

**SADDLERS, 7 SWADEN
SANDY
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



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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.

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The fieldwork was undertaken by Iain Leslie (Archaeological Supervisor). This report was prepared by Iain Leslie with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer).

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Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

HER	Central Bedfordshire Council Historic Environment Record
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
Colluvium	Loose earth material that has accumulated at the base of a hill through the action of gravity
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the replacement of an existing barn and the erection of a detached garage at 'Saddlers', 7 Swaden, Sandy, Bedfordshire. Acting on advice received from the Council's Archaeologist, the Local Planning Authority attached a condition to planning consent requiring a programme of archaeological work to be carried out at the site due to its location within an area of archaeological sensitivity.

This programme of work initially comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation. The results of this work will be used in the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for any revealed archaeological remains.

The development site occupies an area of c. 0.3ha. It lies within a rich archaeological landscape containing remains of past occupation of many periods. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools and other artefacts have been found in the wider vicinity of Sandy and the site. The site is located below a hill which is occupied by a hillfort known as Caesar's Camp. No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the hillfort but surviving earthworks suggest that it consisted of a single rampart and ditch enclosure of approximately 7 acres in size.

The Roman town of Sandy developed in a location where the main Roman road connecting the settlements of Baldock and Godmanchester met a ford across the River Great Ouse and a possible meeting of transport routes through the gap in the Greensand Ridge. The main focus of the Roman town lies further to the west of the development site in the area of the modern municipal cemetery, however the Baldock to Godmanchester Roman road is projected to run through the site.

The trial trench evaluation demonstrated that significant archaeological remains are present within parts of the proposed development site.

The greatest concentration of archaeological features was found around the location of the proposed replacement barn. The presence of a number of probable pits dating to the early Roman period suggests possible settlement activity in the immediate vicinity.

Significant deposits of colluvium were found in all trenches but this is not surprising given the sites location at the foot of a prominent hill. Stratigraphically, the upper layer of colluvium may be relatively recent in origin as it appears to overlie a feature in one trench that contained a sherd of 19th century pottery. The lower colluvial layer appears more ancient as it was found to contain early Roman finds.

The alignment and dating of the linear features found in a trench adjacent to the barn suggests they probably represent the foundations of a structure that was the precursor of the present 20th century building.

No evidence for the Baldock to Godmanchester Roman road suggested to run through the site was observed in the trenches.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (CB/11/02197/FULL) was granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the replacement of a barn with a new extension, and the erection of a detached garage at ‘Saddlers’, 7 Swaden, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

The development will include the demolition of the existing barn prior to the construction of a new building on the same footprint. This will involve preparation of the area through ground reduction with the subsequent insertion of the new building footings. The garage will be erected to the south-east of the existing house and car park.

Because the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition (5) was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological work. The condition was in accordance with government planning policy guidance (PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning and subsequently PPS 5 Planning for the Historic Environment).

A brief (CBC 2012) was issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) setting out the requirements for the programme of archaeological works.

The brief outlines a programme of work comprising several stages:

- Stage 1: An archaeological field evaluation of the site in the form of trial trenching.
- Stage 2: Appraisal of the results of the trial trenching and their significance with regard to the proposed development.
- Stage 3: Implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording, if required.

This report represents the results of Stage 1 and will inform future decisions concerning the archaeological heritage assets of the site with regard to the impact of the consented development (Stage 2). Should additional work be necessary (Stage 3), a further brief will be issued by the CBCA.

1.2 *Site Location*

Sandy lies adjacent to the A1 Great North Road and the River Ouse (Figure 1). The town takes advantage of a SW-NE aligned gap within the Greensand Ridge that allowed a Roman routeway (now the Swaden road) to traverse the steep terrain at this point.

The site at ‘Saddlers’ lies to the east of the town between two prominent hills of the Greensand Ridge. It is centred on NGR TL 18291 49160 and comprises c. 0.3ha of land at c. 42m OD. The topography of the site itself is sloping from west to east, with the ground rising markedly from the road towards Cox Hill to the west.



The site is bounded by Swaden road in the east, a residential property in the south and woodland plantation to the north and west. The main buildings of the property, a Grade II listed cottage and barn, lie in the western part of the site. A hedgeline shields the property from the main road in the south. A gravel driveway and car parking area lie in the southern part of the property.

The underlying solid geology consists of the Woburn Sands formation with a small deposit of superficial clay, sand and gravel “head” deposits directly underlying the site.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A heritage statement was prepared as part of the documentation supporting the planning application (Heritage Network 2011). This set out the historical and archaeological context of the site and its setting and the impact of the proposed development on any potential heritage assets. A detailed HER search and map regression for a 500m-radius around the site was undertaken as part of the heritage statement.

The archaeological background of Sandy has also been discussed in the Extensive Urban Survey for Sandy (Albion Archaeology 2003), a joint project between English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council. The main information pertaining to the development site, its archaeological potential and location of trial trenches is summarised in the following paragraphs.

It is possible that the geographical location which Sandy occupies by the gap in the Greensand Ridge and on the banks of the River Ouse has always been utilised for settlement and a meeting of transport routes. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools and other artefacts have been found in the wider vicinity of the town and site.

Three late Bronze Age / Iron Age hillforts are located on the peaks to the north-east and south-east of the modern town and indicate the importance of Sandy in this period. The development site is located on the lower slopes of a hill which is the location of a hillfort known as Caesar’s Camp (HER 422). No archaeological investigations have been carried out within the hillfort but surviving earthworks suggest that it consisted of a single rampart and ditch enclosure of approximately 7 acres in size. Mesolithic flint flakes, late Iron Age pottery sherds and small Roman coins have been found in the vicinity of the hillfort.

The Roman town of Sandy developed in a location where the main Roman road connecting the settlements of Baldock and Godmanchester met a ford across the River Great Ouse and a possible meeting of transport routes through the gap in the Greensand Ridge. The main focus of the Roman town lies further to the west of the site in the area of the modern municipal cemetery, however the Baldock – Godmanchester road (HER 505) is projected to run through the development site.

Excavations of the same road as it approaches Sandy from the south, east of the present Stratford Road, showed it to consist of a cambered metalled



surface, 0.36m thick and at least 5.18m wide, above a foundation layer of stones. In another section it consisted of a layer of red sand, c. 0.12m thick, above a clay foundation (Albion Archaeology 2003, 21).

The southern limit of the Roman settlement of Sandy has been established fairly precisely. Roman occupational evidence in the form of ditches and pottery was excavated at The Bungalow on Stratford Road in the 1970s (Dawson 1995) and further pits and ditches thought to represent backyard activity of plots fronting the Roman road were excavated more recently at 6 Stratford Road (HER 13407). The settlement is thought to be 2nd -4th century in date.

The same excavations also uncovered the remains of a Roman cemetery probably dating to the late 4th century (HER 13407). Further evidence for this cemetery was recorded during construction works at land adjacent to 6 Stratford Road.

The Stratford Road represents the Baldock to Godmanchester Roman road as it approaches Sandy from the south and it is possible that Roman burials and occupational deposits may be distributed along the edges of the road in other locations outside the Roman settlement, notably near the current development site.

A Saxon cemetery revealed during the construction of the railway testifies that settlement continued at Sandy in the post-Roman period and Sandy is mentioned as a manor in the Domesday Survey of 1086.

No Anglo-Saxon or medieval remains are recorded in the HER in the vicinity of the site. It is likely that the area was part of the agricultural and woodland economy of the manor and estates around Sandy at the time. Some of the existing woodland is classed as ancient woodland, in particular Lord's Wood (HER 13230) within 500m to the north-east of the site.

In the post-medieval period Sandy expanded along its main roads and several cottages dating to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries lie along the Swaden road, some of which are listed. The house at 'Saddlers' is a Grade II listed building (HER 7582, NHLE 11137918) dating to the 17th or early 18th century. The house was extended in the 1980s with the adjacent barn dating to between 1903 and 1926.

19th-century mineral extraction sites and two 20th-century prefabricated huts, dating to WWII and possibly associated with Tempsford Airfield, lie in the vicinity of the site.



1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the Stage 1 archaeological works was to determine whether archaeological remains were present at the site and, if so, what are their date, nature, extent, condition, and significance. This information will be used to inform decisions with regard to the impact of the consented development on potential archaeological remains, and to help in the formulation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect remains either by preservation or excavation.



2. METHODOLOGY

The trial trenching took place between 31st January and 3rd February 2012. Four trenches, each measuring 12m x 2m were opened within the proposed development area.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever were encountered first.

The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All features were assigned a unique context commencing at 101 for Trench 1, and 201 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2012). The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1. Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide</i> (2006)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (2009)



3. RESULTS

All archaeological deposits and features found during the investigations are described below and shown on Figures 2-4. Detailed data on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. A detailed finds summary can be found in Appendix 2.

3.1 Trench 1

Overburden comprised a 0.35–0.4m thick topsoil of dark brown grey sand (101) overlying two layers of probable colluvium. The upper layer comprised a 0.4m thick layer of orange brown sand (102) and the lower layer comprised a 0.2m thick mid brown grey silty sand deposit (103). The latter layer was only present in the NE corner of the trench.

A linear archaeological feature [105], aligned NE-SW was found beneath layer (102). It was 0.22m in depth and at least 0.85m wide. This feature contained no dating evidence, however it was cut by another linear feature with a squared terminus [107] aligned NW-SE which contained a sherd of 19th century pottery.

Undisturbed geological deposits (104) comprising orange yellow sands were found at a depth of approximately 0.7m below ground level.

3.2 Trench 2

Overburden comprised a 0.4m thick topsoil of dark brown grey sand (201) overlying a 0.3-0.56m thick layer of orange brown sandy colluvium (202) analogous to (102) in trench 1. The majority of the trench also contained the mid brown grey silty sand colluvium (203) that was also observed in the NW corner of Trench 1. This was up to 0.62m, reducing in thickness towards the NW end of the trench.

Pit [223] was observed in section at the NW end of the trench cutting layer (203). It was 1m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. No finds were recovered from this pit.

A number of probable archaeological features were revealed beneath layer (203). However, it was only possible to investigate two of them at the shallower NW end of the trench as it was too hazardous to work in the deeper parts of the trench to the SE.

Pit [205] was 0.8m in diameter and 0.24m in depth was cut by pit [207] which was more than 2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.41m deep. Pit [207] contained early Roman pottery.

Finds of early Roman pottery were collected from the exposed surface of pit [209] which measured 1.5m in diameter. No further investigation of this feature was possible due to the depth of the trench.

Several other possible pit features [211], [213], [215], [217], [219] and [221] were identified to the SE of pit [209] ranging in diameter from 0.8-2.25m.



Although it was not possible to confirm their nature by hand excavation, it seems likely that they do represent archaeological features of Roman date due to their similarity in size and character to pits [207] and [209].

Undisturbed geological deposits (204) comprising orange yellow sands were found at depths of between 0.7m and 0.16m below ground level.

3.3 Trench 3

Overburden comprised a 0.35-0.4m thick topsoil of dark brown grey sand (301) overlying a 0.45-0.5m thick layer of orange brown sandy colluvium (302). As in Trenches 1 and 2 the upper deposit overlies a further colluvial layer of mid brown grey silty sand (303). In Trench 3 this deposit was over 0.45m thick and contained sherds of early Roman pottery.

Cut into this layer (303) were three archaeological features. These comprised a linear feature [304] running NW-SE which was 0.55m wide, and two circular features [306] and [308] which were 0.3 and 0.4m in diameter respectively. These features are likely to represent a boundary ditch and post holes. They were not investigated further but sherds of early Roman pottery were collected from the surfaces of [304] and [308].

Undisturbed geological deposits were not encountered in Trench 3.

3.4 Trench 4

Overburden comprised a 0.45-0.5m thick topsoil of dark brown grey sand (401) overlying a 0.6m thick layer of brown orange sandy colluvium (402). Underlying layer (402) was colluvial deposit (403) which was 0.6m thick. This was slightly different in character to the lower colluvial deposits found in the other trenches, being a mid orange grey sand. Finds of early Roman pottery were recovered from this layer.

An exploratory test pit was excavated at the NE end of the trench to ascertain the depth of geological deposits. These were reached at 1.7m below ground level and comprised orange yellow sands (404).

No archaeological features were found in Trench 4.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trench evaluation has demonstrated that significant archaeological remains are present within parts of the proposed development site.

The greatest concentration of archaeological features was found in Trench 2, around the location of the proposed replacement barn. The presence of a number of probable pits dating to the early Roman period suggests possible settlement activity in the immediate vicinity.

Significant deposits of colluvium were found in all trenches but this is not surprising given the sites location at the foot of a prominent hill. Stratigraphically, the upper layer of colluvium may be relatively recent in origin as it appears to overlie a feature in Trench 1 that contained a sherd of 19th century pottery. The lower colluvial layer appears more ancient as it was found to contain early Roman finds.

The alignment and dating of the linear features found in Trench 1 suggests they probably represent the foundations of a structure that was the precursor of the present 20th century building.

No evidence for the Baldock to Godmanchester Roman road suggested to run through the site was observed in the trenches.



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6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 0.75 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18196: Northing: 49056)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18201: Northing: 49067)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential of area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Topsoil	Loose dark brown grey sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Colluvium	Loose mid orange brown sand moderate small-medium stones Thickness 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Thickness 0.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.85m, max depth 0.22m, min length 3.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Fill	Loose light grey brown sand occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.22m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.38m, min length 1.85m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Fill	Loose mid brown grey sand moderate large stones Thickness 0.38m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 1.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18212: Northing: 49061)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18201: Northing: 49066)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential of area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Topsoil	Loose dark brown grey sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
202	Colluvium	Loose mid orange brown sand moderate small stones Thickness 0.56m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Colluvium	Firm dark brown grey silty sand occasional flecks charcoal, moderate small-medium stones Thickness 0.62m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Pit	Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.24m, max diameter 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Fill	Compact mid grey brown sand occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.24m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Pit	Sub-circular sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.41m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand moderate small stones Thickness 0.41m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
209	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 1.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
211	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 0.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 1.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 2.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: max diameter 2.25m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: min diameter 1.05m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
220	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
221	Pit	Sub-circular dimensions: min diameter 1.65m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
222	Fill	Compact light grey brown sand occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
223	Pit	Circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.16m, max diameter 1.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
224	Fill	Loose mid grey brown sand occasional small-medium stones Thickness 0.16m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 0.85 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18226: Northing: 49069)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18231: Northing: 49080)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential of area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
301	Topsoil	Loose dark brown grey sand occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones Thickness 0.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Colluvium	Loose mid orange brown sand moderate small-medium stones Thickness 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Colluvium	Firm mid brown grey silty sand occasional small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
304	Ditch	Linear NW-SE dimensions: max breadth 0.55m, min length 2.m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Fill	Loose dark brown grey sand occasional small-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
306	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.3m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Fill	Firm light brown orange sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Fill	Loose dark grey brown sand occasional flecks charcoal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 12.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18247; Northing: 49076)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 18253; Northing: 49086)

Reason: To evaluate archaeological potential of area

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
401	Topsoil	Loose dark brown grey sand Thickness 0.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Colluvium	Firm mid brown orange sand Thickness 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Colluvium	Firm mid orange grey sand Thickness 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
404	Natural	Loose light orange yellow sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: ARTEFACT SUMMARY

Seven features produced 32 pottery sherds (791g), three animal bone fragments (16g) and a piece of vessel glass (5g), the majority deriving from Trench 2 (Table 1).

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Spot date*	Finds Summary
1	107	Ditch	108	Modern	Pottery (1g)
2	201	Topsoil	201	Modern	Pottery (51g); vessel glass (5g)
	207	Pit	208	Early Roman	Pottery (514g)
	209	Pit	210	Early Roman	Pottery (70g); animal bone (16g)
3	303	Colluvium	303	Early Roman	Pottery (105g)
	304	Ditch	305	Early Roman	Pottery (23g)
4	403	Colluvium	403	Early Roman	Pottery (27g)

* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

Table 1: Artefact Summary by trench and context

Most of the pottery is datable to the early Roman period (c. 2nd century), and has been identified in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2). Post-Roman pottery comprises an unstratified sherd of 17th century black-glazed earthenware, and a piece of 19th century white earthenware (total weight 43g), the latter recovered from ditch [107].

The pottery survives in good condition, with an average sherd weight of 25g. Fourteen individual vessels are represented.

Fabric Type	Common Name	Context / Sherd No.
Roman		
R01	Samian ware (Continental)	(201):1, (210):2
R01D	Samian ware (Romano-British)	(303):1
R06B	Coarse grey ware	(403):1
R06C	Fine grey ware	(303):1, (403):2
R06D	Micaceous grey ware	(403):2
R06I	Black-slipped grey ware	(303):1
R07B	Sandy black ware	(208):14
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	(403):2
R13	Shell	(303):1, (305):1
R13B	Shell with limestone and sand	(208):1
Post-Roman		
P03	Black-glazed earthenware	(201):1
P55	White earthenware	(108):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

The Roman pottery is primarily local in character, and is dominated by sandy grey ware vessels (fabric group R06) and three contemporary shell tempered sherds (group R13). The only diagnostic vessel derived from the fill of pit [207], which contained fourteen lower body and base sherds (497g) from a steep-sided jar. The latter has burnished acute lattice decoration, in the style of south-east Dorset black burnished ware, although is probably a locally produced imitation. Fine wares comprise two sherds (3g) of a Nene Valley colour coated folded beaker, recovered from colluvium (403), and three sherds of Gaulish samian ware (79g), deriving from trench 2. Samian includes a worn footring and body sherd with heavy interior wear, possibly deriving from the same bowl or dish. Colluvial deposit (303) yielded a sherd of probable Romano-British samian (29g). Attempts during the 2nd century were made to



produce samian in Britain, although the resulting vessels are highly distinctive, and their fabrics unlike those of continental producers (Webster 1996, 100).

Animal bone recovered from Roman pit [209] comprises three abraded long bone fragments (16g), deriving from a large mammal of indeterminate species. An unstratified piece of modern brown bottle glass was collected from topsoil (201).

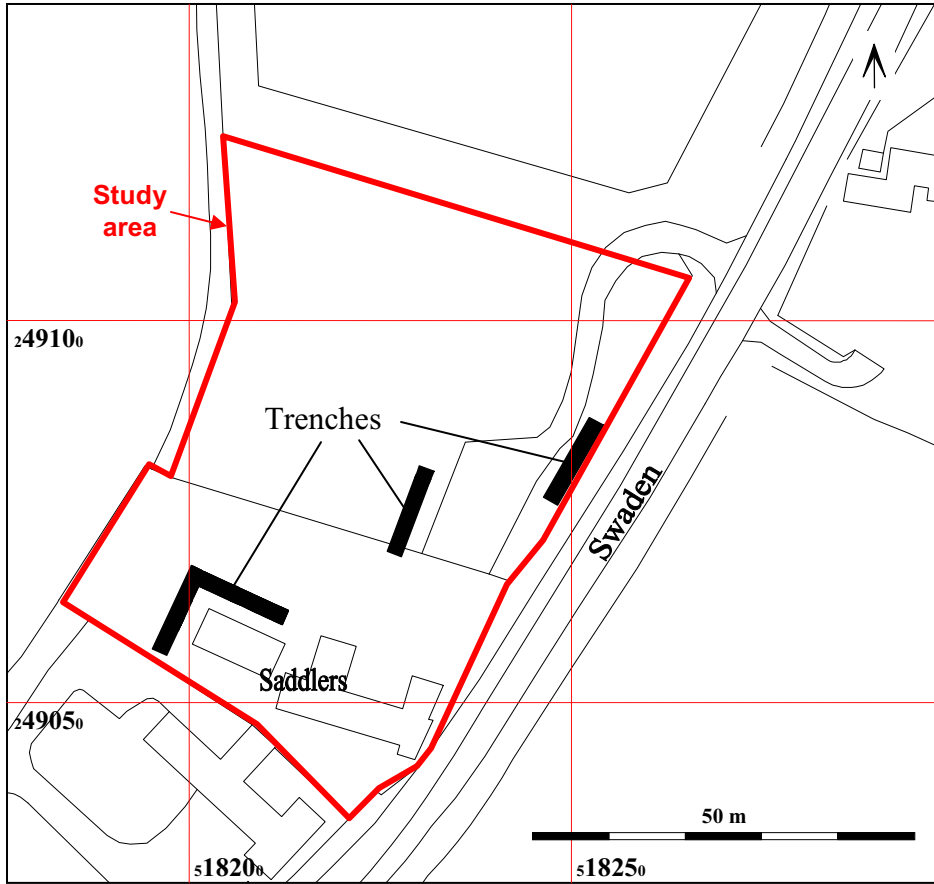


Figure 1: Site location

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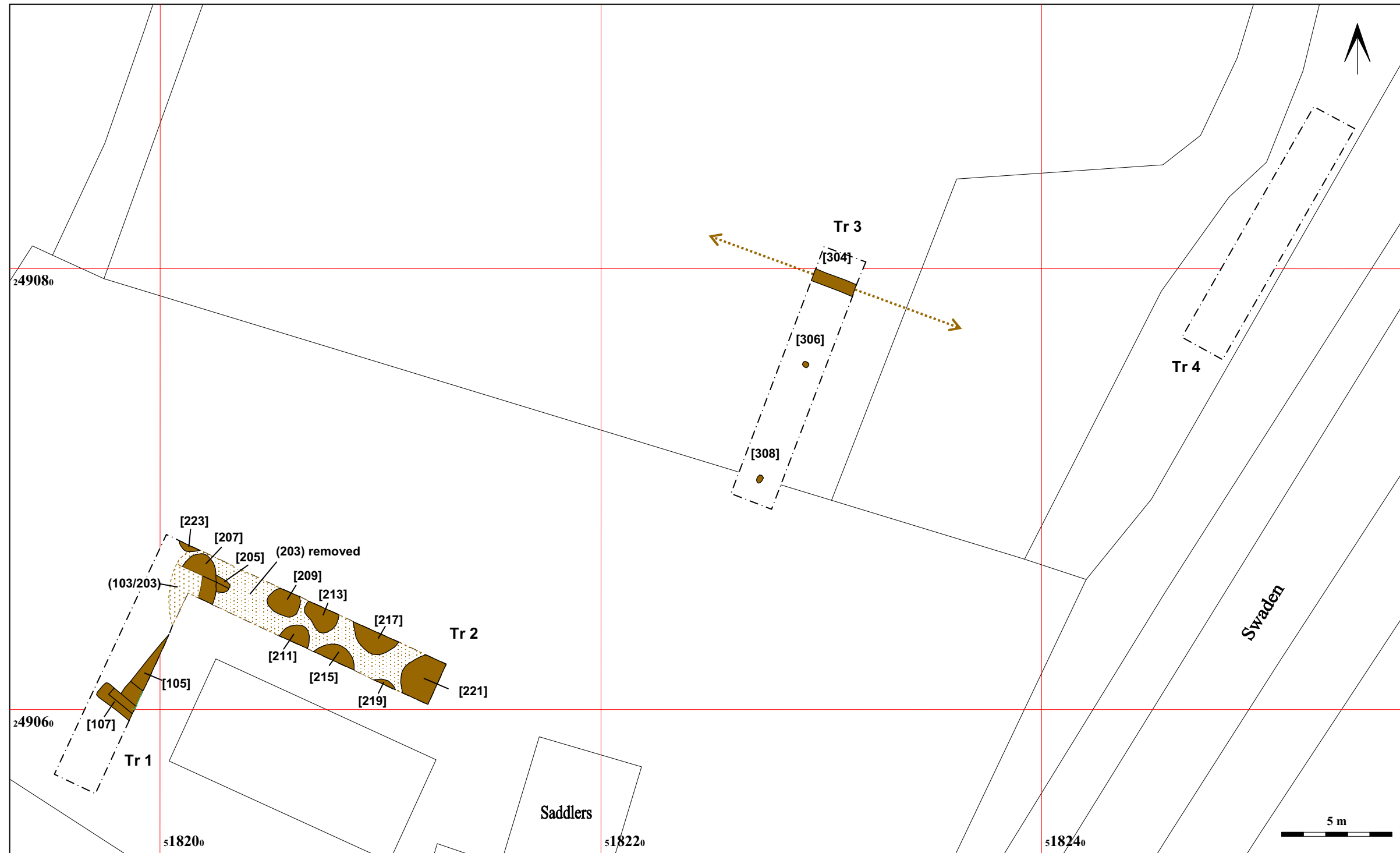


Figure 2: All features

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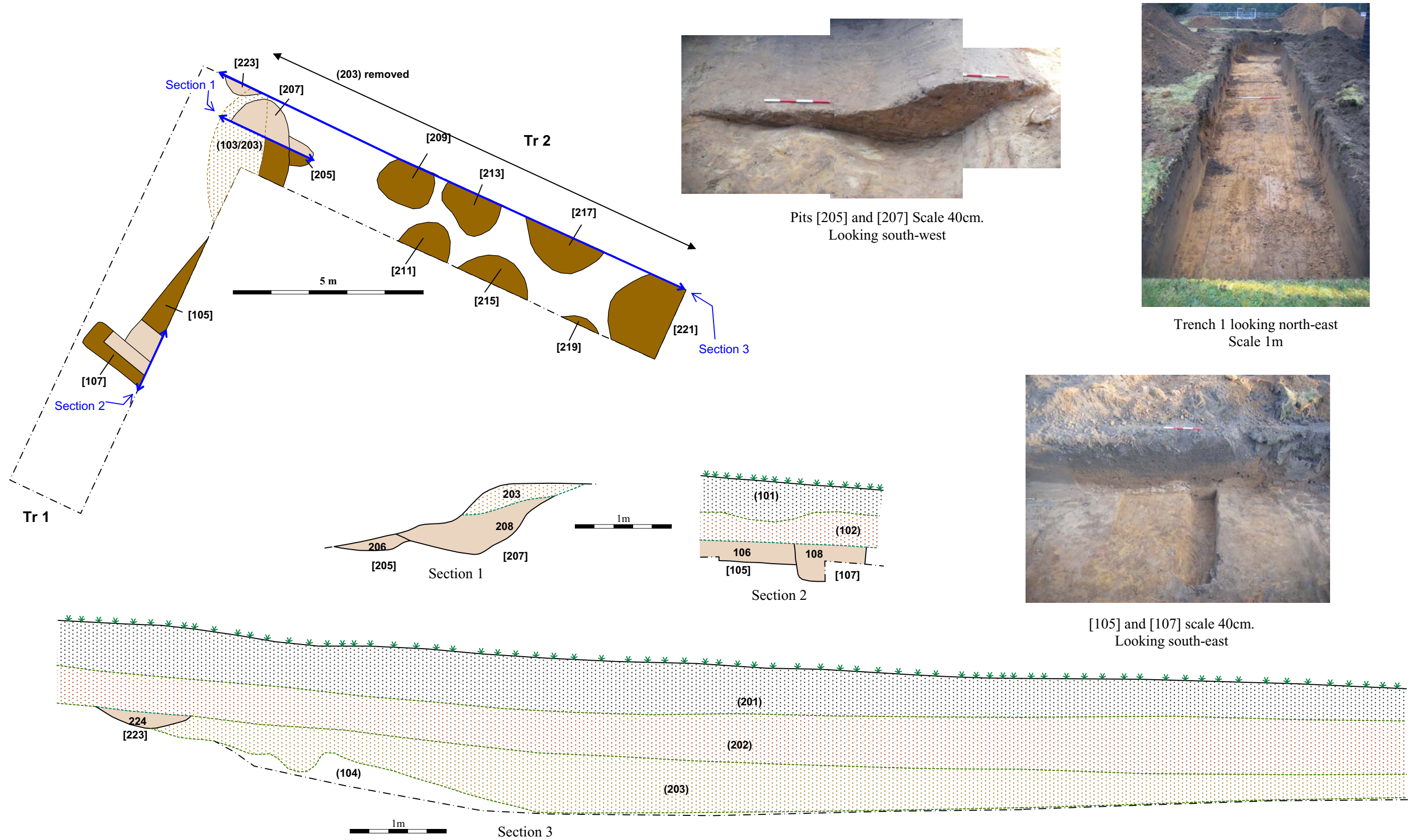
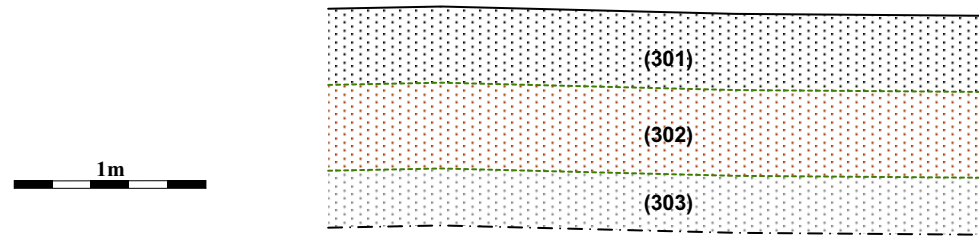
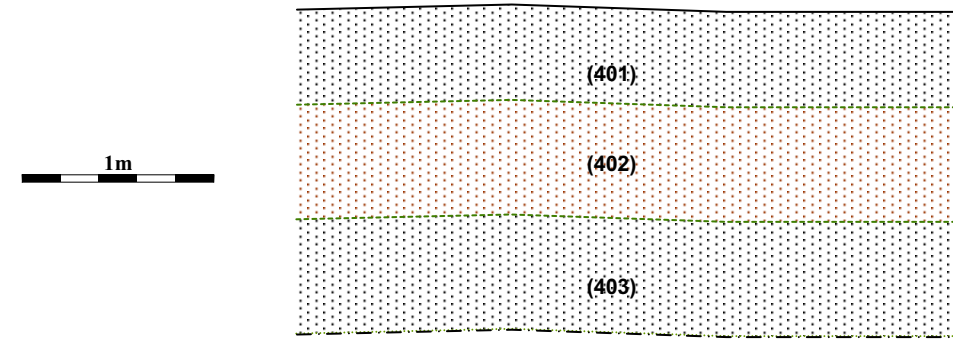


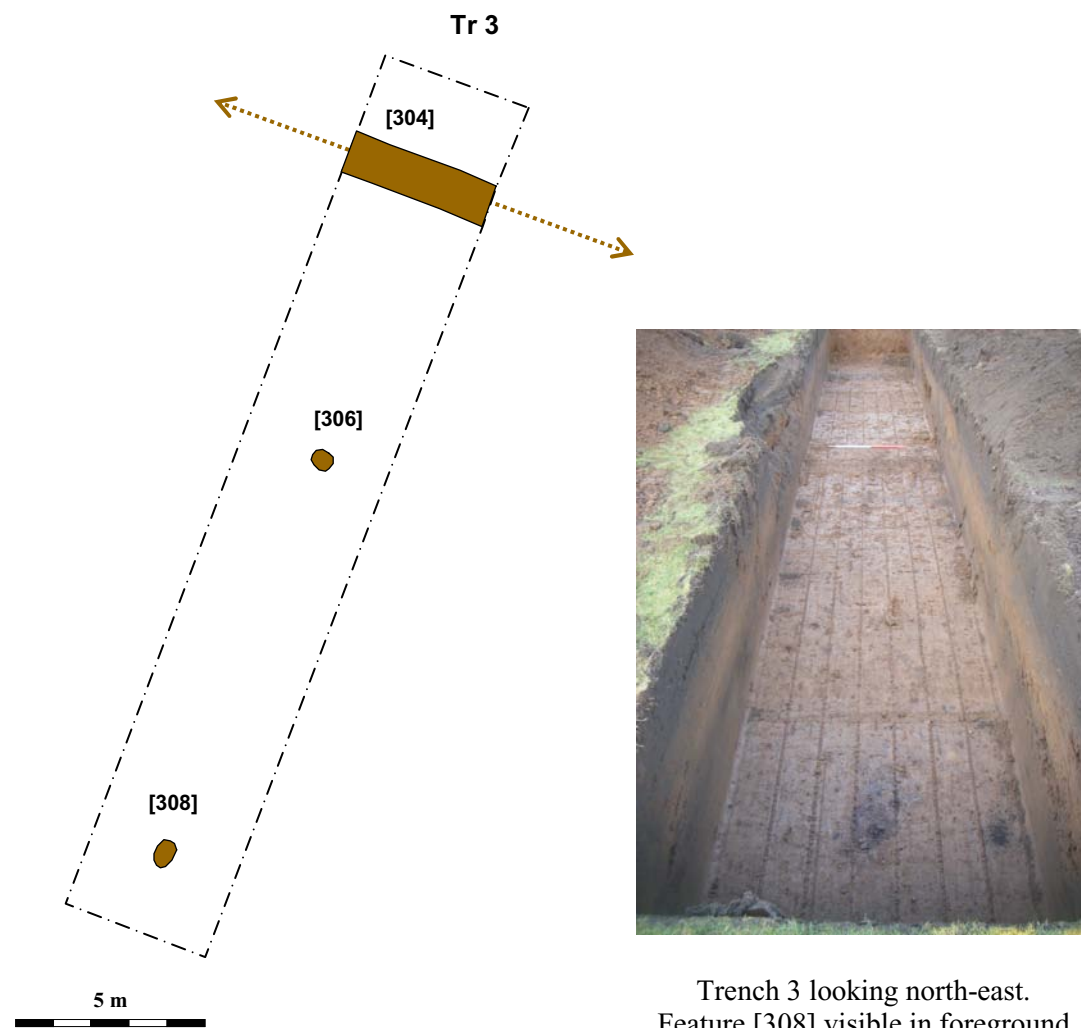
Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2



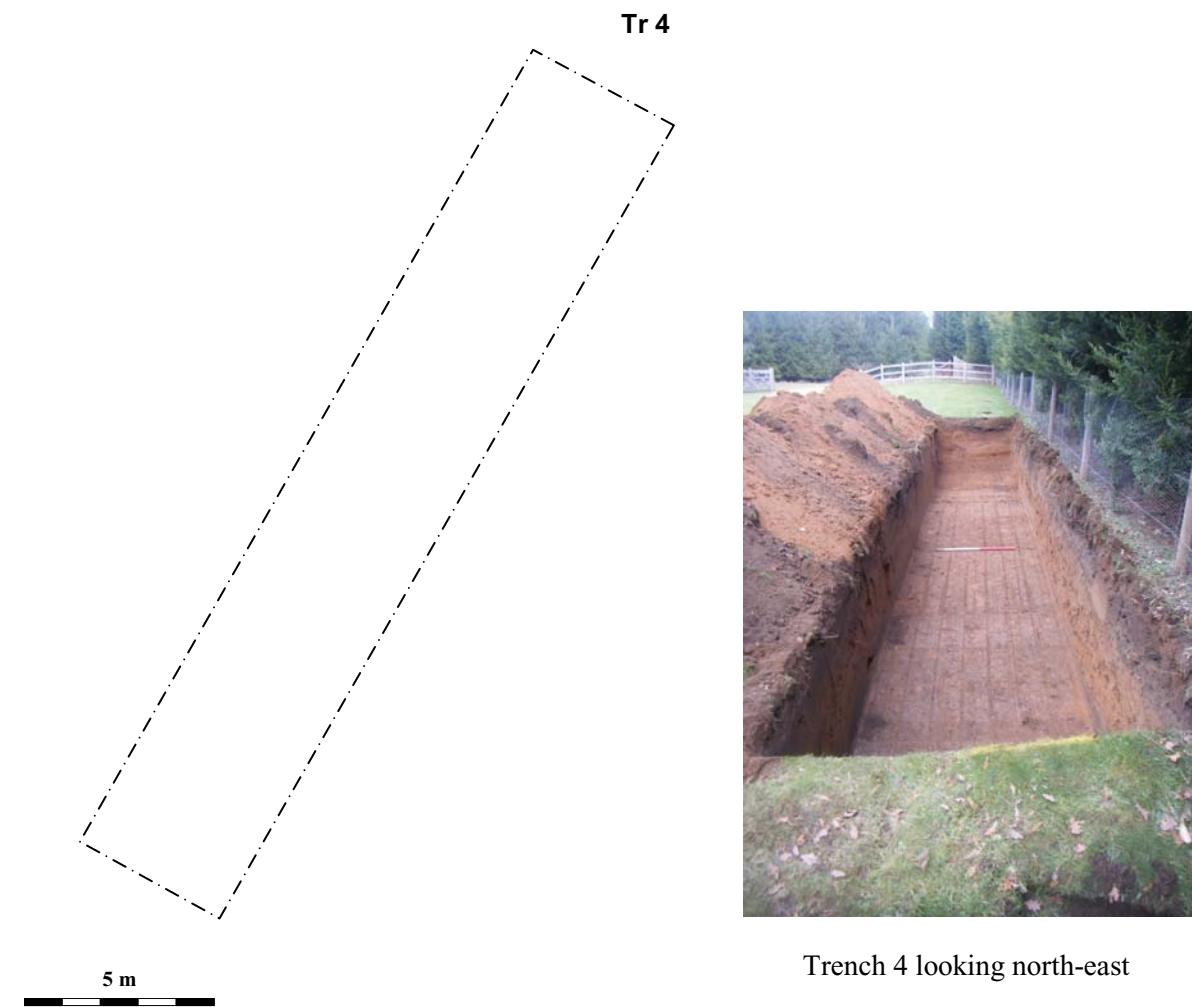
Representative section of trench 3



Representative section of trench 4



Trench 3 looking north-east.
Feature [308] visible in foreground
Scale 1 m



Trench 4 looking north-east

Figure 4: Trenches 3 and 4



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