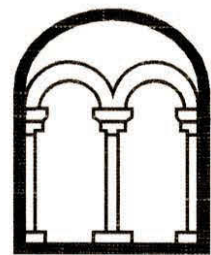


**NEW AGRICULTURAL ACCESS
LAND ADJACENT TO RANDES FARM
SHIPTON
WINSLOW
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

Albion
archaeology



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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 Slawomir Utrata (Archaeological Supervisor). The report was prepared by Christiane Meckseper (Project Officer), who also managed the project. 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: cf.meckseper@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

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<i>1.0</i>	<i>13/01/2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>1.1</i>	<i>16/01/2014</i>	<i>Comments by APCO</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
APCO	Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
DA	Development Area
HER	Historic Environment Record
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NHLE	National Heritage List for England
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a new agricultural access adjacent to Rands Farm in Shipton, Winslow, Buckinghamshire.

As the Development Area (DA) lies in an area of archaeological sensitivity, a condition attached to the planning consent (Condition 3) required the implementation of a scheme of archaeological resource management as a consequence of the development. This is in line with national planning guidelines in the form of Policy 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in response to advice from the Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer (APCO), detailing the requirements for the scheme of archaeological resource management (Albion 2013).

Archaeological monitoring of the construction works took place on 5 November 2013. The results are presented in this report.

1.2 *Site Location and Description*

Rands Farm is located in Shipton, a small hamlet to the south-west of Winslow in Buckinghamshire. The farm complex lies to the south of the B4032 road to Swanbourne where it forks off the main A413 Winslow to Aylesbury Road (Figure 1).

The new access runs to the north of the farm, where an existing track and public footpath join the B4032. The area is centred on OS grid reference SP777274.

Winslow lies in an undulating landscape on a gentle east-west aligned ridge. Shipton lies at *c.* 120m OD at the top of a southern slope where the land falls southwards towards the Claydon Brook. The geology of the area consists of West Walton Formation Mudstone, overlain in areas by Mid Pleistocene Till and sand and gravel glaciofluvial deposits¹.

1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The Development Area (DA) lies within the medieval to modern hamlet of Shipton (HER 0706400000) which is a designated Conservation Area. The HER lists several records which are either within the DA or adjacent to it. Of particular importance for the development are five medieval to post-medieval house platforms (HER 0002601000) which lie within the DA and which were part of the shrunken medieval hamlet of Shipton (HER 0002600000).

The APCO advised that the development was likely to affect the significance of this buried heritage asset (Boismier 2013).

¹ Contains British Geological Survey Materials NERC (2013)



The DA is also surrounded by pasture fields with surviving medieval or post-medieval agricultural ridge and furrow earthworks.

The other significant heritage asset in the vicinity is Rands Farmhouse itself, which is a Grade II listed building (HER 1019100000, NHLE 1229300). The farmhouse is 17th century in date and was re-fronted and extended in the mid 19th century. It is of a timber frame construction with whitewashed brick infill. The farm complex also includes an early 19th-century barn of weatherboard construction with a slate roof.

1.4 Project Objectives

The immediate objective of the archaeological fieldwork was to monitor and supervise all groundworks that had the potential to reveal archaeological remains, and to investigate, characterise and record any archaeological deposits encountered within them. The general objectives of the investigation therefore were to determine:

- the date, nature and extent of any activity or occupation within the DA;
- the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes; and to
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- produce an archive report that fully describes the archaeological investigations.

The close proximity of significant medieval remains indicated that there was the potential for the investigation to contribute to regional research topics identified within the regional research framework, the *Solent Thames Research Framework* devised for Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and the Isle of Wight (Munby 2010). Those topics were:

- The chronology, development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region;
- The origin and nature of rural settlements (of various types);
- Village shrinkage and abandonment; change from hamlets to farmsteads.

1.5 Methodology

The removal of topsoil within the footprint of the proposed access road was monitored and all potential archaeological features mapped and recorded.

Discussions between Elisa Alqassar and the client established that the groundworks associated with the construction of the new access within the highway did not need to be monitored due to the existence of services along the road.

The ground reduction and removal of topsoil was carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by experienced Albion Archaeology staff.



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

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



2. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The access route was 56m long and 4.20m wide. The features and deposits revealed on site are summarised below. They are illustrated on Figure 2 and described in detail in Appendix 1.

Overburden to a depth of *c.* 0.30m was removed with a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket and operating under constant archaeological supervision. The overburden consisted largely of topsoil (1), 0.20m thick, and in places also included the underlying subsoil (2), which was generally 0.10m thick.

The road corridor was essentially stripped to subsoil level. However, the stripping also revealed two further layers: a mid greyish clayey silt layer (3); and a band of yellowish sand (4). These remained *in situ* (Figure 3). Their origin is unclear. Testing of layer (3) revealed it to be *c.* 0.20m thick; it could be a thin layer of colluvium or an old ground surface. Sandy layer (4) could represent an anthropogenic make-up layer.

The underlying geological strata consisted of a mid to light greyish yellow-brown clay.

Two post-medieval and/or modern ditches and several modern pits were cut through subsoil (2). In addition, a number of postholes truncated silt layer (3); some were still partially covered by the subsoil.

A large pit [5], backfilled with light brown clay with yellow clay patches (6), was partially exposed in the southern part of the DA. It cut the subsoil and therefore is most likely modern in date. Its function is unclear, although it could represent a quarry pit.

Ditches [8] and [10] were located near the northern edge of the DA. The fills of both ditches contained modern brick and tile fragments. Fill (9) of ditch [08] produced fragments of 18–19th-century transfer-printed ware, including willow pattern. These were not retained. The ditches were parallel to existing field boundaries and are, therefore, most likely post-medieval or later in date.

Seven postholes [12] to [24] were located in the centre of the DA, truncating silty layer (3). Most were still covered by a thin layer of subsoil and only partially visible. Posthole [16] contained the remains of a partially rotted wooden post. The most distinct of the postholes, feature [18], was half-sectioned (Figure 2). Its fill (19) produced a coarse sand-tempered pottery body sherd (4g) of probable 13th-century date (type MS8 after Mynard 1992) and an unworn sheep molar (3g).

Despite the fragment of medieval pottery, the date and function of the postholes is difficult to ascertain. Their proximity to the known medieval settlement remains might suggest that they were associated in date and function. However, the wooden post in feature [16] suggests that at least one of them was modern in date.



The features are preserved *in situ* below a protective membrane and imported hardcore for the trackway (Figure 4).

The investigations produced a small finds assemblage which is summarised in the following table:

Context	Description	Spotdate	Comments
9	Transfer-printed ware (willow pattern)	18th-19th C.	Not retained
11	Brick and tile fragments	19th-20th C.	Not retained
19	Coarse and sand tempered body sherd (4g), type MS8 (after Mynard 1992)	prob. 13th C.	Part of site archive
19	Unworn sheep molar (3g)	-	Part of site archive
21	CBM/fired clay fragments	19th-20th C.	Not retained

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. albionar1-158164).



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4. APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARIES



Area: 1
 Extent (ha): 0.02
 OS Co-ordinates: SP7770027400
 Description: Access track

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones. 0.2m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. 0.1m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Make up layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt occasional small stones. Frequent red mottling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Make up layer	Loose mid brown yellow sandy gravel . 4.2m long, 3-4.5m wide, 0.1m deep	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Pit	Irregular dimensions: min breadth 3.6m, max length 15.m. Modern pit, unexcavated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Upper fill	Firm light brown grey silty clay occasional small stones. C. 0.1m thick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Lower fill	Firm mid brown yellow sandy clay moderate small-large CBM, moderate small-large stones. >2.6m thick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Ditch	Curving linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 4.m, max depth 0.7m, min length 10.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones. 0.3m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Ditch	Linear NE-SW sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max breadth 1.15m, max depth 0.39m, max length 4.m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small stones. 0.39m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt . Unexcavated fill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Posthole	Oval dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max length 0.8m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Fill	Same as (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Posthole	Sub-circular dimensions: max breadth 0.25m, max length 0.3m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Fill	Same as (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Posthole	Circular sides: U-shaped base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.34m, max diameter 0.55m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Fill	Friable mid grey brown clay silt . Same as (13), 0.34m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.4m. Same as [12]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Fill	Same as (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.45m. Same as [12]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Fill	Same as (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.3m. Same as [12]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Fill	Same as (13)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

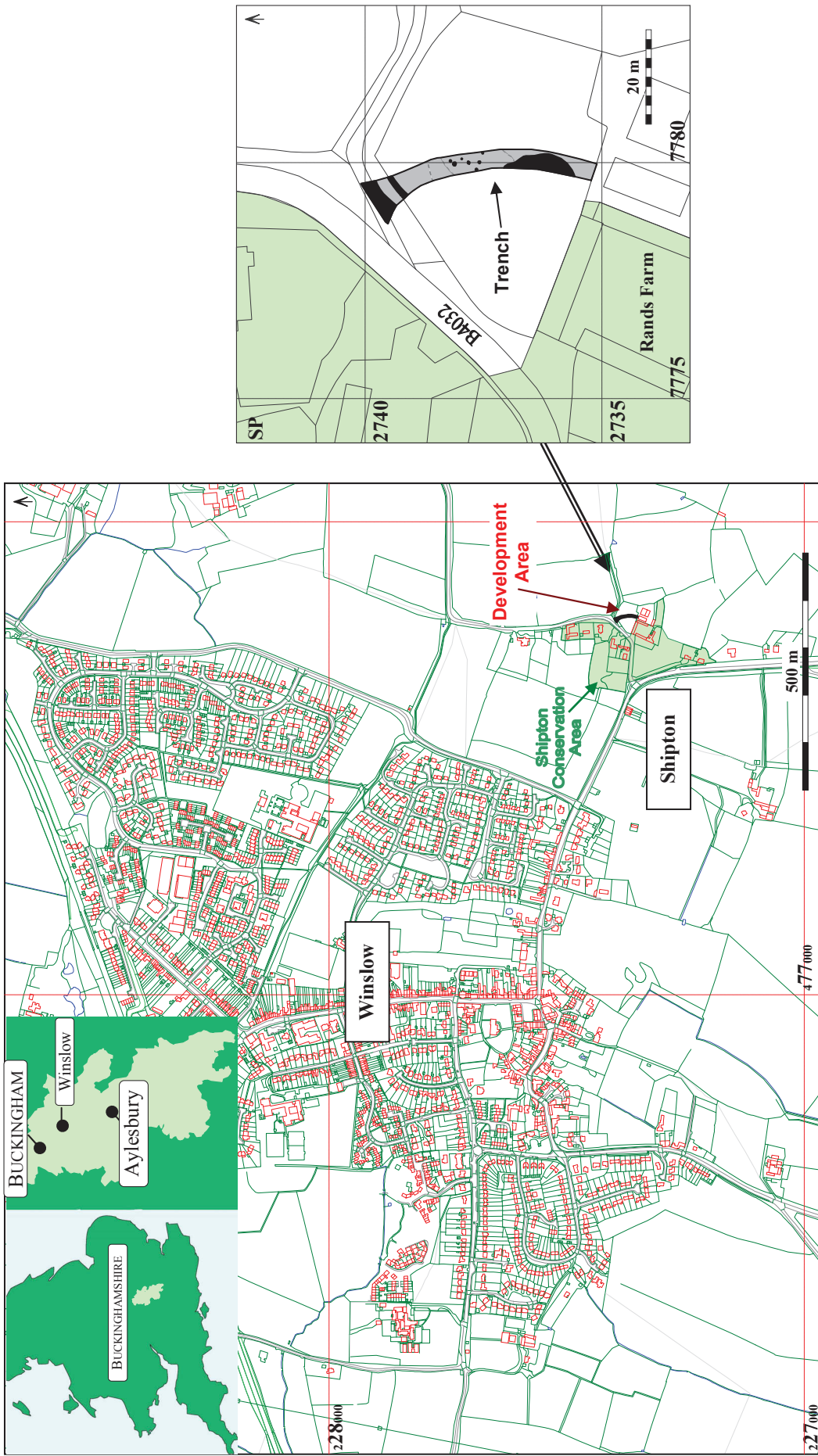


Figure 1: Site location

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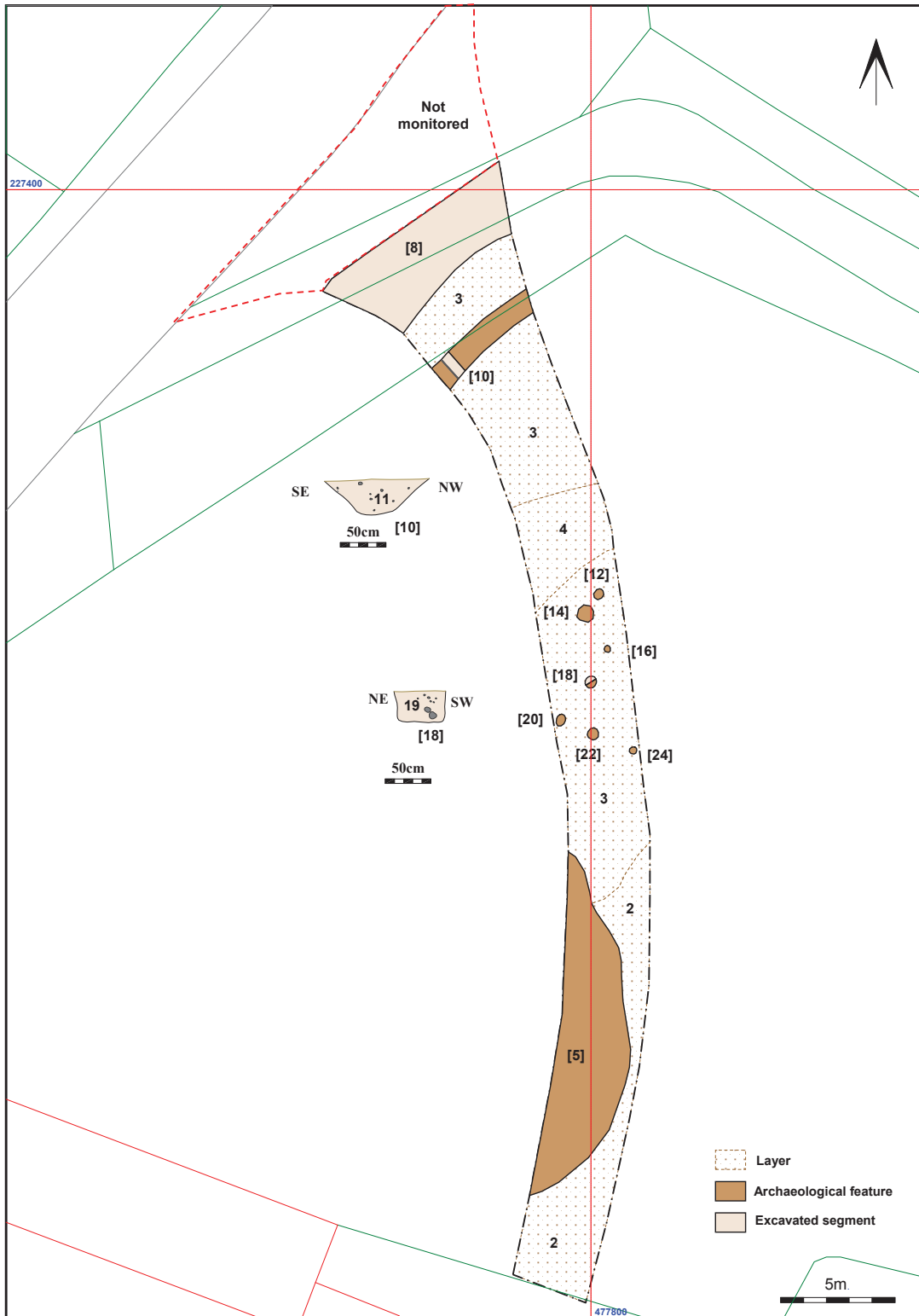


Figure 2: Features recorded in footprint of access track



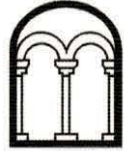
Figure 3: Central part of access track after machining looking NNW



Figure 4: Access track with covering membrane and hardcore

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



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

