

**WADDESDON CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL  
SCHOOL LANE  
WADDESDON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Produced for:  
Waddesdon Church of England School

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*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*



## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

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*Albion Archaeology is grateful to Waddesdon Church of England School for commissioning the project. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Val Homewood (Principal Officer for the School) and the cooperation of Spadeoak Duracourt Ltd. We are also grateful for the assistance of Dave Radford, the Archaeological Officer for the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.*

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## Structure of the Report

After the introductory Section 1, Section 2 describes the extent of the watching brief. There is a summary of the results of the fieldwork in Section 3, followed by a brief conclusion (Section 4). Section 5 is a bibliography. Appendix 1 contains an archaeological context summary, and Appendix 2 provides a summary of the artefacts and ecofacts recovered.

## Key Terms

Throughout this report, the following terms or abbreviations are used:

Albion	Albion Archaeology
AO	Archaeological Officer for BCAS
BCAS	Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service
Client	Waddesdon Church of England School
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists





## **Non-Technical Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Albion Archaeology at Waddesdon Church of England School, School Lane, Waddesdon between 26<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006. The work was carried out during groundworks associated with the creation of an all-weather playing surface.*

*The development area is in an archaeologically sensitive location, close to the line of Akeman Street Roman road, which is known to have provided a focus for Roman and later settlements, cemeteries and other sites in the vicinity of Aylesbury. The area also lies between the shrunken medieval settlement of Wormstone and the medieval through to post-medieval manor of Green End. Therefore, the site had the potential to contain archaeological features related to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.*

*Groundworks revealed the remains of a series of bedding trenches (possibly of a type used in viticulture). These are of probable early Roman date. Interestingly, evidence for an internal trackway was recorded within the series of bedding trenches. A large medieval/post-medieval enclosure ditch, the remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, and two post-medieval sunken featured buildings were also revealed.*

*The medieval/post-medieval ditch was probably related to an enclosure to the south.*

*The two sunken featured buildings are unusual, being of a building type that was largely obsolete by the post-medieval period. Comparison with other known examples suggests they were probably used for a specific type of activity, such as weaving or cheese making.*

*Remains of early Roman agricultural activity and the remains of late medieval/post medieval rural landscapes are relevant to comparable regional research aims and to national research aims. The generally shallow nature of the groundworks meant that most of the archaeological remains have been preserved in situ. The deeper elements of the groundworks were arranged to minimise their impact on these archaeological remains.*

*The project archive will ultimately be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum under accession code 2006.165.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Background

Permission has been granted for the development of an all-weather playing surface with associated floodlighting (planning application 03/01629 for Aylesbury Vale District Council) at Waddesdon Church of England Primary and Secondary School, Waddesdon.

Given the archaeological sensitivity of the development area, the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) advised that an archaeological planning condition be attached to the permitted development. Consequently, the Archaeological Officer (AO) for BCAS issued a brief, setting out a requirement for an archaeological watching brief during the development (BCAS 2006).

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2006, Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological watching brief and to produce a report (this document) on the results. A project design for the work (Albion 2006) was prepared and approved by the AO.

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

The development area is located within the playing fields owned by Waddesdon Church of England Primary and Secondary School in Waddesdon Parish (Figure 1). The development area is *c.*1 ha. in size, and is centred on NGR SP 74609 16515.

Topographically, the site lies at a height of *c.*100mOD. It is situated between Lodge Hill to the west and Waddesdon Hill to the south-east, which are outcrops of Portland limestone. The underlying geological deposits comprise mainly Kimmeridge clays.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The development lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity, with known Roman and medieval remains in the vicinity.

The line of Akeman Street Roman road runs 60m to the north of the development area (CAS01050), and is known to have provided a focus for Roman and later settlements, cemeteries and other sites in the vicinity of Aylesbury.

Evidence has been found of several Roman roadside settlements along the line of Akeman Street. These include sites at Fleet Marston and Grendon Underwood, *c.*8km to the east and west of the development area and, further afield, at Drayton Beauchamp and Northchurch (Smith 1987). In addition, a spread of Roman pottery was recorded 700m to the east (CAS06328), indicating the potential for Roman activity in the more immediate vicinity.

The school also lies between the shrunken medieval settlement of Wormstone (CAS02159), *c.*500m to the south-east, and the site of the medieval/post-medieval manor of Green End (CAS02184), *c.*350m to the north-west. Waddesdon itself



was recorded as a sizeable manor in the Domesday Book (Morris 1978). Medieval pottery and the possible remains of a medieval house have been discovered in the immediate vicinity of Wormstone (CAS02159/CAS04397/CAS06607), along with a possible medieval boundary bank recorded in field survey (CAS02173).

The grounds of Waddesdon Manor lie to the south of the site. They comprise a 19<sup>th</sup> century country house, surrounded by formal and informal gardens and an extensive park that incorporates the style of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century gardens.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 Introduction

The watching brief was undertaken between 26<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006. During this period, all groundworks which required monitoring were completed (Figures 1 and 2). A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was used for all machine excavation.

All archaeological features and deposits were issued a unique context number, specific to that feature or deposit. Within this report, context numbers referring to cut features are expressed [\*\*], and layers or deposits within cut features are expressed (\*\*).

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

### 2.2 Methodology

The archaeological works adhered to the standards and field methods set out in the project design (Albion 2006) and Section 8 of the brief (BCAS 2006):

- 1 All machine excavation was monitored to identify any *in situ* archaeological deposits that were revealed.
- 2 All disturbed soil was scanned for artefacts.
- 3 All excavated deposits were recorded in accordance with Albion's *Procedures Manual* and the detailed requirements in Section 8 of the brief.
- 4 All archaeological features were recorded at a scale of 1:100 on base plans that were tied in to the OS national grid. Excavated features were planned at a scale of 1:50, and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 5 All artefacts were assigned to their relevant context number.
- 6 A programme of environmental sampling was carried out in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2002) *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.
- 7 An appropriate photographic record was maintained for all significant deposits, along with overall photographs of the groundworks undertaken.

Throughout the project, the standards set out in the IFA's *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance* documents (specifically *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, September 1999), in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991) and in Albion's *Procedures Manual* were adhered to.

### 2.3 Extent and Nature of Groundworks

The groundworks comprised reduction of the ground level to accommodate an all-weather playing surface, as well as the excavation of drainage trenches and pits for floodlight bases. The groundworks covered an area of c.1ha.

The area of the playing surface was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m, though most of the area was reduced by between 0.2m and 0.4m. The



groundworks were only deep enough to reveal archaeological deposits in the central-western part of the development area (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

Subsequent groundworks within the area of the playing surface included the excavation of eleven E-W aligned drainage trenches, which were 0.3m wide and 0.3m deep. These trenches were only excavated deeply enough to expose undisturbed geological deposits in their western extent. These trenches were positioned in such a way as to minimise their negative impact on the archaeological features that were revealed during the ground level reduction phase of the development.



### 3. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

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#### 3.1 Introduction

The watching brief uncovered the remains of early Roman bedding trenches and late medieval/post-medieval field systems, and two post-medieval sunken featured buildings (Figures 2 and 3).

The mainly shallow nature of the groundworks meant that the revealed archaeology could mostly be preserved *in situ* beneath the development. However, it was agreed between the AO and Albion that limited excavation of one of the structures and one of the ditches would take place, in order to establish their date, nature and state of preservation.

#### 3.2 Topsoil, Subsoil and Geological Deposits

The topsoil (1) which covered the development area was *c.* 0.3m thick. The subsoil (2) varied in thickness; in places, it was up to 0.2m thick but was completely absent in the south-western corner of the area. The undisturbed geological deposits (3) comprised a mixture of boulder clay and gravel.

#### 3.3 Early Roman Bedding Trenches

Nine ditches aligned WNW-ESE (parallel to Akeman Street) were revealed in the western half of the development area. They were 0.9 - 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep, concave profiles. A further ditch was revealed on a NNE-SSW alignment; it was 0.4m wide. All the ditches contained a mid orangey brown silty clay, and the primary deposit within ditch [5] contained 3g of early Roman pottery (Appendix 2). The nature of these ditches indicates that they represent a series of bedding trenches.

There was a gap of *c.* 4.5 - 6m between opposing ditches [7] and [15], and [5] and [13], whilst the western extent of ditches [11], [23] and [25] terminated at a similar point. This regularity suggests a NNE-SSW aligned trackway was present in this location (see Figure 2). Three further smaller gaps of *c.* 1m were revealed; between opposing ditches [25] and [27], and between the eastern termini of ditches [23] and [27], and NNE-SSW aligned ditch [29]. These openings would have formed narrow entrances (Figure 2).

#### 3.4 Late Medieval/Post-medieval Features

##### 3.4.1 Sunken Featured Buildings

Two sub-rectangular pits [33] and [35] were revealed in the south-western quarter of the development area (Figures 2 and 3). These pits contained a small assemblage of post-medieval artefacts and ecofacts (Appendix 2).

Pits [33] and [35] were 4m-4.95m long and 3.15m-3.5m wide. A posthole, [46] and [48] respectively, was located at the western end of each pit; they were 0.25m-0.4m in diameter. The pits appeared to truncate the postholes, although this stratigraphic relationship could be the result of timber posts rotting and leaving postholes which ultimately became infilled with similar material to the pit.



Excavation of pit [35] revealed that it was 0.28m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. It also revealed two postholes [38] and [40] in the base of, and truncated by, the pit. The postholes had concave profiles and were 80mm deep. Pit [35] truncated bedding trench (ditch) [11] (Figure 3).

The form of these two buildings is similar to that of sunken featured buildings (SFBs) of the Saxon period. However, in this case a variety of dateable artefactual material confirms the post-medieval date (AD1500–AD1750) of these buildings (Appendix 2). This comprised pottery, some of which was 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, roof tile, clay pipe and nails none of which was considered to be intrusive. A single sherd of flower pot ware was intrusive within [35] and dates to the modern period.

Few examples of post-medieval buildings of this type are known, though records of a small number do exist and include examples from south-west England, France and Ireland (Chapelot and Fossier 1985, 120-125). The function of some of these buildings is known to have been spinning, weaving, cheese making and general storage. Significantly, the post-medieval date of these features confirms that they pre-date the reconfiguration which Waddesdon underwent when the changes caused by the Rothschild family took effect in the modern period, *i.e.* the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.4.2 Field systems

A 2.7m wide boundary ditch [42], aligned E-W, was revealed in the south-western corner of the development area. Its fill comprised mid greyish brown silty clay. A single sherd of late medieval pottery and a small amount of late medieval/post-medieval roof tile were recovered from its surface.

Four furrows [17], [19], [21] and [31] were observed in the central-western part of the development area. They were up to 2.2m wide, and were on a similar alignment to ditch [42].

### 3.5 Modern Features

A rectangular posthole [9], 0.3m long and 0.2m wide, was revealed near the western edge of the development area. No dating evidence was recovered, but the regularity of its shape suggests that it was modern. A service cable was unearthed nearby, along with a layer of rubble (4) associated with disturbance from a builders' compound.





## 4. SYNTHESIS

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### 4.1 Discussion

#### 4.1.1 Early Roman bedding trenches

Although only one corroborative sherd of pottery was recovered, the WNW-ESE aligned bedding trenches were of probable early Roman date. The stratigraphic relationship between ditch [11] and pit [35] (Figure 2) proves that it was medieval or earlier.

The alignment of the ditches/trenches was also very similar to that of Akeman Street to the north, though it should be borne in mind that Roman roads often had a long-lasting influence on neighbouring land boundaries. Roman roadside settlements and house plots often had extensive agricultural areas to their rear (Smith 1987, 22-30) and this possibility should not be ruled out at this location.

The regular arrangement of the ditch termini near the western limit of excavation strongly suggests that the gap they formed was used as a trackway. This gap was significantly wider than those on the eastern and southern sides of the bedding trench area, which were probably just entrances into it.

The narrowness of the strips of land into which this area was divided suggests that they were used for arable cultivation, perhaps viticulture. If this was the case, then the width of the trackway suggests that it was for vehicular access.

The AO has pointed out a series of sites in which similar remains were revealed. These include the Stoke Hammond Bypass (Network Archaeology 2006) where two groups of parallel linear ditches were recorded. These were spaced around 6.5m apart with steep sided profiles (e.g. more like trenches than furrows), a single posthole was revealed in the base of one of the excavated sections and they produced early Roman pottery.

Shallow parallel trenches have also been recorded at Wollaston in the Nene Valley where palynological analysis detected grape pollen and there were regularly spaced postholes in the bases of the trenches, leading to their interpretation as planting trenches for vines supported by poles (Brown and Meadows 2000).

A site with similar features at Stanton Low in Buckinghamshire has also been interpreted as a vineyard (Woodfield, 1989). Elsewhere, such as at Grendon Quarry in Northamptonshire (Jackson, 1995), this kind of feature has been considered to be evidence of cultivation in raised lazy-beds.

Further afield, at Home Farm, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, Albion Archaeology (2005) recorded a number of parallel bedding trenches with near vertical sides and flat bases. These were spaced between c.5m and c.10m apart and contained pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. While at Caldecote, Highfields in Cambridgeshire (Kenney 2001) a series of very similar features were revealed, these have also been dated to this period and are seen as possible viticultural bedding trenches.





Therefore, such remains are not without parallel, and the suggestion of viticulture in an early Roman context is certainly not seen as an unlikely function for these remains.

#### 4.1.2 Late medieval/post-medieval features

Although ditch [42] was on the same alignment as the furrows, it was wider than ditches that are commonly used to mark field boundaries. As well as marking the southern edge of this area of ridge and furrow cultivation, it perhaps also defined an enclosure to the south.

The two sunken featured buildings are unusual in their date (containing post-medieval artefactual material, Appendix 2). Although Saxon examples are relatively common, ones from the second millennium AD are rarely identified.

Very few examples can be found of post-medieval sunken featured buildings on other sites. A small number are known from south-west England and from regions of France and Ireland (Chapelot and Fossier 1985, 120-125), and their decrease in numbers through the medieval period was pronounced.

The function of these two buildings remains unknown, though others are known to have been used for spinning, weaving, cheese making and general storage. By the later medieval and post-medieval periods, such buildings tended only to be used by peasants, and were often temporary structures.

#### 4.2 Significance

Evidence of substantial Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of Waddesdon Church of England School. The development area has not suffered any previous significant disturbance from modern development and, as the results of the fieldwork show, had high potential for the preservation of archaeological remains.

The recorded remains of Roman bedding trenches, including the possible evidence for viticulture, are of some significance as they provide useful data towards understanding the agricultural environment and land use of the period. Relevant research aims are identified in Taylor (2006, 145; 150-151 and 157-8) for the East Midlands region and in the English Heritage Research Agenda (1997, 53).

The late medieval/post-medieval field system identified during the watching brief is relevant to regional research aims regarding the agrarian landscape, (Lewis 2006, 215 and Courtney 2006, 232-3). It is also relevant to national research themes regarding elements of rural settlement, relict field systems and patterns of craftsmanship and industry (including agriculture) (English Heritage 1997, p.52-4). Though the function of the sunken featured buildings is not known for sure, they are relevant to regional and national research aims regarding rural landscapes and industry in Courtney (2006, 232-4) and in English Heritage (1997, 52-54). A lack in the representation of the poor in the rural landscape has specifically been noted (Courtney 2006, 233).

The generally shallow nature of the groundworks meant that most of the archaeological remains have been preserved *in situ*. The deeper elements of the



groundworks were arranged to minimise their impact on these archaeological remains.

#### **4.3 Project Archive**

The project archive will ultimately be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum under accession code 2006.165.



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## 6. APPENDICES

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### 6.1 Appendix 1 - Context Summary



Area: 1

Extent (ha): 0.7

OS Co-ordinates: SP7460916515

Description: Area partially stripped to level of undisturbed geological deposits.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1	Topsoil	Friable dark brown clay silt . 0.3m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Subsoil	Firm mid red brown silty clay . Maximum 0.2m thick.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Natural	Firm light yellow grey chalky clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Make up layer	Friable dark grey brown clay silt frequent large ceramic building material. Modern make-up layer associated with builders' compound.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW profile: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max depth 0.3m, min length 2.2m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Primary fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
50	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, min length 5.9m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Posthole	Rectangular dimensions: max breadth 0.2m, max length 0.3m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Fill	Firm mid red grey silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min length 29m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1.2m, min length 21m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, min length 20.5m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Furrow	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2m, min length 7.5m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Furrow	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.2m, min length 18m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Furrow	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 1.7m, min length 21m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, max length 34.5m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1m, max length 9.7m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1m, min length 25.2m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Ditch	Linear NNE-SSW dimensions: max breadth 0.4m, min length 9m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
30	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Area: 1**  
**Extent (ha): 0.7**  
**OS Co-ordinates: SP7460916515**  
**Description: Area partially stripped to level of undisturbed geological deposits.**

31	Furrow	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 1.1m, min length 15.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
32	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33	Sunken featured building	Sub-rectangular dimensions: max breadth 3.5m, max length 4.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
34	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
35	Sunken featured building	Sub-rectangular profile: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 3.15m, max depth 0.28m, max length 4.95m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
36	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
37	Upper fill	Firm mid grey silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
38	Posthole	Circular profile: near vertical base: concave dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.34m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
39	Fill	Firm dark orange brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
40	Posthole	Circular profile: concave base: flat dimensions: max depth 0.08m, max diameter 0.32m.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
41	Fill	Firm dark orange brown silty clay .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
42	Ditch	Linear E-W dimensions: max breadth 2.7m, min length 13.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
43	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
44	Ditch	Linear ESE-WNW dimensions: max breadth 1.m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
45	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
46	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.7m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
47	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
48	Posthole	Circular dimensions: max diameter 0.25m.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
49	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 6.2 Appendix 2 – Artefact and Ecofact Summary

### 6.2.1 Introduction

The watching brief produced a small finds assemblage, which mainly comprised pottery and ceramic roof tile (Table 1). The material was scanned to ascertain its nature, condition and, where possible, date range.

Feature	Type	Context	Spot date*	Finds summary
5	Ditch	6	Late Iron Age/early Roman	Pottery (3g)
33	SFB	34	Late medieval/early post-medieval	Roof tile (66g); oyster shell (7g)
35	SFB	36	Post-medieval	Pottery (51g); animal bone (4g); iron timber nail (2g)
35	SFB	37	Post-medieval	Pottery (24g); roof tile (60g); iron timber nails (25g); animal bone (2g); clay pipe stem (2g); oyster shell (8g)
42	Ditch	43	Post-medieval	Pottery (9g); roof tile (96g)

\* - spot date based on date of latest artefact in context

**Table 1: Artefact summary by trench and feature**

### 6.2.2 Pottery

Nine pottery sherds weighing 87g were recovered. These were examined by context and quantified using minimum sherd count and weight. The sherds are small (average weight 9g) and generally abraded. Six fabric types were identified using common names and type codes in accordance with the Bedfordshire Ceramic Type Series, held by Albion Archaeology. Where possible, they have been correlated with the Roman (Marney 1989) and medieval/post-medieval (Mynard 1992) pottery type series for Buckinghamshire. Fabrics are listed below (Table 2) in chronological order.

Fabric type	Common name	Sherd No.	Context/Sherd No.
<i>Late Iron Age/early Roman</i> Type F09 (Fabric Group 46)	Sand and grog	1	(6):1
<i>Late medieval</i> Type E02	Oxidised sand	1	(43):1
<i>Post-medieval</i> Type P01 (PM8)	Fine glazed red earthenware (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century)	2	(36):1, (37):1
Type P01 (PM20)	Fine slipped red earthenware (17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century)	2	(37):2
Type P05	Hard-fired earthenware	1	(37):1
Type P50 (PM29)	German stoneware	1	(37):1
<i>Modern</i> MOD	Flower pot	1	(36):1

**Table 2: Pottery type series**

The earliest pottery is an abraded grog and sand tempered sherd (3g) of early Roman date, recovered from ditch [5]. An undiagnostic sherd of 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century oxidised sand tempered ware (9g) derived from late medieval/post-medieval ditch [42], where it is likely to be a residual find. With the exception of a modern flower pot rim (3g), the remainder of the pottery (72g) is of post-medieval date, and comprises glazed and slipped red earthenwares and a piece of German stoneware (possibly Langerwehe).



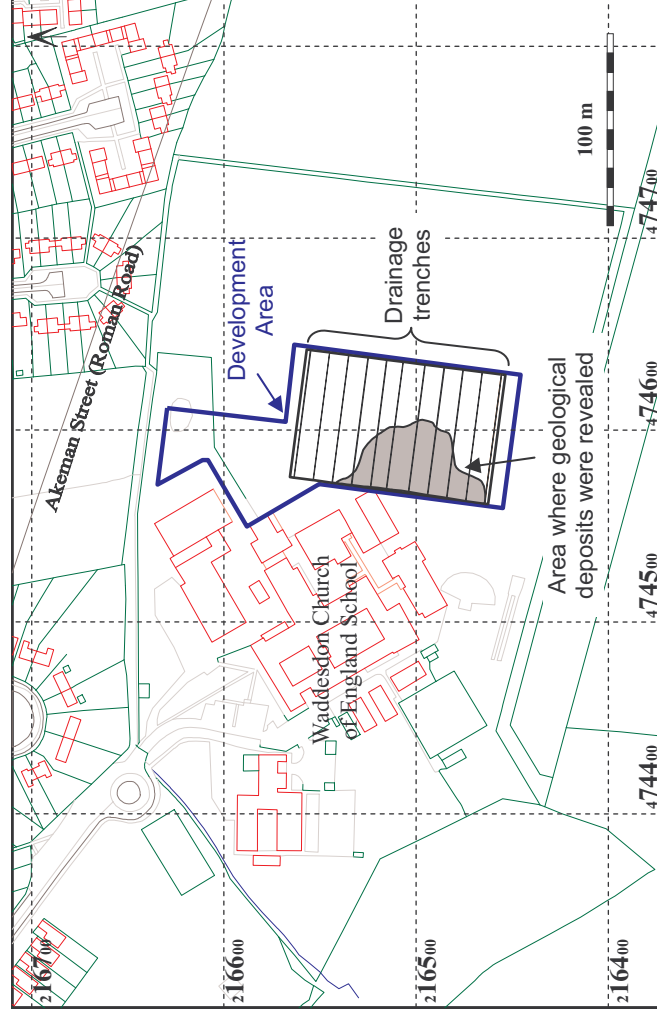
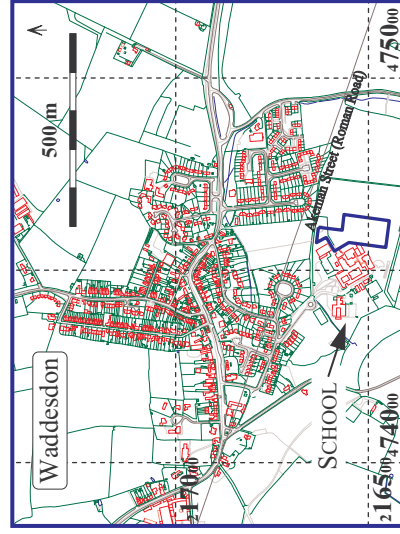
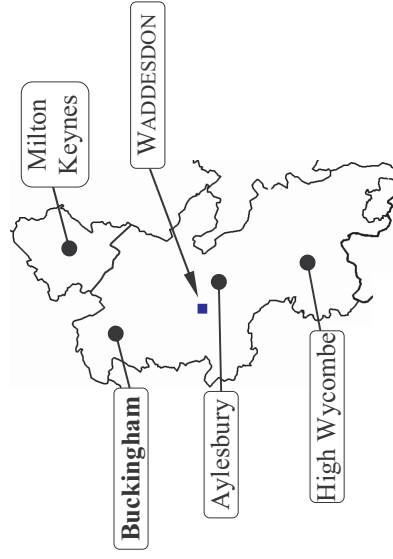


### **6.2.3 Other artefacts**

Sunken featured buildings [33], [35] and ditch [42] yielded nine sand tempered pieces of late medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile (222g), ranging in thickness between 10-15mm. A fragment of the stem of a post-medieval clay tobacco pipe was recovered from sunken featured building [35]. The feature also contained fragments of three timber nails, one of which is a flat-headed 'figure-of-eight' nail of late medieval/post-medieval date.

### **6.2.4 Ecofacts**

Two abraded long bone fragments and a rodent mandible (total weight 6g) were recovered from the deposits within sunken featured building [35]. Three pieces of oyster shell (15g) were derived from [33] and [35].



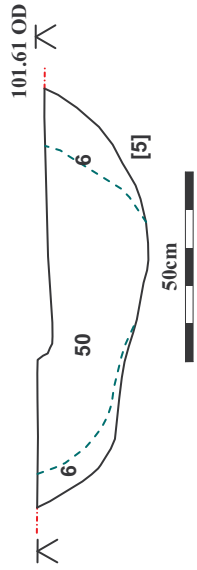
**Figure 1: Site location map**

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

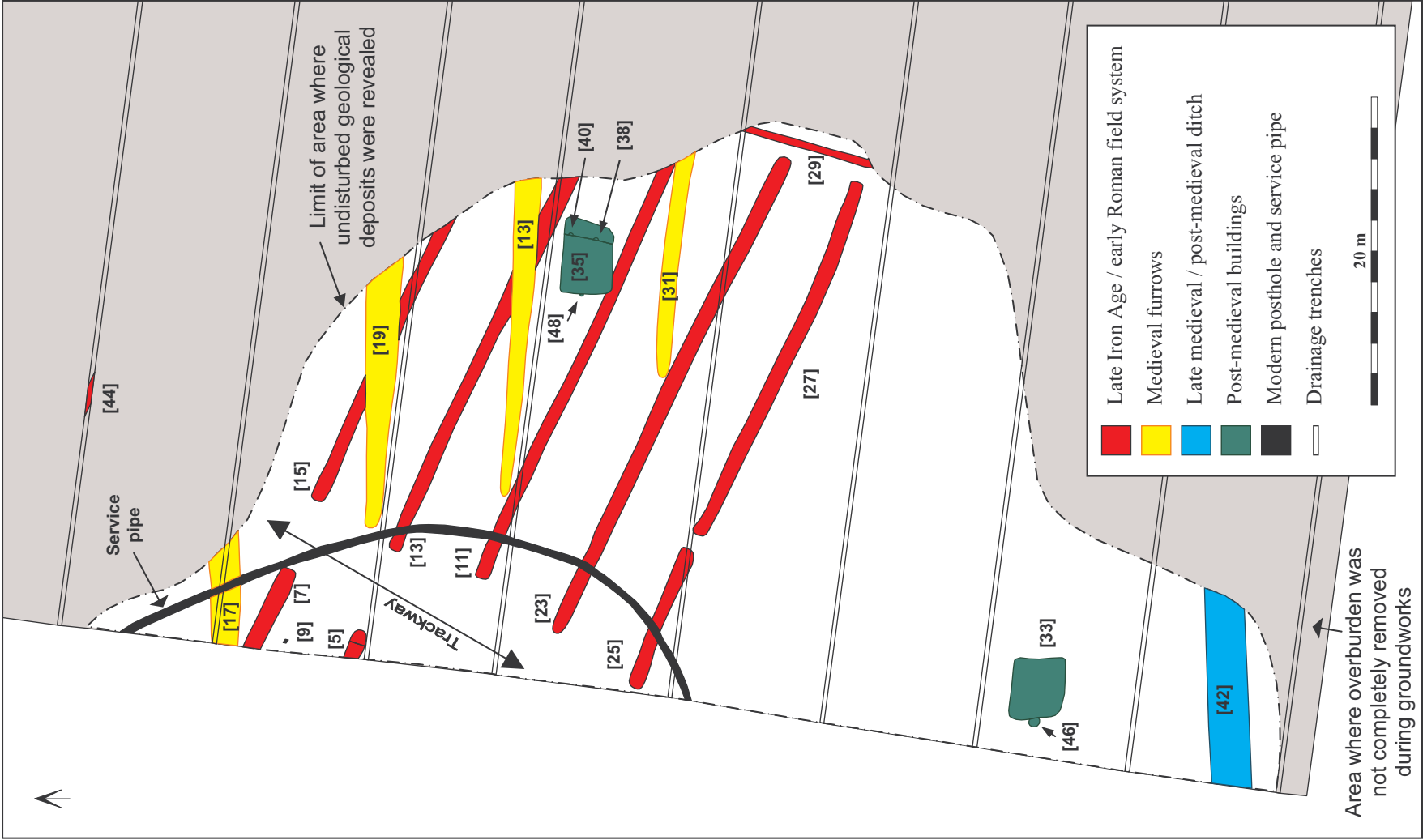




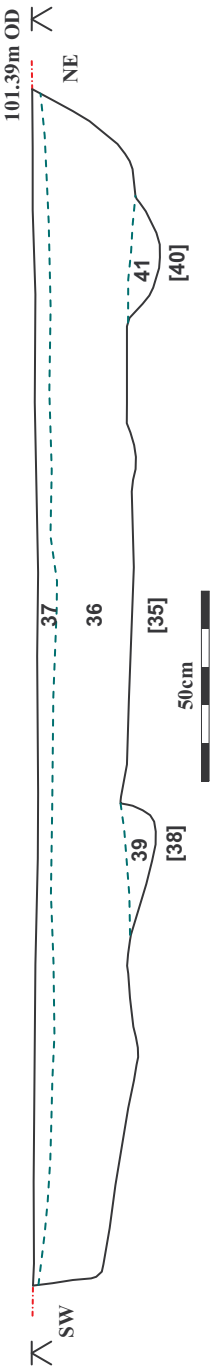
Ditch [5], looking NW.  
Scale 25cm



Section across ditch [5]

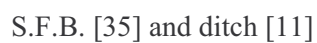


Sunken featured building [35], looking W, showing  
postholes [38] and [40]



Section across sunken featured building [35]

**Figure 2:** All features plan  
and sections



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Feature; excavated segment

**Figure 3: Sunken featured buildings**