

**LAND AT THE FORMER  
BRITANNIA IRONWORKS  
KEMPSTON ROAD  
BEDFORD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
FIELD EVALUATION**

Document: 2006/62  
Project: BR1187

12<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Produced for:  
BMH Construction Company (Clifton) Ltd

© Copyright Albion Archaeology 2006, *all rights reserved*



## Contents

---

List of Figures .....	3
Preface.....	4
Structure of this Report .....	4
Key Terms.....	4
Non-Technical Summary .....	5
<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Project Background .....	6
1.2 Site Location and Description .....	6
1.3 Archaeological Background .....	6
<b>2. AIMS &amp; METHOD STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Trial Trenching .....	8
<b>3. RESULTS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Trench 1 .....	9
3.3 Trench 2 .....	9
3.4 Trench 3 .....	10
3.5 Trench 4.....	10
<b>4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Geological Deposits .....	11
4.2 Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Activity.....	11
4.3 Recent Activity .....	11
4.4 Summary.....	11
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>6. APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
6.1 Appendix 1 – Trench Summaries .....	13



## **List of Figures**

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: All features plan

Figure 3: Selected section drawings

All figures are bound at the back of this report.



## **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.*

*This report has been prepared by Mark Phillips (Project Officer). It was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). Trial trenching was undertaken by Mark Phillips and Jeremy Mordue (Assistant Supervisor).*

*The figures were prepared by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

*Albion Archaeology is grateful to Paul Green and Roger Smith of BMH Construction Company (Clifton) Ltd for commissioning the work. Lesley-Ann Mather (CAO) monitored the site on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council.*

*Albion Archaeology  
St Mary's Church  
St Mary's Street  
Bedford, MK42 0AS  
☎: 01234 294001  
Fax: 01234 294008  
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com  
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

## **Structure of this Report**

Section 1 serves as an introduction to the site, describing its location, archaeological background and the aims of the project. Section 2 summarises the aims and methodology of the evaluation; the results are discussed in Section 3. Section 4 provides a synthesis of the results. Section 5 is a bibliography.

Appendix 1 contains a context summary. All figures are bound at the back of the report.

## **Key Terms**

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
CAO	Bedfordshire County Council Archaeological Officer
BLARS	Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service
Client	BMH Construction Company (Clifton) Ltd
HER	Historic Environment Record
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
PD	Project Design



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Planning permission (03/1928/FUL) has been granted by Bedford Borough Council for the construction of 260 residential flats and associated services on land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (CAO) has advised that the area being considered for the development is archaeologically sensitive. The development area consists of the upstream site, the water feature and the downstream site.*

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation that was undertaken only within the downstream part of the site. The site covers an area of c.8000m<sup>2</sup>, lies at c.26m OD, centred on National Grid Reference TL 0454 4915. Four evaluation trenches were opened. These were located in order to provide even coverage across the area, while avoiding known utilities.*

*The evaluation has demonstrated that in the majority of the downstream site, a large proportion of the undisturbed geological strata survive intact. This is despite the existence of frequent intrusions associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ironworks. In the southern part of the development area, layers of subsoil and topsoil are sealed beneath the construction layers of the ironworks. This demonstrates that the former soil profile survives in this part of the development area and that construction of the ironworks did not involve significant truncation of the pre-existing ground levels.*

*None of the trenches contained evidence for activity predating the construction of the ironworks. All of the artefacts observed during the excavation and recording of the trenches appeared to be directly related to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the development area. This included ceramic building material, metal objects and industrial waste. No artefacts were collected during the evaluation.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Project Background*

Planning permission (03/1928/FUL) has been granted by Bedford Borough Council for the construction of 260 residential flats and associated services on land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Bedfordshire County Council's Archaeological Officer (CAO) has advised the area being considered for the development is archaeologically sensitive. The development area consists of the upstream site, the water feature and the downstream site.

As a result, a condition has been attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological investigation. The CAO has issued two briefs (BCC 2006a and b) outlining a three-staged approach to the programme of archaeological investigation required in the downstream part of the development area (a further brief will be required for the upstream site and water feature area):

- Stage I – archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage II – appraisal of the results of the archaeological field evaluation.
- Stage III – implementation of an agreed programme of archaeological investigation and recording (if required, following completion of Stage II).

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006, Albion was commissioned by BMH Construction Company (Clifton) Ltd to produce a project design (Albion Archaeology 2006a) undertake the fieldwork and prepare a report (this document) on the evaluation of the downstream site.

In addition to the above, an interim summary of the fieldwork results (Albion Archaeology 2006b) was submitted to the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) immediately after the completion of fieldwork. This formed an initial appraisal of the potential archaeological impact of the development.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The development area is situated immediately south-west of Bedford town centre (Figure 1). It covers an area of *c.*8000m<sup>2</sup> and lies at *c.*26m OD, centred on NGR TL 0454 4915.

The river Great Ouse, flowing eastwards, forms the northern boundary of the downstream site, whilst its eastern side is bounded by a railway line. It was formerly occupied by the eastern end of the Britannia Ironworks, founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and recently demolished.

### 1.3 *Archaeological Background*

The archaeological background of the downstream site and its immediate environs has been fully described in the CAO's brief (BCC 2006a) and the Extensive Urban Survey, undertaken by English Heritage and Bedfordshire County Council (Albion Archaeology 2001).



On the basis of information contained in those documents, and that listed in the Historic Environment Record and Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, it was considered possible that remains dating to medieval and post-medieval periods, might be encountered within the development area.

In summary, the remains of Cauldwell Priory (HER 250) are thought to lie at the south-western end of the ironworks site. Its lands extended from the King's Ditch, to the east, up to Kempston in the west.

Known archaeological remains from this date included a ditch containing medieval pottery. This was recorded immediately south of the development area during an earlier archaeological investigation (ASC 2003), demonstrating the potential for this somewhat truncated land parcel to retain at least pockets of archaeological potential.

Later remains might have included those of Cauldwell House (HER 1682), built following the Dissolution. It was considered possible that outbuildings associated with this complex might have extended into the development area.

The Britannia Ironworks, which characterised land-use within the development area in recent times, were established during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cartographic and photographic sources consulted during the production of this document (BLARS) demonstrate that the layout of these works changed several times during its existence.



## 2. AIMS & METHOD STATEMENT

---

### 2.1 Trial Trenching

The layout of the trenches was discussed with and approved by the CAO. It was designed to ensure even coverage of the site whilst avoiding known utilities.

Alterations to the original trench plan comprised ceasing the machine excavation of Trench 1 once it had been established that it was located on reclaimed (in the 19<sup>th</sup> century) land. The layout of Trench 3 was modified to avoid disturbing electrical utilities detected by a CAT scanner.

The evaluation was designed to gain information on:

- the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present;
- the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present; and to
- recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The location of the trenches was marked out on the ground in advance of machine excavation. Topsoil and modern overburden were removed using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operating under close archaeological supervision. These deposits were removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

The bases and sections of all trenches were cleaned by hand where necessary. The deposits and any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. The trenches were subsequently drawn, and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique recording number sequence commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc.

The trenches were inspected by the CAO prior to backfilling.





### 3. RESULTS

---

#### 3.1 Introduction

The trial trenching took place between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Four trenches were opened.

Detailed technical information on all deposits and archaeological features discussed below can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Figure 2) was located on the northern edge of the development area, parallel to the River Great Ouse, oriented south-west to north-east. It was 22m long by 8m wide overall. The eastern end of the trench was excavated up to 1.6m deep, with the sides stepped in so that the central part of the trench was 2.20m wide. The water table was encountered at 1.40m below ground level. The western third of the trench was not excavated to its full depth, but was taken down to the top of a series of demolished brick walls.

A mixture of organic silts and alluvial clays (100) were encountered at a depth of 1.2m below the ground surface (Figure 3, Section 2). These layers appear to be natural deposits, associated with the river.

Above this, make up layers of sandy-clay with brick fragments (101) and light yellow brown, sandy gravel (102) were sealed by a layer, up to 0.05m thick, of hard, naturally cemented, cinders (fuel waste) and small fragments of coal. These three layers appear to represent an initial attempt to stabilise or consolidate the former river bank area, using clay and gravel excavated from elsewhere and industrial waste from the ironworks, used to form a hard surface layer.

Above the hard layer, a series of alternating layers (104 to 108) of yellow brown sandy gravel and grey sandy silt with inclusions of brick, coal, clinker and small stones, formed a deposit up to 0.6m deep. These appear to be a series of dump deposits, used to build-up the ground adjacent to the river, raising it to the same level as the rest of the development area. Another layer of dumped material (109), dark grey silt with occasional stones and frequent fragments of calcium silicate “glassy” slag, represents a continuation of this process of dumping industrial waste.

The uppermost layer observed in Trench 1 (110) was loose, grey sandy silt that contained occasional fragments of concrete. This layer may represent soil that was deposited or disturbed during the demolition of the factory buildings.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Figure 2) was located in the western part of the development area and was oriented NW-SE.



Layers of undisturbed geological deposits (204) (207) (208) (209) were encountered at a depth that varied between 0.45m and 0.6m below the ground surface.

A number of features were identified. These consisted of walls and wall footings [213] [217] (211) (212) (216) and a large concrete pad (210), interpreted as a probable machine base. Associated with these features were various layers: construction make-up (202) (203) (205) of gravel, crushed brick or industrial waste and an asphalt (201) of a probable external yard surface. All of these features are interpreted as being associated with the ironworks, either in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or in its later phases of use.

Above the features and layers associated with the use of the ironworks were layers of demolition debris (200) (205) (206), associated with the recent removal of the factory buildings. These comprised layers of crushed brick and a final layer of soil mixed with demolition debris.

### **3.4 Trench 3**

Trench 3 (Figure 2) was located in the eastern part of the development area. It was oriented broadly NW-SE. Deposits observed in this trench were very similar to those observed in Trench 2, situated only 10m to the west.

Geological deposits in the base of this trench were truncated by a series of wall foundations [307] [309] [315]/ [318], brick sub-floor chambers [301] and irregular hollows filled with loose soil and rubble or gravel [304].

### **3.5 Trench 4**

Trench 4 (Figure 2 and Figure 3, Section 1) was located in the southern part of the development area. It was aligned NE-SW.

Undisturbed geological deposits (411) were encountered at *c.*2m below the present ground surface. These deposits were sealed by subsoil (410) which in turn was overlain by a possible relict topsoil layer (409). This material would have been the land surface prior to the construction of the ironworks, after which it became sealed beneath 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century construction layers.

The relict topsoil was truncated in several places by the foundations of a series of walls. These included foundation trench [428] of wall (427), which was traced along most of the length of the trench. Foundation trench [418], wall (425) and drain [412] also truncated this layer.

A series of make-up layers, floors and external surfaces were found in association with the walls. These consisted of various materials (gravel, cinders, brick rubble and concrete) and cumulatively formed a deposit up to 0.4m thick.

Sealing these structural remains and layers was a 1.2m thick layer of loose soil mixed with modern construction debris. This layer was limited to the southern part of the downstream site.



## 4. SYNTHESIS OF RESULTS

---

### 4.1 *Geological Deposits*

Observations in Trench 1 revealed organic silts and alluvial clays along the southern bank of the Great Ouse. In Trenches 2, 3 and 4, the geological horizon consisted of gravel (river terrace) deposits.

Various modern intrusions have been cut into these geological deposits. However, a significant proportion of them survive at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.7m below ground level. The observations in Trench 4 suggest that in this area, the surviving soil profile includes both subsoil and topsoil, sealed beneath the construction layer of the former ironworks.

These findings are important as the existence of intact geological deposits, subsoil and buried topsoil (in at least some parts of the site) suggests that archaeological remains *could* have survived within the development area.

### 4.2 *Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Activity*

All of the trenches contained structural evidence associated with the former ironworks. These comprised wall footings, concrete pads, construction layers, surfaces and floors. In Trench 1, layers of clay, gravel or soil and industrial waste were used to build up the ground level adjacent to the river in order to reclaim what would have been marshy ground.

Wall footings found in the western part of Trench 1 show that the ironworks buildings were constructed on this reclaimed ground, close to the edge of the river. Evidence for the continued development of the ironworks, which was in use from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, was found in Trench 1.

### 4.3 *Recent Activity*

Evidence for post-ironworks activity consisted of layers of demolition debris found across the whole area. Along the southern boundary of the area a deep layer of soil and building debris was found in Trench 4.

### 4.4 *Summary*

The evaluation has demonstrated that in the majority of the downstream site, a large proportion of the undisturbed geological strata survive intact, with frequent intrusions associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century ironworks. In the southern part of the development area, layers of subsoil and topsoil are sealed beneath the construction layers of the ironworks. This demonstrates that the former soil profile survives in this part of the development area and that construction of the ironworks did not involve significant truncation of the pre-existing ground levels.

None of the trenches contained evidence for activity predating the construction of the ironworks. All of the artefacts observed during the excavation and recording of the trenches appeared to be directly related to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the development area. This included ceramic building material, metal objects and industrial waste. No artefacts were collected during the evaluation.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- Albion Archaeology 2001b (edited 2005) *Extensive Urban Survey for Bedfordshire: Bedford Archaeological Assessment*. Unpublished report 2001/42
- Albion Archaeology 2006a. *Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. Albion report 2006/61
- Albion Archaeology 2006b. *Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford. Archaeological Field Evaluation. Interim Report*. Albion report 2006/64
- ASC 2003 *Archaeological Evaluation of the site of the Britannia Ironworks, Bedford*. Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd report BKR02/2.
- Bedfordshire County Council 2006a. *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation of Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford*.
- Bedfordshire County Council 2006b. *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation of Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford*.



## **6. APPENDICES**

---

### **6.1 Appendix 1 – Trench Summaries**



**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 22.00 m. Width: 8.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**OS Co-ordinates:** Ref. 1: TL0456749230 Ref. 2: TL0455049217

**Reason:** To provide even coverage across the site.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Alluvium	Plastic dark grey clay occasional small-medium stones Organic silt-clay: dark grey or black, riverine silting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Levelling layer	Friable mid red brown sandy clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material, occasional small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Levelling layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel moderate small ceramic building material, frequent small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Surface	Cemented black with reddish brown patches. Hard surface comprising fuel waste (cinders) and fragments of coal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
104	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
105	Make up layer	Loose dark grey sandy silt moderate small ceramic building material, moderate small stones Inclusions of brick, coal, clinker and small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
106	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small stones, moderate small-medium stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
107	Make up layer	Friable dark grey sandy silt moderate small ceramic building material, frequent small stones Similar to 105, with composition comprising clinker, coal and brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
108	Make up layer	Loose light yellow brown sandy gravel frequent small stones Additional inclusions: clinker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
109	Dump material	Compact dark grey silt occasional small stones Additional inclusions: Frequent small and medium and occasionally large fragments of slag waste (glassy, bubbly core with red/brown fired clay adhering to outside).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
110	Demolition layer	Loose dark brown grey sandy silt occasional medium-large concrete, moderate small-medium stones Possible re-deposited soil or modern overburden.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 33.50 m. Width: 4.50 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0458249195 Ref. 2: TL0460649169

Reason: To provide even coverage across site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Construction horizon	Loose mid grey brown silty clay moderate small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small-medium concrete, moderate small-medium stones Modern overburden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Tarmac	Cemented dark grey frequent small stones Asphalt surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Make up layer	Loose mid yellow sandy gravel frequent small-medium stones Bedding layer for asphalt surface 201	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Make up layer	Loose dark grey ash frequent small-medium charcoal Layer mostly comprises cinders and other burnt residues: coal, slag etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Natural	Plastic mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Make up layer	Compact mid pinkish red frequent small-large ceramic building material Layer entirely comprises crushed brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Demolition layer	Loose dark grey sandy rubble frequent medium-large ceramic building material, frequent medium concrete, frequent small stones Black demolition layer: more inclusions than matrix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel moderate small stones Coarse yellow sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
208	Natural	Loose mid brown red sandy silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
209	Natural	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
210	Concrete	Square concrete machine base with marks on upper surface where fittings removed. Abutting second smaller concrete base with two parallel timber settings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
211	Brickwork	Brick wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
212	Brickwork	Brick wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
213	Foundation trench	Sub-rectangular NW-SE dimensions: min length 4.25m, min breadth 2.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
214	Backfill	Loose dark grey brown sandy rubble frequent medium-large ceramic building material, moderate small-medium stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
215	Brickwork	C-shaped brick structure, depth unknown, within cut 213, width of masonry 0.30m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
216	Brickwork	Brick wall oriented south-west to north-east	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
217	Foundation trench	Sub-rectangular dimensions: min length 4.m, min breadth 2.m L-shaped foundation cut for brick structure 219	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
218	Backfill	Rubble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
219	Brickwork	Brick base or pad adjacent to wall 216	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Trench: 3****Max Dimensions: Length: 26.00 m. Width: 3.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.****OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0460449200 Ref. 2: TL0460449182****Reason: To provide even coverage across site**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
300	Natural	Loose mid red brown silty clay occasional small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Foundation trench	Rectangular NW-SE dimensions: min length 3.m, min breadth 1.05m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Backfill	Dark grey rubble moderate medium-large ceramic building material, moderate small-medium concrete, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Brickwork	Double chambered sunken brick structure in cut 301	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
304	Modern Intrusion	Sub-oval dimensions: max length 3.m, min breadth 2.m Modern intrusion into natural substratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
305	Backfill	Rubble moderate small-large ceramic building material, moderate small-medium concrete, frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
307	Foundation trench	Irregular dimensions: max length 3.5m, min breadth 1.5m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
306	Wall	Brick wall oriented wnw-ese stepping out from 0.40m wide to 0.75m wide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
308	Backfill	Loose mid brown grey sandy gravel frequent small concrete, frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
309	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW dimensions: max breadth 2.25m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
310	Backfill	Firm dark yellow brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
311	Wall	Brick wall with strengthening pier (widening to 0.65m from 0.45m)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
312	Backfill	Loose dark grey sandy ash Black sandy-silt ash: industrial waste product dumped into cut 309	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
313	Backfill	Loose mid yellow brown sandy clay frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
314	Buried topsoil	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
315	Foundation trench	Linear ENE-WSW dimensions: min length 3.5m, max breadth 0.6m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
316	Backfill	Loose light grey gravel frequent small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
317	Backfill	Plastic clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
318	Foundation trench	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: min length 1.2m, max breadth 0.65m	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
319	Backfill	Plastic mid yellow brown clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
320	Brickwork	Brick wall remnant in 318	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
321	Dump material	Loose sandy rubble moderate medium-large ceramic building material, moderate medium-large concrete Modern overburden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
322	Demolition layer	Loose rubble frequent medium-large ceramic building material, moderate medium-large concrete, frequent medium-large stones Black demolition spread	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 39.30 m. Width: 5.30 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0460049140 Ref. 2: TL0462849166

Reason: To provide even coverage across site

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Dump material	Loose mid brown grey rubble moderate medium ceramic building material, frequent medium-large concrete, frequent small-medium stones Modern overburden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Dump material	Compact dark grey silty ash frequent small-medium burnt stones Black deposit comprising mostly cinders and burnt stones and gravel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Make up layer	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Floor	Concrete floor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	External surface	Compact dark grey sandy gravel frequent small-medium ceramic building material, frequent small stones Crushed brick, with rusty accretions bonding it together	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
405	Make up layer	Compact dark grey sandy ash frequent small stones Mostly comprises black cinders, full of charcoal and small stones, not as compact as 401	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
406	Dump material	Compact dark red grey This deposit comprised entirely of slag, solidified into a mass, but looking like it was liquid when deposited	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
407	Make up layer	Compact dark grey frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Almost entirely made up of cinders and other pyrotechnic waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
408	Dump material	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
409	Buried topsoil	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
410	Buried subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
411	Natural	Loose mid orange brown sandy gravel frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
412	Drain	Linear NNW-SSE profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.7m, max depth 0.5m Cut for brick lined drain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
413	Concrete	Compact light yellow brown frequent small stones Sandy lime concrete bedding for masonry in cut 412	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
414	Brickwork	Brick walls of drain in cut 412	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
415	Main fill	Loose dark grey silty sand frequent flecks charcoal Black fill of the area between brick walls in drain 412. Probably settled out naturally rather than deliberately deposited here	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
416	Make up layer	Loose dark grey sandy ash frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones Black slaggy deposit with frequent burnt inclusions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
417	Make up layer	Loose dark grey frequent flecks charcoal, frequent small stones A crushed coal type layer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
418	Foundation trench	Linear NE-SW profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.65m, min depth 0.5m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
419	Backfill	Friable mid yellow brown silty clay occasional small-medium ceramic building material, moderate small stones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
420	Wall	Brick wall probably partially supporting concrete floor 422	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
421	Foundation	Loose light brown yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones Buff stony, loose concrete mix as bedding for brick wall 420	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
422	Floor	Concrete floor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
423	Make up layer	Loose light yellow grey silty sand occasional small stones Bedding for floor 422	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
424	Make up layer	Loose mid brown grey silty clay moderate small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
425	Wall	Brick wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions: Length: 39.30 m. Width: 5.30 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.**

**OS Co-ordinates: Ref. 1: TL0460049140 Ref. 2: TL0462849166**

**Reason: To provide even coverage across site**

<b>Context:</b>	<b>Type:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Excavated:</b>	<b>Finds Present:</b>
426	Make up layer	Loose mid orange yellow sandy gravel frequent small stones Yellow sandy gravel within brown silty clay used as make-up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
428	Foundation trench	Linear ENE-WSW dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, min depth 0.5m Foundation cut fro wall 427, and of variable depth: either this is an interrupted wall or it has many deeper parts (e.g. as mini-piers for supporting concrete floor).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
427	Wall	Wall (not observed): only rough concrete foundation, often with deeper piers for supporting piles. May be similar to wall 420, but perpendicular	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
429	Surface	Loose dark grey sandy gravel frequent medium stones Modern hardcore surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

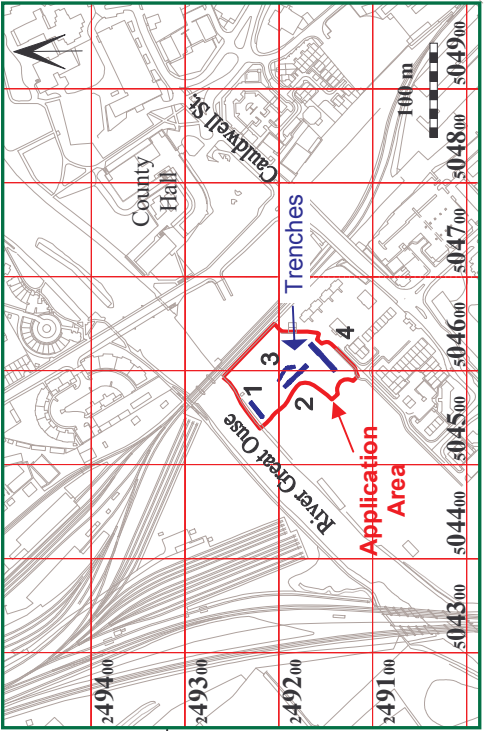
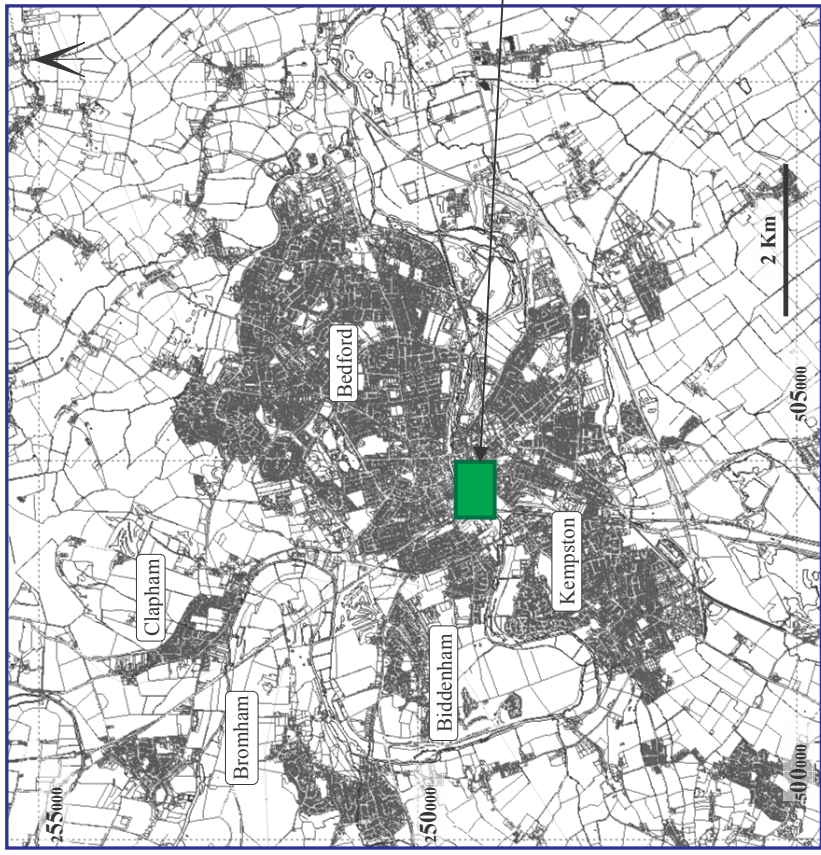
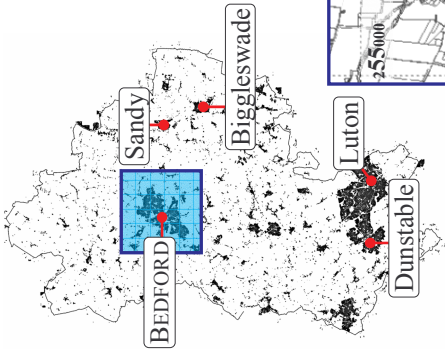
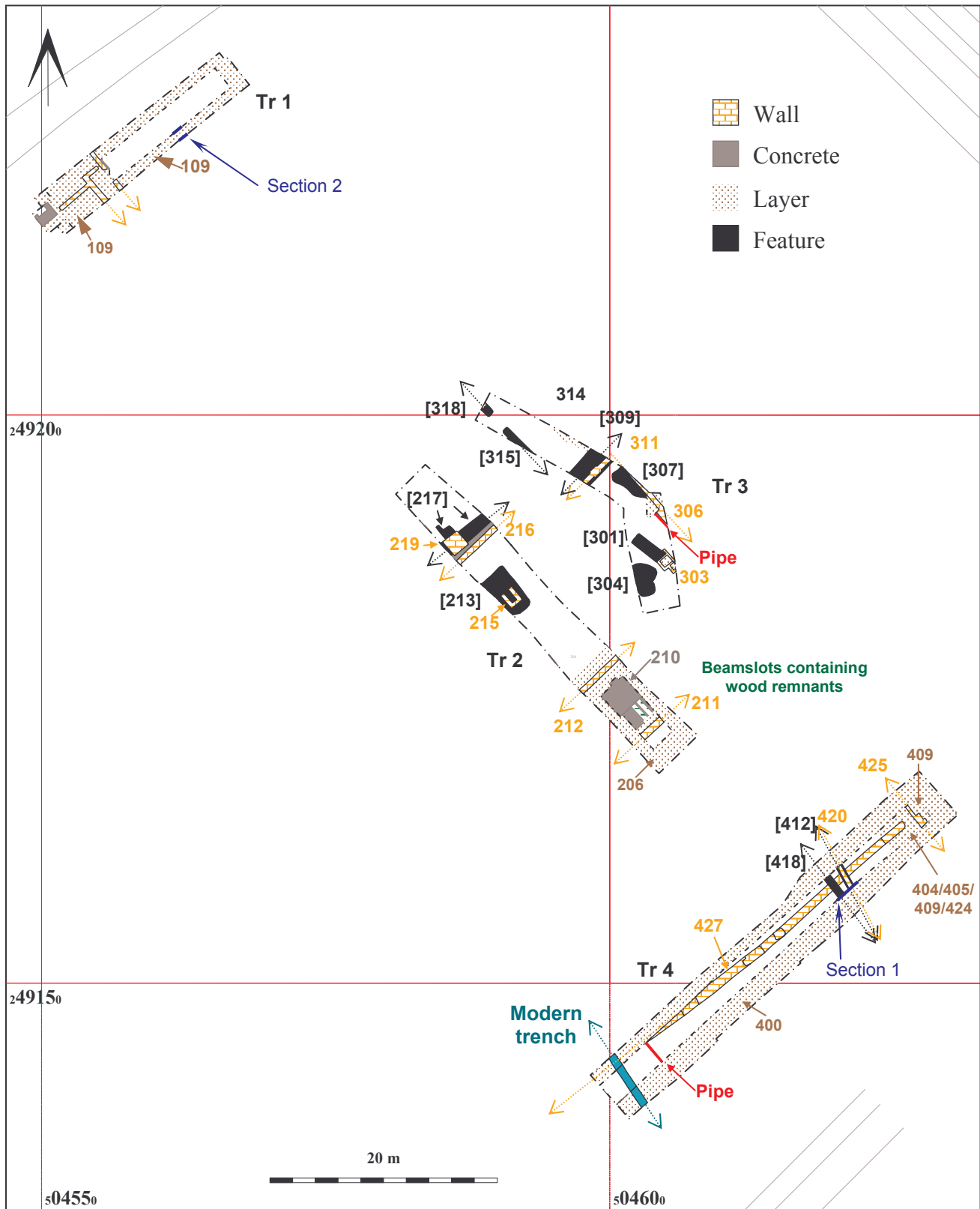


Figure 1: Site location map

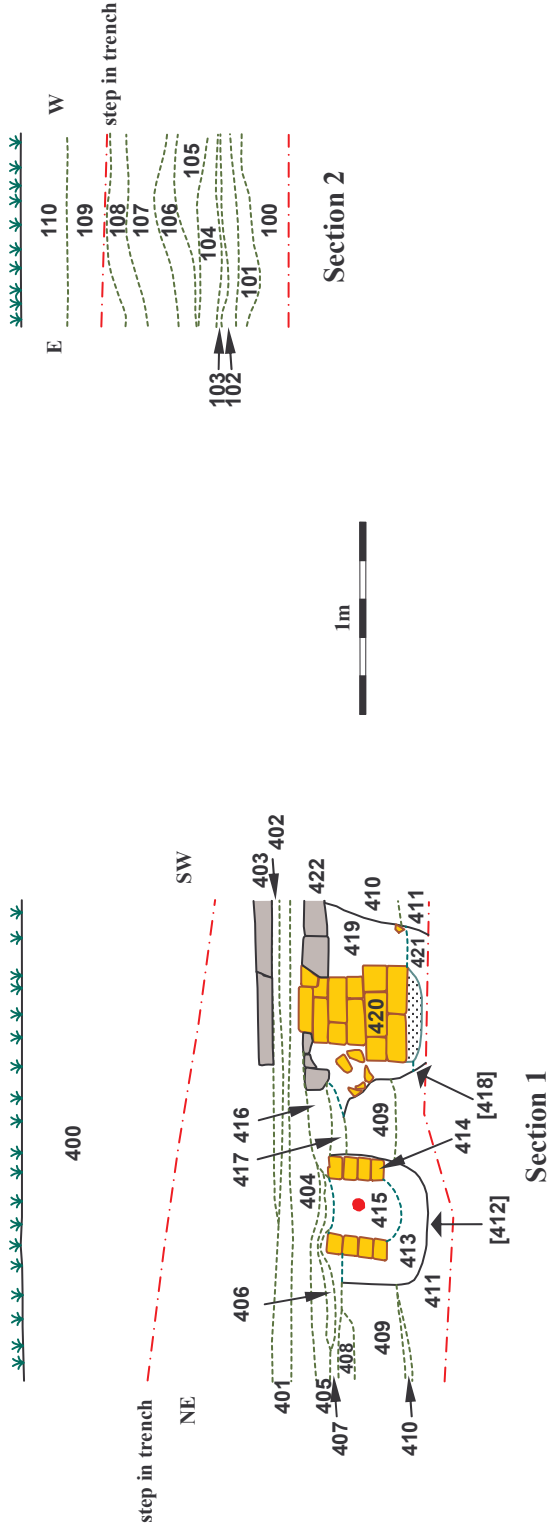
Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.

Land at the former Britannia Ironworks, Kempston Road, Bedford  
Archaeological Field Evaluation – Interim Report



**Figure 2: All features plan**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 076465(LA). © Crown Copyright.



Photograph of section 1. Scale 1m



Photograph of section 2. Scale 1m

**Figure 3:** Selected section drawings