potential surviving remains have no value within the context of the current study.



8. APPENDIX 3: OASIS RECORD SUMMARY

OASIS ID: albionar1-108370

Project details

Project name	Land at Arlesey
Short description of the project	On behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council, Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd is compiling an Environmental Statement for a planning application to construct a new relief road from High Street, Arlesey, to the A507 Arlesey-Stotfold bypass. The road is contained in the Masterplan for the land allocated for mixed-use development in the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocation DPD (adopted April 2011, Policy MA8). The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) indicated that a programme of archaeological field evaluation was required. The trenching strategy was informed by the results of a desk-based heritage assessment and a programme of geophysical survey. Seven trenches were excavated along the line of the proposed road in August 2014. The evaluation demonstrated the survival of the following archaeological remains: a single small early Iron Age pit located near the east end of the road corridor; three undated features, likely to medieval furrows; a post-Enclosure field boundary ditch; an undated ditch on the line of a recorded cropmark (HER1767). The cropmark had been interpreted as a pre-Enclosure trackway and the discovery of the ditch supports this interpretation. The line of the trackway suggests that it may have been a drove road for local movement of livestock between dry pasture and river meadows. The possibility is also considered that it was used for stock movement over longer distances from central Bedfordshire into Hertfordshire and on to the London area. The trackway is, therefore, considered to be of local or potentially of regional significance.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2014 End: 10-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	AR1771 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BEDFM:2011.60 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Environmental assessment
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	FURROWS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Survey techniques	Archaeology

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE ARLESEY Land at Arlesey
Study area	77.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1971 3700 Point



Site coordinates TL 1911 3639 Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager Jeremy Oetgen

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Physical Archive ID BEDFM:2011.60

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology

Digital Contents "Ceramics", "other"

Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Bedford Museum

Paper Archive ID BEDFM:2011.60

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", 'Report', "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Proposed Relief Road, Arlesey, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Trial Trenching

Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Oetgen, J' 'Wells, J'

Other bibliographic details 2014/160

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Issuer or publisher Albion Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Bedford

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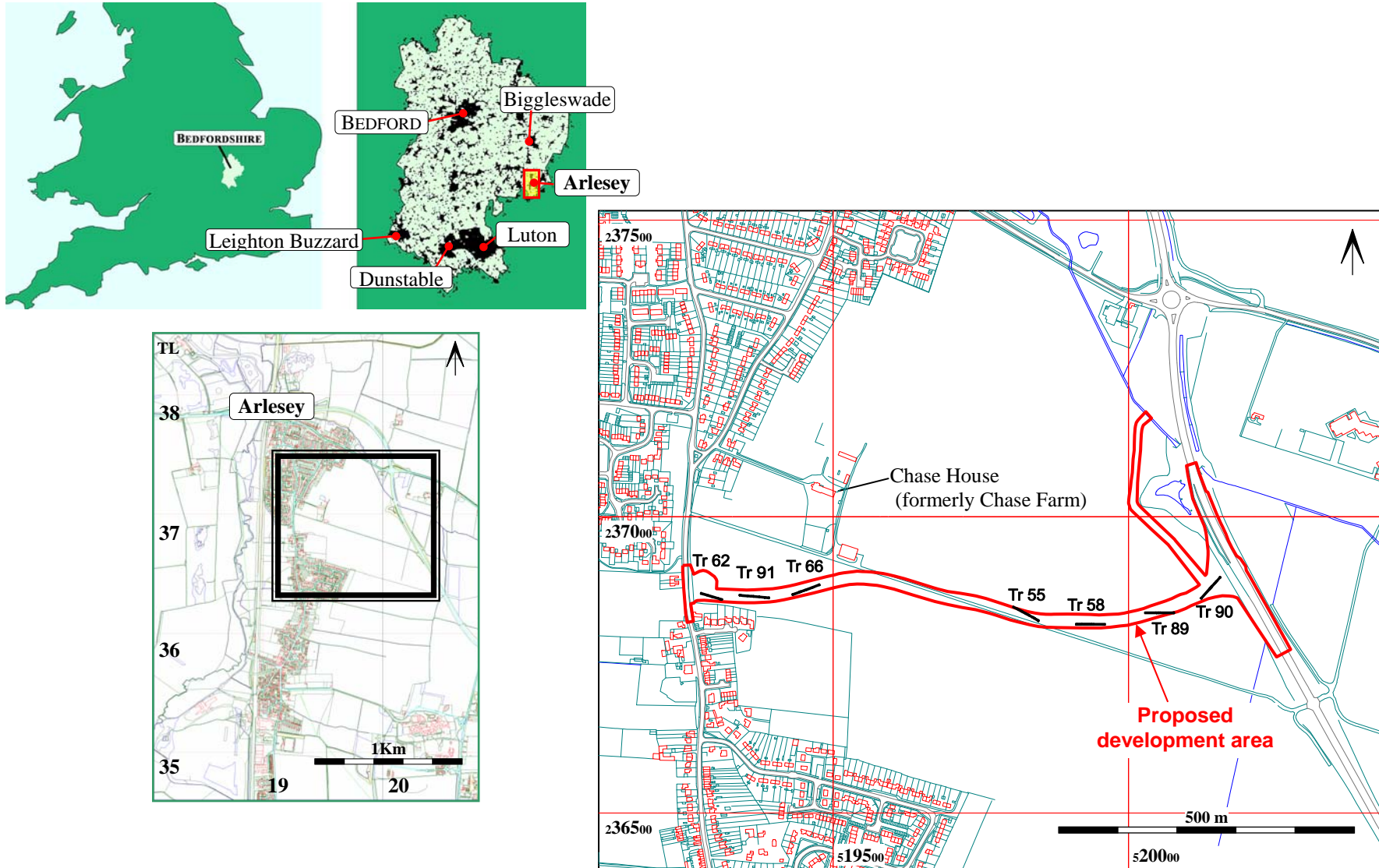
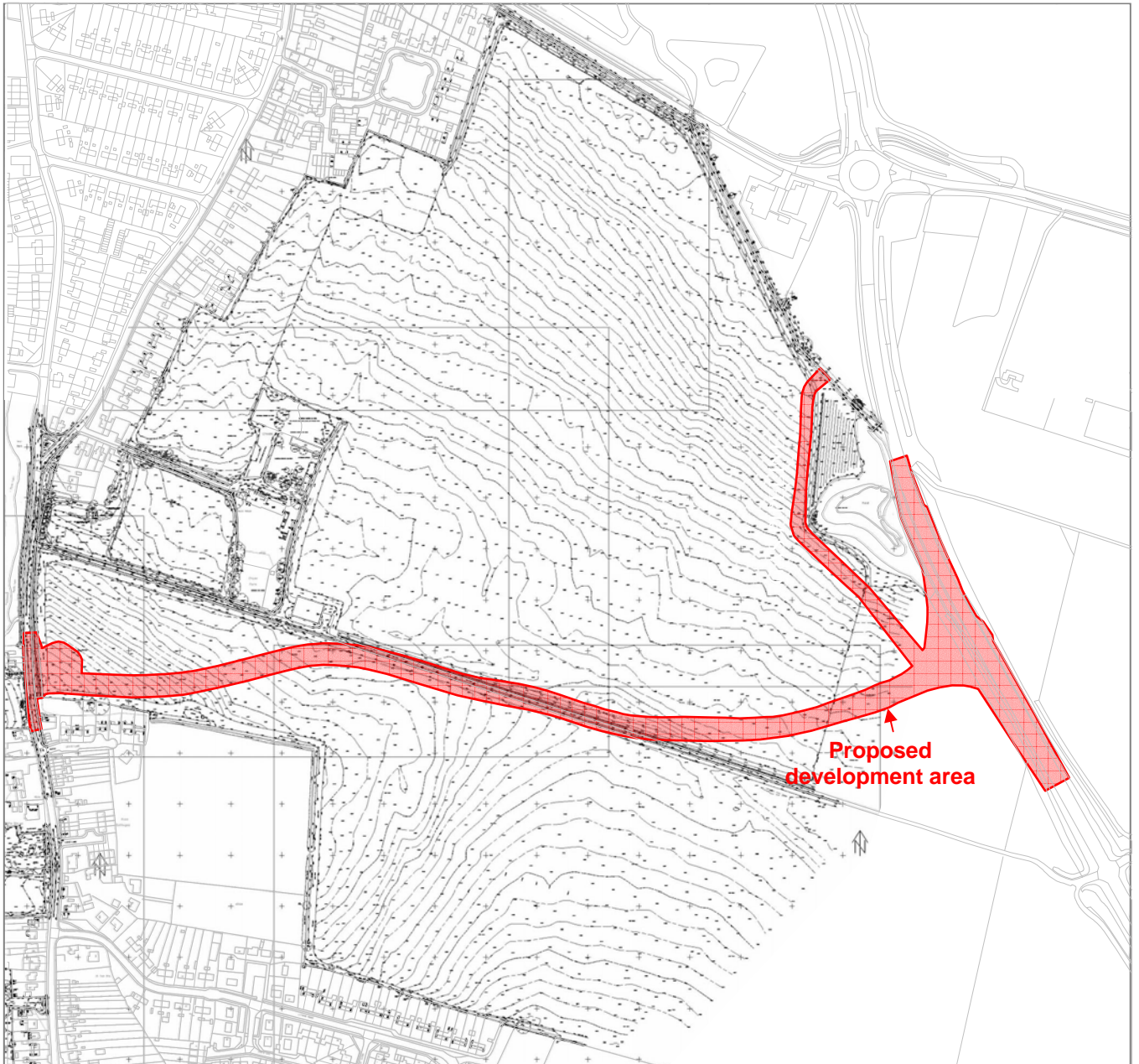


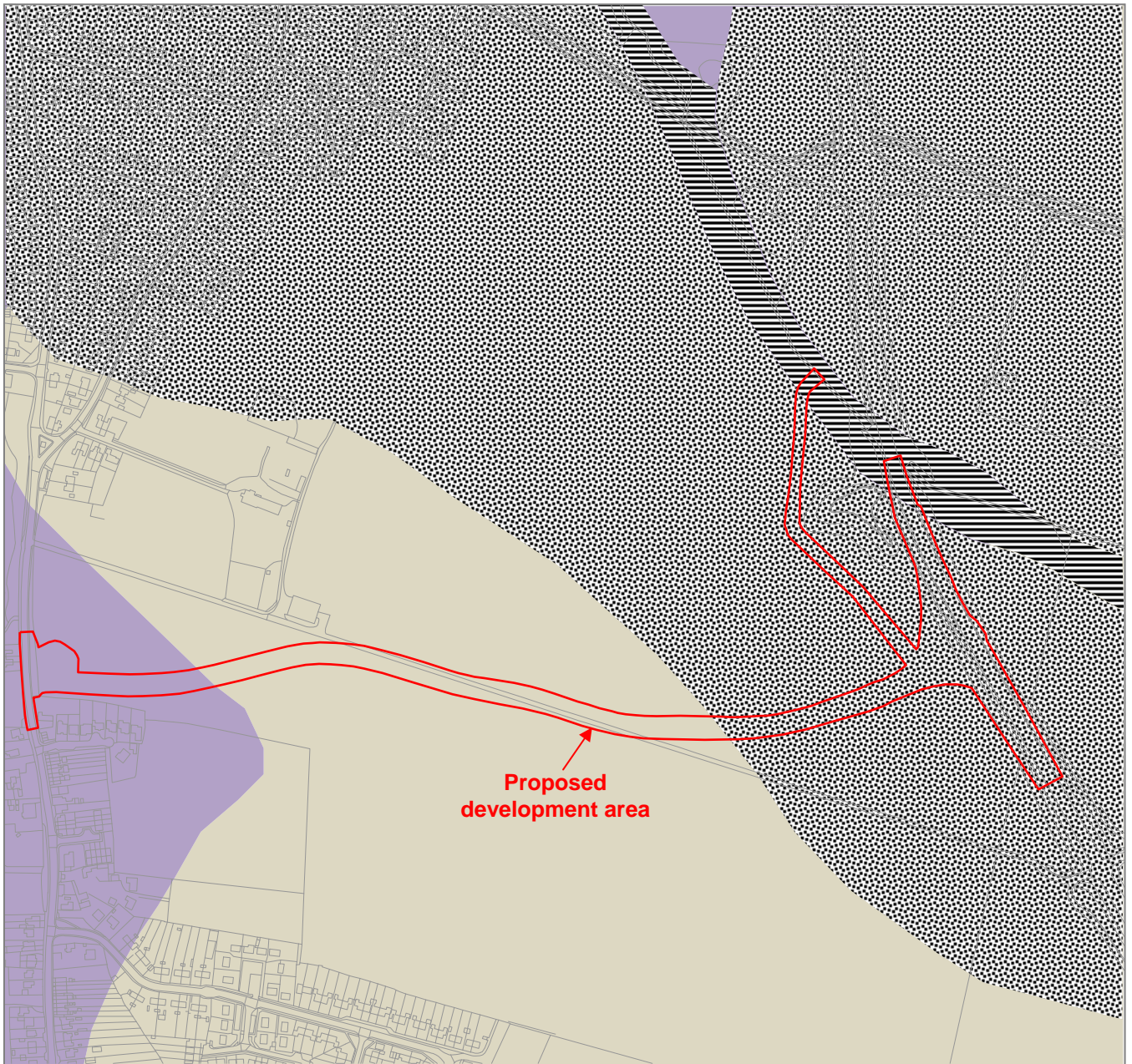
Figure 1: Site location

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**Figure 2: Topographic survey
(supplied by Woods Hardwick)**

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Bedrock:



Gault Formation mudstone



West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation

Superficial deposits:



Mid Pleistocene sand and gravel



Alluvium

Figure 3: Geology

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Figure 4: Aerial photograph showing cropmark HER1767
(Central Bedfordshire HER: Aerofilms 96c 565 r20 1717)

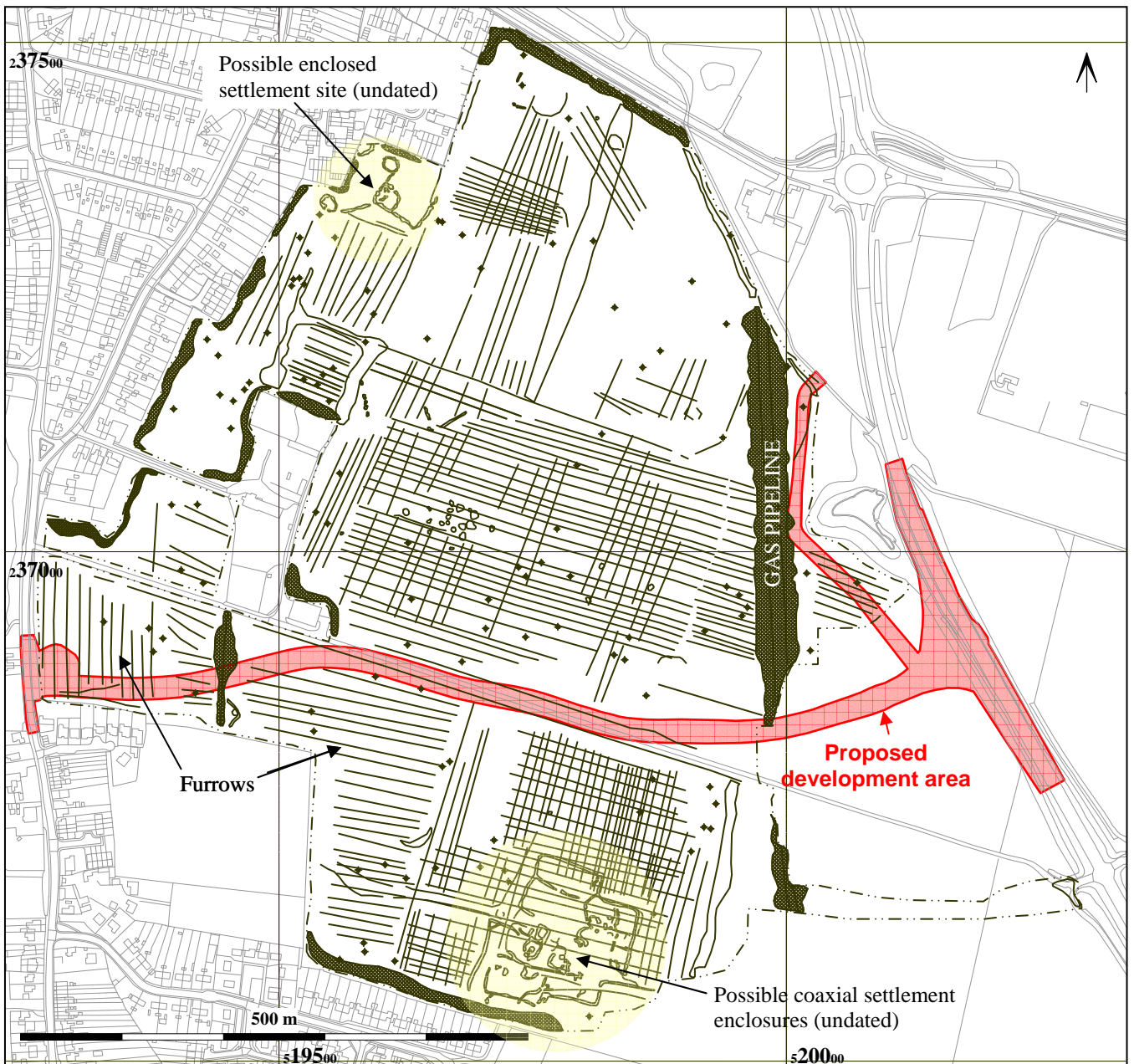
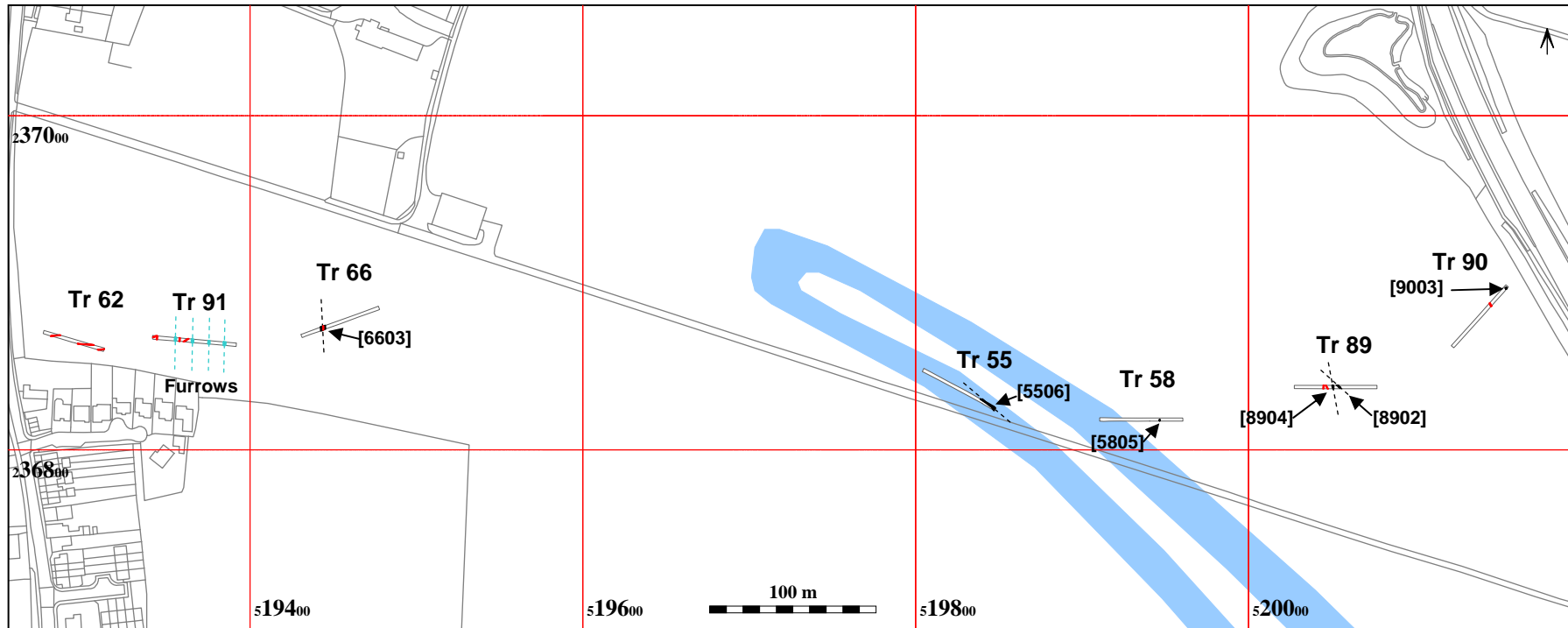


Figure 5: Interpretative plan of geophysical survey within the study area
(after Stratascan 2011, fig. 49)

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- Archaeological features
- Furrows
- Modern features
- Trackway cropmark

Figure 6: All features

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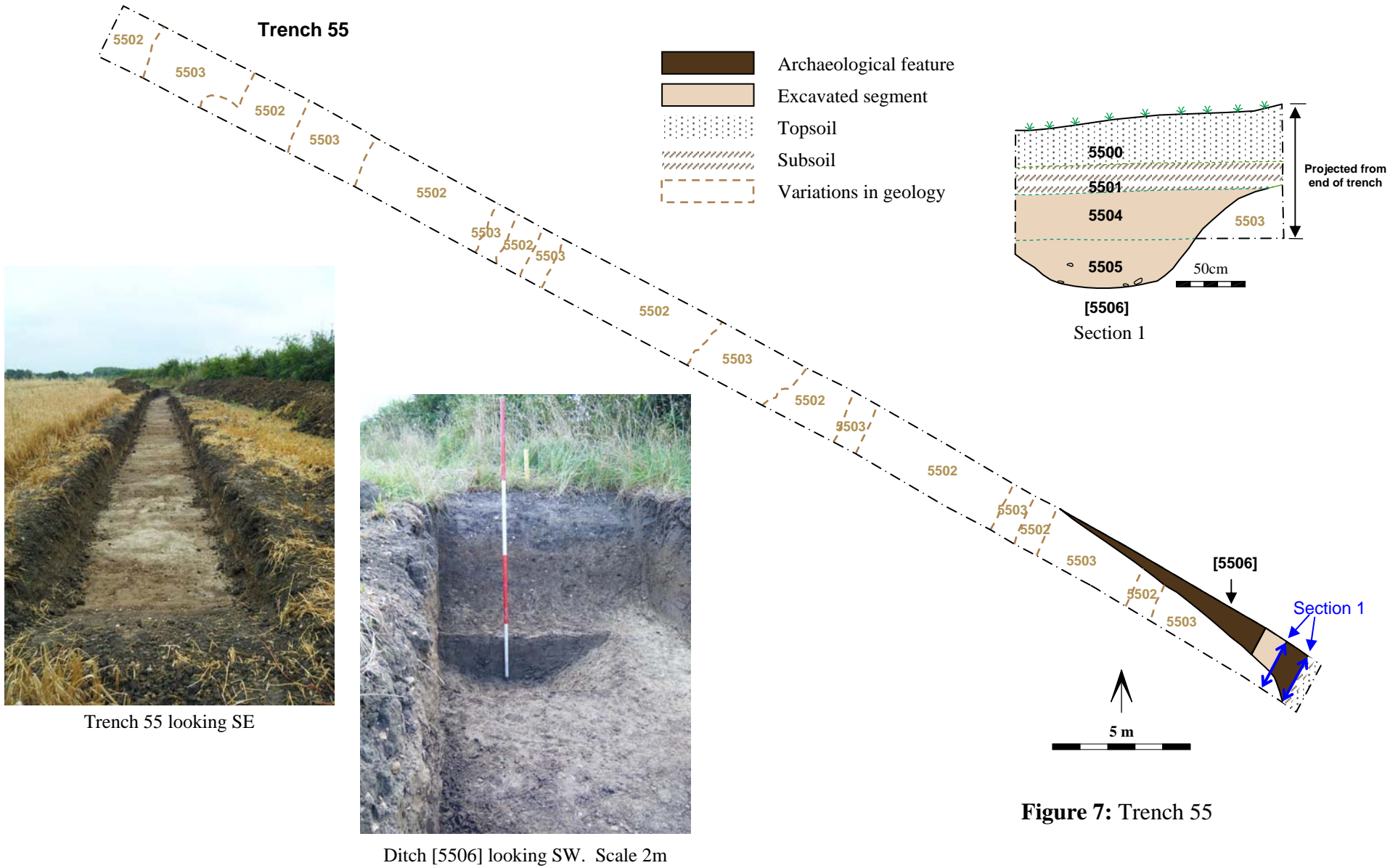
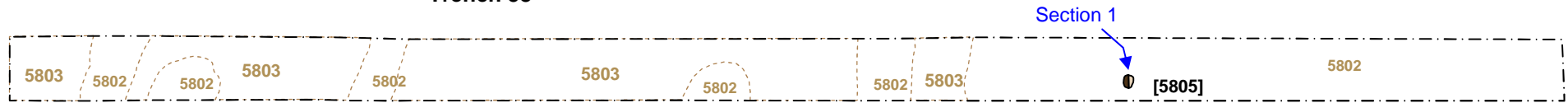


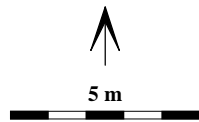
Figure 7: Trench 55




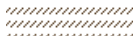



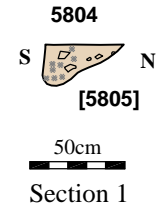
Trench 58



Trench 58 looking west

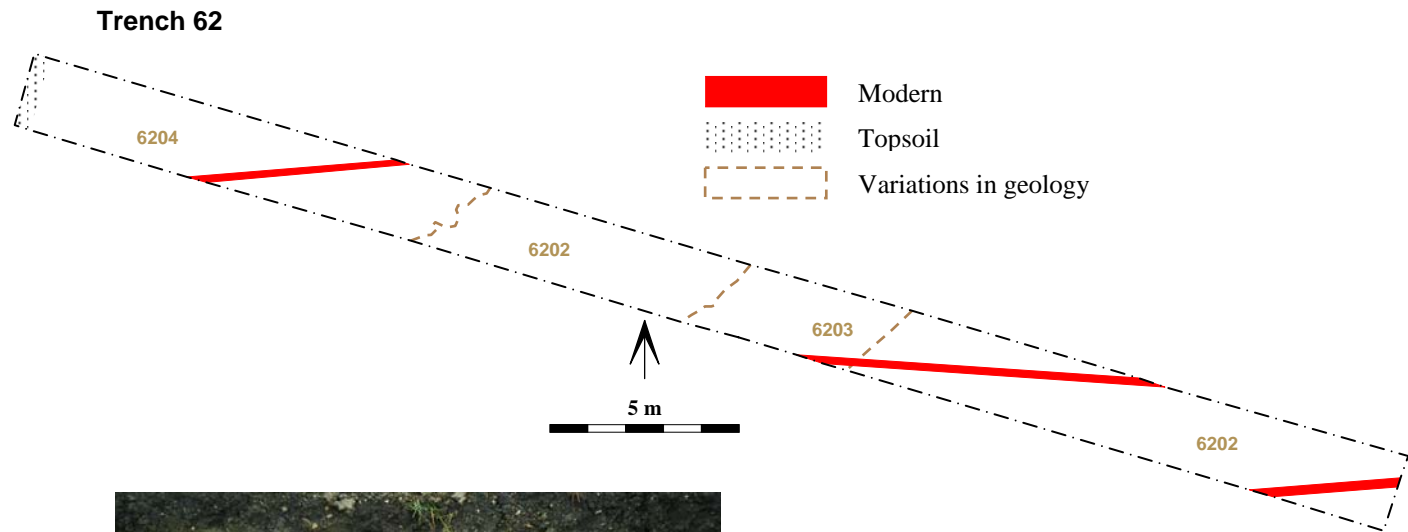


-  Archaeological feature
-  Excavated segment
-  Topsoil
-  Subsoil
-  Variations in geology



[5808] looking east

Figure 8: Trench 58



Trench 62 looking east



6203 scale 2m

Figure 9: Trench 62

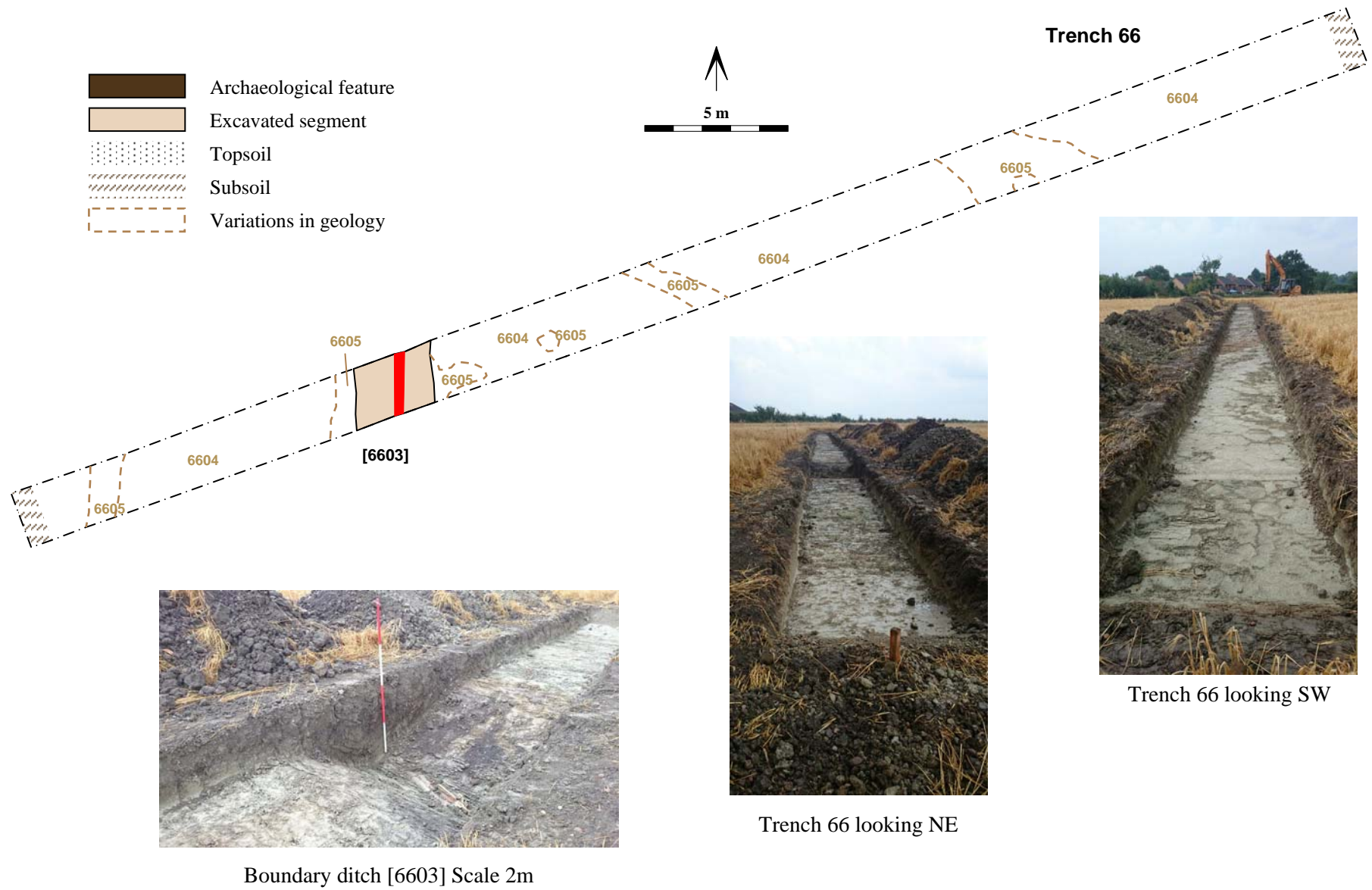
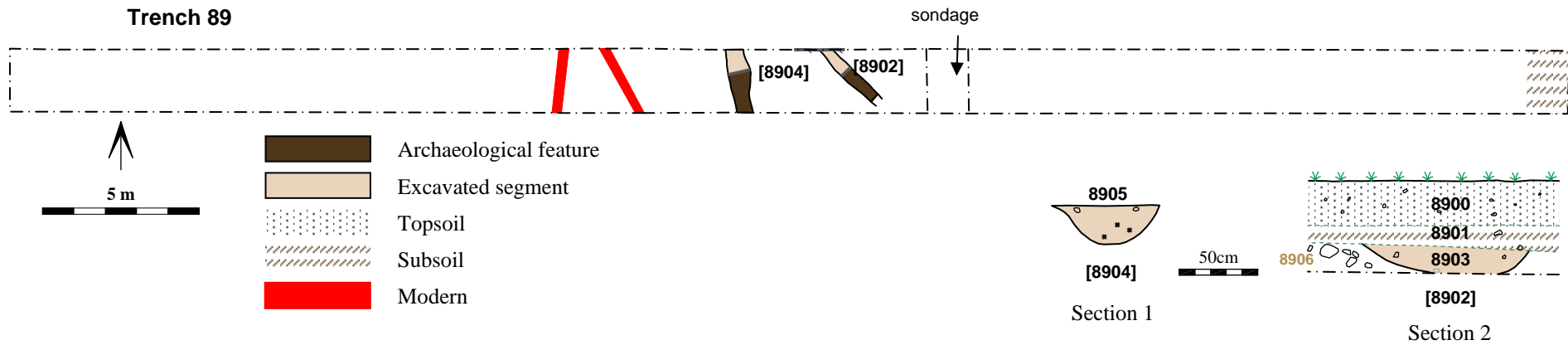


Figure 10: Trench 66



[8904] looking SE. Scale 40cm



[8904] looking south. Scale 40cm



Trench 89 compacted soil at west end



Trench 89 looking west

Figure 11: Trench 89

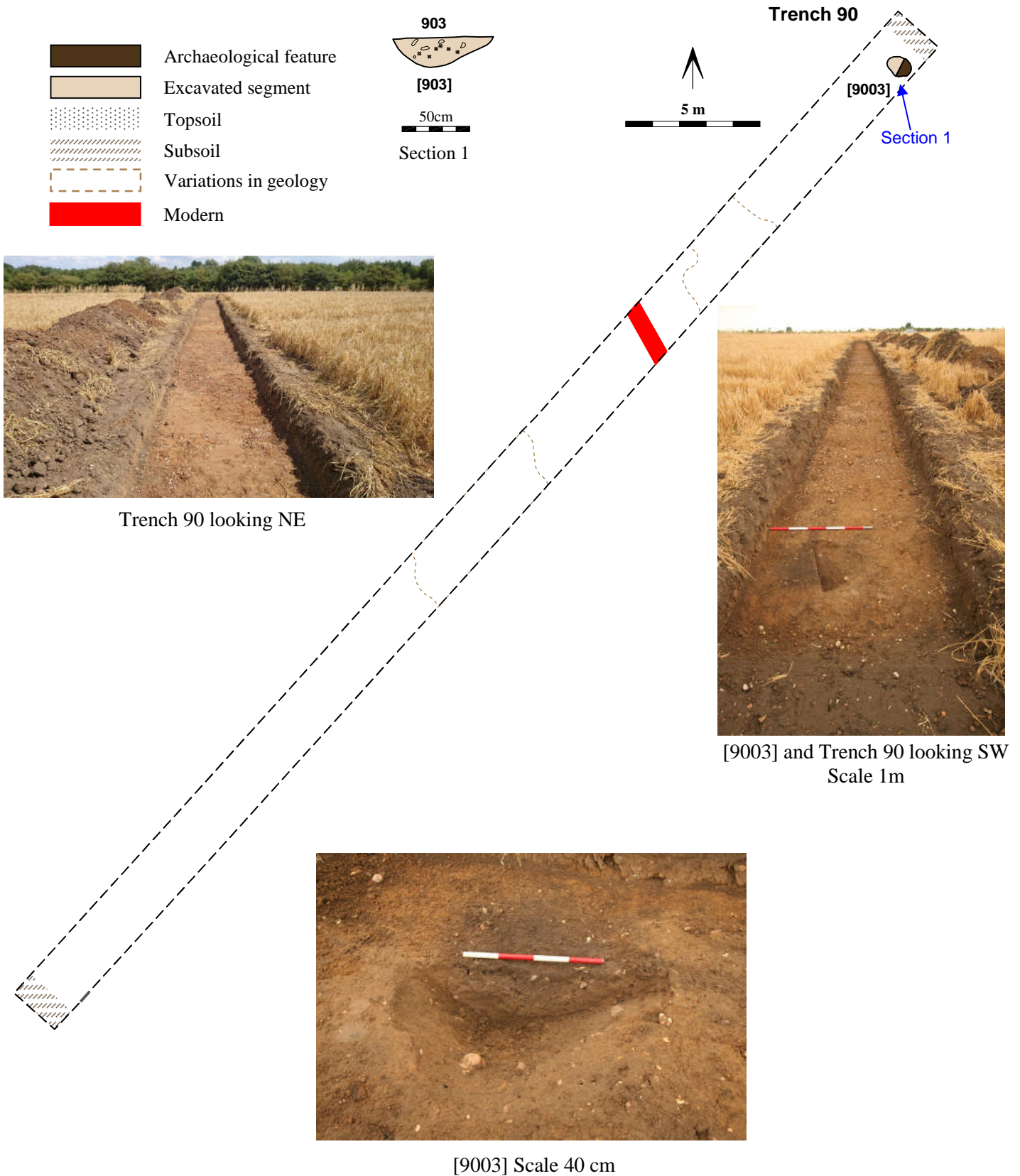
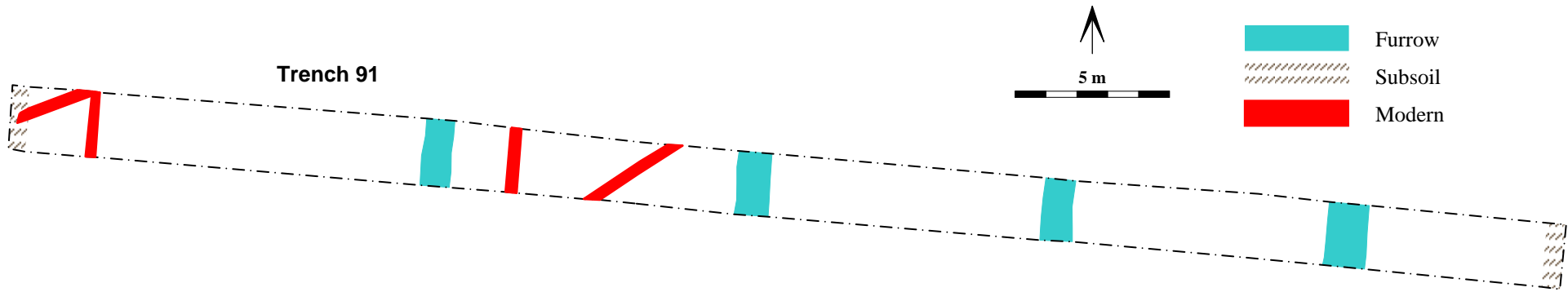


Figure 12: Trench 90



Trench 91 looking west



Trench 91 looking east

Figure 13: Trench 91

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