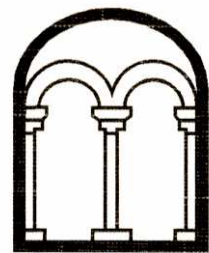


**HARLINGTON WOOD END COTTAGE
HARLINGTON WOOD END
TINGRITH
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Albion
archaeology



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Produced for:
Mrs M Davenport



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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

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works by Mrs M. Davenport. The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist.

Fieldwork was carried out by Marcin Koziminski (Archaeological Supervisor) who also prepared this report with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).

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Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (CB/11/02088/FULL) was granted for development at Harlington Wood End Cottage, Harlington Wood End, Tingrith in Bedfordshire. The development work comprised the erection of side and rear extensions and the demolition of existing outbuildings which will be replaced by a detached workshop.

Because the development lies in an area of archaeological interest, a condition was placed on the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation during the groundworks.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works in accordance with the methodologies described in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011), produced in response to a brief prepared by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBC 2011).

No archaeological features or deposits of significance were revealed during the observation and investigation of the construction groundworks. Other than geological deposits, only layers associated with modern landscaping of the grounds and a modern pit were revealed.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (CB/11/02088/FULL) was granted for development at Harlington Wood End Cottage, Harlington Wood End, Tingrith in Bedfordshire. The development work comprised the erection of side and rear extensions and the demolition of existing outbuildings which will be replaced by a detached workshop.

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1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Harlington Wood End Cottage is located at grid reference NGR TL 0183 3155 in Harlington Wood End in the civil parish of Westoning (Figure 1). Harlington Wood End is a hamlet situated between the villages of Tingrith to the north-west, Westoning to the north-east and Harlington to the south-east.

The site lies at approximately 85m OD on the northern side of a slight SW–NE aligned ridge. This ridge is part of an undulating landscape situated between the higher ground of the Greensand Ridge to the south and the valley of the river Flit to the north.

The local geology consists of Boulder Clay over Lower Greensand and Gault Clay.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background of the proposed development formed the subject of a Heritage Statement prepared in support of the planning application (Ashworth 2011). This was based on an examination of known heritage assets listed in the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record (HER) as well as historic documents and cartographic data.

Evidence of activity during the prehistoric period has been found in the area. Flint artefacts have been recovered during field-walking undertaken in advance of the M1 widening between junctions 10 and 15. Enclosure cropmarks have been identified 500m to the north-east of the site (HER 15088).

Harlington Wood End formed a detached part of Harlington parish from the medieval period up until 1933, when it was transferred to the parish of Westoning. The hamlet originated during the medieval period as a settlement (HER 8564) located around a green. The development site is located on the



southern edge of the former green. Historic documents show that the settlement used to be larger, suggesting that the current buildings represent the remains of a shrunken settlement.

Harlington Wood End is part of a class of small medieval settlement known as “ends”. They represent a pattern of small dispersed settlements that developed during the medieval period around the edges of the main settlement of a parish or township. These satellite hamlets were formed as part of an expansion of settlement, a consequence of the pressure on settlement resulting from increasing population in the 12th to 14th centuries. Harlington Wood End may be an assart settlement, formed when an area of woodland was cleared to provide additional agricultural land.

1.4 Project Objectives

The current archaeological research frameworks for the region comprise: *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) and specifically for Bedfordshire: *Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy* (Oake et al 2007).

The location of the site suggested it had the potential to contain evidence of the medieval and post-medieval settlement that could address related research themes highlighted in the above mentioned frameworks.

The general research aims of the archaeological investigations were:

1. Establishing the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation on the site.
2. Establishing the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes.
3. Recovering palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The objectives of the archaeological investigations were to:

- Determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting.
- Produce an archive report that fully described the archaeological works and findings.



2. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological observation of the groundworks was undertaken between 19th and 21st December 2011. During this period, all groundworks that had the potential to impact upon archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. These comprised the excavation of foundation trenches measuring c. 0.6m wide and 0.9–1.05m deep for:

- a two- and one-storey extension to the north and east of the house respectively;
- a plant room to the south and a porch to the west (Figure 2).

The excavations were carried out using a mechanical excavator, except where digging by hand was required. Deposits encountered were investigated and recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual*. Spoil heaps were checked on a regular basis for the recovery of artefacts.

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001).
• Luton Museum	<i>Procedure for Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums in Bedfordshire</i> (version 2.7, 2007)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (Gurney 2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
	<i>Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)</i> (1991)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation</i> (2002/01)
• CBC	<i>Brief for a programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at Land at Harlington Wood End Cottage, Harlington Wood End, Tingrith, Bedfordshire.</i> V1 15th September 2011 MKO.
• IfA ¹	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for finds</i> (updated 2008)
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief</i> (2008)

A detailed methodology is provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Albion Archaeology 2011).

¹ All IfA codes, standards and guidelines are available at:
<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>.



3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Other than geological deposits, the groundworks only revealed a modern pit and modern deposits associated with landscaping of the grounds of the existing house. These are summarised below and detailed in an Appendix. Numbers in brackets refer to the contexts recorded in the Appendix.

3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Deposits

Overburden was similar in all the excavations and consisted of a dark grey brown topsoil/garden soil (1) that was generally 0.26–0.44m thick. However, a sandy silt subsoil of up to 0.19m thick (2) was encountered in the easternmost part of the one-storey foundation trench (Figure 2). The lack of subsoil elsewhere may suggest there has been extensive ground reduction in the vicinity, probably associated with the construction of the house.

In addition to the above, a series of make up layers (7), comprising up to a 0.35m thick deposit of mixed yellow grey sand, was revealed in the plant room trench (Figure 2, Section 3). These layers contained modern brick and tile fragments, mortar and a concrete slab. These layers seem to correlate with the location of a former porch and entrance on the south end of the house.

The underlying geological deposits consisted of mid grey red gravely sand with some large flint inclusions (3) and underlying light grey orange Lower Greensand (4).

3.3 Modern Pit

The only feature revealed was what appeared to be part of an elongated pit [5] aligned NE-SW located in the eastern part of the one-storey foundation trench. The pit was substantial in size, being at least 0.8m wide with an asymmetrical U-shaped profile and maximum visible length of 4.3m. It was cut into the subsoil and contained modern brick and tile fragments.



4. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or deposits of significance were revealed during the observation and investigation of the construction groundworks. Other than geological deposits, only layers associated with modern landscaping of the grounds and a modern pit were revealed.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Oake, M. 2007. "Research Agenda and Strategy" in Oake *et al* (2007) 7-20.

Oake, M. *et al*, 2007. *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.



6. APPENDIX: DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS



Area: **WB**

Extent (ha):

OS Co-ordinates:

Description: **The house extension foundation trenches.**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown silty loam moderate small-large CBM, occasional small-medium mortar, moderate small-medium stones. Between 0.26 and 0.44m thick deposit - moderately rooted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, occasional large CBM, moderate small-medium stones, occasional large stones. Up to 0.19m thick deposit, only seen in the eastern part of the site. Cut by pit [5].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Natural	Firm mid grey red sand frequent small-medium stones. Also contained occasional large flint. Overlies the other natural (4).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Natural	Friable light grey orange sand occasional small-medium stones. Natural greensand - underlies the other natural (3).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Pit	Oval NE-SW sides: Assymetrical base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.51m, max length 4.3m. Cut into subsoil (2).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty sand moderate small-large CBM, occasional small-medium mortar, moderate small-large stones. Likely a backfill of pit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Make up layer	Friable mid yellow grey sand frequent small-medium CBM, moderate large CBM, moderate small-medium mortar, moderate small-medium stones. Up to 0.35m thick deposit comprising a series of consolidation layers - only present at the south end of the house. Likely associated with an earlier entrance to the house. Contained a slab of concrete - a former porch foundation.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

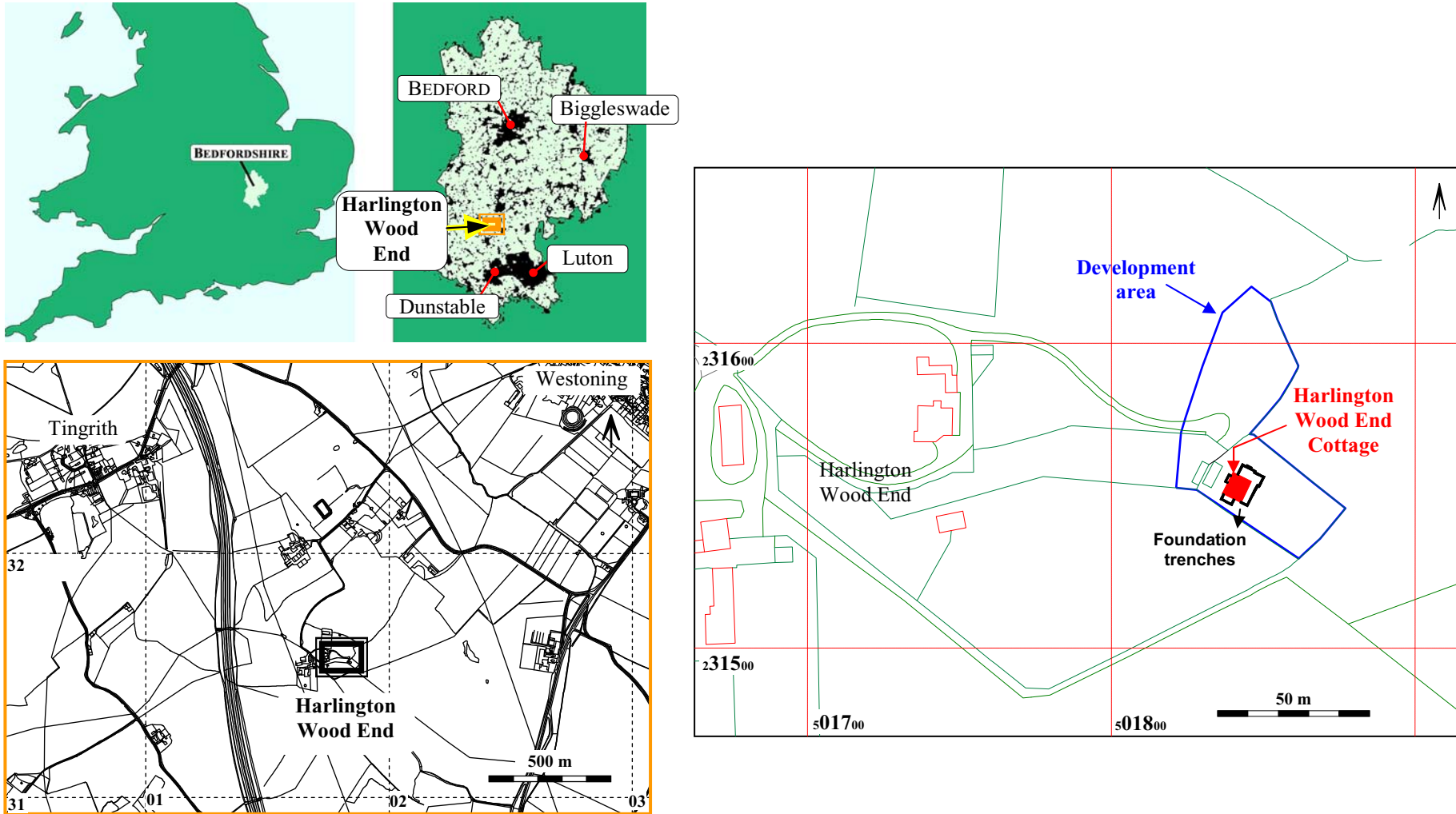
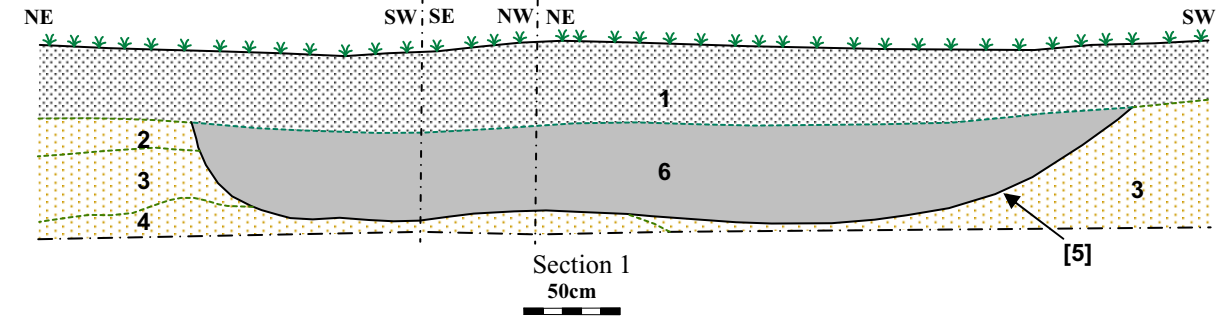
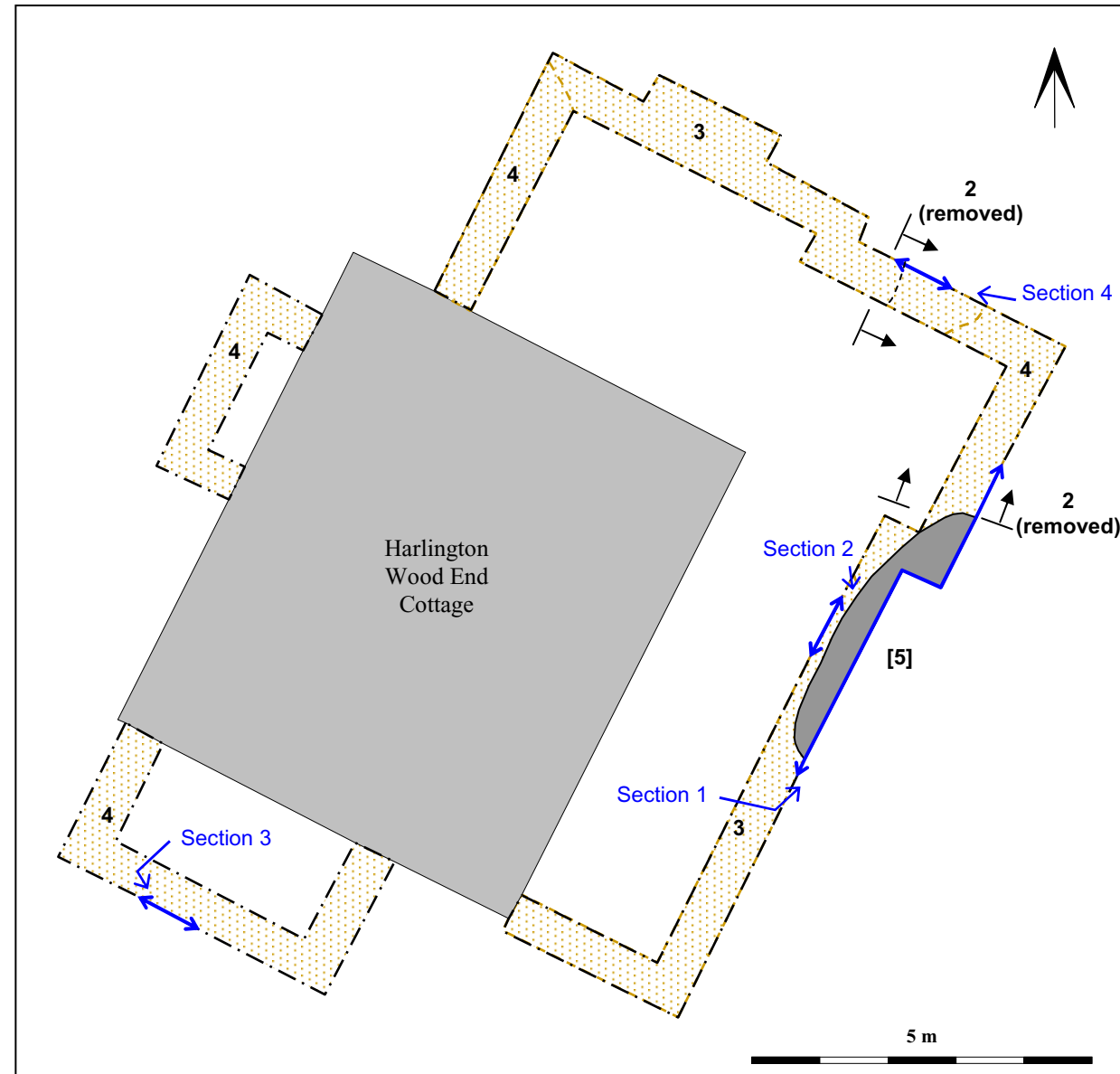
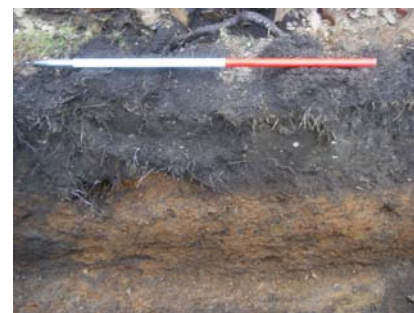
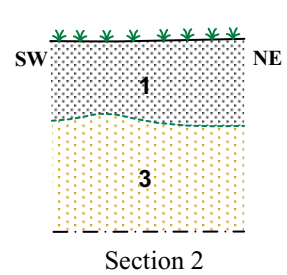


Figure 1: Site location

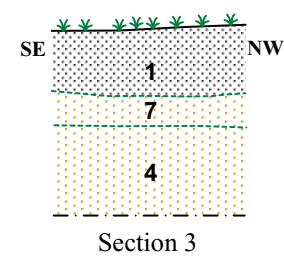
This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)



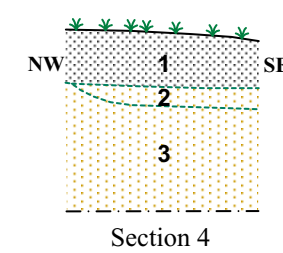
Photographs of [5]. Scales 1m. Looking SE



Photograph of Section 2. Scale 1m. Looking NW



Photograph of Section 3. Scale 1m. Looking SW

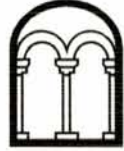


Photograph of Section 4. Scale 1m. Looking NE

Figure 2: All features

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