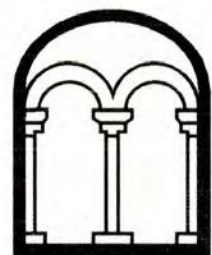


**LAND AT HOME FARM
HIGH STREET
WRESTLINGWORTH
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
AND HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT**

Albion
archaeology



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AND HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT**

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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 project was commissioned by County Land and Development Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor) and Tori Hainsworth (Archaeological Technician). This report has been prepared by Richard Gregson with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures have been produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

A planning application is to be submitted for the development of land at Home Farm, High Street, Wrestlingworth. The site is located at the southern end of the village of Wrestlingworth on the east side of the High Street. It is within the identified core of the medieval village. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken in order to obtain information required to compile a Heritage Asset Assessment to accompany any future planning application. The archaeological field evaluation took place between 15th and 18th January 2013 and comprised the excavation of eleven trial trenches around the property.

The trenching revealed a number of sub-surface archaeological features probably dating to the early medieval period. The features were all found in two trenches located in the north-west corner of the site and comprised six ditches and one pit. The spacing and character of the ditches suggest that they may represent a mixture of cultivation features and/or boundary/drainage ditches. No structural remains of early medieval date were identified. However, the presence of a pit (of uncertain function) and the recovery of a small but varied assemblage of medieval pottery hint at activity other than just agriculture. On balance, the evidence is suggestive of activity on the periphery of the medieval village away from the core occupation area. Such remains are potentially of local to regional significance and could address a number of regional research themes relating to medieval rural settlement.

The trial trenching also produced a number of sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, most of which were residual in early medieval features. Although no archaeological features can be reliably dated to this period, the presence of the pottery is evidence that there was settlement activity in the Wrestlingworth area at this time.

The proposed residential development of the site is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the early medieval sub-surface archaeological heritage assets in the north-west corner of the site. However, the nature of these assets suggests that any associated loss of archaeological information may be low.

The impact of the development on the setting of a 17th-century timber-framed dovecote could be significant, although this could be mitigated by sympathetic building style and scale, and retention of existing green space around the dovecote.

The impact on the setting of the nearby Home Farm house is likely to be low due to the planned low density and low rise nature of the development, and the presence of mature trees and hedges to screen the development from the house. Likewise the impact on the setting of earthworks to the north-west of the site will be low as the majority of the development will not be visible from the asset.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Background**

A planning application is to be submitted for the development of land at Home Farm, High Street, Wrestlingworth.

Because the site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity (see section 1.3), the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) has advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken in order to obtain information to compile a Heritage Asset Assessment to accompany the planning application.

This advice was in accordance with the Central Bedfordshire Local Validation Checklist and national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework* – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, which was published on 27 March 2012 and replaces the previous *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*.

The CBCA issued a brief for the works (CBC 2012) which stipulated that the field evaluation should comprise the excavation of trial trenches. If significant archaeological remains are uncovered by the evaluation, then further stages of works might be required.

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

Home Farm lies at the southern end of the village of Wrestlingworth on the east side of the High Street (Figure 1). It is centred on NGR TL2587 4714 at a height of around 37m OD.

The site proposed for development measures *c.* 0.73ha in area and is currently occupied by a series of large barns and other agricultural buildings.

The geology of the area is Gault Clay overlain by Boulder Clay.

1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

Home Farm lies within the core of the medieval village of Wrestlingworth (HER17167), *c.* 200m to the south of the 12th-century Parish Church of St Peter (HER1155).

The origins of the village are not well known. It is first documented in the mid 12th century although the place name suggests Saxon origins (Lock 1976).

Within the development site is a 17th-century timber-framed dovecote (HER6059), and outside the site, *c.* 40m to the south, is the former Home Farm House (HER6058), a 16th-century timber-framed building with later re-workings. Both buildings are Grade II listed.

50m to the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of the High Street, lies a complex of earthworks in a pasture field (HER3421). These remains represent an area of settlement deserted in the late medieval or early post-medieval period



and comprise at least two house platforms and two hollow ways. Further earthworks representing medieval ridge and furrow are located in fields at the northern end of the village (HER588).

Outside the village are a number of cropmark sites (HERs 16841-16843 and 16846-16848) containing linear and enclosure features possibly representing later prehistoric or Roman settlement evidence.

1.4 Project Objectives

The principal objective of the trial trench evaluation was to gather information on possible sub-surface archaeological heritage assets at the site. This information was to be used in the compilation of a Heritage Asset Assessment which is required by the CBCA as supporting documentation for the planning application.

Where archaeological remains were found in the trial trenches, the objective of the archaeological was to try to determine their extent, nature, date, condition and state of preservation.

If remains of significance were found at the site, they would be considered by the CBCA as part of the determination of the planning application.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Trial Trenching

The trial trenching took place between 15th and 18th January 2013. A layout of eleven, 2m-wide trenches measuring between 10m and 20m in length was agreed with the CBCA (Figure 1). The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.

After removal of surface materials, Trenches 8, 9 and 10 were found to contain extensive spreads of asbestos debris and as a consequence it was not possible to carry out any further work on these trenches.

Within the remaining trenches, overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first. The spoil heaps were also scanned for artefact recovery.

Any potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 201 for Trench 2 *etc.* Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). The trenches were inspected by the CBCA prior to their backfilling.

A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2012) which was approved by the CBCA prior to commencement of fieldwork. The project adhered throughout to the standards and requirements set out in the following documents:

- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
- Bedford Borough Council *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford* (2010)
- EAA *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)
- English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide* (2006)

- IfA *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, 2nd edition (2011)
- IfA *By-Laws and Code of Conduct*
- IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (updated 2009) and *finds* (updated 2008)

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (Accession No. LUTON: 2012.72). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to



the OASIS database (ref: albionar1-142834) in accordance with the guidelines issued by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.



3. TRIAL TRENCHING RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

All deposits and features found within the trial trenches are described chronologically below and shown on Figures 2 and 3. Detailed information on all deposits, features and finds can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.2 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

The overburden generally comprised topsoil of dark grey brown, sandy silt. This overlay a grey-brown to orange-yellow clay or sandy silt. The thickness of the overburden varied from 0.25–0.64m and was generally thickest within the trenches located in the south of site (Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 11).

The undisturbed geological deposits varied from mid yellow-orange to mid brown-orange in colour and from silty sand to clay sand in composition.

3.3 *Early Medieval (1150-1250)*

Several archaeological features, recorded in Trenches 1 and 2, are probably early medieval in date.

Trench 1 contained a sub-oval pit [109] and three, roughly parallel, ENE-WSW aligned ditches [103], [107], [111]. The pit was 2.2m long, at least 0.65m wide and 0.24m deep. It had shallow sloping sides and a concave base. The ditches were c. 3.5m apart, c. 0.5m wide, up to 0.56m deep, with concave or convex sides and concave bases.

Deposits within these features varied from mid brown-grey to dark grey-brown in colour and from sandy to clay silt in composition. Sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from pit [109] and from ditches [107] and [111]; the latter also produced residual sherds dating to the Saxo-Norman period. Ditch [103] did not contain any datable artefacts but is assumed to be early medieval in date because of its association with, and similarity to, the other two ditches.

Three N-S aligned ditches [203], [205] and [209] were found in Trench 2. Ditch [205] truncated ditch [209]. They varied from 0.8m to 1.3m wide and were up to 0.75m deep. They had concave or 45 degree sides with flat or concave bases. Deposits within them varied from light brown-yellow sandy clay to dark grey-brown clay silt. Ditch [205] contained pottery dating to the early medieval period and ditch [203] contained a small pottery sherd dating to the Saxo-Norman period. No dating evidence was recovered from feature [209]. Dating evidence for the latter two features is limited but their alignment and characteristics suggest they are most likely early medieval in date with the small fragment of Saxo-Norman pottery being residual.

3.4 *Post-medieval (1500-1750)*

A shallow, sub-oval feature [211] was recorded in Trench 2, overlying early medieval ditches [205] and [209]. It was 3.65m long, at least 1.55m wide and 0.24m deep. Its two basal deposits comprised firm yellow silty clay (213) and



loose dark grey-brown sandy silt (215). Over these were loose mid brown-orange gravelly sand (212) and dark brown-grey sandy peat (214). Post-medieval brick and tile were recovered from deposits (213), (214), (215). The relatively shallow depth of this feature and deposited layers within it suggest that it may have been a garden feature rather than a refuse pit.

3.5 Modern (1750 onwards)

The northern half of Trench 1 contained a layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt (113) that produced frequent nodules of flint and small fragments of ceramic building material. It may have been the demolished remains of a flint-walled building that once stood there or, alternatively, an external surface composed of materials brought in from elsewhere. Towards its south-east end was a brick surface (106) comprising a single layer of bricks covering an area of 2m by 1m. Two of the bricks from this surface were examined in detail and identified as 19th century in date. One was wedge-shaped and probably came from a brick arch.

At the south-east end of Trench 2 there was a NNW-SSE aligned modern ditch [216] that contained a frogged brick, probably also of 19th-century date.

At the northern end of Trench 4 modern feature [404] contained a fragment of mass produced pottery along with fragments of scrap metal and other pieces of modern rubbish.

3.6 Undated

An irregular, NE-SW aligned, linear feature [603] comprising a number of adjacent tree throws or rooting holes was recorded along the south-east edge of Trench 6. No datable artefacts were recovered from it.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trenching revealed a number of significant archaeological features probably dating to the early medieval period. This dating corresponds with the earliest documented reference to the village in the mid 12th century (Lock 1976).

The features were all found in two trenches located in the north-west corner of the site and comprised six ditches and one pit. The spacing and character of the ditches suggest that they may represent a mixture of cultivation features and/or boundary/drainage ditches. No structural remains of early medieval date were identified. However, the presence of a pit (of uncertain function) and the recovery of a small but varied assemblage of medieval pottery hint at activity other than just agriculture. On balance, the evidence is suggestive of activity on the periphery of the medieval village away from the core occupation area.

The trial trenching also produced a number of sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, most of which were residual in early medieval feature. Although no archaeological features can be reliably dated to this period, the presence of the pottery is evidence that there was settlement activity in the Wrestlingworth area at this time.

Other less significant remains found during the trenching include a possible post-medieval garden feature, a brick surface and a possible demolition layer both the latter dating to the 19th century. All of these remains are probably associated with the recent history of the farm that now occupies the site.

In summary, the evidence from the trial trenching suggests that part of the site was utilised during the early medieval period, probably for peripheral activities on the outskirts of the village. The area appears then to have been largely abandoned until the establishment of Home Farm in the post-medieval period. Evidence for such abandonment of land in the area can also be seen 50m to the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of the High Street, where a complex of earthworks in a pasture field represent an area of settlement believed to have been deserted in the late medieval or early post-medieval period.



5. HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

5.1 *Description of Assets*

The archaeological evaluation of land at Home Farm, Wrestlingworth, identified sub-surface archaeological heritage assets in the north-west corner of the site. These comprised a number of features probably representing peripheral activity on the edge of medieval Wrestlingworth, which is an undesignated heritage asset (HER 17167). Such remains are potentially of local to regional significance and could address a number of regional research themes:

- transition from Saxo-Norman to medieval periods (Oake et al 2007, 98)
- regional characterisation of rural settlement, including shrinkage and desertion (Oake et al, 99-100; Medlycott 2011, 64-66)

Other archaeological features of post-medieval and 19th-century date found within the site are of local to negligible significance as they probably represent remains associated with the existing farm complex. It is possible that some of these could supply some further context for the post-medieval farm buildings on the site.

Above ground heritage assets located within or near to the development site include Home Farm house (HER6058), a 16th-century timber-framed building with later re-workings, and a 17th-century timber-framed dovecote (HER6059). Both are grade II listed buildings. 100m to the north-west of the site lies a complex of earthworks in a pasture field (HER3421). These remains represent an area of settlement deserted in the late medieval or early post-medieval period and comprise at least two house platforms and two hollow ways.

5.2 *Impact of Development*

The proposed residential development of the site (Figure 5) is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the sub-surface archaeological heritage assets in the north-west corner of the site, although the nature of these assets suggests that any associated loss of archaeological information may be low.

The impact of the development on the setting of the 17th-century timber-framed dovecote could be high, although this could be mitigated by sympathetic building style and scale, and retention of existing green space around the dovecote.

The impact on the setting of Home Farm house is likely to be low due to the planned low density and low rise nature of the development, and the presence of mature trees and hedges to screen the development from the house. Likewise the impact on the setting of the earthworks to the north-west of the site will be low as residential dwellings already stand to the south and east and the bulk of the development will not be visible from the asset.



6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Medlycott, M. ed. 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, EAA 24

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7. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES



Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.27 m. Max: 0.39 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25822: Northing: 47154)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25820: Northing: 47138)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow orange clay silt frequent small stones 0.19m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay sand moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: convex base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.07m, max depth 0.56m, min length 2.47m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Primary fill	Loose dark grey brown clay silt moderate small stones 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Fill	Friable mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal 0.37m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	External surface	Orange, red and yellow bricks arranged in an a semi-random pattern. 0.15m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
107	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.87m, max depth 0.23m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks CBM, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
109	Pit	Sub-oval NNE-SSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.65m, max depth 0.24m, max length 2.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
111	Ditch	Linear ENE-WSW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.11m, min length 2.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
112	Fill	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt moderate flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
113	Demolition layer	Loose dark red brown sandy silt Frequent flecks CBM, frequent medium-large nodules of flint. 0.18m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Trench: 2
Max Dimensions: Length: 20.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.25 m. Max: 0.31 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25825; Northing: 47157)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25843; Northing: 47148)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown clay silt moderate small stones 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Friable light brown orange silty sand moderate small-medium chalk, moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.8m, max depth 0.21m, min length 2.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt occasional small-medium chalk, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
205	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.75m, min length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Primary fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.28m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.27m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
208	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: stepped base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.38m, min length 0.6m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Fill	Firm light brown yellow sandy clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Feature	Sub-oval NW-SE sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 1.55m, max depth 0.24m, max length 3.65m Possible garden feature.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Backfill	Loose mid brown orange sandy gravel 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Lens	Firm light yellow silty clay moderate small stones 0.06m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
214	Peat	Friable dark brown grey sandy peat 0.14m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
215	Backfill	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.11m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
216	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE dimensions: min breadth 1.5m, min depth 0.2m, min length 2.9m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Fill	Firm dark grey brown clay silt occasional small-large stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.37 m. Max: 0.52 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25847: Northing: 47160)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25847: Northing: 47150)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-large CBM, occasional small stones 0.36m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Friable mid yellow orange clay silt frequent small stones 0.16m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay silt moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Modern intrusion	Sub-rectangular N-S dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, max length 4.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Fill	Loose dark grey sandy silt moderate small-medium CBM, frequent medium-large stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.56 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25858; Northing: 47138)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25861; Northing: 47129)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange yellow clay sand moderate small stones 0.1m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Compact mid yellow clay sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Modern intrusion	NNW-SSE sides: steep dimensions: min breadth 2.m, min depth 0.3m, min length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Backfill	Firm mid grey brown clay silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.43 m. Max: 0.51 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25824: Northing: 47120)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25839: Northing: 47119)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange clay silt frequent small stones 0.19m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay sand moderate small chalk, moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.64 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25826: Northing: 47106)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25839: Northing: 47114)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange clay silt frequent small stones 0.39m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay sand moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Treethrow	Irregular NE-SW sides: irregular base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.65m, min depth 0.5m, min length 7.25m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.12 m. Max: 0.25 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25870: Northing: 47147)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25883: Northing: 47154)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Firm mid yellow orange clay silt 0.08m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Compact mid yellow orange clay sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.46 m. Max: 0.62 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25918; Northing: 47155)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 25914; Northing: 47141)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones 0.17m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1101	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange clay silt frequent small stones 0.29m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1102	Natural	Compact mid brown orange clay sand moderate small chalk, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



8. APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY

8.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and brick. The material was examined to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 1). No finds were collected from Trenches 3, 5-7, or 11.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Date range	Finds Summary
1	106	Brick surface	106	19th century	Brick (4kg)
	107	Ditch	108	Early medieval	Pottery (19g); animal bone 4g
	109	Pit	110	Early medieval	Pottery (24g)
	111	Ditch	112	Early medieval	Pottery (94g); animal bone (19g)
2	203	Ditch	204	Saxo-Norman	Pottery (2g)
	205	Ditch	207	Early medieval	Pottery (72g); animal bone (1g)
	211	Garden feature	213	Post-medieval	Brick (230g)
	211	Garden feature	214	Post-medieval	Brick (119g)
	211	Garden feature	215	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile & brick (25g)
	216	Ditch	217	19th century	Brick (1.1kg)
4	404	Modern intrusion	405	19th-20th century	Pottery (2g); coal (5g)

Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature

8.2 Pottery

Twenty-three pottery sherds weighing 213g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is generally fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 9g, and survives in fair condition. Nine fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, currently maintained by Albion Archaeology (Table 2).

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Saxo-Norman</i>			
B01	St Neots-type ware	2	(204):1, (207):1
B01C	St Neots-type ware (mixed inclusions)	8	(112):8
C12	Stamford ware	1	(112):1
<i>Early medieval</i>			
B07	Shell	5	(112):4, (207):1
C60	Hertfordshire-type grey ware	1	(110):1
C61	Calcareous inclusions	3	(108):1, (112):2
C67	Mixed inclusions	1	(110):1
C71	Buff-grey cored	1	(110):1
MOD	Modern mass-produced ware	1	(405):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

8.2.1 Saxo-Norman (c. 900-1150)

Ten sherds (41g) of wheel-thrown, shell-tempered St Neots-type ware (fabric B01 and variant B01C) were recovered, the majority occurring as residual finds in early medieval ditches [111] and [205]. No diagnostic vessel forms occur, although sooting on the surfaces of some sherds suggests their use as cooking



pots. The wares are likely to be locally manufactured, although no specific production centres are known. A single glazed sherd (5g) of 10th–12th-century Stamford ware (C12) represents a regional fineware import from Lincolnshire.

8.2.2 Early medieval (c. 1150-1250)

Eleven early medieval sherds (165g) derived from ditches [107], [111], [205], and pit [109]. They comprise five shell-tempered, wheel-thrown sherds of 12th–13th-century date (fabric B07), known to derive from production sites on the Beds./Bucks./ Northants. borders. Six locally manufactured contemporary sand-tempered sherds (C60; C61; C67; C71) also occur. Vessel forms are wheel-thrown jars with simple everted or square rims, one with a diameter of 160mm; an inturned rim bowl; and a jug with a plain strap handle. Sooting on the surfaces and interior of a number of shelly sherds indicates their use as cooking pots.

One sherd of modern glazed earthenware (2g) derived from the fill of feature [404]. The latter also contained a piece of coal (5g).

8.3 Ceramic Building Material

The fills of garden feature [211] contained three amorphous sand-tempered brick fragments (364g) and an abraded piece of flat roof tile (10g), all datable to the post-medieval period.

Two brick samples were retained from surface (106). They are a virtually complete moulded brick (L220 x W110 x D68mm) in a hard-fired, dense, sandy fabric, and a gault clay voussoir, (L230 x W115 x D65-80mm), a wedge-shaped brick used in building an arch or vault. Both are likely to be of 19th century or later date. Ditch [216] yielded two pieces from a gault clay frogged brick (W105 x D67mm), thought to be of similar date.

8.4 Animal Bone

Three well-preserved, animal limb bone and rib fragments (24g) were collected from early medieval ditches [107], [111], and [205]. They are too fragmentary to be identified to species.

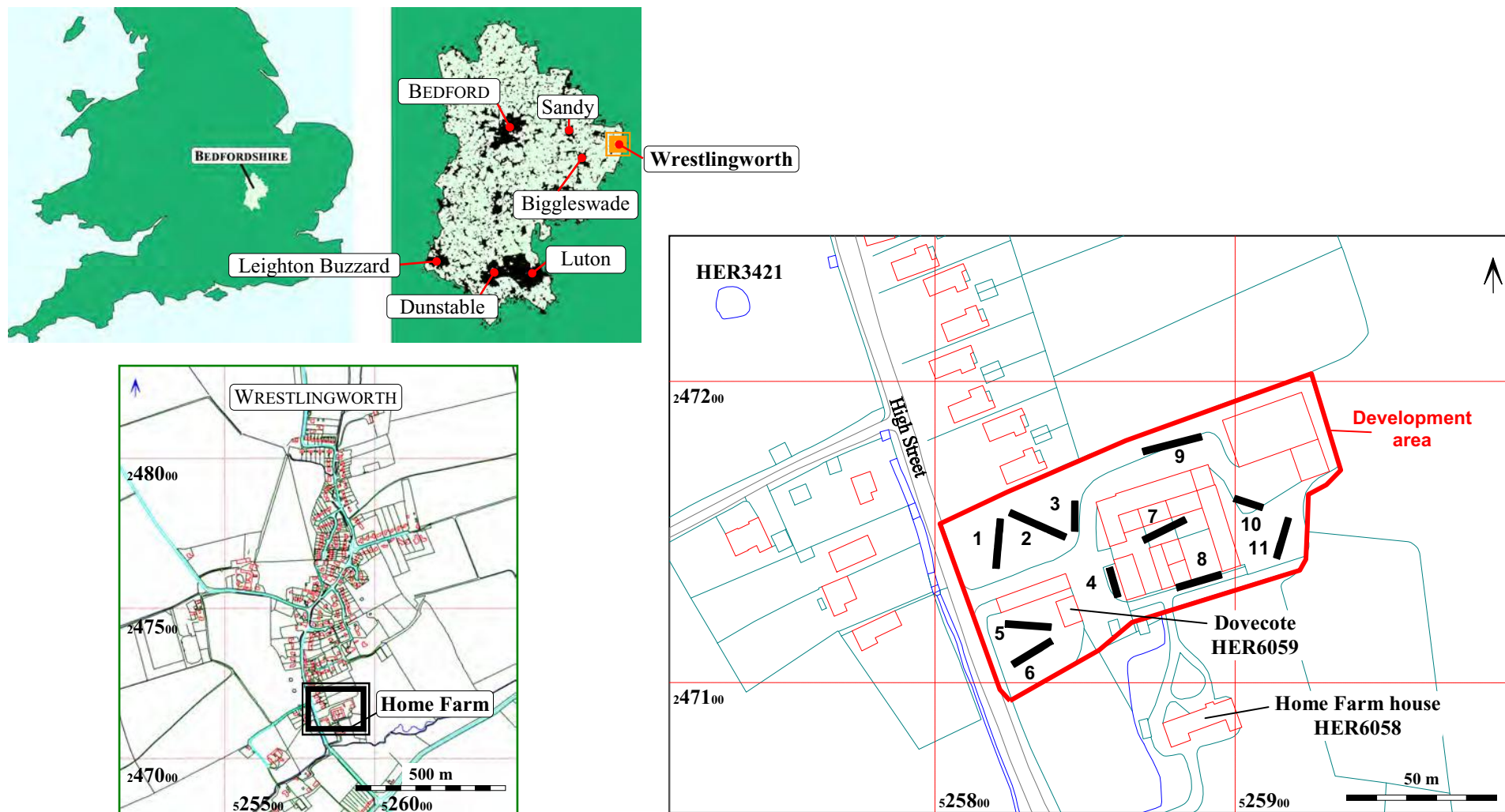


Figure 1: Site and trench location

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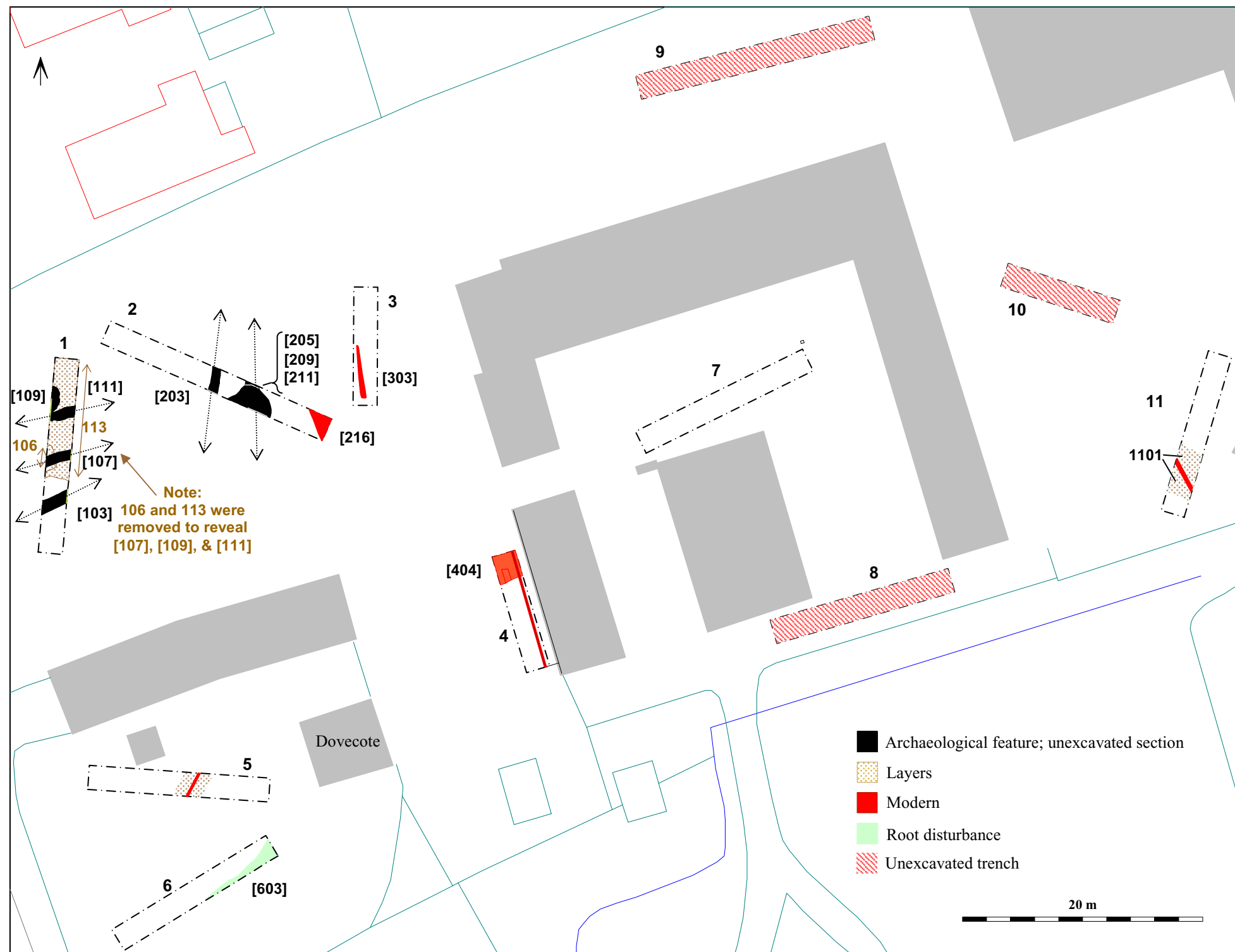
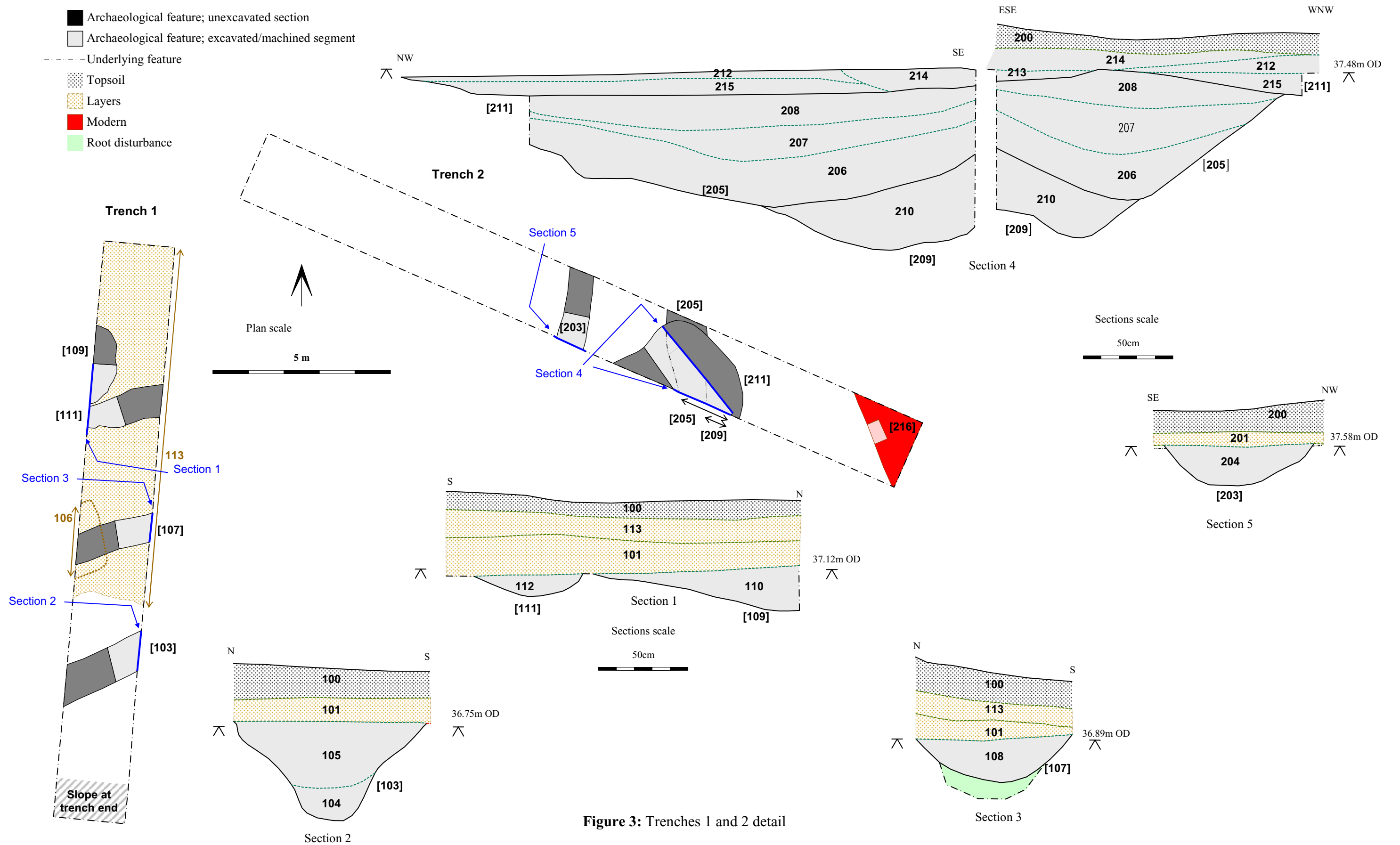


Figure 2: Trial trenching results

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Brick surface (106)
Scale 1m



Ditch [103]
Scale 1m



Ditch [203]
Scale 1m



Possible demolition
rubble (106)
Scale 1m

Figure 4: Photographs



Figure 5: Proposed development plan

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