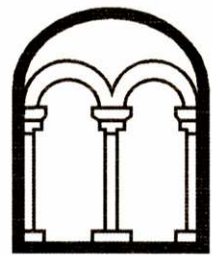


**FAIRHILLS SITE
CUT THROAT LANE
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

Albion
archaeology



**FAIRHILLS SITE
CUT THROAT LANE
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION**

Project: FB2111

Museum accession no. BEDFM 2013.04

Oasis ref.: albionar1- 43673

Document: 2013/29

Version 1.0

15th February 2013

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Richard Gregson	Ben Barker	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Property Services
Bedford Borough Council



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Planning Background	5
1.2 Site Location	5
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
1.4 Project Objectives	6
1.5 Methodology	6
2. RESULTS	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits	8
2.3 Evidence for Earlier Prehistoric Activity	8
2.4 Late Iron Age/early Roman Archaeological Remains	8
2.5 Post-medieval Archaeological Remains	9
2.6 Modern Features	9
3. FINDS SUMMARY	1
3.1 Introduction	1
3.2 Pottery	1
3.3 Ceramic Building Material	3
3.4 Worked Stone	3
3.5 Worked Flint	3
3.6 Other Finds	3
3.7 Animal Bone	4
4. CONCLUSIONS	5
5. BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS	7
7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA	11



List of Figures

Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

Figure 2: All features plan

Figure 3: Detailed trench plans and sections

Figure 4: Selected photographs

The figures are bound at the back of the report.



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

The project was commissioned by Property Services Bedford Borough Council and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Victoria Hainsworth, Chris Tombe (Archaeological Technicians) and Richard Gregson (Archaeological Supervisor). This report was prepared by Richard Gregson with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). It was edited by Ben Barker (Project Officer). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

Albion Archaeology
 St Mary's Church
 St Mary's Street
 Bedford, MK42 0AS
 ☎: 0300 300 8141
 Fax: 0300 300 8209
 e-mail: office@albion-arch.com

Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
1.0	15/02/2013	n/a

Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

HER	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Record
HET	Bedford Borough Council's Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
PDA	Potential development area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

The Fairhills site off Cut Throat Lane, Bedford has been proposed as a potential gypsy and traveller site. The site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity. As a result, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council recommended that a field evaluation be carried out to determine whether any buried heritage assets would be affected by the potential development.

The Fairhills site lies on the north-west side of Bedford town, in the valley of the River Great Ouse. It comprises part of an area of semi-wooded scrub land which is bounded by the Bedford to Wellingborough railway line, the A6 Bedford Road and the River Great Ouse.

Trial trenching took place between 30th January and 4th February 2013. Ten 2m-wide trenches were opened within the potential development area.

Trenches 8, 9 and 10 revealed evidence for a possible late Iron Age/early Roman settlement area in the north of the site close to the river Great Ouse. The features in these trenches produced moderate quantities of late Iron Age/early Roman artefacts.

The trial trenching also revealed a background distribution of earlier prehistoric artefacts, including worked flint and pottery, found as residual artefacts in a series of linear post-medieval features. The function of the post-medieval features is uncertain.

Limited evidence for modern features / disturbance was also revealed.

The possible presence of a late Iron Age/early Roman settlement in the north of the site means that the proposed development could potentially have an impact on archaeological remains of local and regional significance. However, they were revealed at depths of 0.65–1.1m below ground level in the lowest lying parts of the sites, so may be deeply enough buried not to be disturbed by the development.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

The Fairhills site off Cut Throat Lane, Bedford has been proposed as a potential gypsy and traveller site.

Because the site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council recommended that a field evaluation be carried out to determine whether any buried heritage assets would be affected by the proposed development.

This recommendation is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, published on 27 March 2012¹.

1.2 *Site Location*

The Fairhills site lies on the north-west side of Bedford town, in the valley of the River Great Ouse. It comprises part of an area of semi-wooded scrub land which is bounded by the Bedford to Wellingborough railway line, the A6 Bedford Road and the River Great Ouse.

The Fairhills site itself is approximately 1.13ha in extent and is centred on NGR TL03533 51057. It lies at a height of around 40m OD on drift geology of alluvium and river terrace sands and gravel.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A late Iron Age gold coin was recovered from the vicinity during the 1980s when the site was in use as allotments (HER 11988). This find may be associated with a possible hut circle and an assemblage of Iron Age pottery that was found during the construction of the railway to the south of the site (HER 329).

To the south-east a possible Romano-British period cremation cemetery was excavated in the 19th century (HER 5124). Its exact location is uncertain

Nineteenth-century gravel pits are recorded to the west of the railway line (HER 168, HER 5085).

The re-siting of overhead electricity supply lines in the vicinity of Cut Throat Lane was subject to an archaeological watching brief in 2001. None of the excavated pylon bases, one of which was within the potential development area (PDA), revealed any archaeological deposits (Albion Archaeology 2001).

Evaluation trenching carried out in 2012 at the site of a proposed balancing pond, located a short distance to the west of the Fairhills site, identified a number of possible enclosure ditches of late Iron Age/early Romano-British date, together with undated but possibly associated postholes (Albion Archaeology 2012). The artefacts recovered from the features suggested the

¹ National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.



remains were probably associated with a settlement rather than outlying field systems. Residual sherds of early Iron Age pottery were also found indicating the presence of earlier activity in the area.

1.4 **Project Objectives**

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

The research potential of the PDA lies in the possible presence of further evidence relating to rural settlement dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Further investigation and analysis of such remains accords with wider areas of research as identified in the local and regional agenda (Medlycott 2011, Oake et al 2007). Both documents highlight the need for further work on the characterisation of rural settlement pattern and distribution.

1.5 **Methodology**

The trial trenching took place between 30th January and 4th February 2013. Ten 2m-wide trenches were opened within the PDA (Figure 1). Trenches 1–5, 7 and 8 were 25m long, although a 9.5m-wide unexcavated gap was left in Trench 3 to avoid a dump of asbestos. Trench 6 was 22.9m long and Trench 9 was 21.4m long. Trench 10 was shortened to 10m in length to avoid a storm drain inspection hole and associated drainage pipes.

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.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All features were assigned a unique context number, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, and 200 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

A full methodology is provided in the project WSI (Albion Archaeology 2013).

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• Bedford Borough Council	<i>Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford</i> (1998)
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic</i>



	<i>Environment (MoRPHE) Project Managers' Guide (2006)</i>
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition (2011)</i>
• HET	<i>Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at Fairhills Site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire (January 2013)</i>
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (updated 2008) and finds (updated 2008)</i>



2. RESULTS

Features and deposits found during the investigations are described below and shown on Figure 2. Detailed plans and sections are shown on Figure 3 with selected photographs on Figure 4. The artefacts recovered are detailed in Section 3. Detailed data on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 provides a summary of the OASIS database entry.

2.1 Introduction

Archaeological remains were revealed in Trenches 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10. No archaeological remains were revealed in the remaining trenches. The trenches were examined by the BBC Archaeological Officer on 31st January, by which time the majority of the archaeologically sterile trenches had partially filled with water.

2.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The depth of overburden across the PDA varied from 0.5–1.15m; it was 0.8m on average across the site. It consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, overlying mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil. In most trenches, the subsoil was significantly thicker than the topsoil, suggesting a past episode of alluvial build up.

The composition of the overburden in Trench 7 was similar to that of the other trenches; however, it was significantly deeper at the south-east end and had a disturbed appearance suggesting that it may have been re-deposited by past human agency.

The underlying geological deposit comprised light yellow grey to mid brown orange silty clay or sandy silt.

2.3 Evidence for Earlier Prehistoric Activity

No archaeological features pre-dating the late Iron Age were identified within the trial trenches; however, residual prehistoric artefacts were recovered from later features within Trenches 2, 7 and 10 (see Section 3). These included early Neolithic worked flints in post-medieval features [713] and [715], and two sherds of early Iron Age pottery in later ditches [203] and [1003].

These finds are likely to be evidence of transient activity in the area, although evidence of early Iron Age occupation could have been masked by later activity.

2.4 Late Iron Age/early Roman Archaeological Remains

A total of four late Iron Age/early Roman ditches and a single pit were identified in Trenches 8, 9 and 10. All of these features contained moderate quantities of late Iron Age/early Roman artefacts (see Section 3). The trenches were located in the north of the site, close to the river Great Ouse.

Two large ditches [803] and [903] were recorded in Trenches 8 and 9 respectively. They were aligned NNE-SSW and NW-SE and had relatively irregular sides with uneven or slightly concave bases. They were 1.75–2.15m wide and up to 0.55m deep. The deposits within them varied from mid grey-



brown to dark brown-grey in colour, and from sandy silt to silty clay in composition. They contained animal bone, stone roof tile, building stone, ferrous slag, fired clay and sherds of pottery dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period.

Ditch [803] was truncated by a small sub-circular pit [805] that was 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained a similar deposit to the ditch and similar artefacts — a stone roof tile and early Roman pottery.

The two ditches [1003] and [1005] identified in Trench 10 were considerably smaller than those recorded in the other two trenches. They were perpendicular to each other, aligned NW-SE and NE-SW respectively, and had shallow concave profiles. They were 0.75–0.9m wide and were less than 0.25m deep. The deposits within them varied from mid grey-brown to mid brown-grey sandy silt that contained animal bone, stone roof tile and Roman pottery.

It is likely that the larger ditches define the boundaries of enclosures; the smaller ones may represent internal divisions within those enclosures.

2.5 Post-medieval Archaeological Remains

A small NNW-SSE aligned ditch [203] was revealed in Trench 2 and a series of regular intrusions [703] – [717] were revealed in Trench 7.

The small ditch [203] in Trench 2 was 0.95m wide and 0.25m deep with a concave profile. It contained a mid grey-brown sandy silt, which produced post-medieval ceramic roof tile as well as a single sherd of residual early Iron pottery.

Eight NE-SW aligned features were revealed in Trench 7; four were excavated including one terminus [715]. They were 1.2–1.9m wide and were up to 0.5m deep. They had asymmetrical profiles with near vertical sides on the upslope (south-east) side, flat bases and more gently sloping north-west sides.

Although closely spaced, these features generally respected each other, so are assumed to be contemporary. The exception was [703] which truncated [717] at the north-west end of the trench. The deposits within them varied from mid brown-orange to mid grey-brown sandy silt and were generally devoid of organic content. The excavated deposits did, however, produce post-medieval pottery, tile and glass, as well as residual, prehistoric worked flints and Roman pottery.

Their steep, upslope edge and the regularity of the spacing of these features suggest that they were very deliberately and carefully dug. Although their function is uncertain, it is possible that they represent agricultural trenches or terracing parallel to bank of the nearby river Great Ouse.

2.6 Modern Features

A large area of modern disturbance was recorded towards the east end of Trench 1. It contained lumps of concrete, old communication cables and other modern debris.



Two external surfaces (601) and (602), consisting of gravel and redeposited clay, were recorded at the north-east end of Trench 6. These are likely to have been associated with a track-way leading down to the river, the current alignment of which is now located 6m to the north-west of the trench.



3. FINDS SUMMARY

3.1 Introduction

The evaluation produced a finds assemblage comprising mainly pottery and animal bone, with smaller quantities of building material and non-ceramic finds. The material was examined to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range (Table 1). No finds were collected from Trenches 1, or 3–6.

Tr.	Feature	Description	Context	Date range	Finds Summary
2	203	Ditch	204	Post-medieval	Pottery (7g); ceramic roof tile (4g)
7	703	Regular intrusion	704	Post-medieval	Pottery (16g); ceramic roof tile (296g)
	713	Regular intrusion	714	Post-medieval	Ceramic roof tile (12g); vessel glass (6g); worked flint (29g)
	715	Regular intrusion	716	Post-medieval	Pottery (4g); ceramic roof tile (6g); worked flint (14g); coal (1g)
8	803	Ditch	804	Roman C2-3	Pottery (2.2kg); fired clay (57g); ferrous slag (172g); animal bone (847g)
9	805	Pit	806	Roman C2	Pottery (257g); stone roof tile (272g)
	903	Ditch	905	Late Iron Age/ Early Roman	Pottery (1.7kg); fired clay (66g); stone roof tile (82g); architectural fragment (1.8kg); animal bone (221g)
10	1003	Ditch	1004	Roman C1-2	Pottery (49g); stone roof tile (222g); animal bone (949g)

Table 1: *Artefact summary by trench and feature*

3.2 Pottery

A total of 177 pottery sherds, representing 78 vessels and weighing 4.2kg, were recovered from eight features in Trenches 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The pottery is moderately fragmented, with an average sherd weight of 24g, and generally survives in good condition. Twenty-four 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).

The earliest pottery comprises two hand-made body sherds in predominantly quartz-rich fabrics (types F29, F30), datable to the early Iron Age. Both are abraded, and occur as residual finds in later ditches [203] and [1003].

Pottery of transitional late Iron Age/early Roman date (*c.* 50 BC–AD 100) totals 89 sherds (1.7kg) and comprises both wheel-thrown and hand-made vessels. The assemblage is closely comparable with that from nearby trial trenches associated with the Bedford Western Bypass Northern Section (Albion Archaeology 2012). A range of shell- (F07), shell/grog- (F05, F08), sand/grog- (F09) and entirely grog-tempered fabrics occur (F06A–C). All are likely to be of local origin; a number of kilns producing shelly wares during the mid 1st century AD are known in north Bedfordshire — at Stagsden, Bromham, Harrold, and Biddenham — although the other fabrics' provenance remains unknown.



Thirty-five individual vessels are represented, predominantly by body sherds. Diagnostic forms are mainly lid-seated vessels, thought to have been introduced to the region *c.* AD 20 (Friendship-Taylor 1999, 25). Other forms are everted and bead rim jars, some cordoned, and simple bowls dating from the later 1st century BC onwards.

All but two sherds derived from the fill of ditch [903], the largest single deposit comprising 21 sherds (399g) from a lid-seated vessel with a rim diameter of 220mm, and impressed finger nail decoration along the rim top. The vessel is externally sooted, and has a thick internal white residue (?limescale), indicating its use as a cooking vessel.

Fabric Type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Early Iron</i>			
<i>Age</i>			
F29	Coarse sand	1	(204):1
F30	Sand and calcareous inclusions	1	(1004):1
<i>Late Iron Age</i>			
F05	Grog and shell	15	(905):15
F06A	Fine grog	2	(905):2
F06B	Medium grog	3	(905):2, (1004):1
F06C	Coarse grog	4	(804):1, (905):3
F07	Shell	48	(905):48
F08	Shell and grog	7	(905):7
F09	Sand and grog	10	(905):10
<i>Roman</i>			
R01	Samian	1	(804):1
R02	Mica-gilded ware	1	(804):1
R05A	Orange sandy	1	(804):1
R06B	Coarse grey ware	1	(804):1
R06C	Fine grey ware	11	(804):10, (806):1
R06E	Calcareous grey ware	1	(804):1
R06G	Silty grey ware	1	(804):1
R06I	Black-slipped grey ware	6	(804):6
R07B	Sandy black ware	1	(804):1
R07C	Gritty black ware	2	(804):2
R07F	Silty black ware	1	(804):1
R09A	Pink grogged ware	5	(804):5
R12B	Nene Valley colour coat	4	(804):4
R13	Shell	49	(704):1, (804):44, (806):1, (1004):3
UNID	Unidentified / undatable	1	(716):1

Table 2: Pottery Type Series

Fully Romanised pottery totals 85 sherds, representing 41 vessels and weighing 2.5kg, the majority deriving from the fill of ditch [803]. The assemblage is primarily local in character, and is dominated by coarse wares in shell-tempered fabric R13. Many are likely to derive from Harrold (Brown 1994), although other shelly kilns are known in the locality (for example, Willington and Great Barford). Reduced sand-tempered wares (R06 and variants), possible products of a number of kiln sites located to the south-east of Bedford, complete the local assemblage. Traded wares from further afield are a pink grogged vessel (R09A) from either Caldecotte, Bucks., or Towcester, Northants., and a colour-coated folded beaker from the Nene



Valley (R12B). A footing from a Gaulish samian cup (R01) is the sole continental import.

Vessel forms are lid-seated and everted rim jars, ranging in rim diameter from 160–260mm, and a large storage jar with a diameter of 380mm. Single examples of a poppyhead beaker, lid and shallow bowl also occur. Decoration comprises mainly rilling and combing; two vessels have burnished zig-zag motifs. Several of the shelly vessels have sooted exterior surfaces, suggesting their use as cooking vessels.

3.3 Ceramic Building Material

Four pieces of post-medieval flat roof tile (total weight 216g) were recovered from features [203], [703], [713] and [715]. All are sand-tempered, and range in thickness from 13–15mm. A highly abraded shell-tempered Roman roof tile fragment (102g) occurred as a residual find in [703].

Roman ditch [803] yielded a hand-made organic slab fragment (57g) with a smoothed edge and surfaces, measuring 25mm in thickness. Such objects are commonly occurring finds on sites of late Iron Age and early Roman date. They may represent portable furniture from a domestic hearth or oven, although their precise function remains unclear. Fourteen amorphous fired clay fragments in an oxidised fine sand and calcareous fabric (66g) were recovered from ditch [903].

3.4 Worked Stone

The fill of late Iron Age/early Roman ditch [903] contained a triangular slab-like piece of local shelly limestone (thickness 60mm; length 182mm; width 155mm), representing an architectural fragment. The stone retains one original straight cut edge and has roughly worked flat surfaces. Ditches [903], [1003] and pit [805] each contained single shelly limestone fragments thought to derive from stone roof tiles. They range in thickness from 18–25mm, and although lacking nail holes, are sufficiently diagnostic to be identified as tiles. Two appear to have been reused, evidenced by black sooty residues on their edges. Comparable local examples are known from the early Roman aisled building at Shefford (Luke, Preece and Wells 2010, 311). Limestone would have been locally obtainable from outcrops to the north-west of Bedford.

3.5 Worked Flint

Six worked flints (43g) occurred as residual finds in features [713] and [715]. They comprise four small and squat tertiary flakes (two damaged), and a retouched secondary flake. The latter has cortex remaining along one lateral edge and possible pressure flaking along the lower half of a lateral edge. An exhausted two platform flake core made from a small nodule was also recovered. The item has small and fairly narrow removal scars, cortex remaining on one third of its surface, and may be of early Neolithic date. The limited assemblage suggests ‘ad hoc’ knapping to meet immediate needs.

3.6 Other Finds

A partial ferrous slag hearth bottom (length 68mm; width 66.5mm; thickness 35.5mm), indicative of the smithing process, derived from Roman ditch [803].

The fill of [713] yielded an abraded, olive green clear glass body sherd, probably deriving from a post-medieval wine bottle.



3.7 Animal Bone

The faunal assemblage comprises 50 fragments weighing 2.0kg, the majority deriving from the fills of early Roman ditch [1003]. Individual pieces are sizeable, with an average fragment weight of 40g, and are of fresh appearance. None seem to have been gnawed. Diagnostic bone elements are limb bones, scapula (post-cranial meat-bearing parts); and vertebra, foot bones (calcaneus), loose teeth, horn core, mandible and skull fragments, the latter indicative of butchery. Species represented are cattle, sheep and goat.



4. CONCLUSIONS

The trial trench evaluation has shown that part of the PDA contains significant archaeological remains. They indicate the presence of a late Iron Age/Roman settlement area close to the current bank of the river Great Ouse. The recovery of residual prehistoric artefacts (notably early Neolithic worked flints from Trench 7 and early Iron Age pottery from Trench 2) suggests that the PDA also contains more dispersed evidence for activity dating back to the earlier prehistoric period. It is possible that this earlier activity was transient in nature and may not be associated with sub-surface archaeological features.

The evidence for late Iron Age/early Romano-British occupation activity is consistent with the known settlement pattern in the area. There is a relatively high density of Romano British farmsteads along the Great Ouse valley and its tributaries, with a suggested distance between farmsteads of as little as 400m within the vicinity of Bedford (Luke and Preece 2011, 168). These sites have frequently been shown to have been established in the late Iron Age.

A relatively large quantity of artefacts was recovered from the late Iron Age/early Romano-British features. This is indicative of settlement activity, rather than agricultural exploitation. Their condition was generally unabraded and the finds are unlikely to have been disturbed by later activity or have travelled far from their place of original use. The preservation of the animal bone is likely to have been enhanced by the alkaline nature of the underlying calcareous geological deposits.

The presence of stone tile may be indicative of the presence of a substantial Roman building in the vicinity, although re-used roof tiles are commonly found on lower status sites which exhibit no other evidence for grand 'Romanised' structures. The recovery of fired clay and ferrous slag does, however, suggest that small-scale industrial activities, possibly smithing, were carried out in the area. The proximity to the river Great Ouse is likely to have been important to these activities and would have facilitated exchange with nearby settlements.

The evaluation has demonstrated that the proposed development has the potential to have an adverse impact on sub-surface archaeological remains that are likely to be of local and regional significance. The investigation and analysis of rural settlement dating to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods accords with wider areas of research as identified in the local and regional agenda (Medlycott 2011, Oake et al 2007). However, it should be noted that the archaeological deposits were revealed at depths of 0.65–1.1m below ground level. It is, therefore, possible that any potential impact could be mitigated by an appropriate design solution that would ensure preservation *in situ*.



5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology 2001, *A6 Clapham Road, Re-siting of Electricity Transmission Line: Results of Archaeological Watching Brief*. Report No. 2001/45.
- Albion Archaeology 2012, *Bedford Western Bypass Northern Section Bromham Road, Bedford: Results of Archaeological Evaluation*. Report No. 2012/59.
- Albion Archaeology 2013, *Fairhills site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Report No. 2013/17.
- Brown, A., 1994, 'A Romano-British Shell-Gritted Pottery and Tile Manufacturing Site at Harrold', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 21, 19-107.
- Friendship-Taylor, R.M., 1999, 'Late La Tene Pottery of the Nene and Welland Valleys, Northamptonshire, with particular reference to Channel-rim Jars', *Brit. Archaeol. Rep. British Series* 280.
- HET 2013, *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Field Evaluation at Fairhills site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford, Bedfordshire*. 14th January 2013. Bedford Borough Council.
- Luke, M., Preece, T., and Wells, J., 2010, 'A Romano-British aisled building and associated settlement south of Amptill Road, Shefford', *Bedfordshire Archaeology* 26, 269-346.
- Luke, M. and Preece, T., 2011, *Farm and Forge: late Iron Age/Romano British farmstead at Marsh Leys, Kempston, Bedfordshire*. East Anglian Archaeology 138
- Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P., 2007, *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.



6. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DETAILS

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: 1.4 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3645: Northing: 51005)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3620: Northing: 51007)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.62m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.78m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.93 m. Max: 1.18 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3616: Northing: 51039)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3634: Northing: 51020)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.6m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.6m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Ditch	Linear NNW-SSE sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.23m, min length 7.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.93 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3574: Northing: 51024)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3588: Northing: 51004)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.34m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.59m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 4**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.94 m. Max: 1.15 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3564: Northing: 51048)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3584: Northing: 51032)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.85m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.84 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3536: Northing: 51049)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3555: Northing: 51033)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.52m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 22.90 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.9 m. Max: 0.95 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3571: Northing: 51078)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3556: Northing: 51063)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	External surface	Compact mid brown red sandy gravel 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	External surface	Compact dark grey black clay 0.35m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
603	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.55m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
604	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 7**

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3503: Northing: 51079)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3523: Northing: 51065)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.32m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
701	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.33m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
702	Natural	Firm light yellow grey silty clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
703	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: Assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, max depth 0.41m, min length 2.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
704	Fill	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
705	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, min length 2.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
706	Fill	Firm mid brown orange silty sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
707	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, min length 2.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
708	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
709	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, min length 2.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
710	Fill	Firm mid brown orange silty sand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
711	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, min length 2.2m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
712	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
713	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: Assymetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.9m, max depth 0.47m, min length 2.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
714	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
715	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.23m, min length 2.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
716	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
717	Modern intrusion	Linear NE-SW dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.33m, min length 0.75m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
718	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: Length: 25.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.65 m. Max: 0.65 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3528: Northing: 51084)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3552: Northing: 51090)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.25m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
801	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
802	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
803	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: Assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 2.15m, max depth 0.52m, min length 2.4m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
804	Fill	Firm dark brown grey silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
805	Pit	Sub-circular sides: concave base: concave dimensions: min breadth 0.5m, max depth 0.11m, max length 0.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
806	Fill	Firm mid grey silty clay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 9**

Max Dimensions: Length: 21.40 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.95 m. Max: 1.1 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3522: Northing: 51119)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3503: Northing: 51109)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
901	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.65m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
902	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
903	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 1.75m, max depth 0.53m, min length 2.05m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
904	Primary fill	Compact mid grey brown sandy silt 0.06m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
905	Main fill	Compact mid brown grey sandy silt frequent flecks charcoal 0.53m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.85 m. Max: 0.9 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3541: Northing: 51121)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 3543: Northing: 51112)

Reason: To evaluate area.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Firm dark grey brown sandy silt 0.4m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1001	Subsoil	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt 0.45m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1002	Natural	Firm mid brown orange clay silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1003	Ditch	Linear NW-SE sides: 45 degrees base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.92m, min depth 0.24m, min length 3m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1004	Fill	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1005	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.75m, max depth 0.09m, min length 2.2m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1006	Fill	Firm mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA

OASIS ID	albionar1-143673
PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Fairhills Site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford
Short description of the project	The Fairhills site off Cut Throat Lane, Bedford has been proposed as a potential gypsy and traveller site. Because the site lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Bedford Borough Council recommended that a field evaluation be carried out to determine whether any buried heritage assets would be affected by the potential development. The trial trench evaluation revealed evidence for a possible late Iron Age/early Roman settlement area in the north of the site close to the river Great Ouse. It also revealed a background distribution of earlier prehistoric artefacts including worked flint and pottery found as residual artefacts in later features. The possible presence of a late Iron Age/Roman settlement in the north of the site means that the proposed development could potentially have an impact on significant archaeological remains. However, they were revealed at depths of 0.65–1.1m below ground level in the lowest lying parts of the sites, so may be deeply enough buried not to be disturbed by the development.
Project dates	Start: 30-01-2013 End: 04-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FB2111 - Contracting Unit No. BEDFM:2013.04 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES Late Iron Age DITCHES Roman PIT Roman DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman POTTERY Late Iron Age POTTERY Post Medieval WORKED STONE Roman FLINT Neolithic ANIMAL BONE Roman
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Potential gypsy and traveller site
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
PROJECT LOCATION	
Country	England
Site location	BEDFORDSHIRE BEDFORD BEDFORD Fairhills Site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford
Study area	1.13 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 03533 51057



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	Ben Barker
Project supervisor	Richard Gregson
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Physical Archive Exists?	Yes
Physical Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Physical Archive ID	BEDFM:2013.04
Physical Archive contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Industrial", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bedford Museum
Paper Archive ID	BEDFM:2013.04
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Industrial", "Metal", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Unspecified Archive"
Paper Archive notes	To be stored at Albion Archaeology until deposition
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Fairhills Site, Cut Throat Lane, Bedford: Archaeological trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Gregson, R'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Barker, B'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wells, J'
Other bibliographic details	
Date	15/02/2013
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	Comb bound report

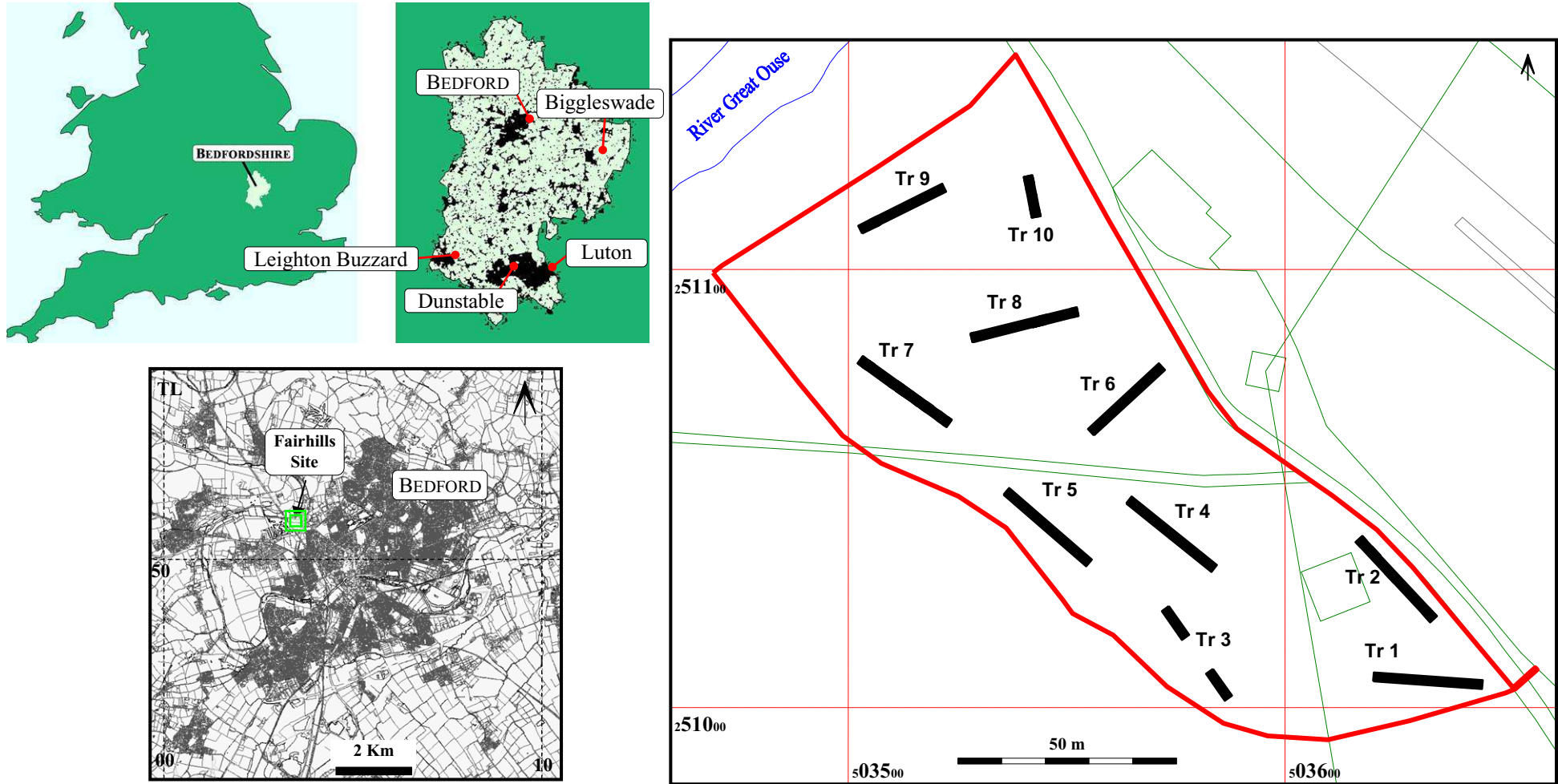
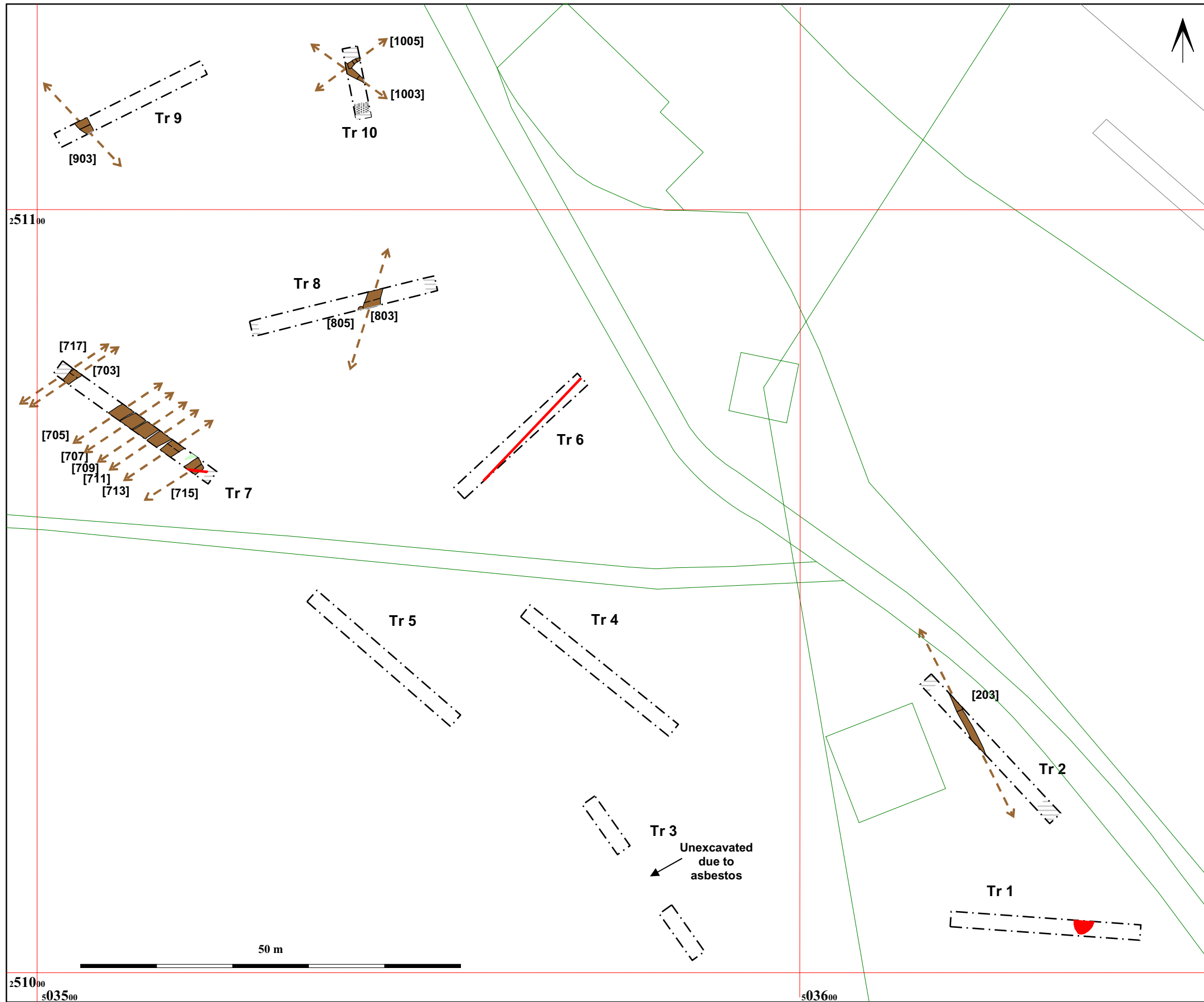


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan

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 (2013)



- Topsoil
 - Subsoil
 - Archaeological feature
 - Modern feature
 - Tree root disturbance
 - Slope at end of trench
 - Pottery
 - Stones
- Sections scale
50cm
- Plan scale
5m

Figure 2: All features plan

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 (2013)

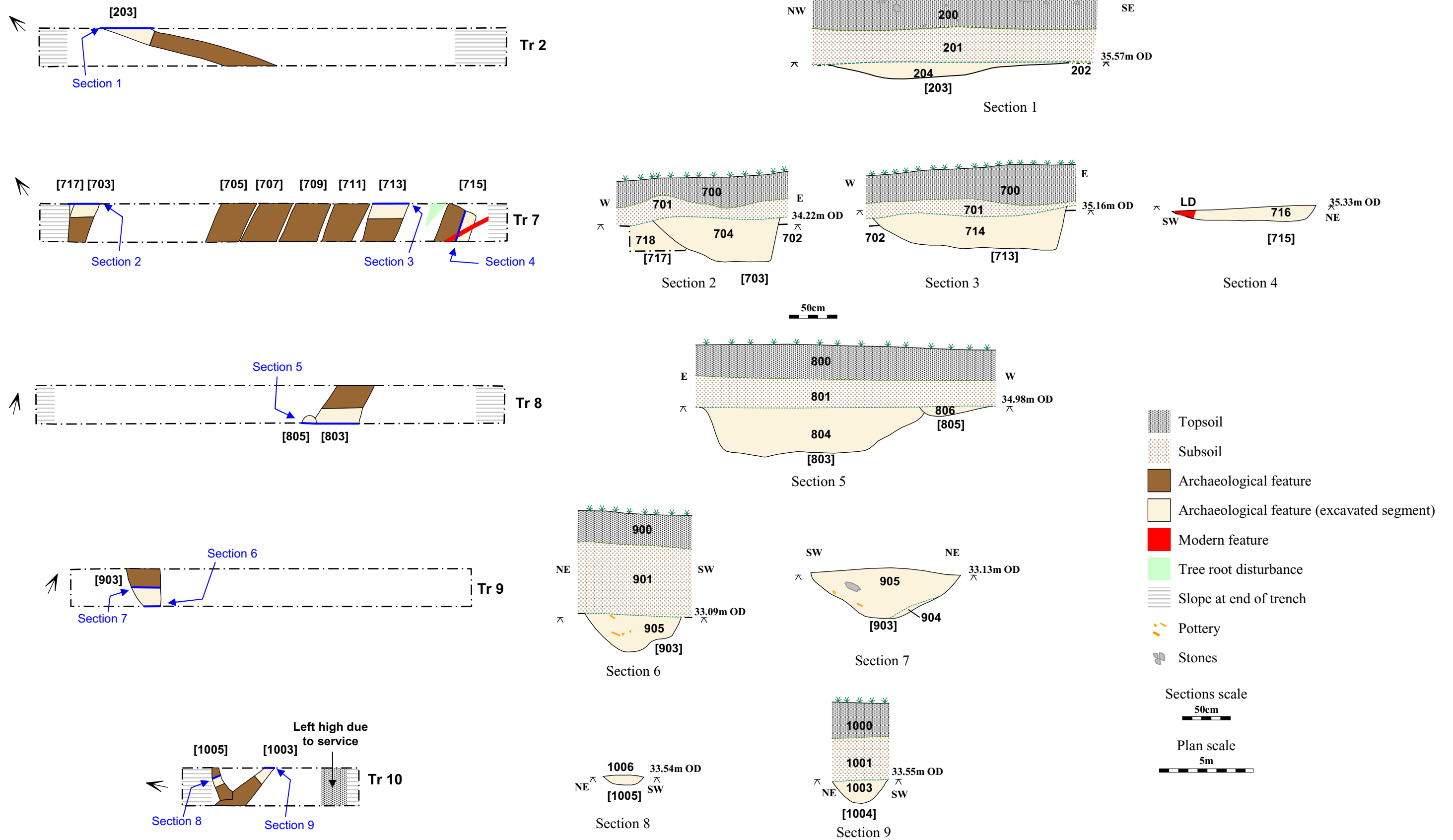


Figure 3: Detailed trench plans and sections



Trench 7. Looking NW.



Trench 7. Ditch [203] Looking SSE. Scale 30cm



Trench 7. Ditch [803] Looking S. Scale 1m



Trench 7. Ditch [903] Looking NW. Scale 1m



Trench 7. Feature [713] Looking SW. Scale 1m

Figure 4: Selected photographs



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

