LAND OFF WHADDON ROAD NEWTON LONGVILLE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Albion archaeology





LAND OFF WHADDON ROAD NEWTON LONGVILLE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Project: WR2228

Document: 2014/163 Version 1.0

Museum accession no: AYBCM: 2013.70

OASIS reference no: albionar1-157397

24th September 2014

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Produced for: Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd On behalf of: Taylor Wimpey

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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.

The project was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Eliza Alqassar, Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer of Buckinghamshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer) and Matt Billings (Archaeological Technician). The report was prepared by Christiane Meckseper, with figures by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). The project was managed by Rob Wardill (Project Manager) and monitored on behalf of the LPA by Phil Markham (BCC). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	24/09/2014	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CAS	(Buckinghamshire County) Council Archaeology Service
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non Technical Summary

On behalf of Taylor Wimpey, Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd are preparing a planning application for residential development on a site off Whaddon Road, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire.

The proposed development area lies to the west of Newton Longville with access off Whaddon Road. In the east it is bounded by modern houses along Westbrook End and Lower End. Newton Longville originated in the medieval period as a polyfocal village consisting of several "Ends", one of which was Westbrook End. Previous archaeological investigations had revealed medieval occupation at the southern end of Westbrook End.

In accordance with "National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment" a programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the site in order to determine the impact of the proposed development on heritage assets and formulate a strategy for further archaeological work, if required. The works consisted of desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trenching. The fieldwork was undertaken in June and August 2014.

No archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed by the geophysical survey and within the trial trenches. There was evidence for agricultural use of the site in the form of a deep subsoil and a field boundary ditch first shown on the tithe map of 1844.

Two trenches contained modern demolition and dump layers, possibly associated with the construction of bungalows and houses to the east.



1.1 Planning Background

On behalf of Taylor Wimpey, Woods Hardwick Planning Ltd are preparing a planning application for residential development on a site off Whaddon Road, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire.

The proposed development area lies to the west of Newton Longville within a landscape of archaeological interest (see Section 1.3; Albion Archaeology 2014a) and as a consequence the Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service (CAS) advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be undertaken in order to determine the impact of the proposed development on heritage assets and formulate a strategy for further archaeological work, if required. The results of the evaluation are to accompany any future planning application.

This advice is in accordance with 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.

The programme of archaeological works (Albion Archaeology 2014b) comprised:

- Stage 1 Desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.
- Stage 2 Trial trenching.

The works were carried out in June and August 2014 and the results are presented in this report.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Newton Longville lies to the immediate south-west of Milton Keynes and c. 3km west of the River Ouzel at the bottom of the NE-facing slope of the river valley. The area is traversed by several small tributaries to the River Ouzel.

The proposed 2.27ha development area lies to the west of Newton Longville and is bounded in the north by the Whaddon Road, to the east by the houses along Westbrook End and Lower End, the western margin of Newton Longville, and to the south and west by open fields (Figure 1). The site itself consists of several fields of pasture bordered by low hedges. It is centred on grid reference SP 84210 31439.

An area of ecological sensitivity has been identified immediately to the north of the main development area. It has been recommended that no development or associated plant operation or site investigations be carried out within 5m of this area, except for where the site access road encroaches The underlying geology consists of Till, Mid Pleistocene Diamicton over Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone¹. The site lies on level ground at c. 100m OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The site lies to the west of the medieval village of Newton Longville in an area containing a moderate density of known heritage assets dating to the medieval period and later.

Newton Longville is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when a fairly large manor existed at Newton with Walter Giffard named as tenant-in-chief. Before his death he bestowed his lands on the priory of St. Faith, Longueville, in Normandy, which, soon after the grant in c.1102, built a cell in Newton, known as Newton Longville Priory. The priory enjoyed the manorial rights over the land, which was later called Newton Longeville Manor (Page 1927).

The medieval village seems to have been polyfocal, with a number of "ends" (Moor End, London End and Westbrook End) growing into a coherent settlement during the medieval period. The parish church is located towards the eastern end of the village and largely dates to the 14th century but incorporates 12th-century building materials (Page 1927).

The Victoria County History notes that it is curious that a large number of buildings in the three "ends" date from about 1575 to 1625, suggesting a period of prosperity (Page 1927). Westbrook End, located adjacent to the east of the proposed development area, and now the name of the lane running north-to south from Whaddon Road, has a number of Grade II listed cottages along its length dating from the 16th to 17th century. The majority of the cottages are of a timber cruck-frame construction.

Excavations at the southern end of Westbrook End have revealed evidence for a medieval ditched enclosure, medieval building platforms and associated pottery. A 17th-century well or cistern, a contemporary trackway and 12th- to 17th-century pottery have also been revealed.

Following enclosure the site was primarily used for pasture, ensuring the survival of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, indicating that it was agricultural land from at least the medieval period onwards.

Newton Longville has grown little since the medieval period but the edges of the village and its main road are lined with a number of 20th-century housing developments.

1.4 Project Objectives

The proposed development area had the potential to contain archaeological remains dating to the medieval period, albeit largely in the form of agricultural remains and stray finds.

¹ Contains British Geological Survey Materials NERC (20143)

Land off Whaddon Road, Newton Longville, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

The principal purpose of the evaluation was, therefore, to determine whether archaeological remains of medieval and/or earlier date were present within the development area and, if so, to recover information on the following:

- The location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- Their integrity and state of preservation;
- The potential of the archaeological features to contain palaeoenvironmental remains for assessment of past environmental conditions.

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 Geophysical survey

The geophysical survey of the proposed development area was undertaken on 13th June 2014 (Stratascan 2014). The greyscale plot of the processed gradiometer data and an archaeological interpretation figure were made available immediately and provided the basis for the layout of the archaeological trenches.

1.5.2 Trial trenching

Trial trenching took place on 27–28th August 2014. The layout of 14 trenches measuring 1.8m wide and 30m long was agreed with the CAS (Figure 2). The trench layout was primarily designed to test for archaeological remains that would not have been detectable by magnetometer survey.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. 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. Detailed information on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

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

• IfA	By-Laws and Code of Conduct
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological
	Watching Brief (2009)
	Standard and Guidance for the collection,
	documentation, conservation and research of
	archaeological materials (updated 2008)
• EAA	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of
	England (2003)
• English Heritage	Management of Research Projects in the Historic
	Environment (MoRPHE) (2009)
• BCC	Generic Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief.
Albion Archaeology	Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork (2nd ed,
	2001).



2.1 Geophysical Survey

The geophysical survey (Figure 2) (Stratascan 2014) showed no archaeological features with the exception of the possible below-ground remains of medieval ridge and furrow (1) in the north-west corner of the site. Linear features representing fence lines (visible on modern maps and aerial photographs), as well as possible underground services (7) and the outline of a modern service trench (2) were also mapped. In general, the site produced a large number of magnetic debris and disturbances (3–6) which could be due to disturbed and made-up ground and modern rubbish.

2.2 Trial Trenching

2.2.1 Overburden and undisturbed geological deposits

Overburden consisted of dark brown humic topsoil, 0.15–0.25m thick, above a mid to dark orange-brown clayey silt subsoil, 0.10–0.20m thick. The subsoil most likely represents an old plough horizon. The exception was Trench 14 where a thin layer of humic topsoil lay directly above re-deposited geological clay and 20th-century demolition and dump layers.

Both topsoil and subsoil were sterile, with no artefacts present.

Undisturbed geological deposits comprised mid orange-brown clay with moderate small stones; the clay was generally encountered at a depth of 0.40–0.50m below modern ground level.

2.2.2 Post-medieval boundary ditches

The majority of the trenches revealed no archaeological remains. Trenches 2 and 10 each contained a single archaeological feature. They took the form of a ditch on a north-south alignment with steep, slightly concave sides and a flat base (Figure 3). A corresponding boundary ditch is first shown on the tithe map of 1844 (Figure 4).

2.2.3 Modern demolition and dump layers

Trench 8 revealed a layer of dumped crushed brick and tile (802), directly below the topsoil throughout the majority of the trench, and a layer of broken-up concrete (bearing the imprint of a service pipe), bricks and soil (803) in its western end.

There is no cartographic or historical evidence for buildings being sited in the area of Trench 8, so it is likely that the material (803) was imported to make-up and solidify the ground. The location of the service pipe seems to coincide with a linear anomaly (7) mapped by the geophysical survey (Figure 2).

Trench 14 contained thick layers of re-deposited geological clay (1401), as well as modern dumped waste material in the form of concrete, plastic, bricks and timber mixed with soil (1402) and (1406). It is likely that these are dumped layers associated with the construction of the bungalows to the east of the site.



2.3 Conclusion

No archaeological remains pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed by the geophysical survey and within the trenches. There was evidence for agricultural use of the site in the form of a deep subsoil and a field boundary ditch first shown on the tithe map of 1844.

The site records do not merit any further analysis or reporting. The project archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum (accession no. AYBCM:2013.97). This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (ref. albionar1-157397).



Albion Archaeology 2001 Procedures Manual Volume 1 Fieldwork, 2nd ed.

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					<u> </u>
Trenc	h: 1				
Max Dimension	s: Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m.	Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinate	s: OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Easting: 84151: Northing: 31403)		
	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84145: Northing: 31373)	
Reaso	n: To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	nt:
100	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.25m thick.		
101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.20m thick.		
102	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

Trench:	2				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m.	Max: 0.49 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84191: Northing: 31394)	
	OS Grid	OS Grid Ref.: SP (Easting: 84161: Northing: 31394)			
Reason:	To invest	tigate blank	area.		

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	nt:
200	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.25m thick.		
201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.16m thick.		
202	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		
203	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.42m, max depth 0.19m Boundary ditch.		
204	Fill	Friable dark orange brown silty clay with moderate small stones.		

	Trench:	3				
Max I	Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m.	Max: 0.3 m.
Co	o-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84199: Northing: 31410)		
		OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84210: Northing: 31383)	
	Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pres	ent:
300	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.18m thick.		
301	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.10m thick.		
302	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

					5
Trench:	4				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m.	Max: 0.33 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84256: Northing: 31387)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84226: Northing: 31383)	
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Prese	nt:
400	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.20m thick.		
401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.08m thick.		
402	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

					5 - 5 - 5
Trench:	5				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m.	Max: 0.3 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84249: Northing: 31411)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84219: Northing: 31411)	
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pre	esent:
500	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.21m thick.		
501	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.09m thick.		
502	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

Trench:	6				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.28 m.	Max: 0.3 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84279: Northing: 31409)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84272: Northing: 31379)	
Reason:	To test tr	ench area.			

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Pr	esent:
600	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.19m thick.		
601	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.10m thick.		
602	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

					5
Trench:	7				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m.	Max: 0.35 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84275: Northing: 31425)		
	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84245: Northing: 31428)		
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
700	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.15-0.20m thick.		
701	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.10 - 0.20m thick.		
702	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

8				
Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m.	Max: 0.6 m.
OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84270: Northing: 31457)	
OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84241: Northing: 31450)		
To test b	lank area.			
	Length: OS Grid OS Grid	Length: 30.00 m. OS Grid Ref.: SP	Length:30.00 m.Width:1.80 m.OS Grid Ref.:SP(EastinOS Grid Ref.:SP(Eastin	Length:30.00 m.Width:1.80 m.Depth to Archaeology Min:0.35 m.OS Grid Ref.:SP(Easting:84270:Northing:31457)OS Grid Ref.:SP(Easting:84241:Northing:31450)

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.15m thick.	
801	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.20m thick.	
802	Make up layer	Loose small and medium fragments of tile and CBM rubble. Below subsoil i western to centre part of trench. 0.20m thick.	n 🗌 🗌
803	Demolition layer	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate demolition debris plus medium sized concrete block with service pipe imprint (not in situ). In western end of trench only. 0.30m thick.	
804	Natural	Light orange orange clay with moderate small stones.	

					5_ <u>——</u> _2
Trench:	9				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m.	Max: 0.41 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84186: Northing: 31453)		
	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84214: Northing: 31440)		
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Preser	nt:
900	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.18m thick.		
901	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.12m thick.		
902	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

					<u>E</u>
Trench:	10				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.3 m.	Max: 0.37 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting	g: 84173: Northing: 31452)	
	OS Grid Ref.: SP		(Easting: 84154: Northing: 31429)		
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	ıt:
1000	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.20m thick.		
1001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.10m thick.		
1002	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		
1003	Ditch	Linear N-S sides: vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.66m, max depth 0.12m Boundary ditch. Accompanied by frequent root disturbance along its edges.		
1004	Fill	Dark brown silty clay with moderate inclusions of wood, charcoal fragments and small to medium stones. Frequent rooting.		

				<u>6_</u>
Trench:	11			
Max Dimensions:	Length: 30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m. De	pth to Archaeology Min: 0.31	m. Max: 0.34 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 8-	4123: Northing: 31456)	
	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 8-	4141: Northing: 31431)	
Reason:	To test blank area.			
Context. Type:	Description:		Fye	avatad: Finds Prosent:

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Presen	it:
1100	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.20m thick.		
1101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.11m thick.		
1102	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

Trench:	12		
Max Dimensions:	Length: 30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min:	0.3 m. Max: 0.4 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 84209: Northing: 31483)	
	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 84181: Northing: 31472)	
Reason:	To test blank area.		
Context: Type:	Description:		Excavated: Finds Present:

Context:	Type:		Excavateu: Finus Fresent	•
1200	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.10-0.15m thick.]
1201	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.15-0.30m thick.		
1202	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		

			<u>6_————————————————————————————————————</u>
Trench:	13		
Max Dimensions:	Length: 30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min:	0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 84276: Northing: 31477)	
	OS Grid Ref.: SP	(Easting: 84246: Northing: 31480)	
Reason:	To test blank area.		
Context: Type:	Description:		Excavated: Finds Present:

Context:	l ype:	Description:	Excavated: Finds Present	:
1300	Topsoil	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. 0.10m thick.]
1301	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional to moderate small and medium stones. 0.30m thick.]
1302	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.]

Trench:	14				
Max Dimensions:	Length:	30.00 m.	Width: 1.80 m.	Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m.	Max: 0.8 m.
Co-ordinates:	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84278: Northing: 31543)	
	OS Grid	Ref.: SP	(Eastin	g: 84282: Northing: 31514)	
Reason:	To test b	lank area.			

Context:	Туре:	Description:	Excavated: I	Finds Present:
1400	Topsoil	Thin humic black sandy silt with occasional small stones. 0.10m thick. Soil accumulated through rooting and weeks, no topsoil as such. 0.10m thick.		
1401	Make up layer	Firm light orange brown clay with frequemtn small and medium stones. Re- deposited natural. In northern 5m of trench only. 0.60m thick.		
1402	Demolition layer	Friable mid reddish brown clayey silt with moderate building rubble and debris (brick, plastic, pipes, concrete, styrofoam and tile). 0.50m thick.		
1403	Buried topsoil	Friable dark reddish brown silt. 0.15m thick.		
1404	Buried subsoil	Friable mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional to moderate small stones. 0.20m thick.		
1405	Natural	Plastic mid brownish orange clay with moderate small stones.		
1406	Demolition layer	Friable mixed dark brown sandy silt with frequent small demolition debris. 0.20m thick. Below topsoil.		

Albion Archaeology

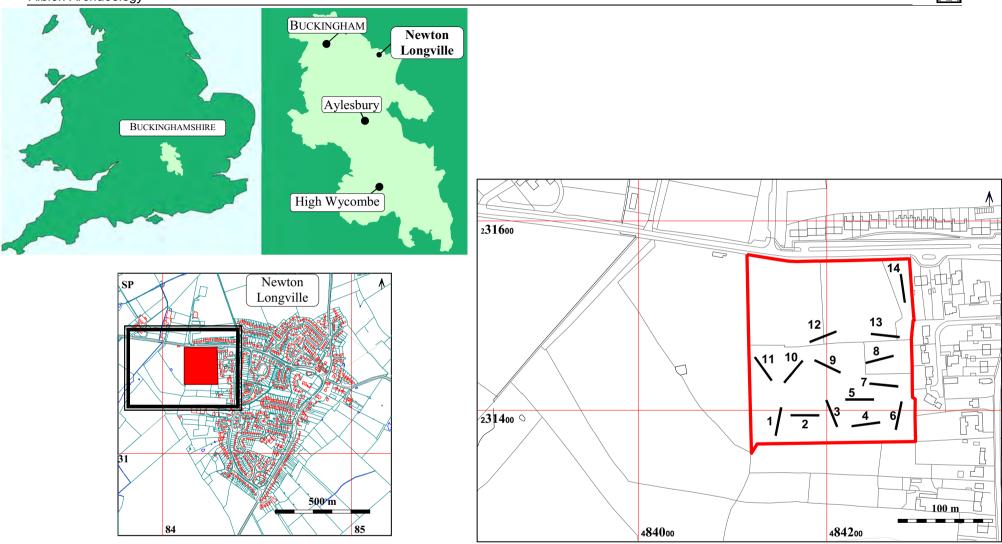


Figure 1: Site location and trench layout This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

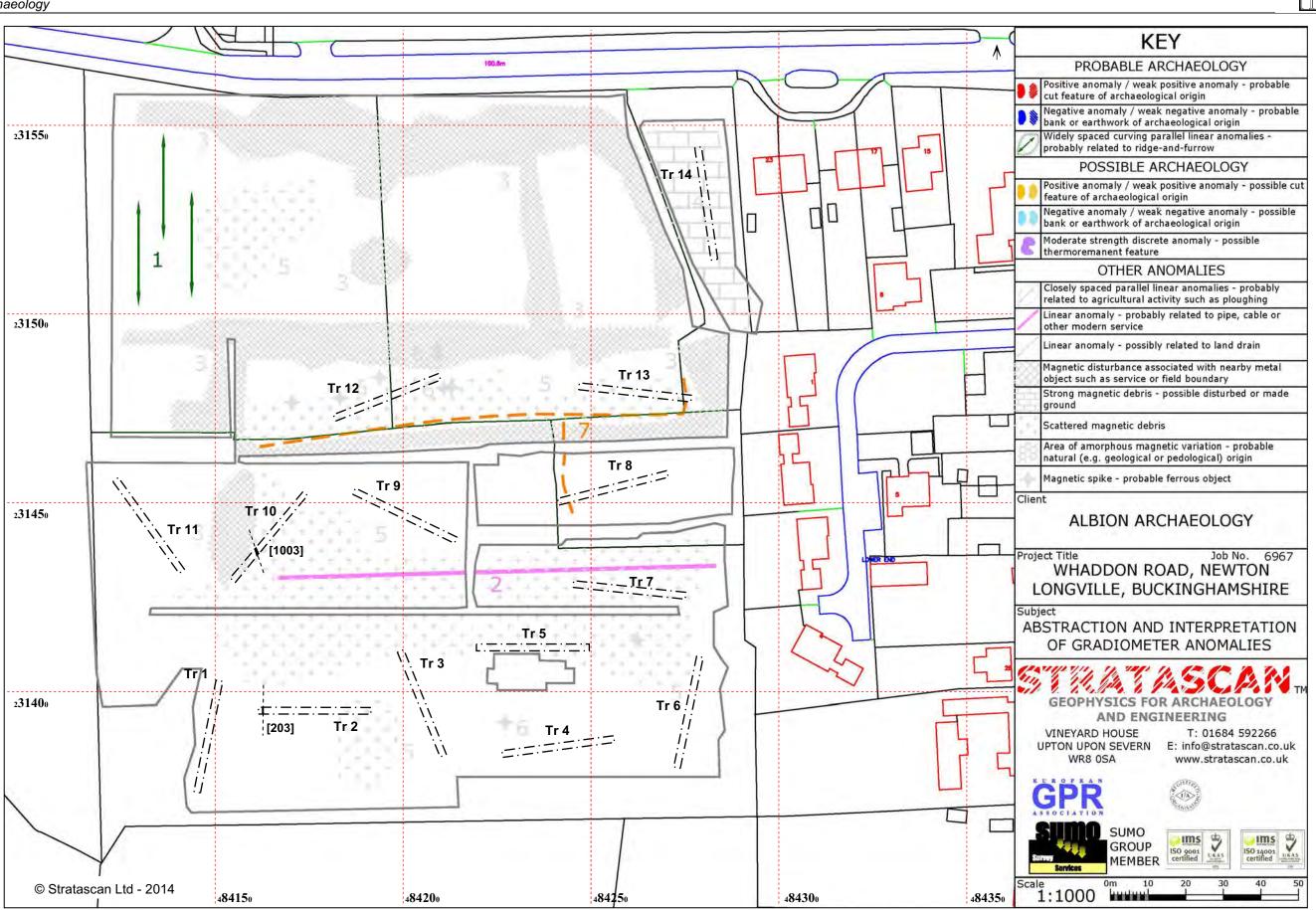


Figure 2: All features plan overlaid on geophysical survey results

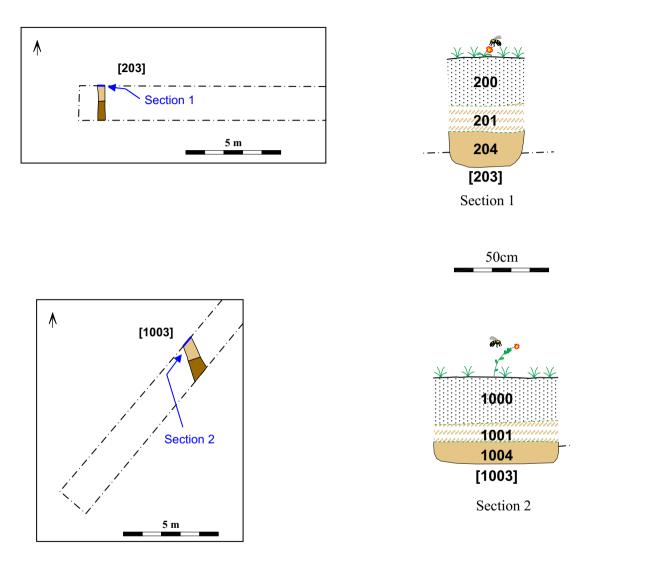


Figure 3: Trenches 2 and 10, plans and sections



Figure 4: Ditch [203] looking north (1m scale)

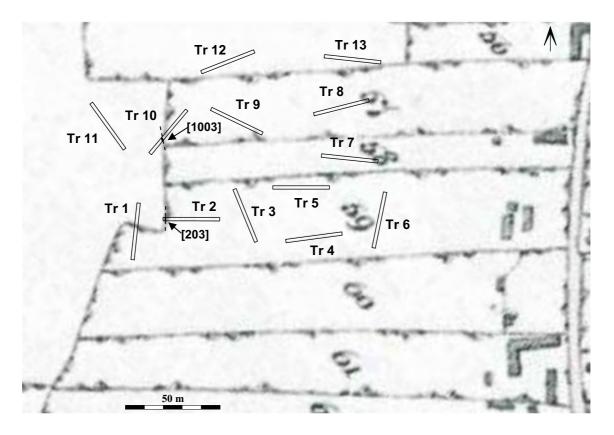


Figure 5: Trenches overlaid on 1844 tithe map





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