LAND OFF CAMPTON ROAD
SHEFFORD
BEDFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion archaeology

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Contents

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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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The project was commissioned by BSA Heritage Ltd on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ian Turner (Archaeological Supervisor) and Victoria Hainsworth (Archaeological Technician) with metal detecting by Archie Gillespie. This report has been prepared by Ben Barker (Project Officer), Ian Turner (Supervisor) and Mike Luke (Project Manger) with contributions from Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The figures have been produced by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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1.0	*05/03/2014*	*n/a*
1.1	*06/03/2014*	*Incorporating comments from BSA Heritage Ltd*
1.2	*17/03/2014*	*Incorporating comments from Catesby Property Group*

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

CBCA	Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist
HER	Central Bedfordshire and Luton Historic Environment Record
I*f*A	Institute for Archaeologists
PDA	Potential Development Area
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Catesby Estates Limited are gathering information on Land off Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for development.

The potential development area (PDA) is centred on grid reference TL 136 386 and lies at the western edge of Shefford, adjacent to an area of known high-status Roman settlement and a potential cemetery (Luke et al. 2010). The wider landscape is characterised by heritage assets dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised BSA Heritage that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken (in the form of a geophysical survey and trial trenching) in order to obtain information required to compile a heritage asset assessment to accompany any future planning application.

Following a geophysical survey that was carried out in January 2014 (ASWYAS 2014), Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (Albion Archaeology 2014) and to undertake the trial trenching. The results are set out in this report.

The trial trenching revealed two furrows of probable medieval origin and a shallow pit, land drains and two pig burials of post-medieval to modern date.

No features of Roman date were identified and no residual Roman finds were present in the spoil heaps from any of the trenches. This indicates that the western and southern boundary of the Roman settlement lies outside the PDA.

The archaeological remains within the PDA are of negligible significance and have no further potential to address regional archaeological research agenda.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Catesby Estates Limited is gathering information on Land off Campton Road, Shefford, Bedfordshire, in support of a planning application for development.

The potential development area (PDA) lies at the western edge of Shefford, adjacent to an area of known high-status Roman settlement remains and a potential cemetery (Luke *et al*. 2010). The wider landscape is characterised by heritage assets dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period (see section 1.4).

The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) advised BSA Heritage that an archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken (in the form of a geophysical survey and trial trenching) in order to obtain information required to compile a heritage asset assessment to accompany any future planning application. This was in accordance with the *Central Bedfordshire Local Validation Checklist* and 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[1].

The geophysical survey was carried out in January 2014 (ASWYAS 2014).

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological trial trenching (Albion Archaeology 2014). The WSI was approved by the CBCA in advance of the fieldwork. The results of the trial trenching are set out in this report.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

The main site lies on the western edge of Shefford to the south of Ampthill Road. It is a large triangular piece of land, measuring *c*. 6ha in extent. Campton Road forms the north-west limit of the site while the A507 runs along its southern boundary. To the north-east and east the site is bordered by Shefford Lower School and residential housing along School Lane. Some of the land to the south of Shefford Lower School, on Robert Bloomfield Middle School's playing field, is also part of the proposed development. A detached overgrown field lying further south will be transferred to Robert Bloomfield School.

Topographically the site lies on the north-facing slope of a low east-west ridge between the River Flit (to the north) and a tributary stream to the south at a height of *c*. 45m OD. The geology of the site is Lower Greensand with Valley Gravels and alluvium associated with the River Flit and localised deposits of Boulder Clay. The PDA is centred on grid reference TL 136 386.

[1] National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The PDA is situated in the vicinity of known archaeological remains. A possible ring ditch and circular earthworks have been identified from aerial photographs to the south and east of the site (HER 3542 and 602 respectively). The findspot of a prehistoric beaker (HER 380) and worked flints (HER 5392) show that there is a background settlement and ritual activity in the prehistoric period.

The majority of known archaeological remains date from the Roman period and lie to the immediate north-west and west of the PDA (HER 379). These consist of extensive evidence for Roman settlement and have been investigated on various occasions over the last 200 years. During gravel extraction in 1826 a local antiquarian, Thomas Inskip, identified what he believed to be a walled Roman cemetery (Inskip 1850). The location of his investigations has been estimated, based on his sketch maps, to be in the vicinity of 95 Ampthill Road which lies adjacent to the northern edge of the PDA (Luke *et al*. 2010, fig. 2). The cemetery included cremation burials, grave goods including complete pottery vessels, such as Samian ware and amphora, as well as glass and bronze vessels with coins and other metal objects.

In the 1830s Inskip examined an area some 220m south-east of the cemetery (Dryden 1845). Here, he located a possibly rectangular Roman building, interpreted at the time as a temple. An assessment of his description of the location of his finds would place this building in the immediate vicinity of the original Robert Bloomfield Primary School, less than 50m east of the PDA (Luke *et al*. 2010, fig. 2). Artefacts continued to be found in this area of Shefford. There are unconfirmed reports of the discovery of Roman armour during the construction of a new school on the present location of Shefford Lower School to the east of the site in 1872.

In 1940, Edgar Gray excavated two trenches during levelling of the Shefford Lower School field (recorded in the Victoria County History). Behind the garden of 77a Ampthill Road he located the remains of a Roman building which included a hypocausted room. Simco believed this building was the same as that previously claimed by Inskip as a temple (Simco 1984). More recently, in 1976, artefacts and material of Roman date were found during the construction of a school extension.

After the implementation of PPG16[2] in 1990 all subsequent development in the vicinity of HER 379 was subject to archaeological evaluation. A large number of these were carried out by Albion Archaeology and comprise Albion project numbers 244, 365, 412, 583, 665, 694 and 773. Three of these, projects 244, 694 and 773 proceeded to detailed investigations. The findings of these investigations and a re-interpretation of Inskip's and Gray's discoveries have been published in *Bedfordshire Archaeology* (Luke *et al*. 2010).

In brief, the investigations revealed that a settlement was established at Shefford prior to the Roman Conquest and remained in use until the late 3rd century. It

[2] PPG16 (Planning Policy Guidance 16), now superseded by the NPPF (2012)

initially comprised at least one roundhouse and other settlement-type features within a large ditched enclosure. In the 2nd century a large aisled timber building was constructed, probably with a substantial suite of rooms including hypocausts at its southern end. The settlement included at least two further timber buildings linked by cobbled yards and paths.

Excavations on the school playing fields to the south of Shefford Lower School revealed further archaeological remains in the form of a field boundary ditch, probably some distance from the main settlement. The ditch contained a small fragment of a 1st-century glass vessel (Walker 2007). Further excavations revealed two smaller Roman boundary ditches and substantial disturbance by modern services (Flavell 2010 and Jones 2012).

Recent archaeological investigations by Albion Archaeology prior to the construction of a car park and new playground area in the western part of Shefford Lower School revealed a substantial boundary ditch and adjacent quarry pits; most likely situated on the western limit of the Roman settlement (Albion 2013).

A trackway (HER 18312) identified from cropmarks, runs parallel to the Campton Road and across the PDA. This is most likely the old medieval trackway from Campton to Shefford, both of which have medieval settlement cores. Deserted settlement remains (HER 1775), most likely post-medieval in date, are recorded *c*. 500m to the south-east of the PDA.

The geophysical survey undertaken in January 2014 revealed no obvious Roman or earlier archaeological anomalies in the north and north-east of the site adjacent to the area of known Roman activity or elsewhere on the site. The only archaeological features that the survey did reveal were the remains of medieval ridge and furrow on various alignments across the whole PDA (WYAS 2014).

A footpath detected by the geophysical survey and leading from Pinfold Farm across the centre of the site, was believed to have provided access to the overhead service poles, and is first shown as a track on the 1976 1:2500 OS map.

1.4 Project Objectives

The PDA lies close to a number of potential prehistoric (HER 602 and 3524) and adjacent to a high-status Roman settlement (HER 379).

Both the local and regional research agendas state that little detailed work has so far been carried out on the characterisation of Iron Age and Roman rural settlements, specifically on the form and significance of Roman farms (Going and Plouviez 2000, 19; Oake *et al* 2007, 11). Questions of the Iron Age to Roman and Roman to Saxon transition within the county could also be addressed (Medlycott 2011).

The specific research objectives of the investigation were:

- To identify whether prehistoric ritual or settlement evidence was present on the site;
- To identify whether the Inskip cemetery extended into the PDA;
- To identify the nature of potential occupation or agricultural/industrial activity outside the main settlement enclosure ditch of the Roman settlement to the east of the site;
- To characterise the wider contemporary landscape outside the main Roman settlement;
- To potentially identify the nature and location of Iron Age and/or Saxon settlement components and/or associated settlement shift;
- To ascertain the nature and date of the potential medieval trackway across the site.

The general purpose of the archaeological investigation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the application site.
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology is provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2014).

2.1 Methodological Standards

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

• IfA	*By-Laws* and *Code of Conduct*
	Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2008) and finds (2008)
	Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (2011)
• English Heritage	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation (2008)*
	Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)
	Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008)
• Albion Archaeology	*Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001).
• EAA	*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (2003)*
• Bedford Borough Council	*Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedford (2010)*

2.2 Trial Trenching

Trial trenching took place between 6th and 19th February 2014. The agreed WSI proposed twenty-two trenches, three of which were located within the Robert Bloomfield Middle School sports field on an adjacent plot of land (Figure 2). The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. The area and spoil from each trench was scanned by an experienced metal detectorist. All excavation and recording was carried out by Albion staff.

Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, and 200 for Trench 2 etc. Context numbers in square brackets refer to the cuts [***] and round brackets to fills or layers (***). Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

All features and deposits found within the trial trench are described chronologically below and shown on Figure 2. Detailed information on features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1. The artefacts recovered from the features and deposits are summarised within this section.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The overburden comprised topsoil and subsoil layers above the undisturbed natural geological deposit. The layers are described from top to bottom;

The topsoil was a 0.17–0.42m thick layer of dark grey brown sandy silt.

The subsoil was a 0.08–0.39m thick layer that varied from mid brown orange sandy silt to mid brown grey silty clay. It was thickest towards the north-west of the PDA in an area of lower ground.

Undisturbed geological deposits varied considerably across the PDA. The trenches revealed light brown yellow silty clay to the south-east and light grey silty clay to the south-west. A mix of mid yellow orange sand and mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent stones was encountered to the north-west.

The darker coloured sandy silt deposit (106), (108), (202), (502) correlated well with the broad areas of magnetic disturbance highlighted in the geophysical survey, which had been interpreted as possible quarry pit disturbance. However, this deposit was judged to be a natural variation, relating to an outcrop of Lower Greensand.

Smaller isolated patches of natural geological variation (2004), (2006) were visible within the sports field area, but these were generally less than 0.2m thick and are likely by the result of glacial deposition.

3.3 Archaeological Features and Deposits

The features and deposits are discussed in date order from earliest to latest. Their locations are annotated in black on Figure 2.

3.3.1 Furrows (medieval / post-medieval)

The shallow remains of two furrows [1003], [1703] were identified in Trenches 10 and 17. They had shallow concave sides with flat to uneven bases, and were *c*. 1.2m wide and *c*. 0.2m deep. They contained deposits of mid brown orange clay silt and no artefacts. The furrows are likely to be the result of medieval ploughing, although the system of strip farming is likely to have continued in use until the fields were ‘inclosed’ in the late 18th century

A greater number of furrows were identified by the geophysical survey and as the majority of these did not survive as recognisable sub-surface features they are presumed to have only been present as a “trace” within the subsoil.

3.3.2 Shallow pits (post-medieval)

A large feature [103] was identified at the north-west end of Trench 1; it continued beyond the sides and end of the trench. It had a shallow concave side to the south-east and a flat base. It was at least 3.75m wide, 0.30m deep and contained mid brown grey sandy silt and roof tile and brick fragments of post-medieval to modern date. The feature is interpreted as a large shallow pit.

A sub-oval pit [2203] was identified towards the north-east end of Trench 22. It had concave sides and a flat base. It was 0.90m long, 0.60m wide, 0.06m deep and contained dark brown grey clay silt and pottery of post-medieval date. The purpose of both pits is unknown, although post-medieval sand extraction is known to have occurred in this area.

3.3.3 Land drains and mole drains (modern)

Many of the trenches contained land drains, many of which had alignments and spacing which closely matched the furrows detected during the geophysical survey. They were less than 0.3m wide and were characterised by their straight-sided, vertically cut edges and were generally backfilled with redeposited subsoil. It is likely that they were spaced to target the more waterlogged ground left by the furrows.

'Mole drain' type drainage features, such as [1803], were also identified in some of the trenches. These also comprised straight narrow trenches with vertical sides and flat bases but did not contain ceramic pipes. They were generally *c.* 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep. It is possible that these originated as brushwood-filled land drains, but no trace of decayed organic material was visible.

3.3.4 Pig burials (modern)

Two articulated pig burials [1203], [1206] were identified, 2.3m apart, towards the centre of Trench 12.

Burial [1203] contained skeletal remains weighing 275g, represented by skull and mandible fragments, limb bones, scapulae and unfused vertebrae, the latter indicating an immature animal. A sherd of modern mass-produced glazed earthenware pottery (2g) was associated with the burial.

The skeleton within burial [1206] comprised limb bones, ribs, unfused vertebrae and scapula fragments (295g), also deriving from an immature animal. A piece of plastic and a fragment of post-medieval or later roof tile (4g) were collected from the fill (1208).

The features are interpreted as farm animal burials, presumably of diseased stock, hence their distance from the extant farm buildings. The burials were of 20th-century date based on the presence of plastic in one of the burials. The remains and artefacts have been discarded, with the agreement of the CBCA.

3.3.5 Root disturbance (modern)

Two small shallow features [2103], [2105] were investigated in Trench 21. They contained brick and roof tile fragments of post-medieval to modern date

and are interpreted as tree-throw holes, based on their irregular profiles.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND HERITAGE ASSET ASSESSMENT

No features or artefacts of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date were present in any of the trenches. This is a strong indication that the western and southern boundary of the known Roman settlement lies outside the PDA.

The trial trenching revealed a small number of features of medieval to modern date. The furrows identified within two trenches and by geophysical survey are likely to be of medieval date. No direct evidence relating to the possible medieval trackway (HER 18312) believed to cross the PDA was identified. However, the routeway identified within the PDA as a geophysical anomaly was probably part of the field boundary shown on the 1799 inclosure map (MAT9). This latter continued in use as a trackway associated with the modern overhead cables.

Two shallow pits of post-medieval date and two modern pig burials were also identified.

The sub-surface archaeological remains within the PDA are of negligible significance and have no further potential to address regional archaeological research agenda.

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6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.59 m. Max: 0.84 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13546: Northing: 38839)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13573: Northing: 38827)*

Reason: **Target Geophsicical Survey anomaly and assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.38m thick**	☐	☐
101	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid brown orange sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.39m thick**	☑	☐
102	**Natural**	**Loose light yellow orange sand frequent small-large stones Ironstone striations in areas, approx. 0.15m apart.**	☑	☐
103	**Pit**	**Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: flat dimensions: min breadth 3.74m, max depth 0.29m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
104	Fill	Friable mid brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.29m thick	☑	☑
105	**Natural interface**	**Irregular dimensions: min breadth 12.7m, min length 1.8m Nat. variation, originally thought to be quarry pitting.same as 107**	☐	☐
106	Natural	Friable mid brown grey clay silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐
107	**Natural interface**	**Irregular sides: 45 degrees dimensions: min breadth 4.35m, min depth 4.42m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
108	Natural	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt frequent small-medium stones 0.42m thick. No evidence of feature being man made, prob alluvial deposit.	☑	☐

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.7 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13551: Northing: 38817)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13526: Northing: 38801)*

Reason: **Target Geophsicical Survey anomaly and assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.42r thick**	☑	☐
201	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
202	**Natural**	**Friable mid brown orange silty sand moderate small-medium stones**	☐	☐

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.42 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13584: Northing: 38803)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13610: Northing: 38789)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.25m thick	☑	☐
301	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.14m thick	☑	☐
302	Natural	Firm mid brown orange sandy silt moderate small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.46 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13562: Northing: 38787)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13585: Northing: 38768)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.28m thick	☑	☐
401	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.15m thick	☑	☐
402	Natural	Friable mid brown orange sandy silt moderate small stones	☐	☐
403	Natural	Hard dark red sand moderate large stones Large red sandstone and ironstone fragments	☐	☐

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.72 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13477: Northing: 38740)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13461: Northing: 38715)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.42m thick	☑	☐
501	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt 0.32m thick	☑	☐
502	Natural	Friable light grey orange sandy silt frequent flecks manganese staining	☐	☐

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.57 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13479: Northing: 38667)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13451: Northing: 38656)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.32r thick	☑	☐
601	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange sandy silt 0.28m thick	☑	☐
602	Natural	Friable light grey orange sandy silt occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 7

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.54 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13537: Northing: 38704)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13508: Northing: 38696)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
700	Topsoil	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.32r thick	☑	☐
701	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange sandy silt 0.2m thick	☑	☐
702	Natural	Friable light brown grey sandy silt moderate small-large sand, occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 8

Max Dimensions: **Length:** 30.00 m. **Width:** 1.90 m. **Depth to Archaeology Min:** 0.5 m. **Max:** m.

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13544: Northing: 28629)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13561: Northing: 38604)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
800	Topsoil	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt occasional small-medium stones 0.33r thick	☑	☐
801	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.18m thick	☑	☐
802	Natural	Plastic light grey grey silty clay	☐	☐

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Trench: 9

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13591: Northing: 38689)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13564: Northing: 38676)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
900	Topsoil	Friable dark orange brown sandy silt 0.3m thick	☑	☐
901	Subsoil	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay 0.22m thick	☑	☐
902	Natural	Plastic light grey silty clay	☐	☐

Trench: 10

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.32 m. Max: 0.78 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13605: Northing: 38735)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13624: Northing: 38712)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1000	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small stones 0.37m thick	☑	☐
1001	Subsoil	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.16m thick	☑	☐
1002	Natural	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small stones	☐	☐
1003	Furrow	Linear NE-SW sides: concave base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.14m, min length 2.m	☑	☐
1004	Fill	Firm mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.14m thick	☑	☐

Trench: 11

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13614: Northing: 38768)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13643: Northing: 38758)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1101	Subsoil	Friable mid orange grey sandy silt 0.1m thick	☑	☐
1100	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.35m thick	☑	☐
1102	Natural	Friable light grey orange sandy clay occasional small stones Patches of gravel	☐	☐

Trench: 12

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.53 m. Max: 0.82 m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13642: Northing: 38742)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13660: Northing: 38718)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional small CBM, moderate flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.37m thick**	☑	☐
1201	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange brown sandy silt occasional flecks charcoal, frequent small-medium stones 0.16m thick**	☑	☐
1202	**Natural**	**Firm mid blue brown clay silt occasional small stones**	☐	☐
1203	**Animal grave**	**Oval E-W sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.34m, max depth 0.29m, max length 1.17m**	☑	☐
1204	Animal skeleton	Modern (1960's) pig burial. Partially excavated	☑	☑
1205	Fill	Firm mid brown grey clay silt occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones 0.29m thick	☑	☐
1206	**Animal grave**	**Irregular dimensions: max breadth 0.5m, max length 0.75m**	☑	☐
1207	Animal skeleton	Pig burial. Sampled to ascertain species.	☑	☑
1208	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small stones	☑	☑

Trench: 13

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13676: Northing: 38687)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13695: Northing: 38663)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1300	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.3m thick**	☑	☐
1301	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.1m thick**	☑	☐
1302	**Natural**	**Firm light brown yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☐	☐

Trench: 14

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13661: Northing: 38663)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13639: Northing: 38684)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1400	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.32m thick**	☑	☐
1401	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid orange grey sandy silt 0.1m thick**	☑	☐
1402	**Natural**	**Firm light brown yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☐	☐

Trench: 15

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.45 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13600: Northing: 38644)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13626: Northing: 38628)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1500	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.28m thick	☑	☐
1501	Subsoil	Plastic mid brown grey silty clay 0.1m thick	☑	☐
1502	Natural	Plastic light grey silty clay	☐	☐

Trench: 16

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.39 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13678: Northing: 38646)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13704: Northing: 38632)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1600	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.28m thick	☑	☐
1601	Subsoil	Friable mid orange grey sandy silt 0.08m thick	☑	☐
1602	Natural	Firm light grey yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones	☐	☐

Trench: 17

Max Dimensions: Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.53 m. Max: m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13744: Northing: 38609)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13715: Northing: 38605)*

Reason: Assess archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1700	Topsoil	Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.37m thick	☑	☐
1701	Subsoil	Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.2m thick	☑	☐
1702	Natural	Firm mid brown orange silty clay	☐	☐
1703	Furrow	Linear NW-SE sides: convex base: uneven dimensions: min breadth 1.4m, min depth 0.26m	☑	☐
1704	Fill	Friable mid orange grey silt	☑	☐

Trench: 18

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.47 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13673: Northing: 38575)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13702: Northing: 38569)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1800	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.32m thick**	☑	☐
1801	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.18m thick**	☑	☐
1802	**Natural**	**Firm light brown yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☐	☐
1803	**Land drain**	**Linear ESE-WNW sides: near vertical base: flat dimensions: min breadth 0.3m, min depth 0.16m Mole drain type**	☑	☐
1804	Fill	Friable light brown grey clay silt	☑	☐
1805	Fill	Friable dark orange grey clay silt	☑	☐

Trench: 19

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.90 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.35 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13777: Northing: 38533)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13747: Northing: 38536)*

Reason: **Assess archaeological potential**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
1900	**Topsoil**	**Firm dark grey black clay silt 0.27m thick**	☑	☐
1901	**Subsoil**	**Friable mid brown orange sandy silt 0.18m thick**	☑	☐
1902	**Natural**	**Firm light brown yellow silty clay occasional small-medium stones**	☐	☐

Trench: 20

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.26 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13762: Northing: 38616)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13793: Northing: 38612)*

Reason: **To assess archaeological potential of an unknown area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2000	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey brown sandy silt occasional small CBM, occasional small stones 0.29m thick (max)**	☑	☐
2001	**Subsoil**	**Firm mid brown orange clay silt occasional flecks charcoal 0.13m thick (max)**	☑	☐
2002	**Natural**	**Firm light yellow white silt frequent medium-large sand**	☐	☐
2003	**Natural interface**	**Linear NW-SE sides: Assymetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.22m, max depth 0.21m, min length 1.8m**	☑	☐
2004	Natural	Firm mid orange brown clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.21m thick	☑	☐
2005	**Natural interface**	**Oval N-S sides: irregular base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.11m, min length 1.m**	☑	☐
2006	Natural	Firm light brown yellow silt occasional small stones 0.11m thick	☑	☐

Trench: **21**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.24 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13831: Northing: 38622)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13802: Northing: 38615)*

Reason: **To assess the archaeological potential of an unknown area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2100	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark brown grey sandy silt occasional flecks chalk, occasional flecks charcoal, occasional small-medium stones 0.26m thick**	☑	☐
2102	**Natural**	**Compact light brown orange silty clay moderate flecks chalk, moderate small-medium chalk Occ. Silty lense, more brown in colour**	☐	☐
2103	**Treethrow**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 0.31m, max depth 0.08m, max length 0.5m**	☑	☐
2104	Fill	Firm mid brown grey silty clay occasional flecks charcoal 0.08m thick	☑	☐
2105	**Treethrow**	**Sub-circular sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.33m, max depth 0.05m, max length 0.4m**	☑	☐
2106	Fill	Firm mid yellow brown silty clay occasional flecks chalk 0.05m thick	☑	☐

Trench: **22**

Max Dimensions: **Length: 30.00 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.23 m. Max: m.**

Co-ordinates: **OS Grid Ref.: TL** *(Easting: 13867: Northing: 38636)*

OS Grid Ref.: TL *(Easting: 13846: Northing: 38615)*

Reason: **To assess the archaeological potential of an unknown area**

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
2200	**Topsoil**	**Friable dark grey black clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.23m thi**	☑	☐
2202	**Natural**	**Firm light grey white clay Large patches of light yellow orange clay.**	☐	☐
2203	**Pit**	**Sub-oval sides: concave base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.6m, max depth 0.06m, max length 0.93m**	☑	☐
2204	Fill	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones 0.06m thick	☑	☐

7. APPENDIX 2: RESULTS OF BORE HOLE MONITORING

7.1 Introduction and Methodology

The sampling of two geotechnical cores on ground to the south-east of the Robert Bloomfield School playing field (centred on NGR TL 14098 38456) was archaeologically monitored on 5th February 2014 to assess the archaeological potential of the ground. The full Site Investigation Report will be issued in due course by RPS (job ref. RCEI27818) on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd.

The cores were drilled by a 'Terrier Rig' machine under the supervision of an RPS Geotechnical Officer. They produced successive samples contained within a *c*. 110mm diameter plastic sleeve, which was then opened on site for inspection and logging.

7.2 Results

The results of the core drilling are described below from top to bottom.

Core 1 – location – 514030/238445 (RPS ref WS14) Estimated core depth = 4.75m

Thickness	Description	Interpretation
0.35m	Friable, dark grey brown, clay silt with occasional small stones	Topsoil
0.50m	Friable, mid brown grey silty clay	Subsoil – alluvial?
0.75m	Firm, light yellow grey, sandy clay with moderate small stones	Alluvium?
0.55m	Firm, mid grey orange, clay	
1.40m	Firm, light grey yellow, sandy clay	
1.20m	Friable, dark grey black, silty sand (with a humic quality)	Alluvium. Assumed to be a pocket of palaeochannel-type deposit.

Core 2 – location – 514162/238465 (RPS ref WS15) Estimated core depth = 4.26m

Thickness	Description	Interpretation
0.26m	Friable, dark grey brown, clay silt with occasional small stones	Topsoil
0.20m	Friable mid brown grey silty clay	a degraded lower band of topsoil
0.40m	Friable, mid red brown, clay silt	Subsoil – alluvial?
0.95m	Firm, light grey orange, clay	
1.95m	Friable / loose, dark grey, sandy silt	Alluvium. Assumed to be a pocket of palaeochannel-type deposit.
0.50m	Loose, light grey, silty sand	Alluvium. Assumed to be the base 'cleaner' base of a palaeo-channel

It had been suggested that the area comprised recently made-up ground, comprising the arising from adjacent road construction. The two cores, however, produced no evidence for human-made artefacts and there was no visible trace of a recently buried topsoil. The deposits encountered appeared to exhibit a natural sequence of deposition as might be expected within a flood plain adjacent to a stream.

Core sample 1, from the top down, appeared to comprise a topsoil, a subsoil, three thick different coloured layers of sterile clay and a dark loose humic deposit of probable alluvial / waterlain character.

Core sample 2, from the top down, appeared to comprise a topsoil, a degraded topsoil layer that had become clay, a subsoil, a thick layer of sterile clay and a thick layer of loose dark silt above a layer of dark loose sand — both of probable alluvial / waterlain character .

The same borehole log for WS14 and WS15, discussed in the draft RPS geotechnical report (forthcoming), identify topsoils overlying dark natural clays (Oadby member), light natural clays (Gault formation) and natural sand (lower Greensand group).

7.3 Conclusions

The dark coloured 'alluvial' deposits could be palaeochannel deposits of antiquity, with the layers of clay above the palaeochannel deposits accumulating over time and eventually being capped with a subsoil and topsoil.

Alternatively, the dark coloured 'alluvial' deposits could be of recent date, and represent 'wet' deposits that were situated across a wide floodplain, which were deliberately covered with layers of clay deposited by machine up to a depth of 3.35m for core sample 1 and 1.56m for core sample 2.

Having considered both options, the favoured interpretation is that the dark alluvial deposits are from a palaeochannel of antiquity and the layers above are natural accumulations which are not disturbed.

This interpretation is based on the lack of contamination of the different coloured clay layers beneath the topsoil and above the dark alluvial deposit. The RPS deposit descriptions also list only natural deposits with no reference to made ground.

The low-lying nature of the ground and the presence of the stream — and its likely propensity to flood — may have made this a historically unattractive spot for settlement. More favourable high ground was available in the immediate vicinity.

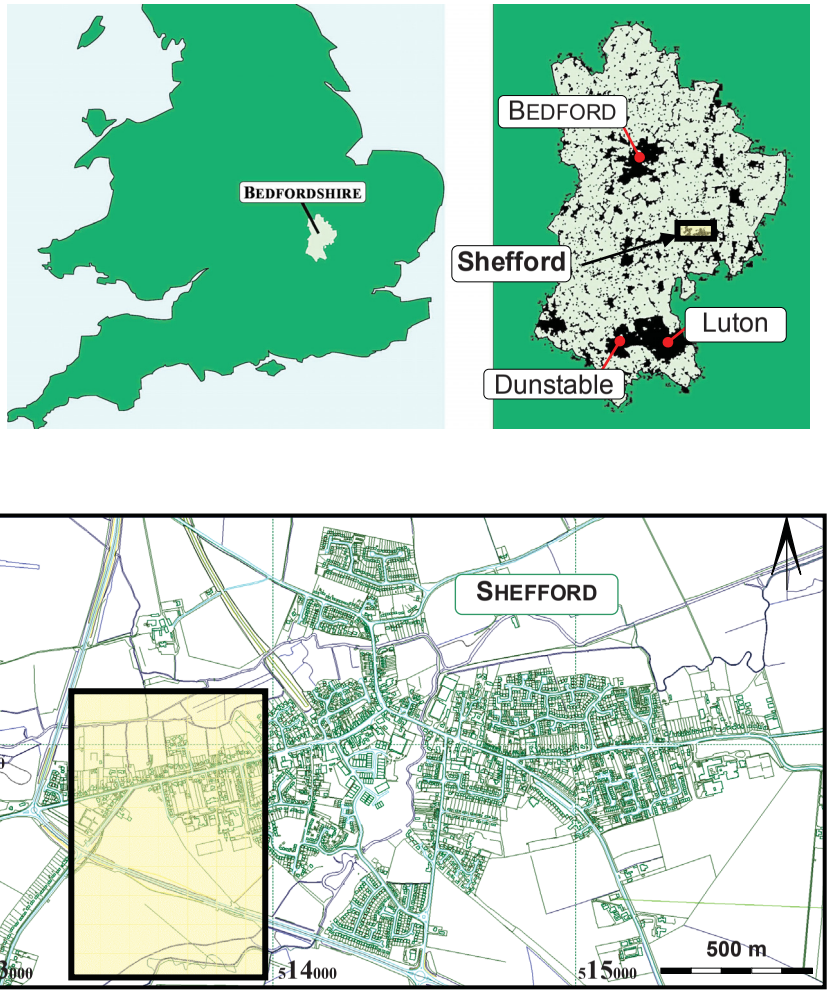

Figure 1: Site location plan

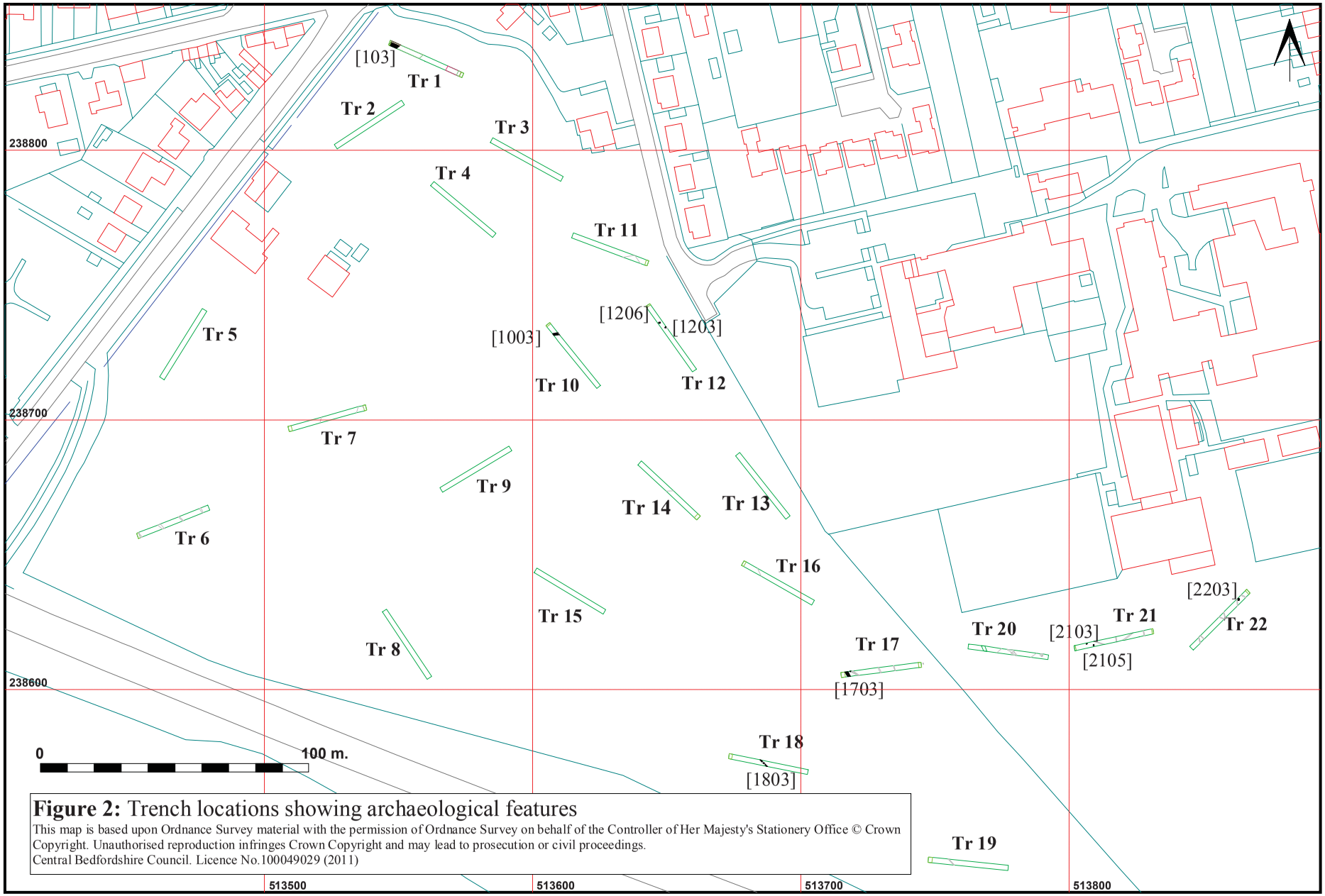

Figure 2: Trench locations showing archaeological features

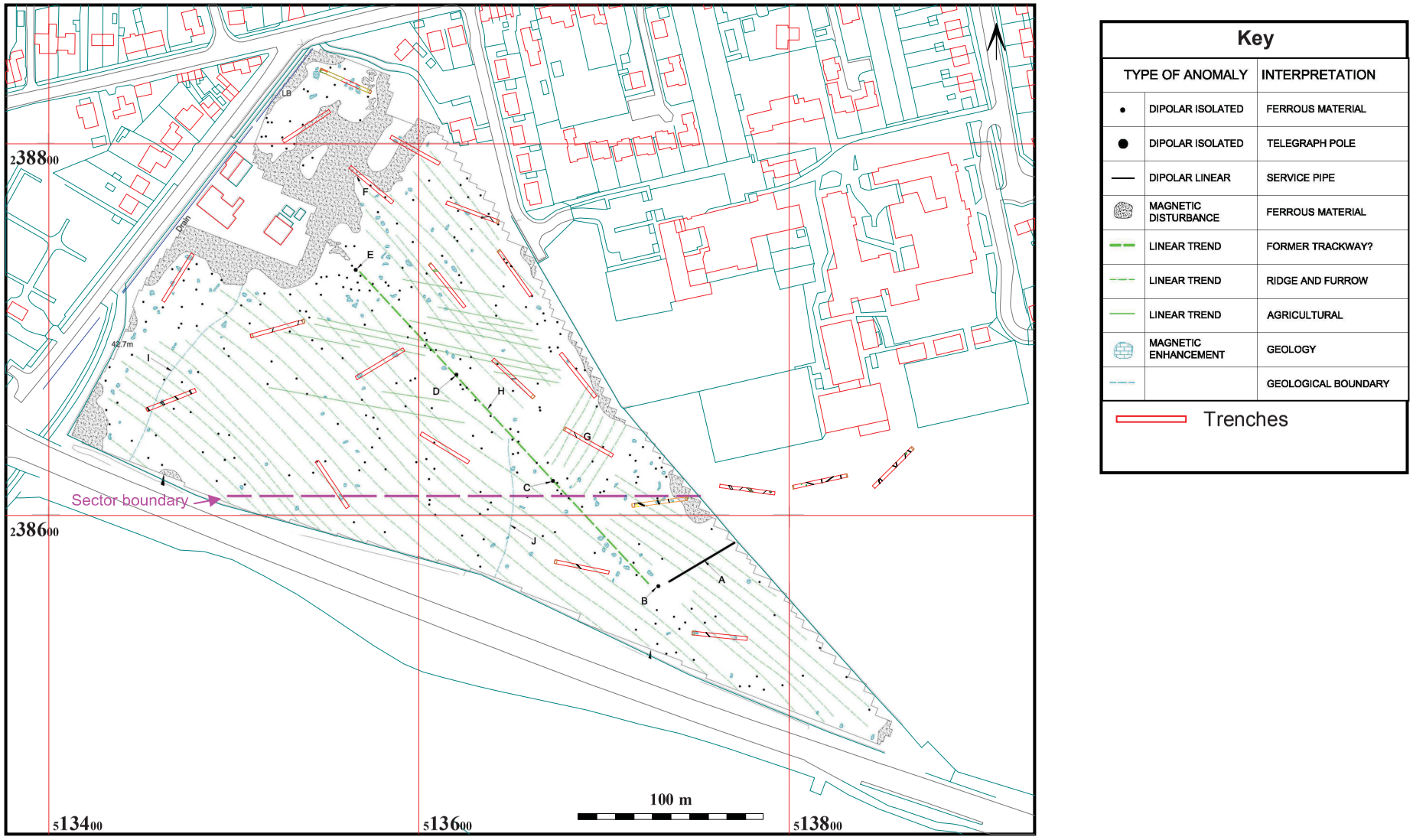

Figure 3: Trench locations over geophysical survey results

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