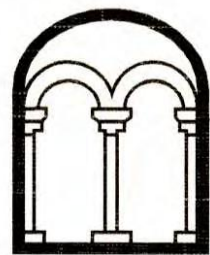


**ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY
BYGRAVE LODGE FARM
BALDOCK
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
AND RECORDING**

Albion
archaeology



**ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
AND RECORDING**

Project: BAL2185
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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Ian Turner	Wesley Keir	Drew Shotliff

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Biogen (UK) Ltd



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. 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 Biogen (UK) Ltd and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Andy Instone, the Hertfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Supervisor) and Gareth Shane (Assistant Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Ian Turner with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

The assistance and co-operation of the principal contractor, Toureen Mangan, throughout the project is gratefully acknowledged.

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	1st October 2013	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
CHEU	County Historic Environment Unit
CPA	County Planning Archaeologist
DA	Development Area
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
Procedures Manual	<i>Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> , 2nd ed, 2001 Albion Archaeology



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission was granted by Hertfordshire County Council for the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility on land at Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock, Hertfordshire.

As the proposed development site was located within an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition (no. 15) was attached to the planning permission requiring a programme of archaeological works as a consequence of the development.

This was in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of *Policy 141* of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) which states that Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets before they are lost; this can be achieved by imposing planning conditions or obligations as appropriate.

The condition required the submission and approval of a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2013) followed by its implementation. This was to comprise strip, map and record investigation and monitoring and recording.

The archaeological work was undertaken between 14th June and 24th July 2013. The results are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The Development Area (DA) comprises a broadly triangular parcel of land located to the north-east of Baldock, in the parish of Wallington (Fig. 1). It is *c.* 4.4ha in size, lies at a height of *c.* 76m OD and is centred on NGR TL 2758 3556. Its northern boundary is defined by Royston Road, whilst to the east it is bounded by a public bridleway leading to Bygrave Lodge Farm. To the south and west the landscape is undivided and comprises fields under cultivation. The underlying geology is chalk.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

A desk-based assessment and archaeological field evaluation were undertaken by Albion Archaeology prior to the submission of the planning application. The assessment (Albion 2009) showed that the wider surrounds of the DA are rich in the sub-surface remains of prehistoric to modern activity and contain the extant remains of the post-medieval and modern landscapes.

The Icknield Way dissects the landscape immediately north of the DA. It is an ancient routeway that was in continuous use from prehistoric to modern times. The current Royston Road (A505) was formerly named the Icknield Way. Apart from being a routeway, the Icknield Way also served as a boundary between Wallington and Bygrave parishes.

Most of the archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the DA is located to the north of the Icknield Way (A505) — a landscape rich in prehistoric funerary



monuments, settlements and field systems. Prehistoric ring ditches with secondary Roman activity were also recorded to the south-east, near Bygrave Farm. To the south-east of the DA, two circular cropmarks are visible in association with an E-W aligned linear cropmark. It is possible these cropmarks represent the remains of barrows.

Some of the prehistoric monuments were re-used as burial grounds in Roman times and the Roman settlement of Baldock shows its influence in the evidence for Roman field systems and agriculture in the vicinity of the DA. No remains from the Anglo-Saxon or medieval period survive within the DA. Maps dating from 1877 onwards show that the area was used for agriculture.

The archaeological field evaluation undertaken in July 2010 consisted of a geophysical survey followed by archaeological trial trenching and monitoring of geotechnical test pitting (Albion 2010).

The evaluation showed that the DA was largely blank of archaeological features. Two seemingly unrelated ditches were excavated 200m apart in Trenches 1 and 5. Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of the DA; while Trench 5 was located to its south. No dating material was retrieved from any of the ditches but it is likely that they were part of a prehistoric/Roman or medieval field system. A palaeochannel was recorded in the western part of the evaluated area.

1.4 Project Objectives

The site had the potential to reveal information on a number of research objectives identified in the research framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011).

The main theme that could be applied in the context of the site was that of “Landscape and Environment”. Medlycott states that the East of England is well placed to study the impact of agricultural developments in the Iron Age and Roman periods. The development of the medieval and early post-medieval landscape and the processes by which field systems, woods, etc. contribute to the current landscape also needs further study (Medlycott 2011, 84-85).

In this context the investigation of sub-regional patterning and variation is potentially a fruitful area of research (Medlycott 2011, 85).

Therefore the specific objectives of the investigation were to map and determine:

- the date, nature and extent of any field systems present on the site;
- whether there was evidence for any further human activity that may have taken part within the field systems or in association with them.

The general objectives of the investigation were to determine:

- the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation within the development area;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes; and to
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.



The project had the potential to add to knowledge and understanding of the nature of the rural landscape and field system patterning.

1.5 Methodology

All groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains were archaeologically monitored. This comprised the removal of overburden down to the underlying chalk using machines fitted with toothless buckets within those parts of the development area (see Fig. 2) where roads, landscaping features, services and buildings were to be constructed.

A controlled topsoil strip and reduction of the ground to the level of archaeological visibility was undertaken under archaeological supervision in areas that were to be reduced beyond the underlying natural chalk. Any archaeological features revealed were mapped, investigated and recorded before the ground was reduced to the full formation level.

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

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (2 nd edn, 2001).
• Albion Archaeology	<i>Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works.</i> (2013)
• 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)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, 2nd edition</i> (2011)
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs and Field Excavations</i> (updated 2008) and <i>finds</i> (updated 2008)



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

2.1 *Introduction*

The groundworks revealed two ditches and a pit likely to be of post-medieval or later date, as well as the course of a palaeochannel previously identified from cropmarks on aerial photographs. The features and deposits revealed are summarised below and illustrated in Fig. 2.

2.2 *Overburden and Geological Deposits*

A 0.25–0.35m thick topsoil (1000) of dark grey brown silt overlay a *c.* 0.12m thick plough-disturbed layer (1001) of mixed topsoil and chalk, which in turn overlay the undisturbed chalk geology (1002).

2.3 *Archaeological Features*

2.3.1 *Modern boundary / trackside ditches*

A ditch [1027] was revealed *c.* 1.50m to the north-east of, and parallel with, an extant raised farm track on the south-west edge of the site. The ditch had concave sides, a flat base and measured 1.23m wide and 0.18m deep; it was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt. A peg tile fragment of post-medieval or later date was recovered from one of the excavated ditch sections.

A further, similarly aligned ditch [1021] was revealed *c.* 2–3m to the south-west of ditch [1027] once the extant raised farm track had been removed by machine. It had a similar, though narrower profile, measuring 0.56m wide and 0.13m deep. It contained a similar deposit of mid orange grey sandy silt. Two fragments of roof tile of post-medieval or later date were recovered from the excavated segment.

Both these ditches are likely to have defined a field boundary and trackway first marked on early 20th-century OS maps. In more recent years the trackway has been re-defined by the raised farm track.

2.3.2 *Undated pit*

A circular pit [1005] measuring 1m across and 0.5m deep was revealed near the track to Bygrave Lodge Farm defining the north-east edge of the site. It had vertical sides and a flat base and contained deposits that varied from light grey sandy silt to dark orange brown silt. Though it contained no artefacts, the distinctly loose nature of the pit's fills suggests that it is likely to be of relatively recent date. The central location, depth and somewhat irregular shape of the uppermost fill (1009) are suggestive of a large rooting hole one might expect to see in an infilled tree-planting pit.

2.4 *Natural Features*

Deposits associated with a north-south aligned palaeochannel were revealed in the southern half of the site corresponding with a shallow valley. This feature had been previously identified from cropmarks on aerial photographs and was investigated during the 2010 trial trenching of the site. The shallow depression of the channel measured up to 30m across and was largely filled with a mid red



brown sandy silt. Lower deposits of dark brown-grey sandy silt (1011-1012) with frequent medium and large stones were revealed in one of the slightly deeper, narrow channels [1010] within its course.

A linear feature originally investigated during the trial trenching (in Trench 5) was further revealed in the central part of the site. Its irregular form and its distinctly sterile fill of mid red brown sandy silt indicate that it is geological in origin.

2.5 Conclusions

The only archaeological features revealed were two ditches associated with a 20th-century field boundary and track, and a pit likely to be of post-medieval or later date. The overburden was not removed during the course of the groundworks in the vicinity of undated ditch [102] which was revealed during the trial trenching.

The relative paucity of archaeological features revealed within the site corroborates the results of the trial trenching. Though several archaeological sites are known within the wider landscape around the site, in particular close to the Icknield Way to the west, these are all generally located on higher ground. The lower lying nature of the area of the site was perhaps a less attractive location for settlement or funerary purposes in antiquity; it was perhaps more likely used as pasture or arable fields.

The project archive will be deposited with North Hertfordshire District Council Museum. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref.: albionar1-152584). No further assessment or analysis of the results of the fieldwork is warranted.



3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2013. *Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works*. Report no: 2013/84.

English Heritage, 2009. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.

Medlycott, M. (ed), 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.



4. APPENDIX 1: HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock		
County: Hertfordshire	District: North Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Baldock	Parish: Wallington	
Planning application reference: 1/0333-11		
HER Enquiry reference: 140/13		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Biogen (UK) Ltd, Milton Parc, Milton Ernest, Bedford, MK44 1YU. Tel. (01234) 827249		
Nature of application: Construction of an anaerobic digestion facility		
Present land use: Agricultural		
Size of application area: c. 4.4ha	Size of area investigated: c. 4.4ha	
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 2758 3556		
Site code (if applicable): BAL2185		
Site director/Organization: Wesley Keir / Drew Shotliff / Albion Archaeology		
Type of work: Archaeological Investigation and Recording		
Date of work:	Start: 14.06.13	Finish: 24.07.13
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: North Hertfordshire District Council Museum		
Related HER Nos: n/a	Periods represented: Modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: Albion Archaeology 2009. <i>Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment</i> . Report no: 2009/79. Albion Archaeology 2010. <i>Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Royston Road, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Field Evaluation and Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pitting</i> . Report no: 2010/58. Albion Archaeology 2013. <i>Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works</i> . Report no: 2013/84.		
Summary of fieldwork results: The only archaeological features revealed were two ditches associated with a 20th-century field boundary and track, and a pit likely to be of post-medieval or later date. The relative paucity of archaeological features revealed within the site corroborates the results of the trial trenching. Though several archaeological sites are known within the wider landscape around the site, in particular close to the Icknield Way to the west, these are all generally located on higher ground. The lower lying nature of the area of the site was perhaps a less attractive location for settlement or funerary purposes in antiquity; it was perhaps more likely used as pasture or arable fields.		
Author of summary: Wesley Keir	Date of summary: 01.10.2013	



5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: albionar1-152584

Project details

Project name	Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Hertfordshire County Council for the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility on land at Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock, Hertfordshire. Archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks revealed two ditches and a pit likely to be of post-medieval or modern date as well as the course of a palaeochannel previously identified from cropmarks on aerial photographs.
Project dates	Start: 14-06-2013 End: 24-07-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BAL2185 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE WALLINGTON Baldock AD Facility
Study area	4.40 Hectares



Site coordinates TL 2758 3226 51 0 51 58 25 N 000 08 32 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator none

Project design originator Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager Wesley Keir

Project supervisor Ian Turner

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient North Herts Museums Service Resource Centre

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Physical Archive notes Museum to be consulted re retention of modern tile

Digital Archive recipient Albion Archaeology

Digital Contents "Ceramics","other"

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

Paper Archive recipient North Hertfordshire Museum Service

Paper Contents "Ceramics","other"

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



Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Anaerobic Digestion Facility, Bygrave Lodge Farm, Baldock, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Investigation and Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Turner, I'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Keir, W'
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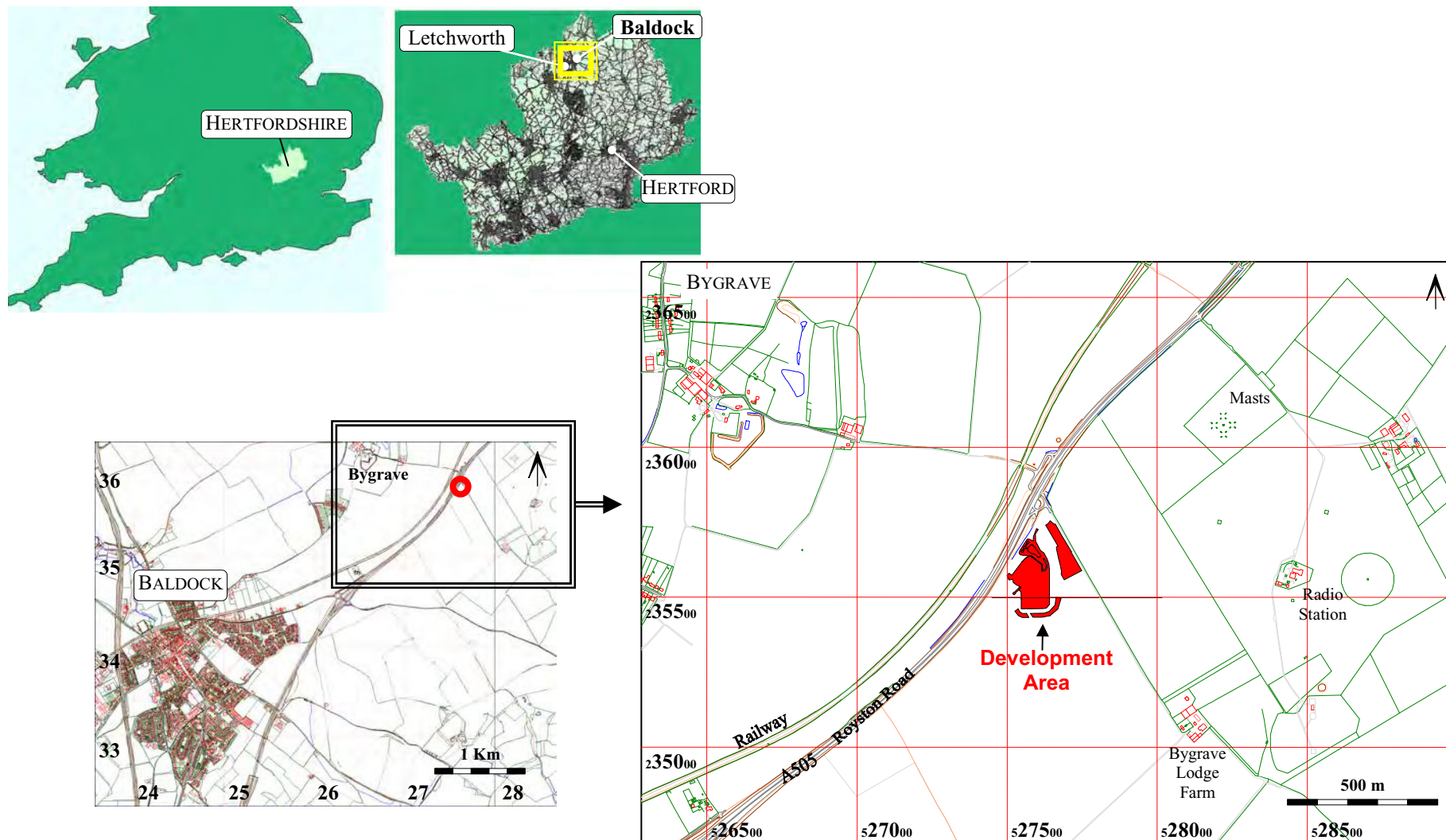
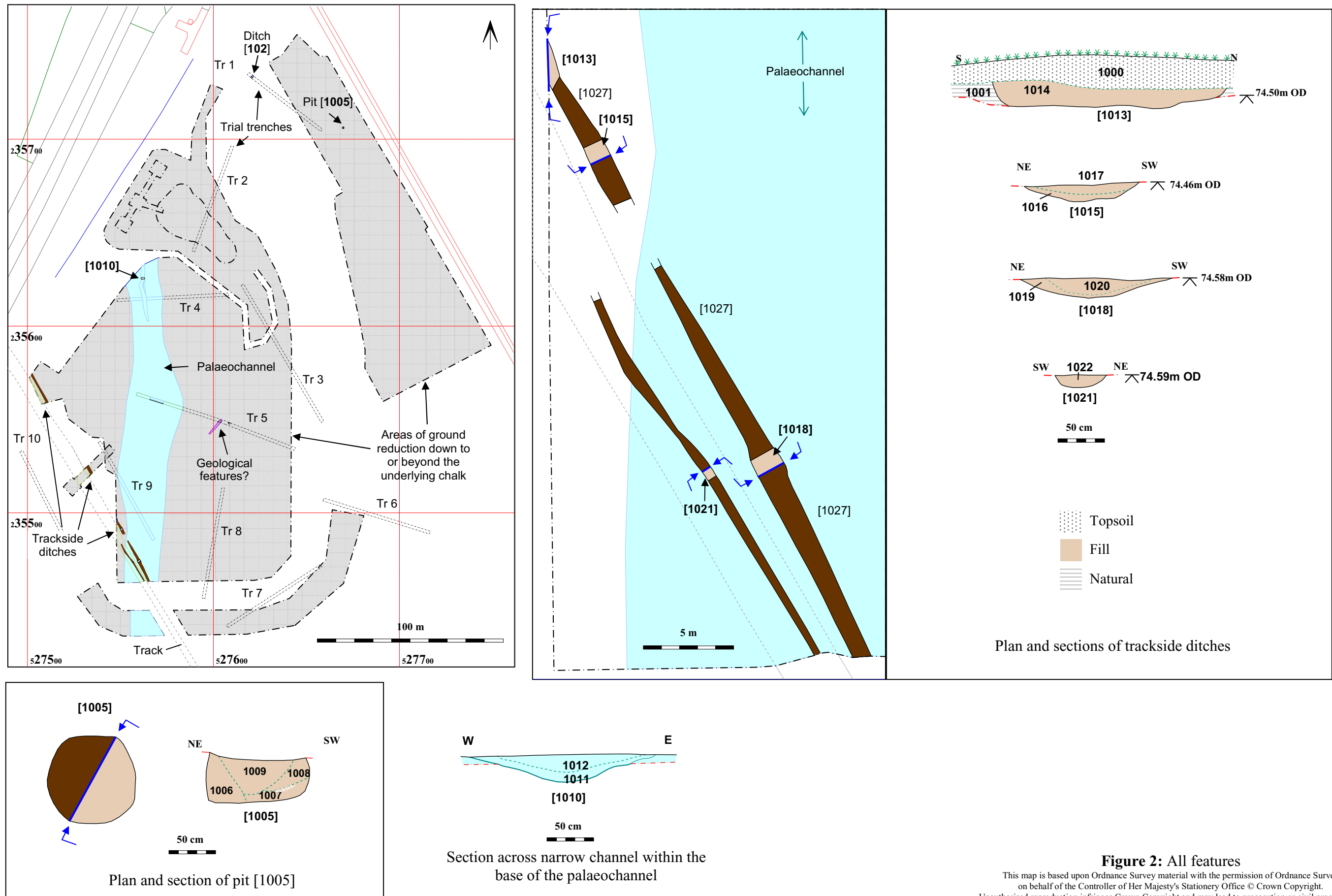


Figure 1: Site location

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View of site in advance of development



View of ground reduction in the southern half of the site, with the palaeochannel visible in the centre of the photograph

Figure 3: Photographs showing the area of the groundworks

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